



Third Army LH Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 9 – April 2013

A Word from the Commander



"Patton" and Willie"

We had a great event at the Museum of the American GI. The banner logo of this newsletter shows how our living history camp looked from the outside. We had the pleasure to work with Toby Chandler, member of the Board of Directors of the MVPA. (Military Vehicle Preservation Association) He is producing a recruiting video presentation for their website and

we are thrilled to be part of it. We support the M.V.P.A. whose sole goal is the preservation and history of Military Vehicles.

Some of our National Patton's Third Army Living Historians are going to LHRA National Battle at Camp Atterbury. I hope to read all about it in our next newsletter.

I have some new on the book I am writing. Some of you have asked how it is coming. In the first week of April I have obtained a copy of his original of General Patton's original diary and have a sweet lady who is also a lawyer obtaining the files needed from the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. to finish the book. When it is done, we will have a book that covers all we do, in detail, every single day of the war.

This newsletter is being posted all over the world and has taken on a life of its own. That is due to each of you who have shared it with others and they with still others. Feel free to forward our newsletter to anyone you wish.

This newsletter is world class just like each of you. We are going to have a great year and I look forward to seeing each of you at one event or another.

Now get back to writing some more great articles for the May edition of Lucky Forward.

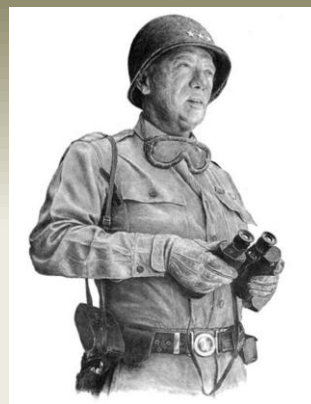
Denny Hair
(Patton)
CG, Patton Third Army Living Historians

www.pattonthirdarmy.com

Camp Mabry Muster Day	2
American Red Cross Girls	3
M/Sgt. John Mims – Third Army Hero	3
News from the Home Front	4
The Siege of Boston	5
LHRA National Battle	6
A Liberator in Texas	9

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



Camp Mabry Muster Day

Texas Military Forces Museum, Austin Texas

By an unknown 3rd Army very Senior Private traveling incognito to an event as a Press correspondent

We had a fun time at muster day this year. We did not officially come as Third Army but used the day to observe, learn and recruit. We did well on all three fronts. Our General Patton traveled under cover and was well recognized and when asked his assignment he said, I am a Senior Private this weekend and I am going to travel on both sides to talk with as many of my friends as I can. Col. Bill White came as a slick sleeve and helped out our Sgt. Chuck Toney as he prepared mess for allied side. Colonel



Bill White and Chuck Toney prepare meals



Mike Maloney manning "Ma Duce"

Manning opened up the PX in the museum and Mike Maloney jumped on the top of a Sherman Easy 8 and fired its Ma Duce as it rumbled across the battlefield. There were some great impressions on both sides. General Patton was able to get a ride inside a restored German Hetzer with his good friends Richard Gretzner,

Darrell Weiman and Ed Rains. It was a quite a ride. The overall axis command was Tom Paschal who will be joining us with his unit in the near future as we do some training missions and plans for a regional reenactment. It an award could be given for a well-run allied camp site, it would have been the Airborne. It was the best at the event. It too had a working mess and our Sgt Toney will be incorporating a couple of their ideas into our mess kitchen.



Pvt. Hair with a PoW

Mrs. Page Gordon had her FFI 1930 Pickup and the French FFI added quite a bit to the realism of the event. The Germans field some Volkstrum Hitler youth who experienced their first reenactment. The General, while traveling incognito as an American Press Correspondence, was able to meet the future

of our hobby and was favorable impressed. Col. Hugh and Sue Hall brought their jeep and did, as usual, an excellent medical impression.



Mike Maloney and Hugh Hall enjoying Texas BBQ

As we always do, we all met afterward and had great Texas BBQ and steaks. So we can report that we played well, ate well and a good time was had by all.



Old Soldier's Association Live Shoot – May 18, 2013

By David Davis

sgtmajorsattic@yahoo.com

3rd Army Living Historians - Texas Contingent

You are invited, so mark your calendars and let me know if you are interested

You asked for it at the last meeting and we are going to make it happen. This is being planned and all the details will be announced in a later email. The purpose for this email is so you can mark your calendar.

At our last meeting it was brought out that many of you would like to try your skills at shooting your military firearm at a live shoot. We found a way to combine our OSA fellowship and a live fire into a daylong event.

We are in the planning stages but we have a date and a place Date Saturday, May 18, 2013

Where Billy Pyle Ranch in Iola Texas, near Navasota Texas Tentative Arrangements

NRA Safety rules and shooting rules will be strictly enforced All firearms should be unloaded and made safe before you arrive. They will only be loaded when they are to be fired at the shooting site

1. 10 am gathering at Billy Pyle's or a tad later
2. Live Shoot later in the day to give those traveling some distance (we can work this out)
3. Bring your own military firearm and ammunition for your own firearm
4. Furnish you own picnic lunch, chairs and shooting supplies
5. We will provide ice and soft drinks at cost.
6. We may have to limit the number of guns if we have a lot of people.

