

The BULGE BUGLE

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THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

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WWII - BATTLE OF THE BULGE NATIONAL COMMEMORATION of the 50th ANNIVERSARY St. Louis, MO. - Dec. 15 - 18, 1994



29 USA Allied forces retake New Guinea, 1944



29 USA P-51s escort B-17s on bombing raids, 1944



29 USA Allies in Normandy, D-Day, June 6, 1944



29 USA Airborne units spearhead attacks, 1944



29 USA Submarines shorten war in Pacific, 1944



29 USA Allies free Rome, June 4, Paris, Aug. 25, 1944



29 USA U.S. troops clear Saipan bunkers, 1944



29 USA Red Ball Express speeds vital supplies, 1944



29 USA Battle for Leyte Gulf, October 23-26, 1944



29 USA Bastogne and Battle of the Bulge, Dec. 1944

This is the fourth issue in the World War II 50th Anniversary series, complete with historical maps and five annual albums devoted to key events of WWII. The series will total 50 stamps and five books. **Battle of the Bulge, lower right corner.** See page 24, special 50th Anniversary Cancellation for St. Louis Commemoration.

**VETERANS OF THE
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"LONG TOMS" FOUND

As you know, I have repeatedly wrote searching for some of the wonderful, old "Long Tom," 155mm field pieces. Well, gentlemen, I [recently saw a photo in] our local papers.... ...had this picture of the Serbs in one of their artillery positions firing on the Bosnian town of Maglag. Because of the closeness of the Associated Press cameraman, it looks like a picture I have from WWII of one of my weapons.

...at least now I know where those weapons are. We must have left them in Europe and those countries knew how accurate they were, and kept them to use in their armies.

We used to say, it took us three rounds to find your vest pocket. And after reading about the shelling of the market and the killing of all of those people, I would say that that is pretty good marksmanship, if poor judgment of targets. We never aimed at the civilians.

Reid W. McNary
981 FA

THE SYSTEM WORKS

Please be advised that a request for information which appeared in *The Bugle* February issue has been answered. The person requesting the info was Kathryn Herfurth, of California.

I and Bill Dunbar, of Illinois, and also Verner Adams, of Georgia, all have responded to her request, and have given her the details of her uncle's death.

He was T-5 James Frankly Herfurth, a member of A Battery, 174th Field Artillery Battalion. He was killed in action near Berbourg, Luxembourg, on 16 December, 1944.

Leonard N. Schafenberg
174 FA BN HQ

TEACHING HALF TRUTHS

In your article [about] Bruce Clark, I find it interesting to note that there is no mention of his insubordinate act at St. Vith when Gen. Jones, of the 106th Infantry Division, requested him to assist the withdrawal of two of his regiments under siege by the Germans.

It is interesting to note that so-called historians are teaching about the Battle of the Bulge by only teaching half truths. Is there nobody besides [Charles] MacDonald who will come forward with the truth?

Donald B. Dexter
106 INF 592 FA BN B

ANOTHER BASTARD BATTALION

I regret to say that I'm quite a new member of your fine organization, having received only two of your publications. I'm wondering just how many more veterans would join VBOB if they could see one of your publications. I've enjoyed reading *The Bulge Bugle* very much, and I appreciate the great job you are doing to prod our memories about so many aspects of the terrible battle. A wise man once said, "He who fails to remember history is doomed to repeat it," or something like that.

I especially enjoyed the article by George Bowles, "Clarke Views Montgomery," since we were under General Clarke's command through most of the Battle of the Bulge. I have a great deal of respect for him. Hopefully another battle of that magnitude will never have to be fought, which behooves us to keep the memories alive.

I've noticed several letters to the Editor, about what in army lingo was called "Bastard Battalions" and will admit that they were somewhat overlooked because of their size. I don't think this applies to our "Bastard Battalion."

I served in the valiant 275th Armored Field Artillery Battalion which is mentioned in all the World War II history books that I have read. We are mentioned, although briefly, but with the highest respect and praise. Our little battalion was instrumental in the heroic defence of St. Vith and for that action we were awarded a Presidential Citation and the King of Belgium awarded us the Belgium Fourragere. During the Battle of the Bulge the 275th found that most of the time the 294th and 295th Grenadier Regiments were opposite them, and after the fighting, G-2 reports indicated both regiments had been annihilated.

Following this action, the 275th went up the Ruhr dams and later moved into Holland and across the Rhine River with the 30th Infantry Division in the greatest massing of artillery fire ever assembled. From then on the 275th fought into the Ruhr pocket with the 8th Armored Division and after completing their mission, moved to clean out the Harz Mountain pocket.

The men of the 275th brought back their share of decorations, 8 were awarded the Silver Star, 34 received the Bronze Star, 5 the Air Medal, 2 the Soldiers Medal, 30 the Purple Heart, and 38 won Battalion Certificates of Merit. Which the army later ruled could be exchanged for Bronze Stars. I'm proud to say that I served with and survived the great war in such a fine organization.

DeLoyd Cooper
275 AFAB C

MORE ON BASTARD BATTALIONS

87th Chemical Mortar Battalion--It was not unusual for separate battalions of armor, artillery, engineers, chemical mortar troops to be constantly attached to infantry regiments as heavy weapons infantry.

We served with the 1st, 7th, 9th Armies. We also were attached to V, VII, IX, SV, XVII (Airborne), XXI Corps. The infantry divisions we were attached to were: 1st, 3rd, 4th, 8th, 9th, 28th, 30th, 45th, 75th, 79th, 83rd, 84th, 104th. Airborne divisions: 82nd and 101st. Armored divisions: 2nd, 3rd and 5th. Groups: 4th Cavalry, 1106th Engineers, and 325th Glider Infantry.

Campaigns: Normandy (D-Day) Landing, Northern France, Ardennes (Battle of the Bulge), Rhineland, Central Europe.

Bronze Arrowhead, 5 Battle Stars, ETO, Presidential Citation.

Fired 250,000 rounds of mortar ammunition.

I'm sure very few bastard battalions have as good a record. We didn't get any headlines, as we were Uncle Sam's secret weapon.

John H. Sears
87 CHEM MTR BN HQ DET

2ND DIVISION TOOK FULL BRUNT...

The May issue of *The Bugle* asks the question, "What About the 2nd Division?" (Letters to the Editor column). You explained that it was only due to space limitations. But there was another curious oversight in General Eisenhower's report to the nation of May, 1945. In his report on "The Ardennes Counter-offensive" Ike states that, "The full brunt of the enemy assault was met first by the four divisions deployed...the 4th, 28th, 106th and the 9th Armored." This is simply not true.

The main attack force of Hitler's Ardennes Campaign was assigned by Hitler to his trusted henchman, Sepp Dietrich. This was the Sixth Panzer Army. Its mission was to slice through the Allied forces and drive to Antwerp in an armored blitzkrieg. The Fifth Panzer Army to the south of the Sixth was there to protect its left flank. The main mission of the German forces to the north and south were to protect the flanks of the 6th Panzer Army and widen the breach.

The five main German attack routes were officially named Rollbahns A, B, C, D, and E. The 99th Infantry Division was astride Rollbahns A, B, C, and D. The "Schwerpunkt" or spearpoint of the main effort was assigned to Kampfgruppe Peiper under S.S. Lt. Col. Jochen Peiper. His attack path was on Rollbahn D at the head of a 15 mile long armored column. (The writer was in a farmhouse beside the road when KG Peiper rolled past.)

The 277th Volksgrenadier Division, the 12th Volksgrenadier Division and the 3rd Parachute Divisions were given the mission of clearing the 99th Infantry Division out of the paths of the 12th SS Panzer (Hitler Youth) Division and Kampfgruppe Peiper and, later, the balance of the 1st SS Panzer Corps. The 99th was to be crushed early on the morning of December 16th thus releasing the flood of SS Panzer troops for the drive on the Meuse River and beyond.

Twenty-one 99th men blocking Rollbahn D at Lanzerath fought off the onslaught of a regiment of 3rd Parachute Division troopers for the entire first day of December 16th.

The defenders of Bucholz Station and Losheimergraben blocking Rollbahn C did not yield an inch to the 12th Volksgrenadiers until December 17th.

The three 99th battalions along the International Highway gave way to the 277th Volksgrenadiers only after the 12th SS Panzer Division was called into the battle early to back them up. This stalled the thrusts along Rollbahns A and B.

Twenty-four hours behind schedule, Kampfgruppe Peiper didn't hit Buchholz Station and roll on through Honsfeld into Bullingen until the morning of the 17th. By this time, the 2nd Division's regiments were in place facing south and east outside of Hunningen, Krinkelt and Rocherath and the 1st Division troops had moved into Butgenbach further blocking Rollbahn C. The 99th infantrymen slowly gave way, pulling back through their only escape route held open by the 2nd Division. The 2nd Division then took over the full brunt of the Ardennes Campaign's Main Effort and held off

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Continued from Page 3)

the Germans until withdrawing to Elsenborn Ridge on December 19th. Rollbahns A, B, C, and D were still closed to the Germans by the valiant fighting of these U.S. units. Only Rollbahn D remained open to Kampfgruppe Peiper which soon ran out of fuel. The German High Command knew the Bulge was Kaput by December 20th.

Stephen Ambrose, a respected historian and author, said in an article in the Military History Quarterly, "Elsenborn was The Little Round Top of the battle. Dietrich drove his units mercilessly, but he could not take it. In the vast literature on the Battle of the Bulge, Elsenborn Ridge always yields pride of place to the far more famous action to the south, at Bastogne...almost no one knows the names of the 99th and 2nd Infantry. Yet it was along the Elsenborn Ridge, on the first and second day, that these two ordinary infantry divisions, largely out of touch with their commands, outnumbered five to one and, worse, outgunned and surprised, managed to stop the Germans on their main line of advance. The Germans never did take the ridge." (Quoted with permission.)

In view of the above facts, I wonder why General Eisenhower ignored the role played by the 1st, 2nd, 9th and 99th Infantry Divisions. This oversight has distorted many subsequent histories of the Bulge. Do any of your readers have the answer?

Richard H. Byers
99 INF 317 FA BN C

[WE] KNEW WE WERE NOT DEFEATED

I was reading the article in the February, 1994, publication by G. Bowles on Bruce Clarke's idea of the Bulge and it seems to me that he has several things wrong.

In the first place, we who were on the line, especially on the north (I was in the 99th Division), knew we were not defeated. We had held and turned back all that the 6th Panzer Army had to offer. On the 16th and 17th of December, 1944, five German divisions hit five battalions of the 99th Division. We pretty well held them on the 16th and with some magnificent help from the 1st and 2nd Divisions on the 17th and 18th stopped the 6th Panzer Army cold.

The second wrong statement was that the main thrust of the Bulge was made by the 5th Panzer Army through St. Vith. The main drive was to be made by the 6th Panzer Army through the 99th Division. The breakthrough did not occur through the division but at the seam between V & VIII Corps.

If it hadn't been for the work done by the 99th on December 16th and done by the 1st, 2nd and 99th on the 17th, the 7th Armored would not have reached St. Vith at all--they would have run into the 1st SS Panzer Division who had been delayed 24 hours in their drive.

Again Clarke states that Dietrich's 6th Panzer Army's purpose was to screen Manteuffel's drive to the Meuse River when actually it was the other way around.

Think of what might have happened if Piper and the 1st SS had broken loose on the 16th of December as planned, also if the 12th SS Panzer and broke through and captured Elsenborn and Butgenbach on the 16th as planned.

While not denigrating work done by the 7th Armored at St. Vith, not enough is said about what was done by the 99th Division on the 16th of December, 1944.

Jim Langford
99 INF 394 INF I

THANK GOD FOR THE AIR FORCE

I would like to add my comments to two well written articles in the May, 1994, *Bulge Bugle*. Sinclair F. Cullen, 75th Infantry Division 290 Infantry, Company C, wrote about not knowing the names of towns or battle situations. I thought I was the only one who felt that way; after ten months of combat covering two thousand miles, the only places I remember were the big cities.

William J. Thompson, Jr., 556th Bomber Squadron, Bomber Group M, wrote about mistakes of the Air Force. I would gladly take Air Force mistakes over having no Air Force.

After the break through at St. Vith, we moved south down a highway with woods on the right side of the road. Later we set up our 105 mm howitzers for direct firing in the direction we came. Many years later while watching TV, I learned the division that followed us was wiped out by a German panzer division hiding in the woods. They let us through so they could come down the road and wipe us out. Thank God for the Air Force; they came and drove the panzers back.

We would see hundreds of American planes fly towards Germany to destroy

Hitler's war machine. One time we were moving to a new position during the day when an American plane buzzed us. We watched as he made a loop to make another run at us. We were hanging out the side of the truck ready to jump if he fired. He realized we were Americans and pulled away.

An American plane was flying over us looking for a target to hit across the Rhine River when a German plane appeared. We were looking up expecting a dog fight when we heard a bomb coming down. We hit the ground except for Chico, a Mexican American from Texas, who did not hear it. The 500 pound bomb landed next to Chico and the wind that followed slammed him to the ground. It didn't explode because the pilot knew he was over American territory and left the safety on. The German plane took off; he didn't want to fight.

My best memory of the Air Force was December 25, 1944, during the Battle of the Bulge. A few miles in front of us the clouds opened up and the sun shone through. It was like some body holding a flash light over the area. Immediately American planes were bombing and strafing while we were firing our howitzers as fast as we could.

They say artillery made mistakes but we stopped more German counter attacks than any one knows.

The 5th Infantry book "Pass in Review" lists the number of casualties. Total battle count was 12,386 and the non-battle count was 12,762. This didn't include the attached units. I'm sure all the other divisions had the same percentage. This is what war is all about.

Leonard Lolocono
5 INF 50 FA BN A

A HYPOTHETICAL PROBLEM

Of all the things that puzzle me, the position that we were taken by surprise when the Germans counter attacked on December 16, 1944, is probably rated number one.

In early December, 1944, I was a platoon leader in Company K, 39th Infantry, 9th Division. When we were pulled off line for a rest, we went back in the vicinity of Camp Elsenborn, Belgium. We had hardly settled down when I was advised I was to attend a meeting at Camp Elsenborn the following morning, along with men from other units.

On the morning of the next day we were given the situation we were to consider. This was the problem we were to consider.

"Let us assume that German tanks, followed by heavy infantry have broken through our lines and are coming down this road in front of us. What action would you take and what would be your strategy?"

We spent this day working on this "hypothetical" problem and giving our solutions.

That evening our unit was ordered a few miles north and we arrived about dusk. Early the next morning, we were ordered back as the Germans had done exactly as they had in our "hypothetical" problem.

Were any other readers at this meeting?

Ed Heston
9 INF 39 INF K

HOW COULD YOU BE SO CALLOUS...?

