



# TANK DESTROYER NEWSLETTER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TANK DESTROYER ASSOCIATION,  
255 CASTENADA DR., MILLBRAE, CA. - 94030

FEBRUARY 1984

NEWSLETTER NO. 9

## WE LOST MARSHALL!



Copy from the University

The Officers and Directors of the Tank Destroyer Association were saddened by the sudden passing of Marshall B. Hanks Sr., January 25, 1984. Marshall died of cancer at his home. He was 68. A native of Indiana and reared in Wisconsin, he attended the Universities of Wisconsin and Iowa. His Tank Destroyer years saw stateside training with the 815th TD, Tank Destroyer Officer Candidate School and service in Italy with the 805th TD Bn. He was also a member of the Tank Destroyer Board during his service. After the war, he and his wife, LaFrance, made their home with their three children in Madison, Wisconsin. After his wife's death in 1963, he moved to California. He married Mary Runkel Burrell in 1965. Marshall made a career in advertising and marketing. He was active with youth groups, the Masons and the Scottish Rite. He and his wife enjoyed traveling by motorhome and even found time to volunteer his service to the Marin County Sheriff's Department. In 1980, he decided "to correct 35 years of historical neglect and tell the tank destroyer story." He formed the National Tank Destroyer Association, which now numbers more than 13,000 veterans.

The Officers and Directors will continue to work to complete Marshall's dream of opening a museum commemorating the Tank Destroyer Forces and writing a Tank Destroyer History. In the words of one Tank Destroyer veteran, Hank "renewed and reinforced the pride that thousands of his comrades in arms have in their service to this nation!" To further our efforts we wish to announce the objective to establish a National Tank Destroyer Museum in honor of Marshall B. Hanks Sr. The association requests the TD veterans to join in a fund raising effort to establish this

**WOULD YOU LIKE A PEN AND INK SKETCH OF A 3" TOWED GUN AND HALF-TRACK PRIME MOVER?**

We've been selling, as part of our fund raising activities, sketches of the M3, M10, M18 and M36. Up until now we have not offered a sketch of the Towed TD gun because we did not have a suitable photo for the artist to copy. At last our newsletter pleas have borne fruit, and we will make sketches available, provided there is sufficient demand.

So, if you're interested in purchasing a fine pen and ink sketch of the Towed Gun and Half-Track Prime Mover, drop us a line at once. If the response is favorable, all systems will be "Go". The unit price will be the same as the other TD sketches, namely \$10.00 plus \$2.50 handling and shipping charges, or \$45.00 for the complete set of 5 sketches plus \$2.50 handling and shipping charges.

Send all responses to TDA, 255 Castenada Dr., Millbrae, CA 94030. Send no money at this time.

**DO WE GET INTERESTING LETTERS???????????**

One 35 year Army man wrote "I have been from Texas to 'Nam, but I still think my tour of duty with the TD's was the best ever!"....One Patriot wrote: I may be old fashioned, but I still get a thrill when I see our flag, sing the national anthem, or hear taps!" ..... Another wrote "I often wondered why our TD's never got any real credit from military historians. Now that I see what you guys are trying to do, count me in!".....and last, but not least, one man did some artwork on the envelope he mailed to us. Used a "Growing Old Together" stamp and pointed one arrow at the stamp, one at our address, and one at his return address. I think we are all trying to say the same thing WE HAD BETTER GET OUR TD HISTORY TOGETHER NOW WHILE WE ARE YOUNG ENOUGH TO DO THE JOB AND OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT THE JOB BETTER BE DONE TODAY.

**DO YOU HAVE A CHANGE OF ADDRESS??**

Have you moved? If so, send us a card with your new address. Do it right now! This will keep your name on the National TD Roster. It will assure you of getting your very own TDA Newsletter. Don't forget!!

**L BATTALION HISTORIES CONTINUE TO MOUNT**

Our Historian Lonnie Gill reports e now have complete histories on the following battalions:

- |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 601 | 626 | 703 | 776 | 811 | 899 |
| 605 | 628 | 704 | 801 | 819 |     |
| 607 | 634 | 705 | 802 | 823 |     |
| 610 | 644 | 711 | 803 | 825 |     |
| 612 | 661 | 773 | 804 | 826 |     |
| 614 | 691 | 774 | 807 | 893 |     |
- plus 5th TL Group

IMPORTANT NOTE: Regret that we are unable to furnish copies in any form, please don't request them! If and when they become available you will be notified.

The following histories are not complete. If you have any info send it directly to Lonnie Gill, 1422 Greenhawn Anaheim, CA 92801.

- |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 602 | 630 | 656 | 775 | 821 |
| 603 | 632 | 702 | 817 |     |
| 609 | 651 | 772 | 818 |     |

If your battalion or group is not listed above, and if you have any historical information of any kind, please mail it to Lonnie Gill!



DEAR LORD...Bless this monument which honors the memory of the 100,000 soldiers of the Tank Destroyer Command whose deeds of valor on every battlefield of WW II inspire all who glory in the title of soldier.

Signal courage was the order of the day... Fortitude was their shield...faith in the justice of their cause was their helmet and constant inspiration & motivator...Tank Destroyer Command Soldiers preserved our freedom with their blood...May we always honor these men of valor...Let all who look on this monument honor the soldiers of TDC who bless us by giving their lives-and their all-for you and me and all the USA stands for.

Tank Destroyer Monument Dedication-Oct 22nd, 1983 at Fort Hood,Texas...Chief of Chaplains..Fort Hood, Texas...

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE A GOLD & WHITE CAP WITH THE TD LOGO?**

A smash hit at the '83 Ft. Hood Reunion was the TDA souvenir cap given to each registrant.

We've had many requests for caps but have been unable to comply because our supply was exhausted. By a stroke of fate we now have 76 TDA caps available for sale at a reduced price. If you would like to order a cap (or caps) the price is \$6.50 per cap, postpaid. Mail all orders with check to TDA,

**LOCATE AN OLD BUDDY THROUGH THE TDA NATIONAL TD ROSTER!!**

We now have over 13,000 names on the National TD Roster. The following services computer are now available:

If you want to locate one or more TD vets send us one dollar per name. We'll let you know what we find, if anything.

If you would like to have a roster of all the men we have located in your unit send us \$10. We will send you our complete list of whom we have whether the total is two or 600.

P.S. Profit on this goes into the General Fund to cover operating expenses.

**REPORT ON 2ND NATIONAL TD REUNION--- JERRY COHEN**

The October '83 Reunion at Ft. Hood was a huge success--

A total of 493 registered for the Reunion, including 20 "no-shows." The 473 enthusiastic attendees included 265 TD vets, 4 widows and 204 wives, children and guests. The 265 TD vets represented some 69 different battalions, 7 TD Groups, 1 TD Bridgade, the TDRTC and the TD School!

On October 20, the first day of the Reunion, we registered at the Holiday Inn at Killeen with each registrant receiving a handsome souvenir gold and white TDA cap, which was proudly worn at all activities. At 5 p.m. the Visitors and Convention Bureau of the Greater Killeen Chamber of Commerce treated all of us to a very chic and entertaining fashion show. At 8 p.m. we had an informal welcome and orientation at poolside, where the TD officers were introduced, a brief resume of the TDA objectives was outlined and the Reunion schedule was discussed.

On Friday we were transported by buses (all 11 of them!) to Echo Co., 2nd Bn, 41st Infantry, 2nd Armored Division, the Army's newest anti-tank unit. Here we viewed their static display of modern day TD vehicles and armament. The highlight of the day was the reading by Alex Woodside, representing TDA, of the Association resolution formally "adopting" Echo Co. and presenting to the unit a set of 4 framed WW II TD pen and ink sketches for display in their dayroom. In addition each man in the unit was presented with an official TDA cap. What a beautiful picture that was with all 19 men in formation wearing our TD caps and shouting in unison "Seek, Strike, Destroy", as they snapped smartly to attention and then proudly saluted us! After a delicious lunch at the new officers' Club, we all enjoyed a static helicopter display by the 6th Cavalry rigade (Air Combat) and a briefing on aviation tactics and doctrine, followed by a 504th Mil. Int. Threat briefing and a III Corps, G-3 Force modernization Briefing. Friday's

festivities concluded with a delicious steak dinner at the Ft. Hood Mini-Dome.

On Saturday morning we again boarded buses for transportation to the site of the beautiful new TD War Memorial Monument dedication ceremonies, located at the northeast corner of Hood Road and Tank Destroyer Blvd., the most prominent intersection on the Post. The highlight of the ceremonies, emceed by Quint Atkinson, the War Memorial Chairman, was the placing of a wreath at the base of the monument by Lt. Gen. Walter F. Ulmer, CG of III Corps, and TDA President Warren Mitchell, after which a rifle squad of Echo Co. fired a 21 gun salute. The ceremonies concluded with Pres. Mitchell presenting the deed to the monument to Gen. Ulmer. Among the notables present at the ceremonies were former TD'ers CWO Joe Goeppner at Ft. Detrick, MD with 34 years of active duty and a member of the cadre for the 894th TD Bn. (among the first TD Bns. formed) in 1941 at Ft. Lewis, WA; and Frank Mayborn, owner and publisher of the Temple Daily Telegram and the Killeen Daily Herald. After the ceremonies we then went to the Palmer Theatre, where Marsh Hanks conducted a critique and discussed future plans for TDA.

Again, as last year, we are deeply indebted to III Corps and its magnificent support and "red carpet" treatment. Particular thanks go to our genial and capable host liason and planning officer, Maj. Horst Cleveland, Community Relations Officer, G-5, III Corps, and to 2nd Bn. Commander Lt. Col. Robert L. Friedrich and Echo Co. Commander Capt. Mark A. Steven, 41st Inf., 2nd Armored Division. Not to be overlooked is the superb publicity given our Reunion by Wayne Hair, military reporter for the Killeen Daily Herald.

**YOU REMEMBER YOUR RETURNING TO THE USA?**

Our 702nd TD veterans spearheaded the 2nd Armored Division in five campaigns, code name "ATLAS", finishing up in Berlin prior to returning to the USA. Their division newsletter, printed in Germany - July 1945, gave the following:

**ADVICE TO WIVES OF RETURNING "HELL ON WHEELERS"**

(July 1945 somewhere in Germany)  
Please bear in mind the old man has been through the mill. Have patience with him if he uses the outside corner of the house as a latrine. Just write "OFF LIMITS" on the wall and he will go behind the garage.

IF YOU CATCH HIM going through your drawers (dresser, bedroom, wooden) just remember that he is mentally wandering through the SS Headquarters in Madeburg, Germany.

His habit of opening all bottles with a knife will no doubt prove irritating. Forgive him. He is probably one of the unfortunate thousands who went through Europe without a corkscrew...Deep, stark, tragedy.

PERHAPS YOU WILL awaken of a night and miss him. Look down on the floor. He will be there, hunched up fox-hole size, and enjoying the solid comfort of the hardwood. Be a good kid and shout "Ka..BOOM" several times. He will smile, mumble something about "Outgoing" and slumber on.

Be sure and show the maximum amount of appreciation over his souvenir collection. Give with many "Cooohs" and "Ahe" when he drags the Luger out of his duffel bag. Don't be too surprised if he fires a round or two through the ceiling....they're tricky those Lugers.

ABOVE ALL, don't divorce him when he pulls a "Wee wee, mon Cheri". He read it in a little booklet "Pocket Guide to France". (Courtsey How Bulletin Oct-Dec '83)

**ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT TRIVIA.....**  
The last TD-OCS Class was No. 54. They graduated at Camp Hood on 10 March 1944.

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	\$
	75mm GMC M18	\$10.00	\$
	90mm GMC M36	\$10.00	\$
	Set - All Four	\$36.00	\$
	SUB-TOTAL	\$	\$
	Where Applicable + 6% CA Sales Tax	\$	\$
	Handling, Packaging and Postage	\$	\$
	GRAND TOTAL	\$	2.50

**WWII TANK DESTROYERS**

HOW TO ORDER: Please print and fill out this order form completely. Mail with your personal check or money order to: TDA 255 Castenada Dr. Millbrae, CA. 94030

(Last Name) \_\_\_\_\_ (First Name) \_\_\_\_\_ (TD Unit) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Street) \_\_\_\_\_ (City) \_\_\_\_\_ (State & Zip) \_\_\_\_\_

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LATEST ON TD BATTALION REUNIONS!!!!!!

773rd - Date unknown - Indianapolis, IN. Edward H. McClelland, 4384 West 182nd St., Cleveland, OH 44135.

894th - Apr. 6-8 - Las Vegas, NV - Sam's Town - Ellett Jacson, 3500 Akers Road, #57 Pinewood Lake Dr., Bakersfield, CA 93309.

803rd - Apr. 19-21 - Sands Hotel Casino, Reno, NV - Wm. A. Barner, 6135 Panorama Dr., N.E. Tacoma, WA 98422

661st - May 2-6 - York, PA.

705th - May 16-20 - Florida's Space Coast - Jack & Louise Dibble, 467 Bridgetown Court, Satellite Beach, FL. 32937.

602nd - May 19-20 - St. Louis, MO - L.H. Borneman, 11832 Parland Dr., St. Louis, MO. 63127 - PH.(314) 843-2691.

776th - Jul. 2-4 - Pocatello, ID. - More details later.

807th - Jul. 3-5 - Rapid City, SD - Howard Johnson - Harold Steckelberg, 310 E. Lawler, Box 6, Chamberlain, SD. 57325.

628th - Jul. 13-15 - West Middlesex, PA.

805th - Aug. 3-4 - Harrisburg, PA. - Sheraton-East - Willard C. Hunt, PO Box 622, Danville, KY 40422.

636th - Aug. 11-12 - Aurora, NE.

605th - Sept. 1-3 - Riverside Park, Findley, OH - L.N. Montgomery, 120 East 1st St., Plainwell, MI 49080 - Ph (616) 685-8729.

813th - Labor Day - Lebanon, TN.

774th - Oct. 3-4 - Myrtle Beach, SC Bill Hart, 932 Key West Dr., Pittsburg, PA, 15329 - Ph (412) 427-0504.

643rd - Oct. 6 - Chief's Club, U.S. Naval Sta., Newport, RI - Royal J. Little, 107 Hope St., Providence, RI 02903

633rd - Oct. 7 - Havana, IL - Poor Richard's Restaurant - Vern Coker, 1400 S. Johnson, Macomb, IL 61546.

704th - Oct. 12-14 - West Point, NY - Phil Hosey, 82 West Gates Ave., Lindenhurst, NY 11757 - Ph (516) 226-8807.

If we missed any, please pardon the omission. We are doing our best in picking up the loose pieces since Marsh's passing. For inclusion in the next newsletter, tentatively scheduled for release in August, send details of your BN Reunion to our new TDA Secretary; Jerry Cohen, 255 Castenada Dr., Millbrae, CA 94030.

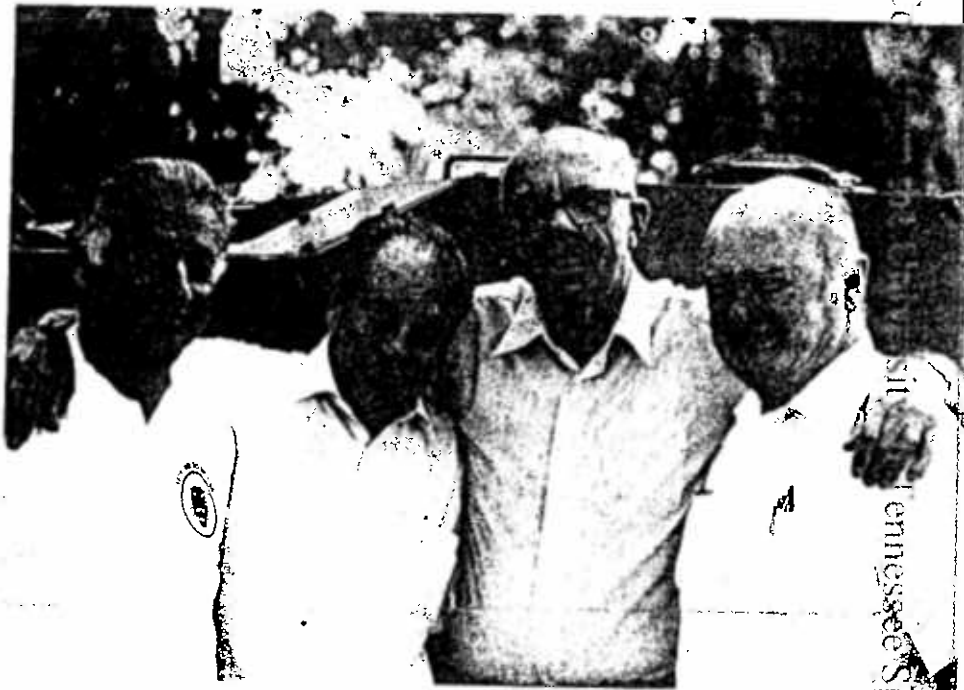
WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT? A WWII WEHRMACT TD'ER WANTS TO JOIN THE TDA!!!!!!!!!!

We've just received word that a former member of the Tank Destroyer Corps who fought in Europe in WW II, but on the other side, wants to be an associate member of TDA! What say you all?

WEAR A HALF-TRACK TIE BAR! IT TELLS "EM WHO YOU ARE!!!!

This item is a to-size copy of the official officer's collar insignia for the TD's. It is a good-looking conversation piece and we had it made especially for us.

The cost is \$5.50 per copy, post-paid. Send for a couple today! Mail all orders with check to: TDA, 255 Castenada Dr., Millbrae, CA 94030.



MARSHALL HANKS AND ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS - PLANNING OUR TDA DETAILS, FEBRUARY 1981

Marshall Hanks, National Tank Destroyer Association founder, third from left, is joined by (left to right): Jerry Cohen(807th TD), who became association VP & Reunion Chairman; Marvin Ravelly(776th & 807th TDs), accepting association VP & Treasurer; and Warren Mitchell (661st TD) heading up the association and museum objective. Not shown above in front of a M-5 Light tank in Redwood City, CA are association VP and memorial chairman Quint Akinse (610th TD) and Alex Woodside (807th TD) association VP and special events chairman. Also not present at this event was Lonnie Gill, association historian and author of the forthcoming comprehensive history of the Tank Destroyer Forces.

MORE ON OUR TD HAM RADIO NETWORK

Remember our Sept. '83 Newsletter #7 calling for Ham Operators to chat with George A. Powell, 38 Roseland Bl., Burnt Hill, NY 12077? We goofed: George will answer to: K1LC, A1FA, 2, ALFA, INDIA, PAPA (KAZA1P). Sorry for the wrong number: we probably had you calling an airplane over Greenland! Help start a network!

TDA NOW HAS A NEW MAILING ADDRESS!!!!

Effective immediately all communications to TDA should be addressed to Tank Destroyer Association, 255 Castenada Dr., Millbrae, CA 94030.

MANY THANKS:

Marsh's family wishes to thank all of you TDers for your kind letters and cards.



TANK DESTROYER ASSOCIATION  
255 CASTENADA DR.,  
MILLBRAE, CA. 94030

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