



761ST NEWSLETTER

April 15, 2010

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
761ST TANK BATTALION & ALLIED
VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Volume 4, Issue 1

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Parts 1 & 2	
An Interview with Buddie V. Branch	1
60th & 61st Reunions	10
President's Corner	17
Meet the Association Officers	17
A Letter from the 2nd Vice President	18
Mail Call	20
Educational Assistance	21
Taps	23
Misc.	25

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ Now—the complete Buddie Branch interview—cover story
- ◆ Various pictures from the last two reunions—p. 11

Buddie V. Branch was inducted on August 9, 1943 in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was drafted along with Dayton childhood chums Odell Williams, Clarence Copeland, and Henry Middlebrooks. Another friend, Jovan Council, had been drafted a year earlier and sent to Camp Claiborne, Louisiana. Middlebrooks eventually served with the 784th Tank Battalion and was killed in combat. Williams and Copeland served alongside Branch in "B" Company of the 761st Tank Battalion.

After taking an aptitude test at Fort Thomas in Covington, Kentucky, Branch was selected for training at the Armor School at Fort Knox Kentucky. There, he and his fellow recruits received training in the use of pistols, carbines, rifles, and basic operation and maintenance of the M4 Sherman Tank.

In November of 1943, Buddie was transferred to Camp Hood, Texas, and assigned to "B" Company of the 761st Tank Battalion.

"Fort Hood was where we trained on the Shermans in earnest. We had three companies of Shermans, 17



BUDDIE V. BRANCH

tanks apiece, plus one company of 17 light tanks, M-5 Stuarts. We lived on the tanks in the field. We went on tactical maneuvers, practiced gunnery with the 75mm main gun, fired the fifty caliber and thirty caliber machines guns, and learned to field strip and re-assemble the weapons blindfolded. Every man learned to fight as Loader, Driver, Gunner, and Co-Driver. My main job was Gunner, but we were also trained to take over as Tank Commander in case of trouble."

In June of 1944, Branch went home on leave for one week. When he returned to Hood, the Battalion had been alerted for overseas movement. Another month of intense combat training followed.

"In August of 1944 we boarded a troop train for Camp Shanks. When the train went through towns in Louisiana we had to draw the window shades because some white people would throw rocks at the train when they saw black G.I.s.

We sailed from New York Harbor to Dorset, England on August 27, 1944. When we landed in England on September 7, 1944, we drew brand new tanks and all the other gear. From there, we crossed the English Channel to Omaha Beach. There were wrecked trucks, tanks, and everything else all tangled up in the water. Seeing those knocked-out tanks was a real wake-up call."

The tankers spent two days preparing the vehicles for action, then made the 400-mile road march from Omaha Beach

to St. Nicholas du Port, east of Nancy, France.

"We drove through all these towns, where the French people cheered us on in a most welcoming manner. When we got to Saint Nicholas, the rain and mud made for miserable going. We had to ignore the wet conditions, load armor piercing rounds, High Explosive rounds, thousands of rounds of machine gun ammo, not to mention tools, batteries for the radios, checking the radios, and cleaning and checking all weapons. We were working hard to make sure the tanks were ready for battle. We were less than fifty miles from the front lines. You could hear artillery, and sometimes even small-arms fire.

In the middle of all this, General Patton visited us one rainy day just before we went into combat. He said, *"I would never have asked for you if you weren't good. I have nothing but the best in my Army. I don't*



SIMMONS, COOPER, COLEMAN, BIRD
AND CHOPS
MEN OF COMPANY "B"

care what color you are as long as you go up there and kill those Kraut sons of bitches." At the time, I thought he was a funny guy with the six guns and stuff, but hell, we didn't need him to tell us that. our motto was

National Officers

Mr. John S. Weston — National President

Mr. Roscoe Strozier — First Vice President

Mrs. Edris Dade — Second Vice President

Mr. Ivan Harrison, Jr — Secretary

Mr. Keith G. Harrison — Treasurer

Mr. Edward Walker — Chaplains

Mr. Wayne Robinson — Historian

Mr. William D. Smith — Webmaster

Vacant — Chairman, T.G. Hill Fund

761ST TANK BATTALION AND ALLIED VETERANS ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 211009
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48221



WHITBEY - AUSTRIA 1944

"Come Out Fighting." Didn't I tell you that?"

On the same day, we were joined by the war correspondent, Mr. Trezzvant Anderson. He stayed with us for the rest of the war and helped us to write the best book about the 761st, *Come Out Fighting*.

I will never forget the night before we went into battle. It got real cold. We checked and re-checked everything on the Sherman, then got together and said a prayer. Just then, Moses Ballard, our tank commander, came running back from a meeting at headquarters with Captain John Long, our company commander. He gathered us by the tank- me, George Gaffney, Driver; George Coleman, Loader, and a guy we called "Chops," the Assistant



**NEALY
TED**

**GARLINGTON
EMMIT**

Driver. Ballard said we were going into a town called Morville. We had orders to support the infantry by killing any enemy troops, and blowing up anything that could be used for an observation post- steeples, high windows, everything. He told us to watch out for the infantry on our flanks, the Yankee Division guys."

Branch and "B" Company were assigned to one of two task forces going into the attack. The task force was led by Colonel Peter Kopcsak, commander of the 602nd Tank Destroyer Battalion, one of the first four tank destroyer battalions in the U.S. Army. Kopcsak had personally written the book on tank destroyer tactics at Camp Hood.

