

**COMPANY "B"**  
**802d TANK DESTROYER BATTALION**



**INTRODUCTION**

Until September 15, 1916, warfare was primarily a conflict between two opposing armies consisting mainly of man power. However, on September 15th in the battle of the Somme, there was introduced, by the British, a new instrument of conflict - a tank.

Invented by Major General Sir E.P. Swinton of the British Army, it was invaluable in overcoming the powerfully entrenched and organized defenses of the Western Front.

Although initiated by the Allied Forces, Germany soon realized the potential powers of such a weapon and adopted and developed it to her own needs. How far Germany has progressed in this field of mechanized warfare is forcibly demonstrated by her "Blitzkrieg" conquests made throughout Europe during the early part of the Second World War.

Until now, the anti-tank defense of one anti-tank company within an Infantry Regiment had been deemed sufficient. However, with the rapid development of mechanized warfare, it became apparent that a new anti-tank set up would have to be brought into being.

As a result, in the summer of 1940, the 14th Infantry Regiment of the New York National Guard was reorganized. The first and second battalions became the 187th Field Artillery. The third Battalion, comprising Companies I, K, & L, was made the nucleus for the 102d Anti-Tank Battalion. This was a singular honor as the 102d Anti-Tank Battalion was the first of the new organizations to be formed in the new tank defense. In the new organization, Company K. of the 14th Infantry became A. Company, Company L. became B. Company and Company I. became C. Company. In addition, L. Company also supplied the personnel necessary to form the Medical Detachment and to augment Headquarters Company of the new organization.

On September 3rd, 1940, Lt. Col. Hardin G. Sweeney, instructor attached to the 3rd Battalion of the 14th Infantry read the official announcement forming the new 102d Anti-Tank Battalion.

Lt. Col. Sweeney became the instructor for the new outfit. 1st. Lt. Purroy E. Thomsen, formerly of K. Company was promoted to the grade of Captain and given command of B. Company.

Before going any further, let us do a "TO THE REAR, MARCH" and meet some of the fellows that were to become members in B. Company of the new organization.

The following men were members of the 14th Infantry on September 3, 1940, the day the 102d Anti-Tank Battalion was activated and formed the initial enlisted personnel of B. Company:

Frank Bolles	George Lammel
Joseph Bernardo	Robert Lang
Victor Chalker	Harry Lindner
Rocco Condoleo	Frank J. Locurto
Charles Graft	Daniel Marzola
James Doran	Hobart Mattison
Edward Flecker	Charles Peterson
Arthur Frerichs	Frank Pulicaro
Robert Furst	Joseph Nuccio
John Genua	Harold Renker
James Gilmore	Thomas Rough
Joseph Gladd	Eric Schlowinski
Jacob Golden	Alfred Schultz
Isidore Irace	Joseph Sheerin
Harry Keever	William Simmons
Robert V. Kennedy	Alfred Springer
Otto Kohlmeier	Donald Williamson
Jerome Lamb	

These were the men who were to bring down to Camp Shelby, Mississippi, the many memories of the past years when they had gone to Peekskill or Yaphank for their annual two weeks training or as some called it "Two weeks vacation with pay".

Training, working, or playing, no one can deny that those days really did hold some unforgettable moments. Unfortunately many of the men associated with us back in the National Guard Days had been discharged prior to our induction into Federal Service and consequently are now only memories. However, a more powerful and impressive memory than Sammy Lorraine, a 6' 2" mountain of muscle would be hard to find. Sgt. Cummings, the Jensens, and many others.

Before leaving those who were not with us down in Mississippi mention must be made of one who had been instrumental in starting many of us on our military careers. Very few of the National Guard men can forget Sgt. Caseio. To some the name will bring back many laughs, while to others it will make chills run up and down their backs.

With a cry of "Pauncho Rides Tonight", many's the time Sgt. Caseio and his crew would go out into the night seeking some poor innocent victim, who in the Sergeant's opinion, needed a nice

ice cold shower to help him sleep better. But that and many other pranks are now only memories of old Company L. of the 14th Infantry.

Many new enlistments were added, between September 3, 1940, and January 13, 1941, the day of induction for the National Guardsmen, so that from the original 55, "B" Company grew to an enlisted strength of 103. Those who enlisted during this period were as follows:

Edward Adams	Joseph Farsch	Walter Rabbie
John Amodio	William Finisterer	Arthur Rayling
Leonard Amodio	Henry Flor	Frederick Riedel
Henry Anderson	Reginald Greene	George Romer
Frank Bader	John Hayes	Andrew Ryan
Thomas Baker	Peter Hicks	Raymond Saunders
Matthew Barnes	James Hudson	Glen Self
Norman Barnes	Donald Kelly	Lawrence Sibbers
Joseph Basso	Edward Koch	Clarence Skellington
Thomas Carey	Florio Lanzaro	John Smith
Theodore Chrzanowski	Lloyd Lavery	Manuel Soares
Vincent Cinque	Thomas LoVerde	Robert Suling
Wilber Clark	Frank McGarvey	Clarence Taber
Paul Coeluris	Coleman MacDonough	Angelo Tagliaferri
Ronald Craft	William Mayfield	Robert Terjesen
James Crilley	Charles Miltenberger	Robert Thompson
George Daniels	Edward Nadal	Zoltan Tofalvy
John DeAngelio	Fred Ostrander	John Voelger
Anthony Diece	John Penna	Garrett Waeber
Robert Doherty	Kenneth Pelcher	Henry Weiss
Thomas Donnelly	William Pettit, II.	Edward Wichern
Warren Dyckman	Benjamin Prechev	Peter Zegers

Actually, the strength of Company B. was 103 enlisted men but one man, Sammy Lorraine, was turned down on the physical examination.



# **FEDERALIZATION** **\*** **CAMP SHELBY, MISSISSIPPI.**



On January 13, 1941, 102 men were inducted into Federal Service in the Army of the United States, By Executive Order No. 8618, dated December 23, 1940.

The week following the day of induction was one of hustle and bustle. The men had the choice of either sleeping in the Armory or going home at night. But regardless of where they slept, all were now in the Army, and consequently had to answer "Reveille" call at 5:45 a.m. each morning.

During the week, additional equipment had to be issued, and naturally a great deal of paper work had to be completed prior to the actual move southward to Camp Shelby.

While at the Armory rations allowance per man amounted to \$1.15 per day. As a result, it was no surprise that most of the men got the wrong idea as to what constituted typical Army food. Such illusions were quickly dispelled, however, when Camp Shelby was reached.

On January 16th we sent Charles Craft and Donald Kelly on advance detail to Camp Shelby. The next day was a happy one for Corporals Suling, Furst and Petersen as they were promoted to sergeants. Anderson, Adams, Bolles, Glark, Doran, Lamb, Lammel, Rice, Rough and Springer were promoted to the grade of corporal. Corporals Adams and Rice had been in the "regulars" for a number of years and proved indeed a great asset to the Company.

The following Saturday, Lt. Feggler, Corporals Doran, Springer and Flecker were sent on "detached service to Camp Shelby". On Sunday the whole battalion paraded through Hempstead. It was a very impressive sight and one which none of us will ever forget. Our relatives, neighbors and friends lined the streets seeming much interested in our future career. After the parade they were invited to visit the Armory.

At seven o'clock the next night we started for the Clinton Avenue railroad station in Garden City. It was very cold. Again people lined the streets, all shouting farewells, all very proud of us. After marching about a mile we arrived at the station where the trains were waiting for us.

