

Company "M", 275th Infantry

May. 15, 1943, 12 men from the 91st Infantry div. reported to the 70th ~~Inf~~ Div. Hq. for duty as cadre. After reporting in at Regimental Hq. they ~~were~~ reported to Maj. Doer at 3rd Bn. Hq., who in turn sent them to 1st Lt Ketterer Commander of Co. M.

On May 24, the Company strength was increased by four officer fresh from OCS. 2nd Lts. Henderson, Huber, Woodbury and Hawkins. A few days later these Lts. with the exception of Lt Henderson, were on a cleanup detail in the mess hall. (This mess hall was later taken over by H Co.)

The first 2 weeks of cadre training consisted of a 4 hour lecture in the morning and grass cutting and general police of the Co. Areas in the ~~aftermp~~ afternoon. They attended troop school in the evening from 1800-2000. The Bn. cadre trained as a group, pulling the necessary details such as guard duty K.P. etc.

On Infantry day, June 15th, the Division formed on the 274th drill field and stood a ~~formal~~ formal retreat. Activation orders were read and now they were officially part of the 70 Div. Prior to this time they had been attached to SCU 1911 at Camp Adair.

July 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> was an enjoyable trip to Newport. They went by motor convoy to Zahats where they bivouaced on the beach.

August 17th 18th and the 19th the members of M Co. cadre participated in the premier of "This Is The Army" in Portland. After bivouacing in the park they returned to Camp on the 19th.

The next day the first filler arrived in M Co. Pvt Vach Nolder of Portland Oreg. who arrived on the 20th. "Volunteering" for K.P. the next day he was made Chief Engineer of a potato bin construction job.

The fillers started coming in thick and fast from almost every state in the Union. Upon arriving they all took a 7 day filler course.

Sept 11 Organization day. We had a formal review at Bradley Bowl after which Gov. Snell of Ore. extended, to the men of the division, his welcome to Oregon. The following Monday Sept. 13th, Basic training got under way. We started basic with a slightly overstrength company. Having our required classes on the M-1 rifle, military courtesy etc. we were ready for a bivouac. The first one on record was Sept. 28th 29th and the 30th in Peterson Hollow. It was during this time that we lost our first cadreman, 1st Sgt Maskew who was replaced by 1st Sgt. "Daddy" Reed.

Oct 2nd and 3rd were spent at Toledo where we went by motor convoy under Col Miller. We pitched our tents in the municipal ball park. We were turned loose in the town and in a short time almost every store in town was sold out.

Furloughs started for the cadremen in the middle of Nov. The fillers got their furloughs commencing about the middle of Dec.

Many of the mens wives had moved out to some of the nearby towns and were invited to the company for a Thanksgiving dinner.

Dec. 17 ended basic training and we went into the advanced training with a 7 day bivouac at the junction of the Old Portland and Suver Roads. We Came in on the 24th and had the afternoon and Christmas day off. Some of the more fortunate men were able to spend their Christmas at home.

Dec 26 we were at it again, another bivouac in the same place for another 7 days.

New Years day was another day off. The busses were so crowded tht you could hardly get out of camp. As a result of the transportation tie up some of the men made a day of it in Camp.

The first part of Jan the Co. ran a night compass course near Range 65. Our objective, a few hills away, was to be on a certain azimuth and at a given distance behind the "enemies" lines. A candle would be burning in a tin can. This would be our assembly point. To make sure the light would burn a guard was posted. It was cold, and he was sleepy, so he curled up and went to sleep. The company wandered over hill and dale looking for the "light that failed"

One week in Jan. the Co. walked over 80 miles to and from the training areas. ~~These~~ These were field days for the blister bustin' Medics. The following week was good for an additional 25 miler. Which started the speed marches and Physical Fitness Tests.

Late in Jan. the first men ~~of the Co.~~ to leave as replacements left to fill the ranks of our parent div. which was preparing for overseas movement in camp Adair. Men continued to leave for different outfits until the middle of March. At that time there were five pvt. left in the Co. Four of which were hospitalized, and the other one was in Fort Benning.

March 17 some of the men left the Co. to train men coming into the div from ASTP, ~~and~~ Air Corps Etc. They took their infantry basic in the PRTC section of Camp Adair. Having completed the four weeks of training they were sent out to the different Companies.

In April we started running Bn. Field Ex. by combining D, H, and M Companies to make a full strength heavy weapons Co. At this time any one up to a T/Sgt were subject to various details such as K.P. guard duty and C.Q.

While our troops were landing in Normandy on June 6, we were about to land in knee deep mud as we launched an attack on the fortified positions of Adair.

June June 15th Infantry day also the 1st anniversary of the 70th. We paraded down C Ave, to Bradley Bowl where again Earl Snell repeated his speech of Sept 11 1943. Gen Dahlquist gave us a pep talk. Expert Inf. Badges were awarded to the

men who passed the "acid" tests. While the camp was open to the public and the rest of the men had the day off after setting up a display of the weapons. S/Sgts. Giles, Mckensie, and Mersch were enjoying a day of K.P.

Towards the last of June we began to hear rumors to the effect that we would soon be leaving Adair. The advance party left for Ft Leonard Wood around the first of July.

Our Co strength was increased about this time by the addition of two officers, Lt Popovac and Lt Vacek. This brought the total company officers to 4.

July 22 we vacated our barracks and moved into the Bn. Quadrangle for the night. July 23 we entrained and after three dirty days on troop sleepers we arrived in Ft Leonard Wood, Mo. We were greeted by the Div. band playing and the strains of "Old Suzanna" coming through the mist which was rapidly turning into a slight rainfall. We moved into the barracks under cover of darkness and tried to find our duffle bags before the rain washed them away.

While at Ft Wood we underwent FOM training, ran divisional problems, took our usual hikes, had salt pills galore, and in general had a hot old time under the Mo. sun.

We received some fillers during our stay at Wood. Here for the first time we had our TO strength of officers. Some men went before the screening board, some got discharged while others got dissappointments.

We left Ft. Wood Nov. 18th-Destination Unknown-- Rumor had it that we were Boston Bound. We arrived in Camp Miles Standish Nov. 21. While at Standish we had a series of shots, TE 21 checks, lectures TE 21 checks, had passes to Boston and surrounding towns, and we had an occasional TE 21 check.

Dec. 6 we boarded the USS West Point in the early afternoon. After an uneventful trip over we landed in Marsailles, Ded, 16.

COMPANY M 275TH INFANTRY

DAILY JOURNAL

Dec 6, 1944

Departed POM 154 EM and 8 Officers present. Davanzo, Thomas A. - Sick Boy.

Dec 7, 1944 through Dec 14, 1944

at sea, - Davanzo, Thomas A, - Sick Boy

Dec 15, 1944

Arrived Port of marseille - Unloaded in barges, entrucked and traveled by truck Delta Bay Section CP #2. Davanzo, Thomas A. to 69th Station Hospital.

Dec 16, 1944

Organized camp site, pitched tents and reorganized Company.

Dec 17, 1944

Received TAT, distributed weapons, cleaned weapons.

Dec 18, 1944

Training, distributing needed supplies to squads.

Dec 19, 1944

Exchanged American Money to francs.

Dec 20, 1944

Men on Pass to marseille, report a good time but women morals low.

Dec 21, 1944

Received first overseas PX. Men on pass to Marseille.

Dec 22, 1944

Prepared to move. 90 men left by train 1700.

Dec 23, 1944

75 men left DBS by motor convoy using weapons carriers. Traveled about 135 miles. Stopped at airport. Cold.

Dec 24, 1944

Motor convoy moved out 0700 traveled about 150 miles to Di John where we stayed in city park. Men attended Christmas eve Mass. Snow and Cold.

Dec 25, 1944

Left Di John Christmas Morning 0700 by motor convoy, traveled about 140 miles. Stayed in former Military Academy. Snow and cold. Morale Good.

