



TANK DESTROYER NEWSLETTER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TANK DESTROYER ASSOCIATION,

918 WILLOW STREET • ALAMEDA, California • 94501

JANUARY 1986

NEWSLETTER NO. 16

803 TD IN BELGIUM



DO YOU RECOGNIZE YOURSELVES IN THIS PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN ON SEPTEMBER 10TH, 1944 IN FOURON-LE-COMTE NEAR LIEGE, BELGIUM? CAN YOU IDENTIFY THESE MEN OF THE 13TH VEHICLE BELONGING TO C COMPANY, 803RD TD BATTALION? PLEASE WRITE THE TDA OFFICE, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.

Armored Forces Monument Proposed

A Committee was formed in 1964 at Fort Meyer, VA to lead a drive to erect a monument in the area of the Nation's Capital to honor all American soldiers who have served in armored and mechanized units organized for "armored ground combat." A preliminary design has been proposed; a financial structure established; and legislation introduced in both Houses of Congress; Senate Joint Resolution SJR43, and House Joint Resolution HJR167. The plan is to locate the monument on the Avenue of Heroes at Arlington Cemetery. The committee emphasized that the "Armored Force" Monument embraces all the "men of steel" who served so valiantly in the United States Tank Corps in WWI, and their descendants who fought so gallantly in WWII, Korea and Vietnam in Armored Divisions or separate Tank Battalions, Tank Destroyer Battalions, Armored/Mechanized Infantry Battalions, Armored Engineers and Armored/Mechanized Cavalry Regiments and Squadrons. The Mon-

ument will also inspire future generations of American soldiers who serve in the Armored mobile warfare units with the same spirit of "teamwork" that the "Armored Force" proclaimed in 1940. The proposed Armored Force Monument is the combined effort of the following seven sponsoring associations:
United States Armor
Armored Divisions of WWII
Armored Cavalry Regiments
Tank Destroyer Association
World Wars Tank Corps
Veterans of Battle of the Bulge
Council of Armored Divisions Asso.
General Bruce C. Clark, US Army retired, is Committee Chariman. The National Tank Destroyer Association is represented by Quintus C. Atkinson, TDA Vice-President and National Capital Liason. You will recall Quint was TDA Memorial chairman for our Tank Destroyer Memorial dedicated at Fort Hood Oct. 22, 1983.

DUCK SHOOT

Adapted from "At Base"
(the 603rd newspaper)

"It will be just like shooting ducks", said the Lt. to the crew of Connie, an M18 of C Company, 603rd TD Battalion. "Move up to the crest of the hill and there they are". Connie's engine revved and she slowly churned away. "Oh yes, before I forget", hollered the Lt. as the hellcat picked up speed, "These ducks shoot back!" Dismounting seventy five yards from the crest of the hill, the M18's commander Sgt. C B. Wheeler, made his way through the Ardennes snow to see what lay in store. Seven or eight German panzers were on the other side of the hill. The sergeant made his way back to the TD and conferred with his crew.

Soon Connie advanced again. A sudden halt and the first round of 76 was on the way. Load...fire...load...fire...; the crew worked like a well oiled machine. Then back to defilade, shift position and repeat the performance. Soon four panzers were burning in the snow.

When Connie moved back to the assembly point, the Lt. was waiting. "Nothing to it, was there Sergeant?" "Easiest thing we ever did sir," came the answer as the TD headed for the rear. "Where are you going now Wheeler?" "Back to ordnance for a new idler sprocket sir, those ducks were too damn accurate!"

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO TDA ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

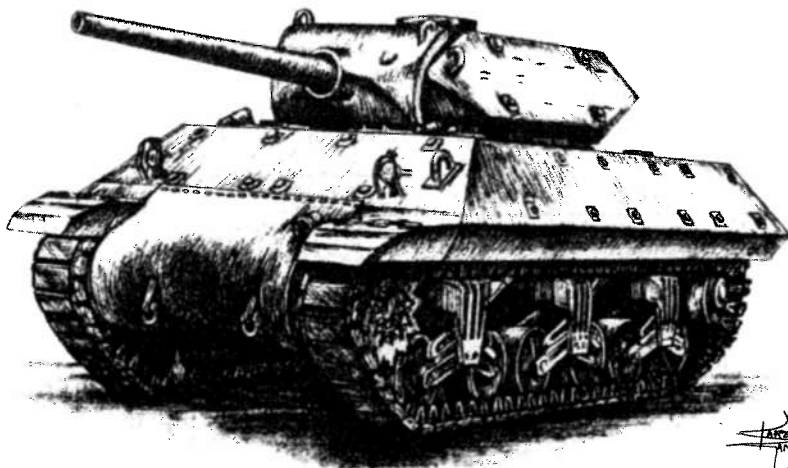
A best of the season greetings and a strong wish for 1986 to be a year of joy and prosperity to one and all! Our newsletter entering calendar year 1986 is addressed to all of our 13,000 plus TD'ers who are listed on the TDA National Roster. We wish to verify our roster with the help of you TD'ers and the US Postal Service both of whom we hope will advise us of address corrections. We want to go through this exercise periodically in order that the roster be as current as possible and be an up to the minute reference for the Battalion secretaries and most importantly, for our fellow TD'ers who want addresses of their buddies. We do get a surprising number of address requests and it is nice to come up with a good solid reference. What's been happening with TDA since our last newsletter? Well our October 1985 newsletter requested comments and commitments for a reunion at Fort Hood in 1987.... a joint reunion of as many Battalions as possible. Wouldn't it be great to get together and demonstrate to our present day soldiers, the vast numbers of fighting Battalions who picked up their Tank Destroyer doctrines at the TD schools and on the TD rarges! You recall our TDA adoption of ECHO Company (anti-tank) Company E, 2nd Battalion, 41st Armored Infantry Regiment during the 1983 reunion. They were so proud of our interest, they added a dark silhouette Tank Destroyer Insignia to their camouflaged equipment, both tracked and wheeled. Our 1983 reunion was attended by representatives of 69 Battalions, 7 TD Groups, a TD Brigade plus the TD Replacement Training Center and TD Schools. Let me hear from you if the idea of a 1987 gala reunion at Fort Hood is an event you want to help put on and/or attend. Send your ideas to WARREN MITCHELL 3050 Harcross Rd. Redwood City, Ca 94062.

We are concerned regarding our TDA objective of establishing a TD museum. (See the newsletter article "OUCH" in the October issue. If you did not receive this issue a copy will be sent to you if you will send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the TDA office, 918 Willow St., Alameda, CA 94501.) I would like to get your comments regarding our Museum project. Our October column tossed out a few ideas, if Fort Hood seemed a too-long time a project - do you have ideas such as looking to a non-tactical past where Tank Destroyers had an established history; Fort Mead is a long ago home of our first TD Battalions, or perhaps at the Aberdeen Proving Ground where our M-10, M-18, M-36 and T-70 Gun

Motor Carriages are permanently on exhibit with other United States Armored Fighting Vehicles. Or, would you believe that Fort Knox has a TD exhibit in its General Patton Museum? So let me hear from you. Send your comments and ideas to me here in Redwood City! How can we get along without our TDA Historian Lonnie Gill? This newsletter has several crackerjack articles regarding our TD history. We just cannot wait until he finds a publisher for his long awaited "History of the Tank Destroyer Forces"! The book should be a best seller among our TD veterans and families as well as those countless scholars and researchers who have shown so much interest in the TD doctrines and vehicles. Don't forget Lonnie Gill needs your comments and references to make the book as complete as possible. This edition of the newsletter also describes a very ambitious effort by a highly motivated committee of veterans who want to create a monument recognizing the Armored Forces of the United States. The Armored Force Monument Committee has its sights set for a location on "The Avenue of Heroes" leading to the Arlington Cemetery. The committee has convinced leading members of Congress of the need for such a monument and today a proposed House Joint Resolution 167 would authorize the monument but it needs the support of all of us writing and asking our Senators and Representatives to vote in favor of HJR167! The Armored Force Memorial Committee has accomplished so much in its short history that it would be a shame to see it stumble on the legislative steps of Congress when our veterans could add their written requests to their members of Congress. Let's do it today! Remember--they need letters not dollars!

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

This issue of the Tank Destroyer Newsletter is the first since the April issue to be sent to the entire National TDA Roster. We may send it to the entire roster about once a year. If you have missed the last two newsletters and would like to be added to our regular mailing list, send in the subscription form which appears on page seven. Please always include the TD units with which you served when you write to us for any reason. For several months I have been working on our National Tank Destroyer Roster. I have been updating it and inputting it to our own computer system. By the time you receive this newsletter the task should be completed, and we will once again be able to generate up to date Unit Rosters. Many orders for Unit Rosters are over 6 months old. I am very sorry for the delay and thank you all for your patience. Rosters on backorder will be in the mail Osprey Publishing Limited has recently informed us that the book "Allied Tank Destroyers" has been out of print for some time and that they are not planning to reprint in the near future. It would be greatly appreciated if someone could tell us where we could obtain a copy of this book for the Association. I am frankly disappointed in the response to our call for help. We have two projects which cannot be gone ahead with because we have no volunteers for the committees. One is the 1987 National Reunion, and the other is the Museum Project. If this continues we will not have another National reunion nor a Museum. I know this is not what you want, because I receive many letters each day saying you look forward to the results of each of these plans. Maybe you think someone else will do it. "Someone else" died. We need you to take over. Yes YOU!!!!



3in Gun Motor Carriage M10

OPENING ROUNDS

by Lonnie Gill (TD Association Historian)

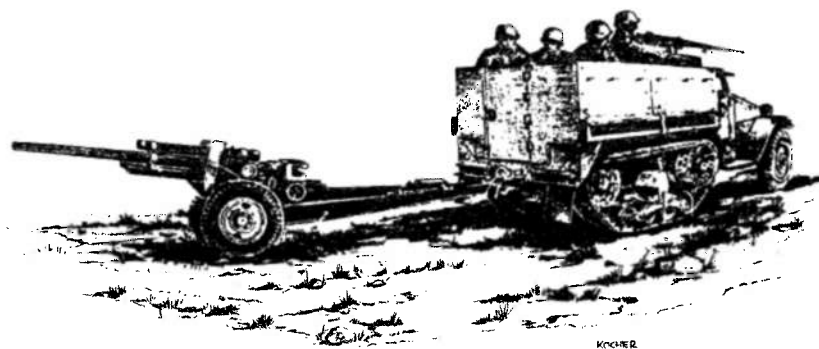
The waiting was over. Gun flashes broke the pre-dawn darkness of 8 November 1942 as TD men gazed toward the darkened shore of Oran, Algeria. The Vichy French were going to fight after all! The men of Recon Company, 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion along with their comrades in B Company, C Company and 2nd Plt., Recon Company of the 701st Tank Destroyer Battalion would be the first TD men to see combat as part of Operation TORCH, the Allied invasion of North Africa.

While the 601st men landed at Arzew and helped clear it, the two 701st gun companies landed on opposite sides of Oran and parts of the 1st Armored Division's two "flying columns" which were to cut off and isolate the city. B Company, 701st and its attached Recon Plt. totaled 6 officers and 203 men with eight 75mm half tracks, four 37mm M 6 gun motor carriages, 16 halftracks, four 3/4 ton weapons carriers, three 1/2 ton trucks, 6 "peeps", 7 motorcycles and 3 duce and half trucks. Lt. Whitsit and the 3rd Plt. set off about 0845 bound for Tafaroui Airport. The airport was taken after limited resistance, but in an afternoon air attack a French fighter dropped a 500 lb. bomb which destroyed a 3rd Plt. halftrack and wounded three Sergeants. Before sundown, the platoon silenced an enemy battery which was shelling the airfield. On the other side of Oran, Lt. Eggleton's 2nd Plt., C company lead the other "flying column" from Merza Beu Zedjar. The platoon, acting as point for the column, met resistance of the highway between Oran and Sidi Bel Abbes of French Foreign Legion fame. Two emplaced French 75's were destroyed without loss before nightfall.

The next day, November 9, B Company's 3rd Plt. saw more action as it moved out with a light tank company to attack a French tank concentration at St. Lucien. TD 75mms knocked out two of the Vichy tanks at a range of more than 2000 yards before the US force withdrew to Tafaroui for the night. These were the first tanks knocked out by Tank Destroyers in WWII. The 2nd Plt. meanwhile led another small force with the thinly armored halftracks acting as advance guard for a column of US tanks, just one of the many strange missions TDs were to perform in the early days in North Africa. Capt. Frank J. Redding's C Company elements reinforced units of the 6th Armored Infantry that day.

November 10th saw the big assault on Oran. B Company's Plt. attacked La Senia from the south through heavy sniping and artillery fire; C Company units also supported the attack. A halftrack of B Company's 3rd Plt. was set afire and destroyed by a shell; five men were killed and the driver wounded. The rest of the platoon bypassed La Senia with the 1st Armored Division column and was among the first Allied troops to enter Oran. The 2nd Plt. command halftrack missed the order to bypass the town and proceeded through it and three miles beyond before it broke down in the middle of a fire fight. Eventually the French surrendered and Lt. Art Edson with four men had the halftrack towed back to La Senia. There he arranged the surrender of 300 Frenchmen, winning the first TD Silver Star.

Oran surrendered in the face of the Allied assault, but there was no rest for the few TDs. Recon Company of the 601st headed for Spanish Morocco in case France decided to join the Axis and the men of the 701st prepared to leave for Tunisia. Capt. Gilbert A Ellerman's B Company left first on the 13th, followed on the 16th by Capt. Frank Redding's C Company. As they headed toward an uncertain future, the men of the 601st and 701st could take pride that they had completed the first TD combat missions in WWII.



3 inch Towed Gun and Prime Mover

This may be of interest to members of the 824th TD Bn. President Michael Masone, of the 824th Association submitted to us a copy of a resolution passed by the New York State Legislature in December 1983 which commemorates and applauds the achievements of this unit. The resolution was initiated upon receipt of a history of the 824th TD Bn submitted to the New York State Legislature. It includes a brief history of the unit, encompassing its founding date, its assignments, its honor recipients etc. The resolution has been named: Commemorating the 42nd Anniversary of the 824th Tank Destroyer Battalion and its Veterans Association. For more information on this resolution please contact MICHAEL MASONE 53 Lent Dr., Plainview, NY 11803. Lonnie Gill, our TDA Historian, writes: "I'd like to correspond with veterans of the Salerno campaign who are willing to describe their personal experiences in combat, particularly those who engaged in Axis armor with TD's. A similar request for the Tunisian campaign was most helpful and greatly enhanced my article on the Tunisian fighting." Write to: LONNIE GILL 1422 Greenhaven, Anaheim, CA 92801

Walter C. Righton, Secretary/historian of the 704th TD Bn Assoc. submitted a letter to Sen. Alan J. Dixon of the United States Senate recently in the interest of reinstating the M-18 Hell Cat into military defense. He pointed out that the M-18 Hell Cat is a combat proven vehicle possessing speed and great maneuverability and that the fire power of its 76mm gun outclassed any other armored vehicle during WWII. In his pursuit to reactivate the M-18 Hell Cat, Mr. Righton also wrote to his Director/Weapons systems General Kenyon and he received this reply to his inquiry: 1) The system is not currently in production, 2) The M-18 is too heavy to be helicopter lifted by the CH 53E, a Marine Corps requirement (14.5 tons), 3) The M-18 would require a significant update. In light of this, Mr. Righton feels that the Dept. of Defense is more than sufficiently equipped to engineer these modifications. He feels that a modern, updated M-18 Hell Cat would cost about a third of what the "Abrams" costs and it would be more efficient in both the training of the crew and in combat capacity. In short, Mr. Righton proposed to Alan Dixon that the M-18 Hell Cat might be the answer to the void between the present day main battle tank and the Armoured Infantry fighting vehicle that the Army seeks. Alan J. Dixon is on the Senate Armed Forces committee and in reply to

MAIL CALL

Where can I purchase Tank Destroyer emblems? LARRY MONTE (771) 527 Via Veneto, Venice, FL 33595

EDITOR'S NOTE: We have the decals. See page 7.

My father, Roy William Myers, was a member of A company 704th TD Bn. during the war. I had contacted Walter Righton, Secretary of the 704th TD Association sometime ago and I believe that he forwarded my name to you, as I have received two of the Tank Destroyer newsletters. It is good to see that the historical armor spirit is alive and well in an association such as yours. I was commissioned as an Armor officer (cavalry) upon graduation from West Point and served as such for six years. Although I am now attending medical school, I still maintain my membership in the US Armor Association. I would definitely like to continue receiving the newsletter, so as to keep informed on what is occurring within such a fine organization. JEROME B. MYERS 804 Centre St. Apt 308, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

I was in Company A 701 TD Bn. at Fort Knox, KY. where it was formed and left it in North Africa after the campaign. Please send me some information on the TD Association. COL. JAMES E. BRADEN SR. (701) 7305 Old Shepherdsville, Louisville, KY 40219

EDITOR'S NOTE: All you had to do was ask. You are now on our newsletter mailing list.

I lived in San Jose, CA for 25 years which isn't too far from the TDA office. I hope to report soon that I have my fishing boat, my dream. GLEN E. HOOP (638/814) 1105 W. Center Apt 53, Stockton, CA 95336

I am a member of the 636th TD Bn. Association. I participated in 7 campaigns with this Bn. including amphibious landings in Italy, France, Germany and Austria.

Served as Platoon leader in Company B in Italy, Company commander Co. A from landing in France to the end of the war. Total active duty= 30 years COL. K. G. GROOM (636) 523 Ivy Hill Rd., Walden, NY 12586

I just got the address of the Tank Destroyer Association and would like to find out your name. I had a belt buckle made and will send you one to see. They are sure nice. I had a friend make this one for me. MILLARD SWARTNEY (808/803) 1332 Osage St., Leavenworth, KS 66048

EDITOR'S NOTE: The names and addresses of all our officer's are on the back page of the newsletter.

I have a TD patch decal in the rear window of my car hoping a TD'er will spot it. ROBERT E. JOHNSON (634) 227 Robinson Ln., Westmont, IL 60559

I am saddened to report to you the death of Marvin D. Edwards on the 6th of July of this year. My friend and yours, died of lung cancer, but he did not suffer other than a shortness of breath and to quote him, "I feel like shit." He was proud of the Tank Destroyers and he and I spent many an evening re-hashing the war and his part in it. I am proud to have known him and I wish I would have had more time with him. Marvin's deepest desire, last year, was to attend the convention of his comrades, but he didn't have the money. I wish I had had the money to give him but I did not. Marve will, according to his will, be buried at sea and I will plot the coordinates. I will send them to you if you wish. One favor, if I may, Marvin could not attend the reunion that he wanted, may I? If possible I would like to be at the next gathering and meet some of the men who served with Marve. At the time I was only eight years old. MICHAEL E. KNERR, Box 110, D.Y.C., Harbormaster's Office, Alameda, CA 94501

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dear Michael. Thank you for your touching letter. We, who are the friends and family of TD'ers, keep their memory alive. You are certainly welcome at any TDA reunion or function and I am sure you would also be greeted warmly at any Bn. reunion.

My service in the 606 TD Bn. began in Fort Leonard Wood, MO. just after Pearl Harbor. This Bn. was one of the first into Camp Hood when Copperas Cove was a staging area for first arrivals. Enclosed is a copy of my orders on the initial assignment to the wilds of Texas before Camp Hood was the military post it eventually became. The dedication and foresight of Marshall Hanks and Jerry Cohen are remarkable and the Association will be a fitting memorial to their memory. The newsletter is great and forms the glue that binds and holds together a group like ours. Good luck to you and your cohorts. Initially I advised Mr. Hanks upon his request that I would be willing to be the correspondent for the 606 TD Bn. and he said that some material or lists would be forth coming to assist in this respect. I have not yet received any such material but I am still willing to be of assistance in developing the Association or Museum. LAWRENCE J. HEIM (606) 4 Day Rd., Rockville, MD 20850

EDITOR'S NOTE: Your name and address have been forwarded to our president, Warren Mitchell.

My outfit, 607th TD Bn. held a reunion this summer in Portland, OR. I was unable to attend this reunion but I know that those who did attend had a wonderful time. I would love to hear from any of

my old pals or anyone that was in the 607th. I plan to spend this winter in Florida and am interested in meeting new friends, TD'ers from any unit, in and around mid-Florida. I am looking forward to the next newsletter and to the next Association get together at Fort Hood. RALPH HERBERT (607) Box 345, Holden, WV 25625

In late '42 and early '43 I was a member of the 812th TD Bn. taking basic training with them at Camp Bowie, TX and advanced training at Camp Hood. I was then transferred out of the outfit and heard later that it disbanded and never went overseas. I have never seen any notice of reunions in Legion Magazines. If possible I would like to get the addresses of men in Hdq. Co. C. M. SHIELDS (812) 8 Maple St., Walton, NY 13856

On page 4 of newsletter #14 is an item from Shannon Connely re: A belt buckle with our TD patch on it. I would like to share with you the name of a place where I get my belt buckles. They'll make any kind of solid brass belt buckle you want. "Curiosity Sales" 15 Lagoon Blvd, Massapequa, NY 11758 They make buckles that fit 1 3/4" belts at \$9.50 ea post paid. There is no minimum order. PAUL SHAW (656) 11842 Scott Ave., Whittier, CA 90604

I served with the 817 TD Bn. Co. C, as their artillery mechanic. I have observed several very familiar names in the reports. Capt. Bob McKenzie mentioned in the newsletter #12, was our Co. Commander until wounded in April 1945, I was wounded right after. Since my discharge from the service I have been very active in several Veterans organizations. I have just completed my year as Grand Chef de Gare du Nebraska, Forty of Eight. Now plan on going to Rapid City, SD to attend the National Promenade of the Forty of Eight in Sept. Do you have any information in regard to the TD lapel pin? Marshall Hanks had furnished me this information but it went by way of the fire. The supplier is located somewhere in Minnesota. I had two early day lapel pins of the screw back type and I still have several half track tie tacs, these were in my car so they were safe. I will be looking for newsletter 14 in the mail. The thought of organizing the National Tank Destroyer Association was a very good idea. We all have so very much in common. Do you still want a list of former TD'ers? I don't know how many I can come up with but a few more could help the organization grow. CHRISTIAN BARGHOLZ (817) 420 W. 2nd St., Wayne, NE 68787

EDITOR'S NOTE: Yes, we want the names and addresses of any former TD'ers for our national roster.

I am a TD Vet. from the Pacific

and North African campaigns, the 627 and the 776. I was originally from 105 FA Reg. a group of misfits from NY and IL, mainly from Chicago and New York were the remnants of this anti-tank Bn. thusly named Tank Destroyer Bn. You see, only my right hand and arm are functioning. My left side from top to bottom including my eyesight is not. Oh well, such is life. Better men lost their lives. I was commissioned at the battlefield, then I got it for good. My crew, don't know where they are, we were so close to each other. Thank you for bearing with me, I get depressed remembering the old days. FRANCISCO A. SOLIS (776) Condominio Villas Del Senorial, Suite 2202, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico 00926

Having just enjoyed your newsletter #14, I must confess to writing the letter on page 51 about whose author you inquired. This sentiment was presented to our reunion as 106 members and guests again met. It was great to see again 13 members who had never been to our 644th TD reunions. Hopefully all will become TD Association members. We will meet again in the fall of 1986 in Tacoma, Wash. In respect to Wm. J. Jacoby (771) letter in newsletter #14 who served with his 2 brothers in the Bn., I cannot compete with that. However, twin brother Harold and I proudly served in the 644th from December of '42 to the end of the war. We were the first twins to graduate from TD-OCS (class #8) as I understand. Keep up the great effort toward the TD Museum. GERALD L. HOFFER (644) 752 Locke Ct., Nappanee, IN 46550

I wish to say I was with the 820th TD Bn. Co. C. We were at Camp Hood most of the time, I was there 37 months. I was a POW in Belgium, captured at the Battle of the Bulge Dec. 16, 1944. A. B. WIGGINTON (820) 511 Koger Cir., Somerset, KY 42501

I have read so many letters where men would like to find fellows from their old outfits. The letter to you is a start but far from enough. First, a list can be obtained from the Association for a reasonable fee of the units that have made the information available to them. Then it takes a bit of work on ones own part, like writing letters, making phone calls. Letters to City Clerks and County Clerks are quite often worth the effort. There are fellows sitting around waiting for someone to get in touch. It just doesn't happen all by itself. Myself and two other comrades from my outfit have located 333 living and accounted for and 126 deceased, about 75% of the old unit. All this since the National Association at Ft. Hood in 1983 when

the memorial was dedicated. As a result, we are going to have our second reunion and what a pleasure it is to be in contact with old friends. So if you want to locate old buddies, get off it and start working. ROBERT E. KING (774) 3682 Green Forest Pkwy., Smyrna, GA 30080

I found the Newsletter #14 most interesting, I just couldn't put it down until I'd read every word. The 702nd reunion of 1985 was again a success. It was great seeing dear friends, their wives, their children and their grandchildren again. Am anxiously awaiting the next reunion to be held in North Carolina in 1989. RUDY PILSITZ (702) 326 N. 2nd St., Steelton, PA 17113

Thank you very much for the newsletter. I saw that the 691 TD Bn. reunion is in it. Thank you again. I read every letter. DONALD RUNKLE (691) 2349 E. Third Ave., York, PA 17402

Keep up the good work! I read all your newsletters and enjoy them very much. Best of luck. CHARLES C. ALESSI (771) 8822 Bayonet Ln. New Port Richey, FL 33553

Does the Association still have the orange bumper stickers left over from the national reunion a couple of years ago? I have already bought some a few months ago and would like more if available, please state price. I have bought all the merchandise you have for sale and I'd like to know if more was added during recent months. I would appreciate all information at your earliest convenience. Thank you. THOMAS O. LEONARD (899) 69 Rathbun St., Coventry, RI 02896

EDITOR'S NOTE: At this time we do not have any bumper stickers left. Some have used our decals as bumper stickers. (see pg. 7)

The newsletter didn't include FOURRAGUERE or CROIX DE GUERE for 820 TD Bn at the Battle of the Bulge. I heard we had them awarded to us. They are not on your list, but we were there on Dec 16th, 1944. WILLIAM M. LYNCH (820) 132 Hayden Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13204.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Does anyone have an answer to this one? Don Fischer of Carrollton, TX says he found "our patch" on board the Queen Mary. I've been all over that boat numerous times. Where on the Queen Mary did he see TD Patches? I still have one from 1942, Hood. The old 656 Hq. Co. Attended a 2 day Air Expo in La Habna, CA, two weeks ago. A vender had hundreds of patches on display. No TD's. On Sunday I showed him what they looked like and he remarked, "Never heard of 'em. What is a Tank Destroyer?" What an opening for me! PAUL SHAW (656) 11842 Scott Ave., Whittier, CA 90604

EDITOR'S NOTE: Two years ago

while my son was a student at the College of Oceaneering in Wilmington, Ca we toured the Queen Mary with him. On the port side of the ship there is a museum of artifacts from the war and several life sized dioramas depicting life on board as it was during the ships career as a troop carrier during WWII. Here we were proud to find the TD emblem among those of other units the Queen Mary must have ferried oversea, displayed on a wall.

I have an extra set of prints of the paintings of Capt. John S. Wright on the 628th TD Bn. These depict various scenes of action of the companies and Medical Detachment of the 628th. I would be glad to donate a set of these prints to the Historical Department of the Association. ARTHUR L. TRAVIS (628) Rt. 2 Box 254, Wills Point, TX 75169

EDITOR'S NOTE: We have received your kind donation of these prints. Thank you very much for contributing to the Association's historical record. It is greatly appreciated.

I was in the 180th F.A.M.G.L. as a 1st Sgt. Service Btry. Shortly thereafter we went on active duty Jan. 15, 1940 at Camp Edwards. Then 26th ANTI Tank Co. Then the 626 TD Bn. Later on we were broken up and sent to other units. I was in the 806th TD Bn. Camp Rucker area. Then we were broken up again and I ended up in the 937 O.R.D. HAM. I ended up in Saipan and Okinawa. Our reunions in the park have been good. Lots of the gang have been very good at making the reunions. Any former members please get in touch with me. FREDERICK O. WHITE (626/806) 18 Spring Pk. Ave., Boston, MA 02130

I was a member of the 644th TD Bn. from 1941-1945 and the end of the war in Europe. We were involved in the Battle of the Bulge and at a reunion held in French Lick Springs, Indiana this past July, we had a great time remembering the good and the bad of our war experience. Several of our members were on a tour in the fall of 1984 led by Charles MacDonald, author of "A Time for Trumpets--The Untold Story of the Battle of the Bulge". The tour visited the principal areas involved in that great battle. Much good mention is made of the participating TD's that did a great job performing their missions. I have noticed the names of several 644th TDers in the newsletter and made contact. While specific dates have not yet been set, the next reunion is scheduled for Sept. 1986 in Seattle, Tacoma Washington area. The theme is "Return to Fort Lewis", as the 644th was stationed there in 1942-43 before going to Europe. PHILIP DiCARLO (644) Box 29151, San Francisco, CA 94129

MORE MAIL CALL

Our organization has begun a project to establish a small unit combat history library, which, if response continues as it has been, will be the only centralized histories repository open to the public. Mr. Berry has presented us with a copy of the 825th TD Bn. history printed in 1945, and has suggested that we write to your organization so that members of other battalions, and the TD groups would be aware of our project. If you could include a brief note in your next newsletter we would very much appreciate it. We would be interested in receiving copies, machine copies would be fine as we are interested in the information therein only, of company, battalion or group histories. Members are invited to send letters of personal experiences and anecdotes relating to their service and their units. We allow no copying of unit histories without the permission and participation of the unit association. If you have any questions about our project, please feel free to inquire. CHARLIE WEAVER of the FORSYTH WWII HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2754 Lullington Dr., Winston-Salem, NC 27103

I understand that Mr. Louis L'Amour, a very famous writer of Western novels, a TD officer during WWII. What unit and where did he serve? HARRY MORGAN (773) Po Box 583, Seneca Falls, NY 13148

EDITOR'S NOTE: According to our national roster, Louis L'Amour was a member of both the 670th and the 808th TD Bn. We do not have his dates of service. You may write to him care of Bantam Books, Inc. 666-5th Ave., New York, NY 10103

The day I receive these newsletters is another high spot in my life. It's great to hear from other TD's. It brings back good memories as well as those that aren't so pleasant. I was a Sergeant in Recon Co. 610 TD Bn. ARTHUR AINSWORTH (610) 703 Woodtop Rd., Wilmington, DE 19804

I am S/sgt. from the 804 Tank Destroyer Battalion Recon Co. We meet once a year in the city of Roswell, New Mexico and this is where I found out about this newsletter. ARMANDO G. BENAVIDES (804) Po Box 4682, Santa Fe, NM 87502-4682

I would like to find out how many men of the 603rd TD Bn. would like to have a four day convention in Jacksonville, FL, next summer. The best I can find out is that it would cost about sixty five dollars a day in this area. If anyone is interested they should write to me and if enough people are interested then I will find out exactly what the cost will be for a single and double at either Jacksonville Beach or St.

Augustine. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: GEORGE W. GREEK (603) 7816 Cecil St., Jacksonville, FL 32221

I see not very much was said about the museum but I hope it can be dedicated in the next two or three years as I would like to be able to attend and none of us are getting any younger. I feel sure the Army is still about the same as it was back in the '40's about getting anything done, you hurry up and wait. CURTIS A. CROOK (818) 6111 Redbud Lane, Little Rock, AR 72210

EDITOR'S NOTE: We need a few good men to remind the Army we are waiting. Any volunteers for a committee to work on getting us a place for our museum?

I have served with the following TD units, Recon Co. 704th, 654th A.C. 3rd Hq. Co., 893rd TD Bn. 4th Army, Tx. Hq. Co., 657th TD Bn. 4th Army, Fort Hood, Tx., 4th Army TD training Bn. Fort Hood. I have had a major operation so my writing is not so great at this time but I am trying to get through this mountain of back mail. In a newsletter which I have just finished reading, it came to my attention that you wanted some information about the 654th TD Bn. I was ass. to Co. A 654th 3rd Div. from 704th Recon Co. 4th TD from Sept. 1944 to Jan. 1945. 1944 Northern France to Colbenze, Germany and to Bastogne, Battle of the Bulge. We lost first Platoon when we were setting up CP in Bastogne. We lost all officers of Co. A 20th Dec. 1944. When Patton arrived in Bastogne with 4th AD and the other units of the 3rd Army, what men were left of Co. A 654th were attached to the 704th 4th AD 3rd Army. I received a field comm. 2nd Lt. by Patton 20th Dec. 1944. I was then assigned to ARM. INF. Co. B 4th AD. Hope this will give you a little info on the 654th TD Bn. CAPT. PERRY BUTLER (654) Rt. 2 Box 3340, Clinton, ME 04927

I am now looking forward to another reunion of the 771st this month. I started with the 106th Inf. NYNG in '38 which was converted to the 186th FA (ISSHON) Regt. Jan. '41 and later split to form several units which included the 71st AT Bn. (prov) later becoming the 771 TD Bn. I left the 771 TD Bn. in '42 as 1st Sgt. Recon Co., for TD ocs, graduated and returned to the 771 as 2nd Lt. Co. A. Later transferred to Recon Co. in England in '44. Stayed with 771 TD until the end (June '45) transferred to 735 Tank Bn. and home. Re-entered Army in Mar. '48 and remained until retirement in '67. LT. COL. JOHN E. CLARK (771) 15002 Westholm Court, Silver Spring, MD 20906

I would appreciate it very much if you could arrange a short note in your next newsletter, requesting

all members of the 819th TD Bn. to contact me regarding a reunion being scheduled for the spring of 1986. All of my addresses from the original rosters are 40 plus years old and obviously are outdated and obsolete. Sure wish there was more response from the ol' 819th. PALMER J. DAWSON (819) Rt. 4 Box 204, Smithsburg, MD 21783 (301)824-7112

At the 3rd Infantry Division reunion in Tampa, FL a couple of weeks ago, I renewed acquaintances with an old buddy from my outfit, the 601 TD Bn. He is interested in membership in the TD Association so will you please send him an application? I showed him some of the newsletters and they appealed to him very much. P. RAY DESFOSSSES (601) 15433-17 W. Telegraph Rd., Santa Paula, CA 93060

EDITOR'S NOTE: We put your friend on our mailing list. Thank you for sending us his address.

In newsletter #14 of July 1985 my name was mentioned in column AWOL. Very possible I'm the one and would be glad to hear from the person making the inquiry from the 821st TD Bn. ROBERT M. DUNCAN (602) Rt. 1 Box 112, Hackensack, MN 56452

Thank you for the great newsletter about TDers. I read every page two or three times. It's great to hear from other TDers. Keep up the good work. CECIL H. MARSHALL (691) 461 Deale Rd., Deale, MD 20751

My outfit the 607th TD Bn. had their fourth national reunion in July 1985 in Portland, OR. I saw two old buddies I hadn't seen in 41 years. R. P. CORRIGUEUX (607) N 2503 Julia, Spokane, WA 99207

Do you have a separate fund for the museum project? MRS. BETTY LIEGL (776) 3897 Pleasant Valley Rd., Central City, IA 52214

EDITOR'S NOTE: All donations are deposited in our general fund which pays for the newsletter and general operations. We have received some donations which have been specifically designated for the museum and will to forward that purpose.

