

The BULGE BUGLE

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

VOLUME X NUMBER 3

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

AUGUST 1991

WHAT IF WE L ST THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE?

In This Issue

Nazis not smart enough in 1944 to repeat three earlier successes in Ardennes versus Allies. The Nazis beat France into oblivion in 1940 - Why couldn't they do it versus Allies in 1944?

Story p. 22.

Where are the veterans of the Battle of Bulge headed?

See editorial p. 27.

World history would have changed radically if the Germans had won the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944.

If the Germans, after breaking through, as they did several times in past wars, could have reached the coast again, as at Dunkirk, in 1940, and knocked the British as well as the French et al out of the war, Hitler thought he could hornswoggle the Americans into fighting the

(Continued on page 3)

VBOB REUNION • SEPT. 5-7, 1991 • CHARLESTON, SC

**VETERANS OF THE
BATTLE OF THE BULGE, INC.**

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THE BULGE BUGLE is the official publication of Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. It is issued four times yearly.

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*"This is undoubtedly the greatest American battle
of the war and will, I believe, be regarded
as an ever-famous American victory."*

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL

Addressing the House of Commons following
the Battle of the Bulge



FROM THE PRESIDENT

An expression I have adopted, which I think is appropriate for the VBOB members is as follows, "Together we can, together we will". This brings back memories of some 47 years ago; "Together we did".

Summer is upon us, that means fall is not far behind, and our reunion is quickly approaching on Sept. 5-6-7 in Charleston, S.C. at the Sheraton Airport Inn located in north Charleston at I-26 and East Aviation Avenue. By the time you receive this Bulge Bugle we hope you have your bags out and ready to pack. If not, it's time to make your move. We wouldn't want you to let it slip by because you forgot. I will make my number one priority to meet and speak with each member present, or as many as possible during the reunion.

We are open for proposals from any member or chapter to propose a reunion site for 1992 or 1993. If anyone has a site to propose, please bring as much of the information with you as possible to the reunion, or send by mail to the VBOB address, so we may be able to take action. The more sites proposed, the better, because we should have our sites two years in advance at all times.

Joseph Zimmer and I had the honor of placing a VBOB wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery on Memorial Day, May 27, 1991.

There appears to be some confusion among some of our members as to who is eligible to join a VBOB Chapter, and if they should pay dues to both the Chapter and to the National VBOB. The answer is anyone who is eligible and wishes to join the National VBOB may do so first, and pay dues. They are then eligible to join a local Chapter in the area they so choose, if they so desire. Each Chapter also has dues to cover any operating expenses the same as any other organization.

In closing, I leave these words with you.

I said a prayer for you today and know God must have heard.
I felt the answer in my heart although He spoke no word,
I didn't ask for wealth or fame (I know you wouldn't mind)
I asked Him to send treasures of a far more lasting kind.
I asked that He'd be near you at the start of each day,
to grant you health and blessings and friends to share your way.
I asked for happiness for you in all things great and small
But it was His loving care I prayed for most of all.

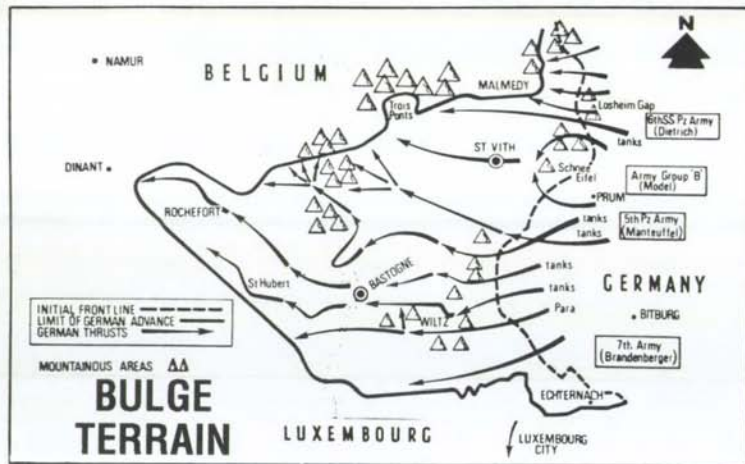
Darrell

Darrell Kuhn

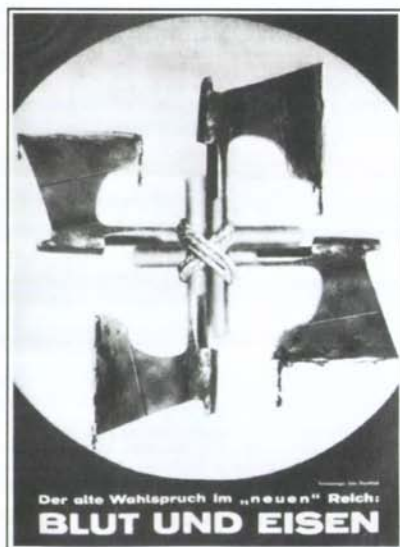
U.S. Could Have Lost First Atomic War

Russians with him at their side. After the communist threat was pulverized, the Americans could continue their domination of the Pacific, having beaten the Japanese; and the Germans would be top dog in Europe.

However, with Hitler (as with Saddam Hussein) having a chronic case of double cross, the Germans would eventually feel the U.S. too much of a threat and declare war on the U.S. By this time, though, the Germans would have finished their development of the atomic bomb, too, and they would also have the vast resources of all of Europe and Russia, and the Americans would be hard-put to match all that industrial might and talent. (For instance, in late 1944, the Germans had the first jet fighters. VBOB Founder and first President Clyde Boden's unit shot down seven during the Bulge.)



Don't count your chickens... Allied chicken gives Hitler the bird at Bulge.



Bulge loss gives Hitler the Axes.

It could have been that the United States would have lost the first Atomic War, against Germany....

Why did Hitler pick the Western Front--the Ardennes, especially--to make this grand effort?

Politically, if Hitler hoped to lead from strength and to parlay a military victory into a diplomatic coup, the monolithic USSR was a less susceptible object than the coalition of powers in the west. Whereas Nazi propagandists pointed daggers of hatred at the Soviet, the tone toward England and the United States more often was that of contempt and derision for the "decadent democracies." Hitler believed that the Allies might be broken up if one of them was hit hard enough. After all, isn't that what happened in 1940 when Rommel led the way to knocking France out of the war? The inability of the western leaders to hold their people together in the face of defeat was an often expressed and cardinal axiom of the German Fuhrer.

Hitler believed the Allies might be broken up if one of them was hit hard enough



Also, as early as 1939, Hitler had gone on record as to the absolute necessity of protecting the Ruhr industrial area, the heart of the entire war-making machine. In November 1943 on the heels of Eastern Front reverses and before the Western allies had set foot in strength across the Channel, Hitler repeated his fear for the Ruhr, (Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3 What If We Lost The Battle Of The Bulge)

"...but now while the danger in the east remained, it was outweighed by the threat from the west where enemy success would strike immediately at the heart of the German war economy...."

Even after the disastrous impact of the 1944 Soviet summer offensive, he clung to the belief that the Ruhr factories were more important to Germany than the loss of territory in the east. He seems to have felt that the war production in Silesia was far out of Russian reach. In any case, Silesia produced less than the Ruhr.

Then, too, in the summer and early autumn of 1944 the Allied air attacks against the Ruhr had failed to deliver any succession of knockout blows.

The Allied breakout from Normandy was a more pressing danger to the Third Reich than the Soviet advance in the east. Intuitively, Hitler followed von Schlieffen, the Kaiser's strategist/tactician in World War I, in viewing the enemy on the Rhine as more dangerous than an enemy in East Prussia. Hitler saw that his West Wall, the Siegfried Line, as the best available springboard for a counter offensive to halt the rapid Allied march to the east to the Ruhr.

Hitler wanted to take his initiative at the beginning of November when the Allied air forces would be unable to fly.

Hitler's major reasons for striking through the Ardennes were:

The enemy front in the Ardennes sector was very thinly manned.

A blow here would strike the seam between the British and Americans and lead to political as well as military disharmony between the Allies. Further, an entrance along this seam would isolate the British 21st Army Group and allow the encirclement and destruction of the British and Canadians before the American leadership (particularly the political leadership) could react.

The distance from the jump-off line to a solid strategic objective (Antwerp) was not too great and could be covered quickly, even in bad weather.

The configuration of the Ardennes area limited maneuver and so needed only a relatively few divisions.

The terrain the east of the breakthrough sector was very heavily wooded and offered cover against Allied air observation and attack during the assault buildup.

An attack to regain the initiative here would erase the enemy ground threat to the Ruhr.

There was more than a casual connection between the 1940 and 1944 campaigns in the Ardennes. Hitler spoke of "another Dunkirk." Hitler turned more and more to the 1940 operational proposals for the 1944 counteroffensive. The 1940 lightning campaign through the Netherlands, Belgium and France had been the first great victory won by Hitler's intuition and the Fuehrerprinzip over the German general staff established a trend which had led almost inevitable to the virtual dictatorship in military command exercised by the Fuehrer in 1944. Also, the contempt for Allied generalship which Hitler continually expressed can be regarded as more than bombast. He believed the Allies learned nothing from the 1940 experience; that the

conservative military tradition which had deemed the Ardennes impossible for armor was still in the saddle, and that what German arms had accomplished in 1940 might happen again. Two 1940 factors existed in 1944: A very thin Allied line and the need for protecting the Ruhr.

Hitler also felt reinforced by history, a history the Allies evidently never heard about, even though they were always the victims.

The Germans, through four wars, used the Ardennes to beat their enemies. Not once did their enemies say the Germans could do it. However, the last time, beginning 16 December 1944, the enemy--the Americans, British, French, Belgians and Luxembourgers--beat the Germans at their own game. So the score wound up being: Germans 3, Enemy 1. But the Germans lost the last one, and that's the one that counted. German use of the Ardennes was cut short--hopefully, forever. If you listen on a quiet day in the Ardennes, "you can still hear the fat lady sing," tourists say.

In spite of the unsuitability of the Ardennes terrain for the rapid movement of troops, the area was the scene of several important battles: the campaign of 1794 in the French Revolutionary Wars; the Franco-German War, with the surrender of Napoleon III at Sedan in 1870; the battle of the Ardennes in World War I and the bitter fighting between the Germans and Americans in the Argonne in 1918 (this was the first area in which large American forces were committed); and in World War II, the German breakthrough near Sedan in May 1940 (in which [later] Field Marshal Erwin Rommel played a key role), which marked the battle of France, with the Germans victorious at Dunkirk, on the English Channel; and last, the short-lived penetration in the Ardennes by the Germans (their last offensive action) in December 1944.

If, on this last try, Hitler's hordes had been fully successful, you would not be reading this publication. If all had gone exceedingly well for the Nazis, they would have sliced the Allied force in two, rolled up either side, as they did in 1940, with Marshal Rommel leading the way. Then, after the Second (losing) Battle of France and Belgium et al, the Germans could have invaded England and trounced the British. No one thought beyond that, so we do not have any intimation of what they would do with the United States. However, in discussions with the Japanese Ambassador to Germany, it was pointed out that the Americans really had no interest in the European war; why should they fight a country--Germany--which was fighting an enemy of the American people--Russia?

On the other hand, America had to fight the Japanese; the Japanese had, without warning, attacked Pearl Harbor.... So, America's problem was in the Pacific and not Europe. Thus, the Germans could work out some sort of deal with the Americans and then both Germany and America could fight the Godless Russian communists.

This is how the Germans figured they could win the political and military battle of the Bulge-Ardennes--to make all this prognostication come true:

For all the immense losses in battle, Germany had close to ten million men in uniform, including seven and

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

a half million in the army and another ground combat force, a kind of Praetorian Guard of the Nazi Party, the *Waffen-Schutzstaffel*, or SS. There were still others who could be committed to fight: heretofore deferred students, men with less than crippling physical defects, nonessential government workers, convalescents from the hospitals, sailors and airmen turned into foot soldiers, new classes made available for the draft simply by extending the age limit at both ends of the induction spectrum (from age 16 to 60).

Nor was there any concern, as there had been in 1918, about collapse of the home front. The police state had eliminated the internal Red threat so that not once during the war years had the ugly noise of street demonstrations reached Hitler's ears. So ruthlessly had he dealt with the cabal of army officers who tried to kill him--for those most deeply involved, death by hanging on meat hooks, with motion picture cameras recording the agony--that the chance of any kind of opposition was remote. So, too, the air raids and the demand of his enemies for unconditional surrender had cemented the will of the German people.

However damaging the thousand-plane raids, they had failed to prevent German industry from maintaining a remarkable high rate of production. Not until the late fall of 1944 was German production to reach a wartime *peak*. Smaller industries had been spread to the countryside or moved east, where the Russians had few big bombers. A new decree would put workers on a sixty-hour week; impressed foreign workers would be driven even harder, and production of civilian goods would be drastically cut.

