

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS
814th Tank Destroyer Battalion

APC 339, US Army
2 December 1944

SUBJECT: After Action Report, Month of November, 1944.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D.C. (Through Channels).

1. On 1 Nov 1944 the 814th TD Bn, attached to 7th Armd Div, was sub-attached as follows: Co A and Rcn Co to CCA, Co C to CCB, while Hq and Hq Co and Co B were part of 7th Armd Div Troops.
2. The 814th TD Bn (-) remained in bivouac 1 and 1/2 mile south of Maarheeze, Holland, until 7 Nov 1944 when the Division moved to concentration area south of Maastricht, Holland on 7, 8 and 9 Nov 1944. 814th TD Bn concentrated at Fouron le Comte, Belgium and vicinity, with all companies reverting to Battalion control upon closing into area. Remained in billets, carrying out maintenance and training until 17 Nov 1944 when Company A and 1st Plat Rcn Co were attached to 113th Cav Gp and moved to assembly area in vicinity of Groot Haasdal, Holland. Remainder of Bn alerted to support XIII Corps in Corps zone of action on order from Division. Performed Reconnaissance for assembly positions vicinity Grotemath (K8261).
3. On 22 Nov 1944 the 814th TD Bn (-) was attached to CCR and moved to concentration area in vicinity of Groot Haasdal, Holland to prepare for operations to the East. Company C and 3rd Plat Rcn Co were attached to CCB on 22 Nov 1944 and moved to concentration area with that command. Company A and 1st Plat Rcn Co reverted to Bn control on 22 Nov 1944. Company A attached to 40th Tk Bn and 335th Inf Regt for mission with 2nd Armd Div. On 28th Nov 1944 2nd Plat Company B and 1st Plat Company C (90mm Gun) attached to CCR, and 814th TD Bn (-) reverted to Div Troops.
4. 814th TD Bn (-) remained in billets in Groot Haasdal, Holland.

Reconnaissance Company

1. On 1 Nov 1944, Rcn Co was attached to 38th AIB and was used dismounted to outpost east bank of Canal from 615054 to 616038, replacing Co B, 38th AIB. The Company continued this mission, observing enemy patrols, taking a few prisoners, and performing normal duties, until 8 Nov 1944 when it moved to Fouron le Comte, Belgium and reverted to Bn control.
2. Company remained in billets until 17 Nov 1944 when 1st Plat was attached to Company A, 814th TD Bn, and moved to concentration area vicinity of Groot Haasdal, Holland to join Task Force Biddle (113th Cav). Plat received no mission while with the task force and returned to Bn control with Company A on 22 Nov 1944. Company minus 1st and 3rd Platoons moved to Groot Haasdal, Holland with 814th TD Bn on 22 Nov 1944. 3rd Plat being attached to Company C, 814th TD Bn which was attached to CCB, 7th Armd Div.
3. 1st Plat relieved from attachment to Company A, 814th TD Bn, and returned to Company Control on 24 Nov 1944.
4. Company had no mission until 28 Nov 1944, when Pioneer Plat had mission of digging positions for three (3) Tank Destroyers of Company B, between Pommern and Suggesterath, Germany (895649), which were to support, by covering with direct fire the high ground east of Beek, Germany, the attack of the 40th Tk Bn on 29 Nov 1944. Positions prepared under cover of darkness and guns occupied them successfully. Company had no additional missions during month.

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(After Action Report, 814th TD Bn, month of Nov 44, cont'd)



Company A

1. On 1 Nov 1944, Company A was attached to CCA, 7th Armd Div and in indirect fire positions near Weert, Holland. Company remained in these positions, firing several missions, until 5 Nov 1944 when 1st Plat established Road Block on Ospel-Meijel Road (650030), 2nd Plat acted as bridge guard 1 and 1/2 mile north of Nederweert, and 3rd Plat was in support positions with 40th Tk Bn, 3000 yards NE of Ospel.

2. Company moved to assembly position 3 miles NW of Weert on 8 Nov 1944 and moved to Fouron le Comte, Belgium on 9 Nov 1944, reverting to Bn control upon closing in billets in that town.

