

HISTORY

OF THE

18TH

TANK DESTROYER
GROUP

C-O-N-T-E-N-T-S- OF- H-I-S-T-O-R-Y

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ORIGINAL

UNIT

The Headquarters & Headquarters Company, 18th Tank Destroyer Group was activated on April 17, 1943 at Camp Bowie, Texas. (G.O. #1, Hq., 18th TD Gp., April 17, 1943). The authority for organization was G.O. #14, Hq., TDC, April 1, 1943. The officers & cadre for the organization were obtained from other Tank Destroyer Units. Sources from which personnel was obtained were as follows:

<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>FORMER UNIT</u>	<u>ORDER TRFD TO BUTC</u>	<u>ASGMT</u>
Lt Col	L.D. Mathews, Inf.	807 TD Bn	(SO 57, TDC, 3-6-43) (SO 67, TDRTC, 3-19-43)	C.O.
Major	H.B. Crandall, Inf.	9th TD Gp	SO 64, TDC, 3-15-43	Ex Off
Capt	W.V. Munhall, F.A.	4th TD Gp	SO 67, TDRTC, 3-19-43	S-4
Capt	J.J. Kelly, Cav.	9th TD Gp	SO 68, TDC, 3-19-43	S-2
Capt	B.H. Hill, Inf.	AUTC	SO 67, TDRTC, 3-19-43	Ln Off
1st Lt	R.A. McCune, Inf.	807 TD Bn	SO 80, TDC, 4-2-43	Asst S-3
2nd Lt	D.W. McCaughan, AUS.	846 TD Bn	SO 68, TDC, 4-2-43	Hq Cmdr

The above officers were transferred from TD BUTC to Hq., 18th Tank Destroyer Group per SO #92, Hq., TD BUTC, April 17, 1943. Authority for original assignment of officers in Group. SEE: GO 1 and SO #1, Hq., 18th TD Group.

ENLISTED CADRE

<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>FORMER UNIT</u>	<u>ORDER TRFD TO BUTC</u>	<u>ASGMT</u>
1st Sgt	A.R. Morgan	820th TD Bn	SO 72, TDC, 3-24-43	1st Sgt
M/Sgt	R.N. Atmar	820th TD Bn	SO 72, TDC, 3-24-43	Operation
T/Sgt	J. Grayum	820th TD Bn	SO 72, TDC, 3-24-43	Comm
S/Sgt	G.N. Coltellaro	820th TD Bn	SO 72, TDC, 3-24-43	Mess & Supp
S/Sgt	J.M. Griffith	820th TD Bn	SO 72, TDC, 3-24-43	Intell
S/Sgt	E.E. Jackman	820th TD Bn	SO 72, TDC, 3-24-43	Mess Cntr
Sgt	R.W. Wallace	820th TD Bn	SO 72, TDC, 3-24-43	Motor Sgt
T/4	L.E. Bates	820th TD Bn	SO 72, TDC, 3-24-43	Cook
T/4	J.H. Howard	820th TD Bn	SO 72, TDC, 3-24-43	Radio Oper
T/4	A.N. Jeremiason	820th TD Bn	SO 72, TDC, 3-24-43	Radio Elec
Cpl	E.J. Dupuy	820th TD Bn	SO 72, TDC, 3-24-43	Co Clk
T/5	S. Fields	820th TD Bn	SO 72, TDC, 3-24-43	Cook

The above Enlisted Cadre were transferred from Hq Co., TD BUTC to Hq., 18th TD Group per SO #92, Hq., TD BUTC, April 17, 1943.

The Group, on activation, was assigned to TD BUTC, Cp Bowie, Texas, per GO #14, Hq., TDC, April 1, 1943.

C H A N G E S I N O R G A N I Z A T I O N

The Group was organized under T/O 18-10-1, dated Dec. 20, 1942.

The 660th TD Bn, commanded by Major Fred L. Plahte, and the 661st TD Bn, commanded by Major Miller, were attached to the Group during basic training at North Camp Hood, and at Table Rock Camp. Upon arrival at Camp Hood, the following Battalions were attached to the Group, effective 19 Aug 43: 660th, 661st, 647th, 648th, and the 650th TD Bn, effective 26 August. Other Bns attached to the Group while at Camp Hood were the 655th, 656th and the 829th TD Bns. The 660th and 661st TD Bns were with the Group throughout its stay at Camp Hood, being reassigned on 8 November to the 20th and 21st TD Groups, respectively.

Upon arrival at Cp. Joseph T. Robinson, the 611th TD Bn, and the 824th TD Bn, the latter on maneuvers in Louisiana, were attached to the Group effective 12 Nov 1943, per paragraph 3, SO #178, Hq, IX Corps, Camp McCain, Miss, dated 16 Nov. 1943

The 691st, 802nd, and 823rd TD Battalions were attached to the Group effective 5 Jan 1944, PAC ltr, Hq XXI Corps, 320.2-GEMKG, 5 Jan 1944, Subject "Assignment of 691st, 802nd, and 823rd TD Bns, at Camp Claiborne, La.

Upon arrival at Cp Howze, Texas (6 April 44) the 652d TD Bn was atchd effective 7 Apr 44, 809th TD Bn effective 9 Apr 44 and 611th TD Bn effective 13 Apr 44 to Group.

On 8 May 44 the 809th TD Bn moved to Ft Benning, Ga.

On 13 Sep 44 the 816th TD Bn (towed) was atchd to Group, from Cp Swift, Tex.

On 18 Sep 44 the 652d TD Bn (SP) was transferred to Ft Knox, Ky, asgd Repl & Sch Command.

On 6 Feb 45 the 611th & 816th TD Battalions were relieved atchd from 18th TD Group, and asgd Replacement & School Command.

On 20 Feb 45, effective 2400 hrs Hq & Hq Co. 18th TD Group was inactivated per General Orders No. 26 Hq Armored Replacement Training Center, Ft Knox, Ky., dated 17 Feb 45. Officer personnel trfd to Armored Command Officers Replacement Pool. Enlisted personnel attached unassigned Armored Replacement Training Center, Fort Knox, Ky.

STRENGTH COMMISSIONED AND ENLISTED

On activation of the Group, 17 April, 1943, the strength of the unit was 7 officers and 12 assigned EM cadre (for break down of personnel see Sec. 1). In addition to assigned personnel the cadre for the 24th TD Group was attached to the 18th TD Group. (VOCO). It consisted of one 1st Lt. Paul D. Dunaway, and 12 EM Cadre.

1st Lt. William M EINHART reported to this organization on 23 April per par 8 SO 97 Hq. TD BUTC, 23 April 1943. He assumed command of Hq. Co. on 26 April, 1943, Lt. McCaughan being relieved as Comdg. Officer and being assigned as Executive Officer per par 1 SO #3 Hq. 18th TD Group, 26 April 1943.

On activation the 660th and 661st TD Battalions were attached for training and administration. The Group Hq Co received 19 fillers replacements from New Cumberland Depot on May 8 1943 per SO #125, Hq 1301 Serv Unit Receipt Ctr New Cumberland, Pa. dated May 5 1943.

Hq Co received 12 fillers replacements from Ft Meade, Md. on May 11/43 per par 32, SO # 109, Hq 1302 Service Unit Reception Center, Fort George G. Meade, Md., dated 7 May 1943.

Capt. Munhall was promoted to Major per par 15, SO #125, War Dept. Washington, D.C. dated 5 May 1943.

Capt. Kelly was promoted to Major per par 11, SO #135, War Dept. Washington, D.C. dated 15 May 1943.

The Group Hq Co received 9 fillers replacements from Camp Lee, Virginia on 16 May 1943 per SO #112, par 6, 1303d Service Unit Reception Center, dated 12 May 1943.

1st Lt. McCune was promoted to Captain per par #15, SO #139 War Dept., Washington, D.C. dated 19 May 1943.

1st Lt. EINHART was promoted to Captain per par #15, SO # 154, War Dept., Washington, D.C., dated 3 June, 1943.

2nd Lt. McCaughan was promoted to 1st Lt. per par 15, SO #139 War Dept., Washington, D.C. dated 19 May 1943.

2nd Lts Roy L. Vaughn, O1825288, and Howard K. Smith, O1825276 were asgd and jd the organization 12 June 1943 per SO #139, Hq TDETC, Cp Hood, Texas, dated 10 June 1943, and were asgd to Hq Co as platoon leaders per par 1, SO #8, Hq 18th TD Group, 14 June 1943.

The following changes in assignments and duties to Hq and Hq Co, 18th TD Group were directed by par 1, SO #15, 18th TD Group, dated 17 July 1943:

Major Crandall

Relieved from duty as S-3 and assigned as Executive Officer.

Captain McCune

Relieved from duty as Asst S-3 and assigned as S-3.

1st Lt McCaughan

Relieved from duty as Executive Officer, Hq Co, and assigned as Asst S-3.

2nd Lt Smith

Relieved from duty as platoon leader, Hq Co, and assigned as Liaison Officer, ~~Hq Co~~

2nd Lt Vaughn

Relieved from duty as platoon leader, Hq Co, and assigned as Executive Officer, Hq Co.

1st Lt Earl I Bacon, O294941, having reported to this organization PAC par 11, SO #176, Hq TD School, dated 24 July 1943, was assigned to duty as Special Services Officer by par 2, SO #16, Hq 18th TD Group, dated 27 July 1943, and amended by par 2, SO #19, Hq 18th TD Group, dated 12 August 1943.

Major Harry L. Lyon, O253782, and Captain Orville L. Rogers, O366359, were assigned to this Hq for special duty as Training Inspectors PAC par 17, SO #182, Hq TDTC, dated 30 July 1943 and par 1, SO #18, Hq 18th TD Group, dated 3 August 1943.

Major Frederick N. Morey, O241516, and Captain George C. Watson, O255232, were assigned to this Hq for special duty as Training Inspectors PAC par 17, SO #182, Hq TDTC, dated 30 July, 1943, and par 1, SO #19, Hq 18th TD Group, dated 12 August 1943.

Major Munhall was relieved from his assignment to 18th TD Group by par 6, SO #203, Hq TDC dated 24 August 1943, and as S-1 and S-4 by par 1, SO #22, Hq 18th TD Group, dated 25 August 1943.

Having reported to this Hq in compliance with par 32, SO #204, Hq TDTC, dated 25 August 1943, Major John P. Gustafson, O319868, was assigned as S-1, S-4 by par 2, SO #22, Hq 18th TD Group, dated 25 August 1943.

2nd Lts. George M. Gehant Jr., Lawrence H. Kahn, and Robert M. Mulvey were assigned this Hq per par 14, SO #207, Hq TDTC dated 28 August 1943. Lts. Gehant and Kahn were assigned to Hq Co, 18th TD Group as Company Officers, and Lt. Mulvey was assigned to Hq 18th TD Group as Asst S-1, Special Services Officer, per par 1, SO #24, Hq 18th TD Group, dated 30 August 1943, and amended by par 2, SO #6, Hq 18th TD Group, dated 15 Jan 1944.

Major Grandall was relieved from duty as Executive with the 18th TD Group, while attending C and GS School, by par 2, SO #26, Hq 18th TD Group, dated 1 September 1943.

1st Lt. Bacon was relieved from duty as Special Services Officer with the 18th TD Group, while attending School for Special Services, and 2nd Lt. Kahn was appointed Special Services Officer for the 18th TD Group by par 2, SO #26, Hq 18th TD Group, dated 1 September, 1943.

Captain McCune was relieved from duty as S-3 with the 18th TD Group, while attending TD School, by par 1, SO #27, Hq 18th TD Group, dated 4 September 1943.

Captain Orville Rogers was relieved from duty with the 18th TD Group per par 50, SO #215, Hq TDFTC, dated 7 September, 1943.

Major Morey was relieved from duty with the 18th TD Group by par 28, SO #226 TDFTC, dated 18 September 1943.

1st Lt. John (EMI) Bright, Chaplains Corps, having reported to this Hq in compliance with par 10, SO #223 Hq War Dept, dated 11 August 1943. Chaplain Bright reported 29 September 1943 this Hq.

Captain George C Watson was relieved from duty with the 18th TD Group by par 20, SO #242, Hq TDFTC, dated 8 October 1943.

1st Lt. Earl I Bacon was assigned to Hq Co, 18th TD Group as Special Services Officer, and 2nd Lt. Lawrence H Kahn was relieved from duty with Hq Co, 18th TD Group as Special Services Officer, and assigned to Hq 18th TD Group as Asst S-2, S-3, per par 1, SO #31, Hq 18th TD Group, dated 9 October, 1943.

1st Lt. Bacon was relieved from duty with the 18th TD Group and assigned to TDOEP, N. Camp Hood, Texas, per par 1, SO #247, Hq TDC, dated 14 October 1943, and par 2, SO #32, Hq 18th TD Group, dated 15 October 1943.

Captain McCune, upon his return from TD School, was assigned to duty as S-3 with the 18th TD Group per par 2, SO #33, Hq 18th TD Group, dated 18 October 1943.

2nd Lt. Ralph W Thomas, O1823233, was assigned to the 18th TD Group from the 829th TD Bn by par 1, SO #250, Hq TDC, dated 18 October 1943, and was assigned as Asst S-3, Special Service Officer by par 1, SO #6, Hq 18th TD Group, dated 15 January 1944.

2nd Lt. Kahn was relieved from duty as Asst S-2, S-3, Hq 18th TD Group, and assigned to Hq Co., 18th TD Group as Company Officer per par 1, SO #37, Hq 18th TD Group, dated 3 Nov. 1943.

2nd Lt. P.O. Dahl, (i.o.) Jr. 01825947, reported this organization per par 5, SO #265 Hq TDRTC dated 3 November 1943. Assigned as Asst S-2, per par 1, SO #38 Hq 18th TD Group dated 4 November 1943.

Major Howard B. Crandall, upon his return from C & GS School, was assigned to the 18th TD Group as Executive per par 1, SO #41, Hq 18th TD Group, dated 16 November 1943.

Major Frederick N. Morey, 0241516, was assigned to Hq 18th TD Group per par 1, SO #154, Hq 611th TD Bn., Camp Robinson, Ark., dated 20 December 1943, and was assigned as acting S-1, S-4 during the absence on leave of Major Gustafson, per par 1, SO #49, Hq 18th TD Group, dated 21 December 1943.

Having reported to this organization on 21 Dec. 1943 in compliance with par 4, SO #104, Hq 6th TD Group, dated 9 Dec. 1943 the following officers were assigned by par 2, SO #49, Hq 18th TD Group, dated 21 Dec 1943:

2nd Lt William I. Gordon 0524057 Inf Asst S-3
2nd Lt Carlisle P. Myers 01826054 AUS Co O, Hq Co.
2nd Lt Donald F. Patterson 01826057 AUS Asst S-1

2nd Lt Howard K. Smith was promoted to 1st Lt per par 15, SO 6, War Dept. Washington, D.C. dated 7 January 1944.

Major Crandall was promoted to Lieut Colonel per par 15, SO 6, War Dept. Washington, D.C. dated 7 Feb 44.

2d Lt William Gordon was transferred to the para-troops and reported to Fort Benning, Ga., per par 1, SO 35 Hq AGF, dated 10 Feb 44., leaving the 18th TD Group on 17 Feb 44.

2d Lt Patterson, on DS with 14th Hq, Sp Trs, Fourth Army at Leesville, La, was transferred to the Quartermaster Corps, Cp McCain, Miss., per par 1 SO 58, Hq. AGF, leaving the Group on 8 March 1944.

Major Morey, 2d Lt. Dahl, and 2d Lt Myers were on DS at Director Hqs, as Umpires, during the period that the Group was in the Louisiana Maneuver Area.

Lt Col. Mathews was promoted to rank of Colonel per par 15 SO 69, War Dept., Washington, D.C. dated 21 Mar 44.

Chaplain Bright was promoted from 1st Lt to Captain per par 16 SO 72, War Dept, Washington, D.C. dated 24 Mar 44.

Capt William L. Raverty reported to the Group on 7 July 1944 per par 8, SO 81, Hq 86th Inf Div., and was assigned as Group Dental Officer.

2d Lts Mulvey and Vaughn were promoted to 1st Lts by par 15 SO 124, War Dept., dated 24 May 1944.

Capt Robert E. Larter, 01295391, Inf., joined per par 8, SO 102, Hq XXIII Corps, dated 20 May 1944, reporting on 30 May 1944.

Lt Kahn was transferred to ORP, Ft George Meade, Md., per par 1, SO 38, Hq 18th TD Group, dated 15 June 1944, departing on 26 June 1944.

Major Frederick N. Morey was relieved from assignment to Group and atchd to Hq., Fourth Army, departing 7 July 1944.

Following 2d Lts atchd unasgd to Group per SO 161, Hq TDRTC, dated 8 July 1944, and upon reporting 10 July were assigned following principal duties:

Freeman, Robert B.	01821993	Company Officer
Knight, Robert H.	01824478	Ass't S-3
Thomas, George H.	01825323	Ass't S-1

1st Lt Jack Phillips and Capt Lawrence F. Gillette, were attached to the Group as Dental officers during July and August, departing for new assignments on 8 August 1944.

Capt Tyre H. Rimes, 01283490, was asgd this organization per SO 218, XXI Corps, dated 25 August. Principal duty, Ass't S-3.

Capt Ralph E. Hoffmeyer, 0306355 asgd this organization per par 2, SO 238, XXI Corps, dated 16 Sep 1944. Principal duty Ass't S-2.

Capt Robert E. Larter, Inf., reld asgmt and asgd 652d TD Bn per par 2 SO 238 Hq XXI Corps, dtd 16 Sep 44, effective 17 Sep 44.

John J. Kelly, Major, Cav. reld asgmt and asgd 652d TD Bn per par 2 SO 237 Hq 21st Corps, dtd 15 Sep 44, effective 17 Sep 44.

Robert E. Mitchell, Lt Col., FA, joined orgn atchd unaegd per par 2 SO 237 Hq XXI Corps dtd 15 Sep 44, effective 17 Sep 44.

John Bright, Capt, CH, reld asgmt and asgd 408th FA Gp, per par 13 SO 251 Hq XXI Corps dtd 30 Sep 44, effective 2 Oct 44.

Kenneth L. Ahl, Capt, CH, asgd and joined per par 5 SO 246, 7th Hq Sp Trs, Fourth Army, Cp Bowie, Tex, dtd 12 Oct 44, effective 20 Oct 44.

George H. Thomas, Jr, 2d Lt, Inf, reld atchd unaegd 18th TD Group and asgd Hq Fourth Army, Ft Sam Houston, Tex per par 16 SO 249 14th Hq Sp Trs, Fourth Army, Camp Polk, La, dtd 18 Oct 44, effective 18 Oct 44

George E. Amundsen, 1st Lt CH, asgd and joined per par 9 SO 249 Hq 63d Inf Div, Cp Van Dorn, Miss, dtd 12 Oct 44, Princ dy Chaplain, effective 18 Oct 44.

Stuart M. Dingman, Major, Inf, reld asgmt 611th TD Bn and Asgd this hq per par 22 SO 254 14th Hq Sp Trs, Fourth Army, Cp Polk, La, dtd 24 Oct 44 effective 25 Oct 44.

Tyre H. Rimes, Capt, Inf, reld asgmt this hq and atchd unaegd IRF, IRTC, Ft McClellan, Ala TDY at Key Field, Miss per Ltr 210.63 (R) 14 Oct 44 GNRGS Hq AGF dtd 22 Oct 44, effective 28 Oct 44.

Kenneth L. Ahl, CH, Capt, reld asgmt this hq asgd 11th Hq Sp Trs, Fourth Army, Cp Hood, Tex per par 35 SO 257 dtd 27 Oct 44, effective 29 Oct 44.

Robert E. Mitchell, Lt Col, FA, demoted to grade of Major per WD Ltr AGPO-P dtd 15 Oct 44 and WD AGPO-P dtd 16 Oct 44, effective date 16 Oct 44.

William G. Edson, Major, FA, reld asgmt 606 th TD Bn, Cp Gruber, Okla, and asgd this hq per par 2 SO 60 Hq XXXVI Corps, Ft Riley, Kan, dtd 27 Oct 44, effective 1 Nov 44.

Ralph E. Hoffmeyer, Capt, FA, reld asgmt this hq asgd 580th FA Bn per par 35 SO 261 14th Hq Sp Trs, Fourth Army, dtd 1 Nov 44, effective 2 Nov 44.

Robert E. Mitchell, Major, FA, reld atchd unaegd this hq and asgd 606th TD Bn, Cp Gruber, Okla, per par 32 SO 260 14th Hq Sp Trs, Fourth Army, Cp Polk, La, tdt 31 Oct 44, effective 4 Nov 44.

P. O. Dahl, Jr, 2d Lt., Inf, reld atchd unasgd this hq and atchd unasgd Cavalry ORP, Ft Riley, Kan., to attend Pack Cav Course #8, per par 29 SO 248, 14th Hq Sp Trs, Fourth Army, Cp Polk, La., effective 4 Nov 44.

George M. Gehant, Jr, 2d Lt, Inf, reld atchd unasgd this hq atchd unasgd Cavalry ORP, Ft Riley, Kan., to attend Pack Cav Course #8, per par 29 SO 248, 14th Hq Sp Trs, Fourth Army, Cp Polk, La., effective 4 Nov 44.

John P. Gustafson, Major, Inf, reld asgmt this hq and asgd to AGF Repl Depot #1, Ft George G. Meade, Md., per par 17 SO 270, 14th Hq Sp Trs, Fourth Army, Cp Polk, La., effective 29 Nov 44.

Roy L. Vaughn, 1st Lt, Inf, reld asgmt this hq atchd unasgd Cavalry ORP, Ft Riley, Kan., to attend Pack Cav Course #9, per par 27 SO 258, 14th Hq Sp Trs, Fourth Army, Cp Polk, La., effective 29 Nov 44.

Robert B. Freeman, 2d Lt, Inf, reld asgmt this hq atchd unasgd Cavalry ORP, Ft Riley, Kan., to attend Pack Cav Course #9, per par 27 SO 258, 14th Hq Sp Trs, Fourth Army, Cp Polk, La., effective 29 Nov 44.

Wesley W. Greenawald, 2d Lt, FA, reld atchd unasgd 661st TD Bn, Cp Hood, Tex., to atchd unasgd this hq per par 8 SO 250, 11th Hq Sp Trs, Fourth Army, Cp Hood, Tex, dtd 15 Nov 44, effective 17 Nov 44.

William P. Wantzloeben, 2d Lt., Inf, reld atchd unasgd 661st TD Bn, Cp Hood, Tex., to atchd unasgd this hq per par 8 SO 250, 11th Hq Sp Trs, Fourth Army, Cp Hood, Tex, dtd 15 Nov 44, effective 17 Nov 44.

Harry F. Shown, 2d Lt., Inf, reld atchd unasgd 679th TD Bn, Cp Hood, Tex, atchd unasgd this hq per par 8 SO 250, 11th Hq Sp Trs, Fourth Army, Cp Hood, Tex, dtd 15 Nov 44, effective 17 Nov 44.

Charles J. Waldron, Capt, DC, atchd unasgd from 7th Hq & Hq Det Sp Trs, Fourth Army, Cp Bowie, Texas. Duty Dental Officer., per par 13 SO 298 Hq Fourth Army, Ft Sam Houston, Tex, dated 27 Dec 44, effective 1 January 1945.

Donald W. McCaughan, 1st Lt., reld asgd this orgn & asgd Cav RTC Ft Riley, Kan "Officers Pack Course Cl No. 13" per par 17 SO 307, 14th Hq Sp Trs, Fourth Army, Cp Polk, La., dated 26 Dec 44.

Herbert C. Olesen, 0407243, Capt, Asgd from Hq TDRTC, N. Cp Hood, Tex. duty Ass't S-4, per par 6 SO 20 Hq TDRTC N. Cp Hood, Tex dated 24 Jan 45.

Ralph W. Thomas, 2d Lt promoted to grade of 1st Lt per par 15 SO 9 WD dated 10 Jan 45.

Howard K. Smith, 1st Lt promoted to grade of Captain per par 15 SO 22 WD dated 25 Jan 45.

S T A T I O N S

The 18th TD Group was activated at Camp Bowie, Texas, April 17, 1943, PAC General Orders No. 14, Hq., TDC, Camp Hood, Texas, dated April 1, 1943.

By Para 35 SO #105, Hq., TDC, dated May 1, 1943, the Group was transferred on a temporary change of station to North Camp Hood, Tex. From North Camp Hood, the Group was transferred to Table Rock Camp, and thence to Camp Hood, Texas, on permanent change of station, arriving at the latter station on 19 August 1943.

The Group was transferred to a new permanent station by para 11 SO #270, Hq., TDC, dated 10 November 1943, at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Arkansas.

Under authority of ltr. Hq. 3rd Army AG 370.5 TD GNMCC-5 Subject: "Movement of Hq. & Hq. Co., 18th TD Group to Cp Claiborne, La. dated 17 December 1943 and ltr. Hq. AGF 210.482/659 GNAGS (10-13-42) dated 13 Oct. 42 and ltr. Hq. XIX Corps Cp Polk, La. 370.5/1 dated 19 December 1943 and SO #50 Hq. 18th TD Group, Cp Jos. T. Robinson, dated 23 December 1943, the 18th TD Group effected a temporary change of station from Cp Jos. T. Robinson, Ark. to Cp Claiborne, La. The move was made on 24 December 1943.

On 3 February 1944, at 0840, the 18th Group left Cp Claiborne, La., for the Sixth Maneuver period in the Ia Maneuver area, pursuant to Ltr, XXI Corps, Cp Polk, La, Subject: Movement of Units to Sixth Maneuver Period: dated 24 January 1944. The Group arrived at the Concentration area at 1405, ($\frac{1}{2}$ mile NW of Knight, La) after traveling a distance of 83 miles.

During the Flag Exercises, the 18th Group, with the 706th TD Bn. commanded by Lt. Col. Ewing, was attached to the 92nd Infantry Division, Major General Almond Commanding, and later to the 8th Armored Division, Major General Grimes, Commanding.

During the second phase, the Group was attached to the 75th Infantry Division and had as attached units the 706th TD Bn, and 661st TD Bn, Lt. Col. Miller commanding. During the third phase, with the aforementioned Bns and the 811th TD Bn, Lt. Col. Brownfield commanding, the Group was attached to the Provisional Red Corps, commanded by Major General Muir.

On 20 February 1944, Group Hq was visited by Lt. General Leslie McNair, CG, AGF, and by Lt General Simpson, CG, Fourth Army.

phase: the 661st and the 811th TD Bn were attached to the 18th TD Group tactically; the other two Battalions to the 19th Group. All TD units were attached to the 92nd Division for the phase.

During the 5th phase, which was the River crossing exercise, the Group with the 661st and 811th, and the 19th Group, with the 706th and 614th TD Bns were attached to the 44th Infantry Division, Major General Muir commanding.

For the 6th phase, with the 706th, Group was attached to the 92nd Division and during the 7th phase, with the 811 Bn, to the Red Corps, consisting of the 44th Infantry Division and the 8th Armored Division. The period ended at 0700, 3 April 1944.

During Louisiana Maneuvers the 706th TD Bn, commanded by Lt Col Ewing, was attached administratively to the Group. Upon completion of maneuvers, this Bn was converted to an amphibious tractor battalion and transferred to Fort Ord, California.

Upon arrival at Cp Howze, the 611th, 652d & 809th TD Bns were attached to the Group, commanded by Major Fogle, Lt Col Albrecht and Lt Col Lawson respectively. During our stay at Cp Howze, the 809th went to Fort Benning, Ga., as school troops. The 652d was successively commanded by Lt Col Crandall, Major Leif Olsen and Lt Col Robert E. Mitchell.

The 611th and 652d Bns accompanied the Group on change of station to Cp Polk, La., and Lt Col Kirkland assumed command of the 611th Bn at that post. The 816th Bn, Lt Col Lawrance commanding, arrived at Cp Polk and was attached to the Group on 13 Sep 1944. The 652d left on permanent change of station from Fort Knox, Ky on 18 September 1944.

Lt General Ben Lear, Commanding General, ASF, paid the Group a visit on the morning of 5 Oct 1944. He visited "B" Company of the 611th TD Bn., and was very favorably impressed with the housekeeping.

18th TD Group & 611th TD Bn departed Cp Polk, La., 4 Feb 45 and arrived Ft Knox, Ky 6 Feb 45 for PCS. Upon arrival at Ft Knox, Ky Group & Bn were reld from Fourth Army and Asgd Repl & Sch Command.

M A R C H E S

The Group with the 660th & 661st TD Bns, atchd, made an overland motor march on temporary change of station fr Cp Bowie, Texas to H Cp Hood, Texas on May 7/43.

On June 12, 1943, the Group, with the 660th and 661st TD Bns attached, was transferred to Table Rock Field Camp for the duration of basic training.

On completion of training under TD BUTC, the Group, together with the 660th and 661st TD Bns conducted a foot march to Camp Hood,. On Monday, 16 Aug at 0600, the point of the advance guard crossed the IP - Antelope Rd Crossing over Table Rock Creek, 16.5 miles from Antelope Rd - Georgetown, Rd. The march was difficult because of the excessive heat; 107 degrees and about 300 men fell out due to heat exhaustion, fatigue and blistered feet. Five were hospitalized.

At 0300 bivouac area in the vicinity of Pidcoke Crossing, route: North Boundary Rd - Pidcoke Rd, 11 miles. This area was occupied until 1800 Tuesday, when the group made a forced march south via Pidcoke Rd and convenient country roads; distance 10.9 miles. The third bivouac was occupied under cover of darkness.

At 0600 18 Aug the group moved tactically to the next bivouac under cover of darkness upon entering the area the situation became non-tactical, and an inspection by Brig. General Harry F. Thompson, Commanding General, TD BUTC.

At 0600 Thursday, 19 Aug, the group marched non-tactically to assigned quarters in Camp Hood, in the vicinity of Battalion Ave. and 55th St., distance 7.5 miles. During the time spent in bivouac MPT tests were conducted by the group, and training was conducted to correct deficiencies. Although the march was difficult, morale of the men was excellent throughout. Except for the first day, very few men fell out and there was practically no straggling.

On 11 November 1943, the Group left Camp Hood, Texas on a permanent change of station, and proceeded to Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Ark., by motor convoy; a distance of 465 miles. The IP was crossed at 1050, 11 Nov. and the destination was reached at 1236 Friday, 12 Nov. The trip was cold, but morale was excellent. A strip map and march table showing route, times and distances is attached.

At 0100 24 Dec. 1943 the group left Camp Robinson, Ark., for Cp Claiborne, La., moving by motor convoy. Sleet and ice were encountered on the trip. The column was closed at Cp Claiborne at 1657, 24 Dec. 1943, having covered a distance of 292 miles.

At 0830 on 3 February 1944, the Group moved by motor march from Camp Claiborne, La. to the Louisiana Maneuver Area, arriving in the vicinity of Knight, La., at 1405, a distance of 83 miles.

At the conclusion of the 6th Maneuver Period, LAMA, on 4 April 1944 the Group moved by motor from Hornbeck, La., in the Maneuver Area to Camp Howze, Texas, a distance of 393 miles. Stop overs were made overnight at Shreveport and Dallas, and the column closed at 1610 on 6 April 1944.

At 1130, 22 July 1944 the group and attached battalions (611th & 652d TD Bns) departed Cp Howze, Texas by rail for Cp Polk, La., a permanent change of station. Weather conditions, Good. Arrived Cp Polk, 1400, 23 July 1944. Total distance traveled 390 miles.

At 1340, 4 Feb 45 the group and attached battalions (611th) departed Camp Polk, La., by rail for Ft Knox, Ky., a permanent change of station. Weather, Good. Arrived Ft Knox, Ky., 0700, 6 Feb 45. Total distance traveled 800 miles.

US HWY 170 DALLAS - FORT WORTH
 US HWY 81 TEMPLE - WACO
 STATE HWY 31 WACO - TYLER
 STATE HWY 26 TYLER - LONGVIEW TO #1
 US HWY 80 LONGVIEW - MARSHALL
 US HWY 59 MARSHALL - LINDEN
 STATE HWY 16 LINDEN - TEXARKANA
 US HWY 67 TEXARKANA - LITTLE ROCK
 CO COMDR

HQ Det. 70
 2d Sq. 70
 10 Nov 1942

	(8 mi)	(64 mi)	(124 mi)	(196 mi)	(264 mi)	(310 mi)
	TEXAS	WACO TEXAS	CORSICANA TEXAS	TYLER TEXAS	MARSHALL TEXAS	TEXARKANA TEXAS
#1	HQ and HQ CO 18th TD Gp Lt Col MATHERS	See Annex #1 FO #7	H 2 hrs 51 min	H 5 hrs 27 min	H 10 hrs 4 min	H 13 hrs 40 min



NOTE MILEAGE BETWEEN

By order of Lt Colonel *By ORDER OF L*

RESTRICTED
R E S T R I C T E D

OFFICIAL
Robert M. Mulvey
 MULVEY
 LT. ASST ADJ.



SECOND ANNIVERSARY—The 809th Tank Destroyer Battalion celebrated its second anniversary of activation here Saturday with a review at which Col. Mathews, commanding officer of the 18th TD Group, presented Maj. Frederic H. Poor, acting CO of the battalion, the outfit's battle colors.—(Signal Corps Photo.)

1964
May

8th Tank Destroyers arrive Here

The ranks of Camp Howze combat units have been swelled with the arrival here of the 18th Tank Destroyer group.

Consisting of Hq and Hq. Co. 18th TD Group, the 611th, 652nd and 809th Tank Destroyer Battalions, the tank destroyers are the wearers of the tank eating Panther and one of the Army's most colorful outfits.

The 18th TD Group, which has been commanded by Colonel Layette D. Mathews since its activation on 17 April, 1943, has been stationed at Camp Bowie and Camp Hood in Texas, and at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Arkansas and Camp Claiborne, Louisiana. The Group Hq and Hq. Co. completed two months of training in the Louisiana maneuver area prior to coming to Camp Howze where they were joined by the three battalions which now constitute the 18th TD Group.

Colonel Mathews has a background of military service which extends back to the time he was an enlisted man serving with the engineers on Corregidor, P. I., in 1915. In June 1917 he was commissioned a second lieutenant, remaining in the Army until his discharge as a captain in 1919. In July 1919 he accepted a commission as captain of Infantry in the organized reserve corps, later being promoted to the rank of major. He was very active in reserve affairs until ordered on extended active duty. Upon activation of the 807th Tank Destroyer Battalion he assumed command of this unit where he remained until activation of the 18th Tank Destroyer Group.

WELCOMES NEW BN.

The Group welcomes the 611th Tank Destroyer Battalion, commanded by Major George C. Fogle, which arrived in camp on Thursday, 13 April, from Camp Shelby, Mississippi. The advance party, commanded by Major Stubbs, executive officer, arrived here on 8 April.

The battalion moved to Camp Bowie, Texas, in December, 1942, where it filled its ranks with men from the replacement training centers. The 611th is well advanced in its training, having spent two months in the Third Army Maneuver area in Louisiana. Major Fogle took command of the 611th in Louisiana at the end of the maneuver period just prior to the return to Camp Robinson, Arkansas. This was in November of 1943. Major Fogle was S-3 of the 1st TD Brigade.

Other staff officers are Lt. Hiestand, S-1, Captain Hendricks, S-2, Captain Phillips, S-3 and Captain McMahon S-4.

652nd TD HOLDS DANCE

The enlisted men of the 652nd Tank Destroyer Battalion were honored with a gala dance held Monday night at the Polk Avenue-9th Street recreation hall.

18th TD Group



Initial tryouts for the 652nd Tank Destroyer battalion baseball team for the 1944 season have been enthusiastically successful and it is anticipated that within two or three weeks this organization will be able to put a snappy ball club on the diamond.

Over sixty eager devotees have been participating in these tryouts with many experienced players on deck. This battalion had a team entered in the Camp Hood league last summer and made a most promising showing. The fact that much of this previously exhibited talent has been augmented by new material adds to the belief that the 652nd Tank Destroyer battalion will soon be issuing a challenge to all comers to show their wares to the baseball teams in this vicinity.

BATTALION COLORS CARRIED FIRST TIME

Marching in review last Saturday, the 809th Tank Destroyer battalion carried their newly issued colors for the first time. Presented to the battalion by Col. Mathews, commander of the 18th Tank Destroyer Group, the colors were received by Major Poor, serving as battalion commander in the absence of Lt. Col. W. H. Lawson.

Enscribed upon the colors is an awe-inspiring, ferocious appearing mammal with armored horn and formidable hoop. The colors, in blue and silver symbolic of the Infantry branch, emphasize the destroying functions of a battalion whose motto is "OVERWHELM."

FRIDAY, MAY 5, 1944.

18th TD Group



The interdivisional baseball season opens with a bang on May 6 when the 611th TD battalion team takes on the Perrin Field Air Force sluggers. The game will be played on the Howze grounds, adjacent to Polk Avenue between 6th and 8th Streets.

"Anticipating a colorful and successful season, the 611th will break out new uniforms for the occasion. Grey, embossed in bright red, the new suits should be a morale booster in themselves, although team members say that there is no need for that! The sox are to be red and white and caps black, with the orange TD insignia topping 'em off. (Umph!)

Lt. Col. Howard B. Crandall, executive officer of the 18th Tank Destroyer Group, has returned to duty after completing a course in preventative maintenance at the Fort Crook Ordnance Depot, Omaha, Neb.

Tentative plans call for two league games each week, with prospective schedules with Ardmore, Maxey and Paris teams. Home games will be played on or Saturdays at 1500 and Sundays at 1430.