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HEADQUARTERS 746TH TANK BATTALION
APO 230 - U. S. ARMY

2 August 1944.

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.
TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C. (Thru Channels).

In compliance with Paragraph 10 (C3), AR 345-105, "Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports", for the month of June 1944, together with supporting documents, are forwarded herewith.

For the Commanding Officer:

Charles N. Lantz
CHARLES N. LANTZ,
1st Lt., Infantry,
Adjutant.

7-Incls.

Battle Report (in quad).
S-3 Periodic Report. (copy)
Personnel Losses. (copy)
Vehicle Losses. (copy)
Commendation, C.G., 9th Inf Div, 5 July 1944. (copy)
Commendation, C.G., 4th Inf Div, 4 July 1944. (copy)
Unit Journal. (copy)

319.1/401 (C)

1st Ind

FFF/fw

HEADQUARTERS 6TH ARMORED GROUP, APO # 230, U. S. Army, 3rd August, 1944:

TO: The Commanding General, Headquarters VII Corps, APO # 307,
U. S. Army

For the Commanding Officer:

Robert S. Begien
ROBERT S. BEGIEN,
Major (Cav) Armd Comd.

Incls:
n/c

319.1

2nd Ind.

K:CAA/bdw

HEADQUARTERS VII CORPS, A.P.O. 307, U.S. Army.

TO: Commanding Officer, 6th Armd Gp, A.P.O. 230, U.S. Army.

The attached, Action Against Enemy, Report After/After Action Report, is returned to your headquarters for resubmission in quintuplet as prescribed in Administrative Memorandum No. 3, this headquarters, dated 30 July 1944, subject: "Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports".

By command of Major General COLLINS:

Carl A. Alifano
CARL A. ALIFANO,
W.O.J.G., U.S.A.,
Asst. Adjutant General

Incl: n/e

319.1

3rd Ind.

FFF/fw

(2 Aug 44)
HEADQUARTERS 6TH ARMORED GROUP, APO # 230, U. S. Army,
9th August, 1944.

TO: The Commanding Officer, 746th Tank Battalion, APO # 230,
U. S. Army.

1. For compliance with preceding indorsement.

For the Commanding Officer:

Robert S. Begien
ROBERT S. BEGIEN,
Major (Cav) Armd Comd

Incls

n/c

SECRET

SECRET

7P-475

319.1

4th Ind.

CNL/rs

HEADQUARTERS 746TH TANK BATTALION, APO #230, U. S. Army, 10 August 1944.

TO: Commanding General, Headquarters VII Corps, APO #307, U. S. Army.
(Thru: 6th Armored Group, APO #230, U. S. Army).

2nd indorsement complied with. The corrected Action Against Enemy, Report After/After Action Report is inclosed.

For the Commanding Officer:

Charles W. Lane
CHARLES W. LANE,
1st Lt., Infantry,
Adjutant.

Incls. w/d.

1 Incl. added - Corrected After/After Report // incls.

319.1

5th Ind

FFF/fw

HEADQUARTERS 6TH ARMORED GROUP, APO # 230, 11th August, 1944.

TO: The Commanding General, Headquarters VII Corps, APO # 307,
U. S. Army.

For the Commanding Officer:

Robert S. Begien
ROBERT S. BEGIEN
Major (Cav) Armd Comd 4394

Incls:

n/c

319.1

6th Ind

HEADQUARTERS VII CORPS, A.P.O. 307, U.S. Army, S. A

TO: The Adjutant General, Washington, D.C. (THRU: Commanding General,
First U.S. Army, A.P.O.230, U.S. Army).

C. A. A.
C. A. A.

7 Incls: n/c

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS 746TH TANK BATTALION
APO # 230 U. S. ARMY.

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2 August 1944.

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

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington D. C.,
(Through - The CG, VII Corps, APO # 307, U. S. Army).

1. In compliance with paragraph 10, AR 345-105, as changed by changes #3, the following report is submitted for 746th Tank Battalion, for June 1944.

a. ORIGINAL UNIT: 746th Tank Battalion.

b. CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION: Battalion attachments:

6 June - 11 June, 4th Inf. Div.
11 June - 13 June, 90th Inf. Div.
13 June - 30 June, 9th Inf. Div.

Company attachments:

Co. C, 6 June - 11 June, 82 A/B Div.
Co. A, 7 June - 8 June, 101 A/B Div.
Co. A, 13 June - 18 June, 82 A/B Div.
Co. A, 18 June - 27 June, 79th Inf. Div.

c. STRENGTH: 6 June 39 Officers 3 Warrant Off 713 EM
30 June 45 Officers 3 Warrant Off 781 EM
Net Increase 74.

d. STATIONS: 6 June to 7 June - Vic, L'ARDOUVILLE.
7 June to 11 June - Vic, ST MARTIN. (383973)
11 June to 16 June - Vic, STE LERE EGLISE.
16 June to 18 June - Vic, ORLANDES.
18 June to 19 June - Vic, STE COLONNE.
19 June to 20 June - Vic, ST JACQUES de MEROU.
20 June to 21 June - Vic, JETTETOT.
21 June to 23 June - Vic, LOIS de NOREST.
23 June to 28 June - Vic, BOUTERVILLE la HAGUE.
28 June to 29 June - Vic, FLOTTREVILLE HAGUE.
29 June to 30 June - Vic, STE CROIX HAGUE.

e. MARCHES: Not applicable.

f. CAMPAIGNS:
(1) Name of: Operations in Normandy.
(2) Duration: 6 June to 30 June 1944.
(3) Purpose: To effect a landing on the French

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est coast - to attack and seize CHANGUNG.

(4) Authority ordering: VII Corps.

g. BATTLES: See Annex #1.

h. COMMANDING OFFICER IN IMPORTANT ENGAGEMENTS:
6 June to 30 June 1944 - Lt. Col. Clarence G. Hupfer.

i. LOSSES IN ACTION: See Annex #2.

j. FORMER AND PRESENT MEMBERS WHO HAVE DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES
IN ACTION:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>COMPANY</u>	<u>RECOMMENDED FOR</u>
Hedges, Loveaire A.	Capt.	"A"	Silver Star
Payne, Houston	2nd Lt.	Hq.	Silver Star
Tanner, Clyde J.	2nd Lt.	"A"	Silver Star
Plagge, Harold	2nd Lt.	"C"	Silver Star
McNeely, Harold A.	S/Sgt.	"A"	Silver Star
Jones, Charles S.	Sgt.	"A"	Silver Star
Tann, J. Richard	T/5	"A"	Silver Star
Brown, Jack	Cpl.	Hq.	Bronze Star Medal
McMurtry, Lee	T/5	Hq.	" "
Finkston, Delbert R.	Pvt.	Hq.	" "

k. PHOTOGRAPHS: None.

Clarence G. Hupfer
CLARENCE G. HUPFER,
Lt. Col., Cavalry,
Commanding.

-Incls.

Annex 1 (quint)

Annex 2 (quint)

3-3 Periodic Report (Copy)

Vehicle Losses (Copy)

Commendation CG 9th Inf Div., 5 July 1944 (Copy)

Commendation CG 4th Inf Div., 4 July 1944 (Copy)

Unit Journal (Copy)

BATTLE REPORT FOR MONTH OF JUNE 1944

The assault elements of the Battalion landed in France on June 6, 1944 at approximately H/300, with the exception of 1st Platoon Company A, who landed at H/145 in support of 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry, 4th Infantry Division. Upon landing, Company C attached for support of 82nd Airborne Division. Remainder of Battalion attached to 4th Infantry Division. On 7 June 1944, a force consisting of one company, assault gun platoon, and the headquarters tank section moved to STE LEBRE EGLISE to meet an expected enemy armored attack. During the ensuing engagement two enemy tanks, one towed AT gun and one ammunition truck were destroyed. The company and assault gun platoon then proceeded to VIEUVILLE AU PLAIN, where approximately twenty (20) American paratroopers were liberated from the Germans, sixty (60) prisoners were taken and two more enemy tanks were destroyed. On 7 June Company A moved to VIEUVILLE in support of the 1st Airborne Division. The company assisted in the capturing of VIEUVILLE, taking approximately 100 prisoners. Company A reverted to Battalion control at 0700 8 June 1944. On 9 June 1944, 1st platoon, Company A was relieved from attachment to 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry. The battalion, less Company C supported the 4th Infantry Division attack toward MONTSCOURG. On 11 June, Company C was relieved from attachment to 82nd Airborne Division, and reverted to Battalion control. During the time that Company C was attached to the 82nd Airborne Division, they engaged the enemy several times near STE LEBRE EGLISE, CHEF du FONT and the MERDELET RIVER. They also protected the glider landings of airborne troops. Three of the company's five officers were lost during this period. On 11 June, the Battalion was relieved from attachment to the 4th Infantry Division and was attached to the 9th Infantry Division. On 13 June, the Battalion was detached from the 9th Infantry Division, Company A was attached to the 82nd Airborne Division, and the remainder of the Battalion was attached to the 4th Infantry Division. On June 15 and 16, the Battalion supported the 4th Infantry Divisions advance on CHLANDIS and STE OULME. 2nd Platoon Company B moved in support of the 10th Infantry Regiment, moving across the peninsula to BAINVILLE, closing off the CHERBOURG PENINSULA. On 19 June, Company A was detached from the 82nd Airborne Division and reattached to the 79th Infantry Division. The Battalion then moved up the peninsula toward CHERBOURG in support of the 9th Infantry Division. Company A moved toward CHERBOURG in support of the 79th Infantry Division, who had the center sector of the peninsula. On 26 June, Company B and C entered CHERBOURG with the 9th Infantry Division; the City garrison surrendering that date. Company A also entered CHERBOURG that date with the 79th Infantry Division. Company A was detached from the 79th Infantry Division on 27 June, reverting to Battalion control. The Battalion, on 28 June, in support of the 4th Infantry Division, moved toward CAPE de la HAGUE to mop up remaining enemy troops and installations. The attack carried them mainly along the BEAUMONT HAGUE - JOUEURG highway into JOUEURG. The Battalion moved up CAPE de la HAGUE wiping out small pockets of resistance until all opposition ceased on the night of June 30 - July 1, 1944.

Charles G. Miller
CHARLES G. MILLER,
Lt. Col., Cavalry,
Commanding Fourth T. Co.

S E C R E T

APPENDIX II

MIA'S IN ACTION

6 June 1944 to 30 June 1944

RE

REGULARS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>BY F. CAS</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Morcer, Joe M.	1st Lt	MIA	6 June 1944
Blasche, Harold M.	2nd Lt	SWA	6 June 1944
Crawford, James A.	Capt	MIA	9 June 1944
Hurley, Irvinz M.	1st Lt	MIA	12 June 1944
Rainer Jr, Joe H.	2nd Lt	SIA	19 June 1944
Weeks, Marvin L.	1st Lt	SIA	23 June 1944

ENLISTED MEN

Eagle, Paul F.	Tec 4	SWA	6 June 1944
Farmer, Marvin R.	Cpl	SWA	6 June 1944
Doncet, Willard M.	Tec 5	SWA	6 June 1944
Van Meter, Sidney E.	PFC	MIA	6 June 1944
Potter, Wayland G.	Sgt	SWA	6 June 1944
O'Malley, Bernard H.	Pvt	MIA	6 June 1944
Maguffee, Henry B.	Tec 5	MIA	6 June 1944
Harmon, Ewell E.	Tec 4	LWA	7 June 1944
Cox Jr, George A.	Sgt	SWA	7 June 1944
Riden, Victor B.	Cpl	LWA	7 June 1944
Martin, Arthur E.	PFC	SWA	7 June 1944
Maine, Rorer M.	PFC	MIA	7 June 1944
Wilson, Arlin W.	Cpl	MIA	7 June 1944
Krasulick, Michael (NMI)	S/Sgt	LWA	7 June 1944
Veale II, William R.	Cpl	LWA	8 June 1944
Prokoryn, Chester F.	Tec 4	SWA	8 June 1944
Hupp, Dan C.	Pvt	SWA	9 June 1944
Hill, Dewey D.	Tec 4	MIA	9 June 1944
Carrell, Palmer (NMI)	Pvt	MIA	9 June 1944
Turner, William B.	Tec 5	SWA	9 June 1944
Cren, Donald E.	PFC	SWA	9 June 1944
Milam, Thomas A.	Sgt	MIA	9 June 1944
Holland, Joseph M.	PFC	MIA	10 June 1944
Epps, Jess M.	PFC	SWA	10 June 1944
Brown, Woodrow W.	Tec 5	SWA	10 June 1944
Barnes, Lawrence R.	S/Sgt	SWA	10 June 1944
Thomas, Roscoe (NMI)	Sgt	LWA	10 June 1944
Terrell, James F.	Tec 4	LWA	10 June 1944
Lawton, Donald A.	Pvt	SWA	10 June 1944
Mitchell, Charles H.	Pvt	LWA	11 June 1944
Simmons, James R.	Pvt	LWA	12 June 1944
Campbell, Leroy (NMI)	Cpl	LWA	12 June 1944
Moore, Aaron E.	PFC	SWA	13 June 1944
Lillegard, Floyd H.	PFC	MIA	14 June 1944
Reese, William H.	Cpl	SIA	15 June 1944
Rainey, Kelton G.	S/Sgt	SWA	15 June 1944
Guest, Verdie M. Jr.	Tec 5	LWA	15 June 1944
Gill, Joe D.	Pvt	SWA	15 June 1944
Friend, Oscar L.	Pvt	SWA	15 June 1944
Melasky, Max L.	Cpl	SWA	15 June 1944

Annex II - Losses in Division 6 June 1944 to 30 June 1944
Enlisted Men (Cont'd)

Perushek, John R.	Pvt	SWA	17 June 1944
Mills, Sloan E.	Tec 5	LWA	17 June 1944
Baird, Marvin (NMI)	Sgt	SWA	19 June 1944
Parker, William M.	Pvt	SWA	20 June 1944
Free, John H.	Tec 4	KIA	21 June 1944
Moore, Cecil R.	PPC	SWA	22 June 1944
Popst, Douglas K.	Sgt	SWA	22 June 1944
Brady, Harold W.	Pvt	SWA	23 June 1944
Hughes, John T.	Sgt	SWA	23 June 1944
Shalek, James A.	Tec 5	LWA	23 June 1944
King, Tommie L.	Cpl	KIA	26 June 1944
DeVault, Kenneth W.	Pvt	KIA	26 June 1944
Nelson, Homer (NMI)	Sgt	SWA	26 June 1944
McCulloch, Rulon J.	Pvt	SWA	26 June 1944
McCain, Joe C.	Tec 4	KIA	26 June 1944
Berry, Donald F.	Pvt	SWA	27 June 1944

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HEADQUARTERS 746TH TANK BATTALION
APO 230 U. S. ARMY.

25 February 1945

SUBJECT: Unit History, June 1944.

TO : Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.
(Thru: CG, III Corps, APO 303, U. S. Army).

1. In compliance with paragraph 2, AR 345-105, the following report is submitted for 746th Tank Battalion, for June 1944:

a. Original Unit.

- (1) Designation - 746th Tank Battalion.
- (2) Date of Organization - 20 August 1942.
- (3) Place of Organization - Camp Rucker, Alabama.
- (4) Authority for Organization - GO, Hq Armored Force, Fort Knox, Ky.
- (5) Sources from which personnel was obtained - Officers from 760 and 70th Tank Bns and OCS. EM from 70th Tk Bn and Reception Stations.

b. Changes in Organization.

Battalion Attachments.

- 6 June - 11 June, 4th Inf. Div.
- 11 June - 13 June, 90th Inf. Div.
- 14 June - 30 June, 9th Inf. Div.

Company Attachments.

- Co. C, 6 June - 11 June, 82 A/B Div.
- Co. A, 7 June - 8 June, 101 A/B Div.
- Co. A, 13 June - 18 June, 82 A/B Div.
- Co. A, 18 June - 27 June, 79th Inf. Div.

c. Strength, Commissioned and Enlisted.

- (1) At beginning of period. Off 38 WO 3 EM 718
- (2) At end of period. Off 45 WO 3 EM 781
- (3) Net increase during mo. Off 7 WO 0 EM 63

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BY AUTHORITY OF TAG FMS

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d. Stations:

6 June to 7 June - Vic, L'Audouville.
7 June to 11 June - Vic, St Martin.
11 June to 16 June - Vic, Ste Mere Eglise.
16 June to 18 June - Vic, Orglandes.
18 June to 19 June, -vVic, Ste Colombe.
19 June to 20 June - Vic, St Jacques de Nehou.
20 June to 21 June - Vic, Quettetot.
21 June to 23 June - Vic, Bois de Norest.
23 June to 28 June - Vic, Teutherville la Hague.
28 June to 29 June - Vic, Flottemanville Hague.
29 June to 30 June - Vic, Ste Croix Hague.

e. Marches. See Battle Report.

f. Campaigns. Normandy.

g. Commanding Officer in important engagements.
Lt. Col. Clarence G. Hupfer.

h. Battles. See Battle Report.

i. Loss in action, officers and men. See Annex No. 4

j. Former and present members who have distinguished
in action.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>COMPANY</u>	<u>RECOMMENDED FOR</u>
Hedges, Loveaire A.	Capt.	A	Silver Star
Payne, Houston	2nd Lt.	Hq	Silver Star
Tanner, Clyde E.	2nd Lt.	A	Silver Star
Plagge, Harold	2nd Lt.	C	Silver Star
McNeely, Harold W.	S/Sgt.	A	Silver Star
Jones, Charles S.	Sgt.	A	Silver Star
Tann, J. Richard	T/5	A	Silver Star
Brown, Jack	Cpl	Hq	Bronze Star
McMurtre, Lee	T/5	Hq.	Bronze Star
Pinkston, Delbert R.	Pvt.	Hq	Bronze Star

k. Photographs of personnel, important scenes or events.
None

For the Commanding Officer:

Loveaire A. Hedges
LOVEAIRE A. HEDGES,
Major, Cavalry,
Unit Historian.

Incls. 9
Annex I - Vehicle Losses, June, 1944

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Incls, Cont'd.

Annex II - Personnel Losses, June 1944

Annex III - Roster, 746th Tank Battalion

Overlay, embarking point.

Overlay, actions in Cherbourg, France

Overlay, 746th Tk Bn operations Cherbourg Peninsula

Map, Operations, Company A

Map, Operations, Company B

Map, Operations 746th Tk Bn, less Companies A and B.

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HEADQUARTERS 746TH TANK BATTALION
APO 230 U. S. ARMY.

UNIT HISTORY

JUNE 1944

The month of June 1944 divides itself for discussion purposes into three phases of operation.

Phase I	June 1 thru June 5
Phase II	June 6 thru June 10
Phase III	June 11 thru June 30

PHASE I.

This phase is concerned with the Battalion departure from Lupton Park, Devonshire England, and its embarkation on landing craft on June 1, 1944 and the subsequent five days afloat in the invasion convoy.

The close of May 1944 found the Battalion ready for action following the extensive vehicular and equipment preparations. Morale was high and little apprehension was evident when the Battalion moved from its station to embark.

The embarkation points were known as Dartmouth East "Hards" at 311739 and the Dartmouth West "Hards" across the River Dart near the Royal Naval College at 307736 (Torquay Sheet 145, England and Wales, Ordnance Survey of Great Britain, OSGS 3907).

All LCT craft were loaded at Dartmouth East. These craft carried the initial assault waves of the Battalion and consisted of:

- Battalion Forward CP
- Battalion C.O.
- Executive Officer
- S-3 Section (Complete)
- S-2 Section (Complete)
- S-1 Section (The S-1 and one clerk)
- Battalion Communication Section (Complete)
- Tank Section
- Line Companies A, B and C each less:
 - Administrative, mess and supply sections and part of maintenance section.
- Battalion Maintenance Platoon (Part)
 - 1 Retriever T/5
 - 1 1/4 ton
 - Battalion Maintenance Officer
- Service Company (Part)
 - 7, 2 1/2 ton trucks of fuel and lubricant section
 - Battalion Transportation Officer.

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**Headquarters Company (Part)
Assault Gun Platoon**

The Dartmouth West loadings were into LST's. Company D and the Reconnaissance and Mortar Platoons and ammunition section of Service Company and the forward Medical Detachment loaded here from inland camps at 129759.

All loadings were completed without incident in accordance with prior practices perfected in Exercises "Tiger" and "Beaver".

The remaining troops from the line companies and Service and Headquarters Companies were pooled and called the "Battalion Residue" which embarked at Bournemouth, England on the 16th and landed on Utah Beach on the 17th.

The loadings being completed by mid afternoon of the 1st, the crafts moved up the River Dart and laid at anchor through the night of 2nd June. On the morning of 3 June the craft left Dartmouth harbor and entered the channel to join the invasion fleet being formed. The entire Battalion was loaded on British LCT's with the exception of 1st platoon Company A which was loaded on an American LCT. The British LCT is capable of carrying 10 medium tanks, consequently more room was available to the Battalion from its loading of no more than 6 mediums plus an average of two smaller vehicles, to the craft.

Relations with the British crews were harmonious and although the entire voyage in the channel was not free from discomfort because of the heavy seas, issued blankets and 10 and 1 rations were plentiful and served to make the trip at least partially comfortable. There were few cases of seasickness due to a strict compliance with orders concerning the use of seasickness pills. The convoy maneuvered thru the 3rd, 4th and 5th of June, encountering moderate to heavy seas which abated only when we drew into the shelter of the transport area. LCT Skippers expressed some apprehension as to the height of the waves at the beach, but the seas moderated considerably during the night of the 5th and by landing time on 6 June they were small enough to effect successful beachings.

PHASE II.

The seas were still fairly heavy in the dark early morning hour of 6 June when LCP's, previously in tow of LCT's, pulled along side to take aboard combat engineer troops who departed for the formation of initial waves. Dawn found most of the "tankers" up and about the business of stowing gear and making last inspections of vehicular waterproofing and personal equipment. Great numbers of Allied craft were all about and the opening salvos from naval vessels were heard from our positions in the transport area.

At approximately 0900 the Battalion was formed and we began the move into the beach. The original H-Hour had been set at 0400

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hours and we were due to hit the beach at H plus 300 or at 0900 hours. The schedule was off but not too seriously and we realized that the effort on the beach was not discouraging because our wave had not been called up for an emergency beaching.

The run in took a bit over two hours. As we drew nearer we became increasingly aware of the great battle taking place on the V Corps beach to the SE. Our own beach, Utah, appeared ever more active as we drew closer. One half hour before grounding, tank and vehicular engines were turned over, shackles removed and personnel readied to mount vehicles. As we drew to 1000 yards of the beach, we could see the 1st platoon of Company A in action along the beach against concrete fortifications. The tank gun fire from this platoon was being augmented by naval fire from vessels just off shore.

At 1140 hours the LCT's grounded in 3 1/2 feet of water at the bow. The tanks landed on hard sand and started toward assembly position, the village of La Madeline 443972, known as area L. Lighter vehicles, such as 1/4 ton truck, which were towed off by the tanks, bogged and drowned out chiefly due to breakage of the tow ropes.

The business of reaching the assembly area was somewhat difficult due to several factors principal of which was the beaching of the crafts almost 2000 yards S. of the intended landing; secondly mine fields were numerous and thirdly, the beach exits were congested and movement dangerously slow. At that time shell fire from the enemy was falling moderately in the beach area. Some Army and Navy equipment was lost and some personnel casualties suffered. Small arms fire was heard throughout the beach area and at that time Allied and enemy aircraft were active overhead.

The tank column was held up just off the beach by mine fields in process of being cleared. Col. Fainter of the 6th Armored Group and Major Lynn M. Yeatts, Battalion Executive Officer and Captain L. A. Hedges, CO of Company A, dismounted and proceeded ahead on foot to find a way thru the mine fields and to locate area L, exact position of which was then unknown because of the faulty beaching. Reconnaissance brought the group to a RJ at 446958 and they proceeded to a cross road at 445963, the main road there was identified as "Uncle 5", just S of Area L. Thus oriented the party returned to the tank column which was moved to the assembly point to await further orders.

In area L, intake and exhaust stacks were jetisoned from the vehicles and water proofing broken where required, otherwise the vehicles were combat ready.

Shortly after entering the area Company C under Captain James A. Crawford moved out with guides to join the 82nd A/B Division, making contact approximately 2500 yards SE of Ste Mere Eglise.

Liaison with the 4th Infantry Division CP was established

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and permission requested to move off the beach into secondary assembly positions. At 1800 Lt. Col. Huffer moved the Battalion, less 1st platoon Company A and Company C out of area L across the inundated areas W. of the beach to bivouac at 409964, remaining there during the night of D-Day.

Along the route over the inundated area to the bivouac there was considerable congestion due to knocked out vehicles blocking the narrow exit roads. At one point the entire Battalion as well as many elements behind it were stopped by a bogged half track in the center of the road. Major Yeatts on going forward found the personnel of the vehicle waiting for wreckers which could not have possibly gotten to it. Enemy fire was increasing in intensity and it was imperative that the Battalion clear the inundated area. The half track was pushed off the road into the bog and had already half disappeared from view before the column was well under way.

In the bivouac area that night, all the lessons learned in hard training were put to use.

At five o'clock 7 June the Battalion less the same attachments moved to a new bivouac area at St Martin 384973 closing in the area at 0700. This bivouac area was used by the Battalion as a base of operations thru 11 June. Operations from this point were those conducted during the second phase and will be discussed under separate company or Battalion element sub headings.

1st Platoon Company A.

The 1st platoon Company A under 2nd Lt. Clyde E. Tanner, with Staff Sgt. Harold J. McNeeley as platoon sergeant, was detached from the company and Battalion for the D-Day landing, and attached for operations to the 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry, 4th Infantry Division.

Landing at H plus 145, the platoon after some initial difficulties in bogging on the beach, moved up road "Sugar 9" and engaged in cleaning out house strong points at 428963. The platoon returned to the beach and proceeded Northward on its original mission of clearing the beach areas with elements of the 22nd Infantry up to Quineville at 370078. This operation was not successful to such an extent in that strong coastal defenses were encountered in the vicinity of Les Dunes de Varreville at 427995 and to the N. thereof. The tank gun fire on concrete placements was only successful if placed in the embrasures. Assistance in the reduction of these boxes was obtained from naval vessels lying off shore. It was this action which subsequently the Battalion observed in progress as it prepared to land at H plus 300. During this operation one tank was lost to mines and an AT hit in the final drive. The platoon bivouaced for the night on the beach at 434990.

On the morning of 7 June the platoon moved out with infantry and proceeded NW along the beach and the seawall in an effort to reduce the strong point at Hel de Cruttes at 419013 and at 405034. Very

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strong concrete emplacements housing 12 inch naval guns were encountered at these points. The combined fire of the tanks and of naval vessels lying off shore was unsuccessful in reducing them. Three of the tanks, including Lt. Tanner, retraced their steps to "Sugar 9" and proceeded W. thereon with the mission of coming in on the strong point rear. This move was not completed because the three tanks bogged on "Sugar 9". Lt. Tanner returned to the two tanks engaging the strong point and withdrew them to extricate the three bogged vehicles, no other means being available. This was accomplished at the close of day and the platoon again bivouaced on the beach on the night of 7 June.

On the morning of 8 June the platoon now four tanks, proceeded W. on "Sugar 9" and NW on the main road to Ravenville, turning to the E. they moved to within 600 yards of the strong point and engaged the boxes from the rear. Direct hits into the embrasures were successful in causing evacuation of the strong point. Only 3 tanks engaged in this operation, one having dropped en way from "Sugar 9" due to broken track suffered from an AT hit the day before. At approximately 1000 the platoon of three tanks moved to the vicinity of Azeville 355020 to support infantry in that sector. At the close of the day, with the 4th tank again in the column, the platoon withdrew to bivouac vicinity Cibrantet establishing a one section road block at 370011 and another section road block at 361004.

On 9 June the platoon less Sgt. McNeeley in tank 14 returned to company control at St. Martin. Sgt. McNeeley was attached to the 70th Tank Battalion and fought with them until 11 June when he returned to the company at St. Martin.

Company A less 1st Platoon.

- Commanding Officer - Capt. Loveaire A. Hedges
- 1st plat. leader - 2nd Lt. Clyde E. Tanner
- 2nd plat. leader - 2nd Lt. Hugh J. M. Jones
- 3rd plat. leader - 1st Lt. W. W. Woods
- Maintenance Off. - 1st Lt. Henry D. Walding

At 0900 on 7 June the company moved out of bivouac at St. Martin with a mission of supporting the 101st A/B Division. It was to make initial contact with the Division CP at Culeville 395919 for orders. Because of lack of information concerning bridges, the company intended to make this contact by moving SW out of St Marie du Mont 414927 for 1000 yards towards Vierville, turning NW along a secondary road to RJ at 403924, thence SW to Culeville. On entering the secondary road, the command tank with the 2nd platoon in the rear, encountered a tank ambush of tautly strung wires with suspected explosive charges on either end. The column backed out and a decision made to go thru Vierville to the contact point. On

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reaching a point 700 yards from the town, the command tank received three HE hits from a 75MM AT gun which destroyed the co-axial MG, put the tank cannon out of commission and partially broke the right track. Return fire was delivered only from the bow MG which was functioning. Deep ditches on either side of the road prevented deployment of the vehicles in the rear and the disabled tank withdrew around a bend of the road out of range. The column being caught between the tank ambush and the AT defenses, decision was made to reach the contact point by moving W. out of St Marie du Mont, thence SW to contact. In St Marie du Mont the command tank was exchanged for tank 17 and the column moved out and contacted the 101st A/B Division at Culoville without further incident.

A plan was developed whereby the company would move to Vierville to attack SW therefrom astride the main road, 1 platoon with each regiment of the Division. On reaching Vierville, the elements of the 101st were found pinned down in the streets and ditches. The enemy was engaged in the village. One enemy AT gun and 106 enemy paratroopers were taken after an action of 1 1/2 hours. The company had three tanks in the action, Captain Hedges, Sgt. Rainey and Sgt. Cox. Of the 3 it lost one to bazooka fire, Pfc Wilson being killed and Sgt. Cox SWA. Meanwhile elements of the 3rd platoon had proceeded SW and had made contact with the 101st elements on the W. of the road and the 2nd platoon had gone ahead to make contact with the elements on the E. of the road. After the action in Vierville the command tank moved to Angeville au Plain 392895 to join the 2nd platoon and to develop plans for an assault at 1600 against high ground held by the enemy along the line 387887 - 390880. These positions were taken at dusk and at 2300 the platoon returned to Angeville where it remained for the night. 3rd platoon on the W. of the road had taken limited objectives in vicinity 376894 and had returned prior to darkness to positions N. of Culoville at 400925.

At 0600 on 8 June the command section and 2nd platoon departed Angeville au Plain and returned to Battalion bivouac at St Martin picking up the 3rd platoon en route and closing with other elements of the Battalion at approximately 0700.

On 9 June the company less 1st platoon, moved with other elements of the Battalion to assembly positions at La Commune 340017 where it remained in 12th Infantry Regimental reserve during the actions to the N. around Montebourg. From this position the company commander made reconnaissance of routes to high ground commanding the Ste Mere Eglise - Montebourg road in anticipation of enemy armored attack from the W. The company returned to bivouac at St Martin at 2300 and was there joined by the 1st platoon. The company again moved in Division Reserve to bases near La Commune on the 10th June. It remained in bivouac at St Martin during 11 June.

Battalion Headquarters

At 1400 on 7 June a Battalion task force left the bivouac at

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St Martin and moved W to Ste Mere Eglise with a mission of finding and destroying German direct fire artillery which was pinned down airborne elements in that city.

The task force consisted of the tank section of Battalion Headquarters, the assault gun platoon (then medium tanks), Battalion Headquarters and Company B. The advance guard consisted of the assault gun platoon and one tank from the tank section. Lt. Houston Payne commanded the point and Major Lynn M. Yeatts commanded the advance party, riding the one tank section tank. Main body was Company B, followed by Battalion CP half track and two remaining tanks from the tank section. Near the outskirts of Ste Mere Eglise to the NW a meeting engagement took place between the point and a column of enemy armor and entrucked infantry. Lt. Payne in the lead tank took up the fire knocking out two Mark IV tanks and a towed AT gun before his own tank was hit and he injured. Pulling off to the side of the street, Lt. Payne ordered the other tanks up to resume the fire. Fire was resumed until a stuck round forced the tanks to move aside. The advance guard commander, Major Yeatts, moved his tank forward and resumed the fire. 1st platoon of Company B, under Lt. Hurley took up the fire fight while Major Yeatts moved to communicate with the Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. C. G. Hupfer, who with him reconnoitered routes to the E and N in an effort to flank the enemy column. After finding this route, which was under direct observed heavy artillery fire during the entire reconnaissance, the two platoons of Company B under Captain Pay, the company commander, were moved out with instructions to flank and destroy the enemy column, then retreating in the direction of Neuville au Plain 341987. 1st Lt. Robert Hamilton, S-2, after viewing the situation, returned to 4th Div. Hq. to report the attack of enemy armor on Ste Mere Eglise. Maj. General Barton and Brigadier General Roosevelt immediately issued orders changing the disposition of forces about the town. Lt. Hamilton then returned to the scene.

The flanking platoon in their movement reached Neuville au Plain, seized the town, liberating 19 American paratroopers from the 82nd A/B Div., taking 60 prisoners. In radioing back as to instructions as to disposition of the prisoners, Lt. Rainer, platoon leader inquired as to possibility of bringing back a quantity of what he called "fine saddle horses" which he was loath to leave in their present situation. Being refused permission, the horses were turned loose, prisoners taken aboard the tanks and the column returned to bivouac at St. Martin after the town had been taken over by friendly infantry. The task force closed in bivouac at 2300.

Company B.

Commanding Officer - Captain Asher K. Pay
1st plat. leader - 1st Lt. Irving N. Hurley
2nd plat. leader - 2nd Lt. Frank Kogut
3rd plat. leader - 1st Lt. Joe H. Rainer, Jr.
Maintenance Officer - 1st Lt. Marvin M. Weeks

Company B remained inactive during the 8th June. On 9 June the company moved with other elements of the Battalion to assembly at La Commune preparatory to engagement with the 12th Infantry Regiment

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in attacks toward Joganville and Montebourg. Elements of the 12th Infantry were pinned down to the E. of Joganville and could not advance because of heavy MG and mortar fire from the ground N. of the creek and body of water at 330037. Battalion Executive Officer, Major Lynn M. Yeatts, made a foot reconnaissance to the enemy line and developed a plan whereby the 3rd platoon Company B would move along the Joganville-Montebourg road to flank the enemy positions from the W. Remaining at the Battalion CP with a 509 radio, Major Yeatts, directed the successful action of the 3rd platoon under Lt. Rainer. The enemy positions being out flanked and heavy fire placed on them by the 3rd platoon, the infantry was able to cross the creek and advance beyond Joganville toward Montebourg. 1st and 2nd platoons under Lt. Hurley supported elements of the 12th Infantry immediately on the W. of the Joganville-Montebourg road, reaching positions approximately 1000 yards SE of Montebourg.

The left flank, to the W. of the road, extended to the S. in such a manner as to permit enemy enfilade fire from the left on the infantry positions. The infantry was immobilized by this fire and the entire effort of the regiment thus frustrated.

In an effort to overcome this, Lt. Col. Hupfer, Battalion Commanding Officer, made a foot reconnaissance into the left flank lines to determine the possibility of using tanks to neutralize or destroy the fire.

Lt. Col. Hupfer, on gaining the ground, observed a gateway through the very high hedgerow which would admit tanks to the enemy area. Returning to the rear he briefed the 1st and 2nd platoons of Company B. Lts. Hurley and Kogut brought them forward.

The 2nd platoon occupied covering positions along the road while Lt. Hurley passed behind our infantry lines parallel to the hedgerow until the platoon gained the gateway. At the gateway and in the area beyond, the tanks met and overcome heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire, and itself brought enfilade fire on the enemy causing heavy casualties and definitely breaking the enemy resistance at that point. This allowed the left flank of the line to move forward and subsequently the entire regiment moved ahead.

The infantry paused at 1800 to reorganize. Before the attack could be resumed, an enemy counterattack from the W. was engaged and contained. The original plans then proceeded with 1st, 2nd and 3rd platoons again supporting the 12th Infantry in pushing toward its objective high ground to the N and NE of Montebourg. These objectives were not reached as of the close of the day 9 June when the company returned to bivouac at St Martin. On 10 June at daybreak Company B departed bivouac for assembly position at a castle 324037 preparatory to support of the 12th Infantry in attacks to NE of Montebourg. At the close of the day the company had supported the infantry to position 600 yards NW of Ste Flexel along the road at 324062. At 1925 hours the company returned to bivouac at St Martin. On 11 June the company was inactive in bivouac.

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Company C.

Commanding Officer - Capt. James A. Crawford
1st Plat. leader - 2nd Lt. Joe M. Mercer
2nd Plat. leader - 2nd Lt. Harold D. Plagge
3rd Plat. leader - 2nd Lt. James R. Shields
Maintenance Officer - 1st Lt. Lawrence S. Deptula

At 1730 after dewaterproofing their vehicles in the assembly area L, Company C moved out behind a reconnaissance platoon from the 82nd A/B Division thru St Marie du Mont to cross roads SE of Ste Mere Eglise at 363932.

With the reconnaissance elements leading the company moved NW along the road to Ste Mere Eglise but was forced to hastily deploy before reaching the creek at 354943, because of heavy AT fires coming from the high ground across the creek and just S and SE of the town. Lt. Mercer and 1st platoon deployed to the left of the road engaging AT guns on the enemies right flank. In this action three tanks were lost and Lt. Mercer mortally wounded. 3rd platoon under Lt. Plagge deployed to the right of the road and approached the creek in an effort to flank the enemy positions from his left. The platoon was unable to cross the creek and one tank bogged. Sgt. Smith, the tank commander, remained in this position for 4 days together with his crew and a S/Sgt. from the 82 A/B Division. During this time and after the action has passed them by, they engaged in fire fights with bypassed enemy elements, killing a total of 20 and taking 12 prisoners.

Lt. Shields of the 2nd platoon deployed along a narrow front immediately adjacent to the main road and engaged the guns from those positions. S/Sgt. Buza moved his tank forward succeeding in crossing the creek and reaching the high ground. Although other tanks could not follow to support him, Sgt. Buza succeeded in knocking out 4 AT guns, several vehicles and inflicting heavy casualties on enemy troops. He radioed Capt. Crawford for instructions, stating that he could proceed to Ste Mere Eglise, because he was unable to secure support from other tanks, due to the fire directed against them, Capt Crawford ordered Sgt. Buza to return to the platoon.

The company fought the remainder of the day in vain attempts to flank and secure the enemy held high ground. On the night of 6 June the company bivouaced with elements of the 82nd in vicinity of the cross roads.

On 7 June at dawn the company again deployed over the same ground and by noon had succeeded in taking the high ground to the S. of Ste Mere Eglise. In the afternoon the company returned to the cross road bivouac and proceeded from there to Chef du Pont and moved NE toward Ste Mere Eglise, going into an assembly position at 338955. From

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this point late in the day Lt. Shields and one platoon moved into and through Ste Mere Eglise on a mission to the N and W thereof to assist in cleaning out enemy held strong points. Captain Crawford with one platoon moved W of the assembly position toward the RR in an effort to locate direct fire AT weapons which were pinning down friendly infantry in and around Ste Mere Eglise, and preparatory to an attack of the 8th. By night fall on the 7th the company was in assembly position, less Lt. Shields' platoon which bivouaced approximately 1000 yards N of Ste Mere Eglise just off the road to Montebourg.

On 8 June Lt. Shields with his platoon continued his mission N of Ste Mere Eglise and assisted in the clean up of strong points. Balance of the company deployed on either side of the road leading W out of Ste Mere Eglise and attacked with the infantry to the high ground at the RR. Toward the close of day, the company shelled enemy positions across the Mederet River for approximately 30 minutes and withdrew to assembly position at 327958. Lt. Shields and his platoon joining them there at the close of day.

At dawn on 9 June company deployed on either side of the road along the RR and fired preparatory fires into enemy positions W of the Mederet. Under cover of a smoke screen laid by the tanks, the infantry crossed the Mederet into the enemy strong points. Tanks following them to engage in mop up operations. While taking a group of prisoners at 307958, Capt. Crawford while leaning out of his turret mentioning them forward, was shot thru the head. Just prior to this, Lt. Plagge in an effort to cross the river found that his way was blocked by enemy tanks knocked out in the initial crossing. Under heavy small arms fire, he dismounted from his vehicle, moved enemy mines from the surface of the road, pulled the knocked out enemy tanks off the road by cables from his own. Balance of the company then proceeded cross the river to assist in establishing the bridge head. Fighting in the bridge head was very heavy and tanks were dispatched in sections and even singly toward La Motely and Amfreville 2995, then considerably behind the enemies lines with a mission of destroying any enemy vehicle and personnel encountered. On this mission, two tanks were lost and Lt. Plagge was seriously wounded by shots thru the head and face. The tank crew thinking him dead moved the tank back toward the assembly position. It was encountered enroute by Lt. Deptula, MO, who on examining Lt. Plagge, found him still alive. Lt. Deptula evacuated him and sent him to a first aid station but his wounds proved fatal, dying in the hospital.

Other tanks were dispatched behind the enemy lines thru Flacux toward Gueuteville with harassing and destructive missions against the enemy. By dark on the night of 9 June the combat efficiency of the company was approximately 33%. Nearly all MG's were burnt out and many of the tanks guns were ineffective.

Gasoline supplies for the company became critical on 8 June. Lt. Deptula made a run to Utah beach in an effort to secure 1000 gallons. The dumps were located but no supplies of gas were available. In his search for available supplies, he secured the help of

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of one full colonel and three brigadier generals and was finally able to secure 1000 gallons from a "duck" company who were engaged in unloading supplies. Maintenance of the company during this period as well as supply was exceedingly difficult and gasoline and ammunition dumps were invariably established within three to four hundred yards of the front.

On 10 June the company remained in assembly positions near the RR without activity and on 11 June the company was relieved of attachment to the 82nd A/B Division and reverted to Battalion control at St Martin in the afternoon.

Company D.

Commanding Officer - 1st Lt. Eugene M. McDonough
1st Plat. leader - 1st Lt. Herbert F. Stackhouse
2nd Plat. leader - 2nd Lt. Elvis E. Jones
3rd Plat. leader - 2nd Lt. Charles G. Beatty

Disembarking from an LST at 0200 hours on 7 June, Company D proceeded to 4th Infantry Division CP and bivouaced in the early morning, vicinity of 408948. The company closed in bivouac with the Battalion prior to noon 7 June. It remained without activity until 9 June when it moved under Capt. Eugene McDonough with other elements of the Battalion to assembly at La Commune. During the action of 3rd platoon Company B at Joganville, the 3rd platoon, Company D, under Lt. Charles Beatty, moved NE out of Joganville on a reconnaissance toward RJ at 335042. Lt. Beatty in the lead tank saw two heavy AT guns of the enemy and opened fire with his 37MM. The fire was returned and an AP shell passed thru the drivers hatch and out the rear of the tank, killing one man and burning one man and burning Lt. Beatty about the face. Lt. Beatty and the 2 remaining men evacuated the tank which was burning. The remainder of the platoon withdrew mopping up enemy ground troops in the vicinity. The platoon returned to assembly at La Commune.

The 1st platoon was attached to the 70th Tank Battalion and attacked toward Ozeville 3405 but was held up by AT guns and artillery and withdrew to Azeville. Platoon was further attached to 2nd Battalion 22nd Infantry Regiment at Joganville. On 10 June the 1st platoon remained attached to 70th Tank Battalion in the 22nd Infantry Regiment zone of action.

Service Company.

Commanding Officer - Captain Raymond E. Carlsen
Maintenance Officer - Captain Wm. P. Kennedy
Transportation Off - 2nd Lt. James T. Hill
Co Maint. Officer - 2nd Lt. Adrian W. Buckingham

The Service Company was split into three parts for the landing. On D-Day at H plus 300 the fuel and lubricant section of 7, 2 1/2 ton trucks under Lt. Hill and a portion of the maintenance

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platoon consisting of 1 retriever T/5 and one 1/4 ton under Captain Kennedy landed on Utah Beach from an LCT. Considerable difficulty was experienced in beaching the heavily loaded trucks and the Battalion lost its first man to enemy fire when T/5 Dencet, Williard M. Was SWA. Capt. Kennedy cared for the wounded man and succeeded in getting him to a medical aid station on the beach. The Battalion was thereafter unable to find any trace of the man in medical channels and has no knowledge of his subsequent condition or disposition.

This portion of the company moved to area L with the Battalion and subsequently to its initial night bivouac. Capt. Kennedy and his maintenance crews prior to movement to areas, assisted in the evacuation of drowned out vehicles in the beach area.

At 0200 on 7 June the second section of the Service Company landed with the light tank company and proceeded to initial assembly areas and bivouaced with the Battalion. This section of the company consisted of 6 cargo trucks of ammunition under Lt. Buckingham, 4 half tracks of the mortar platoon under Lt. Foley, and 4 1/4 tons of the Reconnaissance Platoon under Lt. Gage, the second T/5 retriever from the maintenance platoon, one medical half track with Lt. Steen and crew and the Assistant S-4, Mr. Becker.

The mortar platoon half tracks were badly drowned out in the landing and remained just off the beach for 2 days under repair prior to joining the Battalion at St Martin.

No other elements of the Service Company were landed during this phase.

PHASE III.

At 0001 on 11 June the Battalion had been released from attachment to 4th Infantry Division and attached to the 90th Infantry Division.

On the morning of 12 June the Battalion moved to new bivouac area N. of Ste Mere Eglise at 327958. The heavy losses suffered by Company C in their actions with the 82nd A/B Division around Ste Mere Eglise, lent considerable spice to the proposed movement into that area. Furthermore, the Battalion, having had its main baptism of fire with the 4th Infantry Division and having worked out plans for the coordination between the two arms, was a bit skeptical as to operation with the 90th. Elements of the 90th had previously bivouaced near the Battalion at St Martin and they were recognized as being green troops by the manner in which they conducted themselves during the hours of darkness in their local security areas. At that time our Battalion had been in action approximately 4 days and was itself green, but the troops liked to consider themselves as veterans.

So on the 12th when Companies A and B moved into attack positions with the 359th and 357th Regiments respectively, they looked

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for encouraging indications as to the combat ability of the troops. Likewise when the 1st and 3rd platoons of Company D were attached to the 358th Regiment they too were somewhat apprehensive.

The 3rd platoon of Company C, the 2nd platoon of Company B and D remained in the Battalion bivouac in reserve. Company C remained under Battalion control for reorganization.

The operations were not too successful due to difficult and restricted terrain. The infantry suffered heavy casualties from mortars and artillery as well as from lack of battle experience.

Battalion Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

Battalion Headquarters.

Battalion Commander

Executive Officer

S-3

S-2

S-4

S-1

Asst. S-4

- Lt. Col. Clarence G. Hupfer
- Major Lynn M. Yeatts
- Capt. Richard H. Langsten
- Capt. Robert A. Hamilton
- Capt. H. Scott (landed on 17 June)
- Lt. Charles N. Lantz
- WOJG Olaf Becker

Headquarters Company.

Commanding Officer

Assault Gun Platoon ldr.

Mortar Plat. ldr.

- Capt. Thomas J. Hoshall (landed 17 June).
- Lt. Houston Payne
- Lt. Robert M. Foley

As indicated on attached maps the bivouac and assembly positions maintained by the Battalion throughout the phase were mainly in the center of operations for convenience of liaison.

Lt. Col. Hupfer and Major Yeatts operated forward from these positions to the companies engaged, maintaining a close advisory and supervisory contact which served the companies well. The Battalion was not committed as a whole or as a unit during the phase, each company being attached to an infantry regiment or similar unit for operations.

The assault gun platoon and the mortar platoon of Headquarters Company remained with the Battalion Forward CP during the phase, there being no opportunity to satisfactorily employ them.

Company A.

Leaving the 90th Forward CP at approximately 0600 on the 12th, company commander and platoon leaders, Lt. Tanner and Jones, moved forward and contacted 359th Regiment CP in an orchard at 296945 in time to attend a briefing of the regimental commanders. Following this, foot reconnaissance was made to the line of departure and coordinated plans agreed upon as to employment of the tanks. LJ was

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a trail running from 294953 to the W to a large lake at 283947. The approach for the vehicles to this LD was a narrow sunken road running from 296946 NW to the LD. Plan of attack was two Battalions abreast, one tank platoon supporting each Battalion, Lt. Tanner on the left. Directions of attack was W and NW. Upon completion of reconnaissance the platoon leaders returned to bivouac and brought forward their platoons arriving in time for the jump off. Due to boggy ground and rough terrain, the 1st platoon had some difficulty in finding an exit from the LD. 2nd platoon proceeded. Coordination in the effort was very poor due to heavy concentrations of mortar and artillery fire which pinned down the infantry. Both platoons inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy by their MG fires and were able to advance approximately 1700 yards before the close of day, but much time was lost when the confusion existing in the infantry Battalions caused them to lose direction and fight for approximately 6 hours in the wrong direction, being about 90 degrees off the line of attack.

The development of the new liaison plan was tried for the first time during the Battalions attachment to the 90th. During this action the command tanks of company commanders of both A and B companies were kept in the vicinity of regimental CP's for personal liaison with the regimental commander and for radio liaison with the tank platoon. Quarter ton truck was also maintained at the regiment CP and frequent trips during the day were made forward to contact the platoons. This method of operation for the company commanders later was developed to a higher and more successful degree, it having been found during previous actions that the company commanders could not control their platoons satisfactory from their command tanks, the terrain being such as to prohibit visual contact with all the elements in action, therefore the use of 1/4 ton for the company commanders became a necessity and was used extensively thereafter, except in individual actions where control of the unit could be accomplished by command from the tank. At the close of day the Battalion was released from attachment to the 90th Infantry Division and the company returned to bivouac N. of Ste Mere Eglise.

On 13 June, Company A was attached to the 82 A/B Division and preliminary contact was made with the Division CP, SE Picouville at 294932. Plans were completed for the employment of tanks in the Divisions attack thru the 90th Infantry Division on the 14th. At a Division officers call on the evening of the 13th detailed attack orders were issued and questions as to communication with the tanks arose. The Division signal officer recommended the use of radio. The tank company commander suggested the use of wire to augment radio in view of the experience the tanks had already had with enemy jamming. This suggestion was adopted and further details effected. During the day tank platoon leaders were brought forward for reconnaissance of the assembly position and reconnaissance of forward positions to the LD.

The Battalion Executive Officer, Major Yeatts, in company with the tank company commander, made a foot reconnaissance into Etienville which at that time had been partially cleared by the 90th

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Infantry. This town, one of the largest doll manufacturing centers in France, was found to be in nearly complete ruins as a result of heavy air and artillery shelling. Many enemy vehicles were evident in the town, most of them burned or badly shot up. American and enemy dead were numerous in the streets and in ditches along the road. The town was remarkable for the stench, filth and the many animals and men killed as a result of direct mortar fire. The party returned to 82nd A/B Division CP and later that night the company commander returned to the Battalion bivouac, no liaison being maintained during the night.

On 14 June the company commander was at Division CP at 0500 having made arrangements for MO, Lt. Walding, to bring the company into assembly positions at 0700 in a field W of Picouville at 284934. Company remained in Division reserve during the morning awaiting an opportunity for employment.

At the Division CP Major General Ridgway was anxious to cross the tanks over the stream running N of Etienville at any point between there and Renouf 265950, the Renouf-Etienville road and E thereof to the stream was being very heavily defended by the Germans using quantities of mortars and automatic weapons. Lt. Tanner with one sergeant made a foot reconnaissance into the front lines and reached several points within 200 yards of the stream but found the ground impassable for tanks, it being deep with mud and swamp. This fact was reported to General Ridgway but after approximately an hour he expressed some doubt as to the plausibility of the reconnaissance and directed a further reconnaissance by his division engineer. The company commander effected liaison between the division engineer and Lt. Hugh Jones who made a further foot reconnaissance to the stream. The results of this reconnaissance were identical with that made by Lt. Tanner and it was so reported to the CG.

By 1400 the Renouf-Etienville road had been cleared without the use of tanks but 325th Glider Regiment immediately W of Etienville and S of the Etienville-St Sauveur le Vicente highway was being held up by direct fire weapons and mortars. Lt. Woods was ordered forward to the center of Etienville with his platoon to pick up a guide from the glider regiment and to effect a union with other troops of a special task force being formed to assist in reduction of the strong point holding up the glider regiment. Lt. Woods proceeded to the spot but could find no guide and having no orders as to intended disposition of his force, remained in position for approximately 45 minutes. At the end of that time he went forward looking for instructions. He made contact with a Lt. Col. from the glider regiment who informed him that opportunity to use the tanks was not then present and instructed him to wait in position. He remained in position for 3 hours and was then withdrawn to a new assembly position a little to the W of the company assembly where he remained until darkness and then returned to company assembly. The incident caused some misunderstanding in the Division CP and the tank company commander was instructed to make an investigation. Facts of the case were reported to the G-3 and the incident closed.

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After the clearing of the Etienville-Renouf road elements of the 82nd were held up by very strong resistance to the W thereof on the right flank of the 325th Glider Regiment. 1st platoon under Lt. Tanner at approximately 1330 moved thru Etienville N along the road to Renouf making contact with the 507th Regiment commander at

266944. The platoon then engaged in attacks with the infantry to the W and succeeded in moving approximately 800 yards to cut the next S. N. road. 2nd platoon remained in company assembly throughout the day.

Radio communication being poor at that time the company commander, Captain Hedges, went forward to Etienville in the 1/4 ton truck with corporal liaison and communication sergeant. Mortars were still falling on Etienville and the road leading W from it. The 1/4 ton jeep was left at one corner of the town square giving the men some cover. Company commander went forward along the Etienville-St Sauveur road on foot and was met just on the outskirts of the town by a party of three men also moving to the W. The leader of this party proved to be Brigadier General Gavin, Division Executive Officer, who inquired the business that the company commander was on. Company commander joined the general's party and proceeded to cross roads at 261938. At this point the general's party proceeded to the W and the company commander on seeing his tank column along the road to the N left the party and proceeded to the 1st platoon. The platoon was in position along the road to repel enemy armored attack from the N and W. Having communicated with the platoon and now being handicapped by lack of transportation, the company commander returned on foot to Etienville to pick up the 1/4 ton. Before he could reach the city he was overtaken by the platoon which had been relieved. Riding into the city with the tank platoon, company commander recovered his 1/4 ton and went forward to again contact General Gavin as to sending the platoon to its assembly positions. Contact with the general was made in a sunken road running from 259939 to 259941. The time was approximately 2000. The general asked for the tanks to come forward again to assist in an attack which had just jumped off. The general plan was for the tank platoon to cross the bridge at 252943, proceed N along the dirt road to paved road at 253953 and then make a swing W and S thru La Bonneville, return to the main highway. Company commander objected to this plan on the ground that the patrol was not coordinated with the infantry and being behind the enemy lines would subject the tanks to increased hazards. An alternate plan was suggested and adopted in which the platoon was to cross the bridge, proceed N along the dirt road and strike W across country in support of infantry from a point 252947. Company commander returned to the assembly position, picked up the 1st platoon, engines of which were still warm, and brought them along the main road to within 500 yards of the bridge and there oriented them on the mission. The platoon proceeded and approaching the bridge was met by AT fire from 2 AT guns of 47mm Cal. These were taken under fire and destroyed and the platoons proceeded up the secondary dirt road, meeting

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heavy opposition at its LP which according to infantry reports was in our hands. No friendly infantry was seen, however the platoon engaged a strong point at 252948. Large numbers of automatic weapons and mortars were destroyed, several vehicles set on fire and gas and ammunition dumps razed. Our own infantry front line positions being E of the position and the tanks having no instructions for further advance, returned to company assembly at dark.

On 15 June the 3rd platoon under Lt. Woods, supported attacks of the 325th Glider Regiment on the W of the Etienville-St Sauveur Le Vicomte highway. Resistance in this sector was heavy, particularly from the town of Crossville where many automatic weapons and direct fire AT guns were located. 1st platoon supported the 507th Regiment on the Division right flank, the 2nd platoon supported the 505th Regiment in the Division center just E of the Etienville-St Sauveur road. Hard fighting took place in all sectors but good progress was made and by 2400 all elements had driven the enemy W of the creek between Crossville and Rauville. Lt. Jones with the 505th continued to fight to approximately 0130 on the 16th, a series of night attacks being launched in order to clear that particular sector.

The company's rear CP, consisting of its maintenance section, with supply dumps, was moved from vicinity Picouville to an orchard at 266939 and slightly W of Etienville.

On the morning of the 16th the tank company was permitted to rest of the men and to perform some maintenance. The attack toward St Sauveur was proceeding well and it was not anticipated the tanks would be needed before the crossing which was expected at approximately 1600. Before the morning was out however, the 1st and 3rd platoons were into the fight, the 3rd supporting the 325th before Rauville and the 1st supporting the 507th N of the highway. 2nd platoon remained in company assembly. By 1400 elements of the Division had reached the approaches to the river and the 1st platoon was placed in position at 199948 to cover the crossing of the infantry. 3rd platoon was held in readiness in an orchard at 204955. 2nd platoon with the company rear CP moved to an orchard at 206954.

At 1600 the Division commenced its movement into the city and was met with considerable small arms and mortar fire. Particularly coming from the monastery at 196943. Company commander was asked to place direct fire against the structure in an effort to reduce it. From a range of 400 yards 1st platoon shelled the monastery. Fire was generally ineffective however because of its heavy structure.

The infantry succeeded in clearing about two thirds of the city, but tanks could not cross the river until suitable bridges had been constructed. However, the advanced company CP moved across in 1/4 ton truck to establish liaison with the advanced Division CP in the town post office. The city was still under artillery shelling from the heights to the W and the Bailey Bridge under construction as

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well as the town itself were bombed by P47's with invasion markings. Company commander made reconnaissance along the three main roads leading out of the city in order to locate suitable areas for platoon assembly positions, one platoon with each regiment. The bridge being completed by dusk at 2230 the tank company was brought across the river and proceeded to its assembly positions in various parts of the town. Before occupying the positions the platoons moved about the town during the darkness until about 0230 on the 17th, principally for the morale effect on the enemy still holding portions of the city.

On the morning of the 17th, reconnaissance was made by company commander and Lt. Jones to determine firing positions which to place direct fire on the city's RR station where a strong force of the enemy was holding out. Suitable firing positions being unavailable, it was decided to send one platoon on a wide sweep to the N and W of the city, coming in on the RR station from the rear. Arrangements were made for an infantry platoon to accompany the tanks as a point. The infantry platoon was picked up at 183954. They proceeded W and S thereof along the road to 176946, then to the main highway directly S. Just prior to reaching this point infantry working up the S side of the highway out of the city, had knocked out a German AT gun, 88MM. The platoon with its infantry point proceeded E along the highway to the city then swung in behind the RR station. The tank platoon from the W and the advancing infantry from the E in the city forced a capitulation of the strong point. The platoon in its circuit picked up 25 bicycles, one prisoner and 3 horses. Upon returning to the city the company engaged in minor sectional platoon patrols to clean out bypassed snipers and strong points. Company bivouaced in the city on the night of 17th.

On 18 June company was inactive and performed much needed maintenance. At approximately 1100 the company was informed that it was to be part of a task force with the 325th Glider Regiment in an operation on the 19th to take a bridgehead across the Douve River S of Etienville. Company commander made contact with the regimental commander and perfected plans for the attack. Before this could be developed however, the company was relieved from attachment to the 82nd and 1200 on the 18th attached to the 79th Infantry Division. This information was not available to the company commander until 0200 on the 19th at which time in company with Captain Kloosterman, Battalion Communications Officer, he made contact with the 79th Regiment CP vicinity Golleville 208998.

At 0300 on June 19 the company commander having gone ahead to effect liaison with the 79th Division, Lt. Woods, assembled the company and moved it to an initial contact point at cross road NE Golleville 2100. From this position the company was taken to an initial assembly position in vicinity of regimental CP and at dawn moved off with the regiment as a mobile regimental reserve.

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Resistance was extremely light throughout the day and the company moved thru a series of assembly positions to an orchard at 196047. Route taken was N of Gelleville to crossroad at 214009, thence NW to crossroad 193024, thence N and NE thru Mesnil to RJ at 201042, thence W and N to final assembly. Prior to this time there had been no need for tank employment, but as the regiment approached the high ground between Negreville 186063 and Valegnes 2408 resistance stiffened considerably and the infantry was engaged between the Negreville-Valegnes road at the heights W of Valegnes running from Labrique at 207088 SW to 188079.

Company remained in assembly position until approximately 1600, the company commander being forward with the regimental Executive Officer and one battalion as it took W nose of the ridge at Labrique. No opportunity for tank employment had developed until approximately 1700 when Lt. Tanner moved his platoon from assembly position to assist the infantry in mopping up strong points on the regiment right flank in the vicinity of 209059. Company Commander brought the 2nd platoon forward to assembly positions at 193071. At that point an urgent call was received to assist infantry being pinned down approximately 500 yards SW of Labrique. The 2nd platoon was given the mission of tying in with the support Battalion in an orchard at 207076 and proceeding from there to assistance with the assault Battalion. Coordination between the two arms was very difficult and the front was very confused between the two arms. The tanks were taken E along the Negreville-Valegnes road to the village at 211068 where they turned N to make contact. Company commander meanwhile proceeded S of that point to secure the assistance of Lt. Tanner and his platoon but was caught in enemy MG cross fire at 212067. Forced to abandon the 1/4 ton, company commander and driver took shelter behind a stone wall until some medical aid personnel who were likewise pinned down. By radio to the 2nd platoon and order was given to bring one section and to back out of the road it had entered and to clean out the village from which this time AT fire and mortars was coming. It was later determined that this point had held up the support Battalion which was found to be S of that point. Sgt. Beard and Neeley backed out on the road and engaged the enemy in the strong point. The pressure thus relieved, the company commander contacted the 1st platoon and brought it to the scene. By that time Sgt Beard's tank had been knocked out due to 9 direct AT hits, Sgt Beard himself being seriously wounded. Sgt McNeeley's vehicle was disabled and with the crew from Sgt. Beard's tank returned to attack position with the company commander who picked up the command tank and with the remaining tanks of the 2nd platoon proceeded to the initial contact point. Knowing that the support Battalion was far to the S and that the assault Battalion on the right flank had by this time been driven back with heavy casualties, the tank force proceeded across a very high stone bridge at 207078 and moved N up the slope toward Labrique. Sgt. Hardy being the point, engaged small enemy tanks and AT guns at Labrique 207088. Knowing the left end of the road to be in friendly hands the company commander from his position in column radioed one section of tanks to proceed W from Labrique to contact friendly infantry and bring them forward. The balance, 4 in

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number, held the high ground at Labrique until arrival of infantry approximately one hour later. At 2100 the tanks went into bivouac in vicinity of the crossroads. At 2300 the company reassembled at its bivouac position at 197047.

At 0700 the following morning the company assembled at Labrique and discussed plans with the regimental commander for the move forward toward Cherbourg. The company commander in conjunction with Division Engineer made reconnaissance forward to the stream and bridge at 204-094 and found the bridge blown by the enemy. Two sites for crossings were selected and engineer troops commenced preparing the banks while other elements swept trails across fields on the N side of the stream. Foot elements moved ahead, the tanks forced to wait at Labrique until the crossings had been completed. This was accomplished at approximately 1030 when the company forded the stream and gained the main road leading out of Labrique. The infantry had moved on joining the main Valognes-Cherbourg road at St Joseph 204110 and there being no resistance at this time, took the main highway toward Cherbourg. The tanks in following reached the stream at 194117 on the main road. The culvert had been blown and a large crater blown in the road. The column halted here and pioneer work was commenced on filling the crater. The company commander with the corporal liaison during this time went forward to the Regimental CP group to inform the regimental commander of the situation. On the way forward 6 more large road craters were discovered on the main highway however all were passable by the tanks except the 1st one. Company commander remained with the regiment CP group and moved to 167164 where the entire column was brought under fire by 88MM laying directly down the road. The entire forward group lay in the ditches for approximately one and one half hours from continuous shelling of the road. Meanwhile the tank column having cleared the obstacles, reached positions and deployed just S of Delasse at 175145. Regimental CO, Executive Officer and tank company commander went forward on foot reconnaissance to determine location of gun or guns anticipating the use of direct fire from the tanks against them. The party was not successful in locating the guns when the forward elements of the regiment withdrew S of the RJ at 167161 and deployed on either side of the main highway preparatory to the formation of attack plans. Only slight gains were made during the balance of the day and the day closed without employment of the tanks. The tank company maintenance and supply section moved into bivouac with service elements of the regiment at 188123. The tanks withdrew to this location for the night bivouac.

On the following day 2 battalions of the regiment attacked abreast on the W of the main highway with 1 battalion in support. 1 platoon of tanks supported each battalion, 1st and 2nd platoons being with the assault battalion. In order to gain surprise, tanks were ordered to move forward to the LD from their bivouac positions during the air bombardment which preceded the assault. On reaching the LD the tanks were forced to move in column, 1st, 2nd platoon, company command tank and 3rd platoon from the crossroad at 159145 to the cross-

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road at 157155, where deployment of the platoon took place, 1st platoon moving to the right to effect contact with the battalion, 2nd platoon proceeding along the road followed by the command tank and the 3rd platoon to open ground at 1516 where deployment to the right was to take place. Very heavy mortar concentrations fell on the tank column during this maneuver. Sgt. Hardy in 22 being SWA as a result. On reaching the open ground, the tanks deployed but were taken under fire with AT weapons from earth covered bunkers situated just N. of an AT ditch, running from 147162 to 158168. One tank in the 2nd platoon was hit and immediately burned. While maneuvering the company commander's tank was hit and in pulling down below a slight rise of ground lost a track. Maneuverability gone, the tank remained in position covering the fortifications while the 3rd and support platoon moved up and deployed on its left flank. Company commander then abandoned the tank and maneuvered the 3rd platoon into firing positions on foot. Ammunition from the disabled command tank was transferred under heavy mortar fire to Sgt. Charles Jones' tank which had expended its basic load.

Resistance from the fortifications ceased and some 40 prisoners were taken from the pillboxes. Unable to negotiate the AT ditch, the tanks remained in covering positions until dark when they withdrew to their bivouac locations. In the meanwhile the infantry had gone ahead and in order to effect liaison to secure instructions, Capt. Hedges, with Sgt. Gezon moved forward across the ditch and joined the Regimental Executive Officer of the assault battalion at 154173. Returning at dusk, they met the regimental commander S of the AT ditch and in the vicinity of the burned out tank. Regimental commander asked for directions to the forward elements and was informed that he could reach them by following the telephone wire forward. It being completely dark by that time, decision was made for the regimental CP group to remain S of the AT ditch until morning. Tank column moved out to bivouac and division engineer troops commenced work on filling the AT ditch for a crossing in the morning.

At dawn the following morning tank company less one platoon returned to the AT ditch and made contact with regimental CP to find that during the evening the enemy had reoccupied all pillboxes taken the previous day and the regimental CP group was now cut off from the balance of the regiment. Plans were made to retake the positions and effect liaison of the two groups. The company commander while briefing his officers as to the mission, was approached by the regiment commander and the CG of the division with inquiries as to reasons for delay in moving out. A few words were exchanged, the gist of which was that officers and men therein had to be briefed as to the project or they could not satisfactorily accomplish the mission. The tanks moved out supporting very small forces of infantry in the CP group and retook the positions in about 1 hour, crossing the AT ditch at the prepared crossing and proceeding to a union with the other elements of the regiment. Regimental commander, Col. Wood, commended highly the work of Sgt. Charles Jones, being the first tank across the ditch and blowing

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open the rear doors of the fortification. Regimental commander was critical of the other tanks which in his opinion did not effect the crossing soon enough.

Forward elements of the infantry had succeeded in clearing the crossroad at 158183 but were held up beyond that by heavy resistance from artillery, mortars and automatic weapons. Direct fire AT guns in steel shod concrete emplacements also hampered the advance. During the afternoon and evening the tanks remained in mobile reserve immediately behind the foremost infantry positions in an orchard at 155178. The company commander with the regiment commander remained most of the afternoon and evening in the battalion positions along the line at 159183.

On the following morning following air preparation, two platoons supported the infantry attack toward the heights above Cherbourg on the E side of the Valognes-Cherbourg highway. Several strong points were taken in succession. Rapid advance was made by midafternoon the tank platoons were in position at 158218 overlooking the city of Cherbourg. Decision was made not to enter the city that day. At night the tanks were bivouaced at 154213.

The following day, maintenance on the vehicles was performed and entry into the city postponed until the following morning. Plans were perfected and reconnaissance into the suburbs made that day. On the following morning the company moved off the bluffs with the infantry and reached positions against the RR cutting across the SE portion of the city. Route of advance was from RJ at 169209 NW to road center 165215 thence NE and N to RJ 167223, thence NW to RJ 163-226, thence SW to crossroads 157223. Lt. Tanner in the 1st platoon could not go beyond this point due to direct AT fire from the vicinity of the RR and from shelling from Fort Derouel at 147221. The 2nd platoon was placed by the company commander in a field at 164224 for the purpose of placing direct HE fire on Fort Deroule in an effort to relieve the pressure on the 1st platoon and on the infantry occupying positions against the RR. The 3rd platoon had been left on the bluffs above as a reserve force with 1 battalion of infantry. By close of day the infantry had not reached the RR line nor the tanks advanced and at dark they bivouaced in the suburbs at 167218.

At dawn the following day, maintenance could not be performed, the attack was resumed, the 1st and 2nd platoons moving forward from the fartherst positions secured by the 1st platoon the day before along the road across the RR and into the main street of the city at crossroad 154221. 2nd platoon was halted just SE of RR and placed in reserve at 157225. Regimental Executive Officer ordered the tanks to go W on the main thoroughfare but the company commander objected to this because of falling street car power lines. The 1st platoon with the company commander moved one short block N and then with a company of infantry moved W on the secondary street to 149232. A great deal of firing from both tank guns and rifles went on during this approach. The platoon then turned N and then arrived at cross

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streets at 149223. One section of tanks under platoon sergeant Mc Neeley moved down this street to the W and fired HE and MG thru the lobby doors of the Hotel Atlantic. This fire with the help of the infantry later produced some 300 prisoners. In the meanwhile the 1st section moved N from the cross street toward the dock area. Both company command and platoon leader directing the tank fire, knocking out pillboxes, destroying enemy gun positions until the section reached a road end at 150235 where further progress was blocked by a RR, high fence and a very narrow street. Beyond this to the N, on the beach area at a distance of 200 yards and less were large concrete bunkers housing coast defense guns, incapable however, of being rotated for firing to the S. Lt. Tanner was directed to blow up small rail road carts on the RR with HE in order to bring fire to bear on the concrete bunkers. Fields of fire were cleared but the AP shots glanced off the bunkers after considerable firing.

In an effort to bring flanking fire to bear on the positions, the company commander moved S to the cross street and dispatched the 2nd section of the 3rd platoon to the W and N around the Hotel Atlantic to the street end.

Meanwhile the 2nd platoon under Lt. Jones had engaged in cleaning out strong points S of the of the main artery thru the city and by mid afternoon the 3rd platoon on the bluffs above was alerted for movement into the city, and the 1st platoon was sent back to the bluffs to resupply with ammunition and gas. During the exchange period, 57MM AT guns were wheeled into the tank positions and brought to bear on the fortifications. The 3rd platoon arrived on the scene at approximately 1400 and was placed in position to bring fire on the coastal defenses. From approximately 1430 to 1630 heavy artillery fire from the Port Deroule fell on the tank positions. At that time the concerted fires from the tanks and AT guns forced a surrender of the coastal positions. Just prior to dark the 2nd and 3rd platoons and the command section went into bivouac as of the previous night.

The following day was spent in mopping up operations. Company was relieved of attachment from the 79th Infantry Division on 27 June reverting to Battalion control at Teutherville Hague where maintenance and vehicles and resting of personnel was undertaken. On 28 June the 1st platoon of Company A joined one platoon of Company B and C under Company B control and moved into Cape de la Hague to mop up the remaining enemy troops and installations. The attack carried along the Beaumont Hague-Joburg highway into Joburg. This composite force remained active in the cape until the night of June 30 July 1 when all opposition ceased.

Meanwhile the balance of the company undergoing 1st echelon maintenance and personnel care, moved from Teutherville Hague to vicinity Flatmonville Hague staying there the night of the 29th. On 30 June the balance of company moved to vicinity of St Creix Hague at 0323 remaining there throughout the period.

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Company B.

At 0800 on 11 June Capt. Pay went to the regimental CP of the 357th Infantry of the 90th Infantry Division to which Company B was attached to get the tactical situation and how the regimental commander wanted to use the armor. The regimental CP seemed to have a defeatist attitude as they had been having rough going. They were undecided as to what to do with the tanks. Capt. Pay suggested a tactical employment of them but it did not suit the infantry. The company of tanks was called to the vicinity of the CP and they went under cover in an orchard at 299963. Major Yeatts, Battalion Executive Officer, came to the regimental CP with the platoon leaders and their suggestions also were not accepted by infantry officers. The advance of the infantry front lines was held up all throughout the day by enemy mortar fire. General Collins, VII Corps CG, called at the CP and urged immediate action by the doughs. Late in the afternoon the infantry decided to jump off with 3rd platoon, Lt. Rainer's in support. The attack jumped off at 1600 and the tanks mopped up several MG nests and killed many infantrymen. The friendly infantry failed to stay with the tanks and did not advance. As the day began to get dark, the tanks pulled back by order of Capt. Pay and the company moved back to the Battalion CP in vicinity of Ste Mere Eglise.

At 0700 on 12 June Company B moved into the orchard in the vicinity of 357th Infantry CP and prepared to jump off with infantry at 1200. It was decided that Lt. Hurley with the 1st platoon should support the attack. The initial objective was to move the line W of the Ettenville-Goubersville road. The enemy occupied a strong point at 275965 consisting of mortars and numerous MG's. The attack was delayed and did not jump off until 1400 hours. The tank platoon succeeded in reaching the highway but their infantry support was very weak. While the attack was going on the Asst. Corps Commander stopped and visited with Capt. Pay near regimental CP. He inquired as to what Capt. Pay thought was causing the doughs failure to move. He praised the tanks present tactical advance.

Lt. Hurley with his platoon advanced across the highway onto the objective and took his tank into a farm yard which was the heart of the enemy strong point. He inflicted heavy damage on enemy personnel and fired HE into the farm house. At this time Capt. Pay ordered Lt. Kogut's 2nd platoon forward to assist the 1st platoon in encountering this strong point. There were only 2 tanks in the 2nd platoon because 2 had been knocked out in engagements earlier in the week and Sgt. Childress had accidentally shot himself a few hours earlier. At approximately 1700 hours an enemy bazooka hit the right rear of the turret of Lt. Hurley's tank, killing him instantly and injured three members of his crew. This action brought an intense bombardment of 88MM and heavy mortar fire from the enemy, separating infantry from the tanks and disorganizing the attack. During this time the Battalion CO, Lt. Col. Hupfer, who had been listening to proceedings on the radio, advised and caused the use of considerable artillery of counterbattery nature in vicinity of Goubersville.

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At approximately 1800 Lt. Col. Hupfer, Col. Fainter, along with Asst. Division CG and Lt. Rainer visited the front lines and together made a reconnaissance and a plan to further the attack. During this time the tanks had pulled back behind the Etienneville and Goubersville road where the infantry was attempting to reorganize after the effects of the enemy shelling. The plan resulting from the reconnaissance of the officers was to have the tanks flank from both sides the enemy strong point and support the infantry by fire. S/Sgt. Pete Lain was now in command of the 1st platoon having joined the other two, recrossed the highway despite difficult terrain, completing their mission. All three platoons then withdrew as planned, the infantry holding the highway. Captain Pay then took his company back to their original assembly area near Ste Mere Eglise.

On 13 June the company remained in bivouac area throughout the entire day and was not committed. The 1st platoon was reorganized after the loss of Lt. Hurley the day before. 1st and 2nd echelon of maintenance was performed on all the tanks as they had not had an opportunity to do such since before D-Day as the unit had been committed each day prior to this time.

On 14 June, as the day before the company was not committed, but the maintenance of the tanks continued. The two platoons leaders along with Captain Pay made a reconnaissance late in the afternoon of probable areas that the tanks might be used during the coming days activities. By this time after two days of non-commitment the tank crews were rested and eager for further action.

On 15 June the company was attached to the 9th Infantry Division and worked in direct support with them in their attack. Captain Pay working directly with Maj. General Eddie at the Division forward CP. The general moved this CP with his front line troops at all times. Company B with 2 platoons, 2nd and 3rd in assault and 1st in close support, supported attacks of the Division through the lines of the 90th Division in a NW direction toward Orglandes. Difficult terrain hampered the speed of attack as well as did quantities of enemy automatic weapons. A threatened armor attack by the enemy did not materialize. The attack was successful however as they moved approximately 1000 yards and took the objective which was the high ground overlooking the town of Orglandes. It was during this attack that a German infantryman managed to get close enough to Lt. Kogut's tank to toss potato masher type hand grenades at the opening in the turret of the tank. Kogut was for several minutes kept busy batting these grenades with his hands in order to keep them out of the turret. Finally Sgt. Garcia's tank who was supporting Lt. Kogut's tank by fire, relieved his platoon leader of his busy task by doing away with the bothersome fat Kraut. After the infantry had firmly established the ground, Captain Pay called his tanks back and they returned to their bivouac area near Ste Mere Eglise.

At 0800 on 16 June the 3rd platoon with left flank protection

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by 1st platoon Company D, supported the infantry attack toward Orglandes. This platoon moved forward about 400 yards to positions about 800 yards S of Orglandes shelling the town from 1400 to 1600 hours. The main target being a steeple that the enemy was thought to have observation from. They then withdrew, resupplied with ammunition, to coordinate attack with 1st Battalion, 39th Infantry in taking the town. Capt. Langston, Battalion S-3, acted as liaison between the infantry and the tanks to help coordinate the attack. Jumping off at 1900 the platoon being led by Lt. Rainer, entered the town ahead of the infantry. The platoon lost one tank during this attack, by running over a land mine. The platoon held the town until entrance of two infantry companies. During this operation Lt. Kogut's 2nd platoon was detached from the company and supported elements of the 60th Infantry from the vicinity of Reigneville 235969 NW to Ste Colombe 201986. During this action an entire enemy platoon was overrun and killed. It was evident from position of the bodies that the officer in the rear was forcing the enemy troops to fight. The officer's gun was still in his hand while many of the troops ahead of him were later found to be without arms. The platoon took the town but was unable to hold it due to lack of infantry and so withdrew to positions 1000 yards SE thereof and shelled it while infantry reinforcements took over the ground. When nightfall came the 1st and 3rd platoons dropped back only a few hundred yards and spent the night there. The 2nd platoon did not return but stayed with the elements of the 60th Infantry who were pushing toward the W Coast.

On 17 June the 2nd platoon moved to Blandamour 163980 to support elements of the 60th Infantry in an advance to La Veldecie which was taken against light opposition. Reorganizing at this position with the infantry, Lt. Kogut's platoon advanced toward Barneville Sur-Mer in an effort to cut the peninsula from E. to W. In this operation the tanks were not employed tactically but moved in road march fashion straight down the highway with infantrymen on the tanks. Much opposition was met but no mopping up was done. The mission was to reach the ocean and cut the peninsula. Lt. Kogut's platoon of tanks were the only tanks in this task force. During the advance the platoon overtook and destroyed four (4) 88MM guns complete with their movers and two (2) 203MM AT guns, all of which were retreating. Tank cannon HE placed in the moving convoy drove the crews away from their pieces and permitted their destruction. No attempt was made by the enemy to place their guns in action. The balance of the company moved back from their forward bivouac area near Orglandes to the area they had been in the past week near Ste Mere Eglise. The 1st and 3rd platoons were inactive other than for this move the remainder of the day.

On 18 June the 1st and 3rd platoons were not committed during the day. At 1800 Captain Pay moved the company less the 2nd platoon into the 60th Infantry zone of action at 060080 preparatory to further advances on the 19th. The 2nd platoon with elements of the 60th Infantry had succeeded in reaching Barneville and taking it, thus effecting the severing of the peninsula. Lt. Kogut's tanks were the first American

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equipment and men to enter the city. They went in with guns firing. It was about dark when they first entered the city limits. If the peninsula had been a few miles wider he never would have made it because all his tanks were about out of gas. Supplies could not adequately keep up with the task force because they moved so speedily.

On 19 June the 1st and 3rd platoons supported the advance of the 60th Infantry on St Germain La Gaillard and Grosville 047092. With the 2nd Battalion of the 60th Infantry the 3rd platoon attacked and occupied Le Damet 030140. Both of these platoons ran up against heavy enemy opposition. There were several SP guns and much enemy artillery came in on them. Two SP guns were positively knocked out by the 3rd platoon. The 2nd platoon remained all day in Barneville awaiting reinforcements to hold the town. Kogut's men did not mind this detail however, as each tank crew managed to procure a few bottles of wine and cognac.

On 20 June the 3rd platoon supported elements of the 60 from Le Damet at 0800 towards 012242 which was taken at 1300. The platoon then withdrew to hill at 016213 and after coordinating an attack with the infantry took Gouberville 030210 at 1900. The 1st platoon remained in reserve all day. S/Sgt. Lain is still in command of the platoon. On this day the 2nd platoon returned from its gallant march to the sea. The men were pretty tired after making the long return trip from Barneville, but their morale was very high. This platoon went into reserve along with the 1st platoon. This platoon did not lose a man or a tank all the way across to Barneville or back.

On 21 June all three of the platoons were committed with the 60th Infantry in an attempt to take the ground N of Flottemanville-Hague. Advancement was made but the going was slow because the enemy was putting every effort possible and from good dug in positions, to stop the advance of the 9th Division to the outskirts of Cherbourg. It was during this period in the campaign that Lt. Rainer was evacuated because of battle fatigue. He was suffering from internal hemorrhages of the brain. S/Sgt. Bechard then assumed command of the 3rd platoon. It was on this day that the peep in which 1st Lt. Marvin L. Weeks, MO, was riding hit a land mine and Lt. Weeks received a compound fracture of one of his legs, causing his evacuation. At the time of the accident he was going forward to evacuate a tank belonging to another company in the Battalion. The accident happened on the road N. of Flottemanville-Hague.