"At about five a.m., we climbed in the tank and moved out, just

after a big artillery barrage. We had infantry and a Tank Destroyer outfit with us. I think "A" Company was somewhere on our right, "C" was on our left. At the time, we did not know much about where the other tankers were, but later on I heard the "C" Company tankers got hit pretty hard.

I remember when we moved out of St. Nicholas. The rain had turned to snow. Inside the tank, there was a steady grinding noise, a vibration though you the crew compartment. You couldn't hear anything because of the engine noise, except over the intercom. Ballard sat up and behind me. Coleman was on the left side of the gun, I sat on the other side. The driver and co-driver were down in the hull. Just as I pressed the tank helmet onto my head and braced my forehead against the browpad on the Gunner's sight, Ballard buttoned up, got on the intercom



**HILL AND CHIPPY
AUSTRIA 1944**



**WOODEN, KNIGHT AND
BRANCH**

and ordered Coleman to "load H.E." Coleman pulled a round from the ready rack and slammed it into the breech. When I heard the breech slam shut, I knew we were getting ready to cut loose on that town.

From what I could see through my periscope, Morville was a mess. The Jerries were caught out in the open at first, because the noise of the artillery barrage covered our approach. I was ready to step on the firing switch when Ballard said: GUNNER-COAX- TROOPS. I answered IDENTIFIED. Ballard said FIRE. I said ON THE WAY, stepping on the foot trigger on the "Y" of WAY. We just tore them apart with the co-ax machine guns. Three other tanks were firing to our left. The combined tracer fire looked like a swarm of fiery bees. The Jerries ran for the buildings, I saw a bunch of overcoats trying to jump through



JC BROWN & CT WILLIAMS

basement windows. Some didn't make it."

Up ahead, the column was stalled when when the leading tank, commanded by Sgt. Roy King, was disabled by enemy anti-tank fire. According to Anderson, the Germans laid on mortar, anti-tank and artillery fire, setting the tank ablaze. When the crew attempted to bail out, King was killed by machine gun fire and tumbled into the street to the right side of the tank; Corporal Herbert Porter made it out despite severe wounds sustained inside the tank; Pfc. Nathaniel Ross was hit twice. Pvt. John McNeill and Tech 5 Jack Whitby crawled out through the tank's escape hatch in the bottom of the hull. They brought their submachine guns and used

them to kill Germans attempting to fire an anti-tank gun. Whitby re-entered the burning tank and opened fire with the coax machine gun, enabling the task force to pass through the center of town.

"Ballard told Gaffney to hit the gas and we rolled right through the other side of town. There was a roadblock; the Sherman busted through like it was on rails. In the turret, there was a smell sort of like cap gun smoke. Coleman opened the pistol port, then reached over and tapped me on the shoulder, motioning for me to look left. I stood on my seat and squeezed up to where Ballard made room in the commander's hatch so I could look out to the side. We passed a halftrack with five dead GIs in the back, sitting there looking normal, except they were burned up.



MICKY



**BUDDIE, COUNCIL, WOODEN
AND KNIGHT**

At the time, I did not pause to think much about what we had done. That came later. We were lucky to drive through the town without getting hit by an 88 or a mortar."

**AN INSPIRATION TO ALL:
Honskirch, The Bulge, And
Across The Rhine With "B"
Company Tank Gunner, Cor-
poral Buddie V. Branch-**

Part Two:

After Morville, The Battalion moved its command post to Vic-sur-Seille, then Obreck. Baker company continued its support of Second Battalion, 104th Infantry, taking Chateau Voue, Lindrequin, then Nebing, at a cost of two tanks lost to mines. Next came Albestroff, resulting in the loss of three tanks to 88s and mines. Now down to ten tanks in need of repair, Baker



**SIMMONS, TATE, PRICE, BIRD,
SIG,
COLMAN, O'DELL AND CHOPS**

Company was placed in Battalion reserve for maintenance, but not for long.

"One night around Thanksgiving, our tank commander, Sergeant Ballard, came running from a tank commanders' meeting with Lt. Long and Lt. Sam Brown. We got orders to link up with "C" Company in an attack on a town, Honskirch. We fell in with a column of "C" Company tanks, five Shermans and two assault guns altogether. We were waiting outside the town for air support when Lt. Long called Brown on the radio and gave orders to move out. We moved into and through the town. That's when the Germans opened fire."

From his gunner's seat, Branch saw the lead tank burst

into flames, lighting up a beet field where the infantry crouched by the road. "The burning tank kept moving off the road and into the field. I saw three guys bail out. Then the tank behind us got hit. This was how the Jerries would hit a column, lead tank first then the last tank in the column. Then came machine gun fire, mortars, shelling, the works. I opened up, sweeping the area where the flashes came from. Ballard's fifty caliber was firing up behind me, dripping spent shell casings down into the turret basket. Then I couldn't move the turret; our tank got hit in the turret ring. Up behind me, Ballard had been hit in the head by shrapnel. He seemed dazed, unable to speak in a state of shock."

Branch took over, guiding the



**GORDON, YOUNG AND
COLEMAN**



O'DELL WILLIAMS

driver of his Sherman off the road and behind a barn. The crew bailed out and took cover in a beet cellar, dragging wounded men behind them. Branch left cover, repeatedly braving enemy fire to extract other wounded tankers from the burning column and carrying them to shelter. "When I ran back a few times, Captain Gates had arrived in a halftrack, helping with the wounded and directing fire on the enemy. We went back to the tanks and kept firing until they withdrew. After what seemed like a long time, the boys in Service Company pulled us out in trucks and recovered the tanks." The tankers spent three days in bivouac after Honskirch. "We got a new tank, hot chow, and new fatigues. We caught up with the guys from the other companies who had also seen heavy



**SIMMONS, TATE, PRICE, BIRD,
SIG,
COLMAN, O'DELL AND CHOPS**

contact with the enemy." Total losses for the 761st for November were 22 killed in action, 81 wounded, including 2 who later died of wounds.

"Sergeant Joe Tate joined us as Ballard's replacement around December 1, 1944. Tate was a nice, easygoing guy, but very good at his job. We stayed with the 101st infantry for several days, hitting one town after another. At the time, we had no idea really, of where we were going- once in a while we'd see a road sign, but for the average tanker, it was just snow, black smoke, the sound of engines, and more shooting."

On December 10, "B" Company met German armor head-on at Woelfling, surprising Mark

IV tanks and self-propelled guns of the Eleventh Panzer Division. "We were just as surprised as they were. I saw a Jerry tank gun swinging directly at us. As soon as I put the main gun on him, a Sherman on our left scored a direct hit on him before I could step on the firing switch." After a sharp exchange of fire, the Germans backed out, leaving the knocked-out panzer in a cloud of black smoke.

"They left a big 88 antitank gun back in those woods. One guy, "TD", went over and opened the breech block before anyone could stop him. Turned out it was booby-trapped. TD was blown to pieces."

By December 16, 1944, con-



**WHITBEY
AUSTRIA 1944**



**CHIPPY
AUSTRIA 1944**

stant deployment, minefields and direct fire had taken its toll—the entire battalion was down to three operational Shermans. Pinched out of the line and pulled back to Sarre Union for a two week maintenance period, the tankers heard rumors of a big German offensive, but did not know much else. "No one said anything about the Battle of the Bulge, but we could tell a big move was on because the whole battalion was being rebuilt. After that, everything was moving north."

Now officially attached to the 87th Division of Patton's Third Army, the battalion snaked through Maranville Farms, Obergailbach, Weidesheim, Dieuze, Wuisse, Chateau Salins, Nancy, Ligny, Bar Le Duc, Beine, Mezzieres, Bouillon, Offagne, Sevis-



WOODEN & SIG

court, and Nimbermont halting to provide fire support to the 347th Infantry Regiment. It was the coldest winter in thirty years.

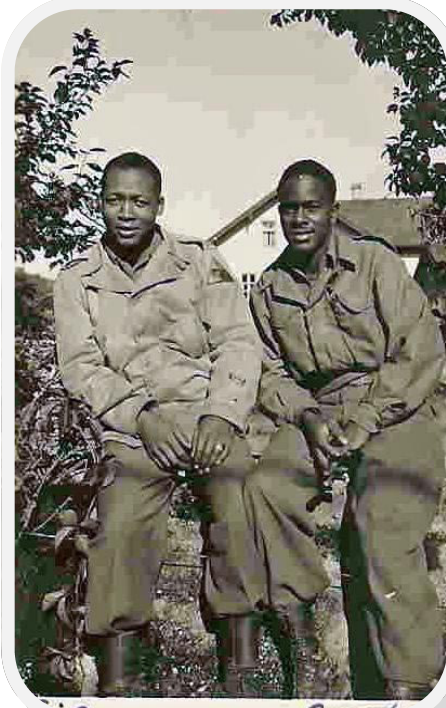
"I remember watching the road through the gunner's sight. The road rose and fell, whiting out during the day; and we kept going at night, too. Sometimes all a driver could see at night were little tail-lights on the vehicle in front of him, called "cat's eyes." Fortunately, in those days tanks had co-drivers so the men could take turns driving."

Tanks were left running day and night to prevent engine stoppages. During the brief halts tankers stood behind their tanks to warm their hands, or took turns lying on the rear deck directly over the

engine. "We used a staff to clean the main gun, pushing it clear through the breech block on the inside. We paid attention to the tracks, tightening them up, lubricating everything and keeping the bogie wheels centered."

Inside the tanks, they wore two or three layers under coveralls and two pairs of socks. Usually, a third pair was stuffed into a shirt or sleeve to ensure one change of socks. Over in Service Company, the men dug into the frozen earth, then drove trucks over the holes for sleeping.

"All I can remember about what was called the Battle of the Bulge was Germans firing from dug-in places, or using self-propelled guns from



SIG AND COPELAND



GW AND MICKY

**WOODEN & SIG**

across from where we were in Bonnerue and Jenneville. Near Tillet, we were firing on them like mad. Bates would hand off the range and I would use the power traverse and elevation wheel to lay the gun on them, and then step on one switch for the main gun or the other one, for the co-ax machine gun. Sometimes we moved behind houses, or busted into them to get off a shot from behind cover. The telescope gave a limited view, but you could switch from 1x power to 10x power. The loader would slam High Explosive or Armor Piercing rounds, allow shell casings to pile up at his position, then toss them out of a little door in the turret side, we called it the pistol port. Modern tanks don't have them anymore." A Baker Company tank crew commanded by Sgt. Billy Kitt, engaged several tanks for two hours, moving to different points behind a ridge line despite damage

from enemy fire. Kitt was one of eight of the 761st tankers to receive a battlefield commission during the war. "I remember road signs, like St. Vith. We kept moving east through one no-name town after another, providing tank support to one infantry regiment of the 87th or another. During Task Force Rhine, we could tell the end of the war was near. We moved fast, shot up enemy columns, crossed the Siegfried Line and the Rhine River with no opposition. We took lots of prisoners, guys who were in pretty bad shape. We sent them back to the rear and kept moving deeper into Germany. "

When the Battalion reached Austria, Branch and other Battalion members visited a concentration camp that had been liberated by the allies. "We did not go in with guns blazing as some have said. The shooting was over, and the Germans were running as far away from the camps as possible. But we saw their terrible misdeeds and will never forget them."

For Branch, the war ended in a little Austrian farmhouse in Saarbrücken. Captain Brown called company formation in his distinctive "geechee" accent, pinned a Bronze Star Medal to Branch's olive drab shirt, and read the following citation to the assembled men of Baker Company: "Buddie V. Branch, Corporal, Company "B", 761st Tank Bat-

**DEAC & CC**

talion, U.S. Army, for heroic achievement in action against the enemy on 25 November 1944, in Honskirch, France. Corporal BRANCH, after having established covering fire for seventeen walking casualties, voluntarily dismounted from his tank, and with utter disregard for his personal safety, distinguished himself by courageous



**ARTICLE BY:
WAYNE D. ROBINSON
ASSOCIATION HISTORIAN**

bravery in the face of heavy enemy fire. Corporal BRANCH succeeded in inspecting six disabled tanks, aided in the removal and evacuation of seven litter cases, carrying each one back approximately three hundred yards to shelter, while enemy 88mm guns, mortars, machine guns, and snipers continued to fire upon the disabled column for a period of four and one half hours. Corporal BRANCH'S courage and devotion to duty is an inspiration to all."

Released from active duty in 1949, Branch went home to

Dayton, Ohio, obtained a degree in embalming, and worked as an IBM punch-card computer operator and later, Programmer, at Wright Patterson Air Force Base. He retired after thirty-two years of service, and then embarked on a second career as a funeral director. He married, had two children, who in turn blessed Branch and his spouse with a grandson and two great granddaughters.

Today, Branch is proud of his wartime service, but also remembers the shameful treat-

ment received by service members, some who made the ultimate sacrifice, solely because of the color of their skin. "We did our best in spite of everything "they" threw at us, and I'm not talking about the Germans."

Branch insisted on ending the interview with the following advice to his remaining 761st tanker buddies:

"Don't sit still in front of a funeral director."



**BUDDIE BRANCH AND WAYNE ROBINSON AT OUR 2008 REUNION
(1ST INFANTRY DIVISION MUSEUM AT CANTIGNY— WHEATON, ILLINOIS)**

The 2008 and 2009 reunions were both held in Rosemont, Illinois and both were the results of last minute changes in previously designated locations. In spite of the last minute changes and scrambles to ensure that the “show will go on”, both reunions were very enjoyable and successful.

In 2008 the Association was invited by the First Division Museum to be their guest for lunch and a relaxing day Friday at Cantigny to visit the First Division Museum located on the 500 acre estate of Robert R. McCormick. Cantigny Park is home to two world class museums, beautiful gardens and a golf course that occupies about three-fifths of the

estate.

In 2009 we went in a very different direction and planned a dinner/theatre evening and saw one of the best productions outside of Broadway of the musical *CABARET*.

Whatever directions we take, the reunion is the one time we get together as many, tankers, family, and friends as possible to conduct the associations business, renew friendships and enjoy ourselves.

Once again this year’s reunion is requiring a last minute location change. The location was to be in Hattiesburg, Mississippi and the Mississippi State Chapter of the NAACP generously offered to co-

host the reunion and to help us in every way possible so that it would be a very successful and enjoyable reunion. Unfortunately there were logistic problems that caused a change in location. The reunion will now be held in Chicago again but at a different hotel from the last two years. We wish to thank the Mississippi State Chapter of the NAACP and James B. Jones, our local contact in Mississippi, for both their insights and hard work in our behalf.

Travel information should be available within a week to accommodate your planning. Keep the dates from August 26—29 open.

The timing of the reunion has not changed – only the location.

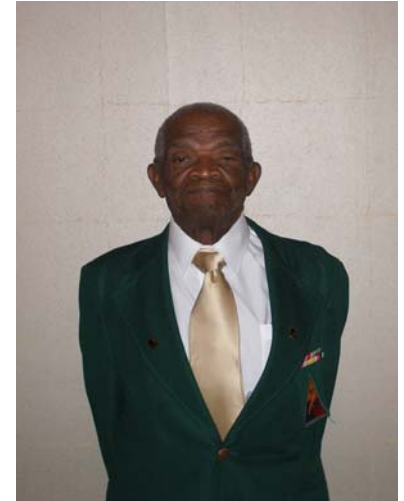


(L/R) WAYNE ROBINSON, ROSCOE STROZIER, BUD HARRIS, BARON BATES, JOHN WESTON, BUD-DIE BRANCH, GLOUCESTER STEPHENS, RUFUS TAYLOR, LAWRENCE BAILEY AND JAMES YOUNG ROSEMONT, ILLINOIS – 2008

Pictorial Recap of the 2008 & 2009 Reunions – Rosemont, Illinois



TRANSPORTATION WAS VERY CONVENIENT AT CANTIGNY
PICTURED (RIGHT TO LEFT) ARE JOHN WESTON, GLOUCESTER STE-
VENS, RUFUS TAYLOR, MARY ANN BOWIE AND BUDDIE BRANCH



LAWRENCE BAILEY



ROOSEVELT (BUD)
HARRIS



BUDD HARRIS, JOHN WESTON, GLOUCESTER STEVENS, JAMES
YOUNG, RUFUS TAYLOR AND BUDDIE BRANCH AT THE FIRST DIVI-
SION MUSEUM AT CANTIGNY



“WHAT A RIDE” COMMENTED RUFUS TAYLOR AFTER TOURING THE GROUNDS IN THE HALF-TRACK.”



GLOUCESTER STEPHENS



JAMES YOUNG



RUFUS TAYLOR, BUDDIE BRANCH AND WAYNE ROBINSON

60/30—60th Annual Reunion and 30th Anniversary of the “PUC”



JOHN WESTON AND BUDDIE BRANCH



WAYNE ROBINSON



BUDDIE BRANCH



DINNER AT RED LOBSTER FRIDAY NIGHT

60/30—60th Annual Reunion and 30th Anniversary of the “PUC”



**2008 WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD ACCEPTED
BY EDRIS DADE FOR SHAUNA DADE BURWELL**



**2008 WOMAN OF THE YEAR GLADYS CRUMP.
SOMETIMES IT IS JUST TOO DIFFICULT TO CHOOSE**



2008 MAN OF THE YEAR—RUFUS TAYLOR



**A SPECIAL TREAT FROM FLOSSIE NELSON
— THE FASHION SHOW**

61st Annual Reunion—2009



BARON BATES



EDRIS DADE

GETTING READY FOR THE MEMORIAL SERVICE, LUNCH AND ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING



JAMES B. JONES, IVAN HARRISON, JAMES YOUNG, KEITH HARRISON, BARON BATES, EDRIS DADE, MARK VAZ, WALLACE, PETER WALLACE, KERMIT HARRISON, KAYLA MOORE, KAREN HARRISON, WADDELL PERRY, BUD HARRIS, ROSCOE STROZIER, AND JOHN WESTON

61st Annual Reunion— 2009



2009 "MAN OF THE YEAR" AWARD WENT TO WADDELL PERRY. THE "WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD WENT TO FLOSSIE NELSON WHO WAS NOT ABLE TO ATTEND BECAUSE OF ILLNESS.



DJ—TRACEY DION WILLIAMS



DANCE FLOOR



SUNDAY FAREWELL BREAKFAST

President's Corner – A Special Message

Dear Association Members and Friends,

The year 2010 promises to be an exciting one for the 761 Association. We are currently finalizing plans for our 62nd reunion, which will be held in Chicago, Illinois from August 26th to August 29th. This is a recent change (from the previously announced location of Hattiesburg, Mississippi) due to logistic problems. More information will follow in a separate posting on this website.

The Association has also started another venture into the digital age – in addition to our website (www.761st.com) we are now on Facebook with 234 fans as of this writing. To check out our

Facebook page, go to www.facebook.com and create a free Facebook account for yourself. Then search on 761st, click to become a fan and you will receive messages and updates.

As an association, we cannot look to the future without contemplating the past. Sixty-five years ago there were over 1500 members of the 761st, 784th and 758th tank battalions. During the war, we became a family, depending on each other for support. It was only natural that these relationships created ties that spanned decades. Today there are perhaps less than 100 of our original members remaining. We are at a crossroad – in what form does our Association continue – where do we go from here? We will be



JOHN WESTON

looking for you to provide your thoughts and input into our future either in person at the reunion, in writing, or by phone. Any suggestions are most welcome.

I am hoping to see many of you in Chicago this August.

Meet the Association Officers

My name is Keith Harrison, and I am proud to serve the 761st Tank Battalion & Allied Veteran's Association as the newly elected Treasurer. I remember hearing about the outstanding contribution that the men of the 761st made during my childhood. My grandfather, Ivan H. Harrison, proudly served as a Platoon Leader, Company Commander and eventually as its first Black battalion Commander.

It is my desire to ensure that the memory of my grandfather, and all of those who served with him in combat, lives on for generations to come. The 761st Tank Battalion & Allied Veteran's Association is doing its part to keep the memories alive, this year holding its 62nd annual reunion! As treasurer, I hope to help by ensuring that the association re-

mains liquid, is able to continue to hold annual gatherings, and continues to support future generations through educational grants. My top priorities are to implement more stringent financial controls, generate consistent financial statements, and ensure that there is transparency for the members. And I will work with the Board of Directors on growing revenue streams to ensure that the Association can continue to do good works.

On a personal note, my wife Angee and I have two son's, ages 5 and 2. I currently work for a leading travel industry company.

Over the last seven years I served as treasurer for HEDNA (Hotel Electronics Distribution Network Association). As treasurer I was not only responsible for the association's finances, I

was involved in location selection and planning for our meetings which were scattered throughout the world and attended by hundreds of association members.

I look forward to seeing you at the next annual reunion!

Sincerely,

Keith Harrison
Treasurer



KEITH HARRISON

A letter from the
2nd Vice-President

Dear Tankers, Family and Friends:

I am writing to urge you to begin re-investing in the 761st Tank Battalion & Allied Veterans Association. As our tankers go on to "glory", we must be able to preserve their history and the significant legacy that they have given us. Now we have come up with a series of proposals to cope with our current slide in support. In the coming weeks and months, as you consider where you are in 2009 and begin to consider the 2010 budget, here are various proposals that I hope you will choose to invest in

the future of our association. Please use your power to halt this decline and make it a priority of yours to annually take all opportunities to demonstrate your care and concern for the sacrifices that your tanker undertook for you to enjoy the freedoms we have today.

Membership has been opened to all persons who support the purpose and legacy of the 761st Tank Battalion & Allied Veterans Association. Fill out the Membership Form and join us now.

Support the Association by always taking out an AD and use it to let everyone know who your tanker is,

what company he was in and use photos, if available

Use photos and accomplishments of your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, etc. We are proud of them and need to let them know it in every way possible.

If there are not immediate family members, then take out a page of business-card size Ads from friends, neighbors, church members, co-workers, etc. Copy the Ad Request Form and distribute to the community and advertise the history of the 761st Tank Battalion in this manner.

Everything that you do "for" the 761st Tank Battalion & Allied Veterans Association demonstrates that our tankers were there. You acknowledge the call from General George S. Patton, the four (4) European Campaigns, the six (6) European countries where they fought, participation in the Battle of the Bulge, Gunskirchen concentration camp that they liberated while attached to the 71st Infantry Division.

Looking forward to hearing from all of you this year and next year.

**Edris J.
Dade
-2nd Vice-
President**



EDRIS DADE



761ST MEMORIAL

MAIL CALL

j r wrote:

Sir, I served in the Army in Germany during the Cold War. I was stationed at Mannheim Germany my barracks was Turley. Can you tell me if the barracks was named in honor of Samuel J Turley of the 761st? I read another web site saying he was killed in action in Metz France.

Respectfully

James L Reynolds

donnie l. betts wrote:

I would like to be in touch with someone from the 761st. I am producing a radio drama about the 761st that was originally produced in 1949 on WMAQ in Chicago. We will broadcast the show on May 24th 2010 live on KGNU 88.5 FM Boulder and Denver, Co

So please contact me,
Best

Hite, Janis wrote:
Dear Webmaster,

I am a middle school teacher in Denver, Colorado. On February 22 we attended a presentation by Kareem Abdul Jabbar where he spoke about the 761st Black Panther Tank Battalion. Many of my students were

shocked and saddened that these gentlemen did not receive the welcome and respect they deserved. Many have written letters that they would like to deliver to the survivors of the battalion.

Can you share with me the names of the surviving members of the battalion and an address where we can mail them letters. I know that some members have recently passed on. We could send letters to their families.

Thanks for your assistance.

Janis Hite
7th/8th Grade Social Studies Teacher
Bryant Webster Dual Language ECE-8 School
Denver, Colorado

Art Norman wrote:

As a Veteran of the 4th I.D. & 1st I.D. (Forward) - WELL DONE !!!!!

Ron Curry wrote:
Hi folks,

I corresponded with you a couple of years ago. I am planning a reunion in Houston for my father's outfit - 103d Inf.Div. -

409th Regiment - Company K. They were involved in joint infantry/armored assaults with the 761st in 1945.

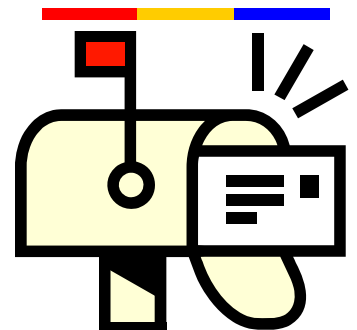
We would like to invite one of your members plus his guest to be our guest at our dinner on September 25, 2010 at the Houston Embassy Suites near the Galleria. Everyone is welcome to attend all of the reunion (Thursday through Saturday), but I can only afford to pay for the dinner of 2. Of course the cost to the guest would be an expectation to stand up and say a few words.

The men of Company K are proud to have fought by your side, and the first sergeant has shown me several clippings on your unit that he has collected over the years.

Could you help me find one of your members to attend.

Thanks,

Ron Curry
son of 2d Lt. Alva L. Curry
deceased.



MAIL CALL

Currie, Rusten D CPT NGCA wrote:
Greetings,

My name is Captain Rus Currie, I'm the Aide to Brigadier General Mary Kight, the first African American female Adjutant General of a National Guard force in the history of the United States. I'm trying to get in contact with any of the Officers of the 761st Tank BN Association. Brigadier General Kight is very interested in making contact with the members of the Association. Thank you, my contact information is below, please forward to the appropriate people.

Regards,
CPT Rusten D. Currie
Aide-de-Camp
Office of The Adjutant General

stampfle, katherine 2LT MIL USA wrote:
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: FOUO

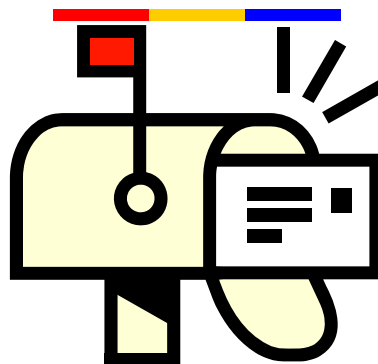
Sir,

I am the Adopt a School Rep for the 720th MP BN on Fort

Hood. The school has contacted me and is interested in having a speaker for Black History Month. I do not know if there is any remaining soldiers from the 761 Tank BN still located in the Fort Hood area; however, if there are, the school would love to have a soldier from the 761 speak. I am not sure if you are even the right person to direct this question to, but any guidance is appreciated. Thank you!

V/R,
Katherine Stampfle
2LT, MP
720 MP BN, Asst. S2

B. J. Pryor wrote:
HI!
I am trying to find out something about Capt. David J. Williams, author of *Hit Hard*. It's for a bibliography I keep of books and authors I have read. Nowhere have I been able to find Capt. Williams' full name, or year of birth, or death, or even if he is still alive. Is there anyone there who can help me? Thanks!
B. J. Pryor



Admin wrote:

Dear Sirs:

We are a small independent film production company based in Europe . We are currently in the process of filming the third part of a trilogy which follows the American forces from D-Day to the end of the Ardennes offensive and we would like to feature the African American soldiers of the 761st tank Battalion .

We wish to tell the story of Capt Charlie A.Gates and perhaps interview a veteran of his unit , if any are still alive ?

Our films are for schools , libraries and museums and although we are European based , we have colleagues in America who could film some interviews . Our first battlefield tour film is 'The Americans on D-Day' This is a link to a review by The American Legion.
<http://www.legion.org/news/794/video-review-americans-d-day>
Please feel free to visit our website.

www.ww2-reflections.com

We look forward to hearing from you.

Best Regards
Richard Lanni
Director

Note: Addresses, emails and telephone numbers were removed. If you can reply or help contact me (Ivan Harrison) for additional information.

T.G. Hill Educational Assistance Fund

During the Banquet at the 2009 reunion two recipients of the T.G. Hill Educational Assistance Fund were announced. Each received a check for \$750.00. The two students are Laura Frazier at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California and Jordan Feazell at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland.

We wish them both continued success, we admire what they have already accomplished, and we thank all of our contributors to the T.G. Hill fund that make these awards possible. Each contribution is an investment in our futures.

October 17, 2009

Dear Mr. Weston,

I am so honored to have been selected as one of two recipients of funds from the T.G. Hill Educational Assistance Fund. I am as humbled by this award as I am by the sacrifices of the soldiers of the 761st Battalion who served our country so valiantly.

Thank you so much for your kind remarks regarding my high school performance and application. It is always nice to know that one's efforts have been well received. My first month at school has been a very busy one. In addition to a full load of classes, I have been selected as an Ernest H. Johnson Scholar (in honor of the first African American to attend & graduate from Stanford) and applied to be a NAACP Intern.

Tomorrow family and friends will gather to celebrate the life of my maternal grandfather who served in the Pacific during WWII. (He was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer on September 1st and left us earlier this month.) I accept these funds in his memory and assure you that I will use the funds judiciously.

With deep Gratitude,

Laurel Frazier

February 13, 2010

Dear 761st Tank Battalion & Allied Veterans Association,

Thank you very much for your generous donation of \$750.00 for my college education.

I greatly appreciate being a recipient and being able to tell my story. You have allowed me to regain the confidence needed to know that people do care if you are trying your best and putting your best foot forward. I know that I can finish my education with dedication and great perseverance. Though my educational career has not been the norm, I know as long as I continue on my journey I will reach my goals.

The T.G. Hill Scholarship has helped many besides me and I am grateful to all who donate time, money and effort to help the youth in need. This Association is doing wonderful things for the advancement of youth, especially those who do not have the advantages of others. Again I thank you from the bottom of my heart because with your help have been able to achieve a great deal educationally.

Sincerely,

Jordan Feazell

Scholarships and Educational Assistance Available to 761st Family Members

There are two established scholarships that are associated with the 761st Tank Battalion. The Paul L. Bates Memorial Scholarship Fund and the T.G. Hill Educational Assistance Fund.

The Paul L. Bates Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 1999 in memory of Colonel Paul L. Bates who, perhaps more than any other single person, shaped the battalion into the remarkable unit that it became. Colonel Bates was a 1931 graduate of Western Maryland College (on July 1, 2002, the name officially changed to McDaniel College), and during his college years was an All-American football player.

The scholarship was established as a tribute to the brave men who fought under his command and provides awards for lineal descendants of members of the 761st Tank Battalion who served with the unit from August 1944 through April 1945.

Recipients must be accepted to and attend McDaniel College, possess and maintain a 2.0 grade point average at McDaniel College and demonstrate financial need.

McDaniel College is a private four year college of the liberal arts and sciences. There is a flexible curricula at both the undergraduate and master's degree level where students from 31 states and 17 countries prepare for their future lives. Over the years the college has grown from a single building with 37 students to 40 buildings on a 160-acre campus populated by 1,600 undergraduates and 1,300 graduate students. The average class size is 17 students and there is a student-faculty ratio of 12 – 1. This enables a close-knit community where learning is collaborative and every student receives personal attention.

For information about McDaniel College and how to apply, visit the McDaniel College web site at www.mcdaniel.edu.

The T.G. Hill Education Assistance fund has provided support to many young students over the years with over \$87,000 in cash awards. In 2005 there were two awards of \$1,000 to each of two students.

The assistance provided to the young students is different from other scholarships in that the student receives a check in their own name and has the freedom to use the money at their own discretion. This is important because many students who receive other forms of financial support, family or institutional, experience a financial gap that puts a strain on family resources and/or is not covered by other sources. There are many extra costs associated with higher learning that are often overlooked until the student is faced with difficult choices.

Can I join a professional organization in the field I am majoring in, can I afford books in my field that are not required reading for any of my courses, those reference books are so expensive but it would help so much to have my own set or it could just be that my socks get wet when it rains because of the hole in my shoes—whatever.

The T.G. Hill Educational Assistance Fund is provided through donations to the 761st Tank Battalion & Allied Veterans Association by both members and friends. The Association is chartered as a nonprofit corporation with 501(c)(3) status. Donations to the educational assistance fund are always welcome. Checks should be made out the 761st Tank Battalion & Allied Veterans Association with the notation T.G. Hill Education Fund in the memo area. The mailing address is as follows:

761st Tank Battalion & Allied Veterans Association
7518 Hamilton
Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527

McDaniel College Contact Information

Contact Admissions

Phone: 800-638-5005
 Email: admissions@mcdaniel.edu
 Address: McDaniel College
 Office of Admissions
 2 College Hill
 Westminster, MD 21157

Contact Graduate Admissions

Phone: 410-857-2500
 Fax: 410-857-2515
 Email: gradadms@mcdaniel.edu
 Address: Graduate & Professional Studies Office
 Academic Hall, 2nd Floor
 McDaniel College
 2 College Hill
 Westminster, MD 21157-4390

For information on scholarships and financial aid contact the Director of Financial Aid at email: pwilliams@mcdaniel.edu or phone: 410-857-2233

An additional contact for more information about the scholarship, contact:

Ms. Debbie Leazer
 Assistant Director of Donor Relations
 McDaniel College
 2 College Hill
 Westminster, MD 21157
 Phone: 410-857-2251
 E-mail: dleazer@mcdaniel.edu

T.G. Hill Educational Assistance Fund

For an application write to:

761st Tank Battalion & Allied Veterans Association
 7518 Hamilton
 Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527
 Attn: T.G. Hill Educational Assistance Fund



TAPS

THE 761ST NEWSLETTER HAS LEARNED OF THE FOLLOWING DEATHS. OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY GOES OUT TO THE FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF THE DECEASED.

L Z ANDERSON	JANUARY 8, 2008
HARRY K. TYREE	FEBRUARY 15, 2008
SIDNEY A. DICKASON, SR.	MARCH 16, 2008
HERMAN TAYLOR	MARCH 8, 2008
BERNARD F. WITHERS	MAY 8, 2008
ROBERT COOPER	JULY 3, 2008
CHARLES W. WOMBLE	SEPTEMBER 23, 2008
RUFUS TAYLOR	NOVEMBER 25, 2008
PHILLIP LATIMER	FEBRUARY 13, 2009
RILEY RUSSELL	DECEMBER 16, 2009



ANYONE WHO KNOWS OF A MEMBER'S DEATH PLEASE NOTIFY THE NEWSLETTER SO THAT PERSON CAN BE LISTED IN TAPS AND ALSO ON THE HONOR ROLL AT THE NEXT REUNION

COME OUT FIGHTING

The Official Newsletter of the
761st Tank Battalion & Allied Veterans Association

Organization Address
761st Tank Battalion & Allied Veterans Association
7518 Hamilton Ave
Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527

Ivan Harrison, Jr. — National Secretary

We're on the Web!
www.761st.com
(Facebook also)

Interesting

784th Tank battalion

—Did you know that the sum of the cubes of the first seven integers is **784**?

$$1^n + 2^n + 3^n + 4^n + 5^n + 6^n + 7^n = 784$$

$$(n = 3).$$

Statement of Publication

This is the official publication of the 761st Tank Battalion & Allied Veterans Association. It will be published on a tri-annual basis with publication dates of April 30, August 31, and December 31. All members and associates are encouraged to support the voice of the 761st. Reader response will ultimately determine the frequency of publication.

The news letter is intended to be a vehicle for the members and associates to express opinions, make suggestions, share experiences and especially to keep in touch.

All letters and stories submitted will be considered for publication but they must be signed. Letters requesting that the writer's name be withheld will be honored and stated so in the printed article. Because the Association is a non-profit organization, letters espousing a political position will not be printed.

Unless stated otherwise, the views printed in the newsletter are those of the article's writer and do not necessarily represent the views of the Association leadership or the editor of the newsletter.

The Association is not responsible for the accuracy of articles submitted for publication. It would be impossible to check each story. Therefore we rely on the submitter to research each article.

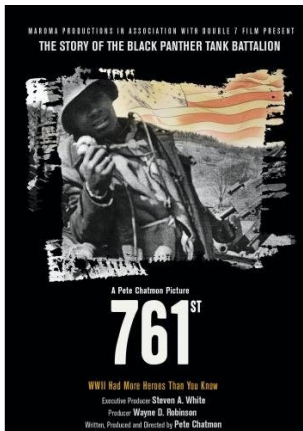
The editor reserves the right to edit letters to conform to space limitations and grammar.

You are encouraged to actively participate in the newsletter by submitting your letters, stories, photographs and suggestions.

Letters may be submitted to:

Ivan H. Harrison, Jr.
7518 Hamilton Ave
Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527-6923
ivanharrisonjr@hotmail.com

Publications About the 761st



761st

The story of the Black Panther Tank Battalion.

Executive Producer

Steven A. White

Producer

Wayne D. Robinson

Written, Produced and Directed

by

Pete Chatmon

Narrated by

Andre Braugher

DVD—72 minutes

Both of these titles are available at www.amazon.com.
As of April 21, 2010 the DVD **761st** was listed at \$24.99 and **Brothers in Arms** was \$11.21 (paperback edition).

Brothers in Arms

The epic story of the 761st Tank Battalion, WWII's forgotten heroes.

By Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Anthony Walton.

ISBN 0-7679-0913-5

