

# 820 Tank Destroyer Battalion

This Web Page is dedicated to all of our members that made the Supreme Sacrifice on Foreign soil.

The 820<sup>th</sup> Tank Destroyer Battalion was born on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1942, at Camp Swift, Texas. On the 25<sup>th</sup> of March, it moved to a “luxury” camp, No. 2, at Camp Hood, Texas. Formed as an artillery battalion, the 820<sup>th</sup> was converted into a towed battalion, armed with 3” guns. The “Battle of Texas” was over on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July 1943, when the battalion invaded Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky. The War Department ordered our unit into the Tennessee Maneuver area to participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Army’s maneuver No. 3 from the 10<sup>th</sup> of September, 1943, to the 13<sup>th</sup> of November, 1943. There, we continued our training for overseas duty. On September 27, 1944, we boarded the USS Mount Vernon, (the former luxury liner George Washington). After a 3 day cruise, we docked at Liverpool, England. On the 14<sup>th</sup> of October, 1944, we crossed the English Channel on board the English ship, HMS Rapier. An LCI dumped us on the coast of France at a former invasion point named the Omaha Beachhead. On the 11<sup>th</sup> of December, 1944, our company moved into the line near Winterspelt, Germany, right on the Siegfried Line to relieve, gun for gun, the “B” company of the 612<sup>th</sup> Tank Destroyer Battalion. At 0400, 16<sup>th</sup> of December, 1944, all hell broke loose. The company command post was ordered to evacuate to St. Vith, Belgium. From there, we were ordered to Esneux, Belgium. Since the enemy was advancing from three sides, each platoon and the command post group were sent to various parts of the front.

Historical information about the 820<sup>th</sup> Tank Destroyer Battalion B Company presented in the above was derived from the booklet, “History of Company B”, edited by Frank A. Pietranton, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt., Inf., et al. (I received my copy from Sgt. V.N. Gary in 1946 when the postage was 2 cents.)

*The above was copied from a previous web site authored by Joe Castelli, and posted at Senior Voice.org. That website no longer hosts this particular page, but I thought it important to preserve his words in their original context.*