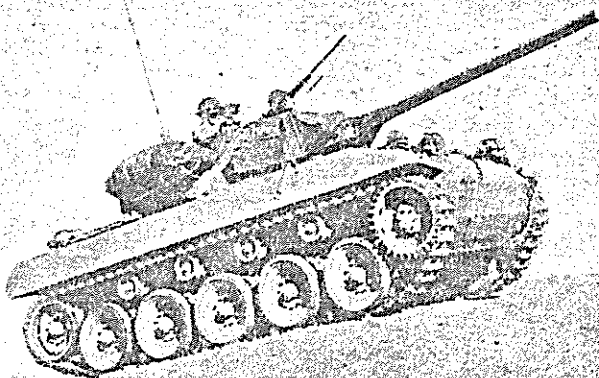


WELCOME

to the

TANK DESTROYER REPLACEMENT TRAINING CENTER



NORTH CAMP * CAMP HOOD * TEXAS

TANK DESTROYER MEN

Official Song of the Tank Destroyers

We come from almost every state
In the good old USA
We're set to go and meet the foe
So let's be on our way.

We're staunch hard hitting fighting men
And while our cannon roar
We'll mop up all the foe in sight
And look around for more.

And when the battle's finally won
And peace returns to earth
We'll roll back to America
The land that gave us birth.

And if we part from comrades then
And never meet again
We'll ne'er forget the days when we
Were Tank Destroyer Men.

CHORUS

So ---- Roll TD's, Roll,
With all our cannon spitting flame
Roll TD's, Roll
Roll on to victory and fame.
Mighty arms and mighty men,
Strike the foe, then strike again
And Roll TD's, Roll,
SEEK---STRIKE---DESTROY!

(Repeat Chorus)

INTRODUCTION

This booklet was prepared for your information to acquaint you with the Tank Destroyer Replacement Training Center and North Camp, Camp Hood. Read it and become familiar with your branch of the service and your post. This booklet is not restricted. When you have finished with it, mail it home to your family and friends if you like. Let them know what kind of training you are undergoing. Then they will realize the full significance of the might of Tank Destroyers and fully appreciate the fact that you are soon to be a full-fledged TD.

YOUR BRANCH OF THE SERVICE

You are now a member of the Tank Destroyer Forces of the Army of the United States, and as such you should be informed of the origin of your branch of the service. World War II, as you know, is a mechanized war. The early stages of the conflict were characterized by the overwhelming superiority of the Nazi Panzer Divisions which penetrated like a devastating meteor into the lowlands of Poland and France.

The speed with which the Nazi legions conquered those powerful nations convinced the Army that it was necessary to form a specialized striking force specifically designed to meet this challenge. Thus was the Tank Destroyer born, child of American ingenuity and American adaptability.

The North African campaign was not only the testing ground for this new technique, but was also the scene of its first triumph. At Kasserine Pass, Gafsa, Tunis, Bizerte, in fact in every major engagement of that victorious campaign, your branch of the service, Tank Destroyers, played a decisive part.

Again in Sicily the German tanks withdrew or were destroyed under the withering and concentrated

fire of our big guns. The mighty M10 was the first vehicle to roll over the ramps of the LST's onto the sandy beaches of Salerno; in the Italian campaign Tank Destroyers spearheaded the attack across the raging Volturno River, clearing a path for advancing American and Allied Infantry. In Germany today our TD guns are blasting holes in the Siegfried Line defenses and outfighting, outmaneuvering the best the enemy has to offer.

Now that you are a member of this command, take pride in your organization. After completion of your training here you will wear the beautiful and distinctive patch depicting the tank destroying black panther crushing an enemy tank between its powerful jaws. You are not permitted to wear this insignia until you have completed TD training and are a qualified Tank Destroyer man. The members of Tank Destroyer units wear, upon their shoulders, insignia that symbolizes their aggressive spirit and tactical doctrine. Like the black panther which stealthily stalks his prey and launches his killing attack from a point of vantage, Tank Destroyers seek, by vigorous close reconnaissance, information of enemy tanks and suitable firing positions to be occupied by well-timed movement. By smart, shrewd, tricky methods, even cautious at times, they strive for every advantage of information and choice of terrain. They strike and destroy by surprise and massed gun-fire.

You are a part of the only unit of its kind in the entire Army. Learn and remember the story of the part your branch has played in the winning of the war thus far. Look forward to the day when you will join your fellow Tank Destroyers "over there" to defeat the enemy at his own game.

Prize highly the standards set by others who came here before you. Be sure you do everything to keep them high and push them higher. Be proud of your place in the armed forces and of your organization.

ABOUT YOUR CAMP

Historically, Tank Destroyers were activated as the Tank Destroyer Tactical and Firing Center at Fort Meade, Md., in December of 1911 by Major General (then Lt Colonel) A.D. Bruce. Adequate training facilities, far beyond those afforded at Fort Meade, were desperately needed. The Army found here in Texas the ideal training area in a natural setting of hills, valleys and plains. The 160,000 acres, embracing much of Coryell & Bell Counties, that now make up North Camp, Camp Hood, and Camp Hood proper were obtained by the Army and converted into one of the largest military reservations in the United States.

A memorial to the great soldier for whom it was named, General John B. Hood - hero of the Battle of the Wilderness during the War between the States. Camp Hood is today running on a full-time schedule, training soldiers in the latest and best methods of destroying the enemy and enemy armor.

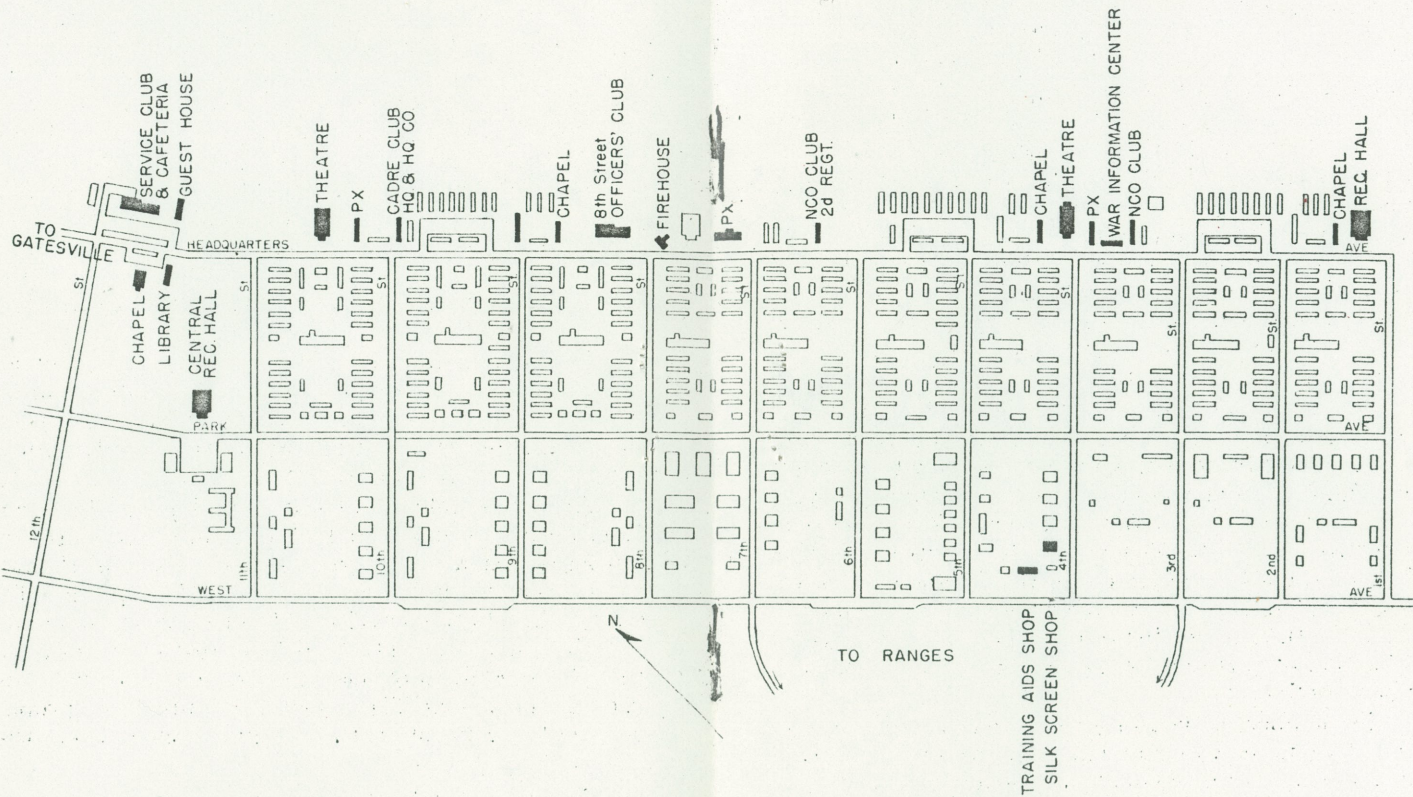
Within this huge reservation may be found all types of terrain - sandy plains, rocky hills, steep bluffs, wooded valleys and rolling hills. All of it plays an important role in the training of the highly skilled soldiers that leave for front line units.

Approximately 23 miles of Texas land are between North Camp, Camp Hood, and Camp Hood proper, but activities are as highly synchronized as though the two camps were one. At Camp Hood proper, TD Center directs the activities of both camps. Also you will find there the TD Board - a testing laboratory for all the equipment, clothing, rations and weapons used by TD's. The TD School at Camp Hood proper is one of the finest in the Army. From it come the highly trained specialists for your branch.

You are in the Replacement Training Center at North Camp, Camp Hood. On the next page is a map showing the location of the facilities available to you.

TDRTC

AREA



ABOUT TDRTC

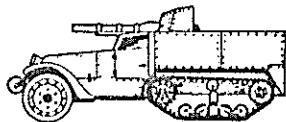
You are, in a sense, going to school. The Army realizes the value of complete and adequate training facilities. Here, in the RTC, you will go to class and learn all about your weapons and how to use them, and the tactics of employing them. You will learn everything that is necessary for you to become familiar with the Army, and the ways of the Army. When you have completed your cycle of training in the Center, you will no longer be a trainee but a well-rounded soldier ready for duty.

If you remember nothing else you read in this booklet, don't forget this: your officers and noncommissioned officers are doing everything to teach you what you must know in order to eliminate the enemy and remain alive while doing so. Be attentive and alert. Have an open and receptive mind toward the instruction and demonstrations before you. Learn all you are capable of learning for it may be the deciding factor between life and death, not only for you, but for your comrades in battle.

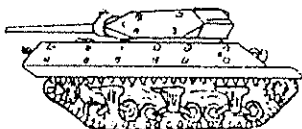
From the very first, on battle conditioning and infiltration courses, you will learn combat discipline, self-preservation, offensive measures, how to conquer fear, and to have confidence in the techniques you have learned on Hood's far-flung acres. You will learn to destroy enemy tanks with the big destroyers, the M10 and the M18, the famed "bazooka", and even with only your hands and the wreckage on battlefields. When the time comes for you to face the enemy, your utilization of this knowledge and training will be invaluable effective.

Remember, as you progress, that you may go to a newly activated unit and also that you may go to an older unit as a replacement. If you are to replace another soldier, be sure that you will be able to do the job as well - or even better than he performed it. Before you can be a good soldier, remember - you must be a good student.

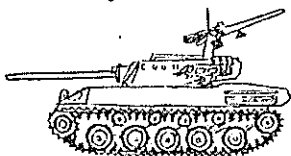
ABOUT YOUR WEAPONS



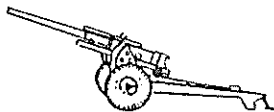
First self-propelled TD was the M3 half-track, mounting a 75mm gun. This weapon, your official insignia, played a leading role in the North African campaign.



Much experimentation resulted in the development of the M10. More speed, heavier armor and greater maneuverability made the M10 ideal for its job.



Research did not stop with the M10, however. The most recent development in Tank Destroyers is the M18 or, as it is often called, the "Hell Cat". Hard hitting and very fast, this new idea in destroyers has materially changed enemy armored tactics. Its powerful 76mm gun can shatter five feet of reinforced concrete.



Many of our TD Battalions are equipped with towed guns. These units are particularly suited for

warfare in country where self-propelled weapons cannot easily move about. Much of the credit for our success goes to those men who fought and are still fighting from behind the big towed guns.

Information about newer Tank Destroyers is restricted, but the TD Board is testing and experimenting daily with newer and better weapons for you.

We must not fail to mention the famed "bazooka", the anti-tank rifle grenade Molotov Cocktail, sticky grenade, all of which TD's utilize in destroying the enemy tank in his vehicle. Germans thought 155mm shells were hitting when the "bazooka" was used for the first time against them.

It is easily seen where the last two words of your motto... "SEEK, STRIKE, DESTROY"... take on a real meaning, for with your weapons you are a powerful striking force on any battlefield.

YOUR NEIGHBORS

BELTON - A nice hometown place with a large USO. Theaters, restaurants, stores and soda fountains are first class. Approximately 40 miles by bus. Population - 5500.

TEMPLE - A beautiful city, home of the Army's McCloskey General Hospital. Restaurants, theaters, and shops extend a special welcome to Hood soldiers. Approximately 53 miles via bus. Population - 20,000.

WACO - A large USO gives a Saturday night dance weekly. Shows, restaurants and many stores have arranged special hours to accomodate Hood men on the weekends. Fast daily train and bus service from camp. 38 miles from North Camp, Camp Hood. Population - 78,000.

GATESVILLE - Six miles from camp, has 4 first class movies. Restaurants and drugstores are of a high caliber. Raby Park swimming pool offers cool summer

entertainment, and a large USO offers fine recreational facilities. Population - 3200.

McGREGOR - 20 miles from camp on the highway to Waco. Bus service from North Camp, Camp Hood. Population - 3200.

LAMPASAS - Chiefly noted by Hood men as the home of Panther Park, recreation center. Bus service. Population - 4200.

AUSTIN - 105 miles south of Camp Hood. Capital of Texas. Home of the University of Texas. Three USO's. Good restaurants and theaters. Bus service via Waco or Temple. Population - 116,000.

DALLAS and FORT WORTH - 160 miles from camp. Bus and train service. Many attractions for soldiers in both of these beautiful cities. Population - Dallas: 430,000. Fort Worth: 244,000.

SAN ANTONIO - 160 miles southwest of camp. Many historical places of interest. Good eating places and theaters. Military center. Usually crowded on weekends. Population - 400,000.

NOTES

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

PROTESTANT

Sunday

0900 4th St Chapel

0930 4th St Chapel

1030 Central Chapel

1030 Leon Drive Chapel

1030 Ave F Chapel

1830 Central Chapel

1830 4th St Chapel

LUTHERAN

Sunday

1100 18th St Chapel

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

Sunday

1100 16th St Chapel

Wednesday

1930 Central Chapel

JEWISH

Friday

2000 Orthodox - 16th St
Chapel

2030 Reform - 16th St
Chapel

CATHOLIC

Sunday

0700 Leon Drive Chapel

0800 24th St Theater

0830 9th St Chapel

1030 4th St Theater

1030 Ave D Theater

1830 9th St Chapel

Wednesday - Novena

1830 9th St Chapel

Friday

1830 Stations of The
Cross - 9th St
Chapel

Saturday

Confessions: 1530-1700,
1830-2100, 9th St Chapel;
before and after mass

LATTER DAY SAINTS

Sunday

1930 Central Chapel