

The Three Old Barts

by A. Edward Pierce, A/56

Most of you who know me are aware that I have been living alone in the family home here in Yardville, NJ since the passing of my late wife, Rita, on November 24, 2009. It's been a somewhat lonely existence, but my son-in-law Gene and my daughter Joann, friends, and my trusty computer have made life a great deal more than just bearable. Unfortunately, on September 13, 2014, I lost my older daughter, Margaret Elizabeth (Peggy to all), to colon cancer. My son-in-law John, while living in a distant portion of the state, keeps in constant touch by email and telephone. So all in all my life is a rather good one and I continually praise the Lord for that.

Among my friends is the trio who provided the title for this episode. Each is a veteran of the 56th Armored Infantry Battalion of the 12th Armored Division and each is a member in good standing of the Association. They are Bill Georgov who lives with his wife Connie in Bear, DE. Bill has a son and daughter who adore their dad and who see that he wants for nothing. Bill was a member of Able Company as was I. Then there is Art Kinney who lives alone in Stockton, CA. Art is also a widower and living alone, but has two daughters who keep him on the straight and narrow, and last but by no means least is Art Wagenknecht. Art, too, is a widower who also lives alone in York, PA. Here again, Art has sons and a daughter who keep watchful eyes on him. Both Arts were members of Baker Company.

The word "Barts" is derived by using the first initial from Bill, and the "arts" portion comes from the first name of the others. In actuality and I am certain that they would all agree that they are three old Barts. Damn, that was close. I almost typed in another fitting word.

Although they are not part of this narrative, I'd be remiss if I didn't mention that I have two faithful friends who both reside in Abilene, TX and were associated with the 12th's Museum there. They are Dale Cartee and Harry Dhans. Both keep in constant touch with me via email. Each is a Legacy member of the 12th Armored

Division Association and each is a veteran. More importantly each is a valued and trusted friend.

Returning to the three old Barts, I hope and pray that they remain in good health for a long time to come and that they continue to frequently email me. In addition and far more importantly that they continue to tolerate me and accept me as I am and as their good friend.

I just have to say I am a very fortunate individual, indeed, having these assets that no amount of money could buy.