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*26 Mar 46* *HED*

HEADQUARTERS

637TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
APO #503, c/o Postmaster  
San Francisco, California

FILE: 314.7

<sup>now</sup>  
25 January 1946

SUBJECT: Battalion History for the Period 1 January 1945 to  
25 January 1946

TO: The Adjutant General  
War Department  
Washington 25, D.C.

In accordance with provisions of AR 345-105, the following  
Battalion History for period 1 January 1945 to 25 January 1946  
is submitted.

1. Original Unit - No change.
2. Changes in Organization -

a. Pursuant to Operational Memorandum No 33, Hq XIV  
Corps, APO 453, dtd 2 March 1945, this battalion relieved of attach-  
ment to 37th Infantry Division.

b. Pursuant to FO No 16, Hq XIV Corps, APO 453, dtd  
13 June 1945, this battalion relieved of attachment to XIV Corps  
and attached XI Corps.

c. Pursuant to ltr, AG 322 (SU)(FO), Hq Eighth Army, dtd  
31 August 1945, subject, "Ltr O No 8-14 (Status of Units)", this  
battalion was relieved of assignment to Sixth Army and assigned to  
Eighth Army, attached XI Corps.

d. Pursuant to Par 9, ltr AG 322 C, Hq XI Corps, APO 471,  
dtd 17 September 1945, this battalion attached 68th AAA Brigade.

e. Pursuant to TWX, XI Corps G-3, dtd 28 September 1945,  
this battalion relieved attachment 68th AAA Brigade and attached  
XI Corps Artillery.

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f. Pursuant to ltr, AG 322 C, Hq XI Corps, APO 471, dtd 7 December 1945, subject, "Transfer of Personnel from Units Being Inactivated or Classified as Category IV Units," this battalion is scheduled for inactivation in January 1946.

g. Pursuant to VOCO, XI Corps Arty, 9 January 1946, this battalion relieved of occupational mission 10 January 1946.

h. Pursuant to VORG, XI Corps, 14 Jan 1946, this battalion scheduled for inactivation 25 Jan 1946. Confirmed Ltr O, No 1-35, Hq 8th Army, dtd 17 Jan 1946.

3. Strength, commissioned and enlisted -

	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>
a. At beginning of period (1 January 1945)	26	2	619
b. Net increase	0	0	0
c. Net decrease	3	0	132
d. At end of period (31 December 1945)	23	0	487
e/ T/O strength	35	2	607
f. Replacements needed	12	0	120
g/ Overages	0	0	0

4. Stations (Permanent or Temporary) of units or parts thereof

a. 15 December 1944 this battalion departed Bougainville, Solomon Islands; destination: Luzon, Philippine Islands, participating in the M-1 Operation per Annex No 3, FO No 19, Hq 37th Infantry Division, dtd 20 November 1944.

b. 9 January 1945, this battalion arrived Binmaley (Lingayen Gulf), Luzon, Philippine Islands; as per Annex No 3, FO No 19, Hq 37th Infantry Division, dtd 20 November 1944.

c. For station changes during Luzon M-1 Campaign, refer to Inclosure 1 (Operations Narrative).

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d. 7 May 1945 this battalion arrived Muntinlupa, Luzon, Philippine Islands, to make first permanent base camp since 9 January 1945.

e. 4 September 1945 this battalion departed Muntinlupa, Luzon, Philippine Islands; loaded on LSTs at Talaga Landing, Batangas Bay, Luzon, Philippine Islands. Destination: Tokyo-Yokohama Area, Honshu Island, Japan; per FO No 23, Hq XI Corps, APO 471, dtd 22 August 1945.

f. 16 September 1945 this battalion arrived South Tokyo, Honshu Island, Japan, participating in the Blacklist Operation as per FO No 23, Hq XI Corps, APO 471, dtd 22 August 1945.

g. 6 October 1945 this battalion departed South Tokyo, Honshu Island, Japan, for area near Tsuchiura City, Honshu Island, Japan, to carry out mission of occupational duties in allotted sub-sector, as per VCOG, XI Corps Artillery, 26 September 1945.

h. 6 October 1945 this battalion arrived vicinity Tsuchiura City, Honshu Island, Japan, and commenced occupational mission 8 October 1945 as per VCOG, XI Corps Artillery, 26 September 1945.

