

# The BULGE BUGLE

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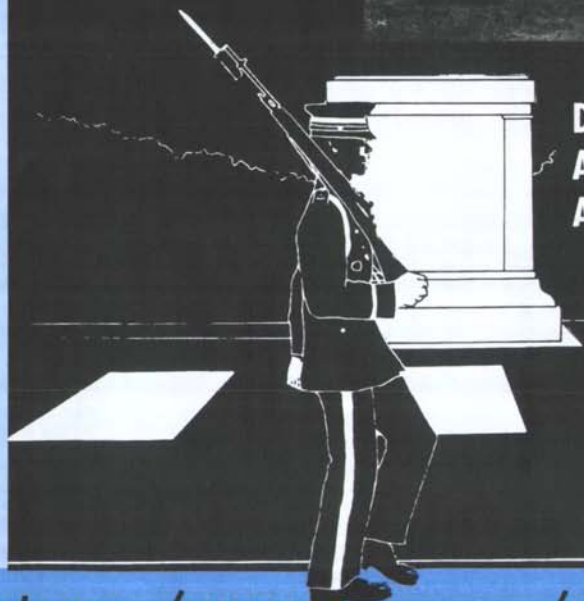
THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

NOVEMBER 1998

**PLEASE JOIN US  
IN REMEMBERING  
ALL OF THOSE  
WHO FOUGHT IN  
THE BATTLE  
OF THE BULGE**



**DECEMBER 16, 1998  
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Calendar**

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**NEWPORT NEWS, VA  
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DETAILS NEXT ISSUE



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

\*\*\*\*\*  
THE BULGE BUGLE  
November 1998



## President's Message

I would like to begin this message with a word of thanks. I thank you all for the support and help I have received this past year as your president, and to say thank you for the vote of confidence at our annual reunion by re-electing me to serve this coming year, the 55th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge.



**George C. Linthicum**

Administration Medical Center overlooking the Pacific.

I know I went away from San Francisco "pumped up" as our grandchildren say. I was impressed with the work being done by the chapters around the country to preserve the memory of our battle in the Ardennes 54 years ago.

The Battle of the Bulge Trail, which I mentioned earlier, had signs along the trail leading to the bay, marking important towns of the Bulge action, starting with St. Vith, Stavelot, Malmedy and Bastogne. More are expected to be added and it is hoped the trail will help those who walk it to remember the sacrifices American men and women made in the Ardennes.

I think this is a very creative idea, and perhaps some of our chapters would want to set up similar trails in their area. It is another way to pass our heritage along to future generations.

At our closing banquet, I offered the suggestions that we start a new tradition by proudly displaying the American Flag from December 16th to January 25th, and encourage our families, friends and neighbors to fly theirs in memory of our battle.

More and more of our chapters are "getting the word out" about our organization by taking part in civic ceremonies and parades around Veterans Day and December 16th. The publicity we are getting from these events is drawing new members, both veteran members and associate members.

I know the annual Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation "Remembrance and Commemoration" ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery December 16th, at the Tomb of the Unknowns reminds the American people what we endured 54 years ago. You will find more information on the ceremony and the annual banquet elsewhere in this issue. It is always a moving event so I hope many of you will be able to join us for our anniversary.

If you are unable to be with us in Arlington, I hope you are planning now for your own chapter ceremony, and that you give ample notice to your newspapers, radio and television news departments so that you can get publicity before the event, and media coverage at your ceremony. Maybe you can invite your local schools to take part, or to have their students attend.

My slogan for this year has been "Let's Make Our Mark," so

I also want to speak for all of our members when I say a special word of thanks to John Sullivan, president of the Golden Gate Chapter, and chairman of the 18th Annual Reunion in San Francisco over the Labor Day weekend. John and his committees' members worked tirelessly to make our visit to sunny California memorable.

The San Francisco area lived up to that slogan as the sun smiled down as we rededicated the plaque on the Golden Gate Chapter's memorial, and dedicated the new Battle of the Bulge history trail at the Fort Miley Veterans

that our battle will remain in the pages of American history. You were there and nobody can tell our story better than you.

Speaking of making our mark, I am very happy to report that thanks to the efforts of Pete Leslie in the formation of three new chapters and Richard W. Brookins, we are now up to 57 chapters. Richard put together the Genesee Valley Chapter in the Rochester area of New York State and Pete formulated three new chapters: Lehigh Valley (Allentown-Easton-Bethlehem area of Pennsylvania); Fort Monmouth Chapter and Picatinny Chapter (both in New Jersey). We all join in welcoming these new units and their members to VBOB and wish them success in getting the word out about the battle in the Ardennes.

We will soon be adding another monument to those already dedicated. This will be placed by the World War II Historic Preservation Federation, the group which reenacts the Battle of the Bulge each January at Fort Indiantown Gap in Pennsylvania, home of the 28th Division. I'm sure most of you know the historic stand the GI's of the 28th made at the start of the Bulge. The dedication will take place Friday afternoon, January 29, 1999. Details will be found in this issue. We hope many of you will turn out for the ceremony.

In closing let me wish you and your families a happy holiday season, and sincere best wishes for a happy and healthy 1999.

## ELECTION OF 1998-99 OFFICERS

At the General Membership Meeting in San Francisco, September 6, 1998, the following officers were elected for the 1998-99 fiscal year:

**President--George C. Linthicum**

26th Infantry Division

**Executive Vice President--John Dunleavy**

5th Infantry Division, 737th Tank Battalion

**Vice President, Membership--Thomas F. Jones**

818th Combat Military Police Company

**Vice President, Chapters & Regions--Richard C. Schlenker**

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106th Infantry Division

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**Treasurer--William P. Tayman**

87th Infantry Division

**Corresponding Secretary--Dorothy S. Davis**

57th Field Hospital

**Recording Secretary--Louis Cunningham**

106th Infantry Division

**Trustees (Three Years)**

**Sidney J. Lawrence**

134th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Gun Battalion

**Renato Victor Trapani**

4268th Quartermaster Truck Company (Heavy)

**Robert F. Phillips**

28th Infantry Division

Congratulations to these fine men and our sincere thanks for your dedicated service.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### SERVICE IN A COMBAT OUTFIT

Having just read "the 1998-99 Proposed Slate of VBOB Officers," I notice that, excepting one veteran of the 737th Tank Battalion, none are identified as having ever served in a combat outfit. Note that having belonged to an "infantry division" does not imply that someone was even in the "infantry" (a point emphasized in my previous letter) or any other combat "arms," all "divisions" including essentially non-combatant "services."

One proposed officer is identified non-sensically as a veteran of "the 818th Combat Military Police Company," this reminding me that former rear-echelon engineer troops developed a habit of using the term "combat engineers" as misuse of "CE," standing for the "Corps of Engineers." Likewise, CMP (Corps of Military Police) veterans seem to be misusing this too.

I note that a BOB veteran is identified as having belonged to "the 112th Infantry, 3rd Battalion, Company C," this being highly unlikely. A regiment's first battalion, consisted of companies A, B, C, D; the 2nd battalion of E, F, G, H; the third battalion of I, J, L, M. (D, H and M being heavy weapons companies). Other companies were Headquarters, Service, Cannon, Anti-tank and such.

Normally a soldier indicates his "organization" membership by giving: company (battery or troop), regiment, division, and field army. Thus he skips his ephemeral membership in "units" (at least as defined in the old days): platoon, battalion (or cavalry squadron), brigade (as in the old "square" divisions), and army-corps. Such "units" have only tactical significance, whereas the administrative and supply chain normally involves only "organizations." However, in WWII there were separate battalions in some divisions, whereas today there are "brigades" instead of the old WWII "regimental combat teams."

Willis Case Rowe  
12 ARMDD 17 AIB HQ

*[While I am sure many of our members may respond to this letter, the position of this organization is that all who served in the Battle of the Bulge are equal: no matter rank and no matter whether their service was on the front line or in a supporting role.]*

### FAITH IN THE ENIGMA

If I may, I would like to comment on "The Enigma Machine--Not So 'ULTRA'" article which appeared on page 28 of the August, 1998, *Bulge Bugle* in which the author condemns the Allies for allegedly overestimated ULTRA intercepts and at the same time the author condemns the Allies because we didn't put more faith in ULTRA intercepts and therefore should not have been "surprised" in the Ardennes.

According to Sun Tzu in his treatise *The Art of War* (circa 500-600 B.C.) and later Carl von Clausewitz's theories *On War*, both agree that in war, surprise is the greatest strategical and tactical advantage one can achieve. Surprise is achieved through deception and that ficklest of all females, Lady Chance. Deception can be a physical act or a spoken word, or both. Perhaps one of the greatest examples of surprise and deception was the Trojan Horse. A classic example of Chance was the Remagen Bridge.

To achieve surprise, one needs intelligence, RELIABLE intelligence information. After the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917, the British, wary of Communism, began to secretly gather information about them. When war clouds gathered over Europe, the British used deception by having civilian passenger aircraft equipped with hidden cameras, and flying different routes, mapped a large area between the Channel and Berlin.

One way to gain intelligence is by the use of spies, like Mata Hari. We had "Madaline," who gave the ultimate sacrifice and has a plaque in Washington, DC, honoring that sacrifice. We also had "Cynthia." And then there was the (in)famous "Cicero." There are two excellent movies about our spies during WWII. "OSS" with Alan Ladd and "13 Rue Madeline" with James Cagney.

Prior to WWII, American diplomats were concerned that, "Gentlemen do not read other gentlemen's mail." Soon after December 7, 1941, "Wild Bill" Donovan of WWI fame was placed in charge of our OSS. (William Casey, Director of the CIA during the Iran-Contra affair, was a Donovan protege.)

Immediately after Dunkirk, to mask England's vulnerability, Winston

Churchill stated that: "The truth was to be surrounded by *A Body Guard of Lies*." Also an excellent book on ULTRA.

In his book *A Man Called Intrepid*, John Stephenson mentions, *The Boys at Bletchley Park* who were responsible for all messages, including ULTRA intercepts. A classic deception was "the man who never was" prior to our invasion of Sicily. Also an excellent movie with Clifton Webb.

We used Patton and FUSAG (Fourth United States Army Group) opposite the Pas de Calais to pin German armor.

In the article in *The Bulge Bugle*, the author states, "...an overreliance on ULTRA as the 'ultimate' intelligence source." Just how important was ULTRA to Allied victory? Rather than compromise ULTRA, we did not warn Staun of "Operation Barbarose." The people of Coventry were left to themselves. Actor Leslie Howard was sacrificed for ULTRA. D-Day succeeded with the help of ULTRA. Patton used ULTRA intercepts to protect his right flank and the FFI in his vonSchliffen wheel through Avaranches, to Falaise, LeMons, and the Seine.

It must be remembered that any intelligence, including ULTRA has a short lived time. It is the duty of the G Sections to gather, evaluate, and apprise the commander of what that intelligence probably means. The Bulge was not the only breakdown. During "Operation Market-Garden" we failed to note a German panzer division sent to Arnhem for rest and the British 6th Airborne Division jumped right into their lap. Yet all of the allied deceptions paid off during "Operation Market-Garden." A complete set of battle plans fell into German hands but by now they were so skeptical of any information, they disregarded the plans as a false plant. Think how the Battle of the Little Big Horn River, of which Custer's Last Stand was a part, [would have been] had he had better intelligence. Another contributing factor was the closer we came to Germany, the less friendly civilians we encountered. We were almost taken in at the Yalu River in Korea.

During the Persian Gulf War, General Schwartzkopf used the air assault to take away Saddam Hussein's eyes and ears so he could execute a vonSchliffen hook.

It is the responsibility of modern CIA to prevent another Pearl Harbor or Bulge. Like it or not, Hitler did to us the same thing we had been doing to him for some time.

Howard Peterson  
4 ARMDD 51 AIB CCA

### IT'S IRONIC

I thought it ironic that the August 1998 issue of *The Bulge Bugle* contained both an article on revisionist history ("Are You Doing Your Part to Halt Revisionists?"), and an example of same (Mitchell Kaidy's story, "Who Really Liberated Bastogne?").

In his article on the liberation of Bastogne, Mr. Kaidy demonstrates that he has succumbed to the spell of revisionist history. Like so many modern writers on the "Bulge," Mr. Kaidy is attempting to white-wash the canvas of December 1944 and January 1945--which was painted with the blood of comrades-in-arms from numerous units--and to repaint the story of the liberation of Bastogne with the brushes of revisionism, inaccuracy, and self-aggrandizement.

A truer account of Bastogne's liberation--and the roles which the 87th Infantry Division and 11th Armored Division played in that action--can be found in *Combat Divisions of World War II*, which was published by the *Army Times* shortly after the war.

In this book, we find a contemporary--and historically accurate--portrayal of the 11th's work to relieve Bastogne in the winter of '44-'45.

"Debarking on the Normandy beaches, the 11th immediately lunched forward in a forced march that speeded them to Neufchateau, Belgium, by midnight of the day they landed. They arrived in the nick of time, for the following day they launched an attack which saved the vital highway linking Bastogne with Neufchateau. It will be recalled that Bastogne was one of the hottest spots in the 'Battle of the Bulge.'"

Surely this cannot be the same armored division that Mr. Kaidy describes in his article, and which he paints as being "stalled" and "flattered" with his brush of revisionist history!

We also find in this book that, "...the 87th was chosen by General Patton as one of the units to meet and smash vonRundstedt's drive (emphasis added)." Contrary to the statements made by Mr. Kaidy in his article, the 87th was not the only unit that played a decisive role in the liberation of Bastogne. Bastogne's survival was

(Continued on Page 5)



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

due to critical contributions from many units--and credit for its liberation belongs to all those who partook in the efforts to relieve that city.

Mr. Kaidy would do well to heed the words of the author of the August article on revisionist history, who stated that, "No one should ever be allowed to change history...the sacrifices have been too deep." Mr. Kaidy would also do well to remember that the liberation of Bastogne was a team effort--and that the blood of all units involved in that action can never be whitewashed by revisionism, inaccuracy, or self-aggrandizement.

Patrick J. Kearney  
11 ARMDD 55 AIB

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### A WORD OF THANKS

I and my family wish to thank all of you for the sacrifices made during this battle. And we'll never forget you.

I was 11 years old when the war was over. I remember those sacrifices and try to make sure none of you are forgotten. Some Americans Forget so easily. God bless all of you.

Joyce R. Springer

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### NOT FORGOTTEN BY ALL

I enjoyed reading "Who Really Liberated Bastogne?" in the August 1998 edition of *The Bugle Bugle*.

Many under-credited units played major-but-forgotten roles in the Ardennes Campaign, and one of *The Bugle's* most important functions is to provide a mechanism for getting those unknown stories told.

I am, however, disappointed whenever such a story belittles or minimizes the contributions of another unit. There is plenty of credit and history to go around without taking away from those units that have been fortunate enough to receive the recognition they deserved over the past 53 years.

I would like to document here the story of another important but deservedly little-publicized unit: the "Super Sixth" 6th Armored Division. My father, who I never really knew, was a lieutenant in the Super Sixth's 212th Armored Field Artillery Battalion. He died in 1972, and over the years I had very little luck in learning more about these units. Fortunately, I discovered the 6th Armored Division Association about three years ago, and in that time have come to understand just was a great division this was, and what a major role it played in holding and then clearing out the southern shoulder of the Bulge.

The Super Sixth's anonymity has several causes. Perhaps foremost, the division's well-respected commanding general, Major General Robert S. Grow, was more interested in fighting the war than in grabbing headlines, and he didn't pay as much attention to public relations as did some of his peers. Second, the 6th was committed relatively late in the campaign: they were the last Third Army division to be extracted from the Saar and moved north to Bastogne, where it finally attacked on New Year's Eve.

Many people with little direct connection to the Ardennes Campaign seem to think that fighting died out after the tide began to turn after Christmas. Even an official of the Ranger Battalions Association recently commented to me during a discussion of an unrelated topic, "Wasn't the Bulge pretty much over by December 31st?"

Any veteran of the 6th Armored Division would undoubtedly be both amused and frustrated to hear that people think the Bulge was "pretty much over" on January 4, 1945, when the division encountered one of its worst days of its 9 months in combat in the ETO. On that day, an estimated six German divisions threw everything they had at the Super Sixth in its position just northeast of Bastogne.

A great deal of credit for saving the day during this period is given to the division artillery battalions. On January 4 alone, the 212th AFA fired 3,222 rounds. The division ammunition officer distributed well over 100,000 rounds of 105 mm howitzer ammunition for the period 16 December through 12 January--about four times more than the previous month. Historian Dr. George Hofmann has described this period of the Bulge as "one of the great artillery battles of the war."

For the next three weeks, the Super Sixth pushed forward toward the Skyline Drive. Division losses during the campaign amounted to 305 killed, 1,237 wounded. The division captured 2,254 prisoners during the same period.

It's also telling that both medals of honor awarded to Super Sixers were

awarded for actions during the Ardennes campaign. The citations tell the story better than any reconstruction that I could provide, so I present the citations here in their entirety. *[They appear elsewhere in this issue.]*

So when somebody asks a question like "Who Really Liberated Bastogne," one answer is "every soldier who went through frozen hell that winter in the Ardennes." Some units are better known than others; some got recognition while others got anonymity. But all contributed to the eventual victory, and the VBOB is doing a wonderful job of rediscovering their forgotten stories.

Anyone who is interested in learning more about the 6th Armored Division and the role it played in the Ardennes and the other four major Northern European Campaigns is invited to check out the web page at: <http://members.aol.com/super6th/>

Bruce Frederick  
Son of Arthur M. Frederick  
8 ARMDD 212 AFA HQ

*[Well said, Bruce.]*

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### NOT ALL THE SAME

I have just read an article in *The Bugle* entitled "Ceremonies held at Malmedy Monument."

American historians have a way of wrapping everyone in the same blanket. As to your article--it was a very small unit from the 1st SS Panzer Division that took part in the killing of the American soldiers at Malmedy. This was not the norm for most units of the W-ss. It should not read "by members of the German SS Troops" but by the unit itself. The W-ss were some of the finest soldiers in the world. You might want to ask the American Heroes of the Bulge which American unit it was who caught and hung German paratroopers to trees during that battle.

My country seems to have a very biased view of what history is all about.

Bob Queen

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### TWISTING HISTORY

A small portion of my memoirs appeared in Steven Ambrose's *Citizen Soldier*. There were several mistakes made wherein I was Pvt, PFC, and Corporal all at the same time, and I also was in the 99th and the 106th at the same time. Also, the author assumed some facts that were not true. History sure gets twisted when a writer wants to make a story. I have written to him with the corrections and his staff has acknowledged.

I have spoken several times to children's groups and to fraternal organizations. It is gratifying to receive their exuberant responses and their in depth questions. One question, I must mention, was the 5th grader who asked me if I knew Colonel Klink. Most young people relate to TV programs, such as "Hogan's Heroes" and really do not know, nor are they taught, about the heroes of WWII.

Roger V. Foehringer  
99 INF 924 FA BN SVC

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### HEY, WHAT ABOUT THE 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION?

I have seen only one article that mentions the 4th Division and it was from a medic in the 22nd. The 12th Infantry went into the Hurtgen Forest on November 6th--we were on the attack until we were pulled out and sent to Luxembourg for a rest on December 9th. We received no replacement before December 16. However we were able to hold against a much larger force. There was no fighting tougher than the forest--in constant attack.

I heard one general say that if you accomplished your mission that was what you were supposed to do, but if you didn't you made history. There were some units that made history.

Fred P. Sullivan  
4 INF 12 INF 1 BN C

*[Glad to mention the 4th. Again, we say, you must submit information for it to be included.]*

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### PUBLIC RELATIONS FROM THE 'DUCKMOBILE'

You may like to know that the monument to the memory of our Bulge comrades we placed on the Hyannis, Massachusetts, green in September 1996 is in good hands and well cared

*(Continued on Page 6)*



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Continued from Page 5)

for, as is the shrubbery. My good friend, Charlie Galiri, of the 28th Division, who lives in East Falmouth always checks it when in town. He also makes it a point to place flowers or a wreath on December 16th, Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

In August I spent four days at my niece's house with her little niece and nephew in the town of East Sandwich [Massachusetts]. They wanted a ride in the "Duckmobile," a World War II land/water vehicle, now converted for recreation purposes. We signed up for a ride....

John, the able skipper and driver gave us a tour of the harbor pointing out the various boats leaving for Nantucket.... Tim, his co-pilot kept us all informed of the various sites passed on our land/water tour/cruise. His jovial banter was to take the edge off any would be 'light-headed' land lubbers.

After a swing around the harbor, we made for the ramp up Ocean Avenue, along the dock side and cocktail lounges and then swung around on to Main Street at the east end of town. As luck would have it the Duckmobile passed in front of the statue of Ianoagh, the Indian for whom the town of Hyannis was named. Tim pointed it out to us mariners, now landlubbers aboard, but on a line directly over Ianoagh's shoulder, about 30 feet beyond, stood our magnificent Battle of the Bulge monument.

With the opportunity at hand, I reached for my wallet and produced my Central Massachusetts Chapter card which introduces me as [chapter] president. I wasted no time going up to Tim when getting off, introduced myself and asked if he knew what that stone was behind Ianoagh. He said, "Yes. It's a veterans monument." I said, "Right. It's the Battle of the Bulge monument, honoring the greatest battle ever fought by the American Army." Then, I said, "Tim, when you swing around the green, you can announce to all aboard exactly what I told you." He said he would be happy to make the announcement.

The Duckmobile makes about 10-12 trips a day, every day with 28 on board. Well, it's just another way we can tell the young people of our legacy and teach history. Those Duckmobiles are still serving our country. The kids loved the ride!

John E. McAuliffe  
87 INF 347 INF M

### ...IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS

In the May issue of *The Bulge Bugle* I read the article about a German soldier who participated in the Battle of the Ardennes and wanted to correspond with an American soldier of the same battle.

Well, I was going to write but I and my family were going to Europe on vacation. I looked at my German map but couldn't find the town. So, I called the German Embassy in Los Angeles to see if they could tell me where it was located. But, they couldn't find it either. I gave them the zip code of the addressee and they faxed me the general location on the map. As we were going to the Czech Republic, we had to go through that area. We drove through many small towns and finally found the town and house with some help from a female post person.

A young man met us at the gate and told us to join him in the house. He was the grandson of Siegfried Mai and he told us that his grandfather had just passed away a few months ago. We met Mrs. Mai, her daughter and the young man's wife. They had just finished lunch and insisted that we have lunch also. We had a very touching talk as they were very thankful that we made the effort to visit them. They showed us some letters that other American soldiers had written them and were thankful for it.

As we left they gave us beer and sekt(?) to take for the rest of our journey. A week after I got home I received a letter from Mrs. Mai, thanking us for the visit and the pictures I sent. We were all touched by their hospitality.

Thomas A. Yeseta  
80 INF 305 ENGR CMBT BN B

### GREETINGS

I wanted to share with you a little of my experiences of taking our message of the Battle of the Bulge to school children. I started about two and a half years ago taking a few of my wr relics to schools, senior citizens groups and church affiliates, and telling them about my experiences in WWII and the Battle of the Bulge. I found a lot of interest

and had a lot of questions asked especially from fifth grade through junior high school students.

Unfortunately I had to take some time off in a battle with cancer, but used that time to build a chest for my army records and mementos which I can carry along and show more effectively. I carried this along to our last North Dakota Chapter meeting in May and also had the pleasure of speaking to a couple of my grandchildren's classes in Pierre, South Dakota. I certainly think the children seem to get a lot out of it and think that it is well worth the effort. I am sorry I didn't start sooner.

Oliver Tveit  
7 ARMDD 40 TK BN HQ

### TOWED PIPER CUB

I read James Lendrum's, 740th Field Artillery Battalion, Headquarters, letter in your August, 1998, *Bulge Bugle* with interest. I wonder if the Piper Cub Lendrum saw being towed belonged to the 370th Field Artillery Battalion, of which I was an air observer.

On December 17th, we flew off of our strip in Bulligen, just as it was getting light. As the air strip was under fire from tanks (artillery and machine guns) the planes took off whenever and wherever they could get up airspeed. We were able to fly 9 of our 10 planes out. Had to leave one because the pilot, Captain Joe Wecherle, had been grounded after an accident and hadn't been put back on flying status.

We ended up at Eupen, Belgium. The next day, the 18th, we were fogged in. In an effort to get a plane flying we (Chuck Proctor, pilot; Clark Zehner, mechanic; a driver-machine gunner; and myself) took the wings and propeller off the fuselage of one of our Piper Cubs. We loaded the wings and propeller on our 3/4 ton, secured the tail of the fuselage over the spare tire of our jeep and headed south trying to find some place with enough visibility to fly.

We finally found a spot, put the plane back together and flew missions that afternoon. Fortunately, the weather cleared enough the next day for the other 8 planes to move south and we were again working as a division air section.

Charles Whitehead  
99 INF 370 FA BN HQ

### WHO SAID IT WAS SO?

In the August, 1998, issue of *The Bulge Bugle*, I noted that the President in his message talked about meeting with Mr. Camille Kohn, who is President of CEBA (Luxembourg) and not CREBA.

I note with interest the letter on, "No Battle Star for Replacements." I do not know who selected the 25th of January, 1945, as the ending date for the Battle of the Bulge. Our 80th Division battled forward from Ettelbruck, Luxembourg, from 22 December, 1944, until we were relieved in Hosingen, Luxembourg, by the 17th Airborne, on 28th of January, 1945. This was one of the last areas in Luxembourg to be freed. The terrain provided excellent defensive fortifications for the enemy, with the deep draws and heavily wooded areas. Much nasty fighting took place in this area from 25 January to 28 January, and I am sure this was true in other areas of the Bulge.

I visit Luxembourg on a regular basis and meet with Mr. Camille Kohn, CEBA President, and we spend much time talking about the history of this battle, many times visiting most of these areas.

Actually you could say that this battle continued until the middle of February, 1945. At this time the last village in Luxembourg was freed, Vianden, when the 6th Armored and the 80th Infantry Divisions encircled and trapped the last elements in this area in Germany. The battle is not over until the men stop being killed.

Camille and the other officers of CEBA get quite upset when the date of 25 January, 1945, is used as the ending date of the Bulge Battle. These people lived through this battle and I am sure they know much more about this battle than we do.

Ed Bredbenner  
80 INF

### I WUZ THERE!

Like hundreds of other members I have always enjoyed reading *The Bulge Bugle* and learning more about what went on around about me during the Battle of the Bulge.

(Continued on Page 29)



## AN OPEN LETTER

To all the Fellows  
Who Served in the Battle of the Bulge:

First and most important--may God's blessings be yours in abundance for all you gave; whether it was your arm(s), leg(s), or your lives.

My name is Jill [Matthews] Larson. My father was **PFC FRANCIS H. MATTHEWS, 83RD INFANTRY DIVISION, 330TH REGIMENT, 3RD BATTALION, COMPANY I.**

He passed away on May 1, 1993, of congestive heart failure. "Sonny" (as he was called by his family) never talked about the war much--he had to be in the right mood. (Are you that way, too?)

He did tell the story of one fellow he served with who always managed to get a hold of a bottle and yodel. He also talked of hearing and seeing the smart bombs and crossing the Rhine.

When mom died in 1987 from a brain tumor, God blessed me with six years with my dad. I got to know him as a person--not just "dad." I still cry as I'm doing right now because I miss him so much--his friendship and wisdom.

Would you please share your stories with your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews? Granted, it must be difficult to remember such things, but I understand that the "new textbooks" in the schools only give two pages to World War II.

The younger generations do not know what happened or what you saw. They must be told if freedom is to reside in this great country. [Jill included some pictures which space did not allow us to use.]

How I wish to be where you are [at the reunion], saying things which must be said--remembering an America that hopefully will return to the values and principles that were held so dear.

Whether you served with my father or not, please know that there is some one thinking of you with deep fondness and gratitude--and who will always remember what you did to preserve our freedom.

[Jill is anxious to hear from anyone who may have known her father or who may have served with him.]

Jill Matthews Larson  
6763 County Road East  
Omro, Wisconsin 54963

[Editor: Jill's letter is similar to many that we receive. It points so strongly to the need for you to share your stories with members of your family, that we decided to print it. If you can, help Jill fill in the blank spots she has regarding her father's war experiences. YOU are the only ones who can see that the history of the Battle of the Bulge is preserved.]■

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# HE ESCAPED FROM THE MALMEDY MASSACRE

By Tom Raney  
823rd Tank Destroyer Battalion

There are many of us veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, but there are very, very few among us who survived the Malmedy Massacre. This is the story of one brave and resourceful American soldier who was there and lived to tell about it. He was also a very lucky fellow.

On 17 December 1944, the day after the Germans launched their offensive in the Ardennes, Corporal Theodore (Ted) Flechsig was a member of Battery B, 285th Field Artillery Observation Battalion. The battery was on the march from its previous position in the Hurtgen Forest to join the 7th Armored Division in its defense of Saint Vith, Belgium. The unit, mounted in trucks, jeeps, and other soft-skinned vehicles, passed through Malmedy and turned southeast on Highway N-32. Some four kilometers out of Malmedy, the column approached Baugnez, a road junction, with a nearby cafe, where five roads converged. Also nearing the road junction from the southeast was a Kampfgruppe of the 1st SS Panzer Division (Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler). The battle group was commanded by Lt. Col. of the Waffen SS Jochen Peiper, who at this time was reportedly in Ligneuville, a few kilometers to the southwest, conferring with his division commander. The lead German tanks immediately opened fire on Battery B. Personnel of the battery, hopelessly out-gunned, piled out of their vehicles and the majority of them surrendered. Some few hid in the woods or ditches and eventually were rescued by members of the 291st Engineer Combat Battalion, commanded by then Lt. Col. David E. Peregrin, whose CP was in Malmedy.

The prisoners, numbering approximately 100, were herded into a field near the road. Ted was in the rear. He noted, with some apprehension, that there were no German soldiers behind the captured Americans. When the SS men opened fire, he hit the ground. A fatally wounded soldier fell on Ted, partially covering him. After the machine-gunning ceased, SS men walked among the fallen, shooting those who showed any sign of life. Ted was wounded in the right leg, right arm, and right hand. An enemy soldier stood over him; Ted held his breath. The SS man nudged him with his boot; when Ted didn't stir, the enemy soldier moved on. Eventually the troops got into their tanks and half-tracks and moved out. Ted and another survivor left in the direction of Stavelot, some 10 kilometers to the south. Enroute they encountered two Belgian civilians riding bicycles. Seeing that Ted was having great difficulty walking because of his wounds, one of the Belgians pushed him on his bicycle the rest of the way to Stavelot. (Peiper's battle group also reached Stavelot that day, 17 December, but it traveled a circuitous route, thus arriving after Ted.) Here a U.S. Engineer unit took Ted to an army hospital.

Ted was evacuated to the States, recovered from his wounds and, after being discharged, continued his education, and had a successful career with the Federal Reserve Bank. And lastly, in February 1990, on a trip to Belgium, Ted found the two men who helped him get to Stavelot.

Almost four weeks later, on 13 January 1945, the 30th Infantry Division attacked south out of the Malmedy area through snow

two feet deep toward Saint Vith. With my Recon Platoon of the 823rd Tank Destroyer Battalion following the attacking infantry, we passed Baugnez. The only thing unusual I noted was that the Division Inspector General was standing near the road junction; he usually lurked at Division Rear, then at Spa. We continued south until mid-afternoon, then found shelter for the night in a house. I then headed for the Battalion CP in Malmedy to get orders for the next day, and rations and mail for my platoon.

In Baugnez, I saw a number of soldiers sweeping snow with brooms. "Clearing a mine field," I thought. Finishing my business at the CP, I started back to my platoon. This time, at Baugnez, I observed a considerable number of frozen bodies of American soldiers sprawled on the ground. This was the first I knew of the Malmedy Massacre. I learned recently, after reading Colonel Pergrin's book *First Across the Rhine*, that the men sweeping the snow off the bodies, and who later loaded them onto vehicles, were members of the 291st Engineer Battalion.

I was introduced to Ted Flechsig by my good comrade from the Korean War James F. Barrett in June 1990. For three hours, Ted related to us his grim experiences on that fateful December day. It was the most fascinating story I have ever heard. He told it objectively, without emotion, as he might have described a picnic he'd recently attended. Ted intended to publish history himself one day, but he didn't get to it. I hope to see it in print as a tribute to him.

I am sorry to record that Theodore Flechsig died of natural causes in April 1991. He exemplified the best of the patriotic, dedicated, and courageous citizens who have served our country in time of war. ■

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## ODE 168TH COMBAT ENGINEERS By Gil Brightman

All was silent, quiet and still  
Our foxholes were dug on the crest of the hill  
With a view of the valley stretched out below  
Where the trees grow tall in long straight rows  
Their boughs laden down with fresh fallen snow

To take our hill, to take St. Vith, they wanted our stand  
Hold that line, save St. Vith was our officers' command.  
The enemy through the valley, in droves they came.  
We held our ground, not a foot did they gain.

Those engineers, how they did fight  
All that day long in bitter cold snow and freezing night  
We fought off their tanks, their shells and their guns  
We held our ground and the battle we won.

The battle had raged and was finally done  
Followed the deafening quiet after the guns.  
Four hundred enemy who gave their all  
Lay in the valley below, quiet, dead, and cold.

At Christmas each year, cheers and goodwill  
We think back and remember St. Vith and that hill.  
The cold, the snow and the valley below  
Where the trees grow tall in long straight rows  
Their boughs laden down with fresh fallen snow. ■



## BULGE MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

*You are invited to submit information (not too long please) regarding Medal of Honor recipients awarded for Battle of the Bulge actions. Here are the first:*

### Sixth Armored Division:

#### ARCHER T. GAMMON

Rank and Organization: Staff Sergeant, 6th Armored Division, 9th Armored Infantry Battalion, Company A

Place and date: Near Bastogne, Belgium, 11 January 1945

Citation: He charged 30 yards through hip-deep snow to knock out a machine-gun and its 3-man crew with grenades, saving his platoon from being decimated and allowing it to continue its advance from an open field into some nearby woods. The platoon's advance through the woods had only begun when a machine gun supported by riflemen opened fire and a Tiger Royal tank sent 88 mm shells screaming at the unit from the left flank. S/Sgt Gammon, disregarding all thoughts of personal safety, rushed forward, then cut to the left, crossing the width of the platoon's skirmish line in an attempt to get within grenade range of the tank and its protecting foot troops. Intense fire was concentrated on him by riflemen and the machine gun emplaced near the tank. He charged the automatic weapon, wiped out its crew of four with grenades, and, with supreme daring, advanced to within 25 yards of the armored vehicle, killing two hostile infantrymen with rifle fire as he moved forward. The tank had started to withdraw, backing a short distance, then firing, backing some more, and then stopping to blast out another round, when the man whose single-handed relentless attack had put the ponderous machine on the defensive was struck and instantly killed by a direct hit from the Tiger Royal's heavy gun. By his intrepidity and extreme devotion to the task of driving the enemy back no matter what the odds, S/Sgt Gammon cleared the woods of German forces, for the tank continued to withdraw, leaving open the path for the gallant squad leader's platoon.

#### ARTHUR O. BEYER

Rank and organization: Corporal, 603rd Tank Destroyer Battalion, Company C

Place and date: Near Arloncourt, Belgium, 15 January 1945

Citation: He displayed conspicuous gallantry in action. His platoon, in which he was a tank-destroyer gunner, was held up by anti-tank, machine gun, and rifle fire from enemy troops dug in along a ridge about 200 yards to the front. Noting a machine gun position in this defense line, he fired upon it with his 76 mm gun killing one man and silencing the weapon. He dismounted from his vehicle and, under direct enemy observation, crossed open ground to capture the two remaining members of the crew. Another machine gun, about 250 yards to the left, continued to fire on him. Through withering fire, he advanced on the position. Throwing a grenade into the emplacement, he killed one crew member and again captured the two survivors. He was subjected to concentrated small arms fire but, with great bravery, he worked his way a quarter mile along the ridge, attacking hostile soldiers in their fox holes with his carbine and grenades. When he had completed his self-imposed mission against powerful German forces, he had destroyed two machine gun

positions, killed eight of the enemy and captured 18 prisoners, including two bazooka teams. Cpl Beyer's intrepid action and unflinching determination to close in and destroy the enemy eliminated the German defense line and enabled his task force to gain its objective.\*

## LABOR OF LOVE

Pictured below is Stew McDonald, of the Northern Indiana Chapter, who served in the 28th Infantry Division, 112th Infantry, Company G.



The picture was taken prior to the start of the Summer Festival Parade held in July in Michigan City, Indiana. Stew and his Chief Mechanic (his son, Tim) have worked on restoring this 1946 Willys Jeep since 1996.

## 14TH TANK BATTALION MEMORIAL

BEN BOWERS, 9TH ARMORED DIVISION, 14TH TANK BATTALION, COMPANY D, send us the picture, taken by Henri G. Hannon, of the memorial built in honor of eight men from that battalion who were killed by the SS troops at Ligneuville.





# THE GHOST FRONT

By Bernard "Bernie" Haas  
643rd Tank Destroyer Battalion  
Company B

The 643rd Tank Destroyer Battalion (towed) was housed in French barracks in Fontainebleau, France, on December 18, 1944. We walked past the entrance to Napoleon's castle each time we went to or from our battalion motor pool. On the 19th, we moved into an elaborate chateau in Fleury en Bier, which was a few miles from the barracks in Fontainebleau. We were told we would be training wheeled and tracked vehicle drivers, radio operators, gun crews, etc.

At 0530 on December 20, we were awakened and told to put on everything we owned. We would be going to a "battle conditioning area" where we would become accustomed to outgoing and incoming artillery. We had never heard of "The Ghost Front," but after reading more than 30 books about the BoB, I assume that was to be our destination.

By 1120 we started crossing the I.P. for what would become a 3-day and 2-night journey. It was raining as we crossed the I.P. We were not permitted to put the canvas covers over the crew compartments on the half-tracks so we soon were griping about the stupidity of having the cover and not being permitted to use it. Since the officers in jeeps and command cars also had to go without protection from the rain, we soon stopped and placed the canvas covers over crew compartments.

We reached Namur, Belgium, at 2400 on December 20. We could hear the sound of artillery guns being fired, but there were no shells going over our heads.

*Unit was ordered to proceed to Filot, Belgium and receive orders from XVIII Corps. Enroute to Filot, the unit was intercepted by an MP unit at Huy, Belgium, and directed to Rheims, France, by order of Commanding General, Oise Base Section. Order was verified by telephone by Lt. Gaylord of Company B. (He was platoon leader of the platoon in which I was an ammo handler on 3rd gun, 1st Platoon, Company B.) Bn s-3, Major Ralph W. Lang, preceded column to Rheims where he was informed that the order was in error. He intercepted the column south of Rocroi, France (after midnight on 12/22) and the unit proceeded back, escorted by an MP officer from the First U.S. Army. (Except for items in parentheses, this paragraph is quoted from the Battalion history.)*

At about 1500 on December 22, 1st Platoon, Company B, approached Soy after leaving the main body of the unit at Manhay for deployment. As we turned south toward Soy from the Manhay-Hotton highway, we had to get on the berm of the road to allow many 3rd Armored Division tanks, armored cars, and soft-skinned vehicles to withdraw from Soy. Since we had never been "told" our destination was no longer the "battle conditioning area," we commented that these guys must be withdrawing from the area after becoming "conditioned."

While the vehicles were withdrawing, a company of armed infantry men approached us from the direction of Soy. When they were about 20 yards from us, an explosion occurred about 50 yards to our left leaving a black smudge on the snow. The armored infantrymen hit the dirt. Again we commented that these guys sure were taking the "battle conditioning" more seriously than we were. I was sitting atop our ammo which I recall being 110 rounds of a mixture of A.P., H.E. and smoke shells. When no more explosions took place, the infantry men resumed

their trek toward the Manhay-Hotton road. Soon another company of infantrymen approached from the direction of Soy. As they were abreast of our half-track, an explosion blew off the gable end of a house about 30 yards to our right front. These infantrymen also hit the ground and I was still sitting atop our ammo. As these men resumed their trek toward the Manhay-Hotton road, they told us we had better be taking the explosions seriously because the road was under fire by a German 88. Voila!!! This wasn't a "battle conditioning area," it was combat.

We estimated that there had been close to a hundred 3rd Armored vehicles and two companies of armored infantrymen leaving Soy. Later, we saw still another company of armored infantrymen heading north while we were proceeding south into Soy with four towed 3" guns and two security sections of six men each. We began to become apprehensive when we could see very few GIs in Soy.

While we sat on the berm alongside the road leading into Soy, we could see between 5 and 10 tanks sitting on a road that ran parallel to the crest of the ridge running east from Soy. The road may have been a couple hundred yards below the crest of the ridge. We wondered why they were just sitting there. Upon inquiry, we learned that the Germans had knocked out the lead tank, then KO'd the tail tank, and then knocked out all tanks between the lead and tail tanks in the column. (If any of you VBObers can shed more light on my observations of these tanks, it would be greatly appreciated. Task Force Brewster is shown on maps of being further east than Soy when he lost seven tanks in a similar manner and was threatened with court martial for his loss, but after General Rose was killed in Germany, no further disciplinary action was taken against Brewster.)

After the road into Soy was clear of 3rd Armored vehicles, our four towed guns proceeded into town. Guns #1 commanded by Sgt Mitch Lucas and #2 commanded by Sgt Bill Carmel, were ordered into position on crossroads in Soy. As they were pushing swabs along the gun barrels and before they had the guns bore-sighted, a Mark IV came from behind a woods toward Mitch's gun. The gunner, Cpl Al Baillargeon, quickly attached the sight to the gun. Mitch gave him the range and number of leads. Al gave the command to fire. Since boresighting aligns the gun with the sight and there had not been enough time to do this, the gun was pointing in a direction different from that of the sight after bouncing over a couple hundred miles on the road. Mitch quickly gave a new range and number of leads. Al gave the command to fire again. This time the correction bracketed the Mark IV and its commander gave his driver orders to withdraw behind the woods. The order came just moments too late. Mitch gave a new range and lead command to Al and the third round found its target.

While Mitch's crew dealt with the Mark IV, Bill Carmel was having a similar bout with a half-track full of German armored infantrymen. They destroyed the German half-track after firing three shots. As I have been told by a crewman, Ernie Johnson, of Carmel's gun, they had no time to dig in the spades at the ends of the gun trails so the ammo handlers put their bodies on the trails. The recoil of the guns plus the weight of the bodies of the ammo handlers on the trails sunk the spades into the frozen ground so the guns wouldn't move rearward when fired. Guns #3 and #4 were deployed on roadblocks somewhere between Soy and Manhay on this mission. Compared to the baptism of 1st and 2nd guns of 1st Platoon, Company B, we had a picnic. During day time, we could hear the sounds of fierce battles to our left front and the flashes and sounds of battle at night. Our gun, #3, received an average of two rounds of harassing fire each night from December 22 to 26. Having been unable to sleep in the half-track for three days and two nights, Joe Orges and I went to sleep standing up on our first two hour watch on the gun. Knees buckle as sleep sets in. The buckling of the knees wakes a person up before one falls down.

*[Bernie also suggested another title for his article: How Gullible Should One Be?]*



## WE LEFT OUR HEARTS IN SAN FRANCISCO

Although the combat in the Ardennes was 54 years ago, and 6,000 miles away, memories of the Battle of the Bulge were like yesterday, and as close as the next table, at the VBOB 18th Annual Reunion in San Francisco over the Labor Day weekend.

VBOB members with their families came to the Airport Marriott from all over the U.S. and from Belgium and Luxembourg to reminisce with comrades about the largest land battle ever fought, and won, by the U.S. Army, and their roles in it.

The reunion started off Thursday evening, September 3rd, with a welcome from national President George Linthicum and John Sullivan, President of the host Golden Gate Chapter. The veterans were also greeted with welcoming proclamations from the Cities of San Francisco, Burlingame, San Mateo, Dublin, Millbrae, San Bruno, and Half Moon Bay, joining those from our friends from Belgium and Luxembourg. A reception followed in the reunion's hospitality room.

The generous contributions received from the merchants enabled the hospitality room to be open many hours and provided the opportunity for the members to get acquainted and exchange stories. Bartenders Irv Grossman, George Wendt, and Bob Taylor surely made this effort a success--they worked tirelessly.

Many individuals, companies and organizations who generously contributed their talents and products to the occasion and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them:

- The Staff of the Airport Marriott Hotel who went out of their way day after day to be pleasant, courteous and helpful.
- The 91st Infantry Division for their contributions to the Rededication of the VBOB Memorial and Dedication of the Memorial Trail.
- The 6th Recruiting Brigade for their contributions to the Reunion Banquet.
- Anheuser-Busch, Inc.
- Delicato Vineyards
- Frito-Lay, Inc.
- Golden Brands Distributors
- Granny Goose Foods
- Guerra's Meats and Deli
- Martini & Prati Winery
- Safeway Stores, Inc.
- Seven-Up Bottling Company
- Lucie Marx Titus
- Tower Market

A highlight of the weekend was the dedication of a memorial plaque, and a new Battle of the Bulge Memorial Trail at the Fort Miley Veterans Administration Medical Center. The setting was breathtaking with Mount Tamalpas in the background across a bay of the Pacific Ocean. As described in President Linthicum's message, the event was colorful with music provided by a Piper from the 91st Infantry Division, and the release of white doves, symbolizing peace, at the close of the program.

The Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz, Fisherman's Wharf, Lombard Street, and Cable Cars added to the "things to see."

Sunday evening, members and their families assembled for the annual banquet, the final event of the reunion. We heard a closing address by President Linthicum, and a review of the

battle by LTG William F. Grain, USA (Ret), who had fought in the fierce combat as an officer with the 110th Regiment of the 28th Infantry Division.

On the lighter side, the 91st Division Band provided music for dancing. Reunion Chairman Sullivan had the last word: thanking the 91st and the 6th Recruiting Brigade for their dedicated assistance in making the reunion a success and wishing all a safe trip home.

Reunion Chairman John W. Sullivan and his many committees provided us with some really wonderful memories. The members of the Golden Gate Chapter went out of their way to see that all had a good time and the weather man out did himself in providing temperatures pretty easy to deal with.



*Making final arrangements for the reunion are: (standing left to right) Gerald Evans, Betty Sullivan, Reunion Chairman John W. Sullivan and Irving Grossman; (seated left to right) Bob Taylor, National VBOB President George C. Linthicum, and Ernest Figueroa.*



*VBOB President George Linthicum (26th Infantry Division) and Patrick Nickels, Consul General of Luxembourg in San Francisco, place a wreath before the Golden Gate Chapter Monument during ceremonies rededicating a plaque on the Memorial. The plaque and the new Battle of the Bulge History Trail, at the Fort Miley Veterans Administration Medical Center, highlighted the 18th Annual Reunion in San Francisco.*

It's easy to see why Tony Bennett's song stirs people so. Those of us who attended the recent reunion in the Golden Gate City will always have wonderful thoughts when the song stirs our memories.



**ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**  
**SAN FRANCISCO, CA**  
**SEPTEMBER 6, 1998**

The Annual Business Meeting of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge was held in the Airport Marriott Hotel in San Francisco, CA on September 6, 1998.

The meeting was called to order by President George Linthicum 26th ID at 1000 hours. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was led by Dee Paris, 9th Armored Division followed by the invocation by Darrell Kuhn, 75th ID.

President Linthicum called on Stan Wojtusik Vice President Public Affairs, 106th ID to report on the progress of the arrangements for the 1999 Reunion. Stan reported that the reunion committee has settled on Newport News, VA after looking at several other locations. The Omni Hotel has submitted a price of \$86.00 and it is going to be negotiated with the hope of reducing this figure. The location is close to many interesting places such as Williamsburg, VA Jamestown, VA Virginia Beach, VA Fort Eustice where the transportation museum is located, and other historic points. Plane service is available to Newport News-Williamsburg or Norfolk airports. The hotel provides shuttle service to both airports.

President Linthicum acknowledged the efforts of both Nancy Monson, Administrative Director and John Sullivan, President of the Golden Gate Chapter, 1 Cavd in making the reunion a great success. The President also advised that two new chapters were added to the list during a special meeting of the Executive Council on September 5, 1998. They are the Genesee Valley Chapter #56 of New York and the Fort Monmouth Chapter #57 of New Jersey.

President Linthicum then recognized all Chapter Presidents in attendance. They were Vernon Bloomer, Southern Arizona Chapter; 28th ID Kenneth Hohmann, Fresno Chapter; 75th ID Donald Stafford, Gen. George S. Patton Jr. Chapter; 99th ID John Sullivan, Golden Gate Chapter; John McAuliffe, Central Massachusetts Chapter; 26th ID Milan A Rolik, Buckeye Chapter; 87th ID Stan Wojtusik, Delaware Valley Chapter; Eva Popovich, Northern Virginia Chapter, OSS/

He also introduced the Past Presidents of the Veterans of the Bulge who were present:  
George Chekan 1986-88 Darrell Kuhn 1990-92 Stanley Wojtusik 1995-98

At this time Stan Wojtusik, Chairman of the Nomination presented the nominations for the 1998-99 year:

President - George Linthicum, 26th Infantry Division  
Executive Vice President - John Donleavy, 5th Infantry, 737 Tank Battalion  
Vice President Membership - Thomas Jones, 818 Combat Military Police Company  
Vice President Chapters and Regions- Richard C. Schlenker, 26th Infantry Division  
Vice President Military Affairs - Stanley Wojtusik, 106th Infantry Division  
Vice President Public Affairs - John Hyland, 84th Infantry Division  
Treasurer - William Tayman, 87th Infantry Division  
Corresponding Secretary - Dorothy Davis, 57th Field Hospital  
Recording Secretary - Louis Cunningham, 106th Infantry Division  
Trustees (three years) - Sydney J Lawrence, 134 Antiaircraft Artillery Gun Battalion  
Renato Victor Trapani, 4268th Quartermaster Truck Company  
Robert F. Phillips, 28th Infantry Division

Chairman Wojtusik requested a motion from the floor to accept the slate of officers as nominated. Motion was made by John McAuliffe to have the Secretary cast one ballot for the slate as presented. Motion was seconded by John Dwire. Motion carried.

Recording Secretary's Report - A motion was made by John Sullivan and seconded by Irv Grossman 106th ID to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Business Meeting held in Gettysburg, PA on September 18, 1997. Motion was carried.

The President introduced George Chekan, Editor of the Bulge Bugle to make a few remarks about the contents of the magazine. He also requested members to provide personal histories to be filed at the History Museum in Carlisle PA.

Treasurer's Report - In the absence of our Treasurer Peter Leslie the report was given by Nancy Monson and is made a part of these minutes. Also submitted is the proposed budget for the coming year copy also attached. Motion was made by Ernie Figueira Golden Gate Chapter and seconded by John Deasy, 86 Chem Mortar Bn to accept the proposed budget. Motion was passed by the members.

Nancy reported that she is working on a special edition of the Bulge Bugle on unit histories. She doesn't have enough at this time for an edition and has requested members to submit the histories of their units if they have not already done so.

President Linthicum addressed the problem of small individual military units having difficulty getting enough members to proceed with a reunion. An invitation is being extended to these units to join with VBOB at our Annual Reunion and time will be set aside for them to meet as a unit.

President Linthicum reported that there are four sites available along the Battle of the Bulge Trail in San Francisco for any chapter who would like to display a sign along this trail. Tom Jones, Vice President Membership 818th Combat MP Co reported that the membership at the present time is 8790.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1145 hours.

Louis Cunningham, Recording Secretary



# 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.

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

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

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

### MAILING INFORMATION:

Name _____	Telephone Number _____
Street Address _____	Apt No. _____
City _____	State _____ Zip + 4 Code _____

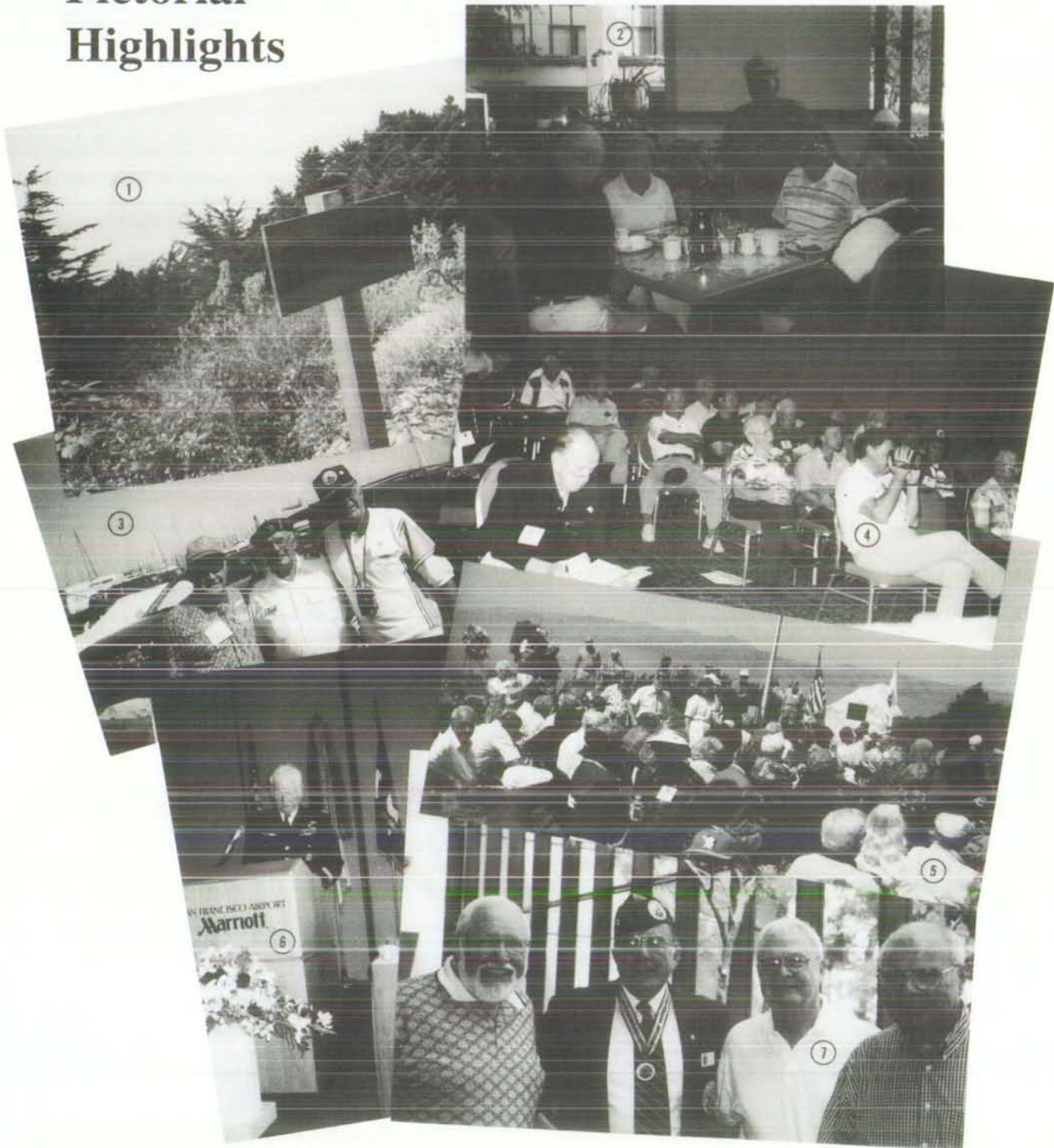
Signature and date \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks or money orders in the amount of \$15.00 for each certificate payable to VBOB and mail to: VBOB, PO Box 11129, Arlington, VA 22210-2129. \*\*\*\*\* Checks for mounting in the amount of \$37.95 should be payable to John D. Bowen, 613 Chichester Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20904-3331 (Telephone: 301-384-6533).**



**VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE**  
**Reunion at San Francisco, California**  
**September 3-7, 1998**

# Pictorial Highlights



1. "ST. VITH", one of four signs along the Battle of Bulge trail. Others are Bastogne, Malmedy and Stavelot.

2. Old friends meet on the West Coast.

3. VBOB'ers on tour, Fishermans Wharf during Reunion.

4. VBOB members attend annual meeting of VBOB. Airport Marriott Hotel, San Francisco, California.

5. A beautiful view for VBOB members to dedicate the Battle of the Bulge trail.

6. General William Train keynote speaker, VBOB banquet.

7. The West Coast brought together for the first time, buddies from the 26th Cavalry Recon. Troop. 26 Yankee Infantry Division.





# 55 Years ... and ... Counting!



## "Vying for a Section 8?"

Remember the "Section 8" discharge in WWII? If we had only known, by simply proclaiming plans to return to WWII sites in 1999 - 55 years later, it would have been viewed as "complete insanity". But thanks to the advances in medicine, **we are going back in 1999** to celebrate the 55th! **We want you with us!** Bring your families and friends (especially grandchildren). It is guaranteed to perpetuate family heritage and education by sharing these exciting moments in the places where history was made.

Our fabulous itinerary allows us to share marvelous times together as we visit London, Southern England, cross the English Channel by ferry (the same route the D-Day troops traveled), visit the incredible Normandy invasion beaches (highlighted in the movie, *Saving Private Ryan*), and sites where Patton's famous Third U.S. Army first entered combat, and Paris. We will see historic places and many wartime secrets (Churchill's War Rooms; the Enigma machine; a "floating tank" used in the invasion, and more.

**Join us!** Customized for **VBOB**, this unique tour includes sights and attractions which most people never see. **Sign up today!**

### Itinerary March 1999



**Mon. 22nd - USA/Aloft**

**Tue. 23rd - London.** Visit Churchill's War Rooms

**Wed. 24th - Stratford.** Visit Bletchley Park, Oxford, Coventry and wreath laying ceremony at Churchill's gravesite

**Thu. 25th - Portsmouth.** US training areas; tank museum

**Fri. 26th - Normandy.** Visit invasion beaches

**Sat. 27th - Normandy.** Visit St. Lo, Mont St. Michel, Avranches

**Sun. 28th - Paris.** Via Rommel's headquarters.

**Mon. 29th - Paris.** Morning city tour. Afternoon free

**Tue. 30th - Paris/London.** Via famous Eurotrain "Under the Channel"

**Wed. April 1st - London.** RAF Norhold & Duxford Air Museums

**Fri. 2nd - Home**

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## 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.

### CHRISTMAS IN THE "BULGE"

December, 1944

Charles A. Bodnar  
9th Infantry Division  
47th Infantry Regiment  
Anti-Tank Company  
Bergenfield, New Jersey

Rumors filtered down to us about a "local" breakthrough to our south. Through stragglers and the grapevine, we were told that the enemy had broken through the American defenses in the Ardennes Forest on the cold morning of December 16. After hasty reconnaissance, we moved eastward bucking retreating rear echelon units.

It was almost nightfall the following day when the road became ghostly silent, and our column stopped. A jeep pulled up before us with our regimental commander approaching our captain saying, "They're out there somewhere in or around the town of Monschau, Stark, go find them." Being the lead company, our platoon set out in skirmish form to make contact with the enemy.

Monschau was nestled between mountains, split in the middle by the Roer River.... Without incident, we continued onward on narrow, picturesque streets to about a mile to the opposite end, when our patrols reported enemy activity ahead. A hasty defensive perimeter was formed, and we were lucky enough to be able to occupy the home of an old homestead housing an elderly couple. I noticed a couple of pictures of German soldiers on a dresser and asked the elderly woman who they were. "Mine sohne," she said. She picked up the two pictures, pointing to one, then the other, giving me each one's name and age. She looked at me and asked, "Vie alt bist du?" I gave my age with fingers, the same as her oldest son. She looked at me and sadly shook her head, then headed for the cellar with her husband.

The house being situated to defend a main road crossing over a bridge, we set our machine gun behind a stone wall placing barbed wire entanglements on the bridge. A very confused and dreary report of the German breakthrough was relayed down to us. If the enemy succeeded in its effort we were told, it would split the Allied Armies, and the American sector will be pushed back to France. Emphasis was put on the northern hinge of the enemy offensive, which by this time, we nicknamed "The Bulge," to be held at all costs to prevent the capture of the seaport of Antwerp in Belgium.

Dampness began to crystalize on the branches and vegetation which sparkled in the bright yellow, greenish light of our flares. We draped our arms over the machine gun mechanism to keep the frost from

freezing it shut in the penetrating cold. Objects in the darkness moved before us in ghost-like forms advancing forward from the far side of the bridge. The barbed wire slows their movements and our front explodes along our positions as rifle fire and heavy weapons become increasingly rapid mingled with the cry for "Medic." Explosions rip our line and front positions, the whole area on our side of the river is a cauldron of death. The desire for survival activates our machine gun to spitting fire, as forms on the bridge crumble and fall over each other in the barbed wire entanglement. The enemy abandons their casualties and scrambles back across the bridge, leaving us to concentrate elsewhere. Hostile determined shelling resumes into our defensive line, the dim light of flares reveals enemy troops filtering over the river. Our supporting howitzers and mortars sent geysers of mud and water skyward from the river banks, but the determined enemy keeps slowly advancing toward us, while the bridge is being blown apart by our own guns. This eternity of a nightmare continues until all concept of time is lost, and only the instinct of survival is left. Their attack finally subsides as we hold our ground and the first flicker of daylight approaches with the cries of the dying and wounded mingled with occasional rounds of harassing fire from both sides.

The weather began to change, the fog was disappearing, but the atmosphere was replaced with a cold, crisp snow by the seventh day. Activity at our line was patrolling and intermittent artillery harassment from both sides. We saw our air force active once again which helped keep enemy big guns quiet during the day.

The old homestead of the aged couple was half destroyed by enemy artillery, but the couple escaped injury huddled in their cellar. Mayhem continued on and off for six days, with only a respite now and then for each side to lick their wounds. It was days and nights of unparalleled terror, each side determined to accomplish their own purpose.

It was December 24th and a hot meal awaited us at our old homestead. In groups we came to have a turkey dinner with dehydrated potatoes, corn, fruit salad and white bread. Being among the last, I received a generous portion of turkey and vegetables as the cooks made hasty preparations to leave the battle area.

The old couple came out of their cellar and stood gazing at the mess kits full of food we were carrying. Coming face-to-face with them, I stood motionless for a few seconds, then stretched my arms out and offered the food to the woman saying, "Sie Essen," the best way I knew. She gazed at me sadly and reached for it saying, "Danka." Not understanding, I merely said "Merry Christmas," and gave them both the food and coffee. Retreating to their cellar shelter, she soon returned



with the empty mess kit and cup, then holding both my hands said, "Ich Nicht vergessen sie." I gave them two cans of hash from my overcoat pocket and said, "Viedersein."

The "Bulge" was eventually eliminated, and after we crossed the Rhein River, enemy resistance weakened and we knew the end was near for the enemy.

*[Thirty years past World War II, I was on a nostalgic visit to the areas whose names bring back fears, heartaches and sufferings endured by friend and foe in the winter of 1944. Almost two kilometers outside of Monschau, I arrived at the home of the elderly couple we occupied during the fighting. It was as if I was approaching it for the first time again with a rifle in hand. To the rear of the house, a very old man and one about my age were talking alongside the river. The younger one approached and asked who I was looking for. I asked if he spoke English, and to my delight he answered, saying "A little bit, not good." Explaining the purpose of my intrusion, he summoned his father and explained my visit. The old man shook my hand, and held it, looking at my face, not saying a word, he took my arm and led me to the stone wall where our machine gun was positioned 37 years ago. Looking at me and his son, he spoke to the two of us as his son translated for me. "My father says you were the man that handled the machine gun at this wall."*

*"How can he recognize me after all these years?" I asked.*

*There was a slight conversation between the two when the son told me his father remembered me for my curly hair. Three of us were lost in conversation when a frail, old woman with quiet sad eyes and totally white hair joined us, it was the old man's wife. Her husband explained who I was as she looked at me with a fixed stare which made me uneasy.*

*"Ask your mother if she remembers me."*

*Not taking her eyes off me, I detected a little moisture in the eyelids as she put her hand on my left arm saying something to her son and patting my arm.*

*"My mother says she has never forgotten the American soldier who gave her and my father his Christmas dinner. You were that soldier." I couldn't help but give her a slight embrace about the shoulders, at the same time trying not to show anymore emotion.*

*"My mother often spoke of you giving away your Christmas meal."*

*We walked down the road a short distance as I was returning to Monschau, when he said.*

*"My father also speaks of you as the man behind the gun, the night you held off your enemy when they tried to cross the river. He did not remember you for your curly hair, but the man that might have killed his son." Still looking at me, he continued, "I was on the other side of that bridge."*

\*\*\*\*\*

#### HOLDING OUR POSITION

December, 1944

**Larry Heber**  
26th Infantry Division  
101st Engineer Combat Battalion  
Company B  
Brick, New Jersey

We were in Esch-SurLaSure in a holding position on the right flank of the 4th Armored Division which was pushing into Bastogne. For some reason, we seemed to be holding our position here. We were getting hit on both the front and our flank. In this hilly and mountainous country, the Krauts were just over the hill some times.

Our company commander was up in a piper cub this day going over the front line positions, to see if we could do anything to help. He spotted an open field running through the forests right to our rear. That night he sent our squad up to lay a mine field across this field to stop any tanks from getting through. We loaded our truck with about 40 or 50 cases of mines and wires for booby traps. Where we went, we

didn't know, only the squad leader and whoever else was in charge of us up there knew.

When we got there, we got off the truck and walked through the deep snow to where we had to put these mines across. Our truck was coming right up with us along the tree line with the boxes of mines in it. As we were getting close to where we had to lay the mine field, an infantry GI yelled out and asked where we were going. We told him who we were and what we were going to do. He said he was the outpost from the infantry and the Krauts were a little ahead of him. We said okay. We'll get out of here as soon as possible.

While we were putting the mines in the snow, we could hear bullets going over our heads. A couple of GIs from the infantry went into the woods on our right to flush out the Krauts and keep them from firing at us.

While they were doing this, the artillery from our side started firing over our heads into the woods ahead of us. They were firing white phosphorous shells which lit the whole place up and we could see everything.

After getting all the mines buried in the snow and some booby traps set, we told the GIs we were finished and got out of there. It was real cold out there and we got our hands and feet frozen. We got back to our company and reported in.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### THE 'OLE TANK DAYS

December, 1944

**Louis Kolber**  
26th Infantry Division  
735th Tank Battalion  
Company C  
Laredo, Texas

*[Louis sends us a letter from his old tank buddy Robert Fath. We have excerpted a portion of it for your reading enjoyment.]*

...now to talk about the ole tank days. Yes, I remember our first time out when you got to the outfit. I thought, "He needs some help because you didn't do everything like the book says."

When I first got in action, as a commander, all I was doing was looking up in the air in trees for snipers. To hell with the ground, I was looking up. What a dumb ass. Also, I had been told not to waste shells. .... One day my tank by itself captured 124 Germans and I got a write up in the *Stars and Stripes*. All this by firing a 105 mm at one single German on my flank. About 20 white flags came up and signaled to come over. Then I thought, "What the hell am I going to do when they get here." So, I called the captain and he said take them back and give them to the infantry.

I even fired at a big bunch of bushes once and the shells (30 calibre) bounced out. It was a German tank that was zeroed in on me. I had seen a big flash and an armor piercing shell hit next to my tank. Then up the hill from me was a tank destroyer and blew him up. Because he would have gotten me on the next shot.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### GET A CLEAR SHOT

December 19, 1944

**Charles A. Sklenar**  
482nd AAA AW Battalion (SP)  
Battery C  
Omaha, Nebraska

On or about the 19th the captain sent word that we were going to make a stand and fight to the last man, and it included the kitchen crew. He also sent word to cook a meal for noon. We were parked on this country road, it was a two-lane, narrow highway in a sort of valley--it became the infamous Longvilly Road for C Battery. We cooked the



meal without incident; we hadn't taken any shell fire for some time but we could hear small arms fire, and it was very close. We all knew we were going to get our first taste of close combat. On the right side of the road was a slight hill about a block to the top and that is the way the Krauts were coming. On the kitchen truck we had a 50-caliber machine gun on a ring mount and that's a lot of fire power, so again I was all Gung Ho. The box on the gun held about 50 rounds but that wasn't good enough for Big Shot Sklenar. I took a full ammo box and set it on the seat which folded down with the back made of steel; I fed the belt with 250 rounds directly from the box into the gun. The other five guys were laying on the ground ready to start firing their carbines; the only thing I told them was to wait till I started firing before they opened up. To show you how green we were to combat, all five guys were shoulder-to-shoulder right in front of the kitchen truck, one grenade would have killed us all--they should have been spread apart. I've said before, you learn real fast in combat, you never make the same mistake twice.

I remember it was about this time my stomach felt like it was tied in knots--I was getting nervous. About this time American GIs started backing up, but firing in hand-to-hand combat, the GI's were going down like mowed alfalfa, they were out-numbered and couldn't stop the Krauts, they were being over run. I told the guys to make sure they had a clear shot at a German before they fired, but to wait for my order--I had my finger on the butterfly trigger ready to fire. Firing that machine gun with that ring mount, I was pretty high up in the air so I could see down this road for long way. About this time I saw a jeep coming toward us, it was flying. It was Capt Lovoi's driver, he was all excited, as we all were, and he said the captain said to get the hell out if we could, to try to make it to Bastogne if possible. This is where I have to say God stepped in; I know the captain gave the order to get out, but I think the captain had to have some guidance from above. I know that if we had stayed there, we wouldn't have lasted five minutes.

This is where C Battery took its first casualties as well as some were captured and some were wounded. We dumped the chow out on the ground and got both trucks on the road and started rolling like hell. We took a few bullet holes in the tarp on the trucks but nothing was damaged. When the captain's driver said the word Bastogne, it was the first time I heard the name. Little did any of us know we would make history and fight in the greatest battle in which the U.S. Army ever participated.

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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.**

Putting aside all the fancy words and academic doubletalk, the basic reason for having a military is to do two jobs—to kill people and to destroy the works of man.

GENERAL THOMAS S. POWER



TOM JONES, VBOB VP MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN is all smiles at intersection where road from Arlon, Nuefchateau, Liege, Bastogne meet. As an MP, Tom directed traffic at this very spot 54 years ago during the Battle of the Bulge. The Belgian Fusiliers supplied the helmet, minus the liner.

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## BURE--JANUARY 3-5, 1945

*The following article was submitted by BERNARD J. JORDAN, who was a member of the BRITISH 6TH AIRBORNE DIVISION. The article was written by LT. E. "DIXIE" DEAN, 13TH BATTALION, THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT.]*

The Battalion waited for zero hour among the densely planted pines 400 meters from the first houses of the village of Bure, 2 km further along the road lay the battalion's objective--the bridge over the river Homme at Grupont. We waited since other troops from 29 Armored Brigade, under whose command we were operating, were to capture two hills north of Bure before we started our advance. Finally, although word had not reached us of their capture, the order was given to cross the start line.

A Company was the first to move, and their orders were to clear the village of the platoon of German infantry reported to be occupying the place, but immediately they emerged from the shelter of the woods, and started to cross the 300 meters of open ground, heavy and accurate mortar fire descended on them. They were in extended order, but there were several casualties and the remainder of the Company went to ground, but the Company commander soon had them on their feet again, and led them in a rush for the nearest buildings. Spandaus were firing from the roadside, but they were overwhelmed in the assault; and now the company began a systematic clearing of the houses. All movement was along the rear of the built-up area, because a "Tiger" tank was positioned at the crossroads some 200 meters ahead, making any movement up the street impossible.

Once A Company was clear of the woods, B Company emerged and started to make their way along the low ridge straight ahead, by-passing the village, and with the task of establishing a base overlooking Grupont, and from where they could provide covering fire for the assault by C Company, who would advance through Bure, once A Company had cleared the way. But the plan was thrown into chaos almost immediately. A sniper picked out the Company commander and with a single shot, killed him. Now in addition to mortars, machine guns, tanks and SPs opened fire on the bare hillside. Within minutes more than half the men were casualties--only two officers remained unwounded, the Company Sergeant-major was another casualty. One of the Lieutenants took control, organized a smoke screen, and shielded from observation, those still capable of movement, dashed for the shelter of houses along the road running right from the crossroads.

A Company made slow but steady progress up the one main street, but every house had a cellar and out-buildings, for many of them were small farms, and after a while they were running out of ammunition; so the Colonel ordered them to hold, as he sent in C Company, hoping at least to capture the whole village before darkness. To cover their dash across the open snow covered fields, an artillery concentration was brought down on the far end of the village, where the mortars and SPs were operating. The fire was concentrated and accurate, and they all reached shelter unharmed. Now the fighting had fresh vigor, and as night began to fall, the tanks withdrew, and half the village up to the crossroads was in our hands.

Germany infantry, however, still remained. The complete fighting element of the Battalion were now in the village, and all

spent a tense, sleepless night. It was bitterly cold, and German patrols were trying to get behind us and cut the road, but without success. Ambulances did manage to get through and all the wounded were evacuated to the rear.

Since our arrival in Calais on 24th December the weather had been cold and bright. There had been no fresh falls of snow, although around Bure it was 30 cm deep. It was a long time coming light on January 4th, and with the grey dawn came the snow and also the return of the Tigers. The attack on the hills to the north had been called off, when the Sherman tanks ran into heavy snow and could not proceed. Now they were sent into the village to assist our advance, but were knocked out regularly by the heavier gunned Tigers. For us it was a cat and mouse game with them, since they never moved ahead of the Germany infantry, but shot up the houses we occupied from a

safe distance--40 or 50 meters. But overnight, we had turned the houses we held into minor strongholds, and for the most part were able to hold the early infantry assaults. In mid-morning the Germans tried new tactics, bringing up large numbers of infantry, who could be seen lining the ditches and hedges on both sides of the village. We



were all ordered into the cellars for a certain time, and as we heard our own artillery shells arriving we all took shelter, as the devastating barrage descended on top of our own positions. As it stopped, everyone dashed upstairs and drove the Germans back, and even managed to advance a little further into the village. But it was stalemate; the Shermans tried to out-flank the Tigers to no avail, and in all the 2nd Battalion of the Fife and Forfar Yeomanry lost 16 Shermans during the action.

Evacuation of wounded from the forward Companies was a serious problem, and throughout the day their numbers increased. Some were in urgent need of hospital treatment, but it came as a big surprise, when during a lull in the fighting in late afternoon, an unescorted ambulance drove slowly up the street, and halted outside A Company headquarters. The Battalion Padre was driving, and he was accompanied by the Battalion Royal Medical Corps Sergeant, who jumped down as the Padre made a three point turn. By now, one of the Tigers had trundled forward, and halted within yards of the ambulance. The turret was thrown open, and an Officer stood up, and in good English said, "You are a brave man sergeant, but you should have waited until the fighting was over before you collected any wounded. I will allow you to come once, but if you come again, I will shoot you off the street." The ambulance was loaded and drove away, the tank retreated within

*(Continued on Page 20)*



## BURE

(Continued from Page 19)

the German held part of the village, and the battle was resumed.

Most of the inhabitants had taken refuge in a large stone building known as "I, Alumnat", which housed members of a religious order. There were large cellars, and they were all perfectly safe, and so they were not to witness the destruction of their homes and property. The cattle suffered more than they did, confined within their sheds and barns. Some were wounded by shrapnel, all were terrified by the explosion of bombs and shells. Others broke free and bellowing with fear roamed the area; the really unfortunate creatures were burned alive, as large parts of the village went up in flames. But many recall one lucky pig, roaming the main street oblivious of the danger moving between both lots of forward positions, surviving artillery fire both British and German.

During the night of 4th January, a strong fighting patrol was established on the higher of the two dominating hills, but a planned attack timed for dawn next morning was called off. The armor had withdrawn again before dark, and did not reappear on 5th, and this allowed the Battalion to completely clear Bure of the enemy, and then just before midnight we received some unwelcome orders—we were to evacuate the place, give up our hard won gains, and sneak away in silence. The orders just did not make sense; all our effort and sacrifices had been for nothing, or so we thought.

And so began a long nightmare of a march back to safety. We managed to disappear into the darkness without the Germans realizing what was going on. But we were dead weary, and close to exhaustion. This was our third night without sleep, and we had been living off what little food there was in the houses we occupied. It would have been bad enough moving over a good road surface, but the snow was packed hard, and the polished surface was like glass. We slipped and slithered, many a time falling flat on our backs. It seemed as if only the man leading the way knew our destination. The countryside was deserted, not even a solitary dwelling did we pass, but eventually we did find shelter.

In the churchyard we erected a memorial to the 61 members of the 13th Battalion (Lancashire) The Parachute Regiment, killed in action during those three dreadful days; several more were to die of the wounds they sustained there, while over 100 more were to recover, some in time to jump over the Rhine with our American cousins of the 17th Airborne Division on 24th March. ■

## FURTHER ON THE 573RD SIGNAL AIR WARNING BATTALION (RADAR)

[The August 1998 issue contained an article entitled "Do You Know the Answer?" on page 24. JAMES D. LYNN, of the 573rd, sends us the followup below which appeared in the battalion's newsletter in July. JOE NEWMAN, 602ND TCS, found the information in historical material he had collected about the 555th and JERRY STOVER, 9TH USAF HEADQUARTERS, sent it along to the SAWBUCK GAZETTE. Jim thought you would be interested in knowing that this was not an authentic document.]

I commend Joe Newman for doing history on the 55th Signal Air Warning Battalion. The "Triple Nickle" had a proud record! However, someone has poisoned the well. The "10 Dec. 44, alert" message he found is clearly a fake, made up after the fact.

At the last SAW Reunion, Gil Gilardi stated he never saw such a message. Gil was CO of the 555th and, until he died in December, his mind was as sharp as ever. Gil's exposure of the fake should be enough, but there is more.

Following the surprise attack on December 16, 1944, there were many intensive investigations, trying to find scapegoats and generals to fire. Had that message been in existence, it would have surfaced then, not 50 years later. As it turned out, there was plenty of blame to go around! From Ike on down, "victory disease" blinded the unease a few people had.

Aside from that, the purported message has too many technical errors to be considered genuine. In December, 1944, Vandenberg's Signal Center (Advance Headquarters, Ninth Air Force) was my responsibility. I, of course, saw only those messages dealing with signal matters. However, I knew the formats that all operational messages had to have before they went out.

If it had been a genuine "Ninth AF TWX," it would have been signed: "Vandenberg by C/S" (Millard or Lee) and endorsed by Quesada. The "AC of S A-3," etc., looks like some mumbo jumbo someone made up to look authentic. In the fall of 1944, Kincaid was IX TAC's C/S and Mays was AG. (See excerpt.)

I confirmed this with Lt. Gen. Walter E. Lotz, Jr., USA (Ret). At the time, Lotz (then Lt. Col.), was executive Signal Officer, 9th AF. (Later, he was the Army's Chief Signal Officer.)

I also ran this by General Robert M. Lee, USAF (Ret). In 1944, Lee (then Col.), was the 9th AF Deputy Commander. As it happened, Lee and Vandenberg were with Quesada, and others, at 1st Army Headquarters for a meeting the morning the attack broke. Lee said they were all surprised, including Vandenberg and Quesada!

In summary, as Lotz put it: "The message has no historical value."

I do not know who tried to mislead Joe. Attempting to show a critical warning was ignored serves no purpose. It can only add to the pain of those who lost someone in the battle.

After VE Day, General Lee had me compile radar operating procedures for IX, XIX and XXIX TACs. That book is one "souvenir" I got home! I enclose copy of index and am sending Joe Newman excerpts from the 555th SOP's for his history. ■

## DON'T FORGET OUR NEW YEAR'S TOAST

In tribute to all who served in the Battle of the Bulge, let's all drink a toast again this year. The choice of beverage is yours. Again this year the time will be: Noon-Pacific time; 1:00 p.m.—Mountain time; 2:00 Central time; and 3:00 Eastern time.

It's a way we can all be together again, even it is only in our thoughts. We shared so much so many years ago, we should remember those we were with and be grateful for each and every one. HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES. ■



## BURNING OF THE GASOLINE DUMP OF STAVELOT--18th December 1944

*[The following was written in rebuttal to an article which appeared in the February, 1998, issue of The Bulge Bugle. It was written by Lt. Col. (retired) Roger Hardy, who is a past President of the 5th Fusiliers Belgium and current VBOB Fusiliers President.]*

### Preliminary remark

The following relation has been elaborated by two veterans of the 5th Belgian battalion of Fusiliers; their names Robert Lemaire and Roger Hardy are mentioned in this text.

When the SS Kampfgruppen Peiper penetrated in Stavelot in the morning of the 18th of December 1944, 1LT Albert Detroz, Commanding Officer of the reinforced platoon of the 5th Belgian Fusiliers Battalion, gave the signal of departure to the GMC truck on which he and his men (forty) were leaving their quarters at the Château Malaccord (also called villa David) on the Haute-Levée in Stavelot located at about 500 yards from the bridge over the Amblève river.

When doing this, the Belgian officer was following the instructions received from Captain Jean Burniat, Commanding Officer of the 3rd Company, 5th Belgian Fusiliers Battalion, who had come from Spa during the second part of the night in his convertible car followed by a Bedford truck with CPL Théo Peeters (driver) and PVT Roger Hardy (interpreter). After having been briefed in Spa by Captain (US) Harry Sturgis, CO 3814 Quarter Master Gasoline Supply Company (QMGSC), of the progression of the German Captain Burniat had decided to inspect the various Belgian posts in the Spa, Francorchamps and Stavelot gasoline dumps. Arriving at the entrance of the Géronstère (Spa) dump he was advised by the 5th Fusilier PVT Christian de Viron that telephone lines at some posts were cut.

Suspecting sabotage the Belgian officer decided at once to go straight to Stavelot and give his instructions to 1LT Detroz these were to wait for the return to the quarters of the last man on guard at the fuel and lubricant dumps near Mista close to the Amblève river and along the new road to Francorchamps and then retreat if necessary with the American rear-guard.

While Captain Jean Burniat and 1LT Albert Detroz were talking at the Château Malaccord quarters in Stavelot, CPL Théo Peeters and PVT Roger Hardy were loading their Bedford with the personal gear of the platoon. Captain Burniat and his two men left Stavelot shortly before daylight; at that moment the gunfire was heavy in the center and southeast of the town and the sky was lighted by the flares of the gunnery. Arriving at the first dump on the old road to Francorchamps, the two vehicles were stopped by a lot of gasoline jerricans spread in the middle of the road. These jerricans were full of gasoline; who had prepared this obstruction? This will remain a mystery.

After having cleared the way and been checked by Americans at the entrance of Francorchamps, they arrived at Spa quarters and Captain Jean Burniat went for report at 3814 QMGSC with his interpreter PVT Roger Hardy.

In Stavelot during the night a group of exhausted and sick GIs had come and taken some rest on the beds left free by the Belgian Fusiliers on guard at the dumps, and the 3814 QMGSC truck had started the evacuation of the gasoline jerricans and small barrels of oil and grease from the most threatened sites

around Stavelot under enemy fire. The Belgian Fusiliers protecting the operation were released and returned to Château Malaccord in proportion as the evacuation was progressing; the tracer-bullets coming from everywhere.

At a certain moment the windscreen of the GMC driven by PVT I (US) Calvin Hales--well known by the Belgian Fusiliers as he was quartered with them in Spa (La Sauvenière)--was hit and burst into pieces.

When around 10 a.m. the last Belgian Fusilier had rejoined Château Malaccord in Stavelot and American soldiers coming from the center of the town had let him understand that there were no more Allied forces behind them, 1LT Detroz gave the order of departure; the GMC truck carrying away the Belgian platoon left the villa CP, climbed the Haute-Levée road and picked up the last sentry PVT Paul Wantiez on guard at the railway crossing, followed then the sharp curve of the narrow road and stopped 300 hundred yards further near the first gasoline dumps. Those jerricans were piled up by three (total height about five feet) on a length of nearly 20 meters and a width of more or less three meters.

There was a separation of about 30 yards between the dumps in order to ease the meeting of vehicles. 1LT Detroz came behind the GMC, ordered a few men to dump off the truck and then start the vehicle with the rest of the platoon after having given them his instructions to form a defensive line along the nearby forest border. Among those who jumped first off the truck there were Sergeants Harpigny, Magain, Vermeulen, CPL Suinen, and a few PVTs, namely Robert Lemaire, Robert Delbois, Robert Tille, Alfred Cantignieu, Elomir Cambier, Jean Lesire, Paul Wantiez, F. Ingels. At that moment, a very threatening noise of guns and small arms seemed to come from all directions and a few American vehicles threaded their way on the right side of the old road to Francorchamps, the other side being occupied by the jerrican dumps.

Suddenly an American half-track towing a gun arrived from the town center and the crew let the Belgians understand by gestures and words that they had no more rounds for the gun and they were the last troops to leave Stavelot. Many years later it would found out that it was 1LT (US) Jack Doherty, CO of the platoon of the 825th Tank Destroyer Battalion, and the half-track crew. This officer was in a state of confusion as his jeep had been hit by a shell.

The decision was then taken not to let the dumps fall in the German hands and 1LT Detroz ordered PVT Robert Tille to fire with his Bren gun into the first dump. But the incendiary bullets shot from a too short distance having no effect, some jerricans were pierced with bayonets and some other ones opened and their contents spread on the dump. A trail of gasoline was also poured between the three first dumps and the gasoline set to fire with matches as the Belgians had no grenades.

The Belgian Fusiliers were not alone; a group of the 526th US Armored Infantry Battalion who had fought in Stavelot was present.

The American soldiers present assisted the Belgian Fusiliers as SGT (US) Vester Lowe (825th TD Bn) confirmed it also many years later and the fire became soon very important. This represented a total quantity of about 15,000 gallons of gasoline. It was a dantesque sight, a wall of fire and smoke spreading high in the sky and down into the valley slope, creating an unsurmountable barrier for any vehicle. Because of the site configuration and the nearby

*(Continued on Page 22)*



## BURNING THE STAVELOT GASOLINE

(Continued from Page 21)

forest full of enormous trees close to each other, only the Germany infantry could have progressed towards Francorchamps if the SS Kampfgruppe Peiper had dared take this risk and one may think that the Germans did such assessment as the fire could be well seen.

A sergeant of the 526th Armored Infantry Battalion named Robert Hyde coming afoot from the center of Stavelot (all vehicles having already left) took a picture of the fire, as it can be seen in the book: *Stavelot, 18 Décembre 1944* and on its front page. This book has been written by Mr. Hubert Laby.

The Belgian Fusiliers and the American GIs were about to set fire to the fourth dump when arrived from Francorchamps on this old road a battalion (CO LTC Frankland) of the 117th Regiment, 30th US Infantry Division; this officer ordered to cease setting fire and said his unit was taking over the defense of the area.

First LT Detroz and his men rejoined then the rest of the Belgian platoon in defensive position; they all climbed on board of their GMC whose driver was a GI of Norwegian origin called Olsen and, taking the direction of Francorchamps on that old road across the forest they arrived at the 3rd Company (5th Belgian Fusiliers) around noon.

In the afternoon of same day two sections of Belgian Fusiliers were sent to patrol through the forest, a first one commanded by SGT Wilkin, the second one by SGT Docq. The latter reached Château Malaccord in Stavelot. Other missions were assigned to the 3rd Company platoons reinforced by Staff Company Engineers, namely for the creation of defensive lines around the threatened gasoline depot. Two Belgian sections occupied rapidly for a while a position with an American armored vehicle near Cour and Andrimont facing La Gleize which had been reached by the SS Kampfgruppe Peiper and where the Germans had entrenched themselves after their failure to cross the Lienne river in Habiémont at the bridge of Neufmoulin-Chevron blown up by 1LT Robert Stack and a handful of men of the 291st Battalion--1111 (US) Combat Engineers Group.

On the following days, while the Americans were fully busy with the transportation of the gasoline dumps to a safer place on the other side of the Meuse river, the 5th Fusiliers were sent on patrol in the area of Francorchamps, Stavelot, Malmédy, mounting guard on the open ground or in the forest, in the cold and soon in the snow, overflowed by the sinister V1 flying bombs launched from the Eiffel range en route to Liege and Antwerp. In the night of the 24th of December one of these flying bombs fell at a short distance of the Belgian 3rd Company Command Post but fortunately causing some material damages only (windows, broken glass, etc.).

On the 25th of December the evacuation of the gasoline was completed; the Belgian Fusiliers moved then to Pepinster for other missions.

Roger Hardy  
President VBOB Chapter XXXVIII  
5th Fusiliers Belgium

CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL  
ARE YOUR DUES DUE?

## MORE ON THE BURNING OF GASOLINE IN STAVELOT

[The following pictures were sent to us by JACK MOCNIK, 526TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION. They were sent to him by HOWARD PETERSON, 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 51ST ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION.]



Demolition in progress on the Francorchamps Road above Stavelot. Pictured left to right: Sgt. Bob Hyde, PFC Willie Esparza, PFC Bill Shureck, PFC Clifford Rutledge; Forefront Edward Richardson, PFC Joseph Stec, all of the 526th Armored Infantry Battalion, Company A.



The job when they finished.



ARE YOUR  
DUES DUE?



## A GI'S GENERAL

By Albert W. Schribner  
87 INF 346 INF 1 BN D

[Article appeared in *The Advocate*, Sunday, December 25, 1994, and was submitted by Mr. Schribner]

In early December of 1964, a series of events too bizarre to detail here led to my receiving an invitation to attend a Battle of the Bulge reunion that was to be held at the Overseas Press Club of New York City.

I was doubtful about the capacity of any press club's facilities to accommodate such an event, but thinking that there might be a chance of meeting one of two of my old buddies from the 87th Infantry Division, in which I served and participated in the Battle of the Bulge 20 years earlier, I showed up at the appointed hour on December 16, 1964.

To my surprise, I was received in the manner of a VIP, given a gilt-edged name tag marked "Sergeant A. W. Schribner" and ushered upstairs to a reception area comprising two well-appointed, inter-connected but regular-sized rooms.

I was soon to learn that there were only 14 or so other invitees who were to be present and who were definitely not the infantry folks with whom I was used to mingling. What I did not know at the time was that this occasion was a reunion of the top U.S. generals who had commanded major Army units in the battle, which began December 16 and ended January 25.

Thus, during the cocktail hour, I found myself rather sheepishly hobnobbing with General Lawton Collins, commander, 7th Army Corps and later chief of staff of the U.S. Army; General Anthony "Nuts" McAuliffe, deputy commander, 101st Airborne Division at Bastogne; General James Gavin, commander, 82nd Airborne Division and later ambassador to France; General Ernest Harmon, commander, 2nd Armored Division; General Bruce Clark, 7th Armored Division (conducted the defense of St. Vith); General Peter Quesada, commander, 9th U.S. Tactical Air Command; General Omar Bradley, commander of all the U.S. forces in Europe; and others of similar rank and fame.

I conversed with each of them in turn, in groups of two or three, but I was aware of their somewhat strained politeness as they looked at my name tag and obviously asked themselves, "who the heck is this Sgt. Schribner?"

I soon began feeling socially inadequate participating in this elite event, until the thought occurred to me: Hey, I was probably the only one there who at the time had been at the front actually shooting it out with the Krauts. Whereupon my subsequent conversations emanated from a new-found level of confidence.

After dinner, each general was given an opportunity to describe his decisions, actions, risks, etc., during the battle. It was a bit over-whelming hearing these people talk about maneuvering thousands, and in some cases tens of thousands of troops together with the related supplies, equipment, artillery and tanks, calling in air strikes, etc.

As they were speaking, I was recalling how as a sergeant in a mortar and machine gun company, I was trying to lead 16 men from "hole to hole" and still survive. It became clear once again that it was the do-or-die efforts of the infantrymen in moving from "hole to hole" that enabled generals to move pins from point to point on the big wall maps.

This never-to-be-forgotten evening left me in a mood of military awe and euphoria as I looked upon the dozen or so

generals who controlled the life and death destinies of so many men, and ultimately the outcome of the battle itself.

As a footnote: Near the end of the affair, press photographers showed up, and after many pictures were taken one photographer asked General Bradley for "just one more shot," at which point Bradley walked over and stood next to me in a gesture that clearly indicated that he wanted me in the picture that was taken. He didn't remember my name, but he obviously remembered that I was a combat enlisted man and it was at that moment that I clearly understood that he was indeed a GI's general!

-----  
*Albert W. Schribner's invitation to the reunion was extended by a press club member who was rather oblivious to military rank. ■*

### MAJOR GENERAL JOHN P. HERRLING SECRETARY, AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

#### SPEAKER AT BATTLE OF BULGE BANQUET--DECEMBER 15TH

Major General John P. Herrling, United States Army (Retired), was appointed by the President in October, 1995, to serve as Secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission. He is the fifth officer to be appointed secretary since the position was established in 1923.

We are pleased that General Herrling will be the speaker at the Banquet on December 15. The General will update us on the current plans for the building of the World War II Memorial and for the ground breaking in the year 2000. There will be a question and answer period after the presentation.

This promises to be a most interesting evening, so don't forget to send in your reservation form by December 4th. See details elsewhere in this issue.

## REQUEST FROM CRIBA

The CRIBA organization has for many years welcomed and driven those who served in the BoB around the various battlefields without charge. It seems there are now those who falsely claim to be CRIBA members who are contacting BoBers and charging them for such services. The members of CRIBA totally disapprove of these actions.

If you do not know for sure if the person who has offered these services to you is a CRIBA member, you can write to their Secretary--Henri Rogister, Rue du Progres 22, B-4032, Liege, Belgium. ■

**Did you check to see if your dues were due?**



## MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

**JOHN GOOD, 453RD AAA AW, BATTERY D**, would like to hear from anyone who served with him. Write to: 3271 Cleeland Street, Paris, Texas 75460.

Associate Member Iris Drinkwater is trying to record a history of Americans billeted and/or trained in her hometown area of southwest England. She would like also to hear from anyone who fired guns off a small peninsular near Weston Super Mare or anyone billeted in a camp in that area (near Brean Down). Write to Iris at: 55 Adam Street, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset, TA8 1PQ, England.

Sharon Settles would like to find someone who may have known her cousin **RAYMOND CLYDE POORE**, who was killed in the Bulge. Raymond was killed in December. He was from Campbell (Anderson County), Tennessee. She has no further information. Write to her at 711 Lynn Street, Clinton, Tennessee 37716.

Bradley Nord would like information from anyone who may have served with his father **S/SGT ERNEST W. NORD, 87TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 347TH INFANTRY**. Ernest was an 81mm mortar man in the Bulge. Write to Brad at: PO Box 1093, Chester, California 96020.

Leon Horowitz would like to locate someone who may have known his cousin **STANLEY BOCK, 106TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, who was killed in the Bulge. Write to Leon at: 600 Regency Crossing, Southlake, Texas 76092-9502.

Pat Barnes would like to hear from anyone who may remember serving with her dad, **BENNIE LEE WEBB, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, 18TH INFANTRY, COMPANY M**. He was apparently killed January 17, 1945. Write to her at: 5081 Old Tullahoma Road, Winchester, Tennessee 37398.

Jeff Giambrone writes on behalf of his father, **JOSEPH GIAMBRONE, 705TH ORDNANCE MAINTENANCE COMPANY**. Joe would like to hear from anyone who may have served with him. Write: Joseph Giambrone, Box 152, Bolton, Mississippi 39041.

**ROY C. GWIN, 561ST FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION**, wants to locate **LUSTER OGLESBY** and **JOE SHINE**, who served with him. He would also like to locate anyone from his unit. Can you help? Write Roy at: 403 East Pine Street, Atmore, Alabama 36502.

Lance C. Brown writes to see if anyone served with his father: **FLOYD E. BROWN, 26TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 328TH INFANTRY**. If you can help write to him at: 103 Eagle Stream Drive #Y-18, Eagleville, Pennsylvania 19403.

**CHARLES T. MOONEY, 75TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 290TH REGIMENT, COMPANY I**, would like to hear from any one who may have witnessed two separate events which he incurred. One in April, 1945, attacking Dorsten, Germany, where he was knocked off the back of a Sherman tank (Attached

to 8th Armored). The other was April 6, 1945, attacking Dingen and Bodelschwing when his tank was hit. If you can help, write to Charles at: 13018 Midsummer Lane, Bowie, Maryland 20715-3030.

Raymond C. Clary writes on behalf of his father, **BILL CLARY, 76TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION**, who is not in good health. He would appreciate hearing from anyone who may have served with him. His address: Rt 6 Box 170, Sand Springs, Oklahoma 74063.

Everett P. Bowers is researching information from American soldiers who encountered Otto Skorzeny's commandos (Operation Greif). If you can help, write to him at: PO Box 790, Canyonville, Oregon 97417.

**M. P. "BRICK" WALLS, 280TH ORDNANCE MAINTENANCE COMPANY (ANTI-AIRCRAFT)** would like to correspond with anyone who served with him in England, France, Belgium or Germany or anyone who has knowledge of this unit. In Belgium, Company Headquarters was at Herenthals to provide maintenance for anti-aircraft battalions defending the docks at Antwerp against the V-1 Buzz Bomb. A contingent accompanied anti-aircraft artillery battalions ordered to the Ardennes. Write him at: 3013 Tipperary Drive, Tallahassee, Florida 32308-3326.

**RALPH STORY, 11TH ARMORED DIVISION, 21ST ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, COMPANY B**, plans to write an article about the men who served in the tank destroyer and anti-tank units during the Bulge. If you would like to share your stories and/or memories write to him for a questionnaire (include a self-addressed, stamped envelope). Ralph's address is: 2840 Starr Avenue, Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54703.

Charles Van Heck wants to learn more about his uncle **ALBERT NELSON BUNT, 99TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 801ST TANK DESTROYER BATTALION, COMPANY H**. If you can help write to Charles at: 2004 Medford Road #C222, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.

Tana Robicheaux Thibodaux would like information regarding her uncle **MURREY P. ROBICHEAUX, 8TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 28TH INFANTRY**, who is buried in Henri-Chapelle Cemetery. He had been wounded March 3rd and passed away on the 9th at a hospital. Can you help? If so, write to Tana at: PO Box 750, Centerville, Louisiana 70522.

Ronald Maselka lost his father during WWII--**JOSEPH T. MASELKA, 94TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 302ND INFANTRY, COMPANY C**, who served in the BoB. He was 4-1/2 years old. If you can provide information on Joseph or his unit, please write to Ronald at: 13013 Wilton Oaks Drive, Silver Spring, Maryland 20906.

Michael Lorquet writes to see if someone can help him with information regarding a wooden cross he found on a farm in Verdenne. The cross bears the following information **"PRIVATE R. P. METT 37485813, 2ND U.S. ARMD. DIV. Killed in Action**

(Continued on Page 25)



## MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

(Continued from Page 24)

Christmas Day 1944.' If you can provide further information, please write to Michel at: rue des Recollets 56A, B4600 Vise, Belgium.

New Associate Member Pauline Reinhardt writes trying to find a buddy of her late husband, **JACK DANIEL REINHARD, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, 326TH AIRBORNE ENGINEER BATTALION, COMPANY A**. The buddy's last name was **HOPE** and he was from New York. She believes he may have been a jeep driver and may have been taken prisoner. Write to Pauline at: 3614 Buffalo Shoals Rd, Highway 1003, Newton, North Carolina 28658.

Denise Williamson would like to know if any one can provide details regarding her father, **DONALD FREEMAN YEAGER, 53RD ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION**. He was also a prisoner of war in Stalag XII-A in Germany. Write to her at: 30 Dobek Avenue, Chicopee, Massachusetts 010020.

Richard Frognier has found two dog tags in the woods of the Ardennes. They read: **HARVEY L. ENGLAND, 6953116, MRS ELSIE APRE, GEN DEL, SPERRY, OKLA and RALPH D. SPARKS, 35871668**. Any information you can provide Richard regarding these men will be very much appreciated. Write to him at: 3 rue Saint-Denis, 6700 Toernich (Arlon), Belgium.

Karen Rogus writes to see if anyone remembers her father, **PFC LOUIS KELM, 75TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 291ST INFANTRY, COMPANY C**. Louis was killed in the Battle of the Bulge when he stepped on a mine. Write to her at: 65 Maple Lane, Manteno, Illinois 60950.

Associate member Roger Marquet is writing a book about the **11TH ARMORED DIVISION** in the Bulge. He would like personal anecdotes from: **63RD ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, 22ND and 42ND TANK BATTALIONS, 56TH ENGINEER BATTALION, 133RD ORDNANCE & MAINTENANCE BATTALION, 575 AAA BATTALION, 602 and 705TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALIONS, 490ST and 492ND ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALIONS, HEADQUARTERS and HEADQUARTERS COMPANIES**. Roger would also like information on the following about the 11th ARMDD. In one small booklet about the **41ST TANK BATTALION**, by Major Knight, Cpl Benish and Sgt Zaher, it indicates that only three 41st tankers were reported MIA: **S/SGT WALLACE, ALEXANDER, T/4 EDWARD T. MATTESON, and PFC DAGE A. HEBERT**. In the official roster of the 11th ARMDD, it is indicated that S/Sgt Alexander was declared FOD and T/4 Matteson was KIA...but there is nothing about PFC Hebert. We know that Hebert was taken as a POW in Millomont (near Bastogne), but what happened to him? Write to Roger at: Fonds de Foret 67, B-4870 Trooz, Belgium.

**CHARLES BEDFORD, BRITISH 53RD WELSH INFANTRY DIVISION**, writes to see if any of the **84TH INFANTRY DIVISION** or **3RD ARMORED** who plan visits to "old battlefields," might be interested in meeting with the guys

of the 53rd Welsh Division. If so write to: E. S. Cheetham, Honorable Secretary of the 53rd Welsh Infantry, Inward Drive, Shevington, Wigan WN6 8HE, United Kingdom.

Juliette Mathieu-Rutten would like news of **CPL ADRIAN T. GILMORE, 1922ND ORDNANCE AM COMPANY, 9TH USAF-US ARMY**. Adrian was quartered in St-Trond/Belgium, after his unit had gone to Montdidier, France. He was from New York and attended Cornell University. Write to Juliette: %Stan C. Bellens, 4, Rue de la Trompette, B4680 Hermee, Belgium.

Gabrielle Sosset would like to hear something about **ROBERT "BOBBY" TOBER**, who she knew in the spring of 1945 in Andenne, Belgium. Bobby was from Illinois. Write to Gabrielle: %Stan C. Bellens, 4, Rue de la Trompette, B4680 Hermee, Belgium.

Paternotte Luc, who lives in Haccourt/Vise, Belgium, has a trench knife he would like to give back to its owner. On the leather sheath it says: **CPTN G. SCHECTER-53RD F.I.S.-40 HOSPITAL APO 403-UCAC**. Can you help? Write to Mr. Luc: %Stan C. Bellens, 4, Rue de la Trompette, B4680 Hermee, Belgium.

P. Wilson, representing the British Broadcasting Corporation, is seeking information regarding **JOSEPH MYER (MAYER, MEYER?), 28TH INFANTRY DIVISION**. The BBC project is to produce a documentary on several individuals who resided in the small Welsh village of Whitland during WWII. As Mr. Myer is an African American it is presumed that he served with the Services of Supply and could have seen operational duty in the BoB. If you can help write to FFLIC CYF, 1 Kings Road, Canton, Cardiff CF1 9BZ, Wales.

**LEONARD TRUPIANO, 692ND TANK DESTROYER BATTALION, COMPANY C**, would like to find any of his old buddies. They are: **PFC GEORGE KESELOFF** (California); **SGT VICTOR J. MURASKOS** (New Jersey); **SGT HARRY MANKO** (Pennsylvania); **SGT WILLIAM J. BERRY** (Alabama); **PFC JOHN GALASEO** (Rhode Island); **SGT ROGER M. SELLERS**; **SGT NEWMAN L. SKEENS** (Maryland); **PFC EDWARD J. WOJCIK**; and **PFC ROBERT B. FORTENBERRY** (with Reconnaissance Company). Write to Leonard at: PO Box 2421, Grass Valley, California 95945.

**HOWARD DOWNING, 108TH HEAVY ARTILLERY**, (may mean **28TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 108TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION**, is not too well and would like to hear from anyone who may remember him or **FRANK HAYES**. Write to Howard at: Route 3, Campton, New Hampshire 03223.



Sgt. Roy Dory



**RESERVATION FORM**  
**"REMEMBRANCE AND COMMEMORATION"**  
**OF THE 54TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE**  
**December 15 and 16, 1998**  
**Washington, DC**

Return form and check by December 4, 1998 to:  
 Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation  
 P.O. Box 2516, Kensington, MD 20895-0181

Dorothy Davis  
 Telephone: 301-881-0356

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

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

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

Battle of Bulge Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Spouse/Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

I/we will attend the following activities (please complete):

Number Attending

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1998**

12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m. Lunch, Cafe Brasserie (Payment is on your own)

\_\_\_\_\_

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1998**

11:00 a.m. Ceremonies: Tomb of the Unknown Soldier/VBOB Monument

\_\_\_\_\_

12:00 Noon Reception/Buffer hosted by VBOB, NCO Club, Fort Myer, Virginia

\_\_\_\_\_

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1998, BANQUET**

No. Persons

Cost/Person

Total

6:00 p.m. Commemorative Banquet  
 Galaxy Room, Sheraton Hotel

\_\_\_\_\_

\$42.00

\_\_\_\_\_

Please make your selections:

Main Course: ☐ Chicken Roulade with Apricot Sauce

OR

☐ Sliced Sirloin of Beef with Sauce Merlot

\*\*\*\*\*

Dessert: ☐ Black Forest Cheesecake with Cherry Rum Sauce

OR

☐ Fresh Fruit Plate

Total Amount Enclosed (Make check payable to BoBHF Commemoration)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Banquet Dress: Business suit/black tie/military dress uniform (miniature medals encouraged)

Table assignments for the Banquet will be on your name badge. If you wish to be seated with friends, please list their names:

**Reminders:**

Room reservations must be made by December 1, 1998 (Telephone: 1-800-468-9090)

Return completed Reservation Form by December 4, 1998 (Telephone: 1-301-881-0356)

No cancellation refunds after December 5, 1998.



**RESERVATION FORM**  
**"REMEMBRANCE AND COMMEMORATION"**  
**OF THE 54TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE**  
**December 15 and 16, 1998**  
**Washington, DC**

The Sheraton National Hotel (Columbia Pike and Washington Boulevard), Arlington, Virginia, has been selected as the site for activities commemorating the 54th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, December 15 and 16, 1998. This hotel is located only a few minutes from Arlington Cemetery and Fort Myer, and will provide accommodations for a reduced room rate of \$69, single or double occupancy. This rate is available for any night(s) between December 13 and December 17. For room reservations, please call the Sheraton National Hotel of Arlington (1-800-468-9090) by December 1, 1998. Mention that you are attending the Battle of the Bulge Banquet and events.

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1998**

- 11:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Registration/receive name badges (hotel lobby)
- 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Hospitality Room/Exhibits, scrapbooks. John Bowen and Earle Hart, Battle of the Bulge Historians, will be the hosts.
- 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. A private room in the Cafe Brasserie has been reserved for lunch for the Battle of the Bulge veterans (payment is on your own).

**BANQUET IN HOTEL GALAXY ROOM (Beautiful view of city lights)**

- 6:00 p.m. Social Hour/Cash Bar
- 7:00 p.m. Color Guard/Drummer and Fifers/Ceremonies
- 7:15 p.m. Dinner Served
- Program, including speaker
- After the Banquet Hospitality Room open

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1998**

- 11:00 a.m. Impressive ceremony and placing of wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns, Arlington National Cemetery
- 11:30 a.m. Ceremony of Remembrance, Battle of the Bulge Memorial
- 12:15 p.m. Buffet Luncheon, Hosted by VBOB, at the NCO Club Dining Room, Fort Myer, Virginia
- Swearing in of new VBOB officers. Comments by George Linthicum, VBOB President.
- 2:00 p.m. Farewell

This year, by popular request, there will be a choice of entree and a choice of dessert for the banquet. Please be sure to check your decision on the Registration Form.

**BANQUET MENU**

National Salad/Choice of Dressing  
Chicken Roulade with Apricot Glaze

**OR**

Sliced Sirloin of Beef with Sauce Merlot  
Twice-Baked Potatoes  
Stir-Fried Fresh Vegetables  
Mini-Baguettes and Butter  
Black Forest Cheesecake with Cherry Rum Sauce

**OR**

Fresh Fruit Plate  
Coffee/Selection of Teas  
Glass of Blush Wine with Dinner



# MORE 'ULTRA'

by Hervie Haufler  
6811th Signal Security Detachment

[For those of you who wrote regarding the *Ultra* article, we provide the following article which first appeared in the March, 1996, issue of *World War II* magazine. The copyrighted article is reprinted herewith for your information with the permission of the Cowles History Group, Inc.]

## Undercover

### Half a century after the end of World War II, the 'Ultra Americans' are finally piecing together their wartime story.

We know now that there were three units of us, some 436 Americans in all, assigned in Britain to Ultra, the code name for the military intelligence derived from deciphering the Germans' machine-encoded radio messages during World War II.

The 6811 Signal Security Detachment, bivouacked in a venerable English manor in Bexley, Kent, operated one of a network of intercept stations that listened in on German Morse code signals and subjected the five-letter code groups to a preliminary traffic analysis.

At Eastcote in Middlesex, the 6812th worked with a new array of "bombers," the computer-prototype devices developed by the British to help them determine the key settings for Germany's supposedly impregnable Enigma code machine.

The men of the 6813th were assigned to work directly with the British code-breakers at Bletchley Park (BP) in Buckinghamshire--the hub of the Ultra decrypting program.

Back then, though, the three detachments of "Ultra Americans" scarcely knew of each other's existence. This was because the whole Ultra effort was ruled by rigid adherence to the security policy of "need to know." So that no one individual could compromise more than a single segment of the whole, we who did the work learned only what we absolutely needed to know in order to perform our duties.

We followed our noses, doing our specialized tasks in the belief that maybe this message--or that one, or the one after that--might, when unscrambled, make all the difference for fellow GIs out there on the fighting front. The intercept team assiduously

processed the messages it received and passed them on via teletype--to what destination we did not know because we "did not need to know"--without ever learning whether they were eventually decoded. The bombe operators made their "hits," ascertaining the key setting for one Enigma rotor for that time period, but rarely glimpsing how their small individual victories fitted into a coherent whole. The Bletchley Park analysts concentrated on their assigned tasks without being filled in on the larger picture.

This blinkered secrecy did not end with the war. Before receiving our discharge papers we had to sign pledges we would not reveal or discuss our wartime duties. We took up civilian life with many questions about our time of service still unanswered.

It was not until 1974, 30 years later, that Ultra's wall of secrecy began to crumble. The first big revelation came with the publication of F. W. Winterbotham's *The Ultra Secret*. A Royal Air Force (RAF) group captain who had been high up in the hierarchy of British intelligence during the war, Winterbotham had, in retirement, set down his memories of how the British Ultra team, aided early on by clever Polish code experts, had solved the Enigma machine and deciphered its output.

He waxed his most eloquent in reporting the consequences of these decryptions. Ultra's reading of Hermann Goering's messages to the Luftwaffe, he claimed, were second only to radar in giving the RAF the advantage it needed to win the Battle of Britain. Ultra decryptions, Winterbotham reported, had been crucial in routing the U-boats and winning the Battle of the Atlantic, had reversed British fortunes against Rommel in North Africa and had turned the German airborne invasion of Crete into a ghastly Pyrrhic victory.

For us Ultra Americans, the group captain's book seemed to offer the affirmation that we had lacked for so long. Our exploits were play up on *60 Minutes*, and we saw ourselves as key contributors to winning the war. Unfortunately, we had to retreat from our giddy high. In relying on memory rather than official documents, Winterbotham had filled the account with egregious errors and extravagant overclaiming. Consequently, the picture he presented only superficially resembled the true picture of what went on at BP. In other words, *The Ultra Secret* was more apocrypha than gospel.

The result has been that his book touched off a spate of other accounts, a stream of emendations and new revelations that a half century later shows no sign of abating.

Winterbotham, for example makes no direct mention of American involvement in Ultra. That oversight was nicely corrected by Thomas Parrish in his 1986 book *The Ultra Americans*, subtitled *The U.S. Role in Breaking the Nazi Codes*.

Other books took up the task of correcting Winterbotham's mistakes. His book, for example, asserts that the Enigma was broken by--and suggests that the success of Ultra was entirely due to--superior British brainpower, mind over machine. Those at the heart of the cryptanalytic work at Bletchley Park knew better. One of them, Gordon Welchman, who later worked for an American firm, developing improved code systems for the Allies during the Cold War, found an American publisher for his book *The Hut Six Story*, referring to the temporary structure where the most secret German communications were unscrambled.

A main point of Welchman's book is that the British did not break the Enigma. Rather, they sought out German messages that had been compromised in some way and exploited those to gain access, briefly, to the rotor settings used by the Germans. Convinced of the

(Continued on Page 29)





## 'ULTRA'

(Continued from Page 28)

invulnerability of their machine, German operators became sloppy in its use. Welchman and his colleagues pounced on their gaffes and used them to limit the almost infinite permutations with which the bombs would otherwise have had to deal. His conclusion was that it was not so much British genius as German blunders that had made the Enigma vulnerable.

What happened next was described by Nigel West, in his book *The SIGINT Secrets*. The intelligence organizations both in Britain and in the United States teamed up against Welchman. They had been content with Winterbotham's generalities. Other nations, thinking that a decryption program necessitated the massing of mathematical brains and great banks of costly machinery, would, in their view, be discouraged from attempting to follow the Ultra example. But if these governments thought the whole game turned simply on taking advantage of errors, they might well plunge in. Welchman's book described all too specifically how it could be done. United States federal agents suspended Welchman's security clearance, making it impossible for him to continue his U.S. employment. The British banned publication of his book and brought criminal proceedings against him.

The harassment campaign aggravated a chronic heart condition and, according to West, led to Gordon Welchman's "premature death." Defiantly, West reiterated Welchman's point: "the Enigma machine was never broken." When used properly, he said, it could never be defeated.

In 1993 what is possibly the last word about Ultra's achievements became available. That is the careful account given by F. H. Hinsley, a central figure in Ultra cryptanalysis, in his introduction to the book he co-edited with Alan Stripp, *Codebreakers--The inside story of Bletchley Park*, a collection of memoirs by the men and women involved in Ultra. Hinsley's conclusion: Ultra certainly did not win the war, but it did shorten it, and it did save thousands of lives on both sides.

Books about Ultra continue to come off the presses. In *Seizing the Enigma*, David Kahn concentrates on the breaking of the U-boat codes. Bradley F. Smith's *The Ultra-Magic Deals* gives a detailed account of the "most secret special relationship" between Britain and the United States. *Ultra in the Pacific*, by John Winton, focuses on "what exactly the Allies did learn from Ultra in the Pacific War and to what use that knowledge was put.

As if these were not enough, there are all those latter-day revisionist histories of the war in which Ultra's role receives due recognition. Gerhard Weinberg's "global history" of *A World at Arms* massively details the Ultra input whenever it was a factor in the course of the war. In his 1989 history *The Second World War*, John Keegan expresses his view that Ultra "disclosed information of truly war-winning value to the Allies."

All of this fresh information and insight puts us Ultra Americans in a time warp. Only in the last couple of years have the buildings at Bletchley Park been saved from the developers' dozers to be converted into a Museum of Cryptography. An Enigma machine and brief accounts of Ultra have been added to the war time record on display at London's Imperial War Museum. ■

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**CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL TO  
SEE IF YOUR DUES ARE DUE.**

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Continued from Page 5)

From the earliest days when I was your Corresponding Secretary for three years, *The Bugle* has improved and matured into a first class publication. And under your stewardship it has blossomed even more.

But I am deeply troubled by a trend adopted/accepted by your staff, i.e., to publish articles nilly-wiley whether they are historically acceptable or not. To be specific, I refer to the growing number of authors who denigrate other units in the false hope of improving/coloring the military records of their own unit.

For a veteran to claim that his battalion/regiment/division was the best in the whole damned Army is fine. Each should believe that. It is called *esprit de corps*! But to have the notion that he can elevate or enhance the record of his unit by defaming or disparaging the fine record of another unit is not only demeaning; it is downright disgraceful.

Specifically, I refer to Mitchell Kaidy's article, "Who Really Liberated Bastogne?", on page 21 of the current issue. If Kaidy really believes that his 87th Infantry Division should get all the credit, OK. But to attempt to refute the written record of the "NAME ENOUGH" 4TH ARMORED DIVISION by stating publicly, with an iota of proof, that "Abe" Abrams' 37th Tank Battalion, assigned to CC-R, "accomplished little more than boosting morale in Bastogne" and further, "It broke through and made contact with some of the troopers"! This belies the fact that the 37th, along with "Jigger" Jacques' 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion, blasted their way through five heavily defended towns--Chaumont changed hands three times--and a determined and highly effective German 5th Parachute Division to break through into Bastogne at 1645 hours on December 26th. And yes, we did boost morale of the 101st as I can testify personally ("I wuz there!") since I led the relief column of some 200 trucks with medical supplies, doctors, ammunition and rations into the city at 0200 the next morning.

No members of the 4th Armored have ever defamed or disparaged any other unit, and we certainly could not have compiled our enviable combat record without the muchly appreciated assistance from neighboring units and fantastic logistical back-up.

Readers may wish to refresh their memories by re-reading my account of the *Relief of Bastogne* in the August 1995 issue of *The Bulge Bugle*.

Thomas D. Gillis  
4 ARMDD CC-R

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### MALMEDY REMEMBERED

Your recent story concerning ceremonies at the Malmedy Monument gave me sober thoughts of not only the brave soldiers and medics who were shot to death in the snow, but on December 19, 20 and 21 when our own U.S. Air Force bombed Malmedy. Taking the word of a sly German broadcast telling them that Malmedy was in German hands, they flew mission after mission.

Despite the orange bands we stretched across our half tracks and tanks, and despite getting no anti-aircraft fire, they never really checked, since they had fought fog for days. After the slaughter, over 300 civilians and Americans had died. The Town of Malmedy had only a Catholic Cathedral tower left standing. After December 19, I rejoined my 526th Armored Infantry Battalion in Stavelot, with the 30th Infantry Division, and the 5th Belgian Fusiliers.

So little has been credited to the fine men of the 30th Division. After our 526th Battalion had been chewed up by Col. Pieper's tanks, and my S/Sgt Jack Ellery had been killed trying to get more machine gun ammo, our squad split up. To avoid capture I hid in a dog house of a Belgian woman. The next morning the 30th freed me. (Only to send me to Malmedy!)

Norman F. Pihaly  
526 AIB A

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### OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

The Headquarters Office will be closed the day before and after Thanksgiving, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve Day, Christmas Day, and the week following Christmas. **HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL.**

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## REUNIONS

Received too late for last issue:

**3RD CAVALRY GROUP MECHANIZED, 3RD AND 43RD RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRONS**, September 4-6, 1998, Chicago, Illinois. Contact: George Hansen. Telephone: 630-983-6864.

**168TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION**, August 30-September 2, 1998, Leominster, Massachusetts. Contact: Dan McGuirl, 4207 Pin Oak Court, Durham, North Carolina 27707.

**529TH QMSR COMPANY**, September 11-13, 1998. Contact: Howard Schwartz, 134 Perrymount Road, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15237. Telephone: 412-366-0459.

**774TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION**, October 5-9, 1998, Nashville, Tennessee. Contact: Frank Kerzner. Telephone: 607-652-4292.

**987TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION**, September 22-24, 1998, Branson, Missouri. Contact: W. D. Crawford, Rt 1 Box 526A, Ore City, Texas 75683. Telephone: 903-968-6350.

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## BOOKS YOU MAY ENJOY

The following books were donated for our archives:

*Thunder on the Western Front*, by Thomas Russell G. Rice. The story is based on the true story of an army veteran who first served as a combat medic, and later as a combat infantryman. As a combat infantryman in spearheads of General Patton's Third Army, his armored infantry, and accompanying tank battalion were attached to numerous front line divisions in the liberation of Europe, from Normandy through the Ardennes, Rhineland, and on to victory in central Europe. As this is a novel, no units are named other than armies and corps. Order from: Thomas Russell G. Rice, PO Box 1100, Dunnsville, Virginia 22454. Cost of \$19.00 including postage and handling.

*The Rise of Fascism in Europe*, by George P. Blum. This book is a readable history and ready reference guide to the rise of fascism and the forces that brought about World War II. An introductory essay presents the most recent scholarship in a clear overview of the development of fascism in Germany and Italy. Additional essays analyze the crucial aspects of the history of fascism--from the fascists' seizure of power in Italy and Germany, to the economy and society of these nations to the resistance to these governments. A concluding essay assesses the impact and legacy of Hitler and Mussolini and discusses fascism in other countries. Ready reference features include a chronology of events, lengthy biographical profiles of 15 key figures, the text of 15 key primary documents, a glossary of selected terms, and a bibliographical essay. Order from: Greenwood Publishing Group, Inc., PO Box 5007, Westport, Connecticut 06881-5007. Please refer to the following number: ISBN 0-313-29934-X. Cost is \$43.95, including shipping and handling.

*The Lion's Share: A Story of the Battle of the Bulge*, by Donald J. Young. This book makes use of recently published revelations on the Battle of the Bulge. These new reports give an amazing new twist to the story of Germany's massive breakthrough in the Ardennes region of north central Europe. (See paid advertisement elsewhere in this issue.)

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## BATTLE OF THE BULGE REENACTMENT EXPANDED

The 54th Anniversary Reenactment Commemoration of the Battle of the Bulge, sponsored by The Federation, has been expanded to four days starting on Wednesday, January 27, 1999, and concluding on Sunday, January 31, 1999. The Bulge Reenactment will be held at the Fort Indiantown Gap Military Reservation in Pennsylvania. The commemoration will consist of static displays of vintage WWII equipment, armored vehicles and other equipment both Allied and German, a display of both American and Germans in authentic World War II barracks, a flea market of WWII memorabilia, a dedication of a monument to Bulge Veterans on Friday, and a Bulge tactical reenactment that will be viewable on Saturday. Both the Allied and German reenactors do such a wonderful job of transforming their barracks back 50 years that it is a delight to visit and talk with them.

This is always a fun time for Bulge veterans who will stay in the original WWII barracks on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights or any combination thereof. These barracks have been modernized with new latrines and heating systems however the sleeping accommodations are in single GI bunks in open bays on the first or second floor, as you will recall from your basic training days. For Bulge veterans who have attended in past years, this has become a special event for the camaraderie and fun of reliving those barracks days of over 50 years ago without the hassle that went with them. Last year we had over 125 veterans in three barracks. Each veteran is assured a single or lower bunk.

Many asked if the event couldn't be longer. This year it has been extended from Wednesday through Sunday. You do not have to come for all four days but for those who enjoy the hospitality and the camaraderie you can pick as many days as you like. The reenactors (over 1200 last year) are especially grateful for the presence of the veterans, giving an opportunity to be appreciated for the sacrifices made those many years ago.

Lodging for four nights or any part, including Saturday breakfast and dinner with entertainment, is \$45 and can't be beat.

There is now a women's barracks for the hearty. Also, there are nearby hotel accommodations for those that still have nightmares about their barracks days. The women's barracks is an open bay, so you will need to explain that to your spouse.

On Friday, there will be a massed formation of reenactors in WWII garb for the dedication of the monument to Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. This should be a beautiful sight in itself in that the Army today has trouble amassing as many troops for a commemoration ceremony. On Saturday during the day, the actual reenactment in the field will take place in an area where veterans will be able to view parts of the battles.

A number of Chapters and Divisional Associations are sending contingents to this year's event at the Gap. Maybe your outfit would like to get a group together, rent a bus or van or car-pool among friends. This is a great weekend!

Send a stamped, self addressed #10 (long) envelope to John D. Bowen, MD/DC Chapter VBOB, 613 Chichester Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20904-3331, for a registration form and further details. For questions, call 301-384-6533. The Fort Indiantown Gap Reservation is about 21 miles north of Harrisburg outside Annsville and is serviced by the Harrisburg Airport. Pickups at the airport can be arranged. See you there!



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November 1998

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