



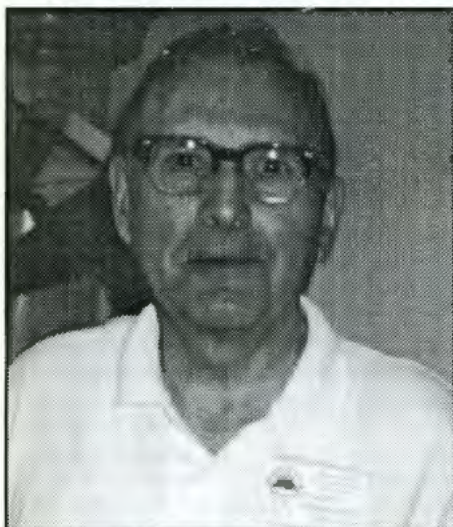
THE LIBERATOR™

VOL. 31 NO. 3

Official Publication of the
14th Armored Division Association

SPRING 1997

PRESIDENT WEBSTER FINALIZES PLANS FOR BIG REUNION IN OMAHA



NEIL WEBSTER

Working on plans for our reunion in Omaha in September is taking most of my time each day after I get thawed out. Only 18 below zero with blowing snow and a -60 degree windchill index today. But I promise we will have none of this when Ann and I welcome you to Omaha.

When we have the reunion the hotel will be changed from the Red Lion to the Doubletree but all early reservations can be sent to the Red Lion Hotel, 1616 Dodge Street, Omaha, NE 68102, or Doubletree Hotel Company. In a letter I received today from the Red Lion I quote: "The Doubletree has pur-

chased the complete Red Lion Hotel Company chain." Dated 1/8/97.

Last Fall former president Don Beamgard and his wife paid the Websters a visit and helped unload all the 14th Armored reunion goodies. The containers for the flags, etc., must have been made for younger veterans or my age is catching up with me in a hurry. Lifting or moving anything more than 20 pounds belongs with the younger generation.

Those who plan to arrive in Omaha on Wednesday, September 17, just a reminder that hotel registration/check-in time is 3 p.m. An executive board meeting is scheduled for 5 p.m. that day, and 14th Armored registration begins after 4 p.m. Please sign unit attendance books and the sign-up sheet for Saturday night banquet seating—by units if possible—as soon as possible. Also, please sign up for unit flag presentation at the banquet as an individual is needed for each of the units.

Here is a brief summary of each day's activities. I will try to get more detailed information in the next issue of the *Liberator*.

A truly interesting and educational experience will be a visit to the Omaha H. Doorly Zoo, considered one of the nation's best. This event is scheduled for 9 a.m. Thursday. Among the many fea-

tures of this zoo are the rain forest and an outstanding aquarium. There is also an I-Max Theater and plenty of eating facilities.

Also scheduled for Thursday morning is the Boys Town tour. This will begin at 9 a.m. and if there is more than one busload signed up for this event, another bus will start the tour at 11 a.m. This tour will also include the Joslin Art Museum where you can have lunch at your cost.

The Early Bird Dinner Thursday evening promises to be a fun time. A midwest buffet will be featured, and entertainment includes "Peter the Great."

Your free time on Friday can be spent at the Old Market District after leaving the Western Heritage Museum. The Old Market District is a ten to twelve square block area between the Western Heritage Museum and your hotel. The Old Market District is east and south of hotel. There are many downtown restaurants in the Old Market area.

The SAC Air Force Museum is restructuring and moving from Bellevue site to Mahoney State Park right at the time of the reunion. If available, I will see that a trip is scheduled.

For those who have some life left in them Friday evening, buses leave from the hotel at 7 p.m. for the

continued on page 2

1997 NATIONAL REUNION

September 17-21, 1997

OMAHA, NEBRASKA

Neil Webster

continued from page 1

9 p.m. There is no bus charge and food costs are very reasonable and the food is good.

Always a highlight of our reunions, the Memorial Service will be held Saturday morning. This is followed by the men's general business meeting, and the women's auxiliary meeting.

Our Saturday night banquet program will be something a little different. A Jewish gentleman and his wife who survived the horrors of a Nazi concentration camp will tell of their experiences. They, no doubt, appreciate the "Liberators" who freed them. The banquet, of course, will include dinner, installation of officers, and dance music by the Swingtones, featuring our very own 14th AD member Tony Snyder and friends.

Our Sunday morning farewell buffet breakfast will give everyone the opportunity to visit and say goodbye to their friends before leaving for home. The church service, led by Chaplain Froeschner, will begin at 9 a.m. at the hotel.

More details about the reunion in the next issue of the Liberator.

As you may know, Turner Publishing Company hopes to publish a supplemental history book of the 14th Armored division. It is our understanding that there will be a mailing to all members of the association requesting that they send information about themselves and their experiences to be used in this book. I have requested that Ralph Jackson, national secretary, entertain ideas about this. If you have ideas, comments, etc. about this project, contact Ralph. Watch the Liberator for further information and check your mail for the information being sent out by Turner.

That's it for now. Get those reunion and hotel reservations in early and plan on having a really big time in Omaha this fall.

Neil Webster, A-62nd

PHOTO ON RIGHT:

These reunion color guard members looked pretty sharp, despite being out of uniform for over 50 years. From L-R: Bill Rutz, A.L. Bennett, Gene Deck and Phil Snoberger.

<i>Honorary National President</i> MAJOR GEN. A.C. SMITH, USA-Deceased		<i>Honorary National President</i> LT. COL. ANDREW W. WINIARCZYK, USA-RET	
★★★ LIBERATOR ★★★			
Official Publication 14th Armored Division Association, Inc. VERLYN HOFER, EDITOR -			
LIST OF OFFICERS			
<i>National President</i> NEIL WEBSTER	<i>Executive Director</i> <i>National Treasurer</i> ANDREW D. TIERNO	<i>National Historian</i> GEORGE ENGLAND, JR.	
<i>National Sr. Vice President</i> CLAUDE W. McALLISTER	<i>National Secretary</i> RALPH L. JACKSON	<i>National Chaplain</i> WILLIAM D. FROESCHNER	
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<i>National Jr. 2nd Vice Pres.</i> GERALD W. FREEMAN	<i>National Publicity</i> GEORGE P. DAVIS		

LIST OF AUXILIARY OFFICERS

<i>National President</i> CLEO VAN DYKE	<i>National 2nd Vice President</i> PHYLLIS SHATTUCK	<i>National Secretary</i> AVERIL KNAPP	<i>Nomination Committee</i> MERTYCE MEYER
Winter Res. (Jan-Apr.)		<i>National Treasurer</i> PATRICIA VAN DYKE	OMA COURSEY
<i>National 1st Vice President</i> SYLVIA McALLISTER	<i>National 3rd Vice President</i> MARJORIE A. THOMPSON	<i>Public Relations</i> VICTORIA TOMCHO	<i>Historian</i> EDITH BARTON



Attends Reunion to Learn About Brother Killed in World War II

by Verlyn Hofer

Life's journey consists mainly of two ingredients—places and people. As enjoyable and interesting as it is to travel to places one has never experienced before, it is the people one encounters along the way who really make the trip worthwhile. After all, who would enjoy a trip around the world devoid of people?

As Mary and I traveled southwest last fall to attend the annual reunion of the 14th Armored Division Association at Colorado Springs, CO, we anticipated seeing some new sights and visiting some places where we had never been before. We have learned from experience, also, that along with the many old friends we would encounter, we would also see some new faces and form some worthwhile friendships with people with whom we have something in common.

So was the case when a man by the name of Richard Luna contacted us at the reunion, wanting to know if we remembered his older brother, Sgt. Leandro Luna. Richard, who was only ten years old when his brother was killed in the war, had come to the 14th Armored gathering to talk to anyone and everyone there who knew his brother and the circumstances of his death.

Fortunately there were about a half dozen of us present who remembered Sgt. Luna quite well and could relate information to Richard which, perhaps, only he could fully appreciate and cherish. German artillery fire had ended the war for this old soldier about two weeks before Sgt. Luna's untimely death so it was up to others to relate the ending of Leandro's life.

The war was fast drawing to a close in Europe but shots were still being fired and men were still dying. There was that temptation of wanting to believe that it was all over and all would be well.

Heaven knows Sgt. Luna had seen his share of fighting and dying and he, like others, didn't want any more of it if he could help it. Attesting to the fact that through all this carnage he had not lost his humanity was the very last gesture of his life here on earth.

The very day before—Apr. 7, 1945—our platoon leader, Lt. Charles Baldwin, and several others were mortally wounded by unexpected mortar fire. So there was no good reason for Sgt. Luna to believe the war was about over, but the Germans were giving up by the thousands and that is what everyone wanted to believe.



Richard Luna, second from left, is pictured with four members of Co A, 62nd AIB, who served with his brother, Leandro. L to R are Neil Webster, Luna, Verlyn Hofer, Scott Wheeler and Lawrence "Pete" Lakey.

Luna and his infantry squad were in the lead halftrack of an armored column racing across Germany when they encountered a roadblock manned mainly by old men and young boys drafted into the German army in the last months of the war. A white flag was raised and the situation was appraised by Sgt. Luna. If by negotiating a quick surrender he could spare the lives of both friend and foe, he would do it. What he did not know was that among the defenders were two SS troopers who had no intentions of surrendering.

