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CONFIDENTIAL

COMMANDER'S NARRATIVE

756th Tank Battalion
For
October 1 - 31, 1944

L-1020

CLASSIFICATION
CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
3rd Army Col
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE *18 Mar. 46*

ARRBN-756-0.3

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COMMANDER'S NARRATIVE

756th Tank Battalion
For
October 1 - 31, 1944

1. Summary of Own Operations.

The tank companies remained in normal attachment: Company A to the 7th Infantry Regiment, Company B to the 15th Infantry Regiment, Company C to the 30th Infantry Regiment and Company D to the Provisional Reconnaissance Squadron.

An extensive redonnaissance was made of the AUTREY - HOUSERRAS area in view of a projected attack. Four officer night patrols were sent out to gain as much information as possible of the terrain. Plans were completed for the attack, but were turned over to the 191st Tank Battalion when our attack was shifted to the BROUVELIEURES area. The CO, 191st Tank Battalion subsequently reported that our plans were sound and were carried out successfully by his battalion.

From 1 October 1944, to 4 October 1944, Company A supported the 7th Infantry between the MOSELLE and the MOSELLOTTE Rivers, moving to the vicinity of ST AME, on October 4, 1944. From October 5 to October 7, Company A supported the attack of the 7th Infantry on VAGNEY, entering VAGNEY on the 7th of October. Road blocks were established in the direction of SAPOIS and south and southeast of VAGNEY. By October 14, all platoons had been relieved and assembled in the vicinity of ST AME. On 20 October, Company A moved to vicinity of GRANDVILLERS and supported attack of the 7th Infantry Regiment, toward BROUVELIEURES, VERUEGELLE, and DOMFAING. On October 23, Company A attacked from DOMFAING toward LES ROUGES EAUX, but were held up by AT fire on the road. It was impossible to get off the road in this country on account of dense woods and steep hills. By October 28, Company A had reached LES ROUGES EAUX and had established road blocks to the north, east, and southeast. The remainder of the period was devoted to supporting the attack of the 7th Infantry up the valley to the northeast and the valley to the southeast.

Company B supported the 15th Infantry Regiment in their attack toward LE THOLY. Because of dense woods and steep hills the tanks were unable to accompany the infantry, but fired in support. On October 3, three tanks were set up for indirect fire and fired 80 rounds at an enemy road block and enemy occupied houses. Direct hits were observed. On October 4, one section entered the "quarry" (K249478) and fired on German positions. On October 5, the 2nd Platoon was placed in division reserve in the vicinity of ST AME. On October 17, B Company was relieved from attachment to the 15th Infantry Regiment and reverted to battalion control. On October 20, Company B moved to the vicinity of PIERREPONT and was attached to the 15th Infantry. From October 21, throughout the remainder of the period, the company supported the advance of the 15th Infantry Regiment to the northeast from BROUVELIEURES. On October 24, two Mark IV German tanks were contacted near LES ROUGES EAUX and driven off. On October 28, the tanks were able to closely support the infantry attack and at least two

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machine gun and two bazooka positions were destroyed. On October 26, the attack north of LES ROUGES EAUX continued against strong resistance. One enemy Mark IV tank was destroyed along with one 80mm Flak Wagon and numerous machine guns. On 27th of October, tanks moved forward into BOURGONCE. One platoon was placed in division reserve with 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry. At the end of the period the tanks were generally in a defensive position, covering the area to the north and northeast.

Company C supported the 30th Infantry Regiment in their attack toward LE THOLY. Because of the mud and heavily wooded hills, most tank activity consisted in firing on area targets in support of attacks by the infantry. The slightest movement by tanks brought heavy enemy shelling, causing casualties to friendly infantry. Consequently there was little movement, but several hundred rounds of 75mm ammunition were fired. On October 23rd, Company C moved to the vicinity of BRUYERES. On October 26th the company attacked to the northeast in support of the 30th Infantry Regiment. From the 26th to the 31st October, the tanks fired on enemy targets to the northeast -- principally enemy occupied houses and vehicles. On October 28, the 1st Platoon destroyed five enemy half-tracks.

At the beginning of the period Company D was attached to the Provisional Reconnaissance Squadron, located in the vicinity of REMIREMONT. Two platoons were east of the MOSELLE, patrolling the road parallel to the river. The remainder of the company was on road blocks. There was no change in the company's activities until October 15, when all platoons were relieved from their patrolling and road block missions and returned to the vicinity of the Company CP near ST AME. On October 17th, the 1st Platoon was attached to the 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Platoon to the 7th Infantry Regiment and 3rd Platoon to the 15th Infantry Regiment. On October 20, the 2nd and 3rd Platoons moved to the GRANDVILLERS - PIERREPONT area with the 7th and 15th Infantry Regiments. On October 23, the 1st Platoon arrived in the BRUYERES area, attached to the 30th Infantry. The remainder of the month was spent by all platoons in reconnaissance missions over trails in the hills northwest of ST DIE. Trails were patrolled to keep them clear of the enemy. Considerable ammunition was fired into wooded areas occupied by the enemy, but the terrain precluded any cross-country attacks.

The Assault Gun Platoon (six guns) fired concentrations as requested by the 15th Infantry. On October 3, two guns moved to direct fire positions near the "quarry" and fired about 30 rounds into the "quarry" and adjacent houses. Extremely good results were observed. On October 9, the A/G Platoon moved to a position near CREMANVILLERS and fired missions in support of the 7th Infantry. On October 21, the platoon moved to firing positions near SAINTE HELENE with an OP in AUTREY. On October 25, the platoon fired 290 rounds of smoke in support of the 191st Tank Battalion. Concentrations were generally in the vicinity of HOUSERRAS. On October 31, the A/G Platoon moved to the vicinity of LES ROUGES EAUX and fired 328 rounds in support of the 7th Infantry Regiment.

2. Summary of Enemy Operations.

Aided by very poor tank terrain, the enemy stubbornly resisted every attempt to employ tanks. Mines became increasingly a menace, every road used

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being mined. The enemy increased his artillery fire on tank movements apparently in the hope of causing casualties to supported infantry.

3. Situation at Close of Period.

Tanks were operating on trails in the hill mass northwest of ST DIE and covering the open area to the north. No cross-country movement was possible.

4. Status of Personnel and Materiel.

a. Personnel:

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Warrant Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted Men</u>
(T/O: 39)	(T/O: 3)	(T/O: 684)
37 Pres for duty	3 Pres for duty	649 Pres for duty
1 TD in U.S.		3 Confinement
2 TD w/3rd Inf Div		8 TD in U.S.
		8 TD - School 1st Armd Group.
<hr/> Totals: 40	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 668

b. Materiel:

	<u>Runners</u>	<u>Fit in 24 hours</u>	<u>Ordnance For Repair</u>	<u>Short</u>	<u>Total</u>
Med. Tanks - M4	44	5	4	1	54
* Med Tanks - M4A3 w/76mm	4				4
Light Tanks	17				17
Med Tanks - M4A3 w/105mm	6				6
All other vehicles as per T/E except:					
1/4 Ton, 4x4, Truck	22			1	23
2 1/2 Ton, 6x6, Truck	37			2	39

* - In excess of T/E, for training.

5. Comments and Lessons Learned.

The tanks were forced to operate in most unfavorable terrain, the country being broken up into steep, densely wooded hills and narrow, boggy valleys. Fields of fire were extremely poor and maneuver off roads and trails was impossible. Roads seized during our advance were invariably mined, slowing the progress of the tanks.

The procedure adopted by all regiments was: an infantry attack supported by tank and artillery fire, prompt sweeping of roads seized by prearranged

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engineer teams, a follow-up by the tanks, and a repetition of the process.

Tanks and TD's occupied firing positions on high ridges and fired jointly at enemy targets exposing themselves below. A considerable number of enemy vehicles were destroyed in this manner.

A considerable improvement in infantry-tank cooperation became evident toward the end of the period. I attribute this to a better appreciation of infantry tactics by the tank company and platoon leaders, and a better evaluation of tank capabilities and limitations by infantry commanders.

Glenn F. Rogers

GLENN F. ROGERS,
Lt. Col., Cavalry,
Commanding.

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WITH THE THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION IN FRANCE, October 7, 1944.

"Tankers" normally are expected to shoot at the enemy with their guns, over run strongpoints, and otherwise further the attack of the rest of the Army. However, once in awhile tankers find other missions which normally fall to AMG officials and others of the "follow-up". One such occasion was a few days ago. S/Sgt. James E. Haspel of COMFORT, W. VA. with his crew consisting of T/4 Frank C. Manak, of Box 29, SEALY, TEXAS, Cpl. Cletus J. Offerman, NEW HAMPTON, IOWA, Pvt. Raymond V. Brennerman, Box 43, CONSTONTINE, MICH., Pvt. Robert H. Padgett, 1010 W. Springfield, URBANA, ILLINOIS along with T/4 Jesse B. Rickerson Jr., RFD #2, AUGUSTA, GA., and crew consisting of Cpl. Raymond W. Colley, WHITEHALL, MONT., Cpl. William J. McInrue, 4423 Van Buren St., CHICAGO, ILL., T/5 Elbert Rainwater, RFD #1, CHERAW, S.C., and Pvt. Max M. Kristal, 2321 W. Krooscourt, SHEBOYGAN, WISC., were ordered to set up an advanced roadblock in their division sector. It was a rather hot corner that the tanks occupied and they were happy to see that a typical stone French farmhouse was right near the cross-road. They moved their tanks into position, set up a guard detail and a few ventured into the nearby house. As they came in a nervous Frenchman went out. He shouted back over his shoulder that the soldiers were welcome to stay, but that it was a little too rough for him and he took off to the rear. Three days later the Frenchman returned and made several important discoveries. First, the Krauts had left, second the tankers were just about to leave, and third (perhaps the closest to his frugal French heart) the house was cleaner than it was when he left. The stock-- two cows, some pigs, and several chickens were still present for duty. More than that, the stock had been fed and watered and the cows had been milked on schedule. Being from Texas and Montana, T/4 Manak and Cpl Colley had the necessary skill for these chores. Said S/Sgt. Haspel, "He was a nice old geezer and some of the boys were lonely for some work on the farm anyway."

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The house was clean when we came so we left it that way." Said the Frenchman, "Vive la Amerique!"

Submitted by: S/SGt. Travis F. Widener Jr

S-2 Section, 756th Tank Bn.

WITH THE THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION IN FRANCE, October 24, 1944.

Service Company of a tank battalion is one of the least appreciated units but one of the most essential, if not the most, in the battalion. During the present campaign the personnel of the Transportation Section of Service Co have had no more, if as much, sleep and rest than the line companies. The general opinion of the troops who are actually in the line seems to be that these members of the Maintenance Section, Transportation Section, Supply Section and etc live the "life of Riley" because they don't have to contend with the weapons of the Kraut "Supermen." This opinion is far from right says T/5 Nicholas Wynohradnik, of 71 Meserale St, BROOKLYN, N.Y., who drives a 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ton truck for the Transportation Section of Service Company and transports the most dangerous supplies of them all - fuel and ammunition, to the front. On this particular occasion T/5 Wynohradnik, after a hard day of hauling supplies to various companies got a "hurry-up" call to deliver a truck load of 75mm ammunition to a company who were having some fun but also a little trouble in dis-locating some stubborn Hitlermen. Having his truck already loaded for just such an emergency he checked his map for the location of the company who had made the request. Upon the road until he suddenly ran into something that looked like a Fourth of July Fireworks. Our tanks and Infantry were plastering a mass of trees located on the side of a small hill and were also receiving fire from the enemy. Seeing all this, T/5 Wynohradnik wondered "What am I doing here?" and immediately went into a prone position under his truck. A moment later a hot shell fragment hit the truck in just the right place to start it burning. The flames spread rapidly and were licking at the 75mm ammunition when discovered. Giving the warning to all in shouting range he took off for the rear in a sprint that would have done credit to Jesse Owens. Finally arriving back at his section after trudging some weary miles he informed them of the bad luck, got another

truck load of ammunition on the way and eased into his sleeping bag. As he was falling into a blissful snooze he heard someone yell, "Come on Wynohradnik, whatcha wanna do, sleep all the time? Let's get this load of gasoline up to A Company and make it snappy. Don't you know there's a war going on?" T/5 Wynohradnik clenched his fists, gritted his teeth --- and climbed out!

Submitted by: S/Sgt Travis F. Widener Jr.

S-2 Section, 756th Tank Bn.

WITH THE THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION IN FRANCE, October 24, 1944.

