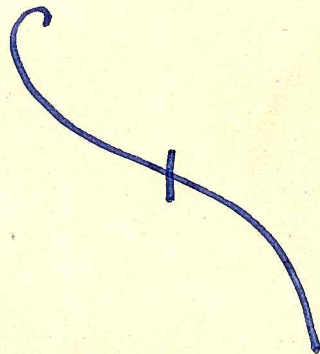


17/12/20/20

BATTERY HISTORIES

1942-1943

- 1 - "HQ"
- 2 - "A"
- 3 - "B"
- 4 - "C"
- 5 - "SERV"
- 6 - "MED"



SEC III

"HISTORICAL RECORD"

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY, 171st FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

Headquarters Battery of the Second Battalion, 160th Field Artillery was redesignated as Headquarters Battery, 171st Field Artillery Battalion on February 10, 1942 at Camp Barkeley, Texas. At the time, the Battery was under the command of Captain Walter D. Atkins.

On March 15, 1942, the Battery was moved to a new tent area located on the north side of the original camp. About this time, Capt. Atkins was transferred to the Air Corps, and 1st Lt. Robert F. Woods was placed in command.

On April 28, 1942, the Battery left Camp Barkeley, and traveled by train to Fort Devens, Massachusetts. After moving in, and getting things in order, the Battery immediately started taking physical exercises, long hikes, and having numerous field problems.

On May 12, 1942, 2nd Lt. Irwin F. Kern, Jr was assigned to the Battery as Assistant Communications Officer.

On May 22, 1942, 1st Lt. Woods was promoted to the rank of Captain.

On May 23, 1942, the Anti-Tank Platoon was formed, and 1st Lt. Allan L. Crain was transferred from Battery "C", to the Battery and assigned duty as Commanding Officer of the Anti-Tank Platoon.

The period from June 15, 1942 to July 31, 1942 was spent at Cape Cod, near Camp Edwards, Massachusetts. During its stay at Cape Cod, the Battery received some service practice with intensive amphibious and physical hardening training.

On July 7, 1942, 2nd Lt Albert H. Laverson was assigned to the Battery with duty as Battery Motor Officer.

On returning to the home station at Fort Devens, the Battery continued physical hardening exercises. 1st Lt. Crain was promoted to Captain and transferred to Battalion Staff. 1st Lt. James W. Crow was transferred to the Battery from Battery "C" with duty as Commanding Officer of the Anti-Tank Platoon.

On August 22, 1942, Lt Laverson was transferred to Battery "C".

On August 24, 1942, 2nd Lt Kern was promoted to the rank of First Lieutenant.

On September 4, 1942, the Battery moved by truck to Pine Camp, New York for service practice and rifle training. During the seven (7) weeks stay at Pine Camp, most of the Battery qualified with the Springfield Cal.30 Model 1903 Rifle which was fired at the Stony Point Rifle Range near Pine Camp. The assistance given by the officer and enlisted men attached from the 180th Infantry Regiment was of great help in training the Battery with the rifle. Physical hardening training was also stressed during the stay at Pine Camp.

While at Pine Camp, Capt. Woods was relieved of the Command of the Battery, to attend Battery Officers' School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and Capt. Jesse M. Langford was assigned from Battalion Staff to assume command. Lt Crow was relieved of duty as Commanding Officer of the Anti-Tank Platoon, about the same time, and, also, sent to Battery Officers' School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

Early in October, the Battery returned to its home station at Fort Devens. About a month later, preparations were made for a temporary change of station to Pine Camp, New York.

On October 22, 1942, 1st Lt. Williams H. Ferguson was transferred to the Battery from Service Battery with duty as Commanding Officer of the Anti-Tank Platoon.

About November 9, 1942, the Battery moved by truck to Pine Camp, New York, where it spent the winter in deep snow and severely cold weather. Due to the inclement weather while there, the training consisted of a few foot marches, and inside RCT exercises, and qualification and proficiency in the firing of small arms was stressed. The Battery received invaluable benefits from the inclosed rifle ranges during the winter.

On December 9, 1942, 2nd Lt. Harry F. Ansley was transferred in to the Battery with duty as Battery Motor Officer. On December 29, 1942, 2nd Lt. Roy B. Allred was assigned to the Battery. On January 12, 1943, 1st Lt. Ferguson was transferred to Divisions Artillery, and Lt Ansley was made CO of the Anti-Tank Platoon, and Lt Allred was made Battery Motor Officer.

