

"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 XII NUMBER 3

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

AUGUST 1993

*From Behind the
Dragon's Teeth*

HITLER'S FOLLY? OR WAS IT?

By Captain Kevin R. Austra

The following article appeared in the
November - December, 1992, issue of
ARMOR.

*Hitler's lunge into the
Ardennes, so often criticized
as a strategic mistake, might
have been his best chance at
stalemate and survival.*



Hitler charts OPERATION CHRISTROSE

In December 1944, 28 German divisions, nine of them armored, slammed into the U.S. First and Ninth Armies. For ten days, the German panzers zig-zagged through the hills, valleys, forests, and fields of the Ardennes until stopped short of the Meuse River in Belgium. The German salient, 80 miles wide and 60 miles deep, was then pounded by U.S. and British forces. The Air Force all but eliminated German logistics. By February 1945, the U.S. Army drove back to its former December positions and the German Wehrmacht had no forces left to keep the allies from the Rhine. Hitler's Ardennes offensive proved supreme folly...or was it?

(Continued on Page 8)

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

**P.O. Box 11129
Arlington, Virginia 22210-2129
703-528-4058**

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

**THE BULGE BUGLE STAFF:
Publisher/Chief Editor:**

George Chekan
9th Infantry Division

Contributing Editors:

Roy Gordon
9th Infantry Division
Robert F. Phillips
28th Infantry Division

Historical Research:

John D. Bowen
Associate Member

VBOB OFFICERS--ELECTED:

President: William R. Hemphill
3rd Armored Division
703-979-5270

Executive Vice

President: William P. Tayman
87th Infantry Division

**Vice President for Member-
ship:**

Grover C. Twiner
30th Infantry Division

Vice President for Military

Affairs: Peter G. Dounis
75th Infantry Division

**Vice President for Chapter
Coordination:**

Stanley A. Wojtusik, Sr.
106th Infantry Division

Treasurer: Peter F. Leslie
511th Engineer Light
Ponton Company

Corresponding Secretary:

George C. Linthicum
26th Infantry Division

Recording Secretary:

Beverley VanHouten
Associate Member

Administrative Director:

Nancy C. Monson
703-528-4058

APPOINTED:

Chairman, Budget Committee:
Emery B. Antonucci
75th Infantry Division

Surgeon:

Dorothy S. Davis
57th Field Hospital

Liaison Officer, Military Units:

Eugene G. Drouillard
75th Infantry Division
703-356-5708

**Chairman, Finance Commit-
tee:** George N. Karambelas
84th Infantry Division

National Director, Public

Relations: Nancy C. Monson
703-528-4058

Chaplain:

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

Liaison Officer, International

Affairs: Robert F. Phillips
28th Infantry Division

Chairman, 50th Anniversary

Activities: William P. Tayman
87th Infantry Division

Chairman, 1994 VBOB Re-

union: Robert J. VanHouten
16th Field Artillery
Observation Battalion

HISTORICAL FOUNDATION:

President: William T. Greenville
86th Chemical Mortar Battalion

VBOB PAST PRESIDENTS:

Clyde D. Boden*	1981-84
Robert J. VanHouten	1984-86
George Chekan	1986-88
William T. Greenville	1988-90
Darrell Kuhn	1990-92
*Deceased	

**VBOB CHAPTER PRESIDENTS
(Alphabetical by State)**

•ALABAMA•

**GEN. GEORGE S. PATTON, JR.
CHAPTER (XI)**
Wardlaw M. Watson
933 Rockford Road
Birmingham, AL 35222
205-595-3640

•ARIZONA•

ARIZONA CHAPTER OF VBOB (XXVI)
Ken Frischman
31 S 95th St
Mesa, Arizona 85208
602-986-1055

•CALIFORNIA•

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

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

GOLDEN GATE CHAPTER (X)
Ernest G. Figueira, Jr.
1808 Lynwood Dr.
Concord, CA 94519-1126
415-676-7016

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER
(XVI)**
Godfrey R. Harris
4209 Abbington Ct.
Westlake Village, CA 91361-4504
818-889-3323

•FLORIDA•

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

•MARYLAND-

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA•

MARYLAND/D.C. CHAPTER (III)
Edward R. Radzwich
12414 Stonehaven Ln.
Bowie, MD 20715
410-464-1767

•MASSACHUSETTS•

**CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS
CHAPTER (XXII)**
John E. McAuliffe
425 Pleasant St.
Worcester, MA 01609
508-754-7183

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

•MICHIGAN•

WEST MICHIGAN CHAPTER (XXIII)
Maurice C. Cole
614 Fenton St. (Box 64)
Kingsley, MI 49649
616-263-7222

GREAT LAKES CHAPTER (XXI)
(Upper Michigan-Wisconsin)
Gregory C. Walker
523 Terrace Ave.
Marinette, WI 54143
715-732-2957

•MISSOURI•

GATEWAY CHAPTER (XXV)
W. Kent Stephens
107 Bluffview Lane
Collinsville, IL 62234
618-344-1616

•NEW JERSEY•

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

•NEW YORK•

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

•NORTH CAROLINA•

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

•NORTH DAKOTA•

NORTH DAKOTA CHAPTER (XX)
George K. Peterson
R.R. 2, Box 107
McClusky, ND 58463-9592
701-363-2488

•PENNSYLVANIA•

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

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

**WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER
(XIV)**

Leroy D. Schaller
R.R. #1, Box #341
Bolivar, PA 15923
412-238-2297

•RHODE ISLAND•

RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER (XXIV)
William Gaynor
1357 Wampanoag Trail, #125
East Providence, RI 02915
401-437-1297

•SOUTH CAROLINA•

SOUTH CAROLINA CHAPTER (VII)
Thomas W. Smeltzer
P.O. Box 21852
Columbia, SC 29221
803-781-3687

•TEXAS•

GREATER HOUSTON CHAPTER (XXVII)
James C. Burtner
10312 Briar Forest Dr.
Houston, TX 77042-2407
713-783-6149

•VERMONT-

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

•VIRGINIA•

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

•WASHINGTON•

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

•WISCONSIN•

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

If there's a chapter near you, give their president a call. You undoubtedly will enjoy their activities. You may encounter some old friends and you surely will make some new ones. If there is no chapter near you, we could use your help in developing one. Write us for information.

If you have information you would like published in *The Bulge Bugle*, please submit it to VBOB at least six (6) weeks before publication dates which are: February, May, August, and November.

IN THIS ISSUE

3. Chapter Development
4. Letters to Editor
5. Bylaws Amendments
6. 50th Anniversary Information
13. Reunions
14. 12th VBOB Reunion
16. A Piece of WWII Puzzle
17. Nominating Committee Report
19. Pandora's Box
20. Members Speak Out
23. Bulge Re-enactment
24. Historical Foundation Events
27. Statement Regarding Turner Book
31. Invitation From Belgium

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last year VBOB Headquarters was accused of not listening to the members. This year we have made an effort to be more responsive to your wishes. Has it worked?

The VBOB Executive Council revised the way nominees for the national offices are selected. The May issue of *The Bulge Bugle*, on page 25, announced that the Nominating



Committee would accept nominations from the membership until 15 June. Alas, only one name was submitted. Elsewhere in this issue you will find the slate that the Nominating Committee has selected. All are qualified and I urge you to vote for them at the Bismarck Reunion.

A note regarding my not seeking a second term as President. I am 79 years-of-age and have been active in VBOB since 1981. I find that I must conserve my remaining strength for personal projects I have long neglected. When Bill Tayman became available, I decided to step down. He is well qualified and I am sure he will carry on projects which are in the works.

Please note the changes to the Bylaws recommended by the Executive Council. (These changes appear elsewhere in this issue of *The Bugle*.) They will be presented to the Annual Membership Meeting in Bismarck for adoption. These changes, if approved, will become effective next year and will provide for nominations of VBOB National Officers by submission of applications by interested members. The election will be conducted by each member marking a ballot which will be printed in *The Bulge Bugle* and mailing it to a special address. The ballots will be counted by a committee selected from the Maryland/District of Columbia and Northern Virginia Chapters and the results will be certified by the Executive Council at the Annual Membership Meeting.

The Executive Council is considering an Administrative Plan which will define the responsibilities and duties of VBOB officers, committees, appointees and contractors. It is hoped that the Plan will be made available to the membership for a better understanding of the working of VBOB Headquarters.

Send in your reservation and I'll see you in Bismarck!

Bill Hemphill

Reprinted from American Legion Magazine September, 1991.

Young Loss

I was 22, working seven days a week, 10 hours a day in a defense plant in February 1945. We had three children - a girl nearly five, another two and-a-half, and a boy of six months. I was at work when my brother-in-law came and told me my brave darling had been killed January 16 in the Battle of the Bulge.

Later, I cried as I bathed the oldest child. She said, "Don't worry, Mom. When Daddy gets to heaven and gets his wings, he'll come flying straight home to us." Their Dad would be proud of them today.

Majorie Hayward, Union City, Pa.

DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER RECEIVES FLAG FOR OUTSTANDING 50TH ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITIES



Pictured left to right: Lt. General Kicklighter; Stan Wojtusik; George Linthicum; and Col. Kevin T. Hanretta

Delaware Valley Chapter President Stanley Wojtusik and Project Chairman George Linthicum were recently presented with a 50th Anniversary Flag at the Pentagon by Lt. General Claude Kicklighter and Col. Kevin T. Hanretta. The chapter was honored for its activities surrounding the VBOB Memorial, local educational programs, and many other projects directed at ensuring that the Battle of the Bulge is not forgotten.

A TIP OF THE OLD OVERSEAS CAP TO THE ORGANIZERS OF THE ST. LOUIS "GATEWAY" CHAPTER

Organized on January 21, 1993, the St. Louis "Gateway" Chapter now has over 150 members. At their organizational meeting 102 qualified veterans showed up. They have been going "great guns" ever since.

Two sparks ignited at the same time to get a chapter formed in the St. Louis area. Bill Tayman, Chairman of the 50th Anniversary Commemoration, which will be held in St. Louis, contacted about 12 members who were VBOB members in St. Louis proper, and Kent Stephens expressed an interest in forming a chapter there. From this small beginning, the ball really got to rolling. The headquarters office provided Kent with a list of all our members in St. Louis and these men got busy. The telephones were buzzing, paper was flying, additional membership applications were ordered, the press was notified, and the results are obvious.

Congratulations on a job well done.

ALABAMA CHAPTER INCORPORATED

JAMES E. POWELL, JR., advised us that the Alabama Chapter has become incorporated and has changed its name accordingly. The chapter is now named: The General George S. Patton, Jr. (Alabama Chapter) Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In the "Letters to the Editor" section of the May 1993 issue of *The Bulge Bugle* there appeared a letter from Sol Feingold of the 42nd Infantry Division concerning what he refers to as the "other battle of the Bulge." As a veteran of the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944 as well as the fighting in Alsace during January and February of 1945, and as a military historian who has written one book on the Battle of the Bulge and is working on another concerning the fighting in Alsace, I guess I'm as well qualified as anyone in VBOB to comment on Mr. Feingold's letter.

There has never been an article in *The Bulge Bugle* concerning the so-called "other battle of the Bulge" for two reasons. One, because VBOB was formed as a veterans' organization devoted exclusively to the commemoration of THE Battle of the Bulge as the greatest American battle of World War II. Thus these veterans' interests are focused on that battle and not on Normandy, the Hurtgen Forest, the Remagen Bridge, or the fighting in the Alsace. Two, because there was really no other Battle of the Bulge except in the imagination of a few journalists and Charles Whiting.

As to some of the other facts presented in that letter concerning Operation Nordwind, there were not 16 American divisions, including elements of other divisions, and the 101st Airborne Division in that operation. At the time of Operation Nordwind the US Seventh Army, which manned that section of the front contained seven divisions, the infantry regiments of three divisions which had landed in Marseilles in early December 1944, and a cavalry group. An eighth division (3rd Infantry) had been transferred to French First Army control. As Seventh Army was extremely low on manpower, the infantry regiments of the three divisions that had landed in Marseilles were sent north to Seventh Army without waiting for their artillery, armor, or other supporting elements. They were organized into three task forces: Task Force Linden (42nd Infantry Division); Task Force Harris (63rd Infantry Division); and Task Force Herren (70th Infantry Division). The 101st Airborne Division was fighting in the Ardennes during Operation Nordwind. It did not move into position on the Seventh Army front until 27 January 1945, when it assumed defensive positions on the Moder River defense line. Its role consisted of sending out aggressive combat patrols for the short time it was with the Seventh Army.

The Nordwind operation did not last one month longer than the Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes. The Ardennes operation went from 16 December 1944 until 25 January 1945. The Nordwind operation from 11:30 p.m. 31 December 1944 until about 7 January 1945. Operation Nordwind bogged down about then and the Germans did not commit further forces to it, but sporadic fighting continued in various areas until the front was stabilized about 30 January and the Germans began to deploy some of their units to other more

pressing areas of the front. Nordwind was not launched in conjunction with the Battle of the Bulge, but as a separate operation to link up with the German Nineteenth Army in the Colmar Pocket area, and thus to consolidate the German bridgehead west of the Rhine. The operation was launched at that time so as to take advantage of the US Seventh Army's over-extended and thinly held front. They had taken over areas formerly held by the Third Army before they shifted many of their units to the Ardennes front.

The members of those units that fought in France during the Nordwind operation were not recognized as participants of the Battle of the Bulge. They do share the same campaign credit (Ardennes-Alsace) because the powers-to-be in the Pentagon's awards and decoration branch chose to make the fighting in those two areas a joint campaign for some unfathomable reason. Dividing the area into two campaigns, an Ardennes and an Alsace-Lorraine campaign, would have made much more sense.

Thus, taking all of the above into consideration, there is no particular reason for the editor to sponsor a series of articles based on Charles Whiting's book, *The Other Battle of the Bulge: Operation Nordwind*. Even if such a series was contemplated, I am sure the editor could find several much more reputable and accurate sources for the coverage of the Nordwind operation.

Robert F. Phillips
28th Infantry Division, 110th Infantry

Can you tell me how C Battery of the 592nd Field Artillery Battalion replaced C Battery of the 180th Field Artillery, which was in France on the same day. They replaced A Battery out of the 12th Field Artillery?

Milton Conner
106th Infantry Division
592nd Field Artillery Battalion

I wish to take issue with the Officers of-VBOB and to those responsible for planning the next reunion. I guess none of you were aware of the fact that September 15 to September 19, 1993, encompasses the Jewish High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanna. This holiday is actually on the 16th and 17th. This is, as you might know, a major Jewish holiday (New Years) and attending a convention would not be proper and it would conflict with our observance of these days.

No doubt it was an oversight on your part, but I believe a response by you in your publication or by direct answer to me would be proper.

Emanuel Lamb
83rd Infantry Division, 331st Infantry, Company H

[We are sorry that our reunion interferes with Rosh Hashana. However, the dates were chosen due to hotel availability.]

(Continued on Page 13)

PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

The VBOB Executive Council will present the following change to the VBOB Bylaws as adopted at its meeting on June 19, 1993. The Executive Council will present these changes to the VBOB Membership for adoption at the General Business Meeting to be held Friday, September 17, 1993.

Article 7, Section 5, ELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICES of the Bylaws of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Incorporated, as accepted and amended by VBOB Membership on September 6, 1991, be deleted and replaced with the following:

Article 7, Section 5, ELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICERS

- A. The Nominating Committee and the Bylaws Committee shall prepare a Call for Election to be printed in a prominent location in *The Bulge Bugle* in the issue closest to January each year.
- B. The Call for Election shall note the elected positions available and invite members to submit their application to stand for election for only one of the elected positions. The notice shall further note the requirement that each applicant announce the position sought, a biographical sketch, and a photograph suitable for publication in *The Bulge Bugle*. The Bylaws Committee shall prepare an agreement wherein the applicant for office agrees to attend all meetings and carry out all duties of the office sought. The notice shall further state that all applications shall be received no later than May first (1st) of the year of the election. The Call for Election further sets out the address to which the application must be mailed.
- C. All applications shall be received at the place and time stated on the Call for Election. The applications received shall be handed to the chair of the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall review each application and approve those applications complying with the Call for the Election. The Nominating Committee shall reject those applications not in compliance with the call for the election. The Nominating Committee shall list the official candidates by position sought. Where no applications are received for an office or in the unanimous opinion of the Nominating Committee, the committee may list additional candidates. The additional candidates shall agree to the nomination by filling out an application as stated above.
- D. The Nominating Committee shall, on or before July 1st, certify the official ballot and forward same to the Executive Council who must approve or amend the ballot. Where the Nominating Committee rejects an application the applicant shall be notified forthwith of the rejection and the reasons therefor. The rejection shall be forwarded to the Executive Council and the rejected applicant shall be granted the opportunity by the Executive Council to show cause why he should be a candidate for the office sought.

- E. The official ballot shall be certified by the Executive Council in a timely fashion and be published in a prominent location in the August issue (or the issue closest thereto) of *The Bulge Bugle*. The ballot shall list all of the candidates for each position with appropriate instructions concerning the marking of the ballot, the place to which it is to be returned and the deadline for its receipt.
- F. The ballots' timely return shall be noted and the name of the voter shall be checked off on a master list to insure only one ballot for each voter. Those ballots received after the date due shall be segregated and held for inspection by any candidate (or designee) and the Executive Council. Any ballot not signed by a voting member shall be segregated and held for the inspection by any candidate (or designee) and the Executive Council. The section of the ballot carrying the name of the voter shall be detached from the ballot and maintained in a separate file. The ballot with name detached shall be forwarded to a ballot committee comprised of an equal number of members of the Maryland/District of Columbia Chapter and the Northern Virginia Chapter. This committee shall count the ballots and report the results of the Executive Council. Each candidate or a designee is invited to attend the counting of the ballots at the time and place of the counting. The time and place of the counting shall be made known to the Executive Council and each candidate in writing. The committee counting the ballots shall be the judge of the marking of the ballots and shall segregate and not count any ballot not clearly marked.
- G. The Executive Council at its Annual Meeting shall certify the results and resolve any objections or irregularities made known to them with ten days after the counting of the ballots. All objections must be made within ten days of the counting of the ballots by written objection made to the Administrator. Each objection shall be fully investigated and presented to the Executive Council at the earliest possible moment and must be resolved at its annual meeting. The Executive Council shall be the sole judge of all objections and its certification may not be appealed by any candidate.
- H. It being the wish and desire of VBOB to open its offices to the widest possible participation by all members it is agreed that there shall be no advertising in *The Bulge Bugle* on behalf of any candidate nor a solicitation of votes in any manner, shape or form unless all candidates for the position sought have equal opportunity to state their views in a forum agreed to by the said candidates.
- I. New offices may be created and filled at any of the Executive Council meetings. Each officer shall hold office until his successor has been duly elected and qualifies. The term shall begin on December 16 of each year.



TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

Time Management is a catch word of the '90's. One of the things recommended over and over in newspapers, television and books is a personal "To Do List." Keep a running list, so you don't forget any important items, they say, then achieve a feeling of accomplishment as you check off completed items. So, many of us have started "To Do" lists, just as many of us write down New Year's Resolutions each January. Yet as the warm days of summer slip away, many of us find that our personal "To Do Lists" don't get smaller as planned, but grow longer and longer. We have the best of intentions, making plans to fill the "endless days of summer." But as the lazy days of summer sweep over us, many of us find it harder and harder to get to that list. Does yours look something like this?

1. ☐ Clean garage
2. ☐ Follow up on Medicare Forms
3. ☒ RSVP to Bill/Betty Anniversary Party
4. ☐ Take "Spot" to Poodle Parlor
5. ☒ Weed flower beds
6. ☐ Find "special" graduation present for grandkids
7. ☐ Take a personal computer class
8. ☐ Finally read "War and Peace"
9. ☐ Organize photo album and personal memoirs
10. ☐ Make plans for next year's vacation



As your list grows and grows, it's easy to get bogged down in day-to-day living and simply forget to even look at your list. It happens to us all! So we thought it was a good idea to remind you to pull out your list and help you start checking off a few easy items. You can even check off two items with one phone call!

Pick up the phone today and call, toll-free, 1-800-523-7287. With just one simple phone call, you can delete items #6 and #10 as you register for our **VBOB Golden Anniversary Tour**, October 23 - November 2, 1994. Join your fellow Battle of the Bulge buddies as you retrace your steps through Belgium and Luxembourg, reliving those history-making moments of our youth. There simply is no greater combination of nostalgia and leisure travel. Then, make the trip even more meaningful by taking your grandchildren with you. Show them, firsthand, through your eyes, what World War II was really all about and about your part in saving the world's freedom some 50 years ago. There is no gift you can give your family more important than a *real* knowledge of what happened in 1944, and why it must never happen again.



So, pick up your "To Do" List. Write *Galaxy Tours, VBOB 50th Anniversary Tour*, and 1-800-523-7287 next to items #6 and #10. Then pick up that phone and call Alison Dodge at Galaxy Tours to make your reservation on this historic trip. It will be the most important and worthwhile "To Do" you can accomplish this summer. Don't put it off another day!

- ✓ Call Galaxy Tours, 1-800-523-7287
- ✓ Register for VBOB 50th Anniversary Tour
- ✓ Mark October 23 - November 2, 1994 on calendar
- ✓ Call grandchildren to tell them the good news
- ✓ Start personal memoirs and photo album of 1944 and 1994!





★ BATTLE OF THE BULGE ★
50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI
DECEMBER 15-18, 1994

The VBOB 50th Anniversary Committee along with the St. Louis Host Committee continue to fine-tune details for the 50th Commemoration of the Battle of the Bulge. We are privileged to have the full support and cooperation of the DoD WWII Commemoration Committee. At this time, formal program requests have been forwarded to LTG Claude M. Kicklighter, USA Retired, the DoD Director of the 50th Commemoration. We anticipate the final program arrangements will be available for release in the next issue of *The Bulge Bugle*.

Contracts have been signed with four St. Louis riverfront hotels. These hotels are all located in the Gateway Arch, Westward Expansion Museum and river showboat area.

We have received inquiries concerning costs. Please remember we were all young people during the "depression years"--those early economic experiences still affect our decisions today!

The following are the hotel room rates for either single or double occupancy:

*Regal Riverfront Hotel	\$59.00
Adam's Mark Hotel	75.00
Holiday Inn Riverfront Hotel	61.00
Marriott Pavilion Hotel	54.00
*Headquarters hotel for the Commemoration	

These room rates are for December 15-18, 1994. All hotels have agreed to extend these rates three days prior and three days after the event. All parking will have a 50% discount for Commemoration participants. The room rates do not include state and city taxes which currently total 9.475% and a \$2.00 per room per night occupancy tax.

We hope you are making your plans to be with us for this once-in-a-life-time observance.

William P. Tayman
Chairman
VBOB 50th Anniversary Committee

(Continued from Page 1)

HITLER'S FOLLY? OR WAS IT?

Since that last bitter winter of the Second World War, much has been written about the Battle of the Bulge. It provides a certain fascination for military historians and served as inspiration for five major motion pictures. Most students of the battle have come to the same conclusion: Hitler forced his army to leave the security of the Westwall (often called the Siegfried Line) fortifications and exhaust themselves in the hopeless involuntary death throes of a dying man.¹

A majority of the judgments leveled at the last great German offensive in the West are based on 1944 Allied expectations of a repeated 1918—specifically, the overthrow of a failed regime, surrender before the nation's borders were critically violated, and preservation of the surviving economic base. The Battle of the Bulge dashed Allied hopes the war would be over by Christmas—just like 1918. General Dwight D. Eisenhower, among others, was furious. Estimates described the German Army on the brink of collapse. Didn't the Germans know the war was finished?

Unfortunately, the conditions were not similar to 1918. At the end of the Great War, an intact German Army bowed to the wishes of a revolutionary government in Berlin and demobilized itself under the worst possible armistice conditions. The unconditional surrender terms staring at Germany in 1944 compelled the Germans to fight on.² Note too that in mid-1944 the Germans still controlled most of Europe, though D-Day was not far away. As a result, Hitler's regime survived the halfhearted July 20th assassination attempt, armor and aircraft production peaked in summer and autumn 1944, and Germany's armed forces numbered 10 million men in 327 divisions and brigades.³

Despite terrific losses at the front and at home, the Germany Army was losing slowly and exhausting its opponents.

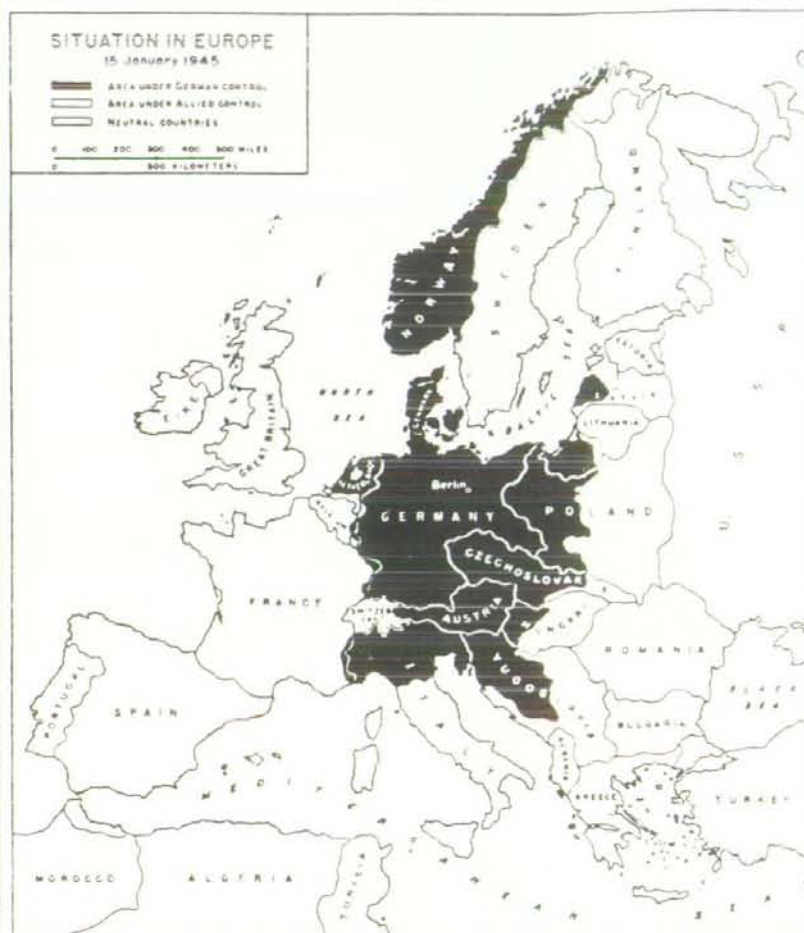
Leaving the Dragon's Teeth

While planning the Ardennes offensive, Hitler remarked that "the side that last longer will do so only if it stands to lose everything."⁴ German industry was failing. Constant air raids, essential raw material shortages, and lack of fuel ensured industry could never keep pace with the war. More critical, Germany was sapped of almost all its adult manpower. Infantry training, once regimented and several months in length, was reduced to a scant six weeks. Luftwaffe pilots found themselves committed to combat on their first operational flights. The German armed forces were fast losing their ability to wage offensive warfare.

It is too simple to declare that Adolf Hitler in 1944 was insane, sick, or so drugged by his incompetent private physician, Dr. Morrell, that he was incapable of rational thought. True, the stress of the last two years of war left the German leader an exhausted man who yearned for and still believed in a repeat of the glories earlier experienced in 1940. Indeed, until late 1941, the German General Staff still controlled operations of the army, particularly in the Eastern Front. The resulting failure to subdue the Soviet Union in 1941 could well be attributed to the General Staff's delay in following up successes, as well as withholding urgently needed forces for an unwanted drive on Moscow. The mounting emotional pressure was compounded by the unsuccessful attempt on Hitler's life. Hitler's subsequent distrust of his own military commanders and purge of the army left him in absolute control of the war effort, and with it the insomnia and stress associated with supreme command. Though thoroughly exhausted and aware of Germany's plight, Hitler's decision to attack in the west was a logical decision made by a tyrant. Only the unlikely event that Hitler would have been overthrown could have prevented the attack in its final manifestation. In retrospect, the German people probably would have agreed with the final offensive gamble in keeping with a German saying, "Better an end in horror than a horror without end."⁵

In autumn 1944, Germany was not as close to defeat as some would believe, the German Army, whose back was broken in August in Normandy, was able to delay and withdraw to the 1939 German frontier. After a few tense weeks where much of the German border was defended solely by overgrown pillboxes and empty foxholes, the Germans were able to fill the gaps and halt the Allies.

The base of the German frontier defense was a series of fortifications known as the Westwall. These fortifications ran the length of the German border from Holland to the southwestern tip of Germany



Europe in January, 1945

This map of Europe in January 1945, after the Ardennes battle, indicates how much of the continent was still under German control only four months before the end of the war. The crumbling Nazi empire extended over Norway, Denmark, and major portions of Italy, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Latvia, and the Netherlands.

opposite Switzerland. Originally, a series of small forts along the Saar River opposite the French border, the defenses were extended.⁶ Today one can drive along the western German frontier and cross belts of concrete antitank dragon's teeth stretching below slits of grey crumbling bunkers. For their impotence in 1944-45, they remain formidable obstacles. The dragon's teeth and shattered pillboxes zigzag through forest and farmers' fields, forcing new roads to skirt and bridge them and housing to be built around them.

Constructed between 1936 and 1939, the Westwall was Germany's answer to the much-touted French Maginot Line. The once gleaming white dragon's teeth shielded the remilitarized Rhineland while German forces massed in the east. The Westwall was a mixture of designs and was never more than 15 percent complete at the start of the war. Unlike its French counterpart, Westwall was not a single, nonstop fortification in depth. It relied on scattered prefabricated pillboxes emplaced to provide interlocking fire.

In front of the pillboxes were concrete dragon's teeth antitank obstacles, barbed wire, and minefields. Pillboxes and dragon's teeth were arrayed in belts several miles thick. In areas of rugged terrain, such as the High Eifel opposite Belgium, fortifications were less extensive. In this terrain, the dragon's teeth were reduced to the size of small parking lot pylons. However, around Aachen, Saarbrücken, and high mobility areas such as the Losheim Gap, antitank obstacles took on monstrous proportions.

The Westwall was never designed to be a permanent barrier. The concept was for attacking armies to be delayed by the defenses, rugged terrain, and waterways until a German counterattack could drive them out. In 1939, they proved their worth when the French Army

(Continued on Page 9)

(Continued from Page 8)

HITLER'S FOLLY? OR WAS IT?

moved into the Saar and occupied a few square kilometers of German territory during the abortive "Saar offensive."

Although a formidable obstacle against weapons and tactics of the 1930s, there was little the fortifications could do to halt the American Army in 1944. As early as 1940, the Germans themselves used paratroops to drop onto Belgian and Dutch strong points and directed panzers around the Maginot Line, demonstrating the futility of fixed fortifications.

After the June 6, 1944, Allied invasion of France, the Westwall was hurriedly reinforced and extended, particularly along the border with the Netherlands. There was no time to improve the already emplaced concrete pillboxes and antitank dragon's teeth since there was no concrete to spare while German industry built underground or reinforced factories. Nearly all of Westwall's armament and communication systems were dismantled and reinstalled along the English Channel in 1943.

Although the overgrown concrete bunkers and pillboxes were better naturally camouflaged than they were in 1939, their fields of fire were reduced by the same wild growth. In many cases, local caretakers did not have maps, plans, or keys to the fortifications in their districts.

During war, military technology advances by leaps and bounds. Not only does military necessity account for increased resourcing, battlefield experience provides a neverending proving ground. Unfortunately for the Germans, pill-boxes, designed for weapons of 1936, had no provisions for machine guns and antitank weapons of 1944. Weapons were not the only limitations. Initially, it was difficult to main the fortifications with the required number of soldiers. The best that could be accomplished in a few short months was newly dug fighting positions, fresh minefields, hundreds of miles of barbed wire, and ineffective iron gates across secondary roads.



A dead Nazi officer lies in a snowfilled foxhole near Mabompre, Belgium. The officer commanded a German 88mm field piece which was knocked out killing him and the entire crew. 1/17/45

U. S. Army Signal Corps Photo



This L-4 Observation plane crashed on landing near Stavelot Belgium 1/19/45, 106th Infantry Division

U. S. Army Signal Corps Photo

On September 10, soldiers from the U.S. 4th Infantry Division crossed the Our River near Schoenberg.⁷ Four days later, American soldiers from the 5th Armored Division crossed the Sauer River at Wallendorf. Without much effort, the Americans penetrated the first belt of concrete fortification and advanced to within a few miles of Bitburg. There was little to stop the Americans from occupying the whole Eifel region. The Germans raced troops from Trier to check the advance and destroyed the Sauer bridgehead a week later.⁸ The Our River incursion, opposite St. Vith in Belgium, could not be dislodged.

The once proud German Army was unable to stem the tide, confirming the military adage that obstacles alone are useless unless covered by fire and, more significantly, restored by counterattacks. Fortunately for the Germans, the United States Army slowed and halted in the rugged terrain and thick forests of the Eifel. The terrain, combined with stiffened German resistance anchored around the Westwall, stopped the Allied advance.

For the Germans, an immediate counterattack to restore the border was out of the question. There were no forces yet available. In the beginning of September 1944, the Germans had only 100 serviceable tanks available on the Western Front.⁹ Allied operations in the Netherlands and incursions around Aachen and in front of the Rur (as spelled in Germany, becomes the Roer River in the Netherlands and is often spelled Roer in military accounts) siphoned off divisions desperately needed elsewhere. However, Allied penetrations along the Siegfried Line in the southern region of the Schnee Eifel drew the attention of the Germans. It was only natural then that Westwall's original purpose could be exercised. An attack against the deepest penetration of the line would not only expel the Americans from the Eifel, but also threatened to envelop Aachen, as well as capture Antwerp, thereby severing the Allies' line of communications. The seeds of the Ardennes offensive were sown.

Miracle in The West

There would never have been a German offensive in the Ardennes if it had not been for Allied delays. After two months of slogging through hedgerow country in Normandy and clearing Brittany, the Allied broke out of their small corner of France while at the same time landing an army in the south. On August 25, Paris was liberated. In September, the Allies pushed into Belgium and penetrated the Siegfried Line into Germany and reached a position which, when planning the invasion, they had not expected to gain until May 1945.¹⁰ Then the advance ran out of steam.

By advancing along a broad front the Allies rapidly liberated most of France, Belgium, and Luxembourg at the cost of exhausting their supplies. Not that supplies were short--there was just no way to get them to the ever more distant front line. Unlike the superhighways of today, there were no autobahns across France in the 1940s. The French railroad system was still wrecked from preinvasion bombing and resistance sabotage. Few of the ports were usable. They were either critically damaged or occupied by surrounded German division. German garrisons denied port facilities at Lorient, St. Nazaire, La Rochelle, Calais, and Dunkirk and would continue to do so until May, 1945. Additionally, the German 15th Army controlled the sea outlet to recently captured Antwerp.

For the moment, all supplies had to be trucked to the various points of the front. The trip was fraught with hazards. In the space between departure and arrival, the convoys faced confusing routes, traffic jams, hijacking by roving bands of black marketeering American deserters and former French resistance, and diversions by competing armies.

Complicating the supply distribution was British Field Marshal Bernard Law Montgomery's less than successful Netherlands offensive, a daring airborne and mechanized strike north onto Holland. The attack, code named *Market Garden*, was to seize seven Dutch bridges along a 70-mile route with three airborne divisions. Once British armor punched through the German line and crossed all seven bridges, the way would be clear to turn east, unimpeded by terrain, to slice through the German Ruhr industrial basin and then to Berlin.

