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HEADQUARTERS VII CORPS ARTILLERY  
Office of the AT Officer  
A.P.O. 307 U.S. Army

29 June 1944

REPORT OF OPERATIONS, 899TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
6 JUNE TO 28 JUNE 1944

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June 6, 1944 - This Battalion, less "B" Company, Recon Company, and Administrative elements, landed on UTAH Beach in Wave 25 and proceeded to Assembly Area in vicinity of 424942. Unit was attached to 4th Inf Div Artillery. First mission was to provide antitank protection to North and West of Division and Division Arty Hdqrs located just South of AUDOVILLE LA HUBERT. Companies moved into position at approximately 2015B. No enemy action was encountered during the night with the exception of LMG and scattered small fire against the extreme left flank platoon. No casualties or loss of equipment occurred. CP located at 402959.

June 7, 1944 - At 0145, CO of this Battalion received orders to move to position generally along 368980 - 371969 and protect the left flank of the 12th Inf Regt. Position occupied at 0330. Day was uneventful except for scattered small arms fire and the capture of 12 EM and 1 officer near 372972 by 3rd platoon of "C" Company. AT 1410 "C" Company was ordered attached to 22nd Inf located along East-West line south of ST. MARCOUF, and arrived there at 1535B, prepared to repel armor or support infantry in advance. Company destroyed one enemy antitank gun and one pill box during engagement.

June 8, 1944 - Battalion ordered to assembly area near REUVILLE (380968) prepared to repel enemy armored attack from North, West or South. "C" Company, late in reporting by reason of being engaged in attack launched at 0630 by 22nd Inf, destroyed 12 enemy MG nests and 6 pill boxes. Day uneventful. Reconnaissance maintained along all likely avenues of armored approach. Two prisoners taken. At 1830 order received to occupy positions North and West of BEUZEVILLE AU PLAIN, prepared to repel armor

from either direction. Positions occupied at 2130. Order received 2245B for one platoon to report for direct support of 22nd Inf at 090900B.

June 9, 1944 - One platoon of Company "C" reported as ordered. One platoon "A" Company occupied positions vicinity 366009. No action during forenoon. Received two 2½ ton truck loads 3" Ammunition. At 1450 CO returns to CP with information that task force under command of General BARBER, consisting of 746 tank Bn, 899th TD Bn, 22 Inf, and 70 tanks on request, are to attack north in 22nd Inf sector with objectives AZEVILLE, OZEVILLE, QUINEVILLE, and high ground to the west thereof. Third platoon Company "A" attached to 3rd Bn 22 Inf to lead assault, followed by 2nd Bn 22 Inf in column. Company "C" with one company, 1st Bn 22nd Inf supported by one Battery 105 Howitzers assigned mission of following 1st Bn 22nd Inf swinging to right and containing strong point at GRISBECQ. Force delayed South of OZEVILLE, GRISBECQ contained. No losses.

June 10, 1944 - 3rd Platoon Co A shot out OP in church at OZEVILLE and destroyed several small points of resistance by direct gun fire. Co "C" contained strong point at GRISBECQ. Engaged enemy but merely exchanged fire and kept him occupied. Recon party met strong resistance SE of MONTEBOURG inflicted several casualties by small arms fire and withdrew to Infantry lines.

June 11, 1944 - Unit less one Platoon Co "C" moved to assembly area on order CG 4th Div Arty and prepared to repel armor from vicinity of VALOGNES - MONTEBOURG. One Platoon Co "A" was moved to position area vicinity 314043 guarding road SE from MONTEBOURG. One section Co "C" moved to vicinity 324029 guarding road block in conjunction with Division Engineers. One platoon Co "C" remained vicinity of GRISBECQ to assist elements of 39th Inf in advance on FORT ST. MARCOUF and movement toward QUINVILLE. No enemy action except small parties of infantry.

June 12, 1944 - Platoon Co "C" with 39th Inf supported in occupation of strong point GRISBECQ and advance on FORT ST. MARCOUF. Targets pill boxes and gun emplace-

Rpt of Opns, 899th cont'd

June 12, 1944 - Cont'd

ments. Results very good. Road block SE of MONTEBOURG covered by one section 1st Platoon Co "C". Section relieved at 1630 by section 3rd Platoon Co "A". 2nd Platoon Co "A" covered SE exit from MONTEBOURG. 2 Platoons Co "C" attached 3th Inf at 1532B. "B" Company, Rcn Co, and additional service and Maintenance elements of Hdqrs Co joined Bn at 2030B.

June 13, 1944 - 3rd Platoon Co "C" supporting attack of CT from 8th Inf on MONTEBOURG 0650B. Destroyers advanced in column NW on road leading into town. Encountered heavy Mortar, MG and small arms fire. Infantry withdrew. Destroyers withdrew. Casualties: CO slightly wounded by shell fragment in leg. T/4 Paul wounded MIA, believed killed. Sgt Carlson seriously wounded all from mortar, HE shell and small arms or MG at close range. A few negligible injuries were incurred from fragments going into open top turrets. All companies less 2nd Platoon Co "A" (with 39th Inf) revert to Battalion control 1415B. One platoon Co "B" attached to each Infantry Regiment 4th Inf Div at 1840B.

June 14, 1944 - OP believed to be in church steeple in MONTEBOURG. Eighteen direct hits placed on church steeple at request of CO 12th Inf. 1 M-10 2nd Platoon Co "C" in ditch in inundated area between CRISBECQ and FORT ST. MARCOUF. T-2 recovery vehicle attempted to retrieve and also got bogged down - area mined. Elements of Pioneer Pltn cleared mines sufficient to permit exit from mine field. T-2 and M-10 recovered from inundated area. 2nd Platoon Co "B" occupies indirect fire positions and delivers observed indirect fire in support of 22nd Inf. Reconnaissance Company reports position of strong points, information gathered from Polish prisoners, and location of friendly troops. S-2 checks ammunition box, found in area, marked "VALOGNES", and verifies ammunition dump there by information from French civilian.

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June 15, 1944 - Relieved from attached to 4th Inf Div 1000B. Revert to Corps under 1st TD Gp. Moved to 352931 at 1200B. Established reconnaissance and contact in sectors of 9th, 90th, 82nd, and 101st Divisions.

June 16, 1944 - Company "C" attached 82nd A/B Div at 0530. Company "B" attached 90th Inf Div at 0700B. 3rd Platoon Co "A" relieves 1st Platoon Co "A" in 501st Parachute Inf sector, (see attached account of activities of 1st Platoon Company "A")  
2nd Platoon Co "A" relieved and returned to Battalion at 1715B. Company "B" held in Mobile Reserve. 1st Platoon placed in direct support of the 358th Inf. 1st Platoon Co "C" gave close direct support to advance elements of the 82nd A/B Div in advance into ST SAUVEUR LE VICOMTE. 1 M-10 put out of action. 1 man injured. 1 enemy 75mm AT gun knocked out. Several nuisance targets eliminated. 2nd Platoon guarding approaches to MONT DE LA PLACE from the North. 3rd Platoon in reserve near PORT L'ABBE.

obtain

June 17, 1944 - "A" Company moved to occupy positions in 9th Inf Div sector. Move was completed at 1600B. 1st Platoon Co "B" attached to 358th Inf. Gave close support by firing direct at enemy pill boxes and strong points from 1800 to 2300 hrs, 16 June 1944. 1st Platoon moved to position area 272007 to support attack of the 358th Inf on its objective. 2nd and 3rd Platoons "B" Company did not engage enemy and were held in mobile reserve vicinity 290973. 1st Platoon Company "C" supporting the attack of the 82nd A/B Div on ST SAUVEUR LE VICOMTE destroyed enemy gun emplacements and pill boxes. 2nd Platoon "C" Company in support of 508th Inf occupied direct fire positions but did not engage enemy. 3rd Platoon occupied anti-tank positions along EW road (PORT L'ABBE - ST SAUVEUR LE VICOMTE). Reconnaissance was maintained in 101st Division sector for enemy and friendly mine fields and condition of roads and bridges. Reconnaissance was instituted in 9th Division sector effective 1200B. Liaison established with 9th Inf Div.

