



THE MARCHER

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION THE MARYLAND-DC CHAPTER

John D. Bowen Editor

ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

Jan/Feb 2016

DECEASED MEMBERS

Please remember our members

Who have died.

**MAY THEY REST
IN PEACE**

GET WELL SOON

Earle O. Edmunds
26th InfD 101st Inf Hq 2nd Bn

Richard L, Elliott, Jr.
90th InfD 357th Inf Co C

Neil Thompson
740th Tank Bn

Please keep them in your prayers.

Next Meeting
Sunday
14 Feb 2016
11:00 AM – 2:00 PM
BASTA PASTA
Timonium MD
Business Meeting
at 12:30 PM
Future Meetings
10 Apr 2016
12 Jun 2016
14 Aug 2016
16 Oct 2016
11 Dec 2016

OFFICERS

Pres	John R. Schaffner
VPres	Gary Patucci
Treas	Marcy Schuerholz
Sec	John D Bowen
Trustee	Travis Aldous
Trustee	Gary Pattuci
Sgt/Arms	Lew Nash
Chaplain	
PPres	Albert A. Darago, Jr.
PPres	John R. Schaffner
PPres	Earle O. Edmunds
*PPres	Daniel Funk
*PPres	John Worthington III
*PPres	Demetri "Dee" Paris
*PPres	Syd Lawrence
*PPres	Richard Schlenker
*PPres	Ben Layton III
*PPres	Ed Radzwich
*PPres	Grover Twiner
*PPres	Woody Purcell
*PPres	Darrell Kuhn
*PPres	CA Blaquie Culp
PPres	Neil B Thompson
* Deceased	

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CORNER

FEBRUARY 2016	FEBRUARY 2016	FEBRUARY 2016
0205 Kiser, Wayne E 26 InfD 101 Inf H	0217 Janosko, Gary S Associate	0224 Coleman, Frank M
0212 White, Francis M. Associate	0219 Aldous, Travis H. Associate	
0216 Maroney, Niles D 106th InfD 423 Inf L	0221 Wilson, Julian A 28 InfD 112 Inf Hq 3 Bn	© 50 **75, ***80, ****85, 90 95
MARCH 2016	MARCH 2016	MARCH 2016
0310 Godfrey, Barbara T Widow Arrel 106 InfD		0330 Edmunds, Earle O 26 InfD 101 Inf HQ 2 Bn

Valentine Luncheon, Sunday February 14th 2016
BASTA PASTA
60 West Timonium Road, Timonium MD 21093
11:00 AM

What better way to celebrate Valentine's day than to bring your sweetheart or significant other to our MD/DC Luncheon/Meeting. Your children and grandchildren are welcomed also. We will have an interesting World War II video after the Luncheon provided by John Bowen.

We will have a choice of one of four entrée items which includes salad dessert, beverage and coffee.

Chicken Umbertina, w/asparagus spears, artichokes, cherry tomatoes sautéed in EVOO garlic wine sauce & side of pasta

Orange Roughy Francaise, egg dipped, pan seared, finished w/lemon sauce and side of pasta

Shrimp Scampi, sautéed shrimp in their scampi sauce and tossed with linguine

Veal Parmigiana, breaded, topped with marinara, mozzarella and side of pasta

Dessert — Choice of Strawberry Cheesecake, Tiramisu or Sorbet

Alcoholic Drinks are available at addition cost to the individual.

Reservations: Please make your Luncheon reservations by **Wednesday, 10 February 2016** by calling **John Schaffner at 410-584-2754** or by e-mail to **pumexim2@verizon.net**. John Schaffner has an answering system so if he is not at home leave a message with your name and phone number. A menu will be distributed by the server to make your choice of the four entrees above at the luncheon. **The luncheon will be \$30 payable on the day of the event.** Luncheon guests should plan to arrive by 11:00 AM. For those wishing to attend the meeting only, please plan to be there before 12:30 PM.

DIRECTIONS: **BASTA Pasta is at 60 West Timonium Road, Timonium MD 21093.** It is just off Interstate 83 **north, Exit #16A**, at **Timonium Road East** and **quickly** move into the leftmost lane. Cross Deercro Road and the restaurant will be on your immediate LEFT, adjacent to the SUNOCO station. Access to parking is in front, side and rear. See you there! Bring the family!

ANNUAL TV RAFFLE

And the winner of the 32" High Definition Flat Screen Color Television was Steven Heffner of Keedyville MD, 87th InfD, 345th Inf, Hq 1st Bn. We thank all the members that participated in this fund raiser which again was a huge success.

MISSING FOR ACTION

ARE YOUR CHAPTER DUES MISSING FROM OUR TREASURY?
CHECK THE LIST ON THE NEXT PAGE AND IF YOUR NAME IS MISSING
IT MEANS THAT WE ARE MISSING YOUR DUES FOR 2016

A RED MARK ABOVE YOUR MAILING INFO ALSO MEANS THAT YOUR DUES ARE MISSING.

We noted that some folks sent in their Raffle tickets but did not send in their dues.

DUES ARE STILL \$10.00 PER YEAR OR CHAPTER LIFE MEMBERSHIP AT \$50.00 FOR BULGE VETS

THIS HELPS BRING YOU THIS NEWSLETTER.

CHAPTER DUES ARE FROM 16 DEC EACH YEAR TIL 15 DEC OF THE NEXT YEAR

YOU MUST BE A CURRENT MEMBER OF NATIONAL TO BE A CHAPTER MEMBER.