On January 24, 1943, the Battery moved by train to Camp Pickett, Virginia for a permanent change of station. While at Camp Pickett, we had several over night problems, hikes, boat team exercises, and ran the obstacle course several times.

From March 1, 1943 to March 16, 1943, the Battery participated in mock mountain warfare as part of the 180th RCT in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

On March 24, 1943, Lt Allred was transferred to Battery "B" and 2nd Lt Leonard R. Strizver was transferred to the Battery from Battery "B" with duty as Battery Motor Officer.

After returning to Camp Pickett from the Mountains, the Battery received orders to go to Chesapeake Bay for amphibious training. About eleven (11) days was spent in making ship to shore movements, and several night problems were held. The Battery then returned to Camp Pickett.

The remainder of our stay at Camp Pickett was spent in making preparations for overseas movement. Vehicles were water-proofed, and crates were made for last-minute packing of equipment.

On April 19, 1943, Lt Strizver was transferred to Battery "B". 2nd Lt. Floyd C. Porter was assigned to the Battery on April 30, 1943 with duty as Battery Motor Officer.

On May 25, 1943, the Battery moved by rail to Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia, where we had final clothing and equipment check, personnel records checked, and final preparations for overseas movement.

On June 4, 1943, the Battery moved to Newport News, Virginia, and went aboard ships - part of the Battery boarded the Frederick Funston, and the remainder of the Battery boarded the Calvert. At 0800 on June 8, 1943, the ships pulled anchor, and headed out to sea.

After a pleasant voyage, the convoy arrived at Oran, Algiers on June 22, 1943. We remained in the harbor of Oran for about three (3) days, and then moved up the coast about forty (40) miles where the Battery participated in a dry landing operation, and then spent a short period of training such as street fighting and demolition work. While there, 1st Lt. Ted W. Chiles was assigned to the Battery as Flight Officer. On June 31, 1943, the Battery returned to Oran Harbor, and boarded their respective ships, the Frederick Funston, and the Calvert. On July 5, 1943, the convoy left Oran Harbor for the invasion of Sicily. On the trip, the Battery was given last minute instructions, and each member was issued ammunition for all small arms.

At midnight, on July 9, 1943, we dropped anchor near Gela, Sicily. The first men of the Battery to land were the Liaison Sections at 0250. The remainder of the Battery was landed between 0250 and 1800, the evening of July 10, 1943.

"HISTORICAL RECORD"

BATTERY "A" 171ST FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

Battery "A", 171st Field Artillery Battalion was so designated February 11, 1942 being originally designated Battery "D", 160th Field Artillery. The Batteries' home station was Camp Barkley, Texas. The Battery had a strength of three officers and one hundred and ten enlisted men. Most of the members were veterans of the Forty-Fifth Oklahoma National Guard Division, reinforced with Selective Service men. The Battery was commanded by Captain German P. Odom, First Lieutenant Donald O. Turner as Executive Officer and Second Lieutenant Lowell G. Henry as Reconnaissance Officer. The Battery was equipped with four French 75MM Guns, Model 1897, individual weapon being the Springfield Cal .30 Model 1903 Rifle.

In the early part of February 1942, Battery "A", with an ammunition train furnished by Service Battery, 171st Field Artillery Battalion, moved by truck to Ft. Sam Houston, Texas where they remained a month as artillery support for the Fourth Army Supply Depot Guard.

Early in the month of March 1942, Battery "A" returned to it's home station at Camp Barkley where it was immediately equipped with 105MM Howitzers. After intensive training and many dry runs the Battery fired it's new Howitzers on the Camp Barkley Firing Range. During the latter part of April 1942, First Lieutenant Turner was transferred and Second Lieutenant Harold E. Vanhorn was assigned to the Battery as Assistant Executive Officer. Second Lieutenant Henry attended Motor Maintenance School at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma from March 14, 1942 to May 9, 1942

During April 1942, the Battery moved by rail to Ft. Devens, Massachusetts which was designated as a permanent change of station. Upon arrival at Ft. Devens, the Battery began on a physical hardening training schedule. On May 20, 1942, Second Lieutenant Thomas S. Finnigan was assigned to the Battery as Reconnaissance Officer.

