

218

HEADQUARTERS  
627th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
SCHOFIELD BARRACKS

BATTALION JOURNAL - 1944

1 Jan 44

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Outpost and Guard Duty - Hq, B and C Cos - Hilo Sector, Island of Hawaii - Lt. Col. Fitzgerald in command of Hilo Sector.--  
A Co - Kona, Kau, Kohala Sectors - Captain Ancker in tactical command.

16 Jan 44

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Offshore firing - Hawaiian Rifles - 6 lb Naval guns - under supervision of officers this Battalion.

28 Jan 44

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Elements of Battalion stationed in Hilo Sector receive alert call 0632. Battalion (minus A Co) alerted, positions manned, ready for combat. Inspected by Lt. Col. Place, S-3, District.

2 Feb 44

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Lt. Col. Place, District S-3, inspects Hq and Hqs Company Area. Entire Area and Billets excellent.

6 Feb 44

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Offshore firing - Hawaiian Rifles - 6 lb Naval Guns - under supervision of officers this Battalion.

11 - 14 Feb 44

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A Company relieved from missions in Kona, Kau, Kohala Sectors by B Company.

19 Feb 44

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All units of Battalion released from present tactical missions on Island of Hawaii.-- Battalion (minus B Company) prepares to leave Island of Hawaii; B Company to follow later.-- B Company assigned to tactical missions, Island of Hawaii; CO, Company B, in tactical command.

20 - 21 Feb 44  
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Hq and Hqs Company, C Company and elements of Medical Detachment move from stations at Island of Hawaii to Oahu.-- Col. Muller, District Commander, Island of Hawaii, expressed his appreciation for the services rendered by this Battalion while stationed on Island of Hawaii.- Leave Hilo Harbor 1550 20 Feb 44 on SS Waialeale. Arrive Honolulu Harbor 0815 21 Feb 44.--

3" Guns (M1 - towed) and prime movers left on Island of Hawaii - M-10s formerly assigned to the Battalion shipped to Oahu in preparation for authorized change in T/E to self-propelled 3" guns. Elements of Battalion move to Area JJ, East Range, APO 957.

22 - 23 Feb 44  
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A Company leaves Island of Hawaii - 1430 22 Feb 44 and arrives at JJ Area, Island of Oahu, 1100 23 Feb 44.

25 Feb 44  
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Reorganization under T/O and T/E 18-25 - 27 Jan 43 authorized by Sect. II, GO 58, 25 Feb 44, HQ USAFICPA, APO 958.

Change in T/O authorizes 636 EM and 36 O and W/O against 765 EM and 34 O and W/O.

27 Feb 44  
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Sect. I, GO 62, 29 Feb 44, HQ USAFICPA, releases Hq and Hqs Co, Co A and Co C from assignment of Island of Hawaii and assigns same elements of Battalion to the 4th Armored Group, Schofield Barracks, Oahu.

March 44  
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Concentrated Training on 3" Gun M7 - Direct Firing. Qualification and familiarization firing in individual arms and crew served and combat vehicular weapons. Intensified swimming training of Battalion.- Capt. Rosenberg relieved.

29 Mar 44  
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B Company relieved from missions Island of Hawaii, thru JJ Area, Schofield Barracks, Oahu - Batch firing - A Company; indirect; Watana Depot Area.

5 Apr 44  
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Battalion Motor March - Wheeler Field - Barbers Point - Kolekole Pass - 48 Miles - Radio communication stressed. Units of 4th Armored Group attend; Col. Smith and Staff present.

27 Jul 44

13 Apr 44

----- was among troops reviewed by President at Schofield  
Use of Battalion Ranges - 1000" MG, 1000" Moving Target - constructed  
at Area JJ, East Range, Schofield Barracks, Oahu, approved by HQ  
USAFICPA - 11 Apr 44.

13 - 14 Apr 44 qualified in/yds swimming and 100 yds combat

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B Company leaves Island of Hawaii 1530 13 Apr 44 - USAT Comet - arrive  
at JJ Area, Oahu, 1145 14 Apr 44.

21 Apr 44 Fictitious Test:

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Col. Fitzgerald to DS contl US to attend advanced course TD School,  
Camp Hood Texas. Capt. Rosenberg acting Bn Commander.

28 May - 3 Jun 44 Recon Co - 21 - 24 Aug 44  
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Reconnaissance Company attends Unit Jungle Training Center.

