



612th Tank Destroyer Battalion Association Newsletter April 2004

Francis C. Hayes
Association Chairman

George Karaphillis
Memorials & Flowers

Tena Phillips
Treasurer

Rick Pidsosny
Web Site
www.microrap.biz/612th-tdb

Susie Pidsosny
Newsletters &
Roster Data Base

Dear 612th Friends

I seem to remember quoting at some time past "that time and tide waits for no man." This has again come true for once again time has come to produce another newsletter or rather a report of our management and our stewardship of the 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion. It has indeed been a rare privilege to work with you all in helping with the newsletters. The good Lord has sent us Susie and Rick, for without them there would be no newsletter at all. They are dedicated to the task and all you have to do is read the finished product to see that that is true. If we had an unlimited amount of money to spend and access to an unlimited amount of talent we would miss that personal touch that makes our reporting so different and not just a lot of meaningless words that sound good, but are not the real thing. People are very kind. You seem to please them whatever you write about. I guess one thing we have in our favor is that everyone really wants to hear about what happened at our reunions. We realize this as there are not many who are privileged to attend and they are eager to hear any news about what happened and to whom.

Since the Reunion I have received a lot of cards and notes from many of you. You may think that we don't get anything from your notes and letters, but you are very much mistaken. We get a lot of tips from reading your mail. Since we read it all we can get a lot of important things from what I will call "Mail Call". If you get as much from "Mail Call" as I do it is certainly worth the time and effort it takes to get it out. Just hearing from you certainly compensates me

many times over for what effort I put into it. Don't feel that anything you write is not important to us. I really look forward to hearing from any of you about anything you want to say.

What you must remember is that if you stop writing and calling it is all over and what we have loved about the 612th will be gone forever, never to return.

Thanks again and God Bless.



"Tele-Talk"
with Francis C. Hayes

Devers Bryant ("C" Co.) was doing real good but his wife was having trouble. They are both hanging in there.

Checked in with **Ruby Anfenson**. I'm happy to report that she is doing fine. I always enjoy our chats.

Frank Bertrand tells me he has about recovered from his fall. He and his family were very disappointed when they had to give up their trip to Tarpon Springs. But maybe they can try for Lexington this year.

Ansel Dreggors driver couldn't make it at the last minute so he could not make it to Tarpon Springs. Maybe this will be the year.

Talked to **Verble Wheeler** (The Sheriff) and he is hoping to attend this years reunion.

Hope we can get all three **Coones (Thomas, Mark and Daniel)** up one tree this year. It would be nice to see them all again in Lexington.

I talked to our Oklahoma people (**Janie Jump** and her sister **Clara McCown**) and they are doing fine. Janie is going to send me her current address. Clara and her husband are hoping to come to Lexington.

Bill Hawkin's ("B" Co.) hand is improving and he has regained some limited use of it. The doctor's say it will be a long slow process, but they feel very encouraged with his progress.

Rufus Noland ("B" Co.) is doing fine and is planning a trip to Lexington.

Talked to **A.Z. Lauderdale's** grandson. Lauderdale was out when I called but they are all doing fine..

Had a chat with **David Barto** ("A" Co.) and his wife. They are doing okay and still hoping to attend the reunion this year. We will be looking forward to seeing them.

Visited with **Carol Filipponi**. She is making plans to come and bring her daughter again this year.

Spoke to **Frank Boatright's** ("B" Co.) daughter. She says her mother and father are not doing well at this time.

Talked to **Ed Winslow** (HQ Co.) recently. He is doing fine and says the grandchildren are all looking forward to going to the reunion. I know they look forward to the in-door swimming pool. You know he was in HQ Co. with Magnuson and they were friends. He said Magnuson was the driver of the big wrecker in HQ for the 612th.

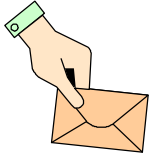
I had a nice chat with **Fares Cordova** out in Pueblo, Colorado. We had a nice visit on the phone. He was doing fine, I believe he talked to Bill Hawkins not long ago and seemed glad to hear from him.

Spoke to **George Karaphillis**. Verona is in a wheelchair all of the time now but it has stopped her from falling so much. She accepts it with grace as something that has to be and she is thankful for what she is able to do.

Talked to **Gert Flanagan** this week. All the Flanagan's are doing fine and were happy to hear from us. They are all looking forward to #51 and planning to be there. She says that Jack would very much approve of what we are doing.

I am real proud of what we are doing. It keeps us in touch and lets us share our common bond which is the 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion family. The response that I have gotten from my phone calls has been most gratifying and helpful in keeping us in touch with you and your activities. As long as we are able to keep everyone informed and interested in what is going on we are making progress and doing what we are organized for. I realize that we are getting less in number but the fellowship and dedication have not fallen off one iota. If anything the surviving members are more interested in what we are trying to do than ever before. You are just a fine group of people and that is no bull.





MAIL CALL

with Francis C. Hayes

Had a wonderful note from **Donn Fischer** (ReCon Co.) telling about his wife's progress with Alzheimers Disease. I was so happy to hear about her progress. Don't ever feel that these things are not interesting to us, because they are. We want to know so we can share with you and pass the word on to our fellow members.

Had a note from **Foy Peavy**. He really enjoyed the trip to Tarpon Springs and was happy to report that his wife got along just fine while he was gone.

We have also received cards and letters from the following people.

- Geneva Smith
- Avery Sanders
- Janie Jump
- Robert Behney
- Ruth & Lloyd Hayes
- Rufus & Pearl Noland
- Bill Leininger & Family
- Judy Ramhoff & Daughter
- Herman McCollum
- Hazel Scott
- Ms Judy Odom & Family
- Jewel and Ouida Raulins
- Edna Showalter
- Mr & Mrs C W Townsend
- Ruby Jaycox
- Florence Cocchi
- Clara Harding
- Amelia Harding
- Carol Filipponi & Daughter
- Doris & Gwen Kelly
- R E Reighard
- Iona Nix & Family
- Frank Bertrand & Family
- George & Verona Karaphillis

- Hartwin Magnuson & Family
- Mary Ann Wesoly
- Melvin Hlibok
- Bill Hawkins & Family
- Don Smart & Family

I am sure that I don't get around to contacting everyone, but with my limited facilities, I try to get to as many as possible. If we don't always accomplish this, you may be sure that we did as much toward that goal as possible with the resources we have available.

I plan on making some calls and writing lots of cards to keep people reminded about what our plans are for Lexington. I know that we are not as young as we once were, but everyone is still hanging in there and that is all it takes. Just come on down and join us in Lexington this year.

Try to make arrangements to come. You may not have that many more that you can go to so just don't miss if you just don't have to.

I wish I could make you know how much you will enjoy seeing everyone again.

Goodbye, Magnuson

For into each life some rain must fall. All of our days cannot be full of sunshine and cool breezes. That would not be a natural way of life. Without the natural cycle of life we would not be in a well-balanced life cycle and would soon grow tired of the perfect life because God did not create us for this.

When we have to give up a friend or loved one we face a rough time in our life. I know the feeling because I have been there many times in my lifetime.

Hartwin Magnuson was my real special friend and I will miss him greatly.

As we go through this life we meet some people we are attracted to and like very much. Magnuson was just such a person and I valued his friendship and our limited association. When I spoke to his wife Irene she said the weather was fine for the funeral. It was certainly appropriate because Magnuson was a great outdoor person and a dreary day for his funeral would not have been appropriate. Good bye "old buddy". Irene we will keep in touch. God bless you and your family.

Thanks from Tena

Tena would like to acknowledge those people who paid their dues at the Tarpon Springs Reunion:

- Earl and Glyn Sain
- Maxine Hartwick
- Carol Filipponi
- George and Verona Karaphillis
- Dorothy Tomlinson
- Iris Morris
- Mary Ann Wesoly
- Rick and Susie Pidsosny
- Tena Phillips
- Stanley and Kay Zabetakis
- Judy Ramhoff
- Edward Winslow
- Jewel and Ouida Raulins
- Donn Fischer
- Foy Peavy
- Avery and Sara Sanders
- Gert Flanagan
- Geneva Smith
- Fayne and Beatrice Haynes
- Talmadge and Ruth Riley
- Rufus and Pearl Noland
- A.Z. Lauderdale
- Ben Hardy
- Carson Spencer
- C.W. "Bill" Townsend

Special Thanks to the following people who have sent in their dues since the last newsletter.

Frank and Frances Bertrand

- Iona Nix
- Don and Clara Smart
- David and Alyce Barto
- Bill and Mildred Redifer
- Dean Uhles
- Charley and Annie Pettis
- Rick and Susie Pidsosny
- Kitty Gann
- Evelyn Debro
- Ruby Anfenson
- John and Elva O'Brien
- Robert Reighard
- Melvin Barr
- Levio Seamon
- Florence Cocchi
- Ann Laster
- Sam L. Patrick
- Bill and Earlene Hawkins
- Elfrieda Porter
- Lloyd and Ruth Hays
- Jeanell Beane
- Fares and Anne Cordova
- Hazel Scott

If you sent in dues and your name is not listed please forgive us. If you'll send us a note we promise to correct our error and include your name in the next newsletter.

Updated Rosters

We have included a 2004 Membership Roster with this mailing. Please send any address corrections or additions to Susie Pidsosny so that she may update them for our records. Also if you know of any members or their families who are not included on our roster PLEASE let us know.

Please note the following address changes and additions to the roster:

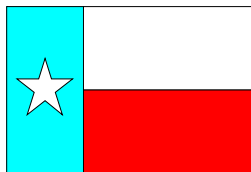
Janelle Beane
25 County Road 65D
Chancellor, Alabama 36316
334-347-9681

Sam L. Patrick
45 Meadow Ridge
Social Circle, Georgia 30025

Elfreda Porter
240 South Inglewood Avenue
Apt. 309
Russellville, Arkansas 72801
479-890-5618

Glenda Millar
1309 North MacGregor Way
Houston, Texas 77023
713-921-1126

that are offered. Elfrieda says she enjoys the newsletters and likes hearing about her friends in the 612th.



Tidi ngs from Tena

Judy Ramhoff had knee replacement surgery on February 18th. I'm happy to report that the last time we spoke Judy was well on the way to a full recovery and looking forward to attending the reunion in Lexington.

I've also been in touch with **Edna Showalter** and **Gert Flanagan**. Both ladies are doing well. Gert and her family are hoping to attend the reunion.

I had a real nice letter from **Elfrieda Porter**. Elfrieda has moved to the Wildflower Retirement Residence in Russellville, Arkansas. She says the folks are all so friendly and the food is great! She also enjoys taking part in the many activities

Ruth Hays wrote to say that she and Lloyd really enjoy reading the newsletter. I was sorry to hear that Lloyd's condition is not good. He is suffering from Parkinsons disease. Please keep Lloyd and Ruth and all of our dear friends in your prayers.

I was so sorry to hear of the passing of our dear friend **Hartwin Magnuson** this past February. Our deepest sympathies are extended to Irene and their children. I would like to share a brief excerpt from Hartwin's obituary:

**Hartwin John Magnuson
1915-2004**

Hartwin John Magnuson, age 88, went to be with our Lord on February 16, 2004, in Corner Stone Hospital in Austin with his family by his side. He was a lifelong farmer and rancher in the Manda area, as well as a member of the Lutheran faith, and a World War II veteran in the 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion.

He was born November 11, 1915, in the Carlson Community to Sven August Magnuson and Lillie Amanda Johanson, who immigrated from Sweden in the early 1900's. He was the eighth son of nine boys.

Hartwin married Irene Larson on December 10, 1943, to which three children were born: Marion, Boyd and Loyd Magnuson.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Irene; daughter Marion and son Boyd.

In lieu of flowers the family request that memorials be made to the American Cancer Society, Heart Association or St. Peter's Lutheran Church Memorial Fund.

Again we would like to offer our sincerest condolences to Irene and her family.



2004 REUNION NEWS . . .

It doesn't seem possible but in just 5 short months we will be gathering together to celebrate our **51st Reunion at the Continental Inn** in Lexington, Kentucky. This year's reunion dates are **August 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8th**.

Francis Hayes and this year's host, **Bill Hawkins**, have been hard at work making all of the arrangements and working hard to insure that this will be one of our best reunions yet!



Francis C. Hayes W. T. "Bill" Hawkins
Assoc. Chairman Reunion Host

The **Continental Inn of Lexington** is located at 801 E New Circle Rd, Lexington, KY 40505.

Please note that the Continental Inn **NO LONGER OFFERS airport shuttle service.**

The *Hospitality Room* will be in the same location as at the 2002 reunion. We will operate in the same manner as always. We will have an ample stock of cold cuts, cheese, chips and things to make sandwiches and snacks. (We can always rely on our ladies to keep us supplied with homemade goodies). There will also be an ample stock of drinks (non-alcoholic) to please everyone.

Following is our "tentative" schedule:

- **Wednesday – August 4th**
3 p.m. Hospitality Room Opens
Check in by early arrivals.
- **Thursday – August 5th and Friday - August 6th**
8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Free Continental Breakfast located by the Front Desk
10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Hospitality Room Opens
- **Saturday – August 7th**
8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Free Continental Breakfast located by the front desk. 10 a.m. Hospitality Room Opens.
3:00 p.m. Business meeting in Hospitality Room
5:30 p.m. Group photo session in Banquet Room
6:00 p.m. Buffet style Banquet Dinner followed by a short program and our annual Flower Fund Raffle
- **Sunday – August 11th**
7:00 a.m. Hospitality Room Open for coffee, juice and donuts.
Farewells and final visits

This year's reunion in Lexington will once again be hosted by Bill and Earline Hawkins and Claude and Jane Shaw. They have been hard at work and have planned an enjoyable reunion for everyone. We are very grateful for their fine work and dedication.

Don't forget the Saturday night **Flower Fund Raffle!** Our members have always generously donated an outstanding variety of gifts and crafts for us to raffle off. The income does much to carry on the Flower Fund. George Karaphillis is our guardian of these funds and he is doing an outstanding job. We thank him for his dedication.

Now on to all the information you will need to make your room reservations.

I don't know how they did it but Francis Hayes and Bill Hawkins have managed to obtain the same prices as our reunion in 2002. Great job gentleman!

The room rates for 2004 are as follows:

- **Poolside single \$38.00**
- **Poolside Double/King \$48.00**

To make reservations please call the Continental Inn at 1-800-432-9388.

Please remember that the cut off date for the prices listed is Thursday, July 15th

So grab the phone and make those reservations! We can't wait to see you all in Lexington!

One final note regarding this year's reunion. We will have one more mailing prior to the reunion when we will be sending all the latest reunion news and updates. In this mailing we will include a reunion "information sheet" that will include questions like "What day do you plan to arrive?" and "Are you attending the Saturday night banquet?" The purpose of this "information sheet" is to help Tena and Susie with the registration process and in obtaining an estimate for the number of people attending the Saturday night banquet. But more about that in the next newsletter.



**HAPPY
EASTER**



Susie's Snippets

First of all I would like to apologize for the tardiness of our newsletter. We had originally planned to do a 2003 Holiday letter but illness in my family prevented that from happening. As most of you know, my mom has been ill for sometime. Shortly after returning home from the reunion in Tarpon Springs she was diagnosed with the onset of Alzheimer's disease. We had suspected it for some time but the actual diagnosis put things in perspective. We had a few rough months but once her physical health improved we were able to get her started on a new medication that will hopefully slow the progression of the disease. In the meantime we were busy packing up her apartment and moving her in with Rick and me. Things seem to be going well at this point. We love having her with us and best of all her health seems to be improving. I think we have even talked her in to attending the reunion with us this year!

I also want to take this opportunity to thank everyone (especially **Francis Hayes**, who calls every week to check in on the "sick folks") for all of the cards, phone calls and prayers you extended to us during this time.

I had a nice long letter from **Ruth Riley** in Benton, Kentucky. **Talmadge** ("B" Co.) and Ruth are looking forward to joining us for the reunion in Lexington. In the past they have attended with their son **Ronnye** and his wife **Janice**. I sure hope they can make it again this year, we always enjoy seeing them. Ruth writes that Ronnye has had additional surgery on his sinuses. He had surgery twice last spring (in 2003) so we're all hoping that this most recent surgery did the trick and he will soon be as

good as new. I was so sorry to hear that Janice's mother passed away early this year. Please accept our belated condolences for your loss.

Talmadge and Ruth are looking forward to their visit to the World War II Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. in early May. They will be traveling with 1,047 other folks in 22 busses. This number includes 575 Western Kentucky Veterans and their family members. And best of all the trip is free. Area businesses have donated money in an attempt to raise \$400,000. So hats off to those generous folks in Kentucky and we wish Ruth and Talmadge a safe and wonderful trip. We look forward to hearing all about their trip when we see them in Lexington.

I always enjoy hearing from **Iris Morris** in Attica, Indiana. Iris is busy crafting more wonderful gifts for this year's Flower Fund Raffle. It's going to be hard to beat the beautiful 612th quilt and the pillows that she has made in the past! I was happy to hear that she is going to bring several of her friends with her this year. I'm looking forward to meeting them all and to again seeing her friend **Evelyn** who I had the pleasure of meeting in Tarpon Springs last year.

Amelia Harding and **Clara Harding** of Olmsted Falls, Ohio are both doing well. Like the rest of us "northerners" they have survived another miserable winter and are happily awaiting the arrival of spring. I realize that Spring has officially begun but Michigan doesn't seem to have "gotten the memo". It's the second week of April and there is snow forecast for the weekend!

Speaking of snow, I keep in contact via e-mail with **Mary Ann Wesoly** way up in Hollis, New Hampshire. Mary Ann is happy to be back at work although I think her final acceptance of her new job

depended on them letting her take time off to attend this year's reunion. ☺ Mary Ann has a couple of neat surprises in store for us this year.

Elnora and Bill ("C"Co.) **Leininger** of Mishawaka, Indiana are both doing well. Keeping busy as always. They are hoping to attend this year's reunion since it will be a much shorter drive for them. Hopefully Dick and Sherrie will be able to attend as well.

My dear friend **Dorothy Tomlinson** keeps me abreast of all the news in Memphis, Tennessee. Her sister and brother-in-law **Glyn and Earl** ("B" Co.) **Sain** are doing well although Glyn took a pretty bad spill awhile back. Thankfully, she is recovering nicely and the three of them are making plans to attend the reunion.

On a personal note I would like to offer my sincerest (though very belated) THANKS to **Robert Behney** ("A" Co.) of Norristown, PA. Mr. Behney called me in early January and said while going through some old army photos he had come across a couple pictures of my dad. He was kind enough to mail them to me that very day with a very sweet note included. What a wonderful surprise and how very thoughtful of Mr. Behney to take the time to send them along. I'm happily adding them to the 612th photo albums and I'll have them at the reunion for all to see.

We Need Your Help:

Back in November I received a letter from Juliana Flynn requesting information on her uncle Michael Kardos. I am reprinting her letter here in the hopes that someone might have information that can help her.

Dear Ms. Pidosny,

I obtained your address from the 612th Web Site.

Possibly, you can help in clarifying

some of the details regarding my uncle, referenced below. He was a Medic in Company B. I wrote to the Pentagon in 1990 requesting information as to the date of his death and the Country in which he died. A response from the Army (St. Louis, Mo.) indicated that his military record was destroyed in a fire at the Center in July, 1973. Available documents showed he passed away on December 29, 1944 in Stadkyl, Germany.

An inquiry to my local library resulted in a computer print-out (Ancestry.com) indicating he is buried in Luxembourg. I did read the article authored by Don Smart in the November, 2001 issue of World War II- 'Terror At Honsfeld'. I notice said article is posted in its' entirety on your Web Site. In that article, Michael Kardos is mentioned. However, no traces of him nor the other two medics were ever located.

In October, 2001, I wrote to the Secretary of the 612th Mr. Jack Flanagan. Unfortunately, Mr. Flanagan passed away on the date I wrote the letter. His widow was kind enough to respond and indicated she could not provide me with any information.

The last letter my uncle wrote home was dated December 29, 1944. In it he relates to his father (my grandfather) that he was taken prisoner of war on December 17, 1944. That was the same date the American Red Cross sent notification to the family (in Perth Amboy, N.J.) that he was 'missing in action in Belgium'. Quite a number of months later the family received a second letter from the U.S. Army indicating he was deceased. However, no further details were provided. The family had no knowledge as to the country in which he died nor where his remains were buried. Numerous inquires to the American Red Cross resulted in the same response "we don't know".

Is there any way I can obtain

information regarding his final resting place in Luxembourg? Also, is it at all possible that someone, who knew my uncle, could provide me with any details as to the circumstances of the town of Stadkyll, Germany. If he was captured at Honsfeld, how did he end up in Stadkyll?

Thank you for taking time to read this rather lengthy letter. Thanks also, at this late time in history, for any information you can provide.

Best regards,

Juliana Flynn
243 Kath St.
South Amboy, N.J. 08879-2009

Ref: Kardos, Michael J.
U.S. Army Serial #32565823
Tech. 5th Class D.O.B. May 7, 1921
(Perth Amboy, N.J.)

If you have any information that might help Juliana please contact her at the above address. Or I would be happy to forward any information to her. You can call me at 734-981-0668. Thanks! Susie

OUR NEXT NEWLETTER

will go to press at the end of June. This will be our final newsletter prior to the reunion. As always, we will be delighted to include any information our members would like to share. Please send any information you would like to include **NO LATER than June 15th** to:

**Susie Pidosny
42159 Briarcliff Court
Canton, Michigan 48187**

*Until we meet again in Lexington,
God Bless You All
and Keep You Safe!*