



Third Army LH Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 8 – March 2013

A Word from the Commander

Some of you are reading the "Lucky Forward" newsletter for the first time. If you are or you have been a member of our Third Army for some time, if you like it, please forward it or attached to emails that you send out to your friends. This is a great way to get folks interested in what you do and what we do. We are a national organization and growing every day. In this newsletter you will see that we now have an air force. Patton did have a personal pilot. We now can recreate that part of Third Army History. This is not B.S. so read on and you'll see we have a World War II L-3, a pilot and a picture of his craft. This is not a model. I hope to fly with him soon. Patton's Third Army had 32 such craft in Europe assigned directly to his headquarters.

We are unique in what we are doing what we are striving to achieve has never been done in the history of living history, reenactors or historians. We are building Patton headquarters to teach military history, patriotism and love of God and Country as it once was, all over the United States. We have members in nine states and we are growing. I hope to make several events this year and some of them, now being planned, range from Texas to Illinois. We hope to find a funding sponsor who will believe in what we do as we do so more of us can travel to national events.

General Patton was asked where he was going. He did not hesitate and said he was going to Berlin and personally shoot the paper hanging s.o.b. He has a purpose and a mission.

We have a purpose and a mission. When I am asked where we are going, I respond and tell them, we are going to tell the story of the greatest generation and reclaim for our youth the love of History, God and Country through teaching history as it really was through our Patton's Third Army exhibitions and displays.

Denny Hair
(Patton)

CG, Patton Third Army Living Historians

www.pattonthirdarmy.com

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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





Museum of the American GI Open House 2013

By Brent Mullins
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March 22nd & March 23rd
Both Days - Open to the public at 9 AM - dusk

The Largest Military Vehicle Rally and Reenactment in the South!

Flea Market - Vehicle and Period Displays

WWII Battle Reenactment on Saturday at 3 PM

Elements of Third Army will be arriving on Wednesday to start setting up. Thursday will complete most of the set up and many members will arrive then and Friday. Friday is the Swap meet and Friday night at 7 pm there is the Dinner/Awards/Auction/Dance in the new Museum Building. Saturday will be the show battle.

Be sure and email SSgt. Chuck Toney (chucktoney98@yahoo.com) and tell him what days you will be eating some of his fine food.



Mess Operations at Museum of the American GI Open House

By SSgt. Chuck Toney
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Below is a table describing the mess operation for the Museum of the American GI event in March. The column showing the serving hours will indicate the time period when the food will be served. The charge per man indicates the cost per meal. The notes simply describe what will be served with the mess sergeant reserving the right to make menu changes as necessary for budgetary reasons.

Normally, hot coffee will be available before, during and after meals. If the weather is warm, cold beverages (iced tea, fruit punch, etc.) will be served at lunch and supper.

We will follow standard sanitation procedures with respect to dish washing. During times when the public is not present, meals will be served using disposable plates and eating utensils. As the HQ matures, I'd like to see us use GI-issue meat cans and "silverware" to improve our impression.

Meal	Serving Hours	Cost (per man)	Notes (includes beverage)
Thur. supper	1800-1930	\$3.00	Simple, hot
Fri. breakfast	0730-0830	\$3.00	French toast, meat

Fri. lunch	1130-1300	\$3.00	Sandwiches/soup
Fri. supper	1730-1830	\$5.00	Meat, vegetable, dessert
Sat. breakfast	0700-0830	\$3.50	Eggs, meat, bread
Sat. lunch		Provided by Mullins	

I need an accurate count as to which meals you plan on joining as part of the mess. It is only fair to remind you that if you tell us you will eat a particular meal, I will purchase the food for you for that meal and expect to be paid for it whether you are there to eat it or not.

A meal ticket will be issued for the weekend indicating that you have signed up for the meal and the actual meals you have paid for will be shown thereon.

Let me know if you have any questions.



Dispatches from the Front

Updates from Third Army in the field

6th Cavalry (Midwest) – On March 2nd, Lt. Col. Jones hosted the first meeting of the 6th Cavalry (Midwest). During this meeting Lt. Col. Jones provided our recent recruits information pertaining to our organization, and the living historian hobby. Each trooper was provided a welcome letter from Gen. Denny Hair, a uniform and equipment list with recommended vendors, lineage and honors information for the 6th Cavalry and the 503d Military Police Battalion, and a flyer for the LHRA National Battle which will be held April 12-14 at Camp Atterbury, Indiana.

Those in attendance included Maj. O'Connor, Pvt. Steve Adamski, Pvt. Timothy Flemke, Pvt. Mike Narske, and Pvt. Clint Vaughan. Also, during the meeting the 6th Cavalry interest drawing winner announced, Pvt. Narske and he was presented a new reproduction musette bag courtesy of the 503^d MP Bn.

6th Cavalry (Midwest) will host a conference call meeting for the remainder of the new troopers who joined the unit who could not attend the meeting.

"A man must know his destiny... if he does not recognize it, then he is lost. By this I mean, once, twice, or at the very most, three times, fate will reach out and tap a man on the shoulder... if he has the imagination, he will turn around and fate will point out to him what fork in the road he should take, if he has the guts, he will take it"

GSP



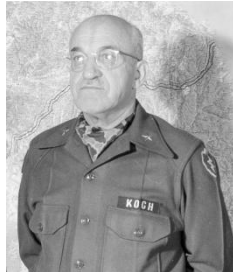
Third Army Hero Col. Oscar Koch

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

Date and place of birth: 10 Jan 1897
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Date and place of death: 16 May 1970
Carbondale, Illinois

Col. Koch's began his service in the Wisconsin National Guard in 1915 as an enlisted soldier of Troop A, 1st Wisconsin Cavalry and within a year he was deployed to support the Mexican Punitive Expedition.



Col. Koch, his service in the Korean War

In 1920, Col. Koch was commissioned a 2nd Lt. and entered active service as a Cavalry officer. In the 1930s Col. Koch met Gen. Patton at Fort Riley, Kansas where he was serving as an instructor at the Cavalry School. In 1940, Col. Koch was assigned to the 2nd Armored Division, at which time Gen. Patton had been named the commander of the 2nd Armored. When Gen. Patton was named as the commander of Operation Torch, Col. Koch was named the Chief of Staff for Task Force Blackstone. Following the success of these landings, Col. Koch moved to II Corps where he was assigned as the G2. Col. Koch followed Gen. Patton serving as his G2 in I Armored Corps, Seventh Army and Third Army, for the remainder of the war. Col. Koch while serving in Third Army predicted the Ardennes Offensive, while rebuffed by higher headquarters, Gen. Patton planned for offensive activities which preventing the "Battle of the Bulge" from becoming a large scale route by Allied Forces.

During the Korean War, Col. Koch was promoted to Brig. Gen. and he commanded the 25th Infantry Division. In 1954, Col. Koch retired from the Army, and he wrote *G-2: Intelligence for Patton* with Robert G. Hays, detailing his experiences with Gen. Patton. As a lasting tribute, Col. Koch was inducted into the Military Intelligence Hall of Fame.

Patton's Third Army Living Historians is proud to recognize Col. Koch as the Third Army Hero for March 2013.



Third Army's Secret Landing in France

By Denny Hair
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In the movie named for General Patton, there is a wide variety of half-truths and downright Hollywood poetic license that bears little of the real truth. One of the overriding untruths was that when Patton flew to France after the invasion he had no idea if he had a command or not. He went to Bradley's headquarters and pleaded with Bradley to get into the war and have a command. He then, in the movie found out he had command of the Third US army and was going to get into action under a plan called Operation Cobra. This is pure bunk.

Patton was given command of Third Army of December 31, 1943 but he did not learn about it till January 16, 1944 in a meeting with General Eisenhower in England. For the next several months the Third US Army assembled and was kept top secret.

Third Army headquarters was packed up in the 1st few days of July in England and a forward echelon of his G-3 was sent to France to prepare for the arrival of General Patton's headquarters, General Patton would arrive on July 7, 1944. The following is the account from my book that details what Patton's HQ G-3 did to prepare the way for the General arrival.



Gen. Patton photograph with patch censored as it was still a secret that he was on the continent when it was taken in July of 1944

Patton's Third Army G-3 first function in France

MOVE TO THE CONTINENT

The United Kingdom planning phase of the Third Army's activities came to a close during 5 to 7 July, when its Forward Echelon, Group "X", sailed from SOUTHAMPTON for France, covering a distance of approximately 150 miles in convoy, average time for transit being fourteen hours. Liberty Ships and Landing Ships Tank were used. The transports anchored offshore, and their loads were transferred to small landing craft and amphibious trucks for unloading on "UTAH" Beach, vehicles going ashore through shallow water. ISTs were beached at high tide, left dry when the tide ebbed, and debarkation was carried out across dry land. All vehicles moved inland about eight miles to a transit area for de-waterproofing, and then proceeded in convoy a distance of twenty-eight miles to the Headquarters bivouac area near NEHOUE, (T19) 7 miles southwest of VALOGNES, fifteen miles south of CHERBOURG (012) and eight miles from the front lines of VIII Corps. The Army Commander and Chief of Staff flew to France to join Headquarters, which was set up under canvas in the orchards and fields of NORMANDY, lined by the famous hedgerows.

The setting up of Headquarters of an entire Army headquarters was no small task. It fell to the G3 section of Third Army Headquarters. These men were to set up the bivouac area ahead of the arrival of the Headquarters staff and then secure areas for the entire 3rd Army and its corps and divisions. This was a huge task.

The entire G3 section, part of the "forward echelon" of Third Army Headquarters, who had been fully loaded for days headed toward South Hampton. They consisted of 6 jeeps (sometimes referred to as peeps) with trailers, 3 - ¾ ton command and reconnaissance cars and 6 - 2 1/2 ton trucks, referred to as duces and a half) and 6 - 1 ton trailers (sometimes referred to as Ben Hur trailers).

Immediately upon arrival of Army Headquarters in France, emphasis was placed upon security, particular effort being made to conceal the presence of Third U.S. Army on the Continent, documents being closely safeguarded, and telephone security and physical checks of the surrounding areas being maintained, and radio silence was imposed. The only troops available at the time for defense of the Command

Post were those of the various sections and the 503d Military Police Battalion, so each Section set up its own interior guard, including a perimeter defense of exposed boundaries until defense was taken over by the 6th Cavalry Group and the 546th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion, coordinated through the (Continued on next page)

Provost Marshal Section. The XIX Tactical Air Command, previously designated to provide aerial support to the Army upon entry into action established its Headquarters adjacent to Army Headquarters and detailed plans for air-ground cooperation were started.

Representatives of all Headquarters Sections began a series of observation tours of the front and of opposite number sections of the First U.S. Army in order to profit by their lessons learned from battle Experience. Sections studied the tactical situation and terrain estimates. Daily briefing of section chiefs was resumed. Liaison was established with 21 Army Group British, First U.S. Army, and Twelfth U.S. Army Group (formerly known as First U.S. Army Group) The Army Commander made personal inspections of those divisions in the 7 and VIII Corps which were to revert later to Third U.S. Army control, and conferred with the United States Secretary of War during the latter's tour of the battle areas As of D plus 30, the enemy was continuing to launch counter-attacks against the British sector, using infantry supported by tanks. In the American sector, enemy units were reported cleared from the western tip of the CHERBOURG Peninsula, while fighting for the port continued. Determined pressure was being maintained along the First U.S. Army front.

Excerpts from Patton's Third Army Headquarters From the Ground up and the top down, day by day by Denny Hair ©



M1 Rifle Scrap Pile

By Billy Pyle
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These photos show M1 Rifle scraps from an armory producing the rifle.



US Army photograph, reprinted by permission from Garand Stand Report.



Chaplain's Corner

By Rev. Kenneth Stewart

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Scripture for the Month of March 2013

John 13:34-35

New International Version (NIV)

³⁴ A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

³⁵ "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

When one hears commandment they think of The Law of GOD. The bible teaches us that GOD is love. Let's thank about that a minute, God is love. To me this means that GOD is Love, he is...Love. This means that there is no hate in Him. God hates sin but loves the sinner. Jesus said to love one another as he loved us, in order to know how to love someone you must answer the question How did he love us? He gave his Life for us, while we were yet sinners. This means that he loved us when we didn't love him. 1 John 4:20 tells us, ²⁰ Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister (person) is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister (person), whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.



Auschwitz Entrance

So we see that hate against another man or woman also hates God, why, because we are made in his image. This is the problem that Germany fell into during WWII when they began to conquer the world. All was fine till they began to oppress GOD's chosen people the Israelites. One might ask Chosen, I thought they killed Christ, Yes, but Jesus was Jewish. Matter of fact God promised the Israelites in Exodus 23:22b "I will be an enemy to your enemies and will oppose those who oppose you." And so God rose up a nation, during WWII, that nation was America, the greatest generation that ever lived to bring the Nazis to order under the judgment of GOD.

The Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camps were established by the Nazi's In April 1940, Rudolph Hoss, who become the first commandant of Auschwitz, identified the Silesian town of Oswiecim in Poland as a possible site for a concentration camp. The function of the camp initially was planned as an intimidation to Poles to prevent resistance there to German rule and serve as a prison for those who did resist. It was also perceived as a cornerstone of the policy to re-colonize Upper Silesia, which had once been a German region, with "pure Aryans."

(Continued on next page)

When the plans for the camp were approved, the Nazi's changed the name of the area to Auschwitz.



Gate at Auschwitz

On April 27th, 1940, Heinrich Himmler ordered construction of the camp. In May 1940, Poles were evicted from the vicinity of the barracks (most of them were executed), and a work crew comprising concentration camp prisoners was sent from Sachsenhausen. 300 Jews from the large Jewish community of Oswiecim were also pressed into service.

The first transport of prisoners, almost all Polish civilians, arrived in June 1940 and the SS administration and staff was

established. On March 1th, 1941, the camp population was 10,900. Quite quickly, the camp developed a reputation for torture and mass shootings. In March 1941, Himmler visited Auschwitz and commanded its enlargement to hold 30,000 prisoners. The location of the camp, practically in the center of German-occupied Europe, and it's convenient transportation connections and proximity to rail lines was the main thinking behind the Nazi plan to enlarge Auschwitz and begin deporting people here from all over Europe.

At this time only the main camp, later known as Auschwitz I, had been established. Himmler ordered the construction of a second camp for 100,000 inmates on the site of the village of Brzezinka, roughly two miles from the main camp. This second camp, now known as Birkenau or Auschwitz II, was initially intended to be filled with captured Russian POWs who would provide the slave labor to build the SS "utopia" in Upper Silesia. Chemical giant I G Farben expressed an interest in utilizing this labor force, and extensive construction work began in October 1941 under terrible conditions and with massive loss of life. About 10,000 Russian POWs died in this process. The greater part of the apparatus of mass extermination was eventually built in the Birkenau camp and the majority of the victims were murdered here.

More than 40 sub-camps, exploiting the prisoners as slave laborers, were also founded, mainly as various sorts of German industrial plants and farms, between 1942 and 1944. The largest of them was called Buna (Monowitz, with ten thousand prisoners) and was opened by the camp administration in 1942 on the grounds of the Buna-Werke synthetic rubber and fuel plant, six kilometers from the Auschwitz camp. The factory was built during the war by the German I G Farbenindustrie cartel, and the SS supplied prisoner labor. On November 1943, the Buna sub-camp became the seat of the commandant of the third part of the camp, Auschwitz III, to which some other Auschwitz sub-camps were subordinated. The Germans isolated all the camps and sub-camps from the outside world and surrounded them with barbed wire fencing. All contact with the outside world was forbidden. However, the area administered by the commandant and patrolled by the SS camp garrison went



Camp inmates

beyond the grounds enclosed by barbed wire. It included an additional area of approximately 40 square kilometers (the so-called "Interessengebiet" - the interest zone), which lay around the Auschwitz I and Auschwitz II-Birkenau camps.

With the additions, the main camp population grew from 18,000 in December 1942 to more than 30,000 in March 1943.

In March 1942, a women's camp was established at Auschwitz with 6,000 inmates and in August it was moved to Birkenau. By January 1944, 27,000 women were living in Birkenau, in section B1a, in separated quarters.

In February 1943, a section for Gypsies was also established at Birkenau, called camp BIIe, and in September 1943 an area was set aside for Czech Jews deported from Theresienstadt, and was so-called the "Family Camp," or BIIb.



Inmate arrivals

The gas chambers and crematoria at Birkenau were opened in March 1943. It seems clear that the SS planners and civilian contractors were intending to build a mass-murder plant.

The twin pairs of gas chambers were numbered II and III, and IV and V. The first opened on March 31, 1943, the last on April 4, 1943. The total area of the gas chambers was 2,255 square meters; the capacity of these crematoria was 4,420 people. Those selected to die were undressed in the undressing room and then pushed into the gas chambers.

It only took about 20 minutes for all the people inside to die

In November of 1944, in the face of the approaching allied Red Army, Himmler ordered gassings to stop and for a "clean-up" operation to be put in place in order to conceal traces of the mass murder and other crimes they had committed. The Nazi's destroyed documents and dismantled, burned down or blew up the vast majority of buildings.

The orders for the final evacuation and liquidation of the camp were issued in mid-January 1945. The Germans left behind in the main Auschwitz camp, Birkenau and in Monowitz about 7,000 sick or incapacitated who they did not expect would live for long; the rest, approximately 58,000 people, were evacuated by foot into the depths of the Third Reich.

Those prisoners capable began forcibly marching at the moment when Soviet soldiers were liberating Cracow, some 60 kilometers from the camp. In marching columns escorted by heavily armed SS guards, these 58,000 men and women prisoners were led out of Auschwitz from January 17-21. Many prisoners lost their lives during this tragic evacuation, known as the "death march."

When Soviet troops liberated Auschwitz on January 27, 1945, they found only the few thousand pitiful survivors who had been left behind as well as 836,525 items of women



Inmate processing

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clothing, 348,820 items of men clothing, 43,525 pairs of shoes and vast numbers of toothbrushes, glasses and other personal effects. They found also 460 artificial limbs and seven tons of human hair shaved from Jews before they were murdered.

The human hairs were used by the company "Alex Zink" (located in Bavaria) for confection of cloth. This company was paying the Nazi's 50 pfennig per kilo of human hair.

Of those who received numbers at Auschwitz-Birkenau, only 65,000 survived. It is estimated that only about 200,000 people who passed through the Auschwitz camps survived.

Historians and analysts estimate the number of people murdered at Auschwitz somewhere between 2.1 million to 4 million, of whom the vast majority were Jews.



Eisenhower at Ohrdruf

Upon visiting the Ohrdruf Concentration Camp, April 28, 1945, Generals Eisenhower and Patton had a look of utter seething repulsion. Eisenhower would say that it was important for him to bear witness himself to all of the horrors of the camp so that there would be absolutely no question in the interpretation as to what went on there. General George S. Patton as

recorded in his diary described it as "one of the most appalling sights that I have ever seen."

I said all this to say this. Love one another. And "Those who don't know history are destined to repeat it." Edmund Burke (1729-1797)

All information is from the Bible. The Jewish Library, archives and the JF Ptak Science Books LLC Post 273



Military Police Update

By Lt. Col. Alan Jones
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First, I would like to welcome our new members to our unit. These new men will also at times participate with our Cavalry unit. I sincerely hope that we can acquire more members of such a high caliber as these men are. I'm looking forward to their participating and growing in the hobby with us.

Our next operation is the one coming up next month, 12-14 April, at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. At this event, our MP's will have the missions of gate and, CP security. There is a possibility of a few of them even going out on a tactical mission. Therefore, the MP's will be in 'combat' uniform with combat gear and weapons for this event. They will be briefed on, and assigned their exact missions on Friday evening.

This unit has more events later this year being coordinated right now, so stay ready for those. One, in October over Columbus Day weekend, could prove very interesting if we get an "ok" from Ike.

We'll see everyone at Atterbury.



A GI Story

By Col. Carlos Manning
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The time is the early sixties. We have already had over a thousand casualties in Nam. The air is not good around the Post. In the division there are young G.I.s jumping from two story, windows (trying to break a leg) to avoid going to Vietnam. Of course after getting out of the hospital they went to jail. The charges were more than likely damaging Government property. The local Bus station was full of young women with teary eyes headed for outbound buses. We had just received orders to dye our white T- shirts brown. The commissary and P.X. both were out of brown dye. Everyone headed to the local supermarkets and bought them out. Next we went to the Laundromats and used the commercial machines to dye our T-shirts. The towns- people could not wash their white sheets or clothes in those machines for some time.

I was working in Ordnance and the Capt. asked me to sign for our latest shipment from the Arsenal. The usual stuff was there, but on the second page, were thirty thousand rounds of .223 cal., ball, ammo. This is a varmint cartridge. It is a .22 caliber, with enough powder to push it at a high velocity for flat trajectory. I knew the Commanding General liked to do a little hunting but this was ridiculous. I called the Arsenal. When I told them of their mistake, the guy on the phone just started laughing at me. He said, "Don't you go to the ordinance meetings". I said, "sure". He then stated "that is your new combat cartridge."

We also were told we would not be taking our beloved M-14 Rifles with us and if we had not already qualified with the new plastic Mattel Toy Rifle (M-16) which fired the varmint cartridge, we had a very short time to do so. We were marched down to the dispensary to get a total of thirteen shots. These were horrible. You were shot in both arms at the same time with air guns that put five vaccines in each arm at one time. If you jerked, it would tear a gash in your skin. Of course, the next three shots were not administered with loving care, shall we say. By the next day you walked around like Frankenstein (both arms were very sore). You might know some outfits received new gear. Ours did not. The gear was the M-56 equipment. (It was the last canvas issued by the U.S. Army). Our packs were the same as the M-44, which most of us had. The only difference was the date inside the pack flap. This was a small pack. The original butt pack was the cargo bag, twice as wide as the pack and it beat you in the butt. Thank goodness, the M-56 butt pack was much smaller and came with adaptor straps to attach it to our suspenders. This became our day pack, the one we mostly took on patrols. The A.L.I.C.E. (all purpose light weight individual carrying equipment) clips allowed us to fasten it to pistol belt otherwise. Our canteen cover was attached the same way. Our suspenders were the 'H' Type, they came in two sizes. longs and medium. Of course you were just thrown a pair and if you were long waisted like me, your pistol belt was up just below your nipples. Your best bet was to swap around to get the proper size for you. Our outfit had the wooden handle shovels. We had seen a few of the new folding shovels and were glad to have the old ones.

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They were a lot better than the M-56 combination pick/shovel blade issue. (they weighed a ton). Our first aid bandage was kept in a small canvas pouch. This pouch was also used to carry a compass in. It had one A.L.I.C.E. clip on the back, which made it convenient. Plastic canteens were all over the place. We were issued the stainless ones and glad we kept them. The plastic top would break, if you tightened it too tightly on the plastic canteen. The canteen cup was mostly the stainless WW2. You were lucky if you had a curled, lip cup. The straight lip type would blister your lip, if you were lucky enough to get hot coffee.

Our new bayonets were only six inches long, the same as the Garand Rifle we went through basic with. The M-14 also had a six inch. You often thought, at least the guys in WW2 and Korea had ten inches in front of them as they reached out in front of themselves poking in the dirt looking for mines. I felt four inches could mean a lot for safety if the mine went off. Now to inform a lot of people who think they know our history. My outfit arrived in Nam wearing our fatigues. Yes, that is right, good, ole, starched, O.D. fatigues. The new jungle uniform had not caught up with our supply. Some of our first patrols were conducted with white name tags over one pocket and gold and black U.S. Army over the other. At least we did get the nylon green jungle boots. The first ones did not have the steel shank in the sole. This is how we were sent to war. If you want to know what happened to my outfit you will have to read a book. It was written by the Col. we served under. It is called "We Were Soldiers Once" by Brigadier General Hal Moore. Every word is true.



Frank William Haas

By Gary Haas

My Dad, Frank William Haas, was born on June 14, 1921. He was the second of five children, three of which served in active duty during WWII.

He received his draft notice in July 1942, the same month he was married to Doris Jo Wood. He was sent to Camp Wolters in Mineral Wells, Texas for six weeks of basic training and then to Camp Forrest in Tullahoma, Tennessee, for training in the Medical Detachment of the 317th Regiment of the 80th Infantry Division ("Blue Ridge")



Sgt. Frank Haas



80th Infantry Division

Following additional training at Fort Riley, Kansas and Arizona Desert maneuvers, the 80th Division arrived in England in July 1944. In a few weeks time, they found themselves in France on Utah Beach in August 1944. My Dad was a Surgical Technician (Tec 3 Sgt) in Battalion Aid Stations. The 80th Division was assigned to XX Corps of Patton's 3rd Army.

In early September 1944, the 80th Division was preparing to cross the Moselle River near Dieulouard, France. Across the river were 5000 to 6000 German troops, heavily armed with automatic weapons and artillery. The 317th Regiment was ordered to cross the Moselle River on 12 September 1944. Many men were lost in crossing, either by drowning or by enemy action. Once elements of the 317th reached the east bank of the Moselle, German counterattacks immediately began.

For his actions at the Moselle River on 14 September 1944, my Dad was awarded the Bronze Star. The citation reads in part, as follows:

As the battle progressed, heavy casualties were inflicted and Tec 3 Haas voluntarily went into the thick of the fight in order to aid the wounded. Despite his constant exposure to enemy fire, Tec 3 Haas rendered medical aid to many casualties and assisted materially in their successful evacuation. The courage and sincere devotion to duty displayed by Tec 3 Haas are commensurate with the finest ideals of the armed forces of the United States.



Sgt. Haas as a medic

My Dad was awarded the Purple Heart due to wounds received in February 1945 near Nusbaum, Germany. The 80th Division ceased all offensive operations on 8 May 1945 after seeing action in France, Luxembourg, Belgium, Germany and Austria. My Dad was sent home in May 1945 and was discharged in August 1945. My Mother and Dad raised four kids: me, my brothers Mike and David, and my sister, Diane.

My Dad never talked much about his military service. I'm sure the memories haunted him the rest of his life. He passed away in October 1979 due to cancer. We all miss my Dad, and we honor his service and sacrifice during WWII.

Dad, my you rest in Peace with God's blessing.



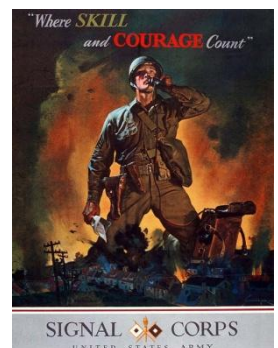
Watchful for the Country

By Capt. Karie Hubnik

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Watchful for the Country, the Signal Corps motto, defines how the Signal Corps provides communication within the structure of the military and its operations or as Army historians put it "provide the doctrine and equipment used by every Army communicator." For a civilian it would be easy to assume that this means only photography and sending messages. The Signal Corps first used photography during the

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WWII Signal Corps recruiting poster

Spanish American War in 1898. But the Signal Corps has a much larger responsibility than only taking photographs. It has a rich history and a wide reach within the military and its effectiveness.

The history of the United States Army Signal Corps began in 1860, an idea originated in 1856 by Army medical officer Albert Meyer, who was serving in Texas at the time. The idea was to communicate with the use of flags during the daytime and torches during the night. This process of using flags to communicate was called "Wig-wagging". Today the Signal Corps' insignia of two flags with a torch is indicative of its original Wigwag origins. Although this new signaling system was used in the Navajo expedition 1860-1861 and the Civil war in 1861, Congress did not authorize a regular Signal Corps until March of 1863.



Albert J. Meyer

Over time the Signal Corps responsibilities would expand to cover areas of communication, more than can be listed here. Some of which was the electric telegraph, supply, creation of a national weather service, heliographing, supplying telephone and telegraph lines and cable communications, an Aeronautical Division, radiotelephones (introduced into the European theater in 1918), carrier pigeons, security and intelligence, troop training, the first Army radar (patented in 1937 by Col. William Blair, director of the Signal Corps labs at Fort Monmouth) which was heavily used during WWII, to the VHF radio used in tactical communications during the Korean war, and the tropospheric-scatter radio links used during the Vietnam war. From its inception the Signal Corps has been responsible in some form or another for any communication, logistics, and development necessary for our military leaders and troops to be effective.

A little known unit in the Signal Corps during WWII was the "Joint Assault Signals Companies or JASCOs" which were utilized in both the European and Pacific theaters. These units consisted of communication specialists from both the Army, Army Air Corp and Navy and were responsible for linking operations not only on the ground, but in the air and on the sea. With every aspect of the Signal Corps responsibility it is apparent that the Signal Corps has always played a key role in any successful military campaign.

"More than ever before, success in combat depended upon good communications. General Omar N. Bradley, who finished the war as commander of the 12th Army Group, testified to this reality in his memoirs. Referring to his telephone system as "the most valued accessory of all," he went on to say: From my desk in Luxembourg I was never more than 30 seconds by phone from any of the Armies. If necessary, I could have called every division on the line. Signal Corps officers like to remind us that "although Congress can make a general, it takes communications to make him a commander." 130 Never had the maxim been so true as when fast-moving struggles swept over most of the surface of the earth. At home and in all the combat theaters, the Signal Corps provided the Army with rapid and reliable communications that often made

the difference between defeat and victory.

For further reading on the Signal Corps visit:

http://www.history.army.mil/books/30-17/S_7.htm

<http://www.history.army.mil/html/reference/Normandy/TS/S C/SC3.htm>



In Defense of Cooks and Moonshiners

By SSgt. Chuck "Cookie" Toney
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If you have been following my series of articles, you'll recall that the cooks often prepared food in the rear and delivered it to the frontline troops who were actively engaged with the enemy. It was a rare event when the kitchen area came under direct attack by an enemy force. To be prepared, cooks were issued weapons they could use to defend themselves.

Regular infantry men carried the M1 Garand which was arguably the best weapon during WWII. Early in the war, one man in each rifle squad might be detailed to carry the M 1903 Springfield with the grenade launching adapter until adapters were designed for use by the M1. However, the size and weight of the M1 and 1903 made them awkward for cooks and the men who delivered the meals to the front in the duce and a half truck. A smaller weapon was required. The M1911 ACP was a decent option as it could be carried in a convenient holster. However, its range was very short allowing an attacking force to close to within a distance that was very uncomfortable for even the meanest mess sergeant and his crew.

The M1 carbine was developed as a result of that need.

The carbine is a gas-operated, semi-automatic, box-type magazine fed, shoulder fired weapon utilizing a .30 caliber round. The weapon utilized a 15-round magazine that weighed slightly more than half a pound when filled with 15 rounds. The carbine weighed 5 and a half pounds when empty and was slightly short of three feet long. A bullet weighing approximately 111 grains was discharged from the 18 inch barrel with an initial velocity of 2000 feet per second giving a maximum range of 2000 yards. The field manual states the effective range to be 300 yards.

The term carbine comes from the French. Historically, a carbine was a long gun (rifle or musket) with a shortened barrel firing the same caliber round as its larger relative. Both versions using the same cartridge meant an easier supply system. The down side was that the shortened barrel did not give the expanding gasses from the burning powder time to get the bullet up to the same muzzle velocity as the longer barreled version provided. This had two effects on the weapon. The carbine's effective range was cut and the power of its impact on the target was not as strong. There was another factor as well. The sight plain was shortened resulting in less accuracy than in longer-barreled weapons where the distance between the rear and front sights was longer.

(Continued on next page)

The carbine was originally developed for the cavalry during the muzzle-loading era when men had to be able to load and fire their weapons while on horseback. Additionally, the overall length had to permit the carbine to be easily carried and used by a man in the saddle who was approximately 5'8" tall. The carbine had to hang with the top end clear of the soldier's elbow with the other end clearing the legs of the horse.

Records indicate that standing infantry units expended 1000 rounds of ammunition to create one casualty on the other side. Mounted infantry had a poorer record when shooting from the back of a moving horse. Military leaders like the Confederate general Nathan Bedford Forrest realized the best way to win an engagement was for cavalry to engage was to dismount and act like regular infantry units with muskets of normal length. In the past, many wars were fought in the open on large field-like areas where opposing sides exchanged fire. When the two sides stood at great distance from each other and exchanged shots, the longer barrel, especially when rifled, proved valuable.

Rather than stand in close ranks to exchange fire with an enemy had been done in past wars, tactics made an evolutionary change. Many times, rounds were fired toward the enemy position in order to keep their heads down, pin them into one position, and prevent them from firing at your position. In that type of short range action, heavy caliber, long range rifles were not that necessary. Further, a rifle firing many rounds before requiring a change of clips or magazines was obviously more effective in pinning down an enemy than a bolt action long gun that held five rounds. The M1 Garand worked well. However, its weight and the weight of the ammunition made it more difficult to carry.

Usually, during WWII, contact and engagement with the enemy occurred with distances of 325 yards or less separating the units. The strength of the carbine was combat in close quarters especially in densely-wooded areas and cities.

For the cooks, it made a lightweight, small, defensive weapon with a significant capacity for rounds that could be fired before reloading and that would be valuable at the short range when the cooks were being attacked.

While the M1 carbine is similar in design to the M1 Garand, it is not a shortened version.

The Garand was obviously larger and heavier. It permitted the user to load eight rounds held in a metal clip (M which was pushed into the top of the weapon allowing the bolt to be closed and chambering the first round. The new rounds were pushed up into place by a spring contained within the weapon itself. The rear sight had dials allowing the user to adjust for elevation and windage. The heavy powder charge in the 30.06 cartridge produced significant recoil. However, the user was still able to keep his eyes on the target and fire additional rounds without having to reload using the bolt action required on so many other long guns of the era. Then the weapon was empty, the bolt remained open as the spent cartridge and empty clip was ejected. An effective safety button was at the front of the trigger guard and could be easily switched.

The carbine had somewhat fixed rear sight. There was no adjustment for windage. Elevation changes could be set via a

simple L-shaped rear sight. A spring fixed to the bottom of the box magazine pushed the new cartridges up into place for loading; the magazine was loaded into the weapon from the bottom. After the fifteenth round was fired, the bolt remained open and a magazine release button had to be depressed to permit removal of the empty magazine. Often, two full magazines were held in a cloth cartridge pouch that was attached to the stock of the carbine allowing the potential of forty-five rounds to be expended by reloading just twice during a firefight. One drawback was in the push button safety that was on the receiver near the magazine release button. In the heat of battle, men who seldom had fired their weapon often lost their magazine when they pushed the release button rather than the safety.

There is another aspect of the carbine that I really came to like. It was described in detail in FM 22-5.

Men issued the Garand and Springfield had to learn the manual of arms inside and out for inspections. The many separate movements by count from standing at attention through port arms, present arms, and the shouldering of arms really did a great deal to build upper arm strength. And, the Garand made a great weight-lifting device during PT.

The men issued carbines pretty much got to stand at attention with their weapon at sling arms as their counterparts were wielding their Garands about showing their knowledge of the manual of arms.

Let I forget, I did mention moonshine in the title of this article. I would be remiss if I did not explain.

David Marshall Williams grew up on a farm in rural North Carolina and learned the business of blacksmithing. He had been an independent businessman in addition to his regular job with the Atlantic Coastline Railroad. Marsh ran into legal issues after a major misunderstanding with local officials and was forced to not only close his profitable home-based business, but had to leave town as a result of some consequences. Because of his gifted mechanical abilities, Marsh got a job repairing tools and firearms. He earned over 50 patents in the next years including a clothesline that would not sag under the weight of the wet clothes, a can opener, mousetrap and other handy things.

For the purposes of my story though, it is interesting to realize that he developed two rather remarkable pieces of technology for firearms- a floating chamber and a short stroke piston actuated by the gasses produced by burning powder.

He used the floating chamber to design a modification for the Browning .30 cal machinegun allowing it to use .22 cal rounds which saved the War Department a fair amount of money for training. He also used it to modify the M1911 allowing it to fire .22 rounds rather than the more expensive .45 cal ones. Winchester was very impressed with his ideas and hired him to assist in developing new firearms. Poor Marsh had gotten too used to his solitary lifestyle to make a good team player and the relationship eventually soured.

The idea of a short stroke piston is what makes the M-1 carbine work so efficiently. The story appeared in the movie "Carbine Williams" where Jimmy Stewart played the part of Marsh.

(Continued on next page)

Just think, if ol' Marsh Williams had not decided to turn batches of corn into liquid profits back home in North Carolina's mountains to make a living, he might have never have been given the time to turn his attention to other matters- like improving firearms.

Now, you all eat all your vegetables so you can do a good job on the front line. While I can bake a FANTASTIC apple pie, my vision is not as sharp as it used to be and I really am not into close encounters with men of the Third Reich.

A trivia question for you: What is the only part found on both the M1 carbine and the M1 Garand?

It is a short butt plate screw.



Medical Notes

By Col. Hugh Hall with Maj. Sue Hall
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Moving a full medical aid station requires unique capabilities to transport the collection around. As such, a requisition form was submitted and on February 23rd, the motor pool delivered a "Dodge" 4x4 truck to the 3d Army Medical. OK, it's not a Dodge, but I can't say the "T" word in Lucky Forward.

This will provide the badly needed transportation of equipment to the front.



"Dodge" front view



"Dodge" rear view

Now 3d Medical is awaiting the finding of a 5 ton trailer also needed to get medical equipment to the front. Please contact Col. Hall if you know of one available.



What we "Do"

By Brig. Gen Mike Maloney
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While I was at work the other day, one of my co-workers struck up a conversation with me on the topic of history. It started off with him asking a question and my reply, which gave him not only his answer, but expanded to give him a broader understanding to his question and the how's and why's. His reply to me was defensive and "That's not what I had read." It seems that he gets his information from the internet.

In this day and age of technology, many people are reading history from search sites and the like. Now, I'm not saying this is all bad, but as we know, there is much dis-information about history on the "net" where anyone can put up a website and put out their own version of history to suit their views.

How does this affect Third Army? Very simple. When we get visitors coming to see what we put on, many of them will be of the same mind as my co-worker. They will have in their mind, from what they have read on the internet from such sites, what they "think" history was, or what it looked like. What we do is FAR more important than what you think. Not only do we put on a show with General Patton doing his speeches, all of the bravado that goes with that, the military protocol that we show, but what is far more important is that we are TEACHING history, from talking to the public to the display's that we put out. People, or more importantly, the younger generation, are not being taught history like it should be in schools, more and more people are turning to the "net" to get their information and much of it is, plainly put, just wrong. That is why it becomes more and more important to for us as a whole, to continue to do our research and perfect it as such and continue to talk to the public and answer their questions fully and correctly.

I am reminded of an incident many years ago involving my son who was 7 at the time. He was in school and the teacher he had at the time was talking about the middle ages and the knights and such and she then told her students that the knights did not move all that well with their armor on, it weighed over 100 lbs., in short, she was giving them a lot of disinformation, and when my son tried to correct her in a nice way, she gave him an "F", and gave him detention (those of you who know my son can see this happening). When I heard of this from my son that night, I made up my mind on what to do (I was doing middle ages at the time). I took off from work early, went home, donned padded gambeson, FULL armor with chainmail, I was jousting at the time...yes jousting. Never said I had any common sense) went to the school, found his classroom and walked in unannounced and asked the teacher "I heard you gave my son an "F" and detention and told him to stop lying." She just sat there with her mouth wide open. In short, she gave my son an "A", apologized to him and I was asked to talk to the students for the rest of the day about the middle ages. What has this to do with what I was talking about earlier? This all happened because the teacher got her information from a website that was put up by someone who

(Continued on next page)

"thought" they knew what they were talking about and providing myths as facts.

This is why it far more important in what we do than what many of you think. It is up to us, and other living historians like us, from the Roman era to 'Nam to provide to the public the correct history of what we do.



Patton's Third Army now has an Air Force

By Lt. Col. Jim Miles
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The Air Reconnaissance Liaison wing of Third Army is now command by Jim Miles. He brings with him his L-3. He will be making his debut with Patton's Third Army Living Historians at the Museum of the American GI open house of March 23, 2013.



"Bad Bug" L3

Let me introduce to you the newest member of Third Army as he tells a little about himself and the "The Bad Bug" L-3. "The plane is a 1943 O-58 Defender (L-3) made by Aeronca, nicknamed "Grasshopper" as were all the L-4s and L-5s. The "L" stood for Liaison. Its primary use in battle was forward air controlling and

recon. It was also used to ferry high ranking officers from base to battle ground. They could land and take off anywhere and were given the nick name "grasshopper" for this ability. I named the plane "The Bad Bug" and the nose art is a really mean grasshopper with an attitude. It was delivered direct from the factory to the 2nd Army Air Corp at Davis Monthan in Tucson Arizona where it spent its entire life. It was used for basic flight training and to transport Generals from base to base.

My brother-in-law and I purchased it from a man in Tucson that was going to restore it but decided he did not have the time so we bought it. I brought it back from Arizona on a trailer in a million pieces in June of 2005 and by April of 2006 it was resurrected. We should have called it the "Phoenix" after the amount of work we put into it. It has flown and been on display at Wings Over Houston every year since 2006. In 2009 I bought my brother-in-laws part of the plane and I now am the sole owner. The plane originally came equipped with a 65 HP Continental engine but during the restoration we installed an 85 HP to add a little speed to it but it still only cruises about 80-85 knots depending on the wind.

I flew the plane in a movie for National Geographic in 2009 called Airman and the Headhunters. It was about a B-24 bomber that was shot down over Borneo and its only surviving crew member.



Lt. Col. Miles & "Bad Bug"

My plane was similar to the aircraft that was used to rescue the crew from Borneo one member at a time.

As far as my bio...I retired from the Houston Fire Dept. in 2009 after almost 35 years. I worked in all aspects of firefighting including aircraft rescue & firefighting at George Bush Intercontinental airport. I attained the rank of Captain and finished the last 10 years of my career in the Houston Arson Bureau as a fire & arson investigator.

I now work for the City of Shenandoah Police Department just north of The Woodlands and south of Conroe. I am the Fire Marshal for Shenandoah as well as a police officer."

General Patton was an avid and enthusiastic student of air power and an accomplished pilot himself. He has two L-5 assigned to him at his HQ. There were 32 of these crafts assigned to 3rd Army. He also had a personalized C-47 with a plush interior with leather seats.



Patton in his aircraft



Adopt a Tank Program

By BG Mike Maloney
Senior Trainer
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As this newsletter goes to "print", the Open House event at the Museum of the American GI will be near. First, the training is just about complete, and on the last day of training on March 9, .30 cal mg training and graduation is on the list. I can say that there has never been a finer bunch of tankers involved with this program. The students are fully trained in all aspects of the armor and I am quite proud of these men and their abilities.

In fact, by request of the students, a "nick-name" has been applied to the class to show unity.....- "Maloney's Marauder's". On graduation, the students will be given their rank, new first year tankers will be "slick sleeve" Privates, and returning tankers will be promoted to Private First Class.

This year's class has enough crews to fully man all but 1 vehicle for this year's Open House, a first. The Open House will be the new tankers debut on their abilities and will give the attending visitors a very good showing on the armor in action.



Medical Notes

By Col. Hugh Hall with Maj. Sue Hall
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WWII Aid Station

A WWII "Aid Station" is an installation for first-aid care and treatment of the sick and wounded, established under combat conditions by a Section of the "Medical Detachment." The Regimental Aid Section and each of the 3 Battalion Sections are equipped to establish and operate an "Aid Station." Desirable

features sought in selecting an "Aid Station" site are :

- 1) Protection from direct enemy fire
- 2) Convenience to troops served
- 3) Economy in litter carry
- 4) Accessibility to supporting medical troops
- 5) Proximity to natural lines of drift of wounded
- 6) Facility of future movement of the Station to front or rear
- 7) Proximity to water
- 8) Protection from the elements

Especially to be avoided as sites for "Aid Stations" are prominent landmarks, bridges, fords, important road intersections, artillery and heavy weapons positions, ammo dumps, and other distributing points.

Functions of the "Aid Station" are :

- 1) Reception and recording of casualties
- 2) Examination and sorting of casualties, and returning the fit to duty
- 3) Dressing or re-dressing of wounded; treatment limited to that necessary to life saving or saving of limbs, and to prepare patients for evacuation for short distances; administration of narcotics and prophylactic sera
- 4) Prophylaxis and shock or exhaustion treatment, with hot foods and drinks
- 5) Temporary shelter of casualties, when practicable
- 6) Transfer at the Aid Station of evacuees to the supporting medical echelon (usually to Ambulances or Litter Bearers of a Collecting Company)

During a withdrawal, delaying action, or retreat, "Aid Stations" will displace rearward by bounds. Temporary "Aid Stations" are then set up near the avenues of rearward movement. All available transportation is utilized for evacuation of wounded in order to prevent their capture. When wounded must be abandoned, a portion of the "Medical Detachment"

with necessary supplies is left with them under protection of the Geneva Convention flag.

(Source Alain Batens and David Steinert)



Aid Station with supplies



Headquarters Notes

G-3 Operations

By Maj. Dave Weakley
dwweakley@yahoo.com

The HQ Staff is preparing for the LHRA National Event at Camp Atterbury Indiana. We will be running the event for the LHRA setting up registration, communications, following the battle and handling the paperwork for the post, our MP's will be manning the gate and doing MP specific jobs. We will also have a detachment for communications as a forward Command Post in the battle area.

If any of you would like to attend the event you can register at <http://www.eventbrite.com/org/2914063649?s=11047617>

Camp Atterbury is a WWII Post and is where the 106th Inf. trained before being sent to the Ardennes prior to the Battle of the Bulge. This is the 3rd event we have put on here and everyone that has participated has had lots of fun. So come on out and have some fun!!

G-4 Supply

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



Wanted

A 5T trailer, contact Col. Hall at hugh.m.hall@gmail.com

Major Ken Austin is looking for a M1 Carbine if you have one for sale please contact him at kaustin_2002@yahoo.com

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



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