

STATION: Fort McClellan, Alabama

Tank Destroyer Battalion organized under Table of Organization 18/15, 18/16, 18/17, 18/18 dated 24 December 1941.

FEBRUARY 13, 1942

STATION: Fort McClellan, Alabama

Battalion alerted for Tropical Foreign Service. New Officers arriving into the battalion from Sixth Corps Area, and battalion being brought up to authorized strength by personnel from the 33rd Infantry Division, Camp Forrest, Tennessee.

All heavy inyediwierta vehicles and guns loaded and caulked up on flat cars for shipment. Guards stationed on all cars and baggage car prepared for use as a kitchen. Two sections used by the personnel and freight train not attached to train with personnel (except for Guard).

Companies A, B, C, on one section with Capt. Pilbeam train Commander, taking the inland route, Hq. Company, Pioneer Company and Staff Officers, with Capt Burrell train commander taking the Coast or Gulf line.

Capt. Burrell's serial left Ft. McClellan yards at 2:30 P.M. with Capt. Pilbeam section moving out at 4:00 P.M. Personnel of both trains were riding in Pullman Day coaches, 2 men to a lower berth and one man to a upper.

Meals were brought to the men and morale was very good. Sick call was conducted on both trains as one medical officer and 5 men were attached with train no. 2 (Capt. Pilbeam). Lt. Moskowitz was Medical officer on train 2, while Lt. Long was on train 1, with remainder of medical detachment.

Halts were made every day for exercise of the entire personnel in both trains. Nothing unusual happened in either train.

Camp San Luis Obispo, California reached after 4 days travel by train, morale of troops very good. Both serials unloaded in Camp San Luis Obispo, railroad yards, in a light drizzle. Battalion marched to its new area, which was an approximate 1/4 mile away and billeted in tents, heated by oil stoves.

FEBRUARY 1942

Station: Fort McClellan, Alabama

Pursuant to Secret Orders from War Department, Adjutant General; Battalion ordered to Tropical Foreign Service, Battalion departed via railroad in 2 sections February 17, 1942 for assembly area, Camp San Luis Obispo, California

FEBRUARY 21, 1942

STATION: Camp San Luis Obispo, California

Approximately 9:00 AM, 1st Serial of 627th Tank Destroyer Battalion arrived in Camp San Luis Obispo, California after a uneventful 4 day trip. Second serial arrived at 11:00 AM. Permanent change of Station from Fort McClellan, Alabama, and a staging area fro Tropical Foreign Service.

Baggage and Kitchen equipment unloaded from trains and delivered by trucks from Commanding Officer, Camp San Luis Obispo to our area.

Kitchens and tent areas were assigned, day rooms used by Battalion as Supply rooms, with organizations doubling up. Tents were placed on frames, area very muddy and duckboard were already installed between tents, mess halls and latrines. Minor repairs to duckboards were made.

Steel cots and mattresses were distributed, supply and mess halls established and an Adjutant Office was organized from one of the Day rooms.

Excellent kitchens and Mess Halls and glassware was used by the Battalion. Morale excellent at this event. Personnel from 33rd Division had always eaten from glassware, but personnel from 27th Inf. Div. (Ft. McClellan, Ala.) had never been issued glassware for use in its mess halls.

MARCH 1942

STATION: Camp San Luis Obispo, California

OFFICERS:

ENLISTED MEN:

MARCH 30, 1942

Ordered to move to East Garrison, Fort Ord, California, Travel performed by motor vehicles. Distance approximately 150 miles, time 6 hours.

MARCH 30, 1942

STATION: Fort Ord, California

Battalion moved by its own vehicles to East Garrison, Fort Ord, Calif.

Battalion formed in its area and cleared Camp San Luis Obispo, at 1100 with Lt. Col. Alt heading the convoy. Motorcycle escort by the state Highway Department (state troopers) of 3 motorcyclist. Speed maintained at 25 MPH.

At 0830, a tent in Headquarters Company area, started on fire by an explosion of the oil stove. Two men were severely burned, Pvt. Gerics and Borowiak and the tent entirely destroyed. Tent frame did not burn. Lt Tracy removed Gerics from burning tent, by crashing through the rear. Lt. Tracy's clothes were burned and he received minor burns. Both Gerics and Borowiak were hospitalized for 6 weeks.

