

MISC
FILL MISC

From
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PUNCH BOWL CEREMONY

IN NO OTHER BRANCH OR SERVICE ARE THE HISTORIES AND TRADITIONS OF AMERICA BETTER EXPRESSED THAN IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY. A HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN ARMY IS A HISTORY OF AMERICA--FROM HER REVOLUTION, THROUGH THE ROUGH PIONEER DAYS TO HER MODERN ROLE AS LEADER OF THE WESTERN WORLD. WHEN AMERICA OR HER ALLIES HAVE BEEN THREATENED, THE AMERICAN ARMY HAS ALWAYS BEEN THERE. THIS CEREMONY, THEN, WHILE DESIGNED AND DEDICATED TO THE AMERICAN ARMY, IS IN FACT EQUALLY RESPONDENT TO THE BLOOD AND SWEAT, DREAMS AND HOPES THAT HAVE BUILT AMERICA, AND TO THE AMERICANS WHO HAVE SERVED IT SO WELL.

AMERICAN SOLDIERS FIRST SAW WAR AS AMERICANS DURING THE REVOLUTION WHEN THE AMERICAN ARMY WAS BORN. WHILE THEY WERE TRAINED IN THE EUROPEAN VOGUE, THEY DID MORE THAN JUST COPY THEIR WAYS, BUT USING THE "FABLED YANKEE INGENUITY" ADDED THEM TO THEIR EXPERIENCE. THE RESULT WAS AN ARMY SHORT ON NUMBERS AND EXPERIENCE, BUT LONG ON STEALTH (AS AT GERMANTOWN), SHEER BRAVERY (AS AT BUNKER HILL), AND INCREDIBLE TENACITY (AS AT VALLEY FORGE). THESE CHARACTERISTICS WERE TO SERVE THE AMERICAN ARMY THROUGHOUT AMERICA'S HISTORY. IN HONOR OF THE AMERICAN AT VALLEY FORGE, YORKTOWN, AND SARATOGA, WE FIRST POUR IN PORT WINE, NOTED FOR AGE, BUT NEVER FOR TURNING SOUR.

PORT WINE

THE YEARS AFTER THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR WERE LEAN. AMERICA WAS TRYING TO FIND ITS PLACE. EXPANSION AND BUILDING WERE OUR TRADE IN

THOSE DAYS, BUT OCCASIONALLY WE HAD TO FIGHT. THE BATTLE OF FALLEN TIMBERS WITH "MAD" ANTHONY WAYNE WAS THE DEATH KNELL FOR THE AMERICAN INDIANS IN THE NORTH EAST. TWO ARMY OFFICERS--LEWIS AND CLARK--EXPLORED THE NORTHERN REACHES OF THE HUGE LOUISIANA TERRITORY. FOR THESE BUILDERS, PIONEERS, AND EXPLORERS, WE ADD BLACKBERRY WINE, SWEET BUT TART, REMINDING US OF THE FABULOUS WOODLAWNS AND FORESTS WHEN AMERICA WAS YOUNG.

BLACKBERRY WINE

SLOWLY AT FIRST, THEN WITH GREAT RAPIDITY, OUR NATION HURLED TOWARD CIVIL WAR. DIPLOMACY AND POLITICS FAILED AND THEN AMERICANS FROM THE NORTH AND SOUTH WERE CALLED FORWARD TO FIGHT EACH OTHER IN THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES. THIS WAR OF BROTHER AGAINST BROTHER AND FATHER AGAINST SON WAS AN UNMEASURABLE TRAGEDY FOR OUR NATION--MILLIONS SUFFERED--AND YET THE CAUSE WAS ONE AMERICANS UNDERSTAND EVEN TODAY--"ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL AND ENDOWED WITH CERTAIN INALIENABLE RIGHTS--LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS".

BUT, OH!, THE MAGNIFICENT BRAVERY OF THE AMERICAN SOLDIER. JOHNNY REB AND BILLY YANK FOUGHT FROM 1ST BULL RUN TO PETERSBURG, FROM VICKSBURG TO ATLANTA. AT COLD HARBOR WHERE THE STREAMS RAN RED WITH THEIR BLOOD, AT ANTIETEM WHERE THOUSANDS DIED IN A DAY'S FIGHTING. FOR THE 7TH VIRGINIA INFANTRY AND THEIR CHARGE AT ANTIETEM AND THE 1ST WISCONSIN ("THE IRON BRIGADE") AND THEIR STAND AT SHILOH, WE ADD KENTUCKY BOURBON, MADE APPROPRIATELY IN A BORDER STATE CLAIMED AND FOUGHT OVER BY BOTH SIDES.

BOURBON

THE WESTERN INDIAN WARS FOLLOWED AND AMERICAN SOLDIERS LEARNED TO RESPECT THE MOST MAGNIFICENT MOUNTED OPPONENTS IN HISTORY--THE COMMANCHE DOG SOLDIERS. BITTER WERE THE WARS IN THIS TRUE LIFE AND DEATH STRUGGLE. THE SPANISH WAR AGAIN BROUGHT US IN CONTACT WITH A EUROPEAN POWER. REMEMBERING THE MAINE--WE WENT FORWARD TO SAN JUAN HILL AND MANILA IN WHAT THE NEWSPAPERS OF THE DAY CALLED THE "GLORIOUS LITTLE WAR"--REMEMBERING THAT THERE WAS AND STILL IS NOTHING GLORIOUS ABOUT WAR. TO THE GLORIOUS LITTLE WAR WHERE AMERICANS BLED AND DIED, WE ADD RUM, THE BITING DRINK OF THE CARIBBEAN.

RUM

BETWEEN THE END OF THE WAR WITH SPAIN AND WWI, AMERICANS FOUGHT BRAVELY IN THE PACIFIC. IN THE PHILIPPINES, THE 23RD INFANTRY FOUGHT AND FINALLY CONQUERED THE MOTO'S. THE BOXER REBELLION WAS STOPPED IN TIENSTEN BY THE MAGNIFICENT 9TH INFANTRY, EARNING THEM THEIR NICKNAME OF "MANCHU". WITH THE COMING OF THE 1ST WORLD WAR, AMERICAN SOLDIERS WENT TO FRANCE WITH PARIS IN MIND, SOON TO DISCOVER THE REALITY OF THE TERRORS OF TRENCH WARFARE. BUT, THE WAR WHICH HAD BEEN STALEMATED FOR 3 YEARS BURST WIDE OPEN WHEN THE LAST GREAT GERMAN OFFENSIVE CRASHED UPON THE ROCK OF THE MARNE. AMERICAN INGENUITY AND ITS SOLDIERS STALWART COURAGE BROUGHT THE KAISER TO HIS KNEES AND ENDED THE WAR TO END ALL WARS. SURELY FRENCH RED WINE SHOULD BE ADDED FOR THOSE THAT STILL LIE IN CEMETARIES "OVER THERE".

FRENCH RED WINE

THE YEARS BETWEEN THE BIG WARS WERE LEAN ONES. THE AMERICAN NATION TURNED ITS ATTENTION FIRST TO THE ROARING--SOARING TWENTIES,

WHERE BATH TUB GIN AND THE CHARLESTON PREVAILED. THEN LATER, TO THE GREAT DEPRESSION. BUT, AS BEFORE, WAR WAS SOON UPON US. DECEMBER 7, 1941 - A TRULY GLOBAL WAR, SPANNING THE WORLD FROM THE EAST TO THE WEST. NAZIDOM MARCHED UNCHALLENGED IN EUROPE AND AFRICA, AND IN THE EAST, TOJO'S WAR MACHINE BEGAN THE END OF VICTORIA'S BRIGHT EMPIRE. BUT AMERICA FOUGHT BACK--FIRST IN NORTH AFRICA, THEN THE PACIFIC, UP THE SHORE OF ITALY, AND FINALLY ACROSS THE CHANNEL. IT WAS CO CL OF THE 36TH ARMORED INFANTRY THAT SHATTERED THE FAMOUS SIEGFRIED LINE AND BROUGHT THE GROUND WAR INTO THE "VATERLAND". WHERE CAN ONE START TO RECITE THE UNBELIEVABLE PERFORMANCE OF OUR AMERICAN "DOG FACE" SOLDIERS--WE COULD MENTIONED THE RANGERS AT THE FACTORY IN ITALY OR THE 82ND AT NORMANDY, OR MERRILL'S MARAUDERS IN BURMA. THE 47TH INFANTRY AT SAN PIETRO, OR THE 101ST AT BASTOGNE. SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT THOSE SAME AMERICAN SOLDIER QUALITIES WHICH SHOCKED THE BRITISH IN 1780 WERE PRESENT A THOUSAND FOLD DURING WW II, COURAGE--TENACITY--STEALTH. THEN LET US ADD GERMAN WINE TO OUR BOWL, FOR THE AMERICAN SOLDIERS OF 1945, THAT CRUSHED THE HATE-FILLED, MANIACALLY INSPIRED LUSTS OF THE 3RD REICH, AND THE AMERICAN SOLDIERS OF 1980 THAT TODAY AID OUR STRONG ALLY AGAINST THE LATEST THREAT TO WORLD PEACE.

GERMAN WINE

THERE WAS LITTLE REST FOR AMERICANS, FOR IN 1950 NORTH KOREA INVADED THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH KOREA. FOR THE NEXT 3 YEARS AMERICANS FOUGHT THE AGGRESSOR FROM THE YALU TO PUSAN. THE AMERICAN SOLDIER ONCE AGAIN DEMONSTRATED HIS SUPERIORITY ON THE BATTLEFIELD, FROM THE BLEAK DAYS OF PUSAN, TO THE HEADY DAYS OF THE PUSH TO THE YALU, TO THE

UNCERTAINTY OF THE CHINESE ATTACK. WE SOMETIMES FORGET HOW UNREADY AMERICA WAS BECAUSE OF THE TREMENDOUS COURAGE AND RESOURCEFULNESS THEY DISPLAYED. LT KYLE, OF THE 7TH INFANTRY, MSG HOVEY, OF THE 17TH INFANTRY. THESE AMERICAN SOLDIERS AND UNITS WILL SURVIVE THE TEST OF TIME AND BE READY IN OUR FUTURE HISTORIES, AS AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT BRAVE AMERICANS FIGHTING FOR A JUST CAUSE CAN ACCOMPLISH AGAINST SEEMINGLY UNSURMOUNTABLE ODDS. TO THEIR MEMORY AND THE MEMORY OF THEIR COMRADES IN ARMS, WE WILL ADD RICE WINE--GENTLE, TRUSTING, BUT VERY STRONG.

RICE WINE

AFTER KOREA, THE AMERICAN SOLDIER WAS RELEGATED TO A MINOR ROLE WHILE AMERICAN ENJOYED POST-WAR PEACE AND PROSPERITY. BUT, IN 1963 DIPLOMACY HAD FAILED, AND THE AMERICAN SOLDIER WAS CALLED UPON AGAIN TO STOP AN AGGRESSOR IN A SMALL NATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, WHICH FEW KNEW EXISTED--VIETNAM. A BITTER AND CONFUSING WAR TO AMERICANS, LARGELY UNSUPPORTED AT HOME, ITS SOLDIERS DISPLAYED THE INCREDIBLE BRAVERY FOR WHICH HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN KNOWN. THE MEMORY OF VIETNAM STILL LINGERS TODAY, BUT LET US NOT DWELL ON THE AGONIES, BUT RATHER THE GLORIES OF WHAT OUR SOLDIERS ACCOMPLISHED. LET US REMEMBER MEN LIKE PFC MILTON OLIVER, WHO FELL ON A GRENADE TO SAVE THE LIVES OF HIS SQUAD. SGT DELBERT O. JENNINGS, WHO, AT FIRE BASE BIRD, CRAWLED BACK THROUGH ENEMY LINES 4 TIMES TO RETRIEVE THE WOUNDED MEN IN HIS SQUAD.

TODAY, THE AMERICAN ARMY WAITS--IN KOREA, IN GERMANY, IN PANAMA, READY TO DO AGAIN WHAT WE HAVE BEEN CALLED UPON SO OFTEN BEFORE TO ACCOMPLISH. TODAY, AS THROUGHOUT PERIODS OF PEACE IN THIS COUNTRY, THE ARMY MUST BATTLE THE FLOW OF PUBLIC OPINION AGAINST THE COST OF

READINESS IN A TROUBLED WORLD, AND TODAY, UNCHANGED, THROUGH THE MARCH OF HISTORY, STANDS THE AMERICAN SOLDIER, YOUNG, OFTEN FRIGHTENED, USUALLY NOT READY FOR THE WAR HE HAS TO FIGHT; NEVERTHELESS, MAGNIFICENTLY BRAVE AND COURAGEOUS. TO HIM TODAY AND HIS COMRADES OF TIMES PAST, TO HIS FRIENDS HE LEFT BEHIND IN DISTANT COUNTRIES AND TO SOLDIERS OF THE FUTURE, WE ADD OUR FINAL INGREDIENT--CHAMPAGNE, THE NOBLEST PRODUCT OF THE VINE. TO REMIND US THAT TODAY, AS AT FORT McHENRY, THE FLAG STILL WAVES OVER THE HOME OF THE BRAVE, COMPLIMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY OF TODAY AND YESTERDAY.

CHAMPAGNE

TODAY, AS WE APPROACH THE 205TH YEAR OF OUR NATION'S EXISTANCE, WE MUST ALL REMEMBER THAT ONLY BY BECOMING PROFICIENT IN WAR CAN WE MAINTAIN OUR PROFICIENCY IN PEACE. WE MUST ALWAYS BE PREPARED TO SHOULDER THE HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY OF WAR IF CALLED UPON IN THE FUTURE-- AND AS THIS RESPONSIBILITY BECOMES HEAVIER AND HEAVIER, NEVER LET US FORGET THESE WORDS OF DEDICATION: "I AM AN AMERICAN. DEDICATED TO THE PRINCIPLES WHICH MADE MY COUNTRY FREE. I SERVE IN THE FORCES WHICH GUARD MY COUNTRY AND OUR WAY OF LIFE. I WILL TRUST IN MY GOD AND IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA".