

Editor's Corner

A CHANCE ENCOUNTER

This 4th of July I had volunteered at the annual activities at the front steps of the Archives where the Declaration Of Independence is read and a mock skirmish between American and British Troops is performed with muskets and cannon, followed by the parade.

It was an awful hot day, with temperatures over 95 degrees. At the top of the steps were reserve seating and my wife, Mary Ann was sitting in one of the folding chairs in about the only area with any shade. AS the festivities progressed and the parade started a woman and her daughter processed up in to the reserve section seeking the shade and some relief from the stifling heat.

I pointed out to the woman that the area was reserved but Mary Ann suggested that I go find something to do elsewhere and she invited the woman to sit down beside her. Dutifully I went elsewhere to check of things and when I returned near the end of the parade , Mary Ann and this woman were heavily engaged in conversation and like old buddies.

She informed me that this woman was a WWII veteran of the Army Nurses Corps and had served on Saipan in the Pacific, beginning in January 1945. She suggested that maybe I could find some information on her outfit in the WWII Unit records at Archives II. I took her unit number which was the 148th General Hospital and her name and address and a few days later while researching at Archives II requested the records of the 148th General Hospital.

I reviewed the contents of the file and found that it contained mainly General Orders and a type-written history with snapshots of the interior of the hospital and people. I could not find her in the orders by her maiden name but I did make copies of the history and sent it off to her. I promptly forgot about the work and went on to other research activities.

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

Then in the middle of October, a very large Priority Mail Folder arrived but I did not recognize the return address at first. Upon opening it I found that it was a two page letter from Arlyne Pullis Gruenhagen and that she had returned copies of many of her various orders and also a copy of the History of the 148th General Hospital in which she had annotated various comments after the paragraphs. It was interesting reading her reaction to the statements being made in the history.

But as I progressed through the comments the last comment was by far the best and made my research all the more rewarding . She exclaimed that the last picture was her serving refreshments to the Chief Surgeon of the Hospital at a reception , the picture of which she had never seen before nor knew it exist.

She also wrote that while in California she was able to share this history and the pictures with a fellow nurse who served with her and they had a delightful time reminiscing about those heady days as a 22 year old female on an island of 10,000 males. But let me quote directly from her letter:

"Because there were over ten thousand men and about 500 women, I always felt one could be knock kneed and have buck teeth and be very popular on Saipan. It was not uncommon to have 3 dates a day. After ork a gentleman picked you up at 2:00 PM and took you to the nurses beach. He returned you at 6:00 PM . At 6:30 PM a gentleman from the Navy picked you up, you climb aboard a LST and were taken out to a ship where the food was excellent and served on porcelain or pottery. The Navy bands were a big plus. By 10:00 PM you had to be off the ship and we returned to our clubhouse where we met our 3rd date and danced until 1:00 AM. I say gentlemen specifically for I have never been treated with more respect by men, before or after, than I was when I was in the Armed Services. MASH on TV was not a program that reflected my experiences as a nurse."

JDB

The Americans have engaged 30 or 40 men for every one 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, 18 Jan 1945

E-Mail Addresses

If you have an E-Mail address please send it with your dues. If we missed your birthday we are sorry that we do not have it. Please send your DOB & Telephone # changes.

Thanks JDB

The G. I.

The following article appeared in the November Newsletter of the MOWW, Ft George G. Meade MD Chapter. Time Magazine prepared a list of the 10 most influential people of the century in each field to mark the end of the century. The 10 most influential scientists, politicians, entertainers, sports figures, musicians, artists, and industrialists. This month they published the 10 most influential people (overall) of the century. They named "the American GI" the most influential person of the century. It is the only one that is not a single individual. General Colin Powell wrote the introduction to the award.

As Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, I referred to the men and women of the Armed Forces as "G.I.s." It got me in trouble with some of my colleagues at the time. Several years earlier, the Army had officially excised the term as an unfavorable characterization derived from the designation "government issue." Sailors and Marines wanted to be known as Sailors and Marines. Airmen, not withstanding their origins as a rib of the Army, wished to be called simply Airmen. Collectively, they were blandly referred to as "service members." I persisted in using G.I.s and found I was in good company. Newspapers and television shows used it all the time. The most famous and successful government education program was known as the G.I. Bill, and it still uses that title for a newer generation of veterans. When you added one of the most common boy's names to it, you got G.I. Joe, and the name of the most popular boy's toy ever, the G.I. Joe action figure. And let's not forget G.I. Jane. G.I. is a World War II term that two generations later continues to conjure up the warmest and proudest memories of a noble war that pitted pure good against pure evil and good triumphed. The victors in that war were American G.I.s, the Willies and Joes, the farmer from Iowa and the steelworker from Pittsburgh who stepped off a landing craft into the hell of Omaha Beach. The G.I. Was the wisecracking kid Marine from Brooklyn who clawed his way up a deadly hill on a Pacific island. He was a black fighter pilot escorting white bomber pilots over Italy and Germany, proving that skin color had nothing to do with skill or courage. He was a native Japanese-American infantryman released from his country's concentration camp to join the fight. She was nurse relieving the agony of a dying teenager. He was a petty officer standing on the edge of a heaving aircraft carrier with two signal paddles in his hands, helping guide a dive-bomber pilot back onto the deck. They were Americans.

They reflected our diverse origins. They were the embodiment of the American spirit of courage and dedication. They were truly a "people's army," going forth on a crusade to save democracy and freedom, to defeat tyrants, to save oppressed peoples and to make their families proud of them. They were the Private Ryans, and they stood firm in the thin redline. For most of those G.I.s, World War II was the adventure of their lifetime. Nothing they would ever do in the future would match their experiences as the warriors of democracy, saving the world from its own insanity.

You can still see them in every Fourth of July color guard, their gait faltering but ever proud. Their forebears went by other names: doughboys, Yanks, buffalo soldiers, Johnny Reb, Rough Riders. But "G.I." will be forever lodged in the consciousness of our nation to apply to them all. The G.I. Carried the value system of the American people. The G.I.s were the surest guarantee of America's commitment. For more than 200 years, they answered the call to fight the nation's battles. They never went forth as mercenaries on the road to conquest. They went forth as reluctant warriors, as citizen soldiers. They were as gentle in victory as they were vicious in battle. I've had survivors of Nazi concentration camps tell me of the joy they experienced as the G.I.s liberated them: America had arrived!

I've had a wealthy Japanese businessman come into my office and tell what it was like for him as a child in 1945 to await the arrival of the dreaded American beasts, and instead meet a smiling G.I., who gave him a Hershey bar. In thanks, the businessman was donating a large sum of money to the USO. After thanking him, I gave him as a souvenir a Hershey bar I had autographed. He took it and began to cry.

The 20th century can be called many things, but it most certainly was a century of war. The American G.I.s helped defeat fascism and communism. They came home in triumph from the ferocious battlefields of World Wars I and II. In Korea and Vietnam they fought just as bravely as any of their predecessors, but no triumphant receptions awaited them at home. They soldiered on through the twilight struggles of the cold war and showed what they were capable of in Desert Storm. The American people took them into their hearts again.

In this century hundreds of thousands of G.I.s died to bring to the beginning of the 21st century the victory of democracy as the ascendant political system on the face of the earth. The G.I.s were willing to travel far away and give their lives, if necessary, to secure the rights and freedoms of others. Only a nation such as ours, based on a firm moral foundation, could make such a request of its citizens.

And the G.I.s wanted nothing more than to get the job done and then return home safely. All they asked for in repayment from those they freed was the opportunity to help them to become part of the world of democracy – and just enough land to bury their fallen comrades, beneath simple white crosses and Stars of David.

The volunteer G.I.s of today stand watch in Korea, the Persian Gulf, Europe and the dangerous terrain of the Balkans. We must never see them as mere hirelings, off in a corner of our society. They are our best, and we owe them our full support and our sincerest thanks. As this century closes, we look back to identify the great leaders and personalities of the past 100 years. We do so in a world still troubled, but full of promise. That promise was gained by the young men and women of America's most important people must stand, in singular who fought and died for freedom. Near the top of any listing of the honor, the American G.I.

REFLECTIONS THE BUGLES FADING CALL by Joseph Zimmer

These reflections were given by the author as 2nd Vice-President of the MD/DC Chapter of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Association, on Sunday, 10 October 1999, at the Ft Meade Golf Clubhouse. He served with Company B, 345th Infantry, 87th Infantry Division. His thoughts are shared with those who were unable to attend.

This meeting is our last before our annual Holiday meeting in December 1999, which will close out our 20th century and begin the 3rd Millennium. We played as did many other comrades, a major part in the central significant event in this century, World War II. As I continue, you will see why we can make that claim.

In the half century following World War II, - the last military crusade fully embraced by the American public, - service in uniform was all but essential for launching a political career.

indeed, veterans occupied the White House from 1945 (Truman) to 1993 (Bush) and made up majorities in at least one chamber of the Congress from 1951 to 1997. We still have no national WWII Memorial, a nation's shame.

But the aging of the WWII generation - fewer than half of whose combatants are alive today - coupled with the widespread avoidance of service by college students during the Vietnam War and the subsequent abolition of the draft, brought a watershed in ties between the nation's civilian and military sectors.

Today, the President, his Secretary of Defense Cohen, and, his National Security Advisor, Berger, lack military experience. The same is true of two-thirds of the lawmakers who sit in Congress, including Senate Majority Leader, Trent Lott, (R-Miss) and House Speaker, Dennis Hastert, (R-Ill).

The shift has been dramatic. In the 95th Congress (1977-78), more than three-quarters of the members were veterans, and, as recently as three years ago, 56 % of those serving in the senate boasted of prior military service. The job of educating lawmakers has been daunting for those who lobby on defense issues, especially pay and benefits for active duty and retired personnel, hospital and medical services, and other needs of our hero veterans of all wars.

Brent Scowcroft, retired 74 year old Air Force General and former National Security Advisor to Gerald Ford and George Bush, thinks non-veterans have unrealistic expectations about military capabilities. They are more eager than Pentagon leaders to commit troops to combat and believe that "immaculate missions" can achieve quick and painless results, he says. There is a value to having served in uniform, that allows you to have some sense of what the military "is" and "isn't good for," he argues. "Anybody who has ever served knows that nothing goes exactly the way it is suppose to in battle; that everything gets screwed up." Don't we know that for sure.

The current Congress reflects "change in our society" that has created a gulf between soldiers and civilians, Scowcroft laments. "The military is seen as a separate society living on bases, here and abroad, and poorly understood or appreciated by the larger public." In the seven years of the Clinton Administration, there has been 40 deployments of our men and women to theater of operations. Contrast this with the four under the Bush Administration. Our military however is the most respected of all our Federal Government entities, surveys show.

We are asking more and more of our soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines. Yet, many of them, with families, receive food stamps, welfare checks, and have to scrounge around for household furnishing as depicted in a recent Washington Post story (9/20/99). In our area, of the 40,000 enlisted personnel, many feel compelled to work part-time or even full-time civilian jobs to supplement what their country pays them. We're talking about the basics of life here, and they don't have it. 53% of the enlisted personnel nationally is married. Many of these avail themselves of the government's women, infant and children (WIC) nutrition program. Many have part time jobs, without which they would be unable to make it to the next paycheck, otherwise. They do deserve better than this. What do the single parent families do. For 54 years we have been a witness to hope at the end of a century of fear, wars and death. For them we need to bombard our Representatives in the House and our Senators and tell them to do the right thing for these men and women who are protecting our liberty around the Globe. Military pay will rise 4.8% January 2000, and most levels will receive another pay increase of 5.3% in July 2000, as a part of the Defense Authorization Bill signed by the President in early October 99. Hurrah!!

There has not been a single day in this closing 20th Century when there were fewer than a score of wars raging somewhere, all of which took over 110 million lives. By the reckoning of Will Durant, noted historian, there's been only 29 years in all records history when peace apparently prevailed. In our modern history - more civilians were killed, than soldiers, in WWII, than in any other war.

In one 10 minute period on Omaha Beach, a single rifle company of 205 men lost 197, including every officer and sergeant. The Veterans Affairs Department estimates show that, if we remaining 5 million veterans of WWII, about 45,000 of us pass on every month, and that, will grow to over 52,000 a month by the year 2007. Arlington Cemetery buries 2200 veterans from all wars per year and will run out of plots by 2025, and, will seek burial acreage for 300,000 additional heroes shortly. 34 million men were drafted during the WWII period, and in that number, only 271 were conscientious objectors (many of these however served as medics). Even up to age 64, men served in restricted service. (Continued on Page 9) (continued from page 7 - Reflections)

100,000 women also served in uniform and millions more served on the home front. Of the 34 million signed up - about 17

million actually served. Much of the attrition was the result of malnutrition occasioned by the depression of the 30's. There are still 50,000 men unaccounted for from WWII according to Senate testimony in 1993.

Of the 100 million plus adult Americans who celebrated the end of the war in 1945, most likely no more than 30 million are alive. The present veteran population is estimated at about 26 million. The shortest sentence in the New Testament is "Jesus Wept." We can feel sure he did so for our fallen comrade, and for all casualties of all wars.

Of all Russian men born in 1923, 80% are dead, as a result of WWII, and Stalin purges before WWII and after. Russian casualties (civilian/soldier) were 53 million. When WWII ended in August 1945, it left 60 million dead, throughout the world. We in the US numbered about 120 million population at the time.

Beginning in 1939, with our armed forces numbering about 174,000 men, ranking 17th in the world behind such nations as Bulgaria and Portugal. Lucky for the US, the draft renewal passed by one single vote in 1940. About 70% of Americans alive today (1998) were born after 7 December 1941. Very little interest or understanding of WWII and its portent results from this stat. American deaths in all wars were 1.3 million.

War	Year	Deaths	War	Year	Deaths
Revolutionary	1775-1783	4,435	Spanish American	1898	2,446
War of 1812	1812-1815	2,260	World War I	1917-1918	116,516
Mexican War	1846-1848	13,283	World War II	1941-1945	405,399
Civil War	1861-1865		Korean War	1950-1953	33,746
Union		364,511	Vietnam War	1964-1973	58,152
Confederate		260,000	Persian Gulf	1940-1991	363

Death has always been our ancient foe. It is a healthy part of the male psyche to find nobility in the active pursuit of ends that require heroism, risk and physical endurance. Our comrades who paid the ultimate sacrifice, I believe, might caution us not to listen to our own grief, but listen to them and vow anew to never to forget them.

"Onaways" held secure positions on the high ground between the Sauer and Prum Rivers, knocking out more than 110 pillboxes and fortified positions in the process. The division next outflanked the Welschbillig-Eisenach line, and again hit the Siegfried Line, smashing it down its length to open a pathway to the Moselle River at Trier. The Prum and Nims Rivers had been crossed and a large pocket of Nazi resistance liquidated. Early in March the division went across the Kyll River, making the crossing near Preist. It quickly took the strategic towns of Speicher and Orenhoffen. The bridgehead across the Kyll was rapidly expanded and the 76th pushed forward to the northwest bank of the Moselle River between Schweich and Reil. On 16 March the division was at its job of river crossing again, this time spanning the Moselle at two places to secure and protect bridging operations undertaken by the XII Corps at Mulheim. On 27 March the division began its crossing of the Rhine at Boppard and St Goar. Early in April the 76th was committed to a new offensive initiated when a drive was started across the Fulda River. The "Onaways" drove on fast to the Werra River where they were teamed up with the 6th Armored Division to form the spearhead of the Third Army's plunge across Germany toward Czechoslovakia. The Werra River was crossed and the 76th blitzed its way during April across the German provinces of Thuringia and Saxony to within 50 miles of the Czech border, halting at the Mulde River as well as the Schopau River. The division was holding in this area when the war in Europe ended, and the division was subsequently inactivated overseas.

Source: These fact sheets are from The Information Section, Analysis Branch, Hq Army Ground Forces, Washington 25 DC, 1 Mar 1947, as found in the records of the National Archives and Records Administration, RG 407, Archives II, College Park MD. Not all of the Division's Fact sheets have survived and they are being presented here in random order as new ones are found.

BULGE REENACTMENT

The annual Battle of the Bulge Reenactment will be held from
Wednesday, 26 January 2000

To

Sunday, 30 January 2000
At Fort Indiantown Gap, PA
All Veterans Invited

Option C: \$50 -4 nites in Barracks,
 Saturday Breakfast and Dinner
 Option D: \$30 -4 nites in Barracks,
 No Meals

For Registration Forms send
 stamped self addressed envelope to
 John D. Bowen, 613 Chichester Ln
 Silver Spring MD 20904-3331

SOLDIER

*I was that which others did not want to be.
I went where others feared to go, and did what others
failed to do.
I asked nothing from those who gave nothing, and
reluctantly accepted the thought of eternal
loneliness . . . Should I fail.
I have seen the face of terror; felt the stinging cold of
fear; and enjoyed the sweet taste of a moment's
love.
I have cried, pained, and hope, but most of all I have
lived times others would say were best
forgotten.
At least someday I will be able to say
I was proud of what I was a soldier.
Unknown*

PROMOTIONS

(After the fall of France, Hitler awarded) field marshals' batons to twelve generals and a special king-size one to Goering, who was given the newly created rank of Reich Marshal of the Greater German Reich, which put him above all the others. . . . This promiscuous award of field-marshalships — the Kaiser had named only five field marshals from the officer corps during all of World War I and not even Ludendorff had been made one — undoubtedly helped to stifle any latent opposition to Hitler among the generals such as had threatened to remove him on at least three occasions in the past. In achieving this and in debasing the value of the highest military rank by raising so many to it, Hitler acted shrewdly to tighten his hold over the generals
William L Shirer, the Rise and Fall of the Third Reich (1959)

EYE WITNESS

Two Confederate veterans were reminiscing about the days during the war when Paducah was being fought over by the Northern and Southern Forces. "I remember," one veteran said, "when we pushed those damn Yankees all the way across the Ohio and up into Illinois!" The other old soldier regretfully corrected him. "I was thee, old friend," he said, "and I'm afraid that wasn't the way it happened at all. Those Yankees drove us out of Paducah and almost to the Tennessee line." The first veteran reflected a bit , then sourly remarked, "Another good story ruined by an eye-witness!"
Alben W Barkley, That Reminds Me (1954)

MO MAKES ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERY

Mo was innocently rooting in a peanut patch near Ty Ty Georgia the other afternoon, and made what may be the archaeological discovery of the year!

What Mo uncovered was a scroll written in latin and dated 1 BC.

How did the Latin scroll come to be under a peanut patch near Ty Ty, Georgia?

This question may never be answered, but the fact that the scroll was hermetically sealed in an old Mason jar may indicate that some ancestor of one of our Georgia good ol' boys may have first discovered the scroll on his travels around the world.

In any case, the scroll reads as follows:

Dear Cassius. Are you still working on the Y zero K problem?

This change from BC to AD is giving us a lot of headaches and we haven't much time left.

I don't know how people will cope with working the wrong way around.

Having been working happily backwards forever, now we have to start thinking upwards.

You would think that someone would have thought of it earlier and not left it to us to sort it all out at the last minute.

I spoke to Caesar the other evening. He was livid that Julius hadn't done something about it when he was sorting out the Calendar. He said he could see why Brutus turned nasty.

We called in Consultus, but he simply said that continuing downwards using minus BC wouldn't work and as usual charged a fortune for doing nothing useful.

Surely we will not have to throw out all our hardware and start again?

Macrohard will make yet another fortune out of this, I suppose.

The money lenders are paranoid, of course. They have been told that all usury rates will invert and they will have to pay their clients to take out loans – it's an ill wind.

As for myself, I just can see the sand in an hourglass flowing upwards.

I have heard that there are plans to stable all horses at midnight at the turn of the year as there are fears that they will stop and try to run backwards, causing immense damage to chariots and possible loss to life.

Some say the world will cease to exist at the moment of transition.

Anyway, we are still continuing to work on this blasted Y zero K problem. I will send a parchment to you if anything further develops.

If you have any ideas, please let me know.

Plutnius (Author Unknown)

Fact Sheet of the 76th Infantry Division

TYPE OF DIVISION: Organized Reserve

NICKNAME: Onaway Division (“Onaway” is the alert cry of the Chippewa Indians, in whose hunting grounds the 76th trained while at Camp Mc Coy, Wisc.). Division was formerly called the Liberty Bell Division because the last two digits of the historic year 1776 are the numerical designation of the division.

SONG: “Onaway,” words by Brig Gen Henry C Evans, last Commanding General of the 76th in WWII.

SHOULDER PATCH: The division insignia is an escutcheon which has a red field and a blue chief, separated by an olive drab line; a three pronged white device is superimposed on the blue chief. The white device was a medieval English heraldic symbol meaning “first son.” In World War I the 76th was the first division of the National Army to be drawn from civilian ranks through the draft, hence the insignia and the description, “the first sons of the nation.” The combined colors of the field, the device, and the chief are the national colors.

ACTIVATION DATE: 15 June 1942.

INACTIVATION DATE: 31 August 1945 in ETO.

COMPONENT UNITS: 304, 385, and 417 Inf Regts; 76 Cav Rcn Tp (Mecz); 301 Engr Combat Bn, 301 Med Bn. Div Arty: 302, 355 and 901st FA Bns (105 How) and 364 FA Bn (155 How). Sp Tps: 76 QM Co, 76 Sig Co, 776 Ord Co (LM), Hq Co, MP Plat and Band.

TRAINING UNDER ARMY GROUND FORCES: The division was activated for this war at Ft Meade MD. In Jul 1943 it moved to AP Hill Military Reservation, VA and in Oct 1943 was transferred to Camp McCoy, passing to control of the Second Army. While at Camp McCoy the division trained hard for winter warfare. Officers and men were issued special winter equipment, instructed in the use of skis and snowshoes, and in the operation of “weasels,” small-tracked general-purpose vehicles. Between June and October 1942, the 76th furnished a number of replacements for units which subsequently participated in the invasions of North Africa, Sicily and Italy. Some of the men who trained with the division left in April 1944 and went overseas as replacements to units which took part in the Normandy invasion.

DEPARTED U.S. FOR FOREIGN DUTY: 10 December 1944.

OVERSEAS TRAINING: Division trained extensively in England prior to moving to the continent.

DATE ENTERED COMBAT: Division 19 January 1945.

COMBAT DAYS (DIV): 95.

RETURNED TO U.S.: Disbanded in ETO.

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

SUCCESSIVE COMMANDING GENERALS: Major General Emil F. Reinhardt from June to December 1942; Major General William R. Schmidt from December 1942 to July 1945; Brigadier General Henry C. Evans from August 1945 to inactivation (31 Aug 1945).

DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATION: Co C, 301 Engr C. Bn for 7-12 Feb 1945 action at Sauer River Cross; Co C, 301 Med Bn for 7-12 Feb 45 action at Sauer River Cross.

CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR WINNERS: Pvt William D. McGee, Company K, 304th Infantry regiment, for 18 March 1945 action near Mulheim, Germany; Pfc Herman C. Wallace, Company B, 301st Engineer Combat Bn, for 27 February 1945 action at Prumzurley, Germany.

HISTORY: The 76th was activated in August 1917 at Camp (now Fort) Devens, Massachusetts, and was the first of the “draft” divisions formed during World War I. Its personnel was largely drawn from the New England States but included men from New York. It went overseas in Aug 1918. Some of its units saw action in France, but the organization never did go into combat as a complete division. The division was reorganized in August 1918 into a Depot Division and trained approximately 20,000 officers and men as replacements for other divisions. The 76th returned to this country by May 1919 and was demobilized.

COMBAT HIGHLIGHTS: Advance of more than 400 miles against hostile resistance in 110 days of combat, capture of more than 33,000 prisoners and the crossing of 20 rivers mark the battle record of the 76th Inf Div. The “Onaways” went into action early in Feb 1945 along the Sauer River near the Luxembourg-Germany border and prepared for an assault upon Nazi defenses which were part of the Siegfried Line. Men of the 417th Inf Regt stormed across the Sauer River at Echternach, Luxembourg, on 6 Feb 1945, along with units of other divisions that were making the assault. By the second day after the river crossing enemy pill-boxes and strong points began falling rapidly. The 76th then went on to attack north of the Sauer and west of the Prum Rivers, battering through line after line of west wall forts. Irrel fell and in less than two weeks of fighting the (76th Infantry Division, Continued from Page 11)

(Continued on page 5)

BULGE UNIT REUNIONS

15-16 Dec 1999, Commemoration of the 55th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, by Battle of the Bulge Foundation and Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Ft Meade MD and Arlington Cemetery, VA. Hotel accommodations at newly renovated Holiday Inn, Laurel MD. Contact Ms Dorothy Davis, 301-881-0356.

26-30 Jan 2000, Reenactment of the Battle of the Bulge, Fort Indiantown Gap PA. Veterans invited as observers and to stay in the WWII barracks. Re-live your barracks days and the comraderie of your fellow veterans. Contact John D. Bowen, 613 Chichester Lane, Silver Spring MD 20904, 301-384-6533.

31 Aug - 4 Sep 2000 National VBOB Reunion, Colorado Springs CO. Contact: Nancy Monson, PO Box 11129, Arlington VA 22210-2129, Tel 703-528-4058.

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

Those having reunions can

DUES ARE DUE NOW

16 Dec 1999

Still \$10

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, MD/DC
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MARCHER & WWII MUSINGS

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NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

Sunday 12 DEC 99

Ft Meade Officers' Club Brunch
55th COMMEMORATION
BATTLE OF THE BULGE

FIRST CLASS