On 22 June Lt. Charles Coates joined Company B as a replacement officer and Capt. Pay immediately put him in command of the 1st platoon who had been operating without an officer since Lt. Hurley had been killed. Also on this day Lt. Jack Cleary joined the company and was put in command of the 3rd platoon which used to be commanded by Lt. Rainer. On this day all 3 platoons were committed with the 60th Infantry N of Flottemanville-Hague, pushing toward Cherbourg. Company B was now about five miles from Cherbourg. The enemy opposition was increas-

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ing in intensity as numerous concrete pillboxes and dug in permanent defense positions were encountered. The men were becoming fatigued because of the necessity of all the platoons to be committed at one time, leaving none in reserve. The battle for Cherbourg is now in its initial phases.

On the 23 June the battle for Cherbourg still raged with all three platoons committed against the enemy. Many AT guns were encountered. Company B lost no tanks to the enemy and knocked out 6 pillboxes and at least one self-propelled gun. Also two German staff cars were hit. Then enemy threw in on our tanks several barrages of Nebelwerfers. The battle was still going on the the region N of Flottemanville-Hague. The tanks of Company B moved up to about four miles from Cherbourg at which point the 60th Infantry dug in in order to establish a defensive situation. It was on this day that Lt. Wm. Carter joined the company as a MO to replace Lt. Weeks who had been injured a few days previous. Also on this day Lt. Burkhart joined the company as an extra officer. Capt. Pay decided to use him as a "leg man" with a main mission to keep the tank platoons supplied with water, rations, ammunition and gasoline.

On 24 June everything remained more or less stable. The 60th Infantry to which Company B was still attached did not attempt to advance. Lt. Kogut's 2nd platoon was in such a position they could drop 75's into the city of Cherbourg. They did this from time to time throughout the day. This was the only activity that took place as far as the tank platoons were concerned. There was a little excitement however around the regimental CP where Capt. Pay spent most of his time. At about 1300 twenty friendly aircraft strafed the CP killing several of the American soldiers. At that particular time Capt. Pay was at the regimental aid station having his foot treated. He had been having trouble with an infected foot for the past week or so. All the aid men as well as all of the personnel hit for their fox holes when the attack came. Capt. Pay was left stranded in the open with his sore foot in a bucket of hot water. He survived the attack unharmed however.

On 25 June Company B shifted to support of the 47th Infantry Regiment and moved to the outskirts of Cherbourg at 100239 encountering and taking AT guns and fortified positions enroute. The 1st platoon was working with the 1st Battalion, the 2nd platoon worked with the 2nd Battalion and the 3rd platoon worked with the 3rd Battalion. Each platoon entered the city from three different streets which eventually would lead to the heart of the city. It was on this day that Captain Pay and Capt. Scott then Battalion S-4 took a 2 1/2 ton truck loaded with ammunition and gasoline into the city and supplied the three platoons of tanks while they were actually fighting. While they were in the process of refueling one of the tanks, a German opened up with a MG and nearly hit the crews. The EG did not fire again because a round of 75 was dropped in his position.

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REPORT

On 26 June the three platoons moved deeper into the city. They moved to the center of the city destroying all resistance to that point except the arsenal. The city garrison surrendered at 2245 hours. Lt. Kogut lost one tank in this operation. An AT gun firing from a heavily fortified emplacement knocked it out. News writer Ernie Pyle saw this action and visited with the members of the crew. He wrote the incident up in two different articles which were published in papers carrying his regular column. During the intense street fighting the French civilians were giving out generous portions of wine and cognac to the soldiers. Many civilians were killed because of this carelessness.

By the morning of the 27th all of the city was in our hands except the highly fortified arsenal. At 0600 the three platoons of Company B moved up to shell the arsenal before they would withdraw, allowing our air support to bomb the fort at 1000 hours. After the tanks fired but before time for the air bombing the general in charge of the German fortifications said that he would surrender the fort only if we would show our forces. So Lt. Kogut's platoon of tanks moved up to the gates of the arsenal and actually stuck the tank guns into the doors of the fortifications. This convinced the general that we had force and he surrendered his entire command. Company B tankers were among the first American soldiers to actually enter the fort after the white flag was waved. At noon there was a victorious parade through the streets of Cherbourg with tanks of Company B participating. At 1500 hours the company withdrew from the city, reverting to Battalion control in the vicinity of Teutherville-Hague. The tankers feeling very victorious and also some of them feeling the effects of the Cherbourg wine, brought with them a captured German command car and a liberated French tank. These bits of equipment were later turned into Battalion S-4 section.

On 28 June the day was spent in much needed maintenance. The tanks were badly in need of 1st and 2nd echelon of maintenance. It was on this day that the company residue consisting of company mess, supply and company headquarters joined the company. They had landed on Utah beach several days earlier but had just caught up with the tanks outside of Cherbourg.

Following the day of maintenance and on the 29th a composite force consisting of the 1st platoon of Company A, commanded by Lt. Tanner, and the 3rd platoon of Company B, commanded by Lt. Cleary, both under the direct control of Capt. Pay, moved out in support of the 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the 47th Infantry in attacks from the W of Cherbourg to Nacqueruille 066266. The purpose of this task force was to completely clean up the remainder of the Cherbourg peninsula. During this operation Lt. Tanner had one of his tanks disabled because of enemy mines.

On 30 June the 1st platoon Company A under Capt. Pay's control advanced with the 3rd Battalion 47th Infantry to Gruchy 232266, encountering pillboxes and mortar positions. The 3rd platoon Company B ad-

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vanced to Nacquerville to Greville 014278 encountering pillboxes, mobile AT guns and minefields. One tank was put out of action from a direct mortar hit. The turret being damaged by this hit. The 1st platoon Company B supported reserve 1st infantry battalion but was not committed to action. Opposition ceased on the night of 30 June and the cape was cleared and completely ours.

Company C.

Following its support of the 82nd A/B Division during Phase II, the company was in need of reorganization and refitting. The critical period from 6 June through 9 June with the 82nd had seriously curtailed the fighting ability of the company by reason of severe losses in key platoon leaders, key NCO's and tanks.

During the ensuing 2 weeks from 11 June to 24 June the company under 1st Lt. James R. Shields remained in 9th Infantry Division Reserve, except for limited missions, undergoing the rehabilitation program.

The two remaining platoons of the company alternated with platoons of Company B during the latter part of the two week period in the drive N toward Cherbourg.

When not committed in these limited assignments, the company marched with and bivouaced with the Battalion Forward CP and Headquarters Company.

On 24 June, 1st Lt. A. S. Hydrick assumed command of Company C when the remaining two platoons of the company were relieved from duty with Company B. The area of fighting at this time was in the vicinity of 311218. The two platoons of Company C were commanded by 1st Lt. James R. Shields and 2nd Lt. Butler.

Upon relief from Company B the remnants of Company C were pulled into an assembly area for a rapid reorganization. On 24 June the company was attached to 39th Infantry. The tank platoons were to be attached to the infantry battalions for the assault on the suburban town of Octeville and then the assault on Cherbourg. As the situation developed, the tank company commander in accordance with the regimental commanders orders, kept the tank company intact. On 25 June the company moved into an assembly area for the night. During the day of 25 June the high road on the edge of the town of Octeville was subjected to heavy enemy artillery indirect and direct fire from the E. One tank received a direct artillery hit in which three members of the crew were instantly killed and the remaining two members of the crew seriously wounded. No enemy actually engaged during the day. Morale of the company was poor.

On the morning of 26 June one section of tanks of 1st platoon moved to the main highway leading into the city of Cherbourg and fired

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on enemy AT guns and dug in positions, pillboxes etc that were holding up the advance of the infantry. All enemy installations were destroyed and the fire was placed on the hill into the port of Cherbourg itself. MG and cannon fire was so heavy from the tanks that approximately 200 enemy soldiers surrendered. 1 AT gun was knocked out and approximately 6 enemy MG's were destroyed. The tanks were then pulled back into the assembly area. The reduction of this major obstacle enabled the infantry to advance and capture their assigned section of the town of Cherbourg by 1800 that night. At about 1400 in the afternoon of 26 June one tank platoon was attached to one of the infantry Battalions of the 39th and went into the town of Cherbourg at about 1600. One other tank platoon (1st) was kept in supporting position on main road from Octeville into Cherbourg. The 3rd platoon remained in reserve. During the afternoon of the 26th the 2nd platoon assaulted enemy pillboxes in the heart of the town and they placed heavy fire on the CP of the CG of the enemy garrison in the town. At about 1030 on the 27th the commander of the enemy forces in the town was offered a truce to see our strength. He looked over our tanks, TD's and infantry units and then surrendered his garrison forces to the CO, 3rd Battalion, 39th Infantry.

All tank platoons were pulled back into an assembly area in the vicinity of 313222. The company CP of the 3rd Battalion was in the 345225, the former headquarters of Admiral Hennecke, former naval commander in the military port of Cherbourg.

On the morning of 27 June the company was relieved from attachment to 39th and reverted to control of 746th Tank Battalion.

During the Cherbourg operation it is estimated that Company C inflicted the following casualties on the enemy:

200 prisoners - captured CO German garrison in Cherbourg
4 AT guns
6 pillboxes

While awaiting relief on 27 June the men of the company found a warehouse used for supply of the German troops, containing clothing, radios, cigars, alcoholic beverages, etc.

The company reverted to control of Battalion and moved from Cherbourg to a Battalion assembly area in the vicinity of 305216.

On the 28th June the company was attached to the 60th Infantry for the purpose of mopping up enemy resistance in the Cape de la Hague Peninsula. Two of the tank platoons were attached to the two assault infantry battalions. These two assault battalions were to attack to the center sector of the drive up the peninsula with units of the 4th Cavalry Group on the left and the 47th Infantry on the right. The 3rd platoon of the company remained in the company assembly area for maintenance of tanks. At about 1300 the platoon leader of the 3rd platoon operating in the left of the main highway lost his tank by mine action

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in the vicinity of 299226. He took command of another tank from which a tank commander was relieved and returned to the company rear area. On 29 June the attack jumped off from the vicinity of St Croix Hague 305224 which was the LD. The 1st objective was the town of Joburg. The two assault battalions were employed on each side of the road and advanced forward to a point 1 mile SE of Beaumont Hague where enemy resistance stiffened and the advance of our troops was hindered by a large tank ditch. The day's operation saw little enemy resistance. Several pillboxes and small calibre AT guns were destroyed by our tanks. Also several MG nests which held up the infantry.

On the morning of 30 June after engineers had filled in the ditch during the night, the tank company advanced with the 2nd battalion toward Beaumont Hague. The company was on the road and advancing with the 3rd platoon as advance guard. Infantry rifle companies of the 2nd Battalion were on each side of the road. Minor skirmishes were engaged in by the tank advance guard which was about 100 yards ahead of the forward infantry elements. After firing up a large amount of small calibre and large calibre ammunition the 3rd platoon began to run low on ammunition. They also burnt out several MG's which had to be replaced in the heat of battle. While the company was advancing forward slowly, a call came for one platoon of tanks to be attached to the 3rd Battalion which was advancing on the right. In the meantime the 3rd platoon of tanks had joined the company in the forward assembly area during the night. When the call for a platoon of tanks came from the 3rd Battalion, the support platoon of the company was ordered to report to 3rd Battalion CO at 297228 for orders. The reserve platoon then moved to the supporting position of the company. The platoon leader then moved his platoon forward as the platoon leader of the advance guard called back this his tanks were running out of ammunition. The support platoon was then ordered to pass through the advance guard or assault platoon and continue the attack. This was accomplished with no confusion and the fresh platoon of tanks went into the attack with such "drive" and vigor that the final objective was taken within an hour. During this advance forward from the original LD to the final objective, several enemy tanks were engaged and several enemy AT guns were engaged. Also many infantry were killed by the heavy vehicle MG fire which also kept our infantry casualties at a very low number.

The final objective, Joburg was taken by the 2nd Battalion at approximately 1600. At about 1800 the 3rd Battalion on the right joined the 2nd Battalion at which time the entire tank company was assembled together. An all around defense was set up in the town of Joburg for the night. Enemy coastal guns shelled the area intermittently during the day and night but by morning a friendly force on our left had destroyed these guns.

Company D.

On 12 June the company was attached to the 358th Infantry Regiment of the 90th Infantry Division. The 1st and 3rd platoons were committed

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on the left flank of the Division sector in supporting troops toward Etienville.

The company moved from the Battalion bivouac at 322957 vicinity Ste Mere Eglise and made contact with the regiment NW of Picouville. The platoons advanced to the outskirts of Etienville but were unable to go farther because of intense enemy AT and artillery fire. Toward the close of day, they returned to bivouac vicinity Ste Mere Eglise where they remained until the 16th.

On 16 June the company protected the left flank of Company B in the attack and capture of Orglandes.

The opportunity for employment of the light tanks did not present itself during the rest of the phase and the company marched with the Battalion Forward CP and remained in 9th Division reserve employed on road block missions covering critical zones and avenues of approach in the drive N to clean out the peninsula.

Service Company.

The elements of Service Company which landed on D-Day and on D plus 1 continued to service the Battalion during the phase. On the 17th June the balance of Service Company landed which helped considerably in the efficient hauling of the Battalions needs.

The fuel and lubricant section, the ammunition section and part of the maintenance platoon which were landed initially accomplished prodigious amounts of work during the Battalions fight in the seizure of the peninsula.

These elements for the most part maintained dumps with or very close to the Battalion Forward CP positions all through the campaign, shuttling the supplies from the beach head.

Evacuation by Battalion Maintenance elements was effective under all conditions. The considerable losses which the Battalion sustained during the phase were recovered and repair work within the battalion echelon carried on effectively in spite of the distances between companies which frequently was great.

For the Commanding Officer:

Loveaire A. Hedges

LOVEAIRE A. HEDGES,
Major, Cavalry,
Unit Historian.

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HEADQUARTERS 746TH TANK BATTALION
 AND 230, U. S. ARMY

16 January 1945

VEHICLE LOSSES DURING MONTH OF JUNE

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>LOST IN COMBAT</u>	<u>LOST F. O. O.</u>	<u>WAS NOT REPLACED</u>
TANK, Medium, M4 (75MM Gun)	20	3	1
TANK, Lt. M5A1	1		
CARRIER, 81MM Mortar		2	
CARRIER, Pers. Half-Track, M3A1		1	
TRUCK, 2 1/2-Ton 6 x 6	1	1	
TRUCK, 1/4-Ton, 4 x 4	1	2	

Olaf E. Becker
 OLAF E. BECKER
 CAPT, U. S. A.
 Asst. S - 4

ANNEX II

LOSSES IN ACTION

6 Jun 44 to
30 Jun 44

OFFICERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>TYPE CAS</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Mercer, Joe M.,	1st Lt.	KIA	6 Jun 44
Plagge, Harold N.,	2nd Lt.	SWA	9 Jun 44
Crawford, James A.,	Capt.	KIA	9 Jun 44
Hurley, Irving N.,	1st Lt.	KIA	12 Jun 44
Rainer, Jr., Joe H.,	2nd Lt.	SIA	19 Jun 44
Weeks, Marvin L.,	1st Lt.	SWA	23 Jun 44

ENLISTED MEN

Fogle, Paul F.,	Tec 4	SWA	6 Jun 44
Farmer, Marvin R.,	Cpl	SWA	6 Jun 44
Doncet, Willard M.,	Tec 5	SWA	6 Jun 44
Van Meter, Sidney E.,	Pfc	KIA	6 Jun 44
Potter, Wayland G.,	Sgt.	SWA	6 Jun 44
O'Malley, Bernard H.,	Pvt	KIA	6 Jun 44
Maguffee, Henry B.,	Tec 5	KIA	6 Jun 44
Harmon, Ewell E.,	Tec 4	LWA	7 Jun 44
Cox, Jr., George A.,	Sgt	SWA	7 Jun 44
Riden, Victor B.,	Cpl	LWA	7 Jun 44
Martin, Arthur E.,	Pfc	SWA	7 Jun 44
Maine, Roger M.,	Pfc	MIA	7 Jun 44
Wilson, Arlin W.,	Cpl	KIA	7 Jun 44
Krasulick, Michael (NMI),	S/Sgt	LWA	7 Jun 44
Veale, William R, II,	Cpl	LWA	8 Jun 44
Prokoryn, Chester F.,	Tec 4	SWA	8 Jun 44
Happ, Dan C.,	Pvt	SWA	9 Jun 44
Hill, Dewey D.,	Tec 4	KIA	9 Jun 44
Carrell, Palmer (NMI),	Pvt	MIA	9 Jun 44
Turner, William B.,	Tec 5	SWA	9 Jun 44
Oren, Donald E.,	Pfc	SWA	9 Jun 44
Milan, Thomas A.,	Sgt	KIA	9 Jun 44
Holland, Joseph M.,	Pfc	KIA	10 Jun 44
Epps, Jess M.,	Pfc	SWA	10 Jun 44
Brown, Woodrow W.,	Tec 5	SWA	10 Jun 44
Barnes, Lawrence R.,	S/Sgt	SWA	10 Jun 44
Thomas, Roscoe (NMI),	Sgt	LWA	10 Jun 44
Terrell, James F.,	Tec 4	LWA	10 Jun 44
Lawton, Donald A.,	Pvt	SWA	10 Jun 44
Mitchell, Charles H.,	Pvt	LWA	11 Jun 44
Simmons, James R.,	Pvt	LWA	12 Jun 44
Campbell, Leroy (NMI),	Cpl	LWA	12 Jun 44
Moore, Aaron E.,	Pfc	SWA	13 Jun 44
Lillegard, Floyd H.,	Pfc	MIA	14 Jun 44
Reese, William H.,	Cpl	SIA	15 Jun 44
Rainey, Kelten G.,	S/Sgt	SWA	15 Jun 44
Guest, Verdie M., Jr.,	Tec 5	LWA	15 Jun 44
Gill, Joe D.,	Pvt	SWA	15 Jun 44
Friend, Oscar L.,	Pvt	SWA	15 Jun 44
Melasky, Max J.,	Cpl	SWA	15 Jun 44

Annex II - Losses in Action
 6 Jun 44 to 30 Jun 44 (Cont'd)

UNLISTED MEN

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>TYPE CASE</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Perushok, John R.,	Pvt	SWA	17 Jun 44
Mills, Sloan E.,	Tec 5	LNA	17 Jun 44
Baird, Marvin (NMI),	Sgt.	SWA	19 Jun 44
Parker, William M.,	Pvt	SWA	20 Jun 44
Free, John H.,	Tec 4	KIA	21 Jun 44
Moore, Cecil R. †	Pfc	SWA	22 Jun 44
Popst, Douglas K.,	Sgt.	SWA	22 Jun 44
Brady, Harold W.,	Pvt	SWA	23 Jun 44
Hughes, John T.,	Sgt	SWA	23 Jun 44
Shalek, James A.,	Tec 5	LNA	23 Jun 44
King, Tommie L.,	Opl	KIA	26 Jun 44
DeVault, Kenneth W.,	Pvt	KIA	26 Jun 44
Nelson, Homer (NMI)	Sgt	SWA	26 Jun 44
McCulloch, Rulon J.,	Pvt	SWA	26 Jun 44
McGinn, Joe G.,	Tec 4	KIA	26 Jun 44
Berry, Donald F.,	Pvt	SWA	27 Jun 44

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vanced to Nacquer ville to Greville 014278 encountering pillboxes, mobile AT guns and minefields. One tank was put out of action from a direct mortar hit. The turret being damaged by this hit. The 1st platoon Company B supported reserve 1st infantry battalion but was not committed to action. Opposition ceased on the night of 30 June and the cape was cleared and completely ours.

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On the morning of 26 June one section of tanks of 1st platoon moved to the main highway leading into the city of Cherbourg and fired

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HEAD QUARTERS 740TH TANK BATTALION
APO # 230 U. S. ARMY.

*Coa
16 Aug 44*

10 August 1944

317-1

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

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington D. C.,
(Through - The CG, VII Corps, APO # 307, U. S. Army).

1. In compliance with paragraph 10, AR 345-105, as changed by changes #3, the following report is submitted for 740th Tank Battalion, for July 1944.

a. ORIGINAL UNIT: 740th Tank Battalion.

b. CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION: Battalion Attachments:
1 July - 5 July, VII Corps.
5 July - 15 July, 83rd Inf. Div.
15 July - 16 July, VII Corps.
16 July - 31 July, 9th Inf. Div.

c. STRENGTH: 1 July 45 Officers 3 Warrant Off 781 E
31 July 37 Officers 3 Warrant Off 667 E
Net Decrease 122

d. STATIONS: 1 July to 5 July - Vic, STE PIERRE EGLISE.
5 July to 9 July - Vic, CAARENTAN.
9 July to 13 July - Vic, le VARESMIL.
13 July to 18 July - Vic, St GEORGES-de BOHND.
18 July to 26 July - Vic, HIRSHOU.
26 July to 29 July - Vic, CDE HARELL.
29 July to 31 July - Vic, MARIGNY.

e. MARCHES: Not applicable.

f. CAMPAIGNS:
(1) Name of: Operations in Normandy.
(2) Duration: 1 July to 31 July 1944.
(3) Purpose: To drive enemy out of Normandy Peninsula.
(4) Authority ordering: VII Corps.

g. BATTLES: See Annex #1.

h. COMMANDING OFFICER IN IMPORTANT ENGAGEMENTS:
1 July to 31 July 1944 - Lt. Col. Clarence G. Hupfer.

10 APR 1944
5048

i. LOSSES IN ACTION: See Annex #2.

j. FORMER AND PRESENT MEMBERS WHO HAVE DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES IN ACTION:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>COMPANY</u>	<u>RECOMMENDED FOR</u>
Jones, Herbert F.	Cpl.	"C"	Distinguished Service Cross
Beatty, Charles G.	2nd Lt.	"D"	Silver Star
St. Germain, Harry N.	Sgt.	"D"	Silver Star
Griffin, Chester	Pfc.	"D"	Silver Star
Benson, Paul C.	Pvt.	Hq.	Silver Star
Butler, Harry L.	2nd Lt.	"C"	Bronze Star Medal
Chapman, Joseph E.	2nd Lt.	"C"	Bronze Star Medal

k. PHOTOGRAPHS: None.

Clarence G. Huffer
CLARENCE G. HUFFER
Lt. Col., Cavalry,
Commanding.

l. Incls.

- Annex 1
- Annex 2
- Unit Journal
- Vehicle losses
- CO #1, 740th Tr. Bn
- CO #40, Hq. VII Corps
- CO #11, 54th Evac. Hosp.
- CO #30, 4th Inf. Div.
- CO #5, 2nd Gen. Hosp.
- CO #1, 4th Conv. Hosp.
- CO #5, 4th Conv. Hosp. (Par. 2).
- CO #3, 4th Conv. Hosp. (Par. 9).

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BATTLE REPORT FOR MONTH OF JULY 1944.

The period opened on 1 July with the Battalion relieved from the 9th Infantry Division and placed under VII Corps control. The Battalion moved to an area near SILLONVILLE for the purpose of reorganizing, refitting and rest. On 4 July, six assault guns (105 mm) were drawn and issued, three to the assault gun platoon, and one to each company. On 5 July the Battalion was attached to the 3rd Infantry Division and moved to the vicinity of CAPE-NTAN, relieving a Battalion of the 66th Armored Regiment. From 5 July to 10 July, Battalion supported the 83rd Infantry Divisions drive S to HOTOT and slightly beyond. This period was characterized by heavy tank losses on our part. Coordination with and follow-up by the infantry was very poor because of conflicting orders, not knowing where infantry troops were, and infantry troops being unseasoned. Battalion supported the 83rd Infantry Divisions advance to SAINTENY, and on 15 July, was relieved from attachment to the 83rd Infantry Division, and reverted to VII Corps Control. On 16 July Battalion was attached to 9th Infantry Division, and Battalion assembled for reorganization and maintenance. On 17 July, CP and combat echelons joined 9th Infantry Division in vicinity of TRIDREOU. Battalion supported 9th Infantry Divisions advance S of TRIDREOU and ESCLEDES until 25 July. An intense and heavy concentration of bombs from heavy and medium bombers dropped on enemy installations and positions on 25 July, followed by twenty (20) minutes of heavy artillery barrage. The infantry and tanks advanced behind the artillery barrage, but met up with stiff enemy resistance. One officer KIA from allied bombing. The Battalion moved forward with the 9th Infantry Division to KOTENY, LA JAMICRE, and SAINTENY and on 29 July moved to rest area three miles SE of MARIIGNY for refitting, reorganization and maintenance and remained at that location until 31 July, 1944, the end of the period.

Clarence G. Huffer
 CLARENCE G. HUFFER
 Lt. Col., Cavalry,
 Commanding 746th Tk. Bn.

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319.1/401C
(10 Aug 44)

1st Indorsement

FFF/fw

HEADQUARTERS 6TH ARMORED GROUP, APO # 230, U. S. Army, 13th August, 1944:

TO: The Commanding General, Headquarters VII Corps, APO # 307, U. S. Army.

1. Approved.

For the Commanding Officer:

Robert S. Begien
ROBERT S. BEGIEN,
Major (Cav) Armd Comd
Armd Section

Incls
n/c

475

319.1

2d Ind

K

HEADQUARTERS VII CORPS, A.P.O. 307, U.S. Army,

TO: The Adjutant General, Washington, D.C. (THRU: Commanding General, First U.S. Army, A.P.O. 230, U.S. Army).

C. A. A.
C. A. A.

Incls: - n/o

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ANNEX II

LOSSES IN ACTION

1 July 1944 to 31 July 44

RESTRICTED

OFFICERS

<u>Name</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>TYPE CAS</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Kogut, Frank (NMI)	2nd Lt	SWA	9 July 1944
Hydrick, Augustus S.	1st Lt	SWA	10 July 1944
Payne, Houston (NMI)	2nd Lt	SWA	10 July 1944
Butler, Harry M.	2nd Lt	KIA	16 July 1944
Burchhard, Frank A.	1st Lt	LIA	17 July 1944
Campbell, Joseph F.	2nd Lt	SWA	25 July 1944

ENLISTED MEN

Madden, Howard H.	Tec 4	SWA	2 July 1944
Bahrken, Andrew V.	Tec 5	SWA	2 July 1944
Garcia, Leonel (NMI)	Sgt	SIA	4 July 1944
Landry, Spencer (NMI)	Sgt	SWA	5 July 1944
Moore, Paul E.	Tec 5	SWA	5 July 1944
Hardy, Jr., William E.	Sgt	SIA	6 July 1944
Zeise, Everett L.	Cpl	LWA	6 July 1944
Schiavfo, Carmine D.	Pvt	SWA	6 July 1944
Skinner, J.P. (I.O.)	Pfc	SWA	6 July 1944
Walter, Edwin O.	Pvt	LWA	6 July 1944
Sikorski, John L.	Pvt	LWA	6 July 1944
Gibson, James S.	Pvt	LWA	7 July 1944
Curcione, Jerry J.	Pfc	LIA	7 July 1944
Davis, Coy E.	Pfc	SWA	7 July 1944
Hinte, John O.	Tec 5	SWA	7 July 1944
James, William A.	Pvt	KIA	7 July 1944
Ray, Henry E.	Pvt	LWA	7 July 1944
Reel, Walter (NMI)	Pvt	KIA	7 July 1944
Zillner, William F.	Sgt	KIA	7 July 1944
Gustafson, Roy O.	Pfc	KIA	7 July 1944
Gorfin, William D.	Pvt	SWA	8 July 1944
Marino, Joseph (NMI)	Pvt	KIA	8 July 1944
Pine, Jr., William (NMI)	Pvt	SWA	8 July 1944
Miller, Roy G.	Sgt	SWA	8 July 1944
Lynch, Edward L.	Pvt	SWA	8 July 1944
Kindred, Bruce S.	Pfc	KIA	8 July 1944
St. Germain, Harry N.	Sgt	SWA	8 July 1944
Smith Jr., George L.	Pvt	KIA	9 July 1944
Piotrkowski, Joseph H.	Pvt	LWA	9 July 1944
Mertes, Daniel J.	Pfc	KIA	9 July 1944
Osborn, Paul D.	S/Sgt	KIA	9 July 1944
Anthony, Peter P.	Sgt	LWA	10 July 1944
Amstutz, Ray D.	Pvt	SWA	10 July 1944
Albertson, Jack L.	Sgt	SWA	10 July 1944
Bridgham, Donald C.	Sgt	SWA	10 July 1944
Hastings, Thomas F.	Pfc	LIA	10 July 1944
Hignite, Eldon (NMI)	Pvt	LIA	10 July 1944
Kelley, Loyal V.	S/Sgt	SWA	10 July 1944
Moon, Harry L.	S/Sgt	SWA	10 July 1944
Patin, Whitney J.	Pfc	LIA	10 July 1944

ENLISTED MEN

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>TYPE CAS</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Pescetto, Sam (NMI)	Pvt	LWA	10 July 1944
Price, Clarence R.	Sgt	KIA	10 July 1944
Schulte, Edward N.	Sgt	MIA	10 July 1944
Sorenson, Johnny N.	Tec 4	SWA	10 July 1944
Farver, Higdon S.	Cpl	KIA	10 July 1944
Williams, William S.	Pvt	SWA	10 July 1944
York, Walter A.	Tec 4	KIA	10 July 1944
Baldwyn, Malvin (NMI)	Pvt	SWA	10 July 1944
Arnold, James R.	Pvt	SIA	11 July 1944
Clement, George J.	Tec 5	SIA	11 July 1944
Broman, Donald W.	Pvt	MIA	11 July 1944
Cliff, Francis E.	Pvt	KIA	11 July 1944
Coleman, Vincent R.	Pvt	SIA	11 July 1944
Draper, William J.	Cpl	SWA	11 July 1944
Gillian, David (NMI)	Pfc	SWA	11 July 1944
Gonzalez, Jacob (NMI)	Pvt	MIA	11 July 1944
Hollister, Earl D.	Pvt	MIA	11 July 1944
Howard, Elvin E.	Cpl	MIA	11 July 1944
Huckabee, Joseph B.	Pvt	SIA	11 July 1944
Johanson, Harold B.	Tec 5	KIA	11 July 1944
Kassay, Alex M. Jr.	Cpl	LIA	11 July 1944
Leonard, Wayne C.	Cpl	SWA	11 July 1944
Paggen, Victor E.	Pvt	KIA	11 July 1944
Pirog, Leo F.	Pvt	MIA	11 July 1944
Priskyl, John W.	Tec 4	SWA	11 July 1944
Bishop, Edgar W.	Cpl	KIA	11 July 1944
Boyd, Frank E.	Pvt	LWA	11 July 1944
Blue, Charles E.	S/Sgt	SWA	11 July 1944
Storey, James D.	Tec 4	KIA	11 July 1944
Vitello, Alphonse J.	Tec 4	MIA	11 July 1944
Beckard, Armond A.	S/Sgt	LIA	12 July 1944
Mayes, James R.	Cpl	KIA	14 July 1944
Raines, Charles B.	Pvt	KIA	14 July 1944
Brooks, William J.	Pvt	MIA	14 July 1944
Spode, John H. Jr.	Sgt	SWA	14 July 1944
Eberhart, Joseph C.	Cpl	KIA	15 July 1944
Baxter, June (NMI)	Pfc	KIA	15 July 1944
Weiler, Howard L.	Sgt	KIA	15 July 1944
Hunter, Fred L.	Tec 4	LWA	16 July 1944
Brown, Ireland (NMI)	Sgt	LWA	18 July 1944
Saffield, Melvin F.	T/Sgt	SWA	18 July 1944
Wilson, Roy Jr	Pvt	LWA	18 July 1944
Young, Joseph A.	Tec 4	SWA	18 July 1944
Albert, Walter A.	Pvt	SWA	19 July 1944
Bruce, Odan R.	Cpl	SWA	19 July 1944
De Bello, Peter J.	Pvt	SIA	19 July 1944
Eldridge, Roy (NMI)	Cpl	SWA	19 July 1944
Snidl, Robert C.	Sgt	KIA	19 July 1944
Murphy, Chestley E.	Pvt	LIA	20 July 1944
Jones, Charles S.	Sgt	SWA	21 July 1944

SECRET

ENLISTED MEN

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>TYPE CAS</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Larrie, Delbert S.	Pvt	SWA	21 July 1944
Williams, Andrew W.	Tec 4	SWA	21 July 1944
Wheaters, William R.	Sgt	SWA	21 July 1944
Kempinski, Louis (NMI)	Cpl	SWA	21 July 1944
Dennitt, Carl A.	Sgt	SWA	22 July 1944
Harris, Richard L.	S/Sgt	SWA	24 July 1944
Sims, Cecil (NMI) Jr.	Tec 4	SWA	24 July 1944
Bird, Herbert L.	Pvt	LWA	25 July 1944
Cochran, Ernest E.	Cpl	LWA	25 July 1944
Griffin, Chester (NMI)	Pfc	SIA	25 July 1944
Harbold, Roland J.	Cpl	SWA	25 July 1944
Jones, John P.	Tec 5	LWA	25 July 1944
Kolaczka, Edward F.	Pfc	SWA	25 July 1944
McKibbin, Gayle E.	Sgt	SWA	25 July 1944
Mashe, Joseph A.	Sgt	SWA	25 July 1944
Bell, Michael J.	Pvt	SIA	26 July 1944
Bodarka, Theodora J.	Pvt	LWA	26 July 1944
Brone Jr., William J.	Pvt	SIA	26 July 1944
Burke, William J.	Pvt	SWA	26 July 1944
Clary, James H.	Pvt	SIA	26 July 1944
Conant, Charles A.	Tec 4	SWA	26 July 1944
Cook, Middleton R.	Tec 4	SWA	26 July 1944
Creel, William N.	Pvt	LWA	26 July 1944
Crofford, Jarrell B.	Tec 5	SWA	26 July 1944
Hill, Ernest (NMI)	pvt	KIA	26 July 1944
Jines, Ralph W.	Pvt	KIA	26 July 1944
Lesko, George J.	Pvt	SWA	26 July 1944
Ogren, Ralph E.	Pvt	SWA	26 July 1944
Rogers, Harley (NMI)	Cpl	SWA	26 July 1944
Reading, Martin E.	Tec 4	SWA	26 July 1944
Reisteroffer, Leroy J.	Pvt	KIA	26 July 1944
Steinbruegge, Robert J.	Cpl	SIA	26 July 1944
Stellar, Frank P.	Tec 4	LWA	26 July 1944
Tucker, Roland G.	Pfc	KIA	26 July 1944
Turner, Wallie S.	Tec 5	LWA	27 July 1944
Horton, Tom (NMI)	Pvt	LWA	27 July 1944
McIntosh, Ovie (NMI)	Pfc	LWA	27 July 1944
McIntosh III, Franklin P.	Pfc	KIA	27 July 1944
Sutton, Lowell J.	Cpl	LWA	27 July 1944
Works, Elton D.	Pvt	LWA	27 July 1944
Wisher, Wiloy (NMI)	Pvt	LWA	28 July 1944
Royston, Jr., Thomas P.	Pvt	SWA	28 July 1944
Whitten, James O.	Pfc	LWA	28 July 1944

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS 746TH TANK BATTALION
APO 403 U. S. ARMY.

UNIT HISTORY
JULY 1944.

The close of June, 1944, saw the end of resistance in the CAPE DE LA HAGUE area NW of CHERBOURG and the defeat of all enemy troops in the Cherbourg peninsula north of a general line CARENTAN (3984), PONT L'ABBE (2693) and ST. SAUVEUR LE VICOMTE (1994).

Twenty four days of continuous fighting had brought to the battalion experience and heavy exhaustion, but July brought a snift to the south of CARENTAN and operations were far more exhausting and costly than any experienced in June. July characterized itself in many unusual ways, but notable were two:

1. The severe losses of personnel and equipment during the first 15 days of the month.
2. The breakthrough from the hedgerow country and out of the peninsula between PERIERS and ST. LO.

To facilitate discussion of the operations the month is divided into four phases:

Phase I- 1 through 4 July- Rest and recuperation from June operations.

Phase II- 5 through 15 July- the defense of CARENTAN against the enemy's attempt to retake it and split the V and VII Corps, and our slow progress forward.

Phase III- 16 through 28 July- The fight for road nets and ground to permit the massing of armor and the "breakthrough" into the French interior.

Phase IV- 29 through 31 July- Refitting after the July operations.

PHASE I
(1 through 4 July)

This phase was identical for all elements of the battalion. Following relief from attachment to the 9th Infantry Division on 1 July, the battalion reverted to control of VII Corps and moved from the Cape de la Hague area to a rest period west of STE. MERE EGLISE in the 3296 block, closing in the area during a violent rainstorm at 1700 on 1 July.

For many officers and men this provided the first opportunity since 6 June to remove their shoes, their chemically impregnated clothes, and to bathe. No showers were available but improvised bathing facilities were introduced.

Maintenance of the vehicles was paramount; the 2nd, 3rd and 4th of July were spent in their rehabilitation which included the replacements of several engines and many tracks, attention was given to individual arms and equipment.

Six 105 mm Howitzers (SP) were drawn and issued, 3 to the Assault Gun Platoon of headquarters Company and 1 to each Medium Tank Company. The six tanks previously used in lieu of these were turned in.

The short rest and rehabilitation placed the battalion in good shape from the standpoint of the men's physical and mental condition as well as the condition of the vehicles. While the needed complete refitting was not possible the vehicular condition was substantially improved.

PHASE II (5 through 15 July)

This period in the history of the battalion will long be remembered by the personnel who survived it and should find its place in the history of the Normandy Campaign as one of the critical and decisive battles of the Allied effort to break out of the peninsula and to halt the German drive on CARENTAN.

The German 6th Paratroop Division, hand picked for the job, was given the mission of retaking the communications center or CARENTAN, thus splitting the American V and VII Corps and driving a wedge between them to the sea.

The German attack hit the inexperienced 83rd Infantry Division, to which the battalion was attached on 5 July. The ensuing ten day battle raged day and night; the German effort was halted, but our forces had advanced but 5000 yards in the dirtiest, bloodiest, costliest operation to date.

Detailed discussion of this phase is hereafter taken up by individual companies.

Battalion Headquarters and Headquarters Company

Battalion Headquarters

Lt. Col. CLARENCE G. HUPFER,	Commanding Officer.
Major LYNN M. YEATTS,	Executive Officer.
Captain Robert A. HAMILTON,	S-2
Captain RICHARD H. LANGSTON,	S-3
Captain HARVEY SCOTT	S-4
1st Lt. CHARLES N. LANTZ,	S-1
2nd Lt. JOHN L. DUDLEY III,	Liaison Officer
Captain JOHN KLOOSTERMAN,	Communications Officer
W.O.J.G. PAUL W. FINNEY,	Personnel Officer.

Headquarters Company

CO- Captain Thomas J. Moshall, Jr.
Reconnaissance Platoon-1st Lt. Loutz H. Gage
Mortar Platoon- 2nd Lt. Robert M. Foley
Assault Gun Platoon-2nd Lt. Houston Payne
Maint. Officer- 2nd Lt. John D. Phillips

Following a three hour mid-night conference on the night of 4-5 July, the battalion CO on 5 July moved the battalion to an assembly area vicinity 372036, 1-1/2 miles WSW of CARENTAN. From there, in the afternoon of the 5th, Companies A, B and C, each with one platoon from Company D attached, moved to join the regiments of the 83rd Infantry Division, relieving a battalion of the 68th Armored Regiment.

Headquarters Company remained in the CP area, there being no occasion to employ the Assault Gun Platoon, Mortar Platoon, Reconnaissance Platoon, or the Tank Section of Battalion Headquarters.

The fluctuations of battle, the critical combat periods, and the intense and severe enemy attacks and defense were such during the period of attachment to the 83rd that the Battalion CO, Lt. Col. HUPFER, was compelled to spend many hours a day and night at either the divisional CP in the capacity of a special and at that time very hard worked staff officer, or assisting company commanders in their operations with the Infantry Regimental Commanders.

The employment of the tanks in a profitable and successful manner at a time when green infantry needed encouragement and strong reinforcement, was the chief concern of the battalion CO, especially as the tank commitment in this situation tended toward expenditure of armor without maximum results, particularly in localized areas where normal infantry advance was retarded by extremely heavy opposition.

During the period tank unit commanders of all grades moved forward a step in the chain of command, so to speak, in that company commanders were compelled, by the very nature of the enemy attack and resistance, to operate from infantry platoon or company CP levels, while S-3, Battalion Executive Officer, and frequently Battalion CO operated from Infantry Battalion CP levels to maintain contact and control of tank platoons attached to infantry battalions.

The battalion CP maintained its position WSW of CARENTAN from 5 July through 8 July, moving its advance elements on 9 July to new locations at (378808), closing at 2100. In this new location and in subsequent locations the CP installations were not what one would naturally consider even relatively free from activity. The very heavy shelling of our entire forward and rear areas coupled with the enemy infiltration through the frequently disorganized front lines, brought the "front" to the "rear" and frequently vice versa. During the entire period 5-15 July it was not uncommon for troops or commanders to experience as much and at times more difficulty in moving from the rear to the front or front to rear as in fighting forward to new positions.

Some, but very little, progress having been made by 11 July and severe tank losses having occurred in extremely heavy fighting, the battalion moved its forward CP to vicinity SAINTENY (350778), where it was subjected to front line conditions of A-1 priority. The bulk of the CP was left at (372836), the CO, Ex O., and S-3 only making the move to the advance position, from which more control and assistance could be effected.

On the 13th the main CP moved to (371797), the advance CP remaining at SAINTENY until the 15th, when it joined the entire battalion at (371797) upon release from the 83rd Infantry Division.

Reorganization of the battalion was urgently necessary because of the heavy vehicular and personnel losses sustained during the operations with the 83rd Division. Competent reinforcements of personnel not being available, Lt. Col. HUPFER decided to disorganize Company D to reinforce the medium companies A, B and C. This process was commenced during the refitting period of 15-16 July, and continued through the operations with the 9th Infantry Division 17-28 July.

