

Feb.21,1983

Your photo with the Half Track has brought back some pleasant memories.Of course at that time I didn't think to much of being in the Army.As time past by I began to feel proud of being part of a great outfit,I was in Headquarters Company of the 640 Tank Destroyer Battalion.

Our TD unit was formed in Mar.1942.We had a Headquarters Co.,Recon,A,B,and C Companies.Started out with 37 and 75^{mm} guns,the guys weren'T to over joyed,a few months later they graduated to Half Tracks and felt a little better but soon after that there was no holding the Line CO. when they got the M 10 Tanks to play with.They had to learn on there own,there was no Camp Hood for us.We took our basic just over the hill from Hollywood Ca.Got a few shots in the arm or butt.About six weeks or so and we moved to Ft. Lewis. Then it was Camp Stoneman for a short visit and then to San Francisco and a departure date of Sept. 4,1942.Our Yacht was an old Dutch freighter named the Kodabaru,I think.It got us to Kauai,Hi. a couple of our line companies went to other Hi. Islands.We all got togeather again for the campaigns of the Bismarck Archipelago,Eastern Mandates,Luzon and Southern Philippines.The Battalion received the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal With Bronze Arrow Head and the Medal Philippine Liberation Ribbon With 1 Bronze Star.

My name is Martin Rounds,I was a Tec 5 in Headquarters Company message center and our CO was Captain Wampler and the Battalion Commander was Col.Cornaby.Iam lousy at remembering names but I hope you have heard from some of the 640 TD guys.Good luck on your Newsletter.

Martin Rounds