

JOURNAL

727TH AMPHIBIAN TRACTOR BATTALION

From 1 January 1945

TO 11 January 1945

Place Leyte, P.I. & Aboard LST's

| <u>TIME</u> | | <u>Serial</u> <u>No.</u> | <u>Time</u> <u>Dated</u> | <u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS</u> | <u>Action</u> <u>taken</u> |
|-------------|------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| <u>In</u> | <u>Out</u> | | | | |
| | | | 1 Jan | Nil | |
| | | | 2 Jan | <p>The Battalion (Less Co "B") loaded entirely on eight LST's. Complete loading was effected on 2 January, 1945 at White Beach in vicinity of Tacloban.</p> <p>The LST's then pulled out into San Pedro Bay and dropped anchor there until day of departure, 6 January 1945.</p> | |
| | | | 3 Jan | Nil | |
| | | | 4 Jan | Nil | |
| | | | 5 Jan | Nil | |
| | | | 6 Jan | Convoy Sailed. | |
| | | | 7 Jan | Nil | |
| | | | 8 Jan | Nil | |
| | | | 9 Jan | <p>Company "B" landed assault troops in the first five waves landing on Blue Beach in the vicinity of Dagupan on the east shore of the Lingayen Gulf. 1st Platoon carried 1st Bn., 1st Inf. as far inland as Binlac river area. They met with Jap air attack near the Bued river. 2nd Platoon carried 1st Bn., 20th Inf. to beach and as far as town of Dagupan. 3rd Platoon landed assault troops of 2nd Bn., 1st Inf and carried them 2,000 yds inland.</p> <p>The landing was successful. One man from Provisional Co. was wounded. Name: Hansen</p> | |
| | | | 10 Jan | <p>2nd Platoon carried troops and supplies to areas N & NE of Dagupan. They also carried Engineer supplies and pontoons to bridge sites vicinity of Mangaldan.</p> <p>3rd Platoon carried supplies and ammunition to front line troops and bivouaced that night with 2nd Bn., 1st infantry.</p> | |

JOURNAL

727TH AMPHIBIAN TRACTOR BATTALION

From 11 January 1945

TO 15 January 1945

Place Luzon, P.I.

| <u>TIME</u> In Out | | <u>Serial</u> No. | <u>Time</u> Dated | <u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS</u> | <u>Action</u> taken |
|-----------------------|--|----------------------|----------------------|--|------------------------|
| | | | 11 Jan | <p>Anchored off the south shore in the Lingayen Gulf about 3000 yards from the beach, at 1000, 11 January, 1945, 48 hours after S-Day, the day of invasion.</p> <p>Beached on Blue Beach at 1200, 11 January 1945 vicinity of Dagupan.</p> | |
| | | | 12 Jan | <p>The first and third platoons Company "B" continued supporting advancing troops. Second platoon engaged in hauling supplies for shore party.</p> | |
| | | | 13 Jan | <p>The first platoon continued hauling supplies to forward areas of the 1st Infantry and moved to Santa Barbara. The 2nd platoon still aided Engineers at bridge sites carrying up heavy equipment and materiel.</p> <p>The 3rd platoon hauled supplies to forward troops of the 2nd Bn., 1st Infantry.</p> <p>Battalion maintains liaison with the Sixth Army.</p> | |
| | | | 14 Jan | <p>"A" Company dispatched 45 tractors to Green Beach, opposite the town of Lingayen, and made the journey by a night march from our bivouac area to the unloading point 10 miles west of our location.</p> <p>Tractors reported to Colonel Faulkner of the shore party and worked under his command.</p> <p>During the night they were used in unloading ships in the harbor, it being impractical for other light landing craft to beach on account of the shallow water and high surf.</p> <p>Their mission was to unload landing matting for air fields and deliver it to the Lingayen Air Field.</p> | |

JOURNAL

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From 15 January 1945

TO 20 January 1945

Place Luzon, P.I.

