

❖ WWII MUSINGS ❖

Volume 11 Issue 1

John D. Bowen, Editor

Jan/Feb 2003

New Members

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

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

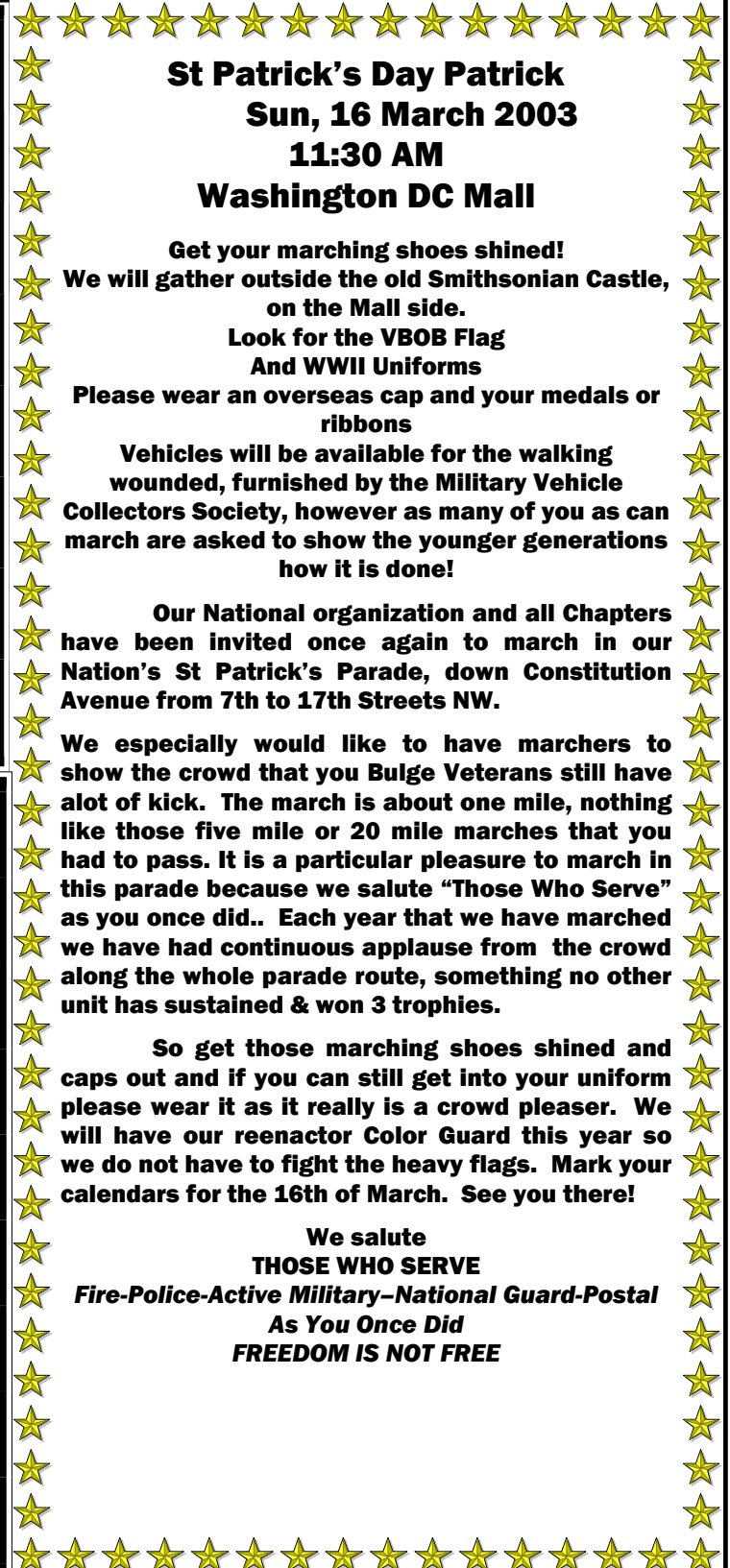
Hemelt, William G. 106th InfD 424th Inf H
Bryant, Madeline J. Associate Member

NEW REGULAR MEMBERS

Gable, Leslie G. Associate Member
Dominick, Keith Associate
Kuehn, Richard 809th FA Bn , B Btry
Mehosky, Edwards J 101st AbnD 506 PIR
Roberts, Ernest E. 87th InfD, 347th Inf, M

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.

CONTINUATION OF MEMBERS DUES PAID



St Patrick's Day Patrick Sun, 16 March 2003 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 3 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 16th 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

Our new web site at www.battleofthebulge.org for those of you with computers is proving beneficial in finding new members as well as helping folks find information on the Battle of the Bulge. All of the messages are forwarded to your Secretary for a reply. Most frequent messages start out as My father or my grandfather has passed away and he never talked much about the Battle of the Bulge. How would I go about finding out further information on him or his unit. Often the individual does not know the unit and a couple of cases only his name and that he served in the Bulge.

That it is why it is so necessary for you to share this information with your children and grandchildren. What is very important is to tell them what your name, rank and serial number and the unit(s) that you served with throughout your service. And most of all you should inform your wife as well as provide her a copy of your discharge that she can place where she places her own special papers. While you are at it make one for your children and grandchildren. It may be the opening that is needed to start the dialogue on your service. Just the other day I received a phone call from a woman who's husband, a Bulge veteran, passed away last month. She was inquiring as to whether VBOB provided stones. Upon inquiry of her we established that the undertaker had not served her very well. She knew nothing about the free flag to drape his coffin nor did he inquire as to whether her husband was a veteran and advise her that she could apply to the VA for an in ground marker. And it is important for your survivors to have a copy of your discharge in order to initiate these matters.

While on this subject of help we have a new Chapter member who joined from West Warwick RI in order to get the newsletter. His name is Ernest E. Roberts and he served with the 87th Infantry Division in Company M of the 347th Infantry in a machine gun unit. He received the Silver Star in Bonnerue Belgium. His wife says that he talks about the war but he cannot remember any of his buddies names. If you served with him or in Company M or the 87th why not help him restore his memory. His address is 5 Buckley Ave, West Warwick RI 02893-3118. It is only through the old buddy system of helping one another whenever we can that we can make another veterans day.

JDB

STATE VETERANS COMMISSION MEETS

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

An unofficial meeting of the MD State Veterans Commission was held Dec 18th since the scheduled meeting was postponed because of the snow and ice storm. The meeting was not official since it was not announced in the MD Register.

Three separate MD Departments for cemeteries, homes and memorials are now combined into a single Department of Veterans' Affairs. The commission is concerned over the impact caused by the budget deficit of \$4+ billion inherited by the new administration which will result in a 4.9% budget cut by all departments including the Department of Veteran's Affairs.

It was stated that 112 beds will be added to the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. The Commission would like to have another home established in western Maryland. It was noted a hospital in Hagerstown will close in two years and the hope is to retain one wing for a veterans' home. Another goal is a cemetery in Bainbridge where, if 30 acres can be obtained the State will pay for the cemetery.

The closing of the Fort Howard VA Hospital has created some bitterness since it is believed the land will be converted to a housing project.

Mention was made of the dedication of the veterans' memorial at Camden Yards Stadium which has the theme, "Time will not dim the glory of their deeds."

The Commission Chairman is appointed by the Governor. Present Chairman Cal Patton does not know whether he will be reappointed by the new governor.

Demetri Paris

VBOB Representative

It was suggested at the last meeting by Bob Gable that maybe someone ~~might have a van in the~~ Baltimore area who would be willing to meeting at a shopping center around the Baltimore beltway or other location and take a number of members into Washington to march in St Patrick's Day Parade. Please call John Bowen, 301-384-6533, and we can arrange for free reserved parking at the parade for any van driver willing to take members to the parade.

Have we missed your birthday in the Marcher. We are in need of birthdays from

Pat Di Giammerino

Mrs. Joseph Hardesty

Bernard J Jones

Jay Karamales

Ethel Klavan

Conrad Linz

Patricia Murphy Jim Leftwich

Ernest E. Roberts

Ira Bsperry

Stanley Wojtusik

Herman Zeitchik

Please send them to Editor John Bowen

RAGGED OLD FLAG

I walked through a county courthouse square,
On a park bench an old man was sitting there.
I said, Your old courthouse is kinda run down.
He said, Naw, it'll do for our little town

I said, Your flagpole has leaned a little bit,
And that's a Ragged Old Flag you got hanging on it.
He said, have a seat, and I sat down.
Is this the first time you've been to our little town?

I said, I think it is . He said, I don't like to brag,
But we're kinda proud of that Ragged Old Flag.
You see, we got a little hole in that flag there
When Washington took it across the Delaware.

And it got a bad rip in New Orleans
With Packingham and Jackson tuggin' at its seams.
And it almost fell at the Alamo
Besides the Texas flag, but she waved on through.

She got cut with a sword at Chancellorsville
And she got cut again at Shiloh Hill.
There was Robert E. Lee, Beauregard and Bragg, and the
south wind blew hard on that Ragged Old Flag.

On Flanders Field in World War I
She got a big hole from a Bertha gun.
She turned blood red in World War II
She hung limp and low by the time it was through.

She was in Korea and Vietnam.
She went where she was sent by her Uncle Sam.
She waved from our ships upon the briny foam.
And now they've about quit waving her back here at home.

In her own good land she's been abused —
She's been burned, dishonored, denied and refused.
And the government for which she stand
Is scandalized throughout the land.

And she's getting threadbare and wearing thin,
But she's in good shape for the shape she's in.
'Cause she's been through the fire before
And I believe she can take a whole lot more.

So we raise her up every morning, Take her down every
night.

We don't let her touch the ground And we fold her up
right.

On second thought I DO like to brag,
'Cause I'm mighty proud of that Ragged Old Flag.

Written by Johnny Cash

One Nation

"UNDER GOD"

indivisible with liberty and justice for all

RETURN TO ARDENNES***You Must Go***

*I recently have returned from Belgium.
My father fought in the Ardennes with you during the
cold, nasty winter of 1944. He did not return.*

*It took me 58 years to acknowledge my need to follow
his footsteps and find his place of peace.*

*It was a friend who recognized what the void in my life
meant to me, and the words, "You must go" were the final
encouragement to send me on a long over due pilgrimage.*

Now, I can say to you, if you have not returned to
experience the Ardennes today,...*you must go.*

If you have not felt the warmth of the sun, and the
peace of the rolling hillside,...*you must go.*

If you have not seen the lovely homes, with their
window boxes cascading with riotous colors,...*you must go.*
If you have not seen the children, with clean rosy cheeks,
waving to you and shouting their welcomes,...*you must go.*

If you have not been introduced to fathers and sons
who's passion is not Little League or Pop Warner, but
honoring you with their small museums and collections,
...*you must go.*

If you have not seen the tears of gratitude in the eyes
of the local priest, or met the 69 year old man who takes
your hand, and in the only English that he knows
says, "Thank you very much!" and then you learn that he
will never forget the face of the American soldier who saved
his life,...*you must go.*

But, if you never have the joy of these experiences,
know that the families of the Ardennes honor you for your
sacrifice and the United States of America is proud of you.

Well done, good and faithful Soldier!

By Shirley Ricker Thisis

*Daughter of Homer D. Ricker, Jr.
KIA Battle of the Bulge 12/31/44
To keep the children free.*

*This poem was given by Shirley at the 58th Commemoration of
the Battle of the Bulge on 15 December 2002 at the Fairview
Park Marriott, Falls Church Virginia*

**IT IS BETTER TO ACT
QUICKLY AND ERR
THAN TO HESITATE UNTIL THE
TIME OF ACTION IS PAST.**

KARL VON CLAUSEWITZ 1832

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, 8 December 2002, 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.

Since last we met, we have seen America at its best, and yes, also at its worst. After 9/11/2001, we focused on the sadness, sorrow and treachery of the terrorist attacks. A new spirit pervaded our beloved nation. However, we realized how vulnerable we are as the remaining super power of the world. We didn't get into our rhythm for a long time afterward. We commemorated the first anniversary of that terrible day with reverence, dignity, respect and hope for our future. Once you choose hope, anything is possible. That is what our President has given us in his UN appearance and Iraq War Resolution effort, a Commander-in-Chief moment. To hell with those who have compared him to Hitler or call him a Nazi or moron. He doesn't deserve this. He is a gut player not a text book player. His last resort is war.

There are those in the Congress, many of whom, in 1991, voted against the first Persian Gulf War, (it passed the Senate 52-47), who now are throwing accusations at our President/Commander-in-Chief, that his motives were solely to influence the outcome of the mid-term elections, and also to give him a heads-up for 2004. Even while in Iraq recently, two Democratic House Members, played a pitiable tune, denouncing the president's motives. The former President Clinton while recently in England, speaking to a Labor party Conference, sharply criticized the administration's foreign policy of "preemptive strike," warning of "unwelcome consequences" The nerve of some: this same President essentially stood by, other than a "cruise missile here or there," while Iraq ignored and violated 16 UN Security Council Resolutions. He did nothing either, when the World Trade Center was first bombed in 1993, nor other attacks of US Embassies in 1994, 1996, and 1998 by terrorists. The most wonderful example of preemption in the modern era was Israel's attack in June 1981, on the Osiraq nuclear plant that would have had nuclear weapons in Iraq's hands by probably 1985-6.

About "Preemption" - lets talk about it a bit. It makes a point about old and new, back to the future. Research shows us, about a famous case from 1842, which has amusingly benign facts. It's the British attacking across the Niagara River to preempt an invasion by Irish revolutionaries in Canada. That formulation has stuck with us for a very long time: It says you can use "anticipatory self defense" when the threat is instant, overwhelming and leaves no other choices. There's a somewhat different reading under the UN Charter with a relatively pacifistic bias, which is that you really just have to wait and take a significant chance of having the first hit. Or, depending on the intelligence input you have, until the moment before the first hit. In today's parlance "until the mushroom cloud appears, or, until the chemical or biological essence is released in a subway, plane or building." There's quite a different formulation that comes from, Elihu Root - former Secretary of War, Secretary of State, one of the founders of the American Society of International Law. In 1914 Root declared "the right of every sovereign state to protect itself by preventing a condition of affairs in which it will be too late to protect itself."

To follow up on the quote of Root, you can go back to Sir Thomas More (circa 1530s), "If an foreign Prince takes up arms and prepares to invade their land, they immediately attack him in full force outside their own borders. They are the most reluctant to wage war on their own soil." So the legitimacy of preemption goes back beyond Root to some of the great thinkers of western civilization. How much truer this must be in these times of weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

As VBOB veterans, we can look back in history and how World War II started. The League of Nations, an important organization, a dream of President Woodrow Wilson, flowing from the Treaty of Versailles, showed its irrelevance when, it signed Italy's invasion of Abyssinia, (now Ethiopia). The US Senate rejected America's membership in the League. Hitler had started his thrust to his reincorporation of the Saar (1935), occupation of the Rhineland (1936), annexation of Austria (1938). An indecisive Britain and France sanctioned dismemberment of Czechoslovakia. The Nazi-Soviet aggression Pact (Aug 1939) freed Germany to attack Poland (Sept). Britain and France who had guaranteed Polish independence, declared war on Germany. Today's parallel is the United Nations. It has been remiss in not insisting on Iraq adherence to the 16 Resolutions flowing from the agreement to end the Persian Gulf War in 1991. One more history lesson. The Allied Force (US, England, France, USSR and Italy) agreed to five Zones for governing Berlin, at the Peace Treaty in 1945. In April 1948, Soviet Russia blockaded the other Zones thus, not allowing the US to enter and other Zone. General Lucius Clay was prepared with a substantial military force to penetrate the violation, but was rejected, in his offer to do so, by our State Department. The Soviets did not have "the bomb" at this time. We flew supplies and materials into the beleaguered city until September 1949. Thus began the cold war with the Soviets which went on for 40 years til the fall of the Berlin Wall. After the Berlin blockade ended, NATO was formed as a defensive coalition which it remains today. It has been expanded to cover seven more countries. So the old saying goes "Those who ignore the past are often doomed to regret not taking the necessary action called for."

One of Churchill's books was entitled "The Gathering Storm." We are in the throes of the gathering war on Iraq. Let us hope current generations, and even a few on out, have the moxie, sense of sacrifice, courage and strength, and, the will to what has to be done; to rid this world of Saddam Hussein, men like him, and, all forms of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. May they take the example of we who fought in WWII and who fought the Cold War for 40 years against Soviet tyranny and emerged triumphant. Yes, it is all surreal; it is also about death and hell or life and freedom for all. Motivation of people is

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118th Signal Radio Intelligence Company

By John W. De Grote

CONTINUED FROM LAST ISSUE: *There are many "unknown" units that served to make our victory in Europe a success. The 118th Signal Radio Intelligence Company was a part of Third Army Headquarters and accompanied General George S. Patton, Jr. across Europe providing him the necessary Radio Intelligence. This story was written by John W. De Grote who served with this unit and in his acknowledgements he recognizes Rodger D. Nedry, "whose writing of 'Some recollections of World War II,' planted the seeds of thought for attempting this work." He also recognizes John T. "Ted" Loughlin, "whose letter received in early 1991 was the final inspiration when he wrote 'It strikes me that the wives, children and grandchildren, might appreciate having a sort of 'written picture' of the 118th S.R.I. Co.'" In this light we would like to feature extracts from this great effort not only for the wives, children and grandchildren but also for those who served and knew nothing about the unit. Thanks to our Chapter member Robert Kleinerman of Parkville MD for lending this excellent history.*

We will follow the travels across Europe with the 118th Signal Radio Intelligence Company accompanying Patton's Third Army "Lucky Forward."

While the 118th SRI Co. was camped just northwest of Avranches, Hitler launched his first massive counter-attack on the morning of Aug 7th. The 47th Panzer Corps slammed into the US 30th Division between Mortain and Vire to the north. Their objective was to push through to the coast at Avranches, thus gaining control of the main highway which was the only north-south corridor being used by US forces.

General Von Kluge of the German 7th army had put together a force consisting of the 2nd Panzer, the 1st and 2nd SS Panzer and the 116th Panzer Divisions. The attack achieved tactical surprise because the Germans avoided compromising their intentions by omitting the usual preparatory artillery barrage. Actually General Omar Bradley had received a message from "Ultra," the very secret English Intelligence Service based in England, on Aug 6th warning of the intended attack. However this warning came too late to make any major defensive preparations.

At this time only Eisenhower and Bradley knew of the existence of "Ultra," and up to this point Bradley did not put full faith in Intelligence reports from that service. After the Mortain attack, he and Ike decided that "Ultra's" warning, however short, did play a role in the repulse of the German attack. Perhaps this changed their thinking as to the value of Radio Intelligence.

Bradley may have referred to the message from "Ultra" as a "rumor" when giving orders to Patton that night, as Patton wrote in his diary, quote, "We got a 'rumor' last night from a 'secret source' several Panzer divisions will attack west from Mortain on Avranches. Personally I think it is a bluff to cover a withdrawal, but I stopped the 80th, French 2nd Armored and the 35th Division in the vicinity of St Hilaire just in case something might happen." unquote.

Something certainly did happen, the morning of Aug 7th the Germans attacked with their Panzer Divisions, over ran Mortain, and drove west towards Avranches. Fierce fighting by the 30th Division, and a devastating Allied air effort finally stopped the German threat. As mentioned previously the 118th was located just north of Avranches at the start of this attack. Had Hitler and Von Kluge been successful in this counter-attack, the Germans would have overrun their area, and the 118th would have been eliminated. With their Panzer forces they had the strength to drive these 20 miles, and they could have been successful except for the absolutely overwhelming US Air Force....

Since a retreating army must rely solely on radio communication, there was an abundance of German radio activity, and especially among the desired Panzer Divisions. On Aug 14th, ...the company set up 4 miles nw of Le Mans near the village of La Milles. For the past seven days of the continuing Mortain counter-attack, Hitler, who was obsessed with the idea of re-capturing Avranches, and against the advise of his Generals, had committed three more Panzer Divisions to assist in the offensive. Finally on this day, Aug 14th, Hitler relented and gave permission to begin withdrawal from the area.

The XV Corps of the Third US Army had preceded the 118th east to Le Mans, then turned directly north to Alencon, then on towards Argentan. The great encirclement which became known as the "Falaise Gap" had begun. At their three previous locations the 118th skirted around the Mortain offensive, to the south, then east, the intercept operators had experienced an abundance of German messages to copy. Now with the numerous Panzer divisions, and other units of the German 7th Army attempting to extricate themselves from the encirclement, the radio frequencies were again filled with German networks. Many were using the highly desired T/L field code, which was assumed to be originating from tanks and other armored vehicles of the Panzer divisions.

After the Company was in operation for a short while at this location near Le Mans, with fierce fighting just north and northwest of their location, intercept operator William W. Ward began copying a very active T/L network, 6 or 7 call signs repeatedly sending messages back and forth. With the aid of the Company's three Direction Finders, the expert Cryptanalysis at the Intelligence platoon identified the movement of a certain Panzer unit from the decoding of the messages being copied. General Patton had brought the 90th Division up against the south shoulder of the entrapment, now these Panzers were attempting a breakthrough, that if successful could have encircled this infantry division.

"Lucky Forward" was immediately notified of this situation that seemed to be unfolding. It must be assumed that warning was sent to the 90th Division of the impending danger, and air support called for, as the XIX Tactical Air Force soon came to the

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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)

rescue. From what the men heard later, their intelligence reports had been the only indication that Headquarters had received concerning these German movements, so the men of these platoons involved felt, with pardonable pride, that they had made their first major contribution in radio intelligence which may have helped save this division from encirclement and possible disaster. Soon after this incident Willie Ward was awarded the Bronze Star.

The 118th was 35 miles south of Paris which was on 25 August 1944. Patton should have been the conquering hero, but this pleasure was denied him by Eisenhower and Bradley. Because his troops were already past Paris, the British Broadcasting Company (BBC) had erred in announcing that Patton's Third US Army had taken Paris on the 24th. Actually a small contingent of French Forces under General Le Clerc, were to enter the city first, along with units of the US First Army's 4th Division. This was a great day for the French people as their unit lead the parade down the Champs Elysees past the Arc de Triumph, a scene shown in many WWII documentaries.

On 4 Sep, Lucky Forward moved and set up just down the road from the 118th. Patton's Third Army Corps units were moving so fast, gaining so much ground that the Company, even though moving faster on each successive move, still couldn't seem to catch, to be located near the "front." On this day, Sep 4th, Baker D F while moving to their next location, were crossing some railroad tracks when they noticed several box cars on a siding. Stopping to investigate, they found German parachutes, several types of jackets, some were camouflage color, and others more elaborate with fur lining and trim, probably flight jackets worn by the Luftwaffe.

Most of the parachutes were also in green camouflage color, but a few were pure white silk. Hoping to find more white parachutes and fur lined jackets the men opened the second boxcar and were rather surprised to find it loaded with cases of the finest French Brandy, Champagne, Eau de Vie and Cognac by Otard, Martel, Remy Martin and Hennessy.

Eddie Holland, who was with the group, said it was a sight would wouldn't ever forget. Eddie kept a small pocket diary, which he still has, and there on those faded old pages I saw the notation : Sep 4th, found jackets, parachutes ad Cognac – and in parenthesis – (300 cases). ... The men loaded what they had room for, then proceeded to their new location to erect the D F unit. The Cognac and Champagne was originally confiscated from the French when the German Armies over ran France in 1940. Stored in a warehouse near the railroad, it was marked "For use of the Wehrmacht only." Now in early Sep the warehouse was captured and by-passed by units of the Third US Army.

Evidently, Hqs Tird US Army and Patton himself must have believed that his men deserved a little reward for their tireless work during the mad dash across France, because they invited all the various units stationed nearby to go to the warehouse and load up. On Sep 14th, some 10 days after the men of Baker D F found their cache in the box cars, the Company sent trucks to the warehouse. Men of the Motor Pool, who drive the trucks, remember filling two 2 1/2 tom and a 3/4 ton, with these spoils of war. When the trucks returned to the Company area, the men were given parachutes and, or jackets, the liquor as to be rationed out one bottle per week until the supply was depleted

On Sep 16th George S. Patton Jr, wrote to his wife Beatrice – "I was never better in my life, I drink Champagne instead of water. We captured 50,000 cases. I issued it to the troops." That night when the liquor was received, Sep 14th, the Company had a party, and should you wonder how this date can be remembered so well, it is because early the next morning the men were awakened and advised that the Company was moving. The (author) vividly remembers helping get the intercept trucks ready for travel, then driving 70 miles, all with a headache and regretfully, a king sized hang-over!

Actually except for that first night, no other circumstances of men abusing the liquor is remembered. If anything, the men rather hoarded their allotment in an effort to make it last as long as possible. Previous to the aforementioned incident, while the Company operated in this area, the men were taken to Lucky Forward to see a USO show which featured Bing Crosby, Bob Hope and Dinah Shore. The men went in shifts for the performances, so that as many as possible could see this fine entertainment

**PRAY FOR
AND
SUPPORT OUR
TROOPS**

Fact Sheet of the 11th Armored Division

TYPE OF DIVISION: Army of the United States

NICKNAME: Thunderbolt

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 August 1942

INACTIVATION DATE: 31 August 1945, in European Theater of Operations (Austria).

COMPONENT UNITS: Hq Co; Reserve Command, Combat Command A; Combat Command B; 22, 41 and 42 Tank Battalions; 21, 55 and 63 Armd Inf Bns; 41 Cav Rcn Sq (Mecz); 56 Armored Engineer Bn; 151 Armored Signal Co; Division Artillery: 490, 491 and 492 Armored FA Bns; Division Trains: 133d Ordnance Maintenance Bn, 81st Armored Medical Bn, MP Platoon and Band.

TRAINING UNDER ARMY GROUND FORCES: Upon activation the Division was assigned for training at Camp Polk LA. In October it trained under III Corps and from June to August 1943, participated in Louisiana Maneuvers. It was assigned to Camp Barkeley TX in September for training under the VIII Corps, Third Army. In October it was ordered to the California – Arizona Maneuver Area and after a month's maneuvers was stationed at Camp Cooke CA under the III Corps.

DEPARTED US FOR FOREIGN DUTY: 29 September 1944 from New York Port of Embarkation.

DATE ENTERED COMBAT: DIVISION 23 December 1944.

COMBAT DAYS (DIV): 96.

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

SUCCESSIVE COMMANDING GENERALS: Major General Edward H. Brooks, August 1942 to March 1944; Brigadier General Charles S. Kilburn, March 1944 to March 1945; Major General Holmes E. Dagor from March 1945 until inactivation.

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.

CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR WINNER: Pfc Herbert H. Burr, Company C, 41st Tank Battalion for 19 March 1945 action near Dorrmoschol Germany..

COMBAT HIGHLIGHTS: The 11th Armored Division was crossing the English Channel to France when the Nazis' desperate "Bulge" drive began in December. Debarking on the Normandy beaches, the 11th began a forced march that speeded them to Neufchateau, Belgium by midnight of the day it landed. The following day the Division launched an attack which saved the vital highway linking Bastogne to Neufchateau. In January the Division battled into Belgium, helping to clear that country of Nazis. The next month the 11th flanked the 6th Armored Division in its drive on Trois Viorges and captured Goodango just east of that point. It then spearheaded the drive across northern Luxembourg. The Division crossed the Fyll River and headed for the Rhine in a column parallel to the 4th Armored Division. It overran Kirschweiler, Dochweiler, Winnweiler and joined other Armored elements to catch hundreds of Germans in a trap. The unit south and participated in the pocketing of the First and Seventh German armies west of Kaiserslautern. In March it crossed the Rhine River a few hours after the 4th Armored Division had punched through. Driving into Germany, the 11th swung toward the vital transportation and communications center of Leipzig. Driving into Austria, the Thunderbolt Division sent twin columns racing into Bavaria. These columns joined up at Chaw, 26 miles northeast of Rogonsburg and 1200 feet up in the Alps. The Austria entrance was made near the juncture of the German Austrian and Czechoslovakian borders. The major city of Linz, located on the Danube, fell to the outfit soon afterward. Shortly thereafter the Division was placed on occupational duty. In only a few months of combat the Division had taken 76,229 prisoners an average of 600 per day. Although originally scheduled to return to the US, the Division was inactivated overseas.

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.

BULGE UNIT REUNIONS

National VBOB Reunion, 2003. 1-4 September, Quincy Massachusetts Marriott. Contact: Nancy Monson, PO Box 11129, Arlington VA 22210-2129,

Tel 703-528-4058.
15 - 16 Dec 2003, Commemoration of the 59th 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. 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.

(Continued from page 4 Reflections)

generational and differs to fit the times. America shall not be found wanting. There is a heroic dimensions to our generation's men and women, that must be passed on to our children, their children and, future generations to come. It must be there for weeks mad months, perhaps years, that lie ahead for our beloved country, as we prepare the moral benediction of extending our power and superiority in the war against terrorism. Godspeed to our men and women, today's heroes, who will be in harms way. They are perhaps a part of a future "greatest generation." As the storm clouds of war now gather, we can look these men and women in uniform in the eye. They are the best our country has to offer. AS I write this, the music of the Christmas season wafts throughout our home and gives great comfort in these wrenching moments. Thanks for the time to speak, with you from the heart. Best to each of you in the New Year 2003, and, may it offer Peace not War for the USA and the world for which we continue to do so much.

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 09 Feb 2003

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

FIRST CLASS