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On the 14th 1st Bn, 317th, had taken MT TOULON with few casualties. Lt Croxton's platoon came up and occupied the hill with orders to hold. It seemed that the other CTs were too thin for the en infiltrated through VILLE AU VAL and LANDREMONT occupying the hill above LANDREMONT. The bn at MT TOULON was out off. Orders were received by this bn to fight its way back from the East. Thus the Germans would be hit in the rear. The 1st BN under Major Burnett with the four tanks came back. Two platoons of infantry followed by the assault platoon. The infantry ascended the hill above LANDREMONT too fast for the tanks. The tanks had considerable difficulty reaching the top of the hill. It was 1400, the 15th.

20 German tanks were sighted moving from W of ST GENEVIEVE into the FORET DE FACQ, (821-320). The tanks were dispersed along the hill, (825-297). Sgt Jones occupied a finger extending eastward holding the right flank. Sgt Larkin and Lt Croxton were on the crest. They commenced firing. Range: approx 2000 yards. Larkin hit an en rcn vehicle. The en vehicles were moving from left to right into the forest. The TDs also firing got none tanks. Lt Croxton got one, this on the western edge of the forest. The tank stopped dead. Nobody dismounted. The Exec Officer, 1st Bn, called for artillery on the FORET DE FACQ. A barrage was fired later.

Sgt Larkin backed up from the crest. To his right rear from MT TOULON ST JEAN the en had started firing direct fire. As backed down from crest the air cleaners were hit. He dismounted. Ordered to mount. Then battery of 88s opened up on him.

Meanwhile Lt Atkins platoon was on the crest of hill S of ST GENEVIEVE. (Hill 380). On top of hill this platoon had come upon TDs firing into ST GENEVIEVE. The tanks fired some into same town. Then moved Eastward to the right of ST GENEVIEVE. Only two tanks in the platoon. This was during the morning of 15th. That afternoon a Lt informed them of the twenty en tanks going into the FORET DE FACQ. They fired at range of approx 2300 yards. The en vehicles dispersed.

On the 16th, 1400. Lt Croxton with Deem, Grattap, and Brown formed the 2nd Platoon. They had been informed that in div reserve to be used only in the event of a counterattack. However the 1st Bn, 317th, was attacking toward MT TOULON again. The bn had had a platoon on the hill above LANDREMONT (825-297). The en had pushed them off. The tanks were ordered to support the infantry in regaining the hill. The plan was apparently for the attack to be launched along the ridge eastward. 2 assault companies would take the hill. The rest of the bn would move toward MT TOULON. When Croxton's platoon got there the CO said that they were attacking the hill. Lt Croxton was told to get the tanks on the ridge. It was an impossible mission. Lt Croxton then said that he would try to support the attack from the road south of the hill. The tanks would go in column along the road. The infantry then were placed along the road. There was a three minutes machine gun preparation. The Germans pretended to surrender, ceased firing, yelled "Comrade", and then sucked the two infantry cos in. The infantry were pinned down. The bn CO then told Croxton to take the tanks up the hill. The remnants of the assault cos were dug in and the bn CO could not locate them. The idea was to pull the infantrymen back and let the tanks blast out the hilltop. The top was forested heavily wooded, a deathtrap for tanks. The en bazookas would have a field day. Croxton and Deems got up the hill. Then Deems covered Croxton going through the woods. The bn CO wanted the tanks to crush the woods down.

Croxton's tank proceeded slowly through the woods. Opened up with bow gun and coaxial. Fired one round. Next jammed. Bazooka hit bogie. Tank didn't stop. Turned around. Backed down hill. Then hit on gunner's side. Finally all got back.

Croxton's gunner?