

HEAD QUARTERS 805TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 464, United States Army

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Battalion History, 29 May - 31 October 1943

- 30 May - The bivouac is in an olive grove on a hill overlooking Bizerte, 2 1/2 miles distant. It is 8 miles by road to an excellent beach.
- June - The weather has been ideal for both rest and training; no rain, warm days, cool nights. There are no good training areas for company or Battalion exercises or service firing, not already occupied by troops; roads are congested. Training, therefore, has been mainly basic; disciplinary drills, physical conditioning, swimming, care and use of equipment, small dismantled exercises, small arms firing, etc. Schools are run in radio communications, driving, first and second echelon maintenance, administration, courts and boards, and indirect fire.
- 3 July - 0400 - A large force of bombers attacking the harbor dropped two strays in "B" Company area, one weighing 1,000 kilos, and another smaller one. Lieutenant Nothelfer and two men were buried in slit trenches by crater spell, but were dug out without injury.
- 4 - 1000 - Battalion paraded in khaki with the help of the Band of the 175th Engineers. Appearance was the best seen to date.
- 15 - 1430 - Brigadier General Geffey, 34th Division, called; he stated the Division was ordered to Oran about 20 July and intended taking the 805 along, pending further orders.
- 18 - Battalion issued a warning order alerting command for road and rail movement.
- 19 - 1145 - Battalion received a letter, MATUSA, dated 16 July 1943, AG 322/1170-0, assigning the 805 to Fifth Army as of 16 July, but continuing present attachment to 34th Division.
- 22 - Issued Movement Order #1, covering movement to Oran area based on Movement Order #5, 34th Division, 19 July. Annex #1 to Movement Order #1 covered the movement of half-tracks by rail under Captain Hamlet.
- 25 - 0600 - Battalion leaves Bizerte for Oran area, with the First Battalion, 168th Infantry and all motor transportation of the same Regiment attached.
- 29 - 0900 - The Battalion Commander received verbal orders from U. S. Movement Control at Orleansville, Algeria, to proceed to Fifth Army Tank Destroyer Training Center, at Sebden, Algeria. Confirmation was later received by letter, Headquarters Fifth Army, 25 July 1943—AG 322-1-Y.
- 30 - 1630 - The Battalion arrived at a bivouac area 4 miles south of Sebden, ending a six day trip without the breakdown of a single vehicle. Training, for the next two months consisted of physical conditioning, small arms service firing, battle indoctrination, indirect fire with 3" gun and tactics. Preparation of a possible movement overseas was

likewise being stressed over this period.

- 15 August - Battalion received a letter from Headquarters Fifth Army assigning it to First Tank Destroyer Group, effective 13 August 1943. Hq. Fifth Army, AG 322.1-Y.
- 23 September - The Battalion was reorganized by authority contained in letter, Fifth Army, 21 September 1943, AG 320-Y/RL, under the new T/O for M 10's: 18-25, 18-26, 18-27, 18-28; after being alerted to go on the towed T/O one week before. The officers within the Battalion were reassigned as per Special Order #82, Hq. 805th T.D. Bn.
- 2 October - 0930 - The Battalion was alerted for an overseas movement and for a change to the towed T/O per V.O.C.O., First Tank Destroyer Group. The next four days were spent in nomenclature, direct and indirect fire with the first shipment of towed 3" guns, 18 in all, while at the same time preparations for a movement to a staging area were underway.
- 6 - 0800 - The Battalion departed from Sebden in compliance with V.O.C.O., First Tank Destroyer Group for Staging Area #1, Fleurus, Algeria. Contemplating movement overseas, the 805th Tank Destroyer Battalion soared to the top of the priority list.
- 7 - The Battalion received a confirmation letter from Fifth Army of reorganization under the towed T/O; 18-35, 18-36, 18-37, letter, Headquarters Fifth Army, 30 September 1943, AG 320-Y/RL.
- 9 - Lieutenant Henderson, Ralph J., with 31 enlisted men and 26 vehicles departed for Algiers, Algeria, to lead aboard the "Luther Martin".
2300 - Lieutenant Thompson departed for Oran with 80 enlisted men and vehicles to lead aboard the "Francis Marion".
- 10 - 1330 - Lieutenant Levkoy with 69 enlisted men and 53 vehicles moved out to lead aboard the "Francis Marion".
- 11 - 1330 - S/Sgt. Stanevsky with 4 enlisted men and 4 vehicles joined Lieutenant Thompson and Lieutenant Levkoy putting a total of 127 "cubs" in the "Marion basket", plus our own new golden prizes, 36 3" guns.
- 14 - 1600 - Lieutenant Sabo with 9 enlisted men and 8 vehicles departed for Oran to board the "Wild Bill Cody".
From the 15th to the 22nd inclusive much valuable 3" gun training time was lost performing over-stuffed staging area guard details. Part of this period was salvaged by lectures and physical hardening.
- 23 - 1100 - The Advance Party consisting of 107 enlisted men and 9 officers, with Lieutenant Colonel McJennell commanding, departed for Oran and boarded the "Kosciusko".
- 24 - 1300 - The remainder of the Battalion, 423 enlisted men and 22 officers, Captain Carruthers commanding, departed from the staging