S E C R E T



June 18, 1944 - Reconnaissance Company operated security patrols and flank guard for 60th Inf Regt. Captured 25 prisoners, 1 1½ ton Ford V-8 and 1 1½ ton Renault. Company "A" attached to 60th Inf at 1600 hrs 17 June. Company relieved from attachment to 60th Inf at 2000 hours and attached to 9th Div Arty at 2100 hrs. Reattached to 607th TD Bn. Company ordered to hold TD positions protecting North flank of Division in direct support of 60th Inf Regt (RJ 129988-117986-0796 BARNEVILLE 035946) Company in position at 0400 hrs 18 June. AT 2300 hours 17 June, 1st Platoon Co "A" with 1 Company Infantry, 1 platoon 57mm guns towed by halftracks formed task force by Gen EDDY to take BARNEVILLE and cut peninsula. Mission accomplished at 0100 hrs, 18 June 1944. 1 M-10 knocked out by AT fire - No casualties. At 0300 hrs Reconnaissance Company attached to Company "A" by order of Gen HOWELL, mission: Patrolling right flank of Division between TD **strong** points. At 0400 hrs company alerted for action. Considerable enemy infiltration. Throughout the AM all positions were held and right flank of Division secured. 1st Platoon Reconnaissance Company assisted by 1st section, 2nd Platoon Co "A" accomplished the relief of infantry anti-tank platoon at 1100 which was surrounded by enemy infantry. Two enemy counter-attacks were repelled during the AM. At 1500 hrs Company "A" ordered to positions on Hill 145 to cover reorganization of 60th Inf in preparation to attack North to CHERBOURG. Considerable enemy infiltration occurred in vicinity of BARNEVILLE. 1st Platoon fought delaying action covering withdrawal of 3rd Bn, 60th Inf to Hill 145. 1st Platoon remained in direct support of 3rd Bn, 60th Inf. 2nd Platoon in direct support of 1st Bn, 60th Inf. 3rd Platoon in direct support of 3rd Bn, 60th Inf. 15 Prisoners taken - 1 AT gun destroyed - Morale excellent.

"B" Company now in position 400 yards SW of BINNVILLE. We were informed at 1230 hrs today, that we were a part of RCT 357 attached to 343rd FA Bn, with possible mission of relieving one combat team of 9th Div and assist in holding peninsula.

"C" Company in position of readiness North of PONT L'ABBE 279937, in anticipation of push to the South with Force D, 82nd A/B Div.

June 19, 1944 - Battalion attached to the 9th Infantry Division. "A" Co in support of the 39th Inf. Advanced North to area vicinity North of QUETTETOT. "B" Company relieved from support of the 357th CT and put in direct support of the 60th Infantry moving North along the West coast from BARNEVILLE to vic 018077. "C" Co relieved from support of the 82nd A/B Div and atchd 9th Inf Div was ordered to rear and center between 60th and 39th Inf Regts. Rcn Co made position and route rcn for "A" and "B" Cos.

June 20, 1944 - Battalion remained attached to the 9th Inf Div. "A" Co was in direct support of 39th Inf Regt and was held in mobile anti-tank reserve. Rcn was conducted in vic 090100 for anti-tank positions. "B" Co in direct support of the 60th Inf, and moved North with attacking battalions. "C" Co in direct support of the 47th Inf which was held in mobile reserve. Rcn Co made rcn in 39th Inf sector for condition of roads, bridges, minefields and anti-tank position areas.

June 21, 1944 - Battalion attachment remains same. 1st Platoon, Company "A" was attached to 39th Inf Regt in mobile anti-tank reserve. 2nd Platoon was attached to 3rd Bn, 39th Inf in direct support. 3rd Platoon was attached to 2nd Bn. 39th Inf in direct support. Co "B" was attached to the 60th Inf Bn and Co "C" was attached to the 47th Inf Regt. Rcn Co reconnoitered for possible anti-tank positions, avenues or approach, mine fields and OP's in the 39th and 47th Inf sectors.

June 22, 1944 - Bn remained attached to 9th Infantry Division. "A" Company remained attached to the 39th Infantry, but supported the 26th FA Bn by firing indirectly eight (8) concentrations of 36 rounds each. Fire was unobserved therefore results were unknown. Company was strafed by RAF P51's four (4) times. One (1) M-10 was set on fire, but was saved. Twelve (12) rds HE, telephone, camouflage net, EM's personal equipment and two (2) tarpaulins were destroyed. "B" Company was in direct support of the 60th Infantry, and the 1st Platoon led the attack of the 2nd Battalion. One M-10 was knocked out of action by enemy potato masher grenade. "C" Company was in direct support of the 47th Infantry and destroyed seven (7) MG nests. One (1) 20-m gun, one (1) 50mm AT gun, one pill box, one steel road block, and captured 43 prisoners. 1st Platoon of Rcn Co

Rpt of Opns. 299th TD Bn cont'd

June 22, 1944 cont'd -

was attached to the 60th Inf. 2nd Platoon was attached to "A" Company, and the 3rd Platoon to "C" Company.

