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HEADQUARTERS 522D FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A. P. O. #758, U. S. ARMY

16 January 1945

***** UNIT HISTORY FROM ACTIVATION TO DATE *****

The 522d Field Artillery Battalion was activated 1 February 1943 at Camp Shelby, Mississippi with a cadre of nine (9) officers and ninety-six (96) enlisted men. Of the enlisted cadre only about eight (8) or ten (10) had ever had previous training or experience in a field artillery unit. The enlisted cadre was composed entirely of soldiers of Japanese ancestry and they were sent in small groups from about six (6) different Army posts. Twenty-two (22) second lieutenants joined the unit about three (3) weeks after activation, coming directly from the Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, Oklahoma. At the time of activation there were no field artillery officers of Japanese ancestry available for assignment to the unit, which is believed to be the only field artillery battalion in the United States Army whose enlisted personnel are all of Japanese descent.

From 1 February to 18 April 1943, the cadre was given an intensive course of training. On 18 April 1943 a majority of the filler replacements arrived from Hawaii. Other replacements had been arriving in small groups. They were for the most part soldiers who had requested transfer to the battalion.

The basic training program began on 10 May 1943 and was completed on 30 August 1943. This period of training was completed while the unit was under the supervision of First Headquarters, Special Troops, Third Army. Upon completion of basic training the battalion was placed under the Commanding General, IX Corps Artillery for supervision of training. The unit training period was completed 23 November 1943, the last week being taken up by Army Ground Forces Field Artillery Battalion firing tests. The battalion did exceptionally well in these tests reflecting considerable credit upon the ability of the men to assimilate new and strange duties.

From 29 November 1943 to 24 January 1944 the battalion participated in the Fifth Maneuver Period, Third Army Maneuvers in western Louisiana. During this maneuver period the unit worked in turn with the 89th, 97th and 86th Infantry Divisions. The battalion was alerted, placed in A-2 supply priority on 15 December 1943. Upon completion of maneuvers the unit returned to its home station, Camp Shelby, Mississippi and after a few days spent in cleaning and repairing equipment, participated in the 60th Infantry Division "D" Series Maneuvers in the DeSoto National Forest.

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Mississippi. This was the first appearance of the 442d Combat Team as such, the entire unit taking part in this small maneuver. Following completion of the "D" Series Maneuvers, the next three (3) weeks were spent in combined training with the infantry regiment and in the taking of various Army Ground Forces training tests involving the infantry and artillery working together as a team.

The entire Combat Team was alerted for overseas movement 15 February 1944 and considerable time was spent in completing individual requirements in preparation for overseas movement. The battalion left Camp Shelby, Mississippi on 22 April 1944 along with the other elements of the 442d Combat Team and was staged at Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia, and left Newport News, Virginia on 2 May 1944.

After a twenty-six (26) day voyage in a Liberty Ship convoy, the unit debarked at Brindisi and Bari, Italy on 28 May 1944. Then followed a two (2) day trip by railway to a staging area in the vicinity of Naples, Italy. On 6 June 1944 the battalion left Naples and proceeded to Anzio by LST. The trip from Anzio, Italy to Tarquinia, Italy was by motor convoy. The battalion was attached to 34th Infantry Division Artillery from 10 June 1944 to 14 August 1944 and participated in that division's drive up the western coast of Italy from Near Grosseto, Italy to Pisa, Italy. The important Italian port of Livorno was captured 19 July 1944. The battalion was then shifted to the II Corps sector near Firenze, Italy and attached to the 88th Infantry Division Artillery. Shortly after the opening of the Fifth Army offensive north of the Arno River on 1 September 1944, the battalion was again withdrawn and attachment to the Fifth Army terminated. The unit was shipped from Piombino, Italy to Naples, Italy, and from Naples to Marseilles, France, arrived at Marseilles, France 29 September 1944 and was attached to the Seventh Army.

Movement was made by convoy from Marseilles to an assembly area near Pouxieux, France. The battalion was attached to VI Corps and the 36th Infantry Division Artillery upon arrival in Seventh Army area on 11 October 1944. The battalion remained with the 36th Infantry Division and participated in very severe fighting in the Vosges Mountains sector until 18 November 1944. On 19 November 1944 the battalion departed for Nice, France, and was attached upon arrival there to the 44th AAA Brigade. On 26 November 1944 Battalion occupied positions in support of a defensive line along the Franco-Italian border. Further movements have been for the purpose of strengthening present defensive set-up.

This unit is the organic artillery battalion of the 442d Infantry Regimental Combat Team and has participated in all of its battles to date, performing the primary mission of direct support.

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Since entering combat six (6) non-commissioned officers received battlefield appointments in the grade of second lieutenant and are now on active duty with the battalion.

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