



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

**Francis C. Hayes**  
Association Chairman

**George Karaphillis**  
Memorials & Flowers

**Tena Phillips**  
Treasurer

**Rick Pidsosny**  
Web Site  
[www.microrap.biz/612th-tdb](http://www.microrap.biz/612th-tdb)

**Susie Pidsosny**  
Newsletters &  
Roster Data Base

## *Celebrating Fifty Years of Friends and Fellowship*

By  
*Francis C. Hayes*

Another year has passed and another 612<sup>th</sup> reunion has come and gone. We seem to have accomplished many things in the world of science, but no one has been able to slow us or turn back time and that is the way it should be. We must look ever forward to whatever goals we may attain.

When I attended the Louisville reunion in 1954, little did I think that I would be attending the 49<sup>th</sup> reunion and writing about the 50<sup>th</sup> coming up. That period covers a lot of time and a heap of memories. As we all say, "A lot of water has gone over the dam." For those of us whom are still around we wish for much more of the same.

- 1954 Louisville, Kentucky
- 1955 Memphis, Tennessee
- 1956 Cincinnati, Ohio
- 1957 Charlotte, North Carolina
- 1958 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- 1959 Atlanta, Georgia
- 1960 Chattanooga, Tennessee
- 1961 Louisville, Kentucky
- 1962 St. Louis, Missouri
- 1963 Nashville, Tennessee
- 1964 Richmond, Virginia
- 1965 Clearwater, Florida
- 1966 Arlington, Texas
- 1967 Atlanta, Georgia
- 1968 Cleveland, Ohio
- 1969 Memphis, Tennessee



- 1970 Lexington, Kentucky
- 1971 Baltimore, Maryland
- 1972 Birmingham, Alabama
- 1973 Nashville, Tennessee
- 1974 Memphis, Tennessee
- 1975 Chicago, Illinois
- 1976 Clearwater Beach, Florida
- 1977 Jacksonville, Florida
- 1978 Houston, Texas
- 1979 Arlington, Virginia
- 1980 Biloxi, Mississippi
- 1981 Atlanta, Georgia
- 1982 Memphis, Tennessee
- 1983 Clearwater, Florida
- 1984 Baltimore, Maryland

- 1985 Lexington, Kentucky
- 1986 Austin, Texas
- 1987 Nashville, Tennessee
- 1988 Tupelo, Mississippi
- 1989 Tarpon Springs, Florida
- 1990 Baltimore, Maryland
- 1991 Nashville, Tennessee
- 1992 Indianapolis, Indiana
- 1993 Tupelo, Mississippi
- 1994 Tarpon Springs, Florida
- 1995 Baltimore, Maryland
- 1996 Nashville, Tennessee
- 1997 Lexington, Kentucky
- 1998 Tarpon Springs, Florida
- 1999 Nashville, Tennessee
- 2000 Lexington, Kentucky
- 2001 Tarpon Springs, Florida
- 2002 Lexington, Kentucky
- 2003 TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA**



**Who is this  
handsome couple?**

**Three guesses.**

**See page 7  
for the answer.**

## *In Our Memories*

- † BARNEY WESOLY from Hollis, NH passed away in 2002.
- † ELFREDA MAURITZ from Minneapolis, MN passed away June 21, 2002.
- † HERBERT MAURITZ from Minneapolis, Minnesota passed away February 2002
- † AARON CAREY from Chouteau, Oklahoma passed away March 30, 2002.

Our prayers and thoughts are with the families of all of our departed friends. Also, please keep in your prayers those 612<sup>th</sup> members and their families who are ill.

Visit the web site for other remembrances and memorials.

## **49<sup>th</sup> Reunion** by *Francis Hayes*

As you all know we have just completed our 49th Annual Reunion at the Continental Inn in Lexington, Kentucky. We feel that it was one of our best and most enjoyable reunions.

As always Miss Deb Reddy and the hotel personnel did themselves proud to make our stay with them most enjoyable. This was our fifth trip to Lexington and as always everything was above board.

The hospitality room was newly remodeled and decorated. A food bar was installed which made the serving of snacks and pickups real convenient. We are indebted to Bill and Earline Hawkins and Claude and Jane Shaw for operating and supplying the hospitality room. Also we want to thank those people who brought "home cooked food" to supplement the bought food. It was also a good place to visit and renew old ties and make new ones.

The Inn furnished a real good continental breakfast free each morning, juice, coffee, toast, cereal and pastries. It worked out fine and was enjoyed by all.

With the exception of early birds Earl and Glyn Sain, and Glyn's sister Dorothy Tomlinson, who all arrived Tuesday evening most people began arriving Wednesday and Bill opened the hospitality room Wednesday afternoon. Arrivals on Wednesday were Bill and Elnora Leininger and Dick and Sherry Leininger with their

grandsons Tanner and Steffan, Susie & Rick Pidosny, George & Verona Karaphillis and Francis Hayes. We were pleased to have the Leininger's grandchildren, Tanner and Steffan. They seemed to have had a good time and were most enjoyable. Tena and Glenda came in late because of a plane connection. We all enjoyed visiting and getting reacquainted.

First thing Thursday morning everyone enjoyed the continental breakfast and we were then ready for business. Tena set up the registration desk and we registered people as they came in. Hawkins served sandwiches, drinks, cookies, chips and all those good things. People started coming in and it was steady most all day. Some of the ladies started selling the raffle tickets for the flower fund. We had real good luck and we received quite a few gifts to raffle off.

Saturday after the business meeting, we moved to the banquet room for our meal. We used the same room as our 2000 reunion. It was set up real nice and the food was real good. We had fried chicken, ham, vegetables, salad, bread and desert.

Before the meal, the photographer made our picture. As you know since our group is smaller, we had the men and women in one picture. It worked out better because there are so many widows now. It turned out real well and if anymore would like to have one, they are available. Send me your name, address and eleven dollars. This will cover the total cost, mailed to you at your current address.

We had a real treat in our guest speaker. Don Smart had just returned from a trip to Europe, which covered most of the places we were in. He was very factual and thorough. Over all those years, he reports there has been very little change in the rural countryside. He checked Hamminburgh very closely and was unable to find the prison compound or anyone who knew that one ever existed. My memory is not so short and it is still very much etched in my memory. I realize we are dealing with a new generation and the fact that some of those things were not a proud moment for the German people and could be easily forgotten. Maybe I should say "purposefully" forgotten.

He spent several hours in Honsfeld, did not have much luck either. To them the events of December 1944 are long ago and far away. So be it, but my computer still brings it in loud and clear.

We want to thank Don for his interesting account of his trip to Europe. Everyone enjoyed it very much.

The raffle for the flower fund was a huge success. The ladies did a fantastic job of selling tickets, and the things people sent to be raffled were plentiful and very nice. Most everyone had good luck. I was very happy to see that our first timers had good luck in the drawings, everyone was happy and the flower fund benefited greatly.

Remember that even if you are unable to come to the reunion that we will be happy for you to send something that you would like raffled off for the Flower Fund.

We had a real nice final get-together Sunday morning in the hospitality room. Donuts and coffee were available and we were all able to have a final word before we went our separate ways, and as Jack would say "The Good Lord willing", we will meet again in Tarpon Springs next year.

## First Timers



Our 49th reunion had several first timers, which is unusual. One was Mary Ann Wesoly from Hollis, NH. She is the daughter of Barney Wesoly who was in 'A' Company. He passed away before we were able to talk to him, but his daughter filled us in. He did the design and all the artwork for the 612th Battalion History Booklet. She very kindly made up 100 copies to pass out at the reunion and they were very much appreciated. She was very charming and I think had a real fine time.

Also joining us for the first time were the two daughters of Aaron Carey from Oklahoma. Aaron was looking forward to attending this year's reunion but sadly, he passed away this spring. Through his friendship with Bill Hawkins his daughters became interested in the 612th and his war service. We sent them some information

and talked several times with them, which resulted in them coming to the reunion. They are Janie Jump of Chouteau, Oklahoma and Clara Marie McCowan of Windsor, Missouri. They were both very interested in learning



Janie Jump



Clara McCowan

more about their father's service time and I hope we were helpful to them. I think they were very impressed by the camaraderie they found with the 612th family.

They enjoyed it very much and are making plans for next year.

## Attending the 2002 Reunion

We were so proud to have twelve original 612th members in attendance this year.

We had a full house at our dinner banquet on Saturday evening with fifty-six in attendance including members, wives, children, grandchildren and guests.

