

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE  
WASHINGTON



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**DEPARTMENTAL RECORDS BRANCH, A.G.O.**  
**HISTORICAL RECORDS SECTION**  
**ROOM MB-920 PENTAGON**

By 141/700 NARA, Date 1972.

**RESTRICTED**

HEADQUARTERS

577th ORDNANCE AMMUNITION COMPANY

APO 923.

RHF/geh  
18 May, 1944.

SUBJECT: Military History.

TO : COMMANDING GENERAL, Base Section No. 3, APO 923.  
Attention S-2 (THRU: Commanding Officer, Ordnance Ammunition  
Battalion, APO 923.)

1. In compliance with letter, Headquarters, USASOS, APO 501,  
subject: Military History, file GSB 314.7 the following  
Histories are forwarded:
  - a. History of Organization from time of activation to  
arrival in Australia, 10 September, 1942 to 13 June,  
1943.

*Raymond H. Folbert*  
RAYMOND H. FOLBERT,  
1st Lt., Ord. Dept.,  
Executive Officer

2 Incls.

Incls. 1 History from 10 September, 1942 to 13 June, 1943.

2 Roster of Company, as of October 21, 1942.

CLASSIFIED BY 141/700  
DATE 1972

*Gail Cooper*

UNCLASSIFIED

By PLB / FM NARA, Date 1992.**RESTRICTED**  
**CONFIDENTIAL****Activation:**

The 577th Ordnance Ammunition Company was activated under T/O-9-17, at Fort McClellan, Alabama, 10 September, 1942 per S.O. #2, Hqs 101st Ordnance Ammunition Battalion. 1st Lt., Joseph Crowley was assigned as Commanding Officer.

A Cadre of 17 enlisted men joined on Sept. 11th. Other officers were assigned as follows: 2nd Lt., Cassatt - Sept. 27th, 2nd Lt., Moser - Oct 4th, 2nd Lts., Folkert and McKloskey - Oct. 11th and 2nd Lts., Scott and Nickels - Oct. 18th. On Oct. 21st, 161 men were assigned from Reception Center, Camp Upton, N.Y. Roster shown in inclosures.

**Training:**

The training program started and the first section of it was devoted entirely to basic Military subjects.

The second period consisted of specialized training in Ammunition. Due to the fact that ammunition was not available this program consisted mostly of lectures, with only charts and diagrams to represent the various types of ammunition. To supplement this training, key personnel of the Company were taken on a tour of the Anniston Ordnance Depot. This gave them a much clearer picture of their future duties, in receiving, storing and shipping ammunition. During this period the following changes had occurred: Lt., Crowley was transferred and Lt., Cassatt assumed command. On Dec. 22, 1942, Lt., Cassatt and a Cadre were sent to Camp Forrest, Tennessee, to activate a new Company, and Lt., Scott assumed command. Lt., Scott promoted to 1st Lt., Jan. 25, 1943 and Lts., Moser and Nickels promoted to 1st Lts., Mar. 4, 1943.

The third period consisted of working problems in the field. On one occasion, a week's bivouac was spent at the Morrisville Maneuver Area near Fort McClellan. Rifles were received and instruction and firing on the range were completed during this period. This training concluded with the physical test given by Second Army and included a 25 mile march, 4 mile forced march and the infiltration course.

**Movement:**

The Company was ordered to move to a Port of Embarkation for shipment overseas. On May 5th, departed from Fort McClellan by train and arrived at Camp Stoneman, California, May 10th. The following two weeks were spent in training at the staging area and on May 25th, departed from Oakland, California, for overseas.

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HEADQUARTERS  
577th ORDNANCE AMMUNITION COMPANY  
BASE SECTION NO. 3

A. P. O. 923,  
24 April, 1944

SUBJECT: History of 577th Ordnance Ammunition Company from June 13, 1943 to March 1, 1944.

TO : COMMANDING GENERAL, U.S.A.S.C.S.  
Attention: G-2

RECEIVED  
DATE 29 46  
[Signature]

Through Channels.

This Company arrived at Brisbane on June 13, 1943, after spending seventeen days at sea. The troops were taken to Barra Barracks where camp was established with the 636th Ordnance Ammunition Company.

The following two weeks were spent working at the Barra Ordnance Depot. During this time, an outbreak of mumps sent several men to the hospital.

On July 1, the Company boarded a train at Brisbane and on July 4, arrived at Kangaroo Ordnance Depot, Base Section #2. A temporary camp was set up and work began at the Ammunition Depot. Few cases of mumps occurred and the Company was kept under quarantine until the end of July.