I usually look forward in anxious anticipation for the latest copy of *The Bulge Bugle* as I then open its pages and read it cover to cover.

When I opened the February 1994 issue my first impulse was to throw it in the waste basket. How could you be so callous as to defame the VBOB membership and its honorable organization, or desecrate its heretofore fine magazine by contaminating its pages with the photo of a draft dodging coward and traitor? Especially under the apparent guise of harmony. I refer to the photo of "Slick Willie" on page three. I can think of no reason for that incongruous or incompatible photo in a veterans publication.

I did not get shot up in the forests of the Ardennes during WWII to give any U.S. citizen the right to engage in subversive activities against my beloved country, much less a public official.

Be assured that any future attempt at even the slightest hint at reconciliation with traitor Clinton will result in the immediate and permanent cancellation of my membership.

Bill Krehbiel
80 INF 319 INF L

...ASHAMED TO SEE SUCH A PICTURE IN THIS GREAT PUBLICATION

On page three of *The Bulge Bugle* of February 1994 there is a picture of Wm. Tayman, our President, meeting with

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Continued from Page 4)

Bill Clinton at the White House on Veterans Day. I have looked at the picture and read the article several times and finally "had" to respond.

Frankly, considering the type of organization we all belong to and seeing what we have seen in our life time, I would think that a meeting with this man would be the last on our agenda. Needless to say he is the last man I would have liked to serve with me in the Bulge. Needless to say I am quite emotional about this type of man ascending to the Presidency of this great country. Perhaps Mr. Tayman might consider taking out time to visit my son who is only a few years younger but did serve his country honorably in Vietnam and is 100% disabled. He can't kiss my son's wife because she left him because of his problems.

Sorry, I'm ashamed to see such a picture in this great publication.

Howard F. Reiff
76 INFD 385 INF 1 BN HQ

[These letters are printed to grant these gentlemen's wish that we do so. VBOB does not wish to nor can we, because of our non-profit status, become involved in political matters. We published the picture in the May issue simply to let our members know that after 13 years of existence, VBOB has finally been acknowledged by the Federal Government as a vital veterans organization.]

MORE ON THE LOCATION OF THE 180TH FA BN

...106 Infantry Division C/592 relieved his [McGinnis'] battery (180 FA BN, 26th Infantry Division) at a place called Witting on December 15, 1944. At that particular time, we were unknowingly facing the start of the Battle of the Bulge at a place called Laudesfeld, Germany that commenced on December 16, 1944. The 592nd BN replaced the artillery components of the 2nd Infantry Division on December 10, 1944.

I have taken some condensed passages from the 592nd FA BN AAR (After Action Report), as follows:

"592nd BN moved from bivouac in the vicinity of St. Vith, to positions in Laudesfeld, Germany, on 10 December 1944. Position for C Battery was c984899....

"12th to the 15th December, 1944, time spent bringing up the basic ammunition load, improving positions, etc., etc.... Observer from C Battery was sent daily to observation post at Roth, Germany (F 040) Bulk of missions fired were harassing and interdiction fires on towns and road junctions in the sector....

"Morning of the 16th, heavy artillery fire falling on our front lines to the south.... Concentration on two platoons of infantry in the attack, the attack was stopped.... 1100 hour, company of German infantry reported at AUW village.... Patrols sent out and driven back into position area by 1530 hour.... 2000 hour Battalion ordered by CG, Divarty to displace to the rear....

"On December 17th, Battalion went into positions one mile North East of St. Vith.... Fired on a tank and infantry column on the St. Vith-Schoenberg road.... AO reported direct hit on lead tank, dispersing infantry.... Small arms fire, falling in Battery positions and at 1545, Battalion ordered to march to the West and bivouac for the night west of Rodt (p795895)."

Actual strength of the BN on December 15th was 483 Enlisted men and 29 Officers. On the 31st of December it was 405 Enlisted men and 22 Officers, total casualties was 85 in all categories. So how Leon Mc Ginnis gets C/592 down in Northern France on December 15, 1944, is a real mystery. I still don't know who relieved his Battery but it wasn't C/592. Mr. Leesemann, Jr., of the 26th Infantry Division in his letter to the editor (February, 1994) claims they were relieved by the 87th Division(?).

Victor C. Rauch
592 FA BN

740TH TANK BATTALION

Thank you for the brief mention of the 740th Tank Battalion in the May issue of *The Bulge Bugle*. The 740th made a large contribution to the success of the 82nd's mission during the Battle of the Bulge and throughout the remainder of the European Campaign. The tankers of the 740th developed a great amount of respect and admiration for the troopers of the 82nd Division. And it is recorded in "Saga of the All American" that this respect and admiration was reciprocated from the supported troops.

My first contact with the 740th was on or about 27 December, 1944, as the

82nd Division was preparing for the approach march to the Siegfried Line. One of the tanks was in position near my own post. I was warmed by their fire and friendship.

Next morning, early, we left the tanks behind because the terrain we were to traverse was inaccessible to those tracked vehicles. However, the tanks rejoined us about noon after we had gained a road more suitable for tank travel. The tank attached to my platoon took the lead, breaking trail, and making our progress through the deep snow much faster and easier. I walked right behind the tank, catching some of the heat from the exhaust.

Later that afternoon, still following the tank, I looked up on the hillside to my left and there, about 200 yards up the hill were three enemy soldiers frantically going about setting up a mortar to drop some fire on us. The tank gunner had spotted them at about the same time. In a matter of seconds the gunner had swung the gun around and fired one round. The round must have hit the mortar itself, for pieces of bodies and equipment exploded in all directions from the impact.

My hat is off in salute to that 740th tank crew. Had they not been with us that day, it is likely I would not be sitting here now typing this note.

Clifford McComas
82 ABND 325 GIR E

SMALL STUFF

I wish to compliment you on what a fine magazine *The Bulge Bugle* has grown into. I look forward to every issue.

I have one problem with the magazine. Much of the print is very fine. As you know, most of the veterans are along in years with eyesight problems. The very interesting articles are often in too small a print to be read well, which is disappointing. I am one of the youngest of the veterans (69 years old). Many of them are much older in my chapter (Worcester, Massachusetts).

I know the small print must save you money by reducing paper, but for your veteran readers, make the print larger, please!!!

Warren B. Eames
1 INFD 18 INF G

[Okay, readers, what's your opinion? Remember, before you let us know, if you say "larger, please," we will have to cut down on the number of articles we can print. By using the smaller print on some of the items, we are able to give you about one-third more in the newsletter. So, would you like small and more OR bigger and less? We can't exceed 32 pages--the price would be prohibitive. Reply by post card and say only "smaller" or "bigger."]

WRONG COMPANY

In the "Letters to the Editor" section of the May 1994 *Bulge Bugle*, you moved me from "75 INFD 290 INF CN" to 75 INFD 290 INF C." This probably confused men from both companies. Please make a correction....

Sinclair F. Cullen
75 INFD 290 INF CN

HOLDING BASTOGNE--A STROKE OF GENIUS

I am what you might call a recent but committed enlistee in VBOB. In the May issue of your newsletter you report that homage recently was paid at Bastogne to Generals Patton and McAuliffe. They played their roles, and should be honored, but if you want to know who the real tactical and gutsy genius of the Bulge was, listen to Patton.

Just weeks before VE day, two longtime associates, the VIIIth Corps and the Third Army, were being separated for tactical reasons, and this was what Patton wrote Maj. Gen. Troy H. Middleton, the VIIIth Corps commander:

"None of us will ever forget the stark valor with which you and your Corps contested every foot of ground during Von Rundstedt's attack. Your decision to hold Bastogne was a stroke of genius."

The fact is that throughout the German siege of Bastogne, Middleton remained in the city. As a high-ranking tactician, he didn't have to. At that time the Screaming Eagles and other American outfits were being kept alive by air drops. In Patton's memoirs, the again calls attention to Middleton's masterly role. After slipping into the city one night, Patton wrote (page 216, *War As I Knew It*):

"On the 28th (Dec.) I visited Gen. Middleton at Bastogne and found him very offensive-minded. His plan for the attack (to liberate Bastogne) was to begin with the 87th (Division) on the left, the 90th on the right, followed respectively

(Continued on Page 6)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

by the 95th and 4th Infantry."

As to Blaine Friedlander's quirky assertion that "the Germans lost the war on July 20, 1944," I can only observe that it flies in the face of every history I have read, and I have read seven histories of World War II.

Friedlander contends that during the Bulge all of the German armies were spent and at half strength. Russell Weigley, a military historian who teaches at Temple University, disagrees. In Weigley's comprehensive history, "Eisenhower's Lieutenants," the historian, who had over three decades to pore over official records, reports that at the start of the Bulge we Americans were outnumbered by three to one; while at the spearheads the Americans were outnumbered by six to one (page 574). In early January, 1945, Weigley observes (page 559), "Patton still suffered the additional frustrations imposed by a stronger enemy."

Rolling merrily on, Friedlander pictures Patton as "laughing" about the German attack and adds that "By December 18, 1944, it was clear that the main thrust of the attack had been contained." The only laughable aspect about this sentence is its wrongheadedness. As late as January 4, 1945, here is what the normally brash Patton entered in his diary: "We can still lose this war."

In fact, at the time Patton was seriously considering retreating the entire Third Army as British Marshal Bernard Montgomery kept urging; and even took the unusual step of consulting his staff about a possible retreat. Friedlander further undermines his own case by stating that "Ike, who received his fifth star on

December 16, almost lost his command." Even though this is patently inaccurate, Friedlander never makes clear why, if the battle was won on the second day of the Bulge, the commanding general stood to lose his command (to British Marshal Montgomery).

Actually, the U.S., not the British, shouldered the main burden of supply and fighting on the Western front, and Chief of Staff Gen. George C. Marshall called all the important non-battlefield shots. He and Roosevelt never wavered in backing Ike to call the battlefield shots. Briefly considered as a deputy to Ike, the sluggish Marshal Montgomery never had a chance to lead the war in the dynamic way the Americans--especially Patton--envisioned.

One other observation deserves a response, and that is Friedlander's assertion that "The civil rights movement began" in World War II "as Blacks were allowed to be combat troops and fought with Whites." This could have been true if there were many Black combat troops. But there weren't, and I doubt that Friedlander can cite any evidence for his bald assertion. Black combat troops in Europe never numbered more than a relative handful--a few thousand compared to at least half a million white combat troops. A Black tank battalion happened to have fought alongside my outfit in the Bulge, but who can extrapolate from this to the Armies and Army Groups who never saw a single Black combat soldier?

Mitchell Kaldy
87 INF 345 INF 1 BN D

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As most members are well aware, the National Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of **THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE** will be held in St. Louis, Missouri, December 15-18, 1994. Our role in this 50th Anniversary has been to select the sight, plan the program, make necessary contacts, but, most important, to never forget the words of General Kicklighter, Director of WWII 50th Anniversary events--"the veterans are the most important persons (VIPs), the Nation wants to honor and thank them for what they did 50 years ago."

Our role now is essentially that of messenger, not just to VBOB members, but all veterans who participated in the BoB. The vive pages of information with registration and hotel forms, along with the agenda, are again in this issue of *The Bulge Bugle*. Please, be aware of the October 1st cut-off date, detailed in the paragraph located at bottom of "Commemoration Registration Form."



We have forwarded the same 50th Anniversary information to a number of veterans organizations requesting they inform their membership of the National Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, December 15-18, 1994, in St. Louis, Missouri.

We are most gratified to report that His Royal Highness, the Crown Prince of Belgium, and the Prime Minister of the Government of Luxembourg will honor us with their presence in St. Louis.

All Battle of the Bulge veterans and their spouses are encouraged to attend what many believe will be the biggest WWII 50th Anniversary event to be held in the States.

A dress reminder: All veterans are encouraged to wear their miniature medals to the 50th Anniversary Banquet on Saturday evening, December 17th.

William P. Tayman

They were called grunts, and many of them, however grudgingly, were proud of the name. They were the infantrymen, the foot soldiers of the war.

BERNARD EDELMAN



Joint chiefs of Staff General John Shalikashvili and VBOB President Bill Tayman. Monday, May 30, our President was invited back to THE WHITE HOUSE for breakfast and to witness the unveiling of the "1944: Road to Victory" stamp series by Postmaster General Marvin Runyon. The stamp series is on the cover of this issue of THE BULGE BUGLE. Bill's first contact with the head of the Postal Service's Philatelic and Retail Services Department was on November 16, 1987. To ensure that the BoB would receive prominent consideration by the Postal Service Stamp Committee, Bill wrote many letters and hand delivered them to the Assistant Postmaster General. At this Memorial Day ceremony Bill spoke with Secretary of Defense William Perry, Chief of Staff of The Army, General Gordon Sullivan and General Shalikashvili; all these office holders will participate in the BoB 50th Anniversary in St. Louis.

ST. LOUIS "GATEWAY" CHAPTER REPORT ON FLOOD DONATIONS

The St. Louis Chapter reports that it received total donations of \$800.00 were received from VBOB members and chapters to assist VBOB members with their losses during the great Midwest floods of 1993. A member from White Cloud, Kansas, received a check for \$300.00 and the remainder (\$500.00) was donated to the Salvation Army. The chapter wishes to thank all who contributed.

50th ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM

December 15-18, 1994

• THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15 •

OPENING RECEPTION, Grand Ballroom, Regal Riverfront Hotel

6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Reception
Address by the Mayor of the City of St. Louis
Evening Buffet Dinner--including Vegas, Cheeses, Roast Steamship, Egg Rolls, Fruit, and Beverages. Music for listening and dancing by The Gateway City Big Band.

• FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16 •

PLAQUE DEDICATION, Court of Honor, Soldiers' Memorial Military Museum

9:00 a.m. Assemble in Kiener Plaza
9:30 a.m. Parade w/U.S. Army Band on Market Street (6/10's of a mile)
10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Memorial Service, BoB 50th Anniversary Plaque Dedication, Guest Speaker General Gordon Sullivan, Chief of Staff of the Army. National Flag Exhibit, 45 x 90 foot "Old Glory" will fly over our heads!
Participants shuttled back to various hotels.

11:30 a.m.
12:00 Noon

LUNCH ON OWN

MEMORIAL SERVICE, Great Saint Louis Cathedral

2:00 p.m. Participants shuttled to Cathedral
3:00 p.m. Ecumenical Memorial Service
Appreciation from the people of Belgium, 110 member symphonic band
4:15 p.m. Participants shuttled back to various hotels
5:00 p.m. DINNER ON OWN
8:00 p.m. Concert by the Great Symphonic Band of the Belgian Guides in the Grand Ballroom, Regal Riverfront Hotel
9:00 p.m. Film *Battle of the Bulge, Brave Rifles*, most honored WWII documentary. The producer and director will be present and introduced.

• SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17 •

CITY BUS TOUR, Destination St. Louis

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. "Gateway to St. Louis Tour," with a Union Station stop for lunch 12:00-1:30 p.m. for those who wish

RECEPTION AND BANQUET, Grand Ballroom, Regal Riverfront Hotel

6:30 p.m. Cocktail reception
7:00 p.m. 50th ANNIVERSARY BANQUET
Secretary of Defense, The Honorable William Perry, invited Guest of Honor Speaker. Music and entertainment will be provided by the soldiers' Chorus of the United States Army Field Band, presenting a production featuring scenes and musical numbers from WWII. The Ambassadors of Belgium and Luxembourg will be invited as special guests for this once-in-a-lifetime observance. Each person at the banquet will be given a 22K gold imprint souvenir wine glass with the 50th Anniversary logo and Belgium-Luxembourg, December 16, 1944, and St. Louis, Missouri, 1994.

• SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 •

SERVICES FOR ALL, Regal Riverfront Hotel

10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Rooms to be announced for Catholic, Jewish, and Protestant services.

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

COMMEMORATION
REGISTRATION FORM



Name _____

Address: _____

Wife/Guest Name: _____

Division: _____ Regiment: _____

Unit or Company: _____

Signature: _____

	Number of Persons	Cost per Person	Total	Additional Banquet Tickets*
Registration	_____	\$45.00	_____	
Saturday, City Bus Tour	_____	\$14.00	_____	
Saturday, 50th Anniversary Banquet	_____	\$38.00	_____	_____*

*Insert the number of additional tickets you would like for the banquet. If additional tickets become available you will be notified.

Registrations must be postmarked by October 1st. Mail Registration Form and check to:

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

For more information phone (703) 528-4058 or
Wm. Tayman (703) 620-9080.

To assure there will be adequate table seating for all BoB veterans and their spouses who wish to attend the 50th Anniversary Banquet, there will be a limit of two banquet tickets until after the October 1st cut-off date. Veterans who requested additional banquet tickets will be contacted on a first-come basis. All registration requests will be numbered in the order they are received. Additional tickets will go to those veterans who sent in their registration first. Do not send in payment for additional tickets until notified.

When making your hotel reservations...

**Please identify yourself as a BATTLE OF THE BULGE
50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION Attendee to receive the hotel
rates listed on the following page**

AIR TRANSPORTATION

The Lambert St. Louis International Airport is served by nine major airlines with hundreds of flights daily:

**AMERICAN, AMERICAN WEST, CONTINENTAL, DELTA,
NORTHWEST, SOUTHWEST, TRANS WORLD AIRLINES and
TRANS WORLD EXPRESS, UNITED and U.S. AIR**

Lambert Airport serves as a hub for TWA Airlines, and with TransWorld Express serves over 95 cities daily. For reservations call 1-800-221-2000.

SPECIAL AIR FARES

The best fares for the 50th Anniversary Commemoration is by far the Senior Citizen Discount for all participants. Each person 62 years or older receives a 10 percent discount off the lowest available fare. That person may bring a traveling companion on the same flights for the same fare regardless of the companion's age.

Important: All participants should book early for the 50th Anniversary Commemoration to get the lowest possible fare.

AIRPORT GROUND TRANSPORTATION

Lambert Airport is only 13 miles from the "four hotel area" in downtown St. Louis and no more than a 20-minute drive by car or taxi. Taxi fare is approximately \$15.50 one way or by Airport Express Shuttle the fare is \$9.00 one way from airport to any downtown hotel and \$16.00 round trip. Airport Express picks up at Airport Exit 13, on the baggage claim level. Hotel will call Airport Express Shuttle for return trip to airport. At this time, the new Metro-Link Lite Rail System is scheduled to begin service in July with the fare being \$1.00 each way from Lambert International Airport to the downtown hotel area.

GENERAL TRANSPORTATION

There are four Interstate Highways that converge on the downtown area of St. Louis: I-44, I-55, I-64, and I-70. AMTRAK serves St. Louis from the North, South, East and West, and there is one international bus line with a terminal adjacent to the Convention Plaza in downtown St. Louis.

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

HOTEL REGISTRATION FORM

Selected Hotel _____

Name _____

Address: _____

Sharing room with: _____

Phone: () _____ Arrival: _____ Departure: _____

Special Requests: Prefer Non-Smoking _____ Other _____

Division: _____ Regiment: _____

Unit or Company: _____

To guarantee your reservation, the hotels require first night's deposit or credit card guarantee. **DO NOT SEND CASH.** Make check or money order payable to the hotel you have selected. The 50th Anniversary hotels are listed on the preceding page along with their 800 numbers for phone reservations.

Send your check and hotel registration form to the hotel of your choice--addresses appear on hotel information sheet.

Major credit cards are acceptable to guarantee your room.

_____ American Express _____ Visa/Mastercard _____ Diners Club _____ Discover

Card number _____ Expiration date: _____

Signature: _____

Answer to an earlier asked question: The registration fee includes Opening Reception Buffet Dinner, an evening of dancing and listening to the old 40's favorites played by a Glenn Miller-type band, bus transportation from the Plaque Dedication Service to hotels, and bus transportation to the Great Saint Louis Cathedral and return. Each BoB veteran attending the Commemoration will receive a copy of the "VBOB 50th Anniversary Souvenir Program Book." These books will be mailed at a later date in order to include pictures and write-ups from the 50th Anniversary.

**OFFICIAL
HOTEL
INFORMATION**

REGAL RIVERFRONT HOTEL*

200 South Fourth Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63102



Located across the street from the Gateway Arch

Rate: \$59.00 per night

Reservations: 314-241-9500 or 800-325-7353



ADAM'S MARK HOTEL

Fourth and Chestnut
St. Louis, Missouri 63102

Located across the street from Gateway Arch

Rate: \$75 per night

Reservations: 314-241-7400 or 800-444-ADAM

HOLIDAY INN DOWNTOWN/RIVERFRONT

200 North Fourth Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63102



Located across the street from the Gateway Arch

Rate: \$61 per night

Reservations: 314-621-8200 or 800-925-1395



MARRIOTT PAVILION DOWNTOWN

One Broadway
St. Louis, Missouri 63102

Located two blocks from Gateway Arch

Rate: \$54 per night

Reservations: 314-421-1776 or 800-228-9290

To guarantee that you receive the discounted rates listed above, be sure to make your hotel reservation by November 1. The hotel room rates are for either single or double occupancy. These room rates are for December 15-18, 1994. All hotels have agreed to extend these rates three days prior and three days after the event. All parking will have a 50% discount for Commemoration participants at Regal, Holiday Inn and Marriott Hotels. The room rates do not include state and city taxes which currently total 13.85%.

*Headquarters Hotel for the BOB 50th Anniversary Commemoration.

REUNIONS

1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, August 17-21, 1994, Kansas City. Contact: Society of the First Division, 5 Montgomery Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19118.

17TH AIRBORNE DIVISION, September 4-7, 1994, Pinehurst, North Carolina. Contact: Edward J. Siergiej, 62 Forty Acre Mt. Road, Danbury, CT 06811. Telephone: 203-748-3958.

32ND TROOP CARRIER SQUADRON--WWII-ETO, October 5-9, 1994, Williamsburg, Virginia. Contact: Bob Shawn, 12707 Garberry Court, Herndon, Virginia 22070. Telephone: 703-435-3142

35TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 216 FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, September 23-25, 1994, Holiday Inn I-75, Cartersville, Georgia. Contact: Ralph Herndon, 8063 Crown Way, Jonesboro, Georgia 30236. Telephone: 404-473-4015.

36TH INFANTRY DIVISION, September 6-19, 1994, San Antonio, Texas. Contact: Leonard Wilkerson, P.O. Box 2049, Malakoff, Texas 75148.

60TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, 35TH INFANTRY DIVISION, October 13-16, 1994, Days-Inn Historical Area, Charleston, South Carolina. Contact: Dick Strachan, 1422 Brentwood Drive, Columbia, South Carolina 29206. Telephone: 803-787-2358.

87TH INFANTRY DIVISION, September 25-October 2, 1994, Galt House, Louisville, Kentucky. Contact: Louis Gueltzow, 9906 Stonehenge Way, Louisville, Kentucky 40241.

159TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, September 11-14, Holiday Inn, Hampton Coliseum and Conference Center, Hampton, Virginia. Contact: R. W. Ruch, 709 North 7th Street, Pottsville, Pennsylvania 17901. Telephone: 717-622-2942.

275TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, October 20-22, 1994, Quality Inn South, 6710 Ringgold Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37412. Contact: DeLloyd Cooper, 19-31st Street East, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35405-2239. Telephone: 205-752-3311.

277TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, October 14-16, 1994, Somerset Lodge Motel, High 27 South, Somerset, Kentucky 42501. Contact: James T. Holioway, 306 Murphy Avenue, Ferguson, Kentucky 42533. Telephone: 606-678-8897.

291ST ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, September 18-21, 1994, Hotel Thayer, West Point, New York. Contact: Robert Germano, 10 Cream Street, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. Telephone: 941-454-9469.

405TH AAA GUN BATTALION (WWII), October 15, 1994. Contact: Warren E. Dillard, 2033-10th Street, N.W., Roanoke, Virginia 24012. Telephone: 703-366-3576.

460TH AAA AW BATTALION, September 8-11, 1994, Columbus, Ohio. Contact: John H. Reichenbach, 570 Satinwood Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43229. Telephone: 614-885-4067.

526TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, September 14-18, 1994, San Antonio, Texas. Contact: John Wallis, 704 East Alabama, Pearsall, Texas 78061. Telephone: 210-334-2091.

750TH TANK BATTALION, COMPANY D, October 13-15, 1994, Holiday Inn Downtown, Williamsburg, Virginia. Contact: Ed Garber, 3419 Burrel Drive, Louisville, Kentucky 40216. Telephone: 502-449-1802.

788TH AAA AUTOMATIC WEAPONS BATTALION (WWII), Summer, 1995. Contact: Cecil D. Gilliam, 2503 Earlcove Drive, Dallas, Texas 75227. Telephone: 214-285-0488.

1056TH ENGINEER PC&R GROUP, November 3-4 (tentative), Asheville,

1252ND COMBAT ENGINEER BATTALION, September 14-18, 1994, Red Lion Motel, 510 Kelso Drive, Kelso, Washington 98626. Contact: Vic A. Magstadt, 4400 Ocean Beach, Highway #68, Longview, Washington 98632. Telephone: 206-425-3396.

3524TH ARMY ORDNANCE MEDIUM AUTOMOTIVE MAINTENANCE COMPANY, September, 1994. Contact: Richard Gazella, 2294 Bridle Creek Street, S.E., Kentwood, Michigan 49508-0958.

SHAEF and HQ, ETOUSA VETERANS ASSOCIATION, October 7-10, 1994, Holiday Inn on the Bay. Contact: Alan F. Reeves, 2301 Broadway, San Francisco, California 94115. Telephone: 415-921-8322.

WHY THE NOTCH?

Bill Parsons, 78TH INFANTRY DIVISION'S "The Flash" editor, recently ran an survey to discover why the notch appeared on the WWII dog tag. He received many, many responses--some of which we are sure you have already heard.



BENJAMIN KINNEY, 78TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 311 INFANTRY, COMPANY E, came up with the correct answer and here it is:

"...a nurse told me that the dog tag had remained with body was placed between the teeth for ID when they went for Post Mortim examination. I never saw this happen so I can't vouch for that reason.

"This reason I can vouch for. I served with the 9th Infantry Division at Fort Dix, New Jersey, in the regular Army. I was a SFC serving as the Chief of the Specialist Asgd. Section. I gave the people in the Address-O-Graph Section a hand from time to time cutting dog tags.

"The dog tag was placed with the notch to the right and the hole fit over a pin on the left side. This was on a die table. The notch kept the tag from moving, as well as the pin in the hole while the tag was being typed. The notch always to the right. This made all tags with the face side of the tag up, thus making every tag the same in all services."



"Still holding that grudge eh, Robdog!"

Check the mailing label on the BULGE BUGLE to see if YOUR DUES ARE DUE!



"Major Wilson! Back in uniform, I see"

WHAT HAPPENED IN HOSINGEN, LUXEMBOURG?

[The following was sent in by William O. Freeman, who now lives Urbana, Illinois.]

Of all of the articles I have read, none have mentioned the men who were in Hosingen, Luxembourg, and what happened to them.

There were 14 men in one house and seven in the one next to us. We were the 2nd Platoon of the 110th Infantry Anti-Tank Company of the 28th Division. There were some fellows from K Company on the other end of town. We ran daily patrols toward the Our River and reported the build ups of the Germans on the other side of the river. We were told to keep an eye on them and report in.

On the morning of December 16, the top floor of our building was hit by a shell and we were all on the lower floor and in the basement. It was not long until the Germans started coming by. We never fired on groups larger than twelve but made those count. We did stop some of their movements of small artillery pieces that were being pulled by horses.

On the 18th of December, we took stock of our ammunition and found we had eight rounds for 14 people. The Germans were coming down the street with tanks firing into the homes and then setting them on fire. We had a couple of people with wounds so we broke the same piece on our weapons and poured kerosene on all the food and then put on all the clothes and stuff that we could before we were captured. Some of us were taken to their aid station and then walked three days to get to a place where they put us in box cars and we ended up at Stalag IV-B after being bombed off of the railroad track. We were loaded in box cars again in January and moved to Stalag VIII-A at Gorlitz. On 14 February, 1945, we started walking

and ended up at Horsengen, Germany, where we were freed by some fellows from the 2nd Armored Division. After staying in barns, military posts, brick yards, etc., we were probably the most lice infested group you will ever see as well as being hungry.

The black driver of the truck which picked us up had C rations, beans and franks, wired to his truck manifold. They were good and hot and the best thing I ever ate. After a plane trip to Lucky Strike and a boat trip on the George Washington, we made it back home in May.

VBOB CERTIFICATE in PROCESS

The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Association is producing a handsome certificate of service that will attest to your participation in the Battle of the Bulge. The certificate will be available later in the year for ordering. This beautiful certificate will have the flags of the United States, Belgium and Luxembourg and the emblem of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Association high lighted in the top center. The sides of the 12' by 17' certificate will be outlined by the full color insignias of the major Army units that fought in the Battle of the Bulge starting with the 12th Army Group followed numerically with Armies, Corps and Divisions and the two major Army Air Forces. The center of the certificate will have the following statement with your name and unit calligraphied within the text.

