

File

HEADQUARTERS 43D INFANTRY DIVISION
Office of the Commanding General

Camp Blanding, Florida
January 20, 1942

SUBJECT: Commendation

TO : Sergeant Frederick Marshall, Company A, 643d Tank
Destroyer Battalion. (Thru Channels)

1. During the morning of January 20, 1942 you were observed training your company in physical drill.
2. Your military bearing, precision of command, and skill in obtaining snap and performance from the whole command demonstrated your excellent qualities of leadership.
3. I commend you for these qualities of leadership and for the results you obtained in physical drill.

JOHN H. HESTER
Brigadier General, U. S. Army
Commanding



HEADQUARTERS
13rd DIVISION ARTILLERY

Camp Shelby, Miss.
August 12, 1942

SUBJECT: Commendation, Instructor Sergeants.

TO : Commanding Officer, 613d Tank Destroyer Battalion.

1. The following sergeants from the 613d Tank Destroyer Battalion were assigned from your unit as instructors for the 13rd Division Artillery Anti-Tank School, from Monday, 20 July to Saturday, 1 August:

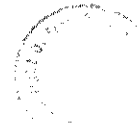
Staff Sgt.	Paul A. Yankovich	20133228
Sgt.	Frank J. Currihan	20133239
Sgt.	Wendell H. Simonsen	20133268
Sgt.	Gary J. Wezniak	20133271

2. Their keen personal interest and complete technical knowledge of the 37mm Anti-Tank gun, service of the piece, care, firing and training methods were responsible for this school receiving a rating of excellent from division and army inspectors.

3. The work of Staff Sgt. Yankovich, who acted as school director during the last half of the school was superior.

H. R. Barker

H. R. BARKER,
Brigadier General,
U. S. Army



HEADQUARTERS
5TH TANK DESTROYER GROUP

Desert Maneuver Area
APO 184, % Postmaster
Los Angeles, California
July 21, 1943

330.13

SUBJECT: Commendation.

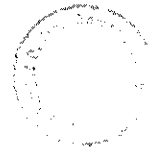
TO : Commanding Officer, 643rd Tank Destroyer Battalion, APO 184,
Camp Laguna, Arizona.

1. It gives me great pleasure to commend the 643rd Tank Destroyer Battalion for excellent and outstanding performance during the maneuvers of the IX Corps held in the Desert Training Maneuver Area from June 25, 1943 to July 17, 1943.
2. Your basic mission, that of destroying tanks, was effectively accomplished with speed, precision and aggressiveness in throwing back one tank attack after another in the Parker Dam Highway Pass. The same spirit was later displayed when after a long forced march, you effectively took part in the halting of the powerful drive of the Blue 7th Armored Division in the final days of the maneuver. The 643rd Tank Destroyer Battalion in these two engagements destroyed a total of 78 enemy tanks and tank destroyers and 29 other armored vehicles. During the maneuvers, your excellent march discipline and your constant ability to move with maximum strength on a moment's notice was especially noted and your driver and motor personnel are worthy of the highest praise.
3. The extraordinary and unusual tasks assigned you as direct assault support for infantry were performed with great energy and determination.
4. From my personal observation of the high performance of the officers and men of the 643rd Tank Destroyer Battalion during the past IX Corps maneuvers, I am confident that your battalion will brilliantly "Seek, Strike and Destroy" our real enemies on the fields of actual battle.

LEJ/ren



L. E. Jacoby
L. E. JACOBY
Colonel, Field Artillery
Commanding



File



HEADQUARTERS 77TH INFANTRY DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
A. P. O. 77, Los Angeles, California

4 August 1943.

201.22

SUBJECT: Performance of Duty

TO : Commanding Officer, 643d Tank Destroyer Battalion
(Through C.O., 5th Tank Destroyer Group, Camp Laguna, Arizona).

1. I wish to express my appreciation and thanks to you for the excellent performance of the detail of your officers and enlisted men who were loaned to us as instructors in our Junior Officers' School. They were well qualified and conducted their instruction in an enthusiastic and efficient manner.

2. I wish also to commend this personnel as individuals. The following officers and men composed the detail.

- 1st Lt. Robert P. Hanagan
- 2nd Lt. Martin M. Seigal
- 2nd Lt. Shanks M. Wilborn
- S/Sgt Peter J. Dube
- Sgt. Russel J. Bik
- Sgt. Joseph J. Decaro
- Sgt. Louis J. Davanzo
- Cpl. Eugene Pichulo



A. D. Bruce

A. D. BRUCE
Maj. Gen., U. S. Army
Commanding.

E
File

HEADQUARTERS
5TH TANK DESTROYER GROUP

330.13
291.22

APO #184, S POSTMASTER
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
21 SEPTEMBER 1943

SUBJECT: Commendations on 81st Infantry Division Exercises.

TO : Lieutenant Colonel Wilburn H. Stevens, O275376, Inf., Commanding Officer, 643rd Tank Destroyer Battalion, Camp Laguna, Arizona.

1. It is with heartfelt gratification that I hereby commend you and the officers and men of the 643rd Tank Destroyer Battalion for their untiring energy, cheerful enthusiasm, excellent discipline and efficiency displayed during the 81st Infantry Division Exercises held between September 9th to 18th, 1943.
2. The work of your drivers and maintenance crews was outstanding throughout the problems and during the march to and from Camp Horn, Arizona. The absence of any serious motor accidents and the prompt closing of all vehicles at Camp Laguna is concrete evidence of the mobility of your battalion.
3. Special commendation has been earned by your battalion due to the aggressive and vigorous manner by which support was rendered to your Task Force Commanders, both in the role of tanks and tank destroyers. The determination to overcome any and all obstacles and to act quickly and decisively in all phases of the operations was outstanding and exemplified true Tank Destroyer Esprit de Corps.
4. The high standard of military conduct and discipline and the individual efforts of the members of the 643rd Tank Destroyer Battalion displayed throughout the entire exercises should cause every individual to be proud of the fine record and reputation which they established with the 81st Infantry Division.
5. It is a great pleasure to note that your unit was not only "on the ball" but were aggressively pushing it to where it did the most good. My sincere thanks for a task, WELL DONE.

L E Jacoby
LIEUTENANT COLONEL, FA
Commanding



HEADQUARTERS CAMP GRUBER
Office of the Camp Commander

HCL/al/bls

File

Refer to
File No. CGOA 201-O'Hair, E. A. (Off.)

Camp Gruber, Oklahoma
24 April 1944

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO : Colonel E. A. O'Hair, 15th Tank Destroyer Group,
Camp Gruber, Oklahoma.

1. Camp Gruber's initial effort to do honor to the citizens of Muskogee with a specially designated day and program met with huge success 20 April 1944.

2. The gratifying results were made possible through the cooperation of the various units stationed on the post. Yours, and the other demonstrations, were excellently planned and executed.

3. I wish to thank you for your cooperative spirit and to congratulate the members of your command on the excellent job they did in preparing and assisting with the activities of "Muskogee Business Men's Day".

/s/ H. C. Luck
/t/ H. C. LUCK
Colonel, Infantry,
Commanding.



1st Ind.

HEADQUARTERS, 643d Tank Destroyer Battalion, Camp Gruber, Oklahoma, 27
April 1944.

TO: All Company Commanders, 643d Tank Destroyer Battalion, Camp Gruber,
Oklahoma.

The Commanding Officer wishes to express his appreciation for the fine work done on this demonstration.

Ira M. F. Gaulke
IRA M. F. GAULKE
Major, FA,
Commanding.

C. O. S3
Exec. S4
S-1 Mot. Off
S-2 Pers. Off

HEADQUARTERS CAMP GRUBER
OFFICE OF THE CAMP COMMANDER

HCL/sl/bls

CAMP GRUBER, OKLAHOMA

REFER TO
FILE NO. 201-C'Hair, E. A. (Off.)

24 April 1944

SUBJECT: Commendation.

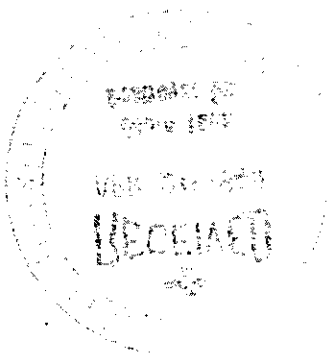
TO : Colonel E. A. C'Hair, 15th Tank Destroyer Group,
Camp Gruber, Oklahoma.

1. Camp Gruber's initial effort to do honor to the citizens of Muskogee with a specially designated day and program met with huge success 20 April 1944.

2. The gratifying results were made possible through the cooperation of the various units stationed on the post. Yours, and the other demonstrations, were excellently planned and executed.

3. I wish to thank you for your cooperative spirit and to congratulate the members of your command on the excellent job they did in preparing and assisting with the activities of "Muskogee Business Men's Day".

H. C. LUCK,
Colonel, Infantry,
Commanding.



HEADQUARTERS
15th Tank Destroyer Group
Camp Gruber, Oklahoma

19 June 1944

201-22-200000
SUBJECT: Commendation of Enlisted Personnel Engaged in
Battalion Tactical Proficiency Test.

TO : Commanding Officer, 643rd Tank Destroyer Battalion,
Camp Gruber, Oklahoma.

1. The following enlisted men in your battalion are to be commended for their attention to duty and alertness while undergoing the Battalion Tactical Proficiency Test on 14-15 June 1944:

- a. S Sgt Caldwell, George H., 20132369 Company "A"
Sgt Giordano, Joseph S., 20133245 Company "A"
Sgt Martinelli, Frank W., 20133221 Company "A"

(The above NCO's organized their gun crews into a carbine crew and eliminated a Red Infantry raiding crew which had been capturing individual guns because it had not been meeting organized resistance.)

- b. Sgt Gagnon, Nathan L., 20146800 Company "B"

(For initiative and effort in placing guns into firing position).

- c. Sgt Ropple, William T., Jr., 11049218 1st Rcn Plat.
Pvt Rosenthal, Walter, 32975555 1st Rcn Plat.

(Thorough bridge reconnaissance.)

- d. Tec 5 Zahodnyk, Albert, 31073567 Company "B"
Tec 5 Naugle, Francis H., 33163467 Company "B"
Tec 5 Yerka, Stephen J., 31073523 Company "B"

(For excellent motor maintenance.)

- e. S Sgt Aides, Wiley N., 14003459 Company "B"

(Prompt and efficient work in freeing bogged vehicles in bivouac area.)

- f. Sgt Horton, Bryce V., 11049007 Company "B"
Sgt Bigart, Francis H., 31020408 Company "C"

(Excellent camouflage of gun positions.)

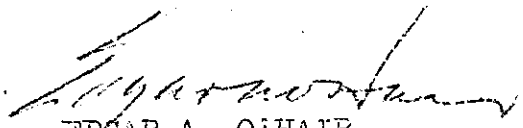
- g. S Sgt Lyon, William N., 20131963 Company "C"
Sgt Ahearn, Austin L., Jr, 31086469 Company "C"

(Prompt and efficient movement of gun position.)

Commendation of E1 1944 Cont. 3.

2. The above listed men are those whose work came to my attention and does not preclude the possibility that there were other men who did commendable work. All battles have many unsung heroes.

3. You are directed to place one copy of this commendation in files of each man concerned, and to present him with a copy at retreat.



EDGAR A. O'HAIR
Colonel, Inf.,
Commanding.