

MOSELLE CROSSING 610 Tank Destroyer Bn Towed

Interview with St/Sgt Judnich, Plat Sgt 3rd Platoon, Co C.

After the crossing Lt Merrill's Platoon (3rd Plat) climbed Hill 380. At the top two guns were positioned toward the town of ST GENEVIEVE along the BEZAUMONT-ST GENEVIEVE road. The other two were placed up the hill from VILLE AU VAL in the direction of LANDREMONT.

The first morning the Germans attacked with tanks through a corridor apparently left open by the infantry. The en tanks came out of ST GENEVIEVE and left the road to BEZAUMONT climbing the pimple to the left of the road. The en infantrymen overran the gun positions of the 1st Section and the crews were forced to withdraw under a hail of small arms fire. Reorganization took place and with the help of infantrymen the two guns were recovered and sufficient crews assembled to get the tanks when they returned.

That morning on that side of the hill two enemy tanks were knocked out.

Meanwhile the 2nd Section was on the East side of the hill N of VILLE AU VAL aimed in the direction of LANDREMONT. A lone tank came out of BEZAUMONT issued from B headed Eastward. It passed the infantrymen who remained in their foxholes and didn't use their bazookas. The TDs were flanked. On the top of the hill the tank ran over an AT gun, backed off, and called to the crews to surrender. In backing away the en tank got in the way of one of the section's guns. Judnich knocked out the tank with two shots.

On the 3rd morning (15th) a corridor existed between MOUSSON HILL and Hill 380. The en tanks attacked under cover of heavy fog through ST GENEVIEVE. The Light Tk Co was in bivouac on the Hill (380). When the Jerry tanks appeared the light tanks took off. The infantry also pulled out. All left without notification. The section (1st) was pushed back from their guns. The Headquarters Section came up with bazookas and stopped the attack. At 1000 the fog lifted. The guns were recovered.

On the afternoon of the 15th, a large German tank concentration was seen just South of the FORET DE FACQ. The 1st Platoon was called in, and together with the two guns, 1st Section of Merrill's platoon, fired on the tanks. Rang 3200 yards. Counterbattery fire was drawn. 13 tks were knocked out. It was about 1500 when the en vehicles (tanks and halftracks) 75 in number, were seen heading SW from CLEMERY and MANONCOURT in three columns into the FORET DE FACQ. Immediately on being fired upon the en vehicles dispersed and sought cover in nearby woods.

The German tanks. MIV chassis with assault gun (75) with muzzle break off. Aim at turret where meets hull. Steel tracking good. Didn't hurt track when overran AT gun. Silent motor. Sneak up on TDs.

Terrain: Hill 380. Gradual slope. Little cover. Small garden patches. Wide open. Dry when moved up hill.