

11 January 1944.

HISTORY OF THE 602nd TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

a. ORIGINAL UNIT:

- (1) Designation: 602nd Tank Destroyer Battalion, Light.
- (2) Date of Organization: 15 December 1941.
- (3) Place of Organization: Fort Sam Houston, Texas.
- (4) Authority for Organization: War Department letter, AG 320.2 (11-17-41) MR-M-C, Subject: "Organization of Tank Destroyer Battalion, 1st Ind., Headquarters, Third Army, AG 320.2 (12-3-41) AT, dated 12 December 1941 and General Order No. 49, 2nd Infantry Division, dated 15 December 1941.
- (5) Sources from which personnel were obtained:
 - a. 12th Field Artillery Battalion
 - b. 15th Field Artillery Battalion
 - c. 37th Field Artillery Battalion
 - d. 38th Field Artillery Battalion

b. Changes in organization during 1943:

- (1) Seventy two (72) enlisted replacements were received between 9 January 1943 and 8 February 1943.
- (2) Unit was reorganized 21 May 1943 under T/O 18-25, dated 27 January 1943.
- (3) Two hundred twenty one (221) overstrength enlisted men resulting from reorganization were transferred to Basic Unit Training Center, Tank Destroyer Center, North Camp Hood, Texas, on 19 June 1943.

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>IN-CREASE</u>	<u>DE-CREASE</u>	<u>E. Men</u>	<u>IN-CREASE</u>	<u>DE-CREASE</u>
January 1, 1943	34	--	--	888	--	--
February 1, 1943	46	12	--	945	57	--
March 1, 1943	47	1	--	978	33	--
April 1, 1943	47	--	--	967	--	11
May 1, 1943	46	--	1	965	--	2
June 1, 1943	46	--	--	958	--	7
July 1, 1943	44	--	2	731	--	227
August 1, 1943	44	--	--	725	--	6
September 1, 1943	44	--	--	723	--	2
October 1, 1943	44	--	--	714	--	9
November 1, 1943	48	4	--	708	--	6
December 1, 1943	47	--	1	705	--	3
December 31, 1943	47	--	--	686	--	19

d. Stations of Unit:

<u>Station</u>	<u>Departed</u>	<u>New Station</u>	<u>Arrival</u>
Camp McCoy, Wisconsin (Permanent)	27 February 43	Watersmeet, Mich. (Temporary)	28 Feb 43
Watersmeet, Michigan (Temporary)	15 March 43	Camp McCoy, Wisc. (Permanent)	16 Mar 43

209 a.g. 3(4) TDBN-602-013
 ARMY FILE NO. AG 320.2/4.7
 (U Jan 44)

5 FEB 1944

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Paul J. Zerkle Maj AGP 30 Aug 46
 OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
 GRADE COMMITTEE

CHANGED TO:
 CANCELLED

d. Stations of Unit: (Con't)

<u>Station</u>	<u>Departed</u>	<u>New Station</u>	<u>Arrival</u>
Camp McCoy, Wisconsin (Permanent)	10 Aug 43	Minot, North Dak. (Temporary)	13 Aug 43
Minot, North Dakota (Temporary)	17 Sept 43	Camp McCoy, Wisc. (Permanent)	19 Sept. 43
Camp McCoy, Wisconsin (Permanent)	9 Nov 43	Tennessee Maneuvers (Temporary)	11 Nov 43
Tennessee Maneuvers (Temporary)	4 Dec 43	Camp Forrest, Tenn. (Temporary)	4 Dec 43

e. Marches:1. March to Watersmeet, Michigan.

- a. Purpose: To participate in winter maneuvers.
- b. Length of daily march: 148 miles.
- c. Points between which marched and dates: Camp McCoy, Wisconsin to Merrill, Wisconsin, 27 February 1943. Merrill, Wisconsin to vicinity of Watersmeet, Michigan, 28 February 1943.
- d. Condition of roads and weather: Roads improved but snow made driving difficult; Weather cold.
- e. Remarks: None.

2. Return March to Camp McCoy, Wisconsin.

- a. Purpose: Return from winter maneuvers to permanent station.
- b. Length of daily march: 148 miles.
- c. Points between which marched and dates: Vicinity of Watersmeet, Michigan to Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, 15th and 16th March 1943.
- d. Condition of roads and weather: Roads were covered with ice making driving very hazardous; Weather cold. Sleet and rain fell most of the day.
- e. Remarks: None.

3. March to Minot, North Dakota.

- a. Purpose: To assist in harvest of grain.
- b. Length of daily march: 205 miles.
- c. Points between which marched and dates: Camp McCoy, Wisconsin to Anoka, Minnesota, 10 August 1943. Anoka, Minnesota to Fargo, North Dakota, 11 August 1943. Fargo, North Dakota to Rugby, North Dakota, 12 August 1943. Rugby, North Dakota to Minot, North Dakota 13 August 1943.
- d. Conditions of roads and weather: Roads improved; Weather warm.
- e. Remarks: None.

4. Return March to Camp McCoy, Wisconsin.

- a. Purpose: Return from grain harvesting to permanent station.
- b. Length of daily march: 205 miles.
- c. Points between which marched and dates: Minot, North Dakota to Fargo, North Dakota, 17 September 1943. Fargo, North Dakota to Anoka, Minnesota, 18 September 1943. Anoka, Minnesota to Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, 19 September 1943.
- d. Condition of roads and weather: Roads improved, weather rainy and cloudy.
- e. Remarks: None

e. Marches: (Con't)5. March to Camp Forrest, Tennessee.

- a. Purpose: Temporary change of station.
- b. Length of march: 80 miles.
- c. Points between which marched and dates: Tennessee Maneuver Area, vicinity of Silver Springs, Tennessee to Camp Forrest, Tennessee, 4 December 1943.
- d. Condition of roads and weather: Roads improved; weather cloudy.
- e. Remarks: None.
- f. Campaigns: None
- g. Battles: None
- h. Commanding officers in important engagements: None
- i. Losses in action; Officers and men: None
- j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action: None
- k. Photographs of personnel, important scenes and events: None.