

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION



THE WORLD WAR II HONOR ROLL



**John W. Horton**                      **26-42**

**First Lieutenant, U.S. Army**

**Service # O1168293**

**771st Tank Destroyer Battalion**

**Entered the Service from: North Carolina**

**Died: 22-Nov-1944**

**Buried at: Plot P Row 9 Grave 2**

**Netherlands American Cemetery**

**Margraten, Netherlands**

**Awards: Purple Heart**

**Extract from 771st Tank Destroyer Battalion  
After Action Report: 5 Nov – 30 Nov 1944**

On 21 Nov 1944 Company A was given the mission of supporting the attack of the 405th RCT on the high ground to the north and east of IMMENDORF. H-hour was set for 1030A. At 1000A the 3d platoon, under command of 1st Lt John Horton, left the assembly area in GERONSWELLER and occupied firing positions in the locality of K925639 at 1030A.

Within a short time after taking up these positions, small arms fire w/tracer came from vicinity BEECK and LINDERN. Apparently these were ranging shots, for immediately following SA fire 88mm guns opened fire from high ground between BEECK and LINDERN and from southeastern edge of BEECK. Weapons could not be clearly observed, but appeared to be dug-in PKW VI<sup>s</sup> or 88mm guns (AA-AT). First round from enemy gun was a direct hit on destroyer of platoon commander, killing platoon leader and two enlisted men, by name, Lt. Horton, t-5 Decicco, and Pvt. Jebavay. Sgt. Hedrick assumed command of the balance of the platoon and delivered fire against the enemy gun positions, constantly moving in the vicinity of the original positions. A hit by enemy fire was sustained on turret of TD commanded by Sgt. Osipovich and turret traverse was jammed. Platoon continued fire against enemy guns until they ceased fire. Smoke was observed rising from enemy positions but visibility was too poor to be certain of results of TD fire. Entire action lasted approximately fifteen (15) minutes, and at 1045A balance of platoon took up positions to rear of firing positions and continued to watch for suitable targets, but none appeared