

701st Ordnance Battalion

The Army ordnance unit is an extraordinary composition of highly trained personnel working with complex tools to perform difficult maintenance and repair work.

701st Ordnance people can repair a watch, re-focus binoculars, tread a tank and straighten rifle sights. They can take a hulk of battered machinery and make it a functioning piece of military equipment that can perform as satisfactorily after repair as before.

The 701st Ordnance Bn is exemplary of the several "behind-the-lines" units necessary for efficient operation of a mobile fighting machine as diversified in scope as the Big Red One. Commanded by Lt Col Julian W. Luck, it is one of the oldest ordnance units on active duty today.

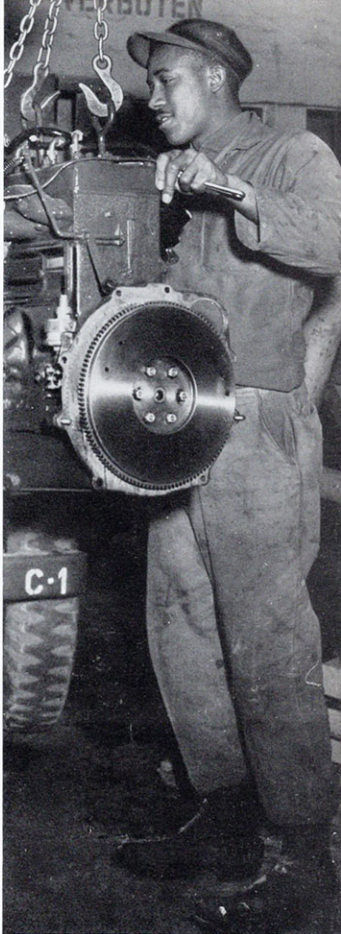
The 701st was activated as a battalion on April 10, 1953. The original unit was constituted on October 5, 1917 and designated the 332d Machine Shop Truck Unit. In 1921 it was designated as Motor Repair Section 1 and an element of the 1st Div.

Maintenance and repair jobs that fall to ordnance units are ordinarily complex ones. Simple maintenance can be, and is, performed by the units to which the machinery is originally assigned. Ordnance is there to perform the many repairs that cannot be handled by non-specialists because necessary tools are not available in these units or because time involved in major repair would prevent personnel from performance of their major assigned duty.

The basic trainee is acquainted with ordnance procedure during his first days in the Army. When he fires on the range for familiarization he is required to test the accuracy of his assigned weapon. Schooled in the mechanical function of his piece, he soon learns whether inaccuracy on the range can be attributed to his own lack of skill or to malfunction of the rifle. If he is uncertain, he checks with ordnance personnel who are available in a mobile unit to the rear of the firing lines. Minor repairs can be made in a matter of minutes; major ones take no more than a single day.

In this atomic age, where swiftness of striking power plays a vital role in military strategy, rapidity of repair by ordnance personnel and their intimate knowledge of engineering mechanics are often decisive factors in success or failure of the infantry mission.

With the 701st behind it, the Big Red One can number itself among the best "repaired" divisions in the United States Army.



A 16th Inf jeep gets a new engine at the shops of the 701st



Fitting a new pinion oil seal