

CLASSIFICATION REMOVED

HEADQUARTERS 821ST TANK DESTROYER BATTALION (Towed)
A P O 230, U S Army

23 July 1944

SUBJECT: After Action Report for Month of June, 1944.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D C.

THRU : Commanding General, 29th Infantry Division, APO 29, U S Army.

I SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS:

1. Movement to Combat Area:

a. 26 June 44: Disembarked Omaha Beach, Normandy, France, 2000 hours, arriving from Marshalling Area, Southampton, England. Bivouaced at Vehicle Transit Camp No. 4, vicinity Coleville sur Mer, Coordinates 667867, for dewaterproofing. No action with enemy.

b. 27 June 44: Battalion departed Vehicle Transit Camp No. 4 at 0630 hours, enroute to Corps Assembly Area, vicinity Vouilly. Arrived at assembly area at 1130 hours, coordinates 556814 (See attached overlay No. 1). Distance traveled, 18 miles. Relieved from attachment to 2d Tank Destroyer Group and attached to 29th Infantry Division, per Field Order No. 3, XIX Corps, effective this date. Placed in 29th Infantry Division reserve. No action with enemy.

c. 28 June 44: (1) 821 TD Bn (pwd CP) departed assembly area near Vouilly, 1330 hours, arrived at assembly area at 1500 hours, coordinates 535725. (See attached overlay No. 2) Distance traveled 9 miles.

(2) Headquarters Company (rear echelon) departed assembly area near Vouilly, 1430 hours, arrived at assembly area at 1500 hours, coordinates 546743. (See attached overlay No. 2) Distance traveled 7 miles.

(3) Company "A" departed assembly area near Vouilly, 1330 hours, arrived assembly area at 1415 hours, coordinates 533724. (See attached overlay No. 2) Distance traveled 10 miles.

(4) Company "B" departed assembly area near Vouilly, 0915 hours, arrived assembly area at 1050 hours, coordinates 531726. (See attached overlay No. 2) Distance traveled 10 miles.

(5) Company "C" departed assembly area near Vouilly, 1330 hours, arrived assembly area at 1430 hours, coordinates 531724. (See attached overlay No. 2) Distance traveled 10 miles.

d. 29 June 44, through 30 June 44: Battalion remained in assembly position (See overlay No. 2). Company Commanders and Reconnaissance Officers made a reconnaissance of the road nets, and possible forward gun positions for anti-tank defense of the 29th Infantry Division. No Action with enemy.

II LOSSSES

1. Strength at end of period (30 June 44):

- a. 32 Officers.
- b. 2 Warrant Officers.
- c. 7th Unlisted Men (1 MIA lost to hospital).

CLASSIFICATION REMOVED

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III COMMANDING OFFICERS:

HOWARD H. ARBURY, Lt., Col., FA., Commanding Battalion.
CARL L. HELLER, Capt., FA., Commanding Headquarters Company.
EDWARD A. BURKE, Capt., FA Commanding Company "A".
FRED K. HEATHERINGTON, Capt., FA., Commanding Company "B".
DOCK A. STUART, Capt., FA., Commanding Company "C".
WALTER W. REED, Capt., MC., Commanding Medical Detachment.

IV LOCATION OF COMPANIES, 30 June 44:

1. 821 TD BN (Pwd CP), coordinates 535725.
2. Headquarters Company (Near Echelon), coordinates 543743.
3. Company "A", coordinates 533724.
4. Company "B", coordinates 531726.
5. Company "C", coordinates 531725.

Note: All companies at end of period were located in an assembly position near Moon sur Elle, awaiting assignment of mission by 29th Infantry Division Anti-Tank Officer.


HOWARD H. ARBURY
Lt. Col., FA
Commanding

[REDACTED]

HEADQUARTERS
821st TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 230

S-1 JOURNAL - For month ending 30 June 1944:

June 27 0001 to 2400: 0515: Captain Bealmer, of 2nd TD Group, contacted Lt Col Arbury, and notified him that he would lead the Bn to the assembly area assigned to the Bn by XIX Corps.

