

❖ WWII MUSINGS ❖

Volume 2 Issue 8

Oct/Nov 1994

50th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION END of THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE REENACTMENT 26-29 January 1995

Fort Indiantown Gap, PA

The Federation of Reenactors invites all Bulge Veterans to their commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge and the victory of the Allies in crushing the German Counter offensive, at the end of January 1995. Reserve this weekend so as to be there for this special event. It will also allow you to attend the 50th anniversary National Commemoration of the start of the Bulge at St Louis, 15-18 Dec 94. Costs for the Reenactment will again be \$35, for veterans, to stay in the barracks on Friday and Saturday evenings and receive Breakfast and Dinner on the Saturday, 28 January 1995. If you are interested in receiving a registration form and further details for this event please send a stamped self addressed envelope to John D. Bowen, 613 Chichester Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20904-3331. Tel 301-384-6533 and a copy will be sent to you. This 50th Anniversary event will include bleachers to observe the reenactment, a warm-up tent, at the site, for those that need it, static displays of both WWII period and modern military equipment provided the Military Vehicle Preservation Society and the 28th PA National Guard, restored barracks outfitted in WWII gear for both Allies and for the Germans and a flea market. The PA National Guard is providing additional support to make this the most significant Bulge Reenactment yet. Of course the best part of the event is the overnite stays in the barracks, mixing with fellow veterans and reliving those early days of Army life in basic training or before being shipped over. The comraderie and good cheer is outstanding. The barracks have been rehabilitated with new latrines and improved interiors though basically they are your original WWII barracks.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

Seen on a Bumper
Sticker

I have lost alot of things in
life,
But the thing I miss most is

SEE YOU IN
ST LOUIS
15-18 DEC 1994
50th ANNIVERSARY
COMMEMORATION
BATTLE OF THE
BULGE

◆◆◆ HERALDIC ITEMS

Heraldic items for Army organizations reflect history, tradition, ideals, mission and accomplishments. Shoulder sleeve insignia and distinctive unit insignia have been designed so that each is distinctive to the organization for which approved. Both serve as identifying devices and contribute to unit cohesiveness.

While the custom of bearing various symbols on shields, helmets and flags existed in antiquity, heraldry was not introduced until the Middle Ages. The use of heraldic devices became more prevalent with the increased use of armor and the requirements for insignia to assist in distinguishing friend from foe on the battlefield. The designs included mythological beasts, symbols commemorative of incidents of valor and other identifying marks to which specific symbolism was ascribed. Gradually a formal system of heraldry evolved, complete with rules for design, use and display.

The currently authorized embroidered shoulder sleeve insignia had their origin during WWI. They serve the same purpose as the Corps symbols (badges) in use during the Civil War and the War with Spain. The Corps badges were of simple design; most could be cut from a single piece of cloth, e.g. a four leaf clover, a heart, a star, a winged horsefoot, a caltrop and a spearhead. Such devices were easily remembered and readily

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211 November 1994-Veterans Day Ceremonies, Arlington National Cemetery, Nation's Capital

11 November 1994-New York City Veterans Day Parade sponsored by the United War Veterans. Contact Michael Kovalevich 212-283-3421.

12 November 1994, Battle of the Bulge Monument Dedication, Valley Forge Military Academy, Wayne PA. 9:30AM, Memorial Service, Parade and reception. (Note change in date) Delaware Valley Chapter VBOB Contact Stan Wojtusik 215-637-4191

15-18 December 1994,-Official National 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of the Bulge, St Louis Missouri. Reception, National Flag Exhibit, Plaque dedication, VBOB parade, Ecumenical Memorial Service at the Great St Louis Cathedral, Belgium Symphonic Band and Concert, 50th Anniversary Banquet, US Army Field Band Production featuring scenes and musical numbers from WWII. A grand event. Contact VBOB Hq PO Box 11129, Arlington VA 22210-2129, Tel 703-528-4058

16 December 1994,-Bastogne, Official Memorial Day of the Battle of the Bulge

identified.. Not only were they worn by the soldiers on their headgear, but also they incorporated in the organizations' flags.

