

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON

Unit History - Hqs Company - 85th Inf Div



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DEPARTMENTAL RECORDS BRANCH, A.G.O.

HISTORICAL RECORDS SECTION

ROOM MB-920 PENTAGON

15 May 42 - 43

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Authority NND 735017
By JG NARA Date 8-13-10

APO 85, U.S. Army
1 March 1944UNIT HISTORY

(15 May 1942 to 31 December 1942)

- A. Original Unit—
(1) Designation: Headquarters and Military Police Company.
(2) Date of Organization: 15 May 1942.
(3) Place of Organization: Camp Shelby, Miss.
(4) Authority for Organization: General Orders No. 1, Headquarters, 85th Infantry Division.
(5) Sources from which personnel was obtained, i.e. by transfer from other units, voluntary enlistment or draft: original cadre of 38 enlisted men from 2d Infantry Division, Fort Sam Houston, Texas; 8 officers transferred from other organizations; balance of enlisted personnel consisting of voluntary enlistees and draftees obtained from various reception and induction centers throughout the country.
- B. Changes In Organization, i.e. changes in the designation of units, transfer of unit from one regiment to another as a unit, or changes due to changes in Tables of Organization—
(1) Company was activated under Tables of Organization 7-1 and 7-2, dated 1 April 1942, including change dated 10 April 1942.
(2) Company reorganized in June, 1942 under Tables of Organization 7-1 and 7-2, dated 1 June 1942.
(3) Military Police Platoon reorganized in June, 1942 under Table of Organization 19-7, dated 1 April 1942.
- C. Strength, Commissioned and Enlisted—
(1) Beginning of Period: On 15 May 1942, date of activation, the following six officers were assigned:
Capt Grover C Lewis, Inf (Headquarters Commandant
(and Provost Marshal
1st Lt George N Howe, CMP
2d Lt Thomas A Roberts, Inf
2d Lt Charles R Moorhead, Inf
2d Lt Morris C Alleyne, CMP
2d Lt Henry W Gheesling, AGD (Division Postal Officer)
Enlisted personnel consisted of cadre of thirty-eight men from the 2d Infantry Division, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.
- D. Stations (permanent or temporary) of Units or Parts Thereof—
(1) Date of arrival at each station: Company activated at Camp Shelby, Miss. No change in 1942.
- E. Marches—
None.
- F. Campaigns—
None.
- G. Battles—
None.
- H. Commanding Officers in Important Engagements—
None.
- I. Losses in Action (Officers and Enlisted Men)—
None.

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J. Former and Present Members Who Have Distinguished Themselves in Action—
None.

K. Photographs of Personnel, Important Scenes or Events—
None.

L. SUMMARY:

- (1) 15 May 1942: began reception of trainees.
- (2) 8 June 1942: basic training began.
- (3) 4 July 1942: Company participated in Division Review held in honor of Mr. John J. McCloy, Assistant Secretary of War and former member of 85th Infantry Division. Lt. Gen. Walter Krueger, Commanding General of Third Army was present.
- (4) 7 September 1942: Company participated in review held for Maj. Gen. Wade H. Haislip, Commanding General of 85th Infantry Division, and his staff.
- (5) 29 September 1942: Company participated in Division Review held in honor of President Roosevelt and party.
- (6) 4 October 1942: basic training ended.
- (7) 8 October 1942: cadre of 65 enlisted men reported to Commanding General, 103d Infantry Division, Camp Claiborne, La.
 - 46 EM — Division Headquarters Platoon
 - 17 EM — Headquarters Company
 - 2 EM — Military Police Platoon
- (8) During months of October and November, 1942, received 85 inductees from reception centers for replacements and to receive basic training.
- (9) 26 December 1942: Company participated in Division Class "A" alert.

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HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 85TH INFANTRY DIVISION

APC 85, U.S. Army
1 March 1944

SUBJECT: Unit Histories and Records.

TO: Adjutant General, 85th Infantry Division, APC 85, U.S. Army.

In accordance with paragraph 2, Division Directive No. 28, Headquarters, 85th Infantry Division, dated 16 February 1944, the attached reports of Unit History are submitted.

