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Historical Data

194th TANK BN. (U.S.)

Lt. Col. E. B. Miller, c. o.; Maj. Charles S. Canby, ex; Capt. J. S. Muier, S-1; Capt. Clinton B. Quinlan, S-2; Capt. Ferris G. Spoor, S-3; Capt. Lyman E. Johnson, S-4. Hq Co-Capt. John C. Riley Jr., 1st Lts. Benjamin J. Guyon; John T. Furby; Theodore I. Spoulding; 2d Lts. Charles A. Fleming; Harry W. Block; Lloyd Baker; Wm. L. Cockram; Edward C. Miller; 1st Lt. Ralph C. Crandall; 2d Lts. Dan J. Beyer, Russell L. Swearingen, L. S. Schoenecke. Co A-Capt. Ed. L. Burke, WIA 12/26/41; 1st Lt. Arthur J. Root (Capt later); 1st Lts. Harold Costigan; 2d Lts R. W. Duby, WIA; Arch B Rue; Albert H. Gook; W. 2d Lt. James H. Hart.

Co. B in Alaska.

Co. C - Capt. Fred C. Moffet, 1st Lt. Ray L. Bradford, KIA by shell from Corregidor 4/12/42 at Cabcaban; 2d Lts. Robert F. Needham KIA 12/26/41; Harry S. Lafon, Lloyd H. Magill; Frank E. Riley.

Co. D-Capt. Jack C. Altman, 1st Lt. Harve F. Rice, 2d Lts. Wieden Petree, died of WIA 1/12/42; Carroll M. Guin, John J. Hummel, WIA 12/26/41; Alfred J. Herbold.

Medics-Capts. William Snyder, Harry S. Hickman.

194th arrived in October. 54 tanks per bn, 17 per co., 5 per platoon; - half tracks.

Dec. 8-at Stotsenburg with mission to defend Clark field; that afternoon to Mabalacat.

Dec. 12-moved to Muntinglupa-New Bilibid to hide from airplanes. (But why go so far for trees?)

Dec. 23-Co. C went south. Rest of bn. moved to Carmen in daylight but were not bombed. Xmas dinner was prepared for them in Manila but by time it reached them was spoiled so they ate iron rations. Bn. CP at Gerona. Cos. A & D on Agno river defending c 25 mile front with 26 tanks. Co. A had Alcala to Carmen; D had Alcala west to Bayombong (?) with 2 platoons its 3d plat. was working independently on other side of river. Night of Dec. 25 or 26-all troops w/d leaving tanks on line. Only desultory fire from across river. Burke got out of Peep, was hit in shoulder etc. He lay in ditch near his men but Costigan took off in tank leaving Burke & a man by the river. Communication difficult.

Dec. 26-9 a.m. Altman sent half-track to find Burke & get orders & what to do. Ambushed, Hummel & Sgt. Isaac H. Causey hit in neck. Half track radiator punctured, motor overheated; crankshaft locked. Altman took 3 tanks & got them out. Orders late. Learned he was 12 hrs. overdue in w/d. Assumed command rest of Co. A & started out. Told Hart (?) to tail the Column. He deserted to hills with his crew, left tank abandoned. He tried to get other crew to join him. Has not been heard from. Altman received hostile fire from village, silenced it. Got lost, Tank turned over at end of trail & railroad. Abandoned it because fuel too low. Disabled guns but not the tank. Reach highway at 4 pm. A bridge was blown but not destroyed so Altman tested it & they crossed c 20 mi. north of Tarlac. Then found one completely destroyed. No ford up nor down stream. Disabled guns but not the 19 tanks left because planned to return for them. (Had 21 tanks at start of w/d-Hart left one; 1 turned over). Swam river. Improvised litters for

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Story by Capt. Altman

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wounded & hiked south. 90 men & ofers. Rejoined Ams. 3 or 4 mi north of Tarlac & learned they were reported killed. Costigan, who had left Burke, reported "the fire so heavy it was impossible for anyone to live thru it." Altman's group hadn't even been fired on from across river.

A man's left arm was blown off night of 25th when Hummel failed to inform his men a bridge was to be blown up. They were guarding the bridge & didn't get under cover.

Lt. Petree, who had platoon across river, got back all right with platoon.

Altman drew 6 Bren carriers. The 2 bns. of tanks moved to KP 140 & stayed in reserve. They patrolled Abucay area to Carn terrain. To P-B road for reserve position. g Feb. 1 for 1 week.

Jan. 24-to Abucay-Hacienda road to cover of 3d Bn 31st was cut off so he sent 3 tanks & drove Japs back. Then 3/d 10 mi. & held defensive position all day. Hungry & thirsty.

Jan. 25-at night. Lt Root drove a tank off bridge. Got it out. Then Root lost a tank on the cadre road in ditch, couldn't get it out. Jan. 26 Japs caught up with them 2-3 mi. north P-B rd on back road $\frac{1}{2}$ mi. south of cadre road. 1 btry. SPM's helped them. Dive bombers damaged 1 half track. (about 20 tanks there. Co C was way in rear). (Had reorganized after Tarlac with 10 tanks per company). W/d to ~~V~~iginity Orion cemetery. Stayed 4 or 5 days. Then assigned positions along bay Limay to Cabcaben.

April 8-ordered north. Got to ~~L~~amac & ordered to return to stations at Cabcaben. Took defensive position with 200 AA & others.

April 9-Altman started to lend Col. _____ his battered Ford to go to surrender for King but Col. Morley came along in Jeep. Destroyed equipment. Hummel told every man for himself. Himmel, Herbold, & 19 men reached Rock.

Story of tanks in South Luzon by Lt. Frank E. Riley - Riley took 1st platoon of Co. C to Pagbilas; Lt. Needham, 2d plat. to Luckan; 3d plat. under Lt. Magill to Sariyao. Riley let Gen. Jones have half track to reconnoiter & it got stuck in paddy & lost. Needham hit hard & KIA. 4 of his 20 men KIA & all 5 tanks lost.

At Lubao they fought with 192d.

Riley had 2 tanks on Trail 29 with 45th Inf. No action but on w/d Col Doyle asked Riley to precede column because he knew trails. At jct. 6 & 8 Japs fired on them, burst his left eardrum & hit him in foot. His men got out o.k. & 2d tank turned around & escaped. (Maj. Priestley told him Japs burned tank later. Priestley & 57th nearby). Riley saw our med. truck & saw point (from F Co) deploy.

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T. H. Mehler

T. H. MEHLER
CWO, USA
Asst Adjutant



But while December 7 meant "Pearl Harbor" to most of the world, it meant "Clark Field" to the Filipinos and the Americans in the Philippines -- the date to them, halfway around the world and across the international date line, was December 8, 1941. At almost the same moment that the Japs hit Pearl Harbor, they made their attack on Clark Field in Central Luzon, only fifty miles from Manila. There they knocked out the American Far Eastern Air Force with almost the same devastating effect they dealt the U. S. Pacific Fleet 5,000 miles away.

-Vol I, Triumph in the Philippines, p. 34

The North Luzon Force, dispersed throughout the central and northern Luzon area,^x was commanded by Major General Wainwright. It included two units of the Regular Army, the 31st Infantry Regiment and the 192d Tank Battalion, a former National Guard Organization, as well as six units of the Philippine Scouts. These were the 45th and the 57th Infantries, (PS); the 26th Cav. (PS) and the 23rd, 24th and 88th F.A. Regiments (PS). General Wainwright also had the following Philippine Army Divisions:

The 11th Reserve Division under Col. William B. Brougher, AUS

^x 7-8 Dec 41

The 21st Reserve Division under Brig. Gen. Mateo M. Capinpin, PA
The 31st Reserve Division under Col Clifford Blumel, AUS
The 71st Reserve Division under Col Clyde A. Sellech, AUS
The 91st Reserve Division under Brig. Gen Luther Stevens, AUS
The South Luzon Force was under the command of Brig. General
George Parker. It consisted of one Regular Army unit, the 19th
Tank Battalion; one Philippine Scout unit, the 86th Field Artillery;
the 1st and the 2nd Philippine Constabulary Regiments, and three
Philippine Army Divisions:

The 1st Regular Division under Brig. Gen. Fidel Segundo, PA
The 41st Reserve Division under Brig. Gen. Vicente Ldm, PA
The 51st Reserve Division under Col. Albert M. Jones, AUS
The Visayan-Mindanao force was commanded by Col. William F.
Sharp, with headquarters in Mindanao, and it contained no Regular
Army units. It had one Philippine Scout Regiment, the 43rd Infantry;
the 3rd Philippine Constabulary Regiment, and three Philippine Army
divisions:

The 61st Reserve Division, under Col. Bradford G. Chynoweth, USA.
The 81st Reserve Division, under Col. Guy D. Fort, PA
The 101st Reserve Division, under Col. Joseph P. Vachon, PA.

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There were also elements of other divisions including the 2d Infantry, the 73rd Infantry and the 93rd Infantry.

The Harbor Defense Command, consisting of Corregidor and its satellite islands, was commanded by Brig. Gen. George F. Moore and was composed of two Regular Army Regiments, the 59th and 60th Coast Artillery; two Philippine Scout units, the 91st and the 92nd Coast Artillery Regiments, and the 4th U. S. Marine Regiment, which had just been moved in from Subic Bay.

Command headquarters feared that the single blow at Clark Field had virtually decided the course of the war in the Philippines. The 26th Cavalry, bombed out of Fort Stotsenburg, moved into the nearby mountains, prepared to strike at the first enemy beach landing wherever it might come. On December 9, Nichols Field, another key army air base at Manila was bombed almost to destruction. The Japs apparently hoped to catch that part of the PAAF which had gone there for refuge. Group installation destruction, however, was all they accomplished -- but that was complete.

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-Vol. I, Triumph in the Philippines, pp. 82, 83 & 84

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