Would it be possible to include a miniature reproduction of the 3" towed gun in a future edition of the newsletter? I am presently getting ready to mount one of my 12" insignias in a 16"X20" frame and have the miniatures cut from previous copies of the newsletter ready to mount below the insignia. If possible I'd like to see a miniature of the halftrack we towed the 3" gun with to balance out my framed collection. I can get photos of a halftrack since our son works at Aberdeen. The halftracks I saw out there in the museum, did not, as I recall, have machine guns mounted on the anti-aircraft ring over the assistant drivers seat. Here in Northwest

Ohio, 3 guns sit in nearly every city park or in front of Legion posts so I can get photos of one of the to balance my collection if there are no plans to do the half-track. Most of my time was spent in a towed gun crew so I want the four SP weapons and the halftrack and the towed gun. We had the M-10 for a short time here in the states and I was the assistant driver of the M-18 during the few weeks between returning to the 643rd after 2 1/2 months in the hospital in Europe to be re-developed for the invasion of Japan and arrived at Newport News, VA on July 5, 1945. After 30 days furlough, we boarded a troop train at Indian Town Gap Military Reservation for transportation to Camp San Luis Obispo, CA, where we were greeted by 36 brand new M-10s with which we were to train for the invasion of Japan. We arrived at CSLO on VJ-Day, happy that the A Bombs had convinced the Japanese that they should surrender. It is with mixed emotion that I look back on the havoc those bombs produced. Now, as then, the only way I can rationalize the death they wrought on the Japanese is that there would probably have been equal numbers of American deaths if it had been necessary to invade Japan. Also many Japanese civilian and military deaths would have been caused by an invasion so probably fewer deaths occurred by dropping the bomb than by invasion. Certainly fewer Americans died as a result of

Thanks for your time in publishing such a fine newsletter. My wife and I both enjoy it very much. We are retired and living up here in Silver Bay which is a lovely resort area. RICHARD E. COOPER
(634) 50 Hays Circle, Silver Bay, MN 55614
We are getting set up for our next reunion. This is our fifth re-

EDITOR'S NOTE: I'll be waiting to hear from any TD men with answers these questions about any unit. I'm all in favor of a TD reunion at Fort Hood. I ordered and have just received a copy of the 628th TD Bn history and it sure brings back a lot of memories. I am strongly in favor of a TD museum at Ft. Hood, the home of the TD's. ROBERT W. HERMAN (628) 11155 Lakeshore No., Auburn, CA 95603

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO DON
AND PAT ELDER (808) OF PINOLE, CA
WHO JOINED THE NEWSLETTER
COMMITTEE AND HELPED PUT THIS
ISSUE TOGETHER.

DECALS: A set of decals consists of 2 decals. One is the decal of the TD emblem in 4 colors, and the other decal is "TANK DESTROYERS WW II" in block letters. The price is \$2.50 per set.

GRAND TOTAL OF ORDER \$

Harold Hatfield of the 813 TD Bn sent us the following list of tank destroyer battalions and the different theaters in which they served from Armoured Fighting Vehicles In Profile (Vol. 4) by Duncan Crow.

85 Europe
601 No.Africa,Italy,So.France,
Europe
603 Europe
605 Europe
607 Europe
609 Europe
610 Europe
612 Europe
614 Europe
628 Europe
629 Europe
630 Europe
631 Europe
632 Pacific,Philippines
633 Europe
634 Europe
635 Europe
636 Italy,So.France,Europe
637 Philippines
638 Europe
640 Pacific,Philippines
641 Pacific
643 Europe
644 Italy,So.France,Europe
648 Europe
654 Europe
656 Europe
661 Europe
679 Italy
691 Europe
692 Europe
701 No.Africa,Italy
702 Europe
703 Europe
704 Europe
705 Europe
738 Europe
771 Europe
772 Europe
773 Europe
774 Europe
776 Europe,No.Africa,Italy

786 Europe
801 Europe
802 Europe
803 Europe
804 Italy
805 No.Africa,Italy
806 Europe
807 Europe
908 Europe
809 Europe
811 Europe
813 No.Africa,Italy,So.France.
Europe
814 Europe
815 Pacific
817 Europe
818 Europe
819 Pacific
820 Europe
822 Europe
823 Europe
824 Europe
825 Europe
827 Europe
843 Europe
893 Europe
894 No.Africa,Italy
899 No.Africa,Europe

(From Page Three)

Mr. Righton's letter, claimed that he has taken the matter up with the Dept. of the Army requesting that it be given "full and prompt consideration." He assured Mr. Righton that a reply from the Dept. of the Army would be forthcoming. Mr. Righton kindly sent us a copy of this correspondence so that we would be informed of the proceedings.

In the October issue of the newsletter I was surprised to find the Tank Destroyer Song. In reading the words, they just didn't jive with the version that we learned. I am enclosing a copy of the version that we learned. I believe that the version you published may have been an earlier version of the song. JOSEPH S. MILLER (656) 18312 Edinboro Ave., Maple Heights, OH 44137

TANK DESTROYER MEN (revised version)

We come from almost every state in the good old USA
We're set to go and meet the foe so let's be on our way

We've staunch hard hitting fighting men and while our cannon roar
We'll mop up all the foe in sight and look around for more

And when the battle's finally won and peace returns to earth
We'll roll back to America the land that gave us birth

And if we part from comrades then and never meet again
We'll ne'er forget the days when we were Tank Destroyer Men.

CHORUS

So--Roll TD's Roll
With all our cannon spitting flame
Roll TD's Roll
Roll on to victory and fame
Mighty arms and mighty men
Strike the foe, then strike again
And Roll TD's Roll
SEEK--STRIKE--DESTROY!

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Address Correction

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