

Med Det
5-1

SECRET

MEDICAL DETACHMENT
539TH AMPHIBIAN TRACTOR BATTALION
APO 956

31 December 1944

319.1

SUBJECT: Annual Report of Medical Department Activities.

TO : The Surgeon General, Headquarters, United States Army Forces, Pacific Ocean Areas, APO 956.

1. In compliance with paragraph 6, AR 40-1005, the following annual report of the Battalion Surgeon, 539th Amphibian Tractor Battalion, is submitted:

a. The 539th Amphibian Tractor Battalion was activated on 14 April 1944 under T/O & E 17-125, dated 29 April 1944. Pursuant to instructions contained in letter WD AG 32-2 file, subject: "Inactivation, Organization and Reorganization of Medical Units in December 1943 and January 1944", the strength of the Medical Detachment was one (1) officer and three (3) enlisted men,

b. This organization was designed as a Medical Detachment attached to the 539th Amphibian Tractor Battalion to furnish medical aid to the battalion. Its functions are as outlined below:

(1) To treat wounded on battlefield through the support of aid men with each company, then evacuating to Aid Station in rear.

(2) Further aid treatment at station.

(3) Evacuation wounded from Aid Station to Hospital Ship.

c. On 19 April 1944 Captain Doyer, MC, was assigned and joined from the 708th Amphibian Tractor Battalion, Fort Ord, California per paragraph 1, Special Order #3, Headquarters 539th Amphibian Tractor Battalion, dated 19 April 1944 and assumed command of the Medical Detachment as Battalion Surgeon of the 539th Amphibian Tractor Battalion.

d. Further increase in the strength of the unit was made on the dates and from the sources indicated below:

<u>Number of EM</u>	<u>Assigned</u>	<u>Source</u>
Three (3) Cadre	April, 1944	672d Amphibian Tractor Battalion, Fort Ord, California
Five (5)	April, 1944	710th Amphibian Tractor Battalion, Fort Ord, California
Two (2)	April, 1944	658th Amphibian Tractor Battalion, Fort Ord, California
One (1)	May, 1944	539th Amphibian Tractor Battalion, Company "A", Fort Ord, California

SECRET

SECRET

(1st Med Det, 539th Amph Trac Bn, sub: "Annual Report of Medical Department Activities" - Continued)

e. The training of the above enlisted men before assignment to this organization was as follows:

- (1) One (1) man had completed Medical Technician Course
- (2) One (1) man had completed Surgical Technician Course
- (3) Two (2) men were on Detached Service for a period of two (2) months at PSTU Dispensary, Fort Ord, California for 700 men.
- (4) One (1) man had been assigned as a noncommissioned officer (NCO) at a Medical Department Technician School for one and one-half (1-1/2) years.
- (5) One (1) man assigned to General Hospital unit for two (2) months.
- (6) One (1) man assigned with 407th Infantry Medical Detachment for three (3) months.

All had completed the required basic training prior to assignment to this unit.

f. On 16 June 1944, the unit completed its basic MTPB-22 program at Fort Ord, California. The basic MTPB-22 and Physical Fitness Tests were passed successfully by all personnel.

g. In April, 1944, the unit was assigned to the Army Ground Forces under 13th Armored Group, Fort Ord, California for the first phase of basic training for a period of three (3) months. Included were the basic subjects: Compass Reading, Hiking, Calisthenics, Close Order Drill, Infiltration Course, Semaphore, Radio, and First Aid.

h. In May, 1944, Captain Boyer, MC, was relieved and on 1 July 1944, 1st Lt Bomser, MC, assumed command of unit.

i. In July, 1944, the second phase of training began at Fort Ord, California. Here, further medical training was had such as: classes on the use of Plasma, Morphine, First Aid to Gas Casualties, First Aid to Gun Shot Wounds, Shock, Splints on Fractures, Benzadrine (used both for mental and physical fatigue), Malaria Control, Water Purification, Atebrine and Quinine, Artificial Respiration, Use of Sulfa Drugs in Prevention of Infection, Use of Tourniquet, Snake Bit Kit, Trench Foot, Venereal Disease, etc. They were all allowed to demonstrate actual techniques among themselves--all under the supervision of the Medical Detachment Officer.

<u>Test</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Date</u>
Air Ground Test	Satisfactory	August, 1944
Basic Medical Test	Satisfactory	August, 1944
Combat Intelligence Test	Satisfactory	September, 1944
MDS Tests	Satisfactory	September, 1944

SECRET

SECRET

(Ltr Med Det, 539th Amph Trac Bn, sub: "Annual Report of Medical Department Activities" - Continued)

j. The latter part of September 1944 was spent in the final preparation for overseas movement, and the packing and crating of the organizational equipment prior to movement to the staging area.

k. On 4 October 1944 Captain Fuller, MC, was assigned and assumed command of the unit. Lt. Bonner, MC, was relieved.

l. On 10 October 1944 the detachment departed with the 539th Amphibian Tractor Battalion from Fort Ord, California to the POE for overseas duty. Landing in the Territory of Hawaii on 24 October 1944, the 539th Amphibian Tractor Battalion was assigned to the Nineteenth Armored Group, Koko Head, APO 956.

m. On 4 December 1944, the 539th Amphibian Tractor Battalion was moved from Koko Head to Kaiaka Bay. The 539th Amphibian Tractor Battalion was then assigned to the Tenth Army, attached to the 4th Armored Group, APO 957, on 11 December 1944. The remainder of our stay at Kaiaka Bay Camp was spent in duties as Medical Detachment operating Battalion Dispensary and in the participation of the several activities.

n. On 5 January 1945, the 539th Amphibian Tractor Battalion was transferred from Kaiaka Bay Camp to Schofield Barracks under assignment to the Tenth Army and attached to the 4th Armored Group.

Milo B. Fuller
 MILO B. FULLER
 Captain, MC
 Commanding

319.1 (31 Dec 44) 1st Ind OWE/law
 HEADQUARTERS, 539TH AMPHIBIAN TRACTOR BATTALION, APO 956, 22 January 1945.

To: Commanding Officer, 4th Armored Group, APO 957.

Approved.

George W. Erick
 GEORGE W. ERICK
 Major, Infantry
 Commanding

SECRET