

The following remarks were taken from the History and Records of Events from the Morning reports of Reconnaissance Company, 652d Tank Destroyer Battalion, from 4 March 1943 to 31 August 1945.

#### CAMP BOWIE, TEXAS

1943

- Mar. 4 -Company activated as provisional T.D. Company  
8 -Usual Camp duties and training of Cadre  
20 -Activated with station at Camp Bowie, Texas and assignment of T.D. B.U.T.C.  
21-31-Basic training
- Apr. 1-10-Basic training and 22 cal. rifle firing  
11-21-Basic training and 30 cal. firing  
22-30-Basic training
- May 1 -30 cal. M.C. firing  
4-7- Night operations  
12-13-Company moved to field in preparation to move to Camp Hood, Texas  
15 -Left Camp 0630 by foot and arrived in bivouac area at 1230. Distance marched 14 mi. Weather cloudy and cool.  
16 -Left bivouac area 0600 and arrived new bivouac area at 1200. Distance marched 14 mi. Weather cloudy and cool.  
17 -Left bivouac area at 0600 and arrived new bivouac area at 1430. Distance marched 17 mi.  
18 -Left bivouac area at 0700 and arrived new bivouac area 1530. Distance marched 17 mi.  
19 -Left bivouac area at 0730 and arrived new bivouac area at 1100. Distance marched 11 1/2 mi. Weather fair and warm. Gas range in kitchen truck exploded causing damage to truck top and body and all food-time 1500  
20 -Left bivouac area at 0730 and arrived Camp Hood at 2045. Distance marched 32 mi.

#### CAMP HOOD, TEXAS

- 24 -Preparation for A.U.T.C. training  
31 -Beginning of A.U.T.C. training
- June 1 -First week of A.U.T.C. training  
2 -Dismounted practice review  
3 -Dismounted review for Maj.Gen. Ward  
4-6--Usual A.U.T.C. training  
7 -Pioneer Platoon on 1000" range  
8. -Clear Creek range firing-30 cal rifle and M.C.  
9 -1st Platoon on 1000" range (37MM)  
10. -2nd Platoon on 1000" range (37MM)  
11 -3rd Platoon on 1000" range (37MM)  
12-14-Usual duties and A.U.T.C. training  
15 -Clear Creek range 50 cal. M.C.  
16-18-Recon. Platoons on 1000" Pilot Knob AT range. Pioneer Platoon-Pioneer instruct on. Cleaning and policing of area. Moved to 64th Street into area vacated by 816 T.D. Bn. Left old area on 35th Street at 1800.  
19-20-Preparation of quarters in new area and policing of old area  
21 -Pioneer Platoon and 1st Squad of 3rd Platoon on AA range. Gun crews of 1st Platoon on 1000" Pilot Knob AT range.  
22 -Pioneer Platoon A.U.T.C. training. 1st Platoon and 2nd Squad of 3rd Platoon on AA range. Gun crews of 2nd Platoon on 1000" Pilot Knob range.  
23 -2nd Platoon and 3rd Squad of 3rd Platoon on AA range. Gun crews of 3rd Platoon on 1000" Pilot Knob AT range.

From Charles J. Walker

1943

June 24

-Gun crews on moving tank range in the morning and on Sugar Loaf Gas range in the afternoon. Preliminary instruction on night firing in the evening

25

-Entire Company on Tama Gas range (except gun crews). Gun crews (37MM and 50 cal.) on Sugar Loaf gas car range (night firing)

26-30

-Usual Camp duties

July 1-3

-Usual Camp duties

4

-Marched to Battle conditioning course #1. Left Bn. area at 1830 and arrived at course at 1945

4-10

-Training on Battle conditioning course #1

10

-Returned to Bn. area. Left bivouac area at 1100. Marched 5 mi. in 58 min.

11-12

-Beginning of tactical training

13

-Bn. alerted at 2000. Company moved out at 2130. Blackout march until 2315

14-19

-Usual A.U.T.C. tactical training

20

-Battalion alerted. Left Bn. area at 2045 on blackout march and returned 2330. Distance covered 15 mi.

21-28

-Usual camp duties

29

-Blackout drive. Bn. cleared the motor pool 2030. Returned 2300. Distance covered 15 mi.

30-31

-Usual Camp duties

Aug. 9

-Left Company area for over night Bn. problem (no. 1) 1300

Sept. 1-15

-Usual garrison duties

16

-Loading of supplies and preparing for movement to Camp Bowic, Texas

17

-Moved to Camp Bowic, Texas. Left Motor Pool Camp Hood, Texas at 0640 and arrived Camp Bowic, Texas at 1130. Movement by convoy.

#### CAMP BOWIC, TEXAS

Oct. 17-30

-Usual garrison duties

1-10

-Usual Camp duties

11-27

-Usual camp duties

28

-Night training from 1830 to 2400. Established Bivouac and security.

28-31

-Usual camp duties

Nov. 1

-Night operations-1830 to 2400

1-10

-Usual camp duties

13

-Preparation for maneuvers. Left Camp 1500

#### CAMP POLK MANEUVER AREA LA.

15

-Bn. left Camp Bowic, Texas 0001 14 Nov. 1943 arrived Palestine, Texas 1030. Departed at 0600 15 Nov. arrived at maneuver area La. at 1630, 15 Nov., movement by convoy.

18

-Established formal bivouac area. Pre-maneuver training.

28

-Maneuver training at 1800

Dec. 1

-Atkinson went beserk

4

-Maneuver training: Preliminary flag training exercises

11

-Flag exercises, 1st phase of maneuvers ended at 1200, 9 Dec 1943, 3 day break.

12-25

-Usual camp duties

25

-CHRISTMAS. rained while eating dinner. Morale very low

26-30

-Usual maneuver training

31

-Fourth phase of Fifth period of maneuvers ended

Jan. 1-5

-Usual maneuver training

6

-Fifth phase of fifth period on maneuver training ended at 1500

6-19

-Usual maneuver training

20

-Last phase of the fifth period of maneuvers began at 1800

21-24

-Fifth period of La. maneuvers ended at 1200 24 Jan. 1944

27

-Departed La. maneuver area at Marryville, La. at 1600. Motor convoy to Camp Robinson, Ark.

Jan. 27-29 -Enroute to Camp Robinson, Ark.  
29 -Arrived Camp Robinson, Ark.

#### CAMP ROBINSON, ARK.

Feb. 31 -Usual camp duties  
1-10 -Usual camp duties  
11-15- Usual camp duties  
16 -10 mile night march from 1900 to 2200  
17-28 -Usual camp duties  
Mar. 7 -98 EM and 4 Officers fired the 30 cal Carbine (slow fire)  
18 -Memorials services for the 12 EM killed from "B" Co killed  
in mine explosion.  
20 -FIRST ANNIVERSARY, BATTALION DAY. 62 EM of Company  
awarded the Good Conduct Ribbon. EM were all given the  
day off.  
21-30 -Usual camp duties.  
Apr. 5 -Departed Camp Robinson at 0900 by convoy and arrived  
Texarkana at 1530  
6 -Departed from Texarkana at 0730 and arrived at Camp Howze,  
Texas at 1530. Distance traveled 156 mi.

#### CAMP HOWZE, TEXAS

10 -Beginning of regular training schedule. Usual camp duties  
14 -Beginning of special training for Pvs. and Pfc.  
Provisional Company Formed  
14-28 -Training of Pvt. and Pfc.  
29 -Provisional Company disorganized. Pvs and Pfc. returned  
to Company for regular Company training.  
May 30 -Usual camp duties  
1-10 -Usual camp duties  
11-20 -Usual camp duties  
20-27 -Preparation for movement to Camp Hood, Texas.  
28 -Battalion moved to House Camp, Camp Hood, Texas. Co. left  
Camp Howze, Texas at 0530 and arrived destination at 1530.  
30 -Gun crews fired 30 sub-cal on Tama gas ear range  
31 -Gun crews fired service ammo (27MM) on Tam gas ear range  
June 1 -Battalion problem (left bivouac area at 2000)  
2 -Returned from Battalion overnight problem at 1000  
3-5 -Preparation for Combat firing test  
6 -Company combat firing test  
8 -Battalion proficiency firing test  
9 -Route marking mission from Camp Hood, Texas to Camp Howze,  
Texas for Battalion. Time 0730-1600. Distance traveled  
210 mi.  
12 -War Bond demonstration in Gainesville Texas  
15 -Inspection by 15 Hq. Sp. Tr. 4th Army of T/E  
15-20 -Usual camp duties  
24 -Battalion review in honor of Lt. Col. Albrecht  
30 -Men armed with M-1 rifle fired the transition course  
July 1-10 -Usual camp duties  
11-20 -Usual camp duties  
22 -Battalion departed from Camp Howze, Texas to Camp Polk, La.  
Movement of personnel by train  
23 -Battalion arrived at Camp Polk, La. at 1800. Distance  
traveled app. 380 mi.  
24-30 -Preparation of Battalion area and policing of same.  
Aug. 1 -12 M.G. crews fired the 30 cal. M.G. (ground mount)  
4 -Established a formal bivouac area outside of Camp Polk  
5-10 -Preparation of formal bivouac area.  
14 -3rd Recon Platoon attached to "C" Co. left on a tactical  
problem  
15 -Inspection and tests (s-2, C. 7.3. Tactical problem) by 12th  
T.D. Co.

1944

Aug.

- 16 -Battalion problem. Company left bivouac area at 1150.
  - 17 -Battalion problem ended at 0900. Company moved to North Camp Polk from formal bivouac at 1800
  - 18-24 -Usual camp duties
  - 24 -Battalion tactical problem. Company left area at 2000
  - 25 -Battalion returned from tactical problem at 0830
  - 31 -Company departed from Camp Polk, La. and moved to Breezy Hill, La. (Camp Livingston, La.). Distance traveled 90 mi.
- Sept. 1-6 -Gun crews of Recon Platoons fired 30 sub cal. on M-8. Moved into Formal Bivouac

BREEZY HILL, LA.

- 5-8 -Gun crews (Recon Platoons) fired 37 LM service ammo. on Breezy Hill range
- 11 -3 Recon. Platoons attached to their respective firing Co. left Co. area at 1300 for Combat firing test.
- 12 -Combat firing test completed at 1700-1st Plat. score 90%, 2nd Plat. 85%, 3rd Plat. 75%.
- 13 -Battalion moved from formal bivouac area Breezy Hill to bivouac area near Gardner, La. for Battalion proficiency test.
- 14 -Battalion proficiency test began at 1200 in vicinity of Gardner, La.
- 15 -Battalion proficiency test ended at 1300. Battalion moved from Union Hill, La. to Camp Polk, La. Distance traveled 42 mi.

CAMP POLK, LA.

- 16 -Battalion prepared to moved to Fort Knox, Ky.
- 17 -Supplies and vehicles moved to train in preparation for moving
- 18 -Battalion departed from Camp Polk, La. on two trains (one at 2030 and the other at 2230). Personnel and vehicles moved by train.
- 19 -Battalion enroute from Camp Polk to Fort Knox.
- 20 -Battalion arrived Fort Knox, Ky. at 1800. Assigned to the Replacement and School command

FORT KNOX, KY.

- 21-28 -Preparation of new area.
- 28 -Officer and EM fired the Pistol for qualification
- Oct. 9 -Inspection by 14th Armored Grp.
- 10 -Usual garrison duties
- 26 -Battalion inspected by inspecting teams from Army Ground Forces
- 27-30 -Usual garrison duties
- 31 -Full field inspection in the field.
- Nov 1-10 -Usual garrison duties
- 11 -School troops held a parade on Brooks Field at 1700
- 12-20 -Usual garrison duties
- 21-30 -Usual garrison duties
- Dec. 1-10 -Usual garrison duties
- 25 -Battalion held a Christmas party for men in Camp
- 26-31 -Usual garrison duties
- Jan. 1-31 -Troop Requirements went on as usual
- Feb. 10 -Battalion inspected by Gen. Robinett, C.G. of The Armd. School
- 26 -Battalion will depart from Fort Knox, Ky., for Camp Shelby, Miss. Upon arrival received from Replacement and School command and assigned to 2nd Army

- 1945
- Feb. 27 - Battalion departed from Fort Knox, Ky. at 1400 hrs. by train for Camp Shelby, Miss.
- 28 - Battalion arrived Camp Shelby, Miss. at 1600
- Mar. 1-10 - Preparation and policing of new area.
- 20 - Battalion moved into bivouac area 10 mi. from Camp Shelby. 19 Mar. 0900.
- 21-30 - Usual duties
- Apr. 10 - AGF firing test Scores-1st Plat.-85% ; 2nd Plat.-90% ; 3rd Plat.-85%
- 19 - Unit moved from Camp Shelby, to a bivouac area (19 Mar.) for a two week training period. Sub cal. and service ammo firing. 27 Mar. Company moved from the Bn. bivouac area to a Co. bivouac area in vicinity of Oak Grove School and returned to the Battalion area 1300 the 30 th of Mar.
- 20 - Usual garrison duties. Firing Co. training on indirect firing
- 20-30 - Usual garrison duties
- May 1-10 - Usual garrison duties
- 11-20 - Usual garrison duties
- 20-30 - Usual garrison duties
- June 12 - Battalion moved to a bivouac area 29 mi. south of Camp Shelby, Miss. in vicinity of Bond, Miss.
- 15 - Battalion moved from Bivouac area (5 day Bivouac) 29 mi. south of Camp Shelby, Miss.
- 15-20 - Usual garrison duties
- 20 - Battalion departed by rail from Camp Shelby, Miss. to Chicago, Ill.
- 21 - Battalion arrived Chicago at 63rd St Station at 0630. Set up Headquarters at Calumet Park.
- 22 CALUMET PARK CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
- Beginning of military duties (settling truck drivers strike hauling merchandise and produce.
- 23-3 - VACATION TRIP IN CHICAGO
- July 4 - Battalion departed from Calumet Park for Camp Shelby, Miss
- 5 - Arrived at Camp Shelby, Miss. at 0600
- CAMP SHELBY, MISS.
- 5-10 - Recuperation from the trip to Calumet Park
- 11-31 - Usual garrison duties
- Aug. 1-30 - Usual garrison duties
- 31 - Battalion in process of being de-activated.

????? DID YOU KNOW ?????

- Did you know Reconnaissance Company
- (a) Had only 3 Company Commanders during its training period
- (b) Had only 1 of its six original officers at the time of de-activation.
- (c) Granted 91 Good Conduct Medals to EM on 28 Aug. 1945
- (d) Had 48 married EM
- (e) Purchased app. \$1,000 War Bonds Monthly
- (f) The average length of service as of 31 Aug. 1945 was 2 years and 8 months
- (g) Sgt. Barham formerly of the National Guard, had the greatest length of service, 5 years and 11 months
- (h) Had two regular Army men : 3/Sgt Martinez and Tro 5 Spinks
- (i) 171 EM were entered on the first Duty Roster and 54 of these men appeared on the last duty roster
- (j) Had 313 assigned to the Company
- (k) that the Wilson were the two ranking Pfc's on the de-activation date. They held that rating since 11 June 1943.
- (l) There were only two General Court Martial cases in 2½ years.