

OPD
ETO-1

HEADQUARTERS 776TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
A.P.O. 464

Sep-Oct 43

SECRET

31 October 1943

The Battalion assembled in the vicinity of Battipaglia,
26 September 1943 (N863163).

Operations: Reconnaissance made of immediate roads by Officers of this Battalion for advantageous routes and assembly areas when Battalion is instructed to move. On 27 September 1943, the Battalion Commander, Battalion S-3 and the Reconnaissance Company left for a special mission with a combat team from the 34th Division. This lasted from the 27 September 1943 to 6 October 1943. During this period reconnaissance was made by this Battalion from Torella to Benevento. Losses in vehicles amounted to one (1) half-track that hit a teller mine outside of Montemarano. Personnel casualties resulting from the accident (see attached casualty report). With heavily mined roads confronting the vehicles engaged as Reconnaissance, this mission was made on foot to the vicinity of Chusano, till Reconnaissance Company minesweepers swept enough road to let vehicles go by. Reconnaissance was then again resumed with Benevento, the objective. Colonel J. P. Barney, Tech Sgt Manfredo and Cpl Whelan drove into Benevento at 1500 hours, 4 October 1943, being the first United States Troops to enter the city. This group was followed into Benevento by the 3rd Platoon of the Reconnaissance Company of this Battalion. The reconnaissance

94-63.2

9853

Incl. 95

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9853 6

mission with the 34th Division completed, the group was sent back to join the Battalion in the vicinity of Montemarano 6 October 1943.

8 October 1943 the Battalion moved to the vicinity of Montesarchio to join the 34th Division. The entire Division was assembled here.

On 10 October 1943 the three firing companies were given missions to be used as supporting artillery. "A", "B", "C", Reconnaissance Company, Battalion Commander and his party moved to vicinity Southwest of Limatola. Company "A" was attached to the 175 Field Artillery Battalion, Company "B" was attached to 125 Field Artillery Battalion. 11 October, Company "C" was attached to the 151 Field Artillery.

A Reconnaissance Company light tank ran over a mine near Limatola at 0800 on 11 October and a track was damaged. There were no personnel casualties. Possible river crossings for vehicles were found by Reconnaissance Company and reported to higher Headquarters. Rear echelon was placed in vicinity of Maddaloni.

Company "B", formerly attached to 125 Field Artillery Battalion, reverted to Battalion control at approximately 1930, 14 October 1943.

One (1) platoon of four (4) guns from Company "C" ferried the Vulturne River at 361829 at 0700, 14 October 1943 and proceeded north with orders to report to the Infantry Commanding Officer for firing missions. The Battalion Commander and party were at 361791. A second (1) platoon from Company "C" contacted 135 Infantry and were assigned position in vicinity of 345880, 15 October 1943. Company "B", on this date, was the only firing company under Battalion control.

On 16 October 1943 the platoon from Company "C" with 135 Infantry moved to 363870 at 1930. Companies "A" and "B", under Battalion control, were used for harassing fire during this night.

The Battalion was alerted at 0800 on 17 October for possible displacement forward. Company "A" moved to the vicinity of 307878, North of Caiazzo, Company "B" no change, Company "C" no change, Reconnaissance Company reconnoitering for bivouac area in vicinity of Caiazzo, Battalion C.P. moved to Caiazzo, Rear echelon no change.

One platoon from Company "C" attached to 135 Infantry Regiment and one platoon from Company "A" attached to 168 Infantry Regiment.

On 18 October 1943, Company "A" at 307878, Company "B" at 325903, Company "C" at 314868, Reconnaissance Company at 293852, Battalion C.P. no change, Rear echelon at 360794 near Limatola. On this date two (2) platoons were still detached from the Battalion, one (1) platoon with the 135 Infantry and one (1) platoon with 168 Infantry.

On 20 October 1943, Company "B" moved to 262980, Company "C" moved to 281091, one (1) platoon of Company "A" at 259975, two (2) platoons Company "A" at 307879. Battalion detachments were as follows: One (1) platoon of Company "A" and one (1) platoon of Reconnaissance Company with 168th Infantry; one (1) platoon of Reconnaissance Company and Company "B" with 133 Infantry; Company "C" and one (1) platoon Reconnaissance Company with 135 Infantry.

On 21 October 1943 one (1) M-10 was put out of action by hitting

a teller mine.

On 22 October 1943, Company "B" was credited with destroying one (1) Nebelwerfer in vicinity of 190060, which is about five (5) miles West of Alife. Company "C" fired on enemy O.P. at 224069, neutralizing same. One (1) platoon from Company "C" moved West of Alife at 1000, this date.

On 23 October 1943, Company "A" (less one platoon) was at 307878, one (1) platoon of Company "A" was at 252976, Company "B" at 263983, Company "C" at 240047, Reconnaissance Company at 296043, Battalion C.P. at 300913, Rear echelon in vicinity of Caiasse. No fire missions on this date.

On 24 October 1943, Company "A" was in same position and were attached to 175 Field Artillery at 0700, Company "B" moved to 237036 to protect left flank of Company "C" attached to the 133 Infantry. The other two (2) platoons of Company "C" were attached to the 151 Field Artillery at 0700. Reconnaissance Company in bivouac at 296043 vicinity Southeast of Alife. Battalion C.P. was at 300050, vicinity Southeast of Alife.

On 25 October 1943, No Change

26 October 1943, Company "A" at 230046, Company "B" at 223045, Company "C" at 240045, Reconnaissance Company at 296043, Rear Echelon at 298992, Battalion C.P. at 30050. Weather: Overcast. Companies attached to following groupments and assigned missions of direct support of 135th Infantry which is making main effort (As per Division 34th) FO #12

1200A 25 October 1943. (1) 125th F. A. Groupment, consisting of 125th F. A. Battalion plus Company "B" 776th. (2) 151 F. A. Groupment, consisting of 151 F. A. Battalion plus Company "C" of this Battalion plus 27 Armored F. A. Battalion. (3) 175 F. A. Groupment, consisting of 175th F. A. Battalion plus Company "A" 776th T. D. Battalion. Company "B" operated under supervision of 27th Armored Field Artillery Battalion from 0530-0700 and then reverted to 125th Groupment. Company "C" placed one (1) Platoon in vicinity of 200060 to cover to the North and Northwest in case of armored threat. Remained under Co. control. Rest of Company with 151st Groupment. Rear Echelon moved from Calazzo to 298992 closing at 1500 hours. Reconnaissance Company - no missions, remaining in bivouac.

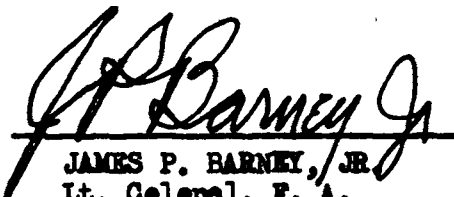
27 October 1943 -- Company "A" at 230046, Company "B" at 223045, Company "C" at 240045, Reconnaissance Company at 296043, Rear Echelon at 298992, Battalion C. P. at 255053. Weather: Cloudy. No change in firing companies assignments. Reconnaissance Company remaining in bivouac, no missions. Battalion C.P. moved to 255053, closing at 0950.

28 October 1943 -- Company "A" at 202064, Company "B" at 219043, Company "C" at 193058, Reconnaissance Company at 229054, Rear echelon at 298992, Battalion C. P. at 255053. Weather: Rainy & Overcast. Company "A" (attached to 175th F. A. Groupment) moved to vicinity of 202064, closing at 0630. Company "B" (attached to 125th Field Artillery Groupment) remained in position, firing long range interdiction and harassing fires. Enemy tanks were reported in vicinity of 170080. Battalion alerted at 1800. Company "C" moved to direct fire positions as follows: One (1) platoon at 199065, one (1) platoon at 190059, one (1) platoon at 188058. Closing at 0100. Companies "A" and "B" reconnoitered for firing positions to

West and Northwest of Company "C" positions. No sign of enemy tanks at dawn. Reconnaissance Company -- No missions.

29 October 1943 -- Company "A" at 202064, Company "B" at 163068, Company "C" at 193058, Reconnaissance Company at 229054, Rear Echelon at 298992, Battalion C. P. at 255053. Weather: Cloudy. Company "A" (attached to 175 Field Artillery Groupment) No change. Company "B" (attached to 125 Field Artillery Groupment). Moved to vicinity of 163068, closing at 0930. Company "C" (under Battalion control). At dawn occupied direct fire positions as follows: One (1) platoon at 187074, one (1) platoon at 172072, one (1) platoon at 179062. Reconnaissance Company, no missions.

30 October 1943 -- No change.


JAMES P. BARNEY, JR.
Lt. Colonel, F. A.
Commanding

HEADQUARTERS 776TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
A.P.O. 464

30 October 1943

EXCERPTS FROM FIELD ORDERS HEADQUARTERS 34TH INFANTRY
DIVISION PERTAINING TO 776TH T. D. BN.

No. 1

Letter 6 October 1943

SUBJECT: Movement of 34th Infantry Division to areas in
vicinity of MONTESARCHIO

4. 776th T. D. Bn. will be prepared to move, on Division
Order, to areas assigned on overlay after 070900A October.

No. 2

FO #7 17 October 1943

3. Arty (w/776th TD Bn.....attached)

---Support Advance of Div.

---Prepare for prompt displacement to positions for
support of river crossings in Division sector.

---One (1) Platoon of 776th TD Bn. in direct support
of 133rd Inf.

---One (1) Platoon of 776th TD Bn. in direct support
of 135th Inf.

No. 3

FO #10 19 October 1943

3. d. Arty---

---776th TD Bn. will furnish one (1) company each
for close support of 135th Infantry and 133rd
Infantry.

No. 4
FO #11

3. d. Arty (w/776th TD Bn.....attached)

---Support advance of 133rd Infantry

---Furnishes one (1) gun Co. platoon of 776th TD Bn.
as direct support for 133rd Infantry

No. 5

Annex No. 1 TO FO #12 25 October 1943

3. a. Mission of each of the following units is direct
support of the 135th Inf.

1. 125th Groupment, consisting of 125 FA Bn plus Co.
"B" of 776th TD Bn.

2. 151st Groupment, consisting of 151 FA Bn plus Co.
"C" of 776th TD Bn.

3. 175th Groupment, consisting of 175 FA Bn plus Co.
"A" of 776th TD Bn.

No. 6

FO #13 27 October 1943

27 October Contd

- d. Arty (w/776th TD Bn.....attached)
- Five thirty (30) minutes preparation prior to H hour.
 - Continue the support of the attack by barrages and successive concentrations progressing at the rate of 100 yards every ten (10) minutes
 - Furnish one (1) Co. of 776th TD Bn as direct support for 168th Inf and for protection of Division right flank.

[REDACTED]

CASUALTY REPORT

28 September 1943

1st Lt.	Shelden L. Thompson	0435944	LWA
Sgt.	Millard E. Stigen	37022921	SWA
Techn IV	Paul P. Gibbs	37022329	LWA
Pvt lcl	Walter G. Michaels	37170022	LWA
Pvt	James R. Malcom	34441465	LWA

1 October 1943

Sgt.	Raymond E. Larson	37023104	KIA
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11 October 1943

Sgt.	Ernest E. Parris	37022381	LWA
Pvt lcl	Stanley Radny	36181935	LWA

21 October 1943

S/Sgt	Harold T. Brown	20745005	KIA
	(Died of wounds recd Oct. 19)		

19 October 1943

Sgt.	Duain M. Baukol	37081805	SWA
Cpl.	Edward J. Hendrickx	37023050	SWA
Techn V	Bernard W. Perkins	37328752	SWA

29 October 1943

Techn V	Jesse L. Anderson	20928218	KIA
Techn V	Patrick A. Herman	37170063	SWA
Techn V	Thomas J. Prokott	37169875	SWA

Total Number KIA	3
Total Number SWA	<u>6</u>
Total Number LWA	<u>6</u>

TOTAL 15

[REDACTED]