

❖ WWII MUSINGS ❖

Volume 10 Issue 1

John D. Bowen, Editor

Jan/Feb 2002

New Members

We welcome the following new Members to the MD/DC Chapter

LIFE MEMBERS

Dutton, W C	82 AbnD307 Abn Engr Bn
Everley, Sherman E	2 ArmD Svc, MP, CCB
Funk, Daniel C	28 InfD, 728 Ordnance
Kaufman, Melvin F	102 Cav Gp, 38 CavRecon Sqdn
Lowrey, Walter B	28 InfD, 109 FA Bn A Btry
Mac Donald, Albert G	75th InfD, 290 Inf G
Schulman, Morris	10 ArmD 55 Engr Cmbt B

REGULAR MEMBERS

Bragdon, Merrit C	2 ArmD 66 AR 1st Bn
Leftwich, Jim	75 InfD Liaison Pilot
Pancoast, Edwin C	87 InfD 345 Inf G&H
Sunott, Jr., Joseph T	4 InfD 12 Inf F
Wehner, Charles	Associate
Wojtusik, Stanley	106 InfD

We welcome our new members and hope that you will join us on the 2nd Sunday of the even months for friendship, food and tales.

DIPLOMAS of Appreciation

The following were presented Diplomas of Appreciation for their participation in the liberation of France during World War II.

Peter F Dounis
Joseph F Zimmer
Richard C Schlenker

The awards were presented in ceremonies at the Embassy of France in Washington DC on 29 November 2001. Congratulations

If other members have received these awards please notify the editor!

St Patrick's Day Patrick Sun, 17 March 2002 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 we salute "Those Who Serve" as you once did.. 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 & won 2 trophies.

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 17th of March. See you there!

**We salute
 THOSE WHO SERVE
 Fire-Police-Active Military-National Guard-Postal
 As You Once Did
 FREEDOM IS NOT FREE**

EDITOR'S CORNER

Ten Years

With this issue of the Marcher and the World War II Musings, we celebrate 10 years of publishing the WWII Musings along with the Marcher for our Chapter. At the time, I started the Division Fact Sheets figuring we would never get through them. But time flies when you are having fun and we are now into the Armored Divisions and will complete them in probably another year.

As I have mentioned before there are not enough lifetimes to cover all of the interesting things that you come across in researching in the National Archives. And even when you think you have exhausted a certain set of records some records that have been classified for years come into the public domain.

Such is the case with the Nazi War Crime interrogations and some of idiocyncracies of these so called leaders and the warpsness of their thinking. The interesting work of the T Force when a town was liberated and how the targets were assigned to be secured or picked up by the 526th Armored Infantry Bn, who were one of the early groups to be diverted to help out in the Bulge.

After fifty years, the Nazi Gold and Stolen Art and valuables is now being uncovered. Though these records were long available in the Archives it wasn't unless some of the families that had been stone-walled for years banded together to go after those who not only stole their assets and sent them off to the Concentration camps but also the banks and others who tried to keep what wasn't theirs.

I will try to bring you snippets of these areas over the next few years.

JDB

I just returned from the annual trip to the US Military Barracks at Carlisle Barracks in Pennsylvania and the Battle of the Bulge Reenactment at Fort Indiantown Gap, PA.

It was a great week with surprisingly decent weather and a group of about 30 Bulge Veterans who showed up. The camaraderie and respect that each veteran has for each other is what makes this weekend so great. There is a certain

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. Proper credit should be given both to the researcher and to the National Archives. Your comments are welcome. New e-mail johndbowen@earthlink.net

bonding that went on whether we knew it or not many years ago when we were stripped of all of our external accruements, given the same uniforms and a bunk and a few feet of space and it was with the guys that you served with that were going to get you through things. They now became your day to day contacts and the signs of humanity. They were a great melting pot and they came from all walks of life, jobs and social structure. But in that barracks, all with the same uniforms and "suffering" the same grief, those outside indicators of life were no longer evident and thus you were all equal among your peers. It was with these soldiers that you learned team-work and respect for one another no matter your previous station in life. As I often say, get soldiers together, and within a few minutes that certain bond of having served and endured the various hardships and lack of privacy come out and it is like these were old buddies. There is a common thread that winds its way through all veterans.