Firemen were there to furnish light and help clear the way. At 8:28 p.m. the train moved out and we were on our way.



As the long line of train cars pulled away a great cheer went up from the crowd as if all of Nassau County was there to wish us a good trip and a pleasant year; mothers, wives and sweethearts with tears in their eyes and smiles on their lips; sisters waving, fathers with proud looks and wishing that they could soldier with us. We were their "Minutemen" and "Defenders of Democracy." To be prepared for war is the best way to preserve peace.

The Pullman trains were very comfortable and in the spirit we were in we thought them doubly so. Then again, there was plenty of bottled spirit. After the second day of riding we began to be uncomfortable, but it was getting warmer and by 3:20 Wednesday afternoon we were in Camp Shelby, tired but eager to get going.

Here was the "Sunny South" -- a years' vacation with pay. Most of the men had never been this far from home. We were nearly 1500 miles from New York City. Bands were there to greet us and after a short march we came to the trucks which were to take us to our area, three miles from the railroad station. We arrived in our area, 46th Street and Avenue G, at 4:00 p.m.

Camp Shelby was named after the famed leader of Colonial Days, Colonel Isaac Shelby, who earned a niche in history's Hall of Fame by performing valiantly in the Revolutionary War. Located in the midst of DeSoto National Park, Camp Shelby was at one time the second largest training camp in the United States. The nearest town is Hattiesburg with a population of about 20,000 people and expanding rapidly. The town is located about 14 miles from Camp. In the First World War, Camp Shelby housed many soldiers but the old camp had been cleared away and an entirely new one erected. When we arrived there the camp was practically finished. Our area, though not the best, but with hard work we soon had canvas over the tent frames, cots and mattresses, and we were all quite comfortable.

I can see it now, as I lay on my cot -- the bright sun penetrating through the swaying pine trees. Two days ago we had been freezing but now we were walking around in shorts and enjoying the warm sunshine. This was heaven, so we thought.

We spent the next week, under the direction of Lt. Douglas, shaping our area into what we wanted it to be -- or as near as possible. Army life went along pretty smoothly until January 28th when Sgt. Mattison was stricken with measles, resulting in the Company being put under a working quarantine. What is a working quarantine? Well, here is Sgt. Simmon's idea of it. "We thought it would be a nice rest for a few weeks but that was wishful thinking. We had to work like hell -- 12 hours a day -- seven days a week." The morale was terrible as we had to be carpenters, plumbers, contractors, and about everything imaginable. Finally the two weeks ended. The official quarantine was to end.

at noon February 10, 1941. Every one was jittery and it seemed like we wanted to shout. We had been paid but couldn't spend it. True, there had been many card games and the old reliable "African Dominos" were kept constantly rolling. A racket was pulled by some fellows from A. Company who would go to the canteen for us and buy whatever we wanted, charging us 10% above the cost for service rendered. Nice fellows -- but such is the Army. Came February 10th and all was well. Now all we had to do was wait until 12 o'clock. In the morning John Penna reported to the 1st Sgt. that he wasn't feeling well. The 1st Sgt. called the Medic's who very politely informed us that Pvt. Penna had the measles. We went under quarantine for another two weeks. The men gathered around John's tent with murder in their eyes but there was nothing they could do. For the next two weeks we damn near went crazy but since all things must come to an end whether good or bad, so it was with our quarantine. It was lifted on Feb. 24th.

The next week-end we went to that soldiers heaven, New Orleans. We hired a bus and loaded on as many as we could. The unfortunate who couldn't make it had to stay behind. Our pockets were filled with money as we had been kept in for our first month of Army life and now we were going to catch up on all that we missed in that one week-end. We sure did. Everybody had a great time and we spent a lot of dough but we got our money's worth. No one will ever forget the French Quarter, Canal Street, Roosevelt Hotel or Tulane University.

The next week saw us doing the regular routine duties. Many of us went to Hattiesburg in the evenings but we soon discontinued the practice as we had to go through so much "red tape" to get a pass that it wasn't worth it.

In order to go to town you need a pass. All you have to do is give your name to the designated non-com in your platoon before 1300. He submits it to the Platoon Sergeant who might O.K. it. The pass would then be made out and the 1st Sergeant would have to approve it, then the Company Commander, each one had to sign it. At 1730 you would "doll up" and see if the C.Q. had your pass. If he did, you would then be on your way. You would walk to Highway 24, wait for the bus which never ran on schedule. When a bus did come it was usually so crowded that it reminded you of the New York subways at 5 p.m. Of course, the driver would pass you by. After a while one might come along that wasn't so crowded so you would hop on, pay your 25¢ one way or 35¢ round trip, and ride to the M.P. gate. If you were standing you had to get out so that the MP's could inspect the buses and check the soldiers passes. They would then check yours. If everything was O.K. you would hop back on the bus and again be on your merry way.



Passes would usually be made out for 11 p.m., sometimes midnight. After you had knocked yourself out in town and you were about to start back for camp, you had to go to the bus station for the buses would not pick anybody up on the way unless you were well out of town. At the station you would find hundreds of soldiers, all trying to get a bus back to camp. After waiting 30 minutes or an hour, depending on how aggressive you were, you would get disgusted and using illegal football tactics gain your objective, a ride back to camp, or if you had two bucks you would take a taxi if you could find one. In the meantime your C.Q. back in the company street would wait until the time limit on passes had expired at which time he would take bed check. The report would be sent to the C.D. who in turn would send it to the Camp Commander. Those not present for bed check would receive company punishment. It is no small wonder then, that most of the men very seldom left camp except for week-ends.

Effective March 1st, Frank J. Locurto became 1st Sergeant and Charlie Craft was promoted to the grade of Sergeant. It was at this time that we began to receive bayonet instructions. We made our own bayonet run. In making the dummies we used shumac which was all right except that it was poison shumac. As a result many men were stricken. Lt. Douglas had to go to the hospital and I can still picture Doherty going around with a pair of grapefruits. We soon got over it and now we know what poison shumac looks like, I hope. At least we know what it can do.

On March 9th, Lt. Feggler left for school at Fort Benning, Georgia. As a send off gift we gave him a handsome wrist watch. He had done a great deal for the Company and was greatly admired by all the men.

A few days later we exchanged Ramsey for Irace of Company A. Irace was a member of old Company L. and was one of the men that L. Company gave to the Medical detachment when the battalion was reorganized. George Romer was made a corporal.

B. Company was in charge of the construction of anti-tank obstacles for the Battalion. It was a tough job but we constructed them and after completing the job we wondered why we had not been made into an engineer outfit.

On April 1st, Corporal Rice was transferred to Headquarters Company. He was made a master sergeant in charge of the battalion motor pool. In exchange, Headquarters Company gave us Sgt. Genua, another old member of Company L. Sgt. Genua had been in charge of "Rookie School" up until 1938, when he was discharged due to termination of enlistment. He came back in August 1940. We also had a number of promotions on the 1st of April. "Blondie" Harry Keever and "Dashing" Eddie Flecker became sergeants.



Leonard Amodio and Ghet Delega became transport Corporals. Boherty, Irace, Mayfield, Pettit, Simmons, Tofalvy, Wiehern and Woodward became Corporals. Most of the 5th grade specialists were disgraced and a number of lesser promotions made. This gave us our full complement of non-coms. Donald Kelly left on the 10th of April for Motor Mechanics School at Fort Benning.

