

# Birthday Party For TD Outfit

A morning of field sports, races, a little GI tent pitching against time and a pie eating contest, platoon competition in drill and line stripping of the 30 and 50 calibre machine guns; a basketball game and a parade and presentation of medal awards to deserving soldiers in the afternoon and company parties in the evening in the area plus a gala battalion dance at Memorial Hall in Brownwood which will be attended by 300 femmes will constitute the celebration by the men of the 651st Tank Destroyer Bn. of their first anniversary on March 14..

The battalion was activated last year under the command of Lt. Col. Dwight Moorhead, Schenectady, New York, who was a reserve officer before coming to the Army in the latter part of 1940. Before going to Tank Destroyer school in Camp Hood he was with the Coast Artillery, anti-aircraft branch at

Fort Monroe, Virginia. From Tank Destroyed School Col. Moorhead took command of his destroyer battalion.

"The men are now completing training for overseas duty," Col. Moorhead said. "During their first year of training they have been very satisfactory as a unit and as individuals. During their maneuvers just a few months ago, which was one of the first winter maneuvers gone through in this country, the men stood up well under cold and rain and mud. Their morale was high and the spirit unbeatable."

During their maneuvers the 651st TDs broke two records, one of which still stands—an individual test for getting into and out of battle, firing four rounds and making four hits all in 49 seconds.

Up until August, 1943, the records for platoon firing was still held by the destroyers for 16 hits out of 24. This was also based on time and so far as is known it still stands.

The executive officer of the battalion, Maj. William C. McConahay, has seen active duty in the Pacific theatre with a tank destroyer unit.