

# **TANK BUSTERS**

**THE HISTORY**

*of the*

**607th TANK DESTROYER**

**BATTALION**

**IN COMBAT**

**ON THE WESTERN FRONT**

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**DEDICATED**

TO THE SOLDIERS WHO DIED SO

THAT OTHERS MIGHT BE FREE

TO LIVE AS THEY DESIRE.

## **BATTALION HISTORY STAFF**

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Acknowledgment is made to the officers of all companies who aided in submitting stories from their units and to all the men who submitted the pictures found in this book.

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*LT. COL. HARALD S. SUNDT*

## FOREWORD

*SOLDIERS of the 607th Tank Destroyer Battalion:*

*This memento of our labor and sacrifice, of our teamwork and cooperation with the combined arms of our Army will take on increasing importance in our lives as the stress of battle grows dim and the struggle for a better world, socially, economically, politically, and religiously goes on. In the carrying out of your assigned missions there will be trials, there will be triumphs, there will be disasters, for you individually or as a member of the group with whom you may be associated. You may be faced with great personal decisions. This eternal struggle is life, men, and the pursuit of happiness, of liberty and of truth. I know that the strength of soul and of character which you have found as part and parcel of the 607th, that which you created by your everyday acceptance of risk and responsibility plus your loyalty and devotion to duty, will help to light your way. And then in the hush of the evening of life, as individuals we can proudly proclaim: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith. I have achieved 'TOTAL VICTORY'."*

A. Sundt

*[signed] Harold*

*Lt. Col. (FA) 607th TD Battalion  
Commanding*

# Introduction

The 607th Tank Destroyer Battalion was activated on the 15th day of the December 1941 at Fort Ord, California.

Personnel for the new unit was obtained from the 7th Infantry Division Provisional Anti-tank Battalion which, in turn, had received its personnel of sixteen officers and two hundred nineteen enlisted men from the following units: Battery "D", 31st FA Battalion, HQ and HQ Battery, 31st FA Battalion, 74th, 75th, 76th FA Battalions, and the 17th, 32nd, and 53rd Infantry Regiments. Later, personnel were received from the 47th, 48th, and 57th, FA Battalions.

Approximately six hundred selectees from the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana were assigned in March 1942, bringing the Battalion above its authorized strength. In December 1942 and January 1943, three hundred and sixty selectees from Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and West Virginia replaced the losses of the preceding nine months.

On the 15th day of the December 1943 the Battalion was reorganized, changing it from a self propelled battalion, to a towed battalion, Reconnaissance Company being inactivated. The Battalion continued as a towed unit until November 1944, when, shortly before the battle for Metz, France, it was converted, in combat, to a self propelled battalion equipped with M-36 destroyers. The Reconnaissance Company was again activated.

With the exception of four and one half months training at the Tank Destroyer Center, at Camp Hood Texas, the Battalion received all of its precombat training in California at Sunnyvale, Hunter Liggett Military Reservation, Camp San Luis Obispo, Lost Hills Desert Training Center, and Camp Cook.

On the 2nd of April 1944 the Battalion departed from Camp Cooke, California for Camp Miles Standish, Taunton, Massachusetts, and on 13th of April, 1944 embarked on the SS Wakefield, the United States Troop Transport for overseas duty.

Arriving in England on the 21st of April, the unit was stationed in Macclesfield, Cheshire for one month and then proceeded to Camp Barton Stacy in southern England where it made its final preparations for the invasion, arriving on the beaches of Normandy, France on 16th June 1944.

This is the background to eleven months of combat in France, Belgium and Germany for which the Battalion won battle participation credit for the following campaigns more fully described in the text:

- \* 17 June 1944 to 24 July 1944 .....Normandy
- \* 25 July 1944 to 14 September 1944 .....Northern France
- \* 15 September 1944 to 21 March 1945 .....Rhineland
- \* 16 December 1944 to 25 January 1945 .....Ardennes
- \* 22 March 1945 to 11 May 1945.....Central Europe