

C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS 635TH TD BATT LN TOWED
APO 230, US Army

0-409

19 July 1944

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports
THROUGH: Commanding General, 1st US Infantry Division, APO 1, US Army
TO: The Adjutant General, Washington, DC



1. Pursuant to instructions contained in FUSA letter, file 319.1/401 (C), dated 13 July 1944, subject as indicated above, and paragraph 10 (C3) At 345-105, the following report and copy of Unit Journal is submitted for the month of June 1944:

Narrative

a. The 635th TD Bn Towed landed on 8th June and upon arrival was attached to 1st US Infantry Division Artillery. The order of landing was Cos A, B, and C. The Battalion landed on Omaha Beach. Part of the vehicles were landed by LSTs and Rhino barges. C Co landed their vehicles by LSTs right up to the beach and drove off at low tide.

b. Upon arrival at the beach the Battalion was taken to Transit Area 4 and from there to the vicinity of the 1st Div Arty CP and placed in bivouac. On the night of 8th June Companies A and C were attached to the 26th Inf Regt and Company B to the 18th Inf Regt. On 9 June Co A was relieved of attachment to the 26th Inf and ordered to report to the Commanding General, 2nd Inf Div, vicinity Formingy. On 17th June Co A was relieved of attachment to 2nd Inf Div and was re-attached to 1st Inf Div Arty, and placed in direct support of the 16th Inf Regt. After the companies were attached to their respective regiments each company was broken down by platoons to battalions and each platoon was attached to each battalion of the 26th and 18th Inf Regts. They were not under the 635th Battalion control but were part of each battalion and were used by the battalion commanders as antitank guns. While Co A was with the 2nd Div it served with the 9th and 23rd Inf Regts, and upon going to the 2nd Div, a section of the Reconnaissance Platoons, with one 18 and two $\frac{1}{2}$ tons, were attached for reconnaissance and used by the 2nd Div as reconnaissance elements.

c. During the advance from the beach to the present situation, the platoons attached to the battalions of the 18th and 26th Inf Regts advanced with their respective battalions, many times being with the front line troops and were constantly with the front line elements of each battalion. The companies attached to the 18th and 26th Inf Regts have been supplied with rations and other supplies from the regimental dump.

d. Number of casualties suffered by this Battalion are 4 enlisted men killed, 8 enlisted men wounded and evacuated, two died from wounds, and 2 enlisted men wounded and not evacuated.

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Report, 635th TD Bn Towed, 19 July 1944, contd

e. We have positive proof that we have killed 6 of the enemy as an independent action and the platoons of the Battalion have been engaged in machine gun fights and we have every reason to believe that we have killed many more. On one occasion the enemy had infiltrated into the area of the 2nd Platoon of B Co, attached to the 18th Inf Regt, and their machine guns were engaged along with Browning Automatic Riflemen of the 18th and the next morning 26 German dead were found in front of their position. In this action one sniper was killed by Major B A Scott. On an indirect firing mission, fired by A Co, the observer noted that in firing into a wood the many men ran out and were also seen getting out of burning vehicles, and it appeared that this concentration of fire had hit a congested area of the enemy.

f. The Battalion has not engaged in any patrol activity of it's own within the enemy lines. Platoons attached to the battalions of the 18th and 26th Inf Regt have many times been subjected to patrol activity of the enemy.

g. The vehicular casualties of this Battalion to 30 June are as follows:
1 Trailer lost by running over an enemy mine getting over the beach.
1 Half-track destroyed by the enemy firing a bazooka or by a hand grenade being thrown into the vehicle.
1 Half-track completely destroyed by burning after being hit directly by a mortar shell.

h. We have no true knowledge of any vehicular casualties that we have caused.

i. The Battalion has captured, independently of any other troops, 22 prisoners, one of these being a radio technician that descended by parachute from a burning German plane.

j. The Battalion has seen only one German tank.

k. On the 22nd of June it was reported by the 18th Inf Regt that a German tank was to be seen some 2500 yards from one of our guns. A 57 gun was brought up to fire at this tank. It was reported that this tank had a mechanical failure and it was desired that fire be brought upon it. The 57 fired at the tank but was unable to hit it. Artillery barrage was called for but failed to hit the tank. One of our guns of the 2nd Platoon of B Co then fired 9 rounds at the tank, 6 of these rounds were seen to hit the tank. An Infantry officer of the 18th Inf reported from his observation that it was a Mark V. In attempting to get closer observation of his tank, Lt Johnson was killed and two members of his platoon were wounded. The effects of our fire on this tank was not learned. On 30 June, on order from the Regimental Commander, our gun section fired around the tank as once again enemy personnel were seen working around the tank and it was feared that they were preparing same for use as a harassing strong point. Enemy dispersed and their ammunition dump nearby exploded. The tank is still in the same position and has not been recovered by the enemy.

See pg 153-155 of F. A. Johnson's
One More Hill

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owed, 19 July 1944, contd.

We suffered no serious handicap before the arrival of our reserves. We could have used the members of the security sections which were left behind had we known that we would be in a front line position.

m. We have been under direct orders of the 1st Division and have placed our guns in position upon the orders of the various battalion commanders to which the platoons are attached.

n. The 1st Battalion, 18th Inf Regt, were being observed from a tower of a church at Sept Vents. The Battalion Commander requested that this tower be taken under fire by our guns. The tower was demolished by about 20 rounds of HE ammunition on the 26th of June. Corps Artillery requested that the 2nd Platoon of B Co fire at another church tower some 4,000 yards away but this was refused by the platoon officer because it would disclose his position and the range was too great. A Co of the Battalion fired 1,500 rounds of ammunition on indirect fire missions allocated by the Division Artillery.

WINT SMITH
Lt Col, FA
Commanding

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