By Ranger Paul O’Brian

On a cold, snowy day on Dec. 16, 1944, many inexperienced American soldiers stationed along the German border and in the heavily wooded Ardennes forest in Belgium, Luxembourg were surprised by the attack of Adolf Hitler’s soldiers.

The Allies landed in Normandy on June 6, 1944. They advanced to liberate Paris on Aug. 25, 1944, and continued on to drive the Germans back toward Germany. In response to this Allied push, Hitler planned to drive a wedge between the American and British forces in Western Europe, initiating the Battle of the Bulge. This battle took its name from a bulge 70 miles wide and 50 miles deep created in the Allied lines when the Germans moved into the Ardennes. Hitler’s offensive would be his last gamble of the war.

His battalion and the 101st Airborne Division, along with attached units such as the 10th Armored Division, Combat Command B, the 705th Tank Destroyer Battalion, Company C, 9th Armored Engineers, 969 Field Artillery Battalion, Combat Command R (37th Battalion), and the 4th Armored Division all had the duty of defending Bastogne. The battalion was split with one group in Bastogne itself, and my father’s group near the village of Villeroux. The village was southwest within a short distance from Bastogne. They were stationed there primarily because they had 155mm howitzer guns which could fire three times longer than the airborne artillery could fire. The 155mm howitzer guns

By Ranger Lowell Fry

It might be easy to define Abraham Lincoln by superlative adjectives and definitive adverbs—tallest, moodiest, greatest. Perhaps many would consider him one of the least physically attractive of White House chief executives. Yet the memorial to the 16th president in Washington, D.C. is one of the most visited. Perhaps the emotional connection people have with this person, who has been dead for nearly a century and a half, can be explained in part because he achieved so much with so little formal education. Yet it is not widely known that the honorary title of “doctor” was bestowed upon him by those in academia.

Having been inaugurated for the first time on the cusp of one of the most seismic events in American culture, the Civil War, this frontier lawyer brought no executive experience to the presidency. His formal learning appeared almost equally lacking. In his 1860 campaign biography, Lincoln described his educational experience as “deficient.” By his calculations, his school experience totaled no more than one year. Maybe this lack ironically helped him in his White House bid, as the book learning of his fellow citizens around the time of the Civil War averaged 434 days. So in this respect most of the electorate would be able to identify with him. Even so, his lack in educational attainments throws his accomplishments and legacy into greater relief.
National Mall and Memorial Parks is a very inspiring and powerful place, but your experience does not have to end in Washington, D.C. Continue learning more about park sites and American history by visiting the many Eastern National bookstores throughout the park. Capture the moment, take home a book, and explore the ideas and values that make visiting National Mall and Memorial Parks such a stirring experience. Eastern National, a park partner, operates five bookstores:

- Washington Monument Lodge 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Lincoln Memorial 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- Thomas Jefferson Memorial 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Eastern National Bookstores

By Trust for the National Mall

In November 2011, the National Park Service and the Trust for the National Mall, in partnership with OSRAM SYLVANIA and Pepco Holdings Inc., the electric utility provider that serves the greater Washington, D.C. area, completed the installation of energy efficient light emitting diode (LED) fixtures in the historic Olmsted streetlights that line the elm walks along the National Mall from 3rd to 14th Sts. The original Olmsted streetlights were first installed in 1936 as part of the federal reconstruction and beautification of the National Mall. The existing streetlight posts are made of fluted bronze and stand 21 ft. tall. The Olmsted lamp heads are made of cast iron and weigh approximately 300 lbs. each. The SYLVANIA LED Retrofit Kit for Outdoor Area Lighting replace older, less energy efficient, high intensity discharge mercury vapor (HID) and compact fluorescent (CFL) fixtures. Pepco crews removed the existing inefficient light bulbs, cleaned the glass, and installed the new LED light fixtures. The retrofit of the 173 Olmsted streetlamps with SYLVANIA LED fixtures will reduce outdoor lighting energy usage on the National Mall by approximately 67%. Additionally, the new fixtures were designed to maintain the historic appearance, light color spectrum, and brightness of the traditional Olmsted streetlights. The project will provide a well-lit and welcoming atmosphere for visitors strolling on the National Mall after dark, while maintaining the historic character and architectural integrity of the original fittings, as well as providing substantial energy savings.

Old Post Office Tower

This unique site stands on Pennsylvania Avenue near the halfway point between the White House and the Capitol. The Old Post Office Tower ranks third in height among the buildings of the Nation’s Capital, soaring to a majestic 315 feet. At the 270 foot level, there is an observation deck allowing visitors an awe-inspiring view of Washington D.C. and the surrounding area. Beneath the observation deck is the tower clock, now more than a century old. On the tenth floor are the beautiful Bells of Congress.

Old Post Office Tower

Ranger Programs:

- Talk for the Tower on the Half-Hour
  - Daily at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m.

The Old Post Office Tower always has time for you. Do you have a few minutes for the Tower? Join a Ranger to learn what connects Ben Franklin to this fascinating piece of iconic architecture on Pennsylvania Ave. - America’s ‘Main Street.’ Meet at the Ben Franklin statue along Pennsylvania Ave. Call 202-606-8691 for more information.

www.nps.gov/opot

Operating Hours

- Winter: Labor Day through Memorial Day
  - Monday through Saturday 9 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.
  - Sunday and Holidays 12 – 5:45 p.m.

Why is the Washington Monument Closed?

On Aug. 23, 2011, a magnitude 5.8 earthquake, centered in Virginia, sent tremors throughout eastern North America. This seismic activity affected several Washington, D.C. landmarks, including the Washington Monument. National Park Service engineers and experts in historic preservation and earthquake engineering immediately assessed the physical impact in order to determine the best way to repair this national treasure and restore public access.

Completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1884, the Washington Monument honors George Washington for his service in the Revolutionary War (1775-1783) and for voluntarily giving up the office of President of the United States after two terms. The Monument remains the world’s tallest freestanding stone structure, having weathered other earthquakes, including one in 1897 with a magnitude of 5.9.

For up-to-date information, photos, and videos, visit online at: www.nps.gov/wamo

Trust for the National Mall

NPS and the Trust’s partnership with OSRAM SYLVANIA and Pepco are advancing the National Mall Plan’s call for sustainable and historically compatible enhancements. This is an outstanding demonstration of the power of high efficiency lighting technology and our unique public/private partnership which began over ten years ago. In 2001, OSRAM SYLVANIA first tackled lighting the Thomas Jefferson Memorial with energy efficient technology, including LED’s, to illuminate President Jefferson’s words. Ten years later, our partnership with OSRAM SYLVANIA not only includes a contribution of second generation LED lighting fixtures to replace the existing inefficient traditional bulbs, but also the custom design and manufacture of retrofit installation kits for the historic Olmsted fixtures. Pepco expedited the process by generously donating the installation services of three overhead line crews utilizing energy efficient, hybrid technology bucket trucks. Pepco’s installation of the LED retrofit kits gave welcome assistance to the NPS electrical team that is tasked to maintain all the lighting on the National Mall and parks elsewhere in the District. The Pepco crews cut the estimated installation time by at least 75%. With the new LED fixtures requiring replacement every 10 years as opposed to the current two, NPS will also see an additional 80% savings in bulb replacement times over the old conventional lighting fixtures.

The Trust for the National Mall is the official non-profit partner of the National Park Service dedicated to restoring and improving the National Mall. For more information please visit:

www.nationalmall.org

Twitter: @thenationalmall

Facebook.com/TrustfortheNationalMall

Email: information@nationalmall.org

Eastern National Bookstores

• Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial
• Lincoln Memorial
• Thomas Jefferson Memorial
• Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial
• Washington Monument Lodge

www.easternnational.org

Park Concessionaires

Guest Services, Inc. manages all retail operations for National Mall and Memorial Parks. This includes refreshment kiosks and gift stores throughout the park. They also operate the following recreational opportunities:

Tidal Basin Paddle Boats
202-479-2426
www.tidalbasinpaddleboats.com

Ranger Programs:

- Talk for the Tower on the Half-Hour
  - Daily at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m.

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he hated - the “peculiar institution” of slavery. Despite these primary war responsibilities he still supported education and the advancement of knowledge. It was because of the president’s signature that the Morrill bill became the Morrill Act on July 2, 1862. With the bill’s passage into law, the possibility to obtain a college diploma was made more available to individuals outside moneyed circles. Vast expanses of government land went up for sale in every state loyal to the Union and the proceeds from these transactions were set aside to found institutions of higher education. These land grant colleges were established to train their students in practical disciplines, such as agriculture, at tuition rates they could pay. It was also during the 16th president’s tenure that the National Academy of Sciences was founded in 1863.

Joseph Henry was director of the Smithsonian Institution, which had been created for the dissemination of knowledge for the American public. His remark about Abraham Lincoln's vision applies to more than just one area: “...the most far-seeing head in this land is on the shoulders of that awkward rail splitter from Illinois.”
Behind the Badge
Profiles of the National Mall’s Park Rangers

Ranger Leonard Lee grew up the only child in a single parent household in Pittsburgh, PA, and felt blessed with close intimate relationship with his mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. He moved to Schenectady, NY to go to Union College. He remembers his experience at Union College as initially very dramatic. At the time, Union College was an environment filled with upper-middle class to upper class white students. “The whole fraternity/sorority establishment and organization were completely alien to me. As a result, I had very difficult time adjusting.”

Q. You were unprepared for the larger world outside Pittsburgh?
A. Yeah, initially. However I was lucky to have been aware of Malcolm X., Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., John F. Kennedy and others who were involved in civil rights during those tumultuous years. I still remember the day Dr. King was shot and killed, John F. Kennedy was shot and killed, and his brother Robert was killed. These experiences shaped my attitudes, as I competed academically with people outside my sphere of experience. I realized a college education would position me competitively so I could be a productive member of our society.

Q. What is your area of expertise within the Division of Permits Management Office?
A. My area of specialty is permitting a variety of activities, special events, and demonstrations. In terms of size and scope I would say I have done more special events, the largest of which was President Obama’s inauguration. Record numbers of visitors came to the Mall for his opening ceremony and presidential inaugural. I was fortunate to be the park ranger who issued that permit and worked with other leadership within NPS to facilitate the event. Additionally, I have done some fairly large First Amendment demonstrations. Also, I have a collateral duty working with the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades of Local 1997 representing bargain union employees within the National Capital Region. Over the past 8-9 years I have been able to engage these types of responsibilities which have been very substantive.

Q. Did you ever visit any national parks prior to working for the National Mall and Memorial Parks?
A. Absolutely not…. I am somewhat at a loss as to why I had not had a national park experience in my youth. My neighbor, who developed programs for the community for the National Park Service (NPS) at the National Capital Region (NCR), made me aware of an opportunity that existed at the National Capital Region and encouraged me to apply.

Q. What kind of degree did you complete?
A. I graduated with a degree in Economics and Sociology. I laugh now - and my professor laughed then - at my thesis topic, “The Social Utility of Black Enterprise.” While a sophomore I had an opportunity to work for YMCA and at a group home in the African-American community. That experience made me a little more grounded and sensitive. I wanted to contribute not only to my own uplift but also to the uplift of my community. My first job out of college was working for the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington, D.C.

Q. What kind of work were you doing?
A. I developed youth programs and special programs for different regional sites. I had a mobile unit fitted with recreational activities, equipment and supplies, which I would take into one of the parks to engage the youth with activities and talks. Also on weekends, I would position the equipment and supplies, which I would take into one of the parks to engage the youth with activities and talks. Also on weekends, I would bring the youth out to regional sites. I had a mobile unit fitted with recreational activities, equipment and supplies, which I would take into one of the parks to engage the youth with activities and talks. Also on weekends, I would bring the youth out to the park.

Q. How did you come to the Division of Permits Management?
A. I worked at NCR Office of Community Outreach for three years. At the time the Office of Community Outreach was joined with Office of Permits and Office of Public Affairs in one division. 1995 reorganization split Public Affairs from Permits and from Community Outreach. I did a four year detail and later got a permanent position as a permit officer.

Q. Are there similar skill sets that you employ as park ranger writing permits and as president of the union?
A. Having a sense of patience is important to what I do. When you are able to listen and hear you are able to understand people’s concerns, issues, and questions. When it comes to applicants who like to conduct a particular activity, I listen to understand their goals, mission, and aspirations. Many times they are very dedicated to the cause and I try to understand what their missions are and how it relates or not relates to the National Park Service. It is important to find a way to guide or advise them, to be respectful of what they would like to do but at the same time to balance the mission of the National Park Service…. We have to provide for use but at the same time protect resources. It can be difficult to work under competing forces. When it comes to my union activities, I am able to hear and understand employees’ needs and concerns and relate those concerns to management in an attempt to resolve or mitigate issues.

Q. Did the union exist before you joined NCR?
A. Yes. As a matter of fact, I joined the union as a regular member, and was offered an opportunity to be a steward and subsequently approached by members to run for office. I was elected to the offices of vice president and then president of the union.

Q. What do you most like about being a ranger?
A. My position at National Mall and Memorial Parks as well as the work I do for NCR inspire and ground me at the same time. I am very grateful for a position in the parks, because I am among our nation’s icons. I cannot help but be influenced by these places. My wish, hope, and prayer is that as I continue my journey, and others journey with me, we leave behind a better understanding of the value and importance of these icons and that we allocate the proper attention, resources and material so all of the stories that significantly shaped our country are told: not only the African-American but also the Native American experience. The evolutionary and maybe even revolutionary environment at NCR and NAMA has been very rewarding. They make me strive every day that I come to work to do my best and to provide the most efficient service I can. Certainly the agency demands that out of me. More importantly my ancestors demand that as well.

Explore the award-winning, interactive Lincoln Memorial website:
http://www.nps.gov/linc
- Interactive Panoramas
- Ranger Videos
- In-Depth Exploration
Use this fun tool to enhance your National Mall experience! The app is free and downloads in minutes (13.7 MB). The app is currently available for Android and iPhone. Features include:

- **Augmented Reality** - Hold your camera up and the “Park Lens” feature will identify your surroundings.
- **Maps & Directions** - Plan your route using easy-to-read maps or use the “Locate Me” tool.
- **Sites** - Get in-depth information, podcasts, and more on the monuments and memorials on the National Mall.
- **Tours** - Select a walking tour or create your own suited to your interests and time available.
- **Accessibility** - Built-in accessibility capability
- Plus events, news, postcards, and more!

Use your phone’s QR Reader to download the free National Mall app now!

Fill in the blanks and rearrange the circled letters to find out where the water in the Tidal Basin comes from. Some letters have been filled in to help you get started.

Dr. King’s famous speech:  

FDR’s message carved on the blocks:  

Jefferson’s big move as president:  

Answer:  

**National Mall App**

In honor of Presidents Day in February, visit the memorial to the 3rd president.

President Roosevelt was born on January 30. Find out what year by looking for the timeline in Room 4 near the statue of Eleanor Roosevelt.

Visit the newest memorial on the National Mall in honor of Dr. King’s January birthday or Black History Month in February. What do you think is in his hand?

Take a winter walk around the Tidal Basin! Gear up for the Cherry Blossom Centennial in 2012 by getting to know the Tidal Basin’s memorials.

- Fill in the blanks and rearrange the circled letters to find out where the water in the Tidal Basin comes from. Some letters have been filled in to help you get started.

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- Tours - Select a walking tour or create your own suited to your interests and time available.
- Accessibility - Built-in accessibility capability
- Plus events, news, postcards, and more!
Major Attractions

1. Lincoln Memorial
   A temple to “The Great Emancipator” who saved the Union, the Lincoln Memorial attracts anyone who seeks inspiration and hope. Museum, restrooms, and elevator are located on the lower level. Bookstore on the upper level. For cell phone tours, dial 202-747-3420.

2. Vietnam Veterans Memorial
   This place of healing and remembrance honors the men and women who served when their nation called upon them. The Three Servicemen Statue and Vietnam Women’s Memorial are located nearby. For cell phone tours, dial 202-595-0093.

3. Korean War Veterans Memorial
   From June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953, United Nations forces fought to defend freedom on the Korean Peninsula. Visitors are reminded of the hardships and sacrifice endured during the conflict, and that “Freedom is Not Free.”

4. World War II Memorial
   The Second World War brought Americans together to defend freedom at home and abroad. This memorial commemorates the spirit of unity and honors the sacrifice of over 400,000 American lives in defense of freedom. Restrooms are located near the information booth.

5. Washington Monument
   A tribute to our first president, the iconic Washington Monument towers above the capital city. The monument is closed due to earthquake damage; see page 3 for more information. Bookstore and restrooms located on 15th St. east of the monument.

6. Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial
   A sprawling memorial in a park setting, the FDR Memorial honors the legacy of our nation’s longest-serving president. Restrooms located at the north and south ends of the memorial. Bookstore located on the north end of the memorial.

7. Thomas Jefferson Memorial
   An enduring reminder of the author of the Declaration of Independence and a staunch advocate for freedom, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial is located in a beautiful natural setting. Bookstore, elevator, and restrooms on the lower level.

8. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial
   Completed in 2011, the newest memorial on the National Mall honors the civil rights leader and proponent of peace, justice, and equality. Bookstore and restrooms located at the memorial on West Basin Drive.

9. Old Post Office Tower
   Enjoy the view of downtown D.C. from the bell chamber of this historic building on 12th and Pennsylvania. Food court and other amenities available.

Activities:
Ranger talks and site tours begin every day on the even hours - 10 a.m., 12, 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10 p.m. at Lincoln, Vietnam, Korea, World War II, FDR, and Jefferson Memorials.