

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

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL - Addressing the House of Commons following the Battle of the Bulge, WWII.



The BULGE BUGLE

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THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

MAY 1993

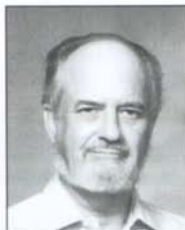
"HITLER WAS NOT AFTER THE ARDENNES AS AN OBJECTIVE, BUT TO USE IT, AS THE GERMANS DID IN 1914 AND 1940, AS A PASSAGEWAY TO IMPORTANT OBJECTIVES."

WHY DON'T WE LEARN FROM HISTORY??



75th Infantry Division Infantrymen move forward to advanced positions in the Belgian woods near St. Vith, Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge.

U.S. Army Signal Corps Photo



Bob Phillips, Company F, 110th Infantry Regiment 28th Infantry Division, provided the BULGE BUGLE with this exclusive story.

History is replete with examples of commanders who leaned too heavily on terrain obstacles to bar the enemy's way. These examples range from Hannibal's passage through the Alps to Wolfe's scaling the heights of Quebec. A more modern example is the Ardennes region of Belgium and Luxembourg. Prior to the 20th century the Ardennes, looked upon as inhospitable terrain, remained undisturbed for nearly 2000 years. After the loss of Alsace and most of Lorraine to Germany at the end of the Franco Prussian War, France began an extensive program of border fortifications. One result was the blocking of the Lorraine Gateway, a natural route into France from Germany. Another natural route leading from Germany into France was by way of Aachen and the Belgian Plain, just to the north of the Ardennes.

(Continued on Page 4)

**12th ANNUAL VBOB REUNION
BISMARCK, ND SEPT. 15-19 1993**

BE THERE !!!

**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:

Dorothy S. Davis
57th Field Hospital

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
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Ponton Company

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Recording Secretary:

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Associate Member

Administrative Director:

Nancy C. Monson
703-528-4058

APPOINTED:

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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-

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84th Infantry Division

National Director, Public

Relations: Nancy C. Monson
703-528-4058

Chaplain:

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

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28th Infantry Division

Chairman, 50th Anniversary

Activities: William P. Tayman
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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
602-886-1055

•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 Abbingdon 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 15623
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

•VERMONT-

NEW HAMPSHIRE-MAINE•

**TRI-STATE--VERMONT, NEW
HAMPSHIRE, MAINE CHAPTER (XVII)**

Roger Desjardins
4 Forest Park East
Jaffrey, NH 03452
603-532-8420

•VIRGINIA•

NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER (XV)

H. Dean Fravel
3218 Nealon Dr.
Falls Church, VA 22042
703-573-5718

•WASHINGTON•

NORTHWEST CHAPTER (VI)

Casimer Pomianek
6232 53rd St.
Seattle, WA 98115
206-523-0055

•WISCONSIN•

NORTHERN WISCONSIN CHAPTER (I)

Wallace Abitz
1201 S. 7th Ave.
Wausau, WI 54401
715-842-4915

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

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 to have included in *The Bulge Bugle*, please submit it to VBOB at least 6 weeks before publication date. Publication dates: February, May, August, and November.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE OTHER BATTLE OF THE BULGE

Since I became a member of the VBOB, I don't ever recall seeing an article in *The Bulge Bugle* about the other battle of the Bulge. I don't know what the reason may be; but it would be proper for something to be published in *The Bugle* about this battle in Alsace-Lorraine. I wonder just how many GI's who were in the Ardennes Campaign know about this battle code named "Operation Northwind." Sixteen American divisions, including elements of other divisions, and the 101st, participated in this battle which lasted one month longer than the one in the Ardennes. The members of these units were recognized as participants in the Bulge battle. I would suggest that the editor of *The Bugle* start a series of excerpts from the book by Charles Whiting entitled: *The Other Battle of the Bulge--Operation Northwind*.

Sol Feingold

41nd Infantry Division, 242nd Infantry. AT Company

PROPER RECOGNITION

Accolades to DONALD SCHOO, 633RD ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS BATTALION, for his letter, which appeared in the last issue of *The Bulge Bugle*, headed "Credit Where Credit Is Due."

I, too, was a member (of what we called a "Bastard Battalion"), a battalion that was constantly on the move--assisting other "outfits" on an "as needed basis." During our "stay" in Europe (from June 17, 1944, when we landed at Omaha Beach until May 8, 1945--VE Day--when we were at Asch, Czechoslovakia), we were providing "assistance" to over 15 military units--several on a number of different occasions. To name just a few: 1ST, 2ND, 4TH, 5TH, and 6TH INFANTRY DIVISIONS and during the battle to liberate Paris. We were assigned to the 2ND FREE FRENCH ARMORED DIVISION for several days.

As Mr. Schoo points out in his letter, when a reporter is reporting about a battle, or when writing a book or history of a military engagement he [should] give full recognition (and rightly so) to the division engaged in the battle. However, invariably they will state "A field artillery battalion provided assistance"--never identifying the battalion. Why not mention the battalion by name? In many instances, the "support" provided, proves essential to the outcome.

F. J. "Phil" Melleno

955th Field Artillery Battalion

WHO CARED?

I agree with Leonard [Schafenberg] on the "Band-Aid Purple Hearts." Include the guy who cut his hand on the "C" Ration can plus many other non-enemy encounters that gained medals for many who did not deserve them. I remember being told that our unit was allotted so many Silver Stars, "X" number of Bronze Stars, and a good number of Purple Hearts. If you could be lucky enough to get back and have someone type up a recommendation for you, there was a good chance of receiving an award. Of course most of us never had this opportunity.

Also, as a crew member of a tank we were given "Honorable Mention" while the tank commander was given a Silver Star. At that time, who cared? Like T. Austin says, "No time for medals, just save your a--."

Our first sergeant never appeared until the war was over and we were back in a final rest area. Then he was up bright and early in the morning, blowing his whistle--making us fall out and stand tall. He left soon after because of all the awards he had accumulated.

Because we were "tankers" we did not receive any "combat" recognition such as the "Combat Infantry Badge", which I don't begrudge anyone who really earned this distinction. They bore most of the brunt of the war. We (tankers) have nothing to prove--we were there.

Many people deserved the awards given them but many received awards that they, in all honesty, should never have accepted.

After five months in actual combat, I really don't have anything to prove that I was really there: "knocked out" of four tanks; tank driver of M-4 Sherman. I have all the scars.

Any how I am still alive, and I thank God.

William F. Oliver

3rd Armored Division 32nd Armored Company "H"

PROGRESS REPORT

Chapter Development

By Stan Wojtusik

VP, Chapter Coordination

I would like to inform you of two aggressive chapter formations that have already had their first meetings in mid-March.

Congratulations are in order for Kent Stephens, who picked up the ball and ran with it and put this chapter together in St. Louis, Missouri. It will be known as the St. Louis Gateway Chapter.

Our VBOB Treasurer Peter Leslie spends his winter vacation in Arizona. Instead of relaxing, he was actively gathering people to join in their first meeting to form a chapter--which he did. The Phoenix, Arizona, has their first meeting on March 16, 1993.

Utica, New York; Illinois; Ohio; Texas; and Roanoke, Virginia have all inquired about the formation of chapters in their areas. I hope by the end of the year they will all become family members of the national organization.

WE'RE BEGINNING AN ALL-OUT PUSH TO HAVE AT LEAST ONE CHAPTER IN EVERY STATE--MORE IF POSSIBLE.

If you have the time to help us with chapter formation in your area, please let us hear from you. We will provide you with many of the materials you will need to get a chapter up and running, i.e., a list of members in your area, sample press releases to send to local newspapers (we can also provide you with mailing labels for some of the newspapers), sample bylaws, etc.

Chapter formation will provide you the opportunity to share your BoB experiences with someone who was there with you and become a more active member in VBOB activities. The friends you will make are an experience that cannot be duplicated.

CAN YOU HELP START A CHAPTER IN YOUR AREA? If so, please send me your name, complete address, and telephone number. Write to Stan Wojtusik, 9639 Wissinoming Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19114-3104.

DELINQUENT DUES NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to our membership that review of membership dues is ongoing. Delinquent notices have been sent or will be sent to all members who have not paid their national dues for several years.

If members who have received such notices, do not pay the arrearage by the date indicated on the notice, they risk being dropped from membership in VBOB and will no longer receive *The Bulge Bugle*.

We also ask that relatives of deceased VBOBers please advise our National Headquarters in order that our records can be appropriately noted.

To assist you in calculating your arrearage, the following is for your assistance.

\$10.00 per year through December 31, 1991

\$15.00 per year thereafter.

Why Don't We Learn From History??

(Continued from Page 1)

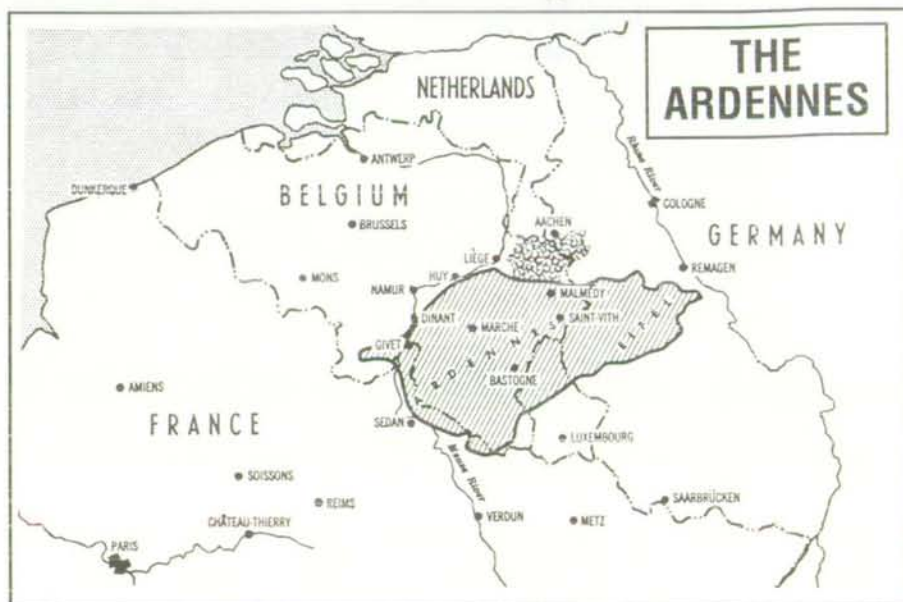
With the Lorraine Gateway blocked, Count Alfred von Schlieffen, the German Chief of Staff from 1870 to 1906 began looking for a new alternate route. He found it in the Ardennes region. If artificial barriers such as international boundaries are ignored, the Ardennes extends from the Rhine westward for a hundred miles through the Eifel on Germany's western border, on through the northern half of Luxembourg and on into the southern part of Belgium as far as the Meuse River. The German border, therefore, is only 60 miles from the Meuse. The highest point in the Ardennes is less than 2500 feet above sea level. Despite this relatively modest elevation, the region presents the most rugged terrain between the Alps and the North Sea with the exception of the Vosges Mountains in France.

Geographically speaking, the Ardennes is a plateau, but it is so deeply cut by numerous small streams that it appears almost mountainous. A heavy patchwork of deciduous and coniferous forests provides additional wrinkles. Despite these formidable features, the region has a surprisingly extensive network of roads. In most cases they follow the winding stream valleys and thus could be easily blocked. At every crossroads or road junction, small collections of stone farm houses add additional potential obstacles to advancing military units.

In the Ardennes region between the Meuse and the German border the only town of appreciable size was Arlon. Others in the 2,000 to 5,000 population range, and which were considered important road centers, were Bastogne (almost in the center of the region), Wiltz, Saint Vith, Marche, and Neufchateau. Lying between the Meuse and the Moselle Rivers, the Ardennes is further convoluted by the meanderings of the tributaries of these two rivers. This very irregularity increases the importance of the military hydrography of the region.

Even though the region presented serious obstacles to large scale military movement, Count von Schlieffen looked at the other side of the coin. He observed that the topography and the road system tended to channel traffic to the southwest, the direction the Germans wanted to go. And furthermore, he reasoned, serious obstacles were not a real problem if one's adversary failed to reinforce those obstacles with determined troops.

Thus was born the famous Schlieffen Plan. Realizing that Germany would probably be confronted by a French-Russian coalition in the event of war, Schlieffen planned a holding action in the east against Russia, while he opted for an early and rapid defeat of the French. Originally he planned to



accomplish this by exploiting the Ardennes. Launching a subsidiary attack in Lorraine, he then intended to make his main thrust southwest through the Ardennes. His plan was to cross the Meuse above Sedan and outflank the French fortress of Verdun, using the Meuse River as right flank protection against Belgian and British intervention. Later he broadened this plan by adding a wide sweep across the Meuse in the Dinant vicinity and a wheeling movement through the Belgian Plain just north of the Ardennes. Schlieffen's successor, Field Marshal Helmuth von Moltke, strengthened the left wing at the expense of the right, but still intended to use the Ardennes as a route to and over the French border by way of Dinant on the Meuse and through Luxembourg and Bastogne, Belgium, to Sedan.

Striking south on this route on 15 August 1914, the German 3rd Army attempted to cross the Meuse at Dinant but was initially repulsed. General Joffre, French Chief of Staff, decided that the time had come to launch his own Ardennes offensive. On 21 August the French 4th Army headed north for the high ground near Neufchateau, while the French 3rd Army advanced in echelon on the right in the direction of Arlon. Joffre knew the German 4th and 5th Armies were somewhere in the Ardennes, but he underestimated their strength and knew nothing about the presence of the German 3rd Army at Dinant. Also unknown to the French was the fact that the Germans had already reached the objective for which the French were aiming.

By early evening of 21 August, German reconnaissance units discovered the two French armies. The two forces clashed on 22 August. The French had no idea the Germans were on their doorstep, and even after the first day of battle were still underrating their adversary. The French renewed the attack the next morning in a thick fog. Two corps from the German 5th Army set up an ambush just over the French border southwest of Arlon. French surprise was total. French artillery, in

(Continued on Page 5)

Why Don't We Learn From History?

unprotected positions was spotted and destroyed by the Germans. The French infantry fell back in disorder, and huge gaps were soon opened in the lines of both French armies. Actually the fate of the French armies was already settled by nightfall of the first day, and their attempted attack the next day merely added to their humiliation. Four corps remained in relatively good shape, but three others were reduced to general disorder, and two more had incurred heavy losses. In one division alone 11,000 men were killed, wounded, or captured.

Probably the most striking indication of how the Ardennes terrain had fragmented the battle was the total absence, at both French army headquarters, of any information on how the fighting was going. Joffre was not able to get even a reasonably coherent account of what happened on the battlefield until late that night. Not even corps commanders were able to get enough information to allow them to influence the fight. In one instance, while a line unit was fighting for its life, another unit designated as a reserve unit remained unengaged less than three miles away. (Sound familiar to you December 1994 veterans?)

This first so-called Battle of the Ardennes was not, in fact, one battle, but a series of engagements fought simultaneously by small units. For the most part, these units were independent of any central control and in total ignorance of what was happening to other units only a few hundred yards away. (December 1944 again?) The German armies claimed complete victory, but the margin of victory was not as great as indicated, for the French, though defeated, were not broken and the two German armies had also incurred severe losses.

The Ardennes' first introduction to military history was over. Since this first engagement in the Ardennes was primarily a meeting engagement and one of complete surprise on the part of the French, the fighting threw little light on how the terrain might be used to slow or halt an attacker. On the other hand, it demonstrated that the Ardennes could be negotiated by major military forces. Four German armies totalling more than a million men had crossed all or some part of it. In addition, it was fairly obvious that the terrain had also helped cloak the German advance.

In 1940 the French expected a German attack through Belgium, but expected the main thrust to come through the Belgian Plain north of the Ardennes because, the French reasoned, armor could not operate in the dense forests of the Ardennes. As a result the French stationed less experienced units on the Ardennes front. (December 1944 again?) Germany's original battle plans called for just such a move, but a few months before their actual attack the plans were changed for two reasons. One reason was that the German plan accidentally fell into Belgian hands in January 1940. But the main reason for the change was because Field Marshal von Rundstedt, commander of the army group in the Ardennes, and his Chief of Staff, General von Manstein, believed that a thrust across the Belgian Plain,

while promising success, would encounter the enemy head-on and might not prove decisive. A drive through the Ardennes, on the other hand, would trap the main French, British, and Belgian forces in Belgium. Hitler agreed with the new strategy.

The German drive through the Ardennes began on 10 May 1940. Rundstedt's army group made the main effort through the Ardennes with three armies forward. The 4th Army (northernmost) drove through the Low Ardennes toward Dinant. Panzer Group Kleist, an army-sized armored force, in the center, made the main thrust. Within this group, an armored corps under Reinhardt moved across the High Ardennes toward Montherme where the Semois joins the Meuse, while an armored corps under Guderian headed for Sedan. Another army covered Panzer Group Kleist's southern flank. Horse cavalry of the Belgian Chasseurs Ardennais and the French 9th Army were helpless in stopping the German tanks. No air support for the French was available. By the evening of 11 May Guderian's columns were only a few miles from Sedan. The next day they forced a crossing of the Semois River and by that evening overlooked the great loop of the Meuse at Sedan. Reinhardt's armor reached the Meuse at Montherme at almost the same time. The honor of crossing and establishing the first bridgehead over the Meuse went to General (later Field Marshal) Rommel. A column of his division sent a patrol across at Dinant on the evening of 12 May and under concealment of fog the next morning reinforcements crossed in rubber assault boats. By evening of the 13th, Rommel held a mile-deep bridgehead. More bridgeheads were established by the morning of the 15th and by that evening two German armored corps were more than 35 miles beyond the Meuse. The drive to the English Channel had begun and the fall of France would follow in a matter of days.

Thus ended the Ardennes' second association with military history. The results were more disastrous to the French than those of 1914. Again the Germans had demonstrated that sizeable military forces could pass through the Ardennes—but in 1940 they were motorized and mechanized forces. The French, basing their tactics on World War I experience, expected their cavalry to delay the Germans for at least five days. The Germans only needed three days to cross the Ardennes. Compounding their original sin of neglecting the Ardennes, the French committed the cardinal error of fighting the 1940 war in terms of the 1914 war. The German's greatest advantage, on the other hand, was the mental flexibility of their commanders in the field. And during the years between the wars they had developed a new concept of warfare (armored blitzkrieg) that their adversaries had failed to grasp.

The Ardennes next visit by foreign armies was in September 1944. This time the direction of attack was west to east. However, the Americans driving east adopted the French attitude of 1940—the Ardennes and its adjoining region, the Eifel, were unfit for a major offensive. Although he was driving an apparently beaten army before him, General Eisenhower chose to bypass the Ardennes on the north and south with his main drive. He allocated only one corps (V) to the Ardennes. While the V Corps had to fight to get across the Meuse, it then swept swiftly to the German frontier. The V Corps

(Continued on Page 8)



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

The planning for the 50th Anniversary Commemoration continues to go forward. The week of March 21st, Monsignor William O'Donnell, VBOB Chaplain, and I were in St. Louis to meet with the St. Louis Host Committee. The committee has 16 members and many of their wives; a number of couples have volunteered for special tasks. The St. Louis Gateway Chapter members who have volunteered to serve on the Host Committee for the 50th are a dedicated, enthusiastic group. It is this kind of support that will ensure success of the 50th Commemoration. They all look forward (wives included) to serving VBOB during the 50th Commemoration in St. Louis.

We met with the Reverend Telthorst at the Saint Louis Cathedral to discuss our Memorial Service for the Battle of the Bulge 50th Anniversary. Monsignor O'Donnell will work with the Cathedral in planning this service. The Saint Louis Cathedral has the greatest collection of mosaic art in the entire world. The beauty is unbelievable--its grandeur turns one's mind to God. All are welcome, the Cathedral has been host to countless pilgrims of all faiths.

We also met with Superintendent Signaigo, of the Soldiers' Memorial Military Museum, regarding location of the Battle of the Bulge 50th Anniversary Plaque. Across from the museum is the Court of Honor, with tablets of 2,573 names of St. Louis citizens who died in WWII. This area will be most appropriate for the BOB 50th Anniversary Plaque.

The primary goal of the 50th Anniversary Committee is to provide a truly heartwarming experience, and plenty of opportunities to visit with old friends and make new acquaintances. All in all, this promises to be a memorable occasion--don't miss it!

William P. Tayman
Chairman
VBOB 50th Anniversary Committee



GOOD NEWS FOR THE THRIFTY!



The newspapers are full of economic comparisons....the "Bigger and Better" days of the 1980's have given way to the "Spend Thrift" days of the 1990's. While it was once "chic" to have the most expensive car, the most elaborate home, the latest fashions, these items are now seen as "extravagant." The term tightwad has become the compliment of the '90's! As the American economy continues to lay low, the masses are looking to the "Depression Generation" for help in how to cut back, make do and economize in all areas of modern life. The younger generations know that those of us who survived the hardships of depression years and rationing of the war years have a wealth of experience in how to save money!

As an experienced "tightwad," we know you'll be happy to learn how YOU can **save** at least **\$300.00 per person** on an exciting journey back to those often-recounted war years! IF you register for our VBOB 1994 50th Anniversary Tour in 1993, and pay in full or participate in our special Time Payment Plan, our experienced tour operator, *Galaxy Tours*, will guarantee 1993 prices for this 1994 tour! Anticipating 1994 costs and exchange rates, you can save up to \$400.00 per couple by registering early! PLUS, with either pre-payment option, Galaxy will issue their comprehensive travel insurance protection in your name **free of charge**, an **additional \$75.00 value!**

A skeleton itinerary follows. Call *Galaxy Tours* today for a copy of our full tour brochure outlining all of the details. It won't cost you a penny...the call is toll-free...1-800-523-7287. The sooner you send in your reservation, the sooner you can guarantee your place and your price. **Don't Delay! Start saving today!**

VBOB 1994 SKELETON ITINERARY

Sunday, October 23 - USA/ALOFT.
Monday, October 24 - BRUSSELS/LIEGE.
Tuesday, October 25 thru Thursday, October 27 - LIEGE (Northern Shoulder, Hospitality Day)
Friday, October 28 thru Sunday, October 30 LUXEMBOURG. (Southern Shoulder, Hospitality Day, special places and more)
Monday, October 31 - LUXEMBOURG/PARIS.
Tuesday, November 1 - PARIS.
Wednesday, November 2 - PARIS/USA.

Optional Normandy Extension

Wednesday, Nov. 2 - PARIS/NORMANDY.
Thursday, November 3 - NORMANDY.
Friday, November 4 - NORMANDY.
Saturday, November 5 - NORMANDY/PARIS.
Sunday, November 6 - PARIS/USA.

We have already filled our first coachload with VBOB members who will be with us in Belgium, Luxembourg and France in October of 1994! Demand on transportation and accommodations is already beyond all expectations; if you don't act quickly, you may be disappointed! Add your name to our growing list of excited participants:

Woody BECK
Ray & Foye BECK
John & Mary Ann BOWEN
Fred & Shirley BROWNER
Jim & Grace CAPS
Harvey & Betty CHARBONNEAU
Victor CROSS
John CUPINA, Jr.
Major & Evelyn HILL
Bill & Colleen LEONARD
Bill & Phyllis LEOPOLD
Danny & Josephine MARINI
James McALISTER
Francis & Mary McCARTHY
Mac McAULIFFE
Bill MILNE, Sr. & Bill MILNE, Jr.
Bob REED
Bill & Margaret SHARP
Bill & Betty SWOPE
Bill TAYMAN
Johnnie VANCURA
(YOUR NAME)



For further details and/or a complete brochure, call **GALAXY TOURS** at 1-800-523-7287 (toll-free) or write to P.O. Box 234, Wayne, PA 19087.

Why Don't We Learn From History?

did this on a shoestring, for in keeping with the theory that the Ardennes-Eifel was a region to be avoided, scarce supplies of ammunition, gaso-line, and other supplies went to the units fighting north and south of the Ardennes and to the Market-Garden operation to the north.

The German commanders believed, in retrospect, that this was a major error on the part of the Americans. A major drive through the Ardennes, the Germans speculated, could have swept almost unhindered to the Rhine. Since the Germans lacked ready reserves, noted the German Chief of Staff in the west, this could have brought about a total collapse of the entire Western Front within a short time. It is true that with the American's complicated supply problems in September its forces might have bogged down in the Ardennes, but the fact remains that the Germans, like the French before them, had neglected the Ardennes but in the case of the Germans they were saved because the Americans failed to, or were unable to, take advantage of the Germans' weaknesses.

Once the front stabilized along the German border, the Americans, still looking upon the Ardennes as being an unfit place to launch an attack, felt it was an ideal location for a quiet sector where troops could rest and retrain, whether they be veteran units that needed to lick their wounds or newly arrived units who could be further trained and get small doses of combat at the same time. It also allowed the Americans to thin out their line in this sector to allow greater concentration of forces elsewhere for offensive actions.

Adolf Hitler, noting the extremely thin lines in the Ardennes area and remembering earlier German successes in this area, chose it for his major counteroffensive on the Western Front. By striking in mid-December, he estimated that it would take three days to reach the Meuse and cross it. Following that, German forces would swing northwest to Antwerp, thus trapping four Allied armies north of the penetration.

Three factors disrupted Hitler's counteroffensive. First, the plan was too ambitious for the forces involved. After over three years of combat on the Eastern Front the tremendous losses in manpower had taken their toll in all units, while lack of equipment and air superiority almost insured failure.

Second, the Germans had not reckoned on the tenacity of the defenders nor the speed with which other American units could disengage and rush to the Ardennes. Small, isolated groups, as John Eisenhower observed in his book on the Bulge, set up shop and went into business for themselves at key villages, crossroads, bridges, and defiles and upset the German timetable from the very start. Instead of being at the Meuse at the end of three days as planned, they were still at the Clerf River, barely half way to Bastogne.

Third, unlike 1914 and 1940 the Germans in December 1944 attacked against the grain of the land. The failure of the Sixth Panzer Army to break through in the north, meant German forces could gain access to major roads leading northwest only after reaching the Bastogne-Liege highway, some 20 miles inside Belgium. This gave the road center at

Bastogne an importance not accorded it in the initial planning stages. The main effort should have been shifted from north to south at that time, but Hitler's devotion to SS units (making up a good part of the 6th Panzer Army) precluded any such action. Actually it was too late anyway, for the delays by American units east of Bastogne bought the time needed to move the 101st Airborne Division into Bastogne, completely stymieing German efforts in the southern section of the Ardennes.

General Omar Bradley said he was "...startled by the suddenness of von Rundstedt's offensive..." which is understandable considering the intelligence failure on the part of the Allies. But he goes on to say that he was "...even more astonished that he (von Rundstedt) should choose so unremunerative an objective..." Bradley felt that such an attack is launched either to destroy hostile forces or capture a terrain objective. He went on to say that "...Neither objective could be attained in the Ardennes, for nowhere were we more thinly dispersed than across that wooded front and nowhere the length of our Allied line was a sector more devoid of industrial resources, transportation facilities, and worth-while terrain objectives." Bradley went on to say that "...even if the German were to bust through all the way to the Meuse, he wouldn't find a thing in the Ardennes to make it worth his while."

Did it ever occur to General Bradley that the Germans may not have been looking for anything, per se, in the Ardennes or on the American front line? Antwerp was a logical objective given the Allied supply situation. It would also split the Allied positions and isolate the four Allied armies in the north. Hitler was not after the Ardennes as an objective, but to use it, as the Germans did in 1914 and 1940, as a passageway to important objectives. In this case, the Meuse River line and ultimately Antwerp. In this context, Bradley said that "...of the many pathways that lead to France, the least penetrable is through the Ardennes. For there the roads are much too scarce, the hills too wooded, the valleys too limited for maneuver." Being the least penetrable among others does not mean it is impassible. The Germans had already proved in 1914 and 1940 that coupled with the element of surprise the Ardennes was the ideal road to objectives farther west for men or machines. True, as Bradley pointed out, the area was not a good one for maneuver, but the Germans were not interested in maneuver in that area, merely passage to more lucrative maneuver areas. It would appear that the commanders at corps, army, and army group level were of the same opinion as the intelligence community--the Germans were beaten and on the run; the war was almost over. It seemed to them that it was no longer necessary to heed the lessons of history. And we paid a high price for not heeding those lessons.

*Robert Phillips fought in the Battle of the Bulge as a medical aidman in the 110th Infantry Regiment, 28th Infantry Division. He survived and continued his medical practice in the 110th Infantry from January 1945 to VE Day in May 1945. He was awarded both his Bachelor's and Masters degrees in history from the University of Oregon. He retired from the Federal government in 1986 after 30 years as a military historian with the Department of the Army, Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Department of the Air Force. His publication, *To Save Bastogne*, relates the 110th Infantry's efforts to buy time so that US forces could occupy and hold Bastogne.*

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
<u>Wednesday • September 15</u>			
*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	_____
 <u>Thursday • September 16</u>			
Ladies' Luncheon and Program	_____	\$10.00	_____
 <u>Friday • September 17</u>			
Pitchfork Steak Fondue at Fort Lincoln			
State Park and Custer House Tour	_____	\$30.00	_____
 <u>Saturday • September 18</u>			
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.
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Arrival, registration, find old friends and make new ones
Lewis and Clark Riverboat Ride (minimum of 60 required)

Thursday • September 16

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
9:00 - 10:00 a.m.
10:15 - 12:00 Noon
12:00 - 2:00 p.m.
12:00 - 1:15 p.m.
1:30 - 3:00 p.m.
3:30 - 5:00 p.m.
5:30 p.m.
Time to be announced

Registration
Committee Meetings
Chapter Presidents' Meeting/Public Relations Seminar
Ladies' Luncheon and Program
Lunch "on your own"
Regional Meeting
Executive Council Session
Dinner "on your own"
Lewis and Clark Riverboat Ride (if needed)

Friday • September 17

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon
12:00 - 1:15 p.m.
1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
4:00 - 5:00 p.m.
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Registration
General Business Meeting
Lunch "on your own"
Continue General Business Meeting, if necessary
Executive Council Session
Pitchfork Steak Fondue, Tour Custer House Complex,
Indian Dances

Saturday • September 18

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon
12:00 Noon
5:00 p.m.
6:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m.

Registration
Continental Breakfast in State Capitol. Tour of the town.
Return to hotel (lunch "on your own")
Memorial Service
Cocktail Reception
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.

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: _____

**526th Armored Infantry Battalion
Company "B" Officers a few days
before December 16, 1944**

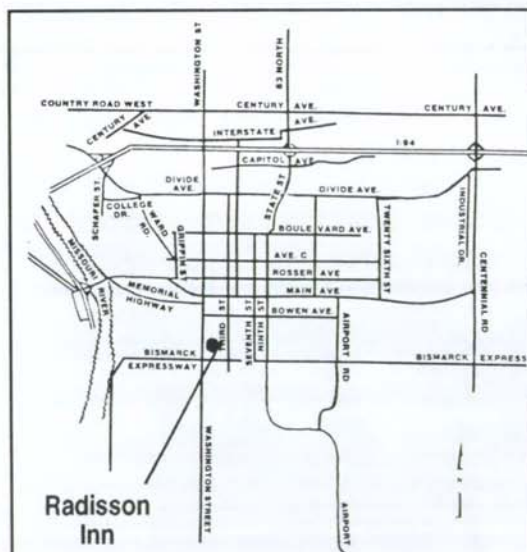


Left to Right: Charles Jaques, Robert Batt, Milton Bernstein, Captain Richard Wessell (Company Commander) Erwin Plotzke and John Halbin.

Photo taken in Comblain La Tour, Belgium, a few days before the beginning of the Battle of the Bulge. In a few days these officers and men of Company "B" would make a limited objective attack on a hill at point 810007, approximately 5,000 meters southeast of Malmedy. The attack began at 0845 hours, 3 January 1945. Total casualties were two officers and 47 enlisted men wounded, one officer and 12 enlisted men taken as prisoners of war, 23 enlisted men and one medic killed in action and two officers injured in action.

COMPLIMENTARY TRANSPORTATION

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



DIRECTIONS • The Radisson Inn is located just three miles from the Airport and easily accessible off I-94 and the Bismarck Expressway.

Members Speak Out

[Our computer shut down and we lost over 14 pages of copy that was all set to go. If you submitted something for this column (or any other) and it fails to appear, please resubmit it. We had a difficult time reconstructing all our information, as many of the letters get filed away in different places. Modern technology, phooey!]

FRED TILL, 11TH ARMORED DIVISION, 41ST CAVALRY, writes to thank us for hooking him up with a former armored car crew member.

RALPH E. DULA, son of **ELMER C. DULA, 28TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 110TH INFANTRY, COMPANY "G,"** writes to see if anyone may have known his father. If so, please write to Ralph at: 335 Fifteenth Street, New Cumberland, Pennsylvania 17070.

GEORGE M. SCARBROUGH, 3RD ARMORED DIVISION, 23RD ARMORED ENGINEERS, COMPANY "E," writes us the following: "A little over a year ago I was visited by two Belgian brothers in whose parents' house I and five other GI's were quartered when we were recuperating from the effects of stopping the Nazi's last gasp efforts through the Ardennes. The last time I had seen these guys they were six and ten years old. I hadn't written to them or heard from them for years so when they turned up on my doorstep 39 years after I had left theirs, you can imagine how surprised I was, but pleased and actually honored that they would think enough of me that they would look me up when they got a chance to visit "Etats Unis." Also, the closest word to "brother" for them is "American." Makes me feel that the day-to-day business of what we were all over there for was worth it."

FRANK ALEKSANDROWICZ wants to know if anyone knows the whereabouts of **HOMER FORD**. If you do, write to Frank at: 343 Canterbury Road, Bay Village, Ohio 44140.

ROBERT C. REED, 87TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 345TH INFANTRY, sends us the following request: Eric Urbain, from Bras, Belgium, is looking for a veteran named Donald who stayed with his grandparents in December 1944 and January 1945 in Bras. He believes the soldiers had a mortar and fired in the direction of Vesqueville. After a week or so the men moved on with their division toward Sibret (Donald lost his buddy there). In 1985, Donald returned to Bras with his wife and found the house he and his buddy had stayed in. Eric's grandmother spoke no English and Donald spoke no French, so the couple left without leaving word where they were staying. Eric searched the town in vain to find them. Eric would very much like to contact Donald. If you can help Eric, write to him at: 12, rue de Patronage, 6800 BRAS, Belgium.

ROBERT L. GUSTAFSON, 28TH INFANTRY, 110TH INFANTRY, COMPANY "B," would like to contact Mr. **DOBSON** (first name unknown) who was briefly with the **28TH DIVISION BAND** about May, 1945. Robert's address is: 6940 Hillcrest Lane, Edina, Minnesota 55435.

JOHN W. TESH, would like to hear from anyone who knew **VERNON L. TESH, 2ND INFANTRY DIVISION, 38TH INFANTRY, COMPANY "D,"** who was killed in the Bulge on December 19, 1944, especially **ESTEL ELKINS, MICHAEL E. MATUSKO, GEORGE H. BUNDY, and WILLIAM P. TRUMBLY**. Write to John at: 1178 Nelson Drive, Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801.

ROY C. GWIN, 561ST FIELD ARTILLERY, states that the article in the February issue about the two from his group who were reunited after 40 years got him to thinking that he would very much like to hear from any one from his old group. Write to Roy at: 403 East Pine Street, Atmore, Alabama 36502.

MARSHALL "MARK" BAIRD, 82ND AIRBORNE 517 PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT, "A," writes to tell us that a walk during a small snow storm recently reminded him of getting into a warm ambulance near Bergaval, Belgium, when he was evacuated for frostbitten feet on January 9, 1945. It was the first artificial heat that he had been in all that winter. His first thoughts when getting into the vehicle were of all the guys left out there in that snow. He didn't get back to his outfit until after VE Day.

ROBERT FERGLOUTE would like some assistance for a member of his history club. He is trying to locate someone with the family name of **ROBERT** who is from Wisconsin and happened to be in his village of Sibret (close to Bastogne) in 1944. If you can help, write to Robert at: 28, Petites Epines, B6600 Bastogne, Belgium.

JOHN A. ALLER, 83RD INFANTRY DIVISION, writes to tell us that he has written a book about the endurances and hardships of WE, who fought the battles of Europe. the 335-page book is entitled *I Saw It Through*. It can be ordered for \$15.00 by writing to John at: 10008 West Coggins Drive, Sun City, Arizona 85351.

DON EVANS, 2ND ARMORED DIVISION, is looking for **ROBERT E. FLOURNOY**, graduate of OCS, Fort Knox in 1943 or 1944. Served as a 2nd lieutenant during the Battle of the Bulge--most likely in an armored unit. Anyone who knew him or knows of his whereabouts, please write to Don: 330 Mennonite Road, Collegeville, Pennsylvania 19426. Telephone: 215-489-9080.

60TH ARMORED INFANTRY DIVISION (WW II), 9TH ARMORED DIVISION, is looking for all former members. Our reason is two-fold. first to advise you that a most complete and accurate history of our battalion is now complete and will be published about June 1, of this year. There will be a limited number printed and orders will be on a first-come-first-served basis. (Reunion announcement appears in the Reunion column.) To order the history *Strike, Fight and Conquer* contact: R. L. Sawyer, P.O. Box 81, Remlap, Alabama 35133. Telephone: 205-681-8630.

CHARLES LEONARD would like assistance in finding someone who was with the **3RD ARMY INFANTRY BATTALION** south of Bastogne around the 16th or 17th of December, 1944, to provide information for a magazine article he is writing. He would like to hear from someone with knowledge about the following incident: *[sometime during the dates cited]* about 72 officers and men of Col. Skorzeny's 150th Panzer Division, a German unit in U.S. Army clothing tried to infiltrate U.S. lines. The group was trapped and subsequently executed as was the policy of the time. If you have knowledge regarding this incident write to Charles at: 102 Sombrero Drive, Del Rio, Texas 78840.

STEVEN A. TODD is a Battle of the Bulge and a M1 Garand rifle history buff and would like to correspond with you about the rifle's use in the BoB. He intends to collect data from vets and build a data base that lists the name; rank during battle; unit; location in battle; and the serial number(s) of the M1 rifle(s) they carried. If he can get the data, it would be helpful to add to the history of these wonderful rifles and maybe give a vet a chance to hold his old rifle again. Even if you only send the serial number(s), he can at least identify the rifle(s) as having served during the BoB. The rifle he owns is 2202000--was this your rifle? Write to Stephen at: HQ USAF/SPPM, PSC 2, Box 10098, APO AE 09012.

ANTHONY F. TOMASZEWSKI, 117TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, BATTERY "C," would like to hear from **LANCE THORSON** and **ELMER TRIPTOW**, or anyone who may know their whereabouts. Both at one time lived in Chicago, Illinois. Write to Anthony at: 441 11th Street, North, Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin 54494-3620.

CHARLES M. NELSON, who was with **3RD ARMY, 126TH ORDNANCE BATTALION, COMPANY "A,"** needs some help with a claim with the Veterans Administration. He suffered a respiratory malady during the Bulge and was sent to a field hospital in France. Anyone who served with him and remembers his name and/or these events, please contact him at: 900 1st Avenue, Luverne, Alabama 36049.

EARLE W. "ALEX" ALEXANDER, 26TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 104 INFANTRY, COMPANY "A," served two years in Oahu, 16 months in Greenland and over one year in Europe (got hit with the YD Division). He has many sketches of buddies and old "Gimlet" booklets. He has lost his addresses. Write to him at: 4526 Dupont Avenue, North, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55412.

TROY THOMASON, 78TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 552ND AAA AW BN (MBL), HQ BATTERY, would like to hear from members of the **557th or 535TH AAA AW BN (MBL) BN**. Troy says that his unit was assigned to shoot down "buzz bombs" in the Ardennes but orders were cancelled and

(Continued on Page 13)

MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

they were assigned to the **78TH INFANTRY DIVISION** along the Siegfried line and Huertgen Forest in the Lammersdorf, Germany, area. They were in the Veviers, Belgium, area when the Bulge began on December 16 with their gun crews giving report of the German infiltrators. Two of his buddies met Col. Pieper and his column head-on between Lingeuville and Baugnez the afternoon of the 17th. They had their weapons carrier destroyed, escaped, witnessed the Malmedy Massacre, wandered through the night and ended up on the outskirts of Malmedy the morning of the 18th. **COL. PERGRIN, 291ST COMBAT ENGINEERS** interviewed them. They were there when the "bicycle rider" came in, severely wounded, who escaped from the Baugnez slaughter. Troy typed the accounts of what happened to them. Troy recommends what he says is one of the finest accounts of the BoB around: *The Longest Year*, by **MURRAY S. PULVER, 30TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 120 INFANTRY, COMPANY "B."** It can be obtained for \$10.00 from Murray at 10406 Aztec Drive, Sun City, Arizona 85373. Write to Troy at: 113 Meadow Lane, Groesbeck, Texas 76642.

JOSEPH A. VENTRELLA, 965TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, is looking for lost members. He says they have been having reunions for the past eight years and if you are a member of that unit, they want you there too. (See reunion notice in the Reunions column.) Write to Joseph at: P.O. Box 21, Netarts, Oregon 97143.

The **609TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION** is trying to locate members of their unit. Contact: George Funke, 3260 Oakford Road, Trevoze, Pennsylvania 19053-6606.

JOEL C. ADKINS, 87TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 347TH INFANTRY, COMPANY "D," writes to say that "Among my souvenirs there is a pack of "passes" issued to the trainees at CRTC, Fort Riley, Kansas. When these men shipped out the troop clerk was about to destroy the passes. I asked for them as there were so many good men ready for assignment to a combat group (1943-1944). If anyone who remembers being in Troop A, 3rd Battalion, where 1st Lt. **CHESTER WATSON** was troop commander and 1st Sgt. **DOYLE** was top sergeant, you may have your "pass" (pictures on most) by contacting me at: 218 Moore Mill Road, Pelzer, South Carolina 29669-9101."

ART R. PAULIN, 638TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION, announces the history of their unit is available. It will be of particular interest to U.S. troops who engaged and stopped the advanced columns of the German Fifth and Sixth Panzer Armies in the western half of the German Ardennes Salient. Also, the bitter fighting in pushing them back east to the German border. If you would like a copy send a check or money order for \$22.00 to Art at: 3610 East 75th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46240.

GENE BELL, 666TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, is making a dedicated effort to locate men from his unit. He understands there is a "national telephone directory" that is computerized. Do any of you know of such an "animal"? If you do, write to Gene at: 3516 Arcadia Terrace, Fairfield, Alabama 35064-2137. [Also let the Headquarters Office know--this would be a very useful tool for us.]

THOR RONNINGEN, 99TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 395TH INFANTRY, COMPANY "I," 3RD BATTALION, writes to say that a history has been written for this fine organization. This history contains personal accounts from the men who served in this battalion from the Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes to VE Day in Bavaria. Entitled *Butler's Battlin' Blue Bastards*, the book is available for \$23.95 (Virginia residents add 90 cents), by writing to: Brunswick Publishing Corporation, P.O. Box 555, Lawrenceville, Virginia 23868.

ROBERT REED, 87TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 345TH INFANTRY, 3RD BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS, writes to see if anyone knows if there are English translations available of works which were originally published in German or French from the perspective of the German soldier or the Belgian or Luxembourgian civilian. Also, he would like to know if there are any other novels written in English besides the following: *The Beardless Warriors*, *A Midnight Clear*, *Night Over Day Over Night*, *Private*, and *Soldiers of '44*. He would like to swap a first edition of *A Midnight Clear* for any edition of *Private*. Write to Bob at: 38 Bagdad Road, Durham, New Hampshire 03824.

GROVER TWINER, 30TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 117TH INFANTRY, 1ST BATTALION, is looking for **JAMES GALLAGHER** (Brookline, Massachusetts, area). Any one who knows Gallagher's whereabouts, please contact Grover at: 40 Dungan Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21228 or telephone 410-744-4915.

FRED MORABITO, 26TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 328TH INFANTRY, would like to hear from any one from the **5TH INFANTRY DIVISION** who is knowledgeable about the bridgehead at Oppenheim. Write to Fred at: 549 Irving Avenue, Port Chester, New York 10573-2931.

ROBERT S. BILLINGS, 187TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, BATTERY "B," would like to hear from anyone with his old outfit. Write to Robert at: 134 Poppy Lane, Clovis, California 93612.

ROY W. HOLMES, would like to hear from any veterans of the **29TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 116TH REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM**, who landed on Omaha Beach D-Day with us (the **146TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION**) at 0630 hours and would he would also like to hear from anyone from the **612TH TANK DESTROYERS** who were at Camp Swift, Texas, January-February 1943 with Duck as mascot. Write to Roy at: 842 North Parkway I-6, Jackson, Tennessee 38305.

WHAT GOES AROUND COMES AROUND

JAMES DeLUCO graduated in 1943 from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and entered the army not long after. He volunteered for infantry service and was assigned to **COMPANY "C," 345TH INFANTRY, 87TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina. Everything went well until January 8, 1945, when he was captured during the Battle of the Bulge. At the Gerolstein Prison Camp, Jim's university class ring was stolen by a German officer who was relieving captives of anything of value. Jim was later transferred to the Limburg Camp and then to Bad Orb where he was liberated on April 2, 1945, without a hope of ever seeing his ring again.

BUT HE DID GET THE RING BACK!! The German officer himself was captured by American soldiers and the ring he was wearing was spotted by MP Louis Galeani, of Belmar, New Jersey, who "liberated" it and brought it home. Lou's wife contacted Duquesne University and gave them the year of graduation and the initials etched inside, and with the help of Father S. Federici, Director of Admissions, was able to return it to its rightful owner.

[This story was written by **WILLIAM REGIS O'MALLEY**, also of "C" Company, who searched for six months to run this story down.]

PASSPORTS TO VISIT OVERSEAS CEMETERIES

"When traveling overseas primarily to visit the place of burial or memorialization, immediate members of the family (widows, parents, children, sisters, brothers and guardians) of veterans buried in or commemorated on the Tablets of the Missing of the permanent American military cemeteries on foreign soil may be eligible for 'Non-fee or Fee-free' passports. For additional information, please write to the American Battle Monuments Commission, Room 5127, Pulaski Building, 20 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington DC 20314."

SOLDIERS' and AIRMEN'S HOME

"Certain veterans are eligible for residence in this retirement home. For information, write to the Admissions Office, US Soldiers' and Airmen's Home, Washington DC 20317. Toll-free number: 1-800-422-9988."

REUNIONS

2ND ARMORED DIVISION ASSOCIATION, September 8-12, 1993, Knoxville, Tennessee. Contact: Loren Guge, 8053 Highpoint Blvd., Brooksville, Florida 34613.

2ND CAVALRY ASSOCIATION, October 13-17, 1993, Humphrey's Half Moon Inn, 2303 Shelter Island Drive, San Diego, California 92106. Contact: Louis T. Holz, 726 Mancill Road, Wayne, Pennsylvania 19087. Telephone: 215-688-3715.

2ND TANK BATTALION, September 21-24, 1993, Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Contacts: Cele Jensen, 3286 Shorewood Drive, Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901. Telephone: 414-231-2316. Ruth Ganser, 713 5th Street, Mosinee, Wisconsin 54455. Telephone: 715-693-3104.

3RD CAVALRY GROUP, 3RD AND 43RD RECON SQUADRONS, 3RD U.S. ARMY, 20TH CORPS, September 7-9, 1993, Las Vegas, Nevada. Contact: Sam Giumento, 557 California Avenue, #58, Boulder City, Nevada 89005. Telephone: 716-654-7198.

4TH ARMORED DIVISION ASSOCIATION, August 23-30, 1993, Hyatt Hotel, Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Contact: Samuel A. Schenker, 1823 Shady Drive, Farrell, Pennsylvania 16121. Telephone: 412-342-67058.

5TH DIVISION, THE SOCIETY OF THE, September 3-6, 1993, Lansing, Michigan. Contact: Harry Arquette, 17751 28 Mile Road, Albion, Michigan 49224. Telephone: 517-629-2990.

6TH ARMORED DIVISION, September 14-19, 1993, Charlotte Marriott City Center, Charlotte, North Carolina. Contact: Edward O. Reed, P.O. Box 5011, Louisville, Kentucky 40255-0011.

7TH ARMORED DIVISION ASSOCIATION, August 26-29, 1993, Radisson Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana. Contact: Carl K. Mattocks, 292 Scott Swamp Road, Farmington, Connecticut 06032.

7TH INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, May 27-31, 1993, Hinesville /Fort Stewart, Georgia. Contact: Harry Cooke, 618 Hamilton Street, Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17602-2131. Telephone: 717-291-9142 (after 3:30 p.m.).

8TH FIELD ARTILLERY OBSERVATION BATTALION ASSOCIATION, October 15-17, 1993, Ramada Inn, Muskogee, Oklahoma. Contact: James Lipman, 4141 North Henderson Road #702, Arlington, Virginia 22203-2465. Telephone: 703-528-1669.

9TH ARMORED DIVISION, 60TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION (WW II), early summer. Contact: R. L. Sawyer, P.O. Box 81, Remlap, Alabama 35133. Telephone: 205-681-8630.

9TH INFANTRY REGIMENT "MANCHU" ASSOCIATION, July 21-24, 1993, Ft. Worth, Texas. Contact: Ray Tarabusi, 19 Waterford Drive, Englewood, Florida 34223. Telephone: 813-475-6063.

10TH ARMORED "TIGER" DIVISION, September 2-6, 1993, Augusta, Georgia. Contact: Karl Klein, P.O. Box 7a, Harlem, Georgia 30814.

11TH ARMORED DIVISION, August 26-29, 1993, New Orleans, Louisiana. Contact: Peg Pfeiffer, 2328 Admiral Street, Aliquippa, Pennsylvania 15001.

11TH ARMORED DIVISION, 55TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, COMPANY "B," September 9-12, 1993, Radcliff, Kentucky. Contact: George Reimer, 115 South Miles Street, Elizabethtown, Kentucky 42701. Telephone: 501-737-8312.

13TH FIELD ARTILLERY OBSERVATION BATTALION, VII CORPS, September 24-26, 1993, Findlay, Ohio. Contact: Robert Reese, 1915 Stonehill Drive, Findlay, Ohio 45840. Telephone: 419-422-7743.

14TH CAVALRY GROUP, 18TH AND 32ND CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRONS, October 7-9, 1993, Holiday Inn Airport, San Antonio, Texas. Contact: Ralph Schip, P.O. Box 2924, Kirkland, Washington 98033. Telephone: 206-282-5315.

14TH TANK BATTALION ASSOCIATION, 9TH ARMORED DIVISION, August 11-14, 1993, Hyatt Regency Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Contact: Abe Ugent, 9461 North Apple Blossom Lane, Bayside, Wisconsin 53217. Telephone: 414-351-2732.

17TH ARMORED ENGINEERS, COMPANY "A," May 20-23, 1993, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Contact: John Shields, P.O. Box 106, East Butler, Pennsylvania 16029. Telephone: 412-287-4301.

28TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 109TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (WW II), October 14-17, 1993, Hot Springs, Arkansas. Contact: Robert A. Allen, Diamond Head Box 7102, Hot Springs, Arkansas 71913. Telephone: 501-262-1709.

28TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 110TH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION (WW II), September 10-11, 1993, Holiday Inn, Meadowlands, Washington, Pennsylvania. Contact: John Chernitsky, 18 Country Club Blvd., Uniontown, Pennsylvania 15041. Telephone: 412-438-9119.

30TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, September 6-9, 1993, Nashville, Tennessee. Contact: Warren C. Giles, 531 Charlotte Street, Athens, Tennessee 37303. Telephone: 615-334-3372.

36TH INFANTRY DIVISION, September 29-October 3, 1993, Radisson Plaza Hotel, Fort Worth, Texas. Contact: Virgil Duffy, 4302 Craigmont, Wichita Falls, Texas 76309. Telephone: 817-696-9221.

44TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 220TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, June 5-7, 1993, Hyatt Regency, Dearborn, Michigan. Contact: Jim Slawinski, P.O. Box 7095, Dearborn, Michigan 48126. Telephone: 313-582-0965.

62ND ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION ASSOCIATION, September 22-25, 1993, Holiday Hotel, Reno, Nevada. Contact: Jerry W. Eades, 2312 Skylark Street, Arlington, Texas 76010-8112. Telephone: 817-275-1556.

75TH INFANTRY DIVISION, September 6-10, 1993, The Pines Hotel, South Fallsburg, New York. Contact: James E. Warmouth, 6545 West 11th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46214.

80TH DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION, September 15-18, 1993, Gault House East, Louisville, Kentucky. Contact: James Allen, 2528 Sampson Street, South Bend, Indiana 46614. Telephone: 219-288-5625.

81ST FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, September 10-12, 1993, Minneapolis Airport Marriott, Bloomington, Minnesota. Contact: Helen Marti, 1717 North Jefferson Street, New Ulm, Minnesota 56073.

83RD INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, September 30-October 2, 1993, Howard Johnson Hotel, Daytona Beach, Florida. Contact: Robert Derickson, 3749 Stahlheber Road, Hamilton, Ohio 45013-9102. Telephone: 513-863-2199.

84TH INFANTRY DIVISION RAILSPLITTER SOCIETY, September 18-22, 1993, Five Seasons Hotel, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Contact: Gene Pugh, 3225 Blue Ridge Drive, N.E., Cedar Rapids Iowa 52401. Telephone: 319-363-6121.

86TH CHEMICAL MORTAR DIVISION, May 12-16, 1993, Holiday Inn BWI Airport, Linthicum, Maryland. Contact: John C. Wall, 621 Silverbell Drive, Edgewood, Maryland 21040.

86TH ORDNANCE COMPANY ASSOCIATION, September 9-11, 1993, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Contact: Leon O'Brien, 2571 Crystal Drive, Joliet, Illinois 60435. Telephone: 815-436-9273.

(Continued on Page 15)

REUNIONS

(Continued from Page 14)

94TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, July 8-10, 1993, New Orleans Marriott, New Orleans, Louisiana. Contact: Angelo G. Brucato, 3774 North Heritage Drive, Mobile, Alabama 36609. Telephone: 205-344-5968.

95TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, September 30-October 3, 1993, Sheraton Century Center, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Contact: Lester W. Wolf, 8032 South 86th Court, Justice, Illinois 60458. Telephone: 708-458-3047.

99TH INFANTRY "CHECKERBOARD" DIVISION ASSOCIATION, June 15-20, 1993, Denver, Colorado. Contact: G. Allan Nelson, 8457 East Hinsdale Drive, Englewood, Colorado 80112. Telephone: 303-773-2987 (evenings).

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION, August 19-21, 1993, Lansing, Michigan. Contact: Ivan Worrell, P.O. Box 586, Sweetwater, Tennessee 37874-0586. Telephone: 625-337-4103.

106TH INFANTRY "GOLDEN LION" DIVISION ASSOCIATION, September 9-12, 1993, Columbia, South Carolina. Contact: Roger Rutland, 6632 Arcadia Wood Road, Columbia, South Carolina. Telephone: 803-787-6996.

129TH AAA GUN BATTALION, September 17-19, 1993, Holiday Inn, Manitowoc, Wisconsin. Contact: George Koch, 246 Cayuga Avenue, Elmhurst, Illinois 60126-4505. Telephone: 708-279-6999.

150TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, May 12-14, 1993, Shoreway Acres Resort Inn, Falmouth Center, Massachusetts. Contact: Curtis F. Shaw, 26 Sagamore Road, West Yarmouth, Massachusetts 02673.

159TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, September 9-12, 1993, Pittsburgh Green Tree Marriott, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Contact: Paul G. McKelvey, Jr., 422 Mt. Thor Road, Greensburg, Pennsylvania 15601. Telephone: 412-836-0613.

179TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION ASSOCIATION, October 14-17, 1993. Contact: James M. McCabe, 244 Burbank Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29210-7438. Telephone: 803-772-1827.

249TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, September 8-11, 1993, Nashville, Tennessee. Contact: James Hand, 157 East Pearl Street, Wellsville, New York 14895. Telephone: 716-593-5094.

277TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, October 8-10, 1993, Somerset Lodge Motel, Highway 27 South, Somerset, Kentucky 42501. Contact: James T. Holloway, 306 Murphy Avenue, Ferguson, Kentucky 42533. Telephone: 606-678-8897.

296TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, September 18-20, 1993, Braintree, Massachusetts. Contact: Robert T. Williams, 61 Cedar Street, Newington, Connecticut 06111.

299TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, June 4-5, 1993, Sheraton-Syracuse Convention Center, 7th North Street & Electronics Parkway, Liverpool, New York 13088. Contact: Jim DePalma, 104 Saslon Park Drive, Liverpool, New York 13088. Telephone: 315-457-0599.

405TH AAA GUN BATTALION, October 15-16, 1993, Hotel Patrick Henry, Roanoke, Virginia. Contact: Warren E. Dillard, 2033-10th Street, N.W., Roanoke, Virginia 24012. Telephone: 703-366-3576.

482ND AAA AW BATTALION (SP) ASSOCIATION, September 20-23, 1993, Las Vegas, Nevada. Contact: Chuck Gregorovich, 908 Williams Street, St. Marys, Ohio 45885-1562. Telephone: 419-394-3548.

501ST PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, July 7-10, 1993, Corpus Christi, Texas. Contact: Leo and June Westerholm, c/o Mary Garrett & Associates, 400 Mann Street #909, Corpus Christi, Texas 78401.

531ST AAA AW BATTALION, July 16-18, 1993, Red Fox Inn, Waverly, Iowa. Contact: Warren S. Means, 1013 Eason, Buckeye, Arizona 85326. Telephone: 692-386-2405.

558TH FIELD ARTILLERY, May 11-13, 1993, Reno/Sparks, Nevada. Contact: Bob Haas, 1355 North 3rd Avenue, Upland, California 91786. Telephone: 909-981-1436.

638TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION, July 24-25, 1993, Sheraton Northeast Motel, Indianapolis, Indiana. Contact: Howard Brumbaugh, 10109 Carrollton, Indianapolis, Indiana 46280. Telephone: 317-846-0349.

644TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION, October 19-20, 1993, Ramada Resort, Kissimmee, Orlando, Florida. Contact: W. T. Walker, 120 Azalea Street, Lakeland, Florida 33803. Telephone: 813-646-6324.

676TH ENGINEER LIGHT EQUIPMENT COMPANY, June 3-5, 1993, Radisson, Lincolnwood, Illinois (Chicago suburb). Contact: John Pesta, 2003 Castleton Drive, Troy, Michigan 48063. Telephone: 313-524-9813.

705TH TANK DESTROYER ASSOCIATION, September 22-26, 1993, Atlantic City, New Jersey. Contact: Anthony Breder, 235 Buffalo Avenue, Egg Harbor City, New Jersey 08215. Telephone: 609-965-1545.

740TH TANK BATTALION, September 2-5, 1993, Louisville/Fort Knox, Kentucky. Contact: Harry F. Miller, 2150 6th Avenue North #102, Seattle, Washington 98109. Telephone: 206-283-8591.

749TH TANK BATTALION ASSOCIATION, May 20-23, 1993, Quality Hotel Riverview, Covington, Kentucky. Contact: James Bobbett, 6780 Olivet Drive, Salt Lake City, Utah 84121. Telephone: 801-943-3203.

771ST FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, BATTERY "A,", June 17-19, 1993, Sheraton Inn, Norfolk, Virginia 23502. Contact: L. McPherson, 606 - Sutton Drive, Xenia, Ohio 45385. Telephone: 513-372-4347.

808TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION, October 7-9, 1993, Clarion Hotel, Dubuque, Iowa. Contact: Chet Norwin, 32991 Pineview Court, Warren, Michigan 48093-1135. Telephone: 313-979-8958.

838TH ORDNANCE DEPOT COMPANY, August 7-8, 1993, Ramada Inn, 10820 Balls Ford Road, Manassas, Virginia. Contact: Bernard A. Kersting, 7912 Elmhurst Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21234-5506. Telephone: 410-668-3569.

926TH SIGNAL BATTALION TAC, August 26-28, 1993, Radisson Hotel, Dayton, Ohio. Contact: Fred Davis, 30 Carriage Drive, Media, Pennsylvania 19063. Telephone: 215-565-0767.

965TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, September 7-11, 1993, Holiday Inn, Seattle, Washington. Contact: Joseph A. Ventrella, P.O. Box 21, Netarts, Oregon 97143. Telephone: 503-842-9433.

1153RD COMBAT ENGINEER GROUP, HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, October 1-3, 1993, Estes Park, Colorado. Contact: Bill Baumgartner, Route 3, Box 306, Sullivan, Illinois 61951.

1255TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, October 20-25, 1993, Virginia Beach, Virginia. Contact: Al Babecki, 915 Hemlock Street, Barefoot Bay, Florida 32976. Telephone: 407-664-0952.

SHAEF and HQ., ETOUSA VETERANS ASSN. (European Theater, WWII) 9th National Reunion - New Orleans, LA Sept. 10-13, 1993 Doubletree Hotel. Contact: Alan F. Reeves 2301 Broadway, San Francisco, CA 94114. Telephone: 415-921-8322.

[We lost 14 pages of copy due to computer "failure." If we lost your Reunion, we are truly sorry. We know how valuable this is in finding members. If we have your notice by the first week in July, it will be carried in the August issue. Maybe just a note in the "Members Speak Out" column will help you locate your members who belong to VBOB.]

HOPE TO SEE YOU IN NORTH DAKOTA



*Living
Legends*

Memorable Bulge Incidents

UNEDITED AND
HERETOFORE UNPUBLISHED

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

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

UPSIDE DOWN IN THE SNOW

Gordon W. Yates
H Company
506 Parachute Infantry Regiment
3rd Infantry Battalion
101 Airborne Division
Phoenix, Arizona
December 1944

We unloaded the trucks into the snow and "Uncle Bob," Colonel Sink, was standing in it, waist deep, by the side of the road. He pointed down the road towards Foy; saying: Boys, go down this road till you run into something--then dig in. Guys were running west across the road. Most were glassy eyed, disheveled and weaponless. On being asked where the Krauts were, the reply was: Everywhere.

About a mile down the road I passed by a large tree and sensed movement to my right, just in time to see a rifle butt coming my way.

The next scene was told to me by Louis Vecchi and Bill Pauli: "Hey ain't that old Yates upside down there in the snow?" They dragged me out and poured some cognac or something down me.

THINGS I REMEMBER

Jim Graff
C Company
134 Infantry Regiment
35 Infantry Division
Middletown, Illinois
December 1944

I guess I should tell a Battle of the Bulge experience but maybe I will just try and tell about some of the things that stand out in my three weeks of fighting in the Bulge, from the outskirts of Bastogne to the Our River and the German border.

First the Bulge was my initiation into battle. I was a 19-year-old infantry replacement and came in the line at night and never saw my foxhole companion until first light. My first American casualty was a result of a self-inflicted wound. My first dead Germans were a black booted officer and a blue-eyed soldier no older than I. They were killed in the woods southeast of Bastogne near Luterbois, Belgium.

Our first attack towards Arloncourt--15 knocked out 6th Armored tanks along the road leading towards the town. Three more tanks burning in town and a half-track loaded with wounded and burned tankers coming back. My first German tank refueling in front of our positions and two of our tanks wanting our C.O. to fire some 60mm mortars at them in the hope we could set the refueling vehicle on fire. Lt. Chappell our C.O. telling them: Nothing doing. If they wouldn't attack them what chance did we have. We didn't have a bazooka in the whole company. My first attack against tanks--get in close so they couldn't fire on you. The first casualties of the men I joined "C" Company with. Carl Kittleson of Illinois was killed in action by a tank shell.

I remember that I dug three foxholes in a day as shelter against the German fire. The medic was sent in as a replacement without an entrenching tool. The number of casualties soon corrected that error. I still see the German soldier walk by while two of us were drinking coffee and eating a roast beef sandwich. He had walked through two platoons and a section of heavy machine guns until a runner at the company CP challenged him. Have you ever hand carried chow and bed rolls in the middle of the night following a telephone line?

I remember those cheap little wool and imitation leather gloves we had. We would have been better off if we would have had some corn shucking mittens. I wore long and short underwear, a pair of fatigues, a pair of wool O.D.'s, sweater, field jacket and a wool overcoat. Also, the combat boots and four buckle felt overshoes. We got shoe-pacs when we finally were relieved in January 26 by the 90th Infantry Division, and being pulled back to Fischbach, Luxembourg.

I remember that bath in an engineer shower and our first pair of socks and change of underwear in the Bulge. Somewhere I read where a Bulge historian called the 35th Infantry Division the foxhole division, because they never got out of the woods and foxholes.

I remember the snow, you know it got deeper each day. It was clear up to my butt by the end of January. Too many casualties from rifle companies attacking across snow swept fields into woods and fortified towns. Good example, January 24-26 in our attack against Neiswampach, Luxembourg. Tanks turned back and left us to the mercy of

the German tanks and small arms fire. Also, those damned "screaming meemies" which they chased us out of the woods with. Leaving our wounded and floundering back to a little village.

Jim Steinhäufel and I slept with an old ewe sheep and a couple of lambs. That sheep manure creates heat when you burrow down into it. Getting up and getting a second breakfast because so much was left over because of the casualties.

Also I remember falling asleep on the edge of a foxhole and being awakened by Lt. Neel. Also we attacked the town the next morning and the lead tank hit two mines, compliments of some American unit, laid on the road probably six weeks before and covered up with snow, only to be detonated when we came in another way. Sgt. Loos and I dug them out and threw them in the ditch.



I remember cutting up some German cemetery crosses, we got them out of a carpenter shop to start a fire in a cook stove of a house trying to warm our squad leader's frozen feet. I remember the BAR I inherited, but didn't test fire, it failed to eject the cartridges and I dug them out with a pocket-knife. I'll never know whether I used too much oil or whether it was a real malfunction. I didn't give it a second chance.

I remember the new replacement. He came in about two weeks after me, he wouldn't give up the machine gun receiver because he was frozen with the fear of his first combat and not just the zero weather. He never did get that gun in action. I remember Sgt. File coming back from his fifth wound with a duty slip, he was only to carry his pack and rifle, only to be hit twice in the same leg the next morning.

You know "C" Company, 134 Infantry Division suffered almost 200 casualties in the month of January 1945. These included POW's, CO's, KIA's, WIA's and all the non-battle casualties from frostbite. Frostbite was good for a Purple Heart though.

You know after the Bulge the rest seemed easy but you know it wasn't.

I remember the so-called re-enforcement men who had

been in the army for years but not in the infantry. On January 21, 1945 we received some of these men. My squad leader S/Sgt. Sanborn told me to go out and get me an assistant BAR man. I went out in the street and this one individual looked lost. I said to him do you know anything about a BAR? He answered: Hell no, I don't know anything about this rifle they gave me. I said, why its an M1. He answered: I was a mechanic in the AAA. I took my basic 3-1/2 years ago with an '03 Springfield bolt action. I then noticed he was a T/4. He became a member of the 3rd squad of the 3rd platoon.

Next morning we moved out to clear some woods. As we advanced across the snow swept fields we came under heavy machine gun fire. The medic hollered "Graff, your buddy's been hit." I ran back, here was my assistant laying face down in the snow. I turned him over but couldn't see any blood but then he had on as many clothes as I did. In a matter of seconds he came to. Apparently, he had fainted and lying face down in the snow [which] revived him.

A couple of nights later we forgot him and left him in the woods when we fell back. Next afternoon he was rescued by the 90th Infantry Division. He never slept that sound again as long as he was in C Company.

A HUNDRED RAINBOWS

December 1944

Francis D. Baldwin, Sr.
Headquarters Company
773 Tank Destroyer Battalion
Holden, Louisiana

I remember it was a cold and rainy December, part of the battalion had just crossed the Saar River just west of Dillinger, Germany.

Due to the mounting German offensive a break-through in the Ardennes, we pulled back over the hard won Saar River in our section.

When we arrived in the Bulge, I remember the bitter cold. I remember the icicles hanging from the trees and the sun just rising shining on the icicles on the hillside. They looked like hundreds of rainbows decorating Christmas trees.

One particular instant I shall never forget--I was our company gun instructor. Our Colonel's jeep driver took sick and I was asked to drive our Colonel. We left our vehicle and were on foot in a deep ditch, we could hear what sounded like a radio in operation coming from a knocked out German panzer tank. I looked to my right about 50 yards from us was someone coming from a position which was known to be in enemy hands. I raised my carbine and just as I pulled the trigger, the Colonel knocked down the muzzle of my rifle. he recognized our company message carrier who was sent to locate us and had gotten lost.

Throughout the next month we encountered some of the bitterest weather in the mountainous, snow blasted country of the little Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

MY SEVEN PRISONERS

December 1944

Joseph Pilliteri
E Company
3rd Army
10th Infantry Regiment
5th Infantry Division

It was one day in December 1944 in Northern France on our way to Luxembourg. I was a scout walking knee deep in snow. A tank destroyer came up to assist us in our push. The tank saw a Jerry run into a farm house about 300 yards down in the valley. They fired one round into the house. My buddy and I ran into the house. My buddy, James Mitchell was killed a few days later. We went through the front door. Mitch went down the hall to clear other rooms. I went into the first room, that's the room that the shell entered. In the room were two German soldiers. One had his head half blown off and I could see his brains moving. The other one had both legs blown off and was in shock. As I entered the room, he raised his arms and was saying over and over what sounded like Soney, Soney. After 50 years those words still haunt me. I thought he wanted me to shoot him. He, he being unarmed, I did not.

I went out the front door and into another door at the corner of the building. As soon as I entered the room six German soldiers put their hands on their heads and surrendered to me. That could have been my last day. It was a radio room and the room had large radios all over the place. My first thought was to put a few bullets into them. Then I thought they might be of some use to us. I lined my prisoners up and started to bring them back to my unit. Just as I get the last one out the door, another Jerry who must have been behind the building and ran into me as I went backwards out of the building. I came down with my machine pistol/German gun that I picked up at the other end of the building. Thank God, it was not on safety. I shot a burst of bullets through his shoulder and collarbone. He started to cry and pick up his overcoat and I spun him around to join the group. Now, I had seven prisoners. When I got back to my squad the prisoner I shot was still crying and he wanted to see his mother. When my Sgt. heard him, he wanted to kill him--saying he was thousands of miles from his mother. I got between them and I told my Sgt. he was my prisoner and I didn't want any more harm to come to him.

I lasted until January 20, 1945 when I was wounded in Luxembourg. War is hell--but I am proud to have served.

NEXT TIME, IT'S PARIS

December 1944

Harry Schaeff
B Company
22nd Tank Battalion
11th Armored Division

My first encounter in the Bulge was on December 27, 1944.

Company "B," 22nd Tank Battalion, had moved up on the line between Houfalize and Bastogne. James Salisbury, the jeep driver, 1st Sgt. Daniel Boone and I were told to stay with the 55th Infantry Company's kitchen until the commanding officer Captain Bell called us to join the company. While waiting two days, we were attacked by enemy planes in the morning and evening of December 28 and 29, 1944. On December 30, 1944, we tried to contact our company by radio, to no avail. At that point we took off for the front asking men we met on the way if they knew where Company "B," 22nd Tank Battalion, was. When we pulled in to the company area, we saw 1st Lieutenant Sowden walking towards Headquarters Company. We called to him and saw an amazed and then a happy look on his face. When we told him the above events and asked if Captain Bell told him where we were, he said "no officer was informed." Captain Bell was seriously wounded in the leg. 1st Lieutenant Sowden was in command and on his way to report the three of us missing in action. When we were told that, I said, "If we had known that we would have gone back to Paris" and, as a result, all our tensions were relaxed and we all had a good laugh!

NO MORE "USED" FOXHOLES

December 1944

Willie T. Green
B Company
359th Infantry Regiment
90th Infantry Division
Sparta, Tennessee

If I count correctly, only 19 days of the Battle of the Bulge's 44-day battle were mine to endure. It was a horrid experience branded in my memory never to be erased. In December, 1944, we landed at Le Havre, France, arriving at a replacement depot just inside Belgium a few days later. We were there a few days, hearing German buzz bombs going over nightly but never landing. Being replacements, we were assigned to wherever we were needed. Since I was trained as a rifleman, I was assigned to "B" Company, 359th Regiment of the 90th Infantry Division as assistant Browning Automatic Rifleman to my buddy, Nathan T. Graves, of Florence, Alabama.

We were dug in in a very thin line in a holding position across a hill along the Saar River from Dillingen, German, through Christmas, 1944 until January 7, 1945, when we were pulled back. On the night of January 18 we loaded onto trucks traveling most of the night in convoy without lights over back roads or no roads, most of which had been bombed out--in snow, ice, and near zero temperatures. We arrived at our destination--where??? We didn't know then, but now it seems to have been near Metz; and also what we never dreamed of then would be the hard fought Battle of the Bulge.

We unloaded from our trucks in complete darkness and got into our positions as quietly as possible. Suddenly about 0400 hours, everything began to explode. It was German 120mm mortar and artillery, making trees burst on contact with shrapnel flying in every direction.

Our squad BAR man, Nathan T. Graves, was badly wounded, I believe, because I never heard from him again, even after writing to his family. I guess I was too excited to find out his condition on the spot because I didn't pick up his Browning Automatic as I was supposed to. Our Platoon Sergeant D.C. Bunker, of Cannon City, Colorado, picked it up and handed it to me, telling us to move forward or we would all be casualties.

Moving forward ever so slowly and by jumps and hops that first day of combat duty in the cold and snow gets a little fuzzy. I suppose it's mainly because we endured and saw things we would like to forget forever. I remember seeing one GI where a large piece of shrapnel had hit him in the belly and his intestines were hanging out, he was calling for help and a medic. Another time we were pinned down on a hillside by enemy machine gun fire for hours, finally a German 88mm shell was shot and exploded right in the midst of us, killing one and wounding others.

That night under cover of darkness, we pulled back about 300 or 400 yards and occupied some German foxholes. The Germans had recently left in a hurry even leaving behind their blankets; however, in two or three days some of us, including myself, came up with body lice (so-called cooties)--ha--as a result of not digging our own foxholes. A good hot soapy bath, a complete change of clothes, and two or three dustings of DDT relieved the itching and the "blood suckers."

I myself didn't actually see this, but sometimes infantry would walk in the tracks of a tank or tank destroyer; and, when the tank was fired upon, it would quickly reverse, sometimes catching a GI instantly mashing him flat.

Also one time about dark, an 88mm shell was fired at one of my buddies, cutting him completely in two parts...I was not an eyewitness but was close by, heard the shot, and was told what had happened.

CHANGING THE NEWS

December 1944

Kenneth M. Neher
Headquarters

38th Armored Infantry Battalion
7th Armored Division
Tacoma, Washington

Enclosed is a copy of an article published in our local newspaper and also broadcast over a local radio station on December 28, 1944.

However, since the news media in those days was somewhat reluctant to tell it like it was, I must correct the last paragraph. Our CP was about one mile in front of St. Vith, the battalion commander had gone to the rear with the headquarter jeep and driver. It was about 8:00 p.m. that evening when the sergeant came by and also told me that paratroopers had been dropped among us.

With no transportation and no place to go, I stayed at the CP until I heard someone come into the building. Thinking it was the jeep driver coming to get me, I called out three times, "Jimmy, is that you?"

Realizing that it was the enemy since I got no answer in the pitch darkness, I waited until he was about 10 feet from me, then threw radios and all in his direction and jumped out a rear window of the house. It was about a 14 foot drop and my fall was softened by the large pile of manure stored for spring fertilizer--no waiting jeep.

I finally found my outfit three days later near Stavelot and found a house with a bathtub where I took a most refreshing and enjoyable bath.

Just a footnote to this. I returned to this area with my wife and two sons in 1990. We located the CP house in St. Vith and visited the memorials at Bastogne.

Retype of newspaper article

Capt. Wasn't Telling Neher Anything New

With the 7th Armored Division in Belgium--Cpl. Kenneth Neher, Tacoma, may have been a trifle short with a superior officer, but under the circumstances Capt. Walter H. Anstey, Providence, R.I. says to "forget it." And the corporal is happy to.

It wasn't funny at the time. The 38th Armored Infantry battalion of the 7th Armored Division was fighting in the St. Vith sector. For three or four days the doughs had slugged it out with the German infantry and armor.

Alone, at the battalion command post, Cpl. Neher busily operated two radios. Suddenly a passing pal bellowed through the open window that a German tank had broken through the infantry line. Cpl. Neher took a gander down the main street of the town and knew immediately that his pal wasn't spreading rumors. With guns flashing in the darkness, a German tank rumbled toward the command post, throwing high explosives into every house.

Just then, over the voice radio, Capt. Anstey reported a fact which might have been ominous even in a less ticklish situation. "German tanks are operating behind our lines," he said.

"That's nothing," said the corporal, "there's one coming right down my street."

Two radio sets flew out the window into a waiting jeep, just ahead of a scrambling radio operator, who always uses windows to leave a house. Cpl. Neher pulled out of there as the house next to the command post blew up a shower of bricks and debris.



WHO'S LOST, ANYWAY?

December 1944

Leon F. McGinnis
C Battery
180th Field Artillery Battalion
26th Artillery Division
Springville, Alabama

I was firing battery Commander of "C" Battery, 180th (155mm) Field Artillery Battalion, 26th Division Artillery.

On December 12, 1944, we were in position at Witting, Alsace-Lorraine, where we were replaced by "C" Battery of the Medium (155mm) Battalion of the 106th Division Artillery. Their shoulder patch was a lion's head. On Tennessee maneuvers one of the men told me that they were fed so many bag lunches that they were petitioning to have a bag lunch in the lion's head. Those men were so poorly trained that our tractor drivers had to back their artillery pieces in the positions we were pulling out of. By the end of December, I thought, and still do, that they were put there as bait for the Germans--for this was one of the points where the Germans broke through. We later recovered one of their howitzers--it had not been fired--the breech was still covered in cosmaline.

On December 15, 1944, we moved into Metz, for resupply and replacement of casualties. On December 19th, around 17:00 hours, we observed a courier delivering a message to General Black. He merely glanced at it, and announced: "Gentlemen, report to your commands. We move out tomorrow."

"C" Battery moved out at 04:30. Our prime movers were tracked and so were slowest in the division--we generally were first in the column. At rest stops the Third Army had coffee and food waiting. We reached Arlon, Belgium, after midnight, actually 02:30 on December 20, 1944. I remember having a howitzer pointed north, east, south, and west--nobody knew where the Germans were.

We would occupy eight gun positions in tiny Luxembourg before pulling out on January 29, 1945. Our last gun position was at Klienhoscheid, on the forward slope, east of our 26th Division, Cannon Company. Corporal William A. Rogers, our left flank machine gunner was killed by tank fire--the last round that they fired. He was a text-book perfect soldier.

We had a hellish day on January 24, 1945, moving from Winsler to Klienhoschied. It was not a great distance, but we had to move through a mine field, where the engineers had flagged out the road--they had swept it. Right in the middle we met part of our reconnaissance troop--they had missed a road and were trying to get back to their objective. Because of some delays that I never understood, "C" Battery was moving alone--this Captain wanted me to "pull over." I very respectfully informed him that if he wanted to pass me he could pull over.

After a rather heated exchange, rank and all that, and my unpardonable crime of telling him that he was the one lost--I was on my assigned road--they did pull over--and hit a Teller mine and lost a half-track.

[I visited Luxembourg and Belgium, and Holland, France, and Germany, and Austria, in 1984 and 1988, and our cemetery at Hamm Luxembourg, where Corporal Rogers, Lieutenant Wolf, and others that I knew, are buried--as well as George Patton. There is hardly a hamlet in Luxembourg that does not have a memorial to those who fought for these people's freedom with their own lives.]

.....

A SITE REVISITED

December 1945

Vincent Meinhart
3rd Army
61st Chemical Depot Company
Scranton, Pennsylvania

I was a 24-year-old GI with Patton's 3rd Army when the Germans approved a desperate plan on December 16, 1945, which we now know as the Battle of the Bulge. My outfit the 61st Chemical Depot Company was supplying the 90th Infantry Division with the 12th Corp at Saraluration, Germany. At that time General Eisenhower diverted all the forces he could to counter attack.

Swinging northward with no sleep we boarded 6 x 6 trucks. As we moved through the night, it got colder, the snow got deeper, the fog got thicker and the tanks and trucks were slipping off the road. We were so cold we built a fire on the steel plate of the truck out of twigs to keep our hands and feet warm on the way up to Tantalodge, Belgium. Ten days later General Patton's 3rd Army broke into Bastogne, our outfit later on went to Lorenweiler Luxembourg there we billeted in houses with civilians.

