



TANK DESTROYER NEWSLETTER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TANK DESTROYER ASSOCIATION,

918 WILLOW STREET • ALAMEDA, California • 94501

OCTOBER 1985

NEWSLETTER NO. 15

WE HAVE TWO WINNERS



We received several very good entries in the Caption Contest. It was extremely difficult to make a decision, so the judges decided to award 2 first place prizes. The winning entries are: "YOU JUST RAN OVER THEIR MESS TENT. WIND 'ER UP AND LET'S GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE!" sent in by Les Marshall (656) and "SEE I TOLD YOU THIS WASN'T THE ROAD TO PARIS--THAT'S DIVISION ARTILLERY!!" sent in by Irl V. Shea (644). We received 36 entries from 21 entrants. Many readers sent in several entries. We enjoyed reading all of them.

REMEMBER OUR TANK DESTROYER SONG

"The Tank Destroyer Men" written by Capt. Thomas Denny

Proud to tell the world that we are Tank Destroyer men
We are off to fight the enemy then we'll be back again
We come from almost every state in the good old USA
We're rarin' to go and meet the foe so we'll be on our way

CHORUS

Roll Half tracks roll---Right on to Rome and Tok-i-o
Roll Half tracks roll---For we are out to win this show
HI-RO HI-TO Here we come SCHICKLE-GRUBER start to run and
Roll Half tracks roll---On to BERLIN

Staunch hard hitting fighting men and while our canon roar
We'll mop up all the foe in sight and look around for more
And if we part when battles done and never meet again
We'll never forget the days when we were Tank Destroyer Men

CHORUS

We received the foregoing in a letter containing greetings from a man who was a member of the 258 Army Band at Camp Hood, TX. He is L. E. VAN HEUVEL, 11 Pimentel Ct., Moraga, CA 94556. He says, "we wrote and recorded the "Tank Destroyer Men" song." Our thanks to Van Heuvel.

Some of the other entries which gave us quite a chuckle were:
Fred J. Merce (626) "Hey, Lieutenant!!!"
Edward H. McClelland (773) "Which way did he go, Sherriff?"
Louis H. Grimm (776) "Think we need a new Tank Commander! Another wrong turn and we could end up behind enemy lines."
"So you made a wrong turn. Be thankful that's American Artillery not German."
William Newman (631) "Ok, are you convinced now that the TD's aren't the only outfits in the ETO?"
"I don't care what the map says, we are not in downtown Paris."
"Ask them if we can borrow a pint of recoil oil."
"See, I told you they weren't shooting at us."
"Ask them how far it is to the PX."
"I heard if they want to move that gun they have to drag it themselves."
"Must be a secret weapon. I never saw anything like it in Camp Hood."
"What do you mean you'd like to drive one of those?"
"Is it true, the harder they pull the lanyard, the further the shell goes?"
"How should I know what the nets are for. Maybe they've got mosquitoes around here."
Robert E. King (774) "Joe, shouldn't we stop and advise that artillery unit as to what they are doing, firing in the wrong direction."
Carl Businger (687) "Get this thing turned around if we are gonna help these guys with the big guns, can't you see we're headed the wrong way?"
R. Neil McLean (637) "SNAFU--- Situation normal, all fouled up"
Harry B. Hornikel (691) "Who the hell transferred Wrong Way Corrigan into our Platoon?"
J. Cumacenko (701) "Get them P-38 pistols out, I think we can make a deal."
H. Hatty (645) "Whew!" I'm sure glad that that's OUR artillery!"
Numa P. Avendano (3rd TD) "Let's liberate one of them nets. Naw, we're too tough for that."
James K. Chemault (602) "Here we are. . .Again!!!"

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK:

An article has been brought to our attention by Russell Secoy of the 808th TD Bn. that concerns the history of the tank destroyers. For copyright reasons we are not allowed to reproduce the article in the newsletter but if you are interested in locating the article, it can be found in the January 1985 issue of "Soldiers" magazine.

I received a letter from SALVATORE AFRICANO (601) 5820 Watchung Dr. Hawthorne, NJ 07506 with the comment, "it would be interesting if each issue of the newsletter would include a brief outline of a particular unit in stating where that unit served, campaigns, and dates of the same." That would be wonderful. Unfortunately, I don't possess the experience or expertise as a TD'er to write such articles. I include in the mail call section every letter I get with this information. I would accept for print any articles of this nature written by our readers. I am sure our historian, Lonnie Gil (see his address on the back cover) would help with the content if he were contacted.

From Quint Atkinson, our national capital liaison, comes word that Dr. Frank Rockenbrod of Luxembourg has been working on a history of the Battle of the Bulge and has contacted both American and German veterans for their accounts of all aspects of that campaign. He is particularly interested in hearing from members of the 610th, 773rd, and 818th (Task Force Hamilton) Tank Destroyer Battalions who fought in and around Heiderscheid, Feulen, Kehmen, Dahl, Goesdorf, Maseler, Merzig, Grevels, Eschdorf, Kaundorf, Nothum, Berle, Doncols and Oberwampach. He is interested in personal accounts of any and all activities. You may contact him at 2, Rue Lemire, L-1927, Luxembourg/LUX. I would like a copy to print in our TDA newsletter also.

CONGRATULATIONS 805TH!

Battalion Secretary Willard C. Hunt, Lexington, KY forwarded their unit history in response to TD historian Lonnie Gill's request for missing data. Willard had the unit history, 3 Feb 1941 and 2 Nov 1945, reproduced by the General Services Administration, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C. 20409 and contributed themore than one (1") thick bound booklet to the TDA. Not only did Willard get the report to us (great!) he is one of the people who activated his Battalion Association in 1984 and already they have had their SECOND REUNION AUGUST 16-18 in Harrisburg, PA.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 805TH from all of us in the TDA!!

OUCH!!

Fort Hood's Museum system is administered by Headquarters III Corps and Fort Hood with supervision by the Directorate of Personnel and Community Activities. The Directorate prepares budgets, allocates personnel and, of course, looks to the non-tactical Community activities within the Fort. Not only does this function look to Museums but they operate a system of Officers, NCO and Soldiers Clubs among a large group of in-Fort related non-tactical community activities. All of which leads me to report to you my most recent series of conversasations with the point contact (army talk) Major Jeremiah O'Fehelly, a very straight forward and to-the-point representative of the Directorate. At this time the two existing museums, the 1st Cavalry and the 2nd Armored, have recently been certified as separate facilities within the Fort and there is no present planning to form a combined museum facility in the immediate future. I will point out the "certifications" are a function of

Center for Military History, an Army Museum system administration located in Washington.

Of interest, TDA had requested it be a part of such a combined Fort Hood Museum that was under study for two or more years. The study included a concept of a visitor's center where the Fort Hood historical story could be displayed as a part of the archeological history of that part of Texas along with the activities of those years prior to 1941 when the Army established North and South Camp Hood. TDA felt its request for Historical or Museum display area would have been an appropriate permanent facility for the non-tactical portion of such a building; that is, the present active divisions would display their unit histories with a span of years that very well could encompass the period of today's modern army. Realistically, the TDA story could be told in a display area of thirty feet by fifty feet floor space and walls ten to twelve feet in height for photo murals and perhaps our recently removed Tank Destroyer Center Wall Panel from Academic Drive Service Club. (You remember the panel don't you?) At this time the 2nd Armored Division is hosting TDA contributions and those of individual TD veterans. Quite frankly, we are concerned, for if the 2nd Armored leaves Hood then the TD materials go with them. That's the way the system is structured--that's been the TDA

hesitation to ask the TD Veterans to assemble and send their contributions to Fort Hood until this little detail is made perfectly clear to us and the museum system. I am sure you realize that the TDA wants such a museum to be an authorized depository of all historical items related to the Tank Destroyer period of the United States Army. Such a depository would allow students and historians to have a single point for archives of TD documents and tactical background as well as a distinguished and dignified presentation of those five Congressional Medal of Honor awardees. And, not to be overlooked is our authorization to receive the flags of the individual TD Battalions, Group, Brigade & Headquarters--provided we have a proper and permanent display area. I am not shooting smoke about what a grand story such a TD museum could tell! You know how proud your family would feel in years to come if we could create such a permanent collection for display under one roof. So, how are we gonna do it?

Here's some of the problems:

We have no funds to finance such a building and furniture for display and storage. Say about \$350,000 and--

We might ask Fort Hood for a building site. Say about three quarters of an acre near Post Headquarters and--

We would request Fort Hood to assume liability for the structure, provide a professional curator, and perhaps a gift shop. Then--

We would request Fort Hood to operate the structure: heat, light, telephone, water, etc.

Here's some of our good points: We have a good reputation at Fort Hood - They know our problems and we respect the Headquarters III Corps and Fort Hood.

We represent a proud history in central Texas - Our Press and Television Media coverage was sensational during our two TDA reunions of 1982 and 1983.

Among us I bet we could put together a design team to prepare a layout for cost estimating and beginning conversations with Fort Hood.

Among us I bet if we received favorable indications from Fort Hood we could set up a funding source based on contributions and matching funds - perhaps grants and endowments.

Can I ask you for your comments? Don't spare your punches - make them good! Let me hear from you. Address comments to: Warren Mitchell, President and Museum Chairman, 3050 Harcross Rd., Redwood City, CA 94061.

PRESIDENT MESSAGE:

This edition of our newsletter reflects a serious request for feed-back regarding our TDA Museum and our interest in the TDA Museum to be located within Fort Hood. Included in your replies regarding a TDA Museum should be a constructive comment or two regarding creating a TDA Museum at an alternate location such as at a non-tactical Army base like Fort Meade or a presently active post with a Tank Destroyer history. Can I hear from you.

As a matter of where we stand in our TDA objectives we look to the Museum as a strong commitment and to the publication of the TD history by our Lonnie Gill.

And, at Killeen, our reunion planning for future dates included the construction of two new Hotels in the immediate vicinity of the Freeway and Fort Hood's main access. Well, no construction yet, and future newsletters will speak to how our future reunions can be accommodated in the vicinity of Killeen. Remember how crowded our housing became during our 1983 reunion?

Next Newsletter: January

We need to verify our National TDA roster of 13,000 TDers and how better than to mail the newsletter with address corrections from the Postal Service. As a benefit for both TDA and our national roster we intend to distribute an updated Battalion list to each secretary for their verification and individual uses.

Also, we are going to ask your comments regarding a reunion of individual Battalions at Killeen/Fort Hood during 1987? NOT 1986, too many preplanned schedules have been committed by the individual Battalions. What we consider maybe feasible is feed-back by each Battalion secretary to me, Warren Mitchell, 3050 Harcross Road, Redwood City, CA, 94061 with good solid barnstorming ideas leading to a commitment that the TDA and the TDers can rely upon.

This, of course, is in response to the many-many letters we have received about returning to Killeen/Fort Hood for a reunion. Let me hear from you.

MAIL CALL

Editor's Note: This is your column. Your letters and comments are cordially invited.

I was with the 606th TD Bn. Co. B until it was deactivated. To date I have seen only the names of two 606'ers and I do not recognize any of the names. I would like to hear from some of the Co. B 606'ers. BENNY YALDA (606) 6027 End St., Simi Valley, CA 93063 I have enjoyed the news put out in the TD Newsletter and am surprised

that only 4000 responded to the subscription request. Is Alameda still the largest city in the US without a graveyard? DONALD E. GORDON (692/647) 3542 W. McSwain, Merced, CA 95340

EDITOR'S NOTE: I don't know about it being the largest (Alameda has a population of about 75,000) but we still have no cemeteries. We must be real healthy here.

I have often wondered what ever happened to my buddies from the war. I was so glad to hear that there is a TD Assoc. My hopes are now to be able to attend one of the TD reunion get-togethers. In 1941 when I was sent to the 608th TD Bn. in Fort Jackson SC, we were known as the lost battalion because we were off by ourselves in 6-man tents and had a wooden 75mm towed gun to drill on. Then we were sent to Camp Hood and got a real 75mm gun. From there we were sent to Ft. Lennonwood, Missouri for a short stay before being sent to Camp Atterbury in Indiana. After the break up of the 608th I was sent to the 610th Co. A, then to Camp Kilmer, NJ and over seas. I was there until the end of the war and then I was sent home and discharged. MERVIN J. ROSSOW (608) 92014 Territorial Rd., Junction City, OR 97448

I am researching a book on the 182nd Field Artillery and have found out that this unit had anti-tank batteries that were used to form the 772nd TD Bn. To make my unit history complete I would like to write a short history of the 772nd. I understand that the Tank Destroyer publishes a newsletter. Would it be possible to publish a notice of my project in your newsletter asking any former members of that battalion that wish to share their experiences to please write to me? JOHN ALBERT MAKAR JR. 119 College Place, Apt. #7, Ypsilanti, MI 48197 Looking forward to another reunion at Hood. C. J. KISZKA (801) Rt. 1, Box 25A, Axtell, TX 76624

Will there be reminder when dues are payable? KEN GLITTENBURG (609) 2104 Bender Rd., Kalamazoo, MI 49002

An article in TD newsletter #12 refers to subscriptions but does not indicate whether this is annually or for the duration of contribution. Should this be construed as annual dues? Wm. S. GROFF (612) 2130 Locust St., Philadelphia, PA 19103

EDITOR'S NOTE: No. We have no dues. We have no fee for subscriptions to the newsletter. Anyone who wants the newsletter gets it. Just let us know you want it. Once your on the mailing list, you must write us to get off of it. The newsletter will be published as long as we have money to pay for it. We rely solely on the voluntary and generous donations of our readers. We have

estimated that if each reader gives just \$10.00 yearly it will cover our expenses and leave a little to help with other projects.

This is my fourth donation and I will continue to contribute periodically, but to date I have not seen my name on the list of contributors. I was deeply saddened by the death of Jerry Cohen, he will be greatly missed. Keep the newsletter coming, I really look forward to receiving it. F. H. NICHOLS (626) 31 Broadmoor Rd., Cranston, RI 02910

EDITOR'S NOTE: Please continue to contribute. We need the support of all our readers. The list of contributors printed in the newsletter lists only those who have given single donations of more than \$10.00. We thank and appreciate each contributor, but due to space limitations we are unable to list every person who sends in a donation.

They called it an Anti-tank Company. We had an old 75mm that had been horse drawn at old Fort Warren. It was a provisional battalion so no promotions. I was sent to Texas, Kelly Field, at that time and was there for four years. I went to admin. school in Florida and also at Mobile, Ak., and stayed in reserves after the war. Keep the good newsletter coming. C. ODLAND (776) 615 - 14th ST., Minot, ND 58701

Members of the 648 TD Bn. met at the annual Mini-reunion at the home of Sam and Nell Burns Co. hosts were James and Polly Buckalew all of Houston. Members along with some family and friends from Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Illinois and Washington attended, a total of 40 were present. Everyone in attendance enjoyed the comradeship and plenty of food and drink were on hand. Those who missed Sam's reunion missed a very good time! W. J. AND FRANCES LANDRY (648) 2501-12th St., Port Neches, TX 77651

Been in the Vet's Hospital in Minneapolis since the first of February. Had a lot of trouble with my good leg again. Just getting caught up on the reading of the mail as I just came home and am now in a wheelchair. Not too much was important but I guess I missed the last issue of the newsletter. Could you send me the one I missed? BOYD G. NYFLOT (899) 88 Sixth Ave. SW, Wells, MN 56097

I enjoy this paper and so much of it has become a part of my life. I wish to thank each and every one that has a part of running the TDA. So sad to have lost Marshall Hanks and Jerry Cohen but I know that others will carry on for this great organization, the TDA.

WALTER GEORGE (803) 3617 S. Osage St., Independence, MO 64055

MORE MAIL CALL

I was a member of the 703 TD Bn. and have been interested in your statistical reports. I noticed that the 703rd is never listed under reunions. Actually, we had originally been holding our own, but when the 3rd Armored Division Association was formed, we opted to attend that one and use it for our annual reunion. We have some mini reunions as we did last September up at West Point. We had over fifty people in attendance for our banquet there, and we hope to have all of them back in the future. Additionally, the 3rd Armored has chapters scattered throughout the country and the TD men manage a good showing at these individual events. Therefore I was quite surprised to see a letter from Joe Johnson (a 703 TD member from N.Y.) asking to hear from old 703rd members. If you wish to forward my address to Joe, I feel sure that we can put him in touch with a lot of his old buddies. Unfortunately none of us had his address. HAROLD A. PAULSON (703) Box 271A, Yaphank, NY 11980

Over the years I have heard that the only M-10 and M-36 remaining in the U.S. is at the Army Museum in Maryland. Recently I read an article about Bill Gasser on Long Island, NY. He has many armored vehicles and memorabilia of WWII in the Gasser's Tank and Heavy Weapons Museum, Love Lane, Mattituck, New York. There is a rare chance that one of our M-10s could be there. Perhaps there is someone on your roster that lives in the vicinity of this museum that could see if an M-10 is there, and better yet, a diplomat that could talk Mr. Gasser into donating the vehicle for all to see at Fort Hood, Texas. RAYMOND F. KILGALLEN (644) 3213 Nottingham Ln., Cocoa, FL 32922

I was in the 899 TD Bn. from Nov. 1941 to 1945, Co. B. as a tank gunner on a M-10. I notice the Belgian Government has awarded the Fourraguere. Can you tell me anything about this award? My friend and buddy Jim Dreussi sent me a copy of the newsletter from Ohio. WILLIAM GRANT (899) RR. 2 Bx. 353-C, Conover, NC 28613

Reading the TD newsletter I found the 814 TD has received an award from Belgium (Fourraguere) What is this for and where will I be able to get one? EARL C. RICHARDS (814) 3700 Hwy P, Wentzville, MO 63385

To satisfy my curiosity, please advise whether the entire 634 TD Bn. was awarded the Fourraguere, or was it limited to certain units of the battalion? EDMUND R. KNAUF (634) 209 Huron Ave., Sheboygan, WI 53081

Your listing of TD units awarded the French Croix de Guerre leaves

FOUR

blank the dates for the two awards to the 704. The missing dates are: 27th to 30th of July 1944 and 12th to 29th of September 1944. The two awards were made on the 22nd of July in 1946. The 704 TD Bn. was somehow left out of the listing, an error which was corrected by the French and American governments on June 9, 1981, largely through the efforts of Walter C. Righton. For 35 years Righton continued to press all branches of the Army and the U.S. government for redress of this grievance. His success was crowned by the presentation of the Croix de Guerre and its accompanying fourraguere to the 704 Association by Col. Jacques Pons, Army of France, on July 25, 1981, at the annual convention of the Fourth Armored Division Association at Stamford, CT. Your newsletter publishes a long list of contributors of more than \$10.00 but insofar as we know, you have never acknowledged the contribution of \$100.00 which the 704 Association sent to you in October 1984. Please announce our gift; many of our men have remarked on this omission. RICHARD W. BOWMAN (704) 71 Rt. 25-A, Smithtown, NY 11787

EDITOR'S NOTE: Your contribution was acknowledged in the January 1985 issue. Thank you very much for your help, it was much appreciated!

Was surprised and pleased to read in newsletter #12 that the 801st TD Bn. was awarded the Belgian Fourraguere. Would anyone know where more details of the award could be obtained? I also read of a museum, but no location was given. I have some items that I would like to forward for use. Would also like to hear from anyone from the 801st and especially from Company "C". Also any information on reunions they might have in the future. Reading the one newsletter I have has been most enjoyable and I am looking forward to the future ones. If there is anything I can do to help in the Washington State area, please advise. Thank you for bringing back many fond memories. TED CLARK (801) 20133 21st Pl. NW, Seattle, WA 98177

Your newsletter helps us to keep in touch with our veteran friends in the Tank Destroyer units, some of whom are also members of this organization. Your April issue 1985 listed the French and Belgian citations awarded the Tank Destroyer units. Both countries issued medals after the war to commemorate their liberation by the Allied Forces. If any additional information is needed by you or other veterans of the TD Bn.'s please contact us. Please keep up the good work in bringing together the Tank Destroyer units. We are trying to locate John

Torony who was with the 704th TD Bn and who was awarded the French Croix de Guerre. He had lived in McClellandtown, PA. STEVEN F. KOVACH President of the American Order of the French Croix de Guerre, Inc., 325 Spring St. Room 346, New York, NY 10013

EDITOR'S NOTE: Does anyone know where John Torony of the 704th is? He is not on our national roster. I am the wife of Hamilton Bridges who was at North Camp Hood, TX, in 1944. He would like to hear from anyone he served with in the 128th TD Bn, Co C, 1st pltn. 2nd Reg., especially veteran Flannigan, or any of the other veterans in the Scout-car the night of the accident during the "blackout" while driving over rough terrain. He was taken to a hospital on the base. He had a cut forehead and remained there approximately one week. He would like to hear from any of the medical team who remembers treating the wound. Wish to say thanks to Mr. J. E. Mack. MRS. HAMILTON BRIDGES, Rt. 7 Box 319, Clinton, TN 37716

I was with the 802 TD towed 3" gun unit, when we were dug in firing our guns. I dug a two man foxhole with logs and dirt in it. Only room enough to get out. At night a jeep comes up from HQ with blackout lights. He comes right in our hole. No way out. he thinks he's stuck and keeps gunning the motor. He succeeds in waking up the whole camp and the Germans. I chewed him out. THOMAS R. FRELICH (802) 5672 Sixth St., Pittsburgh, PA 15236

The elected officers and wives of the 605 TD Bn. met for our 3rd spring get-together at Hueston Woods, Ohio. Each year I have been instructed as treasurer, to send \$25.00 to the T.D.A. for your general fund. We appreciate your noting this contribution in your last newsletter. We would like to hear from you regarding plans for the national T.D.A. at Fort Hood. JACK HIATT (605) 6504 Cambridge Ln., Indianapolis, IN 46220

In all the books I have read about WWII, little has been said about the accomplishments of the Tank Destroyers. However in a new book, "Time for Triumphs" by Charles B. Mac Donald, some credit is included in the account of the Battle of the Bulge. Mac Donald was a company commander during this action and mentions contributions made by some of the T.D.'s. I enjoyed receiving the newsletter and look for names of men I knew forty years ago. MINER LONGLEY (803) 325 Pembroke St., Concord, NH 03301

I was with Rudy Larson in WWII North Africa to Salzburg, Austria. Bravest soldier I knew. He had more guts than a slaughter house. He should have had the medal of honor. PETE DYKSTRA (601) 813 Clark St., Hull, IA 51239

(606) 2105 E. Fayle, Baytown, TX
71520

Thanks to the newsletter I was able to locate old friends of the 627th TD's. and attend their 40th reunion May 18 in Bath NY. Although the attendance was smaller than anticipated (38 vets) it was a happy and lively party. Harry (Tiny) Sturdevant, President and George Lucas, Secretary of the organization did a wonderful job putting the reunion together and are making plans for another in 1986. All veterans of 627th wherever you are, are urged to contact the Secretary and get your name on the mailing list for information on future reunions, and help in contacting old friends and buddies. His address is: George Lucas 151 Zittel St., Buffalo, NY 14210. Again my thanks to the newsletter for putting me in touch with the Veterans of the 627th TD Bn. a great bunch of guys. JACK E. STEGE (627) 40 NE 199th Ave., Portland, OR 97230

On a recent television program "G.I. Diary" TDs were featured and I screamed with delight. It was Camp Hood obstacle course, infiltration course and the Half Track with the French 25s all shown. Memories, memories, all good. WILLIAM E. MOCK (825) 13211 Largo Drive, Savannah, GA 31419 John really enjoys the newsletter and he hopes to be able to attend the 605 reunion in Ohio in September. He's had 2 mini strokes since February 1985 so we are "playing in by ear" so to speak. ROBERTA CALLUM for JOHN CALLUM (605) Star Rt. 2, Box 79, Newport, NH 03773

It is with keen interest and expectation that I look forward to receiving the TD newsletter in the mail. I have learned a lot of what the TD's accomplished in WWII, from the newsletter. We were well trained outfits to begin with. When we went into action against our enemies that training sure did pay off. I can tell by the results of the history that the TD outfits made in all theatres of operation overseas. Please keep up the good work of getting the newsletter into the mail and to us veterans because it does contain valuable information about the history of the tank destroyers in WWII. DANIEL BREEN (802) 64-46 Madison St., Ridgewood, NY 11385

I hope we have another convention soon, as none of us are getting any younger. I enjoyed the Camp Hood convention and I had never even dreamed we would have one. I had dismissed the whole TDA from my mind and it shook me up as I know it did a lot of others. I will always be grateful to the soldier officers who went to the trouble of forming these organizations. CLYDE E. SLOAN

The 808 TD Bn. was formed in 1942 at Camp Joseph T. Robinson in Little Rock, Arkansas. On the head end of General George Patton's spearheads from the Moselle to the Donahue, the 808 had a remarkable record of 225 consecutive days "on the line." This famous spearheading battalion destroyed 65 enemy tanks, killed 877 enemy soldiers, took 3,664 prisoners, knocked out 39 88's, 29 artillery pieces, 56 machine guns, 12 mortars, 157 pill boxes, 61 enemy observation posts, 4 ammunition dumps, 1 radar unit, 1 radio station and 13 boats. Members of the 808 came from 43 states. They were awarded 9 silver stars, 131 bronze stars, 14 oak leaf clusters, 1 Croix de Guerre, and 70 Purple Hearts. The outfit travelled over 1,625 miles in France, Germany and Austria. They cracked the Siegfried line at Echternach, Luxembourg, and crossed the Rhine at St. Gear. They conveyed General Stanley E. Reinhardt of the 65th division to Regensburg to negotiate the surrender at that strong Nazi garrison and their final missions were on the Enn River. The historical information came from Headquarters Communications Zone US forces European Theatre, Public Relations Section #140983 RUSSELL SECDY (808) 4 Hickory Hollow, Leesburg, FL 32788

Please send me the address for Nicholas (Nick) Zalac, formerly a member of the 605th TD Bn. Several years ago I was informed that he had passed away, but that cannot be true because he is listed as a contributor to the TDA in your newsletter #12, April 1985. WILLIAM F. WALTER (605/636) 13321 Gridley St., Sylmar, CA 91342

In going through the mail call section of your most recent newsletter, I noticed a letter signed with a name out of the past. There was duplicated in your issue, a copy of a letter written by a John B. Stitt who had served as a C.O. of company "A" of the 610 TD Bn. I graduated in the first class of the TD Officers Candidates School with a fellow by that name and I have not heard from or seen him since our graduation in October 1942. I noticed in your newsletter that for the sum of one dollar you will provide me with his address. JOHN A. STEWART (634/822) 1812 Eighth Ave. SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

I recently had occasion to read a most fascinating book entitled "A Time for Trumpets". The interesting thing about this book is, for the first time a book truly relates a number of stories involving any number of Tank Destroyer Battalions who were involved in the "Battle of the

Bulge" in 1944-1945, some 41 years ago. I recommend this book to all TDer's, it is well documented with maps and photos that you tell and show your friends and grandchildren what really took place in Europe 41 years ago. HOWARD P. GARNIER (822) 17 Foresters Ln., Springfield, IL 62704

I was in the 608th TD Bn. and took my basic training in Fort Jackson, SC. I was with the 608th until they went on manuevers in Indiana, then I was sent out to form the 652nd which I was in until the war ended. I have hopes of attending the 608th reunion this summer in Lancaster, PA. PAUL A. YOUNG (608/652) 1652 Filbert St., York, PA 17404

Have the color postcards of the Tank Destroyer Monument become available? I would like one to frame. R. JOHNSON (650) 6202 Berrywest Dr., San Antonio, TX 78240

EDITOR'S NOTE: Watch newsletter for information about the postcards. They are not yet available at this time.

I spent more than 26 years in the service but the time spent with the TD's was the high point of my career. I hope to attend one of the reunions some time in the future. JOSEPH T. SEELEY (679/656) RR 7, Bx. 16, Dickson, TN 37055

I was sent the April 1985 issue of the TD Newsletter but ignored the name of the sender unfortunately. I may guess it was Wally Brighton of the 704th TD? Anyhow, I'd like to thank you for having me on your list. In Luxembourg the Tiger Cats are remembered. I'm the secretary of our Association that is devoted to the Battle of the Bulge. So far we've had about 3,000 visitors in this 40th anniversary year. We've dedicated 6 memorials to different units and set up a monument to the G.I.'s in a town named Clervaux. We keep up the appreciation of the liberators achievements and sacrifices by giving conferences about the Battle. It might be interesting to find out how many TD's were fighting on the soil of our beloved little home country, the Grand Duchy of Lux. (not to be confused with the Belgian province of Lux.) We will look forward to hearing more from you. Someday I'll visit your museum. Love from Lux. to all the TD's of the Bulge. TILLY KIMMES, 29 Rue de Hunsdorf, Steinsel, Luxembourg Flo and I just returned from attending the 40th reunion of the 817 TD Bn. which was held in Rochester, NY with Frank Hartwig and committee doing a superb job with the many details that are involved in lining up an affair of this type. There were 107 in attendance with a couple coming from as far away as California and

MORE MAIL CALL

Utah. LEE DUNCAN (817) 3414 Glenn Dr., Alton, IL 62002

I found our patch among others on the Queen Mary. I made 4 trips to California since 1978. If I had only known how nice it was there, I don't think I would be here. I am employed on the Pgh and Lake Erie R.R. I will have been there 30 years in Nov. 1985. Although I started in 1946, I lost some time due to heart and injury. I had a chance to go out to California in the 1950's but passed it up, that is, I passed up working on the coast railroad. Sorry I didn't take advantage of it after my first trip out. I also had a brother who was also a TD member, he passed away in 1978 at the age of 66. He was with HQ 702nd TD Bn. In one of my next trips out your way, I may stop by. ANDY FERKETICH (691) 1214 Eighth Ave., New Brighton, PA 15066

I was a member of the 612 TD's and belong to our Association and have attended some of their reunions. Some conflicted with sales meeting dates so I couldn't attend. I've visited our small space at the 2nd AD museum and it will be nice to enlarge their display in the near future. Our memorial commands a conspicuous spot at the crossroads of the main street coming into Ft. Hood base. DON D. FISCHER (612) 2521 Canterbury Court, Carrollton, TX 75006

When I attended the Memorial Dedication Reunion in 1983 I was somewhat annoyed that there were only three men there from my outfit, the 774th TD, so I began a search of my own. I first got the list that you had, it had 55 names on it, by the time that we had our first reunion in October 1984, I had found 102. At the reunion we formed an association and appointed officers etc. We now have found very close to 300 living and 85 deceased, or about 55% of the unit. We are having our second reunion this Oct. ROBERT E. KING (774) 3982 Green Forest Pkwy., Smyrna, GA 30080

I am the Secretary Treasurer of the 804th TD Bn. reunion association. We have used the \$1.00 to post masters for address research with good results. Also we are going to stamp our letters with "address correction requested". If a member is forward expired the post office will furnish the new address. The cost was 25 cents per address, but the price will increase to about 27 cents. We have found that quite a few members are moving. In a few months I will send you our new roster plus your roster of '84 I purchased then. Some members are deceased and M.N.A. We now have about 290 names. JOHN GADDY (804) Rt 3, Box 118

Roswell, NM 88701

To TD buddies, I have really enjoyed receiving the newsletters and I read every one of them. I have been able to contact some old buddies that were in A company with me and it has really meant a lot to me. I am having lots of problems with my eyes and can hardly see sometimes. I have Glaucoma and I have had lung cancer too but I feel fine so keep sending my newsletters. I sure like hearing from my buddies and I am hoping to get to one of the reunions before long. I had a letter from Trely Smith and am going to answer it soon. If you know where Glen Minton is, please have him write. HOBERT WRIGHT (807) P.O. Box 51 Mableton, GA 30059

I have written you before but this is about the 630th TD Bn. We hold reunions every year. We see more of each other than any outfit I know. I was in A company and C company and we even have a "C" reunion in addition to the Battalion reunion. We went from Omaha Beach to the Elbe River most of the time with the 28th "Bloody Bucket" Keystone Division. 23 days at Vossnach Germany. BURNETTE P. PAYNE (630) 16015 Hawthorne Rd., Winston Salem, NC 27103

It was indeed gratifying to read the recent article in the Sept-Oct 1984 issue of "Armor" magazine (page 46, paragraph 3). The capabilities of the combat proven M-18 Hellcat appears about to be recognized by knowledgeable tank men. It has always been a mystery to the TD'ers as to why the Army was so quick to shelve the M-18 after the combat records they posted during WWII. An up dated M-18 might be the answer to the void between the present day main battle tank and the Armored Infantry fighting vehicle that the Army seeks. For some reason or other there seems to be a reluctance on the Armored Forces part to admit that the Tank Destroyers did exist and did the job that was required of them during WWII. It appears that there was some so called "inter-office" disagreement as to who would decide how TD Bn's were to be used. Armor, F.A., and Infantry could never seem to agree. In the opinion of the undersigned, F.A. and the Infantry were unaware of how TD Bn's should be used and the Armored Commands looked upon them as a necessary evil to be tolerated and be used as a utility vehicle. Had they been left under the command of officers trained in TD tactics they would have been more effective, as it was they were placed under the command of officers who were well versed in F.A. and Infantry tactics but unaware of how TD's were most effective. The primary objective of the TD as the name implies, was

to destroy tanks, although they could be and were used as F.A. and Infantry support and as Recon. vehicles due to their speed. The F.A. and Infantry failed to realize that a dug in tank is a sitting duck, a TD has to "hit and run", "shoot and scoot." In the same issue of "Armor" is an article entitled "The New Killer Tank Crews" which appears to be nothing more than Tank Destroyers with a different name, (maybe someone in the Pentagon is beginning to see the light). I'm in contact with a museum in Belgium that is trying to obtain an M-18 for a monument. WALTER RIGHTON, Secretary (704) 29 West Wilkins Lane, Plainfield, IL 60544

EDITOR'S NOTE: The foregoing is from a copy of a letter we received which was written to Mr. Roger Smith, USA Tank Automotive Command, Warren, MI 48090. I wonder if it is possible to obtain for our museum, a copy of this article or any other information "Armor" might have pertaining to the M-18 Hellcat?

I read the Tank Destroyer Newsletter cover to cover, it brings back many thoughts from the years 1941-45. I try to remember all of the names that passed through company "C" third Platoon, we were a wild bunch back in those days. When we formed in December 1942 at Fort Bragg, NC it seemed that the Army went to all the other units and said "give us all the soldiers that you do not want." Did we get a bunch of "I don't give a damn" people! But we fooled them, we became one of the most outstanding units in the American Army, that is, after we got a Commander by the name of Roland Browne, Lt. Col. We started off with 37mm guns, the ones that we pulled with harnesses made for us, then we went to Half tracks with 75's, then to the M-18s, those were the ones we took overseas with us. I couldn't tell you too much about A, B, and Hqs but C company seemed to be in all the hot spots that the Third Army and the 10th AD could find for us. We lost a lot of good men, but the time we were in Bastogne is where the 3rd Platoon, company C, 609th TD Bn. showed how good they were in knocking out German tanks, but there were too many for us and we lost all of our tanks, but not before we got 16 of theirs. We were assigned to the 10th AD CCB under Col. Cherry. I have been back to Bastogne several times and I can still stand on a hill and see the burning TD's. We put our best foot forward in those days. According to the Army General Orders, 3rd Platoon, Co. C, 609th TD Bn. was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for WWII, the only unit in the 609th TD Bn. Oh I forgot to say that I have two TD patches from the uniform that was issued to me in

943 and I wear one on my VFW cap and the other is in a frame with my medals. I am sorry that I missed the meeting at Fort Hood, is I remember that place was only tents and mud to your ears. I can never forget the training ranges and also the TD Bn. 702 that was stationed right across the street from us. Give my regards to Capt. Job McKenzie of Echo Co. (anti-tank, 2/41, 2AD) he has lots of good footsteps to follow in of the TD people that have gone before. Take care of yourself and keep up the good work that you are doing with the newsletter. And as you said, not too many people in the Army or out of it knew just what the Tank Destroyers were. It is true that after the wars have stopped the history will come out. ROBERT G. DUNCAN (609) 1257 N E Beacon Dr., Fort Charlotte, FL 33952

I was with the 826 TD Bn. in the beginning but somehow they split up and I eventually landed in the 540th Amphibious Tractor Bn. Can you please tell me what happened to the 826th and when and where the 540th Amphibious Tractor Bn. was formed? RAY C. KNAUFF (826) 103 Candota Ave., Mt. Prospect, IL 60056

Could you please send me the name and address of the German tanker desiring to join the TDA? I vote to let him join. I wrote before for the address and you advised me to write to C. W. Aresta in Honolulu Hawaii. I have written to him twice and got a reply both times but not a name or an address. I was told to get this information from the TDA. LEROY REED (771) 460 E. Liberty St., Chambersburg, PA 17201

EDITOR'S NOTE: I have been unable to find the original letter on this subject. My father may have known, but that info perished with him. Perhaps the Wehrmacht TD'er or someone else who knows will write in.

We (the 893rd TD) went to Camp Hood from Fort Meade, MD in the summer of 1942 to open a school for TD training. We lived in tents for five months until barracks were built to house us. So thanks again for the TD Newsletter and don't ever stop it, for how else would we know the news? CARL J. ROBINSON (893) 330 - 16th Ave NE, Hickory, NC 28601 Can anyone tell me where I can get the non-numbered armored triangular patch? I would appreciate any information on this item. Thank you. THOMAS O. LEONARD (899) 69 Rathbun St., Coventry, RI 02816

Finally a name in the 12th newsletter that hits home. Col. Nathaniel P. Ward, 637th TD Hampton, VA. I graduated with Nat from Menomonie Wisc. High School in 1929. Haven't seen Nat since then. His name came up at our 50th class reunion in 1979. EARL A. BURGESSON (636) 409 W. Woodward Hts., Hazel Park, MI 48030

Thanks for your help in locating an old buddy (Urho Kokko) as well as directing me to the organizer of the 631st reunions. I'd like to hear from any former company C members from the 631st. BILL NEWMAN (631) 6213 Coral Lake Dr., Margate, FL 33063

I was in the first unit which was called the 609th TD Bn. and we pitched tents at Prodcote Texas, just a short distance out of Gatesville. I met my wife in Gatesville in 1942 and was married, now we go back to see her mother, sister and two brothers every year or so. RALPH E. BURTON (609) 3677 Oakwood Dr., Amelia, OH 45102

We all loved our TD outfits. We had a very good reunion in Syracuse, next one, on to Albany. PETE CAIN (801) 224-21 Fairbury Ave., Queens Village, NY 11428

Can anyone tell me if there is any way I can purchase a TD lapel insignia? I lost mine about a year ago and I would certainly appreciate the opportunity to

replace it. If it is possible, I'll be one happy TD man. BOB ROBINSON (825) 103 Trent Ln., Camillus, NY 13031

My husband died in January 1978. He was in the 638th TD Bn. I watch for letters in the newsletter from others who were in the 638th. I think you are doing a great deed trying to keep people in touch with each other and letting them know they are not forgotten. NORMA OLER 565 N. Rural St. Indianapolis, IN 46201

We had one helluva reunion in Sept. 1984 at Colorado Springs, Colo. and we really had a good turnout. GENE KNIGHT (823) P.O. Box 232, Huntsville, UT 84317

Would it be possible to list all the TD Bn.'s and the camps they originated from? I know the 609th TD came to be at Ft. Bragg, NC. CHARLES WAVERLY (609) 17989 Shaw Rd (Troy Oaks), Hiram, OH 44234

When are you going to have another national TD reunion? I can't wait! WILLIAM B. OETTLE (805) Rt. 1, Bx. 247-A, Waterloo, IL 62298

Its very interesting to know the number of men and families coming together since the WWII days. We just returned from our 808 reunion held at Overland Park, KS. This year the reunion was a smaller group, but very enjoyable. The weather was ideal, not too hot as it generally is in the mid-west. It has saddened us to know Jerry Cohen has left us. May his soul rest in peace. There are a lot of the guys who haven't heard of the newsletter but maybe now more will be interested. PRISCILLA ELDER (808) 940 Kittery Way, Pinole, CA 94564

THE END (MAIL CALL)

MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

SKETCHES: We are again offering for sale the 11" X 14" prints (a sample of one is printed on the front page of this newsletter.) They may be ordered separately or as a set. If you order the set you will receive a 6th print as a bonus. This additional print is the M10 with the tube in the travel position (pictured on this page). The prints will be shipped in a cardboard mailing tube so please add an additional charge of \$2.50 for shipping and handling to each order of sketches.

SEARCHES: Send us \$1.00 and the name of each old buddy you would like a current address for. If he is on our National TD Roster, we will send you his address. If he is not on our Roster, his name will appear in the search column in the next newsletter.

DECALS are also being offered. One is the decal of the TD emblem in 4 colors, and the other decal is "TANK DESTROYERS WW II" in block letters. The price is \$2.50 per set, postage included.

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!TD ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

All orders must be made on the Order Form below. If you do not wish to cut up your Newsletter you may type or copy the form in your own hand writing..

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Due to the limited space and manpower available, we are unable to publish the names of the over 2,000 who have loyally supported the Newsletter Fund by donating \$10.00 or less. To each of you goes our sincerest thanks. The following is a list of readers who have made an extra contribution, over and above that to the Newsletter Fund. To these we say: "Thank you for supporting TDA"

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602 Fall 1986, Denver, CO
CONTACT: John F. DeKenipp, 12 Russell Ave., Nutley, NJ 07110 201-667-1394.

603 Summer 1986, Jacksonville, FL
CONTACT: George W. Greek, 7816 Cecil St., Jacksonville, FL 32205

610 1986, Cleveland, OH
CONTACT: Carl J. Maurana, 611 Euclid Ave., Saegertown, PA 16433 627 1986
CONTACT: George Lucas, 151 Zittel St., Buffalo, NY 14210

630 August 1986, Charlotte, NC
CONTACT: James Oxendine, 11724 Bain School Rd., Mint Hill, NC 28212

640 Oct. 10-11 1986, Anaheim, CA
CONTACT: William (Bud) Shulman 6522 Fairfield St., Los Angeles, CA 90022

644 Fall 1986, Seattle-Tacoma
CONTACT: Al Berg, 610 Aloha St. Seattle, WA 98109 206-283-4429

648 August 1986, Pennsylvania
CONTACT: Don & Anne Rische, 1021 Market St., Bloomsburg, PA 17815 712-474-5531

648 1986 MINI-REUNION Houston, TX
CONTACT: Sam Burns, 226 E. Mitchell, Houston, TX 77037

648 August 1987
CONTACT: Melvin & Lois Colby, PO Box 209, Excelsior, MN 55331 612-474-5393

771 Oct. 25-27 1986, Catskills
CONTACT: Nick Perrino, 7-5 Straight Path, Rock Hill, NY 12775

773 September 1986, Virginia Beach, VA
CONTACT: Thomas J. Kane, Sierra East Mobile Home Park Sp. 22, Coleville, CA 96107

776 July 2, 3&4 1986, Tulsa, OK
CONTACT: John W. Love, 5306 E. 28th St., Tulsa, OK 74114

806 May 30-June 1 1986, Louisville, KY
CONTACT: Richard A. Allen, 201 W. Hillside Ave., Barrington, IL 60010 312-381-2989

814 June 28-29 1986, Savannah, MD
CONTACT: Calvin C. Boykin, Jr. 1505 Laura Lane, College Station, TX 77840 409-693-0224

817 1986 Pittsburgh, PA
CONTACT: Ray Banks, 116 Laurel Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15202

824 October 26, 1986, Hicksville, NY
CONTACT: Michael F. Masone, 53 Lent Drive, Plainview, NY 11803 516-433-2663

A.W.O.L.

A TD'er is looking for a long-lost buddy. Won't you help him in his search? Look through your local telephone directory. If you find a potential subject, verify it by a phone call and if successful please notify us at TDA Hqs. Thanks to your help, we have been successful in locating quite a few long lost sheep.

Major King TD School
Sgt. Macabee TD School
Lt. Barione TD School
"Wimpy" from anti-aircraft
Sgt. Burhiser from Main Supply
Louis Steine (774) last known address in Atlanta, GA
Frank E. Summers (774) last known address in East Point, GA
James E. Stanley (774) last known address in Atlanta, GA
Joseph L. V. St. Pierre (774) last known address in Manchester, NH
John C. Bechelli (813)
Lawrence Green(e)
William E. Potter
Lloyd P. Dyson
Pete Savage (634)
John Gobel possibly originally from Minneapolis, MN
Joseph Anastasio (801) 3rd Platoon Co. "C"

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