

MOSELLE CROSSING

702nd Tank BN

Co D Light Tank Co

Interview with CO, Co D, Capt James F Grimm.

Four days prior to the crossing the light tanks were located between PAGNY and PONT A MOUSSON firing across the river attracting attention to cover the crossing to the South. Crossed the night of the 13th.

During the night of the 13th the light tanks were employed as roadblocks in front of the infantry. The 3rd Platoon roadblock edge of LOISY, (798-311). The 2nd Platoon used vic macadam road across island to cover possible attack from the South, (798-287). 1st Platoon E of BEZAUMONT, (813-298). No action.

Morning of the 14th at 0900 attack on MOUSSON HILL. Orders: Cos B and D to support 318 CT. To jump off at 0900. The 1st and 2nd Platoons with the 80th recon troop reconnoitred area prior to 0900. Got to base of MOUSSON HILL and back. Encountered only artillery. Recon units proceeded in columnar formation deployed to left of road when had sufficient room. North of LOISY many antipersonnel mines along river. Deployed on line to edge of hill. Turned around, skirted to east of ATTON, rejoined co at LOISY.

The 2nd and 3rd Platoons used an attack on the objective. The medium company proceeded first in linear formation. Just outside of LOISY the light tanks formed behind the mediums. The light tanks remained on the right of the road until reached (800-321). There the lights swung to the left of the road. There infantry with the light tanks. Walking along. Tanks moved as fast as the infantry could walk. Infantry would go ahead, the tanks would catch up and go ahead. Leaps and bounds. South of ATTON short halt. Two tanks from the third platoon went through ATTON with infantry. The mediums had already passed through the town. Through the town the infantry hugged the sides of the street. Tanks in column proceeded cautiously down the streets and around the corners. An interval of 20 yards separated the tanks. Not much opposition in the town. The tanks rejoined the co.

The movement toward the hill continued. At the edge-base of the hill started getting artillery. Believed that from a tank on the top of hill. At the beginning of the hill some infantry mounted on the tanks. Six men climbed on each of two tanks. Tanks still in linear formation. 3rd Platoon went first, then 2nd Platoon with infantry. The mediums got up $3\frac{1}{4}$ of way. The light tanks passed through them to the top. German infantry was on top. Our infantry jumped off tanks and attacked a castle on top. The tanks on top fired into some woods on other side of hill.

The hill was steep. Slick, not muddy. At 1630 by order of Gen McBride the light tanks were pulled off the hill.

The 2nd and 3rd Platoons passed the night on Hill 380 between BEZAUMONT and ST GENEVIEVE. Night of 14th. (814-305). At 0530, 15th, arty opened up from en. Lasted two hours. On same hill, inf, TDs, 80th Ren, and Co D. At 0730 machine guns heard from direction of ST GENEVIEVE. At that time 1 platoon of inf in ST GENEVIEVE with 2 AT guns (part of 2nd Bn, 318th?). In ruins along road (808-230) CP, 2nd Bn, 318th was located. It was very foggy. The 80th Ren took off. No warning that leaving. Shortly thereafter an inf and tanks appeared. 1st en tank passed. German infantry walking with it very slowly. In direction of BEZAUMONT. A second tank then came into view. One light tank opened up and placed two 37s into turret. Shells just bounced off. Meanwhile third tank appeared. The 1st and 2nd were fairly close together. The 3rd was farther apart. Knocked out one of the light tanks. The German infantry had little regard for fire from Co D. Walked with rifles pointing in front. Co D withdrew and tried to contact TDs. Found TD gun facing direct of forest to NE. Tried to swing TD gun around in direction of ST GENEVIEVE. Failed. Gun too deeply dug in. Six light tanks pulled back. One had been hit before could getaway. One of six hit as pulled away. Also other hit before pullout. Census: 3 hit. It was later ascertained that 2 civilians with radios were in LOISY giving the locations and movements of

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Co D cont
our tanks.

The next day, 15th, the light tank company returned to DIEULOUARD.

The 1st Platoon on the 14th in the morning after reconnoitering way to MOUSSON HILL received orders to go to reconnoitre with 2nd Plat, 80th Rcn, EPLEY and PORT SUR SEILLE.