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Report date: 18 November to 25 December 1944

Title: Historical Record of Leyte Campaign

Author: Headquarters Parachute Maintenance Company

Abstract: This report is a historical record of the Parachute Maintenance Company, later designated as the 11th Parachute Maintenance Company, during operations during the Leyte Campaign, Philippine Islands, from 18 November 1944 to 25 December 1944.

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HEADQUARTERS
PARACHUTE MAINTENANCE COMPANY
APO 468

HISTORICAL RECORD
OF
LEYTE CAMPAIGN

From 18 Nov 44 to 25 Dec 44

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12/14/4 811-461

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ASSISTANT GENERAL
Charles E. Downey Maj. Gen. cl. sub
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 11 Mar 46

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DECLASSIFIED

The Parachute Maintenance Company, (now designated the 11th Parachute Maintenance Co.) consisting of 7 Officers and 109 EM, debraked USS Monrovia 18 Nov 44, at 0800 at Leyte, P.I. Upon lading we proceeded to designated are, dug fox holes and erected shelter halves for the night.

The next week was spent working day and night getting all parachute equipment in one central area, and under cover from the incessant rain. During this time the men worked with the division engineers in erecting 15 precht packing sheds, a hasty survey during the week revealed that thru inclement weather, and inferior packing boxes furnished us in New Guinea over 1500 parachutes, and 2,000 aerial delivery canopies were ruined. On Nov 29th, Lt. Robert K. Madsen and 8 EM went to Tacloban air strip to resupply the 457th Precht FA Bn during their proposed jump. Dec 3rd, three EM, qualified riggers, joined this organization from the 408th AB CM Co. Dec 3rd also found Lt. Charles L. Hayden, and 5 EM going to San Pablo air strip for the purposes of resupplying units of the division engaged with the enemy in the mountains. On the 6th of Dec, enemy parachutist dropped on San Pablo strip, and destroyed all personnel and eqpt. chutes there. Lt. Hayden, and his men joined "C" Co. of the 127th AB Eng Bn. for the two days in which the fighting ensued. During the engagement Tec 4 Herman C. Hellman, 33000945, was awarded the Bronze Star, for delivering a message to the Commanding ~~XXXXX~~ General the night of the attack. Hellman, volunteered for the mission, and ran the gauntlet of both enemy and friendly fire before accomplishing his task. On the 10th of Dec, 8 EM from the rear echelon joined Lt. Hayden, with the 4 EM who were with him returning to the beach.

In the days that followed the rear echelon was working at top speed erecting parachute storage and packing tents, drying wet chutes, moving equipment into storage sheds, making a complete inventory, clearing are of debris, straightening out company area, and building shelves in the storage sheds to store packed chutes for future use.

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Lt. Kenneth F. Kilpatrick, company commander, was promoted to Captain per USAFFE SO #335, effective 4 Dec 44. On the 17th of Dec, 1st Lt. James M. Watson, and 24 EM joined forces with Lt. Madsen at Tacloban to assist with the growing demand for more supplies for our units in the mountains. This group of men also prepared bundles to be dropped from liason planes, and by the end of the campaign the men had from 8 to 9 missions each over enemy territory in a C-47, dropping supplies to our units, and propaganda leaflets to the enemy urging their surrender.

T/Sgt Howard L. Conner, 36452952, was slightly wounded near San Pablo strip by a Jap sniper on 18 Dec 44. Conner, was evacuated from Leyte, and dropped from organization strength.

From the 19th of Dec to the close of the Leyte campaign nothing out of the ordinary happened. The two groups, one at Tacloban, the other at San Pablo, continued their daily routine of aerial resupply. The rear echelon stayed on a 7 day week, packing for future jumps, and checking each item of parachute equipment for serviceability when required.

KENNETH F. KILPATRICK
Captain, Preht. Maint. Co.
Commanding