### HQ COMPANY

Geneva Smith (Raymond Smith)	Chattanooga, TN
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<i>Ed Winslow</i> & Sandy Winslow	Bartlett, TN
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### RECON COMPANY

Daniel Coone (William B. Coone)	Fairview, TN
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Mark Coone (William B. Coone)	Burns, TN
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Thomas Coone (William B. Coone)	Burns, TN
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<i>Donn Fischer</i>	Carrollton, TX
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### COMPANY 'A'

Amelia Harding (Charles Harding)	Olmsted Falls, OH
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Clara Harding (Charles Harding)	Olmsted Falls, OH
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Maxine Hartwick (Casey Hartwick)	South Bend, IN
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<b>George &amp; Verona Karaphillis</b>	Tarpon Springs, FL
Mrs. Dean Ousley (Homer Ousley)	Kokamo, IN
Susie & Rick Pidsosny (Willard Webb)	Canton, MI
<b>Earl &amp; Glyn Sain</b>	Memphis, TN
Edna Showalter (Richard Showalter)	Muncie, IN
Dorothy Tomlinson	Cordova, TN
Mary Ann Wesoly (Barney Wesoly)	Hollis, NH

### COMPANY 'B'

Janice Bellamy	
<b>James F. Boatright</b>	Whitesburg, GA
Ed Bradbury	
<b>Devers Bryant</b>	Newman, GA
Don Childs	Attica, IN
Chad Harper	
Chuck Harper	Carrollton, GA
<b>William &amp; Earline Hawkins</b>	Atoka, TN
Jeannie Hawkins	Atoka, TN
<b>Francis C. Hayes</b>	Brewton, AL
<b>Fayne Haynes</b>	Murfreesboro, TN
Janie Jump (Aaron Carey)	Chouteau, OK
Clara McCown (Aaron Carey)	Windsor, MO
Glenda Millar	Houston, TX
Iris Morris (Charles Morris)	Attica, IN
Iona Nix (Charles O. Nix)	Cleveland, GA
Judy Odum	Cleveland, GA
Tena Phillips (Travis Phillips)	Houston, TX
<b>Talmadge &amp; Ruth Riley</b>	Benton, KY
Romye & Janice Riley	Benton, KY
Claude & Jane Shaw	Winchester, KY
Anita Stanley	Hixson, TN

### COMPANY 'C'

Dick & Sherry Leininger Tanner & Steffan	Elkhart, IN
<b>William &amp; Elnora Leininger</b>	Mishawaka, IN
<b>Jewel &amp; Ouida Raulins</b>	Meridian, MS
Don & Clara Smart (Lloyd Barker)	Hico, TX

*Italics indicate a 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion veteran in attendance*

## Keeping in Touch

by Francis Hayes

We received an inquiry from Lt. Al Vaida of Hurst, Texas, about his late father-in-law, Willie Doyle Pitts who served in the 612th. We have sent him a battalion history and hope we can be of some help to him. He does not know what company Mr. Pitts served with but he knows he had training in operating heavy truck equipment. If this rings a bell with anyone please let me know and I can contact him.

## TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

by Francis Hayes

As you already know, when Jack passed away we had to make some emergency arrangements in order to continue operating. So far they have worked out and we have continued to use them. Since they had not been approved by all of you we had a business meeting in Lexington and took care of the details.

All the men present and their widows (and some sons and daughters) were eligible to vote. There were 28 eligible voters and it was unanimous to continue operating as we do now.

Tena reported we have a total of \$1,700.00 in the operating account and George has a total of \$4,671.00 in the Flower Fund.

George Karaphillis presented a proposal to host the 50th reunion in Tarpon Springs. It would be at the Holiday Inn where we held the 48th reunion. Two other workable proposals were presented for our consideration. After a very thorough discussion, it was a unanimous vote that we hold the 50th reunion in Tarpon Springs on July 30-31 and August 1-3, 2003. George and his family will make us welcome

and as always will do a fine job of hosting the reunion. Mark your calendar for this week, because whether we like it or not, time is getting short, but as Jack would say, "The good Lord willing we hope to get together again."



***"TELE-TALK"***  
*with Francis C. Hayes*

I don't know how far we will get with it, but starting now we are beginning ***"TELE-TALK"***. Our goal is to have a short phone visit with each of our surviving members or their widows. We will report a short account of how they are and what they are doing. This is another reason why we want your current address and phone numbers. It will take quite a while, but we think the results will be well-worth the effort. To date I have contacted about 20 people.