We were all anxiously awaiting the arrival of our "selectees" or new men, as we were told to call them. Finally on the 25th of April, Sgts. Peterson, Chalker, Corporal Anderson, John Amodio and Bob Thompson were sent to Camp Upton to pick them up.

For three months we had seen Weiss and Saunders going to Radio School. We called them the "dit-dot twins" and wondered when they would fully qualify themselves to be radio operators. It was made official the 1st of May, Saunders becoming a 3rd class specialist and Weiss a 4th class specialist.

On May 2, 1941, the whole Battalion lined up by Companies in front of the battalion warehouse to welcome our selectees to their new home. They arrived in trucks and unloaded at 4:30 p.m. Some were tall, some were short, but all looked bewildered. Their blouses were the new sport back type. Many had heavy woolen trousers and some even had on blanket britches with wrap leggings. Each struggled with his barracks bag which they carried over the shoulder. All of them were from New York State except Claude Bushey who hails from Vermont. A number were from Rome and the near vicinity but most of them were from good old New York City itself. That same evening they were assigned to the various corporals. Corporal Mayfield received the last three, Bushey, Mulga and Rzepucha who soon won fame as Mayfield's Midgets. Rzepucha was born in Dresden, Germany. In the fall of 1942 he officially changed his name to Lou and the following spring entered the language school at Camp Richie, Maryland, where he studied to become an interpreter in Army Intelligence.

To teach the new men the right way to do things we had been sending Sgt. Craft, Corporals Muscio, Doran and Lamb to a special battalion school where, every afternoon for six weeks, they studied Field Manual 22-5 until they could recite it by heart. Later Corporal Anderson was added to this group of instructors.

The new men were:

James Bellamore  
Albert Berlin  
Sydney Brenner  
Philip Rifulco  
Claude C. Bushey

Joseph J. Casillo  
Wesley M. Clipston  
Donald J. Gloss  
John G. Cole  
John B. Grove

John P. Diagnan  
Richard P. Downes  
Joseph J. Ferraro  
Philip Fidler  
Albert C. Frey





Jules H. Friedlander  
 Fred M. Furbush  
 Vallee J. Gabriel  
 Henry J. Gaffney  
 Irving Gordon  
 Jerome Greenberg  
 William C. Heineck  
 Richard J. Hemmings  
 Ralph J. Hoener  
 Arthur J. Ilse  
 Emanuel Insinna  
 George A. Jacobides  
 Paul Jones  
 Stanley M. Kardash  
 Christopher D. Keegan

Jerry Kerben  
 Lawrence Kirk  
 Donald Kreuter  
 Sidney M. Kupetz  
 Walter Letarski  
 John Lawler  
 Arthur Luria  
 Thomas J. McGann  
 James P. McArthur  
 James A. McGuinness  
 Fred G. Miller  
 Joseph M. Mitura  
 Edward A. Moran  
 Samuel A. Mulga  
 Gerald P. O'Connell

Edward D. Orendorf  
 Jerry L. Raggio  
 Bernie L. Renner  
 Stevan Rosenstein  
 Alfred A. Rzepucha  
 Sol I. Schwamenfeld  
 Arthur Sherry  
 Louis Shuman  
 Sidney M. Siporin  
 Everett J. Snyder  
 Archibald R. Stanners  
 Ward Stottle  
 Avvenire M. Vair  
 Charles H. VanWinckle  
 John F. Volk

The following Monday the special instructors took over and in only two weeks they sweated a 13 weeks basic training course into the new men.

Another event took place on May 5th, one which we had looked forward to since January 13th. Furloughs started. We had been away from home for over three months, at a place we had never dreamed of going and had adjusted ourselves to Army life. The furloughs were for 10 days and as soon as one group came back another would leave. This procedure was to continue until every one had a chance to go home. On the 15th of May, 2nd Lt. McQueen was promoted to a 1st Lt. and on the 24th he was transferred to "A" Company. We received in exchange for 1st Lt. McQueen, 1st Lt. Inn. Lt. Inn was a West Pointer and a former member of the "7th Regiment" of the New York National Guard. We gave Lt. McQueen a handsome wrist watch as a farewell gift. Later he became Commander of "A" Company. Lt. Huppert left for school at Fort Benning.

On June 1st Rayling and Cole were sent to Cooks and Bakers School. A week later Lt. Feggler came back after completing his course at Fort Benning.

It was on the 8th of June that "B" Company lost its first man. PFC Clarence Skellington drowned while swimming in the Leaf River with Otto Kohlmiere. Sgt. Suling and others worked on him for many hours in an effort to revive him, but it was hopeless. That Monday night the entire Company in formal dress uniform and arms paid it's respects to a departed comrade. Every member of the Company was present at the funeral home in Hattiesburg to witness the last rites. Sgt. Cooluris and a selected squad formed an honor guard from the funeral home to the train that was to take the body home. Pvt. Kohlmiere went along as the Company's representative to express our sympathy to the Skellington Family.



On the 10th of June our Company left for maneuvers. Only Company Headquarters went. Technically the remainder of the Company was on Detached Service to Camp Shelby where they followed their regular schedule.

At this time we cleared an area across 46th street and constructed a garage to accommodate 8 vehicles. The job was so well done that later it was necessary to camouflage the materials used because they were not procured through channels. One of the hardest things in the Army is to procure building materials which you sometimes get by going through channels but most of the time you "find it" or you "win it". After we had constructed the garage the MP's came over and wanted to know where we had procured the material. We said that we had found them -- here and there. It seems that a lot of lumber and tar paper had disappeared from the vicinity of some new building project and since our garage was so well constructed it was evident new materials had been used. The Provost Marshal wanted the contractor, who was missing the materials, to identify it. The MP's said that they would bring the contractor over to see it and if he could identify it we would have to answer for it. Here was a chance to show what we had learned from our many lessons on camouflage but we never thought that we would have to put it to the test so soon. The contractor came that afternoon. All that can be said is that we passed the test. Nice camouflageing, eh! We also revised our tent setup. This was done under the capable direction of Lt. Douglas who was one of the most brilliant men we ever had. He also came from the "Old Seventh Regiment" of N.Y.N.G. We later lost him and six months after leaving our organization he rose from a 2nd Lt. to Captain in the Air Corps at Washington, D.C.

Our tents were set up so that we could use half of the tent as sleeping quarters and the other half was divided so that on one side we hung our equipment and on the other we had a clothes closet. Everything had a definite place and all tents were uniform. Even the nails were spaced just so far apart. You can imagine the surprise the men received when they came back from their maneuvers. The Company Commander was greatly surprised, not to mention the Battalion Commander. Our area was greatly improved and the envy of the other companies.

Let us see what the boys who went on maneuvers did. They left the company area at 6:50 a.m. and headed for Camp Beauregard, stopping on the way at the Municipal Airport in Baton Rouge. After traveling 320 miles they arrived at Beauregard. It was a tactical maneuver and the men were never more than 100 miles from Camp Beauregard. During the maneuver they moved from place to place (Zimmerman, Camp Claiborne, Elmer, Kisitche and Kirtlewood, Louisiana) usually working between Camp Claiborne and Camp Beauregard. On the 28th of June they started back to Shelby making one over-night stop in Natchez, Mississippi, and finally arrived in Camp Shelby at 2:05 p.m., June 29th. The whole company turned out to welcome them back.



During the first two weeks of July we continued with the usual camp training and field problems. About the middle of the month we went on our first over-night problem which lasted for three days. This was a dry run for the maneuvers which were to begin in August.

On August 1st Cpl. Dolega was transferred to Headquarters Company of this Battalion and Sgt. Schultz and Private Oswald of Headquarters Company were sent to "B" Company. Sgt. Schultz, better known as "Tiger" later became S/Sgt. in charge of the 1st Platoon. He was a member of the Old National Guard and a well known heavyweight fighter in civilian life. The Tiger was a monster of a man, rough and tough but with a heart of gold for the men serving under him. His bellowing voice could be heard for blocks. All B Company men will vouch that never did we have a character such as Schultz. As he himself said "I'm a tradition around here" and he surely was.

Private Cole returned from Cooks and Bakers School on the 1st of August and we sent Glenn Self to the same school that day. On the 7th of August, Private Jonas was discharged from the Service. He had joined the Company in April with the rest of the selectees and was discharged via ODD because of stomach ulcers.

We are now ready to go on maneuvers. Several days were spent in preparation for the order to move out. We are leaving behind as a guard, Pvts. Marzola and Friedlander. We also left Grilley back as he is to go to mechanic's school in a few days. 1st Lt. Feggler also departed for school.



**LOUISIANA & TEXAS MANEUVERS**  
**August 8, 1941, to October 1, 1941**



**Friday August 8th** This is a bright summer morning as we leave Camp Shelby enroute to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, our first stop on the way to the Maneuvers. We arrived late in the afternoon after a trip of 210 miles. One accident marred the trip, the steering wheel locking on one of the trucks and the vehicle swept into a wire fence. This occurred about 22 miles from Lumberton and Cpl. Adams who received injuries to his right arm was returned to Camp Shelby by the medical officer, Capt. Weed. It is raining in Baton Rouge as we bivouac at the airfield.

**Saturday August 9th** We moved on to the Fifth Army Corps bivouac on the outskirts of Fulton, Louisiana, about 150 miles, and there pitched tents. We remained in bivouac until August 15th doing regular field exercises.

On August 16th we moved by convoy to Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, where we staid until September 12th when we moved to an area north of Merryville.

**Sunday September 14th** Received a message from Headquarters that the Battalion would go into the maneuvers tomorrow.

**Monday September 15th** The Company messed at 3 a.m. and immediately moved out. At Burkeville, Texas, the 1st platoon under command of Lt. Huppert was ordered to the vicinity of Milan, to guard the Sabine River crossing at that point. The rest of the Company moved on to a bivouac area north of Jasper.

**Tuesday September 16th** Capt. Roy E. Thomsen departed for school so Lt. Harry G. Huppert took command of the Company.

**Thursday Septembr 18th** The Company was alerted before daybreak and moved out on the road where it remained while a reconnaissance party led by Sgts. Sibbers and Charley Craft went out to contact the enemy. When they returned the Company crossed the Sabine River and held up in the woods about 200 yards from the bridge. Later we were ordered to advance east along route 63. Lt. Lawrence G. Feggler reported for duty this afternoon and immediately assumed command of the Company.

**Friday September 19th** Moved out this morning and were attacked by three planes, with the result that 10 of our men were ruled out. Message was recieved that four light tanks were seen at the town of Negrit, Louisiana, which is northeast of our position. The 23rd infantry to our front has withdrawn and the enemy blew up a bridge between our Company CP and the 3rd platoon but a by-pass was completed around the bridge permitting vehicles to get through. Late in the afternoon moved into bivouac area three



miles from Hornbeck, Louisiana. Not much activity over the week-end but no men were permitted out on pass.

**Monday** Pvts. Kohlmer and Orendorf reported back at the  
**September 22nd** CP. They had been captured during the latter part of the previous week.

**Wednesday** Moved out this morning in tactical type convoy.  
**September 24th** We were halted 7 miles west of Marthaville for an hour, the vehicles pulling off the road for cover. Bivouaced tonight five miles west of Pleasantville, Louisiana.

**Thursday** As we left the bivouac area we were attacked by  
**September 25th** hostile aircraft but there were no casualties or damage reported. Later Lt. Feggler directed the trucks to still better cover than what they already had. We were attacked seven times by aircraft today. This evening a truck was detailed to town to get supplies for the men. What a load of cigarettes and candy we bought. About dusk we started for a bivouac area near Mansfield, Louisiana, and drove it in blackout. The maintenance truck ran off the road but was soon righted without any damage. From our bivouac area we noticed flares to the south but no explanation was given for them.

**Friday** This afternoon we moved about 10 miles to an area  
**September 26th** near South Mansfield where we are bivouaced alongside the Red Army air field. In the evening we were on the lookout for a parachute attack as it was believed the enemy would attempt to take the air field. Precautions were taken to repel any attack. Flares were seen in the distance and from a reliable source we heard that the enemy had dropped the flares in an attempt to locate a divisional convoy on route 171. Although aircraft alarms were numerous no men or vehicles were ruled out. With the permission of Lt. Feggler, Lt. Little moved the 130th Infantry CP right alongside our 3rd platoon. This evening platoon leaders went into town to get needed things for the men, 1st Sgt. Locurto being in charge.

**Saturday** Early this morning a few flares were noticed in  
**September 27th** the distance, probably for landing purposes. Saw a little action in the afternoon but otherwise things are quiet. Moved to a point 5 miles south of Shreveport where we were attacked by Blue aircraft as we were moving into our bivouac area. Sgt. Guling returned from the hospital whereas Pvt. Frey was admitted because of a severe gripe.

**Sunday** Shortly after midnight orders were received from  
**September 28th** Opt. Foley to prepare to move. We actually left the area at 1:30 a.m. and travelled 51 miles to a point a short distance south of Marshall, Texas, which we reached about sun up. On the move again this afternoon and contacted the enemy but at six o'clock this phase of the maneuvers came to a close. We bivouaced for the night seven miles from Keetaw, Louisiana.

**Monday**  
**September 29th** Lt. Feggler informed the Company of the possibility of participating in the Carolina maneuvers which the men believe will automatically cancel all discharges and furloughs. The Lieutenant also stated that until the Battalion moves to the Carolinas, we probably will be stationed at Camp Polk, Louisiana. The day was spent in cleaning equipment. Lt. Douglas returned from SD.

**Tuesday**  
**September 30th** Good News. Lt. Feggler informed the Company that furloughs would be granted and that they should be completed by October 31st. We will then compete in the war games in North Carolina during the month of November whereupon we will return to Camp Shelby, Mississippi. A pleasure convoy was run into Shreveport this evening and the fellows had a good time.

**Wednesday**  
**October 1st** We are moving out but not for Camp Polk as was thought. Instead, we are headed for Camp Claiborne where we will spend the month of October and then back East for more maneuvers. It was a beautiful autumn morning when we left our bivouac area for Camp Claiborne, arriving there in the late afternoon. For the next three weeks we performed the usual camp duties and also worked a number of field problems

**CAROLINA MANEUVERS**  
**October 26, 1941, to December 1, 1941**



**Sunday**  
**October 26th** On our way by convoy to the war games in Carolina. The Company passed the main gate at Camp Claiborne at 8 o'clock travelling over route 84, with Jackson, Mississippi, our destination that night. Weather perfect. We covered the 250 miles to Jackson by 6 p.m. Bivouaced on the Fair Grounds which is located on the edge of the city. Rained very hard tonight. Lt. Douglas departed for school at Bennings, Georgia.

**Monday**  
**October 27th** On the highway again at 9 a.m. and we arrived at the airport in Selma, Alabama, late in the afternoon after a trip of 220 miles.

**Tuesday**  
**October 28th** Left the Selma airport bivouac and still travelling over route 80. Arrived at Camp Wheeler, Macon, Georgia, after a trip of 249 miles. Weather is clear but it is getting much colder as we go farther north. Didn't mess until 8:30 p.m. This evening overcoats were given out, also all trucks were gased up before the men retired.

**Wednesday:** On the road again and the weather continues good. We left route 80 and are now travelling over route 22. Some of the men are complaining of the hard seats in the poodles. Hang on fellows; we will soon be there. Arrived at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, after covering 225 miles. All trucks were gased and we bivouaced here for the night.



**Thursday**      We left the bivouac area about 8:30 a.m. heading  
**October 30th**    for North Carolina. Travelled over U.S. #1 today  
                     and about the middle of the afternoon we bivouaced  
                     in an area near Hoffman, North Carolina. Message was received  
                     from Battalion Headquarters that no shelter halves or mattress covers  
                     would be permitted as hammocks in the future. This order was due to  
                     a very sad accident which happened when one of the men in Headquarters  
                     Company lost his life when the tree to which his hammock was fastened  
                     fell and in some manner he became entangled in the ropes and was  
                     choked to death. After spending the first two days of November in  
                     camp at Hoffman, we left Monday afternoon, November 3rd, on Command  
                     Post exercises for the next five days. We operated most of this  
                     time in the vicinity of Cheraw, returning to our original bivouac  
                     area near Hoffman on November 9th.

**Tuesday**      Moved from the bivouac area at Hoffman on November 11,  
**November 11th**    and for the next few days maneuvered in the vicinity  
                     of Troy, Hydro and Briscoe, along the Pee Dee River.  
                     Remember the two shower details that went to the USO at Troy.

**Sunday**      Today an unusual encounter was made with the enemy.  
**November 16th**    The 1st platoon was captured and taken to an enemy  
                     prison camp whereupon the 2nd and 3rd platoons took  
                     the offensive, capturing several scout cars and stopping a convoy of  
                     light tanks but the tanks were released for various reasons by the  
                     umpires. About midnight the members of the 1st platoon under  
                     Lt. Huppert returned. All personnel who were captured are now back  
                     with the Company other than those in the quartering party.

**Monday**      This morning the Company remained in bivouac and set  
**November 17th**    up a number of 37 mm guns in position. In the  
                     evening a black-out drive was made to Red Cross,  
                     North Carolina, where the Company bivouaced for the night.

**Tuesday**      At 3 a.m. the Company began travelling black-out  
**November 18th**    to a new area in the vicinity of Albemarle,  
                     North Carolina, where we set up local protection  
                     and gun positions. Later this morning we moved back to our former  
                     bivouac area near Red Cross. An accident occurred in front of our  
                     bivouac area when an army motorcycle and truck collided. Our medical  
                     officer, Captain Weed, administered aid to the injured motorcyclist.  
                     In the afternoon we started towards Oaksboro and enroute contacted  
                     the enemy. We were attacked three times and knocked out six enemy  
                     scout cars. This evening three of our men failed to return, namely,  
                     Sgt. Schultz, Pvt. Cinque and Pulicaro.

**Wednesday**    This morning the Company moved from the combat area,  
**November 19th**    30 miles to the rear. A scouting party from the  
                     2nd platoon, led by Cpl. Woodward, returned with  
                     four prisoners mounted on motorcycles. Two more Red prisoners came  
                     in on Cpl. Tofalvy's truck. Sgt. Schultz and his party reported  
                     back to the Company, having been captives.

**Friday**  
**November 21st** We were rushed to an area about 20 miles from Charlotte but just as we were contacting the enemy news came that this phase of the maneuvers had ended. We retired immediately and the whole Company went into Charlotte for showers.

**Saturday**  
**November 22nd** This morning the Company joined the Battalion and continued on to the bivouac area near Albemarle where the week-end was spent in cleaning guns and equipment.

**Sunday**  
**November 23rd** This evening we moved to Oakboro and enroute Pvt. Springer's truck left the road and had to be towed in, which marked our first accident of these war games.

**Monday**  
**November 24th** We arrived at our new area 3 miles from Wingate. Here we contacted the enemy and received credit for 9 half-tracks but our Company was later wiped out.

**Tuesday**  
**November 25th** We were on the move the whole day without stopping and bivouaced about a mile west of Marshville.

**Wednesday**  
**November 26th** At noon we started to move again. Pvt. Hemmings, who was acting as air guard, was thrown from one of the trucks but not injured. It seems as though the driver's vision was impaired because of the heavy dust and when he was forced to stop short Hemmings was thrown out. At 4:30 in the afternoon a message was received that the war games were over. We bivouaced tonight about five miles north of Chester, S.C.

**Thursday**  
**Friday**  
**Saturday** These days were devoted to cleaning of ordnance and equipment. A convoy took a number of men in to Rock Hill, S.C., each evening.

**Monday**  
**December 1st** We began moving towards Camp Shelby, stopping at Dublin. Tuesday morning we continued on in a heavy rain to Albany, Georgia. We bivouaced here and the next day drove to Selma, Alabama, a distance of 210 miles, which we covered by 4 p.m. Passes were issued to the men this evening.

**Thursday**  
**December 4th** We are on the last leg of the journey to Camp Shelby, arriving there about 2:30 in the afternoon. The men went to their tents and started back to routine work.





5/2/42

After three days of preparation we left our Company area in Camp Shelby at 4:30 P.M. enroute to Camp Sutton, N.C. The 1st Sgt. formed the company and we marched down to 46th Street and "F" Avenue where trucks, provided by the Post, are ready to transport us to the railroad station. All vehicles have been loaded on flat cars and are following by freight train. At 6:30 P.M. the entire company ate supper just outside of Hattiesburg. Everyone seems to be in a jovial mood and the consensus of opinion is that this change to Camp Sutton will be for the best.

Sunday 5/3 We passed through Birmingham, Alabama, at 6:45 AM. Most of the men are still asleep as there will be no reveille this morning. Breakfast was served at 8:15 and paper dishes and cups were used for all meals. The following men ~~were~~ are absent:

Pvt. Greenberg	Sick in hospital
" Mooney	DS with Special Training Bn.
Cpl. Furst	DS at Camp Bullis, Texas
S/Sgt. Seabers	Furlough
S/Sgt. Craft	
Sgt. Irace	
<del>Swain</del> Sgt. Oswald	
TeIV. Kelly	
Cpl. Miller	
PFC Waeber	
PFC Moran	
PFC Flor	
PFC Self	
Pvt. Ryan	
Pvt. Bullock	
Pvt. Burt	

Pvt. Greenberg upon discharge from the hospital at Camp Shelby will rejoin the company at Camp Sutton. Pvt. Mooney is now receiving additional basic training in a Special Training Bn at Camp Shelby and it is doubtful if he will rejoin the Company. Cpl. Furst is in a German Interrogator School ~~and very likely~~ All men on furlough will rejoin the outfit in North Carolina. At 7:30 PM ~~were~~ were in Abbeyville, S.C. We had a 4 hours wait and the men were permitted to get off the train but were confined to the immediate vicinity and are not allowed to go into town. By 10 PM most of the men were in bed.

Monday 5/4 At 4:15 the Company is up and everyone is shining up and shaving for the arrival at the new Camp. Lt. MacPherson announced at 5 A.M. that there has been a change in plans and instead of leaving the train at 5:30 we will detrain at 7:30 AM. We were ~~not~~ greeted by the

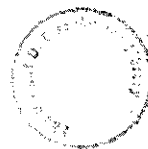
Bugle & Drum Corps of the 801st T.D. Bn. We arrived by truck at the new company area about 8:00 AM and shortly thereafter the barracks bags and foot lockers arrived and were distributed. As yet we have no canvas tents, just the frameworks are here. In the afternoon the Chauffeurs and a loading detail went down to the railhead to unload the trucks and other equipment sent by freight. By 10 PM the beds and mattresses were issued and canvas has been drawn from the Battalion. Most of the tents are now up. Despite the amount of work already done the men are in high spirits. The men that could be spared were allowed to go into Monroe, the nearest town, which is about one and one-half mile distance.

5/5 The entire company is still on details in the Company Street.

Lt. MacPherson has announced that furloughs will continue

NOTE: 4 *okay*

It was at this time that we went on the rifle range. Outside of qualifying a large number <sup>of</sup> men we also gained a mascot. A pure white goat, (Male), possibly a day or two old, who walked out on the range when we were firing and was immediately claimed by "B" Company. He was brought back to the street and named "Billy"



Our toughest job was in feeding him. *Am* He was too young to drink from a bowl, and the only thing he could have was milk.

*Cpl.* Sgt. Doherty (~~The~~ a corporal) temporarily solved the problem. He filled a "white" balloon with milk, put a pin hole in it and soon had the goat following the instinct of nature. Sgt Suling later bought the goat a milk bottle with a nipple.

Within 6 months <sup>Billy</sup> ~~he~~ grew ~~into~~ into a very large mischievous goat. It was quite impressive to see <sup>him</sup> Billy with his long white hair strutting down the company street. He would have been all-right if he only paraded up and down the street, but he would go into the <sup>TENTS</sup> ~~tents~~ and really raise havoc. It was some job keeping him clean. <sup>z</sup> Margola would wash him but the goat soon became dirty again.

During the winter Billy sought refuge in the latrine boiler room. He would snug up to the boiler in order to keep warm. One night he went a little too close and soon had his hair afire. Private Reginald H. Greene was a pretty surprised guard. While walking post #2 he looked around and saw Billy aflame, dashing past him.

It was in January that we turned Billy over to the Camp Veterinarian. We had a lot of fun with Billy, but all things must come to an end. So it came to pass that Company "B" no longer had a mascot.

# CAROLINA MANEUVERS

July 9th to August 13th, 1942



Thursday At 6:00 AM we left Camp Sutton by motor convoy enroute to  
July 9th bivouac area in vicinity of Ansonville, North Carolina.  
A rear guard remained composed of PFC Penna and Pvt. Pulicaro. We arrived at our bivouac area after travelling 28 miles. The men seemed to be looking forward to the forthcoming maneuvers and quickly acclimated themselves to the change in environment. The kitchen was soon set up and the balance of the day was devoted to care and cleaning of equipment as well as to establishing sleeping quarters since we are to stay here several days. In the afternoon the Company was informed that 20% of the men would be allowed to go out on night passes. Several took advantage of the opportunity to see Wadesboro which is about 12 miles away but the majority preferred to stay in and get some good old shuteye.

Friday The Company started the day with various classes on  
July 10th "Message Center", "Tank Destroyer Tactics", "The SCR 195 Radio" and other pertinent subjects. This morning a message was received from Battalion Headquarters that all personnel were to work on ordinance and motor vehicles for an inspection to be held in the afternoon. Classes were promptly dismissed and the men went to work. After the inspection the men were told that both ordinance and vehicles were in very good condition and the men were cautioned to keep them that way. Late in the afternoon the two medics attached to the Company gave a lecture on "Snake Bites And Their Treatment" which proved not only educational but most interesting.

Saturday It is raining very hard. The morning was devoted to the  
July 11th classes which were interrupted yesterday by the inspection. Of particular importance was the class on the "SCR 195". It gave the men an opportunity to learn how the radio set is operated and some radio voice procedure. All seemed greatly interested in this class. We also received a shipment of nine much needed peeps. Passes were issued to 20% of the personnel but the men had to be back at 4:00 PM Sunday. Those who made allotments received their delayed June pay after the evening mess.

Sunday At 4:00 PM the Company is busily engaged in breaking camp  
July 12th after an apparently enjoyable week-end, so as to be ready for the forthcoming maneuvers. We expect to receive an OSO anytime between now and dawn. Three umpires from our Company are ready to leave. They are S/Sgt. Sibbers, S/Sgt. Suling and Sergeant Anderson. Tech V. Casillo and Pvt. Clipston are also ready to go on the quartering party. At 7:45 PM the Company is standing by, waiting for the order to move. The men can hit the hay if they wish but must be ready to leave on a moments notice.

**Monday**      **THE MANEUVERS ARE ON.** The Company messed in the dark  
**July 13th**    for it's first time although we know innumerable such  
                  occasions will occur in our Army career. After breakfast  
 we left the bivouac area in motor convoy of tactical formation,  
 travelling blackout and heading northwest. After travelling 12 miles,  
 during which we passed through Ansonville, we reached a well  
 camouflaged bivouac area on the banks of the Rocky River and near  
 the town of Norwood where we established our C.P. alongside Highway 52.  
 Our orders are to hold this junction until relieved by the 41st  
 Infantry of the 2nd Armored Division. About noon we were relieved  
 and then started in convoy for Fountain Hill twenty-two miles away  
 where we bivouaced near Fountain Hill Church. At 9:00 PM the mess  
 truck arrived and the men had their first hot meal for the day.  
 An hour later, upon orders of the 2nd Armored Division the Company  
 moved to an area about three miles out of Wingate, the entire ride  
 being made in blackout.

**Tuesday**      We arrived at our new bivouac area at 1:30 AM and promptly  
**July 14th**    had mess as the kitchen truck moved with us. After an  
                  hour of sleep the Company was alerted. It is raining.  
 About daybreak the 3rd platoon returned from DS with the Armored  
 Division. They were led by Lt. Mullings and were assigned to a group  
 consisting of themselves, a platoon of infantry and a platoon of light  
 tanks. This group was commanded by Lt. Col. Murphy, Justice of the  
 Supreme Court. Their mission was to destroy mechanized enemy forces  
 which had penetrated into our territory and shelled Division Headquarters.  
 When the enemy force was encountered at Olive Branch the tanks were  
 on the flanks while the balance of the outfit was thrown into a  
 frontal attack. The enemy was forced to retreat and the town was  
 captured. On their way back to the Company the platoon was driving  
 in blackout when due to a bad turn in the road an SP commanded by  
 Sgt. Oswald and driven by Lavery went over an embankment and made a  
 complete turn-over. All men were thrown clear except Snow who was  
 pretty badly shaken and bruised and Sgt. Doherty who was sent to  
 Base Hospital as it was thought he had a fractured hip. Many of the  
 vehicles ran off the road because of the extreme darkness.  
 At 7:00 AM the Company left the area and in a concerted drive with  
 various elements of the 2nd Armored Division passed through Monroe,  
 an objective, and then continued on to Lancaster, South Carolina,  
 where we were detached from the 2nd Armored Division. This afternoon  
 information was received that the first phase of the maneuvers was  
 over and immediately the men went into two of the neighboring farm  
 houses to wash up and then filled their stomachs with "sweets" from  
 a nearby store. After supper the company moved to a new area about  
 three miles out of Oakboro where at a late hour the men hit the hay.

