

❖ WWII MUSINGS ❖

Volume 4 Issue 1

John D. Bowen, Editor

Jan/Feb 1996

WOMEN'S MEMORIAL

The Women in Military Service for America Memorial groundbreaking was held on 22 Jun 1995 at the gateway to Arlington National Cemetery. The Memorial will honor more than 1.8 million women who have served or are serving in the armed forces starting with the American Revolution.

It is expected that the finished Memorial will be dedicated in late 1997/early 1998. The Memorial will restore and repair the existing main gate structures of Arlington National Cemetery and will feature an upper terrace with views of Arlington National Cemetery and the monuments of Washington. On the terrace, there will be an arc of glass "pages" in which quotations from servicewomen are etched. This arc of glass also introduces natural light into the Memorial's Education Center. At the lower terrace in front of the hemicycle wall are the reflecting pool and Court of Valor. The education center, located behind the hemicycle, will house a Hall of Honor, 196 seat theater, exhibits and the computer Register of Servicewomen. Through the database, visitors may access photos, military histories and the individual stories of registered women. The design winners of the National competition are Ms Marion Gail Weiss and Mr Michael Manfredi of Weiss/Manfredi, New York City.

The Memorial will honor all US servicewomen. The foundation is seeking names, addresses, photos and memorable experiences of women who have served. Descendants and other friends of deceased servicewomen are asked to register them. The total estimated construction costs are \$16 million.

The repair and restoration portion is being funded by a \$9.5 million grant authorized by Congress. Memorial construction of approximately \$6.5 million must be raised by the proceeds of commemorative silver dollars and corporate, organization and individual contributions.

Donations can be sent to Women in Military Service Memorial, Dept 560, Washington DC 20042-0560. Toll free telephone 1-800-4-SALUTE (1-800-472-5883). Coins can be ordered by calling 1-800-222-2294. Registration forms can be requested to register servicewomen. Those registering before dedication of the Memorial will be listed as Charter Members. Red Cross, USO, and Special Services serving overseas in direct support of our armed services during conflict are eligible as "They also Served" Members.

This is a long overdue tribute to all women who have served in the armed forces - past, present and future.

Civil War	Unknown*
Spanish/Am War	1,500
WWI	33,000
WWII (era)	400,000
Korea (era)	120,000
Vietnam (deployed)	7,000
Grenada (deployed)	170
Panama (deployed)	770
Desert Storm (deployed)	41,000

*Presently being compiled at National Archives

MD WWII MEMORIAL

The World War II Memorial Commission for the State of Maryland is now in the process of finalizing site arrangements for the state memorial to honor the more than 288,000 Maryland service men and women who fought during World War II. The proposed Memorial site, just off the new Severn River Bridge (Annapolis-Route 50) will encompass the entire Overlook Site - from the entrance to the Ritchie Memorial to the north to the convergence of Route 450 to the south. The commission hopes for a 1997 completion date for the Memorial to honor all veterans, living and dead, who made the ultimate sacrifice for their State and nation during World War II.

The Commission has started a fundraising campaign to raise \$150,000 to complete the planning (including administering the design competition). Donations are tax-deductible and donors will receive written acknowledgment of all contributions. Names of donors will be placed in a time capsule to be opened in 2050. You can play a significant role in this project of "making history" by mailing your contributions payable to Maryland WWII Memorial Commission, Federal Bldg, Room 110, 31 Hopkins Plaza, Baltimore MD 21201. Contact Thomas E Bratten Jr at 410-333-4428 with questions or for further information.

BOSNIA

When watching the news reports of our troops entering Bosnia, did it remind you of those days of mud and snow during the Bulge? If nothing else the Bosnian exercise will give our troops some first hand experience in combating those hazards of the foot soldier, snow, cold and mud. Our combat engineers also have gotten some experience in bridge laying and in where not to set up camp. At least these experiences are being gained without hostile fire to spur them on.

More than 288,000 Marylander's served in the Armed Forces during WWII

Editor's Corner

Having just returned from the Battle of the Bulge Reenactment yesterday (28 Jan) it is inspiring to see the time, money and effort that these reenactors put into perpetuating the efforts that you as WWII veterans made to protect our freedoms during World War II.

It is encouraging to know that patriotism among our youth still exists and that there are those in our younger generations who understand and continue to want to learn more about World War II and the Battle of the Bulge. A great deal of the credit for keeping the memory alive goes to Dave Shaw and Larry Tucker of The Federation for sponsoring this event each year. They are the President and Treasurer respectively of the organization and are the ones who give untold hours of their time to make this event such a great success each year. It is particularly gratifying to see the respect and cordiality that they show to the veterans who they encourage each year to attend. This year there were over 40 veterans and 900 reenactors

VBOB REUNION

Mark your calendar now for the 1996 VBOB Reunion to be held 8-11 Sep 1996 on Cape Cod, Massachusetts. The host hotel will be the Cape Codder in Hyannis Mass. This is a wonderful time to visit ole Cape Cod. Further details in the Bugle.

Anti-Veteran Offensive is Based on Ignorance by Jesse Brown

In recent months, there have been particularly mean-spirited political, Washington think tank and media broadsides on Federal programs for veterans.

An attempt in the House to cut funds from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical budget was defeated, but not without a blistering outcry from some columnists and government watchdogs.

A national news magazine's bitter article all but said many veterans benefits are a sham. Editorialists and other writers have referred to veterans as sacred cows, demagogues and panderers. Veterans' programs have been labeled as sweet deals, third rate, wasteful, useless and disgraceful.

The thrust of much of this viciousness is that most veterans do not deserve anything and that the taxpayers are being ripped off. It will be a sad and dangerous time in America's history when we allow the naive and ill-informed to lead us away from our most solemn obligation: caring for our defenders.

Were these revisionists actually to set foot in one of the VA's medical facilities, they would find compassionate and exceptional health care being provided to veterans disabled by battlefield shrapnel, amputees, blinded veterans, spinal cord injured veterans, older veterans and combat veterans in need of psychological counseling. They also would witness poor veterans, receiving care that the profit-driven private sector is not likely to provide.

Every American also benefits from a VA research program that has given us many medical innovations and breakthroughs and a training environment for more than half of the nation's practicing physicians.

Critics proclaim that if the government would just wise up and issue medical vouchers to veterans, not only would the taxpayers be happy, but so would millions of veterans. Wrong! What veterans want is simplification of the laws that now restrict their access to VA facilities where they are certain to find care that puts their needs first.

Among the suggestions that mask anti-veteran feelings is one that would only allow benefits for "real" veterans - a filter separating those who were injured in combat from "slackers" who had limbs torn off in accidents during their service. Low income veterans who suffered no service-related medical consequences would also fail to make the cut.

Common sense and fairness preclude such propositions. Tell the pilot who shot down a dozen enemy planes and today cannot afford cardiac surgery that we owe him nothing. Explain to the veteran of Normandy who cannot afford treatment for Alzheimer's that he has not earned his government's assistance. The vast majority of American recognize that the government created our veterans, asked them to give up everything - homes, families, jobs, school - to stand vigil over freedom and democracy. Still, there are those with the gall and arrogance to "reevaluate" the sacred obligation to help veterans enjoy the fruits of their sacrifices. And judging by these latest attacks, their numbers appear to be growing.

The next time there is artillery booming in the distance . . . the next time a mother caresses a photograph of a son lost in war or a child must visit a parent at a national cemetery . . . the next time a soldier returns home blinded or without limbs . . . be sure to remind me why the wealthy need a tax cut and why deficit reduction should be achieved on the backs of the veterans. I keep missing the point.

The above article by Jesse Brown, Secretary of Veterans Affairs was sent to me by Neil Thompson and looks to have been published in the Army Times or Federal Times. Generally in times of peace, some forget the anxiety and fear of the past conflict(s). Those who worried about being called and fortunate to have not served forget those anxious moments and sleepless nights when someone else went off in their place. How grateful we were during those times of need for the sacrifices of those who answered the call - those who are now our veterans. Even sometimes our own veterans, who have been fortunate to live the good life, as a result of GI Bill or the VA Loan, fall into the trap and complain about those of our less fortunate veterans. Sometimes we forget that that less fortunate veteran may have been the guy on your right who protected your flank and your life or that nurse who administered to you in your time of need. It is important to realize that no matter how well off we are now, there but by the grace of God could go I. That GI Bill or VA Loan which was important then is a benefit earned as important to those who need the medical services of our VA Hospitals. Remember the motto "United We Stand, Divided We Fall." Editor

CAMP FANNIN TX

During WWII Camp Fannin TX was a training center for replacements. As a result of the WWII Commemoration an active alumni group has formed.

You are invited to the upcoming Camp Fannin Association Reunion from 27-30 March 1996. Those who have attended past reunions know what a good time it is....and those who attend for the first time are in for a treat. Thursday evening will feature a live radio remote broadcast by Tyler radio station KDOK 92.1 FM of Big Band favorites of the WWII era, refreshments and an open bar will be features. Friday evening a social hour and banquet will be held and Saturday will feature tours of Camp Fannin and GI Lunch and program at the Camp. Write Camp Fannin Assn, PO Box 132024, Tyler TX 75713

Box 460, Buda TX 78610.

The Assn of the 44th Inf Div. is looking for veterans who served in their units in WWII. Contact Robert V Deich, 2805 Sells St, Melaine LA 70003-3542 Tel 504-887-6239.

Tempel Farms is looking for members of the **42nd Recon Sqdn, 2nd Armd Cavalry Regt**, of Gen Patton's 3rd Army to celebrate the anniversary of WWII rescue of the Lipizzan stallions from Hostau Czech. Reunion will be at Tempel Farms, Wadsworth IL in July. Contact Vickie Pietryga, Miller-Pear Communications, 312-649-0466.

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, 8-11 Sep, Cape Codder, Hyannis, MA. Contact Nancy Monson, PO Box 11129, Arlington VA

STARS & STRIPES

his familiar newspaper from WWII and beyond continues to bring the news of interest to and about veterans and veteran affairs. It is the oldest National Veterans Newspaper, published since 1861. As Abraham Lincoln said "To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan."

The Stars and Stripes is published weekly and is dedicated to serving the more than 27 million veterans. Subscription rates are \$19.00 for one year, \$35.00 for two years, and \$35.00 for three years. Send check to The Stars and Stripes, PO Box 1803, Washington DC 20013, Tel 202-829-3225. It is a great source of news for veterans. Please mention that you read it in the MD/DC VBOB Marcher

WEREWOLVES

The stubborn resistance of German men and women, boys and girls in the enemy occupied territory, the call of the National Socialist Liberation movement "Werewolf" is the reply of the German people to the annihilation plans of our enemy. If, as the American Press Agency, United Press reports, the total civilian population of Schweinheim, with weapon in hand has arisen against Allied troops; if the Germans oppose the enemy activity and do away with the traitors and collaborators, then it is the beginning of our fanatical uprising against the plan to systematically destroy us. We are well aware of the fact that in many cases negligence and cowardice have brought the enemy many advantages, and he was not opposed everywhere as was to be expected from German fighters. It is not as though the German people have been stunned or hypnotized into surrendering entire areas to the onward-pushing enemy armored troops leaving their fate in the hands of the enemy. On the contrary, everywhere the enemy is received with hatred. Every German knows that he will be looted and tormented by the British and North Americans just as much as by the Bolsheviks. The very fact that the Anglo-Americans put Jews as slave-drivers in the occupied West, so that they can rob the German people and that they seek, through their devilish cunning, to think up all sorts of petty tortures. They deflower our German women and throw their honor in the dust. All this shows that they seek to antagonize and torment us in every way. The end is the same; whether in the East where the GPU tear through the

land with their shooting in the back methods or the West where the Anglo-Americans bring hunger and disgrace. They want to destroy us, to exterminate us.