By those methods German industry in the fall of 1944 was to produce a record million and a quarter tons of ammunition, three-quarters of a million rifles, a hundred thousand machine guns, and nine thousand artillery pieces. There was also record production of self-propelled assault guns from factories previously moved beyond the range of Allied bombers to Czechoslovakia. Hitler also put great store in a new weapon of which some models were already appearing: jet-propelled fighter aircraft three times faster than anything flown by Allied pilots. Once the new jets got into action in substantial numbers, Hitler said, they would sweep Allied planes from German skies.

His technicians were working on improving buzz bombs, and the Germans were inexorably moving in on the secret of the atomic bomb.

All Hitler needed was time.

The Ardennes, if true to the past, would give it to him, and with time, ultimate victory.

But a lot of guys name Joe, GI Joe, had other agendas going. When their units were smashed in the initial German assaults, the Joes, individually, still full of fight, joined up with other Americans in units they did not know and rocked Hitler's grandiose plans into the muddy Ardennes--never to rise again.

When the American commanders in Operation Desert Storm said that their most important assets were their troops, they were showing lessons learned from the veterans of the Battle of the Bulge.

COMBAT UNITS WERE SMALL PART OF BATTLE OF BULGE FORCES

No soldier's patch is worn with greater pride than that displayed on the shoulder of a man who has belonged to a combat division.

In World War II, and most especially in the Battle of the Bulge, as in every previous war, the major share of our fighting has been borne by our ground troops, particularly those of the Infantry. Most of our Infantrymen belong to divisions which are our Army's principal combat teams, composed of soldiers who are trained and expected to do one primary job--fight. In a huge army made up of seemingly bewildering groups of specialists--an army in which the soldiers who actually come to grips with the enemy must of necessity be a distinct minority--our divisions hold a unique position. They are the Army's fighting core, and whatever other forces do is largely preliminary to or supporting their actions.

As we approach the 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, pride in divisional achievements and knowledge of them need no longer be limited to the select fraternity of the division itself. The immediate family, other relatives and friends should also be able to get a glimpse of what the Bulge veteran they know accomplished with his buddies in the key Battle of the Bulge.

This *Bugle* series on combat divisions will do features on each of the Bulge divisions. The *Bugle* will, in future, have other stories about each division, so that each division tale is not complete but part of a running commentary on its accomplishments.

The same will be true of the support units of the Bulge--those who provided the muscle and sinew so that the fighting men could put their best foot forward in beating a determined, resourceful, cunning foe. Should you have any special anecdotes about your unit, combat or service of supply, or know of other tales of Bulge units or individuals, please get either the whole story to the *Bugle*, or leads on where the story information may be obtained.

Some of our divisions have had many months more battle experience than others and space has made it necessary to restrict the account of their accomplishments to the bare minimum. The material has been based on historical reports of the Office of Technical Information, Special Information Section, Headquarters Army Ground Forces, as well as histories prepared by the divisions themselves.

In several cases it has been noted that two or more divisions have set forth virtually identical claims for a single objective. The explanation, of course, is that frequently more than one division has attacked more than one city or defense line, and that divisional historians have shown understandable partisanship toward their own outfits.

The *Bugle* tries to be fair to all divisions (they were all our buddies--we all were on the same side!) but it may inadvertently have hurt the feelings of a particular unit by neglecting to mention some achievement of which the division is especially proud.

(Continued on page 24)

**VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE
10TH REUNION**
Charleston, South Carolina • September 5-7, 1991
Headquarters • Sheraton Airport Inn
North Charleston, South Carolina

REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

No later than August 14, 1991, mail form and check to:
Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Reunion
P.O. Box 11129
Arlington, VA 22210-2129

	Number of Persons	Cost per person	Total
Thursday • September 5			
*Registration (before 8/14/91)	_____	\$20.00	_____
(after 8/14/91)	_____	\$25.00	_____
Thursday Nite Mixer	_____	N/C	_____
Friday • September 6			
Bus to Citadel	_____	\$10.00	_____
(No private cars campus)			
Memorial Service & Parade	_____	N/C	_____
at Citadel			
Evening Entertainment/Sheraton	_____	N/C	_____
Saturday • September 7			
Tours: Old City of Charleston	_____	\$18.00	_____
Fort Sumter	_____	\$20.00	_____
Patriots Point Harbor Tour	_____	\$20.00	_____
Banquet	_____	\$22.00	_____
Guests for Banquet Only	_____	\$26.00	_____

TOTAL AMOUNT (Enclose check) _____

*All registrants must pay this fee.

Please provide the name you want on your name card here:

Name: _____ Outfit: _____

Wife's Name: _____ Guest Name(s): _____

Street Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

**VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE
10TH REUNION • CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA
SEPTEMBER 5-7, 1991**

HOTEL REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete and mail to:

Sheraton Inn Charleston Airport
5991 Rivers Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29418
(803) 744-2501

\$65.00 (Flat Rate)
Per Room, Per Night
Includes all Taxes

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Arrival _____ Departure _____

Non-Smoking _____ Smoking _____ 2/Double Beds _____ 1/King Bed _____

Check-in Time: 3:00 p.m. Check-out Time: 12:00 Noon

ROOMS WILL BE HELD FOR ARRIVAL UNTIL 4:00 P.M. UNLESS RESERVATION IS GUARANTEED WITH AN ADVANCE DEPOSIT OF ONE NIGHT'S STAY (\$65.00) OR A MAJOR CREDIT CARD. IF GUARANTEED IN ONE OF THESE WAYS, THE ROOM WILL BE HELD FOR YOU ALL NIGHT.

Card Type: _____ Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Required Signature: _____

Advance Deposit Enclosed: Yes _____ No _____

Worldwide Sheraton Reservations will not be able to give you the special discounted rate arranged for your reunion.

COMPLIMENTARY TRANSPORTATION • Available 24 hours daily to and from Charleston International Airport. Please call hotel for transportation on courtesy phone located in baggage claim area.

DIRECTIONS • The hotel is located at I-26 and East Aviation Avenue. If driving in on I-26, take the exit 211-B (East Aviation Avenue). If driving in from the south on U.S. 17, get on I-526, exit on I-26 West, then exit on 211-B. If coming from the north on U.S. 17, get on I-26 West, then exit at 211-B.

Please clip here--mail form on right to hotel and form on left to VBQB

**VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE
10TH REUNION • CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA
September 5-7, 1991**

PROGRAM

Thursday • 5 September

Noon - 8:00 p.m.
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Arrival, registration, find old friends and make new ones
Mixer: Wine, Beer and Soda

Friday • 6 September

9:00 a.m. - noon
5:00 - 6:00 p.m.
9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
12:30 - 2:00 p.m.
2:00 - 4:30 p.m.
6:30 p.m.
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Registration
Registration
General Membership Business Meeting
Lunch "on your own"
Bus travel to Citadel
Citadel Memorial Service and Parade
Friday Night Buffet at Sheraton (\$8.25 per person, which includes beverage and tax)
Entertainment - Sheraton Atrium

Saturday • 7 September

8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
7:30 p.m. - midnight

Tours of Charleston, South Carolina
Registration
Cocktail Hour (Happy Hour Prices in Sheraton Lounge)
Banquet and Dance to Sheraton House Band

Sunday • 8 September

7:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Breakfast (you pay) and farewell

**VBOB
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(703) 573-5718

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(818) 341-7071

**XVII TRI-STATE - VT., NH., ME.
CHAPTER**
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Jaffrey, NH 03452
(603) 532-8420

XVIII SO. FLORIDA CHAPTER
Tom McFadden
1217 Buccanoer Avenue
Deltona, FL 32725
(407) 860-1720

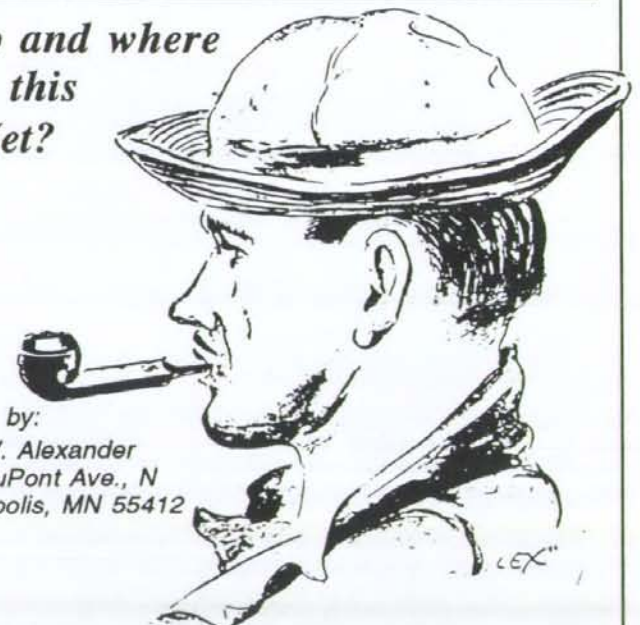
XIX SUSQUEHANNA CHAPTER
Frank LoVoulo
6 Pleasant Court Drive
Binghamton, NY 13905
(607) 722-4918

**NEW
CHAPTER
STARTED**

XX NORTH DAKOTA CHAPTER
George Peterson
RR 1, Box 278
McClusky, ND 58463
(701) 363-2488

VBOB Congratulates you on the forming of a new Chapter.

**Who and where
is this
Vet?**



*Sketch by:
Earle W. Alexander
4526 DuPont Ave., N
Minneapolis, MN 55412*

*INFANTRY in Hospital
VET (Battle of the Bulge) 1945
ENGLAND*

CHAPTER NEWS

SOUTH CAROLINA • Our president, Brick Worth, is recovering from a triple by-pass heart operation and we all wish him the very best. He is up and about and hopes to be in fine fettle by September 5th.

The 10th Annual Reunion in Charleston is well in hand and we are all looking forward to seeing many members there. On June 4th we had a regular meeting at the N.C.O Club at Fort Jackson. After lunch and a discussion of our duties for the Annual Reunion, we had three speakers, Art Brennon, Tom Smeltzer, and Hugh Fenzel, who related their personal experiences in the Bugle.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA • Our March 20th meeting was held at Mountain Jack's Restaurant. After lunch our speaker was Fred Cox, Chief of Veterans Affairs Volunteer Services at Washington, D.C. Veterans Hospital. Mr. Cox was invited to speak after the chapter voted to support the hospital as its program for 1991 at its February meeting. The hospital is now supported by a partnership of some twenty veterans organizations. Eighty-five percent of the patients at one time were either indigent or temporarily indigent. To stress the hospital's need for comfort items, Mr. Cox said that in the 1980s, nurses were using wash cloths and ordinary table salt to clean the patients' teeth. He said 33 organizations have contributed to comfort item needs but that support has been like a roller coaster. He made available a wish list of comfort items needed by the VA hospital's patients. Mr. Cox said veterans service organizations may have forgotten their first love, the vet, because they are supporting other organizations. He said, "When you're setting up your priorities, make VA the number one objective. If you don't support your fellow veterans now, who will support you when you are in need?"

President Dean Fravel has finally located a member of the 81st FA Bn, the first for him since WWII. His fellow artilleryman, Ed Kerr, happens to be a new member of the Susquehanna Chapter in Pennsylvania. See what membership in VBOB can do?

Linc Harner will attend his first ever reunion of the 987th FA Bn at Hollister, Missouri, June 7-8.

We met on May 15 for a regular meeting and participated in the 4th of July parade in the City of Fairfax where we displayed our new white with black letters chapter sign for use on vehicles.

CENTRAL FLORIDA • We had a fine meeting on Saturday, April 20th in Deltona.

We were entered in THE ARMED FORCES DAY PARADE in Tavares, Florida on Saturday, May 18th. It was a smashing success; constant applause all along the route. We marched about 4 blocks on the Main street past the reviewing stand. For this 4 block section of the parade we received a standing ovation! Really wild.

Our treasurer, Mickey Gilberg, put an ad for VBOB in *The Army Nurses* magazine. She received a reply from 2 nurses in St. Petersburg. This may be a start of a new chapter that area.

We had acquired the clothing from a defunct consignment shop. A yard sale didn't net us much, so Norm Schoonover is going to line up a booth at the Mt. Dora Flea Market. We should derive a better return from there.

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA • Our April 14th meeting was well attended with several new members welcomed into the fold.

We are happy to announce that all members' dues are paid up.

Everyone introduced themselves to help each to remember all the names. Then some of the members spoke of their experiences during the war and the medals they received.

Our next meeting will be July 28th.

GOLDEN GATE • Thirty-eight members and wives had lunch in the Officers Club at the Presidio of San Francisco on February 9th. Lt. Gen. William H. Harrison, Commander of the 6th Army, was our keynote speaker. He expressed his appreciation for having been asked to speak. He further acknowledged Bulge veterans' contribution to WWII effort. Included in his remarks was an indication of the high caliber of today's servicemen and women. He also shared an overview of conditions in the Persian Gulf and, like all of us, prayed for a rapid conclusion to the conflict with a minimum of casualties. At the conclusion of Gen. Harrison's remarks, President Fred Dong presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Chapter.

These new officers were installed by Tom Gillis: President--Martin Turkington; Executive Vice President--Frank L. Gonella; Secretary--Irel Barrus; Treasurer--John B. Deasy; Chaplain, Alfred Gee; and Trumpet Editor, Tom Gillis.

Outgoing Chapter President Fred Dong passed the gavel to incoming Pres. Martin Turkington, after which a beautiful plaque was presented to PP Dong for his service as founder and Charter President of the Golden Gate Chapter.

A Membership Committee was appointed to collect delinquent dues. We have 18 Life Members in our 75 member enrollment.

NEW JERSEY • President Andy Andriola has had to lie low for quite some time due to a slight stroke, but he is feeling much better now and trying to get the chapter back up to speed, starting with a meeting on May 18th and work to get all the membership dues up to date.

Our chapter is now a member of the Allied Council of New Jersey Veterans Organizations.

DELAWARE VALLEY • On the morning of March 26th, 34 men and three women met at the Philadelphia Navy Yard and boarded a bus to Carlisle, Pennsylvania, about an hour and a half ride. The trip was made on the invitation of Col. Thomas W. Sweeney, Director of the U.S. Army Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. Col. Sweeney was one of the speakers at the 9th Annual VBOB Reunion banquet.

Upon arrival at the Barracks the group visited the Hessian Powder Magazine and Museum. The stone building was constructed in 1777, and local histories indicate some of the

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

construction work may have been performed by Hessian prisoners from the Battle of Trenton in December 1776. There were exhibits of the Colonial Period: the French and Indian War that led up to the war which made a new nation.

The Carlisle area was settled by Indians--Shawnee, Delawares, and Tuscarora tribes. When a town was founded in 1751, Carlisle was the gateway to the western frontier and it was from here that the British moved against the French and Indians. The Post has a busy military history. During the Civil War, on July 1, 1863, Confederate Generals J.E.B. Stuart and Fitzhugh Lee burned the town and military installation before turning toward Gettysburg for that famous battle.

Through the years the Carlisle Barracks has had many schools: Artillery School (the Army's first), Medical Field Service School, Army Information School, School of Control of Occupied Areas, Adjutant General, Chaplain, Military Police, and Army Security Agency Schools; and now the Army War College.

After an enjoyable buffet at the Officers' Club, the group visited the area of Military History where there were many displays of army items and then went on to the area where all army, division, regiment and individual unit papers, files, books and booklets are stored. The Barracks has a research staff ready to help you find military information.

During the Delaware Valley Chapter's visit, President Stanley A. Wojtusik, 106 Inf. Div., made a presentation of a board emblazoned with Army pins, medals, patches and epaulets. A second presentation was made by Col. Dave Pergrin, 291st Combat Engrs., noted author and distinguished Delaware Valley member, of his book "The First Across The Rhine." Col. Sweeney thankfully accepted both gifts. It was a delightful and informative visit.

GENERAL GEORGE S. PATTON, JR. ALABAMA • The Alabama Chapter held a Luncheon Meeting March 20 in the private dining room of the Pioneer Cafeteria in Birmingham. There were 50 members and prospective members present. Twelve days prior to this meeting we had a small article printed in The Birmingham News Paper announcing the meeting and inviting prospective members to attend. We were pleased when 10 new BoB veterans showed up. They all seemed interested in joining and one has already returned his membership application.

Vick Letcher, our Site Committee Chairman, has reserved the Pioneer Private Dining Room for the 3rd Wednesday of every month this year except December when we will hold our Commemorative Dinner at a different location.

We now have 120 living members.

Herschel Simmons is in the process of working with State Legislators to have a special Alabama State VBOB license plate.

TRI-STATE • We met at Libby's Restaurant in Keene, New Hampshire on May 15th. After a wonderful buffet lunch, I introduced myself (Roger Desjardins) as their new president succeeding the late Vince Dalzell. We held a silent moment of prayer in his memory. Then everyone introduced themselves and gave their outfit designation.

We were given a beautiful U.S. flag with embroidered stars by the Veterans' Council of Keene. We are most appreciative.

We discussed creating uniforms so we can march in parades, hopefully on July 4th and also going to the Veterans' Hospital to put on bingo games for the patients.

We nominated Al Chevrette as our new replacement Vice President and we were happy to welcome some of our wives as associate members.

We are putting notices in various papers to obtain new members.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA • Our chapter was able to field a respectable contingent for the great Welcome Home Gulf Veterans Parade along the four-mile Christmas Parade route in Hollywood on May 19th. Bob Pocklington, Murray Shapiro, Gary Shone, and Godfrey Harris were joined by ROTC cadets of Glendale High School and the French-American veterans of the Battle of the Bulge-Rhine and Danube Society. Bob Pocklington spent many hours coordinating this effort which included sponsoring the ROTC unit and providing them with a gigantic American flag which stretched over the entire width of Hollywood Blvd. Godfrey Harris was also quite active in helping with materials for the parade.

For our June 18th meeting at the VFW post, 111 North Hager Street in San Fernando, we enjoyed a deli buffet with VFW members as our guests in appreciation for all they have done to help our budding chapter get started. Members were asked to bring their mementoes and reminiscences of their armed service experiences.

FROM THE VP'S DESK • I am very happy to announce the formation of a new chapter in the midwest. It will be called **NORTH DAKOTA CHAPTER**. George Peterson unearthed 24 Bulge veterans who were interested in forming a chapter and in spite of a May 4th near blizzard, many managed to make it to the meeting and signed a request for chapter status. They elected the following officers: George Petersen, President, McCluskey; Frank Dusek, Vice President, Anamoose; Conner Ienstre, Secretary-Treasurer, Litchfield. Those North Dakota veterans don't mess around!

Bob Van Houten was elected State Commander of the Commonwealth of Virginia American Ex-Prisoners of War in May.

THANKS VBOB MEMBERS

In response to over 400 letters we mailed to VBOB members, we received over 1,500 addresses for newspaper names and addresses in their respective areas. Almost everyone responded with several paper names and these were very welcome. Several members had access to listings for entire states--Texas, Tennessee, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Alaska.

We can still use more, so if you want to send your area paper's name, address and zip code, we will add them to our valuable list.

Your cooperation on this will be extremely helpful to us and surely will help in our membership campaign. We thank you for your efforts and we knew we could count on you.



FIGHTING FIRST INFANTRY DIVISION EARNS EIGHT BATTLE STARS THE HARD WAY

The oldest and probably the best-known of all American infantry divisions is the 1st, sometimes nicknamed the "Fighting First"; often called by its proud members simply "The First," and also known as "The Big Red One."

Germans who had seen the red "1" on 1st Division shoulder patches in North Africa, Sicily, and all over the European continent, gave the Division that name, and the 1st's soldiers have since used it themselves.

A German, incidentally, involuntarily provided the 1st with its shoulder patch. According to legend, the original red "1" was improvised from the cap of an enemy soldier who had been killed by a 1st Division doughboy in World War I, where the Division earned the right to proclaim itself first in France, first to fire on the enemy, first to suffer casualties, first to take prisoners, first to stage a major offensive, first to enter Germany and--as an equally notable exception--last to come home.

The Fighting First got off to an early start in World War II when, after amphibious training in the States and in England, it surged ashore at Oran on D-Day of the North African invasion, 8 November 1942. It fought through Tunisia, taking heavy casualties at Kasserine Pass, but holding its ground against the enemy and living up to its motto: "No mission too difficult; no sacrifice too great," as it hammered away at the vaunted Afrika Korps at Gafsa, El Guettar, Tebessa, and other battlefields.

The 1st's second D-Day was at Gela, Sicily. In 37 days the Division took 18 cities, inching its way up cliffs and along torturous mountain trails, and distinguishing itself by smashing the Herman Goering Division and taking the important objective of Troina, where the 16th Infantry Regiment, which dates back to 1798, made a gallant frontal attack coordinated with a flank assault by the 18th Infantry, a comparatively new outfit dating back only to 1812.

After Sicily, the 1st sailed back to England to get ready for the invasion of the Continent. On D-Day in Normandy 6 June, 1944, it went ashore at Omaha Beach, the most strongly fortified section of the coast. Some of its units suffered 30 percent casualties in the first bloody hour of fighting, but the Division hung on to the beachhead, forced its way inland by sheer determination, destroyed a whole German division that stood in its way and prompted Ernie Pyle to write, later, "Now that it is over, it seems to me a pure miracle that we ever took the beach at all." For their heroism at Omaha 740 men of a single battalion of the 16th Infantry were awarded the Bronze Star.

In the July breakthrough out of Normandy at St. Lo, the

1st swung to the west, took Marigny, and then trapped 30,000 Germans near Coutances. In August it moved 300 miles in a week to take Soissons, where in the last war the 1st had suffered 9,000 casualties in four days. (Major General Clarence R. Heubner, who led the Division in the summer of 1944, had been a battalion commander in the 1st at Soissons in 1918.) The Division continued to Aachen, fighting through the city street by street and house by house after the besieged defenders refused to surrender. Then the 1st found itself in the thick of the Hurtgen Forest fighting. Companies E and F of the 26th Infantry Regiment were completely wiped out, but replacements for the lost units, fighting from foxholes against a heavy tank-infantry attack, avenged their comrades by killing 1,200 Germans in three days. During von Rundstedt's counteroffensive in the Ardennes--the Battle of the Bulge--the 1st successfully attacked in the St. Vith-Malmedy sector, drove on to the Rhine, and, when the 9 Armored Division captured the bridge at Remagen intact, swept across and raced deep into Germany. By V-E Day all three regiments of the Division had been cited and several smaller units had earned additional honors. The men who wore the Red One had good cause for thinking that the 1st was still the first.

THEN AND NOW

MACK H. LEGGETT, of Williamston, North Carolina, has provided us with the following pictures of himself and his two buddies from **RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY, 654TH**



In both pictures, l. to r.: Leggett, Warren and Pope.
(left--August, 1944 and right--November, 1990)

TANK DESTROYER BATTALION (attached to **35TH INFANTRY DIVISION**).

Mack and his wife Lorraine visited **TALMAGE B. WARREN** (Haleyville, Alabama) and **HOMER L. POPE** (Birmingham, Alabama) in November, 1990, thanks to a trip provided by his daughter and son-in-law.

The three men spent four and one-half years together. They went from Omaha Beach to St. Lo, Orleans to Nancy, on to Bastogne and then to Rheinberg. Mack was the first to depart the group in July, 1945.

The Army picture was made in Nancy, France, August 16, 1944.



2D INFANTRY DIVISION POURS IT ON NAZIS

Like the "Fighting First," the 2d Infantry Division had an outstanding record during World War I, and it became the only division of all those wartime units who were authorized to wear the fourragere of the Croix de Guerre. At Chateau Thierry and Belleau Wood, the 2d--"Second to None"--according to its own slogan--made military history a generation before WWII. Composed then of both Infantrymen and Marine elements, it earned more decorations than any other World War I unit. Among its men was one since-forgotten truck driver who painstakingly painted the side of his vehicle with a handsome shield framing an Indian head--the Indian Head that thousands of "Second to None" soldiers wore in WWII.

The 2d wasn't exactly in a back seat in WWII, either. In October 1943, the Indian Head outfit sailed for England, on 7 June 1944--D-Day plus 1--it landed at St. Laurent-sur-Mer in Normandy, while enemy shells were still pouring into the thinly held beach head. For 70 straight days the Division fought against crack enemy forces, including the formidable 3d Parachute Division, which the Indian Head men first encountered on 11 June in the Berigny-St. George-d'elles-Ivon sector, and against which the 2d waged a personal grudge fight for many weeks. The 2d was instrumental in the fighting around St. Lo that led to the breakthrough out of Normandy, and was credited by Lt. Gen. Leonard T. Gerow, then its corps commander, with having been largely responsible for victory in the grim battle of the hedge rows.

Sweeping 300 miles from Normandy to Brittany, the 2d next set its sights on the besieged German defenders of the port of Brest--among them the same 3d Parachute Division. With 8th and 29th Infantry Divisions, the 2d took Brest in 39 days, although military experts had predicted a 90 day campaign.

Next stop on the 2d's fighting itinerary was the Siegfried Line. The Division had advanced through it to a point near St. Vith and was just starting an attack when, in mid-December, von Rundstedt launched his famous breakthrough. Cooks, clerks, and military police were thrown into the front lines and the 2d held its ground in the snow-covered Bulligen area until the Battle of the Bulge was won.

Then the Division began rolling again. It spilled out into Germany in February and March, capturing Monschau and Ahrweiler, among other key cities. By the end of April, the Division had moved on to Czechoslovakia and had firmly

imprinted its name on the historical records of the City of Pilsen, up to then known merely for its beer.

