

# ❖ WWII MUSINGS ❖

Volume 3 Issue 1

February 1995

## ◆◆◆ ARMY and NAVY UNION USA

The Army and Navy Union, USA is the oldest veteran organization in our country. It was founded in 1886 and incorporated 31 Mar 1888. Its fundamental object is to continue national defense and national security. In addition, to promote, foster, encourage and perpetuate fraternal comradeship among all those who have seen honorable service in the armed forces of the United States; to continue the high ideals of patriotism, loyalty, justice and service to this country and to educate all others in these principles. Equally important is the imperative duty upon every member of upholding, guarding and protecting the honor and integrity of our constitution, our national government, our flag and the principles it represents. Lastly, to maintain constant vigilance against forces foreign and domestic, that might have as their intentions the destruction of our present form of government through violence, sabotage or subversive activities.

The roster of the military and naval services of its members reads like a history of America. In it are those who saw service in the Mexican War of 1848, Civil War, Indian Campaigns, Spanish American war, Boxer Rebellion, Insurrections, Border Campaigns, World Wars I and II, Korea and Vietnam. Its dead are those of the USS Maine and peacetime catastrophes.

The Army and Navy Union, USA is limited to membership in no particular war, or campaign, and so in no other veteran organization is such a galaxy of names and achievements possible. To all of those

## EDITORIAL NOTE:

This newsletter is based on the research of John D. Bowen, 613 Chichester Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20904-3331 in the National Archives in the World War II Unit Records. The information provided is from the actual After/Action Reports, G-2 and S-2 Intelligence Reports and Journals. These are reports as they happened. The information may have been found to be different with fifty years of history. It is presented here as it actually was written. Comments are welcomed. This information is in the Public Domain. Credit should be given to the National Archives Military Branch. It is distributed for the benefit of VBOB Chapter members.



in the above categories must be added those who are in service now, and their name is legion.

All persons who are applicants for membership in the Army and Navy Union USA must have received an honorable discharge from the Armed Forces of the United States of America; or must now be serving in any unit of the Armed Forces recognized as a part of the military units designated under the National Defense Act, Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guards and their organized reserves.

The Army and Navy Union, USA has a distinctive membership badge and two Acts of Congress, the first of 11 May 1894 and the second that of 2 Mar 1907, authorized our members in service to wear it on their uniforms.

For further information:  
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## BULGE REENACTMENT JAN 95

The 50th Anniversary Commemoration Reenactment of the Battle of the Bulge was a huge success. Over 1200 reenactors participated almost double the number of previous years. The event was hosted this year by the WWII Historical Federation, Inc, Fort Indiantown Gap Military Reservation, the Delaware Valley and MD/DC Chapters of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge and Major General Gerard Sejer, Adjutant General of the PA National Guard who participated in the event dressed as General George S Patton Jr.

Gen Sejer kicked off the event by trooping the line of the massed Allied and German units and armored and military vehicles assembled for review. He was accompanied in his jeep by the Ft Indiantown Gap Post Commander, Lt Col Cook. Following in another jeep were Stanley Wojtusik, Sr, Executive Vice-President of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge and Medal of Honor Winner Gino Merli, from Scranton PA. An invocation was given by the Chaplain and after the playing of the National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag by Medal of Honor Gino Merli speeches were given by Stan Wojtusik and General Sejer. The General rose to the occasion and gave a typical Patton inspirational speech which inspired the troops to let out a cheer at the end. This years event was open to the public and about 1000 spectators attended. It is estimated that approximately 400 WWII Veterans attended the Open Air Reenactment. T h i s 5 0 t h anniversary event reenacted the request by the Nazis for the

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## ◆ EDITORIAL

**Revisionism**

Lately we have seen a number of attempts to rewrite history. The Enola Gay and the dropping of the atomic bomb on Japan and the bombing of Dresden are but the latest. It appears that some of these historians are like the spoiled kids of the Boomer generation who like to be just opposite of the norm in order to gain attention.

I also was disturbed with some comments made by Trevor Dupuy, on the Malmedy Massacre, in his otherwise excellent and well referenced book "Hitler's Last Gamble," on the Bulge, which I reviewed in the last issue of WWII Musings. He alludes that maybe the Germans were not entirely at fault and that maybe the Americans standing in the ranks in that field in Baugez had provoked the shooting.

In his appendix, he claims that "some of the American prisoners seemed to have been armed" and maybe the Germans perceived to be threatened and that is what provoked the Germans to shoot into the ranks of the Americans. When I read that I was immediately surprised because I don't know of any army, enemy or allied, that captures prisoners and lets some of them retain their weapons. But I thought I would hold my comments until I had verified them with someone who was there. I asked Ted Paluch, who was standing in that field and a survivor of the massacre, whether any of them had retained weapons. Ted's reaction was the same as mine. He stated that the first thing that the Germans did was to relieve them of their weapons. Then Ted said they came through the ranks and frisked each person for weapons, valuables and money which they quickly lifted. Ted described to me how they came from behind and he was relieved of his watch and money and other personal items for which the Army later reimbursed him. Ted read the portion of the book that Trevor Dupuy wrote on the Massacre and found it lacking in accuracy as to

the Americans having weapons in the ranks. Whether this is inaccurate writing or another attempt to add some sensationalism to an often told story, I do not know. Clearly, according to Ted Paluch who was there, he knew of no one with weapons.

On another point, whether the Allies exploited the massacre in spreading the word immediately throughout the forces is immaterial. There is no question that this became a rallying point and food for thought for any GI who thought it might be easier to surrender. I would venture to say that it had an impact upon the GI to stand there and fight rather than surrender and be shot. It no doubt provided the anger and inspiration that fighting men need to spur them on for that extra effort.

Fifty years later is too late to be trying to put a new twist on things. Any commander worth his salt would have been derelict if he did not exploit that atrocity.

As General Oliver Patton said in a recent speech, it is time to challenge revisionism and modern soothsaying. It is one thing to learn new things about historical events as new records are released, it is another thing to try and rewrite the events of the times so that the bad guys start to look like the good guys. It seems to be the trend of the times.

John D. Bowen

**BULGE CHAPLAIN DIES**

George Metcalf the Army Chaplain who helped write Patton's Special Prayer for good weather in the Bulge died 9 Feb 1995 at the age of 88 in St Paul MN. During the Bulge he was supervisor of Chaplains for the Third Army and sought the advice of 3rd Army's head chaplain, Father James O'Neill. They took elements from Anglican and Catholic weather prayers and combined them into a prayer that satisfied Patton according to his obituary in the Washington Post 2/13/95.

**WOMEN IN WWII**

A two day conference entitled "A Women's War Too: US Women in the Military in World War II" will be conducted on 3 & 4 March 1995 at the new National Archives II Building on Adelphi Road, College Park Maryland. This conference will be a well deserved salute to Women Veterans and will be attended by former military people, active duty personnel and historians who will discuss the roles women played during WWII. This national forum will explore the vital contributions made by approximately 400,000 women who volunteered to serve in the armed forces of the United States during World War II.

The conference is open to the public through registration. Registration fee is \$100 for the two days, \$25 for students. A special fee of \$40 has been set for women veterans of World War II in recognition of their service. Please call 202-5-1-5525 for registration information.

In conjunction with this conference a photographic exhibit "For Her Country: American Women in the Armed Forces During World War II" portrays contributions made by women in the military. The exhibit will open on 1 March at the new Archives II Building and continue through 12 Sep 1995 and is open to the public.

You should be aware that the new Archives II building has free tours on Tuesday and Thursday at 10:15 AM and 1:15 PM. You should call 202-501-5205 to reserve a spot and be sure that a tour is scheduled. This facility will contain the records from 1939 to the present and includes the Still Photo and Motion Picture Collection as well as the Cartographic and Architectural Drawing Collection. Your editor is also one of the tour guides at Archives II.



# BOOKS

**H**ey old soldier! Remember some of that salty language we used and heard in the barracks, on KP, on a hike, or in a foxhole?

'Jever write any of it down? Well, someone else did. Paul Dickson's "WAR SLANG, form Simon and Schuster, 1994, will refresh your memory in case you have forgaotten. His 400 page glossary of terms covers the era from the Civil War to the Gulf War. You'll find all of your favorite acronyms and initialisms listed along with many you may have wondered about or never heard before.

It's a book you'll find hard to put down but one you can set aside if time requires since there is no plot to follow, you know, like reading the phone book or a dictionary. There is a great index too. Enjoy  
Submitted my Richard C Schlenker

## Inside the Battle of the Bulge

This book by Roscoe C Blunt Jr, Worcester MA, a member of the Central Massachusetts Chapter of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge has not been read by the Editor but is in my 2nd retiremnt reading collection.

However from the flyleaf "Blunt describes how the 84th 'Railsplitters' Infantry Division embarked from Cp Kilmer NJ in Sep 44 and trained in England before its long grueling journey across Normandy France and into history." "Blunt related his own story of The Battle of the Bulge - chronicaling the historic adventures that propelled him from emotional innocence to manhood" He then relates his adventures across the Siegfried Line into Germany, the liberation of concentration camps and to the Elbe. He relates his return 50 years later to Belgium and the hospitality and gratefulness of the Belgian people.

This book lists for \$21.95 and the publisher is Praeger Publishers, 88 Post Road West, Westport CT 06881

## Bulge Emblem Available

Col Dillard reports that while he was in Bastogne in Dec 94 he picked up a quantity of the Belgium 50th Anniversary Soldier in the Snow emblem pin. This emblem, similar to the beautiful poster, is enameled about the size of a silver dollar. They are \$15.00 postpaid and may be secured from Col Douglas C Dillard, 12114 Longridge Ln, Bowie MD 20715, Tel 301-262-2439

### AROUND THE CORNER

Around the corner I have a  
Friend  
In this great City that has no  
end;  
Yet days go by, and weeks rush  
on,  
And before I know it, a year is  
gone  
And I never see my old friend's  
face,  
For life is a swift and terrible  
race.  
He knows I like him just as well  
As in the days when I rang his  
bell  
And he rang mine. We were  
younger then,  
And now we are busy, tired  
men;  
Tired with trying to make a  
name,  
Tired with playing a follish  
game.  
:Tommorrow," I say, "Iwill call  
Jim,  
Just to show him I'm thinking of  
him."  
But tomorrow comes and  
tomorrow goes,  
And the distance between us  
grows and grows.Around the  
corner -yet miles away  
"Here's a telegram Sir" - "Jim  
died today."  
And that's what we get and  
deserve in the end  
Around the corner - a vanished  
friend

by Charles Hanson Towne

## REENACTMENT

Cont'd from page 1

American Commander of Bastogne to surrender. Of course, the reply was still "Nuts" by the American Commander to the German Commander and the Germans under safety of a white flag were escorted back to their lines and released and the battle resumed. The reenactors were augmented by a number of armored vehicles consisting of Sherman and Stuart Tanks as well as an Artillery Battery furnished by the 28th Division PA National Guard. Again, the Allies won the Battle as the Germans surrendered in groups and the enmass.

After the event, dinner was served and then a "USO" type show was presented in the Armory on the Post followed by a concert by the 28th Division Band with later music for dancing. Following the show the veterans who occupied two barracks had an open house for reenactors and veteran guests who were staying off post with spouses. Special thanks go to David Shaw and Larry Tucker of the Federation for an outstanding event.

## CROSSING OF RHINE REENACTMENT

A Reenactment of the crossing of the Rhine will be presented 25-28 May 1995 in historic Chestertown MD (on Maryland's Eastern Shore, approximately 30 minutes east of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge on Route 213 North. The event is composed of two parts. First a two-day Living History Re-enactment of Operation VARSITY-PLUNDER (Rhine crossing involving 30th & 79th InfD and 17th AbnD), will take place beginning Friday at noon. It will continue until 4:00 PM Sat and will feature an estimated 600 reenactors and vintage vehicles and equipment. Public may watch and explore field bivouacs & mock aid stations. Sunday there will be full displays open to public from 10AM-6PM at Guard Armory. Billeting will be in field tents and a German Soldiers Tavern will be featured. Contact Kirk Ross, event organizer at 410-778-2605

## EVENTS

3-4 Mar 95 - Salute to Women Veterans and "A Women's War Too: US Women in the Military in World War II" - a two day conference at the new National Archives II Building, Adelphi Road, College Park MD, that will include historians, active duty and former military people who will discuss the roles women played during the war. Contact Ms Linda Brown 202-501-5200

7 Mar 95 - Crossing the Rhine - 9th Armored Division 9th & 78th InfD Commemoration, Remagen Germany

8 Apr 95 - US/Soviet Link-up on the Elbe - Washington DC Contact LTC Green 703-692-2118

14 Apr 95 - War Requiem in Honor of World War II Veterans by the Washington Oratorio Society at the Kennedy Center

21-23 Apr 95 - Salute to WWII Veterans, McDill AFB & Tampa/St Petersburg Community. Contact Col Robert E Pilnacek 813-828-4600.

25 Apr 95 - Link-up on the Elbe River at Strehla and Torgau Germany

27 Apr 95 - Days of Remembrance, a reflective memorial svc in honor of the Holocaust Victims of WWII and those who liberated the camps., by invitation only. US Capital Rotunda, Wash DC Contact Linda Lazar 202-488-0400

6 May 95 - Sep 95 - Personal Accounts - An exhibit in the Rotunda Gallery of the National Archives, Constitution Ave NW and 7th Ave NW Wash DC of Personal Accounts of WWII Members.

May 95 - Jan 96 - Forward Fuselage of the Enola Gay Aircraft which dropped the Atomic Bombs on Japan will be displayed at the National Air & Space Museum, Wash DC Contact 202-357-4487.

6-30 May 95 - US Armed Forces 50th Anniversary of WWII Reunion, Atlantic City NJ Convention Center. Contact Richard Nader 516-365-9880.

5-8 May 95 - Truman Week - V-E Day Commemoration and President Truman's Birthday (May 8) Commemoration, wreath laying, Public Service Awards, all night vigil, Truman Library, Independence MO. Contact Dr George Curtis 816-833-1400.

8 May 95 - 0900 hrs - V-E Day Commemoration, US Holocaust Memorial Museum, 15th & PA Ave SW Wash DC. Contact Linda Lazar 202-488-0400

8 May 95 - 1100 hrs, National V-E Day Commemoration, Arlington National Cemetery, Wash DC. Contact Maj Dan Ryan, 703-604-0820/24

8 May 95 - V-E Day Commemoration, USS Intrepid Sea, Air, & Space Museum, West 46th and 12th Ave, New York NY. Contact John Faigle 212-957-7020 or 212-788-9394.

8 May 95 - V-E Commemoration, Battery Park, New York NY. Contact Maritime Assn of NY/NJ Art Tuttmann, 212-425-5704.

5-8 May 95 - V-E Day Commemoration, Kansas City MO, city wide commemoration, Big Bands, displays, USO style shows, vintage aircraft. Contact Diana Duff National Archives Central Plains Region, KC MO 816-926-6272.

8 May 95 - V-E Day Commemoration, Cambridge American Cemetery, England

8 May 95 - V-E Day Commemoration, Reims France at SHAEF HQ

8 May 95 - V-E Commemoration

Germany, exact location to be determined.

9 May 95 - End of WWII Parade & Link-Up at the Elbe River, Moscow Russia. Contact LTC Allan Green 703-604-0820/24.

11 May 95 - Danish Veterans Plaque Dedication, Arlington Cemetery. Contact Maj Dan Ryan 703-604-0820.

19 May 95 - Salute to WWII Veterans, Andrews Air Force Base Maryland in conjunction with Base Open House and USO Show. Contact Mike Beaman or Capt Julie Shively 301-981-7347.

26-28 May 95 - Pittsburgh PA Founders Council 1995 Memorial Day Weekend Celebration, Point State Park, Pittsburgh PA. Static Displays of WWII Military Equipment set up in living displays, stage shows with period music, Home-Front displays, fireworks. Contact Richard W Tenney, 412-281-7930.

29 May 95 - Memorial Day Concert - West Side of the US Capitol, Wash DC.

29 May 95 - Week of National Observance of WWII - Proclamation signing and unveiling of the 1995 WWII Postal Stamp Designs at the White House Contact Maj Dan Ryan 703-692-2118.

29 May 95 - Memorial Day Wreath Laying and Commemoration Ceremony. Tombs of the Unknowns and Amphitheater, Arlington National Cemetery. Contact Tom Groppe, 202-475-1444

29 May 95 - Fleet Week/Memorial Day commemorations -USS Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum at West 46th and 12th Avenue, New York City NY. Contact John Faigle 212-957-7020

1-5 Sep 95 - VBOB National Reunion and V-J End of War Gala at San Antonio TX and the Admiral Nimitz Museum Fredricksburg TX. Info forthcoming in next ulge Bugle

## **THE COMBAT INFANTRY MEDIC**

By Vic Saconne, Infantry Combat Medic, 26th Infantry Division WWII

The Combat Infantry Medic Badge is highly prized in the Army and rightfully so. It is worn on the left breast above all other ribbon bars. This "CIMB" as the badge is called is awarded to those brave combat medics who came to the aid of their wounded comrades under enemy fire, on the battlefield. Recently, the heroism, of Infantry Medics, along with their sacrifices and dedication in combat, was further recognized, by awarding the holders of the "CIMB" badge a Bronze Star Medal, which must be applied for in order to be issued.

### **What is a Combat Infantry Medic?**

The closest answer is that he is a combination of medical technician, combat infantry man and very often surrogate father, chaplain and comforting friend.

### **The Making of a Combat Infantry Medic**

The Medic is fully trained in all the usual infantry skills, such as weapons qualification, forced marches, map reading, living off the country, etc.. In addition he is thoroughly trained in first aid, anatomy, physiology, diseases such as malaria, and a host of medical subjects. Most go on to advanced training at hospitals where they work on the treatment of wounds and all kinds of trauma. The focus is on combat medical procedures. He is also trained in comforting the wounded and becomes familiar with the basic tenets of various faiths. With all this training behind him he is assigned to an infantry unit where he is an integral part of the organization. These are the guys he will live with and go into combat with so that he will be there to treat them in need.

### **The Combat Medic in the Field**

Despite all the prior training the Combat Medic is forged in the chaos of the battle. It is there that he truly fulfills his role. He will be unarmed and be expected to go to the wounded no matter where they are, behind enemy lines or not. He will face artillery, mortar and small arms fire, often in exposed locations. In the time-honored Hippocratic tradition he will treat the wounded enemy as well as his own men.

A Medic is the first person a fallen combatant sees who has the training which can literally mean the difference between life and death. This is not to take away from the skills and dedication of the personnel of the aid station or of the field hospitals. As we all know these people perform miracles under primitive conditions. But it is the Medic who is first on the scene and he must take immediate steps to treat the wounded and his actions are almost always irreversible. It is also his onerous burden to decide the priority of treatment, i. e. which of the wounded are beyond help and which have non-life-threatening wounds so that the most needy ones can be treated first. Despite this charge, he cannot be always coldly efficient at it. Mortally wounded "kids," only a couple of years younger than the medic who have aged far beyond his years in the crucible of battle, cling to him. Some of these eighteen year olds had come fresh from Thanksgiving or Christmas dinners, gone into battle and now were laying at his feet. All conscious ones want his comfort and assurance. Some ask him to retrieve photos or letters from their pockets for one last look at loved ones. Some want him to pray with them, Christian and Jew alike. Most just don't want to be alone in their last minutes.

What keeps the Medic going when he constantly deals with the wounded and dead? It is not only duty and the fact that his outfit counts on him to be there when needed. It is the care and comfort he can give to his buddies and the great satisfaction he gets from the ones he "wins."

The US Army in recognition of the high profile risk the combat medic faces and the sustaining courage he needs in the battle area, created the Combat Medical Badge to award those so qualified.

Special thanks are due to Vic Saccone author of this article and Chapter 170 Military Order of the Purple Heart, Morris S Goltz Commanding for publishing this article. Special recognition is given to CIMB Awardees of this Chapter Robert Dorwart, 1st Cav Div, Vietnam; Morris Goltz, 26th InfD WWII; George Vanderslice, 101st AbnD WWII; and Walter Wrzeszczynski, 17th AbnD WWII and Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge.

**50 YEARS AGO**  
**THIRD U.S. ARMY OPERATIONS**  
**The Bastogne-St Vith Campaign**  
**19 Dec 1944 - 28 Jan 1944**  
**Continued from last Issue**

On 23 December the 6th Armored Div gave up its zone to the 103rd Div (Seventh US Army) and proceeded to Metz for refitting. Then, on 26th Dec the 6th ArmdD moved to XII Corps while the 10th ArmdD moved to XX Corps Zone from XII Corps to refit at Metz.

On 26 Dec the army Commander issued orders to the four Corps. These orders called upon III Corps to pass control of the 80th InfD to XII Corps, to assume control of Combat Command "A", 9th ArmdD, retain control of the 318th Inf (80th InfD), and to assume control of the 35th InfD. XII Corps was ordered to pass control of the 35th InfD and the 10th ArmdD to III and XX Corps respectively, to assume control of the 6th ArmdD, and to move Combat Command "A", 9th ArmdD to III Corps. The XX Corps was to move the 35th InfD to III Corps Area, and to pass control of the 6th ArmdD to XII Corps. The VIII Corps was given the important mission of protecting the Meuse River line south of Givet with its 11th ArmdD which had closed in the Corps area after a forced march from the docks of Le Harve, and to employ the 17th AbnD for this purpose upon its arrival, relieving the 11th ArmdD to SHAEF control at that time. This further exchange of units was designed to give the Army the strongest possible striking force into the enemy bulge, while assuring protection against a possible determined enemy effort to break out of the Ardennes area across the Meuse River toward Sedan.

Following the establishment of contact with the units at Bastogne, a general offensive was placed under way by the III, VIII and XII Corps. The VIII Corps on the west attempted to push in the western extremity of the bulge, while the III

Corps exerted pressure on the south toward Houffalize and St Vith, and the XII Corps patrolled along the eastern border of Luxembourg prepared to pivot to the north toward St Vith, or strike east into Germany across the Moselle, Our and Sauer Rivers and through the Siegfried Line. The two major objectives of (1) seizing Houffalize and continuing the attack northeast toward St Vith, and (2) crossing the Saur River in the vicinity of Echternach to drive up the Prum Valley in the direction of Bonn, were given Third US Army on 28 Dec. At the same time units were further shuffled, with the 6th ArmdD passing from XII to III Corps, the 4th ArmdD and 318th Inf (80th InfD) from III to XII Corps and Combat Command "A", 9th ArmdD passing from III to VII Corps. By this order the 80th InfD and 9th ArmdD were again given their detached elements. III Corps' major mission was to be prepared to attack northeast toward St Vith, VIII Corps was ordered to continue the mission of protecting the Meuse River line while attacking northeast to seize high ground around Houffalize. XII Corps was ordered to maintain contact with III Corps while being prepared to cross the Sauer River in the vicinity of Echternach, and drive toward Bonn. XX Corps was ordered to protect its southern zone, while being prepared to attack northeast to clear the enemy from the area between the Moselle and Saar Rivers.

III Corps advanced slowly northward, fighting against very strong forces during the period 26 December - 14 January. The corridor leading to Bastogne was gradually widened and highway communication was firmly reestablished. From 26 December till 8 January, the 4th ArmdD was busy around Bastogne, fighting with the 101st AbnD in protecting the city which was still

endangered by repeated enemy counterattacks. Some ground east and north of the city was captured by the 4th ArmdD which was perhaps as instrumental in saving the city from being cut off, as it had been in establishing contact between units in the city and other Third US Army units to the south.

The 26th and 35th InfDs and 6th ArmdD gained ground north and east of Bastogne, while repulsing heavy counterattacks. Nowhere was there any semblance of breaking through the enemy positions, but each day there were gains of 1 and 2 miles. On 4 Jan the III Corps was ordered by the Army Commander to continue its attack northeast in the direction of ST Vith and of maintaining contact with First US Army on the North. Lutrebois was taken on 5 Jan and Harlange on 10 January. The 90th InfD was attached to the Corps on 8 Jan at which time the 4th ArmdD was passed to VIII Corps. On 13 Jan the 26th, 35th and 90th InfDs employed a pincer movement on the town of Bras, hereby creating a pocket of trapped enemy troops which were reduced and taken by the 26th InfD and Task Force Fickett (6th Can Grp). Following this movement the 6th Cavalry Group and the 35th InfD both went into Corps reserve on 14 Jan.

VIII Corps was deployed on 26 Dec with the 101st and its attached armored units around Bastogne, the 28th InfD protecting Neufchateau while the 17th AbnD was moving up to assume positions, and the 11th ArmdD was moving back to SHAEF Reserve

Continued from Page 6  
**Third US Army Operations**

The 9th ArmD was in reserve west of Arlon. The Corps received orders on 28th Dec to continue its defense of the Meuse River, seize the high ground in the vicinity of Houffalize in order to control the roads leading from the town, and to protect the left (northeast) flank of the Third US Army. The 87th InfD closed in Corps area on 29 Dec, while the 11th ArmD moved up into position following release from SHAEF Reserve. These two divisions launched an attack on 30 Dec which proceeded well during the next three days, with advances of up to 8 miles being made. Ten, on 3 Jan the 17th AbnD relieved the 11th ArmD which went into assembly area, the 28th InfD assumed control of the Meuse River line and the 101st AbnD and 87th InfD continued their missions.

On 4 Jan, substantially the same orders as those of 28 Dec were given to the various corps, with the additional order of preparing to attack northeast in the direction of St Vith. Small gains were made by the 87th InfD and the 17th AbnD west of Bastogne during the period 4-8 Jan on which date the 4th ArmD was attached to VIII Corps from III Corps, and orders were given to continue the attack on Houffalize. Daily gains of 1 to 2 miles were reported by the 17th AbnD and the 4th ArmD from 8 to 12 Jan. Then, the 11th ArmD and the 17th AbnD and 101st AbnD speeded up their attacks to the east, gaining 2 to 3 miles per day. This attack continued to the outskirts of Houffalize, where on 16 January contact was established with First US Army. On 14 Jan, the 87th InfD contacted the British 51st InfD on the western tip of the enemy salient. At this time the enemy threat was considerably reduced with elements of all three Armies in contact, and driving toward the east.

On 26 Dec XII Corps was ordered to release the 35th InfD and Cmbt Cmnt "A", 9th ArmD, to III Corps, the 10th ArmD to XX Corps, and to assume control of the 6th ArmD. The line-up of major elements within the Corps then included the 4th, 5th and 80th InfDs, 6th ArmD and 6th Cavalry Group. The orders of 28 Dec gave the Corps the mission of being prepared to cross the Sauer River in the vicinity of Echternach to drive up the Prum Valley in the direction of Bonn.

Minor advances were made by all divisions in the next few days to the Moselle, Sauer and Sure Rivers in zone. By 2 Jan the various divisions had reached the river line and were prepared to continue their attack. Bridgeheads across the Sure River were secured on 5 Jan by the 80th InfD with limited attacks continuing in the bridgehead area for the next three days. For the remainder of the period to 16 Jan there was no change in the Corps situation. Units patrolled aggressively, repelled several small counterattacks and awaited the Army order to continue their attack toward Prum.

XX Corps was directed in the orders of 26th Dec to pass control of the 6th ArmD to XII Corps, pass control of the 35th InfD to III Corps, and to assume control of the 10th ArmD from XII Corps. Then, on 28th Dec it was ordered to be prepared to clear the area between the Moselle and Saar Rivers on Army order. It consisted, following

the reshuffling of units of the 90th and 95th InfDs and 10th ArmD.

At no time did large scale action occur in XX Corps Zone. The Saarlautern bridgehead was maintained, and limited objective attacks were carried out in the bridgehead as well as in the Tettingen - Sinz Area. No appreciable gains were made, but a considerable number of enemy troops were held along the Corps front, thereby reducing the enemy strength that could be employed in the fronts of other Corps.

From 15 Jan till 28 Jan the III Corps continued its push to the northeast. It consisted on 15 Jan of the 26th and 90th InfDs and the 6th ArmD on the line with the 35th InfD in Corps reserve. Initially the drive was practically due north, but it pivoted as though on a hinge, so that at the end of the period the direction of the drive was due east.

Daily advances of from 1 to 2 miles were made by the 90th InfD and 6th ArmD on the Corps left flank. On 18 Jan the 35th InfD departed from corps zone en route to the Metz area for training. On the following day III Corps was ordered to seize high ground southeast of St Vith while prepared to continue the attack to the northeast. Wiltz on the north bank of the Wiltz River was cleared on 22 Jan, and Clervaux was captured by the 26th InfD on 25 Jan. By 28 Jan positions on the high ground southeast of St Vith between the Cierf and Our Rivers were secured.

VIII Corps, consisting of the 17th and 101st AbnDs, 6th and 11th ArmDs continued to drive eastward in the direction of St Vith as the second half of January got under way. On 17 Jan, Third US Army was freed of responsibility for the defense of the Meuse River line, and the Army Commander in turn relieved VIII Corps of the mission. On 18 Jan the 76th InfD was assigned to the Corps, but did not close in Corps zone till 23 Jan. The 101st AbnD initiated movement to Seventh US Army zone on 19 Jan following change in assignment. Gains were limited from 16 to 21 Jan, at which time the effort was expanded with daily advance of from 1 to 3 miles recorded.

By 22 Jan leading elements of the 17th AbnD were 9 miles southwest of St Vith. The 76th InfD did not see action with VIII Corps, inasmuch as it was released to XII Corps on 25th Jan while still uncommitted by VIII Corps, and the 90th InfD passed to VIII Corps on 26 Jan, at which time leading elements of the 17th AbnD were 5 1/2 miles from St Vith.

On 23 Jan St Vith was taken by 7th ArmD (First US Army) which attacked from the north. Movement on 24 February was begun by the 11th ArmD to Corps reserve. Following a change in the inter-Army boundary the 87th InfD relieved the 17th AbnD on the line and some elements of the 87th InfD moved to St Vith to take over defense of that area from First US Army, while the 4th InfD passed to Corps control.

On 28 Jan when this campaign ended the 4th InfD relieved the 87th InfD following an adjustment in VIII-XII Corps boundary, the 87th moved to the St Vith area, and the 90th InfD was clearing a zone to the Our River. To the rear, the 17th AbnD and the 11th ArmD were in reserve.

XII Corps consisted of the 4th, 5th, 80th and 87th InfDs and the 2nd Cavalry Group on 17 Jan. A Coordinated attack

across the Sure River by the 4th and 5th InfDs was launched on that date. The 80th InfD joined in the attack on 18 Jan. Diekirch was taken by the 5th InfD on 18 Jan. On 19 Jan the Corps was directed to attack North on the axis Diekirch-St Vith to destroy enemy on its front, while clearing the enemy west of the Moselle and Sauer Rivers. From 17 Jan till 24 Jan the various corps units advanced 8 and 12 miles, securing positions along the Sauer and Our Rivers.

On 26 Jan the 76th InfD closed in Corps zone, while the 87th InfD passed to control of VIII Corps. The 4th InfD also passed to VIII Corps on 27 Jan.

At the end of the Campaign the XII Corps was clearing its zone to the Our River while patrolling vigorously.

XX Corps was unchanged throughout the entire Campaign. There was continuous action in the Saarlautern bridgehead and in the Sinz - Tettingen area, but it was on a small scale. The 94th InfD was occupied in the latter region, making numerous small attacks, and repulsing numerous counterattacks. In the Saarlautern bridgehead the 95th InfD on several occasions made local gains. The 95th InfD was relieved in place by the 26th InfD on 28 Jan. Then, the 95th InfD moved north to VIII Corps zone.

All through the Campaign III, XII and VIII Corps faced determined and heavy resistance. It was largely due to the extreme power exerted on the enemy salient from the south that the enemy operation ended in failure. Although contact was established with the surrounded forces in Bastogne early in the operation the issue remained partially in doubt till the middle of Jan when contact with the British and with First US Army was made on successive days. From that point on, there were steady gains, and the enemy, his penetrating power gone, was forced to give ground and to retreat into his Siegfried Line emplacements. By 28 Jan all positions held by First US Army at the time of the breakthrough had been regained, and Third US Army was ready to begin its major assault of the Siegfried Line, and to strike toward the Rhine River.

XIX Tactical Air Command contributed a great deal throughout the entire operation. The Luftwaffe rose in greater strengths than during previous months in the all out attempt to exploit the German breakthrough, but it was unable to stop our fighter bombers from inflicting a heavy toll on enemy ground installations and transportation. For the most part, enemy planes avoided combat with fighter bombers and the effect against our ground troops and motor vehicles was largely held to a minimum by effective anti-aircraft and aggressive air action, anti-aircraft having accounted for 115 planes destroyed and 42 probably destroyed.

Claims of the XIX Tactical Air Command during the period included

Missions	884
Sorties	9,582
Bomb Tons	2,167

**TARGETS (Destroyed or Damaged)**

Motor Vehicles	7,480
Railroad Lines Cut	390
Railroad Cars	4,161
Locomotives	128
Factory Buildings	668

**Losses of the Third US Army**

Continued on Page 9

**NOTES ON BASTOGNE OPERATION**  
**General George S. Patton Jr**

Continued from Last Issue

4 January 1945

The 17th AbnD attacked through 11th ArmdD and ran into violent resistance, suffering heavy losses due to inexperience. The individual fighting of the men was excellent.

If the 94th InfD is released to third Army, it will replace the 90th InfD in the XX Corps, and the 90th Div will be sent to the III Corps for the purpose of cleaning pocket SE of Bastogne.

5 January 1945

The 94th InfD, less one Combat Team, was cleared to the 3rd Army at 1730. Moves to Thionville at once.

6 January 1945

Final details for employment of 90th InfD settled. It will attack on 9 Jan through 26th InfD in a northwesterly direction along ridge road, cutting base of salient. The 26th InfD, 6th Cavalry Group Task Force, the 35th InfD and 6th ArmdD are attacking concentrically along the perimeter of the pocket. One thousand guns are supporting the attack, some firing in prolongation and others at right angles to the main effort to insure dispersion both ways.

A deception detachment was left in XX Corps to keep up 90th InfD radio net.

Enemy attacked three times today without success and in little force. I fear he is withdrawing. No flying due to bad weather.

7 January 1945

The 319th Regt of the 80th Inf Div in a night attack secured the town of Dahl with surprisingly small casualties. This attack not only keeps the enemy off balance but also protects right flank of the 26th InfD

Some rumors of an attack against the northern front of the XII Corps in direction of Diekirch. Measures taken to establish road blocks and minefields.

8 January 1945

I determined to renew attack on Houffalize on 9th by adding to the present stalled attack of the 87th Inf and 17th Abn Divisions, a new attack by the 101st Abn and the 4th Armd Divisions.

The attack in the morning will comprise eight divisions. The VIII Corps from left to right - 87th Infantry, 17th and 101st Airborne Divisions and the 4th ArmdD. The III Corps - 6th Armd, 35th Inf, 90th Inf and 26th InfDs,

The 319th Regt of the 80th InfD repulsed a heavy counterattack of three battalions of Germans supported by tanks. We lost 9 men killed and 50 wounded More than 300 German dead counted on the snow.

Due to severe fighting heretofore sustained, the attack of the 87th InfD and the 17th AbnD will be of limited intensity but will retain the initiative.

Continued rumors of a German counter-

offensive in the vicinity of Saarbrucken.

9 January 1945

Limited flying weather. The attack of the VIII and III Corps jumped off as planned. The 90th InfD, making the main effort, received heavy casualties from artillery and rocket fire just after the jumpoff, but advanced 2 1/1 kilometers. The 101st Abn and 4th Armd Divisions moved forward, the former securing the woods west of Noville. The remaining units in the two corps made very limited progress.

The rumors about the German counter-offensive from the vicinity of Saarbrucken continue.

10 January 1945

Higher authority decided that an armored division should be withdrawn from the line as a precautionary measure against the possible German attack from Saarbrucken.

The attack of the 101st Abn and 4th Armd Divisions was therefore called off at noon, and the 4th Armored will withdraw during darkness. At the same time the 101st AbnD and the 6th ArmdD will link up. The entire VIII Corps will limit offensive operations to vigorous patrolling. III Corps continues attack. All the arrangements for this change were made by personal contact between the Army Commander and Corps and Divisions involved.

All elements of the III Corps, particularly the 90th InfD, made fair progress. A column of German guns and armor, attempting to withdraw in front of the 90th InfD, was brought under artillery fire and also attacked by fighter-bombers from the XIX Tactical Air Command with good results.

General Bradley secured authority to advance the 9th Armd and 8th Armd Divisions, now on the Meuse, to the Moselle between Pont A Mousson and Thionville. This, with the presence of the 4th ArmdD south of Luxembourg, makes the situation, so far as a German attack from Saarbrucken is concerned, very satisfactory.

11 January 1945

III Corps making fair progress and securing a large number of prisoners.

Visited XX Corps to arrange plans for attacking Germans should they initiate offensive near Saarbrucken. The key to this situation is St Avold. As long as we hold there and attack from there, the Germans cannot move effectively in any direction.

12 January 1945

The VIII Corps resumes attack on Houffalize as follows from west to east: 87th InfD, 17 AbnD, 11th ArmdD and 101st AbnDs. The III Corps continues attack for the final mopping up of the salient, SE of Bastogne.

**NOTES ON BASTOGNE OPERATION**  
Continued from Page 8

13 January 1945

Attitude of troops completely changed. They now have full confidence that they are pursuing a defeated enemy. This in spite of the fact that the Germans north and northeast of Bastogne are resisting viciously in order to preserve their escape routes.

Plan to withdraw one RCT (Regimental Combat Team) and assign it to XII Corps preparatory to attacking with XII Corps north from Diekirch.

14 January 1945

The VIII Corps attacked with great effectiveness and is very close to contact with First Army in the vicinity of Houffalize.

15 January 1945

Moving remainder of the 87th InfD and assigning both 87th Inf and 4th Armd Divisions to XII Corps. This corps will attack north from Diekirch on St Vith on the 18th.

16 January 1945

At 0905, 41st Calvary of the 11th ArmdD made contact with 41st Inf of the 2nd ArmdD in Houffalize, thus terminating the Bastogne operation so far as the 3rd Army is concerned.

During the period of this operation, the 3rd Army utilized a total of 17 divisions and lost in killed, wounded and missing, 24,598 men. In the same period the Germans utilized 20 divisions and lost a total of 18,051 in prisoners of war and enemy buried by us. Their estimated casualties, excluding non-battle, for this period amount to 103,900 as follows: 16,400 prisoners of war; 24,200 killed; 63,200 wounded. We believe that these figures are low.

On 18 December 1944 Army Engineer troops and supplies were massed behind the XII Corps prepared to support the main effort of the Third Army to breach the Siegfried Line in the Saareguemines area. By 22 December 1944 these same Engineer troops were redispensed in an area extending from Luxembourg on the east to Virton on the west, operating in close support of two Corps on offensive assignments and one Corps on

defensive assignments, and thousands of tons of bridging and demolitions were moving north and west to new supply dumps in the Esch - Arlon area. From 22 Dec 44 to 16 Jan 45 more than 2800 miles of roads were reconnoitered and maintained. Continuous dense traffic, combined with drifting snows, made this task a gigantic one. During this same period, the installation and dismantling of road blocks and tactical demolitions expended over 100,000 A. T. Mines and 200,000 lbs of TNT. Bridging presented no problems in the initial phase of action, but toward the middle of January had again become a major function.

As of the 18th of Dec 44, the major preponderance of 3rd Army ordnance troops, ammunition and supplies were concentrated on the Toul-Nancy-Sarreguemines axis to support the projected attack of the XII Corps.

With the change of direction of the attack to the north, all incoming ammunition was diverted to existing ASP's in the Longwy-Esch area and new ASP's established. by rail and truck companies an average of 4,500 tons of ammunition was moved per day, truck companies travelling in one week 462,000 miles in the hauling of ammunition alone. During this period - 22 Dec to 16 Jan - the average consumption of ammunition per day in the (3rd) Army area averaged 3,500 tons.

Maintenance requirements were met by moving ordnance units in coordination with the movement of combat units they had previously serviced. replacement, new issue and other ordnance supply issues were handled generally in the same manner as the ammunition supply, necessitating the movement of 45,000 tons of replacement equipment and spare parts, with the issue to troops during this period of 1,940 general purpose vehicles, 814 combat vehicles and 152 artillery weapons as replacements.

The fighting quality of American Troops never reached a

higher level than in this operation. Neither intolerable weather or the best troops in the possession of the Germans were able to stop them or prevent their supply

(Signed)  
G. S. Patton, Jr.,  
Lieut, General, U S Army  
Commanding

The above are the personal notes of General George S Patton, Jr on the Bastogne Operation and continue through 16 Jan 1945. They present a good contrast with the official Third Army Operational summary written by others in his Headquarters about the same events. They are contained in file 103-0.5 of the official records for the Third US Army kept by the National Archives and Records Administration, Washington DC. T

**Third US Army Operations**  
Continued from page 7

were high during the Ardennes Campaign with 4,248 killed, 20,303 wounded and 5,319 missing — the greatest losses suffered during any major operation. During the same period, however, 23,218 prisoners of war were taken by the Army and the enemy suffered the loss of 32,000 killed and 88,600 wounded on the south flank of the enemy salient. During the operation Third US Army captured 2,935 sq miles of territory.

This campaign broke the back of the German Army in the west, and opened the way to rapid advances of coming months, and eventually to the end of the war in Europe.

This report on Third US Army Operations is extracted from the period Dec 1944-March 1945. It is found among the WWII records 103-0.3.0 at The National Archives and Records Administration, Washington DC. This summary report also includes The Eifel to the Rhine and the Capture of Trier 29 Jan - March 1945



**DESTRUCTION OF THE GERMAN ARMIES  
IN WESTERN EUROPE  
HQ TWELFTH ARMY GROUP G-2  
Chapter IX  
THE CROSSING OF THE RHINE**

(Since the next Musing will not be out until the end of March, it is timely to cover this significant event. In subsequent issues we will also cover the Ardennes and Offensive to the Rhine)

Cologne fell on 5 March, and the First US Army turned south to drive down the Rhine. On 7 Mar, 9th US ArmD, driving down the west bank of the river found the railway bridge at Remagen still intact upon its arrival, and promptly took the opportunity to drive across the river and establish the first bridgehead over the Rhine. The same day resistance on the Third Army front disintegrated. 4th ArmD broke loose and smashed through to the banks of the Rhine and Moselle by 8 Mar. The enemy in the Eifel was cut to shreds and all signs of organized resistance started to disappear as Third Army rounded up some 40,000 prisoners.

The Germans poured troops to the Remagen area in an effort to contain the American bridgehead, but despite a continual arrival of reinforcements, they were not only unable to hold the bridgehead but were forced to gradually give ground. Very heavy fighting raged for the Koeln-Frankfurt autobahn, and around Honnef and Honnigen at the extremes of the bridgehead. Meanwhile, on 13 Mar, Third US Army opened the offensive into the Palatinate by driving across the Moselle River into the mountainous terrain of the Hunsrueck. The remnants of the German Seventh army, which had fallen apart in the Eifel, attempted to put up some defense along the Moselle, but only in the vicinity of Trier were the Germans sufficiently able to take advantage of the terrain to put up even a holding action.. 4th ArmD broke loose to reach Bad Kreuznach. On 18 Mar Koblenz fell, and the following day St Wendel, in the heart of the Palatinate, were taken. On 19

Mar alone Third Army took 18,000 prisoners, and the destruction of the German Seventh and First Armies was nearing completion. The enemy divisions still in the Siegfried Line along the Saar facing the American Seventh and First French Armies started a hurried exit as General Patton's forces started driving down on them from the north. Kaiserslautern fell on 20 Mar, and the Rhine was reached and Mainz and Worms taken on 22 March. The Saar-Palatinate had been cleared and some 150,000 prisoners taken in ten days' time.

German strategy had become completely one of improvisation. All German forces had been driven east of the Rhine, but only the First Parachute Army in the Wesel area had possessed sufficient time to reat and bring up reinforcements. The Remagen bridgehead had attracted all other available divisions in the west and kept the enemy from building up any force on the east bank of the Rhine.

On 23 Mar Third US Army crossed the Rhine. The 5th InfD crossed the river south of Mainz, while two days later the 87th InfD cross south of Koblenz, followed by 89th InfD. On 23 Mar, too, the British and Canadian forces and Ninth US Army, with the aid of an airborne landing, crossed the river in the Wesel area, and the Rhine barrier had been breached from Emmerich to Karlsruhe.

This chapter is taken from The United States Strategic Bombing Survey Collection Box 4596 Envelope 495 in the National Archives and Records Administration WWII papers, Washington DC. The entire report covers 11 Chapters and is entitled as in the heading of this excerpt. It covers the period 6 Jun 1944-9 May 1945.

**OCS ALUMNI TO MEET**

Anyone who attended or graduated from OCS is invited to attend the General Membership and Reunion Meeting for all classes 27-30 Apr 1995. This event will be held in the Columbus/Fort Benning GA area with a theme of "OCS Past, Present, and Future."

On Thursday, 27 April 1995 there will be registration followed by a hors d'oeuvres reception at the Columbus GA Hilton. On Friday the 28th, this day will be devoted to an all-day visit to Fort Benning. This will include briefings, a visit to the present OCS training area and the OCS Hall of Fame. After a stop for lunch at the Officers Club, the afternoon will be devoted to the observation of ongoing training demonstrations. In the evening, time has been left vacant for the individual classes to get together. On Saturday the 29th, a general membership meeting will be held in the morning. A visit to the National Infantry Museum is scheduled for the afternoon getting you back to the hotel to rest and prepare for the evening dinner dance, with guest speaker, that will be held at the Historic Columbus Iron Works and Convention Center. The current officer candidates will join the attendees for this event. On Sunday 30 April, there will be a memorial service for deceased OCS graduates.

Reservations may be made by contacting the US Army Officer Candidate Alumni Assn, Inc PO Box 52192, Fort Benning GA 31995-2192. Membership in the Alumni association is \$10.00 per year and is open to all OCS graduates or associates regardless of branch of commissioning. Registration must be received by 6 April 1995.

Hotel reservations should be made direct to the Columbus Hilton by calling 706-324-1800 or 1-800-524-4020. Be sure to cite the US Army OC Alumni Assn, Inc to get the group rate \$62 single and \$65 double. The hotel is located at 800 Front Ave, Columbus GA 31901.

**DUES ARE DUE**

I know that it is just an oversight however this is the last issue of the Marcher and the WWII Musings if your dues are not current. This is the last opportunity we have for you to maintain your current status If your label has a red mark on it and there is an envelope addressed to the Membership Chairman with this then you need to put a check for \$10 in it and put it in the mail. If you believe your dues are current send a

Happy  
St  
Pat's



**BULGE BUGLE**

Twenty-seven members made short-shift, on the 13th of Feb, in labeling and preparing the latest issue of the Bugle for mailing to all our National members. The Chapter Members below are congratulated for their time & effort in this worthwhile quarterly event. Thanks Loads!

John Bowen  
Don Breakiron  
Doris Brooks  
Tom Brooks  
Harold Fleming  
Linda Fleming  
Jack Flanagan  
James W Jackson  
Darrell Kuhn  
Charlie Kraus  
Helen Kraus  
Mimi Lawrence  
Sid Lawrence  
Ben Layton

John McNeese  
David Platky  
Angie Purcell  
Woody Purcell  
Ed Radzwich  
Henry Rehn  
Hazel Shade  
Paul Shade  
Neil Thompson  
Phyllis Thompson  
Grover Twiner  
Mary Twiner  
Norma Van Allen  
A Place for You?

Next Meeting  
**5 Mar 1995**  
12 Noon  
American Legion Post  
Rt 214  
Mayo MD

Future Meetings:  
Apr 23  
May 28  
Jul 9  
Aug 20  
Oct 1  
Nov 12

**The Enemy Strikes**

Assuming there are no problems in using the TV at Mayo we will show this excellent Office of War Information's film on the Bulge at our next meeting. This includes captured German Film.

**HAPPY**

**BIRTHDAY CORNER**

JANUARY	February Cont'd
Robert M Bowen	Morris Schulman
William A Stack	John R McNeese
Ed Radzwich 80	<b>MARCH</b>
Edward J McArdle	Woody Pursell Sr
Ernest P Perterson	Gilbert D Cooper
Sid Lawrence	Norman Sue
Thomas R Giblin	Nick T Savko Sr
Paul L Dentler	Charles G Kraus
William T Greenville	Rev Davis W Peck
William H Jolly	Warren G Sody
Frederick E Krenz	Earle O Edmunds
William B Bradford	Thomas J Dobinski
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	Francis J Heppner
D Roscoe Shifler	Blaquie Culp 85
William L Starling	Ruben M Rosen
Julian A Wilson	Gustav Berle
Pasqual S Sorrentino	Samuel E Clopper
Msgr W F O'Donnell	Arrel U Godfrey
Niles D Maroney	Howard L Hammer
Charles Stinchcomb	James W Hill