

❖ WWII MUSINGS ❖

Volume 4 Issue 3

John D. Bowen, Editor

May/June 1996

Freedom Is Not Free

*I watched the flag pass by one day
it fluttered in the breeze
A young marine saluted it,
and then, he stood at ease.*

*I looked at him in uniform
so young, so tall, so proud;
with hair cut square and eyes alert,
he'd stand out in any crowd.*

*I thought how many like him
had fallen through the years.
How many died on foreign soil?
How many mother's tears?*

*How many pilots' planes shot down?
How many died at sea?
How many foxholes were soldiers' graves?
No, Freedom is not Free.*

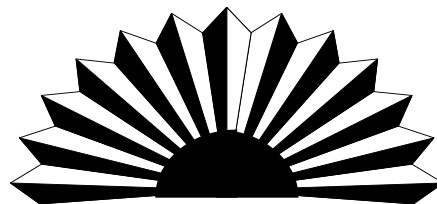
*I heard the sound of Taps one night,
when everything was still.
I listened to the bugler play,
And felt a sudden chill.*

*I wondered just how many times,
that Taps had meant "Amen."
When a flag had draped a coffin,
of a brother or a friend.*

*I thought of all the children,
of the mothers and the wives,
of fathers, sons, and husbands,
with interrupted lives.*

*I thought about a graveyard,
at the bottom of the sea,
of unmarked graves in Arlington.
No, Freedom is not Free.*

*Cadet Major Kelly Strong Air Force Junior ROTC, Homestead Senior HS Homestead FL,
April 1988*



FLAG DAY

As you all know June 14th, is Flag Day. That symbol of our nation that has lead us in battle and for which so many have shed their blood. Be sure to fly your flag this day. did you know...?

For 23 years, there were 15 stripes on our flag?

The red stripes on the flag symbolize England, and the white stripes represent America's separation from its mother country?

The American Flag is also called the Star Spangled Banner, The Star and Stripes, The Red, White & Blue and Old Glory?

The American Flag is older than the US Constitution?

Francis Hopkinson, a delegate to the Continental Congress, designed the American flag - not Betsy Ross, as most of us have been taught?

Memorial Day is the only National Holiday when the flag is flown at half staff?

Flag Day is the National Holiday commemorating the adoption of the American Flag?

When new states join the union, stars are added to the flag on the following July 4th?

Source: The Cannon, No VA VBOB Newsletter

VBOB REUNION

Register 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 and registration form are in the Bulge Bugle.

Editor's Corner

It is appropriate each year to remember our fallen comrades on this day of decoration. As a youngster growing up in New Bedford Massachusetts it was a special day of activities on Memorial Day culminating the activities of securing flowers and placing them or planting them upon the graves of loved ones and friends. On Memorial Day morning we would gather at the YD Memorial (Yankee Division, 26th InfD) as my uncle, a World War I veteran led the YD Drum and Bugle Corps in appropriate music and other WWI veterans would lay a wreath and appropriate remarks would be made before the firing squad fired a three round salute and Taps were played. Then in the afternoon there would be a parade mainly of the WWI veteran units but then as the Second World War progressed of Army units from Camp Edwards and Fort Rodman and Navy personnel from Newport RI and any ships that were in port at home. It was a day of remembrance and patriotism and the start of warm weather. Always General Logan's declaration establishing Memorial Day was read. General Logan is buried within our Chapter boundaries. He is buried in the cemetery next to the Soldiers' and Sailors' home in the District of Columbia. When I aged into the 50s I became part of the firing squads that the Army Junior ROTC provided that day all over town. Paying tribute to those that had fallen. It is appropriate now as then to pay special tribute to all our deceased friends and relatives but to especially to remember those fallen veterans who gave their life so that we might be free.

It was with shock that I learned of Admiral Brooda's taking his own life. Our heart goes out to his family and friends and to our Navy comrades. A remarkable career from the lowest ranks of the service to the top of the chain deserves recognition and admiration. We can remember him and his family in our prayers.

Beginning with this issue we will highlight one of the Armor Division histories taken from Armor Magazine. Permission is automatically granted by Armor providing the masthead and author is cited. In so far as possible we will use the copy from the magazine rather than retype it. I thank Armor Magazine for allowing this to be reprinted.

All Gave Some

89th Infantry Div

Crossing of the Rhine

1. At 0200, 26 March 1945, the division began its crossing of the Rhine in Assault boats manned by men of the 1st Bn, 353rd Inf and the 1st & 2nd Bns, 354th Inf. The attack was splendidly supported by our artillery and other weapons. Our engineers assisted Corps Engineers in the dangerous work of handling boats and rafts. Our medical men were close behind the fighting troops. The Germans strongly defended the river bank and the leading waves were met by fire from machine guns, 20mm aircraft and artillery. Losses were heavy but there was no faltering; the boats went on and our troops landed and attacked the enemy wherever they found him. Many of these officers and men were under fire for the first time and all were new to battle. Their behavior showed the highest type of courage.

2. In this crossing the staff work and the performance of all the service elements of the division were excellent.

3. The division accomplished with outstanding success a truly difficult operation, and has received the congratulations of the Corps Commander. The Moselle was comparatively easy. The Rhine in the sector assigned to us was a man's job. It should be a matter of pride to you for the rest of your lives that you were present at an achievement which will live in history. I commend and thank you each one for your part in it. I am proud to command you and am sad only at the thought of the brave men we have lost.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

AMERICANISM by Morris Goltz

History is a vital part of our education that we gain from text books reinforced by our Teacher skills. The lessons of History should be utilized to better our lives, but the ability to make "right decisions" and avoid "wrong choices" is not an easy accomplishment. Despite the devastating effects to Mankind by decisions of former generations, so many of the mistakes of the past are repeated by the Living of To Day. The explanations for these choices are complex and debatable.

An extreme enemy of mankind is the History Revisionist, who follow the repugnant dictates of "their plan of evil" of changing the facts of history to bald faced lies, by their actions that teach their followers their plan of evil emphasizing that the repetition of a lie over and over again will uproot the truth (their recent plot attempting to flim flam their listeners into believing that the Nazi Holocaust did not exist).

Our American Youth strongly cherish the lessons of history directly from the Veteran who lived through the horrors of war and speaks to them in their own classroom environment.

(Morris Goltz is a Combat Medic, 26th Infantry Yankee Division and Past Commander MOPH #170 Phila & Suburban Counties, PA. He has appeared at William Tennet High School, Warminster PA, Solomon Schechter Grade School, Elkins Park, PA, Temple University, Phila PA and North Penn High School, Lansdale PA)

PATTON'S UNLIKELY LEGACY

By Christopher Cox

The story below appeared in the Boston Herald of 21 December 1995 datelined Bethlehem, Conn.

The day always begins early, at 1:45 a.m., with a walk to chapel for Matins, an ancient Gregorian chant. The walks to Chapel, the ethereal Latin prayers, continue throughout the day every day, at the Abbey of Regina Laudis. This morning will be no different for Mother Margaret Georgina, 42, except that she will also reflect upon her grandfather, General George S. Patton Jr., who died 50 years ago today (21 December 1945).

She will not be alone. Her famous forebearer will enjoy the thoughts of her fellow 38 nuns, for a series of unlikely events binds the profane, audacious general, the greatest American battlefield commander of the 20th century, to a community of devout nuns living in an enclosed Benedictine monastery in Western Connecticut.

"The longer you're here," Mother Margaret Georgina says of the mysterious connections, "the more you'll realize that nothing happens by accident."

The miracles began on August 27, 1944, in a small village east of Paris, where a young nun from Pittsburgh, Sister Benedict Duss, OSB, endured the Nazi occupation in the abbey of Notre Dame de Jouarre. On that day, she climbed the 11th-century abbey tower to watch an army march through town. "It was a river of soldiers dressed in khaki," recalled the 82 year old nun, now Lady Abbess of Regina Laudis. "For a while we didn't know who they were," until she saw a white star on the side of an olive-drab American tank. It was Patton's 3rd Army, cutting a swath through Europe.

"He moved fast in those days," Lady Abbess said fondly. "Always fast. Speed was one of his attractions." The star, she said, illustrates the Feast of the Epiphany; it is also her personal symbol. Espying it on the side of a tank, she was struck with a profound inspiration.

"At that moment," Lady Abbess said, "I felt I had to return to the U.S. and try to establish a new monastery that would express my jubilation of the Liberation." In 1948, she established the Abbey of Regina Laudis, "Our Lady of Praise," on 350 acres surrounding a former brass-polishing factory. In the spirit of contemplative gratitude, the nuns annually commemorate August 27, the day Patton liberated Jouarre and, in a sense, created their abbey.

Margaret Patton was ignorant of the connection when she first saw the Abbey in 1972. She was 18, normally Episcopalian, a "pseudo vegetarian" freshman at Bennington College trying to renounce the Patton legacy. "Those were the Vietnam years, and being General Patton's granddaughter was nothing I put around," she said.

Intrigued by a weekend stay at the abbey with a roommate, she returned for a longer summer visit. Lady Abbess soon asked to see her. "I immediately saw the Patton relationship," said Lady Abbess, fingering her tulipwood crucifix, which is adorned with one of the General's stars.

The founder asked if Patton would raise the American flag at the August 27 event honoring her purposeful grandfather and his troops. The young, restless woman was dumbfounded." Something was happening she couldn't dismiss. She began taking instruction a year later, converted to Catholicism when she was 22. She entered the Abbey as a postulant in 1982.

"It never struck me as coincidence to come here," Mother Margaret Georgina said, "because it was so unlikely." When she was received into the community, Lady Abbess named her Margaret Georgina. She also helped the young nun come to terms with her controversial grandfather. Mother Margaret Georgina read his letters and journals, came to appreciate his meticulous, passionate nature, to accept his insecurities and frailties. The art of war never flummoxed Patton; it was his sudden rages against shell-shocked soldiers, his unguarded remarks, that ultimately doomed his career.

The granddaughter, who now spends her days adhering to the four mainstays of Benedictine monastic life - prayer, study, charity and work (attained horticulturist, she raises tropical flowers for the chapel) - draws parallels between the general's chivalric notion of combat and the ancient mission of her order.

"I do believe there is such a thing as evil that has to be combatted," she said. "m...We are, in our own way as women of the church, in a kind of combat that is not far from what he encountered. We don't rip across the countryside, but we are engaged in a fight. In June 1994, she and Lady Abbess traveled to France for a D-Day ceremony commemorating Patton's camp in Normandy, which the French government declared a national memorial.

The Abbey Regina Laudis will maintain the site forever in his memory. Redeeming the disorder of humanity is not a quick process but Mother Margaret Georgina Patton draws strength from one of her grandfather's favorite maxims - preached by the French revolutionary Danton - that is displayed forever upon a granite boulder in a quiet French orchard: *Audacity, more audacity, always audacity.* "That's the point," she said, her steel-blue eyes beaming. "That's what religious freedom is: to be able to live with an audacity. You have nothing to hide."

Thanks is given to John E. McAuliffe, Commander Central Massachusetts Chapter, Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, for submitting this newspaper article.

REUNIONS

9th Inf Div Assn, 4-7 Jun, Kiamesha Lake NY. Contact Bill Moody, Concord Hotel Resort,, Kiamesha Lake NY 12751. 800-431-3850. Bulge Unit

30th Inf Div Assn, 12-16 Jun, The Pines Resort Hotel, So Fallsburg NY. Contact William Ingoglia, 83 Brussels Ct, Toms River NJ 08757. 908-505-8079. Bulge Unit

The Society of the First Inf Div (Big Red One) 10-14 Jul, Salt Lake City UT. Contact Arthur L Chaitt, 5 Montgomery Ave, Erdenheim PA 19038, 215-836-4841. Bulge Unit

83rd Inf Div Assn WWII, 13-19 Aug, Holiday Inn, Independence, OH. Contact Robert Derickson, 3749 Stahlheber Rd, Hamilton OH

45013-8907, 513-863-2199. Bulge Unit

82nd Airborne Div Assn, 15-17 Aug, Ft Mitchell KY. Contact S R Gossett at 513-898-5977 or write Operation Bluegrass, 1996, 5459 Northcutt P., Dyton OH 45414-3742. Bulge Unit

Fourth Armored Div Assn, 19-25 Aug, Radisson OH, Columbus OH. Contact Samuel A Schenker, 1823 Shady Dr, Farrell PA 16121. 412-342-6058. Bulge Unit

612th Tank Destroyer Bn, 21-25 Aug, Nashville TN. Contact Jack Flanagan, 139 St Andrews Rd, Severna Park MD 21146, 410-987-1701. Bulge Unit.

84th Inf Div Railsplitter Soc, 24-28 Aug, Williamsburg VA. Contact Thomas H Stone, Jr. 14308 Shelter Cove Rd,

Midlothian VA 23112, 804-739-4155. Bulge Unit

14th Tank Bn Assn 9th Armd Div, 28 Aug - 1 Sep 1996, Northwest Chicago, Ill. Contact Frank M Simons, 91 Rotonda Cir, Rotonda West FL 33957, 813-697-2494.

94th Inf Div assn, 29-31 Aug, Hyatt House, Kansas City MO. Contact Harry Helms, 809 Dogwood Dr, Downingtown PA 19335, 810-363-7826 Bulge Unit

6th Armored Div Assn, 3-8 Sep, Scottsdale AZ. Contact Edward F Reed, Po Box 5011, Louisville KY 40255-0011. Bulge Unit

70th Inf Div Assn, 5-8 Sep, Clarion Plaza Hotel, Orlando FL. For information contact Louis a Hoger 5825 Horton St, Mission KS 66202-2608

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, 8-11 Sep, Cape Codder, Hyannis, MA. Contact Nancy Monson, PO Box 11129, Arlington VA 22210-2129, Tel 703-528-4058

83rd Inf Div Boston Chapter, 30 Sep-4 Oct, Pines Resort Hotel, South Fallsburg NY. Contact Pat DiGiammenino, 36 East Border Rd, Malden MA 02148, 817-322-2754. Bulge Unit

SHAEF/ETOUSA Veterans Assn (European Theater, WWII) 4-6 Oct, Ramada Plaza resort Orlando FL. Contact Alan F Reeves, 2301 Broadway, San Francisco CA 94115, 415-921-8322

Twenty Rules of Combat

1. If the enemy is in range, so are you.
2. If its stupid, but works, it ain't stupid.
3. You are not superman
4. Never draw fire; it irritates all around you.
5. When in doubt, empty the magazine.
6. Never share a foxhole with one braver than you.
7. Your weapon was made by the lowest bidder.
8. If you can't remember, the Claymore is pointed toward you.
9. All five-second grenade fuses are three seconds.
10. The enemy diversion you are ignoring is the main attack.

- 11 If you're short on everything except enemy, you're in combat.
 12. Incoming mail has the right of way.
 13. No combat-ready unit ever passed inspection.
 14. No inspection-ready unit ever passed combat.
 15. Teamwork is essential, it gives them more people to shoot at.
 16. Tracers work both ways.
 17. The only thing more accurate than incoming enemy fire is incoming friendly fire.
 18. Try to look important, they may be low on Ammo.
 19. Radios will fail when you need fire support.
 20. Close only counts in horseshoes, grenades & nukes.
- Source: The Cannon NoVa VBOB Newsletter, Beverley VanHouten, Editor

REMEMBER THIS!