0630: Bn moved from Vehicle Transit Camp at Coleville-sur-mer. (Less Co "B")

0915: Bn (Less Co "B") arrived at assembly area A-30.

0945: Bn CP set up and telephone communication established with XIX Corps.

1050: Co "B" arrived at assembly area A-30.

1100: Col Elms and Lt Col Bell of the 2nd TD Group visited the Bn CP.

1345: Bn S-2 (Capt Smith) and the Bn S-3 (Major Vollendorff) visited the XIX Corps CP and brought their situation and operation maps up to date. Co Commanders and Rcn Officers spent the day learning the road net and establishing liaison with adjacent units.

2330: Received Field Order No 3 from XIX Corps; Bn attached to 29th Inf Div. Substance of Order: 3rd Armored Division to attack high ground north of St Lo at 290900. 29th Inf Div to secure ground taken by 3rd Armored. After ground is secured 3rd Armored to fall back to assembly area. This Bn to be 29th Inf Div reserves (Initially).

June 28 0001 to 2400: 1215: Bn Commander returned from visit to 29th Inf Div CP with instructions for Bn to move to vicinity of Cord 535725. Line Companies to take assembly positions. Cp Group and Rcn Plts to go to forward assembly positions, Rear Echelon to vicinity of Cord 540747.

1415: CP Group and Rcn Platoons went into bivouac in vicinity of Cord 5357265, vicinity of Moon-sur-Elle. Line Companies went into bivouac in vicinity of Moon-sur-Elle. Rear Echelon in vicinity of La Fotelaie, Cord 540747. Line Co Commanders and Company Officers reconnoitered for firing positions to support 29th Inf Div in case of counter attack by armor.

June 29 0001 to 2400: All elements remained in assembly positions. Line Co Commanders and Company Officers made reconnaissance throughout the day, reporting road conditions and enemy activity and friendly forces progress to the Bn C.O.

June 30 0001 to 2400: Bn Commander and Co Commanders visited General Gearhardt at 29th Inf Div CP. All elements remained in assembly positions. Co Comdrs continued to make reconnaissance tours, reporting findings to Bn C.O.

H. Van Benge
VON BENGE

[REDACTED]

HEADQUARTERS
321st TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 230

S-2 JOURNAL - For month ending 30 June 1944:

June 27 2100 to June 29 1500:

- 301100: Bn attached to 29 Inf Div. Field Order No 3.
- 301150: Bn moved into bivouac. Cord 53557265.
- 301215: Misc enemy soldiers personal mail found in Bn area. Turned in to S-2.
- 301500: Bn S-2 called on Div S-2. Picked up periodic report #20.
- 301530: Summary of situation as of 2100 hrs sent to Hq Co.
- 301600: Received periodic report #21 from 29th Div.
- 301630: Sign and countersign sent to all Companies.
- 301700: Bn S-2 and "B" Co's C.O. to check road nets in fwd areas.
- 301730: Bn S-2 and "B" Co's C.O. returned to CP.
- 301800: Periodic report #1 sent to Div. Journal closed as of 1500 hours.

June 29 1500 to June 30 1500:

- 301545: Bn S-2 and S-3 visited fwd positions.
- 301530: Bn S-2 and S-3 returned to CP.
- 301730: Bn S-2 went forward to check CP of adjacent units.
- 301800: Periodic report #22 received from 29th Div.
- 301830: Sign and countersign sent to all companies.
- 301830: Bn S-2 went to Div and 323 TD CP.
- 301830: Bn S-2 returned to CP.
- 301900: Maj Watts reported by phone that tanks were sighted at Cord 5379 and Cord 53046552.
- 301900: Periodic report #2 issued. Journal closed as of 1500 hrs.

