

won't get caught up in the road wheels. So long as there are no mines, there is no need to stop.

• The BUDD light is an excellent means of marking vehicles within the task force formation. All that is required is a little tape, a nine-volt battery, and an MRE bean component box to make a hood (the IR light is very bright). When used with AN/PVS-7s, the light makes an excellent IR

flashlight for clearing bunkers and trenches.

Many other lessons were learned during Operation DESERT STORM that could be exploited in the Army today, by both light and heavy forces. With the increased number of deployments to various contingency areas, it is important that these lessons be disseminated to the field. Innovations need to be publicized so that, instead of reinven-

ting them, other units can improve upon them and go on to share their own innovations.

Captain John R. Sutherland, III commanded a company in the 24th Infantry Division during Operation DESERT STORM and served as an observer-controller at the National Training Center. He is now an Infantry Officer Advanced Course small group instructor. He is a 1983 ROTC graduate of Northern Arizona University.

FIFTY YEARS AGO IN WORLD WAR II May-June 1945

The spring of 1945 saw the end of the war in Europe, as remnants of the once-formidable Wehrmacht scrambled to avoid capture by Soviet forces bent on avenging the staggering military and civilian losses they had sustained over the past four years. The first large-scale capitulation came on 2 May, with the surrender of all German forces in Italy to the U.S. 15th Army group. The official instrument of surrender was signed by representatives of the German High Command at Reims, France, on 7 May, to become effective on 9 May.

In the Pacific Theater, Japanese dreams of victory had long since been replaced by the inevitability of defeat, and remaining Imperial forces continued to hold out in bitter, last-ditch fighting that took a heavy toll on the U.S. and Allied soldiers, sailors, and Marines who were relentlessly closing the circle.

These and other highlights of the closing days of World War II are excerpted from Bud Hanning's superb chronology, A Portrait of the Stars and Stripes, Volume II, available for \$50.00 from Seniram Publishing, Inc., P.O. Box 432, Glenside, PA 19038.

- 1 May** U.S. offensive operations in Germany are halted in the U.S. Ninth Army area as masses of German soldiers surrender, preferring capture by the Americans to capture at the hands of the Russians.
- 3 May** The Japanese launch a full-scale counterattack against U.S. ground and naval forces on and around Okinawa, hitting the fleet with Kamikaze aircraft and attempting two amphibious landings to flank American units already ashore. U.S. Army and Marine Corps forces destroy nearly all of the landing craft, killing nearly 800 of the enemy. U.S. Navy losses are high; three destroyers are sunk, and three other destroyers, a light cruiser, and four other vessels are damaged.
- 25 May** The Joint Chiefs of Staff approve plans for Operation OLYMPIC, the invasion of the Japanese home islands, which is tentatively set for 1 November 1945.
- 6 June** Staff Sergeant Howard E. Woodford, Company I, 130th Infantry, 33d Infantry Division, takes charge of a group of Filipino guerrillas, pinned down by heavy Japanese fire, and succeeds in penetrating the enemy lines. The following day, the Japanese hurl a predawn Banzai charge against his position, wounding Sergeant Woodford, who calls in mortar fire until his radio is destroyed. Relying on his own rifle fire, he rallies the guerrillas and holds on. At the end of the fight, he is found dead in his position, with 37 Japanese dead to his front. He is posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.
- 19 June** Japanese forces that have held Wake Island since December 1941—one of their first gains of the war—are subjected to a relentless pounding by planes of Rear Admiral R.E. Jennings' Carrier Task Force.
- 22 June** The Stars and Stripes are officially raised over Okinawa, opening the way for the invasion of Japan. The cost has been high, with more than 12,500 Americans killed or missing and another 36,600 wounded. Total Japanese casualties are estimated at 110,000 dead and 7,400 captured.
- 30 June** The Luzon Campaign ends, with the U.S. Eighth Army assigned responsibility for mopping-up operations.