[Recently I went to Germany with my son Lieutenant Colonel Richard Meinhart, who is in the Air Force. We went looking for the house where I stayed. Remembering the railroad station where the CP was, I found the house looking very much the same as in 1945.

I knocked on the door and a woman who spoke little English opened it. However, she was not the occupant of the house that I remembered. She invited me in to see the room where I slept. She took me to town hall, where clerks spoke English and they looked up the records and found the names of the 1945 occupants.

One was a guest at a nearby nursing home. I visited with her, but she was elderly and the conversation did not go so well. However, she gave me the phone number of her sister that also stayed there during the war. I talked with her for over a half hour, and she remembered me and we had an enjoyable conversation about the period 46 years ago.

I brought back many memories of the Battle of the Bulge that never can be forgotten.]

.....

NO STEPS BACKWARD

December 1944

Harold Harmon
K Company
119th Infantry Regiment
30th Infantry Division
Miami, Florida

We were rushed across France in railway cars to be replacements for army casualties. In Belgium, we were transferred to trucks to continue our odyssey. Stopping in a small town to rest, I crawled into my sleeping bag on a cold sidewalk. Resuming the journey, we entered the Belgium City of Spa. This once European resort was the location of Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces (SHAEF). Arriving on December 17th, we were assembled in a large building to listen for our names to be called. Rumors were rampant. "The 28th Division had been wiped out." "The Germans smashed our defenses." "Enemy paratroopers have landed to our rear."

We watched SHAEF soldiers load jeeps and trucks scrambling to leave Spa. Amidst anxiety and confusion, I and others with a sergeant boarded a truck and traveled to the 119th Infantry. We were walking to HQ on a dirt road when a loud, whining noise was heard overhead. A V2 rocket soared overhead. The roar ceases. I hit the ground as my face graveled in the dust. The bomb exploded one hundred yards away leaving a crater thirty feet wide. I saw buzz bombs in England flying but never this close.

My platoon was lodged in an abandoned police station. I was a rifleman in the first squad and Curly with a BAR was directly behind me. Curly noticing my apprehension assured me, "Stay close to me in combat. You'll be alright."



On Christmas Eve, the company was positioned along a front line ready to attack the Germans. In semi-darkness my squad was out in single file walking cautiously over a snow covered field. In the distance we heard machine gun fire. The squad stopped as medics carried two badly wounded outpost soldiers passed our position. Continuing to move forward as the sun rose over the horizon, it was an eerie feeling to be out in no man's-land without anyone between your squad and the Germans. Adhering to hedgerow alongside, we were suddenly raked by machine gun bullets coming

from a farm house three hundred yards away. Flattening our bodies in the snow between bursts, we dug our own foxhole.

Soon after a heavy barrage of 88's, tree bursts, mortar and cannon fire saturated our area. The enemies bombardment laid down a pattern of fire moving from us to the rear echelon and repeating every half hour or so. Curly and I talked during these lulls. At one time Curly said, "I have a better field of fire from your position. We should change holes."

"I dug this," I indicated. "I'd rather not."

Hours later, Curly received a direct hit from a mortar shell. It tore his body to unrecognizable parts. In this twenty degree weather I was sweating and had to discard my heavy, frozen overcoat because it was too troublesome to wear.

This night, my squad advanced after laying in foxholes for over fifteen hours. We entered the farm house and I stumbled over a frozen dead cow. It was completely dark. The only light came from the moon. The sergeant and I found two Germans in the basement and took them prisoners. They were sent to the rear. By this time, our squad had lost our lieutenant and two riflemen. We moved out walking up a hill in the darkness I saw men silhouetted to the right front and half a mile away. Thinking we were still out in front of the troops I raised my M1 aimed and pulled the trigger. The gun was frozen and would not fire. I called to the sergeant and pointed to the dark shapes ahead. He said, "Those are our troops who have gotten past our company." Later our company was drawn back and another outfit went through us. We took up a defensive position and dug new foxholes.

The next few days, we advanced and took many German prisoners. Our own dead were carried back, but the German dead were laying in frozen grotesque positions all over the battlefield. I was evacuated with frozen feet a week later.

In the short time I was in combat, I never saw an American soldier take a step backward.

A DEFINITE SURPRISE

December 1944

W.M. Breckinridge
10th Infantry Regiment
5th Infantry Division
Sarasota, Florida

I was the regimental executive officer of the 10th Infantry Regiment of the 5th Infantry Division. We arrived in Iceland in September of 1941 to relieve the British. Our staff was a very experienced one and had served together for a long time, so you might think higher headquarters would listen to them. We had in the few days before December 16, 1944 definitely identified 16 German divisions in our immediate front (Siegfried Line, Saarlautern and Fraulautern) and we expected to get smacked, as we were not their favorite people. The only headquarters that

believed us was Third Army. They directed our division, and I presume others, to have one regiment prepared to move on two hours notice and go where the military police told us.

On the 18th we received orders at 1400 to be on the road at 1600 and take off, wherever. We did. I was tailing the column along with the ambulance and the service truck like a good exec. should. We had been going quite a while so, I finally went to sleep. I had a vague recollection of going through Thionville so I knew we were headed north. It was cold as the devil, but it had not yet started to snow, fortunately. At about 0200 the column stopped, which woke me up. I realized we were in a pretty big city and I was sure it must be Luxembourg. I saw a light in a building right where we had stopped, so I radioed the colonel and told him not to start until I got back to him and maybe I could get some information.

I entered the building to find a lieutenant colonel sitting there all by himself. Strange to relate I knew him, as I had taught him for two years at West Point. After a warm greeting I asked him what the local situation was. He told me that he was the acting G-3 of an unknown corps, that he did not know the name of the corps commander, nor did he know here the nearest Germans were. He suggested we continue to a forest just on the edge of the town where we could bivouac, but keep 360 degree security. He would get to us in the morning. The next morning we were brought up to date on the local situation and moved to Junglinster preparatory to relieving the 12th Infantry who had done a fine job of holding on the southern shoulder in spite of heavy pressure and casualties. We jumped off at 1330 and hit a fresh German regiment right on the lines of the 12th Infantry. Our presence was a definite surprise to the enemy, they couldn't figure where we had come from.

Luxembourg is a beautiful country to look at, but it was sure hell to fight through with all the trees and streams. Later we had a couple of feet of snow to contend with. We gradually pushed the enemy back, hoping to have Echternach (the southern shoulder of the Bulge) by Christmas. It was tough fighting, but we finally cleared the town by December 26th. The last eight people of the enemy regiment had to swim the river to get away. I hope they enjoyed their swim in that nice zero degree weather. We held the southern shoulder and enjoyed our Christmas dinner on December 27th.

I guess the moral of this story is for higher headquarters to admit that there are smart people down below and you would do well to listen to them so you don't get caught with your pants down. For the remainder of the Bulge we were in the line almost continuously as we were acclimated after two years in the Arctic and one winter in Northern Ireland. We cleared a large portion of Luxembourg, crossed several rivers--one on the ice. We cleared the last of the Germans from that country the latter part of January and finally crossed into the Siegfried line in early February.

MEMORIES RETURN

December 1944

Reid W. McNary
981 Field Artillery Battalion
Salinas, California

Unfortunately my memories are not as sharp and detailed as the others, but sometimes reading these articles trigger my memory, and I can relate to the incidents. When I was at the reunion, all I heard when the Bulge was mentioned, "Oh, God the cold, the cold, I don't ever want to be that cold again." My memories are of the fog freezing on my helmet, and my head slowly dropping from the weight of it.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

December 1944

John Wettstein
48th Armored Infantry Battalion
7th Armored Division
Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

I was a replacement in the 7th Armored Division in October of 1944. We were up in Holland, close to Aachen, Germany. We were in a heavy machine gun section of the 48th Armored Infantry Battalion. We were dug in along side a river. During the night I went to a deserted farm house that we were using for billets to wake up my replacement on the machine gun. His name was O'Brien, we called him "Big Obie" because he was a large man. He was going up the stairs with a 45 caliber pistol in his hand with the safety off, in case there were any Germans in the vicinity. A artillery shell hit the side of the building and knocked him down the stairs with the debris and he accidentally pulled the trigger and shot himself in the right foot.

We pulled back about 40 miles into Holland for a R&R. The next morning, December 17th, they got us up at 6:00 a.m. and told us we were moving.

We travelled south into Belgium where a lot of civilians were pushing baby buggies and pulling small wagons with their belongings in them. We did not know the Germans had broken through, and nobody in our half-track could understand French. All we could get out of the civilians was "Le Boch" and "Parie." So we were at a loss as to what was going on.

About 3:00 p.m. we pulled into an information area and the Lieutenant Steinberg went to see what the scoop was. He returned and told us that the Germans had broken through and were all over the area, some had American uniforms and spoke good English. We pulled onwards a little farther, dismounted and went up a hill near St. Vith and were told to dig in. There were six men to a squad, two hours on the gun and four hours off. We had four heavy machine guns in our section. Anyway, during the night two of the guys on our machine gun went AWOL and left us unprotected. One of the guys name was "Dietrich." He was always bragging how tough he was and what he would do in an emergency. Well, he turned yellow and showed his true colors.

About three or four weeks later I had a small shrapnel wound and trench foot and ended up in the hospital in Oxford, England. When I got out of the hospital the war was over and they sent to a military government unit in Nurenberg, German.

A NIGHT IN THE POTATO BIN

December, 1944

James A. "Bob" Hammons

Company A

825th Tank Destroyer Battalion

Lewisville, North Carolina

In December, 1944, we were singing Bing Crosby's "I'll Be Home for Christmas," thinking the war was just about over. But December 16th it was a different tune as we were moving under cover of darkness over mountainous terrain to plug a hole in the line at Stavelot, Belgium. We arrived there at 0400 hours and suddenly, hearing tanks being reved-up on the other side of the hill, Lt. Jack Doherty, our platoon commander, ordered two units to proceed across a bridge, up a hill to investigate. Sgt. Armstrong's unit was first up the hill and we followed, with Sgt. Jonas Whaley in charge. We paused momentarily to check a soldier in a jeep that had been shot but he was dead and we continued up the hill.

In just a few minutes as we reached the top, a flare went up from a trip wire and the Germans opened up with fire power. Our own troops back across the river began to shoot and we were caught in the cross-fire. We tried to retreat but the Germans had pulled a tank or an '88 in a curve and began to shoot, hitting Sgt. Armstrong's unit, setting it on fire. We were behind them and trapped so we had to leave our unit for cover. I was handed a 30 caliber M.G. from the pedestal mount and four of us took shelter inside a tin shed. Momentarily, the German infantry came in groves and we ran into a house and upstairs by a window. The only weapon we had was the machine gun and a carbine with the barrel filled with mud. Naturally, we had to hold our fire as we were out-numbered by the Germans. We watched as they used a burp gun to kill Sgt. Armstrong and part of his crew, trying to get out of the burning unit.

Realizing there was nothing we could do, we retreated to the basement where there was a potato bin and got inside. Later a German soldier came down and took a position just outside the open potato bin, and we waited for him to toss in a hand grenade or shoot us with his burp gun but evidently they wanted to interrogate us. All day long we waited while our own outfit, the 825th Tank Destroyer Battalion, knocked out several Tiger tanks and one Royal. Lt. Doherty's jeep was hit at that time and he and his driver Earl Shugart were blown out, but Lt. Doherty continued to direct fire against the oncoming German Army.

In the evening at about 2000 hours, after it had gotten dark, the German soldier went upstairs to eat, I guess, and we took advantage of his absence to escape. We ran down a hill, silhouetted by a burning building, when the Germans opened up with machine gun fire. We managed to get to the river as three mortar rounds landed on the other side of the

cold, swift river we tried to cross. We crawled several miles to a dam and skimmed across, finally making it to the 119th Regiment of the 30th Infantry Division where we were shot at but were quickly identified as GI's and were taken in and given warm clothing and "K's."

Next morning the four of us--Willie Banes, Leonard Walsh, Ike Eichorn and myself--were taking two German prisoners back to the C.P. when we met Lt. Doherty and Sgt. Wes Lowe looking for us. We were so elated when we saw them, we let the prisoners go, jumped into the jeep and was taken to Malmedy where we were attacked the next morning by the Germans at a road block using captured American vehicles. There were no prisoners taken because we had already heard about the massacre of Americans just outside of Malmedy toward Stavelot.

While in Malmedy we were bombed three days straight by our own planes whose pilots were told the Germans held Malmedy--but they didn't. Fortunately, we escaped with only vehicles destroyed and no loss of life, but much shaken by that experience.

[Very little has been said about the battles in Stavelot and Malmedy because there was no news media there; however, Company "A," 825th Tank Destroyer Battalion under the leadership of Lt. Doherty and Sgt. Lowe, and other army units, delayed and repelled the Germans and a major breakthrough was halted until reinforcements could come.

As I look back now, I don't see how we survived the onslaught and the bitter cold, icy and snowy weather we had to contend with during those historical days of December, 1944. Maybe it was because we were well trained, disciplined and proud young men.]

HAVE YOU SENT YOUR STORY IN?

We would like to have your story. We have received quite a few lately, but the true story of the Battle of the Bulge won't be complete until you submit your recollections. We will use them in the order that they are received.

ALL STORIES will
be submitted to the
**HISTORICAL
FOUNDATION**

*after they are published to be
included in their collection.*

BRADLEY'S OLDEST DIVISION-- 28TH INFANTRY DIVISION

*[The following was submitted
by Raymond G. Carpenter,
Past Historian of the
Society of the 28th
Division, AEF. Ray
now lives in Seminole,
Florida.]*



As a former combat infantryman in America's oldest division I know that my comrades will never forget our great leader, General of the Army Omar Nelson Bradley. Major General Bradley commanded the 28th "Keystone" Infantry Division from June 1942 to February 1943 and since then we were known as Bradley's Division.

In a letter to the Division of 9 April 1944, General Omar N. Bradley wrote, "It is with a feeling of great disappointment that I must say goodbye to the 28th Division for the second time in a little over a year. It has always been my hope and desire to lead you into battle. You are soundly trained; your morale is of the best; you are equipped as well as any division in history has ever been equipped for battle; and I am sure you will make a glorious name for yourselves." How right he was in his predictions.

The Comrades of America's oldest division love and will never forget our General of the Army.

As a writer and lecturer on the Battle of the Bulge, I would state that the U.S. 28th Infantry Division held the longest front in the Ardennes on the day of attack; had the least corps support of the U.S. First Army; was attacked by seven German divisions which was twice as many as any other division on the front; suffered more dead and wounded in the Bulge than any other division; and inflicted more dead and wounded casualties on the Germans than any other division.

The 28th had just come to the Ardennes positions from heavy fighting in the Huertgen Forest. The division had sustained some 6,184 casualties in the 18 days fighting in some of the worst conditions imaginable. In the Ardennes positions the division was in the process of absorbing replacements for these casualties and rebuilding the three infantry regiments which had been decimated. So I believe added tribute is due these men and junior officers, together for only a couple of weeks, who had not trained together, almost total strangers, and yet were soldiers all and fought until killed, wounded or overrun.

Our Keystone soldiers were greatly outnumbered, few were overrun, and many cut off. Almost 6,000 battle casualties were suffered among the men of America's Iron Division, but 11,000 battle casualties were inflicted upon the enemy. America's oldest division had more soldiers killed and wounded than any other American division in the Bulge, and only a few 28th Division platoons surrendered after being surrounded without ammunition. For four sleepless days and nights the embattled troops of the "Bloody Bucket" division backed grudgingly toward Bastogne buying time with blood for the airborne reinforcement of that anchor position. It was a furious delaying struggle that emphasized the re-

sourcefulness of the American soldier, despite the overwhelming weight and surprise of the first day's attack by seven German divisions of Manteufel's Fifth Panzer Army and Brandenberger's Seventh Army. It took them four valuable days to get to Bastogne, many days too late for any chance of victory. Gen. John S. D. Eisenhower wrote that all elements of the war were present in the Battle of the Ardennes, including the bravery of the 28th Infantry Division.

Pennsylvania's 28th National Guard Division did not allow the seven German divisions to smash through on the first day of the attack as was the plan of the German high command. Pennsylvania's Iron Men of the 28th fought with much professional skill and great bravery based on comradeship, pride in unit and love of family and the nation.

The Battle of the Bulge was the greatest battle ever fought by America and the only major one in the winter. the type of resistance offered by the Keystone troops was such as prompted Morley Cassiday, war correspondent, to remark: "The 28th Division has performed one of the greatest feats in the history of the American Army."

Gen. Jacob J. Devers, Sixth Army group commander, wrote, "The officers and men of the 28th Division by their gallant conduct in the fight for freedom demonstrated to the world that there is no finer soldier than the American infantryman."

HAVE YOU MOVED LATELY?

We need your new address:

Name: _____

NEW Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

We would like your Zip +4 Code if possible: _____

Old City and State _____

Member #: _____

Reprinted From The Washington Post, March 16, 1993.

ANN LANDERS

DEAR ANN LANDERS

Please print the following.
America needs to wake up to the importance of buying American-made products.—Joe in Springfield

Dear Joe:

I printed something similar a few years ago, but once more won't hurt. Here it is:

"A man drove his German-made car to his home where he hung up his Scottish

wool suit, removed his Italian shoes and Egyptian cotton shirt, and donned his robe made in Hong Kong and his slippers from Taiwan. Then he poured a cup of Brazilian coffee into an English coffee mug, lighted his Turkish pipe, picked up a Japanese ballpoint pen with which he wrote his congressman demanding to know why the United States had an unfavorable balance of trade."

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Service Record Research

In our last issue, John Bowen, who is an Associate Member and active Genealogical & Military researcher in the Washington, DC area, offered to assist members who have been unable to locate their records and need to establish proof of service. He reports that he was inundated with over 50 requests and asks that those who have not heard from him to remain patient. He has been taking them in a first in, first out manner and has completed about half of them, as of the first of April.

Even the simplest of requests requires from one to three hours of research time to assess the holdings in the Archives, to request the records according to the Archives time schedule and then to search through the requested records to locate pertinent information. A number of requests have been for unit histories, after action reports, General Orders, unit journals and members who wanted to know where they were at certain times during the battles in which they were a part. Some units who are doing anniversary histories have sought his assistance.

Some requests have been for medical records. John advises that no medical records are kept with the Unit Records at Suitland. These records would have been at St Louis or would be with the Veterans Administration if you had filed for a claim at some point in time. Wounds, captures and killed in action may be found in the unit records as part of after action reports or separate lists. However, this is not consistent from unit to unit and depends on the writers of these reports, as to what detail they chose to include. There are casualty reports by Division for KIAs and died as a result of wounds. These reports were produced in 1948 and have the dates of death handwritten for a majority of the individual names.

A few requests have come from relatives who are interested in the activities at the time that their loved one was killed or who are doing a family history and want information for a veteran who served in a particular unit. Other requests have been received relative to awards and correction of military records. General Orders for awards may exist in the unit records. Some units have the General Orders for Good Conduct Awards and The Combat Infantryman Badge or Medic Badge. John offers information regarding Medals, Copies of Discharge, Correction of Military Records below from the current edition of Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents.

He continues to offer his research service free of charge to those veterans who need to establish proof of service and whose records have been destroyed at St Louis. He is also available for research on a time and copying basis in the Archives Unit Records, Still Photos Collection and WWII Film collection of over 120,000 reels. If you need help please be sure to provide your full name; serial number; company; regiment; division and dates of any events. He may be contacted at 613 Chichester Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20904-3331 or telephone 301-384-6533.

MEDALS: "Medals that were awarded while in active service will be issued upon individual request to the appropriate service. ... Requests for medals pertaining to service in the Army should be sent to the Army Commander, US Army Reserve Personnel Center, ATTN: DARP-PAS-EAW, 9700 Page Blvd., St Louis, MO 63132-5100. The veteran's full name should be printed or typed, so that it can be read clearly, but the request must also contain the signature of the veteran or the signature of the next of kin if the veteran is deceased. Include the veteran's branch of service, service number or Social Security number, whichever is appropriate, and dates of service, or at least the approximate years. If a copy of the discharge/separation document is available (WDAGO Form 53-55 or DD Form 214), please include it for veterans in the following categories: (1) discharged from the Army prior to 1960, or (2) discharged from the Air Force between September 25, 1947, and December 31, 1963, with a name that falls alphabetically between Hubbard, James E., and the end of the alphabet. If possible, send the request on Standard Form 180, 'Request Pertaining to Military Records.' These forms are generally available from VA offices or veterans organizations." John Bowen also has copies of these forms and will provide you with a copy if you send him a stamped self addressed envelope (SSAE).

COPIES OF DISCHARGES: "A veteran and his or her spouse should be aware of the location of the veteran's discharge and separation papers. If the veteran cannot locate discharge and separation papers, duplicate copies may be obtained by contacting the National Personnel Records Center,

Military Personnel Records, 9700 Page Blvd, St Louis, MO 63132-5100. Specify that a duplicate separation document or discharge is needed. The veteran's full name should be printed or typed, so that it can be read clearly, but the request must also contain the signature of the veteran or the signature of the next of kin, if the veteran is deceased. Include the veteran's branch of service, service number or social security number, whichever is appropriate, and exact dates or approximate years of service. If possible, use the Standard Form 180, Request Pertaining to Military Records. These forms are available from VA Offices and veterans organizations." John Bowen also has copies of these forms and will provide you with a copy if you send him a stamped self-addressed envelope (SSAE).

"In case of a medical emergency, information from a veteran's record may be obtained by phoning the National Records Center: Air Force 314-263-7243; Army 314-263-7261; Navy/Marines/Coast Guards 314-263-7141

If the spouse of a deceased veteran cannot locate a copy of the spouse's discharge or separation papers, the spouse is advised to contact the nearest VA Regional Office."

FLASH! FLASH! Your chance to AGAIN volunteer!

Since Congress has abolished the draft, we thought we would give you the opportunity to do what every good soldier waits long and hard for--the chance to volunteer for an assignment.

The VBOB Nominating Committee is getting ready to prepare a slate for presentation to the upcoming Reunion in Bismarck, North Dakota in September, 1993.

You are invited to submit name(s) for the Nominating Committee's consideration. All nominations must be in the hands of VBOB by the 15th of June, 1993. No nominations will be accepted after that date.

To submit the name of a nominee you must provide the following information:

- Full name and complete address;
- A brief biographical sketch;
- A picture of the nominee;
- A letter from the nominee indicating that they are willing and able to serve in the capacity for which they are being nominated.

At the present time, the Executive Council is composed of the following offices:

- President
- Executive Vice President
- Vice President for Membership
- Vice President for Chapter Coordination
- Vice President for Military Affairs
- Treasurer
- Corresponding Secretary
- Recording Secretary

Nominations will be accepted for any or all of these offices.

All nominees should be apprised of the fact that expenses incurred in connection with service on the VBOB Executive Council will be borne by the nominee should he be elected. There are approximately ten Executive Council meetings held in the Washington, D.C., area per year and a Reunion (held in various places throughout the country) that the nominee must be prepared to attend.



REMEMBRANCE

Bill Guarnere visits the Margraten Cemetery on Sept. 21, 1987 when a group of 101st veterans were in Holland in commemoration of Remember September. Guarnere, who lost a leg near Bastogne, carries the listing of grave locations in his right hand as he prepares to place flowers in remembrance of his former buddies of Company E, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

Please look at the picture above.

To the men who showed me bravery and displayed courage and made sacrifices. To the men who knew pain when - To the men who feel pain now and fight the good battle against the maladies that besiege their bodies.

Please look at the picture again-

To the men who showed me bravery and displayed courage and made sacrifices. To the men who have been my heroes and who have propped me up over the years in memories. To all of the Bill Guarneres, and especially to Bill as you looked- Bill's sacrifices, and his hands are full of crutches but still had room for a bouquet of flowers for the gravesites-the final resting place for all of these brave E-Company men

Yes, you could say Bill's heart is as big as his memories.

Submitted by: Robert J. Rader, E-Co. 506th, 101st Airborne

"One thing for sure, you have high blood pressure!"



You can't say civilization don't advance ... for every war they kill you a new way.
WILL ROGERS

I urge each VBOBer to complete the following form for use by your next of kin.

William R. Hemphill, VBOB President

VETERAN'S INFORMATION FORM

Date Form Completed _____

Name _____

Address _____

Social Security Number _____

Date of Enlistment _____

Place _____

Date of Discharge _____

Place _____

Branch of Service _____

Serial Number _____

Date of Birth _____

Place _____

Date of Marriage _____

Place _____

Gov't. Life Ins. Amt. _____ Policy _____

Other Life Ins. Co. _____

Amount _____ Pol. No. _____

Other Life Ins. Co. _____

Amount _____ Pol. No. _____

VA. Claim No. _____ VA. Office Place _____

Qtrs. of Soc. Sec. Needed _____ Qtrs. Accumulated _____

Receiving Disability Compensation? _____ Pension _____

Will Made Out? _____ If Yes, Where Kept? _____

Where Are Your Records Kept? At Home _____

Safe Deposit Box, Bank _____

Other Information _____

THE INFANTRY

[The following drawing and article were prepared by DON THOMPSON, 99TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 394TH INFANTRY, ANTI-TANK COMPANY, and appeared in the 99th Infantry's newsletter *The Checkerboard*.]

There is no worse place than where the Infantry is...or what it has to do. In broiling jungle, blistering desert, wind-blown sleet and snow, your enemy is just in front of you every day, and you hear him every night...you have to kill him every chance you get...as bone-weary as you are, mucked and hungry, you have to still have enough to keep him from getting his chance...his job is to kill you.

A war is not over until the Infantry is done withit...finished moving on foot more than the other, finished killing more than the other, and when it is all done, and the Infantryman is taken home again, some of him will remain in that place...forever.

The largest engagement fought by the American Armed Forces in World War II, in fact largest in all U.S. Army history, was the Battle of the Bulge...in five weeks more than 100,000 casualties. The 50th anniversary of the beginning of this costly and huge encounter of more than one million men will be December 16, 1994. In bitter Ardennes winter cold and snow, the American GI took and gave a beating, threw back the all-out German penetration, knifed through Siegfried fortifications, raced to the Rhine and, in three months ended what was left.

December 16, 1944...a date to recall, a date to commemorate. There are few veterans of the Ardennes left. No matter where they are or in what clime, this December 16 will send yet another chill, another shudder, another wrench; remembering when the guns began "The Battle of the Bulge."

Plan to Attend...
The Battle of The Bulge
50th Anniversary
Commemoration
ST LOUIS, MISSOURI
DECEMBER 15-18 1994



GI PHRASES EXPLAINED

EDWARD RAPP, 4TH ARMORED DIVISION, 35TH TANK BATTALION, COMPANY "D," has provided us with the following explanations for the several military phrases. We thought they would be of interest to you.

★"BARRACKS"★

The term "barracks" comes to us from the French and Italian words for tent. The term has come to have two general meanings: in the U.S. and a few other countries, it refers to quarters on a military post for enlisted men, while in Britain and other countries, the term may apply to an entire installation. There are also a few examples of this in the U.S., such as Jefferson Barracks, Missouri; Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania; and Plattsburg Barracks, New York.

How did we come to have barracks? We can give the Declaration of Independence the most credit. Quartering of troops in private dwellings was one abuse attributed to King George III. Barracks did not exist in Middle and Western Europe until about 1800 when Britain began to build them. Quartering of troops in private homes had proved to be a hardship on the people and led to subverting troops as well as other political problems.

When the regular U.S. Army came into being, it provided for the housing of the troops in their own buildings. Some of the older pieces of real estate in this country are the military barracks.

★"GOLD BRICK"★

A term that had its origin in the gold rush days of the West and was put to general use by the soldiers in World War II is "Gold Brick." It originally applied to a form of swindling where the swindler would sell his victim an alleged gold brick or an actual gold brick and then switch it at the last moment. Thus we have an item that is not what it appears to be or a situation where somebody is taken in by a fake.

It wasn't hard for soldiers to see the similarity between the situations that had arisen in the gold camps and some of the slick tricks and deals that new-found buddies were trying to pull. Thus, anyone who was trying to work a special deal or was using any form of scheme to keep from working too hard, if at all, was said to be "gold bricking."

There were other, stronger terms for such persons but Gold Brick is a polite one that can be used in proper company and those in the know understand that it has nothing to do with the bullion stored in Fort Knox.

★"GI"★

One of the most common names for the American serviceman in general and the Army man in particular is "GI." The origin of the title has become obscured in some misleading lore of the second World War.

When the ranks of the United States Army began to fill up in 1939-41, the draftees heard the old Regular Army soldiers referring to their GI equipment. There resulted, at the time, a misunderstanding as to what these letters and term stood for, "government issue" or at best "general issue"—the former being more often used.

We believe the old timers were referring to was their "garrison issue" articles as opposed to their "field issue" articles. This is reasonable due to the necessity of changing nearly everything a soldier takes into the field as opposed to what he needs if he is living in a barracks of the garrison.

There are still to be found items that are prefixed with the designator garrison; the most obvious is the garrison hat or cap, garrison ration, and the garrison flag.

The word garrison comes to us through the old French and Middle English where we find a similar word meaning a stronghold, a treasure, or protected point or place. Therefore, the garrison is there for a purpose and so is the garrison issue equipment.

★"BIVOUAC"★

Most troops know, "bivouac" means to spend the night in the field in a temporary place. It also usually meant that tents were not to be erected. Sometimes, even bedding would not be used. All of these interpretations were directly related to the original sources of the word. *Bivouac* comes from two older words—French *bivac* and the German-Swiss *beiwacht*. Both mean essentially "to be awake." The Swiss term also described an auxiliary force mustered for the purpose of assisting the night watch in a town.

Its first military use was in a situation where an entire military force was to be alert throughout the night to prevent being taken by surprise by an opposing force. Thus, a bivouac was not something the individual soldier looked forward to.

EVACUATION HOSPITAL ON THE MOVE

[The following was excerpted from an account of the
35TH EVACUATION HOSPITAL GROUP by MARY
C. SMITH.]

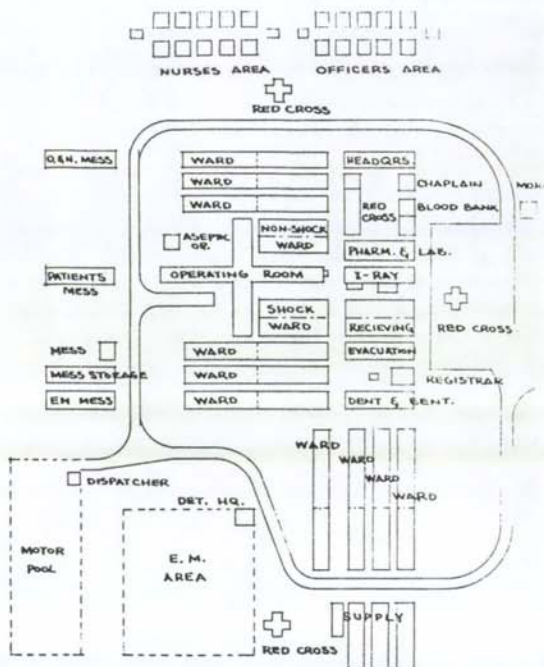
THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

On December 22 the hospital picked up and moved into Metz, the historic capital of Lorraine. The unit used the L'Internat de L'Ecole Nationale Professionnelle de Metz which has been stripped by the Nazi when he left. This, too, was a cold dismal place, without heat, water or electricity. Soon our ingenious soldiers put the Sibley stoves in place and wired the place and we were to sit here for a sad Christmas.

The Christmas Dinner was excellent and the soldiers tried to be gay but it was our most despairing day of the war. In the meantime, the colonel was scouting for a building large enough to house a 400-bed hospital plus living quarters for an additional 400 personnel. None was to be found so with the situation being urgent, we moved into Luxembourg City on the 26th of December.

By the 28th all equipment was moved into Ecole de Bonnevoie after removing all their furnishings to make room for the hospital. The hospital opened at 1500 in support of the XII Corps again. This lone building was hardly adequate but the situation demanded immediate operation. The men were billeted in tents and an empty school nearby. The officers and nurses used the odd assortment of houses and apartments formerly occupied by Nazi sympathizers. The hospital literally bulged with "Bulge" patients as all available space from the basement to the attic, including the halls, were used. Due to the cramped quarters most of the cases sent were surgical thus a turnover. There was no relief here

DIAGRAM OF THE SET UP IN THE FIELD



as the long days passed. The off-time was spent in Luxembourg City on pass and at the GI movies. The people of this small Duchy were very cordial and many friendships were established.

When the Germans were driven back..., a counter offensive was launched that gained momentum as it crossed the Rhine to the utter defeat of the Nazi Armies.

SURVIVING My Second Narrow Escape

By William R. Hemphill
VBOB President

No need to tell all of you the joy of being a survivor. Like me, you survived the greatest battle in American history. But, I've survived another battle that I would like to share with you in the hope that you can learn from my experience and also be a survivor of another great battle--SURVIVING PROSTATE CANCER.

I had the usual symptoms--trouble voiding my urine. My doctor performed a Transurethral Resection Procedure (TURP)--sometimes referred to as a "Roto-Rooter." I was to return for a check-up in about six months.

Well, I forgot to call. Eighteen months later I ran into my doctor at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. "Hey, Doc, I was supposed to see you but I forgot to call for an appointment." "What's the problem," he asked. I responded, "No problem--just a follow-up to the TURP." He invited me into his office and one digital probe elicited an "Oh, oh," and a "pardon me, I'll be right back. A second doctor reacted with

another "Oh, oh." A consultation resulted in "You are to consider yourself admitted to the hospital as of now." However, I was able to sign in at 8:00 a.m. the next morning.

Two days later they performed a Radical Prostatectomy and found the cancer has just reached the wall of the prostate. It had not escaped from the prostate. Kidney failure delayed my discharge but two weeks later I returned home to recuperate. Bone scans every three months, then six months and then annually. Then I was told to "keep in touch" but no more bone scans.

Why am I telling you all this? The answer is simple--I want you to survive this second battle too. You can avoid the risk by establishing a simple schedule: ask your doctor to refer you to a urologist who can perform a Digital Examination of the prostate and a blood test, Prostatic Specific Antigen (PSA). You should have these tests repeated each year as the risk of developing the disease increases with age.

Prostate cancer is the second most common cancer among American men. Of the 120,000 men diagnosed this year, 32,000 will die from the disease. There is good news, however--Prostate Cancer is potentially curable when detected early. **CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT TODAY. LET'S SURVIVE THIS SECOND BATTLE TOGETHER.**

1 ARMDD
1 DIV
2 AIR DIV
2 ARMDD
2 ARMDD 17 AR D ENGR
BN A
2 CAV
2 INF
2 TK BN
3 ARMDD FA BN
3 ARMDD
3 ARMDD 36 AIR CO A
3 CAV
3 CHEM MTR BN
3 FA OBS BN
3 INF
4 ARMDD HQ
4 ARMDD
4 ARMDD, NYC CHAP
4 CAV
4 INF
5 INF
5 INF 2 INF AT CO
5 INF 5 MED BN
5 ARMDD
5 MED BN 5 INF
6 U.S. CAV VETS
6 ARMDD/777 AAA AW BN
7 ARMDD
7 ENGR BN
7 FA
7 FA OBS BN
7 INF
7 REGT
8 AF Historical Society
8 ARMDD
8 INF 28 INF MED DET
9 ARMDD 52 ARMD BN A
9 ARMDD 131 ORD MAINT
BN
9 ARMD ENGR
9 ARMDD 73 FA BN
9 ARMDD
9 ARMDD/3 ARMDD FA
BN
9 ARMDD 2 TK BN
9 ARMDD 14 TK BN
9 & 10 US CAV
9 INF REGT
9 INF
10 ARMDD
10 ARMDD
10 ARMDD/WEST CHAP
10 INF CO A
10 INF 5 INF
11 ARBND
11 ARMDD
11 ARMDD 55 ARMD INF
BN CO B
11 ENGR
12 ARMDD
12 EVAC HOSP
13 ARMDD
13 ARMDD 24 INF
13 FA OBS BN
14 ARMDD
14 ARMDD
14 FA OBS BN
14 TK BN
16 ARMDD
16 FA OBS BN
16 FLD HOSP
17 ARBND
17 SIGL SVC BN
18 CAV RECON SQD

18 FA
19 TK BN
20 ARMDD
20 CMBT ENGR
22 INF/70 TK BN
22 INF
26 CAV RECON TRP
26 INF REGT
26 INF 101 ENGR CMBT
BN
26TH INF
26 INF, MIDWEST CHAP
27 ARMD
27 ARMD BN/9 ARMDD
28 INF
28 INF 109 INF
28 INF 103 CMBT ENGR
BN
28 DIV AEF
29 DIV
30 INF
30 INF
32 GEN HOSP
35 INF 60 ARMD CMBT
ENGRS
35 ENGR CMBT BN
35 EVAC HOSP
35 INF 134 INF
35 INF 134 INF CO D
35 INF
36 FA
36 INF
36 INF
38 SIGL BN
42 INF
42 INF 242 INF
42 INF 222 INF
45 FA BN
45 INF
45 INF 157 INF CO E
45 INF 120 ENGR BN
51 ENGR CMBT BN
51 FLD HOSP
52 ARMD INF BN 9 AD
52 AIB A CO GP
53 MED BN
54 SIGL BN
55 QM BASE DEPOT
56 FA BN
57 FLD HOSP
58 QM BASE DEPOT
59 ARMD FA BN
60 ARMD INF
62 AA BN
62 AFA BN
63 INF
65 GEN HOSP
69 SIGL BN
70 INF (TRAILBLAZER)
70 HVY TK BN & ARMOR
73 AFA BN
75 INF 291 INF CO M
75 DIV
76 INF
78 CAV RECON TP
78 INF
78 DIV
80 INF 318 INF CO 8
80 DIV
82 ABND
83 CHEM MTR BN
83 INF
84 INF 557 AAA AW BN
84 INF
85 QM/86 CHEM MTR BN

86 CHEM MTR BN
86 ORD CO
87 INF
87 INF
89 CAV RECON SQ
90 INF
93 AFA BN
93 EVAC HOSP
94 CAV RECON SQ
94 INF
94 SIGL BN
95 INF
99 CHEM MTR BN
99 INF
100 INF
101 ABND HQ
101 ABND
101 INF 26 YD AEF CO F
103 ENGR CMBT BN
103 INF
103 INF 411 INF CO A
104 INF
106/121 CAV RECON SQ
106 FA
106 INF
107 EVAC HOSP
109 INF 28 INF
112 CMBT ENGR
113 AAA GUN BN WWII
115 & 196 FA
117 CAV
119 FA
125 AAA GUN BN
128 AAA BA BN
128 EVAC HOSP
129 AAA GUN BN
134 AAA GUN BN
142 FA
150 ENGR CMBT BN
157 INF
159 ENGR CMBT BN
164 ENGR CMBT BN
168 ENGR CMBT BN
174 FA BN
179 FA BN B BTY
183 FA BN
194 FA BN
195 AAA AW
203 CA (AA) 203 FA BN
204 AAA BN
204 FA BN
214 MP
226 SIGL VETS
232 INF
238 ENGR CMBT BN
242 INF
243 FA BN
250 FA BN
253 ARMD FA BN
254 FA BN
264 FA BN
272 FA BN
273 FA BN
277 FA BN
279 ORD MAINT AA CO
284 FA BN
285 ENGR CMBT BN
285 FA OBS BN
290 ENGR CMBT BN
291 ENGR CMBT BN
296 ENGR CMBT BN
299 ENGR CMBT
300 ENGR CMBT BN
301 INF
304 INF

306 ORD MAINT CO (AA)
315 ENGR CMBT BN
320 INF
324 INF CO D
325 GLDR INF
328 INF CMBT TM
368 ENGR GEN SVC
376 PRCHT FA
377 PRCHT FA
405 AAA GUN BN
411 AA GUN BN
448 AAAW BN
462 AW BN AA
463 AAA AW BN 79 INF
482 AAA AW BN (SP)
489 AAA AW BN (SP)
501 PIRA
501 PRCHT INF
501 PRCHT BN
504 MP BN
504 PIR CMBT TM
505 ABND CO I
505 PIR CMBT TM
505 MP BN
506 PIR
507 PIR
508 PIR
508 PIR
509 PIR
511 PIR
517 PIR CMBT TM
526 ARMD BN
526 ARMD BN
527 ENGR LT PNT CO
550 ABND
551 ABND
551 PRCHT INF
551 PRCHT INF
557 AAA AW BN
552 MP EG CO
555 AAA AW BN
572 AAA ART
602 TD BN
609 TD BN
628 TD BN
630 TD BN
631 TD BN
634 TD BN B CO
635 TD BN
638 TD BN
644 TD BN
656/771 TD BN
676 ENGR LT EQUIP CO
687 FA BN
691 TD BN
697/698 FA BN
702 TK BN
702 TD BN CO C
705 TD BN
705 TD BN
705 TD BN
707 TK BN
712 TK BN
738 TK BN
740 RWY OPRG BN
740 TK BN
741 TK BN
743 TD BN
744 RWY OPRG BN
745 TK BN
746 TK BN
749 TK BN
750 TK BN
753 TK BN
756 TK BN
761 TK BN

769 MP BN CO A
771 FA BN BTY A
773 TD BN
776 FA BN
777 AAA AW BN
789 AAA AW BN
802 TD BN
808 TD BN
814 ENGR CO
811 TD BN
818 TD BN
820 TD BN
823 TD BN
825 TD BN
838 ORD DEPT CO 3
ARMY
899 TD BN
904 FA BN
965 FA BN
987 FA BN
1056 ENGR PC&R GRP

ATTENTION!

Does your division, regiment, company, unit have an association? Do you see it listed on this page?

If not and you have their address, please send it to us.

If you see your organization and would like to have their address, please write to us. We'll be happy to send it to you.

We use this information many times throughout the year to provide and secure information.

This information will also be very valuable to us in making further plans for the 50th Anniversary observances.


Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. Your help will be very much appreciated.

**YOUR HELP
IS NEEDED!**

**50TH ANNIVERSARY
REUNION
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI
DECEMBER 15-18, 1994**

**PLAN NOW TO
ATTEND**

PRESERVING THE HISTORY



The efforts of the Foundation to preserve the history of the Battle of the Bulge are expanding and advancing along three separate fronts.

The development and completion of the Memorial Conference Room, at Fort Meade, Maryland, has taken on an exciting new dimension as the design for the conference table and chairs met with the approval of the Board of Trustees. The building of these furnishings is expected to be started in late spring by Gaspar Craftsmen, Stavelot, Belgium. The table and chairs will be built of Ardennes Oak with the insignia of the divisions that served in the Battle of the Bulge inlaid in the top of the table. The chairs will be upholstered with leather tanned in Stavelot. The interior design of the memorial Conference Room is being developed by Harry Wilbur of the renown D&P Design and Productions, Inc.

As many military posts are being reduced in size and responsibilities; Fort Meade over the next several years, expects to be receiving three new units, including: The Defense Media Schools, the EPA Regional Laboratory and the Naval Security Group.

Ceremonies for the Dedication of the Conference Room, early summer 1994, are already in the planning stage. Along with other units, the 5th Belgian Fusiliers plan to join in these ceremonies.

Fort Meade is generously providing as much support as possible, however funds are still needed for the completion of the Memorial Conference Room. Your contributions would be most appreciated and may be sent to: Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation, P.O. Box 2516, Kensington, MD 20895-0818.

The second Historical Preservation Front is the continual gathering of the written materials (diaries, unit and personal histories, photographs, maps, etc.) to be cataloged and deposited in the Battle of the Bulge Collection, U.S. Army Institute, Carlisle Barracks, PA.

Recently a most interesting map was donated for that collection by D. D. Reed, Torrington, WY. Mr. Reed's letter accompanying the map of Liege, Belgium, started in part, "I was executive officer of the 221st GM Bn Hq charged with the operation of the Class I facility. When it appeared that the German offensive might be more successful than we had hoped, the defense of our installation gained priority and this map was prepared. In addition to my other duties, I was designated as demolition officer for the destruction of some 150,000 tons of rations. When the enemy was stopped 20 some miles from Liege, the demolition's plans were scrapped." Plans are to have this historical map framed, and for a time, exhibited in the Memorial Conference Room.

The third effort of the Foundation is the annual Commemorative Banquet on December 15. This year the special event will be held at the Sheraton National Hotel, Arlington, VA (near Fort Myer). Arrangements have been made for reduced hotel rates for those wishing to spend the night. VBOB ceremonies at Arlington Cemetery will again be held on December 16.

Look for complete information and reservation forms in the next *Bulge Bugle*. Mark your calendars for December 15 and 16 and join your "Bulge Buddies" for these impressive commemorative activities.

IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE SOLDIER

It is the Soldier, not the Reporter
Who has given us Freedom of the Press;
It is the Soldier, not the Poet
Who has given us Freedom of Speech;
It is the Soldier, not the Campus Organizer
Who has given us Freedom to demonstrate;
It is the Soldier,
--who salutes the flag;
--who serves beneath the flag;
--and whose coffin is draped by the flag,
Who allows the protestor to burn the flag.

Unknown

Submitted by: Herbert E. Toscano
9th Air Force 432nd & 321st FC Squadrons

TANK MUSEUM

ERNEST FRANCK, 6TH ARMORED DIVISION 69TH ARMORED, 69TH TANK BATTALION, COMPANY "C," writes to tell us about the Tank and Ordnance War Memorial Museum which is located on Long Island. He states that it is the largest and only tank museum on the Eastern Seaboard.



Inside the Tank Museum



Entrance Way to the Museum

Everything in the museum has been restored to its original condition: tanks, guns, jeeps, half trucks, even a two-man submarine. All are mobile. The tanks and weapons are taken yearly to a firing range and checked out.

Ernest hopes you will stop by when you are near the museum. You're always welcome.

STICKER WITH A MESSAGE

The following are the words of a sticker on the back of an envelope received from W. T. WALKER, 644TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION:

We Who Survived
"The Battle of the Bulge"
Are A Living Bridge
From the Past to the Present.

Fred Feeney, 80th Div., sent this poem in for the first meeting of the Rhode Island Chapter.

Soldier's Lament

I am sitting here a-thinking of the things I left behind,
And I hate to put on paper what is running through my mind.

We have dug a million ditches and cleaned a million miles
of ground,
A meaner place this die of Hell is waiting to be found.

But there is still one consideration--gather around me
while I tell,

When we die we'll go to Heaven, for we've done our hitch
in Hell.

We have built a million kitchens for the cooks to burn our
beans,
And stood a million guard mounts and cleaned the camp's
latrine.

We have washed a million mess-kits and peeled a billion
spuds,

We've rolled a million blanket rolls and washed our dirty
duds.

The number of parades we've stood is very hard to tell.
There'll be no parades in Heaven for we've stood them all
in Hell.

We've killed a million ants and bugs that crawled out from
our eats,

And shook a million centipedes from out our bunks' sheets.
We've marched a hundred million miles and made a million
camps.

We've pulled desert cactus from the seat of khaki pants.

But when our work on earth is done, all our friends behind
we'll tell

How we died and went to Heaven, for we've done our hitch
in Hell.

But when the final taps are sounded and we lay aside our
cares,

We will do our final bug parade up those golden stairs.

And the angel all will welcome us, then the harps will start
to play,

And we will draw a million canteen checks, and spend
them all that day.

And we'll hear St. Peter yelling, greeting all us with a yell,
Take a front seat, soldier, you've done your hitch in Hell.

There will one day spring from the brain of science a machine
or force so fearful in its potentialities, so absolutely terrifying,
that even man, the fighter, who will dare torture and death in
order to inflict torture and death, will be appalled, and so
abandon war forever. What man's mind can create, man's
character can control.

THOMAS ALVA EDISON



VETERANS of the BATTLE of the BULGE

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

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...YEP, IT'S TIME...TO FORM A VBOB CHAPTER
IN YOUR AREA. SEE DETAILS INSIDE THIS
ISSUE. We now have enrolled 11,000 members;
thus, making chapter formation in your area a
possibility. WE WILL HELP YOU DO IT.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

- Detach and Mail -

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Do not write above this line



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

Annual Dues \$15

Do not write above this line

☐ 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)