DV The Desert Voice
United States Army Central
Transforming to Full Spectrum Operations
November 05, 2008

United States Army Central

1918-2008

Celebrating 90 years of service to the nation

DV

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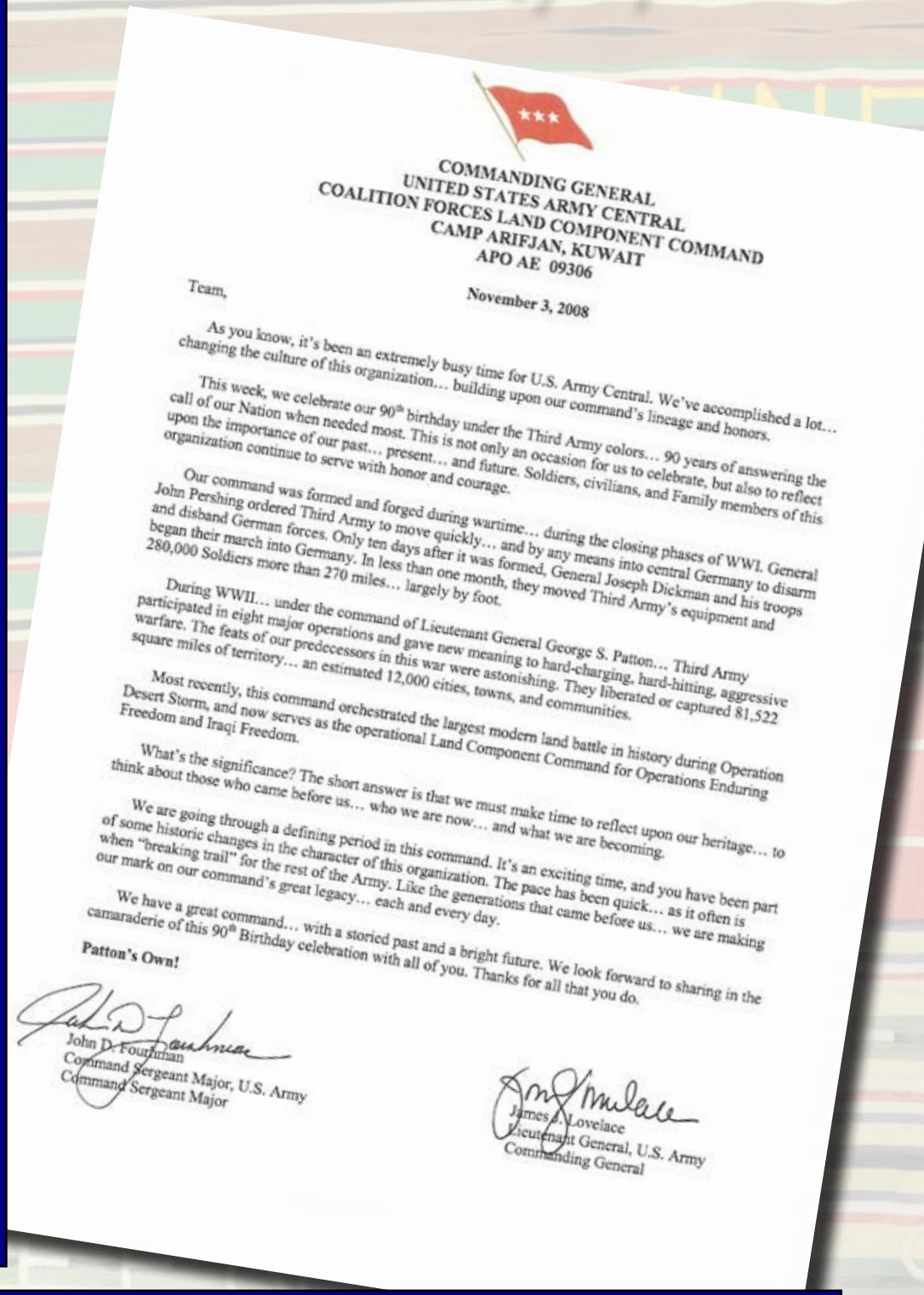
Contact us

Comments, questions, suggestions story ideas? Call the Desert Voice editor at 430-6334 or e-mail at desertvoice@arifjan.arcent.army.mil.

From the command group...



COMMANDING GENERAL
UNITED STATES ARMY CENTRAL
COALITION FORCES LAND COMPONENT COMMAND
CAMP ARIFJAN, KUWAIT
APO AE 09306

November 3, 2008

Team,

As you know, it's been an extremely busy time for U.S. Army Central. We've accomplished a lot… changing the culture of this organization… building upon our command's lineage and honors.

This week, we celebrate our 90th birthday under the Third Army colors… 90 years of answering the call of our Nation when needed most. This is not only an occasion for us to celebrate, but also to reflect upon the importance of our past… present… and future. Soldiers, civilians, and Family members of this organization continue to serve with honor and courage.

Our command was formed and forged during wartime… during the closing phases of WWI. General John Pershing ordered Third Army to move quickly… and by any means into central Germany to disarm and disband German forces. Only ten days after it was formed, General Joseph Dickman and his troops began their march into Germany. In less than one month, they moved Third Army's equipment and 280,000 Soldiers more than 270 miles… largely by foot.

During WWII… under the command of Lieutenant General George S. Patton… Third Army participated in eight major operations and gave new meaning to hard-charging, hard-hitting, aggressive warfare. The feats of our predecessors in this war were astonishing. They liberated or captured 81,522 square miles of territory… an estimated 12,000 cities, towns, and communities.

Most recently, this command orchestrated the largest modern land battle in history during Operation Desert Storm, and now serves as the operational Land Component Command for Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

What's the significance? The short answer is that we must make time to reflect upon our heritage… to think about those who came before us… who we are now… and what we are becoming.

We are going through a defining period in this command. It's an exciting time, and you have been part of some historic changes in the character of this organization. The pace has been quick… as it often is when "breaking trail" for the rest of the Army. Like the generations that came before us… we are making our mark on our command's great legacy… each and every day.

We have a great command… with a storied past and a bright future. We look forward to sharing in the camaraderie of this 90th Birthday celebration with all of you. Thanks for all that you do.

Patton's Own!

John D. Fourhman
Command Sergeant Major, U.S. Army
Command Sergeant Major

James J. Lovelace
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army
Commanding General

DV
The Desert Voice

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Celebrating 90 years of service...

This week, U.S. Army Central celebrates 90 years of service to the nation. It is a chance for us to celebrate the history, lineage and sacrifices of those who have served before us.

Command Sgt.Major John Fourhman
U.S. Army Central Command Sergeant Major

Throughout the week there will be events filled with camaraderie and esprit de corps. This will include volleyball tournaments, track and field events, cake cutting ceremonies and the USARCENT 90th Birthday Ball.

While it is a time for us to celebrate, it is also a time for us to look into the past to acknowledge the accomplishments of our predecessors. I encourage all of you to take a moment to read about our history in this magazine to learn about the great feats we've accomplished in our 90-year history.

During World War I Third Army was formed and charged with an immediate mission that took it far from home into the heart of Germany. The Soldiers encountered very little resistance as they pushed deep into enemy lines.

In World War II Third Army became known as "Patton's Own" as it swept through Europe with a force and determination that became renowned throughout the world. The accomplishments and bravery of these men are forever etched into time.

Third Army again showed its strength in Desert Storm/Desert Shield as it aided in liberating Kuwait from Saddam Hussein's Iraqi regime.

Again we find ourselves at the forefront as we participate in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom across the spectrum of military operations, and shaping operations throughout the CENTCOM area of operation.

We have continued to set the standard for others to follow by being the only enduring forward deployed headquarters throughout the war. We continue to break ground for the rest of the Army as we progress in our transformation to a Full-Spectrum Operations capable CFLCC ready to deploy when our nation calls.

Through time our organization has changed, to include the roles of our officers and enlisted personnel but there has always been a common thread -- Soldiering. I am proud of the way you all uphold the Army Values and continue to set the standard for others to emulate.

Over the next few weeks this magazine will take a special look at the role of the NCO. It will discuss the role of an NCO in USARCENT working in a battle staff environment and talk about the history of the NCO beginning with the American Revolution, leading to our current NCOs, who are undoubtedly the best in the world.

I encourage everyone, especially NCOs, to read the articles and learn more about our lineage and the evolution of the "backbone" of the Army.

Our great command has a renowned history and a bright future. So, as we celebrate its 90th Birthday, it is a time for us all to honor the accomplishments of those who served before us and to take pride in all that we do for the Army and our nation.

I am thankful for all that you do, keep up the great work.

Patton's Own!

U.S. Army Central Lineage

***Organized 7-15 November 1918 in the Regular Army at Ligny-en-Barrois, France, as Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, Third Army.**

***Demobilized 2 July 1919 in Germany.**

***Reconstituted 9 August 1932 in the Regular Army as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Third Army.**

***Headquarters activated 1 October 1933 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.**

***Headquarters Company activated 23 November 1940 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.**

***Redesignated 1 January 1957 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Third United States Army.**

***Inactivated 1 October 1973 at Fort McPherson, Georgia.**

***Headquarters activated 1 December 1982 at Fort McPherson, Georgia.**

Campaign Participation Credit

Normandy
Northern France
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe
Saudi Arabia
Kuwait

Decorations

Meritorious Unit Citation

U.S. Army Central

Third Army's heritage passed down t

Story by
Spc. Howard Ketter
Desert Voice Staff Writer

Third Army was well known for major battles and accomplishments in World War II. Some of the stories of what Soldiers did in "Patton's Own" were passed down to younger generations who now serve in USARCENT.

Navy Nurse Corps Capt. Sara Marks, serves in support of USARCENT at Camp Arifjan's Emergency Medical Facility. Her father, Simon S. Marks, when he was a first lieutenant serving with Third Army, wrote a letter to her mother May 24, 1945 after the war was over.

In the letter he said that he had left Camp Shanks, N.Y., on Feb. 4, and arrived in Le Havre, France on Feb. 17. He said the trip was rough and there were three German submarines following them with the intent of attacking if one of the ships fell out of formation.

Former Army 1st Lt. Simon S. Marks after World War II in 1944 at Fort Knox, Kentucky .

Once he got to his unit, Headquarters, 69th Armored Infantry Battalion, in Europe, Marks went through mine school for two days. His unit went out on a detail and found multiple mines of different types in sweeps of German mine fields.

"We blew up 212 teller mines and about two and a half tons of TNT at one time, it sure made a big bang," he stated in the letter.

He wrote about another detail in which he and 30 enlisted Soldiers went to Staney, France, to get German prisoners from the front lines.

"We sat in on an interrogation of a German soldier and officer and were surprised at the amount of information they gave willingly," he said in the letter. "[The Germans] said that it was useless to fight for they knew they had lost the war."

Then, he talked about how his men and he took thousands of prisoners to Cherbourg, France, where he spent two days at another prisoner camp.

Marks had been fired at on multiple occasions and his units encountered plenty of German opposition during his time in Europe; however he did not let that keep him from being just to the enemy.

On one occasion Marks and one his close friends, another lieutenant, passed by a dying German soldier on a patrol. His friend said he wasn't sure if he had ever killed a German soldier and was going to use that opportunity to do so. Marks armed his weapon and pointed it at his comrade saying that if he were to kill the German then he would suffer the same fate. His friend declined; Marks threw the German a canteen of water and they moved on.

"That always stood out in my mind," said Capt. Marks, remembering her father's story. "Because it must be so hard being a Soldier, and your job is to kill the enemy, and all of a sudden say it's over, how do you switch that off?"

Another Navy servicemember, serving in support of USARCENT, remembers his relative that served with Third Army.

Chief Petty Officer Delmer H. Wallen Jr.'s uncle served as a first lieutenant with Third Army in the 97th Infantry Division.

"My uncle told me several stories; we conversed quite a bit," said Wallen Jr.

He remembers his late uncle, 1st Lt. Ellis I. Wallen Sr., telling him the story about how he was appointed as battalion commander during WWII.

U.S. Army Central

to today's U.S. Army Central

Lt. Wallen had just landed in Europe in June 1944, when he was asked to drive his battalion commander through an area that he thought was heavily mined.

"He said he told his commander that he didn't think they should go through that area, but his commander insisted that they did," said Wallen Jr.

Wallen Sr. drove his commander through the dangerous area and they struck a land mine. The Jeep was destroyed and his commander was killed in the incident. Wallen Sr. earned a Purple Heart for his injuries from the shrapnel of the explosion.

A picture of former 1st Lt. Ellis I. Wallen Sr. from a 1940s newspaper article. Wallen was an acting battalion commander while he was a company grade officer.

"He always laughed about how he got his first Purple Heart for being hit in the rear end," said Wallen Jr.

After the death of his commander, Wallen Sr. was appointed as the battalion executive officer.

He earned his second Purple Heart in the liberation of Bergen-Belsen, a Nazi concentration camp where thousands of Jewish prisoners were held.

"He told me the prisoners were so weak and skinny that they tapped their fingers against their palms to applaud the Soldiers for liberating them," said Wallen Jr. "He said that the smell was terrible and the prisoners were so skinny they were just skin over bones; it was a sight that he said he would never forget."

Though the war was winding down, there was still fierce fighting in Czechoslovakia at this time in 1945. One day Wallen Sr.'s unit had a mission to advance to a point about 800 yards away. The unit advanced approximately 50 yards before they began taking heavy fire from self-propelled air defense artillery machine guns. They suffered several casualties and their battalion commander was at another position.

Wallen Sr. couldn't get in touch with the commander by radio so he ran across an open field of approximately 200 yards taking heavy fire the whole way. When he arrived at the point where his commander was, he found the radio operator and his battalion commander dead. Wallen Sr. tried to call in air support but was refused because of their position being to close to the enemy. He then contacted field artillery with the coordinates of the enemy's position.

"[The Germans] said that it was useless to fight for they knew they had lost the war."

1st Lt. Simon S. Marks
69th Armored Infantry Battalion

"He said that did the trick, because after the artillery shells hit, there was a dead silence all around them," said Wallen Jr.

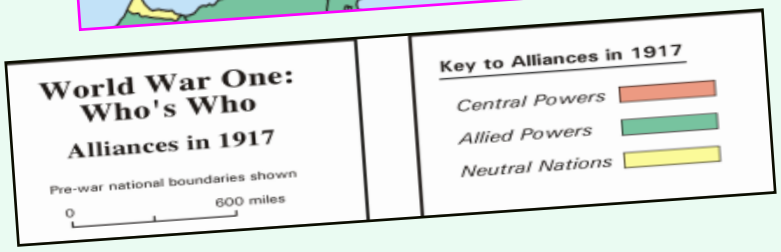
As a result of these actions, Wallen Sr. was made the acting battalion commander of 2nd Battalion, 387th Infantry Regiment. He was also awarded a Silver Star and a second Purple Heart.

There is plenty of rich history throughout Third Army's past. Stories like these have been passed along to younger generations who are making history in today's war serving with and in support of "Patton's Own".

As USARCENT turns 90-years-old, servicemembers continue to uphold the traditions and heritage of this great organization so that it may be passed on to the next generation.

U.S. Army Central

SALUTE TO THE COLORS
Your Nation's magazine of choice
April 1917
Volume 2; Issue 1



A WORLD AT WAR!

U.S. Army Central has gone through many transitions to become the great organization it is today. It is an organization that was born out of a world at war.

The first World War began as a conflict between the Entente Powers, which consisted of France, The United Kingdom and Russia; and the Central Powers, Germany, Austria-Hungary and its associated empires. Over time, several other countries joined the war, including the U.S., in April 1917, as an ally to the Entente Powers. The U.S. fought for more than a year and a half with their allies before a treaty was signed between the Entente Powers and Germany. The armistice treaty was put in place to stop the fighting on the Western front. This treaty would also serve as one of the factors in activating Third Army.

November 15, 1918 U

THIRD ARMY

Information Compiled by
Desert Vo

Third Army was activated during Worl
under General Or
General Order 198, issued under the G
tionary forces, established Third Army a
general staff and admin
On Nov. 15, Maj. Gen. Joseph T. Dickm
General Order No. 1, which establishe
staff as well as the general staff and a
Army. On this date, Dickman was also
commander of the American Expedition
and disband Germ

Maj. Gen Joseph T. Dickman, commanding general, Third Army, November 1918 to April 1919.

Third Army disbands

By the new year, Third Army was focused on training and setting up installations.

During the month of January 1919, much of the month was spent establish ing a strong presence in Germany and preparing troops should any hostile for attempt to break the treaty.

In the months to follow, military scho were opened, a quartermaster depot was organized, educational centers we established and routine duties of oc-

Y ACTIVATED

Spc. Elayseah Woodard-Hinton
ice Staff Writer

d War I as a formation in Chaumont, France, der 198, on Nov. 7, 1918.

General Headquarters of the American Expedi- s an organization to consist of headquarters, a istrative and technical services.

an assumed command of Third Army, issuing d who would serve in the roles of his personal dministrative and technical services for Third given his first mission by Gen. John J. Pershing, nary Forces, to move into Germany and disarm nan forces by any means.

Lt. Gen. Hunter Liggett, commanding general, Third Army, April to July 1919.

COBLENZ BLOG

The advance into Germany was swift. Two days after General Order No. 1 was issued, Third Army began its march into the country. On Dec. 12, shortly after Third Army Soldiers began to occupy the land, Field Order No. 11 was issued. This order directed Third Army's occupation of the northern sector of the Coblenz bridgehead. Under this order, advanced elements began to cross the Rhine River and on Dec. 15., Third Army opened its headquarters at Coblenz. By Dec. 19, the Coblenz Bridgehead had been completely established and occupied by approximately 9,638 officers and 221,070 enlisted men. Third Army encountered no hostile activity during its advance.

"The Watch on the Rhine," Signal Corps photograph of guard showing Coblenz railroad bridge in background. Coblenz, Rhenish Prussia, Germany, Jan. 6, 1919.

- cupation and training were carried on throughout the Third Army area.

ces In April 1919, Maj. Gen. Dickman relinquished command of Third Army to Lt. ols Gen. Hunter Liggett.

In May, Third Army issued its plan of re advance if the new peace treaty was not signed. This plan was created due to a directive by Marshal Ferdinand Foch, General-in-Chief of the Allied Armies, to dispatch troops to Weimar and Berlin if the peace treaty was not signed. However, by June, the Germans had signed the peace treaty and in July 1919, Third Army was disbanded.

U.S. Army Central

"OL' BLO

"Patton's Own" make

Compiled by
Sgt. Brooks Fletcher
Desert Voice Editor

In August 1932, The U.S Army reorganized its armies. This reorganization reactivated Third Army after a 13-year hiatus following World War I, controlling formations throughout the U.S.

Third Army carried out its mission for the next decade, training the large influx of Soldiers brought in from the draft, unknowingly preparing themselves for what would be one of the greatest conflicts in history.

Under the leadership of Lt. Gen Walter Krueger a combat formation was established, which was the catalyst for the unit's future success.

Krueger was succeeded by Lt. Gen. Courtney Hodges, who led Third Army for the rest of 1943.

Hodge's tenure was brief, as he was replaced by Lt. Gen. George Patton, in December 1943.

Four years after World War II began and under the command of Patton; the Third Army, an "Army of Occupation," would step up to bat once again, providing support overseas.

Patton and his newly reformed, combat-ready Third Army were mobilized to the United Kingdom to take part in Operation Overload, the Allied force's invasion of Northwest Europe. These forces included four major powers, the U.S., British Empire, Soviet Union and China.

On June 6, 1944, commonly known as D-Day, Allied forces landed more than 160,000 troops along the beaches on the coast of Normandy. More than three million troops landed by the end of August.

After a two-month assault on Normandy, territory was established in France, where Third Army would begin its onslaught through Europe.

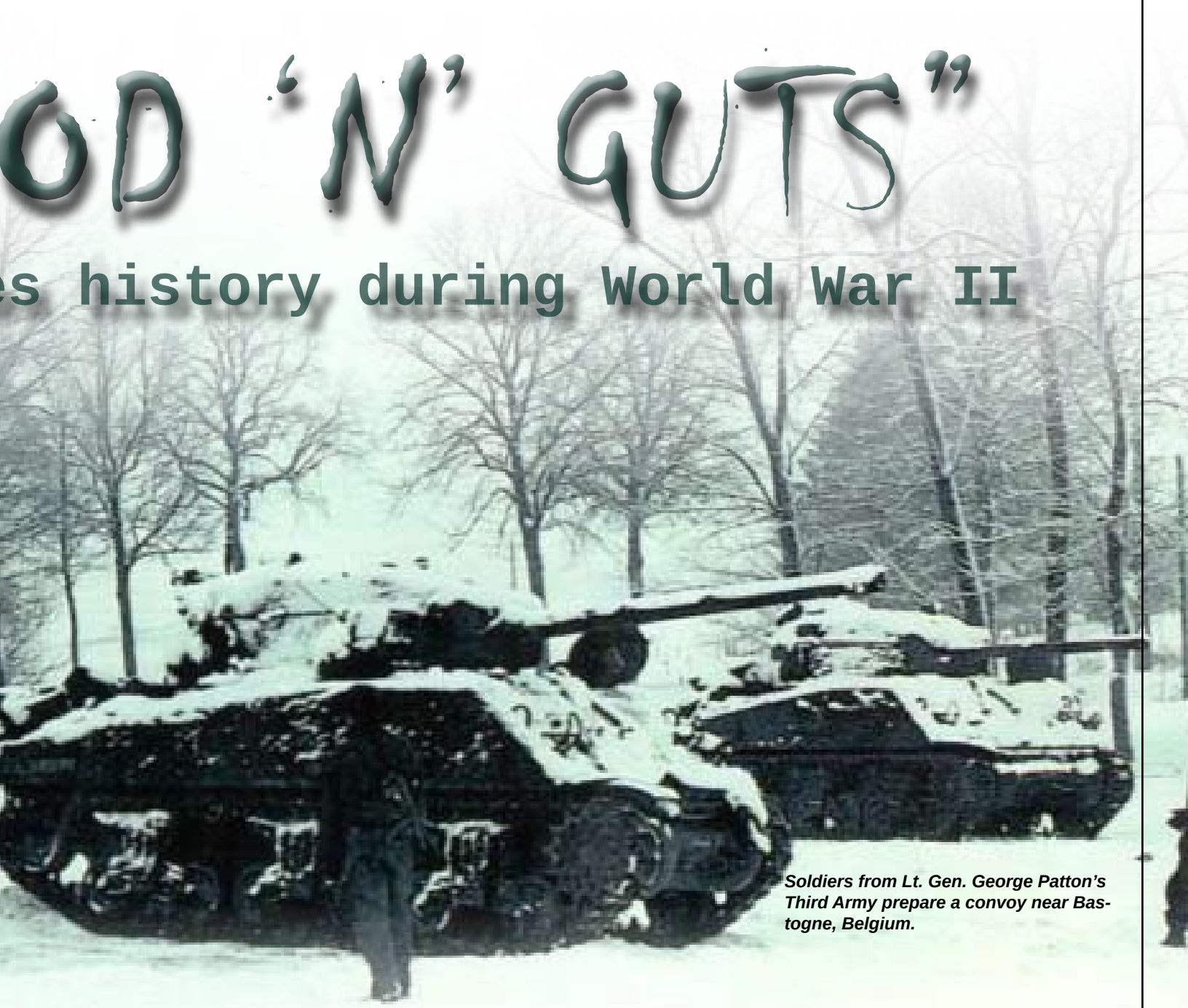
Following the success of Lt. Gen. Omar Bradley and his First Army, Patton and his Third Army stormed through Normandy and began advancing across France.

In a last chance effort, the

U.S. Army Central

OD 'N' GUTS"

es history during World War II



Soldiers from Lt. Gen. George Patton's Third Army prepare a convoy near Bastogne, Belgium.

U.S. Army Central

Germans launched their last offensive of the war creating a stronghold against "Patton's Own" … the Battle of the Bulge.

During this battle, noted as one of the great moves during World War II; Patton's order to redirect Third Army's full scale attack from the east and turn Third Army's advance to the south of the Germans, provided vital aid to the Soldiers of 101st Airborne Division, who single handedly held a stronghold at Bastogne, Belgium, which was a main supply route in the war.

Germany's offensive plan to split the Allied force's line in half, ultimately destroying the four Allied armies, forcing the Western Allies to negotiate a "new" peace treaty in the Axis forces' favor was foiled by the maneuver.

There was one last obstacle between Third Army and the stronghold in the heart of Germany, but unlike 1918's crossing of the Coblenz, the crossing of the Rhine was met with hostile forces, but with their defeat during the Battle of the Bulge, Germany was incapable of holding off Third Army's assault.

Upon winning the bridgehead, Third Army made another eastward advance, reaching Czechoslovakia and Austria, where on May 9, 1945 the war would come to an end, now known as V.E. Day or Victory In Europe Day.

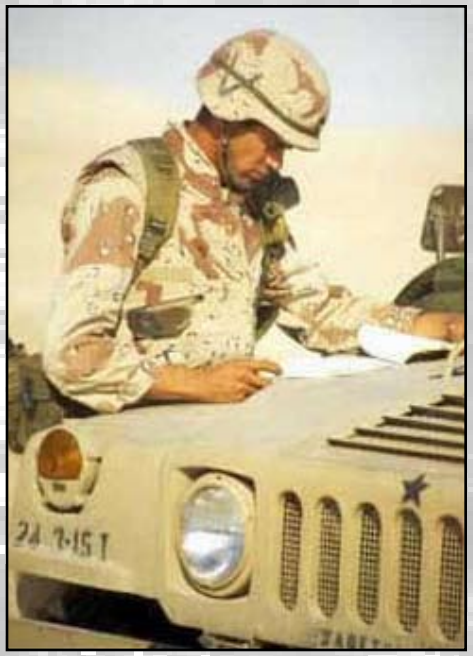
Occupation summoned again, as the Third Army started to rebuild Germany. It remained in Germany until recalled to the U.S. again in 1947.

Once back in the U.S, Third Army's duties were similar to those of the 1930s, acting as a command and training force for units. Following participation in the Korean War, Third Army was deactivated in 1974.

It has been more than six decades since World War II has come to an end.

Although Third Army has been through numerous changes, its present mission and operations bring the historical unit to the Middle East, the spirit of the World War II-famed Patton's Own still remains alive and well.

Third Army's role in Gulf War vital to success



Courtesy Photo

A Soldier from the 24th Infantry Division reads a map on the hood of his HMMWV during Operation Desert Storm, 1991.

F-16A Fighting Falcons and F-15C and F-15E Eagles fly over burning oil fields during Desert Storm. Fighter jets were used to launch air strikes prior to the ground war being waged in February 1991. Operation Desert Storm began January 1991.

Courtesy Photo

Compiled by
Pfc. Alicia Torbush
Desert Voice Staff Writer

In July 1990, Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, accused Kuwait of stealing oil from a disputed supply and flooding the oil markets. In August, he sent 120,000 troops and 2,000 tanks into Kuwait and easily overtook the smaller country, calling it his 19th province.

The United Nations passed a resolution for military action if Hussein did not withdraw his forces within six months of Iraq's invasion.

Third Army began deploying Soldiers from its headquarters in Atlanta to establish combat forces in the region and to protect critical interests in the area both in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Eventually 30 countries would join together with the U.S. against Iraq.

Third Army was responsible for building forward logistical bases to support U.S. forces, as well as defend critical port and oil facilities in Saudi Arabia.

During the first 90 days of the conflict, known as Desert Shield, Third Army coordinated the movement and sustainment of a force, including Soldiers from Third Army's two corps headquarters, nine divisions and coalition forces. This deployment was the equivalent of the force that the U.S. Army deployed to Vietnam in a year.

In January 1991, the U.N. granted President George Bush, Sr., permission to wage war on Iraq, the conflict became known as Desert Storm.

Air strikes began across Iraq and Third Army prepared to take the offensive with 250,000 ground troops, 10,000 tracked vehicles and 50,000 wheeled vehicles. Movement began with the forces leaving Eastern Saudi Arabia, heading 360 miles to the Iraqi border.

The ground war was launched in February 1991. It was the largest armored battle in the history of warfare. The allied ground forces, along with Third Army, far exceeded all expectations.

With the U.S. Marine Corps and coalition forces supporting Third Army's main attack, the ground war ended just 100 hours after it had began.

Following the Gulf War, Third Army transitioned to oversee the restoration of Kuwait and the care of displaced civilians from Iraq. It also transitioned into a buffer zone along the Iraqi border for the United Nations Observation Mission.

U.S. Army Central

USARCENT supports OEF and OIF

Photo by Army Spc. Howard Ketter

Soldiers practice close quarter marksmanship at a Camp Buehring, Kuwait, range in preperation of their deployment in Iraq.

Photo by Army Pfc. Alicia Torbush

Soldiers familiarize themselves with the M777 howitzer during a training exercise at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

Compiled by
Staff Sgt. Jarod Perkioniemi
Desert Voice Detachment Sergeant

In September 2001, elements of U.S. Army Central began deploying in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and in March 2003 became the first major command in theater for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The mission of USARCENT is to provide an Army service component headquarters for the U.S. Central Command and support Army joint and coalition forces in theater.

Full-Spectrum Operations, which consists of offensive, defensive and stability operations along with civil support; Theater Security Cooperation; and Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration are the ways USARCENT continues to support both campaigns.

USARCENT is responsible for the reception, staging and onward movement of all U.S. ground forces spanning the 23 countries in the CENTCOM area of responsibility which covers four time zones in an area approximately 15 million square kilometers. This area has a population of more than 670 million with more than 70 ethnic groups and 28 religions.

Between OIF I and OIF II, USARCENT conducted the largest rotation of forces since World War II, where in five months 133,000 troops deployed and 165,000 redeployed through Kuwait.

In addition to supporting the movement of equipment, USARCENT also makes and repairs it. USARCENT has outfitted more than 13,000 vehicles with ballistic armor in an effort to have all up-armored vehicles.

As part of the TSC, USARCENT has coordinated seminars, information exchanges and noncommissioned officer professional development programs throughout the AOR.

Humanitarian mission are also conducted in the AOR to enhance relationships with regional countries and militaries, and support the global war on terrorism.

On the logistical side, USARCENT provides the administrative command and control of all forces moving through Kuwait throughout the theater. It acts as the link between the combatant commander and the Department of the Army.

As both OIF and OEF continue to evolve, USACENT continues to provide the support needed for the continued success of military forces in the region.

U.S. Army Cental

Year in Review...

ARMY

Tragedy in 1945 has impact on Soldiers today

Article by
Col. Will Merrill
USARCENT Safety Officer

After conquering the Nazi Army in both Africa and Europe, Lt. Gen. George S. Patton Jr., the namesake of Third Army, was involved in a tragic off duty accident, which may have changed the course of history.

On Dec. 9, 1945, in Germany a day before he was due to return to the United States, Patton was critcally injured in a motor vehicle accident. He and his Chief of Staff, Maj. Gen. "Hap" Gay, were planning to hunt pheasant near Mannheim, Germany, when their 1939 Cadillac Model 75, driven by Pfc. Horace Woodring, was involved in a near head-on collision. Neither the driver nor Gay were injured, but Patton suffered a broken neck in the collision.

Woodring later described the event. "At a checkpoint a few miles from our destination, Patton looked back and saw a dog belonging to their hunting partner in the trailing jeep. He told me, 'Woody, go and bring that dog inside the car, he looks cold.'"

Woodring fetched the dog. Patton got out of his front seat and climbed into the rear with Gay and let the dog sit up front.

According to reports, a short time later, an Army two and-a-half ton truck appeared out of the fog and made a left-hand turn towards a side road, smashing into the general's Cadillac. Patton was thrown forward and his head struck a metal part of the partition between the front and back seats. Gay and Woodring were uninjured. Paralyzed from the neck down, Patton was taken to the military hospital in Heidelberg where he died of complications from his injuries on Dec. 21, 1945.

Before he passed away in 2003, Woodring wrote, "That simple act of kindness toward an animal ended the life of a national hero."

Courtesy Photo

The aftermath of the 1945 car crash near Mannheim, Germany, which led to the death of Lt. Gen. George S. Patton Jr.

Safety belts were first patented in 1885 for airplanes, trains and other public vehicles but were not included as standard equipment in automobiles until the late 1950s. They were not required to be worn in the U.S. until the 1970s. Safety belts are mandatory for all Soldiers because they save lives and prevent serious injuries. Did you know that every hour in the United States someone dies simply because they didn't buckle up?

What's stopping you? Wear your safety belt!

Courtesy Photo

A HMMWV flipped over, signifying the importance of safety and wearing seatbelts.

U.S. Army Central

USARCENT 90th Birthday Camp Arifjan Events Nov. 7, 2008

2.2 mile run / 1-mile walk
0600
ASG-KU HQ Building

Volleyball Tournament
0900-1200
Zone 1 Gym

Track and Field Events
1300-1500
Zone 1 Track

Awards Presentation/ Cake Cutting Ceremony
1800
Zone 1 Chapel

Just One Question ...

"What moment in ARCENT's history stands out most to you?"

"I remember reading about the courageous efforts and perserverance of Third Army Soldiers during the Battle of the Bulge."

Sgt. 1st Class Glenn Davis
1186th Terminal Transportation Brigade
Vessel Operations NCOIC
Jacksonville, Fla.

"As a unit, Third Army was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation medal for their role in Desert Storm."

Maj. Eddie Galarza
USARCENT G6
Assistant Officer
San Juan, Puerto Rico

"I reflect back on General Patton's address in WWII, 'We have the finest food, the finest equipment, the best spirit, and the best men in the world.'"

Lt. Col. Fran Hardison
PASR
Chief
Hacienda Heights, CA

"What stands out to me is the moment that is happening right now. We are converting as we go to a Full-Spectrum Operations unit. "

Lt. Col. John Intravia
USARCENT Safety
Safety Manager
St. Louis, Mo.

"A moment that stands out is the strides we have made in support of reshaping the theater are significant."

Col. Shane Dietrich
408th Contracting Support Brigade
Commander
Copperas Cove, Texas

Why I Serve:

Sgt. Maj. Janith Parker
USARCENT G6; Sergeant Major

The Atlanta, native explains why she chose to join the military.

"I love being a Soldier. I am proud to be a part of something so great."

U.S. Army Central

Patton's Final General Order
General Order Number 98
May 9, 1945

Soldiers of Third Army, Past and Present,

During the 281 days of incessant and victorious combat, your penetrations have advanced farther in less time than any other army in history. You have fought your way across 24 major rivers and innumerable lesser streams. You have liberated or conquered more than 82,000 square miles of territory, including 1,500 cities and towns, and some 12,000 inhabited places. Prior to the termination of active hostilities, you had captured in battle 956,000 enemy soldiers and killed or wounded at least 500,000 others France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia bear witness to your exploits.

All men and women of the six corps and thirty-nine divisions that have at different times been members of this Army have done their duty. Each deserves credit. The enduring valor of the combat troops has been paralleled and made possible by the often unpublicized activities of the supply, administrative, and medical services of this Army and of the Communications Zone troops supporting it. Nor should we forget our comrades of the other armies and of the Air Force, particularly of the XIX Tactical Air Command, by whose side or under whose wings we have had the honor to fight.

In proudly contemplating our achievements, let us never forget our heroic dead whose graves mark the course of our victorious advances, nor our wounded whose sacrifices aided so much in our success.

I should be both ungrateful and wanting in candor if I failed to acknowledge the debt we owe to our Chiefs of Staff, Generals Gaffey and Gay, and to the officers and men of the General and Special Staff Sections of Army Headquarters. Without their loyalty, intelligence, and unremitting labors, success would have been impossible.

The termination of fighting in Europe doesn't remove the opportunities for other outstanding and equally difficult achievements in the days which are to come. In some ways the immediate future will demand of you more fortitude than has the past because, without the inspiration of combat, you must maintain - by your dress, deportment, and efficiency - not only the prestige of the Third Army but also the honor of the United States. I have complete confidence that you will not fail.

During the course of this war I have received promotions and decorations far above and beyond my individual merit. You won them; I as your representative wear them. The one honor which is mine and mine alone is that of having commanded such an incomparable group of Americans, the record of whose fortitude, audacity, and valor will endure as long as history lasts.

Lt. Gen. George S. Patton
Commanding General
Third Army