

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

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



# The BULGE BUGLE

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NUMBER 2

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

MAY 1994

## WWII - BATTLE OF THE BULGE 50th Anniversary Commemoration St. Louis, MO. • Dec. 15 - 18, 1994 *Beaucoup Heartwarming Experiences*

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area. You'll be  
glad you did.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### LATRINE-O-GRAMS

I was much interested in the accounts of then Brig. Gen. Bruce C. Clarke. I was not privy to much "official" information at the time but rumors abounded always. We used to call them "latrine-o-grams." However, when command of the northern units was turned over to Montgomery, we heard that Patton's response was, "Just tell that son-of-a-bitch to stay out of my way!" This may have had something to do with the decision to keep Bradley in charge of Patton's Third Army to the south. This attitude on the part of Patton was probably due, in part, to his lack of confidence in Montgomery after an incident in Sicily in 1943.

While other units continue to let their importance be known in Battle of the Bulge outcome, let me state that the 2nd Armored Division (Hell on Wheels) was in the Ninth Army near Aachen when the German offensive began. We had been in the First Army all across France and the Low Countries, and this Command moved south while we stayed in position under the Ninth Army Command. Through most of this time we had been a "ghost" division, wearing no insignia and releasing no information about ourselves to anyone. Berlin Betty referred to us as "Roosevelt's Butchers," a title we felt to be appropriate.

We heard that when the 7th Armored Division moved out from our area to the south in December 1944 the German advance had penetrated and split the Division in some way. It apparently did not prevent them from putting up one hell of a fight. Our Division was then ordered into the fray and made a record-setting trip to a position where the leading German tanks were either out of fuel or running very low, within a mile or so of a large American gasoline storage area. In that sector the German advance was halted at that time, and we stayed until the trap was closed.

In all of the writings which I have read (not nearly everything written), there seems to be no mention of an article in the Paris edition of the *Stars and Stripes* after the Battle of the Bulge. General Bedell Smith, Ike's flunky, was quoted as saying that the Americans planned for that German offensive to happen so that most of the German armor would be drawn west of the Rhine River. The questions that should be asked in this connection could be endless. Perhaps this result was accomplished, but was it worth the many sacrifices? These forces could have been dealt with under better conditions after crossing the Rhine. There were still several very hard months of fighting ahead anyway.

William D. Irwin

2 ARMDD 17 ARMD ENGR BN HQ

### MEMORIES

I read the article by George Bowles, "Clarke Views Montgomery." It is a very well written article and brings back many memories as I served in the First and Ninth Armies during this period.

I was one of about twelve Bulge veterans who met in a room on the second floor of the Arlington County Court House to organize the VBOB. I would think it would be appropriate to have an article written recounting the organization's inception by Clyde Boden as it was his idea. I will always remember how he stated that the Bulge was the greatest Allied High Command blunder not to have been aware of German plans to come through the Ardennes again. He felt that unless we organized to keep the memories alive, this largest land battle would not receive its proper recognition in history.

It is regrettable that Clyde Boden can't be with us to see the results of his efforts in this 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Bulge this year.

Raymond W. Locke

30 INF 743 TK BN A

### TIGER TANKS

The article presented by Tom Raney regarding "The End of the Trail for Tiger 22" was of special interest for several reasons.

George Wendt, of 526th Armored Infantry Battalion, the only AIB not associated with a parent organization, published an article in his unit's paper, *The PEKAN*, which was provided by Werner Wendt, a former commander of Tiger I and Tiger II tanks in the 501st SS Panzer Battalion. This article described the operations stealth of the 501st during the first 2 weeks of December 1944 and the battle trail into Stavelot where they met a company from the 526th. The 501st had fought in Russia and in Normandy at Villers-

Bocage, which is southwest of Caen, where they first used the Tiger II. A further coincidence is the fact that a neighbor was with the 15th Scots Regiment at the Bocage and also fought these heavy tanks of the 501st SS at the terrible battle.

Last June, 1993, my wife and I made an extensive tour of all the Battle of the Bulge battlefields, particularly those where I fought with the 26th (Yankee) Infantry Division and the Stavelot/Trois Ponts/Ambleve valley areas in order to take many photos requested by a number of veterans. We took photos of the Tiger II, #213, at the museum near LaGlieze as well as many other plaques and memorials to various units.

The writer mentions an engagement scene south of Stavelot, approximately 150 yards from a bridge. We took photos of a memorial site alongside the road, which could be the same location except the plaque is approximately 500 yards from the bend of the road leading to the bridge. The shield of the plaque is inscribed in two languages in memory of Sgt. Armstrong and five enlisted men and a 1st Lieutenant of the 291st Engineers Combat Battalion. It states that the men were lost on 18 December, 1944, (same as in the article) except it specifies the 825th Tank Destroyer Battalion and not 823rd Tank Destroyer Battalion.

Another subject: While at Busch Gardens last week, wearing my VBOB jacket, a man approached me and stated that he flew P-47s from East Anglia with 56th Fighter Group and made many strafing and bombing raids in support of BOB soldiers after the weather cleared late December. Last September I had a similar experience with another P-47 pilot and a few years ago a C-47 pilot, after seeing my jacket, expressed regrets that because of the bad weather he had to delay the parachute cargo drops.

The Luxembourg Liberation Memorial is being built at Schumann Crossroads, 20 kilometers east of Bastogne, and scheduled for dedication 11 June 1994. It was organized by CEBA and the Diekirch Historical Museum and funded via National fund raising. It will be dedicated to all Americans who liberated Luxembourg with special remembrance of 26th, 28th and 90th Infantry Divisions.

Bill Leeseman

26 INF 101 ENGR CMBT BN

### MORE ON BASTARD BATTALIONS

I note with interest some letters on "Bastard" battalions in the February, 1994, issue. I certainly can concur that the separate units were often not recognized for their accomplishments. I was a member of the 76th Field Artillery Battalion. We fired against the enemy for 189 consecutive days. During that time, from October 10, 1944, to April 18, 1945, we supported the 102d Cavalry Group near Elsenborn, Belgium; the 28th Infantry, 4th Infantry, 8th Infantry, 78th Infantry, and 5th Armored Divisions and a Ranger Battalion in the Hurtgen Forest. We supported the 30th Infantry, 1st Infantry, 2d Infantry, 99th Infantry, 9th Infantry and 7th Armored Divisions on the north shoulder of the Bulge. We supported the 78th Infantry Division at Remagen until the Ruhr Pocket collapsed. We fired 106,904 rounds of 105mm (quite a bit of these were short-range cannon rounds) and 69,699 rounds of 25pdr ammunition. When 105mm shells came into short supply, we got British stocks of guns and ammunition, put them along side the 105s and never stopped our firing while we learned how to fire the 25pdrs. While divisional units got Presidential Citations, etc., for less arduous duty, we were never recognized. Incidentally, early into the support duty we reorganized into two 6 gun batteries in order to have enough personnel to keep going around the clock for months on end.

Allen Evans

76 FA BN HQ BTRY

### "PLANE RIDER'S" VANTAGE POINT

As one of those "plane riders," I would like to take a moment to correct Mr. John Nolan's (30th INF, 119 IR) long held, but grossly mistaken, view concerning the "Air Corps" rations during the Bulge. Also, to possibly shed a little light on the subject of mistaken targets that he also touched on.

The former member of the 119th IR remarks appeared in the November, 1993, issue of *The Bulge Bugle* ("Holiday Remembrances"). He states that he still harbors harsh memories of having his Christmas chicken dinner ruined by "steak-eating P-38 pilots" that apparently dropped their "500 pound bombs" near his unit's position. The P-38 pilots, according to the writer, fortunately missed their intended target, a Sherman tank that was "plainly marked with orange panels." Unfortunately, the blast damage to their basement hideaway ruined the chicken that he, and his comrades, were

(Continued on Page 4)



preparing to eat.

I would like it to be known that the units of the USAAF (the "AAF" stood for Army Air Force) drew their rations from the identical source as any other unit in the ETO during WWII, and the planned menu on any given day was basically the same throughout the theater. When it was feasible to serve hot meals to the front line GI's, their menus were the same as the P-38 pilots sat down to "at their base in France." General Brehon Sommerville made sure his directive was enforced in that regard. However, how those rations were prepared, and under what conditions they were served, differed vastly between units; infantry, artillery, tank battalions, transportation, etc.,...and yes, the "Air Corps." It was my experience during WWII that every unit's Mess Officer and Sergeant took pride in, and went out of their way, to see that their unit's rations were prepared, and served, to the best of their abilities and the best way that conditions would allow. I'm sure that the Company commanders, and Platoon commanders, among the VBOB membership would agree. (I ate hot turkey for my Christmas supper at the 84th Infantry front line aid station at Marche, along with the other wounded...including German POWs. The Major treating my injuries vehemently pointed out that that was not their regular fare.)

If any unit has the right to blast the "gross errors" of the Air Force, the 30th Infantry Division is certainly one of them, having been victimized not once, but five times during their unit's occupation of the Malmady-Stavelot sector of the XVIII Corps front in December, 1944. The lead fight (four B-26's), of our Group's 40 plane formation mistakenly bombed Malmady, instead of Saint Vith, on Christmas afternoon. The irony of this is that one of our squadron airmen's older brother was the first sergeant of the 120th Infantry Regiment at the time; a sister regiment of Mr. Nolan's 119th regiment (the 199th regiment had just retaken Stoumont on the 22nd, after fierce fighting). Pete Smiljanovich's brother is still impaired from his injuries received by the Malmady bombings—from a B-24 squadron's mistake. While members of Mr. Nolan's unit may have had their chicken ruined, the entire 120th regiment had their kitchen mess wiped out by airmen's regrettable error(s). Under the circumstances, it's understandable why members of the 30th Infantry Division refer to the USAAF as the "American Luftwaffe."

Mr. Nolan has every right to feel embittered, and even gloat that "...of all the combat units in this fracas, the most confused was the Air Corps." This type of statement conveys to me the misconception many still hold of the airmen's roll in supporting our grand forces during WWII. While overseas during WWII, and later, it's been my experience from talking with front-line GI's, that they had gained a new respect for airmen; a contrast from the ones they held stateside. And, believe me when I say, the "Air Corps" were damned proud of the U.S. Army, regardless of specific units, or assignments.

War, plain and simple, is an Apollyon "beast." As such, it is "the nature of the beast" that mistakes happen. If the VBOB recalls, we had our first snowfall during the Bulge at Christmas. Aerial navigation under ideal conditions is complex, and increases with snow. In the case of the lowing flying P-38 pilots that mistook the 30th Infantry Division's tank support—no doubt part of the 740th Tank Battalion—picture yourself zooming along at 400 MPH, just above roof tops, and in the nanosecond of passing over a street below, you spot armored units. To the fast flying pilots, those tanks most assuredly must have been Panzers. Why? Because another navigational error may have been made—remember Coo (two miles due west of Stavelot) was less than 30 seconds flying time from the front. TAC pilots were also aware, as were the ground units, that the Germans were using USA equipment; i.e., jeeps, tanks, trucks, uniforms, etc., during their Bulge offensive. Regrettably, the "beast" raised its ugly head again, and another mistake was committed.

These types of mistakes range from minor: i.e., artillery rounds falling short, GI's firing on their own patrols, mistaken identification of targets, etc., to major: the misfortune that befell the 82nd Airborne Division while reinforcing the Seventh Army beach hold at Gela, Sicily, on the night of July 11, 1943, or more recently, the British tank squadron that was wiped out by allied tank-seeking helicopters during Operation Desert Shield, and the USS Vincennes' missile shooting down an Iranian passenger plane. These were several of the rare instances that unfortunately occurred during war time. No one condones, nor can reasonably, with hindsight, explain these types of mistakes except to say, "It's the nature of the beast." It's the experienced veteran that realizes..."stuff happens" during the pressures of combat, but still gets on with his life.

William J. Thompson, Jr.  
556 BMB SQ 387 BMB GP M

## TELL YOUR FAMILIES

Congratulations on *The Bulge Bugle* which I find very interesting, informative, and "memory jogging." At 76 now, I can still recall my grandfather at that age and older avidly reading *The Stars and Stripes* that came regularly. He was a combat veteran of the Civil War and though he died at 88 when I was a college freshman, I never had the long talks with him that I intended—something I have regretted all these years as I have read more and more (and visited) battle scenes of that war.

As WWII veterans are passing from the scene all too rapidly, I fear that many veterans still have not talked enough with children, grandchildren, and even great-grandchildren about the war, not glorifying it but using it as an historical milepost. Of course, and unfortunately, many potential listeners are not interested.

Wayne R. Merrick  
10 PHOTO RECON GP

## HERE'S WHERE THE 180TH FA BN WAS

This is in reply to the inquiry by William Leeseemann, Jr., [in the February issue]. ...am in position to give exact locations and dates of occupation. The reason being that I made a notation of our battery location with dates, casualties, etc. I was the firing battery commander, (XO) of Charlie Battery.

I am unaware of the fine distinction between Alsace-Lorraine but here are the locations:

- 24 November 1944, Molring—one dead in battery
- 19 November 1944, 4 injured in "C" Battery
- 19 November 1944, 2 German tanks destroyed by "C"
- 25 November 1944, Albesdorff (2,200 rds to date)
- 3 December 1944, Pisdorf, have occ. pos. at Altweiler and Wittersgourge
- 9 December 1944, at Oermingen, Nor de Guerre, Sarre Union. Lt. Wolf missing in action this date. Hemila shot thru leg. Wolf still not with rigor mortis when we found him next morning at 10:00 a.m.
- 12 December 1944, Wittring, 3,400 rds
- 15 December 1944, Moved to Metz for reorg.
- 20 December 1944, Metz to Arlon, Belgium, without slightest idea of where the Germans were. We marched from 0430 19 December to 0230 20 December 1944.

I hope that this will help with the idea of where the 180th FA was. I was the "C" XO for every miserable day of it and the entire battalion was in general support (artillery) of the 26th Yankee Division, with special mission of counterbattery. As such, we were forward of the infantry cannon companies at times. The battalion fired more than 50,000 rounds and we were a part of the combat command that made the crushing run through the center of the German lines.

On the 15th of December, 1944, my battery was relieved by "C" Battery, of the 106th 155 Howitzer Battalion. My notes show that John Carney, my ace driver, backed their No. 2 piece into the position we had vacated.

Leon F. McGinnis  
26 INF 180 FA BN C BTRY

## MORE ON BASTARD BATTALIONS

740th Tank Battalion—It was not unusual for separate battalions of armor, artillery and engineers to be constantly moved from one place to another. Ours was no exception. We served in the 1st, 7th, 9th, and British 2nd Armies. We also were attached to the XII, V, VII, XXI and 18th Airborne Corps.

The infantry divisions we served under were the 30th, 82nd Airborne, 106th, 99th, 8th, 70th, 63rd and the 86th.

I'm sure many bastard battalions could tell the same story. We didn't get any headlines but the big boys couldn't have done it without us little guys.

J. R. Breth  
740 TK BN B

## DID THE ALLIED HIGH COMMAND TRICK THE GERMANS??

I'm fascinated by the letters from members of the various U.S. units that were involved in the Battle of the Bulge. They relate (49 years later) the names of towns they were stationed in or went through.

After my division landed in France in early December, 1944, we were trucked "forward" and my company was dumped in a field, near a small town. I probably heard its name then, but it didn't matter. There were to be other



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At this time, I am pleased to report that in this issue of *The Bulge* are five pages of information with registration and hotel forms, along with the agenda for the Battle of the Bulge 50th Anniversary Commemoration to be held in St. Louis, Missouri, December 15-18, 1994.

Since the February 15, 1992, Executive Council Meeting, when I was asked to be the Chairman of the 50th Anniversary Committee, I have devoted my entire retired life to this very special event. As of this date, I have written 292 letters--from my first letter of introduction to the DoD 50th Anniversary of WWII Commemoration Committee asking their support and assistance, and letters to Hallmark Cards, Inc. and American Greeting Cards Corp., stating my willingness to travel to their place of business to discuss the possibility of printing a BoB 50th Anniversary Christmas card for our members' use in 1994. They were both sorry to say they needed more than a two-year lead time. Letters, and more letters, the St. Louis Mayor, Anheuser-Busch (they have been most generous), and many letters of inquiry from veterans' organizations and individuals.



With three trips to St. Louis for on-site inspections, planning meetings, and contact negotiations. Meetings have been held in connection with: the formation of a St. Louis Host Committee, assistance of the St. Louis Convention & Visitors Commission, cooperation with staff at the St. Louis Cathedral, Soldiers' Memorial, Police Department, representatives from Ft. Leonard Wood, Scott Air Force Base, U.S. Army Field Band, Belgium and Luxembourg Embassies, DoD 50th Anniversary Committee, National Flag Exhibit, hotel reps, and the numerous meetings with distinguished persons who want to contribute to making this a very special event. My sincere appreciation to each and every one who has worked with me to make this endeavor a success.

General Kicklighter, Director of WWII 50th Anniversary Committee, has said he believes this will be the biggest 50th Anniversary event to be held in the States. With that in mind, please send in your registration form as soon as possible, remembering all BoB veterans are invited to this St. Louis Commemoration. We want all BoB veterans and their spouses who wish to attend the banquet to be able to have tickets. The cut-off date is October 1st for veterans first; after that date, tickets will be sold on a first-come basis.

In closing, let me express my sincere appreciation to all those who have contributed their time and energies to the BoB 50th Anniversary Commemoration.

William P. Tayman

## OUR HONORED DEAD SPEAK

*We hope that with the passing years, we'll not forgotten be.*

*We, who fought and bled and died, to keep our country free.*

*We heard our country's cry and call, and gladly gave our all,*

*So that thru freedom you enjoy might live and never fall.*

*Whene'er you pass our resting place, at home or o'er the sea,*

*Remember that we gave our lives for hallowed liberty ..*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Continued from Page 4)

towns and they all sort of become a hazy blur. There even was an abandoned nunnery, but I really never knew where it was or its name. Actually, it didn't bother me, I wasn't on a high school geography trip. They, our officers and non-coms, never told us how the battle was going, but we knew we had suffered lots of casualties when we were fed turkey twice around Christmas. One day we saw a large glider unit get strafed in the air by German fighter planes--I never heard anything about that. I heard once that my division had been split up and the various regiments temporarily assigned to other divisions, but again that was rumor and made no difference in what we were trying to do.

Later in life it became obvious, if you were captured, you can't tell what you didn't know--some stupidity is a good thing in combat. To the various members of the squad I served in, thank, we made a good team and probably we are here today to show for it. And no, it was not the high point in my life, it was a miserable experience we shared and survived; and then came home to be ordinary citizens who went on to have families and live our own private lives.

In closing, I have long wondered if the Bulge wasn't actually engineered by the Allied High Command to trick the Germans into expending their last significant fuel supply in one huge, futile action. If so, it was a brilliant plan. It did drain the German fuel supply, and cost them many more casualties than the Allies suffered. It is interesting to note the number of infantry units that were available to participate in the destruction of a major segment of the German war machine.

So keep writing those cards and letters, they really are interesting.

Sinclair F. Cullen  
75 INF 290 INF C

## THANKS VBOBers

Thank you very much for your help in regard to locating people who knew my father, J. T. Williams. I have been very fortunate to have heard from some friends of his in the service. I cannot tell you how thrilled this has made me. I have been searching for years to find people that knew him and thanks to *The Bulge Bugle*, my prayers have been answered. This means more to me than I can express! Not only have I heard from friends of his, but I have been invited to their battery reunion! I am looking forward to the coming days and months. Thank you so much for your efforts. ...This is giving me insight and information about my father that I was afraid I would never know. Keep up the good work!

Allen Williams

## WHAT ABOUT THE 2ND DIVISION?

I received *The Bulge Bugle* and really liked it very much. I noticed different divisions and groups mentioned, but didn't mention anything about the 2nd Indianhead Division. We had five major campaign battles: Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Central Europe and the Ardennes. I loved, lived with and am proud to have served with the 2nd Division. So, please in the future say something about the 2nd Division.

William L. Burns, Sr.  
2 INF 9 INF 3 BN I

*[Space has been our undoing. We have tried many times to carry a history of a division or unit in each issue, but one way or another, we wind up not doing it because space does not permit. Many of the units have send us their histories and it is our intention to use them as space permits on an "as received" basis. The shorter they are, the more chance for quick usage.]*

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# 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.

LUNCH ON OWN

12:00 Noon

### **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, 1944.

## •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.



**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 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.



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.



# THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY D-DAY JUNE 6, 1994

*The Memories of the landings here, in nineteen forty four,  
On this historic day in June, will live for evermore.  
Day of invasion had arrived, to end the tyranny,  
For years had ruled this country, that longed for liberty.  
On Omaha and Utah Beach, Sword, Gold and Juno too,  
Men stormed ashore the sixth of June, and France knew war anew.  
The beaches are now quiet and still and one would scarcely know,  
That all the hell of war took place, Here fifty years ago.  
The waves wash in upon each beach, where brave men fought and bled,  
And seem to say a requiem, to all the honored dead.  
Atop the cliff of Saint Laurent, that overlooks the sea,  
Our honored dead now lie at rest, in lovely Normandy.  
History does record and tell within its pages bright,  
The landings that took place D-Day, for freedom's shining light.  
Long may the bonds of brotherhood, that drew us close and near,  
Be cherished in each heart and mind, And evermore held dear.*

Harold F. Mohn - Bulge Veteran

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## LUXEMBOURG EXTENDS A HELPING HAND

Tilly Kimmes-Hansen, Secretary of CEBA (Circle for the Study of the Battle of the Ardennes), of Luxembourg, has provided us with information regarding the Relief Fund carried out by that organization to benefit victims of this past summer's devastating floods in America's Midwest.

About \$370,000 was collected from individuals and companies and divided between Elwood, Kansas; Missouri City, Missouri; and West Alton, Missouri.

Robert Schaeffer, Luxembourg's consul general for a seven-state region based in Kansas City, Missouri, originated the idea and called upon the citizens of Luxembourg to remember the American help they received during World Wars I and II. He said: "We're trying to say we'll never forget what the United States has done for us. We can never repay them for what they have done."

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## VETERANS CEMETERY

By Bill Kemp  
2 INF 38 FA BN SERV BTRY

The white stones stand silent sentinels above the tree-shaded graves. The silence broken only by the breeze ruffled flag.

Here beneath the well manicured greensward lie the remains of the veterans.

Those who heed the call from which others shirked. Those who knew the long wait—who felt the chill thrill of fear in sudden action.

Those who knew the pain—the frustration of seeing comrades fall, victims of the Red God Mars.

Those promised so much by a grateful nation: given so little by a penurious government.

Perhaps in some far off Happy Hunting Ground they convene to converse of what might have been, had their lives not been interrupted by the horrors of war.

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## PENNSYLVANIA MUSEUM PLANS EXHIBIT

During December, 1994, and January, 1995, the Packwood House Museum of Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, will have a six-room educational exhibit commemorating the sacrifices at home and on the war fronts at Christmas time in 1944. One exhibit will attempt to realistically recreate the situation in a shattered house in Bastogne on Christmas Day. The soldiers depicted will be some of the Pennsylvanians involved in that battle. The help of

veterans of the Battle of Bastogne is being sought to be able to accurately depict the situation and create appropriate educational materials for museum visitors. They would like you to join them for this exhibit. For further information, contact: John A. Malcolm, RR 1, Box 310, Sunbury, Pennsylvania 17801.



## MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

Diann Gentis would like to hear from some one in the 42ND DIVISION who may have known her uncle DUANE SMITH. Duane was in the BoB and helped in the liberation of Dachau. He was also in charge of a German prisoner of war logging camp in the Austrian Alps. If you knew Duane and/or familiar with these incidents, write to Diann at: 1553 North 8th, Redmond, Oregon 97756-2297.

CLIFFORD "POPS" BIRD, 32ND MECHANICAL CAVALRY SQUADRON, would like to know if there are any members of the 112TH INFANTRY out there who got him back to his outfit in Bauxhorn, Belgium. The 112th snatched many stragglers and Cliff away from the Germans and treated them like one of their own for eight days. Pops has always wondered if a Lieutenant Truett and 112TH RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON members survived. Write to Pops at: 4523 West 25 South, Paoli, Indiana 47454-1329.

CLIFFORD H. MATSON, 84TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 335TH INFANTRY, G COMPANY, know if you are interested in a reprint of *We Were the Line*—a history of G Company during WWII. This 219-page book had a limited printing in 1946. If interest warrants, an effort will be undertaken to obtain reprints. Price will depend on the number of copies printed and binding type. Approximate costs: \$13 (plastic binding), \$22-\$25 (hardcover). Address: P.O. Box 125, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania 19481-0125.

Robert C. Kinsman would like to find anyone might have known his brother ALFRED W. KINSMAN, 285TH FIELD ARTILLERY OBSERVATION BATTALION, BATTERY B, who was killed in the Malmedy massacre. Also interested in a copy of an article (published late 1944 or early 1945) which appeared in *Yank Magazine* about the BoB. [Also, VBOB office would like a copy.] Write: 15 Wild Rose Lane, Hampton, New Hampshire 03842-1559.

GEORGE M. SPORTS, 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 29TH FIELD ARTILLERY OBSERVATION BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS BATTERY, would like to contact BoB vets near him in Iowa (Newton/Des Moines) or from his old group. Write to: 314 East 21st Street S., Newton, Iowa 50208.

LEE ABBOTT, 51ST COMBAT ENGINEERS, would like to let all the 51st know about a book they might enjoy entitled *51st Again*. Write to Lee, he'll give you information at: 6804 Bridges Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas 76118.

Paul D. Barnard would like to hear from anyone who may remember his father, GORDON WILLIAMS BARNARD, 10TH ARMORED DIVISION. He has written to the 10th Armored Division Association for information, but would like to hear from some of his buddies. Write to Paul at: 46441 Rockford Drive, Shelby Township, Michigan 48315.

Nelly Clement would like to locate Lieutenant SAMUEL BUD FEIN, who lived in Brooklyn, New Jersey. If you can help, write to Nelly at: Avenue de la Croix Rouge 1/16, 4000 Liege, Belgium.

Members of the 30TH INFANTRY DIVISION are looking for any one who served with them during World War II in the ETO. Contact: Saul Solow, 13645 Whippet Way East, Delray Beach, Florida 33484-1257.

LEMUEL A. PURDOM, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, 26TH INFANTRY, 2 BATTALION, COMPANY H, would like to hear from anyone who served in his company. Over the years, he has lost the list of his squad. Write to him at: 1009 East Myrtle Avenue, Waycross, Georgia 31501-7514.

ALLEN EVANS, 76TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, would like to know if there is a history that exists for an "outfit such as I fought with." If you can help Allen, write to him: 153 East State Road, Cleves, Ohio 45002.

Associate Member GEORGE E. HANCOCK would like to find someone who remembers his uncle, also named GEORGE E. HANCOCK. He served with the 4TH ARMORED DIVISION, 66TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, BATTERY "A." George was wounded outside Bastogne by a "screaming meemie," and taken (December 27) to a field hospital (15th Army Medical?). He died of his wounds on December 30th. He mentioned a guy in his unit named ALEX GWINN, an American Indian from Elbowoods,

North Dakota. Can you help? Write to George at: 8714 Hickory Drive, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19136.

Kathryn Herfurth wrote to us earlier to find someone who may have known her uncle, JAMES FRANKLIN HERFURTH. Kathryn has now found out her uncle was with—174TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, DETAIL PLATOON, BATTERY "A." She is very grateful to find this information, but did not locate anyone who knew him personally overseas. Did you? She would also like to obtain a copy of the book *WE DID*. Write to Kathryn at: 225 West Carmen Lane #39, Santa Maria, California 93454.

The Historical Circle of Werm is looking for veterans who between September, of 1944, until January, 1945, were in these villages: Alt-Hoeselt, Berg, Beverst, Bilzen, Eigenbilzen, Genoelselderen, Grote-Spouwen, Guigoven, Henis, Herderen, Hoeselt, Kleine-Spouwen, Mal, Martenslinde, Membruggen, Millen, Mopertingen, Munsterbilzen, Riemst, Rijkhoven, Riksinghen, Romershoven, Schalkhoven, Sluizen, 's Herenelderen, St. Huibrechts-Hern, Tongeren, Valmeer, Vliermaal, Vliermaalroot, Vreeren, Waltwilder or Werm. Please contact the Circle at the following address: p/a Pierre Baerten, Bronstraat 6, 3730 Hoeselt, Belgium.

DONALD R. FOSTVEDT, 488TH ORDNANCE EVACUATION COMPANY, would love to hear from any one in his group. Write to Donald at: 649 West Helen Street, Hayden Lake, ID 83835.

Frank Heckler would like to hear from anyone who may have known his uncle, HOWARD A. IRVINE, 28TH DIVISION, 110TH INFANTRY, COMPANY M. Howard was killed in the Battle of the Bulge probably near Wiltz or Bastogne between December 20 and 25, 1944. Contact Frank at: 3316 Creole Circle, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

New member THOMAS C. HILL, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, 26TH INFANTRY, 3RD BATTALION, M COMPANY, 3RD PLATOON, would like to hear from anyone in his old group. Write to Tom at: 512 Lawndale Drive, Reidsville, North Carolina 27320.

HOWARD L. BRYANT, 106TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 424TH INFANTRY, COMPANY F, who was wounded Christmas evening near Manhay, would like to hear from any one who participated in this battle, particularly PFC. CLIFFORD FRIELINGER (from Wisconsin). Write to Howard at: P.O. Box 976, Coweta, Oklahoma 74429.

ROY HOLMES would like to hear from members with the 612TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION and 146TH COMBAT ENGINEERS. Do you fill the bill? Write to Roy at: 906 Trotwood Avenue, B-10, Columbia, Tennessee 38401.

EMILE PIRARD would like to contact the following who were stationed at Heusy Verviers in November, 1944 (71 Ave Hanlet): ARTHUR BORZE, JOHN DELEONE, HAROLD KERPS, ESQUIPULA HEREDIA, HILARIO, ROBERT, JEAN, etc. (L 501 ENG W S CO 10 ARMY). (Names and unit are as appears in Emile's note.) Contact Emile at: Rue de la Motte, Chalancon 21, 4801 Stembert, Belgium.

ALLEN EVANS, 76TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, HEAD-QUARTERS BATTERY, wants to know if there is a history that exists for his outfit. If you know, write to: 153 East State Road, Cleves, Ohio 45002.

3RD ARMY, III CORPS, 4TH ARMORED DIVISION, CCR, 37TH TANK BATTALION and supporting units in the relief of the siege of Bastogne, 26 December, 1944, you can be of help to a group preparing a model of the scene where the five Sherman tanks, under Lt. Boggess passed the last pillbox North of Assenoise and enter Bastogne. Write to: Ken Berg, 5518 East Lindstrom Lane #2005, Mesa, Arizona 85215.

ROY GORDON, 9TH INFANTRY, 47TH INFANTRY, would like to hear from any of his old buddies. He's been under the weather. As Roy puts it, "Heart. Jiggling along—but can't stress the 'lil bastard. Pressure in the spine, at neck on nerves to hands. ...can't write, can't feel what's in my pockets.... Can't type. Only way they can cure this—maybe—is by hammer and chiseling (no kidding) the bone spurs growing there which press against the nerves." So, drop Roy a note. He'll be happy to hear from you. Roy's address: B102, 104500 Overseas Highway, Key Largo, Florida 33037.



■ **"LET THE BATTLE BEGIN"**

# THE QUEEN OF BATTLE SMILED

**And said "Let the battle begin." Adolph Hitler personally gave the order and in the early hours of December 16, 1944, the largest land battle in the history of the world quickly consumed the lives and fortunes of German, French, Belgium, Luxembourg, British and American people. The battle lasted one month.**

**It changed warfare, politics, statesmanship, statecraft and civil rights forever.**

by **BLAINE P. FRIEDLANDER**

## WHY DID THE QUEEN OF BATTLE SMILE?

The Infantry is the queen of battle. World War II was total war, with large naval and air fleets dispensing wide destruction of military and civilian objectives on a scale never seen before and since. The destruction at Hiroshima is still frightening although I saw the devastation on August 7, 1951. To this international military hardware we have added armor and artillery. War became complex, and this writing will attempt to discuss this complexity and why the Battle of the Bulge emerged. As you read this paper, you should begin to understand the real reason for the Battle of the Bulge and why you deserve the thanks of all mankind. And why the Queen of Battle smiled.

The reader must understand that I was not at the Ardennes, but I did see the movie and heard the Hollywood Cadence for the first time. I was impressed. One of my friends was with BG Anthony McAuliffe when he uttered his famous "Nuts!" I was plenty cold in Korea six years after the Bulge, and hold the Combat Infantryman's Badge, but I was not present during the battle.

Why did the queen of battle smile? Well, one reason she smiled was that Hitler did not have a snowball's chance in hell of success in any manner, shape or form. World War II was over, the outcome was not in doubt. The Allies were attacking Hitler's fortress on two fronts. Both the German and Japanese military were attempting to work out a surrender with the Germans attempting a peace through Sweden and the Japanese through Switzerland.

The Allies were united through two unions. The European War found the Allies United States, Great Britain and Russia working together with meetings at Yalta, Moscow and constant visitations between the leaders of the nations. France, speaking through De Gaulle, was on the periphery. Roosevelt did not like De Gaulle, and this feeling permeated the military's reaction. Indeed, one of De Gaulle's people, stationed in Washington, D.C. during World War II, described the inter nations' workings, as one constant squabble. We will refer to that later on.

Because of political considerations, the war with Japan did not involve Russia. There was a confederation of the United States, Great Britain, and China. The meetings of these three powers were frequent.

During this period, two important events took place. While Britain and Russia were pushing the United States to have a second front open in the Balkans, the United States was defending its invasion of Africa and the invasion of Italy. Britain, speaking through Winston Churchill, wanted an invasion through Greece to confine the Russians to their pre-1940 boundaries. It has not been written, but it is reasonable to assume Churchill had in mind a revolt of the Russian people against the Stalinist regime with the backing of the United States and Britain.

The Russians wanted a Eastern Europe invasion for quite a different reason. Stalin wanted the Americans to share some of the casualties. This was settled, when, with the United States in Italy and Africa, on June 6, 1944, United States, British and French forces landed at Normandy. Germany was fighting on three fronts: France, Russia and Italy. The Italians were quitting, and Germany was divided between Hitler, who wanted to mount an attack to drive the Allies from French soil, and the Generals who wanted to consolidate their defenses in from the coast.

The German Generals were aware of the hopelessness of their position and they divided into two groups, those who supported the Hitler regime and the Reich as opposed to the more pragmatic group of Generals who thought the war should end as soon as possible. Field Marshal Rommel (The Desert Fox) thought the time had come to end the war, but the evidence is conflicting for it is not clear that Rommel knew about the plot to kill Hitler and seize power.

On the Allied side of the front, the American Generals were having their management difficulties as well. In fact, on June 20, 1944, General Eisenhower wrote a letter to his General officers to stay with the program and not to deviate. This letter was written just two weeks after the invasion. In fact management of a war is just as difficult as management of VBOB.

Ike had to contend with Field Marshal Montgomery, who wanted to strike out on his own through the industrial north of Germany, and Patton, who wanted to strike through the south of Germany. Ike wanted a solid front and not to have any salients sticking out requiring more manpower. The United States had three fronts to arm, as well as sending equipment to Russia and China. Ike had to contend with a tight supply line. His strategy was correct.

As the Allies were breaking out of the hedgerows and dashing for Germany, the Germans lost the war on July 20, 1944. Col. von Stauffenberg, brilliant, decorated, and severely injured Prussian, decided to kill Hitler. He almost succeeded,

*(Continued on Page 14)*



## THE QUEEN OF BATTLE (Continued from Page 13)

but someone moved the brief case holding the bomb and Hitler survived. This was the second major event leading to the Battle of the Bulge.

The Allies were so deep in their own management squabbles, the importance of the attempt to kill Hitler apparently passed the Allies without appropriate reaction. At this time, a concerted thrust across the line would have collapsed the German military machine.

As it happened, the Germans made a counterattack in France, and lost their army in France and the Allies made it to the Siegfried Line and rested, waiting for supplies.

Meanwhile back at Hitler's Headquarters on July 20, 1944, Col. von Stauffenberg's bomb went off. Shortly thereafter, the Junkers (for that is what the military caste was called) were sought after. The Generals were required by Hitler to turn over their friends to the Nazis for immediate execution or they would be killed. The German Army was never the same, for Hitler placed his feared SS troops in every headquarters.

### AGAIN THE QUEEN OF BATTLE SMILED!

This time, she was smiling at the Allies. World War I was fought to end war, but here we were again with fighting all over the world and frightening casualties.

While the Germans were attempting to force a negotiated peace, the Allies were attempting to solve the problem of war. While Ike and his troops were spending the fall consolidating positions and awaiting resupplies and troops to bring the TO&Es into balance, the statesmen of the Allies were dealing with the issue of War Crimes.

During the summer of 1944, the concept of "War Crimes" was being discussed among the European Allies. During the summer and fall, the Allies were bringing other nations into the fold, for example all of the South American nations signed on to the concept of international law and order. As the concept of the United Nations took hold, the United States and its allies decided to try the Nazi leaders, and actually issued arrest warrants. These warrants were to be executed by the military and listed Hitler, Goering, Goebbels, Speer, and many others.

During this period the *New York Times* reported that all of the Allies agreed to the trial of War Criminals. When this was done, Ike's forces were still in combat with the Germans on French soil. While the record is far from clear, it appears that Hitler knew two things:

a. If he turned his backs on his generals, they would kill him. And upon his death, his Reich which was to last a 1,000 years would cease after a dozen horrible years; and

b. If he survived the war, he would be arrested, tried for his crimes against humanity, and hanged. He knew the war was over. It has been written that sometime in August he called the few generals he trusted to prepare a plan to drive the Allies back, at least to Antwerp in hopes of dividing the British and Americans and obtaining a settlement of the war.

While this is the report of history, the probability of splitting the allies on the verge of victory did not exist, and the German Generals knew this. They even told Hitler his plan would not work. The German army was scraping the bottom



Von Rundstedt Surrenders

of the manpower barrel. Their air force no longer existed, and if they failed to use the remaining manpower and hardware resources in a solely defensive mode, the war would rapidly end. Then why did the Generals agree to such a foolish plan?

### THIS IS WHY THE QUEEN OF BATTLE SMILED!

The German Generals and Hitler had a plan of escape and they had to reach water and begin the sail for Argentina. Why Argentina? It was the only hospitable nation in the world. If one reflects upon history, some of the German elite did make it to Argentina and Uruguay.

In August, the German General Staff issued orders for the senior officers of the German Army to abandon their posts and save themselves for World War III. At least this is the report in several newspapers on November 1, 1944, following a press conference of the First Army on October 31, 1944. According to the reports, a copy of this order was found on a dead German officer during the breakout from the hedgerows.

Assuming the correctness of this cryptic press conference, and knowing that some Germans did make it to South America, and advising you that during the fall of 1944, the Allies told Argentina that allowing the Germans refuge in South America was unacceptable to the Allies, who wanted the arrest, trial and conviction of named and unnamed Nazi officials, and Argentina was accused by some of the Allies as planning to receive the Nazis. Argentina was quick to deny the allegations.

We now must consider that the German Generals went along with Hitler's plan, and during the fall of 1944, the top secret Ardennes campaign was being planned. Divisions were removed from the line and carefully refitted and trained. Travel was only at night. Any violation of security was punishable by death. To say the top brass and Hitler thought this campaign important is an understatement.

There is little need to repeat the preparations, other than to relate the fact that the attack through the Ardennes with three armies to the Meuse (all divisions in each army was at half strength) then an oblique turn to Antwerp. This was in effect a funnel, with the material in the funnel entering from the Ardennes and being deposited at one or more of the ports still in German hands.

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Clauswitz in his work *On War*, states that an attacking army should have three times the forces of an opposing army in order to win. In the Korean War, for example, the Chinese forces were ten times the size of the American Army, and one did not see either MacArthur, Ridgeway, Van Fleet or Clark mounting any major attack. In the Ardennes, the three German Armies were opposing an equal if not larger Ally Armies. The German Armies had divisions at only half strength. The German Generals certainly knew Clauswitz and followed his teachings.

THE TRUTH IS THE GERMAN SOLDIER WAS BEING USED AS CANNON FODDER, AND ONCE HITLER, HIS PEOPLE AND THE GENERALS WERE OUT OF THE FUNNEL AND ON THE HIGH SEAS, GERMANY WOULD COLLAPSE...AND WHO WOULD CARE?

When the attack in the Ardennes began, the American soldier fought back. The defensive positions were adequate to hold the line for a time sufficient. While the American soldier was fighting, Ike and his top Generals met. At first, Patton was laughing about the attack, and to the amusement of the other Generals, suggested that the Allies allow the Germans to go all the way to Paris, then attack and wipe the German Armies from the face of the earth. Ike and his generals became serious and devised the strategy of containing the striking force before the Meuse, while Patton would move north to relieve Bastogne, and cut the Germans from the south near the neck of the attack. Montgomery, on the north would move south and meet Patton's army.



GI's Load on Truck Moving to Front.

The press picked up the battle and the Ardennes became the Battle of the Bulge. There was no chance, if anyone would consider the premises, of German success, but the press, and the British press in particular, treated this episode as if the war had changed. The panic of the press was transferred to the public. Ike, who received his fifth star on December 16, almost lost his command. The British press was on his tail and wanted Montgomery as the ETO commander. Into the breach came Churchill to quiet the situation. Montgomery withdrew his attack on Ike, tidied up his battlefield, and began the attack in the north.

By December 18, 1944, it was clear that the main thrust of the attack had been contained. Supplies were short and the weather was evil. The generals were unable to fly, and were thus slowed down. Ike needed replacements and the War Production Board came to the Battle of the Bulge battleground to discuss replacements. General Marshall advised Ike that the mood of the American public was becoming nasty and they wanted the war to end quickly.

Meanwhile, as the battle was beginning, de Gaulle returned from a visit to Stalin in Moscow where the Franco-Soviet mutual support treaty was signed. As the Battle of the Bulge progressed, Himmler's Army on the south made a move towards Strasbourg, just recently captured by the French. This scared the French, and Ike made a prudent move to adjust his lines to a better defensive position, but would abandon Strasbourg. De Gaulle, admitting Ike's move was militarily correct, stated that the French would pull out of the Allied Army rather than abandon Strasbourg. De Gaulle and General Beedle Smith had it out, with De Gaulle complaining to both Roosevelt (who ignored him) and Churchill who came right over to Ike's HQ. Churchill calmed de Gaulle and then saw Ike. By then (January 3, 1945), the danger had passed. The Germans were being squeezed out of the Bulge and Himmler's inability as a military man reduced the danger at Strasbourg, and the crisis with de Gaulle thus passed.

This is the first draft of The Queen of Battle and will go into the results of the battle which were:

1. Americans learned how to deal with their allies as equals
2. Our allies learned how to deal with Uncle Sugar
3. Our military need to learn management techniques
4. The civil rights movement began here, as Blacks were allowed to be combat troops and fought with Whites. Both survived
5. The United Nations was formed. Didn't learn how to contain war.



Blaine P. Friedlander is General Counsel of VBOB. He served in Korea in 1951 and 1952 with the 11th Republic of Korea Infantry Division and was among the first soldiers awarded the CIA. He holds degrees from the University of Virginia (History), George Washington University (Education) and Georgetown University (Law). He edited a magazine for the Northern Virginia Kiwanis Clubs, and has written about crime. He has been featured in magazines, radio and television for his work with criminals and polygraph. He is married (Phyllis) and has two children--Blaine, Jr. (Sky Match columnist for *The Washington Post*) and Diane. Blaine also claims his three grandsons are very handsome for they look exactly like him.

Blaine, who did not participate in the Battle of the Bulge (he saw the movie), became interested in the management of the Battle of the Bulge while watching a television documentary became fascinated with the ebb and flow of the leaders. This article evolved from that interest.





**Living  
Legends**

# Memorable Bulge Incidents

UNEDITED AND  
HERETOFORE UNPUBLISHED

## THEY'RE OUR PRISONERS

December 1944

**Jerry C. Hrbek**  
428th Military Police Escort Guards  
99th Infantry Division  
Voorheesville, New York

There were eight of us holed up in an old farmhouse in the village of Berg, northeast of the Towns of Bullingen and Butgenbach with 19 Jerry prisoners. We had been waiting there for two days for some personnel from G-2 to come and interrogate them.

About 4:00 p.m. on December 15, 1944, a carry-all came down the dirt road in front of the house with five sergeants aboard. There were three master sergeants and two were staff sergeants. They set up a table in the cellar in preparation of doing what they had to do. They were dressed in formal GI fashion, ribbons and all. We all looked like bums compared to them. To me they looked out of place and not like someone who would be anywhere near the front.

One of them officiated behind the so-called desk. There were three of us in the room with them--Sergeant James, Richardson and myself. "Okay, soldier, bring them in one at a time." The first prisoner came in, stood in front of the table, and came to attention clicking his heels. The sergeant said in German, "What's your name, rank and serial number?" The Jerry answered him. The sergeant asked him what outfit he was in. He clicked his heels again and said, "Fifth Panzers." He was dismissed and the second was brought in.

They went through the same procedure with him, also the third and fourth man. When the fifth came up he was asked the same questions, only his answer was the Sixth Panzer. The sergeant behind the table looked up from his writing and asked him again. He got the same answer. Slowly the sergeant stood up and stood there about 30 seconds looking at the man. His open hand shot out and with a thunderous slap he hit the Jerry right across the face. I was standing about four feet to the left of the prisoner. The incident happened so fast and totally took me by surprise. Inside I was mad as all hell. I pushed the Jerry aside, pulled back the bolt on the Thompson I was carrying and stood there

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

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

pointing it at the sergeant. "You ever pull that again on any of our prisoners and I'll make you a part of that wall behind you," I calmly told him. I watched him turn white with rage. One of the other sergeants said, "Hold it, soldier, what the hell do you think you're doing?" Sergeant James had been standing behind me leaning up against the stone wall, his right foot propped up on the wall behind him. He stepped to the table and spoke to the sergeant, "You heard what he said and that goes for all of you. You don't hit any of our prisoners." There was total silence. He backed up slowly and went back to his place at the wall. The sergeant behind the table was clearly shook up and I believe embarrassed in front of the others. He said, "What the hell is the matter with you guys?"

Backing off and still pointing the Thompson at him, I stepped back and was now standing next to the prisoner--about two feet apart. I said, "Sarge, when you're finished here you'll walk up those stairs and leave, but we've got to get these prisoners back to a control point at Elsenborn and we don't need a fool like you to make it hard for us."



*Hrbek's squad. Left to right: Doc Ward, Sgt. James, Ack, Cpl. Whitehead (Whitey). In front Tommy Tompkins. Johnston took the picture.*

Elsenborn was northwest of where we were. Twenty or so miles away and all we have is a lousy weapons carrier and no food. The prisoners were hungry and out of the two toughest panzer outfits on wheels.

The next two prisoners were out of the Fifth Panzers, eight and nine were out of the Sixth. When they were finished, six

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## BULGE INCIDENTS *(Continued from Page 16)*

of the nineteen were with the Sixth Panzer Division. The sergeant behind the desk came up to me and said, "They'll hear about this at division, soldier." I looked at him, and I was still pissed off. "Tell them for me also that we've been getting prisoners from the Sixth Panzer for the past three weeks, one here, two there." He made some comment, that "it couldn't be, the Sixth Panzers were in Holland." I replied, "That's G-2's problem, we just bring them in for you and we intend to stay alive."

My duty that night was at the front door of the farmhouse. About 50 feet away from me, sitting at the base of a tree and at the edge of the road, I could see Tommy Tompkins in silhouette. Tom was five feet one inches tall, and had more ass than a herd of buffalo. He was from Oklahoma.

The night was crisp and clear and time slipped by fast. It slips by fast when you run out of things to think about, and ever since the Normandy invasion on D&Z I had already thought about home over ten billion times.

During the night and towards dawn, I was hearing things I didn't like. The door I was leaning against was being pushed out and Sergeant James stepped outside. "How's it going, Yankee," he said--he being from Georgia and myself a New Yorker. "I don't know Sarge, listen up for a while." We stood there in total silence and then the "thum, thop, thum" hit our ears. "Theirs or ours," I asked. He didn't say a word. He turned and disappeared through the door.

About ten minutes later the door opened again and Sergeant James said, "We've got to get out. The Jerries broke through and are coming straight for us." By now it was light. He waved to Tom who came running and they disappeared behind the door again. Tom came back out carrying a 30 caliber machine-gun. He was busying himself out in the middle of the road. Johnson, Richard, and Doc Ward started filing the Jerries in a formation of fours. Everything went like clockwork. Tom had his barricade all ready to stop the panzers out in the middle of the road. The prisoners were ready to go. I turned to look back at the house. Sergeant James and Corporal Whitehead were helping a wounded prisoner up to the column. I looked at the man, he was jaundiced and part of his face was missing. I looked at Sergeant James and Whitey, but got no answer. The prisoner was about 20 years old.

When Sergeant James saw Tom and his barricade he said, "What the hell do you think you're going to stop with that, Tom?" Tom looked up from his sitting position behind the gun and said, "I've had it. This is as far as they go. No more, this is the end." It was sadly and frustratingly comical. The Sarge looked down at him and in a loud voice said, "Tom, get that equipment into the weapons carrier and move it fast!" Tom got the message real fast. He had it all set-up in the back of the weapons carrier in nothing flat.

A jeep pulled up kicking the dirt off the road. Lieutenant Wilson of the divisional MP's and two non-coms told us to get out fast. Their jeep had a mounted 30 caliber machine-gun. They swung the vehicle around and took off. Someone said, "Nice guys, you would think they would stay with us."

The weapons carrier was in the lead, Ack was driving. Sergeant James was standing on the seat next to him. Tom

in the back. Doc Ward and Corporal Whitehead (Whitey) on the right side of the column of prisoners, Richardson and Johnson on the left, and yours truly taking the rear. We got about a mile down the road. The sergeant decided to take to a huge open field on our right because of a knocked out railroad bridge crossing the road in front of us. The abutments on either side of the road were at least one hundred feet in the air.

The field was about the size of five or six football fields. A dirt road ran right down the center of the field. We got to the approximate center of the field when two of the Jerry prisoners at the rear of the column were talking excitedly to each other. The wounded man walked about 15 feet behind them and I was behind him. Those two guys were getting me nervous. I yelled at them, "Mach Schnell" (make it fast). One of them pointed to the tree line behind us. I did a quick look and my heart almost quit. A half a dozen tiger tanks were coming out of the woods and hundreds of soldiers were pouring out on the field. They were about 200 yards away. We were behind enemy lines which was bad enough, but this seemed ridiculous. I yelled at Sergeant James, who was standing on the passenger side of the weapons carrier facing the whole scene, and he acknowledged my pointing. I pointed the Thompson at the two who were by now enjoying our predicament. When I yelled at them they closed up a bit. The wounded man was farther back than before. I yelled to the two clowns and motioned them to get hold of him and take him along. One of them said, "Far vas?" (For what?), "Ict dott" (its dead). When I clicked off my safety they both shouldered him and dragged him along. I looked at the vehicle, we were going up a slight grade. I was in awe, what else could happen?

Two planes broke the tree lines, dropped to the field preparing to strafe us. I yelled at the Sarge pointing. He turned, jumped off the vehicle, running down the road waving his arms, frantically trying to wave them off. He had immediately recognized them as ours. They couldn't have been 50 feet above the field, one behind the other. Sarge succeeded in his endeavor. The first one passed over our heads and started to climb. He got about 50 yards past us and about a 100 feet in the air when he blew-up in a black blast of smoke and fell in a belly flop back onto the field where he blew again. I had a difficult moment deciding what to watch, the planes above us, the tanks at the edge of the tree lines or our prisoners. I believe we were all hypnotized, prisoners as well as their captors alike. The second plane almost ran into the first when the first exploded. The second pilot maneuvered to the right in a half roll straight up and was gone. To this day I believe they were Thunderbolts.

The column kept moving, and no one shot at us. I believe because they saw we had prisoners. When the plane hit the ground, I could see through the flames and smoke, two of the tanks had a white smokey look around them. I really believe he was hit by 88's on those tanks. The Jerries were good with those things. Rifle fire? No, because there wasn't any. Anyway, the pilot never knew what hit him. They had a perfect target coming straight at them. The Jerries were

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## BULGE INCIDENTS (Continued from Page 17)

naturally camouflaged against the tree line and from all that was going on, and flying so low, he couldn't have seen them.

We reached the end of the field, cross the railroad tracks, went down an embankment, and straight up a hill of about 40 degrees. The hill was about 200 feet in length. Halfway up I saw a sergeant lying on his back. He was yelling in both German and English, "Schnell, schnell, hurry, hurry." He said, "Keep them moving, son." Son, I thought, I felt like a very, very old man. Keep moving, don't give us away. Then I noted the hill was full of men dug in. Big guns, 90 mm pointing downhill. My God, the Jerry army following us will catch hell.

We got to the top of the hill and ran the prisoners the next hundred yards to a road. Two 6x's were coming down the road, both with Red Cross markings. I tried flagging the first one down, but he was moving too fast. I stepped a little into the road and waved. The second one stopped. The driver asked, "What's up?" The wounded Jerry was standing next to me. "You carrying wounded?" "Yes," he answered. Looking at the wounded man, the driver made a remark to the effect, "Hell, he won't make it. Look," he remarked, "if the guys in the back will have him, it's up to them." I went to the back of the truck with the prisoner and pulled back the tarp, the vehicle had no tailgate. The men inside were all wounded, bandaged, only temporary staff by the medics. I looked at the nearest man to me and asked if they would mind taking this one with them, pointing to the prisoner. "What say, you guys?" he addressed about a dozen wounded GI's. They looked at him and in unison waved him in. With my fractured German I turned to him and said, "You're going to a krankenhaus (hospital)." He lifted his arm to my shoulder and said, "Danka, danka, Amerikaner," (Thank you, thank you, American). We helped him into the vehicle. I gave the driver the on-the-double sign. He waved back and took off. We hitched rides on different vehicles, walked, ran, anything, just to get to Elsenborn. We got shelled twice, but no one, prisoners or anyone, in our outfit was hurt.

We reached Elsenborn about four in the afternoon. Our prisoners got to a collecting point and that was that.

That night we slept in a bombed out building on the side of the road. It had no roof, the walls were four feet high. It was built of stone and stucco. Corporal Miller, an old buddy, joined us that night. He had red hair and lived in the bayous of Louisiana. He was older than the rest of us, about 40 or so. He and I acquired a corner to protect us from who know what. We called it our castle.

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### LOST ARTICLE RETURNED

Milton M. Conner  
B Battery  
592 Field Artillery Battalion  
106 Infantry Division  
Arlington, Texas

December 1944

I was in my sack on a cold December night. At about 4:00 a.m. I got up and went out to check the guards, I found everything O.K. I went back to my sack and was just starting to get warm again when all hell broke loose. It was

about 5:30 a.m. when I called battery CP and was told that it out going from the 333th long toms. About that time one round hit near the battery CP. Then they knew that it was incoming and at daylight we knew that we had a rough day ahead of us--the German infantry was just over the ridge from us. We did not know what happened. We had lost all contact with others and we were in for a tough day. A large tank came over the ridge and fired one round over our gun position which killed three men out of Service Battery. A Battery opened up with their 50 caliber tank and went over the ridge. Then the mortars began to rain on A Battery position. We came out with 40 wounded or killed. I lost a very good friend, Lt. Alexander. We had six men missing. We had to get out under the cover of darkness. The men had to get what they could for we were leaving in a real big hurry. I left a barracks bag and after 47 years and 8 days, the bag were returned to me by a young man named Jene Paul Linden of Belgium. ...[In 1991, I received the] old barracks bag of mine that had been missing all that time.

I cannot tell you how many people [have since seen] the barracks bag.