When Sgt. Luna stepped forward to talk to those bearing a white flag, he was killed by a single shot to the head. Needless to say, there were no more negotiations. Tanks were brought forward and the roadblock was destroyed, and there were no prisoners taken that day.

This was, indeed, a sad and untimely end to the life of a young man who was loved and respected by those who knew him. It is made all the more sad by the fact that Leandro was the last man of Co. A., 62nd AIB, to be killed in the war. Had he not trusted the enemy, some would say, he would have survived the war.

But he lives on in our memories as a man who cared for others under the most trying of circumstances. He never lost the higher qualities of life—even in war and death.

So it is our hope and prayer that Richard and his family, having learned this about his brother, will cherish even more the memory of Leandro—soldier,

hero, a caring individual.

We truly enjoyed our trip to Colorado, going to places like Cripple Creek, Flying W Ranch, and the Air Force Academy, but the one incident which will forever be remembered was the opportunity to meet and visit with Richard Luna and his wife. They were so appreciative of the opportunity this reunion offered them, and Richard seemed to be at peace with the fact that his brother truly gave his life for others.

We know that when Richard got home, the many stories related to him about his brother were passed on to his seven children and other members of the family.

Want a 1996 Convention Program?

I have about 60 1996 Colorado Springs Convention Programs on hand complete with a 14th Armored bumper strip. These are filled with all kinds of information, have numerous stories from our 14th Armored members, listing of each days activities, 30 or 40 WWII songs, list of past conventions and Presidents - about 40 pages in all. I will send you one for \$1 with any left over postage sent to Andy Tierno. Don Beamgard,



THE CHAPLAIN'S COMMENTS

The due-date for this article is January 15th. It's cold with snow and ice on the ground. I can't but help remember 1945 as I'm sure many of you do, too: Hatten and Rittershoffen. Never thought 52 years later I would be writing a reflective article about that episode in a warm room. So much has been written and said about that engagement, but I thought some comments about the accompanying photographs might add a little something.

A friend who had a chance to go back through Hatten just after the Spring Offensive took them (I'm so grateful). There are several others, but these two have always been special to me: the remains of the 94th Cav ambulance and the remains of the village church. Nothing is sacred



in war - so it seems. Here, two of the nobler human hopes - the healing of the body and the healing of the spirit were treated no differently. They represented the "good" but were overtaken by the "evil" which the human race can and often has unleashed.

Historically, neither of these endeavors are without their down-sides. It is said that George Washington died because of the improper use of leeches, and many ignoble things have been done in the name of religion. But, still, they represent at least two of the longing expectations of the human soul as well as some of its accomplishments. For example, I read that just the other day a doctor here in Missouri reattached the ear of a little boy via micro-surgery and then used leeches to evacuate the blood from the miniscule vein until it could reattach itself properly. And back in Hatten, I remember watching intently through the rubble for any movement and seeing an old lady with her cane slowly hobble across the street in the midst of all the shelling. Suddenly, all the firing stopped in silence until she reached a cellar, then commenced unmercifully again.... (Like the story from WWI where the two sides sang "Silent Night" to each other across no-man's land on Christmas Eve.)

So, back to these photos - despite the seeming devastation of these efforts to reaffirm mankind's God-given dignity, the uneasy peace that is the world today, reaffirms their need and eternal hope in our lives.



And the peace will always be uneasy until the whole human race recognizes that God is in command and slows down to listen. May God let that happen in our time.

Bill Froeschner A-94
National Chaplain

WHO GETS WHAT?

The **Treasurer** receives all money for 14th A.D. Assn. activities. This includes yearly dues, LIFE membership dues, postage contributions, scholarship contributions, special gifts and those items on reunion registration forms which are labeled "Pay to Treasurer." The Treasurer receives all the new member information, which should include the member's unit and company affiliation. Also, changes in addresses should be sent to Andy Tierno.

The **Hotel** receives all money required for accommodations, room deposits, reservation requests, etc.

The **Secretary** receives all the change of address and any death notices.

The **Editor** of the LIBERATOR receives all the mail call items, letters to the editor, articles, notices, and reunion information for the regional meetings of Midwest States, Northeastern States, Southeastern States, Southwestern States and any other meetings of interest. The Editor decides which material, out of all the material he receives, will be included or excluded in the LIBERATOR. (His is a very tough job at times, because he receives so many interesting items.)

The **Auxiliary Treasurer** receives all Auxiliary dues and other funds associated with the activities of the Auxiliary.

14th Association Past President Morris Wax dies

(Editor's Note: Most everyone who attended the 14th AD reunions knew Morris Wax who served as our president and hosted the San Diego reunion. He generously funded a scholarship and contributed in many other ways to our association. He was a Company Commander of HQ Co., 25th Tank. He will be missed.)

**-The San Diego Union Tribune
Thursday, December 26, 1996**
By James Steinberg, Staff Writer

Funeral services are today for Morris Wax, a prominent San Diego businessman and civic leader, who founded Waxie Sanitary Supply.

Over the course of his life, Mr. Wax was active in a large number of charitable causes, built his company into one of the largest family-owned sanitary supply businesses in the country and crossed paths with two famous generals.

As a young Army officer in Europe during the closing days of World War II, Capt. Wax and every man in his unit drew the wrath of Gen. George S. Patton Jr.

And this past Sunday, Mr. Wax received get-well wishes from an old friend, retired Army Gen. Colin Powell. He died two days later in his Alvarado Estates home, his family at his side. He was 76.

Mr. Wax, co-founder and chairman of Waxie Sanitary Supply, with operations in California, Arizona, Utah and Nevada, was in the 14th Armored Division when they ran afoul of Patton, a friend recalled yesterday.

It was Easter 1945, and the 14th, its vehicles laden with sandbags as added protection against enemy fire, had just crossed the Danube River, said Herbert Strauss of San Diego, who has known Mr. Wax for 55 years.

"He (Patton) called us a bunch of yellow bastards and said the sandbags were slowing us down and causing us to burn too much fuel," Strauss said.

But Mr. Wax, a supply officer, made sure the men were "well provided with ammunition and fuel," and received the Bronze Star for meritori-

ous service, Strauss said.

On Sunday, Mr. Wax received a telephone call from longtime friend Gen. Colin Powell, who stayed with him during the Republican National Convention in San Diego this summer, said his son, Charles Wax.

But it was as a contributor and fund-raiser for a number of causes that Mr. Wax made his mark on San Diego, people who knew him said yesterday.

He's done so much for the city quietly," said acquaintance Julaine Anton. "He's a man who didn't do it for publicity. His love has been the USO."

The organization named its local center for Mr. Wax, who guided it through three of its last four moves and into its present location at

Mr. Wax served four terms as president of the San Diego USO Council and was still on the board of the organization's world headquarters, said his son.

Morris Wax was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, and grew up in the rural southern part of the state in one of the first homes to have running water and electricity, said Charles Wax.

Mr. Wax entered the U.S. Army in 1941, received his commission at Fort Knox, KY; he left the service in 1946 but continued as an officer in the reserves.

He then joined his older brother, Harry in establishing San Diego Janitor Supply and Chemical Co., at 10th Avenue and B Street. He was recalled to active duty during the Korean War with the rank of major.

Mr. Wax was active in a number of civic and charitable causes. In 1991, he was honored for his efforts on behalf of the United Negro College Fund, and in 1993 he received the group's Dr. Frederick D. Patterson Award.

In May of this year, he was one of 15 business owners honored by the



Greater San Diego Chamber of Commerce, the U.S. Small Business Administration and Wells Fargo Bank.

Attorney Brian Feltzer, chairman of the San Diego Convention Center Corp., called Mr. Wax a "remarkable host, extremely generous. He got so much pleasure out of entertaining other people... he was larger than life."

Mr. Wax took a keen interest in the military and its presence in San Diego. Although an Army veteran, he was active in the Navy League and was a supporter of the annual holiday Navy Band Concert.

He also served on the commissioning committees for three naval vessels here.

"It is very rare one individual can make such a positive difference in how the public ... feels about the Navy and Marine Corps. Your work over the years has accomplished that and more," Navy Secretary John H. Dalton wrote to Mr. Wax just 10 days before his death.

"The military really lost a steadfast supporter. The country will miss him," said Vice Admiral Bill St. George (Ret.) of Point Loma, who met Mr. Wax more than 20 years ago in a USO-related capacity.

In addition to being chairman of Waxie Sanitary Supply, he was a member of the San Diego Chamber of Commerce, Masonic Lodge No. 35, and the board of the San Diego Anti-Defamation League, among others.

His many past affiliations include the International Sanitary Supply Foundation Board, Southern California Committee for Employers Support of National Guard and Reserves, the Selective Service Board, the 1993 Holiday Bowl Committee, the Jewish Community Center and Temple Beth Israel.

