

The BULGE BUGLE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION • VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, INC.

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THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

NOVEMBER 1995



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
101 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0101

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD WAR II
COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE



Mr. Grover Twiner
Post Office Box 11129
Arlington, Virginia 22210-2129

Dear Mr. Twiner:

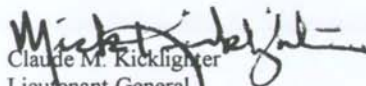
Thanks, VBOB!

Thank you for your recent letter and for your informative update on the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge reunion that took place in San Antonio, Texas on September 6, 1995. I am sure that this event was very memorable and rewarding.

I also would like to thank you and the members of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Association for your cooperative spirit in working with the 50th Anniversary of World War II Commemoration Committee. Your Association has led the way in honoring our veterans and family members throughout this commemorative period. You and your Association are commended for your hard work in this endeavor. It has been our pleasure to work with such a fine organization as yours. Please pass my regards to the members of the Association.

Let us always continue to honor and thank our World War II veterans. The sacrifices that they made fifty years ago has blessed us with the freedom and peace that we enjoy today.

Very respectfully,


Claude M. Kicklighter
Lieutenant General,
United States Army Retired
Executive Director

Special thank you from General Kicklighter, who was Chairman of all commemorative observances during the 50th Anniversary of WWII. The General and his staff were instrumental in the huge success of VBOB's Commemoration.

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BATTLE OF THE BULGE,
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If you live in one of these areas,
please contact these gentlemen.

President's Message

Now that summer has faded and the San Antonio meeting has passed into the history books - we can look forward to chillier days and more aches and stiff muscles or we can be optimistic and look for a better tomorrow. I prefer the optimistic view. The train we are all on only goes around once - so enjoy.



Grover Twiner

About San Antonio, all seemed to go well and I believe all who were there enjoyed themselves. Mary and I did. There was a glitch or two. The weather was not too cooperative. The convention bureau told me initially it would be cooler, but I think they forgot to inform Mother Nature.

The tours ran smoothly, the food was good and above all the speakers were outstanding. The Mayor, Dr. William E. Thornton, made a great speech prior to presenting a proclamation to VBOB from the city of San Antonio.

James Kenney, a former special agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, delivered an outstanding history of the Medal of Honor (Congressional Medal of Honor) from its inception until today. He enumerated some interesting events for which it was awarded.

Of course, this is my last message as president. New officers were elected at the General Meeting and I know they will do an outstanding job. I will remain on the team as V.P. for Chapters and Regions.

One of the things decided, the 1996 Meeting will be held in Hyannis, MA on Cape Cod. 1997 will be Denver, CO - who took a bye to allow Cape Cod to be in 1996.

I want to take this opportunity to express my personal thanks to each of you for allowing me to be your National Representative - for which I say **Thank You and God Bless All Of You.**

DO YOU KNOW?

Through the Belgian Embassy, the citizens of Orp-le-Grand, Belgium have requested our assistance in locating the identity of a company-sized unit stationed in that town during December 1944 to January 1945. It is described as an ordnance or logistics unit which repaired heavily damaged jeeps, Dodge and GMC trucks, etc., at a factory called Usines-Saint Hubert.

They were billeted in the community school and at St. Joseph School, as well as among the inhabitants.

Anyone having information about such a unit, please communicate this information to Grover Twiner, at VBOB Headquarters (or telephone 410-744-4915) as soon as possible so that I may inform the embassy.

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San Antonio Mayor William E. Thornton Addresses VBOB Reunion

A highlight of the VBOB Reunion Banquet, September 6, 1995, was the presence of the Honorable William E. Thornton, Mayor of San Antonio. The Mayor expressed his deep appreciation and gratitude to all veterans who had participated in the "Battle of the Bulge," with special recognition to those who made the supreme sacrifice - giving their lives in combat.

Mayor Thornton noted, with pride, that various military installations in the San Antonio area played a major role in supporting WWII campaigns. Foremost was Fort Sam Houston where troops of many military units were trained and then deployed to the European Theater. Units which fought in the Ardennes Campaign included HQ 3rd Army, VII and VIII Corps and the 2nd and 95th Infantry Divisions. A POW campsite was established at Fort Sam's Dodd Field and ultimately held thousands of German prisoners.

The San Antonio Army Service Depot was a hub for acquiring and distributing various forms of logistics supplies, and the Kelly Airfield Maintenance Division expanded its storage facilities and assumed increased responsibilities for aircraft maintenance. The Brooks General Hospital and other medical centers provided care for wounded and sick troops returning from overseas, and the Adjutant General and Provost Marshall Schools were in full operation. The War Department Personnel Center trained recruits and processed replacements for overseas duty.

In tribute to the VBOB members Mayor Thornton issued a Proclamation declaring 3-6 September 1995 as a "Period of Commemoration" to honor all Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge". The Proclamation Certificate was presented to VBOB President Twiner.

Submitted by Henry F. Spignesi, 9th Armored

BATTLE OF THE BULGE MEMORIAL CONFERENCE ROOM OPEN FOR PUBLIC VIEWING

The Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation is pleased to announce the dedication of the Battle of the Bulge Memorial Conference Room in ceremonies on May 19, 1995, in the Medal of Honor Library, Llewellyn Avenue, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland. Special guests at the event included Vincent Gaspar, the craftsman of the beautiful conference table and chairs, who, along with his wife Brigitte, had traveled from Stavelot, Belgium, to participate in this occasion.

The conference room is now open to public viewing from 12:30 to 3:00 p.m., Wednesdays and Fridays (except holidays). The impressive conference table and chairs which are featured in the room were handcrafted in Stavelot, Belgium of Ardennes oak and inlaid around the top of the table with the insignia (patches) of the 45 major units that served in the Battle of the Bulge. Other artifacts and photographs are also on exhibit in the room. A volunteer cadre of Battle of the Bulge veterans will staff the room and be available to answer questions.

The public is invited to view this memorial room, especially those Bulge veterans who may be visiting in the Washington/Baltimore area.

For additional information, please call Bob Johnson, Fort Meade Museum Curator, 301-677-6966, or Dorothy Davis, Historical Foundation, 301-881-0356.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WE MUST FIGHT THE REVISIONISTS

[With reference to article entitled "A German Account of the Bulge" in *The Bulge Bugle*, May, 1995, issue on page 6.]

This article is a shame and hurts the honor of the American soldiers who lost their lives during that massacre.

For several years I have been studying through books, documents coming from the National Archives in Washington, D.C. I also met several survivors from the massacre, civilian witnesses in Belgium and nobody, I repeat **nobody**, will ever be able to make me believe that there was no massacre in Malmedy (Baugnez).

I would like to mention that the First SS Panzer Division has been accused during the Battle of the Bulge of the massacre at Baugnez where 86 Americans were cowardly assassinated but also of the massacre of 164 civilians, men, women and children in Stavelot area. It should be added to that, that to hide their crimes, a great number of bodies were burned and mutilated by the SS troops.

I only want as a proof there of to state that two members of my wife's family were victims of the massacre in Parfondruy on 19 December 1944.

I will not go into details about the state in which the first person was found as this is too gruesome, but I will mention that the second victim was a baby girl of two. This baby was in the arms of her mother when the Germans opened fire on the group of civilians whom they had pushed into a barn.

The mother was probably killed outright. The little girl received three bullets in the legs and lay for several hours with the lifeless bodies of the other eleven victims of this massacre. By chance, an old lady came up a few hours later to see if there were any survivors of her own family of that slaughter, and she found the little girl swimming in her own blood. With courage, she carried the little girl with her and brought her to another house situated at more than 800 meters from the place of the drama.

In that house, a great number of civilians had taken refuge. On 20 December, American soldiers of the 391st Field Artillery Observation Battalion from the 3rd Armored Division arrived near the house and they were stopped by these civilians in order that they could come and give first aid to the wounded among--whom was this little girl.

Among the American soldiers, were William Whitten and Charles Corbin. They gave first aid to the little girl then went on, leaving bandages and other medical products so that they could continue the care.

The little girl was evacuated by the American Troops of the 30th Infantry Division on 24 December 1944 to a military hospital in Verviers where she received more intensive care.

This little girl is now a lady of 53 and she lives in Stavelot. Life is not always agreeable to her as she is still suffering from the three bullet wounds she received on 19 December 1944.

This is a small summary of one of the tragedies that took place during the Battle of the Bulge. We could talk for hours and write a book about it, which is what I did last year. Unfortunately, the book is in French only.

To be credited with the subject of these **massacres**, I would also mention other atrocities committed by the SS troops during the Battle of the Bulge. It is about the massacre of eleven black soldiers in Wereth (near Schoenberg). These men belonged to the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion attached to the 106th Infantry Division. Also, the massacre of American soldiers of the 3rd Armored Division in January 1945 in Fraiture, of the 82nd Division in Ottré, in Stoumont, LaGleize, LaVauxl-Richard, Ligneuville, Bullingen and the massacre of civilian people in Tavigny, Hodister, Jevigné, Noville near Bastogne, Bourcy, Houffalize, Laroche, Jemelle, Hargimont, Forrieres, Longchamps, Odeigne, Wibrin, Bande, Bras and many other villages of which it would be too long to publish.

To be credited to the name of the Germans unit and mainly the 1st SS Panzer Division, are the assassinations of more or less 300 American soldiers and more than 400 civilians, old men, women and children. I hope there will be more reaction to that article in the next issue.

Do not let yourselves be influenced, we must fight the revisionists.

Henri Rogister
Associate Member

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

I am sending this letter out as a thank you to everyone who helped me in my search to find someone who knew my granddad, Bearl Mitchell, during

World War II. I received letters and phone calls from many of you who served in the war, and although you may not have served directly beside Bearl, you've helped me to understand much of what went on during that time, physically, socially and emotionally. Many of the words I have heard and read from all of you I will never forget.

One letter I received was from Paul Knapp, of New York. He knew my granddad a short time before he was killed. He filled in details that I could not discover from available government records. He also told me that Bearl was easy-going and joked a lot--that he was well liked. Knowing this means so much to me.

...I just wanted to send an update and thank you. I, of course, have saved all your letters. Many of my friends and family have been touched by reading them. You are all dear to me.

Darleen Perkins

MISGUIDED DISASTER

I was bemused at the letter in the May *Bugle* which extolled the New Jersey program commemorating the Battle.

In truth, the effort was a misguided disaster which essentially was an airborne public relations event and virtually ignored the twenty infantry and eight armored divisions which bled and battled the penetration.

John Maher
28 INF 110 INF C

OVERLOOKED BY HISTORIANS

[In reference to February, 1995, issue of *The Bulge Bugle*.] To mention the 79th Division and not the 629th is a real slap in the face. The men of the 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion are put out. There was a battalion at a town called Sadzot and [that battalion] and our "A" Company were there to save the day. But it has been forgotten or overlooked by the historians. [They] have not seen fit to give the battalion credit for our part in the action. But [we] are just one battalion out of many. We and other units of our type have been overlooked by the historians in their [efforts] to make some units look good.

Our battalion left a lot of good men in a good part of France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and other places and got little credit for their part in the war.

James M. Collins
629 TD BN

1255TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION BUDDIES FOUND

The Cleveland Plain Dealer newspaper ran a recent article on the 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge [letter is dated December 22, 1994]. In this article the VBOB was mentioned and Don [Ratliff's] name and phone number listed. I did not even know that there was such an organization until then. I called Don and told him that I was interested in joining the organization.

Don sent me some information on VBOB including the August 1994 issue of *The Bugle*. While reading through this issue, I came upon a letter written to *The Bugle* by Harold W. Mann, of Durham, North Carolina, a former member of the 1255th. I called Harold and told him that I was a member of "B" Company in the engagement at Vianden, Luxembourg. He told me that our old outfit had an organization and sent some information about it to me. From this information, I was able to get phone numbers and addresses of some of my old comrades.

I have since called two of the former members of my old company and got up-dated on some of the happenings of the organization. I was able to give the president of the organization some information about the home towns of some of our old buddies.... The organization did not have any contact with me because the last address they had was my home town of Huntington, West Virginia. I moved away from there 40 years ago.

Now, after 50 years, I will, hopefully at our next reunion get to renew some old friendships. I have your organization to thank for this.

Charles E. Clark
1255 ENGR CMBT BN

[Needless to say, this is why VBOB was founded and why we make every effort to help you find your buddies or help you resolve things in your mind. We're always happy to hear that it works.]

(Continued on Page 5)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Continued from page 4)

CRACKERJACK BOXES

I read with interest Howard Peterson's version of the "K" rations he received in WWII. I think he is confused in that he was describing "C" rations. In my unit, the 101st Airborne Division, "C" rations came in cans as Howard described. "K" rations were always packed in a Crackerjack box, and came out later, after 1943, and weren't as wholesome as "C" rations.

Robert M. Bowen
101st ABND

...FROM A NATIVE LETZEBURGER

Reading the August edition of *The Bulge Bugle*, I have to express a few of my views.

Being a native "Letzeburger" and also a widow of a 4th Armored Division soldier, I too noticed a slighting of the 3rd Army, General Patton and, for the first time, I saw an article pertaining to the 4th Armored. I was disappointed though, as the colonel did not quote the battalion that "Jigger: Jaques commanded correctly. It was the 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion that was chosen to be part of General Abrams' (then Lt. Col.) task force to go into Bastogne and open up the ring. Private Hendrix was also a member of the 53rd, "C" Company, as a matter of fact. The courageous soldiers of yesterday seem to be ignored and over shadowed by the deeds or non-deeds of the rear echelons.

General Patton was well respected and recognized as liberating our little Grand-Duchy in December, 1944. To this day, he rests among his men at the Hamm Cemetery. I have photographs of his grave where he was first put to rest: "In the first available grave right with his troops." I was there many times during the early part of 1945 when the casualties were brought in, as some of my husband's men were also brought back there, men who were in our homes a few weeks before alive. Those memories one never forgets, no matter how old.

Also, I would like to mention that the 4th Armored Division was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation on 27 March 1945 WD Message NW 59318. If I am correct, I believe it was the first unit to receive this citation. My husband had a copy of the orders in his personal file. He was very proud to be a 4th Armored Division man and we Letzeburgers sure felt the same about those men who gave their all.

In case there is a doubt about the battalion commander of the 53rd Armored Infantry, I can make a copy available of Col. Jaques farewell address to his men in 1945.

Juliette J. A. Reilly
(Widow of 1st Sgt Joseph E. Reilly)

ABBY'S GOT THE ANSWERS...

Thank you for publishing my letter to Abby in the August issue of *The Bulge Bugle*.

After the letter to Abby was published, I received 28 letters and 19 phone calls from all over the U.S.

I have found 78 places called "Cyclone," most of which are Peaks or Reservoirs. There are 8 communities called Cyclone, varying in population from 7 to 256. I now recall that the 99th Division was composed primarily of men from Pennsylvania. Therefore, Cyclone, Pennsylvania, was the logical choice.

I was invited to Cyclone Union Church (now Cyclone Community Church) on July 4. I was unable to determine any one person for certain, so I had the Bible framed and a copy of the Dear Abby letter laminated to the back of the frame. I presented the Bible to the church at the end of the service.

The people of Cyclone and the surrounding area were wonderful! They opened their hearts and homes to us. There were people from many other states who came to see the Bible.

We had such a good time in Cyclone that we are planning to attend the 4th of July celebration next year.

I am so pleased that, after 50 years, the Bible is back home.

Emmett Jackson
99 INFD

CHRISTMAS EVE STORY...

[Addressed to Mr. Vincken (see August, 1995 issue of *The Bulge Bugle*) I have read with interest the Christmas Eve story which appeared in *The Bulge Bugle*, which is published by the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge.

In December 1944, I was a member of the 424th Regiment of the 106th Infantry Division. I do not have any personal knowledge of the incident in your story, but I am acquainted with the story.

I have in my possession a video tape of this same story. It is identical in every respect, except that the child is a young girl instead of a young boy. This is a commercially-made tape. The acting skills of the mother and child leave a lot to be desired, but the story is still a very moving one. When I have watched it, I have always asked myself whether or not I would have acted as those soldiers acted that night. I wish I could be sure.

The producer, Family Films, is located at 3558 South Jefferson Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63118-3968. The name of the tape is "Truce in the Forest." I hope you are successful in obtaining the information you are looking for.

Duncan T. Trueman
106 INFD 424 INF

JEEP OR G.P.?

If my memory recall is correct, the Jeep article you had in the August issue, was not the first army vehicle called G.P.

Sometime in the spring of 1942, each company in our regiment, 138th Infantry, 35th Division, at Camp Robinson, Arkansas, was issued a General Purpose Vehicle 1/4 ton-4 wheel drive. It had an open pick-up body with canvas bowed cover. The bed of the truck had two each wooden board seats set in slots and were removable. It had a pintle hook hitch on the rear. It could carry six men or a 500-pound load.

The first jeep I saw was at Ford Ord, California, around Christmas in 1942.

Robert F. Shear
90 INFD 359 INF 3 BN HQ

A FASCINATING NEWSLETTER

I found my first issue (August 1995) of *The Bulge Bugle* a fascinating newsletter. Revisionism addressed, and the review of *The Last Assault: 1944* by Charles Whiting written by Joseph M. Dondelinger, PhD, churned my gut. I've been associated with others for several years attempting to correct false information shown on PBS TV-13, New York, and in *Liberators on Two Fronts*, by Lou Potter, crediting the 761st Tank Battalion with liberating Buchenwald and Dachau....

James R. Bird
45 INFD

ALPHABET SOUP

[Regarding] a letter from Howard Peterson, 4 ARMDD 51 AIB. He described "K" rations as small round cans. Howard, the rations you described in your letter were "C" rations. "K" rations came in a box, about the size of box that bananas are delivered to a grocery store. That box supposedly had food for a squad and was far superior to "C" rations. I know because a box of "K" rations "fell" off a tank during the Bulge and my squad "rescued" it. Oh yes, "C" rations also came with baked beans instead of stew or hash. The rule apparently was: walkers get "C" rations, riders get "K" rations; which was fair because as Bill Maulden said, "I'd rather dig, moving fox holes attracts the eye."

Sinclair F. Cullen
75 INFD 290 INF

UNSOLVED MYSTERY

...an interesting and touching story "Peace on Earth, Goodwill Toward (Seven) Men!". An unsolved mystery of the Bulge by Fritz Vincken. This same story was published in the January 1973 issue of *The Reader's Digest*, under the title "Truce in the Forest" by Fritz Vincken. Notice the slight difference in spelling of the author's name. The stories are a little different, probably due to editing

(Continued on page 6)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Continued from Page 5)

by *Reader's Digest*. I suspect the *Bugle* story is more accurate. I do not doubt the truth of this story.

I hope all seven of the young soldiers survived the war, as they all seemed to be right decent young chaps. One of the tragedies of war is that deadly enemies, under other circumstances, could have been very good friends.

David L. Drake
253 ARMORED FA BN

"BRAVE RIFLES" AND A GOOD BOOK

In your August 1995 issue which I recently received, you print a letter from a Mr. Ahren Jacobson of the 6th Armored Division. He is complaining about Patton's 3rd Army not getting enough publicity about its contribution to the Bulge. ...All the papers I read on the 50th Anniversary were extolling Bastogne, the 101st Airborne, Patton's 3rd Army. As I recall the documentary "Brave Rifles," it told a little story of each of the three major battles--St. Vith, Elsenborn Ridge, and Bastogne--and then other stories. Even the name "Brave Rifles" was from a quote by General Patton.

For one of the best books I have read, I would refer...to *Generals of the Ardennes* by J. D. Morelock. He points out that General Simpson sent more divisions from his Ninth Army into the Bulge than did Patton. More quickly, too. Whoever hears of General Simpson these days. The press always refers to Patton's Third Army but only to the Ninth Army, First Army, Seventh Army. I would say the Third Army always received more than their share of publicity.

John H. Durba
7TH ARMDD A

OOPS...

When I received the August issue of *The Bugle*, page 30, "Relief of Bastogne" by Thomas D. Gillis, there is one error in the unit identification, where it reads "The Exploits of LTC Creighton Abrams and his 37th Tank Battalion and his side-kick LTC "Jigger" Jaques, C.O. of the 53rd Anti Tank Battalion. It should read the 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion. I was with "C" Company of the 53rd and remember those days very clearly.

The night before we went into Bastogne, our half tracks were positioned in wedge formation in the snow-covered field, ready to get on the road to Bastogne the next morning. The night was cold and the sky was clear, with the moon shining so brightly. It was my turn on guard on our vehicle for two hours (10-12 p.m.), when a German plane circled the field. It was so low that when he passed in front of the moon, you could see the pilot as plain as day. The next morning, we took off through a long wooded area, then we came to a clearing. Just before the out-skirts of Bastogne, several vehicles were already knocked out of action. We passed a tank by the side of the road. I did a "no-no" by throwing him my water canteen. I didn't know who he was or what happened to him. One of our half tracks was hit, the next one moved through safely, then it was our turn. It seemed as though some kind of a German weapon was firing from a tree line off to the left. I swung my 50 cc in that direction and emptied all the rest of my ammo. Just then, a tank flew by us and that tank crew almost took a shell, but it streaked between us. When we stopped, soldiers from the 101st came running and jumped on the half track. We made it! December 26, 1944.

We took up living in one of the houses the first night, December 28th. Then we were told we could sleep in the shelter in the basement of the hotel. during the night our headquarters squad took a direct hit and the men in the basement were trapped in their new bedrolls. Someone came into the hotel shelter yelling, "We need help." Some of us ran a few doors down to help. We managed to dig out three or four men, but couldn't get to the others. They were sleeping in their new sleeping bags, but never made it out. The next day we moved out of town and took up staying in foxholes again.

Roscoe M. Mulvey, Jr.
53 ARMED INF BN C

ARE YOUR DUES DUE?

NO AX TO GRIND

Since joining [VBOB] I have felt like a second class citizen, primarily for this reason. All documents, forms, etc., ask for division, regiment, unit or company, all of which are ground terms. I have yet to see a request for "air force, tactical division, group or squadron." I have no ax to grind. I flew during the Bulge and in that operation and others following felt then, and do today, compassion and appreciation for the guys n the ground whose conditions I could only read about and did not have to experience. I also vividly recall our frustration at not being able to get up sooner and "lend a hand." I imagine not too many members are from the Air Force and this might explain part of "why."

Reyburn Crocker
491 FGHTR SQD 370 FGHTR GP

THE BABY FACE KID

He claimed to be older, this rookie recruit,
just so he could dress up in a soldier suit.

His manner was childlike, youthful and fresh,
lust didn't obsess him with sins of the flesh.

The drill sergeant told him "while you're here at boot,
we'll march you around some, and teach you to shoot.

Though you're not a man yet, but we'll do our best,
and old Father Time will take care of the rest."

Old sarge didn't talk much, his type never did,
still he trained him and named him: **The Baby Face Kid.**

It was frigid mid-winter and the kid chanced to be,
where the foe had advanced in their drive to the sea.

For their drive to survive, the enemy knew,
the kid held the post that they had to subdue.

Just after sundown they launched their attack,
but the kid's deadly fire kept driving them back.

They couldn't locate him, dark and hidden from view,
they sent wave after wave, but they never broke through.

Sometime before dawn, they tasted defeat,
their troops were withdrawn, in final retreat.

But the angel of death descended that night,
took the rookie's last breath and ended the fight.

They found him next day, at the rise of the sun,
still blocking the way, frozen stiff to his gun.

For the merciless winter had placed the last bid,
that erased the short life of **The Baby Face Kid.**

That battle was fought, long ago, far away,
folks don't give much thought, why they died there today.

Still those from Bastogne, on their way home from mass,
will honor his name, at the spot, when they pass.

Some wipe at their eye, brush a tear from the lid,
and whisper a prayer for **The Baby Face Kid.**

No, he won't fit the plan, in the old army test,
Though he was a man, and he'll rank with the best.

S/Sgt Carl Breson

96th Bomber Group, 8th U.S. Air Force

[Although not in the *Battle of the Bulge*, Sergeant Breson wrote this poem to honor those who were there. He states that those who served there "among our greatest heroes."]

What difference does it make to the dead, the orphans,
and the homeless, whether the mad destruction is
wrought under the name of totalitarianism or the holy
name of liberty or democracy?

MAHATMA GANDHI

MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

JAMES STAMPER, 293RD ORDNANCE MM COMPANY, wanted us to list his group's reunion. But, the notice was received too late for the last issue and the reunion will be over by the time of delivery of this publication. However, members of the 293rd can write to James at: 430 East Water Street, Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449.

SANDY PUTIGANO, 249TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, wrote us regarding the 249th's reunion. This, too, arrived too late for the August issue and will be untimely for the next issue. However, you can write to James Hand, 157 East Pearl Street, Wellsville, New York 14895, to find out what happened.

NORBERT NOWICKI, 171ST ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, would like to hear from anyone who served with his group. His address is: 8019 East Maguey Drive, Tucson, Arizona 85750.

Kerry R. Smith is trying to find someone who served with his great uncle, **TULON L. MOSES, 18TH INFANTRY, COMPANY K**. Basic training was in Camp Shelby, Mississippi. Went overseas in August, 1944, and was killed near Butgenbach, Belgium, on January 16, 1945. Write to Kerry at: 11108 John Rankin Highway, Fulton, Mississippi 38843.

MIKE O'CONNOR, 965TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS, would like to hear from members of the **84TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 333RD REGIMENT**, who may have known **S/SGT JOHN T. CORKILL**, from Pennsylvania, who was killed in battle at LaRoche, Belgium on January 16, 1945. Write to Mike at 17 Warren Street, Florence, Massachusetts 01060-1332.

RALPH STORM, 111TH ARMORED DIVISION, 21 ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, COMPANY B, would like to hear from someone who served with the **333RD FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION** (attached to **106TH INFANTRY DIVISION**) during the Bulge. He understands that eleven men from this unit were executed by SS men near the tiny village of Wereth, south of Bullingen, and northwest of St. Vith, Belgium. He also wishes to share information about the incident with a CRIBA historian. Write to Ralph at: 2840 Starr Avenue, Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54703.

LEROY VANWEY, 35TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 134TH INFANTRY, COMPANY B, writes about his concern that the 35th doesn't get much coverage in *The Bugle*. He wants all to know that the 35th rode the 4th Armored tanks into Bastogne and the 101st Airborne was really glad to see them. *[We would be happy to have someone submit information regarding the 35th. However, it would have to wait in chronological order to be printed.]*

Treva Graham is seeking anyone who may have served with her father, **RALPH B. FREEMAN, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, 16TH INFANTRY, 2ND BATTALION, COMPANY G**, or someone who may know about a **LT BARTLE** (or **BARTEL**).

Write to Treva at: Box 339, Carter, Oklahoma 73627.

Rev. Robbin Richard Clouser wants to know if anyone can provide information about his great uncle, **ELLIS LEE BAIRD, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION**. Ellis was killed January 3, 1945. Write to Robbin at: 415 Ash Street, Ridgway, Pennsylvania 15853.

Mossie Long wrote us to see if anyone remembers her son **AUGUST M. LONG, 3RD U.S. ARMY**. She believes that her son was killed in the Battle of the Bulge. He left behind a young widow and two baby boys. Mossie is in a nursing home and would very much like to have any information that can be provided. Write to her at: PO Box 929, Tri-State Manor, Harrogate, Tennessee 37752-0929.

JERRY HRBEK, 428 MP ESCORT GUARDS, wrote to tell us of a reunion of his group in Atlanta, Georgia. It was too late for last issue and will be over with by the time you read this. But, if you want to know what happened, call Libba Sharp 404-934-6000.

Linda Feltman is trying to find out anything she can about the **519TH ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY GUN BATTALION, BATTERY B**. Her father, **EMIL N. FELTMAN**, served with that group. Write to Linda at: Box 169, Pine Grove Mills, Pennsylvania 16868.

ROBERT J. WALSH, 451ST AAA BATTALION, would like to know if any one can help concerning his having had frost bite. Write to him: 93 Spruce, Milford, Connecticut 06460.

Larie Pinteá, Associate Member, advises us that the Presidential Unit Citation for action in the Battle of the Bulge was reawarded to members of the 112th Regimental Combat Team on September 10, 1995, in Erie, Pennsylvania. We regret that we were unable to print this in the last issue. For more information write to: Larie Pinteá, Mercyhurst College, Glenwood Hills, Erie, Pennsylvania 16546.

ROGER MARQUET, a new Associate Member, has adopted an American veteran's grave in the Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery and would like to secure information regarding the veteran. The veteran was **RALPH H. MRVIS, 11TH ARMORED DIVISION, 55TH ARMORED INFANTRY REGIMENT**. Ralph was killed in action on February 9, 1945. Roger would like to know where he was killed and if he still has family in the States. Any other information will be welcome. Write to Roger at: Fonds de Foret 67, 4870 Trooz, Belgium.

CLARENCE R. ROSE, C (or CANNON?) COMPANY, 39TH INFANTRY, 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION, would like to hear from anyone from his outfit. Write to Clarence at: RR 1, Box 1240, Lufkin, Texas 75901-9726.

Daniel Lanzikos is very anxious to hear from anyone who can provide information regarding his father, **ALBERT J. LANZIKOS, 75TH INFANTRY DIVISION**. Dan will be deployed until March, 1996, but you can write to him until then at: Gysgt. Daniel J. Lanzikos; HMM-264 AVI PSC 21016; Jacksonville, NC 28545-1016.

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MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

(Continued from Page 7)

EDWIN A. CALFEE, COMPANY B, 50TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, 6TH ARMORED DIVISION, would like to locate the families or friends of **NORMAN PHILLIPS** (Trevorton, Pennsylvania), **HOMER MONTGOMERY** (West Portsmouth, Ohio), **PVT. BECK, PVT. TATE, SGT. COBB, SGT. LUCAS, SGT. ZIMMERMAN, and SGT. TODD**. They were killed in action on New Year's Day, 1945 and Edwin was with them. Write to Ed at: 141 Shenley Avenue, Bluefield, Virginia 24605.

BG Steven F. Kovach is searching for veterans of the **26TH INFANTRY DIVISION** who had been cited with the French Croix de Guerre under Decision No. 1159 of the French Republic dated 30 October 1945. Also for veterans of the **84TH INFANTRY DIVISION** who had been cited under Decision No. 1168 dated 30 October 1945. Purpose: to assist them in obtaining this decoration if not already personally received. Write: BG Kovach at 141 East 44th Street #604, New York, New York 10017.

Can you help **HARVEY MELTZER, 42ND and 90TH INFANTRY DIVISIONS**? He states he would like to fill in a missing link in his war record. Following basic training in August, 1944, he was assigned to the **42ND DIVISION**. It was then stationed in Oklahoma but he can't remember the name of the camp. He states they left about November, 1944, for shipment to France. Write to Harvey at: 33 Greenwich Avenue #15F, New York, New York 10014-2766.

GLEN M. LEIPPLY, 2ND INFANTRY DIVISION, would like to hear from someone from his division. Write to him at: Box 77, New Springfield, Ohio 44443.

The family of **EDWARD E. SEDLACEK** would like to know if anyone can provide information on Eddie who was killed in BoB on December 19, 1944. They know that he was in Company B in the infantry. His serial number was 37 737 491. He was stationed at Camp Roberts, California, prior to going overseas in September, 1944. If you can help write to: LaVerna Brechacek, RFD 1, Schuyler, Nebraska 68661.

John Mabb would like to hear from anyone who may have known his father, **FREDERICK MABB, 23RD ARMORED INFANTRY DIVISION, COMPANY B**. Write to John at: PO Box 177, Stottville, New York 12172.

Mary Anne Thorp Bregar writes to see if anyone remembers serving with her father, **FRANK THORP, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION**. Frank is in a nursing home and enjoys discussing the war with the family. He has developed Alzheimer's, but Mary says he can always tell a good war story. Write to Mary: 11715 North Strathmoore Court, Dunlap, Illinois 61525.

New member **WILLIAM T. TULEY, 87TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 345TH INFANTRY, COMPANY E**, is looking for former T/Sgt Dewey A. Heard who served in his company. Can you help? Write to him at: 7201 Cleveland Circle, Merrillville, Indiana 46410.

WILLIAM J. KORANDA, 87TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 912 FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, would like to locate **DELPHIN (A.?) WEST**, formerly of Chicago. Write to him at: 315 Fulton Street, Seymour, Wisconsin 54165-1211.

Marilyn M. Leveling is searching for someone who may remember her father, **LOREN E. TURBETT, 5TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 2ND INFANTRY**. Loren was killed in the Bulge and is buried in Luxembourg. Marilyn was 8 years old at the time of his death and

never saw her father. She would appreciate any information anyone can provide. Write to her at: 22 Richards Drive, Ft. Madison, Iowa 52627.

BUD JENKINS, 5TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 75TH MEDICAL BATTALION, COMPANY Cm, front line ambulance driver, is looking for assistance to help support a medical claim. He's looking for Captain (Dr.) Allington, Champ Bradley (from Kentucky), Sgts. Meeks and Dunbar, and several buddies--Grislack (or Grielack or Gridack) (may have been from Pennsylvania) and Stineberg (Steinberg). Bud first hurt his back at Camp Cook, California. If you can help him in any way, he would be very grateful. His address is: 415 East Cross Street, DeWitt, Arkansas 72042.

SAMUEL E. DAVIS, 852ND ENGINEER AVIATION BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, would like to hear from any of his group. Write to him at: PO Box D, Parker, Arizona 85344.

Astrid Leone is trying to locate those who served with her father: **RICHARD PAUL ADAMS, 84TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 333RD INFANTRY**. Write to her at: 146 East Monte Cristo Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85022-3020.

WELDON PAGE, 87TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 346 INFANTRY, COMPANY L, would like to hear from anyone from his group and send him details regarding your reunions. Write to him at: 9025 Brock Road, Ardmore, Oklahoma 73401.

Tressie Dallas would like to hear from anyone who remembers her husband, **WILLIAM DALLAS, 17TH AIRBORNE, 50TH PARACHUTE INFANTRY**. Tressie's address is: Box 23, Dongola, Illinois 62926.

Sally Gunzenhauser is looking for anyone who remembers her father, **JOHN HENRY SCHMOI, 9TH ARMORED DIVISION, 52ND ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION**. Write to Sally at: 427 Glender Avenue, Roseburg, Oregon 97470.

HARVEY MELTZER, 90TH INFANTRY DIVISION, would like to know if someone can provide him with the name of the person who handles the 90th now that Carl Manuel has turned over the reins to someone else--we believe a Al Carnet(?) in Virginia. Write and let Harvey know--his address is: 33 Greenwich Avenue 15F, New York, New York 10014-2766. *[Incidentally, VBOB would also like to have this information, so let us know.]*

Associate member **NORBERT VAN DEN BERGHE**, would like to hear from members of **B COMPANY, 137TH INFANTRY, 35TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, who were involved December 31, 1944, in the attack on Villers-la-bonne-eau. Also he would like to hear from officers or non-commissioned officers of **K AND/ORL COMPANY**, who were captured in Villers on December 30, 1944. Write to Norbert at: Kortrijksesteenweg 1250, 9051 gent Belgium.

We just became aware that the **2ND CAVALRY "THOROUGHbred" ASSOCIATION** had its reunion in October, 1995. Interested in learning what they did? Write to: 2nd Cavalry Association, 726 Mancill Road, Wayne-Strafford, Pennsylvania 19087-2005.

JOHN W. REIS, 8TH TACTICAL AIR COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON, 9TH TACTICAL AIR FORCE, would like to hear from anyone who served in his unit. He recalls midnight mass on Christmas eve when a buzz bomb cut out over the church and you could hear a pin drop. Remember? Write to John: 127 Antares Circle, Round Lake, Illinois 60073.

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER VIDEO AVAILABLE

The Rocky Mountain Chapter of VBOB placed a wreath at the Colorado War Monument in Denver, Colorado, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the start of the Battle of the Bulge. For those of you interested in receiving a copy of the video produced of these ceremonies, it is available for \$5.10. contact: Rocky Mountain Chapter, VBOB, PO Box 200612, Denver, Colorado 80220.

OHIO CHAPTER ENTERTAINS HONORED GUEST

Walter Geese and the members of the Canton Ohio Chapter honored noted author Michette Heitt in June. Michette, a native of Verviers during the Battle of the Bulge, spoke with the members about the times of her family during this period and the wonderful friendships developed with the American soldiers. She stated that the GIs taught her to speak English and introduced her to marshmallows and oranges. Although her family didn't have much, they shared much of what they did have with various GIs. "The Belgian people will always have gratitude to America and the GIs who sacrificed so much," Heitt said, "I am so pleased that the Canton group is honoring me, but I ask why. They liberated us. We did the very best we could and shared the little we had."

SOUTH CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER UP AND RUNNING

Members of the recently-formed South Central Pennsylvania Chapter met September 13, 1995, with President Grover C. Twiner presenting the chapter's flag. The chapter is off to a great beginning, with approximately 100 members.



[Left to right Charles Gross, chapter secretary; David E. Pergrin, speaker; Joseph Leichte, chapter chaplain; Dave Nicholas, chapter organizer and president; and National President Grover C. Twiner]

Col David E. Pergrin, commander of the 19th Engineer Combat Battalion during the BoB spoke to the organization.

ARE YOU A SNOWBIRD?

If you are one of those fortunate people who moves south for the winter, remember to let us know. The Post Office will not forward *The Bulge Bugle*. It will be returned to our offices and your records will be marked "moved" and you will become "inactive." If you don't contact us, we never know where you are. So, it's important that you let us know when you leave to head south and when you return. We have no way of keeping track of both addresses, so you must let us know. Thanks.

NEW MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Our supply of old membership cards is now exhausted and we have begun to mail out the new membership cards. These cards are plastic and you need only sign them and put them into your billfold.

On the reverse side of your card you will see your mailing information. Directly above your name is (left hand side) your membership number and (to the right) the date when your dues are to be renewed. A space is provided for you to fill in the amount of your current year dues (\$15.00) and any dues which may be past due (\$15.00 per year).

You will be receiving your new card prior to your dues becoming due to remind you. We hope that this new method will improve cash flow and eliminate the many dues reminders which we must send. The cost of dues reminders in time and money can hopefully be greatly reduced.

We hope you will like the new cards. We feel they are attractive and are something you will be very proud of.

Don't forget life membership. The cost is: Under 70 years of age \$125.00 and Over 70 years of age \$75.00.

MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

(Continued from Page 8)

MARY A. EWING, 77TH EVACUATION HOSPITAL, would like to know if the survivor of the Malmedy Massacre who was hospitalized in the 77th in Verviers is still living. She says she will never forget his quiet dignity as he calmly responded to the G2 interrogation as the two very tall, grave colonels stood at his bedside and asked for graphic descriptions of the gruesome murders. Mary's address: 738 Sherwood Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39216.

FRANCIS W. BERRY would like to know if anyone is out there from **COMPANY B, 63RD BATTALION, 13TH REGIMENT**, April to August, 1944, of Camp Fannin, Texas. Write: 1622 East Broadway, Anaheim, California 92805.

PETER VENEZIA and **FRANK BARBAZALLO, 561ST FIELD ARTILLERY, BATTERY B**, would like to hear from their old buddies. Write to Peter at: 1335 Fleming Avenue, Lot 83, Ormond Beach, Florida 32174.

NEIL SULLIVAN writes in response to a previous inquiry to advise that the **34TH SIGNAL LIGHT CONSTRUCTION BATTALION** served in the following campaigns: Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe.

The widow of **JAMES J. FINCHEN, 51ST ARMORED INFANTRY, COMPANY A**, would like to hear from someone who may have served with her husband. Write to: Mrs. James Finchen, 3003 Brighton Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19149.

Mark Your 1996 Calendar NOW For The ...

15th Annual VBOB Reunion

Sunday September 8th thru Wednesday September 11th

Assemble at

HYANNIS, MASSACHUSETTS on Scenic Cape Cod

With Full Field Packs and,
be prepared for:

- Thrilling Harbor Tour
- Visit to Plymouth Plantation and Historic Plymouth Rock
- Memorial Plaque Dedication in Hyannis
- Old fashioned New England Clambake
- Visit Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute
- And Much Much More!!!

VBOB

Headquarters Hotel
The Cape Codder
Hyannis on The Cape

SPECIAL VBOB REUNION RATE

Complete details in
next issue!



BLANCHARD VALLEY VBOB CHAPTER FLAG PRESENTATION

April 29, 1995 Findley, Ohio.
National VBOB President Grover Twiner proudly presents the Chapter Flag to the Findley area Battlers. Left to Right: Herb Bender, Treas., Marv Russel, V.P., Grover Twiner, Nat'l. Pres., Bob Reece, Chaplain, Ivan Cole, Pres., Chuck Urschaltz, Secy.



VBOB REUNION, SAN ANTONIO TEXAS, Sept. 6, 1995.
(LtoR) Virginia Alicia Pittman-Waller, Dr. James E. Pittman (M.D.)
127th Gen. Hospital detached, Dorothy S. Davis (R.N.) VBOB Historical,
Grover Twiner, VBOB President



BOOKS YOU MAY ENJOY

Our special thanks to the following authors for sending us a copy of their books for our Library/Archives.

A Dark and Bloody Ground: The Hurtgen Forest and the Roer River Dams by Edward G. Miller. This book discusses earlier assessments of the disastrous campaign and surmises that long-term combat stress at the highest levels could have dulled perceptions. The book is 272 pages, contains 22 photos and 7 maps. Call Texas A&M University Press 1-800-826-8911.

The Devil's Adjutant: Jochen Peiper, Panzer Leader, by Michael Reynolds. This 320-page book covers in minute detail the German offensive in the Ardennes, Peiper's role there, at Malmedy and through to this death at the hands of assassins in France long after the war's end. The book cost is \$25.00 including shipping and handling (special veterans price). Order from: Sarpedon Publishers, 166 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10010.

The Ridiculous History of World War II by Edwin Swinefort. You will find many amusing things in this updated version of *Wits of War*. Definitely a new slant on the war which will bring back old memories. Not all entries are humorous, there are some serious gems of thought. Price is \$13.75 (includes shipping) (California add another \$1.00 sales tax) and can be ordered from: Kilroy Was There Press, Box 5462, Fresno, California 97353.

Memoirs of a Rifle Company Commander in Patton's Third U.S. Army by Lt. Col. George Philip Whitman. This book describes the experiences of the men and officers of Company F, 2nd Battalion, 376th Infantry Regiment, 94th Division. Cost is \$16.25 (including shipping). Write to: G. Philip Whitman, 2808 North Florida Avenue #4, Lakeland, Florida 33805.

Kriegie by Robert L. Jackson. As a WW II GI Jackson tells about fighting as a BAR man in the Ardennes and the Allied debacle of the Battle of the Bulge. Only 18 men from his company survived. He was a prisoner of war for 101 days. *Kriegie* tells little of the pageantry of war; only the ordeal of the GI's fight for survival is important. Cost for paper back is \$13.00 and hardcover is \$18.00 (postage included). Write to: Robert L. Jackson, 1506 Camp Road, Buchanan, Michigan 49107.

1945: A Remembrance by Dan Bied. Dan served with the 106th Infantry Division. The book includes his recollections of his entire period of service. Dan has an advertisement regarding his book in this issue of the newsletter which will provide more information and details for placing an order.

World War II Reminiscences edited by John H. Roush, Jr. *The Bugle* (August, 1995, page 30) included a chapter from this book which had been sent to us. Editor Roush has

provided us with a copy which we are happy to add to our library. The book contains about a half dozen chapters about the Battle of the Bulge in its 75 chapters. These are primarily action stories of combat by men of all the services in all the theaters of WWII. Cost is \$18.77 (includes shipping) and it can be ordered from: Treasurer, Department of California, Reserve Officers Association, PO Box 4950, San Rafael, California 94913-4950.

Hut Two! The Life and Times of a World War II Veteran by Warren Rangnow. The book covers the rebirth of the 83rd Infantry Division through its 270 fighting days in Europe. All the frustrations and emotions of war are presented, mingled with a refreshing sense of humor. Cost is \$17.95 (including shipping) and can be ordered from: Sharpless Publishing Co., 515 Woodland Avenue (Suite A), Cheltenham, Pennsylvania 19012.

YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE!!

DECEMBER 16TH SERVICES AT ARLINGTON CEMETERY

Are you aware that VBOB holds an annual observance at Arlington Cemetery in honor of our fallen comrades with whom we served in the Battle of the Bulge?

A wreath laying ceremony is held at the Tomb of the Unknowns and is immediately followed by a wreath laying ceremony at the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Monument directly behind the Tomb.

This ceremony takes place December 16th of each year and all members are encouraged and welcome to attend.

WHEN: December 16, 1995 • 11:00 a.m.

WHERE: Tomb of the Unknowns • Arlington National Cemetery • Fort Myer, Virginia

A buffet will immediately follow the ceremonies in the Enlisted Men's Club at Fort Myer. The VBOB 1995-96 Executive Council swearing ceremonies will also take place.

We would like to have you there with us to share this memorable ceremony.

For planning purposes, **only if you plan to attend**, please fill out the following and mail **before December 4th** to: VBOB, PO Box 11129, Arlington, Virginia 22210-2129.

Name _____

Number in party _____ Phone _____

217TH AAA BN (MOBILE)

[WATSON MOWBRAY, BATTERY C, of the above anti-aircraft battalion group, has provided this commendation. He advises that the battalion consisted of one headquarters battery, 4 batteries (A, B, C, & D) with 90mm guns plus multiple mount machine guns. He believes this to be the only outfit of its kind in the BoB.]

HEADQUARTERS
THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY
Office of the Commanding General
20 January 1945

Subject: Commendation

To: Commanding General, Officers and Men of the VII Corps, U.S. Army.

1. The magnificent tactical skill and hardihood which you and your Command displayed in slowing up the German offensive, and the determined valor and tactical prescience which caused you to retain possession of BASTOGNE, together with your subsequent resumption of a victorious offensive, constitute a truly superb feat of arms.

2. You and the officers and men of your Command are hereby highly commended for a superior performance.

3. You will apprise all units concerned of the contents of this letter.

/s/ G. S. Patton, Jr.

/t/ G. S. PATTON, JR.

Lieut. General, U.S. Army,
Commanding.

Attached:

Subject: Actio of the 217th AAA Gun Bn (M) at Bastogne

Source: AA Section, Headquarters, Twelfth Army Group

1. At 0030 hours on the morning of 30 Dec 1944, the 217th AA Gun Bn (M), then providing AAA defense for Toul, France, under the command of Lt Col C. H. Armstrong, received orders to proceed to Arlon, Belgium, on an undisclosed mission. The battalion commander, together with his four battery commanders immediately proceeded to Arlon. Upon arrival, the battalion commander was given the mission of providing the AAA defense of Bastogne. At this time the 101st Airborne Division in Bastogne was doggedly defending the city against determined enemy attacks. The situation around Bastogne was very fluid, and of the three possible routes leading into the town the battalion commander could not be told which one his battalion could use. Lt Col Armstrong left instructions at Arlon for the battalion, and proceeded, with his four battery commanders and battalion S-3, to Bastogne to make a reconnaissance for positions.

2. The road march from Toul to Bastogne via Neufchateau (the route the battalion was directed to follow) was over one hundred and fifty-five miles of ice-covered roads. The battalion left Toul on the morning of the 30th of December; the first battery arrived at Bastogne at 2200 hours and the last battery arrived at an early hour on the morning of 31 Dec. In addition to the hazard of the ice-laden roads, the battalion was forced to cover a large portion of the distance in strict blackout, and the route of approach at ne point near Bastogne was less than 1500 yards from the nearest German positions. The battalion arrived in Bastogne in excellent condition, the only mishaps being the temporary loss of two M-4 tractors and one 90mm gun due to the icy roads. This equipment was recovered in good shape the following day. Three batteries were ready for action at 2400 hours on the night 30 Dec and the fourth battery at 0200 hours, 31 Dec.

3. The 32nd AAA Group of the II Corps procured two bull-dozers for use by the battalion in digging in their equipment, and the balance of the night was spent preparing positions. The battalion was enthusiastically greeted by the 101st Airborne Division which had been subjected to damaging nightly attacks by the German Air Force.

4. Bastogne was still an unrestricted area on the night of 31 Dec,

though enemy aircraft were quite active. Friendly planes were in the area, but a number of flights indicted hostile activity. However, only one hostile act was committed. Battery A was tracking an incoming hostile formation. Permission to fire was requested, but not granted because of friendly flights in the area. Shortly after permission to fire was refused, a comb, believed to be a 200 pounder, fell near the battery area.

5. The night of 1-2 January saw intense enemy aerial activity and resulted in heavy losses to the GAF. Hostile raids began at 1844 hours and lasted until 0145 hours the next morning. The planes came in at an average altitude of 1500 yards, but some were engaged as low as 300 yards. There were fifty-one separate engagements by the 90mm guns during this period, and twelve enemy planes were definitely destroyed. At 0817 hours the next morning, .50 caliber machine guns of the battalion engaged six more hostile planes, of which two were definitely destroyed during the period 1844 to 0817 hours a total of fifty-seven enemy aircraft were engaged, of which fourteen were definitely destroyed, 832 rounds of 90mm ammunition was expended by the guns. The .50 caliber machine guns expended 450 rounds of ammunition in knocking down their two planes.

6. During the action two gun sites were strafed and hit by AP bombs, but suffered no damage or casualties. In one battery the M-7 director went out of action and was replaced by the battalion spare M-7. The replacement was completed at 0029 hours and at 0030 hours the battery was engaging another German plane. Two separate ammunition convoys were dispatched for additional ammunition. The radars of the battalion performed exceptionally well and were able to make pick ups with no difficulty. Throughout the action the AAA batteries were under intense German artillery fire. Wire communication was impossible to maintain because of the hostile shell fire, but communication with the batteries was maintained by radio.

