

File

HEADQUARTERS, 609TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
Camp Shelby, Mississippi

22 June 1944

SUBJECT: Historical Record.

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

1. Forwarded herewith Historical Record of this organization from date of activation to period ending 31 December 1943.

For the Commanding Officer:

JOHN F. FREDERICKS,
2d Lt, 609th TD Bn,
Adjutant.

1 Incl:
Historical Record of
609th T. D. Battalion.



HISTORICAL RECORD

of

609TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

Activated at

Fort Bragg, North Carolina

15 December 1941

Extract of SO 285, Hq 9th Inf Div, Ft Bragg, N.C., 17 December 1941:

* * * * *

"1. The following verbal orders of the CG, 15 Dec 41, are hereby confirmed and made of record:

"Under the provisions of AR 615-200, and pursuant to authority contained in Letter, War Department, The Adjutant General's Office, file 320.2 (17 Dec 41), subject: "Organization of Tank Destroyer Battalions", dated 3 December 1941, and Letter, Hq I Army Corps, file 320.2, subject: "Organization of Tank Destroyer Battalions", 10 December 1941, the following named Officers and EM are transferred, effective 15 December 1941, in their present grades and ratings, to the 609th Tank Destroyer Battalion, Fort Bragg, N. C., and will report to the Commanding Officer thereof for duty:

From 34th F.A. Bn.:

1 Major
1 Captain
2 1st Lts.
2 2nd Lts.
175 EM.

From 26th F.A. Bn.:

1 1st Lt.
31 EM.

From 60th F.A. Bn.:

29 EM.

From 60th Inf.:

1 1st Lt.

From 84th F.A. Bn.:

1 1st Lt.
31 EM.

From 47th Inf.:

1 1st Lt.
1 2nd Lt.

TOTAL: 12 Officers and 266 EM."

* * * * *

Fort Bragg, N. C.,

17 December 1941.

Major RUSSELL T. FINN, 016237, F.A., assumed command. Auth: CO #1, Hq 609th T. D. Bn., Ft Bragg, N. C., 17 December 1941.

Fort Bragg, N. C.,
22 January 1942.

Pioneer and "C" Companies activated. Auth: GO #9, Hq 9th Inf Div., Ft Bragg, N. C., 2 January 1942, and GO #1, Hq 609th T. D. Bn., Ft Bragg, N. C., 22 January 1942.

Fort Bragg, N. C.,
6-7-8 April 1942.

12 Officers joined. Auth: SO 91, Hq FARTG, Ft Sill, Okla., 1 April 1942.
7 Officers joined. Auth: SO 80, Hq FARTG, Ft Bragg, N.C., 3 April 1942.

Fort Bragg, N. C.,
26 April 1942.

Major GORDON V. HOLCOMB, 0224425, P.A., assumed command. Auth: VOCO.

Fort Bragg, N. C.,
29-30 April 1942.

Annual General Inspection. Inspector General: Lt. Col. J. K. CREAMER, Hq 9th Inf Div., Ft Bragg, N. C. (Auth: Ltr, 333.1 (100), Hq 9th Inf Div., 13 March 42, subject: "Annual Administrative Inspection of Troops, Equipment, Barracks, and Records".)

Fort Bragg, N. C.,
3 August 1942.

Battalion reorganized at existing strength in accordance to Table of Organization No. 18-25, dated 8 June 1942. (GO #2, Hq 609th T. D. Bn., 30 July 1942).

Hq & Hq Co reorganized to conform to T/O 18-26, 8 June 1942.
A, B and C Companies reorganized to conform to T/O 18-27, 8 June 1942.
Pioneer Co officially redesignated "Reconnaissance Company" and reorganized to conform to T/O 18-28, 8 June 1942.

Fort Bragg, N. C.,
20 September 1942.

Lt. Col. ROLAND A. BROWNE, 016126, Cav., R.A., assumed command. Auth: Far 49, SO 219, Hq Fourth Service Command, 12 September 1942, and SO 125, Hq 609th T. D. Bn., 21 September 1942.

Fort Bragg, N. C.,
6 January 1943.

