

The BULGE BUGLE

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

VOLUME XV NUMBER 1

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

FEBRUARY 1996

SITE FOR WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL DEDICATED NOVEMBER 11, 1995

AT LONG LAST, there will be a memorial for those who served in World War II. The memorial will be located at the Rainbow Pool, on the Mall, adjacent to 17th Street, between Constitution Avenue, NW, and Independence Avenue, SW, in Washington, DC.

Excerpts from the Official Dedication Program

The World War II Memorial

To Honor Members of the Armed Forces

Who Served During World War II

**To Commemorate the Participation of
the Nation in that War**

The Site

This magnificent site, so fitting for the World War II Memorial, stands between two timeless memorials which mark two great American leaders and two defining monuments in our nation's history. The Washington Monument commemorates the birth of our republic in the 18th Century; the Lincoln Memorial is an eloquent tribute to the preservation of that Union in the 19th century. World War II is the defining event of this century. To have these three events linked by memorials is to recognize and remember eternally the great sacrifices our forbears made to allow first this nation, and through victory in World War II, the world to enjoy the gifts of peace and democracy.

The site dedicated symbolizes the many sites abroad consecrated by the blood, the sacrifice, the agony, the triumph of our valiant American brothers and sisters and their Allied comrades in arms.

Hallowed Soil

The soil used in the dedication ceremony comes from each of the 15 American Memorial Cemeteries Overseas where more than 93,000 of the known and unknown war dead from World War II are buried and more than 55,000 of the missing are commemorated. These cemeteries, maintained by the American Battle Monuments Com-

mission, are on the land fought over in many of the war's major battles. Soil also comes from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Honolulu, Hawaii, where recovered remains of World War II Pacific Theater Battle dead [were] not returned home [to] rest.

Ardennes, Belgium • Luxembourg City, Luxembourg

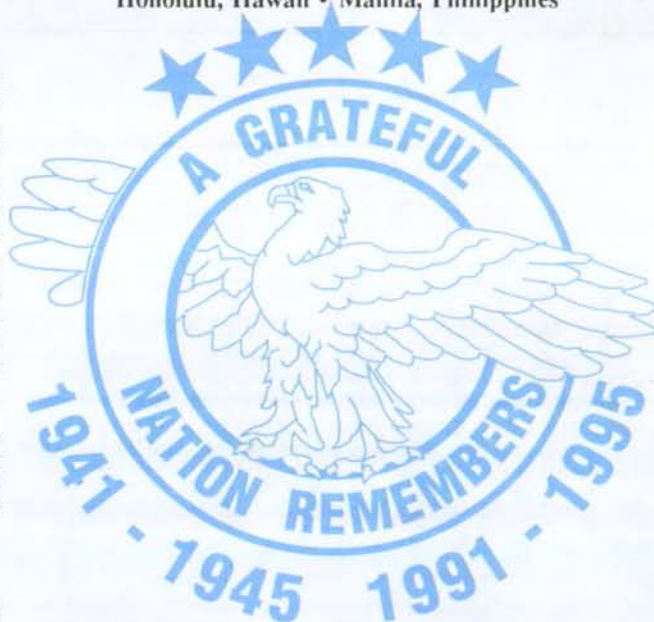
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Honolulu, Hawaii • Manila, Philippines



[Throughout this issue you will find other articles and/or speeches which pertain to the World War II Monument. We want to provide you with complete information regarding this matter. After all, IT'S YOUR MONUMENT.]

(Continued on Page 7)

IT'S HYANNIS IN SEPTEMBER! BE THERE! See page 11

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please contact these gentlemen.

President's Message

As I begin my term of office as President of VBOB, I do so with an innate pride in being elected to represent you in this prestigious position. The achievements of VBOB in former administrations have been superb and will serve as an inspiration to my role in enhancing our objectives and accomplishments. I earnestly solicit your support and your ideas in the development of opportunities and projects that will foster a greater awareness of VBOB and the noble purposes for which it was organized.

Our responsibilities as veterans of America's greatest battle did not end with the 50th anniversary events in 1994. Indeed, as Yogi Berra, the famous Yankee baseball catcher, once said, "It ain't over until it's over." These now exalted words have never been more apropos than today, especially in our accountability for education.

It is regrettable that today there is less and less being taught in our schools about World War II in general and of the Battle of the Bulge in particular. Unless we who are veterans of that war continue to forcefully bring the significance of World War II and the crucial role that the "individual soldier" played in destroying the evil forces which caused it and helped restore freedom to an enslaved world, all remnants of the virtues that resulted from our military service will be lost for all time.

The support that our members and others gave to our success in establishing the VBOB Monument on the grounds of the Valley Forge Military Academy in Wayne, Pennsylvania, is an excellent example of what coordinated and cooperative efforts can achieve. You can be justly proud of your role in this accomplishment as it stands majestically at the edge of the oval parade ground with the flags of the United States, Belgium and Luxembourg testifying to the unity of our common efforts in the Bulge. With its nighttime illumination, thousands of people who pass it daily are reminded of the great honor it represents to our country and to all World War II veterans.

During the coming year, I ask each of you to present your own ideas of what we can do to continue our progressive development of VBOB in both activities and objectives--individually and collectively--to create other enduring memorials that will insure the perpetuation of this important era in America's history.

VBOB is not the responsibility of any one person. It is an opportunity for every member to contribute. Individually, we will achieve limited success, but collectively, we can harness the combined knowledge and ideas of everyone to a common purpose that will add new, exciting and historic chapters to our already esteemed accomplishments. One such opportunity already exists as our "VBOB FAMILY" completes its plans to RETURN TO EUROPE in May of this year to "revisit former combat and service sites" in the Bulge areas. Mark the dates--May 2nd to 9th. (See details elsewhere in this issue.) This will be a landmark event allowing everyone to see and learn even more about the Battle of the Bulge and its continuing impact on history. And, of course, YOUR SPECIAL PLACES--perhaps important only to you as an individual--will be incorporated into



the final itinerary as circumstances allow. BEST OF ALL--ENOUGH PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY REGISTERED TO ASSURE ITS SUCCESSFUL OPERATION.

This may well be "the last chance" to return together due to the advancing years. Special receptions and other activities are planned to mark this as a milestone in VBOB history in which each major unit will be recognized and historic presentations given to make this not only a nostalgic return but a "living history." Bring your grandchildren with you. It will be an education of inestimable value that will create a new, meaningful relationship inextricably tied to your own personal heritage. Decide now to join us! It will create new wonderful memories that you will never forget.

A final note. I am pleased to report that Conrad Pyle of West Grove Nurseries, West Grove, Pennsylvania, has graciously offered to plant "Peace Rose" shrubs next to our monument at the Valley Forge Military Academy, at no charge. This will assure the perpetuation of a beautiful flower display, appropriately named, as a constant reminder of what our VBOB monument truly represents.

Yours in comradeship.

Stanley A. Wojtusik
President

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS VBOB NATIONAL OFFICERS

Again we have reached the time for a call for nominations for national officers for the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc.

Offices which are to be filled are as follows:

- President
- Executive Vice President
- Vice President, Membership
- Vice President, Chapters and Regions
- Vice President, Military Affairs
- Treasurer
- Corresponding Secretary
- Recording Secretary
- Trustees (3) - Three Year Term

Those who may be interested in any of the above offices should furnish a photograph and biography to Grover Twiner, Immediate Past President no later than April 1, 1996. (Address: 40 Dungan Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21228-3401.)

Those individuals wishing to aspire any of the above offices should be in a position to attend meetings at a place near Washington, DC, at least 10 to 12 times during their term of office and at their own expense. Currently the Executive Council meets at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, and at times meetings may be held at Ft. Myer, Virginia. Those not living in the immediate area should take these factors into consideration.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

YOU ASKED FOR IT...AIR SUPPORT, THAT IS

If you looked up Christmas morning, 1944, and saw fighter bombers (P38s and P47s) on their way to enemy targets, then you can appreciate what the gentleman from the 491st Fighter Squadron was addressing in his letter that you published in the November *Bugle*.

They were there because you asked for air support; 500 and 1000 pound bombs dropped on targets that you had under visual, or near visual, observation. Strafing runs, also?

They were there, from my first hand knowledge, because the IXth Tactical Air Command (MG Quesada, Cmdg) was notified by a ground unit (Signal Corps) about your needs.

Okay, these fighter pilots slept in better beds than we did. They ate better food. They had opportunities to fraternize with (gee whiz) women. We had our situation, but they had theirs.

SCRAMBLE meant that they took their b---- in their hands and flew the mission. Enemy aircraft? Ground fire? Some didn't come back? Sure, name of the game.

I am enclosing a copy of a tattered and torn Special Order #6 [not reproduced], issued by General Quesada, directing me and T/3 Kenneth Doege, to coordinate communications with the 422nd Night Fighter Squadron and other fighter group. The 422nd was outstanding in their radio communications abilities, even by signal corps standards.

My experiences were with the 926th Signal Battalion, Separate, Tactical Air Command, where I was radio section chief. Where we took the rain, sleet, snow, wounded and KIAs like every one else. The BOB.

So what? So, everyone had a job to do. Some did their job in the good old USA, others in Blimey, and there was the muck and the mud that we never grew to love.

Apparently, we worked well enough with each other that it did work. N'est pas?

Louis Innerarity
926 SIG BN SEP

...FIRST THAT I HEARD OF THAT...

[Regarding November *Bugle*, page 7, article by Leroy Vanwey] I read with much interest the article written by the above about the 35th Division riding 4th Armored tanks into Bastogne. This is the first that I heard that the 35th was attached to the 4th Armored. According to my records and that of the official history, U.S. Army, ETO, Battle of the Ardennes, the 35th Division was moved from France and was placed to cover the gap between the 4th Armored and the 26th Infantry Division. They went into the attack on December 27, 1944. The 4th Armored moved into Bastogne on December 26th, CCR under Col. Abrams.

I served in Company B, 318th Infantry, 80th Infantry Division, and we were attached to CCA, 4th Armored to provide flank support starting December 25th. The 1st Battalion attached to CCA and 2nd Battalion attached to CCB. The 4th Armored requested 80th troops to support their drive and our colonel, Col. McVickar, sent the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 318th. We all know the story of the weather in those woods and the lack of support needed. Some men served 6-7 days without camouflage, blankets, overcoats, waist deep in the snows, near zero. Medics could not get through because of the snows and the enemy closed in behind us. If wounded you stayed with the company or tried to walk out or froze to death. Many did and in March after the snows melted U.S. and German bodies were found in large numbers, in the thousands. There were no buildings and no fires. If you were lucky to be able to attack a distant village you might get out of the cold for a few moments and then had to move on, always attacking. On the 28th-29th of December, the 35th Division relieved us and we moved back to Ettelbruck, Luxembourg.

Our part in the battle was like most, not much has ever been written about our role in the battle. Our company coming off of a 6th day rest period started with 220 men on December 22nd and on December 28th, 20 men were left in the company and we had some replacements also. The 80th Division had two of their Medal of Honor awards in the Ardennes, one in Belgium, Christmas Day, and one in Luxembourg, January 7th, 1945. Many of the over 70 DSC were awarded in the Ardennes.

When we were relieved by the 35th Division, many men were evacuated because of wounds, but had stayed with the company because of little

medical support or freezing to death if lost in the deep snows and heavy woods. There were no roads up in those woods. Many had frozen feet and legs and were evacuated. When we returned to Ettelbruck we had no officers or non-coms. A PFC was our acting company commander. Three days later we were back in the attack, our ranks partially filled with new replacements or returning wounded.

I read the various reports from men who served in the many divisions or attached units and report that their unit did not receive credit for their actions. This is true during all wars. I do not believe it is important if the First Army or the Third Army had more press than the other. The important thing was we all worked together to defeat the enemy and were very successful.

Ed Bredbenner
80 INF 318 INF B

MORE ALPHABET SOUP

In the past two issues of *The Bugle*, some of the readers have recalled the WWII packaged rations, both "C" and "K." Howard Peterson correctly described the contents of a "K" ration but may have confused Robert Bowen when he said that the cans were round. The eggs, cheese, and corned pork loaf did come in small round cans which were then packed with the other items into a "crackerjack" box as described by Bowen. One of the providers of "K" rations was the Crackerjack Company along with Beechnut and other contractors.

Another reader, Sinclair Cullen, seems to be describing a squad type ration called "10 in 1." It contained rations for ten men for one day. "K" rations came in cases with an equal number of breakfasts, dinners, and suppers, but the breakfasts which were the least distasteful usually disappeared first no matter what time of the day the rations arrived.

"C" rations came in two cans. Can #1 contained some kind of precooked food such as stew, hash, or beans. Can #2 contained round biscuits, drink mix, sugar, and candy. While training in the field we sometimes ate can #1 cold, but if we were lucky, our cooks would have a can of boiling water to drop can #1 into and later have a "hot meal."

As a rifleman, from Normandy to the Battle of the Bulge, the only type of ration I saw was "K's," but "10 in 1" may have been available to those with the means to pack them. Enclosed [elsewhere in this issue] is a picture of a breakfast "K" ration which we had for over 51 years. The cigarettes are gone and the chopped ham and eggs can is a little bulged but there it is. It's nice to look at when one starts to complain about "What's for supper?"

John B. Savard
2 INF 38 INF G

RATION CONTENTS

What I remember about rations is first there was "C" and "K" and then the "10 in 1" rations which were for a squad of men.

The contents as much as I can remember were: uncooked bacon, hash, chocolate powder for drinks. The bacon was rolled up, sliced and inserted in a quart-sized can.

Most all of the containers were about the same size.

Edward Greh
9 ARMDD 27 AIB

BETTER USE OF TIME AND SPACE

[Re: "More Rewriting of History" article, May, 1995, issue, on page 6-7.] Why is it that we donate time and space in our newsletter to someone who delights in mocking and sneering at our battle response in the Bulge and 50 years later gets the space in our publication to do it today.

He writes of the "faked," "phoney," massacre at Baugnez, near Malmédy on 17 December, 1944 and calls it a propaganda ploy by the U.S. commanders to stir up the anger of the GI for further effort, etc.

I served in a machine gun platoon of the 1st Battalion, 117th Regiment, at Stavelot and saw plenty of Belgian civilians butchered by the SS for no purpose except frustration that they were not keeping on schedule against the GI. Twenty-three civilian dead in one group.

Nearly one month later on a road march the whole battalion, of what was left of it, marched past that same Gaugnez field where now the bodies were being recovered. We all guessed at upwards of 70 and maybe as many as 80 or more.

(Continued on Page 5)

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

.... P.S.: I strongly suggest that to make amends for the publishing of Ketter's letter that your staff should vote unanimously to say in our next *Bulge Bugle*: "We goofed, we're sorry, we have only the highest respect and honor for those who were slaughtered at Baugnez (Malmedy) and also to publish the full list that I include here (and those who managed to escape)."

[Editor: We don't feel that we goofed, our purpose in publishing that letter and anything else of a related nature which may appear, is to make you aware. If we are unaware of what people are saying, we cannot take steps to correct it. We must be made aware that there are people who are trying to rewrite what happened AND SOMETHING MUST BE DONE ABOUT IT. Only you who were there, can add authenticity to the atrocious deeds which you witnessed.]

WE WERE THERE

Congratulations on a great publication. *[Thank you.]* The members who read it know that WWII was being decided *[by them]*. Unfortunately our friends and neighbors do not know, do not research and read. That is scary.

Of particular interest in the August issue was a profile of the 81st Field Artillery Battalion. Our commanders in our schools used to tell us how to be in the infantry armor artillery team and that our (artillery) fires were critical. Most of the historians had no idea of what they were writing about and completely neglected team work--in all of its forms.

I was an officer in the 204th Field Artillery Battalion from May, 1941, to August, 1945, and assigned to XX Corps and the 3rd U.S. Army. We went from Normandy to Austria.

Eventually our unit received credit for the Battle of the Bulge--although we were not sent to the Ardennes area, we played an interesting role. The XX Corps was almost ready to launch an offensive across the Saar River to Saarlautern (now Sarlouis) and on to the Rhine. In what seemed like minutes, the infantry and armored divisions disappeared. With them went most supporting units. We were left in place--not exactly. We manned most of the artillery positions of the corps artillery by taking one of our gun crews to a battalion position, using captured artillery (the 88, the 150, the 170 and even some Polish). These were *[word not clear]* to rubber guns with sound and flash. Obviously our strength had gone north, but I believe we convinced the Germans we had more strength than we really had. It was an arduous assignment, but highly interesting and we believe very successful. We even kept the *[word not clear]* level and the rubber howitzers.

Elman K. Ellsworth
204 FA BN

A PLEASED VBOBer

[It's nice to receive some accolades once in a while. We herewith share one with you.] I feel so positive with and about our VBOB organization. Your staff and the officers continue to do so well.