During its last four months of fighting, the Indian Head Division operated under the First Army, and no one was better qualified to judge its effectiveness than Gen. Courtney H. Hodges, the army commander. "What the 2d has done," the general said shortly after the Ardennes fighting, "will live forever in the pages of history of the United States Army."

SECRET PAIN

Folks wonder why the tears appear
So quickly when a band I hear,
And often they are musing still
Why battle songs give me a chill,
They cannot understand quite why
When I hear heroes' tales I cry--

The answer is so clear to me--
A boy who sleeps across the sea
Eternally.

By Alma Langlois
Wife of Leon Langlois,
106th Division, 424th regiment



By Henry Balch
The Langlois' son-in-law

COMMUNICATIONS IMPROVED

VBOB has taken steps to improve communications with the various division, regiment, unit, etc., associations who have members who participated in the Battle of the Bulge.

We feel that we all have valuable information to share and we have, as a result, added all those groups whose addresses we have been able to locate to a complimentary mailing list to receive press releases and copies of *The Bulge Bugle*.

If you have an association, please send us the correct name of same along with the address and zip code. We'll add them to our list.

As a result of carrying reunion notices and various other information regarding these groups, they have been very helpful in advising their members of the existence of VBOB. We are most grateful for this cooperation.

"And there, my son, you have the story of your Grandpa and the great World War."

"Yes, Grandpa, but why did they need all those other soldiers?"

RE MAGEN

"This Time In Peace"

1945

October 12, 1991

1991

Normandy held it's 40th anniversary celebrations for G.I.'s who landed there in 1944. And, there have been Bulge reunions. Now, the mayors of Remagen and Erpel think it is time to welcome back those who participated in the Remagen Bridgehead. On October 11th and 12th of this year there will be a gathering of ex-soldiers from both sides who took part in the battle that truly spelled the end for Hitler's Nazi Germany.

It will be a time of fun and remembrance when former comrades and adversaries meet; this time in peace and friendship. There will be a German style street party at the bridge towers - with beer tents, food and live music. Mayor Hans Kurten will lead a long list of civic representatives in hoisting a toast to those gathered. The mayor's reception in Erpel will be followed by the dedication of a monument in remembrance of those who fought there some 46 years ago. In the evening, following a gala dinner, there will be dancing to live music of the 40's. This will truly be a historic two days, with former fighting men from the various units gathered "This Time In Peace".

If you were a member of, or attached to, the various divisions that were there, chances are we have a detailed brochure of their line of battle leading up to and after Remagen.

September and October 1991, BATTLEFIELD TOURS takes you to the battlefields of the 9th Armored "Phantom" Division; 36th Infantry Division "T-Patchers"; 99th Infantry Division "Battle Babies"; 78th Infantry "Lighting Division"; 14th Armored Division "Liberators"; 284th Field Artillery Battalion "Helpmate"; 290th Eng. Combat Battalion; 552nd AAA (AW) Battalion; 59th Armored Field Artillery Battalion and many others.

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VOSGES MOUNTAINS

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HUERTGEN FOREST

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BELGIANS STILL HONOR BULGE FALLEN AT CEMETERY

Belgian citizens from all parts of the Kingdom come in unceasing numbers to honor the Americans who fell in the Battle of the Bulge.

The Belgians, now two generations away from the time of the Battle, still give honor and remembrance to the Americans who died so that the Belgians, among many others, could have freedom.

The spirit of the Belgians has been unquenched by time; they still feel a deep debt of gratitude to the Americans who came from far away to fight, be wounded, and some to die to help bring freedom and democracy to the little Kingdom.

The cemetery is Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery and Memorial, and it covers 57 acres. It was established in September 1944 by the 1st Infantry Division of the 1st U.S. Army, as a combat burial site. The cemetery commemorates 7,989 of our soldiers who died during two periods of fighting: the 1st Army's drive in September of 1944 through northern France into Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg and Germany, as well as the bitter Battle of the Bulge fighting when this region was overrun by the enemy and this site became a front-line defensive position. Some were formerly buried in temporary cemeteries at Fosse (near Namur) and Foy, Belgium (near Bastogne), which contained the remains of 2,700 who gave their lives in the Bulge.

The roll call of valiant U.S. divisions, in addition to the 1st, includes the 2nd, 4th, 5th, 9th, 28th, and 83rd. Also the 29th and 30th took part in the encirclement of Aachen; the 35th, which fought at Omaha Beach; the 70th, 78th, 79th, the 26th, 75th, 87th and the 4th Armored helped smash the von Rundstedt offensive and came to the assistance of the 101st at Bastogne.

The roll call continues with the 84th, 95th, 100th, 102nd, 104th and the 106th, which suffered a great number of

casualties when struck by the spearhead of the von Rundstedt offensive; the 7th Armored which was among the valiant defenders of nearby St. Vith where an entire German Corps, flushed with thoughts of easy victory, was halted in its tracks. The 89th, 90th, and 94th Infantry and the 5th, 6th, 8th, 11th, and 12th Armored Divisions, which roared across the Saar Palatinate spearheading the 3rd and 7th Army drives to the Rhine River; General George S. Patton's 2nd Armored, 3rd Armored, which trapped 40,000 of the enemy at Mons, Belgium and with the 99th Infantry fought through Cologne, and Remagen to the Ruhr industrial center; and the 7th Armored and the 82nd Airborne, who with the 101st Airborne, were responsible for the dramatic fight to the finish at Bastogne. It was during the Battle of the Bulge that enemy troops dressed in American uniforms, penetrated as far as the village of Henri-Chapelle and the immediate vicinity where they were captured.

Buried at Henri-Chapelle are the remains of our soldiers who came from the then 48 states, the District of Columbia, Panama and England. In 33 cases two brothers rest side-by-side and in one instance, three brothers. Ninety-four headstones mark the tombs of unknowns. The cemetery enshrines the remains of three Medal of Honor recipients. Brigadier General Frederick W. Castle, USAAC, the highest ranking officer buried in this cemetery, was shot down 24 December 1944 in this vicinity while leading the greatest bomber formation in military history.

The Memorial consists of the chapel (north end) and the Visitor's Museum Building (south end), connected by a colonnade of 12 pairs of rectangular pylons. On the pylons are inscribed the names of 450 of our missing whose remains were never recovered or identified. Also carved on the pylons are the seals of the states and territories.

All of the graves, overlooking the rolling wooded area which was the battlefield, have been adopted by Belgian families. The Belgians visit the cemetery on religious holidays and weekends with floral offerings and prayers.

DOWN MEMORY LANE MILITARY SLANG FIRMED UP IN LANGUAGE

As in the case of other professions, the Army has always had its characteristic slang words and expressions, which change with the years, and many find their way into everyday civilian usage. Here are some, in the first of a series on military slang, that have had an impact in the course of the nation's language and history.

Affirmative (Negative)--I agree with you (disagree)

All the way--To the bitter end; to any limit

Amscray--To depart

Any questions?--The invitation given by a commander who has given his staff a

difficult assignment; a rhetorical question.

Become a stock phrase, used in many ways

(World War I, World War II)

Apron--A type of wire fence

AWOL--Absent Without Leave

Bag, In the--Of a situation, plan; well in hand; a virtual certainty. Be in the bag--taken prisoner. Drunk.

Ball, Have a--To have a thoroughly good time

Ball, On the--Alert, ready to grasp an opportunity

Ball of fire--A notably energetic and effectual person; said of many Army outfits in WWII

Banana, Flying--A type of helicopter

Banana boat--An invasion barge

Bandit--An enemy aircraft

Bat the breeze--To chatter, talk

Bat-out -of-hell--go at high speed (World War II)

Battle Buggy--Jeep

Beaucoup--The French word for "much" or "many" adopted by the American soldier; used in both WWI and WWII

Belly bands--Inflatable life preservers worn around the waist by amphibious troops (WWII)

Big noise--Any important personage

Big stuff--Heavy vehicles, e.g., tanks

Bless 'em all--Used derisively when fed up with anyone, from a British Army song. (WWI)

Blink, on the--out of order

Blockbuster--A heavy bomb of great flattening power

(More to come--at a later date)



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lections 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.

.....

December 16, 1944

Allan H. Stein
F Company
508th Paratroop Infantry
82d Airborne Division
Newport News, Virginia

A third of our company was stationed near Rheims, France. A third were on R&R in England, and a third were in hospitals or gone. I was to go on R&R the 17th of Dec.

About 7:30 p.m. we were called in by the Company Cmdr. We were to mount up, we were going into Belgium. A crisis seemed to have happened. We loaded up in open-bodied trucks and with full speed ahead, headed off for a place called the Ardennes. I had just received a package from home with four cartons of cigarettes. Where the hell do you put four cartons with the other stuff we had. Naturally, I somehow lost my gas mask. The container was a very nice place for all those little oddities one takes with one.

It was a miserable cold trip. We passed through towns where already the people were on the move. "The Germans were coming."

I was carrying the new folding bazooka, I had never fired it for effect, and was hoping to do so as soon as we hit our base. I don't know how long we travelled but we passed through Malmedy, St. Vith and unloaded in Bastogne.

Orders were that the screaming eagles were to hold Bastogne, we were headed up towards the Northern part of the bulge.

I asked if I could try out the Bazooka but was told that we didn't know who was around us. Going through the towns I was struck by the desolation and emptiness, burned out buildings, barns, black holes where shells had hit. The miserable cold. We didn't see anything or anyone for the first few days.

On the 24th we moved up to a hill and dug in. You could hardly break through the ground to dig a fix hole. I remember finally laying down and covering myself with my shelter half. I don't know how long I lay there but it was getting so warm and comfortable. The sergeant woke me up. I was covered with snow. I think that if he had not found me I would have become one of the frozen statues that we saw. I went on a patrol, my first one, with two

others. Following the book, we crawled, stooped, and heard what sounded like tank engines. We came back and reported. That night we were ordered off the hill by the command of the British 2d army that we were attached to.

On the 24th, we dug into a field, that night our positions were hit by what seemed like an entire German Battalion. Our entire line opened up a continuous fire until we were down to a few clips. Cans of loose ammo was brought to us to reload our clips. At that time I thought it was the proper time to try my bazooka. I aimed it at where our outpost had been. I guys had come in. I fired it and 'bam' it hit a tree. I was reloading the bazooka when I thought some one had hit me in the face. When my ear started bleeding I realized that I had been hit by shrapnel. The next day we were ordered to move out. It was discovered that my tree burst had broken up a platoon of Germans getting ready to hit our position. Their bodies punctured by wood and shrapnel, the bazooka worked. The field in front of us was filled with the frozen bodies of dead and dying Germans. On the way out they mortared our positions. I heard them coming in. I hit the snow, and heard a thump. I closed my eyes figured Stein you've had it. God must have been watching. I looked to my left a dud mortar was about three feet away from my head.

I think the most bizarre memories were of the frozen dead bodies being tossed into trucks like cord wood. And even today, on a cold December night, I look up at the moon and wonder and thank God, I'm still around to remember.

Oh yes! My four cartons of cigarettes were wet and of no value. I also wonder what if I had gotten to Paris, with those four cartons. They were worth a fortune. But better the cigarettes, than me.

.....

December 16, 1944

Bryson Clarke
602nd Engineer
Combat Battalion
VIII Corps
1st United States Army
North Little Rock, Arkansas

I was with the 602nd Engineer Camouflage Bn. a First Army unit in support of 8th Corps, from Oct 1944 until

January 1945. Unfortunately we were in support of the 8th Corps by verbal orders of our Bn CO and First Army Engineer, Col. Carter. My headquarters was located about 5 km. east of Bastogne between the Wiltz Luxembourg main roads in a town called Wardin the 1st platoon was in support of the 28th Division, 2nd Platoon was in support of the 106th Div, and was located in Schoenberg, and 3rd platoon was in support of the 9th Armed Div. and was located in Mersch, and the 4th Platoon was in support of the 4th Div, near Luxembourg.

On Dec. 16 I started my usual inspections of my platoons and as I approached a road junction not far from my Hqrs. I ran into a road block set up by an Infantry unit of the 28th Div, and learned of the problems ahead, and was warned not to go to far. I proceeded north to Troisvierges to see my 1st Platoon, they were working on tanks supporting the 28th, I sent them back to Bastogne with instructions to organize security. I then proceeded to St. Vith and found my 2nd platoon involved in moving the cranes and heavy equipment back for the Engineers of the 106th Div, I ordered them to Wardin and proceeded to our Bn. Hqrs. in Verviers, Belgium. I reported to the Bn. Co. He instructed me to keep abreast of the situation through 8th Corps and 1st Army would sent instructions to me.

I returned to Wardin and by that time my 3rd Platoon had arrived and we set up our meager defense, our Company strength was 66 men and officers all specialties with no real firepower. My 4th Platoon remained with the 4th Div as I saw no real problem in their area.

I kept in touch with the 8th Corps Engineer and watched the advance of the Krauts. On December the 18th the driver of the platoon commander of the 4th platoon, walked into my Hqrs. out of breath and said that the platoon commander, Lt. Nord, driving to my Hqs. ran into the back of a German halftrack and had to surrender. The driver jumped through the back window in the 3/4 ton truck, using the truck as a shield managed to get to our headquarters Wardin. Shortly after I received a message to move to the vicinity of Neufchateau. As we pulled out an artillery unit was firing with the tubes almost parallel to the ground.

The reason I am writing this is to see if anyone of your readers remembers our unit. We worked helping to build and conceal machine guns, artillery pieces, we welded summerfield matting to tanks, painted tanks white and issued snow capes and also helped to build squad shelters. We were replaced by a Company from the 101st who were practically wiped out on the 19th of Dec. in Wardin. We lost practically all Engineer Equipment.

We went back finally to St. Truiden reequipped and were sent up to support the XVIIIth Airborne Corps on January 3rd, 1945. I have been back to Bastogne, Malmedy, St. Vith, Schoenberg and many other locations. By the way Lt. Nord escaped twice from the Germans made his way to the Russians, then to the Black Sea and finally returned to the United States. The experiences he had would fill a book and sound like a movie script.

December 16, 1944

Harry F. Martin, Jr.

L Company

424th Infantry Regiment

106th Infantry Division

Mt. Arlington, New Jersey

The morning of the 16th one of our leaders came charging into our cabin just before dawn screaming, "The Germans are coming! The Germans are coming! We'll all be killed!" Those exact words are etched in my brain for the rest of my life. Thoughts raced through my head: this had been a quiet sector for almost three months. We had only been here for five days so why are the Germans attacking us? We grabbed our rifles and steel helmets without wasting a second and got out of the cabin as fast as we could. Bill and I were assigned to the open foxhole on the extreme left flank. The rest of the platoon went to the log bunkers directly in front of them.

As soon as we got into our foxhole Bill announced that he was going to use a rifle grenade. He sat down in the foxhole and affixed the grenade to his rifle. Seconds later I could see hundreds of shadowy heads bobbing up and down coming over the crest of the hill just before dawn. They acted like they were drunk or on drugs. They came over the hill screaming and shrieking. Their shrill screams went right through my head. I was absolutely terrified. They had already out flanked our company and now they were coming to finish us off.

Being on the extreme left flank with nothing on our left and out of sight of our platoon on the right it felt almost like we were against the entire German Army. I was horror-stricken. There was no thought of running away or surrendering, the thought never entered my mind. I had an absolute conviction to fight to the death while being certain that we would be killed. Just about this time Bill tugged on my leg. I was vaguely aware that Bill asked me to let him know when the Germans were close enough. Neither one of us had ever fired a rifle grenade before and we did not have the slightest idea of the effective range. There were so many of them storming down the hill coming right for us. There was no way of stopping all of them. I had a feeling of utter hopelessness of surviving the attack. I was panic-stricken.



I felt that my entire life force had left my body. I was already dead and I was fighting like a zombie. Sheer panic set in causing me to fire my rifle without thinking or aiming. I was unaware of my body, just terror, firing my rifle as fast as my finger could pull the trigger. But they still kept coming as though they were immune to death. Apparently I was not hitting a thing. I was so transfixed with fear and terror my eyes did not focus on the individual enemy attacking. I was firing blindly as fast as I could without thinking or looking through the sights of my rifle. All hope of living was gone. Bill tugged on my leg again and yelled, "Are they close enough?" I can remember telling him no but my brain did not register distance or range. I could not even think about what Bill was saying. He tugged on my leg a half dozen times during the battle and I kept telling him no. In my terror-stricken seizure I continued to fire my rifle frantically in the general direction of the swarming sea of terror coming my way. I could only see the huge mass of bodies charging toward me. It appeared as though the entire hillside was alive and moving in with its huge tentacles reaching out to devour me.

Some of the Germans went to their right and stormed the company command post. I was vaguely aware of hearing hand grenades exploding inside the CP. They killed our Company Commander. But with the Germans charging closer and closer, still screaming, and bullets zipping by my head any thoughts of regret for Capt Bartel did not register, and we all would soon be dead anyway.

In the middle of this terrifying battle I heard a very confident calm voice inside my head say, "Squeeze the trigger." I instantly calmed down, took careful aim at one of the charging Germans through my gunsight and squeezed the trigger. He flung his arms up over his head and fell down dead, shot through the head. I felt a sensation surge through my whole body. I was no longer a zombie. My life force had come surging back. I was alive and for the first time I felt that I had a chance to come out of this battle.

At this very moment I was a veteran combat soldier. I continued to shoot the attacking Germans until they finally stopped coming. The battle was over. After such intense fighting it was very strange how suddenly the battle ended. How quiet everything had become. A feeling of disbelief that it was over. At the time it seemed like it would never end.

Later I thought about the voice that I heard in my head that told me to squeeze the trigger. I failed to qualify with the rifle in basic training. I had to go back and do everything by the numbers without live ammunition again. For the next five weeks after supper and on Sundays; the practice continued. Over and over they drummed the procedure by the numbers into my head, always ending with "Squeeze the trigger, do not jerk the trigger, slowly squeeze the trigger, squeeze-e-e the trigger." After awhile, at night I dreamt about squeezing the trigger. We made fun of doing things by the numbers but it saved my life.

The battle was over. I had conquered my worse fears and

I had stood to fight the enemy. The battle had started just before dawn. I have no idea what time it was over. It had seemed like an eternity. But now it was over. What a great feeling it was to have survived our first battle. I had just started to relax a little when suddenly I came to the full realization of what had happened when the Germans threw the grenades into our company command post. Capt. Bartel was dead and I was responsible. At the beginning of the battle when I was in my terror-stricken stage firing my rifle without thinking or aiming, some of the Germans dispersed to their right and surrounded the CP. If I had not been so terrified I could have stopped them before they reached the CP. Because of my inability to function in the beginning Capt. Bartel was dead. I had let my company commander down and I felt tremendous remorse.

About thirty minutes later, still feeling remorseful, I looked up as some of the men from the other platoons walked by on their way to our field kitchen. I could not believe my eyes. There, among the men, stood Capt. Bartel. He was alive! Oh, thank God! Capt. Bartel was alive! I was very surprised and at the same time very happy to see him. He had not been in the company command post when the Germans threw the grenades in. he had left that post before our 3rd Platoon was alerted. He was already up with the main body of our company. We had slept through the heavy artillery barrage that struck our forward platoons.

When the artillery lifted our company was attacked by hundreds of German infantrymen. As the men of the 3rd Platoon continued to sleep Capt. Bartel called on our 591st Field Artillery to fire on the Germans. As the Germans got closer the captain continued to call for artillery support. When the enemy broke through our lines the captain called for artillery to fire directly on Company L's positions. When the artillery did not respond he called again explaining that the Germans were in the open while they were in fortified positions.

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December 18, 1944

Joe Tatman
A Company
52nd Armored Infantry Battalion
9th Armored Division
Sugar Grove, Ohio

I was in Company A of the 52nd Armored Infantry Battalion, and I do express my opinion of our capture. Perhaps some don't remember and some do. I for one, on Sunday, December 18th, A-Co. 3rd Platoon were dug in at the top of a very high cliff. Below us was a German outfit. We attempted several times to knock them out, by motor fire, but with no success.

During the P.M. hours we were taken off the line. Yet today I have no knowledge of any outfit taking over. Looks to me that this would give the Nazi a wide open gap. We were to put up for the night in Bastogne, and leave early

Monday for a three day rest. As we prepared to bed down for the night, we were alerted by Division Headquarters to mount up and get the hell out of town. We could hear the Nazi closing in on us. By moving out immediately we could make it. then the head officers over our battalion ignored these orders, believing we could hold out.

So after a restless night of being on alert, they decided to mount up and make a break. Too late, the gap was closed. We tried a trail through a wooded area. But the Nazi 88 put the head vehicles and officers out of business. No way the convoy could get through.

We were stopped both sides of the trail was covered by Nazi. Anyone that was able to carry a gun and stand on his feet, ran, we had no chance. Most of our Co. was captured. Like a fool I ran full blast, every bit of 500 yards, with bullets flying all around me. Lucky no hits. After I fell in a ditch, out of breath, I raised up to find 3 of my squad had followed me. We relaxed a few minutes. I recall 3 soldiers from headquarters joined us, but could never remember their names. However I did recall them telling us about the Nazi knocking out the leading vehicles and officers.

Then the seven of us took off, we finally came to a farm at the edge of Bastogne. We then decided to hide in the hay loft for the night, then try to get back to the lines the next day. But early that day a German Company set up headquarters in the house. They put their vehicles in the drive way to the barn.

Again we were trapped as they placed their guards all around. We ran out of food and water. One of the boys had a D ration Bar and we all nibbled on it. Imagine 7 of us on a 2 inch square bar! After 5 days and nights things began to get rough and cold. We talked about Christmas and home, never giving up our hopes.

I now recall that approximately at 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve, a loud voice was heard. As we raised up to find a Nazi guard at the top of the ladder to the hay mow. He shot up through the barn roof and yelled at us to come down. As we came down we were lined up in front of two other guards. He then called for their head superior officer. He came out from the house near by, a smile on his face a big hand shake and greeted us like brothers. He was a lawyer in New York and had returned to his home land to settle his father's estate.

He spoke very plain English, and ask no questions. Not about our Co., how long we had been in the barn, or when we last had food and water. He took us into their kitchen, where the cooks were preparing for a Christmas party. They gave us milk and hot donuts. He talked and joked about the war and hoped it would soon be ended, so we could all be back home again.

He then sent us across town, to a big old empty house, straw on the floor, no windows or doors. Across the street, a large Catholic Church and adjoining grave yard, had been bombed by the Air Force. Bones were laying in the street and in the neighboring yards.

The guards were good to us and felt we did not need this

war. As darkness grew the head officer and his C.O. came in with warm water, towels and shaving materials. he told us to shave and wash up. He and his men were having a Christmas party. They took us back to their headquarters.

In this large home was an elderly couple. They had set a large beautiful table in a decorated dining room. Across the hall where the Nazi party was going on, the table was covered with all kinds of food and drinks. Even a large meat plate, with all brands of American cigarettes.

After we ate, the officer came in and requested we join his men and sing Silent Night for them. Then they sang it to us in their language. A wonderful group.

They requested we sing, just any old song, and they would give use another fifth of wine. We sang to them, "Down by the Old Mill Stream." As the officer in charge told the guards to return us to the old house for the night, he spoke very cheerfully. He told us the Christmas party was given to us by him and his men. As we would begin our journey in Hell, he turned us over to the other Nazi guards. He and his men hoped for us the best, and hoped we would soon be released to our home land.

Did Hell begin? Yes, it sure did, and will never be forgotten. We saw a lot, and hope and pray to this day we will never see our homes, our cities, churches and farm lands bombed and destroyed as it has been in the war zones overseas. Human innocence, old folks and children's bodies, underneath the bombed buildings.

December 1944

**Gustav Berle
970th CIC Detachment
Silver Spring, Maryland**

There was another side of the "Ardennes Affair" that has not been mentioned in the BUGLE. I wonder how many readers might remember, or were a part of, the army's intelligence sector?

The 970th CIC Detachment commanded by Major Riddle, an Alabama reservist, was headquartered in Eupen. Out of the boondocks, in Malmedy, were Lt. Joe Thiele of Duluth MN, Sgt. Armand Demers, a French-Canadian who used to be a Pinkerton man in Montreal, and yours truly--the only German-speaking member of the triumvirate. Our job: to find out and transmit any information of strategic value.

We got word as well as sighted in two forays to Mondschauf and Kalaterherberg that unusual activity took place on the eastside of the border. Our reports back to HQ evidently did not create sufficient alarm. When the first shells hit the square in Malmedy and the USA hospital was evacuated, we knew that drastic measures were called for. We buried all our files and even personal IDs; bundled our Polish housekeeper into our jeep along with three duffelbags crammed with Christmas rations, and headed back to Stavelot. Here we deposited everything in an abandoned farmhouse, turned around, and headed back to Malmedy. It

was the last time we ever saw the young woman or our loot.

That night we kept watch alternately on our balcony, piled high with furniture barricades. Down below a half-track and a 12-man platoon kept watch. 15 of us "held" the town of Malmedy. At around midnight a vehicle came racing down the road and screeched to a halt in front of the armored vehicle. In it were three GIs, grimy and white. One had been shot; his uniform was bloodied. Their neckerchieves identified them to us and their password was yesterday's correct one. From them we found out that the German tankers had mowed down the motley company of captured GIs and this trio, and perhaps a few others, were the only survivors.

A tipoff to the finale: five days later units of the 30th Infantry broke through and "rescued" us. The colonel to whom I reported our presence took one look at my U.S. Coast Guard foul weather gear (which saved my life during the previous hectic days), brought me to attention, and barked, "Soldier, you're out of uniform. Report back in 30 minutes in proper uniform." Period. Needless to say, I never did. The three of us went "over the hill" (literally) preferring to face rumored German parachutists, on their way to Eupen. I wonder where Joe Thiele and Armand Demers and all the other 970ers are today? Anybody know?

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December 1944

Marvin C. Drum
C Company
814th Tank Destroyer Battalion
Jackson, Missouri

Editor's Note: The first page of Mr. Drum's account became separated from the last page, so our last issue contained only part of his story. We are, therefore, reprinting this article in toto.

Being a young man of 18 years, and leaving home for the first time, I didn't know what it was going to be like the next 3 years from Normandy to Baltic. In Camp Hood, Texas, they formed the 814th T.D. Bn., Co. C, which I was a part of. We got our first tank in England with a bulldozer and we could knock hedge rows down. I called it Calamity Jane.

It was October 29, 1944 in Asteng, Holland, we were calling for some artillery help, but they only fired one round. Advancing against the concentrated fire of three German Tiger Tanks, our tank destroyer participated in an assault on the positions, destroying two German tanks, and damaging the remaining hostile vehicle. Although shells were bursting in close proximity we managed to do our job. We assisted in the destruction of numerous targets, including a building occupied by 50 German soldiers when our tank was struck 5 times by enemy fire and burst into flames. I crawled over 1,000 yards to join another crew of my Battalion. We had a crew of 4, Dale Dykes and myself were the only ones to get out. I was hit with shrapnel and got my ears busted.

After I got Calamity Jane 2 in early December 1944, we

were near Metz. I was gunner and we got hit. Bob Shaffer was with me. They knocked our track out and caved in our ammunition departments. We had a crew of 4 and we all got out. A few days later we got our 3rd tank and again Calamity Jane got hit in the radiator, but it was repaired and we had this tank until the end of the war.



The later part of December 1944 it was bitter cold and snowing. My buddy Ernest Stevens and I were on first watch. We turned in about 2400 hours in a German fox hole. Daybreak, Stevens started punching me for my 45 pistol. I thought it was Germans. He saw a rabbit outside our fox hole (thinking of a rabbit for dinner) but found out it was froze stiff. When we talk over old times the story of the rabbit is always mentioned.

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December 1944

John B. Savard
G Company
38th Infantry Regiment
2d Infantry Division
North St. Paul, Minnesota

"The enemy drive was halted."
It said in the papers one day.
But little the folks back home realized
The price we had to pay.

Our position a farm at a crossroad,
To hold as long as we could.
There may be some friendly troops out there,
Making their way through the wood.

A patrol was sent out to make contact,
But none of the men returned.
The rest of the company dug foxholes,
While off to our right a town burned.

Then quickly the Germans were on us.
We could hear them scream and yell.
But our guns opened up in an instant,
and the din of battle was hell.

They seemed to be coming from every direction
Their panzers were belching flame.
The infantry man and his "burp" gun,

To kill and destroy was his aim.

Our mortars fired from back of the barn
Till all of their shells were gone.
The men in the fox holes held the line
As the night and the battle wore on.

A group of S.S. broke through our line,
In a charge straight down the road.
But our 1st sergeant using some headquarters men
Cut them down like wheat freshly mowed.

The pressure was getting stronger.
The line was beginning to tear.
Then the captain called for artillery fire
Upon our position there.

We all crouched deep in our fox holes
Or took cover wherever we could.
As the shells fell all about us,
The Germans withdrew to the wood.

We held and the first rays of dawning
Showed destruction on every hand.
Twisted bodies of Yank and German
Lay there where we made our stand.

You see that form under the blanket?
That's a buddy I'll always hold dear.
We came in as replacements together,
Now he's gone and by luck I'm still here.

Yes we held them there at that cross road
In the mud and the driving snow.
A moment of time in the Battle of the Bulge
Many long years ago.

WE NEED YOUR STORY!!

We are fast running out of stories for this column and we need your help. Won't you send us your story? You've got a group of guys just waiting to hear from YOU.

PROPOSED DUES INCREASE

At the April 20, 1991 VBOB Executive Council Meeting a motion was passed to notify the membership of a proposed increase in the annual dues from \$10 to \$15 per year. The motion included a provision that the proposed increase be presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting in September 1991.



VBOB DONATES TO MEDICAL CENTER

Battle of the Bulge Veterans, Northern Virginia Chapter, present Mr. Timothy B. Williams, Medical Center Director, Washington, D.C. Veterans Affairs Medical Center, with 1000 wash cloths valued at over \$2500.00, for use by the nurses in bathing patients. Making the presentation were, left to right, Bill Hemphill, Treasurer, Mr. Williams, Bob Van Houten, Chapter Coordinator, H. Dean Fravel, President, No. Va. Chapter, and Ben Layton, Public Relations Officer.

(Photo by Joan F. Morton, Acting Chief, Voluntary Service)

SLATE FOR 1992 PRESENTED

The VBOB Nominating Committee submits the following nominees to be our leaders in 1992

PRESIDENT

Darrell Kuhn

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

John Dunleavy

VICE PRESIDENT
FOR MEMBERSHIP

Neil B. Thompson

VICE PRESIDENT FOR
MILITARY AFFAIRS

Peter G. Dounis

VICE PRESIDENT FOR
REGIONAL COORDINATION

Robert J. Van Houten

TREASURER

William R. Hemphill

RECORDING SECRETARY
Frances W. Doherty

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
Beverly Van Houten



Wars may be fought with weapons, but they are won by men. It is the spirit of the men who follow and of the man who leads that gains the victory.

GENERAL GEORGE PATTON

MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

HARDY TRENT would like to hear from anyone who can provide information regarding the whereabouts of **ANDREW N. HOPKINS, 9th Armored Division, 14th Tank Battalion.** Write to Hardy at Box 39A, Route 2, Hartford, Kansas 66854.

GEORGE J. WINTER would like some help with the following: "During action in the Freineux area south of Grandmenil on December 14, a German lieutenant, trapped in a burning building in Freineux, was rescued by a patrol of C or D Company, 83rd Reconnaissance Battalion, or possibly C Company,, 517th Paratroop Infantry Regiment. That same day five tanks (probably of C Company, 14th Tank Battalion, 9th Armored Division) were hit by a German Panther as they approached Freineux from Grandmenil." George is researching operations in the Freineux-Lamormenil-LeBatty/Oster area on December 24 and appreciate hearing from anyone involved in the above incidents, as well as area participants from **D Company, 32nd Armored Regiment; A Battery, 44th Field Artillery** and members of an unidentified two tank destroyer platoon at Freineux. Contact George at: Route 1, Box 290, Montvale, Virginia 24122.

Does anybody know the whereabouts of **PAUL R. FINCH, Reconnaissance Company of the 609th Tank Destroyer Battalion?** **GEORGE O. FUNKE** has been trying to locate him for quite a while. Paul lived in Windham, New York until about 1947 and his mother lived in Ararat, Virginia. If anyone can help please write George at 3260 Oakford Road, Trevoise, Pennsylvania 19053-6606.

BILL WATTS of the 10th Armored Division, 21st Tank Battalion, Service Company, wrote recently stating that receipt of *The Bugle* brings back many memories--both good and bad. He recalled not seeing the kitchen truck sometimes for a month or more and how he cooked C rations mixed with potatoes. They came upon a field which had been dug out by German mortars and artillery, and they stopped long enough to gather some potatoes for their concoction. One night **LT. SUJENSKY**, the motor pool officer, invited their captain, **CAPTAIN HAMEL** to the truck to eat with them--he thought the meal was great. In spite of the lack of food, warm clothes, and the bitter cold, Bill feels he was pretty lucky.

V. B. WHITEHORNE, 28TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 103RD ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, "BLOODY BUCKET," sent us a notice of his group's reunion. It arrived too late to be included in the last issue. In case you would want to know "what happened," drop him a note at: 113 Oates Avenue, Winchester, Virginia 22601. Telephone: 703-662-3048.

EDWIN J. SWINEFORD, 722 RAILWAY OPERATIONS BATTALION, HQ, advises us that his book *Wits of War: Unofficial GI Humor-History of World War II*, is now available. Lauded by many as a relief from the seriousness

of war, this 660-page book is available from: Kilroy Was There Press, Box 5462, Fresno, California 93755. Price is \$18.50 (add \$2.00 for overseas and Californians add \$1.20 sales tax). You can write for a free brochure.

Does anybody remember how cold it was on the thermometer? One evening meal in Luxembourg, we had to move our sump burners inside of a fire house. At 11:00 o'clock that night we got water hot enough to wash mess kits and cups. Our coffee froze in the cups and beef stew froze in the mess kits.... Remember? **THOMAS W. WILSON, 87th Infantry, Headquarters,** now at P.O. Box 13, New Straitsville, OH 43766.

DARRELL BENEDICT, 1st Infantry Division, 16th Regiment, E Company, would like to hear from anyone who served with him especially Lt. Outrack or a man named King. Darrell says that he was proud to have served with "The Big Red One," and would like to locate some of the fellows he knew. Address: 22420 Benedict Drive, Flint, Texas 75762.

Anyone out there from the 166th Engineer Combat Battalion or remember anything about the outfit? If so, **HOWELL DULANEY** would like to hear from you. His address is: 926 Ventura Drive, Bessemer, Alabama 35023.

JACK C. BROWN, 514th Field Artillery Battalion, Battery C, would like to hear from anyone in his group stationed in Europe during 1943-45. He wants to know if there have been any reunions and does anyone know about Van Buren Brooks and Red Lawler. Contact Jack at: 609 South Hall, Prairie Grove, Arizona 72753, Telephone: 501-846-4872.

RALPH J. CHADWELL would like to hear from any of the doughboys who were at Kilstett. Ralph was with the group who defended Kilstett three days and nights until the French Armored Division relieved them. His address: R.R. 3, Box 311D, Russell Springs, Kentucky 42642.

We received an announcement regarding a reunion of the 299th Combat Engineers, but it was too late to be of any value. If you want more information about the group, write to **PAUL J. PIRRO, 5686 Stevens Drive, Cicero, New York 13039.**

GEORGE McAVOY writes about his army experience in *A Citizen/Soldier Remembers 1942-1946*. This book, which is a personal account of three years, one month and 9 days of service during World War II, will be available in September at a cost of \$32.50, including postage and handling. The book includes 159 photographs (including the 'Queen Mary,' which transported the 149th Armored Signal Company to Scotland), 32 exhibits, the Battle of the Bulge, and much more. Contact George at: 200719 Bethlehem Road, Littleton, New Hampshire 03561.

If you have something for this column, drop us a note. Also, please let us know if you get response to your notice. Follow-up articles are always nice to read.

REUNIONS

2ND TANK BATTALION, 9TH ARMORED DIVISION, September 19-22, 1991, Ft. Riley, Kansas. Contact: Barb Boese, 202 East Market, Dodge City, Kansas 67801.

3RD CAVALRY GROUP VETERANS' ASSOCIATION, August 30-September 1, 1991, Hotel Sofitel, Rosemont, Illinois. Contact: Bob Hedstrom, Box 134, Wheaton, Illinois 60189. Telephone: 708-515-3824.

10TH ARMORED DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION, 29 August-September 2, 1991, Birmingham, Alabama. Contact: Samuel F. Murrow, Box 213, Bay Port, Michigan 48720. Telephone: 517-656-3551.

28TH DIVISION, 110TH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION (WW II), Holiday Inn, Meadow Lands, Washington, Pennsylvania. Contact: John Chernitsky, 18 Country Club Blvd., Uniontown, Pennsylvania 15401. Telephone: 412-438-9119.

32ND SIGNAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION, September 19-21, 1991, Chattanooga, Tennessee. Contact: Charles A. Thompson, Jr., P.O. Box 434, Athens, Tennessee 37303.

36TH INFANTRY DIVISION, August 29-September 1, 1991, Austin, Texas. Contact: Bert D. Carlton, 806 Aransas Drive, Euless, Texas 76039. Telephone: 817-267-7864.

52ND ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, 9TH ARMORED DIVISION (WW II), May 29-June 1, 1991, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Contact: Vern W. Reaugh, 222A Island Cove Court, Hampton, VA 23669. Telephone: 804-723-4859.

78TH LIGHTNING DIVISION, 138TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, COMPANY B, October 16-20, 1991, Bluewater Resort, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29577. Contact: Mark G. Hoffman, 1221 Brinkerton, Greensburg, Pennsylvania 15601. Telephone: 412-834-6651.

94TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, August 29-31, 1991, Stouffer Hotel, Orlando, Florida. Contact: Harry Helms, 609 Dogwood Drive, Downingtown, PA 29335.

203RD FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, October 3-5, 1991, Embassy Suites Hotel, Tulsa, Oklahoma. Contact: Bill Cottingham, Route 2, Box 307, Big Cabin, Oklahoma 74332. Telephone: 918-782-3759.

216TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, 35TH DIVISION, September 27-29, 1991, Mac's Landing, Lodge & Marina, 7001 Val-Monte Drive, Guntersville, Alabama 35976. Contact: Tommie L. Pierce, Route 4, Box 89, Boaz, Alabama 35957. Telephone: 205-593-3424.

285TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION ASSOCIATION, WW II, October 3-7, 1991, Williamsburg, Virginia. Contact: Walter R. Maxwell, 309 Brock Road, Springfield, Pennsylvania 19064. Telephone: 215-543-6666.

291ST ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, September 23-26, 1991, The West Bank Inn, Idaho Falls, Idaho. Contact: Willard Johnson, 648 N 1000E, Shelley, Idaho 83274. Telephone: 208-346-6169.

304TH INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, September 6-8, 1991, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Contact: Walter S. Gordon, 326 Dunham Place, Glen Rock, New Jersey 07452.

405TH AAA GUN BATTALION, October 19, 1991, Roanoke, Virginia. Contact: Warren Dillard, 2033 - 10th Street, N.W., Roanoke, Virginia 24012. Telephone: 703-366-3576.

575TH AAA (AW) SP, BATTERY D, September 8-10, 1991, Pottawatomie Inn, Pokagon State Park, Angola, Indiana. Contact: Roger T. Rhoads, 4004 Cambridge, Des Moines, Iowa 50313.

609TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION ASSOCIATION, September 18-21, 1991, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Contact: George O. Funke, 3260 Oakford Road, Trevoise, Pennsylvania 19053.

691ST TANK DESTROYER BATTALION, Holiday Inn, Tanglewood,

Roanoke, Virginia. Contact: Glen Linton, Paint Bank, Virginia 24131. Telephone: 703-897-5131.

707TH TANK BATTALION (WWII), September 18-21, 1991, Airport Marriott Hotel, Kansas City, Missouri. Contact: John E Bickers, P.O. Box 481, Gulf Breeze, Florida 32562. Telephone: 904-932-2931.

745TH TANK BATTALION (WWII), September 6-8, 1991, The Drake Oakbrook Hotel, Oakbrook, Illinois. Contact: A. G. Spencer, 760 Glen Avenue, Marseilles, Illinois 61341. Telephone: 815-795-4838.

825TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION, October 23-26, 1991, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Contact: John H. McCord, 217 Sagewood Road, Greenwood, South Carolina. Telephone: 803-223-7706.

926TH SIGNAL BATTALION, August 22-24, 1991, Madison, Wisconsin. Contact: Hap Turner, Drawer T, Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214.

1056 ENGINEER PC&R GROUP, October, 1991, Little Rock, Arkansas. Contact: George Willis, 2221 Hot Springs Road, Benton, Arkansas 72015. Telephone: 502-778-3838

OUR FLAG

The call had come, so loud and clear
Across the country side
The need for men and women too
To stand up for her pride.

Our land and flag was on the line
The test was soon to come
For I was just a soldier boy
So young and full of fun.

And through the battles day and night
I dreamed of coming home
But now I lay in solitude
Beneath this common stone.

I saw my father and mother cry
And my daughter walking slowly by
My wife was standing by the side
As if not to look, but just to hide.

They gathered for their last farewell
How well I knew them all
As rifles broke the morning air
And taps played their final call.

The folding of the flag took place
In just a certain way
And handed to my wife with pride
The price that some must pay.

And as they all began to leave
I heard a voice so softly say
Oh God, he did his very best.
Please don't burn a flag today.

I ask you please, don't burn the flag
I gave my life for you
Is this too much? It's all I ask
And for my comrades too.

And if in all, you insist
Come take a walk with me
Between the crosses row on row
Where we can set you free.

By John C. Gorge, Post 4126
Dedicated to all the men and women who gave
their life in defense of our country.

AMERICANS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN FOUR WARS, STOPPED THE GERMANS' USE OF THE ARDENNES AS OPEN SESAME TO VICTORY AGAINST FRENCH AND BRITISH

The Germans have long enjoyed a well-deserved reputation for being able to make effective use of terrain for military purposes. For example, in 1940 their superior operational capabilities and perceptions were employed to great advantage in the Ardennes, when they quickly and decisively defeated the French and British armies, knocking the French out of the war.

Yet this same evaluative skill was not in evidence four years later when they again tried to split the Allied line in almost the same area.

Why?

Perhaps a brief comparison of the Ardennes campaigns of 1940 and 1944 may help shed some light on the matter.

In 1940 the Allied line consisted of three basic segments. The Maginot Line in the southeast was an excellent defensive complex, constructed in the same rugged terrain in which the bastion of Verdun of World War I fame is located. The Germans never made a major effort to breach the Maginot Line.

At the other end of the Line, in the northwest, lay the Lowlands, stretching from beyond Paris and into Belgium and the Netherlands. This is an area of rolling topography and good drainage, except for a few segments such as Flanders.

The communications network is excellent and no large river system blocks the path of armies moving from Cologne, Germany, to Liege, Belgium, and then to Paris. This route was chosen by General von Schlieffen in WWI and by the Nazis at the beginning of World War II as the best and quickest way to reach and capture Paris.

The plan had obvious military and topographic merit, but one of its political drawbacks was that it violated Belgium--and, in 1940 Dutch--neutrality. The Kaiser and Hitler both denigrated the political and moral aspects involved in the unprovoked invasion of neutral territory. (One might substitute their names for that of Neville Chamberlain when Lloyd George said of him that "he saw foreign policy from the wrong end of a municipal drainpipe.")

Since the Allies in 1940 expected a German invasion following the von Schlieffen plan, they placed the "Flying Wing," containing most of their mobile and armored forces (numerically equivalent in toto to those of the Nazis) along the Belgian border. Their assignment was to advance into the Lowlands as soon as the Wehrmacht attacked Liege; this Allied force quickly became entrapped in Belgium once the invasion started and either was forced to surrender or to evacuate the area via Dunkirk.

In the center of the line was the Ardennes-Meuse River barrier. It consists of good defensive terrain but almost all

of it is located in the part of Belgium which that nation chose not to defend in any substantial way. Accordingly, the French were forced to man only the line of the Meuse River, which roughly comprises the southwest border of the Ardennes hill country. Because of its naturally good defensive terrain, however, the French did not consider this area an important or critical part of the Allied line.

Early in 1940, General Erich von Manstein, arguably the very best German military leader in World War II, (as compared to Marshal Erwin Rommel, for example), convinced Hitler to place the main thrust or *schwerpunkt* of the Wehrmacht in the Ardennes rather than in the Lowlands.

The French were not aware of this change; constrained as they were by the fact that they could not enter and defend the Ardennes itself, they made two mistakes--first, they assumed that with little or no opposition in the Ardennes, it would still take a mobile German force some nine days to cross the hill country and reach the Meuse River. In the event it took the Germans, using rigid march discipline and detailed route planning, one quarter of that time.

Second, the French--so sure were they of their terrain evaluation--left no large reserves south of or near the Meuse in case a breakthrough occurred. In other words, the military leadership of the opposing sides looked at the same terrain area and reached radically different conclusions as to the types of operations which could be successfully conducted there.

The Nazis invaded the Ardennes on 10 May 1940, quickly reached the Meuse and initially broke the Allied line at Sedan (where the French had lost to the Germans in 1870). The Germans then raced west through good tank country to reach the ports on the English Channel.

The Flying Wing and the Maginot Line were thus outflanked and the war at that point was effectively over for the French, even though hostilities lingered on for about a month more.

In 1944 the Germans were again inclined to attempt the same maneuver.

They gained the element of surprise, by secretly assembling their *schwerpunkt* next to the inactive and comparatively lightly defended Ardennes-Eiffel segment of the Allied line.

Why didn't the campaign succeed?

Simply, as any VBOber can verify, because there were U.S. troops stationed in the Ardennes; it was not the unmanned territory it had been in 1940.

Jonathan Swift once wrote that the natives of Papua were "a fierce and intractable race who, when fired upon, did not scruple to retaliate." The American troops stationed in the Ardennes-Eiffel adhered to this commendable Papuan tradition, much to the frustration and chagrin of the Germans. (The deathless prose of the McAuliffe response comes to mind in this regard.) Indeed, no one seems to have reminded the GIs after 16 December that they were stationed in a rest area....

(Continued on page 23)

(Continued from previous page)

The northern and southern shoulders of the breakthrough area and important crossroads and hill towns were stoutly defended and the Nazi advance foundered amidst heavy casualties on both sides.

It was a common practice among German generals after WW II to "Hitler-bash." He reminds one of Mark Twain's fire-eating dragon which "ate men and cattle impartially and was exceedingly unpopular"! Yet the conclusion regarding the German failure in the Battle of the Bulge suggests that the blame should be apportioned in somewhat broader fashion. It is hard to believe that only one man could have made such fateful errors in the planning of such a large and complex operation.

Basically, two mistakes were made by the Germans: first the Nazi leadership seems to have completely disregarded the fact that, unlike 1940, the rugged defensive terrain of the Ardennes was occupied by a determined enemy.

Accordingly, the chances of quickly and effectively crossing such a barrier and reaching the Channel or North Sea supply ports was not good. Second, the Nazis made the fatal mistake of assuming that the enemy forces they faced were second rate. The German generals thus committed one of the great cardinal sins of good military leadership--they underestimated the fighting capabilities of the American troops in the Ardennes, despite the impressive military performance of these same troops since the D-Day invasion. Perhaps the Germans should have paid more attention to the admonitions of one of their greatest writers, John Wolfgang von Goethe, to the effect that there is nothing more disastrous than ignorance in action....

The author, Dr. Marvin F. Gordon, served in the Bulge and is now professor emeritus of geography at George Washington University. He has served as a consultant for the United Nations and the U.S. Department of State and as a lecturer at the Foreign Service Institute of the War College.

KEEPING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

Some of the unit histories used by *The Bugle* to highlight briefly Bulge divisions sometimes tend to make it look as if one division was responsible for an important action--but that's because many unit historians got carried away and ignored the divisions on either flank, or in some way short-changed another outfit's contribution to a mutual battle success. Actually, there might have been several divisions in on one key action. *The Bugle* has received some letters stating the writer's division did such and so--and not another division.

The Bugle needs your help in setting the record straight. We do not make up the unit histories. We pull them from WW II histories, and official Department of the Army sources. So we are not experts in deciding which historian was right. We are only reporters, reporting on facts given us, we believe, in good faith. *The Bugle* is the only publication which carries stories in some depth on Bulge divisions and other units. We need claims of misstatements authenticated by the writer sending in a quote from a recognized historian to back up the writer's claim that **HIS** division did whatever.

True, controversy helps sell newspapers, but Bulge veterans have been in enough fights. We would like to put each unit's best foot forward. We won a hell of a fight, but there

is credit enough for all--and then some to spare. But we'll print as many laudatory, authenticated pieces as come in. Just keep them short. However, if the historian we quote has slighted another outfit, please come back with another historian who has researched another set of facts.

Also, *The Bugle* has limited space. We cannot deal with stories not directly involving the Bulge. Unit histories often contain information about campaigns before and after the Bulge, but we do not have space enough to deal at length about those "other fights." If you have some comment please try to keep the comments short. Quote as many authorities as you can to make your case. *The Bugle* will print comments on other units which have claim to major actions in the Bulge and have not been so stated by historians so far quoted in these pages.

If you have a division history of about a page and a half, double-spaced, please send it along. That's about all the space we can offer each division.

In future editions, though, we will print additional information about all the Bulge divisions, so the initial printing of a division's anecdotes is not the final one for any division.

Keep those cards and letters coming!

The Editor

CONTRIBUTIONS

VBOB on occasion receives contributions from our members and we want you to know that these are very much appreciated. We would like to thank all of you who send us "a little something extra." Needless to say, these moneys are put to good use.

Space does not permit us to thank each of you individually, so, collectively, we thank you.

A special thanks goes to:

CARROLL BLAIR, 97th Infantry Division, 303rd
Infantry Service Division, (Dayton, Ohio)
and

EDWARD E. ULRICH, 75th Infantry Division,
750 Tank Battalion, (Seattle, Washington).

It would have taken an inordinate amount of time to check with every individual, thus the falling back on official records. If you have additional anecdotes or facts about your division, write them for the *Bugle*.

Divisions fight on the ground, and it is there that our lasting gains in WWII have been scored, our major victories won, most of our heroes spawned, and most of our casualties suffered.

Sixty-four percent of the Army's Medal of Honor and 75 percent of its casualties have been earned by infantrymen--and yet only one out of every five soldiers is an infantryman. These statistics are the measure of the foot soldier's unparalleled risks and unparalleled deeds, and nearly all our foot soldiers have fought as members of combat divisions.

Of course, there were thousands of ground soldiers who had performed notably in combat as members of separate task forces, regiments, battalions, and other non-divisional units.

Most of these had been artillery, tanks, cavalry, anti-aircraft, or combat engineers, serving under direct control of corps or armies, or sometimes attached to, though not actually assigned to, divisions. Others of these soldiers have been infantrymen--some of the best the Army has.

By far the greater part of our combat ground forces have been assigned to divisions. After the fall of Bataan, our combat army consisted of 89 of them--one cavalry, one mountain, five airborne, 16 armored, and 66 infantry.

At the beginning of the draft, the U.S. had as a fighting nucleus eight regular army infantry divisions all considerably under-strength; one armored division, barely out of the experimental stage and a little more than one cavalry division. There were no airborne divisions at all and even by the summer of 1941, our total complement of paratroopers consisted of exactly one battalion. Many divisions which became veterans of the Battle of the Bulge and experienced extremely arduous combat duty in '44-45, existed only on paper when the Japs struck at Pearl Harbor 7 December 1941.

So the divisions which took part in the Bulge were largely--plus 90 percent--selectees. The original cadres of the "regular" divisions were spread out to form new divisions--those in the higher numbers; the original cadre West Pointers were assigned to staff jobs to make sure the Army operated efficiently. The leadership of the combat divisions and allied units were mostly in the hands of non-West Pointers. For instance, the Ninth Infantry Division's commander was Major General Manton S. Eddy, not a West Pointer. He did well that General Patton, a West Pointer, chose General Eddy to be a Third Army Corps commander, as a lieutenant general. The staff that made General Patton's major decisions when he was II Corps commander in North Africa, Seventh Army commander in Sicily, and Third Army commander in Europe, were mostly non-West Pointers.

All our divisions are numbered officially, but all of them, too, have nicknames, some picked by the men themselves. There are two exceptions to the numerical system: the Philippine and American Divisions, had names only. They

did not fight in the Bulge. Armored divisions have their own numerical sequence. Infantry, airborne, and mountain divisions are in another sequence, divided into three parts. The lowest numbers are those of the so-called regular divisions--usually composed, as the infantry was, of selectees.

The middle group of numbers--26-45--are national guard divisions, which also were mainly selectee-manned during the Bulge. The higher numbered divisions were activated for the national emergency, but mostly had the same personnel composition as the so-called regulars or national guard. *The thing that set each division apart from the others was the special mix of commanders, staff and fighting spirit of all the soldiers of a division which did better than its mates--the magical circumstances which makes one football team better than another....*

The first of the national emergency divisions activated, the 85th and 88th, did not start fighting until the spring of 1944--more than a year and a half after our older divisions had gone into action. It was the guard divisions, the 27th, 32nd, 34th, 36th, 41st, and 45th, to name a few, which along with such originally regular outfits as the 1st, 3d, and 9th Infantry and the 1st and 2d Armored Divisions, did the bulk of our army's fighting early in the war.

These veteran outfits had, accordingly, suffered more heavily; also they had had enough shaking down so they had come out of the "green and wobbly" state General Omar N. Bradley, 21st Army Group commander, called some of the Bulge divisions. It is commonly thought, for instance, that an infantry division has about 15,000 men in it. That is more or less so at any one time. But through battle casualties some of our old divisions have had many times that number of men pass through their ranks and thus became eligible to wear the division insignia on one shoulder or the other--left shoulder for those presently assigned, and right for alumni.

So the magical circumstances which make one division better than another, despite the almost complete turnover of riflemen, found the 1st and 9th Infantry Divisions, among those which suffered the most casualties, still playing an important part in the Bulge. The low-numbered armored divisions also had the same experience. The other divisions in the Bulge were tested from Normandy on through France and into Germany. Still others had their testing in the Bulge--all of them passed with flying colors. Once they caught the hang of it, they vied with the veteran divisions to compete and shoulder key missions in smashing the redoubtable German war machine.

The infantry division known during the Battle of the Bulge was first formed in 1917; a triangular outfit down to its tiniest unit--the rifle squad. The Bulge divisions' principal striking power was three regiments, each one of three battalions and supporting troops, each battalion in turn of three rifle companies and support, each company of three rifle platoons and support, and each platoon, finally of three squads. Every group of foot soldiers had its own supporting fire. A regiment fights as part of a combat team assisted by a battalion of light field artillery in addition to its own cannon and antitank units.

(Continued on page 25)

17TH AIRBORNE DIVISION DROPS INTO BULGE--Fights on Line Beside 101st Airborne Division and 87th Infantry Division

No American division ever made a more spectacular or hazardous entrance into combat than did the 17th Airborne Division.

Comfortably billeted in England one day, 17th troopers were in the battle zone near Reims, ready to throw their power against von Rundstedt in the Battle of the Bulge.

With von Rundstedt's troops grinding forward, the Allies needed all men available. Under cover of darkness, and in treacherous weather, the 17th boarded transport planes and was flown to the battle zone.

The men who wear the grasping eagle's claws against a black background on their shoulder patch were given a terrific assignment their first time out. They relieved the 11th Armored Division south of Bastogne and went into the line between the 101st Airborne Division and the 87th Infantry Division.

Their mission was not to hold, but to attack. And attack they did. Scoring a fanatical foe, swirling snow, roadblocks, and thousands of mines, the 17th drove forward. They slashed through Cetturu, and on into Bouitert, Steinbach, and Limerle, cutting vital highways. After of a month of bitter fighting, the men of the 17th broke into Germany near Wiltz.

In February the division was engaged along the Our River, its job being to hold a bridgehead south of Cevereaux, Luxembourg. In a pre-dawn attack, it was one of the units which crossed the Luxembourg-German border along a 22 mile front and pushed into the Siegfried Line. The men forded the Our River just east of Clerf. Fighting alongside the 6th Armored Division, the 17th captured Dasburg and established a supply line across the Our River.

In March came one of the most successful airborne operations of the war--a feat that helped set up the final drive to Berlin and Nazi capitulation. As part of the First Allied Airborne Army, the 17th helped in the crossing of the Rhine just below the Netherlands' border. In dropping across the Rhine, the Division used 3,000 gliders without the loss of one due to enemy action. The landing of troops in this dramatic thrust by the First Allied Airborne Army began northeast of Wessel, Germany, and the big march was on. Dorsten fell, then Haltern, followed by Dulmen, Appelhouse, and Munster.

The Division was deactivated at the end of WWII. Joe Quade, 17th Airborne Division Association newsletter editor, reports that the 17th Airborne Division Association was formed at Camp Victoret, Marseilles, France, 6 September, 1945, to perpetuate the spirit and comradeship of the approximately 20,000 men who wore the shoulder patch. The Association has met in different cities in the U.S. since 1954. Six pilgrimages were made to Europe. A special honor was accorded the 17th when Houffalize, Belgium, dedicated Place 17th Airborne Division. Operation Varsity parties are held every March to commemorate the paratroop/glider-trooper crossing of the Rhine.

(continued from page 24 COMBAT UNITS)

No division, no matter what kind, is greater than the men who make it up. The short histories in this series are unit stories but they are the histories of hundreds of thousands of foot soldiers to whom a casually named town in a foreign land may have been a week of agony, to whom an obscure river or terrain feature may be a landmark memorable above all others, and for whom no written word will ever catch the import of the moments these names bring back. There are many men who wore the divisional insignia that are so peculiarly the mark of the fighting soldier. Some of these men served with a division only briefly, and some for months or years. Whoever they are, and wherever they are, they will always be part of the divisions with which they have fought, for they gave life and blood to our nation's finest combat outfits. A battalion has its own heavy-weapons company, and a company has its own weapons platoon. Even the rifle squad has its own heavy-weapon--or base of fire--the Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR).

UPDATE BATTLE OF THE BULGE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

It is now four years since the process was set in motion for the development of the Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation for the purpose of preserving the history of the Battle of the Bulge.

Meeting the goal of raising \$1.5 million for the purpose of building a gallery onto the accredited U.S. Army Museum, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, has been tirelessly pursued. Despite extensive work and spending of personal funds, by the Board of Trustees, we were unable to acquire meaningful funding for this effort. Other less costly alternatives for preserving the history of this dramatic World War II are now being considered by the Board of Trustees.

A financial audit of the Foundation is near completion, and the acquiring of personal histories of those who served in the Bulge continues as a top priority.

As many of you know, with the advent of Desert Storm, I was recalled to the American Red Cross to direct the recruiting and assigning of doctors and nurses who wished to volunteer their medical skills in the Military Health Care Facilities or in the Gulf Area Refugee Camps.

With this added full-time responsibility, I can no longer give the needed energies to the position of Foundation President. A slate of new officers as well as new directions for the Foundation will be considered by the Board.

I was honored to have served as president of the Foundation and extend my sincere thanks to the many who have given so generously of their support, their time and their funds--again, I urge all of you to participate in the collection of Battle of the Bulge/World War II written materials so that this history may indeed be preserved for future generations.

Dorothy S. Davis, R.N.
President, Historical Foundation

Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants. We know more about war than we know about peace, more about killing than we know about living.

GENERAL OMAR BRADLEY

VBOB'S NEXT MISSION: No One Forgets the Bulge

It has been said of some veterans' organizations, very deeply involved in present-day beer busts and other veteran-making-like-civilians' activities (various social events) that they are unsteadily ready, and inertly alert--so befuddled are they by carrying on civilian activities while sporting a veteran's organization organization overseas cap.... Unfortunately this does not make them veterans of anything but low-key social events. They play no large role in making their wartime contribution a firm outpost of democracy which they (and their KIA buddies) won with their lives, blood, sweat and tears.

The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge does not think in these terms. We want to do things to perpetuate the memory of our contribution to the saving of democracy and the preservation of freedom throughout the world in our time.

Further, we want to make sure that what we won will be imprinted on the future. We want future generations of the civilized world to understand what we have given them. We would like Americans especially, to use the Bulge Veterans as role models for their lives and for their children's lives. Thus, the United States can have, in an unbroken chain from the Revolutionary War, the sense of what each war gave this Nation.

VBOB feels the Bulge was a most important battle in WWII. If we had lost, the Germans may very well have won the war. Thus the Bulge Veterans had a central role in winning the war in Europe.

VBOB's membership is being thinned by the Grim Reaper--a foe we cannot beat--as we have beat back all other powerful opponents. Thus, VBOB must, very soon, start taking the steps needed to perpetuate what the Bulge Veterans have won.

We need to pass on the image of the defender of the Nation's values. Our role model capability must be made to work to help younger Americans in their personal and national problems. To do that is a task certainly as unique and formidable a task as that we accomplished in the winter of 1944-45, in the old American tradition of Not Enough: Supplies, troops, but an abundance of Germans. There is an urgency in playing our role model to the hilt with great force and urgency. We are a non-renewable resource.

We need to memorialize the Battle and in so doing honor its individual contributors to that stunning victory.

We need to set up chapter speakers' bureaus and then go out and seek audiences. We must let all Americans know how unique and goal-oriented we were and how much we delivered when the chips were down.

We must seek ways to challenge all Americans, individually and in their various activities, to follow the spirit of the Bulge Veteran.

We have to pass on the idea that in the Bulge we by and large each individually resolved to stop the Germans--and so we made our organizations work--we gave our commanders

Editorial

by Roy Gordon

something to work with--and we won--we beat the hell out of the Germans, and we just about won the war there, in Belgium and Germany. The Germans never could amount another offensive. Bulge Veterans took up the spirit of the American fighting man passed down, generation to generation, from Revolutionary times, to fight against great odds--and by individual determination bound together in the brotherhood of battle, added lustre to the already-impressive escutcheon of the American combat soldier.

We have to make sure the succeeding generations understand that. You can have your back against the wall but if you have determination, faith in yourself and your buddies and in God, and give heart to your commanders by showing fighting spirit, no force on earth can stop Americans.

We need to recognize each and every Veteran of the Battle of the Bulge--the organization--first, with a Certificate of Participation, and then see that all the other Bulge veterans also get some recognition.

We should look into the matter of setting up a Sons and Daughters of the VBOB, to perpetuate the Glory we have given this Nation.

We need to see to it that VBOB is memorialized in official and unofficial museums. (Efforts by members have been started here--but as in all the future-tabbed activities mentioned, much more money must be acquired; many more influential individuals must be enlisted to help in all these causes--and any others not mentioned so far.)

Much has been done by the VBOB Founders to start many of these activities off; some, such as a memorial at Arlington Cemetery, have been done.

But we need more memorials--endeavors are afoot to honor events and personnel of far less significance than the Bulge Veterans. VBOB's over-all memorial should be a front-and-center eye-catcher.

We do not think it appropriate for Bulge Veterans to, say, supply the money for printing and distributing the Certificates of Participation. If we do that we honor ourselves. The Nation should be the one who does the honoring. We did our part; it is time those who benefitted from the largesse the Bulge Veterans have provided must do theirs.

We would like to hear from the far-flung membership:

What ideas and plans do you have which would help perpetuate the accomplishments of the Bulge Veterans?

Which would you give high, middle and low priority to?

Do you have or know of any resources we might contact to get funds and influence to accomplish our goals?

Give us your logistical plan of action for winning this Big One.

This is a fight Bulge Veterans should relish: Our front is being pushed back; our flanks are collapsing. The situation is excellent. We attack!

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