



THE MARCHER

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

John D. Bowen Editor

ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

May/June 2016

GET WELL SOON

Doug Dillard
82nd AbnD
Earl O. Edmunds
26th InfD
Neil B. Thompson
740 Tank Bn

Please keep them in your prayers.

DECEASED MEMBERS

Robert F. Phillips
28th InfD, 110th Inf, Co F
24th InfD, 21st Inf (Korea)
01 May 2016

At this time of remembrance
please remember all our
Veterans that have died, and
our friends and relatives that
have passed.

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Next Meeting
Sunday
12 June 2016
11:00 – 2:00 PM
BASTA PASTA
Timonium MD

Business Meeting
at 12:30 PM

Future Meetings
14 Aug 2016
09 Oct 2016
11 Dec 2016

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PPres	+Darrell Kuhn
PPres	+CA Blaquie Culp
PPres	+Clancy Lyle
PPres	Neil B Thompson

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CORNER

JUNE 2016	JUNE 2016	JUNE 2016
0607 CAHOON, John E 26 InfD 101 Inf Hq 3 Bn	0615 MONTGOMERY, Philip C 99th InfD 394 Inf	0630 SMOLLON, Frank J 99 InfD 393 Inf K
0614 ROYCE, Robert 87 InfD 347 Inf Hq 1 Bn	0617 HOHL, Charles R 4 ArmD 35 Tk Bn C	*70**75, ***80, ****85, 090, 95 Years Old
JULY 2016	JULY 2016	JULY 2016
0703 NELSON, Jr, Wilbur O 9 ArmD 3 AFA Bn	0708 VEDELOFF, Russell R 75th IngD 290 Inf	0712 ADDOR, Donald 10 ArmD 20 AIB Bn Hq
100 Years old		

June Luncheon, Sunday June 12th 2016
BASTA PASTA
60 West Timonium Road, Timonium MD 21093
11:00 AM

June is busting out all over. Bring your family to our MD/DC June Luncheon/Meeting to celebrate our US Army's 241st Birthday, Flag Day and to commemorate D-Day. Bring your children and grandchildren. 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, 08 June 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.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

When it is quiet sometimes, before I nod off, I have thoughts about what I think should be happening. Rarely these days, do I have someone to share them with. For one thing you would have to be like me because age and experience are important for understanding my thoughts. You would need to be able to "remember when?" Many, many times I have heard people say, "If you are a veteran of WW II and of the Greatest Generation you should share your memoirs with your descendants and succeeding generations."

And, then you say, "Why? Nobody is going to be interested in my life." So, maybe you were not another Audie Murphy or Harry S. Truman. It takes a lot of people to make a world and you are one of them. You contributed to the welfare of people you will never get to know. There are so many things that I would love to know about my ancestors that are lost forever because no one thought that I might be interested in knowing who they were and what they did. All I can say now is, "I wish they had left me with some clues." Now, not tomorrow, is the time for you to take care of business. Think about it and put it on paper. Dust off those souvenirs, tag them, and write something about them. Think about your life and while you do put it on paper. Even if you only make notes some one else can organize them into a readable story.

Write your memoirs! (**That's an order!**) Some one unborn today will love you for it. Like many organizations created around the WW II veterans, our membership is suffering from a decline for obvious reasons. To keep VBOB alive and well we need the participation and energy of new members, especially the younger generation(s.) When you are in the company of people who have an interest in military history steer the conversation around to VBOB and who we are. Don't be selfish and keep a good thing for yourself. Sell it, and bring in new blood.

Come out and join us (on June 12th) for a nice time.

JRS

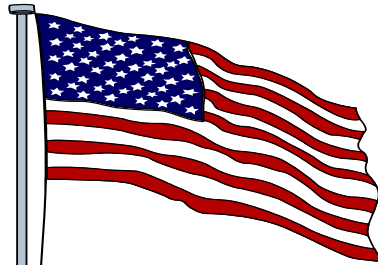
Volume 24 Issue 3

John D. Bowen, Editor

May/June 2016



The Resolution did not specify the arrangement of the stars and the first flag, the so-called Betsy Ross flag, had the thirteen stars arranged in a circle.



**"I am what you make me;
nothing more.
I swing before your eyes as a
bright gleam of color,
a symbol of yourself"**

By Franklin K. Lane
Secretary of the Interior
Flag Day 1914

A wide-angle photograph of a cemetery. Numerous white, rectangular headstones are arranged in neat rows across a grassy field. In the middle ground, a single dark, upright headstone stands out from the others. The background is hazy, showing bare trees and a distant horizon. The lighting is soft, suggesting an overcast day or early morning/late afternoon.

Photo Credit: Thanks to the Washington Post and Caitlin Gibson, Reporter



World War II Flag Poster

Editor's Corner

D – DAY TRIBUTE

We pay tribute to D-Day, the folks that participated, both American and British on this 72nd anniversary. Through their bravery, perseverance and initiative, in staying the course, in spite of many being located at the wrong locations, we gained a foothold on the European Continent.

We salute all the veterans that hit the beaches on the 6th of June. We salute all those that dropped in earlier from the air and secured the bridges. We salute those who participated in the air cover and we salute those of the Navy and Coast Guard who participated in the greatest invasion ever conducted even to this time.

We remember especially the bravery of those in the first waves who had only one way to go and that was forward towards the beaches. Many gave up all of their tomorrows in the fusillade that they encountered.

We salute all those that followed and secured the beaches and all those that were to come in through the beaches and the Ports to begin the final push to drive the Nazis back to Germany and defeat them. We salute all those that received the Normandy Campaign Medal on this 72nd Anniversary.

HAPPY 241st BIRTHDAY US ARMY 14 June 1775 - 2016

From the Bridge at Concord/Lexington, on 19 April 1775 the seeds of an American Army were planted such that by June 14 1775 Congress adopted "the American Continental Army" after reaching a consensus position in The Committee of the Whole. This procedure and the desire for secrecy account for the sparseness of the official journal entries for the day. The record indicates only that Congress undertook to raise ten companies of riflemen, approved an enlistment form for them, and appointed a committee (including Washington and Schuyler) to draft rules and regulations for the government of the army. The delegates' correspondence, diaries, and subsequent actions make it clear that they really did much more. They also accepted responsibility for the existing New England troops and forces requested for the defense of the various points in New York. The former were believed to total 10,000 men; the latter, both New Yorkers and Connecticut men, another 5,000.

We have come a long way since its founding and each in our own time frame can proudly say that "I served" when called. Please wish yourself a Happy Birthday for your service!

JDB

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 and Records Administration. Proper credit should be given both to the researcher and to the National Archives. Your comments are welcome. 301-384-6533
E-mail johndbowen@earthlink.net

240th BIRTHDAY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Every good wish for celebrating our country's 240th birthday on July 4th.

For each one who has served and for those who kept the home fires burning, thank you for doing your part in making this nation the greatest nation in the world.

May God continue to bless America!

REMEMBRANCE

"IN FLANDERS FIELDS

By John Mc Crae, May 1915

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders Field

PLEDGE TO KEEP THE FAITH

By Moina Michael

Oh! You who sleep in Flanders Fields,
Sleep sweet— to rise anew!
We caught the torch you threw
And holding high, we keep the Faith
With All who died.

*Inspired by John E. Mc Auliffe, President,
Lamar Soutter/Central MA VBOB Chapter 22*

SOLDIER

"The Soldier is the Army.

No army is better than its Soldiers.

The Soldier is also a citizen.

In fact, the highest obligation and privilege of citizenship is that of bearing arms for one's country."

General George S. Patton, Jr.

D-DAY
6th JUNE 1944
72nd Anniversary

In remembrance of one of the greatest armadas ever assembled to free the continent of Europe, the invasion still remains vivid in ceremonies at Normandy, each year.

Our Chapter Member and past VBOB President, Doug Dillard has been invited by the French to take part in this year's commemoration.

The planning and securing of the material and personnel and staging them in Britain, Scotland and Northern Ireland and the assembly of over 6,000 ships to invade the beaches was an enormity that probably could never be repeated.

With today's technology and spy satellites scanning the entire earth, it would probably be impossible to hide from detection what was amassed in the United Kingdom.

As some have suggested it is amazing that the British Isles didn't sink under the weight of all the equipment and personnel staged there.

And when one looks at what was accomplished in two and a half years from the end of December 1941 to June 1944 it is hard to conceive how we in America rallied to support the war effort. From a peacetime Army, Army Air Corps, Marines and Navy we were able to ramp up and convert our industries to war production and employing mostly women on the home front to build the ships, the airplanes weapons and material while our men were called up and trained as pilots, navigators, infantrymen, artillerymen, armored, engineers to head to fight not just one enemy but two on opposite ends of the world.

Camps, airfields and training bases had to be built to house and train the various service personnel and National Guard and reserve Divisions. Everything had to be shipped mostly by sea, though some by air,

in convoys to distant shores. Early in the war the Atlantic was infested with German U-Boats preying on our merchant ships and troop ships. Materials and goods in Merchant ships that were sunk had to be replaced by added production on the Home Front.

Though our Navy and Coast Guard would try to protect the sea lanes and convoys, it wasn't until the Allies had broken the German Navy Enigma Code that we were able to know precisely where the Wolf Pack Nazi subs were. We were then able through sea and air to more precisely knockout these submarines.

It is a tribute to the men & women of our Nation at the time of pulling together to fight those who wanted to seize and destroy our Freedoms and way of life.

Even the children participated through buying Savings stamps at ten Cents each week in school and pasting them in their stamp book and when they had \$18.75 in the book they could take it the bank and they would receive a \$25.00 War Bond payable in five years. The school kids were also selling seeds for Victory gardens, collecting cooking grease, newspapers, cans and bottles for the war effort. This was 70+ years before our present recycling.

Everybody was pulling together.

But it is the sacrifices of those who left their homes, put on their uniforms and fought and defeated the enemy. We owe our freedom's today to them.

So we salute and remember all those who served in all the various battles and especially this Memorial Day those who gave up all their tomorrows so that we could enjoy our today's.

And we pray for them and those of the World War II Generation that have since died.

MAY THEY ALL REST IN PEACE

**FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT'S
D-DAY PRAYER**

Almighty God: Our sons, pride of our Nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our Republic, our religion, and our civilization, and to set free a suffering humanity.

Lead them straight and true; give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness in their faith.

They will need Thy blessings. Their road will be long and hard. For the enemy is strong. He may hurl back our forces. Success may not come with rushing speed, but we shall return again and again; and we know that by Thy grace, and by the righteousness of our cause, our sons will triumph.

They will be sore tried, by night and by day, without rest—until the victory is won. The darkness will be rent by noise and flame. Men's souls will be shaken with the violence of war.

For these men are lately drawn from the ways of peace. They fight not for the lust of conquest. They fight to end conquest. They fight to liberate. They fight to let justice arise, and tolerance and good will among all Thy people. They yearn for the end of battle, for their return to the haven of home.

Some will never return. Embrace these, Father, and receive them, Thy heroic servants, into Thy kingdom.

And for us at home—fathers, mothers, children, wives, sisters and brothers of brave men overseas—whose thoughts and prayers are ever with them—help us, Almighty God to rededicate ourselves in renewed faith in Thee in this hour of great sacrifice.

Many people have urged that I call the Nation into a single day of special prayer. But because the road is long and the desire is great, I ask that our people devote themselves in a continuance of prayer. As we rise to each new day, and again when each day is spent, let words of prayer be on our lips, invoking Thy help to our efforts.

Give us strength, too—strength in our daily tasks, to redouble the contributions we make in the physical and material support of our armed forces.

And let our hearts be stout, to wait out the long travail, to bear sorrows that may come, to impart our courage unto our sons wheresoever they may be.

And, O Lord, give us Faith. Give us Faith in Thee; Faith in our sons; Faith in each other; faith in our united crusade. Let not the keenness of our spirit ever be dulled. Let not the impacts of temporary events, of temporal matters of but fleeting moment let not these deter us in our unconquerable purpose.

With Thy blessing, we shall prevail over the unholy forces of our enemy. Help us to conquer the apostles of greed and racial arrogances. Lead us to the saving of our country, and with our sister Nations into a world unity that will spell a sure peace a peace invulnerable to the schemings of unworthy men. And a peace that will let all of men live in freedom, reaping the just rewards of their honest toll.

Thy will be done, Almighty God. Amen.

The above D-Day Prayer by our President Roosevelt will be engraved in the Memorial's Circle of Remembrance within the World War II Memorial.

The Friends of the World War II Memorial are raising funds right now in order to see that this is accomplished. As with the original construction, it was you the World War II Veterans, your families, businesses and friends who raised the funds that were required to build the Memorial.

The Congress, two years ago, approved an Act authorizing that this prayer be part of World War II Memorial. However, the Congress, by the original Act creating the World War II Memorial may not provide federal funds for this project. So it is up to us to get this funded through our contributions. Thus, the Friends of the National World War II Memorial are soliciting funds which may be sent to:

**Friends of the National World War II Memorial,
PO Box 97017,
Washington DC 20090
Their website is www.wwiimemorialfriends.org**

HUNTING HITLER Part IV: The Bunker (Afternoon, 30 April 1945)

This post was written by Dr. Greg Bradsher, Archivist at the National Archives in College Park MD. This is the fourth blog in a multi-part series

On April 30, in his bunker, Adolf Hitler lunched with his secretaries Gertrude Junge and Frau Gerda Christian and the vegetarian cook Fraulein Constanze Manzialy from 1pm till 2pm. Eva Braun did not join them. During the meal Hitler appeared calm and under control and told the women this was the last time they would eat together. Little of importance was said and there was no mention of the impending suicide. [1]

After lunch Junge found a room where she could sit down and smoke a cigarette. Then she went to Braun's private quarters and found her sorting out and preparing to give away most of her belongings as final gifts. She gave Junge her most valuable fur, saying "here's a present for next winter and your life after the war. I wish you all the luck in the world. And when you put it on, always remember me and give my very best to our native Bavaria-das schoene Bayern." (Bavaria the beautiful). Then Junge visited Frau Magda Goebbels, who was quite upset about the fate of her children [that she planned to poison, rather than have them fall into Russian hands]. [2]

Hitler, meanwhile, after lunch, met with Martin Bormann. Bormann emerged into the antechamber from Hitler's study and went straight up to Otto Guensche and told him that Hitler and Braun wanted to bring their lives to an end that day. Their bodies were to be drenched in petrol and burned in the garden of the Chancellery. That was Hitler's categorical order. Under no circumstances should his body fall into Russian hands. Bormann asked Guensche to make sure that everything was made ready for the burning of the bodies and to make sure the bodies were burned. Guensche said he would take care of things. Shortly after getting the instructions from Bormann, Hitler came out of his room and told Guensche that he would now shoot himself and that Braun would also depart this life. He did not want to fall into the hands of the Russians either alive or dead. The bodies were to be burnt. He wished that nothing should remain of himself, so that the Russians could not desecrate his body or display it in any way. Hitler charged Guensche with the necessary preparations. The way he expressed it, Guensche would be personally responsible for this. Guensche assured Hitler that he would carry out his orders. [3]

A few minutes later Johann Rattenhuber, and Hitler's personal pilots, Hans Baur and George Betz, made their way, distraught, into the antechamber. They had just run into Bormann and learned from him that Hitler wanted to take his own life. Now they assailed Guensche with questions. He was just going to answer when the door opened and Hitler came out. Rattenhuber, Baur, Guensche, and Betz gave a Nazi salute. Hitler did not react but in a tired voice merely asked them to come closer. Hitler said "I have ordered that I am to be burned after my death. Make sure that my order is carried out to the letter. I will not have it that they take my body back to Moscow to exhibit in a cabinet of curiosities." Hitler gave a lethargic gesture of farewell with his right arm and turned round and disappeared behind his study door. [4]

But Hitler then summoned Baur and Betz to his quar-

ters. They entered the small study. Hitler clasped Baur's hand with both of his and said in an emotional voice, "Baur, I'd like to bid you farewell!" Hitler told him that "My generals have betrayed me and sold me out, my soldiers don't want to go on, and I cannot go on!" Baur again tried to convince Hitler that he could still fly him to Argentina, Japan, Japanese-held Manchukuo in Asia, or to friendly Arabs. But Hitler shook his head and explained that if he went to Berchtesgaden or to join Adm. Karl Doenitz in Flensburg, he would be in the same situation again within two weeks. According to Baur, Hitler said, "I will stand or fall with Berlin. A person must have the courage to suffer the consequences of his actions. I will take my own life, today!" Hitler thanked Baur for his long years of service and then presented him, as a gift, his favorite portrait of Frederick the Great by Anton Graf. It was the painting that Baur had carried from one headquarters to another during the war. [5]

Meanwhile Guensche began carrying out Hitler's and Bormann's orders. Around 230pm he called Erich Kempka (Hitler's long-time chauffeur and head of the motor pool), who was living in the bunker next to the Chancellery garage, and asked him to bring ten jerricans (a German petrol-can contained 4.5 gallons) of petrol to the Fuehrer bunker immediately and to leave it in readiness at the emergency exit to the garden behind the Chancellery, and then report to him. To Kempka's question as to why the petrol was needed, Guensche replied that he could not tell him over the phone. Kempka protested that it would be difficult to find so large a quantity at such short notice, but was told that it must be found. Ultimately he found most of what had been requested and it was quickly delivered to the designated spot. [6]

Soon afterwards Guensche, not wanting any casual observer to witness the final scene, ordered the SS men of the bodyguard and the Security Service who occupied the little room by the emergency exit to vacate the room and find another place. He even ordered the sentries who stood by the armor-plated door which led from the stairway to the emergency exit to go back into the bunker. Just one man, SS-Untersturmfuehrer Hofbeck, did Guensche leave by the emergency exit with the order to let no one pass. Then Guensche went into the hall of the bunker and took up his position by the antechamber door. His watch read 310pm. [7]

The final goodbyes came about 315pm, when Hitler and Braun made their last appearance in the main corridor of the lower Bunker, to say farewell to what was left of the Reich Chancellery Group. Present were Joseph Goebbels, Bormann, Hans Krebs, Wilhelm Burgdorf, Walter Hewel, Hans-Erich Voss, Dr. Haase, Rattenhuber, SS Staf. Hoegl, Heinz Linge, Guensche, Frau Christian, Frauelein Else Krueger, Frauelein Manzialy, and Werner Naumann. He shook hands with each person and apparently, in a weak voice, mumbled something to some of them. While Hitler was saying his final goodbyes, Guensche found Junge and told her that Hitler wanted to say goodbye to her. She met him in the central corridor. He shook her hand. Junge said "it seemed as if he were not looking at me...I had the feeling he was not really seeing me." He said a few words which she did not understand, but thought it was "All the best," or something like that. Then Braun, very much composed, took leave of the gathering. She embraced Junge and said "see to it that you manage to get through to Munich and give my

Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7 *Hunting Hitler—Part IV*)

love to Bavaria.” Hitler and Braun then retired to Hitler’s study. [8]

After speaking with Hitler and Braun, Junge, not wanting to be present during the suicides, not wanting to see the corpses, went quickly to the upper bunker where the Goebbels’ six children were playing. She occupied herself with the children, getting something for them to eat and calming them. [9]

Meanwhile, Guensche continued making arrangements. He contacted Hoegl, Schaedle, Lindloff, Reiser, and perhaps another officer or two of Hitler’s escort commando and had them posted in the upper Bunker. Their imminent task, he told them, would be to carry the two corpses out of the lower Bunker outside into the garden. Guensche then cleared the lower part of the Fuehrerbunker of all persons not belonging to the immediate circle and put a guard on the staircase leading to the upper part of the bunker with orders not to let anyone in any more. He gave the same order to Criminal Secretary Hofbeck, who was standing guard on the garden exit. He then returned and stationed himself directly before the door to the Hitler apartment to stand guard. [10]

A little later, Braun came out of Hitler’s study into the small antechamber. She looked sad as she gave Linge her hand and said, “Goodbye, Linge. I hope that you get away from Berlin. If you run into my sister Gretl, don’t tell her how her husband died.” After thanking him for everything he had done for Hitler, she went to Frau Goebbels, who was in her husband’s room, where she had remained all day, agonizing over the impending death of her children. A few minutes later Braun left Goebbels’s room and went to the telephone exchange, where Guensche was to be found. She said to him, “Please tell the Fuehrer that Frau Goebbels has asked him to come to see her one more time.” Depending upon the sources, either Hitler went to Dr. Goebbels’ room to see Frau Goebbels or she was able to enter Hitler’s study to talk to him. In either case she begged Hitler not to take his life but escape to Berchtesgaden. Hitler said he had no other recourse than committing suicide and refused to discuss the matter further. He then thanked her for her commitment and services. Sobbing and trembling, she then left the room, walked past her husband in the corridor without speaking and went to the upper Bunker. Hitler then turned to Dr. Goebbels, who begged Hitler briefly to allow the Hitler Youth to take him out of Berlin. Hitler responded brusquely “Doctor, you know my decision. This is no change! You can of course leave Berlin with your family.” Goebbels replied that he would not do so. He intended to stay in Berlin and die there. Hitler then said to him, “I entrust you with the responsibility to see that our corpses are burned immediately.” Hitler then shook his hand, and returned to his room, where he was soon joined by Braun, who said goodbye to Guensche on her way back from Dr. Goebbels’ room. It was about 340pm when Guensche took up position in front of Hitler’s door. [11]

Before Hitler entered the room, Linge asked Hitler if he might say goodbye to him and ask if Hitler had any orders for him. Hitler said “Linge, I am going to shoot myself now. You know what you have to do.” Hitler then told him that “I have given orders to break out. Try to fight your way through to the west in small groups.” Either at this point or perhaps earlier in the afternoon, Hitler had told Linge to take charge of things immediately after his death and it was he who was to give the word

when to enter the death room. Linge gave the Nazi salute, they shook hands, and as Hitler entered the room he told Linge to wait at least ten minutes and then to enter if he had heard no sound. Linge lost his composure completely and raced up all the steep steps of the emergency-exit staircase, and out into the courtyard, where he ran into sharp artillery fire. Then, just as promptly, he ran back down the steps, speechless and wild-eyed. He then took up a position near Guensche who was guarding the door. [12]

Meanwhile, Arthur Axmann, head of the Hitler Youth came to the bunker to see the Goebbels. Dr. Goebbels told him that at that moment Hitler had already retired to his room to commit suicide along with Braun. Axmann desired to bid Hitler a personal farewell, but Guensche told him the Fuehrer would admit nobody and refused to open the door. [13]

Axmann then joined with Krebs, Burgdorf, Bormann, Naumann, Rattenhuber, Stumpfegger, Hewel, and Goebbels in the conference room. They talked about Hitler’s saying goodbye and in a very agitated state waited for the suicides to take place. [14]

Sometime between 3:45pm and 4pm there were at different times at least six people almost as near the door to Hitler’s quarters as Guensche: Goebbels, Bormann, Linge, Krebs, Burgdorf, and Axmann and maybe one or two others. When not near the door, they were gathered in the nearby conference room. While Goebbels thought he may have heard a shot, the others did not. Guensche believed that none of them heard a shot, because of the sealed double doors. “Both these doors,” he said, “were fireproof, gasproof, hence soundproof.” Other witnesses argued that it was impossible to distinguish specific sounds over the constant pounding of the diesel engines and the humming of the ventilator fans in the bunker. [15]

In any event, after ten minutes or so (at a few minutes before 4pm), in keeping with Hitler’s instructions to wait that long before entering his room, Linge remarked to Guensche “I think it’s over” and went into the outer room. The strong fumes made his eyes smart. Choking, Linge closed and locked the door and then turned back to summon Bormann. “Frankly, I was trembling,” Linge says, “and I simply did not have the gumption to go in there by myself. It was too eerie.” Linge went to the conference room and told Bormann that he had entered the room and smelled gas from a discharged firearm. Immediately Bormann followed Linge to the door, opened it and they went into the room, gasping from toxic fumes. According to Linge, Bormann “turned white as chalk and stared at me helplessly.” [16]

Guensche entered the room after Linge and Bormann. He went to the conference room and told its occupants that Hitler was dead. Goebbels and Axmann, with Guensche, then went to Hitler’s outer room and entered it. They then joined Bormann and Linge in Hitler’s study. [17]

Once in Hitler’s study Linge, Bormann, Axmann, Goebbels, and Guensche found that the room smelled of gunpowder, smoke and bitter almonds. They saw the bodies seated on the blue and white sofa standing against the wall opposite the door from the antechamber. Hitler was slumped at the right hand armrest of the sofa (left hand as the witnesses viewed it). His

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8 Hunting Hitler—Part IV)

head was inclined to the right and slightly forward and his eyes open. In Hitler's right temple gaped a bullet wound the size of a small coin. From this spot a streaked trail of blood ran down to about the middle of his cheek. Hitler's lower right arm was between the armrest of the sofa and his right thigh, and his open hand lay on his right knee, palm upwards. The left hung at his side. His feet were on the floor. They were pointing forwards and were about 12 to 15 inches apart. Next to Hitler's right foot lay a 7.65mm Walther pistol, and next to his left foot a 6.35mm Walther pistol. On the carpet next to the sofa a puddle of blood the size of a plate had formed. The rear wall and the sofa were bespattered with blood. Next to Hitler was a dead Braun, with her head near, or resting on his left shoulder. She was wearing a blue dress, and showed no signs of injuries or blood. She was in the snug position she had assumed before swallowing the poison. Her upper body rested against the back of the sofa, the head was upright. Her legs were drawn up under her on the sofa. Her brightly colored high-heeled shoes stood side by side on the floor in front of the sofa. Her eyes were open and her bluish lips were firmly pressed together. [18]

Linge immediately left the room and fetched the two woolen military blankets he had left in the antechamber to wrap Hitler up in. Goebbels, Bormann, Axmann, and Guensche remained with the bodies for several minutes in silence. Guensche finally snapped out of the trance and directed Linge, who had returned, to move aside the two chairs and the table, in order to spread the blankets onto the floor. While Linge was spreading out the blankets, Guensche went to get Hoegel, Schaedle, Lindloff, and Reiser, whom he had put on call to be ready to assist with the bodies. Apparently, Bormann also left the room to call other people to lend a hand. Meanwhile, Dr. Stumpfegger arrived. He examined both bodies and pronounced Hitler and Braun dead. Goebbels and Axmann were wordless spectators to the activities taking place. Linge spread one of the blankets on the study floor in front of the sofa, and with the help of Bormann, or another person, he laid Hitler's body on the ground and wrapped him in the blanket. Linge then called out to one of the others present that the blanket for Braun was in Hitler's bedroom. The person he addressed in this manner was already occupied with her body. He does not remember who it was. [19]

The next activities would be getting the bodies out of the bunker and then cremating them in the garden.

Footnotes

[1] Memorandum, Karl Sussman, CIC Special Agent, Region IV, Garmish Sub-Region, Headquarters Counter Intelligence Corps, United States Forces European Theater to Commanding Officer, Garmish Sub-Region, Subject: Interrogation of Junge, Gertrude, August 30, 1946, p. 5, File: XA085512, Junge, Gertrude, Intelligence and Investigative Dossiers Personal Files, 1977-2004 ([NAID 645054](#)), RG 319; [Interrogation of] Gertraud [Gertrude] Junge, Munich, February 7, 1948, p. 45, Interrogations of Hitler Associates, Musmanno Collection, Gumberg Library Digital Collections, Duquesne University; Trevor-Roper, *The Last Days of Hitler*, pp. 199-200; Fest, *Inside Hitler's Bunker*, p. 111; O'Donnell, *The Berlin Bunker*, pp. 247-248; Joachimsthaler, *The Last Days of Hitler*, pp. 150-151.

[2] Memorandum, Karl Sussman, CIC Special Agent, Region IV, Garmish Sub-Region, Headquarters Counter Intelligence Corps, United States Forces European Theater to Com-

manding Officer, Garmish Sub-Region, Subject: Interrogation of Junge, Gertrude, August 30, 1946, p. 5, File: XA085512, Junge, Gertrude, Intelligence and Investigative Dossiers Personal Files, 1977-2004 ([NAID 645054](#)), RG 319; [Interrogation of] Gertraud [Gertrude] Junge, Munich, February 7, 1948, p. 45, Interrogations of Hitler Associates, Musmanno Collection, Gumberg Library Digital Collections, Duquesne University; O'Donnell, *The Berlin Bunker*, p. 248.

[3] Eberle and Uhl, eds., *The Hitler Book*, p. 268; Joachimsthaler, *The Last Days of Hitler*, pp. 143-145; von Lang, *The Secretary*, p. 329.

[4] Evidence of the Head of Hitler's Bodyguard Hans Rattenhuber, Moscow, May 20, 1945 in Vinograd, Pogonyi, and Teptzov, *Hitler's Death*, p. 194; Manuscript Statement by Hitler's Aide-de-Camp, Otto Guensche, May 17, 1945 in Vinograd, Pogonyi, and Teptzov, *Hitler's Death*, pp. 163-164; Eberle and Uhl, eds., *The Hitler Book*, pp. 268-269; Joachimsthaler, *The Last Days of Hitler*, pp. 144-145.

[5] C. G. Sweeting, *Hitler's Personal Pilot: The Life and Times of Hans Baur* (Washington, D.C.: Brassey's, 2000), pp. 258, 264; O'Donnell, *The Berlin Bunker*, p. 247.

[6] Testimony of Mr. Erich Kempka on the last days of Hitler, Berchtesgaden, June 20, 1945, File: 3735-PS, United States Evidence Files, 1945-46, ([NAID 305264](#)), Record Group 238; Special Interrogation of Erich Kempka, at US Third Army Internment Camp No. 6, Moosburg, October 7, 1945, enclosure to Memorandum, Brigadier [no name given], Counter Intelligence Bureau (CIB), GSI (b), Headquarters, British Army of the Rhine to Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2 (CI), Headquarters, US Forces European Theater, Subject: Investigation into the Death of Hitler, November 22, 1945, Document No. CIB/B3/PF.582, File: Major Trevor-Roper Interrogations, Reports Relating to Prisoner of War Interrogations, 1943-1945, ([NAID 2790598](#)) Box 711, Captured Personnel and Material Branch, Records of the War Department General and Special Staff, Record Group 165; Strategic Services Unit, War Department, Intelligence Dissemination No. A-65458, Subject: Interview with Erna Flegel, Red Cross Nurse in Hitler's Shelter, Date of Report: December 11, 1945, Distributed: February 25, 1946, File: 0240346, Army Intelligence Document Files, 1950-1955, ([NAID 305269](#)), Records of the Army Staff, Record Group 319; Historical Branch, War Department General Staff, G-2, Historical Interrogation Commission, Oberstrumbanfuhrer Erich Kempka, Chief Driver & Head of the Fuehrer's Motor Pool, September 26, 1945, Third Army Intelligence Center, Lt. Col. O. J. Hale, Interrogator, File: Historical Interrogation Report, Reports Relating to Prisoner of War Interrogations, 1943-1945, ([NAID 2790598](#)) Box 711, Captured Personnel and Material Branch, Records of the War Department General and Special Staff, Record Group 165; Kempka, *I Was Hitler's Chauffeur*, pp. 75-76; Trevor-Roper, *The Last Days of Hitler*, p. 200; Eberle and Uhl, eds., *The Hitler Book*, p. 269; Fest, *Inside Hitler's Bunker*, p. 110; Joachimsthaler, *The Last Days of Hitler*, pp. 146-147, 206; Michael A. Musmanno, *Ten Days to Die* (Garden City, New York: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1950), p. 214.

[7] Eberle and Uhl, eds., *The Hitler Book*, p. 269; Musmanno, *Ten Days to Die*, p. 214; Trevor-Roper, *The Last Days of Hitler*, p. 200.

[8] Memorandum, Karl Sussman, CIC Special Agent, Region IV, Garmish Sub-Region, Headquarters Counter Intelli-

(Continued from page # Hunting Hitler—Part IV)

gence Corps, United States Forces European Theater to Commanding Officer, Garmish Sub-Region, Subject: Interrogation of Junge, Gertrude, August 30, 1946, p. 5, File: XA085512, Junge, Gertrude, Intelligence and Investigative Dossiers Personal Files, 1977-2004 ([NAID 645054](#)), Record Group 319; [Interrogation of] Gertraud [Gertrude] Junge, Munich, February 7, 1948, pp. 45-47, Interrogations of Hitler Associates, Musmanno Collection, Gumberg Library Digital Collections, Duquesne University; Joachimsthaler, The Last Days of Hitler, pp. 150, 152, 153; O'Donnell, The Berlin Bunker, pp. 248-249; Musmanno, Ten Days to Die, pp. 215-216.

[9] Memorandum, Karl Sussman, CIC Special Agent, Region IV, Garmish Sub-Region, Headquarters Counter Intelligence Corps, United States Forces European Theater to Commanding Officer, Garmish Sub-Region, Subject: Interrogation of Junge, Gertrude, August 30, 1946, p. 5, File: XA085512, Junge, Gertrude, Intelligence and Investigative Dossiers Personal Files, 1977-2004 ([NAID 645054](#)), Record Group 319; [Interrogation of] Gertraud [Gertrude] Junge, Munich, February 7, 1948, pp. 47-48, Interrogations of Hitler Associates, Musmanno Collection, Gumberg Library Digital Collections, Duquesne University; Junge, Until the Final Hour, p. 187.

[10] Fest, Inside Hitler's Bunker, p. 112; O'Donnell, The Berlin Bunker, p. 250; Joachimsthaler, The Last Days of Hitler, pp. 152, 153, 155.

[11] Memorandum, Karl Sussman, CIC Special Agent in Charge and Arthur R. Clarke, Special Agent, CIC, Operations, Region IV, Garmish Sub-Region, Headquarters Counter Intelligence Corps, United States Forces European Theater to Officer in Charge, Subject: Junge, Gertrude, June 13, 1946, p. 6, File: XA085512, Junge, Gertrude, Intelligence and Investigative Dossiers Personal Files, 1977-2004 ([NAID 645054](#)), Record Group 319; Linge, With Hitler to the End, p. 198; Eberle and Uhl, eds., The Hitler Book, pp. 269, 270; Trevor-Roper, The Last Days of Hitler, p. 200; Michael Musmanno, "Is Hitler Alive," published in the Swiss newspaper Die Nation in issues 50, 51, and 52 of 1948 and issue 1 of 1949, in Vinogrado, Pogonyi, and Teptzov, Hitler's Death, p. 323; Musmanno, Ten Days to Die, pp. 215, 216; Joachimsthaler, The Last Days of Hitler, p. 153; O'Donnell, The Berlin Bunker, pp. 250-251; Fest, Inside Hitler's Bunker, pp. 114-115.

[12] Linge, With Hitler to the End, pp. 198-199; Fest, Inside Hitler's Bunker, pp. 111-112; Eberle and Uhl, eds., The Hitler Book, p. 270; O'Donnell, The Berlin Bunker, pp. 249-250; Joachimsthaler, The Last Days of Hitler, p. 151, 153.

[13] Interrogation of Arthur Axmann, Palace of Justice, Nuremberg, 1630-1930 hours, January 7, 1948, pp. 25-27. Interrogations of Hitler Associates, Musmanno Collection, Gumberg Library Digital Collections, Duquesne University; O'Donnell, The Berlin Bunker, p. 251; Fest, Inside Hitler's Bunker, p. 115; Joachimsthaler, The Last Days of Hitler, p. 157.

[14] Interrogation of Arthur Axmann, Palace of Justice, Nuremberg, 1630-1930 hours, January 7, 1948, p. 27, Interrogations of Hitler Associates, Musmanno Collection, Gumberg Library Digital Collections, Duquesne University; Manuscript Statement by Hitler's Aide-de-Camp, Otto Guensch, May 17, 1945 in Vinogrado, Pogonyi, and Teptzov, Hitler's Death, p. 164; Joachimsthaler, The Last Days of Hitler, pp. 153, 155;

Eberle and Uhl, eds., The Hitler Book, p. 270.

[15] O'Donnell, The Berlin Bunker, pp. 251-253; Joachimsthaler, The Last Days of Hitler, p. 156; Fest, Inside Hitler's Bunker, p. 116.

[16] Linge, With Hitler to the End, p. 199; Eberle and Uhl, eds., The Hitler Book, pp. 270-271; O'Donnell, The Berlin Bunker, pp. 253, 254, 257; Joachimsthaler, The Last Days of Hitler, p. 154. Linge puts death at 350pm. He allegedly noted it by the grandfather clock in the antechamber to Hitler's office, a clock he had always been at pains to keep running very accurately since Hitler himself took his time from this clock. Guensche puts the death at 330pm, claiming to have looked at wristwatch. Joachimsthaler, The Last Days of Hitler, p. 153.

[17] Interrogation of Arthur Axmann, Palace of Justice, Nuremberg, 1630-1930 hours, January 7, 1948, pp. 27-29, Interrogations of Hitler Associates, Musmanno Collection, Gumberg Library Digital Collections, Duquesne University; Joachimsthaler, The Last Days of Hitler, pp. 154-156; Fest, Inside Hitler's Bunker, p. 116-117; Eberle and Uhl, eds., The Hitler Book, p. 271.

[18] Interrogation of Arthur Axmann, Palace of Justice, Nuremberg, 1630-1930 hours, January 7, 1948, pp. 29, 30, Interrogations of Hitler Associates, Musmanno Collection, Gumberg Library Digital Collections, Duquesne University; Linge, With Hitler to the End, p. 199; Trevor-Roper, The Last Days of Hitler, p. 201; Eberle and Uhl, eds., The Hitler Book, p. 271; O'Donnell, The Berlin Bunker, pp. 255, 257; Joachimsthaler, The Last Days of Hitler, pp. 155, 156, 157, 164, 167, 181; Fest, Inside Hitler's Bunker, p. 116; Points emerging from special interrogation of Else Krueger, September 25, 1945, enclosure to Memorandum, Brigadier [no name given], Counter Intelligence Bureau (CIB), GSI (b), Headquarters, British Army of the Rhine to Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2 (CI), Headquarters, US Forces European Theater, Subject: Investigation into the Death of Hitler, November 22, 1945, Document No. CIB/B3/PF.582, File: Major Trevor-Roper Interrogations, Reports Relating to Prisoner of War Interrogations, 1943-1945, ([NAID 2790598](#)) Box 711, Record Group 165; Special Interrogation of Erich Kempka, at US Third Army Internment Camp No. 6, Moosburg, October 7, 1945, enclosure to Memorandum, Brigadier [no name given], Counter Intelligence Bureau (CIB), GSI (b), Headquarters, British Army of the Rhine to Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2 (CI), Headquarters, US Forces European Theater, Subject: Investigation into the Death of Hitler, November 22, 1945, *ibid.* Apparently as a precaution, Hitler had the smaller pistol nearby in case the heavier pistol, with which he was far less familiar, should jam. O'Donnell, The Berlin Bunker, p. 255; Linge, With Hitler to the End, p. 199; Joachimsthaler, The Last Days of Hitler, p. 180.

[19] Linge, With Hitler to the End, p. 199; Joachimsthaler, The Last Days of Hitler, pp. 156-157, 192; O'Donnell, The Berlin Bunker, pp. 257-258; Eberle and Uhl, eds., The Hitler Book, p. 271.

TO BE CONTINUED

THINGS THAT WILL DISAPPEAR IN THIS CENTURY

The Check:

Britain is already laying the groundwork to do away with the check by 2018. It cost the financial system billions of dollars a year to process checks. Most places have stopped returning our cancelled checks to us. Plastic cards and on-line transactions will lead to the eventual demise of the check. This plays right into the death of the Post Office. If you have never paid your bills by mail in a while and/or never received bills through the mail there is less to be delivered through the mail.

The Post Office:

E-mail, electronic bill paying, electronic check transfers, the cell phone, text messaging and instant communications has wiped out the minimum revenue needed to keep the Post Office alive. Letter writing to family and friends is practically non-existent when you can send a message on the internet or through a cell phone. First Class Mail is what kept the Post Office solvent but now most of our mail everyday is junk mail.

The Newspaper:

The younger generation simply doesn't read the newspaper. They certainly don't subscribe to a daily delivered print edition. That may go the way of the milkman and the laundryman. As for reading the paper on-line, get ready to pay for it. All of the magazine and newspaper publishers have formed an alliance. They have met with Apple, Amazon and the major cell phone companies to develop a model for paid subscription service.

Joined Handwriting (we know it as cursive writing)

It is already gone in some schools who no longer teach "joined handwriting" because nearly everything is done now on computers or keyboards of some type (pun not intended). Ask your great-grandkids. If you wrote them a letter they probably cannot read it. They only recognize printing. That is what they are first taught. Have you watched how your great-grandkids hold a pencil or a pen? We probably can eliminate the index finger because most likely they are wrapping their hand around the instrument. Think of the travesty in the future. Our future historians will not be able read the billions of documents in our archives that have been handwritten. History will go back no farther than the invention of type and typewriters. But your love letters will soon be safe as they won't be able to read them. Your first and second grade teachers probably have turned over in their graves.

The Book:

You say you will never give up the physical book that you hold in your hand and turn the literal pages. Some said the same thing about downloading music from I tunes. We wanted our own hard copy CD. But we quickly changed my mind when we discovered that we could get albums for half the price without leaving home to get the latest. The same thing will happen with books. You can browse a bookstore on-line and even read a preview chapter before you buy. And the price is less than half that of a real book. And think of the convenience! Once you start flicking your fingers on the screen instead of the book, you find that you are lost in the story, can't wait to see what happens next, and you forget that you're holding a gadget instead of a book.

The Land Line Telephone:

Unless you have a large family and make a lot of local calls, you don't really need it anymore. Most people keep it simply because they've always had it. But you are paying double charges for that extra service. And most of those calls are people trying to sell you something or trying to scam you. All the cell phone companies will let you call customers using the same cell provider for no charge against your minutes.

Television Revenues:

Revenues to the networks are down dramatically. Not because of the economy. People are watching TV and movies streamed from their computers. And they are playing games and doing lots of other things to take up the time that used to be spent watching TV. Prime time shows have degenerated down to lower than the least common denominator. Cable rates are skyrocketing and commercials run every 4 minutes and 30 seconds. Some say good riddance to most of it. It's time for the cable companies to be put out of our misery. Remember when was TV was free? Now we are forced into packages of hundreds of channels and we can only watch one at any given time. Let the people choose what they want to watch online and through Netflix and Amazon Firestick.

DID YOU KNOW?

After the attack on Pearl Harbor in December, 1941, Americans quickly became all too aware of their vulnerability.

The Roosevelt administration feared that the Japanese would strike on American soil again, and homeland security became an immediate priority. With their close proximity to Japan (closer, in fact, than to Seattle), the Aleutians Islands seemed especially prone to attack, and was poorly prepared for an assault on its turf. Only six airplanes were functional and the 22,000 military personnel garrisoned there were separated by hundreds of miles of rough terrain and lack of transportation.

In June, 1942, the Japanese did indeed attack, bombing the military base at Dutch Harbor, killing more than 100 Americans. Within a week, Japan's Northern Area Fleet had seized the islands of Attu and Kiska, marking the first time that American territory had been occupied since the War of 1812. The Japanese thought that this American foothold would stop American ships from traveling the Northern Pacific to attack them, but at almost the same time, on 4 June 1942, American and Japanese forces converged on Midway Island to fight the battle that would be the turning point in the war as the Americans destroyed four aircraft carriers and a cruiser, crippling the enemy's navy. This weakening of the force, coupled with the terrible weather in the Aleutians, which did more damage to the Japanese advance than their opponents, prohibited them from being able to make a push inland.

In May, 1943, US Forces attacked the Japanese on Attu and by the end of the month the Japanese had retreated from the island. In late July, they discreetly withdrew from Kiska, ending their nearly one year of occupation of the Aleutian Islands.

Often called the Lost Battle, due to other events of the war occurring at the same time, the Battle for the Aleutians had cost 513 American lives in enemy combat, but more than 3,500 casualties from freezing weather, Japanese booby traps and friendly fire. *Source: www.PBS.org, submitted by John E. Mc Auliffe.*

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**Details will be in the next
Bulge Bugle.
14 Dec Reception Luxem-
bourg Embassy.
15 Dec Holocaust Museum
in AM & Banquet in
Evening.
16 Dec VBOB wreath lay-
ings Arlington Cem**

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

Sunday 12 June 2016

BASTA PASTA

Timonium MD

11:00 for Lunch

Reservations deadline Wed. 08 June 2016

Call John Schaffner 410-584-2754