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The APG News salutes veterans during November

By YVONNE JOHNSON
APG NEWS

In honor of Veteran's Day and the thousands of veterans residing within the Aberdeen Proving Ground community, the APG News will focus its November issues on veteran's interests and services.

This week's commemorative issue is styled in a format similar to that used during World War II to highlight the 60th Anniversary of the Normandy invasion, which took place June 6, 1944.

Veteran's concerns and interests such as historical events, health care, benefits and veterans service organizations will be addressed in subsequent issues.

Readers will learn about the dedication ceremony for the Fort Des Moines Learning and Research Center held in Des Moines, Iowa, in July. Restored by the National Park Service as a historical landmark, Fort Des Moines was the training site for the Army's first black officers who went on to become Tuskegee Airmen, and for the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps.

In addition, traditional and non-traditional methods of treatment for post traumatic stress disorder will be explored. Articles will focus specifically on the benefits of the Veteran's Administration Outreach Center in Aberdeen; mental health services at Perry Point VA Medical Center in Perryville; a Native American sweat lodge constructed on the Perry Point grounds and attended often by PTSD patients; and the work of Nimr R. Hassan, a Vietnam veteran, martial artist, and therapist who has successfully treated Vietnam veterans diagnosed with PTSD using a self defense regimen that has been adopted by the University of Pennsylvania's PLAAY Project, Preventing Long-term Anger and Aggression in Youth.

The series concludes with coverage of local Veteran's Day observances and a glimpse at Harford and Cecil counties' Veteran's Service Organizations, noting the community-focused work they conduct for veterans, service members and youth organizations.

Post Shorts

Recycling schedule

The recycling pickup for Wednesday, Nov. 17, is plastic, glass and metal. Put items in blue bags and place them on the curb.

Holiday gate operations

At 8 p.m., Nov. 10, the Harford Gate, or Route 22, in the Aberdeen Area and the Wise Road Gate, or Edgewood Road in the Edgewood Area, will be closed for Veteran's Day and will reopen 4 a.m., Nov. 12.

OC&S commander speaks at Veteran's Day ceremony

Brig. Gen. Vincent E. Boles, Chief of Ordnance and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools will speak at the American Legion Post 128 annual Veterans Day Ceremony, Nov. 11 at 11 a.m., at Veteran's Memorial Park, Parke Street, in Aberdeen. A luncheon will follow at the Legion Hall on Parke Street.

For more information, call Lt. Col. Randy Conlon at 443-243-1514

HBO presents 'Last Letters Home'

On Veterans Day, 9 p.m., HBO and The New York Times, in association with LIFE Books, will present a poignant tribute to the fallen American Soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the war in 'Last Letters Home: Voices of American Troops from the Battlefields of Iraq.'

The letters are read by the families of 10 men and women killed in action, some of which were not received until after news of the troops' deaths had been received.

Bill Couturié (HBO's Dear America: Letters Home from Vietnam), produced and directed this one-hour documentary. HBO will open the signal for viewers who do not currently subscribe to HBO, so the program will be available to everyone that has cable or satellite.

Salute to Bob Hope and the USO

The Harford County Veterans Commission will host a Veteran's Day salute to Bob Hope and the USO, 2 to 6 p.m., Nov. 14 at VFW 8672, 1714 Morse Road, Jarrettsville.

Cost is \$15 per person and includes dinner, dancing and show.

For more information, call Mike Perini at 410-893-8396 or e-mail mperini@prodigy.net.

APG plans Retiree Appreciation Day

Aberdeen Proving Ground will hold its annual Retiree Appreciation Day from 8 to 11:45 a.m., Nov. 13, at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326.

Representatives from area agencies to include Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, Commissary, Post Exchange, Community and Family Activities and the Veterans Administration will be on hand.

The National Association for Uniformed Services will provide a guest speaker.

Following the program everyone is invited for lunch at the dining facility, building 4503.

For more information, call Army retirees Col. Charles M. Shadle, chairman of the APG Retiree Council, 410-663-9263 or Command Sgt. Maj. Barry Decker, co-chairman of the APG Retiree Council, 410-

(See Post Shorts, page 6)

Remembering Normandy



--National Archives and Records Administration

U.S. assault troops in a landing craft approach a Normandy beachhead on June 6, 1944.

Normandy - June 6 to July 24, 1944

By WILLIAM M. HAMMOND
U.S. ARMY CENTER OF MILITARY HISTORY

A mighty endeavor

A great invasion force stood off the Normandy coast of France as dawn broke on June 6, 1944; nine battleships, 23 cruisers, 104 destroyers, and 71 large landing craft of various descriptions as well as troop transports, mine sweepers, and merchantmen - in all nearly 5,000 ships of every type, the largest armada ever assembled.

The naval bombardment that began at 5 a.m. that morning detonated large minefields along the shoreline and destroyed a number of the enemy's defensive positions. To one correspondent, reporting from the deck of the cruiser HMS Hillary, it sounded like "the rhythmic beating of a gigantic drum" all along the coast.

In the hours following the bombardment, more than 100,000 fighting men swept

ashore to begin one of the epic assaults of history, "a mighty endeavor," as President Franklin D. Roosevelt described it to the American people, "to preserve ... our civilization and to set free a suffering humanity."

The Allied plan

The attack had been long in coming. From the moment British forces had been forced to withdraw from France in 1940 in the face of an overwhelming German onslaught, planners had plotted a return to the continent. American planners began formal cooperation with Britain in December 1941, just after the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor and the German and Italian declarations of war against the United States.

The two partners agreed to put first the defeat of Germany and its ally Italy if forced to wage a two-front war against both those nations and Japan. Shortly thereafter, British

planners drafted a proposal, code-named ROUNDUP, for an attack across the English Channel into France.

Despite talk that a continental invasion might come as early as 1942, Allied leaders in the end decided tentatively to make the assault in 1943, either through Western Europe or the Balkans. Because British forces would bear the burden of operations in Europe until the United States could complete its buildup for war, the decisions that came out of the conference hewed closely to Britain's preference for attacks on Germany's periphery. Although the British later accepted an American proposal, code-named BOLERO, for the establishment of a million-man force trained and equipped for the 1943 invasion, the United States agreed that during 1942 Allied forces would concentrate on wearing down Germany's resist-

(See Normandy, page 8)

DoD stresses troop support mail policy

DoD

The Department of Defense announced Nov. 2 the continued suspension of the "Any Service member" mail program. Accordingly, the general public is urged not to send unsolicited mail, care packages or donations to service members during the holiday season.

During this time of the year, the number of donation programs increases and causes mail from families and friends to be mixed with mail from unknown sources resulting in delivery delays.

DoD continues to emphasize that names and addresses of military service members must not be distributed by the media, Web sites, companies, non-profit organizations, schools and individuals for the purpose of collecting letters of support or donations for mailing to service members.

Service members should receive mail (See Mail Policy, page 3)

FEHB Open Season begins Nov. 8

CPAC

The federal Employees Health Benefits Open Season runs through Dec. 13.

Health fairs are scheduled for Nov. 17, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326, and Nov. 18, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Edgewood Area Recreation Center, building E-4140. Plan representatives will be available to provide new health plan materials and answer questions at these fairs.

Comparison guides may be obtained at OPM's Web site at <http://www.opm.gov/insure/health>. Employees are encouraged to attend the health fairs to speak to the carrier representatives and obtain individual brochures from them.

(See FEHB Open Season, page 2)

Local vet returns to Normandy

By YVONNE JOHNSON
APG NEWS

A local veteran of the Normandy invasion returned to England and France for the 60th Anniversary observance in June as part of the 29th Infantry Division' "2004 Return to Normandy" tour.

James L. Lockhart of North East, a former manager of the Aberdeen Proving Ground and Edgewood Arsenal commissaries, served with Company B, 1st Battalion, 115th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division during the build up to and invasion of France in 1944.

He and his comrades came ashore on Omaha Beach, the site of the bloodiest battles where the deaths of most of the thousands who were lost in the operation occurred.

It was not Lockhart's first trip back to Europe. He visited in 2002 and was honored by the villager of Berry Pomeroy, England, where his regiment had camped during the preparations for war. The regimental flag of the 115th Infantry Regiment was consecrated and hung in a place of honor in St. Mary's Church, a 650-year old chapel during a special ceremony on June 1.

This year's visit also included ceremonies near Cornwall, England where Allied forces trained for months in advance of the invasion, visits to Omaha and Utah beaches and the

(See Lockhart, page 8)



--James L. Lockhart

James L. Lockhart, right, and a fellow Normandy veteran, center, follow James Parkes, Esq., left, Mayor of Totnes, England, and his wife, Gisella, along a path leading to St. Mary's Church for the consecration ceremony of the regimental flag of his unit, the 115th Infantry Regiment, during the 60th Anniversary of Normandy observance ceremonies June 1.



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Deadline for copy is Thursday at noon for the following Thursday's paper.

Brig. Gen. Roger A. Nadeau

APG Commander

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FEHB Open Season

(Continued from page 1)

A new plan, Coventry Health Care of Delaware has been added; parts of Maryland and Pennsylvania are covered, but enrollees must check with the plan to make sure their area will be covered.

No current nationwide plans or HMO's for Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania or Virginia are dropping out.

Nationwide plans Mail Handlers and GEHA offer the High Deductible Health Plan. HMO's offering HDHP include AETNA Health Fund, Maryland; Delaware Coventry Health Care of Delaware (to include parts of Maryland and Pennsylvania); Health America and AETNA Health Fund, Pennsylvania; and AETNA Health Fund, Virginia.

Kaiser Permanente of Maryland and Virginia will add a standard option.

AETNA Health in Maryland and Virginia will change its name to AETNA Open Access. Standard Option will be renamed Basic Option.

All employee changes will be effective Jan. 9, 2005.

Employees must contact the Army Benefits Center-Civilian (ABC-C) at 1-877-276-9287 or www.abc.army.mil.

The Flexible Spending Account Open Season also coincides with the FEHB Open Season. To enroll in the FSA, employees must call the carrier SHPS directly at 1-877-FSAFEDS or contact <https://www.fsafeds.com>.

Questions may be directed to Teri Wright, CPAC, 410-278-4331, teri.wright@usag.apg.army.mil, or to a servicing human resources assistant.

Understanding high deductible health plans

CPAC

A High Deductible Health Plan is a new health plan product that, when combined with a Health Savings Account or a Health Reimbursement Arrangement, provides insurance coverage and a tax-advantaged way to help save for future medical expenses.

The HDHP/HSA or HRA gives employees greater flexibility and discretion over how to use their health care dollars.

General features of an HDHP

- HDHPs have a higher annual deductible than traditional health plans. An HDHP has a minimum annual deductible of \$1,050 for Self coverage and \$2,100 for Self and Family coverage (the deductible amount is indexed every year).

- HDHPs have annual out-of-pocket limits, which do not exceed \$5,000 for Self coverage and \$10,000 for Family coverage.

- Service delivery in HDHP program within Federal Employees Health Benefits Program may be offered with a: Preferred Provider Organization, Health Maintenance Organization, or Point of Service.

- The health plan determines eligibility for a Health Savings Account or a Health Reimbursement Arrangement.

- Depending on the HDHP you elect, you may have the choice of using either in-network or out-of-network providers. Using in-network providers will save you money.

- With the exception of preventive care, the annual deductible must be met before the plan benefits are paid.

- Preventive care services are generally paid as first dollar coverage of after a small deductible, or copayment. Or, a maximum dollar (up to \$300 for instance) may apply.

MRICD Soldier serves medical mission in Japan



—Sgt. Nicole Washington

Sgt. Nicole Washington, a laboratory technician with the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense, inventories medical supplies in an Army Milvan containing one of four pre-positioned hospitals in Camp Zama, Japan during a temporary duty assignment earlier this year.

By YVONNE JOHNSON
APG NEWS

A Soldier from the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense distinguished herself while assigned on temporary duty with the U.S. Army Medical Material Agency, earlier this year. The USAMMA maintains the Army Surgeon General's Army pre-positioned stocks.

Sgt. Nicole Washington, a laboratory technician and researcher was attached to USAMMA after the tasking for a 91-series medical specialist came down from higher headquarters. She was a specialist/E-4 at the time.

She joined about 20 other Soldiers and civilians from Fort Belvoir, Va.; Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.; Fort Lewis, Wash., and other places for the project.

They flew to Japan where they worked at the Sagami Army Depot.

The task was to upgrade supplies stored in four pre-positioned hospitals stored in Milvans that must be ready to be moved to the battlefield on short notice. Washington said she lived at Camp Zama, an American military installation, and caught the bus to work everyday.

On an average day, she untied dozens of tent temper bundles, checked them for serviceability and also checked the Milvans for leaks.

"To make sure they're serviceable you

do a light test to look for general leakage," Washington said, adding that she completed, "about 100 a day."

"USAMMA has four pre-positioned hospitals in Japan," said Staff Sgt. Jennifer Devorak, Washington's supervisor.

