

HEADQUARTERS
658th AMPHIBIAN TRACTOR BATTALION
FORT ORD, CALIFORNIA

BATTALION HISTORY

APRIL
1944

15 April 1944, Fort Ord, California: CONVERSION: Pursuant to authority contained in Letter, File: AG322 (23 Mar 44) O-B-I-ENGCT-N, War Department, dated 28 March 1944, the 658th Tank Destroyer Battalion is hereby converted to the 658th Amphibian Tractor Battalion, with permanent station at Fort Ord, California. DE-ACTIVATION: Pursuant to authority contained in Letter, File: AG322 (23 Mar 44) O-B-I-ENGCT-N, War Department, dated 28 March 1944, Reconnaissance Company of this Battalion is disbanded.

27 April 1944, Fort Ord, California: Lieutenant General MC NAIR inspected the Battalion in training.

30 April 1944, Fort Ord, California: Strength: Forty three (43) Officers, five hundred and thirteen (513) Enlisted Men.

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BATTALION HISTORY

MAY
1944

9 May 1944, Fort Ord, California: Officers and Enlisted Men of the Battalion threw live Hand Grenades on the Hand Grenade Course.

10 May 1944, Fort Ord, California: Officers and Enlisted Men of the Battalion went through Chlorine Gas Chamber and the Night Infiltration Course.

16 May 1944, Fort Ord, California: Battalion moved to new area from Block #253 to Block #55. Weather: Fair. Morale: Excellent.

25 May 1944, Fort Ord, California: Battalion participated in Basic Medical Test. Rating: Very Satisfactory.

31 May 1944, Fort Ord, California: Strength: Forty five (45) Officers, five hundred and twenty two (522) Enlisted Men. Increase: Two (2) Officers, nine (9) Enlisted Men.

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BATTALION HISTORY

JUNE
1944

2 June 1944, Fort Ord, California: Battalion participated in Army Ground Forces Physical Fitness Tests. Battalion percentage: Ninety two percent (92%)
Weather: Fair. Morale: Excellent.

9 June 1944, Fort Ord, California: Pursuant to authority contained in Letter File AGF 320.3/36 (R) (11 October 1943) GNGCT dated 11 October 1943, Subject: "Reorganization of Units Under New Tables of Organization" and T/O & E 17-125, T/O & E 17-126 and T/O & E-127 Company "C" of this Battalion is hereby de-activated effective this date. Pursuant to authority contained in Letter File AGF 320.3/36 (R) (11 October 1943) GNGCT dated 11 October 1943, Subject: "Reorganization of Units Under New Tables of Organizations" this Battalion and Medical Detachment is hereby reorganized under T/O & E 17-125 effective this date. Pursuant to authority contained in Letter File AGF 320.3/36 (R) (11 October 1943) GNGCT dated 11 October 1943, Subject: "Reorganization of Units Under New Tables of Organization" Headquarters and Service Company of this Battalion is hereby reorganized under T/O & E 17-126 effective this date. Pursuant to authority contained in Letter File AGF 320.3/36 (R) (11 October 1943) GNGCT dated 11 October 1943, Subject: "Reorganization of Units Under New Tables of Organization" Companies "A" and "B" of this Battalion are hereby reorganized under T/O & E 17-127 effective this date.

19 June 1944, Fort Ord, California: Battalion relieved of assignment to 13th Armored Group and assigned to 18th Armored Group per Telegram, Headquarters III Corps. COMMANDING OFFICER 18th Armored Group: Colonel WILLIAM S. TRIPLETT.

26 June 1944, Fort Ord California: Battalion participated in Second Week of Sea Training.

30 June 1944, Fort Ord, California: Strength Forty five (45) Officers, one (1) Warrant Officer, five hundred and twenty nine (529) Enlisted Men. Increase: One (1) Warrant Officer, seven (7) Enlisted Men.

