

HEADQUARTERS
46TH MEDICAL BATTALION (ARMD)
Pine Camp, New York.

HHK/rec

October 3, 1941.

Subject: A Brief History of the 46th Medical Battalion (Armd).

To : G-2, 4th Armored Division, Pine Camp, New York.

1. In compliance with unnumbered memorandum, Headquarters 4th Armored Division, dated Sept. 15/41, the following history of the 46th Medical Battalion (Armd) is submitted:

The 46th Medical Battalion (Armd), under the command of Major George Horsfall, came into existence on April 15, 1941 with the activation of the 4th Armored Division at Pine Camp, New York. Its original cadre of 110 enlisted men and 18 officers was drawn from the 47th Medical Battalion (Armd) of the 1st Armored Division and provided a nucleus of trained, seasoned medical troops. The organization rapidly expanded, attaining its full strength of 316 enlisted men and 25 officers by June 3rd.

The arrival of large numbers of recruits necessitated an intensive basic training program, which was conducted entirely by the battalion officers and non-commissioned officer personnel, over a three months period ending August 23, 1941. This program was carefully designed to emphasize medical-military subjects with numerous field exercises demonstrating the varied problems: litter drill, clearing station administration, field medicine, field sanitation, splinting, etc. Individual aptitudes permitted many enlisted men to receive further specialized training at the various army schools providing the battalion with a well trained staff of medical, dental, surgical, and veterinary technicians; first aid men; motor mechanics; cooks and bakers, etc.

An innovation in training medical personnel was inaugurated in September, 1941 whereby the soldier serves a one months "internship" at the Pine Camp Station Hospital, to obtain practical experience in the fields of surgery, medicine, and nursing. Twenty men of the battalion have successfully completed the courses, and 30 more are at present detached to the hospital for this work.

15 Apr 41 - 17 Sep 41

The tactical functioning of the battalion as an organized unit was begun as early as May 20, 1941, with the completion of a 130 mile mounted road march; extensive convoy operations have since been conducted weekly and under varied conditions: river crossing (July 9), black-out driving and bivouac procedure (July 16). This successful operation of the battalion on convoy-bivouac procedure enabled the organization to participate in 3 day extended road marches during August, September and October, involving distances of 400 miles, with maintenance of supply and communication lines to Pine Camp.

On September 7, 1941 the battalion sent an experienced cadre of 32 enlisted men and 4 officers to activate the 45th Medical Battalion (Armd) of the 5th Armored Division, stationed at Fort Knox, Ky.

For The Battalion Commander:

HERBERT H. KERR,
Capt., Med. Corps,
Plans and Training Officer.

ME3

HEADQUARTERS
46TH ARMORED MEDICAL BATTALION
Pine Camp, New York

CWA/gjs

January 28, 1942

BATTALION HISTORY OCTOBER 1, 1941 to JANUARY 5, 1942

Original Unit: 46th Medical Battalion (Armd)

Redesignation: 46th Armored Medical Battalion, G. O. No. 1, Headquarters 4th Armored Division, Pine Camp, N.Y., Jan. 5, 1942.

Command: Major George Horsfall, commanding officer, was detailed to duty as an umpire in southern maneuvers and Captain Herbert H. Kerr, M.C., assumed command (par. 6, S.O. No. 66, Headquarters 46th Medical Battalion (Armd).) on October 30, 1941. Captain Kerr was detailed to duty at Edgewood Arsenal and Captain William M. O'Brien assumed command (par. 1 S.O. No. 77, Headquarters 46th Medical Battalion (Armd)) from November 28, 1941 until Major Horsfall returned on December 12, 1941.

Strength: The strength of this organization on October 1, 1941 was: Officers - 26; enlisted men - 284. Major changes occurred when five officers and 28 enlisted men were transferred from the Medical Detachment 80th Armored Regiment (M) (par. 2 S.O. No. 3, Headquarters 4th Armored Division, January 3, 1942). On January 5, 1942 the strength was: Officers - 24; enlisted men - 224.