The *Bulge Bugle* is exceptionally well done. I too like very much the "zipped up" appearance of the new membership cards.

Bernard K. McKenzie
87 INF 346 INF SVC

83RD INFANTRY DIVISION NEGLECTED

As I keep reading the *Bulge* magazine, it disturbs me very much because, while I served in the ETO from July 12, 1944 to May, 1945, the 83rd Infantry Division received five campaign stars and a silver star in 11 months of combat. We were called the Baby Division. We did our job well and I would love to read about the 83rd Division.

Albert E. Tartaglia
83 INF 331 INF SVC

[Again, we say: "If you don't send it in, we can't include it. We do not have sufficient funds for a research staff and depend almost entirely on YOU for our wonderful stories. If you send it in, we'll use it in the order in which it is received. REMEMBER, there were over 400 units in the Bulge and we have a backlog of information to get into the newsletter.]

MODERN DAY SPAM

Being a rather niggling type individual, I feel an urgent necessity to render a coup d'etat to those who have scoffingly cast lapsus linguae haphazardly concerning my dissertation on the WWII K-ration cans. To all of those in such haste to point out misconception by me about those cans, may I suggest that you make an appointment for an eye exam at your earliest possible [convenience]. If you will refer to page 12 of the February 1992 *Bulge Bugle* and then refer to my condemnation of the K-rations pictured, you will have to agree that I am neither confused or wrong when I stated in the August 1995 *Bulge Bugle* that, (and I quote from a most reliable source) quote, verbatim, "I don't know where they got the K-rations pictured, but that sure wasn't the K-rations I ate in WWII in 1943-1944" unquote.

The cans pictured on page 12 of the February 1992 *Bugle* look like modern day Spam cans complete with a 'key' for opening said can. The cans pictured show they contain: breakfast--veal loaf; dinner--pork luncheon meat; supper--cervelat sausage. The cans I referred to in the WWII K-ration were about the size of a modern day tuna fish can, were OD in color, and were inside, OD colored cans inside the K-ration box along with other ingredients. These round, OD colored cans inside the K-ration box contained: breakfast--chopped ham and eggs; dinner--cheese (we referred to this as asshole putty because if you were suffering from the Mexican Two Step because you didn't get all of the GI soap rinsed off your mess gear, a can of K-ration cheese would stop the condition completely within a couple of hours just as effectively as if one had used a cork); supper--this was our only surprise because the outside of the box didn't tell you whether the round OD colored can inside contained stew or hash.

In his book *Ernie's War* (Simon & Schuster), Ernie Pyle often refers to C-rations, K-rations, D-rations, and Ten-in-one rations.

In his book *Those Devils in Baggy Pants*, Ross Carter (Signet Books), Carter refers to C-rations, K-rations, D-rations (bars) and Ten-in-one rations.

In *There's a War To Be Won*, Geoffrey Perret (Random House) on page 290 states, "For troops going into combat there was the K-rations which looked and weighed like a brick. ...Unlike the C-ration which was intended to be heated to be made more palatable (but often weren't). The K-ration was intended to be eaten cold, presumably in a foxhole or some other tight spot."

We never waited for a Ten-in-one ration box to 'fall' off a tank. We 'moonlight requisitioned' them whenever we could.

Perhaps I'm not the one who is confused after all, and it was the walkers who got the K-rations and it was the riders who got the Ten-in-one rations.

The C is usually referred to as rations while the K is usually referred to as a ration.

Perhaps someone can enlighten me as to what that Bill Maulden wit has to do with K-ration cans.

And please, let's not get into a discussion as to what was and what wasn't inside the ProKit I mentioned. And what it was used for.

Howard Peterson
4 ARMDD 51 AIB

WE ALL CONTRIBUTED

[Reference November 1995 issue. This letter also concerned "K" rations and we included several already. This is an excerpt.]

Mrs. Reilly, widow of 1st Sgt Joseph E. Reilly (4th Armored Division) believes the Presidential Unit Citation of 27 March, 1945, was the first. Certainly it was deserved, but it was not the first. Ours (2nd Battalion, 9th Regiment) was issued earlier, and for action 13-16 December, 1944. This was not the first of the 16 such citations awarded to units of the 2nd Infantry Division.

Michell Kaidy (87th Infantry Division), quotes General Patton as saying in January 1945 that the Third Army had crushed the massive offensive "without help from anyone. Don't forget that...Third Army licked the Hun and broke the back of his offensive singlehanded."

Evidently, the First Army wasn't doing anything. I wonder why Ike did not send us home--1st, 2nd, 9th, 28th, 75th, 84th, 106th Infantry Division and other units. We all contributed--Patton received the plaudits.

Glynn Raby
2 INF 9 INF 2 BN H

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Continued from Page 5)

ANOTHER SLAP IN THE FACE?

In the November 1995 publication an article by James M. Collins of the 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion complained of a slap in the face for his unit and implied his battalion saved the day at the little town of Zadzot. We of the 509th Parachute Infantry Battalion would like to know when the 629th became part of our unit.

The 509th retook Zadzot from the 2nd SS with a little help from three medium tanks whose efforts on our behalf was to go up the road behind our B Company while A is attacked on the left with C Company going up on the right. No where did we see a battalion of TD's nor did we need them.

Talk about a slap in the face.

Charles H. Doyle
President, 509 Parachute Infantry Association

'GHOSTS' MAY BE LOCATED

In your February 1995 issue one of your members wanted to know about a "Ghost Patrol." I would suggest that he write: Mr. H. D. Quessenberry, Route 1, Box 46, West Jefferson, North Carolina 28694.

Mr. Quessenberry was commanding a weapons company in one of the divisions overrun by the Germans (28th?). They lost all their weapons except pistols. The division had trained around Bastogne and they knew all the back roads--with the stragglers of his company. They went into and out of Bastogne while it was surrounded--trying to join up with the rest of his division.

Alex V. Allen
XII CORPS HQ

JUST IN TIME

Our 89th Quartermaster Railhead Company got in Gouvy a Belgian town where we set up a class I railhead some 20 miles north of Bastogne.

The action began on the 18th of December when combat units retreated from the St. Vith advised us the German offensive was larger than expected. We were under enemy fire but I issued an average of 20,000 rations a day to the front lines.

At 0700 on 23 December, the main body of our company moved out in convey to First Army Headquarters. Later it was found that 2 hours after we evacuated Gouvy the Germans occupied the town with strong armored force.

William Harrison
89th QM RAILHEAD CO

BATTALION DESERVED SOME CREDIT

[As with many letters we receive, this was a little hard to read. We hope we have it right.] I was with the 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion during the Normandy Campaign and our time was spent with many divisions. One was the 30th Division in the battle at Montaign. We lost many men in that action and tanks too. But in the 30th Division History book, I was appalled when our battalion was not mentioned but "one" time. Our battalion saved the day for that division. The men can thank the Lord we were there with our trust M-10 and the 3 inch guns We have men who are still dying from wounds they received in that action. I joined reconnaissance company at that time as a replacement of one of the casualties in an attempt to relieve one of there cut off units.

James M. Collins
629 TD BN

4TH ARMORED BATTLE CRY

My heart sinks when someone (once even a paratrooper in Bastogne) is credited with the battle cry of the Fourth Armored Division, "They've got us surrounded again, the poor bastards!"

But on page 24 of the current issue of *The Bulge Bugle* (November, 1994) you have attributed those immortal words to General Abrams. He would have been the last person on earth to accept credit for our battle cry. I would like to set the record straight.

The facts are that early in the war, when the 4th Armored Division had

just broken out of Normandy and through Avranches, one of its units, the 5th Tank Battalion, went into leaguer and formed a perimeter defense for the night, just as the wagon trains used to circle at night for protection against the Indians. It was there that Sgt. Constant A. Klinga, in mock dismay, uttered his immortal words: "They've got us surrounded again, the poor bastards!" They became the battle cry of the Fourth, and this spirit led to General Patton's proclamation, just three months later, "There has never been such a superb fighting organization as the Fourth Armored Division."

Thomas D. Gillis
4 ARMDD

CHAPTER UPDATE

First, a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Now that I am now Past President, I can devote my time and efforts to getting new chapters organized and operating.

As you now know, Chapter (46), the Alamo Chapter was constituted and chartered at San Antonio, Texas, during our national meeting in September, 1995.

Over the past several months, there have been about a dozen or so inquiries about organizing chapters in various locations. Material has been forwarded. Since then, I've not heard much. Now that this is my basic function, I will be doing a personal follow-up. You don't have to wait for me to call, but contact me directly. Maybe I can help you. It only takes five (5) individuals who are members of the national VBOB to submit a petition to get things going. I'm not looking for large chapters, but those with enough members to sustain it and grow.

My target for this year is 70 chapters by December 16, 1996. I will not be unhappy if there are more.

At present a group in Beech Grove (Indianapolis area), Indiana, is in the process of getting a chapter started. Their first meeting is on January 18, 1996, at the American Legion at 327 Main Street in Beech Grove. Clarence Weddle (317-784-9325) is the person to contact.

I look forward to working with any one who is willing to make the effort. Good Luck and God Bless.

Grover Twiner
VP, Chapters & Regions

"K" RATIONS PHOTO....



Courtesy of John Savard

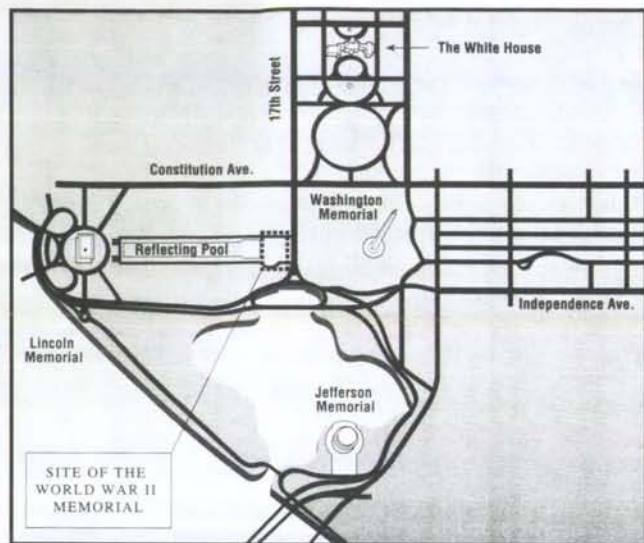
[See his letter in the "Letters to the Editor" column.]

To a surprising extent the war-lords in shining armour, the apostles of martial virtues, tend not to die fighting when the time comes. History is full of ignominious getaways by the great and famous.

GEORGE ORWELL

NEVER, NEVER, NEVER FORGET

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL



[Site of the World War II Monument]

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

In 1988, World War II veteran Roger Durbin, from Ohio, asked Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, 9th District of Ohio, why there was no memorial in Washington, DC, to honor the brave men and women who served in World War II. Mr. Durbin's question led Congresswoman Kaptur to introduce legislation authorizing the memorial.

In 1993, Public Law 103-32, honoring members of the Armed Forces who served in World War II and commemorating United States participation in that conflict was signed. The World War II Memorial Board was appointed in 1994. Among the many distinguished Americans serving on the board is Mr. Durbin's granddaughter, Melissa.

Board members will serve for the life of the project. The Board will assist the American Battle Monuments Commission in site development and design. The site of the memorial between the Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial received final approval on October 5, 1995.

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

The following are members of the Memorial Advisory Board. They will serve for the life of the project. The Board will assist the American Battle Monuments Commission with the design and in promoting donations for the capital-based Memorial.

- Admiral Ming E. Chang - Massachusetts: Served 34 years in the U.S. Navy.

- Melissa A. Durbin - Ohio: Granddaughter of Roger Durbin, who provided the impetus for the development of the memorial.
- Miguel Encinias - New Mexico: Served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam.
- Dr. Helen Fagin - Washington, DC: Jewish Holocaust survivor.
- William C. Ferguson, Sr. - Ohio: Tuskegee Airman during World War II.
- Jess Hay - Texas: Chairs Texas Foundation for Higher Education and serves on various corporation boards.
- Jon Mangis - Oregon: Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Bill Mauldin - New Mexico: Political cartoonist.
- Sarah McClendon - Texas: Newspaper reporter and columnist.
- John Wm. "Bill" Murphy - Arkansas: World War II Marine Corp veteran.
- Peter Wheeler - Georgia: State Commissioner of Veterans Affairs.
- Kevin C. Kelley - Executive Director: World War II Memorial project officer for the American Battle Monuments Commission.

DEDICATION TIDBITS

The *Washington Post*, November 12, 1995: Under a drizzling sky and in front of a small crowd, Clinton and other speakers echoed Lincoln's consecration of the Gettysburg cemetery during the Civil War, saying words could not do justice to the sacrifices made on battlefields throughout Europe and in the Pacific.

Indeed, there was no shortage of canes [at the dedication], hearing aids and walkers among the crowd at yesterday's ceremony. Their fighting days may be over, but the importance of what they contributed still resonates.

"I'm broke down now, buddy, but I was hell when I was younger," said Richard C. Turner, of the District, a platoon sergeant who led troops across the beach at Normandy and sports the Silver Star, Bronze Star and Purple Heart for his service. "All of them earned."

"In a word, freedom" is what the war was about, said Bill Beswick, a West Point, Virginia, native. Beswick was among the troops at the Battle of the Bulge and was one of those who joined with the Russian Army at the Elbe River just weeks before Germany surrendered.

VBOB PARTICIPATION

Officers and members of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc., were invited and attended the dedication ceremonies, representing all who served in this campaign.

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON AT WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL SITE DEDICATION

November 11, 1995
Washington, D.C.

...On this Veterans Day we gather in special memory of World War II, and we dedicate this site to ensure that we will never forget. That war claimed 55 million lives--soldiers and civilians, children, the millions murdered in the death camps. It engulfed more of the Earth than any war before it or any war since. It was, as Governor Carey said, the coming of age not only for many Americans, but for America--the moment that we understood that we could save the world for freedom and only we could save the world for freedom, and so we had to do it.

Today, we honor those who did just that. The fighting men and women who wore our uniform all around the world, and the millions of civilians on our nation's home front who did the remarkable things embodied by Mrs. Boyajian. For all they did for our troops and for all they did without, all the sacrificing at home to help the cause abroad, we thank them, too.

My fellow Americans, the World War II generation emerged from the darkness of global war to strengthen our economy, to enlighten our society and to lead our world to greater heights. More than 16 million women worked in our factories and cared for our soldiers. After the war, they began to play a larger role in our economy and, over time, a remarkable role in our military.

America must never forget the debt we owe the World War II generation.

Many thousands of African Americans served their country with courage and distinction as Tuskegee Airmen and Triple Nickel paratroopers, as Sherman tank drivers and Navy Seabees. After the war, we began slowly to act on a truth too long denied, that if people of different races could serve as brothers abroad, surely--surely they could live as neighbors at home.

I cannot let this moment pass without expressing my gratitude to all those of other ethnic and racial groups who, themselves, knew discrimination who also served in World War II, and the especially brave and heroic Japanese Americans who served in World War II, many of them with their own relatives in internment camps.

All these people took a fuller and larger and more meaningful role in American life after the war, and we

were stronger for it. And instead of turning its back on the world the way the previous generation did after World War I, the World War II generation stood with its allies and reached out to its former adversaries to cement the partnerships and create the institutions that secured a half-century of unparalleled prosperity in the West, no return of world war, and victory in the Cold War. We owe that generation a very great deal. And this monument will tell us we must never forget that, either.

This memorial whose site we dedicate today will be a permanent reminder of just how much we Americans can do when we work together, instead of fighting among ourselves. It will honor those who served and those who made the ultimate sacrifice. It will pay tribute to the millions of civilians who supported the war effort in spirit and action. It will stand as a monument to the values that joined us in common cause, that are worth defending and that make our life worth living. All these things we must never forget.

Here in the company of President Lincoln and President Jefferson, the White House in which every President but George Washington has lived, and the monument to George Washington just behind you, with the stately Capitol Dome beyond, the World War II Memorial will join the ranks of our greatest landmarks because it was one of the greatest and most important periods in our history.

We will seal this plaque soon with the earth of 16 World War II cemeteries, and so, in our small way, infuse this place with the spirit and the souls of those who died for freedom.

I want to thank all of those who have worked so hard to raise the funds for this project, including my good friend, Jess Haye, from Dallas. I want to thank Secretary Perry and the Department of Defense for making an initial contribution. And to all of you in the future who will give to make sure that this project is done and done right, I thank you.

America must never forget the debt we owe the World War II generation. It is a small down payment on that debt to build this monument as magnificently as we can.