Early in June 1942, Battery "A" was selected to represent the 171st Field Artillery Battalion, in the New York City Flag Day Parade. The Battery moved by rail to New York City June 10, 1942, where it bivouaced in the old New York City Worlds Fair Grounds. The Battery paraded on Fifth Avenue in New York City on June 12, 1942 and returned to it's home station at Ft. Devens on June 13, 1942. Second Lieutenant Henry was appointed First Lieutenant on June 30, 1942.

The period from June 15, 1942 to July 31, 1942 was spent at Cape Cod, near Camp Edwards, Massachusetts. During it's stay at Cape Cod, the Battery received some service practice with intensive amphibious and physical hardening training. On July 1, 1942, Second Lieutenant George F. Sampson was assigned to the Battery as Assistant Executive Officer and Second Lieutenant Vanhorn's duty was changed to Assistant Reconnaissance Officer.

On returning to the home station at Ft. Devens, the Battery continued physical hardening training. During August 1942, Second Lieutenant Finnigan was transferred to the Amphibious Command at Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Second Lieutenant Vanhorn was transferred to Service Battery, 171st Field Artillery Battalion, and Second Lieutenant George W. E. Foster Jr. was assigned to the Battery as Assistant Executive and Motor Officer. Second Lieutenant Sampson's duty was changed to Reconnaissance Officer.

On September 5, 1942 the Battery moved by truck to Pine Camp, New York for service practice and rifle training. During the six weeks stay at Pine Camp, most of the Battery qualified with the Springfield Cal .30, Model 1903 Rifle which was fired at the Stoney Point Rifle Range near Pine Camp. The assistance given by the officer and enlisted men attached to the Battery from the 180th Infantry Regiment was of great help in training the Battery with the rifle. Physical hardening training was also stressed during the stay at Pine Camp.

"HISTORICAL RECORD"
(CONTINUED)

BATTERY "A" 171ST FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

Early in October 1942, the Battery returned to its home station at Ft. Devens and shortly thereafter began preparations for a temporary change of station to Pine Camp, New York.

About November 9, 1942 the Battery moved by truck to Pine Camp, New York where it spent the winter in deep snow and severely cold weather. Training was limited due to inclement weather, but qualification and proficiency in firing of small arms was stressed. The Battery received invaluable benefits from the inclosed rifle ranges during the winter at Pine Camp. On December 14, 1942, Second Lieutenant James C. Miller was assigned to the Battery as Assistant Reconnaissance Officer. Second Lieutenant Foster and Second Lieutenant Sampson were promoted to First Lieutenants December 24, 1942. First Lieutenant Henry attended Battery Officer and Officer's Survey School at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, leaving the Battery in December 1942.

On January 21, 1943 the Battery moved by rail to Camp Pickett, Virginia which was designated as a permanent station. Upon arrival at Camp Pickett, the Battery began ship to shore Amphibious Training, and much training was done on the Obstacle Courses at Camp Pickett. Every member of the Battery that was armed with the Springfield Cal .30, Model 1903 Rifle, qualified. On February 20, 1943 Captain German P. Odom was relieved of command of the Battery and replaced by Captain Allan L. Crain. On February 4, 1943 Ensign John T. Newman was attached to the Battery Shore Fire Control Section.

On February 27, 1943 the Battery moved by truck to the R. C. T. Training Area, Arnold's Valley, near Glasgow, Virginia in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Here the Battery used 75MM Pack Howitzers which were issued prior to departure from Camp Pickett. The Battery received intensive training in mountain warfare, and much of the training in the mountains was done in rainy and cold weather with a limited amount of rations and personal equipment. Upon returning to the home station at Camp Pickett on March 17, 1943, twenty-three members of the Battery were sent to Camp Davis, North Carolina for Machine Gun and anti-aircraft training.

On April 19, 1943 First Lieutenant Foster was transferred to Battery "B", 171st Field Artillery Battalion, and Second Lieutenant Leo B. Kelly Jr. was assigned to the Battery as Shore Fire Control. First Lieutenant Henry returned to the Battery in April 1943 after completing Officers Training School at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. Second Lieutenant Miller's duties were changed to Assistant Executive and Motor Officer.

On March 24, 1943 the Battery moved by rail to Chesapeake Bay, where they received amphibious training as part of the First Battalion of the 180th Combat Team. They received their first experience aboard a U. S. Army Transport Ship, and two practice landings were held, simulating as much as possible actual battle conditions. They returned to the Home station at Camp Pickett on April 2, 1943.

The months of April and May were spent in intensive physical hardening training and in preparations for movement overseas. All equipment was checked and unserviceable items replaced. Equipment was crated and waterproofed according to instructions. Records were checked and worked in order. All members were given a complete physical examination and those found to be physically unfit for combat duty were transferred. Minor physical defects were corrected. On May 25, 1943 the Battery moved by rail to the staging area at Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia. Additional emphasis was placed on checking all equipment and the physical condition of each man. Physically unfit men were again culled from the Battery, and equipment rechecked for serviceability.

"HISTORICAL RECORD"
(CONTINUED)

BATTERY "A" 171ST FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

On the morning of June 4, 1943 the Battery moved by rail to Hampton Roads Port of Embarkation and boarded the USAT Calvert. The Calvert completed loading during the night of June 4, 1943 and on June 5, 1943 the Battery was rendezvoused off Norfolk, Virginia where they remained until the morning of June 8, 1943 awaiting the remainder of the convoy to form.

During the ensuing voyage across the Atlantic Ocean the troops received training in debarkation and abandon ship drill. The convoy's destination was kept strictly secret. Several submarine alarms were sounded, but the voyage was made without mishap.

On June 22, 1943 the Battery sailed into Oran Harbor, Algeria (Mers al Kibir). After remaining on ship in Oran Harbor for two days, the convoy moved up the coast and with other parts of the Division; the Battery made a practice landing on June 25, 1943 near Mostagnum, Algeria. After a march inland of approximately fifteen miles the Battery bivouaced, where it spent the next seven days in intensive physical training and taking advantage of the many training facilities this area offered, such as, street fighting and demolition work. On July 3, 1943 the Battery returned by truck to Oran Harbor and again boarded the USAT Calvert.

On July 5, 1943 the Battery sailed from Oran Harbor. Early in the evening of July 5, 1943 all troops were informed they were to participate in the invasion of Sicily. The remainder of the voyage was spent in detail study of maps and discussions on military intelligence. All members were issued a guide book of Sicilian Languages and Customs. Each member of the Battery received detail information as to his duties and function in the invasion. Ammunition was drawn for all small arms, and additional training in debarkation was received. The Battery sailed past the island of Malta at dusk on July 9, 1943 and at approximately 0001, July 10, 1943 the USAT Calvert anchored off the coast of Sicily between Gela and Scoglitte. Debarkation began immediately. Battery "A" accompanied the initial assault waves which landed on the southern coast of Sicily at 0345 July 10, 1943.

"HISTORICAL RECORD"

BATTERY "B", 171st FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

Battery "B", 171st Field Artillery Battalion originally designated as Battery "E", 160th Field Artillery, was stationed at Camp Barkeley, Texas on February 11, 1942. The battery was commanded by Captain Charles W. Casteel, and assisted by 2nd Lt Glen L. Garner. The Battery was equipped with 75 mm guns, model 1897, which they had used in the old National Guard days. In the early part of March 1942, the 75 mm guns were replaced by the new 105 mm Howitzers. After several weeks of intensive training, the 105 mm Howitzers were fired on the Camp Barkeley firing range. In April, 1942, Captain Casteel was relieved of his command, and 1st Lt Donald O. Turner was assigned as Battery Commander from Battery "A", 171st Field Artillery Battalion.

On April 23, 1942, the Battery was loaded on flat cars at the Camp Barkeley loading station and moved by rail to Ft Devens, Massachusetts for a permanent change of station. Enroute to Ft Devens, members of the Battery had their first look at the National Capitol, and several great factories. On arriving at Ft Devens, the Battery began a physical hardening training schedule.

On May 10, 1942, 1st Lt. Glen L. Garner was transferred to Headquarters, 171st Field Artillery Battalion. 2nd Lt Jesse M. Williams was assigned to the Battery as Executive Officer, and 2nd Lt Sylvan Grotte was assigned to the Battery a few days later as Reconnaissance Officer. 1st Lt. Donald O. Turner, the Battery Commander, was promoted to the grade of Captain on May 22, 1942.

On June 15, 1942, the Battery moved by truck convoy to Cape Code, Massachusetts for shore to shore amphibious training and service practice. Here some members of the Battery got their first look at the Atlantic Ocean and the taste of its salty waters. Several practice landings were made from small landing barges on the shore. 2nd Lt. Stanley E. Crawford was assigned to the Battery as Motor Officer and Assistant Executive Officer. On July 31, 1942, the Battery returned back to its station at Ft Devens, Massachusetts to continue its physical training.

On September 5, 1942, the Battery moved by truck convoy to Pine Camp, New York. The first week was spent learning the positions of firing the Springfield Cal..30, model 1903 rifle, and then the Battery moved to Stony Point, where all members qualified with the rifle. The Battery then moved back to Pine Camp and participated in service practices with the 105 mm Howitzers. 2nd Lt. Grotte was transferred to the Air Corps just before the Battery returned to Ft Devens, Massachusetts, its permanent station.

On November 10, 1942, the Battery made a temporary change of station to Pine Camp, New York by truck convoy. All through the months of November, December and January, the training was limited due to inclement weather. Many members of the Battery experienced their first taste of severe cold weather. Qualification of small arms was stressed during this period.

On January 21, 1943, the Battery moved by rail to Camp Pickett, Virginia for a permanent change of station. Here, the Battery had ship to shore amphibious training, physical training and preparation for overseas service. Captain Elmer L. Whitman was assigned to the Battery relieving Captain Donald O. Turner as Battery Commander. 2nd Lt. Leo B. Kelly, 2nd Lt Harold Van Horn and 2nd Lt Leonard Strizver was assigned to the Battery.

On February 27, 1943, the Battery traveled by trucks to the Blue Ridge Mountains near Glasgow, Virginia, for mountain warfare training. The Battery was issued the 75 mm Pack Howitzers for this training, which was done in very cold and rainy weather. On March 17, 1943, the Battery returned to Camp Pickett, Virginia to prepare for amphibious training at Norfolk, Virginia. The same day, Lt. Van Horn was transferred to the 1318th SU, Camp Pickett, Virginia.

On March 24, 1943, the Battery moved by rail to Norfolk, Virginia to participate in ship to shore operations, and having its first experience aboard a U S Army Transport. Several amphibious landings were carried out in small landing barges. The Battery returned to Camp Pickett, Virginia on April 2, 1943. 1st Lt. Jesse M. Williams replaced Captain Whitman as Battery Commander. 1st Lt. George W.E. Foster, Jr. was assigned to the Battery as Executive Officer, and 2nd Lt. Leo B. Kelly, Jr. was transferred to Battery "A", 171st Field Artillery Battalion.

The months of April and May were spent in physical training and preparation for overseas movement. All equipment was checked for unserviceable items, which were replaced by new equipment, and trucks were water proffed. Each member of the Battery was given a physical examination and the ones that were unfit for combat service were transferred to a non-combat unit.

On May 25, 1943, the Battery moved to Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia, a staging area, for overseas movement. Here, all equipment was given its final check for serviceability. On June 6, 1943, the Battery travelled by rail to the loading dock and board the U S Army Transport "Neville" as part of the 2nd Bn., 180th Infantry Combat Team. On the same date, the USAT "Neville" moved into the Chesapeake Bay to wait departure. On June 8, 1943, the "NEville" set sail for Oran, Algeria. During the 14 days crossing the Atlantic Ocean, the Battery participated in debarkation and abandon ship drills.

Arriving on the Coast of Africa on June 22, 1943, the Battery participated in a ~~dry~~ landing operation about forty miles east of Oran, where it spent a short period of training such as street fighting and demolition work. On July 31, 1943, the Battery moved by truck to Oran Harbor and boarded the US "Neville" and left the harbor on July 5, 1943 for the invasion of Sicily. On the trip, the Battery was given last minute instructions, and each member was issued ammunition for all small arms.

The US "Neville" anchored off the coast of Sicily south east of the Acate River on July 10, 1943 and the Battery was loaded into small landing barges and was immediately landed on the shore of Sicily and participated in the fighting across the island.

"HISTORICAL RECORD"

Battery "C" 171st Field Artillery Battalion

1st Lt. Russell P. Cecil commanded Battery "F" 160th F. A. Regiment from July 16, 1941 to February 11, 1942, at which time the Regiment was reorganized and Battery "F" 160th F. A. Regiment was redesignated Battery "C" 171st F.A. Bn.

On or about February 11, 1942 Battery "C" drew 105mm Howitzers. Prior to this time the Battery had drawn the split trail 75mm M1A1, which was quite an improvement over the French 75mm Model 1897 of World War vintage used previously.

On March 3, 1942 Lt. Russell P. Cecil relinquished command of the Battery to Capt. Joseph R. Boosa, former commander of Service Battery, 171st F. A. Bn. Lt. Allan L. Crain was Battery Executive at this time.