NEW MEMBERS ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Isbell, Millard	62 Inf C Co
Burmeister, Albert	48 Tank B Co
Smith, Pennington P.	47 Tank A Co
Smith, James G.	47 Tank Serv. Co
Jewell, Preston	62 Inf A Co.
Juliano, Edward**	Support Trains
McClure, Charles	125 Engr
Jones, Joe	48 Tank A Co
McMillin Sr., Harold	19 Inf Hq Co
Stephens, Malcolm	25 Tank Hq Co
Harris, John P.	94 Cav D Trp

* Wife of Member **Son or Daughter of Member

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Minor, M.W.	68 Inf	A Co
Haynie, Gary	68 Inf	A Co



A VISIT TO LENGDORF, GERMANY

Perhaps some of you will remember me from my appeal a few years ago requesting information about my father (Pfc. Raymond R. Smith) and his tour of duty in Alsace and Germany with the Co. C, 48th Tank Battalion. I had asked for help in finding a family with whom my father stayed in Alsace before the push into Germany.

Well, so far I have not been successful in finding the family. I guess it's like looking for a needle in the haystack since I did not have the name of the family. I have had contact with a young man in Fürchhausen, France (not far from Saverne) who offered to help me in finding the family and we visited him and his family during our trip to Europe in May of 1996. However, this article is not about my continuing search for that family.

During our trip to Germany this past May, my husband Bruce and I were heading into Austria when we discovered we were not far from the village of Lengdorf, not far from Munich. My father had labeled some photos taken while in Lengdorf and one photo was of my father (back row, right in photo) with three other GI's in front of a house. You can see that the house has an interesting and distinctive exterior. So, we decided to take a side trip to Lengdorf to see if we could find the house which my father had stayed in while in Lengdorf.

Lengdorf is a fairly small village, and though there was not much activity there, it was not long before I saw an older gentleman painting his fence. Upon approaching the man, with my limited knowledge of the German language I showed him the photograph of the house and explained my desire to find it. Herr Gruendl motioned that he was unable to

speak as he had just had throat surgery, but that his son could speak English. Soon Herr Gruendl and his son Georg were taking us to the house!

The house looks just the same now as in 1945, only now it has full grown trees in front and is not out in the country as it was then. The village has expanded and the house is now part of the village. The Gruendl's and I went to the rear of the house where the residents were having their afternoon beer and Georg explained to the residents the reason for our visit. We learned that they had just purchased the house a year ago.

We took a few photos of the house, and then Herr Gruendl remembered that the son of the former owner lived just up the road. So he walked up to see if the gentleman was home and sure enough he was. We then talked to Herr Wilhelm Mannsinger who explained that his mother had owned the house during the war and that she had died just two years ago. Herr Mannsinger did not know of the GI's being housed in his mother's house in 1945 as during that time he had been in a Siberian labor camp and did not return to Lengdorf until 1949, but he seemed pleased with my interest in finding the house. This ends my search for the house in Lengdorf. As you can see, I was able to at least accomplish this particular aspect of my father's tour of duty in Germany. I hope to someday be successful with my search for the family in Alsace.

If anyone can identify the other GI's in the photo, I'd appreciate knowing about them. I'd also like to learn more about the 48th's occupation of Lengdorf when the war was over.

By the way, when we visited Fürchhausen later in our trip, the young



TAPS

Robert M. Collins - 48 Tank A Co
Paul J. Schlesinger - 68 Inf C Co.
Joe Juliano - Support Trains
Betty Haskin (wife of Joe)- CMD
 154 Sig Co.
Russell Lee Thuermer - 68 Inf C Co
John R. Collins - 62 Inf C Co
Morris Wax - 25 Tank Hq Co.
Andy Striker - 19 Inf Hq Co.
Ethel Marks (wife of Henry)
 19 Inf Hq Co.
Arnold B. Capsey - 48 Tank Hq Co.
Virginia Capsey (wife of Arnold B.)
Eugene H. Loughrin, Jr. - CCB Hq Co.
Raymond Moran - 48 Tank Service Co
Kenneth M. Stanfield - (Unit
 unreported)
Carl Slaughter - 25 Tank C Co
Marvin Townsend - 500 Arty B Bty

man with whom I had contact accompanied us to Hatten and Rittershoffen. Although we still haven't determined if my father was involved in the battles there, it was essential for me to visit these villages after having read so much about the action there in WWII.

It is my hope that my next article will be to report on my success in finding the family in Alsace. In the meantime, auf wiedersehen, au revoir, goodbye!

Jnanne A. Smith Mello



(Written on reverse of photo)

Last crew of Capt. John at Lengdorf, Ger. after war was over. Our "residence" was top floor of this house, shared with James. A sweet setup it was, too. (Spring 1945)

14th Armored Division

Minutes of the General Meeting, September 14, 1996 - Colorado Springs, Co.

The meeting was called to order by President Beamgard at 10:30 a.m. Bill Froeschner gave the invocation and the group Pledged Allegiance to the Flag and to the Republic.

MOTION by Earle Schlegel, sec. by Pat Defusco that the minutes of the 1995 meeting as published in the LIBERATOR be approved. PASSED.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Andy Tierno. MOTION by Froelich, sec. by DeWitt that the Treasurer's Report be approved. PASSED. Copy of Treasurer's Report filed in Secretary's book and Treasurer's book. Summary of data: 1996 membership is highest ever, 1467 active members.

Total income	\$45,014.40
Total Expenses	\$50,313.71
Total Assets	\$25,841.15

Nominating Report by DeWitt: Jerold Freeman of Texas to be nominated for 2nd Jr. Vice President. Seconded by Charles Ferro. MOTION by Hanhardt, sec. by Bill Colbert that nominations cease. PASSED. Mr. Freeman presented himself to the group. He is from Dallas, sells Oldsmobile cars through seven dealerships, is phasing out his activity and will have time for his duties as President of 14th A.D. Assn. in year 2000.

Scholarship Report by Shattuck: Scholarship money has been sent to Jeffrey Van Dyke, Rebecca Rodgers, Dawn Michelle Janis. Special gift awards were made to Jessica Perko, Patrick Kritzer, Robert Albert, Damon Drahos. Shattuck emphasized that the application must be received by MAY 15. This is pointed out on the application form. MOTION by Froelich, sec. by DeWitt that report be accepted. PASSED.

MOTION by Shattuck, sec. by Froelich that Freeman be elected 2nd Jr. Vice President and the other officers move up one place, making Neil Webster President in

1997. Also that the present appointed officers remain in place. PASSED.

LIBERATOR Editor Report: The deadline for material to be in the next issue will be a few days beyond the regular September 30 because of our later reunion this September. Typed material would be much easier and more accurately handled by him and by the printer.

1997 President's Report by Neil Webster: The hotel in Omaha will be what is now called The Red Lion. This name may change due to a change of ownership. Activities may include the zoo, rain forest, IMAX Theater, Boystown, SAC Air Base. The Air Force Museum may not be available due to being relocated next September.

Report for 1998 Reunion: Don Beamgard reported for Claude McAllister who couldn't attend because of illness in the family. The meeting will be in Fort Smith, Arkansas. Arrangements are proceeding.

Report for 1999 Reunion: Jack Turner reported that the reunion would be in Hampton, VA and that some interesting activities are being planned.

Under old business, we heard a proposal by Turner Publishing Co. to print a 14th A.D. Assn. book containing stories written by 14th veterans, together with short biographies and photos from service days and present. Book to be created at no cost to the 14th. Royalties of 5% of sales would be paid to the Assn. We would allow publicity mailing to our members requesting their participation. They asked that the 14th furnish one person who would be a contact person to them during the book publishing activity. MOTION by Verlyn Hofer, sec. by Shattuck that we cooperate in this project. PASSED.

Under new business, Luther Carle stated that if there were enough interest, he would arrange a

trip to Europe in 1997.

A telegram from Andrew Winiarczyk was read which congratulated all the 50th Anniversary couples.

Mr. Bob Long, 48th Tank C Co., described the needs of the Patton Museum which is 100 miles east of San Bernadino, CA. It needs a good Sherman tank, a grease gun, German burp gun and other items of WWII vintage. Contact Bob Long,

if you wish to help in the Patton Museum project.

After applause for a great reunion planned by Don Beamgard and benediction by Bill Froeschner, the meeting was adjourned at 11:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ralph L. Jackson, Secretary

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING September 12, 1996 Colorado Springs, CO.

The meeting was called to order by President Don Beamgard at 4:00 p.m. Attending were Ralph Jackson, Fred Shattuck, George P. Davis, Andrew D. Tierno, Jack R. DeWitt, Charles N. Hurl, Luther Carle, Jack Turner, Ogden S. Jones, Jr., Horst G. Froelich, Gene Deck, George W. England, Jr., Frank Van Someren, Bill Froeschner, Harold Hanhardt, Neil Webster, Jerold Freeman.

Bill Froeschner gave the Invocation and the group Pledged Allegiance to the Flag and to the Republic.

MOTION by Froelich, sec. by Shattuck that Minutes of the 1995 meeting be approved as published in the LIBERATOR. PASSED.

Andy Tierno gave the Treasurer's Report. MOTION by DeWitt, sec. by Froelich that it be approved.

Continued on page 8

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD
continued from page 7

PASSED. Copy of Report in Secretary's book.

