

The BULGE BUGLE

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

VOLUME XVII NUMBER 2

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

MAY 1998



Three Bulge veterans exchange stories, one German, two Americans (Lucky Liacono, 10th Armored Division and Earl Hart, 87th Infantry Division) while reenactor looks on.



Soldier Boy John McAuliffe, Company M, 347th Infantry, 87th Inf. D., pulls guard duty at Ft. Indiantown Gap, January 31, 1998.

BULGE REENACTMENT

BY JOHN T. BOWEN

FOR VBOB IT WAS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO RELIVE THOSE WARTIME DAYS

This year's reenactment of the Battle of the Bulge, by The Federation, Inc., took place on Friday, January 30 and Saturday, January 31, 1998, at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania. Approximately 1,300 reenactors and 120 veterans of the Battle of the Bulge took part in this two-day commemoration of the Bulge Breakthrough. For veterans, it was an opportunity to stay in authentic WWII Barracks for two nights, sleep on real GI bunks and mattresses (no upper bunks) and relive those Army days of old while reminiscing about basic training and those cold days in the Bulge. There were three barracks full of veterans this year in Regimental Area 12 at the Gap. There was a woman's barracks, but the remainder were occupied by Allied and German Reenactors. One of the interesting things about this weekend is on how fast the reenactors could transform a barracks into the heyday of 50 plus years ago. The equipment displays and authenticity in WWII dress and regulation made you think you were in a time warp. One of the joys of the weekend was the interaction of veterans and reenactors as the veterans toured the various barracks and mingled with those who had come to commemorate them. The Germans also had their barracks bedecked in their regalia, with a Christmas motif, remembering those dark days of December 1944.

On Friday afternoon there were authentic WWII movies from Archive Film shown in the veteran's barracks followed by entertainment in the evening by General Brizinsky, Russian Liaison to the 12th Army Group, AKA (also known as), Rex O'Meara, of the 87th Infantry Division. The veteran's barracks also sported an evening of hospitality, books, photos, and memorabilia brought by the various Bulge Veterans. One of the features of the Reenactment is the Flea Market in the old WWII Classrooms/Lecture Halls. Here you can buy almost any WWII item,

(Continued on Page 8)

LEAVE YOUR HEART IN SAN FRANCISCO Page 9

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

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A lot of exciting things have been happening in VBOB, and to me, personally, and I'd like to share just a few of them with you. First, I want to tell you what wonderful people we have in our organization. Maybe "family" would be a better word than "organization. I say that because I recently returned from a trip back to the Ardennes and had the pleasure of being with a group of VBOB members and their families.



George C. Linthicum

We toured the tragic battlefields of World War I, in France, and the scars of that conflict still mar the landscape. We visited Verdun, the Reims Royal Cathedral, the Meuse-Argonne area, and some of the lesser-known areas where our fathers and uncles fought and died. Although we didn't fight in that war, we had all heard so much about it from our relatives it was almost as if they were with us whispering, "I was here." Very moving.

Then on to Luxembourg and a joyful reunion with our friends in CEBA. It was great to get together with President Camille Kohn, Vice President Jean Milmeister and of course our beloved "Travel Guide" Tilly Kimmes. Once again we placed a wreath at the Soldier Monument in Clervaux, and spent hours wandering through the awesome WWII museum in Diekirch and Echternach.

I know many of you have donated pictures, uniforms and equipment to these museums and they should be a top priority for any of us touring our battlefields.

In Belgium our CRIBA friends led by President Christian Kraft, Honorary President Andre Hubert and Secretary Henri Rogister gave us an enthusiastic reception. They traveled with us to Bastogne where the band of Valley Forge Military Academy and College (site of our International Monument) gave us a concert that was honored by the presence of our Ambassador to Belgium, the Honorable Alan Blinken. The concert at Mardasson Monument was followed by a welcome reception from the Mayor in the Bastogne City Hall.

Then on to Liege, the Ardennes Forest and Brussels where we were welcomed by the 4th Belgium Fusilliers, our host for the next two days. The 4th Fusilliers President, Andre Huart and Secretary Roger Somme gave us an outstanding tour of the City of Brussels, which included the Museum of the Army, Tervuren, where we had lunch in the centuries old barracks where the Fusilliers trained in 1944. This was topped off with a grand reception in the historic town hall with all our Fusillier friends. What a wonderful finale to our tour.

We had a great time, but as always, it was great to come home and stop living from a suitcase.

We'll have to go back to that style of living this coming Labor Day weekend, September 3 to 7, 1998, when I hope you and your family will pack your bags and head for the Golden Gate for our 18th Annual Reunion in San Francisco. As I'm sure you know, that area is one of the world's great tourist stops, and they really know how to give you a warm welcome. We'll be staying at the Airport Marriott and the hotel is conveniently located for

trips to Fishermen's Wharf, the Napa Valley, the Monterey Peninsula, including the fabled golf mecca of Pebble Beach.

Our Golden Gate Chapter has a lot of terrific plans and they're outlined on other pages in this issue--so please plan to join us there, and why not "come early and stay late."

Returning closer to home--my home, that is--in Broomall, Pennsylvania. You know like our past presidents, I have been urging our members to keep our Battle of the Bulge educational objective on the front burner. We must make the history of our battle a living history, a part of the heritage we pass along to future generations. I saw the impact we can make just recently when I spoke to 68 young eighth grade boys and girls at a school near my home. The reception I received was truly heart warming. I brought along my helmet, Ike jacket and some other souvenirs to lighten things up, but I stressed that almost 20,000 GI's died and another 60,000 plus were wounded or captured so that they could live in peace and freedom. A few days later, I received in the mail 68 "thank you" notes and reading them caused a lump in my throat. I hope you will reach out to this younger generation. They want to hear your story. It's part of their history, just as Gettysburg and the Argonne Forest were to ours.

And when you do, please tell us about it so we can let all our members know what you are doing. I know it will encourage other members to follow along, and it will be a way to make certain that the sacrifices you made, and the ultimate sacrifices of our comrades will never be forgotten.

WEB PAGES

With the marvelous advent of Web Page technology, we will from time to time advise you of some pages that you might wish to explore.

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<http://www.battleofbulge.com>

OTHERS OF INTEREST:

<http://members.aol.com/division87/acorn.html>

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tribute to **86th Chemical Mortar Battalion**

<http://www.mm.com/user/jpk>

106th Infantry Division

<http://www.marionrecord.com/checkerboard>

99th Infantry Division

<http://www.surfsouth.com/~the 70th/page 1.htm>

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CHECK MAILING LABEL FOR DUES DATE!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WRITE YOUR CONGRESSMAN

The answer to Clyde Walton's medal dilemma is to do what I did...write to your Congressperson or Senator, enclose a copy of your Army "Separation Qualification Record" and just sit back and wait for your medals. I sent my request to Senator D'Amato and I am not sure how long it took but the inquiry was marked "Expedite--Congressional Inquiry!" I was even surprised to find I had earned a Bronze Star!

Harvey Meltzer
90 INF 359 INF F

MEDAL RECEIVED

In your November issue I read of a medal available from the French Government for those who were in Normandy in 1944. I sent them a letter with a copy of my military records and received the medal very quickly.

Now I am wondering if there was or is one from either Belgium or Luxembourg for the Ardennes Campaign. I was in all five European campaigns. Anyhow, thank you for printing that item. [If you know the answer to this, let VBOB know and we will publish it for all to read.]

Martin K. Hoag
145 ENGR CMBT BN C

MEDAL CONFUSION

A letter in Vol. XIV, No. 2, deserves some comment. The writer asks why he never got two bronze stars when they were mentioned on his discharge. He confuses the Bronze Star Medal, which requires a citation and orders, with the bronze campaign star which goes on the service ribbon. In his case, his discharge shows the two campaigns in which he served. It then lists the theater ribbon and the two bronze stars for the ribbon which show his two campaigns mentioned earlier on the form.

At the end of the letter he mentions the number of high-ranking officers these days with the CIB, and infers that there must be lesser standards. By regulation, a CIB may not be awarded to a General Officer. But today's generals have served in several wars as junior officers and won the CIB then. One tour in Vietnam was longer than most of us served in the ETO and many regulars served two and three tours there. Those with CIBs won them as juniors.

William A. Knowlton
7 ARMDD 87 RCN B

MORE INFO ON THE 372ND, PLEASE

As a member of VBOB, I look forward to *The Bulge Bugle*. In the February, 1998, issue on page 13 was a great story on "The Men of the 398th GS Engineer Regiment" by Walter R. Christopher.

What caught my eye was the mention of the 372 GS Engineer Regiment. The background of both the 398th and the 372nd were similar. We were "on the line" on the Moselle River also.

My problem is I would like to know more about the 372nd (Company A) during that period. I have been unable to get enough information to fill in the blanks. [Ed.: Mr. Brown's letter was sent to Mr. Christopher.]

R. P. Brown
372 GS ENGR REGT A

THANK GOD FOR DUDS

The February *Bugle* was surely a "most-read" issue!

Regarding the article on page 30 by Sam Finder concerning the 425th Night Fighter Squadron, there was one sentence in this article that really grabbed my attention: "On midnight on the 31st, just as the New Year was coming in, the Mighty Mites shot down their third Jerry, an ME 110."

A few minutes before midnight on December 31, a single German plane made a bomb run on the III Corps Headquarters at Arlon, Belgium, dropping a 500 lb. bomb on our building (fortunately it was a dud). I would assume that this plane then headed east from Arlon toward Germany. Is it possible that there might be some information available as to where the Mighty Mites shot down this German plane? Could it have been the plane that bombed our headquarters?

The time frame of the two events is intriguing.

Incidentally, was the P-61 Night Fighter called the "Black Widow"? For some reason, that name sticks in my mind.

Don J. Johnson
III CORPS HQ

A BEAUTIFUL POEM

I believe that [the poem] "Christmas Reverie in a German Prison Camp," by Robert A. Grimes, printed in the February 1998 edition of *The Bulge Bugle* is so beautiful that it ranks on a par with Joyce Kilmer's famous poem "Trees" of World War I.

If Mr. Grimes is still alive, could you please give me his address or telephone number. [Ed. Sorry, we do not have his address, but one of our members may know.] It is my intention to recommend that this be printed in the next issue of the 94th Infantry Division's paper *The Attack*. I will also request that it be put in our local *Parish Bulletin* around Christmas. It deserves as much publicity as we can give it.

You are to be complimented for including it in *The Bulge Bugle*.

Eugene T. Hack
94 INF 302 INF 3 BN HQ

WHY THE OMISSION?

Enclosed is a letter I sent to Mr. Stephen Ambrose on February 3, 1998, this was after I tried to reach him by phone and spoke to his very nice wife. [Ed. Excerpt from 2/3/98 letter follows.]

"During WWII, I was a rifleman in Company C, 23rd Armored Infantry, 7th Armored Division. I have read many of your books and thoroughly enjoyed them. How could you write Part Two, Chapters 7, 8, and 9 and not mention our stand at St. Vith, the High Command of both the American and German Armies sure took note of it. The same mistake was in *A World at Arms*, by Professor Weinberg. I quote: 'The 6th SS Panzer Army ran into solid American defenses on Eisenborn Ridge and at St. Vith. The latter quickly reinforced at Eisenhower's orders by the 82nd Airborne.' I wonder if you and the professor came under the Pentagon syndrome as mentioned in *Death of a Division* by Whiting (bottom of page 118).

"There are not many of us left and we hate at this late date to be written out of history. I would like to hear why you chose to leave us out of your otherwise great book, *Citizen Soldiers*.

As of this date, I have not heard from him. I find it strange that no mention of the 7th Armored Division epic stand at St. Vith. In December of 1996 at the Mississippi VBOB convention in Vicksburg, a representative of Mr. Ambrose interviewed me for this book, so it's not that he was not aware of the event. I think Mr. Ambrose owes the veterans of that division an explanation.

W. L. Reiman
7 ARMDD 23 AIB C

THE REAL TRUTH

Here is a true story that has never been recognized. In fact it has been distorted by Hollywood in the movie "The Battle of the Bulge," showing soldiers pouring gasoline down the hill burning up the German tanks. Not true!

On December 17, 1944, our company was stationed in the area of Eupen. We were summoned by V Corps, 1st U.S. Army, that a platoon of our company would be attached to Captain Henry Hewitt Kimberly, Jr.'s 560 Quartermaster Railhead Company. He had 23 men plus four gas supply guys. Our platoon was led by Sgt. Joe L. Brown. First Army informed 30 trucks to take all of us to Butgenbach and load out all Class I and Class III--that's 500,000 gallon of gasoline and 55 oil drums that were saved by our black platoon. (We received no credit. The Sergeant got a bronze star but the rest of us got nothing.) We even spread barbed wire at the 26th Regimental Headquarters (formerly 99th Division Headquarters). It was very noisy behind us on Eisenborn Ridge and the front line toward Dom Butgenbach and around toward the Malmedy Road. I have a hearing loss now in both ears as a result and I'm trying to get some compensation but the VA claims they have no record.

George C. Williams
3275 QM SVC CO

(Continued on Page 5)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Continued from Page 4)

WRITE YOUR HISTORY

Mitchell Kaidy's advice to military units, in his article "Fighting Units Should Write Their Own History," is well taken. See page 20, February, 1998, issue of *The Bugle*. As he stated, many of the professional historians when writing WWII history only skim the highlights of division engagements, and to their own purpose. Then there are the revisionists, Johnny come latelys, who change, exclude or embellish the facts.

I joined Mr. Kaidy and others on our 87th Division Dedication Tour in 1996, when we placed plaques at Pironpre, Tillet, Moiracy, and St. Hubert. I must compliment him for the advance work with the mayors and governors of those towns, and all the preparations, wording of the plaques and time spent in our behalf. For over 50 years our division had no monument, plaques of notice to the Belgium people that we fought in their country, and for their freedom. I had written to Kaidy earlier concerning the lack of mention of 87th Division history in the Turner Publishing's *Battle of the Bulge* publications, in which many division histories were included. I like to think I somewhat encouraged him to get on with the 87th history, both in publications and with mention of our engagement in Europe. Mr. Kaidy, being a writer and journalist was an excellent choice for the precise wording on the plaques. Too many just mention the unit, date, and place without stating what actually took place at the spot. It is important for placers of monuments to be explicit of the actual happenings for future generations to know what took place. Mitchell Kaidy did an excellent job with the 87th Division plaques in four towns. The town's citizens were very receptive and appreciative. The tour leader and archivist of the 87th Division Earle Hart was very complete with the itinerary. It is my hope that leaders of the other division associations read Kaidy's article; as he says, "It's not too late."

I must also comment on Kaidy's conviction that history should not be left to the self-serving promoters and professional historians. Historians may write about major troop movements and engagements, but the battle history is written by the soldiers whose stories we read in "The Bulge Incidents, Living Legends."

Lester Atwell, whose book *Private*, was first published in 1958, is in its 2nd limited printing. Les Atwell was a private with the 87th Division. It is his story. Not that of an historian or revisionist. These are the stories that need to be printed and promoted. This is history! "Those ex-GIs who were there will read *Private* and say, 'This is how it was.' No higher tribute can be paid."--*Denver Post*. "Some of these things have been said by writers in the past, but not lately, nor with such overpowering force."--*New York Times*. "Among the great books of World War II."--*Miami News*.

John E. McAuliffe
87 INF 347 INF

TRULY A WORKHORSE

Have just read Lieutenant John D. Nawoichyk's letter in the February 1998 issue of *The Bulge Bugle*. I am much pleased that lieutenant Nawoichyk passed on to you his appreciation for the efforts of Mr. J. William Goodwin, a member of VBOB, whose correspondence and care packages have enhanced the morale of the lieutenant and his men of the 127th Aviation Support Battalion, 1st Armored Division, during long and trying assignments in Germany and environs. In the capacity in which he is serving, Bill Goodwin deserves being named an honorary member of the 127th ASB "Workhorse."

