



# 703<sup>rd</sup> Road Block



Colonel W.E. Showalter (Ret.)  
Honorary President

Vol. VI #3 703rd Tank Destroyer Battalion Association Newsletter, September, 1995

## THE FRONT PAGE

Your Executive Board is being challenged to attempt a "703rd Family" reunion. We expect the largest group of all time. Why? There are men out there whom we have not seen since Europe, in other cases not for a long time, and others we see often but never often enough. We wish we all lived in the same state, and could visit at any time. As that is impossible, let us one and all get to the Grantville-Hershey Holiday Inn, and enjoy each other's company.

Vice President John Czajkowski will do his best to get at least 90 members plus their all important wives to the reunion.

Bob and Ruth Downey are relocating to Myrtle Beach, S.C. This will make it somewhat difficult to make meetings. Long distance telephone calls and letters will have to take up the slack. Think of all he managed to do since our first board meeting a year ago! He compiled the only decent roster, with addresses, many with telephone numbers, and the company with which they served. He wrote many hotels telling them exactly what were our needs were, and what we expected. When we had returns, he, I, Marge and Ruth traveled to Hershey where we met Aulay and Isabel Tompkins. Together we investigated the most promising half dozen hotels, met with their personnel and toured their facilities.

After our return, your Executive Board met and the final decision as to the location for our reunion was made. It has been a joint effort.

Now it is up to you -- each and every one -- to make this a complete success! Nothing less than that is acceptable.

There will be a committee for nomination of a new Executive Board to take charge after May, 1996.

*With the Best of Fraternal Love from  
Frank and Marge Miller*

703rd Tank Destroyer Bn. Reunion, May 19-21, 1996  
Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Hershey-Harrisburg, Pa. The Holiday Inn, Grantville, Pa. 17028  
Exit 28/I-81, 717-469-0661 FAX 717-469-7755

1. **TERMS:** 1-4 persons per room - \$60 plus 6% tax - nice rooms.

We shall have a Hospitality Room- only cost is for refreshments we offer.

We shall have a Banquet Room for our dinner on Tuesday, the 21st, at no extra cost to the association. Our price for the dinner depends on the menu we choose. It will cost approximately \$24.00 per person including tax and gratuities.

At the moment they are holding 40 rooms, but if your reservations are made very

Normandy      Northern France      Rhineland      Ardennes      Central Europe

soon, we may be able to hold more. Some of us have already registered. Reservations must be made by each individual with the Holiday Inn. This can be done with a check deposit for \$60.00 plus tax, or by credit card. Enclosed are forms for both registration with our association and reservation at the hotel.

By April 1 we must have an accurate count in order for the hotel to preplan the number of rooms and numbercount for the dinner. In case of emergency, cancellation can be made anytime up to May 15, 1996 without losing your deposit.

2. Everett Stites (Rcn) will have the reunion program printed.
3. V.P. John Czajkowski (B) has developed a plan to enlist a number of key members, in various states, to help get our members to our reunion in May, 1996.
4. You will have noticed that the enclosed 703rd Registration Form included a request that you send \$10.00 to our Treasurer to assist in defraying some of the cost of the food and snacks for the hospitality room. A 50/50 raffle will be held each day to assist in helping to defray these costs if necessary.
5. Additional authorized expenditures from the association treasury were and will be for the following:
  - a. Printing costs
  - b. Any signage required
  - c. Any commemorative souvenirs
  - d. Necessary telephone calls

The Holiday Inn is immediately accessible from Exit 28, I-81, and is so close you can see it from there. Their food is excellent, of a wide variety and reasonable in price. Hershey is a city with interesting places to go and see, lots of shopping nearby.

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**DON'T LET IT BE A DRY SEASON!**

Let the flow of your dues into our coffers demonstrate that you want to help keep your comrades together!

Have you contacted comrades you know that have not joined? Run 'em in!

As of August 18, 1995 we have 91 members, including eleven life members, each who sent us \$75.00. Life Membership is a good deal!

Surely we'll have 100 paid up members before long. Let's corral 'em, pronto!

Please send a message along with your check, a good word that reflects your questions, your opinions, yourselves!

Make the \$20 annual or \$75 life membership check out to the 703rd T.D. Bn. and mail it to: Florence C. Goldberg, Treasurer  
86 New England Ave. #50, Summit, N.J. 07901

Bank Balance	8/9/95	\$3985.59
Outlay:		
7/95 Road Block		358.95
7/13/95 TD Caps (\$6.50) and		
TD Patches (\$2.50)		349.08

ORDER THEM FROM FLORENCE PLUS POSTAGE.  
We'll have them at the reunions.

**POURING A LOAD OF HELP**

Frank Miller, our president, and Bob Downey, just let Aulay and Isabelle Tompkins (C) know we needed help making arrangements for our battalion reunion in their area next Spring, and they really came through! They are not stopping there, but are still working on the details that will make that reunion tops!

His letter and check in Mid-July made him a life member of our association; the letter described a jaunt to Europe with Isabel in a group of eighty Third Armored Division members, a "Last Request" trip in memory of our battle. "Unfortunately, I was the only one from the 703rd. At Mons we bumped into a bus group of the 'Big Red One'. Some tales tales were exchanged.

In the past a lot of us have seen negative graffiti, "Yankees Go Home", etc. "Bur", I must tell you, we were welcomed,

dined, wined-out and thanked everywhere we went. We were cryingly thanked by the old who remembered, and we were thanked by the young whom the old will not let forget. In one area in France it is part of their [school ?] curriculum to spend two hours a week on the "Occupation" by the Germans, and the "Liberation" by us. Everywhere we went we were met by the townspeople, even in inclement weather. They kept the children home from school. Somewhere they obtained many small American flags.

There were very few dry eyes on that trip, many lasting friendships made. We were given medals, letters, commemoration plates, etc. But above all we were obviously given their very sincere compassion, and love. It was an experience I'll never forget !!"

93 Almond Drive, Hershey, PA 17033

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THE COLONEL SETS AN EXAMPLE

Col. Showalter has registered for and reserved his rooms for this month's division reunion and ours in May, 1996. That's just as it should be for all of us! As ever, the Colonel is showing the way!

We'll miss Lucille, though! The best news is that the couple are in fine fettle!

"Lucille and I keep busy encouraging some thirty nine types of roses to grow as beautifully as they should. At times our condo looks like a florist's shop, even after I've given many away to a nearby hospital and friends. But it's our pleasure."

Our Honorary President and Commander is the Scribe for his West Point Class of 1939. Every two months he prepares two to three columns of writing with a picture or two, all covering items of interest for his former classmates.

He hopes you'll be at Valley Forge and Harrisburg-Hershey to hear his remarks, and so he can greet you too.

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CONCERN FOR OTHERS

Leonard Straub's Middle Name

The 1944's Allied Remembrance Group, our Belgian colleagues, asked us for a photo of our battalion flag (4'x 3') See item this issue, "Our Belgian Chapter". Leonard (A) sent one to your editor, and it was forwarded.

Caps, Bolo Ties, Pins

Bob and Lora Schutt (A), on their way to visit in Rhode Island, delivered to your editor a raft of those fine looking TD caps [\$6.50] and T.D. patches [\$2.50] Leonard sent your editor 3 T.D. Bolo ties [\$6.00] and 12 lapel or hat pins [\$?]. Florence and your editor will bring it all to the reunions for your purchases. Mail orders will be welcomed.

Some us of recall the soft, expressive way Paul Clark (A, Hq.) would talk to us in helping us solve our personal financial problems as our company or battalion clerk. Leonard called the "Texan" the other day, but "Alzheimer's" made communication almost unintelligible. Edna told Leonard that, "--a card would be of some consolation to him." The Clarks are the best of friends to our battalion association!

924 East Thomas, Sherman TX 75090.

Eleanor Mayette (A), up north in Dannemora, N.Y., retired from teaching in 1983. She volunteers at both hospice and nursing home, indexes historic clippings at the library as well as serve on its board,--not to mention her volunteer work with civic groups. A special joy for her in June, 1993 was the arrival of a great grandson. "Bob loved children,--so much!"

Leonard's source was from a teacher's newspaper.

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\*\* Col. William B. Lovelady \*\*

Claude Ball (B) wrote "things are better for me,---and with more time to accomplish what I want to do." He asks for postcards from 703rd men who served in combat under Colonel Lovelady, the commander of task forces formed out of C.C.B. The Colonel held high regard for the "703rd"! Most often it was our "B" Co. destroyers assigned to him.

In addition Claude wants to identify those "B" Co. crew members, and those men in our battalion association whose illnesses or disabilities keep them from attending our reunions. Claude will send each man in both groups a copy of Bill Lovelady's book, Five

Stars to Victory. He has already begun forwarding copies. Let him know if you or any other member fits into the groups he noted above.

Claude is very enthusiastic about our association, and promises not to miss any of our reunions.

**SHARE A ROOM WITH CLAUDE!**

He has already reserved a room at the Sheraton Valley Forge for the division reunion. September 13-16, 1995. Just contact him to finalize it!

611 Willow Oak, California, MD 20619-2058  
(301) 863 6983

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**"MEANDERING!"**

Ed Hoy (Hq,Rcn) and Maja have booked 3200 miles from Arizona to Oregon and Idaho visiting a brother and a cousin, both combat veterans. When they returned, the Doctor prescribed a new drug that didn't go well with other medication he was taking. For a month he was undergoing a "passel of afflictions"!

Early in July the couple were visiting a daughter showing her paintings on Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, then visited with relatives in Illinois.

The Hoys can't make it to the division reunion at Valley Forge, but will try to be at our battalion reunion in Hershey-Harrisburg. We are asking the Hoys to keep after our Arizona comrades, Leon Michaud (Rcn), Rufino Hualde (Rcn), and George Scruggs (Hq) to get to the reunions.

In an even more recent letter, the Hoys had returned from their travels. While visiting his sister in Chicago he called Matt Arquilla (A) who pulled together a mini-reunion at "O'Hare" (Airport), e.g. Maja, Leo Eatman (B) and Len Straub (A). They had two hours filled with the surety that "there's no finer group of people than the 703rd T.D. vets!" [See photo p.7]

Ed and Maja have written to André Deschetter, leader of the 1944's Allied Remember Group in Belgium. The Hoys hope to visit the group next February, if possible.

We hope Ed knows where Al Lock (Hq.) now lives. The P.O. returned the Road Block we sent to 3608 Morganford Rd., St. Louis MO. 63116, noting that Al left no forwarding address. Anyone else know where he and Bernardine now live?

Editor

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**PAUL AND MARY JARVIS (2B)**

P.O. Box 272 Star Lake, NY 13690

Seaton Perry (B) recruited him, and Paul is now a Life Member. He joined the 703rd via Fort Niagara, 2/1942 with a batch of Northern New Yorkers.

"My fighting career came to an end, 8/2/1944 in Northern France, and after eighteen months in various army hospitals,

I returned to civilian status. I'd like to hear from any "B" Co. veterans still around!

As of now, barring unforeseen circumstances, my wife, Mary and I are looking forward to the May 19-21, 1996 reunion in Greenville, Pa."

*Please be ready to tell us about the incident in which you were wounded, and even more we hope some of your former comrades will join you, Mary, Seaton and Phoebe!*

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ALL'S WELL HERE IN NORTHERN MINNESOTA! That's Fay and Harvey Ness (A), life members sending greetings. Both of them never let you know their age. Hope they continue blessed with the good they deserve. We wish to be with them at our reunion next Spring!

**LET'S HOPE THE "DOC'S " ON HIS GAME!**

Georgia Hunt (Hq.) wrote, 8/16, that Fred suffered a stroke last June, and cancelled their attending the Third Armored Reunion this month. Their physician assured them that Fred is on his way to a full recovery, and that's apparent with every day of "feelin' better"! They look forward to being with us at our reunion next spring. Fred is now our twelfth life member! They ran a splendid reunion for us? SURE DID!

**WHO AM I ?**

Am I an old soldier? Am I really old?

Perhaps, yet a little bold,  
Ready for the rocking chair?

No! I still have my hair.  
The seventies aren't that bad, says this happy lad.

Love my softball twice a week: enjoy  
volunteer teaching where I can speak.  
Great times at early morn when my poems are born.

Have lots to do in the years to come,  
help my family, my country and then some.  
Show that smile. Walk that extra mile.  
When I reach 92; strive ahead for 102.

Hope you can, too!

Don McKiernan (3A)

Published in California Poets Anthology 1992.

## LONG LIVE THE QUEEN VIII

It was not sudden or held definite. On the last day of May waterproofing was as complete as ordered in about eight hours, and the battalion moved into a pasture on the ready. Nate Goldberg (A) could wonder why he was sub-clerking, helping write a partial payroll with Harold Mose (A). The security section machine-gunner was being prepared to replace Mose if he was evacuated when hurt. Still, missing the last minute preparation of security equipment and training was lost to him just when he needed it. He tried to think himself into use of the fragmentation grenade if he was in trouble while on guard "over there"! He and Louis Ruiz (A), his belt feeder, had agreed that under attack Nate would be gunning, but if they moved into the attack they would switch places.

Again---ready to go--wait for days! Our forces pushed "Jerry" back from the Alban Hills and Rome was a few days away for the taking. Would occupying the Holy City be the signal for the assault from the West with the Russians renewing their advance toward Bucharest, Czechoslovakia and East Prussia? If so the all-front attacks, hopefully, would make "Jerry" shorten his front behind the Siegfried Line! It would shorten the war! Peace in a couple of years? Fewer men to die?

On June 4, and 5 something seemed cooking! Company censoring officers returned a few letters to the men. A "dry run" and inspection kept everyone busy. Lt. Col. Showalter asked the men their opinions on their equipment. After he inspected an "A" Co. motor pool in disarray, he restricted the company.

When his motorcycle fell, "Cazimir George" Piepiora (A) and his ankle needed days to become fully useful. He deeply felt for the folks who had been host to the battalion for nine months. He was among the recruits that broke in at Camp Polk, a burly, pigeon-toed lad with a sneer at the "foolishness" of the "Hurry up and wait" of army training. He had wrestled barrels of fish on the Atlantic Avenue wharves of Boston--- was someone

"from home" to admire.--- "Didn't start out that way!" He had been "a wise guy", using "gab" defensively as an attack on what he felt the stupidity of army life and, especially, the character of the underlings sent to train him. That disgust of his mirrored what the men had learned to accept, that which was a gripe, had to be secondary to learning skills essential to surviving when each of them had to "hold up his end when the shooting began! Cazimir George---, became a "bike-rider" messenger. Mere, as all of war-time England, was in darkness every night. Only pinpoints of lights were shown on vehicles. George grieved the accidental death of the elderly, Mere gentleman who fell in front of his "bike"!

[Your editor called Helen Piepiora, Jack Moriarty (A), and an ailing John Prior(A) who send their best to all of us. Have you spoken to a deceased comrade's loved one recently?]

On June 6th some of the battalion T.D.'s were sent to Codford to see if the waterproofing worked. Captain Cole's personal radio told "A" Co. Rome was taken. The Germans radioed that their naval forces were engaging our forces off the Seine River estuary, that our parachutists were dropping into Normandy, and Le Havre seemed to be the objective. Now our role was almost clear. The bridgehead would be built. Then would come the try for a breakthrough. If "Jerry" would not pull out of France, pronto! We would be in on it. By noon Winston Churchill told the world the numbers in the attack and that "Monty" was in charge! Tension mounted that our move was imminent. All night aircraft were overhead on the way to and from supply bases in the bridgehead. But with the rest of the day the anxiety was hardly relieved by policing, softball games, an evening musical, propaganda, war film, -what the hell was there to feel good about?

*To Be Continued*

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Popovitch, Santino, Straub, Roberts  
Ball



Ted and Helen Michalowski



Victor and Florence Borek



Phil and Edna Hallabrin



Lesczynski, McCarthy, ?, Scanlon,  
O'Connor, Piepora



Rocco and Regina Mantro



Phoenix '94-McKiernan, Santino, Straub, Wagon seller, Goodrich, Ball, Popovitch, Roberts



Paul Clark



Merle Goodrich Fred Hunt Nate Goldberg  
Dee, Maja Hoy, Georgia, Yolana McKiernan  
Florence



Reno '90 George and Anna Toma



Maja Hoy, Len Straub, Leo Eatman,  
Matt Arquilla



Claude Ball

**OUR LEADERSHIP**

H.Q. 703rd Tank Destroyer Bn. 1/18/45  
"The Bulge" 12/18/44

**TANK DESTROYER OPERATIONS V**

During this period, [12/21], the only further changes in our lines consisted of the movement of a company of the 18th Infantry into position in the high ground vicinity of Königsbach to strengthen the right flank of the 26th Infantry.

At the end of the day, when the action had quieted down, the third platoon was ordered to return to Bütgenbach the first thing in the morning, because there were now too many destroyers on the left flank of the Regiment, and a redistribution was necessary for protection against attack in other sectors. When the morning of 22 December came the justification of the order was aptly proven, for at 0500 hours a battalion of infantry supported by several tanks made a strong attack toward Bütgenbach from the southwest. The section of the second platoon located at (K-910035) knocked out the lead tank, and the others withdrew, but the infantry continued and successfully penetrated toward the T.D. position. During this infiltration a halftrack filled with infantry attempted to flank the destroyer on the right, and was completely demolished by several rounds of HE from the TD. When it became evident that the destroyers would be overrun if they remained, the section leader ordered a withdrawal to another position about 200 yards to the rear.

One of the TD's would not start and was abandoned. However, rather than destroy it immediately, the section leader backed the other destroyer out of immediate danger, but took a position whereby, if necessary, he could fire a round into the other vehicle and render it useless to the enemy.

Before the enemy had an opportunity to consolidate their gains, our own infantry counterattacked, and late in the day succeeded in restoring the lines. During the counterattack, the destroyer which had backed off to keep from being overrun participated by firing several rounds of HE into a house directly beside the abandoned destroyer, and driving a group of enemy infantry from the building. The destroyer was later recovered intact.  
(To be completed)

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**THEY DO NOT TALK**

They do not talk, returning men, and people wonder why;  
They seldom speak of where they've been, of men they saw die.  
They are not sure the price they paid, may not be paid in vain.  
That grave mistake that once was made, it could be made again.  
They fought for peace, saw men die, they know the price of war.  
They only hope that you and I this time may profit more.  
A lasting peace, and if it be, and we it's joys partake;  
In our home life and community we must improvement make.

Scatter seeds of human kindness; help the fellow who is down.  
Though it's tough keep smiling, it's as easy as to frown.  
Feats of battle are forgotten when the smoke has cleared away.  
Your actions on your home front, will live with you day by day.  
And your deeds of human kindness that you scatter o'er the way  
Will create a fitting monument, for the men who passed away.

Cpl. Ronan P. O'Neil (Hq. 32nd A.R.)(Oriole News 7/4/1945)  
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**SHOCKING AND DESERVED!**

The Lion's Club in Hurley, N.Y., Frank Miller's (A) bailiwick, made him, "The Lion of The Year"! For the fine manner which he had performed his public duties over the years, he received congratulatory letters from The Congress, the State of New York, and the International Lions. Our association has had excellent leadership in the past. Frank has begun as a challenging leader.

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**3A HAD M-10'S IN THE BULGE!**

John J. Balmes led 3A into The Bulge. His late-in-July letter supporting Frank Miller (A) and "Hap" Paulsen (C) contradicts the battalion records, which state that our battalion had been supplied with 36 M-36's before "The Bulge."

"I speak for 3A only."----I do vaguely recall being sent to Bn. Maintenance shortly before "The Bulge", I think. I was to share with Capt. [Bill] Smith (Hq) my experience with M-36's before I left the States. Talking to Smith I was not sure that he had already had some or all the M-36's at that time, or was expecting them. Our visit was short as there wasn't much to tell. I reaffirm that 3A did not get M-36's until we were back north in the vicinity of Mausbach."

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The battalion records state that on 10/20/44, 1106 rounds of 3" ammo were fired within 12 hours, and the last 4 M-36's, total authorized, were received.

**\*AFTER THIS DATE THERE IS NO MENTION OF THE EXPENDITURE OF 3" AMMUNITION.**  
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**HARD TO BELIEVE!**

Company "A", Camp Polk, Louisiana  
March 10, 1942

As we stood in ranks early in the morning, Anthony Wolfe, a "bohemian" from New York City "took a fit" and collapsed. This boy is stupid and "mighty cute". Still his cuteness



in feigning ignorance and sickness could not overcome his true physical condition. He had two more real fits the next day. Probably they will confine him to a hospital for six months before they give him a medical discharge. It was amusing to hear him continually question our top kick, "Sergeant, will I be able to become a cook after my basic training?" He went to the dance Saturday, and had a grand time. Those girls in Jasper must have been a swell lot to permit themselves to be held close by this almost disgusting person. He tries hard, that is to his credit, but only a mother's love could keep him happy!

We drove the trucks all afternoon. Six men to a truck, each man taking his turn at the wheel. Some of the fellows never drove a vehicle in their lives, yet they learned how to drive a truck with a five-gear transmission in two days.

March 11, 1942

The battalion is starting a dance orchestra. I went down with some of the men, but I do not have the necessary experience. In the morning we drove trucks into Leesville, the town closest to the camp. A road sign told us that in 1936 the population was 3390. Today it is about 7000. It's a boom town filled with dirty joints and vice-breeding tourist (sic) camps. Some of the sections of the town are really pretty. Most homes do not have cellars, and all the nice houses are painted white and green.

The U.S.O. is active here, and I shall try to enjoy contact with a Jewish Center if I'm ever off restriction. The army has closed all the dives in town, but prostitution is evident everywhere you go. We are constantly warned to stay away from the town if we are going to look for fun away from U.S.O.-sponsored organizations.

While driving a truck, a sense of truly learning about the human environment of Leesville is skimpy. However the negro (sic) section, the tourist camps, and the empty dives only can bring about a sadness and disgust.

Look at the tall pines, the strong brown grass, the red mud, and all of nature's pictures as a background for the filth that man can permit built around him.

We were drilled and drilled by Sgt. Ross in the afternoon. One thing that is missing in our drill is confidence, and that's caused by our drillmasters. We judged distance, and I happened to call a 144 pace-distance within 4 paces. To be continued.

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#### A GREAT WOMAN!

The first thing I learned about Bernice Rood was that among the girls in our "crowd" she was the social "fixit"! Her "Dad", a plumber on call at the Charlestown Navy Yard, had never replaced the "busted" lock on the front door of his home. Everyone who behaved was welcome. That home was where Bernice was the organizer and problem-solver for the girl-boy relations of our community. She had latched onto Joe Bennett about the time I met her. Joe went to the Philippines with the "Yankee" Division, suffered tropical illness, stuck it out, got back, had a row with Bernice, and she had to toss a rock at him to get him to propose.

They both taught, had a fine family, but he was stricken with multiple sclerosis, and eventually died. She later married a widower. Both now enjoy boating along the West Florida coast. Here's one of her letters to me.

#### Note the date!

June 6, 1944

Dear Nate,

It has been some time since I've heard from you. However, rumor has it that mail from England has been delayed due to the forthcoming invasion. Anyway, if I have to wait- there isn't anyway of complaint. The army has the upper hand.

Today was one of those days in which a teacher beams with satisfaction. You see, the young lady chosen as valedictorian asked me for ideas on which to base her address. That was a big order, and a responsible one, too, but "gee", I felt proud.

After considerable thought I suggested that she read several of Walt Whitman's works. He was, I think, strictly speaking, "a poet of the people". From his writing,

perhaps, we can abstract something timely and original. I don't mean any of this hackneyed "Democracy ballyhoo"--but, rather a crystal clear interpretation of America using easily understandable, everyday American words. It will entail a great deal of work and effort, but I hope it will be a "fine, finished product." Tell me what you think?

Tomorrow my brother is graduating from Everett High, and I'm going home. It will be quite tiresome coming back the same evening, but I'd go through hell and high water for my brother. He's a very fine young man, and I'm very proud of him.

Nate, what with all the war talk of the invasion,--frankly I'm scared. Please God that you boys will remain safe and come home as you left. Take care of yourself, Nate. We need men like you here at home--men with depth, feeling, understanding, and real human qualities. So-long for now,

Bernice

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#### OUR BELGIAN CHAPTER

703rd Tank Destroyer Battalion Association  
1944's ALLIED REMEMBER GROUP

#### Change of address:

1944's Allied Remember Group  
Monique Godefroid  
Rue Ferrer, 3, 6200  
Chatelineau, Belgium

The ARG members own World War II vehicles, and participate in commemorative exhibitions and other events especially in celebration of the 50th year after the liberation of Europe from Nazi domination, and to honor the sacrifices of their own veterans. Other groups of this nature may have museums, or collections, and the villages invite gatherings of these organizations to exhibit their hobby. Of course collectors have many yarns to exchange relative to how they obtained, maintain, repair, and prepare their exhibits.

We exchange newsletters with the ARG, and find that there is much of mutual interest in the sharing. However your editor's College French is not as good their English.

We sent the ARG information relative to vehicle marking and uniform patch, lapel button and rank placement on uniforms.

We also sent them the wartime "Summary of Operations" reports of our battalion for the period in which we advanced from Normandy through to the end of The Bulge. They requested and with Leonard Straub's (A) help we got them a picture of our battalion flag so they could make a copy "bearing the words '703rd T.D. Bn. Belgian Chapter'".

We sent pictures of your editor who pulled in his "gut" enough to get on his Eisenhower jacket. In that way he could show where insignia was placed on each arm. They had seen a picture in which our division patch had "Spearhead" sewed along its base, but not on the pictures we sent. "Are there two types", they asked? Another photo showed your editor with a TD cap on his noggin, and his "salad" on his chest. Six of those caps and some patches, gifts from us, now spruce up their appearance. They may order some.

Among their members are a physician, a retired engineer, employees in the metallurgical and aviation industry, pensioners from coal mining and metallurgy, three army warrant officers, and several farmers.

The World War II vehicles owned by members include:

- Jeeps, Willys or Ford, 1942 Plymouth Sedan
- Dodges WC 51 - WC 52 3/4 T., 1 Scout Car
- 1 Weasel M29 (1 track damaged)
- 1 Diamond T Wrecker
- 3 GMC CCKW 353 6x6 2.5 T., 1 rebuilding
- 1 Studebaker 6x4 2.5 T. (almost rebuilt, very rare in Belgium)

Their treasurer owns a Jeep, GMC, and the scout car. André Deschepper, who has resigned as their leader, what with elections coming up in August, has a Jeep that's running and a Ford to rebuild. Another member has a Jeep and a Weasel. A fourth member has the Plymouth sedan 1942, the Studebaker and 2 GMC 6x6's! He sold 2 German WW II vehicles last year. There are no more German vehicles owned by their members. One member has a shop which can repair, maintain and be of assistance in rebuilding their vehicles.

Occasionally memorabilia and vehicle parts dealers put on "MILITARIA" exhibitions.

Spotting junky parts that are "out of tolerance" and finding reputable dealers are a challenge that the ARG members have learned to deal with.

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PLAQUE AT FLERON, BELGIUM

(Continued)

See R.B.VI,1,2-3, 3/19/95; VI,2,9, 6/19/95

Henri Rogister continues his search for the identity of the soldier in the Spearhead Division who was killed in Fléron, near Liège. The townspeople wish to honor the soldier on an already mounted plaque.

Henri has three witnesses whose versions of what happened differ, but they agree as to relating the same incident. Below is what a witness, then seventeen, says that occurred:

"When the Americans got to a crossroads in "Fond de Fléron" ('Boulienne' crossroads according to U.S. Army After Action Reports) a half-track positioned itself under a tree, and near a road sign on the square. [Point #2 on the map]. It was protected by a Sherman tank [#3] that was positioned not far from that square. They established a machine gun nest in front of the Farm Leclerc, and just ahead, along the road, a manned trench [7]. Added at the road block were three A.T. guns [1]. The After Action Reports state there were four .57 mm.'s at the crossroads.

Shortly, a red truck, probably civilian and taken by the Germans, came up to the road block loaded with men and equipment [5]. They took fire from their front, the truck going out of control, but the Germans managed to get a machine gun into action [6], and a 'Yank' was killed at that crossroads."

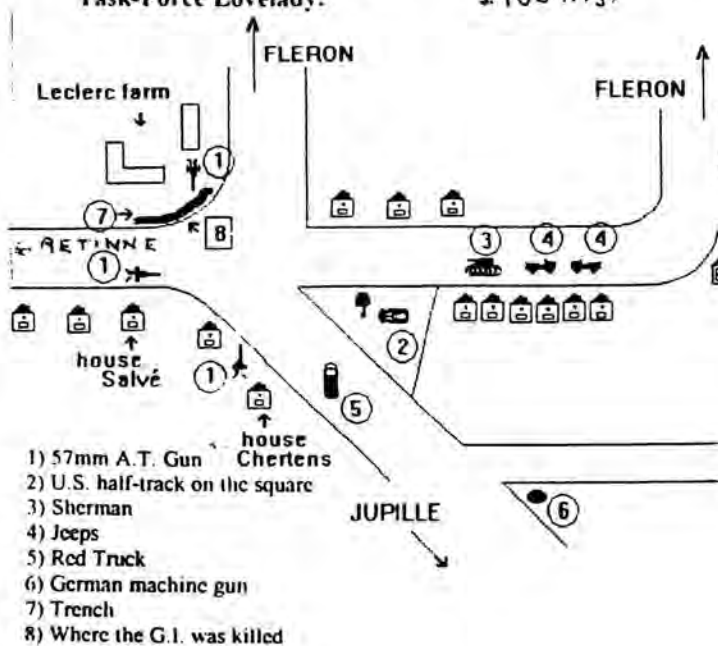
A second witness showed Henri a helmet he claimed he picked up from the trench after the casualty was evacuated. If it was that of the G.I., he took a bullet in his head.

A third witness claimed that the soldier was run over somewhere between the .57 AT gun at the Leclerc Farm and the truck as it careened out of control.

Henri read the After Action Reports for

9/7/44 of the 33rd Armored Regiment and the 36th Armored Infantry Regiment who were part of TF Lovelady. He has learned the names of twelve men in those regiments killed on that day, but he only knows where we lost one!

ROAD BLOCK at FLERON, 7 September 1944  
Task-Force Lovelady. 1900 hrs.



In a letter to Leroy Hanneman (Hq. 23rd Secretary/Treasurer, Editor of the Third Armored Division Newsletter, Henri wrote, 6/8/95, that he'll end his research on the problem if the division can not learn which one of those twelve men was the one killed at that crossroads.

