

HISTORICAL REPORT
HEADQUARTERS COMPANY
632nd TANK DESTROYER BATTALION



11 October 1943 - - 11 February 1944

- 11 October 1943 - Headquarters Company, consisting of 1 Officer and 38 Enlisted Men left Camp Cable, Queensland for New Guinea at 2230L. Balance of company was transferred in grade to the line companies to operate as cargodore platoons as follows: 2 Officers and 22 Enlisted Men to Company A, 1 Officer and 27 Enlisted Men to Company B, 1 Officer and 64 Enlisted Men to Reconnaissance Company, 1 Officer placed on Special Duty with Company B.
- 12 October 1943 - Headquarters Company less R.C.T. components embarked on U.S.S. Warner at 0330L and sailed at 1100L from Brisbane, Queensland.
- 13 October- 14 October 1943 - At Sea and started Atabrine treatment of one tablet per day. Started 40 hours training program aboard ship.
- 15 October 1943 - Arrived in Port Townsville at 1900L. Stayed aboard ship except for a daily exercise hike on shore. Left Port Townsville at 1645L on 24 October 1943.
- 25 October - 31 October 1943 - Still at sea on U.S.S. Warner. Arrived at Goodenough Island at 1830L on 28 October 1943. Disembarked that evening moved to camp site. Balance of month spent in making camp.
- 1 November 1943 - Cleaning and construction work on camp area continued with no unusual occurrences. Company strength was 2 Officers and 40 Enlisted Men Messing with Company B, 632nd T.D. Bn.
- 6 November 1943 - 30 November 1943- Usual camp duties daily with no unusual occurrences. Slit trenches had been constructed and air raid sentinels posted starting the first of the month. Area was in good shape and company operating efficiently. Routine administrative duties were accomplished in lieu of training schedules. Company Strength at end of month was 3 Officers and 42 Enlisted Men.
- 1 December 1943 - 13 December 1943 - Usual camp duties during the period. On 3 December 1943 9 Enlisted Men transferred back to company from Company A. No unusual occurrences.
- 14 December 1943 - First air raid since we arrived at Goodenough Island. One bomb dropped but no damage or casualties. All clear sounded at 0215L.
- 15 December 1943 - Usual camp duties. One air alert on 20 December 1943 but no enemy action occurred.
- 24 December 1943 - Usual camp duties.
- 25 December 1943 - Christmas Day celebrated by all work ceasing and excellent turkey dinner served.
- 26 December 1943 - 31 December 1943 - Usual camp duties with no unusual occurrences one air alert in early morning on 26 December 1943. Company strength on 31 December 1943 was 4 Officers and 55 Enlisted Men with 3 Officers and 95 Enlisted Men on Detached Service and Special Duty as cargodore platoons with the letter companies.
- 1 January 1944 - 4 January 1944 - Usual camp duties with no unusual occurrences. On 4 January 1944 preparation for permanent change of station began.

5. January 1944 - Company broke camp and loaded on HMAS Westralia at 1900L. Enlisted Men quartered on hold # five.
- 6 January 1944 - 10 January 1944 - Sailed from port at 0600L bound for Finschhafen, New Guinea area. Arrived at Cape Cretin, New Guinea at 0800L on 7 January 1944 and moved directly to assigned camp site. Located on ocean in the jungle. Started to clear a camp immediately. Numerous red alerts each nite sometimes as many as five. Usually came late in the evening or in early morning.
- 10 January 1944 - 22 January 1944 - Usual camp duties. Numerous air alerts in the late evening and early morning but no enemy action.
- 23 January 1944 - Air alert at 2011L -- Several bombs dropped on beach 2 1/2 miles from company area. No casualties.
- 24 January 1944 - 31 January 1944 - Usual camp duties with no unusual occurrences. Still having numerous air alerts at night. Company strength on 31 January 1944 was 2 Officers and 38 Enlisted Men.
- 1 February 1944 - All Detached Service Enlisted Men and Officers with Reconnaissance Company returned to company bring company present for duty strength to 4 Officers and 86 Enlisted Men. Seven air alerts on this date.
- 2 February 1944 - 10 February 1944 - Usual camp duties with no unusual occurrences. Opened and began operating kitchen on 8 February 1944. A total of 17 air alerts during this period. Company strength on 10 February 1944 was 3 Officers and 92 Enlisted Men. Kitchen was serving 130 rations per day.

