

# the Tiger Rag



# 827<sup>th</sup> Tank Destroyer Bn.

OUR MOTTO—

"Seek, Strike and Destroy"

## A Message by the Battalion Commander

Our primary mission is Tank Destruction and with that thought in mind we are here at Ft. Huachuca for advanced training in the proper use of our equipment and weapons for the ultimate destruction of our hated enemy. We must not lose sight of that fact for one moment. Yes, it may be difficult at times due to the many and varied activities offered on this post. But still we must remember we are soldiers, and good soldiers, working toward one mission—a goal we'll reach with all our combined efforts.

For the Battalion I wish to express my sincere appreciation to Colonel Hardy, the Post, and the Special Services for the gracious and hospitable way in which they received us. It is truly a pleasure to get into the "Spirit of Huachuca."

Harry L. Lyon  
Major, F. A.



Company "A" has been in Ft. Huachuca two weeks now and the men have shaken the desert sand off their heels. We have come to the conclusion that we like this place (especially the Special Services and the WACs) to say nothing of the barracks. Gee, gosh, fellows, we've got electric lights and everything—after all those months at Cottonwood and Clipper.

### Introducing

The youngest soldier in Company A, Pvt. Emmett E. Thompson, who hails from Coffeyville, Kan. Despite his youth, Thompson is a good natured soldier and is well liked by his comrades. They have nicknamed him "Young Blood."

Thompson became a driver and got his operator's ticket for one of Uncle Sam's jeeps. Then came the most coveted of all—the assignment as the company commander's own driver. He covered more territory than any other driver in the battalion on maneuvers, and in less time.

Thompson is in there pitching and double clutching everything from a GMC to a jeep. He gives the impression that he has intentions of remaining in the army for some time, because he sold his bicycle upon being accepted for the service.

1st Sgt. Joe "Prince Charming" Oliver recently celebrated his 16th anniversary in the United States Army, and is still definitely on the proverbial "ball." All of the men of A Company take this opportunity to join in and extend their best wishes for many more years of happy soldiering.

CPL. HERBERT B. EVANS.



Just think, a few weeks ago the mighty B Company was in the heart of the California desert. No barracks, baths or WACs. But there was one thing—spirit. And a company of the greatest men ever to put on one of Uncle Sam's uniforms. Yes—these men had their fight and now they are having their fun and play.

Pvt. Gant says — "It's a funny thing, the more G.I. food you eat, the less you are given."

There's Fortune, Allen and Gill who still think WAC means Want, Aid, Collection.—But there are a few sergeants who feel quite different.

Overheard in the mess hall:  
Sgt. (to Pvt.): Are you ready to do K.P.?

Pvt. No, I'm not.

Sgt. Why?

Pvt. Because you didn't say please.

Sgt. Please do K.P.

Pvt. I thought you could be sweet like my girl. She's a WAC sergeant.

The day room is quite some place nowadays — radio, checkers, cards, movies, heat and plenty of talks, while a day or so ago we had wind, rain, sand, tents and mountains. I'm wondering if the boys are missing the place I am referring to—"the desert."

Cpl. Warren Rush seems to have plenty of money these days for bowling and certain day rooms—that is: when Sgt. Woodfork isn't watching him. I heard he's also racking pins! "What do you think! Owens, Dickens and Harris?"

SGT. KELLY CHRISTIAN  
& PVT. JOHN M. ROGERS.



After that night March Wednesday night, I can readily see why most of the men of this company are taking part in the Special Service programs this post has to offer.

The men of this company are now busy trying to correct the few deficiencies found by the inspectors last week so as to maintain the fine record that this battalion has up to this date as being the best the Tank Destroyer has to offer as an organization.

Special mention should be made this week of the transferring of Sgt. Fred Hardy and Cpl. Luther (Playboy) Yancy to the Special Service Division of this Post as projectionists for Theaters No. 1 and No. 2. Your reporter has received information that they are doing a fine job to hold up the reputation of the Tank Destroyers. Nice going, fellows, although we miss your presence immensely.

M/Sgt. Archie Jones seems to be quite popular on this post. Is it because this is his second time to visit dear old Huachuca? Honorable mention should be given to M/Sgt. Jones because of the fine record he has achieved as a soldier for the last 30 years. His record shows that all of his discharges have a grade of excellent or better. Now isn't that a fine record to look up to?

Since the transferring of T/4th Richard L. Brock to this organization, this S-1 Section has had many comments on the upkeep of the various records. Brock hails from Manning, S.C., has a degree in business and administration. The reputation he has gained as a typist and clerk in this battalion is hard to beat.

S/Sgt. Howard W. Eldridge is by far the best pistol shot in Headquarters company, if not the best in the battalion, with a score of 82 or better. Nice pistol packing, Sgt. Eldridge.

The S-4 Section is still a little down-hearted now that the rumor is out that Sgt. Wiley (Pin-Up Boy) Harris, ammunition sergeant of the battalion, is supposed to be sent to Ordnance School, in Aberdeen, Md., sometime in the near future.

We have noticed that one of the products from the 649th T. D. Bn. is doing a fine job in helping out in Headquarters company supply room. Keep up the good work, Pvt. Herbert Hatch, all clouds have some silver lining in them, and when it rains it usually pours.

PVT. FRED BRAITHWAITE  
AND S/SGT. W. O. JONES

## T. D. Battalion's 'Tiger Rag' Makes Its Debut in Today's Issue of The Apache Sentinel

THE TIGER RAG—In this—our first complete page in the Apache Sentinel—you will find the combined journalistic might of the 827th Tank Destroyer Battalion. It is the only major literary effort ever attempted by this unit, but, in spite of its youth, we are egotistical enough to think you will enjoy it.

The lusty, bawling, ink-smeared infant was actually born last week. Some dozen-odd articles and stories of and by this battalion, were scattered throughout the paper. However, in one week, the new-born child has grown with such leaps and bounds that its parent—The Apache Sentinel—deemed that nothing less than a full page could house it.

Here you will find poetry and humor as well as news of our activities, both social and in training. A newspaper within a newspaper by the men of the Black Panther Battalion. We hope you enjoy it.

—MARCH, 1944—RED CROSS MONTH—



A Special Service school is now being conducted two nights a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays, under the able supervision of Lt. F. C. Brenner, orientation officer of Company B, and WAJG Ira A. Kyles, Personnel Officer. Lt. Brenner comes from Norfolk Va., and Mr. Kyles comes from Richmond, Va.

T/4th Richard L. Brock, very capable and efficient Bn. Hq.'s stenographer, has proven himself a very fine musician as well. For the past three Sundays he has presided at the Hammond organ at Chapel No. 1. Rev. Snowden, formerly of the 25th Infantry, has been conducting the services. Sgt. Brock hails from Manning, S.C., is a graduate of South Carolina state, A & M college, Orangeburg, S.C., and a member of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity.

Tuesday night USO show draws a large crowd—mostly all members of the 827th T. D. Bn., who are enchanted by the wonderful dancers, jokes and other highlights of the show.

Officers and men of this battalion got into the drive for the Red Cross month of 1944. With a donation of \$557.55 to the local chapter, the battalion was mighty close to a complete 100% mark.

Tid Bits—Cpl. A. McLin of Co. C has definitely stated that they are either too young or too old. I wonder what is his motive for saying that? Is it because of his blind date Malbroue (Kid Boy) from New Orleans the other night? . . . Cpl. Xavier leans, who can't pronounce the noun, "girl," correctly says he has found "some beautiful little 'goils' around here."

CPL. JAMES W. CANNON, JR.



Efficiency—in weapons, field motor maintenance and garrison is the boast of Co. C. With the best all around crews in the battalion we remain unsurpassed in everything we undertake. With such capable platoon sergeants as S/Sgt. King (High Altitude) Wilson of the mighty 3rd Platoon, S/Sgt. Herbert (Mad Trumpeter) Hodge of the rolling 2nd Platoon, and S/Sgt. Samuel (Rough 'n' Ready) Smith, we can't lose.

As far as weapons and their firing is concerned we boast the best of the battalion. With such deadly gunners as Pfc. Isaac (Dead Eye) Lucas, Cpl. Milton (Bulls Eye) Johnson and Cpl. James (Smooth Papa) Burdette, we can compete and promise to beat all comers.

Motor maintenance under S/Sgt. Thomas Ramsey is undoubtedly the best in the battalion as proved by past inspections. We are proud of our crew of mechanics. With S/Sgt. Chris (Messy) Tyler in the mess hall the show is on the ball.

Sports is another favorite pastime of the boys and we intend to become tops in this field. We specialize in boxing.

PVT. SHERWOOD GOGGINS.

## Men and Weapons of 827th Tank Destroyer Battalion Demonstrate Readiness



The tank destroyer crew poised and alert before their death-dealing machine is awaiting the command "cannoneers post" in order to put the gun in action hurling its three-inch missiles into the enemy's tanks. TDing is an exacting job. Each man works individually, yet all cooperate to form an efficient unit. This fighting unit is composed of a destroyer commander, gunner, assistant gunner, driver and assistant Driver.



A destroyer commander keeps his crews busy with the orders: "Call off," "Change posts," "Prepare for Action," "Close station." Constant drilling develops teamwork and accuracy, which leads to speed in tactics and a spirit of being inflamed with the desire to "Seek, Strike and Destroy" the enemy, the TD's famous motto. The photos above were taken at the Tank Destroyer demonstration on March 11, in the artillery area.

—Apache Sentinel Photos.