

PLATOON DIARY
FIRST PLATOON
ANTITANK COMPANY

PLATOON DIARY

FIRST PLATOON

ARTIFICE COMPANY

PLATOON ROSTER

NELSON G PATRICK	FIRST LIEUTENANT	PLATOON LEADER
STANLEY S DURAWA	TECH SERGEANT	PLATOON SERGEANT
IVAN R FOX	T/5	PLATOON MESS'G
CLYDE SPARKS	T/5	AID MAN

FIRST SQUAD

ROLAND JONES	STAFF SERGEANT	SQUAD LEADER
EDWARD AROMI	PFC	GUNNER
ANTONIO BARBASA	PFC	CANNONEER
ARNOLD MATHISON	PFC	CANNONEER
WILLIAM PARSONS	PFC	CANNONEER
CHURCHILL RIPPENBURG	PFC	CANNONEER
WILLIAM DINKEN	PFC	AMMO BEARER
OMAR B KELLEY	PFC	AMMO BEARER
RAYMOND DEATE	PFC	AMMO BEARER

SECOND SQUAD

INE GUTIERREZ	STAFF SERGEANT	SQUAD LEADER
CHESTER B FRIED	CORPORAL	GUNNER
DONALD ZIRRES	PFC	CANNONEER
FRANK BLOCK	PFC	CANNONEER
MELVIN MYERS	PFC	CANNONEER
HORACE SMITH	PVT	CANNONEER
LARRY POTTER	PFC	AMMO BEARER
JIMMY BARNETT	PFC	AMMO BEARER
WILFRED SIMAS	PFC	AMMO BEARER
HARLAND TAINTER	PFC	DRIVER

THIRD SQUAD

GRADY HICKS	STAFF SERGEANT	SQUAD LEADER
DONALD MURPHY	CORPORAL	GUNNER
PAUL J BROWN	PFC	CANNONEER
JOHN LIBLICH	PFC	CANNONEER
HOMER GUTHAM	PFC	CANNONEER
EDWARD THOMPSON	PFC	CANNONEER
HARRY COLLELO	PVT	AMMO BEARER
THOMAS LAUGHLIN	PFC	AMMO BEARER
RICHARD JENNINGS	PFC	AMMO BEARER
OSCAR MILLER	CORPORAL	DRIVER

COMPANY OFFICERS

GORDON F REDWINE	CAPTAIN	COMMANDING
JOHN S SPASKE	FIRST LIEUTENANT	EXEC OFFICER
NELSON G PATRICK	SECOND LIEUTENANT	FIRST PLATOON
AGIS I MIKALIS	SECOND LIEUTENANT	SECOND PLATOON
RALPH W PATTERSON	FIRST LIEUTENANT	THIRD PLATOON
ANTHONY PAMIGNETTI	SECOND LIEUTENANT	FOURTH PLATOON
JOSEPH BOWEN	SECOND LIEUTENANT	REC'D OFFICER

WILLIAM R BIRCH FIRST SERGEANT

PLATOON DIARY

The first platoon of Antitank Company, 410th Infantry Regiment of 103 Infantry Division was activated at Camp Clayburn, Louisiana, in December 1942. No attempt was made to keep a platoon diary at that time, and the company records are not available for this writing. We are indebted to Private First Class Parsons and Private First Class Block for the diary that follows:

- 28 Aug 44
Camp Howze Texas
Camp equipment crated for overseas shipment. Division has been alerted and censorship of mail begins.
- 29 Aug 44
Practised loading 57's on flatcar mockups.
- 30 Aug 44
I. S. I. inspection by the Inspector General's office.
- 2 Sept 44
Load non T.A.T. equipment for shipment to P. O. E.
- 22 Sept 44
Leave Camp Howze at 1945 hours.
- 24 Sept 44
Arrive Camp Shanks for final staging.
- 3 Oct 44
Company has K.P. in Battalion Mess.
- 5 Oct 44
Sail from N.Y. P.O.E. at 0815 hours on USS General J.R. Brooks Navy Transport.
- 6 Oct 44
Pass 3 mile limit - We are now overseas - on the payroll.
- 9 Oct 44
Storm begins.
- 10 Oct 44
Storm increases in intensity - wind about 75 miles mph. High waves and ground swell. About 1/3 of the regiment is sick.
- 11 Oct 44
Storm passes.
- 16 Oct 44
Air Umbrella begins. Only thin protection as yet. Two freighter in preceding convoy left aflame by subs off our starboard.
- 17 Oct 44
Sight Africa at 1400 hours. Pass Gibraltar at 2000 hours. Spanish Morocco off the starboard bow.

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- 18 Oct 44
Pass Oran at 0950 hours.
- 19 Oct 44
Storm - higher wind than on the Atlantic. About 1/2 of the regiment is sick.
- 20 Oct 44
Sight land at 1000 hours. Wind still high. 1100 hours wind goes down. Sail into harbor at Marseilles. Disembark via C.G. landing craft (LCVP) at 1700 hours. Begin march inland to bivouac area ten miles from Marseilles. We bedded down at 2400 hours several miles short of our destination. What a march that was! A German recon plane was shot down by ack, ack. Harbor was fogged out by CWB smoke grenades.
- 21 Oct 44
Resumed march to bivouac area. We had to dig in.
- 22 Oct 44
Set up temporarily for servicing guns and vehicles.
- 24 Oct 44
Six mile march conducted by Lt Spasyk. Movie set up temporarily in hollow west of camp.
- 25 Oct 44
Ten mile march in the rain. French mud is stickier than Texas.
- 26 Oct 44
Clean and assemble 57 MM guns.
- 27 Oct 44
Guard detail to munitions ship in Marseilles harbor from 2100 hours to 0800 hours.
- 5 Nov 44
Prepare for motor march to the front.
- 6 Nov 44
Move to Dijon. Cross IP at 1000 hours. Arrive at Lyon 1900 hours
- 7 Nov 44
Continued to Dijon at 0730 hours. Arrived at Dijon at 2200 hours.
- 8 Nov 44
Moved out again toward front.
- 10 Nov 44
Pull into assemble area in mobile reserve.
- 14 Nov 44
Move out at 1600 hours to position South of StDie. Dineen breaks his arm getting into the weapons carrier. Bismarck - Benedictine. First element to go into action.
- 15 Nov 44
Settled in position in building. Ox and weapons carriers were returned to Co area - position too hot for trucks.

Settled in Herbaville. 57's in action in barns, sheds, etc.

- 16 Nov 44
No action. Moderate artillery and mortar fire. Light patrol activity reported. Crayon - Cognac.
- 17 Nov 44
6299H takes hill south of StDie. Slightly heavier artillery and mortar fire. Finish - Soup.
- 18 Nov 44
Enemy positions strafed by P-47's. Weather turns cold.
- 21 Nov 44
Dig in the guns for defense.
- 22 Nov 44
Move into Viller in the Vosges. Sleep in a bombed out dentist office. When advance is attempted, mortars zero in on roads. Cigarette - Albar.
- 23 Nov 44
Thanksgiving supper in barn. Rifle troops moving fast but the krauts are running faster.
- 24 Nov 44
Move on to LaFave. Loco - Texas.
- 25 Nov 44
Oscar - Checks.
- 28 Nov 44
Move to position in Alsace, Weiler. Guns in street position.
- 29 Nov 44
Overcash killed by schra mel. He stood too close to road block on which the krauts were zeroed.
- 30 Nov 44
Bivouaced in the woods. Krauts break through our lines with a tank counterattack. Cannon Co breads the attack.
- 1 Dec 44
Move to Bleinschweiller at 1900 hours.
- 2 Dec 44
Move to Steinholtz at 1400 hours for attachment to French First Army. Saids - Active.
- 3 Dec 44
Move back to Elienchweiller for reattachment to the 410th. Paulson steps on a Schuh mine.
- 4 Dec 44
Move out to Weithelm at 100 hours. Quarted with a German speaking family. In Regt reserve.
- 5 Dec 44
Duffle Bags turned in today.

- 8 Dec 44
Move to Uberacht at 0700 hours.
- 10 Dec 44
Move to Hertzweiler. Attack renewed. Artillery barrage lasted two hours and forty-five minutes. Buikeima killed by shrapnel.
- 11 Dec 44
Quartered in house - us and a 120 MM mortar dud.
- 13 Dec 44
Move to Durnbach.
- 15 Dec 44
Moved to bivouac area - in the woods.
- 19 Dec 44
Move to Stultheim.
- 22 Dec 44
Move to Bidding, relieving elements of the 6th Armored.
- 23 Dec 44
Move to Hundling.
- 24 Dec 44
Relieve elements of the Third Army in Buschbach.
- 25 Dec 44
Christmas Day in position.
- 26 Dec 44
MLR is established with Charley Company. Stay here is indefinit.
- 28 Dec 44
Gas mask reissued.
- 29 Dec 44
Alerted for attack.
- 2 Jan 45
Able Company attacks Forbach.
- 4 Jan 45
Return to Hundling to company reserve.
- 7 Jan 45
Return to Buschbach. Position in the g.d. woods.
- 16 Jan 45
Move to Hagenu sector to relieve the 70th Division.
- 17 Jan 45
Quartered in Niederbroon.
- 20 Jan 45
Withdraw to Uttweiler. Entire 6th Corps withdraws to straighten out our line.
- 22 Jan 45
Move to Obermodern to Regimental reserve line.

- 25 Jan 45
Second Platoon reported missing. Alerted for attack.
Why do we wait?
- 26 Jan 45
Eight men missing from second platoon. Snow capes issued.
Dunlap joins the platoon. Smith moved to second platoon
and promoted to 1st Sgt. Oscar Miller transferred.
- 27 Jan 45
Move to Schillersdorf. Dig in and roof over the dugout.
88 and mortar fire extremely heavy.
- 1 Feb 45
Major thaw- the dugouts collapse or are seriously weakened.
- 3 Feb 45
Jones and Allcox hit by shrapnel. Allcox dead three hours
later.
- 4 Feb 45
Relieved by third platoon, move to Schillersdorf town
positions.
- 5 Feb 45
Return to MLR positions 1600 hours.
- 7 Feb 45
Move third squad gun out at 0100 hours. Mud was knee deep
and were forced to manhandle gun. Fox pulled gun with jeep
to weapons carrier. Many flares but no return fire.
- 8 Feb 45
Move first squad gun out. Same manner as the third gun.
Mortar fire near.
- 9 Feb 45
All but ten men move to Buchweiler into Regimental reserve.
Second squad gun cannot be moved by hand - mud too deep
for vehicle. Fried and Khundt talk a German speaking Kraut-
French into pulling gun but with team of horses. Flares but
no fire. Patrols active.
- 21 Feb 45
Move to Obermodern to relieve Fatima on MLR. Murphy promoted
to S/Sgt. Jones leaves for OCS.
- 4 Mar 45
Benson is accidentally killed.
- 15 Mar 45
The long awaited push is on. A full Division of artillery
supports our Regiment.
- 16 Mar 45
Move to Uhlweiler to protect right flank of regimental
area. Move to Mietesheim - dig in to protect division
right flank. Made contact with 36th. Within four hours
rear echelon catches up with us.
- 17 Mar 45
Rejoin Company. Move to Gundarschafen.

- 18 Mar 45
Move to Lebach. This is the second time we take this
area.
- 22 Mar 45
Move into Germany through Bobenthal. Guns in position in
Sigfried line.
- 24 Mar 45
The rat race is on. Move to Wiltz to guard P. O. W's. Also
work in Klingenstein. Bury horses. German forces sur-
render by the hundreds. Too many prisoners to worry about.
They move to the rear without guards.
- 28 Mar 45
Move to Neuhofen at 2300 hours. Set up road blocks on out-
skirts of town.
- 2 April 45
Set up in Spirkelbach as occupational forces.
- 6 April 45
Move to St Martin.
- 7 April 45
Crossed the Rhine and moved into Dossenheim as occupational
forces.
- 16 April 45
Moved to Heidelberg to control riots in the warehouse area.
- 19 April 45
Move to Adolsfort to the line again.
- 20 April 45
Move to Welzheim.
- 21 April 45
Move to Uhingen. There is no longer any line. We just
keep moving and seldom sleep.
- 22 April 45
Weilheim.
- 23 April 45
Move to Owen for the night then to Oberlengin. We formed
skirmish protection along South side of town against
isolated pocket of krauts.
- 24 April 45
Move to Reutti at 0200 hours.
- 25 April 45
Move to Whitthal at 1100 hours. The entire platoon sleeps
in one farm house. The race is still on. Fried promoted
to S/sgt.
- 26 April 45
Crossed the Danube at Ulm at 1700 hours and proceed to
Weissenhorn. The race continues with little resistance.
Rifle troops are motorized.
- 27 April 45
Move to Mindelheim. Stopped long enough to eat a hot chow
the first in several meals. Still moving very fast.

- 28 April 45
Move to Laufbeurn to guard town.
- 29 April 45
Move to Reider - stayed a few hours then pushed on to Brem.
- 1 May 45
Arrive in Oberbergau - We are now in the foothills of the Alps. McMillan joins the platoon. Aromi becomes second in command of second squad - Brown second in command of third squad - Barnett second in command of first squad.
- 2 May 45
Move to Garmisch - Partenkirchen. We set a road block on the border line.
- 5 May 45
Move to Innsbruck. Stay in Central Hotel. Second and third platoon catch up with the company. War is over. Fox becomes motor sergeant. Klundt moves to platoon headquarters as messenger.
- 9 May 45
War declared, officially, over.
- 5 June 45
Move to Lager Schlatt to operate Displace Persons camp.
- 16 June 45
McMillan, Barnett, Billich, Zirbes, Tainter, Laughlin, Hicks, Jennings, Collelo, and Thompson leave to join the Fifth Division. Goll joins the first platoon.

FINIS

P. S. The last chapter to this diary will not be written, we have worked together, fought together, and lived together for months - we know each as brother. We have formed friendships that will last throughout our lifetimes even though we may never meet again. Dunny, Red, Putay-wootay, Ivan, John, Frank, Little Krut, Old Man, Stascho, and many others will become pleasant memories and like a beautiful melody will linger in our hearts throughout the years.

AUTOGRAPHS

NAME

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