

1975

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters 4th Battalion 73d Armor
APO NY 09046

AETSGTA-PA

3 February 1976

SUBJECT: Organizational History: 1 Jan 75 to 31 Dec 75

Chief of Military History
Department of the Army
Washington, DC 20315

- 1. References. AR 870-5 dated June 1971 with USAREUR Supplement 1, dated 16 February 1972, VII Corps Supplement 1, dated 15 March 1973, 1st IDF Supplement 1 dated 19 April 1973; subject: Annual Historical Summaries.
- 2. The Annual Historical Summary for the period 1 January - 31 December 1975 for the 4th Battalion 73d Armor is at inclosure 1.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

J. W. Sutherland III
 JAMES W. SUTHERLAND III
 CPT, Armor
 Adjutant

1 Incl
as

CF:

1-Cdr, 1st IDF

1-Cdr, VII Corps, ATTN: CO, 12th Military History Detachment



Inclosure 1: Historical Summary 1 Jan 75 to 31 Dec 75
4th Battalion 73d Armor

1. Principle staff and commanders.

Bn CO: LTC William F. Ostermeier (1 Jan - 23 Mar)
LTC Gordon R. Sullivan (23 Mar - 31 Dec)

Bn XO: MAJ John H. Getgood (1 Jan - 1 Jul)
MAJ David K. Riggs (17 Jul - 31 Dec)

S-1: CPT George R. Marion (1 Jan - 14 Apr)
CPT James W. Sutherland III (14 Apr - 31 Dec)

S-2: CPT Michael D. McCullough (1 Jan - 14 Apr)
CPT James D. Martin (14 Apr - 16 Jun)
CPT William I. Hancock (16 Jun - 28 Nov)
1LT Edward R. Maher (28 Nov - 31 Dec)

S-3: MAJ Neal F. Siebert (1 Jan - 11 Aug)
CPT David D. McCullough (11 Aug - 31 Dec)

S-4: CPT Dalton K. Dixon (1 Jan - 14 May)
CPT Melvin E. Adams (14 May - 31 Dec)

Co A Cdr: CPT James D. Martin (1 Jan - 14 Apr)
CPT Michael D. McCullough (14 Apr - 31 Dec)

Co B Cdr: CPT Randall L. Craig (1 Jan - 31 Dec)

Co C Cdr: CPT Philip Hesson (1 Jan - 14 Apr)
CPT Robert E. Zurcher Jr. (14 Apr - 31 Dec)

CSC Cdr: CPT Steven W. Thompson (1 Jan - 15 Dec)
CPT Rudolph Reinsprecht (15 Dec - 31 Dec)

HHC Cdr: CPT Peter F. Manza (1 Jan - 31 Dec)

2. January. a. The month of January was spent in garrison performing maintenance and training. On 15 January the battalion participated in the Boeblingen/Sindelfingen Military Community's Martin Luther King Day review and awards ceremony.

b. A, B and C Companies conducted Preliminary Gunnery Training during the last two weeks of the month.

c. Combat Support Company conducted Expert Infantry Badge Training for their mortar crews during the last week of the month.

3. February. a. On 2 February the officers and NCOs of Company C participated in "Project Partnership" training with members of the 3d Company 304th Panzer Battalion. Competition was held with the M-16 rifle and M1911A1 pistol.

b. On 5 February, Company A conducted familiarization and qualification firing of the M16 rifle and cal 45 pistol.

c. During the period 11-14 February, the battalion underwent its Annual General Inspection conducted by HQ VII (US) Corps. The battalion received an overall rating of satisfactory.

d. Combat Support Company moved to Chiemsee for ski instruction from 17 to 21 February.

e. Headquarters and Headquarters Company conducted familiarization and qualification firing with the M16 rifle on 19 and 26 February.

f. On 25 February the battalion participated in the Change of Command Ceremony for the 3d Bde 1st Inf Div Fwd.

g. Companies A, B and C completed their preliminary gunnery examinations and fired tank Tables I, II and III at various times during the month.

4. March. a. During the period of 6-31 March the battalion conducted its annual Tank Gunnery Qualification Program at Grafenwoehr Training Area. The battalion fired tank Tables IV thru VIII and qualified 52% of their tank crews.

b. On 23 March, a battalion change of command ceremony was held on Range 42, Grafenwoehr Training Area. LTC Gordon R. Sullivan assumed command of the battalion from LTC William F. Ostermeier.

