



727th AMPHIBIAN TRACTOR BATTALION ASSOCIATION

300 Anders Camp Road
Cleveland, SC 29635
Phone: (864) 836-3436

October 2016

Dear Friends:

Fall already?! Best wishes to everyone and hope this newsletter finds that you are doing well. The holiday season is fast arriving and we wish you the very best!

Please remember that if you have any information to let Karen Corbin DeVictor know. Her e-mail is: kdevictor@gmail.com, or call 785-842-8216. You are also welcome to call me any time. We will make sure and keep you informed through emails and the newsletters. This is a great way to keep up with everyone. Please check out our website: <http://www.727atb.us>. Terry Sorenson is our Historian and Webmaster.

727th ATB 33rd Annual Reunion was held July 14-16, 2016

On the last page of this newsletter, you will find notes from the 2016 Reunion.

The organizational committee for the 727th ATB Reunions, asks that you contact them if you are, at this time, able to and planning to attend another reunion in the late summer to early fall of 2017 (last week of July through the first week of August, or the first or second weeks of September). If you do want to attend, organizers need to know what weeks during the period of time you will be available to come to Kansas City again for the gathering. Please specify these details in your communication. Contact:

Karen DeVictor, at 2208 Greenbrier Drive, Lawrence, KS 66047; phone her at: 785-842-8216; email her at: kdevictor@gmail.com.

Donna Windmeyer, at 16289 LIV 425, Mooresville, MO 64664; phone her at: 660-646-1071; email her at: donna@hopehavenindustries.org.

Vicki Allen, at 1510 Willow Point Lane SW, Rochester, MN 55902; phone her at: 507-421-6056; email Terry at: terry@bankononb.com

We are continually trying to keep information about the veterans and their family updated. The new booklets were handed out to those that attended the 2016 Reunion. We have now meshed the 727th ATB Family Directory together with the 727th ATB booklet that is handed out each year at the Reunion. Section 1, entitled, "727th ATB in Memoriam", lists veterans who have died, or ones that we have learned of their death, since the 2015 roster was printed are "underlined/bolded". Terry Sorenson has done extensive work to find out information of veterans on the "Lost Members" list that we now know have passed away; along with others we have information of their passing during this time. Section 2 of this booklet, is a "work in progress". Names and information that are "bolded", are the most current information we have located. This section includes the names of those veterans that were on the "Lost Members" list that have passed away. For the names not bolded, we will continue to try and locate information. If you have any information about these veterans, please send an email to Ann Edwards, Karen DeVictor, or Terry Sorenson, so we can update our booklet. The last page lists the current information for other ATB Contacts.

Karen DeVictor will be sending to all those that are on her email list, the information in this booklet. She will then mail out a new booklet to each family that is on our Newsletter mailing list that does not have email access.

JoAn Staton continues to work on medals. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, in appreciation of the efforts of our military in their area during WWII, has created a medallion for the personnel who fought in the Pacific Theater during that period. The 727th ATB would be eligible to receive this medal. The VFW Post who provides our Color Guard each year is handling this for us. For those interested, please contact JoAn. Email is: mogiejo@yahoo.com and her phone #913-839-1540