| <u>TIME</u> | | <u>Serial No.</u> | <u>Time Dated</u> | <u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS</u> | <u>Action taken</u> |
|-------------|------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|-------------------------|
| <u>In</u> | <u>Out</u> | | | | |
| | | | 15 Jan | <p>Company "B", LVT's in rear bivouac area are working with 543rd Engineer Bn. in ship to shore movement of ammunition, supplies and rations.</p> <p>Company "A" tractors at Lingayen continued in unloading of ships in the harbor.</p> <p>Company "A" tractors employed as anchorage for LCT's unloading at Lingayen through the night.</p> | |
| | | | 16 Jan | <p>Elements of "B" Company in rear area still working with 543rd Engineer Bn., in ship to shore movement of supplies, small vehicles and anti-tank weapons.</p> <p>"A" Company tractors were released by Shore Party Commander and returned to bivouac area in vicinity of Dagupan. Several of the Tractors developed minor mechanical trouble but maintenance sections immediately put them in operating condition again.</p> | |
| | | | 17 Jan | Nil | |
| | | | 18 Jan | Nil | |
| | | | 19 Jan | <p>The 1st and 3rd Platoons Company "B" moved from Santa Barbara to Agno river vicinity Villasis with the mission of transporting Infantry troops across the Agno where the bridge had been destroyed.</p> <p>The 1st and 20th Infantry regiments were hauled across river. 1st Lt. Smith and Cpl Irvin wounded by shell fragments and gun shot.</p> <p>2nd Platoon still working with 543rd Eng. Bn., in ship to shore movement of supplies.</p> <p>Bn. received order to go on mission unloading Base "M" equipment from ships in harbor. The day is spent in preparing the tractors to move out on morning of 20th January 1945.</p> | |

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From 20 January 1945

TO 24 January 1945

Place Luzon, P.I.

| <u>TIME</u> In Out | | Serial No. | Time Dated | INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS | Action taken |
|-----------------------|--|---------------|---------------|---|-----------------|
| | | | 20 Jan | <p>"A" Company tractors moved out of bivouac area and reported to Commanding General of Base "M" at San Fabian. Forty-nine tractors were employed on a 24 hour schedule with half operating from 0800 to 2000 and the other half from 2000 to 0800.</p> <p>Their mission was to unload Base "M" material and equipment from the Liberty ships in the Lingayen Gulf.</p> <p>The 1st and 3rd Platoons Company "B" hauled supplies to forward areas across Agno river.</p> <p>The 2nd Platoon in rear area carrying on Maintenance of LVT's.</p> | |
| | | | 21 Jan | Nil | |
| | | | 22 Jan | <p>LVT's from "A" Company are being employed on a 24 hour basis for unloading of Liberty ships and allied craft in Lingayen Gulf. Cargo consists of ammunition, gasoline, oil, lubricants and other supplies and transported to dumps on White Beach. Several other Tractors are also used in evacuating the wounded to the surgically equipped ships in the harbor.</p> | |
| | | | 23 Jan | <p>"A" Company carrying on unloading operations of ships in the Lingayen Gulf near White Beach. They also are evacuating the wounded out to the ships.</p> <p>2nd Platoon and company headquarters Co "B" moved from Blue Beach to vicinity Santa Barbara. Bivouacked in Santa Barbara and placed 4 LVT's as bridge security guards at 2 bridges near Santa Barbara.</p> <p>1st Platoon engaged in maintenance of LVT's.</p> <p>3rd Platoon employed as bridge security guards at bridge across the Agno river near Villasis.</p> | |

JOURNAL

727TH AMPHIBIAN TRACTOR BATTALION

From 24 January 1945

TO 27 January 1945

Place Luzon, P.I.

| <u>TIME</u> In Out | | Serial No. | Time Dated | INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS | Action taken |
|-----------------------|--|---------------|---------------|---|-----------------|
| | | | 24 Jan | <p>"A" Company employed throughout the day and night unloading ships in Lingayen Gulf and transporting ammunition, rations, oil, lubrication and other materials to dumps on White Beach. Wounded are also evacuated to ships in the Gulf.</p> <p>2nd Platoon and company headquarters moved from Santa Barbara to new CP on the Agno river at Villasis.</p> <p>Bridge security guards still maintained at Santa Barbara and Agno river.</p> <p>All other vehicles at CP under maintenance.</p> | |
| | | | 25 Jan | <p>"A" Company continues unloading of ships in Lingayen Gulf; Battalion Maintenance Section engaged in repairing of LVT's and replacing worn parts.</p> <p>4 LVT's still on guard at bridges at Santa Barbara. Others are on guard at Agno river crossing at Villasis. One Platoon used in carrying POL and ammunition to troops south of Agno river.</p> | |
| | | | 26 Jan | <p>The unloading of ships at White Beach in vicinity of San Fabian continues with "A" Company still employed on a 24 hour basis. Evacuation of wounded still effected by use of LVT's.</p> <p>Bridge guards still maintained at Santa Barbara XXXXXXXX and Villasis.</p> <p>26 LVT's carried 1st Bn., 1st Infantry from Rosales to Cabaruan hills where several enemy positions are reported.</p> | |

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727TH AMPHIBIAN TRACTOR BATTALION

From 27 January 1945

TO 30 January 1945

Place Luzon, P.I.

| <u>TIME</u> | | <u>Serial No.</u> | <u>Time Dated</u> | <u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS</u> | <u>Action taken</u> |
|-------------|------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|-------------------------|
| <u>In</u> | <u>Out</u> | | | | |
| | | | 27 Jan | <p>"A" Company is ordered to assist in unloading of two divisions in the Lingayen Gulf in vicinity of San Fabian. The 1st Cavalry Div. and the 32nd Infantry Division were loaded into tractors with their equipment and were brought ashore in successive "ship to shore" trips.</p> <p>Bridge guards still maintained. Intensive maintenance of LVT's and automatic weapons.</p> | |
| | | | 28 Jan | <p>"A" Company continues unloading of ships in Gulf transporting organizational equipment of newly arriving combat troops. They are also employed in ship to shore movement of ammunition, POL and rations. Several of the LVT's are deadlined for engine repair or replacement, welding hulls and replacing other vital parts such as rear idler and grousers.</p> <p>4 LVT's and 24 men guarding bridge across Agno river at Villasis. 4 LVT's and crew at Santa Barbara bridges.</p> | |
| | | | 29 Jan | <p>Company "A" continues unloading operations at White Beach. Loads being carried from the ships consist of ammunition, rations, POL, peeps, and various other materiel. They have 40 LVT's on the operation and nine other LVT's undergoing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd echelon maintenance.</p> <p>Battalion Headquarters and Headquarters and Service Company are still bivouaced near Blue Beach carrying on Administrative work.</p> <p>2 LVT's and 35 men sent out as patrol to drive out the enemy. Unable to knock out the Jap force which opened fire on our patrol from well concealed and covered positions. Received orders to withdraw and rejoin forces. Three Japs killed and two wounded. We suffered 2 casualties. Lt. Barr and T/5 Barnes received wounds from shell fragments.</p> | |

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727TH AMPHIBIAN TRACTOR BATTALION

From 30 January 1945

TO 1 February 1945

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| <u>TIME</u> | | <u>Serial No.</u> | <u>Time Dated</u> | <u>INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS</u> | <u>Action taken</u> |
|-------------|------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|-------------------------|
| <u>In</u> | <u>Out</u> | | | | |
| | | | 30 Jan | <p>"A" Company begins unloading much heavy engineer equipment needed on our supply line to Manila. Also, continue to unload ammunition, rations, POL, and other items. Battalion Maintenance engaged in giving 100 hour checks to LVT's not operating, and replacing and repairing engines, final drives etc.</p> <p>Lt. Durrell with approximately 16 men of the 3rd platoon Co "B" and 1 platoon from the 1st Infantry moved to the position of the enemy at Barangobong with 1 - 81 MM Mortar and 3 LVT's and fired on the enemy for 1½ hours with mortar, MG's and individual weapons.</p> | |
| | | | 31 Jan | <p>"A" Company still employed in ship to shore movement of heavy engineer equipment, rations and ammunition. Many of their LVT's in need of repair and maintenance are being worked on by both Battalion and Company Maintenance.</p> <p>"B" Company given the mission of posting security guards at 22 bridges in the area Santa Barbara, Urdaneta, Villasis, Rosales, Binalonan and Manaoag.</p> <p>400 Guerrillas attached to "B" Co under command of Capt. Schafer to work with "B" Co personnel in the security of the bridges and guarding Jap ammunition dump at Binalonan.</p> | |