

"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, WWII.



The BULGE BUGLE

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THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

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A TIME TO REMEMBER

"As we commemorate the 47th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, let us continue to remember our comrades-in-arms, both living and deceased, who shared with us the vicissitudes of that climatic battle. Let us each ask God's blessing on all of us and more particularly on those whom he has called unto himself."

These words written by VBOB Chaplain Msg. William F. O'Donnell touched the hearts of all who attended the VBOB memorial ceremonies at Arlington Cemetery on a cold, crisp December 16, 1991, morning.

Following the Changing of the Guard (by the 3rd Infantry Honor Guard) at the Tomb of the Unknowns, VBOB President Darrell Kuhn and Eugene Drouillard laid a wreath in memory of all veterans who perished during the Battle of the Bulge as well as those veterans of that conflict who have passed on since that time. A bugler from the U.S. Army Band played Taps which brought many memories gushing forth and tears to the eyes of many of those in attendance.

President Kuhn headed a procession to the VBOB Monument where additional ceremonies were conducted. The U.S. Army Color Guard advanced the colors, immediately followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Eugene Drouillard and the prayer which begins this article was read on behalf of VBOB's chaplain.

Immediate Past President William Greenville welcomed those in attendance and introduced the guest speaker Brigadier General Oliver B. Patton (Ret.) In view of the severe cold, General Patton waived his prepared speech and commented only briefly during the ceremonies. [Editor's Note: He did, however, provide us with his prepared speech which appears later in this newsletter.]

(Continued on Page 2)



VBOB members Richard G. Guenter, and Peter Leslie, both of the 511th Engineers Light Ponton Company, laid the wreath at the memorial which was followed by a moment of silence. Taps was played and the colors were retired.

Comin' Up...

**11th Annual
VBOB REUNION
MARRIOTT AIRPORT HOTEL
NASHVILLE, TENN.**

October 8-11, 1992



**Attractions:
Opry Land
Grand Ole Opry**

Full details in next issue!

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

P.O. Box 11129
Arlington, Virginia 22210-2129
(703) 979-5270

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BULGE BUGLE STAFF

Publisher - George Chekan - 9th Infantry Division

Editor - Roy Gordon - 9th Infantry Division

Editor - Washington Bureau

Elturino L. Loiacono - 10th Armored Division

Historical Research -

Dorothy S. Davis - 57th Field Hospital

VBOB OFFICERS - ELECTED

PRESIDENT - Darrell T. Kuhn
75th Infantry Division (1-301) 766-6912

EXEC. VICE PRES. - John J. Dunleavy
737 Tank Battalion

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of Walter E., 4th Infantry Division

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

LIAISON OFFICER FOR INT. AFFAIRS
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LAISON OFFICER FOR MILITARY UNITS
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75th Infantry Division

PHOTOGRAPHER - Sam Silverman
10th Armored Division

HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

PRESIDENT - William T. Greenville
86th Chemical Mortar Battalion

**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
REMEMBER PAST
TO PROTECT FUTURE**

We have to act NOW!

The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, as surely as any of the Biblical miracles, survived and beat back the last threat by the forces of evil to take over the world. We were together in this world of madness, when total darkness threatened the free world. Together, we were able to defeat this evil which invaded our lives and only together can we ensure that this phase in our history lives on in the minds of men forever.



Darrell Kuhn

After the war, we rebuilt our personal lives and then, as members of VBOB, we collectively set ourselves on a mission to remember and guarantee that the world remembers. It is vital that these memories are perpetuated in order that civilization does not repeat the horrors of that time. To protect the future, our past must be remembered. We must insure that what we experienced under horrible circumstances and what we saw with our own eyes, will be properly conveyed to future generations.

To help accomplish this, I have decided to focus special attention on several areas which should serve to accomplish the goal of continuing remembrance of the Battle of the Bulge long after all its veterans are gone.

•First, the organizational structure now in place will step up the pace in tackling their tasks: membership promotion, chapter liaison and development, military activities, museums, oral histories, and the rest of the long list of current activities in which VBOB is engaged.

•Second, our appropriate officers will take action to contact congress, state legislatures, and the like to see that

VBOB interests are considered along with other matters before these deliberative bodies.

•Third, the officers responsible will take steps to ensure that the upcoming 50th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge is given special treatment by all media. This is where you can help! Do you have any ideas or connections which would be helpful to us with this? I would like any and all Bulge Battlers to assist with this. Any assistance you can give in the way of ideas, contacts, and/or actions will help with our public relations goals. Send along your ideas within one week of receipt of this *Bugle*.

It is important that we tell our story as WE "saw" it and that the story not be told as someone else "thinks" it happened. Put your thinking caps on. We want to win this battle, too. Let me know what you think. TOGETHER, we can succeed again.

Darrell Kuhn, President

(A TIME TO REMEMBER *Continued from Page 1)*

William Tayman, VBOB member, offered the following comments and closing prayer: "What a beautiful day--the weather today is very much like the cold of 47 years ago when we veterans of the Battle of the Bulge were engaged in winter combat. We were cold then, but today we are not--we are warm because of our many blessings.

"Let us bow our heads in prayer.

"Our Heavenly Father, we thank you for the honor and privilege to be here today as we pay respect to all those who fought in this great battle and, in particular, to the men who paid the supreme sacrifice 47 years ago. Help us that we never forget them and the many blessings that we all have to be thankful for, in Jesus name we pray. Amen."

President Kuhn then invited all those in attendance to return to the hotel for a reception and the swearing in of the new VBOB officers for the coming year.

Are your dues due? Please check back cover

47TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

The night preceding the ceremonies at The Tomb of the Unknowns, a dinner honoring all veterans of the Battle of the Bulge was held at the Sheraton National Hotel, in Arlington, Virginia. Host for the evening was VBOB William Tayman, who welcomed all in attendance and thanked them for their participation.

Eugene Drouillard lead the Pledge of Allegiance and VBOB Chaplain offered the invocation.

Tayman offered the following toast before a lovely dinner was served:

"Let us raise our glasses in an honored toast to the men who gave their all during the Battle of the Bulge. God bless them all. We will never forget you and, as President Bush said on December 7th at the Pearl Harbor last week, 'God bless America, the most wondrous land on the earth.'"

John Metzler, Jr., Superintendent of Arlington National Cemetery, was a guest speaker. Mr. Metzler served in the U.S. Army between 1966 and 1969 and was a helicopter crew chief in the Vietnam War. He received numerous awards and commendations. Mr. Metzler cited the requirements for internment in Arlington Cemetery and pointed out that over 4 million persons visit the cemetery annually where there are more than 220,000 burial sites.

Bill Greenville, BOB Historical Foundation President, presented a report on the Fort Meade BOB Honors Hall and introduced Col. Thomas Sweeney, Director of the U.S. Army Military Historical Institute, located in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Col. Sweeney spoke of the large volume of books on war history in the Carlisle Museum but stressed that the most impressive documents were the stories written by the individual veterans--as these are the persons who knew what really happened and these are the stories which bring actuality to the conflicts.

Mae Barvir, from Graham, North Carolina, and wife of Joe Barvir, 87th Infantry Division, won the door prize which was the Postal Service's first World War II Remembered, 1941: A WORLD AT WAR commemorative book.

As Chairman of the VBOB Postage Stamp Committee, Bill Tayman read from a letter that he had sent to the Assistant Postmaster General: "Needless to say, we Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge are anxiously waiting for the 1944: ROAD TO VICTORY book.

The VBOB who had traveled the longest distance was Chuck Pomianek, President of the Northwest Chapter, Seattle, Washington. There were five former 87th Infantry Division members present; three from the 28th Infantry Division; three from the 75th Infantry Division; and many, many others from various divisions, etc.

Colonel: "You say you served with the Army in Belgium during WWII."

Cook: "Yes, sir. Officers' cook for two years and wounded twice."

Colonel: "You're lucky, man. It's a wonder they didn't kill you."

The Boys of The **GOLDEN ACORN**

John E. McAuliffe, M-347, 87th Inf. Div., liked the sentiments voiced in a recent BULGE BUGLE editorial: "No One Forgets the Bulge" So he wrote a poem about his outfit. "I structured the poem around each regiment and its respective logo or epigram and the battle in which it participated in the Ardennes. These are the battles and engagements that were not written up in the history books but nevertheless important in our march to victory and certainly in the memories of those who fought them.

"It was a TIME FOR TRUMPETS
and as they heeded the bugle's call,
The boys of the eighty-seventh
Stood STALWART AND STRONG and tall.

87TH DIVISION

They were the GOLDEN ACORN men
Now dressed in battle array,
Pressed into the snowy Ardennes
To engage in the bloody fray.

345 INFANTRY

Their colors led them forward
In the battle of Moiricy,
INVICTUS was their byword
As the foe was soon to see.

346 INFANTRY

ALWAYS and EVERYWHERE FAITHFUL
As they fought in the woods of Tillet.
Always men so valiant
As they stormed the German Billet.

347 INFANTRY

They heard the call to DARE YOUR BEST
And fought the fight at BONNERUE
Now and again they stood the test
And proved that they were brave and true.

312 MEDICAL BATTALION

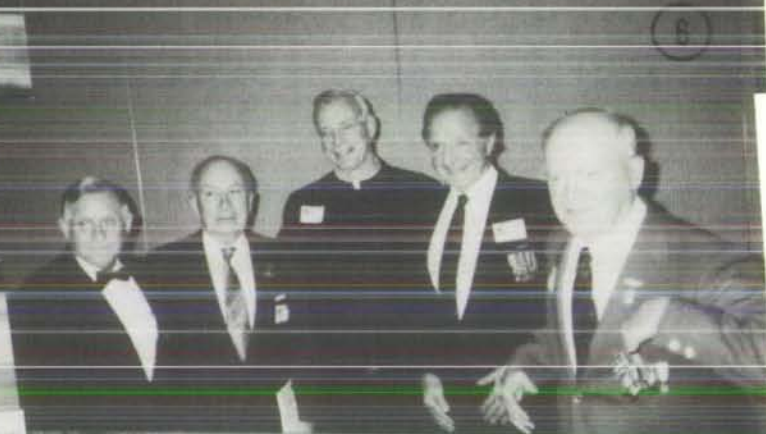
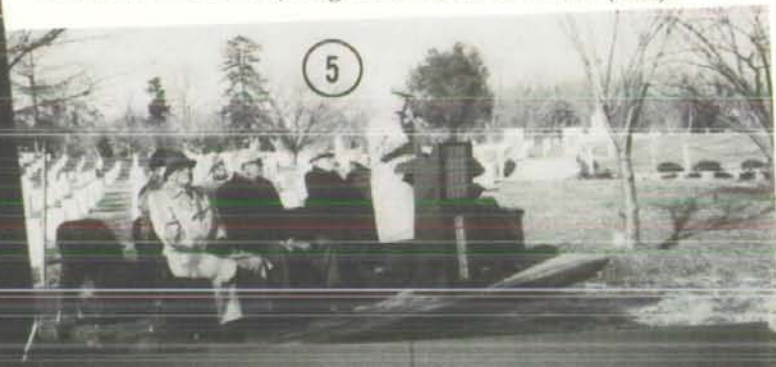
They stood beside the fighting boys
To GIVE AID AND COMFORT under fire,
They braved shot and shell and noise
In deep cold snow and muddy mire.

They were the boys of the GOLDEN ACORN,
Men of Patton without fear,
And they closed the Bulge and broke the horn
Of the PANZER LEHR and the 26th Volksgrenadier.

Their battle cry to DARE YOUR BEST
Was a challenge not forsaken,
They proved that they withstood the test
The prize was OUR OBJECTIVE TAKEN."

47th Anniversary Memorial Services

1. VBOB President Darrel Kuhn, Eugene Drouillard, and John Metzler, Jr., Superintendent of Arlington National Cemetery advance to place wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns during December 16th ceremonies.
2. President Kuhn; John Metzler, Jr.; William Tayman (host for the event); and Col. Thomas Sweeney, Director of the U.S. Army Military Historical Institute in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, at December 15th Gala Dinner.
3. Wreath being laid at Tomb of the Unknowns by President Kuhn and Eugene Drouillard.
4. Retiring the Colors by the U.S. Army Color Guard, 3rd Infantry Division, at the VBOB Monument.
5. Officers listen attentively as Brig. Gen. Oliver B. Patton (Ret.) speaks at VBOB Monument ceremonies.
6. Members of the 87th Infantry Division, which had the largest attendance at the Gala Dinner--President Kuhn, Joseph Zimmer, Mons. William F. O'Donnell, William Tayman, and John E. McAuliffe.
7. Past President William T. Greenville and principal speaker at VBOB Memorial ceremonies, Brig. Gen. Oliver B. Patton (Ret.).



Photos by Peter Leslie

Belgian Civilian is Leader in Building Monument

Major Glen L. Strang (S-2, 27th Armored Infantry Battalion, 9th Armored Division of Bulge and Remagen fame) a 9th AD Association director, writes "...it is my responsibility to let you know about a great man and his family...His name is Jean Claude Hendrick.

"I have been in this man's home and know all his immediate family. They are wonderful people. Mr. Hendrick took the lead on his idea to erect a monument at La Vaux Richard in memory of 12 men of the 27th AIB, 9 AD. The men were of Co. A and of my Battalion. I do know something about how they were at this location at the time they were murdered. I have other WWII friends in Luxembourg but this family is very dear to me for what they have done on behalf of the 12 soldiers who were so viciously murdered by the Nazis, just a short distance from Jean Claude's home and just outside Stavelot. I thought these men were massacred at Malmedy until Mr. Hendrick and Bill Cavanaugh informed me otherwise. Mr. Hendrick was actually a baby in his mother's arms during WWII, but he took it upon himself to promote and build this beautiful monument to my men who were so brutally murdered near his home; so that history would not forget the sacrifices these men made.

"I have the complete history of the building of the monument. (He will send the story in for publication.) Mr. Hendrick and his family as well as others who helped him deserve to be recognized..."



9 ID MAN SURPRISED TO SEE HIS PHOTO IN THE BUGLE

(Editor's Note: A lot of combat action still and motion picture footage was made during the Bulge. The BUGLE prints official Army photos showing identifiable Battlers. The BUGLE will also print individually taken photos, if they are clear enough for our state of the art photo capabilities. Here's a short note from a Battler who was pleasantly surprised by the BUGLE.

