



# TANK DESTROYER NEWSLETTER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TANK DESTROYER ASSOCIATION,  
POST OFFICE BOX DG, TIBURON, CALIFORNIA 94920

Copy from the  
No. 7

**JANUARY 1983** - Welcome to Letter #5, the first we have been able to publish since June of '82. A special welcome to the 2000 plus names added to our National TD Roster since last summer!

When you turn to Page 3 you will see our latest fund-raising project. When you consider a set of these special prints for your own use, consider also that a set of these presented to your local art gallery or library will be a nice gift from one of the famous local boys! And when you do it, make sure the local press is at hand with a photographer.

The Tank Destroyer Association is a tax-exempt corporation and is registered with the state and federal government. It operates from a home/office and a P.O.Box in the San Francisco area.

The association was formed by a group of TD Veterans interested in getting proper recognition for the role of the TD's during WWII. To enlist the help of other TD's they began a search and built up a National TD Roster. This then became the mailing list for the TDA Newsletter.

In order to get attention on a national level it was decided to set visible goals. Thus, the 1st ever National TD Reunion was held at Ft. Hood. Ground was broken for a red granite TD War Memorial. Plans were made to establish a TD Museum & Library. And we started to gether material for a History!

TDA officers operate without a salary or expense accounts. No dues are collected, nor are any private or government funds used for our activity. All we ask is ...send in your name, address and TD unit and we'll see that you get the TDA Newsletter...Please include a tax-deductible check to help us cover expenses...and if you have a little time to spare let us know which project seems most interesting! We need help!

*am*

**NOT THAT NEW '83 CALENDAR FILLED UP YET? HE'RE SOME GOOD DATES!!**

October 20-22. Ft. Hood, TX. 2nd Annual National TD Reunion. Hope to dedicate our brand new TD War Memorial!!

## TD HISTORICAL FACTS AND FEATS!!! Famous TD Veterans.....

Will Rogers, Jr., Louis Lamour, ...and all the rest of us proud if not famous persons!!!!

## REPORT ON 1ST-EVER NATIONAL TD REUNION LAST FALL - JERRY COHEN

The September '82 reunion at Ft Hood was a tremendous success. In spite of relatively short notice we attracted 115 TD buddies from some 44 TD Bns, 3 TD Gps, & the TD School. With families, total attendance was 204.

On 9/16 we registered at the Holiday Inn in Killeen. At 8PM we had an informal welcome at the poolside. We discussed the reunion schedule, introduced the TD Officers and gave a brief resume' of the TDA objectives.

Friday morning we toured Ft. Hood in buses furnished by III Corps. We then attended a 1st Cavalry combined Welcome and Retirement Ceremony. We were greeted by a large target cloth sign which read "Welcome Tank Destroyer Forces of WWII" which was complete with our shoulder patch. After the most impressive ceremony we attended a special "Threat & Force Briefing". After a great lunch at the NCO Club we visited the 2nd Armored Museum where a small section has been reserved for TD memorabilia. We also viewed a '43 mural done by a German POW at the old EM Center. That evening we had a crowded, but good, buffet at the Holiday Inn.

The next morning we again got into buses and went off to the Post for ground-breaking ceremonies for our proposed TD War Memorial. After appropriate ceremonies there was the playing of taps and a 21 gun salute. We then went back to the motel, held a critique, and agreed we should all try to come back in October of '83 to formally dedicate our TD War Memorial.

We are deeply indepted to the officers and men of 111 Corps, 1st Cavalry & 2nd Armored Div. Particular thanks should go to our host liason and planning officer, Major Horst Cleveland, Community Relations Officer, G-5, 111 Corps. Thank you all for making us so

## REPORT ON EFFORTS TO START A TD MUSEUM AT HOOD - W. MITCHELL

This report should start out by asking you to remember our GI "channels"! Well, we have to relearn that lesson, and we are doing so, right now!

We would like to have a TD Museum at Fort Hood, TX. This will not be possible until an official Fort Hood Museum is established, and we would have a logical part of this. At this time there is a 1st Cav Museum & a 2nd Armored Museum. They are not likely to be combined. So where are we?

Well, the 1st step is to ask that Fort Hood become the "official repository for TD artifacts". Once that becomes a fact we can push for a spot just for TD things. Until that becomes official we all should just sit tight and hold on to our TD mementoes.

In time we will have a place for our TD Museum items. For now, we don't, so we suggest you hold on to things until we can assure you that they will be properly taken care of.

We may be behind in our own schedule to get our own TD Museum. But, we are keeping up the pressure and will, in time, have it. Until then, hang on to your memorabilia, and don't let anyone give it away!

## TD HISTORICAL FACTS AND FEATS!!! Most tanks & SP guns destroyed..

Zippo Lighter went to the 823rd TD Bn. for a record of 124 kills. Armored cars and half tracks were not included in this count!

## TO ALL OF YOU WHO CONTRIBUTED TO TDA DURING '82 - YOUR TAX FORM!

TDA is a registered, tax-exempt corporation with the IRS Identifying No. 94-2757549.

Put that number in the margin of your tax return beside your contribution. Now, the amount you gave may be deducted, and the IRS can quickly verify that we are indeed a charitable outfit!

Over on this next page is something Brand New! Most of our not very knowledgeable friends look at anything with tracks and a gun from WWII and they say it is a "tank". Well, you and I know better! These GI items that look like a tank are actually TD's. What you see here are small copies of the real drawings. If you will buy a set or two you will not only have the evidence to put in front of your less-educated friends, but you will have made a few dollars for your Tank Destroyer Association so that we can continue to tell the TD story to the world!

TD HISTORICAL FACTS AND FEATS!!!  
1st TD's to see action.....

Operation Torch, Oran, N. Africa, 3 NOV 1942. Recon of the 601st participated in the landings. One platoon of Recon, plus B-Co. & C-Co. of the 701st were in on the initial assault.

REPORT ON TD WAR MEMORIAL ---  
QUINT ATKINSON (610) CHAIRMAN

Thanks to the splendid support of the Commanding General III Corps and his staff TDA is being allowed to erect the Memorial in a very choice location near the main Entrance to Fort Hood. Last September we dedicated this site at the intersection of Tank Destroyer Blvd. and Hood Road. We plan to dedicate the memorial itself next October.

We have selected a very capable Texas company, known for its monuments in Washington as well as Austin, to build and emplace our Memorial. At the suggestion of several En. Assn. Reps the Committee investigated the capability of inscribing unit signatons on the Memorial. We found there were problems.

Many units were first formed in 1942 and quite a few were broken up in 43-44 with the men transferred to other units. For those that saw combat in the Pacific there is no problem. TD's in the Pacific is another story. Some were designated artillery cannon companies. Several TD units were converted to amphibious assault units. Confusing!!

In view of this, and the wish to have a simple and uncluttered memorial for ALL Tank Destroyer units...dead or alive...it has been decided on the simple but all encompassing inscription.... "To The Memory of the Men of the Tank Destroyer Command 1942-1946"

This gives recognition to all, without risk of error or omission, and covers every man who served in the Tank Destroyers!!

We are still only able to locate about 1 out of 12 TD Veterans. If you have a buddy, particularly one who does not talk,

SPECIAL APPEAL FOR DONATIONS TO HELP BUILD THE TD WAR MEMORIAL!

There will be nothing slick or glamorous about our War Memorial. It will be a good sized, rugged structure like the men who will be honored by the red granite structure. It will be appropriate to the TD men and their awesome task.

No great enterprise or government will lay out the funds to build this war memorial. This will be built by contributions from TD Veterans who stand proud of the job they did.

Please send your contribution to TDWM, P.O.Box DG, Tiburon, CA 94920. Whatever you send will be gratefully received and used solely for our TD War Memorial.

Be a contributing part of this great and worthwhile project. You'll be happy you did!!!!

HERE ARE YOUR 1983 TDA OFFICERS!

Warren Mitchell (661st) Pres. & Chmn, TD Museum Comm.....Jerome Cohen (807th) VP & Chmn. 1983 TD National Reunion.....Quint Atkinson (610th) VP & Chmn. TD War Memorial Comm.....Marvin Ravelly (776/807th) Treasures & Chmn. Vet Info Comm.....Marsh Hanks (805/815th) Secretary & Editor TDA Newsletter.....and Lonnie Gill (Not a TD Vet) but our Honorary TD Historian who in time will write a comprehensive TD History.

TD REUNION INFORMATION NEEDED!!!

The 2nd National TD Reunion will be held at Ft. Hood, TX on Oct. 20, 21 & 22. Chairman is Jerry Cohen, 255 Castenada Dr., Millbrae, CA 94030.

For planning purposes, Jerry would like to know how many of you plan to attend. When you write, please include your own TD unit, as well as your address, so we can update our records.

In the next TDA Newsletter we want to again start listing the individual battalion reunion

SEARCH CONTINUES FOR TD VEHICLES TO SHOW TO OUR GRANDCHILDREN!!!

Over to your right you can see miniature drawings of each of our own tracked destroyers. If you want to see the real thing you might find an M-10 or M-36 at the Aberdeen Proving Ground Museum.

That is the only place in all the USA where you can see a TD. There is nothing at Ft. Knox and nothing at Ft. Hood!!!

If we can find one of each of our vehicles we would like to put them on display at Ft. Hood. We don't need to have them running, just be there so you can slap the side and tell wonderful stories about when you lived and rode in one of these special vehicles.

This is an appeal for each of you to get your Scouts Out and see if you can locate any of these treasures. And if you are lucky enough to find one, get all the facts and send them on to us. One way or another we will raise the money to get that TD to Hood, restore it, and put in on display.

WE ARE REACHING FOR SOMETHING SPECIAL AT OUR NEXT TD REUNION

Ft. Hood has the prototype of a brand new, ultra special, Anti Tank Company. Their mission is much the same as we had. They are organized in such a way that they seem to have incorporated many of the combat lessons you & I learned the hard way!

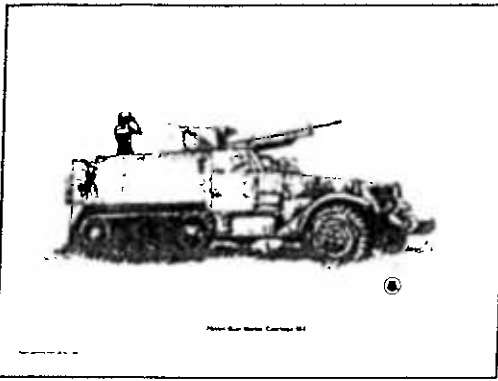
We think it would be a very interesting experience for us to get to know these young men, and for them to get to know us old timers.

If possible (and we can't make any promises at this writing) we hope to be able to spend a day in the field with this new U.S. Army unit. Will keep you posted

NEEDED - TD VETS TO DIG THROUGH WWII FILES FOR TD PHOTOGRAPHS!!

There are thousands of good TD combat photos now in storage in Washington & elsewhere. We need knowledgeable people, with time & patience, to go through these

# WWII TANK DESTROYERS



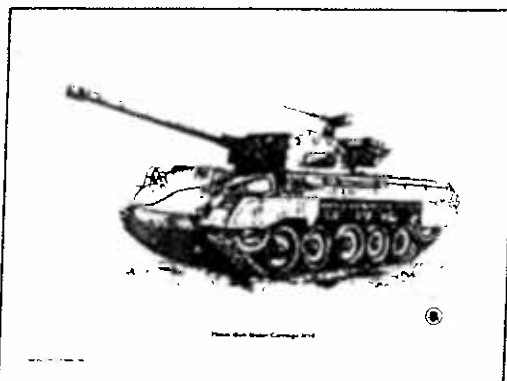
**The M3**



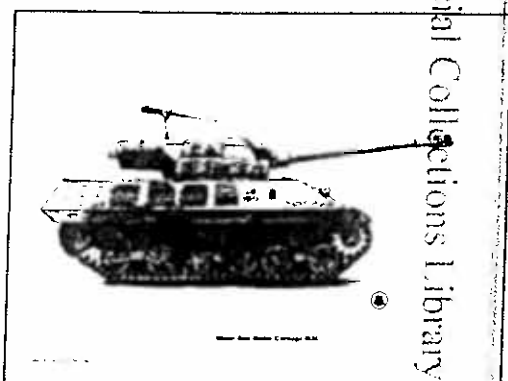
**The M10**

**75mm GMC M3** The half track was originally built as a Personnel Carrier. Among the many modifications was our own 1st Destroyer, which also became our insignia. Fitted with the American version of the old French 75 gun it was sent to the Phillipines in 1941 and was first used by the TD's in Tunisia.

**3in GMC M10** Over 6000 were built in the USA. The British version was called the Wolverine. The basis was the M2A3/4 tank chassis. The hull was sloped and the turret was partially counter-balanced. The M7 gun had a flat trajectory and was extremely accurate. This exceptional fighting vehicle saw action throughout the ETO.



**The M18**



**The M36**

**76mm GMC M18** Many students of armor consider the Hellcat to be one of the finest AFV's developed during WWII. With an exceptional power-to-weight-ratio it was extremely fast and maneuverable. It was the 1st USA armor to use the torsion bar suspension with road wheels. Production started in 1943 and 2500 were built.

**90mm GMC M36** This AFV was developed to stop the German Panther and Tiger tanks at long range. Basically it was a beefed-up M10 with a new turret and a more powerful gun. First used in late 1944 in NW Europe, it notched up impressive scores. Only about 1500 of these were built. M36's were also used in Korea.

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Karen W. Randall is a Kentucky artist noted for her original pen and ink sketches of military vehicles. In 1982 the Tank Destroyer Association commissioned her to do four separate drawings of the four tracked TD-AFV's used in WWII. The originals are now on display in the Tank Destroyer Museum at Fort Hood, Texas. Shown are miniature reproductions of this exclusive work.

ing, are now available. Each lithograph is professionally done in black on white using heavy book paper. Every TD Veteran and U.S. Army Armor Historian should have at least one print shown in a place of honor.

The sale of these prints is part of the TDA Fund Raising Project. This is a first offering, and quantities are limited. Ordering details are shown on the back side.

11x14 individual reproductions, suitable for fram-

**WWII TANK DESTROYERS**

**HOW TO ORDER:** Please print and fill out this order form completely. Mail with your personal check or money order to M. HANKS TDA, POST BOX "DG", TIBURON, CA 94920. Delivery 3-4 weeks.

(Last Name) (First Name) (TD Unit)

WWII Tank Destroyer Prints - 11x14 on Quality Book Paper Prints will be Rolled and Shipped in Heavy Duty Mailing Tube

QUANTITY	DESTROYER	UNIT PRICE	**TOTAL**
	75mm GMC M3	\$10.00	\$
	3in GMC M10	\$10.00	\$
	76mm GMC M18	\$10.00	\$
	90mm GMC M36	\$10.00	\$
	Set - All Four	\$36.00	\$
		SUB-TOTAL	\$

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TD HISTORICAL FACTS AND FEATS!!!  
A TD History Book is in the making. Be a part of it.....

Lonnie Gill is attempting to get either a regular copy or a photocopy of every TD Bn. history. As of this time he has them from the following Bns.....

601	628	704	801	817
607	630	773	804	825
610	644	776	807	893
				899

If you have a TD Bn History NOT ON THIS LIST please send it to Lonnie at the below address.

We would hope that you would GIVE your copy to him for the TD Library, in which case he will hang on to it until a proper library has been established.

If you only want to LOAN it, OK. Send it to him and he will have it photostated and returned to you.

Either way, get all the TD data you can to Lonnie so that he can include it in his forthcoming (1988?) TD History Book. Write to.....Lonnie Gill, 1422 Greenhaven, Anaheim, CA 92801

SMALL SUPPLY OF HALFTRACK TIETACS STILL AVAILABLE @ \$4/EA. PSTPD.!!

This little money-raiser is starting to come to an end. We do have some left. It's real good for those few times when we retirees do wear a tie.

Make your check payable to TDA & M.Hanks. Send it to P.O.Box "DG", Tiburon, CA 94920. You should have it within 3 weeks.

TD HISTORICAL FACTS AND FEATS!!!  
Four Medal Of Honor Winners.....

Only for "Action above & beyond the call of duty" is the Medal of Honor awarded! We are proud to list their names below:

- T/4 Arthur of Beyer  
603rd TD Battalion
- S/Sgt Hershel P. Briles  
899th TD Battalion
- S/Sgt Clyde L. Choate  
601st TD Battalion
- 1st Lt. Turney W. Leonard  
893rd TD Battalion

We have heard rumblings that men from these units are trying to get together to honor their own. If you wish to do something as a unit, for use in the TD Museum, OK. If you would rather be a part of a joint effort please contact TDA and we will help you get together with the other men interested in such a project.

SAD NEWS "ALLIED TANK DESTROYERS" IS OUT-OF-PRINT, UNAVAILABLE!!!!

This great book is the only one, outside of published TD unit histories, we have ever seen. It was done by the British, but they now tell us there will be no more copies until someone comes up with an order for at least 1000 copies!

Believe us, we will try to work a deal of some kind. If and when we do we will advise in this TDA Newsletter.

In the meantime, if you run on to a supply anywhere please let us know. And, if you run on to just a copy or two buy them quick - you may have what may turn out to be an historical rarity!!!

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS HELD  
KEEP OUR TD ASSOCIATION SOLV

Following is a list of bro TD Veterans who have sent in hard-earned dollars to help us meet our obligations. Partic thanks go to several of them have sent in a check for the time to show that they realiz our expenses go on year after year.....

- |            |           |          |
|------------|-----------|----------|
| Atkinson   | Griffiths | Nagey    |
| Balehar    | Haigh     | Neighbo  |
| Bargholz   | Hail      | Onsak    |
| Burton     | Hanks     | Pagliari |
| Caddy      | Haskins   | Patadin  |
| Calabrese  | Hass      | Patton   |
| Cavanaugh  | Hawks     | Polzner  |
| Cohen      | Haywood   | Pollett  |
| Colella    | Henderson | Rabeichn |
| Cowgill    | Hiatt     | Ramino   |
| Crocker    | Johnson   | Ravely   |
| Dammann    | Komar     | Rickett  |
| Demchik    | Lavin     | Riker    |
| Dilliegro  | Lill      | Robohn   |
| Duckossois | Mallon    | Scanlon  |
| Eichentopf | Marcus    | Sinclair |
| Fanning    | Martinez  | Sturbo   |
| Fikens     | McClary   | Summers  |
| Fireman    | McClure   | Tassis   |
| Fischer    | McGuire   | Toladore |
| Foreman    | McKenna   | Wilson   |
| Gorecki    | Mitchell  | Winslow  |
| Grady      | Morris    | Zieliewi |
| Gregg      | Mulhal    |          |

SPECIAL NOTES: The following units "passed the hat" and can set up with much appreciated gifts Co. A of 610th, the 634th and the 705th TD BN ASSNS.

Many thanks to all of you!!!!

TD HISTORICAL FACTS AND FEATS!  
Most aircraft shot down.....

A tie. Records show that the 628th and 899th each shot down four enemy aircraft!

"NATIONAL TD ROSTER" EXPLAINED!!

It has been estimated that out there somewhere are some 110,000 TD Veterans from WWII. Nowhere is there a list, so we are trying to build our own. And right now we should point out that our own TD Battalion Associations (who have kept the faith over all the years) have been very helpful! Present list now over 7,000.

Each time we get a name it is entered in the computer, along with current address and various TD units. This then becomes the mailing list for our Newsletter.

There is no cost or obligation in getting a name on this list. There are no dues. However, we do have expenses, and we do ask that each member...



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