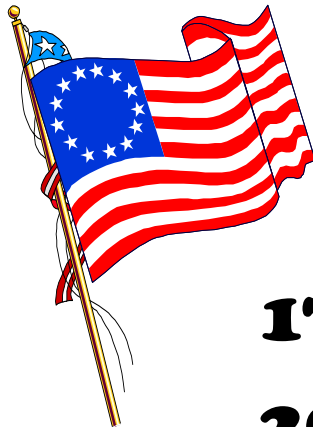


# ❖ WWII MUSINGS ❖

Volume 9 Issue 4

John D. Bowen, Editor

Jul/Aug 2002

**1776****2002**

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## MAJOR US UNITS IN KOREA

As we continue to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War it is important to recognize the casualties of that war. The units listed below account for 96% of the Americans killed by hostile action in Korea. Wounded in action include only those actually hospitalized.

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>
2nd InfD	7,094	16,575
1st Marine Div	4,004	25,864
7th InfD	3,905	10,858
1st Cav Div	3,811	12,086
24th InfD	3,735	7,395
25th InfD	3,048	10,186
3rd InfD	2,160	7,939
Far East AF/5th Air Force	1,200	368
5th Regtl Cmbt Team	867	3,188
45th InfD	834	3,170
Naval Far East/7th Fleet	458	1,576
187th Abn RCT	442	1,656
40th InfD	376	1,457
1st Marine Air Wong	258	174

In addition to the units listed, 1,432 Army personnel assigned to outfits independent of the Divs and RCTs were also KIA.

29th RCT was attached to the 24th InfD and later assigned to the 27th Inf and 35th Inf Regiments of the 25th InfD. It lost 313 men KIA on 25-26 July 50 alone. Figures are included above.

*Source: Battle Casualties of the Army, 30 September 1954, (Office Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1, Dept. of the Army) and other sources. 0*

### TAKE THE PLEDGE

*I Pledge Allegiance, to the flag,  
Of the United States of America  
And to the Republic, for which it stands,  
One Nation, Under God, Indivisible,  
With Liberty & Justice For All.*

## EDITOR'S CORNER

### APOLOGIES

I must apologize to my good friend Frank Walsh for forgetting to list his birthday in the last issue. In spite of his having given it to me a number of times I have always gotten it messed up. His birthday is 1 June and I have it in my database as 24 November. If I have missed your birthday also please accept my apology and let me know either by e-mail or post card.

### BATTLE OF THE BULGE TERM

A year ago the question was raised as to originated the term "Battle of the Bulge." A progress report follows. Based on a review of the Stars and Stripes Newspaper, Paris Edition during the period of the Bulge we find initially that the "Bulge" was referred to as the Counter-Offensive or the Ardennes offensive. There is some mention for a Dec A/A Report for 101st Abn

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

During World War II, I served as a combat medic taking care of the wounded. One day we were looking for wounded in a barn and found two German soldiers. One was dead; the other was wounded in the right leg shin. We put him on a litter and headed for the aid station. We came under heavy artillery attack and ran into a big shell hole to protect us from flying shrapnel.

I looked at the young German soldier and thought if this wasn't war, we may be friends. What kind of God is this who creates you and puts you in a mess like this as short as life is? I prayed to God for the knowledge and wisdom to understanding of what life was all about. That was November 1944.

December 20, 1944, I was wounded in the Battle of the Bulge. After I got out of the hospital I was given non-combat duty.

One day in June 1945 I had just finished noon chow and, as usual, I laid on my cot with my hands behind my head talking to a soldier named Falcone.

All of a sudden I heard a loud voice say, "Here is your answer, here is your answer."

Then a ball of light the size of a softball appeared above the foot of my cot. Then a tunnel of light came through the wall and a man came out feet first and stood at

the foot of my cot in a funnel of light.

He was white and had very short white hair, a thin face, and blue eyes and wore a long sleeve dark robe and sandals. I looked around the room and He said, "They cannot hear me." "The reason for war man loses humility for man and will not do the things I tell them to do for his own good, therefore there is no other outlet but war to bring humility back into the hearts and minds of man. I must go now."

Then came the tunnel of light thru the wall and he went out head first. I believe this man was God, telling me if people want peace on earth they must love God and one another and obey the Ten Commandments or suffer mental and physical pain. Pray each day for God's love and guidance in your life. God answers prayer. I know, He answered mine.

God Bless you and keep you. God make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. God lift up his countenance upon you and give you love and peace.

Wayne Edwin Alter  
838 South Potomac St  
Hagerstown MD 21740-6443

### Pledge of Allegiance

Can you believe that those for whom you have fought to protect their freedom are back at pushing the limits for their own self serving goals. From the time of the Colonies which were settled for religious freedom to the Revolutionary War, God was paramount in all that was done. When the Declaration of Independence was written and our Constitution was established God was a part of both. All of our currency says "In God We Trust." The Congress opens each day with a prayer to God. In legal swearing we do it to God and in legal documents we recognize the year of Our Lord." But the 9th District Court of Appeals says that in our Pledge our Nation cannot be "under God." For almost 400 years, from the landings at Jamestown and those at Plymouth, God has been part of everyday life. Where have we gone wrong?

