

HISTORICAL RECORD

of

609TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

Activated at

Fort Bragg, North Carolina

15 December 1941

Extract of SO 285, Hq 9th Inf Div, Ft Bragg, N.C., 17 December 1941:

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#1. The following verbal orders of the CG, 15 Dec 41, are hereby confirmed and made of record:

"Under the provisions of AR 615-200, and pursuant to authority contained in Letter, War Department, The Adjutant General's Office, file 320.2 (17 Dec 41), subject: "Organization of Tank Destroyer Battalions", dated 3 December 1941, and Letter, Hq I Army Corps, file 320.2, subject: "Organization of Tank Destroyer Battalions", 10 December 1941, the following named Officers and EM are transferred, effective 15 December 1941, in their present grades and ratings, to the 609th Tank Destroyer Battalion, Fort Bragg, N. C., and will report to the Commanding Officer thereof for duty:

From 34th F.A. Bn.:

- 1 Major
- 1 Captain
- 2 1st Lts.
- 2 2nd Lts.
- 175 EM.

From 26th F.A. Bn.:

- 1 1st Lt.
- 31 EM.

From 60th F.A. Bn.:

- 29 EM.

From 60th Inf.:

- 1 1st Lt.

From 84th F.A. Bn.:

- 1 1st Lt.
- 31 EM.

From 47th Inf.:

- 1 1st Lt.
- 1 2nd Lt.

TOTAL: 12 Officers and 266 EM."

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DECLASSIFIED

DOD Dir. 5200.9, Sept. 27, 1988

EXCISE BY [signature] date 9-15-90

Fort Bragg, N. C.,
17 December 1941.

Major RUSSELL T. FINN, O16237, F.A., assumed command. Auth: GO #1, Hq 609th T. D. Bn., Ft Bragg, N. C., 17 December 1941.

add 9th Inf Div

3-3577

Fort Bragg, N. C.,
22 January 1942.

Pioneer and "C" Companies activated. Auth: GO #9, Hq 9th Inf Div., Ft Bragg, N. C., 2 January 1942, and #1, Hq 609th T. D. Bn., Ft Bragg, N. C., 22 January 1942.

Fort Bragg, N. C.,
6-7-8 April 1942.

12 Officers joined. Auth: SO 91, Hq FARTC, Ft Sill, Okla., 1 April 1942.
7 Officers joined. Auth: SO 80, Hq FARTC, Ft Bragg, N.C., 3 April 1942.

Fort Bragg, N. C.,
26 April 1942.

Major GORDON V. HOLCOMB, 0224425, F.A., assumed command. Auth: VOCCO.

Fort Bragg, N. C.,
29-30 April 1942.

Annual General Inspection. Inspector General: Lt. Col. J. K. CREAMER, Hq 9th Inf Div., Ft Bragg, N. C. (Auth: Ltr, 333.1 (IGO), Hq 9th Inf Div., 13 March 42, subject: "Annual Administrative Inspection of Troops, Equipment, Barracks, and Records").

Fort Bragg, N. C.,
3 August 1942.

Battalion reorganized at existing strength in accordance to Table of Organization No. 18-25, dated 8 June 1942. (GO #2, Hq 609th T. D. Bn., 30 July 1942).

Hq & Hq Co reorganized to conform to T/O 18-26, 8 June 1942.
A, B and C Companies reorganized to conform to T/O 18-27, 8 June 1942.
Pioneer Co officially redesignated "Reconnaissance Company" and reorganized to conform to T/O 18-28, 8 June 1942.

Fort Bragg, N. C.,
20 September 1942.

Lt. Col. ROLAND A. BROWNE, 016126, Cav., P.A., assumed command. Auth: Par 49, SO 219, Hq Fourth Service Command, 12 September 1942, and SO 125, Hq 609th T. D. Bn., 21 September 1942.

Fort Bragg, N. C.,
6 January 1943.

Battalion transferred and assigned to TDC, Camp Hood, Texas, for "Temporary" change of station. Auth: Letter Order No. 1, 1st Hqrs, Special Troops, Second Army, Ft Bragg, N. C., dated 5 January 1943, subject: "Transfer of 609th TD Bn to Camp Hood, Texas", and Letter Hq Second Army, Memphis, Tenn., file AG 370.5 (GWHBG), 1 January 1943, subject: "Transfer of 609th and 702nd TD Battalions to Camp Hood, Texas".

