



612th Tank Destroyer Battalion Association Newsletter February 2005

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



2004 REUNION UPDATE

As most of you know due to my mom's illness Rick and I were unable to attend the 2004 Reunion in Lexington, KY. Tena Phillips and Dorothy Tomlinson were kind enough to send along some information so that we can provide you all with an update of our 51st reunion.

Tena Phillips wrote:

"It was a great 51st reunion. Everybody helped to make it pleasant and successful.

Those that wanted to shop or go site seeing- did.

The usual sandwich making bunch (Glenda, Glyn and Mary Ann) dove right in and got to work. Then they or somebody else would run to the store when more supplies were needed. There were plenty of cookies, cakes, peaches and watermelon. Fayne Haynes "The Candy Man" brought plenty of candy and last but not least Amelia and Clara Harding brought Amish cheese. You know how everybody likes Amish cheese.

The banquet Saturday night was enjoyed by all. The raffle gifts were plentiful and we all had lots of fun. We had a great three days."

Dorothy Tomlinson wrote about the reunion:

"At the reunion, Earlene (Hawkins) had a blister-like place on her foot that burst.

It was bloody and she noticed it when she took her shoe and sock off. She went to a doctor nearly every day for treatment. The doctor thought she might have to have surgery on it when she got home. She was on crutches nearly all week. Since returning home it has healed okay and she did not need surgery. It could have been very serious since she is a diabetic and sometimes places like that do not heal.

When they (Bill and Earlene Hawkins) drove to Lexington, they stopped in Franklin, TN and picked up Hazel Scott. She had not been able to attend for the past few years so it was so good to see her. I thought it was very nice of them to go by there for her.

Of course, Glyn did her usual "KP" duties with good help from Glenda and Hazel. Geneva Smith sent two boxes of Moon Pies and several of the other ladies brought cookies, brownies and other goodies. So we were well provided with sweets. Clara and Amelia brought Amish cheese that was delicious as always.

Glenda stayed busy providing taxi service to and from the airport as well as other errands. Hazel kept her company most of the time.

Many nice items were donated for the Flower Fund Raffle. Talmadge Riley made a couple of those great rocking horses. Clara Harding was delighted when she won one.

Speaking of the flower fund, during the meeting it was suggested that for this year only the receipts should be placed in the general fund for Tena's use to cover expenses such as cards, postage etc. It was

suggested that the funds also go to Susie and Rick (Pidsosny) for their expenses incurred getting the newsletter out and mailing it etc. It was unanimously approved.

(In a post reunion note to Susie, George Karaphillis reported that we currently have \$4,215.⁰⁰ in the Flower Fund.)

Jewel Raulins also said they greatly appreciated Susie and Rick for their excellent work and all the time spent for the 612th. (Greatly deserved I say! especially the time Susie spent putting the books together. They are awesome and were enjoyed a lot this year. Someone was looking at them nearly every time I noticed.)

Mary Ann Wesoly brought nice decorations for the banquet room--American Flag banners etc. She and Donn Fisher took a trip to Fort Knox for a tour of the mint, which they said was very interesting. Unfortunately, they were not giving away samples that day so they couldn't bring us a souvenir. Ha Ha!"

Reunion attendees included:

Members

- Donn Fischer .. RECON
- Elmer F. HaynesB
- William HawkinsB
- Jewel Raulins.....A/B
- Talmadge Riley.....B
- Earl Sain.....B/Med
- Avery Sanders C

Widows

- Maxine HartwickB
- Iris Morris.....B
- Tena Phillips.....B
- Iona NixB
- Judy RamhoffB
- Geneva SmithHQ
- Dean Uhles A

Sisters

- Amelia Harding A
- Clara Harding A
- Hazel Scott A

Children

- Thomas Coone..... C
- Judy (Nix) Odom.....B
- Mary Ann Wesoly... A

Additional Guest And Families Members

- Glenda Millar
- Glyn Sain
- Dorothy Tomlinson
- Evelyn Tallman
- Carolyn VerHoven
- Flo Lefton
- Ouida Raulins
- Sara Sanders
- Diane and Jimmie Kelton
- Matt Northcut and Candis
- Baby Chloe Northcut
- Ruth Riley
- Ronnye and Janice Riley
- Beatrice Haynes
- Janice Bellamy
- Anita Stanley
- Don and Eileen Haynes
- Carol (Friend of Maxine Hartwick)
- Teri Geahlen
- Earline Hawkins
- Jeanie Hawkins
- Claude and Jane Shaw
- Imogene Edmonds

We have uploaded reunion pictures to the internet. You can view photos and print copies if you choose. You are under no obligation to buy prints. To view photos go to the 612th website (www.microrap.biz/612th-tdb) and then click on *Photos*. Photos are courtesy of Dorothy Tomlinson.

Thanks again to Tena and Dorothy for the reunion update.

We also want to take this opportunity to thank our reunion chairperson William "Bill" Hawkins and his lovely wife Earline, their daughter Jeanie along with Claude and Jane Shaw for another outstanding job. Well done!!



2005 REUNION NEWS . . .

It doesn't seem possible but in just 6 short months we will be gathering together to celebrate our



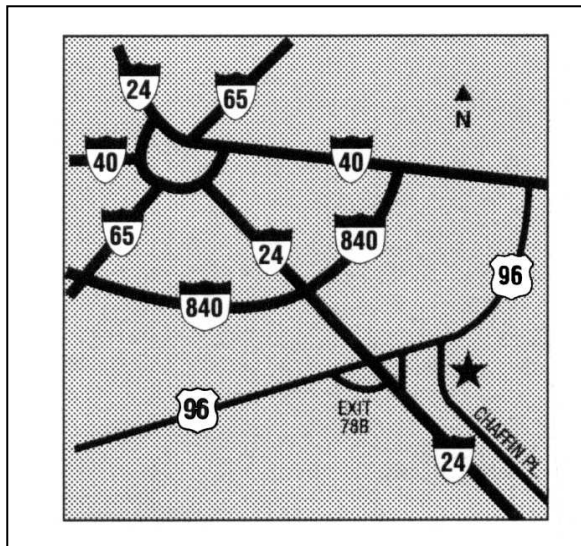
52nd Reunion at the Fairfield Inn and Suites in Murfreesboro, Tenn. This year's reunion dates are Thursday through Sunday **July 28, 29, 30 and 31st.**



Fayne Haynes, this year's host, along with his daughters Anita Stanley and Janice Bellamy have been hard at work making

all of the arrangements to insure that this will be one of our best reunions ever!

The Fairfield Inn and Suites is located at 175 Chaffin Place, Murfreesboro, Tenn.



Room rates are \$70 per night. **Guests should call the hotel direct at 615-849-1150 for reservations prior to 7/14/05.** After this date rooms will be released from the group block and will be available on a "first come first served basis." Individuals must cancel 48 hours prior to arrival. Any rooms cancelled after this date will be charged one-night room and tax.

There is no meeting room set up for Wednesday, July 27th but folks are certainly welcome to come in on Wednesday or earlier if they like. For those of you who will be flying, the closest airport is Nashville, approximately 22 miles away. We are currently working to provide a shuttle service to and from the airport (more in the next newsletter).

Fayne Haynes says he has some "good home cooking" lined up for our Saturday night banquet that will be prepared by Miller's Catering.

For those interested in sight seeing the Oakland Historic House Museum, Sam Davis Home and Museum and Cannonsburgh Village are but a few of the local attractions. Fayne Haynes assures me that Murfreesboro has a large variety of restaurants and shopping to please everyone. For more information write The Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce at 501 Memorial Blvd, Murfreesboro, TN 37133-0684 or call 1-800-716-7560 or visit them on the web at www.rutherfordchamber.org.

In Memory

Our dear friend **Frank Bertrand** passed away on Sept. 18, 2004 at the Eunice Community Medical Center in Eunice, Louisiana. He was a retired offshore oilfield worker and proud member of the 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Frances, son Frank and daughters Paula and Kathy.

We received this letter from Prater Powell, son of Homer Prater Powell.

It is with deep regret I must inform you and the 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion that dad, **Homer Prater Powell**, passed away on April 21, 2004. He was laid to rest at Rose Hill Memorial Gardens and Mother was presented an American Flag by his grandson-in-law, Capt. Richard Whittington, U. S. Army.

Daddy always looked forward to the 612 Reunions and the newsletters and correspondence he had with his fellow Army comrades. He was a very dedicated American and I am sure he is now exchanging "war stories" with the others in his Company who have gone before him.

As we went to press we were saddened to learn of the passing of:

- **Ruby Jaycox** of Biloxi, MS,
- **Herbert Williams** of Savannah, TN
- **Ben Hardy** of Washington, GA
- **Mike Koulianos** of Tarpon Springs, FL.

As soon as we obtain more details, we will pass them along. Our deepest sympathies go out to their families.

We will miss all our dear friends and comrades. Our prayers are with their families. Below is the reading from Frank's memorial card. May it bring comfort to us all.

God looked around His Garden and He found an empty place. He then looked down upon this earth, and saw your tired face. He put his arms around you and lifted you to rest. God's garden must be beautiful, He always takes the best. He knew that you were suffering, He knew you were in pain. He knew that you would never get well on earth again. He saw the road was getting rough and the hills were hard to climb, So He closed your weary eyelids, and whispered. Peace Be Thine.

It broke our hearts to lose you, but you didn't go alone. For part of us went with you the day God called you home.

The Garden.



Mail Call

- **Ruby Anfonson** wrote a nice letter. She is doing fine but has arthritis in both knees and uses a walker to get around. Pretty good since she turned 96 this past Decmeber 27 (oops- maybe I should not have given away her age). Friends come

every Sunday and take her to church. She sends greetings and wishes God's blessing to all.

- **Glenda Millar** spent two weeks in China this past year. I hope she brings lots of pictures to this year's reunion.
- **Tena Phillips** is a great-grand mother for the second time. HANNA MARIE THETFORD was born Friday, April 16, 2004. She weighed in at 5 lbs 20 oz and 20 inches long. Big brother Jackson loves his little sister and says "My Baby".



Jackson

- **Issabella Kemp** says that she enjoys the newsletter and thinks about our time together but can't make the trip anymore.
- **Irene Magnuson** is doing OK but very lonely. She'd love to hear from you. Drop her a line at: 1421-2 Wells School Rd, Manor, TX 78653.
- **Melvin Barr** said thanks for thinking of him. He was pleased to get the card signed by everyone at the reunion. He would have loved to come to the reunion but can't drive.
- **Susie Pidosny** had gall bladder surgery in January 2005. She is doing fine and hopes to see everyone at the reunion in Murfreesboro.
- **Don Smart** and his wife Clara took a 7-day cruise around the Hawaiian Islands. While there Don attended the Maui Writers Conference and rubbed shoulders with several important writers. Don said, "Don't know if it will do any good!"



DUES

Many have paid their 2004 dues. Below is the list of paid up members.

Ruby Anfonson	Judy Odom
Robert Behney	Laney and Jeannie Pettis
Thomas Coone	Tena Phillips
Fares and Anne Cordova	Judy Ramhoff
Donn Fischer	Jewel and Ouida Raulins
Gertrude Flannagan	William and Mildred
Maxine Hartwick	Redifer
Bill and Earline Hawkins	R.E. Reighard
Elmer Haynes and Family	Thor Ronningen
Doris and Florence Kelley	Earl and Glyn Sain
Isabelle Kemp	Hazel Scott
Irene Magnuson	Edna Showalter
Herman and Evelyn McCollum	Geneva Smith
Iris Morris	Anita Stanley
Iona Nix	Dorothy Tomlinson
Dean Ousley	Dean Uhles
	Mary Ann Wesoly
	Imogene Williams

If you have paid your dues and we have not listed your name, please forgive our error. We will be happy to add your name to the next newsletter. If it has slipped your mind and you haven't paid your dues please send a check to Tena. Please remember to make the check payable to Katherine "Tena" Phillips.

Tena Phillips
11606 O'Donnell Dr.
Houston, TX 77076-1008

A great big THANK YOU to all!

Tena

NEWS

Our Next Newsletter 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 Pidsosny
42159 Briarcliff Court
Canton, Michigan 48187
mousehouse@comcast.net

Damm Yank!



The old American absent-mindedly arrived at French customs at Paris airport and fumbled for his passport.

"You have been to France before Monsieur'?", the customs officer asked sarcastically.

The ancient Yank admitted that he had been to France before. "Then you should know enough to have your passport ready for inspection", snapped the irate official. The American said that the last time he came to France he did not have to show his passport.

"Impossible, old man. You Americans always have to show your passports on arrival in France."

The old American gave the Frenchman a long hard look.

"I assure you, young man, that when I came ashore on Omaha Beach in Normandy on D-Day in 1944, there were no damned Frenchman on the beach."

GOD BLESS AMERICA



Don Smart's article titled "*The 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion at the Bulge*" which originally appeared in the November 2001 issue of World War II magazine will be reprinted as part of a special issue from the editors of World War II. This special issue will go on sale on newsstands on December 28, 2004. You can order issues from:

Premedia
History Magazine Group
741 Miller Drive SE Suite D-2
Leesburg, VA 20175



Address Changes

Avery Sanders
Phone number: 615-893-7730

Claude Shaw
313 Foxglove Lane
Winchester, KY 40391

Earl and Glyn Sain
Phone number: 901-850-7919



World War II D-Day Celebration

The following excerpts are from a note to Susie from George Karaphillis about his exciting trip to Normandy this past summer:

"Now, let me tell you about the greatest trip I ever took. And it was given to me by one of my students I had over 26 years ago. He was on my basketball and volleyball team. Anyway, one day I took all my German WWII collection to school and showed my students. This young man never

forgot about it, wrote a paper, and received an A for his work.

Last Christmas he came to Tarpon and with his sisters came to my son's Christmas party. He came up to me (I hardly recognized him) and said, "I'm going to take you to the 60th D-Day Celebration. I was surprised and skeptical about it. So I waited 3 weeks to hear from him. Finally, he called and said "I've got our tickets and we're leaving on June 1st." "My God, what a trip!" On June 6th, 10,000 veterans, congressman, generals and French people gathered to hear President George Bush speak and thank us for liberating France.

After Normandy we went on tours of LaFluer, Brugge, Edam, Amsterdam and LaHarre. I can't wait to show you the photo albums of my whole trip.

The highlight was having my picture taken with first lady Laura Bush!

Get Well Wishes



Fayne Haynes under went hernia surgery Dec. 1st.

Francis C. Hayes is much improved after experiencing several health problems. We look forward to reading all about your "Tele Talk" in the next newsletter.

Best wishes for a full and speedy recovery to both.

Until we meet again in Murfreesboro
God Bless You All
and Keep You Safe!