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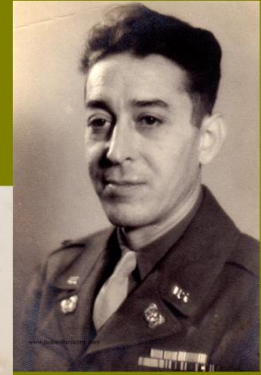
# Lucky Forward

First Quarter 2014

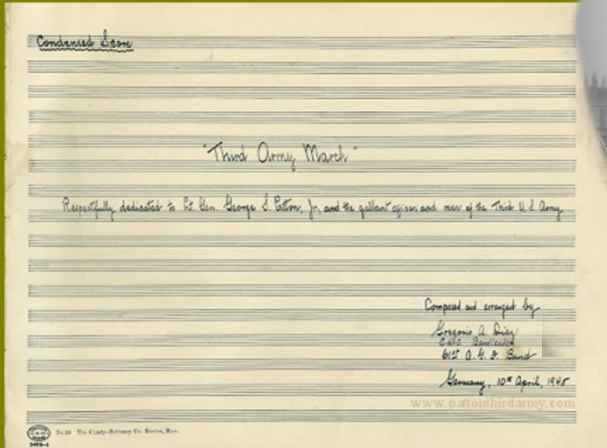


## News Magazine

### *Third Army march found and recorded after 70 years*



Look for this image inside



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## A Word from the Commander



"Patton" and "Willie"

I want to encourage each of you to enjoy your loved ones, friends and families as they are what are truly important. I am reminded that our time here is limited. When we are young, 80 to a 100 years, seems so far away. As the days and years pass, we soon understand that what we do and the things we enjoy are only important to us when we can do it with others we call friends. I had a conversation with one of you about a year ago. It was

about our passion of collecting and using our "toys" to tell the stories of history and honor the Greatest Generation. I was reminded in the conversation that we use the artifacts to tell about real heroes and not the other way around. Without the telling of their story, the artifacts have no meaning.

Value - I have come to understand that a truly rich person is not measured by what he or she owns. Rather richness is better measured by whom they love and who loves them. Imagine if you will a man or woman who is all alone and owns a huge museum full of valuable artifacts. No one loves them and no one cares to visit with them. What value has it all? When the person is gone who owns the museum, and he or she is forgotten, what value had the artifacts in the museum? If a museum is full of artifacts and it is all about how great the artifacts are restored, the museum is but a worthless shell full of useless equipment. If the museum is all about people, their stories, how they used the artifacts and is full of living historians and people who call each other friends, then you have a real treasure. The treasure is the people, the friends, families and loved ones. It is friends and family that is important. You must ask yourself..... What is truly valuable? How do you measure value? Certainly the cost of something makes it valuable. But that value is only based on what someone would pay for it, so what is it really worth? I am not trying talk in riddles.

How much more is the value you have to your friends and them to you? True value and worth is measured by love of family and friends. When the person is gone the cloths had no more value than they did when they were being worn, but the loss of the person is priceless. We are a family and friend's organization, the toys we play with and the history we teach is but a means to enjoy our life with our family and friends. We honor the Greatest Generation who gave up their family and friends to fight for freedom so their family and friends could enjoy their life. Many gave their life for others.

We are rich indeed as a Nation because we are a Nation of people who are free because Freedom was not free, it came with a price. It cost lives which are priceless. Their time to live was cut short for others, a price of freedom, not measured in worldly goods and currencies. Be sure that your love of history, artifacts and recreation of history is with your friends and family, and enjoy the richness of life...theirs and yours!

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

[www.pattonthirdarmy.com](http://www.pattonthirdarmy.com)

A Band of Heroes	3
Third Army Band Leader	6
Latrines	9
Primitiv-Waffen Program	10
Meeting Patton	12
The History of Co. A, 503d MP Bn	13

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

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





## A Band of Heroes

By Gen. Denny Hair  
patton@pattonthirdarmy.com

“The Army is a team. It eats, sleeps, and fights as a team.” Patton was right about that and part of his team was the 61st Army Ground Forces Band. Most people don’t know that Patton had a headquarters band in Third Army. Not only do they not know about the band, they have no idea that before the “Patton” movie, there was a real Third Army March and that it was written by Patton’s band leader, Chief Warrant Officer Gregorio A. Diaz.

These men were accomplished musicians; they had to be to be in Patton’s Third Army Band. They were much more. They were soldiers who had duties to perform when they were not performing. Some received Purple Hearts, some the Bronze Star for conspicuous duty. They were armed with M-1 Carbines, slept in pup tents in the field, and traveled with the Army. They were susceptible to being killed or wounded while performing their duties. When they were dead tired, cold and wet, they performed for those who were dead tired, cold and wet. They were there at the hospitals and performed. Their music was soothing and uplifting to the wounded and dying. They helped the morale of the doctors and nurses as they worked continuously in the evacuation hospitals. They were there when the men were awarded or promoted, and performed at their funerals. They were the first to be heard in the morning with reveille and the last to be heard at taps. When others were under fire so too were they.

This was a band of heroes of America’s greatest generation. So let’s back up a minute and explain how Patton came to have a band. In fact, it is not generally known why a fighting force would have a band, or even need one. They had a huge and important mission. Morale! An army with a high morale is hard to beat. It had pride in being the best and the music reminds them they are the best. This is time honored. It was so important that the US Army saw fit to not only describe it but make it into a mission statement.

### The 6th Cavalry Regimental Band Goes To War.

This organizational structure found in the field manual was standard operational procedure of all military bands and the 6th Cavalry Regiment had such a band. By 1942 the 6th Cavalry Regiment, complete with its band, awaited entry into the war.

There is quite a long story associated with this but to make a long story short, the 6th Cavalry Regiment, an old regiment of mounted horse troops were mechanized and trained to be sent to Europe. They wound up being sent to England and specifically to Scotland and were fully arrived by October 1943. The 6th



**Third Army Guidon**

Cavalry Regiment would soon cease to exist and be reorganized as the 6th Cavalry Group. At the end of 1943 the Regiment was reorganized, and the final parade of the old 6th Cavalry Regiment was held on December 31, 1943 in Tandergee.

Under the new reorganization it became the Sixth Cavalry Group, the Sixth Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, and the 28th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron combined and reinforced. Through a quirk in organization and much to the great luck of the regiment, the regimental band remained within the new 6th Cavalry Group. However, Army regulations would not allow this to continue for long. They were top notch musicians and well known to General Patton. Patton wanted the 6th Cavalry Group and knew many of the men from his horse cavalry days.

General Patton managed to get the 6th Cavalry Group assigned to him and they would become known as “Patton’s Household Cavalry.” Patton was not done yet. He wanted the band. A regiment could not have a band but an army could. They were top-notch musicians and it was obvious to the commanding generals that entertainment, ceremonies and other official functions would indeed require a band. In an unprecedented move, the band was kept intact during re-organization but army regulations would no longer allow it to be attached to a smaller organic unit. Patton, having heard the band during an inspection trip, quickly moved to have it reassigned as the Third Army 61st Army Ground Forces Band. The band leader was CWO Gregorio A. Diaz.