We forget too easily and are always inclined not to put the blame on the individual enemy who is only carrying out his orders against us. Let us remember the terror bombings. What suffering it brought upon our people. There is not a family who has not been effected. Yet we do not rightfully kill the gangsters when they are shot down. We treat them as captured officers and they enjoy all rights as ordained by the International Conventions even though their deeds cry out against such treatment. We have saved these air murders from the Bolsheviks and where they could become the prey of Bolsheviks. We have had to bear all their rowdinesses and have warned time and again that the day of reckoning and venges will come. Many Germans live under the false impression that they can relax and peacefully await the day in which the enemy will be brought before the avenging tribunals and without raising a finger to help bring this about. We certainly cannot bear our fate so lightly. Revenge must be taken into our own hands. We have been spoiled by the V-Weapons and forget that great decisions are only brought about through sacrifice and the greatest individual effort.

The enemy is freedom-crazy. It is the duty of every German man and

woman, boy and girl to knock down a peg. False sentimentality does not exist. He who shows mercy to the enemy is a traitor to his people. So at heart we must all become werewolves without thoughts of civil comforts, to live only with the idea to strike the enemy, to hurt him wherever possible, but to spare our people the disgrace of an unconditional and cheap subjugation. Every German who collaborates with the enemy must know that he becomes a traitor and will sooner or later fall into the avenging hands of the German fighters for freedom. He who even thinks of capitulating will be overrun. Only he who openly shows himself ready to make the ultimate sacrifice is one of us.

The enemy is in our land, our hatred burns against the intruder, our anger must know no bounds. One does not welcome beasts with open arms, but strikes them down. If this is not possible in open combat, then one must do it in concealment. The beast must fall. Now we will be able to fulfill what we have praised in National Socialists we will see whether we are worthy to belong to the movement of Adolf Hitler. Now our call is "Fighters to the Front." No matter where the enemy appears he must be made to understand that death will meet him at every hour. He must feel that he is sitting on a powder keg. He must know that he might destroy us individually but that new fighters will arise to seek vengeance and to torment him until he lays down his arms. Our motto:

A KNIFE IN OUR

American officers freed after five days as German PWs testify to the facts that are of great concern to our security. They report that German women and children on bicycles crossed the lines at will and kept the enemy commander accurately informed on the movements of our troops. Civilians manned observation posts in tall buildings and key terrain features and spread the alarm quickly when our troops were seen. Civilians spit on our soldiers and taunted them with mocking jeers when they were being led through enemy held towns. When enemy troops moved through a town civilians gave them food and hot drinks and advised them of the locations of the Americans.

The civilians we are now encountering are as much a part of Germany as the enemy troops we engage in battle. realizing that they have no love for those ideals which we cherish, we may well expect to be treated scornfully whenever they may be in position to choose their own line of action. When death and destruction became evident, German civilians rapidly display their white flags of meekness. Remember that these flags are serving as a means of sparing German lives and property. It is true that they are lessening the cost of victory - they are also allowing German individuals who have no understanding of humane treatment to carry out activities which are nothing less than despicable collaboration. (Source: 87th Inf Div from XVIII Corps, NARA, RG 407, Intelligence Summary No 7, Hq, 78th Inf Div, 19 Apr 1945

**CONCENTRATION
CAMP
FLOSSENERG
NEAR HEIDE -
REGENSBURG**

Source of the following story is a Czech who was sent to this camp in 1941 for Anti-Nazi activities, i.e. listening to foreign broadcasts. At the time of his arrival the camp inmates numbered approximately 5,000. Another 15,00 - 20,000 also coming under the administration of this camp were distributed over the farms and factories of the surrounding countryside.

The inmates were all men, Czechs, Poles, Russians, Germans and Jews. those actually living in the camp were taken to work in a nearby stone quarry or airplane factory. If a man was working he received 3 "meals" a day. A sample menu read something like this: Breakfast - one cup of black coffee, 2 thin slices of bread. Lunch - one plate of soup. Dinner - 250 gramm bread, 5 gramm margarine or cheese. those who did not work in the quarry or factory, but were detailed to do cleaning chores on the inside of the camp, received only lunch and dinner.

Guard duty was done by Ukrainians on the outside of the enclosure and by Germans on the inside. When a detail left camp in the morning for the quarry, the Kapo (trusty) in charge, always a German imprisoned for criminal acts, received orders from the guard at the gate that he had to return with 30, 40 or 50 fewer men at night. And this is how he accomplished this "feat." (1) He would call out a man and tell him to go here or there to

get some cigarettes. As soon as the man turned around and walked in that direction, he was shot down. (2) The Kapo would order several men to pick up some boulders near the quarry wall. Just when they got these boulders a blast would occur and part of the quarry would come down on them. If they had not been killed, they would be thrown into a water filled hole or beaten to death. (3) He would pick out a man and ask him why he was so slow at work. No matter what the answer was, he would be flogged and driven towards the electrically charged wire surrounding the quarry.

The men working in the airplane factory fared far better as they were under civilian guidance while operating various machines.

Those killed in the quarry were picked up by truck every evening and burned in the camp crematorium. Every morning they had to line up for roll call. If a man did not stand rigidly at attention, the Kapo got orders to straighten the man out. He did this by beating him to death with a rubber truncheon.

One morning shortly after 0700 three Russians were hanged simultaneously because, it was said, they stole something while at work. Everybody had to look on. When a man who was detailed to peel potatoes in the kitchen became so hungry that he ate a raw vegetable, he was beaten over the head with a spade by the Kapo, usually splitting his skull.

During the winter months once a week the SS delighted in crowding approximately 100 men under continuous beatings

into a shower room. After having been thoroughly drenched with cold water they were taken out into the open and stood there stark naked. Usually 3 or 4 dropped dead.

On 8 May 1944, the Czech relating this story, together with 800 men, arrived in Muelsen (K4150) to work in an airplane factory there. They had all been picked for their mechanical ability. Each month replacements were sent from Flossenberg to keep strength up to 800 men. Last summer an epidemic of cholera broke out among these men taking a daily toll of 4-6 lives. Nothing was apparently done about it, for it continued on until the day this camp was disbanded on 13 Apr 45. the victims of this epidemic were carted off to Zwickau daily and there burned in the city crematorium. Families were never notified of the death apparently, because packages continued to arrive for the already dead persons and the Kapo would usually keep these for himself. Only when he was in an especially good mood would he distribute the contents to the other prisoners. Beginning of March 45 they got 50 replacements, all Jews, from Bunsclau (Silesia). Within a month 30 of these died of the epidemic.

On 13 Apr camp was evacuated and all inmates were marched direction AUE (K5233). About two km outside of town, near a sport field, the march commander had everybody who could not walk anymore or was too sick to remain here. A truck would come later and pick them all up. Somewhat over 80 people, including the remaining 20 Jews, stayed

there; the others continued in the direction Schneeberg (K4734). After continuing in this direction for about 2 or 3 km SP heard several shots coming from approximately K506344. He thinks that at this time the men who had fallen out before AUE were executed. Shortly thereafter he ran away and hid in the woods, but he was recaptured and taken to AUE. From there he and the remainder who had been marched to AUE by way of Schneeberg were m a r c h e d t o Johannegeorgenstadt (K5515). There they boarded a train which was to take them to Karlsead (P6793). Half an hour's train-ride out of Johannegeorgenstadt the train halted. An SS Truppfuehrer took 20 men out of one car, marched them into the woods to the NE of the RR tracks and shot them down with a submachine gun while everybody could look on from the train. This SS man called out 6 more men, had them dig a hole and bury the 20 bodies. This burial detail was later rewarded by receiving one extra slice of bread each for dinner. Train continued on after this incident but had to halt shortly again because tracks were damaged due to recent bombings by Allied planes. Prisoners were unloaded and DP took the general confusion as a chance to escape again, making his way into our lines. He does not know what became of his train companions. the number he gives as those killed vicinity of AUE is somewhat over 80. (Source: 89th Div through First Army) (Extracted from Annex No. 2 to G-2 Intelligence Summery No. 15, Hq 78th Inf Div, dated 1 May 1945, RG 407, NARA, Wash DC }

GRAVES REGISTRATION by George V Bleier

Within two days after the 11th Infantry's entry into combat, Captain McCaslin, CO of Service Company, was confronted with the problem of graves registration. The first call came from the Caumont area where a great concentration of German artillery of every type pounded roads, crossroads, troop concentrations and our own gun emplacements. A First Army jeep had suffered a direct hit by an 88mm white phosphorous shell and both occupants were literally blown to bits.

During the balance of operations in the Caumont sector, Capt McCaslin was required to process bodies which in large part were from organizations other than the 11th Infantry. At the time Corps had attached a colored Graves Registration team for the purpose of assisting Capt McCaslin.

There was little processing activity thereafter until the Combat Team followed up the 2nd Infantry Div in the vicinity of Varry. Here numerous dead had been left by Americans and Germans alike in the wake of a great battle that marked the American breakthrough at St Lo.

Bodies had lain here for a period of at least two weeks and were in an advanced stage of decomposition when the GRO set out to clear the area. It was in this sector that the first booby-trapped German body was discovered. Later, German dead were also found in a large minefield and were apparently "planted" there to exact as many casualties as possible. Unsuspecting GRO personnel who overlooked the possibility were saved when Capt McCaslin observed wire attachments. teller mines were neutralized before evacuation took place.

Following the 11th Infantry's victory at Angers, the GRO encountered great difficulty. Again, due to battle conditions, it was impossible to collect the dead until after the actual capture of the regimental objective. German bodies were found mutilated from accurate shellings, aerial bombardments and strafings. At least 5% of German dead were booby-trapped - mainly with German offensive type hand-grenades. Capt McCaslin exercised the greatest care in the removal of the enemy dead. During the five-day period, the regimental GRO evacuated an average of 35 bodies daily and at least six American dead were found to be mutilated beyond identification. The processing of American bodies included - tagging of the body - approximate time of death - how caused - the listing of personal effects - and finally the shrouding of the body in a mattress cover. German dead were processed in the same manner.

Due to the tactical situation the collecting of bodies in the vicinity of Angers could not be completed by the GRO. Orders came from regiment to move far to the north and east. Objective Chartes.

When the battle for Chartes was successfully concluded, the GRO set out to collect the bodies of the numerous German dead who had fallen victim to the intense and accurate shellings and aerial bursts by Cannon Company. In sharp contrast to the eleven American bodies which turned up for processing in this area, at least 100 German dead were recovered.

The inadequate transportation for the removal of bodies was alleviated at Chartes, and evacuation of dead was made possible only through use of many German vehicles captured there. Among the numerous German dead collected in the Chartes sector were the bodies of two Medics who were found armed with Mauser pistols.

Another incident at Chartes was that of a German body found to be booby-trapped with a single round of bazooka ammunition. Also found in the pocket of the deceased was an American offensive grenade from which the pin had been extracted. Apparently the German had known that he was about to die, so in true "for-the-Fuehrer-fashion" he straddled the handle to do what damage he could.

By the time the regiment had advanced to Fountainebleau, a Third Army directive had simplified procedure in processing of recovered bodies. Unlike previous First Army methods, all bodies were to be evacuated to a designated collecting point from which they would go to Division QM and then to the cemetery where actual processing of the deceased would take place. The only information now required was the tagging of American bodies and stating the time killed - how killed.

Soon after the crossing of the Seine at Fountainebleau, Capt McCaslin relied on three assistants, Private Naimuth, Private Turcot and Private Catton to recover numerous bodies from the river. Again, the German dead greatly exceeded total number of American casualties, and mutilated enemy bodies were found in large numbers. Heavy concentrations of artillery and mortar fire caught the Germans in a narrow escape-gap and caused tremendous casualties. The charred remains of what was once a five-man tank crew were removed from a 735th medium tank that had suffered a direct hit. Despite the fact that a single US blanket was sufficient to gather the remains of all five deceased, dog tags remained intact and after careful checking and rechecking, positive identification was made.

The long journey from Fountainebleau to Verdun involved but little processing on the part of the Graves Registration Officer.

When Capt McCaslin established his CP at Bayonville, cooperation vital to the proper evacuation of the dead was received. In many case bodies were recovered by front line troops, evacuated to battalions, picked up by the regimental GR and hauled to Division QM. In addition, the Division QM also provided six one-ton trailers to supplement the inadequate transportation. With this system in operation, the GRO expresses his belief that clear going will result in any situation.

In this, the Moselle sector, Graves Registration was again confronted by large numbers of booby-trapped enemy bodies (most of the bodies were booby-trapped with German offensive hand grenades) for the first time since Chartes. The large majority of the booby-trapped German dead were found in the vicinity of Corny.

As a general rule those German bodies that were booby-trapped revealed some conspicuously desirable items such as fountain pens (which were especially dangerous), shiny boots, pistols, decorations or unusual type clothing. Due to the extreme care used by GR personnel, booby-trapped enemy dead have thus far been detected and charges have failed to work. In one instance, a single German body lying in the Corny

The Final Salute

by Bill Kemp

Hi Buddy.

Once again I am standing at your headstone to render you my salute.

It has been more than 50 years since we first met. You were a green kid fresh from the states with little military training. The depot assigned you to our outfit.

You were really frightened. Every bomb or shellburst sent you trembling. You saw the enemy behind every rock and tree. And well you might have. For this was the Ardennes (mountain forests in Northern France, Belgium and Luxembourg), the swirling snow obstructed the view of everything and the bone chilling cold kept us fatigued.

We shared our experiences with you, hoping you could stave off death on the battlefield. Eventually, your signs of fear disappeared. They weren't dissipated. Fear never is on the battlefield. Many evenings we were entertained by your fine tenor voice and tears streamed down our cheeks each time you sang, "My Buddy."

Perhaps I felt closer to you. When going through your records, I learned we share the same hometown. Perhaps your passing hit me a little harder. The German attack came in mid-afternoon. By evening we repulsed the attack, sending the Germans reeling in defeat. Due to poor visibility in the swirling snow and lack of intelligence, we remained in place. In the morning, someone stumbled across your bullet-riddled body, your life's blood frozen in the snow. We had to cut your frozen body from the ice and then loosely wrap you in a couple of blankets. We then loaded you in an already filled 2 1/2-ton truck heading for graves registration.

The "old man" had me type a letter of condolence to your parents. He signed the letter and shipped your personal effects which I had gathered.

We rolled over Germany and into Czechoslovakia where the war ended. Perhaps you were lucky to be among the "forever young."

You didn't live to see the deterioration of our country at the dictatorial hands of bureaucrats and professional politicians. Or the squandering of money on every country in the world. Or the continual cutting of veterans benefits plunging us into third class citizenship. Or our children being taught the history of other countries in lieu of our own. Or our being portrayed as savage intruders committing unspeakable atrocities.

Returning home, I visited your family and coming up the walk the first thing I noticed was the Gold Star in the window. I also visited your girlfriend and returned the Sacred Heart scapular she gave you. Her love for you was so great she never married.

I have been diagnosed with incurable and inoperable cancer. I will soon join you in that "long sleep." So I now render to you my final salute.

(This poem was submitted by Joanne Metz, the niece of Bill Kemp, as a tribute to her uncle and to all those who fought in WWII and especially those who gave their lives on the battlefield. William H Kemp of Cumberland MD, 80 years old, died 17 Aug 1995 and was a veteran of the Bulge as well as four other campaigns. He was the last surviving member of his immediate family. His

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WWII MUSINGS

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, MD/DC
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Inside This Issue

FIRST CLASS

MEETING 11 FEB 1996

John D. Bowen Editor

ARDENNES □ CAMPAIGN

Jan/Feb 1996



EVERLASTING DUTY

We offer our sympathy to the family of our member who passed away recently.

Norman Sue

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Him
His Earthly Duties Are Done

GET WELL SOON

Phyllis Thompson,
Jack Rue,
Blaquie Culp &
Ed Radzwich.
Please keep them in your prayers.

Next Meeting
11 Feb 1996
11:30-1:00 Lunch
followed by meeting
Golf Course Clubhouse
off of Mapes Rd
left at the MP Hq
Fort Meade MD
Bring War Trophies

Future Meetings:
Apr 14 Officers Club
Jun 9 Golf Clubhouse
Aug 11 Officers Club
Oct 13 Golf Clubhouse



NEW OFFICERS

Pres.	Dick Schlenker
1 VP	Syd Lawrence
2 VP	Jack Flanagan
Treas	Neil Thompson
Sec	John D Bowen
Sgt/Arms	Henry Rehn
Chap	Rev Davis Peck
PPres	Ben Layton
PPres	Ed Radzwich
PPres	Grover Twiner
PPres	Darrell Kuhn

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CORNER

FEBRUARY		FEBRUARY		FEBRUARY	
Wayne B Glenn	02/28	Dorothy F Olsen	02/06	Pasquel S Sorrentino	02/11
Lona Livengood	02/28	Morris Schulman	02/07	William L Starling	02/14
Niles D Maroney	02/16	D Roscoe Shifler	02/16	Charles R Stichcomb	02/24
John R McNeese	70 02/26	Don N Synder	02/19	Julian A Wilson	75 02/21
Msgr Wm F O'Donnell	02/26				
MARCH		MARCH		MARCH	
Gustav Berle	03/04	Earle O Edmunds	03/30	Charles G Kraus	03/20
Samuel E Clopper	03/07	Arrel U Godfrey	03/10	Rev Davis W Peck	03/07
Gilbert D Cooper	03/18	Howard L Hammer	75 03/19	Woodrow F Purcell Sr	03/11
C A Blaquie Culp	03/17	Francis J Heppner	03/31	Ruben M Rosen	80 03/21
Thomas J Dobinski	03/19	Jame W Hill	75 03/23	Nick T Savko Sr	03/13
If we missed your birthday its because		we need it in our roster. Please send it.		Warren G Sody	03/24

At the business Meeting on 13 Feb the motion which was tabled at the last meeting re: Chapter Contribution to the National WWII Monument will be reconsidered. The business meeting will start at 1300 hours after the lucheon.

Members have asked how they may contribute to the WWII Memorial. The address is: WWII Memorial Capital Campaign, PO Box 75071, Washington DC 20013.

ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

The Veteran of the Battle of the Bulge Association has been invited to participate in the St Patrick's Day Parade, in Washington DC on Sunday 17 March 1996. Members are invited to make the short march down Constitution Avenue and to bring their Chapter Flags. All Chapters are invited to participate but especially the MD/DC, Northern Virginia and Delaware Valley Chapters which have the largest and closest contingents of members.

This is a great way to gain the Irish luck and bring the name of VBOB to thousands of watchers both along the parade route and in the homes of the thousands of viewers around the country. It is hoped that as many as can will stide down Constitution Avenue but those of you who are in the "Walking Wounded" class we expect to have two WWII deuce and a half trucks and a jeep furnished by the reenactors and Military Vehicle Preservation members.

We ask for a great turnout and those that attend to wear your VBOB or other military Caps. Those that can still get into their old uniforms are asked to wear them. Assembly time will be at 11:00AM at the mall by 7th Street NW. Please call John Bowen on 301-384-6533 or send him a note with your phone number and that you will parade and he will get back to you with the exact assembly point about the first of March when it is received from the Parade

WANTED

Used greetings cards from all occasions for veteran rehabilitation. Bring your cards to our VBOB Meetings and give them to our Treasurer or mail them to

**Neil B Thompson,
525 Patricia Ct,
Odenton MD 21113**

Recycling is good for everyone. Neil is also collecting Campbell Soup and other Campbell product wrappers for veterans!

CONFERENCE ROOM

The Battle of the Bulge Conference Room, located in the Library Building at Fort Meade MD is open each Wednesday and Friday Afternoon from 12:30 to 3:00 PM. Bring a friend and come visit. See the room, table, models and videos on the Bulge. If there is a question about the weather affecting opening you can call the Library at 301-677-4509.

MAILING

We are going to try one more time with the Postal Service to get these newsletters to you with just a single fold. We are going to staple the bottom. Though we know the Postal Service prefers tabs we also know what a mess they made out of our tabbed mailing last time. So much of my mail comes folded and stapled without a tear. Please let the Editor know how

DUES ARE DUE

Chapter dues are \$10.00 per year and are due, each year, on the anniversary of the start of the Bulge, Dec 16th, each year. If your label has a red mark on it it means that your dues are not current. Please send your dues to John D Bowen, 613 Chichester Ln, Silver Spring MD 20904 so you don't miss the next issue.