

Journal of the:

SIX HUNDRED AND SEVENTH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION.

December 15, 1941.



The 7th Infantry Division Provisional Anti-Tank Battalion was activated and designated the 607th Tank Destroyer Battalion, per authority contained in War Department General Order No. 42 dated December 10, 1941, to be effective on December 15th, 1941.

At the time this Order took effect the Battalion was a small unit of 249 Enlisted Men 89 who were soldiers of the Regular Army, and 160 Selective Service men. The Commanding Officer was Lt. Col. Bryan S. Halter (RA Inf) Capt. Harald S. Sundt (FA) (RA) Exec. Officer. 1st Lt. Charles F. Wilber (Res Inf) Adjutant, Capt. Robert A. Stanis, (RES FA) S-4 Officer: Capt. Sundt was also S-3 Officer in addition to his principal duty.

At the time of this activation the Battalion was camped at Riverside Farm, north of San Jose, California about 1 mile from Agnew and the Bayshore Highway. At the outbreak of hostilities the unit had been at Ft. Ord, California and had moved into the Field on December the 8th, after several days in the area south of Main Garrison we moved to San Jose, California on a night march, and camped for one night in an old City dump south of that city, for one day before moving to Riverside Farm.

From Dec. 8, to Dec. 17, 1941 the weather was stormy with almost continual rain, bivouac were trying due to mud and weather. The morale was very high in spite of the hardship.

Capt. Sundt and Lt. Wilber were on reconaissance during this period to find a better bivouac area, this was found in Sunnyvale, California and the Battalion moved into the Schuckl Canning Co. employee cottages on Dec. 17, 1941 this camp was on Fair Oaks Ave about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the center of town. The cottages were very adequate and everyone was quite happy over our new home, each cottage having a sink small gas stove, electric lights, running water, women (the previous tenants apparently quite movie star conscious and the pictures that covered the walls soon had the men debating the various types of pulchritude).

The Battalion was continually on the 'alert', time was made use of by gun drill (French 75's) and in inclement weather, various lecture courses by the section leaders. A motor pool was established in an old Lumber Yard in the town.

At Christmas the Joshua Hendy Iron Works Inc. of Sunnyvale, generously gave the men gifts of candy tobacco and magazines. Dinner was held in the Schuckl Co. Cafeteria and a most enjoyable time was had, many of the Officers and men had visitors and were able to get away for a few hours.

During this time the unit could be considered one large happy family and during the weeks after Dec. 7 it seemed to more fraternal than at any previous time, men became soldiers and were welded by the soldiers faith in destiny.

The New Year found the 'alert' still in effect and the days were spent in camp, and on Jan. 1, 1942 the first General Order was published activating Hq. & Hq. Co. Co. A and Co. 'B' with a general reassignment of men to the new companies.

Journal* (January)

1. Lt. Col Halter trfd to Infantry Repl. Tng. Center, Camp Joseph Robinson, Ark. Capt. Sundt assumed command.

6. The new T/O and TBA for a Light Tank Des troyer Battalion were received, every man in the unit was promoted to a grade or technician grade with very few exceptions, the policy being that the men had been in the unit for six months as a Provisional Bn and an opening for a grade of any sort was nearly an impossibility.

After the new ratings had been given out it looked as though the men would not receive paymet for them. Capt. Sundt went to the Inspector General at the Presedio of San Francisco, Calif. with the problem and apparently was very convincing as the Finance Officer was told to pay the men on the grades they had be appointed to.

The month of Jauary was not eventful with the exception of a few alerts lasting for several days at a time. Passes were allowed to a percentage of the unit, and Sunnyvale was throughly enjoyed, the townspeople were extremely kind and convival.

The Battalion gained in strenght and on Jan. 31, 1942 had 363 men and 20 Officers.

Jan. 21, 1942 Co. 'C' and Co'D'(Pioneer) were activated and personnel from the other companes were assigned.

Weather still rainy, mrrnings very cold.

February:

14. Lt. Col Matteson asgd and jd Battalion and assumed command thereof, Cap.t Sundt. Exec, Off. and Lt. Wilber was reld of duty as Bn Adjutant and Personnel Officer and aptd S-3 Officer on Feb. 9th, Lt. Wilcox aptd Bn. Adjutant.

New equipment was received some 37 mm anti tank guns, our '75's were returned to the Ordnance.

The people of Sunnyvale gave several dances and dinner parties to small groups of men.

Feb/ 28, 1942 the Strength of the Unit was 403 Enlisted men 21 Officers/

Lt. Wilber, Shaler, Nelson, and Stanis were aptd to rank of Capt. date of rank Feb. 1, 1942/

March:

