

❖ WWII MUSINGS ❖

Volume 8 Issue 1

John D. Bowen, Editor

Jan/Feb 2000

MILITARY HONORS

The following article was received from the American Forces Press Service and was written by Linda D. Kozaryn

Congress Guarantees Veterans' Funeral Honors

As America bids farewell to the Veterans of World war II, Congress has taken steps to ensure they receive their ceremonial due.

By law, as of 1 January 2000, all eligible veterans will be entitled to military funeral honors signifying America's gratitude for their honorable service.

Upon request, two service members will fold and present the American flag to surviving family members, and a bugler will sound "Taps." If a bugler is not available, a high quality CD will be used.

At least one member of the funeral detail will be from the deceased veteran's parent military service. The other may be from the same service or another military service. Other authorized providers, such as members of a veteran's organization may be used to augment the military detail. No particular rank is specified in the law, but the services by tradition have ensured the person presenting the flag to the family is at least the grade of the deceased veteran.

"We believe this is a very important, meaningful and moving ceremony. Its an appropriate tribute for all veterans," said Gail McGinn, principal director to the deputy assistant secretary of defense for Personnel Support, Families and Education. "People say the finality of 'Taps' and the presentation of the flag provide an emotional closure. The ceremony honoring the deceased veteran can be seen as an affirmation of the person's life, as well as an expression of the nation's gratitude."

...While many veterans think of military funeral honors as a right, the honors grew from custom, not DOD policy. Until the new law, nothing actually said the honors were a mandatory function, McGinn said.

...The Department of Veterans Affairs estimates about 572,000 veterans will die in 2000 ... and requests for at least 45 %.

...DOD's new policy calls for funeral directors, rather than families, to contact the military. Military funeral honors must be requested — they aren't provided automatically, McGinn noted.

...A web site explaining the funeral honors process ... is www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil/ and a toll free number is 1-877-MIL-HONR for funeral directors to coordinate ceremonies

St Patrick's Day Patrick Sun, 12 March 2000 11:30 AM Washington DC Mall

Get your marching shoes shined!
We will gather outside the old Smithsonian Castle, on the Mall side.
**Look for the VBOB Flag
And WWII Uniforms**
Please wear an overseas cap and your medals or ribbons
Vehicles will be available for the walking wounded, furnished by the Military Vehicle Collectors Society, however as many of you as can march are asked to show the younger generations how it is done!

Our National organization and all Chapters have been invited once again to march in our Nation's St Patrick's Parade, down Constitution Avenue from 7th to 17th Streets NW.

We especially would like to have marchers to show the crowd that you Bulge Veterans still have alot of kick. The march is about one mile, nothing like those five mile or 20 mile marches that you had to pass. It is a particular pleasure to march in this parade because the crowd couldn't be more enthusiastic with their applause. In fact each year that we have marched we have had continuous applause from the crowd along the whole parade route, something no other unit has sustained.

So get those marching shoes shined and caps out and if you can still get into your uniform please wear it as it really is a crowd pleaser. We will have our reenactor Color Guard this year so we do not have to fight the heavy flags. Mark your calendars for the 12th of March. See you there!

EDITOR'S CORNER

WAR CRIMES

It was a surprise to read in the 19 Jan 2000 Washington Post that our Ambassador to Japan, representing our government in Japan, is defending the Japanese instead of our WWII American POWs, regarding just compensation for the brutality and slave labor inflicted upon our fellow veterans by the Japanese during their confinement.

What a travesty of justice and a slap in the face to every veteran of World War II when our government comes to the defense of the enemy who inflicted a sneak attack on our Nation and says that our treaty does not allow for compensation.

Unless I missed something, I thought that it was Unconditional Surrender for both the Japanese as well as the Germans. And if it was Unconditional then how come the Germans have come up with millions of dollars in a Trust Fund for compensation for Slave Labor that they required of our POWs in German Camps but the Japs are saying, 'in your face.' What adds salt to the wounds is that the Japs never did abide by the Geneva Convention and their cruelty to our POWs was so excessive. And here we have our government's representative defending the Japs instead of defending those Americans that helped defend the government that the Japs were trying to crush. Talk about a double-cross.

