

HEADQUARTERS
658th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
CAMP BOWIE TEXAS

BATTALION HISTORY

APRIL
1943 ✓

10 April 1943, Camp Bowie, Texas: ACTIVATION per General Order #13, Headquarters, Tank Destroyer Center, Camp Hood, Texas, dated 25 March 1943. COMMANDING OFFICER: HAROLD C. BROWNELL, Major, Field Artillery. STRENGTH: thirty six (36) Officers; twenty (20) Officers attached. One hundred and forty one (141) Enlisted Men assigned as Cadre. GROUP: 17th Tank Destroyer Group. COMMANDING OFFICER: HENRY B. MARGESON, Lieutenant Colonel, Field Artillery.

11 April 1943, Camp Bowie, Texas: Received two hundred and ninety filler replacements from Reception Center, Fort Sheridan, Illinois, per paragraph #9, Special Order #83, Headquarters, Fort Sheridan, Illinois.

12 April 1943, Camp Bowie, Texas: Received three hundred and forty six (346) filler replacements from Reception Center, Fort Custer, Michigan, Per paragraph #14, Special Order #85, Fort Custer, Michigan.

13 April 1943, Camp Bowie, Texas: Thirty five (35) Enlisted Men attached to Battalion Cadre from 605th Tank Destroyer Battalion to activate 667th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Total strength of Cadre attached: Thirty five (35) Enlisted Men.

14 April 1943, Camp Bowie, Texas: Battalion Commander gave an introductory and welcoming lecture to the Officers and Enlisted Men of the Battalion.

21 April 1943, Camp Bowie, Texas: Lieutenant Colonel HENRY B. MARGESON, relieved of command of 17th Tank Destroyer Group. COLONEL IRA BLACK assumes command.

23 April 1943, Camp Bowie, Texas: Thirty (30) Enlisted Men attached to Battalion Cadre from 605th Tank Destroyer Battalion to activate 667th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Strength of attached Cadre: Sixty five (65) Enlisted Men.

24 April 1943, Camp Bowie, Texas: Battalion held a fire drill at 1600 hours, manner of performance: Very Good.

30 April 1943, Camp Bowie, Texas: Battalion Strength: Thirty Six (36) Officers assigned, twenty (20) Officers attached. Eight hundred and fifty nine (859) Enlisted Men. Net increase: Seven hundred and eighteen (718) Enlisted Men.

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BATTALION HISTORY

MAY
1943

5 May 1943, Camp Bowie, Texas: Battalion went on a three day bivouac in the training area. Left Battalion area, Camp Bowie, at 1840 hours and arrived at bivouac area at 2020 hours. Distance marched: Five (5) miles. Weather: Warm. Morale: Excellent.

6-7 May 1943, Camp Bowie, Texas: Battalion .22 Calibre Rifle, practice firing.

8 May 1943, Camp Bowie, Texas: Battalion returned to Battalion area in Camp Bowie from Bivouac area. Left at 0430 hours and arrived in garrison at 0620 hours. Distance marched: five (5) miles. Weather: cloudy. Morale: Excellent.

10 May 1943, Camp Bowie, Texas: Battalion fired .30 Calibre Rifle, practice and record course.

15 May 1943, Camp Bowie, Texas: Battalion moved out of Cantonment area and moved into bivouac area at Camp Bowie, Texas to await movement order to North Camp Hood, Texas. Left Cantonment area at 0720 hours and arrived in bivouac area at 0800 hours. Distance travelled: Two and five-tenths (2.5) miles. Weather: Fair. Morale: Excellent.

16 May 1943, Camp Bowie, Texas: Battalion moved from bivouac area at Camp Bowie, Texas, and marched by motor convoy to bivouac area at North Camp Hood, Texas. Left Camp Bowie, Texas at 0812 hours and arrived at North Camp Hood, Texas at 1313 hours. Distance travelled: ninety two (92) miles. Roads: Good. Weather: Cloudy. Morale: Excellent.

25 May 1943, North Camp Hood, Texas: Twenty (20) Officers relieved of attachment and reported to Tank Destroyer Replacement Training Center.

31 May 1943, North Camp Hood, Texas: Battalion left bivouac area at 1835 hours and moved into Cantonment area at North Camp Hood at 1855 hours. Distance travelled: Two (2) miles by motor convoy. Roads: Fair. Weather: Fair. Morale: Excellent. Strength: Thirty six (36) Officers, seven hundred and eighty three (783) Enlisted Men. Decrease: Twenty (20) attached Officers, sixty six (66) Enlisted Men.

