

1990

*Re-Union Bulletin*

The 776th  
TANK DESTROYER BATTALION



"The Vandals"



## CAMPAIGNS



### TUNISIA

16th March '43 - 9th May '43



### NAPLES - FOGGIA

16th September '43 - 21st January '44



### ROME - ARNO

22nd January '44 - 9th September '44



### RHINELAND

30th October '44 - 21st March '45



### CENTRAL EUROPE

22nd March '45 - 8th May '45



## PRESIDENTIAL CITATION

"A" and "C" Companies - 63rd Division - Seigfried Action

"A" Company - 2nd Battalion, 114th Infantry - Schalbach, France

"C" Co., 1st Platoon - 1st Bn., 114th Inf. - Enchenburg, France



## UNIT MERITORIOUS SERVICE PLAQUE

Headquarters Company



## COMMENDATIONS

1st Armored Division

34th Infantry Division

2nd Division Infantry Moroccan

Combat Command "B", 1st Armored Division

85th Infantry Division

91st Infantry Division

5th United States Army



**THINK  
OMAHA  
1992**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
776th TD Bn Reunion Account #166-967  
(State Bank of Fargo)**

**THINK  
OMAHA  
1992**

7-14-88	Opened non-profit interest-bearing account with "seed" money from Minot		\$ 240.00
**	Advance registrations plus bulletin orders thru 6-13-90	\$6,725.00	6,965.00
	Accumulated interest from 7/88 through 6-13-90	80.01	7,045.01
<b><u>EXPENSES FROM THIS ACCOUNT</u></b>			
	Printing and postage	362.86	6,682.15
	Name tags (250) & registration supplies	360.00	6,322.15
6-13-90	Savings account closed and balance transferred to non-profit interest-bearing checking account #92-825-5 (State Bank of Fargo)		
	Opening Balance		\$6,322.15
	Individual Receipts at Cheyenne	\$1,955.50	8,277.65
	Received from Bn Treasurer (93 Vandals @\$20.00)	1,860.00	10,137.65
<b><u>EXPENSES FROM CHECKING ACCOUNT</u></b>			
Ck. #1	Refund to Lyle Arneson (\$20.00 of orig. deposit contributed to Bn Treasurer - plus \$5 retained for bulletin)	65.00	10,072.65
Ck. #2	Bus	408.00	9,664.65
Ck. #3	Chugwater Entertainers	300.00	9,364.65
Ck. #4	Johnny Grant Band	335.00	9,029.65
<b>HOLIDAY INN</b>			
	Coffee, cookies, etc.	290.36	
	Lunch 7/2	1,330.23	
	Dinner	3,112.93	
	Dinner 7/3	3,129.47	
	(*** paid via Ck #5 (\$5,360.99) and \$2,510.00 cash)		
	Style show for ladies (paid in cash)	75.00	1,083.66
Ck. #6	Refund to Lucille Martin	30.00	1,053.66
Cks. #7, 8	Refunds to H. Wilson, L. Fahlgren, M. Delameter and		
9 & 10	H. Johnson - \$85.00 each. \$5 retained for bulletin	340.00	713.66
7-16-90	Accumulated interest from 6-13-90 thru 7-16-90	22.54	736.50
7-24-90	Check for \$400.00 sent to Bn Treasurer for bulletins. Balance remains in account for "seed" for 1992 reunion		
**	Included gift from Doug Brown		
<b>ATTENDANCE: Hq &amp; Med 25; Recon 16; A 13; B 24; C 15; Total 93 Vandals Vandals &amp; Guests = 202 from 26 states</b>			

Chet Vosburg 7-24-90

**776th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
1990 Reunion in Cheyenne, Wyoming  
MINUTES OF 1990 REUNION**

Andy Bartha conducted the business meeting. It was announced that we had ninety-three Vandal Units present and that a check was given to the reunion committee for twenty dollars per unit from the Tiger Track funds.

Motion was made and seconded to pay from the Tiger Track fund twenty-five dollars per Vandal Unit in 1992 at the Reunion. Motion carried.

Site for the 1992 reunion was opened and that the Holiday Inn in Omaha, Nebraska had invited us to

Omaha. Moved by Carnahan to go to Omaha, seconded and motion carried. Chet Vosburg offered to host the reunion with Leland Elliott. Motion was made to accept and carried.

A discussion on change of time of year to meet. Many want to keep early July the meeting date some want to try a little later, perhaps cooler weather. Suggested to try September. Proposed that we leave the decision to Chet and Committee. Notice will be in next Tiger Tracks.

The following officers were nominated and elected for the coming two years. President, Chet Vosburg; Vice President Leland Elliott; Secretary/Treasurer, Betty Liegl.

Betty Liegl,  
Secretary

Lou Wadle told us about an article that appeared in the Des Moines Register and he has asked for permission to have it reprinted in our paper. The article will appear in next Tiger Tracks.

I would like to say Thanks to the Vandals for their contribution of two hundred forty-three dollars taken up at their meeting for the secretary. Thank you very much.

Betty Liegl

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## FROM THE MAILBOX

January 25, 1990

Dear Chet:

Thanks for your letter and information about the 1990 reunion to be held in Cheyenne.

I was with the Idaho National Guard Unit, Battery G, that served in Cheyenne. When the latter was taken from the 183rd Field Artillery to form the Tank Destroyer Battalion I was transferred to the 183rd headquarters battery, and never served with the tank destroyers.

I knew all the Idaho people in the TDs, however, and have been on the mailing list for all their bulletins. (I read them with interest.)

In your questionnaire you ask about service at Ft. Warren, and if there might be many from the old Battery G unit attending I would be interested in also attending.

Incidentally, while with the Field Artillery in 1941 I made a movie called A Day at Fort Warren. It depicts all the members of the original national guard from Rexburg and purports to show a typical day, with each attending to some real or imagined task. I took the movie to Rexburg and showed it extensively in 1941. I now have it converted to video tape. If you think there might be enough interest, I could arrange to show it at the Cheyenne reunion, or let you borrow it for your own showing. As mentioned, it only includes the Rexburg members and was made prior to formation of the TDs and subsequent influx of all you "foreigners."

We spend our winters in Hawaii, so if you want to contact me prior to April 15, please write to the address below. After that I will be in Rexburg, as shown on the letterhead.

Art Porter  
308 Kuhio Shores  
Koloa, HI 96756

June 21, 1990

Greetings to All:

I regret very much I will not be able to attend the re-

union this year. I and Joan enjoyed the reunion in North Dakota two years ago.

DeWitt has its big program July 4th, called the Funfest. This year the theme is "patriotism" and the city is paying a special tribute to the American Legion Post in DeWitt for its 71st birthday. I have been asked to give the main address that day. As a National Executive Committeeman of the American Legion and also mayor of the city of DeWitt, I must be here.

A special "hello" to all the Vandals of the 776 Tank Destroyer. Two years ago, I enjoyed visiting with all of you.

Last year I made a special visit for the American Legion to Ft. Knox, KY. They have made some big changes in our new tanks and the museum are quite nice.

I am retired, but I work as a full time mayor of DeWitt. Our population is 4,600 ... a very nice community. I have been mayor for 13 years. My health remains very good.

Hope to see you all some other time. Have a nice reunion.

Leo Maynard  
1425 12th Ave.  
DeWitt, Iowa 52742

June 24, 1990

Dear Chet,

This is to inform you I won't be coming to the Reunion, which would be great.

As you know, Carl G. "Gordon" Gunnarson passed away Feb. 13, 1986 of cancer, two days after our son Peter and his wife Patty had a baby girl, who is very precious to us all.

In 1988, I remarried. My husband had lost his wife and our two families have been friends since 1953. We have children the same age and spent many vacations together. So we have a lot in common. We have a great time and do a lot of traveling.

Gordon would have loved to be in Cheyenne with ev-

everyone. He was stationed there when he first went in the Army. Talked many times of going back but never did.

Enclosed find a check for the 776 Reunion Bulletin. Thank you.

Shirley Gunnarson Thorsnes  
1809 Parkside Drive  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

As you know Gib passed away a year ago Feb. 25. He always enjoyed going to the reunions when time permitted. As of now there is no way that I can attend. I do appreciate your information at this time and thank you.

Mrs. Ilah Suhr  
405 4th N.  
Sotckton, Kansas 67669

Message from Howard Wilson: Unable to make the Reunion. John Wilson passed away on June 29, 1990. Greetings and best wishes to all.

Dear Albert and Betty,

Chris and I are doing pretty good, as long as we can keep lots of medicine in the cabinet. We hope all Vandals are fine, without the medicine.

Joe Hays  
453 Quail Run Tr.  
Grandbury, Texas 76048

June 5, 1990

Hello:

Just a few lines to let you know we are still O.K. The main reason is to tell you we will not be at the reunion. Although I am doing pretty well there are times that are pretty miserable so we just decided not to go. Tell everyone "HELLO" and that we will try and see you all later.

We are doing pretty well. Had a cold wet winter. No snow but a lot of rain. We are five inches over the norm and still raining about four days out of seven.

Norma is getting along great. She did have a shot of the flu about six weeks ago, but O.K. now.

Haven't even planted any garden yet. Just been too wet. Some people are on their second planting as the first one wet out.

We will get some camping in as we have our spot with a trailer on it up on the Carbon River. So will do that when the weather gets better.

Have fun at Cheyenne and you guys take care.

Al and Norma Poste  
151712 - 81st E. Sp. 130

Puyallup, Was. 98372

P.S. I swear to eat ice cream every night of the reunion. On the last night will eat two dishes and four cookies instead of one dish and two cookies. Ha! (Two years ago we went out and had ice cream at a restaurant in Minot, should have seen the dishes of ice cream, really big. This year Bryan wouldn't buy me a dish of ice cream, probably because you weren't there Alson. Betty L.)

June 11, 1990

Dear Betty,

I am very sorry that I cannot attend the Reunion but would like a copy of the Bulletin. This is a reunion that would have been very special to Don. My most sincere wishes for a very successful three days.

Sincerely,  
Marian Kolbo  
Box 505  
Mohall, N. Dak. 58761

May 9, 1990

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Liegl,

I have received 776 Tiger Tracks and I knew Pete Roberts, he was in Company "C". It was good to read of some of the Buddies.

In 1950 I was in Fargo, N.D. to pick up a repossessed car.

My wife doesn't want to go to Cheyenne, Wyoming, it is too HOT there.

Yours truly,  
Francis L. MacCumber  
704 N.W. 72nd St.  
Vancouver, Wash. 98665

June 19, 1990

Dear Betty and all,

We are sorry and disappointed to advise you that we will be unable to attend the forthcoming Cheyenne Reunion.

We had been looking forward to coming, but there is a conflict. Another two day function to which we are committed, is scheduled on June 29 & 30, making it impossible to get to Cheyenne in a reasonable manner. (Had your date been July 4, we probably could have come.)

Surely hate to miss all the excitement of visiting with all our friends and buddies there. Hate to miss it!

Betty, please accept the enclosed check to use toward helping defray some of the expense involved in your work, which is most appreciated. We are eager to keep up

on happenings and news in the "776 Tiger Tracks," so do please keep our name on your roster. Thanks!

Maybe next time...

Most sincerely,  
Bob and Zita Bunce  
330 W. Chubbuck, #46  
Pocatella, Idaho 83202

### **Letters Received and Posted on Bulletin Board at 1990 Reunion**

Hi Chet,

Just a note as I am not able to attend the reunion. But I would like a reunion Bulletin. Enclosed is my check.

Thank you,  
Edward J. Lukes  
R. 1 Box 199  
Lisbon, N.D. 58054

June 28, 1990

Dear Chet,

We were unable to reach you by phone so will drop a line to let you know that we have to cancel the reservation for the reunion. We were planning to leave tomorrow for Cheyenne but because of the disastrous fire we are having, we feel we should not leave this time. You perhaps have seen it on national TV. The governor has just arrived and no doubt declare it a disaster emergency. About 300 homes have burned plus many businesses, etc.

We are sorry to have to miss it again this time.

A wonderful time to all.

Henry & Marcella Johnson  
180 Loma Media Rd.  
Santa Barbara, Calif. 93103

July 7, 1990

Dear Chet,

Fred had major surgery on June 29th. He has recovered very well and came home from the hospital yesterday.

We sure were disappointed to miss the reunion. We

will be glad to hear news about it.

We talk to Ann and Lyle Arneson occasionally and they were very disappointed too.

Note we have a new address.

Fred & Margaret Eberle  
1210 - 6th St. Apt. 4  
Snohomish, Wash. 98290

Chet:

We're sorry but it look slike we are going to miss the Cheyenne Fun. Please take this check for bulletin and remainder for whatever.

Sincerely,  
Doug Brown  
40228 Grand Ave.  
Cherry Valley, CA 92223

Am in good health and enjoy the Bulletins. But do not plan to attend the reunion. More power to you all.

My main occupation a bit of welding and general gardening. Have given up farming, dance halls, sports cars and motorcycles.

Sincerely,  
Bert Wible  
524 S. Market St.  
Caldwell, Kansas 67022

Dear Chet and Alice,

Sorry to have missed the T.D. reunion. We tried to call you to cancel out the last week in June but couldn't get an answer in Fargo, and when I called the Holiday Inn in Cheyenne to cancel our reservations that week, I asked if you might be registered at that time -- but they said you hadn't arrived.

Leonard just didn't feel up to making the trip, and still is not feeling good at all.

We hope you had a real good reunion and we were thinking of all of you.

Sincerely,  
Leonard & Dorothy Fahlgren  
Rt. 1 Box 21  
Washburn, N.D. 58577





**Hdq. Men: First row (l to r): Liegl, Wm. Enderud a guest, Caddy, McCulloch, Neis, Fikejs, H. Jackson. Second row: Mostad, Walton, Fischer, Byrne, Ferguson, Carnahan, Brueggemann, Karwowski. Third row: Hagler, Griffin, Barnard, DeHut, Olson, Thompson, Stiles, Greenway.**



"A" Co. Men: First row (l to r): Backlund, Henningsen, Wadle, Zeeb, Dyle Smith, Beberg, Eggleston. Second row: Scott, Wilhelmi, Skar, Wiltenmuth, Tobiassen, Sundberg. Third row: Ken Clark, Heere, Lunde.





"B" Co. Men: First row (l to r): Schjeldahl, Ehli, Calvert, Anderson, Kujawski, Bartha, Schillerstrom. Second row: Hegle, Brunton, Park, Jodsaas, Baker, Coleman, Gallup, Vosburg. Third row: Griffin, Gall, Elliott, Hilton, Love, Slatkoski, Carroll.



**"C" Co. Men: First row (l to r): Bob Young, John Wipf, Elmer Wipf, Barome, Wilson, Bodling, Randazzo. Second row: Grimm, Folven, Weatherly, Ethen, Snell, Polzin, John Miller.**



Reconn. Men: First row (l to r): Rasmussen, Post, Yocum, Nickel, Kirschmann, Backman, Gillette, a guest. Second row: Karas, Benedetti, Eden, Frank Young, Scharff, Richins.





**Hdq. Ladies:** First row (l to r): Vi Fischer, Elsie Fergason, Anita Caddy, Florence Jackson, Marianne Brueggeman, Goldie Olson, Helen Karwowski. Second row: Betty Liegl, Dot Barnard, Velme Byrne, Margaret Thompson, Tillie McCulloch, Joyce Carnahan, Evelyn Fikejs, Dorothy Brown a guest, Mary Stiles. Third row: Catherine DeHut, Aileen Griffin, Lavonne Walton, Ann Neis, Mary Greenway, Edith Hagler.



**"A" Co. Ladies: First row (l to r): Mickey Clark, Betty Smith, Lil Backlund, Mary Lunde, Lucille Tobiassen, Nell Henningsen. Second row: Lena Heere, Lela Eggleston, Arlene Skar, Frances Scott, Ilia Mae Wilhelmi, Edna Sundberg, Esther Beberg.**





**"B" Co. Ladies: First row (l to r): Alice Kujawski, Minnie Gall, Wilma Jodsaas, Florienne Grundhoeffter, Helen Love, Vesta Baker, Jean Elliott. Second row: Elda Hegle, Phyllis Anderson, Lois Laffoon, Gladys Park, Carol Schjeldahl, Alice Vosburg, Selma Ehli, Schillerstrom, Eileen Hilton, Ollie Brunton.**



**"C" Co. Ladies: First row (l to r): Eunice Bodling, Esther Frieling a guest, Dolly Randazzo, Ruth Polzin, Jessie Wilson. Second row: Carol Miller, Mildred Snell, Malla Grimm, Violet Barome, Irene Folven.**



Reconn. Ladies: First row (l to r): Esther Karas, Mae Backman, Elaine Gillette a guest, Mabel Eden, Norma Young. Second row: Bea Dempsey, Hazel Rasmussen, Bette Benedetti, Stella Yocum, Ruby Scharff, Roberta Kirschmann. (Gayle Richins absent).



**Chet and Alice Vosburg**



**Newlyweds, Phyllis & Don Anderson**



**Lucille & Martin Tobiassen, Paul Sundberg, Gene Eggleston, Etlar Henningsen**



**Entertainers at Reunion**



**Entertainers at Reunion**





**Fashion Show at Ladies Luncheon**



**776 T.D. Emblem made of cheese**



**Dr. Caddy visiting with friends**



**Nel & Etla Henningsen & Walter Wilhelmi**



**Guerney Caddy, Frank Wilson, Clyde Snell, John Grundhoffer**



## IN FLANDERS FIELDS - by John McCrae

The Author and the Poem - It was Spring 1915. In front-line First Aid Station, dug into a Belgian hillside. John McCrae (1872-1918), a doctor in the Canadian Army, worked tirelessly, dressing wounds and comforting the dying. The battle - one of the bitterest of World War I - had raged for over three weeks. The number of casualties mounted steadily. Day after day, from the hillside dugout, John McCrae looked out on Flanders Fields - on the row upon row of white crosses. Each day they stretched farther toward the horizon. "Have we been sacrificed in vain!" the dead seemed to ask. "You, the living, must continue the struggle for freedom and justice." That was the message which Flanders Fields had for John McCrae. And the message inspired these verses, which have become one of the immortal poems of World War I.

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row.  
That mark our places; and in the sky  
The Larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce hear amid the guns below.

Take up our quarrel with the foe!  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high!  
If ye break faith with us who die,  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders Fields.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow  
Loved and were loved; and now we lay  
In Flanders Fields.

### IN MEMORIAM

PFC Ardine M. Harstad  
PFC Nils Eidsness  
T-5 Lloyd Holland  
Sgt. Robert F. Jones  
S-Sgt. James G. Newman  
1st Lt. Edward S. Kafka  
Pvt. Robert H. Burns  
T-5 Kurt Wasel  
S-Sgt. Doyle D. Grimm  
T-5 Harold H. Stickel  
Sgt. Millard E. Stigen  
Sgt. Raymond E. Larson  
S-Sgt. Harold T. Brown  
T-5 Jesse L. Anderson  
1st Lt. John P. Hughes

Cpl. Donald F. Ramhorst  
PFC Norman Togstad  
Pvt. William R. Hanson  
T-4 Albert Colaianni  
Pvt. Carl A. Applequist  
S-Sgt. Oscar E. Lystad  
T-5 Gustave Hager  
Sgt. Harold F. Mooney  
Cpl. Henry G. Popp  
Sgt. Ernest E. Parris  
2nd Lt. John B. Haywood  
Sgt. Sigval M. Carlson  
Sgt. Francis M. Zerr  
T-5 Norman C. Dutoit  
Pvt. Dale H. Ellingson

PFC Woodrow Milligan  
Pvt. Edward P. Paddock  
Capt. Paul R. Brunt  
Sgt. Arthur Mygland  
1st Lt. Harold O. Weisweiver  
Cpl. Clarence A. Larsen  
Pvt. Ferdinand J. Schmidt  
T-5 Arnold E. Freeland  
S-Sgt. Eric A. Antonson  
Sgt. Robert C. Elihaj  
Cpl. Stanley E. Hams  
S-Sgt. Alvin K. Waggoner  
Sgt. Arthur B. Rossland  
PFC Henry O. Stenberg