Maurice Houches, Sr., of Haskell, NJ writes: "...and to my surprise my picture was on page 11 (November BUGLE) heating a can of C rations during the Battle of the Bulge. My unit was E Co., 47th Inf. Div. Our 47th and 39th Inf. Regts. were holding the line at Konzen-Monschau-Hoefen-Kalterherberg. Col. George W. Smythe, our regimental commander, organized a whole new 'division' from American units caught and smashed in the breakthrough. The weather was cold - misty fog and snow. Despite all the hardship on everyone, we managed to win and write another chapter in history."

VBOB CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

(Alphabetical by State)

•ALABAMA•

GEN. GEORGE S. PATTON, JR.
CHAPTER (XI)
Glynn L. Arrington
4602 Lake Valley Dr.
Birmingham, AL 35244
205-979-3920

•CALIFORNIA•

FRESNO CHAPTER (V)
Kenneth Hohmann
4111 N. Sherman St.
Fresno, CA 93726
209-227-5232

GEN. GEORGE S. PATTON, JR.
CHAPTER #13 (XIII)
George Waldron
3801 Soquel Dr.
Soquel, CA 95073
408-475-3989

GOLDEN GATE CHAPTER (X)
Martin E. Turkington
55 Millthwaite Dr.
Martinez, CA 94553
415-372-8031

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER
(XVI)
Murray Shapiro
10847 Delco Ave.
Chatsworth, CA 91311
818-341-7071

•FLORIDA•

CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER (XVIII)
Tom McFadden
1217 Buccaneer Ave.
Deltona, FL 32725
407-860-1720

•MARYLAND-

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA•
MARYLAND/D.C. CHAPTER (III)
Grover Twiner
40 Dunganrie Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21228-3401
301-744-4915

•NEW HAMPSHIRE•

C.G. PAUL NEWGARDEN CHAPTER
(VIII)
Matthew Femino
711 Colonial Dr.
Portsmouth, NH 03801
603-436-2571

•NEW JERSEY•

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER (XII)
Anthony W. Andriola
33 Clover St.
Nutley, NJ 07110
201-667-9363

•NEW YORK•

CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER (II)
Alexander F. Noce, Sr.
Champion Mobile Homes, Lot 16
Eldridge, NY 13060
315-689-3457

•NORTH CAROLINA•
NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER (IX)
William Robert Strickland
R.D. #3, Box #514
Dunn, NC 28334
919-897-8295

•NORTH DAKOTA•
NORTH DAKOTA CHAPTER (XX)
Frank H. Dusek
R.R. 1, Box 83
Anamoose, ND 58710
701-465-3308

•PENNSYLVANIA•
DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER (IV)
Stanley Wojtusik
9639 Wissinoming St.
Philadelphia, PA 19114
215-637-4191

SUSQUEHANNA CHAPTER (XIX)
Ms. Clara Gustin
230 Crown Ave.
Scranton, PA 18505-2016
717-342-8496

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER
(XIV)
Leroy D. Schaller
R.R. #1, Box #341
Bolivar, PA 15923
412-238-2297

•SOUTH CAROLINA•
SOUTH CAROLINA CHAPTER (VII)
George A. Worth
109 S. Live Oak Dr.
Moncks Corner, SC 29461
803-899-4384

•VERMONT-
NEW HAMPSHIRE-MAINE•
TRI-STATE--VERMONT, NEW
HAMPSHIRE, MAINE CHAPTER (XVII)
Roger Desjardins
4 Forest Park Est.
Jaffrey, NH 03452
603-532-8420

•VIRGINIA•
NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER (XV)
H. Dean Fravel
3218 Nealon Dr.
Falls Church, VA 22042
703-573-5718

•WASHINGTON•
NORTHWEST CHAPTER (VI)
Casimer Pomianek
6232 53rd St.
Seattle, WA 98115
206-523-0055

•WISCONSIN•
NORTHERN WISCONSIN CHAPTER (I)
Wallace Abitz
1201 S. 7th Ave.
Wausau, WI 54401
715-842-4915

If there's a chapter near you, give their president a call. They are engaged in a lot of activities we are sure you would enjoy. You may encounter some old friends and you surely will make some new ones.

WE WANT ADDRESSES!! ★★★★★★

As the 50th Anniversary approaches, we will more and more want to turn to your old outfit for information and/or assistance. We have a lot of associations on our computer but we would like to have more. If you are affiliated with your old division, regiment, company, etc., please forward us the address of the main contact. We are beginning to make our plans for this occasion and WE'LL KEEP YOU POSTED OF OUR PROGRESS.

CHAPTER NEWS

SUSQUEHANNA CHAPTER • I am very pleased to announce that the chapter has broken new ground and elected Clara Gustin, 392 Signal Company, 9th Air Force WAC, as their new president. Also elected were Phillip Genova, Vice President; Charlotte Burton, Secretary; Vincent Meinhardt, Treasurer; and Bill Zwick, Chaplain. Congratulations to you all. You have a lively, busy chapter.

These new officers were installed at the December 1st meeting held in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Keith Martin, anchorman for WBRE-TV, who is a major in the 28th Division of the Pennsylvania National Guard, and Major General Daniel O'Neill, commander, 28th Division, who is Superintendent of Wayne District Schools, were invited to join us.

Other news of their activities: a funeral service has been set up for members, with plans for members from each area to be ready when they are needed.

George Waters continues to be busy visiting Carlisle Military History Museum and staying in touch with historians in Luxembourg.

A bingo party for veterans at the Veterans Hospital in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, has been planned for January 26th. Prizes, cakes, fruit, and drinks will be on the menu.

FRESNO CHAPTER • Eight of our members attended the Annual Meeting in Charleston, South Carolina, enjoying the comradeship and historic sites.

At our October meeting, we had a moment of silence for one of our most devoted, recently departed, members, Antonio Mazzeo.

The same slate of officers were persuaded to run again since they do such a great job.

Once again, Beverly Calhoun presented us with one of her beautiful afghans for a raffle. She is doing a great job of keeping our treasury in good shape.

Six members participated in the Fresno Country Veterans Day Parade in Clovis. Our transportation was again provided by the Fresno T-Bird Club. Major Samuel Calhoun, U.S. Army (Ret.), was in full dress uniform in the lead car. The audience loved it.

The annual December 16th meeting was held in the Walnut Room of the Cedar Lanes Restaurant. There were corsages for the ladies, stocking stuffers for all and door prizes, all donated or obtained by our busy members. Beverly Calhoun had another of her beautiful afghans ready for the raffle. We had our largest attendance yet, numbering 79. The new officers were installed after dinner.

SOUTH CAROLINA CHAPTER • Our annual December meeting was held on the 17th at the NCO Club at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. We had a Dutch buffet and the new officers were installed afterwards.

CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER • At our November meeting a motion was made to retain the same slate of

officers. We discussed having a garage sale at the flea market in Mt. Dora and voted to have the three-colored hats, first seen at the Valley Forge Annual Meeting, for our official uniforms.

The Bulge Anniversary was memorialized by members having a ceremony around the flagpole in front of the restaurant where we later had lunch.

NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER • Our December Memorial Meeting was held at the Western Steer Family Steak House in Dunn, North Carolina.

GOLDEN GATE CHAPTER • December 14th found us gathered at the Presidio Golden Gate (NCO) Club for a delicious luncheon. Our speaker was member Lt. Gen. William F. Train. During the Bulge, he was a battalion commander of the 28th Division.

CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER • We had 32 attendees at our September meeting, where we enjoyed an Italian dinner.

Discussion about a veterans' issues TV show to be proposed during the month of November was brought up. It covered four issues: First half-hour of the show, Pearl Harbor, interviewing two Pearl Harbor Veterans. Second half-hour, "What the people thought about Pearl Harbor." Third half-hour about WWII in general. Fourth half-hour about WWII veterans today. We were asked to show our participation.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA • Dean Fravel, our president, was invited to speak as a representative of VBOB and the chapter to the County of Stafford Annual Veterans Day event at Ferry Farm, Boyhood Home of our Nation's First Military Commander on November 10th.

The weather couldn't have been worse: cold, windy, and pouring down rain. But our fearless comrade and Fred Brens reported in for duty like good soldiers.

Bob Shawn was dressed as a German colonel for the re-enactment of the Battle of the Bulge at Carlisle, Pennsylvania, in January.

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA • Twenty-five members of the chapter attended a dinner at the Blue Angel in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, to commemorate December 16th. Two new veterans joined the chapter.



Kilroy says:

SKIP-TO-MY-LOU

THINK THAT'S HOW YOU SPELL IT?

Well, I don't know either. BUT...if you'll join me at VBOB's Reunion in Nashville, maybe we'll both find out. Make your plans and maybe we can **DOE-SEE-DOE**. You know,...that doesn't look right either. Oh, well, see you there.

A BAG

(Editor's note: *A BAG* has been the *B BAG* companion throughout most of WWII. In the *BUGLE* it still is a dove-tailing companion: It will carry letters-to-the-editor which need some editorial action or comment. It will also contain background information for you about VBOB administration: What is being done for us by management which are not big stories yet. For instance, *A BAG* will give you a regular sub-series, "A DAY in the LIFE of the VBOB President", wherein you will be told of new ideas and actions which may be coming up, so you can have an input to the national decisions.

Letters to The Editor

We did win a war recently... or did we?

Editor:

I seem to remember we were in a war about a year ago...and that we won it! There was a guy named Saddam Hussein who was butchering all opposition in his country and threatening the Mid-East and the world with chemical warfare. He was also well on the way to developing nuclear power.

Then I remember we declared war on him and sent most of our military might there to champion the cause against this dispicable maniac...in the interest of decent humanity...and to eliminate a world threat.

We lost some good young people, suffered many casualties and spent billions of dollars. But...with world-wide spotlights on us...we won a glorious victory in record time. Or did we? What *did* we win?

SADDAM HUSSEIN IS STILL ALIVE...HE IS STILL BUTCHERING ALL OPPOSITION IN IRAQ...HE STILL HAS HIS CHEMICAL WARFARE CAPABILITIES...HE IS STILL FEVERISHLY WORKING ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR POWER. HE HAS SULLIED OUR PLANET'S ENVIRONMENT FOREVER BY IGNITING HIS OIL FIELDS. 44 UNITED NATIONS INVESTIGATORS WERE HELD HOSTAGE FOR SEVERAL DAYS BY AN ARMY WE DEFEATED!!

WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH US? It is no wonder we cannot effectively deal with drugs, crime, poverty, child abuse and other American ills. our politicians constantly jaw about.

Was that experience in Iraq just "war games"...or "maneuvers" as we used to call them in World War II? Or was it just a giant TV show? SADDAM HUSSEIN IS STILL ALIVE AND STILL DOING THIS THING!

There is a rumor that we need to keep Saddam as a check against an even greater butcher...the guy running Syria...and an enemy of Hussein. WHAT A CRAZY WORLD! Now we may have to do the whole thing over again...or leave it to our kids and grandchildren. In America we take great pride in playing the game according to the rules...and shaking hands with our opponent after we beat him. But this whole Mid-East affair borders on the RIDICULOUS!!

Edwin J. Stoch Euclid

Saddam Hussein still flaunts his arrogance

Editor:

I appreciate the offer to contribute my thoughts to our Operation Desert Storm.

It is appalling that our nation can be led "down the Primrose Path" such as we have been with this latest military endeavor. I cannot possible conceive letting a creature such as Iraq's leader continue to flaunt his arrogance to the world.

When the opportunity arose and we met with the success that we encountered, I cannot understand why our leaders held back when total victory was within our grasp.

It could be that our administration are awaiting a more opportune time to hood-wink the American public into thinking the job was not completed and will have to be done again, particularly when votes are needed in the coming election.

Of course I believe that pressure should be put on the administration to completely and without any hesitation bring this "mad-dog" to his knees and any other of this kind that this sort of tactics will not be tolerated at this time nor that of the future. They are just waiting until they think the time is right to detonate a "nuclear device" at which time they can hold the world in an uncompromising position.

I thank you for letting me express my opinion.

Charles R. Connor 87th Inf. Div.

VBOB PRESIDENT: We should ask other organizations to join us to get a WWII Monument in D.C.

VBOB President Darrell Kuhn advocates getting VBOB to lead an effort to get a WWII monument in the nation's capital which would also honor the Bulge.

He points out that there are no monuments or museums in Washington, D.C. for World War II. There are a few monuments to WWII participants such as the Seabees, the Armored Units, and there will be a monument for women service people.

He urged that sons and daughters of VBOB Battlers join VBOB to preserve our history in the proper perspective and push for a WWII monument in Washington - as well as generally preserving VBOB and what it stands for.

VBOB Battler Urges Action on Monument in D.C.

To show that a lot of Battlers think the same, here's a letter from a Battler on the same subject: WWII MONUMENT in DC:

David C. Reich of San Diego writes: "In response to your article in November BUGLE I would propose the following action by VBOB.

"Soon two memorials in Washington, DC will stand honoring the men and women who served in Vietnam and in Korea.

"Legislation to provide a museum and memorial for those who served in WWII has failed so far to produce any action.

"While the battle in the Ardennes was no doubt the battle that took out Nazi Germany, I feel we should get involved in being sure all services and all battles are remembered.

"Where will our grandchildren and their children go to see what our country did to restore freedom in a world gone mad?

"In most history books in the schools there are a few short paragraphs on the war, and major battles are sometimes omitted from the history.

"WWII vets have remained far too silent on establishing a fitting memorial in Washington DC.

"Other nations have memorials to our fighting men in that war, but where do I take my grandsons to see bits of that history?

"This project, if we pushed hard for it with other veterans' groups, I feel, would be a very worthwhile project to work on for the VBOB.

Right you are, Dave!

The BUGLE would like to hear what the membership thinks about this proposal and the others espoused in recent BUGLE issues. We are sure you'd rather hear about such actions, as well as insights into our history, as against filling our pages with administrative announcements which really belong back with the truss ads in small print.

PREPARED REMARKS OF BRIG. GEN. OLIVER B. PATTON (RET.) FOR VBOB MEMORIAL SERVICES

It is my honor and privilege to share with you again our memory of a Christmas 47 years ago. Ask me what happened in December 46 or 48 years ago and I can't tell you. Ask me about December 1944 and you haven't the patience or stamina to hear me out. We share the memory and our friends and family have to bear the burden.

That was the day that began the biggest fight in the biggest war you and I have ever seen--and, please God, shall never see the like again.

A fight that lasted for 44 days. Six hundred thousand Americans had a piece of that fight. Eighty-one thousand casualties, 19,000 of them killed in action.

Our enemy, the Germans, threw 500,000 men against us and it cost them about 100,000--killed, wounded and captured. Tell the truth and shame the devil--as we used to say--they gave us one hell of a fight. They shook us up. It may be hard to forgive and forget, but--barring a few, mostly the SS--they fought by the book and they fought hard and bravely. We have to respect them for the fight they gave us.

We here, 47 years after that fight, are the lucky ones. We are alive and we are Americans and that means we watch a lot of TV. In the past few weeks, the tube has walked us through Pearl Harbor and the bitter surprise with which the great war began. Our children and grandchildren ask how could it happen? How could we be surprised like that? Maybe we ought to tell them we had a habit of it...tell them about some other terrible surprises--Kasserine Pass in Africa, the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium, Kunu Ri in Korea. Those things get lost in the comforting memory of wars won and the glossy history we give them in school now.

How did the Germans surprise us so shockingly that winter of 1944?

In that long-gone December, General Eisenhower, commanding allied forces in Europe, had led his troops from the coast of France to the border of Germany. There he paused, gathering men and supplies for the final attack into Germany.

We faced our enemy on a front of 500 miles from the North Sea to Switzerland. General Eisenhower had 65 armored, infantry, and airborne divisions. Had he divided his front equally among them, each division would have about seven miles to defend--about what the field manuals prescribe for a division. But there would be no reserve to launch a final great allied offensive.

General Eisenhower followed a maxim of a famous Prussian soldier, Frederick the Great, who said, "He who defends everything, defends nothing." To launch a final attack, Eisenhower had to concentrate forces for it. He planned two massive thrusts--one south of the Ardennes toward the Saar, one north of the Ardennes toward the Ruhr. To achieve those concentrations, he had to gamble--thinning out the line on either side of them.

We--the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge--paid a price



General Oliver B. Patton (Ret.) reminisces about the severe weather and battle conditions of that fateful Battle of The Bulge period 47 years ago.

for that decision. Adolf Hitler also gambled--planned an attack before Eisenhower could strike. He would attack a weak spot in the allied line--the Ardennes. With luck, he would split the American and British Armies and just maybe create a chaos that would save his country.

He pulled back his armored divisions, scattered in France, rebuilt them. He created new infantry divisions from the remnants of old ones. He drove German industry to produce more artillery, more tanks, more ammunition. And he began to assemble men, machines, and supplies behind his western front.

How did he do all this without us discovering it?

With cunning to match his great gamble. He had a magic machine to encode the wireless communications of his military forces and he believed no order sent by it could be read by his enemies. Incredibly, the British had learned how to break that machine they called "Enigma," but in December 1944 Hitler fooled them.

He knew his plans and orders somehow leaked to his enemies and he thought the leak was a spy buried in his highest circle of commanders or staffs. But he took the one precaution that would stop anyone from reading his mail--there would be no transmission by telephone, telegraph or wireless of anything connected with his offensive. All orders preparing it would be carried by officer couriers. He imposed total radio silence.

Next he adopted a clever cover for his attack. The masses of men and materiel being assembled behind his line were gathered to meet the coming invasion of Germany. This concentration could not be hidden but Hitler encouraged leaks that said it was only a defensive force. Allied leaders, convinced that Hitler's Germany was near exhaustion, believed it.

Hitler fed that belief. He knew Eisenhower had to leave weak sectors in his front to concentrate strength for his final attack and he would strike first at one of those weak sectors...the Ardennes.

Eventually, the troops and weapons assembled by Hitler would have to move up to the American line to attack it.

(Continued on Page 9)

(PATTON'S SPEECH from Page 8)

Hitler moved them so cleverly we--who thought he had no strength for attack--failed to find them or learn what they intended. Hitler guarded his secret well.

Not till the first week of December were German corps' commanders told their mission. Not till 10 December did division commanders know theirs. Not till the night before the attack were the soldiers told. They moved only at night. Only charcoal fires were allowed. Only selected soldiers went on front line patrols to lessen the chance of a deserter who had seen too much. Soldiers whose homes were close to the Belgian border were screened out of assault troops to make sure none of them told their families of a coming attack.

What about the railway trains and truck convoys hauling up ammunition and supplies? Simple. In December 1944 the Ardennes sector--80 miles of rugged forested terrain--was used by both sides as nursery and old folks home--a place to give new divisions their first taste of combat and battered old ones a chance to rest and recuperate. There was constant movement of units in and out along a line from Monschau in the north to Echternach in the south. The Germans sent two trains in and only one went back--the other remained, hidden in a tunnel or forest. They fooled us. We did not strengthen our line.

Monschau was screened by an armored cavalry reconnaissance squadron. On a 20 mile front south to the Losheim Gap was the 99th Infantry Division. The five mile wide Losheim Gap was screened by another cavalry reconnaissance squadron. Eighteen miles of front south of the gap was held by the 106th Infantry Division. South of it on a 25 mile front, the 28th Infantry Division, then five miles held by an armored infantry battalion, and finally the 4th Infantry Division. The veteran 2nd Infantry Division, replaced by the 106th, had been pulled out of line to launch an attack through the 99th to take the critical Roer River dams.

Backing this line were the usual corps artillery, engineer and other supporting troops and a slim counter-attack force of one armored division, widely scattered.

The actual line of contact with the Germans was truly lightly held. An armored cavalry reconnaissance squadron was a light-weight outfit with armored cars, light tanks and jeeps--designed for reconnaissance and screening, not for holding a line. The 99th Infantry Division had been on the line only five weeks. The 106th, only six days. Green divisions in the nursery school. The veteran 28th and 4th Divisions, badly mauled in earlier bloody fighting in the Huertgen Forest, were the old folks, resting and recuperating. All these divisions were spread so thin they could withhold only a scant reserve--at most one battalion of infantry.

On this front fell the great German surprise of December 1944. Both green and veteran American divisions heard and reported in the last nights before the attack intense activity in front of them. Convinced the Germans had no attack capability left, this uproar was identified by corps, army and army group staffs as normal rotation of German units--not preparation for assault.

Before dawn on the 16th we learned how wrong we were. The Germans attacked and burst through Americans truly surprised by the attack. Small units, American soldiers, fighting for their lives saved their higher commanders from total disaster bred by total underestimation of German capabilities and intentions.

Surprised, yes, but not defeated, American soldiers fought hard. We, the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, were those soldiers. The 2nd Division scrambled back from its attack to hold the northern shoulder of the German breakthrough. The 4th Division held in the south and between them two islands of resistance--St. Vith and Bastogne. St. Vith, a dozen miles behind the original line, held for six days. Bastogne never fell.

Blocked on their flanks, the Germans spilled around those islands, reached almost to the Neuse River, and died there. The great attack choked to death and by January 28th, 1945, it was finished, driven back to the line from which it started.

Surprised, yes, but incredibly, one of the two cavalry reconnaissance squadrons, ten infantry regiments and one infantry battalion spread on the line attacked, only one cavalry squadron and three infantry regiments were literally overrun. The rest fought their way out to join reinforcements poured in from all directions to slow, stop, and destroy the attackers.

Yes, in that war American high command seemed to have a habit of being surprised, but we overcame those surprises, surprised our enemy in turn by our ability to build strength and strike back with deadly force.

In the interval after surprise before strength was found and used to strike back, American soldiers never gave way--were never driven in panic retreat by overwhelming enemy strength.

You--who bore that surprise--can hold up your heads in pride. You and our friends who died turning those surprises into victory can be truly proud of what you did. You were good soldiers.



MEMORABLE BULGE INCIDENTS VS. UNIT HISTORIES?

We want to thank those of you who have responded to our request for more of these **personal** stories. We now have a few on hand for future issues. But, of course, we want to encourage those of you who have not send your story to do so as soon as possible.

There seems to be some confusion with respect to these: this column will contain only stories of a **personal** remembrance. Several have sent us stories of their unit's activities. While we surely want to receive as many unit histories and accounts as possible, they will not appear in the "Memorable Bulge Incidents" column. These activity reports are welcomed and appreciated and will be kept for future feature articles and for the archives files.

We are most anxious to receive your **personal account**, as well as your unit's history.

So get the old typewriter or pencil out, get your memories on a piece of paper, and send them to us. They will be preserved forever.

5th BELGIAN FUSILIERS WIN IKE CITATION

By Soldat Roger Gerard

[Editor's Note: M. Gerard, now living in Brussels, served with the Belgian Free Army during the German occupation of Belgium and then was a "charter" member of the Fifth Fusilier Battalion when it was formed after Belgium was liberated in September 1944. The Belgian Army named the new units after the original units which had been decimated by the Germans in the Battle of France in 1940. M. Gerard was awarded a citation by General Dwight D. Eisenhower for his gallantry during the Battle of the Bulge. M. Gerard has taken a very active role in welcoming American Bulge veterans to his country since the end of World War II. He wrote this account of the Fifth exclusively for The Bulge Bugle.]

In September 1944 after the liberation of Brussels, the government came back from exile in London and called up the country's youth to form the new Belgian Army. Men enthusiastically flocked to the colors, especially those from the secret army, already experienced in fighting the Germans during the German occupation.

After a speedy training session at Charleroi, the Fifth, and the other new Belgian Army units, were attached to the First U.S. Army and took part in the liberation of Wallonia, the southern part of Belgium.

On 13 December, 1944, the Fifth moved out for "an unknown destination." Company followed company at 20-minute intervals, beginning at 0730 hours.

At 0530 hours on 16 December Marshal von Runstedt's German troops began their move to create the Bulge. An American officer told us: "There are no friends in front of you out there. If you encounter anyone, shoot him."

The first major action of the Fifth was to burn an oil depot a short distance away from the rapidly advancing German armored column. The Fifth stayed continuously in contact with the Germans throughout the battle.

For their actions the Fifth Belgian Fusiliers were cited as a unit by General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force:

"I desire to commend the Fifth Belgian Fusilier Battalion for meritorious and outstanding performance of military duty while serving with the First United States Army from 12 December 1944 to 2 June 1945. This Battalion contributed materially to the successful operations of the unit with which it served. The high esprit de corps and great determination displayed by the officers and men of the Fifth Belgian Fusilier Battalion enabled it to carry through to a successful conclusion each and every assigned mission; thereby contributing immeasurably to the glorious victory of the

Allied Nations. The outstanding achievements of this Battalion bring credit not only to itself but also to the Belgian Army."

The Fifth had been attached to the 23rd Destroyer Group from 13 December 1944 to 20 May 1945. Col. Williams, commandant of the 23rd said of the Fifth: "Its part was perfect; its action was efficient. The union of the 23rd with this battalion was something very special: the officers and men have always done their best to accomplish all the missions they were assigned."

A total of 7,889 Fusiliers and other Belgian soldiers are buried in the Henri-Chappelle Cemetery. They gave their lives for their country to defend freedom.

Each year on Memorial Day the veterans of the Fifth pay homage to their First U.S. Army brothers-in-arms who were killed by the Germans. We will never forget the unique feat of arms which finally liberated Belgium. It never could have happened without the help of the Americans--we shall always be grateful.

As the Allies liberated German POW camps, many Belgian POW's, instead of going to the rear, sought out Belgian units and joined them for the final thrust into the heart of Germany. Major Dumay, first commander of the Fifth, succeeded Colonel Devaux as commander when the major was liberated.

The Battalion was disbanded a year after the Battle of the Bulge began. But time will not dim for any of the Fifth their experiences with the Americans in the Battle of the Bulge and the final liberation of Belgium. No one can truly appreciate the feelings of peoples oppressed by such forces of evil as the Nazis represented, and who are finally freed.

Vive les Allies!

PURPLE HEART VETS FROM THE BULGE

Sketched at
a hospital
in England
January 23, 1945

by
EARLE W. ALEXANDER
26TH INFANTRY DIVISION
104TH INFANTRY
COMPANY "A"



It was duty, honor, country . . . our country had been attacked. . . . It was freedom vs. oppression. It was against imperialism and against fascism, and the country was so together, and I wanted to be on the cutting edge.

GEORGE BUSH, on his decision to enlist in 1941

BATTLE OF THE BULGE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 2516 • Kensington, MD 20891-0818 • (301) 881-0356

PROGRESS REPORT

PRESERVING THE VICTORY BY PRESERVING THE HISTORY...

This has always been the goal of the Foundation and now, at last, through continuous dedicated efforts and your generous contributions we are able to take positive actions to achieve that much desired goal.

In October a meeting was held with Colonel Kent D. Menser, Garrison Commander, Fort George G. Meade, and we were most pleased to be informed that the present Fort Meade Army Museum will be moved to a larger, on-post, permanent brick building with adequate space to accommodate a Battle of the Bulge historical section. A plan being considered, is to develop this area into a "Battle of the Bulge Memorial Conference Room." The conference table with matching chairs would be constructed of trees grown in the actual battle area of the Ardennes. The artifacts, displays, photographs, Founders and Patrons Fund plaques would be placed on the walls and throughout the room. It will truly be a living history area where people may convene surrounded by the dramatic story of this pivotal World War II battle.

At the November Board of Trustees Meeting, the following slate of officers was elected: William Greenville, President; Sal Scarpello, Vice President; Mary de Leon Nolan, Treasurer; Dorothy Davis, Secretary; William Tayman, Comptroller; and John Goodin, Legal Counsel.

I have made the following appointments: Robert Phillips, Liaison to Military History Institute; Joseph Zimmer, Liaison to Government Officials; Alfred Shehab, Liaison to Fort Meade Garrison; Arlo Sheldahl, Finance Officer; George Chekan, Publications Advisor; and Dorothy Davis, Executive Officer (who will share her time between the Red Cross and the Foundation), will provide administrative continuity and chair the December Gala.

The Board also reviewed and accepted the financial audit (which will be published in a future issue of this publication), and approved the

U.S. Army Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, as the permanent repository for Battle of the Bulge written materials. The time-consuming task of sorting and cataloging this material, in preparation for donation to the Institute, has already begun. On December 11, approximately 300 articles were delivered to Carlisle, the first of many trips to be made during the coming year. I urge all of you to send your written materials (letters, newspaper articles, unit histories, photographs, etc.) about the Battle of the Bulge to the Foundation address above, so that these precious pieces of history will be, forever, preserved.

In a recent letter to the Foundation from Colonel Thomas W. Sweeney, Director of the Military History Institute, he writes: "It has been very exciting for me to pore over this first batch of material. It provides a great addition to our collection; will be a great source of material for researchers; and will serve as a lasting tribute to the gallant participants of the Battle of the Bulge."

Many hours of work and your continued support will be needed in the days ahead--but we have now made a giant step in preserving the Victory of the Battle of the Bulge by Preserving its History!

William Greenville
President



PRESERVING THE HISTORY

Frances Doherty, Dorothy Davis, Robert Phillips, and Joseph Kuhar deliver tapes, unit histories, and maps to Colonel Thomas Sweeney, Director, Military History Institute.

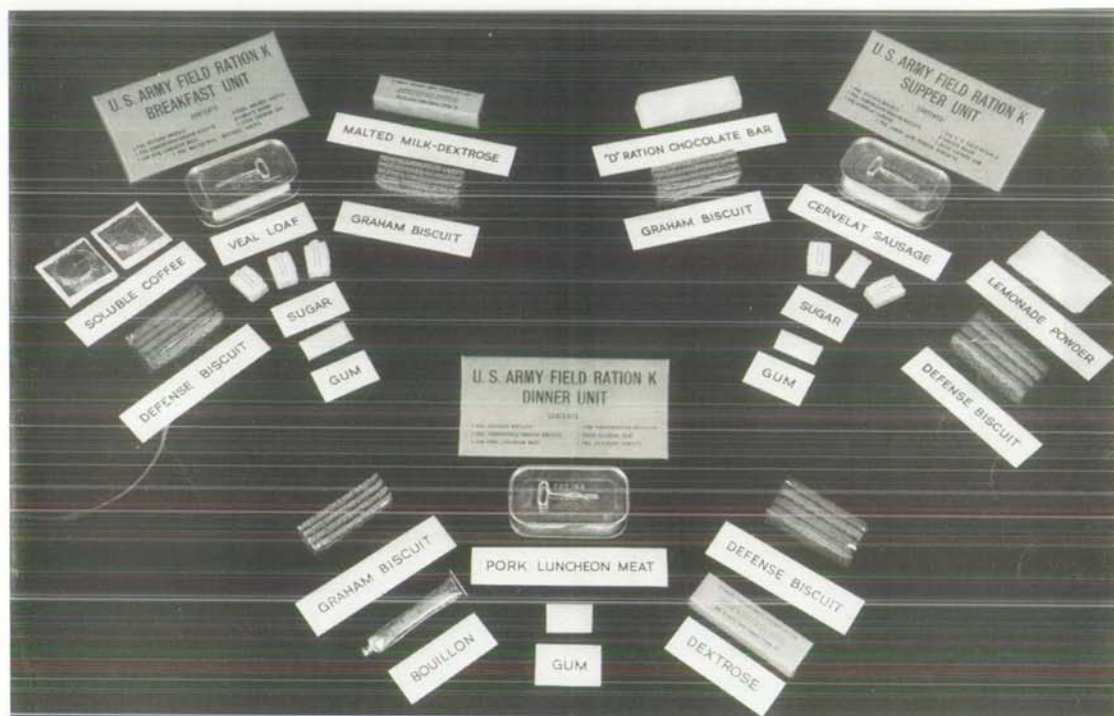


Photo by U.S. Army Signal Corps

HOW K RATION WAS ADOPTED

Several *Bugle* readers, constantly seeking truth, as should all good Battlers, have touched on the "C" and "K" Rations, so much a part of the Battler's daily life before and after the Bulge. It seems no matter what happened, these rations were always there to bring GI's back to reality, no matter what harrowing combat event they were in.

Some Battlers report that they knew soldiers who had been part of the mechanism that brought these rations into the daily lives of all WWII soldiers. When the army decided to test the rations, they cordoned off a remote area of an installation with a high fence and got a company-sized test crew to just stay there and eat the various field rations the army was testing. If they gained weight and did not constantly fall down, the army would adopt the ration.

The soldiery did not flourish on the early, other rations sample offerings, but when it came time for "C" rations, the soldiers had found ways out of the enclosure to off-base hot dog and hamburger stands. So after completing the "C" ration testing time, the army said, "Aha! Look at that! The GI's thrived on "C" Rations, they've gained weight and are sufficiently feisty for the army to make everyone in the field eat "C" Rations."

The same thing happened with "K" Rations. Now Lanie Kucalik, a VBOB life member and member of

the 94th Infantry Division, reports that the "K" Ration was developed by a Dr. Ancel Keys, now 87. Dr. Keys pioneered in the research leading to the relationship of cholesterol to coronary heart disease. He was featured in *Time* and *Life* magazines 30 years ago. But for VBOBers the "K" Ration has special meaning. ("K" for Keys, his name.) After the war broke out, the army asked for his help in developing a ration for troops to use in the field.

So Dr. Keys and his wife went to the grocery store, bought biscuits, dried sausage, dried fruit, cigarettes and matches, and put them all in a small bag, later a cracker-jack sized box, small enough to fit in any uniform pocket, except the watch pocket.

Dr. Keys, to defend himself, now says the rations "were outrageously misused by the army." An informal *Bugle* poll backs the good doctor up. The only individual not having an adverse comment was a non-veteran, a Civil War buff, who dismally failed his Boy Scout camping test.

Dr. Keys' work on cholesterol changed America's eating habits from the regimen most Battlers remember when they entered service: meat, potatoes and lots of butter. After the war their diets were still being influenced by Dr. Keys. Wonder if Battler Kucalik knows what's coming our way next from the good doctor?

WAS THE BULGE A COMPLETE SURPRISE?

Ed Kapala, a 99th Infantry Division first sergeant, gleaned some information from morning reports and after-action reports on the surprise element of the beginning of the Battle of the Bulge.

Reports former First Soldier Kapala: "Our anti-aircraft battalion was positioned near Bullingen 23 November 1944. We were on a hill, close to the front, and our mission was to shoot down buzz bombs. On 11 December, we closed operations for maintenance, especially our power plants for our radar-controlled 90mm guns.

"In the morning we were visited by our battalion CO, Col. Hunt, who told four officers and myself of our mission and assignment. The Germans were gathering troops to our front, along with tanks and artillery to make a desperate attack against the American lines. The attack would come through our area and there was a good chance our unit would be surrounded. We were reminded that some of our radar equipment was 'secret' and was to be destroyed if capture was likely.

"The colonel went on to say our army was ready for the attack and the Germans would be encircled, cut off, and the war shortened by six months.

"The 1st, 3d, and 9th Armies would all converge and destroy the enemy. It seemed apparent that the front line troops would be sacrificed to achieve the overall victory.

"As we now know, the attack came with unexpected strength, and the rest of the story is well known. D Battery, of the 134th AAA Gun Battalion, withdrew under fire on 18 December to new positions to serve as tank destroyers."

Kapala's background research shows "most history accounts of the Battle of the Bulge related that the attack was not expected. Most have read that Ike was attending a wedding; Hodges (CG, First Army) was in Liege being fitted for a new shotgun; Monty (British CIC) was about to leave for England and a rest; and more.

"As we now know the attack came with unexpected strength..."

"There are others who believe the leaders knew of the planned offensive but felt by spreading our front lines so thin, it would invite the Krauts to hit, and then we would cut them off for a great victory.

"One former officer is convinced that units on the front, such as the 99th Division, were deemed 'expendable' in the overall battle. He has stated examples of thinning the front, with few reserves in areas of suspected enemy buildup. If so, they had no idea the blow would be of the strength it was; due to the breakdown of our intelligence to indicate this."

"It's Better to Come Across Than Get a Cross"

GERMAN PROPAGANDA USED HEAVILY DURING BULGE

The Germans went to a lot of effort during the Bulge to soften up the Americans. They used parachute drops behind our lines; German soldiers dressed in our uniforms and speaking English to create havoc behind our lines.

One of the "extra" things they did was give us pamphlets in English to break our morale. Here's a sample:

"YANKS"

"Do you know what happened during the last week? Did they tell you that the German 'Blitz' offensive had started on December the 16th? On that day German tank and infantry divisions broke through your lines in 23 different places.

"DO YOU KNOW where they are today? They are about 70 miles behind you!

"DO YOU KNOW that your Supreme Command does not issue anymore news bulletins? They can't!

"Because the German tank and airborne divisions have destroyed the network of communications behind your lines!

"New tank and infantry divisions are on their way from the north and south of you to encircle further large numbers of the Allied force.

"You are in an IRON RING and that ring is slowly closing in on you. Your fight is hopeless. You may last for a few days or a week, but the end will be the same.

"Have sense and take that end in your own hands. We know that you have no white laundry, it is colored just the same as those niggers who are amusing themselves in Paris.

"Get out of your hopeless position, take this leaflet and hold it over your head.

"It's better to come across than get a cross."

Another pamphlet aimed at throwing a block between American and British forces--it said:

"The only good Indian is a dead Indian!

"This is Montgomery's new slogan when he is forced to help his American Allies. Or how else do you explain the fact that he sends British divisions where no fighting is going on, leaving the Yanks to bear the brunt of the battle.

"How many men of the British Army are fighting in your sector?

"What fighting have the British done since Arnheim?

"And your buddies?

"You have been in battle since October, losing thousands of men a day. While you are in the toughest battle of the war, the British are taking their SEVEN DAYS LEAVE.

"Monty doesn't give a damn what happens to you, for you are his good Indians."

When I was in the military they gave me a medal for killing two men, and a discharge for loving one.

Inscription on the tombstone of Air Force sergeant Leonard Matlovich who died of AIDS



Living Legends

Memorable BULGE INCIDENTS

UNEDITED AND
HERETOFORE UNPUBLISHED



December 1944

Sam B. Peters
F Company
328th Infantry Regiment
26th Infantry Division
Little Rock, Arkansas

On December 16, my birthday, we began to hear rumors about the German breakthrough in Luxembourg and Belgium. The III Corps, composed of the 80th Division, the 26th Division and the 4th Armored Division was alerted for an immediate move, possibly beginning on the morning of the 18th. According to the stated plans the 4th Armored would depart first and would have priority on roadways and equipment since their mission called for a dash up the Arlon Highway to attempt a break through to the besieged 101st Airborne in Bastogne.

The 26th Division was scheduled to follow at 0830 of the 20th, using a different road network, mostly secondary roads. There was some delay due to road congestion and the lack of bridges across the Moselle River at Metz. All but one of the bridges had been destroyed during the long battle for the city. However, all of the 26th Division units were in place in or around the assembly area at Eishen by 2300 hours. All of the infantry troops slept in foxholes in the freezing cold forest.

The big mission of the regiment was to cross the Sure River and capture Wiltz which had a road network helping to supply German troops attacking Bastogne. The first action was by the 1st Battalion who attacked and captured Hostert which would later become the jumping off point for Task Force Hamilton.

The Battle plan for the 328th Regiment, Col. Ben Jacobs commanding, called for the three battalions to position themselves on the right flank of the attacking 4th Armored Division. The Germans in this area were attacking in a south-westerly direction. The 1st Battalion was ordered to attack Arsdorf and the 3rd Battalion. The 2nd Battalion under Maj. Albert Friedman was organized into a Task Force with ack-ack, engineers, TD units and tanks attached. The Task Force would be commanded by Lt. Col. Paul Hamilton and would have the dirtiest job of all, the capture of Eschdorf which was heavily fortified with both troops and armor.

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.

"E" Company, commanded by Capt. Vaught Swift, who was later awarded the D.S.C., went out in front north of Grosbus and ran into strong German forces dug in on the high ground in front of Hierheck, a small village at crossroads leading into Eschdorf. They were pinned down for the rest of the day, December 23.

The next morning Company "F," commanded by Capt. Reed Seeley, replaced "E" Company. When we tried to advance we met a large German force on the reverse slope less than 100 yards away. The Germans were well camouflaged in the snow with white capes. They opened up with a murderous rifle and automatic weapons fire. Capt. Seeley and I were directing troops and a tank along the road. The tank was hit by 88 fire knocking Capt. Seeley to the ground but not seriously hurt. He was later killed in action. The 88 was destroyed by Bazooka man PFC. D. Giouanazzo. When the smoke cleared a previously unseen Tiger Tank trembled nervously for a moment and waddled off down the slope toward Eschdorf and safety. Had he stood in place and fought we would have been in serious trouble.

S/Sgt. Joseph Mackin was directing 2nd Platoon troops out on our west flank when he was hit in the head by rifle fire and was killed instantly. He was greatly admired and respected by his superior officers and loved by his platoon. He was greatly missed during later operations.

It took "F" Company all that day to get over the ridge and into Hierheck. "E" Company was having much the same problem along a parallel road to our left. They were held up by German troops firing from a house on the outskirts of the village. The Mortar Squad under T/Sgt. Bruce Mannwiller was able to get heavy fire on the house and the Germans surrendered. Except for patrols and perimeter defense our troops spent the early part of Christmas Eve in houses at Hierheck.

However, about midnight we received orders to prepare for a night attack on Eschdorf departing at 0100 on Christmas morning. This would be done with troops who had been on the move since leaving Metz five days before with very little sleep and no hot foot. Many of these men were new replacements received at Metz and were unfamiliar to infantry operations. However, we did have all of our officers and Non-Coms and as a whole the troops performed very well, some exceptional.

The fighting in Eschdorf was confused and jumbled. For two days and nights there were both Americans and Ger-

mans dodging each other in the streets, buildings, barns and basements. Enemy tanks were racing up and down the town square. Our artillery and mortar fire was knocking down walls and filling the barnyards with rubble. Some of the things that happened in Eschdorf were strictly from Hollywood.

One platoon from "F" Company commanded by Lt. Myles Gentzkow went in with the first wave of the attack. The men found themselves surrounded by German troops and tanks. They found sanctuary in the basement of a house with a connecting barn. The farmer kept them posted on the movement of the Germans and brought each man a fresh egg and some soup. They remained in hiding for 30 hours. Capt. Seely did not know where they were until S/Sgt. Joseph Feily was able to escape back to the Company C.P. later Christmas night.