We were saddened to learn that John Onder of the 17th AbnD had passed away recently. John you will recall was one of the World War II vets who practiced and jumped at Normandy for the 50th Anniversary commemoration of D-Day.

I managed to get in two good days of research at the Military History Institute Library at Carlisle and one of the things that I found was the National Security Analysis of the Battle of the Bulge. The primary conclusion which you all knew but is the first time that I have really seen it spelled out by a government agency, particularly one involved in Intelligence is that the Battle of the Bulge was a complete Intelligence failure. In the next issue of the World War II Musings I will bring you the details from their study.

It is always a pleasure to research at Carlisle Barracks. They have a great collection. Dr Richard Sommers is always there to greet and help all veterans. He showed me the plans for the new Library and Army Heritage Center that is being built at Carlisle and they are great. It will also include outside displays.. Often affectionately referred to as "The Army's Attic," the Military History Institute has been preserving our Army Heritage. You may want to help out with some of the artifacts that you have been saving in your collection. Now the GI Steel Pot and a 45 weapon that you have may be quite common to the museum, but some of those other unique souvenirs that you sent back or brought back, you should consider for a new home. Before sending anything however please write to The Army Heritage Foundation, 22 Ashburn Dr, Carlisle Barracks PA 17013-5008 to describe what you would like to donate and wait for their response.

Last but not least, I find that we are missing the dates of birth of a number of members. I will list them and ask that you send me a note or e-mail me.

Gaynor, William J
Gordon, Margaret
Jones, Thomas
Karamales, Jay
Layton, Marguerite
Leftwich, Jim
Liljeroot, Kerstin G
Mc Neese, Mrs John R
Rosen, Gertrude
Sperry, Ira B
Wojtusik, Stanley

4th Infantry Division – 2nd Bn – 22nd Infantry Battle of Luxemburg

The following is an interview with: captain Arthur O. Newcomb, Bn S-3 (By Lt S J Tobin) at Berbourg, Luxembourg, and interview at Beaufort, Luxembourg, 21 January 1945 (by Lt Col Wm T Gayle) with the following: Capt Robert B McLean, Bn S-1; Capt James W Graham, then Cmdg H Co, 22nd., and during the action with the Bn Command Group; 1st Lt Harold Simon, Bn S-4; Capt James B. Burnside, Ex O, 2nd Bn, 22nd.

On Dec 16th, the 2nd Bn was in 22nd Inf regimental Reserve at Oetrage. In the afternoon orders were received to move by truck next morning to the 12th Inf area for attachment to that regiment. The Bn moved out of Oetrage at 0730 Dec 17th and proceeded to an assembly area about 300 yards south of Bech. About 1030, Co F entrucked and moved to Berbourg where they mounted on tanks of Co A, 19th tank Bn of the 9th Armored Div, to go to the aid of Co L, 12th Inf at Osweiler.

Co F joined the tanks and moved from Berbourg thru Herborn, thence north towards Osweiler. As they passed the Miesbusch woods they received small arms fire. The column stopped, the infantry dismounted and fanned out, and then with the tanks, advanced thru the western edge of the woods. The Germans withdrew before this attack and 16 men of Co C, 12th Inf were recaptured.

Co F and the tanks returned to the road and moved into Osweiler arriving in the middle of the afternoon. As they neared the town, an American plane attacked the column and knocked out one tank. Panels were immediately displayed and the attack by our planes was stopped, but as the tanks entered the town the enemy put down a heavy artillery and mortar barrage. One tank suffered a damaged track from this fire but was evacuated after dark. The situation at Osweiler was well under control by this time. An enemy attack, the last made on Osweiler, had been beaten off that morning. Co F remained, reinforcing Co L, 12th, while the tanks withdrew to Berbourg, that night.

