

FEB 25 1983

TANK DESTROYER ASSN.



Presented by —  
HERBERT E. WILLIAMS  
HOMESTEAD, FL

822<sup>nd</sup> T.D. Bn.

1942

1944



IMPELLE OBSTANTIA

Anniversary

*Presented To*

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Is a Member of.....Company, 822ND TANK DESTROYER BATTALION as of this date,

July 25, 1944

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Commanding.....Company.

## BATTALION OBSERVES ANNIVERSARY

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### Training Climaxed by Successful Completion of Secondary Mission and Physical Conditioning Tests

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Two major tests required by POE standards, the Secondary Mission and Physical Fitness Tests, were completed by the Battalion last week climaxing the organization's training program.

With scores of 88 for "A" Company, 85 for "B" and 82 for "C", the indirect firing tests were passed with satisfactory results after a short period of intensive training in field artillery technique.

Company "C", commanded by First Lieutenant Walter E. DeDecker and selected to represent the Battalion in the Physical Fitness Test, rated satisfactorily.

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### Battalion's Motto is Challenge to Fighting Spirit of Personnel

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*"Impelle Obstantia"*—these are fighting words for a unit with fighting spirit!

Not only in the Battalion's coming battles, but also in its present training this motto, meaning "Overcome Obstacles," serves as a constant reminder of our mission as a unit. While obstacles are many, even in training, to overcome them now assures our success in the future. The motto is a challenge to all. Make it our byword!

CLOSER NOW TO COMBAT AND BETTER TRAINED to meet the exigencies of battle, men of the 822 Tank Destroyer Battalion can reminisce with pride today on the occasion of the organization's second anniversary of activation.

Some who may feel wistful over the delay in shipping to the fighting fronts will find solace in the knowledge that the two years since July 25, 1942, have not been spent in vain and that the months of training received will prove their worth in months to come.

Since that day two years ago when Lt. Colonel Joseph J. Fraser assumed command of the 822nd, progress of the Battalion has been marked by all types of training from basic to the rigid experiences gained in the Tennessee Maneuver Area. The Battalion's passports to the fighting front, successful completion of the primary and secondary mission tests, now are assured.

Roots of the present 822nd were firmly established at Camp Carson, Col., where the nucleus of officers planned the arrival of enlisted personnel, many of whom still serve in our ranks. At that time, fillers came to the unit in groups of four to 25 men.

Assisting Colonel Fraser as Staff members were Major Donald W. Ingalls, Executive; First Lieutenant John V. Davison, Intelligence Officer; 1st Lt. Robert K. Hieronymous, Adjutant, and Captain Thomas W. Muston, Supply Officer. Companies

*(Continued on page 3)*

## HIGHLIGHTS IN THE CHRONOLOGY OF THE 822ND TD BATTALION

- July 25, 1942—822nd TD Battalion activated at Camp Carson, Col. Lt. Col. Joseph L. Fraser assumes command.
- September 5, 1942—Battalion leaves Camp Carson for Camp Livingston, La.
- November 14, 1942—Lt. Colonel Joseph M. Lovell assumes command.
- January 13, 1943—Arrival at Camp Bowie, Texas.
- February 23, 1943—Lt. Colonel Seward L. Mains, Jr., present CO., named as Battalion Commander.
- April 5, 1943—Battalion arrives at Camp Hood, Texas, for more advanced training. Conversion from Self-Propelled to Towed announced by War Department.
- July 25, 1943—First anniversary of activation celebrated at Buchanan Dam, Texas.
- August 4, 1943—Camp Breckinridge, Ky., becomes new station.
- October 27, 1943—Three-inch gun firing conducted at Camp Atterbury, Indiana, 220 miles from Breckinridge.
- January 20, 1944—Battalion arrives in Lebanon, Tenn., for two months of maneuvers.
- March 29, 1944—Maneuvers over, Battalion closes in at Fort Jackson, S. C.
- May 3, 4, 5, 1944—All companies successfully pass Primary Mission Proficiency Test.
- July 18, 19, 1944—Secondary Mission Test completed with commendable scores.
- July 22, 1944—Company "C" proves capable in Physical Fitness Test.
- July 25, 1944—Battalion observes second anniversary.

### "Daughter of the Battalion"

Little Ona Mae Whitewing is almost a year old now and probably is the only child who can boast of an entire Battalion for god-parents.

On December 12, 1943, with all personnel of the 822nd present, Ona was christened in the Chapel at Camp Breckinridge, Ky.

Lt. Colonel S. L. Mains championed the idea, appropriately dubbed Ona "A Daughter of the 822." Ona Mae is the daughter of George E. Whitewing, formerly of Company A, now a member of Headquarters Company.

CELEBRATE BY BUYING A WAR  
BOND

### Anniversary

(Continued from page 1)

were commanded by Captains David B. Kilpatrick, Hq.; Justin P. McCallum, Reconnaissance; Norbert F. McGowan, A; Lester H. Sherbeck, B, and Herbert J. Skelton, C.

Between the date of activation and August 27, 1942, new arrivals continued to swell the strength of the Battalion. Later, with only half of its authorized strength, the unit was ordered to Camp Livingston, La., and arrived there September 8. On the 14th of November, Lt. Colonel Joseph M. Lovell, an Infantry Officer, assumed command and, in the short period between January 7 and 11, 1943, the Battalion's strength was increased to its authorized quota with the addition of 481 new enlisted men.

Normal training was held at Camp Livingston until January 12 when, with the majority of personnel only new to the organization, the 822nd entrained for Camp Bowie, Texas, where more advanced training was pursued in earnest.

Lt. Colonel Seward L. Mains, Jr., present Commanding Officer, assumed command of the Battalion on February 23 when the 822nd left Camp Bowie for the well-remembered training at Camp Hood, Texas. The organization reached Camp Hood on April 5.

Records of the 822nd at Camp Hood speak for themselves. Setting records as ex-

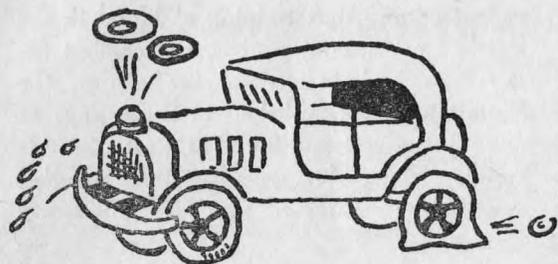
cellent as any unit training at Hood in the Battle Conditioning course, the combat firing tests and in general proficiency, the Battalion was established in those days as one of the outstanding TD units in this country. Many of its records will be recorded ever in the annals of the Tank Destroyer Center.

A week following the first anniversary celebration July 25, 1943, at Buchanan Dam, Texas, the Battalion entrained once more, this time for a permanent change of station in Camp Breckinridge, Ky. There more extensive field training was conducted, including firing of the 3-inch guns at many ranges near the camp, including those at Camp Atterbury, Ind.

During these phases of training, the conversion from a self-propelled to a towed Battalion occurred (April, 1943), and it was not long before personnel in the gun crews, security sections and former members of the "inactivated" Reconnaissance Company, acquired proficiency in handling the strange equipment.

One of the highlights of the history of the organization was the period between January 29 and March 27, 1944, when the 822nd participated in Tennessee Maneuvers. The valuable training gleaned from that maneuver, not to mention the hardships of training, will serve immeasurably in time to come.

Upon completion of the maneuver, the Battalion moved to its present garrison at Fort Jackson, was assigned as a unit of the 13th Tank Destroyer Group.



### Coming in on a Rim and a Spare

REMEMBER ME??? I'm that old 1929 Buick you saw everywhere you went. Now—well, I'm just the rear end of a trailer house. But what a history I've had.

In 1942 I came to the 822nd at Camp Carson. Aside from seeing a good deal of the country (we moved from Carson to Livingston to Bowie to Hood), I lived a very uneventful life while I belonged to a couple of 2nd Lieutenants. However, when we reached Hood, I was sold to Stf. Sgt. Eldred and my life *really* began.

