

*"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

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

VOLUME XI

NUMBER 2

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

MAY 1992

Dateline: Monschau, Germany, 16 December 1944

## HITLER PICKS PIG KILLER TO LEAD SS PANZER DIVISIONS IN BULGE

The illegitimate son of a Bavarian servant girl made his livelihood slaughtering pigs on a farm and murdering thousands of soldiers on the Russian front.

### THE NORTHERN SHOULDER:

"When he spoke it was as if he strained his words through gravel. The illegitimate son of a Bavarian servant girl, he was short and burly and looked like a man who depended for his livelihood on slaughtering pigs on a farm, which he did as a youth, or cutting meat at the butcher's, which he did after his discharge from the army at the end of the Great War until he joined the SS in 1928 and became Adolph Hitler's chauffeur and bodyguard. Five years later he organized and commanded the Fuhrer's household troops, the SS-Liebstandarte Adolf Hitler, and in the summer of 1934 acted as chief executioner in Hitler's notorious purge of Nazi ranks, which became known as the Night of the Long Knives.

He commanded the SS-Liebstandarte Adolf Hitler as a regiment in France in 1940, then headed it as a brigade in Greece and finally in Russia as a division, renamed the 1st SS Panzer Division (Liebstandarte Adolf Hitler). He was commanding an SS panzer corps in Normandy in the summer of 1944 when the cabal of army officers tried to kill the Fuhrer. Hitler promptly made him head of a newly organized panzer army, but that command disintegrated in the defeat in Normandy and the retreat to the West Wall. Whereupon Hitler designated him to rebuild the SS panzer divisions, command the Sixth Panzer Army, and make the main effort in the offensive through the Ardennes.



Sepp Dietrich, former Col. Gen. in command of the German 6th Panzer Army, reads a German newspaper while he waits in a cell of the Nuernberg city jail to appear as a witness in the Nuernberg war crimes trials. 11/ 24/ 45.

(Continued on Page 3)

**11th ANNUAL VBOB REUNION - NASHVILLE, TENN. OCT. 8-11, 1992**

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## VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, Inc.

P.O. Box 11129  
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THE BULGE BUGLE is the official publication of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, and is issued four times yearly. Limited back copies are available at \$3.50 per copy.

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### A GREAT BIG "THANK YOU"

Thanks to the many divisions, regiments, battalions, etc., who send us their Membership Directories for our membership campaign. We really appreciate your help. If you haven't sent your directory in yet, please do so. We promise only a one time membership promotion.



## PIG KILLER SEPP DIETRICH LEADS SS DIVISIONS IN BULGE

While admitting the man's personal bravery, the German army's generals despised him. His World War I rank of sergeant "attached to him perpetually in the minds of the aristocratic members of the German General staff" He was, said von Rundstedt, "decent, but stupid." To senior army commanders, he had at most the ability to command a division, which was why Model and von Rundstedt arranged to have the experienced and capable Fritz Kraemer assigned as his chief of staff. He was also sinister and ruthless: In Russia when he learned that the Russians had murdered six of his troopers, he ordered all Russians captured over the next three days to be shot, and more than four thousand died.

***He was, said Von Rundstedt, "decent but stupid." To senior army commanders, he had at most the ability to command a division...***

By late 1944 he was drinking too much, seldom actually drunk but often close to it. By that time also he had come to decry his Fuhrer's rash and clumsy interference with battlefield

command, which explained his conniving to alter Hitler's plan for the Sixth Panzer Army's crossing of the Meuse so that if the offensive failed, his army would be in a position to implement the Small Solution.

Yet the man was careful to conceal his discontent from the Fuhrer, and to Hitler none of his shortcomings mattered. He had been loyal since that night long ago in 1923 when Hitler had attempted to seize power in the Feldhermhalle in Munich and failed. Hitler knew that the troops adored the man, that they would die for him, and Hitler was convinced that he above all others could be trusted.

That was why Hitler chose Sepp Dietrich as the one to lead the beloved SS panzer divisions to victory and save the Third Reich.

As befitted the force making the main effort, the Sixth Panzer Army was by far the strongest of the three armies attacking in the Ardennes. Dietrich had three corps headquarters, five parachute and Volksgrenadier divisions, four SS panzer divisions (counting attached separate tank and assault gun battalions, eight hundred tanks and assault guns), and more artillery and Nebelwerfers than the Fifth Panzer and Seventh Armies combined, an awesome one thousand pieces.

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE MAKE YOUR PLANS TO JOIN US IN NASHVILLE

Friends, it is that time of year once again, for all of us to think about, and to take action on, plans to attend our annual convention, which will take place in Nashville, Tennessee. The plans are shaping up and it appears that everyone will really enjoy the festivities. Get your reservation in early.

Summer vacations are quickly approaching, and I hope that each of you will have a safe and fun-filled summer without mishap.

I am happy to report there has been a big increase in new members for 1992, and to remind each member of the importance of being a recruiter. My heart-felt thanks to all recruiters for your help.

All VBOB members who wrote letters of concern, we want you to know that your efforts are very much appreciated and we will do as much as we can to achieve success for the problems mentioned in your letters.

Our 50th Anniversary Committee is shifting into high gear for the planning of the activities for 1994. The 50th Anniversary for World War II should be a year to remember.

For all members who are not acquainted with the senior citizen airline tickets--call your airlines and inquire about them. They are much more reasonable than regular fare.

The books come with 4 and 8 tickets per book and each



Darrell Kuhn

person must have his own book. It could come in very handy for your trip to be with us in Nashville.

As you read this, please stop and take a moment to check your dues card (or the label on the back of this publication) to make sure your dues are current. If you're late, please renew your dues and keep *The Bulge Bugle* coming your way.

Remember you can meet friends everywhere but you cannot meet enemies anywhere--you have to make them.

Darrell Kuhn, VBOB President

## Letters to the Editor Some thoughts from Massachusetts...

Editor:

It was nice meeting you and talking with you at the commemorative anniversary dinner of VBOB. It was my first time at the event and I enjoyed the camaraderie of the members and attending the impressive and memorable ceremonies at Arlington Cemetery memorializing our fallen comrades-in-arms.

In parting Monday afternoon, I forgot to mention that I had sent some material to *The Bulge Bugle* for possible inclusion in subsequent issues.

A thought came to mind recently that the Academy at West Point and the Carlisle Barracks in Pennsylvania should be put on the mailing list to receive issues of *The Bulge Bugle*.

As the introduction to "Memorable Bulge Incidents" states: "Accounts of events and experiences in the BOB as recalled--are of much historical significance."

I believe they are; and they could be a complement in the study of battles of WWII history. These are the "close up" accounts of the combatants that do not get mentioned in the study of strategy and logistics. It is also the legacy of an important battle and victory in U.S. military annals.

My best wishes to you and all the staff of VBOB for every good thing in the coming year.

John E. McAuliffe

Kilroy says...

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



## THINGS TO SEE IN NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

For those of you have never been to Nashville before, we thought we would list for you some of the things you might like to see when you get there. More information will be provided in forthcoming issues of *The Bulge Bugle*.



- **Barbara Mandrell Country**--Intimate look into the family life and career of one of country music's most-loved stars.
- **Belle Meade Mansion**--19th century family home of the Harding and Jackson families famous for horse breeding.
- **Belle Carol Riverboat**--Unusual cruises on the Cumberland River.
- **Belmont Mansion**--Recognized as one of the most elaborate homes in the South.
- **Car Collectors Hall of Fame**--Featuring cars of country music stars plus rare antique automobiles and memorabilia reflecting the glory of years past.
- **Cars of the Stars**--Fabulous collection of classic, special interest and antique cars from 1912 to 1981.
- **Centennial Arts Center**--Different exhibit each month--art, pottery painting, sculpture, jewelry, and photos.
- **Cumberland Science Museum**--Adventures in discovery--planetarium, traveling exhibits and new programs daily.
- **Conway Twitty's Country Store and Record Shop**--Complete collection of country recordings, including hard-to-find and out-of-production records.
- **Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum**--All the country music greats included along with history of country music, special exhibits, historic films, TV clips, etc.
- **Country Music Wax Museum and Shopping Mall**--Over 60 life-size wax figures of country music stars, complete with costumes, memorabilia, instruments and awards.
- **Ernest Tubb Record Shop**--Site of the famous free attraction--the Midnight Jamboree, which takes place every Saturday night with performances by Opry acts. Also, records.
- **Fort Nashborough**--Log replica overlooking spot which was later to become the City of Nashville.
- **The Hermitage: Plantation Home of President Andrew Jackson**--625 acres of rolling woodland with mansion furnished with Jackson family's original furniture.
- **The General Jackson**--Paddlewheel showboat which brings back the bygone days of riverboat entertainment.
- **Governor's Mansion and Tennessee State Capitol**
- **Grassmere Wildlife Park**--A native Tennessee animal forest and natural history museum.
- **Hank Williams Jr. Family Tradition Museum**--Memorabilia of both Hanks' careers. Continuous video showings.
- **House of Cash**--Displaying Frederic Remington bronzes, antique Colt pistols, a letter written by Andrew Jackson, and many items of memorabilia from Johnny, June and the

Carter family.

- **Jim Reeves Museum**--Many items which belonged to Jim Reeves--costumes, guitars, gold records, rare photos, etc.
- **Kitty Wells and Johnny Wright Family Country Junction**--Countless awards, photos and trophies from Kitty's and Johnny's careers.
- **Loretta Lynn's Dude Ranch**--Museum and home open for tours. Also extensive campground/trailer park features.
- **Music Valley Wax Museum of the Stars**--Over 50 lifelike wax figures of country music's biggest stars.
- **Music Village U.S.A.**--Features showcases of some of America's most popular entertainers. Live entertainment daily in the Music Village Restaurant. Theater is the site of concerts, live video tapings and special performances.
- **Opryland**--World's only musical theme park with rides and an array of live musical productions.
- **Opryland Hotel Conservatory and Cascades**--Indoor tropical garden with over 10,000 tropical plants. Daily show of "Dancing Waters," featuring country harpist Lloyd Lindroth.
- **The Parthenon**--Full-scale replica of the world-famous Parthenon in Athens, Greece.
- **Recording Studios of America/Opry Place Recording Studios**--Your chance to record a hit song in a professionally engineered studio.
- **Roy Acuff's Museum and Minnie Pearl's Museum**--Collections of musical instruments, coins, records, photographs, memorabilia, etc.
- **Ryman Auditorium and Museum**--Home of the Grand Ole Opry from 1943 through March 1974, a monument to the many country music stars who performed there.
- **Tennessee Botanical Gardens and Fine Arts Center at Checkwood**--30 acres of gardens, lush greenhouses, with fine arts center housing collection of fine and decorative arts.
- **Tennessee State Museum**--Exhibits highlight Tennessee's colorful history.
- **Travellers' Rest**--Illustrating evolving Tennessee architecture, arts, and lifestyles of 1799 to 1828.
- **Twitty City**--15-acre complex and home of Conway Twitty where you will enjoy the sights and sounds of country music.
- **The Upper Room Chapel/Museum and Agape Garden**--Collection of religious artifacts, paintings, porcelains, manuscripts and furniture.
- **Warner Park Nature Center**--11 miles of hiking trails, small natural history museum, library, and field trips.



As you can see, Nashville holds the key to a really exciting and eventful reunion. There seems to be something that will appeal to everyone. We are hopeful that you will be able attend. Every effort is being made to ensure a good time. So dusk off those dancing clogs and...

**...WE HOPE TO SEE YOU  
IN NASHVILLE**

**VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE  
11TH REUNION • NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE  
OCTOBER 8-11, 1992**

**PROGRAM**

**Thursday • 8 October**

Noon - 8:00 p.m.	Arrival, registration, find old friends and make new ones
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Mixer: Wine, Beer and Soda Hospitality Room - 18th Floor - Overlooking City of Nashville

**Friday • 9 October**

9:00 a.m. - noon	Registration
5:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Registration
9:00 - 11:30 a.m.	General Membership Business Meeting
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Lunch "on your own"
2:00 p.m.	Memorial Service at Marriott Hotel
3:30 p.m.	Hospitality Room Reopens
6:00 p.m.	Western Barbeque at Marriott (\$15.00 per person)

**Saturday • 10 October**

8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Tour of Nashville (\$16.00 per person)
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.	Registration
2:00 p.m.	Buses leave for Grand Ole Opry
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Grand Ole Opry Matinee Show (\$20.00 per person)
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Hospitality Room Open
7:45 p.m.	Banquet - Main Floor - Marriott (\$25.00 per person)

**Sunday • 11 October**

10:00 a.m.	Church Service and Farewell
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VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE  
**11TH REUNION**

Nashville, Tennessee • October 8-11, 1992  
Headquarters • Nashville Airport Marriott, Nashville, Tennessee

**REGISTRATION FORM**

(Please print all information)

*As soon as possible, but no later than September 16, 1992  
mail this registration form and check to:*

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Reunion  
P.O. Box 11129  
Arlington, VA 22210-2129

	Number of Persons	Cost per person	Total
<u>Thursday • October 8</u>			
*Registration (before 9/16/92)	_____	\$20.00	_____
(after 9/16/92)	_____	\$25.00	_____
Hospitality Room	_____	N/C	_____
<u>Friday • October 9</u>			
Western Barbeque at Marriott	_____	\$15.00	_____
<u>Saturday • October 10</u>			
Tour of Nashville	_____	\$16.00	_____
Grand Ole Opry Show	_____	\$20.00	_____
(Includes transportation and available only to the first 100 persons to register for this function.)			
Banquet	_____	\$25.00	_____
TOTAL AMOUNT (Enclose check)			=====

**NO REFUNDS AFTER SEPTEMBER 30, 1992**

\*All registrants and/or participants must pay this fee.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name Outfit

\_\_\_\_\_  
Wife's Name Guest Name(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address City, State and Zip Code



VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE  
11TH REUNION • NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE  
OCTOBER 8-11, 1992

## HOTEL REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete and mail to:

Nashville Airport Marriott  
One Marriott Drive  
Nashville, Tennessee 37210  
615-889-9300

\$62 (Flat Rate)  
Per Room, Per Night  
Plus Tax

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Arrival \_\_\_\_\_ Departure \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 1 bed/1 person \_\_\_\_\_ 1 bed/2 persons \_\_\_\_\_ 2 beds/2 persons

NOTE: All reservations must be guaranteed by company guarantee, credit card number, or first night's room and tax deposit. All reservations must be cancelled at least 48 hours prior to arrival or room will be billed and/or deposit is non-refundable.

Advance Deposit Enclosed: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is advance deposit for first night's room plus tax (11.75%) = \$69.29

OR

### CREDIT CARD GUARANTEE:

Card Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Required Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPLIMENTARY TRANSPORTATION • Available and provided by Marriott to and from Airport.

DIRECTIONS TO THE MARRIOTT • U.S. 40 to Exit 7--Briley Parkway (North). At the bottom of the hill, turn right on Elm Hill Road. Go to the first light. Make a sharp right turn onto Marriott Drive. Go up the hill about a quarter of a mile to the Marriott.

## CHAPTER NEWS

**NOTES FROM BOB** • The overseas cap, with the tri-colored crown--red for artillery, yellow for armored, blue for infantry, and green base for Ardennes--which was designed and worn by the members of the Delaware Valley Chapter at the Annual Meeting in Valley Forge in 1990, was accepted by the Executive Council at the January meeting as the official VBOB cap. Many of you have already ordered these caps for the sake of uniformity and visibility at meetings and in parades. These caps can be ordered from the Keystone Uniform Cap Corp. not from our Quartermaster. The address and order form can be found on the bottom of the VBOB Order Form page.

Some of our chapters are growing by leaps and bounds. This is wonderful, for it widens the fellowship that is so rewarding to all of us. Their success in growing is due, in some cases, to widespread notices in surrounding area publications and, of course, to word-of-mouth. We need lots of visibility to find those Battlers who have not heard of us. Also, when you read about the reunion effected by a member of the Tri-State Chapter and the Fresno Chapter, you will see the possibilities of finding old buddies in the VBOB directory now being offered.

I'm delighted to announce the formation of a new chapter in Upper Michigan which will be called **GREAT LAKES CHAPTER**. The starting force is Victor Gerue, who has been gathering veterans together for several years for a memorial dinner. They have decided to hold meetings in February and August. The only telephone number I have at this minute (which is publication deadline) is Vic's. Give him a call if you are interested at 906-753-4204.

Robert J. VanHouten  
Vice President for Regional Coordination

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER** • Thirty-five members (two new) and guests met for lunch at Mountain Jack's Restaurant on January 23. Our guest speaker was Ed Cogan, 656 Engineer Topography Battalion, who was in a map-making outfit. One of his interesting comments was everyone was moving so fast during the Bulge by the time the maps were made, the men were already off the map. So they called them "maps to find the way back."

On March 12th, members gathered at the S&W Cafeteria for lunch. We had a guest who was a French citizen during WWII, and she expressed her heartfelt thanks for all the GI's who gave so much to liberate her country and Europe.

**SUSQUEHANNA CHAPTER** • The bingo party held in January for the hospitalized veterans was a grand success. Patients as well as members had a wonderful time.

The family of Dave Turner had requested a duplicate of his Congressional Medal of Honor; but these are not sent unless stolen or lost in fire. It was arranged for his three sisters to each receive a certificate which comes with the medal. The ceremony was held in Berwick, Pennsylvania, and was attended by Congressman Paul Kanjorsky. The sisters were made honorary members of the chapter.

Turner won the medal for heroism in the Battle of the Bulge, and later gave his life. He was interred in Hamm Cemetery, in Luxembourg. Ike Refice visited his grave and noticed that his grave marker did not display the award. He brought this to the attention of the proper persons and the omission will be rectified.

Plans are being made to have a portrait painted of Turner for presentation VA Hospital to be hung alongside two other Medal of Honor winners.

**GENERAL GEORGE S. PATTON, JR. CHAPTER** • The chapter installed new officers at the annual commemorative dinner on December 14th. They are: President, John B. Glaze; Vice President, Wardlaw M. Watson; Secretary, Wallace A. Swanson; Treasurer, Dr. John E. Kent; and Directors Pat Krahenbuhl, William R. McCullers, and Glenn Arrington. After dinner, we viewed combat footage taken during the Battle. TV coverage of the meeting was made and shown on the 10:00 o'clock news. Souvenirs, maps, and books were on display for perusal.

The chapter holds luncheon meetings on the third Wednesday of each month. The chapter endeavors to hold meetings in cities other than Birmingham in order to give its outlying members a chance to attend.

**TRI-STATE--MAINE-NEW HAMPSHIRE-VERMONT CHAPTER** • After a luncheon meeting February 13th at which we had 41 members, seven guests, and seven new members, we discussed the overseas cap which was introduced at the Valley Forge Annual Meeting. Our members liked it and thought it a good idea for everyone to have one.

Our president, Roger Desjardin, has obtained list of all the chapter's members so that our members can see if any old buddies are "out there."

Lawrence Rathburn, Secretary, discovered that a member of the Fresno Chapter was in the 26th Infantry Division with him. He called him and they talked for over an hour and had a happy reunion by telephone wire.

Our next meeting will be the end of May, hopefully in Franklin, New Hampshire--25 miles north of Concord.

We discussed chartering a bus to take us to the next Annual Meeting.

We have recruited 20 new members from Maine, which were found through newspaper announcements.

**CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER** • Fifty people attended our annual anniversary dinner which was covered on TV, radio, and newspaper. We have four new members and are buckling down to plan the coming year's activities and recruiting new members.

We installed a new chaplain, Alfred Carducci, and reinstated all the other officers.

**DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER** • Our October, November, and December meetings were well attended; there was an average of 55 members present. We are suffering an embarrassment of riches with the latest count of 275 members in the chapter.

(Continued on Page 9)



(Continued from Page 8)

We now have our ByLaws and Incorporation in place, thanks to the hard work of Palmer Liberatore and Carl Dahlroos.

Officers installed are President, Stan Wojtusik; Vice President, Frank Gavin; Executive Vice President, Tom Jones; Secretary, Mike Petrick; Assistant Secretary, John Hayland; Treasurer, Robert Fisher; and Assistant Treasurer, John Conboy.

Sixty members attended the Annual Memorial Service at Valley Forge Military Academy. Lt. Col. Janice T. Reiley, Ret., and Alfred L. Vitali, with Military Escort, placed the VBOB wreath at the Academy Memorial Book of Honor.

One hundred members and wives attended our first Annual Anniversary Dinner at the Navy Yard Officers Club on December 17th. Our speaker, Seth Charles Momjian, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations and adviser to Presidents Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, and Bush, presented some interesting comments of behind the scenes incidents while in government service. Lt. Col. Hal Ryder held the group's attention with some Battle of the Bulge stories that all enjoyed. The evening was rounded out with dancing and camaraderie.

Forty of us made a trip to Carlisle, Pennsylvania, to the Military History Institute to present to Col. Thomas Sweeney a display of 250 unit patches and pins from all services that had been collected by a lady who worked in a railroad station where many servicemen passed through. Col. Sweeney was really delighted to receive them.

Thirty of us tripped to Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland and were given a tour and explanation of equipment stored there in their museum.

In the spring, we hope to make a trip to West Point.

We are working with our senator to have a road named "Battle of the Bulge Highway." The first one we picked was already designated to be named Veterans Highway, so now we are choosing another.

**SOUTH CAROLINA CHAPTER** • We participated in the Columbia Veterans Day parade which was a huge success. Our goals for the coming year will be to reach 100% of the South Carolina veterans, become active and visible in parades and commemorations, and to encourage as many members as possible to attend the next Annual Reunion.

We see more and more wives at our meetings and hopefully they will encourage their men to be active in all affairs.

Our next meeting will be March 10th at the NCO Club at Fort Jackson. We will vote on the chapter By Laws at that meeting.

**NEW JERSEY CHAPTER** • Our December 14th meeting was held at the Menlo Park Vets Nursing Home. We voted in the same officers for another year.

Future meeting dates will be May 16, September 12, and December 12 and will be held at the Nutley Amvets Post 30 Civic Center.

We are actively contacting all VBOB members in the state, asking them to join us in our activities.

**NORTHERN WISCONSIN CHAPTER WILLIAM SCHNEIDER** • On December 14th Past President Wes Cooper placed a wreath at the WWII monument with a Honor and Color Guard from the Burns Post VFW 188. December 15th we had our annual dinner-dance, with music provided by a 10 member band, "Senior Citizens". We voted to have the future dinner-dances in October since December's weather in Wisconsin is pretty brutal.

A collection was taken up to be given to the veterans who live at the Kings Home for Veterans. When I drove to the home to give them the check, I met Ben Rouse and Simon Revner, two of our chapter members and their wives, who volunteer twice a month to help out. Ben Rouse plays with his band for the vets and wives who live there.

We voted in a new president, Wallace Abitz.



Western Pennsylvania Chapter. Proud members display their chapter flag. Pres. "Whitey" Schaller is at the left.



Delaware Valley Chapter. Pres. Stan Wojtusik and Ruth at their December Memorial Dinner.



New Jersey Chapter. Members hold their flag beside memorial wreath. Pres. Anthony Andriola is second from left.



# The Duckworth Chant

## ...a marching song

In the Oscar-award winning star-studded "Battleground," for which VBOB members **HARRY KINNARD (101ST INFANTRY DIVISION)** and **ROY GORDON (9TH INFANTRY DIVISION)** served as advisors, what is left of a bedraggled platoon is leaving a Battle of the Bulge combat zone for a rest.

Weariness is etched in the soldiers' faces as they trudge along in some kind of route step.

A buck sergeant, played by Van Johnson, observes a sharp-looking platoon of replacements approaching, half on one side of the road and half on the other. He glances at his group and his eyes seem to sparkle as he calls out to the platoon sergeant, actor James Whitmore, "Hey, Sarge, whatever happened to Jodie?"

His feet wrapped in the remains of a GI blanket and a chew of tobacco in his mouth, the platoon sergeant squinted at the fresh troops, spit, and managed to get the plodding soldiers in a recognizable formation.

He straightened up and when he sang out "You had a good home and you left," the platoon responded "You're right"! These were repeated and followed by two cadence counts. Now, with heads up and stomachs in, the battle-weary but proud platoon looked and sounded like a million bucks.

This is part of a verse of the Duckworth Chant, the following details for which have been provided by Ed "Digi" DiGiannantonio, who, as a naval officer in the 1940's was responsible for recording volumes of music by well-known vocalists and orchestras of the day for the Armed Services based on carte blanche clearances received from the major recording companies during the musicians' union strike. Ed is making these V Disc recordings available to the general public on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of World War II.

On a cold spring evening in May, 1944, as Provisional Training Center Troops were returning to Fort Slocum from a long and tedious march through the swamps and rough country, a chant broke the stillness of the night. Upon investigation, it was found that a negro soldier by the name of Willie Duckworth, on detached service with the Provisional Training Center, was chanting to build up the spirits of his weary comrades.

