

# 776 TIGER TRACKS

June 1994

44th Edition

**WELCOME TO ALL VANDALS, WIVES, WIDOWS AND GUESTS  
to our September 19, 20, 21, 1994  
REUNION IN CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA.**

If for some unknown reason you did not receive an invitation that was mailed in early May, you will find it reprinted inside this paper. You are invited and are most welcome. We are still working on some of the plans but they will soon be in place and we will be ready for a good time.

If you have been thinking of making reservations now is the time to do it. I have already received some early bird reservations. Please note that the cost is \$45.00 per person.

"C" Company men you have a challenge to have a large turnout of your company. Let's see how many are there from the other companies - Headquarters, A, B, C and Recon.

Recon. Co. - we have a long lost buddy who called me and is now on the mailing list. He will be in Cedar Rapids in September.

Looking forward to seeing all of you in September!

**Mrs. Albert Liegl  
776th T.D. Bn.**

3897 Pleasant Valley Road  
Central City, Iowa 52214

Address Corrected

Ph. 1-319-438

**F** all in  
Albert spend '11.  
together. I am as guilty  
of you of neglecting to help her  
today, I'll try to put my two cents  
worth in with something that hap-  
pened back in 1945.

When the war ended on May 8,  
1945 Bob DeHut, a couple other  
fellows and I ended up with an  
armored cavalry outfit which had  
just landed from state side. The  
old colonel from the outfit called  
us in one day and said "Soldiers I  
can't have you fall out mornings  
or give you any details because  
you've been over here too long  
now, however if you want to vol-

pick her  
in Baltimore,  
I'm sure a few  
have a story you co  
about it, write it down  
to Betty for the Tiger Tr  
will make it a lot easier for her.  
Albert to get out the paper we  
enjoy so much.

Best of luck to all of you and  
hope we can meet in Cedar Rap-  
ids for our reunion in September.

Bryan Barnard

## Deceased

I have received word after last  
January 1994 Tiger Tracks of the  
deaths of the following men. Our  
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Vandals.

William Gutnecht - 4-3-1993

Joe Buschy - 11-2-1993

Valentine Montag - 2-28-1994

Edward Ethen - 2-24-1994

Lloyd Fikejs - 3-9-1994

Raymond A. Videtich - 12-23-  
1991

Orlin Predmore - 4-2-1994

I am sorry to report the death of  
the following widows of Vandals:

Mrs. Quentin E. Allen

Mrs. Evard (Marcella) Montague

Mrs. Mervyn Rickbell

Mrs. Edward H. Berscheidt

## Donations

The following have made a con-  
tribution of two to thirty dollars  
to the Tiger Track fund since  
January issue. Thanks to a  
you, it is much appreciated.

John Love

Chris Mostad

John Ehli

Dominic Manfredo

Ronald L. Knien

Mary Buschy in memory of  
Buschy

Daniel F. Coviello

Elmer Bornsen

John Dibble

Frank Platz

Voile (Jack) Crowe

Vincent Manfredo

Lucille Mueller

Herman Harshman







## FROM THE MAILBOX

April 25, 1993

Dear Betty,

I just came back from Killeen, TX, and while there visited Fort Hood. I found out, prior, to my going out to the museum that two M-10s had been obtained, one remodeled and used by the British, that would be in the collection of memorabilia of armor of World War II.

I talked to a lady in the office of the museum and she said they expected to get an M-36, too. I am enclosing photos of them and if you haven't made up the next *Tiger Tracks* you might like to show our boys what we have obtained. She, also, gave me a copy of the records of all the Tank Destroyer Battalions giving the activation origin-combat introduction-equipment-units attached to or supporting - comm and officers - campaign credits - code names - and scores. You might find some interest in this among the fellows and if you did copies could be made and mailed out for a small fee. I plan to come to the reunion in September and will bring this copy along.

Hoping to see you at the Reunion.

Best regards,  
K.S. & Lill Backlund

Feb. 15, 1994

Hi Betty & Albert,

Just finished reading the *Tiger Tracks*, and must say I enjoyed every line, especially the letters. I don't know all of these people, but these letters make me feel like I do.

I haven't attended the past reunions in years. The last reunion my wife and I tried to attend, but again couldn't. Hope we can make it this time.

In my last letter to you, I asked if there was anyone out there that remembered me and that I would like to hear from them. Sure enough I did. Gene Eggleston from Texas responded. We keep in touch by phone. I also keep in touch with the Bebergs in Arizona.

Our three children are all married and settled, they've given us six grandchildren. Our oldest grandson has joined the Air Force and is stationed in Texas.

Enclosed you'll find a small donation to cover costs. Also a few photos of some of the 776 T.D. Group. There may be someone out there who would know some of these men.

Hope to see you at the next reunion. Regards to all.

Sincerely,  
Daniel F. Coviello  
and wife Carmella

(Thanks for pictures, I will let the printer decide which ones will reproduce well enough for the paper. Then hopefully I will remember to display them at the September Reunion. Betty L.)

February 1994

Dear Betty & Albert,

How are you all, do hope all in the Best of Health. We went for a walk and visit a little. This Maggie she will be 87 years old and still in her apartment.

Gee, have we got the snow banks, was up to the window at our Apts., have not got many windows, just two old fashion in the living room and one in the bedroom, so gets tight and stuffy.

We have a George Rhunning here who is 90 years old, gets lonely and comes to visit. Had a nice birthday party for him, sure surprised him.

A week ago our Bob and Genny were here from the farm, we had a rainy summer but the crop was good.

Did you all enjoy the last reunion? Betty, sure wish we could make it this fall but hard telling. Love to see your state.

Our Charlene and her Michael are getting married in August. Well you all take good care. We are sorry to hear of all the deaths of 776 men and women too.

Bye for now,  
Selma and John Ehli

Feb. 1994

Dear Betty and Albert,

Thanks for the *Tiger Tracks*. We always enjoy the paper. It's one of a kind.

We are keeping up our Health well enough to help with a Horse Cavalry Bivouac in Ocala next month. We meet at the Ocala Hilton April 7 for Assembly and Water Call (Open Bar), and Muster the next morning for a tour of Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse Ranches. That evening we sing "Garry Owen" and swap war stories at the Boots and Saddles Banquet. This is the seventh year our Florida Chapter of the U.S. Cavalry Association has held the Bivouac.

