

# ❖ WWII MUSINGS ❖

Volume 4 Issue 6

John D. Bowen, Editor

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## *Commemoration*

At this time of the year our thoughts turn towards those events 52 years ago. They seem like yesterday. We were so young, some of us had just turned 18. We did things then that we wouldn't think of letting our children and now our grandchildren do. We think that they are too young. Yet we handled it for we grew up fast. We were afraid but we learned to act under fear. We accepted responsibility and did things that it takes years now to gain the same responsibility. We remember the cold, oh, the cold. We remember the loneliness especially on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. We were kids, robbed from our youth.

But we were called and we came to serve. We were needed and we gave our all. Some gave more and we remember them always. They were our buddies. We are veterans of the greatest battle - the Battle of the Bulge. And at this season of our anniversary we ask only for **Peace on Earth - Good Will**

## GERMAN OPINION OF THE WEHRMACHT

Nothing, apparently, can change the popular German belief that the German army was the best in the world. Although many Germans are quick to repudiate any type of Prussian militarism, the returning German soldier is welcomed warmly and treated with respect. There is no evidence of any attempt by returning soldiers to organize in any way. A not uncommon sentiment toward the German soldier is reported by CIC Det 970/66 (Sinsheim), quoting a well educated young woman employed by MG as interpreter: "We were prepared to like the Americans....but we were not prepared for such unrestrained immorality. They treat every woman and girl as if she were a person of low morals. The German soldiers were courteous (sic) and well manner where ever they went and much better disciplined... a credit to Germany. Now they are coming home, and we know that man for man there is no better soldier in the world. They were simply overwhelmed by superior numbers and equipment. Do not think that I am a Nazi because I say this. However, I am a good German and always will be." *Source: Seventh US Army as reported by 78th Inf Div Intelligence Notes, 7 Sep 1945*



## WWII MEMORIAL UPDATE

The WWII Memorial Committee has made a selection of the final design of the Memorial and is awaiting for the White House to announce it. The selection was made according to schedule on 20 November 1996.

There has been some unfortunate skepticism about this memorial among some of our Bulge Veterans. A few have some wild rumors. Maybe it is

because of the Normandy Wall of Names that never came into being that some are skeptical. You must recall that that was a private endeavor and this WWII Memorial is being controlled by the American Battle Monuments Commission, the people that are responsible for our overseas cemeteries. They have brought us the Vietnam Memorial, Korean War Memorial and are overseeing the Women Veterans

Memorial, under construction at the entrance to Arlington Cemetery.

Only through your contributions will your Memorial become a reality. It is legitimate and on schedule. You may send your tax-deductible contributions to: WWII Memorial Capital Campaign, PO Box 75071, Washington DC 20013. Indicate that you are with VBOB. A fine Holiday gift.

# Editor's Corner

It was a disappointment to read of how the trust was broken by those entrusted with the lives and training of our fellow soldiers. There is nothing more disheartening then to have those entrusted with the leadership of our new recruits fail to uphold the highest standards. The tradition of the Military Academy "Honor, Duty, Country," is that of our Army. There is no place in the military for sexual harassment or to utilize your position to intimidate or gain sexual favors because of it. It brings shame on the position of leadership and upon the person. What is really sad is that these daughters were turned over to the care and trust of these leaders and these leaders failed them. Rather than seeing them as individuals some saw them as concubines. Drill Sgts and Officers of training units are held to higher standards in the care and protection of those who have been entrusted into their care. To have failed in that fiduciary responsibility brings great shame on them and hurt to those that should have been able to rely on that trust. Regardless of temptations, seductions or whatever these people are called to a higher standard. They have shamed themselves and brought dishonor upon themselves and the ideals that they should have been upholding.

Some have said to me that this shows why women shouldn't be allowed in the military. To them I say that they are out of tune with society and where life is in this current time. Think of your daughters and grand daughters. Should they be denied the same opportunities as others? Should we regress back into a society of female repression as we see in some third world countries? Many before us have given so much that everyone be treated equal. Women have as much right to the opportunities in our society and should not have to worry about lechters in exercising those rights

It is also sad that our Desert Shield/Desert Storm veterans should be served so shabbily. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that something is definitely wrong with a number of these veterans and it isn't that they want to all be on the dole. One of the things that intrigued me while I watched the unfolding of this war was the number of times that chemical warfare detectors went off and they were termed false alarms. It just amazed me that we could have had so many faulty detectors. Either the manufacturer sold the

## FREEDOM

government alot of junk detectors or these things were sensing something. My feeling of the mentality of the time is that they needed to see a shell land or a rocket fall. In my days of chemical training we were taught that most of these gases were colorless and odorless and that they could get up into the atmosphere and travel great distances. With our advances in weather technology and atomic tests we know so much more about air currents and how fallout can occur. Evidently these techies of the current period didn't pay attention to that or we have been undergoing a great cover-up for mistakes made in the Gulf War.

One of the biggest mistakes was the bombing and blowing up by conventional explosives of these large caches of ammunition in enemy dumps without first establishing what was in them. It was not unknown that the Iraqi's were likely to use chemical and biological weapons and that these weapons must be among the supplies that they had. Why would we indiscriminately blow up supply depots without clearing out the chemical weapons first?

### ARLINGTON EXPANSION

The Washington Post reported that Arlington National Cemetery officials are moving ahead with plans to expand the burial ground.... Congress has approved \$85,000 for an archaeological study around Arlington House, the building above the Kennedy Grave site. This mansion belonged to the Curtis Family and General Robert E Lee married into this family. It was taken over as a war prize during the Civil War because of its strategic overlook of the City of Washington and because General Lee had abandoned it when he moved further South to command the Confederate Army. The cemetery has expanded several times since President Lincoln designated it in 1864. It is forecasted to run out of grave sites by 2025 reports the Post. The wooded parcel under consideration would provide burial space for another 10 more years, according to the cemetery and the Washington Post.

### VBOB OVERSEAS CAPS

Many have asked about getting VBOB Overseas Caps. They are available from the Keystone Uniform Cap Corp. The cap has olive drab sides, with a combination red, infantry blue and yellow top with red piping. The basic price includes the VBOB emblem on the left side and up to 21 letters on the right side for Chapter Name. Ask for VBOB Overseas Cap.

Cap basic price.....	\$27.35
Extra Lettering per letter.....	.42
Shipping & handling per order.....	<u>4.50</u>

Chapter Name MD/DC Chapter

Hat Size \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Extra lettering can be added on either side of the cap @.42 per letter. Specify what extra lettering and on which side(s). Send check or Money Order to: Keystone Uniform Cap Corp, 428 N 13th Street, Philadelphia PA 19123, 215-922-5493

## Korean War Ends An Era in Warfare by Amos T. Camp, Editor

*This article is reprinted, with permission, from The Graybeards magazine, the Official Publication of the Korean War Veterans Association, Vol 11, No. 1, July-August-September 1996. It is reprinted because of its succinct review of American Warfare and because most of the equipment and tactics used in the Korean period was a carry-over from WWII, not to mention the many leaders that were a product of WWII.*

If the Korean War is a "Forgotten War" then the product of that war may have been overlooked. We Korean War veterans, by still being around today, have an opportunity to try to understand its historic significance and come to terms with our own part in it.

We have fought many wars during our short history as a nation. No war fought was the same as the last. Development in weapons, communications and transportation during this period explains why this is so. Consequently, each new war required adjustments. Historically, we now see certain wars have come to have a significance unrelated to the specific outcome. This was especially true of the Korean War.

Briefly, during the Revolutionary War, the Continental Army fought a guerrilla style of warfare learned from experience in the Indian wars. Repeatedly the Colonials ambushed the British Regulars. These troops were trained to fight only on a battlefield opposite an opposing army. Our side refused to play by those rules. This new form of warfare frustrated the British.

In the War of 1812, the introduction of artillery onto the battlefield was a significant development. At the Battle of New Orleans Andrew Jackson defeated a British force with well-fortified troops backed up with artillery.

By the time of our Civil War, the nature of war changed significantly. The birth of the machine gun occurred in this war. It was a war demonstrating the futility of brave men attacking in the face of artillery at point blank. Picket's charge across an open field at Gettysburg was one of the worst disasters in the history of warfare. This was the first war where railroads were used to deploy troops and supplies over long distances. The newly developed telegraph made it possible to command armies hundreds of miles away from a central command. Sailing ships became outdated. The battle of the Monitor and the Merrimac (the Ironclads) off the Virginia Capes changed Naval warfare forever. It was the first war employing strategic concepts on a grand scale. A perfect example was Sherman's march to the sea through Atlanta cutting the South in two. These developments show why our Civil War ranks high on the list of significant wars in the history of warfare. It was the first truly modern war.

The Spanish-American War was the first war fought by Americans of the North America continent. Coal burning warships of iron and steel now ruled the waves. We had to fight indigenous forces in guerrilla style warfare, suffering great casualties in the process. Unfortunately, the fighting and tropical diseases took a huge toll of those who fought. This war is significant primarily because of the terrible loss of life and treasure using poorly trained and equipped troops.

World War I saw the introduction of tanks, the machine gun, long range artillery, and the airplane. The loss of life in some battles were so terrible, the French and British became almost pacifist over the prospects of fighting any new war. Many believe their lack of resolution towards Hitler's excesses inevitably led to World War II. Lethal weapons and firepower over the battlefield in France caused both armies to resort to trench warfare hoping to avoid the terrible carnage they wrought.

World War II took the enhanced weapons of World War I and waged war on a global scale. This was by far the largest and most deadly war the world has ever known. From the Stuka dive bombers to the dropping of the Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, war was never so terrible. However, troop mobility precluded the need for the kind of trench warfare experienced in World War I. Carpet bombing by the Air Force killing civilians and destroying property on a grand scale is the most significant development of the war. Cities and their property were the new targets. The scale of this unrelenting bombing was the largest ever experienced in warfare.

We now come to the Korean War. I think the Korean War was the last of a kind. The equipment was largely of World War II vintage. However, the use of Naval and Air Force aircraft in close ground support was far greater than in World War II. Jet aircraft were introduced for the first time. The loss of life on the battlefield was again like that in World War I. The bunkers and dug-in positions needed to protect the troops recognized the munitions of war were now too terrible for troops in the open. Just ask the Chinese Volunteers.

The Korean War ended warfare as practiced in this century. Subsequent wars have not had a MLR (Main Line of Resistance). An MLR is where large armies face one another across a battle line with a no man's land in between. The reason we will not see another MLR, is because warfare has changed. The deadly nature of weapons available to the battlefield are too deadly to exposed troops. This makes the Korean War the last of its kind. Since Korea war has taken on a new form.

If my analysis is correct, the Korean War will be the last of confrontational warfare between competing forces across an MLR. This was not understood at the time. However, in Vietnam, there were no large unit actions. Why? I believe the Communist side learned a lesson from Korea. They were no longer willing to expose their troops to US firepower.

In Desert Storm, the forces of Saddam Hussein simply refused to put up a fight in the face of overwhelming odds. Even so, the destruction of men and equipment was frightful.

What we are seeing, as in Lebanon and Bosnia, are armies content to shell civilians. No army is willing to confront the opposing foe. Yet there are many casualties reported at the same time - mostly noncombatant women and children.

What will wars of the future be like? It is hard to say, but a few observations are in order. First, no more MLRs as in Korea. Second, forms of guerrilla warfare will be widely employed as indigenous peoples demand more independence. Check is a good example of this form of warfare. Third, in war terrorism may be the instrument of choice. The Olympic games in Atlanta were endangered because of a single bomb. Fortunately, whoever was responsible appears to be home grown.

As Korean veterans, we should take great satisfaction in playing a significant role in the long history of warfare. Though our own casualties were high, those inflicted on the enemy changed the nature of warfare for the seeable future. Congratulations on a job well done!

Amos T. Camp, Editor

## REUNIONS

**VBOB-Del. Valley Chapter, Annual Banquet, 11 Dec 1996**, Contact Tom Jones, 215-535-4563, 1837 E Venango St, Phila. Pa 19134-1521

**VBOB Historical Foundation Annual Commemoration, Sheraton West Park, Arlington VA 15 & 16 Dec 1996**. Ceremonies 15 Dec: 1 PM National Archives Rotunda, Ceremonies Holocaust Museum 2 PM, Reception Sheraton 6PM, Banquet 7 PM. On 16 Dec Ceremonies at the Tombs of the unknowns, Arlington Cemetery 11 AM followed by ceremony at the VBOB

Monument Arlington Cem, Installation of National Officers and Reception, Ft Myers NCO Club at 12 Noon. Contact Dorothy Davis 301-881-0356  
**Battle of the Bulge Reenactment, 24-26 Jan 1997, Fort Indiantown Gap**. Contact John D Bowen, 301-384-6533, or 613 Chichester Lane, Silver Spring MD 20904.  
**OCS ALUMNI Assn Reunion, April 1997, Columbus GA.**

**86th Chemical Mortar Bn, 6-11 May 1997, Kissimmee, FL**. Contact George L. Murray, 818 W 62nd St, Anniston AL 36206, 205-820-4415.  
**94th Inf Div, 29-31 May 1997, Albuquerque NM**. Contact

Harry Helms, 609 Dogwood Dr, Downingtown PA 19335.  
**734th FA Bn, June 1997, New England**. Contact Ernest Maynard, 21 Southwood Rd, Enfield CT 06082, 203-749-4200.  
**Co E, 11 Inf, 8th InfD, July 1997, Tifton GA**. Contact John W Danforth, PO Box 2382, Tifton GA, 31794, 912-528-4307.

**11th Abn Div Assn & 11th Air Assault Div (1942-1958, 1962-1965), 4-7 Sep 1997**, Omaha Nebraska. Contact James E Hembree, 125 Lexington Dr, Clarksville TN 37042-3651, 615-552-7761.  
**VBOB NATIONAL CONVENTION, 15-18 Sep**

**1997, Eidenhower Inn & Conference Center, Gettysburg PA**. Contact Nancy Monson 703-528-4058.

**30th Inf Div, 17-20 Sep 1997, Louisville KY**. Contact Robert M Hilleque, 9832 W Grand Ave, Franklin Park, IL 60131-2639.

**204th Field Artillery Bn Reunion Assoc. and I Corps Artillery Alliance, 5-10 Oct 1997, Colorado Springs CO**. Contact Nick Vanderhave, 1333 Littleton Rd, Morris Plains NJ 07950, 201-538-7189.

**44th Inf Div. Assn Looking for WWII Vets**. Contact Robert V. Deich, 2805 Sells St, Metairie LA 70003, 504-887-6239.

## Luftwaffe Radio Monitoring System

The following report was written in English by a German girl who served more than two years in the Luftwaffe radio monitoring intelligence service:

Our listening system was divided into sections. "Camerun," the western section, had many listening stations along the coast in the Netherlands, Belgium and France which did nothing but monitor the wireless and radio traffic of the US and English forces. "Camerun," was particularly interested in anything concerning aircraft, and would quickly relay the information to us. At least 2 hours before an Allied raid, and often the day before, our outpost "seeraeber" in Leyst near Utracht would report the number of bombers, the starting time and the destination. All reporting was done by code names: "Zugvogel" for USAF, "Adler" for RAF, and "Singstunde" for the Marauders. Often "Seeraeber" was able to report exactly which airfields would send planes on the raid, the type of planes and the call sign.

I gave reports of expected raids, and any reports while the planes were in the air, to "Kurfeurst," the HQ of the General Staff near Potsdam/Wildpark. Within a few hours after the raid we would receive a complete report, covering the number of planes, identification of groups, call-sign turning-points, fighter escort and any other interesting details. This report I also relayed to "Kurfuerst" by our direct wire.

I believe we had every code and map system of the American and British forces. They were kept in the office of the "Sefertsuswertung." No one was

permitted to enter that office except the persons employed there, and no one could require us to talk about our work. Even if the Gestapo questioned me, I would have answered "Geheime-Kommande-Sache," or Secret-Commanding-Affair. One missing code, report or paper would have cost me my head. The papers and documents from every plane which came down in the West were sent to this office.

After the invasion our work changed completely and we concentrated almost entirely on air reconnaissance. Within a short time we had located all frequencies of any importance, and soon we knew which divisions were in which army, their call-signs, HQs, location of stations and movements.

The work had to go more quickly now. During my 6 hour shift we might receive 100 or more reports, each several pages long, such as the following: "...Q4209 M/Y 50 per cent full. K0579 turn 27 flats loaded loco steam up Fc w. Ko695 fox-holes and arty," and on and on. But if an "ADC" (bomber request) came in, I had to drop everything and take care of it at once. I would interpret and decipher the request and pass it on as soon as possible to one of our stations called "Hellseher." "Hellseher" would report over a special telephone-radio transmission to the stations involved. these stations would warn the target and, if possible, put fighters and AA into action. Of course we all got a kick out of it when the bombers reported, "Over target but target not seen." Our warning system wasn't always so efficient, because

## Heinrich Himmler-Character Sketch of a War Criminal

The description of Himmler's character given below was furnished by a man who knew him intimately, who had seen him almost daily, had worked with him for over five years. Yet, strange as it may seem, the source of the information was a sincere anti-Nazi, an active antagonist of the regime he appeared to be working for. He was an SS Officer who had joined this organization with only one purpose in mind - to do as much harm as possible. He reached a position of trust, became a member of the inner fraternity of butchers, a collaborator of Himmler, Heydrich, Kaltenbrunner and the rest. And he continued his work - undercover work in the truest sense of the word. It is therefore believed that the picture given below is indeed a true one, colored only by close association, but given dispassionately by a keen and discerning mind.

Himmler's personality is described as the least transparent in the collection of twisted minds in the Third Reich. Its very opaqueness had about it something non-European, pseudo-Japanese...

As in most pathological cases, it is not sufficient to look at what the man appeared to be, the impression he attempted to make on the world around him, consciously, by exertion of the powers of his will. Only by peeling off the layers that were put on Himmler's personality by him to blind the world's eyes can the kernel of his psyche be discerned. This is very difficult in his case.

The first impression that Himmler wanted to convey was that he was an easy-going, jovial, courteous fellow, at peace with himself and the world. His average height, his developing paunch, his relaxed posture, all his physical attributes were used for the same purpose to make you feel here is the prototype of the jolly, Bavarian bourgeois. He tended to address his staff informally, to call them his "kids" and similar names, all that with his Bavarian dialect coming to the fore, ever so slightly. He liked to have people drop in for lunch, he himself would seat

them around the big table, there would be conversation, animated, almost exuberant. Compositions of these luncheons was exceedingly simple, the only luxury permitted, a cup, sometimes two, of real non-Ersatz coffee.

In business-meeting and conference he gave evidence of a quick, absorbing mind. In all discussions he insisted on brevity, and he gave every indication of despair when somebody would engage in long winded arguments. Even here, in all these meetings the tune was that of confidence and joviality, freely given and received.

And still there was one thing that betrayed the man, a giveaway of the things larking deep down in the shadows - his eyes. Extra-ordinarily small, the distance between them narrow, rodent like. If you spoke to him, those eyes would never leave your face, rove over your countenance, fix your eyes; and in them would be an expression of waiting, watching, stealth. His manner of reacting to things which did not meet with his approval also was not quite that expected from the jovial bourgeois. Sometimes his disagreement was clothed in the form of a fatherly admonition, but this could suddenly change and his speech and actions would become ironic, caustic cynical.

But never, even in these expressions of disagreement and dislike, there seemed to appear the man himself. Never a fit of temper, never a clean-cut simple way of showing his true stand. Never any indication of directness.

Of course, extent and nature of his crimes make it appear impossible that anything connected with this, the outer phase of his character, could have been sincere. Not even his professed like for the ancient Germanic rites and customs, his fight against Charlemagne (the "murderer of the Saxons"), his love of Heinrich I, his battle against the flies, his pedantic manner in questions of style, his work with wind turbines, all these many facts are clues to a disjointed personality, an inability to fasten the mind on any one field, but they do not provide the explanation for Himmler's true character.

Still, there are straws in the wind, indications. A man is truest to himself when he has to fight, more so when he has to defend himself. Himmler when fighting intrigued, when battling for his so-called ideas used subterfuge, deceit, not dueling

swords, but daggers in his opponents back. His ways were the ophidian ways of the coward, weak, insincere and immeasurably cruel.

In 1939/40 as Commissioner for the Preservation of German Nationality, he became engaged in a bitter dispute with Darre, then Minister of Agriculture, but at the time one of Himmler's general officers on the SS (Obergruppenfuhrer) and the Chief of Central Office for Race and Settlement (Rasse und Siedlungshauptamt). Furthermore, Darre was ideologically very closely connected with Himmler in the idea of "Block and Soil." Yet - Darre, his subordinate in the SS, could write the most impolite, caustic letter and Himmler was silent. No direct step was undertaken by him to straighten out the matter, no attempt was made to contact Hitler directly, who after all would have been the man to clear up disputes between his Ministers. No attempt even to talk things over directly with Darre - Himmler was silent, and started his intrigues. He ordered Greifelt, his deputy as commissioner, to organize all other Ministers against his opponent and he started to drop hints about Darre's ineptitude to Bormann, to various Gauleiters and other men whose talk would eventually reach Hitler's ear. But more than anything else, he leaned back and let time work for him.

He was worried how the immense resettlement tasks awaiting him in the newly conquered territories in the East could be financed effectively. He knew that the Ministry of Finance would be swamped with other demands for funds. But Himmler did not go to the head of the State to receive a certain portion of these funds, he made no attempt to see Schwerin-Krosigk, the Minister of Finance. Instead he gave orders to start a special fund, to make him independent from the financial affairs of the Reich. "His" real estate (robbed from the Poles), "his" brick works, the prisoners in "his" concentration camps were to be the capital invested in this new enterprise. Everything had to be done quietly, behind people's backs, silently, treading with soft muffled paws, and with inhuman brutality

TO BE CONTINUED

**BATTLE of the BULGE REENACTMENT****24-26 January 1997****Fort Indiantown Gap, PA****Register by 21 December 1996**

The annual Battle of the Bulge Reenactment will be held the 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 to stay in the Barracks and relive the comradeship and bonding that existed among fellow Army buddies. Each year about a hundred Bulge veterans have gathered for this annual event. It is a great weekend of good cheer, good food and entertainment in addition to adding authenticity for the reenactors who enjoy talking to you and honoring you the veterans who endured that greatest land battle, The Battle of the Bulge. Dave Shaw and Larry Tucker of the Federation will again be our hosts. If you haven't attended in the past you have missed a great opportunity to let your hair down, relax and relive things when your life was younger, your hair fuller and the only thing you had to worry about was KP and the Guard Duty list, not to mention getting shot at. See the reenactors recreate the barracks atmosphere and sights of the time. Enjoy the time-warp. The cost is a bargain at \$35 for two nights in the barracks and breakfast and dinner on Saturday.

**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, Inc. 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 \$35.00

**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. Remember that this is barracks living so if you wife is not aware of barracks living you need to indoctrinate her before she experiences it. Otherwise a list of nearby motels is available for those wishing those accommodations.

**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.

Bring sheets, a blanket and a pillow or a sleeping bag. Official GI Mattress, GI Bunk and GI Wall-Locker is provided.

**24-26 January 1997**

GENERAL PATTON SPEAKS WITH HIS GOD

This conversation of Patton with his God took place, on 23 December 1944, in front of his officers and is appropriate now as it was then as we remember and commemorate those critical December days. It was said by Patton, in the chapel, in front of the crucifix above the altar, at his headquarters at the Pescatore Foundation in Luxembourg. This is taken from an article by Joseph Maertz in the book "The Liberty Road in the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg 1944-1994," published by the © Comité Luxembourgeois de la Voie de la Liberté, Imprimerie Saint-Paul S.A., Luxembourg, 1994. It arrived this evening, from Tilly Kimmes, Secretary of CEBA, in Luxembourg as a gift to your editor.

"Sir, this is Patton talking. The last fourteen days have been straight hell. rain, snow, more rain, more snow - and I'm beginning to wonder what's going on in Your headquarters. Whose side are You on, anyway?

For three years, my chaplains have been explaining this as a religious war. This, they tell me, is the Crusades all over again, except that we're riding tanks instead of chargers. They insist that we are here to annihilate the German Army and the godless Hitler so that religious freedom may return to Europe. Up until now, I have gone along with them, for You have given us Your unreserved cooperation. Clear skies and a calm sea in Africa made the landings highly successful and helped us to eliminate Rommel. Sicily was comparatively easy and You supplied excellent weather for our armored dash across France, the greatest military victory that You have thus far allowed me. You have often given me excellent guidance in difficult command decisions and You have led German units into traps that made their elimination fairly simple.

But now, You've changed horses in mid-stream. You seem to have given von Rundstedt every break in the book and frankly, he's been beating the hell out of us. My army is neither trained or equipped for winter warfare. And as You know, this weather is more suitable for Eskimos than for Southern cavalrymen."

At this point, the General interrupted his dialogue with God, looked around, and read the weather report that had been posted: "Cold weather, snow storms, and rain storms will continue. Visibility: 40 meters. Horizon at 100 meters." Then Patton resumed:

But now, Sir, I can't help but feel that I have offended You in some way. That suddenly You have lost all sympathy with our cause. That You are throwing in with von Rundstedt and his paper hanging-god. You know without me telling You that our situation is desperate. Sure, I can tell my staff that everything is going according to plan, but there' no use telling You that the 101st Airborne is holding out against tremendous odds in Bastogne, and that this continual storm is making it impossible to supply them even from the air. I've sent Hugh Gaffey, one of my ablest generals, with his 4th Armored Division, north toward that all-important road center to relieve the encircled garrison, and he's finding Your weather much more difficult than he is the Krauts.

I don't like to complain unreasonably, but my soldiers from the Meuse to Echternach are suffering the tortures of the damned. Today I visited several hospitals, all full of frostbite cases, and the wounded are dying in the fields because they cannot be brought back for medical care.

But this isn't the worst of the situation. Lack of visibility, continued rains have completely grounded my air force. My technique of battle calls for close-in fighter-bomber support, and if my planes can't fly, how can I use them as aerial artillery? Not only is this a deplorable situation, but, worse yet, my reconnaissance planes haven't been in the air for fourteen days, and I haven't the faintest idea of what's going on behind the German lines.

Damn it, Sir, I can't fight a shadow. Without Your cooperation from a weather standpoint I am deprived of an accurate disposition of the German armies, and how in hell can I be intelligent in my attack? All this probably sounds unreasonable to You, but I have lost all patience with Your Chaplains who insist that this is a typical Ardennes winter, and that I must have faith.

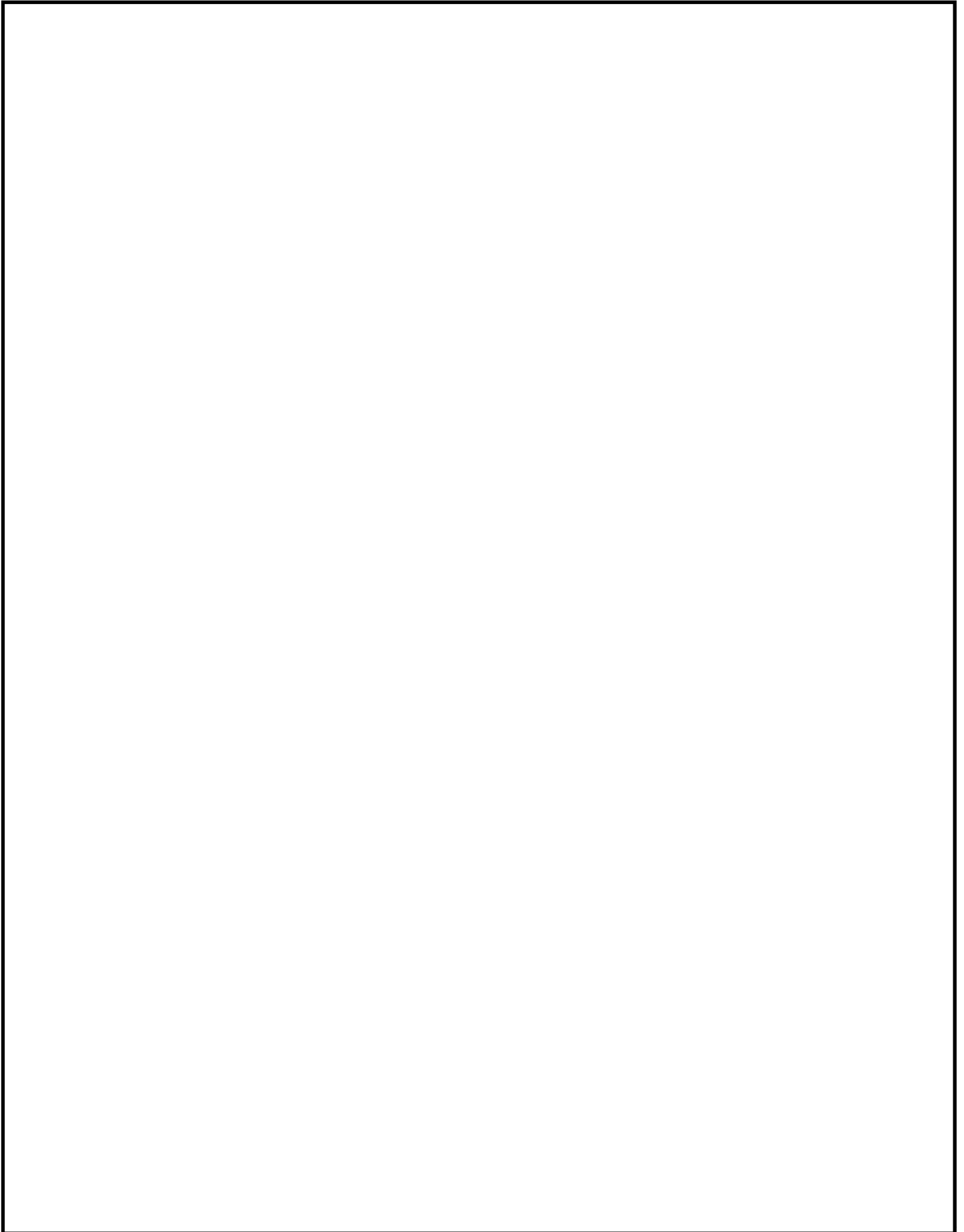
Faith and patience be damned! You have just got to make up Your mind whose side You're on. You must come to my assistance, so that I may dispatch the entire German Army as a birthday present to Your Prince of Peace.

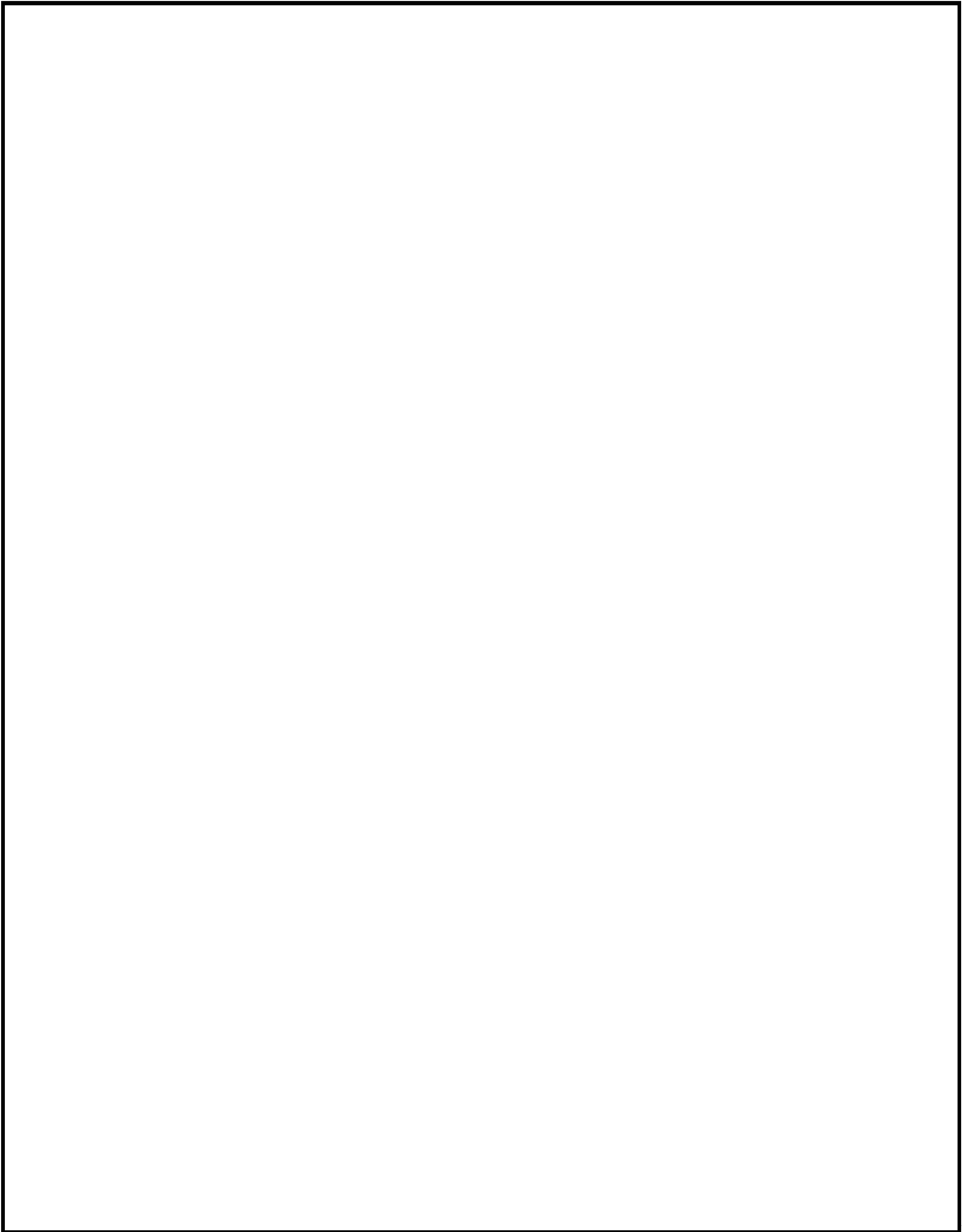
Sir, I have never been an unreasonable man. I'm not going to ask You for the impossible. I do not even insist upon a miracle, for all I request is four days of clear weather.

Give me four clear days so that my planes can fly, so that my fighter-bombers can bomb and strafe, so that my reconnaissance may pick out targets for my magnificent artillery. Give me four days of sunshine to dry this blasted mud, so that my yanks may roll, so that ammunition and rations may be taken to my hungry, ill-equipped infantry. I need these four days to send von Rundstedt and his godless army to their Valhalla. I am sick of this unnecessary butchery of American youth, and in exchange for four days of fighting weather, I will deliver You enough Krauts to keep Your bookkeepers months behind in their work."

'Patton bowed his head, waited a while, and then said "Amen."'

The following day was Sunday, 24 December 1944, and on this day the skies cleared. On Christmas Day, the beautiful blue skies allowed the Army Air Force to resupply the surrounded 101st Airborne, at Bastogne. Had God listened? Not only did the skies remain clear for the four days that Patton requested but they remained clear for four weeks after his prayer.





Continued from Page 4

many times the telephone connection to "Hellseher" was out of order, or we didn't have any electricity at all. I am still surprised that we were never bombed, for I am sure they must have recognized our listening station. The work always went on.

We were informed of every German air raid on England; thus we were able to watch for reports by the British on the outcome of the raid. Berlin was also interested in the official English war broadcast, which we monitored daily. Such information went into our daily written report or our monthly booklet on Allied Air Traffic.

I do believe that the Allied Forces are sometimes very careless about their tactical wireless and radio traffic. And the codes and cipher methods must not be too difficult; otherwise our "specialist" wouldn't have been able to get after everything so quick. It never took long to know what a certain thing meant or how it was done. We had direct wire connection with the "Dulag" (Durchgangslager fuer Kriegsgefangene der Allierton Luftwaffe), Prison of War camps for Allied Air Forces. If our "specialist"

couldn't quite make a thing out, they called up the "Dulag" for help, where we had a liaison officer.

I don't know whether the Allied Forces do have this kind of Air-Intelligence Service too. If there are very good short and long wave sets, good connections to get the report clear and quick to whom it concerns, much blood and material can be saved. In Germany it was, in the end, a lot of nonsense. But it is the safest and easiest way of spying on a great scale.

Source: *Seventh US Army, from the Intelligence Summary No 31, Hq, 78th Inf Div, Hofgeismar, Germany 7 Sep 1945, Annex No. 1 as found in the records of RG 407 at the National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, MD*

# DUES ARE DUE

## 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

**HOLIDAY PARTY SUN 8 Dec**

John D. Bowen Editor

ARDENNES □ CAMPAIGN

Nov/



**GET WELL SOON**  
 Linda Fleming (Added Surgery)  
 Helen Kraus (Recuperating)  
 Francis Walsh (Recuperating)  
 Angie Purcell (Recuperating)  
 Ed Radzwich (Recuperating)  
 Dorothy Schlenker  
 Please keep them in your

**THANKS**  
 Special Thanks to our outgoing officers  
 Richard Schlenker  
 Henry Rehn

Correction: Apologies to Tom Jones, his outfit was the 818 MP Co not the 518th.

**Next Meeting**  
 Sunday  
**8 Dec 1996**  
 11:00-1:00 Cafeteria  
 followed at 1:00 PM  
 Holiday Party  
 &  
 Business Meeting  
 Ft Meade Golf Clubhouse  
 off of Mapes Rd  
 Fort Meade MD  
 Bring Exchange  
 Gift less than \$5.00

**NEW OFFICERS**

Pres.	Syd Lawrence
1 VP	Jack Flangan
2 VP	Joseph Zimmer
Treas	Neil Thompson
Sec	John D Bowen
Sgt/Arms	Victor Trappani
Chaplain	Rev Davis Peck
	Tel-410-266-6723
PPres	Richard Schlenker
PPres	Ben Layton
PPres	Ed Radzwich
PPres	Grover Twiner
PPres	Darrell Kuhn
PPres	Neil B Thompson
PPres	CA Blaquie Culp

**LIFE MEMBER**  
 We welcome Dale E. Woomert who

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY CORNER**

DECEMBER	DECEMBER	DECEMBER
Lloyd C. <b>Blair</b> * 512 Ord Co HM 12/14	Lawrence J. <b>Fuller</b> 183 Engr Cmbt Bn 12/20	Benjamin T. <b>Layton</b> III 3496 QM Trk Co
Robert O. <b>Brunner</b> 78 InfD 309 Inf C 12/06	Daniel C. <b>Funk</b> 28 InfD 728 Ord 12/06	George C. <b>Pappas</b> 164 Engr Cmbt Bn C 12/20
John B. <b>Cramer</b> 78 InfD 310 Inf A 12/06	Kenneth W. <b>Gatrell</b> Sr 9 Fld Hosp 12/06	Thomas W <b>Sears</b> 87 InfD 346 Inf I 12/28
Alfred F. <b>Fields</b> 8 InfD 12 Engr 12/21	Gabrielle M. <b>Howe</b> Wisow 508 PIR 12/19	Paul C. <b>Shade</b> 99 InfD 393 Inf L 12/25
* 75		Warren H. <b>Thurston</b> 186 Photo Intel Hq 12/02
JANUARY	JANUARY	JANUARY
Robert M. <b>Bowen</b> 101 AbnD 401 Glider 01/01	Albert R. <b>Katoski</b> 78 InfD 303 Eng 01/05	Ernest P. <b>Peterson</b> 2 InfD 9 Inf B 01/14
Paul L. <b>Dentler</b> 9 AF 13 Svc Sqd 01/21	Frederick E. <b>Krenz</b> 84 InfD 557 AAA AW01/10	Thomas A. <b>Price</b> 30 InfD 317 Svc Co 01/04
Thomas R. <b>Giblin</b> 30 InfD 119 Inf 01/18	Sydney J. <b>Lawrence</b> *49 AAA Brgd 134 G01/15	William B. <b>Radford</b> Son Wm J
William T. <b>Greenville</b> 86 Chem Mtr 01/05	Richard A. <b>Lill</b> 27 Air Trans Gp 320 Sqd 01/20	Edward R. <b>Radzwich</b> 26 InfD 101 Inf I 01/11
William G. <b>Hemelt</b> 106 InfD 424 Inf 01/15	Edward <b>McArdle</b> 30 InfD 230 FA Bn A 01/26	Walter <b>Smallets</b> 30 InfD 119 Inf Svc 01/14
	* 70	William A. <b>Stack</b> 80 InfD 319 Inf Cannon 01/16

## Annual Holiday Party and Installation of Chapter Officers

Our annual Holiday Party will be held 6 December at the Golf Clubhouse, on 6 December 1996 at 11:00 AM. Our treasurer, Neil has arranged for a hot lunch there which will cost about \$5.00 per person or you can eat off the menu. Please call Neil for the hot meal as he needs a count before hand (410-672-3248). We will have a gift exchange and each person is asked to bring a gift not to exceed \$5.00 for someone of their own sex. We will also have the 50/50 raffle for the slips that were separately mailed to you. If you haven't sent them in then please do so with your reservation and while you are at it if you would like to send in your dues before the 16th of December and save a stamp then feel free to do so. We will also have a short business meeting and installation of officers. Since it is party time we will not have a speaker but we would like those who would like to tell about their Christmas Eve or Christmas Day in the Bulge we would like to allow time

## 15th & 16th DECEMBER COMMEMORATIONS

Now is the time to get your reservations in for this year's 52nd Anniversary Remembrance and Commemoration. On Sunday, 15 Dec we will gather at the National Archives Rotunda at 1 PM. Charter buses will leave from the Sheraton Arlington at 12:15 PM (\$12.00 per person round trip) We will commemorate the Malachite Urn of soil from the Mardasson groundbreaking in 1946. This soil from the Hill of the Mardasson contains the blood, sweat and tears that was shed your liberation of the Belgium people. The container presently on display at the Archives was presented to President Harry S Truman on 10 Jul 1946 in esteem appreciation for what the American soldier in giving them their freedom once again. This ceremony will be held before the Charters of Freedom which we have all sworn to protect and defend. Following this commemoration we will proceed to the US Memorial Holocaust Museum for 2 PM where all veterans of the Bulge will be honored in a Candlelight ceremony in the Memorial Room at 4 PM. Veterans may tour the museum as their special guests from 2 to 4 PM.

Returning to the Sheraton Hotel in Arlington the evening activities will start at 6:00 PM in the Galaxy Room (top floor) of the Sheraton with its beautiful view of the lights of our Nation's Capitol. A cash bar social hour will proceed from 6 to 7 PM. Following the Social Hour, the Commemorative Banquet, (\$42.00 per person) will begin with the stirring 3rd Infantry Color Guard (The Old Guard) presenting the colors. There will be special entertainment and in addition to the true honorees, you the veterans who served in the Battle of the Bulge, members of the Embassies of Belgium and Luxembourg and military will be attending. If you have not gotten your reservations in to our Chapter Member Dorothy Davis who puts this event on for the Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation, please do so immediately. You can send your reservations to BoB Historical Foundation, PO Box 2516, Kensington MD 20891-0818 or telephone Dorothy at 301-881-0356 for further information.

On Monday, 16 December at 11:00 AM we will have an impressive wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington Cemetery followed by a ceremony at the BOB Memorial. After these ceremonies a reception buffet will be held at the NCO Club, Ft Myer and will include the swearing-in of newly elected National VBOB officers. Please plan to attend. There is no charge for the reception.

### DUES ARE DUE 16 DEC 1996

Chapter Dues are due on the 16th of December. This keeps it simple so that you can remember when Chapter dues are due. It would help the Membership Chairman tremendously if everyone would sit down right now and write a check and mail it to John D. Bowen, 613 Chichester Lane, Silver Spring MD 20904, Tel 301-384-6433. Thanks! National Dues are due on a yearly basis based on the day and month that you joined

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

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

The opinions expressed are those of the editor. Items of interest to the membership are requested. Please keep us informed of those who are ill or who have died. Publication deadline is two weeks before the regular meeting listed on the front. © May not be used or reproduced without permission.

### Happy Holidays to All

### 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.

