

PRE-REUNION REPORT
AND GENERAL INFORMATION

From all advance info our coming Cleveland Reunion will be one of our largest and best gatherings.

Among those making plans to attend are:

Paul Schuler, Kettering, Ohio
Henry Chapman, Bogota, N. J.
Henry Smith, Ft. Pierce, Fla.
William Scott, Franklin, Tenn.
Tom Ellis, Dallas, Texas
Peter Maisano, Garfield Hts., Ohio
Elbert Davis, Perry, Ga.
Dick Gaut, Houston, Texas

Bud Sotebeer, Elkhart, Ind.
Clyde Brewer, Cookeville, Tenn.
Charles Derrow, Washington, Pa.
Charles Armstrong, Lexington, Ky.
Charles Jarman, Gulfport, Miss.
G G. Turpin, Clovis, N. Mex.
Herb Mauritz, Minneapolis, Minn.

Along with the "Regulars":

Col. Hedden
"Red" Kemp
Jewel Raulins
Clarence Reed
Dick King
'Doc" Brennan
Ed Butler
"Casey" Hartwick
Travis Phillips
Hal Slaytan
George Karaphillis
Tom Didlake
Henry Bonner

Charlie Hill
Claude Uhles
Milt Davis
Sanford Johnson
Arlis Mouring
Frank Bertrand
James Boatright
Francis Hayes
Clint Patrick
Ray Smith
Tom Hughes
Charles Murray

And, of course, our Committee Members: Dick Ramhoff, Bill Redifer, John O'Brien, and your Secretary; plus many others not mentioned who will be able to make it this year - those living not too far away from the previous reunion locations have been waiting for the site of the reunion to come within a one days drive.

The members from Western Pennsylvania, especially those around the greater Pittsburgh area, should be able to make it easily this year. How about it —

Willie DeNino
Joe Defino
Paul Antus
Andy Banik
Dave Barto
Dante Filippini
David Grim
Stanley Lisowski

Al Marcucci
Pete Merlo
Bert Neely
John Orange
Joe Rash
George Rowe
Levio Seamon (W Va.)
Joe Reichel

Also, Indiana is close by -- Showalter, Ousley, etc.; Chet Gregorzik of Ohio; also, Zabetakis, and all the rest. Many, many more from the Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Illinois area —

Come on and attend the 612th Get-Together!

We guarantee the most hearty welcome and a great time -- very informal. The years are slipping by. Twenty-three years ago we were all together in Europe. With the condition of the world at present, we may not have much time left (any of us).

Renew old acquaintances -- rehash the times, good and bad -- funny and “not so funny.”

Had some very interesting replies to the last Newsletter. One of the letters was from Elbert R. Davis of Perry, Georgia. He was the fifth man in Sgt. Jack Pebsworth's Gun Crew when they received a direct hit October 20, 1944. (This was written up in the last Newsletter.) Elbert was seated around the little gas stove with the rest of the crew and seconds before the shell hit, he decided to write his wife a letter and went into the bunker. After the shell exploded, he came out, saw the damage and death. Wade King and Walter Heiderhoff were dead and Sgt. Pebsworth was badly wounded. Davis tried the field phone for aid, but it had been knocked out by other shelling. He then ran a mile to the Co. B-CP to get help. He notified Capt. Kennedy and Sgt. Francis Hayes and they went up to the half-track by jeep. But Sgt. Pebsworth had died in the meantime. Davis never saw Travis Phillips as he had been blown into a hole.

After this incident, Davis was put in another crew and was later captured at Honsfeld with the rest of the unfortunate B Co. and RCN members.

Such was the war and is life - Fate - or call it what you will. Elbert Davis states in his letter, “I have given thanks time and time again that something made me get up and move into the bunker to write the letter to my wife. If I hadn't moved, I doubt if I would be writing this letter to you tonight.”

Elbert is planning to attend the Cleveland Reunion and is looking forward to meeting Travis Phillips and the rest of his old buddies from “B” Co. and the rest of the 612th.

Dick Gaut has come up with a good idea, which I am going to try to carry out. His idea is to have a tape recorder at the Reunion and have the various members give their impressions of certain events and happenings and later edit them, arrange them in order, etc., and we will have the nucleus of a more complete and comprehensive history of the organization. I would certainly like to get the survivors of the Honsfeld disaster and murders together and while they are able to refresh each other's memories, get on tape the real story of just what happened.. Among those who I know could assist in this are:

Elmer Haynes	Bill Townsend
Paul Schuler	Bill Littlejohn
Clint Patrick	Elbert Davis
Devers Bryant	Ronayne White
Vernon Winfree	Charles Morris
Francis Hayes	

and any others who were there.

Had a nice but sad letter from E. Bud Sotebeer of Elkhart, Ind. and I and the 612th organization hereby extend to him our heartfelt and deepest sympathy on the loss of his young son, a serviceman killed on April 7th, 1966. This boy was born just 18 months after Bud returned from Europe with the 612th.

Tom Ellis writes that he has obtained a picture and sound copy on 16mm film of the TV program (of the 612th) shown on the Ft. Worth, Texas TV station last year. He will have it at the Cleveland Reunion where it will be shown — Good work Tom!

I want to thank whoever it was who sent in the Reunion notice to the American Legion Magazine. I should have, but didn't. Thanks again!

As a result of the notice, I received a letter from Bob Reighard of Long Island, N.Y., one of our missing 612th members all these years. Bob was one of the original men of the Bn. when it was activated at Camp Swift, Texas on June 25th, 1942 under the command of (then) Lt. Col. W A. Hedden, with the Cadre of two officers and seventy-three enlisted men coming from the 631st tank destroyer Bn. Bob asked for all details on the Reunion (with which I complied) and said he would make every effort to attend. Bob was with Bn. Hdqrs.

Oh! I neglected to mention a very interesting item in the last newsletter, and I want to apologize to John G. McEachin, of Miami, Florida for not acknowledging his nice letter and pictures of his Boy Scout Troop, and the American Legion Baseball Team of Post 300 Miami, Florida. The Boy Scout Troop is Troop 612 and use the "Tiger Cat" TD shoulder patch as their troop insignia.

To John, we say "Keep up the good work and the Bn. History that I have long promised you is on its way, so that as you mentioned, the story of the 612th can be told to your scouts around the campfires".

That's about all for now. Another newsletter with a Registration Card from the Hollenden House will follow in July.

If you haven't sent in your dollar for postage, please do so and I hope to see you all in Cleveland, Ohio on August 4-5-6.

Jack Flanagan Sec'y
101 S. Meadow Drive
Glen Burnie, Maryland 21061

P.S. The list of deceased members and those with mail returned noted, will be included in the July newsletter.