

REPORT OF HISTORICAL RECORDS, 636th TD Battalion
Period 010001 Oct 1943 to 312400 Oct 1943.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

October 1: Company "A", 636th TD Bn was detached from the Battalion and attached to VI Corps to guard VI Corps Command Post. Reconnaissance Company located a German Artillery and small arms ammunition dump and its location was reported to VI Corps. Reconnaissance for movement forward was made.

October 2: Orders for movement to assembly area near Guardia Lombardi were received and road priority beginning at 0600 hours. Oct 43 was given. Preparations for movement were made.

October 3: Movement of the Battalion to an assembly area near Guardia Lombardi was effected and a perimeter defense was established in the new area with the mission of protecting the Corps right flank.

October 4: The area on the Corps right flank was reconnoitered during the day and Destroyer positions were improved. A position for the rear echelon was selected in Guardia Lombardi and trucks were dispatched to bring the rear echelon forward. The rear echelon closed in the new location shortly after dark.

October 5: Reconnaissance of the area was continued and eighteen (18) 2 1/2 ton cargo trucks were furnished to VI Corps for hauling ammunition and equipment.

October 6: Reconnaissance work was continued and the Battalion Commander located a possible area for further displacement forward. No other activity during the day.

October 7: No activity during the morning, but an order for movement to the vicinity of S. Giorgio was received in the afternoon. A warning order was issued by the Battalion Commander.

October 8: The Battalion moved to a position near S. Giorgio and closed in the area at about 1000 hours. Reconnaissance of the area was made during the afternoon.

October 9: No activity during the 9th of October. Positions were improved.

October 10: Considerable reconnaissance by Reconnaissance Company and the staff was made and possible assembly areas in the vicinity of Monte were checked.

October 11: No activity on the 11th of October.

October 12: Liaison with the British troops on our right flank was established and Corps Artillery Officer recommended that the Battalion be moved to the vicinity of Monte where close support of the forward elements could be made.

October 13: An order from Commanding General VI Corps to move the Battalion to vicinity of Monte on 14 October 43 was received. Reconnaissance of the area was made and the Battalion Commander issued march order for movement to start at 0600 hours the next morning.

October 14: Movement of the Battalion started on the morning of 14 October 43 as planned under the command of the Executive Officer. The Battalion Commander attended the presentation of Awards to members of Company "C" at Fifth Army Headquarters. The presentation was made by Lt General CLARK.

The Battalion closed in its new area near Ponte at 1015 hours. A new location for the rear echelon was selected and plans to move the rear echelon the following day were made.

October 15: Reconnaissance of the surrounding area was made and plans for protecting the rear of Corps were completed. The rear echelon was moved to its new location in Ponte.

October 16: Reconnaissance in the Corps area was continued and liaison was maintained with 645th TD Bn and contact made with the 45th Division.

October 17: Two platoons of Company "B" were moved to indirect firing positions in the 45th Division sector. The Ranger Platoon accompanied the "B" Company platoons. An unexploded aerial bomb was located and taped off near the rear echelon area and a report was made to Commanding General, VI Corps. In the afternoon an order was received to move the Battalion in an area near Teleso. The area was quickly reconnoitered and the Battalion was moved that evening.

October 18: An Observation Post was established from which indirect fire missions could be observed. A notice was received that General LUCAS, Commanding General, VI Corps, would present decorations to Staff Sergeant JOHNSON and Staff Sergeant SPARKS of Company "B" the following day at 1100 hours.

An enemy mine field was located by the Reconnaissance Company and the mines were lifted by the Pioneer Platoon of that Organisation.

A warning order for the movement to the vicinity of Ruviano was received and a route reconnaissance was made that evening.

October 19: Reconnaissance for an assembly area in the vicinity of Ruviano was made and General LUCAS presented silver stars to Staff Sergeant JOHNSON and Staff Sergeant SPARKS at 1100 hours. A warning order was issued to move on the following morning, but later orders from VI Corps directed that the movement should not be made.

October 20: No activity on this date but late in the afternoon clearance was received to move the Battalion to the vicinity of Ruviano and the order previously prepared was issued.

October 21: The Battalion was moved to an assembly area near Ruviano and closed in the area at 1045 hours. Reconnaissance of the surrounding area was made and camouflage of the installations was checked.

October 22: Reconnaissance of the surrounding area was continued and liaison maintained with the forward units. Buildings for the rear echelon were selected in Ruviano.

October 23: The rear echelon was moved to Ruviano and Liaison with the 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion was established.

October 24: No activity other than reconnaissance for this date.

October 25: Word was received that Company "I" would be released from Special Duty with VI Corps and return to Battalion control. Reconnaissance was made of an area in which to assemble that Company. "I" Company moved into the area selected, completing the movement at 1610 hours.

October 26: No activity other than reconnaissance.

October 27: Forward areas were reconnoitered for a contemplated movement of the Battalion. Liaison was maintained with forward units.

October 28: Additional reconnaissance was made for an assembly area in the vicinity of Pietramelara. A French Soldier, who had escaped from an enemy Prisoner of War enclosure, was brought to the Command Post and gave some information regarding German troops and gun dispositions. He was sent to VI Corps for further questioning. A request for the transfer of our Communication Officer to Fifth Army was received.

October 29: The second Platoon of Company "C", which was on duty with Fifth Army Headquarters, was ordered on Detached Service to the Anti-tank Regiment, British 7th Armored Division at Alvanova to instruct in Tank Destroyer principles, nomenclature of M-10 Tank Destroyer and Motor Carriage M-10 and the 3 inch gun. The Battalion Commander issued a warning order for movement of the Battalion to the vicinity of Riardo.

October 30: The Battalion moved to the vicinity of Riardo, establishing Headquarters just south of Pietramelara. All troops closed in the area by 1500 hours. A mined crossing was reported by an Italian Civilian and the information forwarded to Commanding General, VI Corps.

October 31: Plans were prepared for protecting the rear of the Corps and also for reinforcing either of the forward Tank Destroyer Battalions. Reconnaissance of the forward areas was made.

MAP REFERENCE: Italy, 1:50,000.

Attached Annexes:

1. Copy of Unit Journal
2. Overlay of positions
3. Personnel casualties during period
4. Vehicular casualties during period
5. Enemy casualties caused by 636th TD Bn during period

For the Battalion Commander:

REAGAN L. DUBOSE
Captain, Infantry
Adjutant

OFFICIAL:

Reagan L. Dubose
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Captain, Infantry
Adjutant