June 30 1500 to June 30 2400:

- 302100: Enemy plane sighted over Bn area.
- 302220: Sniper reported in vicinity of Hq Co Area at 1800 hrs.

SMITH

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S-2 PERIODIC REPORT

From: 201500 B Jun 44

To : 201500 B Jun 44

821st TD Bn.

53507245

Number 2

MAPS: P ANGE 1/25,000

1. ENEMY SITUATION.

- a. Front line: Does not apply.
- b. Defensive organizations: Does not apply.
- c. Units in contact: Does not apply.
- d. Artillery: No shelling in unit area.
- e. Reserves: Does not apply.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS.

Negative.

3. MISCELLANEOUS.

Negative.

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES.

Does not apply.

ARMORY
Connig.

SMITH
S-2

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HEADQUARTERS
821st TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO #230 U. S. ARMY

"A" - Troops
"B" - Staff
"M" - Map
"P" - Filed

S-3 JOURNAL

MONTH ENDING 30 JUNE 1944

THE FOLLOWING IS THE INITIAL ENTRY OF S-3 AFTER LANDING IN NORMANDY, FRANCE.

No.	In	Out	From	Time Signed	Via	Messages, Orders, Incidents, Etc.	Disposition
						Bn. C.P. set up 27 June 1944 at 0930 27 June 1944. Assembly Area A-30 Coords. 55608145	S M F
	1300				M	Opers. overlay 262100 Rec'd	S M F
		1900				Bn. C.O. & S-3 made reconnaissance of roads, area, etc.	
	2100					Bn. C.O. & S-3 returned to S-3	
	2330		2 TD Grp 272030		M	Rec'd F.O. #5 XIX Corps - 272030 June 44 - Paragraph 3-F(1) showed 821st TD Bn atched 29th Div.	S M F

28 JUNE 1944

		0845				Bn C.O. & S-3 left for 29th Div.	
		1215				Bn C.O. & S-3 returned to C.P.	
		1015				Lt. Col. Bell, 2 TD Grp visited CP	
		1050				Co. C.O.'s left to recon. new assembly posns. vic of Moon Sur Elle	
		1300			M	Sitrep to C.O. 2nd TD Grp. Present posns. & route & new assem. area	M S
1215	1215					Bn C.O. brought overlay of anti-tank defenses, 29th Div.	S F
		1245				Line Co.'s started moving out	
		1415				C.P. Grp. moved to new fwd assem. area - 53557265 Vic Moon Sur Elle	
		1630				Overlay No. 1 to Div Arty 29th Div Dispositions	S M
	1715			1200	M	Received FO #15 - 29th Div.	S M F
		1740			M M	Request SOP S-3 reports Div - Gp SOP if none desig.	S F
	2000		Div AT		Ln	Contact Hq 115th AM 29 - 1 Coy support 2 Bns follow move into posn w/115th in afternoon. 2 coys. rel. 823rd 29 June - Order following eve. of 29th.	S.F. T
	2020		Div Arty 1530		M	Change 1 to FO #15, fire sup sched; Front line desig.	T F
	2200		Maj Watts		Tel	Until status of the unit with 29th Div is clarified, reconnaissance and not occupation of posn. will be in effect for counter attack measures.	S. F.
	2400	2400	S-3	2345	M	C.G. Div. Arty, 29 Div, A.t. A.T. Off. Sitreps to be reported as per instrs.	S
		2400	S-3		M	Periodic Report #1 sent to C.G. Div. Arty, 29 Div., A.T. Officer	S F

821st I.D. Bn. S-3 Journal (Continued)

29 JULY 1944

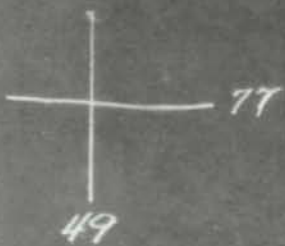
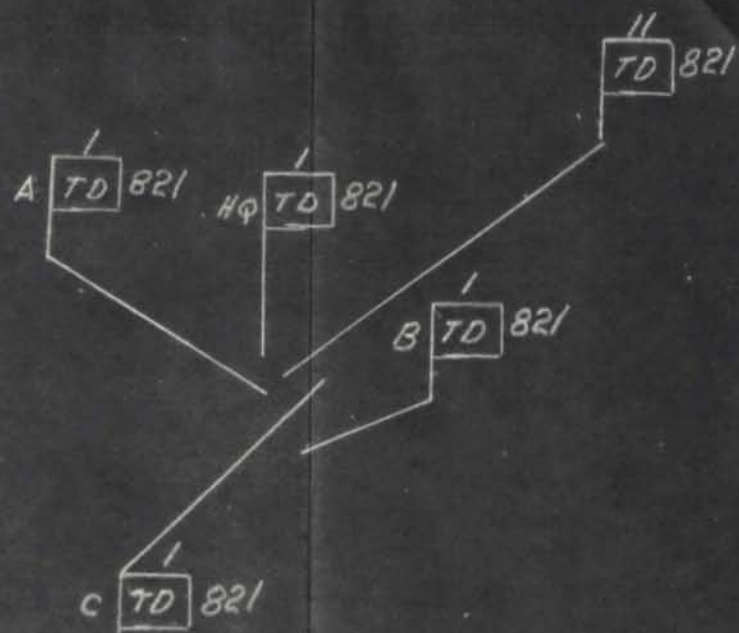
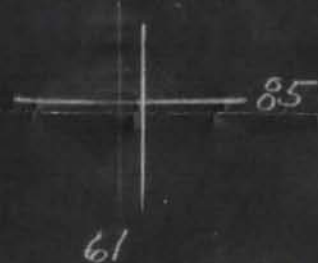
no.	In	Out	From	Time Signed	Via Via	Messages, Orders, Incidents, Etc.	Disposition
		1000		1000	M	Sitrep Report #1 sent 29 Div Arty	S F
		1010				Bn. C.O. left for Div. Arty	
	1136					Bn. C. O. returned to C.P.	
	1610					2nd T.D. Grp officers visited C.P.	
		1645				S-3 left for 3 fwd posns.	
	1656					S-3 returned to C.P.	
	1710				M	Rec'd 29 Div Sit. overlay as of 1200 hours, 29 June	S M F
		1805			M	Daily report sent to 2nd TD Grp	S
		1930				Bn C.O. left for Rear Echelon	
		2010			M	Sitrep #2 sent to 29th Div Arty	
	2035					Bn. C.O. returned to C.P.	
	2150					Capt Stuart reported 3rd Armor digging in for tonight and resuming attack at 0600 tomorrow	

30 June 1944

	0130		29 Div		M	F O #16 received	S T M F
	0830				T	To: All Comds - LATITUDES. There are instances where troops have fired on friendly planes & planes on our troops. Steps are being taken to see that mistakes are not made by pilots. A.A. personnel must be warned that mission is to protect objective, it is also to protect friendly air craft (Gen. Bradley) 1st Inds Div. policy is not to fire at night and in the day time only on planes definitely identified as hostile.	S T F
		0900				S-3 & S-2 left for Div. Arty & fwd.	
	1035					Major Seitz visited CP & left maps	S
		1104				BN C.O. & Co. C.O.'s left for Div. to meet Gen. Gerhardt	
	1215					Bn. C.O. & Co. C.O.'s returned	
	1215					S-3 * S-2 Sgt. returned to C.P.	
	1330					Maj Watts, 29th Div. A.T. visited CP	
	1335		S-3		M	Bn. overlay No. 1 (a) establishing Bn. Security outposts distributed	
1		1423	S-3		M	To All Coy's. Submit to S-3 overlay on 1,25000 of (1) Assem areas for Coy. in area assigned as 1st Priority Ren. (2) Possible assem. areas for remaining 2 Coys. in vic. & depth. (3) Selected Gun posns. in assigned areas by 301800 June.	
2		1457	S-3		M	No 2 officers allowed fwd in same veh.	S T
		1505				Bn C.O. departed for Rr Echelon	

30 JUNE 1944 (Continued)

No	In	Out	From	Time Signed	Via	Messages, Orders, Incidents, Etc.	Disposition
		1526			M	All Coy's: Have 1 off. available to bring Coy. aiming circles to Bn. for declination on call.	
	1520					C.P. visited by Maj Beckwith, Asst G4	
	1608		29 Div		M	Sit. Overlay as of 301200 June Rec'd	T
	1640		29 Div		Tel	"C" Coy. will not be put into posn. with 115th Inf. tonight. Clean sweep of all 823rd units tomorrow afternoon.	S
4	1645		S-3		M	"C" Co. w ll not go into posn. with 115th tonight. A clean sweep of all 823rd posn. will be made by our unit, probably afternoon 1 July 44, going into posns. probably fwd of their present pos. Rcn. & Contact Resp. 823rd elms. for their new disposition.	S
	1655				M	Rec'd "A" Co's Tent. overlay of various positions.	S M
	1700				M	Rec'd "B" Co's Tent overlay of posns.	S M
5		2000	S-3		M	All Co's: Check vehicles, trenches, immersion heaters, latrines, security, guard, police.	
		2135	S-3		M	Sitrep Report #4 sent to 29th Div. AT	
	2108		29 Div		M	F.O. No. 17 received	M S T F
	2130		"C" Co.		M	Overlay (Coy. C) of Platoon Assembly areas (Tentative)	M S



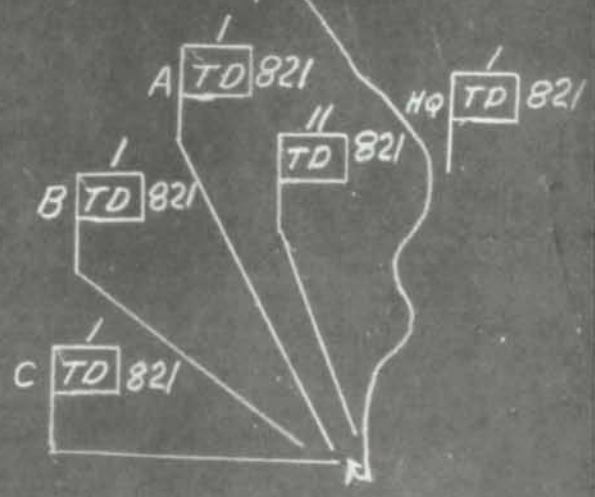
821 ST TD BN
DISPOSITION AS OF 27
JUNE 44
MAP 1:50,000 6F2
PREPARED BY S-3

Overlay No. 2

83

58

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72

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821ST TD BN
DISPOSITION AS OF
28 JUNE 44
MAP 1:50,000 GF2
PREPARED BY S-3

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HQ XIX CORPS
APO 270
272030 June 44

FO #3

Maps: G.S.G.S. 4250 - 1/50,000 - Sheets 6E/5 and 6E/6.

1. a. XXXX
b. XXXX
2. XXXX
3. a. XXXX
b. XXXX
c. XXXX
d. XXXX
e. XXXX
f. 2d TD Gps
(1) 821st TD Bn atchd 29th Div.
(2) AT defense Corps zone.
g. XXXX
4. XXXX
5. a. XXXX
b. XXXX
c. XXXX

/t/s/ WEST
WEST
G-3

/t/s/ CHARLES H. CORLETT
CORLETT
Maj Gen

DISTRIBUTION:
XXXX

CERTIFIED & TRUE EXTRACT

W. J. ...
W. J. ...
G-3 821st TD Bn

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