Thomas A. Roberts
THOMAS A. ROBERTS
Captain, Infantry
Commanding

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By JG NARA Date 8-13-10

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UNIT HISTORY

(1 January 1943 to 31 December 1943)

- A. Original Unit—
- (1) Designation: completed.
 - (2) Date of organization: completed.
 - (3) Place of organization: completed.
 - (4) Authority for organization: completed.
 - (5) Sources from which personnel was obtained, i.e., by transfer from other units, voluntary enlistment, or draft: all additional personnel received during 1943 were transferred from other units.
- B. Changes in organization, i.e., changes in the designation of unit, transfer of unit from one regiment to another as a unit, or changes in Tables of Organization—
- (1) In March, 1943, Military Police Platoon was reorganized under Table of Organization 19-7 dated 1 March 1943, which superseded Table of Organization 19-7 dated 1 April 1942.
 - (2) 1 September 1943, Headquarters Company with attached Division Headquarters Platoon was reorganized under Tables of Organization and Equipment 7-1 and Tables of Organization and Equipment 7-2 dated 15 July 1943. At this time, Company became a component of Special Troops, 85th Infantry Division, under Tables of Organization and Equipment 7-3 dated 15 July 1943, with Military Police Platoon, Division Band, Headquarters Special Troops, Medical Detachment, Special Troops, and Attached Chaplain, Special Troops attached for rations, quarters, and administration. At close of 1943, unit still operating under the above.
- C. Strength, Commissioned and Enlisted—
- (1) At beginning of period: completed.
- D. Stations (permanent or temporary) of units or parts thereof—
- (1) Date of arrival at each station:
 - a. Company activated Camp Shelby, Miss., 15 May 1942.
 - b. Arrived Louisiana Maneuver Area (Temporary Station) Kirthwood, La., 1830, 6 April 1943.
 - c. Arrived bivouac area (Temporary Station) vicinity of Bon Wier, Texas, 1950, 6 June 1943.
 - d. Arrived bivouac area (Temporary Station) vicinity of Merryville, La., 1600, 14 June 1943.
 - e. Arrived Camp Pilot Knob, DTC, Calif. (Permanent Station), 0730, 23 June 1943.
 - f. Arrived Camp Coxcomb, DTC, Calif. (Permanent Station), 2100, 13 August 1943.
 - g. Arrived Fort Dix, N.J. (Permanent Station), 1630, 7 October 1943.
 - h. Arrived Camp Patrick Henry, Va. (Permanent Station), 1300, 18 December 1943.
 - i. On board ship enroute North Africa, 31 December 1943.
 - (2) Date of departure from each station:
 - a. Left Camp Shelby, Miss., 0900, 5 April 1943.
 - b. Left Louisiana Maneuver Area, 1400, 6 June 1943.
 - c. Left bivouac area, vicinity Bon Wier, Texas, 1500, 14 June 1943.
 - d. Left bivouac area, vicinity Merryville, La., 1300, 19 June 1943.
 - e. Left Camp Pilot Knob, DTC, Calif., 0930, 13 August 1943.