First, I was used to take the gang into Ft. Worth. Then, when the outfit got out of the woods, I was the chief means of locomotion to Killeen. Boy, what a town, the only place in the U. S. where you could get a 10¢ sandwich for \$1.25. I really caused a riot there one night. The boss put the wrong kind of gas in me and I wouldn't run. (I'm temperamental.) I just stood in the middle of the street and shot off my exhaust. Boy, what a crowd! They must have thought there was an invasion.

In Temple, I really proved myself one night. I was going to one of the local dives when a '42 Dodge passed me. The gang wouldn't stand for that so they stepped me up and did I give that redhead a race. Finally passed her at 85 per (another victory for the 822).

When the day came to leave Hood, I led the convoy into Breckinridge (of course they had to stop and wait for me—but I led them in). At Breckinridge I drank a lot; seems I just couldn't get enough water. I remember one time in Evansville when my driver didn't give me a drink. We saw some cute possibilities and did I get hot? But we had to give that up as a bad job.

You could have knocked me over with a scooter the time in Henderson when the gang, thirsty as usual, stopped at the M. & M. I was there outside only a few seconds when I heard two shots. Everyone rushed out and into the back seat. Found out later some drunk was waving a gun at the 1st Sgt. Another time in Henderson the sheriffs got tough. I had the unpleasant job of taking my gang to the local jail. And I've had a good many pleasant experiences, too, in my career. Through my doors have passed some of the most beautiful girls in the world. They'd pass through but never stay in!

When my hitch was up, I drove many a mechanic gray trying to prolong my life. . . . But my time was up in the combat troops. Now I'm service trooping it as the rear echelon of a trailer house.

### ROSTER OF OFFICERS, 822 TD BATTALION, 1944

LT. COLONEL SEWARD L. MAINS, Jr., *Commanding Officer*

MAJOR ARTHUR D. KEMP, *Executive Officer*

MAJOR PIERCE D. BISHOP, S-3

CAPTAIN MELVIN F. LABRODE, S-4

CAPTAIN ALFRED COPELAND, S-2

1ST LT. ABEL F. DEWITT, S-1

CAPTAIN DAMON W. CUMMINGS, *Battalion Surgeon*

1ST LT. MARSHALL DEMERANVILLE, *Reconn. Officer*

CAPTAIN HOWARD M. POLLARD, C. O., A Co.

CAPTAIN ROBERT S. FRANTZ, C. O., B Co.

CAPTAIN JOHN W. KIRBY, C. O., Hq. Co.

CAPTAIN SAMUEL M. EARLE, C. O., C Co.

1st Lt. George J. Beier

2nd Lt. Alanson D. Brown, Jr.

1st Lt. Archie B. Davidson

2nd Lt. William F. Clewe, Jr.

1st Lt. Walter F. DeDecker

2nd Lt. Robert E. Davidson

1st Lt. Charles E. Dickey, Jr.

2nd Lt. Edwin E. Glenn

1st Lt. James W. Farrell

2nd Lt. Charles M. Hill

1st Lt. Keith Junkins

2nd Lt. Michael Krall

1st Lt. Joseph J. Kane

2nd Lt. James N. Miller

1st Lt. Virgil P. Knutson

2nd Lt. Joseph E. Mooney

1st Lt. Ervin J. Kvidera

2nd Lt. Henry F. Mura

1st Lt. Arthur W. Myers

2nd Lt. William P. Myers

1st Lt. Wayne C. Reynolds

2nd Lt. John D. Taylor

1st Lt. John A. Stewart

2nd Lt. Fontine T. Tornabene

1st Lt. Willard B. Venable

2nd Lt. Claude Wilkinson

1st Lt. Howard R. Walde

2nd Lt. Leon J. Wonder

2nd Lt. Bruno R. Bertelli

2nd Lt. Dallas G. Worrell

Chief Warrant Officer Walter Schaufele

Warrant Officer (JG) Archie J. Nash

## A SENTIMENTAL SOUVENIR

HIDDEN SOMEWHERE AMONG HIS BELONGINGS is a faded piece of paper with a May, 1943, date. It is captioned, "Special Order," and tells of "exceptionally meritorious action." At first, it might read like a citation awarded on the battlefield. But it doesn't. Yet, that paper means probably as much to this soldier. At any rate, it speaks of a quality which, if it exists in training, can mean much in combat.

This soldier had "the intestinal fortitude to negotiate half the Infiltration Course (at Camp Hood) after dislocating both shoulders. He refused to give up until ordered to do so by his Commanding Officer," the order reads. How many of you remember the man? He is Tec. 4 Bob Edminster of Headquarters Company.

### Officer Candidate Schools Claim Thirty-six NCOs from 822nd TD

Reflecting the high standards of training of the Battalion since its activation is the record established by 36 former NCOs who now are serving with various units as Commissioned Officers.

The record of men who have been graduated from OCS courses in Artillery, Infantry, AA, CWS and Tank Destroyer is a credit to the organization.

Among those remembered today who are now officers are Bertis Karber, Clinton Robertson, Orville Thoreson, Norman Griechen, William Miller, Milton Wesniek, Walter Fisher, Lawrence Hoover, Thomas Sutherland, Carl Kohnert and Sidney O. Murdock of Headquarters Co.; Walter Schieve, Donald E. Lane, Thomas McDonald and Elmer Brindley of A Company; Richard Burns, William McDonald, Richard Doe, George Bell, Glenn Anderson, Harold Linto, Charles Holden, Clifton Harris and Willis Boillotat, all of B Company.

### Former 822nd TD Officer Leads Platoon in Italy

First Lieutenant James B. Welsh, formerly assigned to C Company of this Battalion, is gaining plaudits in fighting on the Italian front where he is a Platoon leader with the 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion.

Word received here from members of his unit tells of many daring exploits of the Platoon known as "Welsh's Raiders" for their work in executing night raids on German positions somewhere in the Italian operations zone. He was recently interviewed, with members of his platoon, by prominent news correspondents.

Lt. Welsh left the 822nd in July, 1943, and saw service in the African campaign before participating in the Anzio Beachhead operation.

Non-commissioned officers from "C" Company, who received commissions include Royce Schlicher, Junior Covert, Frank

(Continued on page 7)

## Few Officers Remain From Original Group

Distinction of being charter members of the 822nd TD Battalion belongs to but few of the 42 officers now serving with the organization. Of the original 37 officers with the Battalion upon its activation, only 11 remain.

Today has particular importance for these officers who remember the Battalion as a "brand new" unit in the days when organization took place without equipment and without personnel other than a small cadre and a group of officers.

On the original roster were the names of Captains Howard W. Pollard, Samuel N. Earle and Alfred Copeland and 1st Lieutenants Keith Junkins, Abel F. DeWitt, Charles E. Dickey, Walter F. DeDecker, Archie B. Davidson, James Farrell, Marshall I. Demeranville and Wayne C. Reynolds.

It is fitting on this anniversary to mention also those officers who were with the Battalion at the outset but, who in the past two years, have left for service in other units. These are Lieutenants Charles L. Kurth, Ross K. Drake, Arthur B. Corino, Nicholas J. Deutsch, William H. Dudley, Donald N. Corbett, Thomas Duffey, Gordon Colley, Hugh W. Robbins, James Miller, Donald Farwell, Hargus Reagan, Raymond J. Nelson, George S. Dickinson and Bernard E. Reichardt. Many of the above have been promoted since they left the organization, some are with troops in the combat zones.

## Former Enlisted Men Commissioned Officers

(Continued from page 6)

L. Boor, Daniel O. Nance, Louis M. Powell and Nathan Trugman, George Ennis, Gilbert E. Gerlds, Eldon Adams, Martin P. Serensen, Robert L. Sowers, Robert H. Knight and Joseph J. Sentes were members of the old Reconnaissance Company before they attended OCS.

## Much Ado About . . .

MARCO POLO, were he to live in this generation, would turn the hair of the "Don't Travel" exponents grayer than a battleship. But from the itinerary standards of the 822nd, he was like the Old Maid who wouldn't leave the house because she had heard that all soldiers were Chow Hounds—and she was partial to cats.

Dispensing with statistics (figures always bother us unless they're shrouded in skirts), we will not compute the number of miles the Battalion has traveled since Activation Day. We'll let it pass by saying that, if it is true an army travels on its stomach, ours must be ready for salvage. ("Stomach", we mean.)

We'll list the travel-log, you supply the reminiscences over a beer—

Camp Carson, Col., Camp Bowie, Texas, Camp Hood, Texas, Camp Livingston, La., Camp Breckinridge, Ky., Tennessee, Fort Jackson, S. C. . . . Berlin(?) Tokyo(?) Paris(?) Shanghai(?)

## "A JOB WELL DONE"



LT. COLONEL SEWARD L. MAINS, JR.  
*Commanding Officer*  
 822ND TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

## AN ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE FROM THE BATTALION COMMANDER

"It is a source of deep satisfaction to any commander, on a day of such significance as this, to feel that men and officers of his command are prepared to perform their mission in combat. Looking back over the training the Battalion has undergone since its activation, and the recent completion of our primary and secondary mission tests, I know that I, too, can sense this satisfaction.

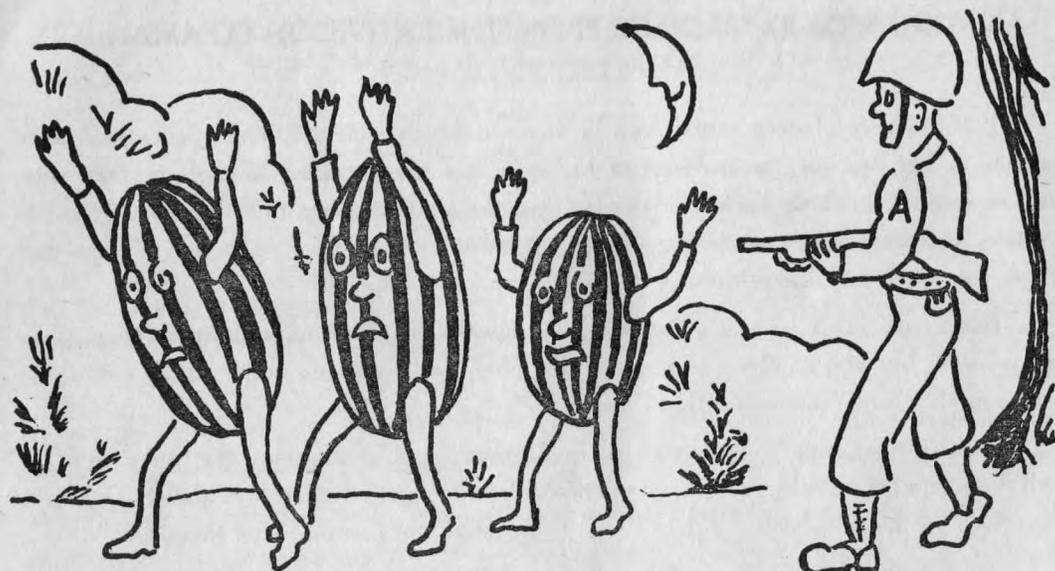
"Excellence must be our watchword; excellence not only in our ability to accomplish our mission, but also in the standards of discipline and esprit de corps which contribute immeasurably to the success of that mission.

"I take this opportunity to congratulate all officers and personnel of the ranks for a job well done and feel I will have your complete confidence in the trying days ahead. You have done well in the past, you are doing well today, and you can do better tomorrow."

S. L. MAINS, JR.,  
*Lt. Colonel, Field Artillery,*  
*Commanding.*

## CADRE NCO'S REMEMBER WHEN

Large share of the burden of training a new organization fell to a group of 70 non-commissioned officers from the cadre which parented the 882nd. Of this group, only 26 still remain with the Battalion. Named on the original roster are Master Sergeants Albert O. Carigan and Harry C. Gerken; 1st Sgts. Marshall C. Epperson and Wayne L. Snyder; Tech. Sgt. Orrin F. Ingram; Stf. Sgts. Robert A. Bilow, Merlin E. Farber, Burnell H. Rood, Harold W. Mann, Chester P. Chamberlin, Layton M. Harvey, Raymond R. Rigley, Gerald H. Eldred, Sherman E. Betts, Edward E. Luginsky, George Bauer, Uno E. Wentela, and Arthur G. Theodorski; Sergeants Julian W. Montgomery and Ned Lee Rose, Technicians 4th Grade Lawrence Rendall and Frank Ruzicka, and Privates Robert M. Goodman, Ira H. Kendall, Frank J. Rydecki and Vernon E. Thunstrom.



"Reconnaissance will secure the position, first platoon will"—

Orders complete, platoon leaders briefed their men, planned for the night's mission. Bits of brush for skull caps, face blackening, rehearsal of catcalls, a second briefing and security scouts were on their way. Through numerous obstacles, barbed wire fences and mosquito nets, they labored through the underbrush toward the enemy. Soon the first scout's muffled whistle was heard through the night, halting the advance for execution of the plan.

Bedded down in bivouac, the enemy was taken by surprise. Exploiting their initial success, the scouts worked in commando style, silencing one by one the sleeping enemy. Observers at nearby listening posts were unaware of the attack. Not a shot was fired, only the soft, plunging sound of knives being audible in the night. In a few minutes the attack was over and the scouts were bedded down in their own bivouac, some still holding spoils of the raid. No casualties for a successful raid; the DSC and nothing less was in the minds of all.

Came morning and little evidence of the night's operation could be found. Came other mornings and still no citation, no reports on the excellence of the mission.

It was not until days later when a non-belligerent made known results of the raid. The "enemy" had sustained losses estimated at 106 plugged, damaged or stolen watermelons. No casualties? Well, none other than a few red faces in A Company, slightly damaged NCO pride and a disturbed farmer who got hasty remuneration!

## DEAN OF BATTALION'S NON-COMS SERVED TEN YEARS BEFORE PEARL HARBOR

December 7, 1941, is an important date in the lives of all Americans but to Master Sergeant Harry C. Gerken the date had particular significance for it marked the 10th anniversary of his enlistment in the National Guard.

While few of us realized there was such a place as Pearl Harbor, the Battalion Sergeant Major already bore the hash marks for three "hitches" in the Guard, with a year to spare.

Oldest ranking non-commissioned officer in the Battalion, he has almost 13 years of service, was inducted with the Minnesota National Guard on February 10, 1941.

Sergeant Gerken's military record is of interest. Following his enlistment on December 7, 1931, he served with Battery A, 151st Field Artillery, gaining his Sergeantcy on August 2, 1940. He continued to serve with that regiment through induction at Camp Claiborne, La., where he was an instructor for 13 weeks. He was detailed for an additional three months as a battery commander of selectees whose training he supervised.

On November 10, 1941, Sergeant Gerken was relieved from active service and assigned to the State Detachment on the inactive list. He was recalled to duty at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, on February 8, 1942. Twelve days later, he joined Company B of the 772nd Tank Destroyer Battalion at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, where he was appointed First Sergeant on June 1, 1942. From the 772nd, he was named to the cadre which was sent to Camp Carson to organize the 822nd TD Battalion.

For one month, January to February, 1943, the dean of non-commissioned officers in the Battalion served as First Sergeant of "B" Company. On February 1, he was appointed acting Sergeant Major, receiving his rating of Master Sergeant on the 25th of that month. From March 20, 1943, to January, 1944, Sergeant Gerken was acting Personnel Officer, a position he filled until Warrant Officer Nash joined the organization.

*Autographs***"Thanks . . ."**

*To Lt. DeWitt, the Adjutant, for assistance in compiling the Battalion's History. . . . To Lt. Demeranville for his sketch of the Battalion Commander. . . . To Tec. 5 Leotta of "B" Company for the excellent cartoons and cover designs. . . . To all who contributed in some measure to make this souvenir possible. . . . And, especially to every man in the Battalion who gave us something to write about.*

MELVIN F. LABRODE,  
Captain FA.