



# 612<sup>th</sup> Tank Destroyer Battalion Newsletter May 2002

## 2002 REUNION

The Reunion is August 7 - 11, 2002. Enclosed is a reservation sheet which includes all the information you will need. Complete and mail your reservation to the Continental Inn. **The cut off date for guaranteed reservations is July 25, 2002.** We apologize for the delay but some problems have held things up. Everything is on go now and we expect to have a fine reunion coming up.

We plan to have our annual raffle for the Flower Fund as usual so anything that you can put in for the raffle will be most appreciated.

A copy of the reservation sheet is also available from our web site (<http://www.microrap.biz/612th-tdb>). Look under "2002 Reunion".

### Newsletter Responses

The response to our mailings has been most gratifying. You have all been wonderful with your replies and information. So far we have heard from the following:

- Melvin Barr ..... Leonard, TX
- Fares Cordova ..... Pueblo, CO
- Frances & Florence Brennan... Gulf Shores, AL
- Evelyn Debro..... Pickford, MI
- Howard Estes..... Memphis, TN
- Gert Flanagan ..... Severna Park, MD
- Faye Haynes ..... Murfreesboro, TN
- Albert Hlibok..... Flushing, NY
- Charles Huttoe, Jr. .... Fort Pierce, FL
- Dominic Jannotti ..... Shelton, CT
- George Johnson, Jr. .... Tom River, NJ
- Isabel Kemp ..... Lawrenceville, GA
- Bill Leininger ..... Mishawaka, IN
- Rufus Noland..... Tuscaloosa, AL
- Mrs. Dean Ousley ..... Kokomo, IN
- Jack Penuel..... Lascassas, TN
- Don Smart ..... Rico, TX
- Levio D. Seamon ..... Shinnston, WV
- Kenneth Webber ..... Portland, OR
- Amelia Harding ..... Olmsted Falls, OH
- Clara Harding ..... Olmsted Falls, OH
- Mrs. Maxine Hartwick..... South Bend, IN
- Mrs. Jona Nix & Girls ..... Cleveland, GA

- Talmadge Riley ..... Benton, KY
- Mrs. Geneva Smith..... Chattanooga, TN
- Ms Dorothy Tomlinson ..... Memphis, TN
- Mrs. Emma Jean Willis ..... Homewood, IL
- Mrs. Judy Ramhoff..... Youngstown, OH
- Jewel Raulins ..... Meridian, MS
- Ms Ima Dell Hughes..... Enterprise, AL
- Leo Lemke ..... Minneapolis, MN
- Mrs. Elfrieda Mauritz ..... Minneapolis, MN
- Mrs. Helen Patrick..... Covington, GA

I will attempt to cover a few things we feel are of interest to all of you:

- Talked to Albert Beane recently. He is recovering from brain surgery. These things are slow but Albert is doing fine.
- Had a note from the daughter of Tom & Betsy Didlake. They have both had serious strokes and are in assisted living. She reports they are coming along real good but not ready for a marathon.
- Heard from Ed Winslow, he is okay except for getting his arthritis and his legs to co-operate. I understand your problem perfectly Ed.
- Tena saw Hartwin Magnuson at a funeral in Elgin this year. Harvesting his crops comes about reunion time so he has been unable to come lately. Come when you can. We miss you.

We also received cards or notes from the following. They all expressed great sorrow at Jack Flanagan's passing.

- Marjorie M. Block
- Dean Uhles
- Frank Bertrand
- Iris Morris
- Lloyd & Ruby Hays
- Ruby Jancox
- Carol Filippini
- A.N. Dreggors
- Florence Cocchi
- Bill & Ruth Townsend
- A.Z. Lauderdale
- Fayne Haynes
- Verbie Wheeler
- Rufus & Pearl Noland
- David D. Barto

## Our Apologies

We apologize again for any duplications or deletions. It was certainly not intentional and we will try to improve. As hard as we try to include everyone, we are bound to miss someone. If you notify us we will try to correct the mistakes at once.

We are not using this as an excuse for our mistakes, but we ask you to consider the average age of us who are still around. The good Lord does not seem to continue to keep our hearing as clear and sharp as we were in 1942, when we all got together for the first time. That my friends was many moons ago and I am sure that you, like me, are most grateful to still be around.

If the newsletter seems a bit disconnected, please excuse us as we have to put things in as they come to mind. We don't have a model or direct source of information, so it has to be written off the top of our head and as such, may not be lined up just right.

### ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

Enclosed is a copy of our association roster. If you look over the roster I am sure that you realize that we could not operate if it was not for the wives of our pals who have gone. They not only are very loyal to this organization but also attend reunions and contribute financial support as well. God bless you girls. We love you and could not make it without you.