From this day forward, this place belongs to the World War II generation and to their families. Let us honor their achievements by upholding always the ideals they defended, and by guarding always the dreams they fought and died for, for our children and our children's children.

Thank you very much.

MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

ROGER R. HEMOND advised us that the **26TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 104TH INFANTRY**, held a Memorial Ceremony in honor of their deceased comrades in November, 1995. We received this information too late to put in the last issue. If you would like further information, write to Roger at: P.O. Box 3523, Springfield, Massachusetts 01101.

JOHN G. GREEN writes to advise those visiting Belgium that he is willing to assist visitors to his country. Write to John at: Dreve Richelle 138, 1410 Waterloo, Belgium.

Sheila Anderson would like to hear from some one who may be able to provide information regarding her uncle's service during WWII. Information: **JOHN PATRICK ANDERSON, 90TH INFANTRY DIVISION**. Please write to Sheila at 609 Rolling Brook Road, Santa Barbara, California 93110.

STAN C. BELLENS, JR. also writes to let you know that he is willing to help you with your travels in Belgium, Luxembourg, or France. Write to him at: 2, rue Jules Destree, Bte 02; B4040 Herstal, Belgium.

BILL GILLIAM, 2ND ARMORED DIVISION, 66TH REGIMENT, G COMPANY, would like to hear from some one in his outfit, particularly **A. BRUZZI, C. A. MOORE**, and/or **COWBOY** (from Montana). Write to Bill at: Route 1, Box 167, Brumley, Missouri 65017.

Mrs. J. V. Fontana would like to know if anyone can provide some information regarding her brother-in-law **ARTHUR W. BLON**. She believes he was in the **106TH INFANTRY DIVISION**. Write to her at: 34 Plumb Avenue, Meriden, Connecticut 06450.

VERNON G. POOLE, 38TH CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE, would like to hear from someone who served with him. Write to him at: PO Box 506, Asheboro, North Carolina 27204.

JOHN D. LARICCIA, 17TH AIRBORNE DIVISION, 513TH REGIMENT, COMPANY F, writes to "fuss a little" at us for not having anything about the 17th Airborne. If you would like to write to John, he's at: 4916 Donald Avenue, Richmond Heights, Ohio 44143. *[If you have anything that would help us prepare an article, send us a copy. We don't overlook anyone on purpose, but if you don't send it, we don't have it. There's no money in the till for a researcher and we depend on what you send us.]*

DAVID BLAIR, 30TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 113TH FIELD ARTILLERY, writes to tell us a funny story which occurred in a computer class he is taking. He states: "One day last month, I wore my windbreaker with the BoB logo on it to class. A 'pretty young thing' looked at it and remarked, 'When did that occur? I don't remember ever hearing of it.' Feeling very ancient, I replied, 'Shortly after Valley Forge!'" *[If you have any "pretty young things" in your classes who don't know about the Bulge, write us for an Education Kit and ask your*

teacher if you can give a little history lesson at a future session of the class. It won't hurt to ask.]

BOB LATZ, 264TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, would like to hear from any one who was in his unit from February, 1943-December, 1945, for the battalion's reunion. Write to: 264th FA Bn Reunion Group, PO Box 654, Racine, Wisconsin 53401. Telephone: 414-681-1998.

ROGER HARDY, 5TH BELGIAN FUSILIERS BATTALION, is trying to locate some information for a gentleman in liaison with the Belgian Army Historical Center. He would like to have the length, weight, caliber, type of ammunition used, rate of fire, use, and any other information you might be able to provide on the semi-automatic U.S. M1 carbine. Send it to Roger at: 14, Landdijk, 8370 Blankenberge, Belgium.

REYBURN CROCKER, 9TH AIR FORCE, 370TH FIGHTER GROUP, 401ST FIGHTER SQUADRON, writes to tell us that the "Legion of Valor Museum" is now open to the public. The museum is dedicated to those who received the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Navy Cross or the Air Force Cross. Reyburn highly recommends a trip to the museum. There is no admission charge. It is open from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. It is located at 2425 Fresno Street at "O" Street, Suite 103 (across from Water Tower), in Fresno, California.

HOWARD AUBIN, 965TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, is looking for members of his unit. Write to Howard at: 3104 East Broadway #233, Mesa, Arizona 85204.

Gilbert Braun has written to ask your assistance in locating a soldier named **LACKY (LUCKY?) CLUCKY**, who probably served with **3RD ARMORED DIVISION, 11TH CAVALRY** (maybe **1ST INFANTRY DIVISION**). This soldier stayed with Gilbert's family in a Belgian village named Membach (between Verviers and Eupen). If you can help, write to Gilbert at: Rue de L'Invasion no 20; B-4837 Baelen-Membach, Province de Liege, Belgium.

JOE WENZEL, 201ST GENERAL HOSPITAL, would like to hear from any one stationed at the hospital in France from January to April, 1945. Joe returned to the site in September of 1994 and reports that it was a great experience. Write to Joe at: 33 Hughes Avenue, Rye, New York 10580.

FRANK C. PAGLIUCA, 75TH INFANTRY DIVISION, would like to know where he can buy a copy of *A Time for Trumpets* by Charles B. MacDonald. If you know where there is a ready copy, write to Frank at: 40 Crescent Avenue, Brockton, Massachusetts 02402-3648. *[Frank, your local book store may be able to order it for you. The publisher is Bantam Books.]*

ROBERT (BOB) HOMRIG, 277TH SIGNAL BATTALION, PIGEON COMPANY, would like to hear from any one from his unit. Write to him at: 1623 40th Avenue, San Francisco, California 94122.

(Continued on Page 10)

MEMBERS SPEAK OUT (Continued from Page 9)

F. Gordon Shay is trying to find information on his brother, **GEORGE C. SHAY, 28TH INFANTRY, 112TH INFANTRY**, who was a member of the band. George's records were destroyed in the St. Louis fire. George may have been assigned as a CP courier during the BoB and unfortunately became separated from his comrades and ended up in a different stalag than most of the group he was with on or about 22 December, 1944. He may have been in Stalag 12-A. Family members have visited his grave at Lorraine Military Cemetery at St. Avold. Please contact Gordon at: 247 Garford Road, Rochester, New York 14622.

TOM "BUCK" HARRIS, 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 60TH INFANTRY, REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS, would like to hear from anyone knowing the whereabouts of **ROBERT BROWN, MANUEL SALDANA, RED LAFFERTY** or **JIMMY RUSSO**. These men were close buddies. Write to Tom at 210 Church Street, PO Box 69, Elm City, North Carolina 27822.

ZANE RINEHULS, 87TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 345TH INFANTRY, COMPANY C, would like to hear from a relative or friend of **ROBERT VARGO**, from Detroit, Michigan, who was killed when Zane was wounded in Tillet, Belgium, on January 9, 1945. Write to Zane at: RD 2, Austin, Pennsylvania 16720.

Wilfried Dieterichs is looking for eyewitnesses of the **69TH, 89TH and 106TH INFANTRY DIVISIONS** to assist with a book project in Germany principally the regions of the Rhine and the Moselle. Write to him at: Heinrich-Hein-Weg 27, D-30880 Laatzen, Germany.

Jerry Liguori would like assistance in obtaining information regarding his father **SERGEANT MICHAEL G. LIGUORI, 32-205-082**, who was killed in the BoB. He was listed as MIA on 15 January 1945 and declared deceased on February 1, 1945. No further information was provided. Write to Jerry at: 7502 CreekrIDGE Lane, Citrus Heights, California 95610.

Anna Citrano Calabro would like to hear from someone about her brother, **PVT. JOHN P. CITRANO, 2ND INFANTRY DIVISION, 23RD INFANTRY REGIMENT**. She was a young girl when her brother was killed in the Bulge. Her brother was not with the 2nd long--he was a replacement. Write to Anna at: 91 Marble Street, Stoneham, Massachusetts 02180-2726.

SAM GEORGE, 3RD ARMORED DIVISION, 50TH SIGNAL BATTALION, COMPANY A, would like to hear from his old buddies or if the outfit has reunions. Write to Sam at: 4416 Central Avenue, Lake Station, Indiana 46405.

ROGER DESJARDINS, 2ND ARMORED DIVISION, 142ND ARMORED SIGNAL, saves World War II patches. He would like to know if anyone has any extra patches they would be willing to send him. Roger is sewing them onto a banner for display at meetings of his chapter. (Roger serves as President of the Tri-State (Vermont/New Hampshire/Main).) Write to him at: 4 Forest Park, Jaffrey, New Hampshire 03452.

Steven Bertetta writes to see if someone can provide him with information regarding his uncle's service: **CARL J. RIFENRATH, HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT, SERVICE COMMAND UNIT #1748 (SERIAL #37 581 767)**. Carl was a rifleman who entered the service at Ft. Snelling, Minnesota. If you can help, drop a note to Steve at: 601 Van Ness Ave #E3809, San Francisco, California 94102.

FRANCISCO ABENILLA, 6TH ARMORED DIVISION, 212TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, writes to ask your assistance. It seems that the statue of General Patton at the Patton Museum is being sold by its owner and is in danger of being moved from the museum. The 6th Armored Division Association is raising funds to try to pay for the statue. If you can help send your check to: Save The Patton Statue Fund, PO Box 25, Fort Knox, Kentucky 40121--be sure to write "6th Armored" in the corner.

MIKE O'CONNOR, 965TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS BATTERY, would like to hear from members of ordnance company who retrieved damaged or disabled army vehicles near LaRoche, Belgium during early part of 1945. Write Mike at: 17 Warren Street, Florence, Massachusetts 01060-1332.

GENERAL PATTON MEMORIAL MUSEUM OPENS ETTELBRUCK, LUXEMBOURG

On July 7, 1995, the Groupe de Recherches et d'Etudes sur la Guerre 1940-1945 officially inaugurated the General Patton Memorial Museum in Ettelbruck, Luxembourg.

The museum gives an excellent retrospective view of the events of World War II in Luxembourg: invasion by the German Wehrmacht on May 10, 1940; forced drafting of young Luxembourgers to the Reichsarbeitsdienst and the German Wehrmacht; deportation of Luxembourgers to German labor camps and concentration camps in various parts of Europe.

Not forgotten is the battle of the Bulge with the devastation to Luxembourg and the Ardennes; the liberation of Luxembourg by American soldiers on September 10, 1944, and the second liberation after the Bulge.

The museum exhibits a host of photographs, documents, war material (new and dug out of the Ardennes woods).

The entrance is dedicated to General Patton and his brave soldiers who liberated Ettelbruck.

The museum is open:

- **July 1 through September 15:** Everyday from 10:00 a.m. to noon and from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

- **July 16 through June 30:** Only on Sunday from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., or by making an appointment on phone #81 03 22.

The association looks forward to your visiting the museum on your return trips.

ARE YOUR DUES PAID? CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL FOR YOUR DUES DATE.



**TENTATIVE PROGRAM
BATTLE OF THE BULGE, INC.
REUNION
Hyannis, Massachusetts
September 8-11, 1996**



• **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1996 •**

12:00 Noon - 5:00 p.m. Registration, Headquarters Hotel, Cape Codder Hotel, Hyannis
7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Welcome Wine & Cheese Reception
Welcome Address: Township Manager Warren J. Rutherford

• **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1996 •**

9:00 A.M. - 5:00 Registration, Headquarters Hotel, Cape Codder Hotel, Hyannis
Time to be announced Whale Watch Trip by Boat
12:00 Noon Lunch on your own
6:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Clambake Buffet



• **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1996 •**

Time to be announced Registration Desk
Time to be announced Hyannis Harbor Port Tour by Boat
Inland Bus Tour of Hyannis
12:00 Noon - Lunch on your own
Time to be announced Membership Meeting at Cape Codder Hotel

• **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1995 •**

Time to be announced Bus visit and tour of Plymouth Plantation and Plymouth rock
12:00 Noon - Lunch on your own
7:00 p.m. - Annual Banquet with guest speaker, dinner and dancing.

NOTICE: This Tentative Program is provided to allow you to make your plans. The next issue of *The Bulge Bugle* will provide you with complete information regarding times, costs, etc. The bus and boat tours will be optional events.

DELTA AIR LINES (telephone 1-800-241-6760) has been chosen to handle air transportation needs for the Hyannis meeting. Travel dates encompass September 5 thru 14, 1996. Tell them you are with the Battle of the Bulge and the **File Number is XR2883**. This telephone service is available daily 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. (Eastern Time). To take advantage of the discount offered call the number provided above or your travel agent.



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Cape Codder Hotel
THE FLATLEY COMPANY

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1996 – THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1996

PLEASE RESERVE THE FOLLOWING ACCOMMODATIONS:

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_____ \$84.00 PER ROOM, PER NIGHT, SINGLE/DOUBLE OCCUPANCY, + 9.7% STATE TAX
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1996 THROUGH THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1996

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EARLY ARRIVALS, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 & SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
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**ALL ROOM REQUESTS HAVE BEEN NOTED ON YOUR RESERVATION
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DAY TELEPHONE: (____) _____ TODAY'S DATE: _____

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(PLEASE ENCLOSE CHECK, MADE PAYABLE TO THE CAPE CODDER HOTEL.) FOR THOSE USING
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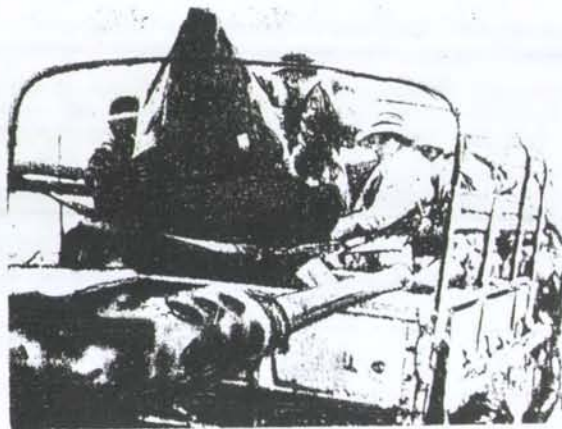
357TH INFANTRY REGIMENT 90TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Compiled by S/Sgt. George von Roeder

[PALMER PRICE, 84TH INFANTRY DIVISION, sent us the Regimental History of the 357th Infantry. We extract herewith the portion regarding the Battle of the Bulge.]

On the 6th, the Division moved northeast into Luxembourg to take its place in the Battle of the Bulge. The 357th moved into an assembly area near Bavigne and immediately began making preparations for an attack against the Germans who had just a few short days ago boasted that they'd be back in Paris soon.

The attack to the north was begun on the 9th and met with immediate success. The enemy had strong forces in this area, but evidence of their disorganization was apparent. The advance of the Regiment to the north threatened the supply and withdrawal routes to the northeast, and as a result, many of the shivering Germans gave up, while others fought on to the bitter end. On the 11th, the Regiment took over 1,200 prisoners. This was particularly gratifying as many of them came from the German 5th Paratroop Division, the same outfit encountered by the 357th at Beau Coudray many months before.



Movement to the Ardennes

The weather was extremely cold and nearly a foot of snow covered the ground. If a soldier was careless with his feet, he stood an excellent chance of losing them from "trench foot" or frost bite. The men were still wearing the same type leather shoe which they had worn during the warm summer months, and it simply was not adequate footgear for soldiers who had to remain exposed to zero weather. Evacuations from exposure were heavy.

By now the Germans were attempting to pull as much of their force as possible out of the "Bulge." To protect this withdrawal, the enemy maintained a shell of rear guard defenders around the diminishing perimeter of his salient. To break through this shell and get at the retreating columns was now the job.

On the 21st the Regiment moved into the famous city of Bastogne, Belgium, and attacked to the northeast the following day, capturing the town of Asselborn. A crossing of the Clerf River was forced on the 23rd, and by the 26th, the Regiment had closed up to the Our River, after smashing through tough opposition in the towns of Heinerscheid, Lausdorn, and Binsfeld.

75TH INFANTRY DIVISION

By LEO E. WALKER
275th Engineer Combat Battalion

[The following excerpt appeared in the 75th Divisions newsletter Bulge Buster.]

...Company "C," 275th Engineer Combat Battalion, entered the Battle of the Bulge on December 24, 1944, where we constructed a bailey bridge under the cover of darkness at Barauaux, Belgium. This may have been the first bailey bridge constructed in the Battle of the Bulge.

We went into a terrible battle at Soy, Belgium, on December 26, 1944. We had three soldiers killed and one soldier wounded while we were laying mine fields to protect our troops. This was a battle that I will never forget. Nor will I forget the strong German army, the cold weather, the loss of life, or the hard fighting that was done by the American soldiers. This will be on my mind for the rest of my life.

We were able to move to LaForge, Belgium, on December 28, 1944, and we ate our Christmas dinner there the next day. We did combat work with the 291st Infantry and cleared some of the roads while we were in this area. We moved to LaReid, Belgium, on January 1, 1945, in a blizzard with temperatures well below zero. We worked with the 291st Infantry Regiment for the most part while we were here. We did some work when the weather would allow us to do so.

We moved to Basse Bodeux, Belgium on January 10 to do road work on two small roads that we thought we might be able to use. We also removed damaged vehicles from the roads. The German army had begun to move toward Grand Halleux, Belgium. The 291st Infantry regiment had the push on them day and night.

We moved toward Grand Halleux, Belgium on January 15, 1945. The Germans held the high ground. This was one of the terrible battles. The fighting raged for four days. The loss of American lives was tremendous. The Germans moved toward Vielsalm, Belgium.

We moved to Vielsalm, Belgium, on January 19, 1945. The German Army did not fight hard for Vielsalm. However, they left the area heavily mined. They moved to where they were when they began the Battle of the Bulge. The Germans suffered great losses, both in equipment and men and were badly beaten by the United States forces.

It is my opinion that any soldier who didn't get killed or wounded in the Battle of the Bulge has to feel very good. I am so thankful that we had only four men killed in this historic battle. I know in some cases almost entire companies were destroyed. We came through this battle ready to fight another day.

[Elsewhere in this issue are the recollections of Peter G. Dounis regarding the Battle of Grand Halleux.]

LOBSTER, ANYONE???



See you in Cape Cod....

REUNIONS

ANZIO BEACHHEAD VETERANS OF WWII, May 9-12, 1996, Holiday Inn, Virginia Beach, Virginia. Contact: John W. Hole, 2633 Loretto Road, Jacksonville, Florida 32223-1318.

CAMP FANNIN, March 27-30, 1996, Howard Johnson-Tyler, Tyler, Texas (for all stationed there during 1943-46). Contact: Camp Fannin Association, PO Box 132024, Tyler, Texas 75713.

4TH ARMORED DIVISION, August 19-25, 1996, Radisson Hotel, Columbus, Ohio. Contact: Samuel A. Schenker, 1823 Shady Drive, Farrell, Pennsylvania 16121. Telephone: 412-342-6058.

11TH ARMORED DIVISION, August 6-11, 1996, Spokane, Washington. Contact: 11th Armored Division Association, 2328 Admiral Street, Aliquippa, Pennsylvania 15001. Telephone: 412-375-6295.

26TH MIDWEST YD INFANTRY DIVISION, May 9-20, 1996, Holiday Inn, East, Springfield, Illinois. Contact: W. Kent Stephens, 107 Bluffview Lane, Collinsville, Illinois. Telephone: 618-344-1616.

26TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 104TH REGIMENT, April 26-28, 1996, Valley Forge Hilton Hotel, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. Contact: Roger Hemond, PO Box 3523, Springfield, Massachusetts 01101. Telephone: 413-593-9764.

26TH CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE TROOP, 26TH INFANTRY DIVISION, May 19-20, 1996, Holiday Inn, East, Springfield, Illinois. Contact: George Linthicum, 2605 Orchard Drive, Broomall, Pennsylvania 19008. Telephone: 617-356-9552.

30TH INFANTRY DIVISION, June 12-16, 1996, The Pines Resort Hotel, South, Fallsburg, New York. Contact: William Igoglia, 83 Brussels Ct., Toms River, New Jersey 08757. Telephone: 908-505-0679.

75TH INFANTRY DIVISION, April 25-27, 1996, Holiday Inn, Madeira Beach, Florida. Contact: Jim Warmouth, 6545 West 11th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46214. Telephone: 813-241-3730.

80TH INFANTRY DIVISION, August 21-25, 1996, New Orleans Hyatt Regency Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana. Contact: Frank Terrizzi, 3039 Foulk Road, Boothwyn, Pennsylvania 19061-1701.

84TH INFANTRY DIVISION, August 24-29, 1996, Williamsburg, Virginia. Contact: National Headquarters, PO Box 827, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57101-0827.

86TH CHEMICAL MORTAR BATTALION, April 17-21, 1996, Lafayette, Louisiana. Contact: Richard A. Zaunbrecher, 1503 East Bayou Parkway, Lafayette, Louisiana 70508. Telephone: 318-988-4501.

135TH ORDNANCE MM COMPANY, March 16-17, 1996, Lakeland, Florida. Contact: Joe Galano, 21 Shore Blvd., Keansburg, New Jersey 07734. Telephone: 908-787-3016.

297TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, July 17-21, 1996, Owensboro, Kentucky. Contact: Hal C. Miller, 5251 Windy Hollow Road, Owensboro, Kentucky. Telephone: 502-785-4088.

300TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, June 6-9, 1996, La Quinta Inn, 8303 East R. L. Thornton Fairway, Dallas, Texas 75228. Contact: Frank Neuhauser, 6278 Revere Place, Dallas, Texas 75214. Telephone: 214-823-8789.

511TH ENGINEERS LIGHT PONTON, June 13-15, 1996, Eden Resort Inn, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Contact: Nick Rosania, PO Box 412, Whitehouse Station, New Jersey 08889. Telephone: 908-534-2728.

526TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, May 14-17, 1996, Executive West Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky. Contact: George Cortis, 218 Harrison Street, Elvria, Ohio 44035. Telephone: 216-372-2630.

551ST PARACHUTE INFANTRY BATTALION, September 11-15, 1996, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Contact: Fred Hilgardner, 6700 North Euclid, Gladstone, Missouri 64118. Telephone: 816-455-0994.

3816TH QUARTERMASTER (GS) COMPANY, February 24-25, 1996, Sanford, Florida. Contact: Dick Whalen, 274 Live Oak Blvd., Sanford, Florida 32773. Telephone: 407-323-6640. *[This may get to you too late.]*

NORTH DAKOTA CHAPTER VISITS HIGH SCHOOL

[The following article was excerpted from an article which appeared in the Official Newspaper of Sheridan County on December 22, 1995, which was written by Jim Wills.]

The North Dakota Chapter of Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge presented a program on the history of World War...December 15, at McClusky High School. The program was an assembly for students, and some members of the public attended.

Local veterans served on a panel. Chapter members who attended from out of town were Norman Hammer, Frank Dusek, Johnnie Rauser, and Harry Swendsen.

The program began with a lecture and distribution of a pamphlet on flag etiquette. George Peterson, president of the sponsoring organization, read a poem on the flag.

A video was shown on a large screen entitled, "Nightmare's End, Liberation of the Camps." The video included actual film footage of liberation of Nazi concentration camps...in Poland, including Auschwitz, Madenek and Sobibor...Rohrdruf, Buchenwald, Bergen-Belsen, Dachau, Wobbelin and Mauthausen.

The film included interviews with Russian, American and British veterans who had been among the first to enter the camps. German SS guards generally killed as many prisoners as possible but left survivors when they fled from advancing troops.

The veterans sometimes broke down emotionally as they described seeing piles of corpses, emaciated people near death from starvation, gas chambers, torture rooms, and in Buchenwald, a room containing lampshades made of tattooed human skin.

The Bulge veterans said it was important that young people know of the atrocities committed during World War II because some anti-semitic groups are trying to deny that the Holocaust occurred. Also, Peterson pointed out that the Japanese were just as brutal as the Germans during the war.

[A question and answer period followed.]



George Peterson, North Dakota Chapter President, addressing students at McClusky High School. Panel members from left: Doran Parsons, Robert Newman and Russell Houston.

The Goering Incident

By Golden C. Sill

[The following article appeared in the Winter, 1995, issue of The Fighting 36th Historical Quarterly.]

This incident began two days after the German army surrendered. Brigadier General Robert Stack, Assistant Commander of the 36th Infantry Division, called me on the phone. He told me to report to Division Headquarters immediately for instructions on a mission involving a high ranking German official (Herman Goering).

This photo of BG Stack and Goering was provided by Lester Leggett, one of the men who captured the No. 2 Nazi on May 4, 1945, at Zell, Austria.



When I reported to General Stack at Division Headquarters, I was introduced to a German Major of the Luftwaffe who was the guide for the Goering party. Stack told me he needed a combat unit to go with him and the German Major for the rendezvous. The 3rd Platoon of Rcn. 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion was the only combat unit I had in the town where Division Headquarters and my company C.P. were located.

Gen. Stack told me that the I&R platoon of the 142nd was available to go with us on the rendezvous. Second Lt. Jerome Shapiro was the officer with that platoon and desired to go. Stack said, "I'll leave it up to you—if you need him, Okeh and if you don't want him, that is okeh also." Not knowing what we would be facing, I felt the extra manpower would help on the mission because we would be going about 70 miles into an area still occupied by armed German troops.

The ... mission included the following: the Luftwaffe Major in his Mercedes, General Stack in his sedan, myself and driver, the 3d platoon with four jeeps and two armored cars (M-8s), Shapiro and his two jeeps.

We headed out through the Austrian gap of the Alps. The Major with his Mercedes took off at a good clip and it was difficult to stay with him because of the armored cars. I called my armored cars and jeeps on the radio and told them to keep coming, that I was going to stay with the Mercedes and Stack and then I lost radio contact.

After a little more than one hour, we arrived at a castle in the area of Zell (near Kitzbühl) the place for the rendezvous. The castle and surrounding areas were occupied by an SS regiment commanded by Oberst Fegerlein. A lunch was provided by the German unit. Stack and his aide, myself and Shapiro and maybe other U.S. soldiers, Colonel Fegerlein and his staff were also present. Conversation was somewhat limited because of the language barrier. However, there was an SS captain who spoke good English which was a good help in conversation.

I believe he told me that he had attended school in the U.S.

After an hour or so, part of the party continued on and made contact in a wooded area with the Goering group at around 10:00 p.m. It was dark. Everyone then proceeded back to the castle where Goering, his wife and daughter and other members of his party were billeted for the night. Pictures, interviews and a lot of gawking was in process for maybe a couple of hours before we retired for the night.

Prior to retiring, Stack met with Goering and the interpreter; Goering gave him the story of the last month of the war. Right after that Stack briefed me on what he had learned and his plans for the morrow.

He told me of Goering falling out of favor with Hitler and being imprisoned and Hitler's plan to execute him by a firing squad. His Luftwaffe rescued him and from then until now he was in hiding. He was somewhat concerned about the SS regiment billeted in that area because the officer in charge was the nephew of a General Fegerlein who was not the best of friends with Goering and, of course, the SS were Hitler's elite troops.

Stack also told me that he wanted to tour the area early in the morning for any loot or whatever. In order to get ahead of the general, I decided to tour the area that night. The German captain was my guide. We entered a barracks occupied by troops and they were good looking soldiers. I felt rather small in the presence of those 6 foot-plus soldiers. However, Sgt. Probst was with me and added to the situation. Not very much was present in the way of loot. We did get some lugers, however.

I allowed the German troops to retain their arms that night, but they would be picked up the next morning. I did that because of an uncertain situation where a considerable number of displaced persons (Russians and Poles). Stack had previously charged me with the responsibility of protecting Goering and party at the risk of our own security.

Nothing much happened during the night. I spent some time with the German SS officers discussing the world situation and why Germany felt they could take on the U.S. and win. Their feeling was that the U.S. would never be brought into a war in Europe again after WW I. Shapiro was in his glory and making the most of it. Because of his background and being from New York City, he left no stone unturned. The New York City papers really had a hey-day, I was told.

Stack motioned for me to come forward and meet Goering. As I approached the Field Marshal, he stepped forward, gave me the Heil Hitler salute and extended his hand for a handshake. I returned the salute (U.S. style) and shook his hand. As I shook his hand, he talked in his language to me. Tears were coming from his eyes. The interpreter was telling me what he said. He thanked me for providing security for himself and his party and requested that his wife and daughter (about 6 years old) be made safe. I assured him that the security would be maintained.

When I escorted Gen. Stack through the area, we observed many side arms. Of course, Stack wanted some of the troops back at Division Headquarters to get souvenirs and he told me to have them sent back to his headquarters. I knew what was there because I had inspected them the night before. There were approximately 25 lugers and P 38's with holsters and there were also a box of probably 100 or more 25s, 32s, 22s, etc. (small pistols without holsters). Stack commented, "See that your men get a souvenir." I took him at his word and gave my men the choice pistols and took the box back to Division Headquarters. You can bet that I didn't deliver them to Stack personally, but left them at the gate of Headquarters with the MP's.

Lt. "Bull" Wilson indicated that later on, after I returned to my company and left him in charge, some one from Division Headquarters came to castle looking for the pistols and indicated the General was a little unhappy. Cest La Guerre.

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Living Legends

Memorable Bulge Incidents

UNEDITED AND
HERETOFORE UNPUBLISHED

WHAT WAS THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE?

December, 1944

Jim Hill
99th Infantry Division
394th Regiment
2nd Battalion
Company G
Ellicott City, Maryland

...we spent a long period of time on a wooded bluff overlooking Wurringen before we received orders to approach the town.

As we moved out, my squad was in platoon reserve about 50 yards behind the leading platoons. I remember leaping the creek and starting out across the open field in front of the town.

We, of course, were not aware that the Germans were hidden in the hedgerow to the right; they opened fire when we were exposed in the open field. I cannot remember how long we were pinned down. However, no orders were coming back from the front of the column.

There was a draw on our left flank; we moved into it and followed it all the way up to the first building on the left side of the road. It was there that I spotted our C.O., Capt. John Haymaker. I shouted over to him that we had moved up and asked for deployment. He ordered us to move as far forward as we could and establish contact with E Company across the road. We were able to move as far as the side of the first building and began to receive heavy fire coming from the direction in front of us.

We moved into the building through the area that housed cows. The cows were standing but full of bullet holes from which blood was spouting; we were slipping in it as we tried to move into the next room, which I believe was the kitchen.

It was in the room (stable?) with the cows that I spotted our platoon sergeant, James Rush. Jim had taken a round in the forehead and was laying between the cows.

We entered the next room and looked across the road through an open window. E Company was not across the road; Germans were across the road. There were two wounded in the room. I believe both had come to us from ASTP. I recall the names, Martin and Latinette. Martin was being attended by a medic.

We became engaged in a fire fight with the German troops across the road who I believe were brought up from the hedgerow to support the action in the village.

Clearly, our situation was becoming desperate. We were very low on ammunition and dusk was beginning to set in. At this time, I received a face wound.

A decision was made to pull out and rejoin the company. As we left the building, we were surprised to find that the remnants of the battalion had withdrawn from the field. We had not been alerted of the withdrawal.

We attempted to cross the corner of the building toward the field but

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

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

the Germans would send a burst across the area whenever anyone exposed themselves.

There was a wounded American lying at this corner with his intestines lying on the outside of his body. I can't identify him.

We returned to the building carrying him with us. Soon after, we were overrun by the enemy. Approximately 30 of us were taken prisoner.

We spent the night in a garage in Wurringen which was now being shelled by our artillery. We set out the next morning toward Germany. We assembled a stretcher made of two GI raincoats and small trees to carry the mortally wounded soldier.

We carried him for about three days administering our sulpha packets and I believe the medic had morphine. He died after the third day.

By foot and by boxcar, we finally reached Hammelburg, Stalag XIII-C.

We were liberated on April 19, 1945, at Wodsborg(?). Ironically, the number one song in the U.S. at that time was "Don't Fence Me In."

I spent about a week in a Paris hospital enroute home where I met two men from the 99th who joined the division as replacements. They told me that they were assigned after the "Battle of the Bulge." My question to them was, "What was the Battle of the Bulge?" We didn't know it had been given that name.

.....

BROTHERS MEET NEAR BASTOGNE

December, 1994

Henry S. Kubacki
7th Armored Division
33rd Armored Engineer Battalion
Company C
Las Vegas, Nevada

...Then, finally, we got orders to load up and move out. I think it was on December 17th. We rode all day and all night when we finally came to St. Vith in Belgium where we didn't know what was going on. The next day we found out about the Bulge. We were told that the Germans broke through the lines in a mass force and were heading for Antwerp. Then we were receiving messages about German positions being here, and Germans there. When we looked on the map, we found out that we were surrounded with Germans all around us. We got mortar fire and German 88's. Some of our guys got wounded. We never saw them again. Got orders to pull back from St. Vith.

The weather started to get nasty, cold and wet rain all day. It got so that you couldn't take your shoes off for over a week. Then we got orders to move to another area and we passed by the place where the Malmedy Massacre was. We saw all those GI's that were slain in the field just off the corner of the cross roads. It was a pitiful site that I will never forget. A day or two later, we were moving to another

position and had to pass by the same corner where we saw the same GI's, but this time we saw them covered with snow that fell the night before. All we could see was the bumps in the snow and now and then we could see a frozen hand sticking up out of the snow. I don't remember what day this was but the weather got cold and snow was all over. The temperature had dropped, and everything was frozen. We were in an area where we were on a side of a hill that we could see the valley below, and we could see the German 88's dropping all around us in the white snow. We called it black polka dots. It looked pretty but it wasn't pretty when we had to maneuver a steel half track in two feet of snow. I was on my 50 calibre machine gun turret, and many times I thought I was a gonner when the half track was sliding sideways down a hill. Not only did you have to worry about 88's or sniper fire but the thought of the half track rolling over down the embankment of a narrow mountain road. Many times my heart was in my mouth. I was in the armored division and we spearheaded and fought from our vehicles. We had so many close calls that I don't know how we made it. I guess the good Lord was with us. We spent Christmas in a pasture field with snow knee deep. The enemy had no pity for anyone. They kept us busy with sniper fire and incoming mail with the 88's.



Henry and his brother, Ed, whom he ran into along the road near Bastogne.

In the middle of the Battle of the Bulge, I don't remember what day it was, but I remember it was a wet gloomy day. It was one of those days that you felt like you didn't want to be living. But on this day, I got the surprise of my life. We were moving from one area to another, and were passing on the outskirts of Bastogne. We were in a column on this road and as usual we were

go-stop, go-stop and finally we go again. There was a GI standing along the road where we stopped, and I looked at this GI and to my surprise it was my brother Ed, who was with the 291st Combat Engineers. I was shocked to see him. I couldn't believe my eyes. The column stopped for about five minutes and we talked and was glad to see each other. He saw units of the 7th Armored Division passing by so he watched and waited. He knew it was my division passing by where he was. He was surprised to see me. We shook hands and said goodbye to each other and wished each other good luck. That was the last time I saw him until April, 1945, when we came across each other again.

[Henry's mom, Mrs. Martha Spettel, a widow since 1941, was the proud mother of five soldiers who served in World War II.]

THE BISHOP CAME FOR MASS

December 31, 1944-January 1, 1945

Gene Callahan

17th Airborne Division

507th Parachute Infantry Regiment

Company F

California

[Excerpt from autobiography] Early New Year's morning the Luftwaffe began its last raid of the war. They launched 1,000 planes and shot down 80 Allied planes and destroyed 400 on the ground. But they lost

so many planes and men that they could never attack again. One bomb fell in the street outside of the stone house where we were sleeping. The explosion lifted me a foot off the floor. Quad 50s on a half track in the street blasted at the attackers. None of us was hurt, but our war was begun.

I was off duty on New Year's day and strolled into town fully armed, as we were required to be, this close to the front. The doors of the plain stone Catholic church were open and I could see that it was filled and mass was about to begin. It being Sunday, and New Year's Day, I entered and stood at the rear, feeling out of place with my helmet on my arm, slung carbine and cartridge belt.

When the priest turned toward the congregation and began his sermon, he noticed me. He beckoned for me to come forward and said something to the people. They all turned and looked at me as I walked to the altar. They were smiling. When I stood before him, the priest took my arm and led me to the bishop's throne and had me sit down.

He resumed his sermon and gestured toward me several time. The people nodded to me and smiled happily. When communion time came, the priest approached the throne and gave me the Host first. When mass was over, the priest bowed to me. I arose and walked out through the beaming throng, touching hands that reached out to me. They were all thin and ragged old women, children and old men. Their young men and women were all dead, or slaves in Germany.

This happy experience brought home to me what I was there for. I walked out more determined to do my bit to defeat the terrible enemy who made them suffer so much.

MY BEST CHRISTMAS DINNER

December, 1944

D. L. (Chris) Christofferson

771st Field Artillery Battalion

Battery A

On the 16th of December as I was returning from a few days of R&R, we ran right into the beginning of the Battle of the Bulge. Because we were heavy artillery, we were ordered to move our unit to the rear for a better position to fire the big guns. However, without really getting the guns dug in, we were ordered out again to the rear near Wallerode, and then again to Commanster, Dochamps and several other locations until we were finally in place just outside Bastogne.

December 20, On the move again.

Near Sibret, we were surprised by several Tiger Tanks with their powerful 88's and with no time to dig in, we just aimed down the breach and fired at the tanks.

The next thing I remember, my command car was hit and several of the jerry cans filled with gasoline and I went sky-high, landing in the snow with my uniform on fire and my legs and arms pointing in very odd positions.

With no thought to their safety, my first sergeant and gun sergeant came to my aid. They put out the fire and somehow managed to put me on the hood of a jeep and yelled, "Find an ambulance as quick as you can."

In a state of going in and out of consciousness, I found myself in an ambulance. After driving a while I heard the ambulance driver say he was lost, but somehow found a field hospital only to find they were moving out to the rear.

Finally, after several field hospital stops I awoke in a hospital just on the outskirts of Paris where I was operated on, given blood, dressed in a body cast and shipped to the coast by train to board an English hospital boat.

I arrived in a General Hospital in England very late in the evening. The nurse asked, "Have you had anything to eat?" Not that I remember I said, and off she went to the kitchen. She came back over apologetic with a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. The kitchen was closed.

I was so happy to be safe and alive, I didn't care what she found to eat so gave her a big hug as she wished me Merry Christmas and went back to sleep.

I thank the Lord so many, many times for all those that worked so hard to get me back to safety and to those who operated on my arms and legs and gave me medical care. The unknown Saviours in my rescue will probably remain unknown to me, but in my heart I will always be grateful to them for the part they played to save my life.

A NIGHT IN THE WOODS

December, 1944

Joseph C. Nicoletta
28th Infantry Division
28th Quartermaster Company
Washington, Pennsylvania

Night marches. They were a training camp routine. However, no number of those controlled marches back in the States could have prepared my platoon for its night in the woods on the 19th of December 1944.

After sustaining heavy losses in the Hurtgen Forest, my division, the 28th, was assigned to the rest area in Wiltz, Luxembourg, about mid-November. On Sunday night the 15th of December 1944, our company's officer, Lt. Homer Sanders, called us together to outline what our next move would be. The Germans, he explained, were apparently planning a major offensive, and we had been ordered to hold them off until the 28th Division HQ could move all equipment to Bastogne. Some men light-heartedly joked that Christmas--a mere ten days away--would be ruined, but we had sensed for several days that the Germans were up to something.

Our initial plan was to break up and form defensive positions in and around Wiltz. My platoon, led by Lt. Sanders, contained about 50 men and left for its position just outside Wiltz on December 17th. Then, as the Germans began closing in, we were ordered on the 19th of December to move to the crossroads near Wiltz where some trucks would be waiting to take us to Bastogne.

However, when we reached the crossroads, the trucks were afire and the Germans were there waiting for us. As we ran for cover into the nearby woods, they opened fire. Flares emblazoned the sky directly above the woods. In the confusion everyone began running in different directions. Many, including me, lost helmets and weapons. As we lay on the ground--bullets whizzing by over our heads--Lt. Sanders shouted for us to crawl away from the gunfire toward the other end of the woods. The cries of others who had been wounded could occasionally be heard as the barrage of gunfire continued.

Somehow, after crawling on our hands and knees and, at times, our stomachs, about half of us made it to the end of the woods, the gunfire now heathree grd just faintly in the distance. Unfortunately, the others were either captured or dead. At the wood's end was a road that Lt. Sanders had us carefully cross one man at a time into the woods on the other side. We regrouped and with the help of Lt. Sanders' compass made our way north to Bastogne.

After walking a few hours or so, we spotted a farmhouse in a clearing and cautiously approached it. As it turned out, three old people lived there. Walter Heinbach, the only one of us who knew German, approached them. They were terrified and pleaded with us not to harm them. We had no intentions of doing so and merely wanted something to eat and to get warm. They gave us black bread and some water for which we were very grateful.

The rest of the night was spent walking some more through the woods. Conversation was minimal, and I remember trying to drive the idea of being shot or captured out of my head. Eventually, we assumed that we must be nearing Bastogne since the sound of fighting was beginning to be heard in the distance. Then, as dawn approached, we finally stopped to rest, groups of three taking turns as guards.

At daybreak we awoke to the sound of gunfire. German paratroopers, who had begun landing in the field next to the woods, began attacking us. After wounding some of them, we moved out again the direction

of Bastogne. We passed a Nazi paratrooper who lay wounded on the ground. He was dressed in full battle gear, including hand grenades that were attached to his uniform. "Helfun! Helfun!" he begged. We walked quickly by him daring to get no closer for fear he was booby-trapped.

Sometime during that morning, the 20th of December, we met another group of lost GI's--or "stragglers" as we were being called. I remember a photographer taking pictures of us and asking us questions there. (One of the photographs from that day, showing a group of several displaced soldiers, has appeared in several Battle of the Bulge books.) It was also there, about mid-morning, that some quick action had to be taken. Since additional confrontations with the enemy were inevitable during daylight, Lt. Sanders asked us if we wanted to surrender or attempt to reach our unit. We resoundingly chose to continue our efforts to reach the 28th Division. Later that day we were fortunate to be reunited with our company after a harrowing night march in the woods.

THE FIRST SHOTS AT LEGLAZE

December 24, 1944

Hubert Crowell
30th Infantry Division
119 Infantry Regiment
Company G
Sebring, Florida

I fired the first round that started the battle for LeGlaze at daybreak December 24, 1944. I put two bazooka rounds into a half track with three German soldiers near the half track.

We captured 175 German vehicles that day. There were seven tigers (No. 213) near the court house.

I placed a round between the armor and the track. After 40 years, I saw that the round knocked the track off on the far side. My sergeant climbed up on the tank and dropped a grenade into it. The tank began to burn.

Our tanks fired at us thinking we were Germans. Our lieutenant went crazy. I asked him what he had in his hand. He had forgotten his two-way radio. He yelled into his radio and the order came back for all units to quit firing.

Christmas Day I was wounded, but that's another story.

A FRIGID MEMORY

January 12, 1945

Frank Freese
84th Infantry Division
333rd Infantry Regiment
Company F
Madison, Wisconsin

It is 8 February 1994 and I sit here in Madison, Wisconsin, looking out of my window watching the wind-blown snow go by horizontally. The temperature outside is 2° and the wind chill must be down between 30° and 40° below zero.

On an evening exactly like this nearly 50 years go (12 January 1945), I was trying to dig a foxhole in ground that seemed to turn into flint below me faster than I could chip it out with my little GI shovel. An hour earlier, F and G Companies of the 333rd Infantry Regiment (84th Division) had finally driven into the little village of Les Tailles, Belgium, after being held off and repelled by the German defenders since before noon. Before getting into town, F Company, with only about 70 men at the start, had had eight men killed and 31 wounded and as I futilely pounded away at the stone hard earth with frozen fingers, I almost envied the wounded if not the dead. As we entered town we had passed a large German machine-gunner who had been severely

wounded by an artillery tree burst and pleaded for help that we could not stop to give him. With the feeble remnant of my high school German, I told him that I would send a doctor back if I saw one but even as I said it I knew that was not going to happen. Any medical personnel who showed up would be kept busy with our own wounded. The Kraut may have killed or wounded many of our men and I should have hated him but I didn't. The thought of lying wounded and alone in that frozen land seemed too terrible.

Every time the Wisconsin winter deals us a night like this one, my thoughts go back to the Ardennes, to that frozen foxhole and to the wounded German. I can't help but wonder whether he survived that horrible night. I hope so, but I doubt it.

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THREE DOWN, ONE TO GO

January 2, 1945

George G. Karlquist
87th Infantry Division
347th Infantry Regiment
Company L
Lake Park, Florida

The photo I've sent is of a painting I painted in 1993. It's of an event that I and my squad was involved in, it's indelibly in my mind. It's titled "Three Down, One to Go." In the painting it shows three Shermans exploding and burning. A fourth was hit later. The soldier in the lower left in the photo is me, the squad leader. If you look hard you will see three dead German soldiers around the anti-tank gun, we had to hurry away from the exploding tanks.



This happened on January 2, 1945, at Bonnerue, Belgium. It is further explained in Danny S. Parker's book *The Battle of the Bulge* on Page 218, which reads "The following day (January 2nd) saw the American infantry repulsed once more leaving four Shermans of the 761st smoking and broken near the Haies de Tillet Woods. Over the next days, the battalion assisted the 87th Division in taking Remagen, Bonnerue and Pironpre." The 761st was the only black tank battalion in Patton's Third Army.

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A BELATED THANKS

January, 1945

Bob Catlin
90th Infantry Division
359th Infantry Regiment
Company L
Decatur, Illinois

When the Bulge started, we pulled back to a rest area at Biringen, Germany. We got replacements there and went back somewhere to a holding position, I think it was back around the Saar some place. Then January 6th, we walked out of the woods and got some sleep in a barn, till a fleet of open trucks picked us up. We rode most of the day up

through Lux city to Bastogne. Patton's diary says it was -6 degrees when he came through us that day. Anyway we spent that night in a shed and got warmed up, then the next morning some engineer outfit let us go through their mess line for hot coffee and hotcakes. Thanks a lot fellows, whoever you are, that's the last meal I had until I got back to the 35th Evacuation Hospital in Lux city. That day we were hauled out to a place where we got into a pine thicket to spend the night.

On January 9th, we lined our packs up in a school yard and went into attack with tanks of the 6th Armored. That afternoon I was sent out with some POWs and was hit out on the road with shrapnel. That's when I got back to the 35th Evac. A pretty blonde nurse gave me some clean pajamas and told me to lay aside anything I didn't want. I didn't want to see any of those clothes again, so she got quite a kick out of the things I had in my pockets.

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A PERILOUS MONTH

December 17, 1945

Jack J. Mocnik
526th Armored Infantry Battalion
Company A
Pittsburg, Kansas

Forty-nine [written December 17, 1993] years ago tonight, coming back to camp from visiting a family near my camp (Chateau Grimonstev) I climbed aboard the moving maintenance half track at dusk and started on the most perilous month of my life.

Little did I know that we had a rendezvous with Jochim Piper and the spearhead of the German attacking army. These were not volkstrom, these men were SS troops with plenty of combat experience. We arrived in Stavelot Belgium around 03:00-04:00 hours the 18th of December, 1944 and spent the next month in the Stavelot and Malmedy area. There are 39 white crosses in the cemeteries of Belgium that attest to the efforts of two armored infantry companies: A Company and B Company of the 526th Armored Infantry Battalion.

P.S. I saw our men start the gasoline dump on fire and this act stopped the German tanks from going on to Spa, Belgium. The fields were wet, forcing the German vehicles to utilize the roads.

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THE DECISION WAS MADE FOR US

December 16, 1944

Paul Panagrosso
106th Infantry Division
424th Anti-Tank Company
Trumbull, Connecticut

The incident I recall occurred on the morning of December 16, 1944. Just prior to dawn, my 57 mm Anti-Tank (AT) gun section of seven soldiers came under a horrific artillery barrage by the Germans. We were occupying prepared positions that had been turned over to the division weeks earlier. Our bunker was located a few feet underground and had seemed quite secure. Fortunately for us, the deafening thunder and trembling earth were all that we had to contend with. Very few shells actually landed on top of our position. After what seemed an eternity in hell, everything was quiet. One of our men who returned to his guard post said he heard voices in the area. We told him it was probably a German reconnaissance patrol and not to worry.

As we emerged from our sanctuary, our sentry came scampering back through the woods yelling "Germans!" He was followed by a hail of small arms and automatic fire that erupted all around us. The air was filled with the shouts and screams of German voices. We jumped back into our bunker, unable to man our AT gun due to the hail of fire. The Germans advanced on our position and began alternating between throwing grenades and firing into our bunker. We were protected from

most of the fire and explosions because our bunker had a ninety degree turn that led into our sleeping area. Some of us picked up their grenades and tossed them back out the hole. The Germans then ordered us to surrender. We had no way out of the bunker. We had two options, fight however many Germans were surrounding us or give up. As we debated, our decision was made for us as the clank and rumble of heavy vehicles perforated the air. Rifles and grenades were of no use against tanks. We would surely be killed if we resisted. Single file, we walked out of our bunker with our hands in the air.

When we walked back out into that cold, crisp Belgian morning, we were immediately surrounded by hundreds of Germans. Most of the soldiers were either old men or young boys. They took our weapons and searched us.

Our captors marched all of us into an open field. The German guards motioned for us to carry one of their wounded in a blanket. We purposely dragged him low so he struck the ground repeatedly. He kept telling us to lift him higher. We thought of escaping, but there were too many Germans nearby. We carried the wounded soldier to a field hospital. As we turned him over to medical personnel, we saw the German had a pistol in his hand under the blanket.

Our captors then marched us to a bunker where we were lined up waiting to be questioned. A German officer walked out of the bunker and approached me. In broken English, he asked me my name, age and profession. I told him my name, age and that I was a student. He was mystified that an Italian, once a solid ally of the Nazi's, was fighting the Germans.

He ordered me to go with him in a captured American jeep. As we drove off, he asked me, "Do you call this a Jeep in America?" I told him yes. He said they were going to show me what they had done to our positions. I told him as a prisoner of war, he was to safeguard me and send me behind the lines. He and the other German, a sergeant, laughed and shook their heads.

American counter battery fire picked up as we advanced. The shelling began to get very heavy in our area. How ironic I thought, I survived German fire only to be killed by my own artillery. The officer motioned the sergeant to pull off the trail we were on. We stopped and went into a destroyed bunker bombed by the Americans. The officer left me in the bunker with 10 heavily armed Germans. All of the soldiers stared at me. I thought one of them might shoot me due to the artillery we were firing at them. About 15 minutes later, the officer returned and we got back into the jeep. We raced back to the German lines, dodging the shells until we drove clear.

Later, I was interrogated by an elderly German soldier. He took my watch and wallet. I was surprised when he opened my wallet and pointed to a picture of my family and said "Mother?" I shook my head yes. The German smiled, gave me my watch and wallet back, and walked away. Another soldier led me back to a holding area with another group of American prisoners. They ordered our group to march east toward Germany.

Our column was passed by a seemingly endless flow of German tanks and soldiers heading for the front. The sight of so much power coupled with the amount of American prisoners led to a rumor the Germans had won the war.

We marched for days in the freezing weather with almost no food. The Germans at times would throw us potato peelings. I must admit, the Germans had little food themselves. Finally, we arrived at a prisoner camp and remained there for approximately three weeks. Our group was then placed into boxcars and taken to another camp deeper in Germany. We were locked in the boxcar for three days in subzero weather with no food.

I never knew what happened to the remainder of my unit and I remember few of my fellow prisoners, except for a soldier named Dean Miller. I would appreciate any information concerning the whereabouts of my squad.

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SAVED FROM THE BOB

December, 1944

Walter K. Barnum
28th Infantry Division
109th Infantry Regiment
Company L
Seattle, Washington

This story is different from most about the Battle of the Bulge because it is not about the fighting but how many soldiers were saved from being casualties or very possibly massacre victims at Malmedy. It is the story of unsung heroes, the officers and men operating the "Repo Depo" (Replacement Depot) in Malmedy, who saved those soldiers.

On December 14th, a group of us GI's who had been wounded and hospitalized in Paris were now recovered and being returned to the front by trucks. Our destination was the Repo Depo in Malmedy. As combat veterans we were to be returned to our original outfits. When we arrived at our destination we were assigned billets in tents but we were not given rifles. I suspect that rifles were not issued for fear that some of us might shoot ourselves in the foot to keep from going back. So there we were on December 15th with no weapons or any organization for combat.

Meanwhile the depot headquarters received a startling communication which stated that a large force of German tanks and infantry was nearing the outskirts of Malmedy. Fortunately for us, the officers of the depot immediately realized the seriousness of the situation and ordered our evacuation to the rear. Luckily there were trucks available and we all quickly loaded up and were driven to safety in Brussels. I am not sure how many of us there were, but I think approximately a hundred and we were all saved. Because of the confusion of battle, us returnees were not able to rejoin our outfits until after the end of the Battle of the Bulge in mid-January.

Later, when I heard about the massacre of our boys by the Germans at Malmedy, I realized that all of us had been saved from that same fate by the quick thinking of the officers and men of the Replacement Company.

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KEEPIN' 'EM ROLLING

December, 1944

Jim Stamper
2nd Infantry Division
293rd Ordnance MM Company
Saginaw, Michigan

On December 13th our company with the 2nd Division moved to Camp Elsenborn. This was a lucky move, because the bulge started on or about the 15th. The 106th Division replaced the 2nd. Soon we named Elsenborn Camp 88. Trucks and GI's came in from all kinds and different outfits, telling us how bad it was. At this time we got the word that German paratroops had cut the road out of Elsenborn. Besides the 88's the buzz bombs were coming in and there was a German heavy railway gun firing every 30 minutes, but it's shells went over us.

The 1st Infantry was on rest I think at Bath, Belgium. They opened the road to Camp Elsenborn to find gasoline for our shop trucks and other vehicles. Most of the gas dumps were moved or blown up.

The three of us got to Liege, Belgium, and spent a bad night. We were dive bombed, buzz bombed all night. The next day we loaded on the gas and went back to Camp Elsenborn. There was lots of fog and two buzz bombs hit nearby and moved our truck around a little. When we went to the area where our company was, they were gone. Nobody knew where they went. We found them at Bethane, Belgium.

After three days of no rest I was put on guard duty because of paratroopers in our area. Our company then went to Verviers, Belgium, for a while then back to Camp Elsenborn. I feel we were needed to

keep the vehicles running. ...The men from the 293rd are proud of what we did for the war.

NO TIME FOR PRISONERS

December, 1944

Maurice W. Wiseman
405th AAA Gun Battalion
Roanoke, Virginia

I was with the 405th AAA Gun Battalion outside of Antwerp, Belgium, near the Holland border when the Germans started the Battle of the Bulge.



Being in charge of the motor pool, I was sent to transport men and supplies to the front lines in Luxembourg.

After several runs we were surrounded and could not get out for three days and nights, until more U.S. troops could fight their way in to help. Everyone had to pull guard duty at night. Everyone was alerted in day time.

We were told Germans were in the area, and if sighted to shoot first to alert

others because we could not get out until relief came. Guard relief had to approach a certain way with proper signals.

The Germans were so intent to reach Antwerp Harbor, where all supplies and equipment they needed were stored. Trying to reach Antwerp they did not have time to wipe out or take prisoners of the U.S. troops enroute, therefore, lots of us were not captured or killed.

THE WALLS CAME TUMBLING DOWN

December, 1944

Jack Dibble
705th Tank Destroyer Battalion
7th Tank Destroyer Group
Satellite Beach, Florida

On December 19, 1944, I was with the 7th Tank Destroyer Group Headquarters in Harlange, Luxembourg, a few miles east of Bastogne. That afternoon, at 1540 I got a report of small enemy movements at Marche, and at 1630 VIII Corps told us that we should be prepared to move. As night fell we could hear tanks approaching and the winter sky was lighted by artificial moonlight as they grew closer. Just after midnight, with reports that the highway seven miles south of Bastogne had been cut, our 7th Group moved to Neufchateau and closed there at 0445 20 December. We were ordered to organize the defense of Libramont, Belgium, and took command of all the units in that vicinity by 1050 on the 20th. The 7th Group Commander, Colonel Harrison "Beans" Herman, an old cavalry tank commander from WW I, put me in command of the 73rd Self-propelled Artillery Battalion whose commander and key officers had been killed or captured. I put some of the guns at key approaches to Libramont and registered the rest of the battalion on the many enemy targets, mostly in the St. Hubert area. We sent back to Sedan for more artillery shells. The next day the situation had stabilized enough to return the 73rd to its parent unit, and I continued my job as 7th TD Group Intelligence Officer.

We had our headquarters in a school house in Libramont, picking up elements of the 28th Infantry Division's 602nd Towed Tank Destroyer Battalion and other elements of the 28th Division. On Christmas Day we were joined by Colonel Fickett's 6th Cavalry Group and the 4th French Parachute Battalion, conducting active operations north of town toward St. Hubert and Recogne.

At 1515, the afternoon of 26 December, I was at my desk when there was a huge explosion and I saw the whole wall of the school house coming down. I dived under a steel desk and came out with some cuts and bruises. Running out into the yard I got into a ring mount on one of our half tracks and started firing at what looked like some Focke Wulfs. We later learned that we had been hit by three aircraft, one of which was a jet, dropping 500 500 pound bombs. As the planes left, I found my group commander's body in a trench outside the CP and my intelligence sergeant, George Seifert, dead in the doorway. One of my best friends, the Headquarters Company Commander Bill Lambert was killed outside the building.



REUNIONS BRING BACK MEMORIES

Thomas R. Scott
158th Engineer Combat Battalion
Granite City, Illinois

[Reunions] bring memories--some good, some bad. Talking things over, it brought back the time when Company B of the 158th got into Luxembourg after dark. At just about dawn we were fired on by the FFI, thinking we were Germans--as the Germans were infiltrating back through the lines from the Falaize Pocket. It took about three hours before identities were known. Five of the FFI were killed and B Company suffered no casualties. One of them asked our company commander, Captain Pollyea, why he didn't surrender. His reply was the United States Army never surrenders.

The next day B Company captured five Germans and turned them over to the FFI. Some things you never forget and that's just one of them.

A LOT OF HEAVY WORK

December, 1944

Richard K. Thim
413th AAA Gun Battalion
Battery A
Phoenix, Arizona

When we crossed into Belgium, hundreds of civilians greeted us throwing fruit to us. We did a lot of ducking to keep from being hit. We set up at an old fort near Liege for a time. That's where we saw our first V-1 flying bombs and some V-2s were hitting the area also. We moved around Liege a couple of times then it was up to Aachen, Germany, to fire smoke shells across the sky about a thousand feet below our bombers to establish a line for the planes to drop their bombs avoiding our casualties on the ground, which did not happen at St. Lo

in France. Many shells were fired and the guns were really hot.

From there we moved up to the Ardennes Ridge to knock down V-1 bombs destined for Liege and other cities. It was rather peaceful here. We had five deer hanging up ready to eat. A lot of good hunters in the battery.

Then came the big surprise, on the morning of December 16th, someone said "we are really giving it to them this morning," until the German shells started falling around us. Then we knew it was them not us doing the shelling. A German shell hit one of our ninety millimeter positions and wounded some men. Our big guns fired at them for several hours. We were tied in with the field artillery and did good work. Then we had to move out or get captured. We kept moving down the road and setting up for any Germans showing themselves. One of our quad mounts opened up on a couple of German scout cars killing many Germans. I think it was a gun from C Battery. We finally got stabilized near the town of Eupen, Belgium, and supported the field artillery with our 90 millimeters. We did a lot of heavy work.



Richard K. Thim
413 AAA Gun Btn.
Battery A
December, 1944

Christmas day of 1944 a German ME 109 came over and was shot down with our quad fifties. New Year's day of 1945 a large group of German fighters came over low in the morning and we shot down five of them with our 50 caliber quad mounts. Planes falling everywhere. We later learned that during the Bulge some of our 90 millimeters had knocked out six enemy tanks.

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AXIS SALLY'S WELCOME

December, 1944

Ahren Jacobson
6th Armored Division
50th Armored Infantry Battalion
Company A
Louisville, Kentucky

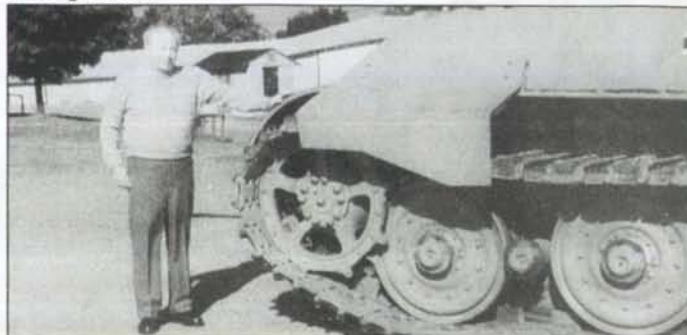
Events that occurred approximately 50 years ago are very difficult to recall. However, some events that I was involved with, I have a clear recollection of.

I was in one of Patton's service units, having volunteered for the infantry just before the Bulge occurred. At that time Patton's Army was down in the Saar region. When the Bulge did occur, Patton, in his characteristic boastful fashion, claimed that he could go up north with his Third Army and knock the Bulge out in 24 hours. In a highly secret move we then journeyed north-ward, stopping off at Metz for Christmas dinner. We removed all of our insignia, emblems, patches, and so on. Of course, as a private first class, I had no idea where we were going.

Our first stop was Luxembourg. When we got to the Bulge area in Luxembourg, our radio man turned on the radio and listened for any signals he could get. Lo and behold, what he got was Axis Sally from Berlin, loud and clear. She knew exactly who we were and where we were, and welcomed us to the area with the not-too-cheerful message that in the very near future, we would all be in a hospital or dead.

From Luxembourg (we were there only a short while doing patrols and so on) we went over to Bastogne. Bastogne was a city astride the Bulge area and it was held in a heroic fashion by the 101st Airborne paratroopers. As most people who knew of the era will recall, they

refused to surrender to the Germans and responded with the "Nuts" message. One of Patton's other armored divisions, the Fourth, did make contact with the beleaguered paratroopers at Bastogne. We (the Sixth Armored Division) were sent to assist in that relief of those paratroopers. Unfortunately for us, Hitler's logistical plan for support of the Bulge thrust had been upset. He was so enraged that Bastogne had not been captured that he had ordered it annihilated at all costs just as we got there.



Ahren Jacobson with German tank used in World War II.

For example, my company (Company A, 50th Armored Infantry Battalion) had 265 men and officers. When I was finally evacuated with trench foot in January, I was one of 30 men left; no officers. What led to that almost decimation was the fact that during this relief of the paratroopers, I was in a thinly held section when suddenly there appeared five of the latest German tanks. We were told they were Mark 6's with eight inches of frontal armor. Later on I learned they were actually their latest tanks--Royal Panthers or Royal Tigers--that had six inches of frontal armor. Either way, they had plenty of frontal armor and were plenty big.

The section where we were to relieve the paratroopers was raked constantly throughout the night by these tanks, direct tank fire, a most horrendous thing to experience. Finally when daybreak came and they had been shelling us all night long, I determined that I would not retreat into German hands, but I wanted to see who was left in the area where we had relieved the paratroopers. I found that they were all dead who had remained there, and some of the Sixth Armored relievers as well. I managed to exchange my frozen M-1 rifle with a dead paratrooper's. The silence was unbelievable.

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Swearing-in 1996 VBOB Officers
Ft. Myer, VA December 16, 1995

Photo by John Bowen

THE BATTLE OF GRAND HALLEUX

By Peter G. Dounis

When I returned home from ETO in spring, 1946, I realized how ill-informed and naive my immediate family, relatives and friends were concerning the Battle of the Bulge, geography, history, importance, impact and different categories of non-battle and battle casualties involved. I knew then that no one I talked to would be aware of the Battle of Grand Halleux! Some were cognizant and knew about Bastogne and St. Vith, because those towns were on the radio, in newspapers and magazines during the winter of December, 1944-January, 1945.

"Since the dawn of time, men have competed with each other--with clubs, crossbows, or cannon, dollars and ballots. Anyone who says there will be no competition in the future simply does not understand the nature of man."

T. R. Fehrenbach

Yet Grand Halleux, the 2-3 day battle with its many casualties, grim/grotesque sights of death and its bitter/brutal -10° temperature were unforgettable and live with us still.

So these dormant vignettes, thoughts and reflections of bravery in combat at Grand Halleux, Belgium, came and emerge to the surface now to expand-expound upon that famous mini-battle (monumental) to us, at the (3/4) mark of the Battle of the Bulge (January, 1945), based on 40 days and nights of that costly, dramatic, remarkable, frigid, awesome, pivotal, historic, epic battle of World War II.

So, I quickly learned that I could not relate to the Battle of Grand Halleux with anyone in my hometown of Washington, D.C., then; thus it has been kept within me like a deep, dark secret for a very long time.

I did learn through *The Bulgebuster* in the late 40's that former 2nd Battalion, 291st Regiment, Col. R. W. Short lived in Washington, D.C., so I made initial contact and communicated with him for almost 10 years. Later, as time went on into the 60's and 70's, I contacted A. Bailey (D-289) and A. Mikules (K-291) former CO of that company, who vividly remembered sweeping action at Grand Halleux on January 16-17, 1945, for relief and support of battered 2nd Battalion companies. The three aforementioned have all passed on.

Finally, a book entitled, *Hitler's Last Gamble*, written by the late T. N. Dupuy, a prominent military historian and two co-authors was published last year (1994), which explicitly and graphically describes on pages 324-325 the Grand Halleux attack assignment/combat action of Companies E & G with F & H in reserve/support and combat stance of readiness.

Yes, I was lucky and fortunate with my fate then and grateful to have been picked by Brigadier General G. S. Mickel to lead him up to steeple of petite church (Company G C.P.) to view situation/action and try to understand predicament of 2nd Battalion GIs, who were pinned down with concentrated crossfire

in snow with below 0° temperature by constant murderous mauser, burp gun, mortar, machine gun and sporadic 88 bursts along forested snowy ridge.

While waiting for supplies in front of C.P., I heard/saw U.S. tank (750th Tank Battalion) approaching. I ran out and motioned it to stop, because the road ahead was possibly mined. The tank men told me to get out of the way. Within 75-100 yards, they hit a mine!

I remember an episode/incident in cold and heat of battle, when P. Mastro came into C.P. and needed medical attention for the wound in his upper right arm. I immediately and instinctively applied a primitive tourniquet with my GI-OD handkerchief and sent him down to battalion aid station in the grand church approximately 1/2 kilometer near the edge of town. Shortly thereafter, Tony came into C.P. in a pitched frenzied rage demanding to know where his twin brother was; he was impatient, incoherent and grabbed/shook me repeatedly 'till my answer sunk in and registered with him. Then, he rapidly ran down to 2nd Battalion Aid Station to find Pete!

On January 16th, A. T. Pompa was killed at Company G C.P. around noon time having prior asked me for hot coffee, which was in rear room, where fireplace was going and crackling with a few other guys gathered including S/Sgt W. Boyer, who was wounded by shrapnel in right shoulder from same 88 blast that killed T. Pompa (Big Papa).

When Al came off the snowy hill and talked to me briefly at front entrance of C.P. on 16th, he stated boldly that he killed 12-15 Germans in the woods on the 15th. Of course, he got a few decorations, posthumously, but I believe, he should have been considered for a higher award for his amazing prowess, brave and heroic feat in dangerous and frigid terrain in the Ardennes. He is buried at Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery, Belgium, with brave men of our unit and others. I've seen their grave sites during trips.

I understand now after long time gap, that former Capt. E. G. Drouillard, R. Kidd and 2nd Battalion Supply Sgt. W. Somers were within close proximity when lethal/tragic blast struck.

We lost 32 KIAs at Grand Halleux, a mini-battle in the Battle of the Bulge, that I cannot forget after 50 years. Company G lost a total of 37 men in three separate and different campaigns in ETO. Eighty-six percent were killed in the Bulge. The Battle of the Bulge was the greatest battle ever fought by the U.S. Army!

The night of January 14th was the culmination of a long-exhausting forced march thru cold and snow from Trois Ponts, Petite Thier and Petite Halleux thru Grand Halleux passing grand church, which became our 2nd Battalion Medical Aid Station and onward up hairpin turn in darkness toward petite church which became Company G C.P. We got to the church very tired, hungry and cold; then a reconnaissance patrol was sent out promptly with 4-5 men led by a capable sergeant and I recall 1st Sgt. Golembiewski, Capt. Drouillard and I there on the cold stone floor trying to get our helmets off and gear off our backs to await return and report of enemy strength up near the critical German held snowy ridge. The patrol came back near midnight with essential information and I talked to PFC L. Steiner about the patrol into the snow and darkness. Larry showed me the bullet hole thru his steel helmet; then he took it off and pointed to the crimson grazing trajectory of bullet and wound inflicted.

My first vivid view of the effects of war and probably Company G's first battle

(Continued on Page 24)

BATTLE OF GRAND HALLEUX

(Continued from Page 23)

casualty during three days and nights of the Battle of Grand Halleux.

Grand Halleux is a village in Belgium that is small by our standards. It is near the country of Luxembourg and now within Luxembourg Province in Belgium. It is in the jurisdiction of the Mayor of Vielsalm, who has participated in several solemn ceremonies and joyous parades in 80's and 90's there; the latest being June 10, 1994, after D-Day ceremony at Normandy for 50th Anniversary of WWII and of initial landings on targeted beaches of France in June, 1994.

The memories dwell within my mind now after a grim, brutal, bitter, frigid, chaotic mini-battle with clever, well-armed and entrenched enemy in the wooded, snowy terrain and area to our front--looking down our troops' throats enabling them to use their strategic positions to full advantage en-masse with ferocious firepower to cause many American casualties in 2nd Battalion, 291st Regiment, 75th Infantry Division.

In Company G, we suffered 30 KIA's, 33 WIA's and 3 MIA's during intense combat action on January 15, 1945, that there in 1st Sergeant's morning report a.m. of 16th and later called 'Bloody Monday'; the action went on all day and well into the night with relentless firing of many rifles and automatic weapons as well as interdiction and interspersing of tracer bullets directed at our troops dug in, laying out in the open field or delivering ammo, etc.

The latter is what my orders were during the night, when I was carrying and delivering two canisters of .30 calibre ammo up to right flank road approximately 250 yards which mission I accomplished successfully, when a lieutenant appeared to help me and to the load from my cramped fingers, tired and limp arms.

I tried to dig a foxhole in the side of the road, but sparks from my shovel gave my position away and drew enemy fire. The ground was frozen and difficult to penetrate. I gave up on it as being futile and crawled down the side of the road until I got to the outskirts of town. I returned to the C.P. at approximately 4:00 a.m. on the 16th.

Today, three grand plaques were emplaced on the outer wall of grand church on the main street in Grand Halleux. Last year (1994), the Belgian 50th Anniversary Committee received funds for the Vielsalm and Grand Halleux region so our 291st Regiment, 75th Infantry Division, plaque got a grand plaque on each side of the existing plaque dedicated in June, 1981. A kind and generous gesture indeed by the 50th Anniversary Committee in Belgium.

Whenever you plan a trip or tour to Europe try to go to Grand Halleux to see and view the sites and sights we hold dear in our hearts and a village in the Ardennes you or we cannot forget.

Yes, God graced me with LIFE!

[Note from Pete: This long overdue task was emotional and painful but a catharsis of my mind, heart and guts to search within and research without after a half century...still not knowing about war; its reasons, results or even WHY!]

**SAVE YOUR MONEY FOR CAPE COD
IN SEPTEMBER...
WE'LL BE LOOKING FOR YOU THERE.**

Searching for Someone?

Would you be interested in finding someone?

A long lost buddy perhaps?

1. Fill out Information Slip below. (If you have more than one request, make a copy of Information Slip and use for each request.)
2. Payment of \$5.00 either cash or check for each name (make check payable to Nancy C. Monson).
3. Self-addressed stamped envelope (32¢ postage.)

Mail completed Information Slip, payment (\$5.00 each name - make checks payable to Nancy C. Monson), and self-addressed stamped envelope to VBOB-Name Search, PO Box 11129, Arlington, VA 22210.

Keep in mind, we will be sending you a list of possible addresses and phone numbers for the person whose name you provide. There is no guarantee that the list we send you will be the person you are looking for. If no information is found for the name you requested, your money will be returned.

INFORMATION SLIP

Name of person to locate: (Include a middle initial, if possible)

List possible U.S. area (state) where this person might be located:



VBOB Wreath-Laying Ceremony
Arlington National Cemetery, December 16, 1995
Photo by John Bowen

VIDEO TAPES

All orders for video tapes of the 50th Anniversary Tour of Belgium, Luxembourg and Normandy and the 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge in St. Louis have been shipped. If you ordered one and did not receive it, please contact John D. Bowen, 613 Chichester Lane, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904-3331, Telephone: 301-384-6533. Copies are still available at \$29.95 plus \$3.80 shipping, MD residents must include 5% sales tax. The tour tape is 8 hours and the St. Louis tape is six hours and includes the Belgian Guides concert and cathedral ceremonies.

50 YEARS OF WONDERING ...ALIVE AND WELL....

HARVEY EDDS, 110TH AAA GUN BATTALION, BATTERY B, wondered for over 50 years what ever happened to a little 12-year-old girl he met during his stay in a little town named Jemeppe.

This little girl was adopted by Harvey's company for the few weeks they were in the town. She was able to speak some English and her beauty was matched only by her delightful personality.



An article in the "Members Speak Out" column of the November, 1993, *Bulge Bugle* from Stan C. Bellens, of Belgium, caused him to dig out the picture of the little girl--Josee Scevenels. Harvey wrote to Stan and asked if he could do a little checking around to find out if Josee survived the

war. Stan indicated that he would be glad to be of help in this matter.

True to the normal Belgian willingness to help, Stan made contacts all over the place and was finally able to come up with Josee's name and address. So, Harvey dropped her a letter in February, of 1994, and received a response.

Josee and Harvey have been corresponding and catching up on over 50 years of their life. Much has happened to each of them.

Harvey had promised Josee that he would write to her when he got home, but little did he imagine that it would take over 50 years for him to get the letter written.

Harvey is thankful to God for the circumstances which allowed him to get in touch with Josee again.



ODE TO THE FAITHFUL RAINCOAT

by Herman Hoffman

One of those Damned Engineers

372ND ENGINEERS, 1ST BATTALION, COMPANY A

The raincoat was issued to you in basic training. I believe I wore that thing more than my uniform during that time. You wore it to get shots, short arm inspection (which I believe happened every other day). You wore old faithful in the 1/4 mile dash to the shower while freezing, and back to the barracks. Once in a while you wore it in the rain, with water running down your neck. So, you were just about as wet with it as you were without it. It was a door for your pup tent, a ground cover while bivouacking in the mud. It was a good blanket during black outs.

I just wonder how many other men feel like I do about their old GI rain coat.

TELLING IT LIKE IT WAS Gateway Chapter Leads the Way

VBOB has long advocated that the only way the sacrifices endured in the Battle of the Bulge will be remembered, is if our members and our organization make conscientious efforts to bring the story to the attention of students, civic leaders, etc. The national office has even prepared an "Education Kit" for your use in doing this. If you would like one, just write. We'll be happy to send you one.

Now, the Gateway Chapter (in St. Louis, Missouri) has organized its own Education program. We received the following information from the organizers of this program:

The St. Louis Gateway Chapter of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge has organized to perpetuate the memory of the sacrifices involved.

The program consists of several speaking teams of three veterans and a lady yarn spinner each. They speak to schools, youth organizations, seniors, civic, and veterans group.

Jim Johnson (99th Infantry Division, 395th Infantry, Company E), as Chairman, has a 29 member committee to carry out the efforts. One of the lead speaking teams includes Lyle Bouck (99th Infantry Division, 394th Infantry, I&R) team leader, Stan Gibson (99th Infantry Division, 393rd Infantry, Company K) and Tony Lejsek (99th Infantry Division, 395th Infantry Company B).

Team members follow a VBOB Educational Format which uses maps, photos, and memorabilia to make a 20-minute presentation about the greatest victory of the American Army.

The lady yarn spinners (wives of veterans) talk for five minutes about their lives on the home front during the war. These speakers include wives moving from army camp to army camp, or being Rosie the Riveter, or an Industrial Nurse.

Each presentation made to date to schools, a youth group, seniors, American Legion, and Masons has been video taped. When we reach our goal of 25 tapes we will commence the task of editing them to produce a master tape. It is planned that this tape will have inserts of historical tapes to provide a back drop for the veterans' presentations.

When the master is completed, it is anticipated that the tapes will be available for schools and also syndicated television.

Should any VBOBer in the U.S. feel they have tapes or other information for the editing phase of this education program, please contact Jim Johnson at: 4827 Towne Centre Drive, St. Louis, Missouri 63128.

We have been contacted many times for information for individuals to utilize in speaking before students, etc., but this may be the first for an all-out-effort on the part of a chapter to get the word out.

THIS KIND OF EFFORT IS SORELY NEEDED AND WE ARE THANKFUL TO THE GATEWAY CHAPTER FOR THEIR EFFORTS. MUCH SUCCESS!!

MYTH OF THE ARDENNES

Documentary Evidence Debunks Many Popular Concepts of the Nazis' Bold Counter Stroke, Its Aims--and the Mastermind Behind It

[This article was written by Robert M. MacGregor and appeared in the September 23, 1945, Stars and Stripes Magazine. It was sent to us by HARVEY EDDS, 110TH AAA GUN BATTALION, BATTERY B.]

We came to know it as Von Rundstedt's counter-offensive. Always his name was associated with it, and magazines and newspapers at home devoted large space to his personality and training, analyzing the mind supposedly behind the brilliant move which caught the U.S. VIII Corps unawares last December 16. It was considered the perfect plan of the pure Prussian military tradition--Von Rundstedt's masterpiece.

But Field Marshal Gerd von Rundstedt had little to do with the planning, or even the execution of the German offensive in the Ardennes.

According to all sources, including von Rundstedt himself, the idea of the counter-offensive was Hitler's. Col. Gen. Alfred Jodl, chief of the Planning Division of the German High Command, tells that in September Hitler was suffering from jaundice (Jodl's aide said it was the after-effect of the attempt on his life), and while in bed he had plenty of time to think.

Hitler decided on a counter-offensive partly to give time for the development and mass production of two new weapons, a new submarine and the jet-propelled plane. The first with its anti-radar devices and an arrangement permitting it to submerge indefinitely, would give a new mastery of the English Channel. The second was expected to return to Germany air superiority in quality and speed, with quantity as another possibility.

...so they looked for another weak front.

Hitler discussed his ideas with Jodl, one of the few allowed to see him in bed, and their first idea was a counter-offensive south of Metz on the Third Army's right flank, where Patton's contact with the Seventh Army was at the time weak. This was rejected, mainly because of transport difficulties in the Vosges, so they looked for another weak front. They even considered an offensive against the Russians or in Italy.

IN TRANSCRIPTS of Hitler's morning briefing conferences, one can see the Ardennes idea developing. Intelligence reports showed more clearly every day that this was the weakest-held Allied line, that the U.S. VIII Corps had but four divisions spread thinly over a 70-mile line. (When we were stopping the offensive, the average front for a division was one mile.)

The decision was made quickly and General Staff analysts were sent to the files to study the German break-through in the lower Ardennes in 1940 and its mistakes. The Germans had much information about terrain features there--roads, towns, forest masses in Belgium and Luxembourg and on the German side, which could hide preparations.

Von Rundstedt, who was commander in chief in the west, and

Field Marshal Alfred Model, commander of the Army group in the sector, were called in. Model, about ten days later, submitted counter-proposals, while Von Rundstedt showed little interest. And there are rumors that the latter was actually opposed to the project. In any case, his art was to be purely a matter of supply, and throughout the planning Model dealt directly with Hitler and Jodl.

Model's counter-plan was to swing the offensive north to trap the American First and Ninth Armies. Hitler insisted that the offensive head directly for Antwerp.

The reason for lunging at Antwerp was to cut off the Allies in the North. If successful, Hitler planned to rob other fronts of troops for an all-out offensive against the British, Canadians and Americans in the North. Throughout, Hitler insisted that Liege be avoided. He considered that it would take too much time to reduce, and the offensive was geared on surprise. All documents show that there was never any intention of cutting south and toward Paris, in back of the U.S. Third Army, as supposed.

STRANGELY enough, the field commanders never gave up their idea of going North, and Gen. Kraemer, Chief of Staff to Sepp Dietrich's Sixth SS Panzer Army, said that he had picked positions north of Liege for a crossing of the Meuse. In all the preparations, Hitler took complete command.

Measures to attain this surprise and keep the plans secret were about as complete as any ever evolved. Every person let in on the plan, even top field marshals like Keitzel, had to sign a statement that they would expect death by court martial if they discussed it with anyone else.

A regular schedule was worked out for the time when commanders in the field could be told of the plan. When December 16 was decided on, divisional commanders first learned of it December 12, regimental COs on the 13th, battalion commanders the next day, and the troops themselves were told on the night of December 15, the eve of the attack.



This approximation of a map drawn by a member of the German High Command, shows what Hitler hoped to achieve in the Ardennes. The jagged skirting Bastogne shows their maximum penetration. (In case you can't make out the wording on the arrows: the top one says "5 Div, 15th Army (blocker)"; second one down says "6th SS Panzer Army"; next one "5th Panzer Army" and the bottom one says "7th Army (blocker)."

THE SIXTH Panzer Army was to move to the north of the front and give the impression it was massing to defend the Roer head waters then being attacked by the U.S. First Army. Its armor came at the

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MYTH OF THE ARDENNES

(Continued from Page 26)

last minute, and at night. The Fifth Panzer Army was not to be seen at all. Both kept their old headquarters a hundred or more miles away, and even when the headquarters were moved, dummies were left behind, sending out a regular volume of false radio messages. The strategy succeeded completely. Our intelligence saw the elements of the Sixth Panzer Army, thought just what the Germans wanted us to think, and was never conscious of the Fifth.

The 2,000 promised planes were to be brought to specially-prepared fields only on the first day of the offensive. But the weather, though favorable to the ground operations, did not allow flying, so many never arrived, and only on about the sixth or seventh day did the Germans get any appreciable number of planes into the air. The new assault divisions were not to approach the front lines until the night before the push off. No scouts or patrols could be sent out and there could be no registration, necessary for accurate firing, of either artillery or anti-aircraft guns.

THERE were the special preparations of Skorzeny. This remarkable lieutenant colonel rounded up all those who could speak English sufficiently to pass as Americans, as well as all captured American and British tanks, and all American uniforms available. The American-speaking Germans were organized into "Kommandos." This section was more successful in the rumors Americans started about them than in any tangible achievements.

Skorzeny claims he succeeded in getting only 44 men in American uniforms with jeeps through Allied lines. Of these, all but eight returned. American courts-martial tried and executed more than this number, but some of these may have been from the second group, a tank brigade, which was divided into combat groups. In Sherman and other Allied tanks, they spearheaded the advances. Paratroopers who were dropped served practically no purpose. The troops they were to aid never got to the points where they were so they hid in woods until captured. The attack was to have reached the Meuse River by the second day. But it hadn't gone more than 16 miles, and Jodl says that he then had doubts of its success.

**...the greatest mistake,...
was in miscalculating the amount
of time it would take the allies
to bring in reinforcements.**

The Germans did not intend originally to take Bastogne. It was to be cut off, "contained," in the military phrase. In fact, the German general who asked for Bastogne's surrender and received Gen. McAuliffe's famous "Nuts!" reply, got a chewing out from his superiors.

But the greatest mistake, the Germans now admit, was in miscalculating the amount of time it would take the allies to bring in reinforcements. Naively they thought that Eisenhower and Montgomery would have to get in touch with Washington and London before calling off their projected attacks in the north and along the Saar, just as the Germans had to have permission

from Hitler before they could take any drastic action.

The speed with which forces were brought down from the North and Patton's Third Army and other troops were shifted up from the south, left the Germans wide-eyed. It was, they consider, the largest factor in the failure of the offensive. Thus, while many considered the Ardennes battle an American SNAFU, it turned out to be one of the most remarkable of Allied military feats.

As these Allied troops came in, German intelligence reports showed an accurate knowledge of the disposition of our divisions. They even had good guesses of the actual unit numbers. Asked how this was possible, the German generals said that they had gotten the information by monitoring MP radio messages from control points. Units had code numbers, but by timing how long it took a unit to pass, the Germans could judge if it was an armored division, a heavy artillery battalion and such. Radio location finders, plus a knowledge of arterial highways, provided the rest.

**...within 500 yards of one
of the largest gasoline dumps
on the Continent....**

BUT German intelligence was not always as good as that. In fact, when the interrogator told Sepp Dietrich that some of his men once were within 500 yards of one of the largest gasoline dumps on the Continent--about 2,500,000 gallons near Spa guarded by a handful of men--he roundly cursed his intelligence officers.

Model committed suicide and Hitler has disappeared, but almost everyone else who had anything to do with planning the offensive has been interviewed. All agree that the project was a grand failure. Not only did it not attain its objectives, but it depleted most of the 26 German divisions and supporting troops involved. They were sorely needed in the Siegfried Line, on the Rhine and in the East when the Russians launched their steam-roller drive January 12. By then, the last great reserves of gasoline, ammunition and manpower were consumed, leaving Germany open to the annihilation that followed.

This is...based on the findings of the U.S. Army's Historical Section, exploding many false conceptions of the Battle of the European war in general. It is the first time any of this material has been published.

The Historical Section's main concern is the digestion of some 26 tons of American documents gathered on the war--unit journals, after-action reports, troop disposition maps, situation overlays, etc. Some are scrawled in pencil and badly smudged, and one set of documents is still covered with the blood of the major who was killed as he worked over it.

To corroborate their finds, the section has gathered German documents, including play-by-play transcripts of Hitler's daily staff meetings. General Staff and field reports and special interviews with captured German generals and other officers.

A Brief Overview of WWII

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, three 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.

U.S. Active Military Personnel (1939-1945)

(enlisted and officer)

	Army	Navy	USMC	Total
1939	189,839	125,202	19,432	334,473
1940	269,023	160,997	28,345	458,365
1941	1,462,315	284,427	54,359	1,801,101
1942	3,075,608	640,570	142,613	3,858,791
1943	6,994,472	1,741,750	308,523	9,044,745
1944	7,994,750	2,981,365	475,604	11,451,719
1945	8,267,958	3,380,817	474,680	12,123,455

Peak Strength of Armed Forces

During World War II

U.S.	12,123,455	Poland	1,000,000	Bulgaria	450,000
U.S.S.R.	12,500,000	Spain	850,000	Hungary	350,000
Germany	10,000,000	Turkey	850,000	Finland	250,000
(including Austria)		Belgium	800,000	Brazil	200,000
Japan	6,095,000	Canada	780,000	Czechoslovakia	180,000
France	5,000,000	Australia	680,000	New Zealand	157,000
China		Switzerland	650,000	Greece	150,000
Nationalist	3,800,000	Rumania	600,000	South Africa	140,000
Communist	1,200,000	Philippines	500,000	Thailand	126,500
Britain	4,683,000	Yugoslavia	500,000	Iran	120,000
Italy	4,500,000	Netherlands	500,000	Portugal	110,000
India	2,150,000	Sweden	500,000	Argentina	100,000

*407,318 total Americans were killed during WWII, 297,131 were battle deaths.

U.S. Armed Forces Toll of War (1939-1945)

Killed

Army and Air Force	234,874
Navy	36,950
Marines	19,733
Coast Guard	574
Merchant Mariners	6,895
Total:	292,131*

Wounded

Army and Air Force	565,861
Navy	37,778
Marines	67,207
Coast Guard	432
Total:	671,278

Estimated International Costs

Battle deaths	28,504,000*
Battle wounded	30,218,000*
Civilian deaths	46,403,000*
Direct economic costs	\$1,600,000,000,000

*These numbers are approximate and include Soviet numbers.

Costs by Individual Nations (in Billions of U.S. Dollars)

U.S.	288	Netherlands	9.624
Germany	212.336	Belgium	6.324
France	111.272	India	4.814
U.S.S.R.	93.012	New Zealand	2.560
Britain	57.254	Sweden	2.344
China	49.072	South Africa	2.152
Japan	41.272	Turkey	1.924
Italy	21.072	Switzerland	1.752
Canada	20.104	Norway	.992
Australia	10.036	Portugal	.320

Aircraft Production

(all types)

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
U.S.	2,141	6,086	19,433	47,836	85,898	96,318	46,001
Britain	7,940	15,049	20,094	23,672	26,263	26,461	12,070
U.S.S.R.	10,382	10,565	15,737	25,436	34,900	40,300	20,900
Germany	8,295	10,826	12,401	15,409	24,807	40,593	7,540
Japan	4,467	4,768	5,088	8,861	16,693	28,180	8,263

Military Aircraft Losses (1939-1945)

U.S.	59,296	France	2,100
Germany	95,000	Canada	2,389
Japan	49,485	New Zealand	684
Britain	33,090	India	527
Australia	7,160	Sweden	272
Italy	4,000	Denmark	154

Naval Ship Losses (1939-1945)

(submarines, frigates, & all larger ships)

U.S.	157	Germany	672
Britain	296	Japan	433
France	129	Greece	22
Netherlands	40	Yugoslavia	13
Norway	40	*U.S.S.R.	102
Italy	300	Others	36

(U.S.S.R. losses were extremely high, but they were undisclosed by the Soviet government.)

Merchant Ship Losses (ships over 200 tons)

Britain	3,194
Japan	2,346
U.S.	866
Other Allies	1,467
Neutral	902

Tank Production (All Types)

U.S.	60,973
Britain	23,202
Germany	19,926
Italy	4,600
Japan	2,464
U.S.S.R.	54,500

Prisoners of War

Prisoners held by the Allies

(excluding those in the Soviet Union)

German	630,000
Italian	430,000
Japanese	11,600

Prisoners held by Germany:

French	765,000
Italian	550,000
British	200,000
Yugoslav	125,000
American	90,000
Polish	68,000

Prisoners held by Japan

British	108,000
Dutch	22,000
American	15,000

Sources

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Arthur Enock, *This War Business*, The Bodley Head, London, 1951.

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Operations Navy, Division of Naval Intelligence, September 1945.

BATTLE OF THE BULGE CERTIFICATE (Shown as background on this page)

Certificate Sales have been brisk and a number of questions have been asked which may be of interest to others: **Can certificates still be ordered?** The answer is yes. They make wonderful gifts. Certificates can be ordered at anytime. **Can I order additional certificates for my children/grandchildren?** Again, the answer is yes. **Can I order certificates to give to the widow or off spring of a buddy I served with?** Yes, if you will certify that he/she was entitled to the Ardennes Battle Credit. **What about those who were Killed in Action or Missing in Action?** A specially worded certificate is available for those who made the Ultimate Sacrifice or did not return; however, you must certify the date and location. They are a wonderful tribute to give to the widow or next of kin. **Is there something to mount these on?** Yes, there is a simulated walnut plaque with an acrylic overlay and decorative tacks to mount the certificate. Framing is \$29.95 plus \$8.00 shipping and can be secured from John D Bowen, 613 Chichester Lane, Silver Spring Maryland 20904-3331, Telephone 301-384-6533. John will mount the certificate, without additional charge, if you send him your certificate or if you order the plaque at the same time as the certificate is ordered. Just check "hold for framing" on the order blank. Checks for the plaque should be made out separately to John D. Bowen.

What others have to say about the Certificates:

"The plaque arrived in perfect condition and it is a beauty. It immediately became a centerpiece in my home. My children and grandchildren all expressed delight over the plaque...." Henry F Tiano, Salem Oregon.

"I received the wonderful certificate. Words can't describe how I feel about it. I am so proud. I want to thank you for the work you put into this...." Bob Charles, New Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

"...Thanks for your persistent effort preparing and distributing this fine item." David H Jones, Denver, Colorado.

"The certificate/plaque came today and its soooo beautiful, and you did such a fine job, we do thank you so much. I have a friend coming from Scotland in a few weeks and can't wait to show the plaque to her...." Linda & Harold Fleming, Temple Hills, Maryland.

"Thank you for the VBOB plaque you put together for me. What a beautiful frame, one anyone should be proud to hang on their wall...." Donald Champlain, Melbourne, Florida.

"This is to advise that our VBOB plaque arrived in good condition Aug 29th! To say that we are delighted would be a gross understatement! You are to be commended for an excellent job, done so graciously. It is on the wall of our study, along with numerous other plaques, etc - and everyone who sees it expresses enthusiasm for the beauty and significance of the handsome certificate.... Congratulations to you and others involved." Wayne E Soliday, Sun City, Arizona.

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE CERTIFICATE ORDER BLANK

I request an 11" x 17" Certificate and certify that I received credit for the Ardennes Campaign during my military service. I would like the following information on the certificate: Check here if VBOB member ____ (although not required.)

First Name _____	MI _____	Last Name _____	Serial Number _____
Organization: Company, Battalion and/or Regiment, Division _____			Rank (Optional) _____
___ Hold for framing information	___ Killed in action	___ Died of Wounds Received _____	

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. ***** Checks for mounting in the amount of \$37.95 should be payable to John D. Bowen, 613 Chichester Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20904-3331 (Telephone: 301-384-6533).



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



Name Tags
\$9.50 ea.



License Plates
\$21.50 ea.

1. Official VBOB Patch

- 3" \$4.50 ea.
- 3" w/clutch \$6.00 ea.
- 4 3/4" \$6.00 ea.
- 4 3/4" w/clutch \$8.00 ea.

2. Decals - VBOB Logo

- 4" \$1.25 ea.
- 4" windshield \$1.25 ea.
- 1 1/8" sticker 8/\$1.00

3. 8" x 10" VBOB Color Logo

- for framing \$4.50 ea.

4. Hats: Baseball style - one size fits

- all w/VBOB patch \$10.00 ea.
- Scrambled eggs, gold or silver add \$3.00 per cap

5. VBOB Lapel Pin/Tie Tac w/clutch \$4.25 ea.

6. VBOB Neck Medallion w/30" ribbon \$25.00 ea.

7. Coming July 1 - Official VBOB Mini Medal \$8.50 ea.

- Special: Buy VBOB Neck Medallion and Mini Medal together as set and pay \$30.00 pr.

8. VBOB T-Shirts: M, L, SX, XXL \$13.00 ea.

9. VBOB Belt Buckle: Gold only \$14.50 ea.

10. VBOB Bola Tie: Gold only \$14.50 ea.

11. Regulation Full Size Medals to replace those lost or not issued (call for quote) \$20.00 & up

12. Regulation Miniature Medals mounted & ready to wear. No charge for mounting \$8.50 & up



Make check payable to:

Mail order to:

Please allow 3 to
5 weeks for deliver

The VBOB Quartermaster

The Military Shop

9635 W. Peoria Ave. Peoria, AZ 85345
(800) 544-9275 (for credit card orders)
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Arizona Residents please add
7% State Sales Tax.

Note: Credit Card
Orders - \$25.00 Min.

13. Regulation campaign and service ribbons
w/campaign stars & oak leaf clusters:

- Mounted and ready to wear \$1.25 & up

14. Tapes (VHS) "The Damned Engineers"

- **\$24.50 ea.**

15. Regulation Division patches \$4.50 ea.

- **We have all patches!**

16. Cloissanet Pins of Division patches

- for wearing on caps and lapels \$3.50 ea.
3 for \$10.00

17. Windbreaker w/official VBOB 4" patch \$28.50
S, M, L, XL (add \$3.00 for XXL & XXXL)

18. VBOB Golf shirt w/logo, 100% cotton
S, M, L, XL - XXL add \$3.00 \$22.50

19. VBOB Sweatshirt, white or gray w/10" VBOB logo \$22.50

20. Battle of the Bulge Commemorative
Medal Set **Reduced to \$26.00**

21. Normandy Invasion Anniversary Pin **Reduced \$3.50 ea.**
..... 3/\$10.00

22. Name Plates (Tags) 3 Lines \$9.50 ea.

23. Front License Plate complete with frame
and protective cover \$21.50 ea.

24. Dog Tags, 3 Lines \$9.50 pr.

Name _____

Address _____

x

QTY	ITEM	PRICE	TOTAL

Credit Card # _____ ☐ MC ☐ AMX ☐ VISA

Signature _____ Expires ____/____/____

SHIPPING & HANDLING \$4.00

Total _____

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YOU Are Invited To Join the VBOB Delaware Valley Chapter as they RETURN TO THE BULGE!

Everyone knows of the dedication and commitment of our Delaware Valley Chapter to accomplishing "the impossible," seen in their extraordinary achievement in the magnificent V.B.O.B. Memorial at the Valley Forge Military Academy in Wayne, Pennsylvania, honoring Belgium, Luxembourg and the United States.

Now the Delaware Valley Chapter is committed to another venture - a *Return to the Bulge*. 50th Anniversaries are past. Yet - with all of the festivities honoring our Bulge service, one thing became very clear: many of the "special places" which are so important to each of us were sometimes missed because of the pressure of time and circumstances.

The Delaware Valley Chapter is committed to do something about it! JOIN THEM in this epic return visit to the "Battle of the Bulge" sites when a more leisurely, yet memorable, routing will allow stops at *your special places* for a more personal look at some of the sites where YOU served.

Memories need to be nourished every once in a while. This is "your chance" to do it. Bring your family and friends with you and share these moments of nostalgia. And, just imagine, you will enjoy the unique pleasure of reminiscing with VBOB buddies, too, who understand the significance of your role in this "the greatest American battle of all time."

There will be extra fun for everyone, too, as you stop in Amsterdam to see the beautiful "Venice of the North" with 400-miles of canals and ever-fascinating windmills. You will marvel, too, at the magnificent scenery on Germany's Rhine River as you cruise past mountains of vineyards topped by spectacular medieval castles. **Make your decision NOW to be with us!** By "pooling your group purchasing power," we are able to offer an inclusive price of just \$1,897 per person, which - in today's world (with the decline of the U.S. dollar) - is considered "unbelievably low!"

Call Galaxy Tours today (toll-free at 1-800-523-7287, locally at 610-964-8010) for a detailed brochure! You don't want to miss this opportunity for *individualized group travel* at its best!



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Skeleton Itinerary

May 2 - USA/Aloft.
May 3 - Amsterdam.
May 4 - Amsterdam/Arlon.
May 5 - Arlon - *The Bulge*.
May 6 - Arlon - *The Bulge*.
May 7 - Arlon - *The Bulge*.
May 8 - Arlon/Frankfurt
May 9 - Frankfurt/USA.



VETERANS of the BATTLE of the BULGE

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

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attend...September, 1996. Details included in this issue.**

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VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE
P.O. Box 11129, Arlington, Virginia 22210-2129
Annual Dues \$15**

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☐ New Member ☐ Renewal - Member # _____

Name _____ Birthdate _____

Address _____ Phone () _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

All new members, please provide the following information:

Campaigns _____

Units(s) to which assigned during period December 16, 1944-January 25, 1945 - Division _____

Regiment _____ Battalion _____

Company _____ Other: _____

*Make check or money order payable to VBOB
and mail with this application to above address.*

Applicants Signature _____

RECRUITER (Optional)