Devorak said the hospitals are packed into Milvans for long-term storage. Over time with changes to hospital formatting and equipment, the hospitals have to be upgraded.

"The mission was to pull supplies and shipments from these containers, inventory them, and replace or dispose of outdated supplies," Devorak said.

In conjunction with the inventory process, medical maintenance personnel performed technical inspections, calibration and safety checks on the equipment.

"It's no surprise that Sgt. Washington did well," Devorak added. "She's a good Soldier."

Washington said she volunteered for the tasking because it seemed like a challenge even if it was hard work. "It needs to be done to make sure Soldiers have the best medical support available," she said.

"I don't mind working hard. I always volunteer for taskings," she said, adding that she would like to go back to Japan.

Washington received a commander's coin from the installation commander at Camp Zama.

OC&S awards winners of Hispanic observance competition

By YVONNE JOHNSON
APG NEWS

The U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools awarded the winners of its Hispanic Heritage Month Essay and Display Competition during a ceremony at building 3071 Oct. 29.

Col. Kevin Smith, OC&S chief of staff, presented the awards. He said that the OC&S is very conscious of the diversity in the military.

"We are a great melting pot of a society," Smith said. "Because we have so many talented service members and civilian, we like to display those talents with these essay and display contests." He encouraged parents of students in local schools and Soldiers in the Edgewood Area to continue to participate in the observances. The awardees included:

Essay winner, Sgt. Tammi Swisher, Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course, Class 3704

Essay runner up, Katherine Hill and Dr. Lori Hill, family members of Lt. Col. Benjamin Hill, U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense

Certificates of appreciation went to Staff Sgt. Careen Brooks, Company C 143rd Ordnance Battalion, Sgt. De'Angelo Coatie, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 61st Ordnance Brigade, and Angela Thrasher, a human resources specialist with the Civilian Personnel Operations Center.

Display winner, BNCOC Class 505-04, Sgt. 1st Class Tarver McKinney, small group leader

Display runner up, Katherine Hill
Certificates went to ANCOB Class 33-04, Sgt. 1st Class Thompson, small group leader.

Essay and Display competition awards for the Native American Heritage month observance will be presented Nov. 29, 3 p.m. in building 3071, second floor in the Wadsworth Area.

For more information, contact Sgt. 1st Class Peggy McCormick, 61st Ordnance Brigade equal opportunity advisor at 410-278-5598

WWII Heros

When Richard Breckenridge's submarine made a hurried dive off Japan, a hatch jammed, but he ignored the order to abandon the rapidly flooding conning tower and remained behind, desperately trying to fasten it. By succeeding, he saved vital equipment for his submarine and became the first enlisted man in the submarine service to win the Navy Cross

Thrift Savings Plan Open Season ends Dec. 31

CPAC

The Thrift Savings Plan Open Season will be held through Dec. 31. During the open enrollment period, employees may elect to enroll in TSP or change their current TSP deduction.

Update Pamphlets will be distributed to agency administrative offices upon receipt in the CPAC.

Contribution rates will max out this open season. FERS employees may contribute up to 15 percent of basic pay and CSRS employees may contribute up to 10 percent of basic pay. The IRS annual limit for 2005 is \$14,000.

TSP Catch-up for 2004 will stay in effect until the pay period ending Dec. 11, 2004. Employees that desire to make new elections for TSPC for 2005 will be able to create those elections during the pay period Nov. 28 through Dec. 11, to be effective Dec. 12. The limits for 2005 will increase from \$3,000 to \$4,000 annually.

Due to the changing IRS limits, employees must make a new TSPC election each year. A new chart for deductions, per pay period, is on the ABC-C Web site.

Employees must contact the Army Benefits Center-Civilian (ABC-C) at 1-877-276-9287

or <https://www.abc.army.mil> to enroll in TSP or change the amount of their contribution. Employees must also contact the TSP Office at 1-504-255-8777 or www.tsp.gov if they wish to change their fund allocation. Personal Identification Numbers are required for both ABC-C and TSP.

Employees who wish to change the way their current balance is invested must request a TSP Interfund Transfer. Interfund transfers can be made by calling TSP, using the Web site or completing a TSP-50. The TSP-50 is available from a servicing Human Resources Assistant.

For more information, contact a servicing Human Resources Assistant, CPAC.

"The Coke's in"



"That's the happy greeting heard today when a new supply of Coke arrives at a cooler. Folks wait for it... wait because the only thing like Coca-Cola is Coca-Cola itself. Customers smile and start moving up to pause and be refreshed."

"There's a cheerful spirit about this way of accepting wartime restrictions. Morale is high."

BOTTLED UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE COCA-COLA COMPANY BY
COCA-COLA BOTTLING WORKS HAVRE DE GRACE, MD.

Courtesy of APG News archives

1943 Life Savers

When a flare is dropped during a night attack, stop where you are and remain motionless until it has burned out.

With Our Healthy Living...

1943 Life Savers
DO NOT SHOVE your sun goggles up on your helmet when not in use. It's a handy place to keep them - but the reflection makes an ideal bulls-eye for the enemy.

AAOHN offers tips to help employers weather the flu season

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH NURSES

The 2004-2005 influenza season could begin as early as this month, and with flu vaccine in significantly short supply, many employers are not able to offer flu shots to their workforce.

To help keep employees healthy, the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses encourages employers to shift the focus of their employee flu-immunization efforts towards educating employees about smart and healthy behaviors that could help them avoid the flu this season.

On average each year in the United States, from five to 20 percent of the population will contract the flu, according to the Centers for Disease Control. With cases of the flu likely to be on the rise during the 2004-05 influenza season due to vaccine shortage, the economic impact on businesses could be significant. The annual costs of unscheduled employee absences, due to factors including illness, can range from \$60,000 to well over \$1 million depending on company size, according to the 2004 CCH Unscheduled Absence Survey.

"The business community was caught off guard with the recent announcement about this year's dramatically limited vaccine supply, and could face operational challenges related to unscheduled employee absences because of illness," said AAOHN president Susan A. Randolph, MSN, RN, COHN-S. "The best way to mitigate these challenges will be for employers to now focus on educating employees about healthy behaviors that can help them avoid contracting influenza or to react appropriately should they become ill."

Using current best practices from expert resources, as well as AAOHN members, the association encourages employers to share the following information about healthy behaviors with employees:

- Practice good respiratory hygiene -- A primary way the flu spreads from person to person is via coughs and sneezes. Cover mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. If a tissue is not available, cough or sneeze into upper sleeve, not hands.
- Keep hands clean -- Be vigilant about washing hands often during the day. Wash hands with soap and warm water for at least 15 to 20 seconds. When soap isn't available, use alcohol based hand wipes or gel hand sanitizers as a substitute.
- Eat, drink and be healthy -- Maintain a well-balanced diet and be sure to drink plenty of fluids, especially water. Enhance the beneficial effects of a healthy diet by increasing Vitamin C intake.
- Don't stress out -- If stress levels are high, the body is more

susceptible to illness. To combat stress, get plenty of rest and try to exercise regularly. Additionally, make an effort to step outside for some fresh air during already scheduled daily work breaks.

- Learn how to recognize the flu -- It's important to recognize the difference between the flu and other common ailments. Symptoms of the flu include a high fever; head and muscle aches; extreme fatigue; dry cough and sore throat; runny or stuffy nose and gastro-intestinal symptoms.
- Stay home with the flu -- Don't put co-workers at risk. Stay home.

Hand hygiene not up to snuff

The CDC says frequent handwashing is one of the best ways to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. SDA's 2004 Clean Hands Report Card gave Americans a "C" for hand hygiene, based on survey results that found:

- 43 percent surveyed seldom or never wash their hands after coughing or sneezing.
- 32 percent don't always wash before eating lunch.
- 54 percent of respondents don't wash their hands long enough to effectively remove germs and dislodge dirt.

Coming clean at the office

A 2002 study conducted by University of Arizona researchers found that the workplace does indeed host its share of germs: Phones have

up to 25,127 germs per square inch, keyboards 3,295 per square inch and computer mice 1,676 per square inch. Mindful of this fact, SDA offers employers and employees several tips to help keep healthy at work.

Hands-on tips for employees

- Routinely wash hands with soap, after arriving at the office and several times throughout the day, including before and after lunch, after using the restroom, and in between meetings. Wash hands vigorously for at least 20 seconds.
- Because germs can be transmitted from virtually anything a person comes in contact with, keep a surface cleaner or disinfecting spray or wipes handy for daily wipe-down of the two most common items touched each day, desk-top and telephone. Some products are designed to kill the germs that lead to cold and flu suffering --- read the product label to be sure.
- Clean office and restroom doorknobs regularly. Wipes are great for this task.
- Use a disinfectant spray in the office garbage can.
- Subway, bus or train commuters should carry (and use) a hand sanitizer or antibacterial hand wipes following their commutes. This can prevent germ transmission when stopping to get that morning coffee or breakfast.
- If sick, stay home.

Mail Policy

(Continued from page 1)

only from those friends and family members to whom they personally give their address.

Military addresses should not be passed around by family members for use by donation programs. Unknown mailers could then obtain those addresses and mail harmful items to service members.

For these reasons, DoD continues to indefinitely suspend general donation programs from unknown mailers.

Americans, who don't have loved ones deployed overseas, can still show support during the holidays by other means.

A list of these programs is available at <http://www.defendamerica.mil>.

To guarantee mail arrives in time for end of year holidays, family members are encouraged to view the mailing guidelines at <http://www.usps.com/epim/ftp/bulletin/2004/pb22138.pdf>.



"I Keep Seeing Stripes Before My Eyes"

Courtesy of APG News archives

At The Dixie in 1943

The air-cooled Plantation Room, the Hotel Dixie, offers excellent, tasty dinners from \$1.25 up; luncheons beginning at 45 cents. But the prime attraction is Al Trace and his zany orchestra. These guys are really wacky - the funniest band in the land! You'll roar right through your dinner. And, by the way, drinks are fairly inexpensive, too - averaging about a half-dollar.

With Our

MWR Services...

Activities

Operating hours

The MWR Registration, Tickets and Leisure Travel Center's operating hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday thru Friday, and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., the 1st and 3rd Friday of every month.

If this happens to fall on a training holiday, then the Thursday prior the office will be open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

MWR looks out for singles through BOSS

The BOSS "Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers" Program meets on the last Wednesday of every month at 2 p.m., building 305, conference room.

The program is Department of the Army directed, installation managed and service member operated to support the overall quality of life, recreation and leisure and community service for single and unaccompanied service members and single parents.

For more information, call Joyce Founds, Morale Welfare and Recreation advisor, at 410-278-2621.

"Paint Your Own"

Edgewood Area Arts and Crafts now has "Paint Your Own Ceramic Studio."

The ceramic studio is open to all APG civilians, active duty military, contractors and reservists and their dependents. No previous artist skills are required. There is a wide assortment of gift and holiday items to choose from.

Hours of operation are 1 to 9 p.m., Thursday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday and Saturday.

Arts and Crafts is located in building E-4440, next to the Military Police Station.

For more information, call 410-436-2153.

Limited supply of Entertainment Books

A limited supply of Entertainment Books are available at MWR Registration for \$30. The book offers discounts and coupons on dining, movies, hotels, car rentals, and much more.

For more information, call MWR Registration at 410-278-4907 or send an e-mail to mwr_registration@usag.apg.army.mil.

Sightseeing and holiday shopping in New York City

There will be two trips to New York City for a tour and holiday shopping on Nov. 27 and Dec. 11. Experience the hustle and bustle of the holiday season and enjoy a two-hour guided tour of New York's more popular attractions. Following the tour, take time out to do some holiday shopping. The trip costs \$70 per person and includes round trip bus transportation, guided tour and dinner at Harold's New York Deli. Trips are available without a tour for a smaller fee. Register by Nov. 12 for the Nov. 27 trip and by Dec. 3 for the Dec. 11 trip.

For more information or registration, visit MWR Registration, Tickets and Leisure Travel, building 3326, or call 410-278-4907.

White House Christmas ornaments have arrived

MWR Registration has the latest White House Christmas ornaments for \$15, but supplies are limited. For more information, call MWR Registration at 410-278-4907 or e-mail mwr_registration@usag.apg.army.mil.

Bowlers choose promotional bowling balls

APG NEWS

The APG Bowling Center is gearing up for two new bowling promotions starting Nov. 15, American Heroes and Marvel Action Hero.

After signing up, each bowler selects which bowling ball they will be bowling for. Bowlers must bowl for 17 weeks, as many times per week as they want. The cost is \$10 each time they bowl and includes shoes and two games of bowling during the 17 weeks period.

The American Heroes promotion offers six limited edition Viz-A-Balls to choose from - Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard or a USA ball.

The Marvel Action Hero promotion offers limited edition Incredible Hulk, Spider-Man and the X-Men designs. These glow under a black light.

The balls are drillable and come in weights of 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, and 15 pounds.

To sign up, contact the APG Bowling Center, building 2342, 410-278-4041 by Nov. 15.