Though the operation captured five of seven bridges, the last bridge at Arnhem on the Lower Rhine remained firmly in German hands (and would be until demolished in February, 1945). The soggy "island" between Arnhem and Nijmegen

(Continued on Page 10)

(Continued from Page 9)

HITLER'S FOLLY? OR WAS IT?

bridges was largely abandoned by the British who turned their eyes east toward what would eventually be the costly Reichswald operation. In total, the *Market Garden* operation provided a basis for a best-selling book and movie, but not much else. It denied other armies, particularly General George S. Patton's Third, the fuel required to exploit penetrations in Germany.

Indeed, almost all Allied activity that autumn was directed around Aachen. For reasons still debated today, the U.S. Army turned into the thick Hurtgen Forest, gained a few kilometers of ground while the better part of three U.S. divisions were mauled in a fruitless three-month campaign. To the south, the Ardennes, deemed an unlikely site of future German operations, was used by the U.S. Army as a place to send battle-weary divisions and train fresh units.

During the delay, the Germans were not idle. Barely able to field an equipped force, the Germans mounted several modest counterattacks with scratch forces to restore large portions of the line in the hilly Eifel region. By November, units all along the front were standing to fight, and when threatened, they did so in good order. The Germans called the resurgence of their army "the Miracle of the West."¹¹ With the exception of Aachen, the first major German city captured by the Allies, the western 1937 borders of Germany remained more or less intact.

The apparent threat in the West, combined with the local German successes, acted as a magnet for Hitler's military attention. Against advice of his generals, Hitler drained his carefully hoarded resources in preparation for a major attack. Hitler knew that the Ardennes was the last card to be played. Whether the forces were successful or not, the machines and war materiel could never be replaced.

Why The West

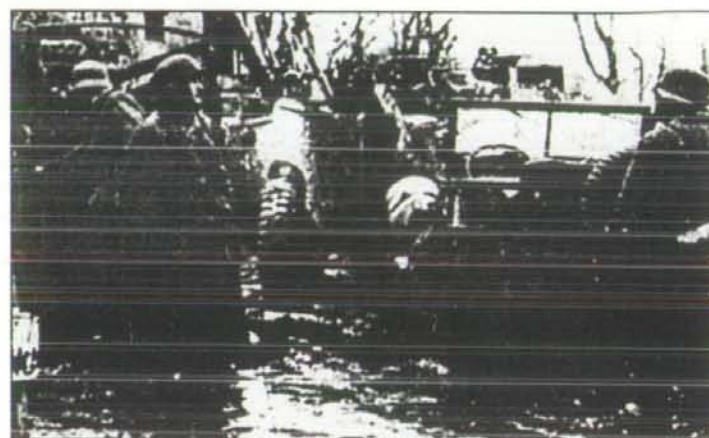
Desperate as the situation seemed, the German Reich still controlled a greater portion of Europe in late 1944 than it had after the conquest of Poland in 1939. Though the enemies of the Reich had multiplied in number and strength since 1941, the invading forces simply ran out of offensive steam. The Soviets drove into Poland and the eastern tip of East Prussia, but at great cost. The Red Army found itself at the end of a supply line stretched across eastern Europe. Continuous operations against stiff German opposition across a scorched countryside forced the Soviets to temporarily halt. Though the Soviets crossed the prewar Polish frontier in August, they paused east of Warsaw, where they remained almost five months. Stalin concerned himself with driving Germany's allies out of the war and occupying the Balkans and Baltic countries.

As the Red Army gathered its breath for the final drive on Germany, Hitler concluded the Russians were offensively exhausted. Horrendous Soviet losses and a slim logistics chain made it "clear" that the Russians had reached their high water mark. Hitler believed that administration of the conquered territories alone would stall the Russians indefinitely. For the time being, the Russians were not a threat.

In northern Italy, Luftwaffe Field Marshal Albert Kesselring skillfully managed an economy of force mission in rugged terrain and grudgingly gave ground. In Hitler's opinion, the defensive battle in Italy was good for at least another year. To the north, Norway and Denmark were secure for the moment. In fact, the Germans maintained military supremacy in Scandinavia, where the navy secured the waters around Norway while the Luftwaffe ruled the Arctic.

In Germany, the Luftwaffe managed to rebuild from its staggering piecemeal losses that summer into a force capable of several hundred sorties per day against Allied targets.¹² German industry, firmly under control of Minister of Armaments, Albert Speer, had peak production just before D-Day. The production surge, in part due to the Allied air forces' momentary attention to French targets, provided much needed war material for a skeletal German Army. Decentralized production, round the clock manufacturing, and reinforced and underground factories made up for shortfalls due to bombing.

To quickly reequip units, the German Army called upon its, as yet barely touched, vast stock of captured weapons stored at various depots from Czechoslovakia to Grafenwohr, Germany. Foreign artillery pieces of almost every caliber, originally planned as roadside monuments to commemorate German victories, were assembled to fulfill a military role.



At a farmyard in Belgium on the second day of the offensive, German paratroopers look over antitank guns, trucks, and jeeps left behind by U.S. units.

To make up for personnel losses, automatic weapons were increased throughout the army to give units more firepower, especially when fighting in wooded areas. The 7.92-mm MP-44 assault rifle, the forerunner of the U.S. Army's M-16 rifle of the 1960s, was issued in great quantities and was the most common German infantry weapon in the Ardennes.¹³

The Reichsbahn, Germany's efficient, though antiquated, state railroad, was able to keep supplies moving despite horrific losses and massive raids on facilities. Despite rumors to the contrary, rail was the Wehrmacht's primary mode of transportation. Over the first two weeks of December, some 1,500 trains bearing troops, tanks, and guns unloaded in marshaling yards east of the Ardennes.¹⁴

With five years of experience, the Germans were technologically superior to the Allies. Though they would never have the atomic bomb, and the "V" weapons were only a nuisance, the Germans made remarkable strides in military technology. The Luftwaffe, though driven from the skies of Europe, had the only operational jet fighter, bomber, and reconnaissance aircraft of the war. Indeed, the dual-jet engined Arado 234 routinely photographed Allied supply beaches and battlefields in France.¹⁵

Throughout the war in the West, German armor was consistently superior to that of the allies. Though the French fielded superb tanks in 1940, they were not employed properly and were quickly rounded up by the invading Germans. With the German defeat in France, not only were many tanks lost in battle or due to air attack, damaged panzers could not be recovered from the battlefield before they were captured. The relative stabilization of the front allowed the German Army to rebuild its supply of armor. Hitler ordered that the entire production of the 68-ton Tiger II tank be sent to the west and all medium armor to the Eastern Front.¹⁶ On the evening before the great battle, 717 tanks and assault guns sat camouflaged opposite the American positions.¹⁷

Leading the refitting effort was the often maligned Panzerkampfwagen VI Ausf B, better known as the King Tiger II. Like its predecessor, the Tiger I, the King Tiger was superior in armor and armament to any Allied tank. In battles in Normandy, the Tiger eliminated its opponents with ease. So feared were these 68-ton giants that Americans often called every German tank a "Tiger."¹⁸

(Continued on Page 11)

(Continued from Page 10)

HITLER'S FOLLY? OR WAS IT?

The Ardennes Gamble

Ardennes battle map shows limits of German objectives and actual progress, army boundaries, and Allied front line on the day the battle began.

have to be on the Western Front.

The situation in the West was by far the most dangerous. The allied had already liberated the Belgian eastern-most province of Eupen et Malmédy,²⁰ which was annexed by the Reich in 1940 (they were lost by Germany after the First World War in 1919).

The American capture of Aachen and incursion toward the Rur Dams posed a threat to the industrial Ruhr. This congested area, encompassing several major cities along the Rhine, had already taken a beating from continuous Allied air attacks. Its capture would virtually eliminate German war production.

Luxembourg, described as German by tradition, French by politics,²¹ was close to annexation by the time of the June 6 allied invasion of France. In September, only a sliver of the country along the Our and Sauer Rivers remained German.

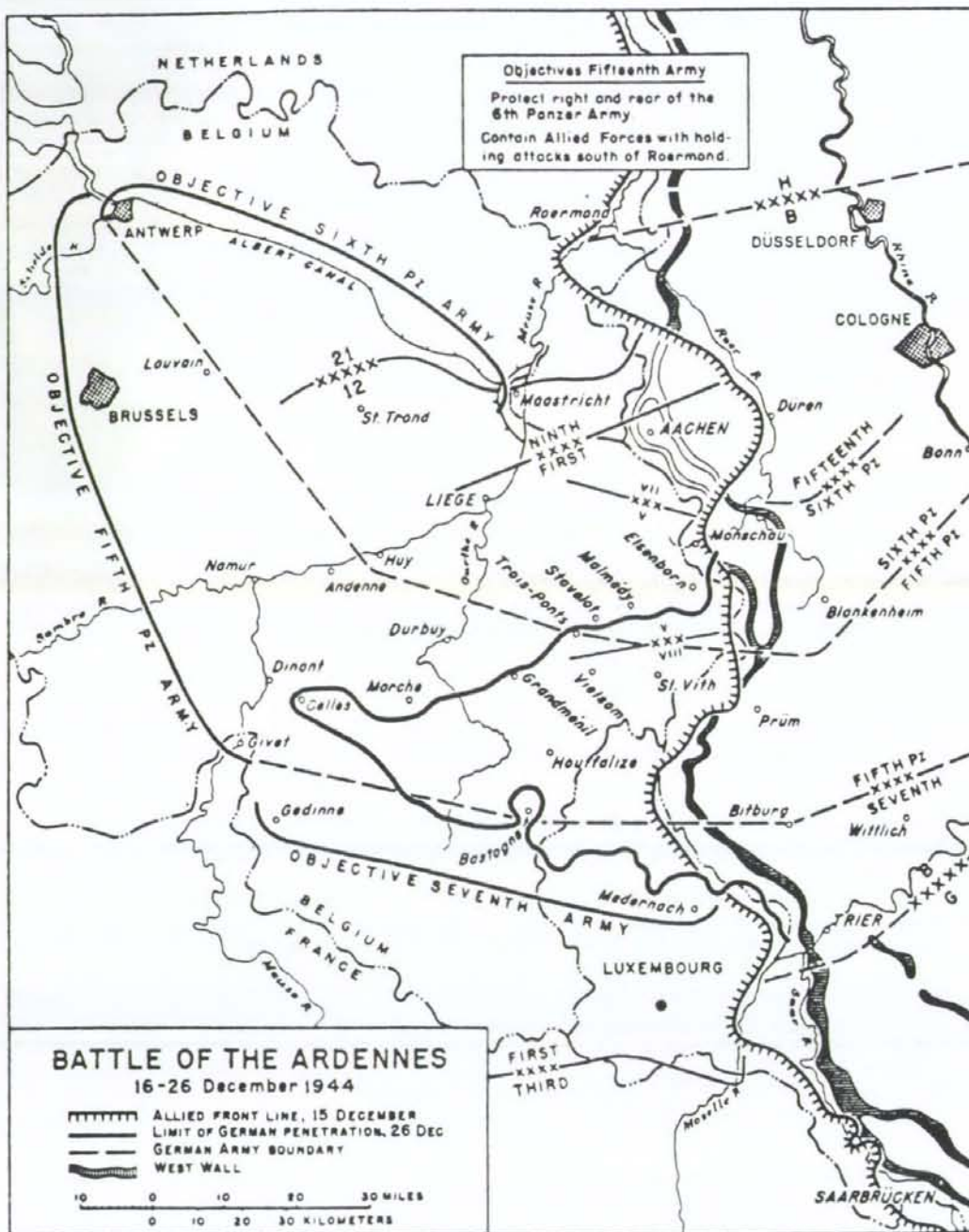
Why the Ardennes?

Historians in the 1950s and 1960s contend the Germans attacked through the Ardennes because of earlier victories through the wooded area in 1914 and 1940. However in 1914, the German border extended farther to the west than it did in 1937. True, German Panzer General Heinz Guderian's thrust along the Ardennes in 1940 was a masterstroke, but it was directed southwest against weakened French, Belgian, and British positions. The 1944 drive would be northwest toward Antwerp, against the grain of the country and in an area of very few roads.²²

From the Ardennes, it was only 110 miles to Antwerp—a reasonably attainable, though not necessarily retainable, strategic objective. Not only would the attack relieve the pressure on the German border, but would cut off the bulk of the British Army in the north and deny the Allies their northernmost port.

As fate would have it, geography favored a German buildup. The Eifel region opposite the Ardennes offered cover and concealment, particularly for an army without air cover. As they had in 1914 and 1940, spurs of the Reichsbahn railroad ran right into the Eifel from Trier and Koblenz. The German population of the region was unquestionably loyal, thus the chance of betrayal was slight. Additionally, most of the families immediately across the front lines had at least one father or son still in the

(Continued on Page 12)



Apart from production shortages and the tank's vulnerability to air attack, 136 King Tigers (remarkable considering only 476 were manufactured during the war) were ready for the Ardennes offensive.¹⁹

Regardless of Hitler's disdain for the armies of Soviet Russia, the west, from a cartographer's point of view, was the threat. Historians studying the Ardennes offensive usually do so with 1937 maps of Germany. To Hitler, as well as to the German people, Germany was larger. Kesselring's determined defense in Italy was due not so much to Italy's surrender as it was that the Germans shared a common national border (the former Austrian frontier). An Allied offensive into Austria was an attack on Germany itself. For the time being, that possibility was months away.

In the east, Germany swallowed half of Czechoslovakia and was close to Germanizing the country. The border area, known as the Sudetenland, was already part of the Reich. The "Protectorate" of Czechoslovakia was in no danger of imminent invasion.

In Poland, Germany was in the process of repossessing areas owned by Germany before 1918. With the exception of a few towns in East Prussia, these lands were safely in German hands.

An attack against the Red Army would undoubtedly bring tactical success, but reach no strategic objective. In order to be victorious, the Red Army would have to be driven hundreds of miles, at least out of Belorussia and the Ukraine. Hitler's carefully hoarded panzer force would easily be swallowed in the Pripiet Marshes and vast expanse of Russia.

An offensive in the Balkans was to be avoided entirely. The German forces there were having enough problems protecting their lines of communications against partisans, and flanks against the Soviets and turncoat allies. Italy offered opportunities, but not for a heavy panzer force. The very mountainous terrain which formed Kesselring's successful defense would be turned against the Germans. Additionally, there were no raw materials to be gained, no thankful population to liberate, and no relief on fronts closer to Germany. If there was an attack, it would

HITLER'S FOLLY? OR WAS IT?

German Army and the locals could be considered sympathetic. For the limited resources available, compared to the forces allotted in 1940, the Ardennes was deemed ideal.

Though German generals like Field Marshal Walther Model advocated an attack to regain the historic Holy Roman capital, Aachen, Hitler would not hear anything of it. In his estimate, Aachen could be retaken, but the cost would be too great. Throughout the war, Hitler rarely supported plans that involved direct assaults on major cities. City fighting easily swallowed divisions and tied them down for weeks at a time. Hitler remembered Stalingrad all too clearly, where a panzer army was committed to a city that could have been outflanked. Seizing Aachen would have no strategic significance. Moreover, Aachen was too close to the British and Canadian forces in the Netherlands, Aachen's capture would no doubt evoke a swift counterattack.

Despite feeble attempts to dissuade him, Hitler was set on attacking through the Ardennes, cutting off British and Canadian armies, and inflicting a defeat on the Americans similar to that of their 1943 disaster at Kasserine Pass in Tunisia at the hands of the Panzer Armee Afrika. Paralysis of the enemy, not necessarily his physical destruction, was the aim.²³ Hitler was convinced that the Allied link with the Russians was fragile and a defeat in the West would serve to rupture the alliance.²⁴ Though he knew he could not win the war, he might be able to sue for a separate peace without surrender and then deal militarily with the Russians.

In hindsight, the goal seems unrealistic. To the German military, and particularly to Hitler, it was the only logical course of action. Germany could not survive by fighting a defensive war, unconditional surrender would bring terms worse than those of 1918, and the dictatorship would have been doomed. The only route left was through the Ardennes.

Notes

¹Cooper, Matthew, *The German Army 1933-1945*, Scarborough House, Chelsea, Michigan, 1978, p. 518.

²Crookenden, Napier, *Battle of the Bulge 1944*, Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1980, p. 6.

³Ibid., p. 7.

⁴Irving, David, *Hitler's War*, Avon Books, New York, 1990, p. 722.

⁵Elstob, Peter, *Bastogne, the Road Block*, Ballantine Books, New York, 1972, p. 8.

⁶Flaherty, Thomas H., Editor, *The Reach for Empire*, Time-Life Books, Alexandria, Virginia, 1989, p. 36.

⁷Nosbuesch, Johannes, *Bis Zum Bitterern Ende*, Paulinus-Druckerei, GmbH, Trier, Bundesrepublik Deutschland, 1978, p. 113.

⁸Ibid., p. 93.

⁹Cooper, p. 515.

¹⁰Ibid., p. 516.

¹¹Goolrick, William K. and Ogden Tanner, *The Battle of the Bulge*, Time-Life Books, Alexandria, Virginia, 1979, p. 32.

¹²Griess, Thomas E., Editor, *The Second World War*, the West Point Military History Series, Avery Publishing Group, Wayne, New Jersey, 1984, p. 370.

¹³Parker, Danny S., *Battle of the Bulge*, Combined Books, Conshohocken, Pennsylvania, 1991, p. 54.

¹⁴Ibid., p. 25.

¹⁵Irving, David, *Goering*, Avon Books, New York, 1989, p. 441.

¹⁶Cooper, p. 517.

¹⁷Parker, p. 26.

¹⁸Ibid., p. 234.

¹⁹Ibid.

²⁰MacDonald, Charles B., *A Time for Trumpets*, William Morrow and Company, New York, 1985, p. 28.

²¹Flaherty, Thomas H. Editor, *The Heel of the Conqueror*, Time Life Books, Alexandria, Virginia, 1991, p. 11.

²²Perret, Bryan, *Knights of the Black Cross*, St. Martin's Press, New York, 1986, p. 237.