The 630th Ordnance Company then stationed at Kangaroo was moved out and the 577th took over the operation of the Depot. In exchange of 1 Officer and 5 Enlisted Men was arranged between the two Companies to assist in familiarization with the Depot. Lt. Pickels and a detachment of 30 men were sent to Torrens Creek, to replace a similar detachment of the 636th, and operate the Torrens Creek Depot.

In August the new camp site at Kangaroo was completed and construction of Ammunition apts was started. The new camp consisted of the following permanent buildings; mess hall, recreation hall, headquarters and shower rooms. Floors were made for all of the tents and a Company street was formed. The appearance of the camp had improved to a great extent and the morale was excellent. Two shows were provided in camp each week and the men were sent to Ingham and Townsville on pass.

The operation of the Depot proved very interesting, and many times the tonnage of ammunition being shipped required working on a 24 hour a day schedule. Many times, during the dry season, the entire Company was used to fight forest fires in or near the Depot.

DED  
1944

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, AND 873514.

By 111/50 NARA, Date 1972.

**RESTRICTED**

In October the Company left Kangaroo by train, having been replaced by the 623rd Ordnance Ammunition Company. Lt. McKloskey was transferred to the 623rd and Lt. Matthews joined from that organization. The Company arrived at Brisbane, October 7th, and moved into Camp Oxley and resumed work at Darra Ordnance Depot.

Subsequent changes of personnel were as follows:

Lt., Folkert and a detachment of 49 enlisted men on Detached Service at Calvert Ordnance Depot from October 14, 1943 to January 28, 1944.

Lt. Scott, C.O. promoted to Capt., Nov. 13, 1943.

Lt. Maddox transferred to 170th Ordnance Company, January 3, 1944 and Lt. Williams assigned from 338th Ord. Co.

Lt. Thaler assigned January 29, 1944.

Lt. Folkert, Lt. Williams and 55 enlisted men placed on Detached Service at Columboola Ordnance Depot, February 2, 1944.

*William E. Nickliss*  
WILLIAM E. NICKLIS,  
1st Lt., Ordn. Dept.,  
Commanding

ROSTER OF COMPANY

21 Oct., 1942

1st Lt., Joseph Crowley, C.O.

577th Ord. Amm. Co.

2nd Lt., W. C. Cassatt  
2nd Lt., Raymond H. Folkert  
2nd Lt., Jack Scott

2nd Lt., Arthur A. Moser  
2nd Lt., Robert L. McKloskey  
2nd Lt., William E. Nickels

CADRE

M/Sgt., James L. Woods  
T/Sgt., Leo T. Johnson  
S/Sgt., Edward McDavid  
Sgt., Theodore Marshall  
Sgt., James Mason  
Cpl., Noel Nixon  
Pfc., Oscar Pritchett  
Pfc., Henry T. Childers

1st Sgt., Charleston Lee  
T/Sgt., Byrd  
S/Sgt., James Rush  
Sgt., Samuel Ross  
Cpl., Reynolds  
Cpl., Elmore Robinson  
Pfc., Cook  
Pfc., John T. Wright

Pfc., Willie Willoughby

- |                             |                         |                            |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Abbott, Thaddeus         | 53. Finney, John M.     | 107. O'Grady, Charles M.   |
| 2. Atkins, Morris Jr.       | 54. Forbes, Frank A.    | 108. Owens, Fred           |
| 3. Anderson, Henry          | 55. Garrett, John       | 109. Pace, Robert          |
| 4. Artis, Samuel W.         | 56. Goode, Morris W.    | 110. Paige, Edward L.      |
| 5. Barnett, Cyril           | 57. Goode, Pleasant     | 111. Patterson, George J.  |
| 6. Bell, Emile              | 58. Goodwin, Harold     | 112. Perry, Fred W.        |
| 7. Benson, Edgar J.         | 59. Graves, Willie C.   | 113. Peters, Windell C.    |
| 8. Blackburn, Charles W.    | 60. Gray, Arlander S.   | 114. Pettus, Burnett       |
| 9. Blanchard, Robert        | 61. Greaves Victor I.   | 115. Pickens, James A.     |
| 10. Brandon, Robert D.      | 62. Green, Stephen J.   | 116. Piggery, Blair        |
| 11. Bowers, Nelson          | 63. Greene, Milton A.   | 117. Poopore, John         |
| 12. Brissett, Erskin        | 64. Hagans, Ozie        | 118. Prince, Phillip F.    |
| 13. Brown, Henry T.         | 65. Hall, Waldo W.      | 119. Rawlings, George L.   |
| 14. Brown, James C.         | 66. Hannibal, Daniel L. | 120. Reece, Charles C.     |
| 15. Buckley, Nehemiah E.    | 67. Harley, Donald N.   | 121. Reese, Harvey C.      |
| 16. Byrd, Louis H.          | 68. Harris, Ernest      | 122. Rickenbacker, Cleve.  |
| 17. Carter, James G.        | 69. Herbert, George     | 123. Riley, Clifford E.    |
| 18. Caupain, Walter         | 70. Hicks, Harold H.    | 124. Rodriguez, Laurie A.  |
| 19. Cave, John W.           | 71. Hill, Charles L.    | 125. Rogers, Ashby L.      |
| 20. Chaney, Robert A.       | 72. Holden, Francis C.  | 126. Rohan, Edward A.      |
| 21. Chase, Roy M.           | 73. Holzendorf, James   | 127. Ross, Andrew          |
| 22. Chisolm, George A.      | 74. Hunt, James N.      | 128. Savage, Horace C.     |
| 23. Clarke, Dave O.         | 75. Jackson, Noble M.   | 129. Scott, Charles A.     |
| 24. Clark, Eddie A.         | 76. Jackson, James V.   | 130. Scudder, Fred W.      |
| 25. Clark, George H.        | 77. Jacobs, Gilbert B.  | 131. Shepperson, Paul      |
| 26. Claybourne, James C.    | 78. Jennings, Bennie    | 132. Simmons, Floyd S.     |
| 27. Cobbs, William H. Jr.   | 79. Johnson, Elijah     | 133. Simmons, Henry J.     |
| 28. Coleman, Edward G.      | 80. Johnson, Braucus W. | 134. Smith, Herman T.      |
| 29. Coleman, Frank T. Jr.   | 81. Johnson, James H.   | 135. Speight, George H.    |
| 30. Colon, Nick B.          | 82. Jones, Winford L.   | 136. Stinchcomb, Marshall  |
| 31. Cordova, Manuel         | 83. Julius, Leonard P.  | 137. Storms, Joseph F. Jr. |
| 32. Crier, Douglas R. Jr.   | 84. King, Wallace A.    | 138. Surrey, Pablo         |
| 33. Cropp, Lawrence H.      | 85. King, John          | 139. Talley, Matthew W.    |
| 34. Crutchfield, Huston Jr. | 86. Lewis, George R.    | 140. Taylor, Augustus B.   |
| 35. Curry, Earnest          | 87. Malone, Mack        | 141. Tague, Melody Jr.     |

By PLB / EM NARA, Date 1992.ROSTER OF COMPANY \* CONTINUED

37. Daniels, William	89. Manning, James H.	143. Thomas, Maurice H.
38. Daughtry, John H.	90. Martin, James W.	144. Thomas, Sands E.
39. Davis, Kenneth E.	91. Mason, Matthew Jr.	145. Tillman, Frederick
40. Davis, Nelson Jr.	92. Maurasse, Florentine	146. Tindall, Robert O.
41. Davis, Willie D. Jr.	93. Maurras, Alvarez E.	147. Totten John E.
42. Dean, Pierce G.	94. McCray, James P.	148. Townsend, James
43. DeJesus, Carlos	95. McGarrity, Andrew S.	149. Van Putten, David O.
44. Delancy, Herbert N.	96. McKinley, John	150. Waller, Edward G.
45. DePass, Granville, C.	97. McCray, John N.	151. Walters, Hamp
46. Dorsett, Joseph L.	98. McWhirter, Fred	152. Washington, Ted. R.
47. Durant, John H.	99. Mead, Adolphus B.	153. Watkins, Robert W.
48. Durkee, Benjamin E.	100. Millen-en, Harold B.	154. Watkins, William M.
49. Ealey, Leroy	101. Miller, Eric	155. Weaver, William W.
50. Edwards, Thomas	102. Moe, George J.	156. Westbrook, John A.
51. Ellis, James H.	103. Morgan, Parker A.	157. White, Alexander E.
52. Ellis, William C.	104. Miller, William O.	158. Whitehead, Chris. C.
	105. Murray, Edward J.	159. Willis, Douglas
	106. Nance, Harold	160. Wilson, James E.
		161. Young, Jefferson D.

