



TANK DESTROYER NEWSLETTER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TANK DESTROYER ASSOCIATION,
3050 HARCROSS ROAD.....REDWOOD CITY, CALIFORNIA.....94062

AUGUST 1986

NEWSLETTER NO. 18

TANK DESTROYER MUSEUM INVITED TO FORT KNOX

PATTON MUSEUM OF CAVALRY AND ARMOR



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THE OFFICERS OF THE TANK DESTROYER ASSOCIATION ARE PLEASED TO INFORM THE NEWSLETTER READERS OF GOOD NEWS REGARDING THE BANNER HEADLINE OF THIS ISSUE OF THE TANK DESTROYER ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER!

THE INVITATION FROM THE PATTON MUSEUM WAS EXTENDED AT A TIME SHORTLY AFTER THE TANK DESTROYER ASSOCIATION MUSEUM COMMITTEE RECEIVED A LETTER FROM THE MUSEUM BRANCH OF THE CHIEF OF MILITARY HISTORY, WASHINGTON, D.C. WHICH LITERALLY CLOSED THE DOOR TO OUR TDA RECEIVING ANY SUPPORT FROM THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ANOTHER MUSEUM, OR EVEN DEDICATING RESOURCES FOR AN EXISTING MUSEUM, FOR TANK DESTROYER MEMORIALIZATION AT FORT HOOD, TEXAS!

THE LETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF MILITARY HISTORY ADDED TO OUR WOES AND REINFORCED MORE SO THAT PART OF THE BACKGROUND WHICH EARLIER PROMPTED OUR TANK DESTROYER NEWSLETTER NUMBER 15, OCTOBER 1985, TO CARRY A TWO COLUMN "OUCH" ARTICLE RELATING TO OUR LOCATING A TANK DESTROYER MUSEUM AT FORT HOOD.

YOU WILL RECALL OUR "OUCH" ARTICLE PROVIDED THE NEWSLETTER READER WITH AN UPFRONT AND UP TO THE MINUTE REVIEW OF THE MUSEUM EFFORT AT FORT HOOD. WE DISCUSSED THE MATTER OF A MUSEUM CONCEPT AS A PART OF A VISITOR'S CENTER AT FORT HOOD. WE CONSIDERED THAT A VISITOR'S CENTER WOULD NOT BE A PART OF AN ACTIVE DUTY UNIT MUSEUM CHARGED WITH A SPECIFIC MISSION TAILORED TO ACCOMMODATE THE UNIT IT SUPPORTS; I.E. THE 1st CAVALRY DIVISION AND THE 2d ARMORED DIVISION. AS A MATTER OF FACT EACH OF THE TWO UNIT MUSEUM'S HAVE TANK DESTROYER ARTIFACTS WHICH THEY PERIODICALLY EXHIBIT ON A TEMPORARY BASIS.

ANOTHER FACET OF OUR "OUCH" COLUMN SUGGESTED THAT THE TANK DESTROYER ASSOCIATION WOULD STIMULATE A RESPONSE TO THE IDEA THAT WE FUND A MUSEUM FROM A NON-GOVERNMENT SOURCE AND ASK THAT SUCH A FUND WOULD SEE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FACILITY AT FORT HOOD. AS YOU MAY HAVE GATHERED BY THIS TIME THE PROPOSAL WAS NOT TAKEN TO HEART WITH SPONTANEOUS OUTPOURING OF EITHER COMMENTS OR FUNDING. AND, DESERVINGLY SO - THE OPERATIONAL EXPENSE OF SUCH A FACILITY FOLLOWING THE DESIRABLE CONSTRUCTION AND THE LATER FURNISHING EXPENSES WOULD HAVE REQUIRED AN ON GOING ORGANIZATION OF A LONGER LIFE AND OF A WIDER FUNDING BASE THAN WE POSSESS OR EVEN DESIRE TO POSSESS.

YOU CAN WELL IMAGINE HOW WE FELT WHEN TDA VICE-PRESIDENT JOE GOEPPNER MET WITH MR. JOHN M. PURDY, DIRECTOR OF THE PATTON MUSEUM OF CAVALRY AND ARMOR AT FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY. THE MEETING IS DESCRIBED WITHIN THIS NEWSLETTER BUT, PLEASE LOOK TO THE STATED "ENTHUSIASM" OF DIRECTOR PURDY AND THE "IMPRESSIONS" NOTED BY TDA VICE-PRESIDENT GOEPPNER!

THE 1295 MILE MOTOR TRIP BY V.P. JOE REPRESENTED MANY CONVERSATIONS WITH TDA VICE-PRESIDENT QUINT ATKINSON IN HERNDON, VIRGINIA PLUS THE LONG DISTANT DIRECTIONS FROM THE THREE OF US HERE ON THE PACIFIC COAST. AND, HE DID IT! THE PERSONAL VISIT TO THE PATTON MUSEUM IS A PART OF THIS NEWSLETTER AS IS THE STRONG RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION BY THE TDA.

OUR NEWSLETTER CONTAINS MANY INFORMATIONAL ITEMS OF THE PATTON MUSEUM WHICH HAVE TO BE CHECKED OUT BEFORE WE WOULD OFFER TO ALL OF THE TDA'ERS THE FULL AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH THE MUSEUM. YOU WILL NOTE IN SECTIONS OF THIS NEWSLETTER THAT THE LAND AND BUILDING AREA OF THE MUSEUM IS ENORMOUS! THE TDA OFFICERS WILL VISIT THE MUSEUM IN THE EARLY PART OF OCTOBER IN ORDER TO MEET AND GREET MR. PURDY AND HIS STAFF FOR THE CONTROL OF THE OFFICIAL AND CONTRIBUTED ITEMS FOR REPOSITORY WITHIN THE MUSEUM, THE EXHIBIT OF BATTALION FLAGS UNDER THE ASSIGNED CONTROL OF THE TDA, THE FOUR TD MEDAL OF HONOR AWARDEES, THE ASSEMBLY OF OFFICIAL AND HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS OF THE TANK DESTROYER CENTER WHICH WERE SENT TO THE ARMORED CENTER AT FORT KNOX FROM THEN CAMP HOOD AT THE END OF WWII, AND TO ESTABLISH A RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION CENTER AS A LIBRARY TO PRESERVE, STUDY, AND RECORD VITAL MEMORIES AND EXPERIENCES OF THE TANK DESTROYER FORCES.

AND, WHAT OTHER WAY COULD THE TANK DESTROYER ASSOCIATION BE ASSOCIATED WITH FORT KNOX? THE INACTIVATION OF THE LAST TANK DESTROYER UNIT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY, THE 656TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION, WAS AT NEARBY CAMP CAMPBELL ON NOVEMBER 1st, 1946. THE 656th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION FOUGHT IN EUROPE WITH THE 9th ARMORED DIVISION. TODAY, QUENTON E. HENDERSON IS BATTALION SECRETARY AND RESIDES NEARBY AT 222 MORGAN STREET IN IRONDALE, OHIO 43922; THEIR ROSTER IS MAINTAINED BY RAYMOND WALTER WHO RESIDES AT NEARBY 2674 AFON-WADSWORTH ROAD IN BARBERTON, OHIO 44203. THEIR EFFORTS KEEPING THE MEMBERS TOGETHER HAVE PRODUCED A BATTALION ROSTER OF 217 TDers!

Copy from the University of Tennessee Special Collections Library

PLEASE EXCUSE THE SMALL PRINT FOLLOWING OUR REDUCING THE ORIGINAL LETTERS AND INFORMATION SHEETS SO THAT
THEY WOULD FIT WITHIN THE NEWSLETTER PAGES. THANKS!

**PATTON MUSEUM
OF
CAVALRY AND ARMOR**

26 May 1986



SUBJECT: Tank Destroyer Theme at the Patton Museum

LTC (Ret.) Joe Goepfert
Route 1, Box 802
Shepherdstown, WV 25443

Dear Colonel Goepfert:

It was a pleasure meeting with you on 28 April 1986, and discussing the history of the Tank Destroyer Corps. As we discussed, the Museum has attempted to present the Tank Destroyer's story for over ten years. Our major problem is the lack of Tank Destroyer material. I have enclosed two photos of the areas devoted to anti-tank exhibits. As you can see, the Tank Destroyers are mentioned.

Our major difficulties lie in two areas. First, we have not been able to locate either an M10, M18 or M36 in good enough condition to justify the expense of shipping. I believe that these still exist. However, they are not going to be located in areas close to the Museum. Once located, acquiring these will require considerable coordination, time and money. Your organization can be of great assistance to us now in looking for any of these three vehicles. Depending on the location, we may request further assistance.

More directly, the members of the Tank Destroyer Association still hold many smaller items that are necessary to complete any exhibit of the Tank Destroyers. You have a copy of our Collection Policy, which gives the broad limits in which we collect. In a more specific vein, we need the "common" items of the Tank Destroyer era. While we accept selected items that were unique or unusual, these never tend to fit within a story. In our story-line, we want to tell, with objects, the story of what the Tank Destroyers were and what they did. Uniforms, equipment, and personal articles that were used by thousands of Tank Destroyer soldiers are necessary to complete the story.

You saw the exhibits that we did for other stories. We prefer to display the large objects "in situ" so that each exhibit tells a complete story. In order to do that, we must collect

a large amount of material that goes with the large object. As a general rule, if prospective donors would visualize a Tank Destroyer photograph taken during World War II, anything in that photograph would be subject for collection.

We discussed your organization serving as a clearing house for these objects. This would be a valuable asset considering that the members of your organization have been holding their material for years in anticipation of a separate Tank Destroyer Museum. Our primary need will be for a clearing house to eliminate the items that do not have historical significance. We also are not staffed for a flood of items at one time. I anticipate that there will be times when we will ask you to hold items for a month or so to prevent the backlog from overwhelming us. Each group of items will have to be handled on a case-by-case basis. For some, we can fund the shipping. We might have to request assistance in the shipping of larger collections.

We have other programs that you might be interested in joining. We have a Memorial Park for units that participated in combat in any war. These memorials are distinguished only by the size. Each unit could purchase a memorial for its specific size. I am enclosing a copy of our Park plan for more detailed information.

You might also want to consider a reunion in the Louisville area, with a day at Fort Knox and the Patton Museum. Colonel (Ret.) Ernest J. Desoto, 2055 Eastern Parkway, Louisville, Kentucky 40204, is planning such an event for the Third Armored Division this Fall. I am sure he would be happy to share his experiences with you. You might also want to talk to Mr. Russell Anderson, Executive Director of the Louisville Convention Bureau, 501 South Third Street, Louisville, Kentucky 40202.

Again, it was a pleasure meeting you. I look forward to a long association in telling the Tank Destroyer story.

Sincerely,

J. M. Purdy
John M. Purdy
Director
Patton Museum

Enclosure

POST OFFICE BOX 200
FT. KNOX, KY. 40121
Phone (606) 434-3113



MEMBER:
U.S. Army Museum System, American Association of Museums, American Association for State & Local History, and International Association of Arms and Military History.

RFD 1, Box 802
Shepherdstown, WV 25443
24 June 1986

**SUMMARY REPORT - ACTIONS TO ESTABLISH A TANK DESTROYER MUSEUM
ELEMENT IN AN EXISTING ESTABLISHED ARMY MUSEUM**

Mr. Warren J. Mitchell
President
Tank Destroyer Association
3050 Harcross Road
Redwood City, California 94062

Dear Warren:

This letter, together with the enclosures, represents a summary report to the Officers and Directors of the Tank Destroyer Association, of efforts to establish a collection of Tank Destroyer artifacts and documentation as an element of an existing museum facility.

By way of review, I would like to reference your November 25, 1985 letter to me (which I refer to as the "OUCH" letter (TAB A)) in which you review the lack of progress in dealing with the personnel at Fort Hood in connection with establishment of a Tank Destroyer Museum, and enjoining me to re-open my original discussions with Mr. Michael Vice of the Army History Office regarding our museum objectives. If you recall, in my initial discussions with Mr. Vice, he indicated that there was interest in the Army History Office regarding the possibility of a Tank Destroyer historical representation, however, he indicated quite clearly that:

(1) Army Regulations specifically defined the museum functions of organizations and installations, and that the Army History Office would be governed in its actions by the provisions of those regulations.

(2) He was aware that there were two (2) organizational museums at Fort Hood, i.e., that of the 1st Cavalry Division, and that of the 2d Armored Division, and that it was his position that neither of these activities could appropriately be used as a museum facility for a "Tank Destroyer Museum". He further emphasized that the only type of a facility which the Army History Office could support, if it supported any, would be an elaboration of an "Installation" museum to contain the Tank Destroyer Museum; and the lack of such a museum at Fort Hood precluded any support for integration of our museum objectives into either of the existing museums at Fort Hood. He emphatically reiterated that no authority existed at Fort Hood, with any element of command or staff, to establish such a museum function without the approval of the Chief of Military History.

Subsequent to some additional telephonic communication with Colonel Atkinson and you regarding the idea of communicating with the Patton Museum, I undertook opening communications with that Museum. On April 16 1986, I was finally able to reach Mr. John M. Purdy, Director of the Patton Museum. We engaged in a long conversation regarding past and present efforts at establishing a Tank Destroyer museum. I apprised him of the essential facts regarding our actions at Fort Hood and my communications and conversations with personnel from the Office of Military History. He was quite shocked that in none of these contacts, was it suggested that we should consider working with the Patton Museum. He expressed great interest in pursuing the matter with me, indicated that he would consult with officials at Fort Knox, and in response to my request to arrange a meeting with him to discuss the matter, he indicated he would immediately get back with me by letter in this regard. I was tremendously impressed by his enthusiasm in discussing the matter with me and interest in looking into it fully.

On April 17, 1986, he did in fact correspond with me by letter (TAB E) and with this letter provided me with a copy of the "Collection Policy Statement (TAB F).

The promptness of his response and the enthusiasm contained therein prompted me to arrange an immediate trip to Fort Knox to meet with him, as we had previously discussed and get to the core of the matter.

Upon arrival at the Patton Museum, I met with Mr. Purdy *str* Length about our museum objectives and reviewed the entire history of our efforts. Mr. Purdy indicated that in fact, initial discussions were held with officers of the Tank Destroyer Association several years ago, and at that time, the Patton Museum was responsive to the idea of incorporating the Tank Destroyer story into the Patton Museum, but the officers of the Tank Destroyer Association had indicated interest in a separate museum which was totally dedicated to the tank destroyer story and not be involved with an existing museum. In view of this, although they continued to be interested, nothing further transpired until now.

Mr. Purdy conducted me on a complete tour of the museum and explained the exhibition philosophy, documentation capabilities, staffing and management aspects of the operation of the museum. We also toured the Memorial Park of memorials of WWII units and indicated how our battalions and units could participate in this program. Upon

Continued on page 3

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From page two

completion of the tour and in-depth discussion of display philosophies, detailed review of the collection policy, we broke for lunch at the Fort Officers' Club. Following lunch, we returned to the Museum and engaged in an in-depth discussion with Lt. Col. John A. Campbell, Retired, of the Patton Museum Cavalry Armor Foundation Development Fund who discussed his prior contacts with members of the Association and the before-mentioned lack of interest in being involved with the Patton Museum.

There followed a technical discussion regarding the disposition of Tank Destroyer units following the 1945 decision to abandon the tank destroyer concept and the inactivation of the last tank destroyer unit, the 656th Tank Destroyer Battalion, at Camp Campbell, KY on November 1, 1946. It is the professional position of the curator personnel at the Patton Museum, and for that matter, Army doctrine that the tank destroyer concept was always an element of armor, and that the Patton Museum is the natural repository for any official tank destroyer museum and library facility. Fundamentally, it was advanced that the tank destroyer concept was a significant element in the development of the present day armor concept, and that element should be portrayed in its true light as an integral part of the story of armor as it developed in the U.S. Army.

Upon completion of these talks, the conferences at Fort Knox were terminated, and I returned to Shepherdstown, WV to await receipt of a confirming letter from Mr Purdy regarding the interest of the Museum in working with our Association in developing the Tank Destroyer Story at the Patton Museum of Cavalry and Armor.

On May 26, 1986, I received the formal confirming letter from the Patton Museum of Cavalry and Armor regarding development of the Tank Destroyer Theme at the Patton Museum. The letter, originating with Mr Purdy confirms all of our prior correspondence and conferences and confirms the interest and indeed pleasure which has been generated toward a working relationship with our Association to develop a museum entity for our Tank Destroyer Story. This letter is attached (TAB 6) for your review.

Finally, I was provided with two versions of a pamphlet which is distributed at the Patton Museum (TAB H and TAB J) and a leaflet which described the Memorial Park (TAB I).

Part II of this Summary Report will address technical aspects associated with implementation of this plan in event the Board of Directors confirms this interest in establishing the Tank Destroyer Museum entity at the Patton Museum.

PART II - SUMMARY REPORT REGARDING ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TANK DESTROYER THEME AT THE PATTON MUSEUM

At the outset, the Officers of the Association, and the members of the Association at large, are faced with acceptance of a fundamental precept which to this point has been untenable.

Realistically, from the standpoint of economic feasibility, and the practical realities associated with the operation and management of museums, a separate and distinct Tank Destroyer Museum is not a viable concept. Neither is a separate Tank Destroyer Museum a tenable concept when surveyed from the standpoint of the Military History Office of the United States Army, which has explicitly stated its position regarding support for establishing any Army installation museum to serve as a Tank Destroyer Museum, or tasking any existing Army museum with the mission of establishing a Tank Destroyer Theme. Unless the Association was prepared to seek a tremendously expensive endowment or trust which would enable the procurement of real estate and construction of a significant physical structure, to house such a facility, and be prepared to fund for the indefinite staffing of such a facility with curator and maintenance personnel, the concept of a separate Tank Destroyer Museum is beyond the realm of reality.

The facilities at the Patton Museum represent the finest represented anyplace. The physical plant is entirely adequate to accommodate the mission of incorporating the Tank Destroyer Theme, and planned expansion of an additional wing, and the construction of a completely equipped auditorium to accommodate meetings and conferences will insure that these facilities can in fact represent long term integrity of any displays.

Through review of the correspondence, it becomes apparent that the task of display development, preservation of documentation, and long term management of the Tank Destroyer Theme at the Patton Museum is assured. The Association is effectively relieved of all management responsibilities in connection with this activity. The association inherits no financial liabilities attendant to establishment of the Tank Destroyer Theme.

In discussions with the curator staff, it was developed that, based on the collection policy of the museum, displays are designed and developed to "tell a story". Exhibits are constructed around large objects "in situ" so that the exhibit, such as a photograph of a World War II scene would tell a complete story of the men, equipment, or uniforms, represented by a supposedly representative picture or pictures of situations involving tank destroyer units in action. Such exhibits will in fact require the collection of a large amount of material that would be a part of the "larger picture" of the tank destroyer weapon or vehicle and everything that is attendant.

In reviewing the two handout pamphlets attached (TAB H TAB I, examples of such displays are pictures. In addition, in the version of the pamphlet, dated to 1985, a diagram showing the internal geography of the museum is contained. It was inquired during the discussions with curator staff that, based upon the availability of materials and future space, a fairly well defined area, which could be loosely referred to as the Tank Destroyer Gallery, containing representative vehicles as exhibits, organizational colors, and other significant items of memorabilia.

It was suggested by museum staff, and it is a viable concept, that

through our Association Newsletter, we should solicit and specify the conditions for collecting items of interest from our membership. To this end, it is suggested that our Association serve as a clearing house which could eliminate collection of items that are not appropriate or which have no historical significance, and are associated with a personality. The specifics of this approach are spelled out in the confirming letter from Patton Museum (TAB F). It is proposed that a detailed procedure be generated where, if membership is requested, via the newsletter, to communicate with designated officials of the Association, utilizing a standardized form, regarding the specific material(s) they have which they are interested in contributing to the museum. These communications will be evaluated internally, and finally reviewed by the Patton Museum staff. Individuals possessing selected items will in turn be furnished with shipping instructions and documentation requirements. Such procedures will serve to reduce the tremendous workload associated with screening items for inclusion in the Tank Destroyer theme.

The involvement of any or all of the 106 Tank Destroyer Battalions, the Tank Destroyer Command and/or School, Brigades, etc., in the developing Armor Memorial Park is explained in the leaflet which addresses the Park (TAB J). This concept will enable the separate Battalions on their own to plan for and realize memorials of their own at Fort Knox, and the facilities of the Museum can accommodate completion of such organizations, or for that matter a general reunion of the Tank Destroyer Association.

Fundamentally, realization of the incorporation of the Tank Destroyer Theme at the Patton Museum is a "least cost" approach, in that from the standpoint of economic, the Association is not obligated to accumulate large sums of money for the accommodation of the Tank Destroyer Theme at the Museum. Except for specific request for financial assistance in the shipping or transport of items of interest to the museum such as vehicles, etc., the Museum is not requesting any financial support from the Association. This is consistent with the expressed intent of the officers of the Association to hold funds of the Association to the minimum required to sustain the organization as a non-profit entity.

PART III - RECOMMENDATIONS

- I. It is recommended that the Board of Directors accept the invitation of the Patton Museum of Cavalry and Armor to designate that activity as the depository of the Tank Destroyer Theme whereby all and all historical materials, documentation and historical memorabilia relating to the history of the Tank Destroyer Command and Units will be preserved at that location.
- II. The President and/or Directors communicate this acceptance to the Director of the Patton Museum of Cavalry and Armor on the official stationery of the Association.
- III. Action be taken to designate personnel and procedures required to fully implement the establishment of the Tank Destroyer Theme at the Patton Museum.
- IV. Action be taken to generate a news release for the newsletter which informs the membership of these events and generate a list for potential donors to use in informing the Association of the items they are desirous of making available to the museum.
- V. A meeting of the Board of Directors be convened at Fort Knox as soon as feasible to meet with the staff of the museum, Fort Knox personnel who are involved, and view the facilities and potential for realization of the display exhibits and documentation archives.

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Goepfert
Joe Goepfert
Vice President and Washington Liaison
Accord: *Quint Atkinson*
Quint Atkinson
Vice President and Washington Liaison

*****PRESIDENT'S ENDORSEMENT*****

IT IS A PRIVILEGE TO ENDORSE THE EXCELLENT AND VERY PROFESSIONAL TANK DESTROYER MUSEUM REPORT BY VICE-PRESIDENT JOE GOEFFNER! THE REPORT, IN NINE PAGES, WAS EDITED IN ORDER TO PRESENT PART II AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS NEARLY INTACT.

I ADD MY COMPLIMENTS TO INCLUDE VICE-PRESIDENT QUINT ATKINSON'S STRONG EFFORTS TO PROVIDE A VERY PROFESSIONAL AND EXCELLENT BUSINESS PRACTICE ON THE MUSEUM PROJECT! THANK YOU JOE AND QUINT!
OUR OCTOBER NEWSLETTER WILL REPORT ON THE IDA OFFICERS MEETING WITH MR. JOHN M. PURDY DIRECTOR OF THE PATTON MUSEUM.

Copied from the files of the Office of the Adjutant General Citizens Library

**PATTON MUSEUM
OF
CAVALRY AND ARMOR**



COLLECTION POLICY STATEMENT

31 MAY 1985

1. **Acquisitions.** The Patton Museum serves as installation property account for all historically significant items owned by Department of the Army at the U.S. Army Armor Center and School. All such items will be considered part of the museum collection. The Patton Museum seeks historically significant items that help fulfill the museum mission. There are three means whereby the museum acquires objects:

a. **Transfers.** Transfers from other museums and federal agencies. These items are already property of the federal government. They are transferred to the museum for preservation and to fulfill the museum mission.

b. **Purchases.** The museum only purchases items that cannot be acquired through transfer or donation.

c. **Donations.** The primary source for new acquisitions is donations from private individuals and groups. Donations to the museum are unconditional and irrevocable. The museum reserves the right to use donated objects at its discretion to accomplish the mission. Since the museum and the museum staff are "interested parties" to any donation, the museum will not provide appraisals for objects donated to the museum. (Donors requiring appraisals for tax purposes must obtain these at their own expense from a qualified appraiser.)

2. **Type of Objects Collected.** a. Specialized Armor and Mechanized Cavalry Equipment of all nations from World War I to present. One example of each item that was developed for Armor or Mechanized Cavalry will be collected, maintained, and preserved as the U.S. Army's example of that item. Additional examples will be collected for demonstration or exhibit purposes as specific needs develop.

b. General Military Equipment of all nations from World War I to present. Only such items of military equipment which were used with Armor and Mechanized Cavalry equipment will be collected. The quantity of each item will be limited to the number necessary to complete the specialized equipment in the collection. Only objects that had the widest use will be collected. Special variants will not be collected.

c. United States Horse Cavalry from 1775 to 1941. As an introduction to Cavalry and Armor of the 20th Century, the museum exhibits items that provide a background. Only such items as required to provide a historical introduction to Mechanized Cavalry will be collected. Generally, these items will be

collected for a specific exhibit or instructional class. Items collected will be those that had the widest use. Special purpose items or those associated with a personality will not be collected.

d. **Association Items.** Items that have a special association to one of the following will be collected regardless of the designed use. Each item must be identifiable as having a strong association to:

(1) Fort Knox area from 1918 to present.

