



MOTOR POOL MESSENGER

the official monthly newsletter of the
MILITARY TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION

visit us online at www.MTAofNJ.org

Issue: OCTOBER 2021

Editor: Dave Steinert



LATER



In This
Issue...

The Next MTA Meeting will be November 11th

ON THE COVER...



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

THEN- 1941 Bantam BRC-40 Jeep is the third generation of prototype from Bantam, following the original Bantam Pilot and the BRC-60, After successfully meeting all of the army's requirements for a reconnaissance car, the BRC-40 was well liked. Additional BRC-40s were ordered for the Lend Lease shipments to Allied nations eventually totaling an estimated 2,065 BRC-40s, 62 of which had four-wheel steering, as requested by the US



Cavalry. They were produced from March 31 through December 6, 1941.

This particular 1941 Bantam BRC-40 jeep was restored by and owned by one of the original Founders of the MTA, Pete Shaw. Pete worked overtime on the restoration so he could display it at the MTA 2021 Military Vehicle Swap Meet. He hard work paid off as his 1941 Bantam BRC-40 Jeep was awarded "BEST OF SHOW".

LATER- Here is another example of a prototype from the Airborne Lightweight Jeep Program of 1943, which was designed by Willys-Overland, one of six companies that submitted working prototypes to the army hoping for a lucrative contract with the government.

The Willis Air Cooled (WAC) is powered by a Harley-Davidson 180 degree opposed two-cylinder air cooled, wet sump engine with 49 cubic-inches displacement. It developed 24 horsepower.

The engine was mounted in the center of the vehicle, with the driver just ahead of it and a

passenger seat on each side and behind. The seats were made of wood, which may save weight, but drew unfavorable comments from test personnel.



It weighed only 968 pounds, it could carry a 500-pound payload, but struggled when pulling a 1000-pound load. It ran 6627 miles on the 10,650-mile highway and off-road proving course.

Two were delivered for testing at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds.



There is only one known to be in a museum at this time and that museum is the Sam H. Werner Military Museum in Monteagle, TN.



ATTENTION MEMBERS!
THE NOVEMBER 4th MEETING HAS BEEN MOVED
TO THURSDAY NOVEMBER 11th, MEETING WILL BE
HELD AT THE WHIPPANY AMERICAN LEGION
THE MEETING ROOM IN BASEMENT
Food at 6:00PM...Meeting starts at 7:00PM

MTA 2021 Officers and Key Committee Heads	
President- Al Mellini	
Tel: 973-723-2166	email: albert.mellini@gmail.com
Vice President- John Sobotka	
Tel: 862-266-6284	email: jsobotka@hotmail.com
Recording Secretary- Anita Roberts	
Tel:	email: akroberts356@gmail.com
Treasurer -Ginnie McDevitt	
Tel: 845-987-7896	email:
Sergeant at Arms-Andrew Salzano	
Tel: 973-831-0920	
Membership Chairman- Dave Steinert	
Tel: 973-347-9091	email: dsteinert@mtaofnj.org
News letter Editor- Dave Steinert	
Tel: 973-347-9091	email: dsteinert@mtaofnj.org
Parade Coordinator- OPEN	
Swap Meet Chairman- OPEN	
Webmaster- Rudy Garbely	
Tel: 973-800-9251	email: rgarbely@gmail.com
Quartermaster and MTA Archives Custodian	
Gary Schultz	
Tel: 973-207-8955	email: garyrschultz@gmail.com

MTA Meeting Minutes

MTA Meeting Minutes – Thursday, October 7th 2021 at Legion Hall

Submitted by **Anita Roberts**, Recording Secretary

The October 7, 2021 meeting of the MTA was called to order by President **Al Mellini** and opened with the *Pledge of Allegiance* and a *Moment of Silence* for the fallen. Al called for a motion to approve the September 2, 2021 minutes. **Gary Schultz** made the motion which was seconded by **John Sobotka**. *Motion carried!*

Al gave the financial report informing the membership of the club's financial status heading into the Swap Meet.

