

# **All Camp Firing Records Smashed by 656th TD Bn in AGF Proficiency Test**

(From front page of the Hood Panther, 26 January 1944)

Shattering the best previous records of all other battalions, the 656th Tank Destroyer Battalion last week won its place as the hardest-shooting, straightest-shooting unit in Camp Hood history. Its average of actual hits on the AGF Platoon Proficiency Firing Test was 86.11% — 155 out of a possible 180.

Twenty gun crews in the battalion fired perfect scores — five hits out of five shots.

One platoon fired a "possible" — 20 for 20 — and no platoon fired less than 80%.

And in doing so, they neatly topped the best existing marks for TD firing; the 671's record of 150 hits out of 180 for self-propelled destroyers with power traverse; the 635's record of 145 hits for towed destroyers, the 640's record of 141 hits for M10's.

87 battalions have had this firing at Hood.

The 656th, commanded by Lt Col John C. Meador, is equipped with the M10A1.

## **COMPANIES IN CLOSE RACE**

First to fire for the battalion was Company C, commanded by Capt Richard W. Tuggle, Lt Julio J. Cafone, and S/Sgt Joseph Pineau got the ball rolling with a platoon score of 80%. Lt John F. McEwen and S/Sgt Stanley Miller jumped to 90%. Lt Arthur Lynch and Sgt Michael Beckins followed with 80% — for a company average of 83.33%.

Here was a chance to tie the record of the 671 — if the other two companies could do as well.

Company B, commanded by Capt Herman J. Badenhoop, answered the challenge the next morning with a rousing 90%. Lt Jack MacSlarrow and S/Sgt Obie D. Chance were first up, with a platoon score of 85%. Lt Arthur L. Mohlman and S/Sgt William G. Sherburne rolled up a second 85%. Then Lt Raymond G. Eibel and S/Sgt James W. Cooper moved their gun crews into position and proceeded systematically to riddle the targets for an historical 100%.

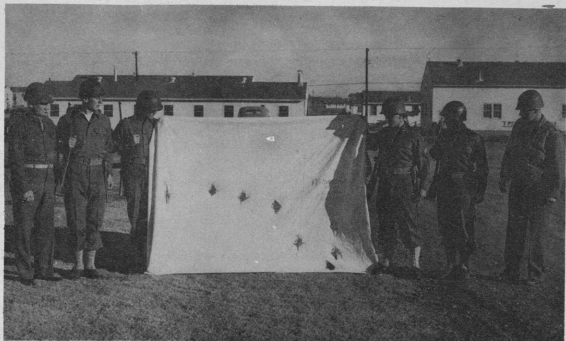
### **GENERAL HESTER WITNESS**

Maj Gen John H. Hester, Commanding General of TDC, was one of the most interested observers as Company A, commanded by Capt David V. Cleary, settled down to the job of clinching the battalion record. Lt Wesley D. Tollett and S/Sgt Joseph Siouffi got off to a good 85% with their platoon. Lt Edwin F. Bolestridge and S/Sgt Daniel A. P. Ferry went up another notch for 90%. Lt William B. Higgins and S/Sgt Harry Megara finally wrapped up the record with 80% — for a company average of 85%, and a battalion average of 86.11%.

Six gunners and gun commanders in Company A made possibles: Sgt Robillotto and Cpl Mendrek, Sgt Huffman and Cpl Fred Smith, Sgt Heffernan and Cpl Fretwell, Sgt Denton and Cpl Taylor, Sgt Kasunic and Cpl Gunn, Sgt Mathes and Cpl Mansman.

Seven gunners and gun commanders in Company B made possibles: Sgt Gumina and Cpl Roethlisberger, Sgt Fortney and Cpl Conti, Sgt Henderson and Cpl Rosenlieb, Sgt Moorehead and Cpl Lehman, Sgt John Anderson and Cpl Arbogast, Sgt Christi and Cpl Frost, Cpl Hamilton and Cpl Harp.

Seven gunners and gun commanders in Company C made possibles: Sgt Schmitz and Cpl Thoma, T-5 Van Emburgh and T-5 Barsotti, Sgt Jarosak and Cpl Erickson, Cpl Sevedja and T-5 Braun, Cpl Gordon and Cpl Hollowell, Sgt Batdorf and Cpl Kabat, Sgt Lyden and Cpl Sargent.



**ON TARGET**—One of the crack gun crews from Co A, 656th TD Bn which helped set the all-time all camp firing mark for TD's in a proficiency firing test 20 January which was witnessed by Maj Gen John H. Hester, commanding general TDC. The 656th's mark is the highest made with any of the big TD guns. Left to right, Maj Gen Hester, Sgt Myron Huffman, Cpl Fred Smith, Cpl Leonard Mendrek, Sgt Nicholas Robillotto, and Capt David V. Cleary.

## TEAMWORK HIGHLIGHT

With a new firing record tucked away, Col Meador pointed with special pride to the excellent teamwork that was so apparent during the preparation for the test and the test itself. Companies vied for the honor of boosting the battalion average. Platoons worked vigorously to put their own company on top. Individual gun crews got squarely behind their gunners and gun commanders—alert assistant gunners, loaders and drivers made it possible for gunners to fire faster and more smoothly, and to have uninterrupted communication between the platoon leader and his destroyers. Security sections nominated their best gunners to open on the first target in each platoon run. Together they put their battalion across.

# **Brief History of 656th Tank Destroyer Battalion**

**3 April 1943 — 15 November 1944**

The 656th Tank Destroyer Battalion was activated at 0001 hour 3 April 1943, at Camp Bowie, Texas. It was one of the four battalions in the 16th Group commanded by Col. Harry J. Wheaton and under control of Basic Unit Training Center, commanded by Col Harry F. Thompson.

656 TD Bn Commander: Major John C. Meador  
Executive: Capt Stuart M. Dingman  
S-3: Capt H. J. Badenhoop  
S-4: Capt David W. Ariail  
S-1: 2d Lt Julio J. Cafone  
S-2: 1st Lt William S. Powell  
Hq Co Commander: 1st Lt Perry Winn  
Rcn Co Commander: 2d Lt James W. Slusser  
A Co Commander: 1st Lt Paul E. Pickett  
B Co Commander: 1st Lt William M. Rhinehart  
C Co Commander: 1st Lt Victor A. Stefanowicz

## **19 April 1943**

The 656th Td Bn received its colors at a formal retreat parade at Camp Bowie, Texas. The 16th group commander, Col Harry J. Wheaton, presented the colors to Major John C. Meador, commander of the 656th TD Bn, in the presence of the 656th and 655th TD Bns.

## **25 April 1943 (Easter Sunday)**

The 656th TD Bn marched from Camp Bowie, four miles to near the caliber .22 rifle range, where it established its first overnight bivouac. The Bn fired on the caliber .22 range 26-30 April 1943 and qualified 97% of its men, making a new qualifying record for the range.

## **9 May 1943**

The 656th TD Bn began a shuttle movement from its bivouac area near Camp Bowie, Texas, to North Camp Hood, Texas. The battalion marched on foot for about twelve miles and mounted in trucks, which took the men to a Sunday night bivouac area about three miles from North Camp Hood. The battalion marched on foot into North Camp Hood at 1200 hours Monday, 10 May 1943.

## **3 June 1943**

The 656th TD Bn marched on foot from North Camp Hood, Texas, to Shell Camp No. 3, where it set up pyramidal tents for a semipermanent bivouac area. The regular basic training schedule was followed while living under field conditions.

## **12 July 1943**

The 656th TD Bn started on a foot march from Shell Camp No. 3 to South Camp Hood. The battalion arrived in Camp Hood on Thursday 15 July 1943 after marching fifty and nine-tenths miles. This marked the end of Basic Unit Training Center training and the beginning of training at the Advanced Unit Training Center.

## **28 September 1943**

The 656th TD Battalion was inspected by Major Newcomb B. Thompson of the Inspector General's Department. The battalion passed this inspection with a rating of excellent. This battalion was the first to ever achieve this rating in Camp Hood.

## **10 October 1943**

The battalion was transferred to the 18th TD Group under command of Lt Col L. D. Matthews.

## **18 October 1943**

The battalion completed unit training under the Unit Training Center and was assigned to the Training Brigade and to the 22d Group.

## **17-23 January 1944**

AGF Proficiency Test held by this battalion and a new Camp record was set. A complete writeup about it was published in the Hood Panther and is reproduced in this book. 1st Lt Claude A. Howell, 1st Lt Kenneth G. Shade, 1st Lt Paul Barrows, 1st Lt Don C. Sharp, Jr., and 2d Lt Eugene D. Sullivan were assigned to this battalion. Captain Richard H. Tuggle was appointed acting S-3 upon the transfer of Lt Harry H. Hiestand. General John H. Hester made an inspection of the Training Brigade Area. A few improvements were mentioned in a report from his office.