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BATTALION HISTORY

JULY
1944

4 July 1944, Fort Ord, California: Battalion participated in Amphibian Parade with 18th Armored Group.

10 July 1944, Fort Ord, California: Battalion moved from East Garrison, Fort Ord to new area in Main Garrison, Fort Ord. Weather: Warm. Morale: Excellent.

20 July 1944, Fort Ord, California: Battalion participated in usual Garrison duties.

30 July 1944, Fort Ord, California: Major FRED A. RATHKE, O-273410 assumes command of Battalion per General Order Number 3, this Headquarters. Strength: Forty three (43) Officers, two (2) Warrant Officers, five hundred and fifty eight (558) Enlisted Men. Decrease: Two (2) Officers. Increase: One (1) Warrant Officer, twenty nine (29) Enlisted Men.

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AUGUST
1944

2 August 1944, Fort Ord, California: Battalion received Movement Orders from War Department, Washington, D. C. WD 370.5 (1 August 1944) OBESEV to be prepared to move to San Francisco Port of Embarkation.

10 August 1944, Fort Ord, California: Usual Garrison duties plus preparation for overseas movement.

20 August 1944, Fort Ord, California: Usual Garrison duties plus preparation for overseas movement.

31 August 1944, Fort Ord, California: Strength: Twenty (20) Officers, two (2) Warrant Officers, four hundred and eighty (480) Enlisted Men. Decrease: Twenty three (23) Officers, eighty (80) Enlisted Men.

HEADQUARTERS
658th AMPHIBIAN TRACTOR BATTALION
CAMP STONEMAN, CALIFORNIA

BATTALION HISTORY

SEPTEMBER
1944

7 September 1944, Fort Ord, California: Battalion left Fort Ord at 1020 hours and arrived at Camp Stoneman, Pittsburgh, California at 1720 hours. Weather: Fair. Morale: Excellent.

21 September 1944, Camp Stoneman, California: Battalion completed Staging Area processing. Weather: Fair. Morale: Excellent.

22 September 1944, Camp Stoneman, California: Battalion departed from Camp Stoneman, California at 1330 hours and boarded S. S. Catalina 1430 hours for San Francisco Port of Embarkation. Arrived San Francisco Port Of Embarkation at 1830 hours. Boarded United States Army Transport Mormac Sea at 1830 hours. Morale: Excellent. Conduct of Troops: Superior.

23 September 1944, Aboard U. S. A. T. Mormac Sea: Left San Francisco Port Of Embarkation at 0830 hours enroute overseas. Weather: Fair. Sea: Rough. Morale: Excellent.

24-29 September 1944, Aboard U. S. A. T. Mormac Sea: Usual ship board duties. Weather: Warm. Sea: Calm. Morale: Excellent.

30 September 1944, Aboard U. S. A. T. Mormac Sea: Strength: Nineteen (19) Officers, one (1) Warrant Officer, four hundred and seventy nine (479) Enlisted Men. One (1) Officer, one (1) Warrant Officer and one (1) Enlisted Man on Detached Service at San Francisco Port of Embarkation. Weather: Warm. Sea: Calm. Morale: Excellent.

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658th AMPHIBIAN TRACTOR BATTALION
ABOARD UNITED STATES ARMY TRANSPORT MORMAC SEA

BATTALION HISTORY

OCTOBER
1944

2 October 1944, Aboard U. S. A. T. Mormac Sea: Usual ship board duties. Battalion crossed Equator at 1300 hours. Officers and Enlisted Men participated in appropriate ceremonies. Weather: Warm. Sea: Calm. Morale: Excellent.

5 October 1944, Aboard U. S. A. T. Mormac Sea: Usual ship board duties, one day lost due to crossing of International Date Line.

9 October 1944, Aboard U. S. A. T. Mormac Sea: Anchored at Empress of Augusta Bay, Bougainville Island. Weather: Fair. Morale: Excellent.

13 October 1944, Aboard U. S. A. T. Mormac Sea: Left Island of Bougainville at 1330 hours. Weather: Warm. Sea: Calm. Morale: Excellent.

14 October 1944, Aboard U. S. A. T. Mormac Sea: Anchored off of Munda Air Strip, New Georgia Islands at 0800 hours.

15 October 1944, Aboard U. S. A. T. Mormac Sea: Left New Georgia Islands at 1500 hours. Weather: Warm. Sea: Calm. Morale: Excellent.

17 October 1944, Aboard U. S. A. T. Mormac Sea: Anchored at Finschhafen, New Guinea at 0600 hours.

18 October 1944, Aboard U. S. A. T. Mormac Sea: Debarked from ship at 1800 hours and moved to Camp Madison, Finschhafen, New Guinea by Motor Convoy. Battalion set up usual camp site. Weather: Rainy. Morale: Excellent.

26 October 1944, Aboard U. S. A. T. Mormac Sea: Departed Camp Madison at 2100 hours and reboarded U. S. A. T. Mormac Sea. Weather: Cool and stormy. Morale: Good.

27 October 1944, Aboard U. S. A. T. Mormac Sea: Left Finschhafen, New Guinea at 0800 hours enroute to Cape Gloucester, New Britian. Weather: Warm. Morale: Excellent.

28 October 1944, Cape Gloucester, New Britain: Debarked from U. S. A. T.

Mormac Sea at 1100 hours. Moved to bivouac area by motor convoy.

31 October 1944, Cape Gloucester, New Britain: Battalion attached to 40th

Infantry Division, XIV Corps, 8th Army. Strength: Twenty (20) Officers, two

(2) Warrant Officers, four hundred and seventy seven(477) Enlisted Men.

Increase: One (1) Officer, one (1) Warrant Officer. Decrease: Two (2) Enlisted Men.

HEADQUARTERS
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APO 40

BATTALION HISTORY

NOVEMBER
1944

1-10 November 1944, Cape Gloucester, New Britain: Usual Camp duties. Battalion APO 17074 changed to APO 40.

17 November 1944, Cape Gloucester, New Britain: 1st Lieutenant CARL B. BOOTH, O-435935, Battalion Surgeon promoted to the rank of Captain per paragraph number 16, Special Order Number 221, War Department. Date of Rank: 14 September 1944.

23 November 1944, Cape Gloucester, New Britain: Thanksgiving Day. Church Services held for all Denominations. Usual Army Thanksgiving Dinner prepared by Company Messes. Weather: Hot. Morale: Excellent.

30 November 1944, Cape Gloucester, New Britain: Strength: Twenty (20) Officers, two (2) Warrant Officers, four hundred and seventy eight (478) Enlisted Men. Increase: One (1) Enlisted Man.

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APO 40

BATTALION HISTORY

DECEMBER
1944

7 December 1944, Cape Gloucester, New Britain: Battalion embarked at 1730 hours on LST numbers 267, 272, 1013, 610 and LSD number 6. Destination unknown, permanent change of station. Authority: Field Order number 1, Headquarters, 40th Infantry Division. Weather: Stormy. Sea: Rough. Morale: Excellent.

9 December 1944, Manus Island, Admiralty Group: Battalion anchored off Manus Island at 1500 hours. Sea: Calm. Morale: Excellent.

15 December 1944, Departed Manus Island at 0700 hours.

18 December 1944, Huen Gulf, New Guinea: Arrived Huen Gulf at 0630 hours for practice landings. Weather: Warm and clear. Morale: Excellent.

25 December 1944, Manus Island, Admiralty Group: Christmas Day. Church Services held aboard ship. Usual Army Christmas Dinner. Weather: Warm. Morale: Excellent.

27 December 1944, Aboard LSTs: Departed Manus Island at 1530 hours. Weather: Clear. Sea: Calm. Morale: Excellent.

31 December 1944, Aboard LSTs: Strength: Twenty (20) Officers, two (2) Warrant Officers, four hundred and eighty (480) Enlisted Men. Increase: Two (2) Enlisted Men.