It was not long before the infectious rhythm was spreading through the ranks. Foot-weary soldiers started to pick up their step in cadence with the growing chorus of hearty male voices. Instead of a down trodden, fatigued company, here marched 200 soldiers with heads up, a spring to their step, and happy smiles on their faces. This transformation occurred with the beginning of the Duckworth Chant.

Upon returning to Fort Slocum, Pvt. Duckworth, with the aid of the Provisional Training Center instructors, composed a series of verses and choruses to be used with the marching

cadence. Since that eventful evening the Duckworth Chant has been made a part of the drill at Fort Slocum as it proved to be not only a tremendous morale factor while marching, but also coordinated the movements of close order drill with troop precision.

Listed below in bold print are the verses of the Duckworth Chant which, when being used, are followed by a chorus after each verse (indented). Results have been more pronounced for better effect by having an individual carry the verse and the troops render the chorus.

**The heads are up and the chests are out**

**The arms are swinging in cadence count**

Sound Off (by individual)

1-2 (by troops)

Sound Off (by individual)

3-4 (by troops)

Cadence Count (by individual)

1-2-3-4, 1-2 ----- 3-4 (by troops)

**Head and eyes off the ground,**

**Forty inches, cover down**

(Repeat chorus)

**I don't mind taking a hike**

**If I can take along a bike.**

(Repeat chorus)

**I don't care if I get dirty**

**As long as the Brow gets Gravel Gertie.**

(Repeat chorus)

**The Wacs and Waves will win the war**

**So tell us what we're fighting for.**

(Repeat chorus)

**They send us out in the middle of night.**

**To shoot at azimuth without a light.**

(Repeat chorus)

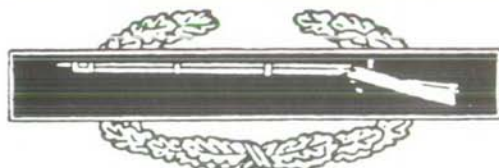
**There are lots of plums upon the tree  
for everyone exceptin' me.**

(Repeat chorus)

**The First Platoon, it is the best,**

**They always pass the colonel's tests.**

(Repeat chorus)



The rifleman fights without promise of either reward or relief. Behind every river there's another hill--and behind that hill, another river. After weeks or months in the line only a wound can offer him the comfort of safety, shelter, and a bed.

Those who are left to fight, fight on, evading death but knowing that with each day of evasion they have exhausted one more chance for survival. Sooner or later, unless victory comes this chase must end on the litter or in the grave.

**General Omar Bradley**





**MICHAEL LUCIANO, 150 ENGINEERING COMBAT BATTALION "C,"** would like to locate a copy of an out-of-print book—XII Corps Spearhead of Patton's Third Army. Contact Michael at 3 Treadwell Avenue, Westport, Connecticut 06880. He also advises us of a book he read recently which he thought a great many of you who traveled on the *Queen Mary* would find of interest. The book, entitled *The Grey Ghost*, gives the history of the ship's voyages, etc., and is available from: The World War II Historian, P.O. Box 327M, Scotland, Connecticut 06264 (telephone 203-423-8194 after 6:00 p.m. EST).

**EDWARD B. JARDIN, 7TH ARMORED DIVISION, 23RD INFANTRY DIVISION, COMPANY A,** advises that if you were in his company and were transferred to the 38TH ARMORED INFANTRY, COMPANY A, you may be eligible for both the French and Belgium Fourragers Medals. You can find out more about this by purchasing a history of the 7th Armored Division Association—write to Glenn R. Fackler, 23218 Springbrook Drive, Farmington Hills, Michigan 48024.

New member **WILLIAM J. GRZANIC, 771ST TANK BATTALION,** would like information regarding his unit. Write to him at: Box 319, Glendive, Montana 59330.

**MICHAEL N. THOME** would like to hear from anybody out there from HEADQUARTERS AND/OR HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION, 422ND INFANTRY. Write to him at: 1711 "P" Street #301, Sacramento, California 95814 (telephone: 916-447-9894).

Fred Travalena writes to see if anyone can provide information on his father **FRED A. TRAVALENA, JR., THE RAILSPLITTERS.** Write to Fred at: 4515 White Oak Place, Encino, California 91316.

**CHRISTOPHER C. McEWAN, 101ST AIRBORNE, 501ST INFANTRY REGIMENT,** would like pictures of the Battle of the Bulge for his scrapbook. If you have some pictures you would be willing to have copies made of for Christopher, drop him a note, he will be glad to reimburse you for costs. Write to him at: 3480 Vallejo Court, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80918.

**300TH ENGINEER "C" BATTALION**—we received their reunion notice too late for inclusion in the last *Bulge Bugle*. Anyone interested in learning how their April reunion in Austin, Texas, turned out, please drop **EARNST C. YOUNG** a note at: Route 1, Box 120D, Dale, Texas 78616.

New member **JACK BORNHOLDT** would like to receive information regarding the defense of Wiltz (December 16-19) and of the DEFENSE PLATOON, HEADQUARTERS, HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 28TH DIVISION. Write to Jack at: P.O. Box 37, Avoca, Iowa 51521.

**MARY E. ARTHUR (nee Hill), 135TH GENERAL HOSPITAL,** would like to hear from anyone who remembers her as a result of their association with the 135th Hospital in Leominster, England, during the BoB. Mary was a tall, Yank nurse—quiet, smiley, auburn hair, blue eyes, with freckles. Write to her at: Episcopal Apartments, #107, 101 North Prince Street, Shippensburg, Pennsylvania 17254 or call 717-532-7313. She would love to hear from you.

**EDWARD A. HILTON, 90TH DIVISION, 35TH INFANTRY,** advises us that his zip code was wrong in the last newsletter. So if you wrote to Ed and your letter came back, please be advised that his address is: P.O. Box 265, Altmar, New York 13302.

**ROGER DURBIN, 10TH ARMORED DIVISION,** advises us that he recently spoke to an eighth grade class in his home town of Berkey, Ohio. He showed them two videos—one on the Battle of the Bulge and one on his division. [*Great, Roger, this goes a long way toward insuring that the young people of our society know the efforts that were expended to ensure the freedom this country enjoys.*]

**ZIG BOROUGH, 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION, 508 PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT,** advises us of his latest book *The Devil's Tale*. This is a collection of stories told by 137 people—all veterans of the 508 or patriots of the countries where this group fought. Cost of the publication is \$10.00 until April 15, 1992, write to Zig at: 105 Cambridge Avenue, Greenwood, South Carolina 29649.

**BRET CARROLL** writes that the company he worked for (Shell Oil) moved him around so much that he lost track of his buddies in the 390TH AAA AW BATTALION. Somebody drop him a note and let him know that you are still alive and kicking. Bret's address: 16581 Greenview Lane, Huntington Beach, California 92649.

**HERB FOWLE, 4TH DIVISION, 22ND INFANTRY, "F" COMPANY,** advises that he has published *The Men of The Terrible Green Cross*—456 pages of WW II action, history and nostalgia. The book can be ordered from Herb for \$19.95, including postage and handling, by writing to: Box 3175 - South Texas Haven, La Feria, Texas 78559.

The family of **MERLE JONES, TROOP A, 18TH CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON MECHANIZED,** would like to hear from anyone who can provide information regarding their dad or the group that he served with. Write to: Johnny W. Jones, 3290 East 56th, Hutchinson, Kansas 67502.

**WILLIE T. GREEN, 90TH INFANTRY DIVISION,** would like to hear from some of his buddies in that group. Write to Willie at: Route 4, Box 3322, Green Road, Sparta, Tennessee 38583-9034.

**JOE DEFRATES, 30TH INFANTRY DIVISION,** writes that there's not much about his division in *The Bulge Bugle*. Can somebody out there send us some information—we'll use it. [*Joe's stationery states that he is "The Chilli Man--World Champion."* If no one writes us about the 30th INFD, maybe Joe can send us his recipe.]

New member **NATHAN N. JOHNSTON, 99TH INFANTRY DIVISION,** would like to receive information regarding his division and also hear from members of the 99th. Write to Nathan at: 100 Madison Avenue, Ladson, South Carolina 29456.

**HERMAN POSCH, 17TH AIRBORNE,** writes to see if we can help him in his efforts to locate three men: **KARL RIEVE, ROBERT ELLINGTON, and ALBERT AUSTIN.** If you can help him locate these fellows write to him at: 2601 North Valley Road, Greenville, California 95947.

**EMILE PIRARD,** one of our Belgium comrades, has written to see if anyone can help him locate some one in the 1ST ARMY (under General Hodges), who worked on a water purification job in the Village of Verviers near Liege in October/November of 1944. [*I hope that's what he wanted--the letter was in French.*] If you can help, write to Emile: Rue de la Motte Chalancon 21, 4801 Stembert (Verviers), Belgium.

**BASIL R. LEWIS, 440TH AAAW BATTALION, 75TH INFANTRY DIVISION,** would like to know if some one can tell him how to replace his copy of the 75th Division history which was apparently lost in a move. If you can help write: 1337 North Broadway #9, Escondido, California 92026.

**RALPH SCHIP, 18TH CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON, 14TH CAVALRY GROUP,** would like to hear from anyone of his old group who did not attend the September, 1991, reunion. Also if any of you have had particularly good luck with a firm specializing in military reunion photos and booklets, let him know. Address: 10311 - 117th Place, N.E., Kirkland, Washington 98033. Telephone: 206-828-0350.

**HENRI HANNON** writes from Belgium that he is the Godfather of two soldiers' graves—one from the 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION and one from the 82ND AIRBORNE. He would like to receive the addresses for these groups so he can request information regarding their history. Write to Henri at: 11, Rue de la Trompette, 4680-Hermee-Oupeye, Belgium.

The 106TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION has published *The CUB of the Golden Lion: Passes in Review*, a compilation of stories from their magazine. It is available for \$15.00 members, \$25 non-members, from Sherod Collins, 448 Monroe Trace, Kennesaw, Georgia 30144 (404-928-3207).



## Battle of Bastogne

The yanks are retreating, has something gone wrong?  
Could it be that the Germans are still very strong?  
They appeared to be beaten, only a short while back,  
But here were our own lines beginning to crack!

Artillery, tanks, men, all headed due west,  
But determined to stand where our leaders thought best,  
T'was here that "Bastogne" had acquired great fame,  
Although 'ere this time few knew of her name.

Our armor ceased rolling, our men turned about,  
All frightened, but ready to hold off the kraut.  
This battle began, as we'll always remember,  
On the 22nd day in the month of December.

Though fully surrounded, our boys still had fight,  
Word spread that our "air force" would soon be in flight.  
Then a sudden roar, a thousand sparks filled the skies,  
Joy could plainly be seen in our men's weary eyes.  
They fought as a team, on the ground, in the air,  
With results in our favor, "success everywhere!"

It took plenty of gumption, guts and good sense,  
At a time when the battle seemed most tense,  
To prove to the Jerries that we were the boss,  
That we keep on fighting regardless of loss,  
For we're here not as liberators, but namely to defend  
Our "Honor and Freedom" which we value no end.

So, if ever you're fighting for something that's right,  
I'm certain that you will take special delight,  
In recalling the time when each man stood alone,  
and fought on to Victory, in the "BATTLE OF  
BASTOGNE."

By LOUIS H. COHEN  
625TH ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY

## VFW NEEDS PHOTOGRAPHS

The VFW magazine has contacted us to see if any of our members would have some photos from World War II they could use for upcoming stories about the 50th anniversary of WW II. They can use color and black and white, prints or slides--with as much detailed caption information as you can provide--i.e., when and where photo was shot; the unit pictured; individual names if available. They would like to keep the photos, but if you would like to have them back they will make a negative and return the originals within two weeks, **BUT YOU MUST LET THEM KNOW YOU WANT THEM BACK.** If you can help, send your photos to: Veterans of Foreign Wars, Attention: Gary L. Bloomfield, 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64111.

### CORRECTION

The February edition of *The Bulge Bugle* misidentified a member on page 4, picture 6. The gentlemen on the extreme left and identified as President Kuhn is really **JOSEPH J. BARVIR**, of the 87TH INFANTRY DIVISION.

