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**VETERANS OF THE
BATTLE OF THE BULGE,
INC.
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**CONTACT THE CHAPTER IN YOUR AREA.
YOU WILL BE GLAD YOU DID.**

**IF YOU FIND YOU HAVE A LITTLE TIME,
WRITE TO VBOB AND WE'LL SEND YOU THE
NECESSARY TOOLS TO GET OFF TO A
GOOD START IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A
CHAPTER IN YOUR AREA.**

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

President's Message

In comparison to the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the history of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge is a rather recent one.

In 1981, our Founder, Clyde D. Boden, an artillery officer during the Bulge, met with two or three veterans in the Virginia area for lunch. After their first meeting, they decided to meet occasionally for lunch to discuss mutual interests. Gradually they included others who had been in the war in Europe and who lived in the Virginia/Maryland area. Soon they found that their numbers were approaching 20 or 30 and at that time Clyde Boden voiced the possibility of expanding on a national basis.

From those humble beginnings, the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc., now has 68 chapters throughout the United States, comprising 8,000 members.

We have a national reunion yearly, which this year will be held in Orlando, Florida, in late September. In addition, on the eve of the battle on December 16th, we hold a banquet in the Washington, D.C., area at a prominent hotel, which is attended by our members, dignitaries from Luxembourg and Belgium, high ranking officers from the Pentagon and other special guests. The next day, we have an impressive ceremony, sponsored by the U.S. Army Old Guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns. This is followed by a ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery at the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Monument. A luncheon immediately following concludes the two-day affair. A bus tour of Washington, D.C., historic sites, including the Vietnam Memorial, the Korean Memorial can also be arranged for our out-of-town guests. We urge all of you to attend our December ceremonies. You will not be disappointed.

On June 6, 2001, Past President Robert Van Houten, his wife Beverley and I travelled to Bedford, Virginia, to witness the dedication of the Normandy D-Day Memorial. Approximately 21 soldiers, including two sets of brothers from Bedford who were members of the 29th Infantry Division were killed on Omaha Beach. President George W. Bush and Governor Jim Gilmore headed up the delegation along with 21,000 in attendance.

The Bedford National Memorial is without a doubt one of the most unique and impressive structures I have ever seen. It attempts to recreate the landings at Omaha Beach on D-Day, including the landing craft, a Higgins boat, six foot bronze figures of soldiers lying wounded and dead on the beach, some assaulting the cliffs and one soldier actually on top of the cliff. These are all life-sized figures. It is a memorial display that every American should see.

Nancy Monson, our "Jack-of-all-Trades" Administrator tells me that thus far 80 persons have registered for our September reunion in Orlando. This is an excellent return at this early date and we expect at least 400 to attend. Since the number of rooms available is limited, early registration is a must.



John Dunleavy

In May, 2001, we gave a talk on tank warfare at the Freedom Museum, Nokesville, Virginia, which was attended by 750 people. The Freedom Museum, which contains more than 60 military vehicles, including tanks and half tracks, is open to the general public. These armored vehicles operate over many acres of open fields in Nokesville and are well maintained and in good working order. Many VBOB members and former servicemen of Korea and Vietnam were in attendance. This non-profit military display of tanks is open to the public on a daily basis. You can arrange for tours by calling 703-827-0736 or 703-594-3030.

John E. McAuliffe, a retired dentist, who served in the Bulge as a member of a mortar squad with the 347th Infantry Regiment, has served our organization for many years as president of the Central Massachusetts Chapter.

After many months of appealing to the Massachusetts Senate, he was successful in obtaining legislation that will officially name the new Massachusetts Turnpike Interchange in Worcester, the "Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Interchange." Dr. McAuliffe is not the kind of person who easily takes NO for an answer and is determined and persistent to get things done.

As I have said before, ours is a proud organization. We have earned our pay, so put on your campaign hats, throw out your chest, be proud, and let's make our reunion in Orlando, Florida, a great one. Sign up today before you forget!

Stay well!

MISSISSIPPI CHAPTER ASKS: WHO WILL STAND IN OUR PLACE?

JAMES HUNT, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, 18TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, COMPANY K, has advised us of a new and novel idea to insure that the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc., endures for many years into the future in an effort that the Ardennes Campaign is never forgotten.

Each member of the Mississippi Chapter has designated (as an associate member) someone who will represent them when they are no longer able to do so themselves.

If every member would do this, the Battle of the Bulge can continue in perpetuity as does the Daughters (Sons) of the American Revolution. ■

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'MESS' ON THE FRONT

I'm writing in reference to Dale Carver of the 106th Infantry Division in the May issue on his poem "Kitchen Trucks." I know he meant no ill-will; however, it upset me a little.

I was the mess sergeant of C Battery, 482nd Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion GP attached to CCR of the 9th Armored Division and our "mess truck was never miles to the rear."

I'm writing this in honor of my five cooks, two of them were wounded in Bastogne. They came back to the outfit as the war ended, we were in Leipzig—one was minus his trigger finger on his right hand.

In our basic training when we were going to cooks and mess sergeants school, we were told we were soldiers first, then cooks, and that was proven at Longvilly.

C Battery, and CCR, along with many others, were trapped on Longvilly road, it was the first time my cooks had fired their carbines at a German soldier and the first time I ever fired my fifty caliber ring mount in combat. So, we weren't miles to the rear.

We shot our way out and made it to Bastogne, with our kitchen truck, our C Battery guys that were trapped at Longvilly began to trickle in, they escaped the trap by one's and two's.

My captain and his jeep driver made it in, but C Battery was pretty well decimated.

This was before the 101st Paratroopers arrived and my captain wanted eight men for a patrol, one of my cooks and myself stepped forward, there wasn't any one else.

No one knew how close the Krauts were, none of us were trained for this but our captain would lead us, and that was good enough for me.

We went out a couple of miles and ran into the Krauts, after a brief fire fight, we withdrew without a scratch, but coming back my captain was hit quite badly by shrapnel. He didn't make it back till the war's end, our executive officer took over.

Our kitchen truck was parked in the town square of Bastogne. We cooked until we used all our rations. We fed any GI from any outfit that came by. Our executive officer found 15 smoked hams in a store, so we fed everyone ham.

The 101st got into Bastogne, we were happy to see those guys. I want to say, those paratroopers were the bravest men I've ever seen around.

Being around the 101st helped me make it. I never thought of running, but they helped to settle me down.

My biggest fear wasn't of the German soldiers. I was afraid of getting killed and so far from home. They were a cool bunch of guys. I asked one guy when he jumped off the truck was he was going to do without a rifle. He said he would take one off a dead Kraut. I thought that was pretty cool.

The paratroopers gave us a crash course in infantry. To this day I hold the highest respect for these men, nothing ever scared them, they were tough but still nice guys.

I know the feeling when your heart stops beating as I aimed my carbine at a German soldier, squeezed the trigger and saw him go down.

Being in a barn to warm up, when three Kraut tanks opened up with machine guns, and orange tracers are flying until the paratroopers knocked out all three with bazookas.

I know the feeling of emptying a full clip in my carbine at a German plane strafing my foxhole.

None of this would have happened to me and my cooks if our kitchen truck was miles to the rear.

I think the infantry and the tankers had it the roughest, but they needed the artillery, as well as the quartermaster, the Red Ball Express and the kitchen trucks.

After the war ended, before we went to Munich, we were camped on the Blue Danube River bank near Eining, Germany.

On Memorial Day, 1945, the battalion was together for the first time since Utah Beach. We paid tribute to our buddies we had lost in action and had a full dress parade in their honor. All the cooks, myself included, marched with the battery. We used to have excuses for things when we were stateside, but we all knew that this was an honor that comes only once in a life time. All the cooks kept in step while marching.

I know the 106th Infantry Division lost a lot of men (two regiments), but it wasn't because of the kitchen trucks being miles to the rear.

After we crossed the Rhine, one day my kitchen truck was ahead of the infantry, we were behind a Sherman tank. We came upon a POW camp and the guards had fled. The tank rammed the gate, the men were skinny as heck, but all they wanted was cigarettes.

Charles A. Sklenar
482 AAA AW BN SP C

GRATITUDE EXPRESSED

I would like to tell all veterans what a young man came up to me and said. I was getting gas in Crystal Lake, Illinois, when a fellow saw my 9th Armored jacket (73rd Field Artillery) and said I would like to thank you for what you did for me. I was also at a reunion in Illinois when a young man came over and said, "Were you with the 9th?" I said, "We were there." He replied thanks for saving my country.

I was also in Branson, Missouri and had my 9th Armored jacket on when this captain said thanks. (He was in uniform.) This is for all veterans. Thanks.

Bill Strauss
9 ARMDD 73 AFA BN

GENERAL EDDY DESERVES MORE CREDIT

It was a pleasure to read in your May issue the review of General Phillips' book about General Eddy, by Harold Raugh, Jr. I agree that General Eddy deserves a lot more credit than he has ever received.

My original orders to active duty assigned me to the 90th Infantry Division at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, I later moved to Headquarters, XII Corps, at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina, and remained with them until the end of the war.

Other Corps moved in and out of Third Army but XII and XX Corps were always part of Third Army in Europe from England to Austria. Right after our capture of the City of Orleans, France, our commander General Cook was hospitalized and General Eddy took over on 17 August 1944. We staged on the south flank of Third Army during the dash across France. We waited six weeks in Nancy for supplies to catch up and then proceeded up the Saar Basin.

On December 20, we turned our position over to the Seventh Army and headed for Luxembourg to hit the south flank of the Bulge. On December 26 the 4th Armored Division, part of XII Corps, drove into Bastogne to break the siege of the 101st Airborne Division.

The night of 21 March, troops of XII Corps crossed the Rhine without a shot being fired until they were two miles on the other side. We then captured Frankfurt and headed northeast. On 10 April, 1945, the 90th Division, part of VII Corps, captured the salt mine at Merkers, with its store of art, money and records. As noted General Eddy had to leave us shortly afterwards.

In my opinion, he should be recognized as a very important reason for the success of the Third Army in Europe.

A. V. Allen
XII CORPS HQ

ATTACKING THE MESSENGER

Howard Peterson, 4th Armored, 51st Armored Infantry Battalion, had a field day in the May 2001 issue in which he criticized Professor Jerome Long, Joseph Quatman and me for articles in the previous issue. His technique was as much personal attack as opposing the text of our articles. One is reminded of Irving Berlin's World War I song about the proud mother watching her son in the victory parade and exclaiming loudly that they were all out of step except her Johnny.

The personal references to the writers demonstrates another technique. If you don't like the message—or if you can't understand the message—then attack the messenger.

Turning first to Professor Long's well written and factual article, Mr. Peterson hits Long with the statement that General Eisenhower was responsible for the calculated risk. Mr. Peterson's language gives the reader the impression that Professor Long had claimed otherwise. Professor Long wrote about and quoted General Bradley, not General Eisenhower. This writing technique is known as the "When did you stop beating your wife?" question.

(Continued on next page)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Peterson writes "Prof. Long's vitriol is laced with maybes, could, should, ifs and might with nothing to back up what he writes." First, "vitriol" is sulfuric acid. The term "vitriol" is intended to influence the reader whom he thinks will not return to read the article. The fact is that Long's article is neither bitter nor scathing. But a false charge that Long's article is "vitriol" damages Prof. Long to the point of being libelous as an "evil, harmful or untrue" statement.

The charge that Long's article "is laced with maybes, could, should, ifs and might" is designed to influence the reader that Long's writing is vague, not factual. In my review of the more than 800 words in Long's article, I could not find a single "maybe" nor "could" nor "should" nor "might." I found the word "if" twice and one of these was in a quotation by General Bradley. Long used "if" to speculate that Peiper could have done IF he had captured the fuel dump at Stavelot—a quite proper speculation that other researchers have made.

In my case, my article consisted of quotations from the official U.S. Army history of World War II concerning the intelligence failure. Mr. Peterson chose to tell me there was more than "two selected pages" which I find demeaning. His purpose is to make the reader believe I opened the book at random and selected two of the 720 pages. He suggested I read pages 35 and 55 which cover German troops and terrain and which, of course, I had read because they immediately precede the two pages I selected, pages that confirm the intelligence failure.

Intellectuals have a right to resent being given a homework assignment by Mr. Peterson.

As stated, the quotations I submitted concerned the intelligence failure. In his attack on me, Mr. Peterson cleverly failed to include the information that my entire quotation is in a section of the U.S. Army history which has a clear heading "The Intelligence Failure." Perhaps he should aim his shots at historian Hugh Cole, the editor and the nine member advisory committee responsible for approving this "Intelligence Failure" heading for the text I quoted.

Mr. Peterson criticizes Mr. Quatman for indicting the breakout date of the German attack was "in dispute." I cannot speak for Mr. Quatman's intent. He may be referring to the fact that historians report Hitler originally planned a November date for the attack to begin.

Mr. Peterson's objections to our articles and the scenario he writes indicate his strong belief there was no intelligence failure. His claim that "ULTRA intercepts pertaining to the offensive were almost non-existent" is simply not true. On page 50, which Peterson insisted I should study, Hugh Cole writes, "Radio traffic was increased commensurate with the [German] troop concentration."

Charles B. MacDonald, who was on the staff with Cole and who wrote *The Last Offensive* volume of the history, addresses this in *A Time for Trumpets*, which he wrote after retiring from the historical staff. On page 65, Mac writes, "Meanwhile, ULTRA was continuing to feed the intelligence officers a steady diet of intercepted messages...." He cites the subjects of more than 30 messages intercepted and decoded before the German attack.

On page 78, MacDonald writes, "Yet, ULTRA and many another intelligence source had provided a lot of information, that properly interpreted and mixed with other material should have told Eisenhower, Bradley, Hodges, Middleton and Gerow what was about to hit them."

How do you answer that?

MacDonald reports: "Allied intelligence officials had committed the most grievous sin of which a G-2 is capable. They had 'looked in the mirror for the enemy and had seen there only the reflection of their own intentions.'" (page 79, *A Time for Trumpets*)

There are other researchers and authors who have made the same charges of intelligence failure. In fact, a friend of mine has made his major research the collecting of German messages which should have warned our high command of the coming attack.

Which causes wonder why Mr. Peterson incorrectly claims the lack of ULTRA messages.

Before writing any more objections, Mr. Peterson should read and study CMH Publication 72-76 titled *Ardenne-Alsace*, by Roger Cirillo, which is part of The U.S. Army Campaigns of World War II series published by the U.S. Army Center of the Military History. This pamphlet reports on the intelligence failure (pages 56-61) and describes the action, inaction and personalities of the intelligence officers of the commands involved.

Mr. Peterson claims the commanders and G2's were on top of the

German military situation. He would do well to explain why there were so many American Army leaders absent from their units on December 16—in the United States, England, Paris.

