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HEADQUARTERS
626th Tank Destroyer Bn.
Fort Meade Maryland

December 4, 1942

Lt. Col. T.L. Buckley,
26th Infantry Div.,
Wilmington, Delaware

Dear Colonel:

Enclosed is the history of the formation of the 626th
Tank Destroyer Battalion which you requested in your letter of
Dec. 1.

I trust this information will be sufficient.

ROBERT J. PREBLE
Capt., 626th T.D. Bn.
Adjutant

FILE COPY
History of Bn

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HISTORY OF THE 626th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

The 26th Anti-Tank Battalion (Provisional) was activated at Camp Edwards, Mass., August 4, 1941, the officers and men being assigned from the 101st FA, 102d FA, 180th FA and the 51st FA Brigade, Hq. Btry.

The inactivation of all Anti-Tank platoons in the light field artillery battalions and Anti-Tank platoons and batteries in the medium artillery battalions, was authorized in December, 1941.

On Dec. 15, 1941, all Anti-Tank Platoons and Batteries in the 51st FA Brigade were inactivated and the personnel in the 26th Anti-Tank Bn. (Prov.) transferred back to their units of origin. On the same date, the 626th Tank Destroyer Bn. (light) was activated.

Personnel, equipment, weapons and vehicles of G. and H. Batteries, 180th FA, Anti-Tank platoons 1st and 2nd Bn Hq Batteries, 101st FA, 102d FA and 180th FA, with a few men from 51st FA Brigade Hq. Battery, were transferred to it. All officers from the 101st FA, 102d FA and 180th FA who had been on duty with the 26th Anti-Tank Battalion (Prov.) were transferred to the newly-formed Tank Destroyer Bn. (light).

On Feb. 11, 1942, due to the triangulation of the 26th Infantry Division and the receipt of authority for the activation of the Pioneer Company, 626th Tank Destroyer Battalion, Hq. Battery, 102d FA Regiment was redesignated Pioneer Company, 626th Tank Destroyer Bn.

On May 31, 1942, the 626th Tank Destroyer Bn. (light) was redesignated 626th Tank Destroyer Bn. (heavy self-propelled) and the Pioneer Company became the Reconnaissance Co.

ROBERT J. PREBLE
Capt., 626th T.D. Bn.
Adjutant

Incl #46
HISTORY OF 626th TD BN

- 4 Aug 41 - 26th Div Order creates 26th Prov Anti-Tank Bn with Lt Col Sirois as C.O.
26 Aug 41- Maj James Ashworth assumed comd as Col Sirois is aptd AM AA Officer
26th Division.
- Oct-Nov-Dec 41 - Battalion participates in Carolina maneuvers.
4 Dec 41 - Battalion returns to Cp Edwards Mass.
15 Dec 41 - 626th TD Bn., activated at Cp Edwards, Mass.
20 Jan 42 - Pioneer Co formed with personnel trfd fr other companies and 102nd FA
1 Apr 42 - Bn. leaves Cp Edwards for Bowling Green, Va.
8 Apr 42 - Bn. arrives AP Hill Mil Res Va via Motor convoy.
8 May 42 - Strength - Officers 24 - Enlisted Men 678
14 May 42 - Bn. crosses Rappahannock River in outstanding tactical operation.
16 May 42 - Strength - Officers 24 - Enlisted Men 703. Replacements received from
28 May 42 - FARTO Ft Bragg, N.C. - Capt Edson asgd as Staff O.
28 May 42 - Motor march fr AP Hill Mil Res to Pittsburgh, Pa., for Memorial Day parade.
30 May 42 - Bn. participates in ceremonial motorized parade. at Pittsburgh
31 May 42 - 626th TD Bn (Lt, towed) is changed to 626th TD Bn (Hy. SP) with Recon Co.
5 Jun 42- Platoon exercises inaugurated with combat firing, field problems and
stream crossings marked period of training.
11 Jun 42- 19 Enlisted Men trfd fr FARTO Ft Bragg N.C.
25 Jun 42 - 24 Enlisted Men trfd fr FARTO Ft Bragg N.C.
9 Jul 42 - Strength - Officers 27 - Enlisted Men 728.
20 Jul 42 - Bn. conducts sch for instructors in .30 Cal rifle.
21 Jul 42 - Selected O and NCO's conduct 37mm gun sch for all units in 26th Div.
4 Aug 42 - Col. Sirois assumed comd of Bn with Maj Ashworth as Bn Exec.
- Sept -Oct 42 - Field problems with 26th Div and special combat exercises with Amd unit/
22 Sep 42 - Special sch conducted for instructors in cal .50 MG.
19 Oct 42 - Ranger Sch in commando tactics.
27 Oct 42 - Arrived Ft Meade Md - Motor convoy.
24 Nov 42 - Col. Sirois leaves for C & S Sch
31 Dec 42 - Strength - Officers 42 - Enlisted Men 702.
20 Jan 43 - Arrived Cp Hood Tex - TDC Advanced Unit Tng Cen.
16 Mar 43 - Lt Col Kimbrell assumed comd - Col Sirois trfd to TDRTO
29 Jan 43 - 77 Enlisted men trfd fr 692nd TD Bn as cadre replacements
15 Feb 43 - 112 Enlisted Men trfd fr FARTO Ft Bragg N.C.
27 Feb 43 - Maj. Rodes trfd to 14th TD Gp.
28 Feb 43 - Bn. takes over Infiltration Course and Obstacles Course. Move to Field.
2 Mar 43 - 7-2nd Lts trfd fr TDRTO.
21 Mar 43 - Maj Ashworth trfd to TDRTO.
2 Apr 43 - Lt Col Krueger assumes comd of battalion.
17 Apr 43 - 5 Officers trfd to cadre.
18 Apr 43 - 79 EM trfd to cadre.
19 Apr 43 - I.G. Inspection.
22 Apr 43 - Departed Cp Hood Tex for Cp Gordon, Ga., - Rail.
25 Apr 43 - Arrived Cp Gordon, Ga.
14 Jun 43 - Motor convoy and rail movement to Tennessee Maneuver Area.
17 Jun 43 - Arrived Tennessee Maneuver Area.
4 Jul to - 28 Aug 43 - Tennessee Maneuvers.
6 Sep 43 - Departed Tennessee Maneuver Area by motor convoy and rail for Cp Gordon
8 Sep 43 - Arrived Cp Gordon, Georgia.
13 Dec 43 - Left Cp Gordon, Ga for Carolina Maneuvers
14 Dec 43 - Left Carolina Maneuver Area for Camp Gordon, Ga.
20 Dec 43 - 626th Tank Destroyer Bn., inactivated at Cp Gordon, Ga.

THE END.