²³Cooper, p. 520.

²⁴Lucas, James, *Reich*, Grafton Books, London, 1989.

Sources

Blumenson, Martin, *The Patton Papers 1940-1945*, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 1974.

Chamberlain, Peter and Hilary L. Doyle, *Encyclopedia of German Tanks of World War Two*, Arco Publishing Company, New York, 1978.

Cooper, Matthew, *The German Army 1933-1945*, Scarborough House, Chelsea, Michigan, 1978.

Crookenden, Napier, *Battle of the Bulge 1944*, Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1980.

Elstob, Peter, *Bastogne, the Road Block*, Ballantine Books, New York, 1972.

Flaherty, Thomas H., Editor, *The Heel of the Conqueror*, Time Life Books, Alexandria, Virginia, 1991, and *The Reach for Empire*, Time Life Books, Alexandria, Virginia, 1989.

Goolrick, William K. and Ogden Tanner, *The Battle of the Bulge*, Time Life Books, Alexandria, Virginia, 1979.

Griess, Thomas E., Editor, *The Second World War*, the West Point Military History Series, Avery Publishing Group, Wayne, New Jersey, 1984.

Irving, David, *Goering*, Avon Books, New York, 1989, and *Hitler's War*, Avon Books, New York, 1990.

Kleine, Egon and Volkmar Tuehn, *Tiger, Die Geschichte einer Legendaeren Waffe 1942-45*, Motorbuch Verlag, Stuttgart, Bundesrepublik Deutschland, 1991.

Lucas, James, *Reich*, Grafton Books, London, 1989.

MacDonald, Charles B., *A Time for Trumpets*, William Morrow and Company, New York, 1985.

Newton, John, Editor, *Descent into Nightmare*, Time Life Books, Alexandria, Virginia, 1992.

Nosbuesch, Johannes, *Bis Zum Bitterern Ende*, Paulinus-Druckerei, GmbH, Trier, Bundesrepublik Deutschland, 1978.

Parker, Danny S., *Battle of the Bulge*, Combined Books, Conshohocken, Pennsylvania, 1991.

Perret, Bryan, *Knights of the Black Cross*, St. Martin's Press, New York, 1986.

Whiting, Charles, *Bounce the Rhine*, Stein and Day, New York, 1986.

Captain Kevin R. Austris is currently the S3 training officer, 103rd Military Intelligence Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized), Wurzburg, Germany. He graduated from Seaton Hall University in 1982 and received his masters degree from Central Michigan University in 1989. In 1991, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his service during Operation Desert Storm. He has published several articles on the Battle of the Bulge and is a frequent visitor to the Ardennes battle site.

"SILLY PEOPLE"

"Silly people," Winston Churchill pronounced with emphasis in London on the day after Pearl Harbor, "Silly people think the Americans are weak. Some said they were soft, others that they would never be united. They would fool around at a distance. They would never come to grips. They would never stand bloodletting. Their democracy and system of recurrent elections would paralyze their war effort."

But Churchill saw what Hitler, Tojo and others did not see: "I had studied the American Civil War, fought out to the last desperate inch." He bet on the Americans. "I went to bed and slept the peace of the saved and the thankful."

The same news from Pearl Harbor propelled Hitler from his chair to tell his generals: "Now it is impossible for us to lose the war! We now have an ally who has never been vanquished in three thousand years." Hitler was among the "silly people."

Parable:

Seventy million years ago, a bunch of dinosaurs sat around chewing vegetation. One of them turned to his friend and said, "Is it my imagination, or is it getting colder?" The friend laughed and said, "Hey, it's just temporary. Have another leaf."

REUNIONS

To those who ask, "Why didn't you publish our reunion?" the answer is: You must send it in.

3RD CHEMICAL MORTAR BATTALION, October 28-31, 1993, Sheraton National, Arlington, Virginia. Contact: Quentin R. Unger, 6016 Torrey Pines Drive, Ocala, Florida 34472-3281. Telephone: 904-624-0937.

5TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 2ND INFANTRY, ANTI-TANK COMPANY, September 10-11, 1993, Lees Inn, Seymour, Indiana. Contact: Billy Hall, 10947 East Heywood Drive, Seymour, Indiana 47274. Telephone: 812-522-3161.

9TH ARMORED DIVISION, 16TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, September 19-23, 1993, Cocoa Beach, Florida. Contact: Harold Trethaway, 6 Oak Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18702.

9TH ARMORED DIVISION, 27TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, October 7-9, 1993, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Contact: Edward F. Greh, 807 Shore Club Drive, St. Clair Shores, Michigan 48080. Telephone: 313-776-0067.

9TH ARMORED DIVISION, 16TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, September 19-23, 1993, Cocoa Beach, Florida. Contact: Ray Pearson, 175 Northwest First Avenue, Miami, Florida 33128. Telephone: 305-373-4000 or David Kessler, A-10 Monroeville Mall, Monroeville, Pennsylvania 15146. Telephone: 412-372-8480.

10TH ARMORED DIVISION, September 2-6, 1993, Augusta, Georgia. Contact: Samuel F. Murow, Box 213, Bay Port, Michigan 48720. Telephone: 517-656-3551.

32ND SIGNAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION, October 7-9, 1993, Atlanta, Georgia. Contact: Hoyt E. Redd, 872 Daniell Drive, Smyrna, Georgia 30080. Telephone: 404-436-6353.

58TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, October, 1993. Contact: Julian G. Ryan, 664 Halloran Avenue, Wood River, Illinois 62095.

90TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 315 ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, October 15-17, 1993, Louisville, Kentucky. Contact: Wilson M. Midyett, 4426 Kinglet, Houston, Texas 77035 (Telephone 713-729-8360) or Carl Manuel, 1017 North 40th Street, Fort Smith, Arkansas 72904 (Telephone: 501-783-6559).

160TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, October 1-3, 1993, Executive Inn East, 978 Phillips Lane, Louisville, Kentucky 40213. Contact: Earl R. Stonefield, 8513 Pennsylvania Run Road, Louisville, Kentucky 40228. Telephone: 502-239-3020 (after 8:00 p.m.).

249TH COMBAT ENGINEERS BATTALION, September 8-11, 1994, Nashville, Tennessee. Contact: Sandy A. Putigano, 967 Adrian Circle, Girard, Ohio 44420.

281ST ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, September 20-22, 1993, Holiday Inn Oceanfront, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Contact: Albert B. Cline, P.O. Box 501, Gaffney, South Carolina 29342-0501. Telephone: 803-489-6528.

291ST ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, September 9-12, 1993, Hotel Denver, Denver, Colorado. Contact: Frank Rhea, 13505 West 34th Avenue, Golden, Colorado 80401. Telephone: 303-279-5853.

390TH AAA AW BN (SP), August 12, 14, 1993, Holiday Inn, 2640 Lakewood Blvd., Long Beach, California 90815. Contact: Ralph Terracciano, 3704 North Ellis Lane, Rosemead, California 91770 or William W. Sill, 6128 North Muscatel, San Gabriel, California 91775. Telephone: 818-287-9546.

426TH MEDICAL BATTALION, 564TH/565TH/566 MOTOR AMBULANCE COMPANIES, September 21-23, 1993, Indianapolis, Indiana. Contact: Harvey A. Legg, 16 Madrid Plaza, Mesa, Arizona 85201.

460TH AAA AW BATTALION, BATTERY C, September 14-16, Hampton Inn, Long Island, New York. Contact: John P. Murray, 531 West 135th Street, New York, New York 10031. Telephone: 212-234-2668.

489TH AAA (AW) BATTALION (SP), September 13-18, 1993, El Paso, Texas. Contact: Carl Meiser, 915 Angelita Drive, Prescott, Arizona 86303. Telephone: 602-445-8674.

526TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, 1994--Time and place to be announced. Contact: George Wendt, 1420 Roosevelt Drive, Modesto, California 95350-4219. Telephone: 209-524-4615.

546TH AAA (AW) BATTALION, September 17-19, 1993, Holiday Inn, Jonesboro, Arkansas. Contact: Bob Hasen, 15113 Village 15, Camarillo, California 93012. Telephone: 805-482-3198.

556TH AAA (AW) BATTALION, September 9-11, 1993, Days Inn, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Contact: H. E. Lashhorn, Sr., 3516 Williams Drive, Weirton, West Virginia 26062. Telephone: 304-748-7778.

575TH AAA BATTALION, BATTERY "D", September 12-13, 1993, Pottawatomie Inn, Pokagon State Park, Angola, Indiana. Contact: Roger T. Rhoads, 4004 Cambridge, Des Moines, Iowa 50313. Telephone: 515-282-7062.

644TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION, October, 1993, Kissimmee, Florida. Contact: Frank Arieta, 129 East Garibaldi Avenue, Nesquehoning, Pennsylvania 18240. Telephone: 717-669-9563.

707TH TANK BATTALION ASSOCIATION, September 23-26, 1993, Holiday Inn, Dayton Mall, Dayton, Ohio. Contact: John E. Bickers, P.O. Box 481, Gulf Breeze, Florida 32562-0481. Telephone: 904-932-2931.

709TH TANK BATTALION, September 16-19, 1993, New Philadelphia, Ohio. Contact: Paul E. Claster, 35 Euclid Avenue, Middletown, New York 10940.

945TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, August 12-15, 1993, Branson, Missouri. Contact: George Buck, 726-50th Street, Des Moines, Iowa. Telephone: 515-255-4269.

1056TH ENGINEER PC&R GROUP, October 1-2, Savannah, Georgia. Contact: Thomas E. Finnegan, 420 South Webster Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania 18505. Telephone: 717-344-6966.

CAMP FANNIN ASSOCIATION, November 11-13, 1993, Tyler, Texas. Contact: Gordon Neilson, 1017 Balmoral, Tyler, Texas 75703. Telephone: 903-581-0878.

Letters to the Editor (Continued from Page 4)

In attempting to write a chronicle of my own experiences in the Bulge, I quickly learned how difficult it was to accurately recall dates and places.

This face was exemplified by Harold Harmon's article in the May 1993 issue of *The Bugle*. Harold innocently places SHAEF Headquarters in Spa, Belgium, whereas it was always in Paris, France, even during the Bulge.

What he witnessed was the withdrawal of First Army Headquarters to a safer location in Chaudfontaine.

Fortunately, the U.S. Army history section put the record straight into the history books immediately after the war.

James H. Burke



Check your label--are your dues due?

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE
12TH REUNION
 Bismarck, North Dakota • September 15-19, 1993
 Headquarters • Radisson Inn Bismarck
 Bismarck, North Dakota

REGISTRATION FORM

No later than August 25, 1993, mail form and check to:
 Teresa Peterson
 1608 North 16th Street
 Bismarck, ND 58501

	Number of Persons	Cost per person	Total
Wednesday • September 15			
*Registration (before 8/25/93)	_____	\$20.00	_____
(after 8/25/93)	_____	\$25.00	_____
Hospitality Room	_____	N/C	_____
Lewis & Clark Riverboat Ride (Minimum of 60 passengers)	_____	\$10.00	_____
Thursday • September 16			
Ladies' Luncheon and Program	_____	\$10.00	_____
Friday • September 17			
Pitchfork Steak Fondue at Fort Lincoln State Park and Custer House Tour	_____	\$30.00	_____
Saturday • September 18			
Tours of the Town (Includes Continental Breakfast)	_____	\$ 9.00	_____
Reunion Banquet, Entertainment/Dance	_____	\$27.00	_____
TOTAL AMOUNT (Enclose check)			=====

NO REFUNDS AFTER SEPTEMBER 8, 1993

*This fee not required for Banquet Guests.

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

Please print all information.

Name: _____ Unit: _____

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

Street Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE
12TH REUNION • BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA
 SEPTEMBER 15-19, 1993

REUNION AGENDA

Wednesday • September 15

Noon - 8:00 p.m.	Arrival, registration, find old friends and make new ones
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Lewis and Clark Riverboat Ride (minimum of 60 required)

Thursday • September 16

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Registration
9:00 - 10:00 a.m.	Committee Meetings
10:15 - 12:00 Noon	Chapter Presidents' Meeting/Public Relations Seminar
12:00 - 2:00 p.m.	Ladies' Luncheon and Program
12:00 - 1:15 p.m.	Lunch "on your own"
1:30 - 3:00 p.m.	Regional Meeting
3:30 - 5:00 p.m.	Executive Council Session
5:30 p.m.	Dinner "on your own"
Time to be announced	Lewis and Clark Riverboat Ride (if needed)

Friday • September 17

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Registration
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon	General Business Meeting
12:00 - 1:15 p.m.	Lunch "on your own"
1:30 - 3:30 p.m.	Continue General Business Meeting, if necessary
4:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Executive Council Session
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Pitchfork Steak Fondue, Tour Custer House Complex, Indian Dances

Saturday • September 18

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Registration
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon	Continental Breakfast in State Capitol. Tour of the town.
12:00 Noon	Return to hotel (lunch "on your own")
5:00 p.m.	Memorial Service
6:30 p.m.	Cocktail Reception
7:00 p.m.	Reunion Banquet, Entertainment and Dancing

Sunday • September 19

Departure

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE
12TH REUNION • BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA
SEPTEMBER 15-19, 1993

HOTEL REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete and mail to:

Radisson Inn Bismarck
800 South Third Street
Bismarck, North Dakota 585048
(701) 258-7700

\$50.00 (Flat Rate)
Per Room, Per Night
Plus Tax

Room rates apply 48 hours prior to and following the reunion dates. All rates are subject to state and local taxes. Current tax rate is 9%. Tax rate is subject to change. Reservations must be received by the hotel no later than September 1, 1993. After this date, reservation requests can only be accepted on a space available basis.

Name(s): _____

Guest Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: () _____ Arrival _____ Departure _____

Non-Smoking _____ Smoking _____ Single _____ Double _____

Triple _____ Quad _____ Other Special Requests _____

Advance deposit enclosed.

COMPLIMENTARY TRANSPORTATION

- Available and provided by Radisson Inn to and from Airport.

If Arriving After 6:00 P.M.,
Please Guarantee Room
For Late Arrival by Completing
The Following Information:

CREDIT CARD GUARANTEE

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

Required Signature: _____

THE ARDENNES TANKER

*The "Call to Arms" in Ancient Days
Brought men to war in varied ways.
Now men arrive to swell the ranks
In armor, clad in mighty tanks.*

*The horseman charged into the fray
To cut the foe - to lead the way.
Now tankmen roll on turning tracks
With mounted guns on armoured backs.*

*This roving fortress roams the land
With blazing guns to take command.
It churns through ice and ARDENNES snow
To open the roads where soldiers go.*

*These daring men with nerves of steel
Lead Armies in the battle reel.
Sherman, Patton and Abrams tanks
They have our praise and heartfelt thanks.*

John E. McAuliffe, CO.M. 347th INF. REGT.

Up Front

with Willie & Joe

by Bill Mauldin Reprinted in The Stars and Stripes Courtesy of Bill Mauldin



"Nonsense. S-2 reported that machine gun silenced hours ago.
Stop Wiggling your fingers at me."

YOUR HELP NEEDED!

Attention Battle of the Bulge Veterans and Families: A one hour documentary about the Battle of the Bulge is being produced for the Public Broadcasting Series (PBS) "The American Experience." If you have diaries, photographs, or movies from your Bulge experiences, written or taken during the Bulge from 16 December 1944 through its end in January, 1945, please contact: Mark Zwonitzen, Lennon Documentary Group, 225 West 26th Street, New York, New York 10001. Telephone: 212-463-9890. FAX: 212-229-1439.

A PIECE OF WWII PUZZLE?

Joseph Kuhar, of Gainesville Virginia, keeps a piece of one of history's most intriguing puzzles about a notorious Nazi war criminal tucked away safely in his briefcase.

[The following edited article by Chris LaSonde appeared in the Potomac News, October 22, 1992]

...In May 1941, Rudolf Hess parachuted into history, ostensibly on a mission to open peace talks with the British. Captured by a Scottish farmer, Hess spent the remainder of the war in captivity.

After the war, the Allies tried Hess at the Nuremberg War Crime Trials. Convicted, he spent the rest of his life at Spandau Prison in Berlin. Mystery shrouds even the nature of his death in August 1987.

Why did Hess make the jump from the frying pan into the fire? As scholars and military historians delve deeper into the mystery, theories abound. Was Hess a victim of an operation run by British military intelligence, as some claim? Was he sent by Hitler? Did he act on his own? Was Hess even the man who made the flight, or was the man a double?

A theater owner in Fulda, Germany, handed a young soldier a reel of 35mm film which may help answer those questions in 1945. That soldier was Kuhar, who had served with the 33rd Special Service Company. His unit provided a place for soldiers fresh off the front to relax. Showing "Going My Way" 200 times across the continent, trucking in beer and soda and setting up a USO show were all in a day's work for him.

War's end found him with the Army of Occupation in Fulda serving primarily as a film projectionist at the Union Theater. When Mickey Rooney and Bobby Breen decided to pay a visit to Fulda, Kuhar wound up with the job of setting up the show. The Union had no stage, so Kuhar went to the town's other theater—the Lichtspiel.

While crawling around under the stage, searching for any structural flaws caused by Allied bombings in the area, Kuhar discovered a cache of tires, sugar and petrol—all items still strictly rationed.

Perhaps nervous about the implication of being caught with black-market goods, the Lichtspiel owner, Herman Becker, handed Kuhar a reel of film as a peace offering.

Through his interpreter, Kuhar learned that the film was a newsreel to be shown before the main attraction in May 1941. Immediately after Hess' flight May 10, Joseph Goebbels, minister of propaganda, sent word that the film was not to be shown. No explanation was ever given.

Kuhar brought the film to the attention of his superiors, but with the war over, intelligence expressed little interest in a dusty newsreel.

Kuhar brought it back to the states in his duffle bag. It was not until many years later that his curiosity got the best of him. The film could be run only on a theater projector so Kuhar persuaded the staff of a local playhouse to give him a private showing.

There on the screen was Rudolf Hess. The deputy reichsführer was first shown at the dedication of a new warplane with German industrialists Dr. Ferry Porsche and Willie Messerschmidt. The next show shows a veritable who's who of the Nazi Party at the opening of the Reichstag in Berlin. Hess again is shown in the footage.

Did Hitler denounce Hess' mission as "pacifist delusions" by prearrangement with his deputy, or was he severing all ties with a man he thought had gone round the bend?

Kuhar doesn't speculate on why the German leader decided the film was not to be shown to the German populace. "I don't have a theory except what I hold in my hands," Kuhar said. "I'm interested in finding out the truth for no reason other than curiosity."

Authorities said Hess hung himself in a prison green house, but statements from his doctor indicated that he was not physically capable of committing suicide in that manner. The lamp cord allegedly used in the suicide and the green house were destroyed shortly after Hess' death.

Kuhar has written to Hess' son Wolf Rudiger Hess, about the film. Wolf Hess is still probing the unusual events connected to his father's death, and expressed an interest in seeing the film.

Recently, the KGB unsealed documents which may shed new light on the mystery. British involvement in the affair includes a set of documents sealed until 2016.

Whether Kuhar's film answers an important question is doubtful. Whether he holds in his hands an important piece of history is not.

AS I REMEMBER

On December 20, 1944, Company D of the 14th Tank Battalion, 9th Armored Division, was in the Ardennes when we were ordered to move forward to meet the enemy. I had the third tank but, after proceeding a short distance, we made an about face which placed me as the lead tank.

We proceeded along this other road and I moved slowly as we approached the crest of a hill. Suddenly, we were hit by a bazooka fired by a soldier hidden in the woods.

I remember the blast. I had my head above the tank turret and the blast blew off my helmet. The shell penetrated the tank, hitting both the driver and the assistant driver (bow gunner).

The tank had an automatic transmission. When the driver was hit, he slumped in his seat with his foot on the gas pedal so we proceeded down the road with no one driving. I was unable to get down into the driver's seat.

We travelled about a quarter of a mile into enemy territory and stopped after hitting a tree. The bazooka had cut our wires so the gun did not work. I could not get a call back on the tank radio.

Both the driver and assistant driver were dead. Ervin Erickson was the driver. I believe the assistant driver was Groboski. George Kelley was the gunner.

We started to the rear when we ran right into German soldiers. We were taken to a nearby house and interrogated. They took our overshoes and overcoats. We were shelled by the Americans that night.

We did not receive any food the first few days. After about a week, we were put in Stalag 4-B with about 300p Americans and Englishmen. We spent only a few days there. In the four months I was a prisoner, we were in three POW camps. We were fed once a day with three slices of sawdust bread and a small bowl of soup with a few strings of horse meat.

But we were not fed every day. Once we were locked in a train box car for five days without anything to eat or drink. We travelled only about 50 miles since our airplanes were blowing up the tracks.

Another time we were on a train that was strafed by two English fighter planes that hit the engine and first two cars, killing most of those in the cars. I was lucky since I was in the third car.

During the four months as prisoner, I was bombed or strafed almost every day by American or English planes.

We were told that we walked about 400 miles during the four months. Men often dropped along the way, too weak to go any further. I often wondered what happened to them.

In the four months, we received on Red Cross parcel divided between four men. George Kelley and I were together until we were liberated.

I was liberated by the English at Munster, Germany, on April 16, 1945. I was weak and sick from diarrhea when taken to a hospital in France. After about 10 days, I was transported by airplane to a hospital in Topeka, Kansas. I weighed 96 pounds. I stayed there three months and was then discharged.

(Continued on Page 28)

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The VBOB Nominating Committee has prepared the following slate of officers to serve on the Executive Council for the 1993-94 fiscal year. Their pictures and biographies are submitted herewith for your information. They will be presented for election at the Reunion in Bismarck, North Dakota.

PRESIDENT: WILLIAM P. TAYMAN

William P. Tayman presently VBOB Executive Vice President, joined VBOB in November, 1984, becoming a life member in November 1987. During these years he has attended the Executive Council



Meetings on a regular basis. Bill has served as Chairman of the VBOB Postage Stamp Committee; Chairman of the VBOB Budget Committee for FY-91 and FY-92; Chaired the 47th Anniversary Commemoration; and is presently Chairman of the VBOB 50th Anniversary Commemoration. From the inception of the BOB Historical Foundation, he has served as Comptroller. He is a Life Member of the DAV, belonging to the Arlington-Fairfax Chapter. He served in the 87th Infantry Division, Company C, 345th Regiment, and was wounded in the Battle of the Bulge by machine gun fire. His military decorations included the

French Croix de Guerre with Bronze Star, both the Silver and Bronze Stars, the Purple Heart and Combat Infantry Badge.

Born in the District of Columbia, he received his formal education at George Washington University and Department of Commerce, NBS Graduate School. Bill retired from the U.S. Geological Survey in August 1984 as Chief of the Optical Science Section in the National Mapping Division. Before coming to the GS he was with the National Bureau of Standards; there he worked in the Optical Physics Division. Bill is author of over 12 papers in photogrammetry on aerial mapping cameras and lenses.

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT: EMERY B. ANTONUCCI

Emery served with the 75th Infantry Division from 1943 to 1946. His major campaigns were the Battle of the Bulge, Colmar Pocket, and the Ruhr Pocket.

He retired from the Prudential Insurance Company after 30 years of service. During this period he spent 16 years in management as a sales manager and 14 years as a salesman.

Currently, Emery works two days a week at the Alexandria Police Department in Alexandria, Virginia, as the Volunteer Coordinator managing a staff of 86 volunteers.

Emery has been a regular attendee at VBOB Executive Council meetings and has served as Assistant Treasurer.



VICE PRESIDENT, MEMBERSHIP: LESTER M. BORNSTEIN

Lester served with the 168th Engineer Combat Battalion for 2-1/2 years and participated in five campaigns in the ETO. During the Battle of the Bulge his unit was assigned as infantry in defense of St. Vith. He received the Bronze Star for Valor in the assault crossing of

the Rhine River.

Lester graduated from Boston University in 1949, where he received Designated Distinguished Military Graduate from ROTC and accepted a Regular Army Commission as 2nd Lt. M.S.C. He was assigned to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., from 1949 to 1950.

At the outbreak of the Korean War he was sent to the Far East, where he opened a station hospital in Sasebo, Japan, in 1950. He served as adjutant of the hospital for three years. He resigned his Army Commission in 1953 to attend Yale University where he obtained a Masters in Hospital



Administration. Retired from the active reserve in 1969.

VICE PRESIDENT, CHAPTER COORDINATION: GROVER C. TWINER

Grover currently serves VBOB as Vice President for Membership. He has also served as President and Secretary of the Maryland/District of Columbia Chapter of VBOB. He has regularly attended Executive Council meetings.

Born and educated in Mississippi, Grover was ordered to active duty with the Mississippi National Guard in November of 1940. He was transferred to the 30th Infantry Division, 117th Infantry in November, 1943. His division entered the continent of Europe through Omaha Beach in June, 1944.

The division participated in all actions in its assigned tasks, from St. Lo through France, Belgium, Holland and Germany to Magdeburg on the Elbe (including a side trip to the Battle of Ardennes).



Awards included three Bronze Stars, five Battle Stars (ETO), CIB, several Presidential Unit Citations as well as Belgian and French Ferigere. He separated from the Army of the United States in January, 1946.

After his discharge, Grover completed his education and joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation in September, 1947. He retired from the FBI in January, 1972. He has held several responsible positions with the police department and in the real estate industry.

VICE PRESIDENT, MILITARY AFFAIRS: PETER G. DOUNIS

Peter was born in the District of Columbia, where he attended public schools prior to going into the Army on November 11, 1943. After discharge from the service he attended the University of Maryland and George Washington University.

Peter had IRTC basic training at Camp Blanding, Florida, and was shipped out from there to Camp Atterbury, Indiana, where he was assigned to the 106th Infantry Division, 422nd Regiment, 1st Battalion, Company C. From there he was shipped to Camp Butner,



North Carolina, where he was assigned to the 89th Infantry Division, 354th Regiment, 2nd Battalion, Company E. From there he headed for the ETO with the 75th Infantry Division, 291st Regiment, 2nd Battalion, Company G, where he served in three campaigns (including the Battle of the Bulge). He returned to the States and was discharged from the Army on April 27, 1946.

Pete has served in various capacities with the American Legion and DAV.

He was in printing sales for 37 years and 42 years in the printing business.

He still does some brokerage work from his home in Silver Spring, Maryland.

He is a Life/Charter member and has been actively involved in VBOB for many years, having served as Vice President for Military Affairs for the last two years.

TREASURER: PETER F. LESLIE, JR.

Peter is a VBOB Life Member and is currently serves as VBOB Treasurer and serves as a Director of the Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation. He also formed the VBOB Arizona Chapter in 1993.

He was born in Amsterdam, Netherlands, and has been a U.S. citizen since 1933. He was educated in Hawthorne, New Jersey. He was employed in the truck equipment industry since 1938 and was the sole owner of Steelfab, Inc. (regional truck body manufacturer) from 1967 to 1985. He retired in 1986.



Peter entered the U.S. Army on 27 December, 1942, and served with the 511th Engineer Light Ponton Company, having been awarded five battle stars (including the Ardennes) and the following medals: Good Conduct, American Service, ETO Service, Army of Occupation, Victory, Silver Star and the AES De Fluery Medal. He was discharged in 1945. He entered the New Jersey Army National Guard in 1949 and was discharged in 1953—serving with Bridge Company, 104th

Engineers.

Peter is also a member of CEBA, VFW, and Charter Member Army Engineer Association. He serves as unofficial historian of the 511th Engineers.

His goal is to supervise VBOB expenditures and hasten completion of VBOB's new data base into a format easy to administer and supervise. He has the necessary computer equipment and knowledge of computers to see that his goal is achieved.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: DOROTHY S. DAVIS

Dorothy has served VBOB in many capacities: Health Affairs Officer; Executive Officer of the Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation; Historian; Chairman of the Historical Foundation Dinner Gala Planning Committee; Member of the Reunion Planning Committee; President of the Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation; Assistant for the Battle of the Bulge Gallery; National Recording Secretary; etc.

She served from February, 1944, to February, 1946 in the Army Nurse Corps, with the 57th Field Hospital in the ETO, providing medical support to the casualties of the Central Europe Campaign, Battle of the Bulge, Colmar Pocket, Rhineland Campaign and prisoner of war camps.

Dorothy has served for five years as President of the Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation; participated with historians in research on the WWII Ardennes



Campaign; and provides administrative guidance for preserving the history of the Battle of the Bulge.

Dorothy has extensive experience in American Red Cross volunteer leadership assignments, with responsibilities for designing programs to meet community health needs and for recruiting, training and supervising volunteers to serve in these programs.

She attended the University of Minnesota, University of Maryland, American University, Howard University, and the University of Chicago.

RECORDING SECRETARY: BEVERLEY VAN HOUTEN

Beverley has been a member of VBOB since 1982 and currently is an Associate Life Member.



She has served as Corresponding Secretary for the years 1988 through 1992. She is currently serving as Recording Secretary.

Throughout her association with VBOB, Beverley has served in many capacities.

She ably assisted her husband, Bob, with the many tasks which were involved in his activities during his service as Vice President for Chapter Coordination.

The Nominating Committee has given careful consideration to the above slate of candidates and feels that each proposed officer will perform the duties of his/her office in an excellent manner.

Respectfully submitted,

Darrell Kuhn, Chairman
VBOB Nominating Committee

VETERANS AFFAIRS APPEALS:

"Eligibility / Benefit: Claimants for VA benefits have the right to appeal determinations made by a VA regional office or medical center. Not all field determinations are appealable but those dealing with compensation or pension benefits, education benefits, waiver of recovery of overpayments, and reimbursement of unauthorized medical services are typical issues which may be appealed to the Board of Veteran Appeals.

Time Limits / Where to File: A claimant had one year from the date of the notification to file an appeal. An appeal initiated by filing a "Notice of Disagreement" in which the claimant expresses his or her dissatisfaction and requests appellate review. This notice of Disagreement should be filed with the Department of Veterans Affairs facility, such as a regional office or medical center, responsible for making the determination.

Following receipt of a Notice of Disagreement, the Department of Veterans Affairs office will furnish the claimant a 'Statement of the Case' setting for the issue, facts, applicable law and regulations, and the reasons for the determination.

To complete the request for appeal, the claimant must file a 'Substantive Appeal' within 60 days after the date of the Statement of the Case, or within one year from the notification of the original determination, whichever is later."

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

PANDORA'S BOX The Trouble with History

[History is not only a subject that many students have trouble with, it is also something that changes with almost every retelling. It is not only beauty that is in the eye of the beholder--sometimes history suffers from the same type of ogling.]

We have been collecting histories and it is our intention to print portions dealing with the Battle of the Bulge from as many of them as possible because we believe they will be of interest to you.

We will also provide space under the "Pandora's Box" headline for those of you who have seen "history" with another set of eyes. We do not intend to get into a squabble with our members or cause our members to squabble with each other. Our policy will be to print your history as you submit it and then allow those with a bone of contention to present their view point in the next issue. Information received after the immediately following issue will not be printed. WE WILL PRINT ONLY REBUTTALS FROM UNITS OR AN INDIVIDUAL'S OWN ACCOUNT--NOT SECOND-HAND INFORMATION]

Reference: 761ST MEDIUM TANK BATTALION

The 87TH INFANTRY DIVISION has written quite a lengthy response to the claims in the history with respect to the "Taking of Tillet," in the February issue. In no way does the 87th wish to discount other successful exploits of the tank battalion. The following are excerpts from the information they submitted:

From the book written by Charles B. MacDonald, U.S. Army in WW II: The Last Offensive:

Page 35--Victory in the Ardennes: "Middleton had in addition the 17th Airborne Division and two newcomers to the front, the 11th Armored Division and the 87th Infantry Division, which General Bradley has specifically directed to be employed at Bastogne lest Patton stint the offensive there in favor of his cherished drive near the base of the Bulge."

Page 39--Victory in the Ardennes: "For the 87th Infantry Division, trying to break into the crossroads settlement of Tillet, midway between Bastogne and St. Hubert, the fighting proved bitterly frustrating as every attempt met sharp riposte from the Fuehrer Begleit Brigade--another elite unit heavy in armor--that had been created from Hitler's household guard."

"Even the affected units made no precipitate exodus, but instead executed the kind of gradual, grudging withdrawal that nobody did better than the Germans with their penchant for counter attack whenever and wherever a position approached the untenable."

"Not until the third day of the renewed offensive, 11 January, did any firm indication of withdrawal develop in the west wing of the VIII Corps. The 87th Infantry Division, after finally having entered Tillet the night before found the Germans pulling back abandoning St. Hubert and several smaller towns, but leaving behind rear guards, roadblocks and deadly quilts of mines."

They point out "there is no mention of the 761st--although other armored divisions were mentioned."

Excerpt from letter written by Robert J. Watson regarding a movie concerning the 761st Medium Tank Battalion:

"...advance publicity indicates that the 761st Tank Battalion captured the town of Tillet, Belgium. Whatever successes the 761st Tank Battalion may have enjoyed (and I do not deny them any glory), it should not include the capture of Tillet, Belgium."

"...I was in Tillet from January 6 to 10, 1945, except for about 5 or 6 hours of the night of January 6 spent at the 3rd Battalion aid

station up the woods on Giremont Station Hill overlooking Tillet.

"I know of where I am speaking because Company 'I,' 346th Infantry, 87th Division, took the town of Tillet by "house-to-house" fighting. The four day attack was responsible for the attrition from 80 men and 4 officers to the final count of 30 men and 1 officer (myself). The battle was exceptionally bitter and the only "Congressional Medal of Honor" for the 87th Infantry Division was awarded posthumously to Curtis Shoup, a member of Company 'I' in that battle."

Excerpts from a January 22, 1945, story in the Chicago Daily News concerning Lt. Glenn J. Doman, commander of 1st Platoon of Company "K," 87th Infantry Division, and his "Terrible 20."

[In the Town of Tillet] ...The "Terrible 20" attacked at 4:30 a.m., and the seven-hour battle began.

"Doman and a small group took a position in the first house while the others surrounded the Germans in the house across the street. With Germans firing from every window of the second house, the doughboys crept to windows and hurled in phosphorous bombs and grenades."

"Pfc. Walter Muddier, of Detroit, held a grenade in each hand toward Sgt. Donald A. Corbin, of Zanesville, Ohio, and said: 'Pull the pins for me and I can throw them both.' Then he crept closer and planted both in an upstairs window, drawing screams from the Germans."

"Machine gun fire between the two houses cut off Doman's group from the fighting. A German officer slipped behind Corbin in the street, grabbed him around the neck and demanded his surrender. Sgt. Emil J. Piger, of Allentown, Pennsylvania, rescued Corbin by jamming a burp gun in the German's side and shooting him."

"Doman and Horton went to an exposed position on the roof and began firing their only bazooka into the house across the street. 'They screamed each time we fired,' Doman said, 'and when they streamed out downstairs my boys got 15 or 20 with tommy guns and bazookas.'

"About that time Doman saw 70 Germans approaching for a counter-attack and he organized his 'Terrible 20' in the first house for a defense. He called on the artillery for support until 105-millimeter shells with an 80-yard blast range were falling 50 yards away. He kept up the spirit of his boys by loud chat on the radio back to the command post. 'Send us lucky strikes. The Germans need a smoke (meaning ammunition was needed),' he shouted so all could hear."

"If we are going to get this place cleaned up for officers' mess, send me some more G.I.'s like I've got with me.' 'And send me a field manual with a school solution for a situation like this. They never taught me what to do at Fort Benning.'

"It was like that for almost seven hours as the boys laughed and killed Germans all around them. A German tank approached and began firing into the house. With their ammunition practically exhausted the 'Terrible 20' finally managed to withdraw carrying their one wounded man."

"When two other companies took Tillet the next day they found 80 German feet--the bodies were so torn up from grenades and bazooka fire they could not be counted--in the house across the street. Thirteen bodies were found outside the house and about 50 bodies were found on various arcs fronting both houses."

The 87th also states "It is hard to write a letter of disclamation, but we, the living, must carry the torch, and in honor of our many who died there--(also the 761st, it must be written!"

JOHN E. McAULIFFE, 87TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 347 INFANTRY, writes, in part:

"...The 761st Tank Battalion was the first and only all black tank battalion in Gen. George Patton's Third Army. They have an enviable service record from the time they moved to France on October 16, and were assigned to Patton's Third Army."

"The 87th Infantry Division and its three regiments were the primary attackers on the towns of Tillet, Remagne, Bonnerue and Pironpre in the area to

(Continued on Page 20)

Pandora's Box

(Continued from Page 19)

"close the important March-Bastogne road, in early January, 1945. The 761st assisted and gave support.

"I will not deny Gates the accolades he bestows upon his distinguished group in his account of *Tillet*, but in doing so he underplays and gives negative 'left-handed' due to the 87th Infantry Division, i.e., 'they died by the score,' and 'in desperate efforts to take the town--which they did not do until--'

"This is not the first article by members of the 761st Tank Battalion in which they slight the 87th Infantry Division in the battle of Tillet. They have been called on this before, and in their Video Tape of *Liberators, Fighting on Two Fronts*, they give no mention whatever of the part the 87th Division played in Tillet, while narrating their exploits in Tillet. These accounts do not tell the whole truth about Tillet.

"...If one is going to talk about that battle [*Tillet*], positive mention should be attributed to the main characters--the 87th Infantry Division--and not in after thought, negative manner.

"...Let's tell the whole truth about Tillet, and give credit where it is due."

Dedicated to my old buddies, past and present who were in the ETO.

During many trips in life, we find
Ourselves rushing on dreary roads
Unyielding, boring, rigid, straight
Never do they gently wind;
Until the time we walk the country lanes
At a blessed age and slow our gait.

Michael J. Williams - 87 INF 345 INF 212 ENGRS C CO



12/21/44 Lt. Ruth N. Haddick of Greensboro, MD arranging Christmas tree decorations during a party for nurses of the 51st Evacuation Hospital near front lines in Germany.

U.S. Army Signal Corps

The troops will march in, the bands will play, the crowds will cheer, and in four days everyone will have forgotten. Then we will be told we have to send in more troops. It's like taking a drink. The effect wears off, and you have to take another.

JOHN F. KENNEDY

ARE YOUR DUES DUE?



Jean Paul Pallud

SIZE 12" X 8 1/2" 544 PAGES
1260 ILLUSTRATIONS 31 MAPS
ISBN 0 900913 40 1

\$95.00

DISTRIBUTED BY SKY BOOKS INTERNATIONAL INC., 48 EAST 50th STREET, NEW YORK NY 10022

A superb book from the publishers of

AFTER THE BATTLE

THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE THEN AND NOW

The remarkable impartiality of Mr Pallud's calm, measured reportage gives the reader confidence that the narrative is as free from distortion as any account can be... a dauntingly massive book... majestic... carefully recaptioned photographs for authenticated accuracy... intricate statistical data on every phase and aspect of planning, operations and aftermath.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

Nine days before Christmas 1944 Hitler played Germany's last card, on which he staked everything to turn the tables in the West. The massive, stunning blow he struck in eastern Belgium caught the Allies totally unawares, yet a week later the panzers had still not crossed the Meuse in the first phase of an ambitious attack aimed at recapturing Antwerp and cutting off the Allied forces to the north. This is the first time that an attempt has been made to cover the entire salient in order to present the battle in the 'then and now' format for which *After the Battle* publications are renowned. Hundreds of miles have been travelled by the author throughout every corner of the battlefield to search out the scenes of past events, and the fact that many previously published photographs have now been pinpointed has enhanced their significance accordingly. Every known photograph belonging to combatants, civilians, and in public collections and private sources has been sought or considered. All the cine film has been examined frame by frame and certain sequences illustrated and analysed. In this way a number of classic pictures almost always used -- or misused -- in depicting the Ardennes battle are not only placed in their context in the German advance but are also shown to be not always quite what they seem!

From

Address

Please send me copies of **THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE THEN AND NOW** at \$95.00 plus \$2.25 postage

I enclose check for \$

Return to:

**SKY BOOKS INTERNATIONAL INC.,
48 EAST 50TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10022**

Members Speak Out

[Some times we wonder if there are any results from this column. Well, our minds are now at ease. JAMES SNYDER, 820TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION, B COMPANY, asked to hear from members of his old unit in the December issue. He had tremendous results from his old buddies. See article which appears elsewhere in this issue.]

TED HATON, 28TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 112TH REGIMENT, COMPANY "F," wants to know if anyone remembers (Nick) Popeye, who was Sergeant Steven Paskiewicz in Company "F" and was wounded in France or Belgium. Nick was a buddy of Ted's and passed away at the Hines VA Hospital in Hines, Illinois, in 1949. Ted would very much like to have a photo of Nick if anyone might have one. He would also like to hear from anyone from his old outfit. Ted was a Barman in five campaigns in Europe and says to you all "Roll On." Write to Ted at: 2717 Kenilworth Avenue, Berwyn, Illinois 60402-2552.

JOHN W. MARTIN, 79TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 313TH REGIMENT, COMPANY "G," would like to find a copy of the history of the 79th. *[Incidentally, we would like to have the 79th's address for our records.]* Contact John at: 1000 New Hampshire Avenue, Lynchburg, Virginia 24502.

ROBERT BEDWELL, 9TH ARMORED DIVISION, CCA, HQ COMPANY, is trying to locate anyone from his unit. He writes that when the Germans surrendered he signed up for a furlough to go home and then go fight the Japanese. When he landed in New York Harbor, the Japanese had surrendered. He lost his duffle bag with all his pictures and addresses in it. Write to Robert at: 419 Miller Street #225, Lewiston, Idaho 83501.

945TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION members who are interested in contributing their memories and stories to a history of the battalion, write to Bill Cosgrove, Route 1, Box 196, Arnoldsville, Georgia 30619.

ERWIN VERHOLEN would like to hear from others who were in the BoB. Write to him at: Meibos 14; B-9200 Bassrode; Belgium.

DONALD B. DEXTER, 106TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 592 FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, COMPANY "B," would like to hear from anyone out there from his old outfit. Write to him: R.D. #3, Box 45, Hannibal, New York 13074-9640.

Michael Watters writes to us about his father, **CHARLES V. WATTERS**, who was killed in the Battle of the Bulge on Christmas Day. Michael has very little information. He believes that his father was in Company "I," although the information is handwritten and unclear. The paper also mentions the **10TH INFANTRY DIVISION (maybe REGIMENT)**. He also states that old letters refer to: Service #394-77-052, Company A, 2nd Platoon. If you can help Michael, write to him at: Box 206, Troy, Montana 59935.

JOHN CHERNITSKY, 28TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 110TH INFANTRY, writes that a book entitled *Voices from the Foxholes* is available. It tells the stories of some 50 GI's memories of the war and covers all companies of the 110th Infantry except "M" Company as told by soldiers of all ranks. Cost is \$23.00 including postage and handling. Write to: Dorothy Chernitsky, 18 Country Club Blvd., Uniontown, Pennsylvania 15401.

Gary Schone would like to hear from anyone who remembers **PVT. HOWARD PETTIT** or any one who can provide information about the campaigns of the **34TH SIGNAL LIGHT CONSTRUCTION BATTALION**. Write to Gary at: 802 West 5th Street, #1, Redfield, South Dakota 57469-2027.

Tryon L. Andreas has become interested in World War II and during one of his trips to a military "shop" he found a solid bronze, cast, commemorative plaque. The plaque is in relief with an American soldier and flag on one side, a German tank and flag on the right side. Up near the top it reads: "AIRBORNE" and "NUTS," along the bottom it says:

"DEC 44 BASTOGNE." Can any of you help Tryon with knowledge about this? Write to him at: 433 West Walworth Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin 53121.

FRANK J. HERNDON, 26TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 104TH INFANTRY, COMPANY A, would like to know if anyone knows where **THOMAS HURLEY** is now. He did live at 15 Carol Terrace in Albany, New York. If you know write to Frank at: Rhea Co. Highway, Spring City, Tennessee 37381.

Members of the **3RD ARMORED DIVISION, SERVICE COMPANY,** have been holding reunions and are searching for the following missing members: **KENNETH L. LeVAN** (Bethlehem, Pennsylvania); **KENNETH P. KIMBLE** (Lubbock, Texas); and **JOHN PICCOLI** (New York, New York). (These are 1943 addresses.) Can you help. If so, write to: Mary V. Valliere, 51 Custer Street, Brockton, Massachusetts 02401.

STANLEY C. WALLACE, 215TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, writes that he has never heard a word from anyone from his old group. Can anyone out there oblige him? Write to him at: 8464 Roswell Street, Ventura, California 93004-2109. *[Incidentally, if there is an association for this group, please send us the address.]*

JOHN C. FISHER, SR., with either the **26TH** or **90TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, was killed in action of December 14, 1944. His son would very much like to hear from anyone who served with his father. John (Sr.) had been a S/Sgt with the 26th Division National Guard. If you remember him, please write to his son as follows: John C. Fisher, Jr., c/o John McAuliffe, 425 Pleasant Street, #1410, Worcester, Massachusetts 01609.

CHESTER HENSHAW, 80TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 318TH INFANTRY, COMPANY E, has compiled a list of 951 men who served with his group. The list contains information from morning reports and records the day-to-day events of Company E. He was unable to get all morning reports so some of the men and events are missing. He will be glad to send you a copy of the 53 page document. Just send him \$3.85 to cover the printing and postage. His address: 1523 Anglers Drive, N.E., Palm Bay, Florida 32905-4323.

ARMAND VANDERHEIDE, 9TH ARMORED DIVISION, 2ND TANK BATTALION, COMPANY C, would like to know if any one knows how many "Bloody B-----s of Bastogne" there were. Do you know? Armand knows that he was there from start to finish. Write to Armand if you can help at: 1061 Roscoe Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin 54304-3369.

CLYDE S. LEE, 42ND INFANTRY DIVISION, 232ND INFANTRY, would like to see a story about "Task Force Linden" in *The Bugle*. If someone will submit such a story, we'll consider it for publication.

Inez Oswalt is trying to find out about her brother's service. His name is **EARL HEWITT**. She doesn't know any further details other than he was killed in the Battle of the Bulge. If you can help, write to Inez at: Route 1, Box 240, Greenville, Mississippi 38703.

ROBERT T. WILLIAMS, 296TH COMBAT ENGINEER BATTALION, writes to let us know that the reunion announcement in the May issue for his unit was wrong. *[We do not know who sent it in.]* He advises that the unit did have a reunion July 22-24, 1993. However, as this issue will get to you in August, you will have to write to Robert to find out what happened. His address is: 61 Cedar Street, Newington, CT 06111. Robert also advises that his unit will participate in D-Day activities in Normandy on June 6, 1994.

RUTH LONG, 16TH FIELD HOSPITAL, has been corresponding with Simone Torfe (of Belgium), who collects U.S. military souvenirs. Simone was 9 years old during the Battle of the Bulge and her collection started as a result of her admiration for American service men. If you have anything you would like to contribute to Simone's collection, please send it to Ruth and she will forward it. Ruth's address is: 2671 Elmwood Avenue, Kenmore, New York 14217.

WILLIAM FREEMAN, 28TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 110TH INFANTRY REGIMENTAL ANTI-TANK COMPANY, wants to know why there is never anything in *The Bugle* about his unit. *[Does any one have something? Send it along--we'll publish it.]* (Continued on Page 22)

Members Speak Out

(Continued from Page 21)

The son of **RAYMOND JAMES OBLINGER**, 26 INFANTRY DIVISION, 104TH INFANTRY, 1ST BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, would like to hear from anyone who remembers his father. He would like to also hear from anyone who trained at Fort McClellan, Alabama, between February and June of 1944 or any veteran or crew member who sailed from New York to Scotland on the *Ile de France* in August of 1944 or sailed from LeHavre, France to New York on the *Wilson Victory* in late November of 1945. Contact: Thomas E. Oblinger, 22788 Teppert Street, East Detroit, Michigan 48021-1928.

EUGENE E. GANZ, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, 18TH INFANTRY, COMPANY M, would like to know if anyone out there has a copy of a map of the area of the Siegfried line and Belgium near Aachen? If you have one, send it to Gene at: 876 Sulphur Springs Road, Manchester, Missouri 63021.

Jane Davis writes to see if anyone knows where she can find a poster of the upside-down helmet in the snow. She believes this was a poster used in connection with the 40th Anniversary Celebration in Belgium. She wants it as a surprise present for her father. If you know where she can find one, write to her at: 5402 Meadowood Drive, Madison, Wisconsin 53711. [Incidentally, please also let the VBOB office know, we would like to have one.]

HENRY J. KLINAR, 633 AAA AW BATTALION, attached to the 80TH DIVISION, would like to hear from anyone who was in his outfit. Write to Henry at: 2769 Richland Street, Johnstown, Pennsylvania 15904.

Lyle Butzke would like to hear from anyone who served with his brother **T/5 VIRGIL P. BUTZKE**, 3RD ARMORED DIVISION, 32ND ARMORED REGIMENT, COMPANY A, who was killed in the Battle of the Bulge December 23, 1944. (Virgil is interred in U.S. Military Cemetery #1, Henri Chappelle, Belgium.) Write to Lyle at: 4935 South Canyon Road, Rapid City, South Dakota 57702.

LOUIS A. DELLAPORTE, 109 ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS BATTALION, would like to hear from anyone with his group--especially A BATTERY. Write to Louis at: 235-60th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11220.

LYLE SPARKS, 126TH AAA AW BATTALION, C BATTERY, would like to hear from any one in his old outfit. He recalls spending time in England on the White Cliffs of Dover shooting down buzz bombs and later up and down the English Channel doing the same thing. They were in the Battle of the Bulge on the outside of Liege, Belgium, at Christmas time in 1944. Write to Lyle at: 1866 Pine Drive, Traverse City, Michigan 49684.



"Hey, Gravygrease, I had a pot of dirty laundry boiling on the stove - have you seen it?"

BILL COSGROVE, 945TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, would like members of his group who are interested in contributing their memories and stories to a history of the battalion to write to him. Bill's address is: Route 1, Box 196, Arnoldsville, Georgia 30619.

MICK "PAPPY" CONNER, 106TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 592ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, is trying to locate **LEO C. BANNER**, **NEAL MARKLE**, and **L. J. LINDSAY**. If you can help write to him at: Arlington Villa, Room 272, 2601 West Randol Mill Road, Arlington, Texas 76012. He also states that as a result of a previous article in this column, he had a barracks bag that had been lost for 47 years returned to him by a young Belgian man.

...AND THE MEMBERS RESPONDED

In the "Members Speak Out" we mentioned that **JAMES SNYDER**, 820TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION, B COMPANY, received great response to his request to hear from his old buddies. Jim dropped us a note to let us know what happened.

"...so many wonderful things have happened from that little mention in the December *Bugle*.

"First I was sent a roster of the 820th TD BN and through that I was reunited with a lot of the old outfit! I found two my my best buddies in the service--**BOB LONG** and **ED SHIVELER**. They both sent pictures of us taken in 1943-45--Boy was I pretty.

"...have been sent lapel pins, T-shirt (with TD logo on front, Tank Destroyer Forces-820 TD on back), coffee mug, money clip, patches, General Order of when they disbanded our outfit and most important of all a hell of a lot of new and old friends."

"...received a letter from Hubert Naes, who lives in Belgium. An American friend had sent him a copy of the December *Bugle*. Hubert wanted to send me a TD patch from his collection. I wrote to Hubert to thank him and also asked him if he could locate a Belgium gentleman we stayed with after the Bulge.

"Sure enough, in yesterday's letter, HE FOUND HIM! I still can't believe it! Almost 50 years since last contact."

We're glad we could help, Jim, and thanks to all of you who responded.

The Bugle Staff

THE ARDENNES MEDIC

*The cries call out above the battle din,
Moans pierce the mist from lips of wounded men.
They search for those who bear a soldier's need,
To bind the wounds where fallen comrades bleed.*

*The Medic stans beside the fighting boys,
To Give Aid and Comfort under steady fire.
They brave the shot and shell of battle noise
In deep cold snow and Ardennes muddy mire.*

*They wear the Cross of Succor on their sleeve,
Theirs is a Badge of Courage in their heart.
When battles end they take their honored leave,
And healer and the mended go apart.*

John E. McAuliffe, CO. M. 347th INF. REGT.

As long as war is regarded as wicked, it will always have its fascination. When it is looked upon as vulgar, it will cease to be popular.

OSCAR WILDE

BULGE REENACTMENT

Fort Indiantown Gap

by John D. Bowen

Slowly they started to arrive, the afternoon of January 29th, at the registration barracks, in Area 12 of Fort Indiantown Gap Pennsylvania. An Irish Guard stood sentry duty by the entrance. You could easily distinguish the Bulge Veterans from the World War II Reenactors; they were the better looking ones. But as days of old, every one lined up in the order that they arrived "to be processed." The difference was that now they called all the veterans "Sir."

After signing in, receiving our barracks assignment and meal tickets we proceeded to the barracks designated for Veterans. The barracks were authentic World War II. The only difference was that the floors had been tiled, the walls painted and this year the Latrines were brand new. No more troughs and open commodes. Such luxuries of 50 years of life for what were "temporary" buildings.

The first to arrive had staked out the squad rooms. It was even rumored that the locked room on the second floor was for the female reenactors as they figured they were safe in the Veteran's Barracks. If they did room in the Veteran's Barracks they were of the stealth type for no one seen them. As others arrived they were warmly greeted by those who had arrived earlier. Some had met the previous year, others were new for the first time. Some like Francis Walsh, 705th Tank Destroyer Bn, had been to all three Bulge Reenactments to which Veterans had been invited. Whether this was your first reenactment or not, within a few minutes it was like old times. Where ya from? What outfit did you serve with? Where were you in the Bulge? Have some cheer? Have some snacks? That special bonding that exists for veterans was immediately evident and you felt that you had served with each other for years.

In short order there was music of the forties filtering through the air in the background. Some had brought books on the Bulge. Others had brought souvenirs that they had obtained. One VBOB member brought copies of Bulge photos from the National Archives. Around 4 O'clock, after locating a TV with the good graces of the NCO Club, the Veterans gathered round to watch some videos on the Battle of the Bulge and video that had been taken of the previous years Reenactment by Frank Walsh and John Bowen. The veterans sat in their lawn chairs or lay on the bunks to watch in silence as the Bulge films were shown. As new arrivals came in, they joined the viewers.

After the films it was dinner on your own and the veterans arranged car pools to eat at what has been a favorite place just outside the gates of Ft Indiantown Gap. The food is excellent and the Bulge veterans quickly filled the place, their plates and their stomachs. Since the Infantry travelled on its stomach, these veterans had their priorities in order.

After dinner and return to the barracks area, some veterans took time to visit the flea market that the reenactors had set up to trade uniforms, equipment and other memorabilia. Others took the time to walk the company street as the barracks area that we were at was laid out to house an entire regiment, company after company, row after row, in that uniform order of buildings. Some vets had been stationed at Ft Indiantown Gap many years ago. In the corner barracks, across from registration, on the second floor, was an entire squad room decorated in the World War II period with a central switchboard and broadcasting radio station. Each building had been hooked up with authentic field phones that connected to this central switchboard. The radio station was broadcasting authentic period music and announcements and could be picked up on any AM radio throughout the post.

As they traversed the regimental street, stopping in the various barracks, the veterans began to visit with the reenactors as they set up their barracks. Many had full foot lockers and wall lockers on display. They had their M-1s, Carbines and 45s and were dressed in original WWII uniforms. There were the Canadian Barracks, British Barracks and a number of American Barracks. Outside one barracks hung the 44th Infantry Division Sign Board. In another a Sgt reenactor was being graded on assembling the M-1 while blind folded.

Then there were the German barracks. The authenticity of the GrossDeutschland unit was outstanding. Their barracks was completely made over complete with Christmas tree, flags, German weapons,

German Shepherd Watch Dog and Frauleins that accompanied the units. This unit took the award for best and most authentic barracks, for the Germans, in the judging contest on Saturday night. Had there been an award for the top barracks of all barracks they would have easily won it. On Saturday night they had their annual Christmas party and musical sing-a-long to fill out a day of comradely.

The Veterans and guests filled both floors of their barracks. They slept on authentic double decker GI Bunks with comfortable mattresses. No veteran slept on the top bunks to ensure that there would be no falling out from that height. Rank had no privileges. A Brigadier General slept upstairs as did his boy. Many Bulge units were represented by the veterans. There were vets from the 26th Infantry Division (InfD), 28th InfD, 29th InfD, 42nd InfD, 75th InfD, 83rd InfD, 87th InfD, 100th InfD, 106th InfD, 6th Armored Division, 705th TD Bn, 285th FA OB Bn, 728th Ord Co, 818th Cmbt MP Co, 17th Airborne Division and a couple of Korean veterans. A few civilian guests of the veterans also attended. There were between 40 and fifty veterans and their guests, well over twice as many as was at the previous Reenactment.

Many of the reenactors had found the Veterans' Barracks and wanted to talk to the veterans about their experiences. Lights out was to be at 2300 hours but some veterans made it to sleep earlier. Reveille was to be at 0600 hours.

However, Ted Paluch managed to slowly wake the barracks up about 0400 hours as he chatted with some of the veteran early risers. Needless to say Ted was threatened with a blanket party should he not sleep through the night Saturday night. This gave everyone a chance to fulfill that old proverb that you learned early in basic that the "Early Bird Gets The Worm." Most all of the veterans were first in the chow line for breakfast at the NCO Club. A delicious breakfast was served at 0700 in two shifts as there were over 600 Reenactors who had shown up for this affair.

After chow, activities around the various barracks began to intensify as units fell out, others armed their trucks, jeeps and other vehicles, unit inspections were held and reenactors posed for pictures in their combat gear. The Canadian reenactors were joined by four Canadian Veterans of the Bulge who came down to the event and had their picture taken with their distinctive red berets with the reenactors. Shortly before 0900 hours the troops started to march off to the large assembly area and assemble in those large formations that we all remember for Regimental inspections. The Allies assembled at one end and the Germans at the other. One of the interesting scenarios over at the German camp was the reenactors impersonating Adolph, Admiral Dinitz and Goring. They surely looked the part. Stan Wojtusik could be seen trying to negotiate his release. At the Allied camp they were gearing up an authentic M-4 Tank that one of the reenactors had brought on its dedicated flatbed and tractor. A few practise firings from the turret gun got peoples attention.

At 1000 hours both the Allied and Axis Troops moved out to the range areas to begin the reenactment of Celles. They even reenacted the Skorzeny tactics as part of the column of reenactors and veterans were sent down the wrong road and were lost in the range area for about a half hour. After watching the battle troops move out into the fields, it was time for chow again and a bit of warmth. A number of additional veterans who had just come for the day joined us and we moved back to a more strategic position, the restaurant just outside the gates, for another excellent meal. The troops were going to have soup and rations served in the field.

After lunch, it was back to battle as the troops progressed past some vantage points to view them in actual battle. Some veterans follow them with video cameras. Dennis Steele from Army Magazine, who bunked with the Veterans, was taking pictures and preparing the material for an excellent article that appears in the March 1993 issue of Army Magazine, "Deja Vu at Indiantown Gap." A major interview of our VBOB members Ted Paluch, who survived the Malmedy massacre, and Stan Wojtusik, who was captured with the 106th InfD are included.

After the battle was over, (the Allies won by the way), everyone returned to the barracks to get cleaned up for Chow at the Officers Club. For the reenactors it was clean uniforms. Some changed into dress uniforms that they had brought. The veterans returned to the area, after chow, to visit with the reenactors. At 2000 hours there was an excellent USO Show at the Officers club put on for the enjoyment of all. After the show, the veterans

(Continued on Page 28)

You are invited to attend
**The 49th ANNIVERSARY
OF THE
BATTLE OF THE BULGE
COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS
DECEMBER 15 and 16, 1993**

Special commemorative events will again be held in the Washington, D.C. area, on Wednesday, December 15 and Thursday, December 16, 1993. It will be a time for the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge and their friends, to pay homage to those who never came home, to enjoy the occasion and to share in the preservation of the history of the Battle of the Bulge.

The Historical Foundation will host the Commemorative Banquet, 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 15, 1993, at the Sheraton Hotel, Columbia Pike and Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia. Highlights of this occasion will include the 3rd Infantry Color Guard, a noted speaker and the presentation to each World War II Veteran the newly-minted 50th Anniversary copy of the Lapel Discharge Button (fondly called the "Ruptured Duck"). On exhibit at the banquet will be a display of the plans for the Battle of the Bulge Memorial Conference Room, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, and drawings of the conference table and chairs.

Veterans are encouraged to bring written materials (letters, diaries, unit histories, photographs, maps, etc.) pertaining to their experiences in the Battle of the Bulge. These articles will be cataloged and then donated, for permanent preservation, to the Battle of the Bulge Collection, U.S. Army Military Institute, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. Members of the Historical Foundation will be pleased to receive your materials at the Commemorative Banquet, and to talk with you about this special collection.

Arrangements have been made with the Sheraton Hotel (which is located only a few minutes from Arlington Cemetery and Fort Myer), for a reduced room rate of \$59.00, single or double occupancy. This rate is available for any night(s) between December 13 and December 17. You may call for room reservations, Sheraton National Hotel, Columbia Pike & Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia--Telephone #800-468-9090, by December 1, 1993. (Mention that you are attending the Battle of the Bulge Banquet and events.)

On Thursday, December 16, the impressive wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Memorial, Arlington Cemetery will be held at 11:00 a.m. After these moving ceremonies a reception buffet will be hosted by the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge at the Officers' Club, Fort Myer, Virginia.

Reservation form for the Commemorative Banquet and the December 16 events is on the following page, please complete and return by December 7 to:

Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation
P.O. Box 2516
Kensington, MD 20895-0818

For Sheraton Hotel Reservations call:
Telephone #800-468-9090

For more information on the Commemorative Banquet call:
Dorothy Davis, Telephone #301-881-0356

For more information on the December 16 events, call:
Peter Dounis, Telephone #301-589-6730



RESERVATION FORM

COMMEMORATIVE BANQUET WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1993 SHERATON NATIONAL HOTEL, ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

RETURN FORM BY DECEMBER 7, 1993, to:
BATTLE OF THE BULGE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION
P.O. Box 2516, Kensington, MD 20891-0818
Please make checks payable to BoBHF GALA

Telephone: 301-881-0356

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Unit: _____

Spouse/Guest: _____

Number of Reservations: _____ Total Cost @ \$42.00 per Person _____

Dress: Business suit/black tie/military dress uniform (miniature metals encouraged).

Table assignment for the Banquet will be on your name card. If you wish to be seated with friends, please include their names with this form.

THE AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1993

COMMEMORATIVE BANQUET Hosted by Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation

DINNER MENU

1830 hours Reception/Cash Bar

1930 hours Seated for Dinner
Posting of Colors . . . 3rd Infantry Color Guard
Pledge of Allegiance
Invocation Msgr. William O'Donnell
Toasts

2100 hours Introduction of Guests
Comments

2130 hours Entertainment

Fruit Medley in Pineapple Boat
Esquire Salad with Choice of Dressing
Breast of Chicken Piccata with Lemon Caper Sauce
Red Bliss Roasted Potatoes
Green Beans Almondine and Julienne Carrots
Rolls and Butter
Ice Cream Ball rolled in Pecans with Shaved Chocolate
Coffee or Tea
Wine--Taylor White

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1993

1100 hours Wreath laying Ceremonies, Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge
at the
Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA*

1130 hours Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Monument Ceremonies
Posting of the Colors Color Guard
Placing of a Wreath
Brief Program

1200 hours Reception, Officers' Club, Fort Myer, Virginia
Buffet/Cash Bar
Comments President of VBOB

WEAPONS SECONDARY-- DOUGHBOYS' STAMINA WON THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

[The following appeared in "The Battalion Channel" which is published by the 14TH TANK BATTALION ASSOCIATION. The article originally appeared in the WASHINGTON EVENING STAR on January 13, 1945.]

Youth and courage were the deciding factors in the Battle of the Belgium Bulge, and weapons on both sides played a secondary role.

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

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

The new German Royal Tiger tanks, which can out-shoot any American armor, had few opportunities to prove it.

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

THE SPIRIT OF THE 394TH

[The following was sent to us by Samuel Lombardo, 99TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 394TH INFANTRY, COMPANY "I." It appears on the back cover of "From Battle Babies to Vets...The Combat History of the 394th Infantry Regiment."]

"If they won't give us a flag, we'll make one!" vowed First Lieutenant Samuel Lombardo and his men of the second platoon of Company "I." And that's just what they did.

They'd fought their way almost to the Rhine without seeing a single American flag, and they had read the letters in *Stars and Stripes* bemoaning the lack of American flags and of American patriotism. They were burned up.

Gathering scraps of red, white, and blue cloth as they swept to the Rhine, the men sewed them on a white German surrender flag.

When they cross the Rhine at Remagen, their flag, one side of it completed, became the first on the east bank of the river. The flag received its finishing touches when the platoon reached the Danube in April.

Wherever they went, their flag went with them. When they took the bitterly-contested high ground around Honningen on the Rhine, up went the flag. Wherever they set up their CP, the Stars and Stripes was soon fluttering from the window.

The "Modern Betsy Rosses" can rightfully claim that their Old Glory is a professional job. But it isn't the workmanship that counts most. It's the spirit behind it, the spirit of the American soldier--the spirit of the 394th.

[Sam tells us, "This flag was started as the result of the Battle of the Bulge. I had not seen an American flag in over two months."]

BoB Film Project Needs Your Help

If you have photos, movies or other visual materials from when you were in the Ardennes, please send them to:

The Battle of the Bulge Project

290 West End Ave., #5C, New York, NY 10023

Telephone: 212-787-0258 or FAX: 212-808-4983

They would also be interested in diaries, letters and other memorabilia concerning the Battle of the Bulge that your family members might have. Also, if you have a story to tell, please give them a brief account including your outfit, location, date, etc. **Do not send originals unless they request them.** If they do request them, they will make copies and return your originals.



BUILDING LOCALE

Norbert Van den Berghe would like some help. If you recognize the men in this photograph, he would like to hear from you. He is trying to locate the building in the photo. The men in the picture are from the 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION--not sure if it's the 501ST, 502ND or 506TH PARACHUTE REGIMENT.



Following a night skirmish on 30 December, 1944, troops set out to rejoin their outfit. Left to right:

Pfc. M.L. Dickman, Pvt. Sunny Sundquist, and Sgt. Francis M. McCann.

If you know the men and/or the regiment, write to Norbert at: Kortrijksesteenweg 1250, 9051 Gent, Belgium.

War should belong to the tragic past, to history: it should find no place on humanity's agenda for the future.

POPE JOHN PAUL II

BATTLE OF THE BULGE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

NOT A VBOB PUBLICATION!!

The recent flyer you may have received in the mail requesting your participation in the "Battle of the Bulge 50th Anniversary Book," may have been interpreted as being published by the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc. Please be advised that this flyer and the proposed publication are the sole endeavor of Turner Publishing Company, of Paducah, Kentucky.

While the Executive Council did allow Turner Publishing to use our mailing privileges, no permission was given to infer or indicate that this publication was part of our 50th Anniversary observances. For the use of our mailing privileges, they will donate to VBOB a small percentage of their net profit.

Many of the groups involved in the Battle of the Bulge and units to which our valuable members belonged, were omitted from the "These Groups Were in the Battle of the Bulge--Will Your Story Be Told?" listing. General Order #114, dated December 7, 1945, lists over 400 units as having participated in the Battle of the Bulge; thus, the partial listing in the flyer was intended to represent only a sample of those involved and it was not intended that these were the only groups involved in the battle. Needless to say, if we had occasion to see this listing before it was published, mention would have been made that this was only a "sample listing."

Capitalization of the word "Veterans" and/or "Veteran," the use of our insignia, and the use of "VBOB" has caused this project to be misconstrued to be a product of our organization. **IT IS NOT.** All communication regarding the flyer and/or publication of the book should be addressed to Turner Publishing Company, P.O. Box 3101, Paducah, Kentucky 42002-3101.

We have discussed the matter with Turner Publishing and have been advised by them that the oversights were purely unintentional and that all units who participated in the Battle of the Bulge are eligible to be included in the upcoming edition.

We are a young organization and sometimes as such we have to learn things the hard way. This is surely the case in this situation. In the future, we will make every attempt to see that such oversights as this do not occur again.

We extend our sincere apologies to any one or any group who may have offended.

William R. Hemphill
VBOB President

MALMEDY MASSACRE REPORT FOUR DAYS LATER

One of the first reports of this tragic event appeared in the daily 78th Infantry Division G-2 Intelligence Report for 21 Dec 1944--

"SURRENDER OF BATTERY 'B' 285th FA OBSERVATION BATTALION: During the afternoon of 17 December the battery was moving South along the highway out of MALMEDY. When about three miles South of the town the motor column was halted by enemy fire and overtaken by a group of tanks, armored cars, and half tracks. The personnel of the Battery were forced to surrender to the Germans. A quick search of the victims which deprived them not only of their arms but also of their watches and wallets, was followed by the group being herded together to an open field and guarded by three armored cars and a light tank, all of whose guns were trained on the prisoners. The captors stood about, some on their vehicles, evidently discussing what they should do with these Americans. Finally, one German, possibly an officer, from his position atop the tank, fired his pistol into the group. The Battery's Lieutenant spoke up, 'Stand still' and with that the Germans opened fire with their automatic weapons and pistols. The dead and the living fell to the ground, but the firing continued to spray

their prone bodies. As a parting gesture the Germans walked amongst the bodies, kicking them and shooting the body that showed any sign of life.

Later the small group of which the narrator was a member, believing their way clear broke for a nearby woods. Before reaching cover, however, a tank on the highway fired at the escapees. (First Army Periodic Report #191).

G-2 Note: The responsible enemy unit is believed to be the 1st SS Reconnaissance Battalion of the 1st SS Panzer Division."

(From the National Archives, Suitland MD Record Center WWII Unit Record Collection researched by John D. Bowen)

Check your mailing label to see if your dues are due.

The first line of your mailing label will tell you if you are late. The first number is your membership number, the second set of numbers reflects the date on which your dues are due, followed by your zip code.

AS I REMEMBER

(Continued from Page 16)

My wife and folks didn't know if I was alive until I was liberated.

I carried a small Bible and, lucky for me, they did not take it from me. I read it through twice in the four months. I'm sure I couldn't have made it without the help of God. He gave me strength. At times when I felt I couldn't walk any further, I prayed and He gave me the strength and the will to go on.

I pray that our America can stay free and that no one has to go to war again.

Harry Hankel
14th TK BN

[The previous article appeared in the April, 1993, issue of "The Battalion Channel," the publication of the 14th Tank Battalion Association.]

I wish you could have seen just one of the unforgettable sights I saw!

I was sitting among clumps of sword grass on a steep and rocky hillside that we had just taken, looking out over a vast rolling country to the rear. A narrow path wound like a ribbon over a hill miles away, down a long slope, across a creek, up a slope, and over another hill. All along the length of that ribbon there was a thin line of men. For four days and nights they had fought hard, eaten little, washed none, and slept hardly at all. Their nights had been violent with attack, fright, butchery, their days sleepless and miserable with the crash of artillery.

The men were walking, they were fifty feet apart for dispersal. Their walk was slow, for they were dead weary, as a person could tell even when looking at them from behind. Every line and sag of their bodies spoke their inhuman exhaustion. On their shoulders and back they carried heavy steel tripods, machine-gun barrels, leaden boxes of ammunition. Their feet seemed to sink into the ground from the overload they were bearing.

