

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS  
822D TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
APO #758, U. S. ARMY

5 March 1945

SUBJECT: Battalion History.

TO : Commanding General, Seventh Army, APO 758, U. S. Army.  
(ATTN: Public Relations Officer).



1. The following is the Battalion History of the 822d Tank Destroyer Battalion per Circular Number 22, Paragraph 2, your headquarters dated 25 October 1944:

BATTALION HISTORY

"IMPELLE OBSTANTIA" - Overcome Obstacles, this is the Battalion Motto and has served us well in training and at the front. This motto is a challenge to all and we make it our byword.

The Battalion was activated 25 July 1942 at Camp Carson, Colorado, and LT COL JOSEPH L. FRASER was the first Commanding Officer. From 14 November 1942 to 23 February 1943 LT COL JOSEPH M. LOVELL commanded the Battalion.

On 23 February 1943 the present Commanding Officer LT COL SEWARD L. MAINS JR assumed command of the battalion. This event took place at Camp Bowie, Texas and under his able leadership the Battalion began an intensive program of training; Mission - Combat.

From the time of activation until 27 August 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, Louisiana where on the 11 January 1943 the Battalions strength was increased to its authorized quota.

Normal training was held at Camp Livingston, Louisiana until 12 January 1943 when the Battalion entrained for Camp Bowie, Texas, where more advanced training was pursued in earnest. At this time the 822d Tank Destroyer Battalion left for Camp Hood, Texas and arrived there 5 April 1943.

At Camp Hood the Battalion set excellent records in their training at Hood. In these days the Battalion was established as one of the outstanding Tank Destroyer (Towed) units in the country. From here the Battalion moved to Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky where it was put through some extensive training and firing practice.

One of the highlights of the Battalion History was the period between 29 January and 27 March 1944 when the 822d participated in Tennessee Maneuvers, valuable training was gleaned from this maneuver. From the Maneuver Area the Battalion was moved to Fort Jackson, South Carolina, where it did considerable firing and was moved to Camp Atterbury, Indiana for one month of maneuvers and firing with an Infantry Division.

S E C R E T

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When the Battalion returned to Fort Jackson, preparations for overseas was begun in earnest. On the 13 November 1944 the Battalion entrained for Camp Shanks, New York and shortly thereafter were on the high seas heading for England.

In Southern England the Battalion received their equipment and vehicles. On the 20 January 1945 the Battalion boarded LST's and landed in France a few days later. Two weeks were spent in a rear area before orders were received assigning the Battalion to the 7th Army. Several days later the Battalion reported to the 7th Army and was attached to the 63d Infantry Division. On the 7 February 1945 the 822d Tank Destroyer Battalion moved onto the line.

For the Commanding Officer:

NICHOLAS R. ITTNER  
1st Lt., Inf.  
Public Relations Officer

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