April 23, 1942 the Battery, as part of the 171st F. A. Bn., was transferred to Fort Devens, Massachusetts. Lt. Allan L. Crain was transferred to Headquarters Battery, Lt. James W. Crow to "C" Battery as Battery Executive and Lt. Walter E. Curry reported to the Battalion being assigned to the Battery as Reconnaissance Officer.

The Battery went to Cape Cod near Camp Edwards, Massachusetts for amphibious training and service practice between June 15, 1942 and July 31, 1942. During this period Lt. Neil S. McPhail reported to the Battalion being assigned to the Battery as Assistant Executive Officer;

Back at Fort Devens the Battery spent the rest of the summer training for overseas combat and in preparation for movement. On September 5th it left Fort Devens, Massachusetts for Pine Camp, New York where it stayed a few weeks in the National Guard Area. Intensive service practice and rifle training was ordered during this period, one week being spent at Stony Point, New York for small arms fire. While at Pine Camp, New York, Sergeants John W. Goodman, Felix W. Curtis, James A. Conley, Herbert C. Smith and Noel R. James left for Officer's Candidate School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

On September 17th the Battery returned to Fort Devens, Massachusetts. During this month, Lt. Curry received Secret Orders to report to Washington, D. C. for reassignment in another branch of service. Lt. McPhail was then assigned principle duty as Battery Reconnaissance Officer. Lt. Crow was transferred to Headquarters Battery and Lt. Albert H. Laverson reported to the Battalion being assigned to the Battery as Assistant Executive Officer.

On or about November 9th the Battery made a temporary change of station to Pine Camp, New York where they were quartered on the main post. Severe cold weather and deep snow were experienced here. The training was limited, due to inclement weather. Qualification and proficiency in firing of small arms were stressed during this period.

On January 23, 1943 the Battery moved to Camp Pickett, Virginia, a permanent change of station from Fort Devens, Massachusetts, having been temporarily stationed at Pine Camp, New York. Lt. Crow returned to the Battery on January 27, 1943. Preliminary work at Camp Pickett consisted of amphibious training and physical conditioning in preparation for overseas movement.

On February 27th the Battery went to the Blue Ridge Mountains, R. C. T. training area, Arnold's Valley, near Glasgow, Virginia. 75mm Pack Howitzers were issued for training and first samples of "K" rations were experienced by the men during this period. The Battery visited Natural Bridge, one of the seven modern wonders of the world. On or about March 17th it returned to Camp Pickett, Virginia. On the same date machine gunners and drivers were sent to Camp Davis, N. C. for machine gun training and anti-aircraft firing.

On March 24th the Battery, as part of the 3rd Battalion of the 180th Combat Team, went to Norfolk, Virginia and Chesapeake Bay for amphibious training, returning to Camp Pickett, Virginia on April 2nd.

The months of April and May were spent in intensive training, water-proofing and preparation for overseas movement. On May 25th the Battery moved to Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia where final equipping for overseas duty was emphasized. On the morning of June 4th troops were transported to Hampton Roads Port of Embarkation where they received iced tea from the American Red Cross, while loading on the ship Frederick Funston, P. A. 89. The Battery sailed from Chesapeake Bay on June 8, passing Fort Monroe Naval Operating Base and other points of interest. During the voyage some training in debarkation and physical conditioning was given troops. There were several submarine alarms, but the voyage was made without a mishap.

The Battery arrived in Oran, Algeria (Mers el Kibir) on June 22nd. There as part of the Division, they made a practice landing on June 25th near Mostagnum, bivouaced on the coast of Africa for 7 days with which time was spent to extensive physical conditioning. Returned to the Port of Oran to reembark. Left Oran on the 5th of July and the next stop was Sicily where they arrived on the night of the 9th of July and hit the coast on the 10th of July.

HISTORICAL RECORD

SERVICE BATTERY, 171ST FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

Service Battery, 171st Field Artillery Battalion was so designated 11 February 1942, having been formerly the Service and Ammunition Battery, 2nd Battalion, 160th Field Artillery. Capt. Charles B. Dear was the Commanding Officer, with 1st Lt. Lloyd D. Cox as Battalion Motor Officer, and 1st Lt. James W. Crow as Ammunition Train Commander. The organization was permanently stationed at Camp Barkeley, Texas.

On 23 April 1942 the organization entrained for a permanent change of station to Ft. Devens, Mass., arriving at Ft. Devens on 27 April 1942. An intensive training program for overseas duty was begun, and special effort was made to equip the Battery for combat duty.

In May 1942 1st Lt. Crow was transferred out of the Battery, and 2nd Lt. William H. Ferguson reported to the Battalion, being assigned to Service Battery as Ammunition Train Commander. On 23 May 1942 Capt. Dear was relieved of command and Capt. Howard P. Rice assumed command of the Battery.

In June 1942 the Battery went to Camp Edwards, Mass. for gunnery practice, and later moved near the coast of Cape Cod to receive ten days of shore to shore amphibious training. Upon completion of this training the Battery returned to its station at Ft. Devens.

In July 1942 2nd Lt. George W. E. Foster, Jr. reported to the Battalion, being assigned to Service Battery as Battery Motor Officer. In August 1942 Frank K. Nettles was appointed Warrant Officer and assigned principal duty as Assistant S-4, Lt. Foster was transferred to Btry. "A", 171st F. A. Bn., and 2nd Lt. Harold E. Van Horn was assigned to Service Battery from Btry. "A", being assigned principal duty as Battery Motor Officer.

In September 1942 the Battery went to Pine Camp, New York for gunnery practice. Exercise in resupply of ammunition and intensive rifle training was ordered during this period, one week being spent at Stony Point, N. Y. for small arms firing.

In October 1942 Lt. Ferguson was transferred out of the Battery and W. O. Nettles went to Officers' Candidate School. Everett R. Davenport was appointed Warrant Officer, being assigned principal duty as Assistant S-4.

In November 1942 the Battery made a temporary change of station from Ft. Devens to Pine Camp. An intensive training program in physical conditioning was carried out during the extremely cold weather of that winter, including qualification and proficiency in firing of small arms.

On 5 December 1942 Capt. Rice was relieved of command to attend the Field Artillery School, and Lt. Cox assumed command of the Battery. On 14 December 1942 2nd Lt. Fred Zuckerman reported to the Battalion, being assigned to Service Battery as Battalion Motor Officer. During the latter part of December 1942 the Battery took part in GHQ tests for artillery units conducted by the VI Army Corps, and, along with other units in the Battalion, received a satisfactory rating.

On 18 January 1943 WO Nettles was reassigned to the Battery as Asst. Battalion Motor Officer. On 23 January 1943 the Battery, having been temporarily stationed at Pine Camp, made a permanent change of station from Ft. Devens to Camp Pickett, Va. Immediately upon arrival at Camp Pickett a very intensive training program was initiated, which included two weeks of mountain training in the Blue Ridge Mountains, and ten days amphibious training in Chesapeake Bay. Preliminary work while at Camp Pickett consisted mostly of physical conditioning in preparation for overseas movement.

On 1 March 1943 Lt. Van Horn was transferred to Btry. "B", 171st F. A. Bn.

On 14 April 1943 Capt. Rice was reassigned as Battery Commander, with Lt. Cox as Battalion Motor Officer. 1st Lt. Stanley E. Crawford was transferred to the Battery as Ammunition Train Commander, and 2nd Lt. Ralph H. Mengel joined the Battery as Battery Motor Officer. 2nd Lt. Zuckerman was transferred to Btry. "B", 171st F. A. Bn.

On 18 May 1943 WO Nettles was transferred to the 528th Q. M. Battalion. On 25 May 1943 the Battery made a permanent change of station to the staging area at Camp Patrick Henry, Va. While in this camp physical conditioning and final equipping for overseas duty were stressed.

On 4 June 1943 the Battery moved by train to the Port of Embarkation at Newport News, Va., and embarked on the U.S.S. Anne Arundel for overseas duty. During the voyage troops were given training in debarkation and abandoning ship. Some physical conditioning was had by use of special cargo nets. The voyage was made without a mishap, although there were several submarine alarms.

The U.S.S. Anne Arundel docked at Mers El Kibir, Africa 22 June 1943. Troops were not permitted to debark until a landing exercise was made east of Oran, Africa on 25 June 1943. The Battery then went into bivouac, and spent a week of intensive physical conditioning, after which they returned to the Port of Oran to reembark. On 5 July 1943 the Battery left Oran, and on 10 July it made an amphibious landing on the Island of Sicily, entering actual combat for the first time in history.

HISTORICAL RECORD

MEDICAL DETACHMENT OF 171ST FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

The 171st Field Artillery Battalion Medical Detachment was formed at Camp Barkeley, Texas on 11 February 1942, and consisted of the following named personnel:

Arthur H. Fowler, Jr.	Capt. MC	Commanding
James M. Wade	S/Sgt.	
Audy K. Grisso	Cpl.	
Roy W. Ratcliff	Pfc.	
Louis T. Dodd	Pfc.	
George W. Long	Pfc.	
John A. Jordan	Pfc.	
Lawrence H. Caleb	Pvt.	
Lovel L. Brown	Pvt.	
Clifford Perceful	Pvt.	
William O. Williams	Pvt.	
Gus H. Miller	Pvt.	
William F. Smith, Jr.	Pvt.	
Leonard D. Williamson	Pvt.	

On 25 February 1942 Capt. Fowler was transferred to the 157th Infantry, and Major Andy N. Deaton assumed command of the Detachment.

On 15 April 1942 Maj. Deaton was transferred to Detachment of Patients, Station Hospital, Camp Barkeley, Texas, and Maj. Thomas H. Davis assumed command. On 23 April 1942 this organization made a permanent change of station from Camp Barkeley, Texas to Fort Devens, Mass., arriving at Ft. Devens on 27 April 1942. The period at Ft. Devens was spent in training for overseas combat and preparation for movement.

On 1 May 1942 Maj. Davis was transferred to the 157th Infantry and Capt. Lewis C. Taylor assumed command temporarily. On 25 May 1942 Capt. Anthony L. Carpentieri was assigned to this Detachment as Commanding Officer, relieving Capt. Taylor.

On 16 June 1942 S/Sgt. James M. Wade left for Officer's Candidate School, and Cpl. Audy K. Grisso was promoted to Staff Sergeant to fill the vacancy caused by S/Sgt. Wade's departure. Pfc. Roy W. Ratcliff was promoted to Corporal and Pvt. William F. Smith, Jr. was promoted to Technician 5th Grade. Pvt. Claude E. Boss was assigned to the Detachment from Division Artillery Medical Detachment and was also promoted to Technician 5th Grade.

In June 1942 the Detachment moved by motor convoy to Camp Edwards, Mass. where the Battalion had training in service practice. Upon the completion of training in service practice the Detachment moved near the coast of Cape Cod to receive ten days shore to shore amphibious training. After completion of this training the Detachment returned to its station at Ft. Devens.

During the first part of September 1942 the Detachment, with the remainder of the Battalion, moved by motor convoy to Pine Camp, New York for artillery firing and physical conditioning for further preparation for overseas movement. During the latter part of September 1942 the Detachment returned to Ft. Devens.

In November 1942 the Detachment moved to Pine Camp for a temporary change of station. During the period at Pine Camp the training was limited due to extremely cold weather.

On 23 January 1943 the Detachment made a permanent change of station from Ft. Devens to Camp Pickett, Va., having been temporarily stationed at Pine Camp. Immediately following the movement to Camp Pickett, this organization was assigned a heavy training schedule which was preparation for overseas service.

The latter part of February 1943 the organization moved to the Blue Ridge Mountains where two weeks of mountain training was experienced.

On or about 16 March 1943 the Detachment returned to Camp Pickett and resumed intensive training. Considerable progress was noted in the ability of personnel to stand up under rigid physical training. The latter part of March the Detachment accompanied the Battalion to Norfolk, Va., and embarked on the U.S.S. Leonard Wood for amphibious training. During this period two dry landing exercises were held, simulating as much as possible actual battle conditions. On 5 April 1943 amphibious training was completed and the Detachment returned to Camp Pickett. The intensive training program was again resumed and continued until departure for permanent change of station.

On 25 May 1943 the Detachment departed from Camp Pickett to the staging area at Camp Patrick Henry, Va. During the period at Camp Patrick Henry final preparation was made for overseas movement.

On 4 June 1943 the Detachment departed from Camp Patrick Henry by train, and went to the Port of Embarkation, Newport News, Va., where it embarked on the U.S.S. Anne Arundel for overseas duty. During the ensuing voyage some physical training was given.

On 22 June 1943 The Detachment arrived at Mers El Kibir, Africa. Troops were not permitted to embark until a landing exercise was made east of Oran, Africa on 25 June 1943. A week was spent on land and an intensive training program was initiated, consisting of physical conditioning by foot marches and strenuous exercises. On 5 July 1943 the Detachment left Oran Harbor and landed on the coast of Sicily on 10 July 1943.