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

Know ye, by all men, that

[Your Name will be calligraphed here]

[Your Unit will be calligraphed here]

participated, endured and survived the greatest land battle,

The Battle of the Bulge,

ever fought and won by the United States Army

16 December 1944 - 25 January 1945

On either side of the text there will be two scenes that will wash out into the background. One scene will be of a column of troops advancing through a snow laden forest path. The other scene will be of an armored infantry column. A gold seal will be applied to the finished certificate which will have the VBOB Corporate seal embossed in it.

The units were researched in the official General Order No. 114 for Units Entitled to the ARDENNES Battle Credit and will be the same unit insignias used in the VBOB Memorial Conference Table at Fort Meade MD. All units (approximately 2000) would have been attached to or reported through one of the unit insignia depicted.

This attractive certificate, which can be passed on to your children or grandchildren, will be produced in full color on parchment like stock, suitable for framing. Though final cost figures have not been established it is expected that the certificates will cost about \$15.00 postpaid and will be shipped rolled in mailing tubes to protect them. If sufficient interest exists for framing this can be looked into.

Final details and an order form will be available in the next Bulge Bugle. Samples will be on display at the 50th Anniversary Commemoration at St. Louis, MO in December 1994. Those interested in advanced notification before the next Bugle may send a stamped self addressed #10 envelope to our National Office, marked Certificate. Final information and an order form will be provided as soon as the certificates are available in a few months.

SLATE OF NOMINEES FOR 1994-95 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND TRUSTEES

PRESIDENT:

EMERY B. ANTONUCCI

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

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

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

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

PRESIDENT:

GROVER C. TWINER

Grover was born, raised and educated in Mississippi. In 1940 was called to active duty with the Mississippi National Guard. In 1942 attended OCS at Fort Benning, Georgia. In 1943 he was transferred to the 117th Infantry, 30th Infantry Division and remained therewith to England on to Normandy into Germany to the Elbe River when hostilities ceased. Served in rifle companies and battalion level.

The division participated in the Battle of the Ardennes from December 17, 1944 until the campaign's end. Returned to the States with the unit and separated from service in January, 1946. During his duty tour in Europe, he received the CIB, DUB with cluster, Bronze Star with two clusters, unit citations from both Belgian and French Governments.

After separation, Grover continued his education receiving a B.S. in accounting. In 1947 became employed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and remained there until retiring in 1972. Afterwards, worked as police planner and sold real estate until fully retiring in 1986.

Presently married, the father of four children and grandfather of eight.

He has been president of the Maryland/District of Columbia Chapter, National Vice President for Membership and currently Vice President for Chapters and Regions. He holds life memberships in both national and chapter.

During this last year as VBOB Chapter Vice President, eight new chapters have been chartered and eight other areas are in various stages of development.

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT:

STAN WOJTUSIK

Stan proudly states that he had the privilege and honor of serving with the 106th Infantry Division in the Battle of the Bulge with the 422nd Regiment. His war-time achievement shows a Purple Heart, two Bronze Stars, a POW medal, a Presidential Citation and others.

He is currently the President of the Delaware Valley

Chapter encompassing the areas of Philadelphia, South Jersey and the State of Delaware. His chapter has the largest membership in the national organization.

Stan attended Temple University and Villanova University and was employed by the Keystone Auto Club as a Traffic Consultant.

Stan is currently leading the way to erect your monument at Valley Forge Military Academy in Wayne, Pennsylvania. He asks that you attend this dedication on November 11, 1994. His fund drive raised over \$100,000 dollars for this Battle of the Bulge monument. The ground-breaking ceremony at VFMA brought together high officers from Belgium and Luxembourg.

Stan also served as National Vice President of Chapter Coordination in 1993.

VICE PRESIDENT, MEMBERSHIP:

LESTER M. BORNSTEIN

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

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

At the outbreak of the Korean War he was sent to the Far East, where he opened a station hospital in Sasebo, Japan, in 1950, serving as its adjutant for three years. He resigned his Army Commission in 1953 to attend Yale University where he obtained a Masters in Hospital Administration. Retired from active reserve in 1969.

Les has served as National Vice President for Membership during 1993-94.

VICE PRESIDENT, MEMBERSHIP:

GEORGE C. LINTHICUM

George entered the army in January, 1943, and took tank destroyer basic training at Fort Hood, Texas. He was transferred to the 27th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, 26th Yankee Division, for the duration of the war.

Combat service with the 3rd Army, with the following medals, ETO with 4 battle stars (Northern France, Ardennes, Rhine, and Central Europe), Bronze Star, American Theater, Good Conduct, German Occupation and Victory Medal.

Veterans activities since discharge include: Commander, Department of the East and National Sergeant-at-Arms, Yankee Division Veterans Association; National Executive Committee YDVA; Commander, Philadelphia Chapter YDVA;

Ben Franklin Post, American Legion Post, 48 years; Springfield Post #5705, Veterans of Foreign Wars; 328th Combat Team Association.

Civic participation includes: Treasurer, Trinity Church, Collingdale, 25 years; Member, Illuminating Engineering Society, 40 years; President, Philadelphia Electric Company Employees' Association.

Retired from Philadelphia Electric Company after 40 years of service. George and Betty have been married for 45 years and have three children--two in education and one is an engineer.

VBOB activities include: National Corresponding Secretary, Life Member of the Delaware Valley Chapter, and Chairman of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Memorial Monument Project, Valley Forge Military Academy. George is a life member of VBOB.

VICE PRESIDENT, CHAPTER COORDINATION: TO BE NAMED

VICE PRESIDENT, MILITARY AFFAIRS:

ELTURINO L. LOIACONO

A native of Washington, D.C., "Lucky" served with the 10th Armored Division, 54th Armored Infantry Battalion, Company B. He was wounded when his company was attacked by a German tank infantry unit while defending the City of Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge. He received the following decorations: Bronze Star Medal with Cluster, Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, Distinguished Unit Citation, EAME Ribbon with two Battle Stars for Rhineland and Ardennes-Alsace Campaigns, Good Conduct Ribbon.

Lucky is married to Constance DiTrapani and has five children--three daughters and two sons--with eight grandchildren. He retired from the Central Intelligence Agency and is past State of Maryland Commander, Military Order of the Purple Heart. He also served as Past President of the 10th Armored Division Association and is currently its newsletter editor.

TREASURER:

GEORGE N. KARAMBELAS

George served in the Battle of the Bulge with the 84th Infantry Division, 333rd Regiment, Company A.

George is a retired Certified Public Accountant.

He has been active in VBOB activities for about ten years, having held various appointed positions and, at present, is a one-year trustee. He has been a life member of VBOB since 1984.

If elected, he pledges to attend all meetings, carry out all assigned duties and do his best to promote the goals of VBOB.

TREASURER:

PETER F. LESLIE, JR.

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

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

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

Peter is a VBOB Life Member and is currently serves as VBOB Treasurer and serves as a Director of the Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation. He also formed the VBOB Arizona Chapter in 1993. As Treasurer of VBOB for the past two years he has been instrumental in hastening the completion of VBOB's new data base into a format easy to administer and supervise. He has the necessary computer equipment and knowledge of computers to see that his goals are achieved.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:

DOROTHY S. DAVIS

Dorothy is a life member of VBOB and has held a number of positions in that organization including Recording Secretary (1984-1988); member of the Reunion Planning Committees; Assistant for the Battle of the Bulge Gallery; is present National Corresponding Secretary and Health Affairs Officer; etc.

She served from February, 1944, to February, 1946 in the Army Nurse Corps, with the 57th Field Hospital in the ETO, providing medical support to the casualties of the Central Europe Campaign, Battle of the Bulge, Colmar Pocket, Rhineland Campaign and prisoner of war camps. The hospital received the Meritorious Unit Citation for its support of combat wounded during the period of the Battle of the Bulge.

She is a graduate of the School of Nursing, University of Minnesota, and holds a degree in Business Management, University of Maryland.

Dorothy has served for five years as President of the Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation and is currently the Executive Officer providing administrative assistance in collecting and preserving the history of the Battle of the Bulge and the Development of the Battle of the Bulge Memorial Conference Room, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland. She has held a number of American Red Cross volunteer leadership positions and presently serves as the National Volunteer Consultant for Military and Social Services, American Red Cross.

RECORDING SECRETARY:

BEVERLEY VANHOUTEN

Beverley has been a member of VBOB since 1982 and is an Associate Life Member. She has held the position of Corresponding Secretary (1988-1992) and Recording Secretary (1993-1994). She has worked for the organization in many capacities and has traveled with her husband to visit and help found new chapters.

TRUSTEE:

GEORGE W. DOYLE

George served with the 3rd U.S. Army, 471st Ordnance Evacuation, 66 Ordnance Battalion, from Normandy until the end of the war.

He is currently with the North Carolina Natural Gas Corporation.

He has been an active member of VBOB: Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation and Member, National Board of Trustees.

TRUSTEE:

H. DEAN FRAVEL

Dean was in the 81st Field Artillery, attached to the 8th and 12th Corps, assigned to the First, Third and Ninth Armies.

He is a graduate of Michigan State University, BSCE; Texas A&M (ASTP); and Yale University Graduate School, Bureau of Highway Traffic.

In 1953 he received a citation for his work with the Hoover Commission on Reorganization of the Executive Branch of the Federal Government.

Civilian employment: U.S. Department of Transportation (Foreign Operations) on technical assistance to developing countries, with assignments in Africa, the Far East, and South America. He was detailed to work with the National Emergency Planning Commission during the mid-1950's and prepared for the Civil Defense Administration a study on Highway Needs for Civil Defense, as well as designing the evacuation sign used to designate emergency routes.

Dean is the co-founder of the Northern Virginia Chapter of VBOB and has been its president for three years.

He is now retired, married and has two married sons.

TRUSTEE:

ROBERT F. PHILLIPS

Bob had his U.S. Army Basic Training, Tech School, etc., from 1943-44; served with the 28th Division, 110th Infantry in the U.S. and Europe (1944-45); 24th Division, 21st Infantry in Korea (1950-51); and 10th Division, 87th Infantry in the U.S. (1951-53). He worked for the U.S. Government as follows: Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Public Health Personnel Specialist (1956-58); Department of the Army, Office Chief of Military History, Historian (1958-59); Joints Chiefs of Staff, Historical Division, Historian (1959-61); U.S. Army Ordnance Department, Historian (1961-63); Department of the Air Force, Office of Aerospace Research, Chief, History Division (1963-70); HQ 17th Air Force (Ramstein & Sembach Air Bases, Germany), Chief Historian (1970-76); and HQ Air Force Systems Command, History Office, Andrews AFB, Washington, DC, Senior Historian and Deputy Chief (1976-86).

Bob has written many papers, articles and books. Among them are: *To Save Bastogne*; *British Policy in the Baltic 1919*; *The Churchill Research Range: A History of Its Acquisition and Management by the Air Force*; *Administrative History of the European Office of Aerospace Research and Development*, and many more.

Associated with the following organizations: DAV, U.S. Commission on Military History; 28th Division Heritage Association, Society for Military History, Anciens Combat-

ants Francais (Association of French War Veterans), Association of the U.S. Army, Association Rhin et Danube (French First Army Veterans), Society for History in the Federal Government and VBOB.

Bob has served on *The Bulge Bugle* staff and has advised VBOB on historical matters.

TRUSTEE:

EVA M. POPOVICH

Recruited by OSS while still in university and was sent to London as a secretary. When WWII was winding down, went to Paris and then Wiesbaden, Germany, as Administrative Officer and R&A reports officer. Served in Heidelberg, Berlin, Frankfurt, and back to Heidelberg, when G-2 moved to Heidelberg. After home leave was assigned to Vienna, Berchtesgaden and Salzburg in various capacities. Assigned to New Delhi, returning to CIA after 2-1/2 years.

Upon retirement, worked as a travel consultant and also helped to get accreditation for a new travel agency. About six years later, worked for VBOB. Was also Recording Secretary for both VBOB and the VBOB Historical Foundation. Was also on the Gallery Board of Directors. Life membership in: VOSS, CIRA, AFIO, and VBOB.

TRUSTEE:

SAM SILVERMAN

Sam served with the 10th Armored Division, 11th Tank Division, 11th Horse Cavalry.

He is a long-time member of VBOB and committed to the best interests of the organization.

RECOMMENDED SLATE FOR 1995 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

At its meeting June 8, 1994, the VBOB Nominating Committee, consisting of VBOB Vice Presidents, met for the purpose of reviewing the applications for VBOB Executive Council for the year 1995.

After review of the applications, the majority (vote of 3 to 1) of the Nominating Committee recommended election of the following members to hold office:

President: Grover C. Twiner

Executive Vice President: Stanley Wojtusik

Vice President, Membership: George C. Linthicum

Vice President, Chapter Coordination: To be named

Vice President, Military Affairs: E. L. Loiacono

Treasurer: Peter F. Leslie, Jr.
George Karambelas

Recording Secretary: Beverley Van Houten

Corresponding Secretary: Dorothy Davis

Trustees:

Robert F. Phillips
Eva M. Popovich
Dean Fravel

OFFICIAL BALLOT
1994-95 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND TRUSTEES

This ballot is for your use in voting for the 1994-95 Executive Council and three Trustees who will each serve a three-year term.

PRESIDENT: (Vote for one)

- ☐ Emery B. Antonucci
☐ Grover C. Twiner

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT:

- ☐ Stanley Wojtusik

VICE PRESIDENT, MEMBERSHIP:
(Vote for one)

- ☐ Lester M. Bornstein
☐ George C. Linthicum

**VICE PRESIDENT, CHAPTER
COORDINATION:**

- ☐ To be nominated

VICE PRESIDENT, MILITARY AFFAIRS:

- ☐ Elturino L. Loiacono

TREASURER: (Vote for one)

- ☐ George N. Karambelas
☐ Peter F. Leslie, Jr.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:

- ☐ Dorothy S. Davis

RECORDING SECRETARY:

- ☐ Beverley VanHouten

TRUSTEES: (Vote for three)

- ☐ George W. Doyle
☐ H. Dean Fravel
☐ Robert F. Phillips
☐ Eva M. Popovich
☐ Sam Silverman

(Member's Signature)

(Member's Name--printed)

(Membership Number--if available)

INSTRUCTIONS

Place an "X" by the name of the person for whom you wish to cast a vote. Any other mark will cause your ballot to be rejected.

Notice the number of votes you are to cast in certain instances. If, in any instance, you mark more than the specified number, your entire ballot will be void.

To cast a ballot, you must be a member-in-good-standing. Any ballot submitted by a member whose dues are delinquent will be void.

**Your ballot must be received prior to:
September 15, 1994.**

-----Fold here-----

-----Fold here-----

Return address:

Member # (if known) _____

(Stamp here)

VBOB
PO Box 11129
Arlington, VA 22203

OFFICIAL BALLOT

(Staple here)

MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

EDWARD W. WROBLEWSKI, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, 502ND REGIMENT, would like to know if someone can tell him where he could find some 50 caliber cartridges (dummies, of course). His address is: N3102 State Road 40, Bruce, Wisconsin 54819.

STAN C. BELLENS, JR., would like to know if anyone remembers **LeROY PATE**, 75TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 291ST INFANTRY, COMPANY F, who was at the Horion-Hozemont-Castle of Lexhy, Belgium. Write to Stan at: 209, Rue de la Resistance, B4350, Remicourt, Belgium.

Frank E. Pasternak would like to hear from anyone who remembers his uncle, **CHESTER J. PASTERNAK**, 79TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 314 INFANTRY, 2ND BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS COMPANY. Write to Frank at: 1196 Grattan Street, Chicopee, Massachusetts 01013.

Albert D. Powell would like to have information on the following soldiers--SGT. **HILLHOUSE** (Texas) and CPL. **PASLEY** (Washington State), 2ND CAVALARY. Write to Albert at: Rte 2, Box 128B, Danville, Illinois 61832.

The 17TH AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION is conducting a membership drive to locate all former members, including Gold Star mothers and family members of those who were killed in action. Contact: Edward J. Siergiej, 62 Forty Acre Mt. Road, Danbury, Connecticut 06811.

TOM LEAMON, 75TH INFANTRY DIVISION (WEAPONS A-289), has been trying to reconstruct an accurate account of the first days of our 1ST BATTALION in combat, particularly in and around the Ardennes hamlet of Sadzot. In that action his unit was supported by 28TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 112 INFANTRY, 2ND BATTALION. He would like to hear from members of that group who were involved in the 25-28 December, 1994 action and access to a history of the 112th Infantry if possible. Write to Tom at: P.O. Box 58, Whately, Massachusetts 01093.

RICHARD GAZELLA, 3524TH ARMY ORDNANCE MEDIUM AUTOMOTIVE MAINTENANCE COMPANY, wants to find more men from his unit for their September reunion. Know of anyone? Write to him at: 2294 Bridle Creek St., S.E., Kentwood, Michigan 49508-0958.

George McGee Gardner, III, would like to hear from any member who remembers his father, **GEORGE EPHRIAM McGEE, JR.**, 4TH DIVISION. Sgt. McGee was killed 3 February, 1945, in the vicinity of Schlausenbach, Germany, and died as a result of multiple shrapnel wounds. Write to George at: Route 1, Box 242, Washington, Virginia 22747.

Susan J. Marko is trying to find someone who may have known her uncle **TOPHILE "TUFFY" NIERODA**. It appears that he served with 2ND CHEMICAL MORTAR BATTALION, COMPANY C. He was good friends with **FRANK O'HARA**. If you can help, write to Susan at: 650 Wells Road, Cheshire, Massachusetts 01225.

Anyone who was in 2ND INFANTRY DIVISION, 38TH INFANTRY, COMPANY K, who is not a member of that organization, please write to Mrs. Coy W. Durham, 1407 West 12th Street, Texarkana, Texas 75501.

Harold W. Mann has written to see if anyone can answer the following: "Our 1255TH [COMBAT ENGINEERS] was splintered once we got to Luxembourg, COMPANY C was detached, most of its officers and servicemen becoming a FIRST ARMY map company, though eventually returning to us in Germany. At Vianden there was a DOUBLE "B" COMPANY in reserves. We've never had any contact with that outfit before or since. Do you have an historian who knows where it came from or went back to?" Can anyone help him? Write to: Harold W. Mann, Route 7, 5014 Hollow Rock Road, Durham, North Carolina 27707.

EDWARD A. HILTON, 90TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 357TH INFANTRY, COMPANY C, wants to find: the soldier who left his tank and helped him in the cellar of a building in Donceel, January 11, 1945; the medic who dressed his wounds; and the doctor and nurses at Barley Duke Hospital. Write to Ed at: P.O. Box 265, Altmar, New York 13302-0265.

Tony Pickernell is documenting events concerning American GI's stationed at Tidworth Barracks, England, during WWII and would like to hear from ex-GI's stationed there during 1942-45. Write to Tony at: The Garrison Theatre, Lons Road, Tidworth, Hants SP9 3BN, England.

Marilyn Jensen would very much like to find someone who knew her father, **REX M. BOYERS**, 35TH DIVISION, COMPANY C, assigned to 6TH ARMORED DIVISION. Rex was killed in action in the liberation of the Village of Wieswampach, Luxembourg, on January 8, 1945. He is buried in the U.S. Military Cemetery, Grand Faillly, France. If you can provide her with any information regarding her father or the path his unit took, please write her at: 601 Oneida Street, Denver, Colorado 80220.

FRANK McCLELLAND, 28TH INFANTRY DIVISION, MILITARY POLICE COMBAT PLATOON, writes to tell us about the various memorial activities taking place in Belgium and Luxembourg. June: Memorial to 26th and 28th Divisions and the 6th Cavalry Group in Wiltz, Luxembourg. September: Plaque honoring the late Jean Schweig in the Castle of Wiltz. December: Private **RICHARD BROOKINS**, 28TH SIGNAL COMPANY, will reportray his role giving cookies and candy to the children of Wiltz as he did 50 years ago. For more information call Frank: 412-466-2455.

Robert W. Davis would like information regarding the death of SGT. **WILLIAM ANTONIAK**, 702ND TANK DESTROYER BATTALION, who was killed in the Bulge on or about January 8, 1945. Write to Robert at: R.D. 5, Box 109, Bedford, Pennsylvania 15222.

CHARLES E. WILSON, FOURTH ARMORED DIVISION, announces the availability of his book *From Bastogne to Bavaria with the Fighting Fourth Armored Division--Scenes from War and Holocaust*. Hardcover: \$41.95 and softcover \$30.95 (shipping included)--check or money order. Write to Charles at: 37 Cass, South Haven, Michigan 49090 or telephone 1-616-637-6358.

EDDY J. WYDRA, 465TH MEDICAL COLLECTING COMPANY, has written the words and music for a song entitled *The V-BOB*. Space limitations will not enable us to reproduce the song in the newsletter; however, if you would like a copy, please write and we'll mail you one. Thanks so much, Eddy.

HAROLD S. SMITH, 1ST DIVISION, 16TH INFANTRY, M COMPANY, would like to contact anyone who served with him. Write to Harold: 1203 Grand Blvd., Greenwood, Mississippi 38930.

Nadine Koch is trying to locate **CARL A. JONES**, who may have been in the 291ST ENGINEERS COMBAT BATTALION. He was either in, or went through, Sourbrodt, Belgium (near Malmédy). As 291st Engineers were in her father's house, she assumes this was his unit. She has found a medallion with his name engraved thereon and an eagle with a rosette in relief. If you can help her, write her at: Avenue des Coteaux, 33; 4030 Liege (Grivegnée); Belgium.

HAROLD SHELBY SMITH, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, 16TH INFANTRY, M COMPANY, would like to hear from anyone from his old group. Write to him: Harold S. Smith, 1203 Grand Blvd., Greenwood, Mississippi 38930.

JEAN C. "CANDY" RIST, 2ND EVACUATION HOSPITAL, would like to hear from any other 2nd Evac survivors. (Formerly: 1st Lt. G. J. Canders, ANC). Write to her at: P.O. Box 1387, Dundee, Florida 33838.

Wilmart Georges, of Belgium, was 12 years old when he met **ROGER LILY**, 297TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION. He would like to find Roger and receive information regarding the 297th. Write to him at: Rue Surroyseux, 3; Vierset-Barse 4577; Belgium.

New book by Charles Whiting, entitled *The Last Assault: The Battle of the Bulge Reassessed*, is now available. Important questions have remained for half a century regarding the Battle of the Bulge, sometimes overshadowed by pride in the Allies' ultimate victory. *The Last Assault* deals with these questions. The book costs \$24.95. For more information contact: Janis Cakars 212-741-9538.

T. A. JOHNSON, 2ND INFANTRY DIVISION, 23RD INFANTRY, COMPANY L, would love to hear from those who served in the "Indian Head" division. Write to him at: Box 12, Chunky, Mississippi 39323.

(Continued on Page 20)

MEMBERS SPEAK OUT (Continued from Page 19)

LEE M. OTTS, 26TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 328TH INFANTRY, COMPANY G, recently sent us the "Battle of the Bulge" chapter of his book entitled *G Company's War*. If you are interested, please write to Lee c/o Otts, Moore & Jordan, 401 Evergreen Avenue, Brewton, Alabama 36427.

BOB BRAGDON is trying to locate **JOE QUIGLEY**, **CARL BARROW**, or any other members of 2ND ARMORED DIVISION, 66TH ARMORED, 1ST BATTALION, HQ COMPANY. Write to him at: 6030 North 16th Street, Arlington, Virginia 22205. Telephone: 703-533-7494.

RICHARD W. PETERSON, 106TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 423 INFANTRY, COMPANY I, writes that he recently had a book published. It is entitled *Healing the Child Warrior*. It investigates the long-term effects of combat and captivity on young soldiers. It begins with the disaster in the Ardennes, and the powerful feelings of abandonment, followed by the terrible loneliness of being a prisoner of war. The book is available for \$26.95 (p&h included). He also discovered a ten minute film of the first days of liberation at Stalag IXB. The film is available on video cassette for \$21.95 (p&h included). Both available from: Consultants, Inc., 1285 Rubenstein Avenue, Cardiff by the Sea, California 92007.

PHILIP S. BOYKIN, 99TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 395TH INFANTRY, 1ST BATTALION, is looking for some old buddies: **RICHARD A. WEAVER** and **BEN LEGARE**. Write: 109 Moss Avenue, Seaford, Virginia 23696.

MANUEL C. WHITE, 750TH TANK BATTALION, COMPANY A, would like to find someone from his group. Write to him: 762 White's Road, Gaffney, South Carolina 29340.

THOMAS C. HILL, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, 26TH INFANTRY, 3RD BATTALION, M COMPANY, 3RD PLATOON, lets us know that he heard from a lot of you as a result of the May issue announcement. He wonders if someone could help with a problem. Tom's wife lost her brother September 16, 1944, in Ouren, Germany. A lot of confusion concerned his death in the army reports. His name was **SGT. THOMAS E. FRETWELL, JR.**, and he served with the 629TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION. If you can help, write to Tom: 512 Lawndale Drive, Reidsville, North Carolina 27320.

Tom Langman would like to hear from any one who can provide him with information regarding his cousin's company's advancement into Germany in 1944. His cousin's name was **DONALD H. LANGMAN**, 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 8TH INFANTRY, 3RD BATTALION, COMPANY M. He was killed in the Battle of the Bulge. Write to Tom at: Route 2, Box 325A, Manawa, Wisconsin 54949.

CLIFFORD S. "POPS" BIRD, 32ND CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON, MECHANIZED, is still trying to locate men from his group which was nearly decimated in the December 22 (or 23) ambush in Poteau? Can you help? Write to Pops at: 4523 West 25th S., Paoli, Indiana 47454.

RUDOLPH E. MICHALKA, 92ND ORDNANCE MM COMPANY, would like to contact members of the HEADQUARTERS BATTERY, 440TH AAA BATTALION, who were at Gouvy, Belgium, 18 December, 1944. The commander, Lt. Col. Stone took over command of troops in Gouvy at that time. Contact Rudolph at: 620 Catalina Street, Waco, Texas 76712.

David L. Kaufman would like to obtain information regarding his father whom he believes was killed in the Battle of the Bulge on December 22, 1944. Following is the information David has been able to locate: His father **PERLEE MCKINLEY KAUFMAN, JR.** (known as Lee Kaufman), entered the service April 22, 1942, and was stationed at Fort Bragg. At one time he was in the Signal Corps. He was in the "10TH BATTALION, 4TH REGIMENT FIELD ARTILLERY." From Fort Bragg he was sent to Colorado before being shipped overseas sometime in October or November, 1944. Prior to going overseas, he was a physical instructor and middle weight boxing champion at Fort Bragg. David was one year old when his father was killed. Write to David at: 300 Saratoga N.W., Canton, Ohio 44708.

Connie L. Kurfman would like to hear from anyone who remembers her father, **ELMER LEROY PATE**, 75TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 291ST INFANTRY, COMPANY F. Write to Connie: 9405 Drum Hill Road, Mascoutah, Illinois 62258.

MICHAEL KLEMICK, 7TH ARMORED DIVISION, 87 RECONNAISSANCE SPECIAL SERVICES, would like to hear from **CAPT. McKELLER** and "the other guy" who took part with him in the surrender of 30 Kraut prisoners in Myil(?), Holland, in October or November, 1944. Contact Michael at: RD 2, Box 5885, Elysburg, Pennsylvania 17824.

Janet Guerrero would like to hear from someone who remembers her uncle **EDWARD GEORGE RANDAL**, 78TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 310 INFANTRY, 3RD BATTALION, COMPANY I. Contact her at: 6641 Mesa Grande, El Paso, Texas 79912.

TIMOTHY OCZYKOWSKI, 5TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 2ND INFANTRY, would like to hear from **LT. GLEASON** from the same group. If you know of his whereabouts, please contact Tim at: 57 Ramsay Street, Manchester, New Hampshire 03103-6428.

RUTH NANCE ELBRADER, 47TH FIELD HOSPITAL, would like to hear from anyone who served in a field hospital. Write to her at: 505 Oklahoma Street, Lawrence, Kansas 66046-4835.

EARLE W. ALEXANDER, 26TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 104TH INFANTRY, COMPANY A, has available a dozen wartime pen and ink prints. Write to Alex at: 4526 Dupont Avenue, North, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55412.

ATTENTION VBOB MEMBERS

Each day our dream of a monument honoring all who fought and won the Battle of the Bulge fifty years ago comes closer to reality.

Thanks to the hard work of VBOB President Bill Tayman (87 ID) Monument Chairman Stan Wojtusik (106 ID), and Fund Drive Chairman George Linthicum (26 ID). The Prime Minister of Luxembourg, the Hon. Jacques Santer, has announced a significant contribution from the Luxembourgish Government and people. It comes at the right time, as we plan to start building the monument at Valley Forge Military Academy & College so that we can have it completed by Veterans Day Weekend. Dedication will take place Saturday, November 12, 10:30 a.m. at the Valley Forge Military Academy.

Our wish is to have the monument paid for in time for the unveiling ceremonies. We hope to raise the three flags of Belgium, Luxembourg, and the United States together in a new victory.

To reach our goal we need each VBOB member to help out, just as you did fifty years ago.

This time we are asking for just five dollars (\$5) from each member. That will put us over the top. Please act now!!!

Send your contribution to:

**The Battle of The Bulge Memorial Fund
c/o George Linthicum
2605 Orchard Way
Broomall, PA 19008**

All but forgotten, remembered only by a few,
He has no regrets, for what he chose to do.
He's an old soldier now, who once, long ago,
Lived up to his vows, while others said NO.
Where did he go?
He's someone you know.
You saw him on TV. The Walter Cronkite Show.

