



Third US Army LH Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 6 – January 2013

## A Word from the Commander

The example we set

Now these few words are not about what we do as 3rd Army Living Historians, though it could apply. A good friend of mine asked me why I was not in church when he received an email from me on Sunday during the time church would be going on. He knows that when I can, I attend church on Sunday. That leads me into what I am about to say. He called shortly after to ask if I was all right. That is a true friend.

We live in a world where our example is important. Integrity, honesty, promptness and your word (promise) are the things that you are judged by most often. When a time is set to be someplace, being there on time is a mark of a man (or women) taking charge of personal responsibility. Consistency of promptness tells others you are organized, plan for setbacks and will do what you say. It sounds like a simple thing but it reflects on you. If you are constantly late with excuses, it says to others you do not plan in advance, you can't get your life organized and you are not someone who can be counted on. If you know someone like that, you also know they always accompany their tardiness with an excuse. That tells you they blame others and things for their own short comings. You would not want to depend on them to watch your back or even to do what they say. Their example is far more telling than what they say they will do.

Loyalty and friendship are rare today. Have you ever had someone tell you that he or she is one of your friends and then said such in such about you in a mean and hurtful way? Friendship is one measure a man of true integrity. Do you know someone who has a lot of friends? If you do, you'll find a few consistencies of integrity. He treats others like he wishes they would treat him. He gives of himself by doing things for his friends and asks nothing in return. He calls them to see how they are doing. He helps them when they need help. He is there in time of need. He is honest with them. He does not talk bad about his friends behind their back. Men like that have many many friends.

We live in a me-me world that blames everything on everybody and everything. Nothing is ever their fault. They have excuses for everything bad. They are mean,

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*Lucky Forward* newsletter where we keep you informed and up to date on our current activities, and articles pertaining to our continued study of the Third Army. We want your contributions and experiences; send your stories to

[patton@pattonthirdarmy.com](mailto:patton@pattonthirdarmy.com)



vindictive and think about only themselves. Their word is no good and you cannot depend on them.

Most of us are works in progress. If someone was to ask about you...what example have you set?

We have a lot about to happen. The next issue of "Lucky Forward" is due in February will be loaded with a lots of information. I hope it is also loaded with articles from most of you.



Denny Hair  
(Patton)

CG, Patton Third Army Living Historians



## Little Georgie

By Lt. Col. Alan Jones  
atj53@att.net



It was a snowy day, Sunday, 6 January, at the Ft Harrison State Park in Indianapolis, Indiana. The General, his Staff Officers, and MP escort were in the library of the Museum of 20th Century Warfare waiting to greet Museum visitors, and to attend a presentation of 'Armor in the Ardennes' which was being presented by a member of the Museum Staff. I was pacing around the library when looking out of the window I saw that it had begun to snow with some pretty big flakes and the wind was blowing it around

some. I then left the library and went to the latrine. Upon my return, I saw that the General, Major Weakley, and S/Sgt Coulter were no longer in the library. When I asked where they went, I was informed that they were outside. I looked out the window and saw the General in the field behind the Museum out in the snow building a snowman. It was about then that Major Weakley and S/Sgt Coulter came in laughing. They both said that the General was having a great time and couldn't get over the amount of snow, which was only about two or three inches deep. The Museum Director, Marylen Wallace, took a helmet liner and scarf out to the General to place on 'Little Georgie'. When the General came in a few minutes later, he was quite proud of 'Little Georgie', and was beaming brighter than a Battalion of Anti-Aircraft Search Lights. A few minutes later we went down to attend the 'Armor in the Ardennes' presentation which turned out to be very impressive. We then returned to the Museum and bade farewell to the Museum staff for an very enjoyable weekend. A

final check on 'Little Georgie' before we departed the Park showed that he was still on duty, and on his guard post. 'Little Georgie', a real 3d Army Trooper!



## Combat Command 6th Cavalry Group (PTALH6CG)

By Gen. Denny Hair  
patton@pattonthirdarmy.com

I am pleased to announce the formation of the Combat branch of Patton Third Army Living Historians. Quite a few of you have said you would like to see us participate in some reenactments on the combat side. Others have mentioned they would like to participate in some tactical reenactments. Most of our younger members have expressed this as well. So, we are going to do just that. Some years ago, I was active in tactical re-enactments and wanted to combine what I did as General Patton and what 3rd Army did historically in the field. The most logical choice at the time was the 6th Cavalry Group. It was both an assigned unit to 3rd Army headquarters and a fully functioning combat unit with armor.

We formed the 6th Cavalry Group many years ago in the 36th Inf. Div., C&D Auxiliary which later became the TMHS. From that beginning, we later formed the 6th Cavalry Historical Association which is still active today. Carlos Manning and I set it up and formed it into a 501c historical association. I was its first charter member and first President. Carlos Manning was the first Vice President and both were honored by the group to be grandfathered in as permanent members for life to that organization.

We are now forming the combat branch of the 6th Cavalry Group as part of the Patton Third Army Living Historians. It will be divided in squadrons as it was historically and those squadrons will be located nationally as the unit grows. The Official name will be Patton's Third Army Living Historians Combat Command 6th Cavalry Group. (PTALH6CG) The HQ and 1st Squadron will be located in Texas. The rest of the squadrons will be dispersed and attached to our National Staff. We are aware of four other 6th Cavalry groups on the national level and it is hoped that when we are in the area they are participating in, that our combat arm will enjoy being a part of the reenactment with them.

In Texas, Sgt. Michael Ditto and Chaplain Ken Stewart will do duel impressions when we go to tactical. I hope to build this around the M-20 Armored scout car and the mess Sgt, with 3rd Army HQ attached in field problems and tactical. It will be up to our national staff and specifically Lt.Col. Jones and Major Weakly to begin the preparations to recruit into our national organizational structure.

I have every intentions see this unit grow and provide young people with a chance to educate the public as to military history, honor those that served, and give the younger soldiers a chance to enjoy the hobby as soldiers in the field.

We will have field problems and training sessions as we prepare to make this field operational. I hope to have a combat

command each year at the Museum of the American GI and at the Armed Forces Museum in Austin.

The Old Soldiers Association is planning a tactical in the near future and it is hoped we can field a squadron, at that event.

In addition, we have the 6th Cavalry Historical Association here in Houston and I hope combat arm can fall in with them if we have any tactical here that they are participating in.

At public displays Patton's Third Army Living Historians Combat Command 6th Cavalry Group. (PTALH6CG) will be responsible for making the combat exhibits for the public and participating in the show Battles.

We will provide a TOE when it is developed.



## Third Army Hero Lt. Col. Charles Cabanné Smith

*Third Army Hero is a recurring biography series of individuals who served with Third Army*

Date and place of birth: 15 April  
1904, Saint Louis, Missouri

Date and place of death: 3 May  
1999, Houston, Texas

Lt. Col. Smith's military career began in 1926 upon graduation from the Missouri School of Mines (now known as Missouri University of Science and Technology) where he was commissioned as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Army Corps of Engineers, Reserve. Lt. Col. Smith was assigned to Third Army in July 1941, while the headquarters was at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.



**Lt. Col. Smith, 1945**

From his initial assignment to Third Army, Lt. Col. Smith served with the Third Army Engineer section, rising to the Executive Officer for Administration by war's end. In the course of these duties Lt. Col. Smith was the author of the Engineer Section of the Third Army After Action review published in 1945. During the war Lt. Col. Smith was awarded the Bronze Star and the Croix de Guerre from France. In 1989, Lt. Col. Smith authored, *My War Years 1940-1946*, where he recounts his service with Third Army.

Patton and His Third Army Living Historians are proud to recognize Lt. Col. Smith as the Third Army Hero for January 2013.



## Patton Storms Through the Bulge

By Maj. C. L. O'Connor  
hugh.m.hall@gmail.com

The first Patton appearance at the Museum of 20th Century Warfare, Battle of the Bulge event from January 4th through

7th, at Fort Harrison State Park in Indianapolis was a success. Gen. Patton was invited to attend this event by Marylen Wallace, the Director of the Museum of 20th Century Warfare. With the assistance of Deputy Chief of Staff, Major Alan Jones



and Assistant G3 Major Dave Weakley, Gen. Patton arrived in Indianapolis on Thursday, January 4th and proceeded to the Fort Harrison Inn, where he was received by the staff and welcome sign. Marylen Wallace, Director of the Museum of 20th Century Warfare and Jeff Cummings, Head Naturalist and Park Public Information Officer for Fort Harrison State Park provided Gen. Patton a briefing pertaining to the

weekend activities and coordinating instructions pertaining to where Third Army was to appear. On, January 5th, Gen. Patton took a tour of Camp Glenn, a former CMTC camp which currently has the Museum of 20th Century Warfare and Fort Harrison State Park administrative and visitor center offices on the site.

During lunch, Gen. Patton appeared with a display of his personal equipment at The Garrison restaurant, which is located in the historic former Officers' Club on the grounds of Fort Harrison. This facility was built by Afrika Corps POWs during their time at Fort Harrison during WWII. Activity in the afternoon included a tour of the battlefield and Gen. Patton surveying the surrounding terrain and later in the evening Gen. Patton and the Third Army staff observed a night battle.



The Battle of Bulge event from the Museum of 20th Century Warfare focused on activities occurring from January 5th and 6th 1945. While this event did not have as much snow during the Bulge in '45, it was quite cold on Saturday with a temperature of 19 degrees, with the GIs over whelmed by German Infantry, the battle appeared to be lost but with determined resistance by the GIs the Germans are repelled.



After the public battle, Gen. Patton spoke to the gathered crowd and provided information regarding Third Army's move to prevent further success by the German forces. Sunday found Patton in rare form where he built a snowman and initiated a snowball fight with MPs from the 503rd MP Bn. True to form, the General was victorious. Gen. Patton visited the Battle of Bulge display and a presentation by Chris Schneider, who created



the display and a Museum of 20th Century Warfare volunteer. Chris' Armor in the Ardennes presentation was well received by all.

Participation by Third Army is new at this event, and a potential winter event annually, was thoroughly enjoyed by all with Gen. Patton presenting Certificates of Appreciation to the following individuals for their efforts to assist Third Army:

Marylen Wallace – Museum of 20th Century Warfare  
Chris Schenider – Museum of 20th Century Warfare  
Jeff Cummings – Fort Harrison State Park

Gen. Patton also presented Certificates of Appreciation to the following individuals for attending the event who performed MP duties during the event.

Wayne Coulter – 503rd MP Bn  
Kevin Johnson – 503rd MP Bn  
Levi Weakley – 503rd MP Bn



## WACs and WOWs

By Billy Pyle  
garandstand@academicplanet.com



A WAC armorer repairs a Model 1903 Springfield rifle at Camp Campbell, Kentucky in 1944. Notice on the side of the gun cradle what appears to be a light machine gun minus barrel assembly. Every competent armorer needs a good

hammer shown inside the gun cradle on the right. WAC ordnance personnel serviced all types of small arms. Note: Camp Campbell began as a wartime training facility in January of 1942 and was designated Fort Campbell in April of 1950. (National Archives photo)

The Women's Army Corps (WAC) commenced on July 3, 1943 having evolved from the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) which began May 14, 1941. Repairing small arms was one of many areas in which they worked. In 1978 the Women's Army Corps was abolished as a separate corps and assimilated into all but the combat branches of the Regular Army.

WOW's or Women Ordnance Workers were civilian employees that labored in various military production establishments on a temporary basis until World War II was over. They performed tasks that would ordinarily be done by men.

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## Changing of the Guard

By Col. Hugh Hal with Lt. Sue Hall  
hugh.m.hall@gmail.com

In our world of constant and very rapid change, especially hi-tech, it wasn't until we purchased a house (picture 1) built in 1851 that it ever dawned on me that man-made things can outlive their designer/builder/owner. After we purchased the house in 1997, built before the Civil War, we began researching the history of our house and were able to determine the builder and other five subsequent residents owned the house over a period of 146 years, an average of 24 years each. We have now lived here 15 years. A mere wink in time, but the lesson was learned, rather than "owners" of the house, we came to understand that we were really the caretakers of it, like the six families before us.

So what does any of this have to do with 3D Army, you ask?

A change of caretakers has taken place for one 1941



Picture 1



Picture 1



Picture 3

Dodge Half-Ton 4X4 WC-27 Ambulance (picture 2), Vin Number T21525359, Serial Number 81510421, U. S. Army Hood Registration Number W-75480. The transition took place between caretakers Linda and Gary Haas (picture 3) to Susan and Hugh Hall (picture 4).

#### Caretaker History:

U. S. Army took possession from Dodge in 1941  
1941 to 1983 history unknown  
1983 Care was transferred to Mark Jones of San Anselmo, California (picture 5)  
1999 Care was transferred to Linda Haas of Burleson, Texas (picture 6)  
2012 Care was transferred to Susan Hall of Waxahachie, Texas (picture 7)

#### Interesting facts:

These trucks were manufactured with a long wheelbase and modified suspension to provide a smoother ride for the injured personnel. The box-like, totally enclosed, all steel rear body was insulated (with corrugated cardboard) and heated and could accommodate 4 litter-ridden patients or six ambulatory patients on two wall-mounted drop-down benches (picture 8). A folding rear step assisted getting in and out of the rear of the vehicle (picture 9). Also the driver's and passenger's seats tilted forward (picture 10) to access patients from the front driver's compartment. There is a canvas partition to separate the driver from the patients.

Dodge made three production runs of the WC-27: 2,288 of T207, 1,555 of T211 and 2,579 of T215. So the total of 6,422 makes the WC-27 considerably more rare than the 1/4 ton jeep at 637,385.

\*\*\*And Sue makes a note here:  
"We named the ambulance "Doc" and it is soooo much fun



Picture 4



Picture 5



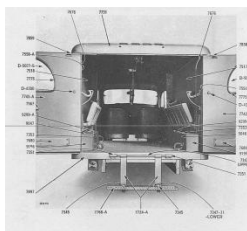
Picture 6



Picture 7



Picture 8



Picture 9

to drive, ride in, and hit the "siren" button!!" It has added a very significant dimension to our medical impression! Plus, thanks to Gary and Linda Haas, who employed Doc for years in their medical impression, they helped us with some really special equipment, like a GP-small tent with a large Red Cross flag, more cots, extra medical supplies, and an Officer's tent and more. Although we have now outgrown our current trailer and towing capacity, I'm sure we will figure out another solution! Our daughter, Jennifer, our son, Stephen and his wife Charity, (picture 11) and their little boys

participated with others in the WWII Veterans Day reenactment here in Waxahachie in November 2012. The ambulance along with the Aid Station ended up right in the middle of everything. (picture 12)

Thank you Linda and Gary for passing along the caretaker torch.

#### Sources:

U. S. Military Vehicles Field guide, pp. 54-55  
Arrowhead MVPA website



Picture 10



Picture 11



Picture 12



## Chaplain's Corner

By Rev. Kenneth Stewart

1971chevelless@sbcglobal.net

Scripture for the Month of January 2013

Jeremiah 29:11-14

English Standard Version (ESV)

<sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare[a] and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

<sup>12</sup> Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you.

<sup>13</sup> You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

<sup>14</sup> I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile. This is a New Year and a New Year brings new beginnings.



Old things are passed away and all things are new. Most of us will make preparations for the New Year. Some of those decisions will entertain the thoughts of our physical health, changing the way we treat our bodies and how we treat others. This is called restoration or renewing our mind. The Lord came to restore us to God through his death on the cross. The bible also says that we are made in the image of God.

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” Genesis 1:27 English Standard Version (ESV)

With that said, we see this image of God that he placed in each of our hearts. It shows outwardly in our desires, by what we say and what we do. Out of the heart a man speaks and he moves.

This article will be about my passion to restore, not only the hearts and minds of men to Christ, but things. Whether it is faith, a car, a bicycle, or anything for that matter. Today I am writing this article to introduce to you my new restoration project.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce to you a former WWII U.S. Army Veteran, hood #20385883, 1942 Ford GPW (Government, 80-inch wheelbase, Willys) Jeep. Also, as painted on the cowl, as per direction of Ron Fitzpatrick over at the G503 website, was found the letter “S” which symbolized a radio suppressed jeep. This means that it was made by Ford sometime after June 8, 1942. They didn’t make radio suppressed vehicles until this date. Possibly used as a radio car. Most Jeeps sat in mothballs until called by Uncle Sam. This jeep may have been no exception. The engine is a WWII Ford L134. The Willys L134 nicknamed the “Go Devil” was a straight



4 cylinder engine made famous in the Willys MB Jeep produced during WWII. The engine displacement was 134.22 with a 3.125 bore and 4.375 stroke. It was an L-head design, meaning the valves were parallel to the cylinders. Initial power output was 60

horse power at 4000 rpm and 105 torque at 2000 rpm with a 6.48:1 compression ratio. The serial number on the L134 reveals CJ-2A38611, making the engine a possible replacement. However, on June 9, 1943, this jeep received its stripes. The blue numbers were then painted on the hood at the Ford factory, #20385883 became active duty and was delivered to the U.S. Army. It's confirmed that it is not an early script Ford GPW but it is the next rarest in line. Also, according to Tom Wolboldt, over at G503 website, this Jeep was made in Dallas. Tom stated, “hood number range 20384xxx though 20387xxx was assigned to the Dallas Texas assembly plant in the summer of '43 for use on GPWs. The delivery on wheels comes from the data showing that there was no crating dept. at Dallas, Texas plant until August, '43.

Data was found at the Benson Ford Research Center in Dearborn Michigan.”

In 1941 the U.S. Army sought to select a single manufacturer to supply them with an order for 16,000 vehicles. Willys won the contract mostly due to its more powerful Go devil engine which soldiers raved about. In October of 1941 Willys-Overland could not keep up with production demand and Ford was then contracted to produce them as well. The War Department needed jeeps fast and by the time Ford was ready to start producing jeeps in large numbers, the U.S. was at war, and much of the space at the Rouge plant was taken producing other ordnance for the war effort. Ford therefore proposed that the Ordnance Department allow the company to assemble jeeps at its Chester, Dallas, Louisville, and Richmond branch plants. According to a Ford analysis, this introduced certain inefficiency to the company's overall jeep operation. The government was asking Ford to make 350 jeeps per day. One of those branch plants could have handled the task, but instead the work was spread among several plants working at less than capacity. Ford acknowledged, on the other hand, the advantage accrued to the government. Most of the jeeps were assembled on the coasts, so the government incurred less cost shipping finished vehicles to port facilities.

Ford's Rouge plant produced the first seventy-seven of the company's jeeps with Willys engines in January 1942. The following month, while the Rouge plant turned-out 1,460 jeeps, Chester, Dallas, Louisville, and Richmond branches got their jeep assembly lines underway. Chester produced 184 jeeps in



February 1942; Dallas produced 197, Louisville 107, and Richmond 170. In March, all the plants were producing at about their intended capacity, and the company produced 8,920 jeeps. The following month, Ford set its overall record of jeeps produced in a single month:

11,159 vehicles. The Chester and Richmond plants also set their individual plant records in April 1942: 2,425 and 2,000 respectively. The Rouge plant ceased assembling jeeps in September 1942, with a brief resumption in mid-1943. Chester ceased producing jeeps in January 1943. The Edgewater branch assembled 1,333 jeeps in early 1943. The Dallas, Louisville, and Richmond plants continued assembling the quarter-ton trucks until the Ford contract ended in July 1945. During that period, Ford manufactured its own Willys engines, as well as axles, drive shafts, and some of the springs, transmissions, and bodies, at the Rouge and the Lincoln plants. It made the little bits of trim at the Highland Park plant. Ford purchased all the other components of the jeeps it made, including



frames, wheels, steering gears, and brakes, from suppliers who also supplied Willys. The most notable was a flat wide hood, adapted from The Ford GP Aka GPW.

After the war most of these vehicles came home and were sold at auctions. Most like the soldiers that served with them returned to their normal lives. Most jeeps were used on the farm and for work vehicles. The tail sections of these vehicles were cut to allow easy access to the rear floor section for hauling various items. Most of these war veterans (jeeps) were used constantly until they broke down. Most were left to rust in the field where they sat. Others were stored in barns and various other places. So these vehicles can still be found. I paid \$1,500 for mine, sitting in a barn in Sherman, Texas. If this is something that you think that you would like to do, or have always dreamed of doing, but just can't find that perfect jeep project; do what I did, pray to the good Lord and he shall supply all your needs according to his riches and glory, above all that you can ask or think. I want to thank Jesus for answering my prayer for this jeep at the exact price I asked him to give it to me for. I want to thank Denny Hair and Bill White for all of their work and time to go with me to pick up the jeep. I want to thank Hugh Hall for my memberships to the MVPA and the Southwest Texas MVPA. I want to thank Steve Hickman for all his helpful advice that he supplied me with. I want to thank Mike Maloney for just contacting me to congratulate me on my recent acquisition. And I want to thank all of Third Army. I would have never been able to do this by myself.

All research information was taken from wikipedia.org and the G503.com website.



## Military Police Activities



By Lt. Col. Alan Jones  
atj53@att.net

I sincerely hope that everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Also, I'd like to thank those of you that participated in the Ft Oglethorpe and Ft Harrison events. I know that we had fun in doing both of these events and look forward to doing them again. Go to our Facebook page and you will find numerous pictures of both events. The event at Ft Harrison was in the snow and it was the first time since he was 7 years old that Denny 'played' in it. He even built a small snowman (Georgie Jr). Our next show will be at the Military History Fest at the Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, Illinois. This will be held on the first weekend of February. There we will present 3d Army to a very large number of people that will be attending, and also recruiting new personnel for 3d Army. We will be focusing on the 503d MP's and our new element, B Troop, 6th Cavalry Squadron. The 6th Cavalry is a new project directed by the CG to hopefully attract new members. Some of our MP's will be doing double duty at some events by portraying both our 503d MP's and troopers of the 6th Cavalry.

I am challenging all of you to bring at least one new member into 3d Army. If you can do this, we'll double in size very quickly. Also, don't forget our event at Camp Atterbury, Indiana, the weekend of 12-14 April '13. More info will be published prior to the event.



## The Make-Up Of A 1943 Armored Division

By Col. Carlos Manning  
chiefstaff@pattonthirdarmy.com

The make-up of a Armored Division was ordinarily Reconnaissance Battalion' Three Tank Battalions, Three Armored Infantry Battalions ,Three Armored Field Artillery Battalions , Engineer Battalion and a Signal Company.

The total strength in men was 10,937. Keep in mind this is just one Division. How many were in the Third Army?

Let us look at the weapons in that Division.

465- 30mm Guns  
404- 50 cal. M.G.s  
27- 57mm Anti Tank Guns  
63- 60mm Mortars  
30- 81mm Mortars  
607- Bazookas  
54- 105mm Howitzers  
77- Light Tanks  
186- Medium Tanks  
501- Halftracks  
2,653- Assorted Vehicles  
1-Military Police Platoon  
1- Band

We have a lot of room to expand in our Third Army. Ask yourself this question. Who did I recruit today?



## Another fine job performed by Third Army

Brig. Gen Mike Malone  
chiefstaff@pattonthirdarmy.com

First of all, I want to wish all members of 3rd Army a Happy New Year!

2013 promises to be a great year for us here at 3rd Army. The year has started out with the CG attending the Battle of the Bulge event at Ft. Harrison (see other articles in this edition). Next to come about is the M-20 armored scout command car that will be arriving by the time that this is published and will be put into the configuration of the Generals command scout car, and the formation of the 3rd Army Combat Command Branch.

Our mess section will be functional for the first time at this year's open house at the Museum of the American GI with full staff providing hot chow to 3rd Army and the tank crews. With the formation of the Combat Command branch, this will not only provide us with more members of 3rd Army, but will provide us with more support personnel to whatever public event that we attend, but will provide the younger personnel who wish to do tactical events a chance to do so and in doing so revive the long lost years of living history and reenacting the way it was and used to be.

## A YEAR IN REVIEW

The year 2012 proved to be one filled with great accomplishments, starting off with the annual Open House event at the Museum of the American GI, 4 week-end events at the same in conjunction with the Olde Tyme Wonderland, our first attendance at the MVPA convention as a display, and our 2nd event at Ft. Oglethorpe which proved to be our best displayed event as of to date. Coupled with the accomplishments of several members of this organization ( too many to list ) of this past year, we as a whole continue to raise the bar of living history and thereby providing to the public a TRUE AND ACCURATE portrayal of this command and history to the public.

As I sit here trying to think of the past year and all that we have done and seen, my mind cannot help but harken back to the days when I first got into this hobby back in 1979/80 and comparing it to what we do now, I can truly say that I have never been associated with a group of finer individuals than all of you, the comradeship that we all share, and the year 2013 cannot be anything less than spectacular for us as a whole as to where we are going.

On a personal note; I know if my father, who as a 1st Sgt. with the 1808th Ord./ 9th USAAF during WW2 were still with us, he would put his hand on my shoulder and say "Son, you and your friends are doing a fine job, keep it up-Thank you."



## Care and Feeding of an Army – The Equipment – Part II

By SSgt. Chuck Toney  
chucktoney98@yahoo.com

Feeding an army while in a large camp is challenging but feeding that same army while engaged in combat poses different challenges. This article addresses some of the more common equipment used by field kitchens to accomplish the task of providing hot meals to the frontline troops under battlefield conditions.

Unit commanders knew that men eating C-rations for days on end soon developed morale problems. There were enough calories in a day's rations to sustain the men's activities. The levels of protein, carbohydrates, and fats were relatively balanced. There was some variety in the menus. But eating out of a box or can was not like home- especially when it was eaten cold! It was observed that the more aggressive combat units had aggressive and innovative mess personnel that delivered decent hot meals on a regular basis. As often as possible, two hot meals were prepared behind the lines and were transported toward the front under the cover of darkness where the meals could be served.

However, this process was developed over a period of time. Early army stoves consisted of heavy metal parts that were carried in the back of trucks along with other supplies and equipment. When a kitchen was being established, a trench had to be dug and the stove assembled over it. Wood was gathered and used for fuel to provide a heat source. Once the

food was cooked, the fire had to die down and the stove had to be cool enough to disassemble and load back in the truck. The efficiency of the entire process was based on the distance to be traveled, the soil conditions, and the availability of dry firewood.

The army needed a system wherein a truck could come to a stop and begin the process of cooking immediately with all supplies and food carried on board. Even better would be the ability for food to be cooked while the combat unit and the kitchen were in route.

The truck chosen was the army's two and a half ton cargo truck, the "duce and a half". The folding benches on both sides of the interior were removed and moved to the outside of the truck to serve as shelves, for food preparation, and for serving the men. To provide adequate head room for the kitchen personnel, the truck's bows for its canvas tops were lengthened. If the truck were to be equipped with an ice box, provisions had to be made to allow the melting ice water to drip out under the truck rather than wet the floor of the truck. Steps were constructed so personnel could have simple access to the cooking area under the canvas. A box for storing the necessary cooking tools and cutlery was built as was a food preparation surface and a bread box.

The actual set up of the truck's kitchen area was determined by the NCO in charge of that kitchen. A trailer could be pulled which was used to carry additional food, supplies, water, and gasoline.

The old metal plate stoves were replaced by the M-1937 gasoline-powered field range. It stood about three feet high and was about 15 inches wide. The gas burner could be pulled out for cleaning, refueling, and lighting.

The burner could be positioned inside the range according to need. A sliding rack permitted large 10 and 15 gallon stock pots to be slid inside the range when the burner was on the bottom. When the door was lowered, the door's handle acted as a support and guides on the door edges insured the pot rack would come out straight. The pot rack and stock pots could be set aside and the burner moved to the next level for grilling or deep frying. The range also came with a folding metal grate so wood and coal could be used to heat the range for cooking. Another rack was provided so a burner could be placed over it for heating large containers for wash water and other needs.

Because of the design of the burner, it required cleaning every other day. Soot would build up requiring that orifices be cleaned and spilled food brushed off the burners. Graphite grease was required to seal the round disk heat spreading that sat over the burner. It was a dirty job none of the men liked to perform, especially since being clean was required of all personnel preparing and cooking meals.

The burners had their other set of issues. A tube that heated the liquid gasoline to a burnable vapor connected to the pressurized fuel tank. The connection often leaked after the burner was lit requiring the burner to be turned off and allowing the gasoline to burn off. Further, there were reports of ranges exploding.

The range had two handles, one on either side of the range so it could be lifted and carried, an easy task if the rack and pots were removed. Tie points allowed the range to be connected to chains to secure it while the vehicle was in motion. The base of the range was blocked and with the chains, prevented the range from moving while the truck was in motion. If the truck



was equipped with three ranges, they were placed side by side just behind the truck's cab. If there were just two ranges, they were generally placed on the left side of the truck. Three ranges could easily feed 225 men. Adding a fourth increased the capacity to over 300 men. The 10 gallon pot fit inside the 15 gallon pot to create a double boiler when needed. A large, deep square pan with a fitted lid served as a roasting pan and for deep frying and was usually used to serve the main entrée. A square pan with shorter sides was used for baking. The 15 gallon pots were used for making coffee and soup, the 10 gallon pots were for cooked vegetables and the meal's non-bread starch (rice, beans, or potatoes). Any pot not being used would serve as a mixing bowl. Pans were used to bake cakes and bread goods when the range was set up as an oven.

Each M1937 range was equipped with measuring cups, stirring and serving spoons, forks, knives and everything else to cook a complete meal. Various spices and flavorings were provided. Many times, men in the unit would pitch in to purchase better knives for their cook knowing it would pay off in the end.

Other items carried would be 5 gallon water containers, gas or "Jerry" cans, galvanized garbage cans with emersion heaters for creating hot water, tarps, lanterns, and other equipment the NCO and officers thought were needed.

The army provided a manual for cooks providing instructions for everything necessary for running and maintaining a field kitchen. The better cooks had read it several times. The mess sergeant pretty much knew it inside out and made sure its details were followed.



## Aerial Gunnery with an M1 Rifle

By Billy Pyle  
garandstand@academicplanet.com

The positions used in M1 rifle antiaircraft firing are those which can be assumed rapidly, which afford the maximum flexibility to the body for manipulation of the rifle, and which do not require undue exposure of the rifleman. These positions will usually be either standing, sitting, kneeling, or reclining. Are there any WWII veterans that remember being taught the lost art of aerial gunnery with a M1?



"Combat arms take the necessary measures for their own immediate protection against low-flying hostile aircraft and descending parachutists. Troops must be fully training to protect themselves against hostile aerial attacks, without reliance upon other arms. All low flying hostile aircraft and descending parachutists are suitable targets for rifle fire, and the soldier must be imbued with the determination to defend himself against this type of adversary."

Images reprinted from FM23-5 Basic Field Manual U.S. Rifle, Caliber .30, M1 dated 30 July 1943

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## Headquarters Notes

### G-3 Operations

By Maj. Dave Weakley  
dwweakley@yahoo.com

Last December the 3rd Army Battle Staff ran an event at Camp Atterbury Indiana. The event was Stilmacht and was a one day event. We did have some obstacles to overcome due to illness, a unit being activated for deployment, and just being shorthanded. I want to Thank Keith Bonney, G-1 and his staff, Wayne Coulter, Kaleb Beavers and Levi Weakley the MPs for their work in getting people in and out and also my G-3 staff for all their hard work. The event went very well, I did see a couple of the firefights near Range 25 and both sides were pushing hard.

Next we supported the Battle of the Bulge Event at Fort Harrison State Park in Indianapolis. General Patton attended the event, he spoke to the public after the public battle at the Park and he was well received. We are looking at having a larger presence there next year for this event.

In March My unit E Co 505th PIR 82nd Airborne is hosting a Squad Competition, between Allied and Axis units at Fort Harrison Indiana. Contact me for more info on this event.

The next event 3rd Army is running is the Camp Atterbury Event April 12,13, and 14 at Camp Atterbury, Indiana, this is a large tactical battle on an old WWII training area. If you want to attend the event you can register at <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/4777901833/rss>

### G-4 Supply

Third Army Mugs. If you want one with your name on it, contact Mike Malone at [moonshadow5739@sbcglobal.net](mailto:moonshadow5739@sbcglobal.net). It is \$10 with your name and \$8 without, plus shipping.

## Wanted

Major Ken Austin is looking for a M1 Carbine if you have one for sale please contact him at [kaustin\\_2002@yahoo.com](mailto:kaustin_2002@yahoo.com)

Wanted M1 Carbine, contact Chris O'Connor @ [oc111e@hotmail.com](mailto:oc111e@hotmail.com), also looking to purchase an MB/GPW in upcoming months

## Photos from Fort Harrison





## Photos from Fort Harrison



*Lucky Forward*  
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Gen. Denny Hair  
*Commanding General*  
Maj. Morgan Montalvo  
*Public Relations*  
Capt. Karie Hubnik  
*Public Relations – Photo Services*  
Maj. C. L. O'Connor  
*Editor*

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[patton@pattonthirdarmy.com](mailto:patton@pattonthirdarmy.com).**