

❖ WWII MUSINGS ❖

Volume 4 Issue 5

John D. Bowen, Editor

Sep/Oct 1996

New Army Division

TRADOC News Service

The Army's Force XXI experimental division will have about 3,000 fewer soldiers, but modern weapons completely integrated by digital command and control systems will make it more lethal.

Eliminating some functions and reorganizing others add 300 more infantrymen. That will also make the division more lethal and flexible.

"We rely on synchronization among all our parts to be the best force in the world, not just brute size," said Gen William W Hartzog, commander of Training and Doctrine Command, who also heads up the Force XXI process.

The Army will retain "one or two light divisions," according to Hartzog, which will be the 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum NY and the 25th Infantry Division, Fort Shafter Hawaii. The 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg NC and the 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell KY will also remain in their basic configuration.

"So you have either six or seven other

divisions," Hartzog said. "I don't yet know how many of these divisions will be the Force XXI design, or how rapidly. We won't be able to buy it all for the entire force at the same time."

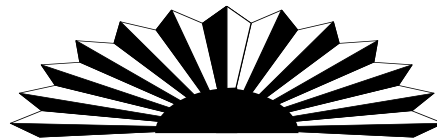
On paper, the current "Army of Excellence" division and the Force XXI division are similar - each has five armor battalions and five mechanized battalions and an armor cavalry squadron. But the organizations of those battalions have changed radically, and the mechanized battalions have about 300 dismounted soldiers overall.

Each infantry platoon will now have two more nine-man squads plus a five-man machine gun team.

Adding more infantry was made possible by eliminating an antitank company and moving the support functions from the battalions to four division support battalions.

One of the three engineer battalions and one of two aviation attack battalions were also dropped.

"When you start adding your Long Bow



HELPING VETS

You may have read, in the 25 August 1996, Parade Magazine about the World War I veteran, Allen Osborne, who celebrated his 100th birthday on 27 Aug by giving \$100 to his favorite charity, HELP HOSPITALIZED VETERANS (HHV).

This is Osborne's 100th gift to the non-profit organization and so far has given \$35,680 in the 25 years since it has been founded. Over 650,000 donors have made contributions to help our fellow

veterans that are hospitalized.

This project raises funds to buy arts- and-crafts kits for hospitalized veterans. Each kit includes a card giving the donor's name and address and encouraging contact by the recipient.

For more information, contact HHV at 2065 Kurtz Street, San Diego CA 92110.

If we don't help our fellow hospitalized veterans, who will? Holiday season is coming up and it would be a great gift.

REENACTMEN

The annual Battle of the Bulge Reenactment will be held, 24-26 January at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania. The reenactment sponsored by The Federation of Reenactors will host between 900-1000 Allied and German Reenactors to commemorate the 52nd anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge.

They have especially invited Veterans to attend and stay in the Barracks and relive the comradeship and bonding that existed among their fellow Army buddies. The cost is a bargain at \$35 for two nights in the barracks and breakfast and dinner on Saturday. Further details on Page

Editor's Corner

As many of you know, I am not a Veteran of the Battle of the Bulge however my brother was in the Bulge with the 83rd Division. It is an event that has been indelibly imprinted on my mind for 52 years. As a youngster of 9 years old, growing up during the war, I was always concerned about my brother's welfare and his safe return and the Battle of the Bulge period was an especially scary period as we tried to glean what little news was being provided as to units and the campaign. Since this was Massachusetts, most of the news was related, naturally, to our home state National Guard, the 26th "Yankee" Division.

There was a great deal of propoganda at that time on the home front. We have come to think of propoganda as an enemy tool and something that is bad however propoganda is a term to persuade and to inform. The home front propoganda was used to inspire the workers to produce goods at an ever better rate and to not slack off. Patriotism was also a part of this propoganda and we in school were taught to bring in our dimes to buy War Bond Stamps to paste in our book until we had \$18.75 for a War Bond to be issued. We were also taught about not wasting things especially food. Of saving scrap and fat and other materials for the boys at the front. Of volunteering and providing service to others.

We were also taught about our American ideals and that our men and women in the service were fighting to protect our freedom. We were especially taught about our democratic principals and working within the system to bring about change in our organizations through discussion, compromise, democratic vote and majority rule. I also had instilled in me that united we stand but divided we fall.

Thus the reason for this editorial. Earlier in the year, as Editor I was approached by a Chapter member who asked if I would announce in The Marcher about getting together at the Mayo American Legion for social purposes, for those who were interested. I thought it was a good idea and put in The Marcher such an announcement. I was pleased to do this also because the individual making the request had previously announced at a meeting at Mayo that he was no longer coming to attend meetings at Mayo

As you know, the meetings during the past year have been held at Fort Meade. This decision to meet at Fort Meade was discussed in a meeting and

some of the points of discussion that were made was that Fort Meade is more centrally located, that during our previous year at Mayo we were shifted from meeting room to meeting room and that on a few occasions there was no luncheon for us as had been planned and people had come without eating anticipating that they would eat there. People expressed their gratefulness to the Mayo American Legion for the free use of meeting space and the meals that they provided at reasonable costs.

Now, I have no axe to grind about where we meet and I believe that that is a matter for the membership to decide at a meeting with everyone expressing their views. Wherever the meeting place is I plan to attend.

However what I do object to is that the individual that originally wanted to meet at Mayo for social purposes was now contacting existing members of the Chapter and trying to get them to form a new Chapter in Mayo. There has been no attempt by this person to come to the MD/DC Chapter Meetings to express his views and/or his complaints if any. The last we had seen of this individual was when he stood up in a meeting at Mayo and announced that he wasn't ever coming to another meeting at Mayo.

The reason I bring this up is because there is a fully functioning active Chapter for Maryland and DC. There is not sufficient members in Maryland and DC to support two Chapters, especially since we are an aging organization. If it was the case that new members were being brought in and this could be an expanding Chapter that it one thing but what this effort is doing is trying to solicit the same members. In this scenario, we have divided the membership and as the old adage says divided we fall, United we Stand. Those who want to meet in Mayo should bring their request to a Chapter meeting and work within the Chapter to change the meeting location either permanently or on occasion.

In any case, groups can meet socially at Mayo, Hagerstown, Aberdeen, downtown DC or the Eastern shore at any time but if they splinter off then the benefits splinter with them. This newsletter would not be available to other groups and likely could not be supported by our existing Chapter without a dues increase. Blaquie was an original founder of the MD/DC Chapter and has done great things. He should work within the organization to resolve his differences not start something that will destroy it.

VETERANS NEWSPAPER

The National Veterans News Network is a new monthly publication for, by, and about Veterans. This monthly newspaper embraces all personnel who have ever served in the service of Uncle Sam. This newspaper brings you the news that veterans need and through its pages they hope to establish and maintain contacts between individual veterans and their organizations that have common goals, similar objectives and parallel backgrounds. The newspaper has been published about a year now. To subscribe send \$15.00 for a years subscription to

National Veterans News Network
PO Box 455
Rex GA 30273

All Gave Some

New Army Division (continued from Page 1)

Apaches and Commanchees into that (aviation attack battalion), the capability and lethality go way up.” said Brig Gen Joseph Kellogg, TRADOC’s assistant deputy chief of staff for combat developments.

The additional infantry will provide more light forces to permit tailoring to handle some of the missions now performed largely by light divisions.

The search for a design for a 21st Century Army division began about two years ago. Since then there have been four major advanced war fighting experiments and numerous constructive simulations.

The Army leadership used the analytical results to arrive at 11 division organizations to explore.

Each of the 11 alternatives also had several variations. They were all subjected to rigorous computer simulations and war games, and were studied by past and present Army leaders.

All versions were tested in scenarios in Korea, an Iraqi-type threat in Southwest Asia and a new hostile force in Europe.

“We looked at radical platoon and company and battalion formations, light and the same sort of thing heavy,” Hartzog said. “We looked at different division command and control systems.”

Organizing the division command structure by functions won out over other arrangements. There will still be individuals responsible for intelligence, logistics, personnel and operations.

“Maybe in the ‘Army After Next’ ... we will all be multi-functionally developed ... so that each of us can be a little bit of intel, a little bit of operations and a little bit of logistics,” Hartzog said.

The lighter divisions won in all scenarios, but suffered heavy losses when going up against a large, well-armed enemy.

“One of principles is to design something that can fight ... and not add the casualties,” Hartzog said.

It is technology that will give the division its punch.

“The division design that we have is much more lethal than anything that we had in the past ... through insertion of technologies and weapons systems and ... the command and control suites that we’re putting in there,” Kellogg said.

Among the weapons systems Kellogg noted are three batteries of six Paladins versus the current three batteries of eight guns. The sophisticated, mobile artillery will be able to move and mass its fires more rapidly and accurately.

The multiple launch rocket system (MLRS) battalion now has two batteries of nine launchers. Transferring the target acquisition battery to the MLRS battalion will give it the flexibility to engage an enemy up close and at a distance, Hartzog said.

Both maneuver brigades will now have additional reconnaissance capability with each getting a recon troop.

Perhaps the reorganization of combat support presents the greatest challenge in the Force XXI division. Soldiers on the battlefield will have to get used to just in-time logistics support.

“Basically we’re going to a cultural change in making sure that everybody understands that the log guys are going to be there when you need them,” Kellogg said.

Col Stephen Garrett, Combined Arms Support Command chief of staff, agrees.

Support services formerly done in each tank and infantry battalion - food service, supply, distribution, transportation, maintenance, medical - will be moved to forward support companies, one for each maneuver battalion.

Information technology is the key to logistics, the colonel said. Sensors on the tanks and Bradley Fighting vehicles will measure consumption of fuel and ammunition. That data will be relayed throughout the command structure, to include the logistics support command/ Logistics teams will then deliver the ammunition and fuel when and where it is needed.

That contrasts to the past when vehicles loaded with ammunition followed tanks, just in case a tanker needed it.

“Some cases ... up to five tiers worth of turret loads of ammunition following each tank, only to be turned in after ... the operations (were) completed,” Garrett said.

“There is a comfort factor ... to the person inside the tank. We’re going to have to determine ... whether we can maintain that same comfort factor.”

With digital communications, support troops can provide just-in-time logistics with fewer resources, according to Garrett.

“The Mathematics prove that you can do the same job ... with about 10 HEMTTs (Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Trucks) fuelers as opposed to 16,” he said. “The HEMTT cargo goes from 15 to 7.”

The capabilities of the new division will be tested in an advanced warfighting experiment in March 1997 at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin CA. Another objective of the AWE is to test the interoperability between heavy and light forces.

The 1st Brigade, 4th Inf Div, Ft Hood TX and 1st Bn, 5th Inf Div (Lt), Ft Lewis WA make up the Force XXI Experimental Force. Both units are being outfitted with the latest in digital communications, nightfighting equipment and other technologies.

Thanks to Dick Schlenker for providing this article.

