

HEADQUARTERS 774TH TANK BATTALION
A.P.O. 403, U. S. Army

000
670
1

1 November 1944

314.7

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

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

THRU : Command Channels.

In compliance with Change 3, par 10, AR 345-105, the following summary of Action against the enemy by the 774th Tank Battalion for the period 1 October 1944 to 31 October 1944 inclusive is submitted:

1 October 1944

The Battalion, less companies A, B and the Assault Gun Platoon was in Division Reserve at Moutfort, Luxembourg, having been assigned to the Third United States Army and attached to the XX Corps and the 83d Infantry Division on 21st September, 1944. Company A bivouaced near Eschweiler, Luxembourg was attached to the 329th Infantry Regiment. Company B bivouaced near Dalheim, Luxembourg was attached to the 331st Infantry Regiment. The Assault Gun Platoon bivouaced in the vicinity of Wecker, was attached to the 322 FA Battalion which was in direct support of the 329th Infantry Regiment. Company C remained in Battalion Reserve but continued training with the 330th Infantry Regiment.

10/1/44

The 1st platoon of Company A, commanded by 2d Lt Arthur T. Miller, supporting Company A of the 329th Infantry Regiment attacked Grevenmacher, Luxembourg at 0535. They encountered heavy enemy 210mm mortar fire, artillery fire, mines and MG nest, and enemy patrols. Three tanks were disabled, two by enemy mines which blew the tracks off and the third tank threw a track when it became stuck in the mud. The disabled tanks were used as pill boxes and continued to fire until all ammunition had been expended. The other two tanks of the 1st platoon continued on the mission, engaging small arms fire, and destroyed a MG nest and a road block with eight rounds of 76mm HE. 210mm mortar and artillery fire was very heavy as all approaches to the town were zeroed in by the enemy. The three disabled tanks were constantly fired upon by mortar and artillery. By nightfall the platoon sergeants tank was within 800 yards of the town and the Infantry advanced into town and held the center. The two remaining tanks returned to assembly area. The objective was not taken. One Officer and enlisted man were killed in action and one enlisted man seriously wounded, all casualties, as the result of enemy artillery fire while dismounted from their tanks. The number of enemy killed and wounded was undetermined, but two MG nests and a forward observation post were destroyed. The Battalion received 2 Officers and 5 enlisted men replacements. Company B reconnoitered for an attack on Wornau, Luxembourg.

3
10675

2 October 1944

Company A continued supporting Infantry in the attack toward Grevenmacher. Encountered mines, road blocks, small arms and artillery fire. Woods west of Echternach swept clear of enemy without opposition.

Company B continued reconnaissance for attack on Wormeldange, Luxembourg.

Three Headquarters tanks were attached to Company A to replace their disabled vehicles.

The Assault Gun Platoon fired a five minute preparation prior to attack on Grevenmacher.

3 October 1944

Company A occupied high ground overlooking Grevenmacher. Engaged enemy southwest of Echternach.

Company B improved their positions and patrolled zone.

Capt James D. Cary, 712th Tank Battalion reported to this headquarters for temporary duty.

4 October 1944

Assault Gun Platoon fired 1 registration and 100 rds harrassing and interdiction.

Company A evacuated one of the three disabled tanks which remained within enemy zone of fire.

5 October 1944

Second Platoon of Company B in the vicinity of Altwies, Luxembourg employed on secondary mission with the 908th FA Battalion Company C attached to 330th Infantry Regiment. Company A evacuated another disabled tank. Assault Gun Platoon fire harrassing and interdiction fire. Mortar Platoon left Battalion Reserve to support the 1st Battalion 329th Infantry Regiment. GI show of 11 Ed held three performance in Battalion Reserve area. Training was stressed for companies not assigned a mission.

Three members of the Headquarters Company Reconnaissance Platoon were reported missing in action while on reconnaissance near Oberwormeldange, Luxembourg. The three, 2d Lt Rodney W. Applegate, S/Sgt Carroll and Pfc Slimm, were believed wounded and captured by the enemy.

