

## GROUP HISTORY

Group activated on January 6, 1942, per special order No. 4, Hq, S.A.A.D., Duncan Field, San Antonio, Texas. 1st. Lt. Thomas M. Walton designated as Adjutant & Personnel Officer.

August 26, 1942:

Left Duncan Field for Fort Dix, New Jersey.

August 29, 1942, at 9:45:

Arrived at Fort Dix, New Jersey. Took quarters in tents in Area No. 4, of staging area.

September 18, 1942:

First alert, anticipating movement for overseas service. Practice dress parade. Turned out fairly well.

September 20, 1942. 3:45 P.M.

Left Fort Dix on the Penn. R.R. Arrived Jersey City 8:10 P.M. (same day), left by Ferry to board ship, Aquatania (NY 439), ~~Sailed on 21st 1942~~

September 21, 1942:

Left port at 5:50 A.M.. Sea very rough. Around Seven Thousand passengers aboard.

September 23, 1942, 11:59 A.M.:

Set our watches up 30 minutes. Destination unknown.

September 25, 1942. 11:59 A.M.:

Set our watches up 30 minutes more.

September 29, 1942. 10:07 P.M.:

Crossed Equator, lots of wind and sea very rough. Saw 3 ships of unknown kind off port side.

SEPTEMBER 30, 1942:

Payday today, but no pay received.

October 2, 1942:

October 2, 1942:

Lots of fish near the ship. A few whales were seen today.

October 3, 1942, 7:30 A.M:

Arrived at Rio de Janeiro, a very beautiful city. Started immediately taking on supplies.

October 04, 1942:

Still taking on Oil & Supplies.

October 5, 1942:

Making repairs on motors and taking on supplies.

October 6, 1942:

Small fishing boat sighted off port side.

October 7, 1942:

Heading due East, destination unknown.

October 12, 1942, 12:55 A.M:

Met 2 Destroyers as escorts, No. H 14 and H 42.

October 13, 1942, 2:00 P.M:

Saw land for the first time in 7 days.

October 13, 1942, 4:05 P.M:

Arrived at Cape Town harbor, which is very beautiful. Saw our first South African Sailors. Mountains all around. Saw 2 crippled ships in Harbor.

OCTOBER 14, 1942, 8:45:

Started leaving ship and travelled to Camp by train. Got off train and started on hike for post. Arrived at Camp Pallamoors at 12:30 P.M. South African soldiers very nice to us. Received Red Cross package and was paid 1 pound, 5 shillings and three pence, which equals \$5.00 in American money. Passes being issued for Cape Town, 80% of the personnel leaving. City very clean. Not many colored Natives in the City Proper

October 16, 1942:

Had dress Retreat parade for the American Council, Col. Merritt, Major Landvoight and Mr. & Mrs Lewis of the Atlantic Refining Co. The American Flag was displayed at the parade. It ~~was~~ the first time the American Flag had even been displayed in South Africa.

October 17, 1942:

Played Baseball with University of Cape Town and <sup>WON</sup> 11-6.

October 18, 1942:

All passes cancelled after 9:00 P.M.

October 19, 1942:

Left Camp on foot for ship. Arrived Ship H.M.T. Antenor (W38). Ship very dirty. No cooks to feed us. Our cooks took over the Kitchen and the food was good. Sleeping Quarters cramped, but everyone in good spirits. 8 Ships in Convoy. 2 Destroyers, the Arrow & Active, 1 Cruiser, Stropshive, 1 Depot ship, Hecha, Flagship, Malaya, 3 Troop ships, the Highland Brigade, Sumosia and Antenor.

October 21, 1942:

Set watches back 60 minutes at 1159.

October 25, 1942, 3:45: PM

Turned completely around headed back for Capetown for about one and one-half hours Air plane flew over late this evening.

Oct 26, 1942:

Set watches back 60 minutes more at 23:59.

Oct 27, 1942:

Another plane flying around. The two Destroyers left us to refuel and we were joined by more.

Oct 29, 1942:

A ship joined us at 8:35. It is named the Hal Lee.

Oct 31, 1942:

Set watches back 60 minutes again at 23:59.

Nov. 2, 1942:

Dropped anchor in the harbor at Freetown at 9:30 AM.

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Nov, 3, 1942:

241 Enlisted Men and 16 Officers went ashore at 9:15 AM to camp. At 3:30 PM 379 men embarked on to invasion barges and get aboard the good ship Hai Lee, a Norwegian craft. 2 Ships are sunk in the Harbor. They were sighted when we arrived in Free Town.

Nov 5, 1942:

Men went ashore at 10:15 AM for a swim and returned at 2:30 PM and some more went ashore. The beach was very nice.

Nov 8, 1942:

2 Allied submarines came into port to refuel, one was an English and the other Free French. A total black-out for the first time since we came aboard this ship.

Nov 9, 1942:

Lifted Ancor at 7:49 AM and left harbor in a convoy of ships. Part of the convoy left us late in the evening.

Nov 13, 1942, at 4:15 PM:

Arrived Takoradi, Africa, and was met by some of the advanced group and it seemed good to meet some of the old gang again.

Nov 14, 1942, 6:30 AM:

Got off boat and started by English Truck Convoy to Accra. 12:00 (same day) stopped at salt pond for our Coffee & canned beef. At 7:35 PM arrived at camp and found our bunks and turned in. Everyone very tired, but happy to be at our destination at last.

Nov 15, 1942:

Got ready for the rest of the group to arrive.

Nov. 18, 1942:

Rest of the group arrived at 9:00 and we were glad to have them with us again.

May 1, 1942 The 695th QM Plat. LM (Avn), Ellington Field, Texas, activated per SO #117 par 10, Hqs, Ellington Field, Texas, Dated May 9, 1942. Strength 2 Officers 40 Enlisted Men. Forty enlisted men and one Officer originally 876 QM Co. LM Avn., Ellington Field, Texas, 2nd Lt. Converse attached and assumed command temporary, per SO # 116, Hqs, AAFAPS, Ellington Field, Texas, dated May 8, 1942. Ellington Field, Texas, usual garrison duties.

May 19, 1942 2nd Lt. Morris Stern Jr. to assume command during temporary absence of 2nd Lt. Converse, per par 7 SO #120 AAFAPS, Ellington Field, Texas dated May 13, 1942. Ellington Field, Texas Usual Garrison duties.

May 20, 1942 2nd Lt. Converse attached duty to DS San Antonio, Texas per par 5 SO #118, Ellington Field, Texas, dated May 11, 1942.

May 22, 1942 2nd Lt. Converse DS to attached. 2nd Lt. Stern relieved.

May 23, 1942 2nd Lt. Converse relieved assignment per par 32 SO # 129, AAFAPS Ellington Field, Texas. 2nd Lt. Stern assumed command per par 31 SO #129 AAFAPS, Ellington Field, Texas

May 24, 1942 Organization left Ellington Field, Texas 2200 hours for Duncan Field, Texas By Motor Convoy.

May 25, 1942 Organization arrived Duncan Field, Texas 0600 hours. attached to 8th Air Depot Group, VOCO. 2nd. Lt. Otis C. Coles assigned command VOCO. Duncan Field, Texas usual garrison duties.

May 28, 1942 2nd Lt. Charles L. Nelson assigned to and joined organization per par 15-SO # 76 Hq. QM School, Camp Lee, Va. 2nd. Lt. Coles relieved.

June 1, 1942 2nd Lt. Wm F. Silvey assigned and joined organization per VOCO

June 4, 1942 2nd Lt. Nelson and 2nd Lt. Silvey relieved assignment per par 20, SO #152, SAAD, Duncan Field, Texas

June 6, 1942 2nd Lt. James A. Matchan assigned to and joined organization per par 16 SO # 154, Hq SAAD, Duncan Field, Texas

June 8, 1942 Capt. George H. Mc Pherson assigned to and joined organization and assumed command per par 14 SO #155, Hq SAAD, Duncan Field, Texas.

June 9, 1942 2nd Lt. Bertram L. Remley assigned to and joined organization per par 29 SO # 186, Hq SAAD, Duncan Field, Texas. Duncan Field, Texas usual garrison duties.

July 15, 1942 Major Mc Pherson relieved assignment and command per par 12 SO #181 ASC, Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio dated July 8, 1942. 2nd Lt. Matchan assumed command.

July 25, 1942 Organization redesignated, 695th QM Co. LM (Avn) 2359 hours per GO #69 AAF Hq, ASC, Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio. Strength 2 Officer and 46 enlisted men.

Aug. 19, 1942 2nd Lt. Remley relieved assignment per par 25, SO #215, Hq AAF, ASC, Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio.

Aug. 25, 1942 2nd Lt. Ray O. Mc Kinney assigned to and joined organization 1400 hours per VOCO.

Aug. 26, 1942 The VOCO of Aug. 25, 1942 assigning 2nd Lt. McKinney to this organization is confirmed and made of record per par 31 SO #235, Hq SAAD, Duncan Field, Texas, dated Aug. 25, 1942. Entrained and left Duncan Field, Texas 1850 hours enroute to port of embarkation.

Sept. 4, 1942 2nd Lt. Matchan appointed 1st Lt. per authority contained in telegram Hq SAAD, Duncan Field, Tex. dated Sept. 3, 1942. Date of rank Sept. 1, 1942, executed oath of office Sept. 3, 1942. Ft. Dix, N.J. usual camp duties.

Sept. 20, 1942 Entrained 1600 hours enroute for New York Port of Embarkation Arrived destination 2100 hours. Boarded Transport N.Y. 439 2200 hours.

Sept. 21, 1942 On board ship N.Y. 439. sailed 0615 hours to unknown destination.

Oct. 3, 1942 On board ship N.Y. 439. Dropped anchor Rio de Janeiro 0730. Ship refueled and took on supplies.

Oct. 6, 1942 On board ship N.Y. 439, sailed from Rio de Janeiro 0600. for unknown destination.

Oct. 13 1942, On board ship N.Y. 439. Ship docked Cape Town, Union of South Africa 1600.

Oct. 14, 1942 Organization disembarked and entrained 0900. Arrived Pallsmoor Camp, Cape Town S. Africa, 1030. usual camp duties.

Oct. 19, 1942 Entrained Pallsmoor Camp, Cape Town South Africa 1440. Arrived and boarded ship W 38 1530.

Oct. 20, 1942 On board ship W 38. Sailed for unknown destination 1600.

Nov. 2, 1942 On board ship W 38. Dropped anchor Freetown, Sierra Leone British West Africa. 1100.

Nov. 3, 1942 Lt. Matchan DS with advance detail, departed for unknown destination Lt. McKinney assumed command 0900. per VO30. Organization disembarked 1330. arrived Camp Kissy 1400. usual camp duties.

Nov. 13, 1942. Boarded HMT B 6, 0930. sailed for unknown port 1230.

Nov. 17, 1942. Dropped anchor at Takarodi 1715. On board Ship B 6.

Nov. 19, 1942 Disembarked 0630. Entrucked and left Takarodi 0730. arrived final destination (Accra, Gold Coast, British West Africa) 2005. Distance traveled by motor Convoy, 180 miles. 1st Lt. Matchan assumed command 2359. Accra, Gold Coast, BWA, usual camp duties.

December 19, 1942 2nd Lt. Roy O. McKinney appointed 1st Lt. per per 15, WD30 #329, dated Dec. 3, 1942 Date of Rank Dec. 3, 1942. Accra, Gold Coast, BWA.

January 1, 1943 Organization redesignated 695th Ord. Co. III (Avn) per WD Cir's. #245, dated July 25, 1942, #267, dated August 8, 1942, and # 247 dated Aug. 18, 1942, effective this date. Accra, Gold Coast, BWA. Usual camp duties.

James A. Matchan  
1st Lt. Ord.  
Commanding

## COMPANY HISTORY

April 4, 1942 Quartermaster Detachment to the 8th Air Depot Group activated at Duncan Field, Texas, Per 15 & 16, SO# 92, Hq San Antonio Air Depot. Lt. Frank J. Kramitz attased from 8th ADG and assumed command.

April 24, 1942 Detachment Quartermaster to the 8th Air Depot Group activated as the 408th Quartermaster Platoon attached to the 8th Air Depot Group at Duncan Field, Texas, Per Par 1, GO# 29. Hq A3C, C.S. Organization preformed usual mobilization duties.

Strength of the Organization April 30, 1942. 1 Officer and 25 Enlisted Men.

May 15, 1942 Lt. W.E. Dillon Asgd to and joined organization. Lt. Krampitz releived from attached to this organization, Per Par 2, SO #50, Hq 8th ADG.

May 23, 1942 Lt. U.E. Dillon transferred from this organization.

May 28, 1942 Lt. Otis C. Coles attached to this organization as of May 25, Per VO CO.

Strength of organization May 31, 1942, 1 Officer and 25 Enlisted Men.

June 2, 1942 Lt. J. H. Bennett assigned to and joined this organization Lt. J.H. Staley assigned to joined this organization., and assumed command. Lt. Otis C. Coles relieved from attached to the organization Per SO # 150 Hq. San Antonio Air Depot G

June 4, 1942 408th Quartermaster Platoon received order to be on the alert for action to the Port of Embarkation. The order was recinded on the same day.

June 8, 1942 Lt. J.H. Bennett relieved from assigned to organization per par. 32, SO #142, Hq. SAAD.

June 9, 1942 Capt. E.L. Woolsey assigned to and joined this organization Lt. J.H. Staley relieved from duty to this organization per par. 6, SO # 154 Hq. San Antonio Air Depot, Duncan Field, Texas.

June 16, 1942 Capt. E.L. Woolsey promoted to Major, per par. 5, SO # 161, Hq SAAD

Strength of organization June 30, 1942- 1 Officer and 23 Enlisted Men.

July 14, 1942 Lt. Houston A. Sheftall assigned to and joined organization per par. 7, SO # 75,.

July 15, 1942 Major E.L. Woolsey transferred from organization, per SO # 181 dated July 8, 1942, Hq. SAAD. Lt. Sheftall assumed command.

July 16, 1942 Lt. N.A. Waldman assigned to and joined this organization per SO # 194, dated July 15, 1942, SAAD, Duncan Field, Texas

Strength of The 408th Quartermaster Platoon, July 31, 1942, 2 Officers and 22 Enlisted Men.

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August 26, 1942 Entrained and left Duncan Field, Texas 1850, enroute to port of embarkation. 2nd. Lt. Irving I. Berglass joined organization per VOCO.

August 29, 1942 Arrived at Fort Dix New Jersey, 0925. Detrained usual camp duties. Strength August 31, 1942, 2 Officers and 20 Enlisted Men.

Sept. 20, 1942 Entrained 1600. enroute for New York Port of Embarkation arrived at destination 2100. Boarded Transport N.Y. 439, ,2200.

Sept. 21, 1942 On board ship on N.Y. 439, Sailed 0615. for unknown destination Strength of Organization Sept. 30, 1942, 2 Officers and 22 Enlisted men.

Oct. 3, 1942 On board Ship N.Y. 439, Dropped anchor, Rio De Janiero, Brazil 0730. Ship refueled and took on supplies.

Oct. 6, 1942 On Board ship N.Y. 439, Sailed from Rio De Janiero, 0600. for unknown destination. Usual Transport duties on board ship.

Oct. 13, 1942 On board ship N.Y. 439, Ship docked at Capetown, Union of South Africa, 1600.

Oct.

Oct. 14, 1942 The 408th Quartermaster Platoon disembarked with other organizations and entrained 0900. Arrived at Pallsmoor Camp, Capetown, Union of South Africa. 1030. Usual Camp duties.

Oct. 19, 1942 Entrained Pallsmoor Camp, Capetown, Union of South Africa 1440. Arrived and boarded ship W 38, 1530.

Oct.

Oct. 20, 1942 On board Ship W 38, Sailed for unknown destination 1600.

Strength of Organization Oct. 31, 1942, 2 Officers and 22 Enlisted Men.

Nov. 2, 1942 On board Ship W 38. Dropped Anchor, Freetown, Sierra Leone, British West Africa. Food and quarters aboard British Transport W 38, were very poor.

Nov. 3, 1942 2nd. Lt. Berglass with advance detail departed for unknown destination. Organization disembarked 1330. Arrived at Camp Kissy 1400. Usual Camp duties.


Nov. 13, 1942 Boarded HMT, B6, 0930. Sailed for unknown destination 1230.

Nov. 17, 1942 Dropped anchor at Takarodi, Gold Coast, British West Africa 1715. On board HMT B6. Food and Quarters while better than on Ship W 38, were still very bad.

Nov. 19, 1942 Disembarked 0630. Entrucked and left Takarodi 0730. arrived at final destination, Army Air Base, Accra, Gold Coast, British West Africa 2005. Distance traveled by Motor Convoy 180 miles.

Strength of Organization Nov. 30, 1942, 2 Officers and 22 Enlisted Men.

Dec. 31, 1942 Organization carried on usual camp duties at Army Air Base Accra, Gold Coast, British West Africa. Strength of Organization December 31, 1942 2 Officers and 22 Enlisted Men.

  
HOUSTON A. SHEPPARD  
2nd. Lt. QMC  
Commanding.