

# The BULGE BUGLE

VOLUME XVI NUMBER 2

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

MAY 1997



## VBOB - USA MONUMENTS

*William P. Tayman*

**T**he Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc. has accomplished much since it was founded in Arlington, Virginia, on December 16, 1981. One of the more significant has been the erection, dedication, and maintenance of memorial plaques/monuments here in the United States.

During the BoB 50th Anniversary in 1994/95, the organizations of CRIBA (Center of Research and Information about Battle in the Ardennes - Belgium) and CEBA (Club to Study about the Battle of the Ardennes - Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg) published a pocket guide **BATTLE OF THE BULGE MEMORY ROUTES**, Copyright 1994, by La Longue Vue. There are photographs, descriptions, and historical comments given for 108 monuments in the Ardennes region along with a detailed map.

There are four primary objectives of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, the first being: *To perpetuate the memory of the sacrifices involved during the battle.*

While many memorial monuments have been established in Europe where the battle took place, the VBOB organization felt an equally important endeavor would be the placement of memorial plaques here at home as a tangible reminder of the human toll of World War II. (See Page 8).



**17<sup>TH</sup> Annual VBOB Reunion**  
**Eisenhower Inn & Conference Ctr.**  
**Gettysburg, Pennsylvania**  
**Sept. 15-18, 1997 - Full Details - Pg. 13**

***The fading thunder of World War II***

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



**We can help you  
form a chapter  
in your area.**



## President's Message

In preparation of our VBOB Reunion, September 15-18 in Gettysburg, I have visited the historic Civil War battlefields in Pennsylvania a number of times. Each time our committee has gathered at the beautiful Eisenhower Inn and Conference Center, our headquarters hotel, I have taken the occasion to walk over various sections of the battlefield. It is always a moving experience.

As I look around I can't help thinking how much the events of those three hot July days in 1863, relate to our 36 bitter cold December-January days in the winter of 1944-45. The heroic defense of Little Round Top recalls the stands you made at St. Vith and Bastogne, and countless crossroads and villages in the Ardennes. To me, the unflinching courage of the men in Pickett's Charge, lived again along the Skyline Drive, the Elsenborn Ridge and dozens of other squad, platoon, and small unit actions that meant so much at that time.



**Stanley Wojtusik**  
VBOB President

I am sure many of us have visited Gettysburg before, but each time I go there I find there is always something new to see, and to learn, about a battle that is so much a part of our heritage.

We will make another important contribution to that heritage as part of our reunion on Wednesday, September 17, when we travel by bus to nearby Carlisle, Pennsylvania, the home of the U.S. Military History Institute. In a central spot of the Institute, we will dedicate a new monument for all of you who fought in the Battle of the Bulge, and our departed comrades. It will be an impressive ceremony, with the Ambassadors of Belgium and Luxembourg, leading officials of the Department of Defense, and the Pentagon taking part in the dedication. Following the ceremony, you will have an opportunity to tour the campus, and to spend some time in the archives where you can research individual and unit records and a library collection of WWII historical information found nowhere else.

I hope you are making your plans now to take part in what promises to be a memorable reunion.

For those of you who can, I would like you to join with me this Memorial Day in welcoming our friends of the Belgian Fusiliers, who will be flying over to be with us that weekend. More than 100 of our wartime colleagues will be in the party. They'll march with us in a parade in Wayne, Pennsylvania, and join us for ceremonies at our nearby Battle of the Bulge Monument by the parade ground at the Valley Forge Military Academy & College. I know many of you enjoyed meeting with them at our 50th Reunion in St. Louis, and you can renew acquaintances with them at a reception following the parade and wreath-laying at the monument.

Thinking of monuments, I want to express our congratulations to the Golden Gate Chapter in San Francisco on the dedication of the Battle of the Bulge Monument in the Bay Area. I hope you all read the article about the dedication ceremony in the February issue of *The Bulge Bugle*. It must have been an impressive occasion. With monuments in Arlington; the Philadelphia area; Hyannis, Massachusetts; San Antonio, Texas; San Francisco; and St. Louis, we are now coast-to-coast. Our job now is to start filling in the rest of the country. It will be

another great victory when we have a Battle of the Bulge Memorial in every state. I know there are quite a few of our chapters working in that direction, and I just want to assure you that we'll do all we can to help you reach your goal.

In closing, I want to thank all of you who have either written, called or faxed your thoughts and suggestions to help VBOB continue to grow both in membership, and as an active voice in veterans affairs. We do pay attention to your communications, they are important to us, and provide your national officers and trustees with a sense of what you want to see happen. Keep them coming, and with your help, we'll MAKE them happen!

Make your plans now to be with us at the reunion in September. **Register and make your reservations early.**

## PROPOSED SLATE 1997-98 VBOB OFFICERS

Following a meeting of the Nominating Committee held on April 12, 1997, the following were nominated for VBOB Officers for the 1997-98 fiscal year:

- President--George C. Linthicum**  
26th Infantry Division
- Executive Vice President--Demetri (Dee) Paris**  
9th Armored Division
- VP, Membership--Thomas F. Jones**  
818 Combat Military Police Company
- VP, Chapters & Regions--Richard C. Schlenker**  
26th Infantry Division
- VP, Military Affairs--E. L. (Lucky) Loiacono**  
10th Armored Division
- Treasurer--Peter F. Leslie**  
511th Engineer Light Ponton Company
- Corresponding Secretary--Dorothy S. Davis**  
57th Field Hospital
- Recording Secretary--Louis Cunningham**  
106th Infantry Division
- Trustees (Three Years)**  
**Sydney J. Lawrence**  
134th Antiaircraft Artillery Gun Battalion
- Renato Victor Trapani**  
4268th Quartermaster Truck Company (Heavy)
- Robert F. Phillips**  
28th Infantry Division

These nominations are submitted for your consideration and election of officers will be held at the Annual Meeting held in conjunction with the Annual Reunion September 18, 1997, in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Respectfully Submitted  
Grover C. Twiner, Chairman  
VBOB Nominating Committee

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## ...CAN NEVER BE REPLACED

My name is Andrew E. Semonco, son of Andy Semonco, (2nd Infantry, 5th Division, Company B). I am writing to you to let you know why I want to become an association member of VBOB.

My reasons are simple: One—I am very proud of my father and his comrades. Long as I can remember WWII has always been of great interest to me. My father has shared his experiences with me time and time again. I never get tired of listening to him. Just recently (past year) at my request I sat down with my Dad and a tape recorder. I asked him questions and told him I wanted to know everything he can remember. I have two sons, Andrew and Rhett...I want these stories on record to share with them and them to share with their sons and daughters. We have already completed three tapes and are just about to wrap it up. I'm very excited about this.

The Battle of the Bulge has always been of particular interest to me. In becoming an associate member I hope to accomplish two goals: (1) to support the organization and to take responsibility to carry on the legacy and (2) to encourage other sons and daughters of VBOBers to join. I want to educate myself accurately about the battle, the divisions engaged, and geographically where they were when the Battle started.

I feel very strongly about this because my father and all the men who fought that fierce battle are a dying breed that can never be replaced. I believe in our Constitution and what our country stands for. I wanted you to know why I want to become an associate member.

Andrew E. Semonco  
Associate Member

*[Thank you, Andrew, we need lots more like you if we are to keep telling the story. We're proud to have you aboard.]*

## WWII—WE WERE LUCKY

Nazi Submarines were in the North Atlantic when our ship zig zagged across the ocean from Boston to Liverpool, England, for six days without a convoy or protection. WE WERE LUCKY.

Kraut mines and submarines were in the English Channel when we crossed on a small United States ship. Glen Miller was crossing on the same day in a plane, but crashed in the Channel and his body was never recovered. Ten days after we crossed, a Belgian troopship, the "Leopoldville," carrying 2,235 American soldiers was torpedoed and sunk in the English Channel and 802 American soldiers lost their lives. There were 493 soldiers that were never recovered from the Channel. If a German submarine saw our ship, I suppose they thought it was too small to waste a torpedo. WE WERE LUCKY.

Who said "getting there is half the fun?"

Before, during and after the Battle of the Bulge, German buzz bombs, V-1 rockets, were going over our head. Sometimes they had a weird sort of orange flame and sometimes they made a whirring or chugging noise. We knew we were safe as long as we saw the flame or heard the noise.

Our hide was in jeopardy since we left the bean town of Boston. Hitler's army attacked us with 150,000 soldiers and over 1,000 tanks in the Bulge. Germans massacred American soldiers at Malmedy, Belgium, and a large number of Americans were killed and wounded in the Battle of the Bulge. We were awarded a battle star and this was the largest battle in the history of the United States Army. WE WERE LUCKY.

...Wish I could get lucky on one of the St. Louis river boat casinos.

William F. Smyly  
227 ORD AMMO RENOV CO

## SICK LOOKING CHICKENS

The recollections of Howard Peterson, 4th Armored Division, "Rations," August 1995 issue are exactly the same as mine. A "K" Ration was packed in a Crackerjack-sized box with a "B," "D," or "S" on the end. A small OD can about the size of a tuna fish can contained the "entree" and the other items Howard described were included in the box.

I still have an "S" box—minus the contents. After over 50 years the can rusted through and the contents dried up. I have a bottle of Halizone tablets and an original "K" Ration can opener.

Robert M. Bowen, 101st Airborne Division, "Crackerjack boxes," November, 1995, issue is correct in saying "C" Rations came in cans. It

took two cans to make a meal. One contained the "entree" and the other contained crackers or biscuits, coffee, bouillon powder, candy, etc. These cans were packed about 50 to a heavy cardboard box.

"K" Rations were issued in Normandy before "C" Rations. There was also a "D" Ration. It was a hard, semi-sweet chocolate bar packed in a water proof box. We carried them to Utah Beach to supplement the "K" Rations we received there.

Sinclair F. Cullen, 75th Infantry Division, "Alphabet Soup," November, 1995, issue is describing a 10-in-1 Ration, certainly not a "K" Ration. Ten-in-1 was enough for 10 men for 1 day. They contained larger cans and included yellow corn and there was a can of uncooked bacon. It was delicious when fried, that's if you were lucky enough to be around to get some.

Some later issues of "C" Rations had baked beans with small hot dogs and there was lima beans and ham—very good.

Later came those cases of sick looking, frozen chickens—complete with heads, feet and guts. They threw the feet in a pot and made some broth or stew.

My squad was with an element of the 75th Infantry in January or February, 1945, at Abresfontaine, Belgium, waiting for some prisoners to be brought in. They didn't take many prisoners at that time. I wonder why? Every night Bedcheck Charlie would fly over dropping small bombs. One night he put one dead center through an uncovered skylight in the building next to us. Pandemonium broke out.

I stood in the street along side a medical officer as he briefly examined the wounded carried out. Three times he ordered the litter bearers to "dump" one soldier. But they could not find it in themselves to do so. Possibly he was a buddy. He grabbed the side of the litter, pulled it up and the body plunked at my feet in the snow. He ordered them to get another one and he said, "Make sure he is alive this time. I can't do anything for the dead."

I often think of that one soldier more than any other. Was he dead? Who was he? Where was he from? What would his life been if not for this unfortunate tragic event?

Clifford D. Jones  
553 MP (EG) CO

## HISTORY WRITTEN WITH TEARS AND BLOOD

*[Russell Ruch, 159th Engineer Combat Battalion, wants to share a letter he received with you.]*

First of all thank you so much for your warm letter...and apologize please for the long delay in answering. Thank you for all your kind remarks to me and CEBA, you do not need to do so but I appreciate them very much.

You wrote "your group does an outstanding job in greeting all returning veterans of the U.S. Army for which we are thankful." In this connection, my dear friend, Russell, let me ask you: "What did you do 51 years ago?"

You lived the worst days of your lives here in Luxembourg. You had to fight for months and some of you for years, in unknown towns and villages, in dense and hostile forests, filled with so many dark secrets and the ghost of the death. You had seen for months only shell holes, fox holes, mud, splintered trees, burning vehicles, destroyed houses, churches and bridges...and dead bodies. You men had seen death in many, many forms. You suffered mortal fright and the tortures of the damned. For our concern!! There is no language which could nearly describe the debacle you lived through. Far from home, mother and father, sisters and brothers, wives and children. You men have written history, not with ink, but with tears and blood!! Finally, you had won the war.

You didn't start the war. You didn't make war. You fought against war. You finished a war, the most cruel war known by mankind. You fought only for justice and human dignity and for liberating the oppressed people from Nazi yoke.

Freedom for Europe was your mission in 1944-45. Capturing that honorable spirit for generations to come had been our mission since post war-time.

Dear Russell, be sure that in Luxembourg the remembrance of the beloved and proud 159th Engineer Combat Battalion never has faded away. We owe you our liberty, our independence, our happiness, our prosperity. Without your precious rescue, we would be robbed of our nationality and others of our democratic rights. Only you American soldiers prevented the Germans from doing so. The people of Luxembourg, infamously oppressed

*(Continued on Page 5)*



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

by these Germans during almost five years, has not forgotten the ultimate sacrifices of all these young GIs to free our country from a just terrible dictatorship. And you valiant 159th men, you contributed so considerably to that liberation. We could hug you every day!

We are fully aware that we can never make up for what you have done. Even not with "our outstanding job in greeting you" 50 years later or with wines of honor and speeches. We are deeply indebted to you in the centuries ahead. It is a solemn duty of CEBA to convey later generations what we owe to the great nation you belong to. Especially we have to convey them this important message, that during the final phase of WWII, every yard of our beloved ground had to be reconquered at the cost of countless lives of young American citizens in battle dress, whose blood was spilled for us.

Dear Russell, your and your comrades-in-arms' contributions to the liberation of Luxembourg, your unmatched bravery, the gallantry you showed us on several places in Luxembourg, deserve our permanent vigilance, admiration, our everlasting thanks, our everlasting adoration!! Your heroism is alive in the depths of our souls. Your deeds in Luxembourg--and we know them very well--the achievements of the gallant 159th men, are enshrined in our hearts for ever!

Thank you, thank you, thank you!! Thank you, Russell, for the wonderful citations by U.S. and Pennsylvania governing bodies. They are unique. You cannot imagine how proud we are!

God bless the 159th men.

God bless our liberators.

God bless America.

Deep affection. Yours truly,

/s/Camille P. Kohn, President of CEBA.

## SOME QUESTIONS ANSWERED

This is not necessarily for publication, but is to express my appreciation for your publication of the excellent and informative article, "SNAFU--Christmas Eve, 1944" in the November, 1996 issue.

Another local veteran of my infantry division who knew a survivor of the *Leopoldville* told me that he had obtained the book on the subject from the local library. After an earlier article gave the name of the book, I began looking for it, but it could not be located at any library in the state.

One writer said that the 66th Infantry Division was intended for the eastern front and was diverted to relieve the 94th Infantry Division at Lorient-St. Nazarre because of the loss of troops in that event, but I believe that is not so.

The 94th took over the Lorient-St. Nazarre mission of containing about 60,000 German troops about September 4, 1944. The division commander, General Maloney, was known to have been seeking transfer to an area of more intense combat. I was in the division artillery message center, and had access to communications at the time, but can no longer recall all details. We were to be relieved by an incoming division, possibly the 11th Armored, in mid-December. As they were coming to replace us, the German Ardennes offensive began, and that division, being already mobilized, was diverted to the Bulge, but we understood that General Maloney was promised relief by the next incoming division: the 66th.

I learned of the event then, but we moved out December 31, 1944, and I did not learn any of the details. As has been brought out, no details were ever provided to the general public.

The article has provided the facts, answered questions, and corrected some misconceptions that I had. I will continue to look for the book.

[Can some one let us know where to find the book? I'll pass the information on to Shelby.]

Shelby C. Trice  
94 SIG CO

## I CAN ATTEST TO THAT....

The February 1997 issue of *The Bulge Bugle* had a piece by Benjamin Goodin, of the 6th Armored Division, entitled "Time on Target--Les Bois Jacques, Bastogne."

As a member of the 134th Infantry of the 35th Division, I can attest to the results of this and the TOT fired by the 35th Division Artillery. A picture in the 134th History is titled, "In the Woods of Luttrebois"--more German dead than ever. The ratio of German dead to American in this area according to 134 Grave Registration was 8-1.

I, personally, remember dead Germans just as the author stated stacked up like cordwood. I remember one graves registration officer who carried a 2 x 4 to break arms and legs so the corpses laid better.

The 35th Division fired 41,385 rounds into German positions from January 3 to 7, 1945.

The 134th Infantry fought along side the 6th Armored from January 1, 1945, until January 31, 1945. From January 15 until February 1, we were attached to the 6th Armored and fought with them from Arloncourt, Belgium, through Luxembourg to the German border just east of Nusivampach(?). Task Force Miltonberger was commended by the CO or the 6th Armored.

James G. Graff  
35 INF 134 INF C

## ...FELL THROUGH THE CRACKS

I read with high interest the article, "The Combat Infantry Medic"...in the February *Bulge Bugle*...

This writer was a combat surgical technician (MOS 861). My service was with the 101st Airborne Division's 326th Airborne Medical Company. The company functioned as a hospital a la "right up front." I was one of an 8-member surgical team with the 101st Airborne Division's glider-borne surgical hospital. The mobile hospital carried sufficient medical-surgical apparatus and supplies for short mission service. Surgery was underway in a Normandy chateau early on June 6, 1944. Factually the surgical team alluded to above, was the first airborne surgical team in the history of the U.S. Army.

The 326th Airborne Medical Company was on three major encounters: D-Day, D-Holland, and into Bastogne on December 18-19, 1944.

The hospital was overrun and personnel captured on the night of December 19, 1944.

Apparently, combat surgical technicians were not recognized as "front line" medics, though first in on Normandy (3:30 a.m., 6 June, 1944; Holland in mid-afternoon, September 17, 1944) Someone had to fall through the cracks.

Emile Keith Natalie  
101 ABND 326 ABN MED CO

## APPRECIATION AND DEEP GRATITUDE

As a Belgian, I always read your bulletin *The Bulge Bugle* with interest and attention. Your readers might be interested to know that we here also remember the Battle of the Bulge.

On Sunday, December 15, 1996, a commemoration ceremony took place in Baugez, close to Malmedy, Belgium to honor the memory of the 82 U.S. soldiers brutally killed by the SS Panzer Combat Group Peiper on December 17, 1944. Many of these soldiers were from the 285th Field Artillery Observation Battalion.

Several Belgian veteran associations were present with their flags. The name of each soldier was recalled. A moving "Last Post" was played by two trumpets and the U.S. and Belgian National Anthems were heard. Around 100 people were there at the U.S. Memorial attending with respect and attention.

I also went to a similar ceremony at the U.S. Memorial of Ligneuville, very close to Baugez, where eight U.S. soldiers were also brutally shot and killed by the Peiper Group. The weather was very much the same as during the Battle of the Bulge: cold temperature, fog and snow.

It was a renewed sign of appreciation and deep gratitude from Belgians to all U.S. soldiers who were fighting with courage and determination during the Ardennes Campaign and, in particular, to those who were killed. Many Belgians remember and do not forget that you gave us freedom again at the very risk of your own life.

Philippe Watelet  
Associate Member

## BOOTS--MADE FOR MARCHING

I took exception to the writer's statement: "Airborne people got pretty much what they wanted, despite the fact that the leg infantry units had far better combat records than any of the airborne units."

Let me say that airborne units were formed for specific tactical purposes, which included spearheading invasion assaults, as very mobile shock troops operation behind the enemy

(Continued on Page 6)



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

to take some of the pressure off the slower moving seaborne troops, hitting the beaches.

They fought as light infantry...meaning, no support of any kind, other than what they could carry on their person...no tanks, no 155 howitzers, no food except for a pair of K-rations and 2 or 3 D-bars.

The writer's combat record is like comparing apples to oranges. Airborne tactics were designed to put a unit in for something like three or four weeks until a link up with a leg outfit occurred, and then pull them out back to base and prepare for another jump whenever and wherever needed!

Many troopers in Europe took part in as many as four combat jumps into Sicily, Italy, Normandy and Holland, and for my money they deserved superior boots (if indeed they were superior). The writer of the article seems to have some doubt even about that!

Bill Dean  
82 ABND 508 PIR B

### GONE, BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN

*[Luther Windsor, President of the Northwest Chapter in Washington, sent us the letter which follows. Luther points out how important it is that we remember our responsibility as a veterans' organization to do all we can to help the widows and families of those who did not come home. He further states: Time doesn't erase the loss, but aid and comfort can help. VBOB would like to note that many of our most ardent supporters are those who lost their husbands, fathers, brothers, uncles, etc. and those with family members who were in the Bulge.]*

...I attended a [chapter] meeting and was ignored and insulted which was an extreme surprise to me. This was by the chairman of the group...the others were courteous and helpful. However, I felt out of place and did not return. The chairman advised me I should start a women's group.

We, wives of active service men, carried our pain, worry, and concern and our lives were forever changed due to death. I remained a widow for over five years when it was apparent our daughter felt deprived because she didn't have a father. In reality, she chose my second husband. ...he was a good father. One of the interesting things about being a "war widow" is the extensive legal process that ensues for years--an individual is constantly reminded.

I so wished that I was aware of VBOB when it was first organized as it would have been wonderful to identify and communicate with other widows who went through the Bulge. Neil wrote every day (believe it or not) while in bunkers, describing his soldiers' deaths, the insanity, and the horrendous conditions. How much he wanted to come home to us. I was in such a confused depressive state until I knew how his life had been taken. It was almost a year before this could be accomplished. To know his death was quick. It was described that he was in Headquarters organizing a plan of attack when the German forces landed with America uniforms on and machine gunned him down while he carried his top sergeant in his arms. I was contacted by the Chaplain Father Clement Faist.

Bettie (Fahey) Garbe  
Associate Member

### ACCURACY OF THE ARTILLERY

Following up on the comments by the German battery commander on our artillery's accuracy and further comments by R. B. Whitmore in the February issue, I believe that I have one answer to the discussion. After the end of combat, deep in Austria, I had a German to also say that our artillery was not accurate. To quote him as best I can after 50 years: "There were two groups of artillery that we hated to face, the Polish who bracketed us with the first two shots and put the third on top of us. They were devastating. Your artillery couldn't shoot well, but they threw so much at us that there was no escaping." This reconciles both letters in *The Bugle*.

Many years later while having lunch at the Petroleum Club in Dallas, I was introduced to a gentleman and after he left I was told by my host that this man had been a colonel in the artillery during WWII. He also asked if I knew that Texas A&M turned out more artillery officers in WWII than West Point. I replied that I wasn't aware of that, but perhaps it explained the German's comment to me years earlier.

I have no desire to complain about the artillery, even though my brother-in-law's brother, who was a FO with some division on the right flank of the First Army, called down their artillery on us as we were securing a city on the west bank of the Rhine. We were at that time the left flank of the Third Army, so that was a communication problem, but I do not recall anyone wounded. Another time we were left behind with a large group of German prisoners who outnumbered us probably 100 to 1 and a heavy artillery unit set up by us. We were glad to see them then and always happy to hear their shells going over.

James M. Power  
11 ARMDD 55 AIB C

### VERY LITTLE REMEMBRANCE OR RECOGNITION

My fellow BOB veterans may find this of some interest. You have probably noticed that (even with your considerable efforts) after the "big 50" celebrations are over, there has been very little in the way of remembrance or recognition for the ever fewer, already grayed veterans of WWII. One heart-warming exception to this was the class, "History 357: The Second World War," presented by Stephen Ambrose at the University of Wisconsin this last fall. Mr. Ambrose was extremely generous in heaping praise upon WWII fighting men as he described their exploits and accomplishments to his students. He gave particular attention to the Battle of the Bulge...[portion cut off by letter opener.]

Ambrose, who will be known to many of you, is the noted author of numerous works including "D-Day" and the recent best-seller, "Undaunted Courage." He and his class of over 300 students welcomed perhaps two dozen veterans to his recounting of the personal experiences of many participants in WWII, particularly those in Northwestern Europe. ... The young students turned to many of the veterans to help them with their papers and to provide oral histories.

Ambrose spoke of being almost in awe at having to speak of the veterans' experience while in their presence. On Veterans Day, he and his class paid special tribute to these veterans; and, in his final lecture, Ambrose credited the WWII veterans for their courage and sacrifice, for the freedom we have enjoyed since WWII, and for much of the prosperity and growth of the Western World and the United States in particular.

The class ended with the veterans being called to the stage where they identified themselves and their service. Three of those were BOB veterans from the 84th Infantry Division. Phil Stark (334th, Company A), Bob Waldo (334th, Company F); and myself. This was followed by an extended standing ovation which only ended when the veterans returned to their seats. As one observer noted, "...the students, some with tears in their eyes and lumps in their throats, stood and applauded...and filled all those in the hall with gratitude."

Joseph C. Gale  
84 INFDD 333 INF C

### STOP THE BAD-MOUTHING

As a fairly recent member of this organization, I can't tell you how much I admire it. It's a superb organization, keeping the memories and the history of the BOB alive in the hearts of so many.

While I am enclosing a short piece that I wrote for the *Record* (Bergen County, New Jersey), I also write to set one other fact straight--and it's straight from the heart. The 11th Armored Division earned its exalted place in history. Future generations will remark on what a tremendous unit it was in combat. There may have been divisions as good as the 11th Armored. There were none better--period.

Additionally, why are people who fought in, out and through the Bulge bad-mouthing other BOB combatants? There's plenty of glory to go around. The Battle of the Bulge was a battle of epic proportions. It was fought by heroes. It was won by heroes. I salute all of those who were there.

There is no question that there was confusion; there was miserable weather; there were conflicting orders. BUT ABOVE ALL THERE WAS COURAGE.

Eli J. Warach  
11 ARMDD 42 TK BN D

### CHECK MAILING LABEL FOR DUES DATE!



## LETTER TO THE MEMBERS

### ...WE TRY OUR BEST

Many times you send us articles that are absolutely wonderful and we would love to use them...but, they are copyrighted. In order to use copyrighted material you must secure the written permission of the original source. Only if the material is truly exceptional do we have the time to request such permission. Many times when we request permission we are told that there will be a \$50.00 or \$100.00 reprint fee. We simply can't pay this. To illustrate: we recently received a marvelous article which had appeared in *The New York Times Magazine* in 1945...but they wanted \$50.00 for us to reprint it. (And how many requests do you think they might have to reprint this article?) So we had to say: thanks but no thanks.

If you want to secure this permission before you send it to us, that would be great. We simply don't have the time nor the funds.

We also **try** to limit our stories to things concerning the Bulge or associated with it. We won't be held to this, but it is our first criteria and if your story is about D-Day, liberating Berlin, etc., chances are it will never work its way to the top of the pile. We simply can't cover all of World War II or the ETO. We **try** to keep in mind that our members belong because of the Battle of the Bulge.

Another thing to keep in mind. Keep your articles as brief as possible. With the number of articles we receive--length plays an important role in whether or not the article is published.

## PURPLE HEART FOR FROST BITE!

RE: A short quote note: *The Bulge Bugle*, November, 1996, page 13, "Member's Speak Out," question by William Stewart and note "Office has learned that the Purple Heart was not awarded for frost bite.

I disagree with this statement.

At the 50th Anniversary of VBOB, Veterans SVC Directorate Lucy Crawford was asked by me: "Can a GI with combat related frozen feet get the Purple Heart?" Her answer to me was: "Yes, he can."

I am in the process of trying to get this award. Your statement does not help any one.

...Please run a big article concerning this matter. One can get the Purple Heart for combat related frozen feet.

Please contact me concerning this matter.

Warren R. Batchelder  
87th INF 345th INF CO B  
5818 - 21st Avenue South  
Gulfport, Florida 33707

Warren also attached a Rating Decision from the Veterans Administration which reads in part: "F. Service connection for the veterans' residuals, bilateral frozen feet, was established based on affidavits from military members who served with the veteran and had personal knowledge of his condition. However, the coding for the veteran's disability was coded as a 1, no combat disabilities. The veteran has taken exception to this and has furnished a statement stating that he did suffer the disability as a result of combat duty and requested reconsideration. Definition of combat disability applied to any injury received in action or as a result of an act of such an enemy. The definition includes in addition to wounds by missiles and injuries received by incidents, explosions, etc., diseases directly attributable to exposure as incident of action against the enemy or as result of act of the enemy, including exposure following airplane crash, shipwreck, etc., resulting from acts of the enemy are to be held as of combat origin."

"Each generation should be made to bear the burden of its own wars, instead of carrying them on, at the expense of other generations."

*President James Madison*

## JUST DO IT!

The February, 1996, *Bulge Bugle* publication had a message from VBOB's President requesting members to present ideas of what we can do to continue our progressive activities, objectives, and to promote programs about the Battle of the Bulge.

I have worked on this type of program for students in schools, veterans groups and other civil organizations for at least five years. There is a great deal to read out there and a great deal of research to do before one can do an adequate job when a presentation is given to students, etc.

I just sent the Gateway Chapter in St. Louis a copy of my presentation, and what I bring along to these programs. I have made up different programs for different groups, but the main objective is to bring the story of the Battle of the Bulge to students and anyone who wants to hear my stories. I have been going to schools for about three years, and my last lecture will be in April (1996) and will be about 2-3 hours long. The teachers asked to do this in a two-day period so I am most happy to do this for the students, then I don't have to rush through everything.

I ask for permission to video tape the lecture, I bring books a month before I come in to talk to them, and I always bring along some souvenirs. If I bring along a luger, I ask for permission first. I don't have to tell you what the boys like best about my lectures. I also bring maps of the Ardennes, and I list on the blackboard the names of places, cities, generals, countries, etc., that were important in 1944-45 Battle of the Bulge. If the students want a test on the subjects that I have covered, I have one ready (the teachers like this idea), I also try to get the students to compete against one another's schools and they really like to do this. I also show them the tape of the program that I gave them. (If it turns out, sometimes the teachers forget to turn the video camera on.)

I also stress to those in attendance that there are many revisionists out there that tell an entirely different story and slant on the Battle of the Bulge and the Second World War in general.

It would be real nice if we would have a program already set up or a guide line to give us ideas on what to tell the public when we go out to tell our story. Maybe this is something that some committee could work on. It sure would be of help to vets who would like to get out and tell their stories to the younger generation.

If someone is interested in what I lecture about, they can write me and I will gladly give them the programs that I have set up, and other information. You can call or write to me: Al Beinemann, 2405 North 25th Street, Sheboygan, Wisconsin 53083. Telephone: 414-452-9330.

*[Al was a member of the 83RD INFANTRY DIVISION, 331ST INFANTRY, 3RD BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS COMPANY. We are most grateful to Al for his offer and hope that many of you will take advantage of his experience.]*



**Up Front**  
with  
Willie and Joe

"Let's grab  
dis one,  
Willie.  
He's packed  
wit' vitamins."

© by Bill Mauldin.



**1. December 16, 1985****Arlington National Cemetery**

On the occasion of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, the first plaque was dedicated at Arlington National Cemetery, "The Nation's Burial Ground." No place is more appropriate for the first BoB monument than here at Arlington National Cemetery, located on Memorial Drive, directly across from the West entrance to the Memorial Amphitheater. Veterans of the BoB, along with special guests, General Bruce Clarke, South Carolina Senator Strom Thurmond, Ambassador Paul Peters of Luxembourg, and Military Attaches of Belgium, Great Britain, France, and the Netherlands participated in the dedication ceremony. Next to the monument was planted an ornamental cherry tree to symbolize the beauty and faith in seasons to come.

The planning and design were done by Eugene Drouillard, one of the founding members of VBOB. The monument has become an important symbol for all veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, and wreath-laying ceremonies are held here on every anniversary of the BoB and on other special occasions.



Arlington National Cemetery - The flowering cherry tree stands beside the Salisburg pink granite BoB Memorial among the rows of endless headstones.

**2. November 12, 1994, Fiftieth Anniversary Year, Valley Forge Military Academy**

Valley Forge Military Academy & College - The International Memorial Monument and participating honored guests at the dedication ceremony.

At a location rich in our Nation's history, at the Valley Forge Military Academy and College in Wayne, Pennsylvania, just a few miles from the encampment of General George Washington's Continental Army in the "Winter of Despair" 1777-78, stands the only monument in the United States that honors our heroic allies, the people of Belgium and Luxembourg who suffered under the German invasion, four year occupation, and then fought with us during the BoB for their final liberation.

The monument honoring all who fought in the BoB, with the VBOB emblem uppermost and the inscription "A TRIUMPH OF COURAGE," stands along with the flags of the U.S., Belgium, and Luxembourg at mid-point beside the



## VBOB - USA MONUMENTS

academy parade ground.

Participants at the dedication included all members of the VBOB Delaware Valley Chapter, members from afar, Ambassador Andre Adam of Belgium, Ambassador Alphonse Berns of Luxembourg, General John H. Teletti, Jr., General Oliver B. Patton, keynote

speaker, and Rear Admiral Virgil L. Hill, Jr., USN Ret.

The monument Chairman was the Delaware Valley Chapter President, Stanley A. Wojtusik, who now serves as the National VBOB President. The monument is illuminated at night with the three nations' flags always raised in good weather.

### 3. December 16, 1994

#### VBOB Fiftieth Anniversary Commemoration, St. Louis, MO

This plaque is located on the City of Saint Louis, Missouri, Court of Honor Wall in Memorial Plaza. The Court of Honor Wall is directly across Chestnut Street from the Soldiers' Memorial Military Museum located in downtown St. Louis. The citizens of the City of St. Louis, along with Federal government assistance, raised the money for the construction of the museum in 1933. The museum and plaza area were

opened to the public on Memorial Day, 1938, by City Mayor Dickmann. During a visit to St. Louis, President Franklin D. Roosevelt officially dedicated the site on October 14, 1936. His remarks were momentous then as they are today.

*We in America do not build monuments to war;*

*We do not build monuments to conquest;*

*We build monuments to commemorate*

*the spirit of sacrifice in war--*

*Reminders of our desire for Peace.*

As part of the December 15-18, four-day, St. Louis 50th Anniversary Commemoration, a memorial plaque



Saint Louis  
Court of Honor Wall -  
Wreath-laying  
ceremony  
at the wall  
mounted  
Plaque.

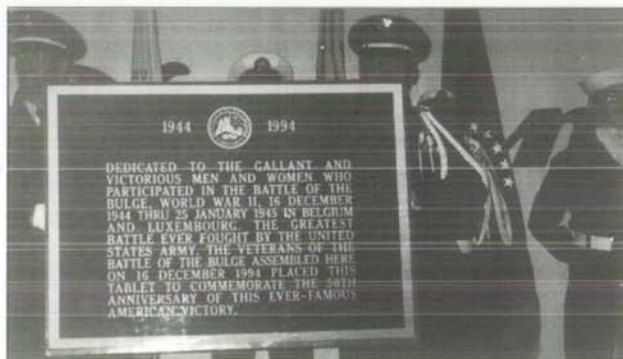
was dedicated in the Grand Ball Room of the Regal Riverfront Hotel, due to the cancellation of scheduled outdoor ceremonies because of rain.

The keynote speaker was General John P. Otjen, Commanding General of the First US Army. The Plaque was unveiled by H.R.H. Prince Henri of Luxembourg, H.R.H. Prince Philippe of Belgium, LTG John P. Otjen, and VBOB President William P. Tayman. Later in the day, two wreaths were laid

at the rain-soaked Court of Honor Wall by Prince Henri, Prince Philippe, VBOB President Tayman, and VBOB Past President Greenville.

The Court of Honor Wall, dedicated on Memorial Day 1948, listed the names of 2,573 St. Louis who gave their lives in WWII. These men are remembered here. Of this number, 128 were killed in the Battle of the Bulge. The BoB Plaque was placed on the East End of the Wall.





St. Louis  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Commemoration -  
Enlarged  
Plaque Replica  
used at the  
dedication  
ceremony  
held in the  
Regal  
Riverfront Hotel.

## **4. September 6, 1995**

### **Fifty-first Anniversary Year Veterans' Plaza, San Antonio, TX**

In the Veterans' Plaza, located in the downtown district of San Antonio, Texas, stands the reunion dedicated monument. Sharing this location is the San Antonio Vietnam Veterans memorial. San Antonio became famous in our nation's history following the Battle of the Alamo in 1836. For we WWII veterans the city was one of the largest military supply and training centers in the country. It is a unique city in our nation with the San Antonio River winding through the entire downtown, serving as a water-taxi-way for "people-mover" barges.

Attending this reunion, representing the people of Belgium, was Lt. Colonel Jean-Pierre Bastin, Assistant Defense, Military, Naval, and Air Attache from the Embassy of Belgium, Washington, D.C. It is always a pleasure having Colonel Bastin present as his

home is the small village of Longchamps, located near Bastogne. He "grew-up" on the Ardennes battlefields, with a personal relationship to the sacrifices made by the American soldiers to liberate his homeland. There were BoB veterans from our entire nation participating in this four day reunion.

The Plaque is mounted on a polished Dakota red granite stone procured from the Kleypas Monument Company. Overlooking the Veterans' Plaza is the San Antonio Municipal Auditorium, where ceremonies are held to honor organizations and special citizens, it is here where the San Antonio symphony orchestra gives performances.

The music at the dedication was provided by the U.S. 5th Army Band; the Color Guard was an ROTC Unit from Fox Tech High School carrying our national flag and the state flag of Texas; dedication remarks by VBOB President Grover C. Twiner and the Reverend J. Sidney Watson, Pastor of the First Assembly of God, San Antonio, followed the plaque unveiling.



**San Antonio Veterans Plaza - The Color Guard at  
parade rest during Monument dedication ceremonies.**



## **VBOB - USA MONUMENTS**

**5. August 14, 1996**

### **Fifty-Second Anniversary Year San Francisco, CA**

The VBOB Golden Gate Chapter under the leadership of Chapter President Lyman G. Li, erected and dedicated a memorial monument on the grounds of the Fort Miley Veterans Affairs Medical Center, located at 4150 Clement Street at 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, San Francisco, California.

Participants at the dedication included members of the Golden Gate Chapter, other BoB veterans from afar, San Francisco Mayor Willie Lewis Brown, Mme.

Rita Bral, Consul of Belgium, Pierre Gramegna, Consul General of Luxembourg, and a number of local veteran organization representatives.

Selected shared remarks from the dedication: President Li, "We will remember and will teach it to our children, and our children's children, that no one will ever again have to go through the same horror and pain." Consul Bral, "I lost my father in WWII. You, my friends, gave us back our future. One village at a time. One house at a time." Consul Gramegna, "Americans will always be at home in Luxembourg." The dedication took place on a cold, gray overcast day, certainly appropriate for BoB veterans.



San Francisco Fort Miley Veterans Affairs Medical Center - The memorial wreaths presented at the dedication ceremony give contrast to the large freestanding stone Monument.

**6. September 10, 1996**

### **Fifty-second Anniversary Year Cape Cod, MA**

On the Hyannis Village Green, Cape Cod, Massachusetts, stands the reunion dedicated monument. The location is downtown Hyannis on Main street. Near the monument is the bronze statue of IYANOUGH, an American Indian who befriended the early Pilgrims and is credited with helping them survive the difficult early years on Cape Cod. Located a short drive away on Lewis Bay, in the Hyannis Harbor, is the John F. Kennedy Memorial, dedicated to our 35th President in 1966. This seaside memorial is where he spent his

boyhood years.

Attending this reunion was Ambassador Alphonse Berns of Luxembourg, Mme. Tilly Kimmes, representing CEBA (Club to Study about the Battle of the Ardennes-Luxembourg) and others from CRIBA (Center of Research and Information about Battle in the Ardennes-Belgium). These Europeans feel toward BoB veterans as the Pilgrims felt toward IYANOUGH.

The Plaque is mounted on a polished granite stone that was donated to the VBOB organization by Charles R. De Christopher, whose company is headquartered in Philadelphia. Mr. De Christopher was the designer/sculptor of the VBOB Memorial located at the Valley Forge Military Academy in Wayne, Pennsylvania.



## VBOB - USA MONUMENTS

Following the dedication remarks by Warren J. Rutherford, Town Manager, and VBOB President Stanley Wojtusik, Mrs. James M. Gavin, widow of General James M. Gavin, Commanding General of the

82nd Airborne Division in WWII, unveiled the Memorial Monument and gave a few remarks of her years as the General's wife.

*William P. Tayman, is a VBOB Past President was Chairman of the 50th Commemoration, and Editor of "The 50th Anniversary, World War II, Battle of the Bulge"*



Hyannis Village Green, Cape Cod - VBOB members and guests assembled at the Monument following dedication ceremony.

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED MAKE THESE MONUMENTS A REALITY.

We also thank Past President Tayman  
for the preparation of this article  
and all of those who  
helped in its preparation.

Through such extraordinary efforts  
the Battle of the Bulge will not be forgotten.



**VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, INC.**  
**Gettysburg, Pennsylvania**  
**September 15-18, 1997**

MAIL BEFORE  
SEPTEMBER 1, 1997

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

Please provide the name of the hotel where you have made reservations \_\_\_\_\_

	Number of Persons	Cost per Person	Total
<b>Registration Fee</b> (All attendees must register)	_____	\$25.00	_____

**Tuesday, September 16, 1997:**

Eisenhower Farm Tour	_____	\$12.00	_____
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**Wednesday, September 17, 1997:**

*( Includes Lunch )*

Tour of War College and Monument Dedication	_____	\$23.00	_____
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**Thursday, September 18, 1997:**

Tour of Civil War Battlefields	_____	\$ 8.00	_____
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Banquet	_____	\$27.00	_____
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Please indicate whether you prefer: Beef #\_\_\_\_ OR Flounder #\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount Enclosed** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail registration form and check payable to "VBOB" to:  
Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge • P.O. Box 11129 • Arlington, VA 22210-2129  
(Refunds for cancellations, will be honored in whole or in part, depending on availability of funds.)



# VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, INC.

## REUNION PROGRAM

### Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

### September 15-18, 1997

#### • MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1997 •

12:00 Noon - 5:00 p.m. **Registration, Eisenhower Inn and Conference Center, Gettysburg**  
The registration desk will be open the majority of the day.

7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. **Welcome Wine & Cheese Reception**  
Crackers and cheese compliments of the Eisenhower Inn

#### • TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1997 •

As needed **Registration, Eisenhower Inn and Conference Center, Gettysburg**  
The registration desk will be open the majority of the day.

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. **Breakfast.** Hotel will set up breakfast buffet. Please allow those who are on the first departures access from 8:00 to 8:30. Cost is \$6.50.

9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. **Tour of Eisenhower Farm**  
Buses will begin to depart at 9:00 a.m. Times for departure will be assigned as registration forms are received--your ticket for this function will advise you of your departure time. Buses will depart the Eisenhower Inn for shuttle to the Motor Coach on the hour. No more than 360 people can be accommodated.

**Lunch and Dinner** **On your own.** As people will be coming and going all day, no other functions are planned.

#### • WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1997 •

As needed **Registration Desk**

6:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. **Breakfast.** Hotel will set up breakfast buffet. Cost is \$6.50.

8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. **Monument Dedication and Tour of War College**  
Buses will depart at 8:00 a.m. Not all participants will take the same route during the day. Some will tour the institute, while others will avail themselves of research materials, as still others will have lunch at the college cafeteria. (Lunch is at your own expense.) All will assemble at the appropriate time for the Monument Dedication.

**Dinner** **On your own.**

#### • THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1997 •

As needed **Registration Desk**

8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. **Breakfast.** Hotel will set up breakfast buffet. If you are not taking the tour, please wait until after 9:00 a.m. to have breakfast. Cost is \$6.50.

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. **Tour of Civil War Battle Fields**  
Guided tour of land marks and monuments of the Civil War Battlefields.

12:00 Noon **Lunch on your own**

Time to be announced **Membership Meeting at Eisenhower Inn**  
Annual membership meeting. All are welcome to attend.

7:00 p.m. **Annual Banquet** with guest speaker followed by dancing. Cash bar. Dinner includes choice of prime beef OR baked, stuffed flounder; soup du jour, tossed salad; baked stuffed potatoes; whole green beans almondine; German chocolate cake; and tea/coffee.

**Hospitality Room:** Location and times will be posted in the lobby.



## SPECIAL NOTES AND DIRECTIONS TO GETTYSBURG

**VBOB:** Return your registration form as early as possible but no later than August 15 to guarantee participation in your desired activities. Of course, we can take your registration after that date, but you probably will be unable to get seating on the tours. Don't plan to just register and pick up your tickets when you get there. We must give guarantees early to the buses, etc. Do not mail a registration fee after September 5, 1997. Mail delivery has been so poor that we may not receive it prior to our departure.

You will be assigned buses for certain of the tours. Changing to another bus will be entirely your responsibility.

**Hotel:** The headquarters hotel is:

Eisenhower Inn & Conference Center  
U.S. Business Route 15, South  
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325  
Telephone: 1-800-776-8349

Make your reservations **early**.

**Directions to Eisenhower Inn:**

**Driving:**

**From Harrisburg:** 15 south to Steinwehr Avenue Exit. Turn right off ramp onto Business 15 north. Inn is located 3 miles on right.

**From Washington, DC (Frederick):** 270 to 15 north to Steinwehr Avenue exit. Left off ramp onto Business 15 north. Inn is located 3 miles on right.

**From Philadelphia:** PA Turnpike west to exit 17 (Gettysburg Exit). 15 south to Steinwehr exit. Right off ramp onto Business 15 north. Inn is located 3 miles on right.

**From Pittsburgh:** PA Turnpike east to exit 15 (Blue Mt. Exit). 997 south to 30 east. Will come to circle in Gettysburg. Bear to the right and take Business 15 south. Inn is located 5 miles south of town on left.

**From Lancaster (York):** 30 west to 15 south. Take Steinwehr exit. Right off ramp onto Business 15 north. Inn is located 3 miles on right.

**From Baltimore (Westminster):**

695 to 795 to 140 west to 15 north. Take Steinwehr exit. Left off ramp onto Business 15 north. Inn is located 3 miles on right.

**From New York City:** 80 west to 81 south to 83 south to 15 south. Take Steinwehr exit. Right off ramp onto Business 15 north. Inn is located 3 miles on right.

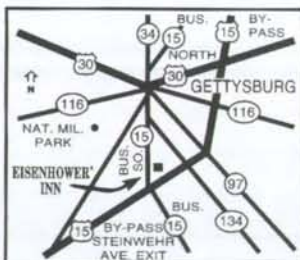
**From Hagerstown:** 81 north to Waynesboro exit. 16 east to 15 north to Steinwehr exit. Left off ramp onto Business 15 north. Inn is located 3 miles on right.

**Flying:**

**Harrisburg Airport:** Follow directions from Philadelphia.

**BWI Airport:** Follow directions from Baltimore.

**Dulles Airport:** Follow directions from Washington, DC.



### Recreation Vehicle Parking:

There is a recreation vehicle parking facility very near the headquarters hotel:

Battle Field Heritage Resorts  
U.S. Business Route 15, South  
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325

### Shopping:

There are several outlet shopping centers near the area. We will obtain further information and have it available at the reunion.

This is also a wonderful area for antique shopping. The town area (about 5 miles away) has many shops which have antiques.

*Again . . .  
make your plans  
early. Send  
your registration  
form and call  
the hotel as  
soon as  
you decide . . .*



Unaware of the German counteroffensive in the Ardennes, Supreme Allied Commander Dwight D. Eisenhower (far left) signs the guest book at Versailles on December 16, 1944. The general had come to the palace chapel from his nearby headquarters to attend the wedding of his order-



ly, Sergeant Michael J. "Mickey" McKeogh, to WAC Pearl Hargrave (left). After the ceremony, Eisenhower returned to his headquarters to preside at the reception. Not until that evening did he receive the first report that the Germans had counterattacked.



## LIVING LEGENDS



### MEMORABLE

# BULGE INCIDENTS

UNEDITED AND HERETOFORE UNPUBLISHED

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

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

### WE PRAYED FOR CLEAR SKIES

December, 1944

Joe Zanko  
5th Infantry Division  
10th Infantry  
Company G  
Perth Amboy, New Jersey

On December 20, 1944, we were across the Siegfried Line in the Town of Wadgassen, preparing to cross another river which was the Saar. At noon, the 10th Infantry Regiment of the 5th Infantry Division received orders from General Patton to withdraw from the bridgehead as soon as relieved by the 95th Infantry Division and hurry north of the City of Luxembourg to the aid of the hard hit 4th Infantry Division. The speed with which the shift was accomplished proved an extraordinary feat in troop movement. Despite the apparent confusion on dark roads, 80% of the 10th Infantry Regiment troops were in the 4th Infantry Division area within 24 hours of issuance of the movement order.

Forty-eight hours after the order to move had been received, and 70 miles further north, the 10th Infantry Regiment combat team, attached to the 4th Infantry Division, had attacked to the north in snow and bitter cold to attack objectives south of Echternach, passing through elements of the shattered 4th which were precariously holding a line generally south of Scheidgen and extending eastward. E Company's mission was to relieve a company of the 4th at Echternach who had been cut off from the remainder of their unit. There are seven medical aid men in an infantry company. The 4th Division infantry we relieved didn't have any aid men left. As we continued the assault, we drew heavy artillery fire through the woods. At the same time a force of approximately 200 Germans were moving in the attack directly towards us. We faced one another across an open field in a counterattack. We suffered many KIA's and wounded. They were throwing mortars, 88's and some stuff that seemed even heavier. They pulled out, but the artillery kept coming until we reached the town of Michalshof where the 4th was trying to hold the line with cooks and MP's. We lost a lot of men.

On Christmas Day, grim and battle wise veterans of the 10th Regiment looked out over the snow covered terrain of this

section of little Luxembourg. We read General Patton's yuletide greetings and a unique prayer for favorable weather. Suddenly, haze and fog which had covered the movement of Runsted's daring and dangerous offensive was lifted. Christmas Day dawned bright and swarms of fighters and bombers droned overhead, tracing the sky with an intricate pattern of vapor trails. As a lieutenant in our company remarked, "I don't know what the rest of the world was wanting for Christmas, but we were praying for clear skies." As the planes were passing over our heads, I don't think there was a man that wasn't either laughing or crying: "OK, Kraut, you had your fun, you have been wearing our uniforms, smoking our cigarettes and butchering in cold blood those of us whom you captured. You've had your Malmedy. You asked for it and here it comes."

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### A BIRTHDAY...OF SORTS

January, 1945

Edward P. Radzwich  
26th Infantry Division  
101st Infantry  
Company I  
Bowie, Maryland

Sleep was impossible, regardless of how tired I was. No shelter except a foxhole with two blankets. I would half sleep for fear of falling into deep sleep and not wake up in the morning. When I felt that I was going into a deep sleep, I would jerk myself to stay awake and lay in a half sleep waiting and hoping for daylight, so I could get up and stamp my feet so as to get the blood circulating. It seemed that daylight never came. To talk around before daylight you could be shot as an enemy infiltrator.

As company commander, I made it a practice to visit as many of my company members as possible, especially the new replacements. I would ask them their names, where they were from, about their family, etc. If they had no nickname, I would give them one, such as the state or city from which they came. The replacements had no unit training and were lost when assigned to a company. The only people they knew were the



other replacements who came with them. The casualty rate among replacements was high. The weather caused as many casualties or more, in the Battle of the Bulge, than the enemy. Frost bite and high fever being the major causes. The casualties caused by the enemy were usually the result of tree bursts. Tree bursts were more deadly than ground bursts as you were showered from above with shrapnel that could enter your foxhole.

This practice of visiting the company members required trudging through the deep snow and was very tiring. After a while I lost track of dates and days of the week. One day was as bad as the rest. There appeared to be no relief in sight.

During the first one and a half weeks of January 1945, I had only two good nights of sleep. Once I was called back to battalion commander's tent which was heated. The battalion commander had hot "C" rations which were the first that I had had in a week. The meeting had been called regarding an attack the next morning. The staff and all company commanders were present. During the meeting, I fell asleep and my company was to lead the attack. The good colonel had me laid prone and let me sleep. He then had to give my orders to Lt. Ivan, a very capable West Point graduate. I don't know how long I slept, but I did miss the attack.

On or about the 10th, 11th or 12th of January, 1945 (my 30th birthday was 11 January, 1945), we had a bizarre incident. I was limping along with Lt. Colonel Peale, the battalion commander, and his forward command post. There were six or seven in the group. I know that one was his radio operator and orderly. It was getting late in the afternoon. We were tired and cold and I was walking like a zombie. We hadn't slept in a shelter for heaven knows how long, when we came to this little village seeking shelter. However, the village was totally destroyed. The house on the right as we entered the village was burned down to the first floor. Somebody found a trap door that we thought would be a cellar. It turned out that it was a small root cellar and appeared to be filled with German bodies. It was getting late so we decided to evict the Germans and take over their tomb.

This was not an easy task since the cellar ceiling was only five and a half or six foot high and about six foot square. The men who entered the cellar to remove the bodies had to stand or step on them and had to work in a crouched position, that is how tight it was. The only light was that obtained from cigarette lighters. The bodies were frozen stiff and as a result hard to maneuver up the ladder to the small trap door to get them out. I noticed that there were no wounds or blood. They were laid out in a row on the street, perpendicular to the house. We managed to get six of them but the seventh one was very tall. Being stiff and having the low cellar ceiling, try as we did we could not get him out. It was suggested that we cut him in half but we had no axe. Since it was getting very late, the body was laid face down against the earthen wall and used as a bench. The bodies were those of German paratroopers as we had been fighting the German 5th Paratroop Division.

Now there six or seven of us, including Lt. Colonel Peale so we all got into the cellar sitting against the walls. Two or three had no choice, because of the limited space and because we couldn't get him out of the cellar, but to sit on the back and buttocks of the tall German. A candle came out of nowhere and we proceeded to eat our "K" rations. "K" rations come in a heavily waxed box, larger than a Cracker Jack box. The wax on

the box made excellent fuel. The box contained a can the size of a small tuna fish can and this can contained either Spam or ham and scrambled eggs. There were also some dry biscuits, coffee, toilet paper, cigarettes, matches and a marvelous can opener, small but efficient. This can opener was a soldier's friend and it was kept along with a spoon and dog tags as some of the most important items that you carried. The inventor of this fold over miniature can opener should get a medal for this invention if he hasn't already. We used to joke that in a Cracker Jack box your prize was a tin whistle but in a "K" rations box your prize was a miniature can opener.

To heat water for our coffee, we used what little there was in our canteens. Some went outside and filled their steel helmets with snow and melted the snow on the fire using the waxed "K" ration boxes for fuel. To prolong the fire and also the light from it we used one box at a time. After all the boxes were burned they produced some heat in the cellar. The trap door was closed and it was cozy. After the hot coffee and rations in my stomach, I began to feel comfortable and drowsy. A heavy snow fell that night and sealed us in good. I was as comfortable as a bug in a rug. I started dozing off and I am sure the others did the same. I was dreaming or having hallucinations.

Suddenly there was loud rapid fire out on the street. Someone more awake or alert than I, lifted the trap door to see. When the trap door was lifted lots of snow fell in and there was a rush of cold fresh air which revived me. The firing stopped and we had a better look, which was something that we had never expected. The heavy snow during the night had covered the bodies of the dead Germans that we had laid out on the street. The regimental commander (101st Infantry), Colonel Scott with his body guards who were armed with Thompson sub-machine guns, had come looking for us. The jeep he was riding in had run over the toes of the snow-covered German bodies and they began to pop up. The body guards, fearing the colonel was being ambushed, began to fire rapidly at these bodies that had popped up. Some of the fire went past the colonel's ears. This was more dangerous than the dead Germans. The colonel was white as a ghost or the newly fallen snow. He gave Colonel Peale hell for not giving the Germans a decent burial. Hell, we just slept in their cellar tomb.

After this incident we were very busy and I had no time to reflect on it. Later I started thinking about it and having flash backs and came to the conclusion that the arrival of Colonel Scott may have saved my life. I could have been dying of carbon monoxide poisoning and asphyxiating myself in that root cellar which was probably the fate of the dead Germans that we found there before us. They were probably in the cellar when the house burned down over their heads and asphyxiated them. We could have just traded places with them and been the next victims.

The battle was going on at such a rapid pace and we were nearing our main objective, the City of Wiltz. I forgot about the incident but, as I stated before, I'd get flash backs and I would think that maybe it was a dream or that my imagination was playing tricks on me. Now that I have started writing my memoirs, I had to be sure. I called the only surviving member, Colonel Peale, and asked him if it really happened. He said, "You're damned right it happened. You were the crazy nut who suggested cutting the big one in half and the name of the village was Tarchamps." The village is so small that it is not on the maps.



\*\*\*\*\*  
**AND NO RAIN IN SIGHT**

December, 1944

**Russell E. Kuehn  
28th Infantry Division  
110th Infantry  
Company I  
Plymouth, Minnesota**

It was my first shower in at least two months and took place at Stalag IVB, Muhlberg-on-the-Elbe after six days of marching and eight days on a train.

Looking back, there never was an opportunity for a shower after crossing the Atlantic on the Ile de France in late September, 1944, landing in Greenock, Scotland, and then to Southampton, across the English Channel to France. Along with hundreds of others I went into a replacement pool and was assigned to the 28th Infantry Division. In late October, 1944, we went into the Huertgen Forest and sustained many casualties, so many that our decimated division was moved on November 16th to a "quiet sector" in the Ardennes to re-group. We were responsible for a sector 25 miles in length in spite of being under-strength.

About 30 of us from I Company, 110th, were assigned to a very isolated position overlooking the Village of Wahlhausen in eastern Luxembourg within the well known Skyline Drive. We had the high ground and Germany was just across the Our River to the east.

While in the Huertgen Forest and Luxembourg we were under strict orders of "no-fires" and with the cold and in a combat position a shower was out of the question.

Early in December, however, there were six of us selected from the 30 at the Wahlhausen outpost to go to Clervaux for a much-needed shower. This beautiful, historic town was about 15 miles away by a circuitous route (to avoid artillery fire) and was the town where 100th Regimental Commander Col. Hurley Fuller hung his helmet.

Upon arriving in Clervaux and going to the shower facility we were very disappointed to be told, "The shower is not working--go back to your unit at once." Driving through the town we couldn't help but notice that walking about town were members of the QM Corps that ran the shower facility and all of them were wearing combat jackets and combat boots. All of us still had the old-style field jackets and boots, and had tossed our worthless leggings early in our combat experience. We had heard that "new and better equipment is on the way."

So it was back to our unit where at 6:00 a.m. on December 16th a horde of German infantry attacked. The largest weapon we had was one 60 mm mortar, with no artillery support whatsoever. The 30 of us held out until 3:00 p.m. when a very large tank (Panther?) took up a position about 200 yards away and started firing point-blank at our position. We had no choice but to surrender, and so became among the first Americans to fall in the Bulge (but not without exacting a stiff toll on the Germans).

Two weeks later (and other harrowing experiences), I finally got to take that long over-due shower!

*[P.S. If any of you reading this were, by chance, at that farmhouse outside of Wahlhausen in December, of 1944, please write to me at 18825 Fourth Avenue, North; Plymouth, Minnesota 55447.]*

\*\*\*\*\*  
**WE COULDN'T MISS**

December 16, 1944

**A. Supkowski  
200th Field Artillery Battalion  
Battery A  
Niagara Falls, New York**

On December 16, 1944, at 0300 hours, my buddy and I were assigned guard duty at one of our outposts. The night was cold and crisp and the moon was shining brightly. Visibility was excellent.

At 0315 hours we heard the sound of aircraft engines. It was coming from the German positions. We couldn't believe it...then we saw them. JU52's--WOW!!! They were flying real low, directly toward our outpost. We knew what this meant...paratroops.

I called the CP and asked for permission to fire on them and was told not to reveal our position. We were manning a 50 caliber M.G. on an antiaircraft mount. With the planes so low we couldn't miss. It was frustrating. The paratroopers dropped several miles behind our position, but they dropped right on top of an engineering outfit that was bivouacked there. The engineers fought hard and the enemy was no match for them. The paratroopers' mission failed. I understand it was a bridge building outfit that beat the paratroops. Nice going, guys.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**THE DAY SANTA FLEW A P-47**

December 25, 1944

**Kenneth Roettger  
80th Infantry Division  
317th Infantry  
2nd Battalion  
Company E  
Fairfield, Iowa**

A few hundred riflemen shivered and crouched in frozen holes waiting for death. For over two days we had neither food nor sleep.

Starting at about half strength, our battalion in two days had lost nearly half of the remainder and many weapons. Foxholes were so far apart men had to shout to each other and this one thin line was the entire depth with no way to stop armor. Through the still winter air came the unmistakable sound of German tanks. It was but minutes until we were overwhelmed by hundreds of enemy.

It was Christmas morning of 1944.

It all began 10 days before, when Hitler launched the last great Nazi offensive which developed into the Battle of the Bulge. At that time I was a rifleman.

Piled 25 to 30 men in open trucks, we skidded over icy and crowded roads for the entire day and night. Fog, dampness, and cold added to the misery.

Huddling together without food we didn't know or care that this would be called one of the most astounding moves of modern warfare. General Patton pulled three divisions from one attack, moved then 150 miles over poor roads under terrible weather conditions, and attacked in a new direction in less than two days.

During the night, fog and enemy air attacks caused the trucks



to become lost but by morning all had reached the battle area. Debarking without sleep, we dug in in front of the towers of powerful Radio Luxembourg. With the German Army drive blunted, the regiment turned to the offensive.

This began a three-day period of probing by both sides in the midst of the Ardennes Forest. Every day seemed the same; miles of marching, intense cold, swirling fog, mysterious woods, and general confusion.

The Ardennes landscape under overcast skies resembled the dark abode of evil spirits from tales of the Black Forest. Every rock became a menacing danger in the misty shroud. The forest was so thick that an entire army could hide among the hazy firs. The unreality was heightened by the utter silence as the fir needle floor and banks of fog muffled sounds. Adding to the difficulties were the many steep hills and the narrow streams that rushed between them.

Marching was especially hard because of the weight we carried, about 30 pounds of combat equipment including a rifle, grenades and ammunition.

But the worst was the clothes. I wore (starting from the skin out) shorts, two sets of long underwear, two pairs of wool pants, two wool shirts, a sweater, field jacket, scarf, and overcoat. On my feet were two pairs of socks, combat boots, and overshoes, while on my head was a cap, towel as a scarf, helmet liner, and helmet. Two pairs of gloves completed the outfit. We kept these clothes on 24 hours a day for weeks, for even with all this we were constantly cold.

But the army decided men could carry more. Because the Germans were infiltrating dressed in American uniforms, everyone was issued the one item of U.S. equipment the Germans didn't have--gas masks. Later, passing through a field, we could see where each man had hit the ground when a German machine gun opened up. Almost as though it was planned, each soldier shed his gas mask right there and that was the end of that plan.

Despite the weight, we stumbled 10 to 15 miles each day with temperatures dropping to 20 below zero. The water froze in our canteens but on the night of December 21 snow fell and we ate that to slake our thirst. Most of us also drank from open rushing creeks until at one we discovered bodies in the water upstream. Food was mostly the hated "K" rations. Fires were forbidden since they would draw enemy shells, so everything was eaten cold.

At night it was necessary to dig a hole to stay alive. Foxhole digging in the frozen dirt was a tiring, discouraging project. The ordinary folding shovel we carried soon broke in the hard crust, but soldiers the world over are natural scroungers. Within a few days nearly every squad had a full size shovel or pick taken from an overturned truck, a burned out tank, a deserted barn, or a captured enemy position. Even so, it took over an hour for two men to chop out a shallow hole.

At night, if possible, blankets were brought up to our holes but frequently this could not be done and two men just huddled together in each hole. It might seem hard to sleep sitting up fully dressed in a frozen hole but each night, after the day's trials, it was almost impossible to stay awake. Yet our lives depended on one man staying awake. All had heard of men found in the morning with German bayonets in their chests.

So one man would sleep an hour while his buddy watched and then they would exchange throughout the long night. It was a wonderful feeling to be alive when dawn came but then, with the realization of what the day would bring, one questioned the very

value of life.

As I climbed stiff and frozen from the hole to march on aching feet, I wondered if hell wouldn't be welcome as a chance to get warm again.

After three days we were completely exhausted. Except for a few minor brushes and occasional shelling no real battle had been fought but casualties mounted. Each army felt for the other in the fog shrouded fields and forests of the Ardennes. Were not our minds numbed, it would have been eerie, as if two giant ghosts played hide and seek in the swirling gray mists.

The fourth morning seemed no different than the others but somehow we knew things would happen. Orders had been received for the regiment to attack the ridges south of Welschied, Luxembourg, which were occupied by strong German Forces.



Throughout the gloomy days, as we moved forward, we saw more and more signs. Smoldering buildings, abandoned meals in emplacements, and tracks in the snow all indicated the nearness of many of the enemy. The final proof came late in the day when we were joined by five tanks as the entire battalion crossed a wide field. The tanks looked so strong that we felt naked in comparison. They seemed to be protective big brothers.

Suddenly spears of flame seemed to shot out from three of the tanks. A moment later came the boom of the hidden 88's. The men in the tanks never had a chance; they were cremated instantly. The fires were so intense riflemen nearby were badly burned. The two surviving tanks were ordered to leave as we continued.

Now we entered the very wildest terrain for which the Ardennes is known. Rugged, almost vertical hills covered with thick fir forests became darker like a scene from a horror movie. It was the start of one of the most terrifying nights I have known.

As the official army history of the battle<sup>1</sup> reports: "Sometime after midnight the forward battalion started into the assault over a series of rough slopes where each man was outlined by the bright moonlight reflecting from the glazed field of snow. The enemy, waiting with machine guns on the reverse slopes, had all the best of it."

As one of the lead companies in the action I will never forget how as the battalion crossed a small field between hills, a machine gun fire tore into the ranks. From then on we kept to the woods and hills as sporadic firing by both sides and flanking probes continued.

The night in the forest became so dark that our wide-spread formations became a single file line with each man trying to keep his hand on the man in front of him. Up a steep ravine the line



clawed until fiery tracers caused an angled decent. We started back up another incline and then shells began to fall over the entire area. Each explosion gave a bright light that blinded us for minutes. The routine became climb, duck, climb, duck. Hitting the ground while climbing a steep hill consisted of just holding onto a tree or brush since we were already against the ground.

Another fire fight caused us to go down again. Here it was so steep we couldn't walk but simply slid down the icy slope, banging into trees and crashing through brush. At the bottom our battalion was a confused mass of men. Some weapons and ammunition were lost and a few men became separated and hurt.

As the confused group started up in still another direction, I found myself near the end of the column. Everyone was so exhausted from the all-day and night maneuver that we had to stop the climb every few minutes to rest.

At one rest a man fell asleep and didn't warn the end of the column when the unit moved on. As a result a dozen were left behind, lost on a steep hillside. Panic was near as we realized we were in the middle of enemy action with no idea of which way to go and able to see only a few feet. Shells continued to fall and rifle fire was heard from what seemed like all directions.

Waiting several hours until dawn, we climbed straight up through the forest. The sound of digging came from the top but it was impossible to tell if it was our outfit or Germans digging in. As we crept closer, a string of GI curses was a most welcome sound. It was our men and we were saved.

Saved, that is, until full daylight revealed our plight. During the night movements we had deeply penetrated the enemy lines and now sat on top of a ridge, completely surrounded. We had not eaten since noon of the preceding day, and now we knew we would get no food until we worked out of the trap.

All that day we prepared our defensive positions, waiting for the enemy to attack. We could hear their horses and wagons as they brought up ammunition and weapons. Except for artillery and a few patrols they left us alone.

During the day the weather improved as the clouds began to break. Possibly the Germans wanted to wait for it to clear up before hitting us. Above the clouds came the noise of aerial combat and then the sound of a plane diving under full power. The ground seemed to shake when it hit at least a mile away.

That night it was decided that we could get out of our trap the same way we got into it. For hours we crawled down through the woods from that ridge. Every time a flare went off or a shell exploded we froze, but this time darkness and the rough country were our allies.

Almost like a miracle we made it to a field where foxholes were completed shortly before dawn on Christmas morning.

As the sun came up we were overjoyed to see it and a perfectly clear day. Our joy was short lived as the position became obvious. We were stretched across the middle of a wide open field at the foot of German-held hills. Any artillery observers on those hills could look right into our holes. Quickly orders were given to move back.

But it was too late and the withdrawal became a rout as the entire field seemed to explode. Mortar and artillery fire fell everywhere. The frozen ground splattered the shells so almost all the metal fragments flew around instead of digging large holes. I felt a blow on my foot but kept running. When the survivors reached the edge of the field we hid behind trees and in ditches until the firing ceased.

Then we dug holes and formed a thin defensive line waiting for the attack we knew was coming. No one was thinking of Merry Christmas--but then our present arrived.

A low roar grew to thunderous proportions as a squadron of American fighters circled over at low altitude. Then, swooping single file so low over our holes that we felt their propwash, they fired rockets into the German area. More came with bombs and finally they strafed with their guns.

The smoke from the hills told the story. The German attack forces had been smashed. While the Battle of the Bulge meant many more weeks of brutal fighting under impossible conditions, this was the turning point of the battle for our outfit.

I've never seen any artist portray Santa Clause flying a P-47 but he must have been at the controls on that Christmas morning, for he brought us the greatest gift possible--our lives.

## DID YOU ENJOY THESE STORIES??

**Well, people would enjoy  
your story too!!**

We still have a few stories on hand, but they are rapidly being used up. So, get your story into the mail soon. Be as brief as possible, and confine the contents to **one incident during the Bulge.**

## IT MUST HAVE BEEN IMPORTANT

*[The following was sent to us by J. ROBERT HOVENSTINE,  
10TH ARMORED DIVISION, 150TH ARMORED SIGNAL  
COMPANY.]*

I was a messenger, peep driver, in the 150th Signal Company of the 10th Armored Division. I remember two other messengers, John Warren and Louis Cox, talking about a messenger run that they had made. The town they had to drive through, surprisingly, was still occupied by German soldiers. They drove through the town to reach their destination. German soldiers were standing along the street as they drove through. Nothing happened! They delivered their message.

There was no other way to return to message center except through that same town. These two brave messengers decided they'd give it a try. One of them drove and the other sat in the rear seat, with his grease-gun (submachine gun), carbine and hand grenades on his lap. Ordinarily both men would ride in the front of the peep. As they drove through the town they saw the German soldiers still standing throughout the town. The Germans merely looked at Warren and Cox as they drove through. They said they were a bit scared.



# Color Guard Crisis

**Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) introducing S. 324, a bill providing that performance of honor guard functions at funerals for veterans by members of the National Guard be recognized as a federal function for National Guard purposes, in the Senate 13 Feb.**

My state is home to nearly 700,000 veterans, and one of the few states with a growing veterans population. Washington state vets are active; virtually every veterans service organization has chapters, posts and members all across my state. At the state level, Washington veterans are also blessed with a team of dedicated veterans' advocates. This means I have a statewide "unofficial" advisory team to provide me with regular information about the issues of importance to veterans. I hear from Washington vets in the classroom, in the grocery store, at VA facilities, on the street, in my office and through the mail. My service on the veterans affairs committee is a genuine partnership with the veterans of my state.

The bill I am introducing today is a direct result of this partnership. Simply stated, my bill proposes to allow the performance of honor guard functions by members of the National Guard at funerals for veterans.

It may shock my colleagues to know why this legislation is so important. Sadly, decorated U.S. veterans are being laid to rest all across this country without the appropriate military honors. For years, military installations trained personnel to provide color guard services at the funerals of veterans. Oftentimes, as many as 10 active duty personnel were made available by local military installations to provide funeral services for a compatriot and his or her grieving family.

As the military has downsized in recent years, many installations are no longer able to provide personnel to perform color guard services and aid the veteran's family. Some installations do provide limited assistance if the deceased served in that branch of the military.

In my state, that means very little to the Navy family who loses a loved one near the Air Force or Army installations nearby. And we all know, when a family member passes away, there is little time or emotional capacity to plan a funeral. Too often, the result for a veteran is a funeral service without the requested and the deserved military honors. This must change.

Veterans service organizations have stepped in and tried to provide the color guard services for fellow deceased veterans. By most accounts, they do a very good job. But VSOs cannot meet the need for color guard services. By their own admission, they often lack the crispness and the precision of trained military personnel. Our veterans population is getting older, and we cannot expect a group of older veterans to provide these services day in and day out for their military peers. We are simply asking too much of a generation that has already given so much.

My bill is an important first step toward ensuring that every veteran receives a funeral worthy of the valiant service he or she has given to our country. I believe every single member of Congress believes our veterans deserve to be remembered with the appropriate military honors during a funeral service. By passing my legislation, the Congress can send a message to veterans that their service to us all will never be forgotten.

I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort to pass this legislation at the earliest opportunity.

I also want to thank Senator and Korean War veteran Ben Nighthorse Campbell for joining me in this effort. Sen. Campbell also serves on the veterans affairs committee ....

And I'd also like to thank Congressman Paul Kanjorski, who has previously introduced this legislation on the House side. As I understand it, his constituents in Pennsylvania originally asked him to get involved in this effort. I look forward to working closely with both Sen. Campbell and Congressman Kanjorski in support of this legislation. ★

## BOOKS YOU MAY ENJOY

The following books were generously donated to our library/archives. We thank the authors and/or publishers for their generous contributions.

*Phantom Nine*, by Walter E. Reichelt. This book covers the activities of the 9th Armored Division through its final campaign at Karlsbad, Czechoslovakia. The 9th was the only American armored division on the scene when Hitler's massed panzers smashed into the Ghost Front of the Ardennes on December 16, 1944. Cost for this hard cover book with its many maps and illustrations is \$13.50 while supply lasts. Make check payable to Walter E. Reichelt and mail to: 102 East Steelman Avenue, Northfield, New Jersey 08225.

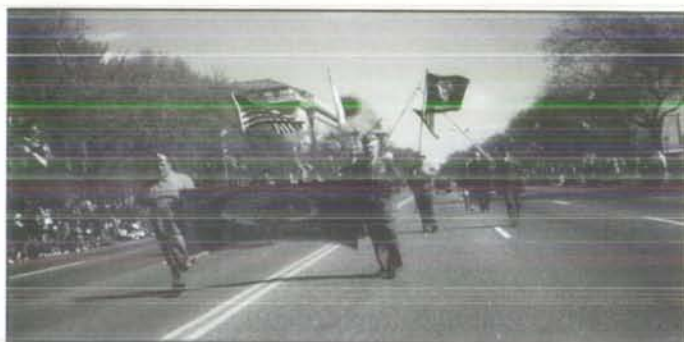
*Civilians under Arms: The Stars and Stripes, Civil War to Korea*. This 208 page book, edited by Herbert Mitgang, provides a forum for the words of the citizen soldiers who worked for the *Stars and Stripes*. A book of history, or journalism, and of Americans at war--from the Civil War to the Korean War. Cost is \$14.95, plus \$3.50 postage and handling for the first copy (add \$.75 for each additional book). Send order to: Southern Illinois University Press, Order Department, PO Box 3697, Carbondale, Illinois 62902-3697.

### Up-Date on Book Availability:

*Tears* and *In the Shadow of the Forests* is available from Armand Blau; Prins Clausstraat 3; 8862 Ma Harlingen; The Netherlands. *Tears* is \$55.00 and *In the Shadow of the Forests* is \$89.00. These are the books mentioned in the November 1996 issue of *The Bugle*.

DAVID L. DRAKE, 253RD ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS BATTERY, sent us the following information on Bill Mauldin's books. He indicates that the best place to find these books are used book stores as some will try to find the books upon request. *Up Front* was copyrighted in 1945 by Henry Holt & Company and published by World Publishing Company. *The Brass Ring* was copyrighted in 1971 by Bill Mauldin and published by Berkley Publishing Company. *Back Home* was copyrighted in 1947 and also published by William Sloan Associates.

Hope this helps.



T'WAS A GREAT DAY for the Irish and for the VBOB veterans that paraded in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Washington, DC, on Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. The crowds were thrilled to see the Bulge Veterans march and they received continuous applause all along Constitution Avenue and a standing ovation from the members of the reviewing stand. One of the numerous things that occurred about mid-way down the Avenue was the man in his thirties that hollered out to the Vets, "WELCOME HOME!"

T'was a great crowd pleaser and showed that our VBOB marchers had no problems in picking up that ole marching step. Well done, Boys!



# REUNIONS

**2ND INFANTRY DIVISION, 38TH INFANTRY, COMPANY K**, June 18-21, 1997, Best Western East Trade Winds Inn Motel, Tulsa, Oklahoma. Contact: Mrs. Coy W. Durham, 1407 West 12th Street, Texarkana, Texas 75501-4959. Telephone: 903-794-9615.

**3RD ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION (WWII)**, September 12-15, 1997, Manhattan, Kansas. Contact: I. D. Cravens, 223 Bellerive Road, Springfield, Illinois 62704.

**4TH ARMORED DIVISION**, September 1-7, 1997, Harrisburg Marriott Hotel, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Contact: Samuel A. Schenker, 1823 Shady Drive, Farrell, Pennsylvania 16121. Telephone: 412-342-6058.

**6TH ARMORED DIVISION**, September 3-7, 1997, Sheraton National Hotel, Arlington, Virginia. Contact: Edward F. Reed, P.O. Box 5011, Louisville, Kentucky 40255-0011.

**8TH/9TH AIR FORCES, 386TH BOMB GROUP, ETC**, September 17-21, 1997, Memphis Marriott, Memphis, Tennessee. Contact: Skip Young, 5594 Buring Court, Ft. Myers, Florida 33919. Telephone: 941-482-5059.

**9TH ARMORED DIVISION, 73RD ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION**, September 10-13, 1997, Rapid City City, South Dakota. Contact: Bob Peterson, 326 Third Street, Parkville, Minnesota 55768. Telephone: 218-741-9119.

**10TH ARMORED DIVISION**, August 28-31, 1997, Westin Hotel, Detroit, Michigan. Contact: Lou Siembor, 2758 22nd Street, Wyandotte, Michigan 48192.

**11TH ARMORED DIVISION, 55TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, COMPANY B**, September 4-7, 1997, Louisville, Kentucky. Contact: George M. Reimer, 115 South Miles Street, Elizabethtown, Kentucky 42701. Telephone: 502-737-8312.

**28TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 109TH INFANTRY (WWII)**, October 6-10, 1997, The Chamberlin, Hampton, Virginia. Contact: George H. Bunnell, C13 Berlin Mobil Home Park, Barre, Vermont 05641. Telephone: 802-229-9260.

**35TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 134TH INFANTRY**, September 17-20, 1997, Ramada Inn (Downtown), Topeka, Kansas. Contact: James Graff, 1146 100th Avenue, Middletown, Illinois 62666. Telephone: 217-445-2570.

**79TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 904TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION**, September 11-14, 1997, San Antonio. Contact: Sotero Gomez, 2515 Jackson Drive, Gatesville, Texas 76528. Telephone: 817-865-7121.

**80TH INFANTRY DIVISION (WWI/WWII)**, August 20-24, 1997, Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles, Illinois. Contact: Henry J. Wurts, PO Box 199, Warrenville, Illinois 60555. Telephone: 630-393-6475.

**83RD INFANTRY DIVISION (Boston)**, My 12-16, 1997, South Fallsburg, New York. Contact: Pat DiGiammerino, 36 East Border Road, Malden, Massachusetts 02148. Telephone: 617-322-2754.

**84TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, August 16-20, 1997, Clarion Plaza Hotel, Orlando, Florida. Contact: Forrest Lothrop, PO Box 827, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57101-0827. Telephone: 605-334-8787.

**95TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, September 4-7, 1997, Holiday Inn Harrisburg East, 4751 Lindle Road, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17111. Contact: Lester Wolf, 8032 South 86th Court, Justice, Illinois 60458. Telephone: 708-458-3047.

**99TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, July 8-13, 1997, Charlotte, North Carolina. Contact: Jesse Coulter, 2033 Wensley Drive, Charlotte, NC 28210. Telephone: 704-553-1911.

**126TH AAA BATTERY C**, September 18-21, 1997, Traverse City, Michigan.

Contact: Lyle Sparks. Telephone: 616-938-1387.

**159TH COMBAT ENGINEER BATTALION**, September 11-13, 1997, Lantern Lodge Motor Inn, Myerstown, Pennsylvania. Contact: Russ Ruch, 709 North 7th South, Pottsville, Pennsylvania 17901. Telephone: 717-622-2942.

**291ST ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION**, September 29-October 2, 1997, Las Vegas, Nevada. Contact: Ed Gutowski, 266 Table Rock Road, Henderson, Nevada 89014. Telephone: 702-898-2502.

**297TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION**, September 8-11, 1997. Contact: Joe Rufo, 12 Springer Avenue, Yonkers, New York 10704. Telephone: 914-237-4875.

**328TH INFANTRY COMBAT TEAM**, October 17-18, 1997, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Contact: Robert Clapp, 208 Aspinwall Avenue, Brookline, Massachusetts 02146. Telephone: 617-566-7147.

**440TH AAA (AW) BATTALION**, September 18-20, 1997, St. Louis, Missouri. Contact: Russell A. Hage, 17660 Woodbridge Road, Spring Lake, Michigan 49456.

**501ST PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT**, July 17-20, 1997, Springfield, Missouri. Contact: Ralph Manley, 2335 South Golden, Springfield, Missouri 65807. Telephone: 417-882-7358.

**643RD TANK DESTROYER BATTALION**, October 3-5, Sheraton Tara Airport Motel, 1850 Post Road, Warwick, Rhode Island 02866. Contact: Mary A. Little, 241 Michnock Road, West Greenwich, Rhode Island 02816. Telephone: 401-397-9873.

**740TH TANK BATTALION**, August 28-31, 1997, Irving, Texas. Contact: Harry F. Miller, 2410 West Manor Place #307, Seattle, Washington 98199-2023. Telephone: 206-283-8591.

**814TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION**, June 14-15, 1997, Clasby Center, Savannah, Missouri. Contact: Mrs. Cloma Christmas, 106 South 9th Street, Savannah, Missouri 64485. Telephone: 816-324-4100.

**CAMP FANNIN**, April 30-May 3, 1997, Holiday Inn, Tyler, Texas. Contact: Camp Fannin Association Office, P.O. Box 132024, Tyler, Texas. Telephone: 903-533-9232 or 903-593-1615.

**STORM LAKE, IOWA, MEMORIAL DAY**, May 22-25, 1998. Contact: Kermit L. Buntrock. Telephone: 712-732-4652.

**SHAEF/ETOUSA VETERANS**, October 10-13, 1997, Kansas City, Missouri. Contact: Alan F. Reeves, 2301 Broadway, San Francisco, California 94115. Telephone: 415-921-8322.

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## NORMANDY "WALL OF LIBERTY"

Those of you who contributed to this project may wish to write to the Battle of Normandy Foundation, PO Box 265, Burtonsville, Maryland 20866, to find further information regarding this project. In no way, do we or have we, endorsed this project. We provide this information only because many of you have called to inquire: "What happened to this monument?"




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**ARE YOUR  
DUES DUE?**



# The fading thunder of World War II

By Albert B. Southwick

Pearl Harbor Day with all its memories is supposed to be a time of rededication. But what do we World War II veterans have to say to a generation that sees us as ancient history?

I realized that an era—my era—was passing when I mentioned to a young hospital intern that I had served in the Second World War.

"World War II?" he repeated wonderingly. The blank look on his face showed that he didn't have a clue. Here was a young man who presumably had spent four years in college and two more in medical school, yet he couldn't have told the difference between World War I and World War II if his life depended upon it.

I shouldn't have been surprised. After all, of the 17 million American men and women in uniform from 1941 to 1945, perhaps only 5 million or so survive. Of the 100 million adult Americans who celebrated the end of the war in 1945, most likely not more than 30 million remain.

In short, only a diminishing fraction of the current 260 million Americans have any memory of the greatest human cataclysm in history. Most people have little understanding of what it entailed and what it achieved and how profoundly it changed the world. When a television crew went to the University of Maryland recently to test students' knowledge of World War II, some didn't even know which countries we had fought against. One young man said that our main foes were Russia, Korea and Pearl Harbor, in that order. Go figure.

Last year, I was on a panel at Clark University debating whether President Harry Truman should have dropped the atom bomb on Hiroshima in 1945. In recent years, an academic cottage industry has sprung up, dedicated to the dubious proposition that the bomb was not necessary, that the Japanese were anxious to surrender and that Truman was only trying to impress the Soviets. At one point, a Clark professor stated that we had a million men under arms in 1945—plenty to persuade Japan to give up. Actually, in August 1945, we had about 11 million—and the Japanese still needed some persuading. In that professor's mind, World War II had been reduced to one-tenth its actual size. He is not alone. Few who were not there can appreciate its colossal impact on the globe.

It is hard for anyone over 65 to realize that the world-shaking events of a half-century ago have faded away so fast. Names like Roosevelt, Churchill, Stalin, Hitler, Mussolini, Chiang Kai-Shek, MacArthur, Marshall, Zhukov, Montgomery, Eisenhower and the like are only ghosts in the wind today. Yet these men shaped our lasting image of the world, just as they changed the world forever after.

Who remembers our World War II heroes—Joe Foss, Marine pilot who shot down 30 Japanese planes; Pappy Boyington, ace of aces; John Basilone, Medal of Honor winner at Guadalcanal, killed at Iwo Jima; Colin Kelly, who dove his crippled plane down the smokestack of a Japanese battleship? Audie Murphy? So many more, decorated and not decorated.

Who remembers the five

Sullivan brothers, all lost when their ship went down one dark night in the Pacific? Or Gen. McAuliffe, who sent a rude message back to the Germans at the Battle of the Bulge when they

*"When it finally ended in August 1945, it left 60 million dead, hundreds of millions crippled, blinded and scarred, property destroyed on a scale never before seen and a legacy of atrocities so monstrous that humanity is still grappling with it."*

wanted him to surrender?

Who remembers Ernie Pyle, the correspondent who understood what the war was like on the ground? He got his on some godforsaken Pacific island.

Who remembers my old flying buddy, Adolph Johnson?

*(I remember you, Adolph. We called you the big Swede. You owned a house in San Francisco. You had a girl you were going to marry. You had big plans. But they all went down in smoke—when the Jap ack-ack ripped your Privateer bomber apart over Okinawa. You and the rest of the crew.)*

Who will call the roll of the 296,000 Americans who didn't

come back? So many, and all mostly ghosts in the wind, faded pictures in albums.

Franklin D. Roosevelt spoke the words that still ring for some of us: "This generation has a rendezvous with destiny." It's hard to imagine any president these days saying any such thing, but we came to understand what he meant. We believed in the justice of our cause. We still do, no matter what the nitpickers and revisionists claim.

My generation understands one thing. One big thing. When Western civilization and its values hung in the balance, the United States and its allies stood firm against two monstrous foes, poured out their blood and treasure and ultimately prevailed.

Some have taken to calling World War II the "Good War." Please don't say that to us. World War II was the most violent cataclysm that human history has ever witnessed. When it finally ended, in August 1945, it left 60 million dead, hundreds of millions crippled, blinded and scarred, property destruction on a scale never before seen and a legacy of atrocities so monstrous that humanity is still grappling with it.

There is no "good" war. But there are wars in which justice is overwhelmingly on one side. There are wars that pit the forces of conquest and slavery against the forces of decency. Good against evil, if you will.

That was World War II, in our opinion. No one will ever convince us otherwise.

*Submitted by John E. McAuliffe  
Central Mass. Chapter*



## ETO CASUALTIES

[The following appeared in the Ohio North Coast News (VBOB Chapter). Our copy was rather fuzzy. I hope we have interpreted the figures correctly.]

During WWII, the U.S. Army deployed 68 combat divisions to the European Theater of Operations. Those infantry, armored, airborne and mountain divisions suffered 78% of all Army casualties sustained in the theater.

The infantry, by far, absorbed the greatest percentage of casualties: 80% of Army killed in action. While only 14% of the Army's total overseas strength, the infantry suffered 70% of all battle casualties. Riflemen equalled 68% of an infantry division's manpower, but accounted for 95% of its casualties.

Divisions varied widely as far as time in combat. For instance, the 3rd Infantry Division went into action in November 1942; the 13th Airborne Division arrived in France on February 5, 1945, but was never deployed in combat. Maximum time in combat for the average infantryman was 200 days before he reached the breaking point.

### U.S. Army Division Casualties in Descending Order

Division	Combat Deaths	Wounded in Action
3rd Infantry	5,558	18,766
4th Infantry	4,854	17,371
29th Infantry	4,786	15,541
9th Infantry	4,504	17,416
1st Infantry	4,280	15,208
45th Infantry	4,080	14,441
90th Infantry	3,930	14,386
36th Infantry	3,637	13,191
83rd Infantry	3,620	11,807
30th Infantry	3,516	13,376
2nd Infantry	3,488	12,785
80th Infantry	3,480	12,484
34th Infantry	3,350	11,545
35th Infantry	2,947	11,526
79th Infantry	2,943	10,971
8th Infantry	2,820	10,057
28th Infantry	2,683	9,609
5th Infantry	2,656	9,549
88th Infantry	2,556	9,225
3rd Armored	2,126	6,963
26th Infantry	2,112	7,886
101st Airborne	2,090	5,388
82nd Airborne	1,951	5,560
85th Infantry	1,736	6,314
78th Infantry	1,625	6,103
91st Infantry	1,575	6,748
84th Infantry	1,438	5,098
1st Armored	1,428	5,168
17th Airborne	1,382	4,904
95th Infantry	1,372	4,945
4th Armored	1,356	4,551
87th Infantry	1,295	4,342
44th Infantry	1,206	4,209
2nd Armored	1,183	4,557

Division	Combat Deaths	Wounded in Action
94th Infantry	1,156	4,789
99th Infantry	1,134	4,177
104th Infantry	1,114	3,657
7th Armored	1,098	3,811
102nd Infantry	1,077	3,668
6th Armored	989	3,666
100th Infantry	984	3,539
63rd Infantry	974	3,326
10th Mountain	953	3,134
75th Infantry	928	3,314
70th Infantry	34?	2,713
103rd Infantry	821	3,329
66th Infantry	800	636
10th Armored	774	3,109
12th Armored	725	2,416
5th Armored	710	2,442
9th Armored	693	2,280
42nd Infantry	638	2,212
92nd Infantry	616	2,187
14th Armored	560	1,955
76th Infantry	523	1,811
11th Armored	522	2,394
106th Infantry	470	1,278
8th Armored	466	1,572
69th Infantry	383	1,146
89th Infantry	325	692
71st Infantry	278	843
65th Infantry	260	927
13th Armored	253	912
97th Infantry	214	721
56th Infantry	161	618
20th Armored	59	134
16th Armored	5	28
13th Airborne	0	0

Source: Order of Battle, U.S. Army World War II by Shelby L. Stanton (?) Presido Press 1984.

## COMPARISON FIGURES

[The following figures are interesting in light of above. Compiled and submitted by **OLLIE CHAPLIN**, Associate Member.]

WWII Total casualties	1,076,245
Total U.S. casualties--Europe & Pacific Theaters	884,135
Length of conflict = 3 years 8 months	
Korean Conflict U.S. Army casualties	114,729
Length of conflict = 3-1/2 years	
Vietnam War U.S. casualties	134,921
Length of conflict = 19 years (American troops were there as early as 1953, if not before.)	

Battle of the Bulge casualties (figures available to me), ran between 85,000 and 87,000. Using the lesser of those, it is interesting to note that 9.6% of the total U.S. Army casualties of World War II occurred during the 40 days of the Ardennes Campaign. Total U.S. Army casualties equalling 7.89% occurred during the Battle of the Bulge. The Ardennes Campaign casualties are equal to 62% of the total casualties in Vietnam and 75% of the total casualties of the Korean Conflict.



# LOSHEIM GAP REMEMBERED

**M. H. Kunselman**  
**106th Infantry Division**  
**424th Infantry**

I've enjoyed reading the experiences shared in *The Bugle* by veterans of the Ardennes Campaign. These stories fill in a lot of blank spots of what went on around us. Most of us were aware only of our own small area of operations in a battle that covered a hundred square miles. I figure there isn't much I can add that hasn't already been covered, except maybe a historical fact I've never seen mentioned.

After we settled into our positions inherited from the 2nd Infantry Division, I studied our maps to better understand where we were. The 28th Division was on our south flank. I entered the service with it back in 1941. The 99th was to our north. As I scanned the maps, most towns didn't mean a thing to me until I saw the name Losheim. The name rang a bell, and then I remembered, the Losheim Gap--invasion route through the Ardennes to France. The Germans used it in 1870 to surprise and defeat the French at Sedan. In 1914 Von Bock came through there and nearly reached the gates of Paris before he was stopped. In 1940 Hitler's panzers crossed this same ground to bypass the northern end of the Maginot Line to surprise and defeat the French. My pulse quickened as I realized we were on historical ground.

Three times the Germans came through here with surprise attacks. Yet when we reported signs of activity, we were assured the Germans would never launch a big attack in this rugged area even if they had the capability. Apparently our high staff never read their military history. To be taken by surprise a fourth time seems inexcusable.

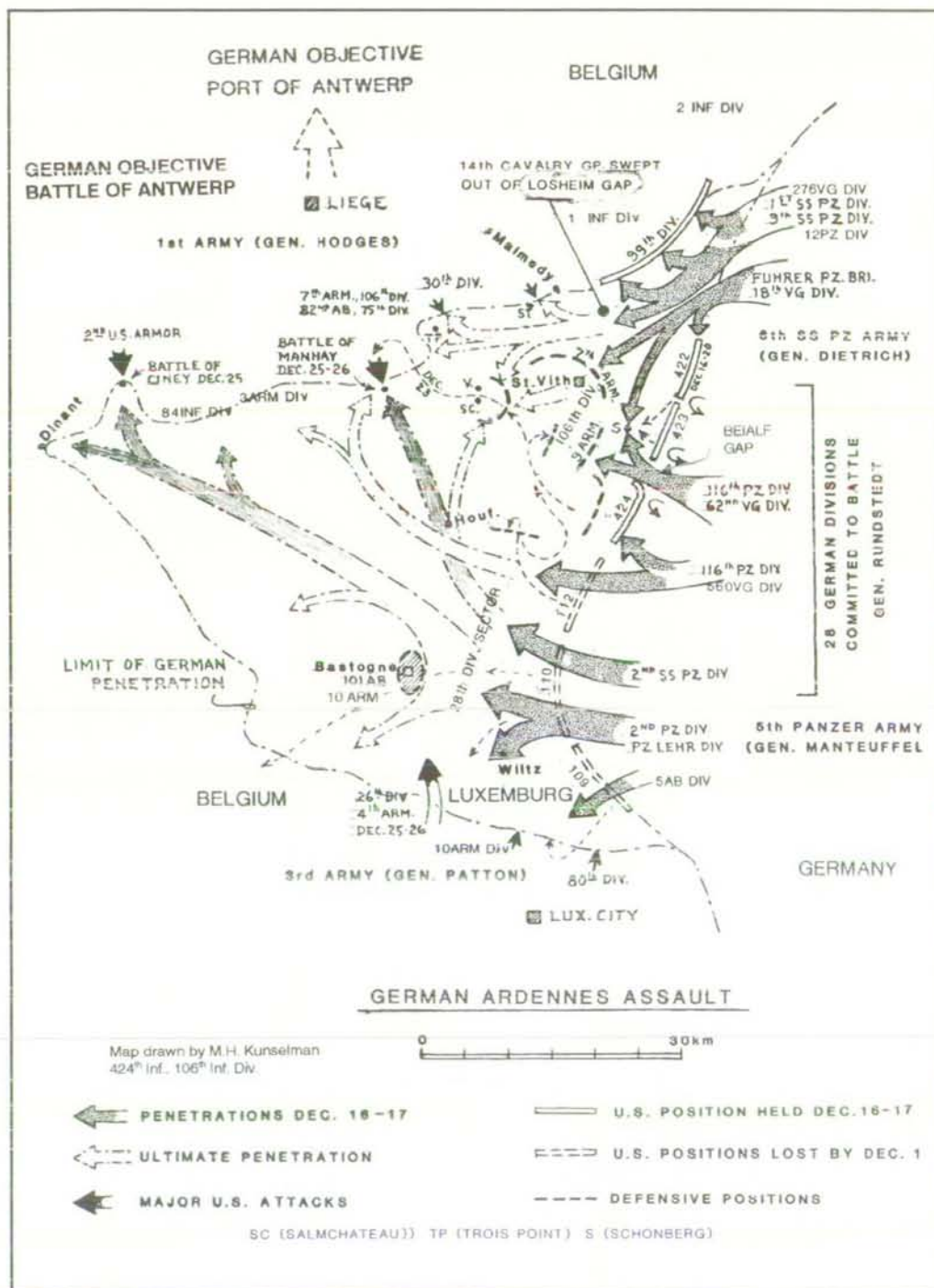
The wide notorious Losheim Gap on the extreme left of our division was defended by several squadrons of mechanized cavalry, a company of TD's plus an armored artillery battalion. To the south, the gap at Beilf was screened by 106th Reconnaissance Company and Cannon Company, 424th Infantry, minus their cannons. Neither of these forces were trained or equipped to fight as infantry. In between these two gaps two-thirds of our division combat strength was deployed on rugged Schnee Iffel mountain and serviced by a single vulnerable road. When the Germans hit, they quickly brushed aside the meager forces defending the gaps and surrounded Schnee Iffel with a ring of iron. Therein lies the tragedy of the 106th

Division.

Wouldn't it have been wiser to place the two infantry combat teams at the crucial gaps and let the cavalry screen the impassable mountain? They couldn't have stopped the powerful panzer attack but they could have fought and fallen back. Better than being hopelessly trapped on a useless mountain. It makes one wonder about higher echelon planning. Likewise (and in hindsight) I question the wisdom of sending the 101st Airborne into Bastogne where they were quickly surrounded and neutralized as far as affecting the course of

battle. The Germans just bypassed Bastogne and launched two panzer spearheads deep into our rear areas. Our Corps and Army G-2 should have paid attention to the warnings they had that the Germans planned to be in Liege by Christmas.

I enclose a map I drew after the war. It well illustrates the massive German effort through the Losheim Gap. American units are shown to the best of my knowledge at the time. Many that participated are not shown because I didn't know where they were.





## MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

Barbara Bruno wrote to us some time ago seeking information regarding her husband: **LOUIS L. BRUNO, 61ST ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, COMPANY B.** He spoke little about the war during their many years together. Barbara would like to locate someone who remembers her husband or someone who can provide her with information about the 61st. Write to Barbara at: 8 Cossitt Avenue, Claremont, NH 03743-2712.

John Krupinski wrote to see if someone could be helpful in locating a log book and some photos which belonged to his cousin, Walter Krupinski, who flew with the Luftwaffe. While Walter was a prisoner at Mayglan Airfield, his log book and some photos disappeared. If any one has information, write to John at: 27 Banff Place, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R2G 2W1.

**ROGER MARQUET**, Belgian Associate member, would like some help in locating a GI who was severely wounded in the vicinity of Chenogne (a tiny village 4 miles southwest from Bastogne). The GI was sheltered and cared for for several hours by Mr. and Mrs. Albert Mars-Mignon and parents in that village before being picked up by a jeep receiving German fire. The civilians never heard from the GI. They would like to know if he is still alive. He could be from one of the following units: **9TH ARMORED DIVISION (60TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION and 19TH TANK BATTALION) or 11TH ARMORED DIVISION (21ST ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION and 22ND TANK BATTALION).** Can you help? Write to Roger: Fonds de Foret, 67; B-4870 Trooz, Belgium.

L. Sartell, of Antwerp, Belgium, writes to inquire about **DICK HUMPHRIES**, who was from Texas. He lived with his parents in Wegimont (16 km from Liege) and on 9 September 1944 American soldiers in tanks came to the castle to rest. He befriended Dick and they and his parents had dinner together. He would like to know if Dick survived the war. Write to him at: Beschavingstr, 30 bus 1, 2020 Antwerp, Belgium.

Judy Eidelman writes to see if any one may have served with her uncle **MILTON CHARLES KORNETZ**, who served with **INFANTRY, 1ST ECAR (CIVIL AFFAIRS), COMPANY D.** ECAR was a special unit which helped expedite the invading army to help with local affairs. He was captured and taken prisoner to Stalag IV (or IX), Bad Orb, Germany. He died in a barn near Hof, Germany, in April of 1945. He is buried in St. Avoird, France. Names of some who were captured with Milton: Milton Stolon and Stanley Cohen (both from Brooklyn, New York); Martin Gritz, New York City; Norman Martin, Bronx, New York; Irvin Pastor, Nashua, New Hampshire; Edwin Boker, Hewlitt, Long Island, New York; and a Caughram of Chisholm, Texas. If you can help, write to Judy at: 8 Long View Drive, Marblehead, Massachusetts 01945.

**ABRAHAM LASHIN, 80TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 319TH INFANTRY, 3RD BATTALION, COMPANY K,** and other "Blue Ridgers" were graciously hosted by Frank Rockenbrod on a trip a couple of years ago to Luxembourg, etc. Frank had asked Abraham to request stories, photographs, letters, etc., from

his buddies for a book he is preparing. If you can help write to: Frank Rockenbrod; 2, Rue Lemire; L-1927 Luxembourg.

John T. Barber, Executive Director of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Club, 283 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York 10016, writes to let you know that there are special rates available to you at their Club if you're planning a trip there. Write to him, he will send you a list of their rates. *[Hey, you're not going to find better rates anywhere in New York.]*

**DON BEIN, 9TH ARMORED DIVISION**, states that he received a bronze plaque from Belgium and would like to know why he received this--the specifics. The plaque is octagonal with the words "NUTS" and "BASTOGNE", on it, along with two figures. Write to Don at: 350 Imperial Point, Lake Ozark, Missouri 65049.

Does anyone have the address of Lt. Col. Chappuis who was in command at Chateau Rolle at Champs, Bastogne, Christmas, 1944? If so, J. Edelhausem has a video he would like to send to him. Write J. at: Falconetruwe 11, 6218 RL Maastricht, The Netherlands.

**JEROME E. BAKER, 90TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 357TH INFANTRY**, would like to know if anyone knows the whereabouts of Robert Nugent and/or George vonRoeder, who wrote their regimental history. Write to Jerome at: 103 Crescent Drive, Brick, New Jersey 08724.

**KERMIT L. BUNTROCK, 94TH SIGNAL BATTALION**, would like to hear from Medal of Honor winners who would enjoy being featured at the Storm Lake (Iowa) Memorial Day weekend--May 22-25, 1998. Contact him at: 1522 West Fifth Street, Storm Lake, Iowa 50588.

**HORACE M. WHITE, 75TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 897TH FIELD ARTILLERY, C BATTERY**, would like to hear from anyone who served with him. Write to Horace at: 1005 Smith Drive, Cleveland, Tennessee 37311.

Frances West would like to hear from anyone who served with her husband, **JOHN LEONARD WEST, 84TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 334TH INFANTRY, COMPANY M.** Write to her at: 108 Wallace Drive, Fayetteville, Tennessee 37334.

Pierre Baerten and the Historical Circle of Werm are looking for those who served during the period September 1944, until May 1945, in any of the following Belgian villages: Alt-Hoeselt, Berg, Beverst, Bilzen, Diets-Heur, Diepenbeek, Eigenbilzen, Genoelselderen, Grote-Spouwen, Guigoven, Henis, Heukelom, Herderen, Hoeselt, Ketsingen, Koninksem, Klein-Spouwen, Law, Mal, Martenslinde, Membruggen, Millen, Mulken, Mopertingen, Munsterbilzen, Nerem, Neerrepen, Overrepen, Piringen, Riemst, Rijkhoven, Riksingen, Rutten, Romershoven, Schalkhoven, Sluizen, 's Herenelderen, St. Huibrechts-Hern, Tongeren, Valmeer, Vliermaal, Vliermaalroot, Vrijhern, Vrerem, Waltwilder, Werm, Widooie, or Zichen-Zussen-Bolder. Write to Pierre at: Bronstraat 6, 3730 Hoeselt, Belgium.

Fifteen year old Bernard Gillet cares for the grave of an American soldier buried

*(Continued on Page 27)*



## MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

(Continued from Page 26)

in the cemetery of Neuville-En-Condroz. He would like to know if anyone can provide him with information or help him locate the family of **JOSHUA HALL, 439TH MEDICAL COLLECTING COMPANY** (from Georgia). Write to Bernard at: Rue Joseph Marcotty, 11; B-4031, Angleur, Belgium.

**JAMES LENDRUM, 740 FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS**, wishes to thank all who responded to his request for information on the thermometer reading in the Ardennes--general consensus--**damned cold**.

**FERRY B. GLOVER, 83RD INFANTRY DIVISION**, would like some help. He was sent overseas in January, 1945, leaving New York on the *Queen Elizabeth* on or about January 8th. He landed in Scotland about the 15th and from there went to LeHarve, France, where he was put on a train to go to the Bulge. In the process his feet was frozen. On or about the 1st of February he was sent to a hospital in Belgium and then to Paris, France, and on to England. He would like to locate some one who also received frozen feet as a result this trip and/or anyone who can substantiate his claim. Write to Ferry at: PO Box 1921, Dunnellon, Florida 34430.

Mrs. Donald Armstrong would like to find information, photos, etc., regarding the WWII submarine *USS Runner*. Her cousin **DONALD McDONALD**, from Alliance, Nebraska, served on this ship. They were notified that he was missing in action and received no further information. Contact her at: 80132 Nichols Drive, Minatare, Nebraska 69356.

Bettie Garbe, an associate member of the Northwest Chapter, would like to hear from anyone who may have served with her husband, **LT. NEIL J. FAHEY, 327TH GLIDER INFANTRY, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION**. Neil was killed in Bastogne on December 13, 1944. Bettie would love to hear from you. Write to her at: 501 West First Street, Aberdeen, Washington 98520.

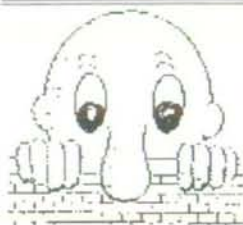
**MIKE O'CONNOR, 965TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS**, writes: On December 19, 1994, the Headquarters Battery of the **440TH AAA (AW)**, along with supporting units, had chased the Germans out of the Village of Gouvy, Belgium. During a lull in the action, Lt. Col. **ROBERT O. STONE** asked the Battalion Surgeon Captain **GORDON** to form a burial detail to accompany the body of **T/5 MERLYN C. PECOY** (39182034) into Gouvy. The body was retrieved from the battle field and carefully placed into one of the vehicles, due to the hectic movements no opportunity arose. Captain Gordon, 1st Lt. **BOEVERS**, along with the burial detail, proceeded to Gouvy, after obtaining the service of a Belgian padre, **T/5 PECOY** was given a proper burial in the cemetery next to the church in Gouvy. This humane incident was found in the AAR of the **440TH AAA (AW)**. Many questions arise in regard to this incident. Noting that the **75TH** and the **7TH ARMORED** did not get back to this area until about the 27th of January, 1945. Was the body retrieved and placed in a military cemetery or is it still there and properly marked? Does anyone have any information about **T/5 MERLYN C. PECOY**? Write Mike at: 17 Warren Street, Florence, Massachusetts 01060-1332.

**TROY M. THOMASON, 78TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 552ND ANTI-AIRCRAFT AUTOMATIC WEAPONS BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS**, would like to hear from anyone who served with **29TH INDEPENDENT INFANTRY REGIMENT, COMPANY L**. This was the training regiment at Ft. Benning, Georgia, during the 1930's, assigned to Fort Jackson, South Carolina, in 1943. They then went to Iceland, England, France, Belgium and Germany (in that order) during the war. Write to Troy at: 113 Meadow Lane, Groesbeck, Texas 76642.

Associate member **JOE RAKOCY** is trying to find information on the units some of his family served in, as follows: **TOM HORVAT, 109TH ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY GUN BATTALION, BATTERY C**; **STEVE HORVAT, 80TH INFANTRY DIVISION, MILITARY POLICE PLATOON**; and **FRED FRIES, 35TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 448TH ANTI-AIRCRAFT AUTOMATIC WEAPONS BATTALION, MEDICAL DETACHMENT**. He hasn't had much luck locating information on the 109th AAA Gun Battalion. If you can help Joe with any of these, please write to him at: 9670 Struthers Road, New Middletown, Ohio 44442.



This vast American fuel dump—more than 400,000 five-gallon jerry cans of gasoline lining five miles of roadway between the Belgian towns of Stavelot and Francorchamps—lay just one mile from Joachim Peiper's gas-starved panzers after they crossed the Stavelot bridge on December 18. But American units retreating along the Francorchamps road turned back reconnoitering German tanks by setting up an immense flaming roadblock in which 124,000 gallons of fuel were consumed.



Slap your hands and jump for joy.  
For you were here before Kilroy.  
Beneath it quickly appeared,  
Sorry to spoil your little joke.  
I was here, but my pencil broke.

—Kilroy



## COMMEMORATION IN BASTOGNE

*[The following was provided by Lt. Col. (ret.) ROGER HARDY, 5TH BELGIAN FUSILIERS, and President of the Belgian VBOB Chapter.]*

The 53rd Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge and the Siege of Bastogne was celebrated in Bastogne on Saturday, 14th of December 1996.

Five members of the 5th Belgian Fusiliers Association were present, conducted by Col (ret) Max Walem and Jean Bartet; the three other participants were René Quina, Christian Jacob and Willy Cancart both being our flag-bearers.

At 15:30 hours a cortege composed of the honor guard of a unit of the U.S. Army, a platoon of the Belgian Army, the Bastogne band, the civilian and military authorities (U.S. and Belgian), children bearing the 50 United States flags, the patriotic associations and our delegation went to the General Patton Memorial where wreaths were laid with execution of "Taps" and U.S. and Belgian anthems.

Then the cortege came back to the General MacAuliffe Square where flowers were also laid, and the cortege went on to the City Town Hall and stopped in front of the building. The Mayor spoke followed by the throwing of nuts from the balcony by the aldermen and U.S. authorities to the great pleasure of the children and adults. These nuts symbolized the famous answer of General MacAuliffe in December, 1944, to the Germans.

This was followed by a reception in the Town Hall with drinks and distribution of nuts to the guests. The 5th Fusiliers particularly appreciated the friendly welcome of Mrs. Patricia Lemaire (Public Relations Officer of Bastogne) and of Col (U.S.) Donald.

This anniversary ended with a religious service in St. Pierre Church in memory of the victims of the war.

On the same day, Marcel D'Haese, National Chairman of the 5th Fusiliers Association, made a presentation at SHAPE.

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## FOLDING THE FLAG

*[Provided by JOHN J. EIFE, 193RD FIELD ARTILLERY GROUP, HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS BATTERY, appearing in the Delaware Valley Chapter newsletter]*

**1st Fold:** To the symbol of life.

**2nd Fold:** The belief in Eternal Life.

**3rd Fold:** In Honor and Remembrance of the Veteran being Commemorated.

**4th Fold:** For Divine Guidance.

**5th Fold:** In Tribute of "OUR COUNTRY."

**6th Fold:** Our Pledge to the Flag.

**7th Fold:** Tribute to our Armed Forces.

**8th Fold:** To Honor of the Mothers of Veterans.

**9th Fold:** Tribute to Womanhood for their faith, love, loyalty and devotion to Veterans.

**10th Fold:** Tribute to the Fathers who gave their Sons and Daughters to the Armed Forces.

**11th Fold:** In the eyes of the Hebrew Citizens, The Seals of Kings David and Solomon.

**12th Fold:** In the eyes of Christian Citizens, it represents the Emblem of Eternity.

When completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding us of our national motto--IN GOD WE TRUST.

## BASTOGNE COMMENDATION

*[DON J. JOHNSON, III CORPS, HEADQUARTERS, sent us the following Commendation.]*

HEADQUARTERS III CORPS  
Office of the Commanding General  
APO 303, U.S. Army

200.6 GNNCG 25 January 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO: All Officers and Enlisted Men, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, III Corps.

1. The following letter from the Army Commander is quoted to all III Corps units which participated in the relief of BASTOGNE:

"HEADQUARTERS  
THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY  
Office of the Commanding General  
APO 403

SUBJECT: Commendation. 20 January 1945

TO: Commanding General, Officers and Men of the III Corps, APO 303, U.S. Army

"1. The speed with which the III Corps assembled, and the energy, skill and persistency with which it pressed its attack for the relief of BASTOGNE, constitute a very noteworthy feat of arms.

"2. You and the officers and men of your Command are hereby highly commended for a superior performance.

"3. You will apprise all units concerned of the contents of this letter.

/s/ G. S. Patton, Jr.  
/t/ G. S. PATTON, JR.,  
Lieut. General, U.S. Army,  
Commanding."

2. The Corps Commander is gratified to transmit the Army Commander's commendation to the units of Corps troops and divisions participating in the relief of BASTOGNE. The uncertainty of the enemy situation, the stubborn enemy resistance, the disregard for losses and the team work which all units displayed in gaining the goal of relieving BASTOGNE were the contributing factors that made the operation such an outstanding victory, and will be highly valued in the history of each unit.

3. The Corps Commander adds his commendation for the performance of this task well done.

4. The contents of this letter will be made known to all officers and enlisted men of your organizations at the earliest practicable time.

/s/ John Millikin  
/t/ JOHN MILLIKIN,  
Major General, U.S. Army  
Commanding

*[Thanks, Don, for sending this along. Many of the men who never had an opportunity to see this, will enjoy reading it.]*

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## PLAN TO COME TO GETTYSBURG COMPLETE DETAILS IN THIS ISSUE



## BUCHENWALD

The following was provided by **RUTH PURYEAR, 107TH EVACUATION HOSPITAL.**

I was an Army Nurse with the 107th Evacuation Hospital in World War II. On April 22, 1945, several doctors, nurses and medics went into Buchenwald Concentration Camp.

I thought I had grown used to seeing suffering and death after being in a combat zone for 10 months. But nothing prepared me for the shock I received when we entered the camp. I shall always remember the heaps of dead bodies lying near the crematorium, the bodies were skin and bones, many had black and blue marks and broken bones where they had been beaten.

An American officer who had a part in liberating the camp, explained what had taken place here--those to be burned were loaded into a huge electric elevator, some dead, some still living and then dropped into the ovens. The crematorium worked on a 24-hour schedule and over 50,000 human beings were turned into ashes at Buchenwald.

Even more horrible than the piles of tortured dead, was the sight of the "living skeletons" that we saw in rat-infested buildings. They were all too weak to walk, the conditions were so bad they had very little chance to survive. Some were children from 5 to 15 years old.

One man in a very feeble voice spoke to me. I guess I looked very surprised at his speaking English and then he said, "school in England." He went on in a whisper saying, "You, Americans, will take me out of here but it's too late--but I'm glad that you, Americans, can see what beasts the Nazis are...."

There are many people today who can't believe these crimes were committed, but I shall never forget them as long as I live.

## NO HORSEING AROUND

[**SAM SILVERMAN, 10TH ARMORED DIVISION, 11TH TANK BATTALION, COMPANY C,** sent us the following story which appeared in a 1941 publication. Sam tells us that all cavalry dismounted in July, of 1942. This story is about the **11TH CAVALRY, TROOP F.**]

"Editor's Note: How Uncle Sam makes cavalrymen out of our young men from the East is graphically told (indirectly), by Private James C. Halligan, 11th U.S. Cavalry, Camp Lockett, California in a letter just received from his mother, Mrs. William Halligan.... Following is his letter, in part:

"Received your letter today and I'm sorry I could not before as we were out on a combat problem Monday and Tuesday. We had just returned to camp when we were called out on an alert, so we packed again and were out until yesterday.

"Tuesday on our way back we had to cross mountains and blaze our own trail. It was pretty rough going. We had four men cutting brush all the way and we came down some pretty steep mountains, most of the time over rocks. In climbing one of these mountains we were going up a steep part, all rock, when my horse passed out and fell backwards, pinning me under him. My head was laying over a steep rock about 10 feet high with nothing but rocks below.

"I wasn't hurt at all but the horse fell so quickly that I didn't have a chance to get off. He pinned my left leg under him and started to slide back, pushing me as he went. By the time the

fellows got there, I was hanging over the rock, head down.

"I told them to grab the horse and stop him from sliding which they did. In the meanwhile the horse didn't move a bit which was lucky for me. He "came-to" in about four minutes and the fellows pushed him up freeing me.

"I think everyone was more scared than I was. Our lieutenant was scared to death and when I got up he made me sit down.

"I didn't even get a scratch and was more worried over the horse than myself.

"The horse got his legs cut up quite a bit and I walked him for a while before remounting. The last mountain we came down was so steep that the horses would sit down and slide, ducking rocks as they went. We came down about 500 feet this way.

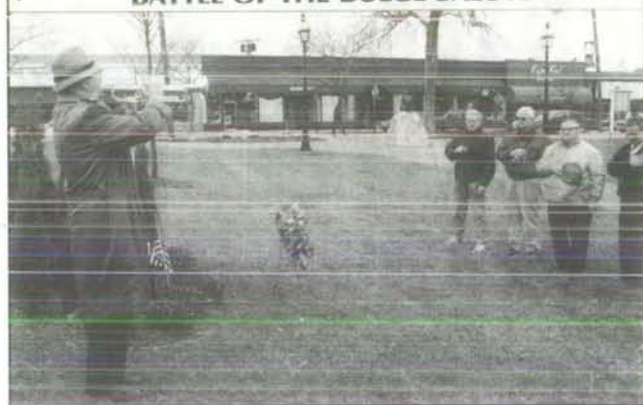
"You asked me if I am afraid on the horse. I will say no, because one sees so many horses go down that you just don't think anything about it.

"We got back late Tuesday afternoon and were dog tired, went to bed that night and at seven in the morning we were called out on the alert, the whole camp moved out to a place about 20 miles from camp called Indian School, where we pitched camp and stood a full field inspection. Boy, it sure was hot!

"We camped there over night and left at 8 the next morning for camp. Today we exercised the horses and cleaned up the tables for tomorrow's inspection at 7 and then have a mounted review at 9 and after that I go on guard for 24 hours.

"That's about all the news. I was glad to receive Ted's good news and as he said, I have to start practicing saluting. Loads of love to you all. Love, Connie" [My, how times have changed. It's great that we can keep these times alive.]

## BATTLE OF THE BULGE SALUTE



Staff Photo by **VINCENT DEWITT**

■ Albert Madden sounds "Taps" on the Hyannis Town Green yesterday in memory of the 20,000 men who fought the Battle of the Bulge and never again came home for Christmas. Nine veterans of the World War II Battle that started December 16, 1944, stood silently in a brief ceremony before a monument dedicated in September to the veterans of that battle.

## HYANNIS DECEMBER 16TH SERVICES

Services were held at the new VBOB Monument on the Hyannis Green in Hyannis, Massachusetts at precisely 12:00 Noon to coincide with the national services held at Arlington National Cemetery. Al Madden, of Falmouth, played Taps as he had at the Hyannis dedication ceremonies. Shown in this picture are, left to right: James Burke, Ed Mooney, Charles Caliri and Larry Chase (VA Representative for Hyannis and most of the Cape). Missing from the picture are: Robert Pearl, Pat MacIssac, Curt Shaw, and Howard Feach.



# VBOB QUARTERMASTER

May 1997

Dear QM Customers: Orders have been coming in fast and furious. Thanks for all your support! Lately, we've had to return a number of orders due to inaccurate totals and incorrect shipping and handling. Always remember to double check the amount of your order before you write your check. Have a wonderful spring! - Lynne

Please ship the following items to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (first) \_\_\_\_\_ (last) \_\_\_\_\_ (phone #-will call only if there is a problem)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ (no.) \_\_\_\_\_ (street) \_\_\_\_\_ (city) \_\_\_\_\_ (state) \_\_\_\_\_ (zip)

Item Description	Price Each	Quantity	Total Price
VBOB Logo Patch - 3"	\$ 4.50		\$
VBOB Logo Patch - 4"	\$ 5.50		\$
VBOB Logo Decal - 4"	\$ 1.25		\$
VBOB Windshield Logo - 4"	\$ 1.25		\$
VBOB Logo Stickers (10) - 1 1/4"	10 for \$1.25		\$
Baseball Cap w/3" VBOB Logo Patch - Navy only	\$ 10.00		\$
Windbreaker w/4" VBOB Logo Patch (Navy only) <i>Please circle size (they run a little snug): S M L XL XXL XXXL</i> <i>(XXL and XXXL - see prices)</i>	\$ 25.00 (S, M, L and XL) \$ 26.00 for XXL \$ 27.00 for XXXL		\$
VBOB Logo Lapel Pin - 1/2"	\$ 5.00		\$
Large VBOB Logo Neck Medallion w/Ribbon	\$ 20.00		\$
Miniature VBOB Logo Medal w/Ribbon (pin on type)	\$ 8.50		\$
VBOB Logo Belt Buckle - Silver tone or Gold tone <i>(Please circle choice)</i>	\$ 16.00		\$
VBOB Logo Bolo Tie - Silver tone or Gold tone <i>(Please circle choice)</i>	\$ 16.00		\$
VBOB License Plate Frame w/Logos - White plastic w/Black printing	\$ 5.00		\$
VBOB 100 Sheet Notepad w/Logo - "This Note Is From... A Veteran of the Battle of the Bulge" - White paper with Blue printing	\$ 3.00		\$
<i>Memorable Bulge Incidence Book*</i> - This is a compilation of all of the MBIs that have been published in the <i>Bugle</i> from 1991 through 1994 (Book is not bound - it is three hole punched, you provide the binder) - Quantity limited	\$ 15.00*		\$
<i>Engineering The Victory - The Battle of the Bulge - A History*</i> , by Col. David Pergrin - hard cover, 441 pages	\$ 30.00*		\$

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\*The S&H is already included in the cost for these two items. If ordering other items do not add the cost for these items into the price for S&H.

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# BATTLE OF THE BULGE CERTIFICATE

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.

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## 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).



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