



# TANK DESTROYER NEWSLETTER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TANK DESTROYER ASSOCIATION...3050 Marcross Road Redwood City, CA 94062-2321

Copy from the University of Tennessee

AUTUMN 1987

TDA ROSTER'S ANNUAL 13,250 NAME AND ADDRESS VERIFICATION ISSUE

NEWSLETTER NO. 2

## Two WWII veterans honored in ceremony

By Samuel Starks  
Public Affairs Office staff writer

**T**wo World War II soldiers were recognized for accomplishments which took place more than 40 years ago during the May 16 Retiree Appreciation Day, thanks to the efforts of their former commander.

Corp. James F. Blanton was presented the Bronze Star for his actions as a member of Company B, 702d Tank Destroyer Battalion, part of the 2nd Armor Division.

Blanton's tank was hit by tank fire during a German counterattack on Nov. 19, 1944 during action in Puffendorf, Germany.

"Under covering fire, German tanks moved to within 100 yards of our forward position," said Col. (Ret.) Cecil Hunnicutt, the unit's former commander. "While maneuvering to engage the oncoming enemy, Blanton's tank was ordered forward to higher ground. The vehicle was hit by enemy fire, badly wounding all members of the crew.

"With its motor still running, the destroyer began backing down the slope, picking up speed as it moved," he said. "Although Blanton was severely wounded, he crawled across the gunners compartment and stopped the tank. Because of his action he prevented

further damage to the equipment and most importantly he prevented further injury to his fellow soldiers."

Blanton lost both of his legs from injuries received in the attack.

According to Hunnicutt, the citation for his award was lost during the closing months of the war and Blanton did not receive proper recognition for his actions.

The Bronze Star was presented by Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Robert B. Solomon, then Fort Jackson's commander during the Retiree Appreciation Day activities.

1st Sgt. (Ret.) James Ridenour was presented a Department of the Army Certificate of Achievement for some of his accomplishments during the war.

Ridenour was a platoon sergeant throughout the stateside training and during the early battle actions in France for Co. B, 702d Tank Destroyer Battalion.

He was promoted to first sergeant in August 1944 after his platoon was successful in several early battles. Ridenour's platoon was especially effective during the St. Lo breakthrough campaign. He was later offered a battlefield commission, which he turned down, according to Hunnicutt.

"During the process of document-

ing Corporal Blanton's awards, I learned that Ridenour had never received an award I'd written for him prior to our unit's deactivation," Hunnicutt said.

"It is through the services of Gerald McDaniel and the Fort Jackson Adjutant General's office that we were able to present these awards to both of these men."



U.S. Army photo by SFC C. Drake  
James Blanton is presented the Bronze Star for valor by Maj. Gen. Robert B. Solomon, then Fort Jackson commander during the May 16 Retiree Appreciation Day.

THE LEADER  
JUNE 11, 1987 3B

### AFTER 43 YEARS

In a ceremony at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, on 16 May 1987, Corporal James F. Blanton was awarded the Bronze Star medal, with V device, for heroic action performed at Puffendorf, Germany on 19 November 1944. The presentation was made by Major General Robert B. Solomon, Commanding General, Fort Jackson.

On the same date and place 1st Sergeant James F. Ridenour was presented a Department of Army Certificate of Achievement for outstanding performance of duty from August 1942 until 12 October 1945. The presentation was made by Cecil F. Hunnicutt, Colonel, USA, Retired.

Picture and article printed in THE LEADER, Fort Jackson, SC, 11 June, 1987.  
Courtesy of Col Cecil Hunnicutt, USA Ret., (702) 1623 W Buchanan Dr. Columbia, SC 29206

# REUNIONS

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Thanks to one and all for your individual effort advising us of the following listings of our Tank Destroyer Battalion reunions!

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**TANK DESTROYER OCS #54 (ALL GRADS-10 MARCH 1944) Reunion Proposed.**  
 CONTACT: Frank R. McCain 536 Lee Ct., W. Melbourne, FL 32904  
 (305)729-8121 GG/ROM

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 610 Oct. 7-8, 1988, Louisville, KY.  
 CONTACT: Elmer R. Staib 1434 Haskin Ave. Louisville, KY 40215

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 631 Aug 1988, Mt. Horeb, WI.  
 CONTACT: William Wittwer, 314 E. Main St., Mt. Horeb, WI 53572  
 (608)437-3618 ALM

\*\*\*\*\*  
 632 Aug. 19-21, 1988. Pittsburgh, PA  
 CONTACT: Bart Shakarian, 307 Twin Hills Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15216 OR Michael J. Fajtik, Jr. 711 Crabtree Lane, Racine, WI 53406 MJF

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 632-CO. A CAPE MAY, NJ CONTACT: Anthony Kubiak, 215 Grant St., Cape May, NJ 08204 GG/DAV

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 632-RCN Holiday Inn, Uniontown, PA. CONTACT: A.A. Wolf, 8441 Greenbelt Rd., #102, Greenbelt, MD. 20770 GG/DAV

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 633 Oct. 2, 1988 Macomb, Ill. Holiday Inn CONTACT: Kenneth L. Hirth, Lakeview Apts. 12C, Morton, Ill. 61550

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 636 Aug 20-21, 1988 Aurora, NE Nebraska Youth Leadership Development Center CONTACT: Thomas M. Sherman, Rt. 1, Box 129, Marquette, NE 68854 (402)854-3137 TMS

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640 Sep. 16-17, 1988 Salt Lake City, UT. CONTACT: Glen Johnson, 8771 S. 1260 E., Sandy, UT. 84070 (801)255-1069 JHP

\*\*\*\*\*  
 644 May 3-6, 1988 Ramada Resort, Kissimmee, FL. CONTACT: R. G. Mashburn, 119 Carter Rd. Biloxi, MS 95313 GG/DAV

\*\*\*\*\*  
 645 Apr. 22-23, 1988 Tulsa, OK CONTACT: T. Hunker, P.O. Box 127, Wheatland, OK 73097 (405) 745-2433 GG/ALM

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 648 Sept. 1988 Lake George, NY CONTACT: Jack Sonntag, 3 Kettle Rd Norwalk, CT 06850 (203) 847-0825

\*\*\*\*\*  
 648 Aug. 1989 Claremont Hotel. Oakland, CA. CONTACT: Bill Adams, 16 Del Rio Ct., St. Helena, CA 94574 (707) 963-5788

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 691 Oct. 7-8, 1988 Fayetteville, AR. CONTACT: Robert Guirin, 616 16th St., New Cumberland, PA 17070 EAS

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 692 May 1988 Willaimsburg, VA CONTACT: Joe Kolenda, 17 Opal Dr., Dearborn, MI 48126 (313)846-6197ALM

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 702-CO. C Aug. 18-20, 1988, Super 8 Motel, 5253 S. Howell Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53207 CONTACT: Earl & Irene Scholz, 4042 S. Caulfield Ave., St. Francis, WI. 53207 (414)481-6192 OR Anthony & Ann Sieklik, 3945 E. Somer Ave., Cudhay, WI. 53110 (414)483-6635 EFS

\*\*\*\*\*  
 705 July 20-24, 1988 Westminster, CO Ramada Hotel CONTACT: George Poor, 8773 Yates Dr., Westminster, CO 80030 GG/DAV

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 771 Oct 14-16, 1988 Loch Sheldrake, NY Brown's Hotel Glen Rock Hill, NY 12775 CONTACT: Joe Klien, POBox 338, GG/DAV

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 772 Sep. 8-9, 1988 Evansville, IN CONTACT: Urban Kissel, 831 Mels Dr., Evansville, IN 47712, or Barry Weathers, POBox 94, Elnora, IN 47529

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 773 Sept. 26-28, 1988 Reno, NV Holiday Inn. Details to follow

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 775th TD Bn/ 728th AMPH. TRAC Bn Aug. 13-15, 1988 Nashville, TN CONTACT: Earl Williams, Winchester, TN 37398 GG/DAV

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 776 July 2-4, 1988 Minot, ND CONTACT: Melvin Heere, 1816 11th St. SW, Minot, ND 58701 GG/DAV

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 806 May 13-15, 1988 Roanoke, VA Hotel Roanoke CONTACT: Richard A. Allen, 208 W. Hillside Ave., Barrington, IL 60010 (312) 381-2989 RAA

\*\*\*\*\*  
 807 July 2-4, 1988 Albuquerque, NM CONTACT: Benito Pena, 3814 Anderson Ave., SE, Albuquerque, NM 87108 GG/DAV

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 808 Oct 12-15, 1988 Hot Springs, AR CONTACT: Jay Self, Rte. 111, POBox 484, Pine Bluff, AR 71603 (501)879-1311 GE

\*\*\*\*\*  
 817 June 3-5, 1988 Erie, PA CONTACT: Charley R. Halsey, Box 4, Centerville, Pa. 16804 (814)967-3381 CRH

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 820 Oct. 7-8, 1988 Charlotte, NC CONTACT: George J. Verbeke, #8085 Veronica, East Detroit, MI 48031 GG/DAV

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 823 Sept 1988 Phoenix, AZ CONTACT: Tom L. Rainey, POBox 177, Fairfax, VA 22039 TLF

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 893 Sept. 3-5, 1988 Severn, MD Loch Glen Burnie Elks Lodge CONTACT: Harry Sinclair, 684 Md Rt 3 N, Gambrills, MD 21054 HS

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the annual TANK DESTROYER NEWSLETTER—it's our 23rd Edition! This edition of the Newsletter will cross the 50 United States plus the Carribean and Northern Europe. Its a pleasure to keep you abreast of the happenings of the past year and to let you know that we have a great year coming up!

Most importantly, we have published quarterly newsletters for those who wanted to be on the separate MAILING LIST for TDA readers who like to be kept up to date in a more timely fashion and to be kept current in matters of UNIT REUNIONS, FEATURE ARTICLES and those great letters which we enjoy in the MAIL CALL section. Let us know if you want to be on the MAIL LIST by using the printed form in this issue of the Newsletter.

Our Newsletter Number 22 asked our readers if they would indicate their interest in attending a TANK DESTROYER ASSOCIATION REUNION in Louisville, KY during October of 1988. Our response was a little light and we are going to put together a gala-bonanza-three day event for October of 1989 in Louisville, KY and key the event with as many Unit reunions as possible! The event should see our visit to the PATTON MUSEUM be tied into our efforts to contribute items of our individual memorabilia for use in the museum. Our Annual Edition, Number 19, related to the need for your contributions and the method to make us aware of the items for their clearance to the Museum. Let's hear from you!

We hope you enjoy this issue of your Tank Destroyer Newsletter!

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About two years ago the TANK DESTROYER NEWSLETTER published a listing of TANK DESTROYER UNITS (Battalions - Companies - Platoons) that had been awarded foreign government citations for combat action in FRANCE and BELGIUM during World War II. That listing had been provided by the AMERICAN ORDER OF THE FRENCH CROIX DE GUERRE, INC. based on information contained in DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY GENERAL ORDERS. Since that time we have received many inquiries from veterans of the Tank Destroyer Units for copies of the EXTRACT of the GENERAL ORDERS pertaining to their unit that was awarded the citation. Many of the veterans expressed the comment that their Tank Destroyer Unit should have been cited but could not provide us with any exact information as to what foreign government had awarded the citation, for what period of time, and for what appropriate CITATION NUMBER AND DATE.

We are providing for the files of the Tank Destroyer Association and possible publication in the TANK DESTROYER NEWSLETTER an UPDATED LISTING of those TANK DESTROYER UNITS that were awarded UNIT CITATIONS from the governments of FRANCE and BELGIUM for recognition of combat action during World War II. If any of the readers of the TANK DESTROYER NEWSLETTER can provide CONCLUSIVE INFORMATION of a foreign award to a TANK DESTROYER UNIT not listed, the AMERICAN ORDER OF THE FRENCH CROIX DE GUERRE, INC. would be pleased to receive that information for future reference and record.

Our Order appreciates receiving copies of the TANK DESTROYER NEWSLETTER and we look forward to each new issue. Please keep up the excellent work in the publishing of the very informative TANK DESTROYER NEWSLETTER.

We enclose a check in the amount of \$25.00 as a contribution.

Very Truly Yours,  
STEVEN F. KOVACH - PRESIDENT 325 Spring Street, New York, N.Y. 10013

EDITORS NOTE: On behalf of all the readers of the TDA Newsletter thank you for your valuable information and generous assistance!

Awarded Belgian and French Government Unit Citations

| UNIT                        | FOR PERIOD  | AWARD                                    |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| 612th TD Bn, A Co.          | 3 Sept - 13 Sept 44 and<br>20 Dec 44 - 26 Jan 45    | Belgian Fourragere                       |
| 612th TD Bn                 | 13 Dec 44 - 30 Dec 44                               | Belgian Fourragere                       |
| 628th TD Bn                 | 14 Sept - 20 Sept 44                                | French Croix de Guerre                   |
| 634th TD Bn                 | 3 Sept - 5 Sept 44 and<br>28 Dec 44 - 30 Dec 44     | Belgian Fourragere                       |
| 635th TD Bn                 | 6 June 1944   | French Croix de Guerre                   |
| 635th TD Bn                 | 23 Dec 44 - 28 Dec 44                               | Belgian citation                         |
| 636th TD Bn                 | 24 Nov 44 - 2 Dec 44                                | French Croix de Guerre                   |
| 644th TD Bn                 | 13 Dec 44 - 30 Dec 44                               | Belgian Fourragere                       |
| 701st TD Bn, B Co.          | 9 Dec 1944  | French Croix de Guerre                   |
| 702d TD Bn                  | 2 Sept 44 & 23 - 28 Dec 44                          | Belgian Fourragere                       |
| 703d TD Bn                  | 3 Sept 44 - 13 Sept 44 and<br>20 Dec 44 - 31 Jan 45 | Belgian Fourragere                       |
| 703d TD Bn., B Co., 2d Plt. | 3 Sept 44 - 13 Sept 44                              | Belgian citation                         |
| 704th TD Bn                 | 27 - 30 July 44 and<br>12 - 29 Sept 44              | French Croix de Guerre<br>and Fourragere |
| 773rd TD Bn                 | 9 Nov 44 - 19 Nov 44                                | French Croix de Guerre                   |
| 776th TD Bn                 |   | French Croix de Guerre                   |
| 801st TD Bn                 | 18 Nov 44 - 20 Feb 45                               | Belgian Fourragere                       |
| 801st TD Bn, A Co.          | 20 Dec 44 - 26 Jan 45                               | Belgian citation                         |
| 803d TD Bn, C Co.           |   | Belgian Fourragere                       |
| 804th TD Bn                 |   | French Croix de Guerre                   |
| 807th TD Bn                 | 15 Nov 44   | French Croix de Guerre                   |
| 811th TD Bn, A Co.          | 18 Dec 44 - 23 Dec 44                               | Belgian citation                         |
| 813th TD Bn                 | June 44 - 27 Aug 44 and<br>21 Nov 44 - 24 Nov 44    | French Croix de Guerre<br>and Fourragere |
| 814th TD Bn                 | 18 Dec 44 - 23 Dec 44 and<br>20 Jan 45 - 29 Jan 45  | Belgian Fourragere                       |
| 818th TD Bn                 | 20 Dec 44 - 26 Jan 45                               | Belgian citation                         |
| 823d TD Bn                  | 4 - 10 Sept 44 and<br>17 - 25 Jan 45                | Belgian Fourragere                       |
| 823d TD Bn, A Co.           | 6 Aug 44 - 12 Aug 44                                | French Croix de Guerre                   |
| 823d TD Bn, B Co.           | 7 Aug 1944  | French Croix de Guerre                   |
| 893d TD Bn                  | 7 Sept 44 - 13 Sept 44                              | Belgian citation                         |
| 893d TD Bn, C Co.           | 20 Dec 44 - 26 Jan 45                               | Belgian citation                         |
| 894th TD Bn                 | 11 June 44 - 23 June 44                             | French Croix de Guerre                   |
| 899th TD Bn                 | 2 Dec 44 - 26 Jan 45                                | Belgian Fourragere                       |
| 899th TD Bn, C Co., 2d Plt. | June 1944   | French Croix de Guerre                   |

NOTE: A citation in orders or award of the Croix de Guerre to a unit does not authorize the wearing of the decoration by an individual. The Fourragere may be worn permanently by individuals who participated with the unit in both actions for which the unit was cited.