For example, the wonderful commemorative



quilt that Iris Morris made for the association. It is all hand done in the Battalion colors. Each square is hand embroidered with the name of one of our men. It is truly a masterpiece, and a labor

of love. It is very personal and special to those of us who are still here and a great honor to those who have gone on.

We will display it with great honor and pride. As in many other instances there is no way we can ever thank Iris for her love and dedication in making this heirloom available to us.

If you are not able to come and see it for yourself, more pictures are available on the 612<sup>th</sup> Web Site (<http://www.microrap.biz/612th-tdb>). Look under the "2001 Reunion" and at the November 2001 newsletter..

A list of association members is also available on our web site. Look under "Association Members".

## Terror at Honsfeld

In researching materials for the newsletter we came across something that will be of interest to some of you, especially if you haven't been to a reunion lately. Don Smart of Hico, TX has done an article for "World War II Magazine" which we want to tell you about. Since I was there we felt it was a very factual and accurate account of the "Bulge". It is called "*Terror at Honsfeld*" and gives a very truthful and complete account of the 612<sup>th</sup>'s part in the action. Don has put this in a nicely bound booklet. If anyone is interested in having one, they are available. We are not selling World War II history but this is something very worthy of your attention.

If you would like one, they are available for \$10.00. This covers the cost of materials, printing and mailing.

Send \$10.00 and your return address to:

Don Smart  
1251 CR247  
Hico, TX 76457

A copy of Don's article is also available on the 612<sup>th</sup> Web Site (<http://www.microrap.biz/612th-tdb>). Look under the "*Story of Company B*".

## Found (Us That Is)

You have always heard of going out to find the lost sheep and bring him home. Well, our lost sheep was just the opposite, he found us. Wesley Bonislous, 57 Wright Road, Hollis, NH 03049 was formerly in "A" Company and has spent much time trying to locate the 612<sup>th</sup>. He saw an ad that Bill Hawkins had put in one of the war magazines about the reunion and contacted the Continental Inn. They referred him to Bill and then to me. We have talked to his daughter and when we are able to contact him we will let you know more.

## In Remembrance

It is with deep sympathy that we report the recent passing of a dear friend and comrade.

✠ **Aaron Carey** of Chateau, Oklahoma passed away March 30, 2002.

May he rest in peace. Also, please keep in your prayers those 612<sup>th</sup> members and families who are ill.

An expanded list of recently departed 612<sup>th</sup> Battalion members can be found on our web site (<http://www.microrap.biz/612th-tdb>). Look under "In Memory".

## DO YOU REMEMBER?

*By Francis Hayes*

- Getting off the troop train at Camp Bouie and meeting Colonel Heddar.
- Basic at Camp Swift.
- The engineers and our ducks.
- The jack rabbits and the weather.
- On to Fort Hood for advance training.
- Getting our M-10s.
- Back to Camp Swift.
- Louisiana maneuvers. Washing the mud off tracks in pouring rain.
- Those chicken and biscuit boxes we brought from the locals.
- The amount of bars in Leesville.
- Getting ready to go overseas.
- Trip by troop train to Fort Dix.
- A few nights in New York City.

- Boarding the Ill De France.
- The trip over and landing in Scotland. By train to Failand Golf Course.
- Getting vehicles ready.
- All the planes on D-Day. (A sight I shall never forget.)
- Omaha Beach (Still a hot place.)
- Cerisy, Hill 192 St Lo Normandy Brest and on through Germany.
- Luxembourg, St Vith, Sourbrodt and Honsfeld.
- The Bulge and capture.
- Bad days. Finally Hammelburgh. Then going back from the front.
- Finally liberation at Moosburgh.
- Camp Lucky Strike
- To LeHarve, a hospital ship and home
- R and R in Miami Beach
- Back to Hood and discharge.

That is a capsule of three years and the high points. Maybe it will bring back some memories, both good and bad. It certainly brings them back to me.

## Web Site

We now have a web site. Its address has been changed since the March newsletter. Its new address is <http://www.microrap.biz/612th-tdb>.

Please send us your comments, additions or corrections.

If you send photos to Rick Pidsosny I will scan them, add them to the photo album page and return your originals.

Copies of recent newsletters are also available from the web site.

## Norman - Where Are You?

Tena received a note from Albert Hlibok. Albert is wondering if anyone remembers his first cousin Norman Hetterich from "A" Company or has any information about his activities. If you have any information about Norman please contact Albert at 4374 166<sup>th</sup> Street, Flushing, New York 11358.