Bill is truly a workhorse, having served as a captain and supply officer in the 814th Tank Destroyer Battalion, which participated in four campaigns in the ETO, including the Ardennes-Alsace Campaign. I served in Reconnaissance Company of the 814th, and in 1995 wrote a history of the 814th. Bill served as a mainspring in my and my wife's efforts in writing this book, for he supplied many first-hand accounts, photographs, and background materials, all of which we integrated into the book.

More recently Bill has become a member of the WWII Tank Destroyer Society. True to form "Workhorse" is again pulling his share of the load.

Calvin C. Boykin, Jr.
7 ARMDD 814 TD BN RECON

MANY ARE NEVER RECOGNIZED

I read Mr. Semple's letter wanting recognition for all who served and I can understand how he feels.

I would like to say one thing, however, that he wrote that is wrong. He indicated there was a black trucking company, better known as the Red Ball Express. Well, I believe there were both white and black men who were part of the Red Ball Express.

During a war there are so many, many things that are never recognized. I was a replacement and on D-Day we went ashore in late afternoon. I had seven other men with me. I had the grade of T/4. The next few weeks we were with the 1st Division and went from hedge row to hedge row, then from farm house to farm house. Everyday we went through one or two fire fights. By August 1st, there were only four of us.

Then we were attached to the 3rd Armored Division. I was given command of three half tracks with a total of 12 men. I cannot remember the name of the place we were supposed to go--although I was given a map. We were loaded with ammunition. The first day was fine. The second day, we came under the worst shelling I have ever seen. We lost two half tracks and most of our men. We then ran into a German patrol of about 15 men.

We then ran into a German patrol, about 15 of them. It took us almost two hours to clear them out. We thanked God all of us were okay. To this day when I watch a war movie or read about WWII, I close my eyes and see the faces of the men who were killed beside me and even the German soldiers we killed. I don't remember the names, only the faces. When you kill another human being, even if he is trying to kill you, you don't forget.

My point is this: every time we got some where, we were sent to another outfit.

With my half track and five men we were attached to part of the 4th Armored Division and we were told to go to Bastogne. What happened, I don't know. It was around the 10th of December (I remember because my birthday is the 11th), somehow we got lost. We started to get shelled, we saw a big forest and took off for there. Our half track was hit twice. We lost two men and the half track. Well we started to walk. It started to snow and it never stopped. We almost froze the first night. The next day we ran into a fire fight with about ten Germans. We killed four and the rest took off.

We stayed around the area for several days. Then, we ran into a patrol of the 82nd Airborne. They took us back to their unit where we stayed for several days. It never stopped snowing, you didn't even try to dig a fox hole. The only fire, was when we burned our K-ration boxes to make coffee. If we weren't being shelled, we were running into a German patrol. When we decided to move on, we were told the Germans had us surrounded.

For the next three weeks, I will never forget the courage of the American soldier, fingers and feet frozen, a lot of them with leg and arm wounds, they never stopped fighting with snow hip deep and winds that cut through you. We found out later from the 9th Armored that we were in the Ardennes.

That's what I mean when I say that a lot were not recognized. So many men deserve the Silver Star and some even the Medal of Honor.

What really hurts me is that the school children today know nothing about WWI, WWII or the Battle of the Bulge. They know about Vietnam and the Gulf War.

I am proud to have been able to serve in the Army in WWII, and I am most proud to have been in the Battle of the Bulge. If you ever wanted to know what the word PATRIOTISM meant, you should have been there.

Someone wrote in the August issue that every New Years at Noon we should drink a toast to the men who fought in the Battle of the Bulge. I think this is a wonderful idea.

Harry M. Hutcheson
489 FA BN

552ND WAS ATTACHED

I enjoyed your article in the February issue of *The Bugle*, entitled "Life and Work of Artillery Men in the Bulge," by Ralph Storm.

However, in the article was the statement, "The 552nd was not attached to any division or corps but was used whenever needed." In the book *A Time for Trumpets*, written by Charles MacDonald, on page 634, MacDonald has the following listing:

XVIII Airborne Corps:

(Continued on Page 6)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Continued from Page 5)

XVIII Airborne Corps:
Major General Matthew B. Ridgway
14 Cavalry Group:
245, 275, 400, 460 FA Battalions
79th FA Group:
153, 551, 552 FA Battalions
179th FA Group:
259, 965 FA Battalions

In Danny Parker's Book *Battle of the Bulge*, the 551st and 552nd (both 240 howitzer outfits) are listed with the 32nd FA Brigade/79 FA Group on page 252.

The article also stated, "During the Bulge, the battalion moved from Stolberg (should be Stolberg)."

But I did enjoy the article

Robert W. Davis
552 FA BN B

TRIP BACK

Thanks to the Editor and all his cohorts who make up *The Bulge Bugle*. It takes me back into the real battle to read these experiences.

Joel C. Adkins
87 INF 347 INF D

...NO SATISFACTION

In the November 1997 issue of *The Bulge Bugle* you printed a letter from Clyde Walton, 398 ENGR GS, regarding his trouble in obtaining his medals.

I am in the same boat and then some. I have written at least 4 times and every time I get the same old baloney of my letter being referred to: Commander Attn: ARPC-SFC, U.S. Army Reserve Personnel Center, St. Louis, Missouri 63132-5200. BUT, I have a telephone number which may help:

It's a damned good thing those bozos were not handling the delivery of supplies and ammo for us during the Battle of the Bulge. We'd still be there freezing our #\$\$%.

If you have a CORRECT address many of us would appreciate it. Thanks for your help.

Paul E. Pachowka
82&17 ABND 507 PIR C

[Ed.: There is a little difference between your address and the address we now have. The address we have is: Commander, Army Reserve Personnel Center, ATTN: ARPC-SFE-B, 9700 Page Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri 63132-5200. BUT, I have a telephone number which may help: 314-538-3782 or 314-538-5277. I understand that you need to submit a revised Standard Form 180 and a copy of your discharge. Let us know if you have any success.]

WILL THE REAL WILLY STAND UP...AND BARK?

I see on page 21 of the February issue of the VBOB there is a picture of PFC Frank Friesen with "Willy", General Patton's dog.

I'm not sure of this breed of dog, but it sure isn't a bull dog.

I was in the 196th Field Artillery Battalion until February, of 1945, when they made a military government out of it. Then I was transferred to the 460th AAA Battalion.

When the war ended, I only had 80 points and needed 85 to go home. I transferred to the motor pool at 3rd Army forward headquarters as a driver.

One day I was instructed to get a 6 x 6 truck and some German prisoners and go to General Patton's home to work on his tennis court.

The dog that kept bringing me a stick to throw and would bark until I did, was a bull dog with "Willy" Patton, Jr., and four stars on its collar.

This dog in the picture could have had something happen to it or maybe the general had more than one dog.

I sure enjoy the publication and start reading it as soon as it comes.

Forest Hartley
196 FA BN

WILLY WAS A BULL TERRIER

In *The Bulge Bugle* dated February 1998, the photo of PFC Friesen with

"Willy" is a fine photo, but the dog shown is a terrier, but it is not "Willy."

If PFC Friesen was told that the dog is "Willy," he was misinformed. I don't mean to blow smoke on the photo or PFC Friesen, but what I have to write to you about will probably explain what we know about "Willy."

General George Patton's chauffeur was Reginald Maidment. I lived with Mr. Maidment's daughter, Jean (Maidment) Harrington. Jean lived with the Patton's from the time she was born 1935 to 1945. She knew his horses, and dog "Willy" very well. "Willy" was a bull terrier, all white except for a black ring around his tail. Movies showing General Patton with "Willy" will prove this.

I was a medic, S/Sgt with Patton's Third Army, from the beaches in Normandy at the invasion, and traveled through France, Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Bulge. We were heading for Czechoslovakia when the war ended.

More information may be obtained by contacting General George S. Patton IV (General Patton's son), 650 AAsbury Street, Hamilton, Massachusetts 01936.

Emile F. Saulnier
496 QM CO MEDIC

[Ed.: Picture of the white, bull terrier "Willy" appears elsewhere in this issue and it looks like the dog in the movie "Patton".]

MEDALS CONFUSION

There is some misconception about what a Bronze Star Medal and a Bronze Battle Star is:

A Bronze Star Medal is awarded for meritorious or heroic service.

At about the time the Bulge started a bronze V for Valor was authorized to wear on the ribbon if the award was for heroic service.

A bronze Battle Star is authorized to be worn on the Theater Service Ribbon for participation in each campaign. When a service member has earned five Bronze Battle Stars, a Silver Battle Star is authorized to be worn in lieu of the five Bronze Battle Stars.

I have read numerous obituaries where it stated the deceased earned five Bronze Star Medals. I doubt this, but if so it should have stated a Bronze Star Medal and four Bronze Oak Leaf clusters.

The Combat Infantryman Badge was awarded when an infantryman had spent the required number of days in a combat zone. It did not mean he had to be eyeball to eyeball with the enemy at any time.

In the book *Ernie Pyles' War*, by James Tobin, it states, "Some 90 percent of American troops in World War II never came close to a front line." In the same book it also states that, "the average IQ in the ordnance far exceeded that of the army as a whole."

It took all the services to win WWII but I still have the greatest respect for the combat infantryman.

Clifford D. Jones
553 MP (EG)

THE WAY IT WAS

The February issue of *The Bulge Bugle* arrived a few days ago and, as always, I was looking forward to read more of Bulge history. What a surprise when I saw "Stavelot, Belgium" by John E. Kent.

I was in 1st Battalion Headquarters of the 117th Infantry. John's review of the five days of our battalion was excellent. Battalion headquarters was a small house above Stavelot, about 500 yards to the rear of Captain Kent and the other front line infantrymen. In addition to personnel liaison (company runners, ammo carriers, observation posts) telephone and radio linkage with the front lines gave the battalion command post a running account of the combat.

The events of these days as related by John E. Kent, Company A, commanding not only made an interesting, authoritative history but with pride I can say, "That's the way it was!"

Captain Kent failed to mention his WWII awards: two Purple Hearts, two Bronze Stars, two Silver Stars; Presidential Unit Citation; Belgian Fourragere and the French Croix de Guerre.

Henry M. Stairs
30 INF 117 INF 1 BN HQ

WHAT GIVES??

In the February, 1998, issue an article appeared, written by Joseph P. Barrett, 474th AAA Battalion.

(Continued on Page 7)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Continued from Page 6)

about a medal for serving in Normandy, France. Veterans were to write to an address in New York City which I did, expecting the medal after application.

I wrote and was told a duplicate had to be bought for a price of \$24 and I would have to join an organization at the cost of \$5 to join and \$5 per year.

Why must a veteran have to buy what he earned. This does not sound so good.

You must send the money to the address given, but should not send it by registered or certified mail. Why and what gives?

**Bernard Keath
8 QM BN HQ MBL**

[Ed.: Mr. Keath's letter is printed so that you will all know there is a charge involved in ordering this medal. We should have checked this out before we published it. See Joe's letter which follows.]

APOLOGY ACCEPTED

I am writing this memo [regarding the American Order of the French Croix De Guerre] because Steven F. Kovach, president, wrote me a short note saying that this article caused them some unwanted work.

In an accompanying letter to "Fellow Veterans," he said my article was in error on several points. One of these was that I used the wrong address. The reason for this error is that I used the address of 141 East 44th Street which was where they were located in 1995 when they sent me my letter. Subsequently, they moved to 18 East 41st Street. Big deal.

As to the dates, I used the dates which the U.S. Army used as the dates defining the actual battle, June 6, 1944, to July 26, 1944. I don't realize that it was an open ended offering to all veterans.

As to who actually distributes this medal I find this very confusing because they sent our releases using both the American Order of the French Croix De Guerre as well as the Federation Des Anciens Combattants Francais each from the same address 141 East 44th Street, Suite 604, New York, New York 10017. In 1994.

Now in 1998 the names are the same but the address is 18 East 41st Street. However, on the application for the medal they go back to the old address of 141 East 44th Street, Suite 604. Frankly it sounds like a shell game and I am sorry that my small advertisement for them found its way into *The Bulge Bugle*. I apologize.

In one of their letters they address me as "Dear comrade in arms." Frankly, they were never my comrade in arms: with comrades like the French we didn't need the Germans.

I was a reporter for the *Philadelphia Evening Bulletin* for 30 years and the *Bulletin* had to print a correction only twice in that period of time.

**Joseph P. Barrett
474 AAA BN**

[Ed.: Joe, you needn't apologize for trying to be helpful.]

IT'S NICE TO GET COMPLIMENTS

Would like to express appreciation for the contents of *The Bulge Bugle*. Sure stirs up all kinds of memories. Also impressed with the increased enthusiasm for establishing monuments for our deceased comrades. I also enjoy the meetings and luncheons of our local chapter...presided over so efficiently by chapter president John McAuliffe. His newsletter is also well prepared and makes for enjoyable reading.

Best wishes to you and the entire staff for continuous and ever-expanding success in all your endeavors.

**William "Woody" Ford
107 EVAC HOSP**

THAT WAS SOME BABY

[In the last issue of the newsletter] there was a story about the 88's. When you heard it, it was on top of you. Hell, that 88 gun could shoot around corners. That was some baby. Whew!

**Leo Wassell
2 ARMDD 78 AFA BN C**

SKORZENY AND HITLER'S SPECIAL FORCES

Reference to letter from Don J. Johnson, writing about Otto Skorzeny and Hitler's Special Forces, namely the battalion called Brandenburgers, later KOMMANDOS, that became a part of the Battle of the Bulge.

I would suggest to Mr. Johnson to read the book written by Leo Kessler, entitled *Kommando*. It is in paperback and sold under the name of Pen & Sword. Should be available in bookstores or perhaps a library.

I hesitate to give more facts on Skorzeny, but I'm sure Mr. Johnson will enjoy reading the exploits of this Nazi who played a part in our lives so many years ago.

The 18th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division mission was to clear the Eupen, Belgium, area of Skorzeny's paratroopers and associates as the rest of the division would be positioned in and around Camp Elsenborn as the 1st and 2nd Battalions, 26th Infantry, would be rushed to Butgenbach, Belgium, to secure this vital crossroads.

**William M. Lee
1 INF 26 INF D**

MORE ON SKORZENY

In the February *Bugle*, Don J. Johnson asked about Otto Skorzeny. Reading the after-action reports from the other side can be right interesting, whether one may agree or disagree with their conclusions. Our very efficiency library was able to locate for me, via Inter-Library Loan, a copy of Skorzeny's own account. This made fascinating reading. He wrote this some time after the war when he was living in Spain and working as a manufacturer's rep for German industry. His account minimizes direct political references but leaves no doubt about his position and opinions regarding the NS Party and its leader.

Skorzeny stated that he, himself, did not penetrate our lines, as Hitler personally had ordered him not to do so. His discussion of how ill-prepared in the (American) English language some of his "volunteers" were is a little bit revealing from a leadership standpoint. These men were not all soldiers, he wrote of having men from the Navy and elsewhere, picked up in a search for English language competence.

For anyone who might care to pursue this book, the citation for it is: SKORZENY, Otto "Wir Kaempften-Wir Verloren" Ring Verlag, Siegburg. I do not have the date, but believe it was in the late '40's and assume that it is long since out of print. The copy I saw was from a library in Massachusetts. I am not aware of any English translation.

To see ourselves as others see us and also to see others as they see themselves can be educational.

**John Gressitt
158 ENGR CMBT BN A**

THE TANK WAS HIT TWICE

In the February, 1998, issue of *The Bugle*, page 28, is an article about the tank which rests in McAuliffe Square in Bastogne, written by Ivan Goldstein. He states in a letter to Roger Marquet that he does not recall whether they were hit once or twice.

I have a picture of that tank, taken in the summer of 1996 by my brother, who was an officer with the 951st Field Artillery Battalion. The tank was hit twice. Once in the rear end and once square in the side, about half way down the shroud.

Except for the white star, the only marking I can see is a number painted on the left rear: 4A37.

**Vernon Kelch
142 AAA GUN BN**

ROLLING THE DRUMS

I read your article in *The Bugle*. Very interesting--especially the fairy tale about rolling the fuel drums down the hill into Stavelot, a damned impossible task. By the way, the only fuel drums I saw were in the movie *Battle of the Bulge* with Henry Fonda.

The fuel dump we burned was composed of five gallon cans tier after tier. There could have been fuel drums. I didn't see any and if they were in the fuel dump they would have burned.

The GI that you asked what was going on, was probably a Pvt or PFC. Did you expect him to quote his grand strategy for ending the war.

And the GI eating K-rations was probably hungry. I myself had not a bite to eat since the day before at Noon.

(Continued on Page 8)

—Reenactment from Page 1

both American and German, to outfit your style of reenacting, from authentic uniforms, mess kits, canteens, patches, pack, medals, entrenching tools to M-1 rifles. The Flea Market was open 'round the clock for those that just wanted to look, kibbitz, or to trade WWII merchandise.

The weather was fairly decent this year, however over the seven years that the reenactors have invited the veterans to attend, there have been all types of Bulge weather from cold, ice and fog to a few years ago when there was up to two feet of snow on the ground. On Saturday morning, reveille came early, as it always did and after shaving and cleaning up, all thoughts turned to chow, which was served at the Community Center, including SOS for those who wouldn't have it any other way. For those into a more traditional breakfast there were eggs, pancakes, bacon and sausage, and the rest of the fixings. After breakfast, the reenactors started to fall out in the company street for safety inspections and drill. This is one of the more colorful periods of the weekend as the reenactors in their various formations transform the regimental area into those old days 50+ years ago. All along the street were various military vehicles from WWII, including jeeps, deuce and a halves, to half-tracks and tanks. Yes, authentic WWII tanks were part of the action. Shortly after 9:00 a.m. the "troops" moved out to the battle area to do their exercise. Unfortunately this year, because of environmental considerations, the reenactors were not allowed back into the boon-docks of prior years and it made it quite difficult for us to see the action. However, the sounds of rifles and machine guns abounded.

The Federation plans next year to ensure that part of the action will occur where it can be viewed by the veterans and the spectators who come down to watch the action. Afterwards, the veterans moved off to Chef John Long's yearly hot dog feast for lunch. There was also an opportunity to take in a snooze or visit the flea market.

That evening a buffet dinner was served to all in the Community Club along with USO-type entertainment with Rex O'Meara again performing for the reenactors, and a dance band playing WWII-era music. After this, conversation, war stories and hospitality abounded in the veteran's barracks. The weekend was a bargain as well: two nights rest in authentic WWII barracks and breakfast and dinner on Saturday night, all for \$35.

Make plans to attend next year, which is always held on the last weekend of January. To get on the mailing list for registration, if you have not attended before, contact John D. Bowen, 613 Chichester Lane, Silver Spring MD20904, 301-284-6533, or john.bowen@cpafug.pcbuddy.com if you want to e-mail him.

Our thanks go out to Dave Shaw, Larry Tucker, and Roland Blue, of the Federation and all of the reenactors for keeping the memory of this great battle alive, and for commemorating each year this greatest event in US Army history.

NORMANDY WALL OF LIBERTY

We wish to stress again: **We have no connection with this organization.** We did not encourage our members to participate in this endeavor. We have tried, from time to time, to provide you with information so that you could track your contribution, but at the present time, we do not have their address or any new information. We understand that many investigative organizations are trying to resolve this matter, including the FBI.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Continued from Page 7)

I resent your implication that I had lied about the burning of the fuel dump. We burned about 1/4 mile of the dump.

We established a road block with our 57 mm. We waited for the Germans. When they did not show up, Lt. Wheelwright and I made a reconnaissance down back toward Stavelot. It was hot and dangerous. We went far enough to ascertain that the Germans were not coming up the hill. We went back and Lt. Wheelwright reported to Capt. Mitchell and Major Solis. Just after reporting the 117th Regiment, 30th Division, came up and the officer heading the men started talking with our officers. This was about 12:00 or 1:00 o'clock. [Ed.: These were omitted.]

We had three rifle platoons plus one anti-tank platoon. Did you think that we should have stopped them. We never ran, but the German armor ran over us and we were trying to get together to start another defense.

Jack Mocnik
526 AID A



Reenactors get ready to move out to the front lines at Ft. Indiantown Gap Bulge Reenactment 31 Jan 1998.



American and German Reenactors meet for final negotiations. Ft. Indiantown Gap PA Bulge Reenactment.

Photos by John D. Bowen

It's true that the French have a certain obsession with sex, but it's a particularly adult obsession. France is the thriftiest of all nations: to a Frenchman sex provides the most economical way to have fun.

—Anita Loos

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, INC
Reunion at Airport Marriott Hotel
San Francisco, California
September 3-7, 1998

Mail Before
 July 15, 1998

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Wife/Guest Name: _____

Division: _____ Regiment: _____ Unit or Company _____

Signature _____

Thursday, September 3, 1998

Registration Fee (All attendees must register)

Number of Persons	Cost per Person	Total
_____	\$28.00	\$ _____

Friday, September 4, 1998

City Tour and Golden Gate Bridge

8:30 am - 12:30 pm

_____	\$18.00	\$ _____
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Saturday, September 5, 1998

VBOB Trail Dedication At Memorial Site

12:30 pm - 4:30 pm

_____	\$ 9.00	\$ _____
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Sunday, September 6, 1998

Ladies Continental Breakfast and Fashion

8:30 am - 12:00 noon

No Charge

(Transportation \$1.00 each way payable upon boarding)*

Banquet and Dinner Dance

7:00 pm - 11:00 pm

_____	\$35.00	\$ _____
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(Please indicate how many prefer: Top Sirloin Steak _____ or Swordfish _____)

Total Amount Enclosed:

\$ _____

-

Mail this 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)

*Special arrangements have been made with transit authorities for bus service from hotel to Nordstrom's. First articulated bus arrives 8:30 am across from hotel.

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, INC.
REUNION PROGRAM
Airport Marriott Hotel, San Francisco, California
September 3-7, 1998

Thursday , September 3, 1998

12:00 noon - 5:00 p.m. **Registration** - The registration desk will be open the majority of the day.

7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. **Welcome, Wine & Cheese Reception**

Friday, September 4, 1998

Registration **As needed** - The registration desk will be open the majority of the day.

Breakfast **On your own.**

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. **City tour and Golden Gate Bridge.**
Approaching San Francisco, a sweeping vista of the skyline will be seen before dropping to ground level at the Embarcadero where we will stop at Pier 32 to view the last of the Liberty ships the Jeremiah O'Brien and the San Francisco/Oakland Bay Bridge. We will proceed along the waterfront by Pier 39, Fisherman's Wharf, Coit Tower and cross the Golden Gate Bridge to Vista Point. From there we will proceed to other points of interest.

Lunch and Dinner **On your own.** As people will be coming and going all day, no other functions are planned. Suggest review brochures on independent tours available that you may wish to use during Saturday/Sunday free time periods.

Saturday, September 5, 1998

Breakfast **On your own.**

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 pm **Early lunch.** If you are going on the tour for the VBOB Memorial services

12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. **Tour en route to VBOB Memorial.**
VBOB Trail dedication ceremonies scheduled to begin at 2:00 p.m. Time is being allowed before and after for the taking of photos. Route to and from the Memorial includes sightseeing.

Dinner **On your own.** Suggest review independent tour brochures for Saturday evening or Sunday afternoon events.

Sunday, September 6, 1998

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon **Shopping Tour at Nordstrom's.** Nordstrom (an upscale department store) will furnish a complementary continental breakfast and a ladies fashion show. Public transportation specially arranged from in front of hotel direct to Nordstrom's. One dollar each way.

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon **Annual Membership Meeting.** All are welcome to attend.

Lunch **On your own.** Free time until start of evening festivities.

7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. **Annual Banquet** with speaker followed by dancing. Cash bar. Dinner consists of soup, choice of salad, choice of top sirloin steak or swordfish, dinner rolls, choice of desert and tea or coffee.

Because there are so many things to do and places to visit in The Greater San Francisco Bay Area, the tours have been planned to ensure maximum free time to permit you to do your own thing. The following is a compilation of sites to visit, events to attend or trips on your own. Due to size of our chartered busses some sites in San Francisco are inaccessible and some sites are prohibited for busses. Some trips are better if planned to be timed for before or after the reunion. Prices indicated are winter prices and will be different in August/September. If you are planning to use Gray Line Tours it is recommended you book with your local Gray Line agent or travel agent before arriving in San Francisco. Gray Line does pick up at the Airport Marriot Hotel.

BEFORE OR AFTER TRIPS

Yosemite National Park - By auto approximately 5 hours each way. By tour bus approx 15 hours round trip no hotel pick-up or drop-off. Bus leaves SF at 6:30 am. Cost \$130.00 per person

California Wine Country Tour - By auto approximately 1 ½ hours each way plus time visiting various wineries. By bus tour is 9 hours departing 9:00 am. Pick-up at hotel but ends in San Francisco. Cost \$43.00 per person

Monterey, Bay, Aquarium, Carmel and 17 Mile Drive Tour - By auto approximately 2 hours each way not including sightseeing at destination. By tour bus approximately 11 hours round trip. Cost \$43.00 per person. Hotel pick-up and return.

Lake Tahoe - By auto a comfortable all day trip visiting South Shore casino area and viewing lake and Sierra Mountains.

DURING REUNION FREE TIME

Muir Woods National Monument (Giant Redwoods) and Sausalito Tour - By tour bus approximately 3 ½ hours round trip. Cost \$28.00 per person. Hotel pick-up and return. Option for drop-off at Fisherman's Wharf or at hotel.

Motorized Cable Car Shopping/Sightseeing - Narrated tour 1 ¼ hour permitting getting on/off visit Union Square, Nob Hill, Chinatown, North Beach, Fisherman's Wharf. On/off points are Union Square, Nob Hill, Pier 39 or Embarcadero Center. Cost \$16.00 each

Chinatown Walking Tour and San Francisco by Night - Nightly from Union Square. Board bus at 7:00 pm for drive through Gates of Chinatown and commence walking tour with local guide visiting Chinese markets, stores, temples and fortune cookie factory. Re-board bus for evening lights tour of San Francisco.

Blue & Gold Bay Tours - San Francisco Bay tour approximately 1 ¼ hours \$16.00 per person or \$8.00 for seniors.

Pier 39 - Underwater aquarium, restaurants, souvenirs. Large herd of noisy sea lions occupy the small boat harbor.

EVENTS OR LOCAL SITES

Millbrae Cheese & Wine Festival - Held during entire Labor Day weekend

Japanese Tea Garden - San Mateo Central Park

(Above two items can be reached by local bus #7 from across the hotel.)

Greetings to all from the Golden Gate Chapter:

What a first quarter this year has been. I cannot tell you how proud I am of the tremendous progress that has been made by our various committees to insure that the September reunion will be an unforgettable event.

The Tour Committee under Ernie Figueira has now finalized both the city tours and transport to the memorial ceremony to encompass the best possible views of the diverse areas of this city and surrounding areas.

The Banquet Committee under Luis Grossi has checked and re-checked both the food for the banquet and the most comfortable seating arrangements.

Members of virtually all the committees have insured that the musical presentations will truly reflect our favorites of the war years.

An extensive variety of "On Your Own" activities are being compiled for inclusion in your registration packets. As indicated before, arrangements are continuing with restaurants in the area for special discounts for VBOB members either as individuals or groups.

The roster of honored guests is virtually complete including representatives of Belgium and Luxembourg, who, through proper local channels, will notify their ambassadors.

The Hospitality Committee under Irv Grossman has secured a number of donations for our Hospitality Room thereby allowing us to put on a great reception and continuing service keeping us at the same time well within our proposed budget.

Also I am extremely pleased with the responses I have received from all over the country as the result of a news release from Ernie Figueira, which appears to be bringing in not only reunion attendees, but new members as well.

As an aside and to insure smooth handling of the tours, please, if you wish to travel with certain individuals, please make your wishes known to us before the Friday tours as the buses and individuals will be color-coded.

We, as the Host Chapter are sparing no effort to satisfy every attendee. Please help us in our endeavors by registering as soon as possible. An accurate accounting of numbers attending by the end of July will insure that the "perks" we have been soliciting will come to the best possible fruition.

Finally, if any specific units or groups would like to remain together during any activities, please advise us and we will do all that is possible to accommodate those requests.

As with any event there are always questions. Please feel free to contact the chapter regarding any of the facets of the reunion and you may be assured you will receive a prompt reply.

There will be one more edition of *The Bugle* before the reunion, and of course at that time, the final update from our chapter as hosts will be included. We are here to serve as well as host and look forward to seeing all of you.

John W. Sullivan
President, VBOB Golden Gate Chapter

**GOLDEN GATE IN '98
MAKE PLANS TODAY
YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU DID**

INDIAN RIVER CHAPTER DEDICATES VBOB MEMORIAL

On December 16, 1997, the Indian River Chapter dedicated a memorial monument to the participants in the Battle of the Bulge. The monument is located on the plaza of the Liberty Bell Museum of Honor America, Inc., in Melbourne, Florida. To raise funds for the \$1,200 granite and bronze monument, the chapter solicited donations from its members and conducted a raffle.

At the dedication the Mayor of Melbourne issued a Proclamation in recognition of VBOB and the Americans in the battle, and the chapter presented a VBOB certificate to the museum for display on its interior walls among copies of many historical documents. Also on display is a full-sized replica of the Liberty Bell.



*Battle of the Bulge Monument
Dedicated December 16, 1997
by the Indian River Chapter*

Also at the dedication, Representative David Weldon was represented by an assistant, and Brevard County Councilwoman, Nancy Higgs, was present to pay her respects and to state that her deceased father had been in the Battle of the Bulge.

Other dignitaries at the dedication included Joseph Mullins, former Mayor of Melbourne, and now museum director who accepted the VBOB certificate; Rachel Felton, museum curator whose deceased husband had been in the battle, and author Danny Parker, who has written three books on the Bulge.

Following the dedication ceremonies at the museum, the chapter members and friends enjoyed a memorial luncheon at the Patrick Air Force Base NCO Club where the new officers were installed by author Parker, and where he presented an interesting talk about how he became interested in the history of the Bulge that led up to his books.

Verbiage on Plaque:

1944 (Logo) 1997
Dedicated to the gallant and victorious men and women who participated in the Battle of the Bulge, World War II, 16 December 1944 thru 25 January 1945 in Belgium and Luxembourg. The greatest battle ever fought by the United States Army. The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge assembled here on 16 December 1997 to commemorate the 53rd anniversary of this ever-famous American victory.
Placed by the Indian River Chapter

MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

Melinda M. Widgren writes to see if anyone may have served with her grandfather--**WARREN MERYL SMITH, 70TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 274TH INFANTRY, 2ND BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS COMPANY**. She would appreciate any information you can give her regarding Warren or his unit. Write to her at 4501 Packard Drive #P-2, Nashville, Tennessee 37211.

Ray Driver is looking for information concerning his father: **RAY DRIVER, 299TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, COMPANY B**. Write to Ray at: 7710 Heritage Farm Road, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20879.

REMO GALEAZZI and JOE PAGLIARO, 788TH AAA (AW) BATTALION, BATTERY B, would like to hear from anyone who may have served with them. Write to Remo at: 925 5th Street, Petaluma, California 94952.

Siegfried Mai, a German soldier who fought in Normandy and the Ardennes, would like to correspond with an American veteran. He was an Unteroffizier in the Division 13, Parachuters 2--fighting in Normandy, Belgium and Luxembourg. He sends heartfelt wishes that "no human being on this earth should ever have to endure horrible wars like the ones that happened in Normandy and Ardennes. Write to him at: Mellenbach Blumenau 30, PLZ 98746, Deutschland.

EVERETT A. GESKE, 188TH FIELD ARTILLERY, HEADQUARTERS, would like to hear from anyone who was with him during WWII. Write to Everett at: 1457 Bayard Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55116-1645.

Nelly Burhenne, a Belgian lady, would like to know about **ALBERT N. CULLINS (327TH INFANTRY, 3RD ARMORED DIVISION or 789TH AAA BATTALION)**. Albert was billeted in Prayon-Trooz, Belgian, between Liege and Verviers around the time of the Battle of the Bulge. He was 21 years old and at that time he lived in Anderson, North Carolina. If you can help Nelly, write to her at: Rue de l'Eglise, 8; 4870 Trooz, Belgium.

AL PRICE, 2ND INFANTRY DIVISION, would like to hear from anyone who served with the **14TH CAVALRY** and the **9TH ARMORED DIVISION** during the Bulge. He would also like to hear from any one who witnessed any massacres. Other questions Al has: (1) How many lights were used on the morning of December 16th and who was behind this? (2) How many rounds did the enemy fire on the 60 mile front? (3) How many artillery pieces did the enemy use? (4) How many tanks (types and numbers)? (5) How many assault guns (types and numbers)? (6) How many foot soldiers were used in the attack? (7) How many buzz bombs were launched on December 16th? He counted five in the air at the same time on that day. Write to Al at: 3732 East 58th, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74135.

Jean-Claude Gois is trying to locate three soldiers who helped in the liberation of Bleharies, Belgium. They are **JOSEPH MONTOYA, JOHN ORTIZ and JOHN C. HERRIN**

(HARRIS?). If you can help write to Jean-Claude, write to him at: 3, Marais du Belloy; 7622 Laplaigine; Belgium.

James F. Young is trying to trace the last days of a favorite first cousin. His return address on a letter dated December 10th was: **LT. THOMAS J. MOORE 01621900, CO. A, 638TH TO (must have been TD), APO 339(?)**. Apparently Thomas had been taken prisoner. It was reported that he had been killed by lethal injection. James would like to know: (1) Where was the **638th Tank Destroyer Battalion** on December 14, 1944? (2) When were they taken prisoner? (3) Under what circumstances? (4) Is the lethal injection story true? Write to James at: 2450 El Pavo Way, Rancho Cordova, California 95670-3132.

CHESTER MULLINS, 7TH ARMORED DIVISION, 38TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, COMPANY A, would like to hear from members who were with the 7th Armored during the time of the Malmady incident and from France to Germany to the Elbe River. Write to Chester at: Route 1, Box 408C,, Clintwood, Virginia 24228.

Associate member Carl Weist would like to hear from anyone who may have known Captain **FRED FEIKER, 28TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 110TH INFANTRY, COMPANY K**. Fred was captured at Hosegivi, Luxembourg, and later killed by friendly fire after the Hammelburg Prison Camp incident. Write to Carl at: Executive Career Resource Group, Suite 280, 1235 Westlakes Drive, Berwyn, Pennsylvania 19312.

THOMAS F. POWERS, 3619TH QUARTERMASTER TRUCK COMPANY, would like to learn the exact motor route the **101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION** traveled from Camp Mourmelon to Bastogne. He would also like to learn the location of the **19TH REPLACEMENT COMPANY (or Depot)** in October, 1944. Write to Tom at: 1224 Ashland Circle, Bedford, Virginia 24523-1310.

Associate member Pascal Hainaut, is trying to locate information about **FRANCIS V. MARTIN**. He does not have his unit but knows that he fought in the area of Villers-La-Bonne-Eau, Lutremange, Lutrebois (near Bastogne) during the winter of 1944-45. Francis may have been with the **35TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, as that division was in those areas. Drop Pascal a note if you know anything at: 740 Bergensesteenweg; 1600 Sint-Pieters-Leeuw; Belgium.

RAY PASCHKE, 84TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 3RD BATTALION, COMPANY K, would like to hear from anyone who served with him. He is particularly interested to know if anyone remembers **TED LAYCOCK, 28TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, who was killed in the Bulge. Contact Ray at: Villas III #129, 3803 Old Highway 37, Lakeland, Florida 33813.

EDWARD J. SCHILLING, 80TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 319TH INFANTRY, HEADQUARTERS, would like to know if anyone can tell him where he can purchase *Regal Battle of the Bulge, December 16, 1944 to January 25, 1945*. Write to Ed at: 300 Allegheny Street, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648-2013.

(Continued on Page 14)

MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

(Continued from Page 13)

HARRY M. HUTCHISON, 489TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, is having a great deal of difficulty finding someone who may have remembered him from WWII. He has been completely unsuccessful with his requests from the Records Center. Can any of you help? At various times, he was attached to: **1ST DIVISION, 3RD ARMORED DIVISION, 9TH ARMORED DIVISION, 4TH ARMORED DIVISION**, during WW II. After the war was over he was sent to Dallas, Texas, in 1956 and then in 1970 (or 1976) he was transferred to Glen Burnie, Maryland. He has none of his records--the army lost them in moving. If you can help in any way write to Harry at: 4814 Sigel Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63116.

HAROLD OLDENBURG, 3RD ARMORED DIVISION, writes on behalf of his friend who is trying to find information regarding her father: **OTTO A. YOUNG, 26TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 104TH INFANTRY**. If you can help, write to Harold at 3300 288th Avenue, Salem, Wisconsin, 53168.

Any one who may have been assigned to or seen shows performed by the **6TH SPECIAL SERVICES PLATOON** in 1944-45 in England, Belgium, France and Germany is asked to contact Joseph Jacovino, 18 Rosedale Avenue, Waterbury, Connecticut 06705.

WENDELL C. "OBIE" OBERMEIER, 75TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 899TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS BATTERY, would like to hear from those he served with and any members of his survey crew who were stopped at an American road block and delayed for several hours before they could prove their identity. Write to Obie at: 8 Lions Field, Charles City, Iowa 50616.

Colin & Ian Dewey are devoted students of the Ardennes Campaign and would appreciate hearing from anyone who might wish to tell them of your memories. They travel to the Ardennes each year and have for the past 13 years, travelling the length and breadth of the area. If you would like to write to them, the address is: 19 Church Walk; Yaxley; Peterborough, CAMBS, PE7 3YD, Great Britain.

Ervin Hill, Jr., is searching for information regarding the death of his uncle. **PVT. DAVID B. HILL, 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 60TH INFANTRY, 1ST BATTALION, COMPANY B (MAY BE COMPANY F)**, was killed the week of 9 February, 1945, in or near Huppenbroic, Germany. David was from the State of Maine. If you can provide any further information, please write to Ervin at: 709 North Amos Avenue, Springfield, Illinois 62702.

HARRY M. HUTCHISON, 489TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, B, writes to see if someone can help him. The movers lost his papers, stories, medals, etc., in 1970. He has been having trouble getting his records from the Army Record Center (they were burned). Does any one remember him and can help him? If so, write to Harry at: 4814 Sigel Avenue, Saint Louis, Missouri 63116-1242.

Associate member Faye Perry wants information regarding December 30, 1944 in the Bulge. Her husband **LEMUEL E. CHRISTIAN** was killed in action on that day. She would appreciate any information you can send her. She would be particularly happy to hear from someone who may remember Lemuel. Write to Faye at: RR 2, Box 3, Oquawka, Illinois 61469-9602.

HANS M. SIVERTS, 4TH CONVALESCENT HOSPITAL, during the Battle of the Bulge, plans to attend the VBOB San Francisco Reunion. He ended up in Dinant, Belgium, for Christmas, 1944. He would be very interested in visiting with any members who or patients of the 4th Convalescent. Write to Hans at: 8611 North 18th Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85021.

Catherine Kremer writes to see if anyone served during October and November, 1944, in the Town of Weiswampach, Luxembourg. She lived there and her family housed two soldiers every night. The family made a big mistake by washing and ironing the two soldiers clothes. It wasn't long until many began appearing with their clothes to be washed. Pretty soon the family did nothing but wash and iron six days a week. She remembers one name: **CLYDE TAYLOR**. She is pretty sure he was with **9TH ARMORED DIVISION, 16TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION**. She also remembers the name **FRANK IVANCSIES** and another guy named Henry. If you can help her, write to her at: 1454 Burnham Avenue, Calumet City, Illinois 60409-6115.

Associate member Felix Arnotte wants to hear about the whereabouts of the following soldiers: **BOUZAN, HENDERSHOT, SWAIN, KRETZU, MADORMA, 639TH AAA AW BATTALION, BATTERY B**. They apparently were in Felix's home in Heusy-Verviers before leaving in February, 1944, for the Remagen Bridge. Write to him at: 17, Florikosse; B/4802 Heusy-Verviers; Belgium.

HOW OLD ARE YOU???

The VBOB office received a newsletter from the World War II Memorial Society wherein they query who may be the oldest living veteran of World War II. The oldest one they know of is Malcolm Allen, who was born on October 21, 1903. Malcolm was a PT boater. Surely, we've got a BOBer out there somewhere who can top this. If you know of someone write to Editor, World War II Memorial Newsletter, 2300 Clarendon Blvd #501, Arlington, VA 22201. They would like to have a current and WWII picture if possible. [Incidentally, VBOB would like to know too. So drop us a note.]

DOG TAGS...A THING OF THE PAST

This year (1998) will probably be the last year the old dog tags will be issued. It is planned that the military will issue U.S. troops a small plastic tag which will contain a chip containing your complete medical history...dental records, X-rays, etc. This information will be very helpful to medical personnel in the field.

CRIMES OF THE KAMPFGRUPPE (COMBAT GROUP) PEIPER

[The attached was compiled by CAMILLE P. KOHN, from Luxembourg]

On December 12, 1944, the Fuhrer Adolph Hitler, called the army corps and division generals destined to go to the Ardennes, to his home in Bad Nauheim. He spoke more than three hours about the execution of an offensive that would decide the outcome of the then German Reich. His plans were judged by physiological and moral aspects, very much underpinned, as noted by the generals. The Oberbefehlshaber (commander-in-chief) of the Wehrmacht (armed forces) talked, among other things, of a no-holds-barred war to be executed without shame or pity whatsoever. A trial of horror was to precede the offensive and holy terror was to break down any resistance. Hitler's horrible order was issued to all the troops of the Sixth SS Panzer (Tank) Division just hours before the outbreak of the winter offensive on December 16, 1944. The soldiers of the First Panzer Division were also ordered not to bother with American prisoners. This meant that the SS soldiers were to keep this oath a strict secret. They followed this order often in the strictest sense!

On December 14, 1944, the criminal plan of the Fuhrer arrived in written order form at the Sixth SS Panzer Division. The chief of the army and General Major Kraemer edited it. Army Commander Sepp Dietrich signed it. They transmitted the orders to the generals. The generals relayed them to the Einheitsfuhrers (unit leaders) who in turn relayed the shameful orders to the Zugfuhrers (platoon leaders). Then the orders were relayed to the rest of the troops. The Vorhut of the First SS Panzer Division was a highly reinforced military force in regiment strength and was elevated to a Kampfgruppe (combat group). Under the leadership of the almost 29-year-old SS Obersturmbannfuhrer (Major) Joachim (Jochen) Peiper, the Kampfgruppe broke all records of human consideration and cruelty during the Ardennes offensive.

On the third day, December 17, 1944, at 7:00 a.m., the front of the Kampfgruppe reached the village Honsfeld without encountering much American resistance. The first of Peiper's Panzers continued to the Village of Bullingen. They captured the first American soldiers in Honsfeld and Bullingen. After the Americans surrendered to the SS soldiers, they were shot in cold blood by the Germans who referred to the orders they received few days earlier.

The so-called Massacre of Malmedy took place on a street crossing in the Village of Baugnez. On December 17, 1944, the SS soldiers murdered 71 American soldiers. They lined them up in the meadow next to the Cafe Bodarwe and they were shot even though they were unarmed. A few kilometers south of Baugnez in Ligneuville, they took 22 American prisoners to the Hotel du Moulin. A single Oberscharfuhrer of the Kampfgruppe Peiper shot eight Americans with one shot each in the head. (Today, a memorial next to the hotel is a reminder of those horrible crimes of fanatic SS troops.) On December 18, 1944, the head of the Panzergruppe (tank battery) reached the Village of Stavelot. On the Rue de Walque Street, a SS soldier used his machine gun from the tank and killed two innocent Belgians. A little further on the Rue de Trois-Ponts Street, two SS soldiers following their tank shot the 14-year-old son of the family Gengoux because he leaned out the window of his family's home. As a German troop approached the bridge in Stavelot,

they found an impenetrable obstacle--a closed Tiger Panzer. They were unable to move the iron monster. In a rage, another Belgian onlooker named Gonay was shot in his own doorway. At the House LeGaye, they killed 23 more civilians, among them children between the ages of four and nine. Between Stavelot and Trois-Ponts, the SS murdered three more civilians. A woman was able to save herself although she was badly wounded. In the Village of Petit-Spai, a harmless civilian was shot and wounded. They killed the Reverend Pregardien at the village bridge. The Cascades de Coe later recovered his body from the Ambleve River. SS weapons killed another nine civilians, including children between the ages of five and nine. Without any recognizable reason, 12 innocent civilians reached the same destiny in Trois-Ponts. Another Belgian lost his life in the Hamlet les Forges. Around 6:00 p.m., just after dark, Jean Minguet opened the door between his kitchen and hallway allowing light to escape through the window. Seconds later a shot through the door killed Minguet in his own home.

In the Belgian Village of Stockeux, seven civilians died on December 20, 1944, each from a shot to the neck. A hand grenade killed three more civilians hiding in a cellar. On December 22, 1944, five more lives were lost in the same village. In the House Masset, the SS shot blindly into the rooms, wounding three persons. Three others managed to escape. The minister in Jevigne was murdered without motive on December 30, 1944!

Other murders by SS troops that were not with the Peiper Kampfgruppe, but followed the Fifth Panzer Division were noted in Belgian Villages: Bourcy--4 civilians (12-20-44); Noville--(number omitted) civilians (12-21-44); Odeigne--1 civilian (12-23-44); Houffalize--8 civilians (12-23/24-44); Dinez--3 civilians on 12-24-44; Laroche--3 civilians (1-4-45); and Bande--32 civilians including four seminaries (12-24-44).

Untold horrors also befell American soldiers who fought the Kampfgruppe (combat route) Peiper, becoming prisoners and then murder victims of the SS: Baugnez--71; Bullingen--50; Cheneux--31; Honsfeld--17; LaGleize--41; Petit-Spai--11; Petit-Thier--11; Stavelot--58; Stoumont--46; and Trois-Pont--10.

The crimes, especially to American prisoners, were committed exclusively on the Kampfgruppe to the Peiper troop. They reported nothing similar from the regular Wehrmachtsverbände (units of the armed forces), were only expected casualties on both sides occurred.

Incidentally, the SS troops were under Reichsfuhrer SS Heinrich Himmler, but could be enlisted in the scope of military units. Their crimes were not committed only in Belgium.



The above is a Christmas card received in the VBOB Office. The sketch was done by Associate Member **ROGER HARDY, 5TH BELGIAN FUSILIERS.**

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 NEVER GOT TO ENGLAND

December 25, 1944

Edgar E. Bredbenner, Jr.
80th Infantry Division
318th Infantry
Company B
Ithaca, New York

This was a day I will never forget and it was probably the longest day in my life. The 80th Infantry Division had moved up from Central France to join the Third U.S. Corps, along with the 26th Infantry Division and the 4th Armored Division to attack the southern portion of the Bulge area. It was a long, cold ride in open trucks with no blankets or overcoats and we spent almost two days without stopping. At that time we had about 15-16 men in our squads and we attacked Ettelbruck, Luxembourg, on December 22, 1944. We fought there for three days, losing many men, all officers and all of our automatic weapons. This attack was called off because of the cost in men and on Christmas Eve we again loaded on open trucks to join with the 4th Armored on their attack into Bastogne, Belgium. This was another long, cold night.

Early on Christmas morning we moved out and we were immediately fired upon. A burst of burp gun hit me in the neck and ear, took off my helmet and shredded the towel wrapped around my neck. Medics patched me up and we continued through the thick woods deep on the right flank. Tanks were on the road on our left, but we could not hear them; the air was so heavy and the snow swirling about. We had sniper fire from the rear, right flank and from the front. Artillery fire and mortars shattered the trees about us, but we kept moving forward into the attack, losing many more men. About 1:00 p.m. a tree burst hit me in the thigh and opened my leg up. A medic patched me up, gave me a sulpha powder and morphine and said to hike back to the aid station, which was five miles. No stretcher bearers were getting through the waist-deep snows and the enemy had closed in behind our lines. Three of us started back, but without our weapons. One man had his heel shot away and the other had been hit in the back and none of us were bleeding, it was so damp and cold and in the deep snows. We found wounded men, trying to get to the aid station, that had been shot and killed by

snipers and their equipment gone. We had a few fire fights, but when we returned fire the enemy melted away in the woods. The medics had no blankets for the wounded, we had no overcoats, shoe pacs or any of the needed camouflage clothing. If wounded you walked out, if you stayed you froze to death. No fires were allowed and no buildings were seen by us at any time. After a P-47 sprayed us we reached the aid station about dark. We were checked out and placed in ambulances to travel to an air-evac hospital near the French-Belgium-Luxembourg borders. We were told we would be flown to England and probably to the USA. We all fell asleep in the warm ambulance and all of us had severe pain from frozen feet and legs, and did they ever sting. We were placed on stretchers and put aboard the plane after a change of bandages. About 500 feet up three German fighters fired a short burst and hit the plane. But, we were lucky. They evidently saw the air strip lights and realized that this was a medical area and flew off. One engine was out, the plane was on fire, some of the men and nurses were wounded, or killed, and the co-pilot was out of commission. The pilot was wounded, but brought the plane around and we landed back on the air strip. We were back mobile again and helped remove the dead and wounded. Ten minutes later the plane exploded. I was moved to an operating area and I sat in a chair while a doctor gave me seven shots of novocain and opened up my thigh to the bone. I sat there and watched him. Today, I would have probably passed out! We never got to England.

MY RIDE FROM GERMANY TO BELGIUM

December 24, 1944

Arnold Shirley
2nd Armored Division
66th Armored Regiment
Company C
Rothsay, Minnesota

I was a 22 year old mechanic on a T-2 (Tank Recovery Vehicle) in our company's maintenance. We were traveling all night from northern Germany's Siegfried Line (mud, mines, and anti-tank ditches) to Belgium. We pulled tanks and other vehicles

from ditches along the way because of freezing rain and slippery roads.

We had a roll of Tamarack poles fastened together by cables (used for corduroy mat to help tanks and other vehicles out of the mud), hanging on our boom.

About midnight, as we were passing Aachen, our vehicle began "bumping" along. When we stopped to investigate, we were rear-ended by a lone Sherman tank which was following our black-out lights, breaking the cables on our bundle of poles. We pulled the pin from the boom cable and left them by the side of the road. We then discovered that the "bumping" was caused by our right track rolling over the ties, between the rails of a narrow gauge railroad on the shoulder of the highway. Two hours later we replaced a "blown" boggie wheel.

In the forenoon on Christmas Day, we pulled into a farm yard and were invited inside by a couple and their teenage daughter.

The Belgians were down to mostly potatoes to eat and we had "C" and "K" rations. For Christmas dinner we had a special treat. We shared our rations with the Belgians and in return got potatoes. We cut them up and made French fries. The next day we joined our tanks, as they met resistance.

On our way back to Germany, after the Bulge, we stayed overnight in the yard of a family, who invited us in to eat with them. To our surprise, it was the same place we had stayed on our way to Germany in the summer. The first time the women of the house scoured our smoke-covered tea kettle, which we used to make coffee--with a blow torch for heat. By now, it was black again and they sent us off with a clean kettle for a second time.

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December 16, 1944

Alan D. McGraw
30th Infantry Division
120th Infantry
Company I
Freeburg, Illinois

On the 16th of December, 1944, the 120th Regiment of the 30th Division was pulled back to Herleen, Holland, for a rest-up, clean clothes, a shower and hot chow, and much needed replacements. I was a squad leader in the 2nd Platoon of I Company. I had five men counting myself left in my squad. The other two regiments, the 117th and the 199th had already been back rebuilding, etc. Well, needless to say, we weren't there very long before the whistles started blowing and orders to load up on the trucks were given. Well, that's the closest I ever seen to a mutiny about to happen. But, we did what we had to, and mounted the trucks. Driving all night, German planes dropping flares and occasional strafing.

We stopped about day-break for P---- call when a German plane roared over real low and the quartermaster drivers all began shooting their carbines at the plane. About that time the plane emitted some smoke and our driver whipped out his blade and carved a notch on his gun stock. He thought he had shot the plane down. That was good for a much-needed laugh. Because an American soon came along and finished it off. As we approached the hill from the north of Malmedy, a German and an American plane were engaged in a "dog-fight" and the German shot the American down. Being scared as hell and not knowing what was going on, that sure didn't help our morale

any.

After leaving Malmedy our unit was assigned a hill on the south of the town. The squad area we replaced had been manned by 19 men. We covered it with five. We had several patrols and an occasional attack here and there, but always returning to Malmedy.

Then on 14 January, 1945, we were to take hill #551. On the way our CO Lt. Andrews was killed and shortly after that my BAR man Ed Belicek was shot in his left arm. The bullet entered above his left wrist and traveled up his arm and exited out his shoulder. There was a little stream right before the approach to the hill. Some tanks had been running around there before we got there. Although the ice had begun to refreeze, I and others went through up to our waists. The snow was knee-deep. As we got nearly 3/4's the way up the hill, we ran into a larger German force coming down.

After the initial firing and occasional shooting slowed we managed to get some fox holes started. There were a few guys transferred in from the 5th Division that had been stationed in Alaska. A few of them were kind of strange. One guy by the last name of Rodgers in my squad began to panic and was saying he was going to run down the hill. I think if he had, the rest may have followed and we'd all been shot in the back. I remember pointing my rifle at him and telling him to shut up. I would have killed him if he'd made it necessary. But he didn't so it turned out okay.

After laying in the snow all the rest of that day and night and the next day and night and being wet from the waist down I was sure I was going to freeze to death, so I asked Lt. John Doyle our platoon leader if I could go back and try to find some dry clothes. I felt bad about leaving because we only had 14 men left in the whole company. As I approached the aid station a truck stopped and a bunch of guys got off, they threw off a bunch of overcoats. It was dark so I grabbed one. It had six packs of Camel cigarettes in one of the pockets. Anyway, the doctors cut my boots off my feet which were a light shade of blue. I told him if I could get some dry clothes, I was going back up. He tied a tag on my big toe and said, "Son, you're going to the hospital." I'll never forget that night as long as I live. The ambulance was stopped quite a few times on the way back to the field hospital. The password was "Orange" and the countersign was "Crush." This was January 15, 1945.

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PLENTY OF PATIENTS

December, 1944

Earnest R. Oney
26 Infantry Division
114th Medical Battalion
Winchester, Virginia

My outfit moved into Wahl, Luxembourg, the day before Christmas, 1944. We set up in a barn near the edge of town and adjacent to a house.

We had a German generator that had been liberated somewhere along the line and this provided some electric light when needed. Our three medical doctors, Capt. Stoneburner, the CO, and 1st Lts. Hess and Miller, both later captains, were much happier treating casualties with an electric light instead of the Coleman lanterns. Casualties at this point were light and many of us were outside the barn speculating on the weather

The owner of the house and his wife came over and asked if we could provide some electricity for his radio (they had been without power for months) so they could listen to the Christmas program from Radio Luxembourg. Nothing easier. We ran a long extension cord from the generator through a window and plugged in his radio. For several hours we enjoyed a program of Christmas carols and music, a welcome break for the holidays. The radio remained plugged into for the next several days before we moved on.

On Christmas Day, as almost everyone who was there remembers, the weather cleared and the bombers started coming over. Sometime in the afternoon we picked up a pilot who had parachuted from his plane. He was not badly injured, scratches and bruises as I remember. He had Christmas dinner with us. Everyone wanted, at least, a glimpse of him. He had shaved that morning, his uniform was clean and pressed and he had a fresh haircut!

Whenever our Red Cross flag went up, civilians started showing up and the four or five days we were in Wahl produced more civilians than GIs, it had been years since they had a doctor available. Often a civilian could not come to us and our doctors, time and workload permitting, made house calls. After one of these, the doctor I was working with said he might come back to Wahl after the war--he had a bigger practice there than at home!

.....

FRESH GEAR

December, 1944

Philip Lee Petersen
90th Infantry Division
357th Infantry
Glendora, California

When the Germans began their breakthrough up in the Ardennes, which would become the Battle of the Bulge, General Patton decided to pull several divisions loose and send them north. Our own 90th was one of them, so we gave up the area east of the Saar River and prepared to go as soon as possible. To cover our division's movement, all identification markings on the vehicles were painted out, our shoulder patches were removed and the small red "TO's" on our helmets were covered with one quarter of a playing card under our helmet netting. Our fresh gear included new overcoats, cleaned weapons, and new field packs which gave the strong impression that we were new arrivals from the States.

Nearing the Bastogne area we met elements of both the 35th and the 26th Infantry Divisions heading south. We had been told to act new and dumb about who we were.

During our brief stay in Bastogne I found a folding-stock M1 carbine with the wooden section damaged from artillery. Using the good wood from my carbine, I cut off the excess wood and burned a hole so I could attach the folding shoulder part. I now had a better weapon to carry.

The third day after we had jumped off, we captured a German field headquarters where documents warned "Be on the lookout for an unidentified elite battle-hardened division." By the end of January the famous Battle of the Bulge was over and the pressure now was on to get going for the Rhine River. With the extremely cold weather and deep snow it was mighty rough fighting.

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.

Up Front

with Willie & Joe



"You Irishmen woulda lost this war without
allies like Texas and Russia."

NATIONAL D-DAY MUSEUM IN NEW ORLEANS

One of our members called the office recently to inquire if there was a Battle of the Bulge museum in New Orleans. We assured him that there was not: unless some private person had put something together. In any event, we didn't have any information.

Several days later I read in *The SHAEF Communique* that there is a National D-Day Museum set to open June 6, 1999, in New Orleans. This must be what our member heard about. According to the article, there will be information therein on the Battle of the Bulge.

We do not have the exact address but the article says it is next door the Eisenhower Center at 923 Magazine Street in New Orleans.

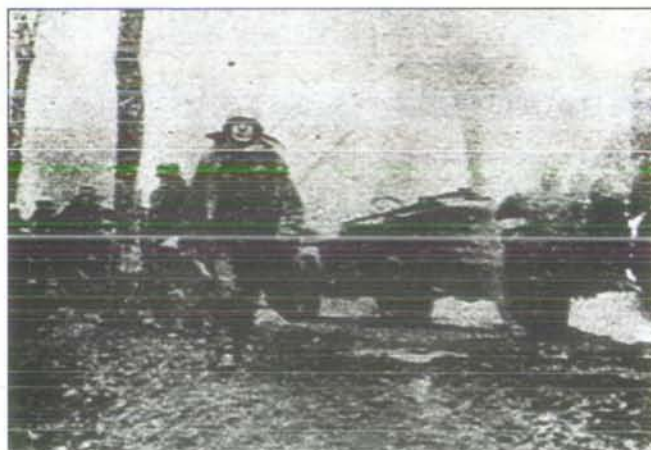
DO YOU RECOGNIZE ...ANY OF THESE?

The following picture was received from the Battle of the Bulge Museum in LaRoche-en-Ardenne. It was taken the day of the liberation of LaRoche-en-Ardenne. The three soldiers on the left are from Scotland and North Wales. On the right are: **1ST/SGT RAU STANGLER** (Topeka, Kansas), **CPL HARLEM MATHIS** (Sioux Falls, South Dakota), and **SGT MAX REAL** (Kotheyville, Kansas). They may have been with the **84TH INFANTRY DIVISION**.

If you recognize yourself or one of your comrades, please write to O.P.T. Guy Blockmans, Rue Marche-aux-Herbes 61, 1000 Brussels, Belgium



This picture was sent in by **ANGELO E. VALENTE**, **97TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, **346TH INFANTRY**, **3RD BATTALION**, **COMPANY I**. That's him in the front. He wants to know if someone can tell him who the men are behind him.



Angelo writes: Around Christmas we went into combat. Fire was very heavy and we stayed low until the heavy fire let up. We had Christmas dinner, then into combat. Enclosed is a picture south of Monschau, Germany. If you can help, write to Angelo at: 89 Exchange Street, Albany, New York 12205-3336.

MORE ON ST. LOUIS GATEWAY CHAPTER'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Quite some time ago, James C. Johnson, Chairman of the St. Louis Chapter's Educational Committee, provided us with more details and information regarding the chapters program. We would like to excerpt parts of it for your guidance in the event you may wish to form a committee of your own.

The chapter breaks down the role of its committee as follows:

VBOB Speakers: Their objective is to present the information provided by the National Organization regarding the Battle of the Bulge. After covering the details let the audience know what you did and where you were in the battle. [Editor: The Educational package is available from the National Office--simply write and request one. If you have access to a computer, the information can be obtained from the VBOB webpage: www.battleofbulge.com. Also, please tell your school board or local schools about our webpage.]

Yarn Spinners: A group who served in the same unit should cover their common experiences during the Battle of the Bulge.

Ladies: Tell about what you were doing at the time of the Bulge in December, 1944, and what conditions were like in the USA.



Members of the Gateway Chapter Educational Committee, left to right: Back row: Kent Stephens, Harold Mueller, Rody Reita, Fred Freeman, Marvin Korte, Ray Saul, Jim Johnson, and Stan Gibson; middle row: Paul Neuhoft and Winston Pendleton; seated: Joan Seitz, Jodie Saul, and Millie Knize.

The group has spoken to the Masons, American Legion Posts, charitable groups, a youth service group and many schools. They relate that the school children like to touch the memorabilia and shake hands with the veterans.

You can also write to VBOB to obtain a more detailed copy of the Gateway Chapter's activities.

**EDUCATE THE KIDS
REGARDING THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE**

REUNIONS

ALL VETS REUNION, August 31-September 6, 1998, Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Contact: Jon Tinquist, PO Box 364, Grand Rapids, Minnesota 55744. Telephone: 218-328-6240.

SHAEF/ETOUSA, October 9-11, 1998, Boston, Massachusetts. Contact: Don Thriffley, 7340 Dundee Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70126. Telephone: 504-241-3065.

2ND INFANTRY DIVISION, July 22-26, 1998, Marriott, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: William G. Creech, PO Box 460, Buda, Texas 78610-0460. Telephone: 512-295-5324.

2ND INFANTRY DIVISION, 38TH INFANTRY, COMPANY K, June 17-21, 1998, Budgetel Inn, St. Charles, Missouri. Contact: Mrs. Coy W. Durham, 1407 West 12th Street, Texarkana, Texas 75501-4959. Telephone: 903-794-9615.

3RD ARMORED DIVISION, September 6-10, 1998, Ashville, North Carolina. Contact: Charles Corbin, 453 Thimbleberry Drive, Vass, North Carolina 28394. Telephone: 910-245-7989.

3RD ARMORED DIVISION, 32ND ARMORED REGIMENT, COMPANY D, September 10-12, 1998, Chattanooga, Tennessee. Contact: Fred Headrick, 934 Dunsinane Road, Signal Mountain, Tennessee 37377-2017. Telephone: 413-886-1622.

4TH ARMORED DIVISION, September 22-28, 1998, Hampton Hotel & Conference Center, Hampton, Virginia. Contact: 4th ARMD, Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. PO Box 11327, Norfolk, VA 23517.

4TH INFANTRY DIVISION, July 19-25, 1998, Ramada Plaza Hotel, Akron, Ohio. Contact: Roger Barton, 2 Spring Drive R-23, Walkersville, Maryland 21793-8207. Telephone: 888-845-4040.

7TH ARMORED DIVISION, September 3-7, 1998, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Contact: Charles Barry, 947 "A" Street, Meadville, Pennsylvania 16335. Telephone: 814-333-8501.

9TH ARMORED DIVISION, 19TH TANK BATTALION, September, 1998, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Contact: Joe Zadra, 721 Courtland Place, West Bend, Wisconsin 53095.

10TH ARMORED DIVISION, September 3-6, 1998, Radison Hotel, Hartford, Connecticut. Contact: Mike Romano, 63 Sander Street, New London, Connecticut 06320. Telephone: 860-442-5513.

26TH INFANTRY DIVISION, June 14-15, 1998, Holiday Inn East, Springfield Illinois. Contact: W. Kent Stephens, 107 Bluffview Lane, Collinsville, Illinois 62234-1914. Telephone: 618-344-1616.

28TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 109TH INFANTRY, September 28-October 1, 1998, Radisson Hotel, Scranton, Pennsylvania. Contact: Jim J. Ferrario, 107 Skyline Drive, Gouldsboro, Pennsylvania 18424. Telephone: 717-842-7043.

35TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 134TH INFANTRY, September 10-13, 1998, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Contact: James Graff, 1146 100th Avenue, Middelton, Illinois 62666. Telephone: 217-445-2570.

75TH INFANTRY DIVISION, July 15-20, 1998, Double Tree Hotel, Spokane, Washington. Contact: Angelo Barrachini, PO Box 58, Whately, Massachusetts 01093-0058. Telephone: 206-682-1590.

76TH INFANTRY DIVISION & 304TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, September 10-13, 1998, Quality Inn at the Falls, Niagara Falls, New York. Contact: Robert J. Reithel, 1004 West Christopher Drive, Clovis, New Mexico 88101. Telephone: 505-762-5408.

78TH INFANTRY DIVISION, October 7-10, 1998, Clarion International O'Hare, Rosemont, Illinois. Contact: John Herzig, 2832 Dakota Drive,

Janesville, Wisconsin 53545. Telephone: 609-756-0094.

82ND ARMORED RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION, September 17-19, 1998, Holiday Inn, Jonesville, North Carolina. Contact: Leo Ruzzi, 22 Knox Street, West Haverstraw, New York 10993. Telephone: 914-429-2290.

83RD INFANTRY DIVISION, August 19-22, 1998, Holiday Inn City Centre, Peoria, Illinois. Contact: Robert Derickson, 3749 Stahlheber Road, Hamilton, Ohio 45013-9102. Telephone: 513-863-2199.

84TH INFANTRY DIVISION, August 22-26, 1998, Omni Albany Hotel, Albany, New York. Contact: Ivan Beams, PO Box B, Hobart, New York 13788-0402. Telephone: 607-538-9255.

86TH ORDNANCE COMPANY, October 1-3, 1998, Days Inn, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Contact: Richard Schilbach, 101 South Whiting Street #514, Alexandria, Virginia 22304. Telephone: 703-370-2707.

87TH INFANTRY DIVISION, September 13-20, 1998, Sheraton Birmingham Hotel, Birmingham, Alabama. Contact: Harold Tendam, 9372 Arnaz Circle, Port Charlotte, Florida 33981-4003.

89TH CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON (9TH ARMORED DIVISION), September 24-27, 1998, Quality Inn & Conference Center, Springfield, Missouri. Contact: Bobby Cobb, 1025 Cherrywood Drive, Guthrie, Oklahoma 73044-2077.

90TH INFANTRY DIVISION, September 16-20, 1998, Radisson Plaza Hotel, Fort Worth, Texas. Contact: Allan Cornett. Telephone: 1-800-416-9090.

95TH INFANTRY DIVISION, August 27-30, 1998, Pere Marquette Hotel, 501 Main Street, Peoria, Illinois 61602. Contact: Lester Wolf, 8032 South 86th Court, Justice, Illinois 60458-1445. Telephone: 708-458-3047.

99TH INFANTRY DIVISION, July 22-25, 1998, Kansas City, Missouri. Contact: 99th Inf. Div. Association, PO Box 99, Marion, Kansas 66861.

150TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, September 10-13, 1998, Chattanooga Choo Choo Holiday Inn, Chattanooga, Tennessee. Contact: Ken Boring. Telephone: 706-226-7625.

264TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, September 10-12, 1998, Best Western Hotel, Columbus, Ohio. Contact: Bob Latz, PO Box 654, Racine Wisconsin 53401. Telephone: 414-681-1998.

297TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, June 4-6, 1998, Owensboro, Kentucky. Contact: Hal C. Miller, 5251 Windy Hollow Road, Owensboro, Kentucky 42301. Telephone: 502-785-4088 (Nights 502-771-0021).

440TH ANTIAIRCRAFT ARTILLERY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS BATTALION, September 17-19, 1998, Springfield, Missouri. Contact: Harry E. Appleby. Telephone: 417-887-0990.

460TH ANTIAIRCRAFT ARTILLERY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS BATTALION, BATTERY D, September 10-13, 1998, Harley Hotel, Columbus, Ohio. Contact: John H. Reichenbach, 5700 Satinwood Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43229. Telephone: 614-885-4067.

482ND ANTIAIRCRAFT ARTILLERY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS BATTALION (SP), September 30-October 4, 1998, Radisson Inn, Northern Kentucky. Contact: Chuck Gregorovich, 908 Williams Street, St. Marys, Ohio 45885-1562. Telephone: 419-394-3548.

583RD AMBULANCE COMPANY, August 16-20, 1998, Holiday Inn, Pigeon Forge, Tennessee 37867. Contact: William H. Smoyer, 109 Rockwood Road, Newton Square, Pennsylvania 19073-4214. Telephone: 610-356-7427.

(Continued on Page 21)

REUNIONS

(Continued from Page 20)

612TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION, August 5-9, 1998, Scottish Inn, Tarpon Springs, Florida. Contact: Jack Flanagan, 139 St. Andrews Rd, Severna Park, Maryland 21146.

635TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION, September 1-3, 1998, Silver Club Hotel & Casino, Sparks, Nevada. Contact: Richard R. Chaney, PO Box 189, Myrtle Creek, Oregon 97457-0019. Telephone: 541-863-3016.

740TH TANK BATTALION, August 27-30, 1998, Irving, Texas. Contact: Harry F. Miller, 2410 West Manor Place #307, Seattle Washington 98199-2033. Telephone: 206-283-8591.

808TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION, September 29-October 2, Honeysuckle Inn, Branson, Missouri. Contact: Chet Norwin, 32991 Pineview Court, Warren, Michigan 48093-1135. Telephone: 810-979-8958.

814TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION, June 13-14, 1998, Clasby Center, Savannah, Missouri. Contact: Mrs. Cloma Christmas. Telephone: 816-324-4100.

FREE PICTURE

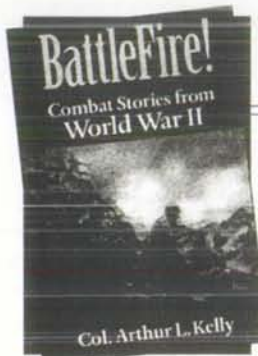
James C. Franklin, who erected the Battle of the Bulge monument in Thomaston, Georgia, has graciously offered to send a free 5 x 7 picture of the monument to the first 100 Bulge veterans or next of kin who request same. Simply send him a self-addressed envelope which will hold a 5 x 7 picture with 55 cents postage on it and he will mail you the picture.

FULL MASTERS DEGREE SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE IN ANTWERP, BELGIUM

Treasurer Pete Leslie has been very diligent in securing information regarding the details of a graduate program being offered at the University of Antwerp. Graduates will receive a Masters Degree in Maritime Transport.

The grant is for 250,000.00 Belgian francs (approximately \$8,300), which covers the subscription fee.

Application is open to all who are direct descendants of those who served during WWII and participated in the liberation of Antwerp or the Ardennes Campaign. To be more specific, the



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service of the armed service person must have occurred from the liberation of Antwerp in mid-September, 1944, to January 26, 1945, or service in the Ardennes battle from December 16, 1944, to January 26, 1945.

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from WITS OF WAR

DROPPED... WITH LITTLE BLACK BAG INTO THE BULGE

[The following article was written by John Scibelli, of the Worcester (Massachusetts) Telegram & Gazette, Monday, January 9, 1995.]

Two men with Worcester medical connections--one a pediatrician, the other a retired medical school dean--crossed paths unknowingly during the Battle of the Bulge in World War II.

It wasn't until 40 years later that one man learned of the other's mission to help his wounded comrades.

"It was one of the least known and daring missions of World War II," Dr. John Tkach, a local pediatrician said last week. "As this is the 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, the story needs to be told."

It was approaching Christmas 1944, six months after the successful Allied landing in Normandy. The Nazis had been routed from France and the Allies were pushing the German army back to its homeland.

The Nazis mounted a last-ditch counteroffensive attack committing 250,000 troops and its feared Panzer tanks. They struck the Allied front line at the Ardennes forest in Belgium in mid-December.

They pushed the allies back and encircled the town of Bastogne trapping the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division and elements of the 10th Armored Division.

Tkach was a sergeant leading the remnants of an anti-tank platoon on forward patrol with his men two miles out of Bastogne during the siege. They were to watch for enemy movement.

Maj. Lamar Soutter was in France, 200 miles away serving in a surgical field hospital for Gen. George Patton's Third Army.

"We were talking about getting Christmas dinner when an executive officer came along asking for medical volunteers," Soutter recalled last week from his Concord home. "He told us there were 1,500 casualties and only one surgeon tending to them."

"The officer said, 'I don't know who'd be damned fool enough to go.' My assistant and an anesthetist said they'd like to go. The next day we went down to the air strip and saw a glider. They told us that's what we were flying."

"Now a glider is fine for a quiet Sunday afternoon ride, but not for flying where people are going to start shooting at you," the 85-year-old retired surgeon and dean dead-panned.

"I hitched the cable from the tug (a C-47 Dakota) to the glider. Glider pilots didn't do that kind of work."

The medical officers climbed in atop boxes and crates of vital medical supplies and equipment.

"We finally got up in the air, but we couldn't get above 500 feet. When we went over the German lines they shot at us. Some rounds went through the fuselage. All of a sudden, the plane winked its lights and we unhitched, and were gliding through the air."

'I Saw a Glider'

Outside Bastogne, Tkach was in his forward lookout post watching for advancing enemy soldiers and tanks.

The quiet was shattered by a burst of gunfire.

"I heard a plane overhead, looked up and saw a glider coming through the clouds," Tkach said. "I couldn't believe it. I thought for sure the Germans would get them. I said a prayer for those poor fellows."

The glider landed safely behind a knoll protected from Nazi gunfire. The men jumped out. American riflemen popped up from their foxholes and waved Soutter and the others through. Then they hopped into waiting Jeeps for the drive to town. Soldiers retrieved the supplies and equipment.

Tkach, virtually isolated from everyone else, never learned the significance of the glider.

"We went straight to a garage," Soutter said. "There were 800 wounded. It was worse than I had expected. The wounded had no attention. We had to do what we could to help them."

"The trouble was we couldn't give definite care," he said. "It would keep people alive, but not cure them of their disease. We couldn't remove a fragment of a shell from someone's abdomen, for example, because we didn't have intravenous fluids."

Soutter went to the commanding officer, Gen. Anthony McAuliffe, the man who told the Germans "Nuts" when they offered him a chance to surrender. Soutter told McAuliffe the wounded would die if they weren't moved to get better treatment.

Within two days of Soutter's arrival, after 56 continuous hours of surgery, the Third Army broke through the German forces, ended the siege and forced the Nazi war machine into retreat south to Germany.

A caravan of more than 100 trucks arrived to evacuate the injured. Soutter and his medical crew hopped into the last truck out.

Soutter and the others were each awarded Silver Stars for volunteering to go to Bastogne.

"We didn't think we deserved it. We thought we were doing a perfectly routine job," he said.

Soutter and his surgical team followed Patton's army all the way to Austria. During those three years they performed 1,530 major operations.

Tkach moved on with the 10th Armored Division. The war was still six months from completion.

After the war, Tkach, a New York native, used the GI bill to go to college. He eventually completed medical school, interned at Worcester City Hospital, where he met his future wife, and settled here.

Soutter returned to practice medicine at several Boston hospitals and in the early 1960s was picked to be the first dean of the planned medical school for the state university system. He also had a hand in siting the medical school in Worcester.

Tkach said he never met Soutter over the next 25 years, while both men were involved locally in medicine.

In 1984, 40 years after the Battle of the Bulge, Tkach read a detailed account of Soutter's mission in a story published in the *American Medical News*. He finally learned the significance of the glider he saw land in the field the day after Christmas, 1944.

Told about the coincidence Soutter said there's no guarantee the glider Tkach saw that day was the one Soutter was aboard.

To this date the men have not met and couldn't meet during the preparation of this article. ■

REMEMBER, GOLDEN GATE IN '98

CHRISTMAS, 1944

A. A. Alvarez

1st Infantry Division

16th Infantry, Company C

All my little cherubs bounced around my lap. "Grandpop, Grandpop," tell us a Christmas Story.

I remembered a long time ago, during that terrible war of my youth. My thoughts were on the Christmas of 1944, where in snowy Belgium the cruel and relentless foe had surged forth and blown us completely aside. During that dark December, when as a newly-minted corporal, I acquired some strange traveling companions.

Our of a shell-splintered forest emerged Magnes, a young New Jersey Jewish soldier equally lost from his unit. Upon entering a destroyed village we met Trios, a black soldier and new arrival on the front.

Seeing that they both looked to me and my two stripes for guidance, I said "Let's head North," by following that North star.

So off we trudged in the eerie winter darkness. We hoped desperately we were headed toward friendly folks, and we needed shelter in this bitter cold.

Sister Rose Marie

"I think I see a light, Magnes said.

"Where?" I asked.

"There," Magnes said, "to the right."

A little beacon was blinking in the falling snow. Taking heart, we cautiously stumbled toward an old farmhouse. It seemed vacant, so we scratched up a small fire.

Suddenly, while staring at the fire and taking stock of our rations, we all became conscious of a squeak. Then we gazed in unison as the trapdoor in the floor began to open. We were tense, expecting an enemy. What relief and total surprise to see a nun.

Initially she may have been frightened by what appeared to her as three apparitions that were enhanced by cellar lighting and illuminating us like demons.

Then as more cellar light played on us, she saw the helplessness on our dirty, young faces. She focused her gaze at me and the crucifix I wore on my helmet band.

"Christian?" she said to me.

"Yes, Sister, I" I replied.

"We're all Christians, Sister," my Jewish friend said.

No longer were we the enemy, just three lost teen-agers under the relentless confidant, yet questioning gaze of a domineering Sister of the Benedictine order.

The Sister smiled in a schoolmarm-manner. She asked if we could help her. Beckoning us downstairs, we followed somewhat meekly and clumped down the cellar ladder.

The room below must have been some kind of an animal shelter with shelves on the walls, as well as the floor, laden with straw, hay and an abundant nitrogen smell.

In the meager light of a lantern we could make out cows, sheep, pigs, dogs--all responding loudly to our invasion. As the light penetrated to the far reaches of the cellar, it reflected on the eyes of a small group of children. Moving the lantern about, we uncovered a number of coal-smudged-cheeked children. Literally, they were angels with dirty faces cowering in fear around a young mother and her new-born baby.

Hiding from the war, they had sheltered here in the dry, warm cellar. They had not eaten in some time.

We checked our pockets. We came up with an orange. They squealed with delight as they ate and the orange juice dripped from their lips. Then they wanted to eat the orange skins.

Sister Rose Marie quietly and firmly stopped the children from yelling and grabbing when Magnes opened a Hershey chocolate bar. He wanted to break it into many little sweet portions for all.

"No," Sister Rose Marie said, "we'll wait til later."

Not to be outdone, Trios distributed some of his loose change, mostly copper pennies to their delightful amazement. Surely, Saint Nick's elves were among them.

Sister Rose Marie had us stoke the fire, gather more wood, arrange more beds, cover the windows to keep out the cold and any possible enemy.

We got ready for bed, but first the children would have a winter washing and feast. We heated snow in some buckets and poured the hot water in our mess gear. With this, we washed many grimy faces and hands.

"Get in your beds and go to sleep," Sister Rose Marie told the children. "There's nothing to worry about, the Americans are here."

Sister Rose Marie, while berating us for destroying the village, now laughed at us--three city boys attempting to milk a non-receptive cow. All our efforts brought amusing glances from our farm-knowledgeable audience.

Sister Rose Marie then rolled up her sleeves and proceeded to show us how to milk. She filled our helmets with the steamy warm milk. We at least assisted in mixing it with shavings from our chocolate ration bars and in no time produced a foamy hot cocoa for the children and the young mother.

Silent Night

We American soldiers and these German ladies and children exchanged more looks and you could see that we were experiencing a wondrous moment. Here were all the children, clean, all snug in their blankets of hay and straw, sipping hot cocoa and clutching their pennies. They were wonderfully happy and safe.

Adding to the moment, Sister Rose Marie led them in singing, thanking us for their beautiful evening. We listened to their Christmas carols in German. It was warm and amazing to realize that "Silent Night" in German was the same as we had heard in the States.

As we accompanied them in English, we were transported back to our home towns. A snowy Belgian night was Chelsea, Massachusetts. Christmas here was Christmas there. It was the same all over the world.

The new day commenced with a promise. The bombardment had quieted. It was time to leave, so we said our sad goodbyes. We marched away from that snowy farmhouse near Bastogne, Belgium. Our trek through the deep snow brought us back to the safety of our lines.

"Maybe the Christmas story isn't about the place and possibly not the time," I told my inquisitive grandchildren.

It's really about that special spirit of the simple goodness of we gentlefolk, during our moments of wonder.

"Just giving of ourselves out of love."



When you go to war pray once.

When you go to sea pray twice.

When you marry pray three times.

Slavic Proverb

IN PIG HEAVEN...

[The following article was published in the 87th Division's *Golden Acorn News*. It was written by **HENRY HOSEKER, COMPANY A**. Henry is historian of his company.]

On the celebrated forced march of Patton's Third Army from the Saar to the Battle of the Bulge (our destination was Libramont), we alternately traveled on foot and on trucks. On our foot marches we slogged through wind, snow, sleet and rain. At the end of one of the truck interludes we were unceremoniously dumped some place in Kreis Echternach in Luxembourg. (I was sure this was Kreis Echternach unless the Germans had changed the road signs.) At least the body heat in the truck had provided some warmth and usually we had rested on the truck rides. We were told to get some rest! The area was deserted except for some ruined buildings that had had it from shell fire. These remnants lay in two parallel lines along what may have been a street. The whole area and remnants were covered with a good 10 inches of snow. It was very quiet and cold. My thoughts were that it was a miserable place to spend the night.

During all of this, our hunger went unabated and the measly K-Rations we received hardly satisfied our wishes for something hot and more solid.

We looked at this forlorn spot that was covered with snow and started to pick our lodgings among the ramshackle, mostly ruined buildings that were probably barns and cattle pens. Although they provided some cover it certainly wasn't a place where you'd write home about.

It didn't take long for the company to spread out in the buildings along each side of the lane or street. The place was desolate and a dead silence reigned except for the occasional rattle of gear and good old GI bitching.

As we settled, nestled down and got as warm as possible, an unbelievable sight appeared! Right in front of us a very large pig started wandering down the center of the street. You couldn't say Jack Robinson before you heard the simultaneous sound of 3 or 4 shots from M-1s. It was obvious that this casualty was a non-combatant--but what a welcome target. The pig was dead.

It didn't take long before the former farmers in our company butchered and dressed the pig. Some pork chops were fried in mess kits. I still remember the fine smell.

What mystified me for 53 years was how the rest of the pig was prepared--it was a pig pig. We did eat heartily.

At the 1997 [87th Division] in Kissimmee (my second) I met up with Marino Persichini, who, I learned, had been our company cook. ...Marino said that as company cook, he had tried to give us hot whenever he could but that it wasn't very often. He had cooked several deer the company had shot and we "even roasted a pig." Now I knew who had fixed this very welcome roast pork.

After 53 years I can't sit down to a pork roast without thinking about the pig windfall in Kreis Echternach. Now I'm happier because the long known question of who had prepared it has been answered.■

[See what can happen at a reunion. Make your plans now to come to the San Francisco VBOB Reunion. Complete details in this issue of the newsletter.]

BOOKS/VIDEOS YOU MAY ENJOY

Again, our thanks go out to those who have donated materials to our library. We have received the following new items:

VIDEO: *Battle of the Bulge--The Brave Rifles*. This videotape has been extremely well received and is available to you for \$26.00 from New Horizon Video, 2218 West Olive Avenue, Burbank, California 91506.

Playback: from Hickory Nuts to Hall of Fame, by Elbert Jemison. In a "playbook" of his golf career and WWII service, Jemison--captain infantry, 35th Infantry Division and later company commander, 28th Division Reconnaissance Group--devotes three chapters to (1) earning his commission and training, (2) invasion preparations in England, and (3) combat in Europe. When General George S. Patton, Jr., noted the 8-iron in Jemison's bedroll, the general said, "If you can kill Germans with it, do it." Jemison encountered Patton again in a memorable Battle of the Bulge episode. At war's end Jemison put together a 3rd Army golf team. *Playback* is available for \$22.95 (with shipping/handling) from: Hole-High Publishing, 107 Von Dale Drive, Birmingham, Alabama 35215.

The Shock of War: Picture Annex, by J. C. Doherty. Those of you have read the previous two volumes of this book will surely want to add this picture annex to your collection. It contains 51 pages of men, equipment and sites of the 1st, 2nd, 9th, and 99th Infantry Divisions. Cost is \$10.00 including shipping and handling. It is available from Vert Milon Press, Box 332, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-9998. *The Shock of War: Volumes I and II* are also available from Vert Milon Press at a cost of \$16.95 including shipping and handling. The *Picture Annex* adds faces and places to the previous two volumes.

Private by Lester Atwell. This 499-page book is the result of Lester jotting notes for himself to remember his experiences in the ETO. Critics have called the book almost photographic and tape-recorded. Although the units in the book are disguised, the book deals with the hostility, pain and even the lighter side of a "private's" view of war. Demand has caused this book to be reprinted. It was originally published in 1958. There are limited copies available. Cost is \$30.00 including shipping and handling from A&A Publishing, c/o M. Atwell, 314 Wayne Avenue, Lansdowne, Pennsylvania 19050.

VETERANS DAY PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL PRESENTATION AVAILABLE

We have a Veterans Day Program lesson outline available for those of you who wish to put on such a program at your local school. All you need to do is send a 9 x 12 envelope bearing \$1.24 postage and bearing your name and address. You will find that this large envelope will fold and fit into an ordinary #10 envelope. This program was developed by members of the Delaware Valley Chapter.

A MORE DISTANT VIEW

By Murray Mendelsohn
159th Engineer Combat Battalion

December 16, 1944, started off as a typical day at the 159th Engineer Combat Battalion Headquarters in Useldange, Luxembourg. It was a cloudy, cold day but not unusual considering the way the weather had been going.

I had had my breakfast at the schoolhouse where the majority of H & S Co. was quartered plus having the company's mess facilities. After my walk back from breakfast I was entering into my morning office routine in the chateau headquarters facility.

Then serious news came in and in a spirit of great urgency the operations officers and enlisted men got their equipment together and left in a rush. Apparently the Germans had attacked along the German-Luxembourg border and were advancing in large numbers through the thinly held American lines.

The 159th had been assigned to the 4th Infantry Division as infantry reinforcements and the line companies, A, B, and C and the headquarters leadership and support group were hurrying to take up their positions in the Consdorf area.

Those of us left behind at headquarters were trying to sort out the details and prepare for our own emergency program. I saw one of the day old intelligence memos stating that there seemed to be much greater movement along the German side of the border. It turned out to be all too true. I remembered that about a week before, while walking to lunch, that a German observation plane had flown over at a very low altitude. Useldange was no longer far from the impending action.

The group still in Useldange tried to take up the slack whenever possible. Guard schedules were expanded to cover a wider area and important facilities. We were all put on alert. That night I was assigned to guard duty at a Luxembourg water pumping station a few miles from Useldange. When I was posted I was told that the station operator would come along sometime in the evening to monitor the station.

It was pitch black, no moon or stars shone that night. The station was in an isolated spot off the main road. I walked around trying to keep warm and hoping that I would know when the station operator was coming. About an hour later I heard a motor bike coming closer. I went over to the pumping station and waited. I saw and heard a man approaching. He was tall, dressed in a black leather coat and did not expect me to be there and hailing him. I must say that I was nervous but I used a few words of German to determine that he was the man I was expecting.

He invited me inside the station and showed me the pumping equipment. We had a conversation for a few minutes and then I went outside to resume walking my post. From time to time I would go into the station to see that all was well, get a little warmer and have someone to talk to. It provided another one of my impromptu German lessons.

I found that most Luxembourgers spoke German so that I could at least make myself understood and find out what was happening. At least my school German courses had been paying off.

The time passed uneventfully and I was replaced several hours later, frozen but all right.

Battalion headquarters was located in a chateau built about the last 1920's. The exterior was in keeping with the style of the attached old tower and wall of the 11th century castle remnant.

The interior was modern and spacious. I was happy to be able to sleep on the floor there for about two and a half months.

The operational officers and men were all up at the front. The personnel, supply and other support troops were given other tasks to take up the slack in the operation. This sequence of events went on for the next several days. Of course, there was constant concern about what was occurring at the front. Complete and accurate news was difficult to obtain. The bad weather conditions meant that our air force was not flying, a very important factor.

One morning, groups of us were sent to the line company quarters in the surrounding towns in order to pick up all the belongings and equipment that were left behind when the rush call came to the Consdorf area.

I was sent to nearby Bettborn to retrieve all the Company B Personal belongings. Nobody knew who was in control of Bettborn, in spite of its proximity. Our planes were not up there to do their usual scouting. We took several trucks and drove to Bettborn. On arrival, it appeared to be deserted with none of the local people to be seen. We went to the various buildings that B Company used for sleeping quarters. We started loading all the belongings that were there. We did not want anything to fall into German hands. It was a rush packing job and then we headed back to Useldange. Luckily the Germans were not in any of our billet villages and our mission was accomplished without incident.

This exercise showed up one of our major problems of not knowing how far the Germans had advanced on local levels. Of course, rumors were rampant and usually not to be believed. Security was especially tight because of confirmed reports of German soldiers in captured American uniforms roaming around the area looking to cause confusion and worse. Fortunately, most of them were captured.

Then orders came to load up everything still in Useldange. While it was not a time for too much reflection, we felt a real tug about leaving the town and its wonderful residents. I am sure that we all said a silent prayer for Useldange as we left, heading for Rollingergrund, a suburb adjoining Luxembourg City on its northwest border. As an appropriate side, Useldange escaped unscathed.

In Rollingergrund we established our headquarters and barracks in a school. We unloaded and set up operations again. Then on December 23, with snow on the ground for the past several days, the sun finally broke through. The change in the attitude and outlook was magnetic. We all felt that the temporary set back was over. The line companies returned on Christmas night and then were all pulled back to the Charleville-Mezieres area to regroup. The battalion had lost strength in the heavy fighting and it would be some time before the wounded returned, where possible, and replacements would start arriving.

The battalion had been through a real ordeal in the intense fighting in the Consdorf area, but now we were going back to the engineering part of our mission. The 159th had been tested again in its combat role and had fulfilled its assigned tasks. As we headed to our next encampment and then on our steady northeastward push to Germany we felt our spirits rise again.

**ARE YOUR DUES PAST DUE? CHECK
YOUR MAILING LABEL TO SEE.**

BULGE VETERANS MARCH

For the third year in a row, Battle of the Bulge Veterans have been invited to march in our Nation's Capital Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, on the Sunday before St. Patrick's Day. This year's march was both invigorating and joyful. From the time the Bulge veterans stepped off, there was continuous and rolling applause all along Constitution Avenue to well past the Reviewing Stand. The people on the sidelines were obviously delighted to see the veterans march and showed their appreciation by their applause. We even had a few of our Bulge comrades who were still able to fit into their original uniforms.

Also, three WWII Jeeps and a three-quarter-ton truck were furnished by the Military Vehicle Preservationists who transported those unable to march down Constitution Avenue. These were furnished by Larry Tucker, Roland Blue, Col Robert Shawn and Kit Cooper. Our contingent did such a good job that the 4th of July Parade Committee for Washington, DC asked us to march in their parade this July 4th. All Chapters and Bulge veterans are invited to march. Line-up time is 9:30 a.m., July 4th, on the Mall by the old Castle. See you there!



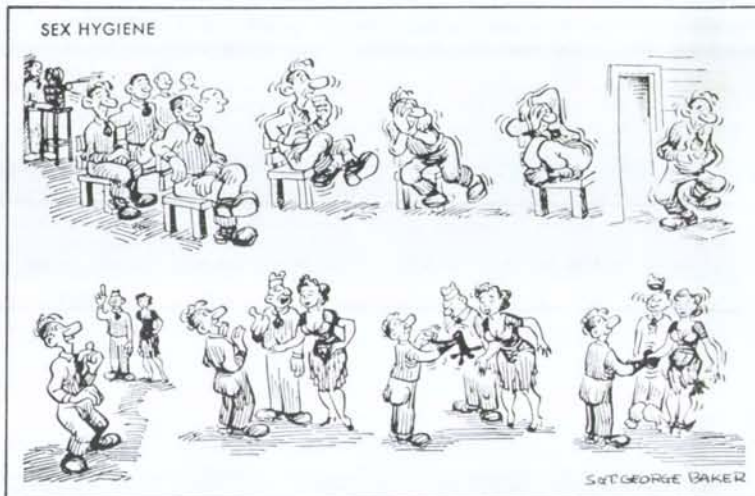
Bulge Veterans await marching orders at the Washington, DC St. Patrick's Day Parade. From left to right: Francis Heppner, Morris Schulman, Ben Layton III, Dorothy Davis, Syd Lawrence, Larry Tucker, Richard Schlenker, and Matt Curtis. Photo by John D. Bowen

INDIANA VETERAN?

The Bulge Battle News published by the Northern Indiana Chapter, carries an announcement that the Indiana War Memorial Commission is collecting information which will be stored in an electronic data base and become a permanent part of a memorial being built in Indianapolis. Hoosier WWII veterans and/or loved ones must send the Indiana War Memorial Commission the following information: Full name (including middle initial), branch of service, service number, if known, city and county of birth (if in Indiana), information indicating connection with Indiana, if born outside the state, if deceased, date and place of death or for a POW/MIA, date and place reported missing.

Information should be sent to: Indiana War Memorial Commission, Attention: World War II Committee, 431 North Meridian Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.

Site of the memorial is on the Pennsylvania Street side of the American Legion Mall, just north of the Korean War Memorial. The memorial will be dedicated Friday, May 22, 1998, during the annual 500 Festival Memorial Service.



YOUR NURSES NEED YOUR HELP

The Army Nurse Corps Commemorative Stamp Committee would like your assistance to convince the U.S. Postmaster to issue a stamp to honor the 100th anniversary of the Nurse Corps. If you will write to the Citizen Stamp Advisory Committee, U.S. Postal Service, Stamp Development, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Room 74#, Washington, DC 20260-2437 and offer your support, it will be most appreciated. The more letters, the better.

**IT'S *R* and *R* IN SAN FRANCISCO...
BE THERE!!!**

WHAT REALLY HAPPENED IN STAVELOT?

[The attached letter was sent to us by **ELMER B. LINDSEY, 9TH ARMORED DIVISION, 27TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, COMPANY A**. The information was sent to him by a friend in Belgium--Henri Hannon.]

These events are based on the affidavit by the Waffen SS Ernst Mahl. The statement was recorded by Lt. Robert E. Byrne on May 7th, 1946, at Schwabbish-Hall.

Event of December 18, 1944, at a named place "La Corniche" at La Vaulx-Richard (Stavelot). Peiper's men had been scattered along the corniche, and they had been blocked by a "road block" which has been established by some soldiers of the 291st Combat Engineers, and afterwards, the SS column was bombed and machine-gunned by the U.S. Air Force.

This is what Waffen SS Ernst Mahl will declare when judged for the crime committed in Stavelot by the council of war in Liege on July 31, 1948.

"When the U.S. aircrafts had left, I took the risk of leaving the wood to come back to the road leading to Stavelot. I walked through a meadow and found myself on a rocky road.

"Two hundred meters ahead in the direction of Stavelot, I thought I could see a small farm on the right side of the road.

"(The house of Mr. and Mrs. Blaise and their Uncle Joseph Wilem.) As I was approaching the small farm, I recognized some officers from my battalion. My company commander, Heinrich Goltz, was talking with one of his platoon leaders, Droghe. There was also a non-commissioned officer from a reconnaissance section but I don't know his name. I could recognize the battalion doctor, Captain Hahn.

"These officers were standing on the side of the road in front of the main building.

"All of them, except the doctor, were looking at something that seemed to be located behind the buildings of the small farm. They were discussing keenly and judging from Hahn's attitude, he didn't seem to agree with other officers.

"I walked on and drew level with the group and then I discovered the object of the discussion. Eleven American prisoners were sitting in the yard next to the house and among those prisoners, I identified the one who was travelling in my truck.

"I was rather puzzled: why were these higher officers discussing so keenly about the prisoners? Then, Droghe called his platoon assistant Wolf. They talked briefly and after this, Wolfe called two of his men.

"Without much consideration, he gave the U.S. prisoners orders to stand up, walk up the slope that was shouldering the road and walk in the meadow. At that moment, my attention was caught by three civilians who were told to come out of the house and follow the same route as the Americans. Then, all of them plunged into the woods. I heard a burst of ten or so shots, then a second burst and a third one."

P.S. a) The corpses of the unfortunate one will be found in January 1945.

b) The corpse of a twelfth GI belonging to the same unit as the eleven others was lying in a stall of Mr. Joseph Willem's house. Nobody knows why he hadn't been executed at the same place as the others.

From reliable sources, it has been established that these soldiers were from Company A, (27th Armored Infantry Battalion), 9th Armored Division.

Since the 13th or 14th of December, this battalion was in support of the 2nd Infantry Division in its offensive movement towards Drieborn (Roer-Germany).

On 16th December at 3:30 p.m., when the news of the enemy attack was known, the battalion got orders from CCB to establish an outpost system from Amel (Sankt-Vith) to Bullingen. The Company A had even to push some patrols forward as far as Murringen, Hunningen and Honsfeld.

Some couldn't avoid being captured by some enemy soldiers and those prisoners were handed over the Knittel's battalion

Ernst Mahl was sentenced to ten years of hard labor and Heinrich Goltz was sentenced to fifteen years of hard labor.■

DEDUCT YOUR REUNION EXPENSES?

[FRANK P. YOUNG, 462nd AAA BATTALION, WITH 2ND INFANTRY DIVISION, has provided this office with information that may be of help to you in deducting the expenses you incur in connection with your attendance at your unit reunion or the VBOB Annual Reunions.]

We will be happy to provide this information to you and you can make the appropriate decision with respect to your own situation. Simply send a self-addressed envelope with 55 cents' worth of postage to us and we will mail it to you. (That's a 32 and a 23 cent stamp.) For prompter service mark "TAX INFO" on the outside of the envelope you mail to us.

VBOB is listed in the IRS's "Cumulative List of Organizations" described in Section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and you will need to check with your unit to see if the same applies to them before taking advantage of this savings.

[Ed.: A big thanks to Frank for his diligence in this matter. He brought this up prior to the Gettysburg Reunion and we never got off the dime with it. We had provided this information many years ago and had asked that the wording be reviewed to make sure it was proper. We heard nothing further and it slipped through the cracks.]

WARM HEART? COLD FEET?

It has certainly warmed our hearts lately to learn of the recent developments regarding the frost bite and cold feet injuries suffered by so many of you.

Jim Amor, members of the Chosin Few (Korean War), our own Dorothy Davis, and others have attended countless meetings and secured some very valuable information that may be very useful to you. Jim, who was with the 87th Infantry Division, 345th Infantry, Company A, has volunteered to share what he has learned if you will send him a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Write to Jim at: PO Box 4092, Long Island City, New York 11104-0092.

DON'T CUT THEM OFF!!

I was apprehensive because the night before I had a dream in which I was shot. I had previously had many dreams of fighting, but never of being shot. I think I subliminally sensed the danger of the situation. About 8:00 in the morning, hot breakfast canisters were brought up and a chow-line formed in the Huertgen Forest.

The Germans could look directly into our position from the hills on the other side of the river. I refused to leave my hole for food and was enjoying my "C" rations when mortar shells started dropping in the company area. Almost immediately there were calls for MEDIC. I went out to render aid but I had a strong sense that shells were coming in, and I hit the ground.

Shells were exploding everywhere, including the trees overhead. When the firing ceased, I started on my way, but stopped when I noticed that my left wrist was broken—pieces of shrapnel had hit the joint. I took cover in a dugout with two other soldiers, one of whom began cutting my clothes off. They found I had wounds on my left arm, back, left buttock, and left leg. It was apparent that my tour was over. I was evacuated by stretcher and one of the men that carried it was the one I had been called to assist—he had a minor leg wound. Unfortunately, the barrage had eliminated about one quarter of the men in my well-trained unit, who had lined up for breakfast that morning.

I was taken by Jeep to a collecting station and there was given a pint of plasma. I never received blood, as far as I know, at any time. I was taken eventually to the 102nd Evacuation Hospital in Aachen. It required 12 hours for the trip. I found myself in a tent with many, many others wounded from the war. I had been very worried about the long trip, because I knew from my medical experience that of those who die from wounds, 99% die before reaching the hospital.

A young physician examined me and said that I had many (fifty-five) wounds, including seven holes in my testicles. When I learned this, I said, "Don't cut off my balls! I want to go back to the States and make babies."

Eventually I was taken to the operating room, given a general anesthetic and was on the operating table for about five hours. The surgical team removed 25 pieces of shrapnel and left 30 pieces in.

That was the GOOD MORNING news from my surgeon. My testes were intact!"

Most of the wounds were on the left side of my body, but the one bone that had been fractured was the wrist and the only nerve severed was the left median (wrist nerve). A piece of shrapnel in my left lung was about two inches below the apex of the heart. Another rested on my spinal column. I was in good shape.

I was so heavily bandaged that I could not effectively feed myself, go to the bathroom, or do anything for myself. My entire left arm and left leg were immobilized and I was bandaged from slightly above my left knee to just below my shoulders on the back side of the body. I was not able to walk for six weeks after the injuries. During the first week I was transferred from the 102nd to a general hospital in Aachen and thence to a hospital train to Paris. There I was in the Fifth General Hospital for two days, where I had my first bowel movement in seven days. I then spent two days on the stretcher at Orly Airport, waiting for a DC3 to take me to Shrewsbury, England. Thence to the 155th General Hospital at Greater Malverne, where I remained for three months and underwent two more surgical procedures. These were to debride my wounds and to recast me. The cast was removed from my left arm and I had one remaining open wound on my left leg that remained that way until May 1945. I was sent back to the US on the Moore-MacCormick ship SS BRAZIL with 3,000 other wounded on May 23, 1945.

The hospital ship docked at Staten Island and I was taken to Halloran Army Hospital (now Willowbrook School) and remained there for nine months. During this period I had two more operations on my left wrist in an attempt to repair the median nerve, but more importantly (from my point of view) I was able to work in the orthopedic cast room as part of my rehabilitation. This was made possible by an orthopedic surgeon, John Sharp, MD, who was also my cousin. I was able to return to college in September 1945 on convalescent furlough and come into the hospital at Thanksgiving and Christmas for check-ups and final operations. I was discharged on February 5, 1946.

The hospital experience was greatly enjoyed—getting to know the medical personnel and working in the cast room. I did suffer from a severe bout of depression in January 1946, when I realized I was going to be discharged from the armed services and would lose the sheltering aspect of them. This had been a great source of reassurance during the past two and a half years with the bed, board, clothing, medical care, and stipend. Fortunately, I left to cast my lot, with civilian life and in 1951, I received my MD degree from Columbia University in New York City.

George Nicklin, Medic
K Company, 47th Regiment
9th Infantry Division

Editor's Note: George got his wish to go back and make babies. He and his wife, Kate have subsequently had four children of their own and ten grandchildren.



December 23, 1996. Another grandchildren photo story. Family reunion at Club Med, Dominican Republic.



CLARA KATIE MURPHY, NICKLIN, MALE-ANNA-LUCY, MURPHY, EMMA, GILBERT, ERTON, AILEEN-SANDRA, SCHULTZ, NICKLIN, OLSEN, MURPHY, CLARA, NICKLIN, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 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REFLECTIONS

By Joseph F. Zimmer

[The following was presented by JOE ZIMMER, 87TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 345TH INFANTRY, COMPANY B, at the Annual Reunion in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, last year. Joe has, over the years, been called on to speak at many of VBOB's special occasions. He always does a beautiful job and we wanted to share this occasion with you.]

Once again, we meet to recall and honor those days, those men, those warriors, who saved the day in the historic Battle of the Bulge of World War II.

As WWII gets even more remote from people's personal experiences, it, and this battle, are going to become even more attractive and memorable. In 100 years, even at the end of the 3rd millennium, people are going to flock to see the memorials that mark, for all time, those dark, dank, foggy days in Belgium and Luxembourg. The valor, bravery, courage, and heroics have been spoken of, written about, and memorialized in uncountable plaques and monuments in our country, most recently at Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and those far away villages and towns where heroes died, were captured, wounded, or escaped unharmed.

Emerson said, "Every hero becomes a bore at last." Nevertheless, the storytelling will insure that our journey to this sacred place at Gettysburg, and the unknown future will keep us connected to one another, to what we experienced in the Bulge, during those terrifying times, our inherited strength, and, most especially, to those who have gone before us. Life became death, the shatterer of worlds. We live in the present without being obsessed about the past or worried about the future. We constantly strive to discover the significance of our experiences and in our minds we are constantly standing on holy ground.

"The bitterest tears shed over a grave are for words left unsaid and deeds left undone." (Harriet Beecher Stowe)

Beginning in 1939 with our armed forces numbering about 174,000 men, ranking 17th in the world behind such nations as Bulgaria and Portugal. What we forget is that this country had about 120 million people during those war years. Out of that number there were only about 20 million men between the ages of 17 and 36--and four out of five of them went to war; and they were joined by more than 100 thousand women. We turned into a global fighting force of more than 8 million, an army without which the Allies could not have defeated Nazi Germany and Japan. In all of this it is worthwhile to remember some words of war. They were uttered by Joshua Chamberlain when he returned to the battlefield many years after his heroics on Little Round Top:

"In great deeds something abides. On great fields something stays," said the old soldier. "Generations that know us not and that we know not of, heart-drawn to see where and by whom great things were suffered and done for them, shall come to this deathless field, to ponder and dream."

This, too, can be said about all the areas we fought in during the Battle of the Bulge.

The history of the world, like letters without poetry, flowers without fragrance, or thought without imagination, would be a dry matter indeed without its legends. And yet many of these,

though scorned by proof of a hundred times, seem worth preserving for their own familiar sakes. What we did, what we experienced, represents the engrafted love of our country, our fellow citizens, and of freedom. In the suburbs of our hearts, we remember that we were part of a gathering of the noblest of men who ever lived in the tides of times. We feel that we must draw on our history to describe our history. It fits each of us to a "T"--honesty, loyalty, integrity.

"The spirit of man is God-like, eternal, indestructible," said Norman Mailer in his WWII book *The Naked and the Dead*. This spirit is reflected in the selfless sacrifices made by army nurses, doctors, and medics. The women who waited--a mother, wife, sister, even a daughter, maybe--had their daily hells as well.

Our organization, VBOB remains a vessel for each of us to pour our memories and values into, and yet we don't have to run to catch up with ourselves. Our founders, present and past presidents, our leaders, are owed a great debt of gratitude to afford us a vehicle, and these reunions, in the company of our companions, to once again gather together, to keep alive in the special vault of the national imagination the gallantry, uncommon glory, and sacrifices made during that great battle.

Each of the 19,000 who died, every drop of blood shed, invigorated our nation and other nations as well as Western Civilization. They were among the 292,131 men and women that were killed in battle in WW II. Another 115,000 died under other conditions. These are not just statistics--these are persons. Our being here is important for when we pass on, you don't just lose the glamorous culture we survived in, you lose the whole culture that we stood for and in a way fought for.

It is good to be reminded that there are such men, that there always have been and always will be. "We sometimes forget, I think," said historian Stephen Ambrose, "that you can manufacture weapons, and you can purchase ammunition, but you can't buy valor and you can't pull heroes off an assembly line." Each of us veterans of VBOB can be very proud this day, and every day. We are all still heroes, and we do not take lightly being called a hero.

Who knows what our comradeship means, but surely it means more than just that we are all haunted by ghosts; because they are not just echoes of voices that have years since ceased to speak, but the murmur of heroes, in the sense that, through them, something of the power and richness of life itself, not only touched us once long ago, but continues to touch us today as we meet. Let us be worthy of this heritage as we continue to meet from time-to-time in our chapter meetings, our executive meetings, our annual national reunions to see that it is memorialized and never forgotten.

In our vintage years remember: yesterday is history; tomorrow is a mystery; today is a gift--that's why it is called "the present."

Finally, legend has it that when we leave this world and get to our eternal abode in Heaven, the God we believe in returns to us our best self. It is not difficult to see that what we all were during WW II and what we became, mirrors our best selves. What we did and how we performed in the Battle of the Bulge, surely added to our luster.

God speed to each and everyone here. ■

War is fear cloaked in courage.

—Gen. William C. Westmoreland

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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May 1998

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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		\$
Memorable Bulge Incidence Book* - This is a compilation of all the MBIs that have been published in the Bulge from 1991 through 1994 (Book is not bound - it is three hold punched, you provide the binder)	\$ 15.00*		\$
Citizen Soldiers*, by Stephen E. Ambrose - illustrated work covers the U.S. Army from Normandy to the Bulge to the Surrender of Germany - 512 pages. Cost in local book stores \$27.50.	\$ 22.00*		\$

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