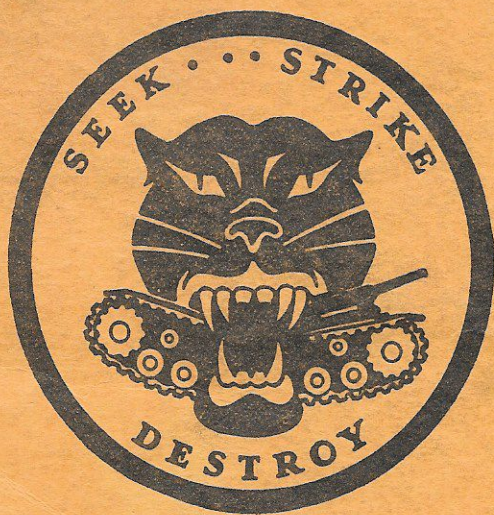


WELCOME

-to the-



**Tank Destroyer Replacement
Training Center**

**NORTH CAMP HOOD
-TEXAS-**

INTRODUCTION

This booklet was prepared for your information to acquaint you with the Tank Destroyer Replacement Training Center and North 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. 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 M-10 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. These are but a few of the instances in which Tank Destroyers have out-fought and out-maneuvered the best the enemy has.

Now that you are a member of the Army's new force, 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.

Yours is a proud organization and an organization to be proud of.

* * * ABOUT YOUR CAMP * * *

Historically, Tank Destroyers were activated as the Tank Destroyer Tactical and Firing Center at Fort Meade, Md., in December of 1941 by Maj. Gen. (then Lt. Col.) 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 and Bell Counties, that now make up North and South Camp Hood 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 and South Camp, but activities are as highly synchronized as though the two camps were one. At South Camp, 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 South Camp 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. The next page explains the part you play in the tremendous job handled here daily.

* * * ABOUT T D R T C * * *

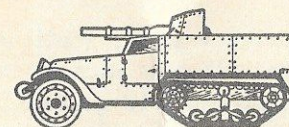
You are, in a sense, going to school. The Army realizes the value of complete and adequate training facilities. Here in the RTC you will go to class and learn all about your weapons and how to use them, and the tactics of employing them. You will learn everything that is necessary for you to become familiar 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 non-commissioned 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.

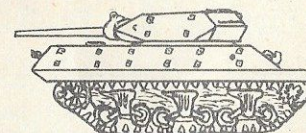
From the first battle-conditioning and infiltration courses you will learn combat discipline, self-preservation, offensive measures, to conquer fear and to have confidence in the techniques you have learned on Hood's far-flung acres. You will learn to destroy enemy tanks with the big M-10, the famed "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.

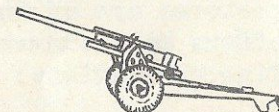
* * * ABOUT YOUR WEAPONS * * *



First self-propelled TD was the M-3 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 M-10. More speed, heavier armor and greater maneuverability made the M-10 ideal for its job.



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 tanker 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 can destroy any tank that has been made.

* * * YOUR NEIGHBORS * * *

BELTON - A nice home-town 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 accommodate Hood men on the weekends. Fast daily train and bus service from camp. 38 miles from North Camp. Population - 78,000.

GATESVILLE - Six miles from camp, has four movies. Restaurants and drug stores are of the best type. 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. 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 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 also. Usually crowded on week-end. Population - 400,000.

NOTES

List of weapons T.D. Trooper learns to use

1. Bazooka
2. 45 Cal. Pistol
3. 45 Cal. Tommy Gun
4. 30 " Carbine
5. 30 " M1 Rifle (my baby)
6. 30 " Machine Gun
7. 50 " " "
8. 81 millimeter Motor
9. 37 " gun on armored scout car
10. 76 " " " M18 T.D.
11. 90 " " " " "
12. A rifle grenade launcher and 3 radios - and every vehicle in the Corps - T.D.^s, scout cars, trucks, jeeps.

NOTES

from Pvt. Don L. Hammond

A.S.N. 37931994

NORTH CAMP HOOD, TEXAS



to Mrs. Don L. Hammond & Children
271 Corona Ave.
Long Beach ③ Calif