NEWS SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER

- Apr. 20 Ann received an email from Ken Harders, nephew of **John Rauert**. He wanted to let the 727th ATB know that he passed away April 18th. He was 91 years old. His funeral will be April 25th in Grand Island at Apfel Funeral Home with military honors. Ken made a video a few years ago about his Uncle John.
Here is a link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=81pMArh4Ck>
- Apr. 27 Ann had a phone call from Jewel Allen, wife of **James L. Allen**. She is 93 and he is 91. They are doing okay. She said he loves to receive his newsletter and remembers when he was able to go to reunions. Just not able to travel that far anymore. He wanted his name added to the list to receive the medal that the VFW is working on getting. Nice to hear from them. Their address is: 606 Davis Ave.; Dunn, NC 28334.
- April **Pat Parr's** Newsletter returned to Ann. I need to find her new address.
- April Kameron Henderson's Newsletter returned to Ann. I need to find a new address.
- April **Harold Gordon's** Newsletter returned to Ann. I need to find a new address.
- May 2 Received letter from Diana Muhlbach, daughter of **Don and Elizabeth Yates**. Don passed away April 15th. He fought cancer for about a year but lost the battle. Elizabeth is still at: Canton Christian Home; 2550 Cleveland Ave. NW Rm230; Canton, OH 44709. You are in our thoughts and prayers.
- May 2 received letter from **James and Jewel Allen**. Thank you for your kind donation to help keep the 727th ATB going. We understand that health issues make it difficult to travel to the reunions. Keep in touch!
- May 7 I called **Elizabeth Yates (Don)** today. She is doing fairly well and thanks everyone for their cards and notes. She has had some falls and has major arthritic problems, so she stays in a wheelchair. She likes where she is living and loves to get notes, just too difficult for her to write back.
- May 6 Received an email that Karen forwarded from Janis Richardson, daughter of **Dallas Pohlman**, deceased. She said they were unable to attend the reunion this year and they hope to make it next year. She said that one of her most memorable reunions was held in Dayton, OH, and we visited The National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, which was a truly incredible site to behold. She hopes to take her husband, Paul to see it. She wants to scan and post some reunion pictures for all to view. That would be great!
- May 9 Karen forwarded an email from Vicki Allen Sorenson, wife of **Terry Sorenson**. The address zip code is incorrect. Please make note that their address is: 1510 Willow Point Ln SW; Rochester, MN 55902 (I accidentally had 55901). I am sorry for the error and I really appreciate your note to let us know. Hopefully, I've got everything corrected. Thank you!
- May 14 I received an email today from Eric Smith. His grandfather, **Francis X. Smith**, was a 1st Lieutenant in Company A and later in Company B of the 727th ATB. He thought the website was a great tribute to the men and thanked those that made it possible. His grandfather passed away in 1997 and he would like to know if any living veterans remembered him. He would love to connect with anyone and share stories. I sent his email along to Terry Sorenson and Karen DeVictor to see about gathering information, for him and his father. I will send out the history and other pamphlets to him. Here is his information, if you would like to contact him. Eric Smith's email is ericsmith76@bellsouth.net and phone number is: 404-

668-8860. His address is: 11573 Valmont Trail; Milton, GA 30004. His father is Jim Smith, son of Francis X. Smith. His address is 3424 Blue Spruce Ct.; Gainesville, GA 39594.

- June 8 Received a letter from **Francis Carroll**. He said he was unable to make the reunions anymore, but wanted to thank Karen, JoAn and others for working to keep the organization going. He sent a donation. Thank you so much and you are in our thoughts and prayers. I called on June 10th and left a message and then emailed a thank you note.
- June 8 Karen received an email from **Dean and Karen Sorenson**. Karen underwent a Bi-Lateral Mastectomy in March 2016. The first 6 treatments are going to be very hard on Karen as one of the Chemotherapy medications is a very aggressive form of medicine with severe side effects. Karen goes June 10 for #4 treatment and will then have 2 more. She will be on regular chemotherapy until April 6, 2017. Please keep Karen in your thoughts and prayers as she faces the toughest fight. Their address is: 28180 Hopewood Dr.; Northfield, MN 55057.
- June 21 Karen received and email from Keith and Christy Windmeyer. They are having a 90th birthday party for Betty on July 20th. If you are in the area, they would love to have you come. If not, you can send a card to **Betty Windmeyer**, 11634 N. Saline 65 Hwy, Grand Pass, MO 65339. RSVP to Loren and Nora Windmeyer (for dinner) by sending an email to: wndmyr@yahoo.com or phone: 660-493-2730. I realize this information is too late to respond for her birthday party, but thought you can send a belated card to her, if you would like. Karen sent out an email about this special celebration gathering to her 727th Email Contact group. Happy Birthday and best wishes, Betty!!!
- June 21 While gathering information for the Reunion Booklet, I called to find out information on **Roger Peterson**, and wife, Justine. I had an old phone number and managed to talk to someone that looked up to find they had both passed away. Roger died August 20, 2013 and Justine died in 2012. I have included the website. Reference was made to the 727th. He was a radio operator. <http://aldersonfuneralhomes.com/tribute/details/412/Roger-Peterson/obituary.html>.
- June 27 I spoke with **Betty Bohanan (Charles' wife)**. He passed away in August 2012. She is now 95. She lives with her cat and doing okay. Enjoys the Newsletter and says hello to all.
- June 27 I spoke with **Eleanor Bowersox (Orville's wife)**. They are both doing well. He is 91 and has been in a nursing home the last couple years, due to a light stroke. They keep up with everyone through the Newsletters.
- June 27 I spoke with **Ruth Fann (Gilbert's wife)**. They are both doing okay. He is now 98 and has a little Alzheimer's, but not bad. They keep up with everyone and enjoy the Newsletters.
- June 27 I spoke with **Louise Lewis. (Troy's wife)**. He passed away in 2012. She is doing well and will be 79. She says "hi" to all.
- June 29 I spoke with **Ralph Loudenburg** and his **daughter, Kathy**. He is 92 and doing well. He Keeps up with everyone through the Newsletters and even with some ailments from growing old, is thankful for all he is still able to do. Kathy is with Ralph and her email is: kborgen78@ecentral.com.
- July 11 Received the 658th ATB Newsletter today. Pete Gliech, 672nd ATB, passed away 10-31-2015 and Jack Hammerschmidt, 658th ATB, passed away 4-24-2016. Just wanted to pass this information along in case you might have known them.
- Jul 14-16 33rd Reunion of the 727th ATB held at the Courtyard by Marriott in Kansas City, MO.
- Aug. 15 Karen received an email from **Harry Lew** that he remembered **Roger Peterson** well. He said he was "one of the finest members in our 727th ATB".

Love and God Bless you all, 

Ann Corbin Edwards and the entire Merritt Corbin Family

Email: anncedwards@gmail.com

Phone number is: 864-836-3436

Some notes from the 2016 727th ATB reunion:

1. In attendance: veteran Dave and Betty Windmeyer with son Dennis and his wife Donna, all from Missouri; veteran Bennie and Christine Torrez from Arizona; widow of veteran Pancho Alvarez - Cora Alvarez with her sister Celia and her husband Henry Vega from California, along with her daughter Marcia Rhodes and her family who joined in for Saturday evening); widow of veteran Wilbur Sorenson - Arleen Sorenson with son Terry and his wife Vicki Allen all from Minnesota; widow of veteran Don Staton - JoAn Staton and daughter Jeannie Pappas, both from Kansas, and daughter of veteran Merritt Corbin - Karen DeVictor with husband Fred, also from Kansas. Veteran Don Johnson and son Brad had plans to attend but Don's wife Pearl had health issues at the last minute that changed those plans.
2. We stayed at the Marriott Courtyard Hotel near the Kansas City airport for the reunion, from July 14th to the 17th.
3. The area VFW again helped with the memorial service and this year, after extensive follow up on members, the reading of the list of those vets who have passed away since the last reunion, we extra long, as we also read the names of those about whom we just learned this year of their deaths, no matter how long ago. We thank Ann Edwards for her tireless work to locate the men or their relatives who have been on the 727th roster. In addition, the memorial service included the reading of the names of all members who are "lost" – those with whom the reunion committee members over the years since the early 1980s have had no contact.
4. The hospitality room was again the favorite spot in the hotel; it served as the center where we waited for friends to arrive, then visited and caught up on the latest news. Of course, meals were there as well as BINGO and entertainment, too!
5. Outings were to the Federal Reserve Bank's "Money Museum" and to the National Toy and Miniature Museum. Lunch out included some of that famous Kansas City BBQ at Jack Stack's restaurant.
6. The business meeting included greetings from several of those who attended in the past but were unable to make it this year. And finances remain sound, as per treasurer, Ann Corbin Edwards. Those attending decided that a survey would be taken in the late fall or winter to help determine if another reunion in 2017 will be feasible – that is the organizing committee will gather feedback about whether (and which) vets and families are able to commit to attending another gathering in the summer or early fall of next year.
7. Terry Sorenson again shared new photos and information that he has added to the 727th ATB website; this time we all viewed Company A, Company B and Headquarters group photos. With help from nearly everyone there, we sorted out the faces and names of the men of the original 727, as it was first formed.
8. At the business meeting, those present determined that leftover funds will be used to continue paying for the very fine website. We urge any who have photos they wish to share, to contact Terry Sorenson to find a way to get copies to him for posting online. Contact Terry:

1510 Willow Point Lane, SW, Rochester, Minnesota, 55902; phone: 507-421-6056; email: terry@bankononb.com.

9. Saturday night's entertainment was provided by the Senior Barn Players of which JoAn Staton is a member. This performance and group of senior-aged performers is always fun! Actors stayed to share dessert with the group – birthday cake for two with birthdays just a few days before and after the reunion – Betty Windmeyer and Arleen Sorenson.