

★ ★ ★  
★ 1996 ★

# *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





# **776th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION**

## **1996 Reunion in Cedar Rapids, Iowa**

### **MINUTES OF 1996 REUNION**

We had forty-five men and thirty-three ladies and two guests present for our 1996 Reunion.

Leo Maynard opened the meeting at 12:50 p.m. A discussion was held concerning the place for our next reunion. Motion was made, seconded, and approved that we meet in the St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota area. Mrs. (Walter) Marianne Brueggemann offered to host the 1998 Reunion. Date to be announced later. It will be announced in the Tiger Tracks paper sometime in 1997.

Election of officers was discussed and thought it should be someone from the Twin City area. Several were nominated but declined. Our next slate of officers will be: President - Walter Michels; Vice President - Lavall Thompson; Secretary - Betty Liegl.

Betty Liegl, Secretary

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## 1996 Reunion Scrapbook

Top: Albert and Betty say "Thanks  
for Coming to the Reunion".

Middle: Marianne Brueggemann,  
Berniece Dempsey, and Lou Wadle.

Scene from Hospitality Room.







## '96 Reunion Scrapbook

Clockwise from upper left-  
John and Doris Wiltenmuth,  
Lila Eggleston.

Andy and Margaret  
Bartha.

It was a Great Reunion!

C.P. Kujawski, Merlin  
Park, Gladys Park.







**Hdq. Ladies: (Left to right) Marianne Brueggemann, Betty Liegl, Dorothy Barnard, Gerry Kommes, Catherine DeHut, Pam Liegl. Absent, Margaret Thompson.**





"A" Co. Ladies: (Left to right) Doris Wiltenmuth, Esther Beberg, Sylvia Hansen, Lela Belle Eggleston, Lucille Tobiassen. Absent, Lil Backlund, Mary Lunde, and Eddie Sundberg.





Recon. Co. Ladies: left to right Phyl Michels, Bernice Dempsey, Doris Nicholls, Esther Karas.





**"B" Co. Ladies: Seated (left to right) Pauline Metzdorff, Alice Kujawski, Elda Hegle, Phyllis Anderson. Standing (left to right) Florienne Grundhoeffter, Gladys Park, Margaret Bartha, Jean Elliott, Dorothy Laurila, Eileen Hilton, Ollie Brunton. Absent, Madelyn Grundhoeffter.**





"C" Co. Ladies: (Left to right) Eunice Bodling, Jessie Wilson, Ruth Polzin. Absent, Violet Barone.





**"C" Co. Men: (Left to right) Elmer Wipf, Ted Bodling, Russell Braden, Louis Barone, Leo Maynard, Frank Wilson, Orville Polzin. Absent, Francis MacCumber.**





**"B" Co. Men: Seated (left to right) Lavall Thompson, Lloyd Hegle, Leland Elliott, Addis Metzdorff, Lowell Hilton, Clem P. Kujawski. Standing (left to right) Andy Bartha, Don Anderson, Dan Laurila, Joe Slatkoski, Merlin Park, Barney Brunton, Chet Vosburg.**





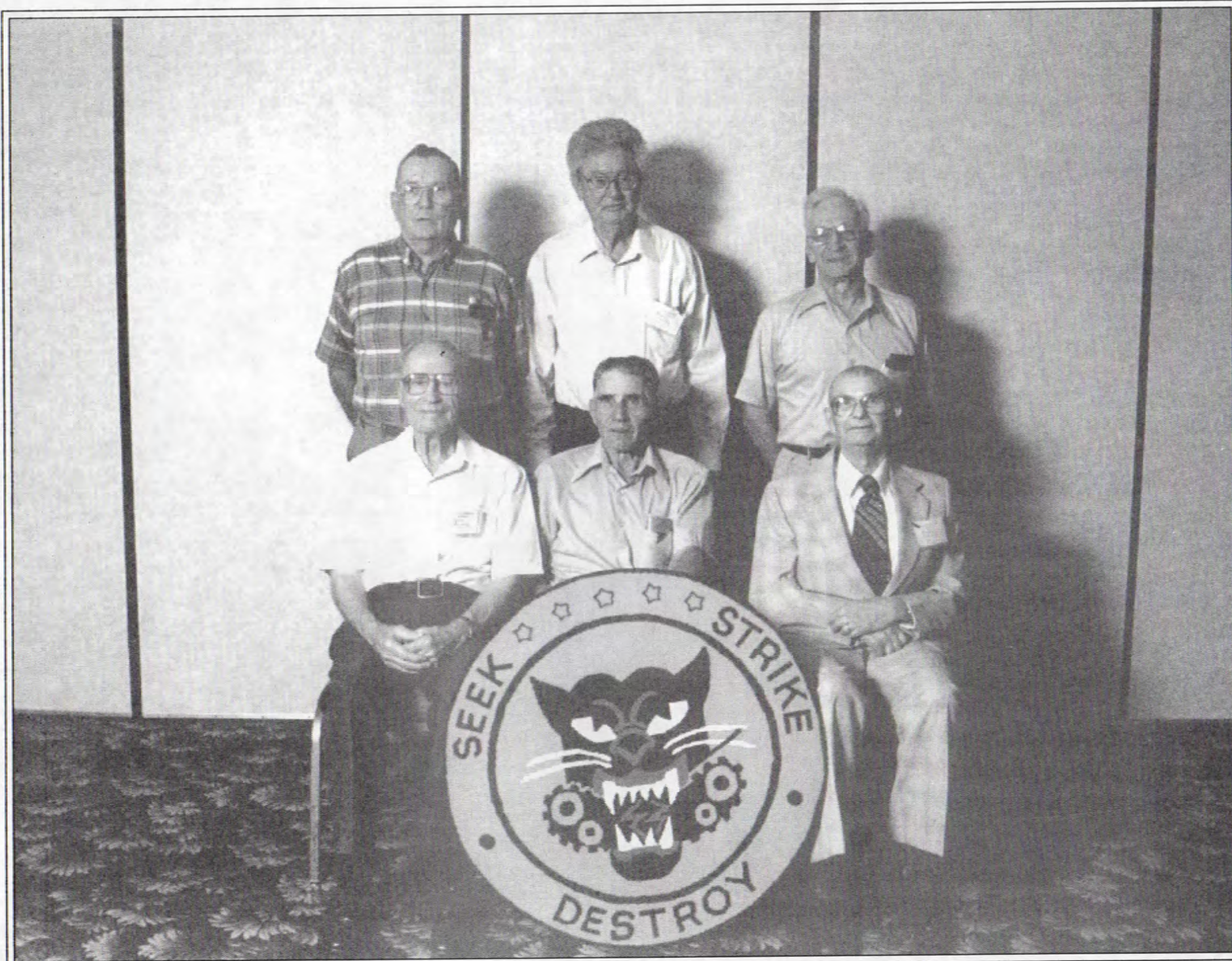
Recon. Co. Men: (Left to right) James Karas, John Nicholls, Walter Michels.





**"A" Co. Men: Seated (left to right) Norvin Black, Ray Hansen, Ray Davis, Al Zeeb, Lou Wadle, Howard Gilbert. Standing (left to right) Gene Eggleston, Etlar Henningsen, John P. Wiltenmuth, Ken Backlund, Norm Lunde, Paul Sundberg, Martin Tobiasen, Don Beberg.**





**Hdq. Co. Men: Seated (left to right) Chris Mostad, Albert Liegl, Amby Kommes. Standing, (left to right) Bryan Barnard, Harold Carnahan, Lyman R. DeHut. Absent, Elmer Thompson.**





## '96 Reunion Scrapbook

Clockwise from upper left- Dan and Dorothy Laurila.

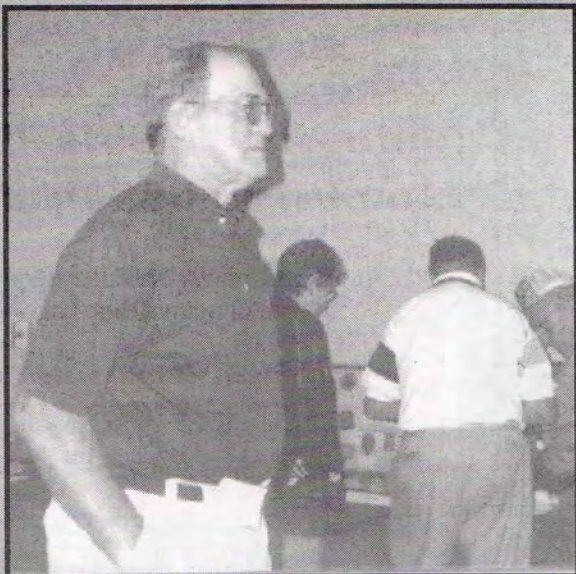
Pauline and Addis Metzdorff.

Phyl and Walter Michels.

Eddie Sundberg, Lil Backlund, Ken Backlund, Mary Lunde, Norm Lunde.







## 1996 Reunion Scrapbook

Top: Leland Elliott - Anyone want to play golf?

Middle: Lavall Thompson, Sylvia and Ray Hansen.

Scene from Hospitality Room.





## '96 Reunion Scrapbook

Upper left: Tuesday at Amana at Bill Zuber Restaurant - Leo Maynard (left), Albert Liegl and Elmer Thompson (back to camera)

Middle left: Tuesday at Amana at Bill Zuber Restaurant.

Middle right: Tuesday evening entertainment.

Bottom: Tuesday evening Memorial Service conducted by Legion Post 5, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.





## 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