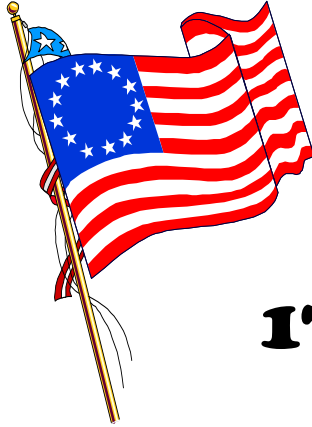


❖ WWII MUSINGS ❖

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John D. Bowen, Editor

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1776

WWII MEMORIAL FINALLY?

In spite of losing in the courts and the Congress and the President having approved legislation the Save the Mall folks are still trying to sink the WWII Memorial.

There is no excuse for this legal maneuvering other than to be spiteful.

Please see Joe Zimmer's reflections for additional comment.

PATTON CALLS FEATS OF ARMY UNRIVALED

WITH THE AMERICAN THIRD ARMY, Jan 3 (AP) — Lieut. Gen. George S. Patton, Jr. has praised his men's achievements against the Germans as "unsurpassed in military history."

"From the bloody corridor at Avranches to Brest, thence across France to the Saar, over the Saar into Germany and now on to Bastogne, your record has been one of continuous victory," the message said.

"Not only have you invariably defeated a cunning and ruthless enemy, but also you have overcome by your indomitable fortitude every aspect of terrain and weather. Neither heat nor dust nor floods nor snow have stayed your progress.

"The speed and brilliancy of your achievements is unsurpassed in military history.

"Recently I had the honor of receiving at the hands of General Bradley [Lieut. Gen. Omar N. Bradley, Twelfth Army Group Commander] a second Oak Leaf Cluster to the Distinguished Service Medal. This award was bestowed on me not for what I have done but because of what you have achieved. From the bottom of my heart I thank you." *New York Times, 4 January 1945*

THE MEN WHO SIGNED THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

This July 4th we celebrated the 225th anniversary of our Independence from Great Britain. Have you ever wondered what happened to the fifty-six men who signed the Declaration of Independence?

Five signers were captured by the British as traitors and tortured before they died.

Twelve men had their homes ransacked and burned.

Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army and another had two sons captured.

Nine of the fifty-six fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War.

They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor. What kind of men were they?

Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants, none were farmers and large plantation owners; men of means, well educated. But they signed the Declaration of Independence full knowing that the penalty would be death were they captured.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts and died in rags.

Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him and poverty was his reward.

Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge and Middleton.

At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr., noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson Home for his Headquarters. He quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed and Nelson died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife and she died within a few months.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their thirteen children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished. A few weeks later he died from exhaustion and a broken heart. Norris and Livingston suffered similar fates.

These are the stories and sacrifices of the American

(Continued on page 6)

EDITOR'S CORNER

BATTLE OF THE BULGE TERM

We know where the term “Nuts” originated from in the Battle of the Bulge but the origin of the actual term “Battle of the Bulge” is more elusive. A Mr. Savage had written to me to pose the question, Who, When and Where may have originated the term “Battle of the Bulge.”

Upon reflection it became apparent that this is a term that should be documented for future generations if possible. This is still a work in progress so if you can shed any light on when and where you first saw the term “Battle of the Bulge” or “The Bulge” used prior to 1 January 1945, I would appreciate knowing.

One action that remains for me to do is to review the records of the 12th Army Group, First and Third Armies, and the individual Divisional Unit Records to see if there is evidence of these terms being used in G-2 Reports, After/Action Reports, Journals and other material for December 1944.

However I have received an excellent letter from Danny S Parker, Historian and author of that outstanding definitive book *Battle of the Bulge*. His comments follow:
Dear Mr. Bowen:

Thank you for your letter of 18 June asking how the German Ardennes counteroffensive came to be called “The Battle of the Bulge.”

This has turned out to be more difficult to answer than I originally envisioned. My method to resolve it was to find the earliest mention of the “*The Battle of the Bulge*,” in written accounts including books, magazines and newspapers. Of particular help in this matter was a monograph on the press reaction to the Ardennes Counteroffensive prepared for Hugh Cole.¹

The short answer is that it looks to have come from the lead editorial in the New York Times on 4 January 1945 which was entitled, “The Battle of the Bulge.” This moniker looks to have caught on quickly. Although no definite author is ascribed for the piece, Hanson Baldwin wrote their military editorial material during this time and was likely the author — at least indirectly. However, Baldwin makes no direct mention of it in his memoirs.²

WWII Musings is published for the enjoyment of WWII Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. It is based on the research of John D. Bowen, 613 Chichester Ln, Silver Spring MD 20904-3331 in the Unit Records maintained at the National Archives and Records Administration. Proper credit should be given both to the researcher and to the National Archives. Your comments are welcome. E-mail jdbowen@gateway.net

I did check a number of other sources which detailed radio reportage from those days (Richard C. Hottel from CBS, Chester Wilmott from the BBC, Robert Barr etc.). Anyway, there was no mention of the German offensive by that name in the text of the many communiques.³ Runstedt offensive and “salient” were common.

There were some earlier mentions of the “Bulge” in a number of reports. For instance, the headline of the Washington post for 25 December said:

*“YANKS DENT NAZIS’ SOUTHERN FLANK AT FOUR POINTS ALONG 25 MILE FRONT, 7000 ALLIED PLANES HAMMER ‘BULGE’”*⁴

Two days later, the New York Times took up the same topic in its editorial...

“What is perhaps the most significant is that while the Germans have been able to drive a big *bulge* [italics mine] in the American lines along a weakly defended sector, they have been so far unable to reach their first objective.”⁵

This may not be the final word, but it certainly appears that “The Battle of the Bulge” was coined by the press, and specifically by the New York Times editorial on 4 January 1945.

I’ll close our little inquiry with what I think is a pithy observation. The Bulge may have first been associated with the offensive by one of its planners: German General Field Marshal Walther Model. During the fall of 1944, he complained of the lack of sufficient forces with which to carry out the offensive and recommended its objectives be altered:

“Should the attack be stopped at the Meuse due to lack of reserves, *the only result will be a bulge in the line and not the destruction of sizeable enemy forces...*”⁶

He was right.

I hope this helps. I’ll look forward to everyone in Orlando this fall.

Sincerely,
Danny S. Parker

¹Royce L. Thomson, *Ardennes Press Reaction*, European Section, prepared for Hugh M. Cole, OCMH, Washington DC, 15 May 1952

²Hanson Baldwin, *Battles Lost and Won*, Harper, NY 1966.

³Desmond Hawkins, *War Report: D-Day to V-E Day*, BBC, Oxford University Press, UK, 1946.

⁴*Washington Post*, Headline, Monday, 25 December 1944.

⁵“Battle Climax in the West,” *New York Times* Editorial, 27 December 1944.

⁶Memorandum from Walther Model to von Runstedt on 23 November 1944, *OB West Kriegstagebuch Anlage 50*, Vol. II, P. 30-32. Italics are Model’s.

My thanks to Danny Parker for his thoughts.

JDB

AFTER/ACTION REPORT 38th CAVALRY REC N SQDN (Mecz) 1-31 Dec 1944

1 December: The Squadron continued to defend in its assigned sector along the SIEGFRIED LINE in GERMANY, occupying a line of trenches, machine gun emplacements, light tank outposts, anti-tank positions and individual fighting holes. The zone included the town of Monschau, the eastern portion of MUTZENICH; thence north, generally along the railroad to a point above KONZEN STATION....

2-15 December: ...On the night of 15-16 December 1944, numbers of large enemy planes were heard over the Squadron sector, and reports of paratroops being dropped in rear areas began to come in from higher headquarters. On this same night, it was decided to increase the barbed wire and flare field in the deep draw southeast of MONSCHAU (K945183), which was defended by the 2nd platoon of Company F. At 0200A Troop E placed a twenty minute concentration on MENZERATH Hill using 180 rounds of HE ammunition. First Lieutenant Krupnick and his engineers worked throughout the night to complete task, retiring through the F Company Tank positions at 0445A on the morning of 16 December 1944. There was no activity of any kind for the next forty-five minutes.

16 December 1944: Without warning, at 0525A on 16 December 1944, the entire squadron front was subjected to a terrible barrage of artillery, mortar and rocket fire. A series of "time on target" concentrations, starting on the main line of resistance, rolled on back to the artillery installations three thousand yards or more to the rear. An estimated two hundred (200) rounds fell in the immediate vicinity of the Squadron Command post, and the main supply route (Monschau-Eupen Road) received particular attention. This barrage continued, unceasing, for thirty-five minutes, and was followed, throughout the day, by severe interdiction and harassing fires as well as concentrations on our known emplacements. Obviously the enemy was attempting to isolate the MONSCHAU area by fire, and this in itself was a tip-off for the attack which followed.

All telephone communications were thoroughly disrupted with the first hail of enemy shells, and the Squadron went on the air. Line crews, made up of volunteer radio operators and electricians, were out and working on the severed wires, long before the artillery had lifted. Technician Grade Five Hansen and Carducci, from the headquarters platoon of Troop B, raced back from Mutzenich to the Assault Gun Battery, their vehicle torn by shell fragments, to restore vital communications with the guns. For a brief period, Troop A, five thousand yards to the north, was kept in contact by a lone operator, T/4 Ruggiere, Troop B, who stuck to his radio car to relay traffic in spite of the continuous shelling which literally rocked his vehicle.

At approximately 0600A the enemy artillery fire lessened and all units, now thoroughly alert, waited in the last remaining hours of darkness for the expected enemy attack.

At 6:05A, S/Sgt Bielicki, commanding the 2nd platoon, Co F, reported hearing the noise of enemy movement in forces on Menzerath Hill, and on the Rohren and Hammer Roads.

At 0615A came word from Troop A of an enemy attack on positions of the 78th Division in Kesternich. Simultaneously, the 2nd platoon, Company F was attacked by three platoons of the 3rd Company, 1st Battalion, 761st Regiment of the 326th Volksgrenadier Division (PW Statements) (Report of S/Sgt Bielicki). Despite the severe shelling he had just received, and the fact that all wire communication to his widely separated tank sections had gone out, S/Sgt Bielicki performed his mission in a superior manner. Given only a few minutes warning of the enemy's approach, he found time to report to his troop Hqs and to coordinate the following plan within his platoon: all guns and tanks were manned, but fire was to be held; the enemy was to be allowed to approach to the very outposts when, upon the signal burst from his gun, all positions would open fire. 37mm tank guns were loaded with canister and the men waited. As the leading elements of the German infantry reached the outer perimeter of the platoon's wire, a ground flare was tripped. All weapons commenced firing instantly, and illuminating shells from an 60 mm mortar lit up the entire area. In the resulting light the enemy was seen to be in headlong retreat, back along the Rohren and Hammer Roads. Troop C, on the left flank of this action, placed 81mm mortar fire on the routes of withdrawal and artillery defensive fires were called for and maintained until daylight. First Lt Pepper, Troop Exec Officer, brought reinforcements to the platoon from company Hqs and, at 0745A, the enemy counterattacked from the dense cover of Menzerath Hill. Due to the superior numbers and the most aggressive action, the enemy was partially successful in infiltration between the two tank sections, following the bed of the Roer River. As the enemy build up in this wedge increased, endangering the flanks of the platoon's positions, Sgt Messano, a tank commander, seized a light machine gun and bravely exposing himself to the enemy fire, placed it in action to close the gap (Report of S/Sgt Bielicki). He was immediately reinforced, and the enemy repulsed. German casualties as a result of these two actions were severe (estimated at thirty-two) but, due to the continued conflict in this area for the succeeding forty-eight hours, could not be accurately counted. The nearest enemy dead as a result of the first attack, had fallen only fifty yards from the platoon outposts (13 in number, counted by S/Sgt Bielicki and his section Sgt, affidavits of S/Sgt Bielicki and Sgt Messano); others were seen on the roads up to two hundred yards distant, including wounded who were evacuated during the second attack. Two prisoners were taken.

At 0830A, concurrent with the above action, Troop C observed enemy, in about company strength, seven hundred yards to their front (Reports of Lt O'Brien and Lt Coleman). This appeared an attempt to build up a line along the dragons teeth in the vicinity of (K948195). Machine gun fire, from the trenches, and supporting artillery effectively dispersed this force, inflicting several observed casualties. At the same time, enemy activity was observed about the farm known as Stillbusch (K948205). It was believed that mortars were being put into place and Lt Kets sent a patrol from the first platoon, Co F, to investigate. This patrol met and drove off a German patrol, capturing one prisoner from the 1st Bn, 761st Regt, 325th (VG) Division.

Enemy activity centered on the Company F and Troop C fronts for the balance of the day, with Troops B and A reporting

(Continued on page 6)

REFLECTIONS by Joseph Zimmer

These reflections were given by the author at the MD/DC Chapter of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Association meeting, on Sunday, 10 June 2001, at the Ft Meade Golf ClubHouse. Joe served with Company B, 345th Infantry, 87th Infantry Division. His thoughts are shared with those who were unable to attend.

May 25, 2001 — After 6 years and more than 20 public meetings, 4 pro-memorial votes in Congress since 1995, repeated endorsements from both the Fine Arts Commission and, the National Capital Planning Commission and, support from the Secretary of the interior and President Clinton, federal lawmakers concluded that enough was enough. They mandated that construction begin. President Bush signed the legislative act on memorial Day, May 28, 2001. HURRAH!!

Among 404 entries in 1996, the winning design of Friedrich St Florian, of Rhode Island was chosen. A scaled down version followed to address complaints that the memorial would be too heavy and sterile and was finally approved.. Even with these changes, the approved design , standing directly between the Washington Monument , completed in 1885, and the Lincoln Memorial, dedicated in 1922, will include:

- ◆ a reconstructed Rainbow Pool measuring 247 x 148 feet;
- ◆ two – 49 foot memorial arches;
- ◆ Fifty-six – 23 foot stone pillars, with bronze wreaths, 4 bronze eagles; 24 wall sculptures; 4123 gold stars and a waterfall; each element symbolizing an aspect of American unity and the “triumph of democracy over tyranny.”
- ◆ an access road off 17th Street NW; a 3000 square foot information pavilion.

Work scheduled to begin in December 2001 or sooner, would be done from 8 AM – 5 PM on weekdays, halting each year only for Independence Day fireworks show. Current estimates are that the \$160 million will open in the year 2004.

federal planners expect 3.5 million people will visit the memorial each year, including 600,000 in each of the peak spring months. It will be the last of a trio of monuments to wars of the last century built near the National Mall’s centerline; following the 1982 dedication of the Vietnam Veterans memorial and, the 1995 dedication of the Korean War Veterans Memorial. A grand tribute to the 16.4 million US servicemen and women who won victory in Europe and the Pacific 1941-1945. An evocative memorial to democracy’s victory over totalitarianism in the 20th Century. It is currently estimated, by the Veterans Affairs Department, that upon completion in 2004, about 3.5 million of we veterans from WWII will be alive to bask in its glory and meaning. Oh how joyful they will feel in the knowledge and pleasure, that yes, they have been profoundly memorialized and honored in the Nation’s Capital, for centuries to come. As President George W Bush said when signing the bill, “a monument that will stand for the ages,” - yet, 59 years after the end of the 20th Century’s greatest conflict.

What and who is this Memorial honoring. None of us were just “somewhere soldiers” in the same sense as the phrase might be used. However, how often might we wish for the sun to shine during those bitter cold and snowy days during the Battle of the Bulge. Those were daunting times for our young nation, 165 years old, when attacked at Pearl Harbor that Sunday morning on December 7th, 1941. Somehow we found our moral compass to dedicate ourselves to a true profile in courage. Amelia Earhart, celebrated aviatrix speaks of courage in her famous poem: “Courage is the price that life exacts for granting peace. The soul that knows it not, knows no release from little things.” We truly did well and did good all at the same time. We were each tenacious attackers of obstacles, filled with a cause; that’s where it all begins. Honest in what we felt and thought. Look into our eyes and see life’s wisdom there. The eyes are the way you can often find the truth. As often expressed – “the eyes are truly the windows of one’s soul,” - firm beliefs, determination, beauty of action, positive attitude. So it is with us and we were all on the same team. May this memorial be worthy of we soldiers still living and those who have gone before us.

ARMY HERITAGE CENTER

The US Army Heritage Center has been approved for Carlisle Barracks PA. This \$110 million, 5 year capital development plan will begin this year and be completed in 2006. The Heritage Center will consist of The Military History Institute, an Education Center and the Army Heritage Museum. Cumberland County, PA has donated and the Army has accepted, a 55 acre parcel of land adjacent to Carlisle Barracks . \$10.5 million of a projected \$17 million funding for a new 66,000 sq ft, state of the art facility for the Military History Institute is included in the Army’s 2001 Military Construction Appropriation and construction is scheduled to begin in November 2001. Its archives hold approximately 9 million individual items including books, periodicals, photos, manuscripts (diaries, letters memoirs), military publications, manuals, amps and oral histories.. The Museum and Education Center will be

(Continued on page 7)

FREE POSTAGE

One of the perks of being in the service in World War II was the free postage. Below is the directive establishing this.

April 2, 1942

AMENDMENT TO THE POSTAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Letters from members of US Military and Naval Forces. Transmission in mails free of postage.

ORDER NO 17352

SECTION 515, Postal laws and Regulations, is amended by the addition of the following paragraphs 3 and 4.

3. Any first-class letter mail matter admissible to the mails as ordinary mail matter which is sent by a member of the military forces of the United States (including the United States Coast Guard), while on active duty or in the active military or naval service of the United States, to any person in the United States including the territories and possessions thereof, shall be transmitted in the mails free of postage, subject to such rules and regulations as the Postmaster General shall prescribe. (Act of March 27, 1942, sec 901, Public No. 507, 77th Cong.).

4. Letters sent by members of the military or naval forces of the United States, to be mailed free of postage under the conditions set forth in paragraph 3 of this section, shall bear in the upper right hand corner the word "FREE" and in the upper left corner the name of the sender together with his rank or rating and the designation of the service to which he belongs, as for example, Private John Doe, US Army, or John Doe, Seaman 2 Cl., US Coast Guard. Such letters shall be so accepted when deposited in the mails in the United States or its possessions or at any place outside the continental United States where the United States mail service is in operation addressed to any other place where this service is in operation, including army and navy bases, naval vessels, etc. Messages on post cards may be accepted under this provision but it shall not apply to packages or parcels or any matter other than messages in the form of ordinary letters or cards. This free mailing privilege does not apply to matter sent by air mail nor to any matter sent to the members of the military or naval forces by persons who are not members thereof.

/s/ John W. Martyn
Administrative Asst.

MORALE OF HIMMLER'S CHILDREN

Neustadt a.d. Weinstr 30 Oct 44

Dear Alfred:

We received your letter of the 26 Oct, many thanks for it. Meanwhile I wrote you at SAARGEFRUEND but the letter returned with the remark: "Wait for new Address." I thought immediately that you were in the west. I am sorry that you were out of luck but this is war and your staying out in the open without cover is the fault of your comrades who got out of France so fast. I don't mean the brave fellows who still hold today the strongholds at the coast but the foul army in the rear which grew up in French, Belgium etc, that did nothing but loaf around, eat and f—k etc, and which as the hour of trial came, fled with their women and stolen goods, "courageous" officers in the lead. I saw some pictures about eight weeks ago, it was enough to make a person weep: I would never have thought such a thing were possible in our days, such pitiful and cowardly conduct. It is the biggest disappointment of my life. Such a retreat – you cannot even call it RETREAT anymore, there was nothing like it in 1914/18. It is disgusting to see officers who escape with their french whores in their automobiles and leave their men in the lurch. You owe it to them when you have to lie out there at the frontier in the mud in order to defend the homeland. All this did not have to happen. The guns you are lacking are in France, more than enough guns and ammunition than the Englishmen and Americans brought with them. With captured guns and ammunition the British and Americans now fire at you. It is a sad note that we are being betrayed from all sides, from in and outside as well; that is why we have to stick together and clamp our teeth. It is hard going now but the one who can take most will be the winner. I shall also become a soldier even at 52 but not in the VOLKSTRUM. That doesn't suit me I should rather volunteer for the WERRMACHT. I was a soldier for six years but not a soldier of the rear (Etappensoldat) and I don't wish to be one today if they call me again.

Sear Alfred I wish you all the luck, come back in good health, everything is bearable. I've sent you a small package with cigarettes and hope that you will get it. Much soldier luck and hardy greetings from your aunt elan

Your uncle,
(signed) Alfred

Translation of letter taken from captured German Documents

EULOGY FOR A VETERAN

Do not stand at my grave and weep.

I am not there, I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow.

I am the diamond glints on snow.

I am the sunlight on ripen grain.

I am the gentle Autumn rain.

When you awaken in the morning's hush,

I am the swift uplifting rush

Of quiet birds in circled flight.

I am the soft stars that shine at night.

Do not stand at my grave and cry,

I am not there, I did not die.

Author Unknown

(26th InfD After/Action Report Jan 1945 Continued from page 3)

small patrols operating on their fronts. Artillery continued to harass our lines, and the area east of Monschau was subjected to continual machine gun and sniper firing. Snipers became particularly dangerous in the deep ravines about MENZERATH Hill, where the dense cover provided ample protection. One German rifleman was eliminated in a daring one man patrol by an F company tank driver, T/4 Lucero, who volunteered for the mission when all other efforts had failed. For his gallantry in this action, T/4 Lucero had been recommended for award of the British Military Medal.

At 1016A it was ascertained that retreating enemy, from the first attack of the morning, had holed up in a group of buildings on the Rohren Road. Tank Destroyers (M-10), which had been brought up to support the 2nd platoon, Company F, placed direct fire on these targets and caused an unusually large explosion, which blew out the sides of one house. Results could not be ascertained but, at 1115A, a large group of enemy estimated to be from sixty to eighty men were caught in the open at (K954177) and placed under effective artillery fire. Casualties were observed, but could not be accurately counted. Later in the day, three Germans who had been thought to have been dead were observed moving in front of the platoon. T/4 Steiner called upon them to surrender, but was fired upon. In the resulting fire fight all three Germans were killed. AT 1130A, a Troop C outpost, under command of Cpl Paul J Ridge, captured one German at (K947183). At 1455A an enemy patrol was observed by Troop B in the vicinity of (K950198). One of the Germans was killed and the rest withdrew before further action could be taken. Troop A repulsed several patrols, taking two NCO prisoners whom they shook out of a haystack with hand grenades. They were members of a reconnaissance party from the 2nd Company, 751st Regt, 326th VG Division and were sent to Hqs of the 102nd Cavalry Gp for interrogation.

Throughout the afternoon, observation and outposts reported the enemy loading pillboxes. POW statements indicated that the attack of the morning had been in battalion strength and, because enemy patrols were composed of officers or senior NCOs, it was believed that these were recon patrols preliminary to a large scale attack. At 1240A, immediate reinforcement was requested of the 102nd Cav Group.

For the night of 16-17 December 1944, our patrol activity was increased and additional listening posts were put well out in front of all troops. Two additional armored cars, with crews, were brought from the Squadron rear echelon in Eupen to supplement the command post security in Monschau.

Captain Robert Marvel, CO Hqs & Svc Troop, was assigned as commander of a V Corps security area, with the mission of coordinating the security of certain road nets, bridges and towns in the Corps rear areas; in addition armored car patrols were maintained on the roads west of Corps Hqs.

Six machine guns and crews, furnished by the 186th FA Bn and attached tank destroyers, were attached to Company F. The guns were put into position at dusk in support of the 2nd platoon, two in school building at (K945183); and four between the platoon right flank and the 395th Infantry, in the vicinity (K944181).

The Squadron suffered seven casualties on this date. Six prisoners (all of the 761 Regt, 326 VG Div) were taken and in excess of fifty (known) casualties inflicted. Troop E fired thirty two missions and seven hundred and sixty rounds in support of the Squadron during the 24 hour period.

At about 1700 Capt Ball, CO of Co. A, 146th Engr Bn, reported to the Squadron Hqs. He was given his mission and proceeded with Capt Meyer in a radio half-track to his company which was mounted and waiting at (889202) on the EUPEN Hwy. A guide was assigned from Trp B to the 2nd Platoon and one from Trp C to the 3rd Platoon, and both proceeded to reinforce those units. Capt Ball took his Hqs to the Squadron Command Post and Capt Meyer led the 1st platoon under Lt Anderson to (938187) where they dug in on the hill to the west of MONSCHAU. The personnel and three heavy machine guns were positioned with excellent fields of fire overlooking the draw to their right flank; HOFEN Hill to their right front; the draw occupied by Co. F and MONSCHAU Hill occupied by Troop C to their direct front, the dragons teeth to their left front, and the STILLBUSCH draw to their left flank. To prevent detection when daylight appeared, the emplacements were camouflaged with snow and brush. Ammunition and rations were provided.

In the meantime at 2000 Cpt Meyer placed his half-track behind the hill near the Trp C mortar battery (934187) and the radio operators reported into the 102nd Cav Grp and the Squadron nets, thereby establishing an alternate command post.

(To be continued)

From the unit records of the 38th Cavalry Squadron, After/Action Report 1-31 Dec 1944 at National Archives & Records Administration, College Park MD

(Continued from page 1 Declaration of Independence Signers)

Revolution. These were not wild eyed, rabble-rousing ruffians. These were soft-spoken men: men of means and education. They had security, yet they valued liberty more. Unwavering, they pledged: "For the support of this declaration, with firm reliance on the protection of the divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor."

They gave us, you and me, a free and independent America. History books never really told us much of what took place in the Revolutionary War. We didn't just fight the British. We were British subjects at that time and we fought our own government. Many of us often take these liberties for granted. Should we?

At the next patriotic event that you attend, pause and silently thank these patriots.

It isn't that much to ask, for the price they paid.

(Through the courtesy of web site www.mascoouter.com/General/Patriotic.html)

NEW ARMORED VEHICLE BEGINS ARMY TRANSFORMATION

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, May 22, 2001 – “It drives like a Caddy,” was Pfc Shaun Ratcliff’s assessment of the new Army Light Armored Vehicle III displayed at the Pentagon May 17.

Ratcliff, an infantryman with the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry at Fort Lewis Washington, said the eight-wheeled armored vehicle handles well and would be perfect for combat in the cities.

If all goes well with the system, the Army hopes to buy 2,131 of the vehicles to outfit six brigades. Officials said the first brigade could be operational by spring 2003 with initial operating capability by November 2003.

The 37,000-pound vehicle has a 350 horsepower diesel engine and will go 60 miles per hour with a full combat load. It’s small enough to fit in a C-130 transport. As an infantry carrier, it has room for a nine-man squad and a crew of two. Its 14.5mm of armor can stop small arms fire. Additional ceramic armor will stop rocket propelled grenades.

The vehicle will serve as the basis for other specialized carriers. The basic version has a mount for a 40 mm grenade launcher, a .50-caliber machine gun or an M-240 7.62 machine gun. The Army intends to mount an auto-loading 105mm gun on one version. Other versions will be tailored to operate as engineer vehicles, mortar vehicles, medical evacuation vehicles, chemical warfare detection vehicles and anti-tank vehicles.

The Army has borrowed similar vehicles from the Canadian armed forces, two battalions at Fort Lewis, the 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry, and the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry, are working on doctrine and techniques. Army officials said that this head start on training and doctrine will save time in the long run by allowing battalions and brigades to form that much faster. The Army will announce the name of the new class of vehicles in October.

(Continued from Page 11, 9th Armored Division Fact Sheet)

bridge as well as the span itself was seized. Next month the 9th continued to press into Germany, taking Limberg and pulling up just before Frankfurt. In May the Division captured Leipzig and just before V-E day was heading into Czechoslovakia. After V-E day, the Division assumed occupational duties and upon being relieved, elements sailed for the United States on 2 October 1945.

These Army Ground Forces Fact Sheets were prepared at the end of the war (1 March 1947) by The Information Section, Analysis Branch, Headquarters Army Ground Forces on each division. They may be found in Record Group 407, Unit Records, for each division, under the file number 3 (Division #) - 0 at the National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Rd, College Park MD.

Our Chapter President, Dee Paris, who served with the 9th Armored Division writes: “The combat commands of the 9th ArmD were in three widely separate locations when the German attack came on Dec 16, 1944. Combat Command (CC) “A” stopped the German attack at Beaufort and prevented them from reaching Bastogne until an airborne and 10th ArmD arrived there. CC “R” defended Bastogne until reinforcements arrived and have already received the Presidential Unit Citation.

Combat Command “B” in which my tank battalion was a part, was in the north and prevented the Germans from entering St Vith until the arrival of a combat command of the 7th ArmD, under Gen Bruce Clarke. This was the area in which the 106th InfD was overrun with 2/3 of the division captured. Combat Command “B” received the Presidential Unit Citation for capturing the Bridge at Remagen in March 1945.

Because the attacking Germans were being repulsed in three widely different areas, they called the 9th, the “Phantom” Division.”

See Page 10 for the new Presidential Unit citation awarded and the units entitled to it.

(Continued from page 4, Army Heritage Center)

funded through private donations and grants.. The 50,000 sq ft Education Center is projected to cost \$15 million and construction will begin Jan 2003. The Army Heritage Museum and park will be 300,000 sq ft and is estimated to cost \$78 million. Construction will begin in Feb 2005. The museum will “tell the comprehensive story of the US Army since colonial times This will be the story of the Colonial Militia, the Regular Army, the National Guard, the Army Reserve, the civilian workforce, the Army family’s lifestyle and in an ancillary way, the industrial effort supporting the Army,” says their web site at www.armyheritage.org For further information

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION AWARDED

DEPARTMENT OF ARMY

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT
THE PRESIDENT
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
HAS AWARDED THE

**PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION
TO THE**

**COMBAT COMMAND A,
9TH ARMORED DIVISION**

FOR EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM IN MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST AN ARMED ENEMY

16 DECEMBER 1944 TO 22 DECEMBER 1944

THIS 12TH DAY OF JUNE 2001

S/ THOMAS E. WHITE
SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

Combat Command A, 9th Armored Division is cited for extraordinary heroism and gallantry in combat in the vicinity of Waldbillig and Stavelborn, Luxembourg for December 16 to December 22, 1944 by repulsing constant and determined attacks by an entire German Division. Outnumbered five to one, with its infantry rifle companies surrounded for most of the time, clerks, cooks, mechanics, drivers and others manned the 10,000 yard final defensive line. Supported by the outstandingly responsive and accurate fire of its artillery battalion this widely dispersed force stopped every attack for six days until its surrounded infantry were ordered to fight their way back to them. This staunch defense disrupted precise German attack schedule and thus gave time for the United States III and XII Corps to assemble unhindered and then launch the coordinated attack which raised the siege of Bastogne and contributed to saving much of Luxembourg and its capital from another German invasion. The outstanding courage, resourcefulness, and determination of the gallant force are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army

Division Troops (assigned)

- Hqs & Hqs Company, Combat Command "A"
- 60th Armored Infantry Battalion
- 19th Tank Battalion
- 3d Armored Field Artillery Battalion
- Company "A" 9th Armored Engineer Battalion
- Troop "A" 89th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron
- Troop "B" 89th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron
- Troop "C" 89th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron
- Troop "E" (less 4th Platoon) 89th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron
- Company "A" 2nd Medical Battalion, Armored
- Company "A" 131st Ordnance Maintenance Battalion

Non Divisional Troops (attached)

- HQs & Hqs Company 811 Tank Destroyer Battalion
- Reconnaissance Company (less 2nd and 3rd platoons) 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion
- Company "B" 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion
- Battery "A" 482nd Antiaircraft Artillery AW Battalion (SP)
- Battery "B" 482nd Antiaircraft Artillery AW Battalion (SP)

This information is provided on this new Presidential Unit Citation for those who may have served in any of these units.

Fact Sheet of the 9th Armored Division

TYPE OF DIVISION: Regular Army.

NICKNAME: While the men of the division adopted no nickname, the Germans dubbed it the “Phantom Division.”

SHOULDER PATCH: Triangular design divided into three areas: red (representing Field Artillery), blue (representing Infantry), and yellow (representing Cavalry). Superimposed on three areas, in black, are a canon and the track of a tank. A bolt of lightning, in red, is superimposed on these. The division's number appears in the upper portion of the triangle..

ACTIVATION DATE: 15 Jul 1942.

INACTIVATION DATE: 13 October 1945 at Camp Patrick Henry VA..

COMPONENT UNITS: Hq Co; Res Comd, CCA; CCB; 2nd, 14th and 19th Tank Bns; 9th Armored Engineering Bn; 89th Cav Rcn Sq (Mech); 149th Armd Signal Co; Division Artillery: 3rd, 16th and 73rd Armored Field Artillery BNs; Division Trains: 2nd Armored Medical Bn, 131st Ordnance Maintenance Bn, MP platoon and Band. 27th, 52nd and 60th Armored Infantry Bns..

TRAINING UNDER ARMY GROUND FORCES: Division was activated at Fort Riley KS and assigned to the Armored Force. The unit was composed in large part of the old 2nd Cavalry Division. Other organizations, famed in American Military History, were incorporated into the 9th, such as the 2nd Cavalry FA Bn, which stems from units dated back to Revolutionary War days. Almost a year later, in June 43, it moved to the Desert Training Center, with station at Camp Young CA. In Oct 1943 the division was transferred to Camp Polk LA coming under the Third Army. The 9th participated in Third Army maneuvers held in Louisiana between Nov 1943 and Jan 1944.

DEPARTED U.S. FOR FOREIGN DUTY: 26 August 1944 from NYPE.

COMBAT DAYS (Div): 91: .

DATE ENTERED COMBAT: DIVISION 18 Dec 1944. **FIRST ELEMENTS** 23 October 1944

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

RETURNED TO US: 10 Oct 1945 at NYPE and Boston..

SUCCESSIVE COMMANDING GENERALS: Major General Geoffrey Keyes from June to September 1942 and Major General John W Leonard from October 1942 until inactivation.

DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATION: Combat Command B for 28 Feb – 9 Mar 1945 action in Germany; Hq Res Comd, (w/101st Abn Div) for 18 – 27 Dec 1944 action in Belgium; Reserve Command for 18 – 27 Dec 1944 action in Belgium; 2nd Tank Bn for 18-27 Dec 1944 action in Belgium; Co C 9th Armored Engineering Bn, 8-10 Mar 1945 action in Germany; Co C 9th Armored Engineering Bn (w/101st Abn Div) for 18-27 action in Belgium; 16th Armored Field Artillery Bn 28 Feb – 9 Mar 1945 action in Germany; 27th Armored Infantry Bn for 28 Feb – 9 Mar 1945 action in Germany; 52nd Armored Inf Bn for 28 Feb – 9 Mar 1945 action in Germany; 52nd Armored Inf Bn for 18 – 27 Dec 44 action in Belgium and 73rd Armored Field Artillery Bn (w/101st Abn Div) for 18 –27 Dec 1944 action in Belgium; As this article is being written on 7/28/2001 the Combat Command A was just notified of it award for action 18 – 27 Dec 1944, almost 57 years later.

CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR WINNER: Cpl Horace M Thorne, 89th Cavalry Recn Sqdn (Mech) for 21 Dec 1944 action at Grufflingen, Belgium.

COMBAT HIGHLIGHTS: Seizure of the Ludendorf Bridge across the Rhine at Remagen, a coup which undoubtedly saved thousands of American lives and helped shorten the war, is a triumph of which the 9th Armored Division can proudly boast. Back of that achievement, however, lay other successes. The 9th first went into the line in Oct 1944, in the relatively quiet sector along the Luxembourg-German frontier. First real action for the division can in Dec 1944, when it was sent in to help stem the Von Runstedt offensive at Bastogne and elsewhere along the front. German prisoners spoke of it as the “Phantom Division” because it seemed to be everywhere there was action. In the vital sectors of the front, at Bastogne, St Vith and Echternach there were 9th Armored Division combat teams fighting. During the winter fighting the 9th wiped out large numbers of hardened enemy troops, captured hundreds of German prisoners and destroyed many hostile tanks. Combat teams helped defend Bastogne itself thus splitting the wedge the Germans had driven into Belgium and sapping the force of their efforts to wheel northward and capture vital Belgium cities. Early in 1945 the 9th began to drive on the West Wall and to the Roer River. Next month the Division smashed across the Cologne Plain. Main objective was the Rhine River. Then, in March 1945, the 9th electrified the Allied Armies and brought despair to the Germans by seizing the Ludendorf Bridge across the Rhine. The 9th had driven hard during the previous to reaching the Remagen, capturing thousands of German soldiers. When the 9th reached Remagen, Brig Gen William M Hoge, commanding Combat Command B of the Division, saw the bridge was intact. He scrapped other plans to move south along the Rhine and ordered his men across the span. His troops moved out into heavy anti-aircraft and sniper fire. His orders were followed to the letter, however, and a handful of 9th Armored troopers fort to the east bank of the river to establish a bridgehead, and the ground around the

(Continued on page 9)

BULGE UNIT REUNIONS

13-18 Aug 2001 11th ArmdD Kalamazoo MI. Contact 11th ArmdD 2328 Admiral St, Aliquippa PA 15001.

18-21 Aug 2001, 84th InfD, Radisson Hotel, Branson Missouri. Contact Daryl Mitchell PO Box 136, Nixa MI 65714.

28 Aug – 2 Sep 2001 9th ArmdD 16th Armd FA Bn Lancaster PA. Contact Harold Trethaway, 6 Oak St, Wilkes-Barre PA 18702, 570-829-4792.

30 Aug – 3 Sep 2001 10th Armored Div, Executive Inn West, Louisville KY, Contact Les Nichols, 9411 Springmont Pl, Louisville KY 40224, Tel 502-327-9188.

5-9 Sep 2001 75th InfD The Double tree Hotel, Denver CO. Contact James

Warmouth, 6545 West 11th St, Indianapolis IN 46214, 317-241-3730. 6-10 Sep 2001,

5-9 Sep 2001 705th Tank Destroyer Bn, Radisson Inn, Colorado Springs CO.

Contact Frank W Brooks, 5229 Ravensworth Rd, Springfield VA 22151, 703-256-0868.

6-10 Sep 2001 106th InfD, Fairview Park Marriott, Falls Church VA. Contact Marion Ray, 704 Briarwood Drive, Bethalto IL 62010 618-377-3674.

26-29 Sep 2001 83rd InfD Assoc., Holiday Inn

Hampton Roads Hotel, Hampton Roads VA. Contact Pat Di Giammerino, 36 Border Rd, Malden MA 02148-1104, Tel 781-322-2754.

26-30 Sep 2001 35th InfD Rosen Plaza Hotel, Orlando FL. Contact 35th InfD, PO Box 5004, Topeka KS 66605.

29 Sep – 3 Oct 2001 Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Convention, Four Points Sheraton Downtown, Orlando Florida. Contact Nancy Monson, VBOB Hqs PO Box 11129, Arlington VA 22210-2129 703-528-4058.

15-16 Dec 2001, 57th

Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, by BOB Historical Foundation and VBOB, Arlington VA and Arlington Cemetery, VA. Hotel accommodations at Holiday Inn, Laurel, MD, Tour Annapolis 15 Dec, Banquet 15 Dec Ft Meade Club Meade. 16 Dec ceremonies at Arlington followed by reception and installation of officers at Ft Myers Officers Club. Transportation back to Hotel. Contact Ms Dorothy Davis, 301-881-0356.

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, MD/DC

John D. Bowen, Editor

613 Chichester Lane

Silver Spring MD 20904-3331

MARCHER & WWII MUSINGS

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NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

Sunday 12 August 2001

**Ft Meade Golf ClubHouse
Off of Mapes Road**

FIRST CLASS