The first shoulder sleeve insignia is believed to have been worn by men of the 81st Division during World War I. On their voyage to France they adopted as their insignia the figure of a wildcat that was in use as a distinctive marking for the Division's equipment. Wear of the insignia was officially approved 19 Oct 1918, by a telegram from the Adjutant General, American Expeditionary Forces, to the division's commanding general. Insignia for other organizations of the AEF were later authorized and designs were officially approved. Designs varied greatly. Many had their origin in designs already in use for organizational and equipment markings; others were based on monograms and geometric figures alluding to designations.

Memorial ceremony in the presence of the civil and military authorities, with the participation of the veterans of the 101st Airborne Division. Historical Reconstruction (Reenactment?) of the siege of Bastogne. Concert of military music. Foire aux Noix and street markets.

18 December 1994,-Baugnez, Concelebrated Mass and Memorial ceremony in memory of the US victims of the massacre at Baugnez by the SS troops.

27-29 Jan 1995-Reenactment 50th Anniversary Battle of the Bulge-Fort Indiantown Gap PA. Contact John

Symbols associated with traditions, geographical locations and missions of the organizations were also used in some designs.

Since WWI, the authorization of shoulder sleeve insignia has expanded with organizational and other changes within the Army. Most soldiers now wear shoulder sleeve insignia. Many designs are more elaborate than those of WWI. The more complex designs came into being because of an increase in the number of authorized insignia and the availability of embroidery machinery for production of various types of textile insignia. During the Vietnam era the policy governing the wear of subdued insignia as well as full-color items was established.

Distinctive insignia of metal and enamel are authorized for those organizations authorized shoulder sleeve insignia. These insignia may be traced to the use of metal and enamel badges authorized to be worn instead of the cloth badges during

Bowen, 301-384-6533

12 February 1995-Vianden Luxembourg. 50th Anniversary of the liberation of Vianden, the last town to be liberated in Luxembourg during the Battle of the Bulge. Plaque dedication honoring the US 1255th Engineering Combat Bn.

8 May 1995-V-E Day Commemoration, Washington DC, Offut AFB, Omaha NE and Salt Lake City Utah. Further info to follow.

June/July 1995-Encampment on the Mall-A living history display/exhibit focusing on the WWII period. Contact Diana Parker 202-287-3424, Center for Folklife Program and Cultural Studies, Smithsonian.

July 1995-Ettelbruck -"Remembrance Day" in honour of General George Patton, Jr liberator of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in 1944, who is buried in the American Cemetery in Hamm with 5,100 soldiers of his famous Third US Army. Military parade, air show, exhibitions of military equipment, concerts.

2 September 1995- V-J Day Commemoration, Washington DC

the War with Spain. The type of distinctive insignia currently in use was first authorized during the 1920's for regiments and some units. As in the case of the shoulder sleeve insignia the authorization was expanded as changes in organization took place in the Army. The designs are based on symbols reflecting the organization's lineage, battle honors, traditions, and mission. Usually they incorporate the organization's motto, which is often of an idealistic nature.

Shoulder sleeve and distinctive insignia are significant factors in Army *esprit de corps*.

(Source: An excellent book *Armies, Corps Divisions and Separate Brigades* by John B. Wilson, Center for Military History, published in 1987 and for sale by the Supt of Documents, US Govt Printing Office, Washington DC 20402.)

50 YEARS AGO
THIRD U.S. ARMY OPERATIONS
The Capture of Metz & the Saar Campaign
8 Nov - 18 Dec 1944

On 25 Sep Third US Army, lowed down by the lack of gasoline and other critical materials, was ordered to adapt itself to an aggressive defense and at the same time abandoning its large scale attacks to the east. This policy was continued all through October, allowing other Allied Armies to drive up to positions as far forward as those of Third US Army. In early November, the Allied Armies in the west were roughly in a straight north-south line, poised for all-out attack through the Siegfried Line.

A directive issued 3 Nov for the resumption of the offensive provided that XII Corps, upon a target date yet unannounced, would advance from the vicinity of Pont-A-Mousson to seize rail and road facilities at Falquemont, that it would aid XX Corps in trapping enemy forces withdrawing from Metz, and would continue the advance rapidly to establish a bridgehead east of the Rhine River within zone to seize the Mainz-Frankfurt area.

At 0600 9 Nov, the 26th, 35th and 80th Infantry Divisions of XII Corps simultaneously launched major attacks to the east. they were arranged for the attack with the 26th Inf Div on the south, the 35th Inf Div in the center and the 80th Inf Div on the north. the 4th and 6th Armored Divs joined in the attack later in the day, furnishing combat commands to work jointly with the various infantry divisions. All throughout the Corps 50 mile front, the advance rolled gradually forward. Resistance was strong, and extremely heavy enemy artillery fire was laid down, while countless pillboxes, mine fields and tank traps were encountered.

Chateau Salins, 25 miles northeast of Nancy was captured by the 26th Inf Div on 10 Nov, and Morhange, 15 ,miles farther northeast was taken by the 35th Inf Div on 15

Nov. During this advance the front lines were kept relatively straight. Enemy counterattacks were frequent, and although all were made in force, were successfully beaten off.

On 16 Nov, XII Corps stopped for regrouping, at which time the 26th Inf Div was poised for a final attack on the city of Dieuze, and the 35th Inf Div was in the vicinity of Harprick. The Corps front lines extended generally in a line running from Dieuze to the northeast. All of the units of XII Corps resumed their coordinated attack during the morning of 18 Nov, with the 26th InfD and the 4th ArmdD concentrating their efforts on the important town of Dieuze. Meanwhile the 35th InfD and the 6th ArmdD advanced slowly north of Dieuze. Bertring and Bermering were captured on 18 Nov. Dieuze fell on 20 Nov, and as the 80th InfD and the 6th ArmdD made gains in the central part of the Corps zone capturing Lelling and Falquemont (one of its major objectives) the attack began to speed up.

During the period 21 Nov to 25 Nov the attack to the east continued steadily, with many small towns taken. On the latter date the 4th ArmdD reach the Saar River, the last major obstacle before the Siegfried Line. At the same time, substantial gains were being made through the Maginot Line by the 80th InfD. St Avold was entered on 26 Nov by the 80th InfD, with the other divisions of the XII Corps maintaining their northwest to southeast front at this stage of operations.

The 4th ArmdD and the 26th Inf Div made appreciable advances along the flank on 26th and 27 Nov. After taking Berg and Thal the two divisions prepared to attack Saar-Union. Farther north the 35th and 80th InfDs and the 6th ArmdD regrouped their forces, preparing to resume the attack. As the month ended all the divisions of the Corps

were resting, preparing for an attack on the key cities of Sarreguemines and Saarbrucken. and against the Siegfried Line.

At the beginning of Dec, the 4th ArmdD and the 26th InfD were in the vicinity of Saar-Union, Clearing the town by 4 Dec. (Editor's Note: It was here that our MD/DC Chapter Member Edward Radzwich, Company Commander of I Co, 101st Inf Regt, 26th Yankee InfD received the Distinguished Service Cross) These two divisions then continued their joint advance in a zone south of Sarreguemines. By 9 Dec the 26th InfD was southeast of Sarreguemines, while the 4th ArmdD was pulled out of the line for refitting. On 11 Nov, the 26th InfD was replaced in zone by the 87th InfD (transferred from III Corps), after which it proceeded to Metz to regroup, train and conduct and infantry reinforcement school. The 87th InfD, after relieving the 26th InfD, continued fighting on the Corps south flank in the vicinity of Obergailbach east of that locality. The 4th ArmdD, having completed its regrouping, renewed its attack on the Corps south flank on 17 Dec. By 18 Dec, when the 4th ArmdD started moving to the Luxembourg area in the major Army switch to the north, the 87th InfD was 3 miles inside the German border battling toward Saarbrucken.

Early in Dec the 35th InfD and the 6th ArmdD were continuing their drive in the center of Corps zone. Heavy opposition was encountered as the two divs battles toward Sarreguemines, encountering many fortified houses, minefields and tank traps in their paths of advance. Four crossings of the Saar River were made by the 35th InfD on 8 Dec both above and below Sarreguemines before entering that town on 10 Dec. The city was cleared two days later. the 6th

THIRD US ARMY OPERATIONS

Continued from Page 3

ArmdD began regrouping on 10 Dec, remaining in reserve until 14 Dec at which time it was transferred to control of the III Corps. From 12 Dec to 18 Dec the 35th InfD continued its advance northeast of Sarreguemines.

The 80th InfD, on XII Corps' north flank, was pinched out after the 6th ArmdD contacted elements of XX Corps on 2 Dec. From 4 to 6 Dec it renewed its attack, going into reserve on the later date. The 80th InfD, continued training and rehabilitation during the remainder of the period. On 18 Dec, it received orders to proceed to III Corps zone in the shift of Third US Army to the North.

(The above report is "A Brief Summary of Third US Army Operations for the Period Sep-Dec 1944, entitled "The Capture of Metz and the Saar Campaign 8 Nov-18 Dec 1944," The Saar Campaign will be completed in subsequent issues. Source: National Archives & Hq Third US Army Report dated 10 June 45. The material herein is written from the Army point of view. Details to be added by Corps and Divs. By command of General Patton)

Third US Army Shoulder Patch

The shoulder patch of the Third US Army derives from WWI and consists of a white "A" on a blue background which is encircled by a red "O." ~~The patch stood for Army of Occupation using the red, white and blue colors.~~ The Third US Army first came into existence on 15 November 1918, at Ligny-en-Barrois France, four days after the armistice had ended World War I. Two days later it moved into Germany with Hq at Koblenz. Your editor wore the Third Army Patch for two years while assigned to Hq Fort Benning GA from 1954-1956. (Source: Patton's 3rd Army at War by George Forty, 1978)

BATTLE OF THE BULGE

"The Americans have engaged 30 or 40 men for every one that we have engaged and they have lost 60 to 80 men for every one of us. (It was) the greatest American battle of the war and will, I believe, be regarded as an ever famous American victory."

Winston Churchill, speech in the House of Commons, 18 January 1945

BULGE MONUMENT DEDICATION

On 12 November 1994, the long awaited Battle of the Bulge Monument will be dedicated at Valley Forge Military Academy, Wayne PA. Activities begin at 9:30AM, and include a Memorial Service, Cadet Review & Parade and reception in Eisenhower Hall. Representatives of the Belgium and Luxembourg governments will be present. All are invited. Funds are almost complete except for raising the money for maintenance of the monument. Contact Delaware Valley Chapter VBOB Stan Wojtusik 215-637-4191 on the dedication.

Donations can be sent to George Linthicum, Del Valley Chapter, VBOB, 2605 Orchard Drive, Broomall PA 19008.

HENRY LEJOLY MALMEDY MASSACRE

In our last issue we discussed the role that Henri Lejoly played as an eye witness to the massacre. As this issue goes to press information is still being sought. Your editor will be in Europe as you read this and will try to receive information first hand. More information on this will be forthcoming in future issues.

AND SO IT GOES

In 1927 it was written in the efficiency report (ER) of George Patton, Jr., then a Captain that "this man would be invaluable in time of war, but is a disturbing element in time of peace." It was an assessment that could not have been more astute, and time would prove the absolute necessity for the Pattons of the Army. Yet Patton never would have survived that ER in the New Look Army, or the sixties Army where clerks like Alexander Haig push for the goal of the Army education system not to be the production of leaders of men but rather the development of political scientists, "because these are the officers that will ultimately influence the application of power in the future." The dancers and the prancers would have used Patton's ER to see him passed over and out of the service before the ink was dry on the page. And worst of all, so wrapped up in their self importance, they would not even recognize the terrible error they had made.

Source: Daniel H Hackworth, About Face (1989) in Words on War P

TACTICS OR TREACHERY

Last month, you will recall that we reported on an example of enemy treachery on 26 Dec 1944 in which a 3-man enemy patrol came into 16th Infantry positions during the early morning giving the appearance of wanting to surrender. However, it was quickly discovered one of the enemy was carrying a machine pistol behind his back. Well later in September of this year, a new Chapter member Carroll E Beadenkopf of Baltimore MD wrote, after receiving a complementary copy that "I was on that outpost that eliminated that German 3 man patrol that came into our lines, 26 Dec 1944. I enjoyed verifying my memories of it after reading it in 'WWII Musings' Sep 1944." Carroll reports that he was in Co F, 16th Infantry Regt, 1st Infantry Division. Thanks Carroll for responding and joining the MD/DC Chapter. It is ironic and satisfying to be able to bring a small news item from the National Archives Unit Records, 50 years later almost, and be able to have someone identify with it and thus find one of the participants.

EDITORIAL NOTE:

This newsletter is based on the research of John D. Bowen, 613 Chichester Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20904-3331 in the National Archives in the World War II Unit Records. Where noted the information provided is from the actual After/Action Reports, G-2 and S-2 Intelligence Reports and Journals. These are reports as they happened. The information may have been found to be different with fifty years of history. It is presented here as it actually was written. Comments are welcomed. This information is in the Public Domain. Credit should be given to the National Archives Military Branch, the citation and this researcher. It is distributed for the benefit of VBOB Chapter members & other veteran organizations.

FINAL PUSH

As in the Bulge, your contribution is needed for that final push to put the Battle of the Bulge Memorial over the top. The Delaware Valley Chapter, VBOB which has been spearheading this Memorial to be dedicated at Valley Forge Military Academy on 12 Nov 1994 is asking that if each member was to send in a five dollar contribution the project would be completely paid. The Delaware Valley Chapter is to be commended for raising the funds to build this memorial to all Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge without the aid of professional fund-raisers. If you can't afford a five then send a buck or two to George Linthicum, Del Valley Chapter, 2605 Orchard Dr, Broomall PA 19008, 215-356-9552. Another contribution is always welcome to end their worries. Do it now while you are thinking about it. Help push

Patton

"Courtney Hodges and Omar Bradley both received Distinguished Service Medals for their unsuccessful defense of the 'Bulge.' I did not receive one for successfully

"Take this 5-gallon gasoline can to Montgomery with this message: "Although I am sadly short of gasoline myself, I know your admiration for our equipment and supplies and I can spare you this 5 gallons. It will be more than enough to take you as far as you probably will advance in the next two days."

"Bradley wanted to get Lt Col Darby to command the 180th Regt Combat Team of the 45th Div with the rank of Colonel. Darby preferred to stay with the Rangers. This is the first time I ever saw a man turn down a promotion. Darby is a great soldier. I gave him the Distinguished Service Cross."

"The Third Army starts attacking in the morning, but we will go slow so the others can catch up."

One of our American officers the other day began copying the British and started putting the initials of his decorations after his name; so today I wrote him a letter, adding the simple initials 'S.O.B.'"

"It is noticeable that most of the American officers here are pro-British, even Ike. I am not, repeat not, pro-British." (Patton Quotations, The Unknown Patton by

Upon meeting General George Patton during the Second World War (John) McCloy had asked the celebrated military hero if he had ever read the leather-bound volumes of Clausewitz and Jomini that were conspicuously displayed in his command tent. "Hell, no," Patton had answered. "But it impresses the hell out of the war correspondents."

March to Victory

An excellent book, The March to Victory has been revised this year and is available for anyone going to Europe. It is a Guide to WWII Battles & Battlefields from London to the Rhine. It includes maps, directions, times, background, etc. If there is enough interest I will secure copies at \$14.00 +.70 MD Tax for MD residents and 3.00 for shipping & handling for this 293 page, softcover book. Please write to me, John D. Bowen, 613 Chichester Lane, Silver Spring MD 20904 with your check.. Even if you don't plan to visit the stories & maps accompanying the directions are worth it. It gives the trail of Kampfgruppe Peiper in the Ambleve Valley & the spot where the 740th Tk Bn & 1st Bn 119th stopped Peipers column. Martin Blumenson says "This handbook is indispensable for those who want to see the places where fighting occurred as well as the museums and memorials of the combat."

BATTLE OF THE BULGE

Memory Routes Book

\$8.00 plus \$2.00 Postage & Handling

This 153 Page soft cover book was produced by the CRIBA & CEBA Organizations of Belgium & Luxembourg respectively to commemorate the Battle of the Ardennes by listing and describing the monuments, museums and locations with a description and photo. It gives museum times also. John Bowen, 613 Chichester Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20904-3331 is handling sales for them. It can be picked up at the 21 August picnic

"In my opinion, we will only win this war through blood, sacrifice and courage. In order to get willing fighters, we must develop the highest possible "Esprit de Corps." Therefore, the removal of distinctive badges and insignia from uniforms is highly detrimental. To die willingly, as many of us must, we must have tremendous pride not only in our nation and in ourselves, but also in the unit to which we belong."

USE OF THE BAZOOKA

The purpose of the Bazooka is not to hunt tanks offensively, but to be used as the last resort in keeping tanks from over running infantry. Since the Bazooka is unarmored, and always discloses its position when fired, it must get a hit on the first shot. To insure this, the range should be held to around thirty yards. When thus used, the Bazooka will hit and penetrate any tank that I have yet seen and will probably stop it. If used at longer ranges, it will probably miss and its operators will then become targets for the tank's machine guns. (Source: General Patton's Letter of Instruction No 3, Hq Third US Army, 20 May 1944)