Reprinted from  
The Washington Post  
March 16, 1992

## SCIENCE NOTEBOOK

### Archaeology: Kilroy Was Already There

**T**he habit of certain tourists who write their names on rocks or trees or even walls is not an example of modern decadence. According to Werner Eck of the University of Cologne, who reported to an international conference on Christian archaeology, it is a venerable tradition. Carved into the rock of the ancient Egyptian town of Abu Simbel, for example, are Greek graffiti dating from the 6th century B.C. According to a

recently compiled catalog, 4,829 graffiti have been found on or near religious shrines to which visitors flocked in Egypt from the 3rd century B.C. to the late Roman era.

At a popular resting spot on the trail from Palestine to the Catherine Monastery in the Sinai peninsula, Eck reported, the rocks bear at least 263 inscriptions that are Greek, Latin and Nabatean versions of "Kilroy was here."

— Boyce Renabarger

### World War II Remembered 1941: A WORLD AT WAR

The Postal Service's first of five treasured keepsake albums which are planned to commemorate the important events of World War II is now available. The first volume contains: (1) Two 10-stamp WW II miniature sheets, of stamps dedicated to ten of the most important events of the war in 1941, and (2) a striking, 44-page, hardbound album filled with dramatic illustrations and riveting text around that first war year.

#### Volumes 2 through 5

1942: INTO THE BATTLE

1943: TURNING THE TIDE

1944: ROAD TO VICTORY

1945: VICTORY AT LAST

The Battle of the Bulge stamp

will be in 1944: ROAD TO VICTORY

To order you can call toll free: 1-800-STAMP-24 (Operator 570). The price is \$15.95 postage paid, or get them from your local Post Office. Submitted by Bill Tayman, chairman of the VBOB Postage Stamp Committee.

### PRAYER

**A**LMIGHTY and most merciful Father, we humbly beseech Thee, of Thy great goodness, to restrain these immoderate rains with which we have had to contend. Grant us fair weather for Battle. Graciously hearken to us as soldiers who call upon Thee that armed with Thy power, we may advance from victory to victory and crush the oppression and wickedness of our enemies and establish Thy justice among men and nations. Amen.

Prayer of General Patton's Chaplain  
for 3rd Army Troops in Bulge





## THE VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

AND

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### PRESENT: D-DAY TO THE RHINE

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A 14-DAY PACKAGE WHICH STARTS IN LONDON AND VISITS THE NORMANDY D-DAY SITES, ST. LO, PARIS, REIMS, OPERATION MARKET-GARDEN, THE RHINE CROSSING POINTS PLUS ALL THE KEY SITES OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE.

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## THE POOR OLD FELLOW The Tale of the "Ruptured Duck"

*[The following story and cartoon was extracted from the newsletter of the 17TH AIRBORNE DIVISION.]*

**Question:** What is a Ruptured Duck?

**Answer:** "Ruptured Duck" is the nickname given in World War II to the lapel button for honorable military service between the years from September 8, 1939, to December 31, 1946.

The lapel button was designed for the War Department in the 1920's by Anthony de Francisci in consultation with the Fine Arts Commission.

The design consists of an eagle perched within a ring displaying seven white and six red vertical stripes and on a blue background, the words, "National Defense." The right wing of the eagle is behind the ring, the left wing is in front of the ring.

The first lapel buttons were made of cellulose acetate. A blue plastic model was made when metal was scarce—this design eliminated former colors and the words "National Defense." When metal was no longer scarce, the button was made of gold-plated brass. Veterans could exchange the plastic model for the gold-plated brass.

As of December 20, 1946, the lapel button was named "Honorable Service Lapel Button."

It is thought the phrase "Ruptured Duck" was coined by some who thought the eagle resembled an injured bird. But both the origin and the originator of the phrase are unknown. GI's continue to refer to the emblem, however, as a "Ruptured Duck."

## 'Ruptured Duck' was military award for service





**Living  
Legends**

# **Memorable Bulge Incidents**

**UNEDITED AND  
HERETOFORE UNPUBLISHED**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **HOW TO WEAR A FOXHOLE**

**December 17, 1944**

**Hugh B. "Ben" Rous**  
**81mm Mortar Platoon**  
**Headquarters Company**  
**2nd Battalion**  
**506 Parachute Infantry Regiment**  
**101st Airborne Division**  
**Nekoosa, Nebraska**

On December 17, 1944, we were enjoying our time out of combat, at camp Mourmeiom, France, where we had arrived November 27, after spending 70-odd days in combat in Holland, better known as Operation Market Garden.

In the 20 days we had been in camp, I don't recall that we received any new replacements to fill our ranks, and I'm sure our 81mm mortars were not back from ordinance.

At any rate, we were happily looking forward to getting reveling "passes to Paris," when indeed word came down of the German breakthrough in the "Bulge," and we got free tickets to Belgium--and back to the meat grinder! What a "trade-off!"

The next day, December 18th, we loaded into open cattle trucks, where according to my memory, we couldn't all sit down, and we rode and rode, and rode, in the cold, cold, fresh air. As darkness came on, the unending convoy of trucks, as far ahead and as far behind as we could see, turned all lights full on, and continued full speed ahead--we were beginning to think we were on a desperate errand, and we thought about the few rounds (about five rounds of rifle ammunition per man) of ammo we had been issued, and wondered where any more would come from. I don't recall that we had any mortars, or mortar ammo at all. Anyway, in this fashion we finally passed a town or two where the boys on the "outside" saw German vehicles and equipment, and some Germans.

Sometime after dark we arrived at an area somewhere outside of Bastogne, so stiff and cold we could barely move--but move we did, and walked to an area where we set up a defense for the night.

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

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

I don't recall if it was that night, or the next morning while we were moving on to a more desirable defence position, but glory be--there sat a jeep in our path, loaded to the hilt with rifle and machine gun ammunition! We felt almost human again! And yes, later on we came upon our mortars, and some ammo for them, too. Now we were really in business.

Well, we dug mortar emplacements, and fox holes, covered the latter with logs, and covered the logs with dirt, so hopefully the artillery shells wouldn't penetrate. We were about two miles outside of Bastogne, and as I recall, we stayed pretty close to this position until January 3rd. We had a lot of artillery shelling coming in some of the time, and we found those first days, the only airplanes that flew were our own, but with no markings--the Germans had them! They also had English-speaking Germans riding around in jeeps and vehicles, with U.S. uniforms and it all sure was confusing--got so we had to forget pass words, and ask questions about the world series, or football teams, or whatever would work.

The weather remained cloudy and dark until December 23rd, when the sun came out, and in the afternoon, here came our airplanes darkening the sky as they dropped supplies to us! How "lucky" could we get? Well, as we retrieved the bundles, first we cut up the bag material and wrapped our feet in it, to help keep our feet warm--then we proceeded to take care of the supplies and the ammunition we so sorely needed. How great it was to have warm feet!

Of course, along with the clear weather, we now had air support--P51's, P 47's, P 38's. Things surely were looking up! We felt we could endure most anything now--we had supplies, ammunition, and air support.

On December 24th, the German artillery was very quiet, so we decided to trim a Christmas tree, and ran around picking up any bright colored bits we could find--mostly the chaff that our airplanes dumped out to foul up enemy radar. Then we had to have something to represent presents, so we used ration boxes, full or empty, made no difference, and of course we even used a couple of nice live mortar shells. Through all of this, we were not bothered by artillery--they were saving it all to give to us for Christmas presents.

Well, we surely enjoyed December 24th, and in the



afternoon a fellow from regimental headquarters came, bringing a photographer who took a couple pictures of our handy work and a bunch of us from the mortar platoon.

These pictures show quite well how we wrapped our feet with the bag material. I don't recall just when, but sometime later we did get some winter footwear to help avoid frostbite and also some warmer clothing. Talk about being lucky! What a blessing.



December 14, 1944--two miles from Bastogne  
Kneeling l. to r.: Ben Rous, Wilford Grant, Stanley Hagerman, Jim O'Leary.  
Standing l. to r.: John Joyal, Wyndell Russell, Charles Roeser, D. K. Hardin, Nick Blahon, Joe MacKorn, K. Chidden and Norman Jorgenson(?), Lincoln Keeler, Joe Trujillo, Harry Gibson, Steve Mikhok. Far right in overcoat, fellow from Regimental Headquarters who brought the photographer.

Finally, on the morning of January 3rd, 1945, we moved out and advanced toward Foy and Noville. There we had started digging mortar emplacements and foxholes, when suddenly I dived head first into my foxhole. Don't recall ever going in head first before, but I'm sure thankful I did because I took a fragment from a screaming meemie through the calf of my leg, later described as a 2-1/2 x 6-1/2" wound--so I sure am glad it wasn't my neck sticking out of that foxhole! I remember Sgt. Peterson cranking on a phone and requesting a vehicle--though it seemed we hadn't seen any for days, there came one to evacuate me to Bastogne to the Aid Station. Later that day an ambulance took several of us to a hospital where they operated on my leg, and later was moved to a Hospital in or near Paris--(My pass to Paris!).

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### THE NIGHT MICKEY DID NOT GET SHOT

December 17, 1944

Ralph Schip  
18th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron  
Kirkland, Washington

The overall tenor of experiences during a period of combat can often be encapsulated in the recounting of a very short term, specific experience, which by its intensity can be vividly recalled in fine detail, even after 45 years.

The title of this vignette, if it needs one, is "The Night Mickey Did Not Get Shot."

Troop "E" was a compact, close-knit group, a "fighting machine" of very diverse men who had been "fine-tuned" by our leader Capt. "Pappy" Meadows.

Our M-8 assault guns were veritable, mechanized armories, when consideration is given to all the extra armament we managed to acquire by devious means. The assigned equipment consisted of a 75 Howitzer 50 cal. machine gun, bazooka, rifles and grenades of all types. In addition to all this, each GI had his own personal preference as to what was needed to do the job at hand. My "extra" weapon, and pride and joy, was a Thompson sub-machine gun, the old "Chicago Typewriter" complete with Cutts-compensator and the whole show. (None of those crazy "grease-gun" plumbers' friends for me!)

I did have to be content with ammunition clips rather than the original style drum. Possibly the Chicago hood who turned the particular gun in for the war effort forgot to include this drum. Anyway, it was a considerable comfort to be able to "hose-down" an area, at night when some unidentified noise or movement, real or imagined, came within the short range of the 45 slugs. I believe the statute of limitations has run its course and I could not now be prosecuted, but I'm not ready, yet, to admit exactly how I acquired this unauthorized weapon.

Anyhow, to make a short story long, one of the accepted functions of mechanized cavalry was to act as "rear guard" when such was needed. To this end, we were assigned the duty of entrenching at a road intersection as "rear guard" while a large number of vehicles and personnel of an armored division task force withdrew and formed a new defense line further to the west. It was then our assigned duty to interdict and delay the onrushing Krauts, emboldened by victory, Schnapps and whatever else was imbibable (pre-crack).

It is a major understatement to say that it was considerably unnerving to watch all this armor and heavy equipment proceeding away from the direction of battle. Unfortunately, such are the fates of combat. Finally, about dusk, the last vehicle had rumbled by, leaving only our "compact, close-knit, fighting machine" to greet and "entertain" the Krauts whenever they elected to make their move.

At dusk, it was decided that no one was to move at night. Also, it was concluded that a verbal challenge would be answered by a potato-masher into the open tank turret or a burst of burp-gun fire. Accordingly, it was decided that the orders of the night were to fire first and ask only afterward.

Ground fog hung close to the snow covered ground. The thick, icy fog alternately lifted and settled, creating all sorts of imagined movement to whoever was on watch. During the bone chilling cold and spine-tingling suspense of a very long night, I was seated on the tank commander's seat in the open turret, wrapped in three GI blankets while on my duty shift, with my trusty Thompson to my right and below on a shelf. About 3:00 a.m., as the fog lifted ever so slightly, a lone figure suddenly materialized close in front of me. I



reached frantically for the Thompson, but the carrying strap caught on a latch or projection and I was running out of time to deal with the moving figure. This left the only viable action of a verbal challenge, "Who's There?"

From out of the mist materialized a hoarse whisper, "It's me, Mickey. What time is it?"

I never did ask Mickey why he left his foxhole at such great risk to find out what time it was. Nor did I ever tell him how very close he came to being a statistic and how narrow the margin was between vividly remembered experience and grim tragedy. The very next morning I removed both the stock and carrying strap and thereafter fired the Thompson from the hip.

So, Mickey, if you are still out there, here's the story, much too late. Also, if you have not yet purchased a watch, maybe it's time to give some serious thought to such a purchase, and "don't leave home without it." Your very life may depend on it.

I have lost contact with all but a half dozen guys from this great compact, close-knit fighting machine and would surely like to hear from any others out there.

