

Colonel Thomas W. Bender (Class 1-41)

Colonel Bender enlisted in the Army on September 4, 1926 and rose to the rank of Master Sergeant prior to being commissioned as a Second Lieutenant on September 30, 1942 upon graduation from the Field Artillery Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill. He was 32 years of age when he was commissioned.

During World War II he served in the European Theater where he commanded a Battalion and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel on May 23, 1945. He graduated from the Command and General Staff College in 1949 and the Armed Forces Staff College in 1951.

Promotion Dates:


First Lieutenant: February 22, 1942.

Captain: March 26, 1942.

Major: January 8, 1943.

Lieutenant Colonel: May 23, 1945.

Colonel: July 6, 1956.

Commissioned	Local Couple's Son Is Made Lieutenant
	Thomas W. Bender Commissioned Army Officer After Rise Through Ranks.
LIEUT. THOMAS BENDER Son of Elder and Mrs. U. Bender of 43 West Willard avenue, has been commissioned a lieutenant in the United States army.	<p>It's Lieut. Thomas W. Bender of Fort Bragg, N. C. today, and thereby hangs a tale of how the son of an Adventist missionary, who was born in the West Indies and spent 17 years there and in South African mission stations, rose from the ranks to a commission in the U. S. army.</p> <p>Lieutenant Bender was born in February, 1909 in Riverdale, near Kingston, Jamaica, B. W. I. and lived there with his parents, Elder and Mrs. U. Bender until 1916, when they went to a new mission field in South Africa. For the next 10 years the Benders lived and worked in Africa, from Capetown to the Congo. In 1926 Thomas returned to the United States to finish his education, but enlisted in the army instead. He was stationed with an infantry outfit at Fort Cook, Neb., for one year, entered high school at Southern Junior college, an Adventist school in Tennessee, and was graduated in 1927. In July, 1928 Thomas enlisted in the artillery at Fort Bragg, and rose from private to master sergeant in 10 years.</p> <p>This summer he was one of a group of likely young non-commissioned officers selected to study at the 1st Field Artillery officers candidate schools at Fort Sill, Okla. He was one of 79 to graduate last week and is now ready to report back for duty at Fort Bragg.</p>

U.S., Select Military Registers, 1862-1985

Army > 1947, Volume I

Bender, Thomas W. (O30162). B—Ark. 4 Feb. 09. A—N. C. B. S. M.

2 lt. A. U. S. 1 Oct. 41; accepted 1 Oct. 41; active duty 1 Oct. 41; 1 lt. A. U. S. 22 Feb. 42; capt. A. U. S. 26 Mar. 42; maj. A. U. S. 8 Jan. 43; lt. col. A. U. S. 23 May 45.—Pvt. and pfc. Inf. 4 Sept. 26 to 3 Sept. 27; pvt., pfc., cpl., sgt., s sgt., and m sgt. F. A. 23 June 28 to 30 Sept. 41; capt. of F. A. 5 July 46 with rank from 4 Feb. 44; accepted 22 July 46. (PL-1735)

U.S., Select Military Registers, 1862-1985

Army > 1958, Volume I

BENDER Thomas William 030162 B-Ark 4 Feb 09 A-NC BSM E-FA Adv Grad AFSC 51 C&GS Coll 49 FA Sch Adv O Crse 43 Enl 4 Sep 26 to 3 Sep 27 23 June 28 to 30 Sep 41 2lt AUS 1 Oct 41 to Col AUS 6 July 56 RA Capt FA 22 July 46 D/R 4 Feb 44 to Lt Col 14 May 51 PL 1969

U.S., Select Military Registers, 1862-1985 for Thomas William Bender

Army > 1961, Volume I

618

REGULAR ARMY RETIRED LIST

NAME	GRADE	SERVICE NO.	RETMT. CODE	DATE RETIRED	DECORATIONS	BIRTHDATE
Bender Louis Blaine	Col	02667	E9	30 Sep 40	DSM	10 Jul 84
Bender Thomas William	Col	030162	M4	1 June 60	BSM CM	4 Feb 09