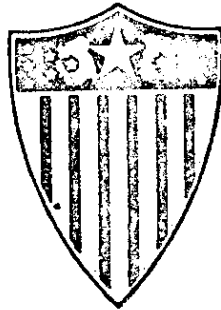


**WAR DEPARTMENT
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON**



**WAR DEPARTMENT RECORDS BRANCH, A.G.O.
HISTORICAL RECORDS SECTION
ROOM MB-858 PENTAGON**

HEADQUARTERS
702ND TANK BATTALION
APO 403 US ARMY

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:

SUBJECT: Battalion History.
Period from 6 August 1944 to 31 August 1944.

CA (C) (S) (U) August 1944
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
William D. Tye Capt P6P
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 17 Feb 47

1. Original Unit.
 - a. 702nd Tank Battalion (Medium).
 - b. Organized 1 March 1943.
 - c. Organized at Camp Campbell, Kentucky.
 - d. Authority for Organization: 320.2/53 (AF) (R)-GNGOT (1-2-43), and par 1, General Orders Number 14, Headquarters Armored Force, Fort Knox, Kentucky.
 - e. Sources from which personnel was obtained: The Cadre for the Battalion came from the 8th Armored Division, Camp Campbell, Kentucky, and the recruits came from New Cumberland Reception Center, New Cumberland, Pa.

2. Principal changes in organization resulted from changes in Tables of Organization, and the activation of a light tank company on 19 October 1943. The designation of the Unit was changed from "702nd Tank Battalion (Medium)" to "702nd Tank Battalion".

3. Strength:	<u>Commissioned</u>	<u>Warrant</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>
a. Upon landing in France:	<u>39</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>684</u>
b. Net increase to 31 August 1944:	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
c. Net decrease to 31 August 1944:	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>
d. Strength: 31 August 1944:	<u>37</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>679</u>

4. Stations of Unit:
 - a. 6 August 1944: Vicinity of Saint Germaine de Louier, France
 - 7 August 1944: Same.
 - 8 August 1944: Vicinity of Craen, France.
 - 9 August 1944: Vicinity of Boulange, France.
 - 10 August 1944: Vicinity of Chassive, France.
 - 11 August 1944: Vicinity of Sille le Guillaume, France.
 - 12 August 1944: Vicinity of Sille le Guillaume, France.
 - 13 August 1944: Vicinity of St. Mars, France.
 - 14 August 1944: Same.
 - 15 August 1944: Vicinity of Jublains, France.
 - 16 August 1944: Same.
 - 17 August 1944: Vicinity of Argentan, France.
 - 18 August 1944: Same.
 - 19 August 1944: Alemenches, France.
 - 20 August 1944: Through 25 August 1944: Same Area.
 - 26 August 1944: Vicinity of Marigny, France.
 - 27 August 1944: Same.
 - 28 August 1944: Vicinity of Villeneoux, France.
 - 29 August 1944: Same.
 - 30 August 1944: Vicinity of Chalons Sur Marne, France.
 - 31 August 1944: Same.

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Battalion History
6 Aug 44 to 31 Aug 44

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5. The purpose of all marches was to accomplish the tactical mission of the Battalion in connection with military operations against the enemy. Specific instances concerning marches given in the summary of operations by Battalion S-3 Report attached.

6. Campaigns.

a. Battalion engaged principally in mopping up operations throughout SE Brittany Sector, towards Le Mans and in the area of Argentan until 17 August 1944. Battalion participated in campaign to close Argentan-Palais Gap from 18 August 1944 to 22 August 1944. In operations closing the gap the Battalion was attached to First United States Army. From 27 August 1944 to 31 August 1944, Battalion participated in Third United States Army drive towards Germany. Battalion participating in the seizure of Chalons Sur Marne, and continued in the pursuit of the enemy on through the closing date of this report.

7. Battles.

a. For account of action see S-3 Report attached, also S-2 Report.

8. The Commanding Officer in all engagements of the Battalion has been Lieutenant Colonel RALPH TALBOT III, Infantry. The Battalion was a part of forces under command of Lieutenant General OMER N. BRADLEY during closing of Argentan Gap, and in drive through Chalons Sur Marne was a part of the forces commanded by Lieutenant General GEORGE S. PATTON.

9. Losses in Action.

a. Period from 6 August 1944 to 17 August 1944-General mopping up from Normandy to Alencon.

OFFICERS:
None

KILLED

ENLISTED MEN:
None

OFFICERS:
Levin, Sam L., 1st Lt., 01015677

INJURED

ENLISTED MEN:
Vitelle, Jr., Johnnie R. Pvt 38539517
Sparks, Wm. H. Sgt 33596413
Csala, Alex NMI T/5 33621574
Jones, Jr., Daniel D. Sgt 33621606

MISSING IN ACTION

OFFICERS:
None

ENLISTED MEN:
None

b. Period from 18 August 1944 to 22 August 1944-Closing of Argentan-Palais Gap.

OFFICERS:
Stevens, Carroll A., 2nd Lt, 01018472

KILLED

ENLISTED MEN: ✓
Jones, Uriel Pvt 33621715
Yagle, Edwin N. Sgt 33595746

OFFICERS:
None

WOUNDED AND INJURED

ENLISTED MEN:

Pletcher, Calvin	T/5	33757210
Koch, Allen C.	T/5	33621643
Mariotti, Carlo J.	Sgt	31076576
James, Richard L.	Cpl	33757172
Lahr, Chester C.	Pfc	33621545
Werkheiser, Nevin E.	Pfc	33621557
Bauer, William J.	Pvt	33621563
Kellet, Samuel E.	T/5	33621623
DeRuvo, Joseph V.	Pvt	12092138
Thomas, Paul D.	Sgt	33111409
Tomashunas, Frank M.	Cpl	33596622
Hillig, Roland F.	Pvt	33596647
Farrington, David O. S	Sgt	32298751
Phillippi, Elbert R.	Pfc	33757160

OFFICERS:
None

MISSING IN ACTION

ENLISTED MEN:

Pletcher, Merle R.	Cpl	33757246
Teel, Chester E.	Pfc	33621609
Grunnert, Jr, Theodor	Pfc	33602171
Krause, Joseph D.	T/5	33595468

10. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action.
a. Closing of Argentan-Falaise Gap.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ACT</u>	<u>AWARD</u>
Harris, Robert L.	Cpl	On 18 August 1944 Cpl Harris with complete disregard for his own safety, returned to a burning vehicle, traversing the turret to such a position to enable his bow gunner to squeeze through and escape to safety.	Bronze Star
Royce, William D.	Sgt	On 18 August 1944 Sgt Royce's tank was hit by enemy anti-tank gun and put out of action. After dismounting he discovered his driver was still in the burning tank. Disregarding his own personal safety he proceeded to rescue his driver from the burning vehicle.	Bronze Star
Szymanski, Mitchell J.	Sgt	On 20 August 1944 after his tank was destroyed by enemy gun fire and escaping from this burning vehicle without any weapons of any sort to continue to fight against the enemy, he attached himself to the medical unit helping them to evacuate to safety the wounded.	Letter of Commendation

Battalion History
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b. Purple Heart Awarded.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>DATE OF WOUNDS</u>
Vitello, Jr., Johnnie R.	Pvt	38539517	13 August 1944
Sparks, Williams H.	Sgt	33596413	13 August 1944
Csala, Alex NMI	T/5	33621574	13 August 1944
Levin, Sam L.	1st Lt	01015677	13 August 1944
Fletcher, Calvin NMI	T/5	33757210	18 August 1944
Koch, Allen C.	T/5	33621643	18 August 1944
James, Richard L.	Cpl	33757172	18 August 1944
Mariotti, Carlo J.	Sgt	31076576	18 August 1944
Lehr, Chester C.	Pfc	33621545	18 August 1944
Werkheiser, Nevin E.	Pfc	33621557	18 August 1944
Bauer, William J.	Pvt	33621563	18 August 1944
Kellet, Samuel C.	T/5	33621623	18 August 1944
DeRuvo, Jr., Joseph V.	Pvt	12092138	18 August 1944
Thomas, Paul D.	Sgt	33111409	18 August 1944
Jones, Daniel D.	Sgt	33621604	13 August 1944
Tomashunas, Frank M.	Cpl	33596622	20 August 1944
Hillig, Roland F.	Pvt	33596647	20 August 1944
Phillippi, Elbert R.	Pfc	33757160	18 August 1944

11. Photographs of personnel, important scenes or events not available up to 31 August 1944. For additional information see Annexes attached. Journals of S-1, S-2, S-3 and S-4.

For the Commanding Officer:

WILLIAM B. JACOBS,
Capt, 702nd Tank Bn,
Battalion Historian.