HEADQUARTERS 774TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION CAMP GORDON, GEORGIA



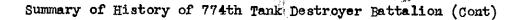
Summary Of History Of 774th Tank Destroyer Battalion

This battalion was activated December 15, 1941 under command of Lt. Col. W.L. Mattox Field Artillery, transferred from 179th Field Artillery. All equipment and enlisted men of Batterys G and H of the 179th and the 172nd Field Artillery Regiments and the personnel of the Anti-Tank platoons of the four battalion headquarters batterys in the two regiments were transferred to form the enlisted cadre of this organization, all officers assigned to the aforementioned batterys and platoons were transferred to join the commissioned cadre.

Prior to activation this same personnel was organized into the 74th Provisional Anti-Tank Battalion 1 July 1941. As the 74th Provisional Anti-Tank Battalion the unit participated in the 1941 Lousiana maneuvers being attached to the 1st Provisional Anti-Tank Group under command of Brigadier General Ira T Wiche. After completion of these maneuvers the unit proceeded by motor convoy to the vicinity of Chester, South Carolina for subsequent participation in South Carolina maneuvers. During these maneuvers the unit was attached to GHQx under the command of Col. Zundel, after completion of Carolina maneuvers the unit returned by motor convoy to Camp Blanding, Fla. about December 6, 1941 and on December 15, 1941 was activated as stated above as the 774th Tank Destroyer Battalion.

The battalion upon activation was assinged as GHQ reserve and attached for training and administration to the 74th Field Artillery Brigade, at this time 108 replacements were received and a replacement training detachment was formed to give these men their MTP training. During this period Dec. 14, '41 to May 27, 1942 the battalion completed (13) thirteen weeks MPT training and some familiarization firing with the towed 75mm gum with which the battalion was at that time equipped.

On May 27. 1942 the battalion departed from permanent station Camp Blanding, Florida, moving by rail and motor to new permanent station at Fort Jackson South Carolina. Upon arrival at Fort Jackson, S.C. the battalion was relieved from existing attachment and assignment and assigned to I Army Corps under the command of Maj. Gen. Eichelberger. At this time the battalion received 12 75mm gums, motor carriage M-3 and the 75mm guns and the towed M5mm gums were turned into the Post Ordnance. On June 21, 1942 Lt. Col. W.L. Mattox was relieved of command and assigned to Tank Destroyer Center, Camp Hood, Texas as G-3. Maj. John C. Hooker assumed temporary command. On July 10, 1942 Lt.Col. Conrad B. Sturges (then Maj.) joined and assumed command on July 10, 1942. 77 enlisted men, enlisted cadre, for the 825th TD Bn. left the organization and proceeded to camp Gruber, Oklahoma. On July 15, 1942 the battalion was rel lieved from assignment to I Army Corps and attached to the XII Detachment Special Troops, Second Army, under command of Col. Johnson. During the period spent at Ft. Jackson, S.C. the battalion successfully completed MTP tests given by a board of officers consisting of Lt. Col. Johnson, executive officer, of XII Detachment Special Troops, Lt. Col. Samuel Wallace, Commanding Officer 630th



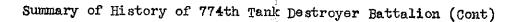


Tank Destroyer Battalion, Lt. Col. Ringsdorf, Commanding Officer of 608th T.D. Bn. Some familiarization and qualification firing with the .30 caliber machine gun and the .45 caliber sub-machine gun was completed. On Sept. 7, 1942 the battalion departed from permanent station, Fort Jackson, South Carolina for participation in maneuvers in Tennesee. During these maneuvers the battalion was attached in the majority of problems to the Marmored Division and therefore had little opportuity to fight tanks and there were very few tanks on the opposing side. After completion of two months maneuvers the battalion departed on the 11 November 1942 for temporary station at Camp Hood, Texas.

During the period from November 15, 1942 to 11 March 1943, in addition to completing the courses prescribed by the Tank Destroyer Center and Advanced Unit Training Center, the battalion underwenth the platoon combat efficiency firm ing tests receiving a score of %74.8, the Tank Destroyer Battalion tactical profficiency test receiveing a score of %80.96, the AGF physical fittness test receiving a score of %89.4 and one weeks time on the Tank Hunting Course with a rating of excellent / While at Camp Hood the battalion received over 400 replacements and a recruit training detachment was formed since these replacements had been received from a reception center and had not completed their MTP training. AT this time the battalion furnished a cadre of five officers and 77 enlisted men for the 671st T.D.Bn. subsequent organization organized at North Camp Hood, Texas. The battalion departed from Camp Hood, Texas, March 11, 1943, Moving by rail to new permanent station at Fort Benning, Georgia. Upon arrival at new station the unit was relieved from assignment to Tank Destroyer Center, assigned to Armored force and attached to the 10th Armored Division, Ft. Benning, Georgia, Major General Paul Newgarden commanding. On May 19, 1943 the battalion was organized under its present T/O 18-25. The battalion participated in numerous combat operations with the 10th Armored Division until the departure of that unit on June 15, 1943. On May 26, 1943 the battalion was alerted for overseas shipment and remained in that status until August 31, 1943. Upon the departure of the 10th Armored Division 15 June 1943 the unit was the relieved of assignment to Armored Force and attachment to 10th Armored Division and was assigned to Second Army and attached to the 4th Detachment Special Troops, Second Army, commanded by Col. Jacobs. During the remainder of the period spent at Ft. Benning, Georgia the battalion completed the major portion of its familiarisation and qualification firing with all weapons in the battalion except the 3" gum, the battalion also participated in several field excersises in which the 738th Tank Bostroyer Battalion was the opposing force. July 15, 1943 the battalion was relieved of attachment to 4th Detachment Special Troops, Second Army and assignation III Corps and attached to the 8th TD Group, Camp Rucker, Alabama, commanded by Col. Harry Larter. The battailon departed from permanent station at Ft. Benning, Georgia on August 31, 1943 moving by rail to Camp Forrest, Tenn. for subsequent participation in the 2nd Army Fall maneuvers. The battalion was attached for maneuvers purposes to the 13th TD Group during the entire maneuvers period, commanded by Lt. Col. Darling. During problem 07, which a part of the Red Force, commanded by Maj. Gen. Leland S Hobbs, the battalion set a maneuver record by destroying 102 tanks, (81 medium and 21 light) and 56 other vehicles armored and unarmored. The Battalion was graded satisfactory by T.D. section, Second Army on it participation in the maneuvers.

The battalion after completion of the maneuvers departed from temporary station Tennesee maneuver area to new permanent station, Camp Gordon, Georgia.

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Upon arrival at new station the battalion was relieved of assignment to III Corps and assigned to the XII Corps and attached to the 13th T.D.Gr. Aftervarrival at new station after having completed a large scale maneuver, in accordance with pertinent regulations, %50 of the enlisted personnel were granted furloughs.

HISTORY OF 774TH TANK DESTROYER ATTALION

1. ORIGINAL UNIT -

a. Designation - 74th Provisional Anti-Tank Bn.

b. Date of Organization - 1 July 1941

c. Place of Organization - Camp Blanding, Florida.

d. Authority for Organization - par 1, so 15, Hq, 74th F.A. Brigade, 1 July 1941.

e. Sources from which personnel was obtained - All EM of Batteries G and \overline{H} of the 172d and 179th F. A. Regiments.

Strength - Officers, 24 Enlisted Men, 503. Commending Officer - Lt. Col. William L. Wattox, FA.

2. STATIONS -

a. Departed Camp Blanding, Fla, 31 July 1941 (Permanent Sta.) Arrived Louisiana Maneuver Area, 4 August 1941 (Temporary Sta.) (AUTH: Maneuver Instructions #1, par #2, IV Army Corps, 28 July 1941)

b. Departed Louisiana Maneuver Area, 22 October 1941. Arrived Carolina Maneuver Area, 25 October 1941. (Temporary Sta.) (AUTH: Maneuver Instructions #1, 1st Provisional Anti Tank Group, Camp Claiborne, La., 20 October 1941.

c. Departed Carolina Maneuver Area, 4 December 1941. Arrived Camp Blanding, Fla., 5 December 1941. (Permanent Sta.) (Auth: Par 1, March Order #1, 74th F. A. Brigade, Ft. Jackson, S. C., 1 December 1941.

1. ORGANIZATION -

a.

1. Designation - 774th Tank Destroyer Battalion

2. Date of Organization - 15 December 1941 (Activation)

3. Place of Organization - Camp Blanding, Fla.

'4. Authority for Organization - Par 3, SO 70, Hq. 74th F. A. Brigade, 14 December 1941.

5. Sources of Personnel - 74th Provisional A. T. British plus A. T. and A. A. platoons from Hq. Batteries of 172d and 179th F. A. Regiments.

Strength - Officers, 26 Enlisted Men, 638 Commanding Officer - Lt. Col. William L. Mattox

b. Changes in Organization.

l. Company "C" Activated

Date of Activation - 7 February 1942

Place of Activation - Camp Blanding, Fla.

Auth. for Activation - Ltr. Hq. Fastern Theater of

Operation and First Army dated 31 January 1942 and Iv Army Corps, 4 February 1942.

Source of Personnel - Four existing companies in 774th

Tank Destroyer Battalion.

Company Commander - 1st Lt. Thomas E. Watson.

2. Battalion reorganized under T/O 18-25, dated 27

January 1943.

Date of Reorganization - 19 May 1943.

Place of Reorganization - Ft. Benning, Ga.

Strength - Officers, 41 Enlisted Men, 794.

3. Battalion reorganized under T/O 18-35, dated 7

May 1943.

Date of Reorganization - 15 December 1943. Place of Reorganization - Camp Gordon, Ga. Strength - Officers, 60 Enlisted Men, 714



2. STATIONS -

a. Activated Camp Blanding, Fla. (Permanent Sta.) 15 Dec. 1941.

Departed Camp Blanding, Fla. (Permanent Sta.) 27 May 1942.

AUTH: Par 1, SO 76, Hq. 774th TD Bn, 27 May 1942 and Ltr, AG 370.5123 (G-4), Hq. 2nd Army, 19 May 1942.

Strength - Officers, 24 Enlisted Men, 723 (Received 108 Replacements while at Camp Blanding, Fla)

b. Arrived Ft. Jackson, S. C. (Permanent Sta.) 28 May 1942.

Departed Ft. Jackson, S. C. (Permanent Sta.) 7 Sept. 1942

AUTH: March Order #1, Blue Forces, Ft. Jackson, S. C., 7 September 1942.

Strength - Officers, 27 Enlisted Men, 552.

furnished per Par 8, SO 100, 774th TD En, 10 July 1942, and Ltr, AGF, 320.2/39 (TD Units) GNOPN (5-5-52) 5 May 1942.

Lt. Col. Wm. L. Mattox relieved of Command per SO 75, Hq. AGF, Washington, D. C.

Major John C. Hooker assumed Command 1 July 1942 per General Order 19, 774th TD Bn, 1 July 1942.

Major John C. Hooker relieved Command 10 July 1942.

Major Conrad B. Sturges assumed Command 10 July
1942 per General Order 23, 774th TD Bn, dated 10 July 1942.

c. Arrived Tennessee Maneuver Area (Temporary Sta.) 8 Sept. 1942.

Departed Tennessee Maneuver Area (Temporary Sta.) 11 Nov 1942

AUTH: Par 1, SO 156 Hq. 774th TD Bn, 8 Nov. 42.

Received 120 Replacements while on maneuvers. Training Detachment formed at Ft. Jackson, S. C.

Strength - Officers, 30 Enlisted Men 536 and Replacement Det.

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d. Arrived Camp Hood, Texas (Temporary Sta.) 15 Nov. 1943.

Departed Camp ood, Texas (Temporary Sta.) 11 March 1943.

AUTH: Par 10, SO 52, Hq. TDC, Cp Hood, Texas, 1 March 1943.

Strength - Officers, 38 Enlisted Men, 745

(Received 227 Replacements while at Cp Hood, Tex) (Furnished Enlisted Cadre for 671st TD Bn, sub-

dequently activated, per par 19, SO 56, Hq. TDC, Cp Hood, Tex., 5 Mar. 1913.

e. Arrived Ft. Benning, Ga. (permanent Sta.) 14 March 1913.

Departed Ft. Benning, Ga. (Permanent Sta.) 31 August 1943.

AUTH* Par 2, SO 155, Hq. 5th Det. Sp. Tr., 2nd Army, Ft. Benning, 23

August 193.

Strength - Officers, 38 Enlisted Men, 720 (76 EM transferred to BUTC, Cp Hood, Texas (Excess)

f. Arrived Tennessee Maneuver Area (Temporary Sta.) 1 Nov. 1943

Departed Tennessee Maneuver Area (Temporary Sta.) 12 Nov. 1913 AUTH: Par 18, SO 199, Maneuver Dir. Hqs, 2nd Army, 4 November 1913. Strength - Officers, 47 Enlisted Men, 714

9. g. Arrived Camp Gordon, Georgia (Permanent Sta.) 13 Nov. 1943 Departed Camp Gordon, Georgia (Permanent Sta.) 10 Apr. 1944

h. On 17 March 1944, 1st Lt. Wilbur C. Anderson, 0-1822509, Battalion S-1 and 1st Lt. Frank H. McCartney, 0-1822297, Battalion S-1 and one EM left the Battalion at Camp Gordon, Ga., for an overseas destination. They were to serve as an advance detachment for the Battalion. AUTH- SO #63, par #2, 4th Service Command, Cp Gordon, Ga.

i. On 10 April 1944, the 774th TD Bn under command of Lt. Col. Conrad B. Sturges, 0-282307, Inf., entrained at Camp Gordon, Ga., in two trains for a staging area preparatory to proceeding to an overseas destination. Other officers are shown on the attached roster. The strength of the Battalion at this time was 762 EM, 30 Officers and 2 WO's. This does not include the strength of the advance detachment. AUTH; ASF, 4th Service Command, Cp Gordon, Ga., SO #81, dated 4 April 1944, par 8. The Battalion arrived on April 11, 1944, at Camp Shanks, N. Y., one of the staging areas for the Ny Port of Embarkation. For the next forty-eight hours it was engaged in processing.

From 13 April 1944 to 6 May 1944 the Battalion followed a limited training program while awaiting orders to embark. Frivileges were many and the sights in the State of N. Y. were made available.

j. On 6 May 1944, for reasons unknown, the Battalion left Camp Shanks for Fort Dix, N. J., arriving there on the same day. The strength of the Battalion at this time was 763 EM, 30 officers and 2 Warrant Officers. AUTH-ASF NYPE, Cp Shanks, NY, SO #122, par 25, 4 May 1944.

From 6 May 1944 to 30 May 1944, the Battalion remained at Fort Dix, N. Y. again following a limited training program due to the fact that no equipment was available. Upon departure the strength of the Battalion was 762 EM, 30 Officers, 2 WO's. AUTH- Ltr. Order, Hq. 13th Corps, file 370.5/684 (GNNML) 24 May 1944.

k. The Battalion arrived at Camp Kilmer, N. J. on 30 May 1944 and immediately began processing again prior to going overseas. Processing was completed on 1 June 1944. At this time, Captain Steve M. Cullens, 0-411004,

Battalion S-3 was promoted to Major, effective 24 May 1944. Lt. Ivan C. Snell, 0-1822323, received a promotion to First Lieutenant as of 24 May 1944.

An embarkation advance detachment consisting of Lt. Col. Conrad B. Sturges, 0-282307, Major Edward J. Bellamy, 0-404603, and Captain Carl A. Black, 0-378090, left the Battalion on 1 June, 1944 to prepare for the Battalion's arrival on board ship. It arrived at N. Y. harbor and boarded the "Nieuw Amsterdam" at 1230, 1 June 1944.

1. Themain body of the Battalion left Camp Kilmer, N. J., in two groups. The first group commanded by Captain James D. Butler, O-448332, CO, Company "A", arrived on board at 2359. AUTH - Ltr, ASF, NYPE, Cp Kilmer, NJ, Departure Schedule #153, 31 May 1944.

The other group commanded by Major Cullens boarded ship at 0040, 3 June 1944. The last man boarded at 0140, 3 June 1914. AUTH-Ltr, ASF, NYPE, Cp Kilmer, N. J., Departure Schedule #15h, 31 May 19hh.

Prior to the ship's leaving one member of the Battalion, T/5 John M. Howard, 34090798, Company "B", had to leave the ship because of an infected foot. The strength of the Battalion on departure was 761 EM, 30 Officers and 2 WO's.



The boat left N. Y. Harbor on 3 June 19hh and arrived on 12 June 1944 at Gourock, Scotland, B. I. The voyage was uneventful with a considerable number of the personnel being affected by the sea voyage. Quarters were fairly crowded. The "Nieuw Amsterdam" upon which the voyage was made was approximately 36000 tons and was a vessel of the Netherlands line which had been chartered to the British. The ship was under command of a Netherland's Commodore and the administrative commanier was a British Group Captain, supplemented by a combined American and British Staff which included Lt. Col. Conrad B. Sturges, as the senior unit commander on board.

From Gourock, Scotland, the Battalion debarked in two groups. first Group on board, under command of Lt. Col. Conrad B. Sturges, 0-282307, debarked at 1030. Lt. Col. Sturges was the first to set foot on foreign soil. Sgt. Paul T. Thompson, 31251167, Co "A", was the first EM to set foot on foreign soil. The second group debarked at Greenock, Scotland under the command of Major Edward J. Bellamy, 0-101603, Bn. Exec. O. The debarkation was completed by 1330. The Battalion proceeded by rail to Arbury Park, vicinity of Nuneaton, Warwickshire, England, having detrained at Stocking ford, Warwickshire, Eng., at 0020, 13 June 1914. The Battalion closed in at Arbury Camp at 0300.

h. a. The advance detachment consisting of Captain Wilbur C. Amderson, 0-1822509, who had been promoted to the rank of Captain effective 23 May 1914, 1st Lt Frank H. McCartney, 0-1822297, and one EM had departed from Ft. Hamilton, NY POE on 22 March 1944 on board the SS John Erickson.

This boat, however, had to return to port on the 23d of Mar. for repair and did not again depart until 28 March 1944.

b. This detachment arrived at Liverpool, England, on 8 April 1944 and debarked at 0800, 10 April 19hl. While awaiting the Battalion's arrival, the advanced detachment spent its time performing the usual duties of an advanced detachment.

5. a. On 15 June 1914 the Battalion Commander and Staff visited the XX Corps to which the Battalion had been at ached upon arrival. A visit was also paid to the 4th TD Group to which the Ba talion had been assigned on 15 June 1944.

b. Lt. William Murphy, 0-1822402, Co "B", was promoted to First Lt. on 2 June Ed4. Lt. Walter W. Gerding was promoted to First Lt. on 2 June 1944.

- 6. a. On 23 June 19th the Battalion was designated to act as reception party for the 16th Field Artillery Obv. Bn. 1st Lt. Warren J. Scidmore, 0-1822200 and a detail of 30 EM left the Battalion for Leominster, Worcestershire, Eng., to perform this detail.
- 7. a. On 21 June 1914 the Battalion was relieved from attachment to the XX Corps and assignment to the 4th TD Group and was assigned to the XXI Corps. AUTH: Troop Assignment Order #57, Third Army, 21 June 1914. The Battalian Commander and Staff paid their usual visit to the Commanding General of this new assignment.



ROS TER OF OFFICERS

10 April 1944

774TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

| Conrad B. Sturges Edward J. Bellamy Steve M. Cullens Wade D. Jones Carl A. Black Lum A. Ingram jr Joseph W. Rood Carson B. Murdy Major O-4004603 Rattalion Comma Battalion S-3 Captain O-411004 Battalion S-3 Co, Company "B" Captain O-410728 Co, Headquarter Captain O-417338 Co, Company "C" Captain O-417338 Co, Company "C" Captain O-417338 Co, Company "C" Captain O-416608 Battalion Surge | |
|--|----------------|
| Nathan Forkow James D. Butler Captain Captail Captail | r. r. r. r. r. |



- 12 June 1944 Disembarked at Gourock, Scotland.
- 13 June 1944 Arrived at Arbury Park, Warwickshire and attached to XX Corps upon arrival in ETO.
- 15 June 1914 Battalion Commander and Staff visited XX Corps.
- 21 June 1944 Battalionrelieved from attachment to XX Corps and 4th TD Group and attached to XII Corps. CO and Staff visited XII Corps.
- 25 June 1914 "ne Officer and 40 EM were detailed to act as reception party for 16th FA Obs. Bn at Leominstir for duration of one week.
- 26 June 1914 TAT equipment arrived.
- 2 July 1944 11 Officers and 400 EM were detailed to act as reception party for the 80th Infantry Division. Returned on 8 July 1944.
- 3 July 19hh Battalion relieved from attachment to XII Corps and attached to XX Corps.
- 4,5 July 1944- Headquarters Co., Company "A" and Med. Det. held showdown inspections.
- 10,11 July 44- Companies "B" and "C" had showdown inspections.
- 14 July 1944 Showdown requisitions submitted.
- 18 July 1944 At 1720 call from RTO, Leamington Spa, ordered Battalion to move at 0700 on 20 July 1944.
 - At 1800 called SOS, Sheltingham and talked to Major Buchan in regards to \overline{pick} ing up equipment on 19th. He informed us of a deferment and said he would call higher headquarters and call back in $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours.
 - At 1945 Major Buchan said he talked with Bucha and Major Kneck and said a deferment was on the way and to pick up equipment.
- 19 July 1944 At 1100 RTO, Learnington Spa called and said he knew nothing of the deferment and gave time and routing to leave at 0700 on the 20th.
 - At 1215 Colonel Sturges went to Leamington Spa and talked with Captain Wilson and Sgt Mitchell in regards to deferment. They called SOS and talked with Major Buchan. Also called Bucha and was advised of a 24 hour delay pending further advise.
 - At 1630 Capt. Anderson, S-l, arrived back from SOS and said that Wajor Buchan was withholding movement orders pending drawing available equipment.
- 20 July 1944 At 1000, RTO, Leamington Spa called to give routing and change of destination and said we were to move on the 20th. The RTO was informed that that day was the 20th and he said we should have moved that morning and that he would check and call back.

20 July 1944 - At 1030 SOS called and said a currier was on the way with movement orders. This was received by phone call from Captain Smith.

At 1330 the currier had not arrived and the RTO called and said all orders were cancelled and he would call us in a couple of days.

21 July 1944 - Personal visit to SOS by CO and he was told the Battalion would move when he notified SOS he was ready.

Major Cullens visited the 9th TD Group and was instructed to begin targetting in with the 3^{ll} guns.

22 July 19 4 Arrangemen t was made for the range. Company "A" and 1/2 of "B" started

23 July 1944 - 1 of Co. "B" and Company "C" started for range and Company "A" and 2 of B returned from range.

24 July 19년 - 글 of Co. "B" and Company "C" returned from range.

Colonel Kerr, WBS, visited Battalion Hqs and was told of the difficulty in obtaining signal releases.

At 0500, Col. Sturges departed for the anti-tak range and returned at 1800.

S-4 visited SOS

At 1500 Captain Higginbottom notified Battalion of release on signal equipment.

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