My 2nd Platoon, accompanied by Capt. Seely crossed a small stream and moved into Eschdorf from the west. We were close enough to touch Germans during much of the night. One of the problems of night attacks with infantry troops is the inability to distinguish between friend and foe in the dark. Bumping into people with semi-automatic weapons with drawn bayonets is not a fun way to spend an evening. Things became so desperate that Capt. Seely gave the command to withdraw to a house on the road leading into Hierheck. This move was made without casualty even though we had to cross an open field. The house we occupied was solid masonry, two story with a basement. There was an American tank by the side of the house but it had been hit and was not mobile but still occupied. Our men took up positions at all the windows, doors, and corners of the house. The Germans finally realized that the house was occupied and began shelling us from Eschdorf, very heavily, and the men eventually found it advisable to retreat to the basement.

After sustained shelling for several hours the house caught fire and began to burn from the top. It eventually burned to the basement level which was saved by a heavy concrete ceiling. None of the men were burned in the fire nor did the basement get very hot. Later in the day Capt. Seely began to send me back to Battalion Headquarters one by one. This necessitated the crossing of the road in front of the house which was under fire and also crawling along the road ditch back to Hierheck. Several men were hit during the process including me. One of the Sergeants was critically hurt and was lying in the ditch where he spent most of the day. We could not move him until dark. PFC Paul Hauck, our company runner, crawled out to the wounded man several times giving him encouragement and refreshment.

"E" Company made their attack on Eschdorf from the east and had much the same problem as "F" Company. Its platoons were cut off and disorganized by German troops and tanks. Capt. Swift crawled and ran through machine gun fire back to the rear to seek tanks. He brought back two, one of which was immediately destroyed at the crossroads east of town. The other tank disappeared in the conflict. Capt. Swift rejoined his troops in houses on the

edge of town where they stayed Christmas day and night. They were relieved the next morning.

The 1st Battalion of the 104th Infantry Regiment came in late Christmas day and joined Task Force Hamilton in capture of Eschdorf. They were lined up in front of the Task Force Headquarters at Hierheck as I was placed on a stretcher, strapped to a jeep and sent back to an unknown field hospital.

December 1944

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

Each year our Minnesota winters turn my thoughts back to 1944 and the Ardennes. As a 19-year-old rifleman in "G" Company, 38th Infantry, 2nd Division I will never forget the cold and snow of that terrible battle. I had been wounded in the arm and chest on June 21 in Normandy and after two months in a hospital in England, I rejoined my company near the end of August. The war news was very good and most of us believed the war in Europe was nearly over. After we helped liberate the French port of Brest, my division was transported across France to the Belgium-German border and took over positions in the Schnee Eifel. While in these positions we were able to replace our Normandy and Brittany losses with new men and returning wounded. On December 11th, all our units were relieved by elements of the newly arrived 106th Division. Our new mission was to move further north where we were to attack through the 99th Division lines. Our objective the Roer River dams.



John as a 19-year-old rifleman



John with half the fish in Minnesota

The division jumped off on December 13th, with our 9th Regiment in the lead. Because of the nature of the terrain, with the lack of roads, the advance began on a regimental front. By December 16th, the 9th Regiment had forged a break in the German fortifications at the border town of Wehlerscheid and my regiment pushed through the gap to continue the attack. As we moved through the Monschu Forest, we began to hear the ominous sounds of battle in our rear. Actually our 23rd Regiment was already heavily

involved in support of the 99th Division and also to cover our only road to safety.

Late on the 16th, my company was ordered to hold what we had, but be prepared to continue the attack on the 17th. As more information was received, it became apparent that the fighting we could hear was not just a local counterattack, and we were told to be ready to withdraw all our men and equipment back down the single road toward the Belgium towns of Rockerath and Krinkeldt for we faced the danger of being cut off.

When the withdrawal orders were given, the 38th Regiment was leading the advance and my battalion was assigned the mission of protecting the regiments withdrawal. The night of the 17th was the beginning of a nightmare. I can vividly recall our withdrawal and our attempts to block the enemy advance. At one point, in pitch darkness, we set up a defense along a fire brake protecting our line of withdrawal. The ground was frozen and only shallow holes could be dug. The forest around us was filled with artillery bursts, and tracer fire. Luckily the enemy forces facing us were not able to get much armor forward and the pair of Sherman tanks which were supporting our position kept the enemy from over running our line. After things settled down a little the tanks withdrew down the road to Rockerath and we were ordered to follow.

As "G" Company fought its way into Rockerath it seemed like the whole town was on fire. The town was being defended by service troops of the 38th Regiment and it seemed that enemy forces occupied half the houses. Regimental Headquarters was under attack and our first mission was to secure the area around this headquarters. When we finally forced the enemy out of the buildings around regiment, I found myself as a temporary guard in a barn-like building attached to regimental headquarters. The road equipment was in operation and I could hear operators sending and receiving messages. Few people seemed to know what was going on. When the situation in our part of town had stabilized, "G" Company was given a new mission. We were to fight our way back to the outskirts of town and defend a road junction which friendly troops might use to get into town.

We had had little food and no sleep for about 36 hours and when we finally reached our objective, it was completely dark. We spent the evening of the 18th preparing our defensive position which was a junction where two roads met on their way into Rockerath. After the position around some farm buildings was secured, a patrol was sent out to attempt contact with any friendly troops still heading for Rockerath. None of the patrol returned and all were listed as killed in action. As the night passed, metallic sounds were heard in front of my platoon and reported to the captain. We were told there was at least one knocked out German tank at the edge of a farm field and perhaps the enemy was trying to relieve it. We called for artillery fire and the noise stopped. Soon after, under cover of darkness, a group of men approached our position walking down one of the roads. Our outposts believed it was our returning

patrol and before they could react an enemy force of about a dozen men were inside our perimeter spraying the area with automatic fire. First Sergeant Embody gathered some company headquarters men and began to clean out the enemy. We had already heard that the SS troops we were facing were killing American prisoners and therefore none of the attackers were taken prisoner. The burp gun fire by the original enemy force must have been a sign for the whole line erupted in battle.

My foxhole buddy Norman Martz was hit in the head and was dead in the foxhole. Others along the line suffered similar fates, but with mortar and machine gun fire we held our position. As the Germans pressed forward Captain Skagg called for artillery fire on our position which probably turned the tide of battle. When the Germans withdrew, my squad was down to five men. The rest of the company was about the same. As daylight came, a relief column reached us and we withdrew into town where we formed teams to hunt down the German tanks which had forced their way into town under cover of darkness.

While hunting down German tanks on the 19th of December, on one occasion I stepped out the door of one house and found myself looking almost down the gun barrel of a Mark IV tank. I dived back inside and down the cellar as part of the building exploded. A bazooka team knocked out the tank and we killed the crew as they emerged. During the night of the 19th the remaining defenders of the two towns were ordered to withdraw to new positions prepared by our engineers on Elsenborn Ridge. From these positions we fought off all enemy attacks. The remains of the German panzers slipped off to the west where they were stopped by other American units.

On January 3rd I was evacuated to the rear with frost bitten feet and spent the next four months in a hospital in England.

.....

December 23, 1944

Luis R. Rodriguez
C Battery
240th Field Artillery
Exeter, California

I served in "C" Battery, 240th Field Artillery Battalion as a cannoneer with 155 MM guns often times referred to as "Long Toms." We were in the area of Stoleburg, Germany, and preparing to move to Duren, Germany, when we got word of the German offensive. On the night of December 23 we made our move to assist in the Battle of the Bulge arriving in the early hours of December 24 in the town of Stavlot, Belgium. We set up our guns and we fired 4,051 rounds of ammo in the first ten days in support of the 82nd Airborne Division and attached to the 18th Airborne Corps.

Our guns had fired many rounds of ammo, having gone into combat in the Falaise Gap August 18 in France, so a rush was executed to supply us with new gun barrels or "tubes," it was a one day operation, so by evening we were back in action again. I will have to say that as artillery men,

we did not have the discomforts that our front line troops experienced but the cold was equal. We had poor winter



Left-hand picture is of Luis in November, 1944, on 3-day pass to Verviers Belgium. Right-hand picture shows Luis today.

clothing especially sleeping bags. I made a sleeping bag out of two GI blankets plus two civilian blankets wrapped with a piece of tent material. This worked out quite well.

The extreme cold weather raised problems with our guns, it would freeze the hydraulic oil in the rams that assisted in raising and lowering of the barrel plus also the recoil mechanism. One time we had only one gun operable. So 24 rounds of ammo were fired with the one gun, all in rapid fire. I will mention that in the snow we painted our guns with powdered milk to blend with the snow. After all this firing the barrel was brown in color from over heating. A short time later this same gun blew up scattering pieces for one-half mile.

December 1944

Donald R. Whitner
F Company
2d Battalion
422d Infantry Regiment
106th Infantry Division
Millville, Pennsylvania

The 422d Infantry faced the Germans along a 27 mile front in Belgium. On 15 December 1944, Field Marshall Von Rundstedt's forces attacked and quickly overran the American positions. CPL Whitner was in Schnee Eifel, 12 miles east of St. Vith when the Germans overran his position. He suffered a concussion and was left for dead. For five days CPL Whitner and three other soldiers destroyed equipment and their own personnel files to prevent their future use by the Germans. He reunited with American Forces on 20 December 1944 and was enroute to St. Vith to rejoin his own unit when he fell into enemy hands, again; this time it was the 1st SS Panzer Division. The irony of this flight to freedom was that the 422d ceased to exist just two days later--with large casualties. The last message transmitted from their headquarters on 18 December 1944 at 1600 hours was "...in need of food, water and ammunition..."

What followed was a 75 km march to Stalag B, a trip made slightly tolerable by an SS Trooper who had previously been

a school teacher in pre-war St. Louis, Missouri. It was during this march that CPL Whitner was injured for the second time. Stalag B proved to be only a prelude to a four month succession of numerous prison camps, where CPL Whitner and his 23 comrades were subjected to abuse from hostile natives, occasional bombings, long hours repairing railroad yards, cleaning krematoriums of human ash, and dodging malfunctioning V-1 rockets intended for London, England.

This ordeal killed 20 of the original 24 GIs, and CPL Whitner did not escape without injury. He was strafed by Panzer fire, and bayoneted in the left leg for picking up a raw potato during one of the long marches from town to town.

In addition to the hazardous tasks the prisoners were subjected to, they were also herded along as a "living" screen between the Germans and General Patton's advancing Army.

When a Russian Armor unit liberated CPL Whitner on 9 April 1945, they found his wounds dressed in crepe paper, and his 168 pound frame reduced to only 68 pounds.

December 1944

Bob Hagel
L Company
320th Infantry Regiment
35th Division
Fairfax, Virginia

The 35th Division was part of Patton's 3rd Army and was en route to Luxembourg to fight in what was later to be known as the "Bulge."

We departed Metz early on the morning of December 26 by truck and traveled all day in the rain and cold until sometime after dark when we were finally able to bed down in an old barn. We were awakened in the early morning by an artillery barrage (our own) and after a hasty breakfast we departed for the front line passing through several badly shelled towns, one of which was Bigonville, Luxembourg. That was the last time we had a warm meal or slept in anything other than a foxhole for the next ten days. The weather turned colder and it started to snow. "L" Company was held in reserve the first day but then moved up into the line. The 35th Division's job was to keep the road from Arlon to Bastogne open so the 3rd Army and supplies could continue to flow north. We found out later that we were facing the infamous 1st SS Panzer Division and their orders were to cut the supply road no matter what the cost.

We probably didn't move more than a mile or so in the next ten days. Every day was almost the same. Around 2:00 p.m. we would attack the enemy position, push them out with small arms and mortar fire, dig in, fight off counter attacks, care for and carry back our wounded and bring up supplies. We were fighting in heavy pine forests and mountainous terrain with no roads. Everything had to be moved either by carrying it or pulling it on sleds that we had

found in towns along the way.

At night the temperature would drop to near or below zero degrees. The only food we had was "K" rations that we tried to warm over the burning cardboard boxes during the day. We wore every piece of clothing we could find. Many men had their feet frozen because of the shortage of galoshes or winter boots. Our blankets froze and looked like plywood. When you would climb out of your foxhole in the mornings you would find two to six inches of snow.

To make matters worse, there was a lot of confusion. At times we would lose contact with our sister companies on our flanks. Several times we were told we were surrounded, which made it tough trying to get our wounded back and our supplies up to us. Another thing that had to add to the confusion was the number of new replacements in "L" Company. I believe the figure had to be about 30 percent when we moved into the lines. I'm sure the veterans worried about us as much as the enemy. Needless to say, it wasn't easy. I was told later after the war ended that "L" Company lost over 100 men, either killed or wounded, from December 27, 1944, until they were pulled out of the line on January 8, 1945.

Because of the forest and terrain, we were fortunate that we had very little contact with enemy tanks and not much in the way of heavy artillery. We had very little support from our own artillery probably because of the confusion I mentioned earlier and the fact that we were within 50 yards of the enemy most of the time. We could hear them talk and dig their holes when it got quiet at night and could even hear their wounded moaning.

Even though I had never fired a bazooka in basic training because of a bad right eye, I was told to carry one after the former bazooka man was killed. I then became attached to the light machine gun section where my duties were, as mentioned before, helping carry the wounded back and going for supplies. My rifleman buddies accused me of being "rear echelon."

The busiest people at this time were the medics. There was not a lot of heavy fighting but it was constant, and there were casualties every day. You can imagine that if we lost over 100 men in two weeks that the medics had to be overworked. That, plus not being able to get a vehicle within a mile of the front line, didn't help. Granted there were some wounded with minor injuries and able to walk back themselves but when a man was seriously wounded a medic had to help get him back to the aid station and then return to help another.

On January 6 I had been talking to the machine gun crew and then returned to my foxhole about 20 feet in the rear. Five minutes later a shot was fired hitting the gunner in the head killing him. We immediately got back in our holes and started digging them deeper. A few minutes later I was shot through the shoulder and chest by the same sniper, was knocked down and passed out. When I regained consciousness a while later, I was told by those in the hole with me that they were unable to get me out because one of the two medics that had come up to get me was shot through the red

cross on his helmet and killed. Another man had been shot through the neck. He eventually recovered.

It was an hour later before the Company Commander came up with the second medic and some help to get me out of the hole, on to the stretcher and carried back to safety. I was taken by sled, jeep and ambulance to the aid station and field hospital where I was operated on. Eventually I ended up in England for treatment and rehabilitation.

I was the lucky one. I had the million dollar wound which got me out of the fighting but didn't cripple or disable me. I'll never forget the medic or the machine gunner even though I never knew their names. I also felt sorry for the ones that never got touched but had to fight on for months not knowing if and when it would happen. They were the heroes.

[Bob reports that at a reunion of the 35th Division in 1988, he, his wife, Martin Hillman and Harry Myers were seated at a dinner party. There were only a few empty seats in the room and one was at Bob's table. A gentleman walked in and asked permission to sit with them. He was asked by the MC to introduce himself and state his affiliation. His name was Nestor Komarnizki, from Sault Saint Marie, Michigan. He had been a medic with "L" Company, and was the one who got Bob out of the foxhole, treated him, and assisted him back to the aid station.]

TALK TO YOUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN...

...as we all get on in years, it becomes obvious to many of us that the stories, experiences, and customs of our generation will soon pass by the way side. (Unless WE SEE TO IT that this does not happen.)

This should be very prominent in the minds of those of us who have served in the Battle of the Bulge. We have much that is of historical importance to pass on. It is our responsibility that our knowledge of this historic event lives on in the minds and hearts of those who can ensure that this battle is never forgotten.

Talk with your children and grandchildren about your experiences during the Bulge...take the time for them to sit down with you and take notes regarding your story. (Also, take the time to write your story for inclusion in *The Bugle's* "Memorable Bulge Incidents" column.) Encourage them to join VBOB so that your legacy will be passed on. Only through the membership of your sons, daughters, and grandchildren can VBOB survive to tell its story 50 years from now. While they may not completely understand and appreciate it now, down the road they will swell with pride as they see the significance of your contribution for the sake of freedom.

So, talk with your children and grandchildren **ABOUT MEMBERSHIP IN THE VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE.**

Members Speak Out

VIRGIL V. VILLA would like to hear from all medical personnel assigned to **INFANTRY DIVISION MEDICAL BATTALION** during BoB concerning award of Combat Medical Badge. Contact Virgil at: 100 Ferns Street, Perry, Florida 32347 or telephone 904-584-5148.

ROBERT D. SCHRELL, **509TH MILITARY POLICE BATTALION**, would like to hear from any of his old buddies. His address: 2530 San Joaquin Court, San Diego, California 92109-2316.

Walter E. Scott would like to hear from anyone who remembers his father **DONALDSON GRAY SCOTT, SR., CORPS OF ENGINEERS, 3RD ARMY**. Write to Walter at the following address: M/Sgt Walter E. Scott, USAF; PSC 1013 Box 57; APO AE, NY 09725-1600; Keflavik NAS, Iceland.

EUGENE R. TREMBLE would like to hear from anyone who was with the **398TH ENGINEERS, H&S COMPANY**. He recalls making candles from rope and bacon grease in an empty C-rations can, sleeping on straw ticks, etc. Write him at: P.O. Box 178, Indian Orchard, Massachusetts 01151.

Anyone who may have known **EDWARD A. SPIKER, PVT, 318TH INFANTRY**, (May 21, 1921-April 4, 1945), please contact Bonnie Oden, Star Route, Box 31, Accident, Maryland 21520.

Donald W. Smart, Jr., would like to hear from anyone who may have known his father **DONALD W. SMART, 110 INFANTRY DIVISION**. His father was killed in action on December 20, 1944. Please contact him at: 294 Center Street, Old Town, Maine 04468.

PAUL H. SYMBOL advises that he has a limited number of copies of **"35TH ENGINEER C BATTALION History"** which he would be happy to provide to interested VBOB members. Address requests to: Paul H. Symbol, 9600 S.E. 33rd Street, Mercer Island, Washington 98040.

KARL R. REEMSEN, 28TH DIVISION, 109TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, would like to hear from anyone who was captured in Luxembourg and taken to Stalag 8A, Gorlitz, Germany, and when, in early February, 1945, the Russians were closing in, we went on a forced march for over 60 days covering some 300 miles. Our march took us through the bombed-out cities of Dresden and Leipzig. We ended up the march in Brunswick. There weren't too many survivors.... Write to Karl at 3658 South Damen Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60609.

HENRY L. CALDER, 2ND INDIANHEAD DIVISION ASSOCIATION, advises that a three-volume history of the Second Infantry Division's role in the Korean War is now available in a limited quantity. Write Henry at: P.O. Box 460, Buda, Texas 78610.

WALTER R. MAXWELL asks if one of you VBOBers can help Walter C. Scott. Walter says that "...[Scott] is seeking information about his father's (PVT. DONALD GRAY (DONNIE) SCOTT) army service during World War II. Apparently he was in a combat engineer battalion and was originally stationed in Wales. In Europe his unit was with the 3rd Army and participated in the Battle of the Bulge...was involved in constructing a bridge across the Rhine called the Roosevelt-Stalin Bridge. He has been unable to find out what engineer combat battalion his father was in." Does anybody know? If so, write Msgt. Walter C. Scott, 601 Moss Drive, Crestview, Florida 32351.

ROBERT H. FRANKE, SERVICE BATTERY, 776 FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, is gathering material relating to events and personal experiences of U.S. and German soldiers and Belgian civilians in Büllingen, Belgium, before, during, and after the Battle. Let him hear from you if you were there, particularly if you were with the **535TH AAA (AW) BATTALION**. Contact him at: Route 1, Box 81, Winterville, North Carolina 28590. Telephone: 919-756-2335.

EDWARD A. HILTON would like to find a couple of fellows that he served with in the **90TH DIVISION, 357TH INFANTRY**. He was a replacement and knew them only by one name. He's looking for Corporal Ball; his squad leader Tappa; and a guy by the name of Benny. Tappa, he recalls, helped him remove his shoes when he was wounded January 11, 1945, near Wiltz. He also saw Corporal Ball in London in May of 1945. Write to Ed at: P.O. Box 265, Altmar, New York 13309.

ANGELO T. GRECO, 68TH ARMORED DIVISION (later **3RD ARMY, 6TH ARMORED TANK DIVISION, 68TH TANK BATTALION, COMPANY A**) would like to know if anyone knows the whereabouts of William Gilligan (who he believes was from Philadelphia). If you can help Angelo write: 7320 S.E. Eagle Avenue, Hobe Sound, Florida 33455.

VAN NIMMEN GEERT, VBOB member, writes that he is a member of a study group and is seeking information to complete research he is conducting. He would like to hear from members who were with the **112TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, 28TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, and especially members of the **1ST AND SECOND BATTALION**, who fought at Ouren, and members of the **229TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION**, who were dug in at Welchenhausen/Lutzhompen. Write to Van Nimmen at: St. Elooistraat 12, 9200 Grembergen, Belgium.

ALBERT A. "ABIE" MALLIS, 505TH PIR, 82ND AIRBORNE, states that he jumped into Holland and was trucked to the Bulge on December 18, 1944. He was wounded on January 4, 1945, somewhere around St. Vith or Trois Pontois and ended up at an army medical facility in Liege and would like to know the name of that unit. He also asks if anyone remembers the "home-made ice dessert" he made from snow, canned milk, and pieces of chocolate found in K-rations? It may help you to remember if you knew that the "chocolate" was actually Ex-Lax. He sends his apologies after all these years—he claims it was an innocent act. You can write to Abie at: 3402 East Flower Street, Tucson, Arizona 85716 (originally from Pennsylvania).

Barbara Marks writes to inquire if any member remembers her father **MAXWELL L. "BUD" BAIL, 30TH DIVISION, "OLD HICKORY"**, who was killed in the Battle of the Bulge on December 19th. She was only two years old at the time and has long wanted to find out more about her father. Write to her at: 60 Anns Farm Road, Hamden, Connecticut, or telephone 203-248-9145. We also received a letter from Bud's wife asking for information.

Steve Cooke's father **WILLIAM BOOTH FOWLER**, from Kennebunkport, Maine, who was a **U.S. GLIDER PILOT ATTACHED TO THE RAF**, went down at Arnheim during the BoB. Steve would like to find any fellow squadron men or anyone who may remember his father. Contact Steve at: 4314 - 33rd Avenue Ct., N.W., Gig Harbor, Washington 98355, or telephone 206-858-3778.

NICK DeSHULLO, 99TH DIVISION, 394TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, COMPANY C, wrote for membership information and states that he would like to hear from any members of his old unit. Drop him a note at: 2713 Johnson road, Boothwyn, Pennsylvania 19061.

LEONARD WEISSMAN, who was detached from **484TH MEDICAL COLLECTING COMPANY** and attached to **82ND AIRBORNE, 517 COMBAT TEAM**, would like to hear from any of his fellow medics. Write to Leonard at: 7991 Sunrise Lakes Drive North, Sunrise, Florida 33322.

GEORGE H. BUNNELL, 28TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 109TH INFANTRY, ATTACHED TO COMPANY C, a VBOBer, writes to ask for your help in locating someone who may remember either of the following men: **EDWARD G. WILBECK, 112TH INFANTRY, COMPANY H**, (contact his son at 914-876-7306), or, **EDWARD RICKS, 112TH INFANTRY, COMPANY A**, (contact Edward Risks, Jr., 1602 7th Avenue, Rock Falls, Illinois 61071. Telephone: 815-625-0805).

(Continued on Page 20)

(Members Speak Out Continued from Page 19)

DONALD WILLIS, 3RD ARMORED DIVISION, 67TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, has sent us information regarding his new book *The Incredible Year*, which is based on his memoirs from D-Day to June 6, 1945. The book deals with young soldiers' preoccupation with survival during the breakout at St. Lo, the struggle to close the Argentinian-Falaise Gap, the assault on the Siegfried Line, and the Battle of the Bulge. For sale by Iowa State University Press, 2121 South State Avenue, Ames, Iowa 50010, at \$18.45 per copy including postage/handling.

DONALD J. YOUNG, 106TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 422ND INFANTRY, COMPANY I, has dropped us a letter advising of his book *The Lion's Share*, which is available from Avranches Press, 1700 Cheryl Way, Aptos, California 95003 at a cost of \$10.00 including shipping and handling. The book is a description of the arrival of the 106TH INFANTRY DIVISION into the Ardennes.

JOHN ALLER, 83RD DIVISION, advises that his book *I Saw it Through*, is available. John served in the 331ST INFANTRY, COMPANIES F AND H, and was a front-line soldier who landed in Normandy and proceeded across to the Elbe River. It's available for \$15.00 by writing to John at: 10008 West Coggins Drive, Sun City, Arizona 85351.

Can anyone with the 101ST AIRBORNE help E. D. Wilson with information on **WILLIAM H. CHANDLER**? His home town was Muldrow, Oklahoma. If anyone can help, write to Mr. Wilson at: 5934 Miller Valley, Houston, Texas 77066. Also with the 101ST or 82ND AIRBORNE does anyone know anything about **JACK (maybe John) PRYOR**? He served at Camp Stewart (now Fort Stewart) in Georgia until 1942 or 43; his last known rank was Captain and he was from the northeast (maybe New York or New Jersey). Write to Kathleen Murphy Fry; Hugh J. Phillips Library; Mount Saint Mary's College, Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727.

Even though the Superbowl is over, thought you would be interested to know that we have among our new members our only (known) Hall of Famer--**DANTE "GLUEFINGERS" LAVELLI**. Dante served with the 28TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 112TH INFANTRY, COMPANY A.

KEVIN DIER-ZIMMEL would like to contact **E. J. MARTIN** and/or **KEITH B. HUBBARD, SR.**, of the 5TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 10TH INFANTRY, 2ND BATTALION, HQ COMPANY. Write to Kevin at: 614 West Maple Avenue, Beaver Dam, Wisconsin 53916. [Incidentally, is there an association for the 5th INF or the 10th INFANTRY? VBOB would like to have the address for our records if there is.]

FRED TILL, 11TH ARMORED DIVISION, advises that *The Bugle* helped him locate **James Richardson**, Little Falls, New Jersey, who was his armored car driver during BoB. ...AND his car window decal prompted an inquiry from another BOBer in his home town of Enterprise, Alabama. [Thanks for letting us know, Fred.]

Does anyone remember 1st Lt. **JOSEPH L. DROZ, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, 18TH INFANTRY, COMPANY L**, who was killed in action during the final days of WW II? If so, his daughter would very much appreciate hearing from you--write Janet Rowe, 3033 Spotted Horse Drive, Claremore, Oklahoma 74017.

THEODORE J. HATON, 28TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 112TH INFANTRY, COMPANY F, would like to get in touch with anybody who knew S/Sgt. **LYLE R. WENDT** or anyone who may know his whereabouts. Write: 2717 Kenilworth Avenue, Berwyn, Illinois 60402.

We have been advised by **HARRY STUTZ, 28TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 28TH SIGNAL COMPANY**, that **JEAN SCHWEIG**, of Wiltz, Luxembourg, has been very sick. Harry suggests that the many of you who know Jean might drop him a get well wish. Write to: Jean Schweig, 2 rue du Rocher, 9515 Wiltz, Luxembourg, Europe.

We have a request from one of our Belgian members asking us to try to

locate anyone from the 2ND ARMORED DIVISION's 924TH AND 862ND ENGINEER AVIATION BATTALIONS AND/OR 2016TH QUARTERMASTER TRUCK COMPANY, who passed through Hougaerde to Tirlmont, during WW II. Write to: **JACQUES RUMMENS**, Galgestraat 113, B 330 Tienen, Belgium.

Were you in WW II illegally? I mean: were you underage when you joined the service? If so, write to Allan C. Stover, Chairman, Veterans of Underage Military Service, 3444 Walker Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21042. They're planning a reunion in Las Vegas in August.

JAMES GRAFF, 134TH INFANTRY, advises that he put on a Battle of the Bulge slide show and program for seventh and eighth graders in his area. [This is the kind of thing that we need to educate future generations and ensure that they remember, Jim. Thank you so much.]

New member **HAROLD L. THOMAS** would like to hear from anyone who remembers 1/SGT. **EDMUND KISSINGER, 464TH PARACHUTE FIELD ARTILLERY, 17TH AIRBORNE DIVISION**. Write to Harold at: P.O. Box 4187, San Leandro, California 94579.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A VBOB MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY??

Would you be interested in purchasing a VBOB Membership Directory at a cost of \$15.00 per copy? This directory would include an alphabetical listing of all members with addresses and phone numbers; a list by units; a list by geographical location; and other information regarding VBOB operations (Bylaws, officers, etc.).

To keep the cost at a minimum, the directory would be printed on three-hole punched paper and would be provided to you without a cover. You could then provide whatever cover you desire.

Whether or not we would proceed with the publication of such a directory will depend entirely upon the number of prepaid orders received as a result of this notice. As our determination will depend on the number of responses we receive, we ask that you submit your order no later than April 15, 1992. If a sufficient number of orders is not received, we will return your uncashed check. Our anticipated date for mailing the publication will be prior to July 1, 1992.

If you do not wish to be included in this directory, you are hereby asked to advise us on the form below. Your failure to advise us of your wishes in this regard will indicate your approval of such inclusion.

AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS ONLY!

— I enclose herewith \$15.00 for a VBOB Membership Directory.
PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: NANCY MONSON
(Please do not include other moneys in your check.)
Mail to: VBOB, P.O. Box 11129, Arlington, VA 22210-2129

— I do not wish my name included in the Membership Directory.

Name and membership number (please print all information)

Street or mailing address

City, state and zip code

You can always tell an old soldier by the insides of his holsters and cartridge boxes. The young ones carry pistols and cartridges: the old ones, grub.

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

REUNIONS

2ND "INDIANHEAD" DIVISION ASSOCIATION, July 15-18, 1992, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Contact: Henry Calder, 1511 Matagorda, Dallas, Texas 75232.

2ND ARMORED DIVISION, 17TH ENGINEER BATTALION, COMPANY A, May 27-30, 1992, Omaha, Nebraska. Contact: Elton Lembke, Route 1, Box 95D, Griswold, Iowa 51535. Telephone: 712-778-4564.

4TH ARMORED DIVISION ASSOCIATION, September 10-13, 1992, Imperial Palace Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada. Contact: Samuel A. Schenker, 1823 Shady Drive, Farrell, Pennsylvania 16121.

4TH INFANTRY (IVY) DIVISION ASSOCIATION, July 6-12, 1992, New Orleans, Louisiana. Contact: Dennis G. Gray, 3303 North Robinson Road, R-BOB, Texarkana, Texas 75501.

7TH ENGINEER BATTALION, August 7-9, 1992, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Contact: Charles H. Marks, 8234 Parkridge Drive, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46825.

9TH ARMORED DIVISION, 73RD FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, October 6-9, 1992, New Iberia, Louisiana. Contact: Ed Capron, 10625 Kenlee Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70815. Telephone 504-924-2158.

16TH FIELD ARTILLERY OBSERVATION BATTALION, June 18-20, 1992, Executive Inn, Louisville, Kentucky. Contact: Howard J. Frey, 3017 Timberview Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45211-1920. Telephone: 513-481-1685.

26TH INFANTRY "YANKEE" DIVISION, MIDWEST CHAPTER, May 15-16, 1992, Holiday Inn, Normal, Illinois. Contact: W. Kent Stephens, 107 Bluffview Lane, Collinsville, Illinois 62234. Telephone: 618-344-1616.

26TH CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE TROOP, May 15-16, 1992, Holiday Inn, Normal, Illinois. Contact: George C. Linthicum, 2605 Orchard Drive, Broomall, Pennsylvania 19008. Telephone: 215-356-9552.

27TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION, 9TH ARMORED DIVISION, May 21-25, 1992, Toledo Hilton, Toledo, Ohio. Contact Edward F. Greh, 807 Shore Club Drive, St. Clair Shores, Michigan 48080-1561.

86TH MORTAR BATTALION, May 13-18, 1992, St. Louis Marriott Pavilion Hotel Downtown, 1 Broadway, St. Louis, Missouri 63102. Contact: John B. Deasy, 1830 - 30th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122. Telephone: 415-566-2177.

86TH ORDNANCE COMPANY, September 15-17, 1992, West Richfield, Ohio. Contact: Stephen J. Luska, 8255 Wright Road, Brecksville, Ohio 44141. Telephone: 216-526-2159.

90TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION AND ATTACHED UNITS, September, 1992, Omaha, Nebraska. Contact: Carl Manuel, 107 North 40th Street, Ft. Smith, Arkansas 72904. Telephone: 501-783-6559.

99TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, May 13-17, 1992, Hyatt Orlando, Orlando Florida. Contact: Richard M. Grant, 9675 Mockingbird Lane, Sebastian, Florida 32976. Telephone: 407-664-4665.

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, 50th Anniversary Celebration and 47th Annual Reunion, August 20-22, 1992, Sheraton Colorado Springs Hotel, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Contact: Ivan Worrell, 101 East Morris Street, Sweetwater, Tennessee 37874. Telephone: 615-337-4103.

104TH REGIMENT, 26TH "YANKEE" INFANTRY DIVISION, April 10-12, 1992, Granit Hotel, Kerhonkson, New York. Contact: Roger Hemond,

P.O. Box 3523, Springfield, Massachusetts 01101-3523. Telephone: 413-593-9764.

106TH/121ST CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON, June 26-27, 1992, Chancellor Convention Center, Champaign, Illinois. Contact: Harold (Sparky) Songer, 1106 Sheridan Street, Danville, Illinois 61832. Telephone: 217-446-5457 or James Mitsdarffer, 1416 South Western, Champaign, Illinois 61821. Telephone: 217-359-2248.

106TH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION (WWII), August 27-30, 1992, Vista International Hotel, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Contact: J. P. Maloney, 1120 Warren Avenue, Arnold, Pennsylvania 15068. Telephone: 412-335-6104.

134TH AAA GUN BATTALION, September 23-27, 1992, Roadway Inn, Nashville, Tennessee. Contact: Michael Kotula, Star Route, Box 586, Albrightsville, Pennsylvania 18210. Telephone: 717-722-0309.

134TH INFANTRY, 35TH DIVISION, September 17-20, 1992, Holiday Convention Center, Omaha, Nebraska. Contact: James Graff, R.R. 1, Box 370, Middletown, Illinois 62666. Telephone: 217-445-2570.

150TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION ASSOCIATION, May 15-17, 1992, Royal Plaza and Trade Center, Fitchburg, Massachusetts. Contact: Joseph Bianchini, Jr., 138 Clarendon Street, Fitchburg, Massachusetts 01420.

277TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION (ALL BATTERIES), October 10-11, 1992, Somerset Lodge Motel, Highway 27 South, Somerset, Kentucky 42501. Contact: James T. Holloway, 306 Murphy Avenue, Ferguson, Kentucky 42533. Telephone: 606-678-8847.

315TH ENGINEER BATTALION AND 90TH INFANTRY DIVISION HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, September, 1992, Omaha, Nebraska. Contact: Wilson D. Midyett, 4426 Kinglett, Houston, Texas 77035. Telephone: 713-729-8360.

526TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION, December 1-5, 1992, Disney World, Florida. Contact: George Wendt, 1420 Roosevelt Drive, Modesto, California 95350-4219. Telephone: 209-524-4615.

555TH AAA AW BATTALION ASSOCIATION, May 13-16, 1992, Ramada Inn, Convention Center, Hagerstown, Maryland. Contact: James T. Nealon, 6304 Crafton Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19149-2933. Telephone: 215-288-1157.

773RD TANK DESTROYER BATTALION ASSOCIATION, September 21-23, 1992, Marriott-Courtyard, Indianapolis, Indiana. Contact: E. H. McClelland, 4384 West 182nd Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44135.

COMPANY "B," 55TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, 11TH ARMORED DIVISION, September 11-13, 1992, Cheyenne, Wyoming. Contact: Les Howeth, 810 Valley View Drive HJR, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009. Telephone: 307-635-4929.

TOWN COUNCIL OF BASTOGNE will celebrate the 50th anniversary of events taking place in the Bastogne area from September 1, 1944, to the summer, of 1945. Contact: Philippe Collard, Alderman of Tourism, Province de Luxembourg, Ville de Bastogne, C.C.P. 000-0025958-59.

AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR, STALAGS 9A, 9B AND 9C, April 30-May 3, 1992, Marriott Hotel, Columbia, South Carolina. Contact: Tom and Kay Grove, 200 Darby Way, West Columbia, South Carolina 29170. Telephone: 803-796-7717.

14th TANK BATTALION, 9TH ARMORED DIVISION, August 26, 1992, New Orleans, Louisiana. Contact: Dee Paris, P.O.Box 6141, Silver Spring, Maryland 20906 Telephone: (301) 946-4820.

**Check your mailing label to see
if your dues are due!**

Battle of the Bulge hero was infuriated, but is now amazed, by a notice to sign up for the Selective Service.

Mix-Up Sends Patriot Second Call to Serve

Sign Up for Draft, WWII Veteran Told

By Eugene L. Meyer
Washington Post Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE HALL, Md.—When it comes to patriotism, Harry Zorn yields to no one.

But when Uncle Sam recently threatened to fine him \$250,000 and imprison him for five years for failing to register for a future draft, Zorn was outraged.

Zorn, 80, who lives at the Maryland Veterans Home here in southern Maryland, is a decorated World War II veteran and a card-carrying member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion and Disabled American Veterans. A double-amputee, blind in one eye, he proudly displays an American flag decal on his wheelchair.

"If they wanted me to go, I would have gone if they stood on their head," said Zorn, who received the Bronze Star and Purple Heart for wounds he received on Dec. 16, 1944, in the Battle of the Bulge. "I could just see them, sending somebody in here to pick me up, the way I am."

Still, there it was, on official stationery, ominous greetings dated Dec. 11, 1991:

"This letter is your final notice from Selective Service before we send your name to the Department of Justice with a request that you be prosecuted for failure to register as required by the Military Selective Service Act.

"Willful failure to register is a felony offense punishable by imprisonment and fine."

Of course, it was all just a snafu, to use that colorful acronym coined during WWII when Zorn was drafted for real in 1943 into the United States Army. He was assigned to the 106th Infantry

and was injured when he tried to retrieve some buried signal equipment—a mission aborted by three German tanks. He was discharged in November 1945.

After the war, the native New Yorker returned home. In 1976, he retired from Bloomingdales, where he was a furniture salesman, and moved to Florida. After his wife died in 1988, he lived with a niece in Clinton, in Prince George's County.

It seems that when Zorn voted in Maryland, someone punched into a computer that his year of birth was 1971. In fact, it was 1911.

Selective Service, which requires young men of a certain age to register just in case the draft is ever reinstated, works from voter-registration lists to catch evaders, according to public affairs specialist Barbi Richardson. Thus, Zorn's name popped up for possible prosecution, and Maryland—not Selective Service—was to blame, Richardson said.

"A computer match using government files has identified you as a man who may be required to register with Selective Service, but who may not have," said a first letter that Richardson said was mailed Oct. 3, but which Zorn says he never received.

So when Zorn received the "final notice," he was not amused. As directed in the letter, he called a Selective Service phone number in Illinois and tried to explain the situation. "I asked, 'Didn't anyone check?' " But he got nowhere, he said.

However, Zorn did fill out a questionnaire that came with the letter, and somehow the matter was corrected.

"These things happen periodically," shrugged Richardson, who phoned Zorn on behalf of Selective Service several days ago to apologize. "I explained the whole situation. It's all been squared away," she said.

Indeed, said Selective Service representative Karen Lite in Illinois, "The file has been coded that he's too old."

Which is fine with Zorn, who lives on Social Security, a small annuity and a veteran's disability check.

"I can guarantee I was a little teed off," he said in an interview at the veteran's retirement home. "But after reading it and thinking it over, I began to laugh. This place hadn't had so much fun in years. I passed it around to the guys. They still kid me. They want to know when I'm going down to sign up."



"I could just see them, sending somebody in here to pick me up," says Harry Zorn of a Selective Service notice to register for draft.

Zorn in
World
War II



Harry Zorn is a member of the
Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge

MY PRAYER AS I GROW OLDER

Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking that I must say something on every subject and on every occasion.

Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs.

Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all...but Thou knowest Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind from the recital of end-less details...give me wings to get to the point.

Seal my lips on my aches and pains, they are increasing and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by.

I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others but help me to enjoy them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory but a growing humility and lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memory of others.

Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places and talents in unexpected people. Give me the grace to tell them so.

Author Unknown

Doughboys' Stamina Won Battle Of Bulge; Weapons Secondary

By WES GALLAGHER,
Associated Press War Correspondent.

WITH UNITED STATES FORCES IN BELGIUM, Jan. 13.—Youth and courage were the deciding factors in the battle of the Belgian bulge, and weapons on both sides played a secondary role.

Seldom in modern war have weapons taken such a subordinate position. It has not happened in Europe since the outnumbered and outgunned Greeks defeated the Italians in Albania in the winter of 1940-41.

Weapons were secondary because of the terrain, the weather and the types of battles fought.

The new German Royal Tiger tanks, which can outshoot any American armor, had few opportunities to prove it. Mountains chopped the great struggle into a series of small, comparatively isolated actions.

No Wide Open Space.

The weather, the woods and the mountains forced nearly every battle to be fought at point-blank range. There were no wide open spaces.

There were, instead, narrow canyons where tanks, guns and men were on top of one another before they could see anything at which to shoot.

A good bazooka team with plenty of courage was a better weapon than a 69-ton tank.

The tank was lucky if it could stay on the road without tumbling over on the icy mountains. A tank crew could see little. A bazooka team, moving from tree to tree, could get within 15 yards of a tank without being seen.

Paradoxically, while equipment came second in Belgium, the battle claimed the highest equipment losses seen on the western front in many months.

Many Tanks Knocked Out.

Scores of tanks and guns were knocked out by bazookas or by direct fire from small, mobile antitank guns. Scores of others fell victims to the weather and terrain.

On more than one occasion, United States and German task forces were surrounded or ran out of gasoline in the wild mountains, and had to

abandon all their equipment and make their way back on foot.

With the premier on the foot soldier, a heavy burden fell upon two things—officer leadership in the field and youthful stamina.

Several divisions and regiments reported their highest officer losses of the war. With their men, officers engaged in hand-to-hand combat with the enemy under the most difficult battle conditions.

American officers such as full colonels and lieutenant colonels, who usually are in command posts, took positions in the front line with their troops and personally led and spurred them on.

This was particularly true as the weather deteriorated and infantrymen and tank crews suffered heavily from the blizzard and the snow. The soldiers liked to feel the officers were with them and were willing to go any place as long as they were personally led.

Leadership Unfailing.

In travels over a hundred miles of front, I never heard of a single case where United States officers failed in this leadership.

One full colonel just over from America and taking part in his first battle received the Silver Star for personally taking a tank into the middle of battle and directing it.

In the battle of the bulge it was guts that turned the tide.

American youths who had suffered hardships equal to any in this war kept on fighting. Only youths in or just out of their teens could sleep in frozen foxholes with one blanket in a blizzard and then get up and fight their way through forests and mountains day after day.

It took youthful stamina to stand the biting frosts, winds and cold during the critical period early in the German drive when relief was impossible and soldiers had to fight on with no help in sight.

An old army could not stand it. This lack of stamina in Hitler's worn army contributed to the present withdrawal. Many German soldiers, particularly the older ones, came over as deserters simply because they could not stand the incessant hardships.

THE BRITISH GIRL'S LAMENT

Dear old England, not the same,
The dreaded invasion, well it came,
But no, its not the beastly hun,
The Dam Ol' Yankee army's come.

You'll see them in the trams and bus,
There isn't room for both of us,
We walk to let them have our seats,
Then get run over by their Jeeps.

They moan about our lukewarm beer,
Think beer's like water over here,
But after drinking two or more,
You'll find them lying on the floor.

And you should see them try to dance,
They find a partner, try to prance,
When you're half dead they stop and smile,
"How'm I doing, Honey Chile".

With admiration we would stare,
At all the ribbons that they wear,
And think of deeds both bold and daring,
That earned the medals they are wearing.

Alas, they haven't fought the hun,
No glorious battles have they won,
That pretty ribbon just denotes,
They've crossed the sea - brave men in boats.

They say that they can shoot and fight,
It's true they fight - yes - when they're tight,
I must admit their shootings fine,
They shoot a dam good Yankee line.

They tell you you've got teeth like pearls,
They love your hair, the way it curls,
Your eyes would dim the brightest star,
You're competition for Hedy Lamarr.

You are their love, their life, their all,
And for no other girl could they ever fall,
They'll love you dear 'til death do part,
And if you leave it'll break their heart.

And then they'll leave you broken hearted,
The camp has moved - your love departed,
You'll wait for mail that doesn't come,
Then you'll realize, you're awful dumb.

In a different town - a different place,
To a different girl - a different face,
"I love you darling, please be mine",
It's the same old Yank, the same old line.

American War Office - 1944

WE DO NOT SEND DUES NOTICES--CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL TO SEE IF YOUR DUES ARE DUE



IF EACH OF YOU WOULD SIGN UP A NEW MEMBER, OUR MEMBERSHIP GOAL WOULD BE MET FOR 1992



Lt. Gen. James M. Gavin

[Editor's Note: This feature was an idea of Clyde Boden, founding VBOB President. The feature explores the creation of the qualities which make an outstanding officer. Clyde thought these qualities applied to many Battlers of the Bulge.]

GAVIN'S EARLY YEARS CONDITIONED HIM FOR HIGH ACCOMPLISHMENT

Lt. Gen. James M. (Jumpin' Jim) Gavin, commanding general of the 82nd Airborne Division during the Battle of the Bulge, sought knowledge, techniques, and understanding of people in his youth to prepare himself for the future.

"Combat, especially prolonged combat, is a time for introspection, perhaps too much at times," Gavin wrote in his book, *War and Peace in the Space Age*. "A more simple question would be about one's attitude toward combat. For this is first formed in the conditions of boyhood and it is given final stamp in the impressionable school years of the late teens."

Gavin grew up in the Pennsylvania coal regions. He quit school at the eighth grade to help support his family. He studied off-hours to win appointment to West Point.

He drank in the lore about the Irish, for his family was immigrants. Of his family, he wrote: "As a group they were idealistic, emotional, took their patriotism for granted, held strong views about most things and expected other people to do the same. They never hesitated to express their views, and it was assumed that one would fight for them if need be.... They were religious and hard workers. One of my earliest memories is of being impressed with the need to work and to contribute to the support of the family. Education was not considered important."

He became a newspaper delivery boy and had three more boys eventually helping him. In his day one very often had to fight for routes and papers. Once one of his boys, a small fellow, lashed out at a bully. "In seconds the bully took off on the run. I was amazed and the memory of the incident still lingers with me after many years. The smaller man physically was in the right but more than that he had the moral courage to stand up for what he believed when he knew a fight was inevitable. By having the courage of his convictions and acting in the right

as he saw the right, he won, although the odds were clearly against him."

He loved school and he read a lot, beginning with the Horatio Alger series, Tom Swift and the Rover Boys series as well. He went to the movies and avidly followed the adventures of one serial--*The Perils of Pauline*.

A school punishment, even when you told the truth, was to be whacked with a ruler on the open palm. "It hurt, I can testify to that, but the embarrassment hurt almost more. It didn't take long to find out that God wouldn't strike you dead for not holding up your hand and, in retrospect, I realize that was a very effective way of teaching boys not to tell the truth."

In summer the boys gathered bits of coal for the coming winter. One full sack of good clean coal was a good morning's work for a boy, so it took almost the entire summer to fill the coal shed.

There were veterans of the Civil and the Spanish American Wars. "On Memorial Day the vets would walk in a long column to the cemeteries carrying an American flag on their shoulders. They would place the flag on the grave of a departed comrade. We boys had a great deal of respect for the veterans, and we were convinced the finest thing that could happen to us would be some day to get the chance to serve our country in either the Army or Navy, if ever a war should come. This was taught in school, too, and we learned at an early age that those liberties that Americans enjoyed were not easily won. They cost lives, flesh and blood consumed in the holocaust of war. And war is never easy. War is bitter and war is costly."

Gavin's military career began with continuing his education, and he felt he always learned something new and valuable as he progressed through life. He was an

(Continued on Page 25)

ambassador to France (appointed by Kennedy), an architect of the Peace Corps and said to be one of the greatest American combat leaders in World War II.

When he graduated from West Point he became an apostle of the new airborne doctrine.

As Army deputy chief of staff and chief of research and development, he became a critic of the Eisenhower administration's defense policies. He was critical of the Army's failure to pursue advanced missile technology and of over-reliance on advanced hardware, especially nuclear weapons, at the expense of conventional forces. He also said the inept Pentagon policies enabled the Soviets to launch the world's first orbiting satellite.

His disenchantment with the Army was such that he turned down a guarantee of a fourth star within 14 months to retire from active duty in 1958.

He joined Arthur D. Little, Inc., a worldwide Cambridge, Massachusetts, based industrial research and management consulting organization as a vice-president. He soon became board chairman and retired in 1977.

A CITIZEN-SOLDIER REMEMBERS 1942-46 149th Armored Signal Company 9th Armored Division

George E. McAvoy has written a book covering the period that he was in the army, most of the time with the 9th Armored Division. The book covers the training at Fort Riley, Kansas, Camp Ibis in the Mojave Desert and Camp Polk, Louisiana.

The shipping of the entire division overseas on the historic ship, *Queen Mary*. A short period at Tidworth Barracks before crossing the English Channel into France. The triumphal march across France into Luxembourg and the part the division played in the Ardennes offensive.

The story of the capture of the Remagen Bridge covered in news stories by a young staff writer of *The Stars & Stripes*, Andy Rooney. The part the 9th Armored Division played in the defeat of the Nazis and then in the occupation of Germany.

The story carries through to the final trip home and discharge less than a week after arrival in the states.

This book is supported by pictures, mostly taken by the author, and news clippings at the time from various newspapers.

This book may be ordered from Crawford Press, Box 235, Littleton, NH 03561 for \$32.50 including shipping and handling.

Before 1960 he and Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey proposed creation of what became the Peace Corps. In the mid-60's he became a critic of the Johnson Administration's Vietnam policies.

During WW II Gavin was remembered as a general who commanded from the front with a carbine in his hand and as an officer renowned for his calmness in battle. He was also known as a "thinking general."

He was a leading architect of the successful helicopter-borne units and Army airborne tactics used in Vietnam. But he was an early critic of the conflict. He attacked the administration for fighting an unwinnable war, saying that the best military strategy to follow would be to withdraw American forces to enclaves in towns and along the coasts that would be easily defended. He argued that the struggle in Southeast Asia could allow the Soviets to steal a march on us in the Middle East.

He was active in the Council of Foreign Relations and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, a life trustee of Tufts University, and a fellow of Harvard University's Center of International Affairs. He wrote such books as *Airborne Warfare* and *On to Berlin*.

Save Your Life...

The most common cancer among American men, and their second leading cancer killer, is prostate cancer. Prostate cancer will strike about 122,000 American men, this year, killing more than 32,000 of them, according to figures from the American Cancer Society.

Statistics indicate that about one in 11 men will develop prostate cancer. If detected in its early stages, prostate cancer may be cured. The Prostate Cancer Education Council confirms that more than 80 percent of all patients whose tumors are diagnosed at an early stage, are alive five years after treatment.

We want you to be aware of this and suggest that you contact an urologist yearly for an examination for early detection. In its early stages, prostate cancer is very difficult to diagnose and, more often than not, only an urologist has the expertise to detect it.

According to a release from Walter Reed Army Medical Center, prostate cancer often develops and spreads with no symptoms. However, possible warning signs are:

- difficulty or inability to urinate;
- frequent urination, especially at night;
- weak or interrupted urine flow;
- pain or burning upon urination or ejaculation; and
- the presence of blood or pus in the urine or semen.

[Information extracted from an October 11, 1991, article in *Stripe*, written by Bernard S. Little]



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B2A	Patch 4-3/4" Diameter (w/clutch)	8.00			
C1S	VOBO Silver Belt Buckle	12.50	MM1	Regulation miniature medals (including POW medal)	8.50 Up
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D4	COLOR Logo 1-1/8" stick-on	10/1.00			
F1	US Flag Set: 100% sewn cotton 3'x5' Flag w/3 pc. pole, gold eagle top, lanyard and mounting bracket	29.50	POW1	Miniature POW medal sold seperately	8.50 ea.
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The National President Darrell Kuhn, and a group of VBOB members all belonging to the 75th Inf. Div. attending the VBOB convention in Charleston, S.C. Sept. 7, 1991

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN SEZ:

VBOB members have been doing a great job with respect to promoting membership. We have experienced rapid growth and we thank you for your efforts in this respect.

As of February 1991, we had recruited just over 7,500 members—today, just one year later, we have almost 9,500. That's a pretty good growth spurt.

Thanks for your help and if we can provide you with information and/or materials to help you in membership recruiting, please let us know. If you have any ideas that would help on a national level, we would also appreciate receiving this information.

Neill B. Thompson
Vice President for Membership

ARMORED FORCES MONUMENT DEDICATED

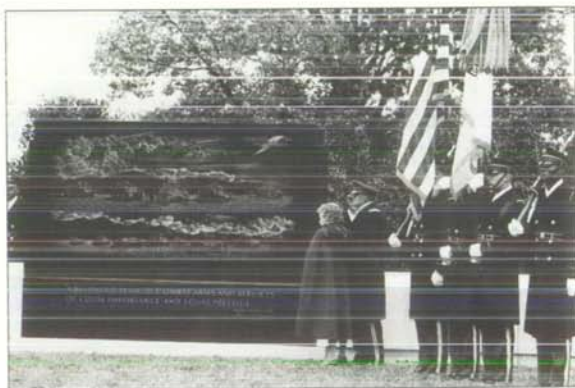
The moment that was awaited by all armored men and the veterans' organizations, which contributed so generously to the Armored Forces Monument, became a reality at 11:00 a.m. on November 11, 1991. The monument, dedicated to the "Men of Steel," living and dead, sits directly across from the 101st Airborne Division Memorial near the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery on the Avenue of Heroes.

The unveiling ceremony was attended by ranking military as well as representatives of the 16 armored division associations. Honors were rendered by the "Old Guard," of the 3rd United States Infantry. Major General Thomas Foley, Chief of Armor, introduced the guest speaker General Gordon R. Sullivan, Chief of Staff, U.S. Army, who recounted the history of the armored force from WW I through Desert Storm.

The unveiling of the monument was preceded the evening before by a dinner which took place at the Sheraton National Hotel, in Arlington, Virginia. Four hundred armored veterans, both U.S. Army and Marines, attended the dinner. All 16 WW II armored divisions, as well as most of the separate tank and tank destroyer battalions were also in attendance. The main speaker at the dinner was General William A. Knowlton.

A presentation of an original print of past and present

armored vehicles was presented to Colonel Sabti Bughaiti, Defense Attache, Embassy of the State of Kuwait. The Kuwait Embassy made a sizeable contribution toward the financing of the monument in expression of their appreciation to the United States' efforts in freeing their country from the Iraqi's.



Shown in the above photo is Mrs. Creighton Abrams, wife of the former C.O. of the 37th Tank Battalion of the 4th Armored Division, which broke through the encircled Bastogne. Escorting Mrs. Abrams is General Gordon R. Sullivan, Chief of Staff, U.S. Army.

THE DEAD OF THE ARDENNES

Among the emerald green of grass and trees,
are rows of small white stones that mark our graves.
The sun shines brightly in a pleasant breeze
as overhead Old Glory proudly waves.

Oh, bugler sound retreat for us once more.
Tell all the world about that dark December.
For we young men of nineteen forty-four,
ask only that our nation still remember.

Without a thought we faced the charging foe
as cannon roared and small arms blazed away.
Through bitter cold, and mist, and knee deep snow,
we gave our lives to hold the hun at bay.

The guns of war are silent now at last
as in this quiet plot we take our rest,
the youth of generations long since passed
Remember us—we were our country's best.

John Savard
G Company, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division



VETERANS of the BATTLE of the BULGE

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FEBRUARY, 1992



**AS WE REMEMBER THESE GREAT MEN, LET
US ALSO SEE THAT THE BATTLE OF THE
BULGE IS NOT FORGOTTEN...**

We can only do this by working together to promote membership. We just
added member 9,309 to our rolls. We can meet our goal of 15,000 by
December 1, 1992, and ensure this memory...

ONLY WITH YOUR HELP.

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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
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Address _____ Phone () _____

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All new members, please provide the following information:

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Units(s) to which assigned during period December 16, 1944-January 25, 1945 - Division _____

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

Applicant's Signature _____

RECRUITER (Optional)