

HEADQUARTERS
803d TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 305, U. S. Army

000

12 January 1944

SUBJECT: Battalion History.

TO : Commanding General, 29th Infantry Division, APO 29, U. S. Army.

1. In compliance with Daily Orders #1, Headquarters, 29th Infantry Division, A.P.O. 29, U. S. Army, dated 2 January 1944, the following history of organization is submitted:

BATTALION HISTORY

September 30, 1940 - The 103d Antitank Battalion was formed. The composing elements were, National Guard, Headquarters Troop B, 24th Cavalry, the oldest National Guard unit in the State of Washington, also designated the guard of honor for the state governor, and the 41st Tank Company of Centralia, Washington. *all authority*

The officers commanding were as follows:

Battalion Commander - - - Major C. W. Goodwin
Executive Officer - - - - Captain L. S. Stevens
Headquarters Company - - - Captain T. H. St. Clair
"A" Company - - - - - Captain L. J. Nelson
"B" Company - - - - - Captain J. L. Haire
"C" Company - - - - - Captain L. A. Convis

February 10, 1941 - The 103d Antitank Battalion was inducted into Federal Service at Tacoma, Washington. Battalion Headquarters and billets were set up at the Tacoma Armory.

February 22, 1941 - Unit moved to Fort Lewis, ^{S. Y. A. T. F.?} proper.

The Battalion Staff was composed of the following:

Commanding - - - Lt. Col. C. W. Goodwin
Executive - - - Capt. Lilburn H. Stevens
S-3 - - - - - Capt. W. J. Bryant
S-4 - - - - - 1st Lt. William H. Stewart
Adjutant - - - - Capt. Robert E. Vandenberg

Officers commanding Companies were:

Headquarters Company - - - Capt. T. H. St. Clair
"A" Company - - - - - Capt. L. J. Nelson
"B" Company - - - - - Capt. J. L. Haire
"C" Company - - - - - Capt. L. A. Convis

Original cadre of 103d Antitank Battalion was composed of three hundred enlisted men.

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April 1941 - Two hundred and fifty enlisted recruits came into the Battalion where they underwent twelve weeks of basic training, separate from Battalion training.

June 1941 (Three Weeks) - Battalion participated in 4th Army maneuvers in southwestern Washington.

October 1941 - Battalion moved from Fort Lewis to 41st Division cantonment area.

December 7, 1941 - The Battalion was alerted and moved into the field.

December 10, 1941 - Battalion assigned to patrol, with Headquarters at Naselle, Washington.

December 10 - 29, 1941 - Battalion patrolled coast from Columbia River north to Willapa Bay entrance.

December 12, 1941 - 103d Antitank Battalion was redesignated the 803d Tank Destroyer Battalion.

February 12, 1942 - Reconnaissance Company was formed. It was composed of a cadre, made up from all other companies.

February 22, 1942 - The Battalion moved to Fort Lewis proper where they were attached to the 4th Army.

March 1942 - The Battalion was designated Anti-Aircraft defense of the 41st Division cantonment.
The Battalion passed the IX Corps efficiency test, the first unit to pass in the initial try.

April 1942 - Battalion participated in a three day beach maneuver at Copalis Beach in conjunction with the 776th Tank Destroyer Battalion.

May 2 - 11, 1942 - Battalion took part in a nine day road march and maneuver from Fort Lewis to Roseburg, Oregon, to Bandon-by-the-Sea, Oregon, to Fort Lewis.

July 20, 1942 - The Battalion received the remainder of enlisted men necessary to bring the Battalion to its full strength.

July 26, 1942 - 803d Tank Destroyer Battalion moved by rail from Fort Lewis.

August 1, 1942 - The Battalion arrived at Camp Hood, Texas. The unit arrived at Cooperas Cove, bivouaced on Camp Hood Reservation.

September 14, 1942 - Took part in opening day exercises at Camp Hood. A demonstration platoon under the leadership of Lt. George Leary, demonstrated the platoon action in a fire fight. The first car, armored light - M-8, was displayed at this time.

November 1942 - Unit moved to Camp Hood proper.

- December 1942 - The Battalion successfully passed the advanced Unit Training Center proficiency tests at Camp Hood.
The Battalion received the first of their new weapons - the M-10 Tank Destroyer.
- December 2, 1942 - Captain T. H. St. Clair was promoted to Major and became the Battalion Executive Officer.
- December 23, 1942 - The Battalion left Camp Hood by rail.
- December 27, 1942 - Unit arrived at Fort Dix, New Jersey, overseas Staging Area.
- December to March 1943 - Battalion remained at Fort Dix and carried on an intensive program, in Infantry tactics, rifle and small arms firing, and a general all round conditioning program.
- March 1943 - The Battalion moved to Pine Camp, New York.
- April to June 1943 - The unit carried out an extensive schedule of training with their new weapons and vehicles.
- June 1943 - The Battalion was alerted and moved to the overseas staging area at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey.
The Battalion, with 346 Enlisted men and 37 Officers, left the United States, aboard the ship, Queen Mary.
Aboard ship our Battalion was designated as the security unit and also the messing unit. Favorable comment was received for the excellent manner which the Battalion handled their assignments.
- June 29, 1943 - Arrived at Groneck, Scotland.
- July 1, 1943 - Battalion moved from Groneck, Scotland to Chiseldon, Wilts, England, by rail.
- July 2, 1943 - Battalion was assigned to V Corps.
- September 1943 - Battalion moved to Kemmeridge Range where an intensive schedule of firing - 3 in. guns - was carried out.
- September 13, 1943 - Battalion moved from Chiseldon, Wilts, to new camp site at Barnstaple, Devon.
- September 16, 1943 - Battalion attached to 29th Infantry Division.
- September 23, 1943 - Battalion had road march to St. Agnes Range, Cornwall.
- September 23 - 30, 1943 - Battalion carried on an extensive program of anti-aircraft firing.
- September 27, 1943 - Selected group of gun crews road marched from St. Agnes to Barnstaple to Kemmeridge Range to Barnstaple, where 3 in. firing was undertaken.

October 15, 1943 - Element of Battalion (one platoon) took part in amphibious operations, at the assault training center, under the leadership of 1st Lt. Jack R. Kruizenega.

November 19, 1943 - Battalion was assigned to First Army, attached to V Corps, and further attached to the 29th Infantry Division.

For the Commanding Officer:



Nick Chapin
NICK (P.M.) CHAPIN
1ST LT., TDF.,
Historical Officer.