I recognize the editor of *The Bulge Bugle* simply cannot research every letter received in order to establish accuracy and truthfulness. An editorial disclaimer does not neutralize the damage done since most readers are not willing or may not be in a position to recognize and research malicious charges.

Dee Paris
9 ARMDD 14 TK BN

MORE SURVIVED

Referring to the statement by William Dudas on page 10 of the May 2001 issue of *The Bugle*, I am sure there are more than three men will alive from G Company, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division who fought in the Bulge.

I entered service at Dearborn, Michigan, and after basic training, joined G Company shortly after the St. Lo debacle (where our own air force bombs fell short), as a member of the weapons platoon. I was with G Company through Brest, the six weeks duty out of Paris, the pull back through Rocherath and Krinkelt to Elsenborn Ridge and the action that followed. I was eventually wounded near Gemund, Germany, on 4 March 1945, and evacuated to a general hospital, near Cherbourg, France.

I was in constant contact with our platoon leader Lt. John Wheeler until he passed away last year. However, I am fairly certain there is one member of my platoon still in the Detroit area, one in Wisconsin and another in Texas.

Ralph E. Wilder
2 INF 38 INF G

REPPLE DEPPE REMEMBERED

The Repple Deppe article (February issue) brought back many memories of the time I spent in a Normandy Depot during the latter part of June and early July 1944.

[Syd requests some information regarding same in the "Members Speak Out" column.]

The Bulge Bugle is the greatest. You and your staff do a superb job. Thank you.

Sydney O. Johnson
3 ARMDD 83 RECON BN

A BROOKLYN HOMECOMING

On September 25, 1945, after numerous discharge procedures at Camp Upton, New York, I boarded the railroad and arrived at Penn Station in New York City, to resume my civilian life.

I walked out of the station onto 34th Street, Manhattan, and hailed a taxicab. The driver stopped and shouted, "Where to, soldier?" I replied, "Brooklyn." Without comment, he drove off.

I tried hailing several more taxicabs with the same results. Finally, one driver stopped and explained to me that because of a gasoline shortage, he only made short trips within the Borough of Manhattan.

Then I suddenly realized that the shortage was partially caused by the famous Red Ball Express (in which many men of the 26th Division participated) delivering all that gasoline to General Patton's tanks.

How ironic! So much for the influence of a uniform.

I then walked down the subway stairs on 34th Street, deposited a nickel (yes, a nickel) into the turnstile and boarded a train to Brooklyn.

At last I arrived home to see my newly-born son for the first time and I have been thanking God ever since.

Philip Leibrock
26 INF 104 INF 2 BN HQ

MORE FOR THE LOST BATTALION

In your article on the "Lost Battalion" in the May, 2001, issue, you list three active members of the VBOB who served with the 551st. I served with the 551st, B Company, 3rd Platoon, from the beginning to the end and was also a charter member of the Blanchard Valley Chapter of the VBOB, but was not mentioned.

(Continued on next page)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

After the 551st was dissolved, I served with I Company, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, until the end of the war.

Arnel Robinson
82 ABND 505 PIR 3 BN I

[Editor: I screwed up. We searched the computer for those who listed their units as the 551st and we should have searched also for those who listed the 82nd Airborne first. We missed quite a few and we apologize to all of you.]

MAP ERROR

I am writing in response to an article in the May 2001 edition written by Bernard W. Lyon, 84th Infantry Division, 335th Infantry, Headquarters, regarding a map error of Marche, Belgium.

The 84th Infantry was put in the gap to stop the German Panzer units from reaching Liege, Belgium, and the fuel dumps near town.

The allies held the sides but nobody was in front, but us, the 84th Infantry. As we moved into Marche the 335th Infantry dug deep foxholes on the crest of the hills just outside of Marche. They dug one deep for me, as I was the forward observer from the 909th Field Artillery, 84th Division, assigned to the 335th Infantry to shoot artillery for them and also direct fire from other artillery units in the division's artillery if needed.

We dug in and waited for the Tiger tanks to come at us. In a few hours they came. A line of tanks a mile long with some infantry with them. They were trying to get through the pass into Marche. I started shooting artillery, 105 and 155 shells, at the first tanks along with another forward observer on the opposite side of the pass. We did get them stopped in the pass. Some tanks were on fire, others were disabled enough to block the pass. There the Tiger tanks fanned out over the floor of the valley in front of us and started shooting at us.

During the first 24 hours, the 909th Field Artillery fired over 400 rounds of ammunition at the tanks and held them out of town. We continued to fire at the tanks in the valley, day and night. During the night on the third or fourth day, the German infantry climbed up the hill and dug foxholes 200 yards in front of us over the crest of the hill. They would fire on us with sniper rifles. I did try to hit them with artillery but they were too close to us. These German infantry troops were within 400 yards of the first houses of Marche, Belgium, that's how close they got to the town.

The Panzer units were stopped with artillery fire and some very brave soldiers in the 335th Infantry, 84th Division.

Robert Fowler, Jr.
84 INF 909 FA BN

SALUTE TO THE FIELD ARTILLERY

To all field artillery units of all caliber size guns, I'm proud to say, "I salute you all." With out question it also goes for all combatants who participated in the Battle of the Bulge—I salute you.

Remember what was achieved was by ordinary young men. They were ordinary young men. They were from farms and cities and accomplished the unexpected.

Stand tall, sound off and say, "I am a proud veteran of the Battle of the Bulge."

Good health and happiness to all vets.

Edward M. Graffeo
731 FA BN

THANKS TO LT. RICHARD DURKEE

It was a nice story you wrote in the newsletter. After all these years someone put my name in the newsletter. Thanks. As long as I live I'll never forget what went on in the war.

Thomas V. Trengrove
82 ABND 517 REG H

EXAGGERATIONS?

It was good to hear from Marvin Mischnick, of the 3rd Armored Division (May issue). The 3rd Armored and my own outfit, the 2nd Armored Division, often worked closely together in 1944-45. Before becoming 3rd Armored commander, General Maurice Rose, headed a 2nd Armored

combat command. The two First Army tank divisions helped engineer the St. Lo breakthrough and raced across France into Belgium side-by-side. After the Rhine crossing in March 1945, they encircled the Ruhr industrial area, then tore across Germany to cross the Elbe River three weeks before V-E Day.

In the Battle of the Bulge, the 2nd and 3rd Armored fought side-by-side during January, 1945. Flanked by the 83rd and 84th Divisions, we pushed through deep snow and ice against a dug-in German defense line. After two weeks, we met Patton's forces at Houffalize; we had advanced 15 miles south from Manhay while the Third Army was moving 9 miles north from Bastogne.

Mr. Mischnick is correct to point out that Patton's role in certain allied operations of 1944-45 may have been exaggerated in some media accounts. In the Ardennes battle, the whole thrust of Hitler's counteroffensive was toward the west and northwest—away from Patton's area. After all, Hitler's stated aim was to punch through First Army lines, wheel to the north, and take Antwerp; Third Army forces on the German left flank were to be held off with infantry.

According to the official U.S. Army historian, not until late December did Patton encounter "panzers and divisions in numbers comparable to those that had been pressing against the northern shoulder for the previous ten days (Ardennes-Alsace 1944-45, U.S. Army Center of Military History). Some of these crucial battles on the northern shoulder of the Bulge were described in the last issue of *The Bugle* (May, 2001, "Saga of the 99th Infantry Division" and cover story of the 551st Parachute Infantry Battalion.

Bob Bragdon
Non-member

CONTRADICTIONS, CONTRADICTIONS

I always look forward to *The Bulge Bugle*. I read it over time after time.

Most of the stories are fine and most likely just like it happened. But you know what gets me most? The contradictions to the contradictions to the contradictions—no end.

[One of these days] I'm going to write you a good one—truth but a bit funny. Keep up the good work.

Kenneth W. Coffey
30 INF 113 FA BN C

PURPLE HEART BATTALION

With all due respect for their valor and casualties, the 551st Parachute Infantry Battalion was not the first to be called "The Lost Battalion." It was preceded during the Vosges (France) October-November 1944 when 275 (211 Texans) of the 1st Battalion, 141st Regiment, were cut off from their 36th Infantry Division. At a loss of 814 casualties, they were rescued by the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team to be later called "The Purple Heart Battalion."

Their heroism, as one of the most decorated in WWII, is attested by the awards of 23 Medals of Honor; 52 Distinguished Crosses; 560 Silver Stars; 28 Silver Stars with Oak Leaf Clusters; 4,000 Bronze Stars; 1,200 Bronze Stars with Oak Leaf Clusters; 9,486 Purple Hearts; 7 Presidential Unit Citations and 7 major campaigns in Italy, France and Germany.

A tribute to the patriotism of these Americans of Japanese Ancestry who fought while their families were relocated to internment camps during the war.

John K. Kingsley
774 TK BN A

PHANTOM DIVISION

I have just read the article written by David Saltman and he mentioned the defense of St. Vith by the 7th Armored Division and a regiment of the 106th Division.

First General Bradley in his memoirs did not recognize our involvement and now David. I guess that is why we were called the Phantom Division. No one seems to know where we fought.

For the record, on 16 December, Combat Command B of the 9th Armored Division left St. Vith. Our mission was to get to the Rohr dam and protect the dam so the Germans could not flood the area where allied troops were. On the way, we ran into the beginning of the German

(Continued on next page)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

assault and were ordered back to St. Vith. We arrived at St. Vith on the afternoon of the 16th. Except for the 106th Infantry Division, we were the only other troops there, I believe. Because two regiments of the 106th were surrounded and then surrendered, it was necessary to bring in additional troops to deny St. Vith to the enemy and so on the afternoon of the 17th, one Combat Command of the 7th arrived and the rest of the division arrived on the 18th. It is my recollection that we finally lost St. Vith at 9:30 p.m. on the 20th of December.

Because of problems in communicating with General Bradley's headquarters, the defense of St. Vith was transferred over to General Montgomery's command. We, CCB of the 9th Armored Division, fought alongside the 7th from the 16th and from the time of their arrival until the early morning of 24 December, when General Montgomery ordered us out of the Bulge saying there was no more we could do. He also said, "A job well done."

We have always felt that we should have received the Presidential Citation for the defense of St. Vith but I guess that would be impossible since apparently we were not even there. However, being ignored by so many really hurts all of us who fought so well there against much superior forces and helped to hold St. Vith for so long and refused to either surrender or cede ground without a struggle.

I think I speak for every soldier of the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion, the 14th Tank Battalion, the 16th Armored Field Artillery Battalion, the 89th Reconnaissance Battalion and assorted attached units that we are proud of our defense of St. Vith. Maybe in a few years the historians will even deny that the CCB of the 9th Armored Division actually captured the bridge at Remagen.

Harold Trethaway
9 ARMDD 16 AFA BN A

AN ERROR ON THE MAP

The May 2001 issue letter by Bernard W. Lyon, of the 84th Division, pointed out the error of including the Town of Marche in German hands during the Bulge. This mistake was made by the newspaper *Stars and Stripes*, which showed Marche as being occupied by the Germans when the 84th Division entered the town. I was with the 638th Tank Destroyer Battalion, attached to the 84th, when we were suddenly ordered to leave Ninth Army to reinforce the Bulge in Belgium.

Upon our arrival in town, I met General Bolling, the 84th Division commander, and we had a brief chat regarding the location of the opposing German forces, which the general wished to plot on his map in the division command post. I told him the mission of our reconnaissance company and said I would try to reach them on the large radio in my half-track vehicle. He said he would be grateful for any information and invited me to come to the Division CP when I had anything to report. I tried in vain to make radio contact with the Recon company in the bitter cold weather of the Ardennes but my FM radio failed to reach them. I realized the importance of the general's request and stayed awake until 6:00 a.m. trying to make contact, without success. In the meantime, German artillery found us and shelled the town so heavily that the division headquarters pulled back, leaving the infantry and tank destroyers to defend this important communications hub.

Several days later, still in Marche, I was in a jeep with my driver going up a hill and stopped to ask a question of an infantryman at the top. The doughboy waved at me frantically and told me to get away from that intersection fast as a tank on the opposite ridge line had the hilltop under observation. I vaulted out of the jeep, told my driver to go down the opposite side of the hill fast, and headed for the shelter of the nearby trees. Seconds later a tank shell, meant for my jeep, lost its target and exploded on the opposite side of the hill. That infantryman saved my life.

David Saltman
638 TD BN

PANZER DIVISION THWARTED

Some time ago *The Bulge Bugle* printed an article by Hal Boyle AP war correspondent, entitled "2nd Armored Saved American Armies from Being Cut in Two." The article refers to the five-day battle--December 24-28, 1944--in which the 2nd Armored prevented the German 2nd Panzer Division from reaching the Neuse River by destroying it. The 2nd Panzer

had spearheaded the Germans' 60-mile advance into Belgium.

I am enclosing two items [located elsewhere in this issue, entitled "2nd Armored Division"] related to that article. They are a copy of a letter of commendation from General Courtney H. Hodges, commanding, First United States Army, to General Ernest Harmon, commanding, 2nd Armored Division, and a copy of an excerpt of a text of a Presidential Citation awarded to the 1st Battalion, 41st Armored Infantry Regiment, 2nd Armored Division. I served as a first gunner in the 81 mm mortar platoon mentioned in the citation.

Russ Zeleniak
2 ARMDD 41 AIR 1 BN HQ&HQ

WE WATCHED THE AIRPLANES DROP SUPPLIES

Thank you so much for letting me know about the Virginia Museum of Military.

I was trapped in the Battle of the Bulge at Marcairey, Belgium, for over two weeks. This town was a short distance from Bastogne. We watched the airplanes drop supplies to them. Our General Rose tried to drop supplies to us but everything fell into German hands.

Finally, we all got together and decided to escape single file back to our lines. We blacked our faces with soot from the fireplaces, threw our steel helmets away and broke our tommy guns down as small as we could.

We started out one early morning and stayed in the woods and after about 14 hours of steady marching, we came upon the 104th Infantry Division. What a happy day. They said this news was flashed all around the world.

My wife had two M.P.'s come to her father's home where she was staying and tell her that I was mission in action.

I was wounded five times, nothing really serious--5 Purple Hearts, 5 Battle stars, and "lo and behold," the Good Conduct Medal!

I still have my uniform and I have given talks to all the schools in my area about what war was really like. Maryland Public TV came to my house and did a series of articles about the war. They took me down to Baltimore to give me a chance to tell some of my story about what war is like.

Charles C. MacIntyre
3 ARMDD 54 FA BN C

THEY DIDN'T SHOOT US ON THE SPOT

Enclosed find my check to cover current membership dues reinstatement. I was a member many years ago and was disillusioned on your national chapter and never received a member card or *Bugle* copy at that time. It seemed you only knew me when you wanted my money.

During WWII, I was a combat infantry grunt with Company A, 110th Regiment, 28th Infantry Division and was a POW--captured on December 16th on a recon-patrol across the Our River from the Germans when they started the Bulge drive just before dawn. There were only nine of us on the patrol, and after a short fire fight and no support from our outfit (three miles behind) against their artillery and tanks. We were surprised they didn't kill us on the spot.

Ray C. Bernas
28 INF 110 INF A

[All I can say is, I'm sorry. Years ago this organization ran on a volunteer basis and many times the workload was overwhelming. If you have problems this time, just drop us a note--we'll be happy to fix it.]

IMPRESSIVE

I was impressed with the February 2001 issue of *The Bulge Bugle*. The overall selection of articles and battle incidents was exceptionally good! Keep it up.

Dick Rogers
215 FA BN

[Thanks, Dick. We try.]

THE CHURCH IN KALTERHERBURG

This is response to George Nicklin's account of the Battle of the Bulge ("Lone Prophet"), especially with respect to the church in Kalterherburg with the door ajar and snow inside.

(Continued on next page)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Continued from page 5)

I was with light weapons Company G, 47th Infantry Regiment, 9th Division and had just got back from the hospital in St. Lo on December 12th in the vicinity of Monschau. We moved out on the night of the 17th and marched to Eupon and on to Kalterherburg on the 18th with cold rain changing to snow. The tanks were mired down. We held the north tip until December 30 and were in Kalterherburg in a house across the street from the church. I drew a picture of the church from an attic window three houses from the church (no roof on the house) on the 31st of December. [See sketch elsewhere in this issue, entitled "Church in Kalterherburg".]

Malcolm (Bud) Farris
9 INF 47 INF G

I LOVE YOU, AMERICA

[Omitted large portion regarding invasion of Normandy.] ...The casualties exceeded any that had ever occurred before...for the time frame of 3 or 4 days. I was wounded twice and hospitalized four times...the first person to receive penicillin...massive gangrene in my back. I was eleven days getting to a general hospital in England.

By late December of that year, I was back in action in Soultz, France, still haunted by the lead panzer tank that took me out first of all. I came to...out of a coma...one time on the hospital ship and saw hundreds of burned tanker boys. I can still see and hear them crying. If only I could tell you what a price had been paid for our freedom so many times.

I love you, America.

Loy L. Baker
9 INF 47 INF 2 BN F (331 AAA BN)

WW II MONUMENT

[Letter sent to local newspaper] It's saddening and infuriating to consider that the World War II monument in Washington probably won't be built until after most of the remaining World War II veterans have passed away.

That's the stark reality behind World War II commission's decision to start over in the long and tortuous approval process that began at least 15 years ago.

Jonathan Yardley [*Washington Post* syndicated columnist], who favored starting all over is certainly shown to live in another world when he states that "a small group of willful men and women, operating behind closed doors and always will ill-disguised contempt for dissenting views."

Those "willful people" include hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of combat soldiers who either were wounded or risked their lives for their country. If, as Yardley claims, those supporters were "operating behind closed doors" and engaging in "outright illegality," would a President of the United States as well as a candidate for President heartily endorse the memorial and participate in its groundbreaking?

We commend Senator Tim Hutchinson, of Arkansas, for recognizing the death rate of World War II servicemen, as well as the contributions of former defense workers and Gold Star Mothers, introducing legislation to override this procedural affront to the most deserving Americans. Minus one abusive commentator, the American people universally support the project being erected now—not after those honored are gone.

[This is a letter to the editor which was printed May 14th in our local paper. The issue may be moot, as just yesterday (May 21st), the Senate moved to stop all the delays and go ahead with construction of the Memorial. However, I thought you might find a place in *The Bugle*, at least to show we made an effort to deal with the issue.]

Richard W. Brookins
28 INF 28 SIG BN

...Big plans being made for the Orlando Reunion. Make your plans to be with us.

NOMINATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2001-02

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, I, George C. Linthicum, Chairman, announce the following slate for Executive Council members for the year 2001-02.

President
Louis Cunningham
106th Infantry Division

Executive Vice President
Richard G. Guenter
511th Engineer Light Ponton Company

Vice President, Military Affairs
Stanley Wojtusik
106th Infantry Division

Vice President, Chapters
Richard C. Schlenker
26th Infantry Division

Vice President, Public Affairs
Jack Hyland
84th Infantry Division

Vice President, Membership
Thomas Jones
818th Combat Military Police Company

Treasurer
William P. Tayman
87th Infantry Division

Corresponding Secretary
Dorothy S. Davis
57th Field Hospital

Recording Secretary
John Bowen
Associate Member

Trustees: Three Year Term

Sydney J. Lawrence
134th AAA Gun Battalion

Robert F. Phillips
28th Infantry Division

The above nominees have been unanimously approved by the Nominating Committee which consists of all Past Presidents.

This slate will be presented to the General Membership at its business meeting in Orlando, Florida. ■

Chronicles of a Military Career

By Rev. Msgr. William F. O'Donnell

My military career began in September 1939 as I enrolled in college at Georgetown University. At that point in time freshmen entering Georgetown were quasi required to enter the basic ROTC (infantry) course. The only alternative was to take a literature course structured to discourage students from taking the course.

Upon graduation we received our diplomas, but no officer's commissions. Instead, we received our orders to proceed to Ft. Benning, GA for enrollment in the Officer's Candidate School (OCS). Our course in OCS was 90 days long, and at the completion, we would be 90-day wonders. The "wonder" was that we made it through the 90 days! Our class numbered 199. It included non-commissioned men who had training we did not have. Of the 199 who started out, 149 were commissioned on May 20, 1943. My mother made the graduation and we went back to Washington, DC for my 10-day leave. The greenest of the green 90-day wonders.

My first assignment was to Camp Croft, SC, just outside of Spartanburg. It was an Infantry Replacement Training Center (IRTC). Camp Croft was one of a number of such training camps to which draftees were sent directly from civilian life to be trained in 13 weeks to be infantry replacements, many of whom were shipped directly overseas to combat units as replacements for the casualties.

The training given the draftees was superb and constantly monitored. When I arrived at Croft I was assigned to a casual officers group to receive additional training. This didn't last very long, perhaps a week. Some in the group were sent directly overseas, others to other divisions in the States, and a few remained as training cadre at Croft. Much to my surprise, I was assigned as cadre.

The first few months were tough. The program was tough...six full days a week accompanied by other duties. Every night we had to prepare for the next day's training program. I spent about a year at Croft during which I trained almost four cycles of replacement trainees. I learned the hard way, but I learned. By the time I had finished, I was well trained myself. Needless to say that there were many interesting occurrences.

The normal period for cadres at IRTCs was one year. I could hardly wait to get out, although life at Camp Croft and Spartanburg had been quite pleasant in many ways. But the war was on, and I (silly me) wanted to have a more active part in it. On one of my last days before being transferred, I was with my platoon at noontime, when the platoon was scheduled to return to camp for the noon meal. The regimental commander, a colonel appeared. I ordered a corporal, the acting platoon sergeant, to assemble the platoon and start them on the road. I reported to the colonel, standard operational procedure, and he proceeded to "chew me out." He said, "Junior officers are too lazy. They make the non-coms do what they should be doing," etc. I indicated to the colonel that I was following regimental procedure, that is, the highest ranking officer present should report to any senior officer(s) who appear on the scene. The colonel said, "Whose orders were these?" Stupid me, I said "Yours." Absolutely the wrong thing to say, even though true. In two days, I received my "walking papers" to the 87th Infantry Division, Ft. Jackson, SC. Again, I was given 10 days leave home before reporting to Fort Jackson, where I was soon to realize that my experience at Camp Croft was invaluable, and probably did much to save my life in the months that were to come.

I arrived at Ft. Jackson by train about 7:00 a.m., late in May 1944. I was sent to the personnel officer for assignment. He asked me if I'd like to attend Cannon School in Mississippi, or to go to a rifle company. I thought for a moment, and he said, "report to L Company of the 346th Infantry." So much for assignment selection. Around 9:00 a.m., I reported to Company L. The company commander informed me immediately that the regiment was making a 20-mile night march that evening with full field pack, and that I was to be the guide. That meant that I had to trace the route on a map, then

take a jeep and ride the course to familiarize myself with the route. I wondered to myself, "why," when there were a couple of hundred officers in this regiment, many who had been here considerably longer than I, why had they given me this assignment? Believe it or not, I had learned to keep my mouth shut.

The night march began shortly before dark, with me guiding the 3,000 officers and men of the regiment. The first turn on the march was up a steep and sandy road. A lieutenant colonel came up to me and asked if I had taken the right turn since it was a steep and sandy hill. I said "Yes sir," and off we went with me in the lead, and the rest in my dust. We made the march in good time and without further incident. So ended my first day and night with the 87th Division at Ft. Jackson.

At that time, the 87th Division was supplying officers and men for the divisions in combat overseas, as well as some divisions in the United States. This meant a constant and repeating training schedule for new men coming into the division. That is where I came in. Apparently, they realized that I was an experienced training officer, much more so than most of the junior officers in the regiment. A month or two after I joined the division, we were alerted for overseas. Everything went into high gear.

In early fall of 1944, a date was set for departure from Ft. Jackson. We had to draw new clothing and equipment, and turn in the old. However, the date set for turn in had come, and whatever did not get turned in was buried in nearby wooded areas. Quite efficient, but awfully wasteful!

The departure date arrived to leave Ft. Jackson, and we were put on troop trains for Camp Kilmer, NJ. The trip was uneventful. When we arrived at Camp Kilmer, an enormous processing center for units headed for Europe, the cadre of the camp took over. They fed us, issued new equipment, such as combat boots and new gas masks, etc. No one in the division had to lift a hand, even for KP. It was an amazing operation. We received training on how to disembark over the side of a large ship. Scary, but not terrifying.

We stayed at Kilmer for several days. Then we were taken to New York for embarkation on the Queen Elizabeth, a large luxury ocean liner fitted out as a troopship. We then boarded the Queen Elizabeth with 14,000 other GIs from the 87th and 106th Infantry Divisions. A number of our division units, artillery and other division components, went over on other ships. The organization for loading the ship was, again, magnificent. Done quietly and efficiently, it was accomplished in a relatively short time.

The trip across the Atlantic and up the Firth of Clyde, to Grenoch, Scotland took four and a half days. The ship, because of her speed went unescorted. The debarking, once again, was well organized and speedy. As usual, I was with the advance party leaving the ship in order to assist, when and if necessary. As I was standing on the quayside, I found myself a few feet from Gen. Culin, the division commander. I did not know him, nor did he know me, fortunately. As my own platoon came off the ship, the last man had a broken arm braced with a very complicated contraption. He had been assigned to my platoon at Kilmer, although I did not know it. The general noticed him and the fact that he had no equipment. Obviously, he could not carry it. The GI told the general his equipment was still on the ship. His squad leader told him he was tired of carrying it, and left it behind. The general was upset and called the squad leader over, and busted him to private.

Needless to say, I said nothing since I didn't know how the general would accept a rational explanation from me. So I quietly walked away. Later that day, when I found the private, I restored him to staff sergeant. He was an excellent soldier and I knew he would be very valuable in combat, and he was.

After leaving the ship, we were placed on trains with shades drawn. They didn't want the people to know there were troops on the trains. I doubt that this fooled anyone. Off we went to the town of Congleton, Cheshire, England. We arrived there and were billeted in abandoned silk factories. Our beds were stacked three high with sacks filled with straw for mattresses. All other accommodations were similarly primitive, but we survived.

During the next few weeks we engaged in basic training to whatever extent possible. In free time we learned to add non-rationed "fish and chips" to our Army diet. All in all, just waiting for the command which would take

(Continued on next page)

A few days before our departure I was walking down a street in town when I met another officer. He expressed his sorrow for me. I asked him "why?" He informed me that my company commander, the same character who had been the regimental personnel officer when I first reported to the regiment, had attended a meeting of regimental officers at which I was not present. He volunteered L Company to lead the attack on our first day in combat. He told them the 3rd Platoon would lead the attack and that I would be the first officer killed. He then held a meeting with the platoon sergeant of L Company without telling me, and instructed my platoon sergeant to be prepared to take over when I was killed. Needless to say, we both had a big laugh about it. In point of fact, I did lead the first attack. Three of the six company officers were wounded, two seriously, but I survived.

Our regiments journeyed to Southampton and embarked on a British Channel steamer for LeHavre, France. We disembarked from the steamer to a landing craft infantry (LCI) that took us to the shore. The harbor was completely destroyed, hence the need to utilize the LCI. As we approached the shoreline, our intrepid captain yelled to the 600 of us jammed in the open well deck of the LCI "Follow me men. I will be the first to land in France." At that point, the battle lines were several hundred miles east of LeHavre. We struck shore, the front ramp dropped down, the captain charged forward, tripped, fell down and the GIs burst forward, many running over the captain. Quite a scene. The company was formed and waiting when the captain arrived on the scene to take over, having been the last man from the LCI to land on the soil of France. For the next few days we camped out in pup tents on a dreary hillside, plagued with frequent rain squalls. Miserable, but we survived.

We then loaded on the famous 40 x 8 box cars of WWI fame for our ride to the scene of action. We sped along at about five miles an hour, with many, many stops. The Germans had wrecked the railways of Western Europe and had blown every bridge. However, the Army Engineers did a marvelous job, but still it took some time to get the railroads and bridges in useable condition. Finally, we arrived in the environs of Metz, France to the sound and flash of artillery fire. We suddenly realized that things had changed. This was the sound of real battle. We were not convinced that we really wanted to be there. The fun and games were over. This was the real thing.

A few days later we moved into the Saar, not far from the German border. We stayed behind the lines for a few days and then were moved up. As we passed along, Gen. John L. McKee, the assistant division commander was standing by the road watching us moving up. We knew him to be a "tough old bird." He was looking at the gas masks all over the road. Many, if not most of the GIs had thrown away their gas masks but kept the carrying bag. This new equipment had been issued at Camp Kilmer. The carrying bags were excellent for carrying rations, grenades, ammunition and other needed things. The gas masks were of no discernable use. The usually inquisitive general made no comment. He knew that by the same time the next day, many of these GIs would be dead or wounded and they were.

We then moved forward to relieve the 26th Division. True to the Captains predictions, mine was the leading platoon in the company. We replaced a 26th Division platoon which was without an officer, and had about ten men. A staff sergeant was in command. I asked him if they had been further forward. He said "no." I asked him how the sector was. He said "quiet." and "Am I replaced?" and I said, "yes." Then came the moment of truth when he yelled to his men "Take off as fast as you can and we will meet over that hill," meaning well to the rear. I immediately suspected the veracity of his information. It didn't take long to learn my insights were true.

My platoon had 39 men and myself. Just before we attacked, two more men arrived. Our attack orders were very vague. I suspected then, and I suspect now, that the captain did not understand the orders he had received for our attack. In any event, at the prescribed time we moved forward.

After going a hundred yards or so, we saw several dead GIs. So much for the information the 26th Division sergeant had given me. Shortly afterward, we came under fire by German 88s. About this time, the company executive came along. A shell came our way and burst about 100 yds in front of us and we hit the ground. The next shell hit 100 yds behind us. I tried to make an "Act of Contrition." I would say a few words, and then

"This is not good enough," and start over again. The other officer was yelling the "next shell will land on us!" The third shell was the same as the second. I said to myself, "The heck with this," and I got up to look after my platoon.

That first day I had two killed and five wounded, but we reached our objective. One of those killed was the last man to report to the platoon minutes before we attacked. Needless to say, it was a miserable and bleak first day of combat. That evening and night we held our position on a ridge. Later we learned we were the only unit in the battalion to hold our position. All the rest had dropped back into a valley. They received numerous casualties from enemy shells.

The next morning we were ordered to attack; once again, a confusing order. This second morning, I was commanding all three rifle platoons of the company, a total of 40 men. The 1st Platoon had completely disappeared, and the lieutenant wounded, who never returned. The 2nd Platoon had lost its platoon lieutenant and platoon sergeant as both were seriously wounded. The sergeant died and the lieutenant returned a few days before the war ended in May 1945.

When we attacked on the second day, our order was to take the second hill in front of us, and the high ground to the right of it. As I reached the first high hill, I heard tanks in front of us and sent for the company commander. While waiting for him, I noticed a large farm complex to my right. I didn't want to leave it behind without checking it out, so I sent a non-com and a couple of GIs to check it out. The captain came up and I told him the situation and asked to see his written order and map. It was obvious that battalion did not know that I was on the first hill from the night before, so we had already reached our objective. We really had only one hill to go that morning. Our real objective was actually the farm complex where I had sent the three men. So we moved into it, took some men up the high hill, and chased off a few Germans. Frankly, they were already on the run. The 90-day wonder remembered some of the lessons he had learned at Ft. Benning. The farm complex had been the regimental objective the day before, and I had taken it with three men.

There are many other things that happened in the next 10-12 days. Suffice it to say Gen. Patton had planned a massive attack up the Frankfort Gap, deep into Germany, but something else occurred: The Battle of the Bulge. We knew nothing about the Ardennes attack by the Germans. All we knew was that we were pulled off the line about the 21st or 22nd of December, and to SHEAF reserve outside of Rheims, France. This movement was a story in itself. Our regiment had received 600 battle casualties, and 600 cases of trenchfoot. Our regiment had been badly decimated but we had learned a lot from the experience.

On Christmas Day, literally thousands of planes flew over all morning on the way to Germany to the east. It was a beautiful, clear day, and the Air Force was out enmasse. That afternoon, we watched the planes returning from their bombing missions in Germany. It was an awesome sight that gave us confidence that we were winning the war. That night, we started our journey to Luxembourg and Belgium. We had no idea of the why or when of our mission. We were loaded on the trailers of semi trucks. It was a miserable ride through the night and most of the next day.

Over the years I have lost track of the time it took to reach what I now know was the area of the Battle of the Bulge just west of Bastogne. It was snowing, and had been snowing in Belgium. Finally about midnight of whatever night it was, we disembarked from the trucks. We were told we were to attack directly north.

The plan of attack was three battalions of the regiment, each following the other, with the 3rd Battalion, our battalion leading, were to take off straight north. The same was true of the three rifle companies of the 3rd Battalion. K Company was first followed by L and I. By this time, the snow was several feet deep with drifts up to three-four feet. It was tough going, and we all knew that if we were wounded it was sure death. Nothing happened until we had gone about 12 miles. By that time it was about mid-afternoon. Suddenly everyone stopped. We heard some firing out front. The company CO called for me to come up. He told me that he had been up front and that the battalion commander and his group were pinned down.

He told me to take my platoon, all 11 of us, and K Company and out-

(Continued on next page)

flank the enemy pinning down the battalion staff. We also had a machine gun section with two MGs attached. We then moved through some fairly thick woods until I was sure we had flanked the enemy. Then I observed the German MG fire that was pinning down our troops in front. I attempted to point out what I saw to my men. Nobody else saw it—they didn't want to see it. At this point I had an M1 Rifle and I noticed a little bluff in front between the Germans and me. I worked my way out from the edge of the woods, set my sight, and fired two shots. Suddenly, I was in the middle of fire from two MGs firing at me from the other direction. Overlooked principle! The Germans always covered MGs with others. The two firing at me were firing at a range of 900-1,000 yards, so the spread of the bullets was wide. I dove back into the woods; however, the pinned-down troops were able to extricate themselves from the ambush thanks to the intrepid 3rd Platoon. That night we retreated back about eight-nine miles since we were exposed on our flanks out in front of the rest of the regiment.

One of the problems facing the intelligence officers during the Battle of the Bulge was the failure to obtain prisoners. After the Malmédy instance when German troops slaughtered a large group of American prisoners who had surrendered and were helpless, not many prisoners were being taken on either side. In our division, special patrols (Tiger Patrols) were established to actively go after prisoners and gather other information. The Tiger Patrol was made up of a lieutenant and 15 infantrymen. After a few weeks it was decided by the battalion company commander to replace the 3rd Battalion Tiger Patrol leader with guess who? The platoon leader of the 3rd Platoon of L Company. I was called to battalion headquarters and asked to "volunteer." No way was I going to volunteer; but I said that if I was ordered to do it I would. The battalion commander even offered me a medal. I didn't volunteer but somehow or other I ended up with the job.

That evening, I located my 15 men. They were an exemplary group, a number of whom I already knew. They were sitting in the back of a 2 1/2 ton ration truck. I asked if they had their own transportation. Their reply was "no." I said "This is a heck of a way to run an Army," and they agreed. Then, from the rear of the truck I heard, "Just say the word and we'll have our own truck by ten o'clock tonight!" My answer was obvious. At ten that evening we had a quarter-ton Army truck, winterized, and with many other good features. The following night, they liberated a quarter-ton trailer, and we were in business. Although to the rear, these forays were two of our most successful missions. Incidentally, I never did get the promised medal, and the lieutenant colonel ended up a lieutenant general. But we were the only motorized Tiger Patrol in the division.

I remained the patrol leader well into February 1945. During this period, we patrolled every night our battalion was on the front line. Of the original 15 members of the Tiger Patrol, six were killed and three were wounded.

Then came a change in my life. I was ordered to report to the chief of staff of the division. I had no idea who or where he was. I had been operating on a much lower level. On reporting to the chief of staff, he asked me if I would like to be a general's aide. I reluctantly accepted the position, knowing that I would be more valuable to the general, than down in the front lines.

I was assigned in late February 1945 and remained in that position until I left the Army in October 1945. It was a fascinating position. The division commander, Gen. Frank L. Culin, the assistant division commander, Gen. John McKee, and the chief of staff, Col. Layng, together with three aides had their own setup. So we were privy to all the top-level discussions in the division. An infantry division, plus attached units, a tank battalion, an anti-aircraft battalion, a tank destroyer battalion, an engineer battalion, and from time to time, additional artillery battalions, made the total of 14,500 officers and men. Quite an impressive operation, to say the least.

Each morning there was a 30-minute briefing from all the varied units in the division. It was amazingly detailed, but meticulously presented. I was surprised to find out how much information that generals had. The first meeting I attended included a report on the overnight patrol of my then-former Tiger Patrol. They even had the name of the patrol leader. By way of indoctrination as an aide, I spent time with all the principal staff sections G1, G2, G3, and G4 of the division, I came to know all the principal officers

and operations of all the general and special staff sections.

During this period, the Third Army overran a number of concentration camps. This story is a familiar one. But I have never forgotten the horror of what we found in those camps. I was present the afternoon of the capture of Ohrdruf when Generals Eisenhower, Bradley and Patton, along with others, showed up. They were stunned by what they saw, as were we. They required that as many GIs as possible see the camp and its victims. They also ordered that German civilians come out, view the conditions, and in some cases, bury the dead.

Among the troops that first overran Ohrdruf were a group of tankers. Several camp guards were slow in escaping and were mowed down by tank machine guns. Several fell dead on the road, and no one removed their bodies. The tankers were so traumatized by what they had seen in and around the camp, that they ran over the bodies. After hours of this by tank after tank, the camp guard's bodies were absolutely flattened in the middle of the road.

Throughout my time as an aide, I had the opportunity to meet a number of generals commanding units on the European Front. Both Gen. Culin and Gen. McKee were very thoughtful in introducing the aides to the generals we would meet on the road. Among others were Gen. Middleton, commander of the 8th Corp, Gen. Eddy of the 12th Corp, and Gen. McAuliffe of the 101st Airborne Division, who said "Nuts" to the German's request for surrender at Bastogne. There were many others as well.

As for the generals themselves, Gen. Frank L. Culin was a very competent division commander, who earned his stars in the Aleutian Islands. His regiment, the 32nd Infantry, was most successful in that campaign especially in the drive against the Japanese on Attu Island. Later, he learned to ski when he was almost 50, as assistant division commander of the 10th Mountain Division. On the strength of these and other accomplishments, he became the 87th Division Commander.

Gen. John McKee was one of the most brilliant men I have ever known. He was a superb military leader and tactician. But above all else he was a gentleman. His career was limited by some health problems, and ended his military career as a major general. He was assigned to a lieutenant general's post, but could not accept it because of his health and so he retired.

One general I have not mentioned is Gen. Patton. Although most of our overseas duty was in the 3rd Army, Gen. Gay, chief of staff of the 3rd Army, and Gen. Culin were good friends. Whenever Gen. Patton was coming our way, Gen. Gay tipped off our generals, who then left the command post to go as far front as possible so Gen. Patton could not reach them. I don't think Gen. Patton ever realized the subterfuge. That is what is known as the "old boy line of communication."

There are many other vignettes I could tell about my position as an aide-de-camp, but time and space do not permit. It was a fascinating opportunity. To experience the war as a "foot slogger," thinking the rear echelon people didn't know what went on, then to see the whole picture from topside, was an amazing experience.

The war in Europe stopped on May 8, 1945. We were informed that the division was returning to the States immediately to prepare for the assault on Japan itself. That was not a very happy thought. However, before we shipped out, I went to Cannes on the Riviera for 10 days of R&R. Because of bad weather, on our flight back we had to stay overnight in Paris. While waiting for transport into Paris, a general on the plane and I spotted a French military band and honor guard about 100 yards away. We went to check it out. As we arrived, a big transport plane landed, and a short, potbellied British officer got off. I didn't recognize him at first, but soon realized it was Field Marshall Montgomery, and I was in the receiving line! So, I shook hands with him. I just couldn't get away from generals!

A few days later the division started for home. The troops of the division were transported by truck to Camp Lucky Strike and then on to LeHavre. The generals, the other aides, and I went by automobile, first to Luxembourg overnight, and then on to the Ritz Hotel in Paris. I saw Marlene Dietrich sitting on the fender of an automobile showing off her legs to the GIs. Inside the Ritz, while waiting for our keys, I saw Sonya Heine, who, I thought looked like a third rate chorus girl until I realized who she was. Then, Jack Benny, complete with cigar in hand, came walking down the hall. I said

Chronicles of a Military Career - cont'd

"How you doin' Jack?" His reply was a grunt. I said "Jack, I thought you were over here to entertain us." To which I had no reply. What a grouch! Finally, as Gen. I McKee and I were walking down the hall to our rooms, Grace Moore, a world-renowned concert singer was ahead of us. When she got to her room she waited for us, and we had a few minutes of pleasant conversation. She indeed was a world class act.

We finally arrived at LeHavre, and boarded a freighter fitted as a troop ship. Gen. McKee, another aide and I were on the same ship, and thanks to the general, we got VIP treatment. It was a pleasant voyage home, though quite a bit longer than the one over on the Queen Elizabeth. We arrived in New York on July 5th to a tumultuous reception by ships in the harbor. On landing at Camp Hamilton, Gen. McKee called his wife in Washington, and asked her to call my mother and tell her I would be home the next day; however, I made it home that evening to start my 30-day leave.

A few days before we were due at Ft. Benning, the gathering point for our division, atomic bombs were dropped on Japan. I actually arrived at Benning the day before the war ended. From then on we had no training as the division was deactivated. Gen. McKee took command of Camp Gordon, GA.

On October 13, 1945, an officer came into division headquarters and asked if anyone had 60 points. They had just opened a separation center at Gordon and were looking for people to separate. As I had the points, he offered to separate me the next morning, but I held off. I thought I should tell the general before leaving. He was surprised because he thought I was going to stay in the Army, but made no objection. I left Gordon on October 15, 1945 and remained in very friendly contact with Gen. McKee until he died in the early 1950s.

There are many things I could have written about my military service, but I hope that what I have is sufficient to give a good representation. Over the years I have remembered in my prayers and thoughts those who were called to God during and since the war. I pray too, that our country will continue to maintain our armed forces at sufficient levels to guarantee the welfare and safety of all.

I have never forgotten my military experiences. Although I would not wish what I experienced on anyone else, it was all worth it for the opportunity it presented. As young men, we were to assume responsibilities that we would never have had, at least for many years to come, in civilian life. We learned the importance of teamwork, and of looking out for each other. We learned that most of the officers who reached high command were brave, intelligent, and dedicated men. Above all, I think we learned to have confidence in ourselves, and we took this confidence back home with us. We, the survivors of the war known as World War II, and those who did not survive, are part of a nation worthy of all of our sacrifices. May we never fail this great nation, in war or peace.

Editor's note: Monsignor O'Donnell was discharged from the Army in 1945. He was Vice Counsel in Homburg, Germany, 1946-1947; attended law school 1947-51; worked as a trial attorney for the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice 1952-1957; attended the seminary 1957-1962; and has been a priest since that time. Presently, he is Priest-Director of the Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. He is active in National VBOB affairs.



Wits of War



Goodbye, Yankee soldier,
I hope we meet again.
I like your kind of loving,
I like your kind of men.

Here's to you, my cherie,
A toast to you, my sweet.
I'll still do a lot of loving,
But your memory won't be
beat.

So goodbye, Yankee soldier,
I kiss you "Au revoir".
Please don't forget your Fifi
Who's waiting at the bar!

Epilogue- Pardon me, mon cherie,
It's too late, for you to wait!

Yankee soldier



Chaplain with Jeep Going my Way in preparation for religious service. 87th Infantry Div., 3rd U.S. Army WW-II - European Theater - 1945



Hot Chow for U.S. Infantry men during the Battle of the Bulge after vicious fighting in the sub zero cold snows of the dense Ardennes Forest. Co. I, 347th Inf. Regt., 87th Inf. Div. near St. Hubert Belgium Jan. 13, 1945.

REVISITING THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

[The following article was sent to us by EDWARD J. FOLEY, 32ND CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON, COMPANY F. The article appeared in the Austin, Texas, American-Statesman on January 14, 2001, and was written by Dick Stanley.]

The ever-dwindling number of veterans of the battle in the Ardennes forest of Belgium and Luxembourg often say the thing they remember most is the bitter cold. Retired Austin internist Dr. James Kreisle, 82, is no exception.

"The weather was terrible--dark and snowy," he said. "The ground was frozen hard."

This month is the 56th anniversary of the end of the Battle of the Bulge, the last major offensive of the Third Reich, which generated some of Europe's fiercest fighting in World War II.

Kreisle was a 26-year-old surgeon in the 14th Cavalry Group, whose units experienced the brunt of the opening surprise attack by German tanks and infantry on a cold and snowy December 16, 1944. The assault created the battle's namesake "bulge"--a push into the 600-mile Allied front line that lasted for almost a month.

Kreisle managed the aid station of the 32nd Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron of the 14th Cavalry Group, near the front line at the Belgian village of Manderfeld, treating wounded and evacuating them to the rear.

He remembers the shelling and confusion, the deaths of a mother and her three small children caught in the open, the burning of headquarters' records as the staff withdrew, and a traffic jam of soldiers and refugees on the one available road to the rear.

"No one knew what was going on," he said. "I thought we might lose the war."

Some of his unit were captured. Two surrounded American regiments of the untested 106th Infantry Division--to which the 14th Cavalry was attached--surrendered.

The surrender was "the most serious reverse suffered by American arms during the operations of 1944-45 in the European theater," according to the official 1965 Army history of the battle. "The number of officers and men taken prisoner on the capitulation of the two regiments and their attached troops cannot be accurately ascertained. At least seven thousand were lost here and the figure probably is closer to eight or nine thousand."

The surrender still is "one of those lingering controversies of the war, whether the leadership was inept, for instance," said Thomas Hatfield, a World War II historian and dean of continuing education at the University of Texas.

Hatfield, who has known Kreisle for years, said the doctor was lucky to get his aid station evacuated without being captured. Kreisle, then a young Army captain with red crosses on his helmet, never saw the enemy.

The Germans had prepared the attack for weeks, under orders from Adolf Hitler, who saw it as his last chance to save Nazi Germany from defeat. The ensuing battle involved more than one million soldiers--500,000 Americans and 600,000 Germans.

With the help of Gen. George Patton's famed 3rd Army Tanks, Allied forces finally drove the Germans back. Historians later concluded the Germans couldn't have held out much longer.

Their tanks were running out of gas and their ammunition was low.

"It is true, of course, that this last desperate German effort was, in the end, contained and reversed," Kreisle wrote in a 1992 memoir. "But out little taste of defeat was an experience I have never forgotten."

[The article includes several maps, chronologies, etc., compiled by Mary Coppinger of the American-Statesman staff. We recreate some for you here.]

Hitler's Plan

- Controlling port of Antwerp would cut Allied supply lines and split their armies, buying time for Germany to perfect its rockets and develop an atom bomb.

- His 5th and 6th Panzer armies would break through the Allies' line at weak spot in the Ardennes.

- German 7th Army would hold off Gen. George Patton and the American 3rd Army.

- Panzer armies would cross Meuse River, head northwest and capture Antwerp.

Events of Battle

1. December 16, 1944, 5:40 a.m.; 250,000 German troops, 2,300 tanks roll over American 106th Division (416 killed, 1,246 wounded, 7,000 missing in action).

2. Malmedy: Germans slay Allied prisoners.

3. St. Vith: 424th Division joined by 7th and 9th armored divisions, hold St. Vith for about a week.

4. December 19, Bastogne: 101st Airborne, 10th Armored divisions besieged by Germans. Americans short of ammunition, food, suitable clothing for the cold.

December 22: Germans demand Americans surrender. Gen. McAuliffe reportedly replies "Nuts." Bad weather prevents air drops.

December 22-23: Luftwaffe bombs Bastogne.

December 23: 150 tons of American supplies dropped.

5. 2nd Armored Division fights five days against 2nd Panzer Division and part of 9th Panzer Division at Havelange at head of bulge.

6. Divisions of Patton's 3rd Army attack Germans from south.

7. Rochefort and Celles: Americans crush German panzers.

8. January 1, 1945: Patton attacks Germans from south.

9. Germans attack in Saar River Valley, hoping to draw Patton's army away from Ardennes.

10. German Air Force bombs Allied airfields in Belgium and Holland.

January 3: Montgomery attacks Germans from north.

January 3-4: Germans launch new, unsuccessful attack on Bastogne.

Russians begin offensive to take Berlin, 6th SS Panzer Army pulled from Ardennes to protect Germany from Russians in east.

11. January 16: 84th Division from 1st Army and 11th Armored from 3rd meet in Houffalize and nip the end off the bulge.■

MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

Philip Kaplan is writing a book about tanks, armored vehicles and their crews. He asked that anyone who might like to contribute to this book write to him at: 49 Prestbury Road; Cheltenham, Glos. GL52 2BY, England.

Anyone who may have known **JOE PICCILLO, COMPANY A, 28TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION**, is asked to contact Danielle Melby, PO Box 2396, Laguna Hills, California 92654-2396. Danielle is trying to find information for Joe's granddaughter. (Joe served stateside with the 97th Division.)

John Woolston is seeking information regarding his stepfather's unit. His name was **JOSEPH A. BRIGGS, 413TH AAA GUN BATTALION (MOBILE)**. If you can provide information, please contact John at: 3314 South Garnsey Street, Santa Ana, California 92707.

PETER P. STRANKO, 106TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 423RD INFANTRY REGIMENT, COMPANY A, advises us that Joseph Litvin has made arrangements for those POW's who live in California to be issued a special license plate. If you're interested in having one, contact your California department of transportation.

Edna R. White is seeking information regarding **PFC CHARLES CLAYTON ROLLYSON, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, 501ST PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT, 3RD BATTALION, COMPANY H**. Clayton was killed in the Bastogne area on January 3rd or 4th, 1945. If you can help her find information regarding her brother, please contact her at: 1420 Northwest Jenne Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97229.

EARL E. WATSON, 1317TH ENGINEER GS REGIMENT, would like to hear from anyone who may have served with him. Write to Earl at: 315 East Nees Ave #113, Fresno, California 93720-2017.

JAMES McKINLEY, 35TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 320TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, COMPANY H, speaks to middle and high school students, displaying items from WWII which he has collected. He's interested in adding to his collection and would like information where he might purchase additional items. Can you help? Write to him at: 824 Moreland Avenue, Perry, Georgia 31069.

P. J. Gregory is looking for information on **11TH ARMORED DIVISION, 42ND TANK BATTALION, COMPANY D**, or anyone who may have known **CHARLES ARTHUR LEWIS** who was with that group. Write to Mr. Gregory at: 14162 Bellepoint Road, Marysville, Ohio 43040.

SYDNEY O. JOHNSON, 3RD ARMORED DIVISION, 83RD RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION, would like to hear from **HOWARD PETERSON, 4TH ARMORED DIVISION**, and anyone who may have information on a replacement depot set up not far from Omaha Beach about a week after D-Day. Write to Syd at: 20209 Kirkmont Drive, Saratoga, California 95070.

ROBERT D. SCHRELL, 509TH MILITARY POLICE BATTALION, is looking for members of his battalion. If you belonged to that group or know someone who did, write to him at: 2530 San Joaquin Court, San Diego, California 92109-2316.

Douglas Maggard is looking for anyone who may have known his brother **ARLIS MAGGARD, 328TH INFANTRY**. He was killed in action December 25, 1944 in Luxembourg. If you can provide information, contact Douglas at: 311 Carnagie Br. Lp., Hazard, Kentucky 41701.

BOB BECKER, 103RD INFANTRY DIVISION, 410TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, 1ST BATTALION, COMPANY A, is looking for fellow soldiers who were in the Bulge December 24th through January 18, with the **11TH ARMORED DIVISION** and the **45TH INFANTRY**. His unit was taken up north on Christmas Eve and he would like more information. Contact him at: 3514 East LaSalle Street, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80909.

Associate Member **ROGER MARQUET** is seeking information regarding **RALPH N. HARPER, 9TH ARMORED DIVISION, CCR**, who was commanding Task Force Harper at the Feitsch crossroads (Luxembourg). Lt. Col. Harper is said to have been killed in action at that place by several historians. But one book, *Phantom Nine*, reports that he was killed in action at Tavigny, Belgium, right after midnight on December 18-19, as he was withdrawing from Feitsch, Allerborn, Luxembourg. He decided to establish another roadblock with five tanks in Tavigny (or Vissoule (hamlet of Tavigny) and was machine-gunned while dismounting his tank. If you have any information that would help Roger determine where Lt. Col. Harper was killed, please contact him at: Chenogne 1D - B-6640, Sibret, Belgium.

ROGER would also like to learn more about **S/SGT JIMMY McAFEE** who might have been in the **XXII CORPS** as a **SIGNAL CORPS** unit member. He might have been in Chaudfontaine, Belgium around June or July, 1945. If you can help, write to Roger at the address in the preceding paragraph.

Associate Member **HANS J. WIJERS** is seeking information from veterans of the **741ST TANK BATTALION, 2ND INFANTRY DIVISION**, or others who saw action in the twin villages of Krinkelt and Rocherath. He would also like to hear from members of the **801ST TANK DESTROYER BATTALION** or others who saw action in Honsfeld, Bullingen, and/or Elsenborn Ridge. Write to him at: Zegerijstraat 27, NL-6971 ZN, Brummen, The Netherlands.

MICHAEL P. DURCO, SR., 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, COMPANY C, is trying to help **ELARIO (LARRY) GANZ** locate some of the men he served with. If you were in any of the following, please contact Michael: **131ST TANK BATTALION, 240TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, BATTERY "B"**. Michael's address is: 2700 East 97th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60617.

HARRY SCHAEFFER, 11TH ARMORED DIVISION, 22ND TANK BATTALION, COMPANY B, would like to have several history books to complete his collection of histories of

(Continued on next page)

MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

the armored divisions he was in. He still needs: **3RD ARMORED DIVISION** and **8TH ARMORED DIVISION**. Can you help Harry? If so contact him at: 11221 North 73rd Avenue, Peoria, Arizona 85345.

New Associate Member **PETER WEISENBERGER** is trying to locate information regarding his uncle, **CHARLES ANTHONY WEISENBERGER, 80TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 317TH INFANTRY REGIMENT**. Charles was killed in action on January 21, 1945. Contact Peter at: 1243 Gluckstadt Road, Madison, Mississippi 39110.

JAMES RATCLIFF, 90TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 358TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, COMPANY K, would like to hear from any of the following men: **ALVAH A. TITSWORTH, JOSEPH MOSLEY, ALBERT J. CAMDEN, WILLIAM R. TUPTON, JOHN M. KLIMASZEWSKI, HARRY M. SILVER, JOHN F. CASSMARATA, or EDWARD FLYNN**. His address is: 614 North Dennis Place, Kennewick, Washington 99336-2557.

Sandra Eve MacDuffer is interested in learning more about the war experiences of her father, **JOHN CHICHILLA**, who was killed January 28, 1945 in Luxembourg. He is buried in Hamm Cemetery. Her father served in the **5TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 10TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, COMPANY C**. Can you provide some information? If so write to Sandra at:

WILLIAM F. OLIVER, 3RD ARMORED DIVISION, 32ND ARMORED REGIMENT, 3RD BATTALION, COMPANY H, wants to know of anyone remembers anything about his buddy **FRANK SOLOMON**, who served in his company. Write to William at: 124 Park Avenue, Vestal, New York 13850.

Associate Member **Wayne Thompson** is trying to locate buddies of his father, **WALLACE W. THOMPSON, 4TH ARMORED DIVISION, 48TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, COMPANY C**. He would appreciate any help. Write to him at: 11700 Southwest Butner Road Apt. 305, Portland, Oregon 97225.

RAY "OKIE" LEWIS, 83RD INFANTRY DIVISION, 331ST INFANTRY REGIMENT, HEADQUARTERS, has a picture believed to be of **T/SGT ALBERT L. BOYD**, who was killed in action in January, 1945. Also in the picture is believed to be **DONALD W. C. SHIVERDECKER**, originally from Versailles, Ohio. Any friends or family interested, please contact Ray at: 1607 Manor Drive, Bartlesville, Oklahoma 74006.

MICHAEL DURCO, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, COMPANY C, writes to inquire if any one can tell him how he can find another 50th Anniversary Commemorative watch to replace his broken one. *[We tried to call the old phone number we had but found that the number now belongs to someone else.]* If you know, write to Michael at: 2700 East 97th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60617-4928. *[Also let us know, so we can help if the question comes up again.]*

EVERETT A. GESKE, 188TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS BATTERY, would like to hear from anyone who served with him or in the Headquarters Battery. His address is: 1457 Bayard Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55116.

EDWARD ECHMALIAN, 557TH ORDNANCE HEAVY MAINTENANCE COMPANY (TANK) would like to obtain a history of his unit in Europe in 1944-45. If you can help, write to him at: 9634 Gainford Street, Downey, California 90240-3516.



*"Joe yestiddy ya saved my life an' I swore I'd pay ya back.
Hers's my last pair of dry socks."*



CAPTURED GERMANS - PFC Joe Latrell and PFC Harry N. Fafer guard SS Troops taken in Belgium. 12/26/44

279TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION

Submitted by:
Clarence O. McCormick

[The following excerpt is from "A History of the 279th Engineer Combat Battalion: Twenty Months in World War II, 1944-1945."]

December 22, at just dark, a line of "B" Company men went marching in single file down the sides of a road leading from Lindern to Linnich. It was cold and dark, so dark you could just make out the form of a man ahead of you. Every twig that snapped put the men on edge, as they knew the task ahead was a touchy one, a typical engineer job.

The mission for the night was to lay a double-apron fence between our own infantry lines and those of the enemy. The road the men were on was being continually shelled by mortars and even 88's, so caution was in order. While waiting for the infantry to provide guides to the proper positions, we had to lie along a ditch and watch the fireworks as frequent bursts of machine-gun fire lit up the sky.

In the darkness ahead, came the sounds of the horsedrawn carts and wagons being moved from place to place. The enemy was active, too. The guides came, and we moved ahead into the darkness. Here and there we passed a foxhole in which an outpost was stationed, until finally we reached the starting point for the fence.

The night was so dark we couldn't find the pickets once they were put into the ground. The next night was clear and just as cold. Every little noise brought a burst of machine-gun fire. The road was shelled at every point where a truck could possibly be. The fence was completed as dawn broke. As we pulled out of the area, the Germans tried to take over. The full light of day found a number of Jerries around our fence--they were all dead.

At about the same time, and under similar circumstances, an "A" Company platoon was ordered to lay a mine-field between our lines and the enemy. The operation took place during the night under "artificial moonlight." The searchlights' reflection from the clouds furnished enough light to enable us to see what we were doing, but not enough to expose us to the enemy.

Shortly after we had hooked up the last firing-device, the Jerries dropped a flare. Immediately every member of the laying party had to hit the dirt in the middle of the live mine-field. There were no casualties from that incident.

On the German side of the river, over a PA system, Tommy Dorsey, sentimental gentleman of swing, gave out with *Moonlight Sonata*. It was Jerry's intention to demoralize us, but actually it provided entertainment.

An especially picked crew from "C" company's second platoon, under command of Lt. Dan Lehmberg, successfully performed a similar task to prevent German infiltration patrols from getting behind our positions. White snow uniforms served as camouflage during the eight grueling hours Sgt. Paul Heller's group worked in front of the front line.

"C" Company was forced to beat a hasty retreat under artillery fire from a stretch of road between Gereonsweiler and "windy corner." Under enemy observation, they had been sweeping mines along the shoulders of the road and clearing a lane through nearby fields for a telephone line.

On the morning of the third day of this operation...Jerry suddenly opened up and rained shells along the entire stretch of road. Several casualties were inflicted, and all men were pinned down until jeeps eventually evacuated them.

Just before Brachelen, the last Nazi strong point on this side of the river, was taken, a captain from the 407th Infantry, of which we were temporarily in support, asked an "A" company platoon to recover the bodies of several GI's which were lying in a mined area.

The captain said that the bodies lying there so long unburied were lowering the morale of his troops. The area was called the "Gully of Death," and was a long draw which was filled with deadly schuh-mines. The platoon leader, Lt. Charles F. McCullough, and a select group of EM equipped with mine detectors, made their way cautiously up the draw.

The mine detectors proved of no value for many reasons: the schuh-mines are constructed almost entirely of wood; the ground was littered with shrapnel and cartridge cases and was covered with snow. A staff sergeant from the 407th, who was accompanying them, stepped upon a mine which had not been detected and his foot was blown off. He was rushed immediately to the rear for aid, and the mission was called off.

The next day, the same crew, armed with bangalore torpedoes, cleared a path to the bodies, which were lying among what was left of a Wehrmacht platoon, and brought them back for decent burial.

A few days before Christmas, we began to prepare defensive installations in Geilenkirchen against an expected attack in this sector. The Battle of the Bulge had caused the withdrawal of all troops from this area, with the exception of us and another engineer combat battalion.

Our mission was to hold the city at all costs; and on Christmas Eve the entire battalion moved out under cover of darkness, and took up positions around the city, which was practically surrounded by the Germans. The weather was bitter cold, and some of us spent a miserable night in the foxholes which were dug in a field of frozen turnips.

We took time out from blasting holes into walls for machine-gun placements long enough to have a turkey dinner "with all the fixings."

A few days later, after the battalion had returned to Marienberg, "Bedcheck Charlie" dropped a bomb case containing 23 anti-personnel bombs on us. Two of them landed in a pile of high explosives. After the fire died down and the dust settled, we found that much of our equipment and living-quarters had been destroyed.

Many of us rushed to the aid-station; but two "H/S" men couldn't. T/5 William A. Engibous had his leg smashed in such a way that it had to be amputated later. T/4 Clyde Harkins was injured so badly that he died a few days later.

From our entry into Germany until the 23rd of February, we were always looking forward to preparing for the crossing of the Roer River, the climax of our stay in Germany. Men were sent to Vise, Belgium, to practice assault boat crossings and to learn to drive amphibious tanks. During one of these trips a buzz-bomb landed near enough to some of our men to injure several. The Wurm River was our proving grounds and was crossed time and time again by both engineers and infantry. Bridges were put across it until the job was well known by everyone. Before the crossing could be made, the town of Brachelen had to be taken. The 102nd Division was given the assignment, and the divisional engineers, 327th, prepared for the attack. When some prepared bangalore torpedoes exploded accidentally, one platoon was put out of action and the second platoon of "B" Company was called to fill in.

Very little resistance was met, and on January 26 this last obstacle was captured. We set about the task of putting wire fences around the mine fields, for the protection of our own troops, and then went back to the old job of preparing roads for the coming offensive. ■

SHOT IN STOMONT, BELGIUM

By
James C. Pendleton, Sr.

Third Battalion, Headquarters Company, 119th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Division, was in Aachen, Germany, on December 16, 1944. We had been stationed at Aachen for several days, not much was going on at that time. Our battalion was among one of the first U.S. troops to enter Germany. The scuttle butt was that we were waiting on the Russians to come in from the East.

Late in the evening of the 16th, the battalion started moving back toward Belgium, although no one seemed to know why. We travelled stop and go all night of the 16th and into the evening of the 17th. The roads were clogged with heavy equipment and heavy artillery and other troops were moving with us some one way and some the other. A few German planes would make an appearance occasionally and strafe and bomb. This would cause us to be delayed for a couple of hours. Road signs were turned in the wrong direction. Many times we would travel for several miles before we would realize we were headed in the wrong direction; and would have to turn around and go the direction we had just traveled. After a day and two nights, we arrived in Stomont, Belgium. Since we had previously cleared the enemy from Belgium, we felt we were in safe territory and did not need to have troops stand guard at night. We left our equipment and vehicles in the road and went into the buildings for sleep and warmth.

My group was the A and P Platoon; the platoon leader, Lt. Goodman, woke me in the middle of the night and asked me if I heard noises outside. I told him I did and why weren't those troopers sleeping and why didn't they wait until daylight before they started making so much noise. He informed me that the noises were German Tiger Tanks hauling off our 57 gun. The guys from my company were Jim (Red) Aldridge (Maryland) and Garrison (Memphis, Tennessee). I cannot recall the names of the machine gunners but they were from I Company.

We took 12 antitank mines with us that was all we had available to us. We laid four mines across the street and were able to knock one tank out immediately. Then, we laid out four more mines and destroyed another tank and were able to do that a third time. By this time it was getting daylight and more tanks kept coming, replacing the ones we destroyed. We ran out of mines so we took refuge in a store with a glass front. One of the tankers pulled up, stuck his 88 barrel in the window and in perfect English asked us if we wanted to surrender. We told him we would surrender to him.

I looked around, saw a side door, and told the others to run for it; there was a jeep 3-16 setting outside the door idling. I jumped into the driver's seat and the other guys piled in and we made a run for it out of the alley and down the road. We had gone about a 100 yards when we saw a German half-track in the middle of the road. The half track started firing on us. When that happened, the front wheels were shot off the jeep and I was shot in the right forearm. The other guys slid down the road into the ditch and got away around the curve. I never saw those four guys again. I saw an open door and ran into the building. Unfortunately for me, the room was full of Germans. A German put a burp bun in my face and I was able to grab the barrel with my good arm and shoved it away from me. He either emptied

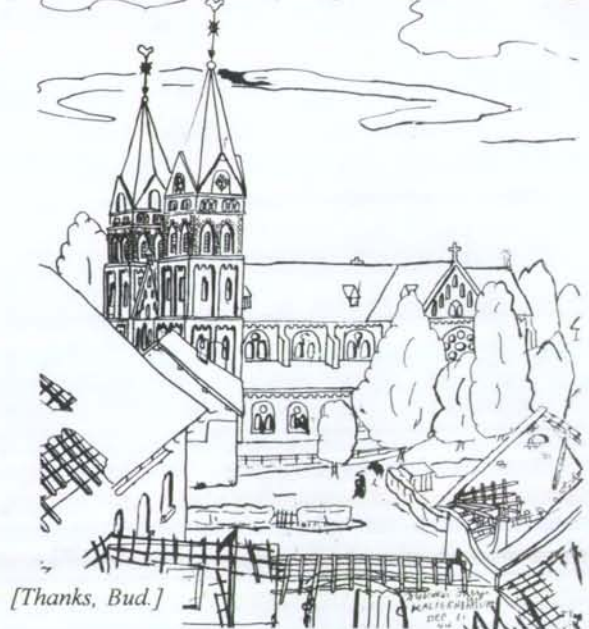
the gun into the wall or it jammed--I'm not sure what happened. I then backed out, and ran to the corner of the same building. I was standing there when Joe Duvall, from my company, came by and applied a tourniquet to my arm. He then ran between two buildings and I never saw him again.

While I was standing there trying to decide what to do, I noticed an American tank down the road in a curve. He would shoot and then back up in the curve to get out of the way of the enemy tanks. He was close enough to me that I could holler and wave and he saw me. He said he couldn't get me in the tank but if I could use my good arm to hold onto the barrel, he would throw me over onto the other side and put the tank between me and the Germans and their small arms fire. He told me when I heard the tank rev up three times he would come in and throw the barrel in my direction. Somehow, I was able to wrap my left arm around the barrel and hold on while he backed out with me. I never knew the name of the company the American tanker was with. He dropped me off around the curve and I dropped and kept moving.

By this time, I was getting weak from the loss of blood. I would walk as far as I could and then stop to rest. At times other soldiers moving back would see me and carry me until they would become tired. About noon a medic outfit found me and picked me up in their ambulance. By dark of December 19th, I was in a tent city hospital. I stayed in a Paris hospital for a week or two and then transferred to England. I was sent back to the States in April on the *George Washington* hospital ship.

DRAWING OF KALTERHERBURG CHURCH

The drawing below by MALCOLM (BUD) FARRIS, 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 47TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, COMPANY G, is the church mentioned in an article in a previous issue of *The Bulge Bugle*, entitled "Lone Prophet."



VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, INC.
Orlando, Florida
September 29-October 3, 2001

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address: _____

Wife/Guest Name: _____

Division: _____ Regiment: _____

Signature: _____

Please provide the name of the hotel where you have made reservations _____

	Number of Persons	Cost per Person	Total
Registration Fee (All attendees must register)	_____	\$20.00	_____
Saturday, September 29, 2001:			
Bus fare to Disney World	_____	\$15.00	_____
(Park admission fare to be paid at park)			
Light refreshments/Hospitality Room (ticketed)	_____	Free	_____
Sunday, September 30, 2001:			
Bus Trip to Cypress Gardens	_____	\$50.00	_____
OR			
Bus Trip to Fantasy of Flight	_____	\$35.00	_____
Wine & Cheese Reception			
Compliments of Hotel (ticketed)	_____	Free	_____
Monday, October 1, 2001:			
Bus Trip to Kennedy Space Center	_____	\$45.00	_____
OR			
Bus Trip to Winter Park (Lunch Included)	_____	\$50.00	_____
Tuesday, October 2, 2001:			
Reception (Cash Bar) and Banquet	_____	\$35.00	_____
Indicate preference: Beef #____ OR Chicken #____ OR Salmon #____			
Wednesday, October 3, 2001:			
Breakfast (Compliments of Central Florida Chapter--			
No last minute reservations--tickets will be issued)	_____	Free	_____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Mail registration form and check payable to "VBOB" to:

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge • P.O. Box 11129 • Arlington, VA 22210-2129

REGISTRATION RECEIPT DEADLINE--SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 - AFTER THAT DATE BRING FORM.

(Refunds for cancellations, will be honored in whole or in part, depending on availability of funds.)

**FLORIDA PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS,
SCHEDULED TOURS INFORMATION,
and MISCELLANEOUS**

Registration Fee: All who attend any portion of the reunion must pay the registration fee. Wreaths, programs, table decorations, etc., are paid by this fee.

Hotel Rates: The hotel is offering a three day window before and after the reunion dates in order that you may take advantage of the many sites in the Orlando area. The rate is \$72.00 (per night), plus tax of \$7.92, for a total of \$79.92.

Disney World: If you come a day early (September 28th), we can arrange for a bus to take you to Disney World on the 29th. The registration desk will open at 2:00 p.m. on Friday and will stay open until 5:00 p.m. for those who wish to go on Saturday. You will purchase your Disney World ticket at the gate.

Cypress Gardens: Recapture the Old South with a visit to Cypress Gardens, with more than 8,000 varieties of plants and flowers from over 90 countries. These 223 lush acres are filled with shows, animal exhibits and rides for kids. Each season a different floral festival reflects the expertise of the park's master horti-culturists. See "Wings of Wonder," a 5,500-square-foot, glass conservatory which houses over 1,000 free-flying butterflies. The "Calling All Animals" show is awe. Cypress Gardens is also known as the Water Ski Capital of the World. Come and enjoy a relaxing day of beautiful sites and shows.

Fantasy of Flight: An aviation-themed attraction featuring the world's largest private collection of vintage aircraft. Themed sight and sound "immersion experiences" cataloging memorable moments in aviation history and flight simulators that use real time motion technology that realistically captures the sensation of participating in a WWII aerial battle over the Pacific.

A guide will take you through the attraction, starting with an outdoor aircraft flight demonstration. Then experience the different eras of aviation through a series of "immersion experiences" recounting the history of flight: ranging from a trip to the trenches of World War I to a re-enactment of an aerial bombing mission over Europe aboard a B-17 Flying Fortress.

After the tour, you are on your own to feel the heart-pounding excitement and thrill of piloting a real aircraft.

Kennedy Space Center: Located near the Atlantic Coast, Spaceport USA is the visitor center at Kennedy Space Center, home launch base of America's space shuttle. Past, present and future of space exploration are unfurled through tours, movie presentations and displays of actual space hardware.

Your tour of the Space Center will include a visit to Launch Complex 39. This exhibit features a 60-foot observation gantry and highlights the current Space Shuttle program. The most exciting exhibit at the Kennedy Space Center is the Apollo/Saturn V Center. Here, you will be immersed in the cosmic wonder of American space exploration as you hear the story of NASA's historic Apollo program. You will experience dramatic "you-are-there" presentations as you relive the glory days of our nation's landing on the moon. To your amazement,

you will actually view an actual 363-foot Saturn V Rocket housed in the exhibit.

A visit to Kennedy's IMAX theater is not to be missed. The screen is five stories high and seven stories wide and the theater is electrified with IMAX Digital Sound.

The complex features a variety of self-paced walk-through exhibits including full scale replica of the Space Shuttle, from the payload bay to the cockpit to the crew quarters. The Rocket Garden features Mercury and Gemini era rockets identical to those which put Alan Shepard and John Glenn into space. Robot Scouts is a narrated walk-through exhibit of NASA's first and most far-reaching space explorers, planetary probes.

The Exploration of the New Millennium exhibit takes you on a journey from the Vikings' discoveries of Greenland and Iceland to Mars Viking Lander, the first probe to land on another planet. Beyond Earth Orbit Gallery will display animated images of exploration beyond Earth's orbit, emphasizing discoveries on Mars and future plans for settlements on the red planet. Take the opportunity to see and actually touch a piece of mars, which fell to the Earth as a meteorite.

Shopping and food concessions are also available.

Winter Park: Spread out along the shore of many interconnecting lakes, Winter Park is a college town, artists' haven, vacation retreat and a distinctive address for year-round residents.

Winter Park has many attractive qualities, perhaps the most apparent being its lush foliage and natural beauty. Enjoy this area on a scenic boat tour through the canals and lakes of this historic district. This one-hour, twelve-mile cruise on the Winter Park Chain of Lakes provides the best means by which to view the "Millionaires' Row" of Winter Park mansions.

Stroll down Park Avenue to the Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art, featuring the world's most comprehensive and interesting Tiffany leaded and art glass. Its holdings also include a major American Art Pottery collection and representative works in American painting, sculpture and graphic art.

After touring the museum, you will dine on traditional French cuisine at the quaint Chez Vincent, located in the heart of charming Winter Park. (Lunch is included in the price of the tour. They can only serve 45, so make reservations early.)

Time for shopping in the quaint boutiques along Park Avenue.

Other Attractions: Check the Orlando Official Visitors Guide for information on other attractions in Orlando. They are too numerous to elaborate on.

Weather: Average annual temperature is a comfortable 72 degrees F with low humidity. However, June through September shows an increase in the humidity and temperature, tempered by frequent short afternoon thunderstorms. So don't forget your umbrellas and your sun screen.

Parking: For those who drive, please be advised that parking is available next door to the hotel--cost is \$8.00 per day.

Four Points Sheraton Orlando Downtown
151 East Washington Street
Orlando, FL 32801
407-841-3220 Fax 407-422-7074

Welcomes
VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE
September 29 - October 3, 2001

Please complete the Reservation Request form below and return by mail or fax to 407-422-7074 by 08/29/01 12:00:00 AM. We are pleased to have the opportunity to host this important event. We look forward to having you as our guest and should you need additional assistance or information, please contact our Reservations Department by calling 800-325-3535 or 407-841-3220.

Our accommodations are beautiful guestrooms with a large desk, data port, coffee maker, full size iron and ironing board, hairdryer, 27" television with deluxe cable and in-room movies, and telephones with voicemail messaging.

For amenities, the hotel offers an outdoor heated pool, workout rooms, restaurant and lounge, located within walking distance to a variety of shopping and dining, and minutes from the airport and the Orlando attractions.

Detach here and return lower portion

ATTENDEE RESERVATION REQUEST
VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, September 29 - October 3, 2001

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Share With: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Arrival Date: _____ Arrival Time: _____ (Check in is 3:00 PM)

Departure Date: _____ (Check out is 11:00 AM)

Rooms: _____ # Party: _____ Adults: _____ Children/Ages: _____

*Bedding Request: _____ King _____ Dbl/Dbl _____ Smoking _____ Non Smoking

Special Requests: _____

* Requests for room types are based on availability, therefore not guaranteed.

Daily Room Rate: \$72.00 Single/Double; \$82.00 Triple; and \$92.00 Quad, plus 11% tax. No charge for children, under 17 years of age, staying in the same room with an adult. Five (5) persons maximum per room. All reservations must be guaranteed with a major credit card or advance deposit for the amount of one night's room and tax. Reservations not guaranteed will be automatically cancelled 14 days prior to arrival. Please indicate payment method below with an "X":

_____ Check Enclosed _____ Credit Card (circle one): American Express Mastercard Visa DinersClub Discover

Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

In the event you need to cancel your reservation, please inform the hotel 48 hours prior to day of scheduled arrival to receive refund of deposit. Reservation requests received after 08/29/01 12:00:00 AM will be confirmed on a space available basis.

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge

September 29 - October 4, 2001
(Valid Dates: Sept. 24 - Oct. 9, 2001)

\$3.00 Discount Off - Regular Round Trip Price Of: \$23.00 per adult

Present this coupon to **MEARS MOTOR SHUTTLE COUNTER** at the airport for round trip transportation to and from the
FOUR POINTS SHERATON

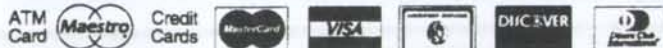
SALES # 08 ORDER # 146900

COUNTER COLLECTS PAYMENT

Tickets Must be Purchased at Airport Location for Discount. Gratuity not included.

****2ND LEVEL****

"A" TERMINAL: DIRECTLY ACROSS FROM AMERICAN BAGGAGE CLAIM CAROUSEL #5 OR SOUTHWEST BAGGAGE CLAIM CAROUSEL #12
"B" TERMINAL: DIRECTLY ACROSS FROM UNITED BAGGAGE CLAIM CAROUSEL #8 OR DELTA BAGGAGE CLAIM CAROUSEL #13



A B
(for office use only)

*** THANK YOU FOR USING MEARS TRANSPORTATION GROUP ***

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, INC.

REUNION PROGRAM

Orlando, Florida

September 28-October 3, 2001

• FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2001 •

2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Registration, Headquarters Hotel, Four Points Sheraton Orlando Downtown

• SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2001 •

12:00 Noon - 5:00 p.m. Registration, Headquarters Hotel, Four Points Sheraton Orlando Downtown
 The registration desk will be open the majority of the day.
 8:00 a.m. Bus Departs for Disney World (Ticket for admission to park purchased at gate)
 12:00 Noon Hospitality Room: Light Refreshments served at 6:00 p.m. (ticketed)

• SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2001 •

As needed Registration, Headquarters Hotel, Four Points Sheraton Orlando Downtown
 The registration desk will be open the majority of the day.
 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Option #1: Board Buses for Cypress Gardens
 OR
 12:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. Option #2: Board Buses for Fantasy of Flight
 6:30 p.m. Wine & Cheese Reception (Hosted by hotel) with light refreshments (ticketed)
 Dinner On your own

• MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2001 •

As needed Registration, Headquarters Hotel, Four Points Sheraton Orlando Downtown
 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Option #1: Board buses to Kennedy Space Center
 OR
 9:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. Option #2: Board Buses to Winter Park (Lunch included)
 Dinner On your own

• TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2001 •

As needed Registration, Headquarters Hotel, Four Points Sheraton Orlando Downtown
 10:00 a.m. Memorial Services begin at VBOB Monument (walking distance)
 2:00 p.m. General Business Meeting
 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Social Hour - Cash Bar
 7:00 p.m. Annual Banquet (Speaker Brig. Gen. William E. Carlson, USA (Ret.))

• WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2001 •

7:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Buffet Breakfast hosted by the Central Florida Chapter (Advance registration needed. Serving only those with tickets.)

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

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

WILLIAM U. SAVAGE, 244TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION wrote to us regarding the origin of the term "Battle of the Bulge." His notice appeared in the February, 2001, newsletter. JOHN YENO, 5TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 66TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, COMPANIES HQ & C, responded, sending him a copy of an article which appeared in November, 1996, issue of *The Bulge Bugle*. We thought you might be interested in reading it again--

Fifty Years Ago

It Was Newman's Call at The Battle of the Bulge

[The following article by Sean M. Walsh appeared in the January 5, 1995, issue of the CAPE COD NEWS, Hyannis, Massachusetts.]

Some 77,000 Allied casualties fell From December 16, 1944 through January 16, 1945 in the northeast of France and Belgium in the Ardennes mountains.

On December 30, 1944, exactly 50 years ago last Friday, Hyannis Port resident Larry Newman stood knee deep in the mud, blood and freezing snow of Bastogne, Belgium.

It was his first day in the by then 2-week old battle for the Belgian Ardennes sector and the battle was in full swing.

Panzers rained a blitzkrieg of shells upon the Allies Forces and the U.S. Army's Sherman tanks. Foxholes served as impromptu graves for thousands. All around Mr. Newman, in woods dark as they were deep, were the cries of pain and fear.

While he was dressed in full combat gear, Larry Newman carried no M-1 Garand rifle, but a pencil and notepad: he was a United Press International and International News Service correspondent.

On that day 50 years ago, at the age of 30, he coined the name for the fight he witnessed, a name that has been etched forever in history books.

He called it, The Battle of the Bulge.

Mr. Newman had been no stranger to the ravages of war. He had followed General George S. Patton Jr. from the battlefields of North Africa to Sicily, and the two had become close friends.

Mr. Newman's sizable, but warm, seaside home in Hyannis Port is a testimony to that friendship. Old framed photos adorn his library walls, a young reporter side by side with the famous general, sketches of World War II battles, framed medals from the war.

"It was the dead and the dying,... And it was cold as hell."

Yes, even though Mr. Newman did not raise his sights to German eyes while he toured Europe and Africa from 1943 through 1945, he nevertheless served his country and survived World War II in a way many have not. He witnessed and

documented and etched upon his blood-sullied notepad world history. He was also shot in the process.

On the day he coined the name Battle of the Bulge, Mr. Newman indeed spoke with friend General Patton. The particulars are now, a little foggy, but the gist of the discussion is clear.

"It was war to him. He was calm, cool, collected," Mr. Newman said. "His father and grandfather were generals before him. West Pointers."

But all around the general and Mr. Newman was a pandemonium of bloodshed and agony.

"It was the dead and the dying," Mr. Newman recalled. "and it was cold as hell. I named it the Battle of the Bulge."

According to history books, the Germans had penetrated deep into Belgium, creating a dent or "Bulge," in the Allied lines, threatening to break through to the North Belgian plain and seize Antwerp.

Even though grossly outnumbered, the U.S. 1st, 9th and 3rd armies attacked the Germans. It was an effort Mr. Newman will never forget.

"The Germans were trying to go all the way through Belgium, the Netherlands, but they didn't quite make it, it was their last gasp," Mr. Newman said. "It was the end of the ball game for them."

The German army, Mr. Newman added, was far better equipped than the Allied foot soldier--better tanks, better guns, more disciplined infantry men. But the allies had more guts and many more guns than their enemies, Mr. Newman stressed.

"We didn't know what the hell was going on."

"The Germans had the best of everything in the world, but the weight of arms the United States poured into Europe was so great you can't imagine," he said.

But more bullets and more guns and more guts did not make the task of beating the Germans any less difficult.

"We didn't know what the hell was going on. The Battle of the Bulge was a surprise to us because we kicked the hell out 'em every place else. A lot of soldiers were scared. They didn't understand what was going on," he said.

And since that freezing December day he stepped onto the battlefield and wrote the words "The Battle of the Bulge," he has not forgotten what it was like to witness the horror of war.

Even while standing in the White House or the Pentagon accepting a medal for meritorious service, or hobnobbing with the Kennedys down the street or in the days he helped reorganize the Cape Cod Baseball League, Mr. Newman cannot, and will not, forget.

As he sat last Friday morning in his living room armchair in Hyannis Port, the wind whipping across the nearby sea, this 80-year-old veteran of war and the world around him, simply picked a day from memory and recalled history in the making. He should know. He was there. ■

MISSISSIPPI CHAPTER DEDICATES MEMORIAL

Before a crowd estimated to be 1,000, the Mississippi Chapter dedicated a memorial to the Battle of the Bulge on March 17, 2001, at the new world class Armed Forces Museum, at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, which will open in October 2001.

Summaries of war remembrances of the Mississippi VBOB members were collected, permanently bound and will be displayed at the museum in a place of honor.



VBOB National Trustee and Mississippi Chapter member James Hunt stands before Battle of the Bulge Monument dedicated in March.

[Then] Majority Leader of the Senate Trent Lott, Governor Ronnie Musgrove, Congressmen Chip Pickering and Ronnie Shows, Miss Mississippi Christy May, and many other dignitaries were present.

Mississippi Chapter members and their families were responsible for a very impressive ceremony on the occasion of the dedication.

JOE FOREMAN, 7TH ARMORED DIVISION, 434TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, sent us some very nice thoughts regarding the monument and his feelings on that day. He recalled: "I was very fortunate to get home early in late June, 1945. I always felt that I had left something over there in later years. I realized it was those heroes buried in those beautiful cemeteries. ■"

PLEASE SAVE US THE TIME AND EXPENSE OF MAILING YOU A DUES REMINDER. CHECK THE DATE ABOVE YOUR LAST NAME ON YOUR MAILING LABEL. THANKS.

FRANCE TO HONOR WWII VETERANS

Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony J. Principi and H.E. Francois de l'Estang, Ambassador of France, have announced that the French government will present certificates to World War II U.S. military veterans to thank them for their participation in the liberation of France.

To be eligible, a veteran must have served on French territory, in French territorial waters or in French airspace between June 6, 1944, and May 8, 1945. The certificate will not be issued posthumously. Presentation of the certificates is expected to begin later this year.

The 10 Consuls of France in the United States will work with state veterans affairs offices, veterans service organizations and other veterans groups to identify eligible people and to organize ceremonies to present the certificates.

The application is available from local veteran service organizations and an Internet site maintained by the French government: www.info-france-usa.org/news/statmnts/ww2/index.htm.

Or you can send a self-addressed, envelope with .34 postage to VBOB and we will be happy to mail you an application. For prompt service write "France" on the envelope. That way we can spot it quickly.

SPECIAL OFFER: If you plan to attend the VBOB Reunion and will be in Orlando on Tuesday, October 2nd, you can send for the application, fill it out, and the certificate can be presented to you in Orlando. If this is what you wish to do, you will need to follow these instructions after you have filled out the application. **Do not mail it to any of the addresses listed on the application.** Instead, mail it promptly to Harry Meisel, 1329 Alfred Drive, Orlando, Florida 32810. He will process them. If you have already mailed in your application, you can bring with you a copy of your discharge papers, notify Harry that you have already made application, and a member of the embassy will introduce you as one who is eligible for the certificate and who had previously applied. This presentation will take place in the VBOB Hospitality Room at the Four Points Sheraton and you should be in the room at 12:30 p.m. ■



UNIT CITATION 634TH AAA AW BN

The following was sent to us by **GERALD E. MOUNT, 634TH ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS BATTALION, BATTERY B.**

RESTRICTED
HEADQUARTERS
THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY
APO 403

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 180

18 July 1945

IV. **UNIT CITATION** - Under the provisions of Section IV, Circular 333, War Department, 22 December 1943, the 634th Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion is cited for outstanding performance of duty against the enemy from 16-21 December 1944. During the violent enemy counteroffensive near St. Vith, Belgium, the battalion was deployed in advance positions which necessarily committed it as a ground fighting unit. Despite this shift from their primary mission, the members of the battalion temporarily held the numerically superior enemy forces throughout five days of bitter fighting. Battery "D", although completely surrounded, gallantly continued the fight and maintained communication with the battalion during the entire period of heavy combat. Battery "B" aggressively fought its way from encirclement and, displaying consummate skill in using its mobile weapons, protected the withdrawal of a field artillery battalion. Headquarters Battery and Batteries "A" and "C" were assigned defensive positions on the north flank of St. Vith and courageously held their ground while the infantry and tank destroyers withdrew through their thin but tenaciously held line of resistance. When the enemy attacked with an overwhelming number of tanks and infantry on the morning of 18 December, the Bofors guns of the battalion made little impression upon their heavy tanks but the battalion dauntlessly maintained a constant stream of harassing small arms and machine gun fire which stopped and completely routed the German infantry. In spite of direct, close-range tank fire which resulted in heavy casualties and the loss of vitally needed guns, the officers and men of this intrepid battalion held their ground against the surging enemy forces with fearless determination and unbreakable spirit until relieved by friendly armored elements.

