



United States Army



823rd Tank Destroyer Battalion

Private Karl Leonard Frazier

Karl Leonard Frazer, a son of John Leonard Frazier Jr. and Matilda Eldredge, was on November 17, 1923, in Park City, Utah. He attended high school for three years and entered the army on January 9, 1943.

After training, he was assigned to 823rd Tank Destroyer Battalion. When it arrived in Europe, it was assigned to the 30th Infantry Division near Normandy. The battalion played a significant role in the battle of Mortain (France). Private Frazier was killed in this battle on August 7, 1944.

At the time of his death, he was survived by his parents along with five brothers and three sisters: Douglas, Frederick, Harold, Gamold, Ralph, Della, Genevieve, and Reta. He is buried in the Oakley, Utah cemetery.

The tank destroyer battalion was a unit that was organized in two forms, self-propelled armored and towed guns. The 823rd was a towed battalion and was on the defensive alongside the 30th Division. Before they could prepare their defenses, they were attacked by elements of four panzer divisions. The 823rd was able to knock out fourteen tanks before they were overrun. This battle showed that the 3-inch towed gun was no match for the heavier German tanks unless they fired into the side of the tanks. It was recommended that the towed battalions be phased out and that self-propelled units be used instead.