Total income	\$45,014.40
Total Expenses	\$50,313.71
Total Assets	\$25,841.15

Nominating Report by DeWitt: Jerold Freeman of Texas volunteers to be nominated for 2nd Jr. Vice President. The committee recommends this nomination. **MOTION** by Shattuck, sec. by Webster that report be accepted. **PASSED.**

Scholarship Report by Shattuck: Scholarship money has been sent to Jeffrey Van Dyke, Rebecca Rodgers, Dawn Michelle Janis. Special gift awards were made to Jessica Perko, Patrick Kritzer, Robert Albert, Damon Drahos. Shattuck emphasized that the applications must be received by May 15. This is pointed out on the application form. **MOTION** by Froelich, sec. by DeWitt that report be accepted. **PASSED.**

Senior Vice President's Report by Neil Webster: A local group will provide music in Omaha. There will be some special entertainment. Karl Rosenburg will tell the story of his book very briefly. Other events are being arranged. **MOTION** by England, sec. by Shattuck that report be accepted. **PASSED.**

Don Beamgard reported for 1st Jr. Vice President, Claude McAllister. Arrangements are proceeding for a reunion in Ft. Smith in 1998.

Gardner Hatch of Turner Publishing Co., Paducah, KY, described a book they would like to publish which would contain stories written by 14th A.D. veterans and also short biographies and photos from service days and the present. Book to be created at no cost to the 14th. We would allow mailings to our members to assemble the items to be put in the book and to sell the book. The 14th would receive 5% of the sales, which, he said, could amount to about \$1500. **MOTION** by DeWitt, sec. by Froelich that the 14th A.D. Assoc. allow Turner time at the General Meeting to push

sales of the History Book Reprint. **PASSED.**

MOTION by Shattuck, sec. by Hanhardt that the 14th A.D. Assn. support Turner's effort to publish a memoir and photo book compiled from material furnished by our members, at no cost to our Association. The proposal to be put before the membership at the General Meeting Sept. 14, 1996. **PASSED.**

National Jr. 2nd Vice President Jack Turner reported that the 1999 reunion would be held at the Holiday Hampton Hotel in Norfolk, VA, unless a better offer turns up. Several arrangements for activities are underway. **MOTION** by Froelich, sec. by DeWitt that the report be accepted. **PASSED.**

Under new business, the question of membership status for descendants and widows of 14th members and the honorary memberships for certain people was discussed. Secretary Jackson pointed out that our roster has listed both widows and descendants as members who receive the LIBERATOR three times a year since the years Fred Bynes was Secretary, that is 1988 and earlier. **MOTION** by Shattuck, sec. by Froelich the subject be tabled until next year. **PASSED.**

President Beamgard reported on a gift to our scholarship fund from Morris Wax, whose health prevents him from attending our meeting this year.

MOTION by DeWitt, sec. by Deck that Don Beamgard be congratulated for arranging such a fine reunion. **PASSED.**

MOTION by Carle, sec. by Turner to adjourn. **PASSED.** Adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ralph L. Jackson, Secretary



GREETINGS 25TH TANKERS

Still thanking all of you that came to Colorado Springs for our big convention. For the first time the 25th had the most registrations.

I got over 100 Christmas greetings from my 14th friends and tried to answer them all. June and I really value our friendships of the 14th Armored. You are all family! Mostly good news of visits to Fla., Ariz., Arkansas, family trips, visits to Europe or just plain good living together at home.

I announced at the Ex. Meeting at Colo. Springs that Capt. Morris Wax was very ill. I had talked to him in August when he sent a scholarship donation and he had told me of the seriousness of his condition. I was notified of Morris's passing on Christmas day and his services were on Dec. 26. WOJG Herb Strauss phoned me and asked for input from the 25th Tank to use at the service. I did the best I could. Morris was a good officer and a good man. We will miss him. Good-bye, Morrie. You completed a job well done.

Andy Lambdin, C Company, is fighting the Big C. Pray for him. He's doing a good job of it.

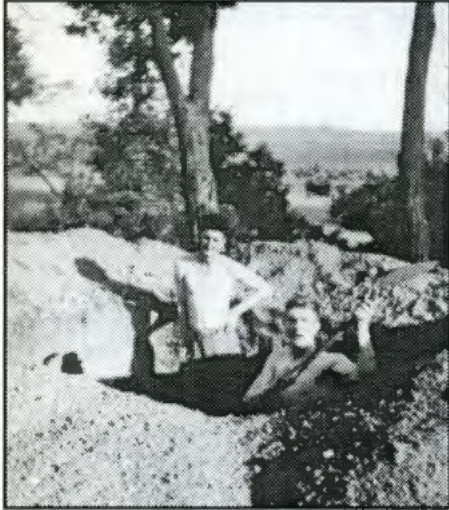
Talked to Col. Watson. He celebrated his 80th birthday and is in good spirits. Always says the 25th was his favorite unit and he served in Korea and 'Nam. Kind of honors us.

Throckmorton is still going strong and I phoned Frank Muzic. He is fine and retired in Chicago. Did not get a greeting card from him and worried. He's a retired window dresser. How is that for a different occupation? Charlie Fodge phoned, a retired foundry foreman in New York. Wanted to know about all you guys. I phoned Talavera's wife to express our sorrow on his passing and happened to phone on Poncho's birthday, a real treat for his wife Elga and me.

Plan for Omaha now. Plan on seeing all of you there. Don't walk very well, and have the gout but I can still use my mouth. If you have any news or anyone you might want to contact, let me know. I may be able to help.

Don Beamgard

"LATE FROM THE 48TH"



Bob Fox and Larry Miller of A-48 TK BN, digging a six by six somewhere in Germany. Truly a "Fox" hole. Germany 1945

Another year has arrived. I hope it is better than the last one, which wasn't too good as I, like some others, lost a few friends that were very dear to me. One especially, Mildred Davis, wife of George Davis of A-48. Mildred was a gracious lady, we will miss her. And too, there was Betty Hanke, wife of Dale Hanke, also of A-48. Betty was another nice lady and a good letter writer, right Dale?

We also lost Bob Collins who was the best singer in A-48. I remember going to town in the trucks, and Bob singing for us all the way into Fort Smith. Last but not least, my very good friend Gene Cornell, whose friendship I'll always treasure.

In the 1996 spring issue of the *Liberator* on page six, in the new

members column I noticed two persons listed that I would like to get in touch with. One is Linda Russ of St. Louis, Mo. and Kathleen Rifkin of New Jersey, both listed 48th Tank A Co. There is some information I would like concerning your fathers.

Before signing off, here's a funny that a lumberman would appreciate.

Customer: Hey! This lumber has holes in it.

Clerk: Those are Knot holes!

Customer: Well, if they are not holes, what the hell are they?

Hey, Jack! What do you get when you cross a lawyer with a tailor?

Answer: A suitcase.

Jack Gunn

A-48 Unit rep.

NEWS FROM THE 499TH A.F.A.

First a note to Past President Don Beamgard: Apology accepted! Thank you, and June, for the explicit review of our Colorado reunion. It was another memorable one and your writing in "The Liberator" gives us an opportunity to review in our minds-eye the wonderful experiences you planned for us. Again, our thanks!

Guess you can see by our "musings" that we certainly were not in touch with everyone in Colorado. We had 45 registrants who were credited to the 499th (although we realize many were sons and daughters, as well as spouses). Perhaps for future reunions we will be able to come up with a way of better communication. We were overwhelmed; such a happy awakening!

Speaking of sons and daughters: It was a real joy to see many of them caring enough to support the division with their memberships. "... for the tree is known by its fruits." Through the interest of these offspring, we can know that this organization and the memories of the 14th Armored Division will never die. Wonderful assurance!

We were saddened to learn of the death of one of our life members, James Drake, of Hq. Btry. Nice to know of the continued interest of his widow, Frances, as she joins us. Condolences may be mailed to her @

Did you hear this? We heard it on National News! The noted Americana artist, Don Sawyer, is most recently doing paintings of old diners around our countryside. One of those he has chosen is CASEY'S DINER, located just a few miles from the outskirts of Boston, MA. We knew immediately it was the diner established by our old, recently departed, buddy, Joseph Casey of Natick, MA. What a tribute!

On our way to a wedding at Hilton Head, S.C. last fall, we stopped for an overnight in Albemarle and visited with Ruth and "T" Talbert. Good to report finding them in improving health.

Happy, also, to hear our friend, Bessie Klindt, wife of "Chet" is doing nicely, although slowly, following very serious surgery. She would appreciate our continued prayers and notes @

One of the fringe benefits of being the Unit Representative is receiving notes and cards from many. Some of the things we have gleaned that you might appreciate: "Mo" Silver reports hearing from Jim Blue and 'all are well'. Gene McEwen joined the ranks of those having pacemakers implanted and, also, cataract surgery. He and Barbara reported Branson (MO) to be spectacular at Christmastime. Vince

and Mary Ippolito are hoping to go to Jacksonville (FL) for the Southeastern reunion at the Sea Turtle Inn (Hope they made it!). Jim Ellsworth and Frank Griffen are busily planning "A" Battery's bi-annual reunion in New York. (Y'all come!) Looie and Helen Motycka are still bemoaning Ohio State's loss to Michigan State (we, too)! Bob and Lorraine Stella are anxious to assist with the plans for the Fort Smith reunion in any way they can. Jack and Eileen Scharsu have moved to

All are slowing down, yet planning to "see everyone" at the next reunion.