By command of General Patton:

Official seal/HEADQUARTERS THIRD ARMY

ROBERT K. GRAY,
Major General, U.S. Army
Chief of Staff

R. E. CUMMINGS

Colonel, Adjutant General's Department,
Adjutant General

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ ROBERT A. KENDALL,
1st Lt., C.A.C.,
Adjutant

RESTRICTED

A HAUNTING EXPERIENCE

By Richard A. Masek
87 INF 345 INF I

I would like to relate an incident which happened to me, not during the Battle of the Bulge, but 27 years later.

In the summer of 1972, my wife and I were vacationing in Europe. I was a light machine gunner in the Weapons Platoon of I Company, 345th Infantry, 87th Infantry Division.

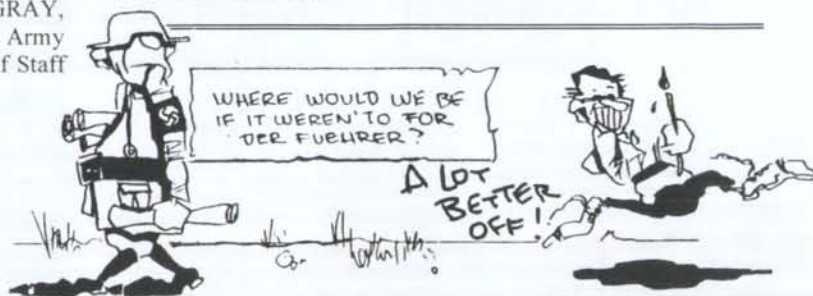
Being a veteran of the Battle of the Bulge, we were touring the old battle areas. I was quite taken with a monument to the battle on the outside of Bastogne.

It was late in the afternoon, my wife was getting tired, so she went back to the car. I continued taking photos of all the inscriptions and logos. I walked down the ramp to the crypt still photographing everything. All of a sudden I heard hundreds of voices. I couldn't make out what they were saying, so I figured it must be a group of tourists just off a tour bus heading my way. I took a few more photos and decided to leave before the tour group got there. As I turned to leave, I saw I was alone. There were no tourists and the voices were getting weaker and disappeared.



Photo of monument Richard visited outside of Bastogne.

I went back to our car to tell my wife what had happened. When I got there my wife said, "What happened to you? You look like you've seen a ghost." I said, "I didn't see one, but I think I heard some." □



Wits of War

FT. MONMOUTH CHAPTER DEDICATES MONUMENT

Submitted by:
Maurice Wolfson
84 INFD

On May 6, 2001, Ft. Monmouth Chapter LVI, Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, New Jersey dedicated a monument in Ft. Monmouth in memory of all who served during the Ardennes Campaign 16 December 1944 to 25 January 1945. In attendance were 300 veterans, family members and friends to visit, a first for New Jersey.



Major General Robert L. Nabors, Commanding General, U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command, was the guest speaker. The Honorable Carlo Krieger, Deputy Chief of Mission, Luxembourg Embassy and Col. Jean Pierre Hulpiau, Belgium Military Attache were in attendance. Also present: Brigadier General Kenneth Wondrack, Assistant Division Commander (Training), 42nd Infantry Division, ARNG representing the State of New Jersey and Stanley Wojtusik, National Vice President Military Affairs. ■

BILL MAULDIN

Steadfast Friend of the American Foot Soldier

[The following was excerpted from an article written by Scott Baron, which appeared in *Stars and Stripes*, April 9-22, 2001, issue.]

[Excerpts] William Henry Mauldin was born in Mountain Park, New Mexico, on October 29, 1921, the son of a World War I veteran. He began drawing at an early age, taking courses at the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts and working as a cartoonist in the Southwest. In September 1940, before America became involved in the war in Europe, Mauldin enlisted in the U.S. Army.

After basic training, Pvt. Mauldin was assigned as a rifleman to Company K, 180th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry ("Thunderbird") Division at Camp Barkeley near Abilene,

Texas....

[The division was shipped to Algeria in North Africa in June 1943 for training in amphibious operations.]

Somewhere along the way, the Army became aware of Mauldin's drawing talent and, trading his rifle for a sketch pad, he was assigned as a cartoonist with the *45th Division News*. When the division reached Sicily, Mauldin was transferred to the staff of the Mediterranean edition of *Stars and Stripes*, the U.S. Army newspaper.

He covered the fighting in Sicily, taking a wound and earning a Purple Heart at Salerno in the winter of 1943. Allowed unusual freedom of action, T/Sgt Mauldin went to Naples, landed at Anzio, took fire in the Apennine Mountains, landed in Southern France and covered the drive into Germany in his jeep, "Jeanie," which he named after his wife.

In June 1945, *Up Front*, a collection of Mauldin's cartoons, was published shortly before his discharge from the Army. Most of his cartoons featured two characters, infantrymen Willie and Joe, who despite the horror of war and the absurdities of the military bureaucracy managed to retain their humor and humanity.

One cartoon--of weary G.I.s marching German POWs to the rear and captioned "Fresh spirited American troops, flushed with victory, are bringing in thousands of hungry, battle-weary prisoners"--won Mauldin a Pulitzer Prize in 1945. He became, at 24, the youngest person ever to receive that award. He won a second Pulitzer in 1959 for a cartoon depiction of a Soviet dissident over the caption, "I won the Nobel Prize for Literature. What was your crime?"

Although his cartoons occasionally ruffled the feathers of rear-echelon generals, Mauldin said it was never his intention to editorialize.

"I tried to stay completely away from stuff that had an editorial twist," he said in an interview. "The only editorializing you can do in the Army is that which is approved by the Army. I never could see any point in doing stuff that didn't show both sides.... I didn't do a drawing at all unless I could work in a twist that made it at least slightly humorous."

Out of the Army, and now a well-known cartoonist, Mauldin joined the United Feature Syndicate, but his cartoons attacking racism, the Ku Klux Klan and McCarthyism offended many conservative newspapers, especially in the South, and by 1949 Mauldin had resigned and left cartooning.

In 1958, Mauldin joined the staff of the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* as a political cartoonist, winning his second Pulitzer the following year. In 1962, he moved to the *Chicago Sun-Times*. [He retired from there in 1992.]

[Some of his books include: *Up Front*, *Back Home*, *A Sort of Saga*, *Bill Mauldin in Korea*, *The Brass Ring*, and *Back at the Front*.]

Bill Mauldin will always be remembered as a friend of the American enlisted man and a chronicler of World War II and the grim, drab reality that was a foot soldier's life.

"I drew pictures for and about soldiers because I knew what their life was like and understood their gripes," he recalled. "I wanted to make something out of the humorous situations that come up even when you don't think life could be any more miserable." ■

SEE YOU IN ORLANDO? SURE HOPE SO.

GRATITUDE UNITES LIBERATORS AND THE LIBERATED

[The following excerpts are from an article written by Melissa McKeon, which was published in "The Landmark." It covers a reception of the Central Massachusetts Chapter which was held on June 14, 2001 and attended by 117 chapter members.]

Westboro--Usually there are more tears of sadness than tears of joy when talk turns to war. And the battles for northern Europe during World War II, particularly the Battle of the Bulge in 1944, call up many solemn memories.

But gratitude was the unofficial theme last Thursday at the luncheon of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Central Massachusetts Chapter. Nine Wachusett-area residents joined more than a hundred other comrades in arms and some spouses to reminisce and thank two Belgian citizens who crossed the ocean to thank them.

A grateful nation--Belgium

Marcel Schmetz was less than seven years old in 1940 when the Germans occupied neutral Belgium and changed his life completely. For more than four years Schmetz and his family lived under German occupation, being told what to study and what to say, and becoming unwilling workers for the German war machine. The Germans took young men over 17 and sent them to fight on the Russian front. Schmetz's older brother spent years hiding from the Germans, in cubby holes of the walls of his home.

When the American army of liberation plowed through France and Belgium in 1944, a unit camped on Schmetz's farm in Thimister-Clermont hurried to battle, leaving everything behind. Relics left by his liberators became the core of a museum established by Marcel on his farm.

Marcel was typical of the Belgians who lived through the war. They not only watched American forces driving out the Germans but also witnessed Americans dying for Belgium's freedom. They are eternally grateful.

It was inevitable that Marcel would meet others with a similar devotion.

One such was a woman named Mathilde Meeuwissen, who, like many Belgians, looked at the graves of fallen Americans buried far from their families and was moved. She devoted much time to volunteering at the United States Military Cemetery at Henri-Chapelle where nearly 8,000 American soldiers are buried. Like her, many Belgians devote their time to maintaining those graves, adopting them, bringing flowers, taking care of the area around them and praying.

"We are so grateful to you all, but the real heroes are there in that cemetery," Mathilde says.

Although it was a chance car accident near the cemetery that brought Mathilde and the mechanic Marcel together, it was their mutual devotion to expressing their nation's gratitude that gave them an occupation. They married and now maintain the museum, continue to volunteer at Henri-Chapelle, conduct tours and share the history.

A time to remember

Remembrance is the theme of their museum, called the Remember 1939-1945 Museum. But those who go expecting military history will be disappointed.

"We show feelings...not guns and uniforms," Mathilde says. The collection, which includes personal memorabilia, has grown by donations from Marcel and others. From being 90% Marcel's war souvenirs, the collection now combines 60% of his contributions with 40% donations. Visiting veterans bring souvenirs to this place so close to where they fought and lost comrades.

Marcel and Mathilde, M&M to their thousands of friends, have also poured their generosity on the living, the survivors of "the greatest generation." They have spent countless hours hosting veterans, visiting the scenes of the battles, giving them bed and board, helping them research lost comrades and Belgian friends.

Last Thursday's gathering...included many who came just to once again hug M&M and reminisce about their visits to Belgium.

Arthur French, of Sterling, a tank driver, and Edwin Wolfahrt of Rutland, who was an army sergeant doing communications during the war, were two such visitors. Though neither was in the Battle of the Bulge, both saw action in

Europe and are grateful for the warm welcome they received from M&M.

The same applied to Edward Asselin and Christian de Marcken of Paston. Their travels in Belgium with Asselin's friend, Woody Ford, of Tewksbury, to revisit scenes of battles, brought them to the attention of M&M.

de Marcken says Asselin is the driving force behind the friendship between M&M and the Central Massachusetts veterans. It was while visiting the scenes of Asselin's battle days that the three met M&M and established what will clearly be a long friendship. Asselin made a tangible donation to the museum--his Ike jacket.

Like Mathilde Schmetz, Asselin views his dead comrades-in-arms as the real heroes.

de Marcken, like M&M, saw the war from the Belgian side. He was a young teenager and an American citizen, the son of an American businessman who spent the war in a concentration camp while his family lived under German occupation in Belgium. When M&M and de Marcken met, they discovered their mutual gratitude to the liberating American forces.

"We don't know how to say thank you enough," de Marcken says.

He is also grateful to M&M for their work and their now legendary hospitality.

"They greeted us like gold," he recalls.

Grateful memories

Helen Rusz, of Paxton, remembers happily that in the midst of war, she was able to reunite with her brother, a soldier with the 101st division. She was a 21-year-old nurse, fresh out of Peter Bent Brigham Hospital nursing school when she and her friend, Nellie Ruksnaitis, joined the war effort and were sent, after only six months of training, to the 59th evacuation hospital in the middle of the war. They served in southern France, in the Ardennes, in Metz, and saw their share of sadness. But both remember the fun times, too, like visits from the male soldiers who chivalrously came to light their stove during that cold, cruel winter.

"Girls, cover up your skivvies, we're coming in!" they'd yell," Helen and Nellie recall.

Herb Adams, of Holden, is grateful for at least one chance encounter at a hospital during the war.

Adams was a paratrooper and was in that long, cold winter battle almost until the end, when his frozen feet earned him a trip in the ambulance. When he was in a hospital at Cherbourg waiting to be shipped to England--where they planned to amputate his frostbitten feet--a doctor who had seen his share of frozen limbs in the Aleutians told Adams his feet could be saved.

"If it weren't for him, I'd be walking around on stumps," Adams says.

Clayton Rice, of Princeton, is also grateful, for what seemed at the time like chance. On one of his many rides from point A to point B, Rice changed trucks to come in out of the rain. That change saved his life.

Bernie Courmoyer, of Holden, is grateful that the prediction in the epithet given to replacements like himself didn't come true. "They called us cannon fodder," he says.

Surviving the battle and then the rest of the war made Bernie miss the celebrations back home--he was immediately sent into training to go to Japan.

But he remembers two things very well: the beauty of the Belgian countryside and the sadness of losing friends.

Passing the torch

That particular sadness is common to the veterans, though they speak little of it. But many expressed a desire to speak now and set the record straight, for with the passage of time, they acknowledge, there are few left who really remember. de Marcken said that nearly a thousand veterans of that war die each day.

The sense of loss has become a driving force behind the veterans' desire to share, to educate through speeches, through sharing with each other and with families, and through writing. It is especially important for them to communicate with a younger generation, who must carry the torch of remembrance.

Mathilde Schmetz acknowledged that need as well.

"Our main work now is to find younger people to care for the graves, to keep the memory alive by teaching the younger generation," she says.

That need was acknowledged too, in a benediction read at the close of the luncheon:

"For those who have forgotten, it is our duty to remind them. For those who are ignorant, it is our duty to reach them. For the future generation, it is our honor to pass on to them the legacy of our freedom." ■

95TH MEDICAL GAS TREATMENT BATTALION

ROBERT B. SCHATZ sent us a copy of his unit's Meritorious Unit Commendation which reads as follows:

"By direction of the Secretary of the Army, the Meritorious Unit Commendation is awarded to

"95th Medical Gas Treatment Battalion

"for exceptionally meritorious conduct in performance of outstanding service:

"During the period September 1944 to March 1945, the 95th Medical Gas Treatment Battalion, distinguished itself while operating a Combat Exhaustion Center under extremely hazardous conditions, during the Huertgen Forest and Ardennes Campaigns, a most crucial period during World War II. Through the professionalism and dedication of the officers and men, trauma patients were expeditiