

The BULGE BUGLE

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

VOLUME X NUMBER 1

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

FEBRUARY 1991

BELGIAN FUSILIERS AND VBOB JOIN TO COMMEMORATE BULGE 46TH ANNIVERSARY



Retired Army Brig. Gen. Oliver Patton remembers a Christmas lost to savagery.

Mark your calendar...

SEPT. 5, 6, 7, 1991
10TH ANNUAL
VBOB REUNION
Charleston, South Carolina

*Complete details will be published
in the next issue of THE BULGE BUGLE*

Many of us remember the ceremonies last year in the bitter cold December (-20 chill factor) of 1989. We were blessed this year with much better weather, though chilly, as the cloud cover moved in around 11:00 a.m. As we remember, forty-six years ago to the very day the greatest battle ever fought by Americans commenced. It was fitting for us (VBOB members, 5th Belgian Fusiliers, wives and guests) to gather at Arlington Cemetery, often referred to as the "Garden of Stone" to lay a wreath at this famous tomb. After viewing the medals in the Trophy Room, we were witness to the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

VBOB President William T. Greenville and Vice President for Military Affairs Eugene Drouillard laid the first wreath at the Tomb. This was followed by a wreath from the 5th Belgian Fusiliers, laid by President Marcel d'Haese, National Secretary Roger Hardy, and Jean Linard de Guertechin. A very touching and moving ceremony for all of us.

We were honored, as well, with the presence of Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) a staunch supporter of VBOB and a disabled veteran of WW II.

A beautiful rendition of Taps by a Bugler, U.S. Army Band closed the ceremony.

Immediately after the conclusion of the ceremonies at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier the VBOB attendees walked a short distance to the rear of

Continued on Page 3

**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 five times yearly.

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VBOB OFFICERS - ELECTED

PRESIDENT - Darrell T. Kuhn
75th Infantry Division

EXEC. VICE PRES. - John Dunleavy
5th Infantry Division

VICE PRES. FOR MEMBERSHIP
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**VICE PRESIDENT FOR MILITARY
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87th Infantry Division

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COORDINATION** - Robert J. Van Houten
16 FA OBN Battalion

TREASURER - William R. Hemphill
3rd Armored Division

RECORDING SECRETARY
Frances W. Doherty - Widow of Jack
825th TD Battalion

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
Beverley Van Houten

APPOINTED

**NATIONAL DIRECTOR, PUBLIC
RELATIONS**
Joseph Zimmer
87th Infantry Division

HISTORIAN - Helen Berry, Widow
of Walter E., 4th Infantry Division

CHAPLAIN - Msgr. William F. O'Donnell
87th Infantry Division

LIAISON OFFICER FOR INT. AFFAIRS
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28th Infantry Division

PHOTOGRAPHER - Sam Silverman
10th Armored Division

HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

PRESIDENT - Dorothy S. Davis
57th Field Hospital

PAST VBOB PRESIDENTS

Clyde Boden, 1981-1984
Robert J. Van Houten, 1984-1986
George Chekan, 1986-1988
William T. Greenville, 1988-1990

*"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

The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Association was incorporated in September, 1990 at our General Membership Meeting in Valley Forge. Bill Greenville has been working with his committee on contract agreements, and they should soon be completed. The bylaws committee worked hard, with many hours spent rewriting the bylaws. They were presented and approved at the National Executive Council in November, 1990. The next step will be to take them to the General Membership Meeting for approval.

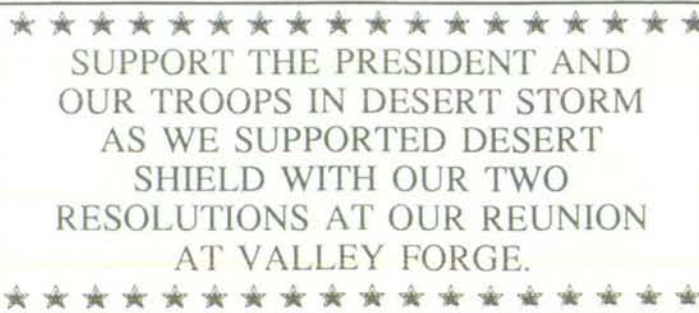
I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Officers and Members for electing me President. It is a great honor to serve an organization such as the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge—a group of men and women who have so much in common, and the same goals in mind. The newly-elected officers and I will strive to keep the organization growing, but I must emphasize, not only to the officers but to the members as well, that we must cooperate, offer assistance, and make sure our dues are paid up to ensure our growth.

Our reunion chairman, John Dunleavy, is in contact with our South Carolina Chapter which will host the 1991 reunion in Charleston. Watch for more information on the reunion in future issues of the **BULGE BUGLE**.

In closing, I want to thank Past President Bill Greenville, the Officers and committees that served with him during the past two years for the many hours and hard work they put in on behalf of our organization.

Sincerely,

Darrell Kuhn



(Continuation of front page) the Amphitheater to where the VBOB monument is located. For those who haven't seen the monument the plaque on the monument reads:

"DEDICATED TO THE GALLANT AND VICTORIOUS MEN AND WOMEN WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, WORLD WAR II, 16 DECEMBER 1944 THRU 25 JANUARY 1945 IN BELGIUM AND LUXEMBOURG. THE GREATEST BATTLE EVER FOUGHT BY THE UNITED STATES ARMY. PRESENTED BY THE VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF BULGE ON 16 DECEMBER 1986."

President William Greenville, master of ceremonies, made the call to order prior to the posting of the advance colors by members of the 3rd Infantry (Old Guard). We were led in the Pledge of Allegiance by Eugene Drouillard.

In the absence of our chaplain, Msgr. William O'Donnell, an opening prayer was given by William Greenville.

President Greenville gave welcoming remarks and introduced the guest speaker, Brigadier General Oliver B. Patton, U.S. Army, Retired, who served with the 106th Division in the early salient of the Bulge breakthrough by the Germans, and was subsequently captured. The general offered very poignant remarks and dramatically portrayed what it was like immediately prior to the early morning of 16 December 1944 and subsequent targets and efforts of the German horde. (Text of his speech appears elsewhere in this publication.)

Reference was made to the brave 5th Belgian Fusiliers who fought in the Battle of the Bulge and help to sustain the memory of what took place during this momentous period of World War II.

The VBOB wreath was then laid by H. Dean Fravel, President NOVA Chapter, and Blaquie Culp, Past President, MD/DC Chapter. This was followed by the 5th Belgian Fusiliers wreath-laying by Jean Bartet, Regional President, Charleroi; Camille Sierens, National Treasurer; and Charles Dardenne.

Again, a beautiful Taps was played by the Bugler, U.S. Army Band. The colors were then retired.



Roger Hardy, National Secretary of the 5th Belgian Fusiliers, addressing VBOB memorial services.

Following the retiring of the colors, a spokesman for the Fusiliers remembered the days during the Bulge and thanked the Historical Foundation and VBOB for the friendship and hospitality extended during their visit.

A moment of silence was held honoring those comrades who did not survive the battle and those who have passed away since that time.

A beautiful closing prayer was given by Darrell Kuhn, incoming National President of VBOB, who in turn reminded us of the current danger evidenced in the presence of our troops in the Persian Gulf and prayed for a peaceful solution to that crisis.

William Greenville closed the ceremonies and invited one and all to a reception at the Officers Club at Ft. Myer.

Our three days of ceremonies and celebrations ended with a very fine reception at the Ft. Myer Officers Club. It afforded an opportunities to swear in our new officers for the year 1991 and to express our gratitude for the fine leadership we had in the past year.

Clyde Boden swore in the new officers:

President: Darrell Kuhn

Executive Vice President: John Dunleavy

Vice President for Membership: Neal B. Thompson

Vice President for Military Affairs: Earle R. Hart

Vice President for Regional Coordination: Robert J. VanHouten

Treasurer: William R. Hemphill

Recording Secretary: Frances W. Doherty

Corresponding Secretary: Beverley VanHouten

Toasts were continued, this time again by Roger Hardy, who was emotional in how much he and the Fusiliers valued the friendship of their American friends. Good finger food was served, bars afforded an opportunity for conviviality for those inclined in an atmosphere decorated for the holiday season. It all was a lead-in to the closing remarks of our new National President Darrell Kuhn. He graciously accepted the gavel from Bill Greenville, promised to serve us all to the fullest extent in the aims and purposes of the organization. He asked our support in assisting him guide VBOB through the coming year with the magnificent slate of officers elected.

It was a fitting climax to three days of wonderful memories of a time when we were young, daring, and better able to carry out to the fullest extent our duties to country as participants in the great Battle of the Bulge, 1944-45.

STAGE DOOR CANTEEN

A favorite scene for the three-day celebration was the Stage Door Canteen Party with music of the 40's for dancing and listening, refreshments, and special events. An overflow crowd filled the room, much reminiscing was done, and any number of attendees including the Fusiliers wore their WWII uniforms. It was amazing how well they fit and how authentic their appearance was. Many of the women and men in attendance tripped the light fantastic on the dance floor. A very romantic evening recalling days of yore. Many dogtags were visible as well. A fitting close before the more solemn ceremonies to be held the next day

HISTORICAL FOUNDATION HONORS BANQUET

The Commonwealth Ballroom of the Sheraton National set the scene for the lavish Honors Banquet hosted by the Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation and Brigadier General David J. Allen, Honorary Chairman.

Preceded by a social hour, a welcome from MC Alfred Shea, LTC (retired), the posting of the colors by the 3rd Infantry Color Guard, the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Eugene Drouillard, the invocation given by outgoing VBOB National President William T. Greenville in the absence of our chaplain Msgr. William O'Donnell the members and guests were seated. Various toasts were given by: Marcel d'Haese (President, 5th Fusiliers), André Philippe (Ambassador from Luxembourg), John Dunleavy, Joseph Zimmer, William Greenville (VBOB) and Brigadier General Roy Bridges. The gala dinner featured boneless cornish game hen and was enjoyed by all after introduction of the head table.

Upon retirement of the colors Lt. (Ret.) Harold W. O. Kinnard and BG Roy Bridges (astronaut) favored the gathering of over 250 with inspiring and memorable remarks.

After the speeches were concluded First President and Founder of VBOB Clyde D. Boden honored the following with certificates of appreciation:

Robert L. Wood

Sal and Virginia Scarpello

Carroll Blair

The highlight of the evening was the unveiling of the 1990 Patrons Fund Plaque participated in and led by the Foundation President Dorothy S. Davis, and including James Amor, George Linthicum, James Pritchard and incoming National President of VBOB Darrell Kuhn. It was a fitting ending to an evening long to be remembered. Those who cared to were entertained by "Tunes of the 40's" for their dancing and listening pleasure.

The Honors Banquet Committee deserves our accolades for a memorable night and all others who worked to make the evening a success are to be commended.

FUSILIERS WELCOMED AT RECEPTION

The anniversary got off to a good start with a lovely reception for members of the Belgium Fusiliers and their guests at the Sheraton Hotel on the night of their arrival, December 13th, for Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation festivities and the VBOB wreath laying ceremonies.

The hostesses for the affair prepared great food, lovely table decorations and a spot (or two) of wine helped to get the weekend off to a lovely start.

Over fifty were in attendance including some twenty Fusiliers and their companions.

Those members of the Belgium Fusiliers, their wives and guests who were present were:

Joseph Alexandre

Mr. and Mrs. Jean Bartet

Eloi Burn

Mr. and Mrs. Georges Cailliau

Daniel Croisiau

Ernest Cuvelier

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dardenne

Mr. and Mrs. Marcel d'Haese

Mr. and Mrs. Jaquy Gossart

Diane Gruloos

Roger Hardy

Raoul Huart

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lemaire

Jacques Lion

Jean Lion

Auguste Lorent

Gilbert Losfeld

Rene Quina

Emery Quina

Robert Scaillet

Mr. and Mrs. Camille Sierens

Emile Warnon

Yvette Wauthelet

Josef Vancayseele

Lucien Vandenhende

Mr. and Mrs. Marcel Verbandt

VBOB Joe Zimmer welcomed the guests with the following warm toast: "It is a happy time here in Washington with the holiday season. We want to give a warm welcome to our guests, the 5th Belgian Fusiliers. They were host to some of us here on a visit we made in July-August 1990 to Bastogne. We thank you for coming. We are filled with joy, and the brightness and warm glow in this room equals the bright lights, as we look out the windows to our left, and see Washington aglow. To the wives and significant others who accompanied them, we also say welcome. Enjoy your stay with us and we are so glad you came."

The 5th Battalion of Belgian Fusiliers was created 9 October 1944, during World War II, shortly after the liberation of their country by the Allies. They were all volunteers, and many were ex-members of the Belgian Resistance who joined the Resistance as young men right out of high school. They were attached to our First Army until the end of the war, fighting with us in the Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes area.

In Belgium, the Fusiliers participate in the American cemeteries' ceremonies each year honoring our war dead--on such occasions as Memorial Day and other special occasions.

The reception was a good beginning to what would follow the ensuing three days as we called to mind those dank, dark, terrible days so many years ago. All who attended appreciated the friendship and camaraderie.

DID YOU CHECK YOUR DUES-R-DUE DATE?

Your support is vital to the organization, both in up-to-date dues and in finding new members. There are 300,000 Bulge veterans out there and they are missing the camaraderie that you have found by belonging to VBOB. Only another VBOB'er can know and understand what it was like in that bitter cold and snowy December and January. Tell them how great it is to be part of the warmth of VBOB.

CHAPTER NEWS

FROM THE VP FOR REGIONAL COORDINATION

Those of you who were prisoners of war captured in the Bulge may have been as disturbed by the explanation of the AX-POW logo as I was. That is that the two curves at the top of the shield noted "The two great defeats, the Philippines and the Battle of the Bulge." After several years of battling the AX-POW over this, I am happy to announce that they have changed the wording to read: "The two great military battles fought by the United States Armed Forces in World War II; the Philippines and the Battle of the Bulge."

DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER • At our November 2 meeting, President Stan Wojtusik presented a bouquet of roses to our own Linda (?) Youree on the occasion of her birthday and her promotion to full Commander in the U.S. Navy. She and Mary Dougherty are responsible for our continued use of the Navy base for our meetings for which service we are very grateful.

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER • For the Veterans Day parade in Columbia, South Carolina, Bruce Tate and David Hubbard engineered our participation by putting the VBOB logo on the side of a truck. They and Don McPhail and Bob Mitchell entered the parade with flying colors.

Our new officers who were elected at the fall meeting, were installed during our December 16th meeting which took place at the home of Treasurer Rufus Lewis. Our new officers are: President--George A. Worth; Vice President--Bruce W. Tate, Jr.; Secretary--James C. Johnson; Treasurer--Rufus D. Lewis, Jr. Future meetings will be held in March, June, September and December.

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER • Twenty-one members and guests gathered for a dinner meeting to commemorate the anniversary of the beginning of the Bulge. Mrs. Paul Gleck agreed to serve as Secretary-Treasurer and we are very pleased to have her "on board."

Regular meeting dates have been set for the third Sunday of every third month beginning in January. We are looking forward to viewing slides of Bastogne and Bulge scenes taken by Jim Herrington during a recent trip.

We want to thank all the other chapters who have sent us their newsletters. They are interesting and full of start-up ideas.

GOLDEN GATE CHAPTER • We held a luncheon meeting on November 23rd at the Presidio Officers Club in San Francisco. Our speaker was chapter member Lt. Gen. William F. Train, who related his experiences in the Battle of the Bulge. He has led a long and successful life serving our country in the army.

We held our annual election of officers to be installed in January. They are: President--Martin Turkington; Vice President--Frank L. Gonella; Secretary--Irel Barrus;

Treasurer--John B. Deasy; Trumpet Editor--Tom Gillis.

MARYLAND-DC CHAPTER • Our December 9th meeting was our social meeting with a light lunch and potluck dessert provided by the members. There was a small gift exchange.

New officers elected at this meeting were: President--Woodrow Purcell, 1st Vice President--Blaquie Culp; 2nd Vice President--Henry Rehn; Treasurer--Neil Thompson.

We regret the passing of James Carlucci, of Forestville, Maryland. Jim saw action in the Bulge as a member of the 2nd Inf. Div. 23 Inf., Co. 1.

Past President Harold Bohn is still hospitalized after many weeks and would like to hear from old buddies.

CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER • Our third meeting was held on October 27th in the VFW Building in DeLand. President Tom McFadden displayed our beautiful chapter flag before the business meeting at which we discussed obtaining the American flag, poles, and belts for both. We also discussed incorporation, election of officers and dues. Elections were held at the December 1st meeting.

GENERAL GEORGE C. PATTON, JR. CHAPTER OF ALABAMA • On December 16th we had our annual VBOB dinner. At our meeting after dinner, elections were held and Gynn Arrington was elected our new president.

We are working hard to formulate plans for a TV program. A very comprehensive outline has been drawn up to guide us on our way.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER • After our September business meeting, President Dean Fravel showed some very interesting slides he had taken while working in the Middle East.

While attending his first VBOB reunion in Valley Forge, member Linc Harner met William D. Davis, of New Concord, Ohio, for the first time in more than 45 years. Davis was a S/S, who headed the survey section in B Battery, 987 FA Bn., and Harner was a T/5 radio operator in the unit. The two corresponded shortly before the 1190 reunion when Harner learned that Davis was also a member of VBOB. Harner said the reunion was an emotional one for him and his meeting with Davis, who won a battlefield commission, was the first contact he has had with a member of the 987 FA Bn. since returning home in August, 1945. Davis took Harner a copy of the battalion history and his own diary of his war experiences. Harner was able to show Davis a number of photographs he had taken of members of B Battery while in the ETO. The 987th with its 155-mm self-propelled guns went shore at Normandy on D-Day, penetrated as far east as Leipzig, Germany, and wound up in Pilsen, Czechoslovakia on May 8, the day the Germans surrendered. Members of the 987th were awarded five battle stars and the Invasion Arrowhead. Only three other men of the 987th FA Bn. are VBOB members. Davis and Harner will attempt to locate other members of the unit.

(Cont'd on Page 9)



Members of the Susquehanna Chapter gathered after their second meeting.



Members of the Northern Virginia Chapter grouped about their new Chapter Flag after social meeting.



Members of Central Florida Chapter at one of their initial meetings.

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|--|--|
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|--|--|

OPERATION "CHRISTROSE...HITLER'S BRAINCHILD



Synopsis of Talk at United Tech./ B.O.B. Lunch, November 13, 1990 Bolling AFB Washington, D.C.

LT. GEN. H.W.O. KINNARD (RET.)

Our "Den Mother", Dorothy Davis, called me last evening and asked if I would very briefly summarize the Battle of the Bulge for the benefit of those here who may not be too familiar with it. Certainly it was a long time ago as we humans measure time.

Now she didn't ask me to talk about the 101st Airborne Division at Bastogne, probably because she was afraid they couldn't turn me off. So here goes on a very condensed synopsis of the Bulge.

First, where did it take place? - the German attack was along an 85 mile front in the Ardennes sector of Belgium and Luxembourg, from Monchau on the North down through the Losheim Gap and Schnee Eifel Mountains through the forested and mountainous Ardennes to Echternach.

Second, when did it happen? - The Germans launched their attack at dawn on the 16th of December, 1944 and the Battle was essentially over by the 25th of January, 1945.

Third, what did the opposing forces look like just prior to the Battle? - The U.S. forces were 5 plus Divisions very thinly holding this large sector which was known as the "Ghost Front" because we were so thin on the ground. This sector had for some time been used as a rest area for war-weary veteran divisions and for newly arrived divisions to cut their combat teeth. The total strength of the U.S. forces in this sector on 16 December was about 75,000. As for the Germans, their strength was about 250,000 with almost 1,000 tanks and 1,900 artillery pieces. This formidable force was comprised of three armies totaling some thirty divisions.

"But, the really significant outcome of the Bulge was that it undoubtedly saved the Allies a great many casualties, for if the Germans had used the quarter of a million men they lost in the Bulge to garrison their fortified positions which protected Germany, our losses would certainly have been much higher than they were in fact."

Fourth, what was the genesis and overall objective of the German attack, and how did they manage to achieve such a complete surprise? - This operation, which the Germans code named "Christrose", was the brainchild of Hitler himself. Its objective was to capture the port city of Antwerp and destroy the Allied forces north of a line Antwerp-Brussels-Bastogne. Hitler directed that the exten-

sive planning for Christrose should begin in September of 1944 and insisted on very thorough and highly secret preparations for, and execution of, the operation. Great attention was given to secrecy and deception. For example, certain key roads were covered with straw and hay to muffle the sound of their tracked vehicles as they moved to assembly areas for the attack. In spite of the elaborate precautions, there were some few American intelligence people who deduced that the Germans were planning an attack through the Ardennes. But these few were unable to convince their superiors, all of whom felt that the Germans were on the ropes and incapable of mounting a major offensive. So it is fair to say that the complete surprise which the Germans achieved was a combination of their skillful planning and their cover and deception, accentuated by the complacency, self delusion and lack of imagination of Allied commanders in general.

Fifth, what did the Germans accomplish? - Their initial attacks were not only a surprise but in such overwhelming strength that they quickly broke through the thin shell of U.S. forces and plunged westward creating a very large salient (or Bulge) in U.S. lines. Their deepest advance took them east of Rochefort, almost a hundred mile advance from their starting positions.

Next, what finally stopped the German advance? - There were several factors: the weather turned severely cold and snowy and this was a greater problem for the attacker than for the defenders. Also, the Allied reaction was swift and massive as forces were turned to strike the bulge from several directions and units such as the 101st Airborne and 82nd Airborne Divisions were moved into blocking positions. Finally, there was the gallantry, and staying power of the forces which the Germans initially attacked; they fought bravely and skillfully as individuals and small groups as well as in units of all sizes. It was very clear to these men that all the chips were down on this one and that there could only be one winner.

Finally, what were the principal results of the Battle of the Bulge? - As to casualties, the total German casualties was about the same number as their initial assault force, almost 250,000. The Germans also lost about 600 tanks and about 1600 airplanes. So too, on the U.S. side, our total casualties were about the same as the number initially manning the Ardennes sector, about 75,000. But, the really significant outcome of the Bulge was that it undoubtedly saved the Allies a great many casualties, for if the Germans had used the quarter of a million men they lost in the Bulge to garrison their fortified positions which protected Germany, our losses would certainly have been much higher than they were in fact.

★ ★ ★

General Kinnard, a career soldier from an Army family, graduated from West Point in 1939. His first station was in Hawaii where he was serving when Pearl Harbor was attacked. Later, in Europe he parachuted into Normandy, and then Holland, as a Battalion Commander in the 101st (Screaming Eagle) Airborne Division.

Then, as G-3 (Operation Officer) at Bastogne, he suggested the "Nuts!" reply of General McAuliffe to the German surrender ultimatum.

After WWII General Kinnard played a key role in developing the Army's new concept of Air mobility based on greatly expanded use of helicopters. He took the 1st Air Cavalry Division to Vietnam where he commanded it for a year in which the Division won the Presidential unit citation. Back in the United States he was promoted to Lieutenant General and assigned to command the Army's Combat Developments Command. He retired in 1969.

He was one of the seven initial inductees in the Army Aviation Hall of Fame. He remains active as a consultant to the Army and the helicopter industry.

Do You Know These GI's?

Malmedy, Belgium December 1944

Adrienne Marquet was only six years old when her grandmother took care of her and operated a little pub in Malmedy, Belgium in 1944. Two GI's who frequented the pub between September and December 1944 befriended the little girl. They brought her food, chocolate and affection. In the evenings, they often watched her while her grandmother tended to her customers. Adrienne grew very attached to the two GI's. On December 12, 1944 each of them gave her a photograph of himself as a souvenir to remember him by. On December 17, 1944 their unit evacuated Malmedy.

The happy memories and the bond established are still with Adrienne who with no last name and unit identity, has tried unsuccessfully to find them. The pictures of Adrienne, "Bob" and "King" are reproduced here with the hope that our readers might be able to provide information regarding the identity and whereabouts of the latter. It is now believed that the two GI's were part of the 67th Army Medical EVAC hospital stationed in Malmedy until December 17, 1944. If you have any information please write to Ted



*A hospital
To ADRIENNE
from Bob
Dec. 12, '44*



*Souvenir for
Adrienne
King*



Adrienne

Flechsing, 12612 Taylor Court, Silver Spring, MD 20904, or call (301) 622-0791.

Editor's Note: This request was made to Ted Flechsing, October 20, 1990 while being honored at Malmedy. Ted is a survivor of the Malmedy Massacre.

ARDENNES FOXHOLE

The guns are silent now, that belched forth fire
propelling deadly rounds toward my bed
Exploding shrapnel round my head.
The guns are silent now and in my layer neath splintered
wood
I lie all numb where tall first once so stately stood.
A solemn quiet permeates the acrid smoke
And now lesser sounds are heard where moments before
imploping words were spoke.
The guns are silent now and as my shaken body calms
My mind transcends to quiet lands and thoughts of loved
ones warm my frozen palms.
A darkened forest stretched upon a winter snow
Reddened by the awful guns that only youths in foxholes
know.
The guns are silent now, but none too soon again to roar
And pound the churned up earth that holds my fragile body
within it's core.

John E. McAuliffe
347 Infantry Regiment
87th Division

Malmedy Survivors Discuss Mid-East Crisis

Four survivors of the Malmedy massacre 46 years ago--Harold Billow, Jim Mattera, Bob "Sketch" Mearig, and Bill Reem, all B Battery of the 285th FAOB--were interviewed by the *Lancaster New Era's* "Scribbler." Their accounts were published on December 14, 1990.

All four survived by pressing their bodies into the snow and waiting. Then Harold Billow, who had been shot in the back, and the other three made a break for freedom and made it back to the American lines.

They say this about potential conflict in the Persian Gulf: "Billow: 'I hope it could be solved without any bloodshed, but I don't think it will be. If it were up to me, I agree with Bush: give [Saddam] the time to get out and then throw everything at him we've got. Give him the works. If I was younger, I'd agree to go help get [Saddam] out.'

"Reem: 'I hate to see it happen. I try not to even put it in my mind. War is so terrible--the conditions you live under. You live like a dog. I just hope it never happens. If it does, I hope the Air Force gets it over with fast.'

"Mattera: 'I hope the damn thing ends. It's hot and dry over there. I just hope it ends.'"

Members Speak Out

RUDOLPH E. MICHALKA, former C.O. of the **92nd ORDNANCE MEDIUM MAINTENANCE COMPANY**, would like to hear from anyone, either officers or enlisted men, from his group who were in the Battle of the Bulge. Please contact him at 620 Catalina, Waco, Texas 76712 or telephone 817-772-2796.

Yvonne McCord has searched for many years for any information she can find regarding her grandfather **PFC JOHN ROBERT "BOB" EDWARDS**. He served with **3RD ARMY, 8TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 28TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, 2ND PLATOON, CO G**. The only name she has is Staff Sgt. Harold D. Phillips, who served with her grandfather. If you can provide her with any information, she will be most grateful. You can contact her at Route 1, Box 99, Greenville, Florida 32331 or telephone 584-3048.

Members of the **106TH INFANTRY DIVISION** are urged to call **GERALD ASTOR**, 50 Sprain Valley Road, Scarsdale, New York 10583 or telephone 914-723-0733.

Member **JONATHAN P. RADFORD**, son of **WILLIAM J. RADFORD**, asks that anyone who knew his father or was in his father's company please contact him. His father was with the **1ST DIVISION, 26TH REGIMENT, 2ND BATTALION, F COMPANY**, and fought in the Butgenbach, Belgium, area during the Bulge. Contact Jonathan at 14018 Saddle River Drive, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878 or call 301-738-9171.

Mac Hill would like to get in touch with anybody who was with or knew his brother **DAVID B. HILL** of the **60TH INFANTRY, COMPANY B, APO 9TH**. He was from Auburn, Maine at the time he entered the army. Please contact Mac at 44 Old Mill Road, Sanford, Maine 04073.

Maurine McGivern advises us of the publication of her late husband's book *Soldiers of '44*. She attached a copy of a letter from General James M. Gavin in which he stated that he "...enjoyed it immensely." It was a book of the month selection and a world-wide best-seller. It's an inexpensive paperback and may be obtained from the publisher: Ballantine Books, New York, New York.

ROBERT B. LISS would like the dates and place of the next reunion of the **11TH ARMORED DIVISION**. Please contact him at 772 Granada Drive, Vista, California 92083.

BOB SCANLAN, COMPANY A, 372ND G.S. ENGINEERS REGIMENT writes to say that he and his wife had a great time at the VBOB Reunion in Valley Forge. Two of his old army buddies were there: **DARROW JACKSON** and **HERM HOFFMAN** and their wives. They're looking forward to the next reunion.

VBOB member **DALE R. CARVER, 106TH DIVISION**, has advised us of the availability of his book of poems, "Before the Veterans Die." It may be purchased for \$6.00, postage paid, from Dale at 742 Druid Circle, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808.

WILLIAM H. HOADLEY, of 8TH AIRFORCE, 351 BOMBARDMENT GROUP, has tried for years to locate the pilot of his plane who dove 10,000 feet to put out a fire on the #3 engine of his plane. The pilot was First Lt. Bill Cook. The incident took place on December 24, 1944, on a Biblus, Germany, raid. If anyone knows the whereabouts of Lt. Cook or any of the crew of this plane, please contact Bill Hoadley, 1270 Grove Road, West Chester, Pennsylvania 19380.

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SPECIAL NOTE: If any of you are able to locate the people you are seeking, please send us a follow-up note. We would like to know if you get together and so would our readers.



CHAPTERS (Cont'd.)

FRESNO CHAPTER • Some of our members gathered to participate in the Fresno County Veterans Day Parade on Monday, November 12, 1990. We had the cooperation of the Fresno Thunderbird Club for all our participating members except for the two who carried the Chapter flag. President Ken Hohmann and wife, Chooch, continued their faithful attendance at the annual reunions.

TRI-STATE ME-NH-VT • After attending a VBOB chapter meeting and seeing the new chapter flag, member Eddie Wydra, of Hookset, New Hampshire, went home and wrote a song for the organization:

"We are the VBOB--Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge.

"Our foe came through the Ardennes with blazing guns and tanks.

"They already knew they had broken our ranks,

"So they said 'Surrender' no ifs, ands or buts

"But our commanding general answered just plain 'Nuts.'

"The enemy was bewildered and gave us all they had,

"Which made us battlers in Bastogne really mad.

"We conserved our ammunition 'til the air drop came,

"Then we chased our foe back and came to fame.

"That's how the VBOB got their name.

"The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge."

(Copyrighted)

Remember the flag with a service star your wife or mom hung in her window when you went off to war?

Well, they have come around again. If you have a family member in the Desert Storm operation, you can obtain one of those flags by writing to:

P.R., Inc.

1428 "H" Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20005 (202) 347-8263

REUNIONS

3RD ARMORED DIVISION, 36TH A.I.R., COMPANY A, June 18-22, 1991, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Contact: Clyde M. Grubb, 73 Race Street, Highspire, Pennsylvania 17034. Telephone: 717-939-5977.

3RD ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, September 27-29, 1991, Manhattan, Kansas. Contact: Ira D. Cravens, 223 Bellerive Road, Springfield, Illinois 62704. Telephone: 217-546-2412.

7TH ARMORED DIVISION ASSOCIATION, August 30-September 2, 1991, Stouffer's Harborplace Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland. Contact: Glen R. Fackler, Sr., 23218 Springbrook Drive, Farmington Hills, Michigan 48336.

11TH ARMORED DIVISION ASSOCIATION, August 14-18, 1991, Hilton Palacio Del Rio, San Antonio, Texas. Contact: Alfred Pfeiffer, 2328 Admiral Street, Aliquippa, Pennsylvania 15001.

18TH CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON, July 12-15, 1991, in Seattle Washington. Contact: Ralph Schip at 10311 - 117th Place, N.E., Kirkland, Washington 98033. Telephone: 206-828-0350.

78TH CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE TROOP, May 2-5, 1991, Atlanta Airport Marriott Motel, 4711 Best Road, College Park (Atlanta), Georgia 30337. Contact: W. C. Lancaster, 5388 Old Woodall Court, Doraville, Georgia 30360. Telephone: 404-394-7158.

78TH (LIGHTNING) INFANTRY DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION, February 10, 1991, Lakeland Ramada Inn, Lakeside at 910 East Memorial Blvd., Lakeland, Florida. Contact: Alex MacInnes, 1706 East Baker Street, Plant City, Florida 33566. Telephone: 813-752-4977.

86TH CHEMICAL MORTAR BATTALION ASSOCIATION, June 11-16, 1991, Sheraton Park Plaza, 5555 Wayzata Blvd., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55416. Contact: Dean Gilbert, 1830 - 30th Avenue, San Francisco, California 94122.

87TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, September 22-29, 1991, Airport Hilton-West, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Contact: Bob Russell or Bruce Myers, P.O. Box 19349, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73144. Telephone: 405-685-2127.

90TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION (AND ATTACHED UNITS), September, 1991, San Antonio, Texas. Contact: Carl Manuel, 1017 North 40th Street, Ft. Smith, Arkansas 72904. Telephone: 501-783-6559.

179TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION ASSOCIATION, September 26-29, 1991, in Gulfport, Mississippi. Contact: James M. McCabe, 244 Burbank Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29210-7438. Telephone: 803-772-1827.

315TH ENGINEER BATTALION, September, 1991, San Antonio, Texas. Contact: Wilson M. Midyett, 4426 Kinglet, Houston, Texas 77035. Telephone: 713-729-8360.

557TH AAA (AW) BATTALION REUNION, May 17-19, 1991, Holiday Inn, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. Contact: James Nealon, 6304 Crafton Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19149.

987TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, June 7-8, 1991, Hollister, Missouri. Contact: W. D. Crawford, Route 1, Box 526A, Ore City, Texas 75683. Telephone: 903-968-6350.

• ATTENTION • ATTENTION •

In the last issue of *The Bugle*, the wrong addresses were published for the following replacements. Please use the addressed below.

HOW TO REPLACE LOST MILITARY MEDALS/RECORDS

To obtain lost decorations or awards from WWII, write:

Commander (ARPERCEN)

970 Page Blvd.

St. Louis, MO 63132-5260

explain how you lost the medals, request replacement and send copies of discharge certificates to show that you are entitled to them.

To obtain a copy of missing discharge records (Form 214) write:

Commander (ARPERCEN)

ATT: DARP-PAS-EVS

9700 Page Blvd.

St. Louis, MO 63132-5260

If you have been awarded the Combat Infantry Badge (CIB) (WWII only), you are entitled to a Bronze Star Medal. If you have not received this award write:

Commander (ARPERCEN)

ATTN: DARP-PAS-EAW

9700 Page Blvd.

St. Louis, MO 63132

Make the request and include a copy of your discharge certificate. This document should show you received the CIB.

Watch For The
AMVETS January, 1991
article on VBOB!

Kilroy says...

**"SIGN UP A NEW MEMBER...
DO IT TODAY!"**

CHARLES B. MacDONALD, BATTLE OF BULGE HISTORIAN, LAID TO REST

Charles B. MacDonald, 68, a military historian who specialized in the Battle of the Bulge, died December 4, 1990, at his home in Arlington, Virginia. He had cancer and lung disease.

Mr. MacDonald commanded an Army rifle company during the Battle of the Bulge. He was awarded a Silver Star and received a Purple Heart for wounds suffered in the engagement.

Mr. MacDonald was a native of Dillon County, South Carolina and graduated from Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina. He entered the Army in 1942. As the Battle of the Bulge progressed, he began making notes for his book "Company Commander." The book sold one million copies and remains in print. It has been called "the infantry classic of World War II," and is still read at West Point Military Academy, other military service schools and reserve officer training units. After World War II he remained in the Army Reserve until retiring as a colonel in 1980.

In retirement Mr. MacDonald wrote "A Time for Trumpets: The Untold Story of the Battle of the Bulge," which was published in 1984. He also conducted regular tours of the battle area, in which many VBOB members participated.

Other books written by him include: "Battle of Huertgen Forest," "The Mighty Endeavor: the American War in Europe," and, with Anthony Cave Brown, "On a Field of Red: the Communist International and the Coming of World War II."

His books, television appearances, and numerous encyclopedia reports underscore his preeminence in the field of military history.

A worship service attended by many VBOB members was held at 10:00 a.m., December 10, 1990, at the Post Chapel, Fort Myers, Virginia. Full military burial honors were observed at Arlington Cemetery, followed by an informal reception for friends and family.

He is survived by his daughter, Moire MacDonald Queen; a son, Bruce MacQueen MacDonald; his sister Flora MacDonald Gammon; and three brothers, Alexander MacRae MacDonald, Donald Francis MacDonald, and Robert MacLaurin MacDonald.

He will be missed by all who knew him and enjoyed his works.

Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, in order to assure the survival and the success of liberty.

JOHN F. KENNEDY

GENERAL SCHWARZKOPF ACKNOWLEDGES RESOLUTION

Delaware Valley Chapter member Joseph P. Barrett has received the following letter from General H. Norman Schwarzkopf acknowledging receipt of a copy of the Resolution in Support of Our Troops in Saudi Arabia, which was adopted at the VBOB Valley Forge Reunion.

"COMMANDER IN CHIEF

"UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND

"OPERATION DESERT SHIELD, APO NY 09852

"26 December 1990

"Dear Mr. Barrett,

"I just received your wonderful letter and it's great to hear from a former serviceman and a true patriot. It was particularly gratifying coming from Valley Forge, where my military days began at the Valley Forge Military Academy. Your kind words are just what the doctor ordered for this old soldier. I have posted your resolution at a large compound in Riyadh where it will be read and appreciated by thousands of troops.

"From one old soldier to another, I want to thank you for your past service and continued dedication to your country. The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge are to be saluted for their heroic stand forty-six years ago this month. Like that great battle, another may be just around the corner in the Middle East. Hopefully, we can end this crisis peacefully, but if not, you can be proud to know that today's armed forces in Operation Desert Shield are fully prepared to fight and win in order to uphold our nation's interests.

"Again, thank you for your letter. Speaking for the sons and daughters of America, God bless you and happy holidays.

"Sincerely,

*/s/H. NORMAN SCHWARZKOPF
"General, U.S. Army"*

My First Reunion

We were there that winter long ago.
We survived; many of our comrades fell.
Twin enemies were the weather and the foe
--the never-ending cold and the bursting shell.

Conceived of this ordeal of fire and icy earth
This brotherhood of old men came to be.
A kinship stronger far than that by birth
Was born when we were young, across the sea.

Of the ties that bind, others cannot know,
But we were there, that winter long ago.

By Dale R. Carver
424 Infantry Regiment
106th Infantry Division

CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL

Does your mailing label indicate that your dues are due? If so, please send your check today. If, for example, your label says your dues were due 01-28-91, this means that your dues were due January 28, 1991.



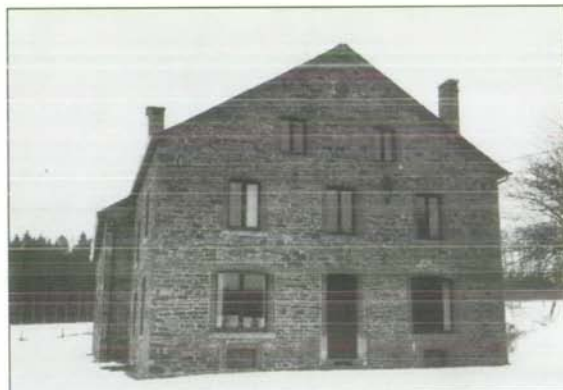
ARTIST: VBOB MEMBER RAYMOND F. FISHER, 82 SINGER DRIVE, WEST SENECA, NEW YORK 14224

A BOY OF SEVEN... RECOLLECTIONS

I was a boy of seven when I witnessed a scene of a patrol of two American soldiers being captured with their jeep during the Battle of the Bulge. It was the 3rd week on a cold but sunny day in January, 1945. The country was covered with snow. Our remote farm was situated between Rogery and Beho, 12 km southeast of Vielsalm. It was occupied by a German headquarter; perhaps an SS unit.

My grandmother and my mother ran towards the American jeep to warm the two poor soldiers who nevertheless were captured and questioned in front of our house. One of them spoke some German. From all that I have read, they perhaps must have belonged to the 337th Infantry Regiment, 83rd Infantry Division.

I wonder what happened to them. The last image I recall is those two brave men pushing the jeep that a German soldier was trying to drive. I have never forgotten their pale and frightened eyes during the questioning.



This is a picture of our farm. In those days, the frames of the windows were white and crosswise divided.

DOES ANYONE REMEMBER??? Jean Timmermann
Rue Redouté, 11 Bis. B-6870 Saint-Hubert, Belgium

BOB Commemorative Stamp

The following news release was received in December by William Tayman, Chairman, VBOB Postage Stamp Committee, from Assistant Postmaster General Gordon Morison. The news release explains how 10 stamps will be issued in the next five years to observe the 50th anniversary of WWII.

The stamps will be issued in the chronological order of events; the Battle of the Bulge stamp will be on the 1994 sheet.

President George Bush and Postmaster General Anthony M. Frank today unveiled the design of a souvenir sheet of postage stamps that will be issued next year to observe the 50th anniversary of World War II. The souvenir sheet will be the first issue in a five-year philatelic program spanning 1991 to 1995 to observe America's involvement in the war.

The souvenir sheet will contain 10 commemorative stamps featuring key events culminating in America's entry into the war. The stamps will be configured in two horizontal rows of five, one above and one below a Mercator-projection world map entitled "1941: A World at War." The map employs text, arrows and color shadings to depict theaters of war and important global events of 1941. When issued next year, two souvenir sheets will be printed on a single post office pane.

The Postmaster General and the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, the independent group which recommends stamp

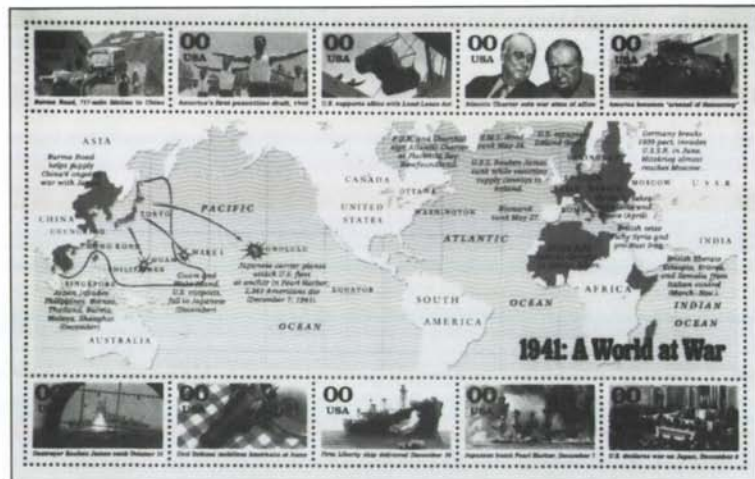
subjects to the Postmaster General, recognized as early as 1984 that significant segments of limited annual stamp programs from 1991 through 1995 would need to be devoted to the observance of World War II.

Consequently, in 1985, through the Department of Defense, a Joint Service Stamp Committee, comprised of military historians from the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps, was formed under the direction of the Chief of Military History of the United States Army. The Advisory Committee also sought advice from the Historian of the Department of State regarding significant diplomatic events of the period.

Using this valuable guidance from the Armed Forces and State Department as a starting point, the Advisory Committee developed a carefully-balanced, comprehensive program to observe as many significant events as possible during the five year anniversary. The five souvenir sheets, with a total of 50 commemorative stamps, will portray vividly the pivotal events of the war in a manner bringing understanding to Americans too young to have experienced them.

The souvenir sheets will be set in the accepted chronological framework for the war and in the widely-accepted historical stages of World War II: breakout of global conflict, industrial and military preparedness, diplomatic alliances and surprise attack, the road back, turning the tide, decisive victories in Europe and the Pacific, and Allied victories and unconditional surrender.

The current design of the sheet shows a "00" denomination on each stamp. The actual value will be the new First-Class rate which becomes effective early next year. Further information on the 1991 World War II souvenir sheet will be released in the future.



The subjects of the 10 stamps, reading left to right and top to bottom on the sheet, are: Burma Road, 717-mile lifeline to China; America's first peacetime draft, 1940; U.S. supports allies with Lend-Lease Act; Atlantic Charter sets war aims of allies; America becomes "arsenal of democracy;" Destroyer Reuben James sunk October 31; Civil Defense mobilizes Americans at home; First Liberty ship delivered December 30; Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor, December 7; U.S. declares war on Japan, December 8.

THE MEMORIES OF WAR

I have known the hell and horror
That war brings in its path.
I have seen its devastation
And bitter aftermath.

I have seen the dead and wounded
That Haunt my dreams at night.
I have seen the pain and suffering
And displaced people's plight.

I have witnessed ruins of cities
That once stood proud and grand.
I have seen the awful carnage
That lay upon the land.

I have seen the rows of markers
That stand so gleaming white,
Where now our comrades lie at rest
Who fell amidst the fight.

If I live to be a hundred
Time will not drive away,
These memories that I carry
Within my thoughts each day.

Harold W. Mohn
7th Armored Division

VBOB - 1991 ETO TOUR

15 MEMORABLE DAYS

Join your VBOB buddies on a tour of the Ardennes Battlefields, plus many favorite European sights - London / Normandy / Paris / the Rhine, etc.

A Return To The ARDENNES PLUS EUROPEAN SIGHTS

MAY 24 - JUNE 7

\$2760 Per Person - Double Occupancy

COME BACK TO WHERE WE ARE "ALWAYS REMEMBERED" - NOW IS THE TIME

There have been many requests for another VBOB tour - especially with a more comprehensive itinerary - covering a balance of military and tourist subjects.

Every VBOB member would be well served to visit the Allied countries that we, collectively, liberated. It is a most rewarding experience - to meet and be thanked by those to whom we gave back the precious gift of freedom - "they will never forget."

ITINERARY

Fly from JFK to London - London tour - Southampton with special G.I. Dugout evening/D-Day Museum - Cross English Channel to Cherbourg - Tour American Normandy D-Day battlefields - Paris/city tour - Rheims/ cathedral/War Surrender Room - Luxembourg City - CEBA tour/ Hamm cemetery - Bastogne trip/Military Vehicle Group- Bulge trip to Liege/Malmedy/La Gleize/ - Bulge No.shoulder tour/St. Vith with CRIBA/ Rhineland trip to Rhine/Koblenz/Remagen bridge/Ft. Ehrenbreitstein/ - Rhine cruise-Koblenz to Frankfurt - Farewell Banquet - Flight home to states from Frankfurt.

TOUR SIZE - PARTICIPATION PRIORITY

The tour size will be determined by bus capacity - tour participation priority will be based on date reservation payment is received.

SO "JOIN UP"

Sign up for 15 days of remembrances, comradeship and convivial enjoyment. Send your \$200 returnable deposit ASAP so your place will be secured and firm tour plans can be made.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE MOMENTS WITH YOUR BUDDIES

Any veteran is advised to take advantage of any opportunity to relive those moments with buddies that once had been close as a brother, when you shared and shared alike - it will be a memory that time cannot erase.

MORE INFORMATION

To receive a set of detailed information and to be placed on the Tour Mailing List - fill out the form below or call.

INFORMATION REQUEST - VBOB 1991 ETO TOUR

Please send available tour information and place my name on the Tour Mailing List for further mailings.

Name _____ Unit _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

RESERVATION DEPOSIT - \$200/PERSON - RETURNABLE

Mail Check To Tour Operator:

BATTLE STAR TOURS
EARLE R. HART
2571 WILD OLIVE COURT
VIENNA, VA 22181

TEL. 703-242-2298
FAX. 703-242-2298

For Flight and Travel
Information Contact
TWIN CITY TRAVEL SERVICE
1-800-544-0635
318-388-8884

SPONSORED BY THE VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

THE VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE ETO TOUR STATUS

TOUR RESPONSE: Considering the uncertainty in the Middle East and the downturn in the economy - the response to the tour has been quite good - 100+ inquiries - not including wives, etc. Based on the interest expressed to date, I am certain we can have a good tour group once plans can be finalized.

TOUR PLANS: Obviously, with the war going on in the Gulf, it is impossible to make firm travel plans. However, for the tour to eventually proceed, the planning must be done now so once these Iraqi tyrants have been destroyed, we can readily get on with our tour. If the war situation does not clear up in time for the currently scheduled tour, it will be rescheduled until a later date.

RETURN OF DEPOSITS: If the tour is changed or cancelled for any reason - a full refund will be available to everyone.

TOUR CONFIRMATION: The preliminary tour planning is well advanced - initial commitments are in place - airline, hotels, etc. **We must shortly confirm these commitments and make deposits - as a result we must know the approximate tour group size and receive the requisite deposits. If you have any potential interest, please let us hear from you as soon as possible.**

LET'S NOT BE INTIMIDATED: As during our war, we must continue to function, we should not allow this Iraqi dictator to pre-empt our dearly earned right of self determination. Everyone should make their tour plans assuming no impact by events in the Gulf. Let's resolve to do what we're really inclined to do.

February 1, 1991



In Comradeship,

Earle R. Hart

Earle R. Hart
VBOB Tour Director

VIDEO MAILED

The last part of December and the early part of January, we were advised that the video entitled "A Time for Trumpets: Return to the Battle of the Bulge" (formerly known as "December Dawn") was mailed to all who ordered it.

As you know this video suffered many set backs in production and caused concern for VBOB members who had submitted orders. VBOB had no monetary interest in this project but we felt some responsibility due to our announcement of its availability. We are very pleased that this is now in the hands of those who ordered.

If you submitted payment for this video and have not received same, please write to:

Creative Capitol Corporation
P.O. Box 1765
Paramus, New Jersey 07652.

YOUNG BELGIAN TO WRITE BoB HISTORY

CHARLEY MILLER (290TH INF REG, 75TH INF DIV), advises us that Eddy Monfort, a young Belgian living in Malempré, is writing a history of the Battle of the Bulge.

Charley says:

"...Eddy would particularly like to hear from men from the 3rd Armored Division and supporting units that were part of Task Force Brewster, from men from the 291st Infantry that participated in a patrol in the vicinity of Malempré, from men from the 82nd AB, particularly the 325th Inf. I think that the 2nd AD was also in the area later in January on their way to Houffalize. There may be other units which were in this area."

Eddy's address is: Eddy Monfort; Rue du village, 60; 6681 Maiempré - Mianhay; Belgium.



Memorable

BULGE INCIDENTS

LIVING LEGENDS

UNEDITED AND HERETOFORE UNPUBLISHED

Accounts of events and experiences in the Battle of the Bulge as recalled and expressed by veterans of the greatest battle ever fought by the U.S. Army in the greatest war ever fought are of much historical significance. These are priceless first-person recollections by living legends in what General Dwight D. Eisenhower foresaw as our greatest victory and Prime Minister Winston Churchill, in speaking before the House of Commons, characterized as an ever-famous American victory.



.....

December 16, 1944

George Nicklin

K Company

47th Infantry Regiment

9th Infantry Division

Garden City, Long Island, New York

I was a Combat Medic during W.W. II: I had just started my pre-med studies at the time of my drafting and had completed a single term. I was 'asked,' after two months of regular infantry combat, to accept transfer to combat medic status. Medics were in constant short supply as they have the highest infantry casualty rate of any front line soldier. Needless to say I was not particularly happy with this request as I had been surviving quite well as a 60mm mortar gunner. I had even achieved a degree of fame for my accuracy--which was the reason behind my Company Commander's obstruction of my transfer. On December 16th, the beginning of the Battle of the Bulge, he could no longer do this--so after months as a regular infantryman on the front lines, fighting near Aachen, Germany, I was transferred to the 9th Infantry Division, 47th Regimental Surgeon's Unit, commanded by Major Donald Roberts, for a three day first aid course.

As the Battle of the Bulge was beginning, the Regimental Aid Station was quartered in the Ardennes forest, in a commandeered house. We were transported in trucks to the area, which had been overrun by the Germans. The 9th Infantry had been rushed into the northern corner of the

bulge with instructions to hold the corner and not permit any further falling back. The positions we entered were 'empty' 99th Division positions, which had been 'emptied' by either casualty or surrender when the Germans initially overran the area.

I soon learned that we would be very busy in the Aid station treating German Paratroopers who had inadvertently been shot or wounded either during the drop or after capture. Wounded prisoners were then brought to the Regimental Aid Station for treatment. Usually they were shot in fighting prior to capture--occasionally one would be shot accidentally after capture. Thus, in the beginning of my medical career, all my patients were Germans!

I discovered that U.S. Military Intelligence was ecstatic about the paratroop drop as the first two prisoners they captured were the German Colonel in charge and his Aide de Camp. They carried with them several shoe boxes of index cards which listed the names of all the men in the drop. This made it possible for us to check off prisoners as we killed, wounded or captured them thereby giving us an excellent idea of what percentage were still at large. In a few days most of the German drop was eliminated as effective soldiers.

Because of the activity in the aid station my three day first aid course was extended until two days past Christmas. During this extended time I saw an interesting set of American casualties--they had come to the Aid Station complaining of blindness. The story eventually unfolded that we captured German V-1 launching platforms--which were

for the "Buzz Bombs." With them were large drums of a clear liquid labelled "Alcohol." Unfortunately this was WOOD alcohol and not grain alcohol. Wood alcohol breaks down into formaldehyde when it enters the body, attacking the optic nerve, initially, and then the brain itself. The troops which had drunk the wood alcohol--usually with cans of grapefruit juice--would find themselves initially afflicted with blindness. They would then often ultimately die from the attack of the formaldehyde on the brain structures.



George Nicklin

So, to my amazement, I did not see many American wounded--but I did see a fair number of American casualties. At the end of 10-11 days--during which I had an extremely pleasant Christmas (with turkey!), I was transferred back to "K" Company, 2nd Platoon. We were located in the lovely town of Kalterherberg.

In late December the front line of the Bulge had been stabilized and the Germans were being pushed back. Kalterherberg was a beautiful, tiny town of pastel colored houses with three feet thick concrete walls. They were ideal for maintenance of our defense. All of the villagers had been evacuated from the town--by either the Germans or the Allies--and we were using the houses in the town as our defense points. We had also stationed units in the fields to the east--our out-posts should another German attack occur. I especially remember the beautiful Catholic Church which had been left with all its doors standing open. It seemed to be in excellent condition despite the snow which had drifted in onto the floor. There was an amazing spiritual stillness as I walked into the church and I sensed that even under these terrible conditions there was a presence of the Divine Spirit on this, the front line.

I remember two prominent characteristics about Kalterherberg: one of them was the unlimited supply of beef. We had steak almost every day when we were living in the houses because of all the cattle which had been killed in the fields surrounding the town. They had of course been frozen--due to the cold weather!

The other was the highly beneficial fighting. We would send combat teams, usually of platoon size, to attack German outposts. I was a participant in one such team--I was the Medic. We had about 18-20 men in the unit and succeeded in killing or wounding about 20 Germans and capturing another 20--with only one minor casualty. This was a source of great jubilation. The General came down from Division headquarters and immediately presented the Lieutenant, Donald Ingram, and the Platoon Sergeant Steven Milotich (who had led the attack), with Bronze Stars. I also noticed--it was about two or three weeks later--that we were

mentioned in "Stars and Stripes" under "Attack Activity"!

December 16, 1944

Charles R. Miller
A Company
290th Infantry Regiment
75th Infantry Division
Tallahassee, Florida

On 19-12-44, we left Yvetot by railroad, riding in the infamous Forty and Eights. We were told that our planned destination was Wilre, Netherlands but apparently this was changed enroute along with our assignment to the U.S. First Army. We arrived at Tongres, Belgium at 22:00, 20-12-44, and marched approximately 8km to Hoeselt, arriving at 01:20, 21-12-44, and were billeted in houses and barns. At 00:45 on 22-12-44, we left Hoeselt and travelled approximately 96 km by truck to Septon where we dug in, preparing a defensive position along L'Ourthe River. It was very cold and the open 6x6 trucks provided little shelter. I remember trying to open the meat can from a "K" ration and having to hold the opening key between my teeth because my fingers were too cold to grasp it. It was warmer when we arrived at our position and the physical labor of digging holes was welcome. While we had no direct contact with the enemy, during the night there was continuous heavy gunfire somewhere south of our position. As I was to learn later, a battle was being fought in the vicinity of Soy and Hottot where the enemy was trying to break through and it was the uncertainty of the outcome of that action that had caused us to be put in our position to help defend along L'Ourthe River.

On 23-12-44, the 1st Battalion, 290th Infantry was attached to the Third Armored Division (3 AD) while the rest of the regiment moved to a position along the Soy-Hottot Road. During the night of 23-12-44, the 1st Battalion, including Company A, marched to the vicinity of Erezee. We were burdened by heavy packs and it was difficult to keep up the pace set by the Battalion Commander and many men fell out and many more straggled. When junior officers and NCO's remonstrated the Battalion Commander about the pace, he told them that he was ten years older than most of the men and that he had orders to be at our destination by midnight. The NCO's pointed out that he was carrying only a musette bag and a carbine and, besides that, his orders were to have his battalion with him. I remember marching through small communities and discussing with my comrades the reason that most of the vehicles parked next to the houses had their engines running. We decided that the vehicle operators had run wiring into the buildings for lights and were operating the engines to keep the vehicle batteries charged. If we had known that there had been a big enemy breakthrough, we would have realized that the engines were running so that the operations could "bug-out" if necessary and not be delayed by difficulty in starting a cold engine. But we knew nothing about the enemy attack until much later. When we arrived at our destination, we were told to dig slit trenches

for protection and get some sleep. This proved almost impossible because we were in the midst of numerous artillery pieces (probably 105's) which fired almost continuously.

Early in the morning of 24-12-44, we were picked up by 3 AD half-tracks which carried us to Manhay. That name stuck in my memory because it seemed to me a peculiar name for a community in Belgium. Manhay was being shelled by the Germans--the first time we were under enemy fire--and we stayed there only a short time before retracing our route to the west as far as Grand Menil and then turning south to Oster where we arrived about 10:00. Dismounting from the half-tracks, we formed up to attack the high ground to the southeast of Oster, advancing in an open formation with two light trucks moving on trail roads on either flank. As we moved across the open fields, approaching a dense stand of planted evergreens, we were fired on by a small number of the enemy armed with schneisner machine pistols--the infamous "burp gun" which made a sound that you never forget once you have heard it. Several men were hit immediately including our platoon leader who took a burst on the left side. I remember him sitting on the ground with blood streaming from his left arm and shoulder but waving us on with his right arm and saying "Go get 'em, boys!" A number of us moved into the edge of the woods and took dubious cover behind rather small trees. The Company Commander was fifteen or twenty feet to my left, lying behind a small tree and yelling at the men to move forward but I followed his example and stayed put. Then, one of the platoon leaders came forward and, standing beside me, told me to shoot and start moving. I told him, "Lieutenant, I don't see anything to shoot at." He said that it didn't matter but just to shoot and move. He managed to get the company on its feet and moving again. Thus we learned about "marching fire" which the experienced units were using but which we had not been taught.

As we continued up the hill, encountering no more Germans, the company drifted to the left and we lost contact with the tanks on the right which promptly turned around and returned to Oster. As we neared the top of the ridge, the C.O. decided we were too far left and ordered the skirmish line to move right in single file which frightened me since we didn't know if there were more enemy in the woods. We moved some distance to the right, losing contact with the tanks on the left and came to the top of the ridge overlooking a valley. There we saw an enemy tank down below. A check revealed no bazookas among us and, in fact, we only had the first and second platoons and no officers except the captain. We withdrew a short distance and the captain placed outposts and ordered us to dig in. I leaned on my rifle against a tree, took off my overcoat and starting digging. I had one of the new style entrenching tools that could be used as a shovel or a hoe and quickly got my hole down knee deep.

The two platoon sergeants tried to convince the captain that we should return to Oster and reassemble the company

which had become scattered as we maneuvered through the woods. The captain said that he wanted to hold what he had gained to which the two sergeants replied that he hadn't gained anything. As you might expect, the captain prevailed and told the sergeants to select two men to return to Oster and advise the executive officer to send up the jeeps and trailers with the bed rolls, and ammunition. I was selected by my platoon sergeant who then took me and the man from the other platoon aside and told us to tell the executive officer what the situation was and ask him to come up with the jeeps and convince the captain to withdraw. As I was putting on my overcoat and other gear, one of the men in my squad asked if he could move over into the hole I was digging since it was much deeper than his. I told him, "O.K.," and started down the hill with the other man. We were cursing the captain and two sergeants all the way since we were convinced that we had bypassed many Germans as the company advanced up the ridge. Fortunately, all we met were several groups of men from the company who were wandering around trying to flush out any of the enemy they could find. We reached Oster and were telling the company executive officer what both the captain and the platoon sergeants had told us when we heard small arms fire up on the ridge and shortly thereafter we saw the men we had left on the ridge streaming down the hill led by the captain. As I learned later, the Germans had surprised them and killed four men including the men on the outpost and the man digging in the hole I had left. As soon as the captain reached us, he told the executive officer to get the company on the road and ready to move out.

It was getting dark as we marched out of Oster and we had gone about one kilometer north when we met the Battalion Commander who asked the captain where he was going. When the captain told him that we were "pulling out," the Battalion Commander told him that he couldn't pull out because "C" Company had taken their objective and if "A" Company pulled out, it would leave "C's" flank exposed. This was not true as I was to learn much later and, in fact, most of the 2nd SS Panzer Division was between "A" Company and "C" Company, moving up the road in the valley the other side of the ridge which we had attacked earlier, on their way to assault Manhay which they captured later that night. It also explained the audacity of the handful of the enemy who had stood their ground in the face of a reinforced rifle company supported by tanks--we had been skirmishing that day with SS Panzer grenadiers from one of the most notorious of the SS Panzer divisions.

When the Battalion Commander told the captain that he must take the company back on the ridge that night, the captain fainted and was placed on the Battalion Commander's jeep. The company executive officer was ordered to take command and move the company back to Oster and up on the ridge. We marched back to Oster but, rather than going back on the ridge that night, the new company commander positioned outposts and occupied some houses and barns on the north end of Oster. The next

morning, Christmas Day, we did move back on the ridge and dug a line of fox holes on the slope overlooking Oster. We had not been resupplied and ammunition and food was in short supply. I remember sharing a "C" ration with two other men. We also had a little bread which had been found in an abandoned house in Oster.

Later that day, the company commander was ordered by the commander of the 3 AD task force to which we were assigned (T. F. Kane--Lt. Colonel Mathew Kane) to have a patrol work the woods southeast of Oster to search for tanks. The company commander elected to lead the patrol himself and I was assigned to it, in part at least because I was armed with a rifle grenade launcher. We worked around the edge of the woods and in the afternoon were lying on a hillside overlooking a small group of buildings gathered around an intersection where a road crossing a small stream turned west from north-south road which we were following. We watched as a number of Germans walked up and down the main road in their long overcoats which I always envied because they appeared much warmer than our short ones.

At one point, there was an attempt to contact someone on our company back-pack radio and shortly thereafter a number of artillery rounds fell on the cross roads so a decision was made not to use the radio again since some felt that the guns had ranged on the radio. It's more likely that it was just interdictory fire on map coordinates. At this time, most of the remainder of the Task Force Kane was in Freineux and Lamormeriel so the Germans were on a direct route between "A" Company and the rest but it was possible to communicate through la Fosse.

About dark, part of the patrol returned to the company position while the rest of us turned east toward Odeigne, leaving the woods and walked along the road. After we had gone a short distance, a machine gun to our left fired on us. I wanted to use a rifle grenade but was told not to do so. I heard explosions as someone had worked up to the machine gun and used grenades. The patrol proceeded on to Odeigne where a very chaotic action took place and two men were killed and another captured. As the patrol broke up, we heard that the company commander had been killed and, with another man, I made my way back to Oster. We went to the house of M. Achille Lerusse, who invited us in and told us that there were other Americans there. He directed me to a room on the left side of the hall and on opening the door, I saw about six weapons aimed at me from a number of armored division soldiers who were sleeping there without any guard posted. Although we knew it was a foolish thing to do, my friend and I were very tired so we joined them and slept through the remainder of the night.

The next morning, 26-12-44, we found that the remainder of the company had come off the hill and also learned that the company commander had not been killed but was badly wounded--shot through the chest. He survived and rejoined the company in Germany toward the end of the war. The rest of the 26th was uneventful, the weather was clear and

sunny and the ones who had been on the patrol the night before were excused from any duties. Toward dark we were issued a Ten in One ration--the first food we had been provided since 23-12-44 but, before we could finish eating, we were ordered to move out since the task force was withdrawing to the line established by Field Marshall Montgomery on 24-12-44. This line ran from Trois-Ponts southwest through Manhaym, Grand Menil and Amonines. We followed the rest of the task force along a trail road west to Sazdot and on to Blier where we spent the rest of the night in a barn. In the three days the company had over thirty casualties--killed, wounded, captured, missing or sick.

I had taken off my boots for the first time in five days and, when I woke on the morning of 27-12-44, my feet were so swollen and that I could not get my boots back on. I put on my overshoes and managed all right until after lunch when I was able to get my shoes on again. The cooks prepared our Christmas dinner which we had missed on the 25th and we gorged ourselves. Later in the day, we moved into defensive positions in Amonines. My platoon occupied the last house on the road that leads west out of Amonines past the church. It was the first time I had seen a barn as part of the house.



Our time in Amonines was mostly uneventful--some patrols and night road blocks but not a lot of active enemy action. Our platoon sergeant and his assistant (the platoon guide) were both wounded by mortar fire as they crossed a small stream behind the church--a spot of which the platoon sergeant had warned us to be careful because numerous fins from mortar shells indicated that area was under observation. While we were in Amonines, I spent two days in the Battalion Aid Station with a bad throat and laryngitis. For most of that time, the platoon sergeant from the second platoon was there also, then he was evacuated for further treatment and I returned to duty. The Aid Station in a large house on the main road with a wall around it so the medical jeeps would stop on the road and carry their litters through the gate. As we would watch, the medics would bring some in the house for treatment and take the dead soldiers around the side where they were stacked like cordwood. It was rather disturbing since we had to go around that side of the

house to relieve ourselves.

On 4-1-45, we were ordered to prepare to move out so we put on all of our gear and were sitting around in the house. With our coats on, it was very warm and most of us were half asleep when the quiet was shattered by a rifle shot. One of the men had shot himself in the leg (probably accidentally). The medics came and took him away and as things were quieting down again there was a sudden explosion in the kitchen--all of the lids blew off of the wood stove and the stove pipe flew all over the kitchen. Our first thought was that a mortar shell had hit the kitchen since the Germans had been directing mortar fire at us for several minutes. It turned out that some idiot had dropped a can of meat and beans in the stove and when the liquid boiled and turned into steam, the can exploded.

We soon moved out, following the advance and when "C" Company had taken Magoster, we dug in at the edge of the woods on the east side. Some time after dark the kitchen truck came up and our canteen cups were collected and returned to us full of food. This provided a rather unique dining experience since in the dark I was not sure of some of what I was eating although I knew it was familiar. I am sure that there was a canned peach half for "dessert" since it was thoughtfully placed on the top of the milange. Interest was added by the German artillery which was shelling the woods behind us and shell fragments were buzzing through the trees like angry bees. Without helmets on and the collars of our overcoats turned up to cover our necks, it was more annoying than dangerous.

On 5-1-45, the battalion moved through Beffe and "A" Company took up defensive position to the south while "B" Company extended the line from Beffe west to L'Ourthe River. My platoon was in a house on the high ground overlooking the river valley and my position was a hole near the edge of the bluff with a hedge between it and the house I didn't like this position because the hedge limited contact with the others and the man with me did not hear well. The second night we were there, I heard something moving behind the hedge, apparently trying to work through it. When I received no reply to several low-voiced challenges, I took a grenade and was ready to pull the pin when the hedge parted and a dark shape came through it--a cow.

On 7-1-45 the battalion launched an attack to the south with "B" Company on the right and "A" Company on the left. As our platoon left our holes, we received automatic weapons fire from our right flank and several men were wounded. This was apparently fire from friendly troops who took us to be the enemy. As we moved into the wooded area, I was one of the scouts for our platoon (going ahead of the rest of my squad). The other scout for the platoon was one of the nineteen replacements the company had received 1-1-45 while in Amonines. Most of these men came from service troops--quartermaster, ordnance, signal corps and the like and had little or no infantry training and little experience with the M-1 rifle. This proved to be the case with the other scout. We had moved only a short distance

into the woods when he fired a shot. Everyone stopped and looked around and, when nothing more happened, I asked him what he had fired at. He replied, "Nothing, I caught the trigger on a button on my overcoat." I told him to lock his weapon until he saw something to shoot. This was standard procedure to prevent accidents.

We moved two or three hundred meters into the woods when I saw a soldier about 30 meters in front of me. We both stopped and looked at each other because, with camouflage nets on them, American and German helmets looked very similar at a distance. I finally decided that he was a German and fired at him, possibly wounding him slightly because he cried out and ran off to my right and took cover in a fox hole. He then began firing from the hole which was protected by logs on the sides as well as overhead. All I could see was his rifle sticking out when he fired and my shots into the side of his bunker were not having any effect. The German was almost directly in front of the other scout but, when I called for him to shoot at the German, he replied "I can't; my rifle won't work." Apparently he forgot to unlock it. At this point, my platoon leader called to me, "Quit firing! You are shooting at 'B' Company," to which I replied, "'B' Company--Hell, the woods are full of Germans up here!." The Germans opened up with a machine gun, raking the woods, but fortunately firing slightly over us as we lay on the ground. After watching the bullets striking twigs just above me, I called on my squad leader to come up to my position as he was supposed to do. When he didn't respond after two or three calls, I told the platoon leader, "Lieutenant, either someone comes up here with me or I am coming back there with you!." The lieutenant then ordered my squad leader to do something so the sergeant ordered the BAR man to advance. The BAR man responded by running up and kneeling beside me, asking "Where are they, Miller?." I replied, "Right in front of us." He then fired a full clip of twenty rounds from his BAR at the same time one of the company officers to our left was calling for a machine gun to be brought up. Apparently, the Germans realized that we were more than just a small patrol so several surrendered and the rest retreated.

We advanced through the German position but had to hold up to wait for "B" Company to catch up and, as a result, were ordered to dig in for the night. As usual, I dug a deep hole and put some branches over it and I was happy that I had done so when it snowed during the night. The next morning as we were preparing to resume the advance, the artillery forward observer advised us to get back into our holes as he called for a barrage to clear the woods ahead. Again, I was glad for a good deep hole when several rounds fell short. We resumed the advance without encountering any enemy except one dead German in a wheelbarrow which apparently one of his comrades had used in an effort to help him. Around the middle of the day, we reached Marcourt where we stayed in defensive positions until 9-1-45. Nothing eventful occurred at Marcourt except that we found the Belgians upset because a number of civilians had been slain

by the Germans.

At 15:15 hours on 9-1-45, we left Marcourt by truck and at 18:23 reached Basse-Bodeux and ate supper. We left Basse-Bodeux on foot at 22:30 and arrived at Mont at 00:36 hours, 10-1-45. We had little rest and I remember being so tired that I went to sleep walking and woke up when I walked into the man ahead of me.

On 11-1-45, we left Mont and hiked about 5 km to Goronne. I was selected as one of two scouts to lead the battalion since "A" Company was at the head of the column. We were told that the I & R (Information and Reconnaissance) platoon had been over the route the night before but it had not snowed and we noticed that there were no tracks in the road so we decided to be especially cautious. However, nothing eventful happened except that at one point we were challenged by some troops from the 291st Infantry Regiment (also part of the 751D) and told we were in front of their lines along the Salm River. Our route turned more to the southwest and we reached Goronne and went into Division Reserve.

On 12-1-45 we left Goronne at 18:00 and hiked about 4 km to Rencheux where we took up defensive positions. "A" Company was in a Belgian Military installation on high ground north of Rencheux and I was with three other men in a cellar which had a window that overlooked the Salm River, Vielsalm, and some distance to the east. It was a quiet time other than occasionally artillery fire from the German side--usually a single gun which would be answered by a number of American guns. There were several patrols but I did not participate in any of them.

On 15-1-45, the 751D began an attack across the Salm River--the 291IR north of Vielsalm and the 289IR south of Vielsalm as part of a classical maneuver, known as a double envelopment. The 1st Battalion 290IR (including "A" Company) were supposed to attack Vielsalm but patrols into the town in the early hours of 17-1-45 found it deserted so at 11:45 hours we crossed the Salm on a railroad bridge at the north side of Vielsalm.

Since the enemy showed signs of withdrawing, the Commanding General of the 18th Airborne Corps ordered the CG 751D to press on so the 1st Battalion 290IR moved through Vielsalm and on to the east through Ville du Bois and Petit Thier. As we proceeded east from Ville du Bois, we observed isolated groups of the enemy to the south and an effort was made to put out flank protection but we were not able to keep up with the column because the snow on the fields made for slow going. At one time when a number of Germans were seen some distance south of the road, an order was given to fire on them with a heavy machine gun but the gun and tripod were separated because the men carrying them had not been able to keep up with the column. We were the second company in the line of march and, as I observed a number of men carrying very heavy packs falling back, I recalled our march of 23-12-44. These men were probably replacements because we soon learned to dispose of all but the essentials. We had been joined by

two armored vehicles--possibly at Petit Thier although I didn't actually see them until much later. I thought they were tanks but it turned out that they were tank destroyers.

It was getting dark as we marched through Petit Thier where we were greeted by enthusiastic Belgians offering us calvados and other liquid refreshments. It was dark by the time we reached the crossroad at Poteau and as the leading company attempted to enter they were fired on by automatic weapons and stopped. The Battalion Commander came back and discussed with our CO the possibility of "A" Company flanking the crossroads through the fields on either side. After considering the problems the snow had caused earlier, the Battalion Commander asked the tank destroyers to move up and fire on the Germans in the crossroads. The tank destroyers' leader asked if the road could be swept for mines and learned for the first time that we had no mine detectors with us. His companion told him to move to the side as he took his firing position so he could move up to support him. His reply was, "No use both of us getting knocked out" which didn't indicate an optimistic state of mind but actually the tank destroyers had only to fire its machine guns and the Germans withdrew and permitted us to move in. As we took cover in fox holes dug by U.S. 7th Armored Division troops as part of the defense of St. Vith 16-12-44 to 23-12-44, the Germans shelled the crossroads, killing at least one man.

The next morning, 18-1-45, as we prepared to resume the offensive to the south, the crossroads was fired on by a German gun. After observing from inside one of the ruined buildings, the commander of one of the tank destroyers trained his gun up the hill, moved his vehicle from behind the cover of the building and fired two quick rounds up the hill. He then returned the TD to its hiding place behind the building. He reported that he had destroyed a German SP (self-propelled) gun but no one really believed him until the SP was found two days later with two holes in it. A little later, we spread along the road to the west of the crossroads and prepared to attack south across an open field and into the woods. Enemy small arms fire was intense and the attack never really got started. The artillery F.O. (forward observer) said that our move the day before had carried us out of the range of the 105 mm howitzers normally used for close support and he could not use the 155 guns because their impact area was so large that shells might fall on us.

We spent the night in a house west of the crossroads and resumed the offensive the next morning with more success since the enemy had withdrawn from the immediate vicinity of the crossroads, retreating to prepared positions further south. As we moved deeper into the woods, we encountered increased opposition and an intense action developed as we attempted to cross a fire break or trail road. When we left Rencheux for Vielsalm, I had been armed with a sub-machine gun commonly called a "grease gun" because it superficially resembled that automotive maintenance tool. I would have much preferred to have kept my M-1 rifle with which I was proficient but was not given the choice. When

we encountered the strong enemy position, my weapon would not fire because of the intense cold and neither would the BAR's. Since I had been trained on the BAR, the platoon sergeant instructed me to see if I could get them to operate. I advised the men carrying them to remove the cartridge clips from the weapons, stuff toilet paper into the receiver and set it on fire. I did likewise with my sub-machine gun and thus we succeeded in warming them enough so that they started working. The cold affected the M-1 rifle as well but the bolt on the rifle could be closed manually and the weapon fired single shot to warm it. The automatic weapons depended on the speed of the bolt closing to fire them so it was necessary to warm them. After crossing the fire break, we continued the advance through the woods, but encountered much less resistance. Over one hundred prisoners were taken but most of them surrendered to the support company following behind us after letting us walk over them in their well-concealed fox holes.

That night, "A" Company occupied a large house or tavern a few hundred meters south of the Poteau crossroads although it was much farther by the route we had taken through the woods. It was a bitter cold night and, while it was comfortable enough in the building, standing guard outside was a chilling experience, especially for the feet since we had only garrison issue clothing including regular combat boots and overshoes rather than the much warmer shoe pacs that were issued later.

The next day, 20-1-45, we advanced some distance with little contact with the enemy. We came to a place where the larger trees had been cut and the snow was waist deep in the open areas around the younger trees and we had to travel on the road. I went with a patrol that was sent forward to reconnoiter before the company advanced further. We went some distance, finding conditions much the same and no sign of the enemy until we heard a tank moving somewhere ahead of us. We then returned and reported to the company commander. When he found that we had no bazooka ammunition, he decided to withdraw a short distance and dig in in the woods near the road. In a little while, a large number of vehicles proceeded south along the road past our position: tanks, trucks and jeeps. We found that they were from the 30th Infantry Division. Seeing that we had been bypassed and were no longer in contact with the enemy, I advised my platoon sergeant that I was going to the Battalion Aid Station to have my feet checked since they were bothering me. I got back as far as the large house where we had spent the night before and found it occupied by "C" Company of our battalion. After spending the night there, I caught a ride on a 30th ID truck the next morning. They took me to Recht and left me at a building occupied by an artillery unit. After giving me my first hot meal in almost a week, they transported me to Petit Their and our battalion aid station. After my feet were examined, I was evacuated to the division clearing station in Rencheux and from there to a hospital clearing company in Spa. During the course of the five-day action, the company had fifty casualties--a large

number of them, especially toward the last, were due to weather rather than enemy action.

December 1944

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

The later part of Dec. 1944 it was bitter cold and snowing. My buddy Ernest Stevens and I was 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 out side our fox hole thinking of rabbit for dinner. But found out it was froze stiff. When we talk over old times the story of the rabbit is always mentioned.

December 1944

J. Thomas Meagher
Headquarters & Headquarters Battery
13th Field Artillery Observation Battalion
VII Corps Artillery
Louisville, Kentucky

Due to the present day influx of smog, and other environmental deficiencies, specific dates defy my memory, somehow. Prior to the onset of the Ardennes Offensive, a Pvt. Gilbert R. Pittman, of Turkey Neck, Virginia, was traded to Btry. "B," 285th FA Obsn. Bn., in exchange for my return to my original line outfit, the 13th FOB. As the battle ensued, we learned that "B" Btry, 285th, had been captured, and massacred, in a snow covered field, near Malmedy, Belgium. The worst atrocity against American troops, in the entire, European Campaign. Several of the men, in the 13th, had exchanged pleasantries that same morning, with various members of the soon to be annihilated Battery. Both Pvs. Coates and Pitman were slain. May their souls rest in Eternal peace. Providing my health permits, it is my most ardent desire to visit the Shrine in Malmedy, place my hands upon their plaques, and offer my prayers for both.

December 1944

James V. Christy
B Company
109 Infantry Regiment
28th Infantry Division
Clearwater, Florida

Like any other survivor of the Bulge I have war stories to make your hair stand on end, but here is one that probably few people have heard:

The 109th Infantry Regiment, commanded by LTC James E. Rudder (formerly of the 2nd Ranger Battalion and Pointe

du Hoc fame on D-Day) in Belgium and Luxembourg in December 1944. We bent with the onslaught, but we did not break and though our losses were fearful, Colonel Rudder somehow managed to hold the regiment together until elements of the 80th Division relieved us just before Christmas in the vicinity of Colmar-Berg, Luxembourg and continued on towards Ettelbruck. I was at that time a 1st Lt and Ex O of B Company. We thought we were through and due for a break, but soon found ourselves attacking on Christmas Eve the little village of Gilsdorf as part of Task Force Rudder with tanks from the 10th Armored Division. We took Gilsdorf, but that is really another story.

Shortly after Christmas, we (the 109th) were trucked to the rear around Neufchateau and to an area on the north flank of the German salient near St. Hubert. There we were backing elements of the 87th Division and doing a lot of rear area patrolling, mostly motorized. On New Years Eve at 2400 I was in a jeep tooling down a back road in freezing weather. I simply could not resist welcoming the New Year by letting off half a belt from the pedestal mounted LMG. A day or so later I got the mission to contact British troops who were supposedly coming down to help us. I was assigned 20 men to include 2 Bazooka teams and 2 LMGs with one 1-1/2 ton truck and 2 jeeps. We took off in the direction of LaRoche.

At one point along the way we spotted tracked vehicles on the same road coming in our direction. We all bailed out and I got the bazookas and LMG's in position to do some damage. They were Brenn Gun Carriers from a British Recon unit. Those things were not much bigger than the Weasels we had used so much in the Hurtgen Forest. After an exchange of pleasantries we both continued on our way, the Brits south, us north. Shortly we found ourselves approaching a town in which a hot fire fight was in progress. This could have been LaRoche or some smaller village nearby.

I halted my little group at the edge of town and started to deploy for a fight. About 100 yards ahead at a crossroads I spotted a character with a black beret and a swagger stick who seemed to be directing the action. I told my 2nd in command to go over and find out the situation. In short order he was back and stated as follows: "That guy would not talk to me. He asked me my rank right off, and when I said Staff Sergeant, he asked if there was an officer with us. He would talk to the officer only!"

You better believe that got me a bit warm under the collar! In the past two weeks I had seen soldiers fight, bleed and die almost every day without regard to rank or position. I myself wore no visible insignia for reasons I need not explain to combat experienced people. And by the way, I am a West Pointer.

To come to the point of the story, I marched up to this jerk and if I remember correctly, addressed him in these exact words, "Just what the Hell is your problem, Mac?" He immediately asked for my rank. I told him 1st Lt USA and demanded his. He said he was a Major in the British Army,

but actually a French national. I refrained from commenting on how the French and British screw-ups were the reason we Americans were in Europe, but I was sorely tempted.

It turned out that the British soldiers had the situation well in hand and our help was not needed. The Germans in the village were only stragglers. I reported the contact and situation to my Battalion C.O. and that was the end of that.

December 1944

James M. Morgan
Medical Detachment
319th Infantry Regiment
80th Infantry Division
Stanford, Kentucky

This particular time we were in Heiderscheid. We went in behind the enemy lines and cut the main highway, and to hold it, we had to call our own artillery on our own positions. There was only the 2nd battalion, but we held it against over whelming odds, it was "awesome."

Well back to me. My 2nd Lt. asked me if I would go pick up three (3) wounded Germans. He put it like I didn't have to, but I ought to. He said I might get a medal. I was told the road was a solid sheet of ice. Down the hill about 1-1/2 mile. I was under observation 3/4 of a mile. There was a bomb crater, took half of the road where I was to turn in at the first house, and I was told it was zeroed in, and to hurry. I put the jeep in second, then to low, I cut the key off and jumped out. I out ran the jeep, went through the door. No sooner than the door was closed, a shell went off right behind my jeep, blew all my tires down, all but the left front. Even my spare tire was down. All my tire chains were cut into. I had 32 holes in my jeep.

I asked the boys if the Germans had been searched? They said, "yes, they are clean." We loaded them, two were on stretchers. The other one sat up in the seat. I sure kept my eyes on them. Here was the problem. To drive a jeep one tire up and three flat. It would go right for a while and then all would flop over, then would go left. The only way it would pull itself was front wheel drive and low range, wide open, 10 miles an hour. When I finally got to the Aid Station with my prisoners, we searched them and found two loaded pistols on them. From that time on, I searched all my P.W.'s myself.

Oh yes, I got the Bronze Star for this trip.

December 1944

Rollo J. Moretto
C Company
26th Infantry Regiment
1st Infantry Division
Long Island City, New York

On approximately December 10th we were relieved and it was rumored that the First Division would be returning to

England for a much needed rest. By then we had been in combat for 6 months starting with the Normandy Invasion on June 6th. Our ranks depleted and badly in need of all sorts of equipment, the rumor sounded good. We were pulled back to the Leige-Verviers area.

After less than a week the Germans had broken through the U.S. defenses and my unit was immediately alerted and rushed to the breakthrough area.



R. J. "Rocky" Moretto--1943

"C" Company was attached to the 2nd Battalion of the 26th Infantry Regiment for the move. We traveled both on foot and by truck in a shuttle type move and our target was ButgenBach. On our way we encountered many American troops who had been over run, were disorganized and in full retreat.

Some of the troops were on foot and some in vehicles including some tanks. Some of the men related some weird accounts of what was going on. The one account which has always stuck in my mind was that tiger tanks were being dropped by parachute in the breakthrough area. On the way we had also been advised by S-2 the Germans had dropped paratroopers dressed in American uniforms who spoke perfect English. This and other stories we heard made us wonder what we were headed for.

We arrived in ButgenBach late at night on December 16th and immediately started to set up a defense. The area had been occupied by an American field hospital which had very recently evacuated the area. They had departed in an awful hurry leaving behind a few tents, partially eaten food and all sorts of clothing including women's unmentionables.

Outposts were set up along "C" Company's front with the main line of resistance approximately 75 yards behind the outposts.

At the break of dawn the following morning all hell broke loose. As far as your eye could see German tanks were coming over the rise firing their machine guns as they came.

German Infantry followed the tanks on foot. After a short time the tanks over ran our outposts. They ran right over the foxholes in some cases and in other instances the enemy tank personnel motioned for the men to surrender.

Everyone as far as I could judge began to withdraw piece meal. I and some of the others finally sought refuge in the cellar of an extremely large building.

Col. Daniels Commander of the 2nd Battalion and his headquarters personnel were the occupants of this building.

Two tanks soon penetrated to about 20 yards of the building and by this time there appeared to be over a

hundred soldiers in that cellar. At one point a rifle went off and someone yelled out "Their throwing hand grenades down the cellar", and boy did that start a scramble.

Col. Daniels was personally directing artillery fire over the radio. He was in communication with all sorts of artillery units including our own 33rd Field and divisions 5th Field with their 155's. He even was asking for corps. artillery and at one point he yelled over the radio, "Get me all the damned artillery you can get".

There is no doubt in my mind that Col. Daniels almost single-handedly slowed the German advance until reinforcements arrived and began to build on our positions.

Thanks to Col. Daniels and fortunately for us the German Infantry had taken all sorts of casualties from the artillery fire and were unable to penetrate our defenses in any number.



Left to right: S/Sgt Rocky Moretto, T/Sgt Bob Wright, S/Sgt Clayton Goode, December, 1944, in Butgenback, Belgium.

When Col. Daniels was advised about the two tanks which had penetrated to within 20 yards of the building, he asked to be kept advised of their movements. I would inch up the cellar stairs and when the tank crews would spot me they would turn the 88's and fire a round. But before they did, I would come flying down those cellar steps.

The situation remained that way it seemed, for an eternity.

Col. Daniels called for volunteers to knock out the tanks with a bazooka. One young soldier somehow with help managed to get on the roof of the building and miraculously disabled one tank. It seemed like an impossible task but somehow that kid got the job done. The remaining tank stayed for a while and then turned tail, probably realizing he was sticking out like a sore thumb without support.

It was fortunate for us that our artillery inflicted so much damage to the German Infantry otherwise we would have surely been outflanked.

During the Bulge, I understand that 43 enemy tanks were knocked out in the 26th Infantry Regimental area.

In succeeding days the Germans attacked our positions numerous times with artillery supporting their Infantry but by then we were solidly in place and never budged an inch.

Toward the end of December the action slowed somewhat and patrols from both sides operated in the area.

Dean VanLandingham
Military Police Platoon
26th Tanker Division
Eustis, Florida

January 1945

Some day during the first week in January a Corporal Davis and I were assigned to ride shotgun on a couple trucks of Germans being sent from the line to the P.W. compound in Arlon, Belgium. After delivering the prisoners we decided to do some recon work in the bars and cafes of the city. We were successful. So much in fact we forgot which road to take back to our regimental H.Q. (the 328 of the YD Division). Being adequately filled with anti-freeze we finally asked an M.P. "which is the road to Groshus? Maybe we didn't pronounce the name any better than I can spell it, but he pointed out a road. We started down using only the cats eyes of the jeep for help in keeping on the road.

After about an hour one of us began to sober up somewhat. Some how the road didn't seem right. We should have gone through a small burg named Ell and crossed a stone bridge then a sharp right turn. After some discussion we agreed the M.P. was probably right. We kept on.

Suddenly a "Halt," cracked out at us. Then "You dumb --- turn out those --- lights." A sgt. came up and stuck a B.A.R. in my face. After some discussion while we tried to explain who we were and what we were doing and going the sgt. said, "You dumb --- drunken ---, you are in Bastogne with the 101." that didn't mean a thing to us. So we turned around and returned to Arlon. By that time it was beginning to get light and we found the right road to our outfit.

It wasn't until I was in the hospital in England, I was shot through my neck January 20, that I became aware of the Bastogne situation and realized that Davis and I had driven through fifteen miles of German held territory.

As it is said, "God takes care of children and drunk damn fools." He sure did us that night.

CORRECTION: Lionel P. Adda submitted several corrections to his "Incidents" published in the November, 1990, which arrived too late for editing. Stating that "most corrections were "quite minor", one "deserves, ...a request for correction." Page 16, 2nd paragraph, 7th line, should read: "Calling Staff Sergeant John Enlow, our (acting) Platoon Sergeant," whose...."

...TOO LATE??

NO, it's not too late to get your "Memorable Bulge Incidents" in to VBOB

We're hopeful that this will be a continuing item in *The BULGE BUGLE*. We're not looking for someone to win the Pulitzer Prize for Literature—all we are looking for is your story. Please sit down today and start working on it. Each story is unique—revealing the feelings and sensitivities of each person—and, as such, can never be duplicated. If you've enjoyed reading someone else's story, think how much they would enjoy reading your recollections.

Get your pencil and paper and start writing.



Officers' Club, Fort Myer, VA
December 18, 1990

Mr. Roger Hardy, (left) National Secretary and MR. Marcel D'Haese, (right) National President of the 5th Belgian Fusiliers Association present to Dorothy Davis the 5th Belgian Fusilier Emblem for the Battle of the Bulge Gallery.

Treaties are like roses and young girls. They last while they last.

CHARLES DE GAULLE

BRIG. GEN. OLIVER PATTON U.S. ARMY RETIRED ADDRESSES MEMORIAL SERVICES

Brigadier General Oliver Patton addressed those attending the VBOB wreath laying ceremonies at Arlington Cemetery on December 16th, marking the 46th anniversary of the beginning of the Battle of the Bulge.

General Patton enlisted as a private, 109th Cavalry, Tennessee National Guard. He graduated from West Point on 6 June 1944 and joined the 106th Infantry Division as rifle platoon leader. He was twice wounded, and captured by the Germans in their Ardennes offensive in December of 1944. He also served in the Korean War with the 3rd Infantry Division and in Vietnam with two tours of duty as G2, U.S. Army Corps. He retired from active service in 1974 as Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, U.S. Army.

Since his retirement he has written five historical novels and is presently Executive Secretary of the newly-formed Arlington National Cemetery Historical Society.

His address:

"Gentlemen, and your ladies,

"Is it not strange we have come here today in memory of the worst Christmas of our lives? A Christmas lost in the savagery of the greatest battle ever fought by the United States Army.

"On this day forty-six years ago the German army struck us by surprise on a sixty-mile front from Monschau in Belgium to Echternach in Luxemburg. A front thinly held by five American divisions, two mechanized cavalry squadrons and a battalion of armored infantry. The center was smashed and overrun--the shoulders held by desperate courage.

"Forty-four days later when the Germans had been stopped and thrown back to their starting line, more than twenty-nine American divisions--six hundred thousand men--had joined the fight. Eighty-one thousand of them were killed, wounded or captured. Against us the Germans threw more than twenty-eight divisions--half a million men. They lost a hundred thousand of them. There would be more fighting but by January 28th, 1945, the Germans knew, "For us the war is over."

"That was Hitler's last gamble--his Ardennes offensive. We call it the Battle of the Bulge.

"Why are we here today? Not to remember a lost Christmas but to honor our dead. Look around you. Here lie Americans killed in every war, battle, raid and skirmish we have fought in more than a hundred years. And these are only a part. Many more--like our friends lost in the Battle of the Bulge--lie in cemeteries across the seas, thousands of miles from here. Our country honors them with these simple stone markers. We have raised stone monuments to our own.

"In time there will be only stone, but I think that as long as one of us can reach this place, he will come on December 16th in living tribute to the men who fought and died in the Battle of the Bulge.

"Before there is only stone, we should do more. And for some of us that may be hard. Some of us were captured by the Germans and I remember when I came home from that war, I was ashamed of that. I would not speak of it. You know that after that war people did not think as well of a

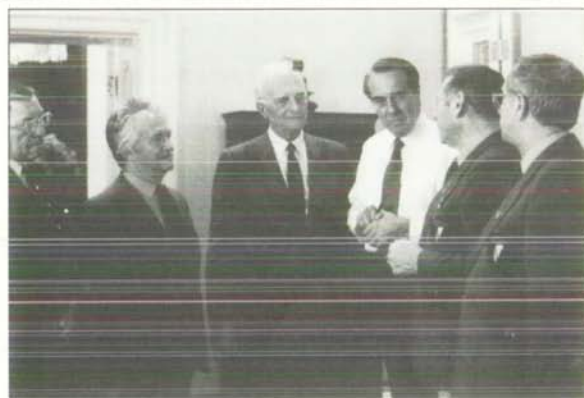
man captured by the enemy as they do now. I don't think I was alone in that feeling.

"But it is time now to forget that. Now is a time to tell our children and our grandchildren of that old dark December, that lost Christmas. To tell them of the bravery and patriotism of the men who fought and died for their country in that dark time.

"These stones may last forever but we must do more. We must build a living memorial to our lost friends. Let us pass our memory of them and our pride in serving with them to our children so that when we can no longer gather here there will still be men and women who pause on December 16th and say:

"I knew a man who fought this day for his country. I am proud of that. I will never forget him."

"My friends, I wish you a far better Christmas than the one we remember from 1944. God bless you and hold you in his hand. I thank you for the honor of speaking to you today."



Senator Robert Dole's Office December 18, 1990

Members of the 5th Belgian Fusiliers meet with Senator Robert Dole and reminisce about World War II experiences. The Fusiliers served with the First U.S. Army in the Battle of the Bulge. Senator Dole was an Infantry Platoon Leader with the 10th Mountain Division in Italy.

Twenty one members of the Fusilier Association and family members spent a week in the Washington D.C. area attending the special December events hosted by the Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation and the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge.

MEMBERSHIP PROMOTION

VBOB will be happy to provide you with materials for membership promotion. Your reunions, club meetings, etc., are a wonderful place to do this. Let us know if we can be of help.

Hey Soldier-

If you don't get older...

WHAT'S THE ALTERNATIVE??

William R. Hemphill



VETERANS of the BATTLE of the BULGE

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FEBRUARY, 1991



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