

❖ WWII MUSINGS ❖

Volume 3 Issue 3

John D. Bowen Editor

June 1995

FULL MAST

I am an American Flag

From where I fly, I can look down on the boys who made me. Fingers, that a few weeks ago were squeezing triggers or pulling pins from hand grenades, put me together.

For awhile I was just separate pieces of colored cloth on a shelf, but now I am beautiful. My stars are not exactly uniform, my stripes may be a little out of line, but to my boys, I am "Old Glory."

I fly from full mast on the highest tower in Ochsenfurt, Germany. Each morning at 0620, I am hoisted with impressive ceremony, a symbol of democracy and freedom to these boys of mine who fought and died for all I represent.

As they pass by, their hands come up in a snappy salute. All day I fly over this city, a conquered city, conquered by men of the same calibre as those who made me.

The day draws to a close, retreat blows and a solid rank of khaki snaps to attention; To the Colors and I start to move. Slowly I slide down the staff, never taking my eyes from my boys. Reverently I am folded and carried away for the night. Gone for a few hours but never forgotten.

I realize that very soon now, I will be replaced by a new flag, but I will still be proud. I was the first American flag to fly in Ochsenfurt Kries (county0).

I will not be tossed aside, for I was made by G.I. fingers, the same fingers that will pull me back to my pinnacle in the morning. Once again my boys will pass, once again their hands will come up in a smart salute.

Why? I am "Old Glory," The Star Spangled Banner, The Stars and Stripes.

Yes, I am America

By: Norman A Moore, LTC, 394th Inf

This poem was written by Lt Col Norman A Moore, commanding the third Battalion, 394th Infantry (99th InfD) to be presented at Retreat formation to one of his companies. The men of the Company immediately after VE Day had started to make this American flag from material they had found and now that they had moved to this place of occupation and the flag was ready to fly for them and be their symbol of all they had fought so long and so hard for, Lt Col Moore felt this perhaps would put into words all it could mean to those men who had made it and fought for all it stands for when they salute it at "Full Mast." Special thanks are due to Jack W Rue Rt2 Box 124, Trappe MD 21673 for submitting this poem which is so appropriate for Flag Day which we celebrate this month. Jack is the former Director of the Baltimore VA

FIRST ARMY

On June 29, 1995 at 4:00 PM on the Main Parade Field at Fort George G Meade, a ceremony transferring the colors of First US Army from Fort George G Meade MD to Fort Gillem GA will be held. All members of the Chapter are invited to take part. A pass in review will also be held. Fort Gillem is a subunit of Fort McPherson in Atlanta GA. All the years I was in Third US Army there I had never heard of Ft Gillem. This will now concentrate two Army Commands there. The Second US Army will assume the colors of First US Army and will be retired.

Lt Gen John P Otjen , present First US Army Commander, will not be transferring. He is scheduled to retire sometime in August.

It is appropriate to attend this ceremony and pay honor to this great Army, as many of you were in First US Army during the Bulge and if not it was half of the only two American Armies that fought in the Bulge. First Army and Lt Gen Otjen have been especially good to the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Assn and have greatly supported our endeavors. We will miss them.



BATTLE OF THE BULGE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

MEMORIAL ROOM & TABLE

DEDICATED 19 MAY 1995

Fort George G Meade

A beautiful ceremony was held to dedicate the BOB Memorial Room at the Garrison Library at Fort Meade MD. The room was open for tours and is just beautiful. Included in the room are displays of model vehicles and dioramas and other memorabilia and souvenirs from the Bulge.

◆ EDITORIAL

Editor's Desk

You should be sure to make the effort to visit the "Personal Accounts" exhibit recently opened at the National Archives Rotunda Circular Gallery. This exhibit does not attempt any revisionism and covers the Second World War from just before Pearl Harbor to the end of WWII. The bombing and sneak attack on Pearl Harbor as well as the dropping of the Atomic Bombs on Japan are accurately displayed. Since the Archives deals in the record as it was written there is no need to revise history as some folks across the Mall tried to do and got their hands slapped.

It is important that veterans be vigilant in objecting to revisionism and political correctness. As recently as this month the Japanese have failed to apologize for WWII. Their latest charade is to pass a WWII Resolution of Regret which is a whole lot different and not the same as an apology. It raises questions in my mind as to why we should always be sensitive to Japan when they still refuse to apologize for their aggressions and transgressions. The United States of America owes the Japanese Nation nothing. As the winner of the war and conqueror of their homeland we could have done things much differently then we did. But instead, we developed this country into the most prosperous nation that it is today in the world, in spite of the ungratefulness that they continue to demonstrate toward us.

Suffice it to say that the National Archives and Records Administration is to be complimented for telling it like it was. In addition, when concerns were expressed by Bill Hemphill, who had viewed the exhibit at the Reagan Library, that what the Bulge was about was not clear, the Archives staff took steps to explain the greatest land battle ever fought by the United States Army. There was no stone walling on the part of the Archives. They listened to the VBOB's concerns, met with the

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.

committee and later had follow up meetings to explain what they could do. When you read the synopsis of the Smithsonian debacle in the American Legion May issue, the Smithsonian could learn alot from the Archives in dealing with such issues . A tip of the overseas cap to Trudy Peterson, Linda Brown, Gary Yarrington, Chris Rudy Smith and Bruce Bustard of the National Archives for an outstanding exhibit and for a job well done!

Be sure to visit the exhibit, it will bring tears to your eyes.

FOILED AGAIN

At 091630A, a US Medical Officer was approached vic of Eupen by 2 men in GI uniform who acted suspiciously. When the officer attempted to question them, one of the men threw acid in his face; during the ensuing fight the medical officer was able to inflict wounds on the mouth and face of one of the men. The men were 6 ft and 5 ft 8 in respectively. These two indivs are probably members of the Einheit Stielau org; all first aid stations should closely check on any indiv requesting attention for cuts on mouth & face. (Source: V Corps)

TRY AGAIN

The Department of Veterans Affairs has discovered some 10 million duplicates of 20th century military records thought to have been destroyed in the 1973 fire. If you were previously told that your records were destroyed you may want to send them another Form 180 and ask them if anything has been found. Write to National Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel Records, 9700 Page Blvd, St Louis MO 63132. Ask them if your records have shown up in the VA duplicates?

PERSONAL ACCOUNTS

An outstanding WWII exhibit by this name is open at the National Archives Rotunda Gallery after touring the country for the past few years. A special opening day for WWII Veterans was held on Friday, 5 May 1995 before the formal opening for the public the following day. The exhibit includes three personal accounts of Bulge members and various photos and items relating to the Bulge. It begins just before Pearl Harbor and ends with the signing of the surrender documents. The actual Surrender Documents, Hitler's Last Will & Testament, one of Eva Braun's many Scrapbooks, Rommel's Compass, as well as Ike's Jacket and items from Patton, Stillwell and ordinary GI's are on display. You are personally invited to attend any day from 10 AM-9 PM, until 12 Nov 1995 when the exhibit closes. Don't miss a truly outstanding exhibit. It is worth the trip. Take the Metro Yellow Line to the Archives stop if you do not want to drive downtown. Enter through the Constitution Ave side. If you want to drive, a good time to go is generally around 7PM. You can usually find a parking spot at the meters around the front or side of the Archives at 7th St or Constitution Ave. Don't miss it!

BOOKS

**THE DEVIL'S ADJUTANT-
LOCHEN PEIPER, PANZER
LEADER**

by
British Major General
Michael F Reynolds
Sarpedon Publishers
166 Fifth Avenue
New York NY 10010
212-741-953 FAX 633-1036

Standartenfuhrer Jochen Peiper, "Siegfried" of the Waffen-SS and one time Adjutant to Heinrich Himmler, died in a fire bomb attack on his home in France in 1976. Many in Europe and America saw this as poetic justice on a man they believed had cheated the hangman's noose.

Peiper's brilliant reputation as panzer leader of the Fuhrer's Bodyguard Regiment, Die Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler, was tarnished by his previous close association with Himmler and his involvement with the infamous Malmedy Massacre, when unarmed American POW's were shot during the Battle of the Bulge.

This is the first thoroughly objective account of Peiper's role in the greatest land battle ever fought by the United States of America. Michael Reynold's has spent over twenty years making contact with veterans, including survivors of the Malmedy Massacre, and has accompanied former members of Die Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler, as well as American soldiers retracing their footsteps in the Ardennes. Through these contacts, and after painstaking research, he is able to demolish many of the myths surrounding this part of the Battle of the Bulge and to throw new light on the character and career of one of Nazi Germany's most charismatic, if blemished, soldiers. This book is being published in the United Kingdom this May and in the United States in July/August. Submitted by George Wendt, 526th Armored

CALL FOR PAPERS

**"The Dawn of a New Day:
Reflections on the Impact of WWII
on American Military Personnel and
American Society"**

**VALLEY FORGE
MILITARY COLLEGE
Wayne, Pennsylvania
9-11 November 1995**

Valley Forge Military College, the Governor's Committee on the Commemoration of WWII of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the Freedoms' Foundation announce a 50th anniversary commemorative symposium on the impact of WWII on American society, to be held on the Valley Forge Campus.

The focus for the symposium will be the impact of the war on American service personnel and society - The Service Experience (Army, Navy, Army Air Force, Marines); Women and the War; The American family; Industry; Minorities and the War; Education; National Security; Arts and Entertainment.

Your topics are solicited for submission. The deadline is 15 August 1995. Please send a brief 1-3 page outline or abstract along with the major sources or archives consulted, with a recent c.v or brief biographical sketch to:

**Dr Patrick Murray
Valley Forge Military College
1001 Eagle Road
Wayne PA 19087-3685
Tel 610-989-1450
FAX 610-989-1550**

(Editor's note: A similar symposium on Eisenhower in WWII was given in Jan 1994 which was excellent. Valley Forge will also be one of the end of the WWII Around the World Commemoration stops being sponsored on Veterans Day by the WWII Commemoration Committee. Valley Forge College is also the site of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Memorial. Further details will follow on attendance but mark your calendar now for this symposium)

VA Publishes New Handbook

The VA has published a revised version of "Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents" including changes in the law for 1995. The 111-page handbook describes federal benefits for veterans and dependant family members such as medical care, education, disability compensation, pension, life insurance, home loan guaranty, vocational rehabilitation and burial assistance. The handbook, which sells for \$3.25 a copy, includes addresses and phone numbers of all VA facilities. For copies ask for GPO Stock Number 051-000-00205-9 from the Superintendent of Documents, US Govt Printing Office, Washington DC 20402-9325. To order with VISA or Mastercard, phone 202-512-1800. This is an excellent book which I use in helping find information for veterans. A must ave at such a cheap

TREVOR DUPUY

It is with sadness that we report on the recent death of Colonel Trevor Dupuy, an historian and prolific book writer. Though we had taken exception with some of his thoughts on the Malmedy Massacre in his latest book Hitler's Last Gamble, he was a great writer on WWII. He had seen service in the Pacific during WWII and had remained in the service, retiring as a Colonel. He was laid to rest on 13 Jun in Arlington National

MAPS WANTED

The Army Engineer urgently requires map sheets covering all of Germany in the following series 1:200,000 - Strassenkarte von Deutschland. Compiled and published by Der Deutsche Automobile Club. These are standard German Automobile Club Touring maps and are available to civilians as well as the military services. Any units possessing or capturing sheets of this series are requested to forward same immediately, through channels, to the Army Engineers.

22 Jun 95 1200 hrs - Groundbreaking of the **Women's Memorial**, Main Entrance to Arlington National Cemetery. A reunion for women who served in the military will be held at the JW Marriott, Wash DC. Contact Women in Military Svc for America Memorial Foundation, 5510 Columbia Pike, Suite 302, Arlington VA 22204, 703-533-1155 or 800-222-2294.