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### SOME NICE, CLEAN PAJAMAS

Robert C. Catlin  
L Company  
359 Infantry Regiment  
90th Infantry Division  
Decatur, Illinois

January 1945



Robert G. Catlin  
Brussels, Belgium  
July 30, 1945

On January 5, 1945, we got orders to move up to the Battle of the Bulge. I was a rifleman. We walked part of the night of January 6th and got a few hours sleep in a barn. Then we were picked up by a convoy of open trucks. We rode all day in a blizzard up through Luxembourg city and stopped in Bastogne. My squad moved into a shed, got a stove, [some] straw and got thawed out good. The next morning we had only K rations but a cook in an engineer outfit ran us all through his chow line for hot cakes and hot coffee.

We were taken in trucks again, I think towards Wiltz, Luxembourg, and we got into a pine thicket and spent the night on the snow. Four of us got together with our four blankets, put one down and three on top of us. My legs had no feeling the next morning but after we saddled up and starting walking my feet started sweating. Good shape, huh?

We ditched our packs in a school yard and joined four tanks of the 6th Armored Division and we headed into the woods. We were walking between and behind the tanks. They were killing and wounding a lot of Krauts and we moved pretty good for a couple hours and the Kraut artillery

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## BULGE INCIDENTS

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was going over our heads. Then we came to a draw and machine gun fire wounded three or four of our guys, so the rest of us hesitated a little, till we could see Krauts getting out of their foxholes and trying to get behind us. Some of us started pouring lead into them and they ran back and jumped into their holes.

The tanks had got ahead of us so we circled back around through K Company and the Kraut artillery had pretty well messed them up. We kept moving pretty good again for awhile, then a bunch of Krauts got out of a trench in front of me and surrendered. Sergeant Wood told me to take them out, and when I got them out of the road, Colonel Bell had a bunch he was holding and told me to take them all back to the MPs. The prisoners started stringing out, they were wanting to get out of there as bad as I was, so I got in front of them and had two walking wounded GIs behind them.

We got almost to the village when a shell lit right in the prisoners, one couldn't get up and one ran by me with his hand blown off. I didn't feel anything but looked down and my pants were torn and blood was coming out. A piece of shrapnel had taken a chunk out of the calf of my right leg. I was able to stay on my feet, round up the prisoners and limp into the village. A couple of MPs took them and pointed to the aid station.



I walked into the aid station and stood my rifle in the corner. The medics cut my pants and boots off, sprinkled sulfur powder on the wound and bandaged it. After a while a jeep pulled up, loaded up with wounded, then called for someone who could walk. I went out and they put me across the hood of the jeep with my sock foot stuck out in the cold air. They backed up, waited for the shelling to ease up

then took off. (there was a platoon of riflemen at the windows of the aid station watching for an attack.)

I got pretty sick back at the collecting station then was taken by ambulance to the 35th Evacuation Hospital in Luxembourg City. A blond nurse brought me a pair of pajamas and told me to put any clothes I didn't want in a pile. I didn't want any of them as I'd been in them over three months. She got a kick out of the stuff she found in my pockets—nescafe, sugar cubes and other treasures.

A surgeon cleaned my wound there and the next morning I was handed my purple heart and sent to the Hospital at Metz. My wound wouldn't heal so they sent me on back to England to a General Hospital. They were able to graft over my wound and I was discharged just a week before the war ended.

## ON THE ATTACK!

Joseph H. Geary  
A Company

January 1945

291st Engineer Combat Battalion  
Saunderstown, Rhode Island

It was January 10, 1945, and our battalion was assigned to render close combat engineering support to the XVIII Airborne Corps as the Battle of the Bulge changed from the defensive to the offensive.

The 291st had been surprised on December 16, 1944, along with everyone else, and our activities since the German attack were defensive as we tried to slow the German progress while our fighting divisions were being mustered. We manned road blocks and mine fields, we blew bridges in the face of Kampfgruppe Peiper, we held Malmedy with 126 lightly armed engineers, we denied the roads to Hitler's tanks.

Now, we were on the attack working with the 82nd Airborne and the 30th Infantry Division.

Company A got the call to construct a Bailey Bridge at Trois Pont, Belgian, to support the attack by the 82nd. Two platoons would do the job led by Lt. Alva Edelstein and Lt. Bucky Walters. We arrived in our squad trucks on this cold, crisp, morning with two feet of new snow on the ground. The paratroopers had jumped off earlier and they had been successful wading the Ambleve River and advancing several hundred yards into the town.

We were to build our Bailey Bridge from the friendly side of a blown fixed bridge and the Bailey would set down on the remaining part of the blown bridge. The blown fixed bridge replaced a Bailey constructed on the site in the capture of Trois Pont earlier in the war after the retreating Germans destroyed the Belgian bridge.

This bridge building in the Battle of the Bulge had its humorous side. It went something like this...as the Germans retreated they blew the Belgian bridges. The attacking combat engineers threw up a Bailey tactical bridge. Then as the front moved on they took down the Bailey for use again further up front, and built a wooden fixed bridge two lanes wide. Then we blew the fixed bridge when the Germans attacked. Now we put in a Bailey in our attack and it will be replaced by a fixed bridge...and so it goes. One 291st platoon built three bridges on the same site!

We had arrived anxious to get started but the trucks with the 560 pound steel panels had not yet backed down to the bridge site. We had a little time to watch the infantry as they crossed the open area of the railroad tracks crouched and in staggered sequence. Others across the river smoked as they took over in the doorways of the houses lining the street...their turn to move up would come soon. All is relatively quiet except for occasional rifle fire up ahead and the response of the deadly burp of the German machine guns with the distinctive sound of the high rate of fire. The infantry moved slowly, if at all, and then dashed across the open area one at a time.

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## BULGE INCIDENTS *(Continued from Page 19)*

Two frozen civilian bodies lay in the snow between the first house on our right and the river. Colonel Pergrin, our battalion commander, waved to us to join him at the house and several of the squad who were with me...Blanchard, MacDonald, Wright, Hernandez, Nowakowski and others, responded. The house was a good looking house and it was set back from the road on the other side of a depression. It had a filled driveway from the road to the house and under the driveway there were storage areas with wide garage doors. These were open and revealed frozen dead civilians who had been stacked in there like cords of wood. There must have been more than a dozen bodies and some were children.

We were very familiar with dead bodies in the six months from Normandy to the Bulge, so this, at the time, was just more of German brutality and atrocity as Peiper's men punished the Belgians for friendliness to the Americans. Colonel Pergrin wanted us to see these scenes which were to become important later on at the war crimes trials, but that cold morning there was a bridge to build, a war to be won, and many more still to die.

We started the bridge by off-loading the panels from the six by six trucks. Six of us, half the squad, carried one 560 pound panel with three booby sticks trust through the panel. The Bailey Bridge is a wonderful British invention... with the component parts arranged in different ways we can build a Class 40 (40 ton Sherman tank) to suit almost all bridging problems including floating the bridge on pontoons. The Bailey can be built with manpower only, quietly, even the locking pins are pounded in with rawhide mallets.

The experienced teams worked efficiently. The quiet commands "Lay holt, heave!" are given in hushed tones while the impatient Sherman tank waits to cross with an idling motor. First we build the nose which will help us balance the bridge and reach out to the far shore. Now we are moving quickly and we have the first complete sections of what is to be a 120 foot double single Bailey rolling out and up. And so we add to it and we have about 60 feet of panels balanced over the river when the first heavy mortar shells crash down, explode with fury, and blow ugly splotches in the white snow. "Don't drop the panel!" We stand with gritting teeth, head lowered, rooted to the spot waiting for a pause in the shelling and then, slipping and sliding we deliver the panel to the bridge, lift it into place, and quickly the locking pins are hammered in. Now we can duck and take cover while the Germans plaster us. Luckily most of the shells land about 20 yards down stream to our right...thanks to the infantry the Germans do not seem to have direct observation...no casualties this time among the working engineers but the medics are busy with several Americans at the bridge site. Soon we are rolling the last of the bridge section out, and the nose, well up in the air, is directly above the touch-down rollers on the far side. A little manpower by the working squads lifts the bridge, which now weighs tons, and gently, like a see-saw, lowers the nose quietly to the rollers on the far side. Now the men lay to and roll the remaining weight bearing sections forward until the bridge

is in place fulcrum to fulcrum. The bridge is anchored and the engineers are building the near ramp even while those on the far side are disassembling the nose. Now the combat engineers running with the lighter deck planks rushes to allow that impatient Sherman tank to cross and help the 82nd Infantry. Even before we have a chance to lay the tread, the tank is up on the planks and rattles across, down the far ramp and roars down the road. Just about 100 yards and almost immediately his cannon is blasting the hated Germans.



Almost at the same time, litter bearers struggle back down the road to the bridge carrying a wounded paratrooper. I helped the litter up the ramp and in so doing I looked right into the face of a young officer who was wounded in the upper chest. His captain's bars on his collar are visible above his blood soaked shirt and he repeats, "Oh, oh, oh," as in shocked disbelief that this could happen to him. In that brief moment, which has stayed vivid in my mind all these years, I felt a bond of sympathy with that frightened young man that comes into my mind at strange times...and I've hoped and prayed that he made it...survived the war and lived a full life.

A little stocky 82nd paratrooper crossed the Ambleve a little down stream with his M1 sweeping two helmetless, hatless, Germans prisoners before him. He stopped them next to the two frozen Belgians in the snow, and everyone at the bridge site paused to watch the drama. Had that sturdy little trooper dropped the Germans dead next to the Belgian bodies, it would not have been considered an injustice by the hardened GI's on the bridge. After all, those two Krauts were firing their machine gun and killing our guys just moments before, and then having been overrun, raised their hands in surrender, and beg for life under the Geneva Convention. That situation always seemed unjust to our soldiers.

After a pause, the trooper marched the Germans on up to the road and these two "supermen" appeared to be about seventeen years old and they looked like they had spent a bad night and a worse morning. Their war was over.

Today's early morning bridge job is over, and except for the squad left behind for bridge maintenance, we are ordered out of the dangerous front area. The rest of our engineering day will be spent ploughing roads and spreading

*(Continued on Page 21)*



## BULGE INCIDENTS

(Continued from Page 20)

cinders and sand on the slippery road net, and checking for mines under the snow on the shoulders.

I've reflected on that bridge building with the 82nd Airborne Division at Trois Pont many times since the war. Of the many bridges we built, about 75 across Europe, the bridge at Trois Pont was a special experience. I suppose it was because it answered a question for me about killing in wartime. Who kills the enemy? Is it just the Willie's and Joe's and just the relatively few with the toughest job who draw a bead on the enemy face-to-face? Is it the bombardier or the artillery man who yanks the lanyard at the unseen foe? Is it the tank gunner who fires into the building, or for that matter, the tank driver who gets him there? And then it gets personal...is it the combat engineer who built the bridge, that gets the tank across...and so it goes.

The attack at Trois Pont was a classic example of the army working together in an effective team effort. The infantry, artillery, engineers, and all the supporting services, teamed up and effectively made a successful attack. The team kills the enemy.

The attack at Trois Pont probably is not considered an important event in itself. Many, many, events in the Battle of the Bulge, with victory and defeat and sadness, led to

victory and the end of the war.

I also have wondered over the years about the young captain in the 82nd Airborne Infantry Division who was wounded January 10 or 11, 1945, at Trois Pont, Belgium. I don't know who he is but somebody must remember him. If you are out there, Captain, I sure am glad you made it, and I want you to know that I've been rooting for you these past 46 years.

### I DON'T REMEMBER READING YOUR STORY-- HAVE YOU SENT IT IN?

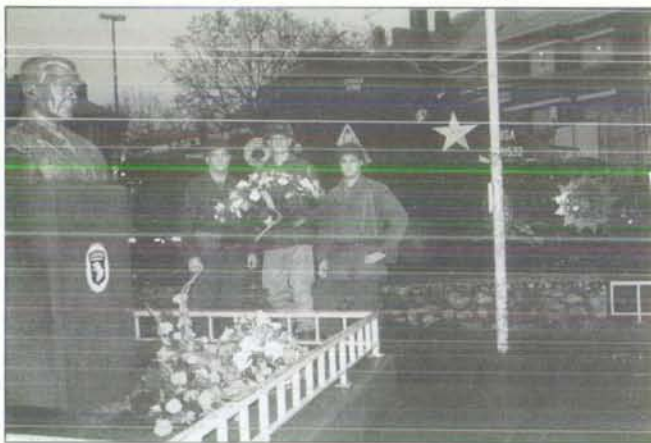
We would like to have your story. We will use them in the order they are received. Please try to keep them as brief as possible, relating to the Battle of the Bulge, and relating to a specific incident.

All stories will be submitted to the Historical Foundation after they are published to be included in their collection.

## MILITARY HISTORY GROUP VISITS BASTOGNE

December 3, 1993, VBOB Associate member Stephen A. Todd (SM/Sgt., U.S. Army) and members of the Kaiserslautern (Germany) Military History Group visited Bastogne where they participated in laying wreaths at the Patton and McAuliffe Memorials and observances in connection with Bastogne "Nuts Day." They met with Belgian vets who had fought, attached to the U.S. Army, in the fighting that took place in the north of the Bulge.

Members participated in a parade which took a route down the famous streets where U.S. soldiers held back the German invaders. After the wreath laying, the entire assembly met for a reception in the city hall.



Wreath laying ceremonies at the McAuliffe Memorial in Bastogne. Left to right: Steve Todd, Cyrus Lee, and Jay Cormier.

Steve Todd, events director for the group, is planning a "Christmas in Bastogne 1994" to observe the 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge.

Social Security is a method that guarantees a steak when you have no teeth to chew it.

### It would be funny, if it were not so true

Just a line to say I'm living, that I'm not among the dead,  
Though I'm getting more forgetful, and I'm mixed up in my head,  
Is it my turn to write you or did I write before?

I think I owe you a letter, but I'd hate to be a bore.

I'm used to my bifocals, my new plate fits me fine,

My hearing aid is perfect, but Lord I miss my mind.

I stand before the fridge at times, my poor head filled with doubt.

Have I come to put some food away, or come to take some out?

There are times when it is dark, and with my nightcap on my head,

I ask am I retiring, or just getting out of bed?

Sometimes I can't remember, at the bottom of the stairs,

Must I go up for something, or did I just come down from there?

I do know that I miss you, sometimes I almost cry,

And now its almost mail time, so I must say good-bye.

I am standing by the mail box with a face so very red,

I didn't mail your letter, I opened it instead.

## HAS YOUR CHAPTER MADE PLANS TO ATTEND THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE SERVICES AS A GROUP? SOUND LIKE A GOOD IDEA? WE HOPE YOU'LL TRY.

### NEW BOOK OFF THE PRESSES

Just received a copy of Inside the Battle of the Bulge--A Private Comes of Age by ROSCOE C. BLUNT, JR., 84TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 333RD INFANTRY. This book went on sale the first part of April and is receiving very good reviews. It apparently is a "must" for all Bulge libraries. Check your local book store or call 1-800-225-5800.



## CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER DECEMBER 16TH CEREMONIES

Members of the Central Massachusetts Chapter met for commemorative ceremonies at the Worcester memorial marker for Sgt. Irvin Syrene, who died during the Battle of the Bulge. Each year they hold their memorial services at one of the dozens of memorial sites in their area which pay tribute to the 19,000 soldiers killed in the Bulge.

Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, William W. Weld, signed a proclamation declaring "...December 16, 1993, Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Day."



*[Left to right: State Senator Matthew J. Amorello; Pat DiGiammerino and Lou Sandini (both 87rd INFD); Chapter President John McAuliffe (87th INFD); Governor Weld; Chapter Vice President Frank Wooldridge (90th INFD); Donato Marini (87th INFD); and Senator Arthur E. Chase attend proclamation presentation ceremonies.]*

## WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER HOLDS DECEMBER 16TH REMEMBRANCE

On December 16, 1993, members of the Western Pennsylvania Chapter met at the Blue Angel Restaurant in Latrobe for "an appreciation for having survived that battle and prayers for those who remain on that sacred soil in Belgium, Luxemburg, West Germany and Eastern France."



*Members of the VBOB Western Pennsylvania Chapter with President Leroy "Whitey" Schaller (left) at December 16th remembrance.*

## HOUSTON CHAPTER HOLDS DECEMBER 16TH OBSERVANCES

The Greater Houston Chapter of VBOB held a luncheon meeting on December 16, 1993. Speaker was Judge A. D. Azios, 232nd District Criminal Court, Harris County, Houston, Texas. The judge, a veteran of the Battle of the Bulge, spoke about crime in the Houston area. The members enjoyed a fine lunch and good fellowship.



*Members of the Greater Houston Chapter: left to right, James C. Burtner, 1994 President; Richard L. Cook, 1994 Secretary; and Judge A. D. Azios.*

## WISCONSIN CHAPTER HOLDS DECEMBER 16TH COMMEMORATION

Members of the VBOB Wisconsin Chapter gathered at the Marathon County Courthouse in Wausau on December 16th to commemorate their participation of the Battle of the Bulge and to remember the ones who were left behind.

President Bob Holster commented: "I can only hope that when we are gone the memory of that which we paid with our suffering and our lives stays with us in the history books."

## COLONEL MAGGIE-- RIGHTFULLY HONORED

Actress-comedian Martha Raye, was awarded the nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, on November 15 for her service as a USO performer and nurse over the course of three years.

The ceremonies were held in her Bel Air home due to her frail condition and were attended by soldiers, sailors, marines and aviators. As she sat still and silent in a wheelchair, Master Sgt. Roy Benevidas, Medal of Honor recipient, pinned on the medal. He commented, "She is the Mother Teresa of the armed forces."

Raye, who started in the 'biz' with vaudeville, performed with the USO during WWII and later continued her services in the Korean and Vietnam wars.

If you responded to the request in a previous Bulge Bugle to assist in this endeavor by writing to President Clinton, we thought you would want to know the medal had been awarded.





## FORMAL UNVEILING OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE MEMORIAL TABLE AND CHAIRS FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND JULY 21, 1994

After almost seven years of continued effort by members of the Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation, extensive support of the Commanders and staff of Fort George G. Meade and the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, this memorial to those who served in the Battle of the Bulge 50 years ago will be dedicated on July 21, at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland.

This is a special invitation to all who served in the Battle of the Bulge and your families and friends to participate in this occasion--to renew old friendships, to take pride in our contribution in preserving the freedom of our country, and to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Fort Meade is ideally located just outside the Washington, DC metropolitan area and remains an historical and active army post as well as the headquarters of the First United States Army (a principal player in the Battle of the Bulge). Within the next year, it will become the home of the National Defense Media School for all branches of the military service. Future military journalists and media personnel will train here and will have an opportunity to view the Battle of the Bulge history first hand. Fort Meade also provides support for its neighbor, the National Security Agency.

The Battle of the Bulge Memorial Conference Room to be located in the Post Library, Fort Meade, will be completed later in the year and will serve as a site for meetings and educational activities for both military and community groups as well as display historical exhibits and artifacts portraying this pivotal World War II encounter. The design for this conference room was developed by Design and Production, Inc., Lorton, Virginia. The "jewel" of this room will be a beautiful handcrafted conference table, 16-1/2 feet long and 5 feet wide, built of Ardenne oak from the Battle of the Bulge area. The craftsman for the table and 20 chairs is Vincent Gaspar, of Stavelot, Belgium. Inlaid in the top of the table are the actual insignia (shoulder patches) of the 45 American units (armies, corps, and divisions) that served in the Bulge. The chairs for the memorial table were funded by generous donations of \$1,000 each by individuals and units. A brass plaque on the back of each chair identifies the donor.

Foundation members and representatives of Fort Meade will travel to Stavelot, Belgium, for a day of commemorations and ceremonies on April 30 to receive the memorial furnishings and to celebrate the joining of Stavelot, Belgium and Fort George G. Meade, Maryland as "Sister Cities." The table and chairs will remain on exhibit for several weeks in the Town Hall of Stavelot before being transported to

Fort Meade. Since many of you have expressed great interest in viewing the table and chairs, it was decided to have the formal unveiling of these furnishings soon after their arrival at Fort Meade, with the dedication of the Memorial Conference Room to be held later this year.

Exciting activities are planned for this day of the unveiling of the memorial table and chairs which will be held at Fort Meade on Thursday, July 21, 1994. In the morning, for those interested in military intelligence, the National Security Agency, Ft. George G. Meade, will host from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon, a tour and briefings of their newly-expanded Cryptological Museum, which includes a section pertaining to the Battle of the Bulge. Car pools will be arranged from the Ft. Meade Officers' Club parking lot to the agency museum. (Please be at the parking lot by 9:50 a.m.)

At 7:00 p.m., the 3rd U.S. Infantry (Old Guard) will perform their famous "Twilight Tattoo" at McGlachlin Field (Fort Meade Parade Ground). This is one of Washington, DC's most impressive summer military events. After the Twilight Tattoo the finale of the evening will be the formal unveiling of the memorial table and chairs at the Dinner Gala, hosted by the Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation at the Fort Meade Officers' Club. For those who are unable to attend the Dinner Gala, the table and chairs will remain on exhibit at the Ft. Meade Officers' Club from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Friday, July 22.

This Memorial Conference Room and its furnishings were made possible by the many supporters who, at the beginning of this effort, had faith in this project and donated \$500 to the Founders Fund, thus enabling the plans to be developed. There were also many important smaller donations. To all of you, our deepest appreciation--YOU MADE IT HAPPEN!

### DETAILS AND RESERVATION FOR JULY 21, 1994 EVENTS

For those of you who may like to spend the night (or several nights) near Fort Meade, arrangements have been made with the Holiday Inn, Laurel, Maryland, on Route 198 (3400 Fort Meade Road), for the special rate of \$50/night, single or double room, including a full breakfast. You, however, must make your own hotel reservations by telephoning their toll-free number, 1-800-477-7410 BY JULY 1; mention that you are a Battle of the Bulge veteran. On Wednesday evening, July 20, the hotel will host an evening social hour from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. for those early arrivals at the hotel and their families who may wish to visit.



**RESERVATION FORM**  
**BATTLE OF THE BULGE MEMORIAL**  
**TABLE AND CHAIRS UNVEILING**  
**FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND**  
**THURSDAY, JULY 21, 1994**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest(s) \_\_\_\_\_

10:30 a.m. Tour of Cryptological Museum, National Security Agency, Ft. Meade  
(Car pool 9:50 a.m. from Officers' Club parking lot) Number attending-----

7:00 p.m. Twilight Tattoo--3rd U.S. Infantry (Old Guard)  
McGlachlin Field Parade Ground Number attending-----

8:15 p.m. Dinner Gala/Unveiling Ceremony (\$32.00 per person)  
Fort Meade Officers' Club Number of reservations-----

Please make checks payable to BOBHF Gala Total Cost @ \$32.00/person: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN THIS FORM AND YOUR CHECK BY JULY 7, 1994**

To: Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation  
P.O. Box 2516, Kensington, MD 20891-0818

If you have any questions, telephone: 310-881-0356 (Dorothy Davis)

Table assignments for the dinner will be on the roster displayed in the Officers' Club Lobby by Noon, July 21st. If you wish to be seated with friends, please include their names with this form.

**AGENDA--DINNER GALA**

8:15 p.m. Seated for Dinner  
Posting of Colors...  
3rd Infantry Color Guard  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Invocation...  
Msgr. William O'Donnell  
Toasts

9:45 p.m. Introduction of Guest  
Comments

10:00 p.m. Entertainment

**DINNER MENU**

Tossed Green Salad  
Veal Marsala with Mushrooms  
Stuffed Baked Potato  
Tyroliene Peas and Carrots  
Spiced Apple Slice  
Rolls and Butter  
Chocolate Mouse Supreme  
in Chocolate Cup  
Coffee and Tea  
Wine--Zinfandel

Dress: Business Suit/Army Blues with Four in Hand Tie (Miniature Medals are encouraged)



## TODAY IS ST. NICHOLAS DAY

John H. Grant, Jr.

9 ARMDD 16 FA OBSN BN B SURVEY

I served with the Sound Survey Section, B Battery, 16th Field Artillery Observation Battalion, and was living in a small bowling alley behind a cafe owned by Joe Theis, in the Village of Binsfeld, Luxembourg. This was just a short distance from Heinerscheid on Skyline Drive. That was my location when the Bulge began on 16 December. Here is a copy of a letter dated Wednesday, December 6, 1944:

"Today is St. Nicholas day. On this day in Luxembourg, they give their presents to each other instead of on the 25th. Yesterday we made up several packages to give to the nice Luxembourg family with whom we were living. They have several small children and they are very nice kids and the family has been very nice to us. We gave them cigarettes, D rations, chewing gum, life savers, soap and just about anything we could spare. We gave it to them last night.

"While we were giving it to them, in walks someone dressed up as St. Nick. He is a lot different than our Santa Claus. He had a large white beard and wore a priest's cape. He went to each of the kids and handed them trays of food and presents. It was all very interesting to watch. Those kids' faces lit up just like the kids back home at Christmas time.

"Then Joe (Joe Theis, owner of the cafe) says to us in his broken English that St. Nick will come to you at 10:00 o'clock. So about 9:30 we all went into our quarters in the bowling alley to wait for 10:00 p.m. Soon, Joe came to the door and told us to come out. They had placed all the tables of the cafe together and covered them with table cloths. There are 19 men in our section and there were 19 places set at this long table. At each place was a cup, saucer and a small plate. There were three large platters filled with immense meat sandwiches, sort of a cake in the form of a ginger bread man, coffee, cream, sugar, and in the center of the long table a large straw basket filled with big green apples.

"On the top was a card placed neatly. We all filed in and sat down. Right away we read the card. It was an ordinary white card with a border of green flowers. On it was neatly printed these words: We welcome you our American liberators, friends we will never forget. It made us feel plenty good inside, and thankful that we were Americans. While all the family sat and watched, we dug in and began eating, talking and joking. That was the first time in three months that any of us had sat down and eaten off a table.

"After we were through one of the fellows stood up and thanked the family for all of us. Then we started to sing carols and other songs. First we would sing a song and then the family would sing awhile. Around midnight, Joe brought out the schnapps, beer, and we celebrated the coming of St. Nick. We all got to be feeling pretty good, sang some more songs, chatted, and finally turned in around 2:30 in the morning.

"It was a great experience, Mom, and I'll not soon forget it."

We all know what happened exactly ten days later.

## 5TH BELGIAN FUSILIERS IN BASTOGNE, DECEMBER, 1994

By Roger Hardy, Lt. Col (Ret.)  
5th Belgian Fusiliers

A platoon of the 5th Belgian Fusiliers Battalion was stationed in Malmedy since the 14th of December, 1944, protecting the installations and convoys of the 200 U.S. Qm Company, which was supplying gasoline to American tanks and armored vehicles.

On December 17th, the town was under fire of the German heavy artillery and the 200 U.S. Qm Company and the 5th Fusiliers platoon left Malmedy with the 7th Armored Division en route to St. Vith, passing in Baugnez a few minutes before the convoy of the 285th U.S. Field Artillery Observation Battalion, which was captured and then assassinated by the SS Kampfgruppe Peiper.

The Belgian platoon was then charged with the protection of a large gasoline depot of the 200 U.S. Qm Company in the forest of St. Hubert 15 miles west of Bastogne, until the depot was threatened by the German penetration.

One night around 3 o'clock probably on the 20th or 21st of December, clearing for action; an American officer announced that the Germans were at the Barriere de Champlon, half way between St. Hubert and Bastogne and the gasoline was to be evacuated immediately. Some time later, the column was again on the move with all lights down, tracking south through places like La Cuisine, Florenville then Sedan (France) where the 200 U.S. Qm Company and the 5th Fusiliers were included in the 3rd U.S. Army.

On departure from St. Vith, four or five men of the 5th Fusiliers platoon were embarked as convoyers on American GMC's of the 200 U.S. Qm Company full of gasoline jerricans and sent in the direction of Bastogne through small roads.

Arrival in Bastogne (a narrative of the 5th Belgian Fusiliers by Guy Baert and Joseph Velghe): En route to the east, the small convoy meets an important column of American soldiers. They seem exhausted and make gestures which we may believe as friendly greetings; however, some time later we are faced with the evidence: these gestures were urging us to turn back. We were proceeding to Bastogne and when we arrived in the town we see a lot of American GI's preparing for action. A general whom we have known later that his name was MacAuliffe was talking to his men, seeming to encourage them. At this moment the town is heavily bombed by the Germans.

After having delivered the gasoline our small column succeeds in leaving Bastogne via the sole way still free through the small road of Neufchateau due south. Finally, we arrive in Longwy and Metz (France). A few days later at the end of December, the small, 5th Belgian Fusiliers section rejoins the platoon in Comblain-au-Pont, 20 miles south of Liege but on the way to this place we stopped again in Bastogne to supply the American units with gasoline. There we witnessed the desolation and misery after the bombings: killed civilians transported and collected by the American Red Cross through the ruins of the town.

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CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR DUES ARE DUE



# REUNIONS

**2ND INFANTRY DIVISION, 9TH INFANTRY REGIMENT**, July 13-16, 1994, Tacoma, Washington. Contact: Ray Tarabusi, 19 Waterford Drive, Englewood, Florida 34223. Telephone: 813-475-6063.

**3RD ARMORED DIVISION, 32ND ARMORED INFANTRY, D COMPANY**, September 9-10, 1994, Nashville, Tennessee. Contact: Fred Headrick, 934 Dunsinane Road, Signal Mountain, Tennessee 37377. Telephone: 615-886-1622.

**3RD ARMORED DIVISION, 36TH ARMORED INFANTRY, C COMPANY**, June 9-11, 1993, Kansas City, Missouri. Contact: Lloyd Boulware, 10617 East 27th Street, Independence, Missouri 64052. Telephone: 816-254-0086.

**3RD CAVALRY GROUP**, August 19-21, 1994, Buffalo, New York. Contact: Alfred G. Beutler, 36 Manchester Road, East Aurora, New York 14052. Telephone: 716-652-8890.

**4TH ARMORED DIVISION**, August 22-29, 1994, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Savannah, Georgia 31401. Contact: Samuel A. Schenker, 1823 Shady Drive, Farrell, Pennsylvania. Telephone: 412-342-6058.

**5TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 2ND INFANTRY, AT COMPANY**, September 9-11, 1994, Pipestem State Park, West Virginia (1-800-225-5982). Contact: Billy R. Hall, 10947 East Heywood Drive, Seymour, IN 47274. Telephone: 812-522-3161.

**6TH ARMORED DIVISION**, September 13-18, 1994, St. Paul, Minnesota. Contact: Ed Reed, P.O. Box 5011, Louisville, Kentucky 40255.

**7TH ARMORED DIVISION**, September 8-11, 1994, Williamsburg, Virginia. Contact: Carl K. Mattocks, 292 Scott Swamp Road, Farmington, Connecticut 06032.

**9TH ARMORED DIVISION, 27TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, COMPANY A**, October 1-2, 1994, Beloit, Kansas. Contact: Almon Parson, Jr., H. 61, Box 85, Hunter, Kansas 67452. Telephone: 913-529-4233.

**9TH ARMORED DIVISION, 73RD ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION**, September 26-29, 1994, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Contact: Ed Capron, 10625 Kenlee Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70815. Telephone: 504-924-2158.

**11TH ARMORED DIVISION**, August 24-28, 1994, Bismarck, North Dakota. Contact: Peg Pfeiffer, 2328 Admiral Street, Aliquippa, Pennsylvania 15001.

**11TH ARMORED DIVISION, 55TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, COMPANY B**, September 8-11, 1994, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Contact: Artie Venzin, 1412 California Avenue, White Oak, Pennsylvania 15131. Telephone: 412-678-0321.

**14TH CAVALRY GROUP (18TH AND 32ND RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRONS)**, September 29-October 2, 1994, O'Hare Marriott Hotel, Chicago. Contact: Joel B. Coolidge, 6027 Crab Orchard Drive, Houston, Texas 77057. Telephone: 713-782-3642.

**16TH FIELD ARTILLERY OBSERVATION BATTALION**, June 9-11, 1994, Executive Inn, Louisville, Kentucky. Contact: Howard J. Frey, 3017 Timberview Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45211-1920. Telephone: 513-481-1685.

**28TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 109TH INFANTRY**, October 9-12, 1994, Greenbay, Wisconsin. Contact: Ralph Boettcher, 4835 A Scotland Drive, New Franken, Wisconsin 54229. Telephone: 414-866-2507.

**30TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, June 3-6, 1994, Adam's Mark Hotel, Kansas City, Missouri. Contact: Richard Jepsen, 2409 Lookout Drive, Manhattan, Kansas 66502-2918. Telephone: 913-539-4816.

**35TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 134TH INFANTRY**, September 15-18, 1994, Topeka, Kansas. Contact: James G. Graff, 1146 100th Avenue, Middletown, Illinois 62666. Telephone: 217-445-2570.

**36TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, September 2-6, 1994, San Antonio, Texas. Contact: Leonard Wilkerson, P.O. Box 2049, Malakoff, Texas 75148-2049.

**51ST COMBAT ENGINEERS**, September 30-October 2, 1994, Menger Hotel, San Antonio, Texas. Contact: Lee Abbott, 6804 Bridges Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas 76118.

**75TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, August 22-28, Marriott Hotel, Des Moines, Iowa (515-245-5500). Contact: Harold Lindstrom, 4105 75th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50322-2551.

**83RD INFANTRY DIVISION**, September 7-11, 1994, Pines Hotel, South Fallsburgh, New York. Contact: Robert Derickson, 3749 Stahlheber Road, Hamilton, Ohio 45013-9102. Telephone: 513-863-2199.

**84TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, August 27-31, 1994, Little America Hotel, Salt Lake City, Utah. Contact: Royal V. Coburn, 3580 Warr Road, Salt Lake City, Utah 84109. Telephone: 801-484-6389.

**87TH INFANTRY DIVISION and COMBAT SUPPORT UNITS**, September 25-October 2, 1994, Louisville, Kentucky. Contact: Gladwin Pascuzzo, 2374 North Dundee Court, Highland, Michigan 48357. Telephone: 810-887-9005.

**95TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, August 15-21, 1994, Holiday Inn Hotel, 6001 Rockside Road, Independence, Ohio 41312. Contact: Lester Wolf, 8932 South 86th Court, Justice, Illinois 60458.

**106TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, September 3-6, 1994, Rapid City, South Dakota. Contact: Art Van Moorlehem, P.O. Box 8361, Rapid City, South Dakota 57709.

**110TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, September 9-10, 1994, Holiday Inn, Washington, Pennsylvania. Contact: John Chernitsky, 18 Country Club Blvd., Union, Pennsylvania. Telephone: 412-438-9119.

**120TH INFANTRY DIVISION, COMPANY B**, June 1-4, 1994. Contact: Ken Parker, 719 East Orchard, Traverse City, Michigan 49684. Telephone: 616-946-9134.

**127TH AAA GUN BATTALION**, October 19-22, 1994, Raddison Hotel Claxton, St. Louis, Missouri 63105. Contact: Grover L. Dix, 1504 West Wood Drive, Leavenworth, Kansas. Telephone: 913-682-1264.

**129TH ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY GUN BATTALION**, September 16-18, 1994, Holiday Inn, Manitowoc, Wisconsin 54220. Contact: George Koch, 246 Cayuga Avenue, Elmhurst, Illinois 60126-4505. Telephone: 708-279-6999.

**135TH COMBAT ENGINEERS, 3RD ARMY**, September 25-27, 1994, Sheraton Inn, Atlantic City West, Pleasantville, New Jersey 08232. Contact: John L. Dwyer, 935 East 24th Street, Huntington Station, New York 11746. Telephone: 516-427-9435.

**159TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION**, September 11-14, 1994, Holiday Inn, Hampton Coliseum and Hotel Conference Center, Hampton, Virginia. Contact: R. W. Ruch, 709 North 7th Street, Pottsville, Pennsylvania 17901. Telephone: 717-622-2942.

**179TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION**, September 22-25, 1994, Memphis, Tennessee. Contact: James M. McCabe, 244 Burbank Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29210-7438. Telephone: 803-772-1827.

**225TH ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY, S/L BATTALION**. Contact: Frank Dorsey, 6 Ann Avenue, Stony Point, New York 10980.

**264TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION**, July 7-9, 1994, Commonwealth Hilton, Florence, Kentucky. Contact: Lyle M. Clark, P.O. Box 383, Wellington, Ohio 44090.

**272ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION**, August 4-6, 1994, Holiday Inn, Northeast Columbia, South Carolina. Contact: Randolph W. Hope, Sr., PO Drawer 5927, Columbia, South Carolina 29250. Telephone: 803-254-1466.

(Continued on Page 27)



## REUNIONS *(Continued from Page 26)*

**280TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION**, September 16-19, 1994, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. Contact: Sal Esposito, 4620 Schwartz Avenue, Lisle, Illinois 60532-1249.

**296TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION**, September 16-18, 1994, Marriott, Hartford, Connecticut. Contact: Bob Williams, 61 Cedar Street, Newington, Connecticut 06111-2632. Telephone: 203-667-4545.

**297TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION**, July 9-10, 1994, Owensboro, Kentucky. Contact: Hal C. Miller, 5251 Windy Hollow Road #4, Owensboro, Kentucky 42301.

**386TH BOMB GROUP AND ASSOCIATED UNITS**, August 31-September 3, 1994, Marriott Hotel, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Contact: Marvin Colton, 1500 Dartmouth Drive, N.E., Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106. Telephone: 505-255-7031. (Trip to France also planned—late September)

**426TH MEDICAL BATTALION, 564/565/566 MOTOR AMBULANCE COMPANIES**, September 13, 1994, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Contact: Harvey Legg, 16 Madrid Plaza, Mesa, Arizona 85201. Telephone: 602-833-2199.

**482ND AAA AW BATTALION (SP)**, September 22-25, 1994, New Orleans, Louisiana. Contact: Chuck Gregorovich, 908 Williams Street, St. Marys, Ohio 45885-1562. Telephone: 419-394-3548.

**489TH AAA AW BATTALION**, September 8-10, 1994, Baltimore, Maryland. Contact: Carl Meiser, 915 Angelita Drive, Prescott, Arizona 86303. Telephone: 602-445-8674.

**511TH ENGINEERS LIGHT PONTON COMPANY**, July 22-25, 1994, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Contact: Harold Welch, 1221 Mayfield Road, Mayfield, Wilmington, Delaware 19803.

**526TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION**, September 14-18, 1994, Holiday Inn, Market Square, 318 West Durango, San Antonio, Texas 78204. Contact: John Wallis, 704 East Alabama Street, Pearsall, Texas 78061. Telephone: 210-334-2092.

**526TH ORDNANCE COMPANY (HIM) TANKS**, August 4-7, 1994, Cincinnati, Ohio. Contact: Alexander Glass, 2978 Lawrence Drive, Wantagh, New York 11793.

**556TH AAA (AW) BATTALION**, September 22-24, 1994, Columbia, South Carolina. Contact: H. E. Lashhorn, Sr., 3516 Williams Drive, Weirton, West Virginia 26062.

**740TH TANK BATTALION**, September 1-4, 1994, Dallas Texas. Contact: Harry F. Miller, 2410 West Manor Place #307, Seattle, Washington 98199. Telephone: 206-783-8591.

**749TH TANK BATTALION**, September 29-October 2, 1994, Howard Johnson Plaza-Hotel, Wilmington, North Carolina. Contact: Jack Morris, Box 6628, Locust Grove, Virginia 22508.

**773RD TANK DESTROY BATTALION**, September 19-21, 1994, Holiday Inn on the Ocean, Virginia Beach, Virginia. Contact: Edward H. McClelland, 4384 West 182nd Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44135

**777TH ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY BATTALION**, September 13-18, 1994, St. Paul, Minnesota. Contact: Bill Holman, 1202 Matilda, Pekin, Illinois 61554.

**808TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION**, September 15-17, 1994, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Contact: Chet Norwin, 32991 Pineview Court, Warren, Michigan 48093-1135. Telephone: 810-979-8958.

**965TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION**, September 12-16, 1994, Holiday Inn, Indianapolis, Indiana. Contact: Mary Linback, P.O. Box 126, Brookston, Indiana 47923. Telephone: 312-563-6330.

## 106TH DIVISION-- IN A 'QUIET' SECTOR

[The attached was sent to us by FRANCIS DWYER, 106TH INFANTRY DIVISION. The publisher of the original article was not identified.]

...the 106th was in an almost identical defensive position to that it had held during Tennessee maneuvers in March, 1944, when it did so well that the referees had to call time.

The attack started at 5:50 a.m. with a tremendous artillery barrage against the 106th line, which curved northward from the center of the Schnee Eifel in a sector held by the 14th Cavalry Group, an armored outfit attached to the infantry. Then the barrage moved across a field artillery battalion, also attached. By 6:20 a.m., more than 100 rounds had hit squarely

among the artillerymen.

The Germans meanwhile switched on dozens of searchlights to introduce a ghostly note. Their idea was that the lights would bounce off the low clouds and light up the American positions while the Germans advanced unseen through the shadows. It failed to work, however.

Five minutes after the shelling of our lines had started, the Germans opened up against St. Vith. The civilians, most of whom had pretended to be friendly but actually were pro-Nazi, all were in their cellars when the firing started. They popped out again promptly after the last shell had fallen at 2 p.m. The Americans later captured a radio receiver by which the Germans had notified civilians of the impending shelling.

The Germans then turned their guns on the 422d and 423d Regiments. Infantry and tank assaults followed. By daybreak of December 17 the Germans had thrown two divisions into this part of the front and by mid-morning enemy columns were swarming around the Schnee Eifel. They swamped the 422d and 423d Regiments and the 424th was forced to withdraw.

The last message came from the 422d at 4 p.m. that day and from the 423d at 6 p.m. Both messages were identical--"We are now destroying our equipment. That was all. Presumably most of the two regiments were taken prisoner.

The Germans then headed for St. Vith and were stopped temporarily by the 81st and 168th Engineer Battalions, which fought heroically under Lt. Col. Thomas Riggs of Huntington, West Virginia. They were far outgunned and it was mainly by guts that they held the Germans all night.

Early on December 18 division headquarters began moving out of St. Vith. Some units were halted by military police who had on American uniforms and talked with a midwestern accent. The MP's turned out to be Germans. One fired a rocket that signaled the opening of a terrific barrage against the halted vehicles.

"That was my first artillery ambush and I hope my last," said Maj. Matthew R. J. Giuffre....