**Submitted by Bob Cook, 3350th Signal Bn.
from the publication "MILITARY".**

BATTLE OF THE BULGE MONUMENT GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONIES

Representatives of Belgium and Luxembourg took part in an historic ground-breaking ceremony, April 17, 1994, for a monument honoring the memory of the World War II Battle of the Bulge (Battle of the Ardennes).

The monument is being sponsored by the National Members of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, and will be built at Valley Forge Military Academy & College (Wayne, Pennsylvania) near Valley Forge National Park.

It will be the first monument in the United States honoring not only the American troops who fought in the battle, but also the heroic people of Belgium and Luxembourg, who endured so much suffering and hardship during World War II.



Taking part in the ground-breaking are (left to right): William P. Tayman, VBOB National President (Reston, VA); Michael C. Petrick, Secretary-Delaware Valley Chapter VBOB and National Commander--87th Infantry Division Association (Bensalem, PA); Thomas Jones, Executive Vice President-Delaware Valley Chapter (Philadelphia, PA); M. Jean-Paul Munchen, Minister, Embassy of Luxembourg (Washington, DC); Brigadier General Andre DeSmet, Military Attache, Belgium (Washington, DC); and Stanley A. Wojusik, President--Delaware Valley Chapter (Philadelphia, PA).

This national monument, spearheaded by the Delaware Valley Chapter of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, is scheduled for completion in time for the 50th Anniversary of the battle in December of 1994.

Financial contributions to the monument may be made by sending a tax deductible check to: Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Monument Fund; c/o Mr. Wojtusik at: 9639 Wissinoming Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19114. All contributions go toward the monument--no fund raisers have or will be employed.

[Members of VBOB owe a deep gratitude to the Delaware Valley Chapter members for their efforts in our behalf to establish a monument in the United States to remember what was perhaps the most traumatic period of time in the lives of the members of VBOB.)

FOUND SOME LOST RECORDS

Approximately ten million medical treatment and hospitalization records have been found, according to information provided the National Archives by the Veterans Administration.

Covering the years 1942-45 and 1950-54, these records involve Army and Army Air Corps individuals and may include personnel from other service branches treated in army hospitals.

If you or someone you know has had a claim denied, please check further with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs regarding the possibility of reopening the VA claim. The claim will be handled more promptly if a copy of the last DD Form 214 is included with your correspondence. Write to: National Personnel Records Center, NPPRC/NCPMF-C, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, Missouri 63132.

BURIAL IN "CLOSED" MILITARY CEMETERIES

A "closed" military cemetery can accommodate the burial of the spouse of someone already buried there. "Closed" only means lack of space prevents the cemetery from accepting full casketed burials of those without a spouse already buried in the cemetery. Most "closed" national cemeteries can also accommodate burial or inurnment of cremated remains of those otherwise entitled.

A VETERAN'S REMEMBRANCE

By R. R. "Bob" Moorshead, Sr.

[Bob is a Korean Conflict veteran and wanted the veterans of the Battle of the Bulge and other World War II veterans to know how much he appreciated the sacrifices made to keep this country free.]



Thanks my friends for being there
when I was just a kid.
Thanks for marching off to war,
to perform the way you did.
With others who would harm us,
you fought and yes, you bled...
And stifled back a whimper
when you saw a friend lay dead.
I was just a child at home
as you left amid the tears,
And now as I reflect on it...
I remember all the fears.
America, God bless her...
bless those who keep her free,
From those who seek to chain us
to a life of tyranny.

BATTLEFIELD COMMISSIONS

National Order of Battlefield Commissions is trying to locate men--WWII, Korea and Vietnam--who received a Commission from Enlisted or Warrant status to Commission status on the field of battle against an armed enemy. Write to: John Angier, 67 Ocean Drive, St. Augustine, Florida 32084.

2ND ARMORED SAVED AMERICAN ARMIES FROM BEING CUT IN TWO

[The following was sent to us by ARTHUR MARC, 2ND ARMORED DIVISION, 17 ARMORED ENGINEERS, MEDICAL DETACHMENT. The article was written by Hal Boyle, an Associated Press War Correspondent.]

The Second Armored Division in Belgium--Jan. 4 [1944]--(AP) "Old Gravel Voice" is happy again. His "Hell on Wheels" tankmen are belting back the Germans--after their heroic action that saved American armies from being cut in two.

Little Ernie Harmon, who has killed and captured more Nazi troops than any other division commander, is spearheading the American drive across the enemy salient towards Bastogne with his hard-riding Second Armored Division.

His men have taken several hundred prisoners and have again liberated a half-dozen Belgian villages in weather that would irritate a polar bear.

They are back in combat after only three days of rest following one of the greatest battles of the war--a head-on smash that broke von Rundstedt's drive toward the Meuse River, kicked the Nazis back ten miles and practically destroyed one of the German army's prize Panzer divisions.

The lifting of censorship today permitted for the first time the telling of the full story of how the "Hell on Wheels" Division, after a spectacular 100-mile march to the battle scene, finally halted the great Nazi drive only three miles from its river goal.

It was an epic engagement, ranking with other achievements of this famous Division--the capture of Palermo, Sicily, the breakthrough at St. Lo, and the piercing of the Siegfried Line north of Aachen.

Here is the box score of the four-day battle:

Enemy losses--69 tanks, 33 artillery pieces taken intact, 211 armored cars and trucks, more than 1,200 dead and 1,213 lost as prisoners.

The Second Armored Division losses--4 Sherman tanks and light casualties.

"And a good number of these were from respiratory diseases rather than battle wounds," said Captain Harry Volk, former Cleveland newspaper man.

Division Gets Emergency Mission

The Second Armored Division was sitting along the Roer River front in Germany when it was called on its emergency mission to assemble near Ciney, Belgium, to keep the enemy from reaching Dinant or Namur on the Meuse and then sweeping north to besiege Liege.

Lieutenant Colonel Joe A. Clema, Humboldt, Nebraska, organized the traffic control and sped the tanks along the 100-mile difficult night march, losing only 17 vehicles from breakdowns and minor accidents.

The Division went into action on December 24 after its patrols ran into strong German forces at Celles, only 3 miles from Dinant.

The Division's two big combat commands went to work. A task force under Brigadier General John H. Collier, Dallas, Texas, raced into Ciney, knocked out all the enemy tanks there, and broke up a Nazi column of 125 vehicles going toward Celles. The "Hell on Wheels" tankers had arrived in the nick of time. Another few hours and the Germans would have reached Dinant in force--thus splitting the American armies in half.

"How many Second Armored Divisions does the American Army have?"...

A second task force under Brigadier General I.D. White, Des Moines, Iowa, swept through Ciney to Celles to polish off an enemy column just outside the town. The Nazis were by then trying to regroup and stab back but the trapped armor was virtually destroyed and 800 prisoners were flushed out of the woods.

When the battle ended four days later, the Nazis, after heavy fighting, had been thrown back ten miles and the German Panzer division which fought against the Second Armored was a division in name only.

One captured German officer complained:

"How many Second Armored Divisions does the American Army have? We thought you people were pretty well bedded down in Germany."

German Counter-Drive Halted

Complimenting Harmon's tankers, a statement from an American Corps headquarters said:

"The attack of the Second Armored Division may well be remembered as having one of the far-reaching effects of any action of World War II, for the masterful execution of this attack by the Second 'Hell on Wheels' Armored Division not only stopped a German Panzer division long before it could reach Namur but annihilated a great deal of it and forced remnants to withdraw from Celles, Leignon, Buissonville and Humain, towards Rochefort, thus bringing to a halt the greatest sustained German counter-drive against Allied troops on the Continent since D-Day.

"The meeting of the U.S. Second Armored Division and the German Panzer division was a fitting comparison of Allied and German armored might."

It was also a testimonial to the generalship of little Ernie Harmon, the most aggressive game-cock in the American task force. And as a reward for his victory, his Corps Commander presented Harmon with--a free bottle of whiskey to toast his "Hell on Wheels" men.



**Meet me in
St. Louie,
Louie!!**

CLARIFICATION

OPERATION NORDWIND/BATTLE OF THE BULGE

A motion was made and carried at the April 16th Executive Council meeting to publish a clarification statement concerning Nordwind/BoB membership in the August issue of *The Bugle*.

We have received letters expressing questions as to Nordwind veterans being members of the VBOB organization. Turner Publications recent brochure indicating that all Seventh Army units that participated in the Alsace fighting (Nordwind and otherwise) are BoB veterans has further added to this confusion. While it is true that the Department of the Army decided, for whatever reason, to combine the Ardennes and Alsace operations into one campaign, it does not mean Seventh Army units are now veterans of the BoB. The BoB units remain as when there was a single Ardennes Campaign--units who fought in Belgium and Luxembourg between 16 December 1944 to 25 January 1945.

The new boundaries for the Ardennes-Alsace Campaign are now identical to those used by the Air Force. This area includes parts of Germany from the Belgium-Luxembourg-French border to a line not far from the Rhine River and a section of Lorraine. The southern boundary of the Ardennes-Alsace Campaign runs from Strasbourg west to Epinal. Most of southern Alsace was French First Army, but several U.S. divisions fought as far south as the Colmar area. The Air Force used these more encompassing boundaries as they did extensive bombing east of the German border in support of the fighting in the Ardennes and Alsace.

Had they left the Ardennes boundaries as originally drawn and then designed Alsace-Lorraine as a separate campaign this confusion would not have developed. While this redesignation of the Ardennes Campaign as the Ardennes-Alsace Campaign does make some units that were neither in the Ardennes or Alsace eligible for the Ardennes-Alsace credit, it does not make them veterans of the BoB. For this reason, the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge do not normally publish material on Operation Nordwind or other Seventh Army activities in *The Bugle* publication any more than on D-Day, the battle of Metz, or Operation Market Garden. However, we welcome all veterans who are interested in the BoB as VBOB Associate Members.

By: Robert F. Phillips
VBOB Liaison/International Affairs Officer
William P. Tayman
VBOB President

WORLD WAR II PHOTOGRAPHERS 50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION

There will be a 50th Anniversary Commemoration honoring the 165th Signal Photo Company men. These are the men whose many photos of Normandy, the Battle of the Bulge, etc., have enriched the pages of World War II history. The exhibition will be held at the 82nd Airborne War Memorial Museum, Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, on June 5-6, 1994. There will be WWII vehicles, cameras, equipment and photos on exhibit. Photographers from the 165th and other units involved who need further information, please call 910-921-3793 and leave a message on the recorder. Photographers from other units are welcome. The exhibit will also be open at certain hours to the public.

MEMORIAL AT BARAQUE DE FRAITURE (BELGIUM)

Baraque de Fraiture is an important crossroads known by historians as "The Parker's Crossroads." It is located at the crossing of the roads Bastogne-Liege and St. Vith-LaRoche.

On December 19, 1944, in the afternoon, approximately 100 men of the 589th Field Artillery Battalion (106th Infantry Division), under the command of Major Arthur C. Parker, established a defensive position. In the hours which followed, they received reinforcements from several units:

- a few men of the 87th Reconnaissance Squadron (7th Armored Division);
- a small outfit of 203rd Anti-Aircraft Artillery AW BN (7th Armored Division);
- a few tanks of the 3rd Armored Division;
- a small outfit of the 509th Parachute Infantry Battalion;
- "F" Company of the 325th Glider Infantry Regiment (82nd Airborne).

From December 19 through 23, about 300 men resisted the German 560th Volksgrenadiere Division and later the German 2nd SS Panzer Division "Das Reich." On December 23, around 17:00, after a heavy artillery shelling, the 4th Grenadiere Regiment overwhelmed the position and forced the Americans to surrender. Most of the defenders were taken prisoners and only about 50 men could escape.

In an 1980 letter to Major Parker, General Gavin, commander of the 82nd Airborne, stated, "the stand that your defenders made at the crossroads was one of the great actions of the war. It gave us at least 24 hours respite, so I thank you for that, and all the brave soldiers who were under your command."

Fifty years later, CRIBA together with the Town of Vielsalm will dedicate a memorial at Baraque de Fraiture to honor all the American soldiers involved in the Battle of the Bulge.

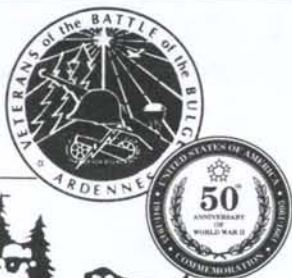
This place was chosen for several reasons:

- The defense at the crossroads is a typical example of the courage of the many small groups who stopped the German breakthrough.
- It was one of the doors the Germans needed to reach the Meuse River.
- More than ten U.S. divisions and their attached units fought on the Vielsalm territory.
- This marshy and misty area is the highest point in elevation in the perimeter of the Bulge (652 meters) and, in winter, represents the best image of the Ardennes in the minds of many GIs.

The memorial consists of a U.S. 105mm Howitzer of 1941 donated to CRIBA by the U.S. Government. It will be set on a concrete base in the form of the American star. On one side of the gun, will stand the stela dedicated in 1984 by the "Lion's Club Haute Ardenne" to the memory of Major Parker and his men. On the other side, a stela with the shield of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge (VBOB) and words of gratitude.

The dedication by the Town of Vielsalm and CRIBA will take place on May 7, 1994, at 11:00 a.m. Together with the people of Vielsalm and the area, CRIBA will feel honored by visits of American veterans and their families at the memorial services, all during 1994 and for many years to come.

André Hubert, President of CRIBA



During World War II...
The Battle of the Bulge, which occurred
in Belgium and Luxembourg from
December 16, 1944, to January 25, 1945,
was the greatest battle ever fought by
the U.S. Army

☆ 50TH ANNIVERSARY ☆
WORLD WAR II
BATTLE OF THE BULGE
☆☆☆ GATEWAY ARCH STATION ☆☆☆
☆☆☆ DECEMBER 16, 1994 ☆☆☆
☆ ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63102 ☆



Postal Service Cancellation, (left of stamp) The Postal Service will set up a temporary Post Office Station in the Regal Riverfront Hotel on December 16 & 17, 1994. Here they will sell the "1944 Road to Victory" 10 stamp sheets of which the BoB is one. Attendees can purchase sheet and place BoB stamp on Anniversary envelope for the special cancellation.

VBOB OVERSEAS CAP NOW AVAILABLE

The cap description is olive drab side, with a red, infantry blue, and gold top with red piping. Base price includes emblem on the left side, up to 21 letters on the right side.