REUNIONS

83rd Inf Div Boston Chapter, 30 Sep-4 Oct, Pines Resort Hotel, South Fallsburg NY. Contact Pat DiGiammenino, 36 East Border Rd, Malden MA 02148, 817-322-2754. **Bulge Unit SHAEF/ETOUSA Vetn Assn (European Theater, WWII) 4-6 Oct**, Ramada Plaza resort Orlando FL.

Contact Alan F Reeves, 2301 Broadway, San Francisco CA 94115, 415-921-8322

281st Combat Engr Bn Assn Reunion, October, Myrtle Beach SC, Contact Albert B Cline, 864-489-6528.

643rd Tank Destroyer Bn, 4-5 Oct, Holiday Inn, Danbury-Bethel, Danbury Connecticut, Contact Ms Dolores Levy, 203-790-9277

Rhin Danube Assn, 13-15 Oct, Holiday Inn, Indianapolis, Indiana, Contact James Warmouth, 317-241-3730.

328th Infantry Combat Team, 15-17 Oct, Atlantic City, New Jersey, Contact Robert Clapp, 617-566-7147

602nd Tank Destroyer Bn, 20-22 Oct, Hot Springs Arkansas, Contact Raymond

Young 517-332-8329.

VBOB-Del. Valley Chapter, Vally Forge Military Academy, Wayne PA, 11 Nov, 10 AM, Wreath laying at VBOB Memorial and Full Dress Parade by tCadet Corps.

82nd AbnD Assn - Installation-San Joaquin Valley, 30 Nov-1Dec, Bakersfield California, Contact Robert Valenzuela,

The Search for Jane

On 6 February 1945, during the battle for Schmidt, Germany; I, S/Sgt John B Cramer, Co. "A" 310th Infantry, 78th Infantry Division, was wounded. One of my best friends, S/Sgt Russell B. McGirr, wrapped me up. Russ, from the same outfit, was killed three days later near that same small town. I did not find out about his death until after the war was over. Russ had a 6-year-old daughter; her name was Jane. I promised myself that one day I was going to look her up. All that I knew about her was that she lived in Penacook, New Hampshire and that her parents had divorced. However, one gets preoccupied with raising one's own family, making a living and other projects. Over the years Jane began to fade from my thoughts. Even so occasionally I would remember and mention to my wife that I would like to try to find her.

Our first visit to Europe since the war was in August of 1989. My wife and I attended the wedding of one of our daughters in Kaiserslautern, Germany. We borrowed a car, drove to the Schmidt-Lammersdorf area and spent the day looking for some of those old places. We ended that day at Henri-Chapelle where I visited my friend's grave. This visit stirred up those old thoughts about looking Jane up (by that time I could not recall whether her name was Jane or Jean). We returned from Europe; cataract surgery among other ailments again postponed the search. Our next trip to the Schmidt area was with the 78th Division, Battlefield Tour of 1993, when we again visited Henri-Chapelle. Again my emotions were touched with the desire to look for Jane.

Finally, upon our return home from the 1994 reunion, in St Louis, my wife packed our bags and said "Let's go." We loaded up the car and headed for the New England States. After loafing around Maine a couple of days, enjoying fantastic New England lobster, we drove to Penacook, a quiet little community about 15 miles northwest of Concord.

The American Legion and

VFW posts are closed except Friday nights. Inquiries at a drug store and beauty saloon yielded no results, no one seemed to know the family name McGirr. AS luck would have it, we stumbled upon the Penacook Community Center in a converted house on High Street. A senior citizen's facility is on the second floor. While I waited my wife went upstairs to the receptionist Rosemary, where she explained what we were doing in Penacook. When my wife told Rosemary that I couldn't remember whether the girl's first name was Jane or JEan, she said to my wife, "well I can tell you, her name is Jane and her mother was one of my best friend's." Jane's mother had remarried, and Rosemary told us that she passed away a few years ago. After placing several phone calls Rosemary gave us the name and phone number of Jane's step-father, half brother, and an uncle (Russ's brother) all residing in Concord. She did not know Jane's married name but did know that she had moved to Massachusetts. NEither Jane's step-father nor brother were home that day. I did speak with Jane's uncle, he lost contact with her several years ago, but informed me that he had a sister living in Colorado. I would like to look her up sometime but that is another story. Since my asthma and emphysema was beginning to get bothersome, we decided to return home and wait for another day.

About six weeks later, I called Jane's brother, introduced myself and explained who I was and what I wanted. He was very cordial and without hesitation gave me Jane's name (Johnson) and her phone number. She lives in Dalton, Massachusetts. I then called her and told her what I could about her father. We talked for about an hour, and agreed that my wife and I would drive to Dalton for a visit at the first opportunity. We drove to Dalton 15 June 1995, where we had A SEARCH FOR JANE (Continued from Page 4)

Continued on Page 10

Hitler as a Military Leader (Cont'd)

This article continues from the August 1996 WWII Musings.

PW was emphatic in his belief that in 1939 Hitler did not have the slightest aspiration for world domination. His mind was that of a typical Austrian - landbound and awkward in perceiving any interests beyond those of the continent. For this reason the question of German colonies was never given any great emphasis. When Hitler contemplated the invasion of Poland the staff officers were for a large part against the move, because they feared that England would make good her threat to enter the war on the side of Poland.

Blomberg advised Hitler earlier that not until 1942, would Germany be ready for the type of war which this move entailed. Hitler, however, was naively convinced that the operation would be confined to Poland itself. He did not think for one moment that England (which he had always respected and feared very much) would set herself up against his plan. Such was Hitler's mentality at that time that he thought the Polish campaign would be a matter of 2 months, and after that he would be able to undertake the grandiloquent architectural for Germany (which he had already set in motion by razing the center Berlin to make room for a great architectural pageant). It may be that this architectural hobby of his was replaced by his aspirations to become history's great military genius. (Prior to the war it had been observed that Hitler would lock himself up in his room for three days at a time, after which he would come forth with his drawings for some great public building. PW who saw some of these plans did not think they bore witness to any but mediocre talent.)

An entirely different chapter is the relationship of fealty in which German officers corps found itself toward Hitler after some time. It is probably the outstanding example to show how much political cunning the man really possessed. There is no doubt that in the beginning, in 1933, the Wehrmacht had Hitler well in hand. Then, with infinite patience,

Hitler began to lay openings into the otherwise so impregnable fortress of military tradition. Take the instance of von Brauchitsch's divorce. His wife, with whom he had been living in indifference, would not grant him a divorce. He had grown fond of, or in love with, a woman of otherwise impeccable background. The rule in the Prussian officers' corps was that any officer who is guilty of the grounds of divorce and actually is divorced is to be expelled from the corps. In this quandary Brauchitsch went to Hitler. The latter notified Brauchitsch's wife that it would be advisable to consent to the divorce, and he made a financial settlement upon her. Brauchitsch remarried but the price he paid was an expensive moral obligation towards Hitler of which he later was emphatically reminded. Many cases of such intercession in favor of important military personalities succeeded in bringing them into a relationship of personal dependence to Hitler.

Generally, Hitler accomplished a lot to improve the financial status of the officers' corps, to raise its social prestige as a profession. everything was done to get the officers' corps in a frame of mind where it felt that it could only derive benefits from this alliance with Hitler. On the other hand, negatively it was shown by ominous examples, first only sporadically, then generally, what it meant to run afoul of the trust that the Fuehrer had put in his officers. Blomberg and Fritsch, who disagreed with the Polish and 2 years later Brauchitsch, who raised objections to the Russian venture, were men that received hard retaliatory blows. High-ranking army officers that relied on their own initiative in many important matters, received a cool nod if they were successful, courts-martial if something went wrong; it was a policy to stifle all feeling of independence and initiative on the part of the officers. It meant that within their own profession they had to take orders from the political faction. The introduction of the Hitler salute as a military salute, the NSFO as a political check on the officers in the field, were just milestones in this development. PW remarked that the German officers lacked civil courage (Zivilcourage), the courage to stand up and defend their convictions and professional integrity; but anyone who had the courage faced the alternative of the hangman's knot. The majority of them chose to stay on the

safe side as long as they could claim for themselves and the world that they were merely fulfilling their soldierly duty.

WHAT HITLER THINKS OF STALIN

Once in a while Hitler would talk about his Russian adversary. He would invariably say: "What a man. I respect him." ("Das is dechein Mordskerl. Den kann man nur respektieren.") At other times he would refer to him as that "Cunning Georgian." PW had the impression that Hitler trusted him in that Stalin would stick to his treaty obligations.

HITLER AND PROVIDENCE

It is a mistake to assume that Hitler's frequent reference to "Providence" and "God" in his speeches are mere catch phrases of expediency. He sincerely believed in his own calling by providence, and that it was guiding his hand in statesmanship, protecting him and his German people. At no time was his belief as strong, however, as after the 20th of July 44. Even looking at that incident soberly, it must be admitted that it was almost a miraculous circumstance that Hitler, who stood closet to the bomb, got away completely unscathed, while men standing much further away were killed or seriously hurt. To him it was the most palatable proof offered yet that he was a specially chosen instrument of divine providence. This tremendous mystical experience, rather than the approaching German doom, is the reason why the reference to the supernatural has become more and more frequent in his later speeches. And this escape from almost certain death which he could only see as direct divine interference is not the least factor in Hitler's unbelievable reserve of power of resistance which has remained unbroken even in the most trying times of recent months. Hitler cannot acknowledge defeat, ever, because to him it would mean declining his providential mission.

Source: 3rd US Army IPW report -thru VII Corps, G-2 Periodic Report # 120

BULGE REENACTMENT**24-26 January 1997****Fort Indiantown Gap, PA****Register by 21 December 1996****Option C: Barracks & Meals @ \$35.00****Option D: Barracks & No Meals @ \$15.00****Option E: No Barracks - Meals only @\$20.00**

You must register by 21 December 1996. Please send registrations to the Federation, PO Box 1360, Leesburg, VA 22075. Make checks or money orders out to the Federation. You may get a flyer with complete instructions as well as the Registration Form and Waiver by contacting John D. Bowen, 613 Chichester Lane, Silver Spring MD 20904, Tel 301-384-6533. It would be helpful if you would send a stamped self-addressed #10 envelope (standard letter size) with your request.

Option C: Consists of Registration fee and quarters Friday and Saturday nights in the authentic World War II barracks plus Breakfast and Dinner on Saturday. Fee is \$15.00

Option D: Consists of Registration fee and quarters Friday Night and Saturday nights in the authentic World War II barracks on authentic GI Bunks, There are no meals associated with this option. Fee is \$15.00.

Option E: Consists of Registration fee and Breakfast and Dinner on Saturday but no barracks. This is for those who will be staying with spouse in a Motel or will be coming down for the day and not staying overnight.

Spouses are welcome to attend activities and meals and there will be a separate barracks for females only if they want to partake of barracks living for the weekend. There are no co-ed accommodations on the post. All barracks have modern latrines.

Souvenirs: One of the highlights of the Veterans' barracks are the WWII Souvenirs, books and photos that veterans are encouraged to bring to show and tell for the enjoyment of other veterans and reenactors. Please do not bring live ammunition, grenades or simulators.

flea Market: There will be a flea market of WWII era items that the Reenactors sell and trade. It is interesting to see the abundance of material that is on display.

24-26 January 1997
Mark your Calender

NAZI LEADERS - ROEHM

by Field Marshall von Blomberg “

The clique of Nazi leaders was (in 1933) just in its embryo stage - its members had hardly risen above the masses. the whole nation lived in an atmosphere of rejuvenation. It is logical to assume that secret Nazi terror organizations were plying their trade even then. But there was not a suspicious ripple anywhere on the surface of Hitler's administration.

There merely were a few 'disturbances.' One of these resulted in the execution of Roehm and his whole criminal clique. Roehm was an anarchist who wanted to get into power. He defended no specific ideal, nor did he have any particular plans for Germany's government. His main desire was to get control of the Army. For this reason he planned to eliminate me, a few other generals, and perhaps even Hitler. I warned the Fuehrer that we German soldiers would defend our position with our lives, and that he might soon have to cope with Civil War. At first he tried his customary game of balancing opposing forces. But when he found out that Roehm's scheme included him too, he turned against this foe.

Two factors influenced his final decision: first of all, it was known that Roehm had connections outside Germany, and secondly, Roehm was a very close friend of Gen Schleicher. There was a strong suspicion that both men were guilty of high treason. If they had been called before a court, which would have been the proper step, both could surely have been convicted. The World knows, however, that Roehm and his henchmen were liquidated otherwise by the Party. Schleicher, too, was shot without a public trial, in spite of the fact that I had been assured he would be duly arrested and tried. Hitler declined to assume responsibility in this affair, just as in a number of other murders which took place about that time, by claiming that this had been done against his will. At the same time he managed to depict Roehm's removal as a deed of such great benefit to the German people, that any means were justified in its accomplishment. He said he had taken 'forceful measures' as soon as he could survey the situation properly, which indeed turned out to be true. To be sure, we had been given an effective demonstration of the meaning of the word 'terrorism.' And now the rosy glow that lay over the Nazi regime began to take on a slightly different hue in the eyes of many, including myself.”

THE DOLLFUSS AFFAIR-PAPEN;HABICHT

“Then there was the Dollfuss affair at Vienna. This matter was handled by an emissary of Hitler's named Habicht. But the Fuehrer washed his hand of the Guilt, signifying his good intentions by sending Papen to Vienna as a goodwill messenger. This was also a convenient way of getting rid of Papen - who had outlasted his usefulness anyway. Habicht was never heard of again. Failure was evidently looked upon as a crime.”

Source: Intelligence Notes, Annex 1 to Intelligence Summary No. 34, Hq, 78th InfD, 28Sep 1945. Field Marshall Werner Eduard Fritz von Bloomberg was former Minister of War ousted by Hitler. This will be a continuing series of his written statements of his defense.



Patton's Address to His Troops

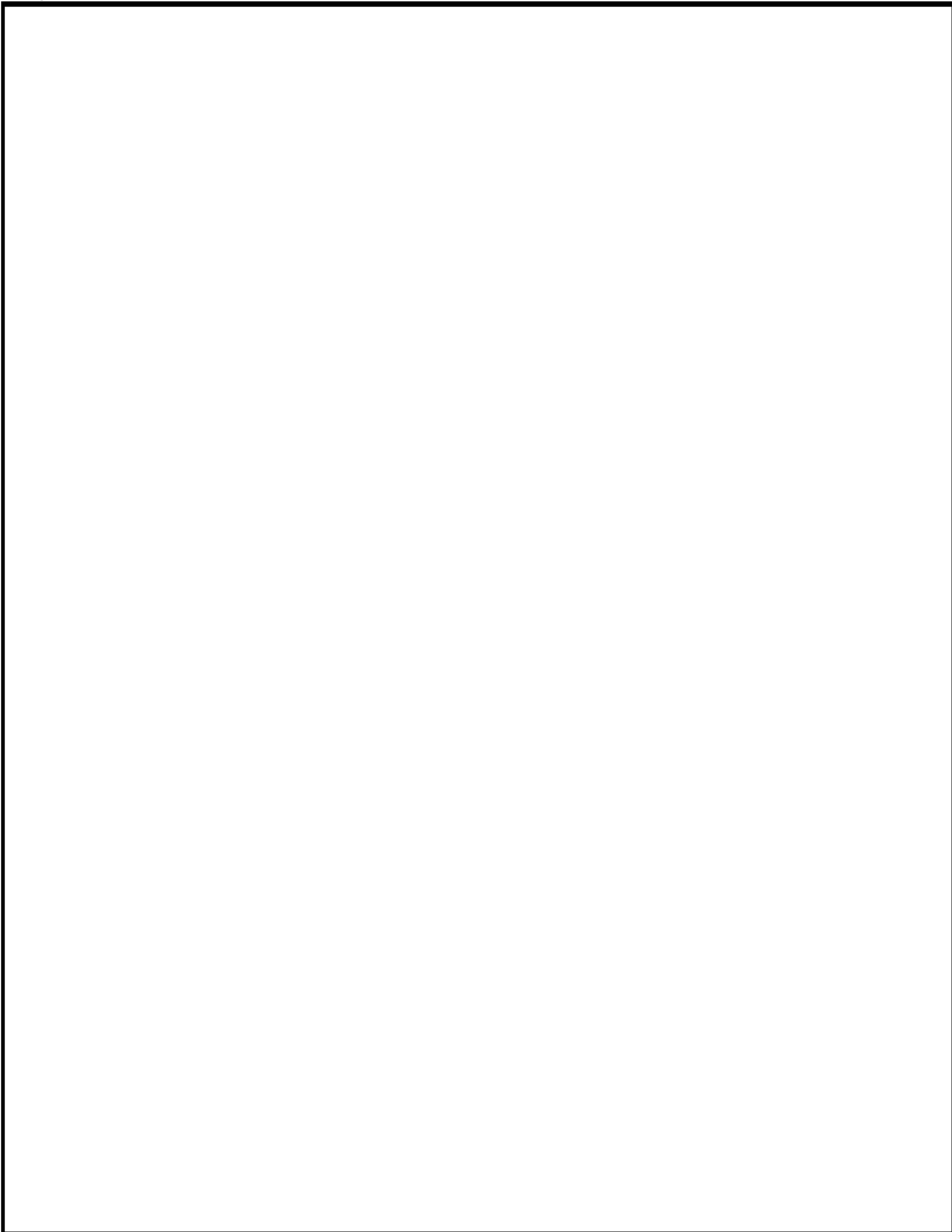
NOW I WANT YOU TO REMEMBER THAT NO BASTARD EVER WON A WAR BY DYING FOR HIS COUNTRY. YOU WON IT BY MAKING THE OTHER POOR DUMB BASTARD DIE FOR HIS COUNTRY.

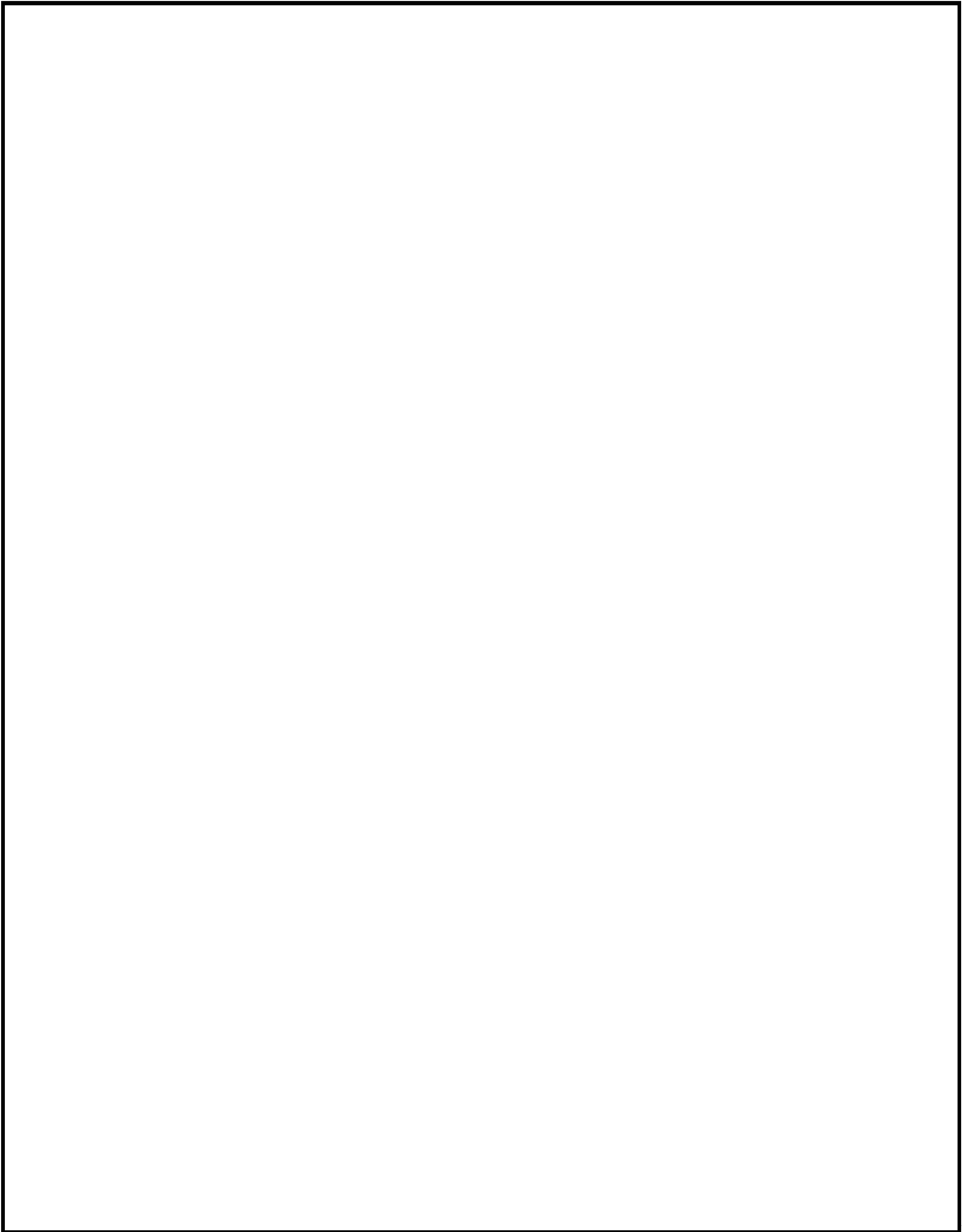
Men, all this stuff you've heard about America not wanting to fight, wanting to stay out of the war, is a lot of horse dung. Americans traditionally love to fight. ALL REAL Americans, love the sting of battle. When you were kids, you all admired the champion marble shooter,

Continued on Page 5

the fastest runner, the big league ball players, the toughest boxers ... Americans love a winner and will not tolerate a loser. Americans play to win all the time. I wouldn't give a hoot in Hell for a man who lost and laughed. That's why Americans have never lost and will never lose a war. Because the very thought of losing is hateful to Americans. Now an Army is a team. It lives, eats, sleeps fights as a team. This individuality stuff is a bunch of crap. The biggest bastards who wrote that stuff about individuality for the Saturday Evening Post, don't know anything more about real battle than they do about fornicating. Now we have the finest food and equipment, the best spirit, and the best men in the world. You know . . . My God, I actually pity those poor bastards we're going up against My God, I do. We're not just going to shoot the bastards, we're going to cut out their living guts and use them to grease the treads of our tanks. We're going to murder those lousy Hun bastards by the bushel. Now some of you boys, I know, are wondering whether or not you'll chicken out under fire. Don't worry about it. I can assure you that you'll all do your duty. The Nazi are the enemy. Wade into them. Spill their blood, shoot them in the belly. When you put your hand into a bunch of goo, that a moment before was your best friend's face, you'll know what to do. Now's there's another thing I want you to remember. I don't want to get any messages saying that we are holding our position. We're not holding anything, we'll let the Hun do that. We are advancing constantly, and we're not interested in holding onto anything except the enemy. We're going to hold onto him by the nose, and we're going to kick him in the ass. We're going to kick the hell out him all the time, and we're going to go through him like crap through a goose. Now, there's one thing that you men will be able to say when you get back home, and you may thank God for it. Thirty years from now when you're sitting around your fireside with your grandson on your knee, and he asks you, "What did you do in the great World War Two?" You won't have to say, "Well, I shoveled shit in Louisiana." Alright now, you sons of bitches, you know how I feel. Oh! . . . I will be proud to lead you wonderful guys into battle anytime, anywhere. That's all.

—General George S. Patton, Jr.—





a fantastic weekend visiting and sightseeing. Due to the compassion of President Harry S Truman, and his efforts, legislation was enacted that enabled descendants of military personnel Killed in Action to attend college on the equivalent of the GI Bill. I for one never even knew that President Truman had established such a program. Jane graduated from the University of New Hampshire in 1959. For years she planned to go to Europe and look for her father's grave. Finally, in November 1959, Jane traveled to Europe where she, among other sightseeing adventures, discovered her father's grave at Henri-Chapelle. Since the military in 1959, was repatriating some remains and establishing the cemetery it was a sea of mud and did not compare with the beautiful installation that it is today. I gave Jane some pictures of things as they are now. Jane still has the map that she used in 1959 as she traveled Europe. Today, Jane is a widow. She has one son and two grandchildren. I guess we will stay in touch with each other, at least I hope so.

The above article is by our member John B. Cramer and was originally published in The Flash, 78th Division.

LETHEL LIQUORS

One EM died 30 July after drinking liquor he had purchased from civilian in Bad Worishofen on previous day. Two other men who drank from same bottle reported under medical observation. The liquor, actually methyl alcohol, was purchased on the Black Market. Ten civilians apprehended and awaiting trial. Six drums of alcohol confiscated. Still at-large is the ring-leader, Abraham Fischel, who drove to Munich for additional supplies, using a Mercedes Sedan, MG License No. KCP28.

The 70th Division reported that poison liquor consumed by members of the 70th QM Company resulted in the death of one US soldier, and hospitalization of seven others. Investigation is being conducted by the CID to determine whether this case involves a deliberate attempt to poison American Troops.

Source: Seventh US Army, reported in Hq, 78th Infd Intelligence Notes, 7 Sep 45

WWII MUSINGS & Marcher

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, MD/DC
 John D. Bowen, Editor
 613 Chichester Lane
 Silver Spring MD 20904-3331

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FIRST CLASS

MEETING SUN 13 Oct 1996

John D. Bowen Editor

ARDENNES □ CAMPAIGN

Sep/

EVERLASTING DUTY

We offer our prayers for all our members who have died.

Dorothy Olsen
3rd Aux Surgical Group

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Her
Her Earthly Duties Are Done

GET WELL SOON

John B Cramer (Recuperating)
Linda & Harold Fleming
Ben Layton (Out & about)
Angie Purcell (Recuperating)
Ed Radzwich (Recuperating)
Please keep them in your

Next Meeting

13 Oct 1996

11:30-1:00 Cafeteria
followed at 1:00 PM
Elections, & meeting
&

Presentation by
Jack Flanagan
Ft Meade Golf Clubhouse
off of Mapes Rd
Fort Meade MD
Bring Souvenirs

Future Meetings?

OFFICERS

Pres.	Dick Schlenker
1 VP	Syd Lawrence
2 VP	Jack Flanagan
Treas	Neil Thompson
Sec	John D Bowen
Sgt/Arms	Henry Rehn
Chaplain	Rev Davis Peck
	Tel-410-266-6723
PPres	Ben Layton
PPres	Ed Radzwich
PPres	Grover Twiner
PPres	Darrell Kuhn
PPres	CA Blaquie Culp

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome Tom Jones, Phila PA

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CORNER

OCTOBER	OCTOBER	OCTOBER
James F. Barlow 3576 QM Trk Co 10/04	Clarence O. Lyll 101st AbnD 10/14	Darrell T. Kuhn 75th InfD 10/28
Kenneth H Mc Grew 26th InfD 10/12	Clarence L Rudolf US Marrines 10/24	Sidney D. Salins 99th InfD 10/29
Philip A. Hannon 106th InfD 10/14	Neil Brown Thompson 740th Tk Bn 10/24	
NOVEMBER	NOVEMBER	NOVEMBER
Paul R. Haag 28th InfD 11/06	Edwin A. Morganstern 17th AbnD 11/15	Emanuel Landau 99th InfD 11/28
George Irving Presser 168th CEng 11/09	Marvin H. Abrams 7th ArmdD 11/17	R. Victor Trapani -75-4268 QM Trk 11/28
Attilio A. Mascone -75- 106th InfD 11/12	Sam Silverman -80- 10th ArmdD	

15-16 December Ceremonies

There will be a re-commemoration of the Urn of earth from Bastogne at the National Archives Rotunda, 1 PM 15 Dec followed by a commemoration at the National Holocaust Museum at 2 PM. In the evening there will be a banquet at the Sheraton Hotel in Arlington. On 16 Dec there will be the wreath laying at the Tombs of the Unknowns at Arlington

13 October 1996 Meeting

Our coming meeting will be held at the Fort Meade Course Clubhouse at 1:00 PM at which our featured speaker will be our 2nd Vice-President, Jack Flanagan, who will speak about the location of units during the Bulge based on his research. This very interesting talk will be preceded by a short business meeting and election of officers for next year..

For those who would like to eat in the Clubhouse Snack Bar ala-carte lunch items will be served beginning at 11:30AM.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Our Past President Ed Radzwich presented recommendations of the Nominating Committee at our 11 August meeting.. The Nominating Committee's recommendation will be announced in the next Marcher.

President:	Syd Lawrence	Treasurer:	Neil Thompson
1st Vice President:	Jack Flanagan	Secretary:	John Bowen
2nd Vice President:	Joseph Zimmer	Sgt -at-Arms	Victor Trappani
	Chaplain:	Rev Davis Peck	

Nominations from the floor will be entertained as well and Elections will be held at the October Meeting with installation in December 1996.

BURIAL DETAIL

It came to our attention last month that we have no formalized detail to honor our deceased members at their wake and at their burial. It is only fitting that a contingent of our members attend the wake and be present at the burial particularly if we have been requested by the family. Though various of us have been doing this on an individual basis it would be easier if we had a list of volunteers and a telephone tree to notify members who have volunteered for this duty to attend the wake and/or the burial. It would also give the members family a point of contact to know to notify us upon the death of a member. We should ensure that our members participation in the Battle of the Bulge is recognized when they transfer to that final post up in the sky. I would appreciate your comments on this and would appreciate your phone calls or postcards volunteering, particularly from our members in the outlying parts of MD/DC. No veteran should die without recognition. Please call John Bowen at 301-384-6533 or write at 613 Chichester Lane Silver Spring MD 20904-3331.

John D. Bowen	301-384-6533	Victor Trappani	301-261-6855
Thomas J Dobinski	410-674-4733	Joseph Zimmer	301-320-5389
Francis Heppner	301-656-7229	Can we add your name?	

BATTLE OF THE BULGE REENACTMENT

The 1997 Battle of the Bulge Reenactment will be held at Fort Indiantown Gap, PA, 24-26 January 1997. This annual event which commemorates the 52th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge is reenacted by 900 to a 1000 reenactors of both the Allies and the Germans Armies. Veterans have again been invited as special guests to observe the event and to have a fun weekend staying in the original WWII Barracks with fellow veterans and taking part in the comederie,

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

John D. Bowen, Editor
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Silver Spring MD 20904-3331
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The opinions expressed are those of the editor. Items of interest to the membership are requested. Please keep us informed of those who are ill or who have died. Publication deadline is two weeks before the regular meeting listed on the front. © May not be used or reproduced without permission.

CONFERENCE ROOM

The Battle of the Bulge Conference Room, located in the Library Building at Fort Meade MD is open each Wednesday and Friday Afternoon from 12:30 to 3:00 PM. Bring a friend and come visit. See the room, table, models and videos on the Bulge. If there is a question about the weather affecting opening you can call the Library at 301-

ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Because of the outstanding marching talents and applause received this past March, the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge have been invited to march again in the 1997 St Patrick's Day Parade, in our Nation's Capital, on Sunday, 16 March 1997. Now is the time to mark your calendar to participate and start to spit shine those marching shoes.

It was a fun day and the people loved us. There will be vehicles for the walking wounded. Those that can get into them can wear their uniforms.

Chapter dues are \$10.00 per year and are due, each year, on the anniversary of the start of the Bulge, Dec 16th, each year. New members are always welcome. Membership includes this bi-monthly newsletter. Please send your dues to John D Bowen, Membership Chairman, 613 Chichester Ln, Silver Spring MD 20904.



**Dedicated to the
Valiant Soldiers
of the**

275th Armored Field Artillery Battalion

**and especially
to those who gave their ultimate
during World War II**

**This notebook contains the research and notes used to give a talk
on the resources at Archives II.**

**This talk was given as an Outreach Program
by the
National Archives & Records Administration Volunteer Association
at the 275th Armored FA Battalions Reunion
26 September 1996
Hyatt Fair Lakes Virginia.**

**It was specifically tailored to include information on their unit records
of 50 years ago.**

**It was a privilege to watch the faces of the veterans and also their spouses
as selected passages of the detailed information,
of this most indelible period in their life,
was shared with them.**

**There was laughter and sadness as both the good times and the bad were recalled.
It was a special time of sharing.**

**Note: These are not the complete files of this unit.
A list of their records found in Record Group 407
is listed at the beginning of the package.
Additional Records can be viewed at Archives II**

John D. Bowen, Volunteer