Greeting from the Cocoa Beach Polar-Bear Club.

Jack and Louise Dibble

March 1994

Dear Albert and Betty,

I too have roots in Iowa. I was raised by my Grandparents who migrated to N. Dakota via team and wagon. That's the only back ground I have. I'm the eldest of four children, whose Mother passed away in Wisconsin. I was six at the time with one brother and 2 sisters.

My heritage is mostly Iowa and Missouri. My Grandfather's history the stories of mud in Iowa. He claimed the mud so deep a team couldn't pull the wagon. He put a tongue on the rear wheels put box on the axle and hauled the groceries with horses hitched to it. That was all I know of Iowa.

I always figured he was telling tall tales. In N.D. we didn't have

rain enough to make that much mud. The foregoing was before my birth so we enjoyed his tall tales. After the rains of this past summer anything is possible.

Albert, I enjoyed your experience of life on the farm. I have never seen a black faced cow. Our cattle were all sired by traveling Bulls so we had a hodgepodge of colors. My Grandfather's cattle were the renting someone's Homestead with cattle furnished, the rent was all the milk and cream and one-half of the increase so we had a variety of scrubs for our livelihood. The descendants of that first herd was still in evidence in 1935 when the drought forced my Grandparents off the farm and into retirement. I went into the C.C.C. for three years so that was their living. In then CCC my pay \$30 per month. I got \$5 and \$25 went home.

My Grandfather came from Iowa and My Grandmother from Missouri. I remember them speaking of Mt. Ayr, Ia., Shady Grove, Ia. and Hatfield, Missouri. My Granddad's Father was a Union Soldier and my Grandmother's Father was a Confederate. For us Grandkids the Civil War never ended. Grandma won because the last Civil War Veteran to die was a Confederate — finis Civil War.

Carry on with the *Tiger Tracks*.  
V. S. Jack Crowe

Feb. 11, 1994

Dear Albert and Betty,

I am enclosing a check to help you in dispatching the *Tiger Tracks* to us. You're doing a wonderful job. I'm also enclosing a few photos you may be able to use.

Best Wishes,  
Nick Manfredo

Feb. 18, 1994

Dear Betty and Albert,

Thanks for printing my letter. Bill takes Therapy every day to learn to walk, otherwise he has had no strokes since July. We sure have lots of snow here in the Dakotas too. Should be something when it all starts to melt.

Sincerely,  
Irene Folven

Feb. 17, 1994

Dear Albert and Betty,

Thanks for the letter and *Tiger Tracks*. Gov. Wilson and a few other politicians want to put a temporary tax on the people of California to pay for quake damage. Most people are against the tax. They are thinking the tax will end up being permanent. Probably would. Our relatives live on the edge of the quake area. They felt the shock but no damage to their places. My step mother had a few knick-knacks fall from shelves but none of them broke.

We have some cool weather. The almonds are close to blooming but the walnut trees are still dormant. The walnut tree trimmers should be on my place in a few days. We had a good crop of walnuts even though we lost a lot of walnuts from blight. The quality was down a little so the pound price was not as good as in '92.

Your weather is too tough for me. Got down to 28 degrees couple of times here. Didn't care much about that temperature.

Esther fell and broke the pelvis bone on left side. She will be in the hospital another week. If all goes well she will be home then. Sure has been painful.

You both take care don't get in any more mud than you have to!

Steve and Esther Stephens

Feb. 14, 1994

Dear Mrs. Albert Liegl:

Just realized I hadn't contributed to your expenses with the 776 *TD Tiger Tracks* for quite a while. Really appreciate all the effort you and Albert have put into the *Tiger Tracks* all these years.

I served in the Adjutant Section in Headquarters Co. all through WWII, working with Don Kolbo, Afton Hilson, John Wiltenmuth and others.

Sincerely,  
Ronald L. Knien

Feb. 22, 1994

Dear Betty and Albert,

Just a few lines along with an Obituary of an old army friend and buddy. He retired and lived in Grand Forks which is about thirty miles from here. Have visited him several times in the past few years. He was a tank driver in "C" Company and was with us all the time overseas. His name Valentine Montag.

Well so much for that, now lets get on with the weather, '93 was a gruesome year but not so bad in our immediate area. Our daughter and son-in-law farm in lower and heavier soil and burned about 400 acres of barley and some wheat. The ground was so saturated they could not travel on the land. Right here, Larimore, ND, our soil is lighter and better drainage.

Your state of Iowa sure got its share of trouble the past year, if I remember correctly you are situated on a little higher ground. But according to Albert's corner you had your share of problems. Enjoyed reading it. If it wasn't for your dedicated work Betty, don't think any of us would know what goes on. You do a great

I'm sure it is appreciated much by all of us

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April, 1994

Dear Betty and Al,

Just a few lines to give you my new address. It is only ten minutes from where I lived. Oak Creek is next to South Milwaukee.

Our weather today is in the 70's. This A.M. we had a shot of sun, but now the thunderstorms are coming this way just as the weatherman said it would. The same for tomorrow only temperatures in low 80's. With April showers bringing May flowers the dandelions are already here. I saw the first ones the other day when I was walking.

In March when I was moving, Joe's Mother passed away. She was 97, would have been 98 on April 10, 1994.

I hope that sometime in June or July I will be able to have the cataract removed from my left eye. I want it done before it gets too bad.

I always enjoy reading the *Tiger Tracks*.

Lois Hubred

May 8, 1994

Dear Betty and Albert,

I've been wanting to write for some time, but with getting the house ready for sale has been quite a job. Used all my time and energy with it.

Some relatives and I had a garage sale yesterday and Friday. We got rid of a lot of things as I'm going into an apartment. Its time to move on. I'll be moving out next weekend 14 and 15th. My daughter has been here helping me. Have a lot of small things moved out of the house.

I had surgery for a hernia two weeks ago. Still can't do a lot of things or lift anything heavy. Kids have been moving me out.

Mary Gortmaker

Received notice that Ray Veditich died December 23, 1992

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## From The Mailbox...continued

to help pay a little postage. I enjoy getting *Tiger Tracks*.

Thanks  
Frank Piatz  
(Let's see that was over thirty-three inches of snow before Thanksgiving Day or first of December in North Dakota. At least that is what my weatherman reported one day, hope it is all melted by now. Betty L.)