5. April. a. The battalion's Tank Gunnery Qualification Program continued during the period of 1-9 April.

b. During the period 10-18 April, three tank crews with their tanks from Company C took part in tank gunnery with the 304th Panzer Battalion at Muensingen Training Area as part of "Project Partnership".

c. During the month of April each company organized a March of Arms Team and began training.

d. On 23 and 24 April the battalion conducted a Command Post Exercise.

- e. On 29 April Headquarters and Headquarters Company and Company A completed an individual Combat Proficiency Test.
6. May. a. On 1 and 2 May, Companies B, C, and Combat Support completed the individual Combat Proficiency Test.
- b. During the week of 4-11 May, the battalion participated in German-American week activities.
- c. On 15 May selected officers and NCOs from Company C visited the Leopard Tank Factory with members of 3d Company 304th Panzer Battalion as part of "Project Partnership".
- d. On 16 May, competition was held to select the battalion representatives to participate in the 1st Infantry Division March of Arms competition.
- e. Individual competition was held at Goeppingen on 22 May, to select a Division All Star Team. Nine of the ten persons selected for the Division All Star Team were from the 4th Battalion 73d Armor.
- f. On 31 May the Division All Star Team participated in the European March of Arms held at Senden, Germany, placing first among US units and fifth internationally.
7. June. a. The battalion conducted tactical training at the Hohenfels Training Area from 15 June to 30 June with the objective of preparing for platoon and company Operational Readiness Training Tests (ORTT).
- b. The Heavy Mortar Platoon conducted live fire exercises at Grafenwoehr from 23-27 June.
- c. The battalion conducted weapons familiarization and qualification at Hohenfels.
- d. The Scout Platoon was tested from 28-30 June and was rated combat ready as was the Ground Surveillance Radar Section.
8. July. a. The battalion remained at Hohenfels during the period 1 July to 14 July.
- b. Tank platoon ORTTs were conducted in conjunction with tank company/team ORTTs during the period 3 through 7 July. All tank platoons and company/teams were rated as satisfactory and combat ready.
- c. During the period 12-13 July the Mortar Platoon received its ORTT and was rated satisfactory and combat ready.

d. During the period of 15-18 July the March of Arms Team competed in the Nijmegen Marches in the Netherlands.

e. On 30 July the battalion was inspected by the 3d Brigade Commander, COL Wallace S. Tyson.

9. August. a. The battalion conducted tank gunnery training during the first two weeks in August in preparation for off-season gunnery. The period of 12-31 August was spent at Grafenwoehr conducting off-season tank gunnery. The battalion fired Tank Tables IV through VI and a tank section live-fire exercise. Some tactical training was also conducted.

b. The Scout Platoon participated in a Platoon Confidence Training Course from 9-22 August at Flint Kaserne, Bad Toelz, FRG. After competition with five other platoons, the Scout Platoon was awarded a plaque for "Best Platoon".

10. September. a. The battalion remained at Grafenwoehr concluding off-season tank gunnery until 4 September.

b. During the period 8-10 September the battalion participated in a VII Corps Command Post exercise.

c. The battalion Medical Platoon took its platoon Operational Readiness Training Test on 19 September in the local training area. It received a rating of Combat Ready.

d. The battalion celebrated its Organization Day on 20 September. Activities during the day included a parade, vehicle displays and rides for dependents, athletic competition, military skills competition, and arts and crafts displays.

11. October. On 10 October the battalion deployed to participate in REFORGER. During REFORGER, the battalion was attached to three different brigades: the 3d Bde 2d Armored Division, 1st Bde 1st Infantry Division and 3d Bde 1st Infantry Division Forward.

12. November. The first two weeks of November were spent by the battalion preparing for an Annual General Inspection conducted 18-21 November by HQ 1st Infantry Division Forward. The overall rating was satisfactory.

13. December. a. During the period of 4-8 December approximately 20 of Company A's personnel participated in Adventure Training at Garmisch. The training consisted of ski training.

b. During the period of 8-12 December the battalion conducted a Combat Proficiency Test for all members of the battalion. The battalion began its gunnery training in preparation for qualification gunnery in March.