## 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.

You know you're approaching your very mature years when "getting a little action" means the prune juice is working.



## MILITARY FOOTWEAR

*[This article was written by Richard Tobias, M.D., 99TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 393RD MEDICS, and appeared in the First Issue, 1994, of The Checkerboard.]*

It may be that an army marches on its stomach, but at the end of the day it's the feet that hurt. Without adequate footwear, most endeavors are—as the dictionary describes them—bootless; unsuccessful. "For lack of a nail, the shoe was lost...." but that refers to a horseshoe, not the same thing even though because of it a battle and a war were lost also.



Lack of shoes almost did Washington's rag-tag army in at Valley Forge in 1777, with their rag-wrapped feet in the snow, while the Confederate Army's forage for footwear at Hanover Pennsylvania's shoe factories had a direct bearing on the Battle of Gettysburg. Hobnailed British feet frequently echoed cadence as silent French and Indian moccasins permitted unsuspected guerrilla attacks.

It's likely the Quartermaster Archives could present a lengthy and serious history and study of army boots, but even in my brief military career significant evolution took place; of course the progress has continued since—or at least I sincerely hope so.

At the induction center in early 1941 I was issued a pair of high-cut shoes to "break in"—polished leather I was obliged to maintain at a dazzling gloss. It wasn't so much the uppers that caused merely cosmetic troubles, it was the board-stiff leather soles. Another pair of socks more or less could improve the fit, but it took many miles of marching to develop a compliant sole, by which time it was beginning to show the evidence of wear and approaching time for replacement. Yes, the Quartermaster did sole-and-heel repairs quite nicely and promptly while the soldier was uncomfortably breaking in his spare pair of shoes, the originals destined to become back-up when ready.

At Carlisle Barracks we were issued long brown woolen strips, wrap leggings, to extend leg protection above shoetop level nearly to the knees. The individual's competence in their application became painfully evident after only a couple miles' marching. One-size-fits-all they were, things of uniform utility and beauty they weren't. Thankfully they departed even before the shallow-crowned WWI helmet was replaced by the deeper cook-pot style.

Early 1942 I was selected, possibly because I was then company clerk and easy to find, to try out the new composition-soled boots. I traded in my two leather-soled pairs and got two shiny-new black-soled ones. On Carlisle's linoleum floors, they were an immediate disaster; the black streaks were a challenge to buff off, and serious alterations in gait were necessary to prevent such skidmarks. On the other hand, the pliant soles were immediately comfortable, and they provided reliable traction on wet surfaces, where leather could become treacherous.

After the three-month trial period I was supposed to return my experimental shoes to Carlisle's quartermaster for evaluation, but I was on temporary assignment at Washington's Walter Reed General Hospital learning hospital laboratory procedures in the School for Medical Department Technicians at the time. The brief education provided a wealth of comprehension and support in later post-war efforts, although never of real benefit to the military. Anyhow, returning to Carlisle I was able to keep one comfortable pair while swapping the other for a regulation style.

Meanwhile, the wrap-leggings had gone to an honorable retirement, replaced by canvas wrap-arounds, laced and hooked more quickly and comfortably, providing the calf-support all leggings were supposed to give. Once again, they worked best after a breaking-in period, being stiff as boards until washed a few times and worn a few miles. Thereafter, keeping them acceptably bleached and as wrinkle-free as possible was the problem, and the one-size-fits-all goal was retained.

All along, the "Navy last" oxford dress shoes were, and still are, available. Wartime had removed the cuff from trouser-legs (except on West Coast zoot suits) but razor-sharp creases looked best unconcealed by wrap-around leggings demanded for field exercises. Unfortunately many WWII army posts were around-the-clock field exercises, and low-cuts impractical even if legitimate. Fortunately, leggings could be used

at times with low-cuts if one was careful, since the leather in low-cuts always seemed easier to keep at the mandated gloss.

But then along came the high-tops; not the knee-high boots of elementary school, with a knife pocket on the right shoe, but regular army boots with a leather extension, doubling the laceable portion. Here again breaking-in was required, but the one-piece footwear was quicker to put on and take off. Even that ultimate product had a drawback; however, some if not most models had a "suede" exterior, the finished smooth leather inside. This feature became a delight to inspecting officers and first sergeants, and a challenge to the troops, when no change in high-gloss requirements followed.

Shoemakers universally, even in Germany, became expert in smoothing the suede, saturating the exteriors, and waxing the outers so heavily one could again produce a glossy, glassy shine. A lot of work when the actual purpose was the reduce maintenance. Indeed "Bata" (means shoes in Czech) boots are standard safari gear, with suede-like exteriors from which stains and mud are simply brushed off with a wire whisk when sufficiently dried. I maintained that was the original reason for our boots' suede tops, but what was my opinion against that of my superiors (of which there was never a shortage). Anyhow, I resisted polishing by maintaining obvious cleanliness.

Came the Bulge, only days after arrival of the shipment of rubber-bottomed waterproof boots. Down east in Maine a gentleman named L. L. Bean had devoted years perfecting welding rubber feet to leather uppers to produce waterproof boots for outdoorsmen, and that we were, with a vengeance. Trouble was, they came with a spare pair of socks and orders to change socks frequently; after all, feet perspire, socks absorb the moisture, and such should not be permitted to accumulate. Quite reasonable.

But GIs rarely have the opportunity to call "Time out!" to change their socks; no opportunity at all during the Bulge. That's why, on the road from Krinkelt to Elsenborn, I was posted to intercept every GI walking funny, and make him remove his shoes. I was given a bale of fresh dry socks to distribute, size immaterial under the circumstances.

Sadly, about one in 10 had cold, white, insensitive soles on their feet, the result of retained moisture (treacherous boots!) becoming immersion foot. A few had even started to blister and peel—the worst sign. A significant proportion of our Bulge casualties earned evacuation because of foot troubles, the disabling characteristics becoming obvious only after adequate thawing and drying—but by then they had been evacuated. In their frost-bit and sore-foot state, they'd be unreliable troops at best.

Luckily we were then reduced to the standard buckle-on galoshes of our childhood—worn over shoes, making them waterproof even if bulky and clumsy. Don't know about the rest of you guys, but us medics put up with galoshes better than waterproof L. L. Bean's boots.

Foot doctors—chiropractors, or more professionally podiatrists—rarely got automatic commissions in the Army; they were drafted like the rest of us peons, despite their post-graduate education. Hospitals and medical installations, however, grabbed as many as could be identified, for nobody minimized the importance of foot health to the soldier. They served a needed purpose indeed. Sad: as a group they were always such a gloomy bunch, but after all they were constantly facing defeat. (Sorry about that.)

---

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**50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION  
OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE**

**St. Louis, Missouri  
December 15-18, 1994**

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**Details appears in this issue of The Bugle.**

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Don't worry if you start losing your memory, just forget it.



## MALMEDY RECALLED

[This article appeared in *Today's Marketplace*, December 29, 1993, based on an interview with James P. Mattera, a survivor of the Malmedy Massacre. The article was written by Lori Van Ingen. This article was sent to us by HENRY E. HUBER, 30TH INFANTRY DIVISION 197TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION.]

There were only about a dozen survivors of the Massacre at Malmedy, Belgium, during the Battle of the Bulge and four of them live in Lancaster County today. One of those survivors, James P. Mattera, of Marietta, a private in the 285th Field Artillery Observation Battalion, Battery "B," was the first American to dash for freedom after the massacre on December 17, 1944.

On the 49th anniversary of the Massacre at Malmedy, Mattera gives the following account of the massacre of unarmed American prisoners at Baugnez, Belgium, by troops of the Waffen-SS at the outset of the German Ardennes offensive:

About three miles outside of Malmedy, our convoy was forced to stop because of machine guns shooting at us and also 88 shells hitting the trucks and blowing them off the road. Everybody dismounted and lay in a ditch along the road for protection. We were forced to surrender because we were not armed heavy enough to stop the tanks.

The outfit was put in one group and a German officer searched us for wrist watches and took our gloves and cigarettes. After the officer was through, we were marched to an open field about 100 feet from the road, where German tanks were moving by. Quite distinctly I heard the three words. The haughty S.S. officer issued this verbal command to his soldiers: "Machen alle kaputt!" which means in English, "Kill all of them!" Without any other warning, the German 9th SS Panzer Pioneer Co. opened fire: three tripod-mounted machine guns, a pair of tanks on the flanks, individual infantrymen-triggered rifles and Schmeisser machine pistols.

This barrage of bullets hurtled toward me and the other 100-odd American prisoners of war prodded into an open field near Malmedy, Belgium, at 2 p.m. on December 17, 1944. Since our recent capture, the Germans had confused, abused and amused us with their Prussian antics. Now they added death—straight from the jaws of hell. A stone's throw, 60 to 70 feet from the road, we prisoners stood in several ragged rows. Ironically, a light intermittent snow added a before-Christmas touch. When the Germans mounted the tripod machine guns and deployed their armor, I muttered "What the hell is going on?" Hands raised above our heads, disarmed, we offered no resistance.

Standing in the front row, I caught only a momentary glimpse of the destruction wrought. The hail of metal struck like an invisible hurricane-force wind. Those not hit dived to the ground and flattened out. The fusillade decimated our ranks—some bullets penetrated two or three men. Blood, clothing and bone fragments spray-ed in every direction. Methodically, the guns tracked back and forth until our former rows were merely mounds and clusters of bodies.

My head and helmet inched up until I viewed a scant horizon. This invited more angry bursts from the guns. I forced myself down, wiggled deeper between and among the dead and dying. After hammering us for many minutes that seemed like an hour, the Germans ceased firing. The pitiful cries and pleas of the wounded for mercy, almost like a howling, reached a crescendo. Even a robot would have cried.

Armored columns, tanks and half-tracks rumbled and roared by on the road, literally shaking the ground. This invited another danger. Just for kicks, each passing vehicle fired several bursts of machine-gun fire into the piles of American prisoners. It took the armor at least an hour to roar by...

After the high-speed whine of the engines grew faint, an eerie silence followed. Nor did any sounds come from the wounded. I heard German voices, commands, felt movement toward us. The SS men were coming to finish off any survivors... Targeted by a multitude of guns, I survived, miraculously not even wounded. Was I the only man not hit? Would God let me live?... Somehow these words escaped from me: "Let's go." I didn't know if anyone could hear me or join me. In slow motion, imitating a drunken man, I stumbled and reeled to my feet. About a dozen other men responded to my call. We slipped and hurdled over sticks of bodies to reach open ground.

A group of men headed for a Belgian farmhouse in the distance. (These men were later found by the Germans and killed when they tried to escape the burning house.) I raced for the woods. The German guards, somewhat astounded, shouted: "Halt, Amerikaner." Soon the single machine gun began its chatter.

Fear, adrenaline, whatever, my numbed legs pumped in a wobbly stride. Bullets tore up patches to my right, zinged to my left, between the legs; the gunner had the range. ...A rabbit hunter from Pennsylvania, I knew when the quarry tumbled or flip-flopped, this indicated a hit. I fell forward, legs and arms flailing and crumbled. I faked it. The gun shifted to another target. Up again, I repeated my fall tactic...

Dusk and ensuring darkness gave me an optimum chance. A slight detour from the woods and I gained the road to Malmedy. Alone in the dark, encountering no man or vehicle, I travelled three miles at a fast pace.

Up ahead a road block—Americans. Stress or the traumatic events of the afternoon caused a mental lapse—I forgot the password. My noisy approach invited a challenge. Password? None given. The alert sentries were dubious, suspicious. I cringed in anticipation of more bullets. In desperation I shouted: "I'm from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania—forget the password—outfit wiped out—the Germans are coming."

The troopers of the 291st Engineer Battalion at the roadblock sent me to the aid station. Three medics asked me if I was all right. One entire side of my uniform was soaked with blood and the shakes continued. "No, I don't think I'm hit." They stripped me and supplied a complete new uniform. Bullet-hole count: three slits in the seat of my trousers.

Mattera's account of the massacre was at first not believed, but eventually a captain listened with respect to his wild, rather jumbled tale of massacre and an impending German attack. Mattera was taken to First Army headquarters where he was further questioned. The next day, German armor pounced on Malmedy.

Mattera; Harold Billows, Robert (Sketch) Mearig, and William Reem, 285th Field Artillery Observation Battalion, will be presented medals at the Lancaster County Courthouse on April 13, 1994, at 9 a.m. for their sacrifice to the country during the Malmedy Massacre. Five men from Lancaster County were killed in the massacre. Ernest Bechtel passed away in 1988. Charles Hammer recently passed away.

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





Dixon Poole, National Quartermaster  
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## THOSE UNSUNG HEROES

If there were ever unsung heroes of the Battle of the Bulge, they were the replacements, the cannon fodder troops. They would be parceled out to the Companies in the line as casualties were incurred, they would come from replacement depots, most of them with very little training and in some cases only a few days out of the United States. Such were the misfortunes of war as the country went on a full military basis. There wasn't adequate time for the proper training, later they would be called reinforcements, supposedly to add a little credit to their almost impossible mission.

We never had time to give the replacements the proper orientation, there never was time for them to get acquainted with the other men in the outfit. Seems like we'd always get them about the time we were going into an attack, just told them to watch the rest of us, told them if they could survive the first couple of days, they'd probably get by for awhile. We'd get say 20 replacements before an attack the next morning five might still be alive. Some never even got on the morning report.

It was the same way with Officers in combat. The Infantry school at Fort Benning was graduating 200 2nd Lts. every day, seven days a week, to keep the platoon positions filled and then sometimes there weren't enough. On many occasions enlisted men led platoons and many were commissioned on the battlefield.

*from the "Ardennes Echo" - publication of the  
Central Massachusetts Chapter*



Gene Drouillard, National Headquarters, presenting a VBOB Plaque to Thomas Sherlock, Historian, Arlington National Cemetery, for ten years of outstanding assistance and guidance during our annual commemoration ceremonies at the cemetery.

## TELL YOUR CHILDREN

I can't tell you the number of letters we receive from family members of veterans of the Battle of the Bulge who plead with us to provide information regarding their father's (brother's, uncle's, etc.) years in the military service. So, please tell them about your years in the service--no matter how painful it may be for you. It is something that they want to know about and will ease their minds about this period in time in your life about which they know nothing.

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