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## 2D ID TDs KILL 6 PANZERS

December 17, 1944

Harold L. Hoffer  
Reconnaissance Company  
644th Tank Destroyer Battalion  
2nd Infantry Division  
Nappanee, Indiana

At about 1500 hours on 17 December, 1944, as C.O., Reconnaissance Company, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, attached to the 2nd Infantry Division, First Army, I noticed a motorized column moving from east to west through the town of Bullingen, Belgium. Our Command post was located at the south edge of Krinkelt, some two miles from the column which appeared to contain U.S. Army and German vehicles.

I sent a platoon led by S/Sgt. Edward Patterson toward Bullingen to determine the make up of the column, report the information by radio and to return to Krinkelt. Sgt. Patterson (his battle field commission had not yet been effected) led his platoon to Bullingen, and, from the basement of the Ruaw Hotel, reported the column to be German (12th Panzer Division). Communications with the platoon terminated during the early morning hours of December 18th. I learned from Patterson after the war that he and his one section were lined up outside the hotel and were about to be shot by German troops, when a German major stopped the proceedings. They did shoot our medic named Goldberg. Patterson's other section escaped during the night and returned to Krinkelt.

In the early evening hours of December 17th, several German tanks moved into the south edge of Krinkelt, halted at the church which appeared to be a key artery some 100 yards from our command post, a typical two story rural dwelling. The Panthers proceeded to shoot up our exposed

reconnaissance vehicles and knock out communications. Although several of our men jumped into our M20s and attempted to fire their 50 calibre machine guns at the Panthers, I ordered them out of the vehicles just before the 75's destroyed the vehicles. (Sgt. Tony J. Diagiacomia)

So went the night, the bright German very-pistol light, the quiet winter coldness, the uncertainty, the Germans strolling the streets from house to house. The company was divided, half in a small dwelling mentioned and half in a similar dwelling just across the narrow street. We saw no other American soldiers and I was informed by our battalion C.O., Lt. Col. Ephriam F. Graham, Jr., that we were very much alone in Krinkelt. Col. Graham ordered that we not expose ourselves during the night but to await the morning. No one slept. I spent most of the night on the second floor of the command post with Cpl. Monroe S. Block as my runner. Several German soldiers entered the house across the street where half of our company was located but our troops remained concealed and the Germans shortly came back into the street. Sometime during the night, a Panther tank shot the corner off the room in which I was standing. I was hit in the mouth with a piece of brick or stone but no one was otherwise injured. At about 0500 hours, the Germans noisily prepared and ate their breakfast, seemingly confident that no American GI's were anywhere near. Then they climbed into their Panthers and moved back east.

At the first morning light on December 18th, I ordered all nearby houses searched for the enemy and we started preparing breakfast. All company officers were eating breakfast of pancakes together in the living room of the C.P. we had spent the night in. Suddenly, I heard a rumbling and looked through the lace curtains of the living room window and saw at least six Panther tanks moving to and past the church from the east. All bedlam broke out and I remember yelling, "Here they come--let's get them." Everyone was in motion as trained, including the cooks, grabbing bazookas and ammunition, grenades, rifles, etc. I grabbed a bazooka and shouted to a cook to grab ammunition to load for me as I scrambled out the back door. Just outside the door sat a rumbling Panther not more than ten feet from the door. It was so close that I was apprehensive that firing the bazooka this close might injure our troops so I moved some 20 feet away and at an angle facing the side of the Panther. Our first shot from the bazooka glanced off the area between the tracks, the most vulnerable area. From a slightly different angle, the second projectile glanced off the Panther. The Panther then spun completely around and came rumbling directly for the cook and myself. We were near a rectangular building and we sprinted for its protection. On it came, firing. We sprinted around the opposite end and stopped. The tank also stopped, poked its long barrel into the side of the building and fired. We heard the motors again rev up and seek us out. We completely circled the building with the Panther in hot pursuit again, when I spied a stone wall across a small road where we could find shelter. I yelled for the cook to follow me behind the wall and we could hear that the tank



had other problems because we could hear bazooka shells exploding and the Panther was knocked out. I looked from behind the wall and saw one of our jeeps which the Panther had run over in its chase. The jeep was not more than one foot high now.

Then I heard other firing and explosions and sought our company exec. officer Lt. Robert Parker. I found him hunting more bazooka ammunition, blood streaming down his face and neck. He raced back into the loft of a barn and continued firing his bazooka. Shortly, the noise and excitement stopped and we began to take stock of the situation. We had knocked out six German Panthers and their crews and learned later that this action had saved two infantry battalions and a regimental headquarters. Lt. Parker received the Distinguished Service Cross for his gallantry in this action.

I located Lt. Col. Graham at the battalion CP at Wirtzfeld and he ordered the company be brought back to Wirtzfeld as soon as possible. He had had a long night and had given our company up for lost.

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#### TWINS MEET IN BERG, BELGIUM

December 17, 1944

Gerald Hoffer

Headquarters

644th Tank Destroyer Battalion

2nd Infantry Division

Nappanee, Indiana

At the time of Hof's excitement in Krinkelt-Rocherath, Belgium, I was the battalion motor officer in Sourbrodt, several miles west of Krinkelt. I was living in a nice three story home. The 20 mechanics were replacing M10 engines, when required, in freezing cold--outdoors. I still do not know how they did it.

On the morning of 17 December I was nonchalantly delivering a vehicle to our company in Krinkelt. Just west of town, I was unable to proceed as GI vehicles clogged the road as far as I could see to the east. The drivers were all prone with weapons pointed toward Krinkelt and, for the first time, I knew that the Germans had broken through and that Harold was surrounded. It was a terrible fear as I returned to the battalion headquarters to inform the colonel.

The next morning in Berg, Belgium, who walked in with a puffed lip? Harold--Thank God! What an experience he had. I will always have a high regard for all of those 644 heroes who were eye-ball to eye-ball with the Krauts, fighting for their lives, and their buddies lives during those terrible days.

*[Note: Gerald and Harold are twin brothers.]*

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#### 106TH ENGINEERS FIGHT BACK

December 1944

W. E. Stewart

A Company

81st Engineer Combat Battalion

#### 106th Infantry Division

Petersburg, Virginia

On 12 December we relieved the 2d Division which had been on line for sometime. They said it was a piece of cake and they were right; it was. But on 16 December 1944 the bottom dropped out. I was on a detail to go up to the front to clear snow from the road so the infantry could get by. We went in 2-1/2 ton trucks, no top, with a ring-mount 50 caliber on the cab top. We met the German advanced party of the 294th Regiment in a column of about battalion strength.

The road was narrow and we had to turn around. We were surprised and took fire in the windshield until we could get turned around. We shot back from the rear of the truck and took the 50 caliber, which couldn't go 180° and remounted it on sand bags over the tailgate. I was firing my M-1 just to lend to the fire power. We had been lulled into a sense of security, then to meet the enemy head on was really a shock.

When we got back to the division there was pandemonium. We were told to dig in but we had only a little ammo. So we fought for a while until a German self-propelled gun literally blew us out of our positions. In the dusk and confusion, me and three others took shelter in the loft of a barn. We watched the Germans advance around us, but we stayed put until the following evening. Talk about scared. We could keep track of what was happening by peeping out of the cracks.

I had dysentery, and while hiding in the barn I didn't want to foul my hiding place, so I had the other two guys with me hold me out the window. I remembered how scared I was thinking some German might shoot me in the backside. I don't remember the names of the other guys with me but one of them was my foxhole buddy for a little time afterwards. We were afraid if we were caught we would be killed.

The following evening, about 10:00 o'clock we left the barn and headed through the woods to St. Vith, where we linked up with remnants of other units. That was scary. I was a city boy and didn't have a compass or much knowledge about the woods, so we just kept the sounds of battle behind us. We had M-1's, the clothes on our backs and very little ammo. The whole battalion had just gotten a basic issue of ammo, but M-1 ammo was scarce and bazooka rounds didn't exist.

We were rounded up by some U.S. officers and formed into a rag-tag unit to defend the roads leading to St. Vith. There were about 200 of us. A few days later I was pulled out of my foxhole and given some hot food and clean clothes. I hadn't showered or changed for two weeks. It was at that time the medics found I had frostbitten hands and feet, so I was evacuated. I hadn't felt my feet for days, but there had been other things to worry about--the enemy and dysentery from spoiled rations.

I was medically evacuated to England, was treated, and returned to my division, or what was left of it.



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**CHRISTMAS SERVICES,  
ARMED TO THE TEETH**

**December 24, 1944**

**George E. McAvoy  
149th Armored Signal Company  
9th Armored Division  
Littleton, New Hampshire**

Our division was on the line spread out the full length of the Luxembourg border with Germany when the attack began. The three combat commands were assigned in different areas covering close to one hundred miles. Our company was to supply communications between these combat commands and headquarters and as a result our company was also spread out over this whole area.

On December 24th we were ordered to withdraw and regroup at a town called Fratin, Belgium. I was one of the lucky ones who arrived during daylight and we were taken in by a farmer and his family on the edge of the small town. The ones arriving after dark had to find whatever shelter they could and bed down there, mainly in sheds and barns.

This town had been freed from the Nazis just a few months before and for the first time in five years they were planning a gala Christmas Eve midnight service. The Germans had forbidden these services over the past five years. When we withdrew into the community the CO forbid any activity at night which included the midnight mass. Apparently the parish priest was very persuasive as he finally received approval to hold the mass but with the warning that the guards would shoot at any light showing. When we heard that there was going to be a midnight service we decided that we would like to go. All those that were not on duty, there were no atheists that night, attended the service. We all figured that the Good Lord had been good to us so far and it wouldn't hurt to ask Him for a little more help.

Imagine attending a Christmas Eve service armed to the teeth. Combat dress and equipment was never made to fit into a church pew. It was very embarrassing in a lot of ways. We had to find some place to put our rifles and carbines, mainly laying them on the floor under the pews and occasionally one would slip on the hardwood and crash to the floor. Nobody seemed to notice. We also took off our helmets and placed them on the floor under the pews and the people sitting in front would occasionally bring their feet back under the pew and kick the helmet so that it would spin along the wooden floor. It was the noisiest service I ever attended but the sense of comfort, well-being and safety was amazing. The church was jammed and all of us took the seats in the back of the church.

We noticed that the young boys up in the choir stall were giggling and laughing and seemed like kids anywhere. The service was in French and a memorable one. The church was a good size and there wasn't an open seat in the place. It was a very devout service and everyone in that congregation was well aware of what was just a few miles away.

When the service ended we left the church and a Junkers 88, flying just above the housetops, went over us with the right engine on fire. It was a full moon and the plane passed the moon and we had a clear sight of the two pilots in the blister fighting to get control of that aircraft. We did not hear it crash.

The following morning, Christmas Day, we found out why the choir boys were giggling and laughing. One of our crews, arriving after dark, had found the church door open and the men had gone into the church, thrown their bedrolls down around the altar, and had gone to sleep. The priest, when he arrived, saw the men and figured that he would not disturb them since they were probably exhausted. These six men were asleep around the altar when the service began.

The men were relating their feelings about all of this and it was a riot. One fellow said that he heard the organ and immediately thought, "I've bought it!" He pulled the zipper down on his bedroll and there were the choir boys all giggling and laughing. All of them agreed that "It was the longest service that they had ever slept through."

Of the four Christmas days spent in the service this was by far the most memorable.

**WE NEED YOUR STORY!**

**If you haven't sent in your story yet, please do so. We only have enough for a few more issues and we don't want to run out.**

Many of stories that have arrived lately have been stories regarding divisions, regiments, units, etc. We will keep these for future feature stories, but what we want for this column is **your** story of a specific time that **you** remember as being **your "most memorable incident"** of the Battle of the Bulge.

**So get your pencils out and get busy, we're anxious to receive your story.**

**Send it to:**

**VBOB**

**P.O. Box 11129**

**Arlington, Virginia 22210-2129**

***Check your mailing label...***  
**DOES IT SHOW THAT**  
**YOUR DUES ARE DUE??**



# BATTLE OF THE BULGE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

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

## PROGRESS REPORT



Several major initiatives are currently being undertaken by the Foundation. The first is the development of the conceptual design for the battle of the Bulge Memorial Conference Room in the new location of the Fort Meade Museum. The centerpiece of this room will be a conference table made of lumber from the Ardennes Battle of the Bulge area in Belgium. LTC Roger Hardy, 5th Belgian Fusiliers, has agreed to research this project. He states that the Belgians are most honored to be able to participate in some way in the Memorial Conference Room. Upon consultation with furniture makers (joiners) in the Ardennes area, it is suggested that the oak lumber of the Stavelot region would be both beautiful and durable for this purpose. These plans will be reviewed by the Board.