## TANK DESTROYER ASSOCIATION REUNION IN '89

Our Tank Destroyer Newsletter No. 22, Summer 1987, asked if there was an interest in our Tank Destroyer Association conducting a reunion in Louisville, Kentucky, with an emphasis on the Patton Museum at Fort Knox, during the month of October 1988.

We really did not get a strong response as a result of that editions 3500 readers responding to our request that we hear from them. In fact, in the order of less than two percent. Can't run a railroad that way!

Here's what we would consider to be a good lead time for all of us to consider such a reunion - a great big gala affair right in downtown Louisville! We'll ask our TANK DESTROYER BATTALION SECRETARY'S TO ASK THEIR UNITS TO LOOK TO THE SECOND WEEK IN OCTOBER OF 1989 for their annual reunion to be convened in Louisville jointly with their fellow battalions. We'll ask our TDA Vice-President JOE GOEPFNER to be the Spark Plug and join with the Kentucky Hotel-Motel Association for their super hospitality package complete with tours, river boat parties, Kentucky Downs Mint Jullips, plus some surprises that might keep us on the move during our stay!

And, this leads me to nag each of you just a little bit - why haven't you contacted the Redwood City Office Manager about your donation items for the PATTON MUSEUM! Let's hear from you so that we can all enjoy them at the PATTON MUSEUM as a part of their TANK DESTROYER EXHIBITS!

And, what about our objective at the PATTON MUSEUM to create a theme area in the ARMOR MEMORIAL PARK! Our Newsletter No 19, November 1986, had two pages of pictures and articles regarding what the PATTON MUSEUM would set aside for our Battalions. Our contacts would be through the administration office of the PATTON MUSEUM with construction provided by the RIETH MONUMENT COMPANY. Now wouldn't that be a great event to dedicate that section of the ARMOR MEMORIAL PARK DURING THE REUNION! Let's hear from you!

Let's hear from you regarding your interest in attending the 1989 reunion in Louisville. We will ask our TDers who would have come to the '88 proposed reunion if they would be interested in 1989 and be added to that big response! Again, let's hear from you in order that we may set up a proper amount of housing and hospitality for all of us!

### Fort Knox, Kentucky

### America's Museum of Armored Fighting Vehicles

REMEMBER OUR NEWSLETTER No. 12 of  
January 1985?

Our TDA Newsletter of that issue advised of our beginning to limit its distribution to those who were interested in and wanted to receive each issue-WHETHER THEY DID OR DID NOT CONTRIBUTE TO LET US KNOW BY FILLING OUT THE ORDER FORM WITHIN THAT ISSUE OF THE TDA NEWSLETTER.

NOW, we ask our readers to use the INFORMATION FORM within each issue of your TDA NEWSLETTER.

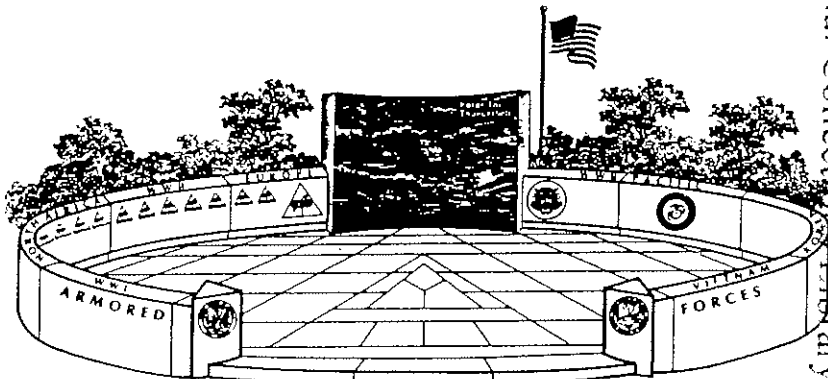
Today, our TDA Newsletters are read by more than 3,500 TDers who had used the request form. Perhaps you missed some great issues of the TDA Newsletter by overlooking our request procedure!

#### HERE'S ANOTHER CHANCE!

This issue of the TDA NEWSLETTER is our Annual Issue which we send out to all TDers on the NATIONAL ROSTER OF THE TDA. We also are asking the POSTAL SERVICE to forward the issue and verify the address to us for our file updating. This procedure cost lots of money but we want to keep our roster up to date!

Also, we certainly want you to be a contributor to the TANK DESTROYER FORCES section of the PATTON Museum of Cavalry and Armor; how else will you know if you do not become a regular reader of the quarterly TDA NEWSLETTER? Let's hear from you!

### DEDICATED TO THOSE WHO SERVED



This is the proposed design for the AMERICAN ARMORED FORCE MONUMENT in the Capitol area of the Nation to honor all American soldiers and Marines who have served in armored mechanized units. It is emphasized that the "Armored Force" of the monument embraces all "MEN OF STEEL" who served in the U.S. Tank Corps of World War I, and their descendants who fought so gallantly in World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

Basically, there are no changes from our Tank Destroyer Newsletter No. 20, the Winter Issue of 1987, which featured the "MEN OF STEEL" and of the recognition of the part played by the TANK DESTROYER FORCES as a part of our nation's Armored Forces history.

There is one important addition since that issue which is the news of the CONSTRUCTION FUNDS requirement has been established in the amount of \$400,000. The funds must be raised by PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS from all of us who have served with the Armored Forces; and, the Monument Committee has set a dedication schedule for November 11, 1989!

Please take advantage of the enclosed information folder created by the monument committee which fully describes the monument and includes a cut-out contribution form for your TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION! Please be as generous as you can; every cent given to this fund raising drive will go into the monument! It cannot be repeated often enough that this entire project is undertaken by volunteers and no salaries or expenses of any kind are charged in connection with the monument! This means - no office - no telephone - just the volunteers who spend their own time, gas, phones and money.

Let's make our prominent place on the monument even more prominent by our helping with our generous support to push the fund drive over the top!



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IN MEMORY OF THE "JINX"

by PFC Melvin Wille  
692nd TD Bn.  
1944-1945



We Get  
**LETTERS**

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This is a letter of a slightly different tone than those that I have been reading in the TANK DESTROYER NEWSLETTER. Our Battalion, the 652nd, was never overseas. After basic training at Camp Brownwood, unit training at Camp Hood, maneuvers in Louisiana, and more training at Camp Joseph T. Robinson we were assigned as "School Troops" at Fort Knox. It was exasperating to say the least to stand inspections when the inspecting officer was recognized as someone we put through basic training not long before.

"JINX" was a T.D. with trimmings and curves, but somehow the damn thing can get on your nerves, for it's a joker, that's one thing I know. For five of our buddies can't finish this show.

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IN MEMORY OF THE "JINX"

by PFC Melvin Wille  
692nd TD Bn.  
1944-1945

Yes "JINX" was a beautiful M-36 with a 90MM gun that knew all the tricks. A heavy old thing weighing 36 Tons controlled by two boys from old Wisconsin. I can't truly say that poor "JINX" is to blame but it sure looks bad for a tank with that name.

This was written in Europe by Melvin Wille of the 692nd TD Bn. I just found this copy amongst my souvenirs. I do not know what company he was in. If someone has any of the information please let me know. Perhaps some of the names will ring a bell. Roger L. Sweeney (692-RCN) 395 Mendon Rd. 11-A, No. Smithfield, RI 02895  
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When I think of (Myers) and (Haschke) both gone I surely can't be very damn far from wrong. Old (Busby) and (Whitley) both pretty swell guys. They left us one night, out of the clear blue skies. Took old "Papa Stearnes" a swell guy sure enough. So you see there's a lot of truth in this stuff. So "JINX" is a jinx wherever she goes. But who the hell cares just how the thing goes, we stick by her in hell and high water. Even though she's the "Devil's granddaughter" the crew of our tank as you see it today has replacements, and good ones, I will have to say. The crew of today, five men that are handy. There's Bart, Smitty, Max, Gus and Andy. The only original man of the crew is Max the driver, a man who can do great things with a tank on any old trail, difficult things, will be curtailed, but all in all the tank is still going as strong as an atom and really is showing the Nazi who's boss in the world today for they got in our paths and, it was hell to pay. "JINX" is a good tank of today. It's truly terrific, so bright with array. As long as I live I'll never forget the "JINX" of all tanks where replacements met.



I do not wish to detract the least from those exploits and endeavors of the members of units sent overseas but I do wish recognition for the efforts, the integrity, the dedication, and the ability of those who might feel inferior because they had no opportunity to serve in combat. They tried just as hard, had the same motivation, and have nothing for which to apologize. I, personally, upon deactivation of the 652nd went on to the First Cavalry Division but left behind some of the best men with which I served in more than twenty years of the United States Army. Eugene Fels LtCol Ret (652) 10618 48th Ave. Glendale, AZ 85308  
Editors note: Great letter. Two great Tank Destroyer Battalions served as "School Troops" through their period active duty during World War II.

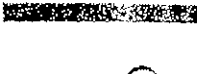
The 606th TD Bn. activated 16, 1941 at Fort Leonard Wood, TX, until deactivated Feb. 28, 1945. TDA roster carries 34 members that fine unit.

The 652nd TD Bn. activated 20, 1943 at Camp Bowie, TX served at Fort Knox, KY; it later deactivated Sept. 16, at Camp Shelby, MI. Our TDA r carries 71 members of that unit.

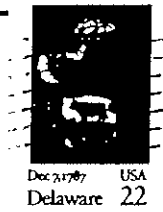
00000000000000000000000000000000  
If there are any of my old from Headquarters Company of 670th TD Bn., I would like to be in touch with them. I was discharged February 8, 1942 and during that time I served at Hood, TX, Camp McCoy, WI, Shelby, MS and final Schofield Barracks, HI. I have many fine comrades and like to renew old friendships. John Hickey (670) 200 N. Br Johnson City NY 13790 607-7  
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I joined the TANK DESTROYER ASSOCIATION after it was started. I am missing NEWSLETTERS Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6. Would appreciate anyone who would forward them to me. I will more than pay for the postage when I return them. I was a member of the 691st from December 1942 until November 1945. Couldn't have served with a better outfit. Harry Hornikel (691) 542 Penn Ave., North Hills PA 19038  
EDITORS NOTE: We could provide duplicates of the earlier NEWSLETTERS. Let us know of your interest; I would estimate a contribution of \$1.00 a copy would take care of the printing and postage.

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



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 I would like to thank everyone out there for the fine job you are doing for us guys. I look forward for the Newsletter with the greatest pleasure. Joseph Guillen (774)226 Oak St. Uhrichsville, OH 44683  
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# We Get LETTERS

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 Been a cadreman for the 811th TD Bn. Rcn. Co. and a Rcn. man of the 702nd TD Bn. overseas with the 2nd Armored Division. I would like to get in touch with the 811th and the 702nd reunion people. V. G. PEDERSON (811/702) Rt. 5 Box 181, Martinez, GA 30907  
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Dec 21 1987 USA Delaware 22

Here's a contribution to the TDA Newsletter that says it all!  
 Thanks-Recognition-Unit Fraternity-Unit Memorial-and Help

TDers everywhere owe the leaders of the Tank Destroyer Association a debt of gratitude for rekindling the spirit of the men and women of the tank destroyer branch of the U. S. Armed Forces. It is regrettable that recognition of our contribution to the success of the Allied Forces in WWII was so late in coming, but maybe the lapse in time was not so bad after all. Maybe the late start will help keep this legacy fresh and enduring for many years to come. At least until the last surviving TDer breathes his last. I was attached to the 610th TD Bn. from early May 1942 until I was transferred to the 9th Armored Division in September 1945 for shipment home from the ETO. A finer bunch of officers and men have never known. After 42 years, I still keep in touch with a few of my Army buddies. By mail, phone and personal visits. Robert Whelan of Westlake, Ohio, Leonard Gortmaker of Huxley, Iowa, and Captain Roy McGrann of Tulsa, Oklahoma. (I was Capt. McGrann's radio operator.) And, recently had a letter from Kenneth Carr, who now lives in Annandale, New Jersey. I have recently had correspondence from George Zicaro concerning a 610 TD Bn. memorial at the Patton Museum at Fort Knox. I hope the 610th TD Bn. veterans will be generous enough to make this memorial a reality. Keep up the good work and keep the Tank Destroyer Newsletter coming! Enclosed is a check to be used wherever funds are needed.

TDA correspondence from Ernest M. Blazner (610), 1000 Lake Charles, Fort Worth, TX 76103-1141

Copy from the University of Tennessee Knoxville Social College Library

## TANK DESTROYER ASSOCIATION SERVICE AND SUPPLIES...CONTRIBUTION AND ORDER INFORMATION FORM

- SKETCHES:** 11" x 14" pen and ink sketches of our Tank Destroyer Vehicles and Towed 3" gun; suitable for framing! They are identified and marked with our TD Logo and reproduced since we started the TDA. We offer them as a set of five (5) with a sixth sketch of a M-10 with the tube travel position as a bonus! Shipping in a good container at a cost of \$2.50-you will enjoy them either individually or as a set!
- SEARCHES:** Looking for a long-lost buddy or fellow TDer? Send \$1.00 for a current address. If we do not have that reference we will ask for information in our AWOL column! Let's hear from you!
- DECALS:** Two decals form this set; a big 3" diameter TD PATCH in four colors and the second as a two line 1" high block letters "TANK DESTROYERS WW II". They look great! Put them on the rear window of your auto; you will be pleased how many of your fellow TDers will find you!

All orders must be made on the Order Form below. If you do not wish to cut up your Newsletter you may photocopy, type a copy or duplicate a copy of the form by hand.

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## We Get LETTERS

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**SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO IDA**

### TINY UNIT DELAYS TANK COLUMN SIX HOURS By Hal Boyle Associated Press Correspondent

#### A BELGIAN VILLAGE UNDER GERMAN ATTACK

DEC. 19 (AP).—The Lieutenant and two anti-tank gun crews knocked out four German Tiger "Royal" tank yesterday in a flaming street battle which held up a Nazi armored column for six hours until American reinforcements arrived. The column was spearheading the counter offensive in that sector. But for the battle wisdom of Lt. Jack Doherty, 27, of Latrobe, PA, and the valor of his gun crew, the fight would have been lost before it was well started, and the speedy German column might have been mile inside the American lines shooting up rear area outfits.

Doherty and his men, supported only by a single company of doughboys who would have been powerless on the tanks alone, bore the brunt of the sledgehammer thrusts by the vanguard of the German armored smash. "It was still dark when I sent one of my three-inch anti-tank guns across the stream at the edge of the town to try to hold the wooden bridge there", Doherty recalled. "We did hold it until daybreak, when machine gunners drove us away, but we retook it by eight o'clock—and lost it again at nine. It was burning when we finally pulled back at noon.

"At ten o'clock, I got another of my guns up", Doherty continued. "Four Royal Tiger Tanks came moving down the street. With their first shots each of my guns set one Tiger ablaze. They ran into a house and "Nobody came out of one tank, and only two crew men got out of the other. They ran into a house and climbed to the roof—so we shot the roof right out from under them."

Another German tank was hit by both guns simultaneously, and a fourth Tiger backed along the road. "I had blind, trapped beetle. During the fight, another Tiger had moved out and found a better corner. "I had better firing angle than we did—it could shoot at us, but we couldn't get back at it very well," Doherty said.

The Nazi monster tank knocked out Doherty's half-track and set his jeep on fire. Doherty ordered his crew back. He managed to pull one of the guns with the help of Sgt. Louis Celanto, New Haven, Conn., and Sgt. Able, Cleveland, Tenn., the gunner, and the rest of the crew.

To protect them, the leading gun, commanded by Sgt. Martin Hauser, of Los Angeles, Calif., and Gunner Captain Paul Lanzi, of Newark, NJ, continued to engage the well placed Tiger. Hauser and Lanzi then destroyed the tank with their own gun with an incendiary burst and made their way back afoot six miles to our headquarters.

The platoon sergeant, Kester D. Lowe, of Sarasota, Fla., remarked, "Hitler would be damned unhappy if he knew that the two guns which caused so much trouble were commanded by an Italian and a German—Celano and Hauser."

Thought you would be interested in a copy from an Army Times clipping that I found not long ago as a part of my WWII souvenirs. I had copies made because many of the boys in Co. C were interested in receiving them but actually this is about Co. A. They happened to be right in the middle of the Battle of the Bulge when it happened. Co. C was in the southern sector when it happened. Lt. Jack Doherty has passed away a long time ago. I know that Mrs. Doherty has attended our last reunion. But I didn't. I was just coming out of hospital. Louis Rouleau (825) 99 Winter St., Manchester, NH 03102FB

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