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Authority NND 735017

By AZ NARA Date 7/26/10

A UNIT HISTORY

OF

THE 130TH CHEMICAL PROCESSING COMPANY

SECTION I

By direction of the President and in accordance with War Department policies 130th Chemical Impregnating Company was activated on 24 April 1943. During the period 24 April 1943 to 9 May 1943 the cadre and officers were assigned. The cadre and commanding officer, Captain Ernest D. Smith, were drawn from the 113th Chemical Impregnating Company. For complete details of personnel changes see Appendix A.

On 9 May 1943 a formal activation ceremony was held in the Camp Sibert, open air theater in the Fourth Provisional Regiment. Each man was presented with a rifle in accordance with established customs, by Lt. Col Maul of the Unit Training Center Staff. Basic training was started in the afternoon following the activation ceremony. Although the majority of enlisted men had completed at least eight weeks of basic training and knew the fundamentals of soldiering there were thirty seven (37) enlisted men who had not had any training whatsoever. In army parlance they were rookies. Therefore it was necessary for the entire unit to be given basic training again. This was necessary so that the unit could be made into a unit in which the men worked as a team and not as individuals. This was accomplished by long hours of infantry drill and classes in Military Courtesy and Discipline.

After the first four weeks of the fundamentals of basic training, the company started on it's technical training. This consisted of lectures and demonstrations on the theory of

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impregnating and the method of impregnating. These lectures and demonstrations were followed by practical work in both the M-1 and M-2 process. A number of expert technicians had been assigned to the company from the Reception Station. These men, after familiarizing themselves with the machinery of the impregnating plants, made excellent teachers together with the cadre. These men taught the other men of the company who were not as familiar with machinery as themselves.

Coupled with the technical training was also advanced training in 'How to Be a Soldier as Well as a Technician'. This included training with the rifle. As in all basic training a great deal of time was spent on handling of the basic weapon. Many of the men had never fired or even seen a rifle of any higher caliber than the ordinary 'shooting gallery' .22. However when the results of the record firing were in and tabulated it showed that 98% of the unit had qualified with the rifle M-1, 1903. This was due to the excellent coaching of the cadre and men who had had some instruction in the basic weapon.

The unit went on one overnight bivouac during the first basic training. It was done under simulated conditions. The plan was as follows:

The enemy was reported to be closing in on the plants being operated in the company. After a simulated demolition of the plant, the company marched to the area just outside of Camp Sibert. It was a march of about 20 miles. Upon arrival the usual routine of setting up an overnight camp was started. A security guard was set out. The kitchen was set up and the

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kitchen personnel started preparing a hot meal, although the temperature was well over 100 degrees. The men pitched tents and dug slit trenches. After an uneventful night the unit started back to the billet area in camp.

Upon completion of basic training furloughs were given out during the first week of August 1944. After the first group of men left on furlough the company went on an extended bivouac. The schedule called for a thirteen week bivouac. The bivouac area selected was a site within the bounds of Camp Sibert off the Atalla Highway and along Big Wills Creek. The Impregnating plants assigned to the company were set up. The installation of the plant was accomplished in record time. The bivouac area was set up about three quarters of a mile from the plant on the side of a hill. It was an ideal loc<sup>C</sup>ation. This period was to have been an advanced training period and although it helped to train the members of the company who were eventually to go overseas as high ranking non-commissioned officers that is almost the only purpose it accomplished.

Two weeks after the company had installed the plant and set up the bivouac area, members of the company were transferred to other processing companies who were scheduled to go overseas prior to the time of the 130th. The men were transferred to the 113th, 114th, 111th, 112th, 115th, and 120th Chemical Processing Companies. This brought the strength of the company so low that it had to be recalled from the bivouac area and returned to camp. The strength of the company went down to 5 officers and 52

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enlisted men. These men were to form the cadre for training a new 130th Chemical Processing Company.













