June 23, 1944 - Bn attachment has not changed. "A" Co occupied indirect fire positions, but did not fire during the day. "B" Co attacked with the 60th Inf, and destroyed one (1) Mk III, enemy machine gun nests, mortars, and fired HE at German Infantry at range of 400 - 600 yards. Captured five (5) German prisoners. One (1) M-10 of the 3rd Platoon was temporarily knocked out of action due to an anti-tank mine. "C" Co attacked with the 47th Infantry, platoons being attached to the Inf Battalions. One (1) M-10 was knocked out of action by enemy AT fire, extent of damage unknown. Rcn Platoons were attached to each gun company, and position and route reconnaissance was made in each Infantry Regt sector.

June 24, 1944 - Bn remained attached to the 9th Inf Div. Company "A" supported the 26th FA Bn and fired nine (9) concentrations, 36 rounds each, at enemy gun emplacements, etc. Fire was unobserved therefore the results were unknown. Company "B" was attached to the 60th Inf, and gave close support to the Infantry Battalions, destroying one (1) Mk III German tank at 700 yards, and shelling enemy infantry positions, machine gun nests, and points of resistance. Company "C" attached to the 47th Infantry moved forward with the Infantry Battalions giving close support and anti-tank protection. One Rcn platoon was attached to each gun company.

June 25, 1944 - Bn remained attached to the 9th Infantry Division. Company "A" supported the 39th Infantry with direct fire. Company B supported the 60th Infantry with direct fire. Company "C" supported the 47th Infantry in the assault of CHERBOURG. One (1) M-10 was hit by 20mm and burned.

June 26, 1944 - Bn attachment has not changed. Company "A" remained attached and supported the 39th Infantry. The 2nd and 3rd Platoons moved from vicinity OCTEVILLE, outskirts of CHERBOURG, supporting infantry in initial entry into the town at approx-



June 26, 1944 (Cont'd):

imately 1200B. Platoons were delayed by a concrete road block which was later blown by the Engineers. Platoons destroyed machine gun emplacements, small fortifications, etc. and remained in position of readiness in the town of CHERBOURG. "B" Company remained attached to the 60th Infantry, and mission was to protect the left flank of the Division against armor. Company "C" remained attached to the 47th Infantry. 1st and 3rd Platoons in position of readiness to meet armor threat, or to move into CHERBOURG to support infantry in street fighting. 2nd Platoon operating in CHERBOURG fired on targets designated by the advancing infantry. Recon Platoons were attached one to each gun company.

June 27, 1944 - Bn attachment remains as before. Company "A" relieved from attachment 39th Infantry Division, and put in direct support of 26th FA Bn. Company moved to indirect fire positions 1/2 mile North of NOTAINVILLE. Company B fired indirect fire at previously designated target areas. Fire consisted of unobserved, harassing fires. 1st and 3rd Platoons of Company "C" were held in reserve while the 2nd Platoon assisted the 2nd Battalion, 47th Inf, and assisted in capture of 90 prisoners in CHERBOURG. Recon platoons remained attached to the gun companies.

June 28, 1944 - Bn remained attached to the 9th Infantry Division. Company "A" was attached to the 26th FA Bn. Attempted to register one battery, but found that it was impossible to observe - too much flak and darkness. Attempted again to register at 0900 but could not pick up HE shell, need smoke badly. Observation was all conducted by plane. All batteries laid on 989267 by base angle without registration at 1730. Captured 2 German officers and 9 EM in rear of gun positions. Company "B" remained attached to the 60th Infantry. 3rd Platoon attached to the 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry, fired 72 rds indirect fire at previously designated target areas in conjunction with 60th Infantry and direct support of the 60th FA Bn. Firing consisted of harassing and was unobserved - results - unknown. Company "C" moved to bivouac area and performed 1st echelon maintenance on all vehicles. Recon platoons remained attached to gun companies.



Result of Operation in Figures:

A. Status of Equipment:

1. M-10's lost due to enemy action	-	6
2. M-10's recovered	-	5
3. M-10's repairable	-	4
4. M-10's not repairable	-	2

B. Enemy Material Destroyed:

1. Mark III tanks	-	3
2. Anti-tank guns	-	32
3. Pillboxes	-	15
4. Machine gun nests	-	28
5. Vehicles Gp (Captured)	-	4
6. Prisoners Captured	-	814

C. Ammunition expended:

1. Direct:		
(a) HE	-	1294 rounds
(b) APC	-	711 rounds
2. Indirect:		
(a) HE	-	826 rounds
(b) APC	-	23 rounds

D. Casualties:

1. Officers:		
(a) Wounded	-	3
(b) Captured	-	1
2. Enlisted Men:		
(a) Killed	-	1
(b) Captured	-	2
(c) Wounded	-	14