5. Marches - None

6. Campaigns -

a. This battalion participated in the Luzon M-1 Campaign from 9 January 1945 to 30 June 1945, in support of the 37th Infantry Division or units directed thereby. The purpose of the campaign was to aid in the recapture of the Island of Luzon, Philippine Islands, by seizing beachheads in the Lingayen area and destroying hostile forces encountered; to continue an offensive overland to seize the Central Plains - Manila Area, to complete the destruction of hostile forces, and to accomplish the occupation of Luzon. Authority for participation in the campaign by this battalion is contained in Annex No 3, FO No 19, Hq 37th Infantry Division, dtd 20 November 1944, which was in accordance with Operations Instructions No 73, GHQ, Southwest Pacific Area, dtd 12 October 1944, which was initial authority for the campaign.

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b. This battalion participated in the Blacklist Operation (XI Corps) from 16 September 1945 to 10 January 1946. This operation was for the purpose of progressive occupation of the Tokyo-Kanto Plain Area, Honshu Island, Japan. Authority for participation in this operation is contained in FO No 23, Hq XI Corps, APO 471, dtd 22 August 1945.

7. Battles - Refer to inclosure 1 (Operations Narrative)

8. Commanding Officers in Important Engagements -

a. 8 through 13 February 1945, by order (lost in Movement) of Hq 37th Infantry Division, Lt Col Richard L McNelly commanded a Special Security Force to defend the 37th Infantry Division sector from the north bank of the Pasig River to the Tullahan River.

b. Lt Col Richard L McNelly FA(TD), O 256 304, was relieved from command of this battalion and transferred to Hq XIV Corps, pursuant to Par 11, Special Orders No 122, Hq XIV Corps, APO 453, dtd 11 June 1945.

c. Maj Allison D Holmes Jr FA(TD), O 366 773, assumed command of the battalion pursuant to GO No 9, Hq 637th Tank Destroyer Battalion, APO 453, dtd 11 June 1945. He was relieved of command of this battalion by GO No 12, Hq 637th Tank Destroyer Battalion, APO 75, dtd 28 July 1945.

d. Lt Col Nathaniel P Ward III Inf(Armd), O 19 553, assumed command pursuant to GO No 12, Hq 637th Tank Destroyer Battalion, APO 75, dtd 28 July 1945.

9. Losses in Action; Officers and Men -

a. The following named officer and enlisted men were killed in action during the Luzon M-1 Campaign. (All further accurate information concerning men killed in action was lost in movement.)

(1)	Capt	Kenneth A Dawson FA(TD)	O 408 900
(2)	Sgt	Harlan L Derby	37 041 043
(3)	Sgt	John H Hershey	35 117 357

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- (4) Sgt Herman E Silvers 35 022 042
- (5) Tec 4 Herbert C Conner 34 197 948
- (6) Cpl Gold L Arthur 33 991 634
- (7) Tec 5 Frank T Ratcliff 35 250 754
- (8) Pfc Edward F Mohr 36 600 182
- (9) Pvt Elbert Flanagan 38 536 309
- (10) Pvt Rolland F Hawkey 35 116 258
- (11) Pvt Mazil R Paris 37 669 217

b. The following named officers and enlisted men were wounded in action during the Luzon M-1 Campaign:

- (1) Capt Lyle F Milligan FA(TD), O 394 054, 14 February 1945, at Pasig River, Manila.
- (2) 1st Lt Robert D Ellis Jr FA(TD), O1 174 838, 22 February 1945, at Laguna De Bay.
- (3) 1st Lt Howard W Cardozo Jr FA(TD), O1 177 318, 5 February 1945, at Santo Tomas.
- (4) 1st Lt Robert H Strasmyer FA(TD), O1 794 378, 6 February 1945, on Luzon, Philippine Islands.
- (5) 2d Lt Paul Snacker FA(TD), O1 822 474, 11 February 1945, on Luzon, Philippine Islands.
- (6) S/Sgt Ivan R Bond, 20 516 441, 2 March 1945, at the Intremuros, Manila.
- (7) S/Sgt Edward R Brigadier, 20 517 624, 23 January 1945, near Boloc.
- (8) Sgt Charles S Celeste, 31 069 568, 23 February 1945, at Ermita.

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- (9) Sgt Theodore N Haupt, 35 117 524, 29 January 1945, on Luzon, Philippine Islands.
- (10) Sgt Edward J Knapp, 20 213 100, 11 February 1945, at Pasig River, Manila.
- (11) Sgt Joseph F Ross, 20 515 701, 1 March 1945, at the Intramuros, Manila.
- (12) Sgt Marvin L White, 34 136 738, 8 April 1945, at Lipa.
- (13) Cpl William S Bird, 39 604 060, 22 February 1945, at Laguna De Bay.
- (14) Cpl Ira T Gordon, 34 155 031, 20 February 1945, on east shore of Laguna De Bay.
- (15) Cpl Epiphany J LaRocco, 35 008 995, 22 February 1945, at Laguna De Bay.
- (16) Tec 5 Ernest Bates, 31 060 377, 6 February 1945, at Manila.
- (17) Tec 5 Walter J Callick, 36 163 556, 6 February 1945, near Manila.
- (18) Tec 5 Micheal Chimbur Jr, 31 040 225, 22 February 1945, Pasig River, Manila.
- (19) Tec 5 Frank L Gitze, 35 001 859, 12 January 1945, on Luzon, Philippine Islands.
- (20) Tec 5 Joseph N LeCompte, 33 134 307, 10 March 1945, at Los Banos.
- (21) Tec 5 Howard P Wyman, 13 063 982, 28 February 1945, at Laguna De Bay.
- (22) Pfc Sam Caramonta, 34 154 927, 16 February 1945, at Pasig River, Manila.

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- (23) Pfc John Dynarski Jr, 32 600 420, 1 March 1945, at the Intramuros, Manila.
- (24) Pfc Theodore H Dzierzawki, 35 058 489, 18 April 1945, at Mt Macolod.
- (25) Pfc Regis F Fersch, 33 134 536, 5 February 1945, at Santo Tomas.
- (26) Pfc Orlando V Franklin, 35 250 805, 13 March 1945, at Los Banos.
- (27) Pfc Daniel Lubanski, 33 134 480, 18 April 1945, at Mt Macolod.
- (28) Pfc James H Kriner, 12 055 840, 29 January 1945, at Clark Field.
- (29) Pfc Cletis F Neal, 20 518 206, 13 March 1945, at Los Banos.
- (30) Pfc John A Nichols, 35 250 737, 29 January 1945, on Luzon, Philippine Islands.
- (31) Pfc Arthur M Pollitz, 37 047 406, 8 April 1945, at Mt Macolod.
- (32) Pfc Carree Taylor, 34 268 526, 25 February 1945, at the Intramuros, Manila.
- (33) Pvt John Bartolotta, 33 403 063, 29 January 1945, on Luzon, Philippine Islands.
- (34) Pvt William H Boulds, 31 060 497, 11 February 1945, on Luzon, Philippine Islands,
- (35) Pvt John B Bowen, 11 119 406, 26 February 1945, at the Intramuros, Manila.
- (36) Pvt Harold F Jacobus, 32 568 135, 29 January 1945, on Luzon, Philippine Islands.

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- (37) Pvt John J Mazar, 32 340 740, 17 February 1945, on Luzon, Philippine Islands.
- (38) Pvt Donald W Payne, 20 925 753, 29 January 1945, at Clark Field.

c. The following named enlisted men were injured in action during the Luzon M-1 Campaign:

- (1) Pvt Charles D Cook, 37 643 723, 8 June 1945, at Solano, Cagayan Valley.
- (2) Pvt Nick Varitimos, 31 433 204, 12 June 1945, at Sandiego, Northern Luzon.

d. No personnel of this battalion are missing in action.

e. No personnel of this battalion were taken prisoner by the enemy.

10. Former and Present Members Who Have Distinguished Themselves in Action (Information contained in this paragraph is incomplete due to loss of data during movement) -

a. The following named officer and enlisted man received the Silver Star Decoration:

- (1) Capt Lyle F Milligan FA(TD), O 394 054, per GO No 25, Hq XIV Corps, APO 453, dtd 1945.
- (2) S/Sgt Edward R Brigadier, 20 517 624, per GO No 43, Hq XIV Corps, APO 453, dtd 1945.

b. The following named officer received the Soldier's Medal Decoration:

- (1) 1st Lt Gerald L Cooke FA(TD), O1 794 782, per GO No 25, Hq XIV Corps, APO 453, dtd 1945.

c. The following named officers and enlisted men received the Bronze Star Decoration per authorities cited:

- (1) Pursuant to GO No 20, Hq XIV Corps, dtd 13 April 1945:

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- (a) Maj Rufe S Bynum Jr FA(TD), O 365 277
  - (b) Sgt Vincent V Cozza, 32 222 138
  - (c) Tec 5 Albert G Lewis Jr, 34 136 772
  - (d) Pvt Ivey R Eller, 34 603 799
- (2) Pursuant to GO No 51, Hq XIV Corps, APO 453, dtd 1945:
- (a) Maj Allison D Holmes Jr FA(TD), O 366 773
- (3) Pursuant to GO, Hq XIV Corps, APO 453, dtd 1945:
- (a) Maj John B Stokes Jr FA(TD), O 408 708
- (4) Pursuant to GO No 44, Hq XIV Corps, dtd 1945:
- (a) Capt Vilas J Lautzenheiser FA(TD), O 414 748
- (5) Pursuant to GO No 42, Hq XIV Corps, APO 453, dtd 1945:
- (a) Capt Chester G Brown FA(TD), O 364 452
  - (b) Capt John R Montgomery FA(TD), O1 794 835
- (6) Pursuant to GO, Hq 37th Infantry Division, dtd 1945:
- (a) Capt Kenneth A Dawson FA(TD), O 408 900
- (7) Awarded in the field by Maj Gen Beightler, CG 37th Infantry Division, 13 June 1945:
- (a) Capt Robert B Green FA(TD), O 794 803
- (8) Pursuant to GO No 17, Hq XIV Corps, APO 453, dtd 1 April 1945:
- (a) 1st Lt Howard W Cardozo Jr FA(TD), O1 177 318
- (9) Pursuant to GO, Hq XIV Corps, APO 453, dtd 1945:

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- (a) T/Sgt Everett F Smith, 20 516 460
- (b) S/Sgt Earl B Trappe, 35 008 841
- (c) Cpl Mills B Crandell, 12 102 930

d. The following named officers and enlisted men received the Purple Heart Decoration per authorities cited:

- (1) Pursuant to GO No 1, Hq 637th Tank Destroyer Battalion, APO 453, dtd 26 February 1945:
  - (a) Capt Lyle F Milligan FA(TD), O 394 054
  - (b) Tec 5 Micheal Chimbur Jr, 31 040 225
  - (c) Pfc Sam Caramonta, 34 154 927
  - (d) Pvt John J Mazar, 32 340 740
- (2) Pursuant to GO No 2, Hq 637th Tank Destroyer Battalion, APO 453, dtd 2 March 1945:
  - (a) S/Sgt Ivan R Bond, 20 516 441
  - (b) Sgt Joseph F Ross, 20 515 702
  - (c) Tec 5 Howard P Wyman, 13 063 982
  - (d) Pfc John Dynarski Jr, 32 600 420
  - (e) Pfc Carree Taylor, 34 268 526
  - (f) Pvt John B Bowen, 11 119 406
- (3) Pursuant to GO No 6, Hq 637th Tank Destroyer Battalion, APO 453, dtd 16 April 1945:
  - (a) Pfc Carl E Johnson, 20 514 516
- (4) Pursuant to GO No 8, Hq 637th Tank Destroyer Battalion, APO 453, dtd 5 June 1945:

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- (a) 2d Lt Charles S Celeste FA(TD), 02 024 168
  - (b) Sgt Marvin L White, 34 136 738
  - (c) Cpl Epiphany J LaRocco, 35 008 995
  - (d) Cpl Carl E Scott, 37 212 978
  - (e) Pfc Theodore H Dzierzawski, 35 058 489
  - (f) Pvt Andrew Donko, 20 514 439
- (5) Pursuant to GO No 10, Hq 637th Tank Destroyer Battalion, APO 75, dtd 18 June 1945:
- (a) Sgt Otto R Naugle, 35 250 785
  - (b) Cpl William S Bird, 39 604 060
  - (c) Tec 5 Joseph N LeCompte, 33 134 307
  - (d) Pfc Daniel Lubanski, 33 134 480
  - (e) Pfc Cletis F Neal, 20 518 206
- (6) Pursuant to GO No 13, Hq 637th Tank Destroyer Battalion, APO 75, dtd 6 August 1945:
- (a) 1st Lt Paul D Goetz FA(TD), 01 173 258
  - (b) Pfc Curtis C Edwards, 34 136 655
  - (c) Pfc Arthur M Pollitz, 37 047 406
  - (d) Pvt Charles D Cook, 37 643 723
  - (e) Pvt Nick Varitimos, 31 433 204
- (7) Pursuant to GO No 14, Hq 37th Infantry Division, dtd 15 February 1945:
- (a) 1st Lt Howard W Cardozo Jr FA(TD), 01 177 138

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- (b) 2d Lt Paul Snacker FA(TD), O1 822 474
- (8) Pursuant to GO No 15, Hq 37th Infantry Division, dtd 16 February 1945:
  - (a) Sgt Edward J Knapp, 20 213 100
- (9) Pursuant to GO No 6, Hq 37th Infantry Division, dtd 12 February 1945:
  - (a) Pfc Regis F Fersch, 33 134 536
  - (b) Pfc John A Nichols, 35 250 737
- (10) Pursuant to GO No 9, Hq 54th General Hospital, dtd 24 February 1945:
  - (a) Sgt Theodroe N Haupt, 35 117 524
  - (b) Pvt John Bartolotta, 33 403 063
  - (c) Tec 5 Frank L Gitza, 35 001 859
- (11) Pursuant to GO No 13, Hq 54th General Hospital, APO 565, dtd 14 March 1945:
  - (a) Pvt Harold F Jacobus, 32 568 135
- (12) Pursuant to GO No 2, Hq 107th Station Hospital, APO 79, dtd 21 February 1945:
  - (a) S/Sgt Edward R Brigadier, 20 517 624
- (13) Pursuant to GO No 3, Hq 107th Station Hospital, APO 79, dtd 22 February 1945:
  - (a) Tec 5 Walter J Callick, 36 163 556
- (14) Pursuant to GO No 4, Hq 118th General Hospital, APO 72, dtd 11 March 1945:
  - (a) 1st Lt Robert D Ellis Jr FA(TD), O1 174 838

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(15) Pursuant to GO No 14, Hq 132d General Hospital, APO 920, dtd 10 March 1945:

(a) 1st Lt Robert H Strasmyer FA(TD), O1 794 878

(16) Pursuant to GO No 6, Hq 24th Field Hospital, APO 70, dtd 13 February 1945:

(a) Tec 5 Ernest Bates, 31 060 377

e. The following named officer and enlisted men received commendations from this battalion:

(1) See inclosure 2

(a) 1st Lt Howard W Gerdozo Jr FA(TD), O1 177 318

(b) Pfc Regis F Fersch, 33 134 536

(2) See inclosure 3

(a) Sgt Thomas E Hitt, 34 136 672

(b) Tec 4 Robert I Duplisea, 31 060 398

(c) Cpl Orvil C Reeser, 34 187 097

(d) Pfc Eugene F Mezwicki, 36 405 278

(e) Pfc Donald J Snyder, 37 572 776

(3) See inclosure 4

(a) T/Sgt Everett F Smith, 20 516 460

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(b) Tec 5 William R White, 38 185 725

11. Photographs of Personnel, Important Scenes or Events - None.

8 Incls

1. Narrative (4)
2. Bn Commendation (4)
3. Bn Commendation (4)
4. Bn Commendation (4)
5. FO No 8 (4)
6. FO No 10 (4)
7. FO No 11 (4)
8. FO No 12 (4)

*Nathaniel P Ward III*  
NATHANIEL P WARD III  
Lt Col, Inf(Armd)  
Commanding

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