Qualified Range Officers needed Please contact by reply email This is not a competition shoot but only an opportunity to shoot your vintage military firearm at a safe live shoot

Ken Rose said he would bring, and further stated Denny Hair will bring: 1861 US Navy Colt, M1895 Nagant revolver, PPS43c (7.62x25), US 1897 12 gauge, M1941 Johnson (.30-06) and STG Thompson 1928(Wolf .45acp).

If you wish to shoot one of these you should bring your own ammo for one of these. Ammo must be pre-approve by gun owner

Attached images of Sniper Garand Live shoot a couple of years ago at same location



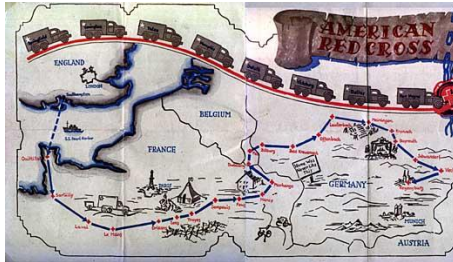


American Red Cross Donut Girls

By Gen. Denny Hair
patton@pattonthirdarmy.com

The Red Cross Doughnut Girls were not an unorganized group of unsupervised young ladies who just showed up to serve doughnuts, quite the contrary. This program was approved and endorsed by General Eisenhower. It was uniformed, had specific training and there was a rigid requirement to be accepted. "In planning for the European offensive, General Dwight D. Eisenhower asked the ARC and Harvey D. Gibson, ARC Commissioner for Europe, to make Clubmobile services available to his forces as soon after the invasion as possible. Eisenhower

expressed the belief that Clubmobile services were well suited to provide morale support to the highly mobile invasion force. Early in 1944, ARC leaders began implementing plans for this new mission that would require an innovative design for the trucks and the logistics of transporting and disbursing thousands of pounds of supplies. "In the end, ten Clubmobile groups were planned for deployment to the continent."



Route of March for Group K

Qualifications:

1. At least twenty-five years of age, and 29 preferably not more than thirty
2. Well educated, including at least two years of college education, and to have had some work experience.
3. Had to be in good physical health, display an acceptably upbeat and positive attitude and social skills.
4. Only attractive women were selected for service with the ARC. It was highly recommended the women be single as they were in or near a combat zone.



ARC Girls marching to training graduation ceremony

The American Red Cross ARC Doughnut "Girls" carried the informal rank of captain, which was granted to ensure that in case of capture they would be treated as officers. The work was difficult and daily work required women to load flour bags, carrying coffee urns, stocking the vehicles with supplies, preparing donuts and coffee in massive

amounts for hours at a time, and driving large trucks through unfamiliar and ill-suited territory. These tasks were complicated by weather, often cold and wet. They had to prepare service for 500 men at a time and cook 1000 doughnuts to accommodate them. This required 70 pounds of flour, 12 pounds of coffee and the other ingredients to prepare to serve and service the troops.

The training was also difficult. The ladies had to learn to drive a converted GMC 6x6 truck, perform vehicle and equipment maintenance, and maneuver it through field conditions. The women

were expected to maintain their uniforms; hygiene and camp equipment in the field under the same adverse conditions as the soldiers the field. They would have to bathe in the field, learn to shampoo their hair in a helmet and still be "glamorous to the GI" to remind him at home, when he did get a chance to stop and get a doughnut. They also had to be aware of their surroundings. In the ETO, they often could find themselves in areas they could have to defend themselves. Though not spoken off, many would have access to firearms



ARC Girls and their Clubmobile

Reference: Ramsey, Julia A. "Girls" in Name Only: A Study of American Red Cross Volunteers on the Frontlines of World War II by Julia A. Ramsey A thesis submitted to the Graduate Faculty of Auburn University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in History Auburn, Alabama August 6, 2011

Editor's Note – Third Army is looking for an ARC Clubmobile, and is counting on our members to take the project on and see if he, or she, can put one together.



Third Army Hero M/Sgt. John L. Mims

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

Date and place of birth: 29 May 1917 Dale, Alabama

Date and place of death: 1 Feb 1990
Abbeville, Alabama

M/Sgt. Mims' began his service in the United States Army in 1937 with F Company, 67th Infantry (Medium Tanks) at Fort Benning. Sergeant Mims career in tanks took a turn when he was injured when removing a track alongside of the road. After which he was reassigned to serve as a driver.



M/Sgt. Mims at the wheel

In April 1940, M/Sgt. Mims was assigned as the driver for Brig. Gen. McGruder. In July 1940, Brig. Gen. McGruder was reassigned to Fort Knox to command the newly activated 1st Armored Division. M/Sgt. Mims became the driver for Maj. Gen. Scott in August 1940 and was assigned to 2nd Armored Division. With Maj. Gen. Scott's departure to become Chief of Armored Forces, M/Sgt. Mims became the driver for Brig. Gen. Patton. M/Sgt. Mims remained as Gen. Patton's driver until 23 May 1945, at which time he returned to the United States for demobilization.

On 20 Nov 1945, M/Sgt. Mims reenlisted in the United States Army where he was assigned to the Hawaii Department. M/Sgt. Mims was further assigned to Japan, and was joined by his wife Dorothy in March 1950. M/Sgt. Mims was also a veteran of the Korean War and he retired from active service in 1959.

M/Sgt. Mims service with Third Army as Gen. Patton's driver was documented in his book, *I knew General Patton Personally*.

Patton's Third Army Living Historians is proud to recognize M/Sgt. Mims as the Third Army Hero for April 2013.



News from the Home Front

By Capt. Karie Hubnik
karie@keeping-history-alive.com

One person really can make a difference. In 2008, after watching a segment on the National Honor Flight organization which provides free flights to WWII veterans to fly and visit the WWII memorial in Washington D.C., Montgomery Jr. High School History teacher Brenda Beaven proposed flying some of our very own WWII veterans from Texas. Brenda, along with her history class, and principal, Duane McFadden founded the Lone Star Honor Flight, a Texas hub of the national Honor Flight organization. Four years and five flights later and through the support of the Montgomery Jr. High school, it's students and surrounding communities over 500 WWII veterans were flown to Washington D.C. and 100 WWII veterans, spouses and supporters were sent to the Nimitz National Museum of the Pacific War.

Even though the Lone star Honor Flight hub has discontinued flights, the effects on individuals, veterans and the community continues to be felt. Many of the WWII veterans, now in their late 80's to mid 90's who participated in the Lone Star Honor flight continue to participate in community events, parades, speaking at schools, and sharing experiences of their service during WWII.

At a time when our nation needs to re-connect with our veterans and current service members, people like history teacher Brenda Beaven can be found all over the city of Houston and surrounding areas especially once a year when 1000's of patriotic citizens volunteer untold hours of their time to host the annual Armed Forces Appreciation Day at the Houston Live Stock Show and Rodeo. The Houston rodeo



Roy Hughes with Rodeo Queens

The Armed Forces Appreciation day "honors the brave men and women for their service in the U.S. military. Armed forces personnel, veterans, families, friends, and the public are encouraged to come out, dress in red, white, and blue, and



Capt. Hubnik with 1st Cav Troopers

happens to be the largest rodeo held in the world, so it comes as no surprise that the organizers try to put on one of the largest armed forces celebrations to match. It is Texas after all, and Texas likes to do things on a grand scale.

show appreciation for the troops, past and present." On this day the rodeo not only hosts any local veteran or service family member or citizen, but also 1000's of Ft. Hood service members and their families who are bused in for the day, along with other notable special guests, top military and local

dignitaries, Medal of Honor recipients, Wounded Warriors, Gold Star families, and a full day of food, entertainment and fun, followed by the rodeo and evening concert. This was the 3rd year in a row that the Lone Star Honor Flight WWII veterans were invited as special guests to attend the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo's Armed Forces Appreciation day. They were treated to a BBQ lunch while enjoying entertainment by the Marine Band and the USO, private rodeo ground tours, a relaxing time at the Wine Garden, an upbeat ceremony and entertainment outside, followed by the rodeo and concert by Alan Jackson. The veterans felt honored to participate in the grand entry alongside current service members aboard to kick off the evening's rodeo.

What impressed the veterans most was the hospitality, kindness and hard work of all the rodeo volunteers that give of their time for free to honor and celebrate our armed forces. WWII veteran Harding Boeker who served in the 231st Quartermaster Company under the 9th Army said, "The whole day was just great. We really enjoyed it. The Marine band was great, the USO was great. The USO would come overseas during the war and this gave us a chance to go and enjoy entertainment during the war, we really enjoyed the USO shows then and we enjoyed the USO show put on at the rodeo." WWII veteran George Waters, who served as a ball turret gunner on a B17, was shot down on his 25th mission, and would spend 15 months as a prisoner of war was overly impressed by how much the committee volunteers do. "It makes one feel good to be recognized. I was really impressed with how much work the volunteers & committee members do, and the good feelings that they conveyed to us. I think that's the outstanding thing about it, is the volunteers. The show was outstanding, and that's necessary but the volunteers that do all the work they do really impresses me, they don't have to do that, it's not an obligation. That speaks volumes. They thanked me for my service but their hard work made me wonder if there was not something better that we can do as veterans to say thank you."

Martha Haskell's late husband WWII veteran Henry Haskell went on the first Lone star Honor Flight. Martha, who is also a veteran serving in the Air Force in 1952, felt that special thanks was needed for all those who made this day possible, "I think that they certainly give most graciously of their time, and talent to recognize those of us who serve. What they do to honor us shows and exemplifies how caring and



MOH Recipient Mike Thorton greets WWII Vets



WWII Vet Ike Hargraves greets current service members

considerate you can be to honor those who historically risked their lives for their country. It was delightful day!" WWII Navy Veteran Ike Hargraves remarked that the whole day was super. "It was a real pleasure greeting the soldiers that came in for lunch. We really enjoy meeting the current service members and their families that is always my favorite part."

The Armed Forces Appreciation Day is usually one of the first events held at the rodeo. You can find more information by visiting www.rodeohouston.com and clicking on "special days." This event is a fantastic way to thank all of our veterans, service members and their families. This is an event you won't want to miss in the future. Volunteering your time or attending with your family is a great opportunity to get face to face with those who have given so much for the freedoms we enjoy. If you would like to view photos please visit:

<http://www.keeping-history-alive.com/honor-flight-1>

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) – Late in March, Lt. Col. Jones hosted the first conference call meeting of the 6th Cavalry (Midwest). During this meeting Lt. Col. Jones provided our recent recruits who were not able to attend our first meeting, information pertaining to our organization, the living historian hobby, and a uniform and equipment list with recommended vendors. Further Lt. Col. Jones provided information pertaining to the LHRA National Battle* which was held April 12-14 at Camp Atterbury, Indiana.

* Be sure to read Lt. Col. Jones' article on the LHRA National Battle, where Third Army provided the event staff to manage the event and developed the battle scenario of Third Army moving East a late war campaign.

"An incessant change of means to attain unalterable ends is always going on; we must take care not to let these sundry means undo eminence in the perspective of our minds; for, since the beginning, there has been an unending cycle of them, and for each its advocates have claimed adoption as the sole solution of successful war"

GSP



Patton's Rock Soup Method

*By Gen. Denny Hair
patton@pattonthirdarmy.com*

General Patton was told he could not attack but could only reconnoiter due to a shortage of fuel and the commitment to let 'Monty' attempt to do what he was never good at...advancing. He used a technique to obey his orders and still attack.

Patton wrote in his diary on September 3, 1944. "We will get crossings at Nancy and Metz by the "Rock Soup" method and I gave the orders today. This is the rock soup method: once a tramp went to a house and asked for boiling water to make rock soup. The lady was interested and gave him the latter, in which he placed two polished rocks he had in his hand. He then asked for some potatoes and carrots to put in the soup to flavor the water a little, and finally ended up by securing some meat. In other words, in order to attack, we have first to pretend to reconnoiter and then reinforce the reconnaissance and then finally attack. It is a very sad method of making war." GSP

By the way, this method works as I have used it in a number of different applications. I was once told all the good seats were sold out at a concert and in fact, the only two seats left us not together. I could get the two cheap seats but good luck finding them, as it was an outside concert. Once in we made our way in and found that the two seats were a bit far from each other. We were able to trade and get two together. Then, I noticed that near the front was two sets that had not been taken as who ever paid for them, did not show up. Needless to say, I saw and heard a great concert, in great seats.

"My men don't retreat and we don't give up...you are not defeated unless you admit it...don't"

If a tramp can figure out a way to get a good meal, you can get a six course feast if you put your mind to it.



The Siege of Boston

*By MSG. Eric J. Rennie
usarmy11c_84@yahoo.com*

On 19 April 1775, after the engagement at Lexington GEN Gage received Intel from his spies that the militia was storing supplies at Concord, MA. A detachment of 700 Redcoats broke contact from a 70 man engagement halfway between Lexington and Concord they soon came into contact with several hundred "minutemen". The British decided to break contact and rejoin forces back in Lexington. As they were going back, they were engaged constantly by well concealed militia the whole way back to Lexington. Once the detachment reformed in Lexington, the British fought their way back for 19 miles to Boston. When Gage returned to Boston he and his comrades soon found themselves besieged in the city by 20,000 angry and determined militiamen.

Now that the “Minutemen” have the British pretty much stuck on a peninsula, the militia knew they couldn’t go against the Brits in urban combat. On 16 June, COL Prescott led about 1200 militia up Breed’s Hill to setup artillery positions over the city of Boston. The next day the British made an amphibious assault and advanced on the militia three times up Breed’s Hill until the colonists ran out of ammo and retreated. The British may of won this battle but at the cost of 1,054 casualties. COL Stark was known for saying to his men “don’t fire until you see the whites of their eyes”.

On 05 Mar 1776, GEN Washington emplaced some of the cannons that were captured from Fort Ticonderoga and Fort Crown Point by Benedict Arnold and Ethan Allen on a place located southeast of Boston. With these cannons emplaced, GEN Gage knew they would do some major damage to the British fleet and to the city itself. He also knew his cannons couldn’t elevate to fire counter battery, so he order the evacuation of his troops from Boston. On 17 March 1776, under favorable winds British ships loaded with 11,000 soldier and Loyalists sailed from the Boston Harbor.

With the Redcoats leaving Boston GEN Washington was worried that they would land at New York so on 04 April 1776 deployed to prepare for the New York and New Jersey Campaign. The overall British casualties were 1170 killed or wounded and Colonial casualties were 419 killed or wounded with 30 captured.

There are six Army National Guard units that can trace their lineage to the Siege of Boston. They include: 101st Engineer Battalion, 125th Quartermaster Company, 181st Infantry, 182nd Infantry, 197th Field Artillery, and the 201st Field Artillery.

The important factor that came from this battle was proving to the British that the Colonial resistance was real threat and war had just started!

Source information:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_Boston



LHRA National Battle

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

Under the efforts of Major Weakley, who coordinated with the Post, we conducted our third tactical event at Camp Atterbury, Indiana, the weekend of 12,13,14 April. We did this in conjunction with the Living History Reenactment Association who provided the event insurance.

On Friday evening at around 2000, a Safety and Authenticity inspection for allied troops was conducted by Major Weakley and Captain Sauter. Upon completion of this, the troops where



Maj. Bonney running event registration

was completed, selected Staff Personnel manned the CP throughout the night to maintain radio contact with the deployed troops and range control.

On Saturday morning at 0800, the remaining troops were taken to the battle area accompanied by Capt. Sauter, and 1Lt. Quillen, who were the allied tactical Commander and Executive Officer. During the day, Major Weakley and I made a tour of the action. We wound up on a hill top and a position named OP2 were Capt. Sauter had set up his CP. There, Major Weakley and I took a tour of the area and was briefed on the action that had taken place earlier, and his plan to continue the rest of the day. While there at OP2, I had an opportunity to question some German POW’s who had been on a patrol near OP2, and captured by members of Co. C, 401st Glider Infantry just down the road from OP2 while we were there.



Lt. Col. Jones questioning a PoW

The tactical side of the event ended in the late afternoon on Saturday as the German forces began returning to the event assembly area. The majority of them having deployed to tactical positions on Friday evening, and now were very short on ammo and very tired. A lot of them stated to us that they couldn’t overwhelm the GI forces as the GI’s were always one step ahead of them on tactics. That is of course due to Capt. Sauter’s superb ability to judge terrain, and move troops accordingly.

By early evening all troops were out of the tactical area and many then departed Camp Atterbury. A few stayed over so to obtain a hot meal and sleep prior to driving home on Sunday morning. Prior to their departing Camp Atterbury, many of the participants stopped by the CP and expressed their very positive comments and gratitude for the event. All stated that they would attend the next one that we held. Staff Personnel then remained on duty as we had a 24 hour CP that needed to be maintained.

then transported to their tactical assembly area using two WW2 2 ½ ton trucks. The troops in the field then took up their defensive positions and prepared for German activity.

During this time, 3d Army ‘Battle Staff’ personnel planned and organized other units for the morning deployment. Once this



M/Sgt. Hart monitoring Post Range Control radio



1st Lt. Quillen inspecting supply vehicle



Staff coordinating with ground troops commander

tactical portion of the event. They are, Capt. Aaron Christenson, assigned as acting G-4, and 1st Lt. Vito Abbinante, assigned as assistant G-2

Three new enlisted members who joined during our February membership drive for B Troop 6th Cavalry and 503d MP's, attended were: Pfc Ryan Bever, Pvt. Tim Flemke, and Pvt. Travis Smith.

S/Sgt Coulter took charge of these new men on Saturday after the troops moved to the field and began schooling them on basic skills that they'll need as members of 3d Army. Other Staff members could not attend due to work, family, and medical issues, but will be in attendance at the next 3d Army event.

Under the direction of the Commanding General there were three promotions at this event, they were; Capt. Bonney to Major, 2nd Lt. Quillen to 1st Lt., and Pvt Bever to Pfc.



Patton and Poetry

By Gen. Denny Hair
patton@pattonthirdarmy.com

Throughout General Patton's life he was surrounded by his family who loved poetry. As a child he was introduced to many authors and as he entered man hood he even dabbled in writing poetry. One of his favorite authors and book was Rudyard Kipling's book Verse. It was a favorite of his family and both he and his son read it and carried it with them. They enjoyed quoting Kipling. A favorite poem of Patton was by Kipling was "If" When things were not going well or he was feeling low, he would quote passages from it. It became a point of inspiration for him and helped him move through problems. I thought you might enjoy reading it. I think you will see why he enjoyed it so.

If

By Rudyard Kipling

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you;
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too:
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or, being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise;
If you can dream---and not make dreams your master;
If you can think---and not make thoughts your aim,

If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same:
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build'em up with worn-out tools;

If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings,
And never breathe a word about your loss:
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: "Hold on!"

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with Kings---nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much:
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And---which is more---you'll be a Man, my son!

I have a collection of all of his poetry and I picked one of my favorites to put in our newsletter. You most likely remember hearing a small brief portion of it in the movie "Patton." I thought you might like to read the whole of it.

Through A Glass, Darkly

By George Smith Patton Jr.

Through the travail of the ages,
Midst the pomp and toil of war,
Have I fought and strove and perished
Countless times upon this star.

In the form of many people
In all panoplies of time
Have I seen the luring vision
Of the Victory Maid, sublime.

I have battled for fresh mammoth,
I have warred for pastures new,
I have listed to the whispers
When the race trek instinct grew.

I have known the call to battle
In each changeless changing shape
From the high souled voice of conscience
To the beastly lust for rape.

I have sinned and I have suffered,
Played the hero and the knave;
Fought for belly, shame, or country,
And for each have found a grave.

I cannot name my battles
For the visions are not clear,
Yet, I see the twisted faces
And I feel the rending spear.

Perhaps I stabbed our Savior
In His sacred helpless side.
Yet, I've called His name in blessing
When after times I died.

(Continued on next page)

In the dimness of the shadows
Where we hairy heathens warred,
I can taste in thought the lifeblood;
We used teeth before the sword.

While in later clearer vision
I can sense the coppery sweat,
Feel the pikes grow wet and slippery
When our Phalanx, Cyrus met.

Hear the rattle of the harness
Where the Persian darts bounced clear,
See their chariots wheel in panic
From the Hoplite's leveled spear.

See the goal grow monthly longer,
Reaching for the walls of Tyre.
Hear the crash of tons of granite,
Smell the quenchless eastern fire.

Still more clearly as a Roman,
Can I see the Legion close,
As our third rank moved in forward
And the short sword found our foes.

Once again I feel the anguish
Of that blistering treeless plain
When the Parthian showered death bolts,
And our discipline was in vain.

I remember all the suffering
Of those arrows in my neck.
Yet, I stabbed a grinning savage
As I died upon my back.

Once again I smell the heat sparks
When my flemish plate gave way
And the lance ripped through my entrails
As on Crecy's field I lay.

In the windless, blinding stillness
Of the glittering tropic sea
I can see the bubbles rising
Where we set the captives free.

Midst the spume of half a tempest
I have heard the bulwarks go
When the crashing, point blank round shot
Sent destruction to our foe.

I have fought with gun and cutlass
On the red and slippery deck
With all Hell aflame within me
And a rope around my neck.

And still later as a General
Have I galloped with Murat
When we laughed at death and numbers
Trusting in the Emperor's Star.

Till at last our star faded,
And we shouted to our doom
Where the sunken road of Ohein
Closed us in it's quivering gloom.

So but now with Tanks a'clatter
Have I waddled on the foe
Belching death at twenty paces,
By the star shell's ghastly glow.

So as through a glass, and darkly
The age long strife I see
Where I fought in many guises,
Many names, -- but always me.

And I see not in my blindness
What the objects were I wrought,
But as God rules o'er our bickerings
It was through His will I fought.

So forever in the future,
Shall I battle as of yore,
Dying to be born a fighter,
But to die again, once more.



A Jeep Story

By Col. Carlos Manning
chiefofstaff@pattonthirdarmy.com

I was thinking about my first Jeep. My first Jeep was a M-38A1. Mainly because it was the only one I could afford. A fellow Military Vehicle club member Charles S. (we will call him, because I do not have his permission to print his name) who I had gone to Government Sales with, asked me, if I was still interested in buying a Jeep. I was cautious to answer because I had just convinced my wife that we could not live without a M-43 Ambulance. Taking my life in my own hands I said, "sure." Charles had found a M-38A1 at a nearby county sale. It could be had for the sum of around \$900. "It also runs" he said. What great luck, I thought. All I had to do is jump in it and drive off. The fantasies we men have.

After convincing my bride that the Ambulance was lonely and needed a companion, and we had found the perfect mate for it. Or at least my friend Charles S. had. I told her too, was sure the Ambulance was lonely. I even assured her, I would teach her how to drive it, you should at this point recognize the state of sheer desperation. Well, to make a long story even shorter. Charles S. showed up with my new Jeep on his trailer. It did not look anything like a Military Jeep. A better description would be a white monstrosity. Charles S. left rather quickly. The longer I stood and looked, it started to grow in O.D. with antennas, gas cans, rifle racks, a canvas top, machine gun, ect, ect.. My wife walked up, and said "what is that?" That brought me down to earth.

The design for the M38A1 was completed in February 1951. Hoping to improve Jeep performance the flathead engine was replaced by the 4 cylinder F-head, Hurricane engine. In order to have room for the larger engine, the hood was enlarged and reshaped. The M-38A1 was built by five different companies, in three countries. It was originally developed by Willys Overland Motors. The design board said MD (in WW2 it was MA and MB) later MC became what we now know as M38. The M38A1 was made in Canada by the Ford Co. there. It was also produced Kaiser-Jeep in the Windsor, Ontario Factory. A lot of parts were made in the Netherlands Kaiser-Frazer factory, in Rotterdam, Holland.

A few week ends later after draining, cleaning, wiping, and scraping, I became brave enough to think about trying to start

it. First I was introduced to the 24 volt system. The batteries are two small size ,12 volt batteries that are not available at the corner store. Placing the batteries in the two small holes in front of the windshield caused me to cancel my workout at the Spa. As I engaged the starter, I was amazed that it started and ran. I noticed a bright light moving under the dash. I looked in time to watch the ignition wires burn like a fuze. It seems that someone in the county garage had replaced the wires under the dash with 22 gage bell wire. Oh well! The General is not going to allow the space to tell of all the fun and adventures I had in my first Jeep. So I will sum it up with its last chapter.

Some time in the Eighties, Chuck Norris decided to make a movie ("Sidekicks") in Southern Texas. For this movie he needed a Jeep. His brother the Producer made a call on the Military Vehicle Club(which I belonged) to look at some Jeeps. I am not lying these guys had some real trailer Queens. When the Producer told them he was going to have the Jeep in the film jump off a 18" ramp and crash through a balsa wood fence, with it full of full of Viet-Cong. They looked at each other and said in unison "the man you want to talk to is a member named Manning."He is reenactor and takes his Jeep in the woods and into mock battles and everything. Well, the Producer called and stated he would pay me a \$125. a day, paint it camo, and give me \$200. to paint it back the way it was. Also. He would insure it for \$8500. I said you can burn it for that amount, if you want to. I sold the Jeep as a movie star. The money I made from the movie and the sale was enough to purchase and re-do a 1943 GPW. (which is the current love of 3rd Army member Hugh Hall). Alas , that is another story.



A Liberator in Texas

By T/5 Michael Ditto
mj_ditto@yahoo.com

The year is 2013, the place, College Station, Texas. We are on line now, Tank engines running, waiting, the fumes from the tank's exhaust burns your eyes a little, you check the gauges, look up to see what's going on around you, then quickly look down to check them again, the gauges say everything is where it needs to be, still good to go. The anticipation can be seen on the faces of the men, you catch a glimpse of someone popping their head out of the hatch to try and get a look at the skirmish that's happening up ahead, you can hear the kings of battle speaking to each other on opposite ends of the battlefield, each in their own language but still sharing the universal tongue of thunder.

The small arms fire, sporadic at first, really starts to open up, it's all out of sight, but you now that what's happening up ahead your about to be a part of. You look to your right oblique, your Sargent gives you the hand signal to move out, the butterflies die, no time for that now, you hear the bow gunner pull the charging handle back on his 1919 Browning machine gun, you wipe the sweat off your hands one more

time, you put the gears in drive, man, should had taken one more drink of water, oh well too late for that now, you pull out and then the enemy artillery starts exploding all around you.

Just six months before the engagement we were about to take part in we were in no condition to fight. Each one of us came from different backgrounds, there was engineers, electricians, the railroad, law enforcement, oil field, city employees, prior service, students, and the list went on. Each one of us stood in what was some form of formation , eyes forward, waiting for what would come next, we did not know the man to our left or to our right but in the months to come that would all change. Most of us never even saw a tank up close; less operate one, for a lot of us the closest we were ever going to get were watching the WWII movies Hollywood had so graciously flooded our big screens with. The fact was that each one of us found our way here through our own acts of fate, but we were all here together now and the reason every man was here was for our mutual respect and love for history.

The training has ended now , we are in our staging area, it's March, officially spring has started but old man winter is still letting you know he's not going out easy, the crews are formed and each tank now has a family, the guys are talking, joking, the typical type of chatter you would come to expect from a tank Company, guys hopping from one tank to the next helping each other do their equipment checks, load ammo, install machine guns, check communications, we have finally come together, we are now a unit. There is electricity in the air, you can feel it, almost reach out and touch it. Our orders to move out finally come down the line, finally, enough of this hurry up and wait, let's go. No one is joking, it's all business now, and every one mounts up sliding into their hatches just as nice and easy as Alice going down the rabbit hole. Man, what a heck of a time to have to go to the bathroom but hey this is it; blame it on the nerves and adrenaline. Ground guides are out in front of the Tanks now, Tank Commanders protruding from their hatches, pushing the microphones closer to their mouths to be heard over the noise, asking for reports, checking on "Their boys", making sure everything is in place, they look the part of a bygone era, from their chiseled positions in their turrets they could have been knights going to battle on horses, nothing but honor in their eyes, it's their way, a tank must feel no fear, and it's commander is the standard. The ground guide motions for you, it's your turn, remember your training, it's time to move out.



Liberator in action



T/5 Ditto in the field on the Liberator

"It's the unconquerable soul of man, not the nature of the weapon he uses, that insures victory"

GSP



Chaplain's Corner

By Rev. Kenneth Stewart

1971chevellless@sbcglobal.net

Scripture for the Month of April 2013

Ruth 2:3

³ So she set out and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers, and she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the clan of Elimelech.

In the first chapter of Ruth, the young widow from Moab made a life-changing decision to love and follow the God of her mother-in-law, Naomi, and to accompany Naomi to Bethlehem. Arriving there with nothing but her faith and optimism, Ruth was reduced to gleaning in the fields for food. This was the ancient equivalent to a soup kitchen. In the process she "happened" to end up in the field of a man named Boaz, triggering a chain of events that only God could have orchestrated. Boaz later became her husband, and their child became the forerunner of King David and part of the golden lineage of the Messiah.

The lesson: When we commit ourselves unreservedly to the Lord, He guides our steps with such care that the things that happen to us happen providentially. We may be facing poverty, need, widowhood, loss, or unexpected burdens. We may have the weight of the world on our shoulders. But the Lord has the weight of our lives in His hands. He guides every footstep of those whose hearts are yielded to Him.

Ruth 2:1-9

English Standard Version (ESV)

Ruth Meets Boaz

2 Now Naomi had a relative of her husband's, a worthy man of the clan of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz.

² And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I shall find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter."

³ So she set out and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers, and she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the clan of Elimelech.

⁴ And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem. And he said to the reapers, "The Lord be with you!" And they answered, "The Lord bless you."

⁵ Then Boaz said to his young man who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?"

⁶ And the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, "She is the young Moabite woman, who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab."

⁷ She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves after the reapers.' So she came, and she has continued from early morning until now, except for a short rest." [a]

⁸ Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Now, listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women."

⁹ Let your eyes be on the field that they are reaping, and go after them. Have I not charged the young men not to touch

you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink what the young men have drawn."

Sometimes we can't see where we are going, only where we have been, but sometimes God will allow us to even see our past to show us where we have been thus showing us he has helped us all along. We should know that if GOD was with us in the past he will be with us in the future. Trust in GOD and Jesus his son, He see and has your beginning and the end. Let him take you all the way!

During WWII we were fighting a war on two fronts, the European and the Pacific fronts. At times it looked bleak even for Gen. G. S. Patton. Patton knew that the only way to win was to call on GOD. He did GOD answered with Fair weather and America put an end to the oppression caused by Germany and Japan.

There is nothing too small or too big that GOD won't do, because he loves us. So call on him today and then wait for the answer.

May all of Third Army who reads this know the height, depth and breadth of GOD's love toward you in Christ Jesus.



Museum of American GI Event Update

By Brig. Gen Mike Maloney

chiefstaff@pattonthirdarmy.com

Another Open House at the Museum of the American GI is behind us. Making its debut was the 3rd Army mess hall in full operation manned by Sgt. "Cookie" Tomey. Can that man cook! His chicken and dumplings are the best I have ever had! The weather was questionable at first, but it cleared up and was very nice though it did get a bit cold during the night.

Making another debut was my daughter Brandi. She wanted to come out and see what her father did instead of hearing it all of the time, and before you knew it, Jennifer Hall had her in overalls and attached to the medical section and my daughter had a blast! So much fun in fact my daughter has now joined our ranks and she wants to do the nurse impression! First my son, now my daughter! This is truly a family organization! As usual, it was nice to see many friends again.

We have seen many children with their parents come through our display, and I thought to myself "How can we get these children more involved with history AND raise funds to help off-set the costs of travel and such. Then it hit me, a tank simulator. That's right, "Ride with General Patton's Third Army Tank Simulator." The idea is very simple and basic; a wooden mock up turret of an M-3 Stuart on a sturdy frame (about half scale) with an actual tank periscope that the child will look through. On the outside portion of the periscope will be a video player running DVD footage that I have showing the top turret perspective from a tank (from past Open Houses) coupled with enhanced audio. Put a tanker helmet on the child with the head set plugged into the audio where he hears the sounds coming through the headset itself, and now the child

will see and hear what it is like in a WW 2 tank! The video will run for about 5-8 minutes. The child will enter through a side opening door so they do not have to climb up and down. The turret hatch will open so the child can stand up and he can have his picture taken. The interior will have some detail to it but kept simple, and it is being designed so as to be fully portable and foldable and can be transported in the back of my car. For a donation of a couple of dollars, and get about a third of the children that come to our display, it should generate a good amount of funds for us. The plan is to have it ready for a militaria collectable show in a couple of months in San Antonio, where I will have a couple of tables for recruiting that will be used as a testing ground and participant feedback.



Upcoming events

18 May 2013 - Old Soldiers Association meeting and live shoot. Billy Pyle Ranch in Iola, Texas near Navasota. Gathering begins at 10:00am. Bring your own military firearms, chairs and lunch and you will get a chance to see how you fair in a live shoot.

19 – 22 September 2013 – World War II Days at Midway Village, Rockford, Illinois. Battle and displays with over 1,000 uniformed participants representing soldiers from the United States, Great Britain, France, Poland, Ukraine, Russia, Japan, Italy and Germany along 1940s era military vehicles.
<http://www.ww2rockfordevent.com/>

Headquarters Notes

G-3 Operations

By Maj. Dave Weakley
dwwweakley@yahoo.com

The HQ Staff has completed their activities at the LHRA National Event at Camp Atterbury Indiana. Third Army ran the event for the LHRA setting up registration, communications, following the battle and handling the paperwork for Camp Atterbury, our MP's manned the gate and performed MP specific jobs.

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



Lucky Forward
Volume 1, Number 8

Gen. Denny Hair
Commanding General
Capt. Karie Hubnik
Public Relations
Maj. C. L. O'Connor
Editor

Lucky Forward is published in cooperation with the Third Army Living Historians Public Relations Office, 30446 Joseph Road, Hockley, Texas 77447. To contact the *Lucky Forward*, via telephone call (281)787-7783 or via email at patton@pattonthirdarmy.com. Article submission deadline is noon on the first Wednesday of each month, and *Lucky Forward* is published each month on the second Wednesday.

**Send comments and story ideas to the editor via email at
patton@pattonthirdarmy.com.**