Thought to ponder: In this new year, let's not put off contacting one another, especially with words of encouragement to those who are in failing health or grieving a loss. We are all in the same general age span, spending much time complying with doctor's orders and losing dear friends or family members is a common experience. We must take time, stop saying "I cannot... or don't know what to write," just drop a line to that old buddy or his wife. You will feel better for doing it and we know it will be much appreciated. To those who do write - Thanks! See ya.....

Jim and Yvonne Darling

REUNION RESERVATION • 14th ARMORED DIVISION ASSOCIATION

33rd Annual Reunion • OMAHA, NE • Sept. 17-21, 1997

Name (Print) _____ BN. _____ BTRY (CO) _____

Address _____

Reg. #

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

CIRCLE PRICE OF EVENTS DESIRED (Prices are per person)	THURSDAY SEPT. 18 Omaha Zoo EVENT #1 9:00 a.m.	THURSDAY SEPT. 18 Boys Town & Joslyn Museum EVENT #2 9:00 a.m.	THURSDAY SEPT. 18 Early Bird at Hotel EVENT #3 5:30 p.m.	FRIDAY SEPT. 19 Western Heritage Mus. & Fom.Park EVENT #4 9:00 a.m.	FRIDAY SEPT. 19 Casino EVENT #5 7 p.m.	SATURDAY SEPT. 20 Banquet EVENT #6 Doors open 5:30 p.m.	SUNDAY SEPT. 21 Breakfast EVENT #7 7:00 a.m.	MONEY TOTAL Per Person
MAN'S FIRST NAME	\$11.00	\$10.00	\$25.00	\$15.00	FREE Transportation	\$35.00	\$10.00	\$
LADY'S FIRST NAME	\$11.00	\$10.00	\$25.00	\$15.00	FREE Transportation	\$35.00	\$10.00	\$
GUEST NAME	\$11.00	\$10.00	\$25.00	\$15.00	FREE Transportation	\$35.00	\$10.00	\$
GUEST NAME	\$11.00	\$10.00	\$25.00	\$15.00	FREE Transportation	\$35.00	\$10.00	\$
TOTAL	\$	\$	\$	\$	FREE Transportation	\$	\$	\$

**Mail Reunion Reservation
ON or BEFORE Aug. 25 to:**

**ANDREW D. TIERNO, National Treasurer
14th Armored Division Association, Inc.**

★ REGISTER NOW ★

POSTAGE FUND DONATION (Tax Deductible) _____

ANNUAL DUES: June 30, 1997 to June 30, 1998 - \$5.00 _____

Life Membership - \$50.00 _____

(enclose check for this amount) **GRAND TOTAL** _____

Did you **CIRCLE ALL** the events you desire to attend?

- NOTES:**
1. Advance Reservations must be made for all functions and events.
 2. Meal "Head Counts" must be given 48 hours in advance.
 3. Cost of bus transportation included in events.

**If you have a badge holder,
please bring it and save money
for your association.**

*** 14th ARMORED DIVISION ASSOCIATION QUESTIONNAIRE - Please check applicable box ***

- I will be driving to the Reunion
- I will be flying to the Reunion
- I will need RV parking
- I will need a handicap room
- I will need a special diet _____
- I will play in the Ron Grays Golf Tournament



RED LION HOTEL **or** DOUBLETREE HOTEL

1616 Dodge Street • Omaha, NE 68102
1-800-RED LION for reservations

Confirmation of Room Reservation with Hotel

- Price \$69.13 - Double or Single (Includes Taxes)
- No additional charge for Rollaway Beds
- Check-In Time - 3 P.M. - Hotel Registration
- State if Handicap Room Needed
- Free Hotel Parking - Entrance 17th & Capitol - North Side
- Some paid parking attached to Hotel front drive
(First National Bk. Parking, \$4.00 per day)
- NO PETS ALLOWED
- Available in hotel - Coffee Garden has all day dining - quick and casual
and Maxine's Lounge offers special entertainment

CHECK IN TIME - 3 P.M. – PRICE \$69.13 (Includes Taxes)

GROUP NAME: FOURTEENTH ARMORED DIVISION ASSOCIATION

DATE: 9/17/97 - 9/21/97

Please reserve: _____ Rooms for _____ # of people

Need room with: One king bed ___ 2 double beds ___ Rollaway ___ Smoking ___ Nonsmoking ___ Handicapped ___

Name:			Rates (Includes Tax)	
Address:			SINGLE/DOUBLE \$69.13	
City/State/ZIP:			No additional charge for rollaway beds.	
Phone number: ()				
Will arrive:	Day:	Date:		
Will depart:	Day:	Date:		
Check off type:	Credit Card	Check	Money Order	
Credit card type, number and expiration:				
Signature of card holder:				

Room reservations after August 11, 1997 will be subject to availability. Reservations will be held until 6:00 p.m. unless guaranteed with deposit or major credit card.

For reservations, send perforated portion of form or call 1-800-RED LION (1-800-733-5466)

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF END OF WWII

by Lt. Col. Andrew W. Winiarczyk, USA-Ret. (Edited by Liberator Staff)

President Harry S. Truman declared the official end of WWII hostilities, for American Forces, in a proclamation on 31 December 1946. Last December was the 50th anniversary of that proclamation. The courageous decision of President Truman to use the atomic bomb to end the war saved countless lives, and his action gave opportunity for the birth of new generations which would otherwise have been snuffed out by the continuation of the war.

WWII involved 57 nations of both the Allied and the Axis Powers. An estimated 50,000,000 people, both combatants and civilians, died as a result of the Axis aggressions. This number includes more than 6,000,000 Jews killed in the Holocaust.

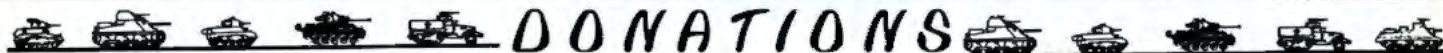
Sixteen million men and women served in the United States Armed Forces. Our casualties were more than 400,000 KIA, more than 700,000 WIA and about 78,000 MIA. United States industry played a tremendous role in the war's eventual outcome. The estimated cost of the war was \$350,000,000,000.

Both Germany and Japan were working feverishly on developing the atomic bomb, and had they succeeded, they would have used it on the Allies. The Allied victory prevented barbarism, depravity and bestiality from being inflicted upon humanity worldwide. Tyrants, as never before seen, would have ruled the world, and civilization would have ceased to exist.

The supreme and complete unwa-

vering dedication, not only of the brave men and brave women who served in the Allied armed forces, but also of those loyal citizens on the home front, prevented a catastrophe of incalculable proportions. The victorious warriors returned to their families with hopes and prayers for a productive and peaceful life.. We are now in a position to assess the multifold development of productivity and the degree of peace which God has given us during our lifetime.

The new generations of the past 50 years owe a great debt of gratitude to those who achieved the allied victory in WWII. We men of the 14th Armored Division are numbered among those deserving of these accolades.



DONATIONS

Walter Rhodes
Charles Utt
W.C. Coffman
Vincent Greenley
William Jenkins
Charles Pecararo
Edwin M. Kosik
Margaret Switzer
William Hamilton
Parker Gray
Martin Evans
Johnnie Collings
Vaughn Hendricks
William Schillo
Douglas Kraner

James Phillips
Ted De Martelly
Robert Eckert
Leslie Call
Albert Brown
Ralph Jackson
Lorraine Buss
Kenneth Hazelton
Kenneth Kerr
Mike Bishop
Francis Wood
James D. Fraser, D.D.S.
C. W. Neal
Gene Deck
Jack Reinhart

Edward Juliano
Arthur Burke
Margaret Shira
F. Gregg Ney, M.D.
Mary Hodge
John F. Mangan
SPECIAL DONATIONS
Ted De Martelly, 94th C
Ralph Jackson, 48th HQ
In Memory of
John E. Murphy
from Lorraine (Ken) Buss

C. W. Neal 68th A
In Memory of
Dr. Lloyd Sexton and
Bill Stanton
from J. D. Fraser, D.D.S.
In Memory of
Lt. Walter R. Dickson,
19th from Gene Deck,
19th AIB
Edwin M. Kosik 62nd C Co
Parker W. Gray CCA

TO MY FRIENDS OF THE 14TH ASSOCIATION

I thought I would like to write and thank Don Beamgard for a very fine Reunion at Colorado Springs, I know he worked very hard and put in a lot of time and effort and I am sure everyone had a nice time.

We are sorry we were unable to attend. We missed seeing all our friends, whom we look forward to seeing every year, (sort of like a family reunion).

My wife Tharon was having a problem with her heart and the

week of the Reunion she had a pacemaker implant. I must say it seems to be very successful, she is much improved. She now gives me trouble on the golf course, so even as bad as we hated to miss the Reunion this had to take priority.

I want to congratulate Neil on being our new president and we are looking forward to going to Omaha, and if I can be of any service please give me a call.

As to the Reunion in Fort Smith in '98, progress is being made, things are coming together and I think we will have an enjoyable

time. I am planning on a large turn out. If anyone has anything they might especially like to do or any other ideas please let me know.

I thought when I was elected in 1994, I had a lot of time, but here it is, coming up fast, but as they say time flies when you're having fun.

I wish everyone a very Happy New Year and hope to see you at the various Reunions or if you happen to be in New Jersey you are always welcome.