Convoy moved out under command of each company commander and state troopers, reported very good convoy interval between all vehicles and company. A half hour stop was made for lunch and one relief and one change of drivers stop was made.

Battalion moved into outskirts of Salinas where they were re-routed to East Garrison, where the advance party under Lt. _____ guided the battalion to its area.

A battalion adjutant office was established and each company assigned its tent area and also the gun and motor park area. All tents in battalion heated by natural gas.

Battalion receiving new motor equipment and 2 half tracks, motorcycles and 4½ ton wrecker Diamond T.

Battalion practised alert and dispersal 6 times. Motorcyclist breaking in new cycles.

Ford Ord California (1)

March 30, 1942

Battalion moved by its own vehicles to East Garrison, Fort Ord, Calif.

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APRIL 1942

STATION: East Garrison, Fort Ord, California

Officers
Enlisted Men

MAY 1942

STATION: East Garrison, Fort Ord, California

OFFICERS
ENLISTED MEN

MAY 4, 1942

STATION: East Garrison, Fort Ord, California

Private Junior O. Curtis, 20723776, Company "B", 627th Tank Destroyer Battalion accidentally shot and killed at about 1555 in the Fort Ord Stockade No. 1, while awaiting guard mount, relieving the Battalion Guard of its Tour of Duty.

Revolver in the hand of Pvt. Chris Kempf, 36026751, Co. "B" a very close friend of Curtis. Remains of Curtis shipped to his home. Pvt Kempf placed in arrest at Stockade. Battalion was ordered to change of station and Chris Kempf was left in Fort Ord, to await trial. He was found not guilty and reassigned to another unit.

HEADQUARTERS VII ARMY CORPS
APO 307
San Jose, California

May 23, 1942

MEMORANDUM)

NO....29..)

It is directed that the following form be completed and returned to this headquarters without delay:

Unit 627th Tank Destroyer Battalion (light)

Present Station East Garrison, Fort Ord, California

Movement

Authority: Par. # 2, Order # 38, HqNCS &VIIAC, date March 29, 1942

Present Permanent Station Camp San Luis Obispo, California

Movement

Authority: Par. # 1, A Order # 6 HQ FT McClell, date Feb. 13, 1942

Date of Activation December 16, 1941

General

Authority: Par. # 1, Order # 56, Hq27th Inf.Diy, date Dec. 14, 1941

By command of Major General RICHARDSON:

JOHN R. HODGE,
Colonel, G.S.C.,
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

NORRIS A. WIMBERLEY
Colonel, A. G. D.,
Adjutant General.

JUNE 1942

STATION: East Garrison, Fort Ord, California.

Preparing for movement to Embarkation Point San Francisco, California.

Movement performed by Motor Vehicle for equipment and railroad Pullman Cars for personnel.

Time for Train Movement: 2 hours.

JUNE 2, 1942

STATION: Bay View Race Track (Bayshore Kennel Club)

Battalion was transported by motor vehicles and train from East Garrison Fort Ord, California to Bay Shore Round House, San Francisco, California (approximately 3 hrs trip). Motor vehicles were left at Oakland and drivers transported to our billet area, remainder of Battalion on train disembarked from Pullman cars, placed barrack bag "A" in Baggage Truck and marched to the "Cow Palace and Bay Shore Kennel Club", Staging Area a distance of approximately one mile. A verbal commendation was given to Lt. Col. Alt. "The Best Marching Outfit that has ever been in the Staging Area."

A reveille and retreat formation was held each and every day. Inspections of personal items and T/BA equipment and requisitions for same were completed.

Passes inaugurated after 1 week of restriction. Entire Battalion housed in the area in pyramidal tents. Entire Battalion was fed in one large Mess Hall, to which we furnished Mess Sergeant, Cooks, and bakers, Kitchen Police and various other details. Battalion was ordered to furnish extra details for casual organizations and officers mess.

Training for Battalion, close order drills, first aid school, and gas schools.

Battalion was entertained by USO shows in the Cow Palace, almost every other night. Various theatrical and movie stars and entertainers were on the program. Movies shown free every other night.

JUNE 22, 1942

Orders received from Commanding Officer, Port of Embarkation, that Battalion is to move to Tropical Service.

Transportation of personnel and both A & B barrack bags was accomplished by trucks from transportation officer, Port of San Francisco.

Battalion received partial payment of \$10.00 per man prior to entrucking.

Battalion was cleared by Major Pohlson by paying four dollars for broken windows in Green House who was cleared by Major Williams of the Bay Shore Kennel Club. (Army Transportation Representative).

Battalion was entrucked at 11:00 AM and transported to Port of Oakland where at 2:00 PM Battalion was loaded into Army Transport, S.S. President Johnson. Battalion was almost last of its passengers to board vessel. Lt. Col. Alt was appointed Comdg. Officer of the Troops. Major Woods, who was already on board vessel and appointed Executive of Troops, Capt Baker was appointed Adjutant, Lt. Rosenber, Mess Officer with Lts. Ford & Chitwood assistant. Lt. Slyker aptd Personnel Officer, M/Sgt Malczos aptd Sgt. Major of the Boat. Lt. Tracy aptd casual officer in charge of approximately 700 enlisted men arriving in the Hawaiian as casual.

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S. S. President Johnson left the Oakland pair at approximately 4:00 P.M. and dropped anchor in the harbor. On June 23 at approximately 3:00 P.M. anchor was hoisted and S. S. President Johnson cleared the channel and mine fields at approximately 5:00 P.M.

A ships guard of 70 posts was established. Details were arranged and routine affairs established.

Fire drills and abandon ship drills, policing and inspections were conducted daily. First day, the messing of the troop personnel took a considerable amount of time, until a system inaugurated by Lts. Rosenber, Ford & Chitwood cleared the messing problem by 3 hrs. Originally messing took 7 hrs, but with the mess line progressing from both sides of the galley, the time involved was only 3 hrs.

2 prisoners on board boat, one of which was sentenced on board vessel, chipped the rust from the ships decks and engine house, in addition to 20 men usual chipping detail.

Ships policing, garbage, kitchen police and ships guard, details were alternated between the entire ship's personnel. Machine Guns were tested each day and gun crews slept along side of gun on deck.

Sick call was conducted by Ships doctor and Battalion Medical Officers, Capt. Burroughs and Lt. Long assisting. Minor cuts and bruises treated, a few cases of yellow Jaundice and high fever, also skin disease. No serious cases were treated or discovered. Yellow Jaundice cases were very few.

Trip was completed in 9 days, with no unusual occurrences or disturbances. Escort of convoy were two destroyers. Convoy consisted of 6 boats, 2 of which were Navy Auxilliary Supply ships, carrying tanks and planes.

S. S. Johnson and other ships of Convoy plus destroyers entered Mine field at 0730, 2 July 1942 and S. S. Johnson docked at Pier 19 and unloaded from 2 gangplanks at 0900. Personnel of entire boat was checked by Medical Officers at pier for yellow Jaundice or other skin diseases. 31 men were hospitalized.

Distance covered by S. S. Johnson; App. 2000 miles.

Major General Ralph T. Pennell, commanding General of the 27th Division met Lt. Col. Walter F. Alt at the pier.

JULY 1942

STATION:

Arrived at Pier 19 Honolulu, T. H. July 2, 1942. Disembarked from S.S. President Johnson at 1000, 31 men were hospitalized for yellow Jaundice. Loaded personnel (26), two barracks bags & arms in box cars on siding next to warehouse. Officers transported in bus to Schofield Barracks. Personnel and baggage unloaded in Schofield Barracks, after 20 miles travel in box cars near Schofield Post Theatre., where 4th Tank Group Headquarters had 2½ ton vehicles available for transportation of the Battalion to Wahiawa Evacuation Area.

Battalion billeted in Wood Fram Building or Cabins, 15 men to a building. Company Officers sleeping in building near each respective Company. Battalion Staff Officers building next door to Adjutant Office.

Latrine and shower facilities very good but not adequate for number of personnel in area. Battalion Gun park and motor pool established with all vehicles dispersed. Battalion Guard Posted and blackout regulations enforced.