Company A-1st Plat Company D

CO-Captain LOVEAIRE A. HEDGES,
1st Platoon-2nd Lt. Clyde C. TANNER,
2nd Platoon-2nd Lt. HUGH J. M. JONES,
3rd Platoon-2nd Lt. WILLIAM W. WOODS (5 July-8 July),
2nd Lt. JOSEPH F. CAMPBELL (9-25 July),
Sgt. Robert D. Gezon (25-31 July),
MO- 1st Lt. HENRY D. WALDING.
1st Platoon Company D-2nd Lt. COY O. PARKER.

Following the rehabilitation of 1-4 July, the Battalion moved on 5 July to positions SW of CARENTAN, the company taking an assembly position at 360837. Being attached to the 329th regiment of the 83rd Infantry Division, the Co CO moved to Regimental HQ at 380818 to discuss plans for the tank employment.

The atmosphere of the Infantry Regimental Headquarters was one of doubt and anxiety, probably fostered by a lack of accurate information as to the location of its units and serious concern with the enemy troops opposing. It was later brought out that the German 6th Paratroop Division, one of its crack units, was given the mission of retaking CARENTAN and splitting the American V and VII Corps. The fighting which occurred through the course of Company A attachment to the 329th attests to the determination with which the enemy Division undertook its mission.

After reconnaissance to forward positions by the Company CO, a plan was developed for the 2nd and 3rd platoons to support I and K Companies of the 329th after relief of elements of the 66th Armored Regiment then attached to the 329th. The platoons were brought forward by radio to 366810 where guides from the 66th lead them forward.

Following the second platoon along the very narrow approach trail, the Company CO met the infantry regimental CO moving forward on foot toward the front. Because of the proximity of by-passed and infiltrating enemy groups, the covering the area with SA fire,

the regimental CO ordered the 3rd platoon to accompany the support infantry battalion in mop up operations following in the wake of the assault battalion. With this in view, the 3rd platoon was sent back to the vicinity of support battalion CP at 367807 where it made plans to accompany the support battalion.

Disorganization in the infantry elements was apparent in that it took several hours for the support battalion to organize and launch its mop up. After it moved off it went forward approximately 500 yards before darkness. In the meanwhile the company commander with the 1st platoon of Company D, remained at the battalion support CP and moved with it in the wake of the support battalion. SA backwash from the skirmishes of the support battalion forced its Cp to return to its original location. The tank company commander with the 1st Platoon, Company D remained in the vicinity of 363803 as a screen for the battalion CP against infiltrating enemy forces. The threat did not materialize and the light tanks moved back to the company assembly positions vicinity of the infantry support battalion CP. Very poor communications with the assault battalion apparently forced the decision of the support battalion CP to remain that position over night.

At dark the 2nd platoon had succeeded in pushing the assault infantry to positions along a line 355798 to 358796. The platoon was ordered to return to assembly for servicing and to remain the night. During the process of returning communication between the assault and support infantry battalions was effected and requests made to bring forward water and ammunition. The infantry support battalion CO and the tank company CO agreed that upon return of the 2nd platoon, supplies would be carried forward by the medium tanks, the lights being considered at that time too vulnerable for the job. It was well after dark when the 2nd platoon reached assembly positions, carrying with it several infantry wounded. Supplies were loaded and platoon made ready to move forward when a decision was made to move it forward with the support infantry battalion CP; the line of communication being somewhat questionable. At approximately 1200 the unit moved off but before they were well underway radio communication from the assault battalion indicated they were surrounded and advised against bringing any vehicles, tanks or otherwise, into their position, it being felt that the support battalion could infiltrate with success, but that heavier vehicles would disclose the avenue of support and bring heavier artillery fires. This decision having been made, the 2nd platoon with the Company CO and the first platoon of lights, returned to the company assembly and completed establishment of a night bivouac at approximately 0230 after having completed plans for the movement of the tanks with the supplies to the assault positions at dawn. Meanwhile the 3rd platoon with the bulk of the support battalion troops was in position between the tank company assembly area and the assault battalions, the plan being to have them join the movement at dawn.

At dawn on 6 July the tanks and a part of the Infantry battalion CP, which had not moved forward the past night, made ready to move. A final check by telephone from the tank company CO to the infantry regiment CP disclosed that the support battalion CP had been

successful in reaching its troops but that because of the unknown condition of the supply route to the assault battalion an ammunition train wished to join the tank elements before they moved out. The delay in movement for this purpose was approved by the infantry regimental S-3. The regimental CO and the ammunition supply train, of which he evidently knew nothing, arrived simultaneously at the company assembly. The infantry Colonel was in a great state concerning the failure of the tank elements to move off at dawn and was not pacified by requested explanations concerning the accompanying ammunition train. At approximately 0700 the tank elements moved off, picked up the 3rd platoon en route and joined the assault battalion along a line 353794 to 396792 which it had gained in its morning attack. The line held was in a sunken road with the MSR across country but quite unstable due to the number of infiltrating enemy groups which harassed and cut it continuously. The 3rd platoon was placed in an orchard at the crossroad at 355793 for the purpose of meeting an armored attack from the SE or NE. The 2nd platoon was placed in a mobile reserve position immediately in its rear. The 1st platoon, Company D, was held in immediate reserve with a mission of keeping open the cross country MSR.

At approximately 0200 the company commander returned to the company rear SW of CARENTAN and brought forward the 1st platoon and some maintenance elements for repairs needed by the 3rd platoon. The MSR was a very sensitive route and every trip across it meant the transportation of wounded as medical and evacuation facilities were not available. The 1st platoon was brought forward and relieved the 2nd which returned to the base near CARENTAN.

The left flank infantry elements having failed to come abreast the day of the 6th, the 329th and the tanks remained in defensive positions throughout the day and night of the 6th. Late in the afternoon of the 6th, the Mortar Platoon under Lt. Foley was attached to the Company and reported at the front line positions for its first offensive action of the campaign. Throughout the night of the 6th very heavy shelling was sustained and 4 enemy counter attacks repulsed. Personnel in the infantry suffered heavy losses. During the night plans were made for the tanks to shift to the left flank battalion to support it and bring it abreast.

At 0530 on the morning of the 7th a liaison officer from the left flank battalion appeared at the assault battalion CP with detailed plans for the transfer of the tanks. This officer, together with Captain Hedges and liaison Corporal Dill, moved on foot to RJ357794 to contact the battalion CO of the unit to be supported. Contact was made during the taking of the RJ; the battalion CO, then at a Company CP was pinned down by Mortar and MG fire against the side of a building with his entire forward staff. Plans for the transfer of the tanks were worked out while in a prone position. At the completion thereof, Captain Hedges and Corporal Dill made their way back to the tank platoon only to find the third platoon under severe artillery shelling with one tank all ready burning and the others in process of shifting positions. Pfc. Gustafson had been killed in the bow gunner seat while T/& Hinte had succeeded in getting out of the drivers hatch with a badly shattered arm. No other personnel

losses

were sustained. Lieutenants Woods, Jones of the medium platoons, and Parker of the light tank platoon were assembled in the vicinity of the orchard to discuss plans for the transfer of the tank support, when the liaison officer again appeared, urging prompt movement. The plans were changed to permit the tanks to come up from the rear of the infantry and the column moved off across country, third platoon leading followed by the second and then the light tank platoon followed by the mortar platoon. Contact with the group was effected under very heavy shelling and with strong opposition from mortars and automatic weapons. By 1100 the tanks had supported the infantry to positions from 352786 to 354784. During this attack the infantry was greatly disorganized and the advance was made possible only by actions of the tanks and of the tank company commander who directed the attack while moving forward on foot with the tanks.

During the balance of the 7th the tanks held this foremost position repulsing counter attacks during the night of the 7th and suffering personnel and vehicular casualties.

Meanwhile Lt. Tanner's first platoon had jumped off on the morning of the 7th on the right flank simultaneously with the jump off of the 2nd and 3rd platoons and 1st platoon of Company D on the left flank initially supported by a 50 round concentration from Lt. Foley's mortars. In view of the artillery support available the opportunity to further employ the mortar platoon was not present and it was returned to battalion control in the afternoon of the 7th after suffering heavy casualties.

All through the night of the 7th the anxiety of the infantry elements was evident. Between counter attacks a variety of rumors drifted down the line of fox holes such as "get your equipment together" or "we are moving out" or other expressions entirely without foundation and evidently fostered by someone anxious to be relieved of the tension. At about 0300 elements of friendly troops through someones order began to pull away from the left flank positions. The lieutenant commanding the platoon of infantry was stopped by the infantry captain then commanding the battalion and Captain Hedges at the battalion CP dug out. To alleviate the nervousness of the troops, they were taken back and shown the positions of the 2nd and 3rd platoon of tanks in their own perimeter line.

On the morning of the 8th orders were received to withdraw 1000 yards to permit bombing of enemy positions at SAINTENY and vicinity. The move was accomplished at 0815, the tank elements being the last to leave the positions. The bombing was ineffective because at the sound of the planes, enemy infantry moved forward very close to the lines held by our troops for the bombing and suffered little damage, consequently when the attack again jumped off, the previous positions were occupied

by the enemy and our troops were forced to fight all day to regain their former positions. During the ensuing attack the tanks were held as a mobile reserve against armored threat. At the close of day, tanks after having been serviced, moved to the company assembly positions at 367807 where they remained during the night of the 8th and the day of the 9th. Liaison with the 329th Infantry Regiment was being maintained. During the move to the company assembly Lieutenant Woods tank slipped into a large crater closing the turret hatch on his left hand. He was evacuated to the Battalion Aid Station.

On 10 July the tanks again jumped off, the 2nd platoon supporting the 3rd battalion on the left, the 1st platoon plus 1st platoon Company D supporting the 2nd battalion on the right in a drive toward SAINTENY. Both battalions jumping off from the 784 E.W. grid between 345 and 354 N.S. lines. Resistance was extremely heavy from artillery, AT guns, mortars and automatic weapons. At approximately noon Lt. Jones' second platoon of 4 tanks was completely wiped out at 352773 by concealed AT guns. Many personnel casualties were also sustained. Lt. Jones had sensed the situation and asked for protection from the infantry of his left flank. Lt. Jones' plan to employ a section of tanks in covering that flank was refused on the ground that the infantry mortars would do so. As a result the tanks were employed in a wide but shallow wedge formation against enemy positions in the hedgerows. The AT guns destroyed the platoon from its left flank. After the loss of his platoon Lt. Jones made his way to the infantry regimental CP 600 yards to the rear to contact the company CO.

Meanwhile the 1st platoon under Lt. Tanner and Lt. Parker's platoon of light tanks had advanced into and through SAINTENY TO positions at 341772 at close of darkness after suffering severe casualties. Two tanks remained in the medium platoon while fortunately Lt. Parker's commitment was such that he sustained no losses. The light tank platoon was pulled back to the regimental area for the night while Lt. Tanner and his two tanks remained holding the SAINTENY perimeter through the night of the 10th and the day of the 11th.

The third platoon was not committed during the 10th in lieu of Lt. Jones but was held in regimental reserve and at that constituted the only mobile armored reserve in the Division.

On the 11th, while the 1st platoon was engaged in the SAINTENY sector, the remaining 3rd platoon of the company was pooled with the 3rd platoon of Company B, under S/Sgt. Bechard and moved to attack positions at 369774 to prepare for an attack that jumped off at 2100. Captain Hedges commanded this composite force. The LD was a RJ at 368772. Lt. Campbell with the 3rd platoon, Company A, jumped off on the right flank while Sgt. Bechard attacked on the left. The attack went well until 2115 when Sgt. Bechard's tank and one other were knocked out by AT guns, and the left flank attack repulsed. Lt. Campbell on the right flank met no AT guns and succeeded in enveloping

to the right flank for a distance of 200 yards inflicting some casualties on bazooka teams. The entire attack however, was repulsed, the infantry being stopped by heavy losses. The platoons remained in position during the night of the 11th and prepared for an assault on the 12th. On the morning of the 12th Captain Pay of Company B together with one platoon relieved Captain Hedges of Company A and the 3rd platoon thereof, in time to prepare for the morning attack. The 3rd platoon of A was sent back to company assembly at 354781 while Captain Hedges remained until noon with Captain Pay to assist in the attack. The attack jumped off at 0900 but was repulsed with heavy losses, 4 of the B Company tanks being knocked out and serious personnel casualties sustained. Armored assault of the position was abandoned by noon of the 12th when Captain Hedges returned to company assembly position to reorganize Company A for attack on the 13th.

Infantry bazooka teams later found 8 dug-in tanks which were subsequently destroyed.

Prior to dawn on the 13th the company CO moved the 1st and 2nd platoons to assistance of the 3rd battalion, 331st Inf. Regiment, then being heavily attacked by enemy tanks and infantry in the vicinity of 350758. On the afternoon of the 13th Captain Hedges and Lt. Jones left this position and reconnoitered tank routes to the 2nd battalion positions along the road from 351750 to 353747. Leaving the 1st platoon in position with the 1st battalion, the company CO took the 2nd platoon along to the 2nd battalion late in the afternoon of the 13th in preparation for attacks running SW along the road from AUXAIS 3575. During the evening the attack was postponed, the CO and the 2nd platoon remaining with the 2nd battalion during the night of the 13th. On the morning of the 14th after reconnaissance to forward areas the platoon hopped off and supported infantry to positions at 344743 when at 1500 the company CO was notified that the tanks were released from attachment to the 329th. 2nd platoon was moved back and joined the 1st platoon in mobile reserve positions at 352762 until 2215 when it moved to company bivouac area at 348778 for bivouac on the night of the 14th.

At noon on the 15th the company joined the battalion in a bivouac at 372797 where it remained throughout the 15th and 16th undergoing much needed reorganization and refitting with the balance of the tank battalion.

From 5 July through 14 July with the 83rd Division and the 329th and 331st Regiments thereof the company engaged in the most bitter fighting and sustained the heaviest losses in vehicles and personnel in the campaign. During that period enemy resistance was such that a SW advance of only 5000 yards was accomplished.

Company B-2nd Plat., Company D Attached

CO- Captain Asher K. Pay
1st Platoon- Lt. Charles Coats (1-25 July)
 Lt. Charles G. Beatty (25-31 July)
2nd Platoon- Lt. Frank Kogut (1-9 July)
 Lt. Elvis E. Jones (17-31 July)
3rd Platoon- Lt. Jack Cleary (1-10 July)
 Lt. James P. Alford (11-31 July)
Maintenance Officer: Wm. H. Carter, 2nd Lt.

Following the battalion assembly in its area WSW of CARENTAN in the morning of 5 July, Captain Pay went forward to the 331st Infantry Regiment of the 83rd Division to orient himself and secure the tank mission.

As in the case of Company A, Captain Pay found confusion and uncertainty at the regimental CP, induced by the battle inexperience of the infantry troops. His recommendations as to employment were accepted and at 1600 his tanks were in the line, two platoons supporting two battalions of the infantry regiment, which was deployed to the divisions right flank, west of the CARENTAN-PERIERS road.

With the two platoons plus the 2nd platoon of Company D attached, Company B jumped off from 361810 in support of the infantry, but were unable to advance beyond the sunken road just ahead. Heavy opposition from SP and artillery prevented a further attack from being launched during the night of the 5th. Coordination with the infantry was poor, due to conflicting orders and infantry "greenness".

On 6 June the 331st Regiment was withdrawn from the right flank, together with Company B, which assembled vicinity 350827 for the remainder of the day in division reserve. The company, still in divisional reserve on the 7th, shifted to new positions at 369797, center and rear of the infantry division effort, the 331st Regiment having been recommitted in the center of the division, with the 329th on the right flank and the 330th on the left.

By 8 July the 331st had failed to keep abreast of the 329th, with Company A on its right flank; Company B was recommitted to help it forward in an attempt to ease the 329th's situation, it being dangerously exposed as a salient. (See report of Company A).

Although strongly opposed, the company was able to push the 331st forward slightly to positions SE of CULOT, but not sufficiently to erase the 329th salient. Greater gains were made on the 9th and 10th July to bring the 1st and 2nd platoons to positions at 352777, 1000 yards east of SAINTENY by the close of the 10th.

On the 11th of July very heavy opposition had bogged down attacks of the 3rd battalion 329th Infantry. Tank support in the new sector was needed badly to break the resistance.

Although both A and B companies had suffered heavily on the 10th, the remnants, one platoon from each company, were consolidated under Captain Hedges, Company A, on the evening of the 11th to support the drive. Captain Hedges went to the battalion CP at 369774 to receive orders, while Major Yeatts, battalion executive officer, brought the tanks up from the lines of A and B Companies. The original jump off, set for 2000, was moved back to 2100 to allow for orientation of the tank crews. No time was allowed for reconnaissance of the area. (See Company A section for details of the action).

Following the repulse of Company B's attack on the morning of the 12th, the remnants of the company were placed in division reserve for the balance of the 12th and 13th. The severe losses in men and materiel had produced a low morale among the remainder of the troops; the rest on the 12th and 13th was needed to reorganize the company and rebuild the confidence of the men.

The 14th brought further commitment of the company on the right flank of the division near the CARENTAN-PERIERS road. The assault was able to reach positions at 338764. The attack was resumed on the 15th and the enemy driven to 338755 by noon, when the company was withdrawn and joined the battalion in bivouac at 371797.

Company C (less one platoon)
Attached 3rd Platoon-Company D.

CO- 1st Lt. Augustus S. Hydrick
1st Platoon-1st Lt. James R. Shields
2nd Platoon-2nd Lt. Harry M. Butler
3rd Platoon-2nd Lt. Joseph E. Chapman
MO 1st Lt. Lawrence S. Deptula.
3rd Platoon, Company D- Lt. Charles G. Beatty.

During the afternoon of July 5, the company joined with the battalion in a road march to assembly area 1 1/2 miles West of CARENTAN (372836) and was attached to the 330th Infantry Regiment of the 83rd Infantry Division.

Prior to the march to CARENTAN, 1st Lt. Hydrick had received instructions that Company C would be held in reserve, but shortly after arriving at the battalion assembly area those orders were rescinded and the company CO was instructed to proceed at once to join the 330th Infantry Regiment of the 83rd Div. On the evening of July 5th the company plus one platoon of Company D moved to an assembly position North of the regimental CP (312810).

The CO reported to the regimental commander at the CP (381808) and found the entire staff in a confused and unsettled state. The front line was vague and the arrival of tanks came as a complete surprise to the infantry. Following a brief talk the tanks were attached to the 3rd battalion, at that time under direct division control. At approximately 2230 hours a counter attack on the regimental right flank was reported to be getting

under way. The light tank platoon was ordered into the line and given a mission of holding until a proposed attack to the North by the regiment could get underway. The line of departure for the attack was set at RJ370800 and a fire fight had to be fought to gain the LD. The attack finally jumped and late that night the objective, 700 yards away, was gained. The tanks pulled back to their assembly area for servicing and chow, but the enemy counter attacked and our infantry lost their ground. The tanks were ordered forward and after a fight to regain the objective, were ordered to remain in the line all night to hold the ground for the infantry. Battle discipline was poor in the infantry and officer control vague and weak.

The infantry battalion reverted to regimental control this same night.

On the morning of July 6th the 3rd battalion and three platoons of medium tanks jumped from the LD (372794), the first night's objective, but found the main road they were to have followed mined. Two tanks were lost here, one of them being Lt. Shields of the 1st platoon. The order was given to by pass the road and the attack swung to the right down a narrow road 373789, down and through hedgerows and woods. Very light resistance was met and the tank CO suggested the attack keep moving but the regimental CO suggested differently and ordered it stopped at 372784.

July 7th the tanks and infantry jumped again and advanced to a position at 374773. The regimental CO requested the tanks remain on the line, but the tank CO's orders were to move back for servicing and reorganization each night. He reported to Lt. Col. Hupfer at his CP and received orders to stay on the line because the infantry seemed helpless without tank support. With a promise from the regimental CO that the Infantry would not pull out on the tanks, the CO remained in perimeter defense. All night enemy tanks moved about the area and were heard preparing for a counter attack and early on the morning of the 8th they counter attacked. The infantry gave way almost immediately, but the tanks held fast until it was evident for safety sake they must withdraw to a new line (374764) with the infantry. Heavy anti-tank and MG fire was encountered in the withdrawal and the infantry suffered heavy casualties. Seeing that the infantry could not be depended upon for protection, the CO ordered a withdrawal to an assembly point at 373782. Lt. Hydrick then returned to the forward regimental CP for a conference. A radio call informed him that his company was under machine gun and tank fire and completely pinned down. His request for infantry was denied so he mustered some doughs (stragglers) together and worked his way to the position. The makeshift infantry platoon flanked the guns and after a brief battle the MG's were quieted. One tank was found knocked out. The company was then reorganized and held until the infantry under direct command of the regimental CO stabilized and established a new line at 374776.

A plan was devised for July 9th to regain all the lost and move on to the regimental objective but the terrain was found to be unsuited for tank maneuver and an alternate plan was decided on.

Before the attack could get under way the enemy made a new counter attack and the day was spent holding the line (374776) for the infantry. The infantry was forced to withdraw to the tank defense line and the rest of the night the tanks kept up a near outpost alert while the doughboys reorganized their lines and defenses.

On the 10th a new attack was planned and the 2nd platoon supporting the 330th regiments 2nd battalion moved up to the previous days line. The 3rd platoon with the 3rd Battalion attempted to move around the left flank in the attack but was stopped by terrain difficulty and the infantry pinned down by enemy tank fire. Lt. Hydrick, receiving a report of enemy on the la Lande road at RG376767, planned an enveloping attack. He sent out one section of tanks around to his right while he moved his down the road on the left. His tank was hit twice and knocked out and he sustained an arm wound which forced his evacuation. The tanks and infantry were withdrawn once again and the rest of the day spent in reorganization and setting up a line of defense along 386777. An attack plan was formed for the following morning. Lt. Shields assumed command of the company.

The morning of July 11th the 2nd and 3rd platoons with their respective infantry battalions jumped from a LD at 374775 and forced an advance against intense resistance to a position at 377768. A severe fire fight at this position was encountered and both platoons were lost in action and the infantry was routed. The objective which was the final regimental objective was not reached. Three tanks burned, 1 tank in tank trap, one tank hit and disabled.

On July 12th the 1st platoon of Company C was ordered to a road block position 2 miles East of SAINTENY 363780. The other platoons were in the process of refitting and reorganization.

On July 13 the second platoon joined the 1st in road block positions while the third remained in the area for final servicing.

On July 14th the 3rd platoon moved out to a road block position at 362768 2 miles East of SAINTENY. No other action was seen by Company C on the 12, 13 and 14th of July.

On the 15th of July Lt. Shields and the Company reassembled and moved to a battalion bivouac and rest area at 371797 and remained at this area refitting, resting and reorganizing through the 16th of the month. The company was released from the 83rd Division at 1400 16th of July. Lt. Shields made a reconnaissance and contacted the CO of the 39th Infantry Regiment in preparation for assignment to that regiment.

Company D

CO-1st Lt. Eugene M. McDonough
1st Platoon- Lt. Coy O. Parker (1-17-July)
 Lt. Anthony A. Demetriou (17-25)
 Lt. Thomas J. Hayden (26-31 July)
2nd Platoon- Lt. Elvis E. Jones (1-17 July)
 Lt. Keith E. McLean (26-31 July)
3rd Platoon- Lt. Charles G. Beatty
Maintenance Officer- Herbert F. Stackhouse

At the battalion assembly area WSW of CARENTAN on 5 July the light tank company was attached to the medium companies, one platoon to each of A, B and C.

The tactical doctrine dictating this was flank protection for the medium company as it advanced with the infantry from one hedgerow to another.

In application the theory proved futile and the light platoons were committed principally in three roles:

1. To keep open the cross country route of communication which during this period was frequently cut by counter attacks and infiltrating bodies of enemy troops.
2. To protect infantry and regimental and infantry battalion CP's.
3. As tactical reserves.

Operation of the Company during Phase II are discussed under the medium companies.

Service Company

CO- Captain Raymond E. Carlson
Bn. Maintenance Officer- Wm. P. Kennedy, Captain.
Bn. Transportation Officer- 2nd Lt. James T. Hill.
Co. Maintenance Officer- 2nd Lt. Adrian W.
 Buckingham.

The battalion assembly area WSW of CARENTAN was used by Service Company as an operating base from 5 July to 15 July, when it moved to the battalion bivouac at (371797).

During this phase operations of the company were particularly hazardous due to the strength of enemy resistance and his frequent counter attacks. The company operated from its base to the Utah beachhead and forward to the tank company CP's. Re-supply and vehicle evacuation were continuous throughout the period. Very great expenditure of ammunition during the phase taxed the re-supply facilities to the fullest.

The heavy vehicular losses placed an additional strain on the Battalion Maintenance Section. Evacuation of tanks and vehicles was accomplished under fire even in rear areas because of the continuous and heavy shelling to which the entire battalion

was subjected.

Truck drivers, mechanics, cooks, all personnel of the service echelons, were utilized to the fullest.

Phase III
(16 through 28 July)

On the 16th the battalion was attached to the Ninth Infantry Division. The battalion CO was able to secure a 24 hour delay in order to complete the company reorganization. The battalion was committed to the lines on the 17th, the medium companies A, B and C joining the 47th, 60th and 39th Infantry Regiments respectively.

Company D was not committed, but became instead a training and local replacement pool for the medium tank personnel.

Battalion Headquarters and Headquarters
Company

Headquarters Company's Assault Gun Platoon and Mortar Platoon were not committed, there being no opportunity for their employment. To assist the operation of the medium companies, the Headquarters Company Reconnaissance Platoon was attached to the medium companies and one squad with 1/4 ton truck to each company. Actual reconnaissance was limited; the missions of the reconnaissance squads were chiefly liaison between tank platoons and the command commanding officer.

On the night of the 17th the advance battalion CP had moved to (439740), the bulk of the CP installation remaining at (371797). On the 18th the advance CP moved just east of the "Bois due Hommet" at (424733). This large wooded area was then in use by elements of the 3rd Armored Division, waiting for our seizure of sufficient ground and road nets to facilitate the impending breakthrough.

From this position the advance CP supervised operations of the battalion through the 25th, or the first day of the breakthrough, after which it moved to the vicinity of "Hell's Crossroads", at (403704). The crossroads in question (402709) was the center of vehicular traffic to and from the front during this period. As a consequence it was subjected to constant and heavy enemy interdiction and barrage shell fire.

Headquarters Company, Company D, Service Company, and the remainder of Battalion Headquarters joined the advance CP at this new location on the 27th, moving from their position at (412757) from which they had operated since the 19th.

On the 29th the entire group moved out to a refitting area at (400600) SE of MARIIGNY, the line companies joining the column en route.

Company A

On the afternoon of the 17th the company left the battalion bivouac at (371797) and marched by way of Tribhou (3974) to make contact with the 47th Regiment of the 9th Division, along a line 418701-433699. The company base of supplies was established at 428728 near the 47th Regimental CP. The platoons moved directly to their respective infantry battalions from the route march.

The platoons had little activity on the 17th, On the 18th the first and third platoons supported the first and third battalions of the 47th toward the PERIERS-ST. LO main highway against very stubborn resistance.

By the close of the 18th, the first platoon had reached positions at 423683 with the third platoon 400 yards on its left flank, and abreast. The 1st battalion with its first platoon tanks was then placed in reserve, the tank platoons taking road block positions in an area at 422692.

On the 17th the third platoon reached a position at 425677 after which it was placed in mobile reserve at 430693 which it did until the 23rd when it shifted to the 1st platoon reserve positions in order to simplify the movement of the vehicles. During the evening of the 18th, Tech. Sergeant Saffield and T/4 Young were SWA and evacuated as a result of mortar fire and while working on the 3rd platoon tanks.

Meanwhile the 2nd platoon on the 18th and 19th occupied reserve positions at 409695. From the 20th to the 24th the platoon alternated positions in holding front line positions with the second battalion, 47th, which during the last three days of the phase was the only infantry battalion of the regiment committed to the line. Repeated counter attacks from enemy positions just south of the PERIERS-ST. LO road, resulted in personnel and vehicular losses.

On the 21st of July two tanks were knocked out by AT fire. As a replacement for one of them the 105MM assault gun was placed in the defensive position only to be knocked out by artillery, seriously wounding the commander, Sergeant C.S. Jones. The gun started to burn in the interior. Pfc M.M. Martin, loader, jumped back in the tank, then under heavy enemy fire, and threw out the burning equipment, waste, etc., thus saving the vehicle which was evacuated under its own power after dark.

The effort of the Division in this phase was to secure suitable ground from which an armored attack could be launched. Road nets were essential and the enemy's stubborn hold on the PERIERS-ST. LO road indicated only too well his knowledge of our needs. Therefore the great air attack of July 25th on the enemy position, followed by artillery and combined tank-infantry assaults was planned by all units during the time of the 20th to 24th, days which were wet and cloudy giving the Air Corps no assistance and further hampering the movement on ground.

Also from the 20 to 24th a new device was developed and installed on the final drives of tanks to permit them to plow through hedgerows without the need of their TNT or dozer tanks. These devices were known as "Clippers" or "hedge cutters", consisting of sharp, pointed 8" angle irons welded to the tank. These clippers when made of suitable steel would not bend or break and later proved invaluable. The ones initially installed on the company tanks, however, were of inferior metal, many of them lasted only a day and all of them were gone within 3 days. However, they served their purpose and achieved surprise as well as effective penetration of the hedge rows as long as they lasted.

The break through was expected to carry the regimental CT's far inland and the matter of supply of the platoons appeared difficult. The company CO arranged for additional basic loads of ammunition as well as increased stocks of gasoline and oil to be carried with the infantry battalion trains. One additional truck from the tank battalion Service Company was obtained to supplement the transport. The organic transport of the T.D. platoons also serve to carry some tank supplies.

All details were completed by the close of the 23rd. Thereafter, weather was the only consideration. On the 24th the weather looked favorable and the air attack started at 1300 but had to be called off, due to the sudden appearance of clouds. Two waves of planes passed over the company positions and turned back after jettisoning their bombs.

In the late morning of the 25th the weather cleared and the air attack commenced. 2700 planes, the majority of them 4 engine bombers participated. Flying at medium altitude of 7500 feet, the high level bombers went over in waves of 24 to 36 using the PERIERS- ST. LO road supplemented by artillery, smoke and their own smoke markers as a bomb line.

Some of the sticks fell short, were behind the lines of withdrawn troops, and a considerable number of tank men and infantry troops were wounded or killed.

In the 3rd platoon position, 2nd Lt. Campbell, platoon leader, was SWA by the short bombs and died of his wounds. S/Sgt. Gezon, platoon sergeant, took over the platoon during the air attack. Artillery and mortar fires were placed on the previously occupied troop positions to prevent the enemy from hugging our lines and escaping the bombardment. Following the air attack a 20 minute artillery concentration was laid down as our troops pushed off. In spite of the bombing the enemy to our immediate front put up stiff resistance. The company in support of the 47th succeeded in reaching positions at 395660 by the close of the day. The 60th infantry on the right of the main road to MARGNY was having serious trouble. The 3rd platoon under Sgt. Gezon was temporarily attached to the 60th Infantry and pushed on the night of the 25th south and west to position at 386662, vicinity of MONTREUIL.

On the 26th the 3rd platoon continued to support the 60th,

West to 373668 West of LOZON. The 1st and 2nd platoons made little headway against stiff opposition and with the 1st and 2nd battalions were infiltrated back to positions near the PERIERS- ST. LO road at 387677 and 391682, respectively, the 1st platoon blocking the road from PERIERS.

The change in the right sector was made to permit room for the operation of the Armored Division through to MARIGNY and the road nets to the South thereof.

The 1st and 2nd platoons remained in position through the 27th and 28th alert to receive notice to relieve the 60th Infantry. On the 27th the 3rd platoon was relieved of the 60th and took assembly positions at 390663 and remained through the 28th.

During the nights of the 27th and 28th, the usual enemy air activity was present in the sector except that his presence was felt a bit more. AP bombs dropped in the 47th Regimental CP area, riddled the tank company CO's jeep tires, CP fly and shelter half. All personnel, however, were at least two feet under ground and escaped injury.

Company B

Following his reconnaissance on the 16th, Captain Pay on the 17th moved his company to join the 60th Infantry Regiment, of the 9th Infantry Division, then operating on the division right flank west of the CARENTAN- MARIGNY highway.

By the close of the 17th the platoons had joined the infantry battalions vicinity (400695). The following day the company moved to the MLR and established the tanks as pill-boxes to provide covering fire for the advance of the infantry. This proved successful and by the close of the 18th the tanks had moved forward to the position with the infantry vicinity (403687). The same tactics were employed on the 19th to assist the infantry to advance positions vicinity (400680), against heavy resistance.

The 20th found the company in defensive positions as for the 19th. No offensive action was undertaken, but a strong enemy counter attack on the 20th was repulsed.

As in the case of Company A, the period 20-24 July was devoted to preparation for the break through. Company B's tanks were pulled out a few at a time and taken to Battalion Maintenance for the installation of "hedge clippers" which were to play an important part in the ensuing attacks.

On the 25th, following the great air bombardment described in the Company A account, Company B jumped off in support of the 60th Infantry and against heavy resistance in spite of the bombing, broke across the PERIERS- ST. LO road on a wide front of approximately 800 yards to take LE MESNIL-EURY and ground flanking it on the 25th and 26th. (See map attached).

On the 27th the company supported the 60th Infantry in a drive toward the high ground to the west in the direction of PERIERS, taking LOZON and reaching positions along a N-S grid line 375. (See map).

On the 28th the Company was relieved from the lines and went into a company bivouac at (401672), there remaining on alert for attachment to the 3rd Armored Division. This alert was discontinued by the close of the 28th and the company prepared to move with the battalion to a refitting area.

C Company

July 17th Company C with other combat echelons moved to join the 9th Infantry Division in the vicinity of Tribhou at 1830 this date.

On July 18 Company C joined the 39th Infantry Regiment and the platoons moved out with the infantry into position. The 1st platoon took up a defensive position 1000 yards W of AMIGNY at approximately 428678. The 2nd platoon was given road block missions 3 miles SW of ESGLANDES at 420668. No action was seen. The 3rd platoon was in regimental reserve at ESGLANDES.

July 19th the 1st platoon jumped off in an attack from 430680 and advanced 200 yards against the enemy. The 2nd platoon remained in position at road block 3 miles SW of ESGLANDES. The 3rd platoon remains in regimental reserve at ESGLANDES.

July 20th the 1st platoon moved to a more advantageous position for defense against possible counter attack by enemy armor. The 1st platoon was relieved by 1300 by the 3rd platoon and moved to ESGLANDES to bivouac. The 3rd platoon then took over the same defensive positions. The 2nd platoon is still holding road block at 420668.

July 21st the 3rd platoon and the 3rd battalion, 39th regiment, move up to position formerly held by the 2nd platoon and establish road blocks 3 miles S of ESGLANDES. No action was seen by the platoon on this date.

July 22 and 23 all positions are static with the platoons in defensive positions with their battalions. No action anywhere in zone during this period of time. Time spent on alerts, maintenance and resting while in position.

July 24 the platoons and infantry pulled back to a previously established safety zone in anticipation of mass bombings at 1300. Adverse weather conditions forced air activity out and the units held their positions for the day.

On July 25th the mass concentration of bombs from medium and heavy bombers began at 1030 and was followed by a very intense concentration of artillery fire for twenty minutes. During this time Company C remained at the jump off position with the 39th Infantry Regiment. The platoons were with their battalions and in position at 422672 to 434668.

A "H" hour the company jumped with battalions and platoons abreast into the "breakthrough" area. The 3rd platoon under Lt. Parker attempted to cross the Ferreite river but found it

impassable so he swung back to the right of the river and proceeded across country. The 1st and 2nd platoons turned SE down the PERIERS- ST. LO road and then turned right and across country. The 1st and 2nd platoons were on the left flank of the Division Zone. All platoons met heavy resistance in the attack but fought through to the town and moved SW of la Chapelle in Juger (408648). Here they skirted to the left of the town and moved SW to approximately 387646. At this point they set up a defense position for the night in anticipation of possible counter attacks. Heavy shelling was received during the attack and thenight.

26 July found the 1st platoon jumping off in a new attack at 0500 and drove to a new position approximately 1000 yards No of POTIGNY. Here they set up a defensive position. The 2nd and 3rd platoons followed the advance and as their battalions took the ground S and SW they set up sections as road blocks. The second platoon moved with the 3rd battalion to a position 1/2 mile SW of LA JAMINIERE and set up road blocks 348628 as defense for that locality.

The 3rd platoon moved to a point NW of MARIGNY on the MARIGNY- CARENTAN road and set up a road block (386620) in support of the infantry. The 2nd and 3rd platoons patrolled S to the MARIGNY- ST SAUVIEUR-LENDELIN road to cut enemy communication, but with only one section while the remaining section held the road blocks.

On the 27th of July the platoons held their respective defense and road block positions but sent out patrols of sections on the main roads, to sever communications and guard against possible enemy armored counter attacks. No heavy fighting was encountered or counter attacks made on the positions.

The platoons moved to an assembly area for C and A Companies on July 28. There they reorganized for the contemplated battalion march to a rest area. The company assembly was 3/4 mile NE of POTIGNY (390645). C Company relieved from 39th Regiment this date and reverted to battalion control.

Service Company

Again during this phase of July all elements of Service Company were taxed heavily.

Supply

The transportation platoon was heavily involved in the transport of supplies of all classes from army dumps at the beachheads to the using companies at the front. Although the expending combat companies were relatively close together, the tremendous expenditure of ammunition and gas caused by the heavy operations kept the supply echelons continually busy under intermittent shelling which interdicted routes of communication.

Maintenance and Evacuation

The July 1-4 regimental was not all that could be desired, and as a consequence the July operations took a heavy mechanical toll which drew heavily on the facilities of both company and

battalion maintenance. Tanks and vehicles were repeatedly repaired under fire. The installation of the "hedge clippers" required considerable ingenuity to maintain their secrecy and to accomplish their fitting without weakening appreciably the tank defense in the lines during the period 21-24 July.


Phase IV.
(29 through 21 July)

Although the battalion remained attached to the 9th Infantry Division it moved on 29 July to a refitting area SE of MARIGNY vicinity (400600).

In this assembly area tanks and wheeled vehicles were repaired to the extent of existing facilities; ordnance checks were conducted and repairs made, and individual clothing and equipment shortages reported and partially corrected.

The Battalion secured a film projector and motion pictures were shown in the loft of a barn.

On the 31st the battalion was placed on a 3 hour alert to rejoin the 9th Infantry Division. The alert did not materialize until 1 August.


LOVEAIRE A. HEDGES,
Major, Cavalry,
Unit Historian.

JOURNAL

(July 1-31, 1944)

See After/After Action Report for July,
1944, 746th Tank Battalion.

HEADQUARTERS 746TH TANK BATTALION
APO 230, U. S. ARMY

16 January 1945

VEHICLE LOSSES DURING MONTH OF JULY

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>LOST IN COMBAT</u>	<u>LOST F. O. C.</u>	<u>EVAC. NOT REPLACED</u>
TANK, Medium, M4 (75MM Gun)	41	2	
TANK, Lt. M5A1	2	1	1
TANK, Medium, M4 (105MM How)	1		

O. E. Becker
OLAF E. BECKER
WO2, U. S. A.
Asst. S - 4

ANNEX II

LOSERS IN ACTION

1 July 1944 to
31 July 1944

SEVERERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>TYPE CASE</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Kegut, Frank (NMI),	2nd Lt.	SWA	9 Jul 44
Hydrick, Augustus S.,	1st Lt.	SWA	10 Jul 44
Payne, Houston (NMI),	2nd Lt.	SWA	10 Jul 44
Butler, Harry M.,	2nd Lt.	KIA	16 Jul 44
Burckhard, Frank A.,	1st Lt.	LIA	17 Jul 44
Campbell, Joseph F.,	2nd Lt.	SWA	25 Jul 44

ENLISTED MEN

Madden, Howard H.,	Tec 4	SWA	2 Jul 44
Bahnken, Andrew V.,	Tec 5	SWA	2 Jul 44
Garcia, Leonel (NMI),	Sgt	SIA	4 Jul 44
Landry, Spencer (NMI),	Sgt	SWA	5 Jul 44
Moore, Paul E.,	Tec 5	SWA	5 Jul 44
Hardy, Jr., William E.,	Sgt	SIA	6 Jul 44
Zeise, Everett L.,	Opl	LMA	6 Jul 44
Schiaffe, Carmine B.,	Pvt	SWA	6 Jul 44
Skinner, J. P. (I.O.),	Pfc	SWA	6 Jul 44
Walter, Edwin O.,	Pvt	LMA	6 Jul 44
Bikorski, John L.,	Pvt	LMA	6 Jul 44
Gibson, James S.,	Pvt	LMA	7 Jul 44
Gurcione, Jerry J.,	Pfc	LIA	7 Jul 44
Davis, Coy E.,	Pfc	SWA	7 Jul 44
Hinte, John O.,	Tec 5	SWA	7 Jul 44
James, William A.,	Pvt	KIA	7 Jul 44
Ray, Henry E.,	Pvt	LMA	7 Jul 44
Reel, Walter (NMI),	Pvt	KIA	7 Jul 44
Zillner, William F.,	Sgt	KIA	7 Jul 44
Gustafson, Roy O.,	Pfc	KIA	7 Jul 44
Gerrin, William D.,	Pvt	SWA	8 Jul 44
Narino, Joseph (NMI),	Pvt	KIA	8 Jul 44
Pine, Jr., William (NMI),	Pvt	SWA	8 Jul 44
Miller, Roy G.,	Sgt	SWA	8 Jul 44
Lynch, Edward L.,	Pvt	SWA	8 Jul 44
Hindred, Bruce S.,	Pfc	KIA	8 Jul 44
St.Germain, Harry N.,	Sgt	SWA	8 Jul 44
Smith, Jr., George L.,	Pvt	KIA	9 Jul 44
Piotrzkowski, Joseph H.,	Pvt	LMA	9 Jul 44
Mertes, Daniel J.,	Pfc	KIA	9 Jul 44
Osborn, Paul B.,	S/Sgt	KIA	9 Jul 44
Anthony, Peter P.,	Sgt	LMA	10 Jul 44
Amstutz, Ray B.,	Pvt	SWA	10 Jul 44
Albertson, Jack L.,	Sgt	SWA	10 Jul 44
Bridgham, Donald G.,	Sgt	SWA	10 Jul 44
Hastings, Thomas F.,	Pfc	LIA	10 Jul 44
Hignite, Eldon (NMI),	Pvt	LIA	10 Jul 44
Kelley, Loyal V.,	S/Sgt	SWA	10 Jul 44
Moyn, Harry L.,	S/Sgt	SWA	10 Jul 44
Patih, Whitney J.,	Pfc	LIA	10 Jul 44

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Annex II Losses in Action
1 Jul 44 to 31 Jul 44 (Cont'd)

UNLISTED MEN

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>TYPE CAS</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Pescotto, Sam (NMI),	Pvt	LNA	10 Jul 44
Price, Clarence R.,	Sgt	KIA	10 Jul 44
Schute, Edward H.,	Sgt	MIA	10 Jul 44
Sorensen, Johnny H.,	Tec 4	SWA	10 Jul 44
Tarver, Higdon B.,	opl	KIA	10 Jul 44
Williams, William S.,	Pvt	SWA	10 Jul 44
Yerk, Walter A.,	Tec 4	KIA	10 Jul 44
Baldwyn, Malvin (NMI),	Pvt	SWA	10 Jul 44
Arnold, James R.,	Pvt	SIA	11 Jul 44
Clement, George J.,	Tec 5	SIA	11 Jul 44
Broman, Donald H.,	Pvt	MIA	11 Jul 44
Cliff, Francis E.,	Pvt	KIA	11 Jul 44
Coleman, Vincent R.,	Pvt	SIA	11 Jul 44
Draper, William J.,	Cpl	SWA	11 Jul 44
Gitlan, David (NMI),	Pfc	SWA	11 Jul 44
Gonzalez, Jacob (NMI),	Pvt	MIA	11 Jul 44
Hellister, Earl D.,	Pvt	MIA	11 Jul 44
Howard, Elvin E.,	opl	MIA	11 Jul 44
Huckabee, Joseph B.,	Pvt	SIA	11 Jul 44
Johnston, Harold B.,	Tec 5	KIA	11 Jul 44
Kassay, Alex H., Jr.,	Cpl	LIA	11 Jul 44
Leonard, Wayne G.,	Cpl	SWA	11 Jul 44
Faggen, Victor E.,	Pvt	KIA	11 Jul 44
Pirog, Lee F.,	Pvt	MIA	11 Jul 44
Frikryl, John W.,	Tec 4	SWA	11 Jul 44
Bishop, Edgar W.,	Cpl	KIA	11 Jul 44
Boyd, Frank E.,	Pvt	LNA	11 Jul 44
Blue, Charles H.,	S/Sgt	SWA	11 Jul 44
Storey, James E.,	Tec 4	KIA	11 Jul 44
Vitelle, Alphonse J.,	Tec 4	MIA	11 Jul 44
Bechard, Armond W.,	S/Sgt	LIA	12 Jul 44
Mayes, James B.,	Cpl	KIA	14 Jul 44
Raines, Charles H.,	Pvt	KIA	14 Jul 44
Brooks, William J.,	Pvt	MIA	14 Jul 44
Speede, John H., Jr.,	Sgt	SWA	14 Jul 44
Eberhart, Joseph G.,	Cpl	KIA	15 Jul 44
Baxter, James (NMI),	Pfc	KIA	15 Jul 44
Meier, Howard L.,	Sgt	KIA	15 Jul 44
Hunter, Fred L.,	Tec 4	LNA	16 Jul 44
Brown, Ireland (NMI),	Sgt	LNA	18 Jul 44
Saffield, Melvin T.,	E/Sgt	SWA	18 Jul 44
Wilson, Roy, Jr.,	Pvt	LNA	18 Jul 44
Young, Joseph A.,	Tec 4	SWA	18 Jul 44
Albert, Walter A.,	Pvt	SWA	19 Jul 44
Bruce, Odon R.,	Cpl	SWA	19 Jul 44
De Balle, Peter J.,	Pvt	SIA	19 Jul 44
Klaridge, Roy (NMI),	Cpl	SWA	19 Jul 44
Saidl, Robert G.,	Sgt	KIA	19 Jul 44
Murphy, Chestley H.,	Pvt	LIA	20 Jul 44
Jones, Charles B.,	Sgt	SWA	21 Jul 44

Annex II Losses in Action
1 Jul 44 to 31 Jul 44 (Cont'd)

ENLISTED MEN

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>TYPE CAS</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Laric, Delbert S.,	Pvt	SWA	21 Jul 44
Williams, Andrew M.,	Tec 4	SWA	21 Jul 44
Weathers, William R.,	Sgt	SWA	21 Jul 44
Karpinski, Louis (NMI),	Opl	SWA	21 Jul 44
Demmitt, Carl H.,	Sgt	SWA	22 Jul 44
Harris, Richard L.,	S/Sgt	SWA	24 Jul 44
Sims, Cecil (NMI), Jr.,	Tec 4	SWA	24 Jul 44
Bird, Herbert L.,	Pvt	LNA	25 Jul 44
Cochran, Ernest E.,	Opl	LNA	25 Jul 44
Griffin, Chester (NMI),	Pfc	SIA	25 Jul 44
Herbold, Roland J.,	Opl	SWA	25 Jul 44
Jones, John P.,	Tec 5	LNA	25 Jul 44
Kubaska, Edward T.,	Pfc	SWA	25 Jul 44
McKibbin, Gayle E.,	Sgt	SWA	25 Jul 44
Meshe, Joseph A.,	Sgt	SWA	25 Jul 44
Bell, Michael J.,	Pvt	SIA	26 Jul 44
Bodetka, Theodore J.,	Pvt	LNA	26 Jul 44
Brown, William J., Jr.,	Pvt	SIA	26 Jul 44
Burke, William J.,	Pvt	SWA	26 Jul 44
Clary, James F.,	Pvt	SIA	26 Jul 44
Conant, Charles A.,	Tec 4	SWA	26 Jul 44
Cook, Middleton R.,	Tec 4	SWA	26 Jul 44
Greel, William N.,	Pvt	LNA	26 Jul 44
Crofford, Jarrell B.,	Tec 5	SWA	26 Jul 44
Hill, Ernest (NMI),	Pvt	KIA	26 Jul 44
Jines, Ralph W.,	Pvt	KIA	26 Jul 44
Leako, George J.,	Pvt	SWA	26 Jul 44
Ogren, Ralph E.,	Pvt	SWA	26 Jul 44
Ragan, Harley (NMI),	Opl	SWA	26 Jul 44
Redding, Martin E.,	Tec 4	SWA	26 Jul 44
Reistroffer, LeRoy J.,	Pvt	KIA	26 Jul 44
Steinbraegge, Robert J.,	Opl	SIA	26 Jul 44
Stetter, Frank P.,	Tec 4	LNA	26 Jul 44
Barker, Roland G.,	Pfc	KIA	26 Jul 44
Hammond, Wallie E.,	Tec 5	LNA	27 Jul 44
Horton, Tom (NMI),	Pvt	LNA	27 Jul 44
McIntosh, Ovie (NMI),	Pfc	LNA	27 Jul 44
Seabrook, Franklin P. III,	Pfc	KIA	27 Jul 44
Butten, Lowell J.,	Opl	LNA	27 Jul 44
Werks, Elton D.,	Pvt	LNA	27 Jul 44
Asher, Wiley (NMI),	Pvt	LNA	28 Jul 44
Royston, Jr., Thomas P.,	Pvt	SWA	28 Jul 44
Whitten, James O.,	Pfc	LNA	28 Jul 44

HEADQUARTERS 746TH TANK BATTALION
APO #230 U. S. ARMY.

Can
10/2/44
T V I ✓
5 September 1944.

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

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington D. C.,
(Through - The CG, VII Corps, APO #307, U. S. Army).

1. In compliance with paragraph 10, AR 345-105, as changed by changes #3, the following report is submitted for 746th Tank Battalion, for August 1944.

a. ORIGINAL UNIT: 746th Tank Battalion.

b. CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION:

1 August - 11 August, Assigned to First U. S. Army, Attached to 9th Infantry Division.

11 August - 17 August, Assigned to First U. S. Army.

17 August - 31 August, Assigned to First U. S. Army, Attached to 9th Infantry Division.

c. STRENGTH: 1 August 37 Officers 3 Warrant Off 668 EM
31 August 38 Officers 3 Warrant Off 690 EM
Net Increase 22.

b. STATIONS: 1 August to 4 August - Vic, LA PAGERIE.
4 August to 6 August - Vic, STE CECILE.
6 August to 9 August - Vic, ST AUBIN-DES BOIS.
9 August to 18 August - Vic, ST POIS.
18 August to 21 August - Vic, COUPTRAIN.
21 August to 24 August - Vic, MORTAGNE.
24 August to 25 August - Vic, LA FERTE-VIDAME.
25 August to 27 August - Vic, BRUYERES LE CHATEL.
27 August to 28 August - Vic, MOULIGNON.
28 August to 29 August - Vic, COULOMBIERS.
29 August to 30 August - Vic, BELIEAU WOODS.
30 August to 31 August - Vic, BRAINE.

e. MARCHES: Not applicable.

f. CAMPAIGNS:

- (1) Name of: Operations in N. E. France.
- (2) Duration: 1 August to 31 August 1944.
- (3) Purpose: To drive enemy out of N. E. France.
- (4) Authority ordering: VII Corps.

g. BATTLES: See Annex #1.

h. COMMANDING OFFICER IN IMPORTANT ENGAGEMENTS:

1 August to 31 August 1944 - Lt. Col. Clarence G. Hupfer.

i. LOSSES IN ACTION: See Annex #2.

j. FORMER AND PRESENT MEMBERS WHO HAVE DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES IN ACTION:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>COMPANY</u>	<u>RECOMMENDED FOR</u>
Martin, Milton M.	Pfc.	"A"	Silver Star
Benson, Paul C.	Pvt.	Hq.	Silver Star

k. PHOTOGRAPHS: None.

Clarence G. Huffer
CLARENCE G. HUFFER,
Lt. Col., Cavalry,
Commanding.

11 Incls.

Annex 1

Annex 2

Unit Journal

Vehicle losses

GO #32, 4th Conv. Hosp. (Par. 37).

GO #26, 4th Conv. Hosp. (Par. 2).

GO #26, 4th Conv. Hosp. (Par. 47).

GO #34, 4th Conv. Hosp. (Par. 5).

GO #29, Hq V Corps.

GO #34, 82nd Airborne Div.

GO #50, Hq VII Corps.

319.1/401 (AG)
(5 Sept/44)

1st Ind.

FFF/153/fw

HEADQUARTERS 6TH ARMORED GROUP, A.P.O. # 230, U. S. Army,
10th September, 1944:

TO: The Adjutant General, Washington D.C.,
(Through - The Commanding General, VII Corps, APO
307, U. S. Army.

For the Commanding Officer:

Robert S. Leggett
ROBERT S. LEGGETT,
Major (Cav) Armd Comd
Armd Section.

Incls/
n/c

319.1

2d Ind

K

HEADQUARTERS VII CORPS, A.P.O. 307, U.S. Army,

TO: The Adjutant General, Washington, D.C. (THRU: Commanding General, First
U.S. Army, A.P.O. 230, U.S. Army).

caa
(C. A. A.)

11 Incls: - n/c

RESERVED

HEADQUARTERS 746TH TANK BATTALION
APO 403 U. S. ARMY.

23 July 1945.

SUBJECT: Unit History, August 1944.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.
(Through: Theater Historian, USFET, APO 887, U.S. Army).

1. In compliance with paragraph 2, AR 345-105, the following report is submitted for 746th Tank Battalion, for August, 1944:

a. Original Unit.

- (1) Designation-746th Tank Battalion
- (2) Date of Organization- 20 August 1942.
- (3) Place of Organization-Camp Hucker, Alabama.
- (4) Authority for Organization-GO, Hq Armored Force, Fort Knox, Kentucky.
- (5) Sources from which personnel was obtained- Officers from 760 and 70th Tk Bns and OCS. EM from 70th Tk Bn and Reception Stations.

b. Changes in Organization.

1-11 August, Assigned to First U.S. Army, attached to 9th Infantry Division.

11-17 August, Assigned to First U.S. Army.

17-31 August, Assigned to First U.S. Army, attached to 9th Infantry Division.

c. Strength-Commissioned and Enlisted-

- (1) At beginning of period. Off 237 WO3 EM 688
- (2) At end of period. Off 338 WO3 EM 690
- (3) Net increase during mo. Off 1 WO0 EM 22

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO
CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 47 MAR 19 1988
101-671

15088
2 Mar 46

- d. Stations- 1 August -11 August -Vic, LA PAGERIE.
 4 August- 6 August- Vic, STE CECILE.
 6 August- 9 August- Vic, ST AUBIN-DES BOIS.
 9 August- 18 August- Vic, ST. POIS.
 18 August-21 August- Vic, COUPHAIN.
 21 August-24 August- Vic, MORTAGNE.
 24 August-25 August- Vic, LA FERTE-VIDAME.
 25 August-27 August- Vic, BRUYERES LE CHATEL.
 27 August-28 August- Vic, MOULIGNON.
 28 August-29 August- Vic, COULOMMIERS.
 29 August-30 August- Vic, BELLEAU WOODS.
 30 August-31 August- Vic, BRAINE.

e. Marches-See Battle Report

f. Campaigns-

- (1) Name of- Operations in NE France.
- (2) Duration- 1 August to 31 August 1944.
- (3) Purpose-To drive enemy out of NW France.
- (4) Authority Ordering- VII Corps.

g. Battles- See Battle Report.

h. Commanding Officer in Important Engagements:
 Lieutenant Colonel CLARENCE G. HUPFER.

i. Losses in Action-See Annex I and II.

j. Present and former members who have distinguished themselves in action:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Company</u>	<u>Recommended For</u>
Martin, Milton M.	Pfc.	"A"	Silver Star
Benson, Paul G.	Pvt.	Hq.	Silver Star.

k. Photographs of important scenes or events: None.

For the Commanding Officer:

Loveaire A. Heddes
 LOVEAIRE A. HEDDES,
 Major, Cavalry,
 Unit Historian.

Incl.

Annex I
 Annex II
 Maps

UNIT HISTORY-BATTLE REPORT

August 1944.

The "breakthrough" between ST LO and PERIERS in the latter part of July 1944 was followed by a period of exploitation and pursuit which occupied the entire month of August.

Generally August was broken into two major operations:

1. Exploitation of the breach of the enemy defenses South and East of VILLEDIEU les POELES (3830). This operation occupied half the month and was characterized by stiff opposition and a major enemy counter attack developed toward relief of the enemy garrison at Avranches.
2. Complete breakdown of enemy defenses and pursuit to the East and NE which occupied the latter half of the month.

From the Battalion standpoint three distinct phases of operation developed during the month:

PHASE I- 1 through 10 August- Support of the 9th Infantry Division in the envelopment of the enemy left flank and exploitation of the breakthrough of his defenses South and East of VILLEDIEU les POELES.

PHASE II- 11 through 17 August-Battalion refitting period vicinity ST. POIS (4824).

PHASE III- 18 through 31 August-Support of the 9th Infantry Division in pursuit of the enemy to the East across the Seine, Marne and Aisne Rivers and approach to the Belgian border.

PHASE I
(1 -10 August)

Battalion Headquarters

Lt. Col. CLARENCE G. HUPFER, Commanding
Major LYNN M. MATTS, Executive Officer.
Captain LOVEAIRE A. HEDGES, S-3.
Captain RICHARD H. LANGSTON, S-2.
1st Lt. CHARLES H. LANZE, S-1.
1st Lt. JOHN L. DUDLEY III, Liaison Officer.
Captain JOHN KLOOSTERMAN, Communication Officer.
Captain ROBERT A. HAMILTON, S-4.
WOJG PAUL W. FINNEY, Personnel Officer.
WOJG Olaf E. Becker, Ass't. S-4.

Headquarters Company

CO— Captain THOMAS B. HOSHALL, JR.
Reconnaissance Platoon-1st Lt. LAUTZ H. GAGE.
Mortar Platoon- 2nd Lt. ROBERT M. FOLEY.

Following a 2¹/₂ day reorganization SE of MARIGNY during 29-31 July, the battalion moved on 1 August to rejoin the 9th Infantry Division in its assembly areas in the general vicinity of MAUPERTIUS (4145) preparatory to the execution of an order to envelope the enemy's left flank and to exploit the break of his defenses in the VILLEDIEU les POELES area.

The Battalion CP, Headquarters Company (-), D Company and Service Company moved to their new area at (376475) vicinity La PAGERIE, closing at 2100 on the 1st, remaining through the 3rd. Reconnaissance elements of Headquarters Company were not with the unit, having moved with the Medium Companies (one squad per company) for the purpose of providing additional liaison and reconnaissance facilities.

The 105mm Assault Guns, one from each of A, B and C Companies had joined the Battalion Assault Gun Platoon at MARIGNY and made the march as a unit with Headquarters Company preparatory to joining the 34th FA Bn as an artillery battery. On the 2nd the Assault Gun Platoon under Captain Richard H. Langston joined the 34th FY Bn and moved to firing positions at (370407) West of PERCY. These positions were held through the 3rd with no missions fired. Through successive moves to (432320) occupied 4-6 August and (490275) occupied 7-9 August, the Assault Gun Platoon supplemented the fires of the 34th FA Bn in general support of the 9th Infantry Division.

On the 4th the Bn CP and residue moved to the new CP area at (409321) SE of VILLEDIEU les POELES where it supervised the battalion operations through part of the 5th, moving again on the 5th to (455308), vicinity ST AUBIN DES BOIS, remaining through most of the 9th. Late on the 9th the battalion CP and residue moved to (490257). This location subsequently became the rest area for the entire battalion.

A Company

CO Captain EUGENE M. McDONOUGH
1st Platoon-1st Lt. CLYDE E. TANNER
2nd Platoon-1st Lt. HUGH J.M. JONES
3rd Platoon-1st Lt. WILLIAM W. WOODS
Maintenance Officer- 1st Lt. HENRY D. WALDING

Following the battalion reorganization at MARIGNY, 29-31 July, A Company assembled in the afternoon of 1 August at 383460 in the vicinity of LE VENTERIE after rejoining the 47th Regiment of the 9th Infantry Division.

On the morning of the 2nd the platoons joined their respective battalions of the 47th and marched South of PERCY (4141) against light resistance until they approached the hill masses and the main highway leading NE of VILLEDIEU les POELES. During the afternoon and night of the 2nd the 1st and 2nd platoons attacked from positions vicinity the cross roads at (400371) to make limited gains to the SE against the hill and highway defenses. During the maneuver extensive mine fields and booby traps were encountered in the village of LA COLOMBE (4136).

On the night of 2-3 August, preparatory to an early morning flanking attack from the West against the hill defenses the 3rd Platoon with the 3rd Battalion, 47th Regiment moved into the 4th Infantry Division zone and at 0800 hours on the 3rd attacked from positions vicinity (397354). This movement coordinated with a frontal attack by the 1st and 2nd platoons with the 1st and 2nd Battalions, 47th Infantry, secured the hill objective by 0910 hours.

The 1st and 2nd, followed by the 3rd platoon in reserve, pushed on against moderate to heavy resistance and succeeded by the close of the 3rd in establishing positions South of the main VILLEDIEU- VIRE road.

The final objective of the 47th was a portion of the Division objective on the high ground 3000 yards NW of MORTAIN, and on the important left flank of the 4th Division objective, the important communications center at CHERENCE le ROUSSEL (5317).

On 4 August and daily thereafter as the Company, with the 47th assaulted successive objectives toward the final objective, resistance grew stronger with an increasing number of tank elements and SP guns being employed. The terrain had opened up with much needed visibility increased; hedgerows were reduced in number although not eliminated. This likewise favored the defender who resisted stubbornly from the increasingly hilly and rugged terrain.

By 7 August very stiff resistance on the high ground along the main road from ST POIS to GATHENO was broken at ST MICHEL de MONTJOIE (5223) and the 2nd platoon with the 2nd battalion moved to the vicinity of LA VILLENEURIE (545210) but met severe fire from the high ground at PERIER on BEAUFICE (5420) and heavy flanking fire from the heights South of GATHENO.

The 2nd platoon held its positions, unable to advance, until 10 August when it pushed into PERIER on BEAUFICE after the flanking fire had been relieved by attacks of the 3rd platoon with the 3rd battalion, 47th Infantry Regiment, in conjunction with B Company and the 60th Infantry on the left flank.

B Company

CO- Captain ASHER K. PAY
1st Platoon- 2nd Lt. THOMAS J. HAYDEN
2nd Platoon- 2nd Lt. Keith E. McLEAN
3rd Platoon- 2nd Lt. K. M. STUBBLEFIELD
Maintenance Officer-1st Lt. WM. H. CARTER.

B Company assembled on the 1st August in the vicinity of MAUPERTINS (4145) preparatory to rejoining the 60th Infantry Regiment following the battalion reorganization of July 29-31.

The 60th was on the left flank of the Division Zone and on 2 August attacked abreast with the 47th on its right, meeting light resistance until it approached the hill mass 1000 yards East of LA COLOMBE and along the VILLEDIEU les POELES-POMPAROY road. There, strong enemy defenses halted all platoons and the Infantry. Defensive positions for the night of 2 August were dug into the forward slope of the objective.

The defenses were broken on the morning of the 3rd and the Company with the Infantry advanced SE against moderate resistance until strong defenses along the railroad just North of the main VILLEDIEU-VIRE road halted the attack along a line 474316-487324.

The railroad and highway defenses were broken on the 4th and attack through the successive objectives resumed toward the road nets running SW from GATHENO to the communication center at CHERENCE le ROUSELL (see A Company account for description of Divisional objectives).

In the attack on the 4th strong resistance was met in the "Forêt de St. Sever", a large defended forest South of ST SEVER CALVADOS.

Attacking through the woodland on the 4th and 5th the Company supported the Infantry against and into the town of CHAMPS du BOUIT (5426) only to be thrown out on the evening of the 5th to night positions NW of the town.

Resuming the attack on the 6th, the 2nd platoon with the 2nd battalion, 60th Infantry, passed through the 1st platoon, retook CAMP du BOUIT and pressed forward against steadily increasing resistance until stopped on the night of the 6th by very strong opposition along the ST POIS-GATHENO road.

On 7 August, coincidentally with a large scale enemy counter attack (See Company C account) from the East, all platoons with their infantry swung 2000 yards to the West and slightly South of GATHENO where they took up defensive positions facing East. These positions were improved on the 8th by slight advances to more favorable ground. On the 9th and 10th the 2nd platoon with the 2nd battalion attacked South and then East in conjunction with the 3rd battalion, 47th to relieve flanking fire holding up the 2nd platoon. A Company with the 2nd Battalion, 47th before the heights of PERIERS en BRANWICH. All positions of the company were held throughout the 10th.

C Company

CO- 1st Lt. JAMES R. SHIELDS
1st Platoon-2nd Lt. COY O. PARKER
2nd Platoon-2nd Lt. LEWIS E. HUDSON
3rd Platoon-2nd Lt. DAVID BERNSTEIN

Following the reorganization period of 29-31 July, C Company joined the 39th Infantry Regiment, 9th Division in reserve on August 1 at (407407) SW of PERCY, where it remained through the 3rd of August.

On 4 August the 39th was attached to the 1st Division with a mission of attacking the 9th Division objective from the flank and rear or from the SW in an effort to dislodge the enemy from the heights between GATHEMO (5923) CHERENCE le ROUSELL (5317) and MORTAIN (5810).

Accordingly on the afternoon of the 4th, C Company together with the 39th RCT (MTZD) moved South and then East to assembly positions on the night of 4-5 August in the vicinity of JUVIGNE le PETRE (5214). On 5 August the RCT with C Company attacked North and by the close of day had secured the village of LE MESNIL-TOVE (5216) against very strong opposition.

On the 6th against bitter opposition, the RCT had cleared the communication center of CHERENCE le ROUSELL (5317) after a costly advance of 1000 yards. The CT was then given a new mission to the East and on 7 August advanced another 1000 yards against bitter opposition. Their attack, was halted, however, by a strong armored counter attack which developed in the night and morning of 6-7 August from SOURDEVAL (6018) and MORTAIN (5810) and launched to the West, evidently intended for the relief of the AVRANCHES garrison. A strong contingent of this force, seeking the road net JUVIGNY le PETRE-LE MORNEL-TOVE and CHERENCE le ROUSELL, came into the rear areas of the 39th RCT. A diversion of other forces to meet this threat permitted the 39th RCT to resume its attack to the East. There it met savage counter attacks which were contained and by 8 August all platoons had pushed astride the CHERENCE le ROUSELL-MORTAIN road to positions along the line 551157-560168 which were held against very strong attack through 11 August when the Company joined the Battalion in bivouac at ST POIS. (See map Phase I for operations of C Company).

D Company

CO-Captain HARVEY SCOTT
1st Platoon- 2nd Lt. ANTHONY A. DEMETRIOU
2nd Platoon- 2nd Lt. JAMES P. ALFORD
3rd Platoon- 2nd Lt. JOHN D. PHILLIPS
Maintenance Officer-1st Lt. HERBERT STACKHOUSE

D Company remained inactive offensively during this phase. Stripped of qualified crewmen by the reinforcement demands of the Medium Companies in July, the light company commenced

its rebuilding program with a view to later commitment.
The Company moved with the Battalion CP, Headquarters
and Service Companies during the phase (See map for routes).

Service Company

CO-Captain RAYMOND E. CARLSON
Bn MAINTENANCE OFFICER: Captain WM F. KENNEDY
Transportation Officer-2nd Lt. JAMES T. HILL
Motor Officer- 2nd Lt. ADRIAN G. BUCKINGHAM

Moving its base successively from one Battalion CP position to another, Service Company, maintained a constant flow of critical supplies forward to the tank companies from Army dumps. As the distances increased to the dumps a greater strain was placed on the vehicles as well as personnel of the Company.

Evacuation and repair of combat damaged tanks and vehicles was handled by the Battalion Maintenance Section.

PHASE II

(11 through 17 August)

All elements of the Battalion were assembled on the 11th and 12th August in a rest area at (488240) North of ST POIS, the battalion having been relieved of attachment to the 9th Division and VII Corps at 0900 and having passed to First Army control.

Through the 17th the battalion relaxed except for necessary maintenance and reorganization. A Company drew 17 new 76mm tanks during the period. All companies had their vehicles camouflage painted by Army teams.

Special Services were provided for the men.

PHASE III

(17-31 August)

Following the rest at ST POIS, the battalion, on the day of the 18th marched as a unit to rejoin the 9th Infantry Division. The successful exploitation of the breach of the enemy defenses South of VILLEDIEU, coupled with all advances on all fronts of the allied effort made possible rapid pursuit to the East by the 9th Division and all others. The need for tank commitment did not arise. Consequently the battalion was not decentralized to join their RCT's but marched as a unit.

August 18 at 2330 found the battalion in bivouac at (0792) (see maps attached), NE of COMITRAIN where it remained in division reserve through the 21st until 1815. During this period the Division was blocking the N-S roads as pressure was being applied to the enemy in the PALAIS-ARGENTAN gap.

beginning at 1815 on the 21st the battalion made a long march to the south of ABLONCIN to reach positions N of ABLONCIN at (752 -see map). The division had the mission of securing all roads leading south between 752 (4328) and ABLONCIN (7516) both exclusive, to protect the army's left flank and to prevent the enemy from moving south out of the "pocket" east of FAULX-VALENTIN. The battalion remained in division reserve in its area N of ABLONCIN until 1545 on the 24th.

Closing in a new bivouac area west of LA FAYE-VALENTIN at 1800 on the 24th, the battalion remained in reserve until 1600 on the 25th.

Working on the afternoon and night of the 25th and the early morning of the 26th, the battalion reached positions in the vicinity of BIANCHARD (913135) closing at 0400. Elements of the 9th division were in bivouac in vicinity of AUBOIS (9613) just east of our positions.

In the afternoon and night of the 26th the battalion was decentralized in the preparation to effecting a crossing of the Seine.

A Company, attached to the 47th Infantry, moved to positions in the vicinity of AUBOIS (1505).

B and C Companies attached to the 60th and 39th RCT's, respectively, moved with their RCT's to positions on the west bank of the Seine opposite MELUN.

On the 27th against light resistance in the 47th RCT sector the RCT's crossed the Seine on engineer bridges; the 60th and 39th RCT's with B and C Companies, crossed at MELUN (2505) (see Map) while the 47th RCT with A Company crossed at Tilly (1606 - see map), followed at 1600 by the Battalion CP, Headquarters Company (-), D Company and Service Company.

Pushing forward after the crossing, the RCT's by the close of the day reached a line TOURNAU en BAIE to ROZAY en BAIE, the 47th with A Company on the left flank, the 39th and C Company on the right, the 60th with B Company in Division reserve behind the 39th, NW of MORMANT.

The Battalion CP with the residue moved into positions between the 60th and 39th RCT's.

Against continued light and scattered resistance from isolated pockets of the enemy, the RCT's with the battalion elements moved forward on the 28th, 29th and 30th, crossing the Marne against no resistance on the 29th and reaching positions NW of REIMS and south of LAON astride the Aisne River on its heights by the close of the 30th. The expected Aisne River defense was light and disorganized.

On 31 August the attack was resumed with a change in direction to the NE and East. D Company, by then sufficiently remained and retrained, moved at 0400 to Company positions at

at SEVEGNY- WOLIFFE (3618) preparatory to committment with the 9th Division Reconnaissance Troop in screening in front of the ICT's.

The ICT's and the battalion moved in attack again on the 31st reaching positions along a line ST CLEMENT-RETHEL (see map). Resistance continued light to moderate from rear guard actions, road blocks and mine fields.

Loveaire A. Hedges
LOVAIRE A. HEDGES,
Major, Cavalry,
Unit Historian.

HEADQUARTERS 746TH TANK BATTALION
APO 230, U. S. ARMY

16 January 1945

VEHICLE LOSSES DURING MONTH OF AUGUST

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>LOST IN COMBAT</u>	<u>LOST F.O. C.</u>	<u>EVAC. NOT REPLACED</u>
TANK, Medium, M4 (75mm Gun)	7		

Clay E. Becker
CLAY E. BECKER
WO3, U. S. A.
Asst. S - 4

11

APPENDIX II

LOSERS IN ACTION

1 August 1944 to
31 August 1944

OFFICERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>TYPE ORG.</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Boatley, Charles G.,	2nd Lt.	LJA	6 Aug 44
Jones, Elvir E.,	2nd Lt.	KIA	7 Aug 44
Chapman, Joseph W.,	2nd Lt.	DWA	8 Aug 44

ENLISTED MEN

Costello, Mike (NMI),	Cpl	SIA	2 Aug 44
Oihlar, Frank R.,	Pvt	LJA	2 Aug 44
Dennis, Walter E.,	Pvt	DWA	2 Aug 44
Enockson, Everett L.,	Pvt	DWA	2 Aug 44
Chmielewski, Casimir E.,	Pvt	LJA	4 Aug 44
Prentice, Fredrick G.,	Sgt.	LJA	4 Aug 44
Stinetic, Peter E.,	Sgt.	LJA	4 Aug 44
Howell, Lawrence E.,	Tec 5	SIA	5 Aug 44
Abrens, Oscar C.,	Tec 4	DWA	5 Aug 44
Minton, James A.,	Cpl	DWA	6 Aug 44
Kennelly, Martin R.,	S/Sgt.	KIA	6 Aug 44
Burzynowski, Stanley J.,	Pvt.	LJA	6 Aug 44
Ficarra, Victor E.,	Pvt	KIA	8 Aug 44
Perry, Shelton W.,	Tec 4	LJA	8 Aug 44
Rochon, Richard J.,	Cpl	KIA	8 Aug 44
Walton, William C.,	Pvt	LJA	8 Aug 44
Tabback, Joseph G.,	Sgt	LJA	8 Aug 44
Potter, William W.,	Tec 5	DWA	8 Aug 44
Sinowitz, Edward P.,	Pfc	DWA	8 Aug 44
Blanchette, Arthur (NMI),	Sgt	DWA	8 Aug 44
Kwederavich, Sinnie A.,	Cpl	DWA	8 Aug 44
Steele, Joseph G.,	Tec 4	LJA	11 Aug 44

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HEADQUARTERS 746TH TANK BATTALION
APO 403 U. S. ARMY.

15 July 1945.

SUBJECT: Unit History, (46th Tank Bn., for July, 1944.
TO : THE ADJUTANT GENERAL, WASHINGTON, D. C.
THROUGH: Theater Historian, HQ. ETOUSA, APO 887.

1. In compliance with Paragraph 2, AR 345-105,
the following report is submitted for 746th Tank Battalion,
for July, 1944:

a. Original Unit.

- (1) Designation-746th Tank Battalion.
- (2) Date of Organization- 20 August 1942.
- (3) Place of Organization-Camp Rucker, Alabama.
- (4) Authority for Organization-GO, Hq Armored force, Fort Knox, Ky.
- (5) Sources from which personnel was obtained-
Officers from 760 and 70th Tank Bns and OCS.
EM from 70th Tk Bn and Reception Stations.

b. Changes in Organization:

- 1 July to 31 July assigned 1st US Army, attached VII Corps.
- 1 July-4 July attached VII Corps.
- 5 July-15 July attached 83rd Infantry Division.
- 16 July-31 July attached 9th Infantry Division.

c. Strength, Commissioned and Enlisted:

- (1) At beginning of period. Off 45 WO 3 EM 781
- (2) At end of period. Off 37 WO 3 EM 667
- (3) Net decrease during mo. Off 8 WO 0 EM 114

d. Stations:

- 1 July to 5 July- Vic, STE MERE EGLISE.
- 5 July to 9 July- Vic, CARENTAN.
- 9 July to 13 July- Vic, le VARIMESNIL.
- 13 July to 18 July- Vic, St. GEORGES-de BOHNO.
- 18 July to 26 July- Vic, TRIBEHOU.
- 26 July to 29 July- Vic, GDE HAIRIE.
- 29 July to 31 July- vic, MARIGNY.

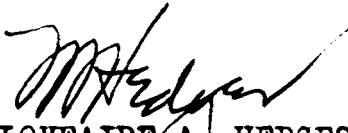
e. Marches- See Battle Report.

- f. Campaigns: Normandy.
- g. Commanding Officer in Important Engagements:
Lt. Col. CLARENCE G. HUPFER.
- h. Battles: See Battle Report.
- i. Losses in Action: See Annex II.
- j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>COMPANY</u>	<u>RECOMMENDED FOR</u>
Jones, Herbert F.	Cpl.	"C"	DSC
Beatty, Charles G.	2nd Lt.	"D"	Silver Star
St. Germain, Harry M.	Sgt.	"D"	Silver Star
Griffin, Chester	Pfc.	"D"	Silver Star
Benson, Paul C.	Pvt.	Hq.	Silver Star
Butler, Harry M.	2nd Lt.	"C"	Bronze Star
Chapman, Joseph E.	2nd Lt.	"C"	Bronze Star

- k. Photographs of personnel, important scenes or events--None.

For the Commanding Officer:


 LOVEAIRE A. HEDGES,
 Major, Cavalry,
 Unit Historian.

- Incls:
- Annex I- Vehicle Losses, July 1944.
 - Annex II- Personnel Losses- July 1944.
 - Four Maps.

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HEADQUARTERS 746TH TANK BATTALION
APO #230 U. S. ARMY.

4
Ord - 4/12/44

8 Oct 44

1 October 1944 *79*

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

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.,
(Through - The CG, 9th Infantry Division, APO 9, U. S. Army).

1. In compliance with paragraph 10, AR 345-105, as charged by changes #3, the following report is submitted for 746th Tank Battalion, for September 1944.

a. ORIGINAL UNIT: 746th Tank Battalion.

b. CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION:

1 September - 30 September, Assigned to First U. S. Army,
Attached to 9th Infantry Division.

c. STRENGTH: 1 September 37 Officers 3 Warrant Off 683 EM
30 September 37 Officers 3 Warrant Off 665 EM
Net Decrease 18.

d. STATIONS: 1 Sept. to 2 Sept. - Vic, Nizy la Comte.
2 Sept. to 2 Sept. - Vic, Coingt.
2 Sept. to 4 Sept. - Vic, Ohean.
4 Sept. to 5 Sept. - Vic, Cerfontaine.
5 Sept. to 8 Sept. - Vic, Ermeton Sur Bieret.
8 Sept. to 10 Sept. - Vic, Palthe.
10 Sept. to 14 Sept. - Vic, Les Forges.
14 Sept. to 15 Sept. - Vic, Eupen.
15 Sept. to 23 Sept. - Vic, Roetgen.
23 Sept. to 30 Sept. - Vic, Roetgen.

e. MARCHES: Not applicable.

f. CAMPAIGNS:

- (1) Name of: Operations in NE France, Belgium and NW Germany.
- (2) Duration: 1 September to 30 September 1944.
- (3) Purpose: To drive enemy out of NE France, Belgium and invasion of Germany.
- (4) Authority ordering: VII Corps.

g. BATTLES: See Annex #1.

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698

S E C R E T

h. COMMANDING OFFICER IN IMPORTANT ENGAGEMENTS:

1 September to 30 September 1944 - Lt. Col. Clarence G. Huffer.

i. LOSSES IN ACTION: See Annex #2.

j. FORMER AND PRESENT MEMBERS WHO HAVE DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES IN ACTION:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>COMPANY</u>	<u>RECOMMENDED FOR</u>
Huffer, Clarence G.	Lt. Col.	Bn. Hq.	Silver Star
Yeatts, Lynn M.	Major	Bn. Hq.	Bronze Star
McLaughlin, Daniel E.	Private	Co. D.	Silver Star

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>COMPANY</u>	<u>AWARDED</u>
Crawford, James A.	Captain	Co. C.	*Silver Star
Hubbard, John L.	Corporal	Co. C.	Bronze Star
Briigham, Donald C.	Sergeant	Co. C.	Bronze Star
Hagan, Harley	Corporal	Co. C.	Bronze Star
Call, John W.	Sergeant	Co. B.	Bronze Star

* Posthumous award.

k. PHOTOGRAPHS: None.

11 Incls.

Annex 1

Annex 2

Unit Journal

Vehicle Losses

GO #2 - 746th Tank Bn

GO #5 - 298th Gen. Hosp.

GO #27 - 34th Evac. Hosp.

GO #35 - 82nd A/B Div.

GO #43 - VII Corps

GO #49 - VII Corps

GO #56 - VII Corps

Clarence G. Huffer
CLARENCE G. HUFFER,
Lt. Col., Cavalry,
Commanding.

~~SECRET~~BATTLE REPORT FOR MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 1944

The period opened on 1 September with the Battalion attached to the 9th Infantry Division. The period breaks into two distinct phases of operations; the 1st to the 14th inclusive, devoted to rapid pursuit; the 15th to the 30th inclusive devoted to probing and reduction of the fortified positions of the SIEGFRIED LINE.

1st to 14th September, incl.

At the close of the previous period, the Battalion, in support of the 9th Infantry Division, had reached positions at DILY le GROS (O-220210), ROZY (O-402297) and SERAINCOURT (O-449185). From these positions the Battalion continued to support the Division in its advance S. and NE. through BELGIUM and to the GERMAN border. The action was essentially one of rapid pursuit of the enemy who threw up defenses in the form of mined road blocks, demolitions and mobile strong points consisting of infantry, tank and SP artillery. Losses during this period were considerably lighter than previously. The light tank company was used extensively with the 9th Division Reconnaissance Troop as a reconnaissance screen in front of our main forces. Due to our rapid progress supply lines were particularly taxed during this phase. The Battalion was attached to the 9th Infantry Division for administration on 11 September 1944. From 2nd September to 14 September Assault Gun Platoon, Mortar Platoon and the Battalion Combat CP were employed by the Division as a nucleus for a Task Force consisting of these elements reinforced with Company C, 899 TD Battalion and Company C, 39th Infantry Regiment (relieved by Company G, 60th Infantry Regiment on 11 September 1944). Task Force carried out offensive and defensive missions as required by Division. As of the 14th of September the Battalion had reached positions against the SIEGFRIED LINE at ROETGEN (K910280), ZWEIFALL (K955367) and LAMMERSDORF (K970269). The Division Task Force was dissolved.

15th to 30th September, incl.

This phase of the operation was devoted to the probing and reduction of the positions within the SIEGFRIED LINE. Advances during this phase were against stubborn defenses from the bunkers and pillboxes of the SIEGFRIED LINE. The reduction of these positions was undertaken one at a time, employing a variety of methods. In the initial days of the phase, the Assault Guns (105mm howitzers) were used in a vain attempt to destroy the pillboxes. The Assault Gun Platoon (6, 105mm How) has since been used with the cannon companies of the Regimental Infantry Combat Teams. Successful attacks embraced combined infantry-tank combat teams. Smoke was used advantageously in the capture of several positions. The enemy maintained vigorous and strong patrolling activities as well as frequent attacks and counterattacks. Enemy losses were heavy. The light tank company, during the phase, was attached to the 9th Infantry Division Reconnaissance Troop; operations during this period were mainly road block missions and protection of lines of communication within the Division sector. From initial positions at ROETGEN, ZWEIFALL and LAMMERSDORF the Battalion advanced to a line SCHEVENHUTTE (FO05422), (FO18400), (FO05385), (FO15360), (K998320), (K990265), and MONSCHAU (K933185) at the close of the period.

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BATTLE REPORT FOR MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 1944, Cont'd.

Clarence G. Huffer
CLARENCE G. HUFFER,
Lt. Col., Cavalry,
Commanding.

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HEADQUARTERS 746TH TANK BATTALION
AFO #230 U. S. ARMY.

GA *BA d/pis*
7 Nov 44
10:15 PM

2 November 1944

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

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

1. In compliance with paragraph 10, AR 345-105, as changed by changes #3, the following report is submitted for 746th Tank Battalion, for October 1944:

a. ORIGINAL UNIT: 746th Tank Battalion.

b. CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION:

1 October - 31 October, Assigned to First United States Army, Attached to 9th Infantry Division.

c. <u>STRENGTH</u> :	1 October	<u>39</u>	0	<u>3</u>	NO	<u>657</u>	EM
	31 October	<u>38</u>	0	<u>2</u>	NO	<u>676</u>	EM
	Net Increase	<u>17</u>					

d. STATIONS: 1 October to 5 October - Roetgen (K912286)
 5 October to 27 October - Vic Zwiefall (K965383)
 27 October to 31 October - Neywertz, Belgium (K885055)

e. MARCHES: Not applicable.

f. CAMPAIGNS:

- (1) Name of: Operations in NW Germany.
- (2) Duration: 1 October to 31 October 1944.
- (3) Purpose: Invasion of Germany.
- (4) Authority ordering: VII Corps.

g. BATTLES: See Annex #1.

h. COMMANDING OFFICER IN IMPORTANT ENGAGEMENTS:

1 October to 31 October 1944 - Lt. Col. Clarence G. Hupfer.

i. LOSSES IN ACTION: See Annex #2.

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S E C R E T

j. FORMER AND PRESENT MEMBERS WHO HAVE DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES IN ACTION:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>COMPANY</u>	<u>RECOMMENDED FOR</u>
Hupfer, Clarence G.	Lt. Col.	Bn. Hq.	Croix de Guerre
Beatty, Charles G.	2nd Lt.	Co. D.	Croix de Guerre
Jones, Herbert F. Jr.	Cpl.	Co. C.	Croix de Guerre
Popp, Andy B.	Sgt.	Co. A	Silver Star
McKnight, Everett L.	Sgt.	Co. B	Bronze Star
Patterson, Bert O.	Sgt.	Co. A	Bronze Star

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>COMPANY</u>	<u>AWARDED</u>
Hupfer, Clarence G.	Lt. Col.	Bn. Hq.	Bronze Star
Yeatts, Lynn M.	Major	Bn. Hq.	Bronze Star

k. PHOTOGRAPHS: None.

Clarence G. Hupfer
CLARENCE G. HUPFER
Lt. Col., Cavalry,
Commanding.

6 Incls.

Annex #1

Annex #2

Unit Journal

Vehicle Losses

OO 86, 9th Inf. Div.

OO 21, 25th Gen. Hosp.

S E C R E T

S E C R E TBATTLE REPORT FOR MONTH OF OCTOBER 1944

The period opened on 1 October 1944 with the Battalion attached to the 9th Infantry Division, tactically and administratively. At the conclusion of the previous period, the Battalion, in support of the 9th Infantry Division, had reached positions along the line SCHEVENHUTTE (VF005422), (VF018400), (VF005385), (VF015360), (VK998320), (VK990265), and MONSCHAU (VK933185). The Battalion was engaged during the period in offensive action to deepen the initial breach of the SIEGFRIED LINE and to push back the enemy flanks within the line by taking the fortified positions from their flanks, moving generally S. down the long axis of the line. The left flank of the Division held defensive positions in the SCHEVENHUTTE area. Company A of the Battalion was employed in road block missions in the town of SCHEVENHUTTE during the entire period. This flank absorbed heavy concentrations of mortar and artillery fire daily during the period. Enemy attacks against these flank positions were repeatedly made and repeatedly repulsed. Companies B and C supported the 60th and 39th Regimental Infantry Combat Teams on the right flank in widening the penetration by offensive drives against the fortified positions. Tank and personnel losses were heavy and mine and AT rockets were responsible for most losses. The light tank company was attached to the 9th Division Reconnaissance Troop during the period. They were active in support of the 298th and 294th Engineer Battalions, which relieved each other, in holding road blocks in the central sector of the Division. The light tank company also was active in protecting communication lines within the Battalion and Division sector and maintaining road blocks. The mortar platoon was heavily employed in successive relief in road blocks during the period. The Assault Gun Platoon, plus the three 105mm Howitzers from the medium companies were made into three, two gun sections and attached to each of three Infantry Combat Team Cannon Companies. These sections fired indirect fire missions in close support of the Combat Teams. The fire was very effective; ammunition allowances of the Cannon Companies being fired to a large extent by our howitzers. Operations during the period, up to the 27th October were in very rugged terrain, consisting of hilly, heavily wooded ground, principally the ROETGER and HURTLEN FORESTS, not suited to normal tank operation. Offensive activities consisted of closely coordinated Tank-Infantry teams employed against concrete and field fortifications within the forests in the SIEGFRIED LINE. Replacements in personnel were green and due to the tactical situation, had to be put into tanks without the benefit of prior orientation in the unit. Fifteen new heavily armored tanks (M4A3E2) were placed into operation during the period. Installation of 300 Radios and Infantry-Tank telephone communication was started during the latter part of the period. On the 25th October at 1200 the Battalion was relieved of attachment to the VII Corps and attached to the V Corps. On the 27th October the Battalion moved with the 9th Infantry Division into a bivouac at REYBERT, BELLIUM (VK885054) for occupation of a defensive sector and for rest and refitting.

Clarence G. Huffer
CLARENCE G. HUFFER
Lt. Col., Cavalry,
Commanding.

S E C R E T

ANNEX II

LOSSES IN ACTION

1 October 1944 to
31 October 1944OFFICERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>TYPE CAS</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Hayden, Thomas J.	2d Lt	01018518	LIA	8 Oct 44
Sherwood, Robert W.	2d Lt	01016334	MIA	10 Oct 44
Harris, Robert W.	2d Lt	01014492	LWA	11 Oct 44
Heinemann, Charles F.	2d Lt	01018204	SWA	12 Oct 44
Stubblefield, Kirkman M.	2d Lt	01018144	SWA	13 Oct 44
Tate, Charles D.	2d Lt	01017068	SWA	15 Oct 44
Tate, Charles D.	2d Lt	01017068	DOW	15 Oct 44
Shannon, Albert V.	2d Lt	01016729	KIA	15 Oct 44

ENLISTED MEN

Gillis, Luther (NMI)	T/Sgt	6920777	SWA	3 Oct 44
Lain, Alfred P.	S/Sgt	38295318	SWA	8 Oct 44
Berlier, Ralph (NMI)	S/Sgt	38165194	LWA	9 Oct 44
Bosco, Joseph (NMI)	Pfc	32976680	LWA	9 Oct 44
Raynes, Robert G.	Cpl	33558676	KIA	9 Oct 44
Perry, Shelton W.	Sgt	38337319	LWA	9 Oct 44
Campbell, Leroy (NMI)	Sgt	38294500	SWA	9 Oct 44
Hoggard, Russel L.	Cpl	38333873	SWA	10 Oct 44
McKnight, Everett L.	Sgt	38542198	LWA	11 Oct 44
Dailey, George W.	Opl	38332356	LWA	11 Oct 44
Sheehan Jr., Daniel J.	Cpl	31045959	LIA	11 Oct 44
Tilton, John A.	S/Sgt	33104672	LWA	11 Oct 44
Gmitter, John A.	Pvt	31338522	SWA	11 Oct 44
McFarlan, Melvin (NMI)	Tec 5	38294128	SWA	11 Oct 44
Booker, Walter N.	Sgt	38333047	SWA	11 Oct 44
Kachuba, Walter S.	Pvt	36681563	SWA	11 Oct 44
Sears, Julius C.	S/Sgt	13014061	LIA	12 Oct 44
Patterson, Bert O.	Sgt	14107987	LIA	12 Oct 44
Draper, William J.	Cpl	38332492	LIA	12 Oct 44
Moss, George H.	Pvt	6902272	SWA	12 Oct 44
Shriver, Paul A.	Pvt	17161624	SWA	12 Oct 44
Bridgham, Donald G.	Sgt	39385382	SWA	12 Oct 44
Eades, Perry E.	Opl	18169606	SWA	12 Oct 44
Calhoun, Charles H.	Opl	6860361	SWA	12 Oct 44
Beck, Paul E.	Opl	35712689	LWA	12 Oct 44
Rinehart, Carrol L.	Pvt	36955545	SWA	12 Oct 44
Mumford, Harry E.	Pvt	33030150	LIA	12 Oct 44
Karst, Joseph C.	Pvt	35235456	SWA	12 Oct 44
Moran, Fritz R.	Tec 4	38286201	KIA	12 Oct 44
McCall, Glenville C.	Pvt	34890788	KIA	12 Oct 44
Sims, Winford B.	Opl	38329085	SWA	13 Oct 44
Blankenbaker, Joseph C.	Tec 5	35697380	LWA	13 Oct 44

ANNEX II - Losses in Action
1 Oct 44 to 31 Oct 44 (Cont'd)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>TYPE CAS</u>	<u>DATE</u>
DeRoche, Fred E.	Cpl	31266349	LWA	13 Oct 44
Cagle, James C.	Sgt	14124148	LWA	13 Oct 44
Williams Jr., John J.	Cpl	31291444	SNA	14 Oct 44
Iglarsh, Benjamin (NMI)	Pvt	32992164	SNA	15 Oct 44
Sroufe, Hershell E.	Cpl	17058633	LIA	15 Oct 44
Hasenei, Russell L.	S/Sgt	6884394	SNA	16 Oct 44

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STATISTICAL AFTER ACTION REPORT OCTOBER 1944

746th TANK BATTALION

1. No. and kind of enemy tanks destroyed.

MK 4 - 2
MK 5 - 4
MK 6 - 2

2. Other enemy vehicles, pillboxes or weapons destroyed.

Half tracks - 5
Trucks - 5
AT Guns - (47.2.) - 6
AT Guns - (75MM or over) - 5
AT Guns - (Bazooka on wheels) - 8
AT Rocket Guns - 8
Machine Gun - (Open emplacement) - 134
Pillboxes - (With machine gun) - 50
Pillboxes - (Without machine gun) - 35

3. Our tanks lost.

Tank Medium, M4 (75MM gun) - 10
Tank Medium, M43E2 - 1
Tank Light, M5A1 - 1

Lost to AT gun fire - 3
Lost to AT rocket fire - 5
lost to mines - 3
lost to artillery fire - 1

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11/6-43

314.7 - GNMEQ 1st Ind.
HQ 9TH INF DIV, A.P.O. #9, U.S. Army, 7 November 1944.

JMA/cl

TO: The Adjutant General, Washington, 25, D.C.
THRU: Commanding General, V Corps, A.P.O. #305, U.S. Army.

Forwarded in compliance with paragraph 10, Army Regulation
345-105, dated 18 November 1929, as changed by Change 3, dated
9 March 1943.

For the Commanding General:



6 Incls: n/o

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HEADQUARTERS 746TH TANK BATTALION

By authority of

CG A.H. [Signature]

Date 14 Nov 44

Initials [Signature]

11 November 1944

UNIT HISTORY, October 1944

SUBJECT: Unit History, October 1944.

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

1. In compliance with paragraph 2, AR 345-105, the following report is submitted for 746th Tank Battalion, for October 1944:

a. UNIT: 746th Tank Battalion.

b. CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION:

1 October - 31 October, assigned to First United States Army, attached to 9th Infantry Division.

c. UNIT STRENGTH: Commissioned 39 WO 2 EM 676

d. STATIONS: 1 October to 5 October - ROETGEN (K912286)
5 October to 27 October - Vic ZWIEFALL (K963303)
27 October to 31 October - WEYNERTZ, BELGIUM (K885055)

e. MARCHES: Not applicable.

f. CAMPAIGNS:

- (1) Name of: Operations in NW GERMANY.
- (2) Duration: 1 October to 31 October 1944.
- (3) Purpose: Invasion of GERMANY.
- (4) Authority ordering: VII Corps.

g. BATTLES:

At the beginning of the period the unit was committed in support of the 9th Infantry Division within the SIEGEN LINE along a line SCHEVENHUTTE (VF005422), (VF014460), (VF005385), (VF015360), (VK998320), (VK998265), and MENSCHAU (VK993185).

The enemy opposing us was a conglomeration of different type units brought together in the form of battle groups or combat teams. Most of the "Elite" or SS and SA Troops had been withdrawn to the interior. Our opposition was mostly German and relatively poorly trained Wehrmacht and in the latter part

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DEC 20 1944

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of the period Volkesturm troops. Regardless of this, the enemy was able to defend his positions effectively by making the most use of his fortified positions and the terrain. He employed mines with abandon and used heavy concentrations of heavy mortars and artillery.

Few tanks were employed against us but his counterattacks were launched with the close support of SP guns following mortar and artillery fire. Great patches of trees had their tops blown off by the mortar fire.

The enemy air was ineffective and sporadic during the day, but small groups of bombers made almost regular night visits over our positions, regardless of the weather.

Flame throwers mounted on half tracks were used by the enemy in night attacks to recover pillboxes or field fortifications. He also prepared field fortifications outside the concrete boxes and fought from these to defend the boxes until driven inside. He used AT Rockets mounted on wheels with a very low silhouette. AT guns were not plentiful due to the limited field of fire.

Prisoners of War were not numerous but a steady flow into our cages took place. All Prisoners of War were turned over to the infantry which we supported.

Several factors influenced the actions during the period. Chief of these was the fact that the operations were conducted in the ROETGEN and HURTGEN Forests which favored the defender. The road nets were extremely limited and the ground very rugged and hilly within the woods. The enemy elected not to use his tanks in this terrain.

The enemy regularly employed strong patrols to probe our lines and to secure information. Although the civilian population in ROETGEN, ZWEIFALL, ROTT, SCHEVENHUTTE and LAMMERS-DORF outwardly appeared neutral and non-belligerent, the enemy secured valuable information as to our disposition through civilians infiltrating forward and agents operating in our areas. This was evidenced by very accurate artillery fire on new C.P.'s and other installations. He appeared to be aware of our movements.

The Battalion was attached to the VII Corps and further attached to the 9th Infantry Division from 1 October to 25 October at 1200. At that time it was relieved of attachment to VII Corps and moved with the 9th Division to attachment to V Corps.

The mission of the Battalion was direct support of the

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9th Infantry Division in its drive to throw back the flanks of our initial penetration of the line in the SCHEVENHUTTE area. This direct support was accomplished by attacking the the three medium tank companies to each of three Regimental Infantry C. T.'s, by attaching the light tank company to the Division Reconnaissance Troop. The Assault Gun Platoon was enlarged to six guns by taking the three, 105MM Howitzers from each of the medium companies which had small opportunity to employ them. These six guns were broken into three, two gun sections and placed with each of three cannon companies of the Regimental Combat Teams to fire indirect fire missions. The Mortar Platoon was attached to an Engineer Battalion for use in supporting road blocks. The Battalion CP, because of the limited progress made during the period up to the 28th October was in two places only. It was in ROETGEN (VK912286) from 1 October to 5 October and in vicinity ZWEIFALL (VK965383) from 5 October to 28 October. From 28 October to close of period at WEYMERTZ, BELGIUM (VK885055). The 9th Division CP was located at ROETGEN until 5 October then at ZWEIFALL until 28 October; to close of period it was located at CAMP EISENBORN, BELGIUM (VK904085).

The general and detailed plan of action is best handled by treating each element of the Battalion separately.

COMPANY A ATTACHED TO 47TH INFANTRY REGIMENTAL C.T.

At the start of the period the 3rd platoon under 1st Lt. WILLIAM W. WOODS had reached the town of SCHEVENHUTTE (VFO05422). The platoon entered the town 300 yards behind the retreating enemy, firing into his column as they withdrew. This point was the deepest penetration of German soil at that time and continued to be until the latter part of the period. The mission of the platoon was to road block the town and hold it against enemy counterattack. By proper placing of the tanks the platoon covered all avenues of approach into the town which is situated in a valley, closely surrounded by high hills. This road block mission continued for the entire period and for the first few days thereof no ground troops were in position to protect the tanks. The right flank and the left flank were badly exposed and communications and supply routes were limited to one route which was kept under regular enemy mortar fire.

Untouched by war at the outset of the period, the town was severely pounded by mortar fire throughout the month until practically all buildings had been damaged, and many demolished. Civilians, and tank crewmen when not on duty in the tanks, lived in the basements of houses or the first floors thereof. Only the strongest of the houses withstood

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the enemy barrages. The civilians frequently cursed the Nazi regime and shared their cookstoves with the crewmen. Fraternization to the extent of seeking common shelter could not be avoided.

The enemy strongly attacked this position on several occasions but was beaten back by the tank fire each time. The strongest force consisted of approximately 160 men armed with machine pistols, AT grenades and rockets. This force overran the outposts positions and reached the tanks but was stopped there by extremely heavy MG and tank gun fire. 90 of the 160 became casualties. Sergeant Popp, Andy B., and his crew withstood the brunt of this attack, he being wounded and evacuated only after the attack was repulsed and order restored. Following this attack the enemy was discouraged from further attempts and resorted to extremely heavy mortar barrages in attempts to dislodge the tank platoon. At the close of the period the platoon remained in position and held the town.

The 2nd platoon commanded by 1st Lt. HUGH J. M. JONES, at the start of the period was in positions in the vicinity of MAUSBACH (VK970408) in support of the 2nd Battalion, 47th Infantry. This platoon occupied this position against constant threat and with supply lines to it repeatedly cut for the first half of the period. As in the case of the 3rd platoon at SCHEVENHUTTE, the 2nd platoon absorbed heavy continuous mortar and artillery fire. Supply was a difficult and hazardous problem as the route was under enemy observation and fire.

The mission of the platoon was essentially one of holding against enemy attack. As in the case of the balance of the company, it was part of the left flank of the division effort and was considerably deeper into Germany than the other two combat teams. Consequently the left flank held while the center and right flank continued to probe to the E. and S.

During the latter part of the period the 2nd platoon was shifted from the MAUSBACH area to position behind the 3rd platoon and held in reserve. Toward the end of the period, considerable thought was given to the possibility of enemy parachute forces. The 2nd platoon was moved to high open ground in vicinity FLEUTH (VK971401) on October 19th with the mission of safeguarding possible glider landing fields.

The 1st platoon, commanded by 1st Lt. CLYDE E. TANNER, was in a reserve status with the 1st Battalion of the 47th Infantry Regiment in support of the other two Battalions of the C. T.

On 12 October at 0615 the 1st platoon moved from the 47th sector to the 39th Infantry sector to support Company C in

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in contemplated attack on WOSSENOCK area (VFO332). This attachment was effective until 1200 on the 15th October (account of this action will be found in Company C history), when it passed into the Infantry Regimental reserve until the close of the period.

During this period Company A was able to send some men on pass to VERVIERS, BELGIUM. Lt. WOODS also was able to take a well earned leave for three days and laundry was accomplished by the company through Quartermaster facilities.

Chiefly because of the defensive character of the company operation, casualties were light. The company had three casualties wounded, no officer casualties.

COMPANY B ATTACHED TO 60TH INFANTRY REGIMENTAL C.T.

Company B attached to the 60th Infantry Regiment C. T. had a continuous daily mission of directly supporting the C. T. from the 1st to the 28th October. Operations were confined to the HURTGEN FOREST, a very rugged piece of terrain for tank operations. During the period, the 60th C. T. with the tanks advanced approximately 4000 yards against very stiff opposition from concrete and other emplacements within the SIEGFRIED LINE running through the forest. The company losses were heavy.

The three platoons of the company were attached to the three Battalions of the Infantry C. T. and further attached to the assault company of each battalion. There was no break in the mission of the company in supporting the infantry to attack until the 24th of October when a change in policy moved the tank platoons to vicinity of Infantry Battalion C. P. 's to remain there in reserve until needed. Prior to that time the tank platoons had remained on the infantry perimeter day and night.

This prior policy was particularly bad because of the need of maintenance and servicing of vehicles. With the tank platoon in a reserve status even as far forward as the Infantry Battalion C. P., maintenance work can be performed to a degree and a higher percentage of tanks kept in combat readiness. The practice of keeping tanks on the infantry perimeter at night and for periods of days and weeks in daytime reduces the efficiency of the tank support. In the period in question the heavy mortar fire kept tank crews inside tanks for long periods.

During the period, maintenance of the tanks suffered because of the "perimeter" policy. The lines were frequently so close to the enemy that running the "Homelite" or battery charger brought down heavy mortar fire. This was not particularly injurious to the tanks or crew, but the infantry suffered with the result that "Homelites" were not started and batteries ran down.

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Heavy concentrations of AT Rockets in the forest were encountered. It was observed AT Rockets were not effective against the armor of the new 39 ton tank introduced during the period. They were effective against its tracks however.

The entire period of action was one of daily coordinated tank-infantry attacks against pillboxes and field fortifications within the forest. Successful attacks were achieved by forcing the apertures of the pillboxes to close by means of small arms fire from infantry or tanks and then flanking the boxes to blow in the doors. During lulls in the actions the infantry C. T.'s regrouped and the tanks remained on the perimeter.

Replacement of personnel losses were green and had to be placed in the tanks with old specialized crewmen by taking them to the vehicles at the front without opportunity to orient themselves with the vehicle or crew.

During the period five officers and 17 EM were casualties.

The 1st platoon was commanded by:

2nd Lt. THOMAS J. HAYDEN, O-1018518, 1 to 8 Oct. - LIA
2nd Lt. ROBERT W. HARRIS, O-1014492, 10 to 11 Oct. - IWA
2nd Lt. CHARLES D. TATE, O-1017068, 14 to 15 Oct. - IDW
2nd Lt. JAMES E. TORGERSON, O-1018782, 15 to 31 Oct.

The 2nd platoon was commanded by:

2nd Lt. Keith E. McLean, O-1017111, 1 to 31 Oct.

The 3rd platoon was commanded by:

2nd Lt. KIRKMAN M. STUBBLEFIELD, O-1018144, 1 to 13 Oct.
SWA
2nd Lt. ALBERT V. SHANNON, O-1016729, 14 to 15 Oct. - KIA
2nd Lt. BERNARD L. HOROWITZ, O-534380, 15 to 31 Oct.

Captain ASHER K. PAY was relieved of assignment as Company Commander on 15 October and assigned to Headquarters Company. Captain THOMAS J. HOSHAL assumed command Company B and relieved command of Headquarters Company.

On the 28th October Company B moved out of the line to bivouac vicinity WEYWERTZ, BELGIUM for occupation defensive sector and for rest and refitting with balance of Battalion. The company remained in this sector until close of period.

COMPANY C ATTACHED TO 39th INFANTRY REGIMENT C. T.

Company C on the left flank of Company B and in the center of the Division sector, advanced in direct support of the 39th Infantry Regiment approximately 4000 yards to vicinity GERMETER (VFO25335) by 28 October when it was pulled out of the line to join the Battalion in WEYWERTZ, BELGIUM for occupation of defensive sector and refitting.

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C Company's mission was identical with that of Company B, ie, direct daily support of infantry attacks against the SIEGFRIED fortifications within the HURTGEN FOREST. In keeping with the 9th Divisions' mission of widening the enemy flanks of our initial penetration, the company attacked to the E. and to the S. down the long axis of the SIEGFRIED LINE, taking the concrete boxes from their flanks as in the case of Company B, strong resistance was met and our losses were relatively heavy. Very heavy mortar concentrations were met. Large numbers of mines and AT Rockets were used against us.

Each day represented a separate operation and attack. Unlike Company B, Company C was withdrawn from the front at night to vicinity Infantry Battalion CP's. This was not a regular occurrence due to the tactical situation but it prevailed to a higher degree in working with the 39th Infantry than with the 60th Infantry.

Supply and control remained difficult until relief from the lines.

The three platoons of the company were attached to the three Infantry Battalions. Company Headquarters operated from the Infantry Regimental CP to the tank platoons.

Various methods of attack were used. All methods were coordinated with infantry. The most successful attacks against the boxes were those employing smoke and fire and maneuver.

On October 12, the 1st platoon of Company A was attached to Company C for contemplated mass tank action against VOSSENOCK, fairly open terrain being available at this point. The plan was sound but before it could be put into effect, the 39th was strongly attacked on its flank by two reinforced companies of enemy infantry, supported by observed SP fire and mortar fire. This attack was successful to the extent that our attack was deferred and our lines of communication cut. It was not until the evening of the 14th that the lines were restored and the ground retaken. 1st platoon of Company A reverted to Company A control on 15 October.

Losses of personnel were as follows:

2 Officers - 16 EM.

2nd Lt. ROBERT W. SHEPWOOD, O-1016334, is MIA, last seen slumped in his tank turret after a bazooka hit. The tank was in enemy territory when hit. Later the enemy evacuated it. 2nd Lt. CHARLES F. HEINEMANN, O-1018204, - SWA.

Captain JAMES R. SHIELDS commanded the company during the period.

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COMPANY D ATTACHED TO 9th DIV. RECONNAISSANCE TROOP

In the previous period the light tank platoon, Company D, was very active during the pursuit of the enemy through BELGIUM to the German border.

During this period the light tank company was not quite so active in reconnaissance missions but performed other types of missions.

Between the 47th Infantry sector to the N. and the 39th Infantry sector on the center, there was a gap held only by road blocks established by the 298th Engineer Battalion. From the 1st October through the 8 October two platoons of Company D were held in assembly areas in rear of the road blocks. From these positions they moved forward frequently to stop attacks against these road blocks. During this same period, one platoon of Company D was held at the 9th Division CP as CP guard. These platoons were rotated.

From October 9 through October 12 the company was further split, one platoon remaining at the Division CP, one platoon remaining in support of the engineer road block while one was moved to the left flank of the 39th Infantry Regiment sector to reinforce that flank. The enemy attacks against the 39th became serious and the tank platoon was dismounted for defensive action.

On the 13th and 14th, two platoons were placed on the left flank of the 39th sector, mounted, while one platoon remained at the Division CP.

From the 15th through the 26th, two platoons of the company were held as a Division Reserve in the company area. One platoon remained at the Division CP as a CP guard.

On the 25th the Assault Gun Platoon was attached to Company D as part of the Division Reserve.

On October 27, Company D departed its location with the 9th Infantry Division Reconnaissance Troop in move to vicinity WEYWERTZ, BELGIUM, closed on FAYMONVILLE (VK868025) at 1400 and there remained until the close of the period.

Captain HARVEY SCOTT commanded the company during the period.

ASSAULT GUN PLATOON

The Assault Gun Platoon of three guns was increased to six by taking the Assault Guns from each of the three medium tank companies. This battery of six guns (105MM How) in previous periods employed as field artillery, was broken into three, two gun sections and attached to each of the three cannon companies

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MAP - Central Europe
GSGS No 4416
Scale - 1:100,000
Sheets - R-1, S-1



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of the Infantry Regimental Combat Teams. Their missions was to provide close support for the infantry C. T.'s. This mission was so successful that considerable of the ammunition allotments of the cannon companies were fired by our guns. This attachment continued until the 25th October when the platoon was attached to Company D as Division Reserve (less one gun with cannon company of 47th Infantry C.T.).

On October 28th the platoon moved with the battalion to vicinity WEYWERZ, BELGIUM for refitting and occupation of defensive sector.

Captain RICHARD H. LANGSTON, Battalion S-2, commanded the platoon in the absence of the platoon leader, SWA before the ST. IO breakthrough. Captain Langston operated from the Battalion CP forward to the Infantry Regimental Cannon Companies.

THE MORTAR PLATOON

The Mortar Platoon, relatively inactive in previous periods was put to good use during October by closely supporting the engineer road blocks established in the gap between the 47th C.T. and the 39th C.T.

The platoon, under 1st Lt. ROBERT M. FOLEY, fired daily with great effectiveness. Mortar tubes and mounts showed excessive wear after only 750 rounds.

Enemy patrols were frequent and attacks against the road blocks effectively repulsed by a combination of mortar fire and light tanks. Booby traps and flares were arranged to ambush enemy patrols.

The platoon reverted to battalion control on the 25th preparatory to move with battalion to WEYWERZ, BELGIUM for refitting. Remained in WEYWERZ until close of period.

During the period the battalion made several modifications of equipment. SCR Radios were installed in seven tanks per company for infantry-tank communication. Telephones linked with the tank interphone system were installed on all medium tanks to facilitate ground to tank conversations. Flame throwers for the medium tanks were drawn and installed and plans formulated for schools.

SCR 509-510 radio sets were established in the infantry battalion CP's for additional communication.

For the Commanding Officer:

Loveaire A. Hedges
LOVEAIRE A. HEDGES
Major, Cavalry,
Unit Historian.

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746TH TANK BATTALION

UNIT HISTORY

October 1 - Battalion, less service and combat elements, in bivouac ROETGEN (K912286). Assault Gun Platoon of three, two gun sections attached to the Infantry Regimental Combat Teams and fired indirect missions with the Combat Team Cannon Companies. Mortar Platoon continued support of 298th Engineer Battalion by covering road blocks established in its sector. Company A attached to 47th Infantry Combat Team continued to hold its positions in the SCHEVENHUTTE area. Company B with the 60th Infantry Combat Team held its positions. Company C with the 39th Infantry Combat Team continued to hold in its sector. 1st Platoon Company A released from Company C and reverted to Company A as of 0800. Company D attached to Division Reserve Task Force and maintained one platoon at Division CP. Other platoons operating as road blocks at KONZEN station and from there to MUTZNICH along the route of communications from MONSCHAU. Enemy activity along the Division front consisted of medium to heavy artillery and mortar concentrations and strong probing patrols in our lines. Weather alternately fair to poor, visibility fair to poor. Combat efficiency 88%.

October 2 - Battalion, less service and combat elements, in bivouac ROETGEN (K912286). Assault Gun Platoon of three, two gun sections attached to and supported by indirect fire, the Regimental Infantry Combat Teams. Mortar Platoon continues support of 298th Engineer Battalion by covering road blocks between the 47th and 60th Combat Team sectors. Strong enemy probing activity along this sector. Company A attached to 47th Combat Team continued to hold its positions in the SCHEVENHUTTE area. Company B attached to 39th Combat Team maintained positions E. Of the LAMERSDORF area. Strong active patrols and medium to heavy artillery and mortar concentrations characterized the activity in the three Combat Team sectors. Company D released from attachment to Division Reserve Task Force and moved into assembly position (K955355) preparatory to further commitment. One platoon Company D sent from Division CP into the 298th Engineer sector to assist in repulsing attack there. Reverted to Division CP upon completion of mission. Weather cold and rainy, visibility poor to fair. Combat efficiency 88%.

October 3 - Battalion, less service and combat elements, in position ROETGEN (K912286). Assault Gun Platoon of three, two gun sections attached to and supported Infantry Regimental Combat Teams by indirect fire with the cannon companies. Mortar Platoon continues to support 298th Engineers' road blocks between the 47th and 60th Combat Teams. Company A attached to 47th Infantry Combat Team continues to hold in the SCHEVENHUTTE area. Company B attached to the 60th Combat Team continues to probe toward limited objectives. 60th Combat Team mainly regrouping and holding. Company C with 39th Combat Team continues to hold in its sector while regrouping for occupation of new sector. Company D attached to 9th Division Reconnaissance Troop. One platoon at Division CP. Two platoons with reconnaissance platoons in the 298th Engineer road block sector. Battalion Maintenance drew seven

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- October 3 - tanks (Ford Engines) - released four to Company B and three to Company C. Enemy activity was relatively light with artillery and mortar concentrations of light character falling throughout the division. Weather cold and rainy, visibility poor. Combat efficiency 100%.
- October 4 - Battalion, less service and combat elements, in position ROETGEN (K912286). Assault Gun Platoon of three, two gun sections attached to and supported Infantry Regimental Combat Teams of indirect fire with the cannon companies. Mortar Platoon continues to support 298th Engineers road blocks from position at (FO05380). Company A attached to 47th Combat Team continues to hold positions in the SCHEVENHUTTE area. Company B attached to 60th Infantry Combat Team worked toward limited objectives S. of GERMEIER, in the vicinity of (FO18325). Company C attached to 39th Infantry Combat Team and worked toward limited objectives in the GERMEIER area (FO25330). 39th Combat Team with Company C shifted from the right flank of the division to the center sector between the 47th and 60th Combat Teams. One Battalion of 60th Infantry Combat Team plus one platoon Company B tanks moved from MONSCHAU to join 60th Combat Team in its sector. 4th Cavalry took over MONSCHAU. Company D withstood attack on 298th Engineer road blocks with two platoons. One platoon at Division CP. Artillery and mortar fire fell in fair to heavy concentrations throughout the area of the division. Weather fair, visibility fair to good. Combat efficiency 100%.
- October 5 - Battalion, less combat and service elements, in position ROETGEN (K912286) until 1330 then moved to area NE of ZWEIFALL at (K965383). Closed in area 1530. Battalion Maintenance Section moved to VICHT at (K962394). Closed at 1500. Assault Gun Platoon of three, two gun sections each attached to infantry combat team cannon companies. Supported combat teams by indirect fire missions. Mortar Platoon attached to 298th Engineer Battalion in support of road blocks. Platoon remains in position at (FO05380). Company D continues attachment to 9th Division Reconnaissance Troop supporting 298th Engineer Battalion road blocks. Company inactive during day. One platoon at Division CP as guard. Company A attached to 47th Infantry Combat Team still holds its positions in the SCHEVENHUTTE area. Company B attached to 60th Infantry Combat Team held its positions against the SIEGFRIED LINE. Company C attached to 39th Infantry Combat Team inactive except for holding positions E. of LALLERSDORF. Contemplated drive in 39th sector did not materialize due to lack of air support caused by unfavorable weather until approximately 1600 hours. Enemy fighter plane groups in strength up to 18 appeared over the sector and received heavy but inaccurate AA fire. Mortar and artillery fire fell throughout the division sector. Weather cold and rainy, visibility poor until 1600. Combat efficiency 100%.
- October 6 - Battalion, less service and combat elements, in position NE of ZWEIFALL (K965383). Service elements closed in new area 1130 at (K930-316). Battalion Maintenance in position VICHT (962394). Assault Gun Platoon of three sections of two guns each attached to Regimental Infantry Combat Teams supported Combat Teams with indirect fire.
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October 6 - Mortar Platoon continues in position at (FO05380) supporting 298th Engineer Battalion road blocks. Company A attached to 47th Infantry Combat Team and continues to hold positions in the SCHEVENHUTTE area. Artillery and mortar fire fell throughout 47th Combat Team sector. Company B attached to 60th Infantry Combat Team and Company C attached to 39th Infantry Combat Team commenced drive through SIEGFRIED defenses N. and E. of LALLERSDORF at 1130 after air and artillery preparation. Heavy resistance encountered in form of wire, SA fire, mortar and artillery fire. At close of period had advanced approximately 1000 yards. Weather clear, visibility good. Combat efficiency 100%.

October 7 - Battalion, less service and combat elements, in position NE ZWEIFALL (K965383). Service elements in position at (K930316). Battalion Maintenance in position VICHT (K962399). Assault Gun Platoon of three, two gun sections supported each of three infantry combat teams with indirect fire with the cannon companies. Mortar Platoon, from positions vicinity (FO05380) supported 298th Engineer Battalion road blocks between 47th and 60th Combat Team sectors. Company A attached to 47th Regimental Combat Team continued to hold in SCHEVENHUTTE area (FO05120) absorbing artillery and mortar fire of a continuous character. Company B attached to 60th Regimental Combat Team supported attack toward limited objectives SW of GERLETER in vicinity (FO05325). Resistance met in form of concrete and field fortifications and road blocks, mines, mortar and SA fire. Progress slow. Company C attached to 39th Regimental Combat Team supported attack to E. to objective of GERLETER (FO15333). Reached positions approximately 1000 to 1500 yards W. of objective. Resistance met similar to that of 60th Combat Team. Company D attached to 9th Division Reconnaissance Troop with one platoon at Division CP, two other platoons supported 298th Engineer road blocks. Weather clear, visibility very good. Air activity over the division sector against enemy. Combat efficiency 100%.

October 8 - Battalion, less service and combat elements, in position NE of ZWEIFALL at (K965383). Service elements in position at (K930316). Battalion Maintenance in position VICHT (K962399). Assault Gun Platoon of three, two gun sections attached to each regimental combat team for support with the cannon companies by indirect fire. Mortar Platoon attached to 298th Engineer Battalion, in position (FO05380). Company A with 47th Infantry Combat Team continues in position in the SCHEVENHUTTE area. Company B attached to 60th Combat Team supported attack toward W, S. of GERLETER at (FO19324). Lost one tank to artillery fire. One E1, S.M. Stiff resistance met from fortified positions of the SIEGFRIED. Company C attached to 39th Infantry Combat Team supported attack toward GERLETER. Stiff resistance met from SIEGFRIED positions. Both Company B and C obtained local objectives. Company D attached to 9th Division Reconnaissance Troop; held one platoon at Division CP and two platoons in the 298th Engineer sector to reinforce road blocks. Weather good, visibility good. Combat efficiency 95%.

October 9 - Battalion, less service and combat elements, in position NE of ZWEIFALL (965383). Service and elements in position at (K930316). Battalion Maintenance in position VICHT (K962399). Assault Gun Platoon of

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October 9 - three, two gun sections attached to each regimental combat team for support by indirect fire with the cannon companies. Mortar Platoon attached to 298th Engineer Battalion in support of road blocks. Company A attached to 47th Infantry Combat Team continued to hold in the SCHEVENHUTTE area. Two tanks at a time to be pulled out of the line for maintenance beginning 10 October. Company B attached to 60th Infantry Combat Team supported attack to E, SW. GERMETER. Heavy resistance from road blocks, SA and mortar fire including AT rockets. Lost two tanks to AT rockets. Two EL evacuated SWA, one KIA. Terrain in this sector very unfavorable, being wooded and steep. One tank put back in action. Company C attached to 39th Infantry Combat Team attacked toward GERMETER making progress against heavy resistance similar to the 60th sector. Company D continues attachment to 9th Division Reconnaissance Troop. One platoon at Division CP as guard, 2nd platoon attached to 39th Infantry to guard left flank, and 3rd platoon supports road blocks in the 298th Engineer Battalion sector. Weather cold and cloudy, visibility poor. No air activity. Combat efficiency 90%.

October 10 - Battalion, less combat and service elements, in position NE of ZWEI-FALL (K965383). Service elements in position at (K930316). Battalion Maintenance in position VICHT (K962399). Assault Gun Platoon of three, two gun sections attached to each of the three regimental Infantry Combat Teams, firing indirect missions with the cannon companies. 34th FA asking for incorporation of assault gun platoon with its battalion. CO decision to leave the assault gun platoon with cannon companies. Mortar Platoon attached to 298th Engineer Battalion, firing missions in defense of engineer road blocks between the 47th and 60th Combat Team sectors. Company A attached to 47th Combat Team continues to hold its position in the SCHEVENHUTTE area. Constant heavy mortar and artillery fire fell on Company A positions. Company B attached to 60th Combat Team and supported attack to E. and SE, beginning at 1200. 1st platoon with the 1st Battalion moved at 1800 to SE against heavy resistance to take its objective (road net at FO11304). 2nd and 3rd platoons with 2nd and 3rd Battalions made less progress against heavy resistance. 3rd platoon cut the road S. out of GERMETER. Company C attached to 39th Combat Team attacked to E. and took GERMETER (FO25335). Resistance in the 39th and 60th Combat Team sectors consisted of heavy mortar fire, SA fire and considerable numbers of AT rockets. The terrain in these two sectors is decidedly unfavorable for tank operation. Company D attached to 9th Infantry Division Reconnaissance Troop. Weather cold and cloudy, visibility poor to fair. Combat efficiency 85%.