Financial Report

Sep 30, 2021

Beginning Balance:	\$43,935.61
Income:	495.93
Expenditures:	(3545.45)
Ending Balance:	\$40,886.09

Al opened the floor to club business by calling for a \$300 donation to the Blue Ridge First Aid squad. **Fred Schlesinger**

made the motion to approve, **Jack McDevitt** seconded. *Motion carried!* Al informed the membership that the meeting would end early for post- Swap Meet discussions.

Parade Report - Clifton Veterans Day Parade is Nov. 7th. It's the last parade of the year. Eight vehicles have signed up. The more vehicles the better for the Club. The Club needs the revenue. For more details email **Art Swain** at: aws1@optonline.net.

Swap Meet – October 1-3, 2021. We had beautiful weather for this year's Swap Meet. MTA volunteer members enjoyed a pizza lunch on Thursday and **Jim Mescher's** steak sandwiches on Friday in appreciation of their hard work. Special thanks to MTA members **Art Swain** and his volunteer crew. **Jim Mescher**, **Joe Travelli** and **Jack Pellington** of MTA Security, Inc., the Display Field Directors and Traffic Controllers. Extra special thanks to **Sue Schlessinger** for providing her beautiful Air Stream trailer on-site for **Ginny McDevitt's** secured office for treasury activities.



During the 1950's Cold War period, nuclear weapons were deployed down to the troop level. The "Davy Crockett" (modified M38A1 designated XM 28) Jeep is armed with a 120MM launch tube which gave the infantry a low yield battlefield nuclear capability. Photo caption. Al Mellini presents the 2021 MTA Swap Meet President's award to Andrew, the owner of the Jeep, from the Military Technology Museum in Wall, NJ.

Gary Schultz spoke of the *Honor Guard Ceremony* for the *Fallen 13* and how moving it was as Taps was played and weapons fired in salute to the 13 empty chairs representing those lost in the final days of the Afghanistan War. Al called for a motion to make a \$500 donation to the *Honor Guard* for their service. **Gary Schultz** made the motion. Seconded by **John Sobotka**.

Gary informed the membership that photos of the Swap Meet are now posted on the MTA Group Facebook page and Al informed the membership that he'd had a professional drone pilot take aerial photos and video footage of the Swap Meet to be posted on the MTA Website.

For more pictures of the 2021 MTA Military Swap Meet go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/455735435235262>

Bill Murphy reported that we had 1400-1500 paying guests (adults) that came through the gate. It was acknowledged that our numbers were off but that could be attributed to several factors: the closure of Route 23 for the Sussex County Fire Parade was a real blow for local attendance as well as COVID and the change of date.

The Swap Meet did recruit 8 new members for the Club!! Special thanks to **John Sobotka** who recruited 4 of the 8 new members. Dates for next year's Swap Meet were discussed. Discussion ensued by **Pat Dolan** as to why we did not have our old April dates. Al said the FG is only obligated to hold your current date for the next year. In any event, Al stressed that available dates were slim and that the Swap Meet Committee would be looking at other potential venues.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by **Jim Mescher**, seconded by **Al Mellini**. *Motion carried!*



2021 MTA Swap Meet Postmortem Comments from The President

Dear Members, now that the Swap Meet is over, I wanted to let you know that preliminarily, we made about \$3,000 profit on the Meet. Given the Covid19 year we had and the conflicts with other events, I am satisfied with the numbers. In order to secure a date for next year, we polled all of the vendors giving them a choice of a date in August and 2 dates in October that the FG had available. By a wide margin, the vendors selected Oct 21-23, 2022.

There are too many names for me to individually thank, but know that I appreciated your volunteerism! *Job well done!!!!*

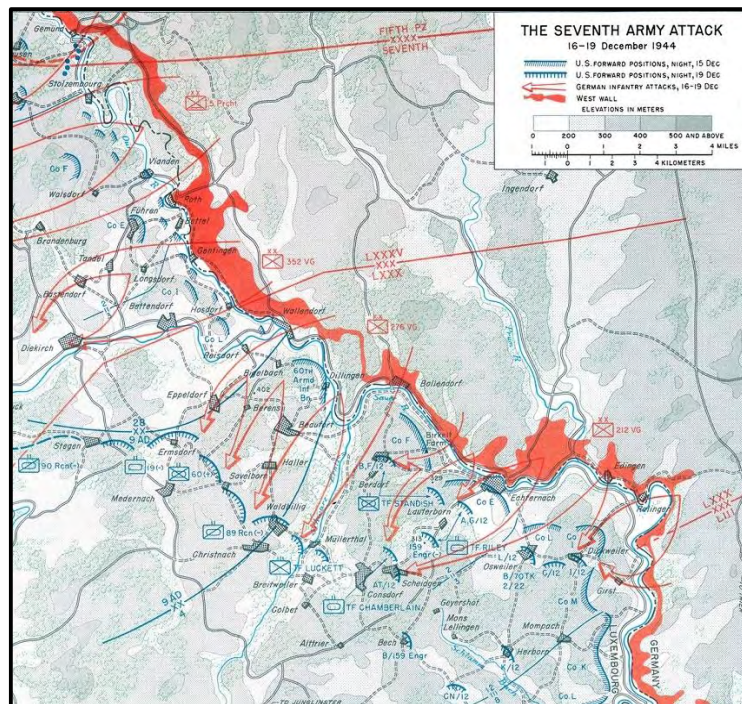
*Thank you!
Al Mellini
MTA President*



The U.S. Army in the Battle of the Bulge-Part IV Pivot Point: The Assault of LXXX Corps By Jim Swanick

German Lt. Gen. Erich Brandenberger's *Seventh Army* was to protect the southern flank of AUTUMN MIST by establishing blocking positions along the line Gedinne-Libramont-Martelange-Mersch-Wasserbillig. Its left wing, Lt. Gen. Dr. Franz Beyer's *LXXX Corps*, would cross the Sauer in the Wallendorf-Echternach sector and drive south to block the roads leading north and northeast from Luxembourg City, rolling up American artillery positions in the Medernach-Christnach-Altrier area in the process. To accomplish his goal Beyer had two divisions, the *212th* and *276th Volksgrenadier Divisions*. The former was a new iteration of a unit shattered in

Lithuania, formed in September 1944 and filled out by young, new recruits led by veterans. Deemed his most capable formation by Brandenberger, he had selected it to anchor his



extreme left flank. The latter, meanwhile, had been destroyed in France and rebuilt during the fall using freshly inducted conscripts; its core of veterans had been combed from hospitals. It would attack on the corps right and advance west of the *212th* before turning south to come abreast of that division.

In front of the *212th VG Division* lay Col. Robert H. Chance's U.S. *12th Infantry* of the *4th Infantry Division*, fresh from the Hürtgen Forest. The regiment maintained five village strongpoints, each manned by a single reinforced rifle company which dispersed its elements to platoon- and squad-sized outposts. The 2d Battalion held Berdorf, Lauterborn, and Echternach; the 3d Osweiler and Dickweiler. The 1st Battalion remained in regimental reserve. Beginning at 0530, a series of barrages opened that targeted company and battalion CP's,



Maj. Gen. Raymond "Tubby" Barton

each village, and the positions of the *42d FA Battalion*, knocking out the phone lines to the rifle companies by 0900. Those not destroyed by shelling were cut by *volksgrenadiers* which had slipped across the Sauer in the foggy, predawn hours of the morning and immediately infiltrated into and past the regiment's outposts. At 1049 Co. E reported itself as surrounded at Echternach; Co. G, at Lauterborn, reported the same at 1137 and Co. I at Dickweiler followed at 1250. At 1415 the division commander, Maj. Gen. Raymond "Tubby" Barton, who at 0921 had alerted Col. Chance to an increase in activity

in the sector of the neighboring 28th Division, issued his orders: "There will be no retrograde movement in the Combat Team 12 sector."

On the regimental left Co. F was presented with a near disaster, losing two of its four outposts outright. In the early moments of the attack the company lost 60 men; as many survivors, of which only a fraction were riflemen, made it to the company CP in the Parc Hotel just outside Berdorf, where they hunkered down to slug it out. In Echternach, meanwhile, all outposts of Co. E came under attack, and the 2d Platoon CP was wiped out late in the morning. By 1500 the situation had deteriorated and the company commander ordered all platoons to fall back on his CP; only the 3d Platoon was able to do so intact. At Lauterborn enemy infantry infiltrated through the outpost line of Co. G, coming into range of the CP at 0845, whereupon the entire company became engaged. Southeast of Echternach Co.'s L and I, both with two platoons forward and one back, came under assault at Osweiler and Dickweiler.



Some of the damage incurred to the Parc Hotel during the battle is evident in this 1945 photo

At Osweiler Co. L held its own, committing its reserve as its forward platoons fell back on the village. There the company checked the enemy advance with the help of a section of heavy machine guns. To the east Co. I fared even better, as only one platoon was forced back into Dickweiler.

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The village of Osweiler today

On the left of the 12th Infantry was Lt. Col. Kenneth Collins' 60th Armored Infantry Battalion of the 9th Armored Division, dug in on a high plateau between the Sauer and a stream known as the Schwarz Ernzt, the deep gorge containing the latter located in the zone of the 12th Infantry. On the battalion left Co. C held positions on the hills and crests south of Bigelbach; Co. A, on the right, was in the woods overlooking the Sauer in the vicinity of Dillingen. Both Company B, in reserve, and the battalion CP were in Beaufort; the 3d Armored FA Battalion was dug in around Haller, to the southwest. As in

the zone of the 12th Infantry, the opening barrage targeted command posts, artillery positions, and towns, with the M7's of the 3d Armored FA Battalion absorbing approximately 900 rounds in a single one-hour period. Phone lines were shot out, and the forward outposts resorted to using runners to report the movement of the 276th VG Division across the Sauer. At 0630 enemy infantry began building in force on the western bank of the river and started up several wooded draws, overwhelming a squad outpost on the extreme left of the battalion line after a short firefight. Fire from elements of the neighboring 109th



Looking south over the town of Dillingen from the German side of the border. The positions of A/60th Armored Infantry Battalion ran along the ridgeline on the far side of the village.

Infantry of the 28th Division checked the advance of one German battalion in this sector, but a second scrambled up the gullies and into unoccupied Bigelbach, where they inexplicably stopped and engaged Co. C at long range for the remainder of the day. Co. A, meanwhile, came under concerted attack from forces crossing at Dillingen, and by noon Co. B, minus its AT platoon, had been committed with orders to attack through Co. A and drive the enemy back over the river. Fighting dismounted, the company attacked into the gap between Co.'s A and C and succeeded in coming abreast of each, but was unable to continue for lack of food and ammunition. During the afternoon enemy infiltration continued to the point that AT/B, the battalion's final reserve, had to be committed to strengthen the center of the battalion line.

In both sectors communications were significantly hampered by the enemy attack, a problem exacerbated in the 12th Infantry zone by the fact that a large number of radio sets had been sent back for repair. Both outfits immediately sent out wire crews to restore the phone lines, with the result that both Barton and Maj. Gen. John Leonard of the 9th Armored Division were able to begin taking action during the afternoon.

At 1100 Barton alerted the 4th Division's longtime companion, the 70th Tank Battalion, for commitment and shortly afterward sent two platoons of Co. D (Stuart light tanks), all three operational M4's of Co. B, and a platoon from Co. A to the 12th Infantry's CP at Consdorf. Concurrent with these orders, issued around noon, Barton authorized Col. Chance to commit his reserve battalion. Shortly afterward he motorized

his division reserve, the 2d Battalion of the 22d Infantry, and placed it on one-hour alert. Leonard, meanwhile, substantially reinforced his armored infantry.



Tank of the 89th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron

At 1630 two platoons of Co. A of the 9th Armored Engineer Battalion, which had been working in the rear of Collins' sector, were sent to Beaufort to assume the role of battalion reserve; later that evening they were joined by Troop A and one platoon of Troop B of the 89th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron. Collins also received the assault gun platoon of the 19th Tank Battalion, and Co. D of that command was ordered to Ermsdorf to cover his left rear. Additional elements of

the 89th Cav joined with one company and two recon platoons of the 811th TD Battalion and a battery of the 482d AA Battalion and took up positions in the right rear in the vicinity of Waldbillig.

As Leonard worked on getting CCA mobilized and into action Tubby Barton's subordinate was counterattacking. Even before the tanks arrived Col. Chance had drawn up a scheme to mount B/12 on one platoon of D/70 and send them against the enemy in Berdorf; before the expedition could set out the mediums of A/70 made it to the CP, whereupon they were added to the force. A second tank-infantry team, consisting of A/12 and the other platoon of D/70, would proceed to Lauterborn to assist Co. G, and a third, comprised of the M4's of B/70 mounting 15 riflemen of K/12, were sent toward Osweiler.



An AT gun of the 4th Division's 12th Infantry covers a road during fighting around Mortain in early August 1944

Chance's counterthrusts met with mixed results. The tank-infantry team sent toward Osweiler successfully cleared out the road between that town and Herborn, where the battalion CP was located, before continuing on to Dickweiler where it was incorporated into I/12's defense of the town. There the Americans waited as two companies of enemy infantry

approached the town, then blanketed them with fire. Mortar fire plunged into the enemy's rear to cut off his escape as the tanks raked the intermediate echelon and riflemen engaged enemy elements closest to the town. The attack force was obliterated, suffering 50 killed and 37 captured. The counterthrust directed toward Lauterborn also met with success, as one platoon of A/12 pushed the enemy off of the high ground southwest of the town and the remainder of the force reached G/12 with little difficulty. Although the team attempted to continue on to Echternach and E/12, it was unable to do so due to darkness. The force withdrew, the light tanks carrying the wounded. The attack toward Berdorf, finally, was unsuccessful, as the GI's became bogged down in a firefight and were forced to halt their drive a mile outside of town. Two light tanks and the infantry remained in place, the latter later falling back 1,000 yards to more defensible terrain, and the rest of the armor returned to Consdorf for supplies.



U.S. Field Artillery at the Battle of the Bulge

The first day of *LXXX Corps'* attack met with limited success. After the war Brandenberger described the resistance offered by the Americans in Beyer's sector as "notably stronger, more concentrated, and tougher" than that encountered by his right wing, *LXXXV Corps*. He also complained of the effects of American artillery fire, stating that it "lent very efficient support to the defenders after midday 16 Dec 44, and very greatly hindered the work of erecting the bridges, not only on the left wing but in the entire sector of the corps." That this was the case is somewhat impressive, considering the difficulty experienced in maintaining effective communications due to the German preparation and infiltration, the negative effects of terrain on radio signals, the lack of radios in the 12th Infantry sector, and the simple fact that despite having been given the 422d FA Group the 4th Division remained too overextended to mass the fire of all of its guns. Credit must also be given to the 3d Armored FA Battalion, which kept up a heavy and constant fire on German crossing sites in the sector of the 60th Armored Infantry Battalion. Indeed, as a result of the shelling on 16 December not a single bridge was completed in the *LXXX Corps* zone of advance, though this was also impacted by a

severe lack of engineers and bridging equipment allocated to Brandenberger's command.

Despite the failure to bridge the Sauer, which prevented Beyer from bringing his artillery and precious few assault guns across the river, and the inability of the infantry to bust through the thin American outpost line, Brandenberger and Beyer could look optimistically on the day's actions. They were in the process of reducing several surrounded outposts and had infiltrated into the valley of the Schwarz Ernzt, across which ran three roads leading into the sectors of the 12th Infantry and 60th Armored Infantry Battalion. These routes could allow attacks against the flank and rear of either formation. Orders were issued to *LXXX Corps* instructing it to continue the attack the following morning and for remaining strongpoints to be bypassed and mopped up by the follow-on regiments of each division.

Across the lines Barton and Leonard prepared to continue the battle the following day. Leonard passed control of his sector and the forces within it to CCA; he also gave A/19th Tank Battalion to Barton to reinforce the 12th Infantry. Barton, meanwhile, made plans to utilize his reserve, 2/22, with A/19 in the zone of the 12th Infantry in the morning.

Just before midnight Barton received a telephone call from Maj. Gen. Troy Middleton, VIII Corps commander. The "Tigers" of the 10th Armored Division were on the way. ... ***The U.S. Army in the Battle of the Bulge continues with Part V in the next issue of Motor Pool Messenger!***



To add or remove listings from the Classifieds, please email Dave Steinert at dsteinert@mtaofnj.org or call 973-347-9091.

For Sale- Military 500 Gallon Water Buffalo for sale; \$300 or BO. Call John Sobotka at (862)-266-6284.

For Sale: 1971 M35A2 W/OV, solid body, original canvas top in very good condition. Comes with 11 brand new NDCC OZ tires and MANY brand new parts. Buy to complete or to use as parts. Asking \$2000.00. Clean transferable New York registration, in New Hampton N. Y. Please contact Dave at, dmz0462@gmail.com or text 845-490-1082

For Sale: 1952 M37 unrestored with good bill of sale, \$3000. Call Tom Weaver @ 973-627-9448.

For Sale - M725 \$3,800.00, Ammo trailer \$350, 1957 DAF 1-ton troop carrier. Rare, not many of these around \$6,000, M109A3-shop van with benches and shelves. Good shape \$4,500. Call or text Jude Meehan 732-433-3359.

Parts for Sale- 230 CI M725 motor, ran when pulled, burns oil \$200, M725 litter racks-best offer, M725 Rear doors, some

dents, no rust \$200 for the pair, M715 windshield frame, minor surface rust \$150, NOS in packing Southwind heater for M725 possible M-43 best offer, M37 windshield frame outer only \$75, M725-M715 rims with lock rings—make offer. Many more items available, too many to list. Call for more information. Call Matt Ziegler, cell 973-445-3890, email : Matrziegler@gmail.com

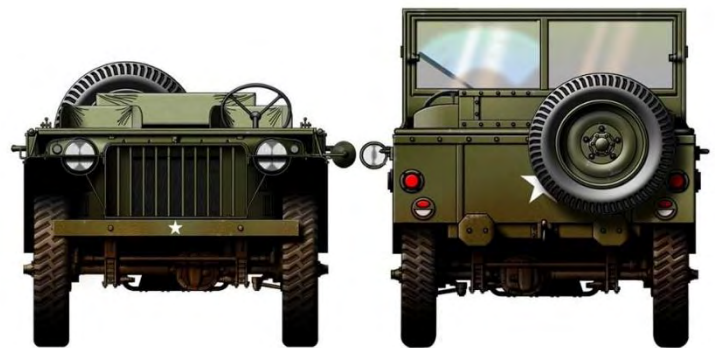
For Sale: 1964 Ford M151, current Odometer: 34252. Currently registered and inspected in New York State. Comes with Army radio, mounted machine gun (disabled firearm) w/ mount and cartridges, trailer, plastics to go over vehicle (no photo included, but available at request) as well as two large boxes of extra parts. Vehicle has always been garage kept. Buyer is responsible for pick-up or to arrange for shipment for out of town sales. This vehicle has not been cut. Asking \$18,000. Located in Pine Island, NY. Please contact Lodzia - [845-258-4493](tel:845-258-4493) or Vince - [845-728-9191](tel:845-728-9191).

Bantam BRC40 1/4-ton 4x4 Truck

Light Utility Truck



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Military Transport Association

P.O. Box 391
Budd Lake, NJ 07828

**THE THURSDAY NOVEMBER 11th
MEETING WILL BE HELD AT
THE WHIPPANY AMERICAN
LEGION POST AT 7PM**



"This'll all be worth it when we get to eat at mediocre chain restaurants for free on Veterans Day."



a chapter of the Military Vehicle Preservation Association

The Military Transport Association is dedicated to the education and preservation of historic to present military vehicles. Members enjoy restoring, displaying, and operating military vehicles of all types, from bicycles to tanks.

But trucks and Jeeps aren't all we do! Join today and participate with us at our annual Toys for Tots train ride and toy drive, help at our annual Swap Meet at the Sussex County Fairgrounds, or attend our special events for veterans. Our lively, informative monthly meetings are held in Whippany, NJ.

You do not have to own a military vehicle to be part of this exciting and active hobby - you just need a desire to do your part in keeping our military history alive. All you need to join the MTA is to fill out the the form below, include your dues payment, and mail it to the address below. Alternately, you can give your form and dues to any MTA member you meet at any of our events.

for more information, visit our website at www.MTAofNJ.org

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: (____) _____ - _____ (cell preferred)

Email: _____

MTA Membership Level: Single (\$30) Family (\$35)

Are you a member of MVPA? Yes No

Military vehicles owned: _____

Return form with \$ _____ annual dues and \$ _____ donation to:

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P.O. Box 391
Budd Lake, NJ 07828

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