Your Vice President
Claude W. McAllister
(MAC)

FYI - Convention Info

Hotel has handicapped rooms upon request - use Room Reservation form or let hotel know if you call for reservations.

At the hotel -

COFFEE GARDEN has all day dining - quick & casual
MAXINE'S LOUNGE offers special entertainment

Other Downtown Restaurants -

- TACO BELL - 201 So. 16th St.
- ARBY'S - 111 So. 17th St.
- BROWN BAGGERS - 1509 Farnam St.
- THE GREAT WALL - 1013 Farnam
- ATHENIAN GYROS - 109 So. 15th St.
- LITTLE KING - 1201 Howard St.
- CASA BELLA PIZZA PARLOR - 210 So. 16th St.

Fine Dining - Reservations Recommended

- FRENCH CAFE - 1017 Howard St.
- BISTRO'S - 12th & Harney
- BOHEMIAN CAFE - 1406 So. 13th St.
- CASCIO'S STEAK HOUSE - 1620 So. 10th St.

For Single Gentlemen or Young at Heart

HOOTERS RESTAURANT - 12405 West Center Road,
West Omaha, need transportation

Many other restaurants and steak houses

R.V. HOOKUP PARKING -

Abbott Parking - Near Airport - Abbott Drive
Maximum Limit 20' - For reserved parking phone
1-402-341-2822 - Recommend early reservation
be made, space limited

RV PARKING - NO HOOKUPS - \$3.00 per day

South across from Hotel or East of Hotel - Downtown
area

Budget Parking - Abbott Drive - near airport

1755 E. Locust St. - 1-402-348-0102

Omaha, NE

DIRECTIONS:

From Airport: Call Red Lion Shuttle Bus if not there.
(Complimentary Shuttle Service)

From West I-80: Take East 480 Downtown Exit

NE 2-D Auditorium-Capital Ave.

Exit to 17th St.

From East I-29: Take West 480

Iowa (Old Mkt-Creighton Exit)

Proceed to 17th St. & Capital Ave.

Free parking garage is at Capital Ave. & 17th Street

ALWAYS TAKE THE 480 EXITS - DOWNTOWN OMAHA

NOTICE - Interstate Detours - Use caution

I AM PLAYING IN THE....

1997 RON GRAYS MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNEY



This year's tourney will be held on Thursday morning, September 18 at the Fontenelle Hills Country Club, 1102 Country Club Court, Bellevue Blvd., Bellevue, NE 68005. Senior rates for 18 holes (including carts) are \$20. The course has a snack bar and lounge. It is located south on 13th St. from the hotel, to Bellevue Blvd. to Fontenelle Hills. Transportation to course by player vehicles. Golfers to assemble at 8:30 a.m.

ENTRY BLANK

Name _____ 14th A.D. Unit _____

Handicap _____ or average score _____

I would like to be a foursome with _____

I can provide transportation for _____ players and equipment. I will need transportation. YES _____ NO _____

If you need to rent clubs mark here: Right hand _____ Left hand _____

Please send ENTRY FORM and FEES TO OGDEN JONES,

NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 4, 1997.



MAIL CALL

"ATTENTION B CO. 62ND INF BN"

I am looking for "Ervel B. Bittick" who went by the nick-name of Johnny. You've heard the story of, "This is a small world" many times. Here's the story again, it happened to Johnny and me.

One day in France our tank was carrying some infantrymen on the back deck. One of them stuck his head in the turret and saw a picture of my girl that I had on the wall by my gunners seat, and said, "I know that girl." Now get this! Here was a guy that I had never seen before here in the middle of France, telling me he knew my girl. I said, "Buddy, you don't know this girl. I said, if you know her, what is her name?"

He said, "Her name is Berniece Bright." I was so surprised when he gave me her right name that I almost fell out of my seat.

Later I wrote my girl and asked her about it. She said it was true, They had met at dances that she and her sisters use to go to. From information I got later, I learned that Johnny got shot in the leg.

Johnny Bittick if you read this, drop me a line. If there is anyone from B Co. 62nd Inf. who knows the where-abouts of Ervel (Johnny) Bittick, please let me know.

Jack Gunn, A-48

FRIENDS OF BERTHE HOLTZMANN

Dear Mr. Hofer,

The most recent issue of the *Liberator* carried Berthe Holtzmann's account of the events of December, 1944 and January, 1945 in Rittershoffen. I was extremely interested in the article because my wife, Ruth and I have become personal friends of Berthe.

I first met Berthe and her three

children (another child was born after the war) at Christmastime, 1944. We had a reunion in 1985, the day after the ceremonies marking the Fortieth Anniversary of the Hatten-Rittershoffen Battle. Since then Berthe and we have maintained contact through letters and Christmas cards. Ruth and I visited her again after the Fiftieth Anniversary ceremonies in 1995. On both occasions, we were treated royally by the Holtzmann family. In 1995, the entire clan gathered for our visit and we were treated to a sumptuous many-course dinner. We had such things as Liqueur de Cassis in Champagne (the ultimate 'mimosa' and surely a great deal different from the potato schnapps, or white lightning, we had more than fifty years ago), pâté de foie gras, truffles, etc. We stayed most of a day and were shown many interesting things in and around Rittershoffen not usually included in veterans' tours of the town.

Those interested in reading more about this remarkable woman are referred to the article on page 6 of the Spring, 1988 (Volume 23, #1) issue of the *Liberator*. In that article I included a letter from Berthe in which she relates her personal experiences following the Hatten-Rittershoffen Battle. From that letter one can sense the resilience and tenacity of those civilian victims of war. Berthe's survival instinct and strong faith got her through the rest of the war and she eventually made a new life for herself and her family. For anyone who would like a copy of the article and does not have that back issue of the *Liberator*, I can make a copy and send it to you. My street address and e-mail address are given below.

Another publication in which Berthe recounts some of her experiences is the memorial book com-

plied by Mme. Lisa Pommois, that great friend of the 14th. There are several articles in that book written by one or another of the Holtzmanns.

I was in the Assault Gun Platoon, Headquarters Company, 25th Tank Battalion. Anyone from the 25th that remembers Christmas, 1944 and can add to the story, please contact me.

Bill Kratzke

PRESENTED PURPLE HEART Mr. Hofer,

I'm sending a picture of S/Sgt. Harry C. Johnson receiving his Purple Heart, after 52 years. He was wounded March 24, 1945.

Eight years ago Jack Dewitt started working to get the Purple Heart for him.

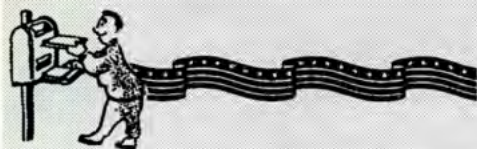
Jack Dewitt presented it to him in Colorado Springs, Sept. 1996 at the reunion.

We enjoy the *Liberator*, also the reunions. We have only missed one since 1972, and plan to make every one as long as our health permits.

Thank you!

Norene Johnson
(wife of Harry - 19th Co A)





More Mail Call Continued

OLD NEWSPAPER ARTICLE To the Liberator:

Today I was going through an old scrap book of my mother's and found the article that was printed in the La Crosse, Wis. Tribune on Jan. 16, 1945. I already was a P.O.W. on Jan. 1, 1945 so never was at Hatten but for the ones who were, perhaps they would like to read this.

Gordon O. Hoffman

C Co 62nd AIB
14th A.D.

Article reprinted from Jan. 16,
1945

Yanks Pay Respects To Buddies Lost In Battle For Hatten

WITH THE AMERICAN 7TH ARMY
-(AP)- A couple of hundred American soldiers held a church service in the recreation room of a convent in a little, snow-buried Alsatian town yesterday, paying respects to comrades fallen in Hatten.

After the battle of Hatten ended—just one week ago—with withdrawal of Americans to the Moder river line, announcement was permitted that elements of the 14th Armored Division were fighting with the 7th army.

In the last day of the battle, what was left of the infantry battalion commanded by Maj. Forrest Green of Wilson, N.C., had only a few men able to fight. Those not wounded were so shell-shocked and battle weary that they no longer were effective fighting men. They had been under incessant tank fire from three directions. In one period of an hour and a half the enemy poured in 3,000 rounds of artillery.

The last soldier to leave Hatten, Pfc. Arthur Wellends, Fond du Lac, Wis., unarmed, remained behind one hour to carry out a wounded buddy.

A TRIBUTE TO MORRIS WAX

Morris Wax was the 14th Armored Association's 23rd President and served in the 25th Tank Bn in Service and Headquarters Companies. He held his convention in San Diego, Calif.

During the war he was our Battalion Supply Officer and he was a good one. Our 25th Tank was always well supplied and was able on many occasions to furnish ammo, fuel, food, vehicles and assistance to other units of the 14th in addition to other units and divisions that needed help. I know I helped him several times in his efforts to get the extra supplies.

In the 14th Armored, he was "Captain WAX" but most of all, he was a man. A man who could look you in the eye, give an order, expect you to obey it and all the while was gaining respect and stature of we men who served with him. After WWII, Morris returned to the service for a Tour in Korea where he served as a Major.

I have kept in contact with Morris for 51 years, as a friend, as an admirer, and as a 25th Tanker. Morris was liberal with his help to our Division Association, spending his time and his money to support us. For a number of years, he has donated a Morris Wax Scholarship sending me a check in August for the 1996 scholarship. I talked to him then and Morris told me his health problems and how serious they were and I asked him not to try to attend my Colorado Springs reunion but he was "Present or Accounted For" for he is always one of us.

In San Diego, Morris was a civic leader working very hard in the USO group. He walked with the Generals, the Admirals, the great and the famous but he lived his life with us and for us, the GI's, the grunts, the enlisted people. I cried on Christmas morning when I received word, Morris Wax is dead. His mortal life is over but his memory will live for us who served with him.

Morris leaves a beautiful nice wife, Alice; two sons, Charles and David, of whom he was very proud,

and four grandchildren. Services were held on Dec. 26th at Temple Beth Israel.

Here is a poem that our friend Herbert Strass, who served in the 25th Tank with us, read at his service.

"TOGETHER STILL"

Let me hold your hand as we go downhill

We have shared our strength and we share it still.

It hasn't been easy to make the climb

But the way was eased by your hand in mine.

Like the lake our life has had ripples too—

Ill health and worries and payments due

With happy pauses along the way, a birth, a graduation, a raise in pay.

At the foot of the slope, we will stop and rest.

Look back if you wish, we've been truly blessed.

We've been spared the grief of being torn apart,

By death, a divorce or a broken heart.

The view ahead is one of the best
Just a little bit further and then we can rest.

We move more slowly, but together still;

Let me hold your hand as we go downhill.

— Written by Don Beamgard

NOTICE:

LIBERATOR ISSUE DATES!
MARCH - JULY - NOVEMBER
Information **MUST** be submitted
SIX WEEKS before issue!

ALL INFORMATION SHOULD BE TYPED.

Send all information to:
VERLYN HOFER

**NEXT DEADLINE IS
MAY 15, 1997**



More Mail Call Continued

REMEMBERS GEORGE THE DRAGON KILLER

Dear Verlyn:

Somehow I never met Colonel George England before the Colorado Springs Convention. We corresponded about ME 109's, geography in Alsace, dates and events etc., but we'd never met. When we did I introduced him to my wife Enid and met his group and I was immediately struck by his enthusiasm and vigor. I liked him. Suddenly I realized I had seen him before and the picture of him flashed on my screen like instant replay.

I won't repeat the description of the 48th's experiences at Barr, but it ended for me (and Dick Hillenbrand, my driver of our light tank, D Company, 2nd Platoon) with the tank behind us blown up, on fire, hit by a bazooka, trapping the column. Ross wounded, burned; Holly wounded, chest crushed; Devers hallucinating; Chickie Crawford dead. It took a calm, cool, tough Lieutenant Greenbaum to get us turned around on the narrowest of streets and out of there. We were scared, demoralized and vulnerable.

As we proceeded in a retrograde movement with the certain feeling that the war was lost or that at best the 48th would never again be a factor in its victory, here comes this lone medium tank with an officer standing up in the turret with the look of George the Dragon Killer on his face - going the other way, back into Barr, obviously to kill all those sons-of-bitch Germans and save our battalion.

I said to Hillenbrand: Who is that crazy bastard? And he said, 'that's our Exec. If anybody can do it, he can!'

And he did.

Anyway I heard he did. He sure gave us a boost and lifted our morale. Just the look of him going back in! We lived to fight another

day, and did. I'll never forget that face under the Major's leaf, determined, tough, enthusiastic and vigorous.

I hope he got a medal for it. He deserved it. If he didn't I hereby award him half of mine.

It's nice to be in the world with him.

Sincerely,
Bernard Rudd

THEIR FIRST CHRISTMAS TREE

All soldiers like to tell war stories. Some are stories of battles won and lost or stories of heroic deeds. To me the stories of hearts touched, of heavy hearts made lighter are the most heroic stories. My favorite story is about a Christmas tree.

I was a tech sergeant with the 14th Armored Division, 19th Infantry Battalion. It was Christmas week of 1945 and we were occupying the village of Hatten in the Alsace-Lorraine region of France. This territory had been alternately occupied and liberated since 1940. The residents, in an attempt to save their homes and their lives, kept a white sheet ready to wave from an upstairs window when conquerors or the liberators marched into the village.

I was billeted in the barn of a house. The French family who lived in the house consisted of a grandmother, grandfather, daughter and her three children. The two girls were age nine and seven, and the boy was six. The children's father had been drafted to serve in the German army, was captured by the Russians and taken to Russia. He had not been heard from.

I was going to Strasburg for supplies and the daughter asked me to get her some yeast. On my return through the forest about 60 miles

from Hatten I saw a seven foot pine tree that had been uprooted by a tank. Cutting a tree in this area was prohibited so I knew the family had not had a Christmas tree for several years. I loaded the felled tree on the supply truck and took it to the family. The children were jumping up and down and the adults were tearful with joy. The mother put the tree in a closet for safe keeping until Christmas Eve when it would be removed and decorated.

Our battalion left the next day and I didn't get to join the family in their festivities. But my heart, and I hope their hearts, were made lighter as I imagined them gathered around the tree joining me in a prayer for peace on earth.

Wadea Beshara

MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

For those of you who forgot, or get confused, our membership year starts July 1 every year and ends June 30 of the following year. Our 1997 dues began June 30, 1996 and continue until the end of June 1997, when the 1998 dues begin. If dues are not paid by the first of February the members are considered delinquent.

I appeal to those of you who have not paid this year's dues to do so and I thank the many members who diligently pay their dues every year on time.

Check your membership card and mailing label on this LIBERATOR. If your dues expire 30 June 1996, this will be your last LIBERATOR unless you pay your dues.

Sincerely,
Andrew D. Tiemo

RECALLS FUNNY MOMENTS DURING WARTIME EXPERIENCES

by David H. Galerstein

I thought of submitting some light hearted material for the LIBERATOR. I didn't have the life threatening adventure tales of my comrades. I was a basic, used for bivouac parties and other jobs where a knowledge of German was needed. Usually I was a kilometer or two behind the front lines.

For only two days was I ever at the actual fighting front. It was after we crossed the border at Kapsweyer and Schweighofen. Lt. John Scott, D Company 48th Tank Battalion, the sector commander could not take his watch in the tank and command the post at the same time. I took his watch along with Robert Jackson, the tank driver. I had to laugh because even the one time I was at the actual front, instead of facing the Germans, the tank faced the rear. We guarded against a possible parachute troop drop behind our lines.

During the battle at Hatten and Rittershoffen, I was in Niederbetchdorf, well within artillery range. A few of us slept on the floor of a large kitchen. We had figured out where the artillery was coming from and decided that this was the safest place. Any shells would have to pass through two walls and hopefully they would explode after contacting the first one.

However, there was an empty bedroom with a comfortable double bed. A fellow named Corey (I never learned his first name and it is not listed in the division history) and I decided we were tired of sleeping on the floor. We would chance sleeping in the bed even through we had only one wall to "protect" us.

That night the shells kept pouring in. We were trying to decide whether or not to join the homeowner and other Alsations in the basement. I said, "Let's go." Corey said, "Let's wait a while." Then we heard an explosion and tile clinking down

the roof. The house was hit by what we assumed was a mortar shell.

Immediately Corey shouted, "Let's go." I noticed he was hesitating. I asked what was wrong. "I've got to put my pants on."

"The hell with your pants," I shouted. "Let's get downstairs fast." But no, even in times of danger, his modesty prevented him from appearing in his long johns before the Alsations. I waited until he put his pants on. I had no such problem. I slept with my pants on.

Then there was the wonderful dessert dish I learned from Jim Baker, our mess truck driver - snow ice cream. To make this, I had to run out into the field behind the house, scrape the dirt off the top layer, fill a pitcher with snow (avoiding the snow that was in contact with the ground) and rush back to the house. There we mixed it with cocoa, sugar and evaporated milk. I don't remember the proportions but I know it tasted better than any ice cream I ever had at home.

Similarly, when we were resting in the village of Lupstein after the battle of Hatten and Rittershoffen, the mess truck was given an allotment of ice cream powder. How we were expected to make ice cream without the proper equipment was something I'll let heads wiser than mine decide. However, our mess sergeant, Ira Reeves, was up to the task. He mixed the ice cream powder with the canned fruit cocktail and once again, we had a most delicious dessert. I vowed to try to make it at home and never did.

In Lupstein, we stayed at the house of a well-to-do farmer. We knew he was well-to-do because he had a large manure pile. That meant he owned a lot of land and cows. One day he came up to me and asked to borrow my carbine. He wanted to slaughter an ox. I told him I couldn't let him have it but I would do the shooting.

We went to the barn, I aimed and there was the animal staring at me with the saddest eyes one could imagine. I immediately handed the gun to Jim Baker shouting "I can't do it, Jim. You do it." And he did.

Since I spoke German, one of my tasks was to contact the priest at the local church to arrange for one of our chaplains to lead a Sunday mass for our men. Usually, the request came in the middle of the week. However, when we were close to pulling out, the higher-ups waited until Saturday to have me make the request. That was the time the priest was taking confessions.

When we entered the church, there was a line of people waiting their turn. Adam Radecki, the peep driver who drove me there, immediately knelt to pray. I was befuddled. I didn't want to appear rude and shoot up to the front of the line and I didn't want to interrupt Adam in his prayer. He saw my problem, interrupted his prayer and instructed me to go to the front of the line and explain the situation.

When the person in the confessional left, I walked in and was immediately confronted by a screen. Being Jewish, I had never been in a confessional, didn't know what to expect and did not want to do anything that would be interpreted as disrespectful. I walked in a little further and around the screen and there was the priest. We both laughed and I made the arrangement.

The End.



"Oh, boy! Breakfast in bed!"

PVT. STRABA OF THE 19TH AIB'S HAD TO RUN DOWN HIS GARAND

One sunny afternoon, our column was moving down a blacktop 2-lane road, through the dragon-teeth. The rolling green countryside was beautiful and peaceful and fresh with little yellow flowers everywhere. All of a sudden, the air was filled with machine gun fire and the thumping of mortar fire! Now the pretty green grass was the backdrop for yellow tracers following the contour of the beautiful hillsides.

Sgt. Williams and I, a PFC runner and radio operator, dove out of our half track and found freshly dug fox holes along the road ditch. The earth was light colored and the krauts had not had enough time to remove or spread out the piles made by digging the holes. Luckily Williams and I were down out of the small arms fire covering the concrete dragon's teeth. Our C Company was at the head of the column right behind the Recon troop elements. The city we were headed for was a little way off and I could see what appeared to be enemy troops coming across a hillside toward us.

Shouts were heard from along our vehicles now trying to turn us around and advance to the rear area. "Pull Back!"

With small arms fire rattling off

the sides of our half-track, we were trying to decide if we should make a run for one of the 'tracks. Looking out of our hole, the enemy approaching in the distance, and our troops pulling back, we decided to wait awhile longer in the safety of our foxhole. While we waited sitting in the bottom of our hole, someone unarmed drops into our hole - a terrified soldier in German uniform. He surrenders to my Sgt. and I check his pockets for weapons, finding only a small jack knife which I keep.

Sgt. Alton Williams is very upset with this latest development. I look out and see what appears to be enemy infantry advancing toward us but are still about 500 yards distant. Should we make a run for it or try to hold back the advancing infantry with Alton's carbine and my Garand M1. A command decision was made. We will regroup to the rear! Alton orders the PW to "get the hell out of here" and Alton's threat with his carbine convinces the PW to scramble out of the trench toward the wood line down the hillside.

About then I see an Engineer's half-track turned around and pulling a trailer loaded with bridge making planks so I make a run for the road before the vehicle can pull

away. The shelling and the small arms fire seem to have let up. I now commit one of the worst crimes an infantryman can commit. I throw my Garand up on the wood timbers on the trailer and try to grab an end of a plank as the trailer picks up speed. I'm taking bigger and bigger steps trying to pull myself up on the plank. About then I step in a hole and fall flat on my face as the trailer pulls away gaining speed. Here I am, on a battlefield, alone, unarmed as a result of my own lack of skill and my stupidity. It was easy to understand why I was still a private in the rear ranks and alive, only by the grace of God.

I ran and crawled all the way back to where the vehicles were grouping following the ditch lines mostly. The first half-track with a trailer loaded with timber was the one carrying my Garand so I recovered quickly from my lack of self-esteem and proceeded to find Sgt. Williams who had somehow had returned to our unit unharmed.

As you can gather there were more "Don Knotts" in our unit than there were "John Waynes."

Robert J. Straba,
C Co., 19th AIB

-Edited by Don Beamgard

HISTORY of the 14th ARMORED DIVISION Reprint available

Our history book of 1945 has been reprinted in hard cover (similar to the original embossed hard cover) and is available from:

Turner Publications - P.O. Box 3101, Paducah, KY 42002-3101.

Cost is \$49.95 plus \$5.00 shipping - first copy. Additional copies shipping \$3.50 each, same order, same address. U.S.A.

ORDER BY PHONE: 1-800-788-3350 - Use Visa or Mastercard

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

When you wake up to a bright new day,
Do you count the blessings that have come
your way?

The blessings of loved ones, relatives and
friends,

The list just never really ends.

We have ears to hear the babbling brook,
And eyes to see flowers, or read a book.

We are blessed with plenty of food to eat.
In summer there's fans, in winter there's
heat.

We can worship the Lord in our way.

A church to attend, to sing and pray.

The blessings go on - I've only listed a few.

Many are sent just especially to you.

So morning, noon and night we should all
say,

"Thank you, Lord, for another beautiful
day!"

-Hannah Young

SCHOLARSHIP TIME YOUR CHANCE MAIL PROMPTLY
14th ARMORED DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.
Application for College, Technical or Vocational Training Scholarship

Name _____
(Last) (First) (Middle) (Age) (Sex)

Address _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Scholarship requested for entrance to _____
(Name of Institution)

Father's Name _____ (Occupation) _____
 OR

Mother's Name _____

GRANDFATHER'S NAME _____
Father or Grandfather should have been a member of the 14th Armored Association.

Battalion & Co. _____

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Fill out form using typewriter or print in ink.
2. Accompany Application with the following:
 - a. Brief autobiography including reasons for applying for scholarship, and activities in and out of school.
 - b. Two (2) letters of recommendation (Counselor or non-relatives)
 - c. Enclose transcript of credits from High School or G.E.D.
 - d. List past and present employments, including name of superior.
3. Applications must be submitted by May 15th each year.
4. The Committee to award one or more scholarships.
5. The Committee to keep all information confidential.
6. Results will be announced at Reunion of the 14th Armored Division Assn.
7. All applications to be mailed to: FRED SHATTUCK
8. You may re-apply in subsequent years. Applications are not carried over from year to year.

No decision is made until May 15. The decision of the judges is final.

WE DO NOT SEND DUES NOTICES - CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL TO SEE IF YOUR DUES ARE DUE
If each of you would sign up a new member, our membership goal would be met for 1996.

PLEASE DO NOT Send Money for Dues to the National Secretary

Membership Renewal Notice

MAIL TO: Andrew D. Tierno, National Treasurer

Enclosed ANNUAL DUES \$5.00
 Payable for Membership June 30, 1996 to June 30, 1997

Enclosed is \$5.00. Please enroll my {
 Son _____
 Daughter _____
 Grandchild _____

New Member _____ Renewal _____ Bn. _____ Co. _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

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 ★ EXPIRATION DATE! ★

WHO RECEIVES THE LIBERATOR?

All paid up members and LIFE members of the 14th Armored Division Association, and those who are only one year behind in their payment, receive the LIBERATOR three times a year. In addition, the LIBERATOR is sent to widows of the above members of the 14th Armored Division Association for one year. If they wish to continue receiving the LIBERATOR, they should fill in the membership REGISTRATION form which is always printed on the next to last page of the LIBERATOR, and send it with dues to Andy Tierno, National Treasurer.

Remember, the LIBERATOR is not sent to members of the Women's Auxiliary (households would receive two LIBERATORS if we did). Membership in the 14th Armored Division Association is required to receive the LIBERATOR.

*How beautiful a day can be when
 Kindness touches it.*

*People seldom get dizzy from
 doing good turns!*



**WHAT?
 ...YOU'RE
 MOVING!**



PLEASE help us eliminate any unnecessary confusion and possible delays by advising us promptly of any change in your mailing address.

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Send to National Secretary, Ralph Jackson

14th AD CHAPTER ORGANIZERS, UP COMING REUNIONS

SOUTH EASTERN STATES CHAPTER

A. EARLE SCHLEGEL, Treasurer

SEA TURTLE INN
Jacksonville, FL 32216
Jan. 28-Feb. 2, 1997
1-800-874-6000

B-19th INF

SOUTH WESTERN STATES CHAPTER

HAROLD L. KACHEL, Organizer LONGVIEW MOBILE HOME
PARK

Bullhead City, AZ
APRIL 8, 9, & 10, 1997

HQ BTY 500th AFA

MID-WEST STATES CHAPTER

FRED J. PIEPER, Organizer

DAYS INN
LaCrosse, WI 54601
APRIL 25, 26, 27, 1997
Tel: 1-800-325-2525 (Nat'l Toll Free)
(608) 785-0420

HQ 48th TANK

NORTH EASTERN STATES CHAPTER

EARL TALLY, President

BEST WESTERN HOTEL
Winchester, VA (Off I-81)
MAY 15-18, 1997

154 Sig. Co.

1995 MEMBERSHIP - 1410

COMING NATIONAL REUNIONS

1998
FT. SMITH, AR
Sept. 16-20, 1998



Claude McAllister

1999
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA
Sept. 16-19, 1999



John J. (Jack) Turner
Jack Turner has asked Robert Buntin (C-62) of Blackstone, VA to serve as his back-up convention chairman.

NOTICE:

LIBERATOR ISSUE DATES!

MARCH - JULY - NOVEMBER

Information **MUST** be submitted
SIX WEEKS before issue!

ALL INFORMATION SHOULD BE TYPED.

Send all information to:
VERLYN HOFER

**NEXT DEADLINE IS
MAY 15, 1997**

**PLEASE CHECK YOUR
ADDRESS LABEL FOR
EXPIRATION DATE**

14th ARMORED DIVISION ASSN., INC.

RALPH JACKSON, NATIONAL SECRETARY

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