

MEDICAL DETACHMENT  
821st Tank Destroyer Battalion  
APO 758, U S Army

30 June 1945

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Period Report, Medical Department Activities.

TO : The Surgeon General, U S ARMY, (Thru: Office of the Surgeon,  
Hq. 29th Inf. Div., APO 29, U S Army)

1. In accordance with Circular 58, HQ ETO, U S Army, subject, "Period Reports, Medical Department Activities," period report for the Medical Department Detachment, 821st Tank Destroyer Battalion is transmitted herewith.

*Walker W. Reed*  
WALKER W. REED  
Captain, M C  
Commanding

1 Incl:

Incl. 1-Period Report of Medical Department Activities, Medical Department Detachment 821st Tank Destroyer Battalion (Dup).

1st Ind.

WDF/mfw

OFFICE OF THE SURGEON, HEADQUARTERS, 29TH INFANTRY DIVISION, APO 29, US ARMY, 4 JULY 1945

TO: The Surgeon General, US Army.  
(Thru: Surgeon, Seventh U.S. Army)

For the Surgeon:

*Walter D. Fackler*  
WALTER D. FACKLER  
Captain, MAC  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL DEPARTMENT DETACHMENT ACTIVITIES FOR  
THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 30 JUNE 1945

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT DETACHMENT  
821ST TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
APO 758  
UNITED STATES ARMY



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MEDICAL DEPARTMENT DETACHMENT  
821st Tank Destroyer Battalion (SP)  
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ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL DEPARTMENT DETACHMENT ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 30 JUNE 1945

I ACTIVATION AND EARLY HISTORY

1. Pursuant to authority contained in Par 2, General Order No. 54 Headquarters Third United States Army, San Antonio, Texas, dated 23 May 1942, the Medical Department Detachment of the 821st Tank Destroyer Battalion was activated on 25 July, 1942. The detachment was assigned to the 821st Tank Destroyer Battalion on the activation date.

a. On 9 January 1943, the Detachment, with the 821st Tank Destroyer Battalion made a permanent change of station from Camp Carson, Colorado to Camp Bowie, Texas. On 29 March 1943, the Detachment, with the 821st Tank Destroyer Battalion made a permanent change of station from Camp Bowie, Texas to Camp Hood, Texas. On 25 July 1943, the Detachment with the 821st Tank Destroyer Battalion made a permanent change of station from Camp Hood, Texas to Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky. Camp Breckinridge, Ky was the Detachments permanent station through 31 December 1943.

b. On 1 January 1944, the 821st Tank Destroyer Battalion was alerted for movement overseas. On 7 April 1944, the Medical Detachment with the 821st Tank Destroyer Battalion departed from the Boston Port of Embarkation for movement overseas.

c. The Battalion disembarked at Newport, Wales, England on 17 April 1944. Arrived in Billet area, Grittleton, Wilts, Chippenham on 18 April 1944. The Battalion remained in England from 17 April 1944 to 25 June 1944.

II TACTICAL OPERATIONS COVERED BY PREVIOUS REPORT

1. On 26 June 1944 the 821st Tank Destroyer Battalion disembarked on the Omaha Beach, Normandy, France. The Battalion was attached to the 29th Division Artillery on 27 June 1944 and have remained attached to the present time.

2. St Lo was captured by the 29th Infantry Division on 18 July 1944. From 29 July to 16 August the Battalion moved, with elements of the 29th Infantry Division, from north of St Lo to the south of Vier. On 22 August the Battalion moved, by motor march, from St Jean De Bois in Normandy, France to Lannilis in the Brittany Peninsula. The Battalion actively participated in the reduction of the Fortress Brest, from 24 August to 18 September 1944. On 25 September the Battalion moved by motor from Conguet, Brittany Peninsula, France to the vicinity of Maastricht, Holland. From 29 September 1944 to

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6 November 1944, the Battalion was actively engaged in operations against the Siegfried Line. On 6 November the Battalion moved into position in preparation for the drive toward Julich. On 31 December 1944, the 821st Tank Destroyer Battalion's guns were guarding tank approaches leading to the west from Julich.

III TACTICAL OPERATIONS DURING 1945



1. Defense of the Roer River Line.

a. In coordination with the 29th Division Defense Plan for the Division Zone, the 821st Tank Destroyer Battalion continued to prepare gun positions and to improve those already prepared.

b. Acting on orders of the commanding General, 29th Division Artillery, the 821st Tank Destroyer Battalion assumed the responsibility for preparing defenses against possible infiltration by enemy ground forces and enemy paratroopers for the town of Giersdorf. The Medical Detachment and other elements of the Battalion engaged in this planning and training with elements of other units billeted in their respective areas. Several practice alerts were engaged in.

c. The Battalion crossed the Roer River during the last part of February, and participated in the capture of Julich and Broich.

d. Prior to the crossing of the Roer River, a greater need was seen for additional transportation for the wounded. With this in mind, one half-track vehicle was assigned to each line company. They were painted with red crosses and equipped to carry four litter cases. These vehicles proved to be very satisfactory and also provided the medical department personnel and the wounded more protection than was possible with a litter carrying jeep.

e. After crossing the Roer River and while advancing through the town of Julich, one of these half-tracks was hit by a bomb and it caught on fire. The vehicle was not carrying any casualties at that time, but one member of the Medical Detachment, who was riding in the vehicle, was wounded and was evacuated.

2. The Drive to the North and East From Julich.

a. After the capture of Julich the Battalion continued to attack and to capture objectives north and east of Julich. The Battalion, with the 29th Infantry Division, continued to advance and attacked to complete the reduction and occupation of Munchen Gladbach during February and March 1945. On 2 March 1945 the Battalion moved into an assembly area in the vicinity of Giesenkerchen for a period of rehabilitation.

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(1) During this period of rehabilitation the Medical Detachment was engaged in an intensive training program concerning all Medical Department functions. Lectures were given by members of the Medical Detachment on administrative and medical subjects.

b. The Battalion crossed the Rhine River via Love Bridge 31 March 1945.

3. Operations against the "Ruhr Pocket".

a. During April the Battalion moved from the east bank of the Rhine River to the north of the "Ruhr Pocket" and was committed in the fighting and the cleaning up of the "Ruhr Pocket".

b. The Battalion made a motor march to an assembly area near the Elbe River and took part in the final mopping up of enemy resistance in the towns and on the roads leading to the west bank of the Elbe River.

4. During April and the first part of May, the Battalion continued its rear area security and military government functions. The Medical Detachment participated in the operation of camps for displaced persons and allied prisoners of war.

5. On 20 May 1945 the Battalion moved by motor march to its assigned area in the Enclave Military District.

6. During all phases of operations the following method of utilizing medical personnel was used:

a. Three medical aid men and one  $\frac{1}{4}$  ton vehicle driver, with vehicle, were attached to each Destroyer Company. One aid man was assigned to each Destroyer Platoon and remained with the platoon at all times. The driver remained at the Company CP and had available a litter carrying  $\frac{1}{4}$  ton vehicle for immediate dispatch to any of the company's destroyer platoons.

b. Due to the fact that the tactical employment of Tank Destroyer Platoons require that, in most all cases, the platoons be widely separated, this method of utilizing medical personnel proved to be more than satisfactory. The aid man with the platoon was always available to administer first aid to the wounded while waiting for the man with the vehicle to evacuate them to the nearest medical installation.

c. During the latter part of 1944, the battalion was changed from a towed battalion to a self propelled battalion. This did not effect the method of using one aid man with each platoon as here to fore explained.



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7. Equipment, supplies and transportation.

a. Extra supplies were drawn from 29th Division Medical Supply. A three day supply was maintained at all times. Medical supplies have been adequate.

b. The Medical Detachment was equipped with the following transportation. One 3/4 ton weapons carrier with 1 ton trailer; four 1/2 ton jeeps; one ambulance and three half-track vehicles. At the close of the war these half-tracks were turned back to the battalion. The jeeps were equipped with litter racks capable of carrying six litter cases. Medical Detachment was completely equipped in accordance with TE 18-25. The surgical and diagnostic equipment, drugs, biological etc were adequate to carry on the usual activities of the average Bn 1st Aid Station. The organic transportation proved to be adequate.



8. Food, messing, sewage and waste disposal and insect control.

a. Through all phases of operations the food supply has been adequate. The rations have not been uniform but have been so rotated to provide a varied diet. "C", "K", and "10-1", rations were consumed by forward elements. Rations are issued daily thus alleviating the necessity of providing storage facilities. There is no wastage of edible food.

b. All elements of the battalion are equipped with individual cookers in sufficient quantities to make it possible for them to have three hot meals a day without the aid of the company kitchen. Each company kitchen was held at the company CP, when normal reliefs were effected for platoons on the line they would avail themselves of the mess at the CP. Three hot meals were fed to all troops.

c. Straddle trench latrines and garbage pits for disposal of kitchen waste were used during all phases of tactical operations. Both garbage pits and latrines are inspected by medical personnel to insure that current regulations pertaining to field sanitation were properly carried out. Inspections were made while the pit or latrine was in use as well as after it was closed. Latrine and garbage pit signs were posted in both English and the language of the country in which we were operating. After the cessation of hostilities in the ETO, latrines in buildings were used and were cared for in the usual garrison manner.

d. At no time during operations on the continent have insects presented a problem, however, insecticide powder was issued to each man and an additional supply was maintained at the Battalion Aid Station. Mess halls and kitchens have been sprayed with D.D.T.

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e. During all phases of combat and after the cessation of hostilities, troops were authorized to take advantage of houses and buildings for living quarters. A minimum of 35 sq. foot per man was maintained.

f. During the period covered by this report, the water supply has been adequate. All water is procured from engineer approved water points. Water is carried in five gallon quartermaster cans, these cans are carried by vehicle from the water points to troops. A sample of each load of water is tested at the Battalion Aid Station for residual chlorine content. The daily range of free chlorine ranges from 0.2 p.p.m. to 1.0 plus. Water testing less than 0.4 p.p.m. is rechlorinated.

g. Shower points and quartermaster laundries were in operation in rear areas. These facilities have been available to all men of the battalion during all phases of operations. Men were constantly inspected for personal cleanliness and in all cases a superior state of personal hygiene has existed.

h. Venereal Diseases have not been a major problem in this organization. A continuous educational program has been conducted to keep the men informed of the dangers of infection and preventative measures to be taken. Emphasis was placed on the fact that due to the low moral standards and the high venereal disease rate in European countries every precaution must be taken to avoid infection. Fosters urging care, continence and sobriety were prominently displayed. A venereal disease control officer has been appointed in each company.

9. Casualties. Due to enemy action the following casualties were suffered by the Medical Department Detachment since landing on the continent on 26 June 1945.

a. One officer slightly wounded in action from enemy anti-personnel bombs.

b. One enlisted man slightly wounded in action from enemy anti-personnel bombs.

c. Nine enlisted men slightly wounded in action from enemy artillery fire.

d. One enlisted man slightly wounded in action from a bomb.

10. Commanding Officer. Walker W. Reed, Captain, M C has been in command of the Medical Department Detachment of 821st Tank Destroyer Battalion from 26 August 1942 to 30 June 1945.





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IV AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

1. True to the traditions of the Army Medical Corps, men of the 821st Tank Destroyer Battalion Medical Detachment distinguished themselves by performing services above and beyond the call of duty. The following paragraphs gives the names of the men concerned and a synopsis of the deed performed.

a. Pfc Langard P. Darter, (then Pvt) 35352864, Medical Detachment rendered first aid to the wounded while under enemy shell and small arms fire. On 31 July 1944, about 1500, while the 1st platoon of Co. "A" was in position against the enemy in the vicinity of Villeboudon, Normandy, France, the enemy attacked with a heavy barrage of artillery and small arms fire, inflicting many casualties on the platoon, Pfc Darter, while under continuous enemy shell fire and exposing himself to small arms fire, gave first aid to the wounded men. His excellent work as first aid man while under shell and small arms fire and devotion to duty reflects great credit upon himself and the military service. Pfc Darter was not wounded in the performance of his duties. For meritorious service resulting from enemy action Pfc Darter was awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

b. Tec 5 Clarence E. Collise, 35306318, Medical Detachment administered first aid to the wounded. On 9 September 1944, the 2nd platoon of Co. "C" was in a direct fire position against the enemy on Hill 103, vicinity of Cd Brendegne, Brittany Peninsula. The enemy laid down a heavy barrage of artillery fire on the platoon, inflicting casualties. Having been wounded himself and still under heavy enemy shell fire, Tec 5 Collise administered first aid to his wounded companions and instructed other members of the platoon in rendering first aid also. His excellent work as first-aid man and devotion to duty while under enemy shell fire reflects great credit upon himself and the military service. Tec 5 Collise was wounded during the performance of this act. For meritorious service resulting from enemy action Tec 5 Collise was awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

c. Tec 4 Bernard L. Dorothy, (then Pfc) 39238570, Medical Detachment evacuated wounded under enemy shellfire. On the night of 10 September 1944, the 2nd platoon of Company "B", was occupying a fort in the vicinity of Brest, which was being shelled incessantly by enemy guns of Fort de Partzie. A shell struck outside of a pillbox about 200 yards from the fort, seriously injuring a member of the Reconnaissance Platoon. With utter disregard for his own safety, Tec 4 Dorothy, in his capacity as Co-Aid man, with the assistance of another member of the platoon, worked his way to the wounded man and brought him back to safety while under continuous enemy shellfire. His courage and devotion to duty reflect credit upon himself and the military service. For meritorious service resulting from enemy action in Brittany, France, Tec 4 Dorothy was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. Tec 4 Dorothy was not wounded during the performance of this act.

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d. Tec 4 Clavis L. Bell, (then Tec 5) 38137837, Medical Detachment evacuated wounded while under heavy enemy shellfire. On 26 November 1944, the 1st and 3rd platoons of Company "B" were in direct fire positions against the enemy in Bourheim, Germany. A tank-led counter attack was launched by the enemy, inflicting many casualties on both platoons. Tec 4 Bell, in his capacity as Co-aid man, with utter disregard for his own safety and under continuous enemy shellfire, administered first aid to the wounded and helped evacuate them to the safety of nearby basements. His unflinching courage, excellent work as first-aid man under heavy enemy shellfire and devotion to duty reflect great credit upon himself and the military service. During this counter attack some of the men with Tec 4 Bell were captured but he was permitted to remain behind and administer first aid to the wounded. Tec 4 Bell was not wounded in the performance of this act. For heroic achievement during enemy action Tec 4 Bell was awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

e. Tec 5 Theodore A. Nicholas, (then Pfc) 36862481, Medical Detachment evacuated wounded while under heavy enemy shellfire. On 26 November 1944, the 1st and 3rd platoons of Company "B" were in direct fire positions against the enemy in Bourheim, Germany. A tank-led counter attack was launched by the enemy, inflicting many casualties on both platoons. Tec 5 Nicholas, in his capacity as Co-Aid man, with utter disregard for his own safety and under continuous enemy shellfire, administered first aid to the wounded and helped evacuate them to the safety of nearby basements. His unflinching courage, excellent work as first-aid man under heavy enemy shellfire and devotion to duty reflect great credit upon himself and the military service. Tec 5 Nicholas was not wounded in the performance of this act. For heroic achievement during enemy action in Bourheim, Germany Tec 5 Nicholas was awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

f. Cpl Jack (rmi) Gold, (then Pvt) 32613619, Medical Detachment evacuated wounded while under heavy enemy shellfire. On 26 November 1944, the 1st and 3rd platoons of Company "B" were in direct fire position against the enemy in Bourheim, Germany. A tank-led enemy counter attack was launched, inflicting many casualties on both platoons. Cpl Gold, in his capacity as Co-Aid man, with utter disregard for his own safety and under continuous enemy shellfire, administered first aid to the wounded and helped evacuate them to the safety of nearby basements. His unflinching courage, excellent work as first-aid man under heavy enemy shellfire and devotion to duty reflect great credit upon himself and the military service. During this counter attack some of the men with Cpl Gold were captured but he was permitted to remain behind and administer first aid to the wounded. Cpl Gold was not wounded in the performance of this act. For heroic achievement during enemy action in Bourheim, Germany, Cpl Gold was awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

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g. Pvt Edward J. Ziskoski, 36343335, Medical Detachment evacuated casualties under enemy shellfire. During the period 23 November 1944, to 26 November 1944, in Germany, Pvt Ziskoski, driver, Medical Department Detachment attached to Company "A", displayed outstanding courage and devotion to duty. During the above period, Pvt Ziskoski evacuated the wounded by jeep under intermittent enemy shellfire. During the evening of 25 November 1944 and through out the day on 26 November 1944, Pvt Ziskoski evacuated the wounded from Engelsdorf, Germany where heavy casualties were sustained. Pvt Ziskoski's devotion to duty and unflinching courage under enemy shellfire reflects the highest credit upon himself and the military service. Pvt Ziskoski was not wounded during this period. For Meritorious service in military operations against the enemy Pvt Ziskoski was awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

h. Captain Walker W. Reed, O-478850, was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in military operations against the enemy from the period 26 June 1944 to 1 March 1945. During the above period, Capt Reed by his outstanding spirit and devotion to duty, materially contributed to the success of the combat efficiency of this organization, in keeping the command in excellent health and a high state of sanitation. His superior skill giving aid to the wounded and rapidly evacuating the wounded under the most adverse conditions, is an inspiration to all under his control and contact. By his unswerving devotion to duty under the most adverse conditions, he was of outstanding service to his unit.

i. Tec 3 Doyle Y. Jones, (then Tec 5) 39007266, Medical Detachment evacuated a wounded soldier under intense enemy fire. For heroic achievement in military operations against the enemy on 24 April 1945 in Germany. During the attack on Laase, Germany a wounded infantryman lay in an open field, Tec 3 Jones with utter disregard for his own personal safety ran across the field, under intense enemy sniper and mortar fire, and evacuated the wounded soldier to safety in a nearby building and administered first aid. The personal courage, coolness under fire and outstanding devotion to duty reflect great credit upon himself and the military service. Tec 3 Jones was not wounded in the performance of this act. For heroic achievement during enemy action Tec 3 Jones was awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

2. The Purple Heart was awarded the following named officer for wounds received in action against the enemy on the date following his name:

Capt	Walker W. Reed	O-478850	31 July 1944
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3. The Purple Heart was awarded the following named enlisted men for wounds received in action against the enemy on the date following their names:

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Tec 5	Thomas J. Stack	32756332	1 August 1944
Cpl	Jack nmi Gold	32613619	13 August 1944
Tec 4	Bernard nmi Bernstein	36333659	14 August 1944
Tec 5	Clarence E. Collise	35306318	9 September 1944
Pfc	Harris J. Markowitz	32613733	17 September 1944
Pfc	Richard H. Terrell	18004929	23 November 1944
Pvt	Edward J. Ziskoski	36343335	16 December 1944
Tec 4	Clavis L. Bell	38137837	25 February 1945
Tec 4	Bernard L. Dorothy	39238570	14 March 1945

4. The Oak Leaf Cluster to the Purple Heart was awarded to the following named enlisted men for wounds received in action against the enemy on the date following their names:

Tec 5	Thomas J. Stack	32756332	17 November 1944
Cpl	Jack nmi Gold	32613619	23 November 1944

V SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

1. The employment of medical aid men, one aid man with each Destroyer platoon, although not conforming to recommended procedure; proved to be the most efficient and effective method for a Tank Destroyer Battalion.

2. In combat the most essential medical department items to be carried in the medical aid man's kit are morphine syrettes, sulfa drugs, Carlisle type dressings, triangular bandages and bandage scissors. All other articles in the first aid kits are superfluous.

3. In our opinion the 104th Medical Battalion of the 29th Division is a superior organization. Casualties have been evacuated promptly.

4. The 29th Division Surgeon's Office and the 29th Division Artillery Surgeon's Office have been very cooperative in all technical and administrative matters.

*Walker W. Reed*  
 WALKER W. REED  
 Captain, M C  
 Commanding