**Wednesday**    Company was not aroused until 8:00 AM and the day was  
**July 15th**    devoted to care and cleaning. It is raining but not very  
                  hard. In the afternoon a critique was held covering  
 everything that took place during the first phase of the maneuvers.  
 At the evening mess the men were all furnished red ribbons marking



us as a part of the vast Red Army, fighting the Blues. This morning Tech V. Gabriel went to Camp Sutton Hospital for treatment of a punctured ear-drum. In the evening we moved out of bivouac and drove 6 miles to an area at Rocky River Springs. Sgt. Mayfield arrived with the long awaited laundry which was sent out at Camp Sutton.

**Thursday** We are now ready for the next phase of the maneuvers.  
**July 16th** In the morning a gas alarm was sounded but the all clear came five minutes later. We are now under General Geraw of the 29th Infantry Division. We have the 1st Tank Destroyer Group, 6th Cavalry Division (mechanized), 8th Tank Group, 29th Infantry Division and the 111th Observation Squadron. Word has been received via radio that the SOI has been captured from the battalion message center and that the Blues also captured the Battalion C.P. Local security was sent out for our Company's protection. The Blues are using our Battalion set up (SOI) so we changed over to the one we formerly used. Rained in the afternoon and the men slept in wet clothes.

**Friday** Reveille and mess at 4 AM and shortly thereafter the  
**July 17th** Company Commander received orders to report to the Battalion C.P. Early in the morning the platoons took up positions at various road junctions and bridges in the vicinity of bivouac. Special stress was made on security as reconnaissance shows many infantry to be in the vicinity. Late afternoon we moved in convoy to our new bivouac near Euto, a distance of about 10 miles. This evening we were attacked by three enemy tanks, one driving through the Company area, but after considerable excitement they were ruled out and sent back to their assembly area.

**Saturday** At an early breakfast the men also picked up sandwiches  
**July 18th** for the noon meal. We are awaiting the Blues to attack and the firing of small arms can be heard in the distance. At noon we left the bivouac area enroute to Euto and after travelling about two miles we were stopped by Blue forces who told us that all action had ceased at 11:50 AM, finishing this phase of the maneuvers. We returned to our initial bivouac area where the men cleaned up. About the middle of the afternoon we left for our new bivouac area near Oakboro, six miles away.

**Sunday** After an early breakfast we moved out of the bivouac  
**July 19th** area enroute to Pageland, South Carolina, where we arrived at 2:30 PM after a trip of 67 miles. Weather clear. Remainder of the day spent in care and cleaning as well as setting up sleeping quarters as we are to be here a week.

**Monday** Usual camp duties including much care and cleaning of  
 & equipment. Passes were issued so the men could visit  
**Tuesday** Monroe. Remember all the watermelons we consumed?



Wednesday At 2:30 AM this morning a message was received from  
 July 22nd Battalion Headquarters to submit a list of twenty names  
 of men who were to be transferred to the 894th T.D. Bn.  
 "Tiger" Schultz, the CO, was having a heck of a time trying to locate  
 Lt. Miller and his tactics awoke many of the men. Tech V. Furbush  
 drove Lt. Kessler to Wadesboro where he contacted Lts. MacPherson,  
 Miller and Mullins. At breakfast there was a great deal of discussion  
 as to who would be designated to go. We knew the 894th was headed  
 for overseas and action in the African Desert and though we were  
 ready to fight for the "Stars and Stripes" none of us wanted to be  
 separated from our buddies for the past 18 months, with whom we  
 fought with side by side on maneuvers or fought against over the  
 same girl friend or in many other arguments. That was all in jest  
 but now some of us were to face the great battle and we wanted to  
 do so together. If only all of us could go as the 802d. After mess  
 the Company was formed and Lt. MacPherson called out the names of the  
 twenty men. 2nd Lts. Miller and Mullins were also to go. As the  
 names were called we realized we were losing some of our best pals  
 and although we often cursed at each other, depending on the mood  
 we were in, you can bet your last dollar no outsider ever dared to  
 say anything about anyone of us. Lt. MacPherson very well explained  
 the situation when he said that many of us would gladly give up our  
 stripes or bars if we could go along but the orders were that no  
 non-coms or officers, other than the two 2nd Lts. mentioned, were  
 to go. This was the test of "the survival of the fittest" and sooner  
 or later we would all see combat service. So what? The men going  
 were Tommy Baker ever smiling and from Kings Park, Long Island.  
 Kenny Pelcher and his quaint remarks. Walter Rabbie often referred  
 to as the rabbit or Rabbi, Otts Kohlmer better known as "Cadence".  
 Tommy LoVerde our mechanic, Bob Lang known as "Blondie", Sid Kupetz  
 the bugler, Skippy Donnelly who yelled back "I'll soften 'em up"  
 as the truck pulled out and he certainly has for in April 1943 the  
 Company had heard that he already had five swastikas on his 75mm gun  
 for the tanks he had knocked out. Then there was Harry Gaffaney  
 the Mick with the big smile, Arthur Luria who was plenty shifty and  
 always crying for a pass to see his beautiful wife so no one else  
 could see her. Philip Bifulco an ace gunner, Tom Foley the radio  
 operator and the chap who could take and hold plenty of booze,  
 Clipston the "Clipper" from Yorkville who was always seen but never  
 heard, Joe Ferraro also known as "Boss", Chris Keegan a quiet  
 Irishman with a hell of a temper once he was aroused, Zeb Snow the  
 rifleman from Tennessee. Also going was Eric Schlowinski better  
 known as "Slim" and the morale builder, "Sorrowful" Lawrence Kirk,  
 Manuel Soares better known as "Blackout", and Arthur Frerichs the  
 guitar boy and who was always building something. What a gang!  
 The men turned in their equipment and left in the morning by truck  
 for Wadesboro where they boarded the train for Fort Bragg where they  
 joined the 894th.



Thursday  
July 23rd After breaking camp at 1:30 AM we moved 18 miles to an area near Chesterfield where we went into a concealed bivouac. It is raining. All vehicles are well camouflaged.

Friday  
July 24th Went on a problem covering 33 miles during which we captured the town of Chesterfield. Raining again. Men could have passes but we are so far from "no where" that only a few went out.

Saturday  
July 25th Day Off. Some of the men went out on passes.

Sunday  
July 26th Rained very hard in the afternoon. James Rufus Johnson joined the Company. Some of the fellows including Dicce and Greene went to a nearby church where they "done got religion". They were razzed for many weeks to follow. Some of the boys from the 2nd platoon made acquaintance with a family living in a farmhouse close by and spent much time there. Beato even talked himself into a chicken dinner with them. Bolles, Tagliaferri, Beato, VanWinckle and Nadal were in this gang. Maybe the attraction was the farmer's daughter, who knows!

Monday  
July 27th In the morning the new T.O. which is to go into effect the 1st of the month was explained. It is raining again. In the afternoon tank destroyer tactics were demonstrated. At supper we were informed that we were to move out soon to participate in more maneuvers.

Tuesday  
July 28th At 1:40 AM the men in charge of the SP's were awakened and had to give up certain parts from the breechblock of the 75mm gun. The list did not call for the tang but later Sgt. Tofalvy collected them. We understand these parts are needed by the 894th T.D. Battalion. This evening we left the bivouac area for Dudley, South Carolina, a distance of 21 miles, where we went into concealment.

Wednesday  
July 29th The C.O. was called to Battalion Headquarters about 1:00 AM. Mess was served two hours later after which we moved out of bivouac area to take up gun positions as enemy tanks are reported coming from Trinity.

Thursday  
July 30th Reconnaissance still doesn't reveal anything but infantry troops. Men messed in groups as gun positions are kept constantly manned.

Friday  
Messed at 4:30 AM. More scrambled eggs and are we getting tired of them. Joe Fresch, how about a little variety? Sandwiches were distributed for the noon meal. Left bivouac area for Hamlet, North Carolina, where we arrived about sundown. We were told that passes would be issued for the week-end and the men would be paid this evening following





Company "A" which is the usual procedure. However, the Commanding Officer of Company "C" again pulled rank on us so we didn't get paid until midnight and therefore missed the 11:30 train out of Hamlet. Most of the men plan on going up to New York as we are off until noon Monday.

Saturday As soon as we were paid trucks took the men to town  
August 1st where they caught the 4:30 AM train to New York as most of the men were going home for the week-end.

Sunday Day off.  
August 2nd

Monday Roll call at noon. All of the men who went to New York  
August 3rd were missing. Their train didn't get in until 4:00 PM as it was five hours late. After supper Lt. Kessler oriented the men as to what had taken place during the previous phase of the maneuvers. At 8:00 PM we moved from the bivouac area and after travelling 7 miles stopped near Osborne, South Carolina, for several hours after which we proceeded to bivouac area near Fulton.

Tuesday Arrived at bivouac area shortly after midnight.  
August 4th Breakfast at 3:30 AM after which we moved to a nearby area which afforded better cover and concealment. In the afternoon we moved out to contact the Blues and captured seven vehicles including a gasoline truck but "No Gas". Mess at midnight after a fast of some twenty hours and the men ate heartily.

Wednesday Breakfast at 3:30 and the Company moved out of bivouac  
August 5th area to set up gun positions. The 2nd platoon captured a scout car and a peep load of enemy. Lt. Kessler and part of the 1st platoon were being taken back to the Blues' C.P. as captives. They were freed by the men of the 2nd platoon and then all gave chase to the enemy but they were never overtaken.

Thursday It is raining. Various outfits of the 2nd Armored  
August 6th Division passed by our gun positions all last night and early this morning. The 802d remained in concealment and cover as our orders were "not to give away our position and permit them to pass unmolested". About noon contact was made with the enemy and a Major General was captured. Our own C.P. was overrun by the enemy and units lead by Sgts. Irace and Nuccio were captured and taken to a C.P. of the 2nd Armored Division. The 1st platoon captured a gas truck so they filled all the vehicles. This phase of the maneuvers ended at 12:00 noon. A report from the platoon leaders disclosed that Cpl. Waesber and Tech V's Burt and Flor were A.W.O.L. Early this evening the Company left Rockingham and moved 21 miles to an area near Wadesboro. This is the best



bivouac area we have had. We are right off the main road about a mile out of Wadesboro and there is no underbrush, only tall pines.

Friday Worked all day on care and cleaning of equipment.  
August 7th Passes were issued to 50% of the Company and the men are not due back until noon Monday. A convoy took the men to Concord where they enjoyed a great week-end. It rained the entire week-end at Wadesboro. Those who staid at camp had to stand reveille and retreat everyday.

Monday The maneuvers are on again but the Battalion remains  
August 10th-in cover and concealment awaiting orders. Rumors are out that the maneuvers will end August 13th but nothing official. It is raining again.

Tuesday Breakfast at 4 o'clock. The Battalion is still awaiting  
August 11th-orders to move. Platoon leaders went on a reconnaissance near Ansonville. Rained throughout the day.

Wednesday The Company Commander was called to Battalion Headquarters  
August 12th-and when he returned the Company was informed that the maneuvers were over and that we would return to our base at Camp Sutton.

Thursday Mess at 2:30 AM. In the morning we moved out of bivouac  
August 13th-to a point off highway 52, near Lilesville, N. C.  
At 6:30 PM we left for Camp Sutton a ride of about 35 miles and everybody happy. As our area there was still occupied we had to camp in the training area.



**GPX Problem**

June 7, 1943.



- 0730 The first, second and third platoons left motor pool for small unit training. The Command Group will leave to conduct a GPX problem.
- 0803 Mileage at start 4,950.3 for GPX problem. We are now leaving the motor pool enroute to training area "A". Message from Storm "300 yards between companies. Extremes will take position nearest highway. Distance travelled 2.6 miles.
- 0847 Command Post established 600 yards from highway.
- 0926 Message from Bn. CP. PDQ for C.O.
- 1011 C.O. returned to CP with information concerning the situation. General Situation: Division boundary on West is highway #104 and on the East, Pitkin. German infantry and panzer forces have landed in Louisiana from Gulf of Mexico and have consolidated position on line of Fort Arthur, Lake Charles and Baton Rouge. Armored reconnaissance elements have been seen in Fulton. The XII Army with headquarters at Alexandria is maintaining defensive contact twenty (20) miles north of line Fort Arthur, Lake Charles, Baton Rouge. XII Armored Corps with headquarters in Leesville has been assigned to break through and destroy enemy installations in Lake Charles and vicinity. The VIII Armored Division will lead attack, boundaries highway #171 inclusive, to line Pitkin, Elizabeth and Mittie. Special Situation: The 802d T.D. Bn. has been attached to the VIII Armored Division with headquarters at Camp Polk. Mission assigned by the C.O., VIII Armored Division. Move to concealed bivouac for overlay. Remain in Division Reserve prepared for possible employment to either flank. Bn. of motor cyclists sighted moving north on Highway #251 at 0903. Two companies of tanks moving north on Highway #171 at 0913.
- 1025 Moved out of bivouac training area "A".
- 1055 Arrived at new bivouac area two (2) miles south of Camp Polk on highway #118. Distance traveled, 9.8 miles. At 10:30 overheard message from Explode to Expert 6 that they had contacted scouting party of six (6) motor cyclists and captured them. They were sent to Bn. C.P.
- 1233 OSCAM.
- 1250 C.O. returned from Bn. CP with information that a Bn. of light tanks broke through the vicinity of DeRidder. 802d T.D. Bn. has been ordered to move to vicinity of Davis Mill School to prepare to meet the attack.
- 1320 Arrived in bivouac area in vicinity of Davis Mill School. Distance traveled, 4.4 miles.
- 1400 Bn. of light tanks moving East along highway #1480. Bn. moves to position East of Providence, two (2) miles East of Providence church along ridge line. "A" Company is on the right, "B" Company on left and "C" Company in mobile reserve one-half mile in rear of "B" Company. Bn. CP is located in vicinity of "C" Company's CP. Aid station located in vicinity of

### OPX Problem

Providence Church. Bn. Commander is in the vicinity of "B" Company's CP. Reconnaissance Company is patrolling roads in vicinity of Providence Church, Diamond Church and Rosepine. Rally position in vicinity of Providence Church. Alternate rallying position is present location.

1445 Engaged tanks. (Leading element of Bn. of tanks) Destroyed five (5) tanks. Ordered by Bn. Commander to displace to alternate rally position. Reorganized and submitted 24 hour expenditure and casualty report. Prepared to move on new mission. End of OPX Problem.