- Talked to Devers Bryant last week and remembered this article which I think you will enjoy. See *Remembering Job Uncle Same Gave Him*.
- Ms. Ruby Anfenon, Hesperia, CA Had a good visit with Ruby. She is 95-years young and sharp as a tack. She and her husband last attended a reunion in Atlanta at the Dinkler Plaza before he passed away. She has kept in touch with Albert Beane and his wife and Tena. Quite a gal! Albert is getting along better as of last week.
- David Barto – His wife says he is doing fine, having trouble with his hearing aid, but at our age who is perfect.
- Howard Estes, Memphis, TN - Has an apartment in assisted living, ninety-five and doing fine.
- Ansel Dreggors, can't see real good, but says his car knows the way to Tarpon Springs, he will be there.
- Talked to Sheriff Verbie Wheeler. He wanted to come but was unable to get someone to drive him. Hoping for Tarpon.

- Maxine Hartwick was at the reunion and tells me it was most enjoyable and she looks forward to Tarpon.
- Hazel Scott was missed but she was not feeling up to going this year. Hazel hope you are ready for Tarpon.
- Lauderdale was unable to come, but we sent him some pamphlets. Missed him at home. But his wife says they are doing fine and looking forward to #50 at Tarpon.
- Talked to Dick and Bill Leininger and their wives this week and they are doing fine. Left a hello for the grandchildren. They were fine and certainly sold me.
- Bill Hawkins and family are fine. They have about recovered from hosting the reunion. As usual, they did a superb job.
- Brother-in-law Claude Shaw and his wife Jane were most helpful. We have mailed them plaques thanking Deb Reddy and the Continental Inn. Claude will present them adding a personal touch we want and they deserve.
- Margaret Johnson, the widow of Dessie Johnson, Jacksonville, FL is doing fine. She misses the reunions and sends us her best regards and prayers.
- Had a visit with Iona Nix, Cleveland, GA. She and her daughter enjoyed the reunion very much. They have been faithful attendants since Nix passed away. Bless you and tell the girls hello.
- Talked to Pearl and Rufus since the reunion. They missed being with everyone, but Rufus just can't travel that far from home base. I assured Pearl we still miss that cake.
- We talked to Ed Winslow since the reunion. Enjoyed visiting with Ed and his daughter Sandy in Lexington. They both had a fine time and hope to be in Tarpon for #50.
- Had a visit with Haze O. Wilbanks. They were on an extended trip to the "Big Sky" country and were registered to be at the reunion but they had some car trouble and couldn't make it back in time. Assures me he will be in Tarpon for #50.

- Visited with Donn Fischer since the reunion. He reports he had a wonderful time and looks forward to 2003.
- Boatright and his family are fine. The reunion was just what they expected. According to them it was just what the doctor ordered.
- Enjoyed my televisit with Edna Showalter. She very kindly gave us a good grade on the reunion and the way we carried it out. Thanks we needed that. She gave us a lot of real good pictures her son had made at other reunions. Thanks ! We left our best regards for her friend Dean Ousley. We will call her later.
- Had a visit with Mike Papendick and Helen. They were very disappointed at missing the reunion but her eyes and his legs took care of that. He has a year to get ready for #50. He agrees to try a bit harder this year.
- Called Foy Peavy and was glad to find out he was doing fine but sorry to hear that his wife had been ill. I told him that we were having #50 in his backyard and were looking forward to seeing him again.
- Had a visit with Jewel Raulins to thank him for his help with the reunion. He and Ouida are always ready and on call when we need any help and that is most appreciated. They report that they enjoyed it very much and look forward to Tarpon.
- Talked to Paul Doretta the other day. He is doing fine and is trying to get his ducks in a row and see us in Florida next year.
- Jay Karamales was very happy to get my call. He is doing okay and hopes to be in Florida for #50. He is real pleased that we have been able to carry on, and wished us luck and to keep up the good work..
- Charlie Pettis in Bonifay, Florida is having a rough time, but his wife is able to read any mail to him. He looks forward to anything about the 612th.
- Visited on the phone with Bill Lamb last week. He was happy to hear about the association and what we were doing. Says he enjoys the newsletters and reports they are doing okay.

- Finally caught up to Carol Filipponi when she got home from her trip to Europe. She reported a good time, but she will not miss the reunion if she has to crawl. Atta girl! We look forward to seeing you.

## Mailing List

In order to update our mailing lists and roster information please do the following favor for us. On the enclosed postcard, write the following:

- Name
- Current Address and zip code
- Current phone number with area code
- E-mail address
- 612<sup>th</sup> Company you/your loved one served in
- Anything you would like to say.

This will enable us to bring the roster up-to-date. It will be most helpful and much appreciated.

## Visit Our Web Site

The 612th Web Site has been updated with more 2001 reunion photos, 2002 reunion photos, a video message from Francis Hayes, information on the 2003 reunion, the Battalion History courtesy of Mary Ann Wesoly and a 2003 calendar complete with the 50th reunion logo and reunion dates.

Check it out at [www.microrap.biz/612th-tdb](http://www.microrap.biz/612th-tdb)

## Thank You

Again thank you to Bill and Earline Hawkins and Claude and Jane Shaw for the terrific job they did as our reunion hosts again this year.

We also want to thank the Continental Inn and especially Deb Reddy who went well beyond the call of duty to make us feel welcome. There was no request to small or to big that Deb didn't take care of for us. And always with a smile! And you should have seen the beautiful cake they presented to us at the banquet. (You can see the cake as well as many other reunion photos on our website.)

We were overwhelmed by the baked goods and treats that so many of you brought along to share.

Special thanks (from Susie) to Geneva Smith our "Moon Pie Lady". I know everyone enjoyed them but I am totally hooked on them now!

## Ladies Corner

By Susie Pidsosny

Ruth Riley was kind enough to pass along her recipe for those yummy cookies she brought to the reunion.

### Ruth's Chocolate-Chip Oatmeal Cookies

1-½ Cup sifted all-purpose flour	1 Cup chopped pecans
1 tsp. Baking powder	1 tsp. Vanilla
1 tsp. Cinnamon	1 Cup coconut
1 Cup butter (oleo – not light) or 2 sticks	1 Cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
½ Cup firmly packed light brown sugar	½ Cup Heath Toffee – coarsely ground
1 Cup granulated sugar	1-½ Cup Old Fashioned Rolled Oats
1 large egg	

Mix together and chill at least one hour or overnight.

Drop by teaspoons onto a cookie sheet sprayed with vegetable spray. Bake at 350 for 8 to 10 minutes

You may leave off any of the extra ingredients (coconut, nuts or candy).

In addition, many of the ladies requested instructions for the crocheted tote bags that Rick Pidsosny's aunt made and sent along for the raffle. I have e-mailed the instructions to several people but if you would like me to mail the instructions to you please just let me know.

## Welcome . . .

To our newest members:

- Daniel Coone
- Mark Coone
- Janie Jump
- Clara McCown
- Anita Stanley
- Mary Ann Wesoly



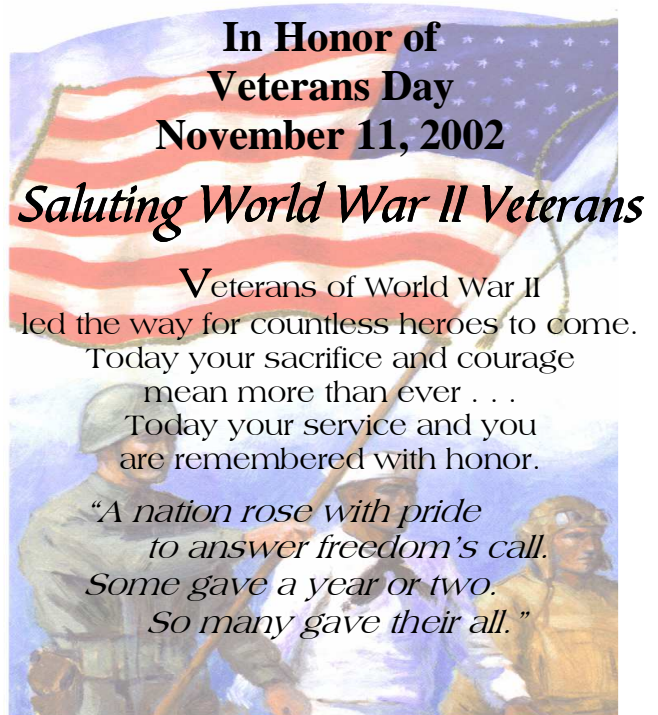
## DUES ARE DUE

Our annual dues are \$5. If you have not already paid your 2002 dues, please send them to Tena Phillips at 11606 O'Donnell Drive, Houston, TX 77076-1008

### GET WELL WISHES TO . . .

Jeannie Hawkins

Bill & Earline recently had a car accident. Unfortunately their daughter Jeannie suffered most of the injuries. We are pleased to report she is doing much better. I hear from Earline that Jeannie loves to get mail so how about dropping her a get well wish? I'm sure it would brighten her day.



## Mystery Couple

By Susie Pidsosny



Have you figured out who our mystery couple is?

They are Ruth and Talmadge Riley of Benton, KY. We have spotlighted Ruth and Talmadge this month in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary.

Ruth was kind enough to send along an article from their local paper. I'd like to share some of it with you.

"Mr. and Mrs. Talmadge Riley celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Sunday, August 25th, 2002 with a reception hosted by their children and grandchildren.

While Mr. Riley was in the Army and stationed in Texas his fiancée, Miss Ruth Carter, traveled to visit him. The day she arrived his unit had been on a 20-mile hike with full backpacks. But this did not deter them and they decided to get married that evening. The Rev. R.R. Willingham united them on August 29, 1942 in Palo Pinto, Texas.

During WWII Mrs. Riley taught school in Marshall County, KY. While Mr. Riley served in the U.S. Army Company "B", 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion and was taken prisoner in the Battle of the Bulge on Dec. 17th, 1944. He was in various German POW camps until his release on April 29, 1945. Mr. Riley is a retired carpenter and farmer.

They are the proud parents of four children, eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren."

Congratulations to Ruth and Talmadge as they continue to celebrate their life together.

***God Bless you both!***

## Remembering job Uncle Sam gave him

This article was published in the Atlanta Journal/Constitution. It appeared in the column entitled *Dave Kindred at Large*.

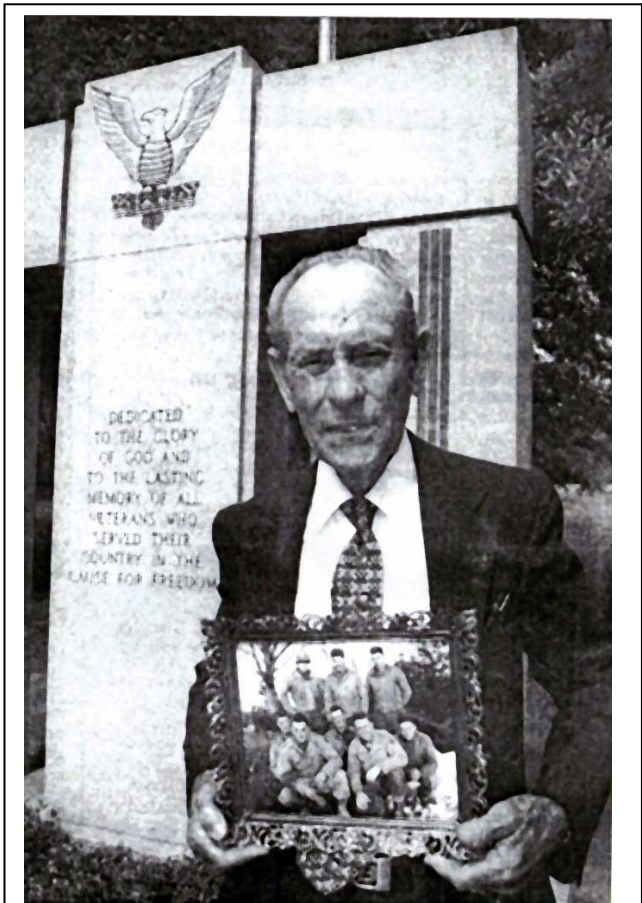
"Ain't braggin'," said the old soldier whose name is Deb Bryant and who lives where he grew up along a country road in western Coweta County.

"But I'm 82 years old and ain't never asked for a job in my life. I was one of 13 kids. So I left school after the fourth grade to work. Made 9 cents an hour in the yarn mill, 60 hours a week, \$5.40 in all. Roosevelt raised the wage after that and I came to be a bricklayer working on houses, fences, the like.

"Then one day the mailman brought me a

letter. Danged if Uncle Sam didn't offer me a job."

Laughing, the old soldier stood in a little park by a monument to men and women who also answered Uncle Sam's letter.



**Picture of the past:**

Devers E. "Deb" Bryant, in front of Newnan's memorial to veterans, holds a photograph of his World War II colleagues taken shortly before he was captured by the Germans.

On the last Monday of May, he was one of a hundred people who came to a Memorial Day service in Newnan. They were mostly old men with a hitch in their gitty-ups. They were men who had done hard things in hard places.

"Day after Christmas, '42, I reported to the U.S. Army" Deb Bryant said. "Did my basic training at Camp Bowie, Texas. I remember it like it was yesterday. Hot as blazes by the time they finished with us and we rode a train East. They put us on an ocean liner, 16,000 soldiers packed one on top the other. It took 10 days to get to Glasgow, Scotland.



“Early in ‘44, we were in Bristol, England. Word was, there’d be an invasion and we’d be part of it. I was in Company B of the 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion. We used those artillery guns on wheels pulled along by a half-track truck. That gun’d throw a shell 14 miles if we wanted it to. I was the gunner. I shot it.”

In today’s world of commerce and comfort, Memorial Day has come to be a day announcing the start of summer’s fun. But Memorial Day is no more about fun than Christmas is about toys. Memorial Day is about death in war.

It’s about Americans who left home without knowing if they’d come back. It’s about Gettysburg and Verdun, the Ardennes, Pusan and Khe Sanh.

It’s about Deb Bryant, whose given name is Devers E. Bryant, a boy who swam in Wahoo Creek west of Newnan and a man who sailed the English Channel to France.

“We went over on June 8, ‘44, two days after D-Day,” Bryant said. “There were so many boats in the channel that’s all you saw, boats. Closer we got to Omaha Beach, worse it got. Airplanes, guns, bombs, noise, smoke. Everywhere, bodies in the water. My heart was in my throat the whole while.”

“We rode one of those boats where they let the front end down and you drove out. Only we drove out too early and the water was so deep that our driver had to stand up and the steering wheel was under water.

“The Germans had five years to get ready. Machine guns everywhere. How we got through, I’ll never know. But we kept sending boys ashore. Some’d get mowed down, others’d keep coming.”

From June to December — “six months of killin’ and hell” — Bryant’s company moved through France in pursuit of retreating Germans.

Then, on Dec. 17, 1944, as the Americans camped in the Ardennes forest, the Germans attacked. Hitler’s last spasm of aggression was an offensive now known as the Battle of the Bulge.

“Tanks came down on us,” Bryant said. “I can still see the German standing in his tank firing a burp gun at me. You can still see where a

bullet went through my left hand. Of the 10 men on my gun, five were killed and the rest of us were taken prisoner.

“I’ve still got my POW ID. It’s a piece of metal that can be cut in half. They hung half on your big toe and half on your neck if you died.”

“All that winter, they held us in four different POW camps. If you didn’t freeze to death, you starved to death. I dropped from 165 pounds to 95. Had pleurisy, pneumonia, what-all.

“Tell you something. Know how men in a bunch, all they talk about is women? Not that winter, not holed up in those mule barns. All we thought about and talked about was something to eat and home.

“We were liberated on April 29, 1945, right before the Germans surrendered. One of our tanks came over the hill, firing away. They killed all the prison guards and we about got killed ourselves during all the shooting. “But it got to where it didn’t make no difference if you lived or died. Being liberated didn’t faze you, you were so far gone.

By June of 1945, Deb Bryant was home again in Coweta County.

He had finished his job for Uncle Sam. He went back to laying brick.

## **We Need Your Help!**

We are trying to put together a complete list of all of the men who served in the 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Most of our current lists include only the names of those men who attended a reunion at one time or another. We know there are many names missing and we would love be able to complete our roll. Any information that you can share with us would be greatly appreciated.

In addition, if you have any photos, articles or anything you would like to share with us regarding the 612th TDB please send them along to Susie Pidosny. If you include your name and address, I will make certain that your photos, etc., are returned to you.