Battalion transferred and assigned to TDC, Camp Hood, Texas, for "Temporary" change of station. Auth: Letter Order No. 1, 1st Hqrs, Special Troops, Second Army, Ft Bragg, N. C., dated 5 January 1943, subject: "Transfer of 609th TD Bn to Camp Hood, Texas", and Letter Hq Second Army, Memphis, Tenn., file AG 370.5 (QWMBG), 1 January 1943, subject: "Transfer of 609th and 702nd TD Battalions to Camp Hood, Texas".

Movement made by rail. First train departed Ft Bragg, N. C., 6 January 1943, at 2200 hours. Fifth and last train departed 7 January 1943, at 2030 hours.

Battalion closed at Camp Hood, Texas, 10 January 1943 at 2015 hours.

No unusual happenings. Morale excellent.

Camp Hood, Texas,
21-23 March 1943.

Annual General Inspection. Inspector General: Major N. B. THOMPSON, JR., IGD, Camp Hood, Texas. Auth: Ltr Hq TD AUTC, Office of the Inspector General, Camp Hood, Texas, 24 March 1943, subject: "Report of Annual General Inspection of the 609th T. D. Battalion".

Camp Hood, Texas,
6 April 1943.

Battalion transferred to new "Permanent" station at Camp Shelby, Miss., via new "Temporary" station Hawthorne, La., for the purpose of participating in the Louisiana Third Army Maneuvers. Auth: "Letter AGF, 370.5/15 (TD Units) (R) QWQCT, Subject: "Transfer of 603rd and 609th TD Battalions to Camp Shelby, Miss.". Movement made by motor convoy and rail.

Motor convoy elements, 29 Officers and 664 EM, departed Camp Hood, Texas, 6 April 1943 at 0800. Closed Hawthorne, La., 7 April 1943 at 1800 hours.

Train elements, 7 Officers and 227 EM, departed Camp Hood, Texas, 6 April 1943 at 1830 hours. Closed Hawthorne, La., 7 April 1943 at 2330 hours.

Distance traveled - 340 miles.

No unusual happenings. Morale excellent.

APC 93, c/o Postmaster,
Shreveport, La.

Battalion participated in Third Army Louisiana Maneuvers from 12 April 1943 to 6 June 1943 under direction of Third Army Director Headquarters.

Strength: 35 Officers - 860 EM.

Reference: Report (undated) of Brig. Gen. HERBERT L. EARNEST, subject: "Report upon the Performance of the 609th T D Battalion during Third Army Maneuvers from 12 April to 6 June 1943".

APC 93, c/o Postmaster,
Shreveport, La.
8 June 1943.

Battalion proceeded from Boyce, La., to "Permanent" station, Camp Shelby, Miss., by Rail and Motor Convoy.

Motor Convoy elements, 25 Officers and 576 EM, departed Boyce, La., 8 June 1943 at 1400 hours.

Rail elements, 9 Officers and 288 EM, departed Boyce, La., 8 June 1943 at 1800 hours.

Battalion closed at Camp Shelby, Miss., 9 June 1943 at 1320 hours.

Distance traveled: - 274 miles. Roads good.

No unusual happenings. Morale excellent.

Camp Shelby, Miss.,
26 June 1943.

Battalion reorganized in accordance with Table of Organizations No. 18-25, dated 27 January 1943. Auth: Letter AG 320.2 GNMCO-5, Hq Third Army, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, 17 June 1943, subject: "Reorganization of TD Units in accordance with new Table of Organizations", and Letter AGF 321/15 (TD Units) (R)-GNGCT (13 June 43), dated 13 June 1943.

Hq & Hq Co organized in accordance with T/O 18-26, 27 Jan 43.
Companies A, B and C organized in accordance with T/O 18-27, 27 Jan 43.
Reconnaissance Co organized in accordance with T/O 18-28, 27 Jan 43.

Camp Shelby, Miss.,
10 September 1943.

Col. H. P. STEWART, IGD, IX Corps, made Administrative Inspection of Battalion. Auth: Ltr Hq IX Corps, 333.1, 19 August 1943, subject: "Special Inspection of 609th TD Battalion".

Camp Shelby, Miss.,
27 October 1943.

Battalion equipped with thirty-six (36) 76mm guns, motor carriage, T-70.

