

HEADQUARTERS, 612th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
Camp Swift, Texas

Information Bulletin for members of 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion.

The following information is published as a matter of interest to all concerned.

1. This Battalion will come into official existence June 25, 1942 as a "General Headquarters" (Reserve) Unit, attached to the 3d Army and by the 3d Army, in turn, attached to the VIII Army Corps for Administration and supervision of training.

2. The Battalion at this date, is a "Light Towed" (Gun) Battalion, armed with 37mm Guns, but under a new policy of the War Department will become a standard "Heavy, Self—propelled" (Gun) Battalion at an early date. In the future there will be only this one type Battalion. The principal weapon will be the 75mm Gun, or 3 inch anti—tank Gun, with many smaller anti—tank and anti—aircraft weapons, all mounted in motor vehicles, with protective armor.

3. It is expected that the majority of the men ("Fillers") for the Battalion, will arrive on July 25th from the Infantry Replacement Center at Camp Walters, Texas.

4. Although Camp Swift will be the home of the Battalion while training, it is expected that within a few weeks after the majority of the men are received, it will move to a temporary camp at Camp Hood, Killeen, Texas, for special training. Camp Swift is 8 miles NE of Bastrop, Texas, on Texas Route 95. Bastrop is 30 miles east of Austin, Texas. Camp Swift is a contonment type camp, completely new, with all the modern luxuries. Although it is advisable not to bring dependents to the vicinity of Camp Swift due to the conditions of service and uncertainties of the future, some suitable houses and apartments (in Austin and other nearby towns) may still be found. Bus lines run to Camp Swift from Bastrop and Elgin. The railroad terminus is Bastrop on the MK&T RR with direct connections from Houston and Dallas (two trains daily).

5. Insignia worn by members of this Battalion will be that of the branch in which commissioned for officers. Men will wear blue braid on caps and crossed rifle buttons on collar. Shoulder patches will be the GHQ, red white and blue circle. Battalion insignia, worn on front of the cap, on breast of field jacket and coveralls, and on the shoulder loops of coats, will be a 1½" black cloth triangle with a gold "streak" of lightning. Guidon and the Battalion colors will be black with gold lettering.

6. The mission of Tank Destroyer Units is indicated by the name. The idea is that by being faster, lighter, and able to see much better than tanks, and by getting information through special reconnaissance units and warning arrangements, Tank Destroyers can be in favorable positions ahead of the tanks. Whenever this can be accomplished, tanks won't have a chance.

7. The Battalion Slogan will be, "Get there first with the Biggest Guns".

6. The Battalion Motto will be selected later.

9. The Battalion Song will be one of many verses to the tune of "Coming 'Round the Mountain", on the general theme that tanks will be "Breathing Fire and Thunder, when they come", but "We'll drown out all their thunder and our guns will put them under; they'll be harmless old jalopies when they're gone".

10. The Battalion Commander expects officers and men to be tougher physically and mentally, more skilful with their weapons, and faster in action than any other outfit in the Army. He takes it for granted that officers and men will quickly become accustomed to caring for vehicles and weapons, concealing them effectively, to living on canned rations or no rations for days at a time, and to sleeping in relays, if at all, so that the fight can go on. Peace is over-- we must get weaned from peace time comforts. The tougher we can become, the quicker will peace be restored. Sherman said it eighty years ago. We can't make it different but we can make it shorter. That's our job from now on!

W. A. HEDDEN,
Lt. Colonel,
Commanding