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658th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
NORTH CAMP HOOD, TEXAS

BATTALION HISTORY

JUNE
1943

3-8 June 1943, North Camp Hood, Texas: Battalion fired .30 Calibre Machine Gun for practice and record.

18 June 1943, North Camp Hood, Texas: Colonel IRA BLACK relieved of command of 17th Tank Destroyer Group. Lieutenant Colonel QUICKLEY assumes command.

21-23 June 1943, North Camp Hood, Texas: Battalion fired .50 Calibre Machine Gun in practice firing.

28 June 1943, North Camp Hood, Texas: Battalion moved from Cantonment area at North Camp Hood to bivouac area at 1530 hours by motor convoy. Distance: Three (3) miles. Roads: Fair. Weather: Fair. Morale: Excellent.

30 June 1943, North Camp Hood, Texas: Battalion moved from bivouac area at North Camp Hood, Texas at 0845 hours by motor convoy to Camp Hood, Texas. Arrived at 0945. Distance travelled: Twenty (20) miles. Weather: Fair. Morale: Excellent. Strength: Thirty six (36) Officers, One (1) Warrant Officer, and seven hundred and forty five (745) Enlisted Men. Increase: One (1) Warrant Officer. Decrease: Thirty eight (38) Enlisted Men.

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JULY
1943

1 July 1943, Camp Hood, Texas: Eleven (11) Officers assigned to the Battalion. Joined Battalion at 1100 hours.

8 July 1943, Camp Hood, Texas: Captain ALPIN relieved of assignment on 26 June 1943. Captain ALFORD joined Battalion to replace Captain ALPIN as Battalion Surgeon on 2 July 1943. Captain ALFORD, Battalion Surgeon transferred from this Battalion on 8 July 1945. Battalion without a Battalion Surgeon.

17 July 1943, Camp Hood, Texas: Twenty three (23) Enlisted Men of the Battalion receive Good Conduct Medals per Special Order #37, Headquarters, 658th Tank Destroyer Battalion.

11 July 1943, Camp Hood, Texas: Strength: Forty seven (47) Officers, one (1) Warrant Officer, eight hundred and twenty four (824) Enlisted Men. Increase: Eleven (11) Officers, seventy six (76) Enlisted Men.

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AUGUST
1943

11 August 1943, Camp Hood, Texas: Company "C" fired .22 Calibre submount practice on Pilot Knob 1000 inch Anti-Tank Range. Private KOCH, ASN 36591495, was accidentally shot through the left wrist and was taken to the Station Hospital, Camp Hood, Texas. Accident occurred at 1225 hours. Company "A" fired .30 Calibre Machine Guns at Surprise Targets on Brown Creek Range Number 2.

16 August 1943, Camp Hood, Texas: Company "A" fired .45 Calibre Thompson Sub-Machine Gun. Company "A" also fired .30 Calibre Machine Gun in night firing.

17 August 1943, Camp Hood, Texas: Company "A" fired .50 Calibre Machine Gun at Moving Targets. Percentage of hits for Company: Thirty Four Percent (34%)

18 August 1943, Camp Hood, Texas: Headquarters Company fired .50 Calibre Machine Gun in Field Firing and .30 Calibre Machine Gun in Night Firing.

25 August 1943, Camp Hood, Texas: Company "A" fired the .30 Calibre and the .50 Calibre Machine Guns on Anti-Aircraft Range. Headquarters Company fired .50 Calibre Machine Gun on Jack's Mountain Gas Car Range.

26 August 1943, Camp Hood, Texas: Headquarters Company fired .30 Calibre and .50 Calibre Machine Guns on Sugar Leaf Mount Anti-Aircraft Range.

27 August 1943, Camp Hood, Texas: Company "A" fired .50 Calibre Machine Gun using Ground Mounts at Jack's Mountain Moving Target Range.

30 August 1943, Camp Hood, Texas: Gun crews fired .50 Calibre submount on the M-10 Tank Destroyers.

31 August 1943, Camp Hood, Texas: Company "A" gun crews fired the Three Inch Guns at Tama Moving Target Range Number 2. Gun crews fired .30 Calibre Machine

Gun submounts on Three Inch Gun on M-10 Destroyers. Strength: Forty seven (47)
Officers, one (1) Warrant Officer, seven hundred and twenty (720) Enlisted
Men. Decrease: One hundred and four (104) Enlisted Men.

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SEPTEMBER
1943

4 September 1943, Camp Hood, Texas: Company "A" gun crews fired the Three Inch Gun using Armor Piercing Ammunition at Tama Moving Target Range.

5 September 1943, Camp Hood, Texas: Battalion left Cantonment area at 1630 hours, arrived at Battle Conditioning Course Number 3 at 1710 hours. Movement made by motor convoy. Roads: Good. Morale: Excellent.

6-10 September 1943, Camp Hood, Texas: Battalion participated in Battle Conditioning Training at Battle Conditioning Course Number 3.

11 September 1943, Camp Hood, Texas: Battalion left Battle Conditioning Course Number 3 at 1300 hours for Cantonment area on foot..Distance: Six (6) miles. Weather: Warm. Morale: Excellent.

20 September 1943, Camp Hood, Texas: Battalion started eighth week of Tank Destroyer Unit Training Center Training Program.

30 September 1943, Camp Hood, Texas: Strength: Forty seven Officers, one (1) Warrant Officer, seven hundred and seventeen (717) Enlisted Men). Decrease: Three (3) Enlisted Men

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OCTOBER
1943

10 October 1943, Camp Hood, Texas: Battalion relieved of assignment to the 17th Tank Destroyer Group and assigned to the 21st Tank Destroyer Group. COMMANDING OFFICER 21st Tank Destroyer Group: Colonel SILLIMAN.

12 October 1943, Camp Hood, Texas: Battalion underwent inspection by Inspector General. Results: Excellent.

18 October 1943, Camp Hood, Texas: Battalion started 12th week of Tank Destroyer Unit Training Center Training Program.

19 October 1943, Camp Hood, Texas: Battalion participated in Camouflage and demolitions demonstration. Weather: Cloudy.

25 October 1943, Camp Hood, Texas: Battalion started 13th week of Tank Destroyer Unit Training Center Training Program.

31 October 1943, Camp Hood, Texas: Strength: Forty six (46) Officers, one (1) Warrant Officer, six hundred and sixty seven (667) Enlisted Men. Decrease: One (1) Officer, fifty (50) Enlisted Men.

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NOVEMBER
1943

3 November 1943, Camp Hood, Texas: Private EUGENE L. STONE, 36592328, was killed by explosion of eighty five (85) pounds of forty percent (40%) TNT at 1155 hours, 3 November 1943 at Egypt Hollow, Camp Hood, Texas. Private First Class SAMUEL J. BOWLSBY, 36591287, was killed by explosion of eighty five pounds of forty percent (40%) TNT at 1155 hours, 3 November 1943 at Egypt Hollow, Camp Hood, Texas.

8 November 1943, Camp Hood, Texas: Battalion started 15th week of Tank Destroyer Unit Training Center Training Program.

15 November 1943, Camp Hood, Texas: Battalion started 16th week of Tank Destroyer Unit Training Center Training Program.

22 November 1943, Camp Hood, Texas: Battalion started 17th week of Tank Destroyer Unit Training Center Training Program.

29 November 1943, Camp Hood, Texas: Battalion started 18th week of Tank Destroyer Unit Training Center Training Program.

30 November 1943, Camp Hood, Texas: Strength: Fifty (50) Officers, one (1) Warrant Officer, six hundred and fifty six (656) Enlisted Men. Increase: Four (4) Officers, Decrease: Eleven (11) Enlisted Men.

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DECEMBER
1943

1 December 1943, Camp Hood, Texas: Battalion granted fourteen (14) day furloughs for fifteen percent (15%) of Enlisted Men.

13 December 1943, Camp Hood, Texas: Battalion started 20th week of Tank Destroyer Unit Training Center Training Program.

25 December 1943, Camp Hood, Texas: Each Company of Battalion held Christmas Party in Company Day Rooms. Weather: Rainy. Morale: Excellent.

30 December 1943, Camp Hood, Texas: Battalion started three day refresher course in Battle Conditioning at Battle Conditioning Course Number 2, Camp Hood, Texas.

31 December 1943, Camp Hood, Texas: Strength: Fifty two (52) Officers, one (1) Warrant Officer, six hundred and five (605) Enlisted Men. Increase: Two (2) Officers. Decrease: Fifty one (51) Enlisted Men.