

DRAFT TEXT FOR INCLUSION IN 'FROM THE EDITOR'

OUR HAMMELBURG ISSUE WAS THE PRIME-MOVER IN STIMULATING ONE OF OUR GERMAN READERS, OBERSTLEUTNANT PETER DOMES OF THE GERMAN BUNDESWEHR, TO START HIS OWN RESEARCH INTO THE RAID. PETER WAS BORN AND GREW UP IN THE HAMMELBURG AREA AND SO KNOWS THE AREA WELL. SINCE HE BEGAN THE PROJECT IN 1999, PETER AND HIS FRIENDS (AMONG THEM STABSFELDWEBEL MARTIN HENLEIN, WHO FIRST IDENTIFIED THE SHERMAN ON THE HAMMELBURG RANGE AS AN M4A3 105MM SELF-PROPELLED HOWITZER -- SEE ISSUE 106, PAGE 8) HAVE DONE EXTREMELY WELL. THEY HAVE CONTACTED NUMEROUS FORMER POWS OF OFLAG XIII-B AND EX-MEMBERS OF TF RAUM. THROUGH INTERVIEWS WITH LOCAL EYEWITNESSES, THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MORE CLOSELY IDENTIFY TF RAUM'S ROUTE THROUGH THE VARIOUS TOWNS AND VILLAGES ON THE ROAD TO HAMMELBURG. THEY HAVE FOUND SEVERAL KEY DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE RAID -- AMONG THEM THE AFTER-ACTION REPORT OF OBERST RICHARD HOPPE, THE COMMANDER OF THE HAMMELBURG TRAINING AREA DURING THE RAID, WHICH THEY ACQUIRED FROM HIS DAUGHTER, AND THE UNIT DIARY OF THE 10TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION (WHICH INCLUDES A VERY DETAILED BREAKDOWN OF THE ORDER OF BATTLE ON THE RAID) -- AND THEY HAVE COMPILED THE CASUALTY ROSTERS OF BOTH SIDES. FOR EXAMPLE, THE FEMALE LUFTWAFFE AUXILIARY KILLED BY THE AMERICANS DURING THEIR PASSAGE THROUGH LOHR (PAGE 9) WAS MARLENE VERHOEVEN FROM THE STAFF OF NJG4. THE WEBSITE BEGUN BY PETER ([WWW.TASKFORCEBAUM.DE](http://WWW.TASKFORCEBAUM.DE)) CONTAINS MUCH OF THE NEW INFORMATION AND IS A MUST FOR ANYONE INTERESTED IN THIS EPISODE.

PETER ALSO PROVIDED US WITH SOME VERY INTERESTING PICTURES, NOT RELATED TO HAMMELBURG, BUT TO OUR STORIES ON SMOLENSK (ISSUE 91) AND KATYN (ISSUE 92). THE PICTURES WERE TAKEN BY HIS FATHER WHO DURING THE WAR WAS AN OBERGEFREITER WITH THE

NACHRICHTENTRUPPEN (SIGNALS TROOPS) IN A  
REGIMENT THAT WAS ASSIGNED TO HEERESGRUPPE  
MITTE AND DURING 1942-43 WAS MOSTLY EMPLOYED  
AROUND SMOLENSK.