7. After this single nights action, not another German plane appeared over the town of Bastogne. The Luftwaffe had evidently decided against any more efforts that would extract such a toll of attrition.

8. Although the night of 1-2 Jan saw the end of hostile aerial activity, it marked the beginning of a period of intense shelling of the town by the Germans. From the 2nd to 15th Jan the battalion was subjected to severe enemy fire. The battalion headquarters and batteries A and B were forced to move to alternate positions because of the hostile artillery fire. Maintenance of wire communication was impossible. One shell demolished the building housing the headquarters battery personnel but no casualties were suffered as all personnel were away from the building at the time. Another shell landed on a machine gun position, and completely destroyed the gun. One crew member was evacuated and the other slightly wounded. A 155mm FA battery set up near one of the AAA batteries and began to draw considerable counter-battery fire, a goodly portion of which landed in the AAA Battery's area. One shell scored a direct hit on radar, completely destroying it. Three men were inside the radar at the time: one was wounded, the other two escaped unhurt. Data Transmission cables received extensive damage.

9. The following casualties were the final result of the German artillery fire: 1 battery commander, 1 warrant officer and 5 EM were evacuated. (The battery commander has since returned). A number of personnel suffered minor shell fragment wounds that were treated by the battalion surgeon.

10. The 217th AAA Gun Bn (M) performed its mission of providing AAA defense of Bastogne in a highly creditable manner. Their feat in moving up and occupying positions under the most adverse conditions, discouraging the Luftwaffe from further activity after a single night's action, and maintaining a readiness to fire while under severe shelling, reflect the highest state of training and morale.

The good company has no place for the officer who would rather be right than loved, for the time will quickly come when he walks alone, and in battle no man may succeed in solitude.

S.L.A. MARSHALL

Gen. George Patton and the 87th Division

... in his own words

By Mitchell Kaidy

Desperate to break the chokehold forged by the Nazis around Bastogne, Gen. George Patton and his commanders anxiously huddled: Why were their two-division reinforcements late?

As they waited, Adolph Hitler's Nazi spearheads, cloaked by deceptively-uniformed paratroopers, were wreaking havoc with violent attacks against American troops in the snow-blanketed Ardennes Forest.

So bleak was the outlook for Bastogne that a few days earlier the Nazis had audaciously presented to the surrounded 101st Airborne a formal surrender demand. Delivered by emissaries carrying white flags, the surrender note asserted: "The fortune of war is changing." Underscoring their claim that further resistance was hopeless, the Nazis listed their tactical strongpoints including Libret, Libramont, Tillet and St. Hubert, all west of Bastogne.

The eagerly-awaited 87th and 11th Armored had been released from the Saar Valley by the Supreme Commander, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower. Ordered to Rheims amid sleet and sub-freezing conditions, they were scheduled to arrive in the Ardennes early on Dec. 29th. And although the 87th got in at 0630 that day, the 11th didn't arrive until 2200. And they were due to jump into the melee of the Battle of the Bulge at 2400 hours!

Because of the 11th's tardiness, Maj. Gen. Troy H. Middleton, the VIIIth Corps commander, called his superior, Gen. Patton, and asked to delay the planned coordinated counterattack. According to "Patton's Papers" published by Martin Blumenson (Houghton-Mifflin 1972), Patton rejected the request out of hand.

"He didn't care how Middleton made the attack, but he must make it, and he must take the objective," Patton blurted, according to Blumenson's diary account. The entire conception of the surprise German counteroffensive had been devised by the Fuhrer himself, Adolph Hitler, who lusted to seize an American supply port in Belgium. Having smashed past Bastogne to St. Hubert and out run his supply capabilities from Germany, Hitler was pulled up short by the realization he critically needed the road net out of Bastogne to re-supply and reinforce his troops.

Patton, after being briefed by Middleton, also recognized the centrality of this Belgian city. Once his relatively full-strength divisions were ready to roll, Patton wrote in his diary, they "jumped off west of Bastogne and ran right into the flank of a large German counterattack headed toward Bastogne. This lucky meeting stopped the Germans cold and probably corrected a bad situation."

History has proved this Patton assessment to have been an understatement. The "meeting engagement" or two armies clashing during all-out attacks, proved to be a fortunate and fateful development for the Americans, as Patton later observed. For that day the Nazis launched "probably the biggest coordinated counterattack (against the 87th, 11th Armored, 35th, 4th Armored and other divisions around Bastogne) that troops under my command have ever experienced."

The VIIIth Corps commander, Gen. Middleton, estimated that his corps' most outstanding performance repulsing these attacks was delivered by the 87th Division against Libramont, Tillet and

St. Hubert, three of the strongpoints that the surrender demand boasted about. According to his biography published by Louisiana State University, the 11th Armored, absorbing heavy casualties to both men and machines, faltered and pulled back. Providentially, the 87th was able to step in and take over most of the Armored Division's vacated front.

"While the 11th's armor had stalled" Middleton records in his biography, "the infantrymen of the 87th were more successful on the Corps' left. On Dec. 31, Jan. 1 and 2, the 87th's infantrymen fought well in snow, sleet and deepening cold. They accomplished their mission of cutting the highway linking the Germans at St. Hubert with supply sources back home."

Journalists attached to the Third Army evidently sensed this success, and sought out the commanding general. Patton, though suspicious of the press, nonetheless never blinked at a chance to strut his stuff. At a press conference on New Year's Day, 1945, he laid out essentially the information that he had told his diary. "The 11th Armored and 87th Infantry came up from Rheims on Dec. 29. They were supposed to close in the afternoon. The 11th got in at 2200 and the 87th at 0630." Although late in starting, their week long attack met the Germans head-on and blocked their drive into surrounded Bastogne.

Asked whether the Germans could yet recover, the Third Army commander replied: "I think yesterday (Dec. 31) was the crucial time in the operation. (The enemy) could have done something yesterday; he can't do it now."

Uncharacteristically, he didn't disclose to the press what he folded into his diary: "Every one of the generals involved urged me to postpone the attack, but I held to my plan, although I did not know this German attack was coming. Some people call it luck, some genius. I call it determination."

In retrospect, Patton was unquestionably right. Had he allowed his field commanders to postpone the 87th Division/11th Armored attack, Hitler's furious blitzkrieg might well have penetrated Bastogne. In that case, the war undoubtedly would have been extended, with greater casualties on both sides.

The timing of the following operation again reflected Patton's indomitable spirit, which was passed on to his troops. Gen. Middleton again called, asking Patton's permission to postpone the succeeding attack by his Corps, whose divisions by now were understrength and beginning to exhibit the effects of murderous combat in snow and sub-zero temperatures. Again Patton refused to budge. "I told him everything would go on as ordered."

Once again, the attack by the rapidly-tiring divisions went forward, and once again returned victory, eventually linking up with the First Army at Houffalize. Such astonishing victory that, looking back and reassessing the entire Third Army performance in the Bulge, Patton was moved to compare it to two classic, towering Civil War battles.

In January he replied to a press question by flatly declaring: This operation "was just as important as the Battle of Gettysburg was to the Civil War."

Coming from this highly-reputed student of military history, this was unparalleled praise. Comparable to the Battle of Gettysburg in significance, yet its tactics, Patton went on, were closely comparable to Gen. Ulysses Grant's Wilderness campaign. Unexpectedly, but still in character, the blunt, tough-talking general included a candid and revealing appraisal of the 101st Airborne Division, then as now hailed for resisting heroically when surrounded. "The 101st Airborne did well, but like the Marines of the last war, they got more credit than they deserved," he wrote on Jan. 20 to his wife Beatrice.

Even without specific mention, the great general's qualified endorsement of the 101st Division, yet unstinting commendation

(Continued on Page 15)

of the 87th and 11th Armored's timely and gallant role constitute rare praise from this esteemed commander.

And since, according to Middleton's biography, the 11th Armored had in reality faltered, what Patton wrote the following month is a powerful and unique testimonial for every GI who ever wore the Golden Acorn patch of the 87th Division. "I believe", Patton wrote shortly after the classic struggle ended, "that the Bastogne operation is the biggest and best the Third Army has accomplished, not excluding the Battle of France."

Originally, written to his wife Beatrice, this comment was later expanded to encompass the entire Battle of the Bulge. As reported in Col. Robert S. Allen's volume, "Lucky Forward" (Vanguard Press, 1947), Patton offered this extraordinary tribute: "When you think of what they did, you will realize that it was one of the greatest exploits in all military history. It was executed under the most difficult and trying conditions and against tremendous odds."

Patton was never drawn out by the journalists to define the odds he had in mind, but decades later some clarification was provided by the military historian Russell Weigley in his book "Eisenhower's Generals." Poring over Nazi as well as American documents, he—and other historians—have estimated that at the spearheads of the Ardennes offensive the Nazis initially outnumbered American troops by six to one. Later, until the battle wore on, the Nazis outnumbered Americans by three to one.

Referring to British passivity in the North, Patton in January, 1945, stood before assembled press representatives and pointed out the Third Army had crushed the massive offensive "without help from anyone. Don't forget that ... Third Army licked the Hun and broke the back of his offensive singlehanded."

Those words, proclaimed during the heat of the battle, vigorously need to be underscored today for the benefit of both the forgetful and the energetic revisionists, of whom there are legions scuttling around trying to steal the glory.

(After serving with the 87th Division in combat, Mitchell Kaidy received a journalism degree from New York University under the GI Bill of Rights. He became a reporter and editor of three daily newspapers and a television station. Later he was a commentator on public radio in Rochester, N.Y. He has contributed articles to a newspaper series that won a special citation from the Pulitzer Prize Committee, and two years ago he won a Project Censored award for magazine journalism.)



GERMANY, 1945. Corporal Mitch Kaidy, Brooklyn, NY and T/Sgt. Willie Cohen, Slokan, NY, Co. D 345 Inf. 87th Div.

Malempre, Belgium Remembered

The following was presented at a memorial service in Malempre-Manhay, Belgium on March 10, 1995 by Demetri "Dee" Paris, 14th Tank Battalion of the 9th Armored Division.

We are here today to commemorate our meeting 50 years ago when we joined to defeat a common enemy.

The Germans attacked on December 16, 1944. Combat Command B of the 9th Armored Division met their first attack, defended St. Vith against repeated German attacks before the 7th Armored Division arrived. Combat Command B continued fighting without relief nor rest for the next seven days.

Companies A, B and D of the 14th Tank Battalion and the 89th Reconnaissance Squadron were holding a defensive line from Grufflingen to Hohenbusch. Other units of Combat Command B were similarly engaged against the enemy.

The command post of the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion was captured by the Germans. The German captors allowed medical officer Paul Russomano to use an ambulance to bring medical supplies to the command post and, later, to evacuate wounded German soldiers.

Glen Strange was one of those captured. He escaped, obtained a handgun from his supply officer and organized about 15 of his infantry soldiers. He joined with Lieutenant Duck of A Company and a platoon of tanks from B Company of the 14th Tank Battalion to rescue the men held in his battalion command post.

Lt. Colonel Engeman, 14th Tank Battalion Commander, reported constant pressure by attacking German units. He said that Company D, with an attached tank destroyer platoon, was especially involved in repelling German units.

Orders came to break off contact with the enemy and withdraw. But it was not easy. General Clarke of the 7th Armored Division called upon Combat Command B for assistance. The help came from Companies A, C and D of the 14th Tank Battalion, Companies A and B of the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion and Troop D of the 89th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron.

Company A of the 14th Tank Battalion covered the withdrawal. They lost two tanks and three command vehicles in destroying German antitank guns. They recovered several American vehicles which had been captured by the Germans.

Lt. Col. Engeman led the 14th Tank Battalion out of the bulge. They came under intense fire at Manhay. Company C of the 27th Infantry Battalion was ordered to withdraw to Malempre.

Dr. Walter E. Reichelt reports in "Phantom Nine" that the withdrawal did not mean rest for Combat Command B. The 27th Armored Infantry Battalion established a defensive position around Malempre. The 14th Tank Battalion established road blocks. Company D of the 14th Tank Battalion reported to the command post of the 82nd Airborne Division. Company C of the 14th remained in Manhay where the 3rd Armored Division employed in attacks and where they lost three tanks before the 82nd Airborne Division had been forced out of Regne and called upon C Company of the 14th Tank Battalion to recapture the town at a cost of three American tanks and destruction of five German tanks.

Peter Elstob's book "Hitler Last Offensive" states, "There was little rest for the weary soldiers from the St. Vith defense because of the increasing pressure from new-committed German troops would not allow it..." Also, "Some of the troops who had just retreated from St. Vith were hurried forward again to form a blocking position from Malempre to Manhay" Elstob reports

(Continued on Page 27)



**Living
Legends**

Memorable Bulge Incidents

UNEDITED AND
HERETOFORE UNPUBLISHED

Accounts of events and experiences in the Battle of the Bulge as recalled and expressed by veterans of the greatest battle ever fought by the U.S. Army in the greatest war ever fought are of much historical significance. These "close-up" combatant accounts are a complement to the study of strategy and logistics and are a legacy of an important battle and victory in the U.S. military annals.

These are priceless first-person recollections by living legends in what General Dwight D. Eisenhower foresaw as our greatest victory and Prime Minister Winston Churchill, in speaking before the House of Commons, characterized as an ever-famous American victory.

...BUT IT COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE

December, 1944

**Urban T. Masucci
4th Infantry Division
12th Infantry
Cannon Company
Little Neck, New York**

After being relieved in the Hurtgen Forest our division was to enter Luxembourg, Belgium, as our rest area...so our 3rd platoon with Lt. Pearlstein went to sleep in this large two story house the night of December 15-16, outside of Berdorf.

At about 6 a.m. myself, the orderly on guard duty and Lt. Pearlstein observed heavy mortar shells dropping around the house. As the shells became heavier and closer, I told the orderly to go upstairs and awaken Lt. Pearlstein. When he came down and saw the shells hitting, he awakened everyone and told me to get my squad and protect the left side of the house which I did.

Shortly afterwards we could see the Germans coming out of the woods about a hundred or so yards directly in front of the house. At this time everyone started firing our M1 and carbines at the advancing Germans. A few moments later a recon jeep appeared and the officer in charge told us to retreat and he would cover us with his mounted 50 caliber machine gun. We now retreated south to the town of Beck, where we tried to regroup, as none of us knew of this German offensive. It had taken us completely by surprise.

On the night of the 18th, again I was assigned guard duty and my buddy, T/Sgt John Carnival; and I decided to do two hours together as no one knew just how close the Germans were. The next morning Lt. Pearlstein asked Sgt Eli Kvocka, and his two man wire crew to form a recon patrol. Since I was very friendly with Sgt Kvocka, I volunteered...we set out, two men on each side of the road. We encountered a small farm house on the left of the road, with the Hebron Woods to the opposite side of the house and to our right. I proceeded to the left of the house and met Sgt Kvocka in front of the house. Everything was quiet. We both entered a long hallway leaving Pvt Durbin and Pvt Busak guarding the front. At the end of this hallway was a wooden stairway to the top, where you could see the adjoining barn. When we got to the top we could see this barn loaded with the enemy--all hell broke loose--firing and grenades falling.

We both ran down the steps. Sgt Kvocka took a position with his M1 Garand just to the left of the hallway and I took a position about eight feet from him, protecting us from anyone trying to come down the staircase and also the rear windows. Unfortunately, we couldn't escape since these windows were barred.

At this point all I could hear was screaming from some of the Germans who tried to enter the hallway and were hit by Sgt Kvocka. Now, our own Cannon Company, who were now aware of our situation, started to fire not only their M1 Garand but the 50 caliber MG and 105 cannons direct fire, since they were only a half mile away.

Our luck was not to hold on--four or five Germans, with their machine pistols, hit Sgt Kvocka through his right chest and shoulder. Before I could come to his aid, I was surrounded and forced to surrender. I motioned the one German non-coms if I could administer first aid to my Sgt. He nodded affirmatively, and I immediately poured all our sulpha on the wound, and tried to bandage it as best I could. Sometimes trying to stall for time, hoping that someone from our company could rescue us. But this was not to be. We exited the house and I was told to call Pvt Durbin and Pvt Busak, who were close by, to surrender also.

We were taken across the dirt road and about 15 yards into the Hebron Woods, where I observed a large company of Germans. They had quietly let us come down the road and to capture not only the patrol, but possibly encircle our entire platoon which was billeted in the house nearby. We were kept in these woods until night fall trying to keep Sgt Kvocka warm, and trying to keep his spirits up as we knew he was hurting real bad. I was told by a German-speaking non-com that we had to leave him with the rest of the German wounded and they would take him to their hospital.

Later after being repatriated by the Russians, I found out that Sgt Kvocka's wounds were taken care of by a French Prisoner of War with a razor blade.

On several occasions I tried to recall this story of Sgt Eli Kvocka's bravery to no avail. To my knowledge after all these years, not one of our company officers ever contacted any one of this recon patrol regarding this incident, that may well have saved them from being encircled.

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R&R INTERRUPTED

December 18, 1944

Joseph Pietroforte
5th Infantry Division
11th Infantry Regiment
G Company
Sherman Oaks, California

I recall very well a night on December 18, 1944. According to information I have received, I must have been attached to the 18th Infantry, and at this particular time (the 18th had it made as we were enjoying a well deserved rest). Our group was billeted in a two or three story building, which could have been a school. I was not aware of the fact at that time, but the Germans had counter attacked. Six men were selected to man two road blocks. I was one of them.

The rest of the men took off with the officer in charge. I now realize that they were going out to flush paratroopers from the wooded area. I had no shovel, so we dug our foxholes with our helmets. The next day, we observed several large German tanks, and many more paratroopers coming down. We decided at that point with out limited fire power, to move out. We joined the exodus of civilians that were moving away from the battle area. At the time, I did not know which way we were headed.

One of my buddies decided to stop at a pub for a beer. I objected strongly, and said that we had to keep moving. That individual decided to have his beer, and the other buddy and myself kept moving until we arrived in Viviers, Belgium. I do not recall any of the names of the men, as there were so many replacements coming in between October and December. I reported to the nearest headquarters, and a few days later we were taken to Compeigne, France, and reassigned to the 5th Infantry Division. [I would love to have someone fill me in on the details regarding this matter: 5040 Varna Avenue, Sherman Oaks, California 91423]

THE 99MM TREATMENT

December 19, 1944

Franklin E. Koepke
30th Infantry Division
143 Antiaircraft Artillery Gun Battalion
C Battery
Manistique, Michigan

Antiaircraft gunners who stayed and fought after the infantry withdrew, played a vital role in preventing the German breakthrough from going any further by knocking out the first enemy tanks they had ever seen.



One of the outstanding jobs in the vicinity of Stavelot, was that of an anti-aircraft battery, commanded by Lieutenant Leon Kent, of Los Angeles, which destroyed five German tanks, including one "King Tiger"--in two to three hours. Two Panther tanks were knocked out with bazookas, burrowed by a pair of ack ack boys who were never known to waste ammunition. They nailed the tanks with a total of four rounds. The successful gunmen were PFC Roland Seamon (Clarksburg, West Virginia) and PFC Albert Durago (Parksville, Maryland). Their battery had been assigned to defend a crossroads with a 90mm gun normally used against German planes. "The first thing you know, a King Tiger tank, which is twice as big as our own Sherman, came rolling up the road," said Lieutenant McGuire, battery range officer (Seattle, Washington). "We waited until it got in full view, and then let them have it. It caught on fire and we killed the crew as they ran out. After our infantry retreated with word that they'd send up reinforcements, two more panthers came along. We got them both with the good old 90mm treatment. We'd still be there if the Germans hadn't brought up machine guns. We had no machine guns, must carbines--so we had to pull out. After putting our 90mm out of action with a rifle grenade."

PRAYERS WERE ANSWERED

December 16, 1944

Larry Schuler
9th Armored Division
9th Armored Engineer Battalion
Company B
Springfield, Missouri

That evening we took over a farm house in a valley and dug foxholes on the crest of a hill behind the house. The weather had become quite cold so half the platoon spent two hours in the house and two in the foxholes. There was a light snow that night and the Germans zeroed in on us with screaming meemies. There is no way to describe the noise of those shells and by daylight of December 17th, 18 more of the first platoon were removed by the medics for shell shock. They were sitting on the floor not saying a word. Their eyes were rolled up in their heads. Why it didn't happen to all of us no one knows. From the fox holes on the hill we counted 103 places in the snow where shells had hit. The house wasn't hit but there wasn't a window left. "B" Company lost a number of vehicles that night and the first platoon had one half track and one two/one-half ton left.

During the day of the 17th, the second platoon was given the job of blowing a concrete bridge. Under the direction of Lt. Hugh B. Mott, S/Sgt John Reynolds and Sgt Gene Dorland, they succeeded in blowing the bridge and stopping the German tanks. (They were the trio that cut the wires on the Ludendorf railway bridge at Remagen, Germany on March 7, 1945, saving the bridge from being destroyed by the Germans.)

On the night of the 17th we were told to have one man walk in front of each vehicle, no lights or unnecessary noise. I saw no one walking but we all saw an unbelievable number of destroyed vehicles on both sides of the road that allowed only one lane for us to get through. The half track in front of us quit running (out of gas) and we had to pass it until we got through the destroyed vehicles. After we got around the stalled half track and hooked on to pull it we had lost contact with the column.

We came to a "Y" and stopped to determine (guess) which way to go. If the thousand or more behind us knew a Sgt was leading them they would have been saying as many prayers as I was. Mine were answered as we came up to the rear of the column at day break. We learned that we were headed for St. Vith (the driver forgot to change tanks).

.....

A FEW LUCKY BREAKS

December, 1944

Richard Rizzio
3rd U.S. Army
374th Armored Field Artillery Battalion
Traverse City, Michigan

My experiences in the Battle of the Bulge will be a bit different than most. Being wounded previously, I was transferred from forward recon and fire battery duty to service battery. One of many lucky breaks that seemed to follow me throughout our four major campaigns.

Captain Olson and I were on a FO post and caught in an 88 barrage. We continued our fire mission. I was slightly wounded and received the Purple Heart. We both received Silver Stars. Captain Olson had saved my life with the words "Duck, Rizzio." A two inch piece of shrapnel hit where my head was positioned.

As to the Battle of the Bulge, our battalion was settled down in a small French town of Merschweiler, east of Metz. Enjoying a break in the race across France, it seemed like the war was winding down. Up north, things were starting to liven up. Being on radio duty, I received the order around midnight on December 18th to move out. It took us the rest of the night, the next day and the following night to reach the combat area of Stocken, Belgium. What a drive and oh so cold. Short on manpower, I was both radio operator and jeep driver. The only other person in the jeep was a newly assigned 90-day wonder, 2nd Lt who never offered to relieve the driving on the entire trip. Consequently, I fell asleep momentarily on the second night's drive running off the road and into the bushes. God knows what the results would have been if the bushes had not been there. I have often thought if I ever met this officer, it would be the right time for an ex noncom to tell an ex-officer what he really thinks of him.



Our battalion was assigned to the famous 4th Armored Division as support artillery and started our fire mission at Hartelange on the Belgium-Luxembourg border.

Christmas Day, our battalion fired 1,691 rounds of 105 shells, the largest number to date. I remember how bitter cold it was.

However, we did enjoy a complete turkey dinner as our mess truck caught up along with our Christmas mail from home.

General Patton visited our command post but I didn't get to see him. A few days later, the siege of Bastogne was broken.

My comment of a lucky break refers also to my transfer to Service Battery. Had I remained as a FO or Fire Battery, I question being here today. We suffered a good number of casualties. At another time, I had an 88 shell go under me and not explode. Thanks to slave labor, it was a dud.

I knew we did not endure many of the hardships other units suffered especially the 101st and 28th Infantry Division. None of us will ever forget those days. The real credit goes to those stalwarts who held the line while reinforcements came from all directions.

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ENEMY DEAD..."COMMON AS GRASS"

December, 1994

Loren W. Gast
1st Infantry Division
26th Infantry
2nd Battalion
G Company
Prospect, Ohio

On December 17th the company moved by truck to an assembly area west of Elsenborn and prepared to go into attack. We started the attack west of Butgenbach and attacked cross-country for 1,800 yards.



We reached our objective, dug in and prepared a defensive position. We moved out the 19th for a new defensive position southeast of Butgenbach.

On December 20th our line was overrun by enemy tanks. We were understrength as it was having lost half our Company G in the Hurtgen Forest and not receiving replacements.

It was foggy that day and cold as a witch's tail. The Jerry tanks busted through the fog like ghosts, their machine guns blazing. One tank started pulling up alongside our foxholes, dropped that long barrel right down into the openings and blasted the holes and the men together. Some of the men got out of the holes and started running and got away even though some of them were wounded.

The tanks kept going right down toward Butgenbach itself, attacked the 2nd Battalion CP. Lt Col Derrick Daniel was the CO and had set up his CP Headquarters in the large farm house cellar. This farm house had been a field hospital before the Battle of the Bulge.

Most of the German infantry had been killed or wounded. The only thing at this time was their tanks, mortars and artillery to worry about. All hell had broken loose and I was more afraid of our own artillery, mortars and anti-tank guns than the Germans. The shells were dropping in front and back of our position--both American and German.

It was close to nightfall when the Germans finally abandoned their attempt to run through the defenders of Dom. Butenbach--

driven off by artillery fire and TD support. Our 60mm's had lobbed 500 rounds into their positions. A couple of the guys said that one mortar round dropped right in a turret and burst, blowing the tank all to hell.

We did not know it at the time, but we were right in the middle of what came to be known as the Battle of the Bulge. The cold was unbearable. The trees looked like men, even during the days, with the fogs and the morning ground mists. A man crawling out of his hole to relieve himself was shot by a friend. "C" ration cans burst from being frozen. One of our men on the way back from the hospital was killed by our men.



On December 21st, our positions were again attacked by strong enemy tank and infantry forces. Our lines were penetrated at some points. But the enemy was driven back after heavy fighting.

American patrols later reported enemy dead beyond the main line of resistance "as common as grass." One patrol actually counted 300 bodies in one sector alone, and men of a graves registration unit in an early count found 782 dead. In addition, the Germans left behind the hulks of 47 tanks and tank destroyers. We lost five 57 mm anti-tank guns, three Shermans, a tank destroyer and close to 250 men.

On December 22nd we moved west of Bullingen, Belgium, to a new defensive position. For the remaining days of December, artillery and mortar fire fell on us and our patrols continued day after day, night after night. But the counterattack was over. Christmas Eve and Christmas Day came and went. But it was not Christmas.

We had run into the buzz bomb, the V-1, before as we came across France, but we had never seen it in such quantities as we did at Butgenbach. I know they always gave me the creeps; you know there is a human pilot guiding a plane and you don't mind it so much, but somehow the buzz bomb didn't seem real, but the effect was real enough.

I remember one night I lay in my hole and timed them: all night long they came over at the rate of one every 20 minutes. Sometimes they had a weird sort of orange flame; sometimes they made a whirring or chugging noise, then were silent, then started up again, and they would weave in an arc past you and you never knew where they were going to land.

Just before we left Butgenbach they started coming in low and dropping near our position. They weren't accurate but when they hit, they hit. The effect on morale wasn't too good. We would joke and say, open the window and let him through, but no one thought it was very funny.

AN ANCIENT TWO-HOLER

January 3, 1945

Bernard J. "Bernie" Haas
643rd Tank Destroyer Battalion
Company B
Fremond, Ohio

The evening of January 3, 1945, we mounted up in the half

tracks towing 3" towed guns and headed toward Haute Bodeux.

After riding for what seemed a long time, we came to a halt. Lt. George Gaylord and S/Sgt Stan Liss were going to reconnoiter and find the location where we would set up our guns. In the meager available light, we could see the debris of battle on both sides of the road. Closer inspection showed dead horses and men scattered among destroyed horse-drawn artillery. We concluded that we were seeing the remains of a heavy encounter that had taken place quite recently.

Sitting in these surroundings for what seemed an eternity, Gaylord and Liss returned to lead us to our positions. As we turned from a paved road into a lane we could see several Sherman tanks. On our first mission, Sgt Nate Gagnon's gun crew had been deployed on a road block with three of our own security men and four men of the 3rd Armored Infantry. On this mission, we would have tanks--we thought.

We proceeded along the line to an impressive building we would later learn was a chateau that had been taken from German forces the previous day by the members of the 82nd Airborne Division we were joining. We would not know until after daybreak that we were in the hip-pockets of their outer perimeter which had been set up around the chateau.

Shortly after we had set up our guns, some of our men went back to check on the Shermans we had passed. They were all knocked out. At least we had met 82nd Airborne men in the basement of the chateau so we weren't there all by ourselves.

After daybreak, Eli Caron, Lorenzo Boulanger and I decided to leave the basement and have a look at the knocked out tanks since all was quiet. We hadn't gone 10 yard from the basement door when a tree burst occurred overhead. Eli was hit in the hand by shrapnel and ran back into the basement. Lorenzo had been hit in the large muscle below and just behind his armpit and was knocked to the ground. He crawled a few yards to where a steel truck bed leaned against a tree. By locating his body between the truck bed and the trunk of the tree, he was able to put dense material between his vital organs and his surroundings. Between shell bursts, mostly tree bursts, we could communicate and decided to stay put until the barrage lifted.

I had seen a doorway just to my left so I entered it. Inside the doorway was a small room just large enough to accommodate an ancient two-holer which had been used so frequently that faeces was 6-8 inches above the seat. Fortunately, I went in standing up. This was to be my home during this barrage.

Shells continued to come for some time. I had been in the army just two weeks over two years and had heard about the "Malmedy Massacre" the previous week, but Judeo-Christian teachings began pouring through my mind telling me I didn't want to kill anyone. Thoughts of self-preservation were present too and I considered selecting as my target, if it became necessary, the man's legs. Then the thought occurred to me that if I was lucky enough to hit him in the legs he may still be able to operate his weapon. I then considered aiming at the man's shoulders. Hitting bony shoulders could give the man enough pain that he might not be able to use his weapon. Visions of training flashed through my mind where I aimed at the center of silhouette targets and missed them completely. This told me that the combination of me and my carbine could miss the man completely and I could be in serious trouble. My last decision was to aim at the largest target available and leave it up to the Lord as to where the man would be hit.

If this was a typical mortar or artillery attack, the barrage

would be followed by an infantry attack. An approaching enemy would expect anyone peering from a doorway to be peering from the right side of the doorway as seen from outside. Since I had learned to shoot left-handed before entering the army, I prepared to shoot left-handed which put me at the left side of the door as seen from the outside. Fortunately, no infantry approached my position while I was in the two-holer.

When the barrage started, I had seen one of our security men, PFC Aldo Londino, dive under his jeep. During the barrage, I could see Aldo furiously digging a fox hole under his jeep. Each round that came close increased his rate of digging. His efforts kept him from injury.

Eventually the barrage ceased. Lorenzo Boulanger and I went to the basement where medics dressed his wound. While we were in the basement, a second barrage began. I was standing in the doorway of a large room leading to a hall way. I fell landed on the ground outside a basement window and a cloud of mortar dust and fragments showered my right shoulder when a piece of shrapnel embedded itself in the door way. I wondered if I had been wise to return to the basement. My two-holer was safer as long as no shells exploded on the ground just outside the doorway.

During the lull between the first two barrages, people dressed as civilians had been seen outside a building across the road from the lane leading back to the chateau. These people went inside the building while the barrages were in progress. This behavior was observed between the second and third barrages. Some 82nd airborne men went back to investigate. We never saw the "civilians" again and no more barrages came in. Coincidence? Maybe. We never heard what the paratroopers found nor did we hear what action they took.

In addition to Boulanger and Caron being wounded, one of my good friends in another gun crew, John Julock, received wounds to his jaw and mouth. All three of these men returned to the 643rd before the war ended. Another friend in still another gun crew, Lonnie Lowrimore, was seriously wounded the same day and was sent back to the "States" to recuperate.

I saw my first dead Americans that afternoon. Apparently, they had been killed the previous day and had been piled near the lane to be picked up by graves registration.

Before we arrived at the chateau, men of the 82nd Airborne forces had found a sealed off room in the basement of the chateau and broken into it. You guessed it, the sealed off room was a wine cellar. Some of these paratroopers were already under the "alcofluence of incohol." By the end of the three barrages, seven of the men in our 10-man gun crew were drunk. Our gunner got sick on the wine. Our gun commander and I were the only ones available to operate our gun if it became necessary.

As the third barrage came to an end, our paratroopers attacked through the woods surrounding the chateau and drove the Germans beyond the woods. There had been 4 or 5 inches of snow on the ground when we arrived at the chateau. That night, 3 or 4 more inches of snow fell.

Next day, we moved beyond the woods and set up our gun in a field next to a road that ran beside the woods. Due to our experience with tree bursts near the chateau, we were reluctant to dig our fox holes very close to those woods. The snow had kept the ground from freezing to any extent so digging was fairly easy. However, water seeped into our fox holes as we slept. Clothing and blankets became soaked.

Many mounds in the shape of human beings could be seen in the field. Three men from our gun crew, still "under the influence," determined that those they uncovered were Germans. Between the road the woods near our gun position was a German soldier who had been killed when a .30 calibre bullet went through one side of his steel helmet, through his head, and out through the other side of his helmet.

The paratroopers had told us they heard us moving into position during the night, but had no idea that we were moving towed guns in around the chateau. Daylight permitted them to see the towed guns and they told us they knew they would have to "buy ground" to keep our equipment from falling to the Germans' hands.



"Buy ground" they did after the barrages ended. One "battle fatigue" victim came into the basement of the chateau that first afternoon completely incoherent. After a while he was able to tell what had happened to his platoon. He was the only survivor of what he said was "short falls" of friendly artillery or mortar fire. It is easy to see how this may have happened. The trees in the woods through which they were moving were growing on ground which ran from a low elevation to a higher elevation. If those lobbing shells over the heads of the paratroopers didn't take into consideration the height of the trees and the increasing elevation of the land, their shells would fall short of their intended targets.

Until I was wounded in Muntz, Germany, by one of our own .50 caliber anti-aircraft slugs that missed a German ME-262 jet on 2/27/45, this was the worst shelling to which I was exposed. Tree bursts were bad. What must it have been for the Germans who were hit by shells equipped with proximity fuses which exploded in mid-air as they neared the ground or any other object?

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A CHRISTMAS MEAL TO REMEMBER

December, 1944

Otto Brauer
282nd Engineer Combat Battalion
Company A
Venice, Florida

We were on the 3rd Army's drive north to Luxembourg.

We arrived at a small village south of Bastogne. My squad was dropped off with orders to charge the bridge over a small

river at the edge of the village. If, to hold the bridge, we had to lose it--blow it up.

We set in more explosives than it would take with four fuses, set up our 50 calibre machine gun. Due to the snow, well above our knees, we dug shallow holes and piled brush and snow to give some cover. For a 24 hour watch of four men on for four hour stretches.

Up the hill from the river was a small farm house, which we moved into. It was occupied by an elderly couple. We made them aware we would be staying in their house. We would not interfere, other than sleeping in the big room on the floor and they could remain in their room.



Our meals were "K" rations which we shared with them. To them, it was amazing how the food was packed and how it tasted.

December 23, 1944, we noted deer tracks down near the river. We talked about venison. Private Loyd O. Ebeling (Washington, Kansas) volunteered to go on the hunt. When he returned he was carrying a small deer. They are much smaller than our white tails.

As I could speak some German, we made the couple aware that we would give them the deer if they would clean and cook it for Christmas Day. We would all have Christmas dinner together. They were excited about this and agreed.

On Christmas Day, about midday, out came the husband with some wine. His wife came out with a large roasting pan with a whole brown deer less the head with onions and potatoes round it. Grace was said. We all sat down with the couple. The dinner was more than we expected. The guards were relieved by others so they too could enjoy this Christmas meal.

That was my squad's Christmas in 1944 in Luxembourg.

[I can't recall the name of the village nor can I name the two wonderful people whose house we shared.]

FOX HOLE BUDDIES DON'T LAST LONG

December, 1944

Jack H. Strother
26th Infantry Division
104th Infantry
Ormond Beach, Florida

Just a couple of reflections of incidents that keep flashing back after all these years, particularly in December.

I had lost a good friend, Sgt. Joe Lockhart, who stepped on a box mine back in France and lost a leg. I spent a day in a fox

hole in Alsace Lorraine pinned down by snipers with my fox hole buddy dead, shot in the head. I decided then that I couldn't make any more friends as fox hole buddies didn't last long.

We were relieved by the 87th Division and trucked to Metz on December 12th for a 30-day period of rest and replacements. I met a replacement sent from England, Pvt John Caffrey, who had spent Thanksgiving at home in the States. We became friends in the week we were in Metz. I had just turned 20 and was single. He was married with three kids.

On December 20th we were piled on trucks and rushed in a bumper to bumper convoy up to the frozen hell of the Bulge. We got out in a snow-covered assembly area in Luxembourg, just east of Arlon, Belgium.

At 0600 December 22nd, when Patton had said he would attack to relieve Bastogne, we moved out in a snow storm from Reichlange and were to walk until we met the Krauts. We hit them three hours later, outside Bettborn, tank and infantry units moving on the road from Grosbous. My buddy, Caffrey, was hit by a burp gun round in the upper thigh. It severed an artery, the medics couldn't evacuate him as it was a severe fire fight and he bled to death in the snow. It was his first and last day in combat.

On Christmas Day, we mounted an attack on Eschdorf, got within 500 yards but were held off by intense artillery fire. At 0330 the next morning we attacked a company of Kraut tanks with infantry support and by 0530 six German tanks were knocked out, the infantry support was mauled and we took the town. That was the day the Luftwaffe came out and we were hit by strafing fire and bombs from several enemy planes. So much for a merry Christmas!

We crossed the icy Sure River on December 27th and on December 28th we took Buderschied and the high ground outside Wiltz, our division objective. We were dug in on one group of hills and the Krauts on another--75 to 150 yards apart.

On January 1st, we started on a night attack to clear the hills of tanks and infantry. But our tanks couldn't get traction on the ice so the attack was called off. We were tired of the batteries of 88's, tanks and screaming meemies battering us day and night and had called for an artillery barrage before attacking the next morning. What I saw then I can't forget.

There were 3 smoldering Tiger tanks in the woods and 12 to 15 fox holes dug in an opening by the woods. In each fox hole was a dead Kraut, most had on caps or helmets and all of them had tanker goggles on. They were all sitting up or slumped over backwards in their fox holes. The artillery must have used time fuses for air and tree bursts as they really did the job. As we continued the attack, I kept looking back wondering if it was an ambush as I knew those eyes, hidden by the goggles, were following me. We fought in the Bulge for more than three weeks and were finally relieved by the 6th Cavalry Group at the end of January.

THE COST IS TERRIFIC

December, 1944-January, 1945

May B. Alm
104th Evacuation Hospital
Spokane, Washington

[Excerpt from a letter home.] The 104th Evacuation Hospital arrived in Luxembourg from Nancy, France on Christmas Eve.

1944. We set up immediately and went to work receiving casualties. Our hospital was set up in buildings occupied by older people and orphans. The elders were moved elsewhere but the orphans stayed on in a separate building. (I have since learned that the buildings are still in Luxembourg.)

On arrival we ate "C" rations by flashlight--GI's and nurses all together. Christmas Day was extremely busy--still "C" rations--had turkey later in the week.

New Year's Eve, 1944--There's a lot of war to be fought yet. Things appear more encouraging for us again, but the price is terrific. One only needs to see one casualty to realize that. Some of the experiences that the boys tell are almost unbelievable, like the one who came in suffering combat exhaustion (term used for war neuroses) having escaped from being a prisoner. His 15 or so buddies were not so fortunate. They were shot. He had his arms bandaged and when Lois (nurse) took off the bandages to inspect his wounds, there was a swastika branded on each arm.

We have taken up a collection of candy and stuff to give to the children in the nearby orphanage.

Saw some turkeys being cleaned at mess tonight, so guess we'll have a turkey dinner tomorrow--a welcome change.

January 6, 1945--the cases tonight are all bad. Had to know which to call for first.

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GERMANS WEARING GI UNIFORMS CAPTURED

December, 1944

Jean Lion

5th Belgian Battalion of Fusiliers

2nd Company

Nivelles, Belgium

A few days after the liberation of Belgium by the Allies in September, we enlisted and were called at the Caserne (Barracks) Tresignies in Cherleroi where we received a rapid but heavy training until December 12.

The next day early in the morning Belgian and American military trucks came in the barracks; we climbed on board and we took the direction of the Ardennes. The 2nd Company of our battalion arrived in the vicinity of Sprimont where there was an American Ordnance (tanks) unit to which we were immediately assigned. Our mission was to protect the installations and the vehicle depots in the area.

On December 16 we heard that the Germans had launched an attack in front of our sector. This would change the process of our life as new orders came and we started endless guard duties sometimes 12 hours in the forests, each man far away from his companions. One of the instructions was to fire three times if paratroops were observed.

One night a few tanks came and fetched us and we accompanied them, six men on each tank. They were tanks without turret and we were told they were tank destroyers. They took us to places called Awans and Harze and we stayed with them in the vicinity of a crossroad.

Two days later around 15 p.m., our lieutenant assigned six men including myself, plus Corporal Nouwens, to a guard duty at a crossroad near Stoumont in the direction of LaGleize and we were informed that Germans wearing American uniforms were moving in the sector on board jeeps. We were instructed to stop any jeep having more than two soldiers on board.

In the meantime, we had seen trucks coming back from the

front carrying many dead soldiers. At one time we saw a jeep approaching us from the direction of LaGleize. We gave the order to stop but it did not look as if this vehicle would obey. Corporal Nouwens sent a few shots with his machine-gun and the jeep stopped, flat tire and reserve jerri-can leaking. We then came near the jeep ready to fire again. There were four men in the jeep, three of them were officers, they all wore green cotton uniforms and this seemed bizarre to us as we were in winter and the temperature was low.

One of the officers started speaking in English but our corporal made him understand that we were Belgian soldiers not very familiar with this language. Then one of them, a little man with a brief-case, spoke to us in a perfect French, threatening us with court-martial for having arrested staff officers in mission he said. Then our corporal asked for the password but they did not have it he said because they were coming from another sector. Our corporal answered that for him the orders were orders. We then noticed that one of the four men was wounded in his leg.

There was an MP post 400 yards away from us and Corporal Nouwens sent one of us to inform the MP's. They arrived immediately and returned to the post with our capture. But we were feeling bad as perhaps the officer of the jeep had said the truth.... With this in mind, we carried on our guard and the next morning when going for breakfast to a school in Aywaille where we were stationed, as we crossed a bridge I saw and recognized the men we had arrested the previous day, especially the driver with his small round glasses. They all had their hands bound behind their back. I walked nearby and asked an MP what was going on with these men. He answered: Germans. A bit later I heard that they would be executed. We did not consider our action as an exploit but we received the congratulations from the American officer who was commanding us.

Participants were: Corporal Nouwens, PVTs Picron, Hontoir, Mlevez, Brognaux, Scaillet and me.

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NEVER SAFE FROM ARTILLERY

December, 1944-January, 1945

Carl E. Yadouga

89th Infantry Division

243rd Engineer Combat Battalion

Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania

The 243rd Engineer Combat Battalion came into the Bulge at the southern shoulder with the III Army Corps. Our baptism began at that time. The 243rd was then transferred to the VIII Army Corps, 3rd Army.

One time during the Bulge, "A" Company was assigned the job of bridging the Our River near Alfersteg, Belgium. We arrived at the bridge site at night with the understanding armor support was to be there with us.

The armor was delayed and we came under heavy artillery and mortar fire along with small arms. We had a hell of a time.

We finally bridged the river and when the infantry came up they were curious as to how long we were there, up in front of them. We were there long enough to complete our job so they could cross. It seemed like years.

I was always more afraid of artillery and mortar fire than small arms. With artillery fire it seems like no place is safe. You dig a hole, jump in, and pull the hole in after you.

Another time when one of our tanks strayed off the clear path through a mine field, a buddy of mine and myself got a couple of tankers out. We got a commendation for that and cleared more of the mine field. During times like that you do things to survive and when some guys are hurt you have to help them.

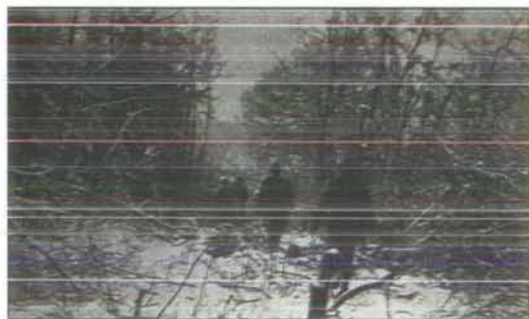
A DAY I WILL NEVER FORGET

December 19, 1944

James W. Gardner
106th Infantry Division
422 Infantry
2nd Battalion
Headquarters Company
Shelbyville, Indiana

One has several dates, or days, that are unforgettable, but almost in every case one day must stand out.

The night of December 18th, 1944, three days into the Battle of the Bulge, I was trying to get some rest. I was under a fir tree in the Ardennes forest on the Schnee Eifel Ridge in Germany. Fir trees offered good protection from the wind because their boughs come all the way down to the ground. The snow could not penetrate the boughs, so therefore it was a good place to get some rest. Rest was almost unheard of during the German break-through. We were surrounded by the Germans with no hope of help getting to us. We needed rest desperately because the next day we were going to try to break through the German encirclement.



On the morning of the 19th of December I awakened to the sound of artillery, or 88's from tanks. The shells were trimming the fir trees round us. I had to uncover myself from the fir tree boughs, or limbs. The Germans were zeroed in on us. I was lucky not to get hit by this first barrage of shells.

Our leader thought it would be better for us to cross an open area to the ridge on the other side. This open area reminded me of a stubble field after wheat had been cut. Of course, there was snow covering most of the weeds, or stubble. We went across the open area, a small group at a time. Each group was drawing fire. Many soldiers were hit. We could see black puffs of smoke when each shell would hit. It then came our time to go. We advanced in a diamond formation, well spread out. It was here that my thoughts wandered back home. Would I come out of this? Why should human beings have to fight each other? Aren't there other ways to solve our problems? Of course, the answer is, "No. Sometimes there does not seem to be any other way." Freedom is something special, so special that it must not be taken for granted. We must sacrifice once-in-awhile in order

to keep it. As we moved across the open area we were pinned down several times. The bullets were spat-splattering all around. I don't see how I got across without a scratch, but I did.

After reaching the ridge on the other side of the open field, we were instructed to dig in. We were back in the woods, or at the edge of the woods. This was a bad place to be because of the tree bursts (shells hitting the trees). When a shell hits in a tree the shrapnel will rain down, as well as up. One can be in a fox hole and still receive a hit from the shrapnel. The bursts were coming closer and closer. I dived along beside a log. I had my right side protected by the log, but my back and left side were open. I caught a tree burst. The tree was about 15 feet from me. The concussion was terrible. My helmet flew off; my gun left me; and when I got my senses back I had to look to see how badly I was hit. If you are not hit in a vital spot, you are numb; the pain comes later.

Before I could get organized again I was looking into the barrel of a German Luger. Our leader had sent someone with a white flag, and surrendered us to the Germans. Our cause was hopeless, he thought. My eyes met the German's eyes, and he looked about as scared as I imagine I looked. He motioned for me to get up. I did not know if I could get up. I knew I had been hit in the leg just above the ankle, and also in the left hand, and I was stinging on my posterior. I forced myself up and with a limp and a hop I started down the hill toward another experience when I will never forget--one that I would not take a million dollars for, but would not want to have again.

On the morning of the 21st of December I found myself in a building that was supposed to be a field hospital. I was placed on the floor to await my turn to see the German doctor, or medic. While waiting, I watched several Germans and Americans enter and leave and I could hear painful noises coming from the room where the German doctor was. Many of the Americans coming from the room looked worse than when they went in.

While all of this was going on I was becoming more and more tense. I wondered how I was going to fare. Soon it came my turn, or at least the German with the rifle motioned for me to get up. I did not obey him at first, but after he poked me with his rifle I got up and hopped into the room. Upon entering, I saw two Germans standing beside a table. They motioned for me to get on the table. I did get up on the table, but I sat up so I could see what they were going to do. I decided I would at least kick them with my good leg if they tried anything funny. The German with the instrument pushed me back down on my back. I, again, sat up and immediately got hit across the nose with the instrument. I decided that I was going to be the loser, so I just turned my head so I could see what was going to happen.

After several words spoken by the Germans, they proceeded to open my wounds with a sharp instrument. This allowed the wounds to bleed some more, which I suppose was about all they could do. Paper bandages were then applied; no medication was used. They then ordered me down from the table and out the door. I hopped back to my place in the outer room, very much relieved that I still had my leg, and waited for the next of many exciting experiences which were to come.

The first 16 issues of stories such as these are available. If you wish to receive them, send check for \$15 payable to: VROR, P.O. Box 11170, Arlington, VA 22210-2170

SECOND ARMORED SAVED AMERICAN ARMIES FROM BEING CUT IN TWO

[NICHOLAS DI PHILLIPO, 2ND ARMORED DIVISION, 67TH ARMORED REGIMENT, COMPANY F, sent us the following extract from a article by Hal Boyle, who was an Associated Press war correspondent.]

The Second Armored Division in Belgium--Jan. 4--(AP) "Old Gravel Voice" was happy again. His "Hell on Wheels" tank men are belting back the Germans--after their heroic action that saved American armies from being cut in two.

Little Ernie Harmon, who has killed and captured more Nazi troops than any other division commander, is spearheading the American drive across the enemy salient towards Bastogne with his hard-riding Second Armored Division.

His men have taken several hundred prisoners and have again liberated a half-dozen Belgian villages in weather that would irritate a polar bear.

They are back in combat after only three days of rest following one of the greatest battles of the war--a head-on smash that broke von Rundstedt's drive toward the Meuse River, kicked the Nazis back ten miles and practically destroyed one of the German army's prize Panzer divisions.

...halted the great Nazi drive only three miles from its river goal.

The lifting of censorship today permitted for the first time the telling of the full story of how the "Hell on Wheels" Division, after a spectacular 100-mile march to the battle scene, finally halted the great Nazi drive only three miles from its river goal.

It was an epic engagement, ranking with other achievements of this famous Division--the capture of Palermo, Sicily, the breakthrough at St. Lo, and the piercing of the Siegfried Line north of Aachen.

Here is the box score of the four-day battle:

Enemy losses--69 tanks, 33 artillery pieces taken intact, 211 armored cars and trucks, more than 1,200 dead and 1,213 lost as prisoners.

The Second Armored Division losses--4 Sherman tanks and (unreadable) casualties.

"And a good number of these were from respiratory diseases rather than battle wounds," said Captain Harry Volk, former Cleveland newspaper man.

Division Gets Emergency Mission

The Second Armored Division was sitting along the Roer River front in Germany when it was called on its emergency mission to assemble near Ciney, Belgium, to keep the enemy from reaching Dinant or Namur on the Meuse and then sweeping north to besiege Liege.

Lieutenant Colonel Joe A. Clema, Humboldt, Nebraska, organized the traffic control and sped the tanks along the 100-

mile difficult night march, losing only 17 vehicles from breakdowns and minor accidents.

The Division went into action on December 24 after its patrols ran into strong German forces at Celles, only 3 miles from Dinant.

The Division's two big Combat Commands went to work. A task force under Brigadier General John H. Collier, Dallas, Texas, raced into Ciney, knocked out all the enemy tanks there, and broke up a Nazi column of 125 vehicles going toward Celles. The "Hell on Wheels" tankers had arrived in the nick of time. Another few hours and the Germans would have reached Dinant in force--thus splitting the American armies in half.

A second task force under Brigadier General I. D. White, Des Moines, Iowa, swept through Ciney to Celles to polish off an enemy column just outside the town. The Nazis were by then trying to regroup and stab back but the trapped armor was virtually destroyed and 800 prisoners were flushed out of the woods.

When the battle ended four days later, the Nazis, after heavy fighting, had been thrown back ten miles and the German Panzer division which fought against the Second Armored was a division in name only.

"How many Second Armored Divisions does the American Army have?"

One captured German officer complained:

"How many Second Armored Divisions does the American Army have? We thought you people were pretty well bedded down in Germany."

German Counter-Drive Halted

Complimenting Harmon's tankers, a statement from an American headquarters said:

"The attack of the Second Armored Division may well be remembered as having one of the far-reaching effects of any action of World War II, for the masterful execution of this attack by the Second "Hell on Wheels" Armored Division not only stopped a German Panzer division long before it could reach Namur but annihilated a great deal of it and forced remnants to withdraw from Celles, Leignon, Buissonville and Humain, towards Rochefort, thus bringing to a halt the greatest sustained German counter-drive against Allied troops on the Continent since D-Day."

The meeting of the U.S. Second Armored Division and the German Panzer division was a fitting comparison of Allied and German armored might.

It was also a testimonial to the generalship of little Ernie Harmon, the most aggressive game-cock in the American tank force. And as a reward for his victory, his Corps Commander presented Harmon with--a free bottle of whiskey to toast his "Hell on Wheels" men.

They've got us surrounded again, the poor bastards.
GENERAL CREIGHTON W. ABRAMS

Veterans of The Battle of The Bulge, Inc.

14th ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

San Antonio, Texas

September 6, 1995

President Twiner opened the meeting at 9:30 with a few words of appreciation for being chosen as President of the organization. He requested Stan Wojtusik to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. John Bowen gave a prayer for the meeting.

When called for the minutes of the last meeting, Beverley Van Houten stated that no business was transacted, just announcements made, and the "Brave Rifles" was shown.

President Twiner reminded that the Book of Reports was in every place. He called the roll of officers. He asked all past presidents to stand and identify themselves. Darrell Kuhn, George Chekan, Bill Hemphill, and Bob Van Houten were present. Trustees Frances Doherty, Dean Fravel, John Bowen, and Tom Jones introduced themselves. Other chapter presidents not already introduced were Don Raliffe, Jim Burtner, Kent Stevens, David Nicholas, Lymond Li, and A. W. Adams.

He asked for a membership report from George Linthicum, who reported that there are over 800 new members this year. Since 1981, 13,600 have signed up. Active members number 10,150 and 2,053 are Life Members. He talked up the advantages of being a Life Member. He stated that chapters have been the greatest source of growth in membership. Also, the newest chapter, South Central Pennsylvania already has 93 members. The largest chapter is the Gateway Chapter, 460 members. He pointed out the application forms at the desk and suggested everyone carry one around for when they meet someone who hasn't heard about VBOB. He suggested that small units who are slowing down be brought into the organization as a chapter. We now have 46 chapters with more inquiries coming in.

Dorothy Davis told of the hours that the historical Foundation Room is open, Wednesday and Friday 12:30 - 3:00 at Ft. George G. Meade. She also asked for histories, papers, letters, and pictures to be deposited at Carlyle Historical Museum.

Treasurer Peter Leslie said that he had tried to follow in Bill Hemphill's conservative methods of handling VBOB's expenses, and that the recently deceased Arlo Sheldahl was of great help in planning future actions and reports. He commended the people involved in handling the Certificates and Nancy Monson's work. The Book of Reports states that the total income up to August 23rd was \$138,609.41, expenses \$105,751.90. Spendable income is \$41,057.04 and reserved income is \$98,430.75. The auditor is currently working on 1994 records. He urged the president to set up a committee to explore the future of and use of the reserve funds.

Ollie Chaplain had questions on the treasurer's report. He stated that the income for membership this year averages out to only some 4,000 members. He questioned the \$10,000 over salaries listed for administrative office expenses. He made a motion that the CPA's report be published and be complete and have a membership status report with it. In answer, Nancy stated that membership status, (deaths, resigned, etc) can be drawn from the computer. Also, that 4,000 dues reminders had been recently sent. Also, a huge amount of checks have not been posted and reported on this statement of finances. Nancy and Peter said anyone could write for a complete report on the finances. Bill Hemphill questioned the \$15,000 income from San Antonio registrations being included as income since the expenses were not listed.

Ralph Burns questioned how the cash reserve funds were going to be used. Grover said it was used to cover the expenses of the Life Members. Nancy said the CPA suggested the reserves be

used gradually for expenses when needed.

President Twiner stated that only one check had been written - for bus transportation - for the Annual Meeting. The hotel had still to be paid, probably with a small profit.

He mentioned the dissolution statement that had been drawn up and that he had appointed Darrell Kuhn, Bill Greenville, and Peter Leslie to consider this and make recommendations.

He asked Darrell Kuhn to present the nominating slate. For president, Stanley Wojtusik, Ex. Vice Pres., George Linthicum; V.P. Membership, Neil Thompson; V.P. Chapter Coordination, Grover Twiner; Military Affairs, Elturino Loiacono; Treasurer, Peter Leslie; Corresponding Secretary, Dorothy Davis; Recording Secretary, Beverley Van Houten. Three trustees for a three year term, Frederick Carmichael, Louis Cunningham, and Richard Schenkler. He moved that these nominees be accepted for 1995-1996. It was seconded and passed.

Bill Hemphill asked for the floor and stated that the nominations were not carried out in accordance to the Bylaws. No pictures were published and no ballot was printed. Also, that amendments coming up were not printed in the Bugle in accordance with the Bylaws.

Nancy reported that Turner's History of the Battle of the Bulge had been mailed and that they were still compiling the 50th Anniversary Commemoration book.

Robert Van Houten stated that if anyone had not received the Turner Book, they should call Turner direct. Grover later read out the phone number and address of Turner.

George Chekan asked the chapters to send him their newsletters because he often found good articles in them to pick up for the Bugle.

Beverley Van Houten suggested that a large vote of appreciation be given to George for his many years of hard work in producing a beautiful publication, The Bulge Bugle. It was done.

John Bowen reported on the status of ordered certificates and how many had been sold. (Sorry, can't quote figures, the recorder died on me.)

Stan Wojtusik thanked the membership for voting for him as president. He then read the Bylaws covering elections and proposed amendments (both enclosed). There was a motion from the floor to accept these amendments, seconded and carried.

A point of order was called from the floor. The speaker stated that the council was violating the Bylaws by not having published the amendments in the Bugle 30 days prior to the meeting.

There was a question from the floor, if people in the field could nominate anyone for an office. He was told he only had to send in his nomination along with a biography and picture. These would be considered by the nominating committee and, if accepted, would be published in the Bulge Bugle.

Another floor speaker stated that "At the Annual Meeting we usually had a 'House Counsel' available. In view of the statement that the amendments had not been given the 30 days notice, according to the Bylaws, I think that the amendments should not be implemented until you ascertain that they are legal." Stan stated that the timing of the publishing of the Bugle made it impossible to publish them. The speaker answered, "A Bylaw is a Bylaw. Either it exists or it doesn't."

More questions arose as to whether a counsel was available, members felt that the counsel should be present at the Annual Meeting. Peter Leslie answered that an attorney costs \$200 an hour. We would have to pay all of his expenses to get here and all of his expenses while here. If you want to pay someone approximately 200 members' dues, to answer three questions, I think we should accept the vote. Someone stated that surely within our group we could find an attorney.

(Continued on Page 26)

Don Ratliffe stated that if we have Bylaws, we should abide by them.

Beverley stated for the record, "We have had two attorneys working with us and we have never paid either of them a cent and they paid their own expenses to the Annual Meetings."

Stan then related the plans for next year's Annual Meeting in Hyannis, Massachusetts. He is still working on how to get the people from Boston to Hyannis. John DeWire offered several options for transportation to Hyannis. This will be resolved and information printed in the Bugle at the appropriate time.

John Bowen made a motion that the next Annual Meeting be held in Hyannis. Seconded and carried.

John DeWire offered several points of interest within reach of Hyannis and ways to get to them.

Hemphill requested that the Bylaws be published. Peter Leslie rose and stated that that action would cost \$5,000. Beverley Van Houten stated that the Bylaws were published in November 1991 and they were contained in only four pages of the Bugle.

President Twiner introduced Andy Ryder, who described the trip that they are arranging for next May 2-9. If you sign up soon, you can be placed on a time payment plan. The basic cost includes all breakfast and dinners and air fare.

Stan repeated the facts of flags and lights for their monument. He added that the chapter gave the Academy \$80,000 for scholarships for descendants of VBOBers and \$20,000 for the maintenance of the monument. He described the meaning of the angle cut in the top of the monument (for those who have not returned).

George Linthicum stated that there is a Book of Honor for all those who contributed that is on display at the monument. You or your unit can still contribute and can be put in the book. On going expenses will be to cover costs of the spotlights that will be installed (\$2,170) and \$300 a year electric bill.

President Twiner related how UPS had lost the plaque that was to be installed in San Antonio Veterans Plaza, but that another one has been created and has been installed for the dedication this afternoon. Col. Bastine from the Belgium Embassy will speak at the dedication. The band from the 5th Army will play.

He also repeated that all membership lists that are requested will arrive with a prohibition on the top page from using the list for any other purpose than chapter business.

John Bowen adjourned the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Beverley Van Houten
VBOB Recording Secretary



German Twin Engine Jet Propelled Fighter Plane was abandoned by Luftwaffe troops in hanger of German airfield captured by 3rd US Army.

"The Fantastic Forties"

by Marion Gibbons

(Reprinted from the February, 1995 issue of Reminisce magazine)

Remember the pompadour, and Dinah Shore.

And Lucky Strike's Green had gone to war?

We had Frankie Laine, Tarzan and Jane,

And Duke Ellington's Take The A Train;

Young Doctor Kildare, Ish Kabibble's hair

And the Little Theatre Off Times Square.

We sang Sleepy Lagoon and Elmer's Tune

And, oh, how Sinatra made us swoon!

Blues in the Night, Jimmy Doolittle's flight,

And those Quiz Kids always got answers right!

A Gershwin tune, graduation in June,

And Vaughn Monroe's Racing With The Moon.

We had Mutt and Jeff and the RAF

Jerry Colonna's yell could make you deaf!

There was Tom Mix and Dorothy Dix

And Mandrake the Magician with lots of tricks;

The Stage Door Canteen,

A Rube Goldberg machine,

And Little Orphan Annie loved Ovaltine.

There was Ernie Pyle, "I'd Walk A Mile"

And Eisenhower jackets became the style.

We had Sad Sack and Smilin' Jack

And "Citation" on the inside track.

There was Harry Von Zell and Joan Blondell

And the friendly undertaker Digger O'Dell.

Nylons were out, Sidney Greenstreet was stout

And MacArthur would return, without a doubt!

We had bobby socks and the "Desert Fox"

And Joe Palooka just loved to box!

DiMaggio scores! "When It Rains, It Pours"

And Orson Welles was "Obediently Yours."

We knew Fibber McGee and Gypsy Rose Lee

And Don't Sit Under The Apple Tree.

In The Mood; did you wear a snood?

Ma and Pa Kettle had quite a brood!

We had Martha Raye and Alice Faye

And "Swing and Sway with Sammy Kaye."

You'd see zoot suits and Army salutes.

Carmen Miranda with a headful of fruits;

Emperor Ming and that crooner named Bing,

Solving messages with a decoder ring.

Saturday matinees, our carefree ways...

We'll remember these for the rest of our days!

Submitted by George Linthicum, 26th Inf. Div.

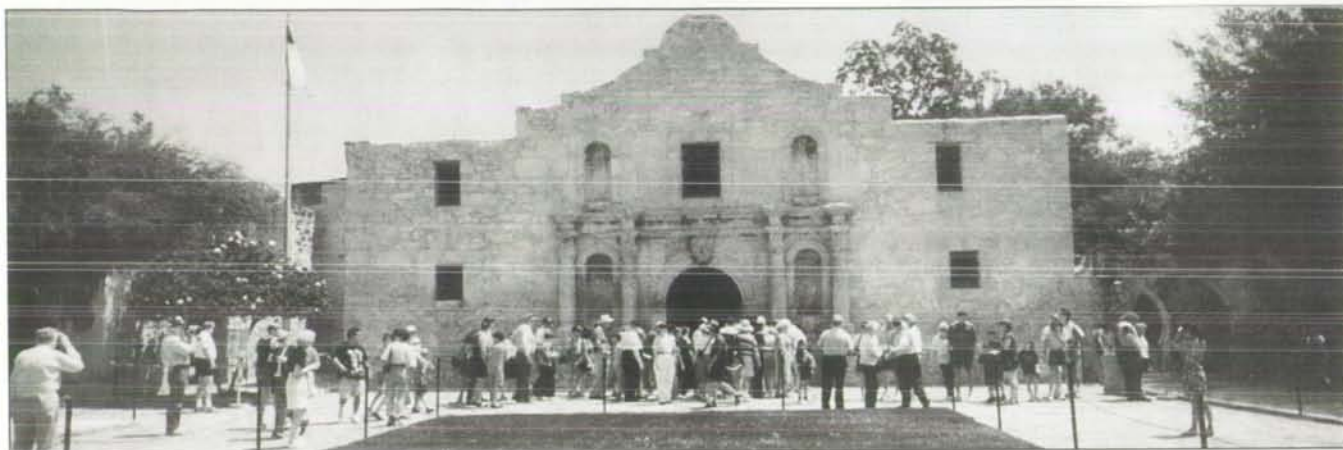
REUNIONS

26TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 101ST ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, COMPANY C, plans for 1966. Contact: Tom Kirk, 13201 Sandston Court, Laurel, Maryland 20708-1821. Telephone 301-776-5227.

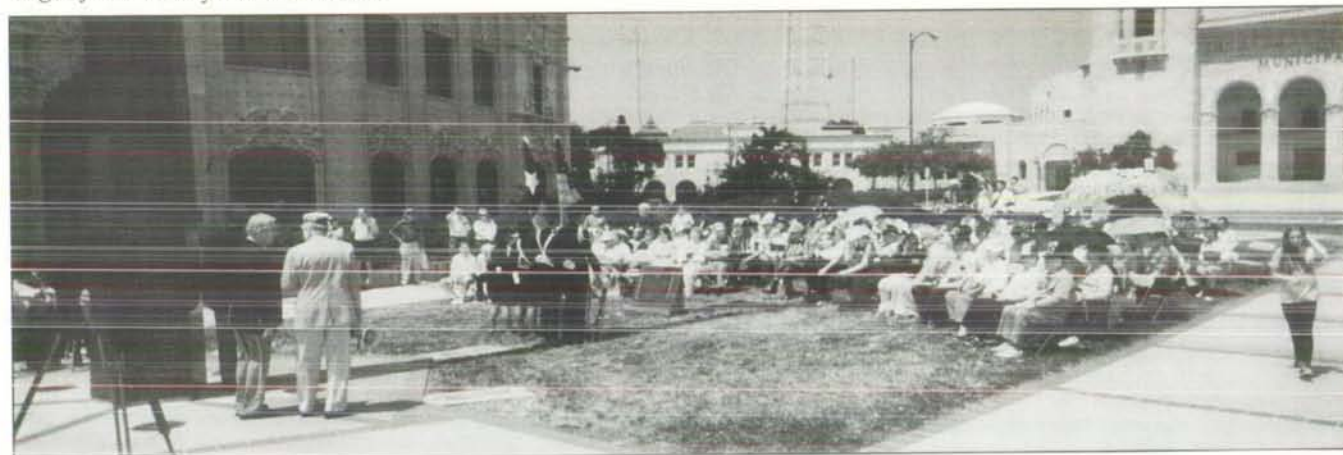
44TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 71ST REGIMENT, February 29-March 3, 1996, Tampa Airport Hilton Hotel, Tampa, Florida. Contact: Edward J. Smagala, 5400 South Merrimac Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60638. Telephone: 312-284-7860.

86TH CHEMICAL MORTAR BATTALION, April 17-21, 1996, Lafayette, Louisiana. Contact: John B. Deasey, 1830-30th Avenue, San Francisco, California 94122. Telephone: 415-566-2177.

VBOB San Antonio Reunion



Reminiscent of the Mexican swarming of the Alamo, members of VBOB who attended the San Antonio Reunion in September, 1995, eagerly await entry into the Shrine.



VBOB President Grover Twiner and members of VBOB watch the color guard retire the colors at the plaque dedication ceremonies in San Antonio. The plaque was dedicated in Veterans Plaza in honor of all who served in the Battle of the Bulge.

Malempre Remembered *(Continued from Page 15)*

other combat actions in the Malempre-Manhay area by Combat Command B.

Combat Command B closed into its assembly area at 0530 hours on the 25th of December. It had been in continuous combat with the enemy from 0700 hours on the 17th of December until 1430 hours on the 24th of December.

There were trying times and casualties for the civilians. The 1st SS Panzer Division killed more than 100 Belgians in the Stavelot area. The village of Bande had 32 Belgian youths killed by German soldiers. The 2nd SS "Das Reich" Panzer Division threatened civilians in the Manhay area. The citizens of Malempre-Manhay suffered injuries and deaths. It was estimated that 3,000 German shells fell on this area.

American shelling and bombing also killed civilians, in some cases where there were no German troops. With no enemy in Malmedy, bombing killed 125 villagers and 37 American soldiers. American bombs killed 250 civilians in St. Vith. This is according to Danny Parker in his book "Battle of the Bulge - Hitler's Ardennes Offensive, 1944-45."

Yes, those were trying times...for American soldiers and for Belgians.

On June 10, 1989, the citizens of Malempre, Belgium dedicated a memorial to the American soldiers who defended and later liberated the town during the Battle of the Bulge (Ardennes). One plaque was dedicated to the Americans and the second to the civilian heroes of the village.

The benediction by Father Choque at that 1989 ceremony recalled the sacrifices: "Belgians and Americans, fighting together, died together, and, from the earth fertilized by their blood, peace had sprung. You are here today because gratitude is a fundamental virtue among honorable men."

Many of you who are here today are those honorable people for whom gratitude is a fundamental virtue. Those of us who fought are grateful for having lived through that combat and for the privilege of being here today. We join all of you in gratitude to those American soldiers and Belgian civilians that gave their lives for this victory over an enemy who would have destroyed us. We are mindful of the 50 years of peace you have enjoyed and pray that it last forever.

The following address was given by
VBOB President Grover Twiner
at the 14th VBOB Annual Convention
San Antonio, Texas, September 3, 1995.

Greetings to All and Welcome...

Ladies and gentlemen, we are gathered in historical San Antonio, Texas, to commemorate not only the hard won Battle of the Ardennes (the Bulge) in January, 1945, which is our principal focus, but also the victory in Europe and later victory over Japan.

I am sure all here know the historical significance of San Antonio: The battle of the "Alamo," where in the early days of our country a legendary band of Patriots fought to the last man for their liberty and freedom. This battle, which occurred from February 23 thru March 6, 1836, was a battle for Texas independence. Colonels William B. Travis, James Bowie and Davy Crockett with 180 men held off a 13 day siege by 4,000 Mexican troops led by Antonio Lopez. When the walls were breached by the attackers, they overpowered and slaughtered the garrison. Five survivors were killed in cold blood on the orders of Santa Anna. Santa Anna was captured on April 21, 1836, by troops led by Sam Houston. "Remember the Alamo" became a battle cry at the time. There have been many other incidents in U.S. history exemplarized by Patriots of the time. There were also many parallels during the Battle of the Bulge.

There may be some among us here today who may be able to trace your lineage to those who served and died at the "Alamo."

So as it was then, so it was during 1944-45 during the Battle of the Bulge—men and women from all walks of life, were assembled by their commanders to meet and defeat a determined enemy. In so doing, they suffered set backs: not only by the opposing military but by the weather which seemingly favored the German side.

There was the massacre of Malmedy of Belgium. Then, as before, the word went forth making the American soldier more determined to win, and win they did. Bravery, tenacity, valor and plain "guts" were common in overcoming the adversities, as well as the adversary.

For those who are here and who have not gone on to their great reward, **I Salute You! To the fallen, Rest in Peace.**

The war in Europe did not end when the Battle of the Bulge was over, we continued on until we reached our final line. A line agreed upon by commanders and Allied political leaders.

Unfortunately, many of those who survived the Bulge did not live to see the victorious end in Europe. Again, to those I say **Rest in Peace.**

Following a short period of celebrating and jubilation, many of us packed our gear and headed for the rest of the war in the Pacific. Some headed directly to the Pacific and others would return to the States for R & R and then on to the Far East.

However, thanks to two instruments of war, named "Little Boy" and "Fat Boy," which were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August, 1945, plans were changed for the lives of millions of us. The war was over. Had not these two bombs been dropped, there would be a lot fewer of us here today.

A special thanks should be expressed to all those people who worked so hard on the home front: the rationing our loved ones endured, the provision and manufacture of food, clothing, equipment, rifles, artillery, tanks, planes, ships and a myriad of other materials necessary for the successful completion of this huge effort. Our families worked at war plants and factories in shifts (mothers staying home in the day and working at nights and fathers working during the day and watching the younger children

at night) to ensure that we had the supplies for the job we were charged with.

Last, but far from least, we should give a special salute to our Allies, especially the people of Belgium and Luxembourg.

There are today, those among the academic elite, who do not think or believe, after 50 years, things were not as we knew them to be. I'm bothered by the fact that many of those who would make changes to history, were not even born - or were very young children at that time (1944-45). I ask the question, "Is there an insidious effort by academia to subvert or have subverted the minds of our children over the past 40-50 years"? Compare the facts of our time with what is being promoted by some now.

I believe we should be concerned enough about this issue to take steps to ensure that those who would change history are unable to do so. We, as veterans of this horrible war, are the ones with the knowledge of the events. Let's go to the schools and tell the children our experiences—they will remember. You can write to our office for an "education kit" which may be helpful to you in preparing for this. It's our responsibility to fight again and we must do so. We can't wait for others to do it. We have the first hand knowledge.

Now, let's celebrate the end of this terrible time in history and be grateful for our country and the peace we helped to bring to this bountiful land.

Combat Look... ~~~~~

A soldier who has been a long time in the line does have a 'look' in his eyes that anyone who knows about it can discern. It's a look of dullness, eyes that look without seeing, eyes that see without conveying any image to the mind... (A look of exhaustion, lack of sleep, tension for too long, wariness that is too great, fear beyond fear, misery to the point of numbness, a look of surpassing indifference to anything anyone can do. It's a look I dread to see on men." **Ernie Pyle**

UP FRONT

BILL MAULDIN



"Beautiful view. Is there one for the enlisted men?"

9TH ARMORED DIVISION

[IVAN S. IRWIN, 9TH ARMORED DIVISION, 131ST ORDNANCE BATTALION, COMPANY A, sent in the following release in response to complaints that the 9th Armored was seldom mentioned in this newsletter.]

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
(Public Relations Division)
January 4, 1945

With the 9th Armored Division: The 9th Armored Division, recently removed from the secret list, had a flaming introduction into battle. It crashed head-on into the armor of the current Rundstedt offensive and emerged with the admiration of even the enemy himself.

The Germans, finding combat teams of the 9th Armored fighting on such widely separated sectors of the front, gave the American Division a name. German prisoners spoke of the 9th as the "Phantom Division." It was everywhere, they said, and they never could tell where its blows would be felt.

Utilizing its immense firepower to the utmost, even sending rear echelon men into forward positions, the 9th gave an admirable account of itself. In the vital sectors of the front, Bastogne, St. Vith, Echternach, there were 9th Armored combat teams fighting.

At one time in the battle two bulges in the German line stood out on the maps. They were at Echternach and St. Vith. In each of these bulges there were 9th Armored men, beating off violent German charges and even counterattacking. When the 9th's tanks were unable to get at the enemy armor, foot troops repulsed German tanks with bazookas.

The 9th is commanded by Major General John W. Leonard, who won the Distinguished Service Cross in the last war as the

commander of the infantry battalion. He was wounded at Verdun and received the Purple Heart and two French decorations.

One combat team of the 9th fought a battle just east of Bastogne, that made the successful defense of that position possible. Tanks, artillery and infantrymen of this combat command stood and slugged it out against all the assault power the Wehrmacht could offer. Meanwhile American airborne forces and other armored units were gathering behind the 9th's combat command to defend the city itself.

After blunting the enemy spearhead and checking the headlong German onrush westward, the 9th's combat command fell slowly back into Bastogne itself and continued to help defend the city. There were heroes of all ranks and positions in this combat team.

A second 9th Armored Combat command, after a speedy march from the north, struck the Germans below St. Vith soon after they began their offensive. They smashed the Nazis back only to find that its flanks were exposed. It then became necessary to fight a holding and delaying action.

The effect of this determined stand below St. Vith split the wedge the Germans had driven into Belgium and sapped the force of their efforts to wheel northward and capture vital Belgian cities.

Still a third combat command, operating on the southern flank, had a major part in confining the German steamroller to the northern areas of Luxembourg. This combat team defended the area around Echternach. The armored infantry battalion in this line-up frequently found itself fighting behind the German lines. It was a confused [word unclear] throughout.

In the battles of St. Vith, Bastogne and Echternach, the 9th Armored Division wiped out large numbers of hardened German troops. It captured hundreds of prisoners and destroyed many German tanks.



Sad Sack: "Double Trouble #1"

WWII Commemorative Stamps

For members that have been collecting the WWII Remembered stamps and souvenir books since 1991 and wish to acquire the last and final of the series, the easiest and best way is to place an order with the Postal Service by calling: 1-800-STAMP 24, 24 hours a day. They accept VISA, MASTER and DISCOVER credit cards. There is a minimum shipping and handling charge of \$3.20. The book design includes spaces for affixing the enclosed two sheets of WWII stamps and maps (\$6.40 face value) and custom mounts.

William Tayman
Stamp Rep.



***YOU Are Invited
To Join the VBOB
Delaware Valley Chapter
as they
RETURN TO
THE BULGE!***

Everyone knows of the dedication and commitment of our Delaware Valley Chapter to accomplishing "the impossible," seen in their extraordinary achievement in the magnificent V.B.O.B. Memorial at the Valley Forge Military Academy in Wayne, Pennsylvania, honoring Belgium, Luxembourg and the United States.

Now the Delaware Valley Chapter is committed to another venture - a *Return to the Bulge*. 50th Anniversaries are past. Yet - with all of the festivities honoring our Bulge service, one thing became very clear: many of the "special places" which are so important to each of us were sometimes missed because of the pressure of time and circumstances.

The Delaware Valley Chapter is committed to do something about it! JOIN THEM in this epic return visit to the "Battle of the Bulge" sites when a more leisurely, yet memorable, routing will allow stops at *your special places* for a more personal look at some of the sites where YOU served.

Memories need to be nourished every once in a while. This is "your chance" to do it. Bring your family and friends with you and share these moments of nostalgia. And, just imagine, you will enjoy the unique pleasure of reminiscing with VBOB buddies, too, who understand the significance of your role in this "the greatest American battle of all time."

There will be extra fun for everyone, too, as you stop in Amsterdam to see the beautiful "Venice of the North" with 400-miles of canals and ever-fascinating windmills. You will marvel, too, at the magnificent scenery on Germany's Rhine River as you cruise past mountains of vineyards topped by spectacular medieval castles. **Make your decision NOW to be with us!** Reservations received before December 31, 1995 qualify for reduced tour prices AND complimentary insurance protection! And, equally important, is the cost! By "pooling your group purchasing power," we are able to offer an inclusive price of just \$1,897 per person, which - in today's world (with the decline of the U.S. dollar) - is considered "unbelievably low!"

Call Galaxy Tours today (toll-free at 1-800-523-7287) for a detailed brochure! You don't want to miss this opportunity for *individualized group travel* at its best!



Call: 1-800-523-7287

Skeleton Itinerary

- May 2 - USA/Aloft.
- May 3 - Amsterdam.
- May 4 - Amsterdam/Arlon.
- May 5, 6 & 7 - Arlon - *The Bulge*.
- May 8 - Arlon/Frankfurt
- May 9 - Frankfurt/USA.



Dixon Poole, National Quartermaster
Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge

☆ Official VBOB Items For Sale ☆



Name Tags
\$9.50 ea.



License Plates
\$21.50 ea.

1. Official VBOB Patch
 - 3" \$4.50 ea.
 - 3" w/clutch \$6.00 ea.
 - 4 3/4" \$6.00 ea.
 - 4 3/4" w/clutch \$8.00 ea.
2. Decals - VBOB Logo
 - 4" \$1.25 ea.
 - 4" windshield \$1.25 ea.
 - 1 1/8" sticker 8/\$1.00
3. 8" x 10" VBOB Color Logo for framing \$4.50 ea.
4. Hats: Baseball style - one size fits
 - all w/VBOB patch \$10.00 ea.
 - Scrambled eggs, gold or silver add \$3.00 per cap
5. VBOB Lapel Pin/Tie Tac w/clutch \$4.25 ea.
6. VBOB Neck Medallion w/30" ribbon \$25.00 ea.
7. Coming July 1 - Official VBOB Mini Medal \$8.50 ea.
Special: Buy VBOB Neck Medallion and Mini Medal together as set and pay \$30.00 pr.
8. VBOB T-Shirts: M, L, SX, XXL \$13.00 ea.
9. VBOB Belt Buckle: Gold only \$14.50 ea.
10. VBOB Bola Tie: Gold only \$14.50 ea.
11. Regulation Full Size Medals to replace those lost or not issued (call for quote) \$20.00 & up
12. Regulation Miniature Medals mounted & ready to wear. No charge for mounting \$8.50 & up
13. Regulation campaign and service ribbons w/campaign stars & oak leaf clusters: Mounted and ready to wear \$1.25 & up
14. Tapes (VHS) "The Damned Engineers" \$24.50 ea.
15. Regulation Division patches \$4.50 ea.
We have all patches!
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17. Windbreaker w/official VBOB 4" patch \$28.50
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18. VBOB Golf shirt w/logo, 100% cotton S, M, L, XI - XXL add \$3.00 \$22.50
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20. Battle of the Bulge Commemorative Medal Set **Reduced to** \$26.00
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NOVEMBER, 1995

DID YOU KNOW THAT SERVICES ARE HELD EVERY YEAR AT ARLINGTON CEMETERY IN HONOR OF OUR FALLEN COMRADES IN THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE? Details in this issue. Make plans now to attend this December 16th event.



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All new members, please provide the following information:

Campaigns _____
Units(s) to which assigned during period December 16, 1944-January 25, 1945 - Division _____
Regiment _____ Battalion _____
Company _____ Other: _____

Make check or money order payable to VBOB
and mail with this application to above address.

Applicants Signature _____

RECRUITER (Optional)