

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON

In reply refer to:
OPQR 424
(640th Tank Destroyer Battalion)

August 23, 1942.

SUBJECT: Outline History of the 640th Tank Destroyer Battalion.

TO: The Adjutant General's Office, Services of Supply.

1. It is requested that an outline history of the

640th Tank Destroyer Battalion

be prepared by the Historical Section, The Army War College, and a copy furnished this office by indorsement hereon.

For The Quartermaster General:

(Sgnd) HUGH B. HESTER,
Colonel, Q.M.G.,
Assistant.

AG 421.7 - 640th TD Bn
(8-28-42) MR

1st Ind.

JCP/jrb

War Department, A.G.O., September 4, 1942 - To: Commandant, Army War College.

For necessary action. Attention is invited to the attached inclosure which is a brief history of the 640th Tank Destroyer Battalion and may be withdrawn.

By order of the Secretary of War:

Form 2060

1 Incl.
(Brief History)

(sgnd) R.S. Kessinger,
Adjutant General.

A TRUE COPY

Walter B. Young
Adj. S.A.

2d Ind.

WH:PM

Army War College, October 20, 1942 - To WD, SOS, The Adjutant General.

1. The 640th Tank Destroyer Battalion was constituted and authorized to be made active (less Company C and Pioneer Company), effective December 15, 1941, at Camp Luis Obispo, California, AG 320.2 (11-17-41) MR-M-C, dated December 3, 1941. This unit, less Company C and Pioneer Company, was made active December 19, 1941.

2. Company C, 640th Tank Destroyer Battalion, was authorized to be made active at Camp San Luis Obispo, California, AG 320.2 (1-8-42) MR-M-C, dated January 20, 1942; Company C was made active February 18, 1942.

3. The Reconnaissance Company, 640th Tank Destroyer Battalion, was originally the Headquarters Battery, 222d Field Artillery Regiment, National Guard of Utah, and the Pioneer Company, 640th Tank Destroyer Battalion. The latter was an inactive unit. The Headquarters 222d Field Artillery Regiment was organized in 1894, as Troop C, 1st Cavalry, Utah National Guard, by the consolidation of Denhalter's Rifles, organized in 1889, and Dyer's Rifles, organized, 1891. It was mustered into Federal service for the Spanish-American War on May 12, 1898, as Troop C, 1st Utah Volunteer Cavalry, but did not serve outside the continental limits of the United States and was mustered out December 23, 1898. It was reorganized in the State service as Company H, 1st Infantry, Utah National Guard; redesignated Troop C, 1st Cavalry, Utah National Guard, in 1916. It served on the Mexican Border in 1916, and after being drafted into the Federal service for the World War became part of Battery D, 145th Field Artillery Regiment. Battery D, 145th Field Artillery, served overseas but did not participate in combat, returned to the United States and was demobilized in 1919. Battery D, 145th Field Artillery, was reorganized in 1919 as Troop C, 1st Cavalry, Utah National Guard, and in 1929, was redesignated as the Headquarters Battery, 222d Field Artillery, Utah National Guard. The 222d Field Artillery was inducted into Federal service, March 3, 1941, and the Headquarters Battery, 222d Field Artillery, was consolidated with the Pioneer Company, 640th Tank Destroyer Battalion, to form the Pioneer Company, 640th Tank Destroyer Battalion, which was concurrently made active (AG 320.2 (2-4-42) MR-M-C, dated February 5, 1942). Effective July 23, 1942, in accordance with Tables of Organization, 18-25, dated June 8, 1942, it was redesignated as the Reconnaissance Company, 640th Tank Destroyer Battalion.

4. The 640th Tank Destroyer Battalion has no other history and is not entitled to battle honors.

5. The Reconnaissance Company, 640th Tank Destroyer Battalion, is entitled to a silver band engraved "France" for the service of Battery D, 145th Field Artillery, during the World War.

For the Acting Commandant:

/s/ G. Ross Rede
/t/ G. ROSS REDE,
Lieut. Colonel, F.A.
Executive Officer.

Incl. w/d.

A TRUE COPY

Walter B. Young
6-20-42

SPORD 424 - 640th Tank Destroyer Bn 4th Ind.
War Department, O.Q.M.G., Washington, January 4, 1943. To: Commanding
Officer, 640th Tank Destroyer Battalion, A.T.O. 40, c/o Postmaster, San Fran-
cisco, California.

1. In connection with the outline history of the 640th Tank Destroyer Battalion, as contained in the second indorsement, a coat of arms is authorized under the provisions of paragraph 5, AR 260-10, November 20, 1931.

2. In accordance with the policy of the War Department, this office is glad to assist in the development of a coat of arms and has prepared inclosure #1, which is submitted for consideration, heraldically described:

SHIELD: Sable an heraldic panther rampant or, head dismembered gules, incense proper, armed azure.

CREST: None.

MOTTO: Igne et ferris vicimus (We conquer by fire and swords).

DESCRIPTION

The gold and black are the colors of the Tank Destroyer Forces. The functions of the organization are attractively and allegorically illustrated by the fabled heraldic panther with disjointed head, symbolizing the destruction wrought by the organization to all opposition. The flames of fire denote the zeal by which the personnel performs its duties. The suggested motto, "Igne et ferris vicimus (We conquer by fire and swords), is expressive of the means by which objectives are achieved, and alludes to the symbolism of the shield.

3. If distinctive insignia are desired for wear upon the uniform under the provisions of paragraph 51, AR 600-40, application for approval should specify the composition desired, i.e., shield or shield and motto of the coat of arms.

4. A set of information sheets which will be of assistance is inclosed, Inclosure #2, special attention being invited to paragraphs 14, 19, and 22.

5. Upon return of correspondence to this office indicating concurrence, approval will be made of the coat of arms and distinctive insignia.

For The Quartermaster General:

GEORGES F. DORIOU,
Colonel, Q.M.G.,
Assistant.

2 Incls.
Incl. #1 - Sketch,
Incl. #2 - Set Inform.sheets.

TRUE COPY *Wynne B. Jones*
Sept 26