



761ST NEWSLETTER

December 31, 2005

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

Volume 1, Issue 2

57th Annual Reunion

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ♦ The 56th reunion was a great success.
Read all about it in the cover article
- ♦ 761st Memorial after 14 years in the making - Page 4
- ♦ Questions about the 761st history? —
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Pictured here (L/R) at the reunion banquet, are Brigadier General Vincent K. Brooks, Ms. Terry M. Daniel, and Lieutenant Colonel Rudy Burrell.

The 57th annual reunion of the 761st Tank Battalion and Allied Veterans Association was held in New Orleans, Louisiana from Thursday, August 18th, to Sunday, August 21st, 2005 at the Embassy Suites Hotel. The location of the hotel was in a very lively part of New Orleans and there were many interesting places to visit within a few blocks. During their free time, people shopped on the Riverwalk, experienced the revelry of the French Quarter, visited the Aquarium of the Americas, and tried their luck at Harrah's Casino. Each evening there was a two-hour complemen-

tary manager's reception in Madeleine's bar overlooking the hotel atrium. On Thursday evening, dinner was at the local restaurant of your choice — picked from a list of establishments that could paralyze you with indecision. A few "kicked it up a notch" and sampled the fare at Emeril Lagasse's flagship restaurant, *Emeril's New Orleans* — BAM!

Friday morning we toured the D-Day Museum, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institute. Although the current focus of the museum is on events immediately proceeding

and following D-Day, the US Congress has designated the D-Day museum as this country's official World War II museum. This designation provides the museum with a 282 million dollar expansion and capital campaign fund. Over the next five years, the museum will use this money to quadruple their existing size and to create a national center for research on the World War II. The museum welcomed the 761st members with a special display in the museum store. They also expressed an interest in learning more about the 761st so that it will be better repre-



EVERY MORNING STARTED WITH A COMPLEMENTARY COOKED-TO-ORDER BREAKFAST AND EVERY EVENING STARTED WITH A TWO HOUR MANAGER'S RECEPTION WITH FREE DRINKS. BOTH PERFECT TIMES TO RENEW OLD FRIENDSHIPS.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

WAS TAKEN UP

WITH COMMITTEE

AND CHAPTER

REPORTS AND A LOT

OF FRANK OPEN

DISCUSSION.

sented in the new, expanded museum. Many members were surprised to see that one of the current displays featured a filmed interview of William McBurney, although no one was more surprised than McBurney himself!

Friday afternoon's agenda included committee and chapter reports, and much open discussion. The 761st continues to build on the past and shape its future as an organization.

Friday evening we enjoyed a two hour Jazz Dinner Cruise aboard the steamboat, Natchez, New Orleans' only steam sternwheeler. The Dukes of Dixieland jazz band provided the entertainment while a buffet style dinner was served. After dinner we were treated to a spectacular view of New Orleans from the mouth of the Mississippi River as the sun set.

Saturday morning – as did every morning – began with a complementary cooked-to-order breakfast that included specialty entrees such as crawfish omelettes, eggs cooked any style, fresh fruits, cereals, French toast, fresh hot beignets, and other local dishes. The

56th Annual Reunion



MARK VAZ AND FLOYD DADE AT THE D-DAY MUSEUM. THE 761ST WAS WELCOMED WITH OPEN ARMS AND A SPECIAL DISPLAY IN THE MUSEUM STORE FEATURING RECENT BOOKS ABOUT THE 761ST.



FRIDAY NIGHT JAZZ DINNER CRUISE ON BOARD THE STEAMBOAT NATCHEZ, FEATURING LIVE DIXIELAND JAZZ, PLENTY OF FOOD AND SMOOTH WATERS.

National Officers

Mr. Floyd Dade, Jr. — National President

Mr. Charles W. Womble — First Vice President

Mr. William McBurney — Second Vice President

Mr. Kenneth C. Tait — Secretary

Mr. Gloucester Stephens — Treasurer

Mr. Edward Walker and Mr. Rufus Taylor — Chaplains

Mr. Wayne Robinson — Historian

Mr. William D. Smith — Webmaster

Mr. Rufus Taylor—Chairman, T.G. Hill Fund

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LT COL AARON DOTSON (RET) AND WILLIAM MCBURNEY ENJOYING GOOD CONVERSATION AND FOOD.

57th Annual Reunion in “The Big Easy”

mornings offered a chance to relax and renew old friendships before the busy day started.

At noon on Saturday, we held a memorial service to remember those that were no longer with us. A quick lunch and the general meeting followed the memorial service. During the meeting, we re-elected the following officers: Floyd Dade, President; Charles Womble, Vice-President; Gloucester Stevens, Treasurer; and Kenneth Tait, Secretary. William McBurney was elected Second Vice President, replacing Leonard Smith, who passed away last May. Rufus Taylor and Eddie Walker helped fill a void left by the passing of Clarence Copeland, our Chaplain. Two recipients of the T.G. Hill Educational Assistance Fund were announced (see letters on page 12). They are Amber McBride, studying at Michigan State University, and Nolzazi Landers, currently a foreign exchange student in Khon Kaen, Thailand. We were fortunate to have two equally qualified

candidates this year, so Eddie Walker decided that both should be recognized – and they were!

