

HEADQUARTERS, 3rd TANK DESTROYER GROUP  
Office of the Group Commander

Camp Bowie, Texas  
January 2, 1943

BRIEF HISTORY OF 3rd TANK DESTROYER GROUP



Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Tank Destroyer Group, was activated on March 30, 1942, at Camp Bowie, Texas, pursuant to Par 1 General Orders 26, Headquarters Third Army, San Antonio, Texas, dated March 12, 1942. The Group was commanded by 1st Lt Frank L. Dougherty, the only officer assigned, with a cadre of eighteen (18) enlisted men.

On April 18, 1942, seven (7) officers were assigned and joined the organization. 1st Lt. Joseph Martin and 2nd Lt. Roy Skelton were ordered from Camp Robinson, Ark; and 2nd Lts George J. Haylon, George R. Westlake, Leslie R. Lewis, James R. Hawkins and John J. Straus, ordered from Ft. Riley, Kansas.

On April 24, 1942, the Group was attached to the 631st Tank Destroyer Battalion for training only. At this date there were approximately forty (40) men assigned to the organization.

On June 1, 1942, four (4) Officers were sent to the Tank Destroyer Orientation course in Gatesville, Texas. Two officers were sent to the Wheeled V Vehicle Course at Ft. Knox, Kentucky.

The Group was attached to the 631st Tank Destroyer Battalion for administration and training on June 5, 1942, by order of the 31st Infantry Division. All officers were placed on Special Duty with the 631st Tank Destroyer Battalion.

1st Lt. Calvin Fuquay (Chaplain) was assigned and joined the 3rd Tank Destroyer Group on July 19, 1942, per Par. 10 Special Orders 174, War Department, Washington, DC, dated July 1, 1942.

On July 22, 1942, the Group was relieved from attachment to the 631st Tank Destroyer Battalion as were all officers. The organization was then attached to X Corps.

On July 24, 1942, 1st Lt. Joseph Martin and 2nd Lt Roy Skelton were transferred to Camp Carson, Colorado, per par 7, Special Orders 150, Headquarters VIII Corps, dated July 21, 1942.

On July 21, 1942, the 780th and 781st Tank Destroyer Companies were attached to the 3rd Group for administration and training. On this same date the 190th Ordnance Company and the 526th Ordnance Company were attached for administration and training, by order of X Corps.

On July 29, 1942, Colonel Henry B. Curtis assumed command of the 3rd Tank Destroyer Group, having been ordered to this organization by Par 28, Special Orders, 164 Headquarters, FARTG, Ft. Bragg, N.C., dated July 13, 1942. By this same authority the following named officers were assigned to the Group: Lt. Col Harry Burton, Major Numa P. Avendano and Major William C. Wilkes.

On August 15, 1942, the 526th Ordnance Company was relieved from attachment. The 190th Ordnance Company was relieved from attachment on September 10, 1942. The 780th and 781st Tank Destroyer Companies were relieved on September 15, 1942.

On the 23rd of September, 1942, Headquarters and Headquarters Company convoyed to Camp Hood, Texas and underwent the Tank Hunting Course for three days returning to Camp Bowie on September 26, 1942.

Captain Elbert M. Roberts and 1st Lt. Harold F. Cannon reported for duty on September 27, 1942, from Ft. Benning, Ga.

On October 1, 1942, this Group was relieved from attachment to X Corps and was reattached to VIII Corps.

The organization left for Camp Hood for training under AUTG pursuant to orders from Third Army. The Group remained at Camp Hood until December 5, 1942.

On December 12, 1942, the 818th Tank Destroyer Battalion was attached to the 3rd Group for administration and training.

On December 30, 1942 the 3rd Tank Destroyer Group received verbal orders that they were relieved from attachment to the VIII Corps and were attached directly to Third Army. The Group now consists of 16 officers and 120 enlisted men.

