

Report of the
15th Annual Reunion
of the
612th Tank Destroyer Battalion Association
Held At The Dinkler-Plaza Hotel In Atlanta, Ga.
Fri., Sat., and Sun. August 2-3-4, 1969

Fifty-six members and their wives and families attended, and we had 105 at the Dinner Party on Saturday evening.

Some members and their families checked in early on Thursday and by Friday the gathering was going in high gear with all those attending really enjoying themselves.

Attending members are shown on pages 4 and 5.

Once again the reunion proved to again be the meeting place for some old comrades who had not seen each other for twenty-five years.

The following attended their first reunion:

Roy Gustavson - B Co., Parker, Fla.; George S. Warren - C Co., Newnan, Ga.; Elbert R. Davis - B Co., Perry, Ga.; Lt. Rennard - C Co., Annandale, Va.; Omer B. Anfenson - RCN Co., Long Beach, Cal.

It certainly was heart warming to see these fellows meeting up with their old buddies and reminiscing of the by-gone days in the 612th.

Francis Hayes was responsible for keeping Roy Gustavson alerted to the 612th activities for the past few years, ending with Roy's coming to Atlanta. Lt. Rennard and Omer B. Anfenson saw the reunion notice in the American Legion Magazine and wrote me for details. Elbert Davis and George S. Warren have been on our mailing list but this was the first time they could make a reunion.

With 56 members attending, we are most grateful, because this is the best attendance since Atlanta, Ga. the first time in 1959 when 58 attended. When you figure in the fact that we all are 9 yrs. older and the losses from "father time", this is a tremendous attendance.

The breakdown by companies was A- 12, B - 15, C - 12, HQ - 14, RCN - 3, Total - 56.

As stated earlier, some members checked in Thursday with most arriving Friday and the hospitality suite was open till the early A.M. hours of Saturday. Then our business meeting was held Saturday afternoon and on Saturday evening the dinner party. This was followed by the hospitality session again until the last "dead soldier" was emptied, and finally our going away breakfast on Sunday morning.

Everyone appeared to enjoy themselves and the time passes so quickly from Friday morning to Sunday morning.

At our dinner party on Saturday evening, we did not have an official speaker, each member said a few words, with Col. Hedden giving a very warm intimate talk regarding his days with the 612th, which was very well received by all. Everyone was arrayed in their most elegant and beautiful dresses and finery and the color pictures taken are most beautiful and striking.

REUNION NOTES: John Kelsoe and Tom Hughes deserve a lot of credit in their determination to make the reunion. They finished National Guard training in Alabama and caught a plane arriving at the hotel still in their uniforms after being up all night.

It was good to see Tom Ellis - Co . C., in from Dallas, Texas. Tom's wife just had a new baby
Congratulations.

The regulars were most welcome, Jewel Raulins, Dick Ramhoff, Travis Phillips, Ed Butler, Clarence Reed, Claude Uhles, Casey Hartwick - to name a few.

I am forming a crying towel club with Charter membership available to: Jack Flanagan, The Baltimore Colts getting clobbered in the Super Bowl by the NY. Jets; Red Kemp the Georgia Bull dogs getting thrashed by the Arkansas Razorbacks in the Sugar Bowl - Red's son, Bruce, was an outstanding running back for Georgia in the Tennessee game on national television. He burst through the line and went over 80 yards for a touchdown he played great football all year as Georgia went undefeated till the Sugar Bow). Bruce has another year and should continue to do good. Casey Hartwick, Notre Dame getting beat by Purdue and Michigan State and knocking them out of the running for the national championship since they tied So. California. Other memberships are available to: St. Louis Cardinal fans, Cleveland Browns fans, Tennessee Volunteer fans, after what the Texas Long Horns did to Term. in the Cotton Bowl. Any others who would like to join -membership is free.

Our city Baltimore, Md. was in a state of shock on the Monday after the Super Bowl and it hasn't recovered yet but all praise to the Jets and "Broadway Joe" they deserved it.

