

R MAIL

WAR DEPARTMENT
The Adjutant General's Office
Washington

AIR MAIL

AG 320.2
Rm.

AG 320.2 (11-17-41)
MR-M-C

December 3, 1941.

SUBJECT: Organization of Tank Destroyer Battalions.

TO: Commanding Generals,
All Armies and Corps, Areas,
Chief of Armored Force.



1. Reference is made to letter, this office, AG 320.2 (11-5-41) MR-M-C, November 27, 1941, subject, "Organization of Tank Destroyer Tactical and Firing Center."

2. The instructions contained herein will govern the organization of tank destroyer battalions. These battalions are GHQ units of three types, namely, (1) light battalions with towed weapons designed for attachment to foot Infantry divisions, (2) light battalions with self-propelled weapons designed for attachment to Cavalry and motorized divisions, and (3) heavy battalions with self-propelled weapons for attachment to Armored divisions, Army Corps and Armies.

3. Effective December 15, 1941:

a. The following antitank units, unless specifically excepted in later paragraphs, will be inactivated:

- (1) Antitank troops, 1st and 2d Cavalry Divisions.
- (2) All antiaircraft, antitank platoons in Field Artillery battalions and regiments in the continental United States.
- (3) All Field Artillery 75-mm antitank batteries included in 155-mm howitzer battalions or regiments in the continental United States.

b. The tank destroyer battalions listed in inclosure 1 are constituted and allotted to the GHQ Reserve and will be activated. Each battalion will be attached to the Army to which its major source unit is now attached or assigned.

c. The Army commanders concerned and the Chief of the Armored Force will activate and organize the new tank destroyer battalions and attach them to Army Corps and divisions at their discretion.



4. In the reorganization the following will govern:
 - a. The status of antitank companies in Infantry regiments will not be changed.
 - b. All "Antitank" battalions will be designated as "Tank Destroyer" battalions.
 - c. Present Infantry antitank battalions will be reorganized and redesignated as indicated in paragraph 12 a.
 - d. The extent to which each tank destroyer unit will be activated initially will be controlled by existing housing and available personnel.
5. No additional construction is authorized incident to those instructions.
6. Officers will be furnished by Army commanders and by the Chief of the Armored Force within current allotments.
7. Unless otherwise specified, equipment assigned the antitank elements of Field Artillery and the divisional antitank units of Cavalry will be transferred to the new tank destroyer units formed from these elements.
8. Where movement of personnel or equipment is necessary, Corps area commanders will, upon request of Army commanders and Chief of the Armored Force, issue the necessary orders, obligating the procurement authorities cited below to the extent necessary:

Travel of the Army

FD 1437 P 1-06, 2-06, 3-06, 15-06, 16-06, 17-06 A 0410-2

(For travel of officers, warrant officers, and enlisted men; and for travel of dependents of officers, warrant officers, and enlisted men of the first three grades.)

Army Transportation--Motor

QM 1620 P 32-02, 35-12 A 0525-2 "C"

(For gasoline and oil, and repairs to motor vehicles en route.)

Army Transportation--Commercial

QM 1620 P 54-01, 54-02, 54-13, 54-06 A 0525-2 "D"

(For packing, crating, and shipping equipment, impedimenta, and authorized household goods allowances of officers, warrant officers, and enlisted men of the first four grades; and for tolls and ferriages en route.)

Barracks and Quarters



QM 1620 P 102-02, 6-10, 9-10, 11-11, A 0635-2

(For fuel, light, and water service, and rental of camp sites on route when impracticable to camp overnight at regular Army reservation.)

9. a. Instructions concerning the organization of the majority of the new units are contained in attached inclosures. Instructions for the organization of units not included in inclosure 1 are contained in succeeding paragraphs.

b. Personnel transferred in compliance with this letter will be transferred in their present grades and ratings and source units reduced accordingly. In order to obtain proper technicians (cooks, mechanics, etc.) for the new units, enlisted men may be transferred from any elements of source units, and enlisted men of inactivated antitank elements may be transferred to new tank destroyer units or to elements of source units.

10. Allotments of grades and ratings to tank destroyer units and revised allotments of grades and ratings to source units will be published in a separate communications.

11. Tables of Organization and Tables of Basic Allowances for tank destroyer units will be distributed at an early date. Pending their receipt, tank destroyer units will be organized in accordance with inclosures 2, 3, and 4 and with present available equipment.

12. The following instructions concern units not listed in inclosure 1:

Effective December 15, 1941:-

a. The Infantry antitank battalions listed below are redesignated as indicated and will be organized as heavy tank destroyer battalions in accordance with Table of Organization 18-25. The reconnaissance companies of the Tank Destroyer Battalions, except the 893d, will be inactive. All elements of the 893d Tank Destroyer Battalion will be active. These battalions will be assigned to the Infantry arm.

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Redesignated</u>	<u>Station</u>
93d Inf AT Bn	893d TD Bn	Ft. Geo. G. Meade, Md.
94th Inf AT Bn	894th TD Bn	Ft. Benning, Ga.
99th Inf AT Bn	899th TD Bn	Ft. Lewis, Wash.
101st Inf AT Bn	801st TD Bn	Ft. Benning, Ga.
102d Inf AT Bn	802d TD Bn	Camp Shelby, Miss.
103d Inf AT Bn	803d TD Bn	Ft. Lewis, Wash.
→ 104th Inf AT Bn	804th TD Bn	Ft. Sam Houston, Texas
105th Inf AT Bn	805th TD Bn	Ft. Geo. G. Meade, Md.



b. The antitank elements of the 112th, 128th and 178th Field Artillery Regiments will be inactivated and their equipment transferred to units as follows. The personnel of these antitank elements will be absorbed in their present regiments:

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Station</u>
112th FA	813th TD Bn	Ft. Bragg, N. C.
128th FA	630th TD Bn	Ft. Jackson, S. C.
178th FA	609th TD Bn	Ft. Bragg, N. C.

c. The 780th and 781st Tank Destroyer Companies are constituted and will be activated at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, by the Commanding General, Third Army, from personnel now assigned to the 142d Field Artillery. These companies will be organized as separate heavy tank destroyer companies (Table of Organization 18-27) with an initial strength of 5 officers and 133 enlisted men for each company. These companies will be allotted to the Field Artillery arm. The antitank equipment now issued to the antitank elements of the 142d Field Artillery will be transferred to these companies.

13. Direct correspondence between those concerned is authorized on matters pertaining to this reorganization.

By order of the Secretary of War:

/s/ E. S. ADAMS

Major General,
The Adjutant General.

4 Incls.

Copies furnished:

- Commanding Generals,
- All Armies, Army Corps, Corps Areas,
Divisions and Departments.
- Chief of Staff, GHQ.
- Commanding Officers of Exempted Stations concerned.
- Chiefs of Arms and Services, and the
Divisions of the War Department
General Staff.
- Fiscal Section, Misc. Div., A. G. O.
- Reproduced Headquarters Third Army