A battalion controlled theatre convoy of 3, 2½ ton vehicles dispatched each evening for personnel to attend "Quarantine Theatre" in the 4th Tank Group Area.

Battalion was in "Quarantine for 15 days.

JULY 1942

STATION: Wahiawa Evacuation Area, East Garrison of Schofield Barracks.

Arrived in the Hawaiian Department July 2, 1942.

Billeted in the Wahiawa Evacuation Area, the East Garrison of Schofield Barracks.

Assigned to Hawaiian Department, attached as Reserve Troops to the Department, with operating area designated as Schofield with combat missions as its duty. One hour time allotted for assembly after notification.

AUTHORITY: Secret Operation Memorandum Number 149, Headquarters Hawaiian Department, Forward Echelon dated 11 July 1942 subject: Assignment of Non-Divisional Units as Combat Reserves.

OFFICERS
ENLISTED MEN

AUGUST 1942

STATION: Wahiawa Evacuation Area, East Garrison of Schofield Barracks,
T. H.

Departed via Boat from Island of Oahu, and Schofield Barracks August
14, 1942 pursuant to authority from H.H.D.

OFFICERS
ENLISTED MEN

AUGUST 1942

STATION: Schofield Barracks

Pursuant to paragraph 2 of Secret Letter from Headquarters Hawaiian Department, Fort Shafter, T. H. subject: Assignment and Transfer of Units to and between the outlying Districts, dated 7 August 1942. "The 627th Tank Destroyer Battalion relieved from present assignment and assigned to the Hawaii District for station and attached to the 27th Infantry Division for duty and administration."

By command of Lieutenant General EMMONS:

/s/ Leonard R. Boyd
LEONARD R. BOYD
Brigadier General, GSC
Chief of Staff

Baggage and heavy impedimenta placed into Battalion Vehicles and forwarded to pier No. 5 & 14. All battalion vehicles loaded and brought into piers No. 5 & 14, for shipment to Hawaii.

AUGUST 13, 1942

Captain Baker and 9 enlisted personnel left by plane as advance detail at 0930.

Non-Comm in charge and 10 pvts embarked via boat to meet Airplane detail and coordinate their activities as advance detail. Boat detail left Battalion area at 0800, 9 August 1942.

AUGUST 10, 1942

At approximately 1400, August 10, 1942 a series of 3 explosions occurred at the ammunition dump directly in rear of our Battalion Motor Park.

Battalion vehicles removed from Motor Park area after 1st blast. Battalion personnel was all called out to fight grass fire, result of explosion. Capt Burroughs directed the evacuation of injured personnel of the Ordnance. Another series of 2 explosions occurred at 1430, Origin of the explosion unknown, land mines of the personnel type were the ones that exploded. Damage to the Battalion Vehicles, mostly in windshield and canvass, were the direct results of the explosion. Civilian homes and stores in neighboring towns were damaged. Large plate windows and French doors in various buildings were destroyed.

AUGUST 14, 1942

Battalion left Wahiawa Evacuation area prior to 100, transportation furnished by Transportation Office, Honolulu, T. H. A & B barrack bags and personnel mounted in 2½ ton vehicles. Arrived at Pier 5 & 14, Honolulu, TH
(over) cont'd

at 1200. Dismounted and with baggage, formed three ranks for loading into Inter Island boats. Headquarters Company and Staff Officers, B & C Company's and 1/2 of Med Detachment and Officer boarded, S.S. Waialeale on pier 5. Officers quartered in cabins, and all non commissioned officers quartered in cabins, remainder in hold and on deck. Deck and hold of vessel being occupied by material of the battalion.

Pioneer and "A" Company plus remainder of Medical Detachment boarded SS Haleahala on pier 14 at 1430. Officers and non-coms quartered in cabins, remainder of personnel quartered in hold and on deck. Battalion's Heavy Baggage and impedimenta on board vessel.

Morning meal and bag lunch issued to all personnel. Evening meal and breakfast was eaten on board vessel. Trip uneventful and ocean calm. Ships guard posted during night. Ships docked at pier No. 1 and Pioneer and A at Pier No. 3, Hilo Hawaii at 0730 August 15, 1942.

Battalion unloaded from ships at 0800 and awaited orders to mount into convoy of 2½ ton vehicles furnished by the Hilo Transportation Off. Lt. Col. Alt met Lt. Col. Ellis, Major Fretts and other Officers from the 106th Field Artillery.

Battalion was crowded into 2½ ton vehicles 18 per LWB and baggage at 0930 and proceeded to our billet area. Arrived at South Point 1430. Entire Battalion billet in warehouses, Billets and store rooms.

B & C Companies billeted in 2 story frame barracks. A Company, garage and warehouse - Pioneer Company, warehouse and store room. Hq & Hq Co. warehouse, Office, Building & storeroom..

Weather very warm and dusty. Breeze from Easterly direction brought about usual heavy dust.

Battalion took over the interior guard, canteen service and theatre. A special service officer was appointed, 2nd Lt. James C. Nora.

Catholic Church Services were established in the theatre each Sunday morning at 0630 by a priest from Naalehu. No Protestant Chaplain available so no Protestant services were held.

Battalion entered the South Point, Softball league, which played at Naalehu. Company "B" was undefeated in the league at the time of movement order to another part of Hawaii.

SEPTEMBER 1942

STATION: South Point, Island of Hawaii

OFFICERS
ENLISTED MEN

OCTOBER 1942

STATION: South Point, Hawaii, T. H.

Pursuant to orders from Headquarters Hawaii District, Battalion
ordered to move to Hilo Airport, Hilo, T. H.

"A" Company located at Papaikoa.

OFFICERS
ENLISTED MEN

OCTOBER 1942

STATION: South Point

Pursuant to Paragraph 1, Secbet letter Headquarters Hawaii District Kilauea Military Camp, Hawaii, T. H., dated 17 October 1942 subject: Movement Orders, the 627th Tank Destroyer Battalion (relieved from District Reserve and attached to Eastern Sector (Field Message No. 18 same Headquarters) attached to Eastern Sector, will move by motor 19 October 1942 from its present billet area to billets in the vicinity of Hilo Airport. This movement will be completed by 2400, 19 October 42.

By command of Major General Pennell:

JOHN H. F. HASKELL,
Colonel, G.S.C.
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

/s/Dayton L. Robinson
DAYTON L. ROBINSON
Lt. Col., G.S.C.,
AC of S, G-3

Battalion moved from Barracks and billets at Morse Field at 0600, commencing with Staff, A, B, (less 75mm guns mounted on half tracks), Headquarters (less Battalion Maintenance) C and B half tracks and Battalion Maintenance, bringing up the rear. Entire area cleared at approximately 0900. Supply Sergeants and a guard was left in each company's supply room, as tentage and bulky materials were not transported at the time the personnel was transferred to Hilo Airport.

Arrived at Hilo Airport without incident, all vehicles arrived safe. Battalion split on two ends of Field with B and Pioneer occupying East End of runway and C and Hq & Med occupying the West End of runway with "A" Company occupying a C.P. at Papaikoa, Hawaii and Papalooa. All companies are on outpost duty and beach patrol.

22 OCTOBER 1942

STATION: Hilo Airport, T. H.

Battalion was ordered by G-4, 27th Inf. Div. to supply a loading detail of 15 men reporting on Pier 3 on 2nd and then a subsequent order came through to supply a detail of 30 men and 1 officer for loading detail on the 23d and 24th. Detail originally estimated to be completed by 1600 was not completed until 2200 necessitating replacing the original detail at 1700 for meal and rest.

24 OCTOBER 1942

Battalion was ordered by G-4, 27th Inf. Div. to supply loading detail of 55 men and 1 officer to pier NO. 1.

25 OCTOBER 1942

Battalion ordered to have 55 men and 1 officer on Pier No. 1.

26 OCTOBER 1942

Battalion ordered to transfer 31 specialist and 1 officer to 25th Division by Headquarters Hawaiian Department. 2d Lt. Elmore Bostwick, Jr., 0407491.

27 OCTOBER 1942

Battalion is doing outpost and beach patrol duty. One platoon, under Lt. Martin of "B" occupying English Guns at Kamuela, Hawaii. (Hawi)

28 OCTOBER 1942

Unconfirmed reports of this battalion having been released from assignment and duty with 27th Inf. Div. and assigned to Hawaii Service Command. (see 4 Nov. 42).

Battalion ordered to have 10 man loading detail and 40 drivers available for return of vehicles used by organizations leaving, detail to report 31 October 1942.

Lt. Col. Fitzgerald requested authority from Commanding General, Hawaii District, Hilo, Hawaii, T. H. to organize the battalion on:

T/O 18-25 Tank Destroyer Battalion and Medical Detachment.

T/O 18-26 Headquarters and Headquarters Company

T/O 18-27 Company's "A", "B", "C"

T/O 18-28 Reconnaissance Company

all dated 8 June 1942.

27th Infantry Division moved off the Island. Major General McT. Pennell left by boat at 1130 31 October 1942.

NOVEMBER 1942

STATION: Hilo Airport, Hilo, Hawaii, T. H.

OFFICERS
ENLISTED MEN

NOVEMBER 2, 1942

STATION: Hilo Airport, Hilo, Hawaii, T. H.

Received a letter from Headquarters Hawaii District, Kilauea Military Camp, Office of the Commanding General, Hawaii, T. H., dated 28 October 1942 and addressed to Commanding Officer, 627th Tank Destroyer Battalion, a letter of appreciation to Commanding Officer and Battalion, signed by

RALPH McT PENNELL,
Major General, USA
Commanding

(Copy attached in book)

NOVEMBER 3, 1942

Pursuant to VCGG Hawaii District (Brigadier General, AUS, HERBERT D. GIBSON, per General Orders #49, Headquarters Hawaii District, dated 31 October 1942) Companies of the battalion have been attached 160th Infantry for duty in various sectors.

a. "A" Company ordered to move from outpost duty at Papaikou, and proceeding to Naalehu (less 1st platoon) and 2d reconnaissance platoon (less one section) of Pioneer Company attached, reporting upon arrival to Commanding Officer, Company "G", 160th Infantry for duty in Kau Sector.

b. 1st Platoon of Company "A", with one section of 2d Reconnaissance platoon, Pioneer Company attached will proceed to Kealakekua, reporting to Commanding Officer, Company "F", 160th Infantry for duty in Kona Sector.

c. "B" Company (less detail at Hawi) with 3d Reconnaissance Platoon, Pioneer Company attached will proceed to Kukui reporting to Commanding Officer, 3d Battalion, 160th Infantry for duty in District Reserve.

Movements to be completed by 1800, 4 November 1942. Headquarters Company to furnish 2½ ton vehicles for movement of supplies.

"A" Company will draw rations, ice, gasoline and oil through units to which attached for duty.

NOVEMBER 4, 1942

Pursuant to Secret, General Orders #171, Headquarters Hawaiian Department, 30 October 1942, Fort Shafter, T. H. paragraph 2, Subject:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>RELIEVED FROM</u>	<u>ATTACHED TO</u>
627th Tank Destroyer Bn.	27th Infantry Division and station at Hawaii	40th Infantry Division with Station at Hawaii.

010001 Nov.

OFFICIAL:

/s/

R. E. FRAILE
Colonel, AGD
Adjutant General

By command of Lt. General EMMONS:

/s/

LEONARD R. BOYD
Brigadier General, GSC
Chief of

(over)

NOVEMBER 6, 1942

Battalion ordered to pick up 7 additional GMC 6 x 6 cargo bodies. Battalion Maintenance selected 7 from the entire 100 vehicles in various stages of collision, motor failures, etc.

NOVEMBER 7, 1942

Battalion examination for Non-Commissioned Officers conducted in the AM & PM. A total of 50 enlisted men participated in the examination. Major Daniels, Executive Officer of the Battalion in charge and Captain Ambler, S-3 second in charge, with Lts. Morton, Ford, Phelps and Captain Eckert. Morning was spent in written examinations and the afternoon in close order drill and practical experiences with 30 cal. rifles, 45 cal. pistol, 37mm Anti-Tank Guns, mines and demolitions.

Battalion entertained by group #4 from the Hilo, USO. Old Hawaiian Hula Dances and songs, alternating with Modern Hulo Dances and English words. Entertainment very good and entertainers feted by Hq & "C" Company Mess. Mess for the occasion, pressed ham loaf, beans, creamed carrots, bread and butter or apple butter, coffee or water. Entertainment for 1 hour. Very good morale booster.

Battalion's representative for Cockeyed Mayor of Kaunakakai, officially declared the winner, by the Hilo Tribune, who sponsored the campaign. The candidate and official winner of Cockeyed Mayor of Kaunakakai is Technician Grade V Raymond G. Jensen, 36025905, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company. A resident of Maywood, Illinois.

NOVEMBER 27, 1942

Accidental death, due to Motor Vehicle Accident at South Point. Pvt. Jack H. Garmon, 36051489 Company "A" and Pvt Robert T. Burns, 36022999, Company "A" due to injuries sustained in accident. The records of Pvt. Gramon gave Religion Preference as Catholic, whereas investigation throughout Company seem to classify him as Catholic. No identification tags on Garmon. Both bodies placed in mortuary of Homelani Undertakers Ltd., Waiianuenue Ave., Hilo, T. H. Chaplain officiating at Funeral Services was Father Thomas A. Hizney, 0428157, Naticocket, Penn., 96th Coast Artillery. 12 pallbearers from "A" Company, Firing Squad of 12 men from battalion under Lt. Ancker from "A" Company. Weapon Carriers used as hearse's, services started from Mortuary marching to the Church, Catholic Mass, celebrated by Father Hizney at St. Joseph's Church, Hilo, T. H. After the mass, procession led by band, to the cemetery, Homelani United States Military Cemetery Grave 16 for Pvt. Gorman and Grave 17 for Pvt. Burns.

from 96. CA composed of 15 players.

~~_____~~

Participants in the Services: Capt. William L. Beachly, Company Commander; Lt. Col. Maurice J. Fitzgerald; Battalion Commander; Major Carl I Pohlson and Major Leonard P. Daniels, 1st Lt. James R. David, 1st Lt. Clinton J. Ancker, M/Sgt Edward L. Malczos, a platoon of "A", under Sgt. Daniel A. Colleli, three ladies from American Legion, Hilo Chapter.

DECEMBER 1, 1942

STATION: Hilo Airport, Hilo, Hawaii, T. H.

Billeted in the Puuimaile Home. Headquarters and "A" Companies less one platoon at Pahoa.

"B" Company billeted at Olaa, T. H.

"C" Company changed billet areas with Company "A" and now located at.

"Pi" Company, 1 platoon at Hilo Airport area., 1 platoon with "B" Sugar Mill at Olaa. 1 Platoon with Co. "C"; 1 section Waianu, and 1 section School House at Kaleakóhu.

DECEMBER 3, 1942

Practice dispersal to area North of Hilo.

December 4, 1942

ENTIRE Island of Hawaii alerted by order of Comdg. General, guards doubled at all beach positions and Airport area.

0800 practice gas alarm order of Lt. Col. Fitzgerald.

DECEMBER 5, 1942

Afternoon free time pursuant to Hawaii District War Preparation Cir.

DECEMBER 6, 1942

Rain in AM - Battalion still alerted - Church Services attendance permitted, Battalion Control.

PM devoted to obstacle course and jungle training. All officers and Enlisted Men participated.

DECEMBER 7, 1942

Alert rescinded at 1600, USO Dance and 10% of command permitted on pass to attend. Officers Party in Officers Barracks.

(over)

DECEMBER 14, 1942

Battalion out on a problem in the Kau Desert. Battalion moved at 0700 arrived in Kau Desert at 1030, began firing at 1100 of 50 cal. machine guns from Half Tract and 6x6. Dinner was served in the field at 1300 and 1330. Returned to Range after dinner and all 30 calibre type weapons fired. Every man present fired at minimum of 15 rounds. Battalion cleared and policed the area at 1700 and 1730 returned to assembly area, where supper was served. At 1900 Battalion was ordered to proceed with blackout lights to camp, vehicle speed 15 MPH, distance between vehicles 25 yards, 5 minutes between companies. Battalion Commanders Party, Headquarters, "A" Pioneer in column.

Rain showers encountered on trip into Hilo Billet area, no accidents on way. Battalion arrived in Billet area at approximately 2130, mileage 40 miles.