The Battle of the Bulge collection of written materials, U.S. Army Military History Institute, is growing rapidly, thanks to the continual contributions of personal and unit histories from the veterans as well as from surviving family members. All of you are urged to send, to the Foundation, materials you would like to have preserved such as letters, diaries, photos, maps and photos. All items are sorted and listed according to military unit by Foundation historians. After proper preparation, this important history is then personally delivered to the Institute. By mid-April over 500 more articles will be donated to the Institute. (Three hundred items were donated in December, 1991.)

Planning for the Foundation Dinner Gala is well underway. This formal event will be held Tuesday, December 15, 1992, at the Fort Meade Officers' Club. Exciting ideas for the Gala are being explored. It will be a time to reminisce with friends and to remember those unforgettable events of 48 years ago. Full details in the next issue of *The Bugle*--in the meantime MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR "THE RED LETTER DAYS," December 15 and 16, 1992!!

A special thanks to Robert P. Keehan for donating his time in the preparation of the following financial report. His efforts are very much appreciated.

### ROBERT P. KEEHAN

Certified Public Accountant  
8504 Greywood Road  
Bethesda, Maryland 20817  
301-530-8635

#### Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation, Inc. Income Statements

For Year ended 12/31/90 and Period from 5/20/89 to 12/31/89

Income	12/31/90	5/20/89-12/31/89
Contributions	\$11,986	\$21,642
Interest income	1,670	1,132
Special Event	1,354	—
Total	\$15,010	\$22,774

#### Expenses

Fund raising--Professional fees	\$21,000	\$ 9,000
Fund raising--expense	1,505	10
Administration:		
Office supplies/equipment maintenance	946	910
Typing	540	
Insurance	319	(163)
Postage	461	337
Telephone	231	195
Meetings and other	58	52
Total	\$25,060	\$10,341

Excess Income or (Deficit) **\$10,050** **\$12,433**

#### Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation, Inc. Balance Sheets

12/31/90 and 12/31/89

Assets	12/31/90	12/31/89
Cash		
Unrestricted	\$13,838	\$24,873
Restricted	5,000	5,000
Deposits for Special Event	9,367	4,676
Total	\$28,205	\$34,549
Property and equipment	\$ 6,984	\$ 5,999
Advance payment and design concept	5,000	5,000
Total	\$40,189	\$45,548
Liabilities and Net Worth		
Special Event commitment	\$ 9,367	\$ 4,676
Net Worth	30,822	40,872
Total	\$40,189	\$45,548

The Notes to Financial Statement are on file at the VoBHF office and are available upon request.



# OUR BATTLE OF THE BULGE

By Andrew Doddington

National World War II Historical Reenactment Federation

A young soldier peers through the trees carefully surveying the scene before him. An eerie silence envelopes this misty patch of woods where death may be waiting behind any tree. After taking a few tentative steps forward, he crouches while listening for the tell-tale sounds of enemy presence--faint muffled voices, the dull metallic clank of ammo cans and weapons, the click of a machine gun as its feed cover is being closed.... All appears to be normal as he moves forward signalling his men to follow. This line of grey-green clad German soldiers emerges from the tree line--their only obstacle a narrow dirt road lining the base of a small wooded hill. Quickly bolting across the road to what appears to be relative safety, these men are unaware of the trap that awaits them at the top of this insignificant hill.

The sound of distant firing causes the briefest hesitation but they trudge on hoping to rest after reaching the top. A few more steps were taken when suddenly a shot comes from their left felling one man and scattering the others throughout the brush. The top of the hill erupts in a frenzy of fire. Men huddle in the tall thin grass as the earth is churned up around them by the lethal hail of bullets that streams down from above. A German machine gun bursts into action with its characteristic rrrrrrrrrrrrrriipppp as bullets are sprayed towards the top of the hill at an unbelievable rate. Immediately an American machine gun answers trying to silence this threat and keep the enemy pinned down. Grenades are flying both directions in a deadly game of hide and seek with unsuspecting victims who haven't been lucky enough to have found a hole in the ground--some small fold or hollow that might shield a person from the deadly shrapnel that fills the air.

A whistle blows a few short blasts signalling the Germans to charge the summit. Obediently, they obey and rise to start their surge forward all the time knowing that they might be cut down at any moment. Another machine gun at the top of the hill joins the slaughter as the Germans advance. Every American has had to reload his weapon at least once to help repel this very determined assault. They pour down a withering fire that surely no man can survive. The German leader gives his men the command to keep moving and exposes himself for a second too long. Suddenly he grabs at his chest which has been pierced by several well-aimed bullets. He falls to the ground--dead before he even hits. Another whistle blows and those Germans still left alive try to disengage from this action that has already cost them so many of their number. The firing slows as the last surviving Germans have been thrown from this hill that five minutes before seemed so unimportant and peaceful.

American soldiers remain in their positions atop the hill not knowing what still remains of the enemy. Through the smoke they can see the many casualties that litter the hill

from top to bottom. Many of their own men are wounded or killed as well. The toll was heavy for both sides this morning.

**BUT WAIT!!** The casualties are all standing up. Both American and German casualties are saying to each other "What a fire fight guys--you did a hell of a job! Now get back to your units before you get left behind." The German squad leader who was so brutally killed a few minutes before is busy brushing off his uniform and complimenting the U.S. commander on the way his men handled themselves. The "casualties" remove their helmets to show that they are out of action (dead). Another engagement awaits on the next hill though....

This was typical of the day we had on January 18, 1992, at Ft. Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania. We of the WW II Historical Preservation Federation held our annual Battle of the Bulge reenactment. At an event that had over 400 participants as well as a very special group--some of the veterans from the real Battle of the Bulge. Stan Wojtusik (President of the Delaware Valley Chapter of VBOB) and several chapter members from the Philadelphia area as well as a few other VBOB members were our honored guests for this weekend.

After the battle which lasted approximately 6 hours they told us that we were better than anything they had seen for a long time. They said that we looked, acted, and performed like soldiers from WW II. They seemed amazed as the battle flowed around them on all sides. Our people acted like the veterans were part of the terrain--something to be expected. It didn't bother us to have a big orange jacket in the middle of this. We wanted to perform for them as best we could. They were indeed our honored guests. For all you veterans out there who think that nobody cares about what you did during the war--I'm glad to say you are wrong. Some of us younger folks (I'm 27) have more than a passing interest in history. We have made it our hobby to preserve it every way we can. We read books religiously, watch documentaries, collect uniforms, weapons, and equipment from all sides. We have people who are interested in U.S., British, and/or German items from the era. People ask me why I haven't joined the army since I'm so interested in it. I tell them that if I could join in 1942 I would!

Although I was a "German" for this event, I do several impressions as well. My main impression is in the Gross-deutschland Division (a Russian front infantry unit). I also do 101st or 82nd Airborne sometimes. This June in Virginia, I will be either 1st or 4th Infantry Division for a D-Day event on the 6th. The Army has promised us the use of landing craft for this one. Although no spectators are allowed at this event, I will be taking many pictures and I might submit a few to The Bulge Bugle--maybe with another short story. I do 3 or 4 events a year as well as several "living history" displays to help educate the public about the Second World War because WW II is the MOST important thing to me!!

[Andrew is a collector/historian and VBOB Member. You can write to him at: 7841-F Furnace Branch Road, Glen Burnie, Maryland 21060, or telephone 410-761-4913.]



## A Fusilier Remembers...

In the summer of 1943, I was summoned by the Germans to go and work in the war factories in Germany. I had just completed High School and as my school mates, aged also 18. I had received a convocation from the German Werbestelle, the Nazi organization in charge of the transfer of the young Belgians to Germany.

As I was born in January 1924, I was then 19 and sure that I would be transferred to Germany. So, on the fixed day, I did not call on the hated Werbestelle. Two reasons guided my decision: first, I did not want to contribute to the Nazi war efforts, secondly, because being in the Resistance since the 2nd of May 1942, I was to carry on with my functions in this secret army (sabotages, assistance to Jews and other persons fleeing the Nazis, fight against the German propaganda, etc.)

I knew that according to the German Martial law, a Belgian in my situation, that means refusing to go to Germany for working in the war factories, was considered as an enemy of the 3rd Reich and punished when captured. This punishment was the concentration camp. If discovered as being a member of the Resistance, the sentence was death. Therefore, I left my home and told my parents that I would let them know later where I was. I found a refuge in an isolated farm outside the village Templeuve and then started the long months of isolation, anxiousness, fear and decision to make the most harm to the Nazis.

My comrades (we were sometimes two or three in the refuges) and I used to change refuge every two or three weeks, avoiding to remain too long at the same place. I even went to a refuge at my uncle's (farmer) 60 miles in the south-east from my village for a month, but then I left hurriedly when we heard that I was discovered by the French Vichy Militia collaborating with the Germans.

My uncle's farm was located in France, near the Belgian border in a wooded area. I came back to Templeuve on a bicycle through small roads.

We received our food from the farmers and other friendly people. I knew a girl living in Froyennes, a little village 5 miles from Templeuve from the time I was in Tournai High School. She followed courses in the Music Academy of Tournai. Her name was Georgette Dhellin. When she heard that I was hidden, she tried to know where I was and decided to bring me some bread and sweets she cooked. I had much respect for this girl whose father was in Germany since 1940 as a French prisoner of war. She lived with her mother at the entrance of the village of Froyennes and had not seen her father since more than three years.

It was for me a great comfort to receive such care from her, but I always feared that she would be discovered by the Germans or Belgian collaborators when paying me a visit.

In June 1944, she saw an American Air Force bomber being shot down by German fighter aircraft in the sky above her village and a few minutes later an airman landing with his parachute in a nearby wheat field behind her house. She ran, took the American airman by the hand, as she did not speak English, and they both ran to her house. She and her

mother took care of him and her mother went to see the community secretary, as she knew he was connected with the Resistance. The secretary told her that she was to keep the airman in her isolated house until night and members of the Resistance would come and evacuate the airman. This was done and the young American (he was 19) was led to a safe place for return to England.

When I heard this, I became anxious for a while as I thought that maybe the Germans or Belgian traitors had observed the rescue in the wheat field. During the German occupation, assistance and rescue of Allied soldiers and airmen was punishable by death.

The town of Tournai was liberated by the 30th US Infantry Division on 3rd September 1944 morning, whereas my village, Templeuve (5 miles from Tournai) was freed the same morning by the British Reconnaissance Regiment Inns of Court of London. It is nearly impossible to describe the feeling of being again free, free to walk in the streets with no more anxiousness.

A few days later, I joined the 5th Belgian Fusiliers Battalion as a war volunteer. We had a rapid and hard training in Charleroi, Belgium. In December 1944, the 5th Fusiliers was transferred to the 1st US Army and took part in the operations against the German offensive during the Battle of the Bulge. In February 1945, the 5th Fusiliers entered in Germany and participated in the Allied final campaign. When the war ended on 8th May, the battalion was deployed along the Fulda and Werra rivers, whereas the Russians were just on the opposite river bank.

When I returned home from the war in July 1945, the girl who in the meantime had sent me some letters and cookies said she had been waiting for my return. Very well, I replied, we shall marry and I met her father who had already come back from Germany in May 1945. We married in June 1948.

## ...WWII Experiences

LTC (Ret.) Roger Hardy, 5th Belgian Fusiliers Battalion

Editor's Note: The airman, a B17 gunner, that Georgette saved, James Wagner from Pembroke, MA is still alive and returned to Froyennes last November with his wife and daughter.

Roger celebrates each year with the British Regiment of Reconnaissance Inns of Court of London the anniversary of the liberation of Templeuve.

Roger is looking forward to returning to the U.S. for the 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge.



Roger Hardy, Oct. 1944. Photo taken from his soldier's pay-book.



Roger and Georgette Hardy, Oct. 1991 celebration of the anniversary of the 5th Fusiliers Battalion.



## REUNIONS

**3RD ARMORED DIVISION**, September 8-13, 1992, Phoenix, Arizona. Contact: P.O. Box 61743, Phoenix, Arizona 85082-1743.

**5TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 2ND INFANTRY, ANTI-TANK COMPANY**, September 11-12, 1992, Lees Inn, Seymour, Indiana. Contact: Billy R. Hall, 10947 East Heywood Drive, Seymour, Indiana 47274. Telephone: 812-522-3161.

**5TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, September 4-7, 1992, Raddison Suite Hotel, Tucson, Arizona. Contact: Bradley Brewer, 5353 North Via Alcalde, Tucson, Arizona 85718. Telephone: 602-529-2680.

**7TH ENGINEER BATTALION**, August 7-9, 1992, Days Inn, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Contact: Charles H. Marks, 8234 Parkridge Drive, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46825. Telephone: 219-489-4265.

**7TH FIELD ARTILLERY**, September 17-19, 1992, Brunswick, Maine. Contact: Frank Ricci, 1 Carver Street, Mexico, Maine 04257. Telephone: 207-364-2724.

**9TH INFANTRY REGIMENT "MANCHU ASSOCIATION,"** July 15-18, 1992, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Contact: Ray Tarabusi, 19 Waterford Drive, Englewood, Florida 34223. Telephone: 813-475-6063.

**11TH ARMORED DIVISION ASSOCIATION**, August 19-23, 1992, Galt House Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky. Contact: 11th Armored Division Association, 2328 Admiral Street, Aliquippa, Pennsylvania 15001.

**17TH AIRBORNE DIVISION**, August 6-9, 1992, Marriott Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana. Contact: John Moore, 6203 Malloch Drive, Memphis, Tennessee 38119. Telephone: 901-683-3782.

**30TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION**, June 15-19, 1992, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Contact: 30th Infantry Division Association, 13645 Whippet Way, East, DelRay Beach, Florida 33484.

**35TH ENGINEER "C" BATTALION**, September 5-7, 1992, Butte, Montana. Contact: Milton Bruson, 2800 Yale, Butte, Montana 59701. Telephone: 406-494-7767.

**36TH DIVISION ASSOCIATION**, September 3-6, 1992, Adam's Mark Hotel, Houston, Texas. Contact: Carl P. Curry, 6119 Golden Forest Drive, Houston, Texas 77092. Telephone: 713-681-7171.

**75TH INFANTRY DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION**, July 20-26, 1992, Sheraton Hotel, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Contact: Jerry Merkel, Buchert R.D., Pittstown, Pennsylvania 19464.

**78TH DIVISION ASSOCIATION**, September 16-20, 1992, The Galt House, Louisville, Kentucky. Contact: Russ Breeden, P.O. Box 38, Leavenworth, Indiana 47137.

**80TH DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION**, August 12-16, 1992, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Crystal City, Virginia. Contact: Chuck Pomianek, 6232 - 53rd, N.E., Seattle, Washington 98115. Telephone: 206-523-0055.

**83RD INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION**, August 20-22, 1992, Holiday Inn Central Hotel, Omaha, Nebraska. Contact: Robert Derickson, 3749 Stahlheber Road, Hamilton, Ohio 45013-9102.

**84TH DIVISION "RAILSPLITTERS,"** August 8-13, 1992, Chattanooga Marriott Convention Center, Chattanooga, Tennessee. Telephone: 615-756-0002 or 1-800-727-7591.

**87TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION**, September 13-20, 1992, Toledo, Ohio. Contact: Dick Pierson, P.O. Box 2532-0532, Toledo, Ohio 43606.

**90TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION and Attached Units**, October 1-4, 1992, Holiday Inn-Central, Omaha, Nebraska. Contact: Carl W. Manuel, 1017 North 40th Street, Ft. Smith Arkansas 72904. Telephone: 501-783-6559.

**94TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION**, July 16-18, 1992, Omni Inter

Harbor Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland. Contact: Russell A. Cogar, 719 Pin Oak Road, Severna Park, Maryland 21146. Telephone: 301-647-3217.

**103RD COMBAT ENGINEER BATTALION, 38TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, June 18-20, 1992, Sheraton Northeast, Indianapolis, Indiana. Contact: Lewis Kelso, Route 1, Box 458-E-1, Fountain Town, Indiana. Telephone: 317-861-4821.

**109TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, 28TH DIVISION**, October 8-10, 1992, Buffalo, New York. Contact: James E. Robinson, S-3343 Carol Court, Blasdell, NY 14219. Telephone 716-823-6605.

**115TH and 196TH FIELD ARTILLERY**, August 7-9, 1992, Nashville, Tennessee. Contact: A. M. Heilman, 225 Crowfield Road, Knoxville, Tennessee 36922.

**179TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION ASSOCIATION**, September 10-13, 1992. Contact: James M. McCabe, 244 Burbank Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29210-7438. Telephone: 803-772-1827.

**254TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION**, September 11-13, 1992, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Contact: Earle Schwark, 8222 Stratford Drive, Parma, Ohio 44129. Telephone: 216-884-4323.

**285TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION ASSOCIATION**, October 1-5, 1992, Nashville, Tennessee. Contact: Walter R. Maxwell, 309 Brock Road, Springfield, Pennsylvania 19064. Telephone: 215-543-6666.

**285TH FIELD ARTILLERY OBSERVATION BATTALION**, August 21-23, 1992, Morgantown, Pennsylvania. Contact: Charles A. Hammer, 767 Pearl Avenue, Manheim, Pennsylvania 17545. Telephone: 717-665-4754.

**300TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION**, April 8-12, 1992, LaQuinta Motor Inn, Austin, Texas. Contact: Ernest C. Young, Route 1, Box 120D, Dale, Texas 78616.

**315TH ENGINEER BATTALION and 90TH INFANTRY DIVISION HEADQUARTERS COMPANY**, October 2-4, 1992, Holiday Inn-Central, Omaha, Nebraska. Contact: Wilson D. Midyett, 4426 Kinglet, Houston, Texas 77034. Telephone: 713-729-8360.

**328TH INFANTRY COMBAT TEAM**, October 16-18, 1992, Holiday Inn, Islip-MacArthur Airport, Long Island, New York. Contact: Bob V. Clapp, 208 Aspinwall Avenue, Brookline, Massachusetts 02146. Telephone: 617-566-7147.

**527TH ENGINEER, LIGHT PONTON CO.**, July 18-19, 1992, Fort Dodge, Iowa. Contact: Marion L. Munsinger, 402-9th Avenue, Eldora, Iowa 50627.

**630TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION**, June 25-28, 1992, Holiday Inn Executive Center, Virginia Beach, Virginia. Contact: Grover Burgess, Route #1, Box #162, Conway, South Carolina 27820.

**644TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION**, September 21-24, 1992, Jekyll Island, Georgia. Contact: Frank Arieta, 129 East Garibaldi Avenue, Nesquehoning, Pennsylvania 18240. Telephone: 717-669-9563.

**740TH TANK BATTALION**, September 3-6, 1992, Dallas, Texas. Contact: Harry F. Miller, 2150 - 6th Avenue North #102, Seattle, Washington 98109. Telephone: 206-283-8591.

**771ST FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, BATTERY "A,"** June 19-20, 1992, Holiday Inn, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Contact: Dwain L. Christofferson, 642 Suncrest Court, Sherrard, Illinois 61281. Telephone: 309-593-2240.

**808TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION**, September 23-26, 1992, New Tower Inn, Omaha, Nebraska. Contact: Chet Norwin, 32991 Pineview Court, Warren, Michigan 48093-1135.

**838TH ORDNANCE DEPOT COMPANY, THIRD ARMY**, July 31-August 2, 1992, Martinsville, Virginia. Contact: Bernard Kersting, 7912 Elmhurst Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21234-5506. Telephone: 410-668-3569.

**987TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION**, May 14-15, 1992, Ye English Inn, Hollister, Missouri. Contact: W. D. Crawford, Route 1, Box 526A, Ore City, Texas 75683.

(Continued on Page 27)



## WAR CORRESPONDENT NOW ASSOCIATE MEMBER RECALLS BULGE FOIBLES

William F. Boni, WWII Associated Press War Correspondent, is now an associate VBOB member of Tri-State Chapter. He lives in Chester, VT. Born in Holland, he was "encouraged" by his AP bureau chief to be "the first correspondent to enter Paris". Later he was "invited" to be the first into Brussels and then Holland, where he was born. So he went in by glider with the 101st ABD. He also covered the British and Canadians before being assigned to Spa, Belgium, US First Army headquarters; the 1st was between the Ninth to the north and Patton's Third to the south.

"A certain daily routine is established," Boni writes the BUGLE. "Correspondents pair up, two to a jeep, with a driver. (No escorting officer as the British and Canadians do it.) You are relatively free to go as far as your guts and your driver will take you. For the first week or so, there is not much change or major movement.

"Then, one afternoon in mid-December, there is a stirring, a restlessness, among HQ staff and correspondents when they meet for the customary briefing on events of the past 24 hours. This particular briefing is conducted by the G-2 colonel-in-charge. He works in front of a map, using a pointer. This day, oddly, he begins north of First Army's bailiwick, reports on several thrusts of German armor with infantry in the Ninth Army area east of Maastricht. His pointer moves down to the First Army positions. Again, two or three German penetrations. Finally, a correspondent speaks up. 'Colonel,' he asks, pointing toward the map himself, 'all these penetrations -- could we call this a counter-offensive?' The colonel, in the manner of his rank and duty, clears his throat several times, assumes a pensive manner, and finally says: 'Yes, I believe you could call it a counter-offensive.'

"Not yet the Bulge, but that's what it was a-borning; first just a counter-offensive. then von Rundstedt's counter-offensive, eventually (after von Rundstedt's forces had created it) the Bulge.

"Looking back now, I would say that was December 15. For it was the next day, the 16th, as now generally accepted for the start of the Bulge, that we came driving back into Spa late in the afternoon to meet a scene of almost total chaos. Jeeps and weapons-carriers were backed into doorways and onto lawns as staff people and correspondents tossed belongings together and prepared to move out. That night, my first that I can recall under blackout conditions, vehicles driving with only those little headlight slits, we were part of one column heading toward Liege while the other highway lane was just as chockablock with combat vehicles -- tanks, armored cars, artillery -- headed for the fight.



**Parked jeep is typewriter table for Bill Boni near Malmedy, Belgium.**

"We slept that night, for what little sleep there was, in a cold stone monastery that had been taken over, somewhere between Spa and Liege. It was to be our home, our base, for some nights to come.

"The Battle of the Bulge was on."

*(Editor's Note: Sounds like a typical rear-echelon flutter. How many miles from the front was Spa? It looks as if the First Army HQ was the only American unit to make a retrograde movement of this magnitude. Fortunately for the Army and the Nation, the rest of us were determined not to give real estate back to the Germans without a good fight. We hope to hear more from former war correspondent Boni on his adventures and the foibles of the rear echelon.)*

One liners excerpted from *Wits of War: Unofficial GI Humor-History of World War II*, written by **EDWIN J. SWINEFORD, 76TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 385TH INFANTRY, COMPANY B:**

•Doting mother to neighbor. "I'm so proud. Bill writes that he has just made a Court-martial."

•Heard in a provost marshal's office: "Hello, sit down, sergeant, get up corporal, good-by private."

•Heard from a paratrooper in Bastogne: "The Germans have got us surrounded, the poor bastards!"

•Think of the effect on morale if the tanks had been equipped with cushions.

**Overheard at a VBOB Executive meeting - Loyal and doting husband:** "My wife keeps saying that I don't listen to her - or something."



*We've extended  
our deadline!*

## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A VBOB MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY??

In the last issue of *The Bulge Bugle* we included the order form below to ascertain interest for a contemplated Directory of Membership. A sufficient number of orders has not as yet come in, so we are running this inquiry again in order that we do not disappoint those who have placed orders.

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 June 30, 1992.** (You will note this deadline has been extended.) 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 August 15, 1992. (We have also extended this deadline.)

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

## GUARD THOSE PRISONERS

STANLEY S. CZAHOR, 14TH CAVALRY GROUP, submitted the following regarding some very strange prisoners taken by his group near the Remagen Bridge: "We were billeted in a house which was also occupied by a Polish diplomat and a Russian girl. As I was able to speak Polish, the diplomat came to me and told us to bring a big truck and he would show us where there was something we would find of interest. The place was a sand and brick quarry, where the German owner had built a cellar underneath the garage. There we found them...."



*In round numbers, Lieutenant Richard P. MacDermott (left), of Wellington, Ohio, and other cavalymen of the 1st Army, captured 2,000. The prisoners were hiding under a garage floor. It will take about 2,000 Yanks to handle them. That's Stan Czahor on the right.*

"...thousands of bottles of wine, champagne, cognac, etc. The prisoners were quickly put under close surveillance by the 18TH AND 32ND RECONNAISSANCE GROUPS attached to the 14TH CAVALRY GROUP." It surely made watching the Remagen Bridge a little easier.

## UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIAL

It's kinda' nice once in a while to toot your own horn, but the reason for the following excerpt is not to do that—it's to let you know how very much YOUR STORIES are appreciated by your buddies.

*The following is extracted from a letter from JOHN B. SAVARD, 2ND INFANTRY DIVISION, 38TH INFANTRY, 2ND BATTERY, COMPANY G, and now from North Saint Paul, Minnesota:*

"Sir,

"About two years ago, I discovered the VBOB organization and I can't possibly describe the pleasure. I have received from membership in this great group. Since I have made a few small contributions to your publication 'The Bulge Bugle,' I have been contacted by four other members...one of which served in my battalion and another in my regiment. We have shared many memories and much information about our part in the battle..."

Thanks for your comments, John, and we welcome your valuable contributions.



## A CALL TO ACTION FOR POWs

The following are excerpts from an article which appeared in *The Washington Times* on Tuesday, March 31, 1992:

"...The first meeting between the American and Russian delegations had hardly begun when Gen. Dmitri Volkogonov, who leads the Russian side, announced that his government had found the graves of eight American POWs from World War II who died in the gulag. He said 70 to 78 POWs landed in the Soviet concentration camp system, but the accuracy of that statement is less important than confirmation of one elementary fact: The Red Army kidnapped Americans after World War II.

"...As archival documents and eyewitness accounts began to surface regularly, the pressure began building on the Bush administration and Congress to do something about it. Eventually, the Senate created the Select Committee on POWs and MIA Affairs, and Mr. Bush himself brought the subject up with Mikhail Gorbachev at their last summit, after which the successor government of Boris Yeltsin agreed to co-sponsor the U.S. Soviet commission. Thus did Mr. Toon travel to Moscow last week.

"...Having occupied most of Eastern Europe during World War II, the Red Army made off with some 20,000 Americans and 30,000 British it had 'liberated' from German POW camps. Gen. Volkogonov says the Red Army liberated about 22,000 American POWs, repatriating all but the 78 through the Black Sea Port of Odessa. American records, however, show that only 2,858 came back home via Odessa. That leaves 17,000 or so unaccounted for. What is the explanation for the disappearance of these men?

"...mission must focus on finding out how many Americans were actually taken, where they were held and whether any are still alive. The commission must also search for remains. ...the commission must also search for Americans who served in Korea and Vietnam, and any documents the commission uncovers should be released to the public.

"After that, U.S. officials must reveal the whole story about American prisoners in the Soviet Union. That means releasing documents that bear on what the U.S. military and intelligence agencies knew about POWs in the Soviet Union and whether they concealed that knowledge from the public. Then, our elected leaders must establish procedures to ensure it never happens again."

In this connection, the following article was written and provided to VBOB by an organization devoted to seeing that this matter is resolved:

### Abandoned American POWs from Three Wars

by

Eugene "Red" McDaniel, CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
President, American Defense Institute  
former Vietnam POW

It's unthinkable that the United States of America would leave servicemen behind after a battle. Our country would never abandon her fighting men. It's unthinkable.

Or is it?

Mounting evidence indicates that that is precisely what happened at the end of World War II, after the stalemate in Korea, and following the losing debacle in Vietnam. A close look at records in the National Archives reveals an astonishing pattern of political expediency prevailing over justice and morality when it comes to securing the release of U.S. POWs when the truce is signed.

The fact is that writing off POWs as expendable has become official policy. And it's time to hold the policy-makers accountable.

Decisions made by our national leaders that allowed WW II and Korean POWs to be left behind have been brought to light because of the widespread public perception that some of the servicemen still missing after the Vietnam War were being held in POW camps in Southeast Asia. POW/MIA families, who had organized during the war to focus attention on their sons and husbands, continued to press for answers after the cease-fire. Vietnam veterans, convinced that some of their fallen comrades were still alive, refused to let them be forgotten.

Eventually, in 1990, the lingering questions led to an extensive investigation by Senators Jesse Helms and Charles Grassley. Comparing official records from the Vietnam era with those from previous wars, Senate Foreign Relations Committee minority staff investigators were astounded at the magnitude of the betrayal of the men who had fought America's battles in the 20th century: 25,000 from World War II; 8,000 from Korea; 2,200 plus from Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. Even more astounding was the obvious official attempt to hide the truth from the American people.

Since the early 1980's, the American Defense Institute had worked with POW/MIA activists and family members to press for action on behalf of the POWs still held in Southeast Asia. High-ranking DOD officials, including former Defense Intelligence Chief Lt. Gen. Eugene Tighe and Colonel Millard Peck, who headed the Pentagon's POW/MIA office, had publicly aired their dismay with our government's failure to secure the release of the POWs who were left behind. More than 1,400 live sighting reports of Americans in captivity were hidden away in Pentagon files. Several photographs identified by POW/MIA families as their missing loved ones had made their way out of Southeast Asia.

As the evidence accumulated and public concern grew, the U.S. Senate finally, in 1991, established a Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs, with a mandate to investigate the way the U.S. Government has handled information about missing Americans from all three wars--WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. Indications are, as the Select Committee nears the halfway point of its year-long investigation, that the tragic story of America's abandoned POWs from three wars will finally be told in its entirety.

We'll know how it happened, why it happened, and we can make sure it never happens again.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT THIS?

**We ask that you write to your Congressman, Senators, President Bush, Senator Jesse Helms and Senator Charles Grassley AND anyone else you can think of who might be influential--tell them that you want something done.**

**TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.  
(WE DID BEFORE.)**

**DON'T DELAY...WRITE TODAY.**

You can also write to the American Defense Institute to inquire about the purchase of a video they have prepared entitled "Americans Abandoned: U.S. POWs Betrayed." This document details the POW/MIA issue and can serve as a vehicle to educate and arouse the American people regarding this issue. Write to them at: 1055 North Fairfax Street, 2nd Floor, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 (Phone 703-519-7000).

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## VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

### VBOB ORDER FORM

Support your National Quartermaster. (20%) of all sales are returned to VBOB

B1	Patch 2-3/4" Diameter	3.50	M1	Regulation full size medals to replace those lost or not issued (Call for quote)	20.00up
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B2	Patch 4-3/4" Diameter	6.00	P1	106th, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 9th, etc	4.50ea
D1	Decal 4" Diameter	.75	P2	Enamel pins of Division Patches (Most available)	3.50ea
D2	Logo 4" Diameter Windshield Logo	.75	POW1	Miniature POW Medal (sold separately)	8.50
D3	COLOR Logo 8" x 10" for framing	4.00	R1	Regulation campaign & service ribbons (Order your full set)	1.25up
D4	COLOR Logo 1-1/8" stick-on	10/1.00	T2	VBOB T-Shirt--(S)(M)(L)(XL)	13.00
F1	U.S. Flag Set: 100% sewn, cotton 3' x 5' Flag w/3 piece pole, gold eagle top, lanyard and mounting bracket	29.50	W1	VBOB Logo Quartz Watch (Men's)	35.00
H1	Hats (baseball style) one size fits all w/VBOB	10.00	W2	VBOB Logo Quartz Watch (Women's)	35.00
J1	VBOB 1/2" Lapel Pin/Tie Tack (w/clutch)	7.00	WB1	Windbreaker, unlined, dark blue with 4-3/4" VBOB patch	34.50
J3	VBOB Tie Bar	7.00	BK1	"First Across the Rhine" (Book)	22.00
J5	VBOB Medallion (w/ribbon)	32.00	V50	The Damned Engineers (VHS)(BETA)	34.50
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K2	VBOB Logo/Flag Plastic Key Chain	1.00			

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QTY	ITEM	PRICE	TOTAL

Please allow 2-3 weeks delivery time

(Two separate order forms--please clip off here to order Overseas Cap.)

## VBOB OVERSEAS CAP NOW AVAILABLE

The Executive Council recently approved the issuance of an overseas cap that would be consistent for member use in parades and/or other functions. The cap itself is olive drab color, trimmed on the top with three colors: blue for Infantry, yellow for Armored, and red for Artillery. "Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge" appears on the cap.

Mail your payment and VBOB Overseas Cap order to:

Keystone Uniform Cap Company  
 428 North 13th Street  
 Philadelphia, PA 19123

Please indicate number wanted for each hat size(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total number of hats ordered \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$26.00 per hat  
 Total amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Keystone Uniform Cap Company for quotations on other printing desired.



## VBOB MEMBERS SHARE A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

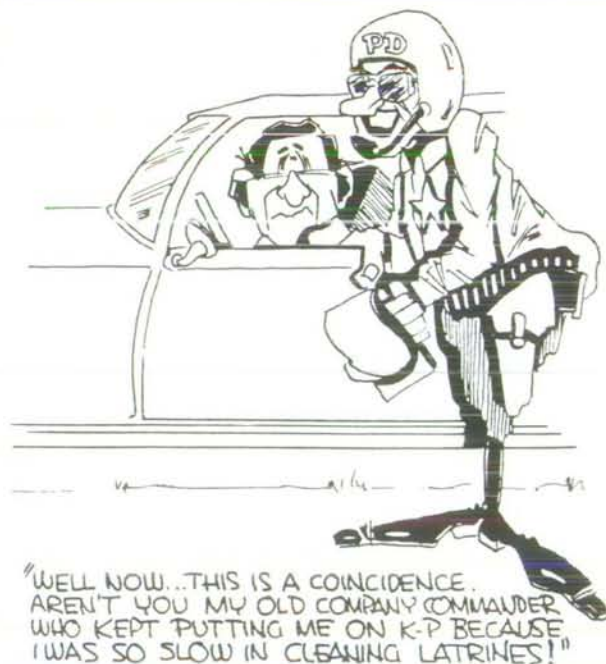
The six happy VBOB members pictured here are recalling their memories of a very unique experience. They were drafted together, took basic training together, and served together throughout Europe in WW II!

As members of the famous 299th Combat Engineers they were among the first troops to land on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day. The 299th was actively engaged in all five European campaigns and played a major role in the Battle of the Bulge.

The six veterans have kept in close touch since the war and regularly attend the 299th's annual reunions. Now, as members of VBOB's Central New York Chapter, they have discovered another means for strengthening their friendship.



Pictured at December, 1991, banquet are: front row (left) Paul Pirro and (right) Tom Netti; back row (left to right) Jim Oliva, Chuck Hurlbut, Clarence Krausnick, and Jim DePalma.



## LEGISLATION INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE

Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio) has introduced H.R. 1624, *The World War II Memorial Act of 1991*, which provides for a memorial within the District of Columbia. Under this bill, the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABAMC) will plan, design, construct and oversee the operation of a memorial. In addition, a World War II Memorial Advisory Board, composed of 9-15 members appointed by the President, will promote the memorial and encourage private donations. The board will also assist the ABAMC in site selection and memorial design.

Rep. Kaptur has also introduced H.R. 1623, the *WWII Commemorative Coin Act*, which directs that surcharges from coin sales be used to underwrite construction once authorized by Congress.

So VBOBers, contact your congressmen/women to co-sponsor and vote for these bills. This is vital. If you don't contact them, they will think you don't care whether you fade away and are forgotten in the mists of history. A phone call or a short note asking them for their vote is all that is needed. Believe it or not, every member of congress keeps a score board in their office and every call or note is added up.



**Susquehanna Chapter.** Sec. Charlotte Burton, VP Phil Genova, PP Frank Lovuolo, Pres. Clara Gustin. Standing: Treas. Vincent Minehart, Chaplain William Zwick, Sgt. at Arms Daniel Hertz.

(Reunions-Continued from page 22)

**1255TH ENGINEER (C) BATTALION**, October 21-25, 1992, Columbia, South Carolina. Contact: Alfred J. Babecki, 915 Hemlock Street, Barefoot Bay, Florida 32976. Telephone: 407-664-0952.

**CAMP FANNIN WWII**, November 11-14, 1992—for all cadre and infantry basic trainees. Contact: Leon St Pierre, President, Camp Fannin Association, P.O. Box 132024, Tyler, Texas 75713. Telephone: 903-561-7116.

**SHAEF VETERANS ASSOCIATION**, October 16-18, 1992, Great Valley Hilton, Malvern, Pennsylvania. Contact: Donn Thriffiley, 7340 Dundue Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70126. Telephone: 504-241-3065.





# VETERANS of the BATTLE of the BULGE

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## SPRING HAS SPRUNG... AND SO HAS OUR MEMBERSHIP...

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*All new members, please provide the following information:*

Campaigns \_\_\_\_\_

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

Regiment \_\_\_\_\_ Battalion \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

RECRUITER (Optional)