October 11 - Battalion, less service and combat elements, in position NE of ZWEI-FALL at (K965383). Service elements in position at (K930316). Battalion Maintenance in position VICHT at (K962399). Assault Gun Platoon of three, two gun sections attached to each of three Regimental Combat Teams firing indirect missions with the cannon companies. These sections are firing heavily in support. Crews resorted to gas masks in the turrets to overcome cordite fumes. Mortar Platoon attached to 298th Engineers in support of road blocks between the 47th and 60th Combat Team sectors. Company A attached to 47th Combat Team continues to hold in the SCHEVENHUTTE area, absorbing heavy mortar and artillery

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October 11 - fire. 1st Platoon Company A to go to Company C at 0615 12th October. Company B attached to 60th Combat Team supported attack S. and SW. from GERMETER (FO25433), meeting heavy resistance in form of mortar, artillery, SA and AT rocket fire as well as mines. 1st Platoon tanks with 1st Battalion had been cut off at PF (FO11304) and 3rd platoon in working S. from GERMETER toward it lost two tanks to mines. An interior road to the isolated platoon was made through woods. Capt. Pay, Commanding Officer, evacuated Lt. Harris and one E1, wounded. Two other tanks lost, one to mine and one to AT rocket. Three E1, SVA. Company C attached to 39th Infantry Combat Team supported attack E. toward VOSSENOCK (FO332). Met heavy resistance similar to that in 50th Combat Team sector. Lost three tanks to AT rocket fire. Lt. Sherwood, MIA (last seen in tank turret after AT hit). Plan developed to assault VOSSENOCK on 39th sector by massed tank action coordinated with artillery, TD and Infantry. Battalion Commanding Officer called to Division Headquarters for consultation and advise on use of armor. Attack scheduled for 12th October. Company D attached to 9th Division Reconnaissance Troop. One platoon at Division CP, one platoon supported 298th Engineers in protection of 39th Combat Team left flank, and one platoon plus five men from Company D Headquarters dismounted and established a defensive position on 39th left flank. The terrain in all sectors remains very unfavorable and definitely favors the defenders. Weather fair to good, visibility fair to good. Combat efficiency 80%.

October 12 - Battalion, less service and combat elements, in position NE. of ZWEI-FALL (K96538). Service elements in position at (K930316). Battalion Maintenance in position VICHT at (K962399). Assault Gun Platoon of three, two gun sections attached to each of three regimental combat teams in close support with indirect fire missions. Mortar Platoon attached to 298th Engineer Battalion in support of road blocks between the 60th and 39th Infantry Combat Teams. Mortars wearing out and replacements difficult to secure. One mortar (81MM) unserviceable after 750 rounds. Division is reducing allotment of mortar ammunition. Company A attached to 47th Infantry Combat Team continues to hold its position in the SCHEVENHUTTE area, continuing to absorb mortar and artillery concentrations. At 0615 1st Platoon Company A moved from 47th sector to 39th sector with Company C for contemplated attack with Company C on VOSSENOCK (FO332). Company B attached to 60th Infantry Combat Team supported attack to SW on VOSSENOCK. 1st Platoon reduced to three tanks of which one is inoperative mechanically, in a very sensitive position at (FO11304). Supply and maintenance of this platoon very difficult. Lt. Hayden returned from hospital and took over this platoon at 1000. Was again evacuated at 1400. After procuring some personnel replacements (1 sergeant and two crew men), the two tanks of the platoon and two TD's plus one platoon infantry, assaulted from the flank the three pillboxes closely opposing them. One pillbox taken and the position improved somewhat. 2nd Platoon held up by mined tank blocking the road. Retriever from Company Headquarters cleared road at 1500. By that time tanks had found way around. Crewmen from one tank of this platoon which was isolated from rest of the tanks, fought off the

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October 12 - enemy by dismounted TSMC action. Machine guns of tanks could not be brought to bear because vehicle had been mined. By 1630 other three tanks of platoon had joined it. 3rd platoon of three tanks with Company I, 60th Infantry, at (F019324) were cut off for most of day by counter-attack. Two tanks of this platoon lost previously to mines. Company B drew four new 39 ton tanks (Ford engines and heavier armor). Personnel losses in Company B heavy due to both casualties and illness. One officer and 5 AM evacuated. Company C, plus one platoon Company A in position preparatory to launch massed tank attack on VOSSENOCK. Before this could be accomplished, the 39th Regimental Combat Teams' positions 1000 yards N. of GERMETER were strongly counterattacked by two companies of infantry reinforced with observed fire from SP artillery and mortars. Communication lines to the platoons attached to Battalions of 39th were severed. Lt. Heinemann, SWA and evacuated. One platoon leader left in Company C at close of period. Third Battalion of 39th with tank platoon had withdrawn from positions N. of VOSSENOCK and E. of GERMETER to positions N. of GERMETER. One platoon tanks, plus one infantry company secured GERMETER. Two tanks in Company C lost. Company D attached to 9th Infantry Division Reconnaissance Troop, maintained one platoon at Division CP as guard. This platoon alerted at approximately 0930 for possible use against counterattack in 39th sector. Use did not materialize. One platoon dismounted on the left flank of the 39th Combat Team in a defensive position was overrun by the attacking enemy. Later assembled and re-established its lines. One platoon remained in support of road blocks in 298th Engineer sector. Weather fair to good, visibility fair to good. Light air activity on both sides. Combat efficiency 70%.

October 13 - Battalion, less combat and service elements, in position NE of ZWEIFALL at (K965383). Service elements in position at (K930316). Battalion Maintenance in position VICHT at (K962399). Assault Gun Platoon of three, two gun sections attached to each of three Regimental Infantry Combat Teams for indirect fire missions with the cannon companies. Ammunition allotment reduced to 150 rounds per day. Assault Gun Platoon previously fired considerably in excess of this amount. Mortar Platoon attached to 298th Engineer Battalion in support of road blocks between the 47th and 60th Combat Team sectors. Mortar ammunition allotment also cut. Mortars in need of replacement, which at present are not available. Company A, less 1st platoon, remains in position in the SCHEVENHUTTE area absorbing frequent mortar and artillery concentrations. Company B attached to 60th Combat Team continued to support attacks on pillboxes and field fortifications S. and SW. of GERMETER. 1st Platoon with 1st Battalion of Combat Team attacked from RJ at (F011304) with three tanks. One of the three tanks hit by AT rocket and wounded the section sergeant and one man. Tank had to be abandoned. Subsequent action enabled the enemy to capture the tank. Section left in command of Corporal. The position of this platoon has been precarious for three days, supply and gassing being exceedingly difficult. In the supply of this platoon today, one 1/4 ton truck was lost to mines, supply sergeant SWA and Service Company driver IWA. Third platoon in support of

[REDACTED]

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October 13 - Company I at HJ (F019324). Platoon leader, Lt. Stubblefield, SMA while reporting to Battalion CP. 2nd platoon supported 2nd Battalion Combat Team in attack. Company B received two officers and twenty one 21 replacements at 1800. Replacements are not combat trained and none were tank commanders, of which there is serious need. One company of tanks from 32nd Tank Regiment, 3rd Armored Division, plus two companies infantry from 2nd Battalion, 47th Regiment, moved into position as task force to support 60th Regimental Combat Team. Company C, plus one platoon Company A, attached to 39th Infantry Combat Team. Main effort during the day was restoration of line forced by enemy counterattack down draw in the (F0132) block. No enemy employed. Tanks forced to wait for enemy along roads. No enemy tanks employed. Heavy fighting throughout the day. Company D attached to 9th Infantry Division Reconnaissance Troop and has one platoon in position at Division CP and two platoons employed to protect the left flank of the 39th Combat Team in its effort to pinch off the enemy salient within its lines. Weather fair to clear, visibility fair to good. Combat efficiency 81%.

October 14 - Battalion, less service and combat elements, in position NE SWEIFALL at (K965383). Service elements in position at (K930316). Battalion Maintenance in position VICHT at (K962399). Assault Gun Platoon of three, two gun sections attached to each of three Regimental Infantry Combat Teams for indirect fire with the cannon companies. Mortar Platoon attached to 298th Engineer Battalion for support of road blocks between 47th and 60th Combat Team sectors. Company A attached to 47th Infantry, Combat Team continued to hold its positions in the SCHEVENHUTTE area. 1st platoon attached to Company C in 39th sector to support attack to S. Mortar and artillery concentrations fell on the positions. Company B attached to 60th Combat Team supported attack toward HJ at (F003310). Stiff resistance met in form of AT rockets, mortar, artillery and SA fire from pillboxes in the 2nd platoon sector. 1st and 3rd platoons supported attack toward road leading SW out of SWEIFALL. Heavy resistance encountered. Company C attached to 39th Combat Team relatively inactive pending consolidation of 39th Combat Team positions. 1st platoon Company A attached. Company D attached to 9th Division Reconnaissance Troop acting as guard for Division CP and in support of road blocks on left flank of 39th Infantry. Weather good, visibility good. Combat efficiency 86%.

October 15 - Battalion, less service and combat elements, in position NE SWEIFALL at (K965383). Service elements in position at (K930316). Battalion Maintenance in position VICHT (K962399). Assault Gun Platoon of three, two gun sections attached to each of three Regimental Infantry Combat Teams for indirect fire missions with the cannon companies. Mortar Platoon attached to 298th Engineer Battalion to support road blocks between 47th and 60th Combat Teams. Company A attached to 47th Infantry Combat Team continued to hold its positions in the SCHEVENHUTTE area. 1st platoon reverted to Company A from Company C at 1200. Mortar and artillery concentrations continued to fall in the sector. Company B attached to 60th Combat Team supported attack to S. and SW of SWEIFALL. 1st platoon with 1st Battalion bogged down in the initial phases of the attack due to mechanical failure of lead tank which

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October 15 - blocked the road; dense woods prevented by-passing. Lt. Tate, platoon leader, KIA by mortar fire. Lt. Shannon, 3rd platoon leader, KIA by mortar fire. Both officers were on reconnaissance to front. Extremely heavy mortar and SA fire prevalent throughout the 60th sector. Captain Fay relieved Company B and assigned Headquarters Company, Captain Woshall assumed command Company B. Lt. Carter relieved as maintenance officer, Company B and assigned Headquarters Company, Lt. Spees assigned Company B as maintenance officer. 1st Sgt. Zangla relieved Company B and 1st Sgt. Sulek and S/Sgt. Eckels assigned Company B. Company C attached to 39th Infantry Combat Team inactive during period except for road block missions. Maintenance being performed on six vehicles. Mortar and SA fire fell throughout sector. Company D attached to 9th Division Reconnaissance Troop. One platoon at Division CP as guard and two platoons at Company CP in reserve. Weather rainy and cold, visibility poor. Combat efficiency 87%.

October 16 - Battalion, less service and combat elements, in position NE. ZWEIFALL at (K965383). Service elements in position at (K930316). Battalion Maintenance in position VIGT at (K962399). Assault Gun Platoon of three, two gun sections attached to each of three Regimental Infantry Combat Teams to fire indirect missions with the cannon companies. Mortar Platoon attached to 298th Engineer Battalion with mission of protecting road blocks between 47th and 60th Combat Team sectors. Company A attached to 47th Combat Team continues to hold in the SCHWENHUTTE area, absorbing moderate to heavy mortar and artillery fire. Company B attached to 60th Combat Team reorganized present positions SW of GERMETER. Heavy mortar and artillery fire fell in sector sporadically. Company D attached to 9th Infantry Division Reconnaissance Troop and held two platoons as Division Reserve and one at Division CP as guard. Weather fair to bad and cloudy. Visibility poor. Combat efficiency 87%.

October 17 - Battalion, less service and combat elements, in position NE. ZWEIFALL at (K962383). Service elements in position at (K930316). Battalion Maintenance in position VIGT at (K962383). Assault Gun Platoon Attached to Company D as division reserve. Three guns (105mm How.) of each medium line company attached to each of three Regimental Infantry Combat Teams to fire indirect missions with the cannon companies. Mortar Platoon attached to 298th Engineer Battalion to support road blocks between the 47th and 60th Combat Team sectors. Company A attached to 47th Combat Team continued to hold its positions in the SCHWENHUTTE area absorbing sporadic but heavy mortar and shell fire. Company B attached to the 60th Infantry Combat Team supported local rearrangement of its lines but was largely inactive. Some mechanical troubles in the tanks were corrected. Heavy mortar and artillery fire in area. Large numbers of AT rockets. Company C attached to 39th Infantry Combat Team remained inactive as combat team held defensive positions. Heavy mortar and artillery fire fell throughout area. Company D, less one platoon, held in reserve by Division. One platoon at Division CP as guard. Weather fair to bad with cold and intermittent rain. Visibility fair to bad. Combat efficiency 85%.

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October 18 - Battalion, less combat and service elements, in position NE. ZWEIFALL at (K965383). Service Company in position at (K930316). Battalion Maintenance in position at VICHT at (K962399). Three 105mm of Assault Gun Platoon attached to Company D as Division Reserve. Three 105mm Howitzers from line companies attached one to each of three Regimental Infantry Combat Teams for indirect fire missions with cannon companies. Company A attached to 47th Combat Team continued to hold its positions in the SCHEVENHUTTE area absorbing heavy mortar and artillery fire. Company B attached to 60th Infantry Combat Team in position SW of GEMETER. Small activity during the day. Enemy concentrations of mortar and artillery continued to fall in sector. Lt. Bucknigham attached to Company B as surplus officer for orientation. Company C attached to 39th Infantry Combat Team in active status behind C. T. lines during day. Positions N. and S. of GEMETER. Company D attached to 9th Infantry Division Reconnaissance Troop as Division Reserve. In position (K976-347), one platoon at Division CP as guard. Weather cold and rainy and visibility poor. Combat efficiency 84%.

October 19 - Battalion, less service and combat elements, in position NE. ZWEIFALL at (K965383). Service elements in position at (K930316). Battalion Maintenance in position VICHT at (K982399). Assault Gun Platoon (three guns) attached to Company D and remains in Division Reserve. Assault Guns of each medium company attached to each of three Regimental Infantry Combat Teams to fire indirect fire missions with the cannon companies. These guns continue to fire indirect fire heavily in close support. Mortar Platoon remains attached to 298th Engineer Battalion to support road blocks in the sector between the 47th and 60th Combat Teams. Company A remains attached to 47th Infantry Combat Team and continues to hold its positions in the SCHEVENHUTTE area. The 3rd platoon in SCHEVENHUTTE proper withstood severe heavy artillery concentration of battalion strength at approximately 2100. Heavy mortar concentrations continue to fall intermittently during daylight hours. 2nd platoon completed move to high ground at (K971401). This platoon acting as 47th Regiment protection against air-borne and/or armored attack on its left flank. 1st platoon remains in regimental reserve. Installation of "300 Radios" in tanks continues. Company B attached to 60th Infantry Combat Team held in defensive positions S. and SW. of GEMETER. Sector relatively quiet except for sporadic mortar fire. Evacuation of disabled tanks undertaken. Lt. Horowitz reported and was assigned to Company B. Two EM replacements assigned to Company B. Battalion CO visited 60th Infantry CO to speak of tank tactics. Installation of "300 Radios" in tanks continues. Company C attached to 39th Infantry Regimental Combat Team remained inactive in sector which is now defensive in character. Maintenance of vehicles and installation of "300 Radios" in tanks continues as tactical situation permits. Lt. La Loge and one EM reported to Company C as replacements. Sporadic mortar and artillery fire fell throughout the sector. Company D attached to 9th Division Reconnaissance Troop, in division reserve. One platoon at Division CP as guard. Special emphasis being placed on preparation or readiness for air-borne attack. Maj. General Craig, CG, 9th Infantry Division, visited Battalion CO. Weather cold and rainy, visibility poor. Combat efficiency 84%.

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October 20 - Battalion, less combat and service elements, in position NE of ZWEI-FALL at (K965383). Service elements in position at (K930316). Battalion Maintenance in position VICHT at (K962399). Assault Gun Platoon (3 guns) attached to Company D, continues in Division Reserve. The three 105MM Howitzer tanks from the medium companies, remain attached to the three cannon companies of the infantry combat teams, firing indirect missions. Mortar Platoon remains attached to 298th Engineer Battalion in support of road blocks. Company A attached to the 47th Infantry Combat Team continues to hold defensive positions in the SCHEVENHUTTE area. 2nd platoon continues to hold on the high ground at (K971401). Sporadic mortar and artillery fire fell throughout the sector. Installation of "300 Radios" continues. Company B attached to 60th Combat Team relatively inactive in defensive sectors. The platoons continue to hold the perimeter with infantry. Sporadic mortar and artillery fire fell throughout the sector. Company C attached to 39th Infantry Combat Team inactive during period - held in reserve status in the C. T. area. Sporadic fire from mortar and artillery fell throughout the sector. Company D attached to the 9th Division Reconnaissance Troop, remained in Division Reserve. One platoon at Division CP as guard. Assistant Division Commander visited Battalion CO at Battalion CP from 0930 to 1200. Ten men from each of B and C Companies, plus one officer from Company C left for three day rest at VERVIERS, BELGIUM at 0730. Weather fair, Visibility fair. Combat efficiency 84%.

October 21 - Battalion, less combat and service elements, in position NE of ZWEI-FALL at (K965383). Service elements in position at (K930316). Battalion Maintenance in position VICHT at (K962399). Assault Gun Platoon (three guns) attached to Company D and remain in Division Reserve. Three remaining guns from the medium companies still attached to cannon companies of the three infantry combat teams for indirect fire missions. Mortar Platoon remains attached to 298th Engineer Battalion in support of road blocks between the 47th and 60th Combat Team areas. Company A attached to 47th Combat Team continues to hold defensive positions in the SCHEVENHUTTE and FLEUTH areas. Sporadic mortar and artillery fire fell throughout the sector. Company B attached to 60th Infantry Combat Team continues to hold with infantry in defensive positions. Agreement reached to move platoons from the perimeter to vicinity of battalion CP's effective 22 October and thereafter during period of tactical inactivity. Battalion Executive Officer and Battalion Maintenance Officer with crews evacuated tank in Company B sector while under heavy mortar fire. Company C attached to 39th Infantry Combat Team inactive during period. Sporadic mortar fell in the sector. Seven EM evacuated due to injuries sustained when truck carrying them turned over. Company D remains attached to 9th Infantry Division Reconnaissance Troop and remains in Division Reserve. One platoon at Division CP as guard. Weather fair to good, visibility fair to good. Combat efficiency 86%.

October 22 - Battalion, less service and combat elements, in position NE of ZWEI-FALL at (K965383). Service elements in position at (K930316). Battalion Maintenance in position at VICHT (K962399). Assault Gun Platoon (three guns) attached to Company D as Division Reserve. Three assault guns from the medium companies attached to each of three infantry combat teams to fire indirect fire missions with the cannon companies. Mortar

- [REDACTED]**
- October 22 - Platoon attached to 294th Engineer Battalion to support road blocks between the 60th and 47th Combat Team sectors. Companies A, B and C attached to 47th, 60th and 39th Infantry Combat Teams and held defensive positions throughout the period. Sporadic mortar and artillery fire fell throughout the division sector. Company D attached to 9th Division Reconnaissance Troop and remained in Division Reserve, less one platoon at Division CP as guard. Weather fair, visibility fair, Combat efficiency 90%.
- October 23 - Battalion, less service and combat elements, in position NE of ZWEI-FALL at (K965383). Service Company in position at (K930316). Battalion Maintenance at VICHT (K962399). Assault Gun Platoon (three guns) attached to Company D as Division Reserve. Three assault gun from medium companies attached to each of three infantry combat teams for indirect fire with the cannon companies. Mortar Platoon attached to 294th Engineer Battalion in support of road block between 47th and 60th Combat Team sectors. Companies A, B and C attached to 47th, 60th and 39th Infantry Combat Teams and held defensive positions in the SCHEVENHUTTE, S of GEMETER and GEMETER sectors. Sporadic mortar and artillery fire fell throughout the sector. Company D attached to 9th Division Reconnaissance Troop and remained in Division Reserve. Weather fair to poor, visibility fair to poor. Combat efficiency 95%. 75MM practice firing conducted for replacements of Companies B and C.
- October 24 - Battalion, less service and combat elements, in position NE of ZWEI-FALL at (K965383). Service Company in position at (K930316). Battalion Maintenance in position VICHT at (K962399). Assault Gun Platoon (three guns) attached to 9th Division Reconnaissance Troop as Division Reserve. Two assault guns from medium companies attached to NOSTRIL (47th) cannon company. One assault gun attached to 60th combat team cannon company. All used for indirect fire missions. Mortar Platoon attached to 294th Engineer Battalion to support road blocks between 47th and 60th sectors. Company A attached to 47th Infantry Combat Team continues to hold defensive positions in the SCHEVENHUTTE area. 1st and 2nd platoons moved to reserve position near infantry battalion CP's. 3rd platoon remained in SCHEVENHUTTE on original road block mission. Company B attached to 60th Infantry Combat Team held defensive positions S of GEMETER. Platoons pulled out of perimeter positions and held in reserve at infantry battalion CP's. Company C attached to 39th Infantry Combat Team held defensive positions in GEMETER and NW of there. Six tanks in position at (F013335). Remainder of company in reserve at ZWEI-FALL. Company D attached to 9th Infantry Division Reconnaissance Troop and in Division Reserve. Battalion S-3 and Maintenance Officer with three M departed at 1300 to attend four day class on flame thrower at CP 70th Tank Battalion at (K975006). Battalion C met with G1 Division to receive orders on move to WEYERTZ and instructions for training. Combat efficiency 98%.
- October 25 - Battalion, less combat and service elements, in position NE of ZWEI-FALL at (K965383). Elements of the Service Company departed area at (K930316) at 1300 and proceeded to CHAMPAGNE, BELGIUM. Closed 1600. Necessary to shuttle ammunition dump. Battalion Reconnaissance Officer and party departed 0900 for WEYERTZ to arrange for quarters and areas.

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- [REDACTED]
- October 25 - At 1430 Reconnaissance Officer communicated that mission was complete. Companies A, B and C remain in tactical situation as of the 24th. Company D remains attached to 9th Division Reconnaissance Troop. Assault Gun Platoon attached to Company D as Division Reserve. Remaining assault guns as of the 24th. Battalion relieved from attachment to VII Corps and attached to V Corps at 1200. Combat efficiency 98%.
- October 26 - Battalion, less service and combat elements, in position NE of ZWEIFALL at (K965383). Service Company shuttling ammunition and gas dumps to CHAMPAGNE, BELGIUM. Battalion Maintenance in position VICHT (K962399). Assault Gun Platoon relieved of attachment to Company D, and assault gun with 60th Combat Team relieved of attachment to 60th Cannon Company and returned to battalion control at 1600. Assault Gun Platoon and Company B assault gun moved to Company B for expected move to new area. Company C assault gun returned to Company C control. Company A assault gun remained attached to 47th Infantry Combat Team Cannon Company. Company C in assembly area at ZWEIFALL awaiting movement orders. Company B less 2nd platoon in assembly area at (K980320) awaiting movement orders. Company D attached to 9th Division Reconnaissance Troop awaiting movement orders. Visits exchanged between CO's and EO's of 707th and 746th Tank Battalions on terrain and capabilities of armor in this sector. Combat efficiency 98%.
- October 27 - Battalion, less service and combat elements, in position NE of ZWEIFALL at (K965383). Forward CP moved to WEYWERITZ at 1300. Closed at 1530. Service Company completed move to CHAMPAGNE, BELGIUM, closing in area 1100. Company D departed vicinity ZWEIFALL at 0730 with 9th Division Reconnaissance Troop on move to (K868025) vicinity FAYONVILLE, BELGIUM. Closed in area 1100. Headquarters Company closed in new area at WEYWERITZ, BELGIUM at 1700. 2nd platoon Company B released to company control. Company A remains attached to 47th Infantry Combat Team and attached to 3rd Armored Division. Combat efficiency 98%.
- October 28 - Company B departed ZWEIFALL for WEYWERITZ, BELGIUM at 1300. Company C departed ZWEIFALL at 1330 for WEYWERITZ. Company B closed at 1645. Company C closed at 1800. Rear CP with Battalion Executive Officer departed vicinity WEYWERITZ at 1330. Closed in new area 1530. Battalion S-3, Maintenance Officer and three EM returned from flame thrower school at 70th Tank Battalion. Reached new area 1530. Meeting of all company commanders at Battalion CP at 1700 to discuss refitting and training. Company A remains attached to 47th Infantry Combat Team with 3rd Armored Division in SCHEVENHUTTE area at (FOO5425). Combat efficiency 98%.
- October 29 - Battalion, including service and combat elements, in bivouac vicinity WEYWERITZ, BELGIUM (K885055) for occupation of defensive sector. Preparations being made for ordnance check of arms and vehicles and quartermaster items being inspected. Training schedules prepared for anticipated semi-rest period and refitting. Commanding Officer and staff to discuss battalion inclusion in group with Commanding Officer and S-4 of 3rd Armored Group. Weather clear, visibility good. Combat efficiency 98%.
- October 30 - Battalion, including combat and service elements in bivouac for refitting and training at WEYWERITZ, BELGIUM (K885055). One platoon
- [REDACTED]
- 27

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October 30 - Company C moved at 0800 to 3rd Battalion 39th Infantry for combined tank-infantry training for the day. Company B arranged with 60th Infantry Regiment for use of two platoons on 3 October for combined tank-infantry training. Other units of the battalion undergoing ordnance checks of arms and vehicles by the 526th Ordnance Company. Training started in the companies. Chief of Staff, 9th Infantry Division, visited Battalion Commanding Officer to discuss training plans. Battalion Commanding Officer and S-3 departed 1300 for 70th Tank Battalion CP, 8th Infantry Regiment CP and 22nd Infantry Regiment CP to look over terrain preparatory to move into the line in the V Corps sector. Battalion Commanding Officer to recommend tank companies to be held in reserve status near regimental CP's of infantry and to be employed on "mission" basis, returning to company assembly areas upon completion thereof. S-4 of 3rd Armored Group visited Battalion CP. Weather cold and with heavy cold. Combat efficiency 98%.

October 31 - Battalion, including service and combat elements, in positions WEYERTZ, BELGIUM (VK885055), occupying defensive sector but held in reserve. Refitting and training taking place. Two platoons company B active with 60th Infantry in combined tank-infantry training. One platoon Company C active with 39th Infantry in combined tank-infantry training. Company A remains attached to 47th Infantry Combat Team and attached to 3rd Armored Division. Company A continues to hold defensive positions in the SCHEVENHUTTE area. Chief of Staff of 9th Infantry Division visited Battalion Commanding Officer for discussion of training and refitting. 526th Ordnance Company continued with checks of vehicles and arms. S-3, S-4 of 3rd Armored Group visited Battalion Commanding Officer. Eight flame throwers for tanks were drawn from Army C.W.S. Weather cold and foggy. Combat efficiency 98%.

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By authority of

CG 9th AF

Date 16 Dec 44

Initials WMA

HEADQUARTERS 746TH TANK BATTALION
APO 230 U. S. ARMY.

2 December 1944

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

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.
(Thru: CG, V Corps, APO 305, U. S. Army).

1. In compliance with paragraph 10, AR 345-105, as changed by changes #3, the following report is submitted for 746th Tank Battalion, for November 1944:

- a. ORIGINAL UNIT: 746th Tank Battalion.
- b. CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION:
1 November - 30 November, Assigned to First United States Army, Attached to 9th Infantry Division.
- c. STRENGTH:

1 November	<u>38</u>	0	<u>2</u>	WC	<u>677</u>	EM
30 November	<u>40</u>	0	<u>2</u>	WC	<u>677</u>	EM
Net Increase <u>2</u>						
- d. STATIONS:
 - 1 November to 5 November - WEYMERTZ, BELGIUM (VK885055)
 - 5 November to 15 November - KRINKELT, BELGIUM (VK975045)
 - 15 November to 30 November - WEYMERTZ, BELGIUM (VK885055)
- e. MARCHES: Not applicable.
- f. OPERATIONS:
 - Name of: Operations in N. Germany.
 - Duration: 1 November to 30 November 1944.
 - Purpose: Invasion of Germany.
 - Authority ordering: V Corps.
- g. BATTLES: See Annex #1.
- h. COMMANDING OFFICER IN IMPORTANT ENGAGEMENTS:
1 November to 30 November 1944 - Lt. Col. Clarence G. Hupfer
- i. LOSSES IN ACTION: See Annex #2.

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Annex #11

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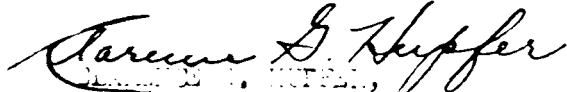
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1. FORMER AND PRESENT MEMBERS WHO HAVE DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES IN ACTION.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>COMPANY</u>	<u>AWARDS</u>
Tanner, Clyde E.	1st Lt.	Co. A	Cak Leaf Cluster to Silver Star
McLean, Keith E.	1st Lt.	Co. B	Bronze Star
Harris, Richard L.	S/Sgt.	Co. A	Silver Star (Posthumous)
Berlier, Ralph	S/Sgt.	Co. B	Silver Star
Fopp, Andy B.	Sgt.	Co. A	Silver Star
Davis, Austin E.	Cpl.	Co. A	Silver Star
Berlier, Ralph	S/Sgt.	Co. B	Cak Leaf Cluster to Silver Star
McKnight, Everett L.	Cpt.	Co. B	Bronze Star
Fatterson, Bert C.	Sgt.	Co. A	Bronze Star
McLaughlin, Daniel S.	Pfc.	Co. B	Bronze Star
Coleman, Robert L.	Sgt.	Co. A	Bronze Star
Hascary, Wilford L.	P/S	Co. A	Bronze Star
Anderson, Willie B.	Pvt.	Co. A	Bronze Star
Thornton, Frank M.	Pvt.	Co. A	Bronze Star

2. POSTHUMOUS: None.


 CLARENCE G. HYPPER,
 Lt. Col., Cavalry,
 Commanding.

8 Incls.

- Annex 1 ✓
- Annex 2 ✓
- Unit Journal ✓
- Vehicle Losses ✓
- Co 90, 9th Inf. Div.
- Co 97, 9th Inf. Div.
- Co 101, 9th Inf. Div.
- Co 102, 9th Inf. Div.

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S E C R E TACTUAL REPORT FOR MONTH OF NOVEMBER 1944.

The period opened on 1 November 1944 with the Battalion assigned to the 1st Army and attached to the 9th Infantry Division tactically and administratively.

The period breaks into three distinct phases. 1 November through 4 November, 5 November through 14 November and 15 November through 30 November 1944.

1 November through 4 November 1944.

At the close of the previous period the Battalion, less Company A, was in position the area WEYBENTZ, BELGIUM (nord de guerre zone) (VK885055), FAYONVILLE, BELGIUM (VK865025) and CHALFAIGNE, BELGIUM (VK868057) in a defensive sector with the 9th Infantry Division for refitting following the exhaustive operations in the ROETGEN and HURTGEN FORESTS. Refitting and reorganization continued through the 4th of November with particular emphasis on completion of installation in tanks of SG 300 Radios, ground-tank telephone and flame throwers. Combined infantry-tank training was continued through the 4th of November.

Company A during this period continued to hold its positions in the SCHEVENHUTTE-FLSUTH areas (WF005422) and (VK971401) in support of the 47th Infantry Regiment Combat Team attached to the 3rd Armored Division.

5 November through 14 November 1944.

On 5 November the Battalion moved into the lines with the 9th Infantry Division relieving the 4th Infantry Division and the 70th Tank Battalion. The line extended along (WF036064), (WF021032), (WF022005), (WF028984), to (WF004977). A change in policy permitted the tank companies B and C to remain in company assembly areas in the vicinity of Infantry Regimental CP's until needed. One platoon per company was kept on 20 minute alert status during daylight hours to meet emergencies. This policy permitted the continuous training of new replacements and the completion of refitting of the vehicles. Activity along the front was confined to active patrolling and sporadic and light artillery fire. The remainder of the Battalion remained in tactical positions in KRINKELT, BELGIUM and vicinity (VK975045).

Company A during this phase continued to hold its positions in the SCHEVENHUTTE area in support of the 47th Infantry Combat Team. On 9 November the 47th Infantry Combat Team with Company A was relieved of attachment to the 3rd Armored Division and attached to the 1st Infantry Division.

15 November through 30 November 1944.

On 15 November the 9th Infantry Division and Battalion, less Company A, was relieved in the lines by the 99th Infantry Division and moved to reserve positions. The Battalion, less Company D, moved to the WEYBENTZ, BELGIUM - FAYONVILLE, BELGIUM area (VK885055) and (VK865025) where it remained until the close of the period. Company D remained with the 9th Infantry Division Reconnaissance Troop in BULLINGEN, BELGIUM (VK950020) until the close of the period. Extensive

BATTLE REPORT FOR MONTH OF NOVEMBER 1944, Cont'd.

training was resumed with particular emphasis on development of flame thrower technique and tactics.

Company A with the 47th Infantry Combat Team jumped off in attack from the SCHAFFELHEIM-FLUCH area on 15 November at 1215 following a heavy air bombardment. Company A continued to support the 47th through the 29 November, being relieved and reverting to Battalion control in bivouac at BEMM, BELGIUM (VK925053) at 1500 30 November 1944.

The action of Company A was characterized by very heavy resistance in mines, artillery, AF and AT rocket fire. Losses were heavy. The company moved from SCHAFFELHEIM-FLUCH area to BRASSENIEN (VK987425), to area (WFOC46), to Southern outskirts ESCHEILLER (WFO746) to WEISSEILER (WFOC48) to North of LANGERHEM to "LAUSSELBERG CASTLE" (WFO19489).

Clemence H. Huffer
 CLEMENCE H. HUFFER,
 Lt. Col., Cavalry,
 Commanding.

ANNEX II

LOSERS IN ACTION

1 November 1944 to
30 November 1944OFFICERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>TYPE CAS</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Tanner, Clyde E.	1st Lt	01017677	KIA	26 Nov 44
Jones, Hugh J.M.	1st Lt	01014734	MIA	27 Nov 44

ENLISTED MEN

Taylor, William H.	Tec 4	35433174	LIA	11 Nov 44
Melasky, Max J.	Cpl	38251976	SWA	19 Nov 44
Baird, Marvin (NMI)	Sgt	6887640	SWA	20 Nov 44
Sims, Jr., Cecil (NMI)	Sgt	14190939	KIA	21 Nov 44
Popst, Douglas K.	Sgt	39059834	LIA	21 Nov 44
Smithy, James H.	Tec 5	38279135	LIA	23 Nov 44
Kellis, Joseph N.	Cpl	38286355	KIA	27 Nov 44
Laperouse, Miriam A.	Pfc	38261359	KIA	27 Nov 44
Fowler, Charles E.	Pfc	12098438	SWA	27 Nov 44
Denninger, Arthur J.	Tec 4	36349408	SIA	27 Nov 44
McCormick, Richard L.	Pvt	14038539	SWA	28 Nov 44

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STATISTICAL AFTER ACTION REPORT NOVEMBER 1944

746th TANK BATTALION

1. Number and kind of enemy tanks destroyed.

None

2. Other enemy vehicles, pillboxes or weapons destroyed.

Machine Guns - (Open emplacement) - 30

Bazookas - 40

AT Guns (75 & 77MM) - 15

3. Our tanks lost.

Tank Medium, M4A3E2 - 2

Lost to AF and AT rocket fire - 1

Lost to AT rocket fire - 1

L-278

JOURNAL FOR 1 NOVEMBER TO 30 NOVEMBER 1944

- November 1 - Battalion, including Service and combat elements, less Company A, in position WEYERTZ, BELGIUM (VK885055) occupying defensive sector while refitting and reorganization. Two platoons Company B active in training with 60th Infantry Regiment. One platoon Company C active in training with 39th Infantry Regiment. Company A remains attached to 47th Infantry Regiment attached to 3rd Armored Division in SCHEVENHUTTE area. Installation of the following continued throughout the period. Telephones in tanks, "300" radios in tanks, and flame throwers in tanks. Refitting, cleaning and reorganization continued through the period. Training in specialized subjects for new personnel continued. Training of all personnel stressed. Weather cold and foggy. Combat efficiency 90%.
- November 2 - Battalion, including Service and combat elements, less Company A, in position WEYERTZ, BELGIUM (VK885055) in occupation of defensive sector while refitting and reorganizing. Two platoons Company B in combined training with 60th Infantry Regiment. One platoon Company C active in combined training with 39th Infantry Regiment. Company A remains attached to 47th Infantry Regiment, attached to 3rd Armored Division in SCHEVENHUTTE area. Training, refitting and modification of vehicles continues. Weather cold and foggy. Combat efficiency 90%.
- November 3 - Battalion, including Service and combat elements, less Company A, in position WEYERTZ, BELGIUM (VK885055) in occupation of defensive sector and refitting. Training of troops continues. Installation in tanks continues in the following items: Flame throwers, camouflage netting, and telephone for ground troops. Company A remains attached to 47th Infantry Regiment in the SCHEVENHUTTE area. Unit commanders made reconnaissance of new areas for move on 5 November 1944. Chief of Staff, 9th Infantry Division inspected Company B in company of Battalion Commanding Officer, S-3 and Executive Officer. Weather cold and foggy, visibility poor. Combat efficiency 90%.
- November 4 - Battalion, including Service and combat elements, less Company A, in position WEYERTZ, BELGIUM (VK885055) in occupation of defensive sector and refitting. Training of troops continues. Installation continues of the following items in or on the tanks: Flame throwers, camouflage netting and telephone for ground troops. Company A remains attached to 47th Infantry Regiment in SCHEVENHUTTE area. Unit commanders made further reconnaissance of new areas for move on 5 November 1944. Chief of Staff, 9th Infantry Division visited Commanding Officer and Company B. Weather cold and foggy, visibility poor. Combat efficiency 90%.
- November 5 - Battalion, including Service and combat elements, less Company A, in position WEYERTZ, BELGIUM (VK885055) until 1130. Battalion moved at 1130 to KRINKELT and vicinity. Battalion CP, Headquarters Company, and Battalion Medical Attachment in KRINKELT (VK975045). Service Company at (VK950057), closed in area 1400. Company D at BULLINGEN (VK951021). Closed in area 1320. Company B attached to 60th Infantry Regiment moved to position at (VK000000) in reserve status. One platoon on 20 minute alert. Closed in new area 1400. Company C attached to

RESERVE

- November 5 - 39th Infantry Regiment in position at (VK982056). Closed in new area 1415. In reserve status. One platoon on 20 minute alert. Forward CP moved at 1015. Closed in KRINKELT 1115. Company A remains attached to 47th Infantry Combat Team attached to 3rd Armored Division in the SCHEVENHUTTE area. Weather cloudy and visibility poor. Combat efficiency 90%.
- November 6 - Battalion, less service and combat elements, in position KRINKELT (VK975045). Service Company in position (VK950057). Assault Gun Platoon and Mortar Platoon in Division Reserve in KRINKELT. Company A attached to 47th Infantry Regiment and attached to 3rd Armored Division in the SCHEVENHUTTE area (VFO05420), continues to hold its defensive positions. Company B attached to 60th Infantry Regiment in reserve at (VK000000). Company training continues. Company C attached to 39th Infantry Regiment in regimental reserve at (VK951021). Company training continues. Assistant S-2 and S-3, 3rd Armored Group visited CP to speak of reports to V Corps. Weather cold and cloudy and visibility poor. Combat efficiency 90%.
- November 7 - Battalion, less Service and combat elements, in positions KRINKELT (VK975045). Service Company in position (VK950057). Assault Gun and Mortar Platoon in Division Reserve at KRINKELT. Company A attached to 47th Infantry Combat Team, attached to 3rd Armored Division in the SCHEVENHUTTE area (VFO05420). Company B attached to 60th Infantry Combat Team in regimental reserve at (VK000000). Company training continues. One platoon on 20 minute alert. Company C attached to 39th Infantry Combat Team in regimental reserve at (VK982056). Company training continues. One platoon on 20 minute alert. Company D attached to 9th Infantry Division Reconnaissance Troop in Division Reserve at (VK951021). Company training continues. Battalion conducting school in flame thrower for 4 days beginning 7 November 1944. Weather cold and cloudy, visibility poor. Combat efficiency 94%.
- November 8 - Battalion, less Service and combat elements, in position KRINKELT (VK975045). Service Company in position (VK950057). Assault Gun Platoon and Mortar Platoon in position KRINKELT. Company A attached to 47th Infantry Combat Team attached to 3rd Armored Division in the SCHEVENHUTTE area (VFO05420). Company A still holding defensive positions and absorbing frequent mortar and artillery fire. Company B attached to 60th Infantry Regiment Combat Team in regimental reserve at (VK000000). One platoon on 20 minute alert. Unit training continues while in reserve status. Company C attached to 39th Infantry Combat Team in regimental reserve at (VK982056). One platoon on 20 minute alert. Unit training continues while in reserve status. Lt. Clyde Beaty and Lt. Hudson reported and assigned to Company C. Lt. Janots relieved Company C and assigned to Headquarters Company. Company D attached to 9th Infantry Division Reconnaissance Troop in division reserve at (VK951021). Company training continues. Battalion conducting flame thrower school for B, C and battalion maintenance. Weather snow, visibility poor. Combat efficiency 94%.
- November 9 - Battalion, less combat and service elements, in position KRINKELT (VK975045). Service Company in position (VK950057). Assault Gun

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November 9 - Platoon and Mortar Platoon in position KRINKELT. Company A attached to 47th Infantry Combat Team, attached to 1st Infantry Division (relieved from attachment to 3rd Armored Division), continues to hold defensive positions in the SCHEVENHUTTE area (VF005420). Company B attached to 60th Infantry Combat Team in regimental reserve at (VK000000). Company training continues. One minute on 20 minute alert. Company C attached to 39th Infantry Combat Team in regimental reserve at (VK982056). Company training continues. One platoon on 20 minute alert. Company D attached to 9th Infantry Division Reconnaissance Troop in division reserve at (VK951021). Company training continues. Battalion conducting flame thrower school for B, C and Battalion Maintenance. Weather, intermittent snow, visibility poor. Combat efficiency 94%.

November 10 - Battalion, less combat and Service elements, in position KRINKELT (VK975045). Service Company in position (VK950057). Assault Gun Platoon and Mortar Platoon in position KRINKELT. Company A remains attached to 47th Infantry Combat Team attached to 1st Infantry Division holding defensive positions in the SCHEVENHUTTE area (VF005420). Company B attached to 60th Infantry Combat Team in regimental reserve at (VK000000). One platoon on 20 minute alert. Company C attached to 39th Infantry Combat Team in regimental reserve at (VF982056). One platoon on 20 minute alert. Company training continues. Company D attached to 9th Infantry Division Reconnaissance Troop in division reserve at (VK951021). Company training continues. Battalion conducting flame thrower school for B, C and Battalion Maintenance. Experiments continuing. Weather, intermittent snow. Combat efficiency 94%.

November 11 - Battalion, less Service and combat elements, in position KRINKELT (VK975045). Service Company in position (VK950057). Assault Gun Platoon and Mortar Platoon in position KRINKELT. Company A attached to 47th Infantry Combat Team attached to 1st Infantry Division in SCHEVENHUTTE area (VF005420). Company B attached to 60th Infantry Combat Team remains in regimental reserve at (VK000000), one platoon on 20 minute alert. Company training continues. Light artillery fire fell on the regiment area during the day. Company C attached to 39th Infantry Combat Team remains in reserve position at (VK982056). One platoon on 20 minute alert. Company training continues. 39th Infantry moved out of line and was relieved by regiment of the 99th Infantry Division. Company C remains to support them. Company D attached to 9th Infantry Division Reconnaissance Troop in division reserve at (VK951021). Company training continues. 9th Division CP has moved to CAMP EISENBORN with all its elements excepting the 60th Infantry Combat Team. The Battalion remains in position with 99th Infantry Division, although still attached to 9th Infantry Division. Weather, intermittent snow, visibility poor. Combat efficiency 94%.

November 12 - Battalion, less combat and Service elements, in position KRINKELT (VK975045). Service Company in position (VK950057). Assault Gun Platoon and Mortar Platoon in position KRINKELT in reserve. Company A attached to 47th Infantry Combat Team, attached to 1st Infantry Division, continues to hold its defensive positions in the SCHEVENHUTTE area (VF005420). Company B attached to 60th Infantry Combat Team remains in regimental reserve at (VK000000). One platoon on 20 minute

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- November 12 - alert. Company training while in position. Company C attached to 39th Infantry Combat Team and remains in position at (VK982056). 39th pulled back to reserve area and regiment of 99th moved in to line yesterday. Company C remains in position awaiting arrival of armor for new regiment. Company D attached to 9th Infantry Division Reconnaissance Troop in position at (VK951021). Weather snow. Combat efficiency 99%.
- November 13 - Battalion, less combat and Service elements, in position KRINKELT (VK975045). Service Company in position (VK950057). Assault Gun and Mortar Platoons in position KRINKELT in reserve. Company A attached to 47th Infantry Combat Team attached to 1st Infantry Division, continues to hold its positions in the SCHEVENHUTTE area (WF005420). Company B attached to 60th Infantry Combat Team remains in regimental reserve at (VK000000). One platoon on 20 minute alert. Company training in progress. Company C attached to 39th Infantry Combat Team remains in regimental reserve at (VK982056). One platoon on 20 minute alert. Company training continues. 39th Infantry has moved back to rear area. Company C supports one regiment of 99th Infantry Division until tank battalion arrives. Company D attached to 9th Infantry Division Reconnaissance Troop remains in reserve at (VK951021). Weather, snow and cold, visicility poor. Combat efficiency 100%.
- November 14 - Battalion, less combat and Service elements, in position KRINKELT (VK975045). Service Company in position (VK950057). Assault Gun and Mortar Platoons in reserve in KRINKELT. Company A attached to 47th Infantry Regiment Combat Team attached to 1st Infantry Division, continues to hold its defensive positions in the SCHEVENHUTTE area (WF005420). Company B attached to 60th Infantry Combat Team in reserve at (VK000000). Entire company on 20 minute alert during day to cover 60th Infantry as it pulled back to reserve area near ELSEN-EORN. Limited training of company continues. Company C remains in reserve position at (VK982056) in support of 393rd Regiment of 99th Infantry Division. One platoon on 20 minute alert during day. Company training continues. Company D attached to 9th Infantry Division Reconnaissance Platoon in division reserve at (VK951021). Company training continues. The Battalion remains in position to support 99th Infantry Division. Meeting of company commanders and staff at 1700 for issue of Field Order for move on 15 November 1944. Combat efficiency 100%.
- November 15 - Battalion, less combat and Service Company, departed KRINKELT at 0930. Arrived WEYHERTZ, BELGIUM (VK885055) to join 9th Infantry Division in army reserve. Company B, C, Service and Headquarters Company closed in new areas at 1215 and commenced establishing bivouacs. Company B at FAYONVILLE (VK867024), Company C at (VK668033), Service Company at FAYONVILLE (VK867021), Headquarters Company at WEYHERTZ (VK885052), Company D remains in BULLINGEN with 9th Infantry Division Reconnaissance Troop at (VK950020). Battalion CO, Staff and officers and men (cadre) from 740th Tank Battalion came to Battalion CP for orientation and talks concerning battle tactics. Arrived noon, departed 1630. S-4 and Chaplain, 3rd Armored Group, visited Battalion CP. Arrived 1400, departed 1500. Weather, snow, visibility poor. Combat efficiency 100%.

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- November 16 - Battalion, including combat and Service elements, but less Company A, in position in WEYWERTZ, BELGIUM (VK885055) and vicinity as shown for 15 November. Company A attached to 47th Infantry Combat Team, attached to 1st Infantry Division in position in the SCHLIVENHUTTE area (WFOO5420). Company A with 47th Infantry Combat Team jumped off at 1245 in major attack following heavy air and artillery preparation and advanced 1500 yards. Two tanks lost to mines. Battalion in army reserve at WEYWERTZ continuing training of replacements and training in new weapons, particularly the flame thrower gun. Some passes for officers and enlisted men to PARIS and BRUXELLES were granted. Weather, intermittent snow. Combat efficiency 92%.
- November 17 - Battalion, including Service and combat elements, less Company A, in position WEYWERTZ, BELGIUM (VK885055) and vicinity as shown for 15 November. Company A attached to 47th Infantry Combat Team attached to 1st Infantry Division in drive toward ESCHWEILLER. Strong resistance in form of mines, artillery and mortar met. Balance of Battalion with 9th Infantry Division in army reserve. Company training continues. Experiments with flame thrower continues. Considerable V1 rocket activity overhead. Weather cold, rainy, visibility poor. Combat efficiency 95%.
- November 18 - Battalion, including Service and combat elements, less Company A, in position at WEYWERTZ, BELGIUM (VK885055) and vicinity as shown for 15 November. Company A continues attachment to 47th Infantry Regiment Combat Team, attached to 1st Infantry Division in attack toward ESCHWEILLER. Heavy resistance in form of mines, wire, mortars and artillery. Balance of Battalion in reserve with 9th Infantry Division. Unit training continues. Experiments with flame thrower continues. Considerable V1 rocket activity overhead. Weather intermittent snow, rain, visibility poor. Combat efficiency 95%.
- November 19 - Battalion, including Service and combat elements, less Company A, in position at WEYWERTZ, BELGIUM (VK885055) and vicinity as shown for 15 November. Company A remains attached to 47th Infantry Regiment attached to 1st Infantry Division in attack toward ESCHWEILLER. Heavy resistance continues. Balance of Battalion in reserve with 9th Infantry Division. Unit training continues. Experiments with flame thrower continues. V1 rocket activity continues to be heavy. Weather intermittent snow and rain, visibility poor. Combat efficiency 95%.
- November 20 - Battalion, including Service and combat elements, less Company A, in position at WEYWERTZ, BELGIUM (VK885055) and vicinity as shown for 15 November. Company A continues attack with 47th Infantry Regiment Combat Team, attached to 1st Infantry Division in ESCHWEILLER sector. Lost two tanks. Artillery knocked track off of one and disabled electrical system in other. Company maintenance undertaking repair. Sergeant Baird S.M.A. and evacuated. Resistance continues heavy. Balance of Battalion in reserve with 9th Infantry Division. Unit training continues. Flame thrower experiments continues. Weather, intermittent snow and rain. Combat efficiency 92%. Executive Officer visited Company A during day.
- November 21 - Battalion, including Service and combat elements, less Company A, in

- November 21 - WEYMERTZ, BELGIUM (VK885055) and vicinity as shown for 15 November. Company A continues attack in ESCHWEILLER sector with 47th Infantry Combat Team attached to 1st Infantry Division. Resistance continues heavy. One tank lost to enemy action. Balance of Battalion in reserve with 9th Infantry Division. Unit training continues. Flame thrower experiments continue. V1 rocket activity continues heavy. Weather, intermittent snow and rain, visibility poor. Combat efficiency 92%.
- November 22 - Battalion, including Service and combat elements, less Company A, in position at WEYMERTZ, BELGIUM (VK885055) and vicinity as shown for 15 November. Company A continues attack in ESCHWEILLER area with 47th Infantry Combat Team attached to 1st Infantry Division. Resistance continues heavy. One tank lost to enemy action. Sergeant Sims, KIA. Balance of Battalion in reserve with 9th Infantry Division. Unit training continues. Flame thrower experiments continue. Several modifications worked out for flame thrower. Weather, intermittent snow and rain, visibility poor. Combat efficiency 92%.
- November 23 - Battalion, including Service and combat elements, less Company A, in position at WEYMERTZ, BELGIUM (VK885055) and vicinity as shown for 15 November. Company A continues attack with 47th Infantry Combat Team attached to 1st Infantry Division in ESCHWEILLER area. Balance of Battalion in reserve with 9th Infantry Division. Thanksgiving day dinner of turkey, etc. at 1400. Afternoon spent at ease. Weather, rain, visibility poor. Combat efficiency 88%.
- November 24 - Battalion, including Service and combat elements, less Company A, in position WEYMERTZ, BELGIUM (VK885055) and vicinity as shown for 15 November. Company A continues attack with 47th Infantry Combat Team, reattached to 3rd Armored Division, in move from ESCHWEILLER toward WEISWEILER. Resistance continues heavy. Two tanks previously out of action put back in. Balance of Battalion in reserve with 9th Infantry Division. Unit training continues. S-3 departed CP at 1315 for 24 hour duty with Company A. Weather, rain, visibility poor. Combat efficiency 92%.
- November 25 - Battalion, including Service and combat elements, less Company A, in position WEYMERTZ, BELGIUM (VK885055) and vicinity as shown for 15 November. Company A continues attack with 47th Infantry Combat Team attached to 3rd Armored Division into WEISWEILER. Balance of Battalion in reserve with 9th Infantry Division. Unit training continues. Weather, intermittent rain and snow, visibility poor. Combat efficiency 92%.
- November 26 - Battalion, including combat and Service elements, less Company A, in position WEYMERTZ, BELGIUM (VK885055) and vicinity as shown for 15 November. Company A continues attack with 47th Infantry Combat Team E. of WEISWEILER. 1st Lt. Clyde E. Tanner, KIA from artillery shell in a building from which he was observing terrain over which he was to attack. Incident occurred approximately 1230. Two replacement tanks given to Company A. Balance of Battalion in reserve with 9th Infantry Division. Unit training continues. Weather, rain to fair, visibility poor to fair. Combat efficiency 100%.

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- November 27 - Battalion, including Service and combat elements, less Company A, in position MEYERITZ, BELGIUM (VK885055) and vicinity as shown for 15 November 1944. Company A continues attack to E. of WEISWEILER with 47th Infantry Combat Team attached to 3rd Armored Division. 3rd platoon with Blue Battalion 47th relieved and moved to CT rear in reserve. One tank lost to mines. Believed repairable in company maintenance. Balance of battalion in reserve with 9th Infantry Division. Unit training continues. Weather rain, visibility poor. Combat efficiency 100%.
- November 28 - Battalion, including Service and combat elements, less Company A, in position MEYERITZ, BELGIUM (VK885055) and vicinity as shown for 15 November 1944. Company A continues attack to East of WEISWEILER with 47th Infantry Combat Team. 3rd platoon in company reserve. 1st Lt. Hugh J. M. Jones MA. 2 EM KIA, 4 EM, SA. Three tanks lost to AT and bazooka fire. Balance of Battalion in reserve with 9th Infantry Division. Unit training continues. Weather fair to rain, visibility fair to poor. Combat efficiency 90%.
- November 29 - Battalion, including Service and combat elements, less Company A, in position MEYERITZ, BELGIUM (VK885055) and vicinity as shown for 15 November 1944. Company A continues attack with 47th Infantry Combat Team East of WEISWEILER. Heavy resistance continues. Balance of Battalion in reserve with 9th Infantry Division. Unit training continues. Weather fair, visibility fair. Combat efficiency 90%.
- November 30 - Battalion, including Service and combat elements, less Company A, in position MEYERITZ, BELGIUM (VK885055) and vicinity as shown for 15 November 1944. Company A with 47th Infantry Combat Team relieved of assignment and attachment to 3rd Armored Division. Reverted to Battalion control in bivouac at BERG (VK925051) at 1500. Balance of Battalion in reserve with 9th Infantry Division. Company C remains on 6 hour alert placed on 24 November. Unit training continues. Weather, intermittent rain, visibility poor to fair. Combat efficiency 90%.

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HEADQUARTERS 746TH TANK BATTALION
APO 230 U. S. ARMY.

UNIT HISTORY, November 1944

2 December 1944

SUBJECT: Unit History, November 1944.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.
(Thru: CG, V Corps, APO 305, U. S. Army).

1. In compliance with paragraph 2, AR 345-105, the following report is submitted for 746th Tank Battalion, for November 1944:

a. UNIT: 746th Tank Battalion.

b. CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION:

1 November - 30 November, Assigned to First United States Army, Attached to 9th Infantry Division.

c. UNIT STRENGTH: Commissioned 40 WO 2 EM 677

d. STATIONS: 1 November to 5 November - WEYWERTZ, BELGIUM (VK885055)
5 November to 15 November - KRINKELT, BELGIUM (VK975045)
15 November to 30 November - WEYWERTZ, BELGIUM (VK885055)

e. MARCHES: See Overlay.

f. CAMPAIGNS:

- (1) Name of: Operations in NW GERMANY.
- (2) Duration: 1 November to 30 November 1944.
- (3) Purpose: Invasion of Germany.
- (4) Authority Ordering: V Corps.

g. BATTLES:

The period covered breaks into three phases. 1 November through 4 November, 5 November through 14 November and 15 November through 30 November.

1 November through 4 November 1944.

At the beginning of the period the Battalion, less Company A, was in reserve with the 9th Infantry Division in WEYWERTZ,

CL SPECIFICATION CHANGED TO:
CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE
11/15/44
11/15/44
11/15/44

101691

15088

[REDACTED]

FAYLONVILLE and CHAMPAIGNE, BELGIUM, Nord de Guerre Zone, (VK885055), (VK865025) and (VK868057).

Following the strenuous and exhaustive operations in the ROETGEN and HURTGEN FORESTS the Battalion was badly in need of reorganization and refitting. Personnel and tank losses had been heavy and training of new replacements was urgent. Following necessary maintenance and company organization, a Battalion training and refitting schedule was effected which embraced in particular the following:

1. Combined Tank-Infantry training using the new ground-tank telephone and SCR 300 Tank-Infantry radios.
2. Completion of the installation of ground-tank telephones (hand sets are still short).
3. Completion of the SCR 300 Radio installations in tanks.
4. Installation of and training in the Tank Flame Thrower. No tactical training of the Flame Thrower was undertaken due to the need of mastering the technical phases.
5. Installation of wire matting on the tanks for camouflage purposes.
6. Camouflage painting of the vehicles.
7. Elementary training for replacements in all tank phases.
8. Emphasis on high standards of performance in all military matters.

Company A during this phase continued to hold its positions in the SCHEVENHUTTE-FLEUTH areas (WFO05422) and (VK971901) in support of the 47th Infantry Combat Team, attached to the 3rd Armored Division. Their positions continued to be subjected to mortar and artillery fire. Daily liaison was maintained between the Battalion and this company.

5 November through 14 November 1944.

On 5 November the Battalion moved into the lines with the 9th Infantry Division, relieving the 4th Infantry Division and the 70th Tank Battalion. The line extended along (WFO36064), (WFO21-032), (WFO22005), (WFO28984) to (WFO04977).

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The march from WEYWERTZ and vicinity was made in two serials without incident.

Change in policy worked out between the Battalion Commanding Officer and the 9th Infantry Division permitted the tank companies to assemble in the vicinity of the Regimental Infantry CP's to be called out when needed. During daylight hours one platoon of each company was left on a 20 minute alert.

Holding the companies immediately behind the lines enabled us to continue the refitting and training programs. The technicalities of the Flame Thrower were worked on. Some difficulty in securing ignition of the main fuel stream was encountered. This was corrected by using a lighter fuel in keeping with the weather. Several modifications were tried to improve the flame. Modifications of the ignition head was finally made, but further experiments continued.

Activity on the front was limited to active patrolling and sporadic artillery fire. The tanks were not called out for combat during this phase.

Shelter presented somewhat of a problem but all companies were billeted in homes or barns excepting Company B. Field expedients however, provided comfortable dugouts for the men.

Snow started to fall on the evening of November 8 and continued intermittently during this phase. Training in cold weather operations having been given previously, the weather did not prove too great a handicap.

Passes for men and officers to EUPEN and PARIS were initiated and some of our personnel were able to take this opportunity.

During this phase Company A with the 47th Infantry Combat Team continued to hold defensive positions in the SCHEVENHUTTE-FLEUTH areas (WFO05422) and (VK971401). During the latter part of this phase the company was briefed for the break through operations on the 16th. On the 9th November the 47th Combat Team with Company A was relieved of attachment to the 3rd Armored Division and attached to the 1st Infantry Division.

15 November through 30 November 1944

On the 15 November 9th Infantry Division with this Battalion, (less Company A) was relieved in the lines by the 99th Infantry Division. The Battalion, less Company D, which remained in BULLINGEN (VK950020) with the 9th Infantry Division Reconnaissance Troop, retraced its steps to WEYWERTZ-FAYMONVILLE and vicinity to into a reserve status. There the training program was resumed with vigor.

[REDACTED]

Foggy ground prevented tactical application of the Flame Thrower in training. Lack of adequate filling facilities hampered the training as the filling manifold and high pressure filling hoses had to be rotated between companies.

Recreation in the form of motion pictures in the evenings and doughnut wagons was provided.

Formal schooling for tank commanders in field artillery forward observer methods was inaugurated. Night classes for officers were held every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

On 24 November, Company C was placed on 6 hour alert in the event of the movement of the 39th Infantry Regiment to the lines. This alert was continued through the end of the period with no movement.

During the entire period enemy V1 flying bomb activity was intense, our positions being beneath the main trajectory of bombs hitting several of the larger BELGIAN cities. AA fire damaged several bombs which crashed in and about our positions without inflicting damages. An Ordnance Company serving us sustained a bomb hit which caused several casualties and inflicted heavy material loss.

A Company, on 16 November at 1245 pushed off with the 47th Infantry Combat Team in an attack from their positions in the SCHEVENHUTTE-FLEUTH areas to take GRESSENICH (VK990425). The 3rd platoon in SCHEVENHUTTE being farther advanced remained stationary as the 1st and 2nd moved up with the infantry on the left flank. The objective was reached by 1700, two tanks being lost to mines with no personnel casualties.

The company supported the attack to ground (VK9945) approximately 3000 yards SE of ESCHWEILER. Artillery and mortar fire was intense and constant. Mines were prevalent throughout the sector.

Continuing the attack the company reached positions on the Southern outskirts of ESCHWEILER and moved Eastward to WEISWEILER, the 3rd platoon approaching WEISWEILER (WFO048) from the South in an enveloping movement. The 1st and 2nd platoons attacked toward LANGERWEHE between the LANGERWEHE-DUREN road and the "Autobaun Highway" running North of LANGERWEHE and DUREN.

On the 26 November 1944 at (WF011480), while observing ground over which his platoon was to attack, 1st Lt. Clyde E. Tanner was instantly killed by enemy artillery fragments. Thus was concluded the career of an officer who had fought as a platoon leader continuously for almost 6 months. Holder of the Silver Star with one cluster, Lt. Tanner was one of the finest combat officers in the Battalion. His platoon carried on under S/Sgt.

[REDACTED]

West the platoon sergeant.

By the 27 November the 2nd platoon had reached "FRENZER-BURG CASTLE" (WF019489), strongly held by the enemy. The 1st platoon was on the right flank at the outskirts of LANCHERWIS. In the castle one portion of the basement was held by the enemy infantry, and one portion by our infantry. Outside, the tanks, (several mired and bogged) continued fire on the castle along with other friendly infantry. During a truce for the purpose of collecting the dead and wounded, a German fired an AT rocket from the second story of the castle, hitting a tank turret and killing the gunner and loader. This lifted the truce automatically.

1st Lt. Hugh J. M. Jones, platoon leader, dismounted his tank to contact the Infantry Battalion Commanding Officer and was never seen again. An intelligence officer from the 47th Combat Team on a mission to the castle to seek surrender of the enemy saw an American officer fitting Lt. Jones description. He is presumed captured.

The company continued to attack to the East making slow progress until the 30 November when the 47th Infantry Combat Team was relieved and reverted to 9th Infantry Division and Company A reverted to Battalion control at BERG, BELGIUM (VK922054) where refitting was started.

For the Commanding Officer:

Loveaire A. Hedges
LOVAIRE A. HEDGES,
Major, Cavalry,
Unit Historian.

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HEADQUARTERS 740TH TANK BATTALION
APO 230 U. S. ARMY.

1 January 1945.

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

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.
(Thru: CG, V Corps, APO 305, U. S. Army).

1. In compliance with paragraph 10, AR 345-105, as changed by changes #3, the following report is submitted for 746th Tank Battalion, for December 1944:

a. ORIGINAL UNIT: 746th Tank Battalion.

b. CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION:

1 December - 6 December, Assigned to First United States Army, Attached to V Corps, and further attached to 9th Infantry Division.

7 December - 17 December, Assigned to First United States Army, Attached to VII Corps, and further attached to 9th Infantry Division.

18 December - 31 December, Assigned to First United States Army, Attached to V Corps, and further attached to 9th Infantry Division.

c. STRENGTH:

1 December	<u>40</u>	0	<u>2</u>	NO	<u>668</u>	EM
31 December	<u>39</u>	0	<u>2</u>	NO	<u>635</u>	EM
Net Decrease	<u>34</u>					

d. STATIONS: 1 Dec. to 5 Dec. - WEMDERTZ, BELGIUM (VK885055)
6 Dec. to 18 Dec. - ESCHWEILER, GERMANY (VK949460)
19 Dec. to 20 Dec. - OVIFAT, BELGIUM (VK837086).
21 Dec. to 31 Dec. - SE, EUPEN, BELGIUM, (VK822261)

e. MARCHES: See Battle Report.

f. CAMPAIGNS: Name of: Operations in NW Germany.
Duration: 1 December to 31 December 1944.
Purpose: Invasion of Germany.
Authority ordering: V and VII Corps.

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Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports, cont'd.

- g. BATTLES: See Annex #1.
- h. COMMANDING OFFICER IN IMPORTANT ENGAGEMENTS:
1 December to 31 December 1944 - Lt. Col. Clarence G. Huffer
- i. LOSSES IN ACTION: See Annex #2.
- j. FORMER AND PRESENT MEMBERS WHO HAVE DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES IN ACTION.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>COMPANY</u>	<u>AWARDED</u>
Cpl. Herbert F. Jones, Jr.	Cpl.	Co. "C"	Distinguished Service Cross

- k. PHOTOGRAPHS: None.

Clarence G. Huffer
 CLARENCE G. HUFFER,
 Lt. Col., Cavalry,
 Commanding.

8 Incls.

- Annex #1
- Annex #2
- Unit Journal
- Vehicle Losses
- Statistical Report
- OC #100 - Hq 1st AB Army
- OC #105 - Hq 9th Inf Div
- OC #110 - Hq 9th Inf Div

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS 746TH TANK BATTALION
AFC 230 U. S. ARMY.

1 January 1945

BATTLE REPORT FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER 1944.

The period opened with the Battalion in reserve with the 9th Infantry Division in WEYWERTZ, BELGIUM (VK885055) and vicinity. (See attached map).

For purpose of discussion the period breaks down into four distinct phases.

- Phase I - 1 December through 4 December.
- Phase II - 5 December through 9 December
- Phase III - 10 December through 18 December.
- Phase IV - 19 December through 31 December.

PHASE I (1 December through 4 December 1944.

The Battalion, assigned to the 1st U. S. Army, attached to V Corps and further attached to the 9th Infantry Division was in reserve positions in WEYWERTZ, BELGIUM (VK885055) and vicinity. Company A having reverted to Battalion control on 30 November at BERG, BELGIUM (VK925051) after somewhat exhaustive operations with the 47th Infantry RCT in the ESCHWEILLER-WESWEILLER-DUREN sector to the N., commenced refitting operations of materiel and re-organization and care of personnel. Limited passes to VII Corps rest camp at VERVIERS, BELGIUM were granted to the company personnel. Refitting continued through the phase.

Company B, at 011230 December departed area with 60th Infantry RCT in move to ROETGEN-MONSCHAU area (see map) to relieve the 15th Armored Infantry Regiment. 3rd platoon with 3rd Battalion 60th Infantry took defensive positions in MUTZENICH (VK921193). Balance of company with 60th Infantry RCT (less 3rd Battalion) in vicinity ROETGEN at (VK918273) on alert status. The company closed in the new areas at 1600 and remained without hostile activity, excepting increased enemy air, until it moved on 6 December.

Company C remained throughout the phase on 6 hour alert status placed on 24 November.

All elements of the Battalion continued in training of new and old personnel and in perfecting new weapons, ie, the Flame Thrower Gun.

PHASE II (5 December through 9 December 1944.

This phase dealt with the move of the 9th Infantry Division and the Bat-

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Battle Report for Month of December 1944, cont'd.

talion from a reserve status to relief of the 1st Infantry Division and attachments in the ESCHWEILLER-DUREN sector.

On 5 December Company C with the 39th Infantry RCT moved at 0930 and closed in new area in NOTHBERG (VK987466) SE. of ESCHWEILLER at 1400. The company assembled as a whole, preparatory to reconnaissance of forward areas and move into the lines.

On 6 December the Battalion, less Company A moved to ESCHWEILLER-NOTHBERG and vicinity, closing at intervals from 1400 to 1600. Company B with the 60th Infantry RCT moved from the ROETVEN-MONSCHAU-MUTZENICH area closing in NOTHBERG at 1400. The march was made with the supported units excepting Headquarters and Service Company which marched with Battalion Headquarters (for route of march see paragraph e. "Marches"). On 062400 December the Battalion (less Company A) was relieved of attachment to V Corps and attached to VII Corps and further attached to 9th Infantry Division.

On 7 December Company A with 47th Infantry RCT moved from BERG, BELGIUM to ESCHWEILLER at (VK972465) closing in area at 2000. 1st platoon with 1st Battalion of 47th moved at once into front line positions at (WFO37490). 2nd and 3rd platoons remained in company area in reserve with 47th Infantry RCT (less 1st Battalion).

On 8 December all units continued reconnaissance of forward areas and planning for offensive on 10 December. The Assault Gun Platoon moved into position to reinforce the 39th Infantry RCT. Firing positions were taken at (WFO28440). The Mortar Platoon also reinforced the 39th Infantry RCT from positions at (WFO31473). Dismounted movement under cover of darkness on the 8th brought the mortars into position at JUNGEPSDORF (WFO42467). Mission to support the attack with smoke screen and HE.

On 9 December reconnaissance of forward areas and completion of plans were effected for assault on 10 December. One platoon Company A and one platoon Company B moved into position at (WFO28481) to support by direct fire the advance of 1st Battalion 47th Infantry RCT (see map).

PHASE III (10 December through 18 December)

This phase concerned itself with the assault toward DUREN of the 9th Infantry Division supported by the Battalion and flanked on the left by the 104th Infantry Division and on the right by the 82nd Infantry Division.

Beginning at 0745 on the morning of 10 December and continuing through 18 December the operation was characterized by several significant features.

1. The 9th Division sector was across an open to rolling plain with the commanding high ground to the S. in enemy hands. Excellent

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Battle Report for Month of December 1944, cont'd.

observation and adjusted enemy artillery and mortar as well as SP fire resulted.

2. The avenue of attack, 7000 meters long and 6000 meters wide is dotted with small villages of heavy construction affording the enemy a series of well defended strong points.
3. The attack plain is subject to flooding by the ROER RIVER which runs through DUREN to the N. Control of the dams regulating the flooding remained in enemy hands throughout the period.
4. Main and auxiliary supply routes remained open to enemy observed interdiction and barrage fire.
5. House to house fighting in the village strong points.
6. Cross country operations for tanks and heavy vehicles resulted in frequent and numerous bogged tanks.
7. Evacuation of vehicles was effected under fire.
8. Although the opposing enemy forces were not of the best and "Volkssturm" forces were evident for the first time, the enemy resisted stubbornly from prepared positions.
9. Mines and booby traps were notable for their density.
10. AT Rockets of the "Panzerfaust 60" class were numerous as to be remarkable.
11. Toward the close of the period enemy paratroopers, in conjunction with the major enemy thrust into the V and VIII Corps sectors were dropped into the division sector.
12. Enemy air was more active than in the 90 day period past.

At the commencement of the operation, normal attachments were effected, ie, Company A supported the 47th Infantry RCT in its initial drive from LUCHEM (WFO37440) 1800 yards E. and N. to the large lake at (WFO449) and (WFO450). On attaining their objective on the morning of the 10th, the 1st Battalion with the 1st Platoon Company A thereafter held the Division left flank and tied in with the 104th Infantry Division on the left. The balance of the 47th Infantry RCT and Company A this Battalion, remained in reserve during the phase. Supporting this drive were one platoon of Company A and one platoon Company B which took up positions at (WFO28481) and by direct fire were able to engage hostile SP

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Battle Report for Month of December 1944, cont'd.

guns neutralizing fire on the 1st Battalion 47th Infantry RCT.

By the close of 10 December the 60th Infantry RCT with Company B attached and further reinforced by elements of the 3rd Armored Division had moved 1200 yards E. to take OBERGEICH (WFO53472) and had strong elements in GEICH (WFO58475) and an auxilliary force in ROTHHAUS (WFO57467).

The 39th Infantry RCT with Company C attached moved E. out of JUNGERSDORF (WFO40467) for 1800 yards to take D'Horn (WFO58463) and open ground to W.S.W. Five Company C tanks bogged down to the W. of D'Horn. At approximately 2400 Captain James R. Shields Company Commander and his $\frac{1}{2}$ ton driver, Corporal Jones were SIA and evacuated as a result of anti tank mine explosion. Lt. Lawrence Deptula, Maintenance Officer, temporarily assumed command of the company.

Company D attached to 9th Infantry Division Reconnaissance remained in Division Reserve at NOTBERG.

By the close of 11 December the 60th Infantry RCT with Company B had reached ECHTZ (WFO70483) and 600 yards W. of KONZENDERF at (WFO68465) against very heavy SP fire, artillery and AT Rockets. 1st Platoon of Company A with 47th Infantry RCT held the division left flank. The 39th Infantry RCT with Company C took SCHLICK and MERODI (WFO545) against opposition similiar to that in the 60th Infantry RCT sector. Four more Company C tanks bogged down due to wet ground. Lt. H. Stackhouse of Company D assumed command of Company C, vice Capt. Shields. Battalion Maintenance Platoon evacuated a total of 12 tracked vehicles in 24 hours under difficult conditions and in many instances under enemy observation and fire.

By the close of 12 December the 60th Infantry RCT supported by Company B of the Battalion, in three attacks had taken HOVEN (WFO88488), MARIENWEILER HOVEN (WFO91472), except for the outskirts, and KONZENDERF (WFO74466). Enemy observation and direct fire made these gains extremely difficult to hold. Supply of the tank platoons was very sensitive.

The 39th Infantry RCT with Company C attacked toward DERICHSWEILER (WFO745) taking it at the close of the period after stubborn house to house fighting. Other elements of the 39th with tank support attacked to the SE from MERODE to cut the road leading SW out of DERICHSWEILER.

The 47th Infantry RCT supported by 1st Platoon Company A held the left flank of the Division sector.

13th December was utilized in holding and mopping up by the 39th and 60th Infantry RCT's.

By the close of the 14th December elements of the 60th Infantry RCT had taken a factory strong point at (WFO97467) against very heavy SP and artillery fire. The 39th continued to mop up DERICHSWEILER and vicinity.

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Battle Report for Month of December 1944, cont'd.

During the 15th and 16th mopping up was effected by all RCT's and plans laid for attack on the 17th.

On 17 December the 60th Infantry RCT continued to hold against heavy shell fire while the 39th supported by one platoon of Company C attacked to the ROER RIVER between MARIWEILER and GUTZENICH (WFO945). At 1200 Company A with 47th Infantry RCT was attached to V Corps and moved to assembly positions vicinity MUTZENICH (VK92C200) to bolster V Corps against enemy counter offensive.

Due to rolling country and available hill defilade positions, considerable additional supporting fires by tanks were given to infantry advances. This proved effective in launching attack. Particularly was this true when the attack passed over ground impassable for tanks.

Aggressive recovery action by Company and Battalion Maintenance Sections regarding repairable tanks or other vehicles is essential to continued operations at maximum strength. Recovery under fire was accomplished to a large extent during the period.

The Battalion Commanding Officer was appointed Division Security Officer and the Battalion Staff commenced work of organizing Division rear areas against infiltration or air-borne attack. This continued until the close of the phase. Enemy paratroopers were dropped on the night of 16-17 December in WESWEILER and to the S. in the MONSCHAU-EUPEN area in conjunction with the enemy's strong offensive in the V-VIII Corps sector.

On the 18th all elements continued to hold their positions. Company D with the 9th Division Reconnaissance Troop occupied patrol positions in the Division rear areas in connection with the rear area defense program.

On 18 December the Battalion less Company B was relieved of attachment to the VII Corps and attached to the V Corps.

PHASE V (19 December through 31 December).

This phase dealt with the move of 9th Infantry Division and elements of this Battalion from the DUREN-ESCHWEILER sector to defensive positions in the MONSCHAU-KALTERHERBERG-MUTZENICH sectors to reinforce lines of V Corps against enemy break through which overran positions on the night of 16-17 December.

Company B with 60th Infantry PCT remained in positions in the ESCHWEILER-DUREN sector and were attached to 104th Infantry Division as of 1200 19 December.

This Battalion, less Company A and B, departed ESCHWEILER and vicinity on 19 December at 1400 and moved by way of ESCHWEILER, STOLEBERG, VICHT, ZWEIFALL, POTT, EUPEN to SOURBRODT and vicinity and closed at 2000. Company C moved to assembly area with 39th Infantry RCT at (VK894125). Company D moved to SOURBRODT

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Battle Report for Month of December 1944, cont'd.

and while in column was bombed by enemy planes. Lt. Warren S. and evacuated and one EM LWA. A billeting party from Company C was bombed at 1700 in SOUBRODT and 3 EM SFA and evacuated. Company D moved from SOUBRODT at 1730 to vicinity OVIFAT (VK837086).

The Assault Gun and Mortar Platoon were attached to 2nd Battalion 39th Infantry RCT and moved to firing positions in vicinity KALTERHEBERG (VK925147).

The move by this Battalion from the ESCHWEILER-DUREN sector was highlighted by heavy air activity during the daylight hours by the enemy. Personnel casualties and vehicular losses were sustained as a result of enemy bombing. VI Rockets were numerous the night of 19-20 December but no casualties were suffered.

The Battalion including Service and Company D remained at OVIFAT (VK837086) and vicinity until 21 December and then moved to new area SE of EUPEN (VK822261).

On 22 December Company B moved with 60th Infantry RCT from positions in the ESCHWEILER-DUREN sector to N. of LIEGE at HAVELANGE and then returned to MUTZEN-NICH-KALTERHEBERG sector on 24 December. Tanks were left in company area to fire direct and indirect fire into enemy positions and plans were formulated by company commander as to routes to move company in case of enemy counter attack in this sector. Artillery and mortar fire on Company B's positions was intense and heavy at times and some personnel casualties were sustained.

On 23 December Company B was relieved from attachment to VII Corps and further attached to V Corps.

Defensive lines of 9th Infantry Division generally along the line KONZEN (VK955220), MUTZENICH (VK922197), HOFEN (VK951161), KALTERHEBERG (VK927148) and to S. of KALTERHEBERG (VK945087) with the 78th Infantry Division on the left flank and the 2nd and 99th Infantry Divisions on the right flank. Defensive positions of 39th Infantry RCT, reinforced, was situated along the line (VK935126), (VK942103) (VK956082) in great depth and with the right flank refused. Defensive positions of 47th Infantry RCT, reinforced by elements of 102nd Cavalry and 10th Tank Battalion, formed a line from (VK938192), to MONSCHAU (VK942184), HOFEN (VK951161), KALTERHEBERG (VK927148) to (VK936137). On 24 December 60th Infantry RCT, reinforced, took over defensive positions along a line running from (VK945-232) (VK938205) to (VK936195). From captured enemy documents it was ascertained that the enemy plan called for a break through in the MONSCHAU (VK942184), KALTERHEBERG (VK927148) area with a sweep up the EUPEN valley to cut supply routes and to capture materials and supplies for the drive on LIEGE and ANTWERP.

The Mortar and Assault Gun Platoon continued close support of 39th Infantry RCT during this period by indirect fire. Mortar Platoon lost two half tracks to artillery fire and from there on were used as dismounted mortars with the infantry.


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Battle Report for Month of December 1944, cont'd.

On 23 December Battalion Commander was given command of Provisional Infantry Battalion consisting of troops from Headquarters and Service troops of this Battalion, 899 T. D. Battalion, 15 Engineer Battalion, 9th Infantry Division Quartermaster and 9th Infantry Division Headquarters Company. These troops are to be used in case of extreme emergency in event of an enemy break through. Battalion staff made reconnaissance of proposed patrol lanes to be established in event of para-rooper infiltration.

Two former EM, S/Sgt. Rezon of Company A and S/Sgt. Coleman, Company B were commissioned 2nd lieutenants, AUS.


CLARENCE G. HUPPER,
Lt. Col., Cavalry,
Commanding.

S E C R E T

ANNEX II

LOSSES IN ACTION

1 December 1944 to
31 December 1944OFFICERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>TYPE CAS</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Shields, James R.	Capt.	01017091	SWA	10 Dec 44
Foley, Robert M.	1st Lt.	01016979	LWA	10 Dec 44
Gross, Robert C.	2nd Lt.	0532743	SIA	11 Dec 44
Horowitz, Bernard L.	2nd Lt.	0534380	LIA	16 Dec 44
Croes, Everett C.	2nd Lt.	01018511	SWA	19 Dec 44
Warren, Olson L.	2nd Lt.	01016783	LWA	19 Dec 44

ENLISTED MEN

Burns, Thomas L.	Cpl	35536008	LIA	8 Dec 44
Jones Jr, Herbert F.	Cpl	38332959	SWA	10 Dec 44
Reed, Ellis C.	Pvt	33847230	LIA	11 Dec 44
Nagy, Ernest (NMI)	Tec 4	38279125	LIA	11 Dec 44
Cooper, Bratley (NMI)	Tec 4	34872584	LIA	11 Dec 44
Gomez, Martin H.	Cpl	38228881	LWA	12 Dec 44
Ferr, Legrand C.	Pfc	38241030	KIA	12 Dec 44
Hartley, Howard T.	Pvt	33768123	KIA	12 Dec 44
Mumford, Lawrence Z.	Pvt	33695200	KIA	12 Dec 44
Bolyard, Ralph E.	Tec 4	33560905	LIA	12 Dec 44
Gazaway, Jack E.	Cpl	34762348	LIA	12 Dec 44
Knepper, Merle E.	Pvt	33768139	LIA	12 Dec 44
Fitzgerald, Leroy W.	Cpl	38332857	LWA	12 Dec 44
Tozzi, Joseph B.	Pvt	33705196	SWA	12 Dec 44
Bruce, Oden R.	S/Sgt	37513881	SWA	12 Dec 44
Huckabee, Joseph B.	Tec 5	38332930	LWA	12 Dec 44
Garcia, Leonel (NMI)	S/Sgt	18011995	LWA	13 Dec 44
Casner, John M.	Tec 4	39410118	KIA	14 Dec 44
Jacques, Arthur R.	Cpl	31051787	SWA	14 Dec 44
Hiley, James W.	Pfc	36763070	SWA	14 Dec 44
Reese, William H.	Cpl	34350588	SWA	16 Dec 44
Novatsky, Anthony (NMI)	Cpl	12174484	SWA	17 Dec 44
Gordon, James J.	Pfc	37654669	SWA	19 Dec 44
Bryant, Donald M.W.	Tec 5	38281721	SWA	19 Dec 44
Murphy, Perry A.	Tec 5	37604946	SWA	25 Dec 44
Perry, Wesley D.	Tec 4	39459934	KIA	26 Dec 44
Starczewski, Leonard R.	T/Sgt	13012624	SWA	26 Dec 44
Lankford, Howard W.	Tec 5	38292146	LWA	26 Dec 44
Hixson, Arthur P.	S/Sgt	32486949	SWA	29 Dec 44

44-3573