## **31 January 1944 — 6 February 1944**

Promotions were received by 2d Lt Everett G. Attebury and 2d Lt Arthur E. Lynch to 1st Lt. Nine temporary appointments were made to the enlisted men. Firing was conducted by all companies, special stress being placed on individual weapons such as carbines and pistols.

## **14-20 February 1944**

The Training Brigade mess hall was closed 17 February and all officers started eating with their individual companies as of 18 February 1944. The battalion as well as the 22d Group was placed under the command of the Tank Destroyer School, since the Training Brigade was closed. Captain David W. Ariail was promoted to major.

## **21-27 February 1944**

Captain Robert L. Drury was assigned to the Medical Detachment of this battalion. 2d Lt James S. Nelson was assigned to Company B. 1st Lt Archie S. Benegar, 2d Lt Wesley D. Tollett, and 2d Lt Jack A. Mac Sllarrow, and 2d Lt Arthur L. Moehlman were promoted.

## **28 February — March 1944**

Major David W. Ariail was placed in command of the battalion when Lt Col John C. Meador was called to 22d Group as Commanding Officer. Problem two days and one night.

## **13-19 March 1944**

Reconnaissance Company fired 90% on the 37-mm proficiency firing. The 1st platoon fired a perfect 100%. The 2d platoon fired 90%. The 3rd platoon fired 80%. Each gun fired one round at a stationery target and four rounds at a moving target. The battalion marched out to the aerial demonstration area to observe column strafing and precision bombing by the Air Corps.

## 20-26 March 1944

The battalion moved to TDS area, occupying barracks on 25th Street. The move was made in one day. The old area was left in a high state of police and was highly commended on its appearance. The 22d TD Group had its first parade in which this battalion marched in review. The battalion engaged in an overnight field problem under supervision of the 22d TD Group, in which the battalion accomplished its missions.

## 3-9 April 1944

The battalion celebrated its first anniversary on 3 April with a parade formation, awarding of Good Conduct Medals, and a brief resume of the history of the battalion by Lt Col John C. Meador. Personnel of the battalion participated in the field events scheduled after the parade. Anniversary Day was considered a holiday for the battalion.

## 10-16 April 1944

The battalion had a tactical field problem under Group control. During the exercises much emphasis on radio, telephone, and handling of ammunition was given. Telephone communication throughout the Group, composed of the 22nd Group Hqs, 660th TD Bn, 662 TD Bn, and the 656th TD Bn, was used for the first time. The enlisted men, during the problem, were tested on first-aid and evacuation of casualties.

## 17-23 April 1944

Lt Col John C. Meador assumed command of the battalion. All companies had a night operation problem under company control.

## 24-30 April 1944

All companies made a ten-mile dismounted march under company control. In addition, each company was required to have a night operation problem.

## 1-7 May 1944

Thirty-four lieutenants were relieved from assignment and duty with the 656th TD Battalion and given other assignments. Below is the list of men who left:

1st Lt Ralph C. Andrews  
1st Lt Vilas G. Curtis  
1st Lt Ray L. DeFrain  
1st Lt James W. Keating  
1st Lt Arthur L. Moehlman  
1st Lt John F. McEwen  
1st Lt George A. Vogel, Jr.  
2d Lt Everett H. Coppock  
2d Lt Byron M. Cole  
2d Lt Rodger W. Farnham  
2d Lt Irving Feld  
2d Lt James S. Nelson  
2d Lt Francis A. Raley  
2d Lt Eugene D. Sullivan  
2d Lt Conrad G. Kinstad  
2d Lt Samuel H. Plumer  
2d Lt William J. Werrlein

1st Lt Everett G. Attebury  
1st Lt Edwin F. Bolestridge  
1st Lt Julio J. Cafone  
1st Lt William H. Gilbert  
1st Lt Arthur E. Lynch  
1st Lt Lelon E. Lancaster  
1st Lt Jean D. McIntosh  
1st Lt Jack A. MacSlarrow  
1st Lt James W. Slusser  
1st Lt Robert J. Zolz  
2d Lt Russell L. Clayton  
2d Lt King S. Clayton, Jr.  
2d Lt John J. Dempsey  
2d Lt Fred T. Eichholtz  
2d Lt Roland D. Hellman  
2d Lt William B. Higgins  
2d Lt Martin M. Wallis, Jr.

Below is a list of new officers assigned to the 656th TD Bn and their duties:

### Staff Officers

1st Lt Lawrence R. Beard, S-3

2d Lt Andrew A. Melgard, S-1

### HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

1st Lt James L. Silhan  
1st Lt Robert F. Wilson  
1st Lt Paul N. Edwards  
2d Lt Robert W. James  
2d Lt Stanley P. Hanson

Ass't S-3  
Bn Motor O  
Commo O  
Trans O  
SSO

### RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY

1st Lt Howard E. Oliphant  
2d Lt John H. Schuler  
2d Lt John S. Benson  
2d Lt James N. Lill

Executive Officer  
Plat Comdr  
Pio Plat Comdr  
Plat Comdr

### A COMPANY

1st Lt Sam L. Grant  
2d Lt Emil O. Mathes  
2d Lt Sherman F. Turner

Executive Officer  
Plat Comdr  
Plat Comdr

### B COMPANY

1st Lt Rodger A. Marshall  
2d Lt Donald Jackson, Jr.

Executive Officer  
Plat Comdr

### C COMPANY

1st Lt Robert E. Schultheis  
1st Lt Harold M. Miller  
2d Lt Forst E. Lowery

Executive Officer  
Plat Comdr  
Plat Comdr

### 22-29 May 1944

A battalion parade was held and the new company officers did a fine job in their first appearance.

A talk was given to all officers of the 22nd TD Group by Colonel E. J. Dawley, School Commandant. New officers were promised to the battalion in the near future to bring it up to strength.

### 29 May - 5 June 1944

The following named officers were assigned to this battalion:

1st Lt Edison W. Ashby  
1st Lt Ronald James Fairfield, Jr.  
1st Lt Roy M. Loehr  
2d Lt Hurd W. Broome  
2d Lt Emerson R. Drake  
2d Lt Bernard Frommer  
2d Lt MacDonald H. Hutchinson  
2d Lt John G. Lapf

2d Lt Robert F. Jackson  
2d Lt Floyd G. Lamson  
2d Lt Louis W. Lorincy  
2d Lt Vern J. Mason  
2d Lt Harry B. Nielsen  
2d Lt Percy E. Stuart  
2d Lt Harvey Wallerstein  
2d Lt Eugene E. Walsh  
2d Lt Quentin R. Welander

The battalion underwent an I.G. inspection. Results were very good.

## **5-12 June 1944**

1st Lt Donald G. Merritt and 1st Lt Frederick A. Maegerle reported to the company for duty from School OADV No. 10. They were assigned to Headquarters Company.

## **12-19 June 1944**

Three new officers were assigned to the 656th TD Bn and reported for duty. They were 1st Lt. Albert Service, 2d Lt Allen W. Feldman, and 2d Lt Harry F. Shown. Group parade was held and the new TD song written by Major Thomas Denny was sung. Major General John H. Hester was guest of honor and he gave the group high praise on its ability to march. The new song was well received.

## **26 June — 3 July 1944**

The battalion participated in a tank destroyer demonstration put on by 22nd Group and TD School. The demonstration was a success, with over 100 high ranking A.G.F. officers present.

## **3-10 July 1944**

Captains Herman J. Badenhoop, David V. Cleary, and Richard H. Tuggle returned from Officers Gunnery School. Captain Tuggle was made battalion motor officer, vice, Lt Robert F. Wilson. Captain Badenhoop acted as Battalion Commander in the absence of Lt Col Meador, who was on leave. Captain Cleary assumed command of Company A. 2d Lt Donald Jackson relieved 2d Lt Robert W. James as battalion transportation officer. 2d Lt James went to Company B.

## **10-17 July 1944**

Captain Edward T. Wildsmith reported to the 656th TD Bn and was appointed head of the S-2 Section. Captain Herman J. Badenhoop continued as Bn C O in the absence of Lt Col John C. Meador.

Major David W. Ariail returned from school and assumed his duties as executive officer. Major Herman J. Badenhoop, who received his majority 14 July 1944 and was appointed S-3. Captain Richard Tuggle was released from assignment as battalion motor officer and assumed command of his old company, Company C. 1st Lt James L. Silhan was released from assignment as assistant S-3 and was appointed battalion motor officer.

## **24-31 July 1944**

One hundred enlisted men of the 656th TD Bn were transferred in grade to 1293rd Engr Combat Bn, Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky.

