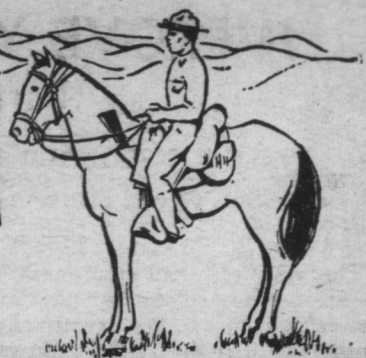




# The APACHE SENTINEL

... Guardian of the Fort Huachuca Spirit ...



PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY SERVICE COMMAND UNIT 1922

Vol. 1, No. 35

FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 1944

Fort Huachuca, Arizona

## Oldest Negro Tank Destroyers at Fort Huachuca

### Tomorrow's Review To Honor Hero

A formal review of all Service Command Units will be held tomorrow, Saturday, at 10:30 a.m. at the Lower Parade ground, Old Post, to add ceremony to the awarding of the Silver Star medal (posthumously) to Pfc. Jose G. Cervantez, formerly of San Jose, Ariz., for gallantry in action at New Georgia, Solomon Islands, on July 28, 1943. Pfc. Cervantez was killed on August 4, 1943. His father, Mr. Antonio A. Cervantez, will take the review with Colonel Edwin N. Hardy, Post Commander, and will receive the reward for his son's heroism.

(Continued on Page Eight)

### Special Service Gift To South Side Club Stirs Deep Emotions

Genuine pleasure and gratitude for the gift of \$612.50 sent to the South Side Boys club of Chicago was conveyed to Colonel Edwin N. Hardy, Post Commander of Fort Huachuca, in a letter recently received from Mr. B. B. Church, director of the club.

Mr. Church's letter, after acknowledging the contribution, stated: "We have received a good many donations during the 17 years I have been here, but considering the circumstances surrounding this gift I can say that I have not been more deeply stirred by any gift that we have ever received. It is a challenging thing to think of you men-out there busy preparing for the greatest adventure of your lives and still having time enough to care about the welfare of the boys I represent."

"That Special Service group which you organized must be a fine organization. I wish it could be my privilege to hear them sometime."

In his letter of thanks, Mr. Church stated that he would like to give the donation of the gift wide publicity, inasmuch as he felt that everyone should know "... how our soldiers think of others even though deeply engrossed in their own affairs."

In answering the letter, Colonel Hardy expressed his own and his soldiers' appreciation for the kind remarks of the boy's club director, and stated that he had no objections to giving the donation publicity as long as the fact was stressed that the donation comes from a group of Negro soldiers in training at this station.

### Tom S. Erwin Leaves Fort For Hickam Field, Hawaii

Overseas service as a civilian employee in the Army Service Forces has presented such a tempting picture to Tom S. Erwin that he resigned his job at Fort Huachuca's Post Ordnance warehouse to take another job at Hickam Field Air Base in Honolulu, T.H. Erwin, who has been at Fort Huachuca since May 17, 1943, was originally employed at the Quartermaster warehouse No. 1863. He had been at the ordnance warehouse only four months.

A native of Lubbock, Texas, Erwin was formerly in the sheet metal construction business.

### They Muster Morale of the 827th



MAJOR HARRY L. LYONS

—Photo by U. S. Signal Corps

The officers and men of the 827th Tank Destroyer Battalion marched into Fort Huachuca last week to what they consider the camp of their dreams. Through the capable direction of its commanding officer, Major Harry L. Lyons (NG), of Kansas City, Kans., the 827th is rapidly getting into the swing of things on the Post, trying to take full advantage of the many opportunities the Fort has to offer. Coordinator for the battalion of all special service work is the newly appointed special service officer, 2nd Lt. Bertram R. Pratt (AUS), whose home is in Chicago.



LT. BERTRAM R. PRATT

—Photo by Lt. Small

### Medical Detachment Members Buy Over \$5,000 Worth Of Extra Bonds During Drive

The members of the Medical Detachment recently finished among the most successful units participating in the Fourth War Loan Drive, at Fort Huachuca. The Medics purchased extra War Bonds totaling an amount of \$5431.25, for a War Bond maturity value of \$7375.00. Credit for the highest individual War Bonds purchased during the drive went to the following men: Pvt. Lonnie W. Johnson, Reno, Nev.; T/5th Rupert Smits, Chicago, Ill.; T/4th Ulysses Smalls, Hempstead, L.I., N.Y.; and Pfc. Harold J. Collins, of Nassau, Bahamas.

### Nursery Rhyme, '44 Style

Little Boy Blue come blow your horn,  
The sheep are in the meadow,  
The cows are in the "black market."

### Quartermaster Trio Tries To Win Record Under Fire

With the Fifth Army, Italy—Veterans of two campaigns in the Mediterranean theater, three Negro soldiers who landed on the Fifth Army's Anzio-Nettuno beachhead early on the morning of invasion day, are working toward a record as champion ammunition loaders.