PW Max Denisch of the 12 SS Panzer Regt, SS Panzer Div "Hitler Jugend" volunteered the following information at the First US Army cage: Just prior to their commitment in the present attack, the Div Commander Diese or Wiese made the following statement to his troops:

"I ask you and expect you, not to take any prisoners with the possible exception of officers, who might be kept alive for the purpose of questioning."

Source: Hq 121 Inf, 241900 Dec 44

OTHER FRONTS

Penetration in the SS went as far as St Hubert and LaRoche. On the N at Stavelot, enemy column was destroyed there. At St Vith, 2 Col were prevented from joining up and were being neutralized yesterday afternoon. Yesterday at Malmedy they destroyed 83 tks and vehicles. Air was in operation yesterday, knocked down 30 German planes, supplies were dropped in Bastogne by planes to the 101st Airborne. 400 Fortresses, w/about 700 fighter escorts bombed Trier and other German supply lines. The German Air Force came up in strength and 69 German planes killed.

Source: Hq 121 Inf, 241900 Dec 44.

Fuehrer Admits

Report on Fuehrer Briefing on 22 Apr 1945

Beginning of briefing: Appr 1530 O'clock

Before the briefing Generalmajor Christian presented me to the Fuehrer as his adjutant.

After representatives of the different branches had finished making their reports the Fuehrer withdrew for a short time. Subsequently, all officers present at the briefing were ordered before the Fuehrer. I personally had occasion, after General Christian had called me over from a room adjoining the Fuehrer's shelter to hear the following expressed by the Fuehrer:

This essentially is what he said:

I consider the war lost and I feel that I have been lied to and cheated by those, who had all my confidence. I have resolved to stay in Berlin, the great German city committed to war against Bolshevism. I have also decided to take charge of the defense of this city (Berlin).

All attempts by those present at the briefing - as well as Reichsfuehrer SS (notified by phone) Grand Admiral Doenitz (notified by phone) - to cause the Fuehrer to modify his resolution, were useless.

Reichminister Dr Goebbels also was present, when the Fuehrer stated his decision. Reichs Foreign Minister von Ribbentrop, who had also made his appearance at the Fuehrer's shelter, was not given a chance by Hitler to voice his opinion on this occasion.

On our trip back to Kurfuerst Generalmajor Christian confirmed the words of the Fuehrer which I was privileged to hear. Generalmajor Christian, in the course of our discussion of the events, called this briefing the historical event of our times. He also pointed out that for the first time the Fuehrer admitted the hopelessness of the war situation and accompanying it Europe's hopeless stand against Bolshevism.

Signed VOLCK

1st Lt and Adj.

Source: G-2 Bulletin No 69, Hq Seventh US Army, Records of the US Army, National Archives and Records Administration

Goering's Thoughts

Hitler's decision to wage war with Russia provided a great shock and disappointment to Goering and brought the realization that Hitler was incapable of withstanding set-backs. This was first demonstrated when, in the battle for Stalingrad, Hitler refused to let the army of 200,000 men under von Taulus cut its way out. Subsequently he ordered this army supplied by air in direct opposition to recommendations by Goering. The result of this attempt was a severe loss of equipment, especially an entire wing of HE-177 which Goering has other specific plans for, and the eventual loss of the battle of Stalingrad anyway.

The controversy resulted in a relationship which steadily deteriorated with Hitler giving and countermanding orders unbeknownst to Goering or giving orders impossible to fulfill.

Goering believes that the alliance with Italy was a great detairant to Germany. This belief was not alleviated by Goering's strong personal dislike for Mussolini. For this reason he refused to be present at the scheduled Hitler-Mussolini meeting at the Fuehrerhauptquartier which involved the July 20 Putsch. Goering states that it was impossible to organize an effective anti-Hitler movement at the time without incorporating the aid of the SS which he considers an untrustworthy organization. Goering did not relinquish his position as Chief of the Luftwaffe due to his fear that Bormann, for whom he had a special dislike, would usurp the place of successor to Hitler.

Source: Seventh US Army from Ninth US Army, Records of the National Archives, RG 407.

EISENHOWER MESSAGES

To Troops of A.E.F.

22 Dec 1944

To Every Member of the A.E.F.: The enemy is making his extreme effort to break out of the desperate plight into which you forced him by your brilliant victories of the summer and fall. He is fighting savagely to take back all that you have won and is using every treacherous trick to deceive and kill you. He is gambling everything, but already in this battle, your unparalleled gallantry has done much to foil his plans. In the face of your proven bravery and fortitude, he will completely fail.

But we cannot be content with mere repulse.

By rushing out from his fixed defenses the enemy has given us the chance to turn his great gamble into his worst defeat. So I call upon every man, of all the Allies, to rise now to new heights of courage, of resolution and of effort. Let everyone hold before him a single thought - to destroy the enemy on the ground, in the air, everywhere - destroy him! United in this determination and with unshakable faith in the cause for which we fight, we will, with God's help, go forward to our greatest victory.

PROMOTIONS

To George Catlett Marshall
Cable S74971/SG 962. Secret

14 Jan 1945

From Eisenhower to General Marshall for his eyes only: This is in reply to your W-90769 regarding promotions. The first paragraph deals with the subject of four star generals. I believe that the first consideration should be to accord this rank to relatively few officers and to preserve its traditional prestige in our army. I understand that the authorization for five-star rank automatically terminates at the end of the war. Only those persons occupying positions of very great responsibility and who have established a long record of good solid accomplishment therein should be given four star rank. I think your first list should be relatively small covering the men whose selection would be universally approved. Thereafter, at intervals, you could make a promotion occasionally as a special recognition for services along the line indicated above. You now have only Stilwell in four star grade. I believe the Navy already has Stark, Ingersoll, Halsey, Spruance and possibly others and is now nominating four. In these circumstances you could make six or seven on your first list and be well on the conservative side considering the size of the Army.

Specifically I think that both Somervell and Handy should be promoted.

In this theater I think that only Spaatz and Bradley should be promoted on the first list, but I believe that the omission of either of these names would be a mistake. I consider Spaatz to be the best all-round air commander that I know. While true that the Battle of the Ardennes is not over, I should like to point out the fine record of solid accomplishment that is behind Bradley all the way from the time that you sent him to me in February

1943. Moreover, the Battle of the Ardennes is one of those incidents that is to be anticipated along a great line where contending forces are locked up in battle with varying fortunes in particular sections on the front. The real answer is the leadership exhibited by the commander in meeting his problems. I consider that throughout this affair Bradley had handled himself admirably.

With respect to Devers, although he is an army group commander I am not yet ready to make a recommendation for his promotion. At a later date I will give you a more detailed evaluation of him. Patton has done a remarkable job but his promotion now would simply involve you in argument and I do not believe it necessary. I probably will recommend Patton at a later date, possibly even ahead of Devers. Patton was, I think the first man to lead an American army into battle in this war and he has done a fine job throughout. But I repeat that he should wait for a little time.

If you promoted anyone at all in the Mediterranean on your first list it should be McNarney in recognition of the great work he did as your deputy. That theater has diminished in importance from a U.S. viewpoint but you might consider that your senior officer there should be raised one notch. So far as my personal conviction about McNarney is concerned, I consider him one of our finest officers. Moreover, Clark has been a group commander only two months or so.

In the Pacific it seems to me that Krueger is a special case. You so not have an army group commander there and moreover his age makes it impossible for him to be an embarrassment to you when you have to reorganize after the shooting is over.. This is an important factor. I do not believe that any of my army commanders would be resentful if Krueger were named. I realize also that Kenney has done a remarkable job and I assume the size of his force is considerable. Therefore I see no reason why he should not be named. Theoretically I suppose Eaker would have equal claim with Kenney but after all, Eaker works strategically under Spaatz and should at least wait until after Spaatz has held the rank for a period. I think it is a nicely balanced decision as to whether to make Kenney now or after waiting a little while.

New subject: With respect to Simpson, he should by all means be made a temporary lieutenant general. He is excellent in every respect.

New subject: You are quite right in assuming that I have several battle field promotions that I should like to make, all of them Brigadiers who are commanding divisions most successfully. Already named in my S-71696 is Brigadier General Frank Keating. In addition there are: Brigadier General Robert W Hasbrouck who did a brilliant job in commanding the 7th Armored Division in this battle; Brigadier General Anthony C. McAuliffe, who commanded 101st in the crisis and now has 103d; Brigadier General William G Weaver who did another great job as divisional

EISENHOWER'S MESSAGES (Continued from Page 7)

SALUTE TO THE ENGINEERS

*Now it's all very fair to fly through the air,
Or to humor a heavy gun, or to ride in tanks
Through the ranks of the crushed and battered Huns,
And it's nice to think when the U-boats sink
Of the glory that outlives years,
But whoever heard one vaunting word
For the Muddy Old Engineers?*

*Now you mustn't feel when you read this spiel
That the Engineer is a jealous knave,
That he joined the ranks for a vote of thanks
In search of a hero's grave.
No, your mechanized cavalry's quite all right
And your Doughboy has few peers,
But where in hell would the lot of them be
If it weren't for the Engineer's*

*Oh, they look like tramps, but they build your camps,
And they sometimes lead the advance,
And they sweat red blood to bridge the flood
To give you a fighting chance.
Who stays behind when it gets too hot
To blow up the roads in your rear?
Just tell your wife that you owe your life
To some Muddy Old Engineers.*

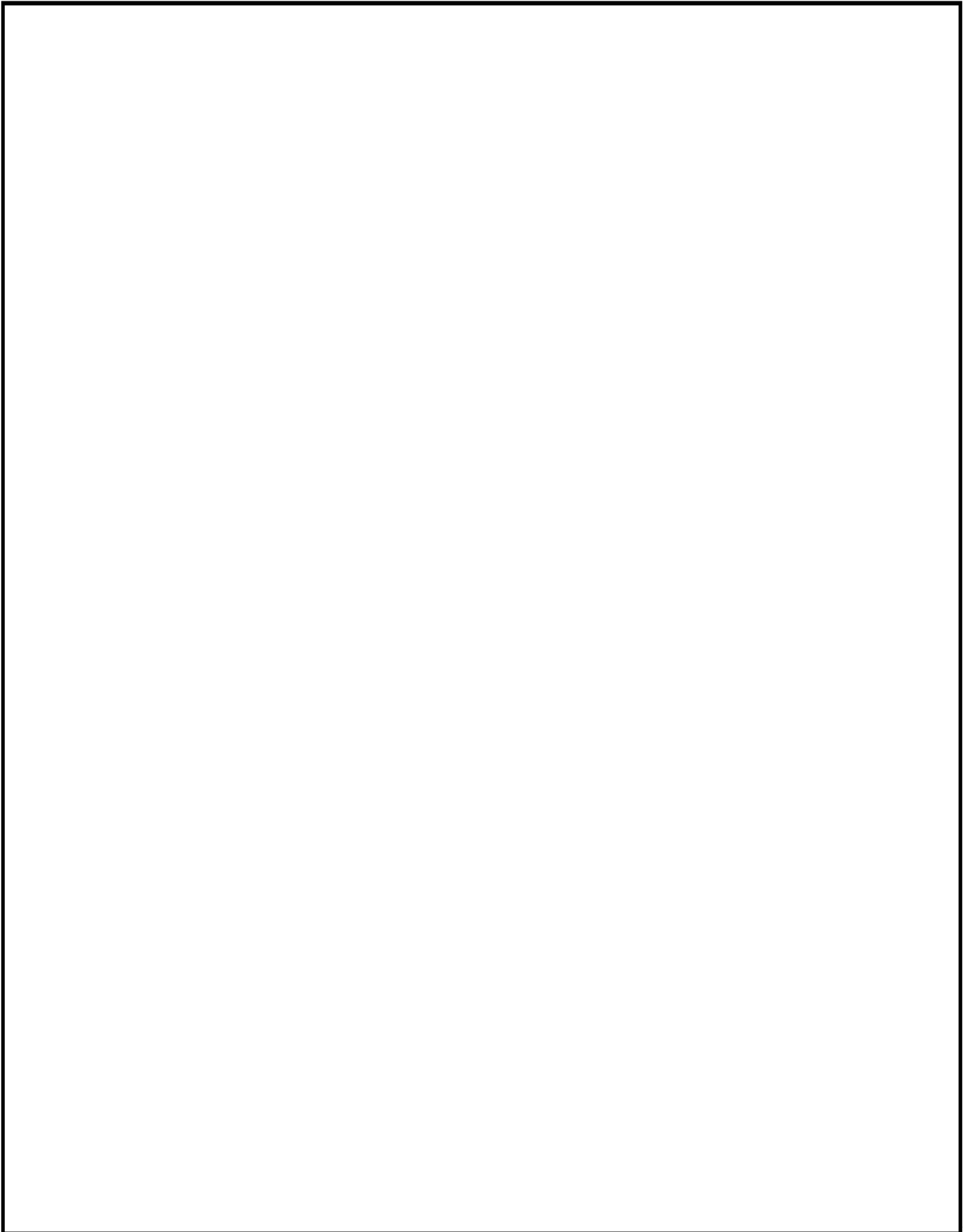
*Why "Hone soit qui mal y pense" is a gruesome sort of phrase,
But their modest claim to immortal fame
Has probably reached their ears,
The first to arrive and last to leave
Are the Muddy Old Engineers*

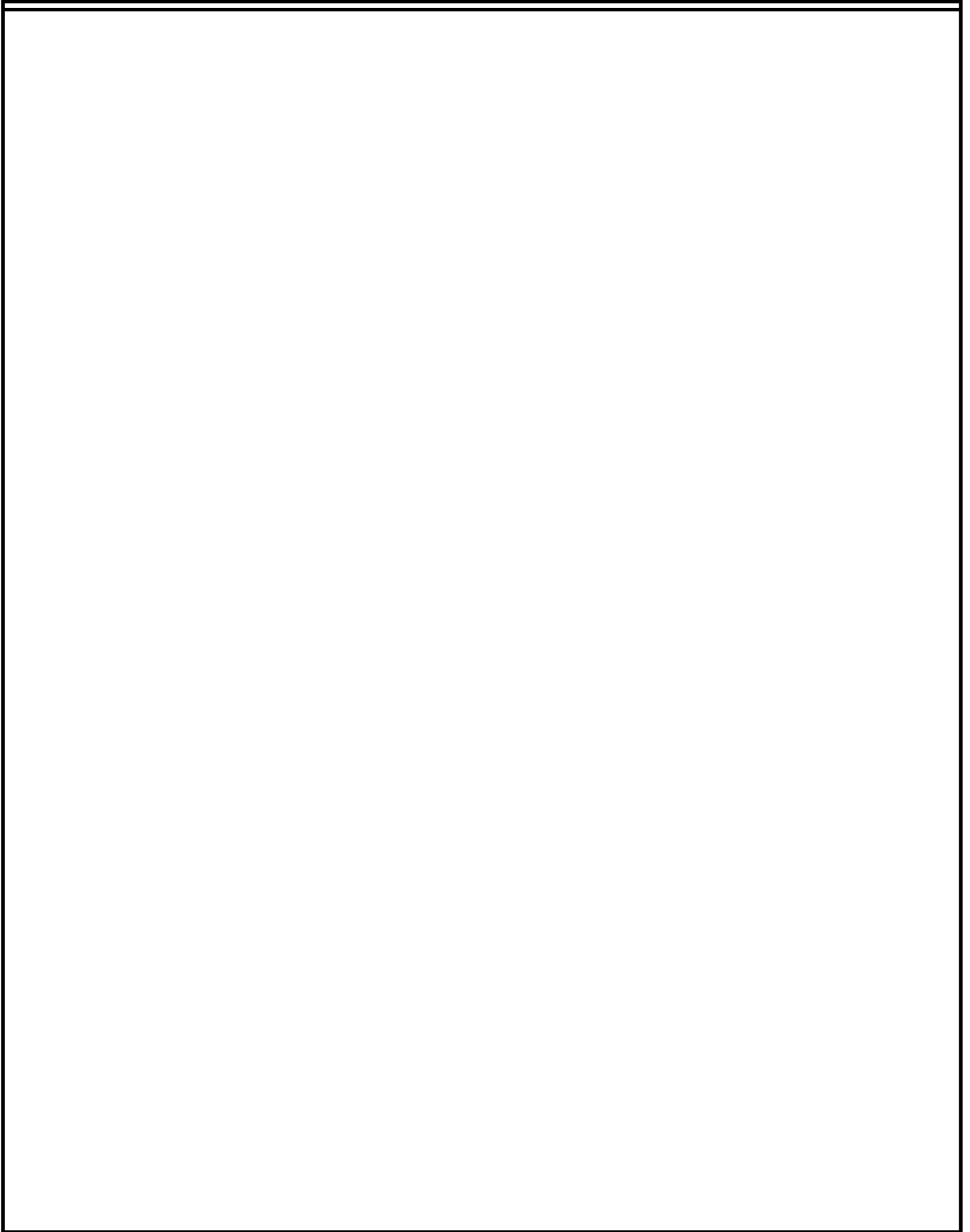
Thanks to Herb Winterbuerg who furnished the above poem to the 296th Engineer Combat Bn "Newsletter"

commander; Brigadier General Alexander R Bolling, commanding 84th Division. If by reason of including these names you feel compelled to remove any names from the reduced consolidated list given you in my S-71696, I think we would be hurt least if you remove the names of Brigadier General Floyd L Parks and Colonels Eugene L Harrison and James M Franey. I understand your difficulties in trying to recognize the fine work so many officers have done in staff positions of really great responsibility but I do hope that inclusion of above Brigadiers for promotion to divisional commander ranks will not compel you to reduce the list I last submitted.

I think you would like to know that three of our corps commanders, Gerow, Collins and Ridgway, have added in this battle to their former high reputations. Without exception they are universally regarded as three of the finest officers we have and if any vacancies ever occur here in army command these three men would be selected in the order named above. With respect to them Montgomery said as follows: "It must be most exceptional to find such a good lot of corps commanders gathered together in one army."

Footnote: Promotions were received as follows: Kreuger became General on 5 Mar 1945, Somervell became General on 6 Mar 1945, McNarney on 7 Mar, Devers on 8 Mar, Kenney on 9 Mar, Clark on 10 Mar, Spaatz on 11 Mar, Bradley on 12 Mar, Handy on 13 Mar, and Patton got his fourth star on 9 April. Hasbrouck, McAuliffe and Weaver were made Major Generals early in January.





DONATIONS

The New England Chapters of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge have a fund raising raffle to help defray the cost of the plaque to be placed at the Hyannis Common at this years VBOB Reunion. First prize is \$300 and there are second and third prizes of lesser amounts.

Tickets are \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00 and may be obtained from John E McAuliffe, President, Central Massachusetts Chapter, VBOB, 425 Pleasant St, Apt 1410, Worcester MA 01609.

The winners will be picked at the 1996 VBOB Reunion at Hyannis Massachusetts in September 1996. You do not have to be present to win.

RE-OCCUPIED BILLETS

It has been reported that a unit moving in to occupy billets, vacated two hours previously by other US troops, found the place throughly booby-trapped. Since the foregoing US troops had left the place free of booby traps, civilains were the only one who could have done this. In view of the fact that there was only a two-hour lapse between moves, indications are that the civilains knew when the unit was to move and that they had material and were organized to set booby-traps on short notice. (source: "Watch out for Booby-Traps," SHAEF, May 1945) as found in the Special Periodic REport No 4, Hq 78th InfD, 18 Jul 45 at the National Archives and Records Administration RG 407)

WWII MUSINGS & Marcher

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

<i>Freedom is Not Free</i>	<i>Page 1</i>
<i>89th Inf Div</i>	<i>Page 2</i>
<i>Patton's Unlikely Legacy</i>	<i>Page 5</i>
<i>Eisenhower Messages</i>	<i>Page 6</i>
<i>Salute to the Engineers</i>	<i>Page 7</i>
<i>16th Armored Div</i>	<i>Page 8</i>

FIRST CLASS

MEETING SUN 9 Jun 1996

John D. Bowen Editor

ARDENNES □ CAMPAIGN

May/

EVERLASTING DUTY

We offer our prayers for all our members who have died.
Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them
Their Earthly Duties Are Done

GET WELL SOON

William F Higgins
Mrs. Robert Bowen
Charlie Krause
Linda & Harold Fleming
Ben Layton (Fractured ankle)
Angie Purcell
Ed Radzwich
Doris Brooks
Please keep them in your prayers.



Next Meeting

9 Jun 1996

11:30-1:00 Lunch followed by meeting
Golf Clubhouse off of Mapes Rd
Fort Meade MD
Bring Souvenirs

Future Meetings:
Aug 11 Officers Club
Oct 13 Golf Clubhouse Elections

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
PPres	CA Blaquie Culp

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CORNER

JUNE		JUNE		JUNE	
John E Cahoon	06/07	Philip C. Montgomery	06/15	Frank J. Smollen	06/30
Harry L Duritz	06/29	Kenneth G. Myers	06/20	Anthony Strank	06/21
Harold R Fleming	06/06	Leon David Platky	06/05	Salvatore Vic Trapani, Jr.	06/04
Charles R. Hohl	06/17	Richard A Rehling	06/13	Alton F. Wagner	
John Manlich, Jr.	06/03	Joseph F. Schwalier	06/22	John C. Wall	06/17
JULY		JULY		JULY	
Carrol E. Beadenkopf	07/02	Clenn I Kendrick	07/03	Albert C. Reed	07/16
Charles F. Edwards	07/09	Dr. Fritz G. A. Kraemer	07/03	Louis Romano	07/08
Richard G (Gerry) Guenther	0728	William H Martin	07/03	John Rue	07/27
Charles L. Hile	07/22	John E. Mc Murtagh	07/21	Charlie B. B. Spinner	07/07
Edwin C. Hirsch, Sr.	07/07	Wilbor O. Nelson, Jr.	07/03	Kenneth Melvern Stearn	07/26
Russell T Hollingsworth	07/29	Demetri Paris	07/12	Clyde D. Strosnider, Sr.	07/16

At the February meeting the Chapter voted to donate \$100 to the WWII Memorial. At the March National Executive Council Meeting it was also voted to donate \$100 to the WWII Memorial Fund.

Members may contribute individually to the WWII Memorial. The address is: WWII Memorial Capital Campaign, PO Box 75071, Washington DC 20013. The quicker the funds are raised, the quicker construction can begin.

TWILIGHT TATTOO

Enjoy a sunset parade with the Old Guard and the US Army Band! This colorful outdoor presentation of music and military drill is performed on the Ellipse near the White House. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and rest under the setting sun as you and your family and summer guests experience the traditional honors and tribute presented to dignitaries and heads of state.

Performance are FREE and NO tickets are required. Performances are held each Wednesday from 10 July to

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

The US Army Band ensures you'll have a song in your heart all summer! The band's outdoor evening concerts of military, patriotic and popular music at the US Capitol and the Washington Monument grounds showcase different talents of the band, including the US Army Chorus and The Herald Trumpets. Performances are Tuesdays at 8 PM at the Sylvan Theater on the Washington Monument grounds from 4 June to 27 August. They will also be held on Friday evenings at the East Steps of the US Capitol at 8 PM from 7 June till 30 August. Tickets are NOT required.

A Special rendition of Tchaikovsky's "Overture 1812" is performed on 16 July, (rain date 23 July), at 8 PM at the Sylvan Theater, on the Washington Monument grounds with cannons from the 3rd US Infantry adding spectacular

SPIRIT OF AMERICA

The US Army Military District of Washington invites you to attend the story of the American soldier in his own words on a journey through our American experience from the beginning of our nation into the future. The soldier's story is the history of America. The US Army Band and the 3rd US Infantry present this thrilling musical military program. If you have not seen this spectacular show be sure to send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Spirit of America, Attn Public Affairs, 103 Third Ave, Fort McNair, Washington DC 20319-5058. These are FREE tickets. Dates are 13 & 14 Jun at 8 PM, 15 Jun at 2 and 8 PM and 16 Jun at 1:30 and 6:30 PM. Held at US Air Arena. There is a charge

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.

The Marcher is the official publication of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, MD/DC Chapter and is published every second month.

John D. Bowen, Editor
613 Chichester Lane
Silver Spring MD 20904-3331
301-384-6533

The opinions expressed are those of the editor. Items of interest to the membership are requested. Please keep us informed of those who are ill or who have died. Publication deadline is two weeks before the regular meeting listed on the front.

FORT MEADE CONCERT SERIES

9 Jun Jazz Ambassadors/Army Field Band
16 Jun "The Volunteers/Army Field Band
23 Jun 389th US Army Band
30 Jun Guest Band
7 Jul "Country Current/Naval Band
14 Jul Guest Band
21 Jul "Electric Brigade/Naval Academy Band
28 Jul Guest Band
All concerts begin at 7PM on the lawn of Devers Hall
Cooper Avenue and Mapes Road
Bring a lawn chair or blankets - Free Parking

We welcome new member Tom Price. 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. Please send your dues to John D Bowen, 613 Chichester Ln, Silver Spring