

HISTORY OF THE 33rd TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

On August 12, 1941, the 58th Brigade branch of the 33rd Infantry Division tree was shaken and some 17 officers and 411 men hit the ground. They were rapidly arranged into five Batteries and under a new banner, 33rd Antitank Battalion (Provisional), left with the 33rd Infantry Division for the Arkansas-Louisiana maneuvers August 15, 1941.

The Battalion, unlike "Topsy", didn't just grow. Every man came from either an Antitank Battery or Antitank Platoon. The 123rd Field Artillery contributed its two 75mm Antitank Batteries and the Antitank platoons of its Headquarters Batteries, a total of 368 men. They also contributed 10 of the 14 officers. The balance came from the 122nd and 124th Field Artillery. The 122nd Field Artillery contributed 2 officers and 22 men and the 124th Field Artillery contributed 2 officers and 21 men, all from Antitank Platoons of their Battalion Headquarters Batteries. All officers and men were placed on SD with the Battalion.

The Battalion was placed under the command of Major Frederic B. Mann. Headquarters Battery was commanded by Capt. Lée A. Rodgers, Battery G by Capt. Gus Henson, Battery H by Capt. Louis S. Schnarr, Battery I by 1st Lieut. George Frost, and Battery K by 1st Lieut. Robert E. Ackley. Batteries G and H were 75mm A. T. Batteries and Batteries I and K were 37mm gun Batteries.

Battery G originated from Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 123rd Field Artillery home station Galva, Illinois, and was designated Battery G, Antitank Battery, 1st Battalion, Jan. 1, 1941. Battery H was organized at Macomb, Illinois, January 1, 1941, as A. T. Battery, 2nd Battalion, 123rd Field Artillery. Both Batteries were inducted into Federal Service March 5, 1941, and left for Camp Forrest, Tenn., with the 123rd Field Artillery. In June, 1941, they gained experience on the Tennessee maneuvers. Upon the provisional formation of the 33rd Antitank Battalion, August 12, 1941, each Battery furnished 60 men for the backbone of the remainder of the A. T. Battalion, namely Headquarters Battery, Battery I and Battery K.

The Battalion gained considerable experience in the Arkansas-Louisiana maneuvers and returned to Camp Forrest, Tennessee, October 9, 1941, taking over a part of old Camp Peay for its home. In the near future we will be activated as the 633rd Tank Destroyer Battalion and allotted to GHQ Reserve.

HEADQUARTERS
33d Tank Destroyer Battalion
Camp Forrest, Tennessee

December 10, 1941

To the Officers and Men of the 33d Tank Destroyer Battalion:

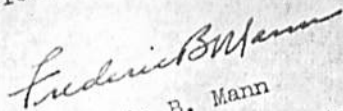
The 33d Infantry Division Pictorial Review affords the Officers and Men of this Provisional Tank Destroyer Battalion a permanent record of an initial stage in the development of a new component of the armed forces of the United States of America.

In the near future we will be activated as the 633d Tank Destroyer Battalion and allotted to the GHQ Reserve. Seldom is it the privilege of soldiers to take an active part in the experimentation and creation of a component of the Army, and I wish to express my personal thanks to you for the sacrifices and cooperation which insured the permanent organization of this Battalion.

We are now engaged in a war which will be brought to a successful conclusion by development of coordinated, efficient, hard striking forces. Splendid progress has been made in the last few months but much remains to be done. We must redouble our efforts to prepare ourselves for efficient service where needed.

In later years this volume will bring back to you many memories of the work, pride in creation, and loyal service, which we share together.

Yours very truly,



Frederic B. Mann
Major, F. A.
Comdg. 33d Tank Destroyer Bn.