(2) General George S. Patton, Jr.

(3) Other Armor personalities that are both deceased and recorded in U.S. Army Center of Military History historical publications for notable Armor or Mechanized Cavalry actions.

e. **Library Material.** The museum seeks books, manuals, papers, other documents, photographs, slides, film, and other audiovisual materials that provide information on the above categories whether historically significant or not. Personal papers will be limited to those subjects that provide background information on donor and those subjects that provide information on items classified in the above categories. Historically significant items will be accessioned as part of the museum collection. Those items that are not historically significant will be accessioned as part of the library. If they are part of the library, accountability will be in accordance with library regulations.

f. **Art.** Objects created for aesthetic purposes whether paintings, sculpture or other media that are one of a kind or one of a limited series, under the direct control of the artist, are sought. The museum seeks only those objects that depict the role of Armor or Mechanized Cavalry from World War I to present. Athletic trophies, mementos, prizes and unit awards are of transient significance. They will not be accepted into the museum collection.

3. **Donor Recognition.** In recognition of the contribution of the donors of objects, the museum will provide letters and certificates of donation. Records of donor information will be retained in the donor file. Donor labels will be placed on items on exhibit.

4. **Loans to the Museum.** Loans will be accepted only for specific exhibits or instructional classes. They will be retained by the museum only for the duration of the exhibit or class. The period of the loan will be for one year or less and may be renewed for an aggregate of two years. Loans for a greater period will be submitted, through channels, to the Secretary of the Army in accordance with AR 1-100 for approval.

5. **Loans from the Museum.** The museum will make loans of objects in the collection to agencies for projects that are consistent with the general goals and

2

POST OFFICE BOX 206
FT. KNOX, KY. 40121
Phone (502) 624-3812



MEMBER:
U.S. Army Museums System, American Association of Museums, American Association for State & Local History, and International Association of Arms and Military History

ACCESSION NO. _____

Page 1 of _____ pages



POST OFFICE BOX 206
FT. KNOX, KY. 40121
Phone (502) 624-3812

UNCONDITIONAL DONATION
TO THE
UNITED STATES ARMY

purpose of the museum. Consideration of the individual objects will be determined by the nature of use, security and environmental controls provided by the agency. The museum reserves the right to cancel the loan and recall the objects.

5. **Deaccessions.** All items in the museum's collection are the property of the U.S. Army. None will be sold or traded or given to any agency outside the control of the Chief of Military History without his approval. Historical properties in the collection that, for reason of duplication or unsuitability to the museum's mission, are considered excess to the museum's needs will be offered to the following agencies in order of priority:

- Other U.S. Army Museums.
- Other Department of Defense or Federal Museums.
- Museums or other nonprofit institutions in accordance with Chapter X, DoD 4160.21-M.
- Department of Defense Property Disposal Agency.

Documentation of all deaccessioned objects will be retained in the museum's property records.

Enclosure
Sample of ATZK-DPT Form 638,
"Unconditional Donation to the
United States Army"

JOHN R. GETGOOD
Colonel, GS
Director of Plans and Training

SAMPLE

I own the items described below, and have full legal authority to dispose of them. I desire to give unconditionally the described property to the United States Army. I understand that _____, Curator of the Patton Museum of Cavalry and Armor, located at Fort Knox, County of Hardin, State of Kentucky, will accept the unconditional gift on behalf of the United States Army. To carry out my purpose, I do hereby give and deliver to the United States Army, the property described as follows:

Item No. _____ Description _____

It is distinctly understood that it is my purpose and intention to vest all the incidents of absolute ownership of the property in the United States Army from this time forward.

Dated: _____ 19____ Signature of Donor _____

The above items have been accepted as an unconditional donation to the Patton Museum of Cavalry and Armor.

Dated: _____ 19____ CURATOR

ATZK-DPT Form 638

Enclosure

Fort Knox, Kentucky

**America's Museum
of**

Armored Fighting Vehicles

Copy from the University of Tennessee Special Collections Library

A.W.O.L.'s

REUNIONS

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.

- Fred Wolff
- James Austin
- George Bowie
- Carl Cockriel
- Paul Sparks
- David L. Reiff
- Charles W. Nichols
- Lamont Turney
- Lt. Roy Wilbourne
- David Eckstein
- /Robert C. Whelan (610)
- Charles Hutcheson
- Richard C. Leib (829)
- George Buckhart (829)
- Jean A. Harwood (829)
- Robert J. Bearon
- Chow W. Quong (893)
- Horace Wood (893)
- Ralph Freeland (820)
- George Howell (820)

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
 TANK DESTROYER PUBLICATION ADDRESS
 !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
 News letter No. 17 referenced a new 92 page soft bound book titled "SEEK, STRIKE, DESTROY: U. S. ARMY TANK DESTROYER DOCTRINE IN WORLDWAR II. The author was noted as well as the publisher and we then listed how to get the book from the U. S. Government Printing Office. PLEASE NOTE WE LEFT OUT THE ADDRESS: WASHINGTON, D.C. AND ZIP 20402
 !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

A NEW BOOK OF SERVICE HUMOR! published by D. F. BUCHWALD COL U.S. ARMY, RET. (605th TDBn) advised the TDA office that his book BIRDS IN THE SQUIRREL FEEDER, by COLONEL FONITIUS PILATE is a collection of very funny military anecdotes, stories, jokes and soldier humor. It starts with the ancient Romans, rolls thru history including the american history, include West Point, his duty with the 605th T. D. En. and up to the present. Cost is \$11.95 plus \$1.00 handling and postage; sent to the Colonel at his residence 2100 East 1214 Bristol St. Apt. G128 Elkhart, IN 46514. We have not read the book but the ARMY Magazine gave it a nice four paragraph review.

HAVE YOU MOVED? BE SURE TO SEND YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS

This Newsletter is sent to you by bulk mail. If you move it will NOT be forwarded. Be sure to send us a Change of Address card.

- 601 1986, Phila., PA CONTACT: Franklin Delia, 917 Ave. AParkland, PA 19047.
- 602 Sept. 19-21, 1986, Denver, CO CONTACT: John F. DeKenipp, 12 Russell Ave., Nutley, NJ 07110 201-667-1394.
- 605 Aug. 30-Sept 1, 1986, Findlay, OH. CONTACT: Lawrence N. Montgomery, 120 E. 1st Ave., Plainwell, MI 49080 616-685-8729
- 608 Sept. 13-14, 1986, Lancaster, PA CONTACT: Harry S. Rapp, 317 W. King St. Lancaster, PA 17603
- 608 May 1, 1987, MINIREUNION, Fremont, OH, CONTACT: Bernard J. Haas, 729 Nickel St. Fremont, OH. 43420
- 609 Sept. 18-20, 1986, Nashville, TN. CONTACT: George Funke, 3260 Oxford Rd., Trevoise, PA 19047
- 610 1986, Cleveland, OH CONTACT: Carl J. Maurana, 611 Euclid Ave., Saegertown, PA 16433
- 630 August 1986, Charlotte, NC CONTACT: James Oxendine, 11724 Bain School Rd., Mint Hill, NC 28212
- 632 Company A 1986, Green Bay, WI CONTACT: Hugo Bloedorn, 1250 Grignon St., Green Bay, WI 54301
- 636 Aug 1986 Nebraska Contact: C. Don Wilson, 414 Rockhill, San Antonio, TX 78209
- 640 Oct. 10-11 1986, Anaheim, CA CONTACT: William (Bud) Shulman 6522 Fairfield St., Los Angeles, CA 90022
- 643 Oct. 10-11, 1986, Westbury, LI CONTACT: John H. Fox, 100 6th St Garden City Park, NY 11040
- 644 Sept. 16-19, 1986, Seattle-Tacoma CONTACT: Al Berg, 610 Aloha St. Seattle, WA 98109 206-283-4429
- 648 1986 MINI-REUNION Houston, TX CONTACT: Sam Burns, 226 E. Mitchell, Houston, TX 77037
- 648 August 1987 CONTACT: Melvin & Lois Colby, FO Box 209, Excelsior, MN 55331 612-474-5393
- 656 August 1986 Ramada Aqua Marine Resort, Avon Lake, OH CONTACT: Ray Wolter, 2674 Akron Wadsworth Rd., Barberton, OH. 44203
- 661 August 1986, Pittsburgh, to PA. CONTACT: William Beswick, Box 576, West Point, VA.
- 691 Sept. 18-20, 1986, Warrendale, PA CONTACT: Andy Ferketich, Colonel at his residence 2100 East 1214 8th Ave. New Brighton, PA 15066
- 702 Sept. 18-21, 1986, Fort Bragg, NC CONTACT: Earl F. Scholz, 4042 S. Caulfield Ave., St. Francis, WI 53207
- 704 Sept. 26-28, 1986, Pittsburgh, PA CONTACT: Rod Torbich, 166 Linmar, Aliquippa, PA 15001
- 771 Sept. 19-21, 1986 Brown's Hotel, Loch Sheldrake, NY CONTACT: Joseph Klein, 5 Crescent View, Rock Hill, NY. 12775-0338

- 773 September 1986, Virginia Beach, VA CONTACT: Edward McClelland, 4384 W. 182nd St. Cleveland, OH 44135
- 774 Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 1986 Lancaster, PA CONTACT: William H. Hart, 932 Key West Dr. Pittsburgh, PA 15239
- 804 Sept. 27-28, 1986, Roswell, GA CONTACT: John T. Gaddy, Rt. Box 118, Roswell, NM 88200
- 806 Sept. 1986, Harrisburg, PA. CONTACT: Willard Hunt, Box 452, Danville, KY. 40422 (606) 234-6371
- 817 1986 Pittsburgh, PA CONTACT: Ray Banks, 116 Laurel Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15202
- 822 Sept. 11-13, 1986, Duluth, MN CONTACT: J. & C. Tricomi, 119 Mill Creek Rd., Niles, OH. 44446
- 823 Sept 17-21, 1986 Washington DC CONTACT: Tom Raney, P.O. Box 177, Fairfax Station, VA 22039 703-978-9390
- 825 Oct. 23-26, 1986, Myrtle Beach, SC CONTACT: Louis Celentano, 400 Blatchley Ave. New Haven, CT 06513 203-776-1900
- 824 October 26, 1986, Hickoryville NY CONTACT: Michael F. Mastone, 2 Lent Drive, Plainview, NY 11803 516-433-2663

MAIL CALL

In case anyone is interested there is a new magazine being published called "World War II Magazine". They are just now taking charter subscriptions. For more information, readers can write to the following address: World War II Magazine, PO Box 830 Leesburg, VA 22075. KAREN BAGLEY 1107 Mt. Lake Drive Jacksonville, AL 36365

Why wasn't the 645th TD Bn included on H. Hatfields list of TD Battalions? Would love to hear from any old friends. RICHARD CENTRACCHIO (645) 6341 Merriweth Ln., Springfield, VA 22150

Mention was made in the October newsletter of an article in SOLDIERS magazine. I am the author and wrote it while a member of First Army's PIO. I retired in January of last year. The SOLDIERS story was a heavily edited version of one I wrote previously for First Army newspaper. So you can see, I tried to let the current Army know that there was such an outfit. I was a platoon leader in Recon Company, 811th TD Bn. and later served my 20 in the Regular Army both as officer and EM. I served in Korea, Austria and Turkey. We ever have another reunion I'll be there. DUNBAR D. MACNEMER (811) 340 Gatewater Ct. Apt. 200 Gen Burnie, MD 21061

Copy From The Library of the American Legion

MORE MAIL CALL

I found some "junk" in my memorabilia which may interest some of our members. I found the crossed rifles with "99/AT", the symbol of the 99th Inf. Battalion, Anti-Tank which was the predecessor of the 899th TD Bn. The designation was changed, if I recall correctly, in December 1941. Some of the officers got together and designed a crest with the words "Say When" and I have a couple of those which I purchased at the PX at Fort Lewis. Unfortunately, when it was submitted to the War Department for approval, the motto was changed to "Ready Now." They did not like the implied connotation of our wording. I also found the blouse emblem of the Tank Destroyer forces, however having left Fort Hood in Dec. 1942, we were unable to procure them for wear on our uniforms. Sometime in 1943, either during or after the Tunisian Campaign, a couple of resourceful Lieutenants showed the printed design to an Arab or a French silversmith, gave him a few 3" shell castings to melt, and we had our blouse emblems. They are, of course, much cruder than the manufactured pins, but they are solid brass and certainly a "limited edition". I believe they only went to the 899th, 776th and perhaps the 805th. I wonder if any of our members besides myself still have them. MARTIN B. RIND (899) 7935 Overlake Dr. W., Bellevue, WA 98004

I just happened to see a car in a parking lot in Falmouth, MA with a TD decal. I left my name and address on the windshield and a Ken R. Hampton called me and sent a couple of newsletters. I was with the TD's during WWII in the Pacific, 637th attached to the 37 Div. How does one become a member of the TDA? CHARLES S. CELESTE (637) 195 Capt. Crosby Rd., Centerville, MA 02632

EDITOR'S NOTE: To become a member of TDA and receive the newsletter all you need to do is ask. You are now on our mailing list. We also maintain a roster of anyone who served in any TD outfit, which we call the National TDA Roster. We invite anyone to send in current names and addresses along with the units to which they belonged to add to our roster. We currently have almost 14,000 TD Vets on this list. Besides the newsletter and Unit History Project we are also trying to establish a TD museum possibly at Ft. Hood, TX. We exist entirely on tax deductible donations from men like yourself.

When I read the paragraph underneath the picture of the 803rd TD Bn. in Belgium, I could figure out the TD in the picture. 12th 1st Platoon TD's preceded this one (13th). It was commanded by my old buddy Harvey Hinrich of Fairbury, Ne. He lives about 20 miles from here. I called him and he verified it. Also I identified the driver as V. J. Kennedy and the rest of the crew. Kennedy was as tough as they come. I think he could have had a soft job if he wanted to because he had a knee worse than any football knee I've ever seen. I think he also got 3 Purple Hearts. Yes he was slow as molasses in January. Grant Buck of Tacoma, WA was another of our crew. I think Harvey will give you more and better information. Too bad that 'B' Co. couldn't have had some recognition. They were in St. Lo and got the hell beat out of them. They helped to make this trip through Belgium possible. Elmer Meyer of Dishler, NE, who lives about 20 miles from me was one of the ones in 'B' Co. I think he was hit at least twice, maybe three times. ERLE HOUSER (803) Box 66, Hebron, NE 68370

I noticed several fellows wanting to buy TD patches, I believe they find them, also medals of any kind and anything of that nature, even uniforms, at a military store. It is a fine store, not your run of the mill army goods store. It is located in Radcliffe, KY, home of Fort Knox Army Base and Fort Knox Gold Depository. The address is: U. S. Cavalry, 1375 N. Wilson Rd. Radcliffe, KY 40160. They have a toll free number 1-800-626-6171. Kentucky residents call: 502-351-1164 RUSSELL SECOY (808) 4 Hickory Hollow Rd., Leesburg, FL 32788

Could you inform me to whom should I write for a TD history of the 702nd TD Bn.? The cost? FRANCIS LaFEMINA (702) 46 Briarwood Dr., Old Saybrook, CT 06475

EDITOR'S NOTE: Write directly to our TDA Historian Lonnie Gil. His address is on the back of this newsletter. If he has your unit history he will copy and send it to you for \$10.00.

In a 1945 Hollywood movie "The Clock" starring Judy Garland and Robert Walker, Walker plays an army private. He wears the TD shoulder patch very prominently throughout the movie. This movie can still be seen on TV. THOMAS J. MULLEN (648) 425 Lowell St., Reading, MA 01867

Pass the word the 827 Tank Destroyer Association's unit insignia at their WWII Desert Training Center post, Camp is still alive and well. at least for now but cattle were recently turned loose to roam that portion of their favorite Camp's "Patton's Desert Training Center" is ready for reprinting and we need to hear from anyone from the 5th Armored Division who remembers the name of their WWII Desert Training Center post. This long abandoned old camp is also alive and well but its name is unknown and the camp has been forgotten by all but the 5th Armored Division. Grant Buck add insult to injury, the Bureau of Land Management's new monument on the site of the Patton Museum at Chiriaco Summit, CA does not include the 5th's old camp on their map of the WWII Desert Training Center which later became the California-Arizona Maneuver Area. Some of you know Chiriaco Summit as Shavers Summit Army Airfield, immediately adjacent to Camp Young, Headquarters, Desert Training Center. Our efforts to determine the name of this particular camp have been fruitless to date and there has to be someone, somewhere, who can solve this mystery. Please let me hear from you! JOHN S. LYNCH (827) 518 Why Worry Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85021

WANI A ROSTER OF YOUR TD UNIT!!!!
You can obtain a computer print-out of all the men in your TD unit on our National TD Roster. Price only \$10.00, whether only 1 name or 500. Order now!

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO TDA ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

TDA is a non-profit veterans association. All contributions to TDA are voluntary and tax deductible. Our IRS ID Number is 94-2757549 and our State of California Number is 109455.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO TDA



Copy from the Library of the Office of the Chief of Staff, U.S. Army

PLEASE EXCUSE THE SMALL PRINT FOLLOWING OUR REDUCING THE ORIGINAL LETTERS AND INFORMATION SHEETS. THEY WOULD FIT WITHIN THE NEWSLETTER PAGES. THANKS!

**PATTON MUSEUM
OF
CAVALRY AND ARMOR**

17 April 1986



1965

1985



**A Salute
to
The Patrons
of
The Patton Museum**

LTC (Ret) Joe Goepfner
Route 1, Box 802
Shepardstown, WV 25443

Dear Colonel Goepfner:

It was a pleasure to talk to you on 16 April 1986. We are very interested in the Tank Destroyers Association. I have enclosed a copy of our Collection Policy and a brochure on the Fort Knox Armor Memorial Park.

Our Collection Policy broadly encompasses Armor. We have interpreted this to include the means of defeating Armor as well. To this end, we have collected a good representation of antitank rifles, rocket launchers, and artillery. For several years, we have attempted to collect Tank Destroyer equipment with little success. We have some and have a small section on exhibit now. We have planned for an expansion of this area but have postponed it until we can collect more material.

The Armor Memorial Park is an effort to provide unit recognition for all units that have an association with Armor. We have just started this over the past year. At present, we have one memorial in place and several on order.

I believe that we can work with the Tank Destroyer Association for the benefit of both the Association and the visitors to the Patton Museum. I look forward to meeting you and discussing the further development of Tank Destroyers at the Patton Museum.

Sincerely,

John M. Purdy
John M. Purdy
Director
Patton Museum

Enclosures

POST OFFICE BOX 200
FT. KNOX, KY. 40121
Phone (502) 624-3812



MEMBER:
U.S. Army Museum System; American Association of Museums; American Association for State & Local History; and International Association of Arms and Military History.

The Board of Trustees

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

SKETCHES: We are offering for sale the 11" X 14" prints. 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. 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 for 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: A set of decals consists of 2 decals. 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.

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..

NO.	DESTROYER	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL	HOW TO ORDER: Please print. Mail with check or money order to: 3050 HARCROSS ROAD.....REDWOOD CITY, CA.....94062		
---	75mm GMC M3	\$10.00	-----			
---	3in GMC M10	\$10.00	-----			
---	76mm GMC M18	\$10.00	-----			
---	90mm GMC M36	\$10.00	-----			
---	3in Towed	\$10.00	-----			
---	Set of all 6	\$48.00	-----			
Packaging & shipping (on prints only) \$ 2.50						
INDIVIDUAL SEARCH						
---	(Name)	\$ 1.00	-----			
---	(Name)	\$ 1.00	-----			
---	(Name)	\$ 1.00	-----			
---	TD Decals	\$ 2.50	-----			
UNIT # _____ ROSTER \$ 10.00				GRAND TOTAL OF ORDER \$ _____		

(Last Name) (First Name) (Unit)

(Street Address or PO Box) (City) (State & Zip)

Yes, I want to continue receiving the Tank Destroyer Newsletter.

Here is my VOLUNTARY tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____

Copy from University of California Library

 PLEASE EXCUSE THE SMALL PRINT FOLLOWING OUR REDUCING THE ORIGINAL LETTERS AND INFORMATION SHEETS SO THAT
 THEY WOULD FIT WITHIN THE NEWSLETTER PAGES. THANKS!

ARMOR MEMORIAL PARK

The United States Army Armor Center Memorial Park is dedicated to the soldiers who fought with Armor in wars of the Twentieth Century. It will commemorate organizations from the U.S. Army that are recognized in the Official Army Order of Battle and served in a combat theater. Organizations may be of any branch of service, since armor is the combined arms team. Mounted soldiers of all arms and services are "Armor." Separate recognition is provided for all units of battalion level or larger. Independent squadrons, companies and detachments will also be recognized. Separate recognition will not routinely be provided for organic units below battalion level.

The park is located in the area between the Patton Museum building and the museum parking lot. The area encompasses approximately 400,000 square feet.

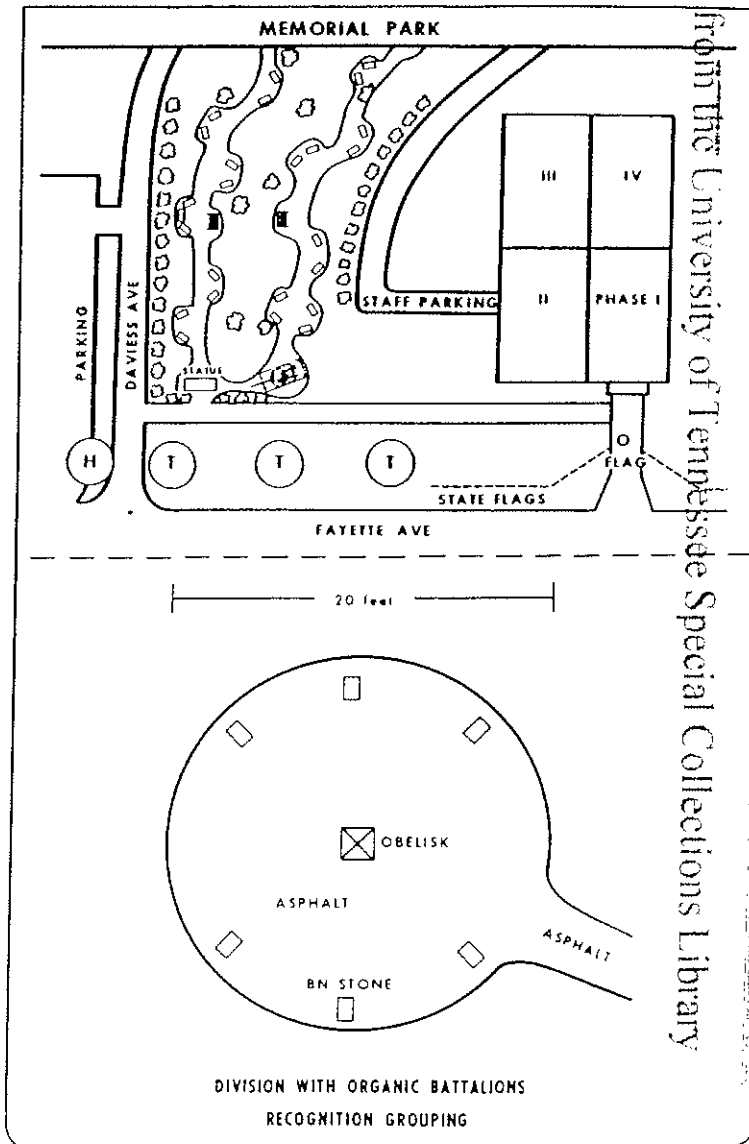
Commemorative structures with plaques will be arranged in a random pattern on either side of a serpentine walkway beginning at the western boundary of the park. Except for divisional groupings, no groupings or hierarchy of units will exist.

Future plans call for a statue of an armor soldier to be located at the western entrance of the park.

A uniform design of recognition was created to enable the maximum number of units to participate and prevent competition among associations. Commemoration will be in the form of cast bronze plaques mounted on concrete structures of varied sizes commensurate with the organization size. Plaques will be of uniform size. The unit design is:

All Obelisks

All will be constructed with a 20 by 20 inch base. Each will have a tapered plaque surface on four sides approximately 12 inches high with a six inch esp. All will accommodate a maximum of four plaques. Plaques will be 11-1/2 inches by 9-1/2 inches with not more than 12 lines of 1/2 inch type per plaque. The only variation in the various unit obelisks will be the height from the ground. Text on the plaques will be determined by the organization concerned; special designs of crests and/or insignia will cost extra (price determined at time of request).



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