Camp Shelby, Miss.,
31 December 1943.

Battalion made twenty-five (25) mile dismounted road march. Roads fair; weather clear; morale excellent.

MAJOR GAINS - ENLISTED MEN
609th TD Battalion



<u>Date Assigned</u>	<u>Authority</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>From</u>
17 December 1941	SO 285, 9th Inf Div, Ft Bragg NC	266	9th Inf Div.
14 January 1942	SO 10, 9th Inf Div, Ft Bragg, NC	8	9th Inf Div.
10 February 1942	SO 34, 9th Inf Div, Ft Bragg, NC	409	9th Inf Div.
19 February 1942	SO 37, Hq FARTC, Ft Bragg, NC	48	FARTC
29 July 1942	SO 14, 1st Hq Sp Tns 2nd A Ft Bragg NC	145	813 & 894 TD Bns.
13 August 1942	SO 186, Hq FARTC, Ft Bragg NC	19	FARTC
22 August 1942	SO 191, Hq FARTC, Ft Bragg NC	19	FARTC
24 August 1942	SO 199, Cp Wheeler, Ga.	7	Cp Wheeler, Ga.
3 September 1942	SO 207, Hq Cp Wheeler, Ga.	73	Cp Wheeler, Ga.
8 September 1942	SO 1 & SO 3, IRTC, Cp Wheeler, Ga.	39	Cp Croft, SC
10 September 1942	SO 214, Hq 30th Inf Div.	112	Ft Jackson, SC.
11 September 1942	SO 240, Hq Med RTC, Cp Barkley, Tex	6	Cp Barkley, Tex.
12 September 1942.	SO 102, Hq Cp Stoneman, Calif.	6	Cp Stoneman, Cal.
12 September 1942	SO 214, Hq FARTC, Ft Bragg, NC	14	Ft Bragg, NC
18 September 1942	SO 220, Hq Med RTC, Cp Pickett, Va	6	Cp Pickett, Va.
17 December 1942	SO 298, Hq FARTC, Ft Bragg, NC	11	Ft Bragg, NC
23 December 1942	SO 303, Hq FARTC, Ft Bragg, NC	9	Ft Bragg, NC
15 January 1943	SO 8, Hq FARTC, Ft Bragg, NC	7	Ft Bragg, NC
22 January 1943	SO 10, Hq FARTC, Ft Bragg, NC	7	Ft Bragg, NC
6 February 1943	SO 25, Hq FARTC, Cp Roberts, Cal.	5	Cp Roberts, Cal.
12 February 1943	SO 43, Hq FARTC, Ft Sill, Okla.	4	Ft Sill, Okla.
15 February 1943	SO 30, Hq FARTC, Ft Bragg, NC	5	Ft Bragg, NC
6 March 1943	SO 35, AUTO TDC, Cp Hood, Tex.	10	Cp Hood, Tex.
25 March 1943	SO 53, AUTO TDC, Cp Hood, Tex.	3	Cp Hood, Tex.
25 March 1943	SO 72, Hq TDC, Cp Hood, Tex.	4	Cp Hood, Tex.
5 April 1943	SO 62, AUTO TDC, Cp Hood, Tex.	56	Cp Hood, Tex.

MAJOR LOSSES - ENLISTED MEN
609th TD Battalion

<u>Date</u>	<u>Authority</u>	<u>DESTINATION</u>	<u>No. Men</u>
10 April 1942	SO 84 Hq 609th TD Bn	Tact. & Firing Center, Killeen, Tex.	2
6 June 1942	SO 125 Hq 9th Inf Div	FA OCS, Ft Sill, Okla.	6
23 June 1942	SO 148 Hq Ft Bragg NC	37th Engr Regt, Cp Edwards, Mass.	3
8 July 1942	SO 2 1st Hq Sp Trs 2d A	Co I, 3rd Bn 53rd QM, Ft Bragg, NC	45
28 Sept 1942	SO 228 Hq 9th Inf Div	Sta Comp, Ft Bragg NC	74
20 Oct 1942	SO 252 Hq Ft Bragg NC	Sta Comp, Ft Bragg NC	3
23 Oct 1942	SO 251 Hq 9th Inf Div.	134th Med Regt, Ft Bragg, NC	5
10 Nov 1942	SO 267 Hq Ft Bragg NC	Sta Comp, Ft Bragg NC	3
19 Nov 1942	SO 110 1st Hq Sp Trs 2d A	4th Sv C, Ft Bragg NC	11
21 Nov 1942	SO 113 1st Hq Sp Trs 2d A	4th Sv C, Ft Bragg NC	8
13 March 1943	SO 61 Hq Cp Hood, Tex	DEML, Sec, 1848th Un, 8th Sv C, Cp Hood, Tex.	5
20 March 1943	SO 68 Hq Cp Hood, Tex	DEML, Sec, 1848th U, 8th Sv C, Cp Hood, Tex.	4
5 April 1943	SO 62 Hq AUTC TDC, Cp Hood	Various TD Orgns at Cp Hood, Tex.	44
3 July 1943	Sec II, AR 615-360	Sta Comp, Cp Shelby, Miss., 2 for discharge	2
13 July 1943	SO 161 1st Hq Sp Trs 3d A	AUTC TDC, Cp Hood, Tex	188
20 July 1943	SO 161 1st Hq Sp Trs 3d A	AUTC TDC, Cp Hood, Tex	11
19 August 1943	SO 64 Hq 7th TD Cp Cp Shelby	Parachute Sch, Ft Benning, Ga.	3
8 October 1943	SO 248 Hq Cp Shelby Miss	AC Unasgd	3
22 October 1943	SO 195 Hq 609th TD Bn	Parachute Sch, Ft Benning, Ga.	9

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS, 609TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 403, U. S. Army

HISTORICAL RECORD OF 609TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION FOR PERIOD

1 JANUARY 1944 to 20 SEPTEMBER 1944

(Period 20 September 1944 to 31 December 1944 covered by After Action Reports submitted through Theater channels)

a. Original Unit: No Change.

b. Changes in organization:

(1) 28 April 1944: Battalion reorganized in accordance with T/O & E 18-25, dated 15 March 1945.

c. Strength, Commissioned and Enlisted:

(1) For periods as indicated:

1 January 1944:	Officers	57	EM	730
31 January 1944:	Officers	57	EM	723
29 February 1944:	Officers	56	EM	718
31 March 1944:	Officers	57	EM	710
30 April 1944:	Officers	57	EM	698
31 May 1944:	Officers	55	EM	678
30 June 1944:	Officers	49	EM	666
31 July 1944:	Officers	40	EM	617
31 August 1944:	Officers	37	EM	606

d. Stations (permanent or temporary):

Camp Shelby, Mississippi	1 January 1944	to	1 August 1944
Camp Shanks, New York	5 August 1944	to	10 August 1944
At Sea	11 August 1944	to	23 August 1944
ETO	24 August 1944	to	end of period covered

e. Narrative of events and marches for period covered:

Camp Shelby, Miss.
14 February 1944

Battalion Commander presented 400 members of the Battalion with Good Conduct Awards at Theater No. 3.

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SECRET

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Camp Shelby, Miss.
8 June 1944

Unit alerted for movement overseas. (Auth: Ltr, AG 353 (TD) (GNMBF), Hq Second Army, Memphis, Tenn., dated 7 June 1944).

Camp Shelby, Miss.
23 June 1944

Received overseas movement orders. (Auth: Ltr, W-370.5 (27 June 1944) OE-S-E-M, W. D., Washington 25, D. C., subject: "Movement Orders, Shipment 5694", dated 23 June 1944).

Camp Shelby, Miss.
15 July 1944

Details on Procedure of Advanced Overseas Detachment

Advanced Overseas Detachment of 2 Officers and 1 EM departed 2000. Arrived at Fort Hamilton, N. Y., 1700, 17 July 1944. Departed Fort Hamilton, N. Y. for NYPE 2200, 21 July 1944. Departed NYPE aboard NY-22 0600 22 July 1944. Disembarked at Gurlock, Scotland, 1100, 29 July 1944. Arrived at Overseas destination, Breamore, England, 1300, 30 July 1944.

Camp Shelby, Miss.
1 August 1944

Battalion departed for "Permanent" change of station, Camp Shanks, N. Y. Movement made by rail. Auth: LO, 24th Hq & Hq Det., Special Troops, Second Army, Camp Shelby, Miss., dated 6 July 1944.

First Train Departed 0950
Second Train Departed 1145

STRENGTH: Officers 33, Warrant Officers 2, EM 606

Camp Shanks, N. Y.
23 August 1944

Battalion arrived at new "Permanent" station.

First Train Arrived 1130
Second Train Arrived 1530
Bn Closed 1530

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SECRET

S E C R E T

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Camp Shanks, N. Y.
10 August 1944

Battalion departed for NYPE. Movement made by rail. Auth: Par 12, SO 213, ASF, NYPE, Camp Shanks, N. Y., dated 9 Aug 1944.

STRENGTH: Officers 33, Warrant Officers 2, EM 604

N. Y. P. of E.
11 August 1944

Battalion departed NYPE on board NY-56 for overseas destination 1000.

STRENGTH

ABOARD: Officers 33, Warrant Officers 2, EM 604

At sea aboard NY-56, 17 August 1944, entered zone of ETO.

Liverpool, England
24 August 1944

Disembarked from NY-56, 0400. Entrained for Llanover Park Camp, Monmouthshire, coordinate Vo 7630.

Arrived at Llanover Park Camp 1120.

STRENGTH: Officers 33, Warrant Officers 2, EM 604

Battalion assigned to Third U.S. Army (Auth: Letter, AG 322 Op GC, Subject: Troop assignment (No. 101) Headquarters ETO, APO 887, US Army, dated 29 July 1944.

Llanover Park Camp, Monmouthshire, Vo 7630, England
24 August thru 15 September 1944

Battalion drawing and modifying new equipment.

Llanover Park Camp, Monmouthshire, Vo 7630, England
16 September 1944

Battalion departed Llanover Park 0800, enroute to new overseas destination; movement made by motor convoy. Arrived at Dorchester, England, 2200. Weather cloudy; roads slippery for M-18's; distance traveled: 140 miles. Morale excellent. Strength: 35 Officers, 2 Warrant Officers, 605 EM.

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S E C R E T

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DORCHESTER, ENGLAND
18 September 1944
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Battalion departed Dorchester, England, enroute for new overseas destination 0730. Movement made by motor convoy. Arrived at Portland, England, at 1000. Embarked on US LST's 1100 hours.

PORTLAND, ENGLAND (Aboard US LST's)
19 September 1944

Departed from harbor at Portland, England for France at 0700 hours.

ON BOARD US LST's
20 September 1944

Disembarked at UTAH BEACH, FRANCE, at 0315 hours. Arrived at Transit Area "B", UTAH BEACH, FRANCE, at 0500.

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S E C R E T

609 TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky

Historical Record of 609 Tank Destroyer Battalion
for Period 20 September to 1 January 1944

A. Original Unit: No change.

B. Changes in Organization: None.

C. Stations: ETO--20 September 1944 to 1 January 1944.

D. Marches:

1. Battalion marched from Transit Area "B", UTAH BEACH, FRANCE to MOUTIERS, FRANCE (U7172); left UTAH BEACH at 0700, 21 September 1944 and arrived at MOUTIERS at 1425, 27 September 1944. First day's march was from UTAH BEACH to St. MARS, FRANCE, closing at 1500, 21 September. Second day's march was to LANGEY, FRANCE, closing at 1530, 22 September. Unit departed LANGEY at 0730, 23 September, and closed in bivouac 5 miles south of SENS at 1630. March was continued at 0640, 26 September; unit arrived in bivouac at St. MENEHOLD at 1545. Last day's march was to MOUTIERS at which point the battalion was assigned to 4th TD Gp. by VCG, XXCorps, 3rd Army. Roads were hard surfaced and in good condition. Weather was fair with showers.

E. Campaigns:

1. Battalion participated in RHINELAND CAMPAIGN from 28 September 1944 until end of period. (Authority: Ltr, 7th Army AG 200-6/BPA, 26 June 1945.)

F. Battles:

1. METZ--Battalion, attached to 10th Armd Div. ("A" Co. with CCA, "C" Co. with CCB, and remainder of Battalion with CCR), participated in this battle north and north-east of METZ from 9 December 1944 until 19 December 1944. The battle was part of the RHINELAND CAMPAIGN and resulted in the crossing of the MOSELLE RIVER and the fall of the city of METZ, FRANCE, to the 3rd Army.

2. THE BULGE BATTLE--Battle was part of the ARDENNES CAMPAIGN and lasted from 17 December 1944 until 26 December 1944. Battalion (less "C" Co.), attached to 10th Armd Div, supported that division in blocking the German thrust along the SAUER RIVER and toward LUXEMBOURG CITY. In this battle "A" Co. destroyed:

- 1 Mark IV tank
- 5 Cargo trucks
- 1 Ammo Carrier

- 3 Personnel Carriers
 - 1 Half-track
 - 1 Command car
 - 4 Volkswagons
 - 18 Bicycles
- while "B" Co. destroyed:
- 1 Mark VI (Tiger) tank
 - 1 Mark IV tank
 - 1 Liaison type airplane (on the ground)
 - 1 Battery 105 mm guns
 - 2 88 mm guns
 - 4 AA units
 - 1 Half-track
 - 1 Command car
 - 2 Mortar emplacements

During this battle "C" Co. was with CCB, 10th Armd Div, taking part in the BATTLE of BASTOGNE.

G. Commanding Officers in Important Engagements:

1. METZ:

- Battalion CO—Lt. Col. Roland A. Browne, Cav.
- Rcn. Co.—Capt. John M. Rugh, Cav.
- "A" Co.—Capt. Harold H. Dyke, Jr., FA
- "B" Co.—Capt. Albert F. Ahrenholtz, FA
- "C" Co.—Capt. Stephen P. Chorak, FA

2. BULGE BATTLE:

- Battalion CO—Lt. Col. Roland A. Browne, Cav.
- Rcn. Co.—Capt. John M. Rugh, Cav.
- "A" Co.—Capt. Harold H. Dyke Jr., FA
- "B" Co.—Capt. Albert F. Ahrenholz, FA

H. Losses in Action:

1. Killed:

"A" Co.

- Sgt. Raymond A. Janson, 14 November 1944
- Cpl. Lloyd J. Powers, 25 December 1944
- PFC William A. Gillard, 24 November 1944

"B" Co.

- T/5 George McCune, 25 December 1944

"C" Co.

- T/5 Robert H. Kurz, 21 December 1944
- *T/5 Harry D. Greene, 24 December 1944
- Pvt. John J. Pendziwater, 20 December 1944
- Pvt. Michael J. Hughes, 21 December 1944
- *Pvt. George G. Barnett, 24 December 1944
- Pvt. Lawrence Miller, wounded 3 November 1944 and died of wounds 10 November 1944.

* These men were wounded 21 December but were killed by a direct bomb-hit on the aid station, 24 December.

2. Wounded:

Pvt. Harvey S. Bauman, 3 November 1944
T/5 Carl L. Barkley, 19 November 1944
Sgt. John S. Johnson, 23 November 1944
Pvt. Winfield S. Harding Jr., 23 November 1944
Sgt. William M. Reardon, 25 November 1944
Cpl. Albert Hiebert, 25 November 1944
Pvt. Robert L. Hill, 25 November 1944
Sgt. Harvey L. Hamilton, 29 November 1944
S/Sgt. Joseph E. Fillinger, 14 December 1944
Sgt. Robert J. Egan, 14 December 1944
Pvt. Claude O. Watkins, 19 December 1944
Sgt. Lawrence R. Moses, 19 December 1944
T/ 5 Sprueff J. Kicklighter, 19 December 1944
Sgt. Charles R. Reed, 25 December 1944
PFC General L. Beeler, 25 December 1944
Pvt. Ellie McManus, 20 December 1944
Cpl. Colby N. Ricker, 20 December 1944
Pvt. Paul J. Chesnee, 19 December 1944
PFC. John Hovan Jr., 30 December 1944
PFC. Willie E. Strickland, 23 & 26 December 1944

3. Missing:

Sgt. Robert L. Horton, 19 December 1944
Cpl. David E. Wilson, 19 December 1944
Sgt. Richard H. Beaster, 20 December