Movement made by rail. First train departed Ft Bragg, N. C., 6 January 1943, at 2200 hours. Fifth and last train departed 7 January 1943, at 2030 hours.

Battalion closed at Camp Hood, Texas, 10 January 1943 at 2015 hours.

No unusual happenings. Morale excellent.

Camp Hood, Texas,
21-23 March 1943.

Annual General Inspection. Inspector General: Major N. B. THOMPSON, JR., IGD, Camp Hood, Texas. Auth: Ltr Hq TD AUTC, Office of the Inspector General, Camp Hood, Texas, 24 March 1943, subject: "Report of Annual General Inspection of the 609th T. D. Battalion".

Camp Hood, Texas,
6 April 1943.

Battalion transferred to new "Permanent" station at Camp Shelby, Miss., via new "Temporary" station Hawthorne, La., for the purpose of participating in the Louisiana Third Army Maneuvers. Auth: "Letter AGF, 370.5/15 (TD Units) (R) GNGCT, Subject: "Transfer of 603rd and 609th TD Battalions to Camp Shelby, Miss.". Movement made by motor convoy and rail.

Motor convoy elements, 29 Officers and 664 EM, departed Camp Hood, Texas, 6 April 1943 at 0800. Closed Hawthorne, La., 7 April 1943 at 1800 hours.

Train elements, 7 Officers and 227 EM, departed Camp Hood, Texas, 6 April 1943 at 1830 hours. Closed Hawthorne, La., 7 April 1943 at 2330 hours.

Distance traveled - 340 miles.

No unusual happenings. Morale excellent.

APO 93, c/o Postmaster,
Shreveport, La.

Battalion participated in Third Army Louisiana Maneuvers from 12 April 1943 to 6 June 1943 under direction of Third Army Director Headquarters.

Strength; 35 Officers - 860 EM.

Reference: Report (undated) of Brig. Gen. HERBERT L. EARNEST, subject: "Report upon the Performance of the 609th T D Battalion during Third Army Maneuvers from 12 April to 6 June 1943". Rating Excellent.

APO 93, c/o Postmaster,
Shreveport, La.
8 June 1943.

Battalion proceeded from Boyce, La., to "Permanent" station, Camp Shelby, Miss., by Rail and Motor Convoy.

Motor Convoy elements, 25 Officers and 576 EM, departed Boyce, La., 8 June 1943 at 1400 hours.

Rail elements, 9 Officers and 288 EM, departed Boyce, La., 8 June 1943 at 1800 hours.

Battalion closed at Camp Shelby, Miss., 9 June 1943 at 1320 hours.

Distance traveled; - 274 miles. Roads good.

No unusual happenings. Morale excellent.

Camp Shelby, Miss.,
26 June 1943.

Battalion reorganized in accordance with Table of Organizations No. 18-25, dated 27 January 1943. Auth: Letter AG 320.2 GNMCC-5, Hq Third Army, Fort San Houston, Texas, 17 June 1943, subject: "Reorganization of TD Units in accordance with new Table of Organizations", and Letter AGF 321/15 (TD Units) (R)-GNGCT (13 June 43), dated 13 June 1943.

Hq & Hq Co organized in accordance with T/O 18-26, 27 Jan 43.
Companies A, B and C organized in accordance with T/O 18-27, 27 Jan 43.
Reconnaissance Co organized in accordance with T/O 18-28, 27 Jan 43.

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Camp Shelby, Miss.
10 September 1943

Col. H. P. STEWART, ICD, IX Corps, made Administrative Inspection of
Battalion. Auth: Ltr Hq IX Corps, 333.1, 19 August 1943, subject: "Special
Inspection of 609 TD Battalion".

Camp Shelby, Miss.
27 October 1943

Battalion equipped with thirty-six (36) 76mm guns, motor carriage, T-70.

Camp Shelby, Miss.,
31 December 1943.

Battalion made twenty-five (25) mile dismounted road march. Roads fair;
weather clear; morale excellent.

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