Mail your check made out to MD/DC VBOB
and mail it now to

John D. Bowen, Secretary
613 Chichester Lane
Silver Spring MD 20904-3331

THIS IS YOUR LAST ISSUE OF THE MARCHER IF DUES ARE NOT CURRENT

2016 DUES PAID

LIFE MEMBERS

ADDOR	DONALD J	10 ARMDD 20 ARMD INF BN HQ
ALDOUS	TRAVIS H	ASSOCIATE
ALTER	WAYNE E	3 ARMDD 36 INF 1 BN MEDICS
ANDERSON	LINDA	Associate
BACH	M. DAVE	84th INF 333rd INF
BAUERLIEN	VICKIE D.	Assoc Dau Hwd Green 6 Armdd 50
BEADENKOPF	LORETTA	Widow 1 INF 16 INF 2 BN F
BLADEN	JOHN A	106 INF 423 INF C
BOWEN	JOHN D.	31 INF 167 INF H, Korean
BRYANT	MADELEINE J	Daug FRITZ G A KRAEMER 84
CAHOON	JOHN E.	26 INF 101 INF 3 BN HQ
DARAGO	DOROTHEA L.	Wife 143 AAA Gun Bn (Mbl)
DARAGO, JR	ALBERT A	143 AAA Gun Bn (Mbl)
DILLARD	DOUGLAS C.	82 ABN 508 PINF A
DIMLING	CHARLES E N	90th InfD 33898494
EDMUNDS	EARLE O.	26 INF 101 INF 2 BN HQ
FLEMING	LINDA	2772 ENGRS (TOPO) WIDOW
GODFREY	BARBARA T	Husband Arrel 106 INF 592 FA
HOHL	CHARLES R.	4 ARMDD 35 TK BN C
JONES	THOMAS	818 COMBT MP CO
KARAMALES	JAY	Associate
LAWRENCE	MARGARET R	Wid: SYD LAWRENCE 49 AAA B
MARONEY	NILES D.	106 INF 423 INF L
MASCONI	PATRICIA	106 INF 422 INF M father
Mc GREW	KENNETH H.	26 INF 101 INF E
MC KINLEY, JR	JOHN D	87 INF 346 INF F
MILLER	RALPH C	2 INF 9 INF B
MORGENSTERN	EDWIN A.	17 ABND 193 INF D
NELSON, JR.	WILBUR O	9 ARMDD 3 AFA BN
POMFRET	JAMES J.	Uncle KIA in BOB 1 InfD 18
RADFORD	WILLIAM B.	SON OF WM. J. RADFORD
SCHAFFNER	JOHN R	106 INF 589 FA BN
SCHAFFNER	ROBERT W.	106th InfD 586 FA Bn SON
SHEHAB	ALFRED H. M.	38 CAV RECON SQDN 102
SMITH	ELIZABETH	Daughter Thomas & Mary Sears
SMOLLON	FRANK J.	99 INF 393 INF K
STOCKETT	WILLIAM T.	84 INF 784 ORD LM CO
STRANK	ROSLYN	Widow 901st FA Bn.
THOMPSON	NEIL BROWN	740 TK BN (MED SPL) A 1st Plt
WILSON	JULIAN A.	28 INF 112 3 BN HQ
ZEITCHIK	HERMAN	4 INF 42 FA BN HQ BTRY

ANNUAL MEMBERS

CUNNINGHAM	LOUIS E	106 INF
DIDAY	GRIFFEN D.	ASSOC., Uncle 83rd InfD
DIERKER	MILTON L	ASSOCIATE
ELLIOTT, JR.	RICHARD L.	90 INF 357 INF 1 BN C
HARDY.	CHARLES J.	1053rd ENGR PORT CONSTR
HEFFNER JR	STEPHEN L	87 INF 345 INF Hq 1 BN
HOKE	THOMAS E.	87 DIV 312 MED BN C
JOHNSON-	IRVIN W	87th InfD 345th Inf Co K
JONES	NEVADA C.	Widow 17 ABND 513 PCHT
KISER	WAYNE E	26th InfD 101st Inf Co H
KORAL	JOHN	796 AAA AW Bn Btry A
KUYKENDALL	ROBERT M	ASSOCIATE
LARKIN	MIKE J.	ASSOCIATE
LEVIN	LAWRENCE	7th ArmD 489th AFA Bn
LILL	RICHARD A.	27 AIRTRANS GP 320 TRA
NASH	LEWIS W.	Associate Korean War Vet
OGDEN, JR.	JAMES H	87th InfD 346th Inf Co L
PARIS	THOMAS	Son Dee Paris 9th ArmD
PATUCCI-	GARY	ASSOCIATE
PATUCCI	JOSEPH	45 INF
PHELPS	BETTY	Niece Bob Bell 82nd AbnD
ROYCE	ROBERT F.	87 INF 347 INF HQ 1ST B
SCHUERHOLZ	MARCY	ASSOC Dad 17 ABND 680
STINCHCOMB	PARICIA	ASSOC Dad 17 ABND 680
WRIGHT	JOHN E.	482 ENGR MAINT CO

If you believe that you paid your dues and you do not find your name on the above list please contact the Secretary, John Bowen at 301-384-6533.

We welcome the upgrade of the following
Annual Members to

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Roslyn Strank
Travis H. Aldous

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY



DONATIONS

We wish to thank all those who put a little something extra into their check to the Chapter along with their dues. Postage and copying expense continues to go up each year. Donations are always welcomed.

Madeleine J. Bryant, Associate
Douglas Dillard, 82nd AbnD, 508th PInf Co A
Richard L. Elliott, Jr., 90th InfD 357th Inf C
Charles J. Hardy, 1053rd Engr Port Constr
Richard A. Lill, 27th Air Tran Gp, 320 Trans
James H. Ogden, Jr., 87th InfD 346th Inf Co L
Betty Phelps, Associate
James J. Pomfret, Uncle KIA 1 InfD 18 Inf

And to thank all who supported our TV Raffle by purchasing tickets. These added funds have allowed us to keep our dues constant In spite of Postal and copying increases.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

History is something that we never seem to run out of. Every day we add another page. Some days are more important than others, but when it comes to those days near the end of one's life, all of them are important. The American Legion is currently participating with The Library of Congress to collect and record documents and oral histories from those veterans of all wars. This is a unique opportunity for you as a veteran to contribute your experience as a veteran to a facility for preservation and research. The very existence today of our great country was made possible by those who faced our enemies and defended our way of life. Cooperate with your local American Legion Post to contribute to the *Veteran's History Project*. You do not have to be a member, just willing. There is no cost and you will be given a DVD of your interview to keep. Contact your local American Legion Post and make an appointment with the interviewer.

"They also serve, those who are waiting at home." In this case it was two 15 year old high school students. The year was 1944, and even at that young age, and far removed from the violence of war, they had a concept of what was happening in the world. They put their heads together and composed this poem. One of these ladies was a close friend and has given me permission to use it in this newsletter It follows:

Christmas 1944

The birthday of Christ again draws near,
A kind of different Christmas this year.
Many of our boys are now far away
They won't have much joy on Christmas day.
They're fighting for us - God bless each one,
Keep them safe until their job is done.