Training: 1. General Training from October 1, 1941 to January 5, 1942 consisted of a review of basic, technical and Medical Department technical subjects. More emphasis was placed on tactical training in which company and battalion functions were stressed.

2. Marches on October 1, 2, 3, 1941 - a 438 mile mounted road march was made by the entire battalion to Saratoga Springs, N.Y., and Lost Pond (near Saranac Lake, N.Y.) Daily mileages were 157, 131 and 150. Particular attention was paid to convoy driving and bivouac procedure. Experience was gained in bivouacing, messing and driving in heavy rain. On October 27, 28, and 29 a mounted road march was made to Ft. Niagara, N.Y., and returned with the same training objectives as the march mentioned above. Weather conditions were generally good on this march. Distances covered 1st day - 126 miles, 2nd day - 150 miles, 3rd day - 235 miles.

3. Other training. Since October 1, 1941, approximately 20 men have been on special duty at the Station Hospital, Pine Camp, N.Y., each month for training in Medical Department technical subjects.

For the Battalion Commander:

Clements W. Air
CLEMENTS W. AIR,
Captain, Medical Corps,
S-2

JANUARY 1942

- 1 - 20 enlisted men detailed on S.D. to Station Hospital for technical training.
- 5.- Redesignated 46th Armored Medical Battalion by General Orders No. 1, Headquarters 4th Armored Division, Pine Camp, N.Y.
- 3 - 5 officers and 28 enlisted men transferred to this unit from the Medical Detachment 80th Armored Regiment (M) by par 2 S.O. No. 3, 4th Armored Division.
- 9 - One officer and nine E.M. transferred to Medical Detachment, Headquarters 4th Armored Division. Six E.M. transferred to 704th Tank-Destroyer Bn.
- 12 - Course in communications and voice procedure started, to continue for 7 periods of one hour each.
- 14 - Ten E.M. transferred to 754th Tank Bn.
- 30 - Practice Train loading conducted. Each type of vehicle used by the Battalion was loaded.

Strength Jan. 31: O-24; E.M.-260

Clements W. Air
CLEMENTS W. AIR,
Captain, Medical Corps,
Adjutant.

*1-20-42
J. W. Air*

FEBRUARY 1942

1 - 20 detailed on S.D. Station Hospital for technical training.

Training time during the month of February was devoted to basic military training and Medical Department Training. In addition regular classes were held in skiing.

12-24 2 officers and 20 E.M. went into the field with the Division Cold Weather Test Company.

Strength: Feb. 28

O-21 E.M. 273

Clements W. Air
CLEMENTS W. AIR,
Captain, Medical Corps,
Adjutant.

MARCH 1942

- 1 - 19 E.M. detailed to S.D. Station Hospital for technical training.
- 5 - 48 hour march and bivouac to condition personnel and test equipment in cold weather operation. The entire Battalion participated. The personnel section operated in the field.
- 11 - 48 hour Division Train Field Exercise to obtain practice in marching, movement, and shelter in cold weather.
- 15 - Fifteen E.M. joined from Replacement Training Center, Pine Camp.
- 25 - Twenty-five E.M. joined from Medical Replacement Center, Camp Lee.

Strength: March 31: O-22 E.M. 312

Clement W. Air
CLEMENTS W. AIR,
Captain, Medical Corps,
Adjutant.

APRIL 1942.

- 1 - Seventeen E.M. detailed to S.D. Station Hospital for technical training. This is the last group to be detailed.

Training: Tactical training, and training tests. Platoon and Company training.

- 15 - Six officers and 77 E.M. transferred to the 8th Armored Division, Ft. Knox, Ky., as Cadre for 9th Armored Division.

Strength: April 15: O-12 E.M. 340

Clements W. Air
CLEMENTS W. AIR,
Captain, Medical Corps,
Adjutant.

April 16 - 30, 1942

Red Cross "Standard" course in First Aid initiated March 30/42 for Battalion Enlisted Personnel. Two hours per week from March 30 to May 7/42. Instructors included both Medical Officers of the Battalion and enlisted personnel trained in First Aid.

17 - 47 EM transferred from MRTC Camp Lee, Va.

Strength April 30:

O-12

EM- 303

Clements W. Air
CLEMENTS W. AIR,
Captain, Medical Corps,
Adjutant.

MAY 1942

- 8,9 - Twenty-mile dismounted road march & bivouac; purpose: physical conditioning of personnel.
- 11 - Firstclass in Combat Intelligence; 2 hours per week, ending June 26/42.
- 12 - Weapon instruction in 30 cal. MG, 45 cal. pistol and M1 rifle begun; two hours per week per EM.
- 15 - Strength: 0-18 EM-303
- 21,22 Sixteen-mile dismounted road march & bivouac; purpose: same as above, conditioning of personnel. 55 EM transferred from AFRTC, Ft Knox, Ky. 4 newly commissioned officers assigned Battalion by 4th Armd Div Hqs.
- 26 - Red Cross First Aid Exam
- 28 - 99 EM transferred from AFRTC Ft Knox Ky.
- 30 - Six officers trfd from various units of 4th Armd Div.

Strength May 31:

0-19 EM- 462

Clements W. Air
CLEMENTS W. AIR,
Captain, Medical Corps,
Adjutant.

JUNE 1942

- 7 - Lt Col. George Horsfall reld of command, assigned to 7th Armd Div, Camp Polk, La. Major Everett C. Perlman assumed command.
 - 8 - Technical Medical Training Classes begun for newly arrived Enlisted personnel. Five week course, 44 hours per week. Orientation Course of 2 weeks for newly-arrived officers.
 - 9-12 - Dismounted road march & administrative bivouac; purpose: conditioning and testing administrative setup of battalion under field conditions.
 - 15 - Strength: 0-21 EM-457
 - 17 - 11 EM transferred from AFRTC Ft Knox Ky
 - 22-26 - Mounted March & bivouac; emphasis on conditioning and acclimating.
 - 30 - Hq & Hq Co inactivated in accordance with existing T/O and ltr Hq 4th Armd Div 6.27/42, 2359
- Strength June 30 - 0-20 EM-466

Clements W. AIR
CLEMENTS W. AIR,
Captain, Medical Corps,
Adjutant.

JULY 1 - 15, 1942

- 1 - Hq 46th Armored Medical Battalion & Hq Co 46th Armored Medical Battalion activated in accordance with existing T/O and ltr Hq 4th Armd Div 6/27/42, 0001. 26 EM transferred from MRTC Camp Pickett, Va.
- 7,8 - Mounted blackout road march & tactical bivouac; purpose: exercise in tactical movement and acclimation to same.
- 14-17 - Battalion took part in Division problem of this period. Selected enlisted personnel acted as MD umpires in reinforced battalion exercises.

Strength on 15th:

0-20

EM-485

Clements W. Air
CLEMENTS W. AIR,
Captain, Medical Corps,
Adjutant.

July 15 - 31, 1942

- 17 - Ten EM transferred from MRTC, Camp Pickett, Va.
- 25 - Major Everett C. Perlman, MC, reld of command, asgd to Hq 9th CASC Presidio of San Francisco Cal. Major William M. O'Brien, MC, assumed command.
- 25 - 31: During this period gained 12 student officers newly assigned from inactive status and began course of concentrated daily instruction for same, these classes being augmented by evening classes three times weekly of 1 hr ea

Training:

While Technical Medical Training classes went on as usual training during period consisted in great part in daily field exercises: overnight bivouacs, mounted and dismounted roadmarches with exercises in compass reading, use of the 84th Armd Rcn Bn's obstacle course, black-out driving, and litter drill.

Strength: July 31: 0-31 EM 485

Clements W. Air
CLEMENTS W. AIR,
Captain, Medical Corps,
Adjutant.

HEADQUARTERS
46TH ARMORED MEDICAL BATTALION
Pine Camp, New York

24 September 42

Subject: Unit History 46th Armd Med Bn

To : G-2, 4th Armd Division,
Pine Camp, New York.

In compliance with Memorandum No. 12cs, Hq 4th Armd Division, the attached history of this command for period August 1 - September 23, 1942 is submitted.

For the Battalion Commander:

Ray W. Smith
RAY W. SMITH,
2nd Lt., M.A.C.,
Personnel Officer.

August 1942

From the 1st to the 12th Battalion gained 13 more student officers and special training of these new officers continued from program begun last month.

3rd - 4th, Mounted march and tactical bivouac. Carried on administrative functions as in garrison. Lettered companies functioned tactically with simulated casualties.

17th, Twenty-two student officers, their special training here terminating, assigned to various medical detachments of the Division.

17th - 18, Mounted road march and tactical bivouac similar to one of 3rd and 4th.

31st, Gained 12 new student officers and special training of these was begun.

Strength Aug 31:

O-40 EM-470

Strength Aug 15:

O-50 EM-474

Ray W. Smith
RAY W. SMITH,
2nd Lt., M.A.C.,
Personnel Officer.

September 1 - 23, 1942

Medical training of EM & student Officers continued.

4th, Six student officers, their special training here terminating, assigned to various medical detachments of the Division.

14th, 15th & 16th -

Battalion took part in Division problem of this date; routine administrative functions were carried on in field by Headquarters; Co "A" supported Combat Command "A"; Co "B" supported Combat Command "B"; Co "C" provided selected EM to act as umpires.

Strength September 15:

Strength Sept 23:

O-36

EM-462

O-36

EM-459

For the Battalion Commander:

Ray W. Smith
RAY W. SMITH,
2nd Lt., MAC.,
Personnel Officer.

MED

HEADQUARTERS
46TH MEDICAL BATTALION, ARMORED
APO 254, Camp Bowie, Texas

2 December 1943.

BATTALION HISTORY - 1 NOVEMBER - 30 NOVEMBER

The Battalion had normal training for the first two (2) weeks of the month. A Retreat Parade was held and Driver's Medals were presented to the men.

On 15 November the Commanding General spoke to the entire Division and told the men that the 4th Armored Division was alerted. After that date the entire Division spent all of the time getting all men P.O.M. qualified. A complete check of all clothing and equipment was made to determine the serviceability and Requisitions were submitted for all shortages. The physically unfit men were eliminated and the Battalion brought to T/O strength.

On 23 November a 100% check of the Service Records was made by the Inspector General and the errors noted are being corrected.

The strength of the Battalion 1 November was twenty-nine Officers assigned; two Officers unassigned; two Warrant Officers assigned and one Warrant Officer unassigned, and three hundred and ninety-one Enlisted Men assigned and two Enlisted Men unassigned. On 30 November the strength was, twenty-nine Officers assigned; two Officers unassigned; two Warrant Officers assigned; one Warrant Officer unassigned; three hundred and ninety-four Enlisted Men assigned and two Enlisted Men attached unassigned.

For the Battalion Commander:

Francis G. Hodge
FRANCIS G. HODGE,
1st Lt, Med Adm C,
Adjutant.

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2
F
24

C O N F I D E N T I A L

MED

H E A D Q U A R T E R S
46TH MEDICAL BATTALION, ARMORED
A.P.O. 254, U.S. Army

15 January 1944.

BATTALION HISTORY (1 DECEMBER- 31 DECEMBER)

For the first few days of the month the battalion conducted showdown inspections and further prepared for Overseas Movement. The area in Camp Bowie was turned over to the Advanced Detachment of the 83rd Medical Battalion, Armored, 13th Armored Division.

On 18 December 1943 the battalion left Camp Bowie, via rail for Camp Myles Standish, Mass. arriving there approximately 0100 Wednesday, 22 December.

At Camp Myles Standish, shortages in equipment and clothing were made up and the Battalion received the first two shots of typhus inoculation. Further necessary details were completed and on 29 December 1943 the Battalion departed Camp Myles Standish for Overseas Movement. The Battalion sailed on three ships, in the afternoon of 29 December.

Upon departure from the continental limits of the United States the Battalion was at T/O strength, four men having been dropped in the staging area and four men picked up.

For the Battalion Commander:

Francis G. Hodge
FRANCIS G. HODGE,
1st Lt, M.A.C.,
Adjutant.

Dec 43