The story of the 61st Army Ground Forces Band and CWO Gregoria A. Diaz was lost to history, but not because it was not a good story. It was lost because no one wrote about it. After the war, most soldiers went their separate ways and those that stayed seldom talked about the war. Books and movies came and went but they were about fighting and heroics of war. Few knew the band were fighting soldiers when not playing music and they were overlooked...but no longer.



**CWO Diaz**

The army was a team. They were a group of soldier musicians who did their part and almost 70 years after the end of World War II, part of the story is now being told.

In June of 2012, while on a staff assistance visit of HQ Third Army/U.S. Army Central for the Army Records Management and Declassification Agency, Lawrence A. (Larry) Devron, passed by a trophy case exhibit of the Third Army Band located there. Inside the glass was a score that had the inscription: “Condensed Score”, “Third Army March” and “Respectfully dedicated to Lt.Gen. George S. Patton Jr., and the gallant officers and men of the Third U.S. Army”; Composed and arranged by Gregorio A. Diaz, Chief Warrant Officer (C.W.O.), Bandleader, 61st Army Ground Forces (A.G.F.) Band, Germany, 10th April, 1945. This was the beginning of a story that needed to be told.

April 10, 1945.

General Patton loved the pomp and circumstance of a good military ceremony and a parade. Knowing Patton's keen love of marches, the band leader of the 61st Army Ground Forces band wrote and finished on this day a March he was a going to call the General Patton March and dedicate it to General Patton. Patton appreciated the gesture but requested it be dedicated to the Third Army. So CWO Gregorio A, Diaz, did both. He changed the title to the Third Army March and dedicated it thus, "Respectfully dedicated to Lt. General George S. Patton, Jr., and the gallant officers and men of the Third US Army." It was played for General Patton and would



**Gen. Patton reviewing the band**

have been played at the Guard of Honor and other functions when appropriate. "It was an honor for Gregorio Diaz, who had been born in a poor village in the Canary Islands and left home when he was 12. He'd made his way to Mexico, crossed into the United States in 1924, and

went right to Fort Bliss, Texas, where he enlisted in the 7th Cavalry's band," his son said in an interview. (Diaz, Gregorio A. CWO; Bandleader, 61st Army Ground Forces Band, Third U.S. Army, Diaz family collection)

Fast forward to 2012.

After the war's end, the "Third Army March" musical score was hidden in plain sight for over 40 years in a band trophy case dedicated to the musicians of the Third Army of WWII. In 2012 a former member of The U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own", Colonel (Va.ARNJ-Retired) Lawrence Devron, noticed the aged score which lay dormant in the trophy case. He asked if there was a recording of it. It had never been recorded. Devron later searched online resources and records and found an article, Mr. Tom Diaz, CWO Diaz' son, had written about his father's story. He also had a detailed scrapbook and memorabilia of this famous Bandleader father and helped put the history together. Devron worked with The US Army Band staff and located the instrumental parts written from the score and in little over a year, on November 6, 2013, the "Third Army March" was performed and recorded by The U.S. Army Band (TUSAB) "Pershing's Own" at Brucker Hall on Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall in Arlington, Virginia. The performing ensemble was The U.S. Army Concert Band conducted by First Lieutenant (1LT) Silas Huff and engineered by the production staff. Mr. Tom Diaz, the late CWO (Retired) Gregorio A. Diaz, Bandleader of the 61st Army Ground Forces Band in Germany, attended the recording session. The recording was the first time the march had been recorded since it was composed for General Patton and the Third US Army. The March had not been heard publicly since 1973 when the Third U.S. Army and the Third Army Band were deactivated. Tom Diaz heard it for the first time and was delighted. Tom's father had been gone for 24 years and the memories of a soldier father came back. Tom had kept his father's memory alive and would occasionally go through his father's WWII scrap book and read about the band, his father, Third Army, and General Patton.

His father had come by ship from Spain to Mexico as a youth. He, like so many, came in from Mexico, undocumented. The U.S. Army offered an opportunity. CWO Diaz joined and later became the Bandmaster for the 6th Cavalry Regiment Band and was stationed with them at Fort Oglethorpe Georgia in 1941.

For years, Tom Diaz had remembered and honored his father's memory through the scrapbook his father had left him. The images and history of the 61st Army Ground Forces Band and the contribution of the musicians, their names, and the information about his father Gregorio Diaz lay out of the public eye for almost 70 years.

Now part of the story is being told on this website to honor this "Band of Heroes," whose legacy of service is still being carried on in the US Army today by soldier musicians. What you are reading was all made possible for the inclusion in an upcoming book by Denny Hair all about Patton's Third Army Headquarters in Europe. Mr. Tom Diaz, son of the Bandleader, COL (Ret) Lawrence A. Devron and the United States Army Archives allowed Mr. Hair to obtain the information they had.

This, together from information found in Denny's upcoming book, and a short history has been provided on this website until the book comes out. A special thanks goes to the Washington Post and their journalist Michael Ruane, who wrote the original article. He forward Denny's request to Lawrence Devron and from there was allowed to obtain the necessary information to include them in his book before it went to the editor. Many thanks go to several people but chief among them was Mr. Tom Diaz, son of the famous bandleader of the Third Army band.

The 61st Army Ground Forces Band, but to all concerned they would be known as "Patton's Third Army Band." There were 28 men assigned to the band and the following is a list of them that was composed at wars end. CWO Gregorio A



**61st AGF Band**

Diaz\*, band leader and

he had under his

command, There were to be 28 men assigned to the band originally. Note: The official roster as listed at the end of the war was CWO Gregorio A Diaz\*, band leader and he had under his command, Pac Dixon T. Apel, Pfc Frederick W. Bickering, Pfc Leroy Brown, T-5 Clarence J. Chapman, Pfc William M. Drapela, Pfc Kenneth E. Gross, T-5 Earl E. Diehl Jr., T-5 Warren H. Dungan, T-5 Lousis J. Elster, T Sgt's Richard W. Farrell, T 4's Benard L. Shendell\*, Norman S. Hess, SSgt John A. Hooks\*, Pfc Carence E Holley\*, T-4 Carl D. Howell\*, T Sgt Luther S. Jones\*, T-4 Joseph J. Krol, Pfc William M. May, T-4 Hubart N. Mazerole\*, T-5 Charles B. Mitchell, T-4 Delwin B Murphy\*, T-5 John G. Perkins, Pfc Roger H. Williams, T-5 Richard S. Winvick T-5, Anthony D Borrelli, Pfc Charles A Edgerly, Pfc Robert Meisch, Sgt Ferris C. Frees. The \* represent those who were in the band in 1941 and remained throughout the war. (Diaz, Gregorio A. CWO; Bandleader, 61st Army Ground Forces Band, Third U.S. Army, Diaz family collection)

By war's end the band had racked up an expressive performance list. They reported ; "During the 281 days of combat the Band of Heroes received high praise from many hospitals, line outfits, and the American Red Cross. During 281 consecutive days of duty, the 61st Army Forces band played 304 jobs, including concerts for hospitals and messes." From their official log, they wrote the following statistics:

Band Performances were conducted at:

Concerts- 52

Hospitals - 32

Formations- 32

Retreats- 24

Misc. Concerts - 27

Beer Bar, EM -11

Broadcasts - 4

Orchestra:

Mess Halls

Officer-121

Enlisted 61

Dances 84

Hospitals 80

ARC (American Red Cross clubs) 80

The following is a list of Organizations and VIP Persons before whom the Band or Orchestra appeared while in the ETO.

VIP Performances:

Gen Eisenhower, Gen Patton, Gen Spaatz, Lt Gen Lee, Lt Gen Smith, Maj Gen Gaffey, Maj Gen Gay, CG XV Corps, French General LeClerc, Chinese General,

American Red Cross Clubs In: Portadown, NI, Belfast, NI, Toome Bridge, NI, Knutsford, England, Stone, England, Nancy, France, Luxembourg City, Erlangen, Germany, Bad Tolz, Germany, Munich, Germany

ORGANIZATIONS the band performed for:

Headquarters Third US Army (Forward & Rear) 4th Armored Signal Bn, 6th Cavalry Recon. Sq, 6th Convalescent Hosp., 7th Field Hospital, 12th Evacuation Hosp., 14th Liaison Sq, 14th Cavalry Group, 24th Regulating Station, 27th AAA Group, 28th Cavalry Rcn sq, 32nd Evacuation Hosp., 34th Evacuation Hosp., 35th Evacuation Hosp, 39th Evacuation Hosp., 94th Gas Cas Treatment Bn, 65th Medical Battalion  
92nd Signal Battalion, 101st Evacuation Hosp, 102nd Evacuation Hosp., 103rd Evacuation Hosp., 104th Evacuation Hosp, 106th Evacuation Hosp., 107th Evacuation Hosp., 109th Evacuation Hosp., 110th Evacuation Hosp., 2202nd Cons Engineers, 246th Signal Opn. Co, 287th Combat Engineers, 301st Signal Battalion, 436th Convalescent Hosp., 502nd Car Company, 575th AAA Battalion, 631st Tank Destroyers Bn, 654th Tank Destroyers Bn, 2188th Quartermaster Co, 3457th Ordnance Company, 6903rd European Civil Affairs Regt

Incoming Troops at Belfast, NI, Toome Bridge Air Base, Toome Bridge, NI, North Arhaagh Harrier's Hunt Club. Third United States Army Headquarters.

The music "The Third Army March" was performed and recorded at The U.S. Army Band (TUSAB) "Pershing's Own" Brucker Hall at Fort Myer, (Arlington), Virginia. Ensemble: The U.S. Army Concert Band conducted by First Lieutenant (1LT) Silas Huff and engineered by the production staff. The composer of the "Third Army March", the late CWO Gregorio A. Diaz, Bandleader of the 61st Army Ground Forces Band in Germany has a son who attended the recording session.

An MP3 of the recording was emailed to COL Bryan Hilferty, Public Affairs Officer, Third Army/U.S. Army Central, Shaw AFB, Sumter, S.C. COL Hilferty also provided the MP3 to Washington Post journalist Michael Ruane for a future story.



**Third Army Band Banner**

Acknowledgements

All of the above information and images were used by permission and supplied to Denny Hair for use in the upcoming book and this web page. Special thanks go to the to the following:

Third Army/US Army Central (ARCENT), COL Hilferty, the chief of public affairs, LT Fruto, Heather M.J. Hall MAJ, Public Affairs Community/Media Relations, U.S. Army Central, Lawrence A. (Larry) Devron The U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own" Horn, SP5 '67 - '70 257th Army Band (DCARNG) Horn, SP5/SGT Brass Section LDR DCARNG OCS Class 20, Commissioned MAY '77 MAJ, US Army (Active Duty-Retired) NOV '95COL, (Va-ARNG-Retired) AUG '13, Mr. Tom Diaz, son of, Gregorio A. Diaz, CWO; Bandleader, 61st Army Ground Forces Band, Third U.S. Army, (Diaz family collection) The Washington Post, Michael E. Ruane, and phone interview with Tom Diaz, by Denny Hair, December 18, 2013.

This web page has been created to honor the memory of all the musicians who served in WWII and the Greatest Generation's Soldier Musicians and is dedicated to all of our hero Soldier Musicians who have served in the Armed Services of the United States. The next time you come in contact with a soldier past or present, thank them for their service. Freedom is not free, it comes at a cost.

For more information visit the following web sites

<http://www.usarmyband.com>

<http://www.usarmyband.com/about-us/the-us-army-band-pershings-own.html>

<http://www.usarmyband.com/plan-your-visit/directions-to-fort-myer.html>

[www.pattonthirdarmy.com/3rdarmyband.html](http://www.pattonthirdarmy.com/3rdarmyband.html)

<http://www.westwood-backup.com/pg/jsp/osgood/transcript.jsp?pid=37653>

*We have the full story on our web site!*

*61st Ground Forces band - Patton's Third Army Band. The story of the original Third Army March Found and recorded*



## Third Army Hero Chief Warrant Officer Gregorio A. Diaz

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

Date and place of birth: 24 September 1905, Garachico, Canary Islands

Date and place of death: 19 June 1989 in Melbourne, Florida

Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) Diaz's military career began in 1924 when he enlisted at Fort Bliss for duty as a member of the 7th Cavalry Band.

Diaz moved through various band assignments eventually arriving at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia with the 6th Cavalry Band. Upon deployment to the European Theatre of Operations, the 6th Cavalry was redesignated the 6th Cavalry Group and the band was designated as the 61st Army Ground Forces (AGF) Band on 7 June 1944. On the same date the 61st AGF Band was assigned to Third Army with CWO Diaz as the Band Leader.

In April 1945, CWO Diaz composed the Third Army March and presented it to Gen. Patton, and Diaz received approval to play the march at Third Army ceremonies. After World War II CWO Diaz was assigned to bands in the United States Army Air Forces, and retiring from the United States Air Force on 31 July 1954.

CWO Diaz's decorations include the Bronze Star, the Good Conduct medal, the American Defense Service medal, the American Campaign medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign medal with 5 service stars, and the World War II Victory medal.

Patton's Third Army Living Historians is proud to recognize CWO Diaz as the Third Army Hero for the quarter.



**CWO Diaz, prior to WWII**

army he took his playing and his talents to new heights and combine his skills and a video production specialist and his musician ship as a solo artist on the trombone and composed one of the finest self composed videos and musicianship on the trombone I have ever seen. When a Tsunami hit Japan and he saw the destruction and suffering, it prompted him to make a tribute to the courage that came from the destruction and morn the lose by playing his trombone in a Japanese botanical garden. When I saw it, I was simply amazed.

Capt. Glenn Miller  
Now, to our WWII portrayals and Dan Hermann. Dan has done WWII reenacting and living history most of his adult life. He portrays both GI and German and loves the hobby. He is an avid fan of Glenn Miller and since he plays trombone, he naturally studied the man and his playing and knows quite a bit about him. Dan is both a Jazz Musician and trained concert trombonist, so Glenn Miller became, to him, as Patton and Third Army has captivated us.



**Capt. Glenn Miller**

Third Army Band  
"61st Army Ground Forces band"  
Patton used his band for all that it could be used for. They played marches, Jazz, and concert music. They were part of the Guard of Honor for promotions and awards and stood and played at last rites when a soldier was called home to his creator.

Since Glenn Miller was known to all, Dan Hermann is going to portray Capt. Glenn Miller and perform when it is appropriate to do so. I

hope this concept will lead to the formation of a Third Army Band. We are looking for a group of musicians, hopefully a band all ready formed, who will portray the 61st Army Ground Forces band. (Patton Third Army Band) and maybe even CWO Gregoria Diaz, who was the band leader.

Anyone reading this who knows of a band willing to wear the uniforms of the WWII US army and perform as the Patton Third Army Band... Please contact us.

On a side note, I have over 2000 big band charts on pdf. I would transfer them to a CD rom and give them to any band who wishes to join us. We welcome Dan Hermann as Capt. Glenn Miller to our ranks.

If you are a brass band, big band, concert band or anything similar of know of one, please have them contact us at [patton@pattonthirdarmy.com](mailto:patton@pattonthirdarmy.com)



**Dan Hermann while serving in the Army**



**Dan Hermann today**



## Third Army Band Leader Chosen

By Gen. Denny Hair  
[patton@pattonthirdarmy.com](mailto:patton@pattonthirdarmy.com)

I know, you are scratching you head on this one. The first thing I want you to do is go to [www.pattonthirdarmy.com/3rdarmyband.html](http://www.pattonthirdarmy.com/3rdarmyband.html) and you will see there was indeed a Third Army Band.

Dan Hermann

Our Patton Third Army Historians are all about bring history to life one to one in the first person. Some of you know Dan Hermann. He is an extraordinary man of many talents. You have seen his work in several of our promotional videos but few of you know that he is a highly accomplished musician. He is one of the finest trombone players I know. He had to be play in the U S Army Band for many years. Since he retired from the



## WWII Big Band Propaganda

By Capt. Dan Hermann  
dhermann4@yahoo.com

Two little known propaganda tools used during WWII were dance bands beaming music to the other side with messages to affect enemy troop morale.

One, the Glenn Miller band produced propaganda shows directed at the Germans with Glenn partly speaking in German with the help of the bilingual Ilse Weinberger urging German troops to think of their homes and stop fighting, with the messages all low key. Some of the Miller songs were performed in German by Johnny Desmond and one by Artie Malvin.

Glenn Miller became even more famous with his Army Air Corps band recording V records for the troops while there was a musicians strike in the U.S. There was virtually no recording going on by the civilian bands during WWII. Many had

recorded in earnest for future sales seeing the war coming. Glenn's band was fully involved with radio shows, recording, and playing for the troops. Hoping for the chance to go to Europe and perform for the troops there, the band unanimously volunteered to record their future radio shows day and night to cover future commitments with the BBS.



**Propaganda radio show in production**

Unfortunately for Glenn on his trip to France to pave the way for his band following a week later, his plane went down in the Atlantic and was lost.

The other unknown dance band was led by the German Lutz Templin with singer Karl Schwedler "Charlie's Orchestra" Beaming American and British dance tunes at the Allies with English propaganda in the middle of the song. What is interesting is that Jazz or Western Dance music was banned in Germany by 1935. The Propaganda sprouting from Charlie was usually quite comical and obviously not going to make any allied soldier quit fighting.

Thought of as Goebbels band, they recorded over 90 recordings from March 1941 to February 1943. Charlie's Orchestra was also known as "Templin band" and "Bruno and His Swinging Tigers" Most of the verbal attacks were directed at Churchill describing him as a bumbling fool. The band was reorganized after the war and performed for US troops in US Armed Forces clubs in Ludwigsburg and Stuttgart.

Recordings of these groups can be found by searching for Glenn Miller "The Lost Recordings" and "Charlie and his Orchestra".



**Maj. Glen Miller during a radio show**



## Blankets for Veterans

By Col. Carlos Manning  
chiefofstaff@pattonthirdarmy.com

When we were notified that a lot containing wool blankets were available Denny was contacted, and decided that a committee would obtain and distribute the blankets to those who needed them.

On a warm summer afternoon, Ben Barr, Bernard Olive, Carlos Manning, loaded blankets at least 80 or 90 on a trailer and truck and took them to a warehouse for storage.

As winter approached, Carlos and Robert Vandgrift made the mistake of volunteering to help with the blankets.

The blankets are new Canadian all wool ,full size, wrapped in plastic and blue in color. A Third Army letter was typed up, stating who we were and that as a group we wanted to donate these blankets to those who needed them.

It was decided that the large towns and cities got most of the donated goods and the small towns were offered the leftovers. Van and Carlos then set out to target the small rural towns of Texas.

Report from Van and Carlos:

The week before Christmas seemed like a good time and the weather was cold. Van did the driving and hard work it seems Carlos was having a health issue at the time.

The first stop of many was a small rest home that had a couple of veterans and ten other occupants. The nurses in charge at first could not believe we were not selling the blankets and Carlos showed a copy of the Third Army letter. They took twelve blankets and were very grateful . We encouraged every stop we made, to go to our web site and see what we were all about.

We went to Churches that had out reach programs, eight or nine rest homes. It did not take long to empty the truck and run out of day light. At this point we would like to thank you guys for this opportunity. This Third Army event made Christmas for Van and I. signed Carlos and Van.

Addition to report: Several days after Christmas we received a report that one of our senior members was placed in a nursing home after a accident. He lives in Centerville, TX. Van and Carlos loaded eight blankets in his Toyota and drove to Centerville to see Joe Nobles and donate the blankets in his name to the Nursing Home as a member of the Third Army. Joe was glad to see us and the home was grateful for the needed blankets.

We still have blankets and will continue to distribute them to those who need. One Church just contacted us requesting twenty four blankets for their needy family programs. They have already been delivered

**"The soldier is the army."**

**GSP**



## 3rd Army Group (world of tanks) Goes Tactical, the Latest from the front!

By Brian Brown  
generalpatton@gmail.com

In late November as commander of 3rd Army Group I was invited to take part in a very fun and for me “educational” trip to The Battle Of The Brickyard tactical event in Peru, Kansas with Mike Maloney and Tom Patchalos. I would like to say a big thank you Mike for the invitation and to Tom for the gear! The people in the reenactment community are a great bunch of people, and were a real pleasure to be around. It was a heartwarming experience to stand back and look at all the guys in the early morning hours preparing their gear, and talking among coffee and tin cups. It was as if I was standing inside of a portal to what things were like long ago. For me personally it gave me a sense of fellowship that you will not find anywhere else among better people.

As for the clan we have been steadily growing in size and scope. We now have a membership base that extends from California to Israel. Plans are being made to extend the size of our teamspeak and perhaps even start a second sub division. We have recently rebuilt our forums page to accommodate the activities and operations of the clan as a whole, and have several new game patch upgrades that are being released soon:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sD2jHxZ1v5k#t=163>

Also we have started to host “tank talk” on Saturday evenings on teamspeak to any and all members who have questions about real tanks and “ingame” tanks. This link shows some of the production that has been done in the development of this project:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F6nfx6xcYps>

A lot of the players in game not only drive historical vehicles but also get the opportunity to drive some of the tanks that were early development prototypes and such “ingame.”

So watching these videos is an eye opener to the world of tanks community in knowing where some of these tanks in game actually came from. We try hard to train our members on basic tank tactics along with educational history of the vehicles operated in the game.

In other news I'd like to take a moment to inform you that one of our members “KA119” has been approached by the producers of Starting Strong. This is a reality show about a civilian going through a 2 week army training program. In this episode our member will be learning to operate a real modern tank “M1A4 Abrams.” By luck or divine providence our friend we all know as “kick” was reading up on a tank magazine while on a flight headed home to Georgia when his interest in tanks caught the eye of the right person in the right place at the right time. He shared his membership with the tank clan with them and his love for military armor and is now on track with the producers for being on the show. An example of the show you can see here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h19kEnB8Rs4>

This show and the episodes are shown on fox and then released to youtube. So to kick we say “good luck and Gods speed!” Stay tuned in the future to keep “up-to-date” on the latest from the front, and feel free to visit us on our website at

<http://3rdarmygroupclan.com/>

Brian Brown is the Commander 3rd Army Group aka (Gen-Patton3) on the World of Tanks ([www.worldoftanks.com](http://www.worldoftanks.com)) gaming site.



## Ardennes Offensive Event

By Oberst Thomas Pachalos  
tpachalos@austin.rr.com

Battle of the Bulge or as we know it in the 167 Volksgrenadier Division the “Ardennes Offensive” tactical battle at Camp Clark in Nevada MO January 17th, 18th & 19th, 2014. Elements of the 167 Volksgrenadier Division rode up to this event with members of G Co. of the 36th Division, from Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas in a chartered bus.

Check was easy and smooth: signing/dating a release from, paying the battle fee, assigning barrack space in 1 of 4 buildings and receiving 800 francs to use in the Canteen. 50 francs bought you either candy bar or chips. The coffee was free and always available. In the check in area, there were 6 maybe 7 vendors selling collectible and reproduction items.

Weather: 27 degrees in the morning, with a 17 mile an hour wind, warming up to maybe 40 degrees for a high. The wind never let up, in the woods, the wind was not a factor, only in open areas.

Saturday morning started with breakfast of free coffee and donuts. After breakfast all re-enactors assembled behind the check in/barracks building, for weapon, ammo and authenticity inspections and scenario briefing. 3 different scenarios taking up the bulk of the day (9:30am to 3:30pm). 1st scenario: was to locate a parachute with supplies (2 packages of chocolate), with forces entering the area, from opposite ends of the field. The trees and under brush were devoid of leaves, so cover and concealment was difficult, part of the ground cover with a thorny vine that made it difficult to move through. 2nd. scenario place the German forces in a container village, were Allied forces had to route the German forces and take control of the village. 3rd. scenario placed opposing forces back in the woods.

Dinner: Spaghetti, with meat sauce, green beans, bread, dessert and horse radish pickles (a different kind of hot). The food was good and hot, served in the mess hall close to the check in building.

This was a good event, the people running were helpful and friendly! The 167 Volksgrenadier Division is looking forward to going to this event next year.

Check out our website: [www.167thvolksgrenadierdivision.com](http://www.167thvolksgrenadierdivision.com)



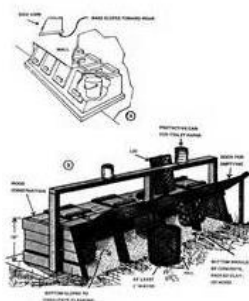
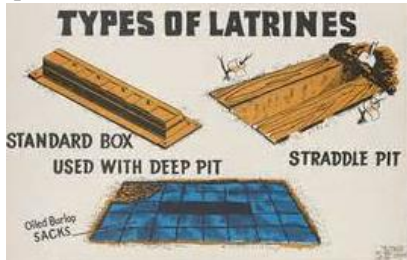
# Latrines

By Ken Rose  
caen@att.net

It is said that an army travels on its stomach and an argument could be made that civilization advances by way of the latrine. As populations grew throughout history a common need among all of them was the effective control, removal or elimination of human waste. Once the group became too large for "Every man for himself" elimination the rulers had to address the problem as a society. Armies from the most primitive to modern day must deal with the same issues. There are countless names for the areas designated as waste depositories, but the military has settled on

"latrine" for the ground forces and "head" for the navy. At its most basic, an effective latrine is just a hole in the ground. It can be a single hole or a trench. It can have seats above it or not in which case it would be a straddle latrine. Typically, the latrine would be constructed downstream of the useable water supply and filled in with dirt when full or no longer needed. Chemicals may be added to reduce odor.

The Romans were some of the most sophisticated builders in history. Their buildings, roads and latrines have survived to this day. Using running water beneath the latrine seats and sponges on sticks as cleaning tools gave their coed latrines a sewer system to be envied.



During the trench warfare hell that was the Western Front of WWI it would not have been uncommon for a new recruit who asked where the latrine was located to be told he was standing in it.

Needless to say, loss of men on all sides was high from infections and disease.

Our efforts in Viet Nam resulted in the use of "honey pots." Fifty-five gallon drums were under the latrine seats and napalm, gas or diesel was used to burn off the waste when they became full.



Contemporary American forces

may be forced to use any of the aforementioned types of latrines, but also have access to pre-manufactured latrines in the best of circumstances.

Weapons and battle tactics have evolved from Ghenghis Kahn's armies using spears, arrows and clubs against each other to the weapons of today bringing death and destruction from afar, but the one thing remaining the same is the need to address this issue of human waste.



## 503d MP Battalion Update

By Lt. Col. Alan Jones  
patton@pattonthirdarmy.com



Our Battalion Headquarters include myself, as the Battalion Commander, Major O'Connor is the XO & S-3, and M/Sgt Rennier is the Battalion Sergeant Major.

In Company A, we have 1st Lt. Quillen as Company Commander, and Wayne Coulter is the Company First Sergeant. We currently have the following MP's, Sgt Levi Weakley, Pfc Ryan Bever, Pvt's Brent Dudgeon, Clint Vaughn, Travis Smith, Doug Fesko & Tim Flemke. Without any doubt, we need an influx from the repple-depple.

Everyone who attended the Rockford event this past September saw that the MPs are front and center in our shows. For those that attended you looked and acted as MPs, and we received compliments on your performance. But, we need more personnel since we are planning more events, and everyone cannot always attend events. So, help us out by finding new people to join as MPs.

We have so far, these events coming up; Camp Atterbury the second weekend of April, Ft. Ben Harrison State Park in Indianapolis on Friday, Saturday & Sunday of the Memorial Day weekend, Rockford (Midway Village) the third weekend

*Of the Troops and for the Troops*



## Dispatches from the Front

Updates from Third Army in the field



**Social Media** – We have a Facebook page. Please join it and upload the images of what we do and you do as part of Third Army. The page is at:

<https://www.facebook.com/PattonThirdArmyLH>

**Military History Fest 9** – Third Army visited Military History Fest 9 at Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles, Illinois. This event is indoor convention for Military History buffs, reenactors, collectors and cultural historians from all time periods, from the Roman Empire through the modern day. The event

includes displays, vendor sales, and lectures on period items or period topics. Lt. Col. Jones, Maj. O'Connor, T/4 Cooper, and Pvt. Cooper attended the event representing Third Army. The pictures below were taken at the event and showed how far Third Army went to represent our time in England.



"Where's Big Ben?"



"One more pub, Colonel!"



## Tactical Operations Center (TOC) Operations

By CWO. Brian Hart  
balls2n@yahoo.com

For some time now I have been involved with the Operations portion of events at Camp Atterbury. The first was with the VII Corps and then with the Third U. S. Army. I have seen how TOC operations work first hand.

Our first event as VII Corps was challenging. As a staff section, we were challenged from the start to produce a quality event. We had no experience working as a team. While the units were in the field, staff members sat down and came up with better ideas to implement at the next event sponsored by our organization. All have been part of events that the staff was participating in the event. By doing this you do not allow a flow to take place. In addition, problems will arise that will not be addressed in a timely manner, thus creating a not so worthwhile event.

After each event, the staff would get together and conduct an After Action Review (AAR). This has allowed the staff members to bring up problems they saw in their sections to the membership. In addition, develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to be implemented for the next event.

The typical events are the two sides are here, and you have a go at it. Depending on the area, you may have a terrain feature to capture and hold. No structure was built into the battle plan. We have evolved past this and the Third Army staff has made the Camp Atterbury events worth wild.

So far, we have had favorable reviews. The events hosted by Third Army have been noted as not a Cowboy and Indian shootout like we are accustomed to, and the word has got out that events at Camp Atterbury hosted by Third Army are events not to miss. The events have gotten better with time and we have matured as a staff.

We have developed our own Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTP) for our staff sections. We have incorporated the Battle Rhythm of the post into ours. Each staff section works in concert with the others. We still develop little ways to

improve what we do. I think we have worked well together. Most bring a verity of military experience with us. Implement this in to what we do for events and this will do nothing but be the best experience participants will have.



## Primitiv-Waffen Program

By Lt. Col. Dave Davis  
sgtmajorsattic@yahoo.com

By the Summer of 1944 Germany faced a chronic shortage of small arms. At the same time a decision was made to raise a people's militia to be called the Volkssturm as a last desperate measure to stave off the impending defeat facing Germany.

To arm this force was an almost impossible task. Germany's factories were facing massive raids from both the British and American air force that caused major disruptions in weapons production.



Assembled rifle

Albert Speer, the Minister of Armaments for Hitler, decided upon a program to mass produce small arms that were to be as cheaply and easily made as possible this was the genesis of the "Primitiv- Waffen" program. The idea behind this program was to mass produce small arms that were reduced to their most basic form that could be used to equip the militia or Volkssturm being formed in Germany.

The Volkssturm, itself was made up of overage veterans, old men, youngsters and those not fit for active duty. It was often commanded by Nazi party functionaries with little or no military experience. There were usually no uniforms available and at best there was an armband that was cheaply printed with the words Deutscher Volkssturm Wehrmacht printed on it. The armband was to identify the wearer as an armed combatant protected by Geneva Conventions and to prevent him from being shot, if captured, as a guerrilla or bandit. It often did not work and many of those captured by the Allies and Red Army were, in fact, shot or hanged or in the case with some Red Army troops, tied up, burned alive or run over by tanks.



Dissembled rifle

Of the many proposals put forward to produce a simplified Mauser rifle for use by the Volkssturm, only the one produced by the Steyr firm in Austria, actually went into production. Prototypes of this weapon were named the Volkskarabiner 98 [ people's carbine 98] . Officially it was known as the Volksgewehr 5 [ people's rifle type 5 ]. The weapon was assembled from rejected and partially finished parts. The workmanship was crude in the extreme. The front sight for example was simply welded on. However, an estimated 10,000 were produced.

(Cont. on next page)

Most never left the plant, and were captured as souvenirs, by America forces, when the plant area was overrun by Patton's 3rd Army as it surged through Austria in the last weeks of the war. It is probably safe to say that 100% of the VK98 guns, that made their way back to America as war trophies, were examples taken from the plant, in Austria, by members of the 3rd Army. It is also certainly possible that American troops were fired on by Volkssturm units armed with this rifle as Patton's forces rampaged through the crumbling 3rd Reich.

As primitive as the rifle appears today, it was safe to fire and could have been used in its intended role. It does show how desperate the German situation had become and it could not have inspired it's user with confidence in the outcome of the war. German war industry, once a world leader in technology was reduced to this sad state.



## Project Aphrodite

By Dennis Coon

This story is about my uncle, Capt. Tom Barton, USAAF. In 1944, August to January 1945 the USAAF came up with a plan called Project Aphrodite. It was to bomb the V1-V2 bunker installations around the Pas-de Callas near Northern France.

The reason for this project was that the bunkers could not be able by conventional bombers. My uncle had twenty three combat missions all ready. At this time, they moved the mandatory combat missions from 25 to 30 before the flyboys could go home. The Air Force told him that if he volunteered for the mission it would complete his 30 missions. They also told him it was a 50-50 chance he would not come back. The project would take war weary B-17's, strip them down, load them with explosives and make flying bombs out of them. They were packed with up to 9 tons of (Torpex) explosives and is what is now called Nitro. The pilotless bombers were also fitted with radio controlled flight systems known as Double



**B-17 Mother Ship**

Azon. A T.V. Camera was placed on a flight deck so the image of the instrument panel could be set back to a controlling aircraft. A second camera was installed in a Plexiglas nose so the other aircraft could view the ground so the robot machine could be directed onto the target. The plane would be taken off the ground by a two man volunteer crew and at an altitude of 2000 feet point the plane in the general direction of the target. The crew would arm the explosives for an on impact detonation-the crew would hand control the aircraft to the mother ship, another B17 and then the aircraft would then take control. When the mother ship was flying at an altitude of 20,000 feet, the crew would then parachute to safety while still over England. The mother ship would then direct the BQ-17 (The name of the flying bomb) over the continent and lock controls into a crash course for the target and then turn to escape.

This is the same project that killed President Kennedy's brother, Joe Kennedy Jr. The project was a failure. My uncle parachuted to safety and came back to the US.



## Helen Manning – 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration

By Gen. Denny Hair  
patton@pattonthirdarmy.com

It is not often you can go to a celebration of life surrounded by folks who are united in their love for a family. This was true at Helen Manning's 90th Birthday party. Fun was had by all and the birthday girl was totally surprised. She was told it was going to be a Third Army Banquet and awards celebration. She was escorted from her and Carlos's room by Col's. Ray Marino and Bill White and meet at the door by General Patton. It was not until the door opened that she found out she was the guest of honor. There were well over a hundred of her closest friends and family.



**Helen escorted by Ray Marino and Bill White**



**Helen's birthday party**

The food was great and the celebration of life was as it should be, fun loving. There were many testimonials by folks there as they told what "Everyone Grand Ma" meant to them. She has helped many a young person find themselves, given them a place to sleep, saw they had clothing, gave

the motherly loving and advice and looked after them. This was their time to say thank you. .... And they lined up to love her and tell her how much she had meant to them.

Happy Birthday Helen from Friends and family!

**"You're never beaten until  
you admit it."**

**GSP**



## Just Like We Do

By Gen. Denny Hair  
patton@pattonthirdarmy.com

The fun of dressing up and attending costume parties is a time honored tradition and does not stop with children when they dress up and pretend to be some knight or lady in waiting. When one stars in a play or even has a small part, they enjoy dressing up and pretending to be the person they are playing. Hollywood has taken this to a high art form. The best of the best, as judged by their peers, are awarded with an Oscar. The Movie "Patton" received 7 Oscars in several categories, including best actor, George C. Scott, for his portrayal of Patton.



**The Pattons as '49ers**

In the Patton family, George and Beatrice Patton encouraged their children to learn history, pretend and dream of the times gone by and pushed them to be in plays and theater. They attended many costume parties and loved "dressing up". When the two daughters of Patton, Beatrice "Little B" and Ruth Ellen, began to date, they invited their boyfriends to dress up with them and play parts. At one party, Ruth Ellen Patton dressed herself as Scarlet O'Hare from the movie Gone with the Wind, and her boyfriend came as Brett Butler. In fact the whole party, while stationed at Fort Myer Virginia in 1940, was based on the movie and all of the guests dressed the parts.

Living History was taken by the Patton family as great fun but it had a good use as well. The reading of poetry, books on history and recreating history was common place. They grew up loving history. Beatrice Patton studied the Hawaiian culture, went to all the functions she could and volunteered at the local museum. She even wrote a novel called "Blood of the Shark" about her experiences and the folklore of the Hawaiians.



**Gen. Patton as King Arthur**

The Patton's attended the theater as much as they could; they recreated the plays at home and loved to read poetry. Rudyard Kipling was one of the favorite poets of the Patton's and one of George's Patton's favorite poets. He

often quoted from him.

When Patton could, he would dress up at events and become a character in history. He knew the part well and he would have read up on the character. He took it far more serious than just putting together a costume. He put the exact uniform or clothing together as he could and made it as authentic as possible. From there, he "became" the character, complete with actual quotes and demeanor, as far as it could be known.

He once dressed as King Arthur, complete with chain mail and a sword. He looked the part and authenticity was highly important to him. On another occasion, Beatrice and Patton

dressed as '49ers going to California looking to strike it rich in the gold rush of 1949. This attire for George Patton came complete with a six shooter tucked in is belt, a hat of the period with vest and tie of the period. He could have walked into a modern day living history event and no one would have found fault with his impression. He could have come as King Arthur at a modern day Renaissance festival and no one would have thought his impression out of place or incorrect. He absolutely loved doing it.

Now the question sometimes arises, "Would General Patton approve of what we do? You bet he would! In fact, he would be highly honored. However, he would insist we study the history and get the uniforms and gear right. If he were here today, he would join right in with us.



## Meeting Patton

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

Ninety-four year old Elmer Christensen served as a P-38 fighter pilot in the 9th Air Force 367th Fighter Group in Europe during WWII. He flew 70 missions, including D-Day, and has a lot of stories to tell about being a fighter pilot. When you think of the Air Corps and fighter pilots you may not think about General Patton, but Christensen would be privileged to have a few experiences with the general.



**Lt. Col. Christensen**

The 367th provided close air support for Patton's Third Army, jumping from base to base hitting targets, landing, re-arming, re-fueling and taking on other targets. On one particular landing, and as Christensen put it, "Patton's 3rd Army was still shooting Germans" they would essentially "liberate" a German Officers club that contained every imaginable drink you could think of. Christensen was among those would spend the next two hours "talking tactics" with General

Patton amid the spoils of their capture.

Christensen's second meeting with General Patton would happen in relation to a high level conference. I am still unclear of which conference this was as Christensen mentioned they were in Reims, France, but I actually believe this was the conference that was held possibly in London, to discuss Operation Overlord, which included General Patton, Eisenhower, Churchill, Major General Quesada (the tactical commander of the 9th Air Force), among other top brass. I plan on confirming the date and location when I finish interviewing Christensen.

At this meeting General Patton came in and handed out German Luger's to the men as a thanks for the air support they had given him over the past 5 months. Christensen's service spanned 1942 to 1981 retiring as a Lt. Col.



## Chief of Staff Update

By Brig. Gen Mike Maloney  
chiefofstaff@pattonthirdarmy.com

Happy New Year, I trust that everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a safe New Year.

In November, Tom Pachalos and I attended a one day militaria show in San Antonio, Texas where we had 2 table displays set up to promote what we do. Tom wore his German Field Marshal's uniform and I in my General's uniform. We were well received and we both handed out several pamphlets on what we do and spoke at length to several people who stopped by the tables. Also, in late November, a one day battle in Peru, Kansas where Tom Pachalos and I traveled to attend, at a location called the "Brick Yard." I attended as a German, and Brian Brown of the gaming group joined us. This was his first living history event, so he could see how the "other side" performs. The Brick Yard is a brick factory that is now in disarray and the lay-out includes: a town, court yards, one room buildings, underground sewers, and



San Antonio Militaria Show

rolling hills. These are some of the best battle areas that I have seen in a long time. The folks who put it on were some of the nicest bunch of people that you would want to meet. All were helpful, respectful, great sense of humor, and best of all, there was no politics involved on either side. There were GI's, British, Russians, Partisan's and German's



Display in San Antonio

represented. While speaking to several of those who attended, many have heard of what we do and several have seen us in the past at Fort Oglethorpe.

The Gaming group has been taking off like a rocket, with several new members and several indicating that they want to start participating as living historians. In December, the Gaming group hosted the "Battle of the Bulge," and Denny was able give a Patton speech to all who participated via "TeamSpeak." It was well received by all and just by that more game members became more interested in what we do in the living history side.

With this new medium added to our Family and the record number of hits on our website, looks like 2014 will be a busy year!



"Brick Yard" Event



## History of Co. A, 503d MP Bn in WWII

By 1st Sgt. Wayne Coulter  
coulterww@yahoo.com

The 503rd Military Police Battalion was activated in February of 1943 at Fort Sam Houston to take over guarding Third Army Headquarters. At the time, General Courtney Hodges was in command of the Third US Army, a position that was destined to fall on probably the most famous US General of the modern Age, General George Smith Patton.

The men of the 503rd were a mixture of recruits and experienced infantrymen, taken from a wide cross section of the country. The training cadre of infantry officers and non-commissioned officers were tasked to turn the recruits into Soldiers and instill into them the knowledge and esprit de corps needed for them to stand heads above all other soldiers. Recruits into the MP Battalions were selected for their physical fitness and high I.Q. and were rigorously whipped into fighting shape. The training as Military Policemen, which would come later, would be conducted by the Battalion's officers; First, it was up to the non-coms to whip them into shape as Soldiers. The mix of experienced infantry personnel helped to lessen the time needed to bring the unit to a fully trained status as they imparted their hard won combat experience to the recruits.

The training was fast and arduous, and many in the 503rd found themselves guarding elements of the Third Army Headquarters at Fort Sam Houston with little more than three week's experience in the Army. Their first taste of putting what they'd learned into practice was at the Louisiana Maneuvers in April of 1943. During these maneuvers, many Soldiers directed traffic for the first time, learning battlefield command and control and Enemy Prisoner of War handling procedures as well as convoy escort and command post guards. The men arrived with little training and even less practical experience and were forced to learn these tasks the hard way... by experience.

Part of the 503rd was tasked to support the Western Task Force as it entered the war effort in Casablanca, North Africa. During operations in that operation, 503rd MPs guarded many of the Prisoner of War compounds and processed thousands of POWs. They were tasked to accompany the POWs back to the US and upon their return the entire battalion was together for the first time. Up until this point, the training had been conducted separately. Now, the unit would be trained as a whole.

The Battalion was alerted for overseas movement in December of 1943 and shipped out for England in January of 1944, a little less than a year after being formed as a Battalion. By January 29th, they had reached Peover Hall camp in England, where the US Third Army was stationed. Upon their arrival, they found their new commander was none other Than General George S. Patton. Several times after arriving, Company A was tasked with providing Soldiers for local Soldier Parades which led to them being chosen to be the Company tasked with the Security of the Third Army Headquarters.

Training continued towards the invasion of the European Continent that everyone knew was coming. June 6th, 1944, or D-Day as it was known came and went and it wasn't until July 4th that the Third Army HQ boarded an LST for the trip across channel to the Normandy Beachhead. Upon arrival, all those not tasked with specific missions were pressed into service as stevedores, unloading the ships and preparing to move inland. The Nazi's sent planes over the first few nights to bomb and strafe and generally make a nuisance of themselves... something they wouldn't dare try in daylight hours due to US air superiority.

Third Army units began arriving on the 10th of July and the Military policemen of A/503rd MP Bn who were not involved in guarding the Third Army HQ were tasked to escort convoys of arriving units off the beaches and to their assembly areas. This was often not as easy as it sounds as the Military Policemen had only a few days to learn the road network and often German counter attacks and snipers made travelling these roads suspect at best. Often, single MPs were tasked with holding a particular road junction and guiding arriving units in the right directions.

The first week of August was a hectic time indeed. The First Army had breached the German lines and the Third Army moved to exploit the breakthrough. Thousands of prisoners were being captured and processed to the POW cages. During one German counter attack, German Forces came within a half mile of one of the PW cages. Luckily, the attack failed. A Company kept pace with the Third Army HQ, providing close escort and guards for the Army Command element and command post. The Third Army moved often, as General Patton preferred to keep his command post as close to the front as possible. August and September were busy times as we attacked and eventually bypassed Metz and found eventually settled for a while anyway in Nancy. Sgt. Sam Garzia said it best, "...we were constantly on the move until the third week of September when the supply situation eventually brought things to a halt..."

It wasn't until November that the Third Army got on the move again and finally attacked and captured Metz. The first weeks of December brought a host of V.I.P. visitors such as General Eisenhower, General Marshall as well as contingents of congressmen from the US. Company A was tasked with providing escort and guard duties of these visiting dignitaries.

On the 16th of December, the Germans counter attacked in the Ardennes Forest along an 80 mile front. It took a few days to gauge the severity of the attack, during which the 101st Airborne was surrounded, holding the town of Bastogne and its important road junctions. The Third Army pivoted 90 degrees and attacked north into the First Army's Area of operations fighting their way north to relieve the 101st Airborne Division in the town of Bastogne. The Germans had commando units dressed as Americans ranging behind American lines to commit sabotage and make chaos. Military Police were pivotal in rounding up these Germans, most of which were executed by firing squads as spies. It was well into January before the US forces were able to push the Germans back and erase the gains made by the failed German offensive.

The months following the Ardennes offensive of December 1944 were relatively quiet as the front lines pushed farther and farther away from the Third Army HQ. US forces had crossed

into Germany and the HQ was forced to remain further back than normal due to snipers and other units of Germans, making even captured areas unsafe. Snipers were known to have killed allied Soldiers even 100 miles or more behind the lines. In April, the Third Army crossed the Rhine River and settled into Frankfurt am Main then on into Mainz. By Early May, the Third Army HQ had pushed forward to Erlangen and it was at Erlangen that the war ended for the Third Army. After the end of the war, Third Army HQ moved to Bad Tolz and set up and the 503rd transitioned from a combat MP unit to an occupation unit, policing the towns and Soldiers within its area of operations. A Company still provided guards for the HQ command post and General Patton.

Reference:

*The Story of A*, by Samuel A. Garzia



## Headquarters Notes

### G-1 Personnel

By CWO. Brian Hart  
balls2n@yahoo.com

Promotions and awards over the past quarter

Promotions

To First Sergeant - Co. A, 503d MP – Wayne Coulter

Awards

ETO Ribbon 1<sup>st</sup> Award - Ryan Bever, Tim Flemke, Travis Smith, Clint Vaughn, Brent Dudgeon, Doug Fesko. The ETO ribbon was presented to individuals who have attended a previous event and a second event supporting Third Army.

Certificate of Achievement – Ryan Bever, Wayne Coulter, Tim Flemke, Travis Smith, Clint Vaughn, Brent Dudgeon, Doug Fesko, William White. This award was presented for the listed individuals attending and working at the WWII Days event in Rockford, IL

### G-2 Intelligence

By Lt. Col. Dave Davis  
sgtmajorsattic@yahoo.com

Preliminary reports for Camp Atterbury event in April have German forces massing to prevent Allied invasion.

Reinforcement of positions and additional troop movements are evident. Allied troops massing and will converge on site early evening on 11 April.

### G-3 Operations

By Maj. Dave Weakley  
dwweakley@yahoo.com

The G-3 is currently working on the Camp Atterbury Event planned for 11-13 April. The event will be set during the Normandy landings with various full immersion scenarios as the 70th Anniversary of D-Day is this year. Things are still being worked on and planned and there will be more info to come. Check the event website for info, photos and the registration link at [www.atterburyardennes13.eventbrite.com/](http://www.atterburyardennes13.eventbrite.com/) We assisted E Co 505th PIR 82nd Airborne {Event Host} with the School of the Soldier to be held at Fort Harrison Indiana last Nov. 8,9,10 We had a good turnout 16 Germans and 15 Allied troops in attendance. For those of you that made it out to the

event, Thanks for Coming!!!

For those that didn't make it you missed some good classes and an awesome weekend! Special Thanks to the members of 5th Wiking that came and participated in the event! Class subjects were, Military Customs and courtesies, Drill & Ceremonies, Patrolling, Weapons and Safety, German phrases. The Germans had their own classes, Hand signals, MG class and several others. Then we had the Field Portion, Ambushes, Head to head force meetings. All went to the Garrison Inn for the Buffet and had a very nice dinner. We did field some questions from some of the patrons asking questions on both the Allied and Axis Groups and wanting to know when they could see us in action again.

The next event we held was at Camp Atterbury 6-8 December in the Ardennes 1944. We had a low turnout for this one due to a heavy snow storm come through that weekend. We were short on Germans so we had some GI's play on the Axis side and it played into the scenario very well and confused the Allies just like the battle of the Bulge. But those that attended had a great time in the new area we used!

### G-4 Supply

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

## Upcoming events

**11 – 13 April 2014** – Normandy 1944, Hosted by Third Army, Camp Atterbury, Indiana, a full immersion event with multiple scenarios for attendees.

To register: [www.atterburyardennes13.eventbrite.com/](http://www.atterburyardennes13.eventbrite.com/)

Event specifics: <http://cpatterburyww2ne.webs.com/>



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