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Auth: CO. 804th TD Bn.
Initials
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HEADQUARTERS EIGHT HUNDRED FOURTH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
A.P.O. 464, U. S. ARMY

24 November 1944

SUBJECT: Battalion History for Month of October.

TO : Commanding General,
Fifth Army,
APO 464, U. S. Army.

During the month of October the Battalion was employed for the most part in its secondary role of supporting artillery, firing harassing missions. The excessive rain and mud during the month restricted the movability of the Tank Destroyers thus limiting their capabilities for direct fire. However, one platoon of each T.D. Company was held in position for direct targets of opportunity while the remaining two platoons were moved into artillery positions.

During the month the total ammunition expenditure was more than doubled. A total of 48,798 rounds of 3" ammunition expended during October. Considering the condition of the weather and roads great difficulties in transportation and supply were encountered. In several instances ammunition was hauled as far forward as the roads would permit then taken on to the most forward gun position by mule train.

On 14 October 1944, Headquarters Company moved from Pagliana, Italy, to an area south of Loriens, Italy, in order to be nearer the Tank Destroyer Companies and shorten the supply lines. In leaving the area near Pagliana it was necessary to use the winch on the wrecker to assist all loaded vehicles out of the area and onto the road.

From 13 to 16 October Company A, commanded by Samuel R. Haskell, Captain, Infantry, of Columbia, South Carolina, was in direct firing position firing on points of resistance in and around Livorgnans. They succeeded in knocking out many points of resistance including mortars and machine guns. Prisoners of War taken by the infantry on 14 October stated that they could hold out under any other type of artillery, but that they could not stand the direct fire from the Tank Destroyers.

On 18 October Company B tested the new illuminating 3" shell with excellent results proving capabilities for their use to aid night firing in future operations.

On 22 October the Battalion, less Company C and one platoon Reconnaissance Company, was relieved from attachment to the Infantry Regiments and attached to 91st Division Artillery. Company C and one platoon Reconnaissance Company remaining attached to 34th Infantry Division.