DECEMBER 15, 1942

1 year anniversary of organizing 627th Tank Destroyer Battalion. 7 Officers still in Battalion from original. A letter from Lt. Col. WALTER F. ALT, former Battalion Commander to Commanding Officer, officer and enlisted men 627th Tank Destroyer Battalion is enclosed (or reproduced.)

DECEMBER 17, 1942

Battalion using 160th Infantry "Boarding Net and Platform for disembarking troops, practice Beach landings.

DECEMBER 18, 1942

Hilo Sector Alert commencing at 0001. Battalion was not required to move from area on orders from Sector. Lt. Col. Fitzgerald ordered a battalion alert with plan No. 3, at 0900. Ban Commander not satisfied with performance of alert and movement of organizations.

At 0905 during the Practice Alert, a gas alarm attack was sounded during which time the Battalion Commander ordered the movement of plan No. 3.

At 1105 another Battalion alert was sounded, organizations moved to assembly area, rear of "Hilo Dump". Battalion Commander and Executive attacked Bridge Head at _____ and _____ streets. Battalion Commander a frontal attack and Battalion Executive a rear attack after a 7 minutes delay from a given time.

At 1400 another Battalion Alert was sounded and Plan No. 3 was put into action. Battalion moved to Assembly area, Battalion Commanders party from Assembly area to Olaa and Mt. View, through the Main highway and then started to return through the cane fields of Olaa Sugar Property. Battalion Commander Party returned to Hilo Airport at 1630 Sector alert called off at 1700.

DECEMBER 21, 1942

Battalion problem in Kau Desert. Battalion Commander sick in hospital Major Daniels acting Battalion Commander.

Demonstration by actual firing of rifle grenade and hand grenades. Good results sustained, lack of better firing and accuracy due to poor aiming. Hand grenade demonstration of bursts only.

Firing of 37mm Anti-Tank guns of Co. "A", firing 30 cal. rifles and machine guns good. Very good target shooting on both 37mm and 30mm guns. Return to camp in blackout at 2030. Bag lunches for dinner, very good hot meal for supper. Light rain on return trip.

DECEMBER 25, 1942

Orders from District to curtail training schedule for the entire day, no change in passes. A christmas tree with lights and mess halls decorated. Turkey with all the trimmings, Hq. Co. gave a present to each man of a carton of cigarettes, shaving cream, tooth powder. A theatre party to Hilo Theatre granted. Rain in the evening, very hard. Church services held in Hilo and personnel wishing to attend granted permission and transportation. A solemn High Mass by Fr. Cozalas, from 96th C.A., celebrated at St. Joseph's Church, approximately 50 men from A, Hq, and Pioneer attended these services. Protestant and Jewish services in Hilo.

DECEMBER 27, 1942.

Church Services in Hilo, T. H. Usual drill schedule in PM, NCO and Officers meeting, lecture by Capt. Ambler, Lt. Hedelund and Capt. Burroughs. 14 men from Hq and A, firing squad and Buler attending the funeral Services of Lt. deceased in plane crash, given a 30 minute ride in an Army seaplane.

HEADQUARTERS HAWAII DISTRICT
Office of the Representative of the Military Governor
of the Territory of Hawaii
Federal Building, Hilo
Hawaii, T. H.

14 December 1942

Commanding Officer, Officers
and Enlisted Men,
627th Tank Destroyer Bn.

Dear Sirs:

It gives me much pleasure to congratulate the 627th Tank Destroyer Battalion on its first anniversary. Some of you will recall the events and hectic days about the middle of December, 1941, at Fort McClellan in the midst of which the 627th Tank Destroyer Battalion was born.

Its path through the first year was strewn with obstacles all of which were overcome in a manner always worthy of commendation. The sincere devotion to duty and cooperation of each officer and enlisted man made these accomplishments possible.

A review of what transpired during the first year of life of the 627th Tank Destroyer Battalion would read like a fantastic tale but I am sure would inspire a deep pride and excellent spirit in each member and earn the appreciation and praise of those acquainted with it.

May I, in closing, again offer my sincere congratulations on the celebration of your first anniversary and also express my confidence that you will go on to a more distinguished record in the future.

Very sincerely,

WALTER F. ALT
Lt. Col. FA

WFA:mk