

# TOM COPELAND'S CHRONOLOGY OF MILITARY SERVICE



## 1942

December 7 - Enlisted in the Army (requested assignment in the Tank Destroyers)

December 10 - Arrived at Fort Lewis, WA, spent several days with aptitude testing

December 12 - Shipped to Camp Hood, Texas for basic training

## 1943

February 1 - Assigned as part of the training staff for basic training

February 10-20 - Interviewed before several boards for application to Officers Training School

March 29 - Assigned to Class 35 of Tank Destroyers Officers Training School, Camp Hood, Texas

June 25 - Graduated from Officers Candidate School, received Commission as Second Lieutenant

June 30 - Assigned to the 702nd Tank Destroyer Battalion, Camp Hood, Texas

December 24 - Assigned to the 42nd Infantry Division, 222nd Infantry Regiment, Camp Gruber, Oklahoma

## 1944

March 2 - Assigned to Officers Communication School, Ft. Benning, Georgia

June 6 - D-Day, Invasion of Europe

July 13 - Graduated Officer Communication School

July 16 - Assigned to Fort Dix, New Jersey for overseas shipment

July 29 - Arrived Glasgow, Scotland aboard the Il'de France

August 1 - Arrived Normandy Beach and assigned to replacement depot.

August 15 - Invasion of Southern France

August 29 - Paris Liberated

August 30 - Moved to Fontainebleau, France, assigned to another replacement depot

October - Assigned to 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion supporting the 36th Infantry Division  
Autrey, Rambervillers-France

November - Boissiere, France / Bruyères, France / Granges, France / Guemar, France/ Wiesenbach, Germany

December - Setelat / Ribeauville, France / Mittelwihr, France

December 16 - Battle of the Bulge starts

December 19 - Advanced to vicinity of Strasbourg, France

## 1945

January 3 - 36th Infantry Division and 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion moved to relieve 100th Infantry Division in the area of Bitche, France / Lemberg, France / Goetzenbruck, France / St.Louis

January 6 - Wounded in Lemberg, France

January 19 - Moved to the area of Haguenau, France / Bischwiller, France / Weyersheim, France / Herrlisheim, France (This was the new Moder River Defensive Line.)

February 22 - 36th Infantry Division and the 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion relieved the 101st Airborne Division in Haguenau, France

March 4 - Received new M36 Tank Destroyers

March 15 - Operation Undertone begins 0100 (spring offensive) Moder River Line

March 16 - Captured Gunstett, France / Walbourg, France / Durrenbach, France / Wassenberg, Germany / Oberotterbach, Germany

March 22 - Fought through the Siegfried Line due east to Bad Bergzabern, Germany and to the Rhine River

March 29 - The Battalion assembled in the vicinity of Arzheim, Germany

April 1 - Departed Arzheim at 0700 heading for new assembly area 120 miles north near Worms, Germany, arriving at 2130

April 2 - Assigned to the 14th Armored Division and crossed the Rhine River 0700

April 3 - Fought to and crossed the Main River. Went through Lohr, Germany and Gemunden, Germany

April 10 - Hammelburg, Germany

April 19 - Promoted to 1st Lieutenant

April 20 - West of Nuremberg, Germany: Lauterhofen, Germany and Attendorn, Germany

April 21 - Pruppach, Germany

April 24 - The 636th was detached from the 14th Armored Division and ordered to assemble in the vicinity of Cronheim, Germany

April 26 - The 636th moved to Wasseralfingen, Germany and was attached to the 36th Division

April 28 - Companies were assigned to Infantry Regiments and took their place on the line

May 4 - Advanced to Bad Tolz, Germany

May 5 - Advances to Tegernsee, Germany

May 6 - Received the "no fire" order, surrender order effective noon tomorrow

May 8 - VE Day

June 1 - Moved to Kirchheim, Germany

July 5 - Moved to Reichenhall, Germany

July 15 - Assigned as Company Commander, C Company, 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion

September 2 - War ends in Pacific

September 15 - Reassigned to the 774th Tank Battalion Bad Aibling, Germany. Assigned duties as Battalion S2.

December 15 - Assigned as Company Commander, C Company, 774th Tank Battalion

## 1946

June 25 - Promoted to Captain

Aug 20 - Returned to Walla Walla



## Organized Reserve Unit



Members of Walla Walla's new Organized Reserve unit are shown talking things over before the first meeting of the 929th Field artillery headquarters Monday night at the State armory. Left to right, Capt. Thomas L. Copeland, Lt. Col. William E. Paulson (commanding officer of the F. A. unit), Maj. Orie Kahn and Sgt. James E. Woods. (Staff photo. Davison engraving).

*Courtesy of Tom Copeland's scrapbook*