

Thurman Horton Tank Commander

Clarkton Youth Featured in October Issue of Popular Science

Sgt. Thurman Horton, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Horton, of Clarkton, is featured in the October issue of Popular Science, his picture being carried on the front cover of the magazine. A lengthy article is carried about him titled "I Am a Tank-Destroyer Commander," and is written by Jack O'Brine, and featured with numerous pictures of Horton in a new rolling panther M-tank destroyer. These men, the article says, are "America's challenge to panzer packs. Behind their record of havoc, you'll find the newest hero for armored warfare—the tank commander. He may be a swash-buckling, fire-eating fighter, hell-bent for breakfast. But more likely you'll discover him to be as homespun and unassuming as Sgt. Thurman Horton, 27-year-old commander of a rolling panther in the 630th Tank Destroyer Battalion, 79th Division.

"Horton comes from Clarkton, N. C., . . . He is a lean, quiet-spoken lad who never saw a tank, let alone a destroyer, before he was inducted into the Army. He joined his Battalion last December. But now 'Old Man Horton,' as his crew calls him, is a tank destroyer commander to reckon with.

"As prospective commander, Horton learned to be artilleryman, driver, mechanic, ranger, map-reader, camouflage expert and father confessor. And don't discount the importance of the latter. For to maintain a happy tank-destroyer crew you must listen to and relive all manner of minor woes. That may explain the 'Old Man' tag on Horton."

The article gives much interesting information about the service these tanks destroyers render, and pays high tribute to this Bladen county youth.

Horton graduated from the Clarkton high school and was a stellar athlete while in school.

He is stationed at the present time at Camp Rucker, Ala., and after he finishes his training, he along with many others there, will undoubtedly be among those who go across and demonstrate to Japs and Germans what kind of "stuff" North Carolina boys are made of.