

T H E  
614th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION (TOWED)  
HISTORY

The 614th Tank Destroyer Battalion was activated at Camp Carson, Colorado, on 25 July 1942, as a self-propelled tank destroyer battalion. The organization was commanded by Lt. Col. Blaisdell C. Kennon, Infantry.

The original cadre consisted of 35 officers and 156 enlisted men. One hundred forty of the enlisted men came from the 366th Infantry at Camp Devens, Massachusetts, and 16 came from the infantry replacement training center at Camp Wolters, Texas.

Sufficient filler replacements were received to bring the total enlisted strength to 420 and basic training was started at Camp Carson for these men.

Pursuant to the provisions of an AGF letter dated 22 November 1942, the battalion moved to Camp Bowie, Texas, arriving there on 18 December 1943. It completed basic training there with additional replacements under the direction of Basic Training Center, Tank Destroyer, and was ordered to Camp Hood, Texas, arriving at Camp Hood on 23 March 1943. At Camp Hood it was assigned to Unit Training Center, TDC.

The battalion was re-organized as a towed battalion on 17 July 1943. The re-organization was directed in a letter AGF dated 8 July 1943, subject "Re-organization of Tank Destroyer Battalions". Prior to this time it had sent out a cadre of 58 enlisted men to the 659th Tank Destroyer Battalion.

Up to 1 June 1943 the battalion had been at Camps Bowie and Hood on a temporary change of station basis, but on 1 June Camp Hood was

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designated as the permanent station of the battalion by AGF letter dated 1 June 1943, subject "Permanent Station of Tank Destroyer Units".

On 18 July, 1943, the battalion was relieved from duty with the Unit Training Center and assigned by G.O.No.49, Tank Destroyer Center, 1943, to the Tank Destroyer Center Training Brigade as school troops.

On 14 August another cadre was sent out, this time to form the nucleus of the 133 Tank Destroyer Training Battalion at North Camp Hood.

Lt.Col.Kennon was transferred to an infantry regiment in October and Lt.Col.Frank S.Pritchard was ordered to the battalion on 16 October 1943.

The battalion continued as school troops under Training Brigade until 20 December 1943, when intensive training prior to overseas service was started. The change from Training Brigade back to T.D.U. T.C. was directed in G.O.No.79, Hq.T.D.C., 1943.

Orders were issued by Fourth Army twx on 24 February 1944 directing the battalion to move to the Louisiana maneuver area.

Preparation for the move was started the next day and the actual move by rail and motor started 29 February. Men with the motor column bivouacked at Huntsville, Texas, that night and reached the new area in the vicinity of Leesville, La., the afternoon of the second day.

After receiving a satisfactory rating on maneuvers, the battalion returned to Camp Hood, Texas, on 21 March 1944. The return motor trip was made in one day, the men moving by rail arriving two days later.

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After returning from the Louisiana maneuvers, the battalion immediately started an intensive training program. The platoon firing test had been passed on 28 January, but it was necessary to take a number of other tests and to qualify members of the battalion for overseas service.

The battalion field exercise was satisfactorily completed on 11 April; the battalion combat firing test on 13th April; and the physical fitness test on 23 April 1944. By 1 June 1944 all the tests had been satisfactorily completed and the men qualified under provisions of POM for overseas service.

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