6 October 1944

Company B making arrangements with the 330th Infantry Regiment for relief. 2d Platoon on secondary mission with 908th FA Battalion. Company C reconnoitering for relief of 331st Infantry Regiment. Training stressed for balance of Battalion not assigned a mission.

SECRET

7 October 1944

2d Platoon of Company A in reserve in support of company I, 329th Infantry Regiment for possible attack on Echternach. 2d Platoon of company B fired secondary mission in support of 908th FA Battalion. 3d Platoon shelled town of Wormeldange. Company C attached to 330th Infantry Regiment making reconnaissance of positions for move. Assault Gun Platoon fired three registrations, 41 harrassing and interdiction and 3 support. Mortar Platoon in support of Company D, 329th Infantry Regiment fired 200 rounds HE on town of Machtum. Company C left Battalion Reserve and moved into positions with 330th Infantry Regiment. Company B, now in Battalion Reserve, but firing secondary mission with 323d FA Battalion. A USO show gave two performance in Battalion Reserve.

8 October 1944

2d and 3d Platoons of Company A employed in attack of Echternach with 329th Infantry Regiment. 2d Platoon encountered enemy rifle grenade fire and suffered the following casualties: Three KIA; Two SWA and Three LIA, two of the latter returning to duty after receiving medical aid. Mission accomplished. Enemy suffered heavy casualties.

Company C, 1st Platoon on fire mission 25, expended 65 rds HE: 2d Platoon on fire mission 5, expended 57 rds HE. Battalion Assault Gun Platoon, on secondary mission, fired 1 registration, 6 harrassing and interdiction.

9 October 1944

3d Platoon of Company A in reserve vicinity of Echternach attached to Company K, 329th Infantry Regiment. Company B, on secondary mission in support of 908th FA Battalion expended 99 rounds of HE on targets across Moselle river. Results of fire unknown.

1st Platoon of Company C fired 25 missions, expending 56 rounds; 2d Platoon on 5 missions expended 56 rounds; 3d Platoon registered in on targets across Moselle river.

Assault gun platoon fired harrassing and interdiction.

Two men, Company A sent to hospital for battle exhaustion. Sgt Gerald O. Disney, Assault Gun Platoon injured in action due to recoil of 105mm gun.

10 October 1944

1st Platoon Company C fired 25 missions, expending 61 rounds. Other platoon held in reserve. Unfavorable weather entire zone.

11 October 1944

Mortar Platoon returned to Battalion Reserve. 3d Platoon Company A relieved from reserve support of Company K, 329th Infantry Regiment. Company B firing secondary mission under control of 323 FA Battalion.

Company C firing secondary mission under control of 323d and 903th FA Battalions.

2d Lt Samara and Cpl Massaro, both Company A were first personnel in the Battalion to be awarded the purple heart for wounds received in action on 7 October 1944. The Battalion was relieved from assignment to Third Army and assigned to Ninth Army, attached to VIII Corps and 83d Infantry Division.

12 October 1944

1st Platoon of Company C fired 37 missions, expending 75 rounds. 2d Platoon on 2 missions expended 20 rounds. Numerous targets of opportunity taken under fire.

Assault gun platoon fired the following missions: registration, 14; Air OP, 2; harrassing and interdiction, 2; support, 48; counter battery, 4.

13 October 1944

Major General Macon, commanding 83 Infantry Division, visited the Battalion Area at approximately 1500 and conferred with Battalion Commander, Lt Colonel Markle.

2d Platoon of Company A went into assembly area 2½ miles southwest of Echternach in support of Company L, 329th Infantry Regiment for possible counter attack.

All sentries outposts, and guards were ordered to carry gas masks and wear sleeve gas detector.

2d Platoon Company B continued harrassing fire on enemy positions along east bank of Moselle river vicinity of Wincheringen and Esingen with hits reported on two crossroads and one bridge. Expended 60 rounds.

1st Platoon Company C fired 105 missions expending 230 rounds. 2d Platoon fired 18 missions expending 57 rounds. 3d platoon fired 26 missions expending 56 rounds.

Assault Gun Platoon took over sector and missions of 241st FA Battalion, vicinity of Herborn, Luxembourg.

14 October 1944

2d Platoon of Company A moved to vicinity of Echternach for direct fire missions on pillboxes across Sauer River. 1st Platoon of Company B continued harrassing fire on enemy positions along east bank of Moselle river expending 100 rounds. 1st Platoon of Company C fired 50 missions, expending 112 rounds

placed on targets of opportunity designated from Infantry and Artillery OPs.

Pfc Floyd, Company C, attached to the Assault Gun Platoon, injured in action on right leg due to recoil of 76mm gun.

15 October 1944

2d Platoon of Company A fired directly on pill boxes vicinity of Echternach and received heavy enemy artillery fire of 105 and 88mm. Penetration of pill boxes was excellent. Enemy casualties unknown.

3d Platoon of Company B fired 25 missions, expending 20 rounds on enemy positions and crossroads across Moselle river.

All platoons of Company C consolidated for secondary mission in vicinity of Dalheim, Luxembourg.

16 October 1944

Company A reconnoitered positions for secondary mission. 2d Platoon of Company B fired harrassing rounds on enemy positions on east bank of Moselle river, 50 missions, expending 100 rounds. Assault Gun Platoon fired 177 rounds of harrassing and interdiction and 40 rounds at targets of opportunity.

17 October 1944

Company A moved to Lellig, Luxembourg, employed in secondary mission under control of 322d FA Battalion to fire at RR yards at Konz Karthaus, Germany. The 2d Platoon fired 17 rounds to register in during the night.

1st Platoon Company B fired 5 concentrations of 15 rounds each on targets across Moselle river, expending 75 rounds.

Company C fired 37 missions expending 137 rounds on crossroads in Dilmar and Kreuzweiler.

Assault Gun Platoon fired 137 rounds of harrassing and interdiction; targets of opportunity, 35. Received counter battery fire during early morning killing one man asleep in tent.

Company D in Battalion Reserve was alerted to move out at 2100 under orders from Division Headquarters due to unconfirmed report that German paratroopers had landed in vicinity of Mondercange which later proved to false. Company D removed from alert status at 0300 the following morning.

One Tank Commander, Company D, was seriously injured when he fell into a slit trench while alerted preparing to move out.

18 October 1944

Third platoon Company A supporting Company A, 329th Infantry Regiment attacked Munschecker, Luxembourg at 1530. Enemy targets and command positions were

blasted with 76 HE and MG fire. Received medium caliber artillery and mortar fire. Mission accomplished at 1740 when infantry secured last possible strong point. Tanks withdrew to secondary assignment. No personnel or vehicular casualties. 1st and 2d platoons firing secondary mission under control of 322 FA Battalion in position to fire on RR yards at Konz Karthaus, Germany. 1st Platoon registered in with 26 rounds of HE and remained on the alert.

Company C expended 38 rounds on registrations for secondary missions.

Assault Gun Platoon fired the following missions: Preparation, 1; harrassing and interdiction, 4; counterbattery, 1; targets of opportunity, 42; Scored two direct hits on one enemy CP and four direct hits on another. Destroyed one gun position.

19 October 1944

1st and 2d platoons of Company A during the afternoon each fired one concentration on Liersberg and Konz Karthaus, expending 27 rounds of ammunition. During the night the 1st and 2d platoons fired intermittent concentrations of 2 rds each on RR yards in Konz Karthaus, expending 163 rounds of HE. Received 59 rounds of counter battery fire during the night of 105 and 155mm. Enemy observation plane sighted and heard on two occasions. No personnel or vehicular casualties. Communications lines blown out several times. A few counter-battery projectiles were duds.

Third platoon of Company B fired 5 missions harrassing enemy positions, expending 50 rounds of HE.

Assault gun platoon fired 6 missions of harrassing and interdiction, 12 counter-battery, 35 targets of opportunity.

Use of tank ammunition has been reduced due to ammunition shortage.

Battalion Personnel section returned to control of Battalion in reserve area due to change of Armies and their respective policies. It had been in the Division Rear Echelon under control of Division Adjutant General.

20 October 1944

The 1st and 2d platoons of Company A during the night fired six concentrations on enemy barracks at Mesenich, Germany expending 242 rounds of HE.

All three platoons of Company B each fired 42 rounds on towns across the Moselle river, resulting in MG and mortar nests destroyed.

2d and 3d platoons of Company C expended 6 rds HE on registrations. 1st platoon moved vicinity Bous, Luxembourg, being held in reserve for possible counter-attack.

Assault Gun platoon, expended 163 rounds HE and 30 rounds smoke on enemy CP's.

SECRET

21 October 1944

Company A departed vicinity of Mellig arriving in bivouac area vicinity of Eschweiler. Company held in reserve.

Company C made reconnaissance in preparation to fire on pillboxes vicinity of Palzem. 2d and 3d platoons company C employed on secondary mission fired 62 missions and expended 126 rounds on cross roads Nennig and Kriuzweiler.

Assault Gun Platoon expended 73 rounds 105mm HE on the following missions: registrations, 3; one destructive precision German House in Sauer, hit two out of three at 11,000 yards. One German house, hit two out of three at 11,500 yards, -- effect good. One reported mortar position -- effect unknown.

One enlisted replacement received and assigned to Company A.

22 October 1944

^{2d} 1st and platoon company B fired 10 concentrations in the vicinity of Helfant expending 126 rounds HE.

One section of tanks, Company C, fired on 2 haystacks containing pillboxes vicinity of Palzem, Germany. Results -- one haystack blown up, shells ricocheted off of other haystack which proved to be a pillbox. 40 rounds amm. expended. No return fire received and section returned safely to assembly area.

Assault Gun Platoon fired 2 registrations and one check concentration. One destructive mission was fired on an enemy building resulting in 2 targets hits. 38 rounds HE and 4 rounds HC were expended.

The Battalion was relieved from assignment to Ninth Army and assigned to First Army effective this date. Attachment to VIII Corps and 83d Infantry Division remained the same.

23 October 1944

1st Platoon of Company A training with 329th Infantry Regiment on Maginot line fortifications.

1st Platoon of Company B fired 4 concentrations of harassing fire on enemy east of the Moselle river, expending 30 rounds. 2d Platoon expended 36 rounds of harassing fire on town of Esingen. 3d Platoon expended 36 rounds of harassing fire on town of Bilsingen.

Company C, employed in secondary mission, fired 15 missions, expending 30 rounds of which 21 rounds were fired on registrations. Targets were Kreuzweiler, Borg, Beech and Dilmir. Reconnaissance was made of positions for direct fire on towns of Palzem and Nennig.

Assault Gun Platoon fired 45 rounds at targets of opportunity and 30 rounds of harassing and interdiction.

24 October 1944

Company A: 1st platoon continued training on Maginot line vicinity of Hettange Grande. 2d Platoon held in reserve vicinity of Eschweiler performing extensive maintenance. 3d platoon attached to Company L, 329th Infantry Regiment arrived in assembly area vicinity of Lauterhorn. Mission to attack town of Echternach which still contained a small number of Germans occupying three or four houses.

Company B, 1st Platoon expended 100 rounds on enemy targets across the Moselle river with one concentration on Helfant.

Company C reconnoitering for direct fire on Palsen. Reconnaissance not completed due to direct fire on Nennig. Company employed on secondary mission firing 175 rounds. 15 rounds additional were fired for registrations.

Assault Gun Platoon fired the following missions: two platoon volleys fired at supply train, stopping it -- damage uncertain; three registrations; destruction and opportunity fire on Infantry digging in -- good effect; 30 concentrations harassing fire -- effect unknown; 13 rounds propaganda on Oberbillig, Wasserbillig and Metzdorf. Total rounds expended 103 rounds HE and 13 rounds propaganda.

2d Lt Walter Szmare and Pvt Douglas A. Huff, both company A were awarded Bronze Star Medal by General Order 60 and 61 respectively, Hq. 83 Infantry Division for heroic and meritorious achievement in action against an enemy of the United States.

A policy under which each company could send 10 men on pass to Luxembourg city each day began this date.

25 October 1944

1st Platoon Company B fired 75 rounds in 5 concentrations on targets east side of Moselle river.

One section of tanks of Company C destroyed an enemy OP in Palsen by direct fire with good results. Fires were started and church steeple knocked down. 64 rounds AP and 106 rounds HE expended. Remainder of company employed in secondary mission firing 6 concentrations expending 75 rounds HE of which 21 were on registrations.

Assault Gun Platoon fired the following missions: Harassing 160 rounds, 50 concentrations on enemy digging in; support, 1; effect good on enemy digging in and laying wire. Registrations 4.

26 October 1944

2d Platoon Company A relieved 1st Platoon Company A at Hettange Grande on training on Maginot line. 3d Platoon in regimental reserve vicinity of Echternach.

SECRET

Company B fired indirectly on towns Wittlingen and Beuren, expending 238 rounds ME.

Company C, employed in secondary mission, fired 9 missions expending 238 rounds, 33 rounds expended for registration. Vigorous reconnaissance continued.

Assault Gun Platoon expended 139 rounds of ammunition on targets of opportunity and a communication center with radios which was neutralized and dispersed. Direct Hits were made on enemy pill box. 60 rounds of harrassing fire on Trierweiler -- effect good. Registrations.3.

27 October 1944

1st Platoon Company A returned to company bivouac area from vicinity of Hettange Grande. 2d Platoon attd to 3d Battalion 329th Infantry Regiment vicinity Hettange Grande. Mission to relieve 1st Platoon and train on Maginot line. Balance of Company performing maintenance. Company B fired indirectly on towns of Dilmar, expending 102 rounds. Received counter-battery fire 300 yards over 2d Platoon. Believed to be time fire.

Company C expended 112 rounds firing three concentrations. Vigorous reconnaissance made for direct firing positions but encountered difficulty due to poor visibility.

Assault Gun Platoon: Missions: opportunity 3; enemy outpost, effect good; OP, target hit; Infantry digging in -- effect good. Assault Gun Platoon shelled by enemy during the night by 8" Railway gun. Material slight. Armor on ammunition NT penetrated. No personnel injured.

A GI show of 12 entertainers was presented in the Battalion area in the afternoon and evening.

28 October 1944

Battalion reserve received three rounds enemy fire from 220mm gun at an estimated azimuth of 125 degrees. Rounds landed at 0330, 0420, and 0440.

1st Platoon of Company A executing problems on the Maginot line with Anti-Tank Company 329th Infantry Regiment.

1st Platoon Company B expended 64 rounds on 4 concentrations at enemy targets east of Moselle river. 2d Platoon expended 80 rounds on 5 concentrations on similar targets. 3d platoon expended 3 rounds for registration.

Company C reconnoitered for direct fire mission. Visibility good. Company employed in secondary mission firing 3 missions expending 120 rounds of which 27 were on registration. Targets were Wennig, Dilmar, and wooded area west of Dilmar.

Yesterday's GI show presented two more performances today. Eighteen enlisted replacements were received. In compliance with change 5, T/O and E 17-25 dated 10 June 1944, the Battalion's enlisted strength dropped from 684 to 682, losing one man in Headquarters Company and one in the Medical Detachment.

-2-

SECRET

71

Assault Gun Platoon fired the following missions: three registrations; three opportunity and two check concentrations. Targets and results: Ammunition dump--good effect; Infantry at edge of woods--two direct hits killing two Germans; MG positions two targets hit--good effect. Platoon was subjected to enemy shellings at 1530 without any casualties. Nearest round landed two hundred yards from center of platoon.

Major General Macon, commanding 83 Infantry Division visited the Battalion Reserve area at 1120 to investigate enemy fire received during the night from what was believed to be a 220mm gun.

29 October 1944

Company B fired 147 rounds on enemy positions at Dilmar, Esingen and Bilzingen, Germany.

Company C reconnoitered enemy positions with good results. Observation excellent which resulted in locating two enemy fortifications, anti-tank ditches and dragons teeth south of Nennig. Company C employed in secondary mission fired 42 rounds on Weis, 56 rounds on Kreuzweiler, and 43 rounds expended on registration of R.R. station at Nennig.

Assault Gun platoon fired the following missions: two registrations, two check concentrations; 60 rounds of harassing fire and nine targets of opportunity. Targets and results: eight men digging in--area neutralized; MG pillbox with much activity--hit pillbox, area neutralized; men digging in--area neutralized ten man party--one killed; three men carrying food--dispersed; pillbox plus gun firing--pillbox hit; enemy in draw--effect unknown; enemy truck park in woods, much activity with ammo trucks entering and leaving--24 rounds--effect good. Enemy shells hit edge of platoon area in the early morning. No damage.

30 October 1944

2d platoon of Co A relieved the 3d platoon of Company A in the vicinity of Lauterhorn and was held in reserve with Company L, 329th Infantry Regiment. 3d platoon relieved 2d platoon in vicinity of Hettange Grande, training on Maginot line with 3d Battalion 329th Infantry Regiment.

Company B expended 141 rounds of harassing fire on enemy positions across the Moselle river in Germany.

Company C firing secondary mission expended 32 rounds on Wehr, 55 rounds on Nennig, and 64 rounds on Kruezweiler. Forty-two rounds were expended on registrations.

Assault Gun platoon relieved from attachment to 322d FA Battalion and moved to vicinity to Flaxweiler, Luxembourg and attached to 323d FA Battalion. Continued destruction of enemy installations and harassing fire on enemy personnel.

SECRET

31 October 1944

Company B in Battalion Reserve moved to new position at Wecker, Luxembourg and prepared to fire secondary mission under control of 322 FA Battalion.

Company C attached 330th Infantry Regiment reconnoitered area vicinity of Hettange Grande for training on Maginot line. Employed in their secondary mission, the company fired the following: 32 rounds HE on Nennig; 32 rounds HE on Kruezweiler; 20 rounds HE on Dilmar; 15 rounds HE on Besch; 10 rounds HE on Wies; and 18 rounds expended on registrations.

Assault gun platoon, attached 323 FA Battalion near Flaxweiler fired the following missions; 1 registration, then 8 rounds at enemy MG, 5 rounds enemy installations, 8 rounds enemy OP, 16 rounds enemy CP, 11 rounds enemy Gun, - all with good effect. Eighteen rounds fired at enemy MG - effect unknown.

While our Reconnaissance Platoon was conducting reconnaissance of wooded areas for suspected pro-Nazi, the following German equipment was found buried near Medingen: 24 dynamite caps, 1 roll German prima cord, 5 German hand grenades, 2 rolls German time fuse, 5 boxes small arms ammunition, 12 boxes explosives, and 1 section German bazooka.

For the Commanding Officer:

Roger D. Andrews

ROGER D. ANDREWS
1st Lt, Inf, 774th Tank Battalion,
Adjutant

5 Incls:

- 1. S-3 Journal
- 2. S-4 Journal
- 3. S-2 Journal
- 4. List of Awards
- 5. List of B/C

*not rec'd
see #4
mkt*

319.1/401

1st Ind.

HEADQUARTERS 83D INFANTRY DIVISION, APO 83, U.S. Army, 22 November 1944.

TO: Commanding General, VIII Corps, APO 308, U.S. Army.

Forwarded.

For the Commanding General:

N. P. Corden
N. P. CORDEN,
Major, AGD,
Asst Adj General.

5 Incls. n/c

Inc #19

SECRET

78