Cap Base Price\$27.35 ea.
Extra Lettering\$.42 ea.
Shipping & Handling Per Order\$4.50

Total Amount Enclosed _____

Chapter Name _____

If no Chapter name, MEMBER AT LARGE can be substituted.
Check Here ☐

Extra Lettering _____

Make check or money order payable to:

KEYSTONE UNIFORM CAP CORP.
428 N. 13th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123
215-922-5493

Customer Phone Number

() _____

Send Us Your Tired... BOOKS

VBOB will soon have a little more space, we will attempt to put together a small library of books about the Battle of the Bulge to

MALMEDY

By Dale R. Carver
106 INF 424 INF

Milton wrote of Man and God,
Khayyam, of Pots and Potter--
my verse has a lesser theme,
an act of human slaughter.
The scene, a cross-roads clearing,
a forest of towering fir;
the captured men of the 285
and a column of German armor;
The show began with a pistol shot.
A surgeon in line fell dead.
A private was the next to fall,
a pistol slug in his head.
Rifles began their staccato fire
at the men now clutching ground.
Machine guns joined the chorus,
from Hell, the sight and sound.
A writhing sea of human flesh,
shuddering with each blast--
machine guns lashed the anguished waves
till all were still at last.
Then to finish the deed begun,
the killers walked the field,
with pistol and with rifle butt,
bayonet and boot, spike-heeled.
The self-appointed super men,
Teutonic warriors bold,
bungled, and some lived to tell,
the story I have told.

[This poem is
from Dale's
book of poetry--
"Before the
Veterans Die."]

serve as a historical reference. We have already collected some histories to be a part of this but have not been able to assemble or display them because of space limitations. Send us your histories (units and personal) and any books regarding the BoB that you no longer read. Mention to your family that you would like VBOB to have your books if they do not want them. It would be a shame for them to wind up in a yard sale.

D-DAY- plus 50 years

By Serafino R. Visco
26 INF D B

Where are the lost battalions of World War II? Where are the forgotten men and war heroes? Our hospitals are filled with what were once Human Beings, ask to see the "basket cases," ask to see the forbidden Machine Shop--a maize of wires and pulleys holding up an arm or a leg. One third of the homeless are veterans. These are the lost battalions of World War II and subsequent wars.

Visit some of our cemeteries overseas, Normandy, North Africa, Salerno, Pearl Harbor, Bataan, Okinawa, Iwo Jima, the Philippines since World War II; Korea; Vietnam; plus the men who were disabled in the Gulf War. These are the forgotten men and the war heroes, let's also remember all their mothers, fathers, and all the people who helped with the morale and support back home.

If I may I'd like to share with you some of the random thoughts that crossed my mind on the 50th Anniversary of D-Day. I lived in a foxhole like an animal along with thousands of other combat men. From D-Day to the Battle of the Ardennes, I experienced sheer hell, six months in combat.

I was a combat infantry man attached to the 457th AAA, landed with the First Army on June 6, 1944, Omaha Beach; Normandy, France. On December 12, 1944, volunteered to join General Patton's Third Army for the Battle of the Bulge.... I participated in the campaign of Normandy, Northern France, Southern France, and the border of Germany. Wounded on January 7, 1945, sent to a field hospital, then to Paris, France, and the United States for a disability discharge. These are six months I shall never forget.

We left England on June 2, 1944, 200,000 troops in battle dress, 10,000 assault boats and thousands of United States and British Air Force planes. The water was so rough we were too sick to realize this was the real thing. In fact the higher staff in England had considered postponing the invasion in hopes of better weather in two weeks. But the signal was given and all hell broke loose.

We landed on D-Day, June 6, Omaha Beach. The water and beaches were littered with equipment blown up by mines and the dead and dying could be seen in all directions. Later on, we understood over 10,000 to 14,000 men were killed.

What does a soldier think about when he is in a foxhole and combat? He knows he has to kill or be killed. I can tell you what I thought of, I wondered if what I was experiencing was real. How could human beings be so cruel and destructive? I wondered if I would ever see my mother, my wife and family. On through the night I got to thinking the only reason for war is you learn to pray and realize there is a God. There is no atheist in a foxhole. You learn to rest with your eyes open. As for supplies, since there are always enough dead and wounded, you never run out of supplies.

My war experience has taught me many things, the most important is that we must build a better America. Let us display the American Flag more often; let us show the rest of the world we are proud to be Americans; let us openly acknowledge our belief in God; let us show more interest in our children who will be our leaders of tomorrow. Above all let us 27 million veterans join the different veterans organizations for which we are eligible.

I am a life member of [many veterans organizations]. By pulling together we can accomplish much; prevent some wars. At present over 40 wars are active all over the world. Yes, the memories of D-Day plus 50 years makes me proud to be an American and after seeing all the suffering of the less fortunate I am happy that I have hands which give me an opportunity to practice my God given talent of painting. A famous quote: God and soldier all men adore, in time of battle and not before, when the battle is over; God is forgotten and the soldier slighted.

DOC!

We are pleased to announce the formation of The American Order of Corpsmen and Combat Medics. For further information, please write to: DOC!, P.O. Box 17101, Louisville, Kentucky 40217.

SECOND EVACUATION HOSPITAL

[The following was excerpted from the history of the Second Evacuation Hospital, which was sent to us by ROBERT R. FORD.]

...[1994] At Eupen, the advance detail had procured a large sanatorium overlooking the town. The building had been used by the Germans as a tuberculosis hospital. When we set up, however, we erected tents to augment the 300-odd patient beds in the building.

We opened the hospital on October 2nd. Aachen was one of the big objectives of the First Army at that time and the fighting was bitter. Patients arrived constantly in a steady stream. After the fall of the city, pressure lightened somewhat and it appeared that the war would soon pass us on. But we were deceived!

During the time we were operating at Eupen, buzz bombs seemed to converge over the area, making a terrific noise and rattling the windows of the building as they passed overhead. On the morning of December 16, 1944, shells began landing in our immediate area. In the evening enemy planes droned overhead, loosing a magnificent display of flares and then dropped bombs on Eupen. The Germans were making their desperate breakthrough attempt!

All other medical installations in Eupen were pulled out. We were selected to stand our ground, in spite of some paratroops dropped by the enemy in and about Eupen. Military security was suddenly stressed to the hilt. The Germans pushed down from Monchau to within five miles of the hospital and the 5th Armored Division set up road blocks behind us to stop the Germans if they overran our position.

On New Year's Day we witnessed a brilliant but brief encounter between 12 enemy planes and our anti-aircraft batteries. Seven of the attacking planes were shot down.

At length, events returned to normal. Our Armies had erased the break-through threat and were pushing the Germans back toward the Rhine. When the hospital finally was closed, a recapitulation showed that we had admitted 30,734 patients to the hospital during the six months we had been at Eupen, of which 188 casualties died. We had been open for 143 days, the longest period of continuous operation of any First United States Army Hospital.

WE CAN HELP YOU FORM A CHAPTER

Many of our members will tell you that one of the most enjoyable experiences they have is getting together with their friends on a regular basis.

For sure, nothing beats the thrill of getting together with members of their own units but these meetings are usually only once a year and sometimes so far away that it makes it impossible to attend.

A VBOB chapter in your area, state, etc., will afford you the privilege of getting together with old war buddies monthly, quarterly, or whatever you decide as a meeting schedule.

If you would be interested in the formation of a chapter in your area, please let us know. We'll help with the work and you will have lots of new friends.

Write Grover Twiner, Chapter Development Vice President: 40 Dungan Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21228-3401.

Greetings From Your Neighbors to The North

By Charles Bedford



[Ex Corporal Radio Operator Charles Bedford, "B" Company (Vickers MG's) 1st Battalion, the Manchester Regiment, 53rd Welsh Division, 30th Corps, British 2nd Army--Normandy to Germany 1944-45. (This picture was taken in the Harz Mountains in Germany in 1945. Charles is a new member of VBOB.)]

My story isn't really about the fighting in the Bulge, although we did plenty later, but about the actual GETTING there!

We didn't learn of the German Ardennes attack until late on the 18th of December, just after we'd arrived outside Antwerp for a "rest" from the fierce fighting around Roermond in Holland.

"Monty," as we called him, decided the British 30 Corps, of which the 53rd Welsh Division was a part, would take up a "lay-back" position, with the 43rd Wessex Division, the 51st Highland Division, 33rd Armoured Brigade and the 34th Tank Brigade to prevent the Germans reaching Brussels and Antwerp should they succeed in breaching the Meuse (Mass) River. At this point in time we didn't even know where or what the Ardennes were!

By Christmas Day we were still sitting in our "last line of defence" foxholes, a long, long way from the front with the landscape covered in six inches of freezing snow enjoying the roast turkey and a beer and wondering how long it would be before the "Krauts" put in an appearance! I must admit that at that time No one was joking about it and I for one wondered if we could conceivably LOSE the war.

By the end of the month we were ordered to relieve the U.S. 84th Infantry Division in the line around Marche and Hotton.

No one who was in action in the "Bulge" will need reminding of the conditions that prevailed at the time, a journey of a few yards on the icy, freezing roads reminded me of a drunk on a skating rink, laughable but not funny somehow.

Slowly our long column wound its way along the Belgian tree lined roads through a vicious snow storm, south of Brussels with German V1's (buzzbombs) racing overhead to their targets in the city and on to Antwerp (where we'd been headed for a few days' rest)!

After a 14-hour drive in nightmare conditions which was only accomplished because as our tanks, trucks, and other tracked vehicles slid off the road into ditches and rivers the U.S. Engineers either pulled, pushed, lifted or carried them back onto the road with their bulldozers, cranes, winches or whatever! It seemed that no matter what trouble we found ourselves in, a GI would appear from nowhere and say "We'll have you all outa there quicker'n thet...just hold on!" I shudder to think what would have happened if the weather had been fine and the Krauts had had the same Luftwaffe as they had in 1940! I don't think many of us would be here today.

We spent a night holed up in a monastery somewhere in Belgium while the Flying bombs flew over at regular intervals to be awakened around 6:00 a.m. for a session of P.T. BEFORE we mounted up for the drive over the Meuse to Marche!

The traffic on arrival at Marche can only be described as

chaotic as the 84th Division struggled to get out to their new assignment and we did likewise trying to take over...while two miles down the road a Panzer Division fought like mad to kick us ALL out!!

Our Division moved forward on the 4th of January 1945 along with the other units involved in the triangle Hotton-Marche-LaRoche.

Can't ever remember feeling that cold before or since or THAT miserable! So, it's all 50 years ago? Sometimes wonder if it ever happened or if it's some horrible recurring nightmare that won't go away! We did, however, have SOME pluses...one of them was enjoying some of your GI "K" Rations which were sheer heaven after some of our stuff! So, to ALL the guys that kept us "on the road"...thanks. And to all BoB guys, have a good life..you did a magnificent job!



[This picture shows Charles as he appeared in 1985, in Sussex, England.]

A VETERAN'S REMEMBRANCE

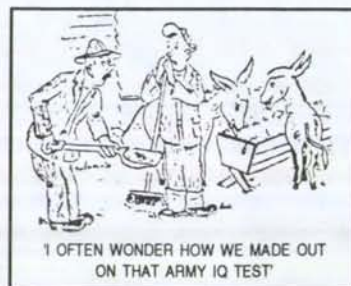
By R. R. "Bob" Moorshead, Sr.

[Bob is a Korean Conflict veteran and wanted the veterans of the Battle of the Bulge and other World War II veterans to know how much he appreciated the sacrifices made to keep this country free.]

Thanks my friends for being there
when I was just a kid.
Thanks for marching off to war,
to perform the way you did.
With others who would harm us,
you fought and yes, you bled...
And stifled back a whimper
when you saw a friend lay dead.
I was just a child at home
as you left amid the tears,
And now as I reflect on it...
I remember all the fears.
America, God bless her...
bless those who keep her free,
From those who seek to chain us
to a life of tyranny.

You have a row of dominoes set up,
you knock over the first one, and what will happen to the last one is, ... that it will go over quickly.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER



C-47s AND CG4A GLIDERS RESUPPLY TROOPS AT BASTOGNE

[The following article in the 9th Air Force Association's newsletter "The Flyer," Winter, 1994, edition. It was written by CHUCK MANN, 377FS 362 FG]

Said General Lewis H. Brereton, Commanding General of the First Allied army: "The only feasible method of resupplying these Bastogne units was by dropping critical items by parachute or, under favorable conditions, landing gliders loaded with supplies."

Finally the terrible weather that had kept Allied air power grounded in England and on the Continent began to clear. The air battle to relieve the "Battered Bastards of Bastogne" was about to begin.

Late on Christmas Eve, after the 101st Airborne Division had suggested the use of gliders, the Command decided it would use them. Glider missions were assigned to the 50th Troop Carrier Wing in France....

....Headquarters 50th Wing relied solely on information communicated from Ninth Air Force Headquarters (Advanced) located at Luxembourg City.

On December 26, the medical situation was becoming acute so gliders had to become involved for the first time. A CG4A glider piloted by volunteers Charlton W. (Corky) Corwin, Jr., with Benjamin F. Costantino as co-pilot, towed by a 440th Group C-47, flew into Bastogne with a 9-man volunteer surgical team made up of five members of the 4th Auxiliary Surgical Group--Major Lamar Soutter, MD; Captain Foy H. Moody, MD; Stanley P. Wesolowski, MD; T-3 Clarence C. Matz; and T/4 John D. Knowles; and four members of the 12th Evacuation Hospital--Captain Henry M. Mills, MD; Captain Edward N. Zinschlag, MD; T/3 John H. Donahue; and T/4 Lawrence T. Rethwisch. The only other surgeon already in Bastogne at this time was Major Howard P. Serell, MD, a member of another section of the 4th Surgical Group who had also volunteered his services and had been flown in on December 24 in a small artillery spotter plane, believed to be an L-4 or L-5. These ten men would later receive the Silver Star for "gallantry in action." All were members of General Patton's Third Army which was swinging north to relieve Bastogne. The decorations were well deserved and certainly earned. For their gallant actions in bringing the FIRST relief glider into Bastogne, Corwin and Costantino received no special recognition or award.

Shortly following Corwin's glider into Bastogne on this same date was a flight of ten gliders, also from the 440th TC Group, with desperately needed gasoline. These gliders, fortunately, were able to reach their destination without severe damage or casualties. No C-47s were lost, but three were damaged.

In hindsight, it is easy to question and partially answer why the glider missions of 26 December were successful while the 50 glider missions on the following day were such a disaster.... On the 26th, there was an element of surprise by the ten glider mission as it had been for the earlier single glider.

The ten gliders, loaded with gasoline, approached Bastogne in elements of two, echeloned to the right at 600 feet. They passed quickly over some 20 miles of German guns at sunset.