Their thoughts wander far from the horrors of war,
To Christmas trees lighted and wreaths on the door.
They dream a lot, though facing grave danger,
And think of the Christ child born in a manger.
They dream of the cookies that Mom used to make,
Of sweet apple cider and nut fruit cake.

Let's all try to make those dreams come true,
Dreams of those fighting for the red, white, and blue.
Make this Christmas happy for each fighting man,
Spread cheer and gladness as best you can.
Pray to God to keep them all alive,
And bring them home for Christmas, forty-five.

By Mary Lyons and Betty Hartman, 1944

Come and join us on Sunday, February 14, 2016, at Basta Pasta for great company, a nice time, and fine dining. Bring a friend, we would love to have you with us.

A special thanks to John Bowen, our editor and publisher of The Marcher. We depend on it. And, to my helpers, Marcy and Madeleine, who always pitch in to make our meeting a pleasure. Thanks also to Lew Nash who always provides us with a special home made treat.

God Bless The U.S.A.

John R. Schaffner

❖ WWII MUSINGS ❖

Volume 24 Issue 1

John D. Bowen, Editor

Jan/Feb 2016

"TERRY & THE PIRATES"

Spreads the Word On Security During WWII

by David Langbart,

Archivist at the National Archives at College Park MD

From August 28, 1943 to February 6, 1944, the plot line of one of America's most popular daily comic strips, "Terry and the Pirates" by Milton Caniff, included as one element the issue of information security. Even though the action in the strip took place within the context of military operations in China and its environs, this was no incidental plot line. It was all part of an organized governmental effort to alert the American public to the need for security; an effort in which Milton Caniff was intimately involved.

In late summer of 1942, after the U.S. had formally been at war for several months, senior representatives of the Army, the Navy, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), met with a representative of the Office of War Information (OWI), the U.S. World War II-era propaganda agency. They met to discuss the need for some sort of action to educate the public about the need for security for military information such as troop movements, production, and shipping activities. While the three agencies agreed on such a need, there existed no mechanism for them to work together on that.

Recognizing the need for such an information program, OWI agreed to take on that task. The result was the establishment of the Security of War Information Campaign, sometimes referred to as the "hush-hush campaign," and the Security Committee, which cleared all plans for that effort. The Committee included representatives of OWI, the Army, the Navy, the FBI, and other agencies. The Committee's first meeting took place in October 1942. As a result of those actions, in addition to telling America's story, OWI had responsibilities for preventing useful information from reaching the Axis enemy.

During the first eight months, the work of the campaign focused on generally educating the public about the need for security using the themes "Careless Talk Costs Lives" and "Think Before You Talk." In addition, all U.S. Government agencies were asked to instruct their employees about the program, too. The campaign spread the word through posters, billboards, leaflets, radio broadcasts, the creation of local Security Committees, cooperation with advertisers who incorporated themes into their ads, stories and articles in magazines and newspapers, news releases, and movies.

In mid-1943, OWI expanded the security program to include other avenues for spreading the word. While it is not clear exactly why, it reached out to Caniff, probably because "Terry and the Pirates" was a very popular strip and Caniff was known to be partial to American servicemen and wom-

(Continued on page 11)

St Patrick's Day Patrick

Sun, 13 March 2016

11:30 AM

Washington DC Mall

Get your marching shoes shined!

We will gather again outside the old Smithsonian Castle, on the Mall side.

Look for the VBOB Flag

And WWII Uniforms & vehicles

Please wear an overseas cap and your medals or ribbons

Vehicles will be available for the walking wounded, furnished by the Military Vehicle Collectors Society, however as many of you as can march are asked to show the younger generations how it is done!

Our National organization and all Chapters have been invited once again to march in our Nation's St Patrick's Parade, down Constitution Avenue from 7th to 17th Streets NW.

We especially would like to have marchers to show the crowd that you Bulge Veterans still have alot of kick. The march is about one mile, nothing like those five mile or 20 mile marches that you had to pass.

It is a particular pleasure to march in this parade because we salute "Those Who Serve" as you once did.. Each year that we have marched we have had continuous applause from the crowd along the whole parade route, something no other unit has sustained. We have won 7 trophies and this past year we won the "People's Choice" trophy.

So get those marching shoes shined and caps out and if you can still get into your uniform please wear it as it really is a crowd pleaser. Mark your calendars for the 13th of March. See you there! Call John Bowen 301-384-6533 for further information and let him know you are coming.

We salute

THOSE WHO SERVE

**Fire-Police-Active Military-National Guard-Postal
As You Once Did**

FREEDOM IS NOT FREE

EDITOR's CORNER**AND THEN IT IS WINTER**

You know, time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seem just yesterday that I was young, just married and embarking on my new life with my mate. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went. I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams.

But here it is—the 'back nine' of my life and it catches me by surprise. How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go? I remember vividly seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that 'I was only on the first hole' and the 'back nine' was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like.

But, here it is . . . My friends are retired and getting grey. They move slower and I see an older person now. Some are in better and some in worse shape than me, but I see the great change. Not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant . . . But like me, their age is beginning to show and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought that we'd become. Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore . . . it's mandatory! Cause if I don't on my own free will, I just fall asleep where I sit (which I am doing now)!

And so, now I enter into this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did! But, at least I know, that though I'm on the 'back nine' and I'm not sure how long it will last, that I know for sure, that when it's over on this earth . . . It's over. A new adventure will begin!

Yes I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done . . . Things I should have done, but indeed, there are many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.

So if you are not on the 'back nine' yet . . . Let me remind you, that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life please do it quickly! Don't put things off too long! Life goes by quickly. So do what you can today, as you can never be sure whether you're on the 'back nine' or not! You have no prom-

ise that you will see all the seasons of your life . . . So, live for today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember, and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past!

"Life" is a gift to you. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. Make it a fantastic one.

LIVE IT WELL!

ENJOY TODAY!

DO SOMETHING FUN!

BE HAPPY!

HAVE A GREAT DAY!

Remember, "It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver."

LASTLY CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

- ~Your kids are becoming you-But your grandchildren are perfect*
- ~Going out is good. Coming home is better!*
- ~You forget names Bit it's OK because other people forget they even knew you!*
- ~You realize you're never going to be really good at anything . . . especially golf!*
- ~The things you used to care to do, you no longer care to do, but you really do care that you don't care to do them anymore!*
- ~You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV blaring than in bed. It's called "pre-sleep."*
- ~You miss the days when everything worked on just an "ON" and "OFF" switch!*
- ~You tend to use more 4 letter words . . "What?" . . When? . . ???*
- ~Now that you afford expensive jewelry, it's not safe to wear it anywhere!*
- ~You notice everything that they sell in stores is "sleeveless!"*
- ~What used to freckles are now liver spots!*
- ~Everybody whispers!*
- ~You have 3 sizes of clothes in your closet . . . 2 of which you will wear!*
- ~But old is good in some things, Old Songs, Old Memories and best of all OLD FRIENDS!*

Stay well, "OLD FRIEND!" Share this with other "OLD FRIENDS!" and let them laugh in AGREEMENT!

It's not what you gather, but what you scatter that tells what kind of life you have lived!

TODAY IS THE OLDEST YOU'VE EVER BEEN, YET THE YOUNGEST YOU'LL EVER BE, SO ENJOY THIS DAY WHILE IT LASTS!

Anonymous! Found on the Internet!

WWII Musings is published for the enjoyment of WWII Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. It is based on the research of John D. Bowen, 613 Chichester Ln, Silver Spring MD 20904-3331 in the Unit Records maintained at the National Archives. Proper credit should be given both to the researcher and to the National Archives. Your comments are welcome. johndbowen@earthlink.net or 301-384-6533

DEFINITIONS**HOGWASH**

Steamboats carried both people & animal. Since pigs smelled so bad they would be washed before being put on board. The mud and other filth that was washed off was considered useless "hogwash."

HOT OFF THE PRESS

As the paper goes through the rotary printing press friction causes it to heat. Therefore, if you grab the paper right off the press, it is hot.

The expression means: to get immediate information

Hunting Hitler Part II: The Bunker (April 29—April 30)

Posted on November 12, 2015 by Netisha
This post was written by Dr. Greg Bradsher, Archivist at the National Archives in College Park, MD.
This is the second blog in a multi-part series

Around noon on April 29, 1945, the three couriers with copies of Adolf Hitler's private will and political testament (and one with his marriage license) left the Berlin bunker and headed west. For those still in the bunker, the day was one of feeling trapped and waiting for Hitler to kill himself. Although few believed it would happen, some still were hopeful that the German relief forces would break through the Russian corridor around Berlin and save them.^[1]

Hitler ate lunch around 2pm, as usual in the company of the secretaries Gerda Christian and Gertrude Junge. Christian later recalled that nothing was spoken about Hitler's intention to die or about the manner in which this was to take place.^[2] During the afternoon, communications with the outside world were all but broken and the occupants of the bunker increasingly became unawares of what was happening on the various fronts.^[3] Sometime, probably around 4pm, General Alfred Jodl was able to get a message to the bunker that in essence said that the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces (OKW) knew nothing about the Ninth Army; believed General Wenck's Twelfth Army was to be near Potsdam; and OKW could only report a hasty withdrawal westwards by Army Group Vistula.^[4]

Around 4 or 4:30pm, at a situation conference, Hitler sent for SS Brigadefuehrer Wilhelm Mohnke, the commandant of the Chancellery, and requested an update on what was happening in Berlin. Mohnke spread out a map of central Berlin and reported that in the north the Russians had moved close to the Weidendammer Bridge; in the east they were at the Lustgarten; in the south, the Russians were at Potsdamer Platz and the Aviation Ministry; and in the west they were in the Tiergarten, somewhere between 170 and 250 feet from the Reich Chancellery. When Hitler asked how much longer Mohnke could hold out, the answer was "At most twenty to twenty-four hours, my Fuehrer, no longer."^[5]

After the situation conference, sometime between 5pm and 6pm, Erich Kempka (Hitler's chief driver and head of the Fuehrer's motor pool) visited the bunker. Outside Hitler's personal apartment, he stopped to talk. Kempka said Hitler was composed and completely calm. "Even I, who knew him so well, could not read from his attitude the decision he had already taken to end his life." In his right hand he held a large-scale map of Berlin. His left hand trembled slightly; a condition in the final months that was virtually permanent. Hitler asked Kempka about the status of the motor pool. Kempka replied that the vehicles were in bad condition, destroyed and damaged, but that they were still able to transport the necessary food for the emergency hospitals within the zone of the Chancellery. Hitler then asked him how he saw things, to which Kempka replied that his men were involved in the defense of the Reich Chancellery in the sector between the Brandenburg Gate and Potsdamer Platz. Hitler asked what did his men think. Kempka replied that without exception they were maintaining a bearing beyond reproach and waiting for relief by General Wenck. Hitler responded quickly "We are all waiting for Wenck!" Hitler and Kempka then shook hands, and Hitler spoke a word of encouragement, smiled and then entered his personal room. Kempka left to join his men. In 1948, Kempka said that at no time did Hitler say goodbye or farewell. Kempka speculated that probably Hitler had not set the time of the suicide in his mind yet.^[6]

At about 10pm Hitler summoned SS-Gruppenfuehrer Johann Rattenhuber, Chief of the Reich Security Service (responsible for Hitler's protection) to his room and ordered him to gather the leading personnel of the Headquarters and his close collaborators in his reception room. "I remember," he later recalled, "that at that moment Hitler looked like a man who had taken a very significant decision. He sat on the edge of a desk, his eyes fixed on one point. He looked determined." Rattenhuber went to the door to carry out his order, but Hitler stopped him and said, as far as he could remember, the following: "*You have served me faithfully for many years. Tomorrow is your birthday and I want to congratulate you now and to thank you for your faithful service, because, I shall not be able to do so tomorrow...I have taken the decision...I must leave this world'...*"

Rattenhuber went over to Hitler and told him how necessary his survival was for Germany, that there was still a chance to try and escape from Berlin and save his life. "What for?" Hitler argued. "Everything is ruined, there is no way out, and to flee means falling into the hands of the Russians...There would never have been such a moment, Rattenhuber," he continued, "and I would never have spoken to you about my death, if not for Stalin and his army. You try to remember where my troops were...And it was only Stalin who prevented me from carrying out the mission entrusted to me from heaven'..." According to Rattenhuber, Eva Braun came in from the next room and then for several more minutes Hitler talked of himself – of his role in history, that had been prepared for him by destiny, and shaking hands with Rattenhuber asked him to leave them alone. Rattenhuber thought, after him speaking about his mission from heaven, "He had lost his head from fear."^[7]

Shortly after 10pm Rattenhuber gathered up the individuals Hitler had requested. Among those present for a meeting with Hitler were Joseph Goebbels, Martin Bormann, Hans Krebs, Wilhelm Burgdorf, and Colonel Nicolaus von Below, Hitler's Luftwaffe adjutant. Under fire from machine-guns and grenade-launchers, General Helmuth Weidling, Commandant of Berlin, reached the Bunker covered in mud. The atmosphere in the bunker was like that of a front-line command post. All who gathered there for the situation report were in a despondent mood. Hitler, "his face still more pinched, was looking fixedly at the map spread before him." Weidling told Hitler that the situation in the city was hopeless, and that the civilian population, in particular, was in a very bad state. He described the deteriorating military situation. The Russians, he said, would reach the Chancellery by May 1 at the latest. Weidling suggested the troops in Berlin try to break out. Hitler replied this was impossible as the soldiers were battle-weary,

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7) **Hunting Hitler Part II: The Bunker** ill-armed, and without ammunition. He then suggested that Hitler break out of the city with him and the surviving garrison, but Hitler categorically refused.^[8]

Still, Weidling persistently asked Hitler to permit a breakout as soon as possible. Hitler, according to Weidling, with bitter irony in his voice, said “Look at my map. Everything shown on it is not based on information from the Supreme Command, but from foreign radio station broadcasts. No one reports to us. I can order anything, but none of my orders is carried out any more.” Krebs supported Weidling in his attempts to get permission for a breakout. At last it was decided that, as there were no airborne supplies, the troops could break out in small groups, but on the understanding that they should continue to resist wherever possible. Capitulation was out of the question. Weidling felt that although he had failed to get Hitler to call a final halt to the bloodshed, he had managed to persuade him to end resistance in Berlin.^[9]

About 10:30pm an orderly came into the conference and said he had heard a shortwave broadcast reporting news of that Mussolini and his mistress had been executed by Italian partisans. He may or may not have learned that their bodies had been hoisted upside down in Milan and that their bodies were pelted with stones by the vindictive crowd. In any event Hitler had already determined that his own body should be burned to prevent its exhibition.^[10]

After the conference concluded von Below met with Hitler. Earlier during the day von Below had asked Hitler if he would allow him to attempt a breakout to the West. Hitler considered this straightaway and said only that it would probably be impossible. Von Below replied that he thought the way to the West would still be free. Hitler gave him written authority to go and told him he should report to the headquarters of the Combined General Staff, then at Ploen, and to deliver a document to Field Marshal Keitel. That afternoon von Below made his preparations and took part in the evening situation conference. Hitler gave him his hand and said only “best of luck.” After saying his goodbyes, Burgdorf handed von Below Hitler’s message. It was addressed to Keitel. In it Hitler stated that the fight for Berlin was drawing to its close, that he intended to commit suicide rather than surrender, that he had appointed Karl Doenitz as his successor, and that Hermann Goering and Heinrich Himmler had betrayed him. At midnight, with his batman Heinz Matthiesing, von Below left the bunker and followed roughly the same route as the others (including the three couriers) who had left earlier during the day.^[11]

It was apparently after Hitler had said his goodbyes to von Below that Hitler ordered his dog Blondi poisoned. This was in part because he wanted to ascertain the effectiveness of the poison capsules he had been given and also the desire not to have the dog captured by the Russians. After the poison had been administered the dog instantaneously died, Hitler came to see the results and to take his leave of the dog. According to witnesses, Hitler said nothing, nor did his face express any feeling. Afterwards, Hitler returned to his study. Junge later said that after Hitler had seen his dead dog, “His face was like his own death mask. He locked himself into his room without a word.”^[12]

While Hitler was in his room, Frau Junge and Frau

Christian were conversing and having coffee with two doctors, when Eva Braun joined them. She said that Hitler would die when he received confirmation that the documents carried by the couriers had reached the persons they had been sent to. She also said it would not be difficult to die because the poison had already been tested on a dog, and death would come quickly.^[13] Afterwards, Junge, Christian, and Eva Braun joined Hitler for a bite to eat. Hitler in a calm and deliberate manner said that there was no other way for him, than to commit suicide, because he wanted never, alive or dead, to fall into the hands of the enemy. He knew from the example of Mussolini, how he would be treated. He also said he could not fight with his soldiers, because in case he was wounded, there would not be anybody in his surroundings who would give him the mercy-shot, in case he was unable to do that himself. Hitler repeatedly told them that after he was dead, he wanted to be cremated so that nobody shall find him. He said the best is a shot through the mouth, death was instantaneous. Eva Braun was for taking cyanide and pulled a little brass cylinder out of her dress, asking whether it would hurt and stating that she was afraid to suffer. She added she was ready to die, but it must be painless. Hitler told her that cyanide causes paralysis of the nervous and breathing system and causes death in a few seconds. So Christian and Junge, not expecting anything good from the Russians, asked Hitler for an ampoule of poison. He walked to his bedroom where he got the poison. In handing it to them, he said, “I am sorry that as a parting gesture I cannot hand you a nicer present” and that they were very courageous and he wished his generals would have had so much poise and courage as the women did.^[14]

Meanwhile, at 10pm on April 29 the three couriers, Zander, Lorenz, and, Johannmeier, found two boats and pushed out into Havel lake, heading southwards for the Wannsee bridgehead, held by units of the German Ninth Army. In the early hours of April 30 they landed independently, Johannmeier on the Wannsee bridgehead, Lorenz and Zander on the Schwanenwerder Peninsula. There they remained, resting all day in underground bunkers; and in the evening they reunited, and sailed together to the Pfaueninsel, an island in the Havel. From the Wannsee bridgehead Johannmeier had been able to send a radio message to Doenitz, informing him of their position and asking that an airplane be sent to fetch them. On the Pfaueninsel, Johannmeier and Zander obtained civilian clothing and disposed of their uniforms.^[15]

Shortly after midnight of April 29, Hitler began saying his farewells, realizing he would die on April 30. These goodbyes were with four or five different groups.^[16] They lasted until sometime after 2am. One group consisted of some 20-25 persons who worked in the Reich Chancellery and lived in its underground bunker. These included the secretaries, many of them Hitler had never met. Another group, again numbering between 20-25 persons, included the officers of his escort commando. In the first instances Hitler shook hands with everybody, thanking each one individually. With the latter group he did not say anything when shaking hands.^[17]

When addressing the second group, Hitler, in a very calm and conversational manner, said that he did not wish to deliver himself to the Russians and that he, therefore, was going to end his life, and that he was now releasing them from their oath. He thanked them for their services and wished them all the

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RETROSPECT

The following is one of the more interesting conclusions to combat unit After/Action Reports. After/Action Reports ceased in Europe on 8 May 1945, the official surrender date. This report is from the 1-8 May 1945 After/Action Report of the 18th CAV Rcn Sq (Mecz) commanded by Wm F. Damon, Jr., Lt Col Cavalry.

It is midnight, 8 May 1945, and throughout Germany the grey green hordes that once ruled Europe, and were poised against England and America are now a soft mushy mass of an army, disorganized, without central leadership, and as completely and thoroughly beaten as no other great army in history has been beaten. This, then, was the end of that mad, senseless struggle that the Germans has painted in blood and flames across Europe. A struggle that has left most of Europe burned, destroyed and destitute; a struggle of the free peoples of the world against tyranny and madness of the German leaders and their equally and blind followers—the citizens and soldiers of the German Reich.

The officers and men of the 18th cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, Mechanized, are proud to have been able to contribute our small part to bring this long awaited and much dreamed about VE Day to a reality. Our nine months of combat were was highlighted by individual deeds of valor that will stand long in the memory of members of this Squadron. Names like Stalter, Reeves, Sarmanian, Monell, Lobato, Tully, Ross, Lieutenants Mills and Johnson, Captains Walker and Porche are names that have contributed greatly to the glorious achievement of the Army of the United States in the European Theater of Operations. But it is not only these names and many others that make us proud, it is more the spirit of understanding and cooperation existing among all personnel; of leadership of officers and non-commissioned officers; of teamwork and mutual respect we had for one another, and of willingness on the part of all to get the job done as efficiently and as rapidly as possible, that makes us proud of our outfit.

Our days, since our birth in Washington—our youth in Texas, and our maturity in France, Belgium and Germany were sometimes hectic and sometimes quiet and peaceful, but each day—the troubles and the peace built strength in our organization, to create in the end a battle tested outfit that proved its worth in combat, and contributed its share to the military history of our country.

When we left Camp Maxey, Texas, on the afternoon of 15 August 1944—destination unknown—most of us wondered what the future would hold; who would come back; who would distinguish himself, and when the going got tough would hold it all together? All was still in the future, though, even as we left Camp Shanks, New York—sailed on the S.S. Queen Elizabeth—equipped ourselves at Bournemouth in Southern England, and finally landed on Omaha Beach in the vicinity of Bayeau, France. It was still dreams when we left the Normandy Peninsula, after a brief tour of patrolling its west coast, on a rainy, muddy, cold march across France, Luxembourg, and Belgium—and, attached to the 2nd Infantry Division, took our place on a quiet sector of the Siegfried Line in the Vicinity of Manderfeld, Belgium, as Task Force “X.”

That first night, however, 22 October 1944, brought us to the sudden and sure realization that this was war—that these guns that we had cleaned and shot in practice would kill, and that it was us or the enemy from now on. These two months on the “line” were full of incidents although deadly serious at the time, have been the background for many a hearty laugh since. Many were the private “wars” that we had with too bold and too inquisitive German patrols. We’ll never forget “Pappy’s” (captain Meadows, Commanding Officer, Troop “E”) battle of the brush with a small German patrol and a fertile imagination as opponents.

It all started when Captain John Walker, Troop “C” called the Command Post one night and told the duty officer that a small German patrol had been observed in the rear of Weckerath, and had been fired on by the guard. The patrol then withdrew, and was seen to move towards Troop “E.” The Command Post called Troop “E” and told them of the presence of the Germans, but this was scarcely necessary because no sooner had the information been given out than every thing in the Troop “E” area cut loose—carbines, tommy guns, machine guns, and grenades all added to the din. Then came the telephone calls—“There is a twenty man German patrol in our area.” - “They’re moving in on our outposts.” - “We’re going to get the first Krauts.” - and so it was for about fifteen minutes. And then as suddenly as it started the firing ceased. Captain Meadows announced that he had started up one of his tanks, and the Germans had pulled out. There was great speculation in Troop “E” as to how many Germans had been killed that night, but the search would have to wait until morning. We never heard from “Easy” the next morning, and it was only after detailed interrogation that “Pappy” confessed that the only casualties found were three immersion heaters badly ventilated and a forest full of scarred trees.

Many of us who were with the outfit then won’t forget the frequent visits of the Germans to Kobscheid, and the almost nightly battle of Kobscheid during our first few weeks on the “line” - The big Fourth of July celebration we had one night when a small German patrol set fire to a half-track belonging to the 270th Armored Field Artillery Battalion. The half-track was loaded with machine gun ammunition, mines, grenades and gasoline, and when the fire died down next morning, there wasn’t anything left.

We also won’t forget the ever-increasing boldness and skill of our daylight and night combat, ambush, and reconnaissance patrols as they learned through experience the meaning of sneak and peek, camouflage, cover, mutual support and how to move into and out of the enemy lines without being seen. One patrol lead by Corporal Myers of Troop “C,” made a successful raid on a German pillbox and out from under the startled eyes of fellow soldiers, two of Hitler’s supermen were extracted without a fight and taken back to our lines for interrogation. Squadron Headquarters had sent out the call that identifications were needed and Corporal Myers got them.

The one night, however, that will live long in our memory is the night of 15-16 December 1944, when, in the early hours of the morning of 16th December, announced by a single red flare, von Rundstedt opened his winter campaign and started the Battle

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(Continued from page 9) RETROSPECT—18th Cav Ren Squadron

of the Bulge. The months before had been but practice, but it was practice that was real and important because it gave us confidence; it oiled our machine and worked out the rough spots and thoroughly prepared us to stand up for ten awful hours against the powerful right hook of this last bid for German glory. First there came the barrage, and they virtually threw everything at us but the "kitchen sink," and once it sounded as if even that hit the Command Post. We all felt that this was the German's last desperate punch; that if we could come out of it, the war would soon be over.

Heroes were born that day - our losses in men and equipment heavy, but the piles of German dead, some 1200 of them, left on the bloodstained fields of eastern Belgium, were mute testimony of the fighting strength of our outposts. Solid lines of enemy infantry attacked our positions throughout the day, and each attack for many hours was driven back to reorganize and attack again. It was an amazing thing to watch as these lines of Germans slowly advanced on our positions to be mowed down as wheat is mowed under the blades of a reaper, but still they came on, and finally forced our outposts back along our main defensive lines on the high ground at Manderfeld. We handled their infantry, but it was the tanks that pushed us out. Our 37's on the tanks and armored cars were as ineffective against the German tanks, as a pea shooter against an elephant.

From Manderfeld, it was then a quick succession of backward moves - first to Holsheim, then to Heppenbach, Born, Poteau and finally to Vielsalm for a quick reorganization and a hasty lick of our wounds. Troop "A," together with its commander, Captain Porche, was lost - killed or captures we did not know. The last we heard from them before all communications went out was that they were surrounded and could not get out of Roth. Captain Walker and strong elements of Troop "C," together with elements of Troop "E" and Company "F" were lost at Poteau when they were ordered to move forward and retake Born, Troop "B," detached from Squadron in October and attached to the 423rd Infantry of the 106th Infantry Division (The 106th had relieved the 2nd (InfD) on 12 December), had not been heard from. So it was a badly depleted Squadron that reached Vielsalm in the early morning of 18 December. Soon, however, some of the remnants began to straggle in - "B" Troopers, along with their Captain Fossland - parts of C, E, and F, that had managed to get out of Poteau, but still few vehicles, and not enough men to fill two troops.

We were then attached to the 7th Armored Division, and ordered to reorganize one squadron out of the remainder of the 18th, the 32nd Cavalry Squadron (minus strong elements of Troop "A," and a part of Troop "C") and Headquarters Troops of the 14th Cavalry Group. So it, with a heavy heart, was that we set about to gather up battered ends and put a fighting outfit back in the field again. We didn't have much time, the need for men was urgent, and any man that could carry a gun was needed - clerks, cooks and mechanics -- radio operators and drivers, all went back to stop the Krauts. And stop them we did along with artillery units, anti-aircraft, TD's. Rear Echelon and the 7th Armored Division, all fighting as doughboys - we stopped them until the 23rd of December, for five, long, hard, weary days, until ordered to withdraw behind the 82nd Infantry Division (Airborne) that had been hastily brought up to reinforce our

dwindling defenses until stronger elements could be brought up to deal with the might German attack. But it was a fighting withdrawal, all the way out, and across the Salm River at Cirreux - we lost more men and more equipment, and Captain Meadows and what was left of Troop "E" came out on foot, but a good many of us did not get out, this makeshift squadron. First to Aywaille, then to Xhignes, Oneux, and finally to Villers L'Eveque for a complete refitting and reorganization. Here we were broken down again into the 18th, 32nd and the 14th Cavalry Group, and here we patched our wounds.

Captain Schnee (then Lieutenant) took Captain Porche's place as Commanding Officer of Troop "A" - men, vehicles, weapons - all were new. Captain Jones took the place of Captain Walker of Troop "C," who was badly wounded at Poteau, and set about to rebuild Troop "C." Captain Fossland reorganized his old Troop "B" from his remnants, as did Captain Meadows with Troop "E" and Captain Fitzgerald with Company "F" and it was not long before we had the makings of a new squadron - built on the ashes of the old, but a squadron with experienced leaders - both officers and men. Our new men were taught by men who knew how to get the job done, and get it done quickly and efficiently.

On 27 January, we were ordered to move up, attached to the XVIII Corps (Airborne), to go back over the same trail we had come out on. The German offensive had weakened and died, and now the tide was moving the other way - towards the east, not to stop until the once mighty German army was beaten to a pulp. We went back through Vielsalm - Cirreux - Courtil - Petit Their - Poteau - Born slowly driving the Krauts out of their "bulge." On the way back we saw much of our burned and demolished equipment, and we dug our dead out of the snow, men who had stood up against overwhelming odds, and had given their lives so courageously. We hoped that we could prove to them that their death had not been in vain - the Germans had been stopped - and were driven back, and now it was our turn.

After a short period with the XVIII Corps, in familiar territory, we moved North to the valley of the Rohr on 6 February and, attached to the 1st Infantry Division, held the north sector of their line in the vicinity of Duren while they reorganized their regiments for the crossing of the Rohr.

On 11 February, we went into bivouac in the Hürtgen Forest near the town of Grosshau to dig ourselves down into the ground and wait for the crossing.

24 February - that date will live long in the memory of the Germans, for it is on that day that our troops began the final offensive to crush the Wehrmacht with an offensive so violent, and with such force that the end of the war in the ETO, soon, was apparent to everyone. On the 26th, we crossed. First to Boich, where Captain Jones and his "C" Troopers were a bit singled at Thim. We were told by the infantry that the hill on our right had been cleared, yet when we moved in to take the town, German tanks and infantry made it a bit embarrassing for a while, but after a fire fight during which three enemy tanks and about fifty Germans were dispatched to the "Great Beyond," the road east was opened. Then in quick succession it was Norvenich, Gymnich, Bruhl and south to cross the Rhine on the bridgehead at Remagen. There was fighting all the way, but we were on the move east and the first hurdle, the Rohr to the Rhine was

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 5) *Terry and the Pirates*

en. In June, OWI wrote to Caniff indicating an interest in talking with him "about a project on which we feel you could be of great assistance." Eventually, representatives of OWI and the Military Intelligence Division had an all-day meeting with Caniff. During that meeting, they asked Caniff to weave into his strip an information security thread. Caniff enthusiastically agreed with the result that from August 1943, to February 1944, the plot of "Terry and the Pirates" included the issue of information security.

The story demonstrated how a seemingly-innocent comment overheard by the wrong person can potentially lead to disaster. The action involved a cross-dressing female spy posing as Free-French pilot Captain H. Midi (her real name is Sanjak). Captain Midi overhears the hero, Terry Lee, talking about the flight of a transport plane carrying important Chinese finance officials. Lee is given the information to take to the flight operations staff and is told that it is "absolutely hush-hush." Later, he mentions their presence on the airplane in front of the spy. His commanding officer quiets him and says "you can never afford to forget security regulations for any reason." But, too late, the information is already in the wrong hands. Midi informs the Japanese through his local contacts and the airplane is ambushed. In the end, things turn out well and the spy is uncovered but because of the careless mention of sensitive information, people die and more people are put in danger. While the action in "Terry" took place within a military setting, the message was still the same: "loose lips can sink ships" or, in this case, shoot down airplanes. The important thing was that Caniff made the security point in the story without it seeming to be out of place.

At the same meeting that Caniff agreed to incorporate the security line into his strip, he suggested eight other leading cartoonists to approach about doing the same. Subsequently, in September 1943, letters went out to Harold Grey, writer of "Little Orphan Annie"; Frank King, writer of "Gasoline Alley"; Zack Mosley, writer of "Smilin' Jack"; Chester Gould, writer of "Dick Tracy"; Martin Brannan, writer of "Winnie Winkle"; Chick Young, writer of "Blondie"; Ham Fisher, writer of "Joe Palooka"; and J. R. Williams, writer of "Out our Way." Each letter was customized to a particular strip. For example, the letter to Harold Gray noted "We're writing you this personally because we believe that if you know of the importance of the problem there is some way in which Annie, Daddy Warbucks, the Asp and Aunt Sally and Uncle Spangle can figure out a way of getting across this message." Each letter also noted that "we believe that cartoon strips like yours are so widely read that a message contained therein will probably register as effectively as through any other known channel." Evidence indicates enthusiastic responses from at least some of these writers.

To acknowledge Caniff's time and effort on the project, Elmer Davis, the OWI's director, sent him the following note:

Source: RG 208: Records of the Office of War Information, **Records Concerning War Information Programs** (Entry NC-148 59), files "History" (NAID 4733064) and "Terry and the Pirates, Milton Caniff" (NAID 4732989)

For more information about Milton Caniff and his influence on American Cartooning, see *MEAN-WHILE . . . A Biography of Milton Caniff Creator of Terry and the Pirates and Steve Canyon* by Robert C. Harvey (Fantagraphics Books, Seattle WA, 2007).

Terry
Caniff

September 22, 1943

Dear Mr. Caniff:

Members of my staff tell me that you have given a substantial amount of cooperation to The Office of War Information in connection with their work with Army, Navy, and The Federal Bureau of Investigation on the Security of War Information Campaign.

We feel that the Security Campaign is one of the most important government information programs, and we are told by Military Intelligence and Naval Intelligence that the course of the war might well be greatly affected by the degree of caution exercised by the American people in keeping our military plans from the enemy.

We greatly appreciate the time and effort you have spent to help us get this important message across to the American people.

Sincerely yours,

Elmer Davis
Director

Mr. Milton Caniff
New City
New York

CLanham:bpj

(Continued from page 8) **Hunting Hitler Part II: The Bunker (April 29—April 30)**

best on our way to the western powers, for it was his wish that they should try to get through to the Americans or British, but that they should not get into Russian hands, on no account. ^[18]

During these farewells, Junge and Eva Braun watched from a short distance. The former asked the later if the time had come for her and Hitler to kill themselves. Eva Braun said no, but that she would tell her when the time had come. She added that Hitler still had to say goodbye to those closest to him. At some point in the early hours of April 30, Rattenhuber, who was celebrating his 60th birthday, left his colleagues and their birthday celebration, and joined Junge and Eva Bruan. They, all from Munich, talked about Munich and Bavaria, and how sad it was to have to die so far from home. ^[19] Meanwhile, Hitler was preparing to say good bye to those closest to him, knowing for many it would be the last time they would see him alive.

Footnotes: *There are footnotes available for this article citing the document, book, or archival document for those that are interested. The footnote numbers have been left in the article. Please contact the editor at johndbowen@earthlink.net or 301-384-6533 and I will provide them to you. They cover approximately two pages of text and are not required for the average reader.*

TO BE CONTINUED

(Continued from page 10) **RETROSPECT—18th Cav Rcn Squadron**
taken.

East of the Rhine, Captain Schnee and Troop “A,” with Troops “B” and “C,” clearing the high ground to his left moved down on the east bank of the Rhine to expand the south flank of the Remagen bridgehead. The high point was reached in the capture of the town of Rheinbrohl. After battering the town all morning with Troop “E’s” assault guns, and two air strikes delivered just before the attack, Troop “A” moved in with attached TD’s, and one platoon of Company “F’s” tanks under Lieutenant West to take this town that served as the left flank anchor of the German’s main line of resistance. Troop “A’s” momentum carried them on down the Rhine for about three miles against completely disorganized German troops. Rheinbrohl was taken on 19 March. After the Rhine came the Ruhr pocket.

Then, on 18 April, we were relieved from the First Army and moved south under the III Corps on a 250 mile march to Altmannshausen and then to Furth just to the northwest of Nuremburg. Our mission now, was to move as rapidly as possible down the left flank of the Corps sector to seize crossings over the Danube, Isar and Inn Rivers and to bypass all resistance encountered. After a brief flurry of excitement at Waldorf and Kelheim on the Danube where the bridge was blown in our face, and then a wait until the Engineers installed a bridge, we continued on only to find the bridges over the Isar and Inn Rivers both blown, and at both points we had to wait again until bridges were put in.

The last Squadron Command Post was established in a castle at Egglofen a few miles northwest of the Inn River, and there we waited out the end of the war, rounding up scattered remnants of the once highly—touted Wehrmacht. Included in the bag were four German generals captured by Troop “B: - and so our story in the ETO is ended.

What now - is the question on everyone’s mind - CBI (China Burma India), Occupation Troops, or home. It goes without saying what we all want. Dreams of home are in everyone’s mind as the blazing embers of war die down.

DAMON
Comdg

Source: National Archives and Records Administration, College Park MD, RG 407, E427, Unit Records-18th Cavalry Recon Squadron (Mecz), After/Action Report, 1-8 May 1945, Pages 4-14.

LAST ISSUE IF DUES ARE NOT CURRENT

MARCHER & WWII MUSINGS

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, MD/DC
John D. Bowen, Editor
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NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

Sunday 14 Feb 2016
Basta Pasta Timonium MD
Take your Valentine to Brunch
Call John Schaffner by 10 Feb