

THE BERLIN OBSERVER

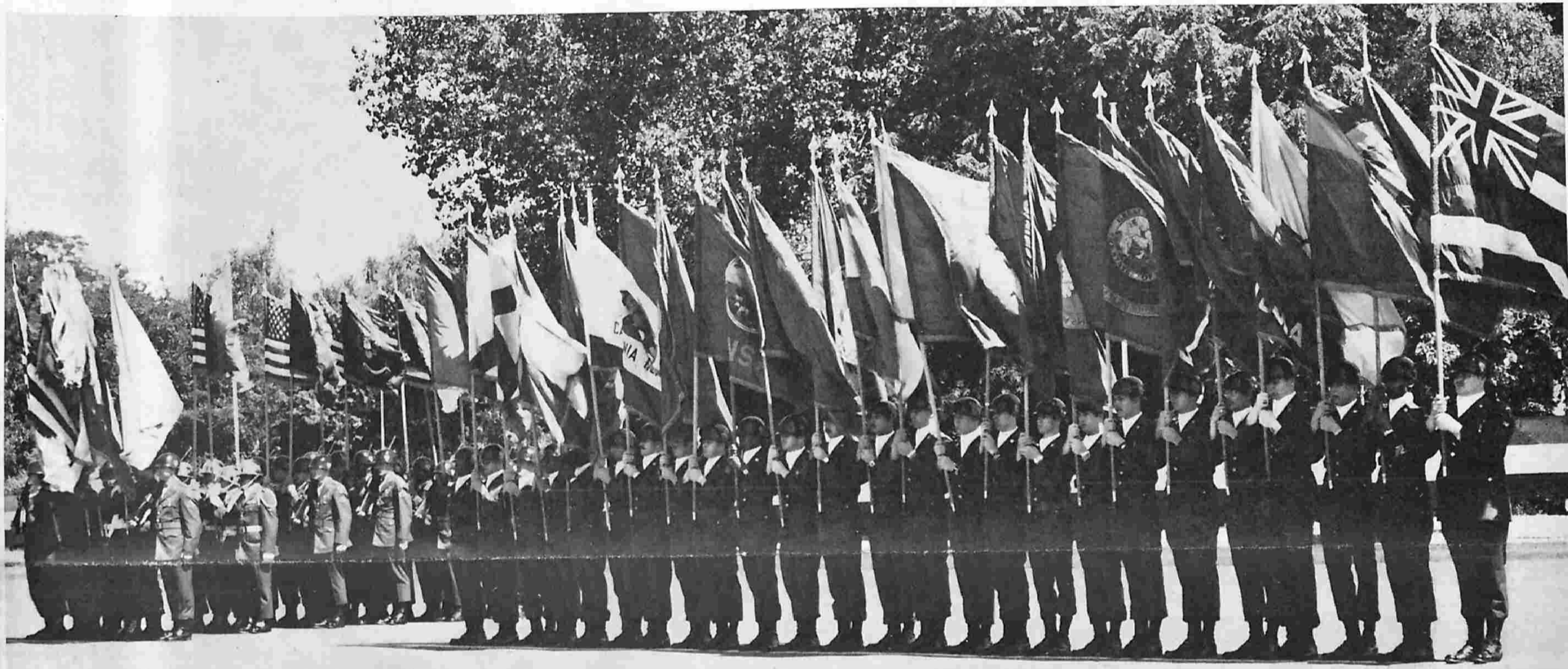
Vol. 29, No. 29

U. S. Army, Berlin

Wednesday, July 25, 1973



Special July 4 issue!



The nation's colors and the flags of the 50 states fly in a warm breeze that was made for a parade like this

Parade honors July 4

Wednesday, July 4, 1973, was the perfect day for a parade. The sun was shining in a cloudless sky, and a brisk breeze made the host of flags and banners wave proudly.

The day was the 197th anniversary of American independence. The U. S. Army, Berlin and the Berlin Brigade marked the occasion with a full-scale military parade, the only military parade in the U. S. Army Europe.

Marching units

Featured in the parade and ceremony were marching units from the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Battalions, 6th Infantry; Company F, 40th Armored; Battery C, 94th Field Artillery; and the 7350th Air Base Group, U. S. Air Force.

Before the parade began, the North Eugene (Oregon) High School Band played a prelude. The band was in Berlin as part of a tour of Europe under the auspices of the American Heritage Association.

The parade began at 11 a.m. with the arrival of MG William W. Cobb, the United States Commander of Berlin. Cobb and Minister David Klein made up the reviewing party. The Commander of Troops was BG Robert D. Stevenson, the commanding general of the Berlin Brigade.

Dual significance

The parade and ceremony held a dual significance for Americans, for the day also marked the 27th anniversary of the U. S. Army, Berlin. (See story on page 4, column 3.)

The parade opened with a reading of excerpts from the Declaration of Independence. After the reading, there was the traditional firing of a 50-gun salute honoring each state in the order of its admission to the union.

During the ceremonies, Cobb presented the Freedoms Foundation Award of the George Washington Honor Medal to Vincent A. Drosdik III, editor of *The Berlin Observer*. Drosdik received the award for his editorial "American Revolution Unique," which appeared in the June 30, 1972 issue of the *Observer*. (See story and reprint of the editorial on page 4.)

Drill Team performs

The final event of the day was a performance by the Precision Drill Team from the 3rd Battalion, 6th Infantry. The team, led by Platoon Sergeant Milton Cooper, was formed only a little over a year ago on July 27, 1972.

Since its beginning, the Drill Team has given 35 public performances in 20 locations in Berlin, West Germany and Belgium. The all-volunteer team practices daily to perfect its difficult routine.

Also performing at the parade was Berlin Brigade's 298th Army Band, which provided music for the occasion.

Guests at the parade and ceremony were the British and French Commandants and officials from the government of West Berlin.

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Commanders salute Independence Day

Almost two centuries ago a group of courageous Americans, no longer able to bear foreign tyranny, established the United States as a nation and declared themselves and their new country independent.

The promulgation of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, marked the beginning of this new nation and the establishment of the principles and ideals which have guided its development.

Here in West Berlin we stand squarely behind those principles we have inherited. We serve as a symbol of our nation's desire to see all people free — free to choose their own way of life and their own government by their own free will.

Therefore, we of the Berlin-American community observe this 1973 commemoration of Independence Day, along with our many fellow citizens throughout the world, as a day dedicated to a re-affirmation to the principles of freedom and dignity to the individual.

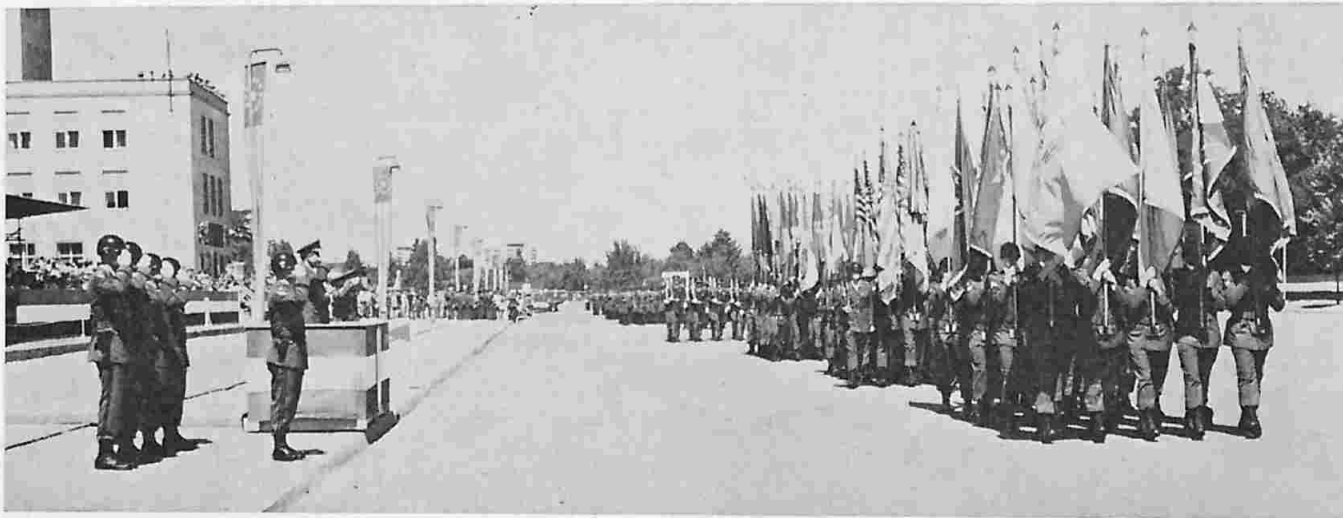
Wm. W. COBB
Major General, USA
Commanding

Since the day our nation was founded by a group of brave, freedom loving men, we of the States Army have stood guard throughout the world to preserve our hard-won independence.

In wars forced upon us by those who would destroy our freedom, we have fought well and we have won peace, we have maintained our strength in order to serve our liberties.

In West Berlin, the Berlin Brigade daily demonstrates our country's position and displays its will to preserve peace. We give reassurance to the brave West Berliners and stand as a living example of America's steadfastness. With the indomitable spirit of our forefathers, we observe Independence Day as the most forceful and symbolic expression of our nation's determination to defend freedom throughout the world.

ROBERT D. STEVENSON
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding



SALUTE THE COLORS — MG William W. Cobb (standing in reviewing box), BG Robert D. Stevenson and other members of the reviewing party salute the nation's colors as they pass in review.



PLAYING A KEY ROLE in the Independence Day parade and ceremony the 298th Army Band.



JEEPS IN REVIEW — It takes lots of vehicles, both big and small, to keep a modern Army on the move. Here jeeps from the 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry, pass in review. The 298th Army Band plays in the background. Marching units from all three infantry battalions appeared in the parade.

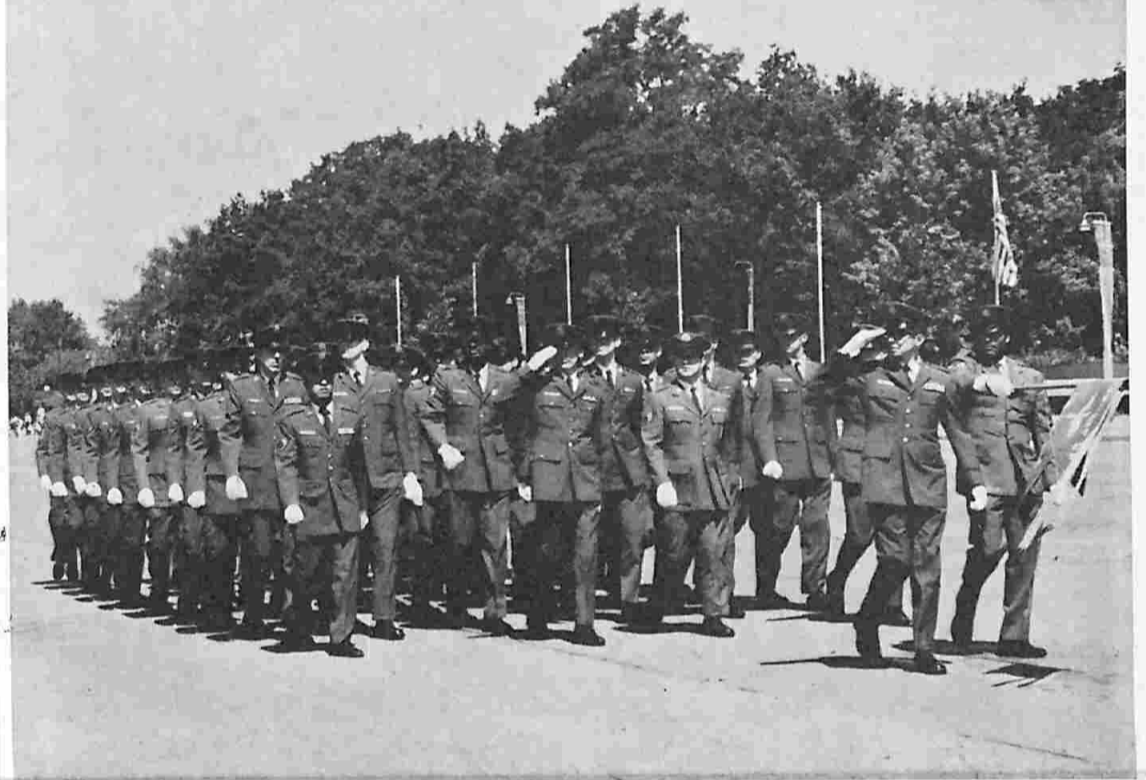
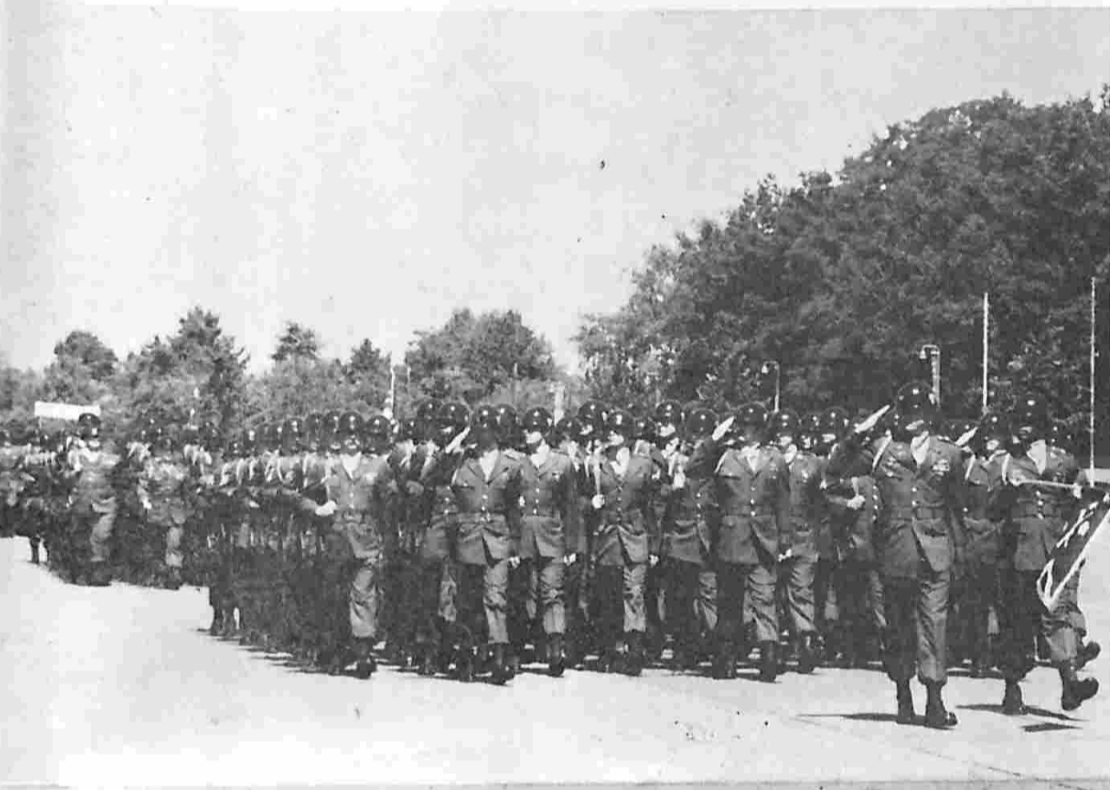


Battery C, 94th Field Artillery featured its self-propelled howitzers in the parade

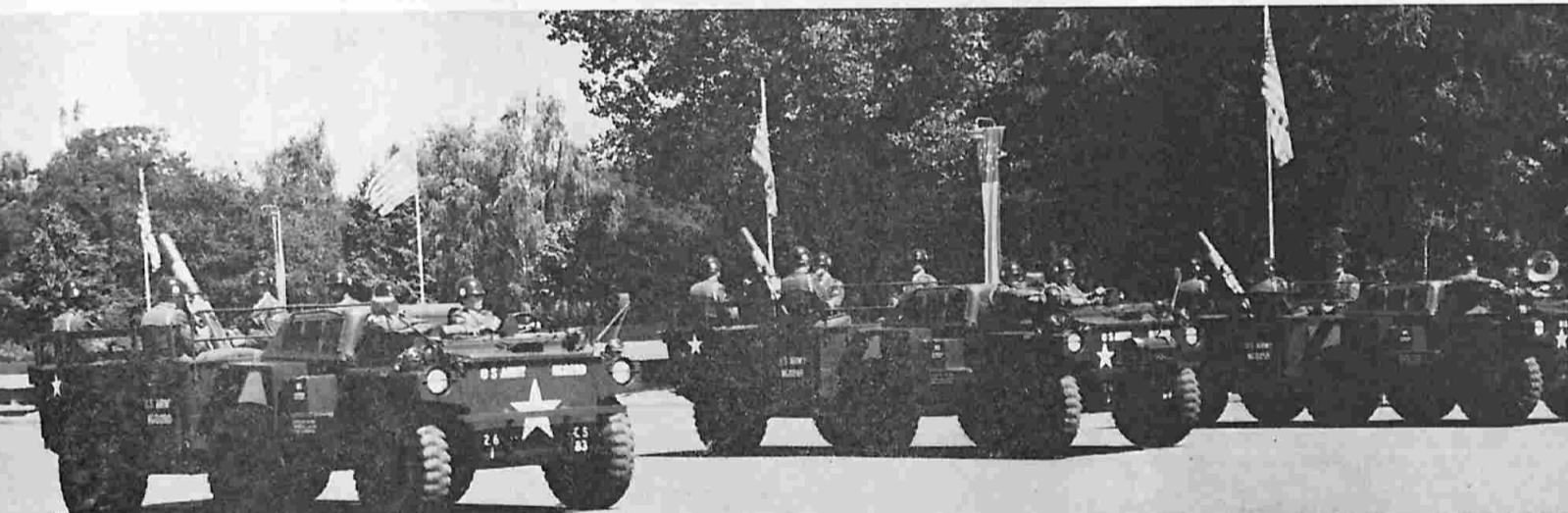


Parade watchers always like the 'Big Boys,' and the tanks of 40th Armored shook the ground

Army, Air Force march in parade



Soldiers from the U. S. Army (left photo) and airmen from the U. S. Air Force (right photo) took part in the festivities



AMONG THE ARMY'S newest vehicles is the "Gamma Goat." Here a group of "goats" from the 4th Battalion,

6th Infantry passes in review at the 4-Ring. A large crowd gathered to watch the parade and ceremony.



*Photos courtesy of
C-E Pictorial Branch*



A BIG CROWD-PLEASER was the Precision Drill Team from the 3rd Battalion, 6th Infantry. The team, led by Platoon Sergeant Milton Cooper, was formed only a year

ago, but has conducted 35 public performances in 20 locations throughout West Germany and Belgium.

MG Cobb applauds parade performance

I commend the highly successful execution of the Parade and Ceremony on July 4, 1973 in recognition of the 197th year of the Independence of the United States of America. I am taking the opportunity provided by this Commander's Corner to commend specifically the many individual and unit efforts that contributed to this outstanding accomplishment.

Too often the soldier and airman may not be aware of his community's appreciation for his efforts to prepare for, and conduct, such an important ceremony as the Independence Day Parade. The performance of the soldiers of Berlin Brigade and the airmen of Tempelhof Central Airport in this year's parade set the standard for ceremonial precision in execution.

I congratulate those soldiers and airmen, and challenge them to continue their service with the same high caliber efforts. I am appreciative of your many efforts in support of this ceremony, and salute you for a job "well done."

Wm. W. COBB
Major General, USA
U.S. Commander, Berlin

American Revolution unique

The following editorial, slightly revised, was originally published in the June 30, 1972 issue of **The Berlin Observer**. For writing it, Specialist Drosdik was awarded the George Washington Honor Medal by the Freedoms Foundation, Valley Forge, Pa. These awards are given annually to individuals in recognition of outstanding contributions toward a better understanding and greater appreciation of the American way of life. Drosdik was presented the award (pictured below) by Major General William W. Cobb, U. S. Commander, Berlin, at the July 4 parade.

by SP4 Vincent A. Drosdik, III

July 4 marked the 197th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The War for Independence began officially on July 4, 1776. The war had more or less been fought for more than a year up to that point. The famous battles at Lexington Green and Concord Bridge, Ft. Ticonderoga and Bunker Hill in 1775 preceded the signing of the historic document by the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia.

The events of 1775-1781 are called the War for Independence, but also the American Revolution. But was it a revolution?

The Real Revolution

I may be nitpicking, but this is an important point. The real revolution was a long process of change in the ideas and ideals on the part of the American people, the settlers from the Old World. The revolution was this idea: that each person is a sovereign individual, with certain inalienable, God-given rights, and that the purpose of government is not to dispense rights, but to protect them. Government would be the servant, not the master of the people.

Among these rights are those of life, liberty and property. One by one specific liberties were fought for and secured during the colonial period. The freedom of the press was recognized in the famous Peter Zenger case in New York in 1735. Freedom of religion and conscience was one of the major reasons for the settling of our country and by the time of the Declaration it was fairly well established. It was formalized in the Bill of Rights and the various states as they ended the practice of official state religious establishments.

Other freedoms and rights were reaffirmed and protected in the years before independence — the rights to bear arms, to own property, to have a fair trial by jury, to representative government, the right to be left alone.

Rights Violated Before Independence

When Parliament and the King stepped beyond their rightful powers, the colonists cried that their rights as Englishmen were being violated. The Navigation Acts, which restricted freedom of trade; the Stamp Act, which imposed a tax on the colonies without their approval or consultation; and other usurpations of power, all enumerated in the Declaration, eventually got to the unbearable point. The Americans then declared independence from tyranny, "appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world in the Rectitude of our Intentions."

The American "Revolutionary" War was the most famous and sparked many others in the two centuries since then. The French Revolution only 13 years later, while often compared with the American, was different in nature and results. The American founding fathers succeeded in restricting the War for Independence to simply a revolt against English authority.

But in many revolutions since our own, especially the French Revolution, the course of throwing off the old government led to people throwing off the entire old order, tradition, moral restraints, etc. — a revolt against every-



GEORGE WASHINGTON HONOR MEDAL
... awarded to SP4 Drosdik by the Freedoms Foundation for the editorial at the right.



HONOR MEDAL PRESENTED — MG William W. Cobb (left), the U. S. Commander of Berlin, presents the George Washington Honor Medal to Specialist Vincent A. Drosdik. Brigade Command Sergeant Major John E. Wise looks on.

thing. This led to anarchy and then to dictatorship as people demanded order before freedom.

American Revolution Unique

This is the uniqueness of the American Revolution and War for Independence — it did not degenerate into dictatorship and succeeded, at a stormy Articles of Confederation period, in establishing a republic protected by rights to a degree never before attained.

For the American Revolution to be successful and alive today, we must pay the price of "eternal vigilance." The ideals of the Revolution, embodied in the Declaration of Independence, must be alive in our hearts. That Revolution to be alive and well. If we sleep and forget our heritage, we will lose our freedoms and liberties, and perhaps even our independence. Because there are those in the world today who are all too eager to enslave us and who are not asleep, the price of liberty is eternal vigilance.

by Vincent A. Drosdik, III

Americans have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity three years hence — to participate in the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the founding of our nation. It's an event so important that preparations for it should begin now.

On a national level, those preparations have already been started by the Bicentennial Commission. It recently reported that no one large event, such as a world's fair, will be the focal point. The only major project planned are flotillas of historic ships and barges containing various exhibits on the 50 states. The fleets will visit numerous ocean, river and lake ports around the country.

Otherwise, each locality and individual are responsible for observing the bicentennial. Here are some suggestions on what we can do:

- Plan to attend the events in your locality. See the travelling exhibition in the port nearest you.
- Plan to travel around the United States on your vacations and weekends visiting historic sites.
- Display the Flag on all national and local holidays and, in 1976, daily.
- Gain an understanding and appreciation of the founding of our Republic.

This last point is one we can all start right now. It will involve some serious work, however, principally reading.

A reading plan

Visit your library or bookstore and look for reliable books on the late colonial days of our nation. Most especially seek out biographies of our founding fathers such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, James Madison, Patrick Henry. Their lives can

be inspirational to us living in an age where we take for granted our independence and freedom.

Read the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. Both are available in the World Almanac and any encyclopedia or U. S. history book. Reading the former, including the enumeration of reasons for independence, will help us realize just why our founders were fighting — despotic, tyrannical, government of men and not laws. We will realize how we have gone astray and suggest what we should be doing to restore freedom.

A Republic

A review of our Constitution will remind us how government was established — as a limited, federal republic. That means a government limited by the Constitution (laws), divided into separate branches of overall powers further separated between the Federal and State governments, and with elected representatives operating the levels of government within the context of the Constitution and common law.

Also read a good history of the United States for an overall view of what we are celebrating in 1976.

And if you can, read a few classics which influence greatly the minds and thinking of our founders: the Bible, John Locke's *Second Treatise on Civil Government* and Adam Smith's *The Wealth of Nations*.

A meaningful celebration

So there's our homework for the next three years. We can do it all, or at least most of it, seriously and reflectively, we can gain that understanding and appreciation of our nation's founding to make the celebration of our bicentennial meaningful and free.

How to make celebrating our bicentennial free and meaningful

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Vol. 29, No. 29 U. S. ARMY, BERLIN July 25, 1973

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In Berlin, Independence Day has special dual significance

The Fourth of July, 1973 holds a dual significance for Americans serving in Berlin, since it not only marks the 197th anniversary of the signing of the American Declaration of Independence, but is also the 28th anniversary of what is now known as the United States Army, Berlin and the Berlin Brigade.

It was on the parade ground of what is now Andrews Barracks that on July 4, 1945, two companies of U. S. troops accompanied by tanks and artillery, lined up beside two companies of Russian troops and some of their artillery.

General Omar Bradley, Commander of the 12th Army Group, flew into Berlin to represent the United States in

the ceremony and formally take over the U. S. Sector of Berlin from the commander of the Soviet Army's Berlin Garrison.

In the words of Colonel Frank L. Howley, Commander of the Military Government Detachment, who was present at the ceremony, "The Russian artillery fired and our artillery replied and the troops passed in review. The flags were exchanged and I received my orders to occupy the American Sector of Berlin by midnight."

Now, 28 years later, the U. S. Army, Berlin continues to maintain its presence in Berlin, assuring each and every Berliner of our determination to sustain the freedom and progress that is so very evident in free