**WAS**



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HEADQUARTERS  
636TH ORDNANCE AMMUNITION COMPANY  
U. S. BASE "A"

/gnc

314.7

A.P.O. 928  
25 May 1944

SUBJECT: Historical Record

TO : Ass't Executive S-2  
U.S. Base "A"  
APO 928

1. Transmitted herewith, find completed Historical Record of the 636th Ordnance Ammunition Company, (duplicate), as required by letter, your headquarters, File GSB 314.7, dated 2 Apr 1944.
2. Material is classified "CONFIDENTIAL", although highest classification of source material was "SECRET". The classification of "Secret" is no longer necessary, since information therein, concerns Movement Orders executed one to two yrs previous to this date.
3. Request acknowledgement of receipt by indorsement hereon.

*Joseph W. Windhauser*  
JOSEPH W. WINDHAUSER  
Capt., 636th Ord Amm Co  
Commanding.

Incls:  
Historical Record (Dup)

100-636-0.1  
NFC.20 1948

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
636TH ORDNANCE AMMUNITION COMPANY  
COMPANY HISTORY

JUNE, 1941 TO JANUARY 31, 1942

*Down Classified*  
~~RESTRICTED~~  
By Auth. C. G. AFWE  
Gail Patten  
2 Oct. 46

The 636th Ordnance Ammunition Company, was activated at Savanna Ordnance Depot, Proving Grounds, Illinois, on June 18, 1941, under T/O and E 9-17, 1st Lt., Nathaniel J. Kendell commanding. The unit was assigned to the Unit Training Center, S.O.D., for its first 13 weeks of training. Filler replacements joined the Cadre at Savanna Ord Depot on June 30, 1941. These replacements arrived from Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland. On August 8, 1941, 1st Lt., Edwing G. Koch assumed command.

During the first 13 weeks of training at the Center, the 636th Ordnance Amm Co was awarded pennants for 1, Best Company; 2, Best Drilled; 3, Best Mess, two trophies, 1 for the best Intra-Camp Boxing team, and 1 for the best Intra-Camp Goal-Hi Team. These awards were made at Savanna during the "Field Day" review by Military and Civilian authorities. Training of the Company consisted of classes in ammunition and its allied subjects, with practical field problems in the ammunition area. During this period of training, this company with four others furnished details for work in the ammunition area.

The Declaration of War on December 8, 1941, found the Center with only three companies present, and one of these alerted for movement. Day and night details had to be furnished to export ammunition in extremely bitter weather conditions, which at one time around the Xmas and New Years Holidays, dropped to 30° below zero. During this period, to the 15th of January, 1942, the other two companies had left the training center, the 630th and 636th Ord Co's leaving together.

1st Lt., Leo A. Berti, Ord Dept., assumed command of the Company Jan 3, 1942. At 0800 hrs, Jan 17, 1942, the Company left Savanna Ordnance Depot, en-route via rail to Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Special Orders No 12, Hq Savanna Ord Depot, Pvg Gnd, Ill, dated Jan 16, 1942. The unit arrived at Fort Bragg, 0730 hrs, Jan 19, 1942, and moved into barracks at that Station. The company was assigned to Hq., 1st Army, and later assigned to the 2nd Prov Ord Bn (Am), 1st Army Corps, 1st Army, on Jan 31, 1942.

-FEBRUARY, 1942-

The company was still maintaining its training program. It had completed a field problem Feb 10, 1942 thru Feb 12, 1942, consisting



overnight bivouac, and setting up a typical ammunition supply point layout, with its attendant security problems.

**-MARCH 1942-**

On March 3, 1942 at 0800 hrs, the Company left their barracks on a practice Field March. The unit hiked 22 miles, arriving at the bivouac area at 1700 hrs. The morale was excellent for the company's 1st lengthy forced-march. On March 4, 1942 at 0830 hrs, the Company broke camp, and hiked 10 miles toward Camp. After the noon meal, the troops were transported to Camp by motor, arriving at 1400hrs. On March 10 and 11, 1942, the Company participated in a Bivouac and Security problem which was completed at 1130 hrs, Mar 11, 1942. March 16, 1942, the Company was alerted for Overseas Movement, and began its preparations.

**-APRIL 1942-**

April 2, 1942, 81 E.M. joined the Company per S.O. 78, par 19, Ordnance Replacement Training Center, Aberdeen, Md. On April 4, 1942, the Company transferred 82 E.M. as Cadre for the activation of the 602nd Ord Amm Co, per S.O. 82, Hq., Fort Bragg, N. C., dated April 4, 1942. The Company loaded its vehicles and impedimenta on the train, on April 7, 1942, per letter of instructions No 26, Hq., Fort Bragg, N.C. dated Mar 18, 1942. The troops boarded train at 2300 hrs that date, and proceeded to the San Francisco Port of Embarkation. En-Route, the train passed thru Augusta, Atlanta and Birmingham, Ga; Memphis, Tenn; Oklahoma City, Okla; Amarillo, Gallup and Flagstaff, Texas; Fresno and Oakland, Calif. The unit dismounted and was transported via bus to the "Cow Palace" Staging Area on the San Francisco-San Mateo county line, arriving on April 12, 1942.

**-MAY 1942-**

The Company sailed on the U.S.S. West Point, on May 19, 1942, at 1020 hrs, after loading at 0700 hrs, May 18, 1942. We crossed the equator at 0356 hrs, ships time, May 24th, 1942, and the usual initiations were held. The ship crossed the International Date Line on May 29, 1942, which then became May 30th. The West Point docked at Wellington, New Zealand, 1400 hrs May 31, 1942.

**-JUNE 1942-**

The Company sailed from Wellington, on the morning of June 1st, and docked in Melbourne, Australia, on June 4th. The Unit remained

...rings,  
...loaded and  
...achment joined  
...constructed,  
...cook of Ammuni-

...at Camp Colum-  
...icer and 35 EM  
...Hq BS #3, dated  
...red from Camp  
...rted from Camp  
...#3, dated Sept  
...advanced

to establish and operate an ammunition depot.

Detachment #2: 2 Officers and 60 EM stationed at Wallaroo, Q'ld, operating the Wallaroo Ord Amm Depot. 1 Officer and 35 EM transferred to Detachment #1, the 16th of Sept, 1942. This group left via rail, leaving 2nd Lt Benjamin F. Lokey in charge of the Wallaroo Ord Depot.

Detachment #3: 1 Officer and 13 EM. 1st Lt Harold S. Williams, commanding, arrived at Columboola, Q'ld, 1800 hrs, Sept 28th 1942. and began construction of Camp site for Detachment #3.

-OCTOBER 1942-

Detachment #1: 1 Officer and 26 EM left Camp Darra via motor transportation, pursuant to MO 35, Hq BS #3, dated 27 Sept 1942, for Detachment #3, Columboola, Q'ld, at 1000 hrs, Oct 3rd. Det #1, composed of 3 Officers and 118 EM operated Darra Ord Depot.

Detachment #2: 1 Officer and 24 EM stationed at Wallaroo, Q'ld and operating the Wallaroo Ord Amm Depot.

Detachment #3: 1 Officer and 26 EM arrived from Det #1, via motor convoy, Oct 3, 1942, pursuant to authority mentioned above. 1 Officer and 3 EM accompanying the party, returned to Detachment #1, 0730 hrs Oct 5th 1942. The first ammunition shipment was received on Oct 5, 1942.

-NOVEMBER 1942-

Detachment #1: 2 Officers and 118 EM operating the Darra Ord Depot, and stationed at Camp Darra, Q'ld.

Detachment #2: 1 Officer and 24 EM operating the Wallaroo Ord Depot, and stationed at Wallaroo, Q'ld.

Detachment #3, 1 Officer and 34 EM operating the Columboola Ord Depot, and stationed at Columboola, Q'ld.

-DECEMBER 1942-

Detachment #1: 2 Officers and 118 EM stationed at Camp Darra, operated the Darra Ord Depot, B. S. #3. One of the best loved men of the Company, Sgt Oliver Mason, often referred to as "Pop" Mason, was transferred to the 105th General Hosp, for evacuation to the States. M/Sgt Mason, was the first of the original Cadre to activate the Co. He served as S/Bgt, 1st Sgt, and M/Sgt, due to the nature of his illness, he could no longer serve overseas. Despite all efforts by Sgt Mason, and the Company Commander, the Medical Board would not allow him to stay. Some measure of the way the company felt about Sgt Mason may be found in the following excerpt from a letter written to the Medical Board:

"Request is made that upon his recovery, M/Sgt Mason, Oliver, R-314016, your command, be transferred back to this command. It is realized that Sgt Mason will not be able to perform the duties of his grade, however, his presence would have a steadying influence upon the younger men. He has always been a wonderful morale-builder. Sgt Mason has nothing to go back to in the States. His only living friends are here in this company. I (Capt Berti) am sure that sending him home would only hasten his end. He would be of greater use to the Service here than there. Sgt Mason is a soldier, and has been, for thirty years. If it is within your power to grant, I ask that we do not waste his valuable experience and knowledge." The board, for medical reasons, could not approve of his staying in the SWPA, and Sgt Mason, was eventually transferred to the States. After doing his level best to stay in the Army, even after he returned, Sgt Mason was discharged with 31 yrs of continuous service, and a knowledge that filled every man who knew him with pride. He had been a soldier and a gentleman, no more could be asked.

Detachment #2: 1 Officer and 24 EM stationed at Wallaroo, Q'ld and operating the Wallaroo Ordnance Depot. Enlisted personnel rotated with personnel from Detachment #1, in four groups. 1st group reached and

relieved them Dec 11th. The 2nd group was relieved Dec 15th, the 3rd group relieved Dec 18th, and the last group was relieved Dec 22nd, 1942. During the latter part of Dec, the Ammunition Area was threatened by forest fires, and a decision was made to move the entire stock of ammunition to a new site 3 miles south of the original site. Work commenced Dec 27th 1942.

Detachment #5: 1 Officer and 34 EM stationed at Columboola, Q'ld operating the Ammunition Depot. Exceedingly heavy rains during the first part of December made handling of ammunition difficult. Several trucks were bogged, and had to be worked out by the troops. Water was still being shipped by train, since the well being drilled had yielded nothing but salt water.

-JANUARY 1943-

Detachment #1: 4 Officers and 118 EM stationed at Camp Darra, BS #3, operated the Darra Ord Depot. Capt Leo A. Berti transferred and 1st Lt Charles A. Mosher, assumed command, on Jan 10, 1943.

Detachment #2: 1 Officer and 24 EM stationed at Wallaroo, Q'ld operated the Wallaroo Ord Depot. Movement of ammunition area completed January 20, 1943, and construction was begun on a permanent Camp Site,

Detachment #3: 1 Officer and 34 EM stationed at Columboola, Q'ld operated the Ord Depot at Columboola.

-FEBRUARY 1943-

Detachment #1: 3 Officers and 113 EM stationed at Camp Darra, BS #3, operated the Darra Ord Depot. Pursuant to MO #28, Hq BS #3, dated 3 Feb 43, 24 EM of Det #2, arrived via rail 0900 hrs 7 Feb 43, and reported for duty.

Detachment #2: Pursuant to MO as above, 24 EM were transferred to Detachment #1, Camp Darra, Q'ld. The Det left via rail at 0800 hrs 6 Feb 43. 1 Officer remained on DS from the 636th Ord Amm Co, in charge of the Depot. Detachment #2 was closed, and Civilians were now operating the Depot.

Detachment #3: 1 Officer and 34 EM stationed at Columboola, Q'ld operated the Amm Depot. 1st Lt Harold S. Williams was relieved of assignment and duty with the 3rd Det, and 2nd Lt Charles W. Landis assumed command, on 8 Feb 1943.

-MARCH 1943-

Detachment #1: 4 Officers and 147 EM stationed at Camp Darra, Q'ld operated the Darra Ord Amm Depot. 1 Officer and 31 EM placed on DS with Det #3. The party left via motor convoy, 0700 hrs, Mar

11th, for Columboola, Q'ld, and returned to Duty, detachment #1, 0500 hrs Mar 24, 1943,

Detachment #3: A detachment of 1 Officer and 31 EM on DS fr Det #1, arrived at Columboola, via motor convoy, at 2000 hrs March 17th, for purposes of assisting Det #3 with heavy shipments of ammunition. This party left Columboola via motor convoy, March 24, 1943.

-APRIL 1943-

Detachment #1: 4 Officers and 147 EM stationed at Camp Darra operated the Darra Depot .

Detachment #3: 1 Officer and 34 EM stationed at Columboola, Q'ld, operated the Amm Depot. T/4th Eddie Garfield, died of a gunshot wound, inflicted by a fellow soldier, Pvt Arthur N. Jones, on 10th of April 1943, Pvt Jones was subsequently tried by General Court Martial, B.S. #3, on a charge of Willful and Premeditated Murder, and found guilty, and sentenced to life imprisonment at McNeil Island Penitentiary, Washington, USA.

-MAY 1943-

Detachment #1: 4 Officers, and 147 EM stationed at Camp Darra, Q'ld, operated the Ord Depot. On 5 May 1943, a party of 27 EM was placed on DS with Det #3. They left Camp Darra 0930 hrs via motor transportation. The party returned to duty with Det #1, 10 May 43, arriving at Darra at 2000 hrs. The reason for their DS being to assist Det #3 with special shipments of ammunition.

Detachment #3: 1 Officer and 34 EM stationed at Columboola, Q'ld operated the Depot. A party of 27 EM on DS from Det #1 arrived at Columboola at 2600 hrs May 5, 1943 to assist in shipment and handling of special consignment of ammunition. Party left Columboola for Det #1, 0800 hrs May 10, 1943.

-JUNE 1943-

Detachment #1: 4 Officers and 147 EM stationed at Camp Darra, operated Darra Depot. 1 Officer and 14 EM placed on DS, orders HQ., BS #3, File 300.1 dated 3 June 1943, with Det #3. This group left Camp Darra 1300 hrs via motor transport for Columboola. 1 Officer and 15 EM of Det #3, arrived at Camp Darra on T.D., auth as above, 0900 hrs 4 June 1943. This group left Camp Darra for Columboola at 1000 hrs 11 June 43 under authority orders BS #3, File 300.4, dated 11 June 1943. 1 Officer and 14 EM on DS with Det #3, returned to Camp Darra for duty 2030 hrs 11 June 43, auth as above.

Capt Charles A. Mosher, relieved of duty and assignment to 636th



The annual inspection by the Base Commanding General, gave the 636th Ord Amm Co, an excellent rating. Vocal and written commendations were given the Company for their excellent performance of duty during the critical period of the New Guinea Campaign. With so many men out on Detached Service, it was frequently necessary for men to work extra-long shifts, and handle extra amounts of ammunition. Two sections (approx. 32 men) handled 400 tons of ammunition over a two day period. Work of this type made the company's motto: "Get the work done, and complain afterwards"

**-AUGUST 1943-**

4 Officers and 180 EM stationed at Base "A" operating the Waga Ammunition Depot. On August 21st, 1 Officer and 8 EM of Detachment #3, joined the unit for duty at 0700 hrs. 4 former members of the Company were reassigned from the 5th Replacement Depot, and joined the Unit 0700 hrs Aug 21, 1943. Total strength: 5 Officers 191 EM.

**-SEPTEMBER 1943-**

6 Officers and 191 EM stationed at Base "A", APO 928, operating the ammunition Depot. 1st Lt Ralph L. Hock relieved of assignment and duty with the 636th Ord Amn Co, per SO #23, par 8, HQ USASOS dated 7th Sept 1943. Capt Marcillus E. Rasper, assigned, and assumed command, per SO #236, Hq., USASOS, dated 22 Aug 1943, on the 21st of Sept 1943.

**-NOVEMBER 1943 THRU MARCH 1944-**

Seven Officers and 191 EM stationed at Base "A", operated the "Dingo" Ordnance Depot, at Waga-Waga, Milne Bay, New Guinea. Capt Marcillus E. Rasper relieved of assignment of 636th Ord Amn Co, per Orders HQ Base "A", APO 928, and 1st Lt Joseph W. Windhauser, assumed command on Nov 1st, 1943. The 636th Ord Amn Co, was attached to the 169th Ord Amn Bn, for operational control and administration, per par 16, SO #37, Hq US Base "A", dated 8 Feb 1944. The Commanding Officer, 1st Lt J. W. Windhauser, was promoted to Capt, SO #60, Hq., USAFFE, dated 29th Feb 1944.

On March 16, efforts were made in the afternoon and night of 16 and 17 1944 to clear the Japan roads and establish contact with the Liaoyang Area.

Personnel are maintained in positions where they can be used if opportunities are available. The housing facilities are poor but the food is generally good, with the exception that fresh vegetables were practically nonexistent during the period. The health of the troops is generally good.

MONTHLY HISTORICAL SUMMARY  
OF THE  
686TH ORDNANCE AMMUNITION COMPANY

PERIOD FR

May 1-31/48

183 EM and 8 Officers stationed at Dingo Ord Amm Depot, Base "A", operated the Depot at Kaga-Waga. During the month, 2 enlisted men were transferred from the organization, leaving the strength at the end of the month as 181 Enlisted Men, 6 Officers, and 1 W/O attached.

The rains continued until the first of May, and then stopped long enough for the streams to recede. As a result of the storm, two (2) enlisted men of the 590th Ordnance Ammunition Company, lost their lives by being washed out to sea in attempting to cross the stream. No one from this organization was hurt in any way during the attempted crossings.

The Ordnance Depot was literally washed away during this storm. Large sections of land bordering the river were washed away, and most of the main Depot roads were flooded. Excellent work by the companies put the Depot back on an operating basis within two weeks.

No other important changes were made during the above period. Camp facilities are generally good, with the exception of those caused by heavy rains. Mess facilities are good, with the exception of menu, and lack of fresh fruit.

HISTORICAL SUMMARY  
636TH ORDNANCE AMMUNITION COMPANY  
PERIOD FROM  
1 JUNE 1944 TO 30 JUNE 1944

The 636th Ordnance Ammunition Company, stationed at U.S. Base "A", APO 928, assisted in the operation of the Dingo Ordnance Depot, Waga-Waga. During the month, one (1) E.M. was transferred from the company, leaving the strength at 180 E.M., 6 Officers, 1 W/O jg attached from Base "A"

Heavy rainstorms were in evidence most of the month, making operations at the dock and in the depot, for the most part, difficult and miserable. During this month, the Company was operating as a Port Company, handling all of the ammunition on the docks, and some quartermaster supplies.

The Company was alerted for movement during the month of June, and the balance of the month was spent in getting equipment straightened out and crated. The men were given some range practice with Carbines, Rifle-Grenades, and 60mm Mortar.

During the Month of June, the Company observed two anniversaries. On the 19th of June, 1944, the Company was three yrs old, and on the 4th of June, 1944, the Company observed the ending of its 2nd year in the S.W.P.A. Approximately 165 of the original 180 EM that embarked for F/S on 19 May '42 are still serving with the Company. Only 1 Officer and 1 W/O remain of the original commissioned personnel of the Company.

1 E.M. was tried by Special Court Martial, under the 63rd A.W. and sentenced to 6 months confinement, with forfeiture of \$30.00 of his pay for a like period. The sentence was approved, remitted 3 months of the sentence and forfeiture.

The morale of the men remains fairly good, despite the long period of Foreign Service, and constant 24-hour schedule of work.

*Benjamin F. Lokey*  
BENJAMIN F. LOKEY,  
1st Lt., Ord Dept  
Historian

APPROVED:

*Joseph W. Windhauser*  
JOSEPH W. WINDHAUSER,  
Capt., 636th Ord Amm Co  
Commanding.

HISTORICAL SUMMARY  
636TH ORDNANCE AMMUNITION COMPANY  
PERIOD FROM  
1 AUGUST 1944 TO 25 AUGUST 1944

The 636th Ordnance Ammunition Company, consisting of 175 Enl Men, 4 Officers, and 1 W/O jg, were on board the SS George H. Powell, en route to US Base "G", per authority contained in M.O. #40, Hq., US Base "A" APO 928.

The company had arrived at Finschhafen at 1200 hrs, 31 July 1944 and departed 1600 hrs, the same date to complete their movement. The remaining part of the journey passed without incident, with one exception. On the night of the 1st of August, 1944, ship look-outs and enlisted men on deck at that time sighted distress rockets being fired just over the horizon. These rockets were noted just about 1900 hrs, and continued until approximately 2000 hrs. Following the detection of these rockets, the ship swung out from the coast line, and the night passed without mishap. The origin of the rocket signals was not reported to the personnel aboard ship. Approximately 1500 hrs, on the 2nd of August, 1944, the ship arrived at Hollandia, and preparations were made to disembark.

On the 3rd of August, 1944, the Company loaded into Landing Barges, and were taken ashore. One man, Pvt James Bryant, 34165070, was injured when the first platoon started to load. The bay, at this time, happened to be quite choppy, causing the distance between the unloading ladder and the barge to vary as much as four or five feet. Pvt Bryants' leg was crushed between the landing barge and the ship's ladder, when a sharp list caused the barge to pull away.

A temporary camp was set up across from P.C.L. #1, Base "G" until a permanent camp location could be obtained. On the 7th of August, 1944, 43 EM and 2 Officers of the 722nd Med Sanitation Co., were attached to the company for rations.

Several men were hospitalized during this month, and the transfer of men left hospitalized at Base "A", left the company strength at 171 EM by the 25th of August, 1944. Most of the men entered the hospital due to Jungle Skin Diseases, and various types of back and muscle strains. The Company still has no permanent camp at this time, because of continual demands for details for the Ammunition Depot, and the Base Labor Pool, have taken up most of the Unit's labor and time.

*Benjamin F. Lokey*  
BENJAMIN F. LOKEY  
1st Lt., Ord Dept  
Historian

APPROVED,

*Joseph W. Windhauser*  
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