25 Jun - **Band Concert, 28th InfD Band Glen Foerd, Phila PA.** 2:00 PM . Sponsored by **VBOB Del Valley Chapter**, Stan Wojtusik 215-637-4191

27 Jun - 2 Jul - **99th Inf "Battle Babies" Div Reunion** at Pittsburgh Hilton. Contact Paul Suchko, 922 Plumer Rd, West Newtown, PA 15089, Tel 412-872-5806.

30 Jun-2 Jul - **Tribute to World War II Combat Artists**, a showing of works by all services combat artists from WWII, musical performances by service bands and artists reunion, The National Building Museum, Wash DC. Contact 703-697-6629.

3-4 Jul - **Knoxville Salute to Veterans of WWII**, 1940's Movies, Big Band Dance, Memorial Service and Fireworks. Knoxville TN. Contact 615-523-7263, Bill Housley.

13-16 Jul - **Celebration 1995, Columbus Indiana.** Plans include city wide parade, picnic at Mill Race Park, displays demonstrations, unit reunions. Note that this was the largest town next to Camp Atterbury where the 83rd, 30th, part of the 92nd and the 106th trained in WWII. Contact 812-376-2519, John Hoff.

27-29 Jul - **Korean War Memorial Dedication**, Memorial Service, Dedication Ceremony, Banquets and a parade on 29 Jul. The Mall Washington DC. Contact Vic Tambone, Korean War Memorial Advisory Bd Dedication Ceremony, 703-739-8900

22-27 Jul - **DAV Annual Convention**, Las Vegas Nevada. Contact Charlie Luttjohann, 608-441-7300

EVENTS

Freedom Flight Across America, a transcontinental flight of vintage WWII aircraft, warbird fly-in and displays.

28-31 Jul - Long Beach CA Airport
Contact 310-499-1696

31 Jul-1 Aug - Glendale AZ
Contact 602-931-5555

1-2 Aug - El Paso Texas
Contact 915-568-4505

2-3 Aug - Dallas/Ft Worth
Contact 817-890-1000

3-4 Aug - Kansas City Missouri
Contact 913-782-5335

4-7 Aug - Auroa Illinois
Contact 800-477-4369

7-9 Aug - Dayton Ohio
Contact 513-257-6206

9-11 Aug - Washington DC
Contact 301-568-5995 Lt
Nipper

11-14 Aug - McGuire AFB NJ
Contact 609-724-4073 Maj Svoboda

1-6 Aug - **American GI Forum National Commemoration/Reunion**, Banquet, Convention Commemoration ceremony - Albuquerque NM. Contact Antonio Morales 512-302-3025.

2 Aug - 11 AM **USS Indianapolis Memorial Dedication**, Indianapolis IN, Memorial Svc, Banquet 800-482-5242

4-5 Aug - **An American Requiem** - Kennedy Center Wash DC, an hour long renaissance style chorale performance. Contact Michel Sarda 602-954-6573

12 Aug - **Colorado Commemorates WWII 50th**, Denver CO, parade, Ceremony, Exhibits in Conv Ctr. Contact Tim Drago 303-756-0338.

12-13 Aug - **Freedom Festival Weekend , Concert in Central Park,**

Times Square Extravaganza, NYC.
Contact Art Tuttmann 212-425-5704

12-13 Aug - **WWII Victory Party** - Rock Island Arsenal & Iowa-Ill Quad Cities - A Community wide celebration that includes a picnic, Victory Run, Memorial Svc, Parade & Dance. Contact Art Heyderman 309-782-6812

12-19 Aug - **American Veterans National Convention** - Cincinnati OH
Contact Meg AMVETS 301-459-9500

18 Aug - **WWII Veterans Monument** - Tobyhanna Army Depot PA. Contact Kevin Toolan 717-8957201

18-25 Aug - **VFW Convention** - Phoenix AZ Contact 816-756-3390 or 202-543-2239

20 Aug - 1900 hours - Petrillo Music Ctr, Chicago IL, Concert dedicated to Patriotism, Peace and Freedom. contact Col Ken Plummer 708-383-5550.

2 Sep - **50th Anniv of the Peace Accords - Adm Nimitz Museum**, Fredricksburg TX. A ceremony to recognize the ending of hostilities, those who died, and start of new post war era - Opening of Hall of Presidents, Opening Geo Bush Gallery of Pacific War, Parade, and Air Show. Contact Adm CD Grogen Ret. 210-997-4379, press 6. Arrive early for VBOB Reunion

2 Sep - **End of WWII Commemoration-** Summerall Field, Ft Myer VA. Contact Maj Dan Ryan, 703-692-2118

2 Sep - American Legion Conv & 50th Anniv of WWII Victory Commemoration, Indianapolis IN,

3-7 Sep 95 - VBOB National Reunion and V-J End of War Gala at San Antonio TX and the Admiral Nimitz Museum Fredricksburg TX. Tour Alamo, Ranch Bar-B-Q, LBJ Ranch, Nimitz Museum, Business Mtg, Plaque Dedication, Banquet. Contact VBOB, PO Box 11129 Arlington VA 22210-2129, Tel 703-528-4058

Note: There are so many Sep Activities for the end of WWII around the first of September that they will appear in the next WWII Musings

The Mobility of the German Army in the West

The offensive capabilities of the enemy in the attack begun 16-17 December are conditioned, in addition to manpower and firepower, by mobility. In this connection, the German Army suffers certain deficiencies, notably in its supply of gasoline and in numbers and conditions of motor vehicles, prime movers and even horses. Evidence gathered from PWs — not a very reliable source for clues as to grand strategy — suggests that the offensive is calculated as a lightning blow: objectives have variously been stated as Antwerp or Liege in five days, the capture of Aachen as a Christmas present for the Fuehrer (eight days); and Paris by New Year's Eve (two weeks). One prisoner alluded indirectly to German supply deficiencies and need for speed when he stated that his NCO has painted a word picture of reaching Paris by Christmas and living off abandoned American supplies en route. That the enemy may have had an intention of overrunning and suborning Allied supplies is in some degree substantiated by evidence from German interrogators of American soldiers, themselves taken prisoner before the offensive, who received instructions in early November to ask questions about the location of American dumps.

The German failure to achieve a complete break-through on a wide front or to overrun large American gasoline depots is believed already to confront him with difficulties of mobility. American troops in the Bastogne region on 22 December reported encountering tanks and infantry in numbers, but remarked on the absence of arty and supply columns. General von Mantluffel's last instruction to 5 Panzer Army was "regulate your supplies: don't leave anything to chance." 62 Volksgrenadier Division G-4 on 15 December contributed a last-minute shift of 2 light trucks from the APO to the food column of 162 Arty Regiment; a warning about gasoline consumption; and the bearish news that gasoline issue would amount to 2 1/2 consumption units (250 kilometers or roughly five days' requirements) per vehicle rather than the three consumption units originally promised. Elements of Panzer Lehr and 2 SS Panzer Divisions have been known to run short of gasoline, at least temporarily after the initial breakthrough and advance. It seems unlikely that their experience was unique. (Source: Twelfth Army Group. 29 Dec 1944)

PRELUDE TO VALHALLA

The latest von Runstedt Order of the Day, set forth below, contrasts vividly with the aggressive note of 16 December 1944.

167 Volksgrenadier Division Div CP 11 February 1945
Operations

**ORDER OF THE DAY
BY SUPREME COMMANDER WEST**

Soldiers of the Western Front!

The enemy is massing for a major offensive against the Rhine and the Ruhr. He will employ all his available strength to break into the Western areas of the Reich and to capture the Ruhr district. You know what such an event would mean in the face of the temporary loss of Upper Silesia.

The Wehrmacht would be without arms and the home front without coal

MY soldiers!

You have beaten the enemy in the great fall and winter battles. It is up to you once more to protect the German home front, our wives and children against foreign tyranny. You must shield the back of the men of the Eastern front, in order that they may break the Bolshevist onslaught and liberate the German soil in the East. »

One Round Gets Them All

(The following Criticism of US Tactics and Equipment was given by a German Battery Commander when captured as a PW)

This officer, a Captain, was captured 25 Dec at corner of woods located approximately (P514465). He was engaged in reconnoitering for an OP and for firing positions for his btry, which was expected to arrive from further E. At the time of capture the captain was with elements of the 14 Para Regt which he stated were armed with HMGs (Heavy Machine Guns).

The Captain states that from his location in the woods he had a good view of a group of US Tanks gathering along the N-S road. The tanks stayed there for quite a long time, undispersed, the men outside their vehicles, standing in groups and conversing. These men offered an excellent target to the German MGs, and the Capt does not know why the Inf commander did not order fire. He states that, had his 75s been in position, he would have raised hell with our tanks.

The Captain is acquainted with our arty only from the Normandy campaign and the present offensive. He does not think too highly of our accuracy. According to him the Russian arty is the best, and the English Arty is also better than ours. he further explained that, when we cover a target area with fire, our bursts are mostly too far (50-100 yds) apart. Also the fragmentation of our shells seems to him to be much inferior to that of the German shells.

(Source: III Corps thru VII Corps Periodic Report #206, This report is published 29 Dec

My brave fighters in the West!

The coming battle will be hard, but we must give our very last. Your steadfastness will break the great assault of the enemy. With unwavering confidence we shall flock around our Fuehrer, to save our people and our Reich from a dreadful fate.

The Supreme Commander West
(signed) v. Runstedt
Field Marshall

(Source: 1st US Div Periodic Rept 249)

Memorial to Battle of the Bulge Veterans

To those We Left Behind-

To let you know we care
now, even more than then.
Hard to believe its been fifty years
since we left you behind - went on to win.

We moved on then, reluctantly,
for the need to finish the job
where you left off — just as,
for us, you would have done, without a sob.

Those whom He allowed to return
built lives based on our shared dreams
— for a better life and lasting peace —
you helped make possible — part of His scheme?

Our belated thanks to you
wont square the score.
There would never be enough,
would you ask for more.

The world you died for
is not here yet.
But there are many signs
you've not lost your bet.

The dull landscape you viewed
through cold and misty gloom
is back alive, its beauty renewed.
You'd be proud it wasn't doomed.

Reverently, we lay these flowers
here, next to you — a small gesture
to let you know — we remember —
you paid the price, for evermore.

Without 'you all' and all of us
the Fuhrer's timetable might not have missed.
With your final stand he was disable.
Nevermore to conquer — (he was really miffed)

How different this World might be
Had you not held at Elsenborn
Rest in Peace — your life restored —
for being in Heaven is your great reward.

This poem was written by Jack W Rue, 99th Infantry
Division, a MD/DC Chapter and National VBOB
Member, and Life Member of American Legion Post 29.
Jack delivered this at the Henri Chapelle US Military
Cemetery in Belgium during his 50th Anniversary Bulge
trip, Dec 1994

ALLIED TACTICS

Two high ranking officer PWs have recently made
interesting specific criticisms of Allied tactics.

SS Colonel Hans Lingner, the 29 year-old commander
of 17 SS Panzer Grenadier Div, (not in our sector), had the
following remarks to make about our infantry and tanks:

The American Infantryman is as courageous as the
German soldier. With more experienced leadership all
German attacks from his divisional sector would have been
beaten back.

Patrols: American short range reconnaissance is not
sufficiently thorough. Through lack of aggressiveness they do
not succeed often enough in drawing fire which would reveal
location of heavy infantry weapons.

Missions are too complicated. It is impossible for any
patrol to bring back all the information requested of it. It
would be better to send out more smaller-sized patrols with
more modest missions.

Terrain Intelligence: American unit commanders do
not study carefully enough the terrain opposite their front.
This accounts for the fact that American heavy infantry
weapons are not always concentrated at the point where the
German main effort in the attack is normally to be expected.

Defense in Depth: PW states that out small units are
echeloned in depth excellently. The same cannot be said of
our divisions. The divisional reserves are spread out too
much, and in rows, instead of being concentrated to meet
tactical requirements.

Reserves: PW always took advantage of the fact that
our battalion and regimental commanders insist upon keeping
their reserves with them, instead of dispatching hem to an
adjoining sector which is endangered. It was his impression
that our commanders, in order to retain reserves, pretend that
an attack is imminent, or deliberately send their reserves
forward to meet a small attack so as not to have to part with
them for a longer period. Aware of this, PW invariably began
offensives with a fake attack with large amounts of small arms
fire. When the American forward unit commander of this
sector sent for reserves, and they were forthcoming, PW began
his main attack at a point where it should have been expected
from nature of the terrain, etc. The Americans thereby lost
precious time in gathering reserves for a successful counter-
attack.

Tactical Employment of Allied Tanks: Reasons for
our employment of medium tanks in groups or two or three is
not clear to PW. In his opinion the Sherman tank was not
conceived as a gun carrier in direct support of the infantry.
They should be used in company strength to achieve a general
breakthrough, considering the large numbers of tanks we
have at our disposal. Only the shortage of armor causes the
Germans to use their tanks in small numbers.

(Source: SHAEF Intelligence Notes No. 49)

PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIAL CERTIFICATE

A Presidential Memorial Certificate is available to
the family of each deceased veteran. Please
contact the Regional VA office to request one.

Fraternization with the Enemy

A mail clerk of a division unit accepted a post card from a German civilian for mailing to a PW in the US. Such action on his part is nothing less than fraternization with the enemy. It will not be tolerated

Source: 87th Inf Div.

Watch for Radio-Equipped Deserters

Two Belgian civilian who have recently come from enemy territory report that on 16 February they were told by a German civilian that about 1 February the Burgomeister of Berg (F-193267) had billeted a German patrol of five or six men led by a Lieutenant. It was reported that this patrol had penetrated the US lines in German uniforms, carrying a radio set from which information was transmitted during the mission. Further details as to place of penetration, length of time behind our lines and type of transmitter used were not disclosed. The German civilian, however, did state that the enemy troops frequently entered our lines with transmitters, and if caught simply threw their sets away and surrendered as deserter.

Source: First US Army (FUSA)

These people speak English too

**So zip the lip 'til the fighting's thru....
DON'T TALK!**

Source: 29th InfD security poster used even in the shower rooms

SOFT NOSE BULLET

A "soft nose" bullet was discovered in a weapon taken from a recent PW. The top of the bullet had been cut away until the soft metal core was exposed and the blunt edge was carefully rounded.

Source: 69th Ind Div

AFRAID of the "LITTLE FLOWER"

A ground report emanating from Switzerland says that "political reasons" have cause abandonment of German plans to attack NY with flying bombs launched from submarines.

(Source First US Army, 28 Feb 45, "Little Flower" refers to Mayor LaGuardia of New York City)

MORALE

Yesterday morning US troops occupied a red house in Vic 006762 while the Germans, including Capt Geisel, CO of CT Geisel, hid in a white house a hundred yards down the road. Geisel felt aggressive and wanted to throw the Americans out of the red house. One of the men realizing that the Capt had his fighting spirits bolstered unduly by a half bottle of Schnaps tried to dissuade him. "Nothing to it" said the Capt. He ordered a counterthrust under his personal leadership, rallied his two messengers and a straggler around him, and with the command "Charge!" he took off. The three others preferred to wait, and surrendered when Geisel was riddled by bullets from the red house. Asked whether Capt Geisel died for the Fuhrer, PW said, "No, he died for Schnaps!" Said the PW: "Did they waste ammunition on him!"

Source: VIII Corps

EXPENSIVE MISTAKE

One of the reasons for ground troops being prohibited from unsupervised firing on enemy aircraft is brought out by the following incident. Two days ago one of the V Corps Artillery's Liaison planes, while flying at a point several kilometers behind our lines, found himself in uncomfortable proximity to two FW-190's. Becoming more interested in safety than formation flying, the cub pilot charted his course beneath a clump of trees at which point he was at least safe from the enemy aircraft. Net artillery results from the air-ground battle which developed, was one liaison aircraft sufficiently riddled with .30 caliber small arms fire to be salvage material. Twelve inches of right deflection and the pilot would have been killed by a friendly bullet.

(Source: V Corps 28 Feb 45)

COMMENTS

Your comments about these Musings are welcome. Responses about any of the articles should be directed to your newsletter editor John D. Bowen, 613 Chichester Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20904-3331. They will be printed as space permits.

IMPORTANCE OF THOROUGH SEARCHING OF PW's

Statement of PW, NCO of an Engr Bn: "On 13 Feb I arrived with 200 other PWs at a factory near the river. There 20 of us were searched. I had a leather dispatch case in which there were three notebooks. An American guard took the dispatch case away, removed all the papers, threw them into a corner of the hall, and kept the dispatch case. In one of the notebooks, (a small one with a yellow cover), I had valuable notes on a new underwater mine-detector, on new types mines with chemical igniters, on the latest mine laying schemes which have never before used in action, and on CP locations of the 80th Corps and other high headquarters. This book was entitled 'Neue Vorschrift 220/4D'. A 2d notebook was a diary of company activities."

The above mentioned NCO had some time ago decided to desert to the Allies, and with that in mind, had accumulated notes and diagrams which he thought would be of help to us. His mental notes were found to be minutely accurate, and it can be assumed that the papers referred to in his statements are of inestimable value to our forces if they are in the hands of the proper authorities.

To date the papers mentioned have not been recovered. Through the ignorance of some soldier more interested in the acquisition of a souvenir (the dispatch case), much valuable information which might have saved many American lives and much equipment was lost to our forces. It will now be necessary to gain this information the "hard way."

(Source: 2d US Inf Div)

WOULD YOU BELIEVE?

The following information has been received but we are waiting for confirmation. A PW, captured by one of our neighbors, turned out to be a reinforcement recently arrived from Germany. Upon being questioned it was found that he knew remarkably little about his own unit. The interrogator becoming disgusted said "You are an unsatisfactory PW & turned him loose. The PW then swam a river, made some observations and returned to the interrogating officer. Reporting the results of his observations to the officer he then queried, Am I now Satisfactory? We feel this sort of thing should not go unnoticed!

(Source: 8 AD)

A GERMAN DIARY

of Lt Behmen, OC 2 Troop, 1818 Artillery Regt, 18 VG Div

16 December - First day of Atk. The sky was lit up along the whole front. A terrific barrage is laid on the whole line. By noon reports of the first successes come in. The population of Dupplen is very enthusiastic. AT 2 o'clock the Inf is in Bleiaf. Casualties are not light. It was there that the Americans were echeloned in depth.

17 December - Our fighter planes still control the air in the morning and afternoon.

18 December - The Inf is before St Vith. The men hear the wildest rumors of successes, but the official notices are very laconic about the attack.

19 December - Endless columns of prisoners pass; at first, about a hundred, half of them negroes, later another thousand. Our car gets stuck on the road. I get out and walk. Generalfeldmarshall Model himself directs traffic. (He's a little, undistinguished looking man with a monocle). Now the thing is going. The roads are littered with destroyed American vehicles, cars and tanks. Another column of prisoners passes. I count over a thousand men. In Andler there is a column of 1,500 men with about 50 officers, and a Lt Colonel who had asked to surrender.

20 December - According to statements of the civilians, the American soldiers did not conduct themselves badly at all. Mostly they slept apart from the civilians, and since they had enough to eat, they were able to give some to the civilians. Only the "White Army" (revenge) was at its worst. Many persons were taken away from their homes. Civilians too tell us that the American soldiers have shown little spirit for fighting. Most of them often said, "What do we want here? At home we can everything much better." That was the spirit of the common soldier. If the officers thought that way???...A rumor was set going that Eisenhower was taken prisoner. It will probably prove to be only a rumor.

22 December - After ST Vith is taken, traffic flows continuously. If enemy planes had appeared it would have been a terrible disaster. An Inf Div, and an Inf Regt Hq are set up in town. Also our Arty Bn Hq. We went to tank up at a large gasoline and food supply depot which the Americans had near a monastery, but all the stuff was already gone, except for half a can of petrol.

25 December - We are ordered to proceed to Hinderhausen. Over us circle enemy planes. All along the road, there are tremendous bomb craters, but it seems that very little was hit. Shortly before reaching Hinderhausen, we see a dive bomber start for us. We are able to stop the truck in time to get off the road as the bullets start flying about us. Nothing is to be seen of our air force; where is it? The heavy bombers fly toward the Reich, quiet and undisturbed. The AA is getting heavier but it doesn't seem to bother them. Only two bombers are knocked down. The pilots "hit the silk" but the dogs are lucky, and the wind drives

them toward the West. They actually regain enemy territory. If they had landed in our lines we'd slay them! In the evening, we see the fires in St Vith. I could cry from rage and tear the prisoners apart.

26 December - During the afternoon we undergo the second large-scale atk on ST Vith. Large bomber formations pass, and then the bombs drop; 200 tons and heavier. The house shakes, and the windows break; the terrorized family seeks refuge in the cellar. Babies cry, but the bombers keep on coming. It looks as though they were dropping phosphorous. There's nothing left of St Vith. Hours later, heavy smoke clouds were still rising.

16 January - Four weeks ago, our attack started. How quickly everything has changed! Here, again, we receive continuous fire from the enemy. During the day Recht is under heavy fire. Around noon, an order comes through to withdraw, one gun at a time, and to assemble at new positions. Dive bombers are active again. Because of this, the guns are forced to withdraw slowly. I wonder if we'll ever see the field kitchen again. We have only one two-wheeled cart left for transport, and no horses. I hope the horse will show up some day.

20 January - I am ordered to organise anti-tank defense in St Vith. For the first time since Christmas, I am in ST Vith again. The town is in ruins, but we will defend the ruins. I am sending the Signal Platoon back to Andler. We expect the attack on St Vith. Only small forces are available for the defense. The "8-balls" in the unit speak of a little Stalingrad.

21 January - There are no new messages. The battle-noises come closer to the town. We can already see the Inf on some of the heights. I am organising everything for a last defense. Rumor has it that the Tommies have surrounded the town. Some even believe it. At higher commands they believe that we will be forced to yield. These rear-echelon men!! I am neither optimistic nor pessimistic, and, I don't give up hope. When the kitchen goes back I will send all personnel not immediately needed back with it. During the day it is unnaturally quiet. Will the enemy surround the town? I'm sending back all of my personal belongings. One never knows. I wonder what Heide is doing? The news from the E (Eastern) front is very serious. There must be a decisive change very soon; What we need is submarines and airplanes. Only these things can help us.

22 January - Nothing new during the night. At eight o'clock, the enemy recommences his saturation fire from the direction of Neider Emel. Exactly one year ago, on 22 January I was in the same fix. At that time, as a non-com, I was involved in the retreat N of Galhelina; now, as a battery commander of a battery used as anti-tank security. The front lines are just as hazy now as they were then. Exactly one month ago, we took St Vith... (Source: SHAEF 4 Feb 45) (Editor: This diary gives an account of one German's experience during the Bulge. Obviously it was captured by the Americans and though great for history points out why the American Army forbade one to keep diaries.)

AN INTERROGATOR'S IMPRESSION CONCERNING GERMAN MORALE

The morale of the enemy is always a popular question. For many months now we have been reporting the morale well. During the period 27 Jan - 04 Feb approx 1700 prisoners were captured by this division (82nd A/B Div). A representative cross-section of this group has been interrogated and the following points seem to stand out.: The enemy has been severely effected by the events of the past three weeks on the Russian Front. Troops speak freely of their dislike and fear of the Russians. They cannot understand the motives of a High Command which allows the Russians to over-run their country and at the same time fiercely resist our efforts to advance toward the Rhine River. Troops are now deserting who a month ago would have fought tooth and nail for a very inch of ground. They are completely broken in spirit. Confronted with constant hard pressure from our forces, the failure of the Winter offensive, the ever-present retreating tactics coupled with an almost non-existent supply service, an extreme change for the worse is taking place in the morale of the enemy's forces. A defeatist attitude is becoming more and more prevalent. (Source: 82d A/B, 4 Feb)

RIFT IN WEHRMACHT

The following document captured by the 1st Inf Div shows there is a slight rift in the lute of the Regular Wehrmacht (ie, the 2d Bn, 991st Regt) and the apathetic odds and ends making up the Fortress units. The order is translated in extract:

From: CO, 2d Bn, 99st Gren Regt

1. The crew of Bunker 236 is tactically (ie, under combat conditions and while preparing for combat) employed and commanded by the CO of the __ Co, 2d Bn, 991st Inf Regt. Therefore his orders will be followed implicitly.
2. It is not allowed to move to the rear of the Company CP without specific permission from the Sector commanding Officer.
3. It is the responsibility of the commanding officer of the bunker, or his assistant to have the bunker prepared for combat, ie, he is responsible for the training of all men in the bunker in the fixed weapons of the bunker and those which are attached to it. Each man must be able to fire all organic weapons of the bunker by 1 Dec 44 and must have fired at least 50 rounds by this date. Each man must be able to correct jamming of weapons and must also be able to correct jamming of weapons and must also be able to dismantle them.
4. Every day all men will train with the weapons for at least two hours. Training will be done alternately during the day and during the night.
5. Combat Procedure: Getting the weapons ready will be carried out with closed slits; they will only be opened when the weapons are ready. Immediately after slits are open the firing will start and slits will be closed as soon as the last round is fired. All slits which are not used will be kept closed and locked.
6. I cannot understand the lack of interest and criminal negligence of some of the bunker commanders of the Fortress personnel with regard to training and care of weapons. German soldiers fight on all fronts every day and die in pursuit of their duty to their Fatherland as good soldiers. Fortress personnel after on an all quiet Front, are not even able to use their weapons properly. I am forced for this reason to remedy this situation by the most severe means at my disposal. Every commanding officer of a bunker or his assistant, who does not execute the orders of the battalion or regiment in the sector will be called before courtmartial within three days on charges of disobedience and sabotage on divisional level.

s/ Waller
Signature

(Source: 1st Inf Div Annex #1 to G-2 Rpt #38, 8 Feb 45)

GERMAN COMMENTS ON ALLIED ARTILLERY METHODS

The following comments were made by a captured German General who has been a professional artilleryman since WWI:

"It seems to be an established principle of Allied Arty not to fire in rainy or foggy weather, at lunch or dinner time, or at night. When shelling took place during these times, I concluded that special orders had been issued by higher headquarters and I immediately warned my unit commanders to be prepared for an attack.

Allied interdiction fire on critical points was carefully planned, but I could anticipate its location in time to take necessary countermeasures to protect my convoys and troops. Traffic in rear of the German lines can be jammed more effectively if Arty commanders keep this question constantly before them: 'What Alternatives has the enemy in order to get his supplies through?' Mental alertness and imagination in the choice of objectives will increase the value of the Allied artillery superiority." (Source: VII Corps)

VICTORY IN EUROPE

VICTORY ORDER OF THE DAY 9 May 1945

Men and Women of the Allied Expeditionary Force:

The crusade on which we embarked in the early summer of 1944 has reached its glorious conclusion. It is my especial privilege in the name of all nations represented in this theater of war to commend each of you for valiant performance of duty. Though these words are feeble, they come from the bottom of a heart overflowing with pride in your loyal service, and admiration for you as warriors.

Your accomplishments at sea, in the air, on the ground and in the field of supply, have astonished the world. Even before the final week of conflict, you had put 5,000,000 of the enemy permanently out of the war. You have taken in stride military tasks so difficult as to be classed by many doubters as impossible. You have confused, defeated, and destroyed your savagely fighting foe.

On the road to victory, you have endured every discomfort and privation, and have surmounted every obstacle, ingenuity and desperation could throw in your path. You did not pause until our front was firmly joined up with the great Red Army coming from the East, and other Allied Forces coming from the South.

FULL VICTORY IN EUROPE HAS BEEN ATTAINED/

Working and fighting together in a single and indestructible partnership, you have achieved a perfection in unification of air, ground and naval power that will stand as a model in our time.

General Dwight D Eisenhower

~~In recognition of the unconditional and abject surrender of the Nazi barbarians please accept the fervent congratulations and appreciation of myself and of the American people for the heroic achievements of your Allied Army, Navy and Air Forces by their sacrifices, skill and courage. They have saved and exalted the cause of freedom throughout the world. All of us owe to you and to your men of many nations a debt beyond appraisal for their high contribution to the conquest of Nazism.~~

I send also my personal appreciation of the superb leadership shown by you and your commanders in directing the valiant legions of our own country and of our Allies to this historic victory.

Please transmit this message to the appropriate officers of your command and publish it to all Allied Forces in your theaters of operation.

**Harry S Truman
President**

~~Editor's note: These congratulatory messages you were suppose to have received 50 years ago on 9 & 10 May 1945. They are as deserving today as they were then and are repeated here in case you have forgotten them with time. A Grateful Nation Remembers. Thank you for what you have did.~~



EVERLASTING DUTY

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

Col Walter F Nehey
Eternal Rest Grant Unto Him
His Earthly Duties Are Done

GET WELL SOON

Linda Fleming & Ed Radzwich continue to improve from surgery. C Blaquie Culp is also getting back to his irascible self. Glenn Kendrick is also on the mend.

Please keep them in your

Next Meeting
9 July 1995

12 Noon
Golf Course Clubhouse
off of Mapes Rd
by the MP Hq
Fort Meade MD
with lunch
in their beautiful
Ft Meade Golf Club

Directions:
Future Meetings:
Aug 20
Oct 1
Nov 12

9 July Meeting

The lunch and meeting will occur in the beautiful new Fort Meade MD Golf Clubhouse where they have a great cafeteria.

After the meeting we are hoping that the Battle of the Bulge Memorial Conference Room will be open for us to view the beautiful room, conference table and chairs. We had originally hoped to meet in the room but the room has only 20 seats and we expect more members in attendance than that. We will thus do a tour of the room assuming that the regulations and keys for the room have been

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CORNER

JUNE	JULY	JULY
John E Cahoon	Carroll E Beadenkopf	Dee Paris (80)
Harry L Durity	Clark F Edwards	Albert C Reed (70)
Harold R Fleming	Richard G Guenter (81)	Clyde D Strosnider
John Manlich Jr	Charles L Hile	Kenneth M Stearn
Kenneth L Myers (75)	Edwin C Hirsch Sr (85)	Charles B B Spinner
Leon D Platky	Russell T Hollingsworth	Jack W Rue (75)
Frank J Smollen	Glenn I Kendrick	Louis Romano
Salvatore Trapani Jr (70)	Fritz G A Kraemer (87)	We publish the ages every 5 years
Alton F Wagner (83)	William H Martin	and every year after 80. Be proud
John C Wall (70)	John Mc Murtagh	and have a Happy Birthday

CHAPTER ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON & MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Mark your Calendar for 1 October 1995, when we will repeat our successful Chapter Anniversary Luncheon and welcome our new members to the Chapter. Last years event was such a success that many asked that we repeat the affair this year. Back by popular demand, it will be held again, at the Fort Meade Officers Club at Noon. Details on the event will be announced in the next Marcher.

ARCHIVES II MOVIES

The new National Archives Building at College Park MD at 8101 Adelphi Rd will be sponsoring a wonderful array of Classic WWII movies which are free and are shown in their lovely new auditorium. In addition to being easy to get to it offers free parking and a cafeteria open to the public from 11 AM to 2 PM. Enter the mail door and proceed down to the Auditorium. If coming for lunch proceed to end of first floor to Cafeteria.

28 Jun - Noon -85 min The True Glory (1945) Epic documentary from Normandy to Germany's Surrender	12 Jul -7PM -103 min Open City - Classic account of Italian Resistance	2 Aug - Noon - 76 min Nuremburg Rise of Hitler and murder of millions	23 Aug - Noon - 58 min Let There be Light (1946) John Houston's battle psychosis rehab
28 Jun - 7PM - 112 min The Beginning or the End Manhattan Project 1947	19 Jul - Noon 59 min (1945) Nazi Concentration Camps	9 Aug - Noon - 50 min Hymn of the Nations The Cummington Story	23Aug - 7 PM - 85 min The Men (1950) Marlon Brando adjusting to life after paralysing injury
5 Jul - Noon - 70 min The Decision to Drop the Bomb	26 Jul - Noon - 51 min Post-War Jobs 1944 What to do with Germany The Returning Veteran 1945	9 Aug - <u>6:30PM</u> - 172 min The Best Years of Our Lives (1946)	Come for Lunch. Cafeteria open 11 AM to 2 PM
12 Jul Noon 52 min Your Job in Germany Surrender in the Pacific Our Job in Japan	26 Jul - <u>6:30 PM</u> - 178 min Judgment at Nuremburg Tracy , Dietrich, Schell	16 Aug - Noon - 42 min Reunion (1946) Seeds of Destiny (1946)	

Twilight Tattoo

Twilight Tattoo performances will be held on Wednesdays at 7 PM starting 12 July through 16 August 1995. The 23 August performance will start at 6:30 PM. They are free, no tickets are required and they are held on The Ellipse, between the White House and the Washington Monument.

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

The East Terrace of the US Capitol and the Sylvan Theater on the Washington Monument grounds are the stages for outdoor evening performances of the US Army Band (Pershing's Own) in a variety of military, patriotic and popular music.

A special rendition of Tchaikovsky's "Overture 1812" is performed in the late summer at Sylvan Theater with cannons from the 3d US Infantry (The Old Guard) adding spectacular flair.

The US Army Band performs the summer concerts with the same polish provided the President and heads of state. Each concert is unique and showcases the diverse parts of The Band, including the US Army Chorus and The Herald Trumpets.

Enjoy the sights and sounds of this professional musical group during lovely summer evenings.

TUESDAYS 6 Jun to 29 Aug, 8 PM, Sylvan Theater (Washington Monument Grounds)

FRIDAYS 2 Jun to 25 Aug, 8 PM, East Terrace, US Capitol

OVERTURE 1812, 22 Aug, 8 PM Sylvan Theater (Rain Date 29 Aug)

FORT MEADE CONCERTS

Concerts are outside Denver Hall (Old Officers Club) at 7 PM.
25 Jun Country Currents - 23 Jul Electric Brigade - 30 Jul Volunteers

SPECIAL E FLAG BAND CONCERT 25 JUN 1995

The Delaware Valley Chapter is presenting a special Band Concert by the 28th Infantry Div Band at Glen Foerd Estate, 5001 Grant Ave, Philadelphia PA on Sun 25 Jun at 2 PM. All are invited free and a number are going up. Take I 95 N to Academy Road Exit. Take exit to right on Frankfort Ave to 6th light and take a right on Grant Ave. Tel 215-