S/Sgt Travis F. Widener, LIBERTY, TEXAS and T/4 Modestino A. Cafaro, 321 E. 19th St., PATERSON, N.J., both speak and understand about the same amount of French - none. Yet T/4 Cafaro has a knack of making them understand what he's talking about in some mysterious fashion. Such was the case recently when S/Sgt Widener, after trying for about an hour to tell a Mademoiselle that it rained lots in this particular section, was about to give up in despair. Despite all the arm waving and pointing to the water puddles in the street all she could say was "^{Je ne Comprends pas}~~No Compre.~~" About this time T/4 Cafaro sauntered up and said "Beau ~~Coups~~ (the only French word he knew) Rain." She grinned like a skunk eating chicken and exclaimed "Oui, Oui." S/Sgt Widener walked off mumbling to himself, with a scowl on his face, wondering if the women in the Pacific Islands were going to be as difficult to talk to.

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the poor quality of
the **original**.

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WITH THE THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION IN FRANCE, October 24, 1944.

Service Units of the War Machine probably deserve more credit and get less, than any other. This is particularly true of Service Company of the tank battalion attached to the 3rd Infantry Division. Besides being the backbone of the Administrative Section, handling the hundreds of different types of correspondence, keeping Service Records straight so that Joe Blow will know if he got paid that 2 cents due him back in January and etc. They have the tremendous job of maintaining the track and wheel vehicles that comprise a tank battalion, procuring, transporting, and distributing the numerous supplies needed in operations against the enemy, a few of which are rations, clothing, fuel and ammunition, and thousand of other items too numerous to name but absolutely essential.

The Personnel Section is usually located in the vicinity of the Administration Center. They keep in close contact with the battalion and the division and expedite all matters and correspondence pertaining to personnel of the battalion. Working in this manner they are able to get the payrolls, promotion recommendations, rotation lists (not too strenuous) and various other administrative duties that normally fall into the hands of this section. They don't see too much of the war as it appears from the battle front but work with a tireless zeal which makes this particular group very efficient in their work. One casualty occurred in the group when Cpl Edward D. Kearns, 2403 Camden Road, GREENSBORO, N.C., thought the bumper of a 3/4 ton truck was a minor obstacle while diving under the truck to avoid the falling "flak" of a near by friendly anti-aircraft group. Another amusing as well as embarrassing incident happened to Sgt Hobert J. Kirkpatrick, 68 B. St., SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, when he got word from his wife that her allotment had been discontinued and that she was so glad he was being discharged and returned home. Sgt Kirkpatrick said, "I can't figure it out, I work

in the department where matters of that nature originate and I'm positive that I haven't put in any recommendations for my discharge," and added "much as I'd like to."

The Transportation Platoon is more or less the "perpetual motion" section, especially when the going is hot and heavy. They are on call constantly for that "extra truck load of ammunition, gasoline and rations. Driving under the most hazardous conditions they are often under artillery fire, strafing attacks (the Luftwaffe isn't completely annihilated yet) and there's always the mines. Often without the exact information as to the location of the units they're going to, without sufficient maps and without lights, these men have a great responsibility placed on their shoulders. During their "rest period" they perform 1st Echelon Maintenance on their vehicles and weapons. The trucks have to be ready to go - whether it's to take a bunch of "dog-gages" to an ancient movie in the rear area or to take 75mm ammunition to a tank engaging a Jerry SP on the front lines.

The Maintenance Platoon is of tremendous value to the tank battalion inasmuch as it is placed as close as possible to the fighting units and yet put out a large volume of maintenance. Keeping close check with the companies in the line they can evacuate vehicles which are casualties with rapidity and have them back in the line without confusion and delay. Besides repairing and maintaining the track and wheel vehicles of the battalion they consult and discuss with higher headquarters, modifications, which would be of value to the unit. At a very recent date they added a modification to the Medium Tank which will be a help when they battle it out with a Panther or Tiger in the future.

The Supply Section which probably has the most headaches and gets the most "reamings" have to be on their toes to procure the best food, clothing and equipment possible. They know how a "tanker's" face will

beam when he gets a box of 10 in 1 rations instead of the not so tasty "C" type. Getting that extra pair of "Long Johns" to the boys up front as the weather gets colder, not only helps the morale of the troops but their fighting efficiency as well. Keeping a battalion up to T/BA in the thousands of items that are in a tank battalion is almost like keeping a handful of marbles on a slanting table but it's done and Capt FRED L. SCHMIDT, PO 354, VERDEN, CKLA., is just the guy who can do it.

So although the frontline troops have the priority on the rotation lists, furlough lists, rest camp lists or what not, which are truly deserved, the Service Company of a Tank Battalion plays a major role in the fight. You don't hear much about them but they're there-- plugging away!

Submitted by: S/Sgt Travis F. Widener "r."
S-2 Section, 756th Tank Bn.

WITH THE THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION IN FRANCE, 25 October 1944.

Cpl. Ed Farley, RFD #2, Box 15, MORGANFIELD, KY., is one "tanker" with the Third Division who believes that there might be some good Krauts. "They could have shot me if they had wanted to, but for some reason they didn't," he said. Here is the story: Cpl Farley's tank was ordered up around a bend of a road to help the Infantry knock out some machine guns which were holding them up. He was told to be careful where he fired because there were some friendly troops near the machine guns. The Corporal passed on the word to Gunner Pvt. Phillip Rodriguez or ~~RFD~~ #1, Box 156, FORT MORGAN, COLO. Rodriguez took careful aim after the tank got into position and checked two or three times to be sure that he was aiming the gun at a safe place. At last he fired. Almost as soon as his round went out an answer came back in the form of an anti-tank shell. "We're hit!" yelled Pvt. Rodriguez. "Are we?" asked Cpl Farley. About that time bow gunner, Pvt. George L. Desmett yelled up that the driver had been wounded. "Can he make it out?" asked Farley. "I think so," said Desmett. Then all the men started to get out. Machine gun bullets rattled off the tank and overhead but the men had good luck and none of them were hit. "It was pretty thick with bullets," said Loader Pvt. Paul H. Kreuziger of 515N. 8th St., WATERTOWN, WISC., "and maybe I was lucky to get a boost out of the tank." Pvt. Kreuziger was referring to the second round of AT fire which smacked into the tank and lifted him out and set him down about fifteen feet to the side of the tank. "It lifted him out all right," said Lt. V.L. Kandle of the Infantry who observed the maneuver, "But the strange part of it is that his hair was on fire." The lieutenant shook his head. "A very unusual sight," he said.

Cpl Farley turned around when the second round hit the tank and looked back at it. He had got about thirty yards away by that time. He saw that a little fire was coming out of the turret, but more important

he saw that the driver was still there. He ran on back and half lifted the injured man out. He had to bend down and pick him up over his shoulder before he could leave the sight of the tank. He did this and carried the man about fifty yards down the road without a single Kraut machine gun opening up, even though a moment before they had peppered the spot. "So maybe there are some good Krauts" said Cpl Farley later on, "anyway the next time I hit a Krauttank I'll give the men in it every chance to get away."

At last -----a gentleman's war!

Submitted by: S/Sgt Travis F. Widener

S-2 Section, 756th Tank Bn.

150-17-01

WITH THE THIRD DIVISION IN FRANCE, October 31, 1944.

Ordinarily tank men have high regard for their periscopic sights. But to Cpl. George W. Minnick, Jr. of Hicksville, Long Island, New York, the device is literally a pain in the neck. Deeply impressed by a series of incoming tree bursts, the corporal leaped into his turret to get away from it all. Meanwhile you-know-what broke loose. A burst knocked a fragment of tree trunk about 30 feet long and a foot in diameter onto the tank. The outer periscope got a terrific whack and passed it inside the tank where it vibrated vigorously against Minnick's brow. Did he get a headache? Are you kiddin'?

WITH THE THIRD DIVISION IN FRANCE.

Pvt. Louis J. Jewell, Clinton, Iowa, a cannon loader in a tank company, emerged from his turret the other morning to stretch and otherwise greet what they call Sunrise-in-the-Vosges. Ten yards away a character in a grey-green uniform was coolly aiming a Kraut bazooka at Pvt. Jewell's steel fortress. Quicker than you can say "Demobilization! I love you," Jewell dived for his turret .30 cal and began spraying. Loosing his nerve, the Kraut dropped his bazooka and took off -- for about five yards. This ain't no movie, so Pvt. Jewell did not light a Fleetwood and resume stretching.

WITH THE THIRD DIVISION IN FRANCE, 31 October 1944.

Another Kraut bazooka story comes from the same tank outfit. This tank and crew, consisting of Sgt. William B. Toler, Paris, Tennessee, Cpl John J. Witulski, Rogers City, Michigan; Pvt. Arvid Berg, Lakota, N. Dakota; Pvt. Swan Swanson, Jr., Omaha, Nebraska; and Pvt. Clifford E. Kirkland, West Bourne, Tennessee, were placed on a road block where it was supposed to be real quiet-like. Along after midnight Pvt. Berg, on guard at the time, crawls under the tank to arouse his buddies.

Bigger than corned pork loaf, it is a patrol of Herrenvolk, coming from the rear, and looking for Shermans. How do they know? Because, Dopey, one rocket shell goes E-r-r-ang and smashes a nearby tree. The second, even closer, strikes the bank behind them. The thire -- pass me the prayerbook -- smacks the tank's rear idler, but you don't have to stop reading; the third is a dud. Otherwise, who'd be around to tell the story? Another tank, probably called The Green Hornet, machine-gunned the patrol and wounded four. The remainder copped a sneak, and Why not?

WITH THE THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION OF THE SEVENTH ARMY, FRANCE. (Outh?)

When a tank is hit by an AT gun, it's usually SOP for the crew-- those who can---to take off like that big Astor-bird you're always hearing about. For, not only are there over 150 gallons of high octane in a Sherman, but, Brother, you carry enough explosives to supply that Central Pk. demonstration in New York for a couple of matinees.

This Dave McConaghey, a T/4 tank driver, who used to draw his rations at 2 BENNET PLACE, PITTSBURGH, PA. must not read the manuals. McConaghey, himself a any sort of guy, wont tell the story, but his buddy, Cpl. Edward Farrell, 9 EMERALD ST., BROOKLINE, MASS., gives the details in the company CP.

"We're moving down the road to attack, unbuttoned, because there's doggies just ahead and everything is quiet. Then two AT guns--perfect camouflage--open up at us at about 400 yards. They let the doggies go through to wait for us, the dirty so-and-so's. The gun to the front smacks un with the first round, near the ventilator, and ricochets to blow the assistant driver's hatch right off. Being tank commander, I give everyone "Hit the road" over the interphone. Me, and the cannoneer (Pvt. Louis H. Bergheger, 1421 SALISBURY ST., ST. LOUIS, MO.) and radio operator, (Pvt. Melescio Martinez, GEN. DELIVERY, KARNES CITY, TEXAS); take off. In the ditch we meet Whiting, (PFC. Lyle Whiting, FORT JONES, CAL.) but no Dave. I'm thinking maybe he's hurt when the tank starts to back up. The two guns open up again. This time a shell goes through the turret--so hard that the turret lock flies off and hits this-----dope in the back. But is he bothered? No, he's in Pittsburgh on a Sunday afternoon, looking for a place to park near the movies.

"We yell," Get out of that tank, you crazy -----", but he backs slowly down the road 300 yards, and those two Kraut guns go wild throwing everything they've got."

Farrel jerks his thumb at McConaghey. "Well, there he is still walking around smoking Shelsess and drinking powdered coffee. He turned that tank around by a farmhouse--where some mortars chimed in--and drove it back to assembly area with two holes in it. Told the captain it was pretty rugged up ahead. That's my boy." he finished.

McConaghey stood up and grabbed Farrel's arm. "Come on, Windy," he said. "We gotta gas up."

Just before McConaghey literally dragged him out the door, Farrel let go with, "Say, you might tell 'em that this is the third tank McConaghey's had knocked from under him."

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HEADQUARTERS
756th Tank Battalion
APO 464

5 September 1944

SUBJECT: Report of Operations against the Enemy for
the month of August, 1944.

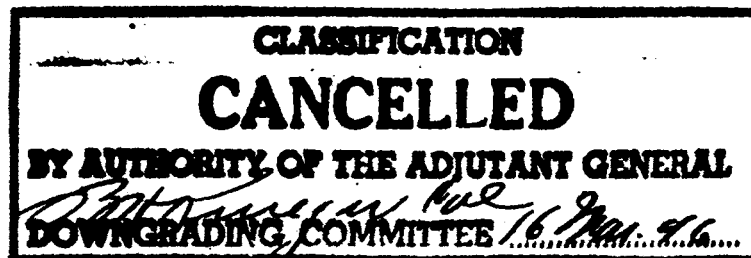
TO : Commanding General, Third Infantry Division,
APO #3, U. S. Army.

Report of operations against the enemy for the month
of August, 1944, complete with Unit Journal, is submitted here-
with in accordance with paragraph 10, AR 345-105.

For the Commanding Officer

G. T. Fennell
G. T. FENNELL,
WO (jg) NMB,
Actg Adjutant.

2 Incls:
Commanders Narrative (In cwin)
~~Unit Journal, Aug, 1944.~~



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

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HEADQUARTERS
756th Tank Battalion
APO 758

5 October 1944.

SUBJECT: Report of Operations Against the Enemy for the Month of September 1944.

TO : Commanding General, Third Infantry Division, APO #3, U.S. Army.
(Att: AC of S, G-2).

In compliance with Memorandum, Headquarters Third Infantry Division, 28 September 1944, Report of Operations for the period 1 - 30 September 1944, is submitted herewith, together with the Unit Journal for the month of September 1944.

For the Commanding Officer:

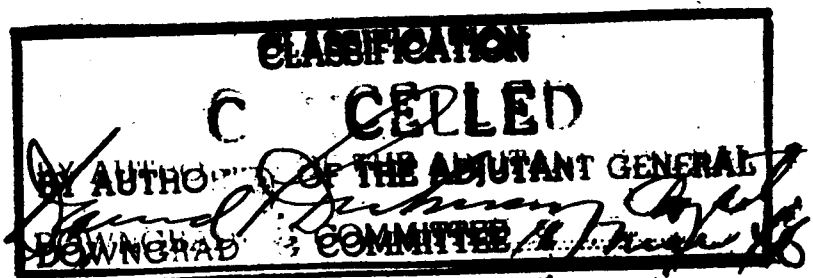
G. T. Fennell

G. T. FENNELL,
WO (jg), AUS,
Adjutant.

2 Incls -

- 1 - Commander's Narrative (in quin)
- 2 - Unit Journal for Sep 44.

L-1019



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COMMANDER'S NARRATIVE

756th Tank Battalion

September 1--30, 1944

I. SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

September 1. The Battalion, less Company D, was located three miles east of MONPELIER, FRANCE, not engaged in action. The day was spent in maintenance of vehicles and arms. Company D, attached to 3rd Reconnaissance Troop, moved to the vicinity of CORINI.

September 2. The Battalion, less Company D, moved at 0500B, enroute to VOIRON. When I arrived at VOIRON in advance of the column, I was met by our billeting officer, who informed me that plans had been changed and we were to advance to the vicinity of ST. HILAIRE de BRENS. The Battalion closed in that vicinity approximately at 1845B. After contacting Headquarters, Third Infantry Division, I was informed that a further advance was contemplated, but in view of the late hour and heavy rain, our further advance was postponed until next day. Meantime Company D moved to the vicinity of AMBERIEU.

September 3. The Battalion moved to the vicinity of LAGNIEU. At 1200B Company A was attached to the 7th Infantry Regiment; Company B was attached to the 15th Infantry Regiment. Company C remained under battalion control as reserve. Company D moved to the vicinity of PLAINOISEAU. Company A moved with the 7th Infantry to the vicinity of PLAINOISEAU and Company B moved with the 15th Infantry to the vicinity of CROTEMAY.

September 4. The Battalion, less A, B and D Companies, moved to the vicinity of Le FIED. Company A moved to POLIGNY, as did Company D. Company B moved to the vicinity of PAGNOZ. At 2000B, Company C was attached to the 30th Infantry Regiment and established road blocks near LONS-Le-SAUNIER.

September 5. The Battalion CP moved to MARNONZ. Company A, supporting the action of the 7th Infantry toward CEUZEL, lost one tank to AT fire in the vicinity of BEURE. Casualties: one enlisted man killed; one wounded. Company B and Company D moved to the vicinity of QUINGEY. Company C set up road blocks in the vicinity of MOUCHARD and SALINS-Les-BAINS.

September 6. Company B moved to the vicinity of MERY SOUS MONTAND with the 15th Infantry. Company A supported the 7th Infantry in the vicinity of BESANCON, bringing fire on enemy vehicles on Highways 57 and 67, destroying some vehicles and personnel and denying the enemy the use of these roads. Company C, supporting the 30th Infantry, moved east and northeast of BESANCON and fired at enemy vehicles and personnel on Highway 73. The Battalion CP moved to the vicinity of TARCENAY.

September 7. Company A continued to support the attack of the 7th Infantry on BESANCON. Company C supported the attack of the 30th Infantry on the south and east of BESANCON, meeting strong resistance in the vicinity of the

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"Citadel". One tank was lost to bazooka fire. - One killed, two wounded.

September 8. The Battalion moved north of BESANCON, supporting the attack to the north. Company C lost one tank to bazooka fire and Company D lost one light tank to artillery fire. - One killed, seven wounded.

September 9. The attack continued, Company A moving to RIOZ via RIGNEY and Company C moving via MONCEY to the vicinity of RIOZ.

September 10. The advance pushed on to the vicinity of LOULANS. Company B lost one tank to AT fire. - One killed, two wounded (one officer). Company D continued reconnaissance missions in the vicinity of MONTBOZON and MONTARLOT.

September 11. Company A advanced against opposition to the vicinity of FILAIN and BAS Du VAUX. Company B met strong resistance along Highway 57, losing one tank to AT fire. - One officer wounded, four enlisted men wounded. A column of enemy vehicles was fired on, and several destroyed. Company C moved to the vicinity of FONDREMAND. Company D reconnoitered in the vicinity of AUDELARRAT, DAMPIERRE and VY Les FILAIN.

September 12. Company A supported the infantry in clearing enemy from Le GRAND BOIS de DAMPIERRE and capturing NOROY Le BOURG. Enemy convoys on roads in the vicinity of Les BELLES BARAQUES were fired on. Company B supported the 15th Infantry in the capture of VESOUL. From positions on high ground near VESOUL, they fired on enemy convoys, destroying considerable materiel. One tank was knocked out by AT fire. Five machine gun nests were destroyed in town.

Company C moved to the vicinity of MONTBOZON.

1st Platoon of Company D contacted the enemy at QUINGEY and captured thirteen prisoners. Enemy convoys were fired on and vehicles were knocked out. The 2nd Platoon contacted the enemy in FROTEY Les VESOUL, killing four and capturing twelve. The 3rd Platoon was unsuccessful in an assault on PRESLE, receiving AT, mortar and heavy artillery fire.

September 13. Company A attacked Hill 430. One tank destroyed by a mine, one by bazooka. - One man wounded. Company B knocked out enemy MG's in the vicinity of COLOMBOTTE and VELLEMINFROY. Enemy convoy was fired on in the vicinity of SAULX de VESOUL. One tank knocked out by S/P fire -- two men wounded by mortar fire. Company C advanced to the vicinity of ESPRELS and VALLENOIS Le BOIS.

Company D continued reconnaissance in the vicinity of COLOMBIER, MONCEY, COLOMBOTTE and CERRE Les NOROY.

September 14. Company A advanced through MONTJUSTEN and ARPENANS toward GOUHENANS and VY Les LURE. Company B advanced toward MOLLANS and GENEVREUILLE, meeting strong opposition at GENEVREUILLE. Company C established road blocks in the vicinity of LIEVANS. Company D contacted the 36th Infantry Division and reconnoitered the vicinity of LA GRANGE.

September 15. Company A advanced with the infantry into Les AYNANS and LA GRANGE DU VAURE. Company B attacked ADELANS and CITERES. One tank knocked out by AT fire. - One killed, three wounded. Company C advanced to AILLEVANS.

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While on reconnaissance near VILLAFANS, tanks of Company D found the 3rd Battalion, 180th Infantry Regiment pinned down by enemy fire. The tanks laid down fire to enable the infantry to withdraw and evacuate wounded.

September 16. Company A advanced into VY LES LURE. One tank disabled by mine. The Company Commander and one enlisted man were killed by a mine while on reconnaissance near VY LES LURE. One enlisted man wounded. Company B advanced into LURE with the 15th Infantry. One platoon leader went out with an infantry captain on reconnaissance in a 1/4 ton truck. The truck did not return. Company C moved to the vicinity of RIGNOVELLE and prepared to attack RADDON. Company D remained on road blocks near VILLAFANS.

September 17. Company A succeeded in fording the river and set up road block near ATHESANS. Road blocks were also set up near VOUCHENANS and LURE. Company B maintained road blocks near LURE. Company C advanced with the 30th Infantry into RADDON. Company D moved to vicinity of CITERS.

September 18. Company assembled near VY LES LURE to perform maintenance. Company B advanced to ST. GERMAIN and set up road blocks. Company C advanced to Les ARMONTS and BRENCOTTE and BELMONT. Company D remained near CITERS.

September 19. Company A moved to the vicinity of AMAGE, FAUCOGNEY, and ST. BRESSON. No enemy encountered. Company B maintained road blocks. Company C remained in the vicinity of BELMONT. Company D moved to FAUCOGNEY.

September 20. Company A fired on enemy convoy in the vicinity of 152304; destroyed AT gun, several towed artillery pieces and killed several enemy. Company A moved into STE. MARIE CHANCIS and EFFRENEY. Company B was relieved by French troops and moved into Division Reserve with the 15th Infantry. Company C sent one platoon to LA VOIVRE. Company D reconnoitered toward MELAY and EVOUHEY. One tank was lost to a mine near MELAY. - One man wounded.

September 21. 1st Platoon of Company A engaged in a fire fight in the vicinity of 152304. An air burst killed the platoon leader and one man. Another man was wounded. One tank lost- bogged down with a thrown track in very hilly country. Company B moved to the vicinity of RADDON. Company C maintained its positions with the 30th Infantry in the vicinity of MELAY and LA VOIVRE. One platoon of Company D established road block in the vicinity of ECROMAGNY.

September 22. The 3rd Platoon of Company A fired on enemy convoy northeast of LA CROSLIERE. Several enemy artillery pieces were destroyed. Company B remained in position. Company C established road blocks north of FAUCOGNEY. The road ahead was mined and had to be cleared before further advance could be made. Company D established road blocks to protect right flank of the 30th Infantry.

September 23. One platoon of Company B moved to FAUCOGNEY. One platoon of Company C moved slowly with supported infantry, north from FAUCOGNEY, reaching LA LONGINE and CORRAVILLERS - Le - PLAIN. Company A took up positions to cover the roads in the vicinity of CORRAVILLERS - Le - PLAIN and Hill 753 (190315). Company D continued to screen right flank of the 30th Infantry.

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September 24. Company A assisted the 7th Infantry in capturing ground in the vicinity of Le HARTENOT and La ROSIERE. 150 rounds of 75mm were fired from Hill 719 at enemy vehicles on main highway. Company B maintained its positions. Company C was unable to advance north from CORRAVILLERS on account of mined roads. Company D was relieved from its screening mission and assembled at FAUCOGNEY.

September 25. Company A crossed the MOSELLE RIVER with the 7th Infantry and fired on enemy in the vicinity of VECOUX and RUPT-SUR-MOSELLE. Company B remained in position with the 15th Infantry. Company C, unable to advance through LACHENE because of mined roads, boggy terrain and AT fire.

September 26. The 1st Platoon of Company A supported an attack on FRANCOUD. The remainder of the company remained near RUPT-SUR-MOSELLE. Company B moved to the vicinity of ST. AMES. Company C remained in position.

September 27. The 3rd Platoon of Company A moved northeast from RUPT and assisted the infantry in clearing a road block. Other platoons remained in positions. Company B was unable to advance beyond ST. AMES because of mines. Company C moved to the vicinity of MOULIN. Company D attempted to reconnoiter east of ST. AMES, but received heavy fire and was unable to proceed.

September 28. Company A established road block with 2nd platoon near FERDRUPT. Company B moved two tanks to BEMONT. No further changes in dispositions. Company C - No change. Company D - No change. Assault Gun Platoon moved to the vicinity of ST. AMES, established OP and prepared supporting fires for the 15th and 7th Infantry.

September 29. Company A remained in positions, supporting actions of the battalions of the 7th Infantry. Company B - No change. Company C moved to the vicinity of CELLES. Company D - No change. Assault Gun Platoon broke up enemy counterattack in the vicinity of CREMETVILLER and VAGNEY. 329 rounds of HE, 17 rounds smoke were expended. Numerous buildings occupied by enemy were destroyed.

September 30. Company A - No change. Considerable ammunition was expended in firing on enemy concentrations in hills in the areas of the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 7th Infantry. Company B tanks moved to support the infantry in the hills east of ST. AMES, - Little action. Company C moved to positions to support the 30th Infantry, - No action - very difficult terrain. The Assault Gun Platoon fired 43 rounds on CREMETVILLER and VAGNEY.

II. SUMMARY OF ENEMY OPERATIONS

Enemy defended approaches to BELFORT GAP. Contact gained near LA FIED on September 4th. As enemy moved back into the hills, he began using considerable numbers of anti-tank mines. Enemy used few tanks, but employed considerable numbers of AT and S/P guns. Enemy resistance stiffened as terrain grew more favorable for defense, and artillery fire increased in intensity.

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III. SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD

Companies were attached to regiments along a general line CLEURY-ST. AMES, 1000 yards west of VAGNEY - FERDRIPT. Enemy resistance was very strong and the slightest movement by armor brought down severe artillery fire. The terrain was totally unsuited for armored operation, being hilly and heavily wooded, and rain-soaked. All roads were blocked and mined. The Assault Gun Platoon was firing artillery concentrations in support of the 15th Infantry, and was credited with breaking up one counter-attack.

IV. STATUS OF PERSONNEL AND MATERIEL

a. PERSONNEL

	<u>T/O</u>	<u>ASSIGNED</u>
Officers	39	41
Warrant Officers	3	3
Enlisted Men	684	724

b. MATERIEL

	<u>Runners</u>	<u>Fit in 24 hrs</u>	<u>Fit in 48 hrs</u>	<u>Ord</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Short</u>
Medium Tanks	46	2	1	2	51	3
Light Tanks	14			1	15	2
M4A3 - 105mm	5			1	6	0
1/4 Ton Trucks	21				21	2
2 1/2 Ton Trucks	38			1	39	0

V. COMMENTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

During the period, the operations varied from pursuit over fairly good tank terrain in good weather, to a fairly stabilized situation in very hilly and wooded country in rainy weather. The utility of armor was sharply curtailed by the conditions at the close of the period. Preparations were made to employ the tanks as reinforcing artillery should conditions forbid their use in their primary role, and the Assault Gun Platoon was thus engaged.

Since the Battalion was fighting in small groups, initiative on the part of platoon leaders was demanded, and the distinction between good platoon leaders and mediocre ones was clearly marked. I believe that additional training of platoon leaders in supporting infantry is necessary, since the burden falls on their shoulders when conditions force decentralization of command.

Replacements continue to be poorly trained. Approximately 50% of replacements have to be trained for their jobs after being received. These men

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have had from ten days to two weeks training in their jobs, but are not qualified to enter combat without additional training. This imposes an unwarranted handicap on a unit which is completely engaged in combat. The classification of "Armored Force" is too loose. An armored infantryman cannot be made into a tank driver any faster than a general replacement. Yet, we continue to receive "Armored Force" replacements from non-tank elements who have had little or no training in tanks. Truck drivers are classified as tank drivers. One first sergeant was received as a tank driver. If the prospective replacements were interviewed by a qualified and conscientious officer before being sent out, such errors might be avoided.

Glenn F. Rogers

GLENN F. ROGERS,
Lt. Col., Cavalry,
Commanding.

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WITH THE THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION IN FRANCE, 14 September 1944.

In these days of rapid movement the bypassing of a German strongpoint is a fairly commonplace event, but rarely does the destruction of a strongpoint provide such an interesting story of cooperation among the forces fighting the German Wehrmacht.

After one of his Tank Commanders was wounded, Lt. RALPH L. HANSON of SANFORD, MAINE, the Company Commander of "A" Company in the Tank Battalion which is attached to the Third Division, instructed the remaining crewmembers of that particular tank to pull out of the fight and go on back along the road and park until they received further orders. The crew consisting of Corporal Mayer J. Jacobson of 3633 Grenshaw, CHICAGO, ILL.; T/5 David L. McConaghey of 2 BENNETT PLACE, PITTSBURG, PA; Pvt. James Herrman of RFD 1, SPRING VALLEY, ILLINOIS; and Pvt. William W. Gillespie of 266 Jordon St., BREVARD, N.C. obeyed their Company Commander. They pulled their steel buggy to a halt near a little village which had been passed through by the advancing forces a few hours earlier. Grateful for the opportunity of a short rest, they tumbled out of their General Sherman Tank and sprawled on the ground. In a moment an American Infantry Lieutenant, who was accompanied by a group of some fifty French patriots wearing the brassard of the FFI, came up to the tank. The tired Tankers got to their feet and saluted the lieutenant wondering what was in the wind.

"There's some Krauts in that house over there on the side of the hill," said the lieutenant, pointing at a stone building some hundred yards off the main road. "They want you to help them out with your tank because the Germans have got some automatic weapons."

"Gee, Lieutenant," said Corporal Jacobson doubtfully, "we'd like to help alright but we are short our tank commander and a tank can't fight without it's whole crew."

The lieutenant looked at the Patriots who were restlessly eyeing the tank.

the tank and then the house they wanted to attack. In a moment the lieutenant spoke again. "Hell, he said, "Do you think I could be the Tank Commander?"

"Sure, said T/5 McConaghey, "We could teach you what you need to know in a few minutes."

"Sold," said the Lieutenant, smiling, "Wait'll I tell 'em."

"Better let 'em know that they've got to come along as our flank protection," put in Pvt. Gillespie, "the Frauts might have some bazookas and they can do us a lot of harm."

"Right, said the Lieutenant, "You get everything set here and I'll go over the plan of attack with their leader."

The tank men climbed back in their tank as the group of FFI men clustered around the American Lieutenant to receive their orders. In his best high school learned French and with aid of many gestures the lieutenant gave them the plan of attack.

In a few minutes he climbed up in the turret of the Tank and Cpl. Jacobson and Pvt. Herrman showed him how the inter-phone communication system worked and where he was to stay.

"You drive the thing the way you know best," said the lieutenant to T/5 McConaghey, "I'll just ride in the damn thing." He turned to Cpl. Jacobson. "I'll just tell you if I see anything to shoot at, I don't know how to give the fire order properly." He asked each man in the crew if they were ready, and getting affirmative answers from all, he glanced at his watch and said, "Let's go."

The attack was one like the text book ordered. The tank moved forward taking full advantage of cover that the terrain offered and the FFI moved along at the flanks. When the tank was in good position to fire it grinded to halt and waited. In a moment a group of the FFI exposed themselves for an instant to the house. There was a quick rat-tat-tat of a

German "Squirt" gun, but it was not quick enough. The lieutenant in the Tank observed the fire and called out, "There are Krsuts allright. Knock the damn house down." The Corporal needed no further orders and he put three shots from his 75 in the window of the downstairs. Before he could shoot any more he heard the excited voice of Pvt. Gillespie, the bow-gunner, over the inter-phone. "They're running away!" he shouted as he opened up on them with his machine gun. At this point the detachment of the once mighty Wermacht had had enough. Before the big 75 could fire another shot they stopped, threw up their arms, and surrendered to the FFI who had rapidly closed in when the tank began it's fire.

"Well," said the lieutenant as he climbed down from the turret, "Looks like we did all right. Thanks for the buggy ride."

"Sure, Lieutenant," answered T/5 McConaghey, "Any time at all."

"We better get back," said Cpl. Jacobson, "the Company Commander'll sure be mad if we're not parked where he said!"

Submitted by: S/Sgt Travis F. Widener Jr.

S-2 Sect, 756th Tank Bn.

WITH THE THIRD DIVISION IN FRANCE, 17 September 1944.

Once in a while the ever footsore Infantry get an opportunity to smile at some others who don't usually fight the war so close to the ground. On such occasion was the entry and freeing of the village of NORCY LE BOURG. 2d. Lt. RAYMOND ZUSSMAN, who lives at 2918 Sturdevant St., DETROIT, MICHIGAN, who is a Tank Platoon Leader in the battalion attached to the Division, had the unfortunate experience of having his tank "Conk" out on him due to a mechanical failure a few miles short of the objective. Not wishing to delay the attack unnecessarily, the lieutenant took to the ground and led his other General Sherman into town on foot armed with only a "Tommy" gun instead of a 75 millimeter and several inches of steel. The tank commanded by Sgt. Thomas P. McCarthy, 84th Bell St., Rosebank, STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK, did some excellent shooting. The lieutenant pointed out targets or fired a burst from his "Tommy" gun to indicate the targets. Gunner Cpl. Theodore Collier, Route 1, BLENWOOD SPRINGS, COLORADO, poured some 75 at the indicated spot. Loader PFC Earl H. Bowles, ALEXANDRIA BAY, NEW YORK, later said that he was "as busy as a coal stoker in a steamboat race" when he found that the Tank had fired nearly 100 rounds of ammunition. Bow Machine Gunner Pvt. Calvin K. Eaton, Rings Corner, AMESBURY, MASSACHUSETTS, indicated that he had been kept busy too, when it was discovered that he fired close to 7000 rounds of thirty caliber at the "Krauts" who sought escape. Meanwhile Lt. ZUSSMAN had shot up fourteen clips of "Tommy" gun ammunition. Driver T/5 Espiridion Guillen, Box 1746 BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, only had one complaint. He said, "Hell, with the lieutenant out on foot he thinks the tank's prewar New York hack on a Saturday night!"

The Infantry had little time to gloat about the walking "tanker" because they were busy "polishing up" the one hundred and fifty prisoners that the attack had netted. Quipped Lt. ZUSSMAN, "Next time I go for a walk, I'll bring a horse!"

WITH THE THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION IN FRANCE, September 17, 1944.

Perhaps one of the best examples of the versatility of the American weapons was demonstrated the other day by Pvt. George D. Wallace, RFD #1, SMITHFIELD, NORTH CAROLINA, a member of the Tank Battalion which is attached to the division. The tank in which Pvt. Wallace had been hit by a German anti-tank gun on the outskirts of the French village of SAULX DE VESOUL. The other members of the crew, Cpl. Alexander L. Huffman, RFD #1, CONNELLY SPRINGS, NORTH CAROLINA; T/5 Nicholas P. Motto, 1408 N. 20th Ave., MELROSE PARK, ILLINOIS; and Pvt. Max M. Bristol, 2321 Kroos Court, SHEBOYGEN, WISCONSIN, had busied themselves firing at the snipers who were near the town. Pvt. Wallace was dissatisfied with the results of the small arms fire so he got back in the tank, loaded the 75 millimeter tank gun and did some heavy caliber sniping. This was sufficient for the harried Krauts. They broke and ran up in the hills. Since the tank was disabled Pvt. Wallace could not shoot his tank gun anymore, thus, he picked up his "Tommy" gun and at a distance of 1000 yards he fired using indirect fire methods at the Germans. (Normally the "Tommy" gun is not fired over the range of 200 yards.) They scattered. Said Pvt. Wallace: "The Germans have been talking about our automatic artillery fire for a long time. I thought I'd let them know that we've got it."

Submitted by: S/Sgt Travis F. Widener Jr.
S-2 Section, 756th Tank Bn.

WITH THE THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION IN FRANCE, September 22, 1944.

There are plenty of stories told of how the U.S. mail goes through despite bomb weather, Indian arrows, and bandits but it isn't generally known that the same sort of stories could be told about American soldiers' pay envelopes. First Sgt. Alvin Nusz from RFD #4, ELK CITY, OKLAHOMA, can testify that the pay day can be a pretty serious problem. The other day the First Sgt. was helping his Company Commander, Capt. David D. Redle of 525 E. Heald St., SHERIDAN, WYOMING, pay his men who were widely scattered on various road-blocks in the division sector. While the Captain was paying the bulk of the platoon of Lt. William R. Engfer, 2845 Oakland Ave., MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., he instructed the Sgt. to go on down to the last tank which was the furthest one forward. The Sgt. dutifully carried the pay envelopes to the tankers, who were T/4 Earl W. Cunningham, RED 1, GREAT FALLS, MONTANA; Cpl. George W. Minnick Jr, RFD 1, Stewart Ave., HICKSVILLE, L.I., NEW YORK; PFC Francis Payne, RFD 4, DEXTER, MO.; Pvt. Merrill L. Moor, 5115 Clinton St., LOSANGELES, CALIF. Just as Sgt. Nusz came abreast the General Sherman tank a couple of snipers in a nearby field opened up. So the Sgt. and the crew crouched on the friendly side of the tank while the transaction was in progress. After the money was delivered the crew took care of the offending snipers and the Sgt. returned to Capt. Redle and Lt. Engfer.

"That," quipped the Sgt., "was the 'payoff'!"

Submitted by: S/Sgt Travis F. Widener Jr.

S-2 Section, 756th Tank Bn.

WITH THE THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION IN FRANCE, September 25, 1944.

A promotion in the field to the rank of Second Lieutenant had been the reward of several deserving enlisted men in the Third Division and their attachments. A typical story of such a promotion is that of 2nd Lt. ARTHUR F. RICHTER of 435 Lakeside Ave., SEATTLE, WASH. Lt. RICHTER, while wearing the stripes of a First Sergeant, led a platoon of light tanks from the beach of the Riviera landing, up the long run of the RHONE river valley, through BESANCON and BESOUL to the MOSELLE river, and during this time his platoon accounted for the surrender of over two hundred "Krauts" and the destruction or capture of thirty vehicles. The number of German soldiers who died for Der Fuehrer under the guns of Ex-1st Sgt. RICHTER is suspected to be well over one hundred.

One day when Sgt. Richter was having a mild day of holding a road-block against a possible enemy counter attack his Company Commander, 1st Lt. ROBERT F. KREMER of 1876 Eleanor Ave., ST. PAUL, MINN. came out to his tank and ordered him to turn the platoon over to the next ranking non-commissioned Officer while the "swearing in" ceremony took place. Inside an hour Sgt. Richter was wearing a pair of shining gold bars and receiving congratulations from his fellow officers. Before another hour was up 2nd. Lt. RICHTER was put back to work. His new job? You guessed it--Platoon Leader of his old light tank platoon.

Submitted by: S/Sgt. Travis F. Widener Jr.

S-2 Section, 756th Tank Bn.

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WITH THE THIRD DIVISION IN FRANCE, September 20, 1944.

Enemy anti-tank guns are one of the chief headaches and worried of the Yanks in this day of modern warfare of Armor. Placed in positions that afford the maximum fields of fire, cover and camouflage, they have the big advantage of getting in the first, and in many cases, the only round fired. Such was not the case, however, when Sgt. Stanley Karpinski, 6017, 56th Ave., Maspeth, L.I., NEW YORK, who is tank commander in the Tank Battalion attached to Division, entered the small village of FRANCHEVILLE, with his tank and crew consisting of Cpl. Robert A. Smith, 337 N. Jefferson Ave., CANONSBURG, PA; T/5 Lilburn L. Hagan, 111 Walnut St., PERRYVILLE, MO; Pvt. Edward V. Marcell, 2208 Sedgwick St., CHICAGO, ILL; and Pvt. Roy V. Pickett, 626 W. Frisco, OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA. An Infantry scout stopping the tank, informed Sgt. Karpinski of the anti-tank gun. Checking it's exact location they led the tank to a previously reconnoitered spot and went into action. Like lightning, Gunner Cpl. Smith placed four "Bull's Eyes" into the Kraut position with his 75 millimeter before the surprised Hitlermen could say "Panzerkraitwagen." Immediately the gun and crew ceased to exist except for a mass of twisted steel and torn bodies.

During the little game of "hide and seek" a second Kraut anti-tank gun opened fire on Sgt. Karpinski's tank but due either to their poor marksmanship or to just plain American luck the tank and crew came through without a scratch. Indeed a lucky day!

Submitted by: S/Sgt Travis F. Widener Jr.

S-2 Section, 756th Tank Bn.

SECRET

COMMANDER'S NARRATIVE

756th Tank Battalion

For
March 1 - 31, 1945

CLASSIFICATION

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I. SUMMARY OF OWN OPERATIONS

At the beginning of the period the battalion was still attached to the 103rd Infantry Division, which was a part of VI Corps. At this time the front line was generally stabilised along the ROTHBACH and MODER Rivers and was relatively quiet. The divisional sector extended from approximately 895280 to 845343 (Central EUROPE, 1/100,000; Sheet V2). The battalion remained attached to the 103rd Infantry Division until 3 March 1945, at which time the battalion was relieved from attachment to VI Corps and 103rd Infantry Division, and attached to the 3rd Infantry Division. For the period 1 to 3 March the battalion CP was located at STEINBOURG (763189); Company A CP at ST JEAN SAVERNE (724190), with the 1st Platoon attached to the 410th Infantry Regiment, and held in regimental reserve at ZUTZENDORF (864284); Company B CP at ST JEAN SAVERNE (724190), with the 2nd Platoon attached to the 409th Infantry Regiment, being held in regimental reserve at BOUXWILLER (815249); Company C CP at ERNOLSHEIM (743210) with the 1st Platoon attached to the 411th Infantry Regiment, and held in regimental reserve at INGWILLER (813302); Company D CP at ERNOLSHEIM (743210), with the 1st Platoon attached to Division Headquarters, 103rd Infantry Division in IMBSHEIM (793224), as a mobile guard for division headquarters. The Assault Gun Platoon was attached to Division Artillery and subsequently attached to 928th FA Battalion, and was in position at UTTWILLER (820278). The companies conducted extensive driving instructions, and inspections of vehicles, equipment, and troops. The only active action against the enemy was direct and indirect firing; direct firing executed by the 1st Platoon of Company C, the indirect fire performed by the Assault Gun Platoon. The 1st Platoon of Company C moved out from INGWILLER into firing positions (840332) and fired 52 rounds of HE, harassing fire into the town of OFFWILLER (856345). The Assault Gun Platoon fired 108 rounds of harassing fire.

On 4 March 1945 the battalion moved under battalion control into the 3rd Infantry Division Training area by way of SAVERNE, SARREBOURG, HEMING, MOYENVIC, CHATEAU SALINS, FRESNES, PONT-A-MOUSSON, to LIRONVILLE. Battalion CP established at LIRONVILLE (659317), Company A CP at ST BAUSSANT (575345), Company B CP at MANDRES-aux-Quatre Tours (740315), Company C CP at SEICHEPREY (575318), Company D CP at LIMEY (684334). From 4 March to 14 March 1945, the battalion remained in the training area and conducted extensive training in driving and gunnery. Firing and driving ranges were established. Each line company spent more than thirty (30) hours on the two ranges. Each company fired over a thousand rounds on the firing ranges. In both cases, firing and driving, crew members were rotated in order to develop the maximum number of drivers and gunners, thus providing each company with a backlog of each for future combat operations. In accordance with divisional

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training memorandums the latter part of this period was spent in special training for river crossings. On 10 March fifty-one (51) men and five (5) officers of Company C departed for LYON, France, to receive instructions in the operation of DD tanks. This school covered the period 11th and 12th of March. Instruction was to cover the erection and lowering of the canvas, operation of the propellers, crossing a stream (the RHINE River), by use of a guide line. Due to the shortage of training equipment and movement orders the school was out short by one day. Each driver and tank commander received an average of ten (10) minutes of actual training with this special equipment with this special type of tank. During the 10th, 11th and 12th of March all tank commanders and drivers of Companies A, B and D, received instructions and actual training in loading and unloading medium and light tanks on heavy pontoon rafts at PARROY (168107). On 13 March the battalion prepared to move with the division into the forward area of the 44th Infantry Division's sector, and the following attachments were made in accordance with Field Order No. 2, Headquarters 3rd Infantry Division, dated 13 March 1945: Company A attached to 7th Infantry Regiment; Company B attached to 30th Infantry Regiment; Company C attached to 15th Infantry Regiment; Company D, one platoon attached to each of the three regiments. On the night of 13 March 1945 the battalion began the movement to the division assembly area in the 44th Infantry Division sector; Company A moved to the vicinity of ACHEN (595517) in the 7th Infantry Regiment assembly area; Company B moved to RAHLING (620-438) in the 30th Infantry Regiment sector; Company C moved the evening of the 14th of March to DEHLINGEN (602426); Company D moved to an area two miles southwest of ACHEN and there attached one platoon to each of the three regiments; Battalion CP was established at 578578, near ACHEN.

In all cases the regiments broke the medium companies down attaching a platoon of tanks to each of their three battalions. The light tank platoon attached to each regiment was generally used on reconnaissance missions, for supply and evacuation, or held in regimental reserve.

Company A, with one platoon attached to each battalion of the 7th Infantry Regiment, jumped off in the attack at 0100A, 15 March 1945 with two platoons in the attack and one in reserve with the 1st Battalion. The attack bogged down at 684569 when four (4) tanks were disabled by mines. The mine field at this point consisted of anti-tank and anti-personnel mines. The 2nd Battalion of 7th Infantry Regiment broke through the mine field and entered UTWEILER and was then cut off by enemy armor. At about 1530A that afternoon the 3rd Battalion was committed, supported by the 1st Platoon of Company A. This platoon went through a gap in the mine field at 684569, swept west of the crest of Hill 362 and into UTWEILER, engaged the enemy armor and knocked out 6 Panzerjaegers, 3 full-tracked flakwagons, 1 half-track, 1 truck, and 1 75mm AT gun and 1 Mark IV tank in REISWILLER. This attack generally broke the initial enemy defensive position in this sector and the next defense line proved to be the SIEGFRIED LINE. The towns of PEPPENKUM (Q673606), MEDELSHEIM (Q659607), ALTHEIM, MITTELBACH, HORNBAACH and ALTHORNBAACH quickly fell in succession as the regiment pushed northward toward the SIEGFRIED LINE. By 17 March the tanks were well in the outer defenses of the SIEGFRIED LINE. The movement of tanks through the "Dragon's

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Teeth" and tetrahedrons was impossible until engineers had cleared a path through these obstacles. Three tanks became stuck trying to negotiate the obstacles which were partly blown. Firing upon the obstacles proved ineffective, firing at the bunkers and pillboxes proved in the most part harmless except to beat down enemy fire temporarily, but by placing five or six rounds in the same spot on the pillboxes a penetration was obtained in about 60% of the cases. Between the 18th and 21st of March, during which time the tanks and infantry assaulted this line, Company A fired approximately 2000 rounds of 75mm and 76mm, and 40,000 rounds of cal..30 ammunition. The SIEGFRIED LINE was broken at approximately 750695 and the tanks and infantry pushed on through to CONTWIG (777721) on 20 March. With the breaking of the SIEGFRIED LINE the enemy's defense collapsed and the towns of RIESCHWEILER (Q730-720), MASSWEILER (Q850746), HOHENOD (Q905766) and THALEISCHWEILER (Q850740) quickly fell. The tank platoons still attached to the battalions went into an assembly area at R170980 to prepare for crossing the RHINE River. On 24 March Company A moved to FRANKENTHAL and made further preparations for the river crossing. The platoons reverted to company control for the river crossing, to cross on heavy pontoon rafts, and then revert back to their respective battalions. The crossing was made at 493057; the first tank crossed at 1000A, 25 March and by the afternoon of the 26th all tanks were across the river, had joined their respective battalions, and assisted the infantry in clearing the enemy from the east bank of the RHINE River east to 54 north-ing. The platoons were relieved from attachment to the battalions and assembled in regimental assembly area at 596167, outside of LORSCH. From 28 March to the 31st of March the platoons were attached to infantry battalions and moved rapidly east, clearing OBER OSTERN (M980247), and at the close of the period were in TRENNFURT (N037318) preparing to cross the MAIN River.

Company B was attached to 30th Infantry Regiment, was broken down by platoons and the 1st Platoon attached to the 1st Battalion, 2nd Platoon attached to the 3rd Battalion. The 1st and 3rd Platoons moved out into the attack at 0100A, 15 March from forward assembly at Q680540. In this attack 150 rounds of 76mm was fired and 15 PW's were taken. The platoons moved to VOLSMUNSTER and were employed in blocking missions on the division's right flank. On 17 March the platoons moved into battalion assembly areas in and around HORNBAACH. The 3rd Platoon was attached to 2nd Battalion of the 30th Infantry Regiment which was attached to the 7th Infantry Regiment and was employed in a defensive role. One section at 754678 and one section at 737-690. The platoons with their battalions moved over on the left of the 7th Infantry Regiment and assaulted the SIEGFRIED LINE on 18 March. The 3rd Platoon attached to the 2nd Battalion pushed north out of MITTELBACH, crossed the river at 724700, and pushed on into ZWEIBRUCKEN (730720) and took up defensive position to the north of town. During this action, since the jump-off, the tanks of this company destroyed one battery of field guns (736734), captured 65 enemy, destroyed 6 wheeled vehicles and assisted in capturing an untold number of the enemy. On 21 March the platoons moved out in RCT 30 in the drive to the RHINE River plain; NEIDERHAUSEN, WALLHALBEN, HERMERSBERG, SCHOPP, MOLSCHBACH, LAMBRECHT, NEUSTADT, BOBENHEIM-am-berg and KLEINKARSBACH were cleared of the enemy. On the 23rd Of March the Platoons moved into a regimental assembly area near EISENBERG (235064) and made preparations to

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support the infantry in crossing the RHINE River. On 24 March Company B moved under company control to OFFSTEIN (363121) and spent the next day making preparations to cross the RHINE River in the vicinity of WORMS. During the evening of the 25th the platoons moved into an assembly area at 452139 in WORMS. At 1600A on the 26th of March the 1st Platoon was released from the 30th Infantry Regiment and assigned to the 15th Infantry Regiment; moved across the bridge at 1645A at 480123 and proceeded to LAMPERTHEIM and joined the 15th Infantry Regiment; left LAMPERTHEIM at 2130A with infantry and out autobahn at M597100. 2nd and 3rd Platoons crossed the river on pontoon raft at 477129, assembled at 480133, moved to LAMPERTHEIM, pushed east with 30th Infantry Regiment to capture NEUSCHLOSS (567117) and LORSCH (600175). On 27 March the remaining two platoons were released from 30th Infantry Regiment and attached to 15th Infantry Regiment and assisted the infantry in capturing HUTTENFELD (617113), LAUDENBACH (664127), BONSWEIER (708134), 7 88mm guns and 6 75mm guns. From 28th of March to the close of the period the platoons remained attached to the battalions, the 1st Platoon to the 1st Battalion, 2nd Platoon to the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Platoon to 3rd Battalion and aided in capturing the following in the drive to the east: MARLENBACH (723114), ZOTENBACH (750145), FURTH, KRUMBACH (769190) and at the close of the period were assembled at HAINGRUND (963304) preparing to cross the MAIN River.

Company C, attached to the 15th Infantry Regiment, attached the 1st Platoon to the 1st Battalion, 2nd Platoon to the 2nd Battalion, and 3rd Platoon to the 3rd Battalion of the regiment. Initially no platoons were committed in the original attack at 0100A, 15 March 1945. The 1st Platoon, supporting the 1st Battalion, moved out during darkness the night of 16 March and assisted the infantry in clearing ORNERSVILLER (Q700597), VOLSMUNSTER (Q723582), SCHWEYEN (Q752626) and moved on up in the drive to the SIEGFRIED LINE to WINDHOF (Q748624). The tanks and infantry then moved into the assault on the SIEGFRIED LINE on the right of the 7th Infantry Regiment (750685 to 775673). The main effort was made in the left of the regimental sector. The difficulties encountered were "Dragon's Teeth", tetrahedrons and anti-tank ditches. These obstacles had to be cleared and filled before the tanks could bring their full effectiveness on the pill boxes and bunkers in the defense line. The full effectiveness of the tanks was limited on the defensive positions to beating down machine gun fire and after continuous firing on one spot of a pill box, a penetration. In this defensive line the tanks expended 1870 rounds of 75mm and 76mm, 35,000 rounds of cal..30 ammunition. On 20 March the tanks and infantry succeeded in breaking through the SIEGFRIED LINE at Q755703 and seized the bridge at CONTWIG (Q776720). In CONTWIG they were used in blocking missions, blocks were established at Q777-721, Q773726, Q779724, Q784721 and Q781727; cleared pill boxes and protected Division's right flank until 22 March, at which time the tanks moved with their battalions through NIED-AUERBACH, to HERDENBERG (281960). Moved from there to regimental assembly area in the vicinity of ALT LEININGEN (252004), and there prepared to move up to the RHINE River. On 24 March Company C moved to ROXHEIM (455090) and assembled the platoons under company control; the company was notified they would utilize DD tanks in crossing the RHINE River. The DD tanks began arriving at 0630A the morning of 25 March. They

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were assembled near WATTENHEIM (240033), the last DD tank arriving in this area at 1145A that morning. The tank crews of Company C immediately took the DD tanks over and prepared them for the crossing of the river. Fourteen DD tanks were made ready and left this area at 1930A for the regimental assembly area of the 30th and 7th Infantry Regiments. Seven DD tanks to support each of these regiments. Due to the failure of the attached engineers to construct a guide line in either sector, in both cases the crossing was attempted by the "free float" method. At daylight the morning of the 26th of March the first DD tanks attempted the crossing in each regimental sector. In the 7th Infantry sector three DD tanks made a successful crossing, three sank, and one was destroyed by artillery fire. In the 30th Infantry sector six made a successful crossing and one sank. In the 7th Regimental sector the crossings were made at 493055, in the 30th Regimental sector they were made at 468138. After crossing these tanks immediately joined the infantry of both regiments and proceeded to assist them in establishing the bridgehead on the east bank of the RHINE River. On 27 March Company A relieved the DD tanks in the 7th Infantry Regimental sector, and Company B relieved the DD tanks operating with the 30th Infantry Regiment. Company C's regular tanks were brought across the bridge at WORMS and the tank crews changed tanks. At the same time Company C was relieved from attachment to the 15th Infantry Regiment and attached to the 30th Infantry Regiment. Throughout the remaining part of the period Company C remained attached to the 30th Infantry Regiment and assisted the regiment in clearing the enemy from HAMBACH, OBER, LINDENFELS (755209), HEPPENHEIM (655185), KIRSCHAUSEN, IGELBACH, SPOCKMAUERN, KIRSCH BOCKENROD, WORTH (025337), and at the close of the period the 3rd Platoon, attached to the 2nd Battalion, was across the MAIN River at WORTH and continuing to advance Northeast.

The Assault Gun Platoon was attached to the 7th Infantry Cannon Company and has remained in attachment throughout the period.

II. SUMMARY OF ENEMY OPERATIONS

The enemy front lines around in the area RIMLING (Q655554), UTTWILLER (Q683586), and BETTVILLER (Q672534) were well mined and wired in, but not too strongly held. He was surprised by the initial attack of 0100A, 15 March, 1945 and once his forward positions were over-run he fought a delaying action to the SIEGFRIED LINE. He made no attempt to stabilize his lines nor did he throw in any appreciable amount of armor after the fight for UTTWILLER. In the SIEGFRIED LINE he remained in his prepared positions and fought very well until the positions were over-run or destroyed. After the SIEGFRIED LINE was broken the situation developed into a pursuit to the RHINE River. The enemy's defense of the east bank of the RHINE was strong until the bridgehead was firmly established and then his defense broke into a delaying action for the remainder of the period.

III. SITUATION AT END OF THE PERIOD

Battalion prepares to cross MAIN River at WORTH. One platoon of Company C completes crossing.

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IV. STATUS OF PERSONNEL AND MATERIEL

1. Personnel:

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Warrant Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted Men</u>
(T/O: 45)*	(T/O: 3)	(T/O: 682)
35 Pres for duty 2 TD in U.S.	1 Pres for duty	618 Pres for duty 19 TD in U.S. 8 TD in U.K. 8 Pass 3 AWOL
Totals: 37 *	1	647

(* - 4 Off as overstrength authorized per Ltr, 7th Army, 26 Feb 45)

2. Materiel:

	<u>Run- ners</u>	<u>Fit in 24 hrs</u>	<u>Bn Maint for Rep.</u>	<u>Ord for Repair</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Battle Loss for Month</u>	<u>Short</u>
Med Tks M4 or M4A1 w/75mm gun	14	2	2	4	22	1	0
Med Tks M4A3 w/76mm gun	10				10	5	0
Med Tks M4A3-E8 w/76mm gun	19			2	21	8	1
Light Tanks	13	2		2	17	0	0
Med Tks M4A3 w/105mm How.	5		1		6	0	0
2 1/2 Ton Trucks	37				37		2
1/4 Ton C&R	23				23		3
3/4 Ton W/C	3				3		1

V. COMMENTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

1. DD tanks should not be used for river crossings because: (a) The tank is helpless in the water due to the fact that the guns cannot be fired while the tank is swimming, (b) The tank gun is only the 75mm, (c) The tanks are too unwieldy on land, (d) Engineers do not provide proper exits on the

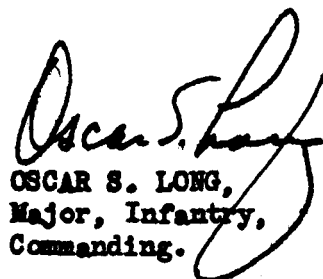
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far shore, (e) Heavy pontoon rafts can be used as quickly and speedily as DD's on a guide cable and are more dependable, (f) Only about 80% of the DD's can successfully negotiate a stream by the "free floating" method, thus losing crews for future fighting on land.

2. It was re-learned that tanks are not nearly as effective as they normally are when they are broken down into sections and even single tanks to work with an infantry company. There is only one officer per five tanks (1 platoon) and if his tanks are broken down such that a single tank or section is attached to an infantry company he has no control and the whole infantry battalion does not get maximum tank support because the caliber of individual tank commanders is lower after months of combat due to casualties and attrition among the original tank commanders. The effectiveness of employing tanks in mass is lost, also the value of mutual support. One tank or one section is not an overwhelming force as is a full platoon or more.

3. In using tanks against pill boxes, such as those in the SIEGFRIED LINE, one of the most effective methods of employment was to fire six to eight rounds of 76mm ammunition, alternating HE and AP, at one point on the pill box from a range of about 25 yards. This fire in many instances produces a hole in the pill box. Then HE and WP could be fired into the pill box, thus neutralizing the position or at least the top floor of the pill box.


OSCAR S. LONG,
Major, Infantry,
Commanding.

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COMMANDER'S NARRATIVE

756th Tank Battalion

For

May 1 - 10, 1945

CLASSIFICATION

CANCELLED

I. SUMMARY OF OWN OPERATIONS

General

This battalion remained attached to the Third Infantry Division for operations, administration and supply throughout the period. The battalion was broken down into companies for deployment. Company "A" was attached to the 7th Infantry Regiment; Company "B" to the 15th Infantry Regiment; Company "C" was attached to the 30th Infantry Regiment; Company "D" was broken down to platoons and worked one platoon with each of the above infantry regiments. The assault guns were attached as mobile artillery to the various task forces that operated during the period. One three-gun section of the assault guns was attached to the 10th Field Artillery from the 4th to the 6th of May, inclusive. The medium tank platoons remained under company control most of the period. Only in the mop-up forces and the blocking forces did the companies attach platoons to infantry battalions. The companies remained under battalion control as far as administration and supply were concerned.

During the first four days of the period our tanks operated with the rapid moving spearheads which ended up in BERCHTESGADEN and SALZBURG. Part of our tanks reinforced the blocks on the division flanks and the remainder aided in the mop-up operations behind the task forces.

The task forces which operated in the period were nearly identical in organization. The point contained a platoon of reconnaissance, one platoon of light tanks and a platoon of medium tanks. Two platoons of medium tanks and a platoon of tank destroyers carrying infantry made up the main body. A three-gun section of the Assault Gun Platoon and a battery of light field artillery made up the supporting elements. The infantry battalion commanders commanded the task forces, but the medium tank company commanders commanded and directed the employment of the tanks.

Company "A" - On May 1st the company CP moved from PULLACH (815464) to BRUNNTHAL (945410), where the company went into division reserve with the 7th Infantry Regiment at 1500B. The

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following morning the 1st Platoon, in support of the 3rd Battalion, the 2nd Platoon in support of the 2nd Battalion and the 3rd Platoon in support of the 1st Battalion, passed the 15th Infantry Regiment at the INN River and advanced astride the Autobahn toward SALZBURG. The rear of the task force column was fired on near SIEGSDORF by enemy small arms. The 2nd Section of the Assault Gun Platoon left the column and layed 76 rounds of direct fire on the enemy, reducing the resistance to the advance. On the 3rd of May "DUNCAN" Task Force was organized and Company "A" moved out as part of the force. The company moved approximately twenty miles during the day. By 1510B, 4 May 1945, the 2nd Platoon was in SALZBURG and at 1830B the rest of the company was located in BERCHTESGADEN. Demolitions and prisoners were the only slowing down factors. There was very little resistance. The Company CP moved to vicinity of 936065 at 1030B on 5 May 1945. The 2nd Platoon was guarding the airfield in SALZBURG and the 1st and 3rd Platoons remained in BERCHTESGADEN. The Company was relieved from attachment to the 7th Infantry Regiment at 1200B, 6 May 1945 and closed in the battalion area in SALZBURG at 1400B. The last three days of the period were spent in maintenance and in setting up housekeeping.

Company "B" - Company "B" was attached to the 2nd Battalion of the 15th Infantry Regiment as part of a task force at the opening of the period. At about 0600B on the 1st of May the force passed through the 30th Infantry Regiment and marched about twenty miles before receiving word to hold at FOCHING (Y-978299) where contact with the American 12th Armored Division was made. Resistance by SS Troops was met in the woods east of Ob-HACHING (892433), but the fire from the 2nd Platoon and the platoon of light tanks broke it in short order. Approximately 500 prisoners were taken during the day. At 1800B on the 2nd of May Task Force "IRISH" was organized and the Company (-2nd Platoon) became attached to the 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment. The 2nd Platoon remained with the 2nd Battalion. The mission of Task Force "IRISH" was to capture two bridges across the INNS River in the vicinities 285215 and 287187. The move was made from FOCHING under darkness and at 0600B on the 3rd of May the bridges were secured intact. Task Force "IRISH" was dissolved and the 1st Platoon of Company "B" was attached to the 1st Battalion of the 15th Infantry, while the Company less the three platoons reverted to the 15th Infantry Regiment. The 3rd Battalion relieved the 7th Infantry Regiment of blocks on the right flank of the division zone and the 3rd Platoon plus a platoon of light tanks blocked at 437178, 538192, 672228 and 719236. The Company CP was set up in Ob-SIEGSDORF (674257). The 2nd Platoon had three of its four tanks bogged in marsh near KIRCHDORF (vic 270180). The remaining tank moved to NEUKIRCHEN (728270). A force of SS Troops faced the block at 538192 and they chose to fight. At about 2000B a three-gun section of the assault guns fired direct

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fire and one section of medium tanks and one section of light tanks attacked MARQUARSTEIN (540176) with a company of infantry. The town was taken and 22 prisoners were captured. The remainder fled. On the 6th of May the Company moved to the battalion assembly area at SALZBURG. The last elements closed at 1230B and the Company was relieved from attachment to 15th Infantry Regiment.

