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Ltr Med Det, 614th TD Bn, dtd 19 Jun 45, sub: "Periodical Medical Report", contd.

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2d Ind

(19 Jun 45)

HEADQUARTERS THIRD US ARMY, APO 403, US Army, 6 July 1945.

TO: Commanding General, US Forces, European Theater (Rear), APO 887, US Army.
(ATTN: Chief Surgeon)

J. J. H.
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MEDICAL DETACHMENT
614TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 788, U.S. ARMY

* WD - 44 *

19 June 1945



SUBJECT: Periodical Medical Report.

TO : The Surgeon General, Washington, D.C. (Thru Technical Channels)

1. The 614th Tank Destroyer Battalion was activated in Camp Carson, Colorado July 28, 1942. On December 16, 1942 it was transferred to Camp Bowie, Texas and March 20, 1943 to Camp Hood, Texas, the Tank Destroyer Center. Here we received all our training in Tank Destroyer Tactics.

2. The Battalion left the United States August 27, 1944 for overseas duty. After being outfitted in England, we were transferred to France and later were attached to the 95th Infantry Division in the push on Metz. December 7, 1944 we were attached to the 103rd Infantry Division and remained with them until the end of the war.

3. The deployment of the Tank Destroyers made it almost impossible for the Battalion Aid Station to keep up to the front line. Each Gun Company was attached to an infantry regiment. Therefore with the organic transportation being three 3/4 ton vehicles, one 1/2 ton vehicle and three aid men were sent to each company to take care of the medical problem. They in turn evacuated through regimental aid stations. Men who were sick were brought to the battalion aid station for evacuation to the clearing company we were attached to. A little later the Recon platoons were attached to task forces so one man was sent along with each recon for medical aid. One man was assigned to the forward echelon of Headquarters, leaving four men to take care of the battalion aid station. This arrangement held until the end of the war. The Battalion as a whole was never used, necessitating the arrangement already spoken about.

4. All the personnel in the detachment was trained in the United States. We never had the occasion to use some of our equipment because of the situation. For instance our chest No. 31 was not used because we could draw from medical supply all the things that we needed, and therefore the chest remained complete. The medical supply of the division was more than adequate for our needs, so much so that we made up a special chest items that we used. This enabled us to be ready for quick moves which came about every other day. In other words we could pack in this special chest only those drugs and items that we used every day and when we moved it did not necessitate unloading the trailer. In the 3/4 Ton Truck which we have instead of the 1 1/2 ton truck, we packed only those things that we needed at the moment and in the trailer those things we used for a long stay. During our journey across France and Germany we were able to pick up some German material, thereby saving some of our own material.

5. We were in France beginning January 1, 1945. The housing facilities were very bad because of the types of villages we had to stay in. Poor toilet facilities and no bathing facilities. We had the Quartermaster Bathing units several times but because of the cold weather they did not prove so useful. The men in the battalion began to carry tubs and heat their own water to take baths. The laundry situation was bad, but the men in the battalion began to wash their own clothes or to get some person in the village where they stayed to do it for them. It is the opinion of the enlisted men that to send clothes to the Quartermaster laundry is to lose them so they took care of the laundry problem themselves.

6. At all times we have had good food and messing facilities. Even in the small towns we had a good house in which to feed the personnel. The water supply was obtained from water points at all times, especially in France where water supply is very poor and unhealthy. ~~Because of the situation in France~~

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care of with pit latrines and waste pits which were always covered and marked when we left a town. All winter we didn't have any problem of insect control. We had no outbreaks of disease from either food, insects, or water.

7. From January 1, 1945 until May 8 1945 we didn't have much of a venereal problem but since the last date we have had quite some trouble. Talks and Demonstrations and the securing of chemical and mechanical prophylactics resorted to and the rate is gradually coming down. The men have been getting prompt treatment and physical inspections have been held at regular intervals to root out this evil.

8. Our evacuation of patients has been a little different from the usual procedure. Since most of our casualties have been with the companies far ahead of the battalion aid station, the men have been evacuated through the regimental aid stations. Those sick and wounded that were brought back to the battalion aid station were evacuated directly to the clearing company, the clearing station most of the time much nearer to us than collecting companies. This system worked out very well.

9. Whenever we had the space we kept some men and then returned them to duty without evacuating them to the hospital. We would mark them quarters and were able to return a number of men to duty in this manner. The special service kept us supplied with reading materials and we secured a victrola from one of our gun companies and had a variety of records with which the men could occupy themselves. During the comparatively quiet periods the men in the detachment took part in recreational activities of Headquarters Company to which we were attached. This included passes to London, Paris, and Brussels.

10. The men have had excellent medical and dental care since they have been in the European Theater of Operations. This has contributed largely to our low casualty rate. The men are in good health and their morale is very high.

Thomas M. Campbell

THOMAS M. CAMPBELL
Capt. M.C.
Battalion Surgeon



1st Ind.

CEP/jdt

HEADQUARTERS 103d INFANTRY DIVISION, Office of the Surgeon, APO 470, US Army,
28 June 1945.

TO: The Surgeon, Third Army, APO 403, US Army.

Forwarded.

FOR THE SURGEON:

Charles E. Peterson
CHARLES E. PETERSON,
Captain, M. A. C.,
Assistant.

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