--Yvonne Johnson

Just a few of the American Heroes and Marvel Action Hero bowling balls available for selection after 17 weeks on the new bowling leagues. To see them in color, visit the MWR Web site at www.apgmwr.army.mil

Buy 1944 War Bonds

Library Book Corner

Operating hours of the Aberdeen Area Library, building 3320, are 1 to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday and 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. The Edgewood Area Library is open 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Tuesday. For more information, call 410-278-3417.

The following is a list of new books available at the APG MWR Libraries:

America (the book): A citizen's guide to democracy inaction, written and edited by Jon Stewart, Ben Karlin and David Javerbaum.

Cheeky, irreverent and playfully ingenuous, this abbreviated history of democracy is everything one would expect from the writers of Comedy Central's fake news program, which recently (and somewhat scandalously) won the Television Critics Association's award for outstanding news and public affairs series.

The New Retirement: the ultimate guide to the rest of your life by Jan Cullinane

Critical Condition: how health care in America became big business - and bad medicine by Donald Bartlett

Will They Ever Trust Us Again?: letters from the war zone edited by Michael Moore

Emeril's Potluck: comfort food with a kicked-up attitude by Emeril Lagasse

The library's Web site, www.apgmwr.com/recreation/libraries.html, provides access to the library's online catalog and also has a complete annotated listing of the library's new material, as well as a list of available films on DVD.

"Youth Of The Year" program rewards character, leadership, service

The mid-way point for entering the 2004-2005 APG "Youth Of The Year" program is fast approaching for high school students in grades 9-12.

There is still time to enter and compete for a chance to be recognized as APG'S "Youth Of The Year."

Along with a monetary award of \$1000 for winners and \$500 for runners-up, winners receive an all-expense paid trip to Annapolis to compete in the Boys and Girls Clubs of Maryland "Youth Of The Year" competition.

Last year's winners were Anastasia Phillips of the Aberdeen Area Youth Center and Wyndell Williams of the Edgewood Area.

The cut-off date for submitting nomination forms is Dec. 17. Nomination forms and "Youth Of The Year" packets can be picked up at the AA Youth Center, building 2522, or the EA Youth Center, building E-1902, or, contact Ivan Mehosky, School Liaison/ Youth Education Services, building 2752, room 200.

For help in getting started or for more information, call Angie Gittings or Lucinda McDowell, AA Youth Services teen program at 410-278-4995; Catherine Hanlon or Jerome Wing, EA Youth Services teen program at 410-436-2862; or Mehosky, APG "Youth Of The Year" program coordinator, at 410-278-2857.

Sign up for Youth Services Sports Karate classes

The fall session for karate classes for ages 7 through 18 will be held Monday and Wednesday at the Aberdeen Youth Center, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., through Dec. 22. The class must have a minimum of 10 youths.

Karate classes cost \$60 per session. Youths must be a current Youth Center member.

Classes begin once the minimum number have signed up

For more information or for registration, call Christina Keithley at 410-278-7571, or e-mail Christina.Keithley@usag.apg.army.mil.

History of Veterans Day

WWW.ARMY.MIL

In 1921, an unknown World War I American Soldier was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. This site, on a hillside overlooking the Potomac River and the city of Washington, D.C., became the focal point of reverence for America's veterans.

Similar ceremonies occurred earlier in England and France, where an unknown Soldier was buried in each nation's highest place of honor (in England, Westminster Abbey; in France, the Arc de Triomphe). These memorial gestures all took place on Nov. 11, giving universal recognition to the celebrated ending of World War I fighting at 11 a.m., Nov. 11, 1918 (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month). The day became known as "Armistice Day."

Armistice Day officially received its name in America in 1926 through a Congressional resolution. It became a national holiday 12 years later by similar Congressional action. If the idealistic hope had been realized that World War I

was "the War to end all wars," Nov. 11 might still be called Armistice Day. But only a few years after the holiday was proclaimed, war broke out in Europe. Sixteen and one-half million Americans took part, of which 407,000 of them died in service, more than 292,000 in battle.

Armistice Day Changed To Honor All Veterans

The first celebration using the term Veteran's Day occurred in Birmingham, Ala., in 1947. Raymond Weeks, a World War II veteran, organized "National Veteran's Day," which included a parade and other festivities, to honor all veterans. The event was held on Nov. 11, and then designated Armistice Day.

Later, U.S. Representative Edward Rees of Kansas proposed a bill that would change Armistice Day to Veteran's Day. In 1954, Congress passed the bill that President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed proclaiming Nov. 11 as Veteran's Day.

Raymond Weeks received the Presidential Citizens Medal from President Ronald Reagan in November

1982. Weeks' local parade and ceremonies are now an annual event celebrated nationwide.

On Memorial Day 1958, two more unidentified American war dead were brought from overseas and interred in the plaza beside the unknown soldier of World War I. One was killed in World War II, the other in the Korean War. In 1984, an unknown serviceman from the Vietnam War was placed alongside the others. The remains from Vietnam were exhumed May 14, 1998, identified as Air Force 1st Lt. Michael Joseph Blassie, and removed for burial. To honor these men, symbolic of all Americans who gave their lives in all wars, an Army honor guard, the 3rd U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard), keeps day and night vigil.

A law passed in 1968 changed the national commemoration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. It soon became apparent, however, that Nov. 11 was a date of historic significance to many Americans. Therefore, in 1978 Congress returned the observance to its traditional date.

The 1942 Pocketbook of Knowledge

-Approximately 860,000,000 board feet of lumber will be used in 1942 to package War Materials

-Soap Flakes have now been drafted for regular war production to secure desired smoothness in a machinery operation

-U.S. heavy bombers can carry 8,000 pounds of bombs 3,000 miles, cruise around and drop them, and then return to their bases

Change in law affects surviving veteran's spouses

VA

The Department of Veterans Affairs wants to ensure that surviving spouses of deceased veterans are aware of an approaching deadline that may affect entitlement to Dependency and Indemnity Compensation benefits.

Last year, President Bush signed Public Law 108-183, the "Veterans Benefits Act of 2003," which restores entitlement to DIC and related home loan and education benefits for surviving spouses who remarry on or after they turn 57 years of age.

VA officials are concerned that surviving spouses may not be aware of this change in law, or may overlook this benefit if their subsequent marriages have not ended.

Generally, VA pays DIC to the surviving spouses of military service members who die while on active duty, and to surviving spouses of veterans whose death resulted from service-related causes.

The basic monthly rate is \$967 and is increased if the surviving spouse has dependents, is housebound, or meets criteria common to those who need a home aide. There are additional payments for dependent children. Parents who were dependent upon the service member's income also may qualify for DIC.

Under previous law, surviving spouses who remarried were not eligible for DIC unless their marriages ended. At that time they could apply for reinstatement of benefits.

Under the new law, surviving spouses who remarried after age 57 and before Dec. 16, 2003, have a limited time to apply for restoration of DIC.

They have one year from the date the new law was enacted (Dec. 16, 2003) to apply for restoration of benefits.

If VA receives the application later than Dec. 15, 2004, restoration of DIC must be denied.

The one-year application period does not apply to other surviving spouses whose remarriage on or after attaining age 57 followed enactment of the law.

For more information on restoration of DIC, call VA's toll free number at 1-800-827-1000 or visit the nearest VA regional office. Office locations can be found in the blue pages of local telephone directories.

People who are hearing impaired should call VA at 1-800-829-4833 by use of a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD).

More information on benefits and services is available at VA's Internet Web site www.va.gov.



Courtesy of APG News archives

Post Shorts...

(Continued from page 1)

306-1153.

Military Christian Center offers local trips for military personnel

The Military Christian Center has sightseeing and shopping trips scheduled for November. Pickup times and locations include:

- Nov. 13, 1:30 p.m. pick up, White Marsh Shopping Mall
- Nov. 14, 6:30 a.m. pick up, Philadelphia (Independence Hall, Liberty Bell and Shopping Mall)
- Nov. 20, 1:30 p.m. pick up, Baltimore Inner Harbor (Civil War flagship, submarine, paddle boats, shopping mall)
- Nov. 27, 6:30 a.m. pick up, Washington D.C. (White House, Capitol, Washington Monument and more).
- Nov. 28, 9 a.m. pick up, Rockvale Shopping Outlet. All trips are free, with a donation of \$2.

The Military Christian Center is located at 16 N. Center is located at 16 N. Philadelphia Blvd., Aberdeen, and is open Friday through Sunday. Free home-cooked meals and dorm facilities are available.

When a call is received, a member of the staff will pick up. The center is a practical place to hang out and relax for the week-end.

For more information or to reserve a seat, call 410-272-1144 after 8 p.m. Friday evening, or e-mail Winningapg@aol.com.

APG community information forum

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Community Information Forum will be held at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326, 1 to 3 p.m., Nov. 18. All military, civilian personnel, retirees, and their family members are invited to attend. Representatives of support agencies/organizations will be present to discuss their activities.

For more information, call Marilyn Howard, Army Community Service, 410-278-9669.

MCSC apple pie sale continues

The Military and Civilian Spouses' Club still has a few home-

made apple pies left for a \$6 donation.

To place a pie order, call Holly Ratliff at 410-273-6706.

RAB meeting scheduled

The Installation Restoration Program will hold its monthly

Restoration Advisory Board meeting, 7 to 9:45 p.m., Dec. 2, at the Edgewood Senior Center on Gateway Road.

The topic will include an update on the O-Field Study Area. Board meetings are open to the public; all APG employees and citizens are invited. For more information, call the Information Line at 410-272-8842 or 1-800-APG-9998.

Thanksgiving Day refuse pickup

Because Thanksgiving Day falls on a Thursday, there will be no refuse pickup on Nov. 25. Housing area refuse normally scheduled for pickup on Tuesday will be picked up on Monday, Nov. 22, and Thursday's refuse will be picked up on Tuesday, Nov. 23. The remainder of the week will be per the normal schedule.

For more information, call Debbie Meranski, Directorate of Installation Operations, 410-306-2337.

Holiday hours for Thanksgiving

The APG Main Store, Burger King and the APG Shoppette will be open 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day.

Operation Christmas Child

The Protestant Women of the Chapel will once again take part in Operation Christmas Child. For those who want to participate, donated empty shoeboxes and/or wrapping paper can be brought to the chapel or participants can fill shoeboxes on their own and bring them to the chapel. Items should be for a boy or girl, ages 2 through 14. Age appropriate items may include small toys, personal items, school supplies and more. The collection period ends Nov. 30.

Army seeking warrant officer candidates

The U.S. Army is looking for highly motivated Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, and Airmen to fill its warrant officer ranks. Positions are open to qualified applicants in all 45 specialties. Applicants with less than 12 years of active federal service are encouraged to apply.

For more information and all forms/documents required, visit www.usarec.army.mil/warrant, or call DSN 536-0328/0466/0271/ 1860/0458 /0484 or commercial 502-626-1860.

Emmett Paige scholarships

available

The Gen. Emmett Paige Scholarship provides funding to veterans, military personnel, and their family members who are majoring in specified fields in college for \$2,000.

This program is open to veterans and persons on active duty in the uniformed military services and to their spouses or family members who are currently enrolled full-time in an accredited four-year degree-granting institution in the United States. Veterans entering college as freshmen may apply. Spouses or family members must be sophomores or juniors.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens, be of good moral character, have demonstrated academic excellence, be motivated to complete a college education, and be working toward a degree in engineering (aerospace, chemical, computer, or electrical), mathematics, physics, or computer science with a GPA of 3.4 or higher.

For more information, see <http://www.military.com/Education/ScholarShip/Profile/1,14220,0546,00.html>.

CWF sponsors trip to Three Little Bakers

The Civilian Welfare Fund will sponsor a trip to the Three Little Bakers Dinner Theater, Dec. 10, departing the Aberdeen Area at 4:30 p.m. Cost of the trip is \$59 per person and includes charter bus transportation, dinner and the show, "Holiday Hip Parade USA".

For more information or to make reservations, call Angela Keithley or Jacqueline McKeever at 410-278-4603/4771.

CWF trip to Walt Disney World

The Civilian Welfare Fund will sponsor a trip to Walt Disney World, Jan. 15 through 22, 2005.

Cost of the trip is \$729 per person for single-occupancy, \$489 per person for double-occupancy, \$409 per person for triple-occupancy and \$369 per person.

Cost includes non-stop flight from BWI Airport, accommodations at the All-Star Movies Resort, located on Disney property, shuttle transfer to and from the airport, and shuttle transfer between the four major parks. Park Hopper Passes, purchased separately, cost \$248 for an adult and \$198 for children (ages 3 to 9) and includes five days of park hopper privileges to Magic Kingdom Park, Epcot, Disney-MGM Studios, Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park, plus five visits to Downtown Disney, Pleasure Island or DisneyQuest Indoor Interactive Theme Park. The trip will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. A \$50 per person deposit is due upon reservation.

For more information or to make reservations, call Angela Keithley or Jacqueline McKeever at 410-278-4603/4771.

Donate to the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund

The Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund provides unrestricted grants to the families of military personnel who have given their lives in the current operations in defense of this country, including military operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere. The grants are intended to help families through any immediate or long-term financial difficulties they may face. It is supported entirely by donations. Administrative costs are not deducted from donations. The fund will provide support to the surviving spouses and/or children of United States and British uniformed military personnel killed in action in Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom.

Through a special contribution from the Stamps Family Charitable Foundation, the fund will make an additional contribution of \$1,000 to the families of all U.S. troops lost in Iraq, regardless of whether they left behind a spouse or children. For more information, visit http://intrepidmuseum.org/foundation_heroesfund.html.

To donate online to the Intrepid Fallen

Heroes Fund, visit http://intrepidmuseum.org/foundation_heroesfund_donate.html. Contributions may also be mailed directly using contribution form or made by phone at 1-800-340-HERO.

Vet Clinic holds night clinic

The APG Veterinary Clinic will hold a Night Clinic noon to 6 p.m. for walk in vaccinations only. For more information, call Cpl. Kenneth Cole, 410-278-3119/4575.

APG Blood Drive

APG Garrison is hosting an Armed Services Blood Program blood drive at the Aberdeen Area Post Chapel 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 19. The goal for this blood drive is 75 good units.

For more information, call Spc. James Hyde at 410-278-4333 or Staff Sgt. Brian Adams at 410-278-3000, or Staff Sgt. Beverly Williams, Chapel Administrator, at 410-278-433 or 4593.

Understanding leasing, the active duty card holder

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate is available to discuss the finer points of off-post leasing with active duty ID card holders.

Many of the problems and unforeseen costs of residential leases can be avoided by reviewing the lease with an attorney prior to signing it. An attorney can explain hard-to-understand "legal-ese" and the duties of both the landlord and the active duty ID card holder. A legal assistance attorney can discuss lease termination and eviction rights under the Service members Civil Relief Act. Don't be caught later by the "fine print."

To schedule an appointment with an attorney, call OSJA Legal Assistance, 410-278-1583.

USPS offers free packing materials

The U.S. Postal Service is offering free packing materials to spouses and families of military members who are deployed overseas.

To take advantage of this service, call 1-800-610-8734 and press 1 (for English and then 3 for an operator) and they will send the requestor free boxes, tape and mailing labels for priority and express mail. These products are to be used to mail care packages to service members only.

DA photo policy change

Effective immediately, military personnel are no longer required to forward hardcopy photos to the Enlisted Records and Evaluation Center for Enlisted Soldier Promotion Selection Boards if the photo studio has the capability to upload photos electronically to the Department of the Army Photo Management Information System (DAPMIS).

Only selection boards held at the Human Resources Command in Alexandria for active Army officers still require hardcopy photos.

The APG Photo facility will no longer issue paper copies to enlisted Soldiers for the annual promotion boards.

Requests for hardcopies for other types of selection boards will still be honored as well as for officers in the above category. Any questions should be directed to the Soldiers' servicing Military Personnel Branch.

Winter coat drive

A winter coat drive will be held through Dec. 17. Winter is fast approaching and many are in need of a coat or jacket.

Help someone in need keep the chill off during the upcoming winter months. Many people have one or two articles in their closets that have not been worn in a year or more. Allow someone in need to use these items.

Donate coats and other clothes and food items to those in need. Drop off points include the Post Chapel, PX and the Commissary.

For more information, call Spc. James Hyde at 410-278-4333 or Staff Sgt. Brian Adams at 410-278-3000.

Checking employee Leave & Earnings Statement

Employees are reminded it is their responsibility to check their Leave and Earnings Statement to verify the correct deductions are being withheld for their benefits.

This includes Thrift Savings Plan, Federal Employees Health Benefits and Federal Employees Group Life Insurance.

All deductions are listed on the LES under "Deductions" and include the dollar amount. The TSP is also listed in Block #22 on the LES with either the percentage or dollar amount elected for contribute. A TSP Loan would also be listed under deductions with the TSP loan number.

Employees transferring to the installation are strongly

Keep Mums

With Our Community Notes...

**NO PLACE TO GO?
TRY THE USO**

THURSDAY

NOVEMBER 11

BALTIMORE AREA VETERANS HONORED

Baltimore will pay symbolic tribute to Baltimore area veterans at a dinner at the Tremont Plaza Hotel, 22 St. Paul Street.

The public is invited to nominate family members, friends and co-workers, by sharing stories of heroism, sacrifice and commitment to the country and how it touched them.

One nominee will receive a complimentary weekend stay in Washington, D.C. the Tremont Suite Hotels will donate 11 percent of every lunch check in Tug's Restaurant and 8 East Restaurants to the USO International Gateway lounge at BWI.

To submit nominations, visit www.BaltimoreRemembers.com or send e-mil to baltimoreRemembers@TremontSuiteHotels.com.

For more information or for businesses who want to join local fundraising efforts, call Heather Russel at 443-524-6015.

VFW POST 6054 VETERANS DAY SERVICE

Charlton-Miller VFW Post 6054 will sponsor a Veterans Day Service at 11 a.m. The service is in honor of the Soldiers who have made the ultimate sacrifice and commitment to this country and for those who are still defending freedom. The guest speaker is retired Maj. Wilbert Davis, formerly from APG. For more information, call 410-272-3444.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

NOVEMBER 12 AND 13

AHS PRESENTS ALICE IN WONDERLAND

Aberdeen High School's Marquee Drama Club will present Lewis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland, 6:30 p.m., Nov. 12 and 13, at Aberdeen High School. Cost of admission is \$3 for students and \$5 for adults.

Movies

ADMISSION: ADULTS \$3.50, CHILDREN \$1.75
Building 3245 Aberdeen Boulevard
To verify listing, call 410-272-7520.

LADDER 49

Friday, Nov. 12

Starring: Joaquin Phoenix, John Travolta

Under the watchful eye of his mentor Chief Mike Kennedy (Travolta), probationary fire-fighter Jack Morrison (Phoenix) matures into a seasoned veteran at a Baltimore fire station. Jack has reached a crossroads, however, as the sacrifices he's made have put him in harm's way innumerable times and significantly impacted his relationship with his wife and kids. Responding to the worst blaze in his career, he becomes trapped inside a 20-story building. And as he reflects on his life, Chief Kennedy frantically coordinates the effort to save him. (Rated PG-13)

FIRST DAUGHTER (FREE ADMISSION)

Saturday, Nov. 13, 7 p.m.

Starring: Katie Holmes, Marc Blucas

Samantha MacKenzie (Holmes) wants what every college freshman desired: to

experience life away from home and parents. But it's not going to be easy, because home for Sam is the White House and her dad is the President of the United States. Despite her fishbowl existence, Sam meets and falls for James (Blucas), the resident advisor in her dorm. As romance blossoms, Sam discovers her new beau is a secret service agent assigned to protect her. (Rated PG)

RAISE YOUR VOICE

Saturday, Nov. 13, 9 p.m.

Starring: Hillary Duff, Oliver James

Small-town girl Terri Fletcher (Duff) gets the summer of her dreams when she leaves home for the summer and attend a performing-arts school in Los Angeles. Lacking in formal training and still hurting from the sudden death of her brother in a car accident, Terri is forced to move on, to heal emotionally and to find herself in the big city. (Rated PG)

SATURDAY

NOVEMBER 13

HOME BUYING SEMINAR IN SPANISH

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union will offer a free Home Buying Seminar in Spanish, 9 to 10:30 a.m., at the Community Meeting Room in the APGFCU Operations Center in Edgewood, 1321 Pulaski Highway.

Learning about the home buying process from Ana Zuniga of Coldwell Banker will enable future home buyers to make informed decisions on the best options for purchasing and financing their new home.

For more information or to reserve a space, call 410-272-4000 ext. 5451.

SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 14

BASKET BINGO

American Legion Post 194, 336 E. Main St., Rising Sun, Maryland will sponsor a basket bingo to benefit Boy Scout Troop 28.

For more information, call 410-658-3915, e-mail basketbingors@aol.com

USO/MWR HOLIDAY AND CRAFT BAZAAR

The USO/MWR will hold a Holiday and Craft Bazaar, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Community Activities Center, building 405, Fort Myer, Va.

Handmade and one-of-a-kind, crafts, food and beverages will be available. Admittance to the bazaar is free and everyone is invited to attend. Photo identification is required for all to enter Fort Myer.

For more information, call 703-696-2552 or 703-696-3419.

SALUTE TO BOB HOPE AND THE USO

The Veterans Commission will host a Veterans Day salute to Bob Hope and the USO, 2 to 6 p.m., at VFW 8672, 1714 Morse Road, Jarrettsville. Cost is \$15 per person and includes dinner, dancing and show.

For more information, call Mike Perini at 410-893-8396 or e-mail mperini@prodigy.net.

MONDAY

NOVEMBER 15

GOLDEN CORRAL APPRECIATES THE MILITARY

Golden Corral will hold its fourth annual Military Appreciation Monday free dinner, 5 to 9 p.m. at Golden Corral restaurants across the country. The free "thank-you" dinner is based on the honor system and no ID is required. All veterans and retired and active duty military members, and members of U.S. Reserves and National Guard are included in this special recognition offer.

The Disabled American

Veterans Organization with 2.3 million disabled veterans, their families and survivors, will have members in the restaurants to distribute literature, sign up new members and volunteers, and accept donations in support of the DAV.

TOASTMASTERS MEETS

The Gunpowder Toastmasters Club will hold its regular meeting 11:40 a.m. at the Gunpowder Club in the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground. This daytime club offers an opportunity for people on and off post to improve communication, leadership and listening skills and to overcome the fear of public speaking.

For information and directions, call 410-941-1120 or 410-734-6573.

TUESDAY THROUGH FRIDAY

NOVEMBER 16

THROUGH 19

CHECK 21 SEMINARS

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union is offering free seminars on how Check 21 will affect banking customers. On Nov. 16, a seminar will be held at the Aberdeen Branch, 3 to 5 p.m., and 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Edgewood Branch; on Nov. 17 a seminar will be held at the APG Branch, 3 to 4 p.m.; on Nov. 18, a seminar will be held at the Elkton Branch, 3 to 5 p.m.; and on Nov. 19, a seminar will be held at the Bel Air Branch, 3 to 5 p.m. The seminars are open to the public.

For more information or for directions to each branch, visit www.APGFCU.com.

SATURDAY

NOVEMBER 20

BONANZA NIGHT

VFW Post 10028, 821 Old Philadelphia Road, Aberdeen, will hold a Bonanza Night at 7

p.m. Cost is \$10 per person. Snacks and draft beer will be available.

SUNDAY

NOV. 21

BASKET BINGO

Basket Bingo to benefit VFW Post 8185 will be held at VFW Post 8185, Route 222, Port Deposit. Doors open 2 p.m., Bingo starts at 7 p.m. Food, beverages, baked goods, door prizes and raffles will be available. Tickets cost \$10 per person for all paper cards, and are available by calling Anne Gibson at 410-378-3338, or Kathy at 410-378-3594.

SATURDAY

NOVEMBER 29

CHRISTMAS PRIZE BINGO

Christmas Prize Bingo to benefit the Ladies Auxiliary to the Water Witch Fire Company will be held at VFW Post 8185, located on Route 222, Port Deposit, 7 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 and includes all paper cards for 20 games; special single card packet costs \$5 for children under 10 and extra packs cost \$5. There will be door prizes, refreshments, toys, gifts, raffles and more. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call 410-378-3338 or 410-378-9169.



Normandy



(Continued from page 1)
 ance through air attacks, operation along the North African coast, and assistance to the Soviet Union.

To the Americans, it seemed far better to seize the initiative from Germany with a bold assault than to allow the alliance's resources to dribble away in operations that would have little long-term effect on the enemy's will to resist. The British, however, drawing on their past experiences, such as the disaster at Dunkerque in 1940 when the Germans had driven the British army off the continent in defeat, the bloodletting at Gallipoli in the Dardanelles during World War I, where landings championed by British Prime Minister Winston Churchill had failed, and the loss of an entire generation of young men to trench warfare on the stalemated Western Front in France, had visions of catastrophe whenever the Americans raised the issue of a cross-channel attack.

The British point of view prevailed for much of the next year, causing Allied forces to fight on the fringes of the enemy's power in Sicily and southern Italy. By the middle of 1943, however, with victory in North Africa in hand, the fall of Italy near, and the first Russian victories in the east, the Americans renewed their call for a cross-channel attack. Although British leaders continued to advocate their peripheral strategy, the importance of American resources to the war effort had become so great that they had little choice but to go along with their ally.

At the Casablanca Conference of January 29, 1943, they agreed in principle to a 1944 invasion of the continent. Shortly thereafter, the British General Staff appointed Lt. Gen. Frederick E. Morgan to be chief of staff to a still to be appointed Supreme Allied Commander and gave him responsibility for planning the attack. By April 1943, Morgan had established an organization to carry out that task and named it COSSAC, after the initials in his new title.

Refusing further delays, the Americans won agreement for a May 1, 1944 attack during the May 1943 Trident Conference in Washington, D.C. After the Tehran Conference in November, during which the Americans argued that any postponement of the invasion would constitute a breach of faith with the Russians, the final buildup for the cross-channel attack began in earnest.

The selection of a commander for Allied forces required considerable thought. If the invasion had occurred earlier in the war, the British would have supplied the bulk of the resources and would have controlled the operation. But as American resources became predominant, the selection of an American commander seemed appropriate.

Roosevelt and Churchill first inclined toward the man who played the principal role in coordinating the overall American military effort, Army Chief of Staff Gen. George C. Marshall. When Roosevelt decided that Marshall's presence in Washington was indispensable, the Allies agreed on Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, another well-experienced officer and the commander of Allied forces in North Africa and the Mediterranean. In the end, Eisenhower would serve as Supreme Allied Commander in Europe and as commanding general of all U.S. forces in the European Theater of Operation. Appointed as supreme commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force in December 1943, Eisenhower selected his former chief of staff in the Mediterranean, Lt. Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, to be his chief of staff in Europe.

Operation Overlord

Eisenhower asked Gen. Sir Bernard Law Montgomery, who had led the Eighth Army in North Africa, Sicily and Italy, and who had become the commander of the 21st Army Group for the invasion, now named Operation Overlord, to serve as pro tem commander of the Allied ground forces coming ashore in France. Montgomery would carry out final planning and coordinate the early phases of the attack. Two commanders would serve under Montgomery: Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley would head the American force, the First U.S. Army; Gen. Sir Miles Dempsey would lead the Second British Army, composed of British, Canadian, and a handful of French troops. The Third U.S. Army, commanded by Lt. Gen.

George S. Patton Jr., would enter the battle after the Allies had achieved a secure lodgment on the continent. It would join the First U.S. Army, now commanded by Lt. Gen. Courtney Hughes, to form the 12th Army Group under Bradley. Lt. Gen. Henry D. G. Crerar's First Canadian Army would join Dempsey under Montgomery.

The question of where to land posed problems [for the planners]. The site would have to be within the range of fighter aircraft based in Great Britain but also on ground flat enough to construct the airfields that would become necessary once the invading force moved off the beaches and out of the range of its initial fighter support. The landing zones themselves would have to be sheltered from prevailing winds to facilitate around-the-clock re-supply operations and would have to possess enough exits to allow the invading force to proceed inland with as little difficulty as possible. Similarly, the area behind the beaches would have to include a road network adequate to the needs of a force that intended to move rapidly. Since the region would ultimately form a base for the drive across France toward Germany, a series of large ports would also have to be close enough to facilitate the unloading of the massive quantities of supplies and ammunition that would be necessary to sustain the attack.

The most appropriate location, COSSAC's planners decided, lay directly across the English Channel from Dover in the Pas de Calais region. The area fulfilled many of the Allies' requirements and offered a direct route into the heart of Germany. Since the enemy had recognized the fact, however, and had already begun to construct heavy fortifications along the coast, an alternative had to be found. The most suitable stood farther to the west, along the Normandy coast near Caen and the Cotentin Peninsula. The region contained major ports at Cherbourg and Le Havre and offered a gateway to ports at Brest, Nantes, L'Orient, and St. Nazaire. The region itself was less strongly defended than the Pas de Calais and offered a satisfactory opening into the French interior. It became the site of the invasion.

By Jan. 23, 1944, the Allies had settled on a basic plan of attack for Normandy. The Americans would take the western flank closest to Cherbourg while the British operated to the east, on the approaches to Caen. Logistics determined the arrangement. American forces had arrived in Britain via the country's western ports and had positioned depots in those areas. It made sense for them to operate near those bases.

Final preparations

With 39 divisions slated to participate in the invasion - 20 American, 14 British, 3 Canadian, 1 French, and 1 Polish - along with hundreds of thousands of service troops, there was little time to waste. The number of U.S. fighting men based in Great Britain alone would double in the first six months of 1944, rising from 774,000 at the beginning of the year to 1,537,000 in the week preceding the final assault.

More than 16 million tons of supplies would be needed to feed and supply those men and their allies; six and one-quarter pounds of rations per day per man; 137,000 jeeps, trucks, and half-tracks; 4,217 tanks and fully tracked vehicles; 3,500 artillery pieces; 12,000 aircraft; and huge stores of sundries - everything from dental amalgam for fillings to chewing gum and candy bars.

Quarters and depots to house the entire force mushroomed across the English countryside, many in just the 17 weeks that preceded the invasion. The fields of Somerset and Cornwall became armories for the vast stores of bombs and artillery shells that the operation would require. The congestion extended to Britain's harbors, where ships laden with more supplies stood by. By the day of the attack, besides the immense force of fighting ships that would land the troops in Normandy and of cargo vessels that continued to ply the Atlantic supply routes, more than 3 million deadweight tons of merchant shipping were in direct service to the invasion. The huge size of the buildup notwithstanding, landing craft were in such short supply that Eisenhower postponed the invasion for one month, from May to June.

While logisticians laid the base for the invasion, the Allied air forces opened the way for the attack itself by waging massive bombing campaigns in Germany and France. In Germany, between January and June 1944, Allied fighters swept the skies clear of German warplanes and took a heavy toll in pilots. As a result, by June the enemy lacked both the air-

the few to navigate his craft to the beach and give his men a dry landing, Lockhart said.

"We were carrying more than 60 pounds of gear," Lockhart said. "An awful lot of guys drowned trying to make it to shore, but our ramp fell down on dry sand and I got off without getting my feet wet."

He said the beach was filled with dead and wounded Soldiers, exploding artillery shells and continuous machine gun fire.

"Most of the first group didn't make it off the beach," he said. "I was in the second group. We didn't spend any time on the beach, we kept moving off the beach and away from the machine guns firing at us."

He said several of his buddies were killed or wounded within a mile of the beach due to the fields beyond being saturated with land mines.

"I had no sleep for the next five days except for short catnaps," he said. "Snipers seemed to be in every field."

He said he, "survived thirty-six days of hell," before being wounded near Saint Lo, France, July 11 and being returned to England for 90 days.

"I'll never forget my buddies falling around me," Lockhart said. "It's my most vivid memory."

Lockhart said that due to health reasons he may not return to Europe although he has received invitations to return to Berry Pomeroy in 2005.

"It may have been my last journey back there," Lockhart said, "It may have been my last goodbye."

-National Archives and Records Administration



"As our boat touched sand and the ramp went down, I became a visitor to hell."
 - Private Harry Parley, E Company, 2nd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment

This graphic of Normandy's Utah and Omaha beach-heads shows the assault route of American ground forces.



-National Archives and Records Administration
 Barrage balloons hover over the largest armada ever assembled as Allied forces move onto the beaches of Normandy.

Normandy veteran recalls 'first wave'

By YVONNE JOHNSON
 APG NEWS

Retired Col. Edward H. Mehosky of North East jumped into France in the early hours of June 6, 1944, with the first wave of the Normandy invasion. Mehosky was assigned to Company H, 3rd Battalion, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, also known as the "Screaming Eagles."

A young lieutenant and platoon leader at the time, Mehosky's group was designated to jump into Drop Zone D, in the Angoville-au-Plain vicinity near Vierville. "Third battalion's objective was to take the two bridges over the Douve River east of the town of Carentan. According to intelligence estimates there were no enemy troops in the area," Mehosky said.

"As we would find out, there were, in fact, several German divisions in the area and had been for a while, and because their positions were so well dug in and concealed, the Air Force couldn't spot them from the air," he said.

After months of training in England, which intensified in the weeks before the invasion, Mehosky said that although few knew the exact date, all could sense when the time was drawing near.

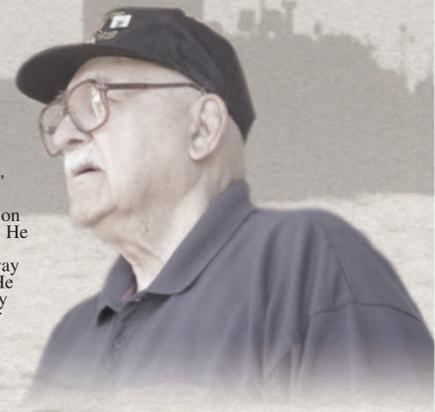
"Everyone could sense something big was going on. We knew we were getting closer to the big day when everything we had trained for in the past twenty-one months would be put into motion," Mehosky said. "We were ready to go."

A formation of 45 planes containing nearly 700 men departed England shortly before midnight on June 5. Mehosky was the jumpmaster in his plane, which carried 19 men, half of the first platoon. He said things started going wrong as they neared the drop zone.

As anti-aircraft fire and tracer rounds struck the aircraft, the pilot took evasive action, veering away from the drop zone just prior to the jump. Mehosky lost most of his equipment on the way down. He landed in a field bound by hedgerows with two other Soldiers from the 501st. Almost immediately they are fired upon and Mehosky is wounded. Separated from the main body with just a dozen other soldiers, Mehosky attempts to lead them across fields flooded by the Nazis to deter airborne troops, but the group is pinned down by machine gun fire halfway across and most are killed. A ship offshore as the urging of the main body began raining down 16-inch shells all around Mehosky, showering him with water and mud, but also destroying the German position. He and the other four remaining survivors moved out and hooked up with the main body but was never able to locate all of his men.

A letter from a member of his platoon years later explaining that nearly everyone got separated and some had even ended up in the 82nd Airborne Drop Zone cleared things up for him.

After 37 days in combat, Mehosky returned to England. The Third Battalion had jumped into (See **First Wave**, page 16)



Ret. Col. Edward H. Mehosky
 Normandy - 101st Airborne Division

ILLUSTRATION By BLAKE VOSHELL

Lockhart

(Continued from page 1)

Omaha Museum, and ceremonies at American ceremonies and monuments throughout England and France.

The observance in both countries ran from May 30 to June 11.

Lockhart, who may be the sole surviving member of his unit, also was honored with a proclamation from Maryland governor Robert L. Ehrlich Jr., an official citation from the Maryland Senate, a Certificate of Honor from the du Conseil Municipal in Vierville, and Saint Lo, France and from the Omaha Beach Museum.

Lockhart said the veterans were gratified by the show of honor and thanks for what they endured. A solemn part of the journey was when during a ceremony at the Normandy American Cemetery at Colleville, France, which overlooks Utah Beach, flowers were placed on the graves of "buddies who didn't make it off the beach or back home," he said.

Lockhart's regiment arrived in Cornwall on the Queen Mary ocean liner, which could transport 10,000 troops at a time, in October 1943. They trained rigorously for the next seven months during the Allied buildup of the massive supplies needed for the operation. Then, on the fateful day, they boarded their LCI 619 for the journey across the channel.

"It was skippered by Philip Alston," Lockhart said, noting that Alston, a Navy lieutenant at the time, went on to become the U.S. ambassador to Australia. He was one of



-National Archives and Records Administration

American rangers marching through the streets of the British port town of Weymouth on their way to the docks where they will be loaded into landing craft for the big assault in this undated photo taken in June 1944.



-National Archives and Records Administration
 A triumphant U.S. Army tank rolls into Paris.

Normandy...

(Continued from page 8)

craft and the airmen to mount more than a token resistance to Allied plans.

Meanwhile, in France, members of the French Resistance cut railroad tracks, sabotaged locomotives and targeted supply trains while Allied aircraft bombed roads, bridges and rail junctions to prevent the Germans from moving reinforcements toward the invasion beaches.

Deception was a major part of the Allied campaign plan. To mislead the Germans into believing that the Pas de Calais, rather than the Cotentin, would be the site of the invasion, Eisenhower's staff created a mythical 1st Army Group with an order of battle larger than that of Montgomery's 21st Army Group. Basing the phantom force near Dover, just across the Channel from the supposed target, the planners set construction crews to building dummy installations of plywood and canvas and dotted them with an array of inflatable tanks and vehicles. They also anchored a vast armada of rubber landing craft in the Thames River estuary, where German reconnaissance aircraft were certain to spot them. Eisenhower assigned Patton, the American general the Germans most respected, to command the phantom army and saw to it that known enemy agents received information on the status of Patton's force.

To protect the date of the invasion from prying German eyes, the Allies called it D-Day, which carried no implications of any sort. Neptune, the code name they used in place of Overlord on planning documents after September 1943, was similarly devoid of connotation.

Although American commanders doubted their ruses would have much effect, their schemes succeeded far beyond expectations. The Germans became so convinced that the Pas de Calais would be the Allied target that they held to the fiction until long after the attack had begun. As a result, 19 powerful enemy divisions, to include important Panzer reserves, stood idle on the day of the invasion, awaiting an assault that never came, when their presence in Normandy might have told heavily against the Allied attack.

The Wehrmacht

In theory, the German chain of command in the west was an example of good order. Adolf Hitler served as supreme commander of the Wehrmacht, the nation's armed forces. The High Command, or OKW, led by Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel, ran the war everywhere except in the Soviet Union. Navy Group West and the Third Air Fleet, in turn, managed Germany's naval and air forces in Western Europe while the ground force, some 58 divisions, came under the Oberbefehlshaber West, or OB West, headed by Field Marshal Gerd von Rundstedt. Subordinate to Rundstedt was Field Marshal Erwin Rommel who leading Army Group B was in charge of anti-invasion forces along the Channel coast as far south as the Loire River.

Rommel disagreed with Rundstedt over how best to repel an Allied invasion. Rundstedt placed great reliance on mechanized reserves that could respond quickly and flexibly to an enemy thrust. To that end, he stationed a newly created armored command, Panzer Group West, near Paris. From there, the force could move, as circumstances required, toward the site of an enemy assault in either the Pas de Calais or Normandy.

Rommel believed Allied air superiority in France prevented the sort of mobile response Rundstedt envisioned. If Eisenhower's forces gained even the barest foothold on the continent, he reasoned, they would win the war. To prevent that, German forces would have to repel the invasion at the water's edge through the use of well-dug in and stationary troop formations on the shoreline. Directing his efforts to that end, Rommel built beach defenses, laid down minefields, and constructed obstacles to entangle Allied landing craft before they reached land.

The terrain in Normandy where the Allies would land consisted of small fields and pastures ringed by dense, tangled shrubbery. Each of them constituted a natural fortification and killing ground. Even large, open areas were easily defended. Rommel peppered those that were suitable for the landing of gliders and paratroopers with mines, booby-trapped wooden stakes called Rommel's asparagus, and other obstructions. Since the regions near the mouths of Normandy's rivers and streams were often reclaimed marshlands, the field marshal had his engineers return them to their natural state by opening dikes and floodgates that held in check spring overflows. The deep inundations that followed would claim a number of the paratroopers who dropped into Normandy on the night of the invasion and would inhibit efforts to close the gap between the American forces fighting on Omaha and Utah beaches.

A German spy working in the British embassy in Ankara had provided his mentors in Berlin with the code name for the invasion - Overlord, but the revelation apparently carried little weight and led to no concrete action. German intelligence also learned that the British Broadcasting Corporation would transmit two lines of a poem by the 19th century author Paul Verlaine to warn the French Resistance that the attack was imminent. Even so, that finding was of little use without firm indications of where or when the invasion would occur.

Operations

As the day of the invasion approached, the weather in the English Channel became stormy. Heavy winds, a five-foot swell at sea, and lowering skies compelled Eisenhower to postpone the assault from June 5 to 6. Conditions remained poor, but when weathermen predicted that the winds would abate and the cloud cover would rise enough on the scheduled day of the attack to permit a go-ahead, Eisenhower reluctantly gave the command. Expecting casualties of up to 80 percent among the airborne forces, he traveled to an air base at Newbury to bid farewell to the members of the 101st Airborne Division before their tow planes and gliders carried them into battle. A newspaperman who accompanied Eisenhower later told friends he had seen tears in the general's eyes.

The weather actually worked to the Allied advantage. When the BBC broadcast the lines from Verlaine's poem indicating commencement of the attack - *Blessent mon coeur d'une longueur monotone* ("The violins of autumn) wound my heart with monotonous languor") - the 15th Army in the Pas de Calais went on alert, but Rommel's Army Group B headquarters in Normandy did nothing. The weather was so foul that no one believed an invasion was possible. In fact, many commanders at 7th Army had already left for Brittany to participate in an exercise designed, ironically, to simulate an Allied landing in Normandy. Rommel himself was in Germany celebrating his wife's birthday.

As planned, airborne units led the invasion. Shortly after midnight the British 6th Airborne Division dropped northeast of Caen, near the mouth of the Orne River, where it anchored the British eastern flank by securing bridges over the river and the Caen Canal. On the other side of the invasion area, the U.S. 101st and 82nd Airborne Divisions dropped near Ste. Mere-Eglise and Carentan to secure road junctions and beach exits from which the VII Corps could push to capture Cherbourg.

Some of the American airborne troops came to ground near their objectives, but most were scattered over a wide area. A number drowned in the flooded lowlands. Others landed in the midst of German positions, where they were killed or captured. In the hours that followed, nevertheless, paratroopers from the

101st succeeded in clearing much of the way for VII Corps' move inland. The 3rd Battalion, 505th Infantry of the 82nd Airborne Division meanwhile captured Ste. Mere Eglise and cut the main enemy communications cable to Cherbourg.

Other units, entangled in the thickets and hedgerows of the region, failed to achieve their objectives, but their very presence sowed confusion in the German ranks. Reports began to surface all along the line that paratroopers were landing, but little information was available to commanders on the size and meaning of the attack. Was it a probe to test Germany's defenses, a diversion for a larger assault, or the long-awaited invasion itself?

As dawn neared, bombers began to strike up and down the coast, flying the first of what would become, by the end of the day, more than 11,000 sorties against enemy batteries, headquarters, railroad junctions, and troop concentrations. Most of the gliders assigned to the British and the U.S. 101st Airborne Division reached their targets, but fewer than half assigned to the 82nd reached their assigned landing zones. The rest lodged in hedgerows, struck German obstructions, or floundered in the swollen marshes. By mid-morning, 4,000 men of the 82nd were still unaccounted for, along with 60 percent of the equipment they had carried.

Although convinced that the disturbances were a diversion for an assault to come in the Pas de Calais, Rundstedt, at 4 a.m., ordered two Panzer divisions to move immediately toward Caen to guard against Allied amphibious operations in support of the airborne attacks. Rundstedt's superiors placed the order on hold, however, until Hitler could concur. Since he was asleep and disliked being awakened, approval took hours to come and stalled what might have been a powerful German response.

Rommel's staff, however, when they learned that an enormous Allied fleet was approaching the coast, ordered the 21st Panzer Division to Caen.

By first light, at 5:30 a.m., the entire horizon off Normandy between Caen and Vierville-sur-Mer had filled with the invasion armada.

"They came, rank after relentless rank, ten lanes wide, twenty miles across, five thousand ships of every description," wrote one reporter that morning.

"Coast Guard cutters, buoy-layers and motor launches, and a formidable array of 702 warships."

The naval bombardment began at 5:50 a.m., detonating large German minefields and destroying many blockhouses and artillery positions.

The Allied bombardment ended precisely on schedule but the landing craft ran late, giving the Germans a brief respite before the troops came on shore.

That complicated matters for the British 1 and 30 Corps when they arrived on Gold, Juno, and Sword beaches at 7 a.m. and for the American VII Corps, which began to debark on Utah at 6:30.

On Gold, the British 50th Division encountered intense German fire at first but rapidly worked its way forward and moved off the beach. On Juno, the 3rd Canadian Division also experienced early difficulties but by the end of the day had reached the Caen-Bayeux highway, inland from the landing zone. Confusion reigned on Sword, where delivery schedules slipped and succeeding waves of landing craft piled a jumble of men and vehicles at the water's edge. Even so, the troops on Sword were off the beach within an hour of landing and by dark had joined up with the forces of the British 6th Airborne Division. British and Canadian forces failed to seize Caen because the Germans threw the weight of their resources and their only available armored division into the defense of the city, but they too, had established themselves well ashore.

The forces that arrived on Utah also performed ably. Elements of the 4th and 24th Cavalry Squadrons (132 men) of the 4th Cavalry Group landed on the St. Marcouf Islands flanking the beach at 4:30 a.m., two hours in advance of the main attack. Directed to clear enemy minefields, control points, and observation posts, they found the islands heavily mined but otherwise unoccupied.

During the main attack, German artillery managed to sink the U.S. destroyer Corry; swift currents carried the landing craft of the 4th Division well to the south of their target into a portion of the beach that was only lightly defended; and 32 amphibious tanks assigned to land in the first wave of the attack were delayed by the loss of a control vessel that struck a mine. Those setbacks notwithstanding, the assaulting troops quickly took the upper hand. Within three hours, the enemy force defending the beach had surrendered and Allied troops and supplies were moving inland. About 23,000 men came ashore at Utah, at the cost of 197 casualties among the ground forces.

Many men distinguished themselves that morning, among them the 4th Division's assistant division commander, Brig. Gen. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. Going ashore with the first wave, Roosevelt contributed materially to the success of his forces by personally reconnoitering the area inland from the beach. He then returned to the beachhead repeatedly,

without concern for his own life, to lead groups of men over a seawall through enemy fire to safety. He earned a Medal of Honor for his gallantry.

If the attack went well on Utah, the situation was quite different on Omaha. Maj. Gen. Leonard T. Gerow's V Corps came up against the worst conditions encountered that day. High seas swamped many landing craft during the 10-mile run from mother ships to shore. Survivors reached land seasick and wobbling. Fifty-seven of 96 dual-drive amphibious tanks assigned to the landing went down, victims of heavy seas they were not designed to withstand. Strong winds and adverse currents likewise pushed a significant number of landing craft away from their designated targets, into areas where commanding officers' maps were useless and supporting fire from friendly ships totally lacking.

Bombing attacks by Allied aircraft and assaults by naval gunfire designed to soften enemy positions did little to improve the situation. Blinded by heavy clouds and concerned lest poorly aimed bombs strike the landing force on the beach, bomber pilots overshot their targets and dropped their loads up to three miles inland. Naval gunners had difficulty zeroing in on their targets.

Most of the radios required by artillery spotters ashore had gone down with landing craft that never reached the beach.

Omaha itself was a tangle of obstructions; concrete cones, slanted poles, logs tilted seaward with mines lashed to their tips, and steel rails welded together at angles so strongly set into the beach that their ends would stave in the bottoms of landing craft. The Germans had also made good use of a line of cliffs four miles long and up to 150 feet in height that paralleled the length of the landing zone. Dotted the area with mines, they had scattered block-

houses, bunkers, and machine gun nests in strategic locations where they could dominate the shoreline below.

Unknown to the Americans, the highly disciplined 352nd Infantry Division manned many of those fortifications. Its presence in the area had been suspected but the evidence had proven too uncertain to affect planning for the attack.

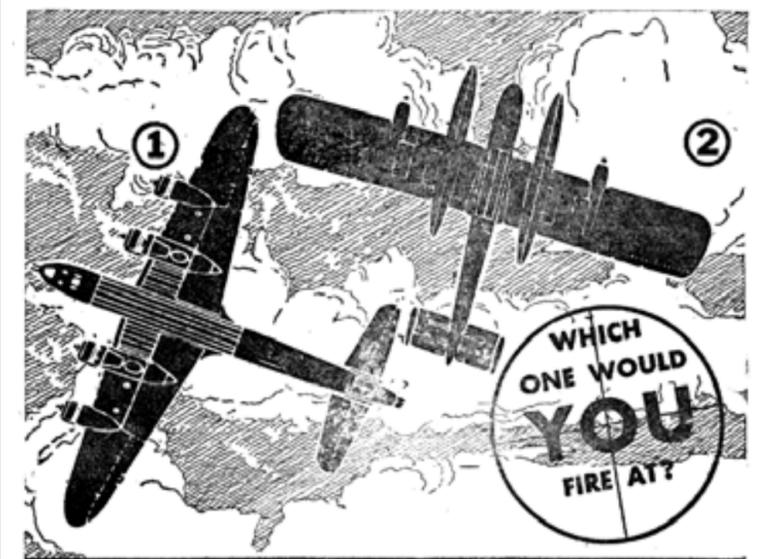
The effort to destroy the enemy's beach obstacles was only marginally successful. In the vanguard of the attack, members of the 6th Engineer Brigade and naval demolition units attempted to cut avenues of approach to the beach by blasting lanes through the obstructions. Despite a series of mishaps - of 16 bulldozers, for example, only three survived enemy fire - they succeeded in opening six complete gaps. Casualties for the engineering task force ran to 40 percent, most incurred in the first half-hour of the attack.

As the day lengthened, those conditions combined to produce a near inferno on Omaha. Enemy mortar and artillery batteries, unscathed by Allied fire, poured destruction upon the attackers while the invading force time and again appeared to fumble. Allied rocket ships responded, but from extreme range. When their missiles fell short, they hit the troops on the beach.

Wreckage at the water's edge accumulated as timetables slipped and landing craft became hopelessly entangled in the barbed wire and projecting beams of uncleared beach obstructions. Even those craft that succeeded in ramming their way forward encountered difficulties. Riding a rising tide, most grounded on unforeseen sandbars located 50 to 100 yards from the surf's edge. There, enemy machine guns claimed a heavy toll of the debarking troops, who had to wade to shore with all their equipment through water that was often neck deep. In the end, perhaps a little more than one-third of the first wave of



PLEASE, MR. SOLDIER, DON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT THAT LAST TROOP SHIPMENT. . . MY DADDY'S ON IT!"



NOT AT NO. 1. It's the British Short Sterling, a potent four-engine heavy bomber. The nose of the flat sided fuselage extends well ahead of the engines. Both edges of the wings taper to rounded tips. The tailplane is tapered and there is a single fin and rudder.

FIRE AT NO. 2. It's the Blohm and Voss Ha. 139B, a four-engine seaplane which the Nazis are using as a mine layer. The wings are untapered with rounded tips. It has a torpedo-shaped fuselage and large, fixed twin floats. The tailplane is rectangular and has twin fins and rudders.

Courtesy of APG News archives

Normandy...

(Continued from page 10)

attackers reached dry land. Lacking most of their heavy equipment, those survivors had little choice but to huddle behind sand dunes and in the lee of a small seawall that ran along the base of the beach. Many Soldiers were killed outright, but some, wounded and unable to move, drowned as the tide moved in.

The Germans were elated. Convinced that the attack was faltering, the commander of the 352nd Division transferred some of his reserves to the east, where the British appeared a greater threat. Gen. Bradley debated whether to cancel the assault and move the remainder of his forces to UTAH Beach.

If chaos ruled at first, order asserted itself as the day lengthened. In some areas, heavy smoke from grass fires and exploding ammunition obscured landing zones and blinded enemy gunners, allowing the attackers to advance largely unopposed. Here and there, as well, tanks arrived, rolling off landing craft that had somehow plowed their way through the obstacles. Bringing their guns to bear, they began to provide the fire support the men on the beach required.

The remnants of three companies of Rangers who went ashore with the first units also did good work. Assigned to destroy a battery of six partially casemated 155 mm guns thought to be positioned atop a promontory named the Pointe du Hoe, the highly disciplined infantrymen scaled the nearly 100-foot height and cleared it of its German defenders. They then held their position for two days against waves of counterattacking Germans, incurring losses that reduced their effectiveness to about 90 men before reinforcements arrived.

Unit cohesion disintegrated among the troops on the beach, but leaders of all ranks asserted themselves and saved the day.

"Two kinds of people are staying on this beach," the commander of the 1st Division's 16th Infantry Regiment, Col. George A. Taylor exclaimed to his men, "the dead and those who are going to die. Now let's get the hell out of here."

Brig. Gen. Norman D. Cota, assistant commander, 29th Division, was particularly effective. Ignoring enemy fire, he moved up and down the shoreline among his troops, cajoling, rallying, and urging them forward through the bluffs.

As the invaders reorganized, Allied destroyers moved closer to shore. Risking grounding and almost point-blank fire from enemy batteries, they raked the cliffs with their guns. More and more landing craft also pushed to the beach, bringing in new troops, heavy weapons, radios, and ammunition.

Although victorious against the first wave of invaders at OMAHA, the Germans could do little when the force on the beach began to renew itself. With many of their troops off in pursuit of the dummy paratroopers the Allies had dropped far to the rear, they could hold their own from fixed positions but lacked the numbers to drive the invaders back. Thus, the Americans kept the ground they gained. Inch by inch they moved forward, up through the bluffs and onto the flatland above.

In absence of much room to maneuver, the Allied attack had been unoriginal - a straightforward frontal attack - but the weight of their numbers and the enormous volume of supplies and equipment they brought to bear made difference.

By nightfall on June 4, 34,000 men were ashore on OMAHA. The beach itself was a shambles of burning and disabled vehicles, but almost all of the coastal villages located inland were in Allied hands.

Allied losses had been high: 2,500 men at OMAHA alone, another 2,500 among the American airborne divisions, almost 1,100 for the Canadians, and some 3,000 for the British - more than 9,000 men in all, one-third of whom were killed in action. Even so, the number was less than Allied planners expected.

By the evening of June 6, Allied power had prevailed all across the Normandy beachhead. Although the British had not seized Caen and the Americans had yet to secure a lodgment far enough inland to be safe from enemy artillery, more than 100,000 men had come ashore, the first of millions who would follow.

Seven commanders lead Operation Overlord

U.S. ARMY CENTER OF MILITARY HISTORY

The seven men selected to lead Overlord, three American, and four British, sat down together for the first time in January 1944. All had at least 30 years of military experience, and were regarded by their peers as exceptional in their fields. Many had served together in previous campaigns, and almost all had participated in the amphibious assaults in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations. They knew that Overlord would require Allied collaboration on an unprecedented scale.

In the months leading up to D-Day the commanders worked around the clock, planning strategic and tactical operations, conducting training exercises, and coordinating the resources and efforts of ground, air, and naval forces.

There were numerous setbacks, many stemming from personality clashes and conflicting beliefs about the best course of action. When tempers flared, American Gen. Dwight D.

Final preparations

WWW.DDAYMUSEUM.ORG

In the final days before D-Day, the assault troops received new uniforms and equipment, as well as the following special supplies issued specifically for the invasion. Gen. Omar Bradley severely restricted the number of items issued to Soldiers, so that they would not be weighed down by extra gear when they landed in Normandy. But even lightly equipped, the average Soldier would carry about 75 pounds of equipment onto the beaches:

- Order of the Day
- Extra boxes of matches
- Vomit bags (Because of the limited number of vomit bags, many GIs resorted to using their helmets instead)
- Anti-seasickness pills (For thousands of Soldiers these pills had no effect other than inducing extreme drowsiness)
- 200 francs of invasion currency (These notes were legal tender in occupied France, even though most were printed in the United States)
- French Language Guide
- Lifebelt
- Ration heating units (Each can contained a fuel tablet that, when lit, served as a small stove)
- Paperback book (The government provided millions of these easy-to-carry books to the military. Paperbacks were available before the war, but mass production began only after they were popularized by GIs)
- Pocket Guide to France
- Condoms (Troops found these useful in keeping sand and water out of rifle barrels)
- Raincoat
- Insecticide powder
- Water purification tablets
- Extra pair of gas-protective socks
- Extra candy bars
- Extra razor blade
- Pliofilm rifle cover (Soldiers could put their rifles in these plastic waterproof bags to protect them from water damage during the trip across the Channel)
- Extra cigarette packs
- Chewing gum replicas.

Eisenhower, as Supreme Commander, intervened to ease tensions among his colleagues so that Overlord would not be jeopardized. It was essential that they cooperate in what Winston Churchill called "much the greatest thing we have ever attempted."

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Commander Allied Expeditionary Force

Eisenhower's military career began at West Point, where he met classmate and future colleague, Omar Bradley. He was eager to experience combat, and frustrated when he was kept stateside during World War I.

His opportunity for combat command finally came during World War II, when he directed Allied forces in North Africa, Sicily, and Italy.

He was selected to lead Overlord not only because of his success in the Mediterranean, but because of his ability to balance the diverse personalities of the commanders involved in the operation. Even British Gen. Sir Bernard Montgomery, whose relationship with Eisenhower was often strained, said of him, "He has the power of drawing the hearts of men towards him.... He merely has to smile at you, and you trust him at once."

Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Tedder, Deputy Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force

By the time Eisenhower named Arthur Tedder as his deputy commander, the two

The critical ingredient: the naval bombardment of Normandy

U.S. NAVY AND MARINE CORP

WWII COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE

Adolf Hitler had said that the destruction of Allied battleships was "of the utmost importance," in defeating the Allied offensive.

Naval gunfire was the critical ingredient that demolished the Atlantic Wall and allowed Allied forces to enter the continent of Europe through the beaches of Normandy.

From battleship to gunboat, the more than 40 ships of the bombardment force off Utah and Omaha beaches provided deadly, accurate fire to cover both the U.S. landings and expansion of the beachhead during the first two weeks of the invasion.

A similar force of warships provided the gunfire support to the British and Canadians who landed at Juno, Gold and Sword beaches.

Praise from Allied soldiers, from generals to infantry privates, was common for the destroyer that maneuvered in shallow water to knock out beach fortifications, and for the capital ships shooting a dozen miles inland to break up formations of reinforcements.

German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel said of the naval gunfire, "The effect is so immense that no operation of any kind is possible in the area commanded by this rapid-fire artillery, either by infantry or tanks."

The long reach of the battleships Texas, Arkansas and Nevada is credited with sealing the beaches with their 12-and 14-inch shells on D-Day, preventing reinforcements from reaching the beaches. During the next two weeks, these ships, using both ground teams and aerial spot-

men had already worked together in three invasion operations. Eisenhower described Tedder "not only as a brilliant airman but as a staunch supporter of the 'allied' principle."

One of the most challenging aspects of Tedder's job would be working with uncooperative air commanders who refused to relinquish control of their forces. But by the spring of 1944, Tedder had managed to consolidate American and British air forces into one Allied air command.

Lt. Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, Chief of Staff

From 1911, when he joined the Indiana National Guard at age 16, Walter "Beetle" Smith advanced slowly but steadily up the army ranks. Smith was an excellent military manager and, as Eisenhower's right-hand man, provided administrative and moral support, helping the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force, SHAEF, staff prepare for Overlord. Eisenhower called him "a godsend."

Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery, Commander, Allied Ground Forces

"Monty" enjoyed enormous popularity among both his troops and the British people. His military achievements won him the respect of his fellow soldiers, including his Desert War opponent, German Field Commander, Erwin Rommel.

Montgomery's arrogant manner, however, earned him a reputation as one of the most difficult and controversial commanders of World War II.

Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley, Commander, U.S. Ground Forces

Affectionately called "the GI's General" for his unassuming manner and his concern for his soldiers, Bradley was one of the most beloved commanders in the U.S. Army. He joined his old friends,

ters, rained high explosives on concentrations of troops and tanks more than a dozen miles inland. The Germans were continually pushed back.

British, French, and U.S. cruisers, with their shorter range 8-and-5-inch guns, destroyed pillboxes, blockhouses and strong points on and behind the beaches.

But it was at Omaha Beach where the destroyers, under heavy fire in shallow water, poured 5-inch and 40 mm fire directly into the heavily fortified bluffs.

Maneuvering in as little as nine feet of water, with their keels sometimes dragging bottom, the "tin cans" fired at numerous targets over the heads of the pinned down infantry.

"Get on them, men. Get on them!" urged Rear Admiral C.F. Bryant in a call to gunfire support ships of his bombardment force off Omaha. "They are raising hell with the men on the beach, and we can't have any more of that. We must stop it!"

A German military periodical extended credit to the bombardment force in a June 1944 article:

"Fire power of warships must not be underestimated. The fire curtain provided by the guns of the Navy so far proved to be one of the best trump cards of the Anglo-United States invasion Armies. It may be that the part played by the Fleet was more decisive than that of the air forces because its fire was better aimed and, unlike the bomber formations, it had not to confine itself to short bursts of fire."

Eisenhower and Gen. George Patton, for the Tunisian and Sicilian campaigns, before Eisenhower selected him to command the U.S. ground forces for Overlord.

Adm. Sir Bertram H. Ramsay, Commander, Allied Naval Forces Fleet

The oldest of the Overlord commanders, Ramsay had served in the Royal Navy for over 40 years. His experience with naval operations in the English Channel during both world wars made him particularly well suited to command the Normandy invasion fleet. Eisenhower called Ramsay, "a most competent commander of courage, resourcefulness, and tremendous energy."

Air Chief Marshal Sir Trafford Leigh-Mallory, Commander, Allied Air Forces

Leigh-Mallory achieved notoriety as a fighter commander in 1940, when he launched a controversial, though successful, offensive campaign against the Luftwaffe during the Battle of Britain. As commander of the Allied air forces for Overlord, he was responsible for leading tactical air operations against both the Luftwaffe and German ground forces. While Tedder assumed control over strategic operations, Leigh-Mallory focused solely on tactical fighter support for frontline ground troops.

Keeping Mum in 1943

-It's Never Too Late to Ration Loose Talking

-Silence is the Price of Life

-"Silence is a true friend who never betrays." Confucius

Veterans Day holiday hours

AA Arts & Crafts

EA Arts & Crafts

Auto Crafts

Bowling Center

AA Library

EA Library

AA Rec Center

AA Rec Center/Snack Bar

EA Rec center

EA Rec Center/Snack Bar

MWR Registration/ITR

AA Fitness Center

APG Athletic Center

Hoyle Gymnasium/Fitness Center

Outdoor Rec. and Equip. Center

Top of the Bay

Ruggles and Exton Golf Courses

Nov. 11

Closed

Closed

Closed

5 to 10 p.m.

Closed

Closed

noon to midnight

12:30 to 11:30 p.m.

noon to 11 p.m.

3:30 to 11:30 p.m.

Closed

Closed

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Closed

Closed

Open Daily

Nov. 12

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Closed

Closed

noon to midnight

12:30 to 11:30 p.m.

noon to 11 p.m.

3:30 to 11:30 p.m.

Closed

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Closed

Open Daily

Nov. 13

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

1 to 10 p.m.

1 to 5 p.m.

Closed

noon to midnight

12:30 to 11:30 p.m.

noon to 11 p.m.

12:30 to 11:30 p.m.

10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Closed

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Closed

Open Daily

Nov. 14

Closed

Closed

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Closed

1 to 5 p.m.