And the audacity of the Japanese to try and bring up Hiroshima and imply that they would seek compensation for dropping the atomic bomb. That bomb was dropped, by Harry Truman in a state of war, which they initiated and it was done to defend lives and bring that war to a speedy conclusion. And it accomplished both objectives, though it did take a second dropping to finally convince those war lords and the Imperial Emperor, that the time had come to surrender, UNCONDITIONALLY!

Give me a break!

JDB

I must confess!

That I am not as organized as I would like to be and I know that I have probably asked for your date of birth for our Birthday column before. Would you please send it to me again if your name is listed below:

Asendorf, Mrs. Walter J	Widow 1 Army 125 AAA Gun Bn
Berle, Esther R	Widow Gustav 970 CIC Det V
Brown, John J	9th ArmdD 131 Ord Bn

WWII Musings is published for the enjoyment of WWII Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. It is based on the research of John D. Bowen, 613 Chichester Ln, Silver Spring MD 20904-3331 in the Unit Records maintained at the National Archives and Records Administration. Proper credit should be given both to the researcher and to the National Archives. Your comments are welcome. E-mail jdbowen@gateway.net

Darago, Jr, Albert A	9th USAAF
Di Giammerino, Pat	83rd InfD
Gaynor, William J	3 ArmdD 67 AFA Bn A Btry
Green, Virginia F	Wife Howard B 6 ArmdD 50 AIB B
Greene, Edward	238th Engr Cmbt Bn C
Hardesty, Mrs Joseph	
Jones, Bernard J	Associate
Jones, Thomas	818 Combt MP Co
Karamales, Jay	Associate
Linz, Conrad I	3 Army 413 Med Coll Co
Platky, Zilpha F	Widow 11 ArmdD 56 Armd Engr Bn A
Robbins, Bob M	

My apologies to all of you. If you do not want your birthday listed just indicate it but send me your DOB so our records are complete. You may also update the unit designation that we have for you. Thanks!

Dog Tags

Veterans of North Africa and Italy during WWII can tell you dig-tag stories about the British Gurkhas and the French "Goumiers." These fierce colonial troops, fabulous patrol experts, learned to feel for the shape of dog tags when they came on sleeping soldiers of whose identity they were not sure. Many a startled American awoke with a knife at his throat and lay paralyzed with terror while the Gurkha or Goumier felt for his dog tag to see whether he would slit his throat for a German or whisper "nice American" and disappear back into the night.

WWII Group

14 Feb 2000

2:00 PM

Our Chapter President, Dee Paris, will speak to the WWII Group on the **History & Development of Tanks** at the Schweinhart Senior Citizen Center on Forest Glen Road in Silver Spring. Take the Georgia Avenue Exit North from the beltway and take your first right and proceed past the Holy Cross Hospital till you come to the Senior Center on the right. This is an informal group that meets once a month to listen to and learn about WWII first person accounts and history. All WWII veterans are invited.

For those who would like to come earlier at 1:00 PM that day, there will be a free **Ragtime Piano Concert at the Center.**

Seen on the back of the back of a tee shirt
"I am a Bomb Technician. If you see me running try to keep up!"

STROLLING With ELDON ROARK

The following article appeared in a newspaper dated 2 April 1943 and was sent to me by Ethel Klavan. It is a column on the 87th Infantry Division that was written by Eldon Roark. The name of the paper is unknown but it is an interesting time warp.

That Word Cadre Stumped Him

It may sound ignorant on my part, but never in my whole life had I heard the word 'cadre' till I sat in major General P W Clarkson's office at Camp Mc Cain, near Grenada, Miss., and talked with him about his command — the 87th Division.

"Our cadre come from the 81st, the Wildcat Division at Camp Rucker, Ala.," he said. "And they got their cadre from the 3d Division, an old regular Army outfit."

cadre? Cadre? I almost strained my prosencephalon trying to think. What in the world was a cadre?

I couldn't stir up the slightest recollection of the word, so it was either change the subject or confess that the General had me. I confessed

A cadre, he explained, is a skeleton organization. A division can't be formed entirely of new men. There must be a nucleus of trained men, and they — usually about 1500 — are drawn from a well-trained division.

"We, in turn, will furnish a cadre to some other new division," the General said.

So divisions, you see, can trace their genealogy back thru the years and the wars, and they take pride in their ancestry and their history.

Next Youngest Division

The average age of the enlisted men of the 87th (non-commissioned officers and privates) is only 22.8 years! It, I believe, was the first division to receive 18 and 19 year old boys drafted for military service, and it is full of youngsters — a fact that pleases General Clarkson very much, for he says boys of those age groups can really take it.

Up till a few days ago the 87th was claiming the distinction of being the "youngest division" in the whole Army, but now another outfit is challenging the claim. They say the average age of their men is 22.5 years.

That's a very slight difference, tho, and changes in the average, due to transfers, may make this honor switch back and forth. When the time comes for the 87th to furnish a cadre for the organization of a new division, for instance, it probably will lose men in the older age brackets, and the average age of its men will drop.

And if officers as well as enlisted men are included in the computations, the 87th may be the youngest division of all beyond any doubt.

The average age of its commissioned and warrant officers is only 27.66 years!

And the average of the general staff, exclusive of the two generals, is only 35.8!

Take the ages of the high-ranking officers who head the four

divisions of the general staff, for instance. That gives a good idea of what a young, virile outfit this is. The G-1 or personnel section chief is 30; G-2 or intelligence is 28; G-3 or operations and training is 32; and G-4 or supply is 38.

Young Men Full of Fire

Young men, general Clarkson said, are susceptible to discipline and authority, they adapt themselves to conditions easily, they recover from hard tests and from battle quickly and they are full of fire and enthusiasm.

"Why, even after a hard day in the field many of these boys will go out after supper and go thru the manual of arms voluntarily," the General continued. "They have a keen interest in learning and in developing themselves into good soldiers."

I asked General Clarkson what part of the training the boys like best and he didn't have to hesitate.

"Oh, the shooting," he said. "They like to get out on the range and shoot. Each fellow wants to try and beat his buddy, you know."

He didn't answer my next question so fast. I wanted to know what he thought about soldiers' rushing into matrimony, as so many of them are doing. Was he in favor of it, or was he opposed to it? Did matrimony make a young man a more serious, determined, efficient soldier, or did it take his mind off his soldiering, make him homesick, less daring and impair his efficiency in general.

The General hemmed and hawed, beat around the bush a little and finally blurted out —

"Darned if I know."

I didn't know either, so we let it go at that.

Fighting Outfits — No Comforts

The buildings at Camp Mc Cain are of temporary construction — low, one-story, "shotgun" structures made of rough lumber and covered with roofing paper — and the General's office is no exception. It is just a plain room, furnished with his desk, a few chairs and a small coal stove in one corner. They are a fighting outfit, and they don't want to train on comfort.

On the wall of his office is a little blackboard that gives him a day-by-day picture of the division. He can look at it and tell at a glance how many men and officers he has, how many are in the hospital, how many are on leave, how many are AWOL, how many are on detached service, and so on.

Altho he heads a combat division, his work is not entirely in the field, of course. He has an enormous amount of paper work to do. So he sits at his desk and grinds away at it till he gets pretty tired, and then he breaks the strain by rushing out for a bit of field work. That, it seems, is what he really loves — being out among the men.

He is an old Texas A&M football player. He served in the infantry in the first World War, came out as a Captain and has been in the Army continuously since then.

General Clarkson rarely eats lunch. He got out of the habit when he was stationed in Washington at the War Department. The dining rooms and cafeterias were so crowded that eating became a pain. So he just decided to cut out lunch — and was surprised to find that he felt a lot better.

Eating habits are a funny thing, he said. He likes pancakes for breakfast, and he could have them every morning if he wanted them. But do you know he never thinks to ask for them except on Sunday morning! He doesn't know why that is.

REFLECTIONS by Joseph Zimmer

These reflections were given by the author as retiring 2nd Vice-President of the MD/DC Chapter of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Association, on Sunday, 12 December 1999, at the Ft Meade Officers Club. He served with Company B, 345th Infantry, 87th Infantry Division. His thoughts are shared with those who were unable to attend.

As your 2nd Vice-President for two years, it has been my pleasure to offer at our meetings, reflections so that each of you would have something to take with you until we meet again. You will have a new slate of officers shortly, and therefore, I would like to leave some final thoughts with you, to ponder at the close of this year 1999, the last days of the 20th Century, and by some figuring, the beginning of a new millennium.

Over the years I have looked at our Chapter meetings, our national reunions, commemorations of our Historical Foundation as sort of pilgrimages. There have been other pilgrimages for me too, such as a visit to a place called Trinity, near Alamogordo, New Mexico, in the early 1960's where the first atomic bomb was detonated on July 16, 1945; to Dallas, Texas in the late 60's to follow the path of JFK's limosine past the Texas Book Depository turn, to about where he was struck, then to Parklawn Memorial Hospital where he was taken; in 1974, to Pearl Harbor and the USS Arizona where over 2,000 sailors are entombed; in 1990 to the prehistoric ritual monument on the plains, north of Salisbury, England dating back c. 3000-1000 BC, to Bastogne again in 1990 also; to Rome and the Vatican to see the ancient Coliseum and St Peter's Cathedral in 1996.

You may ask, why am I mentioning this listing. Let me tell you why. All of these places have their place in history and ancient lore and, I was very affected by them as I visioned their meaning to many generations since. Some of the strongest currents of American history, and yes, western civilization, came together on the battleground of the Battle of the Bulge. Having seen also, the cemeteries at Omaha Beach, Hamm Luxembourg, the Bowl in Honolulu, Arlington, and others, these gardens of stone, speak to us and are pictures of what and why we meet periodically to commemorate our experiences and time spent in those dark days of December 1944 and January 1945. In the Somalia Desert there is a flower named WARIS. Sometimes there, it doesn't rain for months. Few living things can survive. But finally the water pours down and the brilliant yellow-orange blooms of the desert flower appear, a miracle of nature.

Our service in the Battle of the Bulge is like those rains in Somalia. What we went through, the bravery, courage and heroism we saw and were part of, helped us to bloom and blossom, to survive and become the persons we are today — perhaps a miracle too. How often have we felt the wind, the motion, the chill of those wintry, fog-bound days and nights, to match the fog of our anxiety about our survival.

Then, why are we here, this last Chapter meeting of this century. We are here, I believe, in order to foster the idea and give some reverence to the thought maybe, that honor is more important than death itself. Reputation is important to us because each of us made our own. Perhaps there were five or six things we performed better than the enemy we faced, and used that horizontal strength to accomplish our ultimate victory. Like a ritual, we return often to, in a sense, to times that were better because of what we became. There is a Polish proverb – “All old times are good times.”

So it is then, that we meet again. The holiday season is upon us, the rush of shopping, preparing for family visits. We pause each year at this time with our memories and, think back to those days of the Battle, which occurred fully when normally we'd be in a holiday mood and spirit. The timeless seasonal songs of all our childhoods are recalled and heard with joy even to this day. Our nights and early morns were not always as silent as the images we see when we sing or hear the song Silent Night. Be mindful of those who are not with us, both living and deceased. Happy Holidays to all and Godspeed to the next century and millennium.

**HEADQUARTERS 106TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO #443, US ARMY**

27 January 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Enemy, Report After

1. a. Enclosed are the After Action Reports and Journals of the following units and General Staff Sections of the 106th Division, covering action against the enemy during the month of December 1944:

424th Infantry Regiment Report
106th Division Artillery Report
81st Engineer (C) Battalion Report
331st Medical Battalion Report
106th Division Special Troops Report
G-1 Report
G-2 Report
G-3 Report
G-4 Report

b. The commanding officers and staffs of the 422d Infantry Regiment, 423d Infantry Regiment and the 106th Reconnaissance Troop are missing in action. Their records are presumed to have been destroyed and are not available. The action of these units is covered, but not completely, in the reports and journals of the General Staff Sections. The 14th Cavalry Group was attached to the division from 111900A to 181300A December. Its action, in part, during this period is included in the reports and journals of the general Staff Sections. After 181300A December, it was attached to the 7th Armored Division.

2. Summary of action against the enemy for December 1944:

The 106th Infantry Division moved from England to France and closed in its concentration area in the vicinity of Limesey, France to St Vith, Belgium, completing the move at 101830A December 1944.

In compliance with an VII Corps order the 106th Infantry Division with attachments, relieved the 2nd Infantry Division in place. The Commanding General, 106th Infantry Division assumed responsibility for the defense of the sector at 111900A December 1944. The major units attached to the division at this time were: 14th Cavalry Group, 820th Tank Destroyer Bn and the 634th AAA AW Bn (M).

Early 16 December, the enemy launched a coordinated infantry-tank attack with an estimated two infantry divisions and elements of two panzer divisions preceded by an extensive artillery preparation. Captured documents taken by the division indicated the scope of the German attack. The undertaking "Grief" appeared to be part of this large scale counter-offensive.

The German attack increased in fury and continued, generally along the whole sector, during the day. Reports indicated that the divisions to the north and south of the division sector were likewise receiving strong attacks and that the enemy had effected some penetrations. Local reserves were used to expel the enemy and to limit penetrations in the division sector. The 32d Cavalry Recon Sqdn was released to the 14th Cav Gp at 160705A. The 1st Bn, 424th Inf, was committed at 161145A to eject the enemy from the center of the sector of the 424th infantry and then to hold Winterspelt. The 14th Cav Gp fell back in the northern sector, exposing the north flank of the 422d Infantry. At 161700A, the 2nd Bn, 423 Infantry, in division reserve, was committed in the gap between the 14th Cav Gp and the 422nd Inf to stop the German advance around the exposed flank. By 162000A the original positions were generally intact except in the northern sector where the 14th Cav Gp was back on the line Andler-Herresbach-Wereth.

CC"B," 9th Armd Div was attached 161120A at Faymonville. As soon as the unit could be contacted preparations were made for its early employment against the enemy penetration in the northern sector. Later the division commander was notified that the 7th Armd Div was also attached and would arrive vicinity of St Vith by 170700A. Plans were then made for the morning of 17 December to use CC"B," 7th ArmdD to contain and eliminate the enemy penetration in the northern part of the division sector while CC "B," 9th ArmdD was to be used in the sector of the 424th Infantry, where the enemy

(Continued from page 7) 78th Infantry Division Fact Sheet

the Ruhr pocket and from April 6 to 11 took 47,581 prisoners of war. It did a man-sized job of reducing the pocket during the remainder of the month and at the war's end was near Marburg, Germany. Some elements of the division returned to the US for inactivation, but most of the Division was inactivated in the ETO.

These Army Ground Forces Fact Sheets were prepared at the end of the war (1 March 1947) by The Information Section, Analysis Branch, Headquarters Army Ground Forces on each division. They may be found in Record Group 407, Unit Records, for each division, under the file number 3 (Division #) - 0 at the National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Rd, College Park MD.

VBOB OVERSEAS CAPS

Many have asked again about getting VBOB Overseas Caps for the St Patrick's and other parades. They are available from the Keystone Uniform Cap Corp. The cap has olive drab sides, with a combination red, infantry blue and yellow top with red piping. The basic price includes the VBOB emblem on the left side and up to 21 letters on the right side for Chapter Name. Ask for VBOB Overseas Cap.

Cap basic price.....\$29.95
 Extra Lettering beyond 21 letters/per letter..... .45
 Shipping & handling per order..... 5.00
TOTAL

Chapter Name _____

Hat Size _____ Phone # _____

Extra lettering can be added on either side of the cap @.45 per letter. Specify what extra lettering and on which side (s).

Send check or Money Order to: Keystone Uniform Cap Corp, 428 N 13th Street, Philadelphia PA 19123, 215-922-5493

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to our Chapter and hope that they will join us with their spouse or a friend for our meetings every 2nd Sunday of the even months.

Gross, George V	578 FA Bn (III & VIII Corps)
Kleinerman, Robert	118th Signal Radio Intelligence Co Third US Army
Mc Colgan, August T	1st InfD 26th Inf
Pound, W King	4th ArmdD 35th Tk Bn D

BATTLE CASUALTIES

To search battle casualty lists by state, by county you can locate name, serial number, rank and kia/mia.

Go to www.nara.gov. Click on "the Research Room"
 Click on Search for Archival Holdings (NAIL)
 Click on Digital Copies Search
 In first keyword box type War Casualties
 In second keyword box type Army and submit search
 Click on Display Results
 Select State and County and view pages

Military Internet

Many of you have computers now and have an interest in resources on the Internet for web pages related to the military, WWII and history. This section will list various web page addresses for your convenience. This type of a column is only as good as the input it receives from those of you who have surfed particularly good or resourceful sites. Please e-mail any recommendations to jdbowen@gateway.net for future issues. All addresses start out <http://>

American Flags

www.honorguard.org/flags.html

American Battle Monuments Commission

WWII & Korean Casualties Buried Outside United States

www.usabmc.com

Army Homepage

www.army.mil

Battle of the Bulge - CRIBA (An Outstanding Site)

users.skynet.be/bulgecriba/battlebul.html

Battle of the Bulge Veterans Association

Battle of the Bulge, WWII Reenactors Web Page

www.alltel.net/~shawkids/wwii

Camp Atterbury Indiana POW Camp during WWII

www.homestead.com/atterburypowfiles/index.htm

Dad's War

members.aol.com/dadswar/index.htm#ww2sites

German Reenactor Photos Ft Indiantown Gap 1999

www.soldat.com.fig99.htm

Maps, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf Wars, Indiana State Univ*

www.indstate.edu/gga/gga_cart/isucar20.htm

National Archives & records Administration

www.nara.gov

Nazi Criminals

www.ess.uwe.ac.uk/genocide/bioprofiles.htm

Shoulder Patches of the US Armed Forces*

home.att.net/~ranger95/index.htm

US Internet Genealogical Society, Military Collection*

www.usigs.org/library/military/index.htm

US Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks PA

carlisle-www.army.mil/usamhi

US Military History Institute Library Catalog, Carlisle Barracks PA

CATSGATE.carlisle.army.mil/cgi-bin/usamhi/zform.CGI?ezCATS

Veterans and Military Websites

members.aol.com/veterans/warlib6.htm

Women in Military Service

www.womensmemorial.org

Women's Museum, Army*

www.awm.lee.army.mil/

WWII (1939-1945)

www.cfc.sc.dnd.ca/links/milhist/wwii.html

*courtesy The Army Historical Foundation, Inc Newsletter, Matt Seelinger, Editor.

Fact Sheet of the 78th Infantry Division

TYPE OF DIVISION: Organized Reserve.

NICKNAME: "Lightning" Division.

SONG: "Men of the 78th."

MOTTO: Auiaaciter (Boldness).

SHOULDER PATCH: Patch is in the form of a semi-circle with a bolt of lightning, in white, superimposed on a field of red. The patch originated during World War I when the French likened the division's action in battle to a bolt of lightning which left the field blood red. Thus the insignia became a single streak of lightning across a red field.

HISTORY: The division was activated at Camp Dix NJ on 27 August 1917 and was made up mainly of men drafted from New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Rhode Island and Illinois. After nearly nine months of training the division went overseas, arriving in France in May 1918. Moved into reserve for the St. Mihiel drive, it diverted the enemy's attention from allied preparation for the coming Meuse-Argonne offensive. The 78th was sent into the line for the Meuse-Argonne offensive in October 1918 and by meeting and rolling back the remnants of nine German divisions it won a place among the outstanding units of the World War. Later it was described as "the point in the wedge" of the final offensive which knocked out Germany. It was demobilized in June 1919 at Camp (now Fort) Dix.

ACTIVATION DATE: 15 August 1942.

INACTIVATION DATE: 22 May 1946.

COMPONENT UNITS: 309, 310, and 311 Inf Regts; 78 Cav Rcn Tp (Mecz); 303 Engr Combat Bn, 303 Med Bn. Div Arty: 307, 308 and 903rd FA Bns (105 How) and 309 FA Bn (155 How). Sp Tps: 78 QM Co, 78 Sig Co, 778 Ord Co (LM), Hq Co, MP Plat and Band.

TRAINING UNDER ARMY GROUND FORCES: The division was activated at Camp Butner, NC under the Second Army. Its first mission was turning out reinforcements for combat. In January 1944 the division participated in Second Army maneuvers in Tennessee and in April 1944 received final training for combat at Camp Pickett VA.

DEPARTED U.S. FOR FOREIGN DUTY: 14 October 1944.

DATE ENTERED COMBAT: DIVISION 13 December 1944 FIRST ELEMENTS 11 December 1944.

COMBAT DAYS (DIV): 125

BATTLE CREDITS: (Division) Rhineland, Ardennes, Central Europe.

SUCCESSIVE COMMANDING GENERALS: Major General Edwin P. Parker, Jr. from August 1942 to September 1945; Major General Ray W. Barker from 23 September 1945 to May 1946.

DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATION: 1st Bn, 309 Inf for 9-10 Feb 45 action at Schwammenauel Dam; 1st Bn, 310 Inf for 28 Feb – 9 Mar 45 action in Germany; 2nd Bn, 311 Inf for 30 Jan-7 Feb 45 action in Germany, and 3rd Bn, 310 Inf for 1-15 Mar 45 action on Roer River.

CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR WINNERS: S.Sgt Jonah E. Kelley, Company E, 311th Infantry regiment, for 30-31 January 1945 action at Kesternich, Germany.

COMBAT HIGHLIGHTS: Cracking of the Siegfried Line, capture of the Schwammenauel dam, crossing of the Rhine and reduction of the Ruhr Pocket are among highlights of the 78th's impressive combat history. The division went into action on 13 Dec 1944 near Roetgen, Germany, with object of cracking through the Siegfried Line and seizing the Schwammenauel dam, Simmerath, Bicherath and Witzerath. During the enemy's winter offensive, the division held fast near Kesternich against bitter German opposition, but late in January 1945 the 78th went on to take the dam, capturing it intact in February and removing it as a menace to Allied Forces in the North — the 22 billion gallons of water which the dam contained could not now be loosed against our forces. The division crossed the Roer River on February 28th and the division did its best to knock out the German armies in its path west of the Rhine and was evidently successful. An important prize taken during this drive was a 1500 ton ammunition dump which was captured near Flamersheim. The end of the race to the Rhine River loomed up as the 309th and 311th Infantry Regiments reached the Ahr River early in March, capturing five bridges intact to pave the way for a link-up with Third Army forces coming up north of the Moselle. Meanwhile, the 310th Infantry Regiment, working with the 9th Armored Division, had been motorized for its race to the Rhine. Mounted on open top trucks and preceded by tanks, the 310th troops captured many German towns without even dismounting. By March 7, the 310th had seized such towns as Euskirchen, Rheinback and Bad Neuenahr. The regiment went on to cross the Ludendorff Bridge at Remagen, seized intact by the 9th Armored Division. The rest of the 78th followed up this amazing coup by crossing the bridge and fanning out to widen the bridgehead. Then the division turned north and stormed into Honnef. It captured part of the famed Autobahn, four lane super-highway linking the industrial Ruhr with Frankfurt-am-main. By March 17, the bridgehead had been expanded into an area of 100 square miles. This was the climax of the 78's 35-mile, eight day drive from the Roer to the Rhine. Early in April the division went to work on

(Continued on page 5)

BULGE UNIT REUNIONS

26-30 Jan 2000, Reenactment of the Battle of the Bulge, Fort Indiantown Gap PA. Veterans invited as observers and to stay in the WWII barracks. Re-live your barracks days and the comraderie of your fellow veterans. Contact John D. Bowen, 613 Chichester Lane, Silver Spring MD 20904, 301-384-6533.

16-20 May 2000, 97th Signal Bn Assn, Lafayette LA Best Western Hotel. Contact Secretary at 757-464-0513, 3608 Dupont Circle, Virginia Beach VA 23455, Web Page www.kilburn.org/97thsigbn

6-10 Jun 2000 750th Tank Bn, Louisville KY, Contact John R. Walker 817-926-0925.

6-10 Jun 2000 101st Abn Div Assn, Ft Campbell KY, Contact D. Herrington.

28 Jun - 2 Jul 2000, 526th Armd Inf Bn, Boise, ID Contact Glenn Damron.

31 Aug - 4 Sep 2000 National VBOB Reunion, Colorado Springs CO. Contact: Nancy Monson, PO Box 11129, Arlington VA 22210-2129, Tel 703-528-4058.

10-17 Sep 2000, 87th Inf Div, Fairview Park Hotel,

Arlington VA. Contact Earle Hart, Div Commander, 610-366-9079 or Dorothy Davis, 301-881-0356.

1-5 Sep 2000, 1st Inf Div Society, Philadelphia PA, Contact Ed Burke 215-661-1969.

13-16 Sep 2000, 28th InfD Pennsylvania National Guard Heritage Association, Fort Indiantown Gap Annville Hill Top Club. Contact Raymond P. Perks 215-632-3403

20-22 Oct 2000, 167th Signal Photo Co, Houston

TX. Contact Steve Baldwin 281-452-3425.

15-16 Dec 2000, Commemoration of the 56th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, by Battle of the Bulge Foundation and Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Ft Meade MD and Arlington Cemetery, VA. Hotel accommodations at newly renovated Holiday Inn, Laurel MD. Contact Ms Dorothy Davis, 301-881-0356.

LAST ISSUE IF DUES ARE NOT CURRENT

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, MD/DC

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MARCHER & WWII MUSINGS

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NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

Sunday 13 Feb 2000

Ft Meade Golf ClubHouse
Off of Mapes Road

FIRST CLASS