



JOURNAL OF THE 344TH ENGINEER REGIMENT (GS)

15 September 1942

Colonel LLOYD H. GRANDY relieved of command and transferred to Headquarters Southern Base Section, APO 519, U. S. Army per paragraph 1, Special Order #46, Headquarters Southern Base Section, APO 519, U. S. Army

Lt. Col. RALPH H. CAMERON assigned to duties as Commanding Officer per paragraph 2, Special Order #46, Headquarters Southern Base Section, APO 519, U. S. Army.

Headquarters & Service Company, Medical Detachment and 2nd Battalion transferred from Newbury, Wilts per letter, Subject: "Orders", Headquarters, Southern Base Section, APO 519, U. S. Army, dated 19 September 1942

1st Battalion transferred from Ashchurch, Gloucester per letter, Subject: "Orders", Headquarters, Southern Base Section, A.P.O. 519, U. S. Army, dated 19 September 1942

Headquarters & Service Company, Medical Detachment and 2nd Battalion arrived at Le Marchant Barracks, Devizes, Wilts at 1130 hours 19 September 1942.

2nd Battalion arrived at Le Marchant Barracks, Devizes, Wilts Sunday, 21 September 1942.

04/30/2011

Saturday, 17 November 1942

Due to the prevalence of colds in this regiment, effective at 1800 hours, the entire Camp was quarantined in an effort to prevent the epidemic spreading. Instruction Hut #1 was made into a temporary hospital as well as two of the rooms at the N.A.A.F.I. to take care of most of those sick. The quarantine was lifted on the afternoon of the 25th November. The epidemic is now under control and nearly everyone has now recovered.

Wednesday, 25 November 1942

A picked group of 28 men and 2 officers, selected from the entire regiment for their appearance and smartness in drilling were invited to Plymouth to take part in exercises at the Mayflower Stone on Thanksgiving Day. The Lord Mayor of Plymouth (Viscount Astor) and the Lady Mayoress (Viscountess Astor, M.P.) were the principal speakers. Newsreel pictures were taken and a radio broadcast made for American consumption.

Letter of commendation received from Colonel Thrasher, Commanding Officer, Southern Base Section, for the fine and creditable appearance made by our men and officers.

Thursday, 15 October 1942

Departed from Wilts Camp, Wiltschire, Dewizes at 1100 hours, 15 October 1942. Arrived 1503 hours. G.P. established at 1525 hours at RU 41.0-73.7. Paps sounded 2100 hours 15 October 1942.

18 January 1943

An advance party consisting of 6 Officers and 19 Enlisted Men departed Camp at 1530 hours for Gourock Scotland to act as Ship's Staff Party and to make arrangements for the accommodations for the Regiment.

An advance party of 3 Officers and 38 Enlisted Men departed from Camp at 1530 hours for Gourock, Scotland as a Baggage Tail in charge of the Unit baggage.

20 January 1943

Movement No. 1, consisting of 11 Officers and 332 Enlisted Men departed from Lavington, Wilts, at 1215 hours for Gourock, Scotland, via Special Train No. 2105. Train Commander, Captain Milton B. Allen. Party made up of Companies "D" and "E" and one Officer and 3 Enlisted Men from the Medical Detachment. Arrived at Gourock at 0625 hours 21 January.

Movement No. 2, consisting of 12 Officers and 254 Enlisted Men departed from Lavington at 1630 hours for Gourock, Scotland, via Special Train No. 2113. Train Commander, Captain Charles F. Lewis. Party made up of Companies "C" and "H&S" with three Officers from Regimental Headquarters, and 2 Officers and 14 Enlisted Men from the Medical Detachment. Arrived Gourock at 1030 hours 21 January 1943

Movement No. 3, consisting of 10 Officers and 318 Enlisted Men departed from Lavington, Wilts at 1830 hours for Gourock, Scotland, via Special Train No. 2117. Train Commander, Captain Carroll L. Wood, Jr. Party made up of 1st Bn. Hq, consisting of 4 Enlisted Men, Companies "A" & "B" and Medical Detachment of 1 Officer and 3 Enlisted Men. Arrived Gourock at 1230 hours 21 January 1943

Movement No. 4, consisting of 9 Officers and 157 Enlisted Men departed from Devizes, Wilts at 2250 hours for Gourock, Scotland, via Special Train No. 2120. Train Commander, 1st Lt. Names F. Goodson. Party made up of Company "F", H&S Headquarters Detachment, 2nd Bn. Hq and 1 Officer and 3 EM from Med. Det. Arrived Gourock at 1355 hours 21 January 1943.

04/30/2011

Entire regiment, less advanced detail of 26 men, embarked on HMT "Strathnaver" by 2000 hours, 21 January 1943.

Following Officers appointed Ship's Military Staff.

Colonel Ralph H. Cameron, O.C. Troops

Major Henry J. Wright, Executive

1st Lt. Roy M. Ward, Ship's Adjutant

Colonel Floyd V. Kilgore,

26th Gen. Hospital, Medical Liaison Officer.

Major J. M. Moyes, Senior Medical Officer

Captain J. R. Dennler,

Devon Regiment, Ship's Liaison Officer.

Departed Gourock, Scotland aboard HMT "Strathnaver"
at 0107 hours.

Convoy passed through the Straits of Gibraltar at approximately 0320 hours, and into the Mediterranean Sea.

Sighted the mountains of Southern Spain, snowcovered, between 1000-1200 hours.

Docked at Oran No. Africa at 0930 hours. Entire Regiment disembarked by 1130 hours. Camp set up about 7 miles east of Oran Sh pup-tents. Dinner at 1430 hours

Camp located on a wide sandy plain about 1/2 mile from the Mediterranean.