Closed

noon to 6 p.m.

noon to 5 p.m.

noon to 6 p.m.

noon to 5 p.m.

Closed

Closed

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Closed

Closed

Open Daily

Classes, events supporting Month of the Military Family

THURSDAY, NOV. 18

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Everyone is invited to attend, AA Post Theatre, building 3245, from 6 to 8 p.m. This is a ticketed event but they are free. Movie to be determined.

Doors will open at 5:15 p.m.

For more information, call Diana Hayes, 410-278-4372.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A MILITARY FAMILY?

Army Family team Building will present a free class about Family and Military Expectation and the impact of the mission on the military lifestyle and its impact on Soldiers, civilian employees, and their families 6 to 8 p.m., at Army Community Service building 2754. For more information, call Sarah Staats at 410-278-2464.

PLAY MORNINGS

This free weekly playgroup is for parents and their children under the age of 6. This group lets parents have fun and meet other parents while the children interact with each other.

The group will meet 9:30 to 11 a.m. every Thursday starting Nov. 18. Aberdeen Area parents will meet at the AA Chapel, building 2485, and the Edgewood Area parents will meet at the EA Chapel, building E-4620.

For more information, call Diana Hayes at 410-278-4372.

**MONDAY, NOV. 29
AND
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 1**

1-2-3 MAGIC

This two-part class is designed to help parents manage difficult behaviors in children age 2 through 12. The class meets 6 to 8 p.m., building 2754. Free child care is available.

For more information, call Tamara Johnson, 410-278-7478.

THURSDAY, NOV. 30

INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLAN

This class will be offered to support parents of children with educational disabilities. It meets 6 to 8 p.m. in building 2754.

For more information, call Reeshemah Bugg, 410-278-2420.

Child care will be provided.

THURSDAY, NOV. 30

NEW BEGINNINGS

This self-help class is offered to new mothers or others wishing to enhance their parenting skills, 6 to 8 p.m. in building 2754.

For more information, call Diana Hayes, 410-278-4372.

Child care will be provided.

Operation Overlord

U.S. ARMY CENTER FOR MILITARY HISTORY

The plan for Operation Overlord entailed landing nine divisions of sea and airborne troops, more than 150,000 men, along a 50-mile stretch of coast in just 24 hours.

On D-Day, three airborne divisions, one British and two American, would drop behind the landing beaches. Their job, seizes beach exits, capture key transportation and communication points, and block German counterattacks.

Six divisions would assault the five landing beaches. Each beach had a code name. Utah Beach was assigned to the U.S. 4th Division. The U.S. 29th and 1st Divisions would land at Omaha Beach. Further east, the British 50th Division would assault Gold Beach and the Canadian 3rd Division would attack at Juno Beach. The British 3rd Division would take Sword Beach.

Family Corner-Celebrating the military family

ACS

In honor of military families, Aberdeen Proving Ground's Army Community Service is sponsoring several programs during November, Military Family Month.

The month long celebration expands the congressionally designated National Family Month traditionally held in November. It honors the dedication and sacrifices military families make so the service member can "protect and defend the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic."

"While it is important to show families that we appreciate them every day, Month of the Military Family gives us a chance to show the family of service members that we appreciate the sacrifices they make daily," said Celestine Beckett, ACS chief. "We recognize how hard it can be for them to be part of the military lifestyle."

The Armed Services YMCA sponsors National Family Month. In a letter sent to that organization, President George Bush said, "I thank our military families for your continued support of our service members, and your encouragement helps prepare them for the important tasks they undertake in the defense of our freedom. Your active support of our service members plays a vital role in our national defense and in making our country's armed services the finest in the world."

In addition to the activities ACS has planned, such as Movie Night and a parenting class, the Armed Services YMCA sponsors two annual

contests during this time.

YMCA officials want artwork from military members' children, kindergarten through sixth grade, depicting their active-duty, Reserve or National Guard families. A \$500 savings bond and the winners' artwork printed on posters for next year's Military Family Week are the grand prizes.

The deadline for all art entries is Feb. 14.

To promote reading among children, the YMCA's annual essay contest is open to first through 12th graders, with prizes of up to \$1,000 in bonds.

Children and teens of uniformed service members (active-duty military members, Reserve, Guard and retired) as well as Defense Department civilians, Coast Guardsmen and American Mission families can enter the contest. Essays should be on any subject related to reading. Mailed entries are to be postmarked by March 12 and e-mailed entries must be sent not later than March 17.

"Strengthening families in our communities should be of great concern to all of us," Beckett said. "Our country faces difficult challenges with the continued breakdown to the family unit. By promoting National Family Month within the military, we hope to reinstate the family's central role in the health of our society."

For more information, contact ACS, 410-278-7572 or visit the Armed Services YMCA web site, www.asymca.org.

Order of the Day

June 6, 1944

Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force,

You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you. In company with our brave Allies and brothers-in-arms on other fronts, you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world.

Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely.

But this is the year 1944. Much has happened since the Nazi triumphs of 1940-41. The United Nations have inflicted upon the Germans great defeats, in open battle, man-to-man. Our air offensive has seriously reduced their strength in the air and their capacity to wage war on the ground. Our home fronts have given us an overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions of war, and placed at our disposal great reserves of trained fighting men. The tide has turned. The free men of the world are marching together to victory.

I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full victory.

Good luck. And let us all beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking.

Dwight D. Eisenhower

Maj. Gen. Warren D. Hodges, Normandy veteran and former APG commander dies

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG NEWS

With the death of retired Maj. Gen. Warren D. Hodges, who passed away Oct. 15, the community lost one of its few remaining veterans of the Normandy invasion. The professional Infantry soldier and former Aberdeen Proving Ground commander was a veteran of three wars -- WWII, the Korean War and Vietnam.

In June 2002, Hodges was featured in the APG News Korean War veteran series. The following is a partial reprint of that article.

Hodges began his military career in 1942 in the Enlisted Reserve Corps while a member of the ROTC at the University of Kansas. He attended Officer Candidate School at Camp Davis, N.C., was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Coast Artillery Corps in 1943, then converted to Infantry and was sent to the European Theater for the Normandy invasion in 1944 where he served as a platoon leader and company commander with the 134th Infantry, 35th Division until the end of WWII.

He returned to the states to serve at Fort Campbell, Ky. until 1946 when he was reassigned to the Far East Command in Japan where he served as the commander of the Honor Guard to Gen. Douglas MacArthur from 1946 to 1949.

Hodges became the first commander of the combined Aberdeen and Edgewood Areas in 1971 after serving as the chief of staff of the former U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command. Formerly active in local veteran organizations, he had to curtail his activities after his right leg was amputated in 1999 but he did attend the renaming of a portion of North Point Boulevard, to the 175th Infantry Regiment (Fifth Maryland) Highway during a ceremony at the Maryland Army National Guard Armory in Dundalk Sept. 10.

Hodges lived in Bel Air with his wife, Kathleen. They were married 61 years.

Of her, Hodges said, "She's done her time too. For nearly 60 years she's been at my side. My partner and my friend."

He kept abreast of world situations and attended local observances, such as the annual Military Appreciation Week parade in Aberdeen as often as possible.

Of the country's war on terrorism, Hodges said he was all for it and for the new wave of patriotism.

"It's long overdue," Hodges said. "It's getting close to what it was like after WWII."

He said he was grateful to see service members honored for their sacrifices, unlike those who served in Korea and Vietnam.

"When we came home, nobody cared about where we'd been or what we'd done," Hodges said, adding that the three-year Korean War commemoration period also was long overdue."

"Never again should we allow our military to be ignored," Hodges said. "Think of where we'd be without them."

*Maj. Gen. Warren D. Hodges
1923 - 2004*

Europe gives rest to American military dead

WWW.ABMC.GOV

The World War II Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial is situated on a cliff overlooking Omaha Beach and the English Channel in Colleville-sur Mer, France, and contains the graves of 9,386 American military dead, most of whom gave their lives during the landings and ensuing operations of World War II.

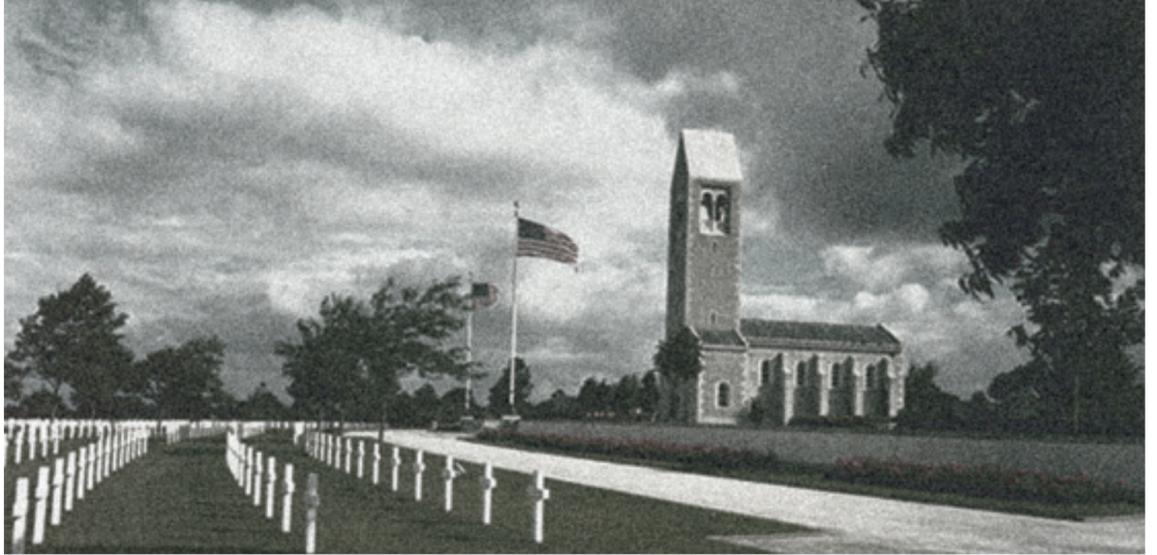
It is just east of St. Laurent-sur-Mer and north west of Bayeux about 170 miles west of Paris. The cemetery is at the north end of its one half-mile access road and covers 172 acres.

Inscribed on the walls of the semicircular garden on the east side of the memorial are the names of 1,557 American Missing who gave their lives in the service of their country, but whose remains were never located or identified. The memorial consists of a semi-circular colonnade with a loggia at each end containing maps and narratives of the military operations. At the center is a bronze statue titled, "Spirit of American Youth." An orientation table overlooks the beach and depicts the landings at Normandy. Facing west is the reflecting pool, the mall with burial areas to either side and the circular chapel beyond. Behind the chapel are statues representing the United States and France.

The cemetery is open daily to the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. It is open on host country holidays. A staff member is on duty in the Visitors' Building to answer questions and escort relatives to grave and memorial sites.

For more information about other overseas cemeteries, call the American Battle Monuments Commission at 703-696-6897; e-mail www.abmc.gov/no.htm; or write: Operations

American Battle Monuments Commission, Courthouse Plaza II, Suite 500, 2300 Clarendon Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22201.



--www.abmc.gov

The Brittany American Cemetery and Memorial in Brittany, France contains the remains of 4,410 Americans who died in Normandy and the Battle of Brittany.

First Wave

(Continued from page 9)

Normandy June 6 with 39 officers and 562 enlisted men. By July 13, 22 officers and 262 men were killed in action, wounded or missing.

He refers to Normandy as the units "baptism by fire."

"We accomplished our objectives despite the horribly scattered landings and key command and staff losses," Mehosky said. "We were now seasoned, veteran troops."

Mehosky is the father of Ivan Mehosky, Aberdeen Proving Ground garrison's schools liaison and author of the book, "The Story of a Soldier," which details Mehosky's 31-year career through three wars, World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

Veterans Lament

Sometimes watching night TV, I feel real pain,
While listening to the newscasters explain,
How one political party or another expects to gain,
From imagined mistakes made on the Iraqi plain.

While some Soldiers who tried to do their best,
To do what was right, are being laid to rest,
Some of these paper heroes are trying to attest,
They could really do things better than the rest.

Listen all you old men, hear my words today,
What these young Soldiers are doing is not play,
They are out there sweating and dying every day,
So another country might go freedom's way.

Those Soldiers doing the job have little to gain,
But they are the ones who feel the most pain,
So, let's honor their efforts, recognize the strain,
And try not to use their deeds for personal gain.

So, you've served your time and saw your war,
I did the same and perhaps a little bit more,
That still doesn't give us any right to deplore,
Their brave efforts on the congressional floor.

So, on this occasion, just let me have my say,
Let's all recognize the sacrifices made today,
Show the Marines and Soldiers they're OK,
And wish all our good service people a great Veterans Day!

By Buddy W. Maxwell

"When pressure mounts and strain increases everyone begins to show the weaknesses in his makeup. It is up to the Commander to conceal his: above all to conceal doubt, fear, and distrust."

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower