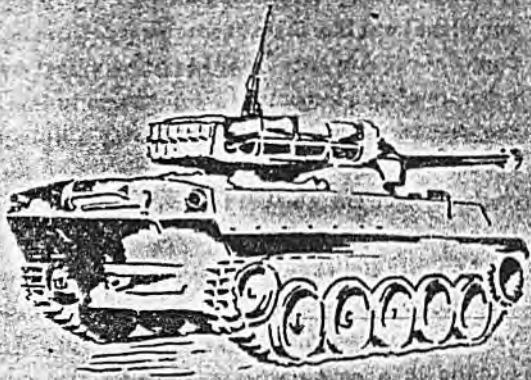




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The 661st Tank destroyer Battalion, though young, has a proud history. The Battalion came into being as the result of a need in the United States Army for a fighting element so equipped and trained as to effectively combat and destroy the Panzer Korps of the Wehrmacht of Adolph Hitler's Germany.



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It was on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April 1943, that the thirteenth newly activated tank Destroyer Battalion—the 661<sup>st</sup> Tank Destroyer Battalion—was organized at Camp Bowie, Texas. Men from almost every state in the Union were recruited to form its ranks, and in due time they embarked on a training program that, although essentially centered around Camp Hood, Texas, seat of the Tank Destroyer Center, was destined to carry them through a succession of training areas.

Through long hot weeks under the scorching sun of the Lone Star State, the training progressed from Basic to Advanced, and at no time was there a failure of all elements of the Battalion to meet the standards required of the Army Ground Forces. The esprit de corps was high, and the desire to face the combat test was great. It was soon to come.

As other battalions fell by the wayside, the 661<sup>st</sup> forged ahead. From the schedules of Advanced Training it emerged successfully to engage in a seven-week program of rigorous

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maneuvers at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana. Confidence in field operations was engendered, and further strengthened by additional training at Camp Swift, Texas. Combined operations with Armor at Camp Bowie, Texas, and Camp Chalfee, Arkansas, rapidly brought the Battalion to the climax of its training career.

On December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1944, the 661<sup>st</sup> entrained for Camp Shanks, N. Y., and on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 1945, embarked for the European Theatre of Operations. Early in the morning of January 23<sup>rd</sup>, at Le Havre, France, the Battalion set foot for the first time on foreign soil. On February 9<sup>th</sup>, after two weeks of preparation at scattered points along the Normandy coast, the 661<sup>st</sup> began a long, arduous march from the interior of France to the combat zone at Bullingen, Belgium. Hard pressed for time by higher authority, the men of the Battalion turned stevedores in order to get their equipment of the ships, only to launch a forced march of more than 350 miles immediately thereafter, without respite. Through snow and rain

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the long convoy toiled forward, arriving safely at its destination in the late afternoon of Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>.

It was five days later —February 16<sup>th</sup>, 1945—

that the grim test of combat came. The Battalion entered the line in the vicinity of Krinkelt and Rocherath, Belgium, in support of the 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division of the First United States Army. In their initial encounter with the enemy on February 25<sup>th</sup>, the men of the 661<sup>st</sup> were impressively successful. Machine gun nests were destroyed, pillboxes neutralized, prisoners taken. Quickly following this engagement, a swift advance was effected through the Siegfried line, and early in March the Battalion was well inside Germany at Schmidtheim.

On March 23, after a few days' rest, the 661<sup>st</sup> again moved into the line, supporting the 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division's spearhead offensive against

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the Rhine River, and on March 27<sup>th</sup> the Battalion crossed this historic water barrier to unleash a series of onslaughts that toppled such famous landmarks as Ehrenbreitstein, Nieder-Lahnstein and Bad Ems. Many other towns and villages fell as the First United States Army drove for a juncture with the Ninth in the north: Eschenau, Wetzlar, Giessen, Fritzlar and Naumberg.

From the Naumberg sector was projected the eastward push to Kassel and the Werra River. Over extremely hilly terrain, and against constantly stiffening opposition, the Battalion closely supported the 69<sup>th</sup>'s advance until the temporary objective was attained in the crossing of the Werra River, April 9<sup>th</sup>. Prisoners were plentiful.

There followed again a succession of towns and cities captured by the marching 661<sup>st</sup> as it pressed closely behind the armored elements in the push toward the heart of the Reich. Heiligenstadt fell, then Dinglestadt, Freyburg, Schlotheim, Kolleda and Weissenfels, where the famous old castle became a fortress for fanatical youths of

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the Hitler Jugend and Volksturm-ers. Then Pegau, on the highroad to Leipzig, was taken.

At the approaches to Leipzig the Battalion met its sternest opposition. German flak batteries roared into action in a frantic attempt to check the advance. Initial progress was slow. Constant air bursts made it difficult for the destroyers to maneuver into suitable gun positions and engage targets.

Nevertheless, flak batteries and enemy strongpoints met destruction from the Battalion's guns, and on April 18th the infantry closed in on the historic city of Leipzig.

In all, 120 flak guns were destroyed or neutralized. Prisoners poured in. As the assault of the city proper entered its final stages, elements of 661st were engaged in striking to the heart of the beleaguered metropolis. Under the terrific bom-

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bardment, the City Hall, nerve center of Leipzig's defenses, capitulated. Other elements of the 661st aided in the systematic reduction of strongpoints at the railroad terminal and at the Battle of the Nations monument. Many prisoners were taken. Many of the Nazi defenders who fanatically resisted were destroyed.

Up to the present time, the Battalion as a whole fought its most impressive engagement at Leipzig, and has reason to be proud of its efforts in the taking of this city, historically famed for its resistance in the Napoleonic battles of the 19th century.

As of this date, April 25th, 1945, the 661st Tank Destroyer Battalion has taken 727 prisoners, destroyed or neutralized 130 AA dual-purpose guns, destroyed one tank, neutralized many machine gun nests and strongpoints and marched over 1200 miles. All this in but three months.

Here this history pauses. But there is every prospect that succeeding chapters will be most eminent. As the 661st Tank Destroyer Battalion

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stands along the Mulde River east of Leipzig, awaiting the historic merger of the East and West Fronts, there is a strong sense of Victory. Victory in which the 661<sup>st</sup> Tank Destroyer has played a brief but contributory part.



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*Commanding the Battalion is Lt. Colonel DONALD B. MILLER, a graduate of West Point, with 6 years service. Before coming to the Tank Destroyer Center and activating the 661<sup>st</sup>, Lt. Colonel MILLER served with the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment of the Second Infantry Division, commanding the AT Company and later the 2<sup>d</sup> Battalion with a tour as the Regimental Operations Officer.*

*Lt. Colonel MILLER has attended the Infantry School, the Tank Destroyer School and the Command to General Staff School.*

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P.F.C. Benjamin Jacob  
27 Cliff St.

New Britain, Conn.

Cpl. Aubrey L. Shores.

817 N. Monroel St.

Baltimore - 17, Md.

Cpl. Charles E. Sumner, "jr."

98 Lee ave.

Schoolfield, Va.

Pvt Nick Vranjes

109 Hudson St

Slovan, Pa.

Leo Barzowski

16 Dodson Lane

Wilkes-Barre, Penna.

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### ROSTER OF BATTALION STAFF

Lt. Colonel Donald B. Miller	Commanding Officer
Major Phillip M. Sleet	Executive Officer
1st Lt. Ralph N. Kent	S-1
Captain George F. Higgins	S-2
Capt. Will. A. Connolly, Jr.	S-3
1st Lt. Anthony J. Polito	S-4
Captain Robert L. Doupe	Motor Officer
1st Lt. Legrand G. Woolley	Bn Surgeon
1st Lt. Gilbert J. Romero	Ln Officer
CWO Earl Lazar	Personnel Officer
M/Sgt Estel H. Snyder	Sergeant Major
M/Sgt. John P. Hughes	Motor Sergeant
T/Sgt. William F. Monagle	Supply Sergeant
T/Sgt. Joseph C. Skinner	Operation Sergeant
T/Sgt. Robert J. Gould	Intelligence Sergeant

Roy W. Baguet

304 7<sup>th</sup> St.

Carnegie, Penna.

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William C. Straight  
1129 - 3rd St N.E.  
Washington A.C.



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HEADQUARTERS COMPANY  
661<sup>st</sup> TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

Captain Joseph L. Marquis Commanding Officer  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Gerald V. Albertson Executive Officer  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. John F. O'Shaughnessy Communicat. Officer  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Robert L. Stone Transportat. Officer  
CWO Wesley R. Strange Motor Officer  
1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Robert M. Barrows 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant  
T/Sgt. John G. Becker Pers. Sgt.  
T/Sgt. Walter J. Gorski Motor Sgt.  
T/Sgt. Arthur A. Drennan Communication Sgt.  
S/Sgt. John J. Ryan Supply Sgt.  
T/4 Arthur M. Athey Mess Sgt.  
S/Sgt. Harland R. Kumm Motor Sgt.  
S/Sgt. Joseph L. Blanke Radio Chief  
S/Sgt. William A. Wells Asst. Supply Sgt.  
Sgt. Harry M. Curnow Mess. Center Chief  
Sgt. James L. Hogan Transportation Chief  
Sgt. Emmett W. Farley, Jr. Ammunition Sgt.  
Sgt. Ralph L. Kennett Surgical Technician

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COMPANY "A"  
661<sup>st</sup> TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

Captain James A. LaDu Commanding Officer  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Harold C. Clark, Jr. Executive Officer  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Cuy W. Nowels Platoon Leader  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Harold A. Molin Platoon Leader  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. John F. Sherlock, Jr. Platoon Leader  
1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Clifford C. Guerra 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt.  
T/Sgt. Howard J. Beesley Motor Sgt.  
S/Sgt. J.H. Schoenberger Supply Sgt.  
S/Sgt. John M. Agee Mess Sgt.  
S/Sgt. Dan H. Bush Platoon Sgt.  
S/Sgt. Joseph F. Carrol Platoon Sgt.  
S/Sgt. William L. Blakeman Platoon Sgt.  
Sgt. Sylvanus P. Baker, Jr. Rcn Sgt.  
Sgt. James L. Justmann Radio Sgt.  
Sgt. Roy A. Billington Gun Commander  
Sgt. Bernard E. Caylor Gun Commander  
Sgt. Rex M. Conner Gun Commander  
Sgt. John A. Kluchanovich Gun Commander  
Sgt. Mike Kotnik, Jr. Gun Commander

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Sgt. William J. Layer	Gun Commander
Sgt. Ralph Migliaccio	Gun Commander
Sgt. Richard L. Nowadnick	Gun Commander
Sgt. Rodney E. Pipher	Gun Commander
Sgt. Jack T. Sutor	Gun Commander
Sgt. Warren E. Tuthill	Gun Commander
Sgt. Earl A. Wolfe	Gun Commander
Sgt. Howard E. Cain	Security Sergeant
Sgt. Fred A. Major, Jr.	Security Sergeant
Sgt. Paul Ricklin, Jr.	Security Sergeant

COMPANY "B"

661<sup>st</sup> TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

Captain William J. King	Commanding Officer
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. Walter W. McFarland	Platoon Leader
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. George W. Reaves, Jr.	Platoon Leader
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. James McManus	Platoon Leader
1 <sup>st</sup> Sgt. Carlo Scampini	1 <sup>st</sup> Sgt.
T/Sgt. Charles W. Wilkins	Motor Sgt.
S/Sgt. James T. Leach	Supply Sgt.

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S/Sgt. Ralph G. Nicholas	Mess Sgt.
S/Sgt. John Harpootlian	Radio Sgt.
S/Sgt. William H. Bass	Platoon Sgt.
S/Sgt. Ralph W. Bragg	Platoon Sgt.
S/Sgt. Thomas A. Caddick	Platoon Sgt.
Sgt. Lawrence Aldenhoevel	Rcn Sgt.
Sgt. Roland De Carie	Gun Commander
Sgt. Roscoe B. Doebler	Gun Commander
Sgt. Elmer E. Ehrhard	Gun Commander
Sgt. Richard Furman	Gun Commander
Sgt. Phillip J. Gagliardi	Gun Commander
Sgt. Hallie B. Haire	Gun Commander
Sgt. Rufus T. Holcomb, Jr.	Gun Commander
Sgt. Andrew W. Laurich	Gun Commander
Sgt. Charles G. Setliff	Gun Commander
Sgt. William E. Snidow	Gun Commander
Sgt. Charlie B. Stuart	Gun Commander
Sgt. William T. Thompson	Gun Commander
Sgt. William C. Alexander	Security Sgt.
Sgt. Carl A. Repman, Jr.	Security Sgt.
Sgt. Stanley C. Wersler	Security Sgt.

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S/Sgt. Thomas P. O'Hearn Supply Sgt.  
S/Sgt. Phillip J. Todd Motor Sgt.  
S/Sgt. Soles H. Howlett Platoon Sgt.  
S/Sgt. Richard W. Hoffman Platoon Sgt.  
S/Sgt. Oscar M. Hauenstein Platoon Sgt.  
S/Sgt. Frank A. Krebs Platoon Sgt.  
Cpl. Fredrick W. Baumgartner  
Section Sgt.  
Cpl. Fred H. Domianus Section Sgt.  
Sgt. Charles E. Clemmer Section Sgt.  
Sgt. Bernard E. Epperly Section Sgt.  
Sgt. Theodore Sabulsky Section Sgt.  
Sgt. Burnell T. Scott Section Sgt.  
Sgt. Benjamin J. Armour, Jr. Section Sgt.  
Sgt. Robert M. Yabroudy Section Sgt.

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## CITATIONS

### Bronze Star Medal for Heroic Achievement

*1st Lt. Anthony Zielkiewicz*

*Sgt. William E. Snidow*

*Sgt. Mark J. Ringlesetter*

*Sgt. Burnell T. Scott*

*Pfc. Henry G. David*

*Pfc. Floyd L. Smith*

*Pfc. Edward S. Tetxira*

*1st Lt. Verle L. McNealy*

*1st Lt. Howard K. Matlack*

*Sgt. LeRoy E. Stevens*

*Pfc. Jack C. Mucta*

*Pfc. Ignatius C. Allato*

*Sgt. Lewis A. Tyree*

*Sgt. Romaine F. Repair*

*Pfc. Arthur D. Crager*

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Bronze Star Medal for Meritorious Service

*Lt. Col Donald B. Miller*

*Capt. Robert L. Doupe*

*Capt. James A. LaDu*

*Capt. William J. King*

*1st Lt. Harold A. Molin*

*T/5 John W. Roth*

*Pfc. Henry J. Newstein*

*Sgt. James L. Hogan*

*1st Lt. Guy W. Nowels*

*1st Lt. Ralph N. Kent*

*S/Sgt. John H. Schoenenberger*

*T/Sgt. John Gramata*

*Sgt. Elmer E. Ehrhart*

*Sgt. Richard Furman*

*S/Sgt. Ralph W. Bragg*

*T/Sgt. Charles W. Wilkins*

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COMPANY "C"

661st TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

Sgt. Irla Sebastion — Gun Commander

Sgt. Podolan Albert F. — Gun Commander

Sgt. Gibson Mansel M. — Recon Sgt.

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|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Tec. 4 Bailey Alva H.     | Tec. 4 Wolf Robert A.       |
| Tec. 4 Burns Don M.       | Cpl. Capobianco Vito M.     |
| Tec. 4 Burkhart John      | Cpl. Edkins Charles R.      |
| Tec. 4 Cook George E.     | Cpl. Forgas Steve F.        |
| Tec. 4 Cuchin Joseph      | Cpl. Hollenbach Charles E.  |
| Tec. 4 Davice Melvin R.   | Cpl. Jenei Joseph L.        |
| Tec. 4 Dove Lawrence T.   | Cpl. Leicher Mathew L.      |
| Tec. 4 George Olan S.     | Cpl. Mc Gee William A.      |
| Tec. 4 Hobgood Linwood W. | Cpl. O'hair John J.         |
| Tec. 4 Jamerson James D.  | Cpl. Powell Le Roy          |
| Tec. 4 Jeane Clyde        | Cpl. Reddick Joseph N.      |
| Tec. 4 Leas Donis B.      | Cpl. Southard Charl. W. Jr. |
| Tec. 4 Lofink Donald E.   | Cpl. Vranjes Nick           |
| Tec. 4 Ringer George H.   | Cpl. Wiley Edward E.        |
| Tec. 4 Weaver Samuel D.   | Cpl. Wohlford Charles C.    |

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Cpl. Yannul Charles J. Jr.	Pfc. Alletto Ignatius
Cpl. Yeatts Edward T.	Pfc. Billy Simon G.
Tec. 5 Ciesielski Arthur D.	Pfc. Carco John C.
Tec. 5 Cotoio Louis	Pfc. Chandler Harry A.
Tec. 5 Duda Rudolph S.	Pfc. Cheslow Bernard L.
Tec. 5 Dove Leo G.	Pfc. Crager Arthur D.
Tec. 5 Gier Willfred M.	Pfc. Dasilva Decio V.
Tec. 5 Green Stanley R.	Pfc. Dixon Robert L.
Tec. 5 Guretzka Alex. J.	Pfc. Englar Charles A.
Tec. 5 Joyce Edward S.	Pfc. Furman Frank J.
Tec. 5 Lang Harold J.	Pfc. Griffith Charles H.
Tec. 5 Maddox Leonard F.	Pfc. Haeberle John R.
Tec. 5 McKeachie Leslie R.	Pfc. Hoppe Ralph R.
Tec. 5 Oakley LeRoy L.	Pfc. Hendrick Alex. B. Jr.
Tec. 5 Sadowski Stephen A.	Pfc. Hughes Robert J.
Tec. 5 Sain Charles N.	Pfc. Hoskins David W.
Tec. 5 Schultz Donald E.	Pfc. Jacob Benjamin I.
Tec. 5 Sumner Charlie E. Jr.	Pfc. Johnson Harvel
Tec. 5 Worley Samuel J.	Pfc. Korth Frederick W.
Tec. 5 Stafford Gordon	Pfc. Loflin James C.
Tec. 5 Waddle Delmer	Pfc. Lumby Le-Roy A. st
Pfc. Abbott Kenneth C.	Pfc. Lyon Edward L.

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Pfc. Marchant Leonard E.	Pfc. Townley James D.
Pfc. Misauik Edward	Pfc. White Ralph L.
Pfc. Mongeluzzo James P.	Pfc. Wind William D.
Pfc. Mucia Jack C.	Pfc. Wright William C.
Pfc. Paquet Roy W.	Pfc. Zell John
Pfc. Pena Bonificio M.	Pvt. Barby Robert
Pfc. Pietrzyk Henry W.	Pvt. Nadamoto Tadishi
Pfc. Rixey Lewis	Pvt. Monden Iwao
Pfc. Saunders Harold F.	Pvt. Miller Earl
Pfc. Simpson Arthur A.	Pvt. Stafford Gordon
Pfc. Skopek Frank J.	Pvt. Sonders Robert
Pfc. Stodolenak Clarence R.	Pvt. Munssue Akira
Pfc. Strzalka Edmund J.	Pvt. Karyllye William
Pfc. Tinanoff Sol	Pvt. Earhart John Z.
Pfc. Tornabene Guy	

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