



TANK DESTROYER NEWSLETTER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TANK DESTROYER ASSOCIATION,
3050 HARCROSS ROAD.....REDWOOD CITY, CALIFORNIA.....94062

Copy from the University of California Press

MAY 1986

NEWSLETTER NO. 17



President & Museum Chairman
WARREN MITCHELL, (661)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We apologize for running behind schedule with our second newsletter of 1986! Certainly our slow mailing was not for lack of interest but more a matter of waiting for some very vital news that we wanted to share with you. Since its been too slow arriving here in California, here we go with a Tank Destroyer Newsletter that asks you to await the third issue of 1986 for some great information regarding Tank Destroyer Association objectives. We certainly were amazed following our January 1986 TDA Newsletter being mailed to the entire National TDA roster! You will recall that we want to update our roster every year and how better to do it than to ask (pay) the United States Postal Service to verify the addresses of our mailing list and send to us address corrections. Boy are we pleased with the results! We have received a fantastic number of changes which represent an access for all of you looking for a TD buddy and, perhaps for your Battalion secretary who could find a use for an updated roster. We are pleased to handle your requests - please use the service coupon in earlier IDA Newsletters for searches of TDA roster buddies. TD Battalion secretaries, let us know if you need updated mailing lists from our address files. This issue of the TDA Newsletter

has several articles which are of interest to our readers. One article requests a response from TD Battalion representatives for specifically numbered TD Battalions which are of interest to a writer in Luxembourg. Another article will tickle you - TDA Vice-President Quint Atkinson has chatted with the commanding officer of a mobile military unit located in Connecticut. 'Look for the article, I'm sure you will enjoy the unit's activities! Then, Quint Atkinson sent information regarding a very objective study of the Tank Destroyer concept during World War II. Look for the article and how to order your personal copy from the U. S. Government Printing Office. TDA Vice-President Joe Goepfner advises that he is in close liason with officials of the Patton Museum at Fort Knox, KY in regards to the TD Association. Perhaps our next TDA Newsletter can feature an article or two regarding the Patton Museum. Some of our Association officers are moving. This summer TDA Vice-President Quint Atkinson will head a little more west of the Capital yet stay in Virginia. TDA's Honorary Historian, Lonnie Gill is also moving west and away from Quint yet remaining in Anaheim. The only eastern move will see our TDA Editor Carolyn Sherfy move into the center of California.

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE ARE RELOCATING OUR TDA ADDRESS TO MY HOME...3050 HARCROSS ROAD...REDWOOD CITY, CA...94062. THE LOCATION WILL BE CENTRAL TO OUR LOCAL TDA OFFICERS AND SUPPORT FACILITIES...

MOBILE MILITARY HISTORY UNIT
TDA Vice-President Quint Atkinson writes that the 643rd TD Battalion is rolling in New England! A mobile military history unit, calling itself the 643rd Tank Destroyer Battalion operates, restored to mint condition, two M-20's, a half track, several 2 1/2 ton trucks, jeeps, and very soon an M-10. The 30 unit members have authentic period uniforms and travel to bookings along the east coast such as state fairs and other similar events. They even have the original SCR radios running in the M-20's! Their next big appearance will be July 17-20, 1986 at Lowell, Mass.

northwest of Boston. The event is the International Convention of the Military Vehicle Collectors Clubs. They will take part in a parade on Friday in which there will be 37 different pieces of armored military vehicles. That night the U.S. Military Band will give a concert. On Saturday there will be a flea market, judging of the Vehicles and a trail ride. The "Commanding Officer" is Dennis A. Ambruso who is a nephew of a 643rd TD Bn. veteran, hence the units name. If you are interested in seeing "C.O." Dennis and his unit please write him for a schedule at 299 Maplewood Avenue, Bridgeport, CT. 06601 or call him at (203) 334-3041. Dennis has been added to our mailing list!

This group has also established the Military Museum of Southern New England which is located at PO Box 2342, Danbury, CT. 06810. Telephone: (203) 790-WARS. John Valizio is the Director. They have initiated negotiations with some individuals and foreign governments to purchase and transport to their museum, one each, M18, M36, and M10. Their intention is to restore and display these vehicles making Tank Destroyers the focus of their museum.

The group has non-profit, tax exempt status and would accept donations to help them reach their goals.

BATTLE OF THE BULGE BATTALIONS
You will recall our Newsletter No. 15 (Oct. 1985) carried a request for military history contacts by a Dr. Rockenbrod of Luxembourg from the 610th, 773rd and the 818th. Today, we are informed by then Maj. Earl Peacock (811th) that a Mr. Fred Karen, 8 Rue d'Osweller, Echternach, Luxembourg is requesting information in the Battle of the Bulge from members of the 691st, 802nd, 803rd, 807th and 808th. Earl lives in Alameda, CA and has visited our editor's residence several times. Those who respond, please send a copy of your letter to our editor. Thanks.

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

NEW TANK DESTROYER PUBLICATION
 The Combat Studies Institute, US Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas publishes the Leavenworth Papers. The Institute's 12th paper is a 92 page soft cover book entitled, **SEEK, STRIKE, DESTROY: U.S. ARMY TANK DESTROYER DOCTRINE IN WORLD WAR II** by Dr. Christopher R. Gabel. The book is available from the U.S. Government Printing Office for \$2.50 (postage and handling included) and is catalogued as 1986-652-003/22152. The book analyzes the origins of the tank destroyer concept and equipment with which tank destroyers fought, and assesses the effectiveness of the tank destroyer in battle. Written for the professional soldier of the 1980's, the tank destroyer experience yields some important lessons concerning the pitfalls of formulating doctrines. Good text and few pictures. TDA Vice-President Quint Atkinson found the publication, dated Sept. 1985, rather well written and, "the price is right!" We think so too out here on the coast. I've chatted with TDA Honorary Historian Lonnie Gill, about the book and he is anxious to order his copy from the Government Printing Office. He feels it may lead to added references (there are 20 pages of notes and an extensive bibliography) for his upcoming publication which includes articles such as the one featured in Newsletter No. 16. (pg. 3) "Opening Rounds".

HAVE YOU SEEN...

TDA Honorary Historian Lonnie Gill gives credit to the English Military Publishers Arms and Armour Press for producing U. S. Tank Destroyers in WWII as part of a series in "Tanks Illustrated" No. 19 by Steven I. Zaloga. It can be found in large book stores and major hobby shops at a cover price of \$6.00. There are approximately 134 black and white pictures, very clearly printed. Some captions are in error but overall it is an interesting book of Tank Destroyer equipment.

REUNIONS

601 1986, Phila., PA
 CONTACT: Franklin Delia, 917 Ave. AParkland, PA 19047.
 602 Fall 1986, Denver, CO
 CONTACT: John F. Dehenipp, 12 Russell Ave., Nutley, NJ 07110 201-667-1094.
 603 June 27-28, 1986, Rockville, MD. CONTACT: George W. Grief, 7816 Cecil St., Jacksonville, FL 32205
 605 Aug. 20-Sept 1, 1986, Findlay, OH. CONTACT: Lawrence N. Montgomery, 120 E. 1st Ave., Howell, MI 48860 616-780-8729

608 Sept. 13-14, 1986, Lancaster, PA CONTACT: Harry S. Rapp, 317 W. King St. Lancaster, PA 17603
 609 Sept. 18-20, 1986, Nashville, TN. CONTACT: George Funke, 3260 Oxford Rd., Trevoze, PA 19047
 610 1986, Cleveland, OH
 CONTACT: Carl J. Maurana, 611 Euclid Ave., Saegertown, PA 16433
 612 July 31-Aug 1, 1986, Austin, TX CONTACT: Jack Flanagan, 139 St. Andrews Rd., Severna Park, MD 21146 301-987-1701
 627 May 10, 1986, Chautauqua, NY CONTACT: George Lucas, 151 Zittel St., Buffalo, NY 14210
 628 July 11-13, 1986, W. Middlesex, PA CONTACT: Dale E. VanAntwerp, 6606 Westchester St., Kalamazoo, MI 49002
 630 August 1986, Charlotte, NC CONTACT: James Oxendine, 11724 Bain School Rd., Mint Hill, NC 28212
 632 Aug. 15-17, 1986, Providence, RI CONTACT: Michael J. Fojtik, 711 Crabtree Ln., Racine, WI 53406
 632 Company A 1986, Green Bay, WI CONTACT: Hugo Bloedorn, 1250 Grignon St., Green Bay, WI 54301
 634 Company A June 21-22, 1986 CONTACT: C. J. Pochobradsky, 2419 Victoria Dr. SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404
 636 Aug 1986 Nebraska
 Contact: C. Don Wilson, 414 Rockhill, San Antonio, TX 78209
 638 July 25-26, 1986, Lafayette, IN CONTACT: Charles A. Wann, RR 2 Box 126B2, Delphi, IN 46923 317-564-3054
 640 Oct. 10-11 1986, Anaheim, CA CONTACT: William (Bud) Shulman 6522 Fairfield St., Los Angeles, CA 90022
 643 Oct. 10-11, 1986, Westbury, LI CONTACT: John H. Fox, 100 6th St Garden City Park, NY 11040
 644 Sept. 16-19, 1986, Seattle-Tacoma CONTACT: Al Berg, 610 Alpha St. Seattle, WA 98109 206-283-4419
 645 April 18-19, 1986, Oklahoma City, OK CONTACT: Zane Ambrose, 4325 Curzon, Ft. Worth, TX 76107 187-738-3733
 648 Aug. 7-10, 1986, Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania CONTACT: Don & Anne Rishe, 1021 Market St., Bloomsburg, PA 17815 712-474-5531
 648 1986 MINI-REUNION Houston, TX CONTACT: Sam Burns, 226 E. Mitchell, Houston, TX 77007
 648 August 1987
 CONTACT: Melvin & Lois Colby, PO Box 309, Excelsior, MN 55031 612-474-5393
 691 Sept. 18-20, 1986, Warrendale, PA CONTACT: Andy Ferretich, 1214 8th Ave. New Brighton, PA 15066
 692 July 25-27, 1986, Menominee, MI CONTACT: Roy and Madge Johnson, HCR 1 Box 114, Menominee, MI 49858 906-863-3621
 702 Sept. 18-21, 1986, Fort Bragg, NC CONTACT: Earl F. Soudis, 4042 S. Caulfield Ave., St. Francis, WI 53207

704 Sept. 26-28, 1986, Pittsburgh, PA CONTACT: Rod Torbich, 166 Linmar, Aliquippa, PA 15001
 771 Oct. 25-27 1986, Catskills CONTACT: Nick Ferrino, -5 Straight Path, Rock Hill, NY 1475
 773 September 1986, Virginia Beach, VA CONTACT: Edward H. McClelland, 4384 W. 182nd., Cleveland, OH 44135
 774 Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 1986 Lancaster, PA CONTACT: William H. Hart, 932 Fey West Dr. Pittsburgh, PA 15239
 776 July 2-4 1986, Tulsa, OK CONTACT: John W. Love, 5300 E. 28th St., Tulsa, OK 74114
 803 May 20-22 1986, Reno NV CONTACT: Louie Frinchi, 1515 104th St. SW, Tacoma, WA 98499 206-584-1169
 804 Sept. 27-28, 1986, Roswell, NM CONTACT: John T. Gaddy, P.O. Box 118, Roswell, NM 88201
 806 May 30-June 1 1986, Louisville KY CONTACT: Richard A. Allen, 208 W. Hillside Ave., Barrington, IL 60010 312-381-298
 807 July 2-4, 1986, New Orleans, LA CONTACT: Joe Johnston, Rt. 2, Box 360, Farmerville, LA 7141 318-726-4516
 808 July 24-26 1986 New Orleans, LA CONTACT: Leland J. Durbin, Rt. 2 Box 83-B, Amite, LA 70422 504-748-9685
 811 Aug. 1-3, 1986, South Bend, IN CONTACT: Roy Berry, 1121 W. Elm St., Kokomo, IN 46901
 814 June 28-29 1986, Savannah, MO CONTACT: Calvin C. Boykin, 1505 Laura Lane, College Station, TX 77840 409-693-0224
 817 1986 Pittsburgh, PA CONTACT: Ray Banks, 116 Laurel Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15200
 818 Aug. 13-16, 1986, Lake Vista, FL CONTACT: Jim and Betty Dalton, 1610 Reynolds Rd., Box 324, Lakeland, FL 33801
 819 July 19, 1986, Hagerstown, MD CONTACT: John R. Mackey, 403 W. Traube Ave., Westmont, IL 60959
 823 Sept 17-21, 1986 Washington, DC CONTACT: Tom Raney, P.O. Box 177, Fairfax Station, VA 22039 703-978-9390
 825 Oct. 20-26, 1986, Myrtle Beach, SC CONTACT: Louis Celentano, 400 Blatchlev Ave. New Haven, CT 06513 203-776-1907
 824 October 26, 1986, Hicksville, NY CONTACT: Michael F. Masone, 50 Lent Drive, Plainview, NY 11803 516-433-2663
 894 April 10-13, 1986 Orlando FL CONTACT: Verne L. Clark, 4406 Stilwell Ct., New Port Richey, FL 32952

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO IDA ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE
 IDA is a non-profit veterans association. All contributions to IDA are voluntary and tax deductible. Our IRS ID Number is 94-2757549 and our State of California Number is 104455.
SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO IDA
TWO

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A.W.O.L.!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
 A TD'er is looking for a long-lost buddy. Won't you help him in his search? Look through your local telephone directory. If you find a potential subject, verify it by a phone call and if successful please notify us at TDA Hqs. Thanks to your help, we have been successful in locating quite a few long lost sheep.

- Rick Rendia
- James Robertson (602)
- Barnet (656)
- Bodo (656)
- Jack Gross
- Albert Guiseppi
- Lt. Guill (629) from Louisiana
- Cpt. Stuart (629) Jacksonville FL
- Wall (691) Rcn. Co.
- James B. Merok (823)
- Paul Enger (821)
- R. Duncan (821)
- Robert J. Gearon
- Armand E. Lague
- John Moretz (670)
- Marshall Bales (670)
- Harold Jones
- Wayne Lyburger
- George Barnesky
- Charles (Chas.) Barrows
- Jesses Clifton Land
- Arthur Edwin Lynch
- Richard McNelly
- Anthony A. Puchalsky

MAIL CALL

Reading the TD newsletter I found the 814 TD has received an award from Belgium (Fourraguerre) What is this for and where will I be able to get one? EARL C. RICHARDS (814) Wentzville, MO
 I have the answer for Bill Lynch who wanted to know where he could get the Belgian Fourragere. To all 820 TD Bn. members, here is the address: The Glenwood Agency, 32 Wilmoth Ave., Ardsley, NY 10502. We received this honor for the Battle of the Bulge. EDWARD J. SHIVELER (820) 5431 Greening Ln., Madison, WI 53705
 Please advise in your newsletter all TD'ers who hold the Belgian Croix De Guerre or the Belgian Fourragere are eligible and urged to join the American Order of the French Croix De Guerre and are eligible for a service medal from France and Belgium. Please contact 'American Order of the French Croix De Guerre' 325 Spring St., New York, NY 10013 Attn: Steven F. Kovach, Pres. 'C' Co. 803 TD Bn. was awarded the Belgian Fourragere. FRED J. MERCE (803) 9987 W. Locust Point Rd., Oak Harbor, OH 43449
 With regard to the Tank Destroyer picture in the latest edition of the newsletter, I was in 'C' Co. 803rd TD Bn. and when I saw that picture I was sure it was my tank. I had another call from Erie Houser who was a mechanic in our company and he said it was the same. If only we could have seen the name on the side of the tank near the front we could be sure.

On a recent trip to Europe, I met a lady who upon finding out my involvement with the TD's in WWII, told me how involved she was with the TD's. Her husband and two brothers were all in TD units. Her husband lost his life in North Africa. She believes he was in the 813th. Her younger brother was in the 634th, Co. C and lost his life in the vicinity of Aachen on 2/26/45. His name was Pvt. Edward E. Burgess. She has received no information about him other than KIA 2/26/45. She would appreciate hearing from anyone who knew him and any information about Ed's last days. Respecting her desire for privacy, I agree to have any correspondence sent to me and I will forward it to her.
 HAROLD BERNHARDT (1st) 233 Bernhardt Rd., Sun River, MI 49335

We called our tank "Chowhound". We both identified the driver as V. J. Kennedy. The two guys in the turret behind the driver, the gunner was Grant Buck and the loader at that time I think was a fellow named Gray and I am the Tank Commander above on the other side of the turret. The radio operator about this time as I recall was a guy named Spells. Our destroyer was in the 2nd Platoon, 2nd section, 'C' Co. 803rd TD Bn. HARVEY HINDRICH (803) 903-C St., Fairburn, NE 68352

HAVE YOU MOVED? BE SURE TO SEND YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS

This Newsletter is sent to you by bulk mail. If you move it will NOT be forwarded. Be sure to send us a Change of Address card.

!!!!!!!!!!!!!! TD ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

SKETCHES: We are offering for sale the 11" x 14" prints. They may be ordered separately or as a set. If you order the set you will receive a 6th print as a bonus. This additional print is 8 1/2" x 11" with the tube in the travel position. The prints will be shipped in a cardboard mailing tube so please add an additional charge of \$2.50 for shipping and handling to each order of sketches.

SEARCHES: Send us \$1.00 and the name for each old buddy you would like a current address for. If he is on our National TD Roster, we will send you his address. If he is not on our Roster, his name will appear in the search column in the next newsletter.

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 RW 11" in block letters. The price is \$2.50 per set.

All orders must be made on the Order Form below. If you do not wish to cut up your Newsletter you may type or copy the form in your own hand writing.

NO.	DESTROYER	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL	HOW TO ORDER: Please print. Mail with check or money order to: 3050 HARCROSS ROAD.....REDWOOD CITY, CA.....94062
...	75mm GMC M3	\$10.00	
...	3in GMC M10	\$10.00	
...	75mm GMC M18	\$10.00	
...	90mm GMC M35	\$10.00	
...	3in Towed	\$10.00	
...	Set of all 6	\$48.00	
Packaging & shipping (on prints only) \$ 2.50				
INDIVIDUAL SEARCH				
.....	(Name)	\$ 1.00	Yes, I want to continue receiving the Tank Destroyer Newsletter.
.....	(Name)	\$ 1.00	Here is my VOLUNTARY tax-deductible contribution of \$.....
.....	(Name)	\$ 1.00	
...	TD Decals	\$ 2.50	
UNIT #	POSTER	\$ 10.00	
				GRAND TOTAL OF ORDER \$.....

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HELL OR VICTORY (song)
Sons of war and thunder
Tear your foe asunder
Tank destroyers lead the way
Raise your standard higher
Set the foe afire
Drive the stranger from the fray
Roll your guns, boys, strike them on the run
Pass that ammo, we've got to feed the gun
Defilade and cover
Never let them hover
Ride to hell or victory.

Tho' the tanks surround you
They will never ground you
Shout the praises of your arms
Penetrate their armor
Shoot away their glamour
Never let the tanker swarm
Duty to your country and your God
Never let your standard strike the sod
Tank Destroyers we are
Proud to wear the Cougar
Ride to hell or victory.

Six two six with thee
We'll win the victory
For honor, truth and fame
Seek to do the right
Strike with all our might
Destroy the stranger to your name
Hail Battalion, raise your voices high
Raise your guidons, our fame will never die
Get those half tracks rolling
Six two six we're riding
On to hell or victory.

Sung to the tune of
"The Song of the Vagabonds"

Words by Major Robert D. Rodes

THOMAS W. SEXTON (703/650/176)
2203 Scott Rd., Northbrook, IL
60062

TANK DESTROYERS, ALL

We came from the wide open spaces,
From the cities with skyscrapers tall.
We came from the hills and the valleys,
In answer to our country's call.

Each man mused, what branch of the service,
He would eventually land.
Then a call came out from the desert,
To destroy enemy tanks in the sand.

Then the Pentagon went into action.
A new branch of the service was formed.
They named it the "Tank Destroyers",
Then into it's ranks we stormed.

At the request of the Army Chief of Staff,
Two hundred twenty-two battalions were planned
Out of this specially trained combat force,
One hundred and six, were actually manned.

We left our farms and factories behind,
To our loved ones we bade goodbye.
We were trained to stop those enemy tanks,
Knowing full well that many would die.

Our mission as seen on our shoulder patch,
To seek out enemy armour, and destroy.
Our tactics developed to support fighting units
With speed, mobility, ever ready to deploy.

The Bazooka we used as an anti-tank gun,
Plus the Seventy-five on the motor carriage M
Our Three-inch towed made the enemy run,
Then the Three-inch M10 became our trustee.

From the assembly line came the M18,
With it's 76 MM gun called the Hellcat.
Last in line came the M36,
And its 90 MM destroying tanks flat.

We recall Tank Destroyer men killed in the war
Those surviving were scattered apart.
Though time and space won't separate,
The ties which linger within each heart.

Written by:
EDWIN W. SAEGER (807) Rt. 2 Box 189,
Rock Rapids, IA 51246

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