## **31 July — 7 August 1944**

The 656th TD Battalion tendered a reception to the WAC Detachment on Wednesday evening, 9 August 1944. Reconnaissance Company, the winning war bond organization, was the sponsoring company. The reception was held in the 656th TD Battalion Recreation Hall. Brigadier General and Mrs. Dawley attended. Lt Col John C. Meador represented the 656th TD Battalion. Lt Velma M. Vavra, WAC and Lt Doyle, SSO 656th TD Battalion were in charge of the affair.

## **14-21 August 1944**

2d Lts Harry F. Shown and Allen W. Feldman transferred to the 679th TD Bn at North Camp Hood, Texas.



## **21-28 August 1944**

Captain Edward T. Wildsmith was relieved as CO of Company B and transferred to Fort Benning, Ga. 1st Lt Graham K. Wilke was appointed CO of the Company. 2d Lt Doyle was appointed mess officer, 2d Lt Vern L. Mason transferred to the Engineers ORP, Ft. Belvoir. 1st Lt Donald Merritt transferred to Ft Ritchie, Maryland. Captain T. J. Hanifen reported to this battalion and was appointed CO of Rcn Company to succeed Captain Archie S. Benegar.

## **11-18 September 1944**

The inspecting team of the Tank Destroyer Center inspected all companies of this Bn during the week.

## **7 October 1944**

The battalion moved by a motor march from area in Camp Hood, Texas, to House Camp No. 3, located on the Post reservation for 3 weeks of intensive field training. The move was made in good order without incident. Battalion headquarters was set up in an old frame building and was efficiently operating at 1500 hours same day. By 1700 Saturday 7 October 1944 camp was completely settled, area policed, and training started.

## **14 October 1944**

The Bn moved from House Camp No. 3 to a temporary bivouac at Tama Gas Car Range No. 1 for the purpose of practicing for platoon firing proficiency test and the AGF company firing test.

## **16-23 October 1944**

On Monday 16 October 1944 the battalion moved back to House Camp No. 3. The gun companies continued firing practice on the various camp ranges. On 19 October 1944, the AGF company combat firing test began. Gun companies with Rcn plat attached moved by a tactical march to an area adjacent to Tama Gas Car No. 1 and went into a concealed bivouac for the night. Next day, 20 October, the companies moved tactically to firing positions, then to rallying positions, and thence returned to HC No. 3. The battalion was given an average of 80.5% for all phases of the test. In the firing phase Co A received 75.8%, Co B 69.2%, and C Co 74.25%.

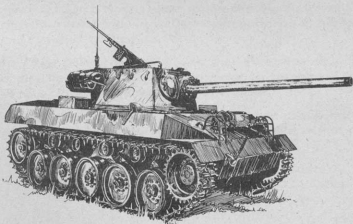
## **23-30 October 1944**

On Tuesday 24 October 44 the Bn began its AGF Bn tactical proficiency test. It moved from HC No. 3 to a concealed bivouac position and from there by a night march to a position of readiness near Crossville Mountain. At 0100 Hours Wednesday, 26 October, Bn gun companies were ordered to move into firing positions and engage enemy at daybreak. Test was completed at approximately 1000 hours 25 October 44 and a critique held on the ground at which Brigadier General Ernest J. Dawley, Brigadier General Miles A. Cowles, Colonel H. J. McChrystal, Lt Col Van W. Pyland, and others were present. The performance of the battalion was lauded and small deficiencies noted brought to attention of all. The battalion received a rating of 87% in this test. The battalion returned to HC No. 3 Wednesday afternoon. The next day it moved to a bivouac position east of RJ 208 and during the move and in bivouac was subjected to simulated enemy and friendly plane attacks as part of the AGF air-ground training test. A score of 76% was made in this test. While in the bivouac position and during the march the AGF basic medical subject test was given the battalion. A rating of satisfactory was made. On Friday 27 October 44 the battalion moved

to Killers Kollege infiltration course, negotiated the night infiltration course, and returned to HC No. 3. Saturday morning 28 October 44 the battalion moved back to area in Camp Hood and was met at motor pool by a band. Col H. J. McChrystal watched troops enter the pool. A rating of satisfactory was received by the battalion for its performance during the three weeks in the field.

### 13 November 1944

This battalion should again be commended for its ability to produce. After only eight days of instruction and preparation, the battalion took the prescribed Army Ground Forces indirect fire proficiency test for tank destroyers. This test is designed to determine the ability of a tank destroyer unit to accomplish its secondary mission as reinforcing artillery. The results of this test were highly favorable.



# COMMENDATIONS

HQ, TANK DESTROYER CENTER, Camp Hood, Texas 22 January 1944.

1. I wish to commend the officers and men of the 656th Tank Destroyer Battalion on the fine record the unit recently made in their M10 proficiency firing test.

2. To return to the range after having failed to qualify and then break the camp record demonstrates fine leadership, an enviable, cooperative spirit, and tremendous enthusiasm.

3. Such attributes indicate that a unit is indeed preparing itself wholeheartedly for its final test — combat.

/s/ JOHN H. HESTER, Major General, U. S. Army, Commanding.

FIELD ARTILLERY SCHOOL, OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT,  
Fort Sill, Oklahoma, 29 January 1944.

I was delighted to hear how well your battalion had done in the firing test. I bask in your reflected glory, and I congratulate you for taking the bull by the horns and turning out such a record.

s/ ORLANDO WARD, Major General, USA, Commandant.

ARMY SERVICE FORCES, HQ, Camp Hood, Texas 13 July 1944

1. It is with a great deal of pleasure that the Post Ordnance Officer and the Chief of Maintenance, Camp Hood, Texas, commend highly the energy, labor and the enthusiasm which the 656th Tank Destroyer Battalion exhibited in shipping the equipment assigned to them to Port.

2. This was a "Red Ball Order" and with the realization that this equipment was headed directly for combat, this organization responded in the best traditions of the service, to the requirement of the order.

3. It is again with pleasure that this office thanks and commends the 656th Tank Destroyer Battalion, which made this shipment possible within the time it was required by high authority.

/s/ JAMES P. CAULK, Lt Col, Ordnance,  
Chief, Maintenance Branch and Ordnance Section.

HEADQUARTERS, TANK DESTROYER, BASIC UNIT TRAINING CENTER  
Camp Bowie, Texas 9 April 1943.

Our road review of last evening was a complete success. I have only two regrets—one, that uncertain weather conditions prevented General Bruce from flying over to receive the review, and the other that I am unable to personally express my gratification to the entire command.

Please convey my complete satisfaction to all your officers and men for a job well done.

/s/ HARRY F. THOMPSON, Colonel, Infantry, Commanding, BUTC.

HEADQUARTERS, TANK DESTROYER BASIC UNIT TRAINING CENTER,  
Camp Bowie, Texas, 10 May 1943.

I wish to commend you and the officers and men of the 656th Tank Destroyer Battalion for the very creditable state of police of the area vacated by your organization on 5 May 1943.

The TD BUTC inspector, who was accompanied by a representative of the Camp Bowie staff when he made his inspection, reports all installations within the block occupied by the 656th TD Bn to have been left in an excellent state of police. Such a report is indicative of the Battalion Commander's sense of responsibility and leadership. It reflects favorably on TD BUTC as well as on the organization you command.

/s/ HARRY F. THOMPSON, Colonel, Infantry, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS UNIT TRAINING CENTER, TANK DESTROYER CENTER,  
Camp Hood, Texas 2 September 1943

It has been reported to this headquarters that the general efficiency, whole-hearted cooperation, prompt and correct execution of all phases of training during the recent course of instruction conducted under the Battle Conditioning Department of the UTC during the period August 23-28, 1943, by the officers and men of the 656th TD Battalion has been outstanding.

Such exemplary morale, esprit, and interest is highly commendable.

Copy of this letter is being furnished the Commanding General, TDC, and a copy will be retained in the personal file of the Commanding Officer, 656th TD Battalion.

s/ THOMAS J. HEAVEY, Colonel, Cavalry, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS, TANK DESTROYER CENTER,  
Camp Hood, Texas 1 October 1943.

Under the provisions of paragraph 2, AR 20-10, 3 September 1943, the Annual General Inspection of the 656th Tank Destroyer Battalion was made by Major N. B. Thompson, Jr., I.G.D. on 28 September 1943. The Battalion was activated on 3 April 1943 hence this was the first annual general inspection.

#### **Irregularities, Deficiencies, and Comments.**

Discipline, morale, condition of troops, health, supply, records, funds, buildings and grounds, installations, recreational and religious affairs, public relations and all other matters covered by this inspection were found to be in a satisfactory condition or better.

This battalion has made excellent progress since activation on 3 April 1943.

#### **Conclusion.**

The rating of the battalion is excellent.

/s/ N. B. THOMPSON, JR., Major, I.G.D. Inspector General.