At 6:30, the group photo was taken and at 7:30, the Banquet / Tankers Ball started. At the banquet this year, we were fortunate to have two excellent speakers: Brigadier General Vincent K. Brooks, currently the Chief of Public Affairs for the United States Army, and Colonel Aaron M. Dotson (USA, Ret).

Often when we look back at the accomplishments of the 761st Tank Battalion, the reaction is that the unit is much under-represented in both military history and social influence. General Brooks countered this idea by suggesting that many of our current military, political, and business leaders are able to look back at the accomplishments they have made and can link their influence and success to the accomplishments of the 761st Tank Battalion. He personally thanked the members of the 761st, saying, “because of you,

there are three general officers in my family” (his father and brother are also generals).

Colonel Dotson gave a very moving account of his first meeting and relationship with Major Warren Crecy. It was a rare and personal insight that otherwise would have been lost to history.

Two “Man of the Year” awards were presented to Robert Cooper, from Wildwood, Florida and James Young of Dayton, Ohio. Afterwards there was an excellent fashion show and raffle, hosted by Flossie Nelson of Chicago.

The site for the 2006 reunion was selected to be in the Detroit/Pontiac area, however because of the 761st Memorial dedication on November 10th, (see memorial article on page 4) the location was changed to Killeen, Texas after many members requested the change. Dates and details for the 2006 reunion will be coming soon. See you there!



CHARLES WOMBLE PRESENTS THE MAN OF THE YEAR TO JAMES YOUNG

**“BECAUSE OF YOU, THERE
ARE THREE GENERAL
OFFICERS IN THIS FAMILY”
-BGEN BROOKS-**



CHARLES WOMBLE PRESENTS THE MAN OF THE YEAR AWARD TO ROBERT COOPER



THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING



THE STREET IN FRONT OF THE EMBASSY SUITES
HOTEL
NEW ORLEANS ARTS AND WAREHOUSE DISTRICT



PICTURED HERE LEFT TO RIGHT: PHILLIP LATIMER, JAMES YOUNG, MONICA SMITH, JOHN A. HOLMES, GLOUCESTER STEPHENS, BEVERLY TAYLOR, JOHN WESTON, LZ ANDERSON, JAMES B. JONES AND PHYLLIS MITCHELL

It was a cool but sunny day November 9th when the guests started arriving at the Marriott Town Place Suites in Killeen, Texas for the dedication of the long awaited Memorial to the 761st Tank Battalion. They came from all across the county: James and Johnnie Young drove from Dayton, Ohio; John Holmes, and John Weston and his daughter traveled from Chicago; Phillip Latimer and his

wife Louise, were driven from Hallsville, Texas; Willie Topps and his daughter came from Chicago; Beverly Taylor, and her daughter came from Phoenix; Gloucester Stephens made it in from Pontiac, Michigan (without unfortunately, Rufus Taylor, who was going to accompany him but his health did not allow him to travel at the time); James B. Jones flew in from Laurel, Mississippi; and also traveling by air were LZ Anderson and his nephew. All of these people were guests of the Central Texas Memorial Chapter of the 761st Tank Battalion and

Allied Veterans Association.

A very full day was scheduled by the Texas Memorial Chapter for their special guests. Every moment was planned, from the time they stepped off their planes and were picked up at the airport until when they were dropped off for their return flights.

Most of the guests were able to spend time together Wednesday evening and catch up on the latest news. On Thursday morning, a breakfast session was held at the Fort Hood Officers Club. During the breakfast the guests, Texas Me-

morial Chapter representatives, and young officers and soldiers stationed at Fort Hood were all given the opportunity to introduce themselves and get acquainted. The mayors of both Killeen and Temple, Texas also attended and spoke briefly. LtCol Wilbert Byrd (UAS, Ret), President of the Texas Chapter, hosted the breakfast and all of the following events of the day. It was a leisurely breakfast, since the dedication ceremony was not scheduled to start until 11:00 a.m.

After breakfast, everyone was taken to the memorial site.

761st Memorial Dedication at Fort Hood

Covered seating had been set up on a paved parking area and the still-unveiled memorial could be seen nearby to the right - five large objects covered with brilliant white covers under a bright, deep blue sky. Col. Byrd issued the Call to Order and the ceremony began. First, there was the Pledge of Allegiance and then Invocation by Chaplain J. Tidball (LTC). Welcome and opening remarks were made by the base commander, Col. Victoria M. Bruzese. She spoke of the sacrifice, service and exceptional performance of the 761st Tank Battalion before, during, and after WWII. LTC Wilbert Byrd (Ret), LTC Phillip Latimer (Ret) and Beverly Taylor (Texas Memorial Chapter Founder and Member Ex Officio) also spoke.

The memorial was unveiled by the guest members of the 761st Tank Battalion and Allied Veterans Association. It was obvious from the emotion that ensued that the memorial was beyond everyone's expectation. The memorial is not only very striking in its simple beauty, but it carries a story commemorated in a very elegant fashion.

The memorial is made entirely of marble and consists of a statue of a kneeling tanker with binoculars in his hand, encircled by four monoliths. The stone supporting the statue of the kneeling tanker has an image on each of its four sides. The images are of a sleek black panther, the units shield and motto, the armored patch and a Sherman tank. The four monoliths

each have information on both sides about the history of the 761st. The images on the monoliths include a map showing the 761st's path through Europe; Medal-of-Honor recipient, Ruben Rivers's picture and citation; a list of the individual awards earned; major combat engagements; the troop composition; a list of units the 761st supported; the Presidential Unit Citation; and a listing of names of those who died during combat. The monoliths were made in Killeen; the block supporting the statue was made in Waco, Texas; and the statue of the kneeling tanker was made in Italy from stone mined from the same quarry that the famous Michelangelo used for his statues.

After the dedication ceremony there was a break while everyone prepared for the Association's annual banquet.

The annual banquet was held at the Killeen Civic Convention Center and was attended by several hundred people. A special music presentation was provided by Whitley A. Phipps, a renowned musician who has performed for every U.S. President since Jimmy Carter, as well as Oprah

Winfrey, Billy Graham, Mother Teresa, Nelson Mandela, Rosa Parks, and many other instantly recognizable names. Mayor Maureen Jouett of Killeen made a personal apology for the citizens of Killeen to all of the men of the 761st for their treatment in the past and issued a proclamation that dedicated not just a single day of honor, but 183 consecutive days honoring the men of the 761st. Numerous speeches followed, and the entire day ended on a very pleasant note.

The French poet Seigneur du Bartas wrote, "What is well done is done soon enough" - a fitting quotation for this memorial whose concept was born 15 years ago from an idea Beverly Taylor had while watching a documentary on television about Black Americans in WWII, to what is now a permanent memorial to the 761st. The members of the Central Texas Memorial Chapter that made the memorial a reality are:

LtCol Wilbert Byrd (USA, Ret) — President

Phyllis Mitchell — Fundraising Chairperson

Robert Davis—Treasurer

Freeman White — 1st Vice President

George Cuney— Secretary

Monica Smith — Publicity Chairperson

Beverly Taylor — Founder

A MOMENT'S

MONUMENT



THE MORNING STARTED WITH BREAKFAST AT THE FORT HOOD OFFICER'S CLUB. PICTURED HERE ARE JOHNNIE HOLMS, BEVERLY TAYLOR AND HER DAUGHTER, AND LTCOL WILBERT BYRD (RET) STANDING BY THE DOOR.



LTCOL WILBERT BYRD, PRESIDENT OF THE 761ST TEXAS CHAPTER, OPENS THE MEMORIAL DEDICATION.



PHILIP LATIMER AND JAMES B. JONES SHORTLY AFTER UNVEILING THE FIRST MONOLITH.



SEVERAL GUEST IN THE LOBBY OF THE KILLEEN CIVIC CONVENTION CENTER JUST BEFORE THE ANNUAL BANQUET.

President's Corner – A Special Message

Greetings:

As I write, I hope that everyone had a nice summer. Tankers, families and friends, jump for joy that we had a most successful and enjoyable 57th Annual Reunion in New Orleans, LA from August 18-20, 2005 with our Special Guest Speaker-Brigadier General Vincent K. Brooks and Guest Speaker-Lt. Col. Aaron M. Dotson USA,(Ret).

On this Day 8, get on your knees and say a special prayer for all of the suffering that Hurricane Katrina and the levee breaks caused, which resulted in flooding everywhere we stayed, ate, visited and toured just the earlier weekend.

Our New Orleans photographer, Irvin Parker, was delayed in sending the group photo because of the flooding. It was one of the few things he was able to salvage. Keep praying for him.

Our thoughts and best wishes are with our members in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama and all of those in the path of this powerful storm and not knowing when they will be able to return home or what they will find there.



I urge all of the chapters or representatives to submit their chapter reports (forms were mailed before the reunion) and any members who are National officers and members of the Executive Board, please remember to submit their reports that were requested.

Thank you to all newly elected National officers, in

advance, for your service to your association. I appreciate all of your dedication and work. Call me to ask for any assistance that I can offer as help to you in serving in your National office. Check our website: www.761st.com (if you do not have a computer, please go to your public library and ask the librarian).

A very special "Thank you" to Ivan H. Harrison Jr. for our fabulous newsletter and his generous offer to assist the 761st Tank Battalion & Allied Veterans Association in any way possible. His is a very strong shoulder to lean on, and has really made our reunion the success that it was.

Leonard Smith is truly smiling down on all of us and how well this 57th Annual Reunion went and has brought pride to the New York/Long Island Chapter for a job well done.

Be well !

Floyd Dade

**SAY A SPECIAL
PRAYER FOR ALL OF
THE SUFFERING THAT
HURRICANE
KATRINA AND THE
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AND TOURED.**

One of Our Very Own

Albert Fulwood, from Huntington, West Virginia, was featured last summer in a front page article in Huntington's *The Herald-Dispatch*. The article entitled "Veterans share war memories on anniversary" consisted of four interviews of veterans who served in the Atlantic and Pacific theatres. The occasion was the 60th anniversary of V-E Day and Albert Fuller represented the 761st in the first of the four interviews.

Albert spoke of the thirteen days at sea on board the "rickety and cramped British troop transport, the HMS Esperance, where there were more



Albert Fulwood

troops than bunks so they had to "hot bunk" it; that is, sleep in twelve hour shifts in shared bunks. "They had to keep their barracks bags with them at all times because they had no idea whether or not they would return to the same bunk. The bunks were stacked four or five high and because of seasickness it paid to sleep in a top bunk.

Albert Fulwood also recounted his closest call when his tank ran over a mine. "It blew the track all to pieces and we had to get out of the tank and retreat by walking in the tank track to avoid setting off another mine."

Today Albert spends

much of his time reading and has read the two most recent books about the 761st; *Brothers in Arms* by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and *Patton's Panthers* by Charles W. Sasser.

The complete text of the article written by Bob Withers for the *Herald Dispatch* may be found at www.herald-dispatch.com/2005/may/08/LNtop1.htm.



Can You Identify These Photographs??

Before retiring from the United States Army in 1963, Chief Warrant Officer Christopher P. Navarre served in a number of different units, including the 116th Combat Engineers in Korea and the 1st Cavalry Division in Japan, but he never really left the 761st Tank Battalion behind. Over the years he has worked tirelessly to ensure that the veterans of the 761st (and for that matter – all veterans) are remembered and that their sacrifices are acknowledged. He has been responsible for a special display at the Fort Lewis Military Museum in Washington that proudly displays the 761st Tank Battalion Unit's history, the Presidential Unit Citation and contains many ink drawings by MSgt Charles M. King. MSgt King, a gifted artist who is currently deployed in Iraq, worked with the members of the 761st and used old photographs to create a series of ink drawings commemorating the battalion.

In addition to keeping the history of the 761st alive and well, Christopher Navarre also was commended for his work with the Korean War veterans who live in nursing homes in the Puget Sound area. He spent many hours ensuring that Korean War veterans received a Freedom Medallion from the Korean Ameri-

can Cultural Foundation. In one instance alone, eight awards were given.

Christopher Navarre has also been the Grand Marshall and a principal speaker for the Olympia, Washington Veteran's Day parade. While he may not be traveling around the world like he used to, he certainly seems to be keeping busy in DuPont, Washington.

The pictures below were taken last fall in the Fort Lewis Military Museum of the special exhibit for the 761st Tank Battalion. If you are in the area – stop by!

Admission is free

The hours are Wed – Sat 12 – 4PM

(Closed on federal holidays)

Information (253) 967-7206



Christopher P. Navarre in the Fort Lewis Military Museum



The 761st Tank Battalion "Hall of Famers"

Identity Theft — Protect Yourself

**IDENTITY FRAUD IS
POPULAR WITH
CRIMINALS
BECAUSE IT IS EASY
TO COMMIT AND IS
CONSIDERED A
FACELESS,
VICTIMLESS CRIME.**

In our brave new world with its 60 minute approvals and instant credit, there is a dark side. Identity theft has emerged as the fastest growing "white collar" crime of the 21st century. It is popular with criminals because it is easy to commit and is considered a faceless, victimless crime. Victims, however, would vehemently disagree with this because to clear their good name and fix their credit status it takes an average of over 175 hours over months or years, and costs hundreds or thousands of dollars of their own money in expenses.

In a May 2005 article in *Financial Crimes Report to the Public*, the FBI estimated the number of consumer victims of identity theft in the year prior to the survey (which was completed in May 2003) at 4.6 percent of the population of U.S. consumers over the age of 18 (9.1 million individuals) with losses totaling \$52 billion (47.6 billion to busi-

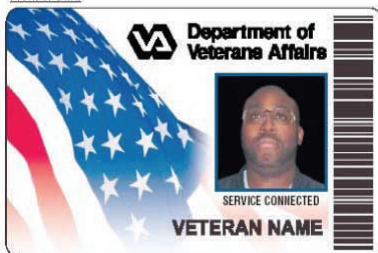
nesses and \$5 billion to individual victims). An even darker side to this problem occurs when an imposter is arrested while using your identity — you get a criminal record on top of all the other problems you have to deal with. Often, a thorough background check is done of the imposter is only done for the first time at the time of sentencing. It is rarely done for traffic violations or even more serious drug charges if, for example, the offender presents a drivers license with his or her picture and your name on it. It falls on the victim to clear up the criminal record and financial mess that can be created with ID theft. Unfortunately you are guilty until you prove otherwise, and once you become a victim you may be proving your innocence over and over.

False arrest became so common in California, for example, the state has created a

special ID theft registry to combat the problem. Victims of false criminal records are given a toll-free telephone number to call and PIN code. If they are threatened by arrest, they can give the police officer the number and PIN where the arresting officer hears a recorded message explaining that this person is an identity theft victim.

Take a look in your wallet or purse now. How many places can you find your Social Security number, birth date, or PIN numbers? On your VA ID card, drivers License, healthcare card, military dependents or retiree ID card? What about your printed checks. Do you have your driver's license number or social security number preprinted with the name and address so you don't have to write it every time they make a purchase with a check — if so — that's bad. You are making yourself an easy target. As they say in the commercial — "What's in your wallet?"

Front of Card



Reverse of Card



The VA has designed a new ID Card to help protect your confidential information. Your Social security number was removed from the front of the card.

Your Social Security Number, date of birth and a control number are encrypted on a magnetic tape on the back of the card so only the VA can read it.

You can request a new card at your local VA Medical Center or out patient clinic.

*ID Photo from www.va.gov

In the Financial Crimes Report to the Public the FBI has listed the following helpful measures that you should seriously consider:

U.S. citizens need to be aware of measures that can be taken to either prevent or minimize their chances of becoming a victim of fraud. Some of these measures are as follows:

Never give personal information via telephone, mail or Internet, unless you initiated the contact.

Store personal information in a safe place.

Shred credit card receipts and/or old statements before discarding in a garbage can-- If you do not have a shredder, then use scissors.

Protect PINs and passwords. Carry only the minimum amount of identifying informa-

tion.

Remove your name from mailing lists for pre-approved credit lines and telemarketers. Order and closely review biannual copies of your credit report from each national credit reporting agency (Equifax, Experian, and Trans Union).

Request DMV to assign an alternate driver's license number if it currently features your Social Security Account Number.

Ensure that your PIN numbers cannot be observed by anyone while utilizing an ATM or public telephone.

Close all unused credit card or bank accounts.

Contact your creditor or service provider if expected bills do not arrive.

Check account statements carefully.

Guard your mail from theft. BE AWARE!

To the FBI's list I will add or further explain the following:

Never carry your Social Security number in your wallet or purse. If lost, it is one of the most important pieces of your ID a criminal needs for ID theft.

Important mail should be taken to the post office or a central pickup box rather than using the red flag on your mail box. Some criminals look for the red pickup flag on residential mail boxes.

Review the list of toll-free numbers on the last page. They can be very helpful.

You are entitled to one free credit report from each of the big 3 credit bureaus annually. Consider getting one report every 4 months instead of all three at once.

Check Processing 101 and the New Check Law

**THE BOTTOM LINE IS
THAT CHECK
PROCESSING IS A
MONEY MAKING
BUSINESS!**

Did you ever wonder why when a check is deposited in your checking account the funds are not available for days? You probably thought that it took many days for the money to actually get to your bank to become available for your use. Well — you are both correct and incorrect.

The bottom line is that check processing is a money making business. For a bank, its goal is to process checks as quickly as possible in order to have money available to invest for a period of time before the money is made available to the customer. How does this work?

The bank receives checks from many places, such as other banks, the Federal Reserve, the clearing house and from customers at the bank teller's counter. Some of the checks are the bank's own and some are from other banks. The checks are sorted to separate this bank's checks from other bank's checks. Each of the checks processed is assigned 0 (immediate), 1, 2 or even 5 day float, based on the Federal Reserve District of the bank the check was drawn on or the amount of the check.

Let's say that you (the customer) deposit a check into your account and the check was drawn on a bank located on the opposite coast where you live. The bank assigns that check a two day float, meaning the bank is telling you (the customer) that it is going to take two days to send that check to the bank across the country and for that bank to send your bank the money. So your bank cannot make the money available to you (the customer) for two days.

But what if your bank can

process the check fast enough to get the check to the other bank and collect the funds in one day? That means that your bank will have one day to invest the money before they actually have to make it available to you. The one day availability of funds may seem insignificant in this example, but when you think of the thousands or millions of checks processed daily, the funds we are talking about can be significant. For example, at today's interest rates, \$1 million in float can translate into an investment income of \$150 per day. A medium sized bank can easily have a float of over a \$100 million or more on a daily basis, or an investment opportunity to earn tens of thousands per day. The longer the float times, the more income to the bank.

October 28, 2004, a new law known as Check 21 was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Bush. In short, the law frees banks from having to handle paper checks and instead allows them to process electronic images of your original check. Prior to Check 21, once a check was deposited in a bank, it was almost always delivered to the paying bank and debited from the check writer's account the next business day. Check 21 makes it possible that the money will be deducted even faster. Checks have the potential to clear in minutes or hours rather than days, because the electronic image of a check can travel across the country to its destination in a fraction of a second.

Another change authorized by the Check 21 law is that banks no longer have to keep

or provide the original paper check. The originals may be destroyed or kept on file — that's up to the receiving bank. The law authorizes a "substitute check", which is a paper copy of the front and back of your original check and banks can charge a fee to provide you with that.

So the question on your mind now is most likely, "what does this all mean to me?" Keep in mind that in 2003, before Check 21, banks collected over 10 Billion (Billion, with a B) in overdraft fees. Faster processing means more overdrafts and more overdraft fees.

Some tips you may want to keep in mind are:

Learn to live without the "float". Expect all checks you have written to clear faster.

If you are considering overdraft protection, review the terms and fees carefully.

Chose a bank that provides "substitute" checks at a reasonable price.

Know your bank's Check 21 processes—ask them for information about their practices.

Watch your account closely and report errors immediately by telephone, followed up with a written letter, and, in both instances, ask for a "re-credit" (a return of your funds)

Write checks only to those you know and trust. If you take a look at one of your checks, you will see your name, address, bank routing number and account number — all the information necessary for someone to access your account. By the way — this same information is preprinted on your deposit slips. Don't just throw them away — shred them before discarding.

- **THE ROUTING NUMBER IDENTIFIES THE BANK,**
- **THE ACCOUNT NUMBER IDENTIFIES THE ACCOUNT WITHIN THE BANK,**
- **THE CHECK NUMBER IS FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE,**
- **AND YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS ARE USUALLY PRINTED IN THE UPPER LEFT CORNER.**

Check Clearing for the 21st Century Act — Check 21

**HE ENTERED COMBAT
IN THE ETO IN
NOVEMBER OF 1944
AS A SERGEANT,
QUICKLY EARNING A
REPUTATION AS AN
OUTSTANDING DOG
COMPANY TANK
COMMANDER....**



WAYNE D. ROBINSON

Q: How did Warren Crecy earn the reputation as "baddest man in the 761st?" How did he become an officer? What happened to Warren Crecy after WW II?

A: The following information about Warren Crecy was obtained from the following sources: interviews with Lt. Col. Charles Gates, Colonel Bates, Captain David J. Williams, Mrs. Margaret Crecy, and their daughter Celia; information in Trezzvant W. Anderson's COME OUT FIGHTING, writings of Colonel Phillip Latimer, and from records of the Reserve Officer's Association:

Major Warren Crecy graduated from Solomon Coles High School, Corpus Christi Texas, where he was a standout football player. He joined the Army on December 12, 1942. He completed basic training at Fort Sam Houston. He became part of the 761st at Fort Knox, Kentucky. From photographs and the recollections of those who knew him, his mild exterior gave no clue as to the fearsome killer he was to become in the months ahead.

He entered combat in the ETO in November of 1944 as a Sergeant, quickly earning a reputation as an outstanding Dog Company tank commander under Lieutenant Richard W. English. His reputation among the tankers increased when he knocked out an enemy anti-tank gun during his first combat action at Morville on November 9, 1944. The next day, Crecy mounted an immobilized

Ask the Historian

tank and slaughtered scores of attacking enemy infantry with the vehicle's top-mounted machine gun, enabling Yankee Division soldiers to safely withdraw. For this action, Crecy earned a Silver Star Citation dated December 2, 1944.

Crecy's best friend, Technician 4th Grade Horatio Scott of Lynn, Massachusetts, was killed due to wounds sustained in action on November 10, 1944. According to Anderson,

Scott's death turned Crecy into a "reckless killer, with only revenge on his mind, and every German was his target. And he shot them by the hundreds."

By the end of Task Force Rhine, Crecy was with Charles "Pops" Gate's Charlie Company, and was credited with killing over five hundred enemy troops, the highest number of kills in the Battalion. Said Crecy, "I killed so many until I just got tired of shooting them." Crecy received a battlefield commission in March of 1945 for heroic action during the Siegfried Line penetrations at Nieder Schelettenbach, Bobenthal and Klingenstein.

After the war, Crecy stayed in the Army, assigned to Company C, 371st Battalion as Prisoner Officer at the Nuremberg war trials. His mission was to supervise the pre-trial confinement of high-ranking Nazis charged with

international capital offenses such as Rudolph Hess and Hermann Goering. I obtained this photo from records of the Nuremberg War Crimes Chief Counsel. The other two soldiers in the picture are Corporal James Kelley and Tech Sergeant Edward Gibson.

Crecy then commanded "B" Company of the 140th Tank Battalion in Korea, a Pershing tank battalion of the 40th Infantry Division of the California National Guard. Once again, Crecy led tankers in a difficult, freezing hilly terrain unsuitable for armor operations. The 40th was tasked with the relief of the 24th Infantry Division in January of 1952 and saw heavy combat at places such as Heartbreak Ridge, the Punchbowl, and Chorwan. Crecy was engaged in the following action on 7 October 1952 described by Lieutenant Larry Knowles in the following eyewitness account contained in a letter home:

"This afternoon, our tank company, with just 30 minutes' advance notice, moved about 15 miles west to Chorwan...." Because it was too dark to set up tank crew hex tents on 12 October, the next day, "we got up at 5 a.m., ate, and pitched our hex tents.... Then we moved our tanks into firing positions and fired our 90mm guns at mountain tops near White Horse Mountain...."

"This morning our company was given the mission of drawing enemy artillery fire on our tanks so that then our artillery could destroy theirs and try to

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Ask the Historian

stop the Chinese from reinforcing White Horse Mountain.... My platoon with me in the first tank led the way.... We sat there for about three hours in the warm, sunny weather while we were not fired upon. I took movies of our tanks and of an air strike on White Horse Mountain where heavy fighting was taking place, but we couldn't see it. Then a Chinese artillery round exploded in front of my tank, followed by another to my rear. We all buttoned up our hatches and I told my driver to drive forward and backward, so as to try to avoid a direct hit. This went on for what seemed an eternity, with several more artillery rounds exploding around our tanks, but no direct hits. At last, over my radio, came the order to move down, and being the first tank in, I was the last one out.... Was shocked and saddened to learn that LT Warren Crecy, our company commander, had been wounded by artillery shrapnel.... He was taken to a MASH field hospital."

The lower half of Crecy's face was torn off by shrapnel. Characteristically, his first thoughts were of the armor crewmen under his command. Though grievously wounded, he had to be restrained from risking enemy fire to continue leading them.

According to Colonel Latimer, "Everyone except Warren believed that his wounds

would be fatal and that there was no hope that he would survive. He spent five years at Letterman General Hospital recovering and in the early days, the doctors did not believe he would live. His survival attempts were so innovative that many of them are now being used on other patients. When he heard of other patients that were despondent, he would visit them and encourage them to resume the fight. He worked hard on any assignment he was given, but he wanted to get back to his tanks and he was heartbroken when he was finally retired as a major on full disability.

On his better days, he would sometimes put on his uniform and return to the post. He suffered a massive heart attack and was given up by almost everyone when he lapsed into a coma for a long period. One day when Mrs. Crecy approached his room she heard his loud voice and said, "That's my Crecy"

He succumbed to a heart attack in 1976 and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Major Warren Crecy is remembered with unqualified admiration by all of the Panthers who served with him. His bravery in two wars and thereafter is a matter of record. Crecy epitomized the fighting spirit expressed in the Battalion motto, "Come Out Fighting."



WARREN CRECY



MAJOR
WARREN CRECY, OFFICER IN
CHARGE OF PRISONERS AT
NÜRNBERG.

You can reach the 761st Historian with questions or comments at the following address:

by e-mail at:

wrobi95144@comcast.net.

By Wayne D. Robinson, National Unit Historian, 761st Tank Battalion

MAIL CALL



Dear Mr. Rufus D. Taylor,

I would like to thank you as well as the 761st Tank Battalion and Allied Veterans Association for the honor and award of the \$1,000 scholarship. I am very honored and grateful for this scholarship. I am currently in Khon Kaen, Thailand to study for one year at their local vocational college. At the college I study Thai traditional dance, Thai food and fashion design. I am learning so much here about the culture and language. I must say that when my mother, Uncle Roscoe, and Aunt Catherine emailed me with the wonderful news, I was very surprised and happy. Again, I thank you and all of the 761st Tank Battalion for this award.

Thank you,

Nalwazi Landers



I want to thank the T.G. Hill Scholarship Program for allowing me this wonderful opportunity. I appreciate everything. Winning this scholarship has really made my life so much easier. This scholarship has given me the strength and determination to soar to greater heights. The 761st Tank Battalion and Allied Veterans holds a special place in my heart.

This scholarship has been a continual reminder that I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me, and with God, all things are possible.

Now I enter a new chapter of my life at Michigan State University. I will continue to uphold my morals and values. My goal is to obtain a degree in Business Administration / Pre-Law and become the first black female mayor of the city of Detroit. After receiving this scholarship I feel one step closer to my goal.

Thank you, all my love,

Amber McBride

761 Brain Teasers

(For the Younger Readers)

We have a winner ☺—
but first, the answers.

1. **Q:** The number 761 is a prime number. What is its relationship to 757 called?

A: In mathematics, a cousin prime is a pair of prime numbers that differ by four. A pair of prime numbers that differ by two or six are called twin or sexy primes, respectively.

2. **Q:** What is the relationship between the two numbers 761 and 1523?

A: A prime number P is called a Sophie Germain prime if $2P+1$ is also a prime. The first few Sophie Germain primes are 2, 3, 5, 11, 23, 29, 41, and 53.

3. **Q:** What is the significance of the number 761 in relationship to the number known as π (pi)? The value of π is approximately 3.1415926535898..... and many more decimal places.

A: There are six 9s following the first 761 digits after the decimal point in π ; known as the Feynman

point. Richard P. Feynman won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1965.

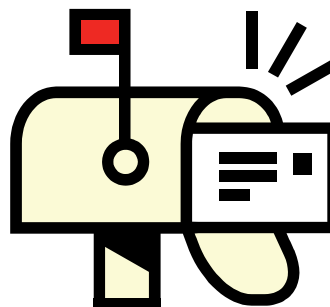
4. **Q:** At a temperature of 59°F at sea level the speed of sound is ____ mph.

A: It depends. The most correct answer is 761 mph. The speed of sound is based on an approximation of the atmosphere called the standard atmosphere. The definition of the standard atmosphere has changed 4 times since 1958 and the latest was established in 1976. Some references list 742 as the speed, however, since the 761 figure was derived using the standard atmosphere it is considered most correct because of the need for a universally accepted standard critical to aircraft design.

5. **Q:** Elvis Presley, when in the Army, was an armored scout car driver in Germany. The last three digits of his service number were ____.

A: Take a wild guess and look at the picture below!!

Congratulations Sharon Young. You will probably see your certificate and prize about the same time you see this article. The April newsletter will have another Teaser. Sharpen your pencils!!





TAPS

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

**JOHN M. SIMMONS
DIED JANUARY 23, 2006**



JOHN M. SIMMONS AND "THE BEAVER"

John M. Simmons (Tech-5 in 1945) was a part of the original group of New York recruits that included William McBurney, Preston McNeil, and the late Leonard Smith who eventually shipped out as part of the 761st Tank Battalion and into our history books.

John had become a Tank Commander in "A" Company and was with the 761st from the time it was first formed until he came back with the unit after the war. Considering what the unit went through, this was a remark-

able achievement in itself.

John was once part of the New York chapter of the 761st Association and lived in Cambria Heights, New York.

Leon Hopton from Fresno, California, whose death was reported in the last newsletter, was John's cousin.

The picture at the left was submitted for John by his wife, Juanita Simmons. The picture shows John standing in front of his tank, which he called "The Beaver".

Does anybody remember how the tank got its name?

COME OUT FIGHTING

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

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761st Tank Battalion & Allied Veterans Association
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Kenneth C. Tait— National Secretary
E-mail: kcttnt@aol.com

We're on the Web!

www.761st.com

New Directory

The Latest directory created for the 761st Tank Battalion and Allied Veterans Organization was several years ago and a lot has changed since then. If you know of any former 761st members or of their families please forward their information so that we may mail them future issues of the 761st newsletter. There will be valuable information on topics such as scholarships available to family members, activities of the 761st Tank Battalion and Allied Veterans Association and updates on individual members.

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.
ivanharrisonjr@hotmail.com

Important Telephone Numbers and Addresses

Credit Bureaus

Equifax — www.equifax.com
To order your report, call: 800-685-1111 or write:
P.O. Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374-0241
To report fraud, call 800-525-6285 and write:
P.O. Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374-0241

Experian — www.experian.com
To order your report, call 888-EXPERIAN (397-3742) or write:
P.O. Box 2104, Allen, TX 75103
To report fraud, call: 800-525-6285 and write:
P.O. Box 9532, Allen, TX 75103

TransUnion — www.transunion.com
To order your report call: 800-916-8800 or write:
P.O. Box 1000, Chester, PA 19022
To report fraud call: 800-680-8800 and write:
Fraud Victim Assistance Division, P.O. Box 6790, Fullerton, CA 92634-6790

Pre-Screened Credit Offers

To opt out of receiving prescreened credit offers, call:
888-5-OPTOUT (1-888-567-8688)
The three major credit bureaus use the same toll-free number.

To remove your name from many national direct mail lists write:
DMA Mail Preference Service
Preference Service Manager
1120 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036-6700

To avoid unwanted phone calls from many national marketers, register with the national Do-Not-Call registry at 1-888-382-1222 or send your name, address and telephone number to:
DMA Telephone Preference Service
Preference Service Manager
1120 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036-6700

Every US Citizen is entitled to one free credit report from each of the three major credit reporting companies every 12 months. They can be ordered by calling 877-322-8228 or over the internet at <https://www.annualcreditreport.com/> or by mail. To order by mail a form is required which is available over the internet or attached to the end of this newsletter.

For additional forms or a copy of the Federal Trade Commission's comprehensive but very easy to understand book "Take Charge: Fighting Back against Identity Theft" contact the Newsletter and they will be sent to you. This book was formally called "ID Theft, When Bad Things Happen To Your Good Name".