

DECLASSIFIED  
 Authority 135017  
 By CB NAWA, Date 1/16

History of the 795th Tank Destroyer Battalion  
 Fort Custer, Michigan  
 December 16, 1941-December 31, 1942

1. Original Unit

a. Designation; date, place and authorities for organization:

The 795th Tank Destroyer Battalion, Heavy, Self-Propelled, was activated and organized on December 16, 1941, at Fort Custer, Michigan, by order of the Secretary of War and under the direction and supervision, respectively, of the Commanding Generals, Second Army, Memphis, Tennessee and 5th Infantry Division, Fort Custer, Michigan. (Letter, The Adjutant General's Office, War Department, Washington, AG 320.2 (11-17-41) MR-M-C, December 3, 1941, subject: "Organization of Tank Destroyer Battalions. Paragraphs 4b and 7, Letter, Headquarters Second Army, Office of the Commanding General, AG 322.09-16 (F), December 10, 1941, subject, Organization of Tank Destroyer Battalions. Paragraph 2, General Orders No. 34, Headquarters 5th Infantry Division, Fort Custer, Michigan, December 16, 1942. Letter, Headquarters 5th Infantry Division, Fort Custer, Michigan, 322.6, December 16, 1941, subject, Activation of the 795th Tank Destroyer Battalion.)

b. Sources of Personnel

The original officer and enlisted personnel of the organization was obtained by transfer (Auth: Paragraphs 4b and 7, Letter, Headquarters Second Army, Office of the Commanding General, AG 322.09-16 (F), December 10, 1941, subject, Organization of Tank Destroyer Battalions. Letter, Headquarters 5th Infantry Division, Fort Custer, Michigan, 322.6, December 16, 1941, subject, Activation of the 795th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Paragraphs 1, 2, 9, 10, Special Orders No. 254, Headquarters 5th Infantry Division, December 16, 1941.) from the Anti-tank Batteries of the First and Second Battalions, 184th Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Custer, Michigan, the latter organizations having been inactivated on December 15, 1941, pursuant to paragraph 2, General Orders No. 33, (Corrected Copy), Headquarters Fifth Infantry Division, Fort Custer, Michigan.

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2. Changes in Organization

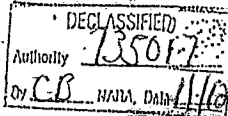
a. Change in designation

The official designation of the organization was changed as of June 25, 1942 as follows:

from: "795th Tank Destroyer Battalion, Heavy,  
 Self-Propelled"  
 to : "795th Tank Destroyer Battalion"

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Authority: Section XI, Weekly Information Bulletin #25, Headquarters Second Army, June 20, 1942. Table of Organization 18-25, War Department, December 24, 1941. Table of Organization 18-25, War Department, June 20, 1942.

b. Table of Organization Changes

Table of Organization 18-25, War Department, December 24, 1941, provided for an officer strength of thirty-five (35) officers and an enlisted strength of 884, including an enlisted cadre of seventy-seven. By Table of Organization 1825, War Department, June 8, 1942, the authorized officer strength was increased to thirty-eight (38), the most significant change being the authorization of a dental officer. By the same directive the authorized enlisted strength was increased to 933, including an enlisted cadre of seventy-seven.

c. Other Changes.

The battalion was selected on October 2, 1942 to operate a Tank Destroyer Enlisted Replacement Pool pending the establishment, early in 1943, of a permanent tank destroyer replacement depot. A total overstrength of 33-1/3 percent of table of organization strength was authorized for this purpose. (Authority: Letter, Headquarters Army Ground Forces, Washington, 320.2/363 (S) - GNGPS (10-2-42), October 2, 1942, subject: Replacement Pools.)

d. Headquarters to which attached for training and functional services. (Note: Upon its activation the battalion was allotted to the General Headquarters Reserve and was attached to Second Army. Auth: Letter, The Adjutant General's Office, War Department, Washington, AG 320.2 (11-17-41) MR-M-C, December 3, 1941, subject, Organization of Tank Destroyer Battalions.)

- (1) Fifth Infantry Division, Fort Custer, Michigan, from date of activation - December 16, 1941  
(Auth: par. 7, Letter, Headquarters Second Army, AG 322.09-16 (F), December 10, 1941, subject, Organization of Tank Destroyer Battalions.)
- (2) Headquarters, Second Army Troops, Fort Custer, Michigan - April 18, 1942.  
(Auth: par. 2, Letter, Headquarters Second Army, Office of the Commanding General, April 18, 1942, subject, Command of Second Army Units, Fort Custer, Michigan)  
Subsequent changes in designation of this headquarters were as follows: Fifth Headquarters, Special Troops, Second Army, Fort Custer, Michigan (Auth: General Orders No. 1, 5th Headquarters, Special Troops, Second Army, Fort Custer, June 25, 1942) and Headquarters Fifth Detachment, Special Troops, Second Army, Fort Custer, Michigan (General Orders No. 4, Headquarters Fifth Detachment, Special Troops, Second Army, Fort Custer, Michigan, July 9, 1942.).

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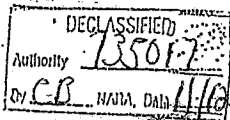
- (3) 184th Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Custer, Michigan  
 - effective September 4, 1942  
 (Auth: Letter, Headquarters Second Army, AG 322-12  
 (GMMER), August 30, 1942, subject, Status of Units  
 (Serial No. 16, c.s.)
- (4) 94th Infantry Division, Fort Custer, Michigan  
 - September 15, 1942  
 (Auth: Letter, Headquarters XI Corps, AG 322 (GMMCE),  
 September 10, 1942, subject, Status of Units (serial  
 No. 5 cs. Section I, General Orders No. 2, Headquarters  
 94th Infantry Division, Fort Custer, Michigan, September  
 15, 1942
- (5) XI Corps, Chicago, Illinois - November 14, 1942  
 (Auth: Letter, Headquarters XI Corps, AG 322 (GMMCG),  
 November 11, 1942, Subject, Status of Units.)

3. Strength

DATE	OFFICERS			ENLISTED PERSONNEL		
	Number	Net Increase	Net Decrease	Number	Net Increase	Net Decrease
Dec. 16, '41 (date of activation)	10			263		
Dec. 31, 1941	7		3	330	67	
Jan. 31, 1942	9	2		329		1
Feb. 28 "	16	7		728	399	
Mar. 31 "	20	4		772	44	
Apr. 30 "	20	0		768		4
May 31 "	32	12		689	79	
June 30 "	41	9		681		8
July 31 "	50	9		837	156	
Aug. 31 "	51	1		799		38
Sept. 30 "	57	6		805	6	
Oct. 31 "	57	0		784		21
Nov. 30 "	55		2	799	15	
Dec. 31 "	60	5		811	12	

4. Stations

The permanent station of the organization since its activation has been Fort Custer, Michigan. During the period July 20, 1942 - July 29, 1942, inclusive, the battalion was temporarily stationed, for firing and tactical exercises, at Camp Grayling, Michigan. (Authority: Verbal Orders, Commanding General, Second Army. 1st Indorsement, Headquarters Fifth Detachment, Special Troops, Second Army, Fort Custer, Michigan, 10 July 1942, to letter, Headquarters 795th Tank Destroyer Battalion,



June 29, 1942, subject, Use of Camp Grayling Military Reservation.  
 Paragraph 5, Special Orders No. 194, Headquarters Fort Custer, Michigan,  
 July 17, 1942.

5. Marches

a. Toledo, Ohio - May 30, 1942

- (1) Purpose: Battalion participation in Memorial Day Exercises and Parade. (Auth: Verbal Order, Commanding Officer, Second Army Troops, Fort Custer, Michigan. March Orders No. 4, Headquarters, 795th Tank Destroyer Battalion, Fort Custer, Michigan, May 29, 1942.)
- (2) Length of March: 238 miles (total)
- (3) Points between which marched, with dates:
 

From Fort Custer, Mich.	-	0700 May 30, 1942 (Departure)
To Toledo, Ohio	-	1046 May 30, 1942 (Arrival)
From Toledo, Ohio	-	1540 May 30, 1942 (Departure)
To Fort Custer, Mich.	-	1945 May 30, 1942 (Arrival)
- (4) Road condition: excellent  
 Weather: clear, warm.

b. Camp Grayling, Michigan - July 20 and 29, 1942

- (1) Purpose: Battalion tactical training and field exercises at Camp Grayling, Michigan  
 (Authority: Verbal Orders, Commanding General, Second Army. 1st Indorsement, Headquarters, Fifth Detachment, Special Troops, Second Army, Fort Custer, Michigan, 10 July 1942, to Letter, Headquarters 795th Tank Destroyer Battalion, June 29, 1942, subject, Use of Camp Grayling Military Reservation. Paragraph 5, Special Orders No. 194, Headquarters Fort Custer, Michigan, July 17, 1942.)
- (2) Length of March: 456 miles (total)
- (3) Points between which marched, with dates:
 

From Fort Custer, Michigan	-	0600 July 20, 1942 (departure)
To Camp Grayling, Michigan	-	1525 July 20, 1942 (arrival)
From Camp Grayling, Mich.	-	0600 July 29, 1942 (departure)
To Fort Custer, Michigan	-	1725 July 29, 1942 (arrival)
- (4) Road condition: excellent throughout  
 Weather: en route - clear, mild; return - variably overcast and clear

6. The organization has had no campaign experience.

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7. Coat of Arms

The following blazonry and description of the coat of arms of the 795th Tank Destroyer Battalion was approved by letter AG 421.7, 795th Tank Destroyer Battalion (6-22-42) LO, The Adjutant General's Office, June 22, 1942. (Reference: Letter, Office of the Quartermaster General, Washington, SPQRD 424 795th Tank Destroyer Bn., December 3, 1942, subject, Coat of Arms, 795th Tank Destroyer Battalion, Camp Custer, Michigan.

BLAZONRY

Shield: Vert, a rhinoceros passant argent, armed or, incensed proper.

Crest: None.

Motto: Res Mortis Delemus (Tanks, We Destroy)

DESCRIPTION

The 795th Tank Destroyer Battalion, Heavy (SP), was constituted pursuant to instructions contained in letter from the War Department, AG 320.2 (11-17-41), dated 3 December, 1941, the Battalion being made active at Fort Custer, Michigan, 16 December, 1941. It has no other history and is entitled to no battle honors.

The shield is green and white, the colors of the Armored Forces. The infuriated charging rhinoceros is symbolical of great ferocity when aroused and, in defense of itself or its fellows, will fight at all odds. The armored animal embodies the characteristics and objectives of the organization, that of destroying tanks, in that it is the most difficult of all animals to stop after charging. The golden horn is representative of its supreme piercing qualities.

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SUPPLEMENT

History of the 795th Tank Destroyer Battalion  
Fort Custer, Michigan

December 31, 1942 - February 28, 1943

1. Organizational Changes

a. Termination of Replacement Pool Status

The status of the organization as an Adjutant General's Tank Destroyer Enlisted Replacement Pool ended as of midnight, January 31, 1943. (Authority: Telegram, The Adjutant General, War Department, Washington, February 1, 1943.)

b. Change in Headquarters Assignment

The battalion was assigned to Second Army effective February 15, 1943 per Letter, Army Ground Forces dated February 1, 1943, being released thereby from General Headquarters Reserve, Army Ground Forces. (Authority: Letter, Headquarters Second Army, AG 322-12 (GNMBF), February 13, 1943, subject, Status of Units (Serial No. 2, cs). Previous attachment to Headquarters XI Corps was continued.

2. Strength Data

Strength as of December 31, 1942  
Officers - 60  
Enlisted - 811

Strength as of January 31, 1943  
Officers - 61  
Net increase over December 31, 1942 - 1  
  
Enlisted - 1036  
Net increase over December 31, 1942 - 225

Strength as of February 28, 1943  
Officers - 63  
Net increase over January 31, 1943 - 2  
  
Enlisted - 861  
Net decrease from January 31, 1943 - 175

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