On 20 December 1944--the blackest days of the Battle of the Bulge--the 362/377 men participated in a unique mission,

escorting the ONLY SINGLE-GLIDER mission of WWII. The glider carried the Emergency Surgical Teams into beleaguered Bastogne, where 101st Airborne's Gen. Tony MacAuliffe responded to the Nazi's surrender with the single word, "NUTS"! This mission departed from our snowladen base with the pierced-planked runway at A-82 Etain, France.

I shot a photo of the C-47 and Glider on take-off tow with the nine medics aboard, with a pocket camera which in a small contact print showed the planes and mud. The 6Z on the C47 identifies it as from the 440th Troop Carrier Group.



My memory told me I flew on that crucial escort mission.... Memory tells me there were eight P47s. Bill Horn writes that he had heard eight from some other TC guys. I searched "Mogin's Maulers" and the Maxwell copies of 362 history thoroughly for clues as to who the 362 pilots were. Maxwell records show that 362 flew nine missions that day including another escorting ten gliders to Bastogne. I called Jack Barends and his records show he led eight at 1050 a.m. on a close support mission with third Corps (Kirkham, Hogberg, McKain, Sly, Quandt, Oyster & Knox). I called Tom Smiley to see if he remembered who--NO! I called Kent Geyer, who said, "Hell, yes, I led that mission escorting ten gliders to Bastogne. We were ordered to suck up and suppress flak for them which we got plenty of." Kent's records were donated to the Borger Texas Library about 15 years ago. I have written to the library asking for a copy of his mission report. Then I read in Maxwell records on 377 that Lts. Robert Campbell and Robert Clees had escorted the single glider mission at 1430 but no other pilots were named. (This report also showed that Capt. Geyer led the other ten-glider escort mission at 1600.) I then called Red Campbell (Clees is deceased.) Red says, "I surely did lead it and Bob Clees were along but all my records were lost in a fire many years ago so I can't tell you who else. Maybe even some pilots from 378 or 379 as we were short of a/c and pilots then."

[In the same publication, "CORKY" CORWIN wrote:]

...I believe that the glider flight into Bastogne carrying the medics was not only the only single glider combat mission in World War II, but also may have been the only glider to have landed twice on the same combat mission.

...On the way to Bastogne I was in tow behind Ottoman when I heard a prop feather on my left wing. I looked out and there was a fighter next to me for an instant. The pilot waved at me and smiled, and I waved back. Then he disappeared. It was a great relief to see him on my wing.

NORTHERN INDIANA CHAPTER RECEIVES CHARTER

Chapter No. XXX of VBOB was officially chartered on March 26 in Michigan City, Indiana, by Vice President Grover Twiner as the Northern Indiana Chapter. Forty-five veterans of the Bulge attended as Twiner presented the charter and VBOB flag to Stewart McDonnell, president of the new chapter.



Left to Right: Front row--Bob Torrence, Director (3643 ORD); Stew McDonnell, President (28 INF); Joe Smart, Secretary-Treasurer (319 ENGRS); Grover Twiner, VBOB VP. Back row--Phil Brady, Vice President (84 INF); John Delmerico and Willard Clark, Directors (both 78 INF). Not shown--George Strickland, Director (2 INF).

The new group will meet quarterly at various locations and will continue to recruit new members in the northern part of the state and from nearby Illinois. For more information write to Stew McDonnell at 315 South Woodland, Michigan City, Indiana 46360 or call 219-872-6370.

WORLD WAR II 50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE COINS AVAILABLE

As many of you know, there is no national memorial dedicated to all World War II veterans. To honor America's extraordinary contributions to the Allied victory in World War II, the United States Mint is offering WWII 50th Anniversary Coins. Surcharges from the sale of these coins will help fund two World War II memorials--one in Washington, DC and the other in Normandy, France. If you would like to receive an Official Reservation Form (contains complete information and specifications), please write to: U.S. Mint, 10001 Aerospace Road, Lanham, MD 20706. Or telephone: 1-800-872-3900.

GI BILL

Millions of veterans of WWII, Korea and Vietnam "bridged the gap" because of a bill passed 50 years ago. More than 21 million vets have received benefits through the VA education programs. And 14 million have had home loans guaranteed.

It was the "Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944," more popularly known as the "GI Bill of Rights," or simply the "GI Bill."

1995 END OF THE WAR OBSERVANCES PLANNED

The City of Knoxville is hosting a celebration of the ending of World War II which will honor the veterans of that conflict, their families, and the families who lost loved ones. It will be held July 4, 1994, at Knoxville's World's Fair Park. For further information contact: Bill Housley, Knoxville Convention and Visitors Bureau: 1-800-727-8045.



VFW EFFORTS FOR POW/MIA STAMP

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is collecting signatures to get the Post office to issue a stamp remembering America's POWs and MIAs. The proposed 29 cent stamp shows a silhouette of a POW with the words "America Remembers, you are not forgotten." Those who wish to help with this effort should contact their local VFW or the national headquarters of the organization.

SUSQUEHANNA CHAPTER DONATES TELEVISION SET

The Susquehanna Chapter of VBOB on February 24, 1994, presented a check to Rocco Valvano, Executive Director of the Lackawanna County Council for the Northeast Veterans Center.



Shown presenting check, left to right: Treasurer Vince Meinhart, President Clara Gustin, (rear) Vice President George K. Waters, Chaplin Bill Zwick and Mr. Valvano.



KILROY WAS HERE!

[The following article appeared in the 3RD ARMORED DIVISION newsletter, as published by the Law County Veterans Council magazine and written by Debbie Wachter Bonnie, of New Castle News.]

**Why was Kilroy, anyway?
And what is a ruptured duck?**

Those expressions might be foreign to people of the Baby Boom generation, but ask a World War II veteran about the slogan, "Kilroy was here," and he'll probably chuckle in reminiscence.

Many servicemen, ...don't readily recall its significance and how the graffiti of it started.

And even though many U.S. service men received pins of the "ruptured duck" when they were discharged, few could probably tell exactly what a ruptured duck is and how the phrase originated.

According to information from the RediReference User's Guide, ... "Kilroy was here" relates to James J. Kilroy, who was an inspector at Bethlehem Steel Co.'s Fore River Shipyard in Quincy, Massachusetts.

In 1941, Kilroy started writing "Kilroy was here" on equipment to show test gangs he had checked a job.

These words caught on at the shipyard and soon he was finding his slogan written throughout the premises. Before long, it had spread far beyond the boundaries of the shipyard and became known internationally.

Kilroy thus became one of the most famous names of World War II.

After the war ended the American Transition Association sponsored a national contest to find out who originated the saying. Kilroy, who still was employed at the shipyard, submitted his claim and won. A 22-ton trolley car, delivered to his home in Halifax, a suburb of Boston, was his prize and it became a plaything for his nine children.

Kilroy died in November 1962. His obituary eulogized him as the originator of "Kilroy was here."

The "ruptured duck" actually is not a duck at all.

That expression, widely used during World War II, refers to the lapel pin or pocket insignia of an honorably discharged U.S. serviceman. The emblem is an eagle, and one of its wings extends beyond the rim of the pin. The symbol also has been called the "pregnant duck."

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

The VBOB Bylaws require that all members of chapters be members-in-good-standing of the National VBOB. All chapters are asked to check their records to ensure compliance with this requirement. We will be happy to provide you with a copy of members in your area.



Chapter Flags at D-Day Commemoration Parade Virginia Beach, VA. From left to right are Dorothy Davis, Jack Hyland, Stan Wojtusik, Francis Walsh, and John Bowen.

VBOB VETS PARADE

Representatives from the Delaware Valley Chapter, Northern VA Chapter, MD/DC Chapter, Central Mass Chapter and the North Canton Chapter of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge marched in the D-Day Commemoration Parade at Virginia Beach, VA on June 4, 1994. On this bright and beautiful Saturday morning everyone was up bright and early as it was parade day in the morning. Three of the VBOB Chapters (Delaware Valley, MD/DC and Northern VA) had their chapter flags along with the POW Flag and American Flag. About 21 Veterans came to March including Dorothy Davis, 57th Medical. It was probably one of the sharpest marching units in the parade. It received applause all along the parade route as the 'troops' marched sharply to the cadence count. It was amazing how one never loses that marching step. Many had never marched in near 50 years but within a block of the stepping off point that cadence count all came back to them. At the reviewing stand, the contingent swung to the front of the stand and saluted the Reviewing Stand members. It was said that the VBOBers were the only unit for which the Reviewing Stand members all arose and returned the salute. They then sharply marched off.

CALIFORNIA TO ISSUE AUTO LICENSE PLATES WITH VBOB INSIGNIA

Mike Swinger of the California Department of Veterans Affairs advised me July 19 that California veterans license plates will be available with the V.B.O.B. logo sometime after October 1994. This brings to about 90 the various unit or organization logos available. Applications listing the various logos can be obtained by phoning 1-800-952-5626. The cost for these plates is \$30.00. This approval for VBOB logo plates is so recent that the applications do not list this sample.

FYG HV requested a supply of these applications which I will include in our GG Trumpet being issued in August.

Ernie Figueira, Jr.
Golden Gate Chapter



Dixon Poole, National Quartermaster
Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge

Notice: Normandy Invasion 50th Anniversary Pin now
available. Limited supply - - - - - \$4.50 (3 for \$12.00)

1. Official VBOB Patch
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2. Decals - VBOB Logo
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 - 4" windshield \$1.25 ea.
 - 1 1/8" sticker 8/\$1.00
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No charge for mounting. \$8.50 & up
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Mounted and ready to wear \$1.25 & up
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STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT THE BULGE

[Students in Jim Smith's history class at Bangor High School, in Bangor, Maine, have been studying the Battle of the Bulge. Scott Morelli is a senior at Bangor High, where he is the editor-in-chief of the school's newspaper and is a member of the football squad and track team. Scott plans to attend the University of Maine at Orono, where he will major in journalism. Scott wrote the following article for his school paper, and we thought you would enjoy reading it.]

December 16, 1994, a date that means different things to different people. To some, it means the Battle of the Ardennes, to others it was a last-gasp attempt by Hitler and the Germans to push the Allies out of their home territory, but now, nearly 50 years later, it's history.

There are those, however, who are not quite fresh in the category of history and do not know the exact details of this famous battle. So, as not to insult this audience, I will assume no history lesson is needed, however, a social studies teacher in Bangor, Maine, wants to make sure that this battle does not become buried under a pile of dusty history books. James Smith, a teacher at Bangor High School, has deviated from the norm of text book teaching and has actually had the chance to interact with those who fought in the infamous Battle of the Bulge.

Smith's history class has been studying the battle since Thanksgiving of last year. He said the interest in the battle began when he saw a letter from Roger Desjardins in the *Bangor Daily News* about a meeting for the Bulge veterans in New Hampshire. Student Amy Magill then wrote a letter to Desjardins, who generously sent her a letter along with copies of *The Bulge Bugle*, where the class obtained names and addresses of the veterans. The class then flooded the post office with approximately 70 letters to the men who fought in the battle.

"I hoped for 20 or maybe 30 responses," said Mr. Smith, "but what we got was incredible."

The class received over 100 letters after all was said and done along with books, pictures, and posters which Smith described as "incredible primary sources." Smith felt these primary sources were so valuable since neither students nor parents knew much about the Bulge and now "both generations are educated," he said.

But the effects of this project aren't confined solely to a classroom experience. In a two year project, Smith hopes to put together a pamphlet on the Battle of the Bulge and Bangor High School's Drama Club may also re-enact the battle in an upcoming play. Smith is quick to point out, however, that all of this would not be possible if it weren't for the cooperation of the Bulge veterans. "I really appreciate what the veterans have done," commented Smith. "All of their letters...have been great."

Smith is also an economics teacher for the Senior Seminar Class at BHS where each year, the class tackles a new problem in the United States to solve. Last year, the class passed a bill in the Maine legislature which mandated the use of lighting equipment, magnifiers, and larger print ballots for the visually impaired. This year the class is pushing the revolutionary process of "tele-voting" where U.S. citizens could vote by phone. A communications company in Canada, MT&T, is establishing an electronic bulletin board for the class to put information on so that those interested could retrieve information from it by computer. Smith says he also plans to include letters from the veterans in this bulletin board.

By **SCOTT MORELLI**
Bangor High School

[EDWARD C. DARNSTEIN, 28TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 109TH INFANTRY, HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, recently sent us a newspaper clipping regarding (new Associate Member) Doug Barber's class of seventh graders in Centerville, Ohio. The following was extracted from the "Dayton Daily News" article by Katherine Ullmer.]

"On the one side stand the men who fought in World War II, most in their 60s and 70s. On the other side sit the children, in this case, seventh-graders in Centerville teacher Doug Barber's two social studies classes at Hadley Watts Middle School.

"Most do not even have grandfathers who served in World War II.

"Bridging the gap of miles and years is e-mail (electronic mail), the computer age's Pony Express.

"In e-mail, letters travel lickety-split by computer to a central computer system, better known as an electronic mailbox, where they can be retrieved equally lickety-split by the addressee's home [computer].

"Turning his love of history into a school project was a rather easy matter, Barber said.

"Once he made contact with the veterans and got their consent, he gave his students a brief background of each and asked them to write questions to them. These he forwarded through e-mail.

"I did it to demonstrate the potential of computer technology to education," Barber said. "This project is a small demonstration (using my home computer) of the educational potential of this much larger project," Barber said.

"The first group of letters were sent March 23. E-mail answers arrived the next day while Barber was at school. He stored the replies on a computer disk at home and Friday morning brought the disk to school so students could read them off school computer. The second batch of letters went out March 30...."

"The program has had benefit besides teaching history from personal perspective, Barber said. "It's been a good demonstration for kids that older people can be as technologically competent as younger people. It's also gotten a lot of kids talking to their grandparents. One girl just found out that her grandfather was a tailgunner in a B-17."

The following is a list of those who participated with the students in the e-mail exchange:

- John Carah, 72, of El Dorado, California; B-17 pilot shot down by German fighters while on a bombing mission over LeMans, France.
- George Idlett, 75, of Herndon, Virginia; survivor of the Bataan Death March; POW in Japan.
- Alfons Heck, 65, San Diego, California, a leader in the Hitler Youth Movement.
- Richard Murphey, 69, of Phoenix, Arizona; P-38 fighter pilot in the Pacific.
- Edward Darnstein, early 70s, West Cheektowaga, New York, 28th Infantry Division, 109th Regiment, Battle of the Bulge.
- Ellis Pierson, 70, of Cantonment, Florida; UB-17 radio operator; 29 missions; POW in Germany.

AMY MAGILL, also of Bangor High, recorded a tribute to Battle of the Bulge veterans. Her renditions included: *God Bless America*; *The Infantry* (Roger Young); and *White Cliffs of Dover*. Amy has a lovely voice and her tribute is much appreciated



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