2 MAY 1944

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- Left Camp Patrick Henry, Va., 1135, 24 December 1942.
- E. Marches—
None.
 - F. Campaigns—
None.
 - G. Battles—
None.
 - H. Commanding Officers in Important Engagements—
None.
 - I. Losses in Action (Officers and Enlisted Men)—
None.
 - J. Former and Present Members Who Have Distinguished Themselves in Action—
None.
 - K. Photographs of Personnel, Important Scenes or Events—
None.
 - L. SUMMARY—
 - (1) 18 January 1943: moved out of base camp, Camp Shelby, Miss., 0700; arrived in bivouac area 0800.
 - (2) 23 January 1943: moved back to base camp 0715.
 - (3) 6 February 1943: Maj Grover C Lewis (Company Commander) granted leave of absence; Capt Howard M Baisden assumed command as Company Commander and Headquarters Commandant.
 - (4) 21 February 1943: Company moved into field to participate in D series Fifteenth Corps Maneuvers, Mississippi Maneuver Area.; station—Camp Shelby, Miss.
 - (5) 27 February 1943: Company moved back to Camp Shelby, Miss. for rest and to receive pay.
 - (6) 1 March 1943: Company moved back into field to complete D series maneuvers.
 - (7) 13 March 1943: D series maneuvers closed; forward echelon moved back to Camp Shelby, Miss.
 - (8) 17 March 1943: Maj Grover C Lewis relieved from assignment and duty, authority, Letter, WD, Adjutant General School, dated 6 March 1943.
 - (9) 20 March 1943: scheduled Division Review called off due to inclement weather.
 - (10) 5 April 1943: main body of Company left Camp Shelby, Miss., 0900 by motor convey; arrived Natchez, Miss. bivouac area 1730.
 - (11) 6 April 1943: Company left Natchez bivouac area at 0845 and arrived at Louisiana Maneuver Area vicinity Leesville, La. 1830.
 - (12) 11 April—6 June 1943: Com pany participated in 2d phase, Louisiana Third Army maneuvers against 93d Infantry Division.
 - (13) 6 June 1943: Company moved to Bon Wier, Texas bivouac area.
 - (14) 6 June 1943: advance party left for new station, Camp Pilot Knob, DTC, Calif.
 - (15) 9 June 1943: advance party detrained vicinity Yuma, Ariz., and motored to Camp Pilot Knob, Calif.
 - (16) 9 June 1943: Maj Howard M Baisden relieved from assignment and duty as Company Commander and Headquarters Commandant, transferred to Fifteenth Corps. Captain Thomas A Roberts assumed command of company.
 - (17) 23 June 1943: main body of Company arrived Camp Pilot Knob, DTC, Calif.
 - (18) 28 June 1943: Capt Thomas A Roberts appointed Headquarters Commandant.
 - (19) 15 August 1943: left Camp Pilot Knob, DTC, Calif., 0950; traveled in tactical convey to Camp Coxcomb, DTC, Calif., arrived 2100; distance, 190 miles; weather, very hot.

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- (20) 1 September 1943: Company became component of Special Troops, 85th Infantry Division; Capt Thomas A Roberts relieved of duties as Headquarters Commandant.
- (21) 3 October 1943: departed Camp Coxcomb, DTC, Calif., 0900 by motor convoy enroute Freda Station, DTC, Calif.; entrained at Freda, Calif. 1300—destination, Fort Dix, N.J.; weather, cool.
- (22) 7 October 1943: arrived Fort Dix, N.J. 1630; traveled by truck to company area.
- (23) 8 October 1943—16 December 1943: Company furloughed; period spent in getting command P.O.M. qualified.
- (24) 17 December 1943: left Fort Dix, N.J.; entrained 1940 for Camp Patrick Henry, Va.; weather, cold.
- (25) 18 December 1943: arrived Camp Patrick Henry, Va. 1300.
- (26) 19 December 1943—23 December 1943: period spent in staging operations.
- (27) 24 December 1943: entrained Camp Patrick Henry, Va. 1135; arrived Newport News dock 1345; boarded U.S.S. Gen A.E. Anderson 1400; got underway 1530; weather, fair; sea, calm.
- (28) 31 December 1943: at sea aboard U.S.S. A.E. Anderson; organization was at full Table of Organization strength as of this date; officers who accompanied Headquarters Company and attached units overseas:

Headquarters Company

Capt Thomas A Roberts, Inf	0398366
Capt Charles R Moorhead, Jr., Inf	0453111
1st Lt Ernest F Thornton, Inf	01284602
2d Lt Raymond D Dodge, Inf	01317623

Headquarters, Special Troops

Maj Leland W Butterfield, Inf	0328921
Capt John H Harkey, Inf	0456209 (Advance Party)

Military Police Platoon

Maj Martin L Roth, CMP	0282925
1st Lt Otto K Blauert, CMP	01105557 (Advance Party)
2d Lt James L Jones, CMP	01795757

Medical Detachment, Special Troops

Maj William H Crosby, MC	0024639
1st Lt Morris H Saks, DC	0528375

Attached Chaplain, Special Troops

1st Lt Israel J Kazis, CH	0506968
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85th Infantry Division Band

WOJG Louis O Palmer	W2129781
WOJG David Ballantine	W2129998

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By JGNARA Date 8-13-10