The last three days of the period were spent in maintenance and setting up housekeeping.

Company "C" - Company "C" was attached to the 30th Infantry Regiment and in support of Concord Blue Task Force at the opening of the period. The axis of advance was the main road north and parallel to the Autobahn which runs southeast from MUNICH. The advance of the force met spotty resistance which was overcome by sharp firefights and tank fire. At the close of the 24 hour period elements of Task Force Concord Blue had secured a bridge at 293270, an advance of approximately thirty miles. The enemy had suffered heavy casualties in killed, wounded and captured.

On May 2nd the task force was dissolved and the platoons reverted to their respective infantry battalions. The 1st Platoon which was working with the 1st Battalion in mopping up continued the mission. The 2nd Platoon was patrolling in ROSENHEIM. The 3rd Platoon was on road blocks in the vicinity of 316213. At 1520B, 2 May, a riot broke out in KOLHERMOOR (234260) and one section of the 1st Platoon with one platoon of infantry was sent to quell the riot. The mission was completed at 1715B and the sections set up a road block at 316213. Mopping up continued to be the mission of the 30th Infantry and each platoon worked with its respective battalion of infantry, moving east from ROSENHEIM toward TRAUNSTEIN (668304). The Company had completely closed in the new assembly area (TRAUNSTEIN) at the close of the period and on the 4th of May the platoons reverted to Company control. On May 5th the Company moved with the 30th Infantry Regiment to SALZBURG, transporting infantry on the tanks. The following day Company "C" was relieved from attachment to the 30th Infantry Regiment and assembled in the battalion assembly area in SALZBURG. The last days of the period were spent in maintenance and setting up housekeeping.

Company "D" - The platoons of "D" Company were attached to each of the three infantry regiments of the 3rd Division. These platoons operated as the point with a platoon of a reconnaissance troop on all of the task forces that were employed during the period. Their firepower accomplished a great deal in affecting the uninterrupted march of the main body. The 2nd Platoon (M5 and M5A1 tanks) held two blocks in conjunction with the 3rd Battalion of the 15th Infantry Regiment. One section of this pla-

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toon participated in an attack on MARQUARTSTEIN (542177).

The tank platoons were relieved from attachment on closing at SALZBURG and then assembled in the battalion assembly area. Last elements closed in the assembly area at 1030B on the 6th of May. Remainder of the period spent in processing new tanks, maintenance and setting up housekeeping.

Assault Gun Platoon - The six guns working in the assault gun platoon were split into two sections of three guns each. These sections worked as supporting mobile artillery for the task forces that were operating during the period. One section of three guns was attached to the 10th Field Artillery from the 4th until the 6th of May. On three occasions during the period these 105mm guns were employed as direct fire weapons, blasting the enemy into submission each time. Approximately 150 rounds of H.E. were used on direct fire missions. As a whole, less artillery fire was called for due to the lack of resistance and the speed of the advance.

II. SUMMARY OF ENEMY OPERATIONS

The advance during the period was rapid, meeting practically no organized resistance. His futile attempts at demolitions were the only acts that caused any difficulty. The enemy showed that he had definitely lost the desire to fight. He was completely disorganized. He used the weapons that were at hand, but even these were only "half heartedly" employed.

III. SITUATION AT THE END OF THE PERIOD

The battalion was busy with first and second echelon maintenance, and house-cleaning. There was no tactical situation.

IV. STATUS OF PERSONNEL

Officers

(T/O: 43)§

33 Pres for duty
1 TD in USA
3 TD Riviera
4 TD Paris

Warrant Officers

(T/O: 3)

1 Pres for duty

Enlisted Men

(T/O: 699)§§

618 Pres for duty
15 TD in USA
10 TD Riviera
1 TD 7th Army
1 TD XV Corps
2 SD Rest Center
3rd Inf Div
17 On Pass
1 Confinement
2 A.W.O.L.

Asgd: 41

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(Notes on Status of Personnel)

§ - 4 Off as overstrength authorized per Ltr, 7th Army, dated 26 Feb 1945.

§§ - 17 EM as overstrength authorized per Ltr, 7th Army, dated 3 March 1945, for M24 Light Tanks on hand.

V. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURES

	<u>37mm</u>	<u>75 & 76mm</u>	<u>cal..30</u>	<u>cal..50</u>	<u>105mm</u>
"A" Co		100	11,000		
"B" Co		90	9,000		
"C" Co		75	14,000		
"D" Co	480	80	20,000		
A4 Plat					150
Totals:	480	345	34,000	None	150

VI. STATUS OF VEHICLES

	<u>Run- ners</u>	<u>In Maint For Rep.</u>	<u>Ord for Repair</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Battle Loss for period</u>	<u>Short</u>
M4 or M4A1 w/75mm gun	8	0	6	14	0	0
M4A3 and M4A3E8 w/76mm gun	31	2	1	34	0	6
M4A3 w/105 How	6	0	0	6	0	0
M24 w/75mm gun	15	0	1	16	0	0
M5 w/37mm gun	1	0	0	1	0	0
T-2 Recovery Vehicle	2	0	3	5	0	1
Half Tracks	15	1	0	16	0	0
2 1/2-T Trucks	30	1	6	37	0	2
1/4-T G&R	19	1	0	20	0	6
10-Ton Wrecker	1	0	1	2	0	0

Notes:

- (1) All other vehicles as per T/E.
- (2) Authorized 6 ea: 1/4 Ton trailers (None on hand)

The following
image(s) may be of
poor quality due to
the poor quality of
the **original**.

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VII. COMMENTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

Due to the tactical and administrative situation during this period no problems arose which had not previously presented themselves.

Edwin V. Arnold

EDWIN V. ARNOLD,
Major, Infantry,
Commanding.

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COMMANDER'S NARRATIVE

756th Tank Battalion

For

April 1 - 30, 1945

CLASSIFICATION

CANCELLED

BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

Signature, Capt. A. G. 23 Sept 1946
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE

I. SUMMARY OF OWN OPERATIONS

General

Throughout this period this Division for operations, administration, and supply. The battalion was broken down into companies and into platoons for employment. Company A was attached to the 7th Infantry Regiment; Company B was attached to 15th Infantry Regiment; Company C was attached to 30th Infantry Regiment; Company D was broken down and one platoon attached to each of the above mentioned regiments; the Assault Gun Platoon was attached to the 7th Infantry Regiment Cannon Company and supported the 7th Infantry Regiment by indirect fire. Each of the companies, with the exception of Company D was in turn broken down into platoons by the three regiments and a medium tank platoon attached to each infantry battalion. In most cases these platoons were broken down and employed by using a section with each of the assault companies in the infantry battalions. The companies remained under battalion control so far as supply and administration were concerned.

During the period from the 2nd to the 8th, from the vicinity of SOMMERAU (092372) GERMANY, (1/100,000; Sheet T-3) the 14th Armored Division operated within the division sector; driving down the main highways. Elements of this division drove generally down the main highways during this period and loosened up enemy resistance, thus facilitating advance.

Company A remained attached to the 7th Infantry Regiment of the 3rd Infantry Division throughout the period. At the beginning of the period the company CP was located in ESCHAU (094367) (1/100,000; Sheet T-4). The company was broken down into platoons and a platoon attached to each battalion; the 1st Platoon attached to 3rd Battalion, 2nd Platoon attached to 2nd Battalion, the 3rd Platoon attached to the 1st Battalion. Due to the company being understrength the platoons operated with four tanks in a platoon part of the time. Generally the mission of the tank was the same as that of the infantry. Most of the time the platoon assigned to the battalion would be broken down into sections, and each section attached to one of the assault companies during the attack or advance.

During the last two days of the period two companies were organized tactically into "Task Forces" with infantry battalions. Generally, these two task forces were organized as follows: one platoon of a reconnaissance troop, one platoon of light tanks, and a platoon of medium tanks composed the point; two platoons of medium tanks and a platoon of tank destroyers carrying infantry made up the main body; one section of the Assault Gun platoon (three guns) and a battery of light field artillery made up the sup-

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porting elements. In these operations the infantry battalion commander commanded the task force, but the medium tank company commander commanded the armor and directed the employment and movement of the tanks.

Company "A" - The first of the month the company had crossed the MAIN River at WORTH (022340), had established the Company CP in ESCHAU (093367) and was moving to WINTERSBACH (123341); the 1st Platoon supporting the 3rd Battalion of the 7th Infantry Regiment with four tanks advanced toward LOHR (313564) with very little resistance. The 2nd Platoon with the 2nd Battalion of the 7th Infantry Regiment advanced on the right of the 3rd Battalion with the mission of pushing to the MAIN River at RODENBACH (332530) and force a crossing of the MAIN at that point. The 3rd Platoon supporting the 1st Battalion of the 7th Infantry Regiment followed the 3rd Battalion in regimental reserve. By 5 April 1945, the regimental zone up to phase line "ROSE" (OI #43) was cleared of enemy resistance which was very light. One tank was lost to direct fire from a field 150mm piece at 263551 and the piece was destroyed by tank fire. On the 6th of April the 2nd Platoon crossed the MAIN River at RODENBACH on heavy pontoon raft and assisted the 2nd Battalion in clearing the enemy of the area "Y" (OI #43), or above the line (366530 - 452550) to the MAIN River. This area was cleared and the 2nd Platoon with the 2nd Battalion was across the MAIN River to the north and in regimental reserve by the 7th of April. From the 6th to the 11th of April the direction of attack was northeast up to about the 90 easting; resistance was light in the form of "mopping up" operation. The following towns were cleared in regimental zone: GAFAL (609920), WALDFENSTER (575875), BURKARDROTH (606883), STEINACH (666909), POPENLAUER (782825) and HOLZHAUSEN (970680). 12 April 1945, the following localities were cleared by the 1st Platoon: PRAPPACH (022653), KRUM (940635) and here established road blocks to the northeast. HASZFURT (980609) was cleared and the company crossed the MAIN River at OB THERES (940609) on the 12th of April. This regiment and attachments went into division reserve and assembled in the vicinity of LISBERG (150470) the 14th of April, and remained in reserve until 15 April. During the night of 15-16 April the platoons moved to assembly areas in the vicinity of KLEIN SEEBACH (360220) and crossed the REGNITZ River at BAIERSDORF (373228) during the afternoon of the 16th. Immediately upon crossing they attacked south along the west bank of the river and captured the town of ERLANGEN (365158) the afternoon of the 16th. During the 18th the platoons moved south and assisted the infantry in knocking out and capturing 26 x 88mm guns and cleared BUCH (395050), TENNENLOHE (380109), BOXDORF (373071). The regiment was then in position with the other two regiments to attack the city of NURNBERG. During the 19th and 20th of April the platoons assisted the battalions in clearing the northwest sector of town. The night of 20th and morning of 21st, the company patrolled the city of NURNBERG in a "show of strength". April 22nd and 23rd were devoted to maintenance and rehabilitation. During the 24th and 25th the company moved under battalion control from NURNBERG to FRISTINGEN (Y059971). March was made through ROTHENBURG (S772890), south through DILLINGEN, across the DANUBE River at T041001. The company upon arriving in the regimental area attached the platoons to the battalions and attacked to the east on the night of the 25th. This attack cleared WERTINGEN (172000), HOHENREICHEN (21000B), EHINGEN (259043), HOLZEN (270050), DRUISHEIM (268083), and GABLENGEN (280888).

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The regiment was pinched out and it moved into AUGSBURG (330778) the afternoon of 28 April. During that night the company was organized into a task force with a battalion of infantry, a battery of field artillery, a platoon of reconnaissance, and a platoon of light tanks. This task force jumped off at 0630B on the 29th and by 2000B was at AMPER River at Y616691 and seized this bridge. On the 30th the task force was disbanded and the platoons reverted to their battalions. The battalions pushed east into MUNCHEN and established road blocks at Y735512 and proceeded toward GRUNWALD (820450).

Company "B" - Company B was attached to the 15th Infantry Regiment; the 1st Platoon attached to the 1st Battalion; 2nd Platoon attached to the 2nd Battalion, the 3rd Platoon attached to the 3rd Battalion. At the beginning of the period the company command post was at KLINGENBERG (040325). This regiment with the tank platoons attached, attacked to the northeast until 8 April 1945. During the period CC "A" of the 14th Armored Division operated within the regimental sector. The following localities were cleared during this period: WEIBERSBRUNN (170491), ROTHENBUCH (200531), HEIMBUCHENTHAL (120455), NEUHUTTEN (295663), RENGERSBRUNN (292703), RIENECK (368670), BURGSINN (365739), HEILIGKREUZ (427793), GERODA (539890) and NEUSTADT (764-945). At the end of this period the regiment went into division reserve, being pinched out by 7th Infantry Regiment. The fighting during this period was a mopping up operation, clearing woods, small towns, and seizing important road junctions.

On 13 April Company "B", attached to the 15th Infantry Regiment passed through the 7th Infantry Regiment in the vicinity of KNETZGAU (015590) and SAND (042583) and pushed southeast along the south side of the MAIN River, assisted the infantry in clearing the following places: ELTMANN (100567), DIPPACH (134550), southwestern section of BAMBERG (260480), BUG (278456), PETTSTADT (293418), HEROLDSBACH (353267), and HAUSEN (380265). The platoons went into assembly areas in the vicinity of HAUSEN in preparation for the crossing of the REGNITZ River. On 16 April 1945, a bridgehead was established at BAIEDSDORF in the 15th Infantry sector and the platoons crossed the river and continued the advance, taking the following localities: EFFELTRICH (423232), HETZLES (450205), NEUNKIRCHEN (450180), ESCHENAU (504140), KALCHREUTH (455120). On 17th April, the 30th Infantry Regiment passed through the platoons of Company "B" and the infantry on the general line - KALCHREUTH, ESCHENAU, and the attack on the city of NURNBERG began. The north central sector of the city was assigned to the 15th Infantry. From 17 to 20 April, stiff and determined resistance was encountered in the form of anti-tank guns, small arms fire, bazooka fire. The sector was cleaned out block by block up to the walls of the "old city" which only partially resisted. During the first twelve hours of the 22nd of April, the company as a unit patrolled the streets of NURNBERG in a continuation of a "show of strength" in accordance with OI No. 55. The 22nd and 23rd were devoted to maintenance and rehabilitation. The company joined the battalion in the move from NURNBERG to FRISTINGEN to the XXI Corps Sector. The company arrived in FRISTINGEN on 25 April 1945, and was employed immediately with a platoon to each battalion. The platoons jumped off in the attack at 2100B,

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cleared LAUGNA (Y185965), ROGGEN (Y152975), OSTERBACH (210950), MARZEL-STETTIN (Y160949), HERETSRIED (Y218890), LUTZELBURG (Y260897), SCHLIPSHEIM (Y258799), LEITERSHOFEN (Y299770), and entered AUGSBURG (Y319811) at 1700B on the 28th. The company was assembled upon regimental order for rehabilitation, maintenance, and reorganization, as the regiment was placed in reserve. On the 30th the company moved to ROTTBACH (Y604673). From ROTTBACH the company moved to UBERACKER in the outskirts of MUNCHEN and was being organized into a task force at the end of the period.

Company "C" - At the beginning of the period one platoon of Company C was across the MAIN River at WORTH (02534), the remaining platoons crossed with their respective battalions and the company headquarters crossed with the regimental headquarters of the 30th Infantry. Immediately upon crossing, the company with the regiment went into reserve. The Company CP was established at MONCHBERG (102338), 1st Plat was also located in MONCHBERT, 2d Plat in ERLENBACH (025345), the 3rd Plat in ESCHAU (0923368). The company remained in reserve until the 5th, and the company CP was located in the following towns up to the time the company came out of reserve with the regiment: KROMMENTHAL (230595), RUPPERTSHUTTEN (293662), RIENECK (365678). During this time the company was not assembled, the platoons remaining with their battalions. On 5 April the regiment went in the line on the right of the 7th Infantry Regiment and attacked to the northeast. The following towns were taken: WOLFMUNSTER (429679), SCHWARZELBACH (489785), ERTHAL (530740), OBER-ERTHAL (543750), THULBA (558778), NEWIRTHSHAUS (500798), OBER-THULBA (590802), BAD KISSINGEN (670804) which surrendered, MASSBACH (813790), crossed the MAIN River at OB THERES (940610), cleared ZELL (028553) and pushed down the AURACH River and took BURGEBRACH (160409). From BURGEBRACH the company swung south and cleared MUHLHAUSEN (188327) and the battalions went into assembly areas in the vicinity KLEIN SEEBACH (360220) and crossed the REGNITZ River at BAIERSDORF and assembled with the platoons with the battalions upon regimental order in the vicinity of EFFELTRICH (425232). The regiment then passed through the 15th Infantry Regiment on the left flank of the division and drove to the REGNITZ River in the vicinity of MALMSBACH (500029) and in conjunction with the other two regiments launched an attack upon the northern portion of NURNBERG. By 20 April the tanks and infantry had cleared the northeastern section of the city and were through the walls of the "old city". The 21st, 22nd, and 23rd were devoted to first echelon maintenance. On the 24th the company joined the battalion for movement in changing corps sectors, moving from NURNBERG to ZOBIINGEN (S868402) by the way of ROTHENBURG (S772890), and KIRKINGEN (S920372). Upon closing into the new area the company reverted to the 30th Infantry Regiment for operations. The platoons were attached to their normal battalions. Company CP was established at S910205 at NERESHEIM and the platoons attached to their battalions started crossing the DANUBE River at T041001 near DILLINGEN the night of 25th of April. The regiment with the normal attachments went into reserve until the 28th of the month at which time they crossed the LECH River at 333835 and assembled with the battalions in the vicinity of 334821. On the night of 29th April the company was assembled and organized into a Task Force composed of the 2nd Battalion of the 30th Infantry Regiment, one platoon of light tanks from Company D of this battalion, one platoon of tank destroyers and a platoon of reconnaissance from the 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, a section (3 guns) of the assault gun platoon. This Task Force moved out at about 0030B

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and proceeded down the AUTOBANN toward MUNCHEN. At 1200B of the 30th the Task Force was stopped by a blown bridge at Y684656. During the evening of the 30th the Task Force was dissolved and the platoons reverted to their regular battalions. The 3rd Platoon crossed the AMPER River at Y679648 followed by the other two platoons. They assisted in clearing AUBING (Y735580), LOCHHSU (Y727598) and entered the city of MUNCHEN at the close of the period. Also at the close of the period the Task Force was reorganized and was preparing to move to the southeast.

Company "D" - At the beginning of the period the platoons were attached to each of the three regiments. These platoons were employed in situations where the probability of meeting enemy armor was small, mopping up enemy woods, protecting the Flanks of the regiments, and in reconnaissance work to the front and flanks. During the last two days of the period the platoons attached to the 7th and 30th Infantry Regiments operated in the point of the Task Forces in conjunction with the platoon of reconnaissance and platoon of medium tanks. On the 18th of the month, during the battle for NURNBERG, the third platoon equipped with new M24 Light Tanks entered the battle for the first time. They were attached to the 18th Infantry Regiment for the remainder of that battle. The employment of the M24's tactically was relatively the same as that for the M4's and M5A1's. At the close of the period a platoon was still attached to each of the regiments for operations.

Assault Gun Platoon - This platoon of Headquarters Company remained a reinforced platoon, reinforced by the assault gun of each of the medium tank companies, and was employed as a six gun battery. It was attached to the 7th Infantry Regiment Cannon Company for employment. It functioned under the cannon company fire direction center, thus giving this regiment the fire equal to another battery and a half of 105mm artillery. During the last two days of the period the platoon was divided into two sections of 3 guns each and was employed in the main body of the "Task Forces". In this position they were available for either indirect fire, using their own fire direction center, or direct assault fire. During the period the platoon fired 73 rounds of 105mm WP for registration purposes and 1447 rounds for effect. At no time during the period were any of the guns employed on direct fire missions.

II. SUMMARY OF ENEMY OPERATIONS

In general the advance during this period was characterized by rapid advancement against scattered and weak resistance. Points of enemy resistance was usually located in the towns, road junctions, and cities. Units were small fragments of former units thrown together and hastily organized for the purpose of defending that particular spot. In defending these points of resistance the enemy utilized small arms, bazookas, artillery and anti-aircraft guns and "doodle bugs", which showed that his defense was made with whatever weapons were available in that sector. From the great number of log road blocks partly constructed and fox holes partly dug gives evidence of the enemy being pushed for time to organize the basic forms of defense. These troops in general showed a lack of will to fight except those of fanatical faith, mostly SS Troops.

The battle for the city of NURNBERG was characterized by stubborn

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resistance, which forced the action into a house to house "mopping up" operation.

III. SITUATION AT END OF THE PERIOD

Battalion preparing to send two companies of tanks, formed into task forces, southeast from MUNCHEN to ROSENHEIM (22827) with mission to seize intact bridges over INN River.

IV. STATUS OF PERSONNEL

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Warrant Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted Men</u>
(T/O: 43)*	(T/O: 3)	(T/O: 687)**
36 Pres for duty	1 Pres for duty	635 Pres for duty
1 TD USA		14 TD USA
1 TD United Kingdom		1 TD 7th Army
1 TD French Riviera		2 TD United Kingdom
		6 TD French Riviera
		2 DS 3d Inf Div
		4 AWOL
		14 Pass
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals: 39	1	678

(* - 4 Off as overstrength authorized per Ltr, 7th Army, 26 Feb 45)

(** - 5 EM as overstrength authorized per Ltr, 7th Army, 3 March 45, for M24 Light Tanks on hand).

V. TANK LOSSES FOR APRIL 1945

<u>Co.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>KO'd by</u>	<u>Model</u>
A Co:	4-2-45	N-265552	Arty.	M4
	4-20-45	O-410015	Rifle grenade	M4A3
	4-20-45	O-410015	Bazooka, Pen & burned	M4A3
B Co:	4-18-45	O-443058	Bazooka	M4A3
	4-18-45	O-460040	S.P. fire	M4A3
C Co:	4-10-45	N-763733	Arty.	M4A3
	4-29-45	Y-670667	Arty.	M4A3
Total: 6 - M4A3 or M4A3E8				
1 - M4				
D Co:	4-18-45	O-448025	Bazooka	M5
	4-18-45	O-448025	Bazooka	M5

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VI. KNOCKED OUT OR CAPTURED MATERIEL

<u>A Co</u>	<u>B Co</u>	<u>C Co</u>	<u>D Co</u>
88mm D.P. - 23 - Cap	AT Gun - 1 - KO	AT Gun - 2 - KO	Mk V - 3 - KO
88mm D.P. - 1 - KO	Flak-W - 2 - KO	Flak-W - 2 - KO	MG - 10 - KO
150mm gun - 1 - KO	88mm DP - 20 - Cap	88mm DP - 10 - KO	Truck - 2 - KO
Mk VI Tk - 8 - Cap	88mm DP - 2 - KO	88mm DP - 8 - Cap	
Flak-W - 1 - KO	MG - 30 - KO	Trucks - 3 - Cap	
Trucks - 5 - KO	Trucks - 4 - KO	Trucks - 5 - KO	
MG - 20 - KO	Trucks - 3 - Cap	MG - 10 - KO	

VII. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURES

	<u>37mm</u>	<u>75 & 76mm</u>	<u>Cal..30</u>	<u>Cal..50</u>	<u>106mm</u>
A Co:		1840	56,000	2,000	
B Co:		1610	55,000	2,000	
C Co:		1605	55,000	1,500	
D Co:	1050	50	44,000		
AG Plat:					1550
Totals:	<u>1050</u>	<u>4905</u>	<u>210,000</u>	<u>4,500</u>	<u>1550</u>

VIII. PRISONERS TAKEN IN CONJUNCTION WITH INFANTRY

A Co:	5,000
B Co:	4,980
C Co:	4,090
D Co:	3,830
AG Plat:	10
Total:	<u>17,010</u>

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IX. STATUS OF VEHICLES

	<u>Run- ners</u>	<u>Fit in 24 hrs</u>	<u>Bn Maint for Rep.</u>	<u>Ord for Repair</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Battle Loss for Month</u>	<u>Short</u>
Med Tk, M4A3 or M4A3E8	25	3	1	2	31	6	6
Med Tk, M4 or M4A1	14	2	2	0	18	1	0
Light Tank, M5	9	1	0	0	10	2	0
Light Tank, M24	5	0	0	0	5	0	2
Med Tk, M4A3 w/105mm How.	5	0	1	0	6	0	0
Truck, 1/4 Ton C & R.	20	0	0	0	20	1	5
Truck, Cargo, 2-1/2 Ton	37	0	0	0	37	0	2

(Note: All other vehicles as per T/E).

X. COMMENTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

1. When operating task forces composed of infantry, tanks, tank destroyers, artillery and reconnaissance units, it is better if the tank commander is placed in command of the Point and the Advance Guard.
2. The assault guns should be under the tank commander's control when operating as a task force to facilitate rapid support from short ranges.
3. In using tanks in towns it was re-learned that tanks could not operate on streets not cleared by the infantry due to bazooka and panzerfaust fire.

Edwin Y. Arnold

EDWIN Y. ARNOLD,
Major, Infantry,
Commanding.

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