March 1, 1994  
Dear Betty & Albert,

Thanks for Bulletin and *Tiger Track*, sure enjoyed both.

I just called Mrs. Gutnecht and checked on date of Bill's death, it was 3 April 1993.

Also am enclosing clipping of obituary on Ed Ethen, a former member of C Co. A good man.

It's been a tough winter with much snow and likely more to come but at least Spring is in sight. Warmer and melting today so I must feed my birds. Best wishes to ALL.

Chris Mostad

May 5, 1994  
Hello all you Vandals of the 776 TD Battalion:

I hope this finds you all in the best of health at least for people our age. Betty sure does a wonderful job as secretary for this outfit plus a whole lot of work out at the farm. I know Albert and her are very busy because over the years I have visited there a number of times. I think they both should have a standing ovation. Betty asks only one thing of us and that is "Please you Vandals send me a little news to make the *Tiger Tracks* possible."

I know all of you could write a book if we would only sit down, take a few minutes and do it. After all it is OUR paper that she and Albert spend THEIR time putting together. I am as guilty as anyone of you of neglecting to help her so today, I'll try to put my two cents worth in with something that happened back in 1945.

When the war ended on May 8, 1945 Bob DeHut, a couple other fellows and I ended up with an armored cavalry outfit which had just landed from state side. The old colonel from the outfit called us in one day and said "Soldiers I can't have you fall out mornings or give you any details because you've been over here too long now, however if you want to vol-

unteer for something I have a job that might interest you." Well you know how that went over. Volunteer in the Army!!! We went back in his office to inquire what the job was. He told us trucking coal from Cologne, Germany over the Autobon highway for the Army of Occupation until you get your transportation home. We trucked coal till October, five months after the War was over. We thought we were never going to get out of Germany. I'm sure Bob DeHut remembers this, he was one of the volunteers. It sure was good news the day we came in and were told there was a boat to take us back to the States.

We landed in New York a few days later, split up and went our separate ways. I was sent to Fort Meade, Maryland for discharge. I had only been there one day when I received a phone call. No one knew I was there so I said the call must be for someone else. I was wrong. It was my youngest sister who was working for the War Dept. at the time processing servicemen who were coming back to the states for discharge. She happened to be in ship to shore communications and saw my name and address so she knew it had to be me. She asked me to please come to Baltimore that night she was very anxious to see me. I agreed to meet her at the Camdam Railway Station. When I went into the service she was a chubby high school girl who after graduating became a slender rather good looking blue eyed blond. I got off the train, went in the station walked all around looking for "chubby" but couldn't find her. I spotted this good looking blonde sitting on a bench, gave her a big smile, she smiled back, came over and asked if my name could possibly be "Barnard".

Can you believe I did not know my own sister? She passed away a few years ago but she always got a big laugh when she told someone how her own brother tried to pick her up in the railroad station in Baltimore, Md.

I'm sure a lot of you vandals have a story you could tell. Think about it, write it down and send it to Betty for the *Tiger Tracks*, it will make it a lot easier for her and Albert to get out the paper we all enjoy so much.

Best of luck to all of you and hope we can meet in Cedar Rapids for our reunion in September.

Bryan Barnard

## Deceased

I have received word after last January 1994 *Tiger Tracks* of the deaths of the following men. Our sympathy to the families of these Vandals.

William Gutnecht - 4-3-1993  
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Mrs. Evard (Marcella) Montague  
Mrs. Mervyn Rickbell  
Mrs. Edward H. Berscheidt

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John Love  
Chris Mostad  
John Ehli  
Dominic Manfredo  
Ronald L. Knien  
Mary Buschy in memory of Joe Buschy  
Daniel F. Coviello  
Elmer Bornsen  
John Dibble  
Frank Piatz  
Voile (Jack) Crowe  
Vincent Manfredo  
Lucille Mueller  
Herman Harshman

## Obituaries

### Lloyd Fikejs

A Funeral Mass for Lloyd Albert Fikejs, 80, of Waterloo, was celebrated Saturday, March 12, 1994, at Blessing Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, rural Hudson, with burial in the church cemetery. Graveside military rites were conducted by Kubik-Finch Post #142 American Legion. A rosary service was held at 3 p.m., and a scripture service at 7 p.m., both Friday at Overton Funeral Home in Traer. Mr. Fikejs died at Ravenwood Care Center in Waterloo Wednesday, March 9, 1994.

Celebrant of the Funeral Mass was the Rev. Thomas Purtell with special music provided by Ruth Beck.

Casket bearers were Robert Schrier, Dick Draper, Todd Williams, Roger Drinovsky, Myron Meinhart and Donald Meggers. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wilharm were in charge of flowers.

Lloyd A. Fikejs was born Sept. 30, 1913, at Traer, the son of James and Mary (Mochal) Fikejs. He received his education in a country school near Traer and then began farming with his parents.

He served his country during World War II with the 776 Tank Destroyer Battalion, seeing action in Africa, Italy, Austria and Germany. Lloyd was discharged with the rank of Tech 5 and received the Good Conduct Medal, the Meritorious Service Plaque and Battle Stars. Following his discharge he returned to farming with his parents near Hudson.

In 1962 he was married to Mina Ackerman. Following her death in 1975 he continued to live on the farm.

On Dec. 22, 1977, he married Evelyn Burroughs and they lived on the home place until Sept. 26, 1992 when Lloyd suffered a stroke.

Lloyd was member of the Kubik-Finch Post #142 American Legion of Traer, serving as commander in 1946.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Mina; his parents; and one brother, Harold. Surviving are his wife, Evelyn of Waterloo; one stepson, Dr. John Burroughs of Cooper City, Fla.; one step-daughter, Susan Burroughs of Memphis, Tenn.; six step-grandchildren, four step-great grandchildren, and a sister, Addie Renaker of Des Moines.

### Edward Ethen

Edward A. Ethen, 75, Tolley, died Thursday, Feb. 24, 1994, in a Minot hospital.

He was born October 29, 1918, in Guthrie, Minn., to Joseph and Mary Ethen. He attended country school near Tolley, in Roosevelt Township, and in the mid '30s worked for the Civilian Conservation Corps near Watford City. He graduated from Tolley High School in 1941. He entered the Army in February 1942 and served during World War II in Africa, Italy, France and Germany with the 776 Tank Destroyer Battalion Unit. He was discharged in October 1945. He received the Purple Heart and a Presidential Citation. He later worked several years at the naval powder factory in Indianhead, Md., before returning to the Tolley area where he farmed.

He was a member of Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church and Irgens-Weber Post 249 of the American Legion, both in Tolley. He served as an assessor for Roosevelt Township for several years.

Survivors: brother, Lawrence, Tolley; sisters, Balbina Kee, Martinsburg, W. Va., Mathilda Knutson and Louise Anderson, both Kenmare, Verna Moore, Del

Valle, Texas, and Deloris Gilroy, Bryans Road, Md.

Funeral: Monday at 10 a.m. in Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Tolley.

Burial: In the spring in the church cemetery.

Visitation: Today from 1 to 5 p.m. in Thompson-Larson Funeral Home, Kenmare, with a prayer service there at 2 p.m.

### Valentine Montag

Valentine J. Montag, 83, died Friday, Feb. 18, 1994, in Northwood (N.D.) Hospital.

Valentine J. Montag was born June 17, 1910, the son of Henry and Catherine (Strobel) Montag, in Mount Carmel, N.D. where he attended school. He farmed with his father before serving in the U.S. Army during World War II. He worked for Greenberg Roofing Company in Grand Forks until his retirement.

He is survived by a sister, Lucy Smith, Carrington, N.D.; and seven nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by two sisters; and three brothers.

Services: 10:30 a.m. Wednesday in St. Alphonsus Catholic Church, Langdon.

Visitation: 5 to 9 p.m. Tuesday with a 7:30 p.m. prayer service, in Brooks Funeral Home, Langdon.

Burial: St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery, Wales, N.D.

## Address Changes

These are changes received after the last January 1994 T.T.

Mrs. Raymond Videtich  
4017 Clay St.  
Denver, Co. 80211

Mrs. Joe (Lois) Hubred  
8541 S. Chicago Rd.  
Apt. 210 - N  
Oak Creek, Wi. 53154

Mrs. Alfred L. (Mary)  
Gortmaker  
4405 Candlewood Place #102  
Rapid City, S.D. 57702

Paul Gibbs (NEW NAME)  
29 North San Marcos Rd.  
Apt. B  
Santa Barbara, Calif. 93111

## LOST

Do any of you know where the following are?  
Either the last T.T. returned or the Reunion Invitation returned to me.

Mrs. John Suter, Lisbon, ND; Stewart J. Turner, Jr., Pacoima, CA; Vincent R. Steele, Portland, OR

## YOU ARE INVITED

I received this information from Dr. Gurney Caddy and this is the quickest way I can let all of you know. Please read.

Dear Betty and Albert:

I talked to BG Kane of the Idaho National Guard today and set up a date for the Commemorative Plaque to be presented to the Idaho National Guard and the 116th Mec Cav, Boise, Idaho.

On July 9, 1994 at 2:00 PM the 116th Cav meets on that week end and the General said he would have a contingent from the 116th CAV. present.

ALL of the 776 T.D. men that are in easy driving distance are welcome and we can have a mini-reunion while we are at it.

I think it is time we move on this project or it will never be completed. If we keep waiting for Reunions it will be too long.

Sincerely,  
Gurney Caddy

2715 NE Bryce St., Portland, Oregon 97212



EDWARD SAYS LET'S HAVE A PARTY AT THE NEXT REUNION



776th T.D. Reunion Time  
YOU ARE INVITED September 19, 20, 21, 1994  
SHERATON HOTEL  
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

We are still making plans so you can enjoy your 1994 reunion. The Sheraton Hotel was chosen as Headquarters Hotel as it is close to the main highways and the Cedar Rapids Airport, and there is not a lot of walking to reach your room or our Hospitality Room or Dining Room.

We need your reservations so we can help the hotel in meal planning. If you send money early and find you cannot attend, your money will be refunded. You understand the Hotel expects us to let them know several days ahead of scheduled meals the number of people attending and we are billed for that number. Your cooperation is much appreciated.

As of today the plans are:

**Monday the 19th:**  
9 a.m. till ?? - Registration in Tivoli Garden Room (Hospitality Room)  
6 p.m. - Food and Cash Bar until ???

**Tuesday the 20th:**  
9 a.m. - Registration in Hospitality Room (Tivoli Garden Room)  
10:30 a.m. - Buses leave hotel

12:00 - Noon dinner at the Amana Colonies  
7 p.m. - Cash Bar and Entertainment

**Wednesday the 21st:**  
Registration Table open if necessary in our Hospitality Room  
12:00 Noon - Lunch and Business Meeting  
6:30 p.m. - Dinner and Entertainment

Company pictures will be taken at the reunion - exact time has not been decided. We can have informal pictures or more formal pictures before dinner.  
Watch bulletin board for changes.

Leland Elliott, President  
Harold Carnahan, Vice President  
Betty Liegl, Secretary

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Advance registration is not mandatory. Registration helps the committee in planning and meeting certain expenses.  
Costs: Vandal, Spouse, Widow or Guests is \$45.00 per person  
Any young children will be charged just the cost of the meal.  
There is no charge this year for a Reunion Bulletin. You will receive a bulletin following the reunion, more about this at the Reunion!!!  
Tuesday noon dinner at the Amanas - need head count so I can arrange for enough buses. We are traveling on large Tri-State Tour Buses. You will enjoy this day. Those who were here in 1982 for the reunion asked for a repeat of the Amana dinner tour - maybe it was the wine sampling??



REGISTRATION

Name: _____	Company _____	Paid \$ _____
Address: _____		Due \$ _____
_____		
If accompanied by Spouse, Her Name: _____		Total Paid \$ _____
Names of other Guests: _____		
_____		
Total amount enclosed \$ _____		
Make Checks payable to 776 TD Bn Reunion		
Please make your own hotel room reservations, Thank You.		

When you figure your hotel room rate, please add tax of 12% (percent), this includes state and hotel taxes.



# The Sheraton Hotel - Our Reunion HQ

The Sheraton Hotel is our Headquarters Hotel. It is located at 525 33rd Ave. S.W., Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Phone 1-319-366-8671. If you are coming in on Interstate 380 you will exit on Exit 17. If you are traveling in on Highway 30 and 151 you can exit off onto 6th Street, may also be marked Hawkeye Downs and you will be only a couple blocks from 33rd Ave. and the Sheraton Hotel. CAN'T MISS IT!!! Entrance to Hotel parking is behind the Country Kitchen restaurant and I believe the Hotel also has their sign at the entrance too. You will find there is lots of parking and they will direct you to Motor Home parking in their lot.

The Sheraton Hotel is surrounded by family restaurants and other motels. I will list a few motels that are within a block or two of our Headquarters Hotel, the Sheraton.

Comfort Inn South on 33rd Ave. S., phone 1-319-363-7934.

Econo Lodge on 33rd Ave. S.W. phone 1-319-363-8888

Excel Inn of Cedar Rapids, 33rd Ave. S.W., phone 1-319-366-2475

Super 8 Motel, 33rd Ave. S.W., phone 1-800-800-8000.

Hope this is helpful to you all. See you then!



## Cedar Rapids Area Map





# Deceased Members of the 776th

Howard Adams  
Donald B. Alfreds 1-15-89  
Quentin E. Allen 11-19-78  
Ira E. Amerman 12-7-61  
Alvin E. Anderson  
Andrew C. Anderson  
Charles A. Anderson 9-11-82  
Hartley Anderson  
Newell C. Anderson 1984  
Frank W. Andrasak 3-25-1961  
Lyle H. Arneson 7-14-1990  
LeRoy Arthur 9-3-1985  
William D. Austin  
Michael Babylon 1984  
Erwin G. Baier 1-8-89  
Andrew Bakalar, Jr. 11-76  
Clarence B. Bakken  
James C. Ballem 7-11-89  
Gilbert H. Bangs  
Clyde Barham 10-13-89  
James C. Barker 4-8-74  
Col. James P. Barney 9-1-77  
Eugene B. Bartlett 3-3-76  
Clarence Bauer 11-20-79  
Duane M. Baukol  
Albert Baumgart 3-26-92  
Myron V. Bell 10-28-90  
Weston Bell 5-14-89  
Charles Bennett  
Jack Berger 10-9-89  
Edward Berscheidt 2-26-1992  
Joseph F. Biermann 11-13-78  
Ed Billings 9-30-81  
Walter A. Binsz  
Raymond B. Bloms 2-8-83  
Edward E. Blume 7-17-1990  
Martin Blume 6-2-93  
Paul Bonderenko  
Glenn L. Bovill 12-16-88  
Raymond E. Boyd 12-69  
John C. Britz 11-6-60  
Lonnie P. Bruner 12-75  
Fred D. Brunton, Jr. 2-22-93  
David Bucholz  
Wilburn Buckley 4-25-91  
Norris Buer 3-13-90  
Al Bursau 4-2-85  
Elbert R. Burton 4-2-77  
Joe Buschy 11-2-93  
Francis Callahan 2-25-77  
Robert M. Campbell 10-21-85  
J. Hoyle Carlock 1-19-89  
Wilbur J. Carpenter  
Edward M. Carroll 3-28-83  
Anthony Casciello 10-12-77  
Frank S. Childs, Jr. 6-75  
Arthur I. Christensen 6-28-83  
Jewell C. Christensen 12-19-75  
William J. Clark 12-17-89  
George Cline 1991  
Richard Cline 9-1988  
Willis F. (Bill) Cole 10-27-1990  
James H. Cooper 12-29-88  
Harry W. Cota 6-19-68  
Clyde L. Covington  
Daniel H. Crough 3-26-76  
William Cunningham 8-1-83  
Harry Curran  
Henry Curran  
Edward J. Czernicki 2-71  
Robert W. Darling 8-30-73  
Thomas H. Dautremont 11-16-82  
James B. Davis 10-15-72  
Leon F. DeCorte, Jr. 2-8-84  
Marion DeKock 9-14-92  
Irwin C. DeVitt  
Jacob DeVries  
Lester Decker 9-14-90  
Wm. W. (Bill) Dempsey 10-27-87  
Ralph E. Dilday  
Charles L. Diven  
Vincent F. Doheny 2-5-73  
Leonard P. Dorsch 11-18-75  
Alan T. Dorsey 8-13-1961

Virgil L. Drake 8-21-92  
Michael H. Duffield 7-4-86  
John R. Dullinger 12-27-84  
Ed Dyrness 3-92  
Sidney A. Edelson 10-30-88  
Leander W. Ege  
Selmer M. Eliassen 1950's  
Ted L. Erbstoesser  
Alvin Erickson 7-13-88  
William G. Erickson 6-23-68  
Andrew C. Estes  
Edward Ethen 2-24-94  
David E. Evans 1976  
Leonard S. Fahlgren 6-25-92  
Ralph G. Faller 9-8-78  
William Faut 4-27-86  
Lloyd Fikejs 3-9-94  
Merland Fisher 2-16-83  
Thomas Floyd 12-81  
Carl N. Ford 11-19-85  
Arvid M. Forde 10-20-81  
Ray K. Foster 7-17-89  
Allen L. Freeman 4-24-86  
Harold W. Gallagher 12-13-81  
George H. Galvin 1983  
Harley P. Garner  
Ira M. Gaulke  
James M. Gerrard 1981  
Stanley J. Gierut 1-10-82  
William L. Gilligan, Jr. 7-29-79  
Nile Glasser 3-20-90  
Olney V. Glover 5-31-83  
Perry J. Goodwin  
Alfred Gortmaker 9-19-86  
Harold Granlie 10-13-77  
Bud Grant 1-29-86  
Boyd I. Green 8-16-80  
Wm. S. Griemes 10-13-85  
Ross Grimes 11-74  
Homer D. Grove 10-75  
Ray Grundhoefer 3-4-87  
Fred Guenther 5-17-81  
Elmer Gullickeson 7-68  
Carl G. Gunnarson 6-86  
William Gutnecht 4-3-93  
Eugene Hagler 10-4-92  
Cheslie Hakenson 9-28-75  
Sammie E. Hallford 9-4-76  
Louis Hamblin  
Chester L. Hankins  
Otto Hanson 11-19-92  
Wylie Harris 6-16-1990  
Clifford Hauge  
James W. Hayes 6-8-76  
Lindsay Hayes 6-18-71  
Henry Heil 5-10-72  
Philip P. Heir  
Edward Hendricx 12-29-86  
John J. Hennessy  
Jason C. Hensley 1952  
Irving B. Henson 3-29-83  
Andrew Herman 11-11-76  
Donald E. Herrington 2-26-91  
Rudy Hieb 1957  
Lester Hill 12-16-85  
Robert C. Hines 5-17-77  
John J. Hoffer 3-2-80  
Henry A. Hoines 11-28-71  
Lawrence L. Holley 11-3-92  
Clifford Holmes 1988  
Earl E. Holte 4-4-88  
Chester H. Howlett 4-7-85  
Theodore L. Huber, Jr. 3-11-86  
Joseph C. Hubred 2-21-71  
Joseph L. Hulbert  
Glenn A. Huseby  
Ronald E. Hutchens 6-3-76  
Wade Idol 5-17-1992  
Ed Ira 1-18-1992  
Leonard F. Ira  
Burnett A. Ives 9-17-76  
Frederick O. Jacobson 3-17-82  
Orville Jacobson  
Arne Jensen

Alden Johnson 12-13-76  
Alf E. Johnson 12-4-78  
Leif G. Johnson 3-6-1990  
Elmer (Dustbowl) Johnson 3-29-93  
Sigurd Johnson 5-18-90  
Carl H. Jorgensen 11-10-83  
Henry G. Joyce  
Wallace A. Joyce  
Eugene T. Kaufman 1-24-93  
George Keller 7-9-93  
Ralph Kilburg  
Jack King 12-4-84  
Walter M. Kinkki 1-7-86  
Donald Kolbo 2-9-88  
Pius B. Kraft  
Jake M. Kramer 11-70  
Bill Krecklau 7-21-84  
Verner L. Kreitlow KIA w/756 TD  
Erven R. Krentz  
Charles W. Kruckman 12-6-89  
Calvin Kucker 4-15-88  
Ralph P. Kuhnert  
Ledrue (Pat) Laffoon 4-11-76  
Bennie Lamfers 11-17-93  
Herbert H. Lance 3-30-86  
Clem Landaker  
John W. Landis 12-89  
Harry G. Lang 3-22-78  
Harold W. Langford  
Lewis A. Large 1-7-73  
Clifford I. Larson 1978  
Leland E. Larson 3-4-72  
Melgard Larson 2-23-89  
Joseph Lauchard 2-16-89  
Milton S. Lawson 2-7-85  
Edward Leatham  
Orville R. Lee  
Morris M. Lehman 1-22-79  
V.E. Lemmon 9-13-77  
Chet LePien  
Phillip Leppard 1-13-90  
Walter E. Liebert 1-29-89  
Arne Lindgren 9-7-74  
Raymond Littlefield 3-29-87  
Cyrus D. Long 3-2-1991  
Marvin R. Long 3-1-88  
Curtis A. Lowry  
Rudolph E. Mallon 1-19-76  
Alphonse S. Manno 2-79  
Jon A. Marlow 9-8-85  
Major Rowland R. Martin  
Nicholas Masica  
A.R. Maxwell 10-29-86  
John C. McCann 1-11-74  
Mayo McCulloch 12-70  
Reese McCulloch  
Stanley McCulloch  
Frank Meek  
Frank J. Mehle 1983  
Ralph O. Mikkelson  
Edward F. Miller 1987  
Rex Miller 11-29-85  
Henry Moen  
Lester Moen 11-87  
Orville A. Mohagen 1-24-83  
Denzil D. Monday 4-11-87  
Harlan Monroe 1972  
Valentine Montag 2-28-94  
Evard Montague 3-4-88  
Daniel G. Moore 9-1-87  
Col. Dwight E. Moorhead 11-65  
J.W. Morrow  
Joseph F. Murrey 12-31-93  
Olen O. Nation 6-4-76  
Jack Nellis 1981  
Clyde M. Nelson 1992  
Edwin N. Nelson  
Oliver P. Nelson  
Thorvald C. Nelson  
Charles N. Newman 2-11-72  
John Newman 1-17-86  
Burnett Norby 1989  
Russell V. Nyvall

Oscar O'Neal 7-11-92  
Carl Olen 8-21-90  
Ernest R. Olson 7-70  
Gottfred E. Olson 5-30-93  
Elmil J. Olwick 11-30-89  
Orville M. Osborne  
J.D. Owen 1973  
Jesse L. Owens 9-10-75  
Stephen "Joe" Owens 11-3-92  
Harold P. Peihl 12-50  
Raymond W. Perry 8-14-85  
Dale Peterson 5-21-89  
Edward R. Peterson  
Floyd G. Peterson 10-27-86  
Kenneth D. Peterson 2-73  
Melvin Peterson  
Orlin Predmore 4-2-94  
Paul W. Prellwitz 2-14-76  
Asal Prescott 1-15-80  
Jack T. Prescott 2-19-80  
Gerald R. Price 9-8-78  
Rollie I. Pringle 10-30-92  
Leslie Racine 3-18-93  
Joseph F. Randash 4-13-73  
Raymond S. Rasmussen 1990  
Lloyd G. Reitan  
Mervyn G. Rickbell 4-19-1991  
Leon R. Riddle 1969  
Lawrence Rieger 12-71  
Henry Ries  
Don A. Riggs 1976  
Omas T. Roberts 6-8-78  
Rawleigh W. (Pete) Roberts 12-31-53  
William E. Robison 1969  
Maurice Rochlitz 11-4-82  
Rowland B. Rohrer 8-9-76  
Victor J.W. Rwet 10-75  
Raymond Rystad 1984  
Jacob E. Sackmann 5-31-85  
Robert W. Sahlquist 1985  
Johnnie Sanders 1-25-91  
Elmer Sarkilahti 4-29-89  
Orville Schjeldahl 11-28-93  
Arlie Schwede 5-20-1990  
Clarence E. Shaffer 1983  
Ed Scheiman 4-2-87  
Victor B. Schmenk 7-20-86  
John J. Schimmel 10-4-73  
Elden R. Scott 5-7-93  
Eugene C. Scovel 3-23-76  
Emerson L. Sell 12-23-87  
Frank Selzer 6-30-88  
James L. Severson 1976  
Warren M. Shearer  
Stanley A. Shurson  
Anthony Shutto  
William L. Siler  
Milan Simich 12-78  
Bernie B. Simpson 10-14-88

Paul Slater 2-5-89  
Ford Smith 9-23-85  
Colgate Sorlie  
Claude L. Speer 7-70  
John Spyksma 11-13-84  
Martin G. Stefanik 2-25-87  
Edgar Steifel 1981  
Bud Stoddard  
Kenneth H. Stone  
Alfred M. Strand 10-31-77  
Donald B. Strauss 8-21-90  
Floyd Strickland 6-20-1990  
James C. Stringer 1-18-85  
Raymond A. Suess 12-29-88  
Gilbert (Gib) Suhr 2-25-89  
Eric C. Sundeen 3-20-86  
John D. Suter 1-23-79  
Virgil M. Thomasson  
Chester Thompson 7-15-69  
Ted J. Thompson  
Thomas G. Thompson 1-20-90  
Willard A. Thompson 3-18-81  
Harold E. Thorn  
Bernt N. Tonneson 5-14-85  
Leonard Toso 12-71  
Woodrow W. Tout 8-21-92  
Marion M. Toyne 2-2-82  
Stephen Turk  
Albert Ulich  
Robert T. Veach 3-2-74  
William Vedaa  
Raymond A. Videtich 12-23-91  
Robert F. Vik 9-1-84  
John Vratars 5-2-76  
John H. Wajda 8-12-81  
C.B. Warn 5-19-75  
Gene Warthan 3-23-87  
Roy E. Weisenhaus 2-6-93  
John C. Welch 1963  
Ralph Welsch  
Donald W. Wendlandt 2-19-88  
Stephen Westbrook 7-3-90  
Sherman Westby 4-11-87  
A.J. Whelan 12-82  
John L. Whitaker  
George M. White 4-25-87  
Bert Wible 10-6-1991  
C.M. Wickoren 12-11-88  
Lars Wickoren 3-27-85  
Percy G. Willey 10-24-83  
Ishmael F. Williamson 7-19-84  
William T. Willingham  
John Wilson 6-23-1990  
Henry J. Wobbema 2-29-83  
Maurice O. Woody 4-18-82  
Ernest Wright 8-6-1990  
Ralph G. Wuttke 3-5-89  
Frank L. Ziskovsky 10-20-80

## TAPS



Day is done,  
gone the sun

from the lake, from the hill,  
from the sky.

All is well, safely rest.

God is nigh.

Thanks and praise for our days

'neath the sun,

'neath the stars,

'neath the sky.

As we go, this we know.

God is nigh.



## More Letters From the Mailbox

April 6, 1994

Dear Betty and Al,

I'm enclosing an excerpt from the April, 1994 edition of the AARP Bulletin, the "mature" Americans' voice in seeking consideration of their condition, that outlines an approach to locating long-lost military buddies. Perhaps some members of the disbanded 776 in our mailing group can use this information. It seems effective.

Thursday evening, March 31, about 5:45 p.m., I was pleasantly surprised by a visit from Ken and Lil Backlund. They were visiting daughter Susan who accepted with her husband, a job transfer to Baton Rouge. Lil looks great. I had expected to see them in April, as they wrote at Christmas time.

The next day we had a typical seafood luncheon at Drusilla's. (Remember Drusilla, Toby?) A press to return home for commitments this week prevented them from driving with me to Grand Isle, ca. 100 miles due south, directly on the Gulf of Mexico. Around the time of the battle of New Orleans, won by General Andrew Jackson, in 1814, I believe, Grand Isle was the haunt of buccaneer Jean Lafitte and his cutthroats, who reportedly assisted Jackson in stopping the British at Chalmette, SE of New Orleans a few miles.

A barrier island to the mainland, Grand Isle suffers a hurricane buffeting nearly every year. Trees on the island lean about 30° north, bowing to the stiff and unrelenting winds off the gulf. June 1 through October 31 is Hurricane Season.

Perhaps we'll make that trip in the medical industry, growing by leaps and bounds in Baton Rouge. Seems to me the city is endeavoring to establish itself as a medical center.

Sincerely,  
John P. Wiltenmuth Jr.

May 1994

Dear Betty,

Still enjoy very much getting Tiger Tracks periodically, but regret that I doubt I'll be able to come to the Reunion at Cedar Rapids in September.

The only member old 776 T.D. Battalion I am still in close contact is Harry J. Davis up in Duluth. He has now had to go to a Retirement Home but seems quite happy.

Here is just a small donation to help keep things going.

Sincerely,  
Harold E. Torkildson  
1719 McKnight Lane  
Maplewood, Mn. 55109

May 199

Dear Betty,

I have appreciated all the mailings you have sent me these many years. However, there are very few people I know and my husband died nineteen years ago and he was transferred to Air Corps when we were married in 1943.

I do know Kenny Backlunds and would like to be remembered to them.

I do spend winters in Arizona but don't own so from winter to winter I change locations out there.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. (Clarence B.) Mavis Warn  
1017 North Vine  
Fergus Falls, Mn. 56537

June 2, 1994

Dear Betty & Al,

Thank you for keeping me on the mailing list for the Tiger Tracks.

I enjoy it very much. I found this T.D. paper in an old foot locker. Maybe you can make use of it.

Enclosed is check for expenses of Tiger Tracks.

Les Truax

May 22, 1994

Dear Al & Betty,

The enclosed letter is from Herbert N. Stephan's daughter-in-law telling of his passing on to our 776 Heaven.

A lot has happened in my life since 1992, if I tell you all in this letter, I won't have anything to talk about at the Reunion.

We are planning on being there in Cedar Rapids for the Reunion. We are traveling by motorhome.

We are leaving California on the 23rd of May which is tomorrow, we are heading North and eventually spend the summer in Idaho. I've spent the last three summers up there close to my daughter who lives in Grangeville. They have sold their home there and are relocating in Bonners Ferry which is about 265 miles north near the Canadian border. So, when they get settled in, it will also change my address too. I use their address as a mail drop and she forwards my mail wherever we will be for a few days.

I will be at Mountain Home Air Force Base for a couple of weeks, check up with the doctor. Plus lots of fishing on the Snake River and at Strike Dam.

We will see you in September, God willing.

With Warm Regards,  
Andy Bartha

(Yes, Andy, you will have lots to tell us. For you have not kept me informed on this "WE" news.  
B.L.)

Camp Hood, Texas  
October 24, 1942

## THE TD SOLDIER

The Ancients fought with horse and gun,  
Stonewall Jackson could hit and run;  
But the USA has a brand new child,  
That's going to run the Axis wild;  
And that's the TD soldier.

When the going's tough and the enemy's rough,  
And things aren't going well enough,  
The General will turn in his sad plight,  
Say "Turn loose those guys who want to fight;"  
And that's the TD soldier.

When there's ships to sink off desert isles;  
Or tanks to whip at a hundred miles;  
The General chooses, and he's right,  
Those men he knows just love to fight;  
And that's the TD soldier.

The Army's fought for years and years,  
With everything from tanks to spears;  
But they never had a gang before,  
That used them all and cried for more;  
Till they had the TD soldier.

His salute's a snap, his walk a swagger,  
He'll drink his beer, but seldom stagger,  
He'll write his girl loves sweetest notes,  
Or with his knife cut Axis throats;  
For he's a TD soldier.

When the War is over and all is done,  
And the folks back home want to know who won;  
They'll line the streets and cry and yell,  
For the men they know who've fought like Hell;  
And he'll be a TD soldier.

## Can You Help???

Do any of you remember Bernard L. Raden. He served with the 776th in North Africa and into Italy and was discharged from the 824th TD. His son wants to know the dates he served with the 776th in Central Italy. Bernard was six foot six and had dark hair. If you remember him you can let me know the information or write to his son:

Joseph Raden  
1455 N. Park Ave.  
Rialto, CA 92376

His phone number is 909-874-3056.

I do not have Bernard L. Raden on my mailing list.

Your help will be appreciated. Bernard may have been a truck driver.

## Additional Deceased Members

The following is an additional to our Deceased List. Our sympathies to the families.

Herbert N. Stephens 6-14-93

Widows of Vandals who have passed away are

Mrs. Shirley Gunnarson Thorsness

Mrs. Robert Gallap died February 15, 1994.

## Additional Donations Receives

The following have also donated money to our Tiger Tracks fund:

Herman Harshman  
Harold E. Torkildson  
Leslie P. Truax

## Let's get together...

The easiest way to find the current whereabouts of a WW II buddy, particularly because of the many 50th anniversary commemorations of the war, may well be through reunions - as long as you know your old pal's unit or ship.

You can find out about unit and ship reunions by telephoning, at the cost of \$1.95 per minute, (900) 737-VETS operated by the American Legion or (900) 933-VETS operated by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). You may then be able to find your buddy with the help of the person who is heading up the group's reunion.

In addition, monthly publications by the American Legion, the VFW and the Disabled Veterans of America list reunions and other sources for locating veterans. Check with your local library or the local post of the organization.

## Greetings From The Liegl Farm

Greetings to all Vandals and wives and widows,

We are expecting to see all of you in Cedar Rapids, Iowa this September for our 776th TD Reunion.

It is hard to report all telephone conversations but I am always happy to hear from you. Just remember I do not always recognize your voice on the phone immediately, so please identify yourself. I do recall talking to Addis Metzendorff one evening, I hope he will be able to attend the reunion.

And then one morning I had a nice surprise, I received a call from California. We are now in touch with a long lost Vandal. Paul Gibbs of Recon. Company called to let me know he wanted on my mailing list. He has now received the invitation and has returned reservation. He expects to see a lot of Recon men that he has lost touch with over the years.

So let's show Paul and all the others attending what a good time we have. And don't forget he hasn't heard those stories you always tell!!!! Anyway, we hope to see all of you and we welcome all first-timers.

We have HOSPITALITY ROOMS on the ground floor of the hotel. This will be a good place for all to sit and visit. Look for our snack bar there plus coffee and other beverages.

I have been in contact with Leo Maynard and we are planning to have a Memorial Service for our deceased members. We have not decided on exact time and date but want to do it when all of you are there.

Betty and Albert Liegl

## 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 Colaanni  
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. Weisweaver  
Cpl. Clarence A. Larsen  
Pvt. Ferdinand J. Schmidt  
T-5 Arnold E. Frelander  
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



# 776th T.D. Pictorial



Nick Manfredo & Rico Benedetti, Bivouac area somewhere in Germany, 1945. Courtesy of Nick Manfredo



George Hinnenkamp admiring his mascot "Marge" (Austria 1945). Notice the "pinups" on the back door of the 1/2 track! Courtesy of Nick Manfredo.



Remodeled M-10 British



You'll find me (Coviello) second from the left. The rest are friends of mine. Camp Hood, Texas. Coviello picture.



Somewhere in Italy, 1944 - Barney finds time to take a bath. Courtesy of Nick Manfredo.



Tom Yocum, Recon Co. and an unidentified 776 TD member knew when the Red Cross would arrive with the doughnuts and coffee. Italy 1944. Courtesy of Nick Manfredo



The day we entered Rome showing part of the Coliseum and the ruins June 6, 1944. Courtesy of Nick Manfredo.



776 TD in Italy. Coviello picture.



# Normandy Questions & Answers

**Q:** I've heard that the Battle of Normandy Foundation, formed to build a wall in France to honor all soldiers who served in the European Theater during World War II, is in financial trouble because of possible misuse of funds and that some members of Congress who serve on its board have resigned from the board. Any truth to this?

**- Tom Peters, Dunwoody**

**A:** You heard right. The Washington Times reported the story. Although the story did not make it onto the national wire services, some veterans and veterans groups have read it and are faxing copies to buddies across the country.

The Times story called Anthony Stout, founder of the Battle of Normandy Foundation, which solicited funds from veterans and their families nationwide, "a classic Washington clout merchant [who] for more than 20 years has been spending millions of other people's money on himself and the rich and powerful."

His Normandy project attracted the support of some lawmakers, including Sens. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) and Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.), and a slew of high-level French and American diplomats.

The newspaper reported that of the \$8.2 million collected from veterans - who paid \$40 to have their names inscribed on the wall - and interested parties as of Dec. 31, 1992, Stout sent a mere \$206,968 to Caen, France, to build the wall and accompanying museum. The rest went for overseas travel for lawmakers, VIPs and other big donors; entertainment; Stout's salary; personal and business expenses; and hard-sell direct mail fund raising.

In brochures, Stout presented his "50th D-Day Anniversary Commission" as being a branch of the federal government, and with the help of lawmakers, he finagled a congressional contribution of \$3 million from the sale of U.S. Treasury D-Day memorial coins. The General Accounting Office is investigating.



**The Vandals**