3. Company remained in billets until 17 Nov 1944 when it was attached, with 1st Plat Rcn Co, to 113th Cav Gp to form Task Force Biddle, and moved to vicinity Groot Haasdal, Holland. Company received no mission from this Task Force and returned to Bn control on 22 Nov 1944.

4. On 23 Nov 1944, Company A, with 1st Plat Rcn Co, was attached to 40th Tk Bn which in turn was attached to 335th Inf Regt, and moved to assembly position vicinity of Geronsweiler, Germany. Column was halted near cross road 938633 due to jamming of road by unit in front of it. Enemy artillery concentration hit column and it could not disperse. Two Tank Destroyers were knocked out causing 15 casualties (Co A - 12, 1st Plat Rcn - 3). Two Platoons occupied defensive positions by 1715 hours, vicinity Geronsweiler, Germany, receiving both direct and indirect artillery fire. Company remained in these positions, firing at pill boxes and anti-tank guns, until relieved on 28 Nov 1944 at which time Company A reverted to Bn control.

5. 1st Plat Rcn Co relieved of attachment to Company A on 23 Nov 1944 and returned to Battalion control.

Company B

1. On 1 Nov 1944 Company was under Bn control in bivouac 1 and 1/2 mile south of Maarheeze, Holland performing maintenance and training.

2. On 4 Nov 1944 Company was attached to CCR, 7th Armd Div, but only 1st Plat moved out to join CCR as a holding force in vicinity of Ospel.

3. There was no change until 8 Nov 1944 when Company moved to assembly position with CCR 1 and 1/2 mile south east of Maarheeze. On 9 Nov 1944 Company moved to Fouron le Comte, Belgium, reverting to Battalion control.

4. Company remained in billets performing maintenance and training until 22 Nov 1944, when it moved with the Bn to billets in Groot Haasdal, Holland. Co remained in billets until 28 Nov when 2nd Plat moved with 3rd Plat Co C, 814th TD Bn to assembly positions SE of Ubach, Germany. This Plat occupied dug in positions between Prummern and Suggestath, prepared by Pioneer Plat Rcn Co, prior to daylight 29 Nov with mission of covering high ground east of Beek.. Platoon knocked out one German tank, identified as Panther, at 2800 yards on afternoon of 30 Nov 1944. (Platoon equipped with 90mm guns). The position of this Platoon was well organized and drew no enemy fire for two days.

5. Remainder of Company remained in billets.

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(After Action Report, 814th TD Bn, month of Nov 44, cont'd)

Company C

1. On 1 Nov 1944 Company attached to CCB, 7th Armd Div, moved with that command to assembly area 1 and 1/2 mile south of Weert, Holland where it remained, conducting tactical training with CCB, until 8 Nov when it moved to billets in Fouron le Comte, Belgium and reverted to Bn control.
2. Company remained in billets performing maintenance and training until 22 Nov 1944 when 3rd Plat of Rcn Co was attached to it and both attached to CCB, and units moved to concentration area in Beeck, Holland.
3. Company continued maintenance and training for remainder of month in this location, with the exception of the 1st Plat, which was attached to CCR and moved to assembly position south east of Ubach, Germany.
4. On night of 28 Nov, platoon moved into defilade positions west of Gereonsweiler - Setterch Road.
5. Platoon remained in position west of Gereonsweiler - Setterch Road until 1700 hours 29 Nov when it moved into Lindern, Germany with mission of assisting 335th Inf Regt, 2 Co's 40 th Tk Bn and 1 Plat 628th TD Bn in holding that town. Platoon was shifted from one side of town to other as tanks were reported. It seemed that no other unit would take them under fire, believing that only a 90mm gun would affect them. One enemy tank was knocked out on 30 Nov at about 1200 yards.

This Battalion started receiving the M-36 Tank Destroyer, which mounts 90mm gun, to replace the M-10 on 19 Nov 1944. At present date twenty have been received.

The fact that the Battalion now has a few of these guns in each company has caused platoons equipped with them to be detached from the companies and given special missions.

To date two enemy tanks have been knocked out by the M-36, and crews have gained confidence in them.

For the Commanding Officer:

WALTER W. LAND
Captain FA
Adjutant

SECRET