Last July, just before the reunion, I had a brief but enjoyable visit with Clarence Reed who was passing through. Clarence covers the whole country like a blanket, and I hope he can stop by this year hopefully for a longer visit.

Once again I have same sad news to report, but that is life. Received word from Francis Hayes that Jack Kennedy (Capt.) of B Co. passed away in the Veteran's Hospital in Boston, Mass. on Oct. 26, 1968. Really sorry to hear it; he had been planning to make our reunion this year. Also received word from Charles Armstrong of Lexington, Ky. that his mother-in-law Mrs. Catherine Galloway, who had attended many reunions with Charlie and his wife, passed away on Aug. 15, 1968. The 612th Association expresses sympathy to both families.

Also received a letter from John B. Parrish's widow that John, A Co. First Sgt. passed away in Jan. 1967. Pat Goggin, also, died in March 1967.

At our business meeting on Saturday, it was decided to have our 1969 - 16th annual Reunion, Memphis, Tenn. Jewel Raulins was appointed chairman with Claude Uhles and Orval C. "Curly" Rhodes as assistants. I have spoken to Jewel on the phone and he has reserved the Holiday Inn at Brooks Rd. and I-55 in Memphis. Jewel has done a good job and has arranged for very nice rooms, at the following rates - Single \$10.⁰⁰, Double bed \$14.⁰⁰, Double (twin) \$16.⁰⁰. The motel has a nice pool and play area for the children and the food is excellent and moderately priced with children's portions at half price, etc. Through a coincidence, I had to go to Memphis on business and was booked into this very motel. So I am speaking from experience, it is a very nice place and I'm sure we'll be well taken care of this coming August. The dates for the 1969 reunion are Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Aug. 1, 2, 3. In our next Newsletter in June, I will send out the reservation cards for the motel.

Have heard from Charlie Hill of Chester, Pa. and he says he'll make Memphis. Also Charlie Armstrong, Lexington, Ky. It was good to see. "Duffy" Barto and his whole family at Atlanta – came down from Penna. Hubert Franklin of Atlanta took some fine pictures of the reunion in Atlanta, and he had them developed and sent the print to me. Thanks a lot Hubert for all your help. They are great films. "Georgia Boy". John Latham had a great time at the Atlanta reunion and his son and daughter-in-law were there. His son, just back from Vietnam, looks just like his dad did 25 years ago.

It was great to see Elmer Haynes and his family in 'from Murfreesboro, Tenn. at Atlanta. Elmer is one of the survivors of Honsfeld and did quite an extra-ordinary thing in the fight there. He ran out into the yard of the house where B Co. was staying when the first notice of the German attack and got off three rounds loading and firing from the 3 inch towed gun by himself. He hit the first three German tanks in the column and knocked them out by setting them afire. The recoil each time the piece was fired-, bounced the gun back 5-10 yds. Elmer said that one other B Co. soldier assisted him but can't recall his name. Paul Schuler who was in the house at this time verifies what Elmer did, and later he and Elmer were wounded, captured and spent time together in the German Prison Camps. When these German tanks were set afire some of their crewmen-were badly burned and some were burned to death. This is one of the reasons for the killing of the unarmed B Co. men after they had surrendered.

That's about all for now, will be back in June with the next letter.

Please. send \$1.⁰⁰ to cover the printing, mailing, and postage (main item) and I'll send you a 1969 membership card.

See you in MEMPHIS, TENN. for our 16th REUNION.

Jack Flanagan, Secy.
101 5. Meadow Drive
Glen Burnie, Maryland 21061

<u>CO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>FAMILY</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
A	Thomas Carter	Wife: Oneda	Valdosta, Ga.
A	Henry Smith	Wife: Elsie	Ft. Pierce, Fla.
A	Jack Flanagan	Wife: Gertrude Daughters: Diane, Colleen Son: Martin Sister-in-Law: Annette Pilvalis	Glen Burnie, Md.
A	George Karaphillis	Wife: Verona Daughter: Athena Son: Theodore	Tarpon Springs, Fla.
A	Homer Patton	Daughter: (22) Sorry Homer, I didn't get her name. Son: Homer	Smyrna, Tenn.
A & B	Jewel Raulins		Memphis, Tenn.
A	William Scott		Franklin, Tenn.
A	James Warfield		Erin, Tenn.
A	Clarence Reed	Wife: Carolyn Son: Robert Daughters: Jo and Kathy	Salem Ill.
A	Harding Massey		Akron, Ohio
A	David "Duffy" Barto	Wife: Alyce Sons: David Lee, Michael Joseph Daughter: Debra Marie	Slovan, Pa.
A	Casimer Hartwick	Wife: Maxine Daughters: Chris and Kitty	South Bend, Indiana
A	Leonard N. Brown	Wife: Clara	Atlanta, Ga.
B	Travis Phillips	Wife: Tena	Houston, Texas
B	Dick Ramhoff	Wife: Judy	Youngstown, Ohio
B	Clyde Rowland	Wife: Augustine	Clearwater, Fla.
B	Rufus Noland	Wife: Pearl	North Port, Ala.
B	Milt Davis	Wife: Winifred Daughter: Marilyn Son: Mike	Ft. Pierce, Fla.
B	Elbert R. Davis		Perry, Ga.
B	Frank J. Boatright	Wife: Alice	Whitesburg, Ga.
B	Carl T. Shelnutt		Newnan, Ga.
B	Elmer F. Haynes	Wife: Beatrice Daughters: Janice and Anita	Murfreesboro, Tenn.
B	Devers Bryant		Newnan, Ga.

<u>CO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>FAMILY</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
B	Willie Spray	Wife: Mary Son: Freddie Daughter: Loren	Nashville, Tenn.
B	Francis C. Hayes	Wife: Evelyn	Brewton, Ala.
B	Clint Patrick	Wife: Helen	Covington, Ga.
B	Roy Gustavson	Wife: Helen Daughter: Jan	Parker, Fla.
C	Claude Uhles	Wife: Claudeen	Donelson, Tenn.
C	Lt. Rennard	Wife: Helen	Annandale, Va.
C	Tom Ellis		Dallas, Texas
C	Robert L. Cook	Wife: Beatrice	Vidalia, Ga.
C	Orval C. Rhodes	Wife: Mary	Nashville, Tenn.
C	Tommy Nash	Wife: Mary Daughter: Faye	Hendersonville, Tenn.
C	Avery Sanders		Murfreesboro, Tenn.
C	George S. Warren		Newnan, Ga.
C	Bill Redifer		Youngstown, Ohio
C	Harold Slayton	Wife: Thelma	Beeville, Texas
C	Thomas Hughes		Enterprise, Ala.
C	James C. McCrackin	Wife: Winifred	Mt. Airy, Ga.
RCN	Edward L. Butler	Wife: Mamie	Nettleton, Miss.
RCN	Omer B. Anfenson		Long Beach, Cal.
RCN	Albert Boane		Chancellor, Ala.
HQ	Bob Reighard	Wife: Bea Son: Bob, Jr.	E. North Port, L.I., N.Y.
HQ	Henry Bonner	Wife: Doris	Cocoa, Fla.
HQ	W.A. Hedden		Dahlonega, Ga.
HQ	James Shaver	Wife: Mary	Elizabethtown, Ky.
HQ	Paul K. Ledbetter		Columbia, Tenn.
HQ	Raymond Smith	Wife: Melinda	Chattanooga, Tenn.
HQ	John S. Latham "Georgia Boy"	Wife: Mary Son and Daughter-in-Law	Lithia Springs, Ga.
HQ	Hubert A. Franklin	Wife: Othello	Atlanta, Ga.
HQ	Tom Didlake		Starkville, Miss.
HQ	Roy Grantham	Wife: Ruth	Columbus, Ga.
HQ	Emma Jean Willis		Blue Island, Ill.
HQ	John Kelsoe		Enterprise, Ala.
HQ	Edwin F. (Ned) Haskin		Indianapolis, Ind.
HQ	James B. (Red) Kemp	Wife: Isabelle - Son: Bruce Daughter: Janet - Guest: Cindy Rucker	Atlanta, Ga.