

The 1980

Re - Union Bulletin

The 776th
TANK DESTROYER BATTALION



"The Vandals"



C A M P A I G N S



T U N I S I A

16th March '43 - 9th May '43



N A P L E S - F O G G I A

16th September '43 - 21st January '44



R O M E - A R N O

22nd January '44 - 9th September '44



R H I N E L A N D

30th October '44 - 21st March '45



C E N T R A L E U R O P E

22nd March '45 - 8th May '45



P R E S I D E N T I A L C I T A T I O N

"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



U N I T M E R I T O R I O U S S E R V I C E P L A Q U E

Headquarters Company



C O M M E N D A T I O N S

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



MINUTES OF 1980 REUNION OF 776 T.D.

On July 3, 1980 our business meeting and luncheon was called to order by President Clancy Byrne. Maurice Rochlitz offered a prayer. After a delicious luncheon a brief business meeting was held.

Chet Vosburg made a motion that the organization pay the Secretary \$20 a month, it was seconded by Milt Lawson. After a brief discussion and the Secretary asked that the reunion be kept on a voluntary basis as it was first organized, the motion was withdrawn.

Minutes were read and approved and the election of officers followed. Clancy Byrne and Don Anderson asked that their names be withdrawn as officers. Kenneth Backlund was nominated by Chet and Seconded by Lou Wadle. Vice President Cliff Sizemore nominated by Bob Bunce and seconded by Ed Eden. Rasmussen moved that nomination be closed. The voting was unanimous in favor

of Pres. Backlund and V. P. Sizemore and Secretary Liegl.

Reunion sites for 1982 were considered with invitations coming from Pocatello, Idaho and Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The vote was for Cedar Rapids in 1982 and a strong consideration for Idaho in 1984.

Happy Birthday was sung by the group to Chet LePien and Ed Backman and Marion DeKock.

Lou Wadle talked on the idea of having a memorial somewhere in U.S. to honor the 776th Tank Destroyer Battalion. A discussion was held as to location and the cost. Mirise and Perry are checking with Ft. Carson people as a possible location for the memorial.

Door prize drawings were held to conclude the business and then company pictures were taken.

Respectfully submitted
Betty Liegl, Secretary

A FEW COMMENTS BY BETTY

I had a few inquiries as to the availability of the coffee mugs and beer steins that we had for sale the past few years. Remember they were ceramic with the Tiger printed on side and reverse side either a date or campaigns on steins. I find they are still available from same company but as usual the price has gone up some. Watch the Tiger Tracks for more information on them.

Those of you who were at the Fargo reunion in 1978 remember the Mr. Johnson who was there selling T. D. jewelry, we had inquiries as to whether it is available. Yes it is and Mr. Johnson said he would need to have an order of 250 pieces but we could mix and match Tie Tacks, Ladies Bow Knots, Key Chains, Money Clips and the Charm Piece. I suggest you watch the next Tiger Tracks and I'll see if we can work up an order, we may not be able to mail these but could get them for the 1982 reunion.

I did not get any of the letters that were posted on the bulletin board this year. But do remember that the Harold

Carnahans' could not attend because of illness. Bob and June Fischer were unable to attend because Bob had to work. Steve and Helen Karwowski could not make it. Lois Hubred was unable to attend. And then we missed Mrs. O. T. Roberts and Mrs. Marie Davis from Texas. We will be looking forward with all the rest of you in seeing everyone in Iowa in 1982. Oh yes, we missed all of you good people who were unable to attend for one reason or another, but do make plans for the 1982 reunion and watch Tiger Tracks as plans develop for that one.

Sorry to be late with this bulletin but I did not receive my copies of the pictures until September.

Please note, that we had a few attending reunion who were no there when we took company pictures. We had some attending for the first time, they were Walter Wilhelmi, Ken Mirise, Perry Haug, Stanley Gierut, Lee McCulloch, Leyburn Lewis and Milt Lawson's friend, Florence Cambridge.

If you would like a color photo of your company the price is \$8.00 and includes photo and mailing expense. The photographer is:

Richard Edie Photos and Associates
1114 South Nevada
Colorado Springs, Colo. 80903

Remember to tell him which company you want and if it is men or ladies pictures. Most important of all tell him it is 776th T. D. picture.

Gazette Telegraph Paper Colorado Springs, Colo.

World War II unit holding a reunion

Approximately 140 members of the World War II 776th Tank Destroyer Battalion are attending their 13th reunion at the Four Seasons Motor Inn.

The reunion began Tuesday and will end Thursday. According to Henry Jackson, a member of the reunion committee, the battalion had its first reunion in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and meets at two year intervals.

During the 53 months of service in the war, which took the battalion through North Africa, Italy, France, Germany and Austria, Jackson said the unit was 555 days of combat.

Dubbed the "Vandals," the battalion had a force of 1,000 members, "but came and went so there is no way of knowing exactly how many members there really were."

Mr. and Mrs. Jackson, from Holyoke, Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Eden of Campo, and Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Rochlitz of Fort Collins are on the reunion committee.

"Colorado Springs offers a multitude of attractions, and the 776th's reunion is taking advantage of seeing a few of them," Jackson said.

Holyoke Enterprise Paper

Jackson organizes World War II unit reunion

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Jackson of Holyoke helped organize the 13th reunion of approximately 160 members of the World War II 776th Tank Destroyer Battalion at the Four Seasons Motor Inn in Colorado Springs July 1-3.

During the 53 months of service in the war, which took the battalion through North Africa, Italy, France, Germany and Austria, Jackson said the unit was 555 days of combat.

The battalion was dubbed the "vandals," and Jackson noted there's a comradeship there that you don't find just anywhere.

Other on the reunion committee this year were Mr. and Mrs. Ed Eden of Campo and Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Rochlitz of Fort Collins. People attended from all areas of the United States.

Included in the activities were tours through the Air Force Academy, the Garden of the

Gods, Van Brickle Pottery and the Flying W Ranch.

Jackson said the group meets every two years, with the next reunion scheduled for Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Australia has more than 10 times as many sheep (145 million) as humans (13 million).

Moorhead, Minn. 56560
August 16, 1980

Dear Betty,

Since this is a good letter writing day -- windy and rainy -
- I thought I'd drop you a note with some information for
the next Tiger Tracks.

Perhaps if your plans permit, you can reprint the en-
closed letter from Johnnie's Specialty about his offer on
TD jewelry. I know several fellows inquired about several
items and maybe this will bring some reaction.

We have had a chance to visit with Chet and Alice
Vosburg and exchange pictures from the Reunion. It was
another great affair and we certainly enjoyed ourselves. A
nice birthday card and note from Lois Laffoon included a
fine snapshot of the B company group. We also had a
telephone conversation this a.m. with "Pete" Roberts. She
is recovering nicely from foot surgery and was sorry to
have had to miss the Reunion.

I dropped the Public Affairs Officer at Fort Carson a
note and thanked him for their hospitality on the tour. Ken
Mirise or Chick Perry, have you talked with the Fort Car-
son people about the proposed memorial?

Our thanks to the Reunion Committee for all their work
and congratulations to the new officers.

We look forward to the Bulletin and the issues of Tiger
Tracks.

Hope the crops were halfway decent for you. We are still
about 6 inches behind in rainfall. Golfing, gardening, yard
work and odd jobs fill up my retirement days.

Thanks again, Betty, for all your work.

Sincerely,
Eileen and Don Anderson

Fred Eberle
Gene Eggleston
Eldon Post
Maurice Rochlitz
Elmer Sarkilahti
Orville Schjeldahl
Edward Eden
Edmond Fergason
Lloyd Fikejs
Olney Glover
Raymond Grundhoefer
Fred Guenther
Joseph Hayes
Ed Hendrickx
Melvin Heere
Edward Ira
Henry Jackson
Lois Laffoon
Lawrence Lang
Milton Lawson
Chester LePien
Leyburn Lewis
Albert Liegl
Addis Metzдорff
James Montgomery, Jr.
Chris Mostad
John Nicholls
Merlin Park
Raymond Perry
Leslie Racine
Nyle Rasmussen
Leon Sanford
Stanley Schillerstrom
Cliff Sizemore
Joe Slatkoski
Paul Sundberg
Stanley Stiles
Elmer Thompson
Chet Vosburg
Lou Wadle
Walter Wilhelmi
Tom Yocum
Frank Young
Robert Young
Martin Stefanik
Orville Polzin
Ken Mirise
Perry Haug
Fritz Carroll
Howard Wilson
B. W. Perkins
Harold Gall
Sherman Westby
Stanley Gierut
Norvin Black
Gottfred Olson
Mike Richins
Lelin McCulloch
Rose Kramer
Carol Scovel
Bert Wible

1980 REUNION ATTENDANCE

Don Anderson
Vernon Anderson
Elmer Wipf
Erwin Baier
Ken S. Backlund
James Ballem
Ross Baker
Bryan Barnard
Edward Backman
Donald Beberg
Theodor Bodling
Elmer Bornsen
Glenn Bovill
R. N. Brunton
Charles Bullard
Robert Bunce
Clarence Byrne
Joe Calvert
William Cunningham
Marion DeKock
William Dempsey

HOTEL
EXCELSIOR
ROMA



Dear Betty:

24 Jan 80

If this gets to you in time,
please take it to the Canon in
Colorado. I'm sure the letterhead
will bring a rush of memories.

This is being written while
watching the passing beauties from
the sidewalk cafe in front of the
Hotel. The view is still great.

Rooms in the Excelsior now
start at 156000 Lira. one dollar
equals 800 Lira today.

Have a good reunion-

Bill Shirley



A CO. - Seated left to right: Norvin Black, Glenn Bovill, Ken Backlund, Lou Wadle, Mel Heere. Standing left to right: Elmer Sarkillahti, Walter Wilhemi, Ed Hendrickx, Marion DeKock, Leyburn Lewis.



B CO. - Seated left to right: Ed Ira, R. N. Brunton, Orville Schjeldahl, Raymond Perry, Olney Glover, Fritz Carroll, Fred Eberle, Vernon Anderson, Don Anderson, Chet LePien. Standing left to right: Maurice Rochlitz, Joe Calvert, Ross Baker, Chet Vosburg, Harold Gall, Addis Metzдорff, Howard Wilson, Charles Bullard, Jim Montgomer, Joe Slatkoski, Merlin Parks, Erwin Baier.



C CO. - Seated left to right: Elmer Bornsen, Stanley Gierut, Orville Polzin, Fred Guenther, Robert Young. Standing left to right: Theodor Bodling, Ken Mirise.







RECON. CO. - Seated left to right: John Nicholl, Lawrence Lang, Frank Young, Les Racine, Mike Richins, Robert Bunce, Eldon Post, Martin Stefanik. Standing left to right: Nyle Rasmussen, Tom Yocum, Ed Eden, Cliff Sizemore, Wm. Dempsey, Ed Backman.



HDQ. CO. - Seated left to right: Leon Sanford, Lloyd Fikejs, Clancy Byrne, Ed Fergason, Milt Lawson, Henry Jackson, Albert Liegl, Chris Mostad. Standing left to right: Elmer Thompson, Bill Cunningham, Gottfred Olson, Bryan Barnard, Stan Stiles, Bert Wible.



A -- Seated left to right: Lewis, Backlund, Wilhelmi, Black, Heere. Standing left to right: Bovill, DeKock, Hendrickx, Sarkilhati.



B -- Seated left to right: Vosburg, Calvert, Brunton, Perry, Bullard, Park, LePien, Slatkoski. Standing left to right: Schjeldahl, Anderson, Laffoon, Rochlitz, Carroll, Eberle, Ira, Gall, Baker.



C -- Left to right: Gierut, Bornsen, Bodling, Polzin



RECONN. - Seated left to right: Post, Young, Yocum, Eden, Rasmussen, Backman. Standing left to right: Metzdorff, Lang, Nicholls, Racine, Dempsey.



HDQ. -- Seated left to right: Mostad, Fikejs, Stiles, Olson, Barnard, Sanford, Jackson. Standing left to right: Florence Cambridge a guest, Liegl, Cunningham, Byrne, Ferguson, Thompson.

DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE 776th

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Ira E. Amerman 12-7-1961 | Leonard Dorsch 11-18-1975 | Ralph P. Kuhnert | Gerald R. Price 9-8-1978 |
| Quentin Allen 11-19-1978 | Alan T. Dorsey 8-13-1961 | Ledru Laffoon 4-11-1976 | Lloyd G. Reitan |
| Alvin E. Anderson | Leander W. Ege | Clem Landaker | Joseph F. Randash 4-13-1973 |
| Andrew C. Anderson | Selmer M. Eliassen 1950's | Henry Lang 3-22-1979 | Leon R. Riddle 1969 |
| Frank W. Andrasak 3-25-1961 | Ted L. Erbstoesser | Harold W. Langford | Lawrence Reiger 12-1971 |
| William D. Austin | Andrew C. Estes | Lewis A. Large 1-7-1973 | Henry Ries |
| Andrew Bakalar, Jr. 11-1976 | William G. Erickson 6-23-1968 | Clifford I. Larson 1978 | Don A. Riggs |
| Clarence B. Bakken | David E. Evans | Leland E. Larson 3-4-1972 | Rawleigh W. (Pete) Roberts |
| Gilbert H. Bangs | Ralph Faller 1978 | Edward Leathan | 12-31-1953 |
| James C. Barker 4-8-1974 | Harley P. Garner | Orville R. Lee | Omas T. Roberts 6-8-1978 |
| Colonel James P. Barney, Jr. | Ira M. Gaulke 1963 | Morris W. Lehman 1-22-1979 | Rowland B. Rohrer 8-9-1976 |
| 9-1-1977 | Perry J. Goodwin | Verlon E. Lemmon 9-13-1977 | Victor J. W. Rwei 10-1975 |
| Eugene Bartlett 3-3-1976 | Harold Granlie 10-13-1977 | Arnie Lindgren 9-7-1974 | John J. Schimmel 10-4-1973 |
| Duane Baukol | Ross Grimes 11-1974 | Curtis Lowry | Eugene Scovel 3-23-1976 |
| Charles Bennett | Homer Grove 10-1975 | Rudolph E. Mallon 1-19-1976 | James Severson 1976 |
| Walter A. Binsz | Elmer Gullickeson 7-1968 | Al Manno 2-1979 | Warren M. Shearer |
| Joe Bierman 11-13-1978 | Cheslie Hakenson 9-28-1975 | Maj. R. R. Martin | Stanley A. Shurson |
| Paul Bonderenko | Sammie E. Hallford 9-4-1976 | Nicholas Masica | Anthony Shutto |
| Raymond E. Boyd 12-1969 | Louis Hamblin | John C. McCann 1-11-1974 | William I. Siler |
| John C. Britz 11-6-1960 | Chester L. Hankins | Mayo McCulloch 12-1970 | Milan Simich 12-1978 |
| Harold Brown | Clifford Hauge | Stanley McCulloch | Colgate O. Sorlie |
| Lonnie Bruner 12-1975 | James W. Hayes 6-8-1976 | Reese McCulloch | Claude L. Speer 7-1970 |
| David Bucholz | Lindsay Hayes 6-18-1971 | Frank Meek | Bud Stoddard |
| Elbert R. Burton | Henry Heil 5-19-1972 | Ralph O. Mikelson | Kenneth H. Stone |
| 4-2-1977 | John J. Hennessy | Henry Moen | Alfred Strand 10-31-1977 |
| Francis Callahan 2-25-1977 | Jason C. Hensley 1952 | Dr. Harlan Monroe 1972 | Virgil M. Thomasson |
| Edmund R. Carlson | Andrew Herman 11-11-1976 | Co. Dwight E. Moorhead 11-1965 | Chester Thompson 7-15-1969 |
| Anthony Casciello 10-12-1977 | Robert Hines 5-17-1977 | Olen Nation 6-4-1976 | Ted J. Thompson |
| Frank Childs | Henry A. Hoines 11-28-1971 | Edwin N. Nelson | Harold Thorn |
| Jewell C. Christensen 12-19-1975 | Joseph C. Hubred 2-21-1971 | Oliver P. Nelson | Leonard Toso 12-1971 |
| Harry W. Cota 6-19-1968 | Joseph L. Hulbert | Thorvald C. Nelson | Stephen Turk |
| Clyde L. Covington | Glenn A. Huseby | Charles N. Newman 2-11-1972 | Albert Ulich |
| Harry Curran | Ronald H. Hutchens 6-3-1976 | Russell Nyvall | Robert T. Veach 3-2-1974 |
| Henry Curran | Leonard F. Ira | Ernest R. Olson 7-1970 | William Vedaa |
| Edmund J. Czerncki 2-1971 | Burnett Ives 9-7-1976 | Orville M. Osborne | John Vratarics 5-2-1976 |
| Robert W. Darling 8-30-1973 | Orville Jacobson | J. D. Owen | C. B. Warn 5-19-1975 |
| James B. Davis 10-15-1972 | Alden Johnson 12-13-1976 | Jesse L. Owens 9-30-1975 | John C. Welch 1963 |
| Irwin C. Devitt | Alf E. Johnson 12-4-1978 | Harold W. Peihl 12-1950 | Ralph Welsch |
| Jacob DeVries | Wallace A. Joyce | Edward R. Peterson | William T. Willingham 1-1975 |
| Ralph E. Dilday | Henry G. Joyce | Kenneth Peterson 2-1973 | John L. Whitaker |
| Charles L. Diven | Pius B. Kraft | Melvin Peterson | |
| Vincent Doheny 2-5-1973 | Jake M. Kramer 11-1970 | Jack Prescott 2-19-1980 | |

IN MEMORIAM

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| PFC Ardine M. Harstad | Cpl. Donald F. Ramhorst | PFC. Woodrow Milligan |
| PFC. Nils Eidsness | PFC. Norman Togstad | Pvt. Edward P. Paddock |
| T-5 Lloyd Holland | Pvt. William R. Hanson | Capt. Paul R. Brunt |
| Sgt. Robert F. Jones | T-4 Albert Colaianni | Sgt. Arthur Mygland |
| S-Sgt. James G. Newman | Pvt. Carl A. Applequist | 1st. Lt. Harold O. Weisweiver |
| 1st. Lt. Edward S. Kafka | S-Sgt. Oscar E. Lystad | Cpl. Clarence A. Larsen |
| Pvt. Robert H. Burns | T-5 Gustave Hager | Pvt. Ferdinand J. Schmidt |
| T-5 Kurt Wasel | Sgt. Harold F. Mooney | T-5 Arnold E. Freeland |
| S-Sgt. Doyle D. Grimm | Cpl. Henry G. Popp | S-Sgt. Eric A. Antonson |
| T-5 Harold H. Stickel | Sgt. Ernest E. Parris | Sgt. Robert C. Elijah |
| Sgt. Millard E. Stigen | 2nd Lt. John B. Haywood | Cpl. Stanley E. Hams |
| Sgt. Raymond E. Larson | Sgt. Sigval M. Carlson | S-Sgt. Alvin K. Waggoner |
| S-Sgt. Harold T. Brown | Sgt. Francis M. Zerr | Sgt. Arthur B. Rossland |
| T-5 Jesse L. Anderson | T-5 Norman C. Dutoit | PFC. Henry O. Stenberg |
| 1st. Lt. John P. Hughes | Pvt. Dale H. Ellingson | |

