Tank Unit Has Colorful Career With 3rd Arm:

Saw 225 Days Of Hectic Service In Austrian Theater

The 808th Tank Destroyer Battalion is the first unit of the 35th Headquarters and Headquarters Second Army, to reach Camp Rucker under the new set-up as announced officially two weeks ago. The full TO strength of the battalion, including 35 officers, 1 Warrant Officer and 607 men, is due to be assembled here today, according to information given out earlier in the week from headquarters set up in building No. 8110.

Lt. Col. Robert C. McDonald, commanding officer of the battalion, has arrived on the Post, together with cadremen: officers who formed the vanguard of the unit. The Tank Destroyer unit comes to Camp Rucker with a colorful career, having had 225 days of active service in the European Theater of Operations with Patton's Third Army. It returned to the states on August 3rd and is assigned to Camp Shanks, N.Y., from which place it shipped out.

During its strenuous days of active service in the vicinity of Linz, Austria, the battalion lived up to its slogan, "Seek, Strike and Destroy," having to its credit 65 enemy vehicles destroyed, 2,644 prisoners taken, and 371 enemy killed. It is also credited with having knocked out thirty-nine enemy 88's, fifteen 20-mm, three 40-mm, 11 artillery pieces, 56 machine guns, 13 mortars, 1 Bofors gun, 277 pillboxes, 61 enemy observation posts, 6 bazookas, 4 ammunition dumps, 1 radar unit, 1 radio station, and 13 boats. This record was achieved at a cost of 1 officer and 18 men killed, and 4 officers and 44 men wounded.

The unit's weapon is the deadly M-36, self-propelled 90-mm gun, of which it has thirty-six. A number of the weapons is due to arrive today with the personnel, it was stated.

The battalion is credited with many outstanding exploits and displays of heroism on the field of battle, as it is attested in the fact that 19 personnel wear no less than 3 Silver Stars, 1 Bronze Star, 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, 1 Cross de Guerre, 2 Bronze Battle Stars for engagements in Hainaut, Ardenne and Central Burma, and 1 Purple Heart.

Colonel McDonald, the commanding officer, a graduate of West Point, Military Academy of the Class of 1916, has been in command of the battalion since July, 1944.