



The BULGE BUGLE

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

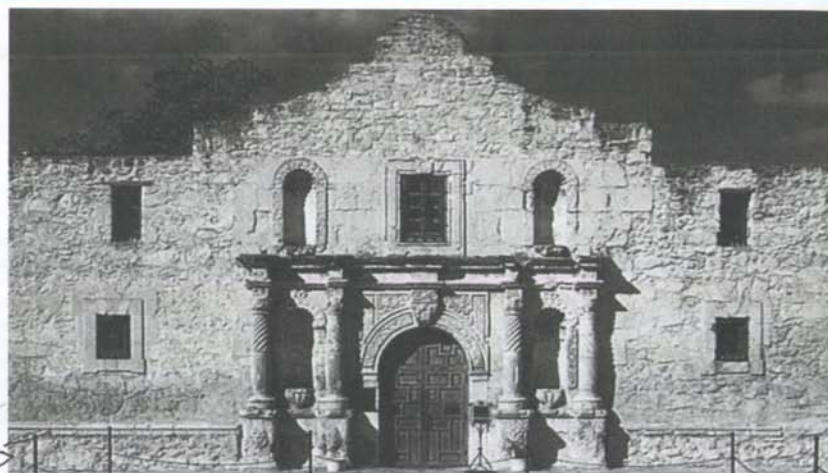
VOLUME XIV NUMBER 2

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

MAY 1995

THE ALAMO SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

San Antonio's first Spanish mission founded in 1718 as Mission San Antonio de Valero, the Alamo is famous for the 1836 Battle for Texas independence when 189 Texas volunteer defenders held the site against 4,000 Mexican troops for 13 days. Today, the Alamo is maintained by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas and includes two museums, a library and theater.



*Remember the Alamo...
Remember WWII...
Remember the Bulge...*

**REMEMBER TO MAKE PLANS
TO ATTEND THE VBOB
50th ANNIVERSARY (cont'd)**

SAN ANTONIO

**September
3 - 6, 1995**

(complete details on pages 11, 12 and 13)

MORE REWRITING OF HISTORY *PAGE 6*

**VETERANS OF THE
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**CONTACT THE CHAPTER IN YOUR
AREA. YOU WILL BE GLAD YOU DID.**

**IF THERE IS NO CHAPTER IN YOUR
AREA AND YOU HAVE A LITTLE TIME,
WRITE TO VBOB AND WE'LL SEND
YOU THE NECESSARY TOOLS TO
GET OFF TO A GOOD START IN THE
DEVELOPMENT OF A CHAPTER IN
YOUR AREA.**

**YOU'LL FIND THAT IT'S EASY TO DO
AND THE REWARDS TO ALL OF
THOSE YOU BRING TOGETHER
CANNOT BE DUPLICATED.**

**COMPLETE DETAILS APPEAR IN THIS
ISSUE REGARDING THE VBOB
VICTORIES COMMEMORATION IN
SAN ANTONIO, SEPTEMBER 3-6,
1995. MAKE YOUR PLANS TO
ATTEND. IT'S AN EVENT YOU WON'T
WANT TO MISS.**

**TOURS TO THE ALAMO, AN EVENING
IN THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY, A
TEXAS-STYLE BAR-B-Q, FORT SAM
HOUSTON, SAN JOSE MISSION, ETC.,
ALL GO TO ENSURE A GRAND AND
DIVERSIFIED TIME.**

**A PLAQUE TO ALL WHO SERVED IN
THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE WILL BE
DEDICATED.**

**THE VBOB OBSERVANCES ARE
PRECEDED BY DoD OBSERVANCES
OF VJ DAY, AN "END OF THE WAR
GALA" AND THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE PEACE ACCORDS.**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings and welcome to spring. Now that winter is behind us again, it is time to be thinking of the warmer days ahead and to the events that are to come during the remainder of the 50th Anniversary Commemorative activities.

One such anniversary has passed: The Victory of the Battle of the Bulge. Several others remain to be observed: the Victory in Europe (May, 1945), Victory over Japan (August, 1945) and the signing of documents of peace (September 2, 1945).



Grover Twiner

Your President has been busy arranging the "Victories Commemoration" of all three in San Antonio, Texas, on September 3-6, 1995. As usual, there will be speakers, proclamations, tours, a Texas Bar-B-Q, dedications, food and drink—not necessarily in that order.

The business meetings will be kept to a minimum to allow all to enjoy other activities. There is plenty to see in San Antonio and the surrounding areas. One of the highlights will be a tour of the LBJ Ranch.

No,...we won't miss the Alamo or Fort Sam Houston. You will find details on subsequent pages regarding these sites.

We are working on the placement and dedication of a plaque for the Battle of the Bulge. Ecumenical services will be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Hilton.

Fellow VBoBers, I hope to see at least 500 of you there. So get your reservations in early--I have.

If you have any questions call headquarters (703) 528-4058 or me (410) 744-4915.

Our meeting has been scheduled to coincide with other celebrations to be held in the San Antonio area. Further information regarding these observances appear on this page.

So, plan your schedule to take advantage of these activities and be a part of the Battle of the Bulge activities all in one trip. There will be other events of interest to all.

***We are looking
forward to seeing
you there. We know
you will enjoy the
plans we have
made for you.***

OTHER 50TH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCES IN SAN ANTONIO

You may wish to arrive for the VBOB meeting a few days early. The VJ Day, "End of the War Gala" and 50th Anniversary of the Peace Accords event will be held September 1-2, 1995. The activities include a gala in San Antonio, a ceremony to recognize the ending of the hostilities, observances for those who lost their lives, and the beginning of the post war era, opening of the hall of the Presidents, opening of the George Bush Gallery of the Pacific War, a parade, and an air show. As we do not have full information on these activities, you may obtain them by writing to the Admiral Nimitz Museum, P.O. Box 777, Fredericksburg, Texas 78624 (Telephone: 210-997-4379).

A BEAUTIFUL OFFER: reference page 3 of the February Issue. Jim Amor reports the response has been overwhelming. He has located dozens of addresses for VBOB members since the February issue, however, he has requested the following be given, along with the lost buddy's name:

1. Middle initial
2. Last known city of residence
3. Submit no more than 10 names per request
4. Self addressed, stamped, business envelope

THE OFFER: if you are looking for a lost buddy, write JIM AMOR, P.O. BOX 4092, LONG ISLAND CITY, NY 11104. Send him the name or names (reread 1-4 above).

Jim has emphatically stated "send no money." He enjoys providing this information for WWII veterans - provided the requests stay within an acceptable number.

Submitted by William P. Tayman, Past VBOB President

A man who is good enough to shed his blood for his country is good enough to be given a square deal afterwards. More than that no man is entitled to, and less than that no man shall have.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

PLEASE!

Check your mailing label on the back side of your newsletter. It bears a date which indicates when your dues are due. By sending in your dues without having to be reminded, it saves us time and money, both of which could be used in better places.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

2ND EVACUATION HOSPITAL

On page 13 of the February 1995 *Bugle* there is an article about the Second Evacuation Hospital to which I take strong exception. The article states, "The Germans pushed down to within five miles of the hospital...." NOT TRUE! I was in Höfen, Germany, with the 3rd Battalion, 395th Infantry and the 38th Cavalry was next to us in Monschau. On 17 December 1944 the Germans penetrated the cavalry lines about 2 miles deep for a matter of hours, but the line was straightened out that same day. With that one temporary exception, the Höfen/Monschau line held absolutely firm and no German units "pushed down to within five miles of the hospital." Should Ford, Voight or Schetlin dispute this, I will be happy to cite a number of written accounts as well as personal accounts of men who were there.

Thor Ronningen
99 INF 395 INF I

NO SLIGHT OMISSION

I have just read with great interest the two articles in the November issue concerning the 7th Armored Division at St. Vith during the Battle of the Bulge. While the 7th Armored Division battled gamely and, I believe, received the Presidential Citation for their valor, part of the story is missing. I am not disputing anything written, nor do I want to detract from either story but always omitted is the fact that Combat Command B of the 9th Armored also aided in the defense of St. Vith.

In fact, we were in support of the 106th Infantry Division when the Germans attacked and on 16 December we began the defense of St. Vith and like the 7th Armored Division withdrew when they did. However, being only one-third of a division (the other two being one in Luxembourg and the other in Bastogne) and having very little public relations voice, we have never been recognized for our great effort at St. Vith.

It wasn't until March, 1945, when we captured the Remagen Bridge that we were recognized for our fighting skills and bravery.

Harold Trethaway
9 ARMDD 16 AFA

MORE NUTS'D

The letter in the November issue with the heading "Nuts'd Again" surely hit the nail on the head. When our PBS TV station announced it was showing a film on November 9th entitled "Battle of the Bulge," I put it on my calendar not to miss. I was in the 82nd Airborne during WWII and still remember that campaign very well. But as the gentleman said in his letter most of this film was also about Bastogne. It ran for an hour and a half and the 82nd was mentioned once, just that they had participated. No spokesman, but the 101st had several and there were some infantry and armored divisions spokesmen. The title of this film should have also been "Bastogne and the Battle of the Bulge." It is amazing that an officer saying one word--NUTS-- would take the glory of a campaign away from so many deserving outfits.

Earl S. Oldfather
82 ABND 504 REG 3 BN G

A GREAT BIG "THANK YOU"

To all the veterans who were so kind to write me in regards to the patch on my son's uniform. It was the European Theatre Insignia as was told me. Thanks so much for all the kind responses.

If only my son had lived, he would have been happy to have read all the letters and attend some of the anniversaries. He was

in Belgium, France and Germany. He was in the 1st Army: a gun commander on a 90M antiaircraft [mof]. It was a pleasure to read all the twelve letters I got. Thanks so much from a grieving mother.

Gladys V. Taylor

VON RUNDSTEDT HAD NOTHING TO SURRENDER

I read Friedlander's first draft of the "Queen" [May, 1994], Kaidy's comments [November, 1994], and Jepson's further comments [February, 1995] and have to add mine.

"Thank God it's the first draft, maybe the kid can get it right by the final."

I agree with the comments of Kaidy and Jepson but they missed the most glaring error to jump right out of the page. I'm referring to the picture of page 14 [May 1994]. It is a picture of Wilhelm Keitel not von Rundstedt (name misspelled with photo). The picture is a copy of an International News photo widely circulated after VE Day showing Keitel signing the surrender terms on the Eastern Front at the Russian Headquarters of Marshal Zhukov. Gustav Jodl had the same honor at SHAEF Headquarters in Rheims, France, with Lt. Gen. Walter Bedell Smith signing for the Allies.

Von Rundstedt had nothing to surrender (except himself) having been relieved of all command on March 7, 1945.

Harold F. Schaefer
99 INF 394 INF G

SHALIKASHVILI'S REMARKS

[At the 50th National Commemoration of the Battle of the Bulge] ...For the benefit of those who were not present, I would like to repeat just what the General's message was.... To the veterans present, he said: "You are the heroes that Hitler did not account for."

He had just returned from Bastogne, Belgium, from where he brought back with him a container of soil from that area. He held it aloft for the veterans to see, and said, "Here is your memorial. This is your memorial."

He said, "You were the unbreakable anvil against which Hitler smashed his armies."

The impact of that statement is tremendous. What is greater than the blow of the hammer, of the blade being forged, it is the "unbreakable anvil," the stamina, temerity, gutsiness, and the spirit of the GI soldier, against which Hitler smashed his armies.

On July 4, 1946, a touching ceremony took place on the Mardasson at Bastogne. A casket containing some soil from the Hill of Heroism was sealed in the presence of the United States Ambassador to Belgium and sent by special plane to Washington. There it was handed to President Truman in person by four Belgian representatives. The spot from where the soil was taken in the center of the present mausoleum, is now covered by a square of local stone bearing the words:

LIBERATORIBUS AMERICANIS
POPULUS BELGICUS
MEMOR
IV. VII. MCMXLVI

It is from the same source that Gen. Shalikashvili brought back his soil.

John E. McAuliffe
87 INF 347 INF

[Availability of speeches, etc.,
from the 50th Ceremonies
in St. Louis will be announced
at a later date.]

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WHERE IS THE 204TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION?

I have been a subscriber to *The Bulge Bugle* for some time, and I have never seen the 204th Combat Engineer Battalion mentioned in any of your articles.

On D-Day, I was with the first Army under General Bradley. After the Normandy invasion our battalion became attached to the Third Army under General George Patton until the war ended.

Joseph P. Rozzi

204 ENGR CMBT BN

[As we have no full time research staff, we depend upon our members to provide us with information. If you have something you would like to see printed in the newsletter, send it to us. We try to use everything we receive in the order in which it is received.]

DESERVED CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

The last paragraph of Richard Jepsen's letter in the February, 1995 issue of *The Bulge Bugle* has pushed me into action.

Most writers and historians have a tendency to neglect the major contribution which the 30th Infantry Division, often referred to during the war by the German radio as "Roosevelt's SS Troops," gave to the Battle of the Bulge.

In so far as I am able to determine, the 30th was the ONLY infantry division to be pulled out of the Roer River sector up north in Germany and trucked all night long down into the "North Shoulder" of the Bulge.

"Old Hickory's" assignment was to contain and defeat the onrushing armored elements of Joachim Peiper's First SS "Adolph Hitler" Division of Sepp Dietrich's Sixth Panzer Army. Peiper's crack outfit was considered the elite of all the German armored divisions. His record was one of ruthless action on the Eastern Front. The 30th Division was destined to contend with Hitler's "very best."

Peiper's orders were to penetrate west down the Ambleve River valley through Trois Ponts and Werbomont to Liege, Belgium, the supply and communications center.

Agonizing days of fighting in the north shoulder sector followed and bloody battles were waged in places like Stoumont, La Gleize, Stavelot, Trois Ponts, Malmedy, Lienne Creek, Neufmoulin (see this writer's article on Neufmoulin in *The Bugle's* February, 1990, issue), Malmedy, Targnon, Rouat and many others.

In the end valiant "Old Hickorymen" had managed to "hunt, locate and absorb the full fury of a crack, German armored force." There would be no breakout through the North Shoulder of the Ardennes conflict.

If Peiper's legions had been permitted to move on to their objectives, the entire complexion of the Battle of the Bulge would have been altered.

On March 16, 1946, Colonel S.L.A. Marshall, Historian of the European Theatre of Operations, wrote Major General Leland S. Hobbs, war-time commanding officer of the 30th, in part, as follows: "Toward the end of last fall...General Eisenhower instructed me to draw up a rating sheet on the divisions. It was the combined judgment of the 35 historical officers who had worked on the records and in the field that the 30th had merited the distinction...of being the outstanding infantry division in the ETO."

Of course, there will be those who will dispute Col. Marshall's findings but no writer, historian or research scholar should continue to ignore the 30th Infantry Division's "days of glory" in the Northern Shoulder of the Battle of the Bulge.

Edward C. Arn
30 INF 119 INF F

WHO'S THE AUTHORITY?

I am writing to you in reference to a letter in February's *Bugle* on page 4 in the "Letters to the Editor" column. It was written by Robert W. Shaw (654th Engineer Topographic Battalion). In the last paragraph Mr. Shaw talks about the German 88mm's. He states that he has it "on good authority" that the Germans only used their 88's "to celebrate the 4th of July." When I read this rather ridiculous statement (and I certainly hope I wasn't the only one who read it) I knew I had to write in to *The Bugle*. I would like to know exactly what "good authority" told him this. Perhaps it was that reporter from the *Los Angeles Times* who said that "Chaff" ("Window") wasn't used in WWII (see August, 1993, *Bugle*, page 31).

I cannot complain about the first paragraph and a sentence of Mr. Shaw's letter, it hit the mark. But what Mr. Shaw says in the last paragraph is totally absurd. Any GI who served in Europe knows that the Germans used their 88's on the battlefield, whether he was an infantryman at the front or a cook 50 miles in the rear. So what cave was he stationed in? All the German's big AA guns were 88's and all of their Panther and Tiger tanks had 88's (just ask any of our tankers). To top it off, since when have the Germans celebrated our Fourth of July? So much for "good authority"!!!

John Phillips Richardson
Associate Member



50th ANNIVERSARY SOUVENIR PROGRAM BOOK

Attendees at St. Louis Commemoration take confidence in the fact that the SOUVENIR BOOK is actively being worked on. We are committed to producing a document all will treasure. The task is requiring more time than anticipated.

William Tayman
Anniversary Chairman

MORE REWRITING OF HISTORY

We believe the following editorials, which appeared in The Star-Ledger, of Newark, New Jersey, will be of interest to you. The first was sent to us by MAURICE WOLFSON, 84TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 333RD INFANTRY, F & K COMPANIES. The responses were mailed to us by A. W. ANDRIOLA, 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 9TH MEDICAL BATTALION, MEDICAL SUPPLY COMPANY.

Saturday, December 31, 1994:

"A German Account of the 'Bulge'"

Dear Editor:

Although it has been 50 years since the Battle of the Bulge, American news editors still perpetuate the big lie and can't bring themselves to tell the truth about the Battle of the Bulge and Malmedy.

When it comes to American victories, American forces are always green troops hugely outnumbered by "crack" (as William Gordon calls them in his Battle of the Bulge article) enemy forces, when in fact the allied forces at the Bulge outnumbered the Germans by 5 to 1 and were unlimited in supplies whose dearth during the battle was due not to a lack of materiel but to an organizational screwup!

In contrast, the German forces were not "crack" troops but consisted mostly of 17- to 19-year-old conscripts who had very little combat experience. They relied on capturing enemy fuel and supplies to support their attack. The reason the Germans initially overpowered the American forces was because of surprise and superior military leadership and morale, which was in stark contrast to the Americans who, having been in the European Theater only six months, had a desertion rate eight times higher than the Germans.

But the most blatant fabrication concerns the "Malmedy massacre." As the trial records clearly show (although ignored by the kangaroo court), there was no massacre and there were no "130 captured GIs slaughtered."

The fact is that about 200 American GIs of Battery B, 285th Field Observation Battalion, were surprised and captured in a brief firefight by forward elements of the First SS Panzer Division, and some GIs were killed.

Since the German Commander had orders to advance to a certain objective, he, as was German tradition, told the American POWs to form up and on their honor (without guards) march to the rear to a POW holding area. Unfortunately, in their haste, the Germans disarmed but did not search the Americans, and some cocky GIs, who had kept hidden some light weapons under their coats, wanted to play heroes and attacked the small, out-numbered German unit (five tanks and some support vehicles), which resulted in another firefight, casualties and recapture.

The GIs, guarded by a half track with a machine gun, were then told to assemble in a forest clearing until the main German force arrived. Taking advantage of a gap between the now passing German column, the bulk of the GIs decided to make a break for it into the forest which naturally resulted in a legitimate German machine gun response and more American casualties. The German response was appropriate and consistent with the provisions of the Geneva Convention.

Karl F. Ketter,
Flemington

Saturday, December 14, 1995

German Countered on Facts of Bulge

Dear Editor:

This is a World War II veteran's reply to the letter, "A German Account of the Bulge" in Reader's Forum.

It is understandable that a German soldier's account could be different from our own considering the ploys often used by the Third Reich upon their people.

Such differences alone, however, do not make the German soldier's account anywhere near the truth and certainly those differences provide no basis to accuse William Gordon or all American news editors of perpetuating fabrications.

I suspect, nonetheless, you have readers like Karl F. Ketter who feel news is manipulated; I cannot change that, but let me set the record straight by the excerpts from the Dec. 15, 1994, telecast of ABC News, "Turning Point," which follow.

"David Brinkley, ABC News (voice-over): Tonight, a Christmas story you will never forget." ... "Everyone thought the war in Europe was nearly won." ... "Stephen Ambrose, Historian: The Battle of the Bulge was the biggest battle the U.S. Army ever fought." "David Brinkley (voice-over): Bigger than Pearl Harbor, bigger than D-Day." ... "Fifty Christmases ago, Americans had been at war three years.... But now the news from the war in Europe was looking better.... But, 50 years ago, almost to the day, the happy optimism died. It would not be a merry Christmas."

"David Brinkley (voice-over): On that first day (of the Bulge), Dec. 16, the Germans (at the front in the Ardennes) had a three-to-one advantage in manpower. They had a seven-to-one advantage in artillery. On that day, about 2,000 Americans were wounded, captured or killed." ... "It was nine days before Christmas." ... "All over the forest (Ardennes) GIs were badly outnumbered, desperately fighting to hold onto their weak line of defense." "David Brinkley (voice-over): Confiscated German film boasts of the number of GIs who were forced to surrender, over 7,000 in one day, early in the Battle of the Bulge." ... "As the men marched off toward captivity, they were even more fearful because of the grim news of a massacre that had spread among the GIs. Seventy-two bodies of unarmed American prisoners had been discovered in the snow at a place called Malmedy." John Gatens, 106th Infantry Division: "We figured well, they were shooting prisoners. And every time they walked us past an open field, we figured--'That's it. They're gonna take us out here like they did at Malmedy and mow us down.'" (Losses: 106th Infantry Division--Dec. 16 to 21, 1944--killed 415; wounded 1,254; missing 6,821 equals 8,490 lost. Of 14,024 men on Dec. 15, only 5,534 remained after Dec. 31. January casualties for the 106th were 257.)

World War II announcer: (later) "At Bastogne the American 101st Airborne Division was trapped." "David Brinkley (voice-over): "Dec. 22, three days to Christmas (1944). The Germans asked the Americans to surrender."

The American commander of Bastogne, Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe, responded "Nuts!" It took until Jan. 25, 1945, to fully repulse the German attack and restore the battlefield to where it was on Dec. 15, 1944.

"Blatant fabrication!" What do you think?

Arthur W. Potts,
Cedar Grove

Dear Editor:

...Mr. Ketter accused "The American news editors of perpetuating the big lie" when they described the Battle of the Bulge and the Malmedy Massacre, where

(Continued on Page 7)

REWRITING OF HISTORY

(Continued from Page 6)

unarmed American prisoners of war were murdered by the Germans in December 1944. Mr. Ketter would like to rewrite history.

On Dec. 16, 1944, 14 German divisions began a counter offensive in Luxembourg and in Eastern Belgium, a vain effort to continue a war for an already crumbling Third Reich. Many of the American divisions consisted of new replacements. ...outnumbered and short of supplies. They fought with tenacity, exceptional bravery and skill. When the battle ended in late January 1945, it was at a cost of thousands of American dead and wounded. It was one of the greatest American battles of the war. These men were the heroes. This is history.

The Malmedy Massacre was witnessed and documented by the few survivors. The prisoners were murdered by their German captors. There was no evidence of anything consistent with the Geneva Convention. Mr. Ketter states, "Some cocky GIs wanted to play hero." As if they invited themselves to be killed. This was one of the most vicious crimes committed upon American troops in Europe. The men who were murdered are our honored dead. This is history.

I recommend Mr. Ketter to read *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*. This is where he will find the big lie. It was perpetrated by Adolph Hitler to his own people and to the world. In the end it was at a cost of millions of lives including the brave men buried in the American cemetery in Bastogne. They died fighting for freedom. This is the same freedom which allows Mr. Ketter to live in the United States and to write a letter in a newspaper in a misguided and futile attempt to rewrite history and to dishonor American heroes.

Barbara Pallister,
South Plainfield

Dear Editor:

I don't ever believe I've felt such a surge of anger as I experienced after reading "A German Account of the Bulge." To denigrate those who gave so much of themselves in one of history's most valiant stands is almost blasphemous. To defile the memory of those who were slaughtered at Malmedy defies description.

On this past Dec. 18, the New Jersey Veteran's 50th Anniversary of World War II Commemoration Committee honored those who fought in that battle. Approximately 700 gathered in a theater at Ft. Dix for this momentous occasion. Almost 400 veterans of that battle were in attendance. Tell Capt. Vincent Vicari, aide to Gen. Anthony McAuliffe, 101st Airborne, that it didn't happen. Tell Andy Andriola, Commander, Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge; Len Levenson, 82d Airborne; Mickey Cohen, 101st Airborne and Harry Chenoweth, 8th Armored Division, that their versions of what occurred are incorrect. Especially tell them while they mourn their buddies who made the supreme sacrifice or better still while they reflect in horror those who did not die in battle but rather were murdered in the Malmedy Massacre. All that is left is for Mr. Ketter to deny that when asked to surrender at Bastogne, Gen. McAuliffe did not say "Nuts" but rather said, "certainly."

Lee Goldfarb, Chairman,
New Jersey Veteran's 50th Anniversary
of World War II Commemoration Committee,
East Hanover

The American infantryman really came of age in the Bulge. These people matured into top-notch troops. If you don't know where to fall back and you don't know what's coming, you stick there and fight.

-Robert F. Phillips, Author, *To Save Bastogne*
28th Division, 110 Inf. Reg.

DON'T BITE ON THIS ONE!

For over 40 years a hoax has been played on veterans. It is in the form of a false announcement of insurance dividends which will be paid to veterans based on their years of military service.

Any legitimate insurance dividends for veterans are automatically paid to ex-servicemen and women who have active policies in four GI life insurance programs. However, there is no such dividend for veterans who have failed to keep their insurance in force and there is no rebate for active-duty personnel. No such legislation has been approved by Congress.

So beware of this hoax.

MAP AVAILABLE

On the 50th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor, the National Geographic Society published an article "Return to Pearl Harbor." This issue also contained a very nice map of both the European and Pacific areas of conflict. A quick phone call to NGs reveals they still have copies of this December, 1991, issue. If you would like one send your check for \$2.65 (for each copy) to: National Geographic Society, 1145 - 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 10036-4688. Ask for the December, 1991, issue.

DO YOU ENJOY THE STORIES IN THE "MEMORABLE BULGE INCIDENTS" COLUMN??

Would you like to have a collection of all that we have published through the November, 1994, issue?

They are now available--printed on three-hole punched paper for you to put in to a loose-leaf notebook. These first-hand accounts will help preserve the history of the Battle of the Bulge for you to pass down to your children and grandchildren.

Simply send your payment in the amount of \$15.00 to VBOB, PO Box 11129, Arlington, VA 22210. Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery. (A separate check will allow us to process your order faster.)

LOU VARRONE DRAWINGS AVAILABLE

Elsewhere in this issue is a drawing of General Patton done by Lou Varrone. Lou has many drawings of Medal of Honor recipients and other WWII era persons and they are available for sale at \$35.00 each. The money goes to aid troopers who have fallen on hard times due to illness, etc. If you would like to have a list of the drawings Lou has produced, please write to him: 1710 Northeast 139th Street, North Miami, Florida 33181 (phone: 204-891-8737).

Official Commemorative Video
Celebrating the
Dedication of the
BATTLE OF THE BULGE
National Monument



Commissioned by the Delaware Valley Chapter of Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, this commemorative video highlights the dedication of the Battle of the Bulge National Monument.

Celebrated at the Valley Forge Military Academy and College on November 12, 1994, this historic event features dramatic speeches by prominent dignitaries. Witness this special dedication honoring all who served in the greatest battle ever fought by American Forces and ever famous American victory.



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CHRISTMAS AND THE WEATHER AS SEEN THROUGH THE EYES OF GENERAL GEORGE S. PATTON

[THE STATIC LINE, the newsletter of the 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, in its December, 1994, issue, published an article regarding General Patton. We have excerpted portions of that article for your enjoyment. LOU VARRONE is credited with the portrait of Patton.]

You all know the story of Patton's boast that he would make the approximate 100 mile trip to Bastogne to relieve the troops at Bastogne. We are also sure that many of you have read many times the prayer (written by his chaplain) which he offered for better weather. The prayer was reproduced on a small card and on its reverse side was printed a Christmas greeting from the general. We reproduce both here for you.



**GENERAL
GEORGE S.
PATTON**
by Lou Varrone

The Prayer:

"Almighty and merciful Father, we humbly beseech Thee of Thy great goodness, to restrain these immoderate rains with which we have had to contend. Grant us fair weather for battle. Graciously hearken to us as soldiers who call upon Thee, that armed with Thy power, we may advance from victory to victory, and crush the oppression and wickedness of our enemies, and establish Thy justice among men and nations. Amen."

Christmas Greeting:

"To each officer and soldier in the Third United States Army, I wish you a Merry Christmas. I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle. We march in our might to complete victory. May God's blessings rest upon each of you on this Christmas Day."

(Signed) G. S. Patton, Jr.
Lieutenant General

Commanding, Third United States Army



Sgt. John Opanowski, a member of the 10th Armd Div, emerges from a dugout built under the snow in the Bastogne area, where his unit was taking cover from heavy German Artillery fire. /US Army



FT. MEADE MD, FEB. 11, 1995. Grover Twiner presents a copy of the Certificate of Service to Edward Radzwich at the Executive Council Meeting at the Ft. Meade Golf Club. Radzwich and John Bowen (c) were instrumental in the design and mechanical of the certificate.



PRESENTATION OF CHAPTER CHARTER TO OHIO VALLEY CHAPTER 3/29/94 - L/R John Malay, John Paczak, Grover Twiner, VP/VBOB and Jack Miller, Chapter President.

WINTER, 1944-45

*This year also spring will come
to beautify the earth.*

*The glory in each icy clod
even now awaits its birth.*

*Spring will come to this hurt land.
Its face will then be gay.*

*The splendor latent in each bough
will swell, then burst and sway.*

*Winter yields each year to spring-
it's nature's rule, so be it.*

*Even this year spring will come
and some of us will see it.*

Dale R. Carver - 424th Inf. - 106th Inf. Div.

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BATTLE OF THE BULGE COMMEMORATIVE WATCH

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ONLY \$75!



ORDER FORM

Thanks to the large number of reservations received for the commemorative watch, we are delighted to be able to go through with its production. Reservations with your deposit check of \$30 per watch are still accepted. If you order after May 1, we will request payment in full with your order. Watches will ship early / mid May.

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President Roosevelt's SS Troops... (Old Hickory)

30th Division Traps Nazis in La Glieze

U.S. First Army Headquarters, Western Front,
Jan. 5, 1945 - (AP.)

One of the most spectacular jobs in stopping the German drive northward when Field Marshal von Rundstedt opened his Dec. 16 offensive was done by the 30th (Old Hickory) Infantry Division.

This Division, in which Tennessee born mountaineers are liberally sprinkled, is commanded by Major General L.S. Hobbs, Washington, D. C.

The Hickorymen, who reached the battle front after a 48-mile march from the Roer River south of Julich, first halted the Nazis before they could filter through the Malmedy bottleneck and then kicked them out of Stavelot.

It trapped a sizeable armored force west of Stavelot and in dozens of clashes destroyed 92 German tanks and hundreds of other armored and supply vehicles and self-propelled guns—probably more than any other division.

It took 324 prisoners, buried 117 German dead and ran enemy casualties into the thousands.

Earlier the division participated in beating off some of the heaviest German counterattacks when the enemy tried to cut American armies in half at Mortain and St. Barthelmy in Normandy, and spearheaded the American drive through the Siegfried Line north of Aachen. It has been in action continuously since nine days after the invasion of Normandy.

After stopping the German drive at Stavelot, the 30th continued in a hot spot as the Germans attacked again and again in a frantic effort to gain control of a vital road network leading to Liege.

In support of the 117th Infantry Battalion under Lt. Col. Robert E. Frankland of Jackson, Tenn. (whose brother Walter is a lieutenant colonel on the division staff), the 118th Field Artillery Battalion claimed the destruction of 200 vehicles and killing of 2,000 of the enemy in a three day battle.

The 119th Regiment, after taking up a defensive position when it met more than 30 German tanks east of Stoumont, became part of a task force under Brig. Gen. William K. Harrison, Jr., of Pulaski, Tenn., and figured along with elements of a veteran armored division in the clean-up of La Glieze.

The 120th Regiment under Col. Branner P. Purdue of Fayetteville, Ark., held firm in the Malmedy sector where it fought off repeated German attacks along a main approach to Liege.

The 117th Infantry Regiment under Col. Walter M. Johnson of Circle W. Ranch, Ovando, Mont., was one of the first units in the line for the 30th.

After a 48 mile march under almost constant harassment from German fighter planes the 117th moved into Malmedy, thrust on to Stavelot, held part of the town and beat off two attacks in less than a day and half after being alerted.



The trip south was a nightmare in both planning and execution. The Commanding General and the operations officer left to report to V Corps and then continued south. Orders arrived from both V Corps and First Army. Roads were clogged, particularly from Eupen to the south, where civilians and military refugees streamed back. In Eupen parked cars held up the convoys. During the night the Luftwaffe was active over the column, but fortunately dropped more flares than bombs and failed to hurt the column. Army needed a regimental combat team right away and tried to get the lead column. The 119th had detrucked for the night, however, and the second column, that of the 117th, was instead routed through, with instructions to seize and defend Stavelot and Malmedy. The 119th paused in Hauset, Belgium, just south of Aachen, the first night and then proceeded south on the afternoon of the 18th.

Most of the troops had little idea of what they were going to do. Some heard for the first time when the voice of Axis Sal, the German radio commentator, coming through jeep-mounted radios, told them that the "fanatical 30th Division, Roosevelt's SS troops," was going to the rescue of First Army.*

From the 30th Division History in World War II

*Axis Sally previously proclaimed the 30th Division had been wiped out.

OLD HICKORYMAN TURNS DOWN FURLOUGH IN U.S. With the 30th Infantry Division. — T/Sgt. Frederick Unger turned down a 30-day furlough in the U.S. the other day to stick with his platoon in combat on the Western Front.

Unger, who has been awarded the DSC, the Silver and Bronze Stars and the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf cluster, was the No. 1 man in his outfit when rest and recuperation furloughs to the States were handed out. In combat six months, he has fought with the 30th through Normandy all the way up to the Siegfried Line.

But when he was offered the furlough, he declined, saying: "I'm adjusted to combat now, and I don't want to have to readjust myself to it after a furlough at home. When I go home, I want to go home to stay."

Unger, a heavy weapons platoon sergeant from Long Island and the 119th regiment, won his DSC for ordering the men of his platoon to shelter during an artillery barrage while he stayed out in the open to direct mortar fire. Stunned and shaken by a shell blast nearby, he was taken under protest to the aid station, and insisted on returning to the lines the next day.

THE STARS AND STRIPES - Dec. 22, 1944

**50TH VICTORIES COMMEMORATION PROGRAM
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
September 3-6, 1995**

•SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3•

9:30 a.m. - Noon	Registration at Airport Hilton
Noon - 2:00 p.m.	Lunch on your own
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Registration and Socializing
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Reception - Ballroom and Hospitality Room open

•MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4•

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Registration
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Lunch on your own
12:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Tour: Alamo, Fort Sam Houston Mission, San Jose, King William District
6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Texas Hill Country/Ranch Bar-B-Q

•TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5•

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Tour #1: LBJ Ranch, Bavarian Inn, Nimitz Museum (Shopping after lunch at the Bavarian Inn) OR
9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Tour #2: Shopping in Fredericksburg, Nimitz Museum and lunch at the Bavarian Inn
6:00 p.m.	Dinner on your own and Hospitality Room open

•WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6•

8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Registration for late arrivals
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Business Meeting - Ballroom
11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.	Lunch--On your own
1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Bus to Plaza for Plaque Dedication in Veterans Plaza
4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Bus Returns to Hotel
7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.	Banquet: Speakers and Entertainment - Ballroom

•THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7•

Times to be announced	Religious services
	Head for home

BATTLE OF THE BULGE
50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION
of the Victories of 1945: Bulge, VE Day and VJ Day
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS - SEPTEMBER 3-6, 1995

COMMEMORATION REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address: _____

Wife/Guest Name: _____

Division: _____ Regiment: _____

Unit or Company: _____

Signature: _____

	Number of Persons	Cost per Person	Total
Sunday, September 3, 1995:			
Registration, Buffet and Dedication Transportation	_____	\$45.00	_____
Monday, September 4, 1995:			
Alamo City Tour: 12:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	_____	\$21.00	_____
Ranch Bar-B-Q: 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.	_____	\$50.00	_____
Tuesday, September 5, 1995:			
Tour #1: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.			
LBJ Ranch, Bavarian Inn, Nimitz Museum			
(Shopping after lunch at Bavarian Inn)	_____	\$49.00	_____
OR			
Tour #2: 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.			
Shopping in Fredericksburg, Nimitz Museum			
and lunch at the Bavarian Inn	_____	\$45.00	_____
Wednesday, September 6, 1995:			
Anniversary Banquet with Registration	_____	\$38.00	_____
Anniversary Banquet	_____	\$45.00	_____
for Those Who Attend Banquet ONLY	_____		_____
Total Amount Enclosed			\$ _____

Mail Registration Form and check to:
 Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge • P.O. Box 11129 • Arlington, VA 22210-2129

SAN ANTONIO HOTEL/TRAVEL INFORMATION & INFORMATION ON LOCAL TOURS

HOTEL INFORMATION

Airport Hilton Hotel • Headquarters Hotel

611 N.W. Loop 410, San Antonio, Texas 78216-5504
Reservations: 210-340-6060 OR 1-800-HILTONS
Rates*: Single/Double \$79; Executive Single/Double \$94; Alcove \$129;
or Penthouse \$325

Holiday Inn-Airport Conference Center

77 N.E. Loop 410, San Antonio, Texas 78216-5855
Reservations: 210-349-9900 OR 1-800-HOLIDAY
Rates*: Single/Double \$75

* Rates do not include state and local taxes.

Each Hotel furnishes transportation to and from SAT Airport as well as free shuttle between hotels--shuttle service is provided to the several nearby shopping malls. Parking facilities at both hotels are free.

Make your reservations early for September 3-6, 1995. There is a three-day window on arrival and departure. Please identify yourself as an attendee for the VBOB Commemoration to obtain the above rates.

AIRLINE INFORMATION

Southwest Airlines has been designated the Official Airline for the BoB Victories Commemoration. To take advantage of their special discounted fares call Southwest Airlines Group Desk at 1-800-433-5368 before August 23, 1995, and refer to Identifier Code N1495. Discounts available only by using this number.

Or, call Bridget Collect 410-788-8300 for reservations.

Other 800 Numbers for Airlines:

Delta: 1-800-221-1212
Northwest: 1-800-225-2525
United: 1-800-241-6522
American: 1-800-433-7300
Continental: 1-800-468-7022
USAir: 1-800-428-4322



AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION



Star Shuttle: (Reservations: 210-366-3183)
24-hour shuttle service. Departure from all

designated hotels downtown will be on a request basis. Fares: One way \$7 adults; \$4.00 each additional person traveling with one full paying passenger. Senior citizens \$4.00. 24-hour advance reservation recommended.

Taxicab: Metered service based on \$2.80 for the first mile and \$1.10 for each additional mile. Four ride for the price of one. Prices subject to change.

RAIL PASSENGER SERVICE

Amtrak: Service available from some locations. Call: 1-800-872-7245.



.....

*TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

*** Monday, September 4--An Afternoon in the Alamo City:** Transportation by motorcoach. **IMAX:** A 45-minute feature film which will bring the battle of the Alamo to life. **Alamo:** the most famous spot in Texas where all 188 defenders fell on March 6, 1836, at the hands of General Santa Anna's army. **Fort Sam Houston:** The home of the 5th Army and Brooke Army Medical Center which was established in 1876 and the site of the first military flight. **Mission San Jose:** Established in 1720, the mission became the most beautiful, most prosperous and best fortified of all Texas missions. **King William District:** Drive through this historic area which was established by German immigrants in the middle to late 1800's.



*** Monday, September 4, Evening--Texas Hill Country/Ranch Bar-B-Q:** Travel by motorcoach to the tiny town of **Welfare, Texas**, to visit one of the loveliest ranches in the Texas hill country. There will be open bars and the sound of country and western music throughout the evening. A Texas barbecue with all the trimmings will be served. A very special Texas evening.

*** Tuesday, September 5, Tour #1:** Travel by motorcoach for tram accommodations to the **LBJ Ranch**. You will visit the one-room school house attended by Johnson in 1912, tour his reconstructed birthplace and the nearby Johnson Family Cemetery where Johnson is buried. The LBJ itself is an working ranch with cattle and other ranching operations. On to **Fredericksburg** which was settled by German immigrants in the early 1800's. There will be a lunch at the **Bavarian Inn** which has an old German atmosphere, customs and good food. After lunch and shopping there will be a visit to the **Nimitz Museum** and the Nimitz Steamboat Hotel which contains a three-story museum of the Pacific War.

*** Tuesday, September 5, Tour #2:** Same as Tour #1 with the exception that it does not include the trip to the LBJ Ranch and it's related sites.

**Please bear in mind that prices are contingent upon 40 persons occupying a motorcoach. It is necessary for us to handle these on a first-come first-served basis. It will be necessary for us to advise the company each time we require an additional bus and it will also be necessary to cancel when we do not have a sufficient number.*

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

I request an 11" x 17" Certificate (shown in previous newsletter issues) and certify that I received credit for the Ardennes Campaign during my military service. Certificates are available to **all** who served in the Battle of the Bulge.

I would like the following information on the certificate: **(Please print clearly.)**

First Name _____ MI _____ Last Name _____ Serial Number _____

Organization: Company, Battalion and/or Regiment, Division _____ Rank (Optional) _____

☐ Hold for framing* ☐ Killed in action _____ ☐ Died of Wounds Received _____

*Cost of simulated walnut framing with plastic overlay and four decorative tacks will be \$30.00 plus \$5.00 shipping and handling. The frames will be available early June and will measure 13" x 19".

MAILING INFORMATION:

Name _____ Telephone Number _____

Street Address _____ Apt No. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip + 4 Code _____

Signature and date _____

Make checks or money orders in the amount of \$15.00 for each certificate payable to VBOB and mail to: VBOB, PO Box 11129, Arlington, VA 22210-2129. (We can process your order quicker if you provide a separate check.)

Please direct all questions to John D. Bowen, 613 Chichester Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20904-3331 or call 301-384-6533.

**UP-DATE ON THE
BULGE & NORMANDY TOUR VIDEO**

Several months ago we announced that a video tape of the VBOB 50th Anniversary Bulge tour of Belgium and Luxembourg which took place in late October 1994 and the VBOB tour of the Normandy beach area in early November would become available. We are happy to announce that the tape should be in the hands of all who ordered by the time you receive this newsletter. If not, please write to John Bowen and he will check into the matter. The tape included six hours of video regarding Luxembourg and Belgium and two hours relating to Normandy. Requests, along with your check or money order for \$33.75, should be sent to: John D. Bowen, 613 Chichester Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20904-3331, telephone: 301-384-6533 Maryland residents should add \$1.50 to cover sales tax.

**50TH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCE
VIDEO TAPE
AVAILABILITY UP-DATE**

A video tape of the highlights and ceremonies of the VBOB 50th Anniversary Commemoration in St. Louis, Missouri, this past December will be available by the end of June, 1995. It was originally announced they would be available in May, but work on other projects has necessitated delay. If you have not yet ordered and would like to receive this tape please send your check or money order payable to John Bowen in the amount of \$33.75 to: John D. Bowen, 613 Chichester Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20904-3331 Phone: 301-384-6533. Maryland residents should include \$1.50 State Tax.

REUNIONS

2ND INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, July 25-29, 1995, Baltimore, Maryland. Contact: Bill Creech, P.O. Box 460, Buda, Texas 78610.

3RD CAVALRY GROUP, October 13-15, 1995, El Paso, Texas. Contact: Preston Utterback, 4320 Bellair Drive South #115, West Fort Worth, Texas 70109.

4TH INFANTRY DIVISION, July 23-30, 1995, Sheraton Tara Hotel, Braintree, Massachusetts. Contact: Heikki J. Fager, Box 384, Carver, Massachusetts 02330.

4TH ARMORED DIVISION ASSOCIATION, August 16-20, 1995, Airport Marriott Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri. Contact: Samuel A. Schenker, 1823 Shady Drive, Farrell, Pennsylvania 16121. Telephone: 412-342-6058.

6TH ARMORED DIVISION ASSOCIATION, September 13-17, 1995, Orlando, Florida. Contact: Edward F. Reed, P.O. Box 5011, Louisville, Kentucky 40255-0011.

9TH ARMORED DIVISION, 2ND TANK BATTALION, September 7-10, 1995, Memphis, Tennessee. Contact: Ruth Ganser, 713 5th Street, Mosinee, Wisconsin 54455. Telephone: 715-693-3104.

9TH ARMORED DIVISION, 14TH TANK BATTALION, August 30-September 3, 1995, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Contact: Dee Paris, 13110 Holdridge Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20906.

9TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, July 26-29, 1995, Towson, Maryland. Contact: Wayne E. Stephens, 2710 Kings Point Road, Polson, Montana 59860. Telephone: 406-883-3003.

11TH ARMORED DIVISION, 55TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, COMPANY B, September 14-17, 1995, Bloomington, Minnesota. Contact: Robert Teply, 15360 Highland Place, Minnetonka, Minnesota 55345. Telephone: 612-938-6616.

13TH FIELD ARTILLERY OBSERVATION BATTALION, September 24-28, 1995, Las Vegas, Nevada. Contact: Lew H. Johnson, 12619 NE 192nd Place, Bothell, Washington 98011. Telephone: 206-483-6674.

17TH AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION, September 7-10, 1995, Denver Colorado. Contact: Ed Siergiej, 62 Forth Acre Mountain Road, Danbury, Connecticut 06811-3353.

28TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 110TH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION, September 8-10, 1995, Hampton, Virginia. Contact: Stanley F. Rex, P.O. Box 24933, Rochester, New York 14624. Telephone: 716-235-2165.

30TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, June 8-12, 1995, Melville (Long Island), New York. Contact: Warren Cadiz, 154 Montgomery Avenue, Oceanside, New York 11572. Telephone: 516-764-8977.

68TH MEDICAL REGIMENT, June 15-17, 1995, Days Inn Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport at Mall of America. Contact: Leo Vetvick, 4300 West River Parkway, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55406.

73RD ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, 9TH ARMORED DIVISION, September 11-14, 1995, San Antonio, Texas. Contact: Ed Capron, 10625 Kenlee Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70815. Telephone: 504-924-2158.

83RD INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, September 14-16, 1995, Landmary Resort Hotel, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Contact: Robert Derickson, 3749 Stahlheber Road, Hamilton, Ohio 45013. Telephone: 513-863-2199.

84TH INFANTRY DIVISION, August 5-9, 1995, Holiday Inn East, Springfield, Illinois. Contact: Donald Lee, 303 Augustine Way, Normal, Illinois 61761. Telephone: 309-452-4092.

86TH CHEMICAL MORTAR BATTALION ASSOCIATION, May 31-June

4, 1995, Pittsfield, New York. Contact: John B. Deasy, 1830-30th Avenue, San Francisco, California 94122. Telephone: 415-566-2177.

87TH INFANTRY DIVISION, September 17-24, 1995, Charleston, West Virginia. Contact: Charlie Miller, 712 Jefferson Road, South Charleston, West Virginia 25309. Telephone: 304-744-1204.

106TH INFANTRY DIVISION, September 7-9, 1995, Grosvenor Resort, Walt Disney World Village, Lake Buena Vista, Florida. Contact: Ted Slaby, 1103 Arbor Glen Circle, Winter Springs, Florida 32708. Telephone: 407-695-6264.

135TH ORDNANCE COMPANY, August 5, 1995, Montvale, New Jersey. Contact: Joe Galano, 21 Shore Blvd., Keansburg, New Jersey 07734. Telephone: 908-787-3016.

164TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, September 11-14, 1995, Comfort Inn, Martinsburg, West Virginia. Contact: Mario A. Picciacchio, 934 Wallis Avenue, Farrell, Pennsylvania 16121.

268TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, September, Neenah, Wisconsin. Contact: Otis L. Rice, 302 Pheasant Run, Kaukauna, Wisconsin 54130. Telephone: 414-766-9176.

482ND AAA AW BATTALION (SP), September 27-October 1, 1995, Williamsburg, Virginia. Contact: Chuck Gregorovich, 908 Williams Street, St. Marys, Ohio 45885-1562. Telephone: 419-394-3548.

486TH ORDNANCE EVACUATION COMPANY, September 1-3, 1995, Ithaca, New York. Contact: Tom Horton, 1100 Lydia Street, Louisville, Kentucky 40217. Telephone: 502-634-8544.

501ST PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT, July 13-15, 1995, Green Bay, Wisconsin. Contact: Glenn Johnson, 6133 Journeys End Road, Rhinelander, Wisconsin 54501. Telephone: 715-362-6546.

511TH ENGINEERS LIGHT PONTON COMPANY, June 21-24, 1995, Eden Resort Inn/Conference Center, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Contact: Jerry Guenter, 1013 Fitzallen Road, Glen Burnie, Maryland 21060. Telephone: 410-766-8577.

552ND AAA AW BATTALION, BATTERY B, May 19-20, 1995, Holiday Inn, Waco, Texas. Contact: Searcy Larabee, 215 Crestwood, Fredericksburg, Texas 78624. Telephone: 210-997-1925.

609TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION ASSOCIATION, September 13-16, 1995. Contact: George O. Funke, 3260 Oakford Road, Trevoze, Pennsylvania 19053.

676TH ENGINEER LIGHT EQUIPMENT COMPANY, June 1-4, 1995, Radisson Hotel Lincolnwood, Chicago, Illinois. Contact: John Pesta, 2003 Castleton Drive, Troy, Michigan 48083. Telephone: 810-524-9813.

740TH TANK BATTALION ASSOCIATION, August 31-September 3, 1995, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Contact: Harry F. Miller, 2410 West Manor Place #307, Seattle, Washington 98199. Telephone: 206-283-8591.

745TH TANK BATTALION ASSOCIATION, September 8-10, 1995, Drake Oakbrook Hotel, Oakbrook, Illinois. Contact: A. G. Spencer, 760 Glen Avenue, Marseilles, Illinois 61341. Telephone: 815-795-4838.

940TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, September, Neenah, Wisconsin. Contact: Otis L. Rice, 302 Pheasant Run, Kaukauna, Wisconsin 54130. Telephone: 414-766-9176.

987TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, October 5-7, 1995, Ye English Inn, Hollister, Missouri 65672. Contact: W. D. Crawford, Route 1, Box 526A, Ore City, Texas 75683. Telephone: 903-968-6350.

ALSO MAKE YOUR PLANS TO ATTEND THE VBOB MEETING IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, SEPTEMBER 3-6, 1995. WE WANT TO SEE YOU THERE. (DETAILS CONTAINED THROUGHOUT THIS ISSUE.)



**Living
Legends**

Memorable Bulge Incidents

**UNEDITED AND
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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.

CHRISTMAS IN THE ARDENNES

AT THE MERCY OF A GERMAN FIELD DOCTOR

December 1944

December 19, 1944

**James W. Gardner
106th Infantry Division
422nd Infantry Regiment
2nd Battalion HQ
Shelbyville, Indiana**

I was wounded and captured on the evening of December 19, 1944, during the Battle of the Bulge. I was taken down the hill to the town of Shoneburg, Germany.

On the morning of the 21st of December, I found myself in a building that was supposed to be a field hospital. I was placed on the floor to await my turn to see the German doctor, or medic. While waiting, I watched several Germans and Americans enter and leave and I could hear painful noises coming from the room where the German doctor was. Many of the Americans coming from the room looked worse than when they went in.

While all of this was going on, I was becoming more and more tense. I wondered how I was going to fare. Soon it came my turn, or at least the German with the rifle motioned for me to get up. I did not obey him at first, but after he poked me with his rifle I got up and hopped into the room. Upon entering, I saw two Germans standing beside a table. They motioned for me to get up on the table. I did get up on the table, but I sat up so I could see what they were going to do. I decided I would at least kick them with my good leg if they tried anything funny. The German with the instrument pushed me back down on my back. I, again, sat up and immediately got hit across the nose with the instrument. I decided that I was going to be the loser, so I just turned my head so I could see what was going to happen.

After several words spoken by the Germans, they proceeded to open my wounds with a sharp instrument. This allowed the wounds to bleed some more, which I suppose was about all they could do. Paper bandages were then applied, no medication was used. They then ordered me down from the table and out the door. I hopped back to my place in the outer room, very much relieved that I still had my leg, and waited for the next of many exciting experiences which were to come.

**John C. Nowell, Jr.
84th Infantry Division
84th Division Artillery HQ
Trenton, Tennessee**

It was fifty years ago, but I remember it well. Perhaps it would be well for all of us to remember, to compare, to re-evaluate our lives and our world at this Christmas season. In 1944, I was a member of the 84th Infantry Division assigned to the Division Artillery Headquarters. Our sector of the Siegfried Line was north of Aachen, next to the British, and we were preparing for a push. The 2nd Armored Division was still with us, the 7th Armored had been brought up, and 102nd Division was on our right, the British 43rd Division on our left. Close by was our own 29th and 30th Divisions. Several separate artillery groups and engineer battalions were in our area. The plans were drawn up, we were waiting on more artillery ammunition, and the weather to clear for aerial reconnaissance and aerial support.

Then it happened - December 16, 1944. A small offensive was launched against us, while forty miles south, under cover of clouds and bad weather, Hitler threw a massive punch at the poorly manned line in the Ardennes forest. This was the historic corridor, used by the Germans in 1914, 1940, and again in 1944. The German investment was heavy - 28 divisions. Their plan was to break our lines, reach the Meuse River, turn north to the North Sea, separating the British and United States 1st and 9th Armies from the rest. Then without supplies, we were supposed to surrender. Another spearhead of German troops was to drive across the Meuse and on to Paris.

The 7th Armored hit the roads on December 18th, then on the 19th, we were told to prepare to move and on December 20th, a cold, rainy, snowy day we headed south to fight the "Bulge." We were rerouted four times after we left Geilenkirchen, Germany, always further west until we arrived at nightfall at Marche, Belgium, 17 miles north of Bastogne.

Both Bastogne and Marche were road centers and must be taken by the Germans for their plan to succeed.

For three days we were cut off, surrounded by German troops, but then the 2nd Armored came crashing through from the north linking us again with our friends. Besides the heavy snow, three feet deep with deeper drifts, was occasional sleet and ever-present fog. It was difficult to distinguish friend from foe.

Then the fog began to lift, and it got colder, and the Germans began to run out of gas, literally. As supplies began to reach us, particularly artillery shells, we were able to stop the armor and transports of the Panzer divisions.

White coveralls finally came through so our troops were hard to see against the snow and the tide of war began to turn.

No mail arrived, no packages from home; our whereabouts were unknown, (except to the Germans) because we had placed on the army Secret List. All the war maps in the newspapers showed our town of Marche in German hands!

As our forces began slowly to push back the enemy, we found the going rougher than ever. After Marche there were no houses to get into, no towns to provide shelter. They had all been burned or shelled. The ground was too frozen to dig and the forest offered the only protection from the wind.

The finally we were near a little Belgium town, nestled in a valley, and most of its war scars hidden by fresh snow. It was announced that we would have turkey, dressing and cranberries.

On the hillside, overlooking the little town, whose church steeple was still standing, we unpacked the chaplain's organ and sang every Christmas hymn, carol, or song we knew.

We thanked God for being alive, and being there. There were no gifts, no Christmas cards, but a warm glow of thanksgiving and fellowship covered us as the fog had shortly before.

A truer meaning of Christmas was in each of our hearts, a closeness to the Holy Birth, I had never felt before.

Then someone asked what day it was, and the Captain replied, "January 3, 1945."

RELIEF OF BASTOGNE WAS COMPLETED

December 1944

Joseph Drasler
80th Infantry Division
317th Infantry Regiment
L Company
Denver, Colorado

In retrospect, the resistance we encountered at Wiltz and Farbersviller proved to be only a prelude to what was to occur at Bastogne.

On the afternoon of December 19th we boarded trucks and moved 150 miles north to Gonderange/Luxembourg, where in the next three days swift preparations were made for carrying out 317th's role in the Battle of the Bulge.

With little food or water remaining after maneuvering over the frozen, inhospitable countryside, we encountered enemy resistance in the vicinity of Niederfalten on Christmas Day - a day I shall never forget. It turned into one of the bloodiest battles L Company and its supporting companies would fight during the entire war.

In frigid weather, over frozen snow covered ground, the attack began up an open hillside that stretched for miles to its top. A hill that would be remembered forever by 317 doughs as "Bloody Knob." Withering artillery, mortar, machine gun and rifle fire greeted us from every direction.

We forged ahead through murderous opposition, driving the enemy from one position after another. It was pure hell, fought in the worse weather conditions ever experienced in those parts. Casualties mounted like wildfire, overwhelming our medics and leaving wounded men to depend on battlefield buddies to get

them back to a road, where they could be picked up and rushed to the hospital. On two occasions I helped wounded men off the hill. Buddies who were so badly disabled they were helpless against enemy counter-attacks. Their letters I received after the war, expressed eternal gratitude.

When darkness descended on that sad day, confusion was so widespread no one could locate their company CPs. It took days before we were able to regroup. In one fierce day of battle, I and about a dozen other survivors of L Company became the "oldtimers" of the outfit. And at the end of that day of infamy, I also ended up in the 305th Medical Battalion hospital in Niederfalten, with frozen feet.

Relief of Bastogne was completed. The German hope for a major break-through had collapsed. German troops soon lost faith in the ultimate victory and enemy resistance disintegrated into isolated points of resistance.

How true rang the words, "Soldiers are citizens of death's grey land." The most experienced soldier finds it difficult to recreate a true picture of the horrors of war. And even the electronic media with all of its technical knowhow, produces mostly phony scenarios.



Joseph Drasler

YOU MAKE THEM MPs

December 1944

Joseph Episcopo
383rd M.P. Battalion
C Company
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

The 383rd M.P. Battalion was activated late November at Rheims 1944. It was made up of mostly ex-combat men. Not bad enough to send home, not good enough to send back into combat. So what do you do with them? You make them M.P.s.

From Rheims we went to Cherbourg to start training with a regular M.P. outfit. We learned town patrol, training ground and whatever else was needed. It wasn't long after we were there that news of a breakthrough in Belgium. So many men from each company was picked to go. I was one of them. We traveled by truck for two days and two nights stopping only for nature's call. Most of us were silent because we didn't know what to expect. The second day we went through Paris at four in the afternoon. We got a big welcome. At midnight we went through Brussels. All was quiet. At one in the morning on the 23rd we arrived at our destination, Namur, Belgium. We were staying at a housing project. Some buildings were finished, some weren't. Ours had heat and light but no furniture. We slept where we could, but we didn't get much sleep. Our job was to load German P.W. on trains and get them out of there, fast. We did get a break and we visited the town. Our British allies were in control of the town. We could go anywhere, but we were not allowed to take our weapons. That was dumb. The people were leaving with whatever they could carry. If the

Germans had arrived at that time we would not have been able to protect ourselves. We had to rely on the British, so we were safe.

Christmas eve - all night we got no sleep at all. We loaded P.W. train after train.

We got a break in the morning so we could have breakfast. The mess hall was two blocks away.

On the morning of the 25th I was on my way to the mess hall and I loaded up. I couldn't see the sky. It was full of planes of all kinds. And also dog fights were going on. I could hear the machine guns.

When I got back to our building the boys were laughing. I found out that the man we called "Pop," he was 40 years old, was on his way back from mess when a plane dropped it's empty gas tank and it exploded near him. Lucky for him he had on his GI overcoat and it saved him from serious damage. He said it was like somebody hit him in the chest. It knocked the wind out of him.

At noon on the 25th we loaded our train and left there. We had 1,720 PWs and 32 guards. It took us four days to get to Cherbourg arriving on the 29th at 1:00 a.m. where a fresh load of MPs took over.

We were beat, and some of the fellows were sick. We had no trouble all the way home. Everytime the train stopped we had to get off and check the doors. We treated them like they treated their prisoners. But we didn't have it much better except we could get off and leave our doors opened. We were all glad to get back.

.....

ANDY

December, 1944

Joseph W. Bulkeley
10th Armored Division
61st Armored Infantry Battalion
B Company
Pinellas Park, Florida

Andy was a little older than the rest of us. He was our first platoon barber. He came from Detroit and had been married to Miriam 15 years. Miriam had sent Andy a scarf she had knitted herself, and when Andy wore his scarf in those bitter cold days and Ardennes nights he looked like Uncle Wiggley, the big rabbit from our nursery rhyme days.

Andy would never have been another Audie Murphy, but he had a sharp eye for a buddy who had a long face and obviously was troubled, and many times Andy said to me, "Somethings bothering you, Joseph. After chow let's you and I go back to the barracks and have a little talk. What do you say?"

We'd begun a dismounted attack before dawn in the freezing cold in Luxembourg in conjunction with elements of the 4th Infantry Division. Later the sun came up and it was a gloriously sunny day, but deadly because German mortar men found our range and started to make big holes in our combat teams. But we weathered the firestorm and later in the afternoon when the sun was beginning to sink low in the winter sky, we followed our tanks into a wooded section, and for some reason we felt safe. Is it because we were Americans and Americans think when it's Christmas nothing very bad is going to happen?

The Germans let us enter that woods and then they clobbered us, and in less than an hour we had lost a lot of men through death and wounds. Later things quieted down and we found

German fox holes to climb into. The night turned bitter cold but there was a great big full moon up there.

Joe Stefanisko, a boy from Pennsylvania, came to the fox hole I was sharing with Henry Capistrant from Holyoke, Massachusetts. Joe squatted down at the lip of our fox hole. "Andy got it," he said in a low voice. "Little piece of metal from a tree burst came down, it went through Andy's helmet and helmet liner and his cloth cap. I don't think Andy ever knew what happened. When we found him we thought he'd dropped off to sleep."

In some ways, men in an armored division had it easier than regular infantry. For one thing, we trained two full years stateside before we left for overseas. Tenth Armored became a division in the summer of 1942, and the bulk of us enlisted men had reached Sand Hill at Fort Benning by Thanksgiving Day. And we didn't pull out of Camp Gordon for port of embarkation until early September, 1944. But to get back to Andy Klein of Detroit. Andy's death hit us hard, and Joe Stefanisko said when our second platoon commander heard Andy got it, he broke down and cried like a baby.

How many of you guys were in Luxembourg on Christmas Day, 1944? It was a beautiful day. Around noon they brought in the mail and I remember to this day how surprised I was. Because some of my letters had been written only a couple of weeks back, while others were dated way back in September.

A herd of deer ran through our positions. The sun went down and it got frosty-cold and word went around elements of the 5th Infantry Division would take over our positions.

These 5th Division guys were real veterans. They'd been in the fight since early September and us 10th Armored guys had seen our first action at Metz about the 8th of November. The 5th Division came into the forest and took over our positions and they worked quietly and efficiently, and when they were done we filed out of that forest in single file. We came onto a little road and followed it for miles under a great big gorgeous moon that threw gigantic shadows across the snowy landscape. Somebody said we were going to Christmas dinner.

Maybe it was a sort of intuition. Something told me we were finished with the Battle of the Bulge, and you know what? We ate our Christmas dinner at 3:00 on the morning of December 26, 1944 and then we got some sleep where we could hear the sharp crack-crack of an artillery duel. Later, as it came daylight, we stood by our armored vehicles and at a hot chow, and then we mounted up. We passed another armored division going in the opposite direction, and years later, in all the reading I did I learned it was the 6th Armored Division who'd had Christmas dinner down in Metz, mounted up and were headed for Bastogne.

.....

DEPRESSED AND TRAPPED

December 1944

Elmer E. Libby
2nd Infantry Division
23rd Infantry Regiment
D Company
Charlemon, Massachusetts

December 16, 1944, we were attached to B Company, 1st Battalion, at Elsenborn Ridge. Our regiment was to attack pillboxes, etc. on December 17, 1944, to secure Roer River Dams in Monschau Forest.

Due to snowing and wind, we crawled into pup tents and sleeping bags for dryness and warmth. At 1900 hours, in blizzard conditions, we were given orders to go to Hunningen.

We rode in open trucks. The ride ended because of drifts, so we walked all night. Around 600 hours December 17, 1944, we arrived in Hunningen. We were ordered to Hunningen to give support to the 394th Infantry Regiment, 99th Infantry Division. Eleven D Company men were left at a house at the edge of town with food and ammunition. More men were to arrive later. At 800 hours, six of us left for two forward machine gun out posts. There was heavy German artillery through the night all around the area and in the town from 600 hours to about 800 hours.



Elmer E. Libby

The edge of town and wooded area were around 3,000 feet. The outpost was 1,500 feet from the edge of town. There was deep snow and wide open spaces. The outpost was a mound held by logs with dirt on top, and a hole to crawl in, and an open port for a gun. The quarters were cramped with sitting positions and glare ice for a floor. Hunger, cold, and lack of sleep make you feel depressed and trapped.

At 1600 hours, we were to get relieved. Instead, about one-half hour or more of German artillery, mortars that warmed up our adrenalin. When the shelling stopped, on came the S.S. The machine gun jammed, then I got it cleared and caught them unaware. By 1700 hours, the machine gun was knocked out of functioning. A German concussion hand grenade fell about three feet away. I reached for the grenade and it exploded. I had shrapnel headaches and ear aches. One of us, from the second gun crew, was killed by small arms fire.

When we were ordered out of the hole by the 12th S.S. Panzer Grenadier, troops knowing the fate of the machine gunners and of peppering the enemy when unaware, asked if we were Ruski and how we kept warm. Since I was the tallest and largest of the five prisoners, I was approached by a giant of the S.S. Unit. It seems that he was about seven foot tall and approximately 300 pounds. He talked to me in German. Because of my headaches and ear aches, I could not remember German at that time; so I said to him in French "No Compre." He took his rifle off his shoulder, took it by the barrel to swing like a bat. My thoughts right then were to kick him in the groin. Strangely enough, I did not kick and he did not swing. He just put the rifle on his shoulder and walked away. The other four men were amazed at the outcome, and to later learn of the not far away Malmedy Massacre. The start of my gray hairs at age 20. Five of us began a long, hard ordeal until we reached Hammelburg,

Germany, Stalag 13 C, workcamp. We were liberated May 9, 1945, 6 kilometers from Mooseburg by the 14th Armored Division. I went from 185 pounds down to 128 pounds.

[I was seriously wounded at Hill 192 in France on June 22, 1944, with gangrene in the left leg. I returned to combat in mid October at Kesfeld, Belgium. On a cold rainy night in November a German lieutenant defected to our position, telling us, in perfect English, of a large battle to happen. The 106th Infantry Division replaced us just a short time before the Bulge.

For the Bulge to be a reality, was it not another Pearl Harbor? I was the youngest and the sixth son of my family to take part in World War II.]

I COULD HAVE USED MORE SNOW

December 1944

Edward F. Schooner

A Company

50th Armored Infantry Battalion

6th Armored Division

Chalfont, Pennsylvania

After forced march as part of the 3rd Army thrust, fate placed us outside the City of Bastogne. A Christmas time night infiltration through the city had us replacing our comrades of the 4th Armored who were withdrawn towards Metz. We took our place alongside the brave men of the 101st.

As New Year's dawned, we were dug in scarcely a mile east of Bastogne, after having infiltrated to this forward position under cover of darkness. Our task force was assigned the left sector of the Combat Command Zone with the mission of taking the high ground east and northeast to Oubourcy and Michamps. This was to be a concerted assault all along the corps front.

At 0800 the attack got underway over snow covered ground and bitter cold. Opposition was moderate and at noon time we were in a position approximately one mile west of Arloncourt. Now enemy resistance stiffened and was to remain very strong for the remainder of the battle. Artillery fire was coming in from three sides but we were able to advance to the edge of a small woods west of Oubourcy. Resistance forced a halt for the night.

Meanwhile, Luftwaffe continued pounding Bastogne and later shifted its attack to the Battalion's position. Although bombed and strafed in the early evening, no casualties in our ranks resulted. The day had proven very difficult for the battalion but enemy casualties were heavy with four 77 mm anti-tank guns destroyed with their crews.

On the following day the first of a series of savage counterblows was repulsed by Company A--the task force then continued its own attack against strongly defended, dug-in positions. This mounted advance cleared the way to Oubourcy and Michamps. The enemy poured more and more troops into the sector and just before dawn on 3 January, new counter attacks were made against us. The attacks were repulsed but our casualties were very heavy. No replacements were available. The 501st Airborne Infantry was ordered further north to attack east on our left flank. The 50th was ordered to assume the 501st positions resulting in a very thin line. Poor visibility and swirling snow made our line an easy target for infiltration. Air and artillery support was impossible, so the battle reverted to a

(Continued from Page 19)

vicious duel between ground troops and tanks. All A Company officers became casualties. First Sergeant Rimmer took command until 6 January when enemy activity slackened. The time was used to improve positions and our artillery badly mauled a replacement enemy force.

On the night of 12 January A and B Companies moved into line with the 320th Infantry one-half mile east of Bastogne. Jump off was on time and the first objective, the town of Magaret, was in sight the early morning of 13 January. At about 0300 13 January, first and second scouts crested the hill overlooking Magaret and, in very deep snow, reached a large hay mound about half way down the hill and the outskirts of town.

Before the main body was to break cover and move down the hill, I moved forward with the walky-talky. Once at the hay mound with the scouts, radio transmission was to inform the company that the way was clear. Before I was half way to the hay mound, a burp-gun opened up. The rounds snapped over me. It was difficult to make any time in the deep snow, so I hit the ground hoping to sink in the snow enough. That was a mistake. Another burst hit the walky-talky that I was holding in my hand. I covered the few hundred yards to the hay stack in about a second. At that time, BAR's opened up from the top of the hill, and the two scouts and myself took off for the bottom of the hill and a fence of rocks and bushes. This lead to the farm house that was the predetermined CP. A rush to the house, plus the usual clearing methods, found about 30 enemy in the basement. About 10 were wounded, two very badly shot up. In addition there were some 40 civilians with the village priest down there.

It was about now that I realized that I was very, very cold, except my right arm was warm. A quick look informed me that I now had a second Purple Heart and a lot of problems because the only medic was German and all he had available was my first aid kit. I gave him that and a cigaret. Thank the Almighty, I was tired, cold and very hungry. There was no real pain until the aid station two days later.

BITTER DECEMBER

December 1944

Edward J. Smagala
44th Infantry Division
71st Infantry Regiment
3rd Battalion
M Company
Chicago, Illinois

From the 14th to the 19th of December, the Germans continued to subject the farm [where we were] to steady and heavy direct and indirect fire, sending in as many as thirty shells a minute.

I was staff sergeant and in charge of the first section of the 3rd Battalion 81 MM mortars, staff sergeant Charlie Riggins was in charge of the 2nd Section, Charlie came from a little town called Wink in Texas. I told Charlie if we ever get out of this it will be nothing short of a miracle. At the end of this period the heavy shelling had reduced to rubble every wall in the farm buildings that were originally three stories high.

Despite being buried many times under crumbling walls our men held their ground, we also secured the division flank. We accomplished our mission.

After a slight delay in action Charlie Riggins, and another

soldier, a Robert Whittenben from Needville, Texas and I were discussing when we were going to move on, and we were caught again in a artillery barrage, and some small arms firing. The three of us were all in one 81 MM mortar gun position hole. We then started to receive a lot of small arms firing at our gun position, bullets were flying all over us. Due to all the heavy small arms firing at us, Robert Whittenben started to panic a little, I told Charlie I hope we do not have to subdue Robert. I shouted and yelled at Robert and told him, look we're stuck here and we are not going anywhere. I then took my helmet off and placed it on top of my M-1 carbine, and raised it up over our hold. I have never seen so many bullet holes put into a helmet. Thank God we finally got out of there after dark. I got a replacement helmet, not new but used, probably taken and reissued from one of our KIA's. For our courageous accomplishments of our mission, and devotion to duty I Company and the first platoon of M Company were awarded the Presidential Citation.

PROFILE OF U.S. SERVICEMEN (1941 - 1945)

- * 38.8 percent (6,332,000) of U.S. servicemen and women were volunteers
- * 61.2 percent (11,535,000) were draftees. Of the 17,955,000 men examined for induction, 35.8 percent (6,420,000) were rejected as physically or mentally unfit.
- * Average duration of service 33 months.
- * Overseas Service: 73 percent served overseas, with an average of 16.2 months abroad.
- * Combat Survivability (out of 1,000): 8.6 were killed in action, 3 died from other causes, and 17.7 received nonmortal combat wounds.
- * Noncombat Jobs: 38.8 percent of the enlisted personnel had rear echelon assignments—administrative, technical, support, or manual labor.
- * Average Base Pay: Enlisted: \$71.33 per month; Officer: \$203.50 per month.

NO SWEAT ... "Jake" Schuffert

"The food is greasy, cold, badly cooked, tough, smells bad and—how come we can't get second helpin's?"



I love war and responsibility and excitement. Peace is going to be hell on me.

GENERAL GEORGE PATTON

MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

Associate Member Jeanne W. Price would like to hear from anyone who was in Givet, France, December 24-30, who might have known **JOHN K. "JACK" PRICE, 493RD REPLACEMENT COMPANY**. Officers who censored letters were: **LT. GILBERT, LT. ROBERT DURELL, CAPT. R. E. JOHNSON**. Write: Mrs. John K. Price, 319 Secret Valley, Kerrville, Texas 78028.

JOHN PATRICK served in **423RD ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, B BATTERY**. Can anyone provide information on this unit? Write: Helen Patrick, 1512 Oneida Drive, Jefferson Borough, Pennsylvania 15025.

K. C. Jacobsen would like to hear from anyone who may have served with his brother **HENRY "SWEDE" SWENSEN**. Henry served with the **75TH INFANTRY DIVISION**. Write to K.C. at 902A Hampshire Drive, Louisville, Kentucky 40207.

FRED A. LINN, 9TH ARMORED DIVISION, 149TH SIGNAL, HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, has advised that there is an Amateur Radio Network comprised of all radio amateurs who were former members of any armored unit. It's seven days a week on various frequencies in the Amateur Radio Bands. For more information write to Fred at: 5608 Edgewater Drive, Cedarburg, Wisconsin 53012.

John S. Martucci is looking for a photograph of a Coat of Arms designed by his father--**JOHN MARTUCCI, 26TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 104TH INFANTRY, 2ND BATTALION**. The Coat of Arms was a shield with a scroll ribbon over the top with the inscription "Honor Among Looters." He would also like information regarding a book entitled *History of a Combat Regiment 1939-1945 104th Infantry*. Write to John at: 72 Kiwanee Road, Warwick, Rhode Island 02888-3415.

Mary A. Prothe Green would like to hear from anyone who knew or served with her father--**FRED F. PROTHE, 602ND TANK DESTROYER**. He served with the 1st, 3rd and 7th Army, plus 28 different units. Mary also states that her father's belongings disappeared on the ship coming home and if anyone has pictures of her dad, etc., she would enjoy having a copy. Mary's address: 6009 East 261st Street, Cleveland, Missouri 64734.

EDWIN A. CALFEE, 6TH ARMORED DIVISION, 50TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, COMPANY B, would like to hear from anyone who served with him or the **6TH ARMORED DIVISION**. He can also be of assistance to you in securing your military awards. Address: 141 Shenley Avenue, Bluefield, Virginia 24605.

MERRELL A. COLEMAN, 158TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, COMPANY A, 1ST PLATOON, would like to hear from anyone who served in his company. Merrell's address: P.O. Box 398, Cedar Bluff, Alabama 35959.

MARK C. BECKER would like to correspond with a member from the **101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION** who was in or around Bastogne during the Bulge and is interested in hearing from anyone who may have photographs of Bastogne during that period or a return trip. You can reach him at: 5943 West Grace Street, Chicago, Illinois 60634-2645.

DONALD E. RIVETT is currently rewriting the history of the **1ST INFANTRY DIVISION** during the BoB period. He would like to hear from all who fought with the 1st either as part of the division or attached. He is particularly interested in hearing from members of the

634TH and 703RD TANK DESTROYER BATTALIONS, 745TH TANK BATTALION, 1ST ENGINEER BATTALION, 26TH INFANTRY, and the **16TH and 18TH INFANTRY REGIMENTS**. Write to Donald at: 850 Stonehaven Lane, Alpharetta, Georgia 30202.

ALBERT R. HUFF, 257TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, BATTERY B, would like to learn the whereabouts of men with whom he served. The commanding officer was **CAPTAIN WALTER E. FORAN (or FARAN)**, Battalion Commander **COLONEL BERRY**, and **1ST SERGEANT MCGRATH**. Write to Al at: 602 South Ironwood Drive, Mishawaka, Indiana 46544-2539.

Lilian Bamford would like to know if any one knows the whereabouts of **GARVAIS RAYMOND TEMPLETON** from the State of Louisiana. Please write to Lilian Bamford at: 23 Myrica Grove, Hoole Lane, Chester CH23EW, England.

EDWARD A. CONNORS, 28TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 108TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, BATTERY B, would like to hear from anyone from this group. Write to Ed at: 122 Church Street, Hamburg, New York 14075.

ROBERT REED, 87TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 345TH INFANTRY, would like to hear from anyone who participated in ASTP basic training at Fort Benning, Harmony Church area, from January through March 1944, and was in the 14th Company, 4th Battalion, 4th Training Regiment, who might like to get together for a social hour during the fall meeting of VBOB in San Antonio. Contact Bob at: 38 Bagdad Road, Durham, New Hampshire 03824-2224.

Danny Parker, an author well known to Bulge veterans, would like to obtain information from members of the following units: **394/99 INFANTRY DIVISION, 14TH CAVALRY GROUP, 612TH, 644TH AND 801ST TANK DESTROYER BATTALIONS, 14TH TANK BATTALION, 49TH AAA BRIGADE, 285TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, 526TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, 51ST, 254TH AND 291ST ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALIONS, 117TH/119TH REGIMENTS/30TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 823RD and 825TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALIONS, 740TH and 743RD TANK BATTALIONS, 504TH and 505TH PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENTS/82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION, TF's JORDAN, LOVELADY and McGEORGE, with 3RD ARMORED DIVISION, CCA and CCR and 87TH CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON/7TH ARMORED DIVISION, 99TH INFANTRY BATTALION and 143RD AA GUN BATTALION**. Danny's address is: 139 West Leon Lane, Cocoa Beach, Florida 32931.

The **17TH AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION** would like to honor Gold Star mothers, fathers, widows, sisters and brothers of the men of their division at their yearly reunions. Can you assist them in locating these people? Write: Jack Fisher, 6639 Gretchen Lane North, Oakdale, Minnesota 55128.

CHARLES E. CLARK, 1255TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, advises that he was reunited with **HAROLD W. MANN** after reading an article in *The Bugle* which mentioned Harold's name. Harold advised Charles of the unit's reunions and Charles looks forward to getting together with others with whom he served.

Benjamin L. Ebert would like to hear from anyone who remembers the word "Ferryville." He's not sure where during the war he remembers this word from. If you can help, write to him at 29 Southwind Circle, Jackson, New Jersey 08527-2818. (Continued on Page 22)

MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

(Continued from Page 21)

Tim Dugan's father-in-law would like to hear from men who served in the **295TH COMBAT ENGINEERS**. Write to Tim at: 2809 Hamilton Avenue, Glenshaw, Pennsylvania 15116-1546. [Note: Is there a contact for this group? If so, please advise VBOB.]

O. KEITH HILLS, 87TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 345TH REGIMENT, COMPANY C, wants to know if anyone recalls this incident: January 11, 1945, St. Hubert--A soldier sitting next to me in an old barn, taking grenades off his coat, saw that one had the pin missing. There were men below him and along side of him. On his right was a shell hole just big enough to put his hand in. He put his hand in with the grenade and it blew his hand off. Write to Keith at: 1032 Dewey Avenue, Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701.

Does anyone have information about **SGT. CLIFFORD N. CANAVIN**, 13124569, **HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 3RD BATTALION PARACHUTE INFANTRY**, originally from Philadelphia or **CPL. GILBERT W. HALL**, 16045555, **SUPPLY SQUADRON, 10TH ADG**. The information is sought on behalf of Derek Eley (my postman). The above named befriended Derek and his parents at Hayes, Middlesex, before going overseas. Derek still has the letters which they wrote to his parents from France/Belgium/Germany. Write to: Iris Drinkwater, 55 Adam Street, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset TA8 1PQ England.

ALFRED W. TIRELLA was assigned to **COMPANY B, 22ND INFANTRY** 21 November 1944 in the Hurtgen Forest. He was taught to use the two way radio and the alphabet code and became the forward observer for the 60 mm mortar squad. On or about 1 December, 1944, after a heavy mortar attack against the enemy, he was approached by the then CO, a **LT. BAZZARO** from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, who said that he was recommending Alfred for the Silver Star for sending excellent firing orders back to the 60 mm mortar squad. However, before the orders went back to headquarters, Lt. Bazzaro was killed in action. Alfred would like to hear from anyone who can corroborate his story: 87 Romaine Avenue, Jersey City, New Jersey 07306.

JOSEPH MAROTTA, 83RD INFANTRY DIVISION, 308TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, COMPANY C, writes to advise us that Frank Yankovic, the celebrated Polka King of the 40's and 50's nearly lost his hands and feet to frost bite in the Battle of the Bulge. He would like to know if anyone knows which unit he was in. If you can answer Joseph, write to him at: 724 Lorimer Street, Brooklyn, New York 11211-1326.

Betty Knab became aware of VBOB as a result of the 50th Anniversary Observances in St. Louis. She would like to hear from anyone who served with her husband 1st Lt. **CHARLES E. KNAB, 26TH INFANTRY DIVISION**. Write to Betty at: 1917 Suffolk Road, Columbus, Ohio 43221.

Alice Faltz-Hansen, of Mersch Belgium, would like to establish contact with two American soldiers who stayed in her mother's home during the BoB. She believes they may have been members of the **9TH ARMORED DIVISION** but is not certain. Both wrote to her mother after returning home. The return addresses on the envelopes identify: **JOHNNY DeANGELIS**, 1231 Centre Street, New Center, Massachusetts and **CHARLES NIELSEN**, Barre, Vermont. Anyone having information please notify Alice: 30, rue E. Servais, L-7565 Mersch, Belgium.

In January, 1945, an American soldier's helmet was found in an area of combat terrain near Malempre (Manhay) Belgium. Malempre was liberated from German control in late December during the Battle of the

Bulge. It is believed the American units in combat there were the **3RD** and **9TH ARMORED DIVISIONS** and the **504TH** and **509TH BATTALIONS** of the **82ND AIRBORNE**. The helmet has the name Kenzie or McKenzie. The serial number is either 0324332 or 0324382, the next-to-last digit being either a three or an eight. Anyone with information please contact: Roland Tignee, Chemin du bon Pays No 3, 6820a Florenville, Belgium.

HARVEY LAND, 1550TH SERVICE COMMAND, would like to contact anyone who may have served or trained with him. Please write to Harvey at: 430 Washington Street, Logansport, Indiana 46947.

ED STOCK, 99TH INFANTRY DIVISION, is writing and compiling stories of amusing, unusual or weird things which happened to guys in the service. If you have a story about your days in uniform you would think fit these categories, please let Ed know. Include your name and outfit. Ed Stock, PO Box 32063, Cleveland, Ohio 44132.

Félix Arnotte writes to say hello to the men of **BATTERY B, 639TH AAA AW BATTALION**--particularly B. Bouzan, Ch. Nendershot, P. Madorma, R. Sain, R. Herbert, A. Ford, A. Freeman, J. Paffen, P. Trunce, T. Kretzu, and others who were at Heusy-Verviers during the BOB. He wants to know if you remember the cakes and pies his mother and sister, Josette, baked for you. Félix would like to hear from you, write to him at: 17, Florikosse; B-4802 Heusy (Verviers), Belgium.

Anie A. Strautteur is trying to locate her father **WALTER STRAUTTEUR**, who served during World War II. She isn't sure what branch. Her mother's name was Anastacia Alajas. If you can help, write to Anie at: 123 - 11th Avenue, Est Rembo Fort, Bonifacio, Makati City.

Marie Burge is trying to locate information on her father-in-law: **CHARLES E. BURGE, BATTERY C, 592ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION**. She also has a letter that says "**590TH FA BN, BATTERY B**." Write to Marie at: 4463 East D Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49004.

Esther Seeger is seeking information regarding **PHILLIP M. SEEGER, 737TH TANK BATTALION**. Phillip was killed in Germany on March 9, 1945. Can you help Esther? Her address is: 617 4th Avenue East, Alexandria, Minnesota 56308-1515.

Victor Camarena sends his prayers and best wishes to all of you who served in the Battle of the Bulge. Victor did not include his unit. Drop him a note, he would like to hear from you: 18014 Sherman Way #176, Reseda, California 91335.

G. PHILIP WHITMAN sent us a copy of his new book, *Memoirs of a Rifle Company Commander in Patton's Third U.S. Army*. This book will be placed in our Bulge Library of Books and we are grateful to him for providing it. We wanted to let you know of its availability. For further information write to the author at: 2808 North Florida Avenue #4, Lakeland, Florida 33805.

Another book we received for our library is *Shadow of Suribachi: Raising the Flags on Iwo Jima* by Parker Bishop Albee, Jr., and Keller Cushing Freeman. For further information write: Praeger Publishers, 88 Post Road West, Westport, Connecticut 06881.

We received an announcement of the recent publication of *Swastika Smashers*, by **RAY G. WILSON, 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION, 508TH PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT**. Write for full information to: Ramsi Books, 1948 Young Suite 3, Memphis, Tennessee 38104.

**"Sure you were scared,
you were nuts if you weren't."**

In the distance, in the night, Ruth M. Puryear heard a rumbling.

"It was German tanks."

The soldiers of the 107th Evacuation Hospital thought they were safely behind the forward edge of battle, snug in their tents in the small Belgian city of Bastogne.

But the full fury of the Battle of the Bulge was about to sweep up 1st Lt. Puryear and the mobile hospital's hundreds of patients, nurses, doctors and wardmen.

"On the 16th of December," she said, "everything just happened. We left everything — all our clothes, our supplies. We just had on what we had on and left," Puryear said. "We left everything except our patients."

They loaded the wounded onto trucks — 12 or 14 to a truck — and began a race against the lapping tide of German armor.

"You talk about a tough trip. It was so damned cold — it was really cold," she said.

They traveled for days. Both sides of the road were mined, "so the nurses went to the bathroom in the road, with soldiers holding blankets around them."

Ruth Puryear



Then



Now

A first lieutenant, Ruth Puryear was a 32-year-old nurse with the 107th Evacuation Hospital when the Germans attacked. She adopted a child following the war and retired from nursing in 1966. Puryear, 82, lives in Richmond.

"We wore long johns and fatigues and quilted combat pants," she continued. "You worked in them, you slept in them. You wore your boots to bed to keep warm."

The evac hospital set up shop in Sedan, France, and the casualties started to pour in.

Working 24 hours a day, the doctors, nurses and enlisted men were divided into two 12-hour shifts. "But most of the time you worked 18 hours a day," she said.

The 107th had 42 doctors, all men, and 42 nurses, all women, supported by 238 enlisted soldiers, ward men, cooks and quartermasters.

They were "real, real busy from the 18th of December on up through March," Puryear remembers.

Combat tore up men in ways that beggar the imagination.

"I had 12 patients in my ward tent with tracheotomies — they had chest wounds and they couldn't breathe — and lots of abdominal wounds, lot and lots of leg wounds, amputations."

They were the lucky ones. The cold was so bitter that wounded men often froze to death where they were hit.

Soldiers suffered horribly from the frigid weather, even when it didn't kill them outright.

"Those that didn't have wounds, I could have stood there and cried over," she said. "We had lots and lots of young fellows who lost their toes and feet from frostbite."

The casualties would be patched up and shipped out as soon as they were able to be moved. "But during the Bulge, there was no where to send them," Puryear said. "You worked so hard and you were so tired, I think you lived on excitement."

And fear, she said.

"Sure you were scared. You were nuts if you weren't."

Being a medical unit — even with red crosses emblazoned on the roof — was no guarantee of safety. "We had two of our people wounded. They just strafed over the red cross. It didn't mean a thing."

In 259 days in the combat theater, Puryear's 107th Evac admitted 21,250 patients and performed surgery on 9,364.

Reprinted from The Richmond Times Dec. 15, 1994

IT WAS THE JITTERBUGS OF THE SWING ERA WHO BEAT THE WERMACHT!

In the pre-dawn hours of December 16, 1944 three German Armies struck along an 85 mile front in the Ardennes against the thinly defended American front. This set off the largest land battle ever fought by an American Army with a million soldiers German and American swirling and grappling in a 45 day battle which Winston Churchill characterized as one of America's greatest hour in the field of battle which helped turn the tide of war.

Adolph Hitler boasted that his crack German soldiers which blew away the Armies of England, France, Norway, Belgium and Luxembourg in the blitz of 1940 because the American soldier was callow, weak, fun loving youth of a decadent American Society.

But who was it who defeated the Wermacht in the gruelling battle across the snow covered fields and villages of the Ardennes forest? It was the kids who danced in the aisles of the Paramount Theater when Benny Goodman played there, who stood in long lines outside Philadelphia's Earle Theater to hear Frank Sinatra. The Characters in the Mickey Rooney/Judy Garland movies about teen-age America.

These images led Hitler to believe that the American youth was a bunch of sissies. But, he was wrong! The tired, dirty, hungry American Soldiers, the 81,000 men who were wounded, including the 19,000 killed, the men who defeated the vaunted Wermacht were the Jitterbugs, cookie-pushers, and drug store cowboys of the late 30's and early 40's. The guys who took off their Zoot-suits, with Peg-pants, wide brimmed hats and long chains, put on Army O.D.'s and went to war reluctantly.

These were the members of the American Army who kicked Adolph Hitler's vaunted Wermacht as well as the Waffen S.S. troops back across the Elbe river to Berlin and destroyed the town.

Old soldiers never die. Now they can go to the Valley Forge Military Academy & College to admire the grand Monument dedicated to the VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE.

Joseph P. Barrett, 474th A.A.A.

I didn't fire him [General MacArthur] because he was a dumb son of a bitch, although he was, but that's not against the law for generals. If it was, half to three-quarters of them would be in jail.

HARRY TRUMAN

WORLD WAR II PERSONAL ACCOUNTS

A Traveling exhibition sponsored by The National Archives and Records Administration was designed by the Curator of the Lyndon B. Johnson Library and Museum. It was presented in ten different locations in the United States during the period 7 December 1992-January 1995.

The "WWII Personal Accounts, Pearl Harbor to V-J Day," follows the war by extracting passages from selected letters, diaries, documents, pictures and some items made available to the Curator of the Exhibition. Items from three VBOB members, Murray Shapiro, 28th Infantry Division, Willard H. Fluck, 84th Infantry Division, and Max L. Noe, 28th Infantry Division, are displayed. The Exhibition is not a history but the items are grouped into time frames that are identified.

During the last Christmas season I visited the Ronald Reagan Library in California to view the WWII Personal Accounts Traveling Exhibition. I was distressed to find that the letters and artifacts failed to identify with the Battle of the Bulge. I wrote to the National Archives to express my disappointment.

Upon my return to Arlington, I notified VBOB President Twiner of my actions and he appointed me to chair a VBOB committee to work with the Archivist to rectify the oversight prior to 6 May 1995, the date that the Exhibition is scheduled to appear in the Rotunda of the National Archives in Washington, DC.

Ms. Linda N. Brown, Assistant Archivist for Public Programs and some of her staff, met with President Twiner, Robert Phillips, John Bowen and myself and agreed to redesign the exhibit's BOB section. Other committee members, who assisted but were unable to meet with Ms. Brown, were Robert VanHouten and Trevor Depuy.

The Exhibition will be displayed in the Archives during the period 6 May-10 September 1995. All members are encouraged to visit the Exhibition. Special tours for members of VBOB and other veterans can be arranged. Please submit your request at least four weeks in advance.

Did any of you attend the Exhibition at any of the ten U.S. locations during the three years it was displayed? VBOB heard from no member during the period about the lack of recognition for the Battle of the Bulge. VBOB headquarters was not aware of the existence of the Exhibition and so only by chance was the oversight noticed.

All of us must be aware of the WWII events. Write to VBOB headquarters and bring to our attention any thing that reflects unfavorably on BOB history. If we do not take action to see that the younger generation is taught the correct history, no one else will. PATRIOTS--TO ARMS! KEEP HISTORY TRUE TO THE EVENTS! DO NOT LET HISTORY BE REWRITTEN BY THOSE WHO DID NOT EXPERIENCE THE TRAUMA OF COMBAT!!!

William R. Hemphill

REMEMBERING THE CALL TO THE BULGE BY A MEMBER OF THE 17TH AIRBORNE

*[The following is excerpted from a story by **PHILLIP S. EDWARDS, 17TH AIRBORNE DIVISION, DIVISION HEADQUARTERS**, which appeared in the Winter, 1995, issue of *Thunder from Heaven*, the 17th Airborne's newsletter.]*

...I was assigned duties at Chilbolton Air Base, to help coordinate the arrangements for following flights of our personnel. However, the weather got socked in real bad, and it was impossible to fly across the channel. We waited at Chilbolton at Christmas Eve, and then Christmas Day arrived. We sang a few carols, and listened to Major Glenn Miller's Army Air Force Band play "American Patrol," "Londonderry Air," "Serenade in Blue," "A String of Pearls," "In the Mood," "Anvil Chorus," and other songs, over the BBC.

Conversations with Air Force personnel included talk of what to do, and what not to do, in various actual combat situations, which made us realize clearly that we were about to engage the enemy face-to-face. Late on Christmas Eve, we heard the tragic news that, despite the bad weather, Glenn Miller had taken off in a small plane for France, but had not arrived there, and was presumed lost in the channel.

We also listened anxiously to reports from Belgium, where the Battle of the Bulge was being waged, and we knew that the 101st Airborne Division was already surrounded at Bastogne. This was the reason for General Ridgway's urgent night call, and for our urgent need to be on the continent to help stave off the German breakthrough in the Ardennes. The 82nd and the 101st Airborne Divisions had been in areas in northern France, resting and reequipping after the Holland air borne landings in September, and had been rushed to critical areas (Werbomont and Bastogne) Belgium.

Finally the bad weather over the channel cleared, and the remainder of the 17th Airborne troops were flown over, landed at air strips in northern France, and in our case, transported in trucks in Mourmelon-le-Grand, where the 101st Airborne troops had been, before they were rushed to Bastogne.

I was temporarily assigned to the skeletal force of 101st personnel who were still at Mourmelon. My first duty was to help their Military Government Section accomplish some liaison activity with the local citizens. I soon found myself, along with a few other Americans trying to convince these citizens that we were indeed Americans, and not German Airborne troops, dressed like Americans. This was an example of the havoc that the Germans were creating behind the American lines, by doing just that.

It was extremely cold, and the snow was deep, as the area experienced the worst winter in 50 years. It was emotionally difficult to know that within a matter of days, or even hours, the 17th Airborne would be committed to combat. General Maxwell Taylor, Commander of the 82nd Airborne Division, later said that the 17th Airborne Division, committed on January 5, 1945, went into battle under the most difficult conditions, for a baptism of fire, he had ever seen (see page 430, *The Bitter Woods*).

*I'm aware of my mortality,
much more than I used to be.*

Lucky Loiacono, Battle of the Bulge Veteran

BOOK REVIEW

BATTLE OF THE BULGE - Hitler's Ardennes Offensive, 1944-1945

1991 Combined Books, Inc. 151 E 10th Avenue

Conshohocken, PA - \$34.95. \$25 to veterans.

By Danny S. Parker

Reviewed by Dee Paris - 14th Tank Battalion - 9th Armored Division

One is immediately struck by the size of this book, measuring 9-1/2" x 12-1/2", which qualifies it as a "coffee table" history of the Battle of the Bulge which Sir Winston Churchill described as "the greatest American battle of the war."

The 316 pages, with more than 250 illustrations and numerous maps and sketch maps, represent many years of research by author Danny Parker.

The material is superbly organized. Forty pages are devoted to "The Setting," in which he describes the German and American situations before December 16, 1944 when the attack began. This includes considerable description of ULTRA through which the German Enigma code was deciphered. Parker also describes the influence of the Ardennes terrain and the arms and equipment used by both armies.

The second part is titled "The First Day: 'We March'," and covers the first day of the attack, how the battle was fought and the initial Allied reaction.

The "Progress of the Battle" follows with detailed coverage of the action from December 17 through January 28, 1945. Considerable coverage is given to the Malmedy massacre with mention of similar murders at Ligneuville by Kampfgruppe Peiper, the killing of 12 American soldiers at La Vaux Richard and the civilians in Stavelot.

Other subjects covered are the heroes of Elsenborn Ridge, Skorzeny's commandos, "Hitler's" weather and Patton's prayer and Ernest Hemingway's visit to the Hurtgen Forest combat action.

Parker uses the final "Looking Back" chapter to analyze the reason for the German (Hitler's) failure. He cites the men and equipment lost and states "For the Allied intelligence services the Battle of the Bulge was an embarrassment.

Parker attempts to analyze the Battle of the Bulge and its value in relation to the WWII in Europe, both from the American and German results. He comments, "In practical terms the Ardennes Campaign had been an important American victory."

Of tremendous value is the material included in the appendices. One section has the organization of the combat forces and the order of battle of the U.S., British and German armies. It includes tables showing the dates on which their reinforcements were committed to combat.

Also included is information on recommended reading which includes The Bulge Bugle of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. A number of simulation games are identified, one of which was developed by author Parker. He identifies several Battle of the Bulge films, reserving rather harsh language for the Hollywood version which he calls "pap."

Parker identifies several museums in the battlefield area. He offers advice on self-guided tours and identifies several sources for guided tours.

Another interesting portion is a "Table of Equivalent Ranks" from private through general for the Waffen-SS and the German, British and American Armies.

A glossy of terms and abbreviations and a detailed index are included.

Parker dedicates his book to Charles B. MacDonald, author of official U.S. Army and personal histories including "A Time For Trumpets." Those who participated in the VBOB tour conducted by MacDonald may remember Danny Parker as one of the official guides. Parker acknowledges the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge "for their considerable assistance." His list of reference sources includes "The Bulge Bugle," official magazine of VBOB. Under "Interest Groups," Parker writes "The official Publication of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, **The Bulge Bugle**, is the only periodical on the Ardennes Campaign that is published in English." He includes the price and VBOB address.



*"Ya know, I ain't
worth a dern in th'
morning without a
hot cuppa coffee."*

Up Front
Bill Mauldin

Mail Distribution of the American Troops in Antwerp during 1944-1945

The Philatelist Study Group World Wars I and II will organize from October 13 till 15, 1995 an exhibition titled "World Wars I and II in Antwerp".

The exhibits will only feature letters, post cards and parcels send by military and civil postal services.

The exhibits will evoke the organization of both military and civil mail distribution of both military and civil mail distribution, censorship, and postal routes.

During the period 1944-1945, the American Liberation Troops had a significant role here. With their return to the United States, most of the source material moved along as well.

The organizers are looking for all kinds of documents and informaton regarding mail delivery to the field Troops of the American Forces in Antwerp during the period 1944-1945.

If you think you have useful documents in this regard such as envelopes, post cards, documents regarding postal routes and organization, mail registers, please mail them to / or contact:

Lena Candries
J.W. Lemmens, Inc.
3466 Bridgeland Drive / 230
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WORLD WAR II EXHIBITION

An major exhibition, *World War II: Personal Accounts -Pearl Harbor to V-J Day*, will be shown at the National Archives from May 6 to November 12. Through letters, diaries, and other first person accounts, the exhibition brings to life the drama of the war. A special preview of the exhibition for veterans and their families is scheduled for Friday, May 5, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tours of the exhibition, available with advanced reservations only, may be arranged by calling 202-501-5205. The Exhibition Hall of the National Archives, Constitution Avenue between 7th and 9th Streets N.W., Washington, D.C. is open every day from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., April 1 through Labor Day, and 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. after Labor Day. Admission is free. For further information about programs at the National Archives, please call 202-501-5000.

Some thoughts from a new member from England...

"11:30 p.m. February 14th. A Jerome Kern tune is playing softly on the radio. The typewriter is switched off. I take a look out of the window. It is full moon. Wet rooftops have an iridescent glow. Somewhere a dog barks and the distant yowling of cats can be heard. It is still Valentines Day. It is a night for lovers. Spring is just around the corner. It is the season for renewal and it seems the whole world is at peace. Yet my thoughts are on a full moon of more than fifty years ago and the men who saw it. The ground was snow covered, it was cold, and there was no peace then. Only the sound of heavy guns and the smell of death everywhere. But who wants to remember that? Yet who can forget it? Will I be able to sleep tonight, with so much on my mind? Do they sleep any night?"

Iris Drinkwater
55 Adam Street, Burnham-on-Sea
Somerset TA8 1PQ, England

The **UNKNOWN** BULGE AIR BATTLE

On the day before my unit pulled out for the Ardennes, i.e., the Battle of the Bulge, I witnessed what was surely one of the greatest dogfights of the war. Since then, over 50 years now, I have been alert for details of that spectacular air battle, but without success. No one, it appears, had written a word of it. Even W. J. Boyne, author of *Clash of Wings* which tells the story of WWII in the air, makes no mention of it. Therefore, lest this unusual air battle be forgotten, I am obliged to make some record of it.

My unit, the 981st FA Battalion, was a VIIth Corps Long Tom artillery outfit and had participated in every major VII Corps action since Normandy. On this particular day, which was either the 15th or 16th of December, we occupied firing positions west of Duren, a shattered town on the Roer river and north of the Bulge action area. In this position our primary missions were general support of infantry in the Hurtgen Forest and "long-range" interdiction of target areas to the east. Our 155-mm Long Toms were located in the shallow depression of a hilltop one or two miles west of Duren and hidden from enemy observation. Aachen and the notorious Purple Heart Valley were already fading memories. We had encountered no incoming fire and only one strafing run by a pair of German fighters.

VIIth Corps, part of the First Army, had chased the Germans across France and continued to push them in Germany. Before the Battle of the Bulge, most of the men in Battery A shared the notion that the end of the war was in sight. There was no doubt we were winning. Except for a couple of night-flying nuisances (Bedcheck Charley and that other guy, Pete) the Luftwaffe was of no consequence. In fact we all believed the Luftwaffe was **caput** — finished.

There was always lots of air activity, however. British bombers flew over us at night — virtually every night — and many were shot down in flames by enemy night fighters. American bombers were the daylight workhorses. We were thus constantly aware of, and sensitive to, any activity in the air.

On this particular day, i.e., either the 15th or 16th of December, some of us in my gun crew became concerned over the appearance of an unusually large group of aircraft approaching rapidly from the east, from the direction of Cologne. Normally we saw the daylight bombers returning from a mission on this course, but this swarm of aircraft was approaching too fast for bombers. Anything unusual tended to make a GI uneasy and so the oncoming planes quickly got our attention. In the past we had been bombed and strafed a number of times, even by our own, **friendly** aircraft. These planes were coming on too fast; and they were too small for bombers. They were enemy fighters. The Luftwaffe was **not** **caput**! There were too many to count — more than 100 and perhaps as many as 200.

Very soon they were close enough to identify: Focke-Wulfs and Messerschmitts with their distinctive black-cross markings. Then, at top speed and streaking in from several directions, came groups of Spitfires and Hurricanes, P-51s and P-47s, and P-38s and perhaps other fighter craft. They closed eagerly with the oncoming foe, diving in with sudden cascades of action, climbing, rolling, looping — filling the sky with noisy maneuver. Here were all the famed fighters of WWII in glorious combat. One moment our guy would be tailing a German, guns firing, and the next moment their positions were reversed. With so much interweaving action, it was not easy to follow a pair in combat. One fighter,

obviously defeated, plunged straight down, vertical, at full throttle to disappear on contact with the ground. Another looped and rolled skyward trailing smoke. Another simply exploded in midair. Because of the many crossing patterns in one's visual field it was not possible to keep track of kills or even to stay focussed on a combat pair. There were simply too many to take in at one time.

In a very short time, perhaps only a few minutes, they were suddenly all gone, dispersed to the far horizons. The dynamics of air combat had carried them away and left a stunning silence. One moment we ground observers were witness to their sound and fury, to the frenzied imperatives of the kill; then all of a sudden there was empty sky and silence. I had witnessed a spectacular dogfight engaging legendary fighters. In my view, this was a historic battle. I trust that others who were there will add their comments.

Now, nearly fifty years later, my guess is that some 25 to 30 fighters, both Allied and German, were shot down before the combat arena drifted to other parts of the horizon. To my knowledge, no one has written an account of this action, of the number of fighters engaged, or the casualties incurred. Charles MacDonald, who wrote *A Time For Trumpets*, which presents his experiences as a company commander trying desperately to hold back the advancing Germans during the early hours and days of the Bulge, mentioned he had no knowledge of the dogfight. Further, as noted earlier, W.J. Boyne does not mention it in his history of the air war during WWII.

The Battle of the Bulge, everyone agrees, erupted on December 16. This air battle most likely took place on that date. However, I cannot discount the possibility that the fighters staged their spectacular dogfight on the day before. If so, then the Battle of the Bulge began December 15. Surely there are VBOBers around who witnessed this event and can recall the date more precisely.

For my unit, the 981st FA Battalion, the "Close Station, March Order" next morning got us moving again, but this time heading west, back toward Namur, reversing our direction of the past few months. We circled southwestward and then eastward to cross the Meuse River, much of the time in slow, heavy traffic that was often interrupted by incoming buzz bombs. Our initial action in the Bulge was to support the 82nd Airborne at the point of the Bulge. For at least the early part of the Bulge, the 981st was attached to the 18th Airborne Corps.

Unlikely so many of the VBOBers who have written so vividly of their Bulge experiences, I can recall only a few details. Much of the time it was painfully cold and our firing missions went on without let-up, every day and often all night. Twice, I can recall, we made ready to destroy our guns because of imminent capture, but the details elude me. My nicest recollection is the hot turkey dinner our kitchen crew brought up on Christmas day or the day after. By the end of January or in early February we were again on duty with VII Corps. We went on to cross the Rhine at Remagen and then pushed eastward as far as the Mulde River, south of Berlin, where we heard the welcome words, "Mission Accomplished".

Anthony Strank A Battery, 981st FA Bn

Most people coming out of war feel lost and resentful. What had been minute-to-minute confrontation with yourself, your struggle with what courage you have against discomfort, at the least, and death at the other end, ties you to the people you have known in the war and makes for a time others seem alien and frivolous.

LILLIAN HELLMAN

86TH CHEMICAL MORTAR BATTALION (MOTORIZED), COMPANY "C" IN THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

by Harold S. Fischgrund, Executive Officer



The lieutenant and his radio operator left the CP of the 3rd Battalion, 38th Infantry, and took off through the woods in a hell of a hurry. Although the gold bar on his collar was so new it hadn't begun to tarnish, the lieutenant had the weight of the world on his shoulders.

The CO of the battalion said that the mission had to be fired, and fired fast. The fate of the battalion depended

on it; the fate of the regiment depended on it; and you could carry it on from there. At this particular instant on 16 December, 1944, it looked like the whole damned war depended on it.

The colonel cursed vehemently when he was told that most of the artillery had pulled out, but when he saw that the lieutenant was still present, he grinned and said, "Hell, we've still got the 4.2's. We'll lick the bastards anyway."

So Lt. Raymond C. Lindsey (Nashville, AR) and his radio operator, PFC Cook (Florien, LA) took off through the woods by foot headed for their gun positions, Lindsey talking as he walked and giving firing data over his radio to the fire direction center.

Without an artillery barrage and seeking the element of surprise, the Germans had attacked with everything they had: tanks, halftracks, mortars, heavy artillery, and fanatic infantry. The 2nd Infantry Division was in an offensive posture, attacking towards the important hub of Monshau, with the objective of controlling the important Schwamman Dams and the Roer River. The division caught much of the force of the German attack, now known as the Ardennes Offensive. The elements of the 2nd Division held on and slowly drew back to more favorable defensive positions.

Withdrawal along the flank is a most difficult infantry maneuver, particularly under fierce German pressure. But the 2nd Division had to salvage what it could of the men and equipment remaining after that first savage blow to gain time to maneuver from the attack mode and to prepare defenses. Already the enemy was pressing closer. Slightly more than 200 yards separated the two sides.

As Lindsey rushed back through the woods, he and Cook were giving the C Company fire direction center coordinates and orders to "fire like you've never fired before."

At the FDC, S/Sgt Jack Feldman (soon to receive a battlefield commission (Marysville, CA) and Cpl. Marvin Zuidema (Cedar Rapids, IA), went into action: "Fire Mission!"

The words rang out through the mortar positions, and the combat hardened men of Company C leaped from their slit trenches and dugouts, rushing to the gun positions.

Feldman and Zuidema, knowing the gravity of the situation, also knew that now, if never before, their data must be correct. Two hundred yards doesn't leave much of a margin for error. But most of all, speed was essential; so they computed their data and sent it to the guns without rechecking it; there wasn't a

second to be wasted. The data must be correct.

In a moment, the first volley was on its way. Eight mortars coughed with monotonous regularity, spitting out 25 pounds of white phosphorus, and in less time than it takes to tell, a deadly burning screen of phosphorus enveloped the Panzer tanks and attacking infantry, blinding and searing. The tank drivers lost their sense of direction and charged blindly into each other, off roads, into trees, into gullies, into men. The infantry, caught in the same screen and flames, lost their will to continue the attack, beat at the flames, screamed and milled, vainly seeking cover.

To make the situation more interesting, the mortar men of Company C reached into their bag of tricks and pulled out high explosive shells, mixing them liberally with the white phosphorus. The attack against the 38th Infantry Regiment slowed down considerably.

From 1430 hours and 1600 hours, the 4.2 mortar men laid out their murderous mixture of smoke, flame, and HE. This allowed the infantry the breathing space they needed, moving back to stronger defensive positions. Many of them filed past the mortar positions, down the muddy road to the rear, and as they passed, they waved and shouted greetings: "Attaboy!" "Give 'em Hell!"

Other units too pulled out under the cover of the protective fire; the infantry, remaining artillery, smaller weapons squads, and finally the tanks left. Company C remained in position, still firing until everyone else had pulled out. Then, its job done, the commands were given "Cease firing" and "March Order," and it too began the process of moving out.

Dusk had begun to settle; before long the deep blackness of the winter night would be closing in on everything. Still the mortar men did not hurry. Methodically and meticulously, remaining ammunition, guns, food, water, gasoline and men, were loaded into jeeps and trailers and moved back on the quagmire road to a new position, already selected by the Company Commander, Capt. Jack Dalton (Sierra Vista, AZ).

Under the cover of darkness, the company moved into new positions to the rear. Guns were dug in, ammunition prepared, slit trenches and foxholes dug. C Company was ready for the next German attack.

They did not have long to wait.

This time, early on the morning of the 18th, Lt. William T. French (Pittsford, NY) called the FDC with an urgent fire mission. It was almost the same story as the previous day's. The Germans had mounted a savage attack with panzers and infantry, and were pouring tanks, men and supplies through a gap in the U.S. lines. This lifeline had to be cut. In a period of only 45 minutes, C Company's mortars threw out 400 rounds of deadly WP and HE and helped stop the Germans.

But the enemy quickly reorganized and kept pressing and later in the day it was apparent that C Company and the 2nd Division unit it supported would have to take up new defensive positions.

At 1300 hours a new mission was received from Lt. French: four coordinates, HE and WP, enemy tanks, troops, mobile guns, routes of approach. Hold them off until the new defenses could be reached.

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86TH CHEMICAL BATTALION

(Continued from Page 27)

For four long hours the mortar men hurled round after round of smoke and explosives at the Germans. Again, long files of U.S. infantry, smaller weapons, and tanks were moving on the muddy road to the rear of Company C's position.

In the meantime, Capt. Dalton, Sgt. Feldman, and Cpl. Joseph C. Venable (Scott, LA), were reconnoitering for new mortar positions. They found a good site in the little hamlet of Rocherath.

While they were in Rocherath, they were told of cut roads, the enemy between them and the gun positions, and a host of rumors depicting a grim situation. Dalton realized there was no time to waste. They headed back to the gun positions despite the stories, reaching it to find no one. C Company had pulled out!



Left to right: Lts. Ray Lindsey, George Murray, Bill Greenville (our own VBOB Past President), Capt. Jack Dalton, Lts. Hal Fischgrund and Mike Tolmie, May, 1945.

The men, mortars, and jeeps and trailers were gone. They searched the gun pits for some evidence of what had happened. While thus occupied, out of the woods stepped Lt. Mike Tolmie (Deer River, MN), only recently presented with a battlefield commission. Tolmie explained to his company commander that while in charge of the company, passing units were warning of the closeness of the enemy. When the fire mission was completed, Tolmie gave: "March Order!" and directed the men to defensive positions nearby, to be held at all costs. The company was still intact and ready to move on order.

So, in short order, the move to Rocherath was completed and the town became the focal point of the defense.

The company moved into a protected area which had a strong house for shelter. Within minutes after digging in the mortars, a German tank fired an armor piercing shell which passed completely through the house. It missed PFC Walter J. Henning (Montrose, NY), who was later killed in action, and PFC Ed Jones (Victory, WV) by inches, blowing them down a flight of stairs into the concrete cellar, without injury.

When the barrage subsided, Sgt. Bernard McDaniel (Slidell, LA) was checking the mortar positions for damage. Sgt. Feldman was doing the same. When he saw McDaniel, he hollered, "What are you doing out here?!" McDaniel stopped in his tracks framing a reply with his lips. At that instant an enemy

round hit exactly in the spot where McDaniel would have been had he not stopped to answer the question. Luckily it was a dud but it showered both men with mud, ice, and snow and they made a swan dive through a window back into the house.

All that night the position was shelled. Enemy tanks had moved much closer. The rumble of their motors and tracks could be heard above the gunfire.

Just before daylight, the Germans mounted another attack. By noon it was apparent that another move was imminent. To gain time for the withdrawal, Lt. Lindsey again called for a protective curtain of fire, this time on two German tank locations. For over an hour the men of Company C fired their mortars, traversing 180 degrees and down nearly to minimum range.

By dusk the town had to be evacuated. Company C's mortars spoke in a final mission at the lowest range the company had ever fired, 780 yards, against panzer tanks. Then came the order to move. And Company C, for the third time in less than 3 days, got out safely. The little unit moved to an assembly area near Butgenbach awaiting orders to a new firing position.

Nothing has been said thus far about the job of ammunition resupply. For some reason, known only to history, tons of 4.2 mortar shells were located in a 1st Army ammo dump north of Malmedy. Ably assisted by Headquarters, 86th Chemical Battalion Ammunition Section, under the most adverse conditions, including ice, snow, muddy roads, where there were roads, and enemy infiltrators, the company supply section maintained a steady flow of ammunition which allowed the company to carry out its critical mission.

A final note, the company mortars were at one time located in a well defiladed position near a dam, and were able to support both the 1st U.S. Division and the 2nd Division. And support them they did superbly, for which it was awarded the Belgian Fourregiere. All of the officers excepting the C Company Commander and his Executive Officer were deployed as forward observers with defending units of the two divisions. They included, in addition to those already mentioned, the following: Lt. Morris Chertkov (Chevy Chase, MD), Lt. William T. Greenville (Kensington, MD (a VBOB Past President)), Lt. George L. Murray (Anniston, AL), Lt. Bliss Price (Plymouth, MA) and Lt. John C. Wall (Edgewood, MD).

Most of all the men of C Company, the mortar crews, were valiant in this battle. They are: Eugene E. Bozych (Lemont, IL), William Corcoran (Philadelphia, PA), C. Ferrand Cumpton (Columbia, LA), Benton Dillard (Rayville, LA), James L. Ferguson (College Park, LA), Glen W. Forbes (Orrstown, PA), Rolland H. Griffith (Houston, PA), Stanley E. Guzik (Chicago, IL), Joseph Jindra (Houston, PA), John J. Kellett, Vincentown, NJ), Walter C. Klingenmeyer (Racine, WI), Leeward J. LeBeauf (Montegut, LA), John C. Kretz (Pittsburgh, PA), Marvin P. Lemoine (Metairie, LA), Harold F. Nehmer (Gladstone, MI), Joseph O'Donnell (Burlington, VT), Phillip Riccobono (Ocean City, NJ), Clarence D. Seamster (South Boston, VA), Elmer C. Wallace (Leander, LA), James C. Whitaker (Toledo, OH), Fields V. White (Alexandria, LA), Harold E. Wickman (Gardner, MA), Salvador J. Zanco (New Orleans, LA), Edward J. Lane (Palm Harbor, FL).

And, of course, the real heroes of Company C are the mortar men mentioned in this piece and those not mentioned because of the passage of time. This, and all other battles that this unit was engaged in were successful because of outstanding teamwork--the hallmark of victory in battle.

(Continued on Page 29)

86TH CHEMICAL MORTAR BATTALION

(Continued from Page 28)

Charles B. MacDonald wrote in his book, *A Time for Trumpets*, "Between 13 and 19 December, 1944, the 2nd U.S. Division had penetrated a heavily fortified section of the West Wall, then executed an eight-mile daylight withdrawal while in close contact with the enemy and assumed defensive positions at the twin villages in another direction. There they came immediately under heavy attack, held the villages for two days and nights while troops of the 99th Division streamed through, and then broke contact and withdrew to new positions on the Elsenborn Ridge." It was, as the division commander, General Robertson, noted, "a pretty good day's work for any division. Leavenworth would say it couldn't be done, and I don't want to do it again." He was not alone in this assessment, for the commander of the First Army, General Hodges, told Robertson: "What the 2nd Division has done...will live forever in the history of the United States Army."



86th Chemical Mortar Battalion gun position, December, 1944, in Butgenbach.

What the 2nd Division had done was to block an attack by Sepp Dietrich's Sixth Panzer Army constituting the main effort--the Schwerpunkt--of Hitler's offensive. That main effort had failed to get more than three to four miles beyond the German frontier and had failed to open three of the five routes assigned to the 1st SS Panzer Corps for the drive to the Meuse.

As a post script, special mention is made of the following: the Battalion Commander, LTC (Brig Gen USAR) Wesley B. Hamilton (Tacoma, WA) and the oldest living general officer of the U.S. Army, Maj. (Col. USAR) James J. Doyle (Houston, TX), his Executive Officer, the Adjutant, (LTC USAR Ret.) John B. Deasy (San Francisco, CA), the Adjutant, John Sawka

(Scranton, PA), also of battalion headquarters who led the ammunition detail night and day without rest to insure delivery of mortar rounds, and Raymond C. Sylvester, of Battalion Headquarters, who was responsible for keeping the trucks operational under most adverse conditions.



Roland Griffith and Bill French at the same Butgenbach mortar position in 1990.

I enjoyed putting this piece together and give credit to an article prepared by the Public Relations Office, Headquarters, European Theatre of Operations, and to Charles MacDonald's outstanding book *A Time for Trumpets*. I dedicate it to the memory of Sgt. Walter J. Henning (Montrose, NY) and Cpl. Ralph Spaggio (Easton, PA), members of Company C who made the supreme sacrifice in the Battle of the Bulge. May they rest in peace.

[The 86th Chemical Mortar Battalion (Motorized), Company C, supported three U.S. armies; five U.S. Army Corps; and 26 U.S. divisions. We thank Hal Fischgrund for his article.]

The VBOB Headquarters has, over the years, received many unit histories. Space (and length of the articles) usually prohibits our using them as regularly as we would like, but we'll keep trying. If you haven't sent your history in, please do so. We would like to have an accurate history in our archives.

KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL DEDICATION

Events surrounding the dedication of the Korean National War Memorial will take place July 23-30, 1995, in Washington, DC. For further information write: Harry Wallace, KWVA Reunion Chairman, c/o RGA-P, 7315 Wisconsin Avenue, #400 East, Bethesda, Maryland 20814.

HITLER'S FINAL COUNTEROFFENSIVE

[The following address was presented before Congress on November 29th, 1994, by Rep. Robert A. Borski (D-PA) and was printed in the January 12-18, 1994, issue of Stars & Stripes.]

I rise today to proudly and reverently commemorate the men and women of the U.S. Armored Forces who fought and died in the Second World War Battle of the Bulge. In addition, I wish to recognize the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, an honored organization of patriotic Americans dedicated to remembering what has been called the greatest American battle of WWII by Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

On December 16, 1944, Adolf Hitler waged his final counter-offensive in the wooded hills of southern Belgium. In his attempt to split the Allied forces, disrupt their supply system and split their unity concerning the war, Hitler considered Belgium's Ardennes Forest a weakened juncture in the Allied troops' lines. German troops had used the gateway at Ardennes in 1870, 1914 and again in 1940 to seize the bridgeheads over the Meuse River and move onward to Antwerp, the main port of the Allies.

Twenty-five German divisions, led by Field Marshall Gerd von Rundstedt, struck six American divisions at 5 a.m. on December 16, effectively surprising the troops and quickly penetrating the Allied lines. Though the American troops, under the command of Gen. Omar Bradley, tried to hold back the assault, bad weather and the English-speaking German troops in American uniforms added to their surprise and confusion. Within 48 hours, the Germans had moved 15 miles into Allied territory and by December 24 they had progressed 65 miles deep on a front ranging from 10 to 25 miles.

American and British troops were able to hold on to the town of Bastogne, positions in the north held by United States V Corps and positions in the south held by the United States 4th Division. These footholds enabled the Allied troops to slow the progression of the German forces toward the Meuse River until reinforcements arrived.

December 16, 1944, was a turning point in the Battle of the Bulge. Allied forces were able to reach the town of Bastogne, providing much needed support. Slowly, the United States First Army halted the progression of the Germans' westward drive. The United States 21st Army Group, under command of General Montgomery, took over operational control of the United States forces north of the Ardennes, and the United States Third Army units, under Lieutenant General Patton, began to move ground slowly northward against the German southern flank.

Finally, as the weather cleared, the Allied forces were able to launch an air offensive which cut German supply and fuel lines, and stopped the German forces before they could reach Allied fuel depots and replenish their fuel. Hitler desperately threw troops at the front, but they were ill-trained, and a new Russian assault in the East eventually caused a massive withdrawal.

Over 600,000 Americans, more than the combined Union and Confederate forces at Gettysburg, fought in the Battle of the Bulge. More than 81,000 Americans were killed, wounded or missing in the Battle of the Bulge. German forces lost 120,000 men, as well as 800 tanks and 1,000 aircraft. Although the battle did little, other than prolong the outcome of the war, the bravery of the American soldiers against overwhelming numbers caused Churchill to call the Battle of the Bulge the greatest American battle of the war.

Mr. Speaker, as the 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge is rapidly approaching, I feel it is important to remember the stories of the brave and patriotic American forces who fought to protect our Nation's freedom. In addition, I would like to honor the Veterans of the Bulge, who have pledged to make certain that the sacrifices of those who fought and died in the Ardennes Forest are not forgotten.

MILITARY MEDALS

[The following was extracted from an article written by George Gosselin, which appeared in the January 2-8, 1995, issue of Stars & Stripes.]

When George Washington, as the three-star commander of the Continental Forces, established the "Badge of Military Merit"--the predecessor of the Purple Heart--in 1782, he provided for its award to enlisted men. This had never been done--medals and honors usually went to officers only. Two decades later, Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte created the Legion D'Honneur and authorized it for all French soldiers regardless of rank. Britain followed suit some 50 years later after the Napoleonic Wars.

In the United States, the issuance of war medals was the prerogative of Congress, but none were authorized until it was brought to the attention of President Theodore Roosevelt that he had the power to award badges to be worn on the uniforms of officers and enlisted men who were veterans of various campaigns.

In January 1905, ...Roosevelt authorized badges and ribbons for the Civil War (1861-1865), the Indian Wars (1865-1891), the Spanish-American War (1898), the Philippine Insurrection (1899-1902) and the North China Campaign (1900-1901). Veterans had but to apply.

The first medals in America were struck at the Philadelphia Mint. Made of bronze, they were issued free to enlisted men but, interestingly enough, sold at cost to officers, who received allowances beyond their regular pay.

Campaign medals are awarded for participation in particular campaigns; service medals indicate service during specific periods; and decorations are awarded for heroism and gallantry. Decorations have distinctive shapes--as in the Navy Cross, the Silver or Bronze Star and the Purple Heart, to name a few.

No one can doubt the courage of the late Marine Corps Lt. Lewis B. Puller, Jr., the son of the legendary Gen. "Chesty" Puller. In his autobiography, *Fortunate Son*, the younger Puller explained his feelings about his decorations on April 22, 1971, when thousands of Vietnam veterans marched on Washington, DC, to throw away their medals in protest: "I took the medals from our bedroom closet and debated whether I should drive to Washington to throw them away.

"As I sat silently in the dimly lit closet feeling the weight of the bronze and silver in my hand and studying the red, white and blue ribbon of my Silver Star and the majestic cameo of George Washington on my Purple Hearts, I knew that I could never part with them. They had cost me too dearly, and though I now saw clearly that the war in which they had been earned was a wasted cause, the medals still represented the dignity and caliber of my service and those with whom I served. I could no more discard them than I could repudiate my country, my Marine Corps, or my fellow veterans.

"As I put them away, I was very sad and very tired but grateful nonetheless that my children were asleep in their beds in America rather than anywhere else on earth.

If you are entitled to awards you have never received, write to: National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, Missouri 63132. Be sure to include a copy of your discharge papers.

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

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