They didn't slouch. It was the terrible deliberation of each step that spelled out their appalling tiredness. Their faces were black and unshaved. They were young men, but the grime and whiskers and exhaustion made them look middle-aged. In their eyes as they passed was no hatred, no excitement, no despair, no tonic of their victory- there was just the simple expression of being there as if they had been there doing that forever, and nothing else.

The line moved on, seemingly endless. All afternoon men kept coming round the hill and vanishing eventually over the horizon. It was one long tired line of antlike men. There was an agony in your heart and you felt almost ashamed to look at them.

They were just guys from Broadway and Main Street, but you wouldn't remember them. They were too tired. Their world can never be known to you, but if you could have seen them just once, just for an instant, you would know that no matter how hard people were working back home they never kept pace with those infantrymen.

from ERNIE PYLE'S "HERE IS YOUR WAR"

The above document was contributed by John D. Kearney, 84th Infantry Division)

DO YOU WRITE POETRY?

We have received a notice from the National Library of Poetry in which they announce that they have a poetry contest each year. We received their notice too late to be included in the May issue of *The Bugle* and the contest deadline was June 30, 1993.

As we receive many good poems from our members, we thought those of you who write poetry might like to make a note of their address. You can then write to them and get details for the contest they will hold next year. Their address is: National Library of Poetry, 11419 Cronridge Drive, P.O. Box 704-XM, Owings Mills, Maryland 21117.

VETERANS HANDBOOK AVAILABLE

The Department of Veterans Affairs announces the availability of their handbook *Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents*. It's a 105-page handbook describing benefits, medical care, education, disability compensation, pension, life insurance, home loan guaranty, vocational rehabilitation and burial assistance. All VA offices, medical centers, cemeteries, etc. are listed by state. If you would like a copy write for GPO Stock Number 051-000-00-200-8 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. Enclose a check or money order for \$3.25 per copy.

Bulge Reinactment

(Continued from Page 23)

returned to perform the inspections for the Barracks Competition. Back at the Veterans' Barracks a number of reenactors had found the veterans with whom they wanted to chat. The questions and the stories were flowing along with the snacks of Kielbasa, bread, cheese, crackers and beverages. Lights out was supposed to be at 2300 hours but it's tough to turn the reenactors away. Even as the lights were being turned off, after midnight, another group of reenactors, who heard about the veterans, had to be turned away. Everyone was exhausted and even Ted Paluch slept through the night. It was just like days of old. You could hear the snores and the occasional talkers in their sleep.

At 0600 hours, on Sunday, veterans started to rise, clean up and get ready to leave. Goodbyes were said to the early leavers. A number of the veterans attended Catholic Services at the Post Chapel. Before leaving for home a number of Veterans and reenactors made their way to that favorite restaurant for one last delicious meal. After eating, adieus were said with promises of seeing one another at next years reenactment. It was a wonderful time.



Herr Commandant inspects the German Barracks. Bulge Reenactment, Indiantown Gap, PA, 27 January 1993

History is littered with wars which everybody knew would never happen.

ENOCH POWELL

SNAPSHOT MAKES REUNION POSSIBLE

[This story was submitted by the South Carolina Chapter. It appeared in "The State" newspaper in Columbia, on November 22, 1992--written by Bill McDonald.]

This is a small story about a GI who fought in the Battle of the Bulge. It won't shake the world. But its significance is rather profound, for it shows how life lines so warmly intersect.

At the center of the story are **DICK STRACHAN [35TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 60TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, COMPANY "C"]** a retired industrial salesman in Columbia and a Belgian brother and sister--survivors of World War II.

The three met shortly after Hitler's tanks launched a surprise attack in Belgium in December 1944, causing the American front to "bulge."

Time seemed in shortening supply for the young GI lieutenant that year. The Belgium winter, the worst in years, also had frozen him with fear.

As Strachan recalls it today, his chance meeting with the Belgian children, Guy, 10, and Matilda, 8, was a delightful "distraction." It made him forget, momentarily the hellishness of war.

A yellowed snapshot Strachan has kept all these years has the names and dates recorded on the back: "Guy and Matilda Hendrick, Bonlaide, Belgium, Jan. 4, 1945."

Continental nomads

Age now has dug creases in Strachan's face. But the mind is still bright, questing, energetic.

He and his wife, Beckie, a retired elementary school principal, live in a comfortable brick home off Forest Drive. They are forever asking one another, "Where does all the time go?"

The Strachans happen to be authorities on brass rubbings. The hobby has turned them into intercontinental nomads.

It's akin to gravestone rubbings, Beckie explains. But the brass is found mostly in European cathedrals.

The brasses were used in the 13th and 17th centuries to commemorate kings and queens, knights and ladies. They're engraved sheets of metal set into the stone slabs that cover graves.

A real long shot

The Strachans were attending a recent rubbings workshop in Belgium when Dick Strachan remembered the yellowed photograph.

The memory had not faded with the passing of time.

It was a long shot, but he contacted the Battle of the Bulge Society in Belgium. One of its members, Andre Herbert, agreed to meet him in Bastogne.

From there they would drive to the village of Bonlaide, 20 miles away, where the photograph was taken outside the children's home.

A Bonlaide grocer held a magnifying glass against the snap shot. He shook his head. He didn't recognize the faces, but maybe the village's oldest citizen, an 81-year-old woman, would, he said.

Gnarled hands

Strachan soon would feel like a man who'd hit the jackpot.

The woman took the photograph in a gnarled hand and held it to the light. Then she pointed at the little girl's smiling face and shouted, "Matilda! Matilda!"

Matilda lived in a village nearby, on the Luxembourg border. The elderly woman telephoned her. A man from America, a soldier in World War II, was there looking for her, she said. He had a photograph of her, her parents and her brother.

Matilda's recollection hadn't faded, either:

"Is it Dick?" she said.

The two held an emotional reunion the next day. Strachan said: "Matilda even saved the letter I'd written her when I returned home after the war. It was in tattered pieces."

Guy lives in the village of Bonlaide. Like Matilda, he also is married and blessed with children. "We always remember you," they told Strachan.

It is a small story, of course. But it makes a telling point: our older citizens are a mother lode of living history, their memories spanning eras otherwise relegated to library shelves.

IT DROPPED FROM THE HEAVENS

Did you read the article in the February "Members Speak Out" column where "**JUMPIN' HERMAN POSCH, 17TH AIRBORNE HEADQUARTERS**, was looking for the identity of the man from the 101ST AIRBORNE who stood with his arms upraised as the C-47's dropped food and supplies to Bastogne on the 21st or 26th of December, 1944? "Jumpin' Herman received the following response:

"...I saw an article on the C-47 drop of supplies to Bastogne. On the 6 x 6 I was driving I had chains for my tires. This truck had been with us since Africa. I had a metal cab and had a wrench and a 50 caliber on the roof. I was told to go to 101st Division Headquarters and wait for the C-47's. About 10:00 or 11:00 o'clock in the morning, we saw the planes coming. We rushed into the fields where the pathfinders had marked the drop zone. Here came the C-47's towing gliders, some with two. They turned the gliders loose and dropped their car goods. They had crossed German lines. Some had been hit by AA and were on fire.

"Before they could turn around they came under fire again. Many were lost. I can remember as the para paks came down standing in the field with 2 or 3 other men. I was waving my arms in the air, yelling "Come on Boys".... At the same time we were under fire from German 88's. Ammunition was our first concern. Small arms ammo and 75 ammo, then food was our main concern.

"Made one hell of a run back to camp--December 26, 1944. We were down to about 5 rounds of 75 ammo per gun. We had no more AP shells. The ammo we had was H.E. and Phosph."

[From **ROBERT L. LINAWEAVER, 101ST AIRBORNE, 463 PARACHUTE FA BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS**]

Another mystery solved.

PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENT #2

It is proposed that the Bylaws of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc., be changed by the deletion of the five paragraphs under Article 7--EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, SECTION 2--MEMBERS, and the following paragraphs be inserted:

ARTICLE 7--EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

SECTION 2, Members of the Executive Council shall be as follows:

- A. Elected voting officers of the corporation: President, Executive Vice President, Vice President for Regional/Chapter Coordination, Vice President for Military Affairs, Vice President for Membership, Treasurer, Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary who is hereby designated as Corporation Secretary.
- B. All living Past Presidents of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge as an unincorporated association and as this corporation shall also serve as voting members of the Executive Council.
- C. Nine trustees to be nominated and elected at the 1993 General Membership Meeting and to begin their service as voting members of the Executive Council on 16 December 1993: Three trustees to serve for one year; three trustees to serve for two years; and three trustees to serve for three years. Each year thereafter, three trustees to be nominated and elected to replace those trustees that have completed their terms.
- D. Non-voting members appointed by the President and approved by the Executive Council: Chaplain, Editor, Historian, Librarian, Public Relations Officer, Health Affairs Officer, Liaison Officer for International Affairs, Intergovernmental Affairs, Liaison Officer for Military Units, Protocol Officer, Chair of Audit, Budget, Bylaws, Finance, Nomination, and Reunion Committees.

MORE REUNIONS

13TH ARMORED DIVISION ASSOCIATION--October 14-17, 1993, Hampton, Virginia. Contact: Elmer "Bo" Bowington, 422 East Main Street, #244, Nacogdoches, Texas 75961.

35TH INFANTRY DIVISION--September 8-12, 1993, Safari Resort Hotel, Scottsdale, Arizona. Contact: Edward Bradbury, 915 Schweiter Court, Wichita, Kansas 67211-3707.

56TH AAA (AW BATTALION)--Contact: Harris Drake, 27 Spring Haven Drive, Flat Rock, North Carolina 28731.

802ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION--September 23-27, 1993, Charlotte, North Carolina. Contact: Russell Walker, 144 Lollipop Circle, Cookeville, Tennessee 38501.

MEMORABILIA

We are sorry that we were unable to carry the order form for memorabilia. We had so many matters that had to be covered in this issue that we were the last minute taking things out and putting more things in.

If you wish to order memorabilia, please write to the Quartermaster for an order form or give him a call at his 800 number. His address and/or telephone number is:

VBOB QM
Box 2454
Peoria, AZ 85380
(Telephone: 1-800-544-9275)

HE STOOD & FOUGHT

On 24 January 1945 the Company Commander of Company C, 9th Armored Engineer Battalion wrote to the Commanding Officer of the 73rd Armored Field Artillery Battalion to commend one of many in those hectic first days of the German Counteroffensive later to be called the Battle of the Bulge. It is a testimony to all of those Sgt Harzels who stood and fought and formed those Rag-Tagged groups, during those early hours and days, which stopped the Germans in their tracks. It is this ability of the American GI to fight as an individual, to display initiative and to assume command that separated him from the Nazi soldier and allowed us to stem the tide. As you read this you no doubt could substitute other names. To Staff Sergeant Harzel and all those others who did not get recognized when they Stood & Fought we repeat this commendation.

"1. I wish to commend a member of your command, Staff Sergeant Harzel, for his actions in our presence just prior to the Battle of Bastogne, in the vicinity of Bixcry, Belgium.

2. Staff Sergeant Harzel infiltrated into our lines at Bixcry which were ordered to hold awaiting the now famous 101st Airborne Division. There were numerous other men of different units who did the same thing, however, Staff Sergeant Harzel differed from the rest in that he took his place in our lines, along side our men, awaiting attack, and remained in that position until we were relieved. He did this on his own with no orders from us. We gave other men orders to remain with us in order to hold as ordered but all fight had been driven out of them and they literally 'took off' for the rear.

3. At present, this action has little importance, but I assure you that at the time every man and weapon was 'all important.' It is my wish that you notify Staff Sergeant Harzel that this entire company commend him."

Ellis G Fee, Capt.

(From the National Archives, Suitland MD Record Center WWII Unit Record Collection researched by John D. Bowen)

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION NOW FOR BISMARCK, N.D.

AN INVITATION FOR YOU FROM BELGIUM

[The following invitation was received from the 50th Anniversary of the Liberation of Luxembourg and Battle of the Bulge Organization and Coordination Committee, regarding the 50th Anniversary Bulge Memorial at "Mon. Schumann," Wiltz, Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg]

As you are certainly well aware, the Battle of the Bulge or Battle of the Ardennes has been identified as a key element of the range of commemorative events in the context of the 50th Anniversary of WW II, and as such is supported by the U.S. 50th Anniversary Commemoration Committee.

No date could be more meaningful than December 16 (which in 1944 marked the beginning of the Bulge in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and in Belgium) to outline projected activities in that context.

Drawing on the 1984 experience of the 40th anniversary of the Bulge, it is believed that thousands of U.S. veterans (in groups or on an individual basis) will again take the 50th Anniversary opportunity to return to the Ardennes. Needless to say that all of Luxembourg is looking forward to again having our American friends and liberators for that memorable occasion.

To do a more effective job in exchanging projected activities information, the major local historical associations and WW II museums have created a joint organization committee (LUXBOC) to coordinate efforts and cooperate in welcoming U.S. veterans and their families. LUXBOC presently consists of: CEBA (Cercle d'Etudes sur la Bataille des Ardennes); Diekirch Historical/National Military Museum, GREG (Groupe de Recherches 2e Guerre Mondiale, Ettelbruck); "Musée sur la Bataille des Ardennes, Wiltz."

Looking ahead to 1994, LUXBOC has planned to erect a special significant memorial to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Bulge. Because of its special token for American sacrifice and civilian suffering during the Bulge, "Mon. Schumann" (strategic crossroad leading from Wiltz to Bastogne) has been jointly selected as the most appropriate site for the aforementioned memorial. In particular, the memorial pays tribute to the units of the 26th, 28th, 90th Infantry Divisions and 6th Cavalry group, that were committed to the "Mon. Schumann" area.

The memorial will reflect a combined symbolism of valor, bravery, sacrifice, human suffering, and an alerting message for future generations. At the same time, the memorial can be considered the Luxembourgish contribution to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Bulge.

The agreed-upon date for the inauguration of the 50th Anniversary of the Bulge Memorial has been fixed for the afternoon of June 11, 1994.

We would be profoundly honored by a strong U.S. presentation to this occasion and would like to hereby extend an open invitation to every American veteran or WW II veteran organization that may tour through Europe during that time frame, to include the ceremony in their travel schedule.

Details can be obtained by writing: LUXBOC; Attn: LLBOCC; c/o Diekirch Historical Museum; P.O. Box 104; L-9204 Diekirch; Luxembourg. Telephone: 352-460123-255. FAX: 352-220028.

WAS I DREAMING?

[MURRAY SHAPIRO, 28TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 112TH INFANTRY, COMPANY "M," wrote a letter to the Los Angeles Times in 1991 because he was incensed with the exposed ignorance of military history with one of their staff writers. He wonders: "...if any VBOBers had the same experience I had being covered with 'tinsel' and could help verify the early use of 'chaff' by American and British Air crews." He says since his letter was never published or acknowledged, "I have begun to wonder if I dreamed up the experience and the Times expert was correct; or was Churchill and I right in the premise suggested in my reply."]

"Ralph Vartabedian's conclusions in 'U.S. Risking Its Hard-Won Stealth Secrets in Gulf War' is contrary not only to what I have gained from at least one expert, but also to my own personal experience.

"Vartabedian says that, 'During World War II, both the Allies and the Germans refrained from using certain technologies for fear of disclosing secrets to the other side. Each side, for example, discovered that radar systems could be defeated by small strips of radar-reflective metal, later called chaff, dropped from an airplane. But neither side used the idea, fearing the loss of their own radar capability if the opponent used the same tactics.' Then Vartabedian quotes an unnamed defense industry radar expert as saying, 'We probably lost a lot of crews needlessly because we didn't use it.'

"Sometime during September-November, 1944, I was a buck sergeant commanding a heavy machine gun squad fighting the Germans in the Hurtgen Forest-Ardennes area. I awoke one morning to discover a large area of the forest completely decorated with 'tinsel.' I was flabbergasted. It was still too short of Christmas for anyone to be decorating pine trees. And who would decorate trees outdoors in such a manner and for what purpose anyhow, I asked myself. My gun squad was equally puzzled. It wasn't until a few years later, poring through Winston Churchill's personal six-volume history, *The Second World War*, that I found the answer: In Book Two, Volume Two, Chapter 4: 'The Wizard War.' Churchill tells of planning for the day when the Nazis will have discovered radar which the British were already using so effectively (and of which they had given the secret to us). The counter to radar was the 'chaff' mentioned in your article. But Churchill says that it was instantly put to good use as soon as the British were convinced the Germans had discovered radar. I think Churchill is a better expert than your unnamed one. I think my own personal experience testifies to the incorrectness of the conclusions of the *L.A. Times* writer. We did use the new technology quickly and its early use did save allied lives, not wasted them."

[What about it guys? Did any of you, air force or ground crew see or know of the chaff being used or being withheld from use?]

Check your label--are your dues due?



VETERANS of the BATTLE of the BULGE

P.O. Box 11129
Arlington, Virginia 22210-2129

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
FORWARDING and RETURN
POSTAGE GUARANTEED

AUGUST, 1993

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
ODENTON, MD
PERMIT NO. 228

YOUR DUES-R-DUE



LC0071 LIFE
NEIL BROWN THOMPSON
525 PATRICIA CT
ODENTON, MD 21113-

3-DIGIT 211



**BE A DEAR...MAIL YOUR REGISTRATION NOW
FOR THE BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA,
REUNION. The North Dakota Chapter has
expended every effort to see that you have a
wonderful time. REGISTER NOW.**

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Detach and Mail

OFFICIAL USE ONLY



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE
P.O. Box 11129, Arlington, Virginia 22210-2129

Annual Dues \$15

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal - Member # _____

Name _____ Birthdate _____

Address _____ Phone () _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

All new members, please provide the following information:

Campaigns _____

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

Regiment _____ Battalion _____

Company _____ Other: _____

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

Applicants Signature _____

RECRUITER (Optional)