30 May 44

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Battalion reorganized under T/O and T/E 18-25, 15 Mar 44, as per Sect. I,  
GO 168, HQ USAFICPA, 30 May 44.

Jun 44

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Training - Indirect Fire - 3" Gun, M7.

11 Jun - 1 Jul 44

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Hq, A, B, C Cos and Med Det attend Unit Jungle Training Center for  
one week. 96% of Battalion personnel attended and completed course.

13 Jun 44

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Major Beachly assumes command of Battalion. - Capt. Rosenberg relieved.  
Firing in all weapons 89.8% completed.

21 Jun 44

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Lt. Gen. Richardson and Brig. Gen. McCanniff pass thru JJ Area, Schofield  
Barracks, Oahu - Watch firing - A Company; indirect; Waiawa Impact Area.  
Command - Capt. Davis relieved.

20 Jul 44

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Battalion gives demonstration in firing of Japanese Infantry Weapons.  
Units of 4th Armored Group attend; Col. Smith and Staff present.

27 Jul 44

Battalion was among troops reviewed by President at Schofield Barracks. of movement and improvement of new area. Training resumed

20 Aug 44

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All personnel has qualified in/yds swimming and 100 yds combat swimming. All-clear 0807.

21 - 24 Aug 44

Combat Efficiency Test: Egyptian Forest Training Area - overnight bivouac.

B Co - 21 - 22 Aug 44

C Co - 22 - 23 Aug 44

A Co - 23 - 24 Aug 44

Rcn Co - 21 - 24 Aug 44

Moving and occupation of position; moving at night; defense against night raids; preparation and delivery of prearranged fire.

28 - 31 Aug 44 Battalion Headquarters and all units - 703. 2800 -

Gunners Proficiency Tests as prescribed in WD TC #2, 7 Jan 44:

28 Aug 44 - C Co

Air Raid Alert 2857 29 Aug 44 - B Co Clear 0056 10 Nov 44.

30 Aug 44 - A Co

13 Nov 44 31 Aug 44 - Rcn Co

31 Aug 44 Major returns from observer's duty at Leyte, Philippine Islands.

Major Beachly to Temporary Duty Hq 24th Corps - Capt. Davis acting Bn Commander.

Col. Fitzgerald leaves for continental US on emergency leave - Major Spurlin 2 Sep 44 of Battalion.

Qualification Firing in all weapons 94.4% completed; familiarization firing in all weapons 98.9% completed.

Battalion participates in GYM - 4th Amved Group.

9 Sep 44

Col. Fitzgerald returns from TD School, Camp Hood, Texas; assumes Command - Capt. Davis relieved.

14 and 15 Sep 44

Battalion moves from Area JJ, East Range, and occupies billets at Areas W-4 and Y, Schofield Barracks.

16 - 18 Sep 44  
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Completion of movement and improvement of new area. Training resumed  
18 Sep 44. Released from assignment to 4th Armored Group and 18th

Assigned to Central Pacific Base Command and further assigned  
30 Sep 44 Training Command and 18th Armored Group.  
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Air Raid Alert 0217 - All-clear 0307.

2 - 3 Oct 44  
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Battalion Problem - Eucalyptus Forest Training Area - overnight bivouac.  
JAMES O. SPULL  
Commanding.

19 - 20 Oct 44  
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Battalion Bivouac - Perimeter Defense emphasized - Eucalyptus Forest  
Training Area.

14 - 15 Nov 44  
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IG inspection of Battalion Headquarters and all units - Maj. McLeod -  
Excellent.

17 - 18 Nov 44  
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Air Raid Alert 2257 17 Nov 44 -- All Clear 0036 18 Nov 44.

18 Nov 44  
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Major Beachly returns from observer's duty at Leyte, Philippine Islands.

19 Nov 44  
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Col. Fitzgerald leaves for contl US on emergency leave - Major Spurl  
in command of Battalion.

29 Nov 44  
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Battalion participates in CPX - 4th Armored Group.

7 Dec 44  
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All personnel of this Battalion overseas for 2 years receive furlough.  
Approximately 400 officers and enlisted personnel leave for contl US.

16 Dec 44  
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Third anniversary of Battalion.

25 Dec 44

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Battalion released from assignment to 4th Armored Group and 10th Army. Assigned to Central Pacific Base Command and further assigned to Combat Training Command and 19th Armored Group.

JONAS C. SPORL  
Major, F. A.  
Commanding.