### THANKS

A special thank you to Robert B. Edge, Jr for his generous donations to help with the Postage increase as well as a general contribution. Thank you very much, Bob !

### OPERATION TIP

Sometimes there are some dumb proposals that we need to be leery of as soon as they are proposed. This latest idea from the White House is a fundamental threat to our way of life. Shades of WWII and the Gestapo operation and the Hitler youth that were encouraged to spy and report on their parents. Shades of the STASI in East Germany who refined snooping and turning in your neighbors to a fine art. And then there is the Communist Chinese who employed snoops on every block. Is that the kind of neighborhood we want? We employ our FBI, CIA and NSA to be the snoops and we try to maintain some control on them to ensure that our democratic way of life is maintained. The last thing we need is our friends, neighbors and relatives snooping on us and complaining any time they had an axe to grind. Who would you trust? A bad idea which should be killed immediately.

JDB

**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](mailto:jdbowen@gateway.net)**

**POST MORTEM WRITINGS ON  
INDICATIONS OF ARDENNES OFFENSIVE  
DEC 1944  
THE ULTRA STUDY  
23 May 1975**

*Note: The release of the study project titled "Addendum to USAWC Military Research Program paper," "The Battle of the Bulge," has been authorized by the United States Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.*

*The sanitization, declassification, reproduction and distribution of this document has been accomplished by the National Security Agency, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland. Authored by LTC Harry L. Dull, Jr. 17 May 1977, USAWC Class of 1977*

*CONTINUED FROM APRIL 2002 ISSUE.*

All the divisions of the Fifth Panzer Army were assembled, but kept widely spaced so that spies and the evil population should have no inkling of what was intended. The troops were told that they were being readied to meet the coming Allied attack on Cologne. The Sixth SS Panzer Army was assembled even farther back. Its divisions had been drawn out of the line for rest and refit. Most division commanders were given only a few days notice of the actual attack.<sup>6</sup> By the time of the counteroffensive, although believed to be Cologne, the Allies did not have a single piece of intelligence positively locating the Sixth SS Panzer Army, known to be the German armored reserve.<sup>7</sup>

To the south, where the attack ultimately took place, troops were concentrated under the greatest secrecy. In that area, the Eifel was well-suited to camouflage. All rail and road movements were made at night. Special security detachments patrolled the area. Radio silence was imposed on all units except those actually facing the enemy in covering positions. Messages were sent by couriers on motorcycles and by liaison officers and delivered by hand.<sup>8</sup> Only artillery in line was allowed to register, and with only a few rounds. Reconnaissance and forward patrolling was extremely limited. Road construction necessary to the movement to contact was undertaken both in the north and south and linked to the cover plan.

A word should be added here about "Operation Grief: - - a secret operation, planned by Hitler, under the command of Skorzeny (famous for his rescue of Mussolini in 1943).<sup>9</sup> That operation called for a first phase in which a company of English-speaking commandos wearing American field jackets over their German uniforms and riding in captured American vehicles, was to race ahead in small groups - - to cut telephone wires, turn signposts to misdirect Allied reserves, and to create general confusion in the Allied lines. The operation was successful, in that some forty jeeps got through and spread considerable confusion among Allied troops. The second phase, to send a panzer brigade in American uniforms and vehicles to drive through and seize the Meuse bridges, never got underway.

despite the fact that marginal weather greatly limited aerial reconnaissance constructed an imposing picture of the German buildup in the north, highlighted by increased movement of enemy columns on the roads, heightened rail activity, and lights representing large scale night movements.<sup>10</sup>

There were even some indicators of enemy buildup across from the quiet VIII Corps front. Units of the 4th, 28th and 106th Divisions reported in the last days before the offensive increased vehicular activity, the fact that a woman escapee claimed that the woods were jammed with equipment, and four prisoners of war in US hands reported that fresh troops were arriving for a big attack around 16 or 17 December, certainly before Christmas. Only one of these bits of information (increased vehicular traffic) reached all the way up to 12th Army Group Headquarters - - and it was not briefed until the morning of 16 December.<sup>11</sup>

The Allies, because of the effectiveness of Hitler's cover plan and secrecy, and because of their mind-set, continued to interpret indicators as pointing toward preparations for counterattack when the Allies crossed the Roer, with low German priority to the Ardennes. According to General Bradley, "During the middle of November, G-2 reported that the Sixth SS Panzer Army had been moved . . . To an area nearer Cologne. Another Panzer Army, the Fifth, was reported to massed its tanks a little further north. So conspicuous were these telltale signs of von Rundstedt's apparent intent to nab us astride the Roer, that we should probably have sifted them for evidence of deception. But if anyone on that Western front sniffed in these preparations an intent to mislead us on a German offensive elsewhere, he certainly did not share his suspicions with me."<sup>12</sup> No intelligence estimate, at any level, gave sufficient indication of a major German counteroffensive in the Ardennes to warrant Generals Bradley or Eisenhower's relocation of major force dispositions to that sector. What Hitler had not counted on was the "vast mechanized US Army fully mounted on wheels" capable of being "flung rapidly against his flanks."<sup>13</sup>

And where was Ultra during this buildup? Ultra had provided so much valuable information to the Allies that some "intelligence staffs had begun to rely on it almost entirely."<sup>14</sup> Mr. Winterbotham in *The Ultra Secret* states that, ". . . There is no

<sup>6</sup>Liddell Hart, *History of the Second World War*, Vol II, P. 646

<sup>7</sup>Cole, US Army War College Lecture, "Eisenhower at the Battle of the Bulge," 4 April 1977.

<sup>8</sup>Winterbotham, *The Ultra Secret*, p. 254.

<sup>9</sup>Liddell Hart, P.644.

<sup>10</sup>Cole, *The Ardennes*, P/ 61.

<sup>11</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 445.

<sup>12</sup>Bradley, *A Soldier's Story*, P. 439.

<sup>13</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 445.

<sup>14</sup>Winterbotham, p. 254.

(Continued on Page 8)

doubt in my own mind that the intelligence staffs and the commanders at SHEAF army groups and army headquarters who had, for the past two and half years, had the enemy's intentions handed to them on a plate, had perhaps come to rely on Ultra to

## 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, 9 June 2002, at Perry's Restaurant, Odenton MD. Joe served with Company B, 345th Infantry, 87th Infantry Division. His thoughts are shared with those who were unable to attend.*

We inch our way by soul and spirit into the 21st Century. Since last we met, we filed our income taxes. Memorial Day came and went, as we combined it with remembering Sept 11th 2001 and, clearing out "ground zero" at the World Trade Center. The Pentagon refurbishing is proceeding well and, should be completed in time to remember the anniversary of those dastardly attacks done by our terrorist enemy. Oh, if only the CIA, FBI and the other 13-15 intelligence agencies and security entities were working off the same song sheet, connecting the dots of information uncovered. Today's technology, our computer age, give us so much data, but we have not mastered just what exactly — "WHAT THE HELL DOES THIS MEAN!! WHAT DOES THIS TELL US." We need to think outside the box more in today's form of warfare. Sounds like echoes of the days prior to the commencement of the Battle of the Bulge, fifty-eight years ago. Our D-Day landings were also 58 years ago.

Now the second guessing is ongoing, a disgraceful political ploy being played by those who want to create doubts, untruths, second guessing and, so on. We all should remind them about Winston Churchill's warning about the dangers of polls. Speaking before the House of Commons in 1941, that great leader and statesman said: "Nothing is more dangerous in wartime than to live in the temperamental atmosphere of a Gallop Poll, always feeling one's pulse and taking one's temperature." (George Gallop had started his public opinion surveys in London in 1936.) How many more pollsters we have today, than 66 years ago. Compounding those, the advent of talking heads, punditry, military-political experts, most of whom don't know a thing about the battle, combat, strategic-tactical differentiation's, add to the mischief potential for blurring the distinctions between today's war on terrorism and what we men experienced during World War II. We who fought the war, were allowed to see horrors that God would have us not see. We still bear the mental scars.

All of us, particularly, have outlived the conventional life span. We are amused at times as we see, can laugh a bit, as we hear that — if we reach 80, we can expect, on average, to live another 10 years. In fact, those in America who are 85 or older today will double from 4.2 mill to 8.5 million by 2030. Medical advances, new emphasis on diet, exercise, new drugs, geriatric research, all prolong life; hopefully with some quality. Also, each of us here can say, in some measure, that we have had a moderately successful, generally useful life, in one or more career profiles, making genuine contributions, as women and men, to the well-being of our families, our beloved nation, and, its goals. Some of us can say: we manage the buttons on microwaves, a VCR; others have mastered the computer, its mouse, the Internet, E-mail/Voice mail and, web sites. 500 million are currently on the internet worldwide. The ever changing nature of the technology forces a desire and interest to keep pace and connect with those around us. For many, it is an effort to come to Perry's every two months, to renew friendships, stories, even tell a few fibs occasionally to match each other. We are ever grateful for the leadership that makes it all possible. We in the robes of glory, all with the battle-blood gory, will, in the dusk of eternity, meet. All hail to all those who died in the battle, and, those who have passed on over the years, and of recent memory. We try to speak for you, still. In the storm of the years that are fading — no braver battle was won. May they laurel the graves of our dead always. In the 1990s, we retirees outnumbered teenagers for the first time in our history. Over the past 100 years, average life expectancy has doubled to 85. Look ahead, brother and sister, look ahead. Let us continue our search our search for meaning in a world where violence, lies, and corruption are commonplace. It has been said recently that we Americans fight differently then out enemies. "American" is a creed: values – morals – generosity – duty – honor – country. We often don't make it up, just embroider it – like making a cake with too much cream. All this will help us. As a nation, we are in for some "choppy seas," as the Navy says; "rough roads" as the Army and Marines expound; and "turbulent air" as our flyers tell us. Let's be cheerful as it all unfolds. Not being cheerful is a drag. Think about our young men and women everyday as they fight the war on terrorism. Remember how we felt when we were young. Our Special Forces in Afghanistan, Pakistan, the Philippines, etc, the elites are in harms way. God speed to them. Have a good summer.

## 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 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**

**COMPARATIVE STATISTICS  
OFFICERS & ENLISTED MEN**

*The following information was taken from the History of the 110th Infantry, 28th InfD, Exhibit N, in Record Group 407, National Archives & Records Administration, College Park MD.*

This exhibit is appended for its comparative value, in the earnest hope that it will be of interest as such. It is not intended to belittle the contributions of officers as compared to enlisted men – nor vice versa.. Nor is it submitted as encompassing the complete casualty figures of the Regiment. AS regards the former, it is self-evident that the Second Lieutenants of this war have been as expendable as the privates with whom they slept, ate , cursed and “sweated out” their combat time. And who shall say whether the life of Lt. Jones , leading a platoon, was of more or less value to his country than that of Private Smith, who died in a front-line foxhole, defending his company against an enemy attack? In the last analysis the value of an individual as a cog in the machine depends, not upon the size or position of the cog, but upon how well or poorly it does the job assigned. Thus any man’s worth devolves, not upon the task which he performs , but upon the manner in which he performs it, for the whole is the sum of its parts. As regards the latter, \*Exhibit K is a complete and accurate summary of all fatalities, MIAs and POWs reported in this Regiment.

The first figure in each column below represents the officers in that category, the second the enlisted men.

<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>SW</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>NBC</u>
Jul 44	01 – 007	01 – 020	00 – 0001	(Unknown)
Aug 44	17 – 230	40 – 922	08 – 0154	16 – 440
Sep 44	07 – 062	28 – 759	02 - 0020	18 – 450
Oct 44	01 – 025	04 – 153	01 – 0024	09 – 307
Nov 44	09 – 056	40 – 809	05 – 0282	23 – 867
Dec 44	16 – 123	17 – 164	40 – 1261	(Unknown)
Jan 45	01 – 003	07 – 056	(Unknown)	02 – 150
Feb 45	03 – 019	05 – 105	01 – 0026	08 – 333
Mar 45	00 – 004	04 – 037	00 – 0002	09 – 229
<u>Apr 45</u>	<u>00 – 003</u>	<u>00 – 005</u>	<u>00 – 0000</u>	<u>08 – 108</u>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>55 – 602</b>	<b>146 – 3030</b>	<b>58 – 1770</b>	<b>93 – 2884</b>

*Key:BC, Battle Casualty; Died, (Usually a Non Battle Casualty); DOC, Died of Other Causes; KIA, Killed in Action, MIA, Missing In Action; NBC, Non-Battle Caslty, POW, Prsr of War; SW, Seriously Wounded; RMC, Rtned Mil Cntrl, RMN Rtned Mil Cntrl Hospitalized*

* Exhibit K:	NBC	2550 of which	16 DIED	KIA	666	
	BC	3714 of which	104 DOW			<u>Total Known Dead</u> 805 (DIED, DOW, DOC, KIA)
	MIA	2115 of which	1550 RMC)			<u>Total Battle Casualties</u> 9045 (NBC, BC, MIA, KIA)
			260 RMN)	⇒	1829 Total Rtrnd from Enemy Hands	
			19 DOC)			
			17 POW		<u>17 POW</u>	
					1846 TOTAL MIA (Confirmed)+269 MIA (Unconfirmed)	

**PAUL C SHADE**

*While researching the other day in the 99th Infantry Division General Orders, for something else, I came across this citation for one of our Chapter Members who presently lives in Bethesda MD. The information was found in General Order 90 dated 12 Aug 1945*

**BRONZE STAR**

Pfc Paul C. Shade , 37 347 968, 393rd Infantry, US Army, for heroic action in connection with military operations against the enemy on 5 Apr 1945, in Germany. Private Shade and two other men were right flank security for the company during an attack through a heavily wooded area. Shortly after their positions, they ran into heavy machine gun & rifle fire. Though wounded in his right hand, he delivered a continuous flow of fire on enemy lines to hold them down until the company could move up and into position. His fearless action enabled the company to continue on their mission. The courage and devotion to duty displayed by Private Shade merit the highest praise. Entered military service from Colorado.

**CHANGE OF COMMAND**

On 20 June 2002, the Command of Fort Meade changed from Colonel Michael J. Stewart to Colonel John W. Ives. We were pleased to see the interest by Col Ives son, Capt Ives in the Battle of the Bulge. His son serves at Ft Stewart GA.

**All Things In Moderation**

Scorpion West, morale building news propaganda sheet of the German Army enlightened its readers a few days ago with this statement: “Troops are authorized to liquidate commanders who order them to retreat. However, this privilege must not be abused.”

*(FUA, PR 10 Dec) G-2 Periodic Report #122, Hq 83rd, 11 Dec 1944*

*(The Ultra Study, Continued from page 3)*

such an extent that when it gave no positive indication of the coming counterattack, all the other indications were not taken seriously enough. "Hs I been in England I believe that the very absence of Ultra would have aroused my strong suspicions."<sup>15</sup> He believes the most pertinent cause of the surprise of von Rundstedt's offensive was the absence of high-grade Ultra before the battle. There was apparently still information available to the Allies from what he calls "logistical Ultra."

Cave Brown, in *Bodyguard of Lies*, indicates that in September 1944, a German agent in Holland by the name of Lindemans passed the information to the Germans that the Allies had Ultra. During the same month, there were indications that the Germans had begun to suspect the security of Enigma, their coding machine. In late 1944, in fact, they began to work toward its replacement, but at that stage of the war, it became an impossible task and they continued to use it. Cave Brown believes that their suspicions of the security of their system almost certainly played a part in the extraordinary precautions the German High Command took to protect the secrecy of the Ardennes counteroffensive. "Hitler directed that none of his orders -- nor any orders relating to the attack -- go by wireless. Ultra dried up."<sup>16</sup>

### CONCLUSIONS

The German counteroffensive in the Ardennes, despite the surprise it achieved, was rendered a failure by heavy Allied resistance and decisive action. At enormous cost, the only advantage Hitler gained by his rash gamble was several weeks delay in the Allied offensive toward the Rhine. The losses suffered eliminated any future possibility of German defense of the homeland.

The element of surprise gained by strategic camouflage and other means was also at a price. German commanders concerned were informed of the plan so late that they had no time to reconnoiter, nor to prepare their units for the operation.

The Allies learned a number of lessons at the Ardennes. Not the least of them was the fact that senior commanders had underestimated the Germans. They had let their offensive mindset - their belief that the enemy was preparing for defense and counterattack in the Roer -- cloud the possibility of an enemy strategic offensive. Allied intelligence estimates were reasonably accurate as to German resources and capabilities.

They were less accurate as to enemy dispositions. And they failed to pinpoint enemy intentions.

General Bradley has stated that the Allies had two strategic options. They did not have sufficient troops for both a winter offensive and for establishment of a secure defense along the entire Allied front. The choices were either to continue the attack, or to defend until Spring. "At that moment, nothing less than an unequivocal indication of impending attack in the Ardennes could have induced me to quit the winter offensive."<sup>17</sup> The intelligence available -- from all sources -- was unable to produce any such unequivocal indication.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 255.

<sup>16</sup> Cave Brown, *Bodyguard of Lies*, pp. 810-811.

<sup>17</sup> Bradley, P. 452.

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*Coming in the next issue is the "Classified Annex to Addendum to USAWC Military Research Program Paper, THE ULTRA STUDY, "Communications Intelligence (COMINT) in the Prelude to the Battle of the Bulge." Stay tuned.*

*(Continued from page 9 7th Armored Division)*

Failing to penetrate the 7th's positions, the Germans by-passed the line it held. Late in December the Germans tried once again to knock the 7th out of position at St Vith. At length the Division withdrew across the Salm River. On Christmas Eve the 7th was sent to plug a gap near Manhay and by the end of December, the Division had pushed the Germans out of Manhay and held firm. The enemy never returned. After a short rest in January 1945 the 7th went back to St Vith and took that Belgium town without too much trouble. During February and most of March 1945, the 7th rested and healed grievous wounds sustained during the winter offensive. It went back into action 26 March 1945, breaking out of the Remagen bridgehead and driving on unchecked for five days. It led the offensive over the Rhine and into the heart of the Reich, covering 148 miles in five days. The Dill River was crossed and the great Eder Dam north of Kirchain was taken. The 7th then went in to help reduce the Ruhr pocket and capture thousands of Germans. On 16 April, it negotiated for the surrender of the German panzer corps, resulting in the complete collapse of the eastern sector of the pocket. In northern Germany the 7th crossed the Elbe and as the war neared its close swept to the Baltic Sea and a meeting with Russian Forces. Division statisticians claim the 7th traveled 2260 miles during its combat career, destroyed 2653 enemy vehicles and captured 3517 enemy vehicles. Prior to crossing the Rhine it had captured 9045 prisoners. Upon returning to the US in October 1945, the Division was inactivated.

*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.*

## **THE BULGE**

### **99th and The Bulge**

*The following by an unknown author was found in the Historical Records of the 99th Infantry Division, at the National Archives and Records Administration, College Park Maryland*

When the men of the 99th Infantry Division first went on the line in November 1944, little did they know the great events that were in store for them. The first sector they were to occupy in combat stretched over 20 miles along the Belgium– German border opposite the Seigfried Line. On this more than Corps-sized front, they established a thin line from which patrols pushed out daily to probe the outposts of the West Wall.

On the 13th of December this period of patrolling was punctuated when the 99th attacked in conjunction with elements of the V Corps. From the 13th to the 16th, men of the 99th battled enemy pillboxes with flame throwers, cannon and rifle. The Germans surrendered their forts only after fierce fighting, as slowly a wedge was being drilled through the outer West Wall.

Then on fateful December 16th, the Germans launched their great Ardennes counter-offensive. For the 99th Division, this epic action began early in the morning of the 16th when elements of four German divisions; of an estimated total strength of 37,200 men, slugged heavily at the south-central and northern sectors. In the north, on the Hofen-Alzen front, the enemy was stopped cold and thrown back with severe losses. In the south and central sectors, after murderous barrages of artillery, the numerically superior Germans smashed through portions of the line thinly held through thick pine forests. All day the men of the 99th fought fiercely to stem the onslaught of enemy tanks and infantry, and by nightfall they had pushed back to most of their original positions. For those small gains the enemy did make on the 16th of December, he paid dearly.

After the initial stage of the Battle of the Bulge, it was apparent that the first and imperative goal of Von Rundstedt's drive was to make swift penetrations through the American line and capture the supply depots in the rear areas. Without gasoline, especially, the German drive would soon exhaust itself. In Butgenbach, Eupen, and Liege, Belgium were huge stores of fuel for Rundstedt's battle machine. The 99th Infantry Division stood between the Germans and their goal.

On the 17th, the Germans continued their smash westward. After hurling intense artillery barrages on the Division forward elements, the enemy with an overwhelming force of infantry and armor attacked both in the north and south. The heaviest fighting occurred in the south where an estimated four German divisions (Two panzer and two infantry) plunged around the Division's right flank, through thinly held positions, and on up the road nets in the rear. All day furious battles raged as masses of Germans swarmed over and around positions held by men of the 99th. Many times they had to fight the enemy from all sides; and most these encircled groups fought their way out in the face of terrific odds.

This main German attack in the south swept on northwest until it reached the town of Bullingen. There the enemy overran the town and found it too hot to hold because of the costly resistance put up by men of the 99th. Therefore the Germans, instead of continuing their drive northwestward, bounced off Bullingen to the Southwest. Thus the 99th Division diverted the main attack toward Butgenbach, Eupen, and Liege.

Meanwhile on the north flank just south of Monschau, the Germans struck with an estimated strength of one Volksgrenadier division supported by tanks. They assaulted furiously but the men of the 99th held their ground and again threw the enemy back. The next day (18th of December) the Germans lashed out four times in the same sector in a frantic attempt to break through the line and on to the main roads leading eastward. These assaults withered in the hail of Yankee fire. Thus in the north, too, the men of the 99th blocked the Germans way to the supplies they so critically needed.

During these two days of Rundstedt's offensive, men of the 99th, by frustrating the Germans in their efforts to obtain critical fuel supplies, contributed greatly to the early breakdown of their mechanized attack.

Following this initial action of the 16th and 17th, the four battalions which had been fighting semi-independently in the woods fought their way back to Krinkelt and Wirtzfeld where they passed through delaying positions and on to Elsenborn Ridge. There they occupied prepared defensive positions on the high ground, and by midnight of the 19th a formidable line of excellent defensive terrain faced the advancing enemy. Thus the defensive arc, which constituted the north shoulder of the Ardennes salient, was formed around the east and southwest fringe of Elsenborn, Belgium.

On this commanding ground men of the 99th held the "the hot corner" of the Bulge from the 19th of December to the 27th of January, when the Ardennes Salient was completely crushed. During this period enemy shelling and the severe winter made fighting in the foxholes an icy ordeal, as the entire line remained constantly alert for the attacks to come. The first came on the 20th of December when the Germans again attacked in force with infantry and tanks, and again they were repulsed with heavy losses. The second came on the 28th; this was the last major attack launched by the Germans in the Battle of the Bulge. Following an intense artillery barrage, the enemy pushed off with an estimated two battalions of infantry. They were quickly disorganized by artillery and machine gun fire before reaching the Division line.

And so in one of the most crucial and costly actions of the Second World War in Europe, the men of the 99th were rudely introduced to modern combat. Through it all they fought with indomitable courage and amazing endurance . . . though "Battle Babies, they matched veterans . . . To delay, contain, and finally stop an overwhelming enemy force which struck out frantically in a final effort to turn the tide."

*Source: National Archives & Records Administration, College Park MD, Record Group 407, Unit Records 99th Infantry Division*

**THE INFANTRY SCHOOL  
Fort Benning, Georgia**

*December 16, 1940*

MEMORANDUM: To General Aiken

1. The following data illustrated the fact that War is becoming progressively safer, i.e., a man who enters the army has a greater chance of returning alive than he had in previous campaigns. This is due to the increasing application of the principles of military preventive medicine, i.e., hygiene and sanitation.

<b>1802 Napoleon's Expedition to Santo Domingo</b>	58,000 men in the army 8,000 men returned alive <b><u>1 in 7</u></b> 50,000 died of disease None died of battle injuries or were killed in action.
<b>1812 Napoleon's Russian Campaign</b>	500,000 men in the force 20,000 men returned alive <b><u>1 in 25</u></b> 420,000 died of disease 60,000 died of battle injuries or were killed in action.
<b>1828 – 1829 Russian Campaign in Turkey</b>	115,000 men in the force 15,000 men returned alive <b><u>1 in 8</u></b> 90,000 died of disease 10,000 died of battle injuries or were killed in action.
<b>1845 United States – Mexican War</b>	100,000 men sent into Mexico 87,000 men returned alive <b><u>1 in 1.23</u></b> 10,986 died of disease 1,549 died of battle injuries or were killed in action.
<b>1898 Spanish-American War</b>	282,000 in US Army 16,000 sent into Cuba 275,594 men returned alive <b><u>1 in 1.03</u></b> 5,438 died of disease 968 died of battle injuries or were killed in action.
<b>1917 – 1918 World War I</b>	4,000,000 men in U S Army 2,000,000 in AEF 3,900,000 men returned alive <b><u>1 in 1.02</u></b> 57,460 died of disease 50,280 died of battle injuries or were killed in action.

**In the Civil War 2 men died from disease for everyone killed in battle.**

Crawford F. Sems  
Capt Med Corps  
Med Svc Inst

*Source: National Archives & Records Administration , Record Group 407, Historical Papers, 28th Infantry Division.*

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**CHAPTER E-MAIL  
Do We Have Your E-Mail Address?  
johndbowen@earthlink.net**

**Have your Registered for the VBOB Convention?**

## Fact Sheet of the 7th Armored Division

**TYPE OF DIVISION:** Army of the United States.

**NICKNAME:** Lucky Seventh. (It has also been called the "Ghost Division," because it haunted the Germans all the way across Europe; "Stonewall Seventh," because of its defensive ability and "The Rattlesnake Division," because the enemy never knew where it would strike next.

**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..

**SONGS:** "Song of the Seventh," by B. Dunferd; "The Seventh Attacks," by T/5 Ben Maugham.

**ACTIVATION DATE:** 1 Mar 1942.

**INACTIVATION DATE:** 9 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:** Upon activation the Division was assigned to Camp Polk, LA, coming under the II Armored Corps. During Sep and Oct 1942 the Division maneuvered in Louisiana and Texas under the Third Army. Following these maneuvers the 7th returned to Camp Polk and was assigned to the III Armored Corps. In March 1943, the Division moved to the Desert Training Center in California for five months of training and maneuvers. It was assigned to Fort Benning GA in Aug 1943 under the Second Army.

**DEPARTED U.S. FOR FOREIGN DUTY:** 7 Jun 1944 from NYPE.

**OVERSEAS TRAINING:** Trained at Tidworth Barracks in Wiltshire, England.

**COMBAT DAYS (Div): 172..:**

**DATE ENTERED COMBAT:** DIVISION 14 Aug 1944. FIRST ELEMENTS 13 Aug 1944

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

**RETURNED TO US:** Elements arrived in Boston, New York City and Newport News on 8 and 9 October 1945.

**SUCCESSIVE COMMANDING GENERALS:** Major General Lindsay McD. Silvester from 1 March 1942 to November 1944; Major General Robert W. Hasbrouck from November 1944 to August 1945; Brigadier General Truman E Boudinet from September 1945 until the Division's inactivation.

**COMMENDATIONS:** General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Commander of Allied Troops in the European Theater of Operations, sent a message to General Hasbrouck during the 7th's stand at St Vith which said: "The magnificent job that you are doing is having a great beneficial effect on our whole situation. I am personally grateful to you and wish you would let all of your people know that if they continue to carry out their mission with the splendid spirit they have so far shown, they will have so served well their country."

**FOREIGN AWARDS:** Company D, 40th Tank Battalion awarded French Croix de Guerre for 17-22 December 1944 action at Geuvy, Belgium, per French decree 246, dated 15 July 1946.

**CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR WINNER:** S Sgt Robert H. Dietz, Company A, 38th Armored Infantry Battalion for 29 March 1945 action near Kirchain, Germany, and Cpl Thomas J. Kelly, Company C, 48th Armored Infantry Battalion for 5 April 1945 action at Alemert, Germany.

**COMBAT HIGHLIGHTS:** An offensive sweep across France during which it helped liberate such cities as Chartres, Chateau-Thierry, Rheims; a stonewall defense of St Vith during the German winter offensive, crossing of the Rhine River and reduction of the Ruhr pocket are all part of the combat record of the 7th Armored Division. The Division debarked in France early in Aug 1944 and 16 August was attacking Chartres. The city fell by 18 August. The 7th then went on to take Dreux, Molun and Chateau-Thierry. It was the first Allied unit to cross the Seine in this war, the crossing being made 24 August. The 7th swept across the Marne, Aisne and Meuse Rivers, taking the city of Verdun by the end of August. In September the Division drove toward Germany, by-passed the city of Metz and established a bridgehead over the Moselle River. The 7th then shifted to Holland in October. Here on 8 October it was assigned the task of protecting the vital right flank of the British-Canadian drive to clear the northern and western approaches to the strategically important port of Antwerp. The Division's role was purely defensive. On 27 October the Germans counterattacked in the 7th's sector near Meijel. The battle raged bitterly for three days but, even though outnumbered, the 7th conceded little ground and killed a number of Germans. It was credited with saving the campaign to clear the approaches of Antwerp. The Division took a well-deserved rest during November. On 1 December elements of the Division moved into Linnich, Germany, located on the banks of the Roer River, and soon the entire Division had crossed over the border and was waiting to strike deep into the heart of Germany. On 16 December, however, the Division was sent to ST Vith, Belgium to help stem Von Rundstedt's winter offensive. The 7th felt the weight of the enemy's thrust toward Liege, but its forces held firm. (Cont'd on page 8)

## BULGE UNIT REUNIONS

**29 Aug – 2 Sep 2002 National VBOB Reunion, BWI Marriott, Baltimore MD.** Memorial Service at MD/DC Chapter Memorial, Ft Meade, Ft Meade Museum tour and BOB Conference Room visit. Tour Inner Harbor, Aquarium, USS Constellation, USS Torsk submarine, & last ship afloat from Pearl Harbor, USS Teney, Flag Ceremony at Ft McHenry. Tour B & O Railroad Museum. Opening Reception, Hospitality, Memorabilia Room, Banquet. Registration blank in May Bulge Bugle. Contact: Nancy Monson, PO Box 11129, Arlington VA 22210-2129, Tel 703-528-4058.

**4-7 Sep 2002, 28th Inf Div, Ft Indiantown Gap**

**PA and Holiday Inn, Grantville PA**

**11-15 Sep 2002, 705th TD Bn, Radisson Inn, San Antonio TX.** Contact Wayne Tennant, 970-667-3233, wtenn45575@juno.com

**11-14 Sep 2002, 83rd InfD, Landmark Hotel, Myrtle Beach SC,** Contact Robert Gangnalth 203-268-6683.

stanfrandb.elen@aol.com

**18-22 Sep 2002, 106th InfD, Holiday Inn Hampton/Norfolk VA**

**26-30 Sep 2002, 7th armored Div, Radisson Market Square, San Antonio TX.** Contact 7th ArmdD Assn, 947th A St, Meadville PA 16335, Cbaray@toolcity.net

**29 Sep – 4 Oct 2002,**

**774th TD Bn. Ocean Front Plaza, Myrtle Beach SC.** Contact Arthur Pelkey 843-272-5378.

oldsarg774thtdbn@aol.com

**1-4 Oct 2002, 299th Engineer Combat Bn, White Wolf Crossing OK.**

Contact Dan Webster sapper299@hotmail.com

**23-29 Sep 2002, 4th Infantry Div, Double Tree Hotel, Spokane WA.** Contact Robert Reilly, 509-669-2416.

joans.bob@verizon.net

**15-16 Dec 2002, Comm of the 58th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge,** by BOB Fndn and VBOB, at Arlington Cemetery. Hotel accommodations at Fairview Park Marriott Hotel, Falls Church VA. On Dec 15th

there will be a visit to the new International Spy Museum which will open in Washington DC in June, a visit to Union Station, as well as the annual Commemorative Banquet, evening of Dec 15th. VBOB Arlington National Cemetery Ceremonies, Wreath laying at Tomb of Unknowns, Wreath laying and talk at VBOB Memorial, Installation of 2003 Officers and luncheon at Fairview Marriott. Contact Ms Dorothy Davis, 301-881-0356.

*Those having reunions can post them on the Internet at <<http://www.usmc.mil/reunions/reunions.nsf>> for free.*

**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 11 August 2002**

**Perry's Restaurant, Odenton MD**

**Contact John Bowen for Reservations**

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