



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



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

Vol. VI #4 703rd Tank Destroyer Battalion Association Newsletter, December, 1995

## OUR FRONT PAGE

Frank L. Miller, President, and Executive Board

As I am writing this, we have 199 days remaining before we meet in Hershey, Pennsylvania in a 703rd Family Meeting. Let's make it the biggest ever.

It is truly wonderful to know how closely united we have been during the 50 years since our "G.I. Guided Tour of Europe"! That was where we welded ourselves into a family, where we knew that when we had an opportunity to grab an hour of sleep your buddy became your eyes and ears to keep you safe.

As the years rolled by, we each had our problems, working, raising children, taking care of our "old folks", taking care of the places in which we lived, helping in our communities. There was not much time for communication, except perhaps, during holiday seasons.

"Marge" and I attended the Valley Forge meeting, took a wheelchair along as a "just in case"! Good thing we did as it was about a quarter mile between the two motels. It was absolutely great to see the 22 comrades and 13 ladies who were there. Our 3rd Armored reservations were a botched affair for some who had quarters a mile away from the action. Avoid such possible treatment by reserving your room(s), EARLY, for our reunion in May!

Please, to our wives and those who have lost loved husbands, we will enjoy having you with us in Hershey. If it had not been for you, many 703 men would never have come to a reunion.

We hope that we can meet often. This lies in other hands than ours. "Marge" and I join all of you in wishing and hoping for opportunities to get together in love and friendship for which there are no substitutes.

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## RESERVATIONS PROMPTLY MADE. PLEASE JOIN THEM, ON THE DOUBLE!

Claude Ball (B)	Nate Goldberg (A)	Joan Millham (A)
Oscar Carlson (B)	Don McKiernan (A)	Col. W.E. Showalter (Hq)
John Czajkowski (B)	Miller, Frank (A)	J.W. Williamson (Hq.A.)
Bob Downey (C)		

Holiday Inn Sunday-Monday-Tuesday May 19-21, 1996

Use accompanying form, or call, fax Christine Molochnick,  
Sales Executive (717) 469 1554 FAX (717) 469 7755

Normandy      Northern France      Rhineland      Ardennes      Eastern Europe

THE 703RD T.D. BN. AT THE DIVISION REUNION AT VALLEY FORGE

Ball, Claude (B)  
Czajkowski, John and Jennie (B)  
Dearden, Marlow "Curtis" (Hq.)  
Goldberg, Nate and Florence (A)  
Gosch, Henry and Florence (C)  
Langbecker, Elmer and Francis (A)  
Mantro, Rocco and Regina (A)  
Mesunas, Walt (A)  
Michalowski, Ted and Helen (A)  
Miller, Frank and "Marge" (A)  
Onopa, Pete and Judy (Hq)

Paulson, "Hap" and Viv (C)  
Popovitch, Steve (C)  
Roberts, Jim (B)  
Santino, Jim (A)  
Schutt, Bob and Lora (A)  
Showalter, Col. and Lucille (Hq)  
Stites, Everett (Rcn)  
Straub, Len (A)  
Taberski, Joe (C)  
Tomkins, Aulay and Isabel (C)  
Wagoner, Bill and Kathy (A)

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THE 703RD DINNER AT VALLEY FORGE

Adding to the pleasures of the program prepared by the reunion committee of the division was the battalion dinner arranged by Everett Stites (Rcn). There were 35 in attendance, Featured were tributes to our dead, and an address by our honorary president, Colonel W. E. Showalter.

He reminded us of the uncertainties of the days after the surrender of Germany. If we were to transfer to The Pacific, would we go as a unit? Then came the atomic blasts on Japan and the reality of getting home. Recently scholars have been divided on our using the A-Bombs as seen in the quarrel over the exhibition of the Enola Gay at the Smithsonian Institution.

"Your reactions were the same as mine. We are sorry for the people killed in Japan, but what of the people killed in London, in the Philippines, in Nanking! We did not start the war! When in 1939 the Nazis invaded Poland we had horse artillery. We motorized the artillery with updated, solid-tired, 1920 trucks!

Did you know our House of Representatives voted for "the draft" by only a one vote margin just a few weeks before the attack on Pearl Harbor? Did you know a Japanese submarine surfaced just off the coast of California, sinking two tankers, and we could do nothing to prevent it? Greek and Portugese armies were larger than our own.

It was our good fortune that our British allies had an R.A.F. to defeat German raids on England. Might we have suffered less than our 53 dead in combat if we had the better equipment we needed? Have we learned to maintain a better, well-trained military. It would be more costly to recover from weakness than to deal from strength. It would be catastrophic to fall behind in the nuclear age.

We want to make sure the generations after us do not have to go to war to fight for freedom, but if they must, we should have demonstrated to them we have learned the lessons of our war."

After dinner Frank Miller (A) described the environment of our own upcoming reunion next Spring. Registration and reservation-forms are enclosed in this issue of the Road Block. Early reservations are recommended. You will suffer no loss if a last minute problem prevents your coming.

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ITEMS FROM THE THIRD ARMORED DIVISION REUNION  
856 ATTENDED.

Membership - 1193 Life Members - 536 Widows-  
388 Handicapped- 11 Non-Members- 54  
Total Address List- 2182  
As of 7/31/95, Income \$28585.90, Expense  
\$30187. Total Assets \$90852.90  
NET PROFIT from 1994 reunion in Phoenix was  
\$3317.52.

Olin Brewster, who commanded task forces of the division, is the incoming president. The reunion for 1996 will be in Fort Worth, Texas, and in 1997 in Louisville, Kentucky.

**A KEYSTONE STATE SALUTE TO THE  
THIRD ARMORED DIVISION**

There was an Indiantown Gap tour for Spearheaders. A memorial was dedicated to our division with Brigadier General, W.F. Pudlowski, 28th Division, Pennsylvania National Guard, "doing the honors".. Below are elements of his address:

"Most recently we have been commemorating the Third Armored Division's role in the defeat of the tyrants who represented the most serious threat to world freedom in history.-----

Nearly 2214 members of the division gave their lives in World War II. Another 6963 were wounded. Spearhead soldiers, the masters of slash and surprise, served with distinction with the armies rolling back the German occupying forces from France. They proudly led American forces into Belgium, liberating town after town, and the Belgians went wild with joy as Spearhead tanks and infantry rumbled ahead.-----

The names of soldiers of your division are remembered. There are markers in place where your men fell, remembered by the citizens and their children with flowers.-- It was you that came to the rescue, and put "Jerry" on the run, in the gallant stand in the Ardennes Forest, eliminating the stalled German counteroffensive to make the Battle of the Bulge an ultimate American victory.

You were always there when another American unit was in trouble. When the foe was present you attacked. You were the Spearhead. You reached your final objective.

With each passing year there are fewer who remember Normandy, the Hürtgen Forest, the Ardennes, and the Battle of the Bulge, fewer who recall the heroic efforts of the tankmen and infantrymen of your division. With each passing year our remembering becomes more important, because for more and more younger Americans it is not remembering, but learning to live in a free country, serving with vigilance to keep it so.

There is an African proverb that says 'When an old man dies a library burns down.' To the Third Armored Division, with the wisdom to continue your association to perpetuate your heritage, and erect this monument, this library can never be burned down." \*\*\*\*\*

**T A P S**

Through Bob Schutt (A), and Frank Miller (A) we learned, 9/3/95, that Vic Borek (2A) was lost to all of us. There was a fine friend, a special human being. He came to our recent reunions even as his health made it most difficult. We asked you to write him expressing your feelings in the last Road Block. Drop a card or line to his, Florence. 53 Crestwood Drive, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

**WE'VE LOST A GREAT SOLDIER!**

"Willie" Trojacek (C) Rte. 2, P.O. Box 48, Ennis, TX 75119, checked out well after Mid-November losing his struggle against cancer. "Willie" earned three battlefield decorations. At battalion reunions, members of "C" Co. never forgot to ask for him. Let's hope they and other members of our association drop his brother, Otto, a note or card of sympathy. I.B. Wagon seller (B,C)

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**A SMILING INSPIRATION  
OUT OF A GUTSY GUY!**

Col. Showalter and Bill Wagoner (A), reminded us of the glow of cheer "Charlie" Markeveys (Hq.) offers Bill when he visits "Charlie" at the Nursing Care Center. He devours the Road Block when it is read to him, or gets news of his comrades. Physically without movement, he brings alive a full sense of the awareness of how much a glimpse, a word of remembrance will light up hour on hour..but that helplessness!

Room 206, Belvue Ave., Bristol, CT 06010 \*\*\*\*\*

**FRED AND GEORGIA HAVE IT IN GEAR!**

A thoughtful note from Merle and Dee Goodrich (Hq) promised they'd do their best to be at our reunion next Spring.They relayed word from Fred and Georgia Hunt (Hq) that they are very appreciative of the notes and cards wishing speedy recovery for Fred from the stroke he suffered. They, too, look forward to being with us at our reunion.

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**THE BLESSING OF A NOTE, CALL, AND VISIT**

Have you contacted a comrade recently? Lucille Keough (A), J.D. a son, and wife, "Tammy", visited with Frank and Marge Miller (A) the other day. Truly, it was an event of joy for Frank and "Marge" as it was for Lucille. They have visited each other.

**TRY IT WITH A COMRADE!**

Lucille Keough, Rte.2, Box 494, Bridgeport, WV, 26330.

*THE ONLY COURSE WAS AMPUTATION.*

A true soldier who did his turn many times for our association, Stan Malinowski (Rcn,B), has undergone amputative surgery. He had lost most of his ability to walk. It has been the longest of sieges, and now it's a must to help him overcome depression. Please get to him with your "good word"! He needs all the "scrap" we can give him!  
69 Biruya St., New Britain, CT. 06053

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*BACK IN THE FOLD!*

"Bud" and Jean Tefft (C), 306 Market St., Palmyra, PA 17078 have had three hectic years. "Bud" has had three hip operations, and, hopefully, the last one on July 31 will do the trick. We are contemplating attending the reunion in May. We are anticipating meeting members of "C" Co.---- Let's give them every encouragement to get there.

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*SURRENDER SURPRISE*

It happened more than once to G.I.'s! 3A, in France, was surprised when a German made every effort to give himself up. With much trepidation he approached our vehicles. He appeared about 33 years old, we learned he was a banker in civilian life. A Non-com asked his name, rank, and serial number, and he curtly responded in German. Not knowing German, Rocco Mantro (3A) called out, "Where's Schachter?" His "Yiddish" could help. Raphael struggled with the questions for some minutes getting them into German, and with much frustration. By that time the German officer was smiling and answered the queries in perfect English to the embarrassment of our comrades! Rocco Mantro (A)

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*IN TRIBUTE*

Our battles here are ended, and for a time we pause in tribute to our comrades who have fallen for our cause, The end of Nazi Germany, and the lies that Hitler preached. We wish they could be with us, to see the goal we have reached. They fought with blood, sweat, tears. For many there was pain. And now that victory's with us, we resolve that they shall not have died in vain. We will not once forget the loss. We'll keep their memory bright. They died for what we are fighting for--what we know is right.

Their Buddies of Hq. 32nd A.R. 7-9-1945

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

*TANK DESTROYER OPERATIONS VI*

While this action was taking place, the third platoon and the remaining section of the second platoon moved from their positions of the previous night to the vicinity of Bütgenbach, and set up road blocks covering approaches to the town.

This ended the enemy's attempts to eliminate our stranglehold on his route of advance, and until the battalion minus "C" Company moved on 25 December 1944 to join the 82nd Airborne, it was not engaged further.

Throughout this attachment to the 1st Inf. Div. the major part of the action fell on one company. However, the entire situation proved conclusively that the fundamentals of many Tank Destroyer doctrines are well founded.

With the employment of an additional TD Bn., plus (11) eleven 90mm. AA guns, a defense in depth was accomplished which would surely hold against an extremely strong armored thrust. In addition, the advantages of a highly mobile reserve were brought out in the ability of the reserve units to take favorable positions in depth and move quickly to threatened areas.

This employment also resulted in bringing to the fore a few lessons which no one can afford to disregard. Even though we escaped without mishap, it might easily have caused considerable difficulty. First, reserves must be husbanded carefully, and as soon as they have completed a mission they must be prepared to return to a reserve role immediately, or additional reserves must be available to take their place. Secondly, but so important in this war of mobility, is the matter of vehicle maintenance. Vehicles have to be ready to move at any time, day or night, and constant attention must be given them to insure that they are in condition to roll.

Finally, the usefulness of self propelled TD's was again emphasized. Exploiting their mobility to the utmost, SP's can effectively assist in stopping a tank attack. When the 12th SS Panzer Div. was finally relieved by a Volksgrenadier Div. to permit the Panzers to side slip further into "The Bulge", 23 knocked out tanks could be counted in one infantry sector - many probably knocked out by artillery, at least eight and perhaps more destroyed by the M-10's of the 634th TD Bn., and the three accounted for by our 90mm SP's after they had broken through the forward defenses.

Col. W. E. Showalter  
Commanding

SUGGESTION FOR OUR READERS: The narration above is more complete when the role of 2C under "Hap" Paulson is added as told in a previous Road Block, II,4,4-5, 12/1991.

COMMENDATION OF "C" CO.

7 January 1945

Brig. General Clift Andrus, 1st Infantry Div.

1. On 12/17/44 when the 703rd T.D. Bn. was attached to this division, they joined the fight against one of the strongest breakthroughs the German army has ever made against the American forces. The situation which they entered was uncertain and all-around antitank defense was imperative. From that time until 1/2/45 when "C" Co. was finally detached, your [Col. Showalter] battalion assisted materially in the accomplishment of the important mission of holding the northern shoulder of the enemy salient.

2. On 12/20-21-22/44 the 12th SS Panzer Division made an all out attack in a determined effort to dislodge the 1st Div. from its hastily prepared positions. During this engagement more than 40 enemy tanks were destroyed, of which a large number may undoubtedly be credited to the 703rd T.D. Bn. The C.O. of the 26th Inf. Regt. [Col. J.F.R. Seitz] has highly praised the work of "C" Co. in this engagement.

3. I wish to commend the aggressive spirit and technical ability of the officers and men of your unit. They have demonstrated themselves to be capable of withstanding the best that the German Army has to throw against them. They have cooperated to the utmost with the commanding officers of each of the regiments of this division to which they have been attached. I regret the passing of the 703rd T.D. Bn. from my command, and sincerely hope that they may be reattached to this division at some future date.

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**"THE RIGHT THING AT THE WRONG TIME!"\* T.S.**

\*MacDonald, Charles B., *A Time for Trumpets*,  
N.Y.: Wm. Morrow 1985. 536-557.

On 12/27-8/1944, when parts of the battalion returned to where they had been in Germany before "The Bulge", I tried to recall events in which I participated or what were told to me. As I read my notes, they proved skimpy. Occasionally, however, they reminded me of what I'd forgotten, and I filled out the narrative from the good sources I found.

From my notes for 12/28/1944 there is the following:  
"It is 1930 hrs. and Capt. [Cole (A)] told us about a Third Armored hang up! Col. Hogan's Task Force had to destroy their vehicles--but 400 of 460 men escaped capture. Hogan has not

yet reported in. CCA might also be cut off."

I connected "Sam" Hogan with Jim Roberts (2A) at Ranex. He had ordered Roberts to set up a road block. There was, already, a road block when Jim got there --German! Roberts reconnoitered with a jeep. He and two enlisted men were captured. I was ready to charge "Sam" with fouling up even more in The Bulge.

Into the Fall of 1944 the Allies had reason to hope for European peace as soon as Lowland ports and fresh manpower would supply their armies the energy to continue their successes all the way to Adolf Hitler's front door. The Russian advances were felt more predictive of success than American casualties in the Hürtgen Forest, or the British disappointment in Holland. The 703rd T.D. Bn. and the 3rd Armored Division appeared flush what with wounded comrades returning along with better guns on new destroyers. However the drive towards the Roer River should have convinced us that the German defenses were not ready to collapse. Well into December two key divisions, "The Big Red One", and the 82nd Airborne, with whom the 703rd would join, remained critically understrength. The planning at Allied H.Q. looked forward to a drive to the Rhine and beyond. German intelligence reported to Berlin that the Americans had an inexperienced, thin line of infantry in front of the Ardennes Forest. Hitler propelled his Wehrmacht through it towards Antwerp to the northwest. The shock came 12/16/1944.

There was no time to blame them "up top". Our leaders quickly moved their forces to contain the enemy forces rushing westward. Inside "The Bulge" American units fought, lost, but made "Jerry" pay! The massacre of our troops at Malmédy became a symbol of determination to "turn 'em around", and service troops in England and the U.S.A. were reminded that their basic training as combat soldiers would soon be put to use as they were being rushed up as replacements.

Coolly the assignments were made for both defenses and future counterattacks. Upon the northeast shoulder of The Bulge below Camp Elsenborn our battalion spread its firepower east to west as protective armor joining the "Big Red One" and the 82nd Airborne Division. at Bütgenbach, on the Salm and Ourthe Rivers. [703rd attached to each] Next and to the south was the Third Armored, its H.Q. at Manhay.

The defensive screen was long and thin. General Rose leading the 3rd Armored only had half his division strength on 12/20/1944 astride highway, N15. Most of his CCA was at Eupen to back up the defense of Camp Elsenborn in front of which was "The Big Red One" with our "A" and "C" Companies. CCB was with the 30th Infantry Div., also to stop Peiper's



3rd Armored Div. Chaplains, "Kenny" Lynch, John Donahue, and Dis. Assn. President, Olin Brewster



Walt Dillon (B) with brother at Ocquier after "Bulge"



"Dee" Goodrich (Hq), Maja Hoy (Hq), Georgia Hunt (Hq) Steve Popovitch (C)



"Manny" Singer (B)



Len Straub (A) Jim Green (Hq) at Reno 1990



Misiaszek, Budzyn Wilson (B) 9/44



Everett Stites (Rcn)



New Englanders at Camp Polk  
?, O'Connor, McCarthy, ?,  
Editor, LeGrant (A)



Style Show  
Fatigues



Mary Ziemons  
Busbach, Germany



"C" Co. T.D. Crew  
Heskit in pic.

tanks. Rose had to keep the Germans from moving north on highway N 15 towards Liège. That highway was the line between Gavin's 82nd Airborne whose units Rose had to call upon.

Despite a courageous defense effort by an American task force, on 12/23/1944, the German attack at the crossroads at Baraque de Fraiture further proved "Shermans" were no match for Mark V "Panthers". Rose sent part of TF Richardson under Brewster to join with some of Gavin's parachute infantry that had not come through previously. They set up in the deep forest between Baraque and Manhay at Bel Hai.

At that point Montgomery and Ridgeway's orders were to pull back to reorganize for a counterattack at the VIIth Corps (Collins) level. It moved the 82nd Airborne northward to a shorter line. The battered 7th Armored and the 9th Armored moved towards Manhay from the Northwest, back to form the new line. Peiper had to abandon his SS Division tanks further East, and S-2 was confident the Germans were set up for further serious losses. The 703rd rejoined the 3rd Armored for the 1-3-45 drive. The goal was Houffalize and meeting Patton's 3rd Army to end "The Bulge". Organizing a deep counterattack south made sense, but troops were moving in the right direction at the wrong time.

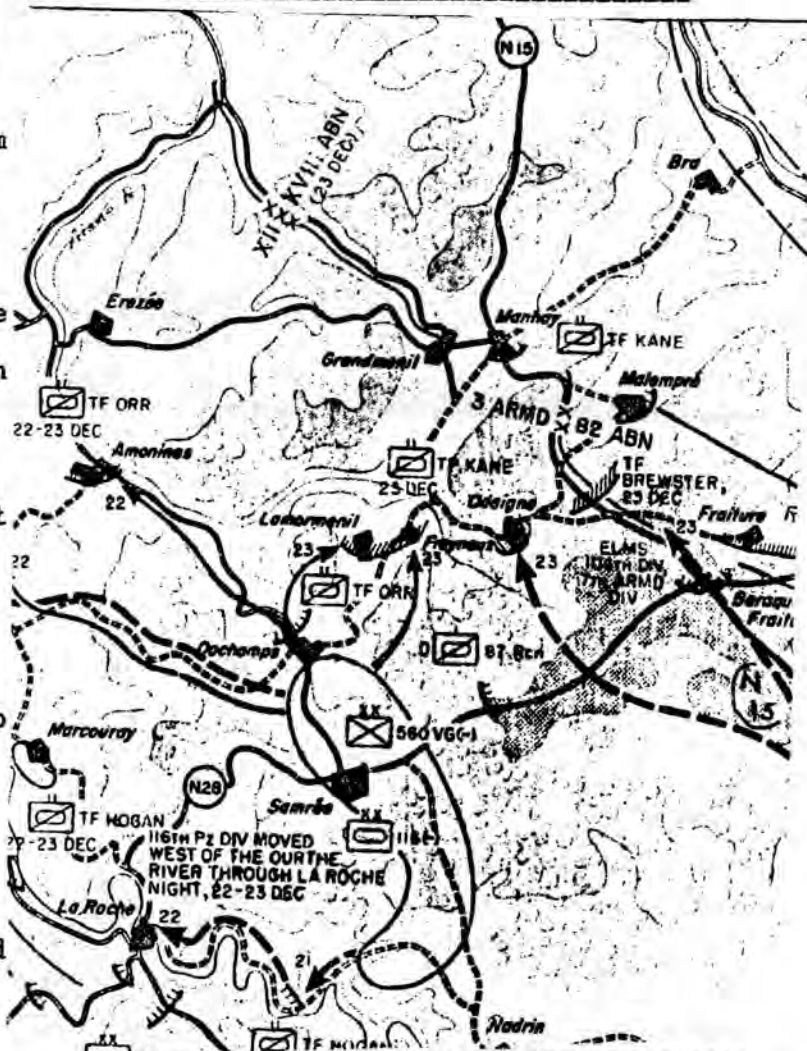
The Manhay area was practically undefended. CCA of the 7th Armored, weakened in the struggle for St. Vith, pulled back out of communication with the 3rd Armored. TF Brewster, protecting Manhay to the southeast on N15, only had orders to hold its ground. TF Richardson, his superior, soon knew that the 7th Armored could be no help, but it was too late. TF Brewster was surrounded blocked at both ends of his position on N 15. Told to get out the best he could, he abandoned his vehicles, got back to the 82nd A.B. position at Malempré by daylight.

General Rose, a disciplinarian, blamed Brewster for not having fought, and destroying U.S. property, threatening to bring charges against him. Hickey and Richardson could not talk him out of it. Rose was killed later and no charges were brought.

TF Hogan had been trapped as of 12/21/1944 at the village of Marcouray near the Ourthe River SSW of Manhay. German gunners blocked Hogan's road to escape with hits on "Shermans" at both ends of his column. Hogan was ordered to continue to fight. Medical supplies encased in artillery shells failed to reach their target. Seven C-47's tried dropping supplies, but Jerry flak got six of them as they came in low. The pilots parachuted, and only the tops of the trees saved two who got to Hogan's troops that Christmas Day.

Rose ordered Hogan to "spike" his vehicles,

his gear, and walk out. The one U.S. soldier killed at Marcouray was buried, as well as a German POW who had been murdered. Hogan's "400" moved out, faces blackened, helmets abandoned to keep the noise down, 20 men to a group, 30 seconds between each group. Hogan only had on stylish, fleece-lined, British flying boots. They couldn't hold on ice, and were tight. He and two aides dropped back to the end of the column, had to stop to rest. Long after daylight the men arrived at 75th Inf. Div. positions. On the trek they lost one man to a "nervous sentry". Rose asked Hogan why he was last man in. Hogan admitted, "My feet hurt!"



#### HEADQUARTERS

703RD TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
SUBJECT: After-Combat Discussion  
Results after discussion conducted by this organization October 9, 1944. The gathering was of the majority of gun commanders and officers.

What have you learned in combat?

What of those points learned would you pass on to a new man joining your crew?



If you could go through another intensive training program, what subjects would you stress?

What of these lessons should be S.O.P.?

All present had a chance to speak. By this time they had destroyed 34 German tanks and 12 S.P. guns, not to mention trucks, pillboxes and O.P.'s etc.--all done with surprisingly few casualties and only 3 M-10's lost beyond repair. The time for the talk was notable since we were about to get M-36's with 90mm. guns. What we heard reflected what was taught in the U.S. and England. The point is that coming from men with actual experience, what they had to contribute meant lots more to new outfits, replacements etc.

"When your target is enemy infantry, use HE, fuse delay, and aim slightly short. Very often the effect will be low air burst over the enemy position. Good effect at times!"

"Let your prey get in close. Your first shot must be a kill. German gunners are good. Their first shot is in there. We must do the same."

"The M-10 is the best place to be in during mortar and artillery fire. If time permits before artillery falls, sandbag the track and the front. A long slit trench under the hull makes excellent protection for the whole crew."

"Constant foot reconnaissance is mandatory. Positions, routes of movement thereto and alternate positions must be selected. Fields of fire can be prepared and improved as a result of reconnaissance. After a position is occupied, reconnaissance is necessary to effect improvements in the position."

(TO BE CONTINUED)

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#### LONG LIVE THE QUEEN IX

It was June 6, 1944 and the invasion began. Last night as I lay in my tent in camp outside Mere, planes roared overhead steadily for a half hour with materiel for our troops. All of us are slightly tense as we await our own jumpoff, although policing seems to be the main objective. Combat loading of the vehicles of "A" Co., my company, proceeded, and on Monday combat loading was inspected.

We left our motor park, the inspection site, in a sad state. Lt. Colonel Showalter felt it worth restricting us. Another dry run tomorrow. We played a softball doubleheader with John Cox and Lt. McIntyre managing the teams. They were good workouts for me, especially in the infield. My wind is good and being alert in ball games will help me "over there"!

We are getting better movies even if they are war films, morbid, but they are new!

This morning we saw an excellent training film on radio transmission security, and just at the right time. All radios have been silenced. At times we have had nights when all our soldiers were restricted to camp so that M.P.'s can pick up A.W.O.L.'s

Last night, June 6, 1944, I went into town to visit the Watsons. Woolner and Steinhart were there before me. They had a bottle of Scotch they bought at the Talbot. There was none for me since they had but half the bottle left. The tomatoes with the American dried bologna, bread and butter were tops. The plum tomatoes were "lovely"!

The T.D.'s are still over at Codford because, they leak. It seems they are having trouble sealing a hole below the adapter stack on the exhaust. The "Dakotas" (C-47) were overhead headed north last night as they were at reveille today. It seems strange here in the quiet of the countryside just 200 miles from a horrible struggle. We are being warned that the Germans will counterattack, and our hope is that our initial "tactical surprise" will be effective enough to handle the shock of it.

I'm at battalion H.Q. typing, almost hoping I could keep the clerk's job, because being in personnel is almost like being a rear echelon soldier. I'm missing the training I need as a member of the security section of the first platoon when we cross over, and they are on the range right now. All I'm doing is typing packing lists for those "darned" vehicles.

The waterproofed test vehicles were back this evening. The heat had melted the water

proofing so the O.K. was given. I saw my Security Platoon heading for the demolition range. Nil for me to do so I hiked up the Burma Road heading easterly from camp, past the Roman Road. I caught up and we fired 2 rds., rocket A.T. M7 from the bazooka. Not striking anything hard they had to be blown up. Frank Woolner and Lt. Wissing handled that. We then fired the rifle grenade, and so did I, 1 round. I enjoyed looking along side the stock, sighting underneath the grenade. A tin hut target was 50 yards away. I lifted to what I thought was 3 feet over the target and squeezed. She kicked me on the shoulder, and I almost howled as the left corner of the hut was torn off. It takes practice lobbing the grenade. We planted the butt of the rifle in the ground, fired at 45 and 60 degrees. Thus the weapon can be used as a mortar. A machine gun crew can be compelled to leave with those grenades zeroing in on them.

There's a rumor floating around that the Second Armored Division is at the marshalling area. No reports from Cherbourg or Le Havre. Hope we can hold that 10 mile deep bridgehead we've claimed since yesterday.

(To Be Continued)

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#### 1944's ALLIED REMEMBER GROUP

Our Belgian friends are representing the 703rd T.D. Bn. at various events in their country commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the end of World War II. They credit our battalion with helping liberate villages outside Charleroi, Belgium. They asked if they could represent us, and our executive committee approved. Recently they shared in the placing of a placque on the building that was Col. Hogan's C.P. at Marcouray from where he and his task force slipped away from complete defeat [p.8]. They sent us a picture of the placque that we forwarded to our division historian, Haynes Dugan.

The ARG members own and maintain U.S. World War II vehicles, form a column, and go to share in exhibitions and other events.

Other groups of this nature may have museums, or collections and the villages invite gatherings of these organizations to exhibit their hobbies. The host group and the village folk share the festive hours by providing nourishment for the guest groups. Of course collectors have many yarns to exchange relative to how they obtained, maintain, repair, and prepare their exhibits. In commemoration of the end of the war, they honor the sacrifices of their Belgian veterans.

We exchange newsletters with the ARG. They have a fine translator so that some material we have sent along in the Road Blocks, is duplicated in French for their readers. Your editor manages to get enough out of the French in their meeting reports newsletter, to show you the nature of the group. The report of the meeting of May 5th will make clear the informality of these gentlemen.

Members Present : "30". André Deschetter their former president, had them stand for a moment in remembrance of those who gave their lives to liberate them. When he couldn't get the members attention, he let 'em have it for all talking at once when one of their members was about to read them a sonnet.

Thanks were given to two gentlemen who helped members overcome a mechanical failure of a vehicle at a gathering at Gilly on 4/27.

After discussing a flow chart of a TD battalion, André explained that its subdivisions would be a subject of discussion in the near future, he criticized the members for what they were wearing and their behavior on the line of march on their "sorties"!

"Certain of you have a tendency to confuse representation of American troops with a circus parade, and that's completely opposed to the fixed objectives of our group!"

He further took shots at his members for trying to direct traffic in a major public intersection that resulted in an accident!---

Sounds like our "Recon"!

(Recently we sent the ARG six T.D. caps as a gift. Hope it'll help them behave on their marches!)

*GAB WHILE RIDING A 6x6 BACK FROM A FURLOUGH!*

A man sat by me and said, I'm really quite perplexed,  
In all your poems that I read, you never mentioned sex!  
"Alas", I said, "I was warrior born. I'm not fair of face,  
But I'll tell you the stories told me, by those who took my  
place!"

#1

One was a Non-Com, overseas too long, with a Mess Sgt. for a pal.  
For someone who'd love for food, he had rations for that gal.  
He finally found a lover, but her ardor you couldn't applaud,  
While he sweat and strained through the sex act,  
She lay quiet while an apple she gnawed.  
As Eve in the Garden of Eden, with no carnal desire for sin,  
With no yearning for sex, you see, the apple did them both in.

#2

When a girl spoke that old English myth,  
"I can't get pregnant if I love standing up",  
Nine months later had a kid to live with.  
We had our share of Lotharios, who used the old, "song and dance",  
Throwing engagement rings into the channel on the way to France.  
There was the Corporal, always wearing his webbed feet to town,  
On his rear a raincoat to protect his clothes from the ground.  
Ready for romance in truck, house, or meadow, he'd head into town  
with a smile.  
Once, enjoying a conquest, (He was makin' out on top a hay pile),  
When he heard, "Here, here, you can't do that", from a farmer  
whose face held a frown,  
"As soon as you finish what you're doing, I'm demanding that you  
come down!"

#3

After the "Bulge", they took us from the slush and morass,  
And put us on trucks to "Gay Paree" to enjoy a three day pass.  
\*\*\*\*\*

**WHAT REALLY HAPPENED?**

History "Buffs" - 703rd T.D. Bn.  
Did allied leadership fail and "set us  
up" for Hitler's breakthrough on 12/16/1944?  
When Jim Roberts (2B), on orders,  
brought his platoon into Ranex to establish a  
road block, why didn't our infantry or  
patrols send word back that Germans had taken  
the position to which he had been sent?  
Who was the G.I. killed in Fléron that  
the town citizens want to honor?  
Because such questions remain unans-  
wered, the 703rd T.D. Bn. remains in com-  
munication with "historians" so as to help us  
come closer to the truth. We have met some of  
them at division reunions, send them our  
newsletters (two joined our association),  
and *ENCOURAGE YOU, OUR MEMBERS*, to let them  
know of your experiences in the events of  
their special interests. What you recall may  
help to bring into print the role of our  
battalion in World War II.

André Deschepper, Rue du Louat, 6240  
Farciennes, Belgium  
Liberation of Charleroi, Belgium  
Haynes W. Dugan, 660 Elmwood, Shreveport, LA,  
71104 3rd Armored Div. Historian  
Member-703rd T.D. Bn. Ass'n.

No fuel in town, they closed the Louvre and the Folies Bergère.  
Many bars and brothels also closed up, leaving us naught but the  
cold thoroughfares.  
We walked to the Eiffel Tower, and Notre Dame, from a bridge  
looked down at the Seine.  
The climate improved a bit. The snow became cold, chilling rain.  
My blood still unfrozen when we started back, on the truck I had  
to sit at the rear.  
Two officers who out ranked me, sat in the cab so warm and clear.  
As I talked to the G.I.'s around me, "What did they do?",  
"What was it they saw?"  
One naive soul said, "Lt.", I gazed at his eyes filled with awe,  
"I had two commodes in my room, Sir, it was a treat.  
I used the one as usual. In the other I washed my feet.  
It was just the right height for that purpose, and a thrill  
came up through my toes.  
I knew right away he'd brought no call girl up there, or he'd  
have learned its true use from those pros.

#4

Another G.I told this story. He had picked up this girl at a bar.  
They enjoyed a few drinks together. The signs said he'd go far.  
He fed the line, "I need love to get rid of my stress from war!"  
Her kisses were invitations, while her body was offering more.  
They fondled, petted each other, leading him back to her house,  
Where they hurried into a bedroom, and there lay her spouse.  
Romancing his mistress, their entrance fazed him not at all.  
Grunting a greeting, he rolled his lover close to the wall.  
No pause in his ministrations occurred to make room for his bride,  
She lay, drawing the G.I., but he could not perform by their side.  
"Lt., you wouldn't believe me, sexual drive, I do have a lot;  
But all my urges deserted. I wilted at "Ménage aux Quatre."  
"Hap" Paulson (C)

\*\*\*\*\*  
Robert Kaufman, 3402 S. 7th Ext. Emmaus, PA  
18049 36th Armored Infantry, 3rd Armored  
Division attacks near Stolberg.  
Steven L. Ossad, 3875 Clay St. San Francisco, CA  
94118 Battle of Mons  
Life Member-703rd T.D. Bn. Ass'n.  
Mark J. Reardon, Major U.S.A.  
2802 S. Columbus St. A-2, Arlington, VA  
22206-5000 Battle at Mortain  
Henri Rogister, 22 Rue du Progrés, B4032  
Chenée Liège, Belgium. Action around  
Liège.  
Gunter von der Weiden, Obersteinstrasse 38,  
D519, Stolberg, Germany. Events around  
Brand, Breinig, Büsbach, Stolberg.  
\*\*\*\*\*

"C" CO. GROUP PHOTOS AT INDIANTOWN GAP.

Steve Popovitch (C), 6341 22nd Ave. S.W.  
Seattle, WA 98106 206 767 5673 has two nega-  
tives of group pictures of "C" Co. taken in  
the states at Indiantown Gap. Contact him via  
phone or letter if you would like copies. The  
size of one is 7"x 18", the other 8"x 10".  
\*\*\*\*\*

**G-G-r-r-rrr!** (Anger)

Two of the men attending our division reunion have not paid their annual dues. They would save money if they joined as LIFE MEMBERS for \$75.00.

Those who have not joined for a long period are being dropped from our mailing list.

**ANNUAL DUES \$20.00**

Please contact Florence C. Goldberg, Secretary-Treasurer, 86 New England Ave. #50, Summit, N.J. 07901.

\*\*\*\*\*

**FOR SALE**

- Tank Destroyer Caps \$7.50
- Tank Destroyer Patches 3.00
- Tank Destroyer Lapel Buttons 4.00
- Add postage. Send order to
- Florence C. Goldberg, 86 New England Ave. #50
- Summit, N.J. 07901

\*\*\*\*\*

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

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Little River, SC 29566 803 399 5102

\*\*\*\*\*

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703rd ROAD BLOCK

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