CAPTAIN GRAHAM

While Co F was moving to Osweiler, the rest of the battalion marched northeast from Bech, with companies in column G, E, H. One section of heavy machine guns and a section of mortars were with Co G and a section of machine guns with Co E, which left four machine guns, four mortars and 48 men and four officers with Co H at the tail of the column. The Bn Command Gp was between G and E. At a road junction a thousand yards south of Michelshof, the column turned right on the trail which leads to the eastern part of the woods. About 800 yards beyond the RJ, just beyond the point where the trail crosses the small road to Geyershof, the column encountered a mudhole at least knee deep. They were never able to get any vehicles thru this obstacle and from there on the move was entirely by foot.

The advance continued, following the trail around to the north along the crest of the ridge. It was just after this move started that the column was attacked. The Germans had evidently been moving south at the foot of the steep bank on

the east edge of the woods. They came up this bank at several points, cutting and eventually passing thru the American column. The first attack hit the head of Co H. The Germans were apparently as much surprised at the first encounter as were the men of Co H. The first enemy seen was a single scout who reached the top of the bank, to find himself face to face with Americans. The Germans opened fire, but the radio operator of Co H killed him with a carbine. Then more German troops came up attacking Co H on the right flank and also passing across the front of their column and getting on the left flank also. Practically all of the German troops had automatic weapons and they also opened fire with a 50mm mortar. The men of Co H had been caught flatfooted while carrying the machineguns and mortars. There was a dogfight for awhile until Co H succeeded in pulling back a few hundred yards to a draw where they formed a circular defense. There Co H was surrounded for the rest of the afternoon. Fighting off an enemy which considerably outnumbered them.

The machine gun section which was at the rear of Co H's column had also been involved in the first enemy attack. But as the Germans came up in force between them and the rest of Co H, they moved forward to catch up with Co E. It was a while before the rest of the Bn knew that Co H was in a fight. The Bn Hq heard the firing but it sounded so distant that they did not suppose it to be in that Bn; they had been hearing considerable remote firing all afternoon. The first information that the Bn had of this attack was when the Exec Officer of Co E ran up to the Command Gp and said that Co H was in a fight. About the same time the radio operator of Co H – the same man who killed the first German – got thru with a message to the same effect. Col Kennan ordered Co E to turn around, go back astride the trail and relieve Co H. Co E made hardly any progress before they ran into strong German forces and were stopped. The enemy had evidently come up from the east in at least company strength between Companies E and H. At the same time they came up all around Co G. For the rest of the afternoon those two companies were under heavy small arms and 50mm mortar fire and for a while were separate from each other as well as from Co H. The Bn suffered a number of casualties during the afternoon skirmish.

That night contact was restored between E and G and they formed a circle near the east edge of the woods, with the Bn Command Gp and a section of machineguns completing the circle on the north. There was no contact with CO H, the last radio message having been received shortly after the attack started when the H Company operator said, "Don't call me any more; the enemy are too close."

Apparently there had been no enemy activity north of the positions of Cos E and G; during the afternoon it had been possible to move to the trail junction about 500 yards north of Co G and back down the other trail to E without encountering the enemy. After dark there was no contact and no firing thruout the night. Evidently the hostile force had gone on its way to the southwest. Co H also was able to withdraw after dark and return to Bech.

(To be Continued)

REFLECTIONS

by Joseph Zimmer

These reflections were given by the author at the Holiday Commemoration of the MD/DC Chapter of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Association, on Sunday, 9 December 2001, at the Holiday Inn, Laurel MD. He served with Company B, 345th Infantry, 87th Infantry Division. His thoughts are shared with those who were unable to attend.

It is good that we are here today. We realize that this is the last meeting of the Year 2001. A first year of the new millennium. Looking back a year, we still didn't know for sure who our next President would be. How could we have ever foreseen or imagined the events of September 11, 2001, another date that will live in infamy. Last Friday, we commemorated the 60th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Curiously enough, the recent terrorists attacks took place on the 60th anniversary of when the construction commenced on the Pentagon, September 11, 1941.

Pearl Harbor was burned into our national consciousness like no event before. Today there are burned into our psyche, fresh scars, more terrible because it happened so recently; the flames of the burning World Trade Center, the Pentagon, the wreckage of Flight 93 in Pennsylvania. Recovering the remains of all 189 who perished at the scorched Pentagon section, the 44 who were lost on Flight 93, the 400 or so who have been identified at the World Trade Center, offers some succor for the pain of loss to loved ones, and a grieving nation. Yet, there are about 4,000 who, still are unaccounted for at ground zero in New York City, that are mourned.

We are at war again, into the 4th month of the campaign to rid our beloved country and the world of these terrorists, brigands, fanatics, who unleashed that terrible sneak attack on our beloved homeland on that beautiful September morn. Each of us can recall very vividly the dark days of December '44 and January '45 during the Battle of the Bulge. We know full well the horror of war, the devastation it brings, the sacrifices made by we, the living, and those who have given their last full measure of devotion. We are once again the world's best hope for peace. Let us remember and pray for the victims and their families

Imagine what kind of man/woman will be lost when the last veteran of WWII is gone. Think not only of all they saw and experienced, but the clarity they brought to the battlefield and the burden they carried away. The Veterans Affairs Office projects that over 572,000 veterans of all wars will pass on in the coming year, 401,000 from World War II alone. This is the season of joy – Christmas and the New year. Fifty-seven years ago, it was none of that at all. That Christmas Eve in Alsace Lorraine, as an Infantryman, will never be forgotten. A 24 hour cease fire, was in place to recover our dead lying in the snow. The word came down that those who desired could attend a Mass service, in a small village church, with the proviso that we carry our weapon into the church, as a precaution in the vent the Germans chose to violate the agreement. I can never fully express my feelings as to how I felt, carrying my M-1 rifle into this place of worship honoring the birth of the Prince of Peace, almost two millenniums ago. AS a former altar boy, it was even more incongruous and wrenching. The next morning, the killing began anew and continued for four months longer until Germany surrendered in may 1945.

So it is that we can often recollect over the years, when we were very young and faced the horror of combat, to preserve our civilization. Our ground zeros wee scattered over France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany for many months on.

In closing, have faith that good, will triumph over evil and , that our nation may find its "new normalcy" in these troubled times. Have a great Holiday season and, a New Year 2002 that will bring an end to our Country's latest effort to preserve its legacy of freedom and justice for generations to come.

JOE ACCIDENTALLY STEPS ON BRIG. GENERAL

Somewhere in Belgium – S/ Sgt Roysford Smith, soldier of an ack ack battery, shacked up with members of his outfit in a barn one night during the German Counter-Offensive.

"We knew other GI's were asleep in there, too," Smith said later, "so we just crawled into the hay and went to sleep. A couple of hours later I was called for guard duty and on the way out stepped right on somebody's face. The man apologized for being in the way."

The apology was so unexpected that Smith turned on his flashlight, revealing a **Brigadier General.**

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spoke a torrent of instructions. The General apparently thought his captor was asking for his gun, but when he reached for it he was slain. In April the 3rd crossed the Saale River, north of Halle, and sped on toward the Elbe River. At war's end it pulled up near Dessau. Occupational duty near Langen was given the Division following V-E Day, a role it filled until inactivation.

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.

LARGEST GERMAN SURRENDER

329th Infantry, 83rd "Thunderbolt" Infantry Division

One of the strangest mass surrenders in current military history is about to take place on the south bank of the LOIRE RIVER, where an estimated 20,000 Germans of the Luftwaffe, Wehrmacht, and Marines are converging by three routes to the vicinity of ORLEANS where they will lay down their arms.

The force is commanded by Major General Erich Elster, late fieldkommandantur of Biarritz, who on Aug 26, was given the mission of rounding up all the German troops along the Spanish border and Bay of Biscay, regrouping them, and starting them on the long trek back to safety within the borders of the Reich.

General Elster's entourage started with more than 6,000 of the Wehrmacht, and more than 7,000 Marines who were originally stationed on the coast. In accumulating the force, the general also acquired some 400 civilian automobiles, 500 trucks and 1,000 horse-drawn vehicles.

Other Germans were fleeing the trap which was being formed by inroads of the Seventh army in the South of France, and the fast moving columns of the Third Army dashing for the West Wall, which made General Elster's polyglot force take a tailend position. He was initially protected by a screening force which paralleled the Americans on the south bank of the LOIRE, but as soon as the main element of the Germans in escape became pressured by aerial harassing, and the screening units were compelled to get off the river bank by strength of American artillery, Elster became commandant of a column stretching unprotected more than 30 tortured miles along the road.

The maquis was chewing at his heels and his flanks, while the 9th Air Force reduced much of his rolling stock to a shambles with strafing attacks.

During the period the Germans were sturdily defending the river bank, Major General Robert C. Macon, commanding the 83rd Infantry Division was trying to force a crossing of reconnaissance elements from his division, and the task of making the initial probe into enemy territory fell to an Intelligence and Reconnaissance platoon, commanded by an Ohioan, Lt Samuel W Magill, 24 of Ashtabula.

Each time the I & R men approached the LOIRE with an idea of carrying themselves to the south bank, they came under immediate and heavy small arms fire. Several times they were repulsed in the vicinity of MER, and would go back a long the north bank road to take up observation posts and wait.

On the night of Sept 1, Lt Jean Andre Hamel, a French maquis officer assigned to the I & R platoon, crossed alone, grabbed a motorcycle, and made a preliminary run over the immediate sector. The Germans caused him little concern, but there was a bit of trouble with the maquis who were not inclined to believe him or his credentials.

Meanwhile, two of Lt Magill's, Pfc James Reilly, 40 yrs old, former truck driver for Hendy Machine Co in Thomaston, CT and Pvt James E Townsend, (19, 516 State St, Petosky, MI) slipped over the LOIRE and constituted the sole American strength south of the river for the next two days.

When Magill's buildup was at its peak, and he had all his unit scattered from the north bank to patrol charging up and down the river net south of the stream, he was doing a chore for the division on a 40-mile front 30 miles deep into German territory all with an operating strength of 24 men.

General Elster's column was still in trouble and the maquis snapped at it from the woods, while the air force covered in an unfriendly fashion overhead.

On the morning of Sept 8th, Lt Magill was approached by two members of the maquis and told there was a German general further south of his post who wanted to talk surrender terms. He was willing to surrender to the Americans if there were any in the vicinity but he would not consider turning his men over to the French. He demanded proof that there was a force of Americans, however, of two battalions or more, across the LOIRE in honor that his honor be satisfied - - - two battalions of Yanks being considered equal to 20,000 Germans on the present rate of exchange.

Lt Magill started dealing, but on Sep 9th, told by his commanding officer, Col Edwin Crabill, that the total battle strength was off, informed General Elster that there could be no salving of German honor, that he would either give himself up or make out as well as he could with the maquis and the 9th Air Force, both of whom were having a field day.

On Sep 10, General Bacon and a delegation of high staff officers from the Ninth US Army, had a conference with General Elster, and came to official terms of surrender of the German troops. In almost every case the previous terms suggested by Lt Magill were upheld, and, in substance, to paraphrase Prime Minister Winston Churchill, never had so many surrendered themselves to so few.

General Elster was told to (1) keep his weapons to protect his column from wandering bands of guerrilla fighters who might not understand a surrender was in progress and fall on the troops, (2) the weapons of all types would be surrendered at LOIRE, (3) the Germans would come north in three columns to bring them out with 7,000 Marines at ORLEANS, the 6,000 Wehrmacht at BEAUGENCY, and the 6,000 Luftwaffe at MER, (4) the German General was to give his word that there would be no firing by the Germans, and (5) if any of his strength looked like it might not take orders from him, he was told the 9th Air Force would continue to hover about to act as incentive for all his men to listen to his commands.

Next step in the elaborate give-up was for the German General and his staff to be moved north to establish a command post under the eyes of the Americans, and the German columns, to march about 20 miles a day, were to hit the road on Sep 12. This

(Continued on page 6)

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**

(Continued from page 5)

would make them arrive at the point of formal surrender by the LOIRE on Saturday Sep 16 or 17.

To conduct the column forward and keep check on their movements, three Americans were sent to the German command post from Lt Magill's outfit - - - Pfc Ralph E Anderson (23, 662 East King St, Lancaster OH). Pvt Arnold E Goodson (21, Wolf Creek TN), and Tec 5 Christopher E Vane (29, Washington Blvd, Baltimore MD).

Shortly after them came a radio crew in a jeep - Tec 4 Morris C Robinson (26, 515 River Rd, Ft Thomas KY), Tec 4 Darrell E. Thorp (22, RFD 2, Montpelier OH), Tec 5 James L Amiot (23, 975 Shuler Ave, Hamilton OH), and Private Lorenzo E Sanchez (19, Veguita, NM). With the radio crew went its mongrel mascot, a 3 months old dog picked up in Normandy where she had be orphaned by shrapnel. Named Blackjack 28, after the call letters of the radio set, the dog is an object example of how one may thrive on the chopped egg yolks and pork in K-Rations, which is all she lives on.

Strange were the people with whom this little band of Americans associated more than 40 miles from the nearest supporting American units. The division sent LTC J K French, fortyish, polished, veteran of the surrender dickerings of the Isle De Cezembre, from Merrifield, Fairfax County, VA to head the small assembly at the German Command Post. Lt Magill set up his headquarters at ROMORANTIN, and every night at his table during the negotiations period, a German artillery colonel sat down to eat with the handful of Yanks. One noon, Magill showed up at the headquarters with a buxom blonde German woman, late interpreter for the gestapo who had been turned over to Magill by the Reich and was glad to be in the hands of

the Americans. She became familiar around the headquarters, too, all of which mystified the French populous of the town, but they were inclined to allow the Americans to handle the situation as they saw fit.

The I & R platoon spent a nervous week leading to the actual surrender. It had almost alone been able to initiate the dealing and the terms which won them one of the big prisoner prizes of the war, but every day the columns were on the road, platoon members had to seat out the chance that some wild shot at some column might undo the whole program.

When the Germans file across the LOIRE into the big prisoner pen, then and the only, will this gang of modern Sergeant Yorks be able to rest.

The following is a list of Lt Magill's platoon who crossed the Loire:

Lt Samuel W Magill, 24, Ashtabula OH; Pfc Robert L Houseknecht, 27, Muncz Valley, PA; Pvt James E Townsend, 19, Petoskey, MI; Pvt Chester R Finkhousen, 22, Payne OH; Cpl (Acting Sgt) Robert W roller, 23, Clover VA; Tec/5 David Alcalá, 23, Laverne CA; Pfc James H Reilly, 40, Thomaston CT; T/Sgt Herbert E Berner, 34, St Louis MO; Pvt Michael J Marino, 22, Willoughby OH; Pvt Arnold R Goodson, 21, Wolfgreen TN; Pfc Ralph E Anderson, 23, Lancaster OH; Tec/5 Christopher E Vane, 29, Baltimore MD; Pvt Albert Biro, 24, Cleveland OH; Pvt Robert F Glasgow, 20, Wheeling WV; Pvt Michael J Demeter, 21, Cleveland OH; Pvt Edward J Mank, 23, Lawrence MA; Cpl Howard Sistler, 30, Batavia IL; Sgt Edward Hatcher, 22, Beckley WV; Pvt Donald E Wilkinson, 23, Wellsville OH

The Programme for the Surrender reads as follows:

September 16 - At 1500 on the south bank of the LOIRE RIVER, where the roads converge at the Beaugency Bridge, US Army Generals and their staffs will receive the official surrender.

An honor platoon of K Company, 319th infantry, will form behind the Generals.

LTC Jules K French, who has acted as the American liaison officer at the German command post and participated in the settling of terms, will lead the convoy of German cars of General Erich Elster and staff to a point near the bridge, where they will get out of their cars.

LTC French will advance, salute the senior American General present, and report the arrival of the Germans to surrender. He will then return to bring the Germans forward and introduce them to the Americans

General Elster will then hand over a weapon as token of surrender, and announce that he is surrendering his forces to the army of the United States.

September 17, 1944 - Arrangements will be made to take correspondents across the LOIRE RIVER southward where they will be allowed to join the line of march to the prisoner of war pens.

SOURCE: RG 407, Entry 427, Box 12580, 383-Inf(329)0.7 Unit Journal, 329th Inf Regt, 83rd InfD, Sept 1944, National Archives & Records Administration, College Park MD.

Fact Sheet of the 3rd Armored Division

TYPE OF DIVISION: Army of the United States

NICKNAME: Spearhead Division

SHOULDER PATCH: Triangular design divided into three areas: red (representing Field Artillery), blue (representing Infantry), and yellow (representing Cavalry). Superimposed on three area, in black, are the track of a tank and a cannon. A bolt of lightning, in red, is superimposed on these. The Division's number appears in the upper portion of the triangle.

ACTIVATION DATE: 15 April 1941

INACTIVATION DATE: 19 November 1945, in European Theater of Operations.

COMPONENT UNITS: Hq Co; Service Co; Combat Command A; Combat Command B; 36 Armd Inf Regt; 32 and 33 Armored regiments; 23 Armored Engineer Bn; 83 Armored Rcn Bn; 143 Armored Signal Co; Division Artillery: 54, 67, and 391 Armored FA Bns; Division Trains: 3d Ordnance Maintenance Bn, 45th Armored Medical Bn, Supply Bn and MP Platoon.

TRAINING: The Division was activated at Camp Beauregard, LA, and was assigned to the Armored Force. In June 1941, it moved to Camp Polk LA and on 9 March 1942, it came under Army Ground Forces and was assigned to the II Armored Corps. In July 1942, it was transferred to Camp Young CA and from August to October 1942, took part in maneuvers at the Desert Training Center. It left Camp Young in Jan 1943 and moved to the Indiantown Gap Military Reservation PA.

OVERSEAS TRAINING: While in England the 3d used many of the better known tank and artillery ranges in that country for maneuvers and training. It maneuvers widely on the Salisbury Plain and played host to many ranking Allied Generals who watched the pre-invasion practice.

DATE ENTERED COMBAT: DIVISION 9 July 1944. FIRST ELEMENTS 29 June 1944.

COMBAT DAYS (DIV): 231.

BATTLE CREDITS: (Division) Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes, and Central Europe.

SUCCESSIVE COMMANDING GENERALS: Major General Andrew C Gillem from Apr 1941 to Jan 1942; MG Walton H Walker from Jan to Aug 1942; MG Leroy R Watson from Aug 1942 to Aug 1944; MG Maurice Rose from Aug 1944 to Mar 1945; BG Doyle O Hickey from Mar to Jun 1945; BG Truman E Beidnot Jun & Jul 1945; BG Frank A Allen, Jr. Jul 1945; MG Robert W Grow in Jul 1945 until inactivation. MG Maurice Rose killed in action while leading the division on 31 March 1945, was born on 26 Nov 1899 at Middletown CT.

DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATIONS: Hq Fwd Ech & Hq Co for 26 Aug – 4 Sep 44 action in France & Belgium; 32nd Armd Regt, 1st Bn Med Svc for 14-17 Aug 44 action in Normandy; 32 Armd Regt, 2nd Bn for 11-13 Sep 44 action in Belgium & Germany; 32nd Armd Regt, Rcn Co for 3-4 Sep 44 action in Belgium; 33rd Armd Regt, Co I for 16-19 Nov 44 action in Germany; 33rd Armd Regt (less Co B & Co C, 3rd Plat, Co A), 1st Bn for 16-19 Nov 44 action in Germany.

FOREIGN AWARDS: Awarded Belgian Fourragere for 3-13 Sep action at Mons, Belgium and for 25 Dec 44 to 31 Jan 45 action in the Ardennes, per Belgian Decree # 1330 dated 7 Nov 1945.

COMBAT HIGHLIGHTS: Rightfully proud of its "Spear head" nickname, the 3rd Armd Div lays claim to many major "firsts," among them, first to capture a German City and first to enter Cologne. The Division's trek across Europe started in Normandy on 28 Jun 1944, as it began to lead the First US Army out of that province and across France. After unwieldy fighting in the hedgerows, the unit broke out at Marigny, with the 1st Inf Div, and swung south to Mayenne. Ordered to help close the Falaise-Argentan pocket which contained the German Seventh Army, the Division finished the job near Putanges by 18 Aug. Six days later the outfit had sped through Courville and Chartres and was located at the banks of the Seine. On the night of 25 Aug, the crossing of the Seine by the division started; once over, the 3rd streaked across France to the Siegfried Line. Toppled in the path of the Division were Meaux, Seissons, Laon, Marle, Mons, Charleroi, Namur and Liege. It was at Mons that the Division cut off 40,000 Nazis and captured 8,000 prisoners. Then the Division began the first invasion of Germany since the days of Napoleon. On 10 Sep, the Spearhead Division sent what it claimed was the first American Field Artillery shell onto German soil. Two days later it passed the German border and soon breached the Siegfried Line. The 3rd was temporarily halted during the Von Runstedt counteroffensive in the Ardennes but it jumped into the vital battle at Houffalize, Belgium, and severed an important highway leading to St Vith. In January, the Division hit the road again, pushing its way deeper into Germany. Advancing at a little better than half a mile a day against stiff resistance, the 3rd captured ten towns in Jan 1945, took 2,149 prisoners and destroyed 61 armored vehicles. It went on next month to crack the Roer River line and swept on into the key city of Cologne in March 1945. Besides Cologne the Division swept up Paderborn in its advance, to shut the back door to the Ruhr. But the joy of taking Cologne was mitigated by the death of the 3rd's commanding general at the time, MG Maurice Rose. The General, leading a drive to take an important road junction near Paderborn, suddenly ran into a group of Tiger tanks which had infiltrated American lines. Surrendering to a Nazi tank commander, General Rose stood with hands aloft as the German

(Continued on page 4)

BULGE UNIT REUNIONS

National VBOB Reunion, 2002. Plans are presently being pursued to hold the 2002 Convention in the Baltimore area in late September/early October. Contact: Nancy Monson, PO Box 11129, Arlington VA 22210-2129, Tel 703-528-4058.

15 - 16 Dec 2002, Commemoration of the 58th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, by Battle of the Bulge Foundation and Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, at Arlington Cemetery. Hotel accommodations at Fairview Marriott Hotel, Falls Church VA. On Dec 15th

there will be a visit to the new International Spy Museum which will open in Washington DC in June as well as the annual Commemorative Banquet. Contact Ms Dorothy Davis, 301-881-0356.

Those having reunions can post them on the Internet at <<http://www.usmc.mil/reunions/reunions.nsf>> for free.

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 10 Feb 2002

Perry's Golden Flame Restaurant
1210 Annapolis Rd (Rt 175)
Odenton MD 11:00AM – 1:30 PM

FIRST CLASS

YOUR DUES ARE DUE