



# The BULGE BUGLE

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

VOLUME XIII

NUMBER 4

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

NOVEMBER 1994

NOT SO  
QUIET  
ON THE  
WESTERN  
FRONT...

## LOUD VOICES MAKING WAR ON OUR BATTLE

By Mitchell Kaidy



(A teenage corporal in Co. D, 345th Infantry, 87th Division, Mitchell Kaidy holds the Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star Medal and three battle stars. He received a journalism education under the GI Bill of Rights, has worked for three daily newspapers, a television station and public radio in Upstate New York. He has contributed articles with a team of reporters that won the Pulitzer Prize for the Gannett Newspapers, and last year he won a Project Censored award for investigative journalism.)



campaign is underway to rewrite history -- the history of the battle we fought and bled in and which our buddies, some standing a few feet from us, were killed or wounded. If, as Blaine Friedlander asserted in the May issue of the **Bulge Bugle**, the Battle of the Bulge was decided before it began, how is it that 20,000 Americans were killed, wounded or declared missing in the first week of the battle? How is it that 10 times as many Americans ultimately became casualties as on D-Day? Were we, the participants, all hallucinating when we describe the harrowing battle, its intensity, conditions and after effects?

Friedlander is not alone in his historical revisionism. Recently, **Nation** magazine columnist Alexander Cockburn quoted the son of a German officer who incredibly claimed that Patton's tanks made rapid headway across Europe only because the German troops "let them." Cockburn himself lent weight to the view that the Battle of the Bulge was nothing claiming, like Friedlander, that it was all over the previous summer.

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

SEE  
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**VETERANS OF THE  
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P.O. Box 11129  
Arlington, Virginia 22210-2129  
703-528-4058**

Published quarterly, *THE BULGE BUGLE* is the official publication of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge.

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**Historical Research:**  
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Bolivar, PA 15923 412-238-2297

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John P. Malay  
1424 Sampson Street  
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SOUTH CAROLINA CHAPTER (VII)  
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3745 Chain Bridge Rd.  
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**CONTACT THE CHAPTER IN YOUR  
AREA. YOU WILL BE GLAD YOU DID.**





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**THE NATIONAL COMMEMORATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, DECEMBER 15-18, 1994--**This event has been one of the biggest tasks I have ever undertaken to chair. At the Executive Council Meeting in February, 1992, when I accepted the appointment, little did I realize then this would be a full time job until the "big event" in December.

Once again, let me say it has been an honor to serve as President of VBOB this past year and I will always feel satisfaction whenever I reflect back on the many meetings, letters to write, phone calls, and other demands made by the 50th Anniversary planning.

All Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge who participate in this 50th Anniversary event, if only by their presence in St. Louis, deserve to be proud and honored to have been a part of this remembrance for this Significant Principal Event of WWII.

On behalf of all the committee participants, we extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to the many DoD contacts, Scott Air Force Base, Fort Leonard Wood, the four Gateway Arch hotels, Anheuser-Busch, wives and vets of the VBOB St. Louis Host Committee, City of St. Louis officials, Military Museum, Police Department, Governor of the State, and the Nations of Belgium and Luxembourg. With special recognition to General Kicklighter, Executive Director of World War II Commemoration Committee, Colonel Ken Smith, Lt. Col. Gayden Thomas, Major Rubalcava, Major Tom Rigsbee, Lt. Col. Champion, Colonel John Sullivan, my day-to-day contact, Commander Jim Brewster, USCGR, the ever helpful, Ms. Anita Davis, of the St. Louis Convention & Visitors Commission, and the list goes on.

I respectfully say "thank you to each and every one who has assisted to ensure the success of the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge in St. Louis. The dedication and congeniality was most appreciated during difficult situations that seem to be every-day occurrences when planning an event of this magnitude.

William P. Tayman

## MAKE YOUR PLANS TODAY IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO SEND YOUR RESERVATION

You will find complete information regarding the National Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge in this issue. Send your reservations to the hotel and your registration forms to the VBOB office today. We look forward to sharing this special event with you.

## 1994-95 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ELECTION

Members of the Tellers Committee, composed of the members of the Virginia and Maryland/District of Columbia Chapters, Mrs. Helen Berry, Frederick Carmichael, Edwin Theiry, and Blaque Culp, met on September 19, 1994 for the purpose of counting the ballots for election of 1994-95 Executive Council Officers and Trustees.

Election Chairman William R. Hemphill announced the results of their tally as follows:

**President:** Grover C. Twiner  
**Executive Vice President:** Stanley Wojtusik  
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**V.P., Chapter Coordination:** To be announced  
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We wish the officers a successful year and wish to thank the members of the Tellers and Nominating Committees for their efforts in this matter.

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## PLEASE LET US KNOW...

Every returned newsletter costs us...so, if you will let us know of your moving plans it will save us money.

If you move South for the winter, you need to let us know. You also need to let us know when you and the robins head North again.



## Letters to The Editor

### MORE "ON THE ATTACK"

In reference to the article "On the Attack" (May issue, "Memorable Bulge Incidents" column), page 19, I don't want to seem critical or confrontational, just curious as to why our dates don't match.

[The article] starts by saying, "It was January 10, 1945, that our battalion was assigned to render close combat engineering support, etc." and goes on to describe the action that took place after that.

In closing the article asks if anyone can supply any information on the captain in the 82nd Airborne who was wounded at Trois Ponts, Belgium, on January 10 or 11, 1945.

It seems the article must be about 5 days off on dates because our 28th Division records show that the 112th attacked in that area on January 5, 1945. If the dates in the article are in error, then the officer couldn't have been wounded in Trois Ponts on 10 or 11 January, unless the Germans had recaptured the town after we left it about January 9th. Or, the action which the article describes took place before January 5, 1945. The writer gives an excellent report on the works of the engineers and they deserve credit for their share in winning the war.

Here is my description of what the action was around Trois Ponts:

In November, 1944, the 28th Division took a terrible beating in the Hurtgen Forest. Some historians record it as suffering the worst casualties of any division in all of WWII.

The 28th was sent to a quiet front to rebuild, it turned out to be a 25-mile front in what was to become the Battle of the Bulge. I was with them in the forest in November, 1944, and at Sevenig, Germany, December 1-18 when our 112th Regiment was ordered to pull back to protect Bastogne. It turned out that there were more Germans between us and Bastogne than between us and Berlin. We fought alone in the center until we became part of the "Fortified Goose Egg" that included St. Vith and Vielsalm. In this fighting our 3rd Battalion, 112th Regiment, was attached to the 82nd Airborne Division, where we held the Vielsalm bridges open until the outfits fighting in the Fortified Goose Egg got out. I was forward observer for the 81mm mortars and for a short time directed fire for the 82nd Airborne artillery. I used the code word "Harness" to contact them but only for a short time because the Germans got behind us and the 82nd Airborne artillery had to withdraw and we were alone again.

On January 5, 1945, the 112th combat team moved to Stavelot and Trois Point between the 82nd Airborne and the 30th Infantry Division.

January 6, 1945, 112th Regiment, 1st Battalion, pushed ahead and cleared Trois Ponts.

January 6th 112th Regiment, 3rd Battalion, captured Aisemont by 1400 hours. (It was in this attack that two groups of Germans crawled in to the ditch with us--myself and two others took them back to Trois Ponts looking for a prisoner stockade.) We stayed in a partially wrecked house with a dead woman on the porch. There was lots of shelling and a heavy blizzard that night. We had a difficult time finding a place to sleep. We tried to find a basement but they were all full of live GI's or dead bodies. We looked forward to a nice, deep foxhole.

January 7th--I returned to 3rd Battalion as it was driving the Germans out of Wanne. The Germans counter attacked with tanks and infantry. That night was miserable, there was a bad blizzard, the ground was frozen and they used

screaming meemies on us.

January 12th--We moved back to join our 28th Division. We had been separated nearly a month. As a combat team we had been attached to several outfits. Most of the time I was used as a forward observer.

This is not intended to be critical--dates and places are difficult to think about in combat.

Clarence Blakeslee  
28 INF 112 INF M

### NUTS'D AGAIN

Here we go again. As we near the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, I believe the same old story is going to be happening again.

What made me write this letter was the issuance of the 1944 World War II stamps. It does not show a picture of the GI's in the snow and say "Battle of the Bulge." NO! It says "Bastogne and the Battle of the Bulge."

Between 500,000 and 600,000 GI's were in the battle and yet Bastogne gets all the publicity.

The 101st Airborne and attached units did a wonderful, remarkable job, but the bulk of the fighting was done after the breakthrough by the 4th Armored Division and both German and American forces built up their strength.

I have done a considerable amount of reading about this battle as well as many other battles since the war. Of course, we all intend to favor our own outfits when we write about our exploits, such as Joe Doherty of the 99th Infantry Division in your November 1993 issue. Likewise, in *A Time for Trumpets*, Charles MacDonald also favors the Elsenborn ridge as he was in the 2nd Infantry Division.

Now how about some impartial observations:

•General Omar Bradley, *A Soldier's Story*, page 475: "In tactical importance that road center (St. Vith) was even more valuable than Bastogne itself."

•Eisenhower's *Own Story of the War*, page 76: "The Seventh Armored Division denied him the important area of St. Vith during the critical early days."

•Hitler's *Last Gamble*, French author Jacques Nobécourt, page 223: "Germans now 5 days behind schedule. All this can be put to the credit of the defence of St. Vith."

"There was still plenty of punch left in the German offensive, but 'The Battle of the Bulge' legend gives too much credit to the defenders of Bastogne at the expense of those at St. Vith. Without the later, Bastogne could probably not have been held."

•*Battles Lost and Won* by Hanson Baldwin, page 493: "St. Vith even more than Bastogne was the bulwark of the Bulge, and in a sense, it's turning point. Bastogne got the publicity; St. Vith was even more important as a bastion of defense."

•A TV documentary *Brave Rifles* was made several years ago about the Battle of the Bulge. It mentioned the three major defensive battles: Bastogne, St. Vith and the Elsenborn Region and then went into details of each. Before it described the battle of St. Vith, it mentioned it as the most important of all.

•Eisenhower's *Lieutenants* by Russell Weighley: "Of all the defensive battles in the Battle of the Bulge, and there were many of them, it was the defense of St. Vith that did the most to upset the German time table."

•General Hasso von Manteuffel, Commander of the 5th Panzer Army: "Bastogne could be by-passed, St. Vith could not. We wanted St. Vith to be taken by the first or second day."

(Continued on Page 5)



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

By Christmas Eve, Manteuffel recommended to Hitler to abandon the attack. He gave as his prime reason for the failure to accomplish their objectives, the defense of St. Vith.

I could go on and on but what's the use. By giving Bastogne all the credit we deny credit to all those units that did such terrific jobs. When I read these books and see what a great job the 30th Infantry Division and the 82nd Airborne did in stopping Kampfgrupp Peiper, the 1st Infantry in relief of Elsenborn, the 2nd and 3rd Armored divisions, the battered 28th Infantry Division, etc., etc., etc.

And what do we get: "Bastogne and the Battle of the Bulge" on a stamp for 1944 World War II. We have a saying in the 7th Armored Division Association: Every time an article about the Bulge comes out and Bastogne is the central point, we say NUTS'D AGAIN.

John H. Durba  
7 ARMDD A

### BASTOGNE, THE HOTTEST OF THEM ALL

One cannot describe the feeling of putting your life on the line for 24 hours a day. At Bastogne, it was not uncommon to see dead Germans from the age of 15 to 60. The whole area was a bloody mess. That is why we were called the bloody bastards of Bastogne.

I had a slit trench take a direct hit. I was lucky I was not in it. I had bullets trim leaves above my head, but I lucked out. I hit the dirt like they taught us in basic training.

I have said this a thousand times: when the sun came out at Bastogne, and the Air Force could see their targets, we all thanked God. For without them, we would have lost a lot more lives.

Coming from Normandy to Bastogne, we hit a lot of hot spots, but I can say, Bastogne will stay in my mind as the hottest of them all.

Albert E. Pekrul  
6 ARMDD 212 FA

### CREDIT FOR THE 35TH DIVISION...

I am writing concerning the coverage of the combat units of World War II. I have seen lots of divisions mentioned in the veterans magazines and I want to know why they do not give the 35th Division some credit for winning the war? We went over the Channel July 3 and were at St. Lo--then went with Patton's 3rd Army through Southern France, and the Battle of the Bulge.

George H. Currence  
35 INF

### MALMEDY RECALLED...EXCELLENT ARTICLE

This is the first definitive article [May, 1994, issue] by an actual participant that I have come across. It was an excellent report. This was particularly interesting for me, as I was the First Sergeant of the 3060 QMC Graves Registration Company, which entered the field near Malmedy on January 18, 1945, and helped process these men who had been murdered by the Nazis.

Francis Miner  
3060 QMC GRAVES REGISTRATION

### MORE BASTARD UNITS

More on bastard units (tongue in cheek).... After five campaigns as a combat infantry man, battlefield commissioned first

lieutenant, I always thought bastard battalions referred to the battalion commander's first name. At least they were always referred to as that bastard BN CO. Glad to get it straight after 50 years.

Jack B. Warden  
3 ARMDD 36 AIR B

### MORE ON THE 180TH FA BN'S LOCATION

I was with B Battery, 592 Field Artillery, 106th Infantry Division. ...Mr. McGinnis says that [my unit] relieved his battery. At one time the CO was Brigadier General Brock. I do not know who the CO was at that time. I do know that C Battery of 592nd Field Artillery, 106th Division was not in France and....

Milton "Pappy" Conner  
106 INF 592 FA BN

### THANKS TO LUXEMBOURG

I was impressed and pleased to read that the CEBA and the people of Luxembourg gave a gift of \$370,000 for the flood relief in Kansas and Missouri. For several years I have been a member of CEBA and have found it to be a good organization.

Buford James "Jim" Murray  
1252 ENGR CMBT BN

### THE LAST WORD...

*[Last issue we published letters from two members who took exception with the photograph of VBOB President Bill Tayman and U.S. President Bill Clinton, taken at a veterans' organization meeting. This issue we will publish three letters expressing different points of view. PLEASE, NO FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE ON THIS MATTER.]*

I read with great interest all of the stories of the Bulge soldiers because I was one of the millions waiting in nazi camps for you gentlemen to come and rescue us. And when you got stuck that winter in the Ardennes, the freedom sky was cloudy and no ray of hope was coming through giving the nazis exhilaration and us a morbid fear of annihilation.

One of the letters to the editor, and this is why I am writing this letter, was one by Bill Krehbiel and the other by Howard F. Reiff. Both were about the President of the United States. I understand your anger but I cannot your attack on the President of the United States. He may be "Slick Willie" for you but for those of us who voted for him he is the President. Insulting him, insults us.

You both and the others whom I heard during my D-Day trip in June would be absolutely right heaping insults upon a man who didn't serve in the Armed Forces, were he from your generation. Were he one of you, you could have called him all the names to spew your bitterness and hatred upon him. But he was from the times of undeclared war, of war actions disapproved by half of the people, generations of the young who were for peace. Some from honest disapproval, some from the horror because they have seen what was done to the lives of wounded soldiers, some from fear of being shot at, some from honest belief that peace would replace wars.

I understand the feeling and the words: "what was good for us should be good for him and them...." I agree with you in your outrage. My heart beats faster and swells with anger when I hear old SS men saying that they did it because they followed orders, when their children say that their fathers didn't do anything to deserve the official silent treatment.

But President Clinton as a young student didn't do anything subversive against our beloved country. He exercised his right to express his opinion as

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Continued from Page 5)

did many others. "Draft dodger and coward"? He corrected himself, he didn't run to Canada or elsewhere. We don't really know what goes on in a young man's head when he faces the prospect of war (of course you didn't either).

You, veterans of World War II, were fighting a Just War to liberate Europe from the Nazi yoke. Your war, whether you lived or had fallen, was a glorious one. We admire your deeds, courage, and your spirit, giving life to save people you never heard of. History did honor you and will never forget your role in it.

Kristin V. Bolfoure  
Associate

I am rather incensed by the two letters that appeared in the August 1994 issue of your wonderful publication. What gives anyone the sole right to call our president (no matter who the person in office may be) a traitor, coward and draft dodger.

I did not wait to be drafted in WWII, but enlisted, to do away with that "maniac" in Berlin. I was twice decorated and considered myself to be then and now a true patriot! Notwithstanding that, I doubt very much whether I would have enlisted in the Vietnam Conflict nor whether I would have served if I were drafted. Millions of Americans felt and still feel exactly like I do.

Further, if you do not respect the man, have respect for the office, voted for by the entire nation. Most of us "old timers" fought because we had to, not because we wanted to and in the comfort of our old age and easy chairs are pretty blasé about young people dying for no good cause.

...Adolph Hitler's first move was to stifle the press and I thought that is what we fought the war about.

Mark F. Greene  
11 AD 63 AIB HQ

Our VBOB President, Bill Tayman, has every right to represent us, perhaps I should say the obligation, indeed, to represent us not only at official ceremonies, but also before other military and civic organizations. We elected him to do so.

During WWII I was a combat soldier with the 101st Airborne Division from D-Day to VE-Day. In the Ardennes I was wounded at Longchamps in the outskirts of Bastogne where we successfully resisted the Nazi onslaught. I also had the privilege and opportunity to serve our country in Vietnam, including duty with the Vietnamese Airborne Brigade. Throughout my military service my commitment was to our nation and our national interests. To the best of my knowledge, military duty and obligations have nothing, absolutely nothing, to do with liking or disliking elected public officials.

President Clinton, by virtue of his election to the Presidency, is our Commander-in-Chief, as such he spoke for our nation at the various ceremonies in Normandy. As a VBOB member I am very glad that he invited Bill Tayman, our very own president, to the White House. Congratulations, Bill, for representing us so well and even kissing the first lady. Thank you for a job well done!

Eduardo A. Peniche  
101 ABND

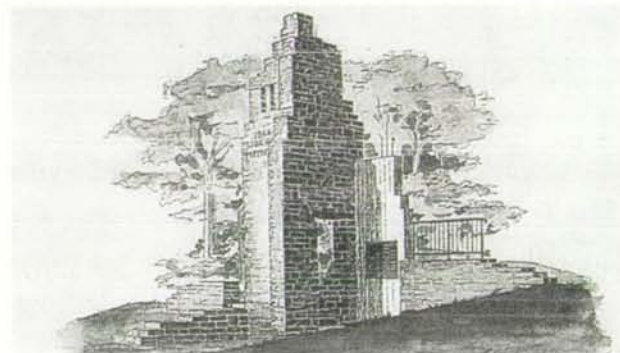
When a publication, any publication, publishes a picture of the President, it recognizes the office, not the incumbent or his political party. The electorate knew about Clinton's draft dodging, yet elected him. Once elected he is the President as long as the people want him (up to two terms).

So Reiff and Krehbiel are certainly off-base in their criticism.

Mitch Kaidy - Co. D 345th Inf. 87th Div.

## SCHUMANN LIBERATION MEMORIAL

At the crossroad of Schumann, Luxembourg (site of a fierce battle), there now stands a Liberation Memorial dedicated to the men who fought there: 1ST and 3RD BATTALION, 101ST INFANTRY; 26 INFANTRY DIVISION; 4TH ARMORED DIVISION; and three battalions of the 328TH INFANTRY. The memorial was financed by public subscription.



There are also plans by the GREG (Groupe de Recherches et d'Etudes sur la Guerre 1940-1945) to erect a Patton museum in Ettlebruck, Luxembourg. For further information write: J. P. Kremer; 169 Rue de Warken; L-9088 Ettlebruck, Luxembourg.

## MOST COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING 50TH COMMEMORATION

**Question: My wife and I plan to come. We wish to go only to the banquet. Do we have to pay the registration fee?**

Answer: One person in your party is required to pay the registration fee. The fee covers cost of the buffet/reception on Thursday; music; mementos; bus transportation; rental at the Cathedral; the plaque; name badges; paper work; and many, many other expenses which are necessary to the smooth function of this meeting. If the registration fee is not paid for an individual, they will be unable to participate in these functions.

**Question: I've already sent in my registration, do I have to come to the headquarters hotel to get my welcome packet and tickets?**

Answer: No. There will be a registration desk at each hotel which will have the packets for all persons who have pre-registered. If you have not registered in advance, it will be necessary to come to the headquarters hotel. All hotels are in easy walking distance of each other.

**Question: I have not received confirmation. Did you get my check?**

Answer: Time has not allowed us to make confirmations to this point. If you have a question call: Monday thru Friday (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST) 703-528-4058.

**Question: If I can't come, can I get a refund?**

Answer: Full refunds will be given to all who request same prior to November 15th. After that, we will have to wait until after the reunion is over to determine if and how much refund can be made. As you can imagine, we must order and pay for things well in advance based on the number of people who have pre-registered.

**Question: Can I register in St. Louis?**

Answer: Yes, but life will be easier for all of us if you can register in advance.

**Question: My buddy wants to come--does he have to be a member of VBOB?**

Answer: No, all are welcome.



# 50th ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM

December 15-18, 1994

## •THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15•

### **OPENING RECEPTION, Grand Ballroom, Regal Riverfront Hotel**

6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Reception

Address by the Mayor of the City of St. Louis

Evening Buffet Dinner--including Vegas, Cheeses, Roast Steamship, Egg Rolls, Fruit, and Beverages. Music for listening and dancing by The Gateway City Big Band.

## •FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16•

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

9:00 a.m.

Assemble in Kiener Plaza

9:30 a.m.

Parade w/U.S. Army Band on Market Street (6/10's of a mile)

10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Memorial Service, BoB 50th Anniversary Plaque Dedication, Guest Speaker General Gordon Sullivan, Chief of Staff of the Army. National Flag Exhibit, 45 x 90 foot "Old Glory" will fly over our heads!

Participants shuttled back to various hotels.

11:30 a.m.

12:00 Noon

LUNCH ON OWN

### **MEMORIAL SERVICE, Great Saint Louis Cathedral**

2:00 p.m.

Participants shuttled to Cathedral

3:00 p.m.

Ecumenical Memorial Service

Appreciation from the people of Belgium, 110 member symphonic band

4:15 p.m.

Participants shuttled back to various hotels

5:00 p.m.

DINNER ON OWN

8:00 p.m.

Concert by the Great Symphonic Band of the Belgian Guides in the Grand Ballroom, Regal Riverfront Hotel

9:00 p.m.

Film *Battle of the Bulge, Brave Rifles*, most honored WWII documentary. The producer and director will be present and introduced.

## •SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17•

### **CITY BUS TOUR, Destination St. Louis**

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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

### **RECEPTION AND BANQUET, Grand Ballroom, Regal Riverfront Hotel**

6:30 p.m.

Cocktail reception

7:00 p.m.

50th ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

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

## •SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18•

### **SERVICES FOR ALL, Regal Riverfront Hotel**

10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Rooms to be announced for Catholic, Jewish, and Protestant services.



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



## COMMEMORATION REGISTRATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Wife/Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Division: \_\_\_\_\_ Regiment: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit or Company: \_\_\_\_\_

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

	Number of Persons	Cost per Person	Total
Registration	_____	\$45.00	_____
Saturday, City Bus Tour	_____	\$14.00	_____
Saturday, 50th Anniversary Banquet	_____	\$38.00	_____
<b>Total Amount Enclosed</b>			<b>\$ _____</b>

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.



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

**HOTEL REGISTRATION FORM**

Selected Hotel \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Sharing room with: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Special Requests: Prefer Non-Smoking \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Division: \_\_\_\_\_ Regiment: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit or Company: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Major credit cards are acceptable to guarantee your room.

\_\_\_\_\_ American Express \_\_\_\_\_ Visa/Mastercard \_\_\_\_\_ Diners Club \_\_\_\_\_ Discover

Card number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



## OFFICIAL HOTEL AND TRAVEL INFORMATION

### REGAL RIVERFRONT HOTEL

(Headquarters 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

### HOLIDAY INN DOWNTOWN/RIVERFRONT

200 North Fourth Street  
St. Louis, Missouri 63102

Located across the street from the Gateway Arch

Rate: \$61 per night  
Reservations: 314-621-8200 or 800-925-1395

### 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

### 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

Make your hotel reservation immediately. 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%.

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

## TRAVEL INFORMATION

### 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, 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.



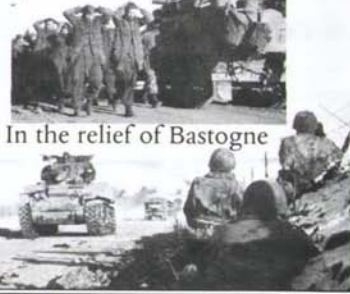
A.M.D.G. Pictures Inc is proud to announce the publication of A Toast For You and Me, America's Participation, Sacrifice and Victory.

German prisoners

This handsome hardcover, 268 pages, is full of recently restored color pictures and all the U.S. divisions from France to the Bulge. All photos on this ad page are actually printed in color commemorative. In conjunction with the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, we will be offering the book at a special price of only \$30.94 plus postage to readers of The Bulge Bugle. A \$39.99 value. Witness the liberation of Europe in detail. It only took the author 16 years of research. If you could only see these photos in color. That includes the one below, Americans from the 99th Inf Div captured one snowy day in December, 1944, during the Battle of the Bulge--and until now never printed in any book in color. Be our guest, check your library or read the historical World War II Magazine, Nov 1994 issue for that picture in color. You won't find it. Order a copy of the limited edition.



The real Ernie Pyle, left



In the relief of Bastogne

Mail to AMDG Pictures, Inc, Worldway Center, Box 80299, Los Angeles, CA 90080

**U.S. postage add \$2.75**

It's easy to order.

Send me \_\_\_\_\_ commemorative copies at \$30.94  
For international shipping, add \$7.50 postage.  
CA residents add \$2.55 sales tax each.

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

A Toast for You and Me, America's Participation, Sacrifice and Victory, by Robert C Valentine, a 1944-1994 Commemorative book is \$30.94 with coupon. Valid until Jan 31, 1995. This offer will not be repeated.

## 99TH INF'D 'BATTLE BABIES' SPOILED GERMAN PLANS

Headlines on a UP story filed January 4, 1945, told of the "heroic stand" of the 99th Infantry Division and paid high tribute to the men called "Battle Babies."

"The Battle Babies of the American 99th Division," according to the story, held the "bloody northern shoulder of the Ardennes Salient and fought off four German divisions for five days and nights at the start of the Nazi winter offensive."

According to the story, there had been a security ban on the 99th. But when the ban was lifted, it revealed that the 99th had "stemmed the Wehrmacht's bid for a breakthrough."

The division was hit on the 16th of December, faced "wave after wave" of German assault forces which included two panzer and two volksgrenadier divisions. "Reinforced by tanks," they hit the 99th "amidships on December 17th in the vicinity of Hollerarrh, Bullingen, and Wirtzfeld."

The UP story called it "some of the bitterest fighting of the entire German offensive" and credited the 99th with "taking it on the chin and fighting a gallant delaying action."

"It was the 99th that captured Marshal Karl von Rundstedt's order telling his troops their moment had come to strike the decisive blow--tipping the Allies that this was a full-scale Nazi offensive."

*[Reprinted from the 99th Division's newsletter, THE CHECKERBOARD, Volume 47, Number 6.]*

## VBOB Monument Dedication

Saturday, November 12, 1994, will be another memorable day for all Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, their families and friends.

That's the day we'll unveil and dedicate our monument at Valley Forge Military Academy & College at Wayne, PA in Suburban Philadelphia.

President Bill Tayman (87 ID) is encouraging all VBOB members to be there, with families and friends, for this important event. Our new monument is the first in the United States that honors the 600,000 American men and women who fought in the Bulge, and the courageous people of Belgium and Luxembourg.

This great day, held during Veterans Weekend, will be an official ceremony of the World War II Fiftieth Anniversary Commemoration Committee.

The day begins with a memorial service in the Chapel at VFMA & C at 9:30 AM, followed by a dress parade of the Academy Cadets at 11 AM, and the ceremonies at the Monument, beginning at 11:30 AM.

Coming a month before our Fiftieth Anniversary celebration in St. Louis, this really begins our "Golden Anniversary" salute to you, and to our beloved comrades who gave their lives to win the greatest land battle ever fought by the American Army.

**IT WAS YOUR VICTORY!  
IT'S YOUR MONUMENT!**



# Christmas Eve Mass

Maastricht, Holland December 24, 1944

About 300 American soldiers gathered in a small cave in the St. Peters Mountain. Candlelight reflected their shadows on the marl walls. The faces of the men are set and devout. The marl cave was a safe haven from the German Luftwaffe attacks. A safe place to celebrate Christmas. After all it might have been their last.

Mr. Dobrzinsky a priest from New York, led the mass. Everyone was prepared. They knew the battle was raging on. Any moment they could have been called. Mr. van Grinsven, a monk who sung in the choir, was an eyewitness to the night's gathering. "I remember when they fetched me from the cloister. We had to sit in a jeep. The lights were covered. We could barely see the road. While we were driving we heard the raid alarm. I was afraid. We drove up that silent road upon the hill that lead to the cave. The soldiers were already present. They looked a little bit strange to me. Not the way I imagined them to be. I was surprised that these rough men could be so pious. The mass was very moving. I could not understand their language yet I could somehow read their thoughts, their faces: 'Who's next to die? This might be my last Christmas celebration.'"



Christmas Eve Mass on December 24, 1944, in the cave in Maastricht, The Netherlands.

At the end of the mass, everyone scratched his name with charcoal into the white marl walls of the cave. This was their last farewell to Maastricht and the world, for they could not foresee that they would have to leave so soon.

The next day they left for Bastogne, to fight the last convulsion of the German war power. Mr. Dobrzinsky and many of the other men would never return. At that time, about 800 soldiers left Maastricht, only 50 of them survived. Many of them are buried at the American War Cemetery in Margraten.

Every Christmas Eve thereafter, the mass in the marl cave is celebrated to remember the brave men who gave their lives for freedom. The charcoal names are a true symbol of everything that is worth fighting for. An everlasting memory of the horrors of war.

Christmas is a time of peace and rekindling. Let's hope the Christmas spirit will last forever in the hearts of mankind. Christmas Eve Mass will be celebrated at the caves of the "Schar," Mergeweg 359 at Maastricht on 24 December, 1994, at 1900 hours.

[This article was excerpted from the newsletter of the 127TH AAA GUN BATTALION ASSOCIATION.]

## Loud Noises Making War On Our Battle

(Continued from page 1)

The media coverage of D-Day certainly left the impression that, even though World War II ended almost a year after D-Day, everything that ensued was insignificant and overshadowed by that one epic event.

Every war is subject to self-serving revisionism. I believe that if a Civil War casualty could be disinterred he would tell an entirely different story than we get from our media today. A book and movie about World War II entitled "Liberators" both of which I regard as mainly fictitious, recently received widespread media circulation and no doubt public credence about a tank battalion that allegedly spearheaded the entire Third Army.

But in the case of the Battle of the Bulge, the mythology has started earlier than most battles and is being generated right before the eyes of the participants. In August I felt compelled to counter revisionism in the **Bulge Bugle** by citing evidence that the German Army was neither spent nor understrength in launching its climactic Western front battle in December, 1944. Climactic and desperate that battle was, but that's not the same thing as spent or understrength - either in manpower or equipment.

Military historian Russell Weigley, who became privy to official German and American army records, estimated in his comprehensive book, "Eisenhower's Lieutenants" that we Americans were outnumbered by six to one at the spearheads and three to one elsewhere as late as the third week of the Bulge. According to Weigley, Allied political considerations reinforced the British but kept the U.S. Third Army understrength into the fourth week of the Bulge.

Unfortunately, the "Arsenal of Democracy" slogan still rings in American ears and still insulates them from the truth about the disparity in weapons quality we Americans had to overcome. Has anybody who experienced fighting the Tiger tank with an American tank ever concluded our tank was superior? Did anybody rate our 37 and 57mm guns as effective against tanks? Did we Americans possess any counterparts to the 88mm artillery or the German machine gun or even the Luger pistol? How about those ominous if weird Screaming Meemies and buzz bombs?

While some of Hitler's generals expressed reservations about the scope of Hitler's daring counterattack, they didn't, as the current mythology holds, balk at the concept. Field Marshal Gerd Von Rundstedt, one of Hitler's old-line commanders, was one who expressed reservations about the scope, but not about leading the operation.

And it is flatly untrue that Patton laughed at news of the German counterattack. In fact, once the casualty reports started sifting in, Patton's fighting-cock nature melted and he confided to his diary that the American forces could lose the war. Demonstrating how seriously Patton regarded the counterattack, in this instance only he took the unusual step of directing his staff to produce an in-depth study and recommendation on whether the Third Army should retreat - the tactical response urged by British Marshal Montgomery, a commander whom Patton ardently hated and regarded as sluggish and defeatist.

All of this is relevant to the ongoing revisionism involving our battle and our war. In humble deference to our dead and wounded, it is, as Abraham Lincoln said of another great battle, for us the living to act - to openly reject and correct the disinformational campaign that is in full sway.

There is a way to do this, and we shouldn't wait to do it. Whenever we encounter disinformational revisionism about the Battle of the Bulge, we should write a letter to the newspaper or television station. To do that you must have your facts straight. Read several histories about the Western front, and do what I'm doing—set the record straight about a cause that is eminently worth defending—our battle, our victory and our valorous dead.



# CHRISTMAS SEASON WASN'T VERY MERRY FOR THE 7TH ARMORED DIVISION

By Walter A. Pennino

[This article appeared in THE BOSTON SUNDAY GLOBE, December 18, 1949.]

Remember the Battle of the Bulge and the Besieged Bastards of Bastogne?

Five years ago the Christmas season wasn't very merry. In a timely and carefully planned offensive, the Nazis put all they had in a final push in the Ardennes. They broke through thinly held American lines ("a calculated risk we too," said the brass) and captured, killed or massacred GI's. They even had the effrontery to do it with American uniforms, vehicles and weapons.

The author of this article was there as a member of the 7th Armored Division which was rushed in from Rimborg, Germany, to St. Vith. When some British troops saw them roll into the confused and memorialized area, a Tommy called, "There's the 7th! They'll stop them. They're bloody veterans." They were. They did stop them, five years ago.

Time flies, but does not dim the memories of those who came back.

December 18, 1944, was a grim day. It, too, was the ominous prelude to a grimmer, dismal Christmas at St. Vith, Belgium, in the Ardennes Forest.

There was snow on the frozen, mine-littered ground and snow hung heavily on the thick evergreens. A heavy fog hovered overhead for days and draped itself over the terrain like a shroud. Visibility was poor by day and negligible by night. Except for the snow and evergreens, nothing here suggested Christmas.

There was death and destruction all about; no carols, no Yuletide spirit. Men were trying to stay alive. Men were trying to kill each other. These were warriors at their grim and violent tasks. They knew no holidays.

There was no mail from home, not even news from headquarters. It was no Christmas at all. "Stay and hold," "Dig in," "Attack," were the Christmas messages.

The men's feet were cold and wet; their hands hardly had the grasp to hold a rifle. By day, their snowsuits got wet and heavy and the dampness would be miserable. At night the snowsuits would freeze becoming stiff like a wash hung from a New England line on a wintry day.

The men who had overshoes were burdened by the weight. It became a clumsy task for them to move around with the stealth of an infantryman. Those with no overshoes suffered either trenchfoot or frostbite. Who could distinguish between these two infirmities, though one received a Purple Heart for frostbite and a reprimand for trenchfoot?

The countryside was littered with demolished equipment, empty gun emplacements, frozen dead, the ugliness of their torn and broken bodies hidden by a thin mask of snow.

Here the United States 7th Armored Division dug in and set up. They had to bear the brunt of a rolling German frontal attack, the impetus of which had gained astounding momentum after breaking the shell of the 106th Infantry Division.

## Surrounded by Germans

The 7th Armored struck at St. Vith and drove to the eastern slopes of this important communications center. The road-net here converged on the town like the crux of a spider's web. It was never expected that a German counteroffensive would be attempted here, yet from this very Belgian town the Nazis launched the blitzkrieg in 1939 that soon enveloped all of Western Europe.

The division drove into the heart of the German attack and by December 19 so split the German offensive that the cunning von Rundstedt, Germany's top tankman, was forced to fight a dual action. His brutal, violent and well planned, sustained drive direct west and then sharp north through Brussels and Liege to Antwerp had already been barbed.

The 7th held and remained at St. Vith while the Germans enveloped the division from the north and south. Only a few miles southwest the 101st Airborne Division was in a similar plight and holding out in a stand that became known as the siege of Bastogne and its defenders dubbed "The Besieged Bastards of the Bastion of Bastogne."

By December 24 the Germans with elements of three armies had forced their way around the 7th and drove deep penetrations into the American

line. The Nazis had dropped paratroopers in rear areas and saboteurs in civilian and American clothing had created havoc, panic and excitement.

## Got Real Prize

The tenor of the debacle had reached Paris. Parisians were excited and dreaded the realization that the Germans were to make good their boast to return to Paris. Men at rear supply dumps were given axes ...to smash equipment, thermite grenades to destroy vehicles and ammunition. Fear had gripped the Western Front. Through all this the 7th Armored Division held, their position neither tenable nor important by this time. On the day before Christmas word spread among the troops that they were being sacrificed; there was no way to get out.

Yet the men fought doggedly on a perimeter. The Germans had attacked them in the rear and overran the vehicle assembly area. Arrogant and fanatic SS-troops mounted the half-track vehicles of B Company the 48th Armored Infantry Battalion and drove off with them. With these same vehicles they attacked a few days later.

B Company, then commanded by Capt. Edward Vogelsang, of Buffalo, New York, and now at the Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia, was fighting in the line when their vehicles were taken. The Germans got a real prize, more than 20 half-tracks completely equipped with the men's personal belongings, dry socks, change of clothing, shaving equipment, writing material, letters from home. Their limited combat estate had been thoroughly trespassed.

## "Pull Them Out"

There was no evacuation for the wounded, no route for supply. The wounded remained to die and those who were loaded into the last ambulance returned with a load of Germans dressed in American clothing. The only ambulance had been ambushed and driven back into the Battalion area by SS-Troopers before the ruse was discovered. The Germans were killed before they did much damage, but the passengers in the ambulance suffered the same fate.

C-rations froze and men who ate them suffered severe stomach cramps. The supply of K-rations, ...was almost exhausted. It was both impracticable and inconvenient to warm the rations since fires only drew a burst from an enemy gun position or sniper.

Late on the day before Christmas, the British General Sir Bernard Montgomery took over the command of the sector. "The chaps have put on a fine show," he said of the 7th Armored, "Pull them out." This was our Christmas present. We had resigned ourselves to a last ditch stand, resolved that the Germans would have to fight to get us.

A screen of artillery was set-up to support our withdrawal through a line now in force by the 82nd Airborne Division. We moved out fighting through the front lines. First we moved our equipment out with a spectacular dash over icy roads from Poteau to Petit Thierry. Then the armored infantry on foot fought along the same road covered as they went by the tanks who came out last picking up the wounded and dead.

## Christmas Eve

It was a perfect withdrawal...almost unbelievable, made possible by a small conglomerate task force that was holding a little pocket "on their own." We called these men "Task Force Navajo" after a mysterious Lt. Whitman, a Navajo Indian who had organized and defended the area with a group of stragglers he had picked up.

On Christmas Eve we were comfortable billeted in a Belgium town 25 miles north of the nearest fighting. One of our supply trucks arrived with mail, packages, cake, plum pudding, candy, sweaters, gloves, scarves. It was Christmas again. In our Service Company there was another pile of mail bags; this mail never to be delivered. We had left many dead in the Bulge. We were destined to leave many more.

In the midst of this touch of Christmas came the order, "Move Out." The Germans had continued their attack, broken through and were driving on to Manhay. On Christmas eve we were fighting in Manhay. Our men were tired, still cold and wet.

The enemy drove relentlessly on, this time continuing the attack with American equipment, some of it ours. They were using our radios, wearing our clothing. It was difficult to tell who they were. Confusion was rampant, morale low and control difficult.

That was Christmas in the Ardennes in 1944. There was no good-will toward men and certainly no peace on earth. The Christmas greetings we mustered seemed a mockery and while there may have been sincerity among some men, the circumstances and locale hardly lent themselves to anything but a shallow, "Merry Christmas, Buddy." Much of it was bitter sarcasm. War does that to good men.



## MARYLAND-DC CHAPTER CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY

September, 1994, marked the 10th anniversary of active service for the Maryland-DC Chapter of VBOB. The chapter was formed as a result of a letter to prospects by Neil B. Thompson dated July 17, 1984. He received 130 responses and an organizational meeting was held September 8, 1984 in Annapolis, Maryland. Neil was appointed interim president and elected to that position in October with Clancy O. Lyall elected Vice President. The chapter was named "Liberator" and their newsletter was named "The Marcher."



*Chapter photo by Sam Silverman, taken September, 1984.*

*Front row, left to right: Mimi Lawrence, Ben Layton, Sid Lawrence, Carl Unger, Arnold Snyder, Pete Dounis, Phyllis Thompson. Back row, left to right: Arthur Gordon, Clancy Lyall, Dee Paris, Bill Simpkins, and Neil Thompson.*

The chapter has been active in the Maryland Veterans Cemetery Program and each year places memorial wreaths at five veterans cemeteries in Maryland. The chapter meets every six weeks with a summer picnic and Christmas Party. The wives play a large part in the programs.

Over the years the chapter has placed wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery, made donations to the VA Medical Centers of Maryland, participated in flag ceremonies at Fort Meade and U.S. Naval Academy, made donations to the Valley Forge Memorial, and assisted in the Flood Relief.

The chapter has provided three past National VBOB Presidents: George Chekan, William Greenville, and Darrel Kuhn, with 12 members serving in National offices. The national logo which appears on *The Bulge Bugle*, letterhead, and VBOB memorabilia was designed by Neil B. Thompson. The chapter has performed the task of mailing *The Bulge Bugle* to the VBOB membership for the past three years.

## WE WILL HELP YOU FORM A CHAPTER

Those who belong to a chapter will tell you that it is a very rewarding experience to meet with their comrades on a regular basis and swap stories and pleasantries. The spouses also enjoy these little get togethers. If you would like to form a chapter, we will provide you with all the particulars to get started.

## FLORIDA CITRUS CHAPTER RECEIVES FLAG AND CHARTER

The Florida Citrus Chapter received its chapter flag and charter at ceremonies at the Ramada Inn, Lakeland, Florida, on June 26, 1994.



*Pictured left to right: E. L. Bumgardner, Tom McFadden (President of the Central Florida Chapter), and Russell Searle, Citrus Chapter organizer. Russ, who passed away on August 6, 1994, will be sadly missed. Norman Schoonover was holding the flag on the left-hand side.*

## GEN. DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER CHAPTER FORMED

Vice President for Chapter Coordination Grover Twiner attended the charter meeting of the Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower Chapter at Kenton, Ohio, on August 8, 1994.



*Pictured with chapter flag, left to right: (kneeling) Chapter President Howard W. Spillman and Joseph D. Ledley, (standing) Carl E. Stout; Vice President Twiner; Frank J. Bondi; Gerald E. Hogue; Thad B. Gardner; Billy G. Allen; Arnold Liford; James L. Klingenberg; Earl R. Gillen; Richard M. Shape; Andrew J. Dunahue; and Burke E. Smith. (Seven members were not present when the pictures were taken: Edgar L. Thomas; Donald H. Stevens; Lloyd A. Molk; John W. Anderson; Joseph B. Quatman; William J. Mooney; and James Esteep.)*



## MEN WE WON'T FORGET

[Excerpted from a recent issue of the 84TH INFANTRY DIVISION'S RAILSPLITTERS newsletter. It was apparently originally printed December 25, 1945, and no author was identified.]

It's a funny thing how they handed them out. Nobody paid any money at all. We got a ticket good for the trip over and the trip back. And then somewhere along the line, they decided to take yours away from you.

Maybe you know by now how They worked it. Did they draw straws, or toss the names in a hat? It didn't go by rank, creed, age or wealth.

One minute you were clutching on to that return ticket stub which said: "Good for one trip back home to live in the Greatest Damn country in the World." Then the next minute the wind of a mortar, the breeze of a machine gun bullet had whisked it out of your hands.

Some of us saw you lose those tickets. Where was it? That foxhole at Lindern, the snow drift under the clean smelling pines of the Ardennes? Or maybe it was in the mud before Golkrath and Baal.

So now we, who still have our tickets, are going home and you're going to stay here forever. Time is going to pass and years go by and maybe it'll look like we've kinda forgotten you. Oh, they'll put up some memorials to you fellows, and every now and then some pompous old man will get up on Memorial Day or the Fourth of July and tell us what a swell job you did.

Imagine anybody telling US what you did. You were the guy who slept in the same room with us at Heerlen during that rest before we jumped the Roer. We used to march behind you when we snaked our way across Germany. And they don't want US to forget YOU.

Not a few of us are going to go around and see your folks and tell them what great guys you were, what you said and what you did. But I doubt that we will do much hooting or hollering on Memorial Day or the Fourth of July. We haven't got much time for that. All of us have a lot of work to do. We don't propose to set the world on fire or make it all a honey and cream life back home, but we're going to go back there and try to be as happy as we can, and in doing so we'll be putting out a pretty good country, the kind that you fellows would want it to be. Because an American can only be happy in the right kind of a set up.

So one of these mornings, gang, we'll be trudging up that gangplank and pulling out of here. And our sincerest wish will be that we could have picked up those return tickets you dropped, and given them back to you again.

I have seen war. I have seen war on land and sea. I have seen blood running from the wounded. I have seen men coughing out their gassed lungs. I have seen the dead in the mud. I have seen cities destroyed...I have seen children starving. I have seen the agony of mothers and wives. I hate war.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

## LOST...

...for various reasons, we have lost prime contacts for the following units:

94TH SIGNAL BATTALION  
279 ORDNANCE MAINTENANCE AA COMPANY  
PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA  
285TH FIELD ARTILLERY OBS BN

Can you help? Send to VBOB.

...Lawyer appearing in front of Judge: "My client prefers not to incur the stigma of being called insane, your honor. With the court's permission, he wishes to enter a plea of stupidity."

From: 'Jumpin' Herman Posch  
17 ABND HQ




Excerpts from

## UP FRONT Bill Mauldin

[To understand how an infantryman feels] dig a hole in your back yard while it is raining. Sit in the hole until the water climbs up around your ankles. Pour cold mud down your shirt collar. Sit there for forty-eight hours, and, so there is no danger of your dozing off, imagine that a guy is sneaking around waiting for a chance to club you on the head or set your house on fire.

Get out of the hole, fill a suitcase full of rocks, pick it up, put a shotgun in your other hand, and walk on the muddiest road you can find. Fall flat on your face every few minutes as you imagine big meteors streaking down to sock you.





*Living Legends*  
**BATTLE OF THE BULGE**  
 16 December 1944  
 25 January 1945

# Memorable Bulge Incidents

*Unedited And Heretofore Unpublished*

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

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

**John P. Lentz**  
 78th Infantry Division  
 308th Field Artillery  
 Burlington, North Carolina

**December 24, 1944**

...I saw a dead beef cow at the top of our stair well, with three more spread out toward the road we had come in on. All looked like fancy Belgium beef. I realized then why the "battle field dirt" half frozen had the peculiar smell when I smeared it on my shining face the night before. I was reared on a farm but never handled any frozen cow manure.

I was always told that the Germans on the front line always got the best rations while the Americans up there always got the worst rations. They apparently had moved their best beef to the front to feed the Germans coming through on December 16, and they did not make it. We had spoiled their plans.

On the night of December 24, we all knew that the infantry had stored all their boxes received from home in a closet with anything else they could get hold of to add to their Christmas Dinner. Artillery could think of nothing to add. When the "ration detail" was sent back after dark to get the one canteen of water and two boxes of K-Rations per man for next days' meals, I sent my two men back to find my sleeping roll and bring the fifth of Seagrams 7 that I had been issued for frozen feet and never took to the front line. They had to go all the way to Service Battery. I planned to offer a "shot" of whiskey to anyone that wanted it.

The detail returned early. I got my allotment and prepared to man the Dome for a while, when two men that appeared to be under age 18, who helped clean the "toilet area" the first night, and establish the "thunder bucket" and later said that it made them mad, but now thought it was the best thing that happened in the pill box, approached me with, "Give us your water." I

asked why. They said, "You have been called to the rear." I donated all my rations. ...

The trip back to the farm house near Simmerath was no problem. Some one had been to the rear and brought up a lot of Red Cross doughnuts, and had hot coffee on the stove. I helped myself but it did not stop my thirst and I could find no water.... For a long time I could not eat doughnuts or drink coffee.

.....

**December, 1944**

**John Kristich**  
 1st Infantry Division  
 26th Regiment  
 Company B  
 Port Charlotte, Florida

We were put on trucks and rushed to Butkenbach, Belgium, and arrived there about 2 o'clock in the morning. In the distance you could hear the artillery firing. I thought we had gone far enough but we marched way ahead of the firing. When day break came I was horrified to see literally hundreds of American soldiers laying frozen in every position possible. That was my welcome to the front.

In the barn behind our CP was a dead Belgium farmer who had hung himself. His reason was, one day the Americans were here and the next day the Germans. He couldn't take anymore. Our Capt. Munson gave me an order to grab his feet and another soldier to cut him down. He was a good 250 lbs. and I was a skinny kid of 130. So, you know what happened when he fell on me and nearly knocked me out. I'd sure like to know the fellow's name who cut the rope. About a week later we headed for the Siegfried line....



John Kristich in 1945

.....

**December, 1944**

**John Manlich, Jr.**  
 99th Infantry Division  
 393rd Infantry  
 F Company  
 Timonium, Maryland

During the Battle of the Bulge, I was the runner for the 2nd Platoon of F Company, which, after many confrontations with the enemy, was dug in on Elsenborn Ridge. Along with the other platoon runners, I was assigned to the company headquarters which were located inside an empty concrete cistern. The floor of the cistern could be reached by climbing down a 20-foot ladder.

As a runner, I had to carry both written and verbal messages from the company commander to the platoon commander.

One day the platoon commander, by divine luck, received his liquor ration consisting of a bottle of bourbon and a bottle of gin.

Much to my surprise, he asked me to take care of them and said he would ask for them as needed. I hid the bottle of bourbon and put the bottle of gin inside of my shirt.

Because of the heavy shelling by the 88's on Elsenborn Ridge,

*(Continued on Page 17)*



the telephone lines were constantly down. This necessitated carrying the messages and enduring the 88's shelling.

I swear one of the Germans used me for target practice, for as soon as I came into the clearing the shelling would start and follow me along my route.

One day as I took my usual prone position in three feet of snow and after hearing the screaming of in-coming shells, while lying there in the snow in below zero temperatures, I felt the bottle of gin inside my shirt. I decided that under the circumstances a sip of gin would feel good and warming. I took a sip and it tasted like the best dry martini that I had ever tasted!

However, after several days and several sips, I suddenly realized the bottle of gin was almost empty and the lieutenant might soon be asking for the return of his ration.

In order to delay the discovery of my transgression, I filled the bottle with snow so the casual observer couldn't tell the difference between melted snow and gin.

Almost on cue, the lieutenant called for his bottles. With great fear and concern, I gave him back his rations. At this point my imagination took hold and I imagined all sorts of punishments--from a tongue lashing to a court marshal or being shot by a firing squad. While contemplating my fate, my buddy came running up to me and said "Guess what?" I said, "What?" He said, "The lieutenant was climbing down the ladder in the cistern with the bottle of gin in his hand. It slipped from his grasp, fell to the concrete floor, and broke into what appeared to be a thousand pieces!"

I felt there must have been divine intervention to save me from my just punishment. But, more importantly, the lieutenant, unless he reads it here, never knew that he didn't break the bottle of gin, but instead a bottle of melted snow! If the lieutenant (only he and I know his name) will contact me, I'll send him a case of gin--that is one bottle plus nearly 50 years of interest!

.....

December, 1944

**John J. Sweeney**  
10th Armored Division  
61st Armored Infantry Battalion  
Company A  
1st Platoon  
Machine Gun Squad  
Scarsdale, New York

Our Company A on December 18 was deposited in a very dark, cold and wooded area for the night in the vicinity of Echternach. We were told to dig in and stay quiet and alert because there was heavy enemy activity in the rear. The night was so dark you couldn't see your hand in front of your face. The ground was made up of heavy wet clay and our entrenching shovel couldn't dig into it, so we had to sleep on top of the ground and take our turns at guard duty and listening posts. It was so cold that the rear echelon brought up some overcoats (2 for every 3 soldiers). We placed one overcoat on the ground and 3 of us lay on it and covered ourselves with the 2nd overcoat. The only one who was warm was the middle guy so we changed places every 20 minutes or so.

The next morning was dark, cold and dreary and we were told that we had to attack through the woods and up a hill to knock out some rocket emplacements. The 1st platoon was to make the frontal assault and the 2nd platoon the right flanking movement.

We moved out after eating some K-rations for breakfast and we were immediately shelled mercilessly for what seemed like an eternity. When a lull in the shelling occurred (which only meant the enemy was reloading) we started up the hill again, only to be shelled even more mercilessly. Enemy shells hit the trees above us, burst and rained shrapnel from above which was devastating. The casualties were unbelievable and everyone figured he was next. My machine gunner Pfc. Willie Wilson was shot in the stomach by a sniper and killed just 10 feet in front of me as we were moving up. I then became the sniper's next favorite target but the closest he got was an inch or two above my rear end.

Another lull in the shelling and another move up, only caused the shelling to increase. Looking desperately for some cover I jumped into a large tank trap only to find it full of enemy soldiers and other Company A men trying to protect themselves from the shelling. When the shelling stopped for a moment or two both the enemy soldiers and ourselves scrambled out of the tank trap and went our respective ways into the woods with not a shot fired at each other. The woods were at this point so thick that if you went a few feet you couldn't see each other....

What was left of our platoon started forward and up again only to receive more shelling. It seemed like an eternity in hell with no way out. The screams of the wounded, the noise, the smoke, the awful weather and the feeling of helplessness only confirmed that war is hell and beyond anyone's imagination. At this time I was hit in the left arm by a piece of shrapnel but it didn't do too much damage so I bandaged it and ignored it.

All of us were wondering why our artillery didn't respond to the enemy's attack and try to slow them down. Someone said there was a strike back in the U.S. and there was a shortage of artillery shells and that our guns only had three shells apiece. We didn't even hear any of the three shells per gun respond and it left us with a very helpless and abandoned feeling.

Somehow or other after many hours of this unbelievable and awful battle three other men from Company A and myself reached the top of the hill. Guess what? No enemy rocket launchers. At this point I had one of my squad's machine guns but no ammunition as the ammo bearers were either killed or wounded. The four of us congratulated each other on reaching our objective and decided to consolidate it, when we saw a group of enemy soldiers in the valley below us running along the tree line. We all opened up with our M1 rifles but the bullets barely reached the tree line and we hit no one. Then the 2nd platoon leader arrived and ordered us off the hill even though we tried to convince him otherwise. However, he told us there were enemy tanks behind us and that we'd probably be cut off. We were convinced and immediately left our hard fought position on the top of the hill.

On the way down the hill the shelling had stopped and the silence was very eerie except for the moaning and crying of the wounded. I saw Pfc. Pitt, one of my machine gun squad buddies, sitting against a tree obviously seriously wounded and in a state of shock. I tried to talk to him but got no response. All of a sudden an enemy tank appeared about 25 yards away slowly making its way through the woods and headed towards us. I fired my rifle at the tank but it didn't even notice my shooting at it. I then proceeded down the hill and saw the most horrible sight imaginable--"almost my entire company strewn about the hill either dead or seriously wounded."

When I got to the bottom of the hill there was a dirt road running alongside it, which was the same roadway we jumped

*(Continued on Page 18)*



off from. Only this time there was absolute confusion with tanks and half-tracks knocked out and burning, wounded and dead soldiers everywhere, a few ambulances and soldiers wandering about looking for some leadership. The calls for the medics were desperate and heart rendering.



*A Medical Service ambulance, hit by a German plane despite Red Cross markings, burns near a village in Luxembourg. The driver and patients perished.*

I met Pfc. Santo Falco, another member of our machine gun squad, who looked very worried and perplexed. He said to me that he had to do something about the wounded and the situation. I agreed but had no idea what to do. He told me had found two ambulances and two working tanks and that we could fill the ambulances with some of the wounded and along with the tanks for protection drive them to the Aid Station which was in the town about two miles down the road.

Falco also told me that there was a road block down the road before we got to the town that had to be dismantled and that there were enemy troops all around. I never understood how Falco knew so much and how capable he was under such terrible conditions. It was now late in the afternoon and getting dark and it looked like we were in a very desperate situation. Time was running out, particularly for the wounded.

Between Falco and me, we were able to round up ten other men willing to try and break out of the situation with the two ambulances full of the wounded. We also convinced two tankers with their crews to join us and lead the ambulances down the roadway. Our convoy took off for the Aid Station in town as fast as we could go with the two tanks in front, each with six infantry soldiers riding on the back of each tank. Falco and I were riding on the second tank along with four others. He was on the right side and I was on the left side.

After we travelled about 1/4 mile down the road the enemy soldiers started to fire at us from about 100-200 yards away and from both sides of the road with small arms fire and machine gun fire as well as what appeared to be anti-tank fire. The tanks were buttoned up and we were firing our rifles as fast as we could from both sides off the back of the tanks. Our tank was hit by enemy fire and three of us on the back of our tank were wounded including Falco and myself. Falco in the knee, the other soldier in the shoulder and I in the face. The other tank and the ambulances were also being fired on but they appeared to be okay.

Our plans were to dismount when we got to the road block and clear it. However, when the lead tank was about 100 yards from the road block, it didn't look very formidable and we decided to drive right through the road block. We hit it with our lead tank as fast and direct as possible and the tank broke right through it.

Hooray! The rest of us followed safely and we arrived at the Aid Station, which was later captured (so I was told). Confusion in this area reigned supreme, with all types of military vehicles moving in all directions in the dark, and wounded soldiers everywhere. No one would listen to our pleas that our Company A lay wounded and dead two miles down the road. I suppose they already knew about it, but didn't have the resources to do anything.

The medics sewed up my jaw and wrapped my head in a large white bandage. I met Pfc. Sam Stahlman my closest buddy in the machine gun squad at the Aid Station and we had a joyous reunion. Sam had been wounded in the leg and was hopping around trying to find out what was going on. Eventually, we went that night by ambulance to a field hospital in Thionville (I believe). Sam and I no sooner lay down on a couple of stretchers in what appeared to be the gym on the main floor of a school building right by the rear exit door, when someone ran down the middle of the gym screaming that the Germans were coming through the front door.

Sam and I remembering that the Germans were taking no prisoners at this time, got up from our stretchers and limped out the back door and pulled ourselves into the rear of a moving 2-1/2 ton truck full of medical personnel escaping capture. I passed out in the truck and the next time I woke up I was laying on my back in a large white hospital ward with the sun shining through the windows and a beautiful nurse standing over me. I thought I was in Heaven...after leaving the hell of the battlefield...I was in Heaven! I have never seen or heard of Pfc. Santo Falco since that date. Thank you, Santo Falco, wherever you are, you are one brave soldier.

.....

**December, 1944**

**Frank J. Pepper Martin  
2nd Infantry Division  
23rd Infantry  
2nd Battalion  
H Company  
North Fort Myers, Florida**

We were relieved on the front lines by a poor inexperienced division, just over from the States. They replaced us under the cover of darkness, of course, so the enemy would not see. Before we withdrew in orderly fashion, one of their soldiers asked me where the canteen was so he could buy cigarettes. Another soldier was getting into his sleeping bag, to get some sleep. I told them they were now on the front lines on the battlefield and that Hitler's elite troops were just out a short distance from them and they might sneak up at night wearing their white uniforms that blend in with the white snow and put a knife in you instead of a bullet, because bullets make noise. These poor soldiers were horrified when I told them this, but I figured this was my duty to warn them and maybe save their lives.

We withdrew about two miles in the rear and in the next morning we received word that the Germans had broken through their lines and massacred these inexperienced soldiers--so our division started back towards where we left. Us veterans from the 2nd Infantry Division did not believe them at all when they told us we were going to get our first rest since last June and here it was just a few days before Christmas. ...We started to

*(Continued on Page 19)*



slow them down the best we could. They had their elite troops, their panzer divisions, their paratroops, and even if there was a low ceiling (very foggy), their dive bombers were in action trying to strafe and bomb our division, but we shot up most of their dive bombers and set them on fire. You could see their pilots and machine gunners jump to their deaths.

\*\*\*\*\*

January, 1945

**Jim Hennessey**  
**87th Infantry Division**  
**345th Infantry Regiment**  
**Bayonne, New Jersey**

I was a member of a small night patrol out on reconnaissance in the Ardennes in Belgium after a brief skirmish with a German machine gun outpost. We headed back towards our lines. On the way back we were challenged by an American machine gun outpost. In the confusion of battle, none of our patrol members knew the password. Whatever made me answer this way, I'll never know. I yelled out, "We are Americans. We don't know the password. But if you are a GI, we'll kiss your f--- a--." We were allowed to enter our lines.

*[The irony of this incident fell into place 40 years later at our annual Division reunion. While chit-chatting with my buddies from E Company this incident came up. I never knew the GI sentry who challenged our patrol that night. To my amazement Bud Black, from Kokomo, Indiana, told me he was that sentry. His finger was ready to squeeze the trigger on his machine gun when he heard my reply to his challenge. The language convinced him we were American GI's. I hesitated to tell this story because of the language. In reality though, it saved our lives.]*

\*\*\*\*\*

December 16, 1944

**Robert W. Dettor**  
**99th Infantry Division**  
**393rd Infantry**  
**K Company**  
**3rd Platoon**  
**Fayetteville, New York**

Consolidated Notes on Day of Capture

0540-0640--Artillery concentration on position. Artillery reported to company command post. Last conversation with CP. I reported sound of tank motors.

0640-1230--Small arms fire fight. Sent runner to Company CP for reinforcements. Runner returned stating no reinforcements, stay on position and continue fighting. Communications to CP and outposts cut. No contact with men except those in foxholes in immediate vicinity. Sgt. Phifer, Sgt. Surtorka, myself fighting from same emplacement. Sgt. Surtorka moved to foxhole on right to cover flank. Sgt. Phifer, Sgt. Pittaway covering right flank and rear. Sgt. Surtorka covering front and right flank. Sgt. Phifer, myself covered left flank and rear. I ordered; to destroy all letters, situation map site. Map burned by McDowel, runner, at my CP. Capt. Gardner reported left flank cut off by German infantry troops. German troops to rear. Heavy machine gun to front seen captured. Pvt. Hunter dropped back to my foxhole to state that heavy machine gun to front had fallen. [Explained

situation to Plat. Sgt. so he could take over if I was knocked off.] [Good thing Sgt. Surtorka dug large foxhole yesterday.] [Thomas--the medic, did a swell job, worked very calmly under fire. Supplied ammo from foxhole.] Sgt. Surtorka yelled over grenade being thrown at my foxhole. Hunter hit by grenade. Sgt. Phifer wounded in shoulder by rifle bullet. Enemy closing in within 20 feet of foxhole. Took last report of ammunition. Sgt. Phifer had one clip left. I had four rounds. Burp gun to left rear firing at my foxhole hitting Hunter. I believe Hunter was dead. After first wound Hunter continued fighting. Sgt. Phifer reported he was almost out of ammunition early in fire fight. Ordered runner to throw box of D bars (chocolate) to my foxhole which I distributed to men in immediate vicinity. Last American food at approximately 12:30 p.m.--position overrun.



*American soldiers march under the guns of the enemy after the Germans assaulted Allied positions some where on the western front in December 1944.*

German medics treated German wounded during fire fight--carried pistols--ammunition out. I believed I would be shot. Ordered out of foxhole and kicked by German soldier. Artillery and mortars still firing. Opp Co. of enemy started digging in on my position. My men searched and ordered to carry German wounded to German rear lines. My wristwatch was taken. Lost \$48 on position. My runners and myself were ordered to carry wounded German soldiers. Great confusion taking place. Germans firing on my position with mortars killed our men (German officer greatly irritated). Germans do a great deal of yelling during battle. At least one out of three Germans had automatic weapons, carried a great deal of equipment, wore camouflage suits.

Many German wounded lying around. German soldiers all ages. I believed I would be shot after carrying wounded to rear. German officer had dress uniform on. (German soldier I was carrying died.)

Had excellent chance to see other side of Seigfried line. Dragon teeth booby trapped. Enemy had excellent prepared covered routes of approach. Pill boxes very well built. Many Germans wounded being carried back. Could not understand German form of attack. Men came, line upon line through open field on left making them an easy target for flanking fire. My first impression was that attack involved a few German companies just against my position but realized enemy force would be measured in divisions after occupying pillbox as a prisoner and observing supplies and activity. Many SS troops in vicinity. Pushed around by SS officer. Beautiful observation from enemy position. Firing still going on. Men still being

*(Continued on Page 20)*



pushed into German attack. Roads filled with vehicles, ammunition, staff cars, horse and wagons. Staff cars carrying German officers and ammunition trucks draped with large red crosses to disguise them as ambulances. Snow on ground--windy. Interrogated by officer--men and myself stripped of clothing, identification, personal belongings. My coat and gloves and outer clothing was taken. Left with just shirt, pants (no belt), pair socks, overshoes. Felt very cold, difficult walking with no shoes. Roads filled with heavy equipment. Felt extremely depressed after seeing size of the attack. Germans used lots of tracer ammunition. Dog tags taken. I protested that it was a violation of the Geneva Convention. Did no good. Men and myself would not last long without clothing and feet would soon freeze without shoes. Protested against taking clothing but it did no good. Knew that without identification I could be killed at anytime and no one would know it. Intelligence officer who interrogated me--typical arrogant German. Took my coat--wanted to take my overshoes but I protested as I had no shoes. After seeing action at front I knew I would receive no mercy from the Germans.

Sgt. Phifer with me--had wound in his shoulder. Put sulfa and bandage on it. No help from Germans--no food--completely bewildered by attack--couldn't figure out where Germans obtained so much equipment and such fresh troops. Saw many American prisoners--very depressing.

Under American artillery fire--SS troops very cocky--treated prisoners very rough. While walking SS troops looted American prisoners, beat and kicked them. Ordinary front line soldier not too bad. German motor vehicles very poor. Much larger than American trucks but not as well built as ours. Many vehicles broken down. Excellent camouflage discipline vehicles, personnel emplacements, weapons excellently camouflaged.

Became very sore at intelligence officer--surprising he didn't finish me off.

Funny things entered my mind. Killed a Jerry to my rear, before being captured--thought I'd crawl and get his pistol for Micheal when there was a lull in the fighting. Didn't realize the importance of attack. Too busy to be scared. Poor dispersion of vehicles--bunched up--congested on roads--many vehicles being pulled. Like to meet up with the corporal and officer who interrogated me at front after war--typical German swine.

Artillery still fighting--whole thing seemed like a dream. Walked all afternoon and part of the night. German attack still moving. Road clogged with vehicles moving to front.

Slept in bombed out house with about 30 other men--guard not too bad a gent. Found some raw potatoes, ate them and a piece of black bread guard gave me. Walked all next day....

.....

December 16, 1944

John J. McClure  
99th Infantry Division  
99th Signal Company  
Maple Park, Illinois

On December 16th the 99th Signal Company was in Butenbach. I had been on guard duty that early morning and was getting prepared for the surprises of the day. When we were ordered out to the Elsenborn Forest and former army camp on the edge of the forest. Eighty-eight's--air strikes along the road kept us in and out of the 6 x 6's. "Neatly" in our foxholes the coming hour were full of anxiety and shivers (no winter boots).

The rest is history.

However, it did seem to calm down and I was dirty and needed a bath. There was a spring in the forest--cold running H<sub>2</sub>O in a pond a couple of feet deep and about 10 feet in diameter. I had a set of clean socks, shorts, pants, soap and a towel and I set my carbine against a tree. I quickly soaped, shivered, washed, rinsed, dried. What a great feeling. I was a bit apprehensive all the way through it.

.....

There seems to be a little confusion about the use of the stories which will be in "Memorable Bulge Incidents" column. These stories are to be the remembrance of a member's specific incident (one day, one particular occurrence)--not histories. We welcome histories; however, the use of your story may be delayed because of the time required to review the story and extract the portion that relates to the Bulge.

Members also become impatient when their story is not used for a while. Please bear in mind that this column does not always appear because of space limitations. We try to use the stories in the order that they are received. While we do use some of the longer stories, your story stands a better chance if it is as brief as possible.

Please also do not enclose photographs that you wish to have returned. Send us a copy.

Now, with all these things in mind, we would love to have your story. These stories (and the histories, too) will be preserved.

## A PRIVATE BALANCES HIS BUDGET (Circa 1944)

*That fifty hard dollars just don't seem to last.  
Only the 20th-the month sure goes fast!  
First was the three bucks for the canteen book.  
Fifteen sweet lugs for a week-end I took.  
Laundry and Stamps, haircuts and beer  
Took eight and a quarter or pretty darned near.  
Two bits for a fast Superman magazine  
Nine bucks at craps in the Company latrine.  
Smokes took five more of my hard-earned jack,  
That leaves me even and flat on my back.  
Wait ... that's only forty ... ten got away.  
I'd better recheck this thing day by day.  
Now where in the heck could that ten bucks  
have gone?  
Oh! ... Yeah. I remember ...  
Well ... Life Must Go On.*



## VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE CERTIFICATE



The full color 11" x 17" certificate, announced in the last Bugle, will be on display at the 50th Commemoration of the Battle of the Bulge in St Louis. Produced by the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc., orders can now be placed and the certificate will be available after the commemoration in St Louis. This beautiful certificate, produced on parchment like stock is outlined by the full color WWII insignias of the major units which fought in the Battle of the Bulge starting with the 12th Army Group followed numerically with Armies, Corps and Divisions and the two Army Air Forces. We wished that each unit insignia could have been shown but with approximately 2000 units that participated in the Bulge it was impossible. However any unit which served in the Bulge would have been attached to or reported through one of the unit insignias depicted. You may want to add one of your original patches to the certificate, when you receive it. Units were

researched in the Official General Order No. 114 for Units Entitled to the ARDENNES Battle Credit and will be the basis for sale of this certificate.

Because of the anticipated initial demand we would request that you allow approximately 3-4 weeks for delivery. The cost of the certificate will be \$15.00 postpaid. The certificate will be shipped rolled in a protective mailing tube. Please be sure to place your name, service number and unit as you would like it to appear on the certificate. It is important that you type or print this information. The unit must be one of the 2,000 units authorized for the Ardennes Campaign credit. If you would like your rank included, please include it. It will be used in standard three character abbreviation.

This beautiful certificate can be framed in a 16 x 20 frame with appropriate matting or can be mounted on a 12 x 18 placard. Something to be cherished and passed down to your children or grandchildren.

### VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE CERTIFICATE ORDER BLANK

I request an 11" x 17" Certificate and certify that I received credit for the Ardennes Campaign during my military service. Please include the information that I would like on the certificate:

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Serial Number \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: Company, Battalion and/or Regt, Division \_\_\_\_\_ Rank (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_

#### MAILING INFORMATION:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt No. \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip + 4 Code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature and date \_\_\_\_\_

Orders should be mailed to VBOB Certificate, PO Box 11129, Arlington, VA 22210-2129. Please direct all questions to John D. Bowen 301-384-6533.



## FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL PLATE of the BATTLE of the BULGE

An eight inch plate with gold lettering, commemorating the Battle of the Bulge is being offered to VBOB members and friends by the Delaware Valley Chapter.

This memorial plate shows a rendition of the Battle of the Bulge Monument dedicated on 12 Nov 1994, at the Valley Forge Military Academy, Pennsylvania, to all Veterans who served in the Battle of the Bulge. This beautiful plate is encircled with the words "Battle of the Bulge Memorial, 50th Anniversary, December 16, 1944 - January 25, 1945, National Monument, Valley Forge Academy."



The price for each plate is \$20.00 plus \$3.00 for postage and shipping. A contribution for each plate will go to completing the monument fund. To order, please send a check or money order to:

VBOB, Delaware Valley Chapter  
c/o Herbert Whitehead  
1042 Bullock Avenue  
Yeadon, PA 19050  
Tel 610-626-2884

### BULGE & NORMANDY TOUR VIDEO

A video tape of the VBOB 50th Anniversary Bulge tour of Belgium and Luxembourg in late October 94 and the VBOB tour of the Normandy beaches and area in early November will be available in mid-December for members who could not attend. The tape will be at least two hours long and more likely approach three hours in length. The cost will be \$29.95 plus \$3.50 shipping. Requests, along with your check or money order, should be sent to:

John D. Bowen  
613 Chichester Lane  
Silver Spring, MD 20904-3331  
Tel 301-384-6533

Maryland residents should include 5% State Tax.

## BATTLE of the BULGE REENACTMENT

The dates for the 50th anniversary reenactment commemoration will be 27-29 January 1995 at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania. The commemoration will consist of static displays of vintage WWII equipment and modern military equipment, Display Barracks both American and German in authentic World War II barracks, Flea market of WWII memorabilia and a Bulge tactical reenactment. The 28th Division National Guard will be assisting in this year's reenactment. There will be a number of armored units and artillery will be provided by the 28th Division. The Bulge tactical reenactment will take place on Saturday, 28 January 1994. The event is open to the public and Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge will be honored guests. Grandstands will be provided for viewing as well as a warming tent should the weather require it. This will be open to the public at 1300 hours on Saturday. As in past Bulge reenactments, the Veterans are invited to stay in the original WWII barracks which have been modernized with new latrines and heating systems, on Friday and Saturday nights. This has been a special event for veterans who have attended in past years for the comradeship and fun of reliving those barracks days of 50 years ago without the hassle that went with them. Last year over 100 veterans attended. The reenactors are especially grateful for the presence of the veterans and it gives you an opportunity to be appreciated for the sacrifices made those many years ago. The price for two nights of lodging and breakfast and dinner on Saturday at \$30.00 can't be beat. For those veterans who would like to bring a spouse and stay in a nearby motel and would like to take part of the breakfast and dinner meals with the group the cost is \$20.00.

A number of Chapters and Divisional Associations are sending contingents to this 50th commemoration event at the Gap this year. Maybe your outfit wants to get a group together and bus down or car pool among friends--a great weekend. For a registration form and further details on the event please send a stamped self-addressed envelope to John D. Bowen, MD/DC Chapter VBOB, 613 Chichester Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20904-3331, Tel 301-384-6533. Indicate if you would like a list of motels otherwise the barracks registration form will be sent. The Fort Indiantown Gap Reservation is about 21 miles North of Harrisburg and is serviced by the Harrisburg Airport. Pickup can be arranged.

### NATIONAL ARCHIVES BULGE EXHIBIT

The National Archives and Records Administration will open an Exhibit at the main Archives building 16 December 1994 through 2 January 1995, to commemorate the Battle of the Bulge 50th Anniversary. The exhibit will be in the Rotunda of the Archives building on Constitution Avenue between 7th and 9th Streets NW where the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights are displayed. Appropriately this recognition be held within this hallowed sanctuary it was for these Charters of Freedom our men and women fought so gallantry to turn the tide of the German Last Offensive and defend the ideals upon which this nation was founded. As with the Charters of Freedom, it is now the National Archives' responsibility to preserve, protect and make available to you and to future generations the records and legacy of this greatest battle ever fought, by the United States Army, The Battle of the Bulge. The Archives is the repository for hundreds of thousands of boxes of World War II maps, memorandums, orders, combat reports, telegrams, photographs, films, etc.

In addition to this special exhibit, the National Archives has on display, in the Rotunda, an exhibit entitled The Faces of War. Using images and documents from the actual records the exhibit explains the Faces of Unity, Dissent, Courage, Fear, Endurance, Destruction and Change. Another World War II exhibit in the Rotunda gallery of the National Archives, entitled The Powers of Persuasion, is an outstanding exhibit of some of the original artwork and posters that were used during World War II. These two exhibits will be open till after mid 1995. For further information on the exhibits, contact Bruce Bustard, 202-501-5226. The Archives also gives Behind the Scenes Tours of the Main Archives Building, Monday-Friday at 10:15 AM and 1:15 PM and the new Archives II building, off of Adelphi Rd in College Park MD on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Reservations can be made on 202-501-5205.





To honor the Veterans of the Liberation of Belgium  
and of the Battle of the Bulge

In the presence of His Royal Highness  
Prince Philippe of Belgium

**The Symphonic Band  
of the  
Belgian Guides' Regiment**

will perform two special concerts

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**December 14, 1994 at 8:00 p.m.**

**Constitution Hall  
18th & D Streets NW  
WASHINGTON D.C.**

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**December 16, 1994 at 8:00 p.m.**

**National BOB Veterans' Commemoration  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI**

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BELGIUM

Individual invitations will be issued in November for the concert in Washington D.C.

To reserve your tickets, please contact your association or  
call the Belgian Embassy at the following phone number: (202) 625-5846

Both concerts are free. Kindly inform your friends.



# BASTOGNE, FROM THE GUNNER'S OBSERVATION POST!

By Maj. Gen. W. D. Crittenberger

The 420 Armored Field Artillery Battalion was in a firing position near Launstroff, but quickly 'march-ordered' during the early-morning hours of 17 December, joining the march column of CCA, and headed back across the Moselle River, and north toward Luxembourg and Belgium. Having fought the Metz battle with CCB units, our observer parties knew the men and the methods of operations. The radios had the right crystals installed, so in the middle of the march the 420th switched from CCA's column to CCB, while another artillery battalion moved from CCB to CCA. This change of over 200 vehicles in the middle of a march to action really demonstrated the well known "flexibility" that Armor was (and is) famous for!!

The march through the hills and small towns of first Luxembourg and then Belgium, in the fog, took almost two days, for it was late afternoon of 18 December when CCB rolled into Bastogne. Teams Desobry, O'Hara, and Cherry moved out to their designated areas, while the 420 went into firing position on the east side of Bastogne, laid to support all three teams. We sent a scouting party into Bastogne to look for maps of the area, for we had gone beyond the 'coverage' on our supply of maps; the best we could do was to take down from the walls of abandoned Hq the 1/100,000 scale road maps left behind in their haste to get to a safer location. We made overlays, drawing and numbering goose eggs to mark possible targets--road junctions, bridges, prominent buildings, etc., so the forward observers could call for fire on 'Concentration 103,' or 'concentration 103 is 200 short, 400 right.' Our battery agents took these overlays to the 3 teams about 1800 hours, and 2 of the 3 reported enemy fire already on the roads between us and the teams--we knew it would be a tough one! As we registered, other cannoneers laid a hasty mine field in front of our gun position. We established strong perimeter defense posts both from the 20th and B Battery, 796 AAA Battalion with their famous "wood-chopping" quad .50 mg and the twin .40 mm guns. We fired during the night as requested by our tank mounted FOs and the FOs with the Infantry as well.

The next day (19 December) we greeted the 101st as they marched past

us enroute to O'Hara and Cherry's positions. They had been in a rest area near Paris and some were not fully equipped, so we gave them coats, weapons, ammo, and food, for after our Metz experience, we had equipped ourselves fully, and each vehicle had more than its 'normal' set of weapons, ammo, etc. Several of the history books show them marching out of Bastogne to the east and if you look carefully, one can see 420th vehicles in the background.

They were individually great fighters, and like the Tigers, had good morale, and a willing, can-do spirit not found in some of the units decimated by the surprise German attack. Brig. Gen. Anthony McAuliffe, acting CG, 101st Airborne Division, as the senior, took over command of all units in the area, to include CCB. The 420, with its M-7 105 mm howitzers, could get several thousand more yards of range than the shorter barreled 105s of the 101st. Thus the 420 became the 'big guns' for the 101st Division Artillery, and got many of the fire missions, firing on all parts of the perimeter. We could shift trails quicker, especially when the 101st trails were froze into the mud and ice.

The shooting was constant, and the ammo trains were busy resupplying us, to keep up with the demand. Our observation craft, the Piper Cub called the L-4, took, turns flying 'cover' and shooting for us, from a small airstrip 20-30 miles south of town in a safer location; for several days, these were the only air OPs over Bastogne, and they were most welcome. Often an attack would peter out as the enemy feared the artillery that usually followed the appearance of the cub.

The enemy attacks on Bastogne were repulsed by CCB's Teams, and later by the reinforced 101st CCB fighters, so they began to 'slide sideways,' around the flanks, trying to find an easier way into that important road and rail center. These enemy movements cut the supply routes, sometimes for only minutes, but as more enemy came up, the 'cuts' became longer, and finally complete. CCB formed a small Task Force made up of one vehicle from each CCB Battalion, and gave it the mission of finding a safe way out and back into Bastogne, so the resupply trains could keep us filled, particularly with gasoline and ammo. From the 420th went Capt. John McCloskey, the Asst S-3 and his crew, for this vehicle had the long range radios to reach our Division Headquarters and Rear.

Regretfully this small Task Force ran into a German column, and was shot up; the survivors walked out under cover of darkness. The first American McCloskey saw was Maj. Gen. Norman DeCota, the CG of the 28th

*(Continued on Page 25)*

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*Pictured below: 420th Armored Field Artillery Battalion staff salute visitor in stands, Unit Citation Ceremony for CCB, 10th Armored Division, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, May, 1945, for defense of Bastogne. Left to right: Lt. Col. W. D. Crittenberger, Jr., C.O.; Maj. S. R. Resor, Exec; Maj. J. A. McCloskey, S-3; Lt. J. F. Garland, S-1. The 420 Colors and Battery in background.*

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## ...GUNNER'S OBSERVATION POST

(Continued from Page 24)

Division on a personal reconnaissance looking for some of his lost troops! Borrowing a vehicle, our representatives got back to the 10th Armored, and formed a resupply convoy which linked up with the Task Force of the 4th Armored Division for their effort to reestablish contact with Bastogne. The TF Commander, Col. Abrams, later Chief of the Army Staff was surprised to learn from McCloskey that his four trucks had both gas and ammo hardly a safe place for thin-skinned vehicles--he gave permission, but hoped they would stay back a little from his tanks and half tracks, so they wouldn't be hurt should an ammo truck get hit! We in the circle were delighted to welcome Mac back...we'd not known anything after his last message telling us the TF had run into a German column.

Gen. Patton had his Chaplain write a prayer for good weather, and we said AMEN to that! Good weather brought in the needed air drop resupply flights, and additionally allowed the fighter bombers in to do their terrific work. Great plumes of black smoke arose, clearly identifying our front lines, as the JABO's (P-47 Thunderbolts to us) attacked enemy vehicles and set them ablaze. The bombers, too, came out; one day we counted 167 B-17s heading east, and the GI comment was "Hitler, count your men."

The air drops were really "manna from heaven"! We went for the green chutes, which carried the gasoline, and the red, for ammo. The 101st allocated most of the 105 ammo to us, since we got most of the fire missions where longer range was needed. Our troops wore the red silk parachute materials as scarfs until spring weather made them too warm--a good morale factor, too!

Beginning in Normandy, the Allies marked targets for the air using colored smoke shells, and the Germans came to expect an air attack whenever colored smoke appeared. With no resupply routes open, ammo was hoarded, and used sparingly. Thus to conserve the High Explosive shells, as well as obscuring the battlefield, we'd throw in a few rounds of colored smoke, to put Fritz into a panic and expecting an air strike to follow. Several smaller attacks were... broken off after the smoke shells landed!

Another ammo saving method was to find a radio channel of an artillery unit outside the circle, and then ask them to fire missions for us. This worked particularly well as the 4th and 11th Armored Division's channels overlapped ours, and they 'spoke the same armored language'

and wanted to help.

As the battle progressed, it became necessary to shorten the lines to trade space for time, and to economize forces. On 21 December the 420 was ordered to displace to a more central location from which we could fire 360 degrees, to cover any part of the perimeter as it developed. In a heavy fog,...moving one at a time, our batteries occupied a battalion position near a small Belgian town called Senonchamps, west of Bastogne. We put the Battalion Headquarters and fire direction center in the local school house. As the city was encircled, we found ourselves holding some 4,000 meters of the perimeter--quite a challenge, for Ft. Benning teaches an Infantry Battalion can normally be expected to hold only 1,000! Task Force Browne was formed, and quickly augmented by individual parachutists and some straggler units from other divisions' overrun formations. ...meantime the 10th Armored teams...regrouped to become the mobile reserve for the entire perimeter, augmented by the AAA SP vehicles of B/796 AAA. This reserve, or fire brigade, was called out many times to several different parts of the circle, with the 420 spinning around to fire in support as needed. We were glad...the ground froze so the vehicles would not get bogged down in the muddy fields. With the cold came snow, and our vehicles, in olive drab, were prime targets! Happily the local Belgians donated sheets, table clothes, etc., which we draped on the enemy side of the vehicles to add to the camouflage. [We] quickly...painted them white, and this was a great help.

As the enemy encircled us, our Battalion Aid Station found itself the nearest house to the enemy, and quickly put an OP in the upstairs window, a machine gun dismounted in the back yard, and a radio half track, with a .50, hugging the house in front.

This was one...unique situation of this battle where the distances were shortened: the Battalion Surgeon, the FO, and the firing batteries could all see the target! While he appreciated being close to the possible patients, Doc Crouch prudently moved his Aid Station into Bastogne, to join the other CCB Aid Stations already operation from deep basements.

The 101st sent C Company to the 327 Glider Infantry Regiment to Senonchamps, to help defend the perimeter's western side. Our relationship was close, and their help always forthcoming, with no regard to boundaries, or whose command it was; as a result of this friendship, the 420 always laid a private phone line to C/327 wherever they were for the rest of that battle, so they had their own artillery support--and they used us, too. ...we thought what a fine combat team we'd make, if the 101st and the 10th could fight together again. ...the

closest we came was at the war's end, when they took Berchtesgaden as we took Garmisch-Partenkirchen!

...24 December the enemy had enough troops on the west side of town, opposite the 420th to mount several serious attacks, one after another, supported with mortar and artillery. The Armored Reserve was committed to reinforce the Team Brown defense, and the attacks were beaten off, but with hard-to-take losses, including Lt. Col. Barry D. Browne. Again the 101st shortened its lines, and the 420 displaced under fire, its CP shot up and burning, to a new position closer to Bastogne. Within an hour we were mortared in the new psn--so they knew our location! ...Christmas Day, they attacked again with tanks and infantry, breaking through the new 101st lines and heading for the 420. We engaged them with direct fire, as did a friendly 155 Battalion on our flank. Three tanks were soon on fire and the fourth withdrew--only to surrender shortly. The paras rounded up the remaining enemy doughs and the line was restored. Using Red Cross donut flour, Butch Harford, the B Battery Mess Sgt. served us a welcome Christmas meal of hot cakes and black coffee, to mark the day, and the victory. (The regular Christmas meal came in with the second resupply run, on 27 December;... received with open arms, and mouths...!)

Some of the hardest fighting came after the ring was opened by the 4th Armored Task Force on December 26, as the Germans continued their attacks, and the Allies theirs, to cut off the Bulge, and restore our lines. On January 17, 1945, the Allied forces from the northern side met Patton from the south, and the Bulge was officially over. That same day, CCB was released back to our own Division control, and we began a two day march to rejoin the 10th Armored Division in the vicinity of Metz--just one month after we began our move on December 17. In that month, CCB had done its part in writing a glorious page in the history of armored warfare--and yes into American--nay, World History as well.

The Battling Battered Bastards of Bastogne were lucky, in that the enemy never launched a full scale, coordinated attack against us. There were elements of eight German Divisions around us, giving them much more than the needed 3 to 1 advantage the historians tell us an attacker needs to win. We happily were able to use our Tiger mobility to meet this attack, then moved to that one, and to concentrate our meager artillery in support where needed. A coordinated attack may have changed history!

Yes, with much pride we can tell our children and grandchildren that we rode and fought with Patton! Together we made History!



# Battle of The Bulge Veterans Bequeath Legacy to Future Generations

On July 21, 1994, at a Commemorative Banquet, Fort George G. Meade Officers' Club, over 215 Battle of the Bulge veterans, their families, military officials, Embassy of Belgium officials, and Belgian citizens gathered to witness the unveiling of the handsome handcrafted Battle of the Bulge conference table and chairs. These impressive furnishings will be permanently placed in the Battle of the Bulge Memorial Conference Room upon its completion later this year in the Garrison Library, Fort Meade, Maryland.

In late April, Foundation members Dorothy Davis, William Greenville, Colonel William Holland (Ret.) and LTC Alfred Shehab (Ret.) and Colonel Robert G. Morris III, Garrison Commander, Fort Meade, had traveled to Stavelot, Belgium, for a day of commemorations and ceremonies. These were special events at which the table and chairs were presented to the Foundation and the City of Stavelot and Fort George G. Meade were officially joined as "Sister Cities." The memorial furnishings were transported by the Embassy of Belgium to Fort Meade in June.



May 1, 1994, Ancienne Abbaye, Stavelot, Belgium. Battle of the Bulge Veterans admire the Memorial Conference Table. From left to right: Vincent Gaspar, Craftsman of the table; Colonel William Holland, Ret. 168th Engineer Combat Bn; Dorothy S. Davis, 57th Field Hospital; Colonel Robert Morris III, Garrison Commander, Fort Meade, MD; LTC Alfred Shehab, Ret., 38th Cav. Rec. Sq., and William Greenville, 86th CML Motor Bn.

The table is 16-1/2 feet long and 5 feet wide and was built of Ardennes oak from an area where bitter fighting occurred during the Battle of the Bulge. 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. On the rim of the table, the craftsman Vincent Gaspar, of Stavelot, Belgium, has engraved 157 pine trees to represent the 157 young and old Stavelot citizens who were massacred by German SS troops at the beginning of the Battle of the Bulge. The

fabrication of the memorial table was made possible by the financial support from hundreds of veterans, their families and friends, and VBOB.

The 20 chairs for the memorial table were funded by generous donations of \$1,000 each by individuals and units wishing to remember their comrades. A brass plaque on the back of each chair identifies the donor. A twenty-first was presented to the Historical Foundation as a "Gift of Thanks" from the people of Stavelot. This chair will always occupy the head of the table and will be symbolic of those who made the ultimate sacrifice at the Battle of the Bulge. A citizen of Stavelot, Georges Pottier, who himself had survived the battle, kindly gave of his time to serve as the liaison officer of this project. Mr. and Mrs. Pottier as well as Vincent Gaspar honored the veterans of the Battle of the Bulge by their participation in the events at Fort Meade.

It was a memorable evening with impressive ceremonies by the Army Color Guard, 3d U.S. Infantry (Old Guard), and members of the Fife and Drum Corps. World War II music during the dinner was provided by the U.S. Army Band Combo.

LTG John P. Otjen, Commanding General, First U.S. Army, and honorary chairman of the dinner gala, was the evening speaker and conveyed to the veterans the thanks of the present military forces for their sacrifices in World War II. General Otjen and Colonel Morris then presented to Mr. Georges Pottier (serving as the representative of Mayor Monville, Stavelot, Belgium) a "Sister City" plaque.

The dramatic conclusion of the evening symbolizing the passing of the history of the Battle of the Bulge to future generations was the unveiling of the table by the grandchildren of those who served in the battle of the Bulge:

Sarah E. Cantlon and Rebecca L. Cantlon

Granddaughters of: Sherman E. Cantlon, 2d Infantry Division, 23d Infantry (deceased); Colonel William V. Davis, 57th Field Hospital (deceased); and Dorothy Steinbis Davis, 57th Field Hospital.

Kelly Greenville

Granddaughter of William T. Greenville, 86th Chemical Mortar Battalion.

Matthew Plog

Grandson of Howard Green, 6th Armored Division, 50th Armored Infantry Battalion

Megan Dunbar Shehab Speer

Granddaughter of LTC Alfred H. M. Shehab, 38th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, First U.S. Army.

The dinner guests remained for several hours after the unveiling of take photographs, touch the table, reminisce with buddies, and talk about the skilled craftsman and friends from Belgium.

On Friday, July 22, a formal ceremony was held at Fort Meade with Colonel Robert Morris and Mr. Georges Pottier unveiling the Fort Meade "Sister City" sign in front of Fort Meade Garrison Headquarters. A similar sign will be installed at the entrance of Fort Meade.

In the years to come, these impressive memorials will remind all who view them of "the many who gave all of their tomorrows so that we might have our todays."

Dorothy S. Davis, R.N.  
Executive Officer  
Historical Foundation  
(301-881-0356)



## 505TH MILITARY POLICE BATTALION

[Extracted from History provided by VINCENT PETRINGA of the 505th]

During the winter months the traffic was flowing in ever increasing volume. Night and day the convoys rumbled over the pontoon bridges on the Maas River, carrying troops and supplies to the American and British lines.

The 9th Army was tied down on the west side of the Roer River and, after Belgium and Holland received their first blanket of snow, the men did not look for any big moves until spring. But they were wrong. On a cold night in December the telephone rang in the guardhouse near 9th Army Headquarters. "Double the posts" was all that was said, and the posts were doubled. The men did not learn until the following morning why such an order had been given. The Germans had started a drive, and had broken through the American lines and were moving fast in the direction of Liege, Belgium.

Without further formality the battalion began the toughest period in its history. The men had to learn to go without sleep, for there was not time to sleep. The temperature was hovering around zero, and though the men put on all the clothes they owned they still suffered from the cold. For they had to stand for hour after hour in the darkness, hidden in bushes or doorways, waiting. The days dragged into a week and still the Germans had not been definitely stopped. The men were getting along on less than three hours sleep a night and, as the weeks dragged by, fatigue began to take its toll.

There were men on all the bridges stopping vehicles to check for Germans who were infiltrating behind the lines to blow up bridges and to cut communication lines. There were road blocks set up to check vehicles entering and leaving the towns and extra posts to strengthen the security of important 9th Army installations.

And then the German bombers started coming over. The men learned the helpless feeling of being bombed and strafed without being able to strike back. They learned to look at a clear moonlit night in apprehension, for it was on nights such as this that they would come.

The non-coms of the third platoon of B Company will remember St. Martins Church in Maastricht, Holland. When there was a raid it was their job to climb the circular stairs to the top of the tower of the church and telephone location of the German bombers to 9th Army Headquarters. They could stand and see for miles the approach of the bombers, and follow their course by watching the tracer bullets of the anti-aircraft guns coming closer and closer to the city.

Finally the guns would open up on the city itself, and the dark sky would be filled with the bright flash exploding shells and the orange tracers of the machine guns. Then the tower would seem to rock and heave with the concussion, and suddenly the noise would stop and the planes would be gone. Soon ambulances would begin to arrive carrying casualties to the aid station across the street, and the man in the tower would shake some of the cold from his bones and scan the horizon for the return of the planes.

It was C Company's job at this time to maintain outposts around the outer fringe of Maastricht to check vehicles entering and leaving the city for German

saboteurs. They were also instructed to kill or apprehend the German paratroopers that were reported dropping on the city. The Germans had a trick of dropping parachutes with straw dummies in them that were intended to terrorize the civilian population. The men of C Company recovered 19 such dummies.

During this period the flow of the traffic was enormous. There was a shift of men and material from the north to the south where reinforcements were needed to stop the German drive. Convoys were lined up on the Meuse River bridges as far as the eye could see, and they kept coming. Tanks and guns and more tanks roared and clanked their way over the ice covered roads.

As the weeks passed it became evident that the Germans had lost their gamble. They were stopped in their tracks, and the pocket they had driven into the American lines was being hacked and pounded by the ever-increasing strength of the American forces.

By February the pocket had disappeared, and it was obvious that the 9th Army was getting ready to drive, for the traffic was moving in the opposite direction now and material was moving up that spelled "going places." ...

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## AA GUNNERS FOIL GERMANS

[Submitted by FRANKLIN E. KOEPKE, 30TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 143 AAA GUN BATTALION, C BATTERY]

Somewhere in Belgium, December 19, 1944--Anti-aircraft gunners who stayed and fought after the infantry withdrew, played a vital role in preventing the German breakthrough from going any farther by knocking out the first enemy tanks they had ever seen.

One of the outstanding jobs in the vicinity of Stavelot, was that of an anti-aircraft battery, commanded by Lieutenant Leon Kent, of Los Angeles, which destroyed five German tanks, including one "King Tiger"--in two to three hours. Two Panther tanks were knocked out with bazookas, burrowed by a pair of ack-ack boys who were never known to waste ammunition. They nailed the tanks with a total of four rounds. The successful gunmen were Pfc. Roland Seamon (Clarksburg, West Virginia) and Pfc. Albert Durago (Parkville, Maryland). Their battery had been assigned to defend a crossroads with a 90MM gun normally used against German planes.

"The first thing you know, a King Tiger tank, which is twice as big as our Sherman, came rolling up the road," said Lieutenant McGuire, battery range officer (Seattle, Washington). "We waited until it got in full view, and then let them have it. It caught on fire and we killed the crew as they ran out. After our infantry retreated with word that they'd send up reinforcements, two more panthers came along. We got them both with the good old 90MM treatment. We'd still be there if the Germans hadn't brought up machine guns. We had no machine guns, just carbines--so we had to pull out after putting our 90MM out of action with a rifle grenade."

Other Americans who helped destroy the enemy tanks were: Sgt. Alexander Sarkowski (Baltimore); Sgt. John Davis (Coon Rapids, Iowa); Corp. Clement Guigar (Peck, Michigan); Pfc. Julius Fisnaw (Youngstown, Ohio); Pfc. Lawrence McGaffney (Akron, Ohio); Pfc. Michael Briznak (Cleveland, Ohio) and Pfc. Arthur Geisinger (Canton, Ohio). Tech. 5/9 Kenneth Moore (Waynesburg, Pennsylvania) won Lieutenant Kent's praise for carrying casualties out of a building under machine gun fire which was only 15 yards away. Moor was the battery medical aid.



## MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

Dorothy F. Critser would like to hear from some one who remembers her brother who was killed in the BoB on January 6, 1945. His name was **GERALD H. POLAND, 17TH AIRBORNE DIVISION, 513 PARATROOPERS, 3RD BATTALION, COMPANY G.** If you can provide any information, please write: 1727 Shafer Drive, Tempe, Arizona 85281-6444.

**LLOYD E. OZIER, 28TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 110TH INFANTRY, COMPANY E,** has put together a book on his WWII experiences. If you are interested in receiving a copy, please write to Lloyd at: 634 Williamson, Mahomet, Illinois 61853. The cost is \$10.00.

**CLARENCE BLAKESLEE, 28TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 112TH INFANTRY, COMPANY M,** advises us regarding his book, *A Personal Account of W.W. 2.* If you would like a copy, write to Clarence at: 17 River Street, Rockford, Michigan 49341.

**JACQUES RUMMENS,** from Tienen, Belgium, writes to ask our help in locating men from the **2ND ARMORED DIVISION, 14TH FIELD ARMORED ARTILLERY,** who liberated the town of Tienen on September 7th. His letter has been forwarded to the 2nd Armored Division Association, but if you were in that division you could drop him a note. Write to: Galgestraat 113; B 3300 Tienen; Belgium. Jacques also sends a great big THANK YOU to all of the veterans of WWII for what they did for their freedom.

**WALTER BARNUM, 28TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 109TH INFANTRY, COMPANY L,** would like to know if there are readers who know the name of the outfit which operated the replacement depot in Malmedy and the names and addresses of any of the officers and men that were in it on December 15, 1944. Write to Walter at: P.O. Box 55429, Seattle, Washington 98155-0249.

**JAMES H. BURKE, 299TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, COMPANY B,** advises us of the availability of his book *Funf Mann: A Prisoner of War Story*, which is an account of one POW's tour of Germany. If you would like a copy send your check for \$12.50 to: Meredith Press, 54 East Elizabeth Street, Skaneateles, New York 13152.

New Associate Member Floyce P. Adams would like to hear from some one who has information regarding her husband, **LEWIS V. ADAMS, 4TH ARMORED DIVISION, 25TH CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE SQUAD (MECHANIZED), TROOPA.** Write to her at: P.O. Box 97, Isola, Mississippi 38754.

**TOM HORTON,** sent us a **486TH ORDINANCE EVACUATION COMPANY** reunion announcement—but it arrived too late to go in the last issue and the reunion was late September. This group is looking for looking for men who were with the **486TH TANK EVACUATION COMPANY.** Write to Tom at: 1100 Lydia Street, Louisville, Kentucky 40217.

**STANLEY F. HOGLUND, 296TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION,** is looking for information regarding **LAWRENCE DEERING** and/or **ROGER LILY.** Roger apparently was with the **297TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION.** Can you help? Write to Stanley: 25 Riverside Road, Simsbury, Connecticut 06070-2514.

Alison Lieberman Wilk is interested in hearing from anyone who can provide her with information on her father or his regiment.

Her father's name was **JACK LIEBERMAN, 103 INFANTRY DIVISION, 410 INFANTRY.** Write to Alison at: 119 Alburger Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19115-4027.

Rita Grace would like to hear from anyone who may have been with her dad during the BoB: **LEO BERGERON, 630 TANK DESTROYER BATTALION, COMPANY B.** Write to Rita: 23 Troy Road, Marlborough, New Hampshire 03455.

**JOHN M. BAUSERMAN** writes to let us know of the publication of his book, entitled *The Malmedy Massacre.* He has interviewed survivors and researched the end-of-the-war accounts which he has verified with and conducted ten years of archival research into these events. This 160-page, hard covered book contains nine maps drawn specially for this book. Write: White Mane Publishing Company, Inc., The Editorial Office, PO Box 2518, Columbia, Maryland 21045. (Total cost is \$22.95 per copy—please add 50¢ for each additional copy.)

We received a letter asking for the name of a book on the Battle of the Bulge from **WW I.** If you can help, write to: Bob Robinson, 1111 North Flint Hill Road, Leslie, Missouri 63056.

**JOSEPH J. WEISKEL** would like to hear from someone with the **3343RD QUARTERMASTER TRUCK COMPANY.** Write: 2 Harbor View Road, Nahant, Massachusetts 01908.

**51ST ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION** members who recall **PFC DAVID H. MOORE,** who was killed December 31, 1994, please write to his brother Charles V. Moore, 1105 South Hill, Alvin, Texas 77511.

Received the reunion notice for the **644TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION** too late to be helpful. But, if you would like to know what happened, write: William T. Walker, II, 120 Azalea Street, Lakeland, Florida 33803-4802.

Would like to find out if anyone can provide information regarding my brother **THOMAS P. STREIFEL, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, 502 PARACHUTE INFANTRY, HQ COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION.** He was killed in the BoB January 15, 1945. Write to: Ferdinand Streifel, 8480 Flameview Avenue, Seminole, Florida 34647.

Received notice of the reunion of the **1252ND ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION** (too late to be helpful). If you want to find out what they were up to, contact: Victor A. Magstadt, 4400 Ocean Beach Highway #68, Longview, Washington 98632.

**GEORGE E. KOSKIMAKI, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION,** lets us know that he has written a book entitled *The Battered Bastards of Bastogne (First Edition).* He was assigned to the Signal Company of the 101st ABND and became a radio operator. Part of his wartime experience as combat radioman for the division commander, Major General Maxwell D Taylor, helped make his book possible. Cost is \$22.50 (including shipping and handling) from 101st ARBND, P.O. Box 586, Sweetwater, Tennessee 37874. The author will sign your copy if you request it.

Associate member **CATHERINE FREMER** writes to tell us various things: Thanking Bill Leesman for the information on the Liberation Museum; asking if there is a town named "Elsenborn" in Belgium (Yes there is); and explaining tells us why St. Nicholas dresses like a bishop during holiday times (it's because St. Nicholas was a bishop).

(Continued on Page 29)



## MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

(Continued from Page 28)

New Associate Member, Mary N. Barravecchia, daughter of **SALVATORE BARRAVECCHIA, HQ BATTERY, 55TH AAA BRIGADE**, would like to hear from anyone stationed with him in Maastricht, Holland, in particular, during the months November, 1944, through March, 1945, prior to and during the Christmas Eve Mass, 1944 and after. Write to Mary at: 321 River Road, Mystic, Connecticut 06355. [See article elsewhere on Christmas Eve Mass. Mary's father is the artist who drew the mural in the cave.]

Félix Mathieu would like information about **CLARENCE BYRD, 978TH QUARTERMASTER**, from Port Allen, Louisiana, who stayed in Nessonvaux (10 miles from Liege) at the end of 1944. Write to Félix at: Quai de la Dérivation 48/61, 4020 Liege, Belgium.

**EUGENE M. SOPKO**, Associate Member, would like to hear from participants of anyone knowledgeable about the event which took place in the Ardennes on 24-25 December, 1944, involving Frau Vincken, her son Fritz, and the American and German soldiers. Write: P.O. Box 1139, St. Johns, Arizona 85936.

Ruth Welk would like to have information about her brother, **RAUL TREVIZO ENRIQUEZ, 101ST AIRBORNE, 326TH ENGINEER BATTALION**. Write to Ruth at: 14100 Havasu Road, Apple Valley, California 92307 or call collect 619-946-3462.

**WALLACE O. STUHLFEIER, 2ND ARMORED DIVISION, 67TH ARMORED, COMPANY C**, is hoping for a miracle. He lost Walther P-38 pistol for which he had made a shoulder holster an inscribed the following on the holster "Wally S. 8/31/44." If you can help, write to Wally at: 10708 Upton Avenue South, Bloomington, Minnesota 55431.

Ms. D. R. Steenberg would like to know if you can provide her with information regarding her uncle **DENVER DANIEL ALBRECHT, SR., 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION** (possibly also the 82ND). Another uncle **RAY EARL HENRY ALBRECHT** also served but no information was provided regarding his unit. Write to Ms. Steenberg at: 12819 S.E. 38th, Box 6, Bellevue, Washington 98006.

**BENJAMIN LEE EBERT** would like information regarding the **114TH STATION HOSPITAL** during the Bulge. He states there were at least 100 men on the floor waiting for medical help and wonders if it was a hospital floor or a gym? Any information you can provide will be appreciated. Write to Lee at: 29 Southwind Circle, Jackson, New Jersey 08527.

**JOHN E. McAULIFFE, 87TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 37TH INFANTRY, M COMPANY, 81MM MORTAR SQUAD**, thought you would like to know about the picture used by the U.S. Post Office to depict the Battle of the Bulge in the "Road to Victory 1944" stamp series. John says the picture is of I Company, 347th Infantry, 87th Division and was taken from pictures in the Low Country Series (#113) at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

Any body out there from **95TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 379TH INFANTRY, COMPANY C**? **ORLANDO J. CAFASSO** would like to hear from you. Write to him at: 40 Whitman Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-6439.

**EDWARD HILTON, 90TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 357TH INFANTRY, COMPANY C**, is looking for anyone who was sent from the **63RD INFANTRY DIVISION** to the 90th as a replacement on or about December 16-20, 1944. Ed's address: P.O. Box 265, Altmar, New York 13302-0265.

**EGBERT "DUKE" BUNIFF, 666TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION**, would like to find a size 7-1/4, 1940-45 enlisted man's garrison cap, olive drab, worsted wool in good condition. Please contact Duke: 23674 Gerrad Way, West Hills, California 91307.

Betty J. Roiger is interested in locating some one who may have served with her uncle **S/SGT. BERNARD WILLEMS, 26TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 328TH INFANTRY, COMPANY C**, who was killed in action in Germany April 11, 1945. Betty's address is: 1125 - 12th North, New Ulm, Minnesota 56073.

John Paul Riva is trying to retrace the footsteps of Marlene Dietrich during the Battle of the Bulge. If you have dates you might have seen Miss Dietrich, pictures, stories, or other information you could share with him, he would be most appreciative. Please contact as follows: John Paul Riva, 116 East 95 Street, New York, New York 10128 (212-860-0380). He would appreciate any information as this material will be used in development of upcoming projects.

Runa Triplett was a passenger on Iceland Air Flight #614 (Iceland-Luxembourg) out of Kennedy airport on May 25, 1994. She is trying to find a tall WWII veteran from California who shared this flight. He was on his way to Normandy with a buddy from New Jersey and they both wore **5TH DIVISION** windbreakers. Contact Runa: 3019 Avalon Road, Columbus Ohio 43221 (Call collect 614-486-1640)



"Man, that Kilroy sure gets around!"

The above cartoon was sent to us by **RAY FISHER, 474TH AAA AW BATTALION, COMPANY B**. Ray has provided us with many pieces of his art. Thanks, Ray.

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# The Mission That Ended the War

Reprinted From The Washington Post, August 14, 1994

Martin Harwit's "The Enola Gay: A Nation's, and a Museum's, Dilemma" [op-ed, Aug. 7] was—coming from the director of the National Air and Space Museum—an awesomely selective review of the plan for exhibiting the B-29 aircraft that dropped the first atomic bomb. Air Force magazine has tracked this exhibit through three concept plans and two script revisions. The final script, like each of the planning documents before it, uses the Enola Gay as a prop in a politically charged program about the atomic bomb. It builds with theatrical techniques toward a designated "emotional center" in the section called "Ground Zero: Hiroshima and Nagasaki."

The curators pick up the story of the war only in its last months. There is almost no background on earlier events. For example, the 295-page script gives less than one page to Japanese military actions before 1945. U.S. forces are seen as pressing the war aggressively, while the Japanese are depicted in a desperate defense of their home islands. The emphasis on Japanese death and suffering is so pronounced—84 text pages and 97 photos—that visitors to the exhibit might well perceive Japan as the victim, rather than as the aggressor, in the Pacific war.

Graphics are chosen for maximum emotional impact. Harwit claims that it is "happenstance" that women, children and mutilated religious objects are so prevalent in the planned photos (25 instances) and artifacts (12 instances). By contrast, the script has only seven photos of American casualties and eight visual images of pre-1945 Japanese military activity.

The script is interspersed with a series of "historical controversies," each casting doubt on actions and motives of the United States. Would the atomic bomb have been used against the Germans? Did the U.S. demand for unconditional surrender prolong the war? Would it really have been necessary to invade Japan if the bomb had not been used? Was it not possible to induce the surrender by a demonstration bombing or a more specific warning about the atomic bomb? But the curators take an altogether different perspective toward positions and actions of the imperial Japanese government, which are mostly accepted at face value.

The most obvious result of the Enola Gay's mission was that it ended the war and, in so doing, saved lives on both sides. The exhibit recognizes this with an eight-line wall label in which a former soldier says he and his colleagues heard the news of the atomic bomb with "relief and joy" because their lives would not be at risk in the invasion of Japan.

*That is all the exhibit says about the invasion that did not happen. The Americans are shown celebrating their victory lustily in counterpoint to the anguish of the defeated Japanese. Step by step, this presentation builds sympathy for the Japanese. The most significant consequences of the Enola Gay's mission are death, radiation sickness, despair and the beginning of nuclear terror.*

We were momentarily encouraged last April, when we saw a memorandum from Harwit to the museum staff stating that he had reassessed the exhibit plan and concluded that "we do have a lack of balance and . . . much of the criticism that has been levied against us is understandable." Unfortunately, Harwit's newfound commitment to balance soon melted away, and the major changes he proposed to the exhibit were never made.



The Enola Gay's task was a grim one, hardly suitable for glamorization. On the 50th anniversary of its occurrence, however, it should be remembered in historical context and balance, and the story should be told with fairness and accuracy. The exhibit planned by the National and Air Space Museum does not meet that standard. It is a partisan interpretation of what happened and historical revisionism at its worst.

**-John T. Correll**

*The writer is editor in chief of Air Force magazine.*

I was a POW in Tokyo that August, and I suggest that more weight be given to the historical facts available to President Truman in 1945 and that there be fewer "what ifs?" from theorists. In addition to the many thousands of Allied soldiers' lives saved by the bombs, there were thousands of Allied POWs and hundreds of thousands of women, children and old men who would have been killed had the invasion been necessary. President Truman was dealing with human lives as he tried to end a war, not an academic seminar. He saved countless lives by his decisive actions, and he should be credited with that achievement.

**-Glenn McConnell**

*The writer is a retired Air Force pilot.*

Martin Harwit's article on the Smithsonian Institution's coming exhibit on the atomic bombing of Japan makes a spirited defense of an unseen product against unspecified charges from unidentified World War II veterans. From his Post article and a similar article by him in the September issue of Air and Space, I assume that some veterans are protesting the content and tone of the exhibit, but he only alludes to the objections before dismissing them.

Harwit says the exhibit will "tell the full story surrounding the atomic bomb and the end of World War II." I suppose that means that until now no one except the Smithsonian staff has known "the full story." The question of whether the bombs should have been dropped is still a controversial one, and one I doubt the Smithsonian will answer. In his two articles, Harwit says the exhibit will focus on what information President Truman

had when he made the decision to use the bombs and how the Enola Gay's mission led to the nuclear standoff of the past 50 years. All that is fine and deserves to be told.

What I suspect the veterans fear, however, is not that the story will be told from the perspective of history, but that it will be removed from its historical context. I remember the coverage of the 40th anniversary of Hiroshima and the almost exclusive focus on the effect on those on the ground. From that coverage, one could be forgiven for assuming that one day in August 1945 an American plane, for no apparent reason, dropped an atomic bomb on a peaceful city. Lost was the context of the war that had been going on since 1937, when Japan invaded China. Lost were the events that led up to Hiroshima, and why an American president had to make a such a decision. Lost were the reasons my father—a veteran of the New Guinea and Philippines campaigns and almost certainly part of any invasion of the Japanese home islands—used to say, "Thank God for the atomic bomb."

Harwit says that this part of the story will be told, but from his defensive tone that seems like an afterthought to which he gave his attention only after the veterans struck a nerve. Because they did, maybe the full story, whatever it is, really will be told.

**-Curtis R. Bandle**

Martin Harwit may feel he confronts a dilemma, but our nation does not. Harwit's concern about displaying the B-29 Enola Gay is a problem of his own making.

The way to exhibit the plane that bombed Hiroshima is to put it where people can see it, period. This is how the B-29 that bombed Nagasaki has been displayed at the Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio, for more than 20 years. That aircraft, known as Bock's Car, is available on public view without any social commentary.

Harwit's politically correct urge to show "the destruction and suffering on the ground at Hiroshima and Nagasaki" linked to a fable about nuclear weapons and the Cold War is the wrong way to spend public money. It's also a slap in the face to all Americans, including our courageous fallen, who fought from Pearl Harbor to Tokyo Bay.

**-Robert F. Dorr**

The American public is entitled to a factual and honest explanation of the Enola Gay controversy. Veterans are deeply concerned that schoolchildren and their parents born after World War II will leave the National Air and Space Museum with a distorted and incorrect understanding of this important part of our country's history.

The March-April 1994 exhibition text contained the following statements: "For most Americans it was a war of vengeance for the Pearl Harbor attack." "For most Japanese it became a war to save their unique culture from the threat of total destruction."

While these and some other blatant statements have been removed or modified because of the protests by veterans' groups, many others remain. For example, "With deep family roots in nations such as Germany and Italy, most Americans had little difficulty understanding their European enemies as good people misled by evil leaders." "Anti-Asian racism, long a factor in American life, made it impossible to view the Japanese enemy in this light."

Harwit and his curators want visitors to the exhibit to believe that America destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki because we were anti-Asian racists. The real reason for the atomic bomb strikes against Japan can best be explained by President Truman's announcement: "We have used the bomb to shorten the agony of war, in order to save the lives of thousands and thousands of young Americans."

Missing in the exhibition is a full and factual account of the U.S. plans to invade the Japanese homeland on Nov. 1, 1945. Estimates of American casualties in the invasion and battle to subdue the Japanese range from 250,000 to 1 million.

President Truman is maligned by the museum staff's claim that "an opportunity to end the war without either atomic bombings or an invasion may have been lost because President Truman refused to make a surrender offer guaranteeing the Emperor's position." In fact, even after the atomic bomb attacks on Aug. 6 and Aug. 9, top leaders of the Japanese navy and army were determined to continue the war "to the last man, if necessary."

On the evening of Aug. 14, 1945, an armed military contingent captured the Imperial Palace in an attempt to prevent the emperor from making his radio broadcast on the following day announcing the surrender of Japan. Despite these facts, an exhibition caption reads, in part, "The United States should have paid closer attention to the signals that the Japanese might have been willing to surrender."

In August 1945, the Japanese were preparing to meet the scheduled U.S. invasion of the main islands with more than 2 million seasoned, regular army troops, some 5,000 military aircraft to be used in kamikaze missions and 28 million Japanese civilians in the Peoples Volunteer Army pledged to fight to the death.

The National Air and Space Museum was not established to be a center for political, philosophical, sociological or ethnic discourse. A reading of its charter indicates that Harwit and his staff have strayed far off course.

**-Manny Horowitz**

*The writer was a B-29 navigator in the 20th Air Force during World War II.*

**"We have used the bomb to shorten the agony of war, in order to save the lives of thousands and thousands of young Americans."**

**President Harry S. Truman**





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