- 36th Armored Infantry Regiment  
 S/Sgt Edward O. Kaltenbacher  
 T/5 Virgil C. Splain    Pvt. Jewel F. McKay  
 Pfc Etsel Holbert    Pfc Clyde G. Deemer  
 Pfc Anthony P. Ross    Pvt Bennie J. Moore  
 Pfc Elmer A. Johnson    Pfc Everett Sanderson  
 Ross was killed in Embourg on 9/7/44.

- 33rd Armored Regiment  
 S/Sgt Edward F. Buzalsky T/5 Clarence T. Raby  
 M.I.A.  
 2nd Lt Edward Larson buried in Henri Chapelle Cemetery.

\*\*\*\*\*

HELP US LOCATE THESE MEMBERS

John and Mary Smith (Hq) 909 E. Chestnut St.,  
Lancaster, PA 17602.  
The P.O. returned their 6/95 Road Block  
marked, NOT HERE!

Albert L. and Bernardine Lock (Hq) 3608  
Morganford Rd., St. Louis, MO 63116  
The P.O. returned their 6/95 Road Block  
marked, MOVED, LEFT NO ADDRESS

\*\*\*\*\*

"VIC" BOREK (2A) IS IN A "FIREFIGHT"!  
Florence and Victor Borek need your  
thoughtful, good word whether it be a call,  
note, or card. They have shared with us  
loyally in the platoon or in our association.  
Bob and Lora Schutt (1A) get to them. How  
about letting "Vic" know you care?  
53 Crestwood Drive, Grand Rapids, MI 49504  
\* \* \* \* \*

703rd Tank Destroyer Bn. Association

Frank Miller, President  
P.O.Box 154, 23 Conifer Lane  
Hurley, NY 12443

John Czajkowski, Vice President  
P.O. Box 91 43 Sunnyside  
Yantic, CT 06389

Robert Downey, (C) Recording-  
Secretary  
90 Elm Street  
Oneonta, NY 12443

Florence C. Goldberg, (A)  
Treasurer  
86 New England Ave. #50  
Summit, NJ 07901

Harold Paulson, (C) Chaplain  
P.O. Box 271 Private Road  
Yaphank, NY 11980

Everett Stites, (RCN) Liaison  
581 Forest Drive  
Rivervale, NJ 07675

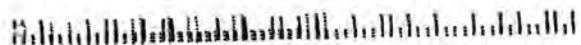


703rd ROAD BLOCK

Nathan Goldberg, Editor  
86 New England Ave. # 50  
Summit, New Jersey 07901

Date of Issue  
Vol. VI #3, September, 1995

FIRST CLASS MAIL



**SEEK, STRIKE, AND ENJOY!**  
**703rd T.D. Bn. Reunion Registration**  
 Hershey-Harrisburg, Pa.  
 Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, May 19-21, 1996  
 Deadline, 4/27/96  
**B E T H E R E !**

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Tel.No. \_\_\_\_\_

Registration of Member--Hospitality Room Supplies 1 @ \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Wife and/or guests----- x \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Guest names \_\_\_\_\_

Banquet ----- x \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

Send this completed form with check (703rd T.D. Bn.) to:  
**Florence C. Goldberg, 86 New England Ave. #50, Summit, NJ 07901 1-908-273-7018**  
 Coming by air? Give the hotel three (3) days notice. They'll pick you up.  
 Coming by bus or train? Call from the depot. (717) 469-0661

\*\*\*\*\*Tear Here\*\*\*\*\*Tear Here\*\*\*\*\*

**RESERVATION REQUEST CARD**

**HOLIDAY INN**

Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, May 19-21, 1996

HERSHEY-HARRISBURG  
 Exit 28/I81, Grantville, PA 17028  
 (717) 469-0661  
 (717) 469-7755 FAX

CHECK IN TIME - 3:00 PM  
CHECK OUT TIME - 12 NOON

No. of	How many	Special
Rooms.....	Singles.....Doubles.....	Requests.....
		Smoking.....N/S.....
Arrival	Departure	*Time of
Date.....	Date.....	Arrival.....

*Rooms held only until 6:00 PM unless guaranteed by one night's deposit or major credit card.*

Group Name.....**703rd Tank Destroyer Battalion**.....

Name(s).....

Address.....Special Group Rate..\$60.....

.....Day Phone ..( ).....

Credit Card Name.....#.....Exp. Date.....

*\*These special accommodations and rates will be available up to three weeks prior to your gathering after which time these rooms will return to the hotel for their normal sale.  
 \*Reservations will be held until 6:00 PM unless guaranteed. If guest does not arrive, first night will be billed and reservation for the following night(s) cancelled.*