HEADQUARTERS 727TH AMPHIBIAN TRACTOR BATTALION

15 August 1944

26 January 1944; 727th Amphibian Tractor Battalion activated with 15 Officers and 140 enlisted men. Commanding Officer Major McLavy, Executive Officer Capt Russell, S-1 Lt Melgard S-3 Lt. Lucas, S-4 Lt. McMullen. S-2 Lt. Van Eck. CO Co. A. Lt. Cush CO Co. B. Lt. Garfinkle, C O Co. C. Lt. Barr, C O Hq Co. Lt. McQuade, other Co Officers, Lt. Osuri, Lt. Prendergast, Lt. Wellen, Lt. McGowan, Lt. McLeish, Lt. Zakowsky, Most of the men and Officers came from the 534th and the 773rd ATB's. The Major came from the Armored School at Fort Knox. The Bn Area is located in East Garrison Fort Ord, about 500 yds from Hq 18th Armored Group. Men lived 5 men to a hut. Officers 2 to a smaller hut. Quarters and food good. Morale fair due to the transferring and changing and pevious inactivity.

4 February 1944; The following Co Officers assigned and joined. Lt. Carter, Lt. Durrell, Lt. Lerner, Lt. Wright, Lt. Blake, Lt. Mayorassy, Lt. Vestal, Lt. Rothenberger, Lt. Bierer, Lt. Corbin, Lt. Noble.

7th. Lt. Durrell appointed S-2 Lt. Van Eck releived. WOJG Pawlowski releived as Motor Officer, Lt Wright appointed. Lt Majorassy appointed Bn Gas Officer. Lt Melgard in addition to other duties is Bn Mail O.

9 February 194; 18 Enlisted men transferred to 776 A.T.B.

10 February 1944; Capt. Russel appointed Summary Court and investigating Officer.

12 February 1944; Capt. Burnham appointed S-2, Lt Durrell reld.

13 February 1944; 96 Enlisted men assigned to the Battalion.

14 February 1944; Lt. Longendorf and Lt. May assigned and joined

16 February 1944; Lt. Durrel appointed Bn Gas Officer, Lt Majorossy releived and transferred. Lt. Griswold assigned D-S Fort Knox, Lt. Jamoson assigned to Bn. Lt Lerner transferred. Lt. Noble and Lt. Van Huss, Lt. Vestal and Lt. Wellan are Motor Officers.

18 February 1944; Capt. G. W. Bragdon assigned. Capt Baker assigned and appointed Bn. Motor Officer. Lt. Wright releivod.

28 February 1944; Lt. Raymond A. Schafer, Lt. Charles Elin, Lt. Harold C. Hayden assigned.

29 February 1944; Lt. McMullen promoted to 1st Lt.

31 February 1944; During the month of February, individual training was emphasized along with some POM requirements, and the Battalion began shipping into shape. We were in need of more men.

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to take care of our own and Group details. The 18th Armored Group was commanded by Colonel Triplett and his Executive Lt. Colonel Northridge. The function of Group was to coordinate the Battalions and other post agencies. Another phase of training during this period was maintenance of the few vehicles we had, setting up a Battalion Maintenance section. Mr. Pawlowski assisted Lt. Wright and the deadline was high at first because of our low priority in the Group. Wheeled Vehicles kept near Battalion area. Tractors at Beach Motor Park, 10 miles from Battalion area.

~~1 March 1944; Lt. McQuade appointed CO Co. C, Lt. Barr relelved. Lt. Sakowsky appointed Communications Officer, Lt. McQuade relelved.~~

~~4 March 1944; Lt. Cs uri transferred.~~

~~14 March 1944; 46 E M assigned. Seemed to be good material.~~

~~18 March 1944; 23 EM assigned. More of the same quality.~~

~~19 and 20 March 1944; 34 EM assigned.~~

~~22 March 1944; Lt. Schafer assigned and joined as CO Co 5 vice Lt. Garfinkle relelved.~~

23 March 1944; WOJG McClain assigned. ~~Go Beer parties.~~

24 March 1944; Lt. McClain assigned.

25 March 1944; ~~Lt. Donahue assigned.~~

27 March 1944; Lt. Sykes assigned. ~~Capt Baker to D. S. Lt.~~ Wright reappointed Bn. Motor Officer.

31 March 1944; 31 Enlisted men assigned, The month of March was s imiliar to that of February, in that all training had to be repeated for each group of new men assigned. The long 10 mile trip to the beach motor park has proved to be a time and gasoline waster. We still spend a great deal of time and effort for group details. The supply section is funtioning almost normally. The company Officers are working night and day to keep up with the training chedule.

4 April 1944; 70 enlisted men assigned and joined.

~~5 April 1944; Lt. Spilman assigned. Capt. Baker transferrd.~~

8 April 1944; The Battalion moved from East Garrison to Main Garrison at the rth St and 3rd Ave Barracks excellent. Four miles nearer the Beach Motor Park. Area confined but satisfactory. Rumors prevalent about ove rseas movement. No definite information as yet.

~~10 April 1944; Capt. Mahurin assigned as C O Co. A. Lt. Cush relelved.~~

11 April 1944; 48 Enlisted Men assigned. Bn nearly at T O strength. Overstrength in officers.

15 April 1944; Capt, Keim assigned as CO Co. C Lt. McQuade reld. Capt. Bragdon assigned as CO Hq. Co. Lt. Rothenberger releived. Capt Varricchionne assigned as Executive Officer, Capt. Russel releived and appointed S-3. Lt. Lucas releived. Lt. McQuade appointed Bn Communication Officer, Lt. Sokowski releived. Lt. Wellan appointed Bn Maint Officer. Lt. Wright releived. Lt. Francis X Smith assigned.

26 April 1944; WOJG Pawlowski promoted to C W O.

29 April 1944; St. McGowan transferred. During April the POW was very nearly completed. The Bn Participated in several Group problems, which emphisized formation driving and using azimuth course. The Major decided we would emphisize those points in our training. Frequently Group sent inspectors to check every angle of our Bn. They found few discrepancies and made the most of them. Then we would go all out for maintenance, police or gun cleaning, which ever seemed indicated, The tractor men are shaping up well. The Battalion is looking like a combat team.

5 May 1944; Capt. Williamson assigned as Bn Medical Officer.

8 May 1944; Lt. Gush assigned Commanding Co. A. Capt Burnham transferred. Capt Russell appointed S-2, Capt Varrichionne S-3. Capt Mahurin appointed Executive Officer.

10 May 1944; Lt. Sakowsky transferred.

13 May 1944; Lt. Longendorf transferred.

15 May 1944; Lts Spilman and Lerner transferred.

19 May 1944; Official orders received that we move to Camp Stoneman.

20 May 1944; Officers party at Tass a Hara, a resort, and hot springs in the mountains 50 miles south. The road was very bad and when we arrived the caretaker informed us that the facilities could not be used, Most returned to Capt. Mahurins house and had a chicken fry.

22 May 1944; Following Officers transferred. Lt. Noble, Lt. Van E Eck, Lt. Van Huss, Lt. Jamison, Lt. Bierer, Lt. Vestal, Lt. May, Lt. Prendergast, Lt. Lucas.

27 May 1944; Lt. McMullen left on advance detail to Fort Mason S F P E I.

30 May 194; Liaison Officer Capt. Russell left for Camp Stoneman. Personnel anxious to leave. A good perentage of the men had furloughs this month.

2 June 1944; Left Fort Ord at 1930 by train and arrived at Camp Stoneman 1600 for staging. Stayed in Section M. Chow excelent, good USO shows and Movies. PX in area. Barracks satisfactory, men slept double decked.

Plenty of recreation. Emphasis on Physical conditioning and finishing up and stray PCM requirements. WAC organization in area this Battalions first association with WACS.

10 June 1944 Battalion Officers dance at West Garrison Club.

14 June 1944 Lt. Wellan promoted to 1st Lt.

15 June 1944; Advance detachment left Stoneman by truck at 1800, arrived at Oakland Pier at 1115. Main body left Camp Stoneman at 1215, marched 2½ miles to Pittsburg and took Catalina to Oakland Pier. Arriving at 1830. Boarded USAT Willard A Holbrook at 1900.

16 July 1944; Disembarked into LCT at 1000, landed at Tjeweri beach, Humboldt Bay at 1230.

26 July 1944 Lt. Donanue transferred to 1881 E A B.

31 July 1944; Pay day. Picture shows regularly.
Subsequent to debarkation, men are having period of acclimatization, consisting of frequent rest and swimming periods. The time spent on the ship was one of rest and relaxation, altho quarters were cramped. Men were permitted on deck, where they read, played cards and slept. Most were glad to leave the USAT Willard A Holbrook after the prolonged voyage of one month.

5 August 1944; Camp on Tjeweri beach is pretty well set up. Men have used imagination in fixing their perymidal tents. Officers sleep in small wall tents. Water is transported some distance, but is plentiful. Food is good. The scenery beautiful and life rather leisurely.

6 August 1944; Church services are held regularly several times per wek.

7 August 1944; Cards for ballot request were passed out to all men Few take advantage of the opportunity. They dont know the candidates.

8 August 1944; Men are enthused over the excellent European war news

6 August 1944; Our tractors arrived. One sank after unloading into t the water, leaving us 39.

14 Sugust 1944; Breaking in of tractors has bgun. We are pleased with the fine operation of the M-4

17 August 1944; The projector the men purchased has more that compensated for the cost. It is working very well and pictures are shown tri weekly.

17 August 1944; A reconnaissance was made of a possible new area at Tami Beach, at present only occupied by 34th Inf.

18 August 1944; Co "B" Moved to new area.

19 August 1944; Hq Co Moved to new area.

21 August 1944; 60 new tractors arrived for the Bn, making a total of 100, one ofwhich sank during unloading.

22-25 August 1944; Tractors being unloaded and driven to this area.

24 August 1944; Advance detail to Aitape for purpose of instructing Tractor units of Infantry Div.

25 August 1944; Main detail to Aitape.

28 August 1944; Co "A" moved to this area.

31 August 1944; The month of August consisted of getting settled, moving, getting settled, furnishing details and unloading tractors and preparing to begin training. Men can now move with neatness and dispatch.

2 September 1944; The first issue of the Bn Newspaper "Trac Talk" was published and seemed well received by the men, it is to be published every Saturday.

4 September 1944; This unit is providing instructors for infantry drivers and maint men who have LVT's attached to their organization.

6 September 1944; Crew of LVT rescued personnel from C-47 downed in breakers. T/5 Walker, Pfc Bova, and Pvt Sapp, were the crew.

9 September 1944; Second issue of Trac Talk published. Training in full swing.

11 September 1944; New area more satisfactory than old. Grading still proceeding but nearly finished. Biting gnats found annoying, shirts must be worn.

12 September 1944; Possibility of one Co. being used in task force in near future.

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