By the time the first enemy planes flew over the beachhead, the men had already loaded several trucks. And since that time they had withstood a score or more of enemy bombings.

"Some of the raids here are so quick there's no time to take cover," said Sgt. McKinley Horton, team leader, of Philadelphia, Pa. "We just keep on working. And so far none of the bombs have hit any of the trucks we've loaded with ammunition, although they have hit the sands near us."

### Quartet of Colonels



Pictured here are the four members of the Station Hospital No. 1 staff at Fort Huachuca who were recently elevated to the ranks of full colonelcy and lieutenant colonelcies. Left to right they are: Col. Midian O. Bousfield, Lt. Col. DeHaven Hinkson, Lt. Col. Roscoe C. Giles and Lt. Col. Harold W. Thatcher. —Apache Sentinel Photo.

### 'Tank Busters' of 827th T.D. Battalion Arrive, Revel In Services, Hospitality of Post

The "tank eating tigers" of the 827th Tank Destroyer Battalion roared into Fort Huachuca last week under the able leadership of their commanding officer, Major Harry L. Lyons. The battalion completed a very successful road march to arrive in camp on February 29, and is now settled in its new quarters in the cantonment area. After spending a number of months in the field, the battalion reveled in the glory of an established fort.



**RUSSIA**—Overpowering heavy German counterattacks, Red Army troops driving toward Rumania threaten to outflank the important junction city of Tarnopol on the Odessa-Warsaw railway. This week advances by the forces under Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov liberated 200 localities in the densely-populated western Ukrainian country.

**ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN ITALY**—Savage night fighting has broken out in the streets and buildings of the battered city of Cassino and reports from the Anzio beachhead indicate that the German high command has begun moving up troops and armor for a fourth major offensive. House-to-house fighting rages throughout the blacked-out town between American and Nazi combat patrols.

**SOUTHWEST PACIFIC**—On three fronts around the borders of the Bismarck sea, Lt. Gen. Walter Kruger's Sixth American Army is whipping the hide off the Japanese. Americans have won control of Los Negros Island in the Admiralty group, at the northern approach to the sea and have buried several hundred Japanese dead.

Sixth Army Marines made a quick thrust 110 miles east of Cape Gloucester, New Britain island, and landed Monday with only rifle fire opposition on Willaumez peninsula on the north coast of the island.

On New Guinea, which limits the sea to the west, 32nd Division troops who landed behind the Japanese lines at Yalau, 20 miles west of Saidor, have expanded their positions. The drive here is on Madang, Japanese coastal base. (Continued on Page Eight)

The 827th is the oldest colored tank destroyer battalion in the country, tracing its activation back to April, 1942. That date is a very old one as far as the history of tank destroyers is concerned because the T.D.'s themselves are not much older. Boasting a number of officers who were on the original Tank Destroyer Inauguration Board, this outfit was one of the first activated as a new branch of the service—tank busting.

**Cadres Formed by Cavalry**  
Camp Forrest, Tenn., was the birthplace of the group with the cadre furnished by the 9th and 10th Cavalry units. In the fall of 1942 they were transferred to Camp Hood, Tex., for advanced unit training. Upon completion of their training they were assigned to the Tank Destroyer Center Training Brigade at Hood. Since Hood was the home of the Tank Destroyer School the battalion acted as school troops in purpose of demonstrating the proper use of weapons and equipment.

When school troop duty was completed the battalion was again scheduled for advanced unit training at Hood. Came Oct., 1943, and the outfit left Texas for the great open spaces of the California-Arizona desert. That desert training was climaxed last week when the T.D.s moved into Fort Huachuca.

"Seek, Strike and Destroy"—a rough phrase but one by which all T.D.s strive. The hard working 827th wasn't satisfied with that alone so they created their own motto—"We Strike the Final Blow."

**Well Trained Officers**  
Major Lyons, the battalion commander, is a national guard officer of many years experience. He is a graduate of the officer's advanced tactical course at the Tank Destroyer Center as well as a graduate of the Command and General Staff School. A former Kansas City, Kansas, his experience in the army has been wide and diversified. He spent a number of years in the 114th Cavalry. In May of 1942 Major Lyons attended the first Tank Destroyer Orientation Course at Gatesville, Texas. This group was the nucleus of the present day set-up of Tank Destroyer units.

In an interview with the battalion commander it was revealed that he is extremely pleased with Fort Huachuca and particularly with the Special Services offered right on the post.

"Of all the army posts I have been on I have never yet seen a post go so far for the betterment and entertainment of enlisted men. There is no reason why they (Continued on Page Eight)

### Transfer Artillery Officers To 92nd Infantry Division

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson announced at his regular press conference March 2, that the field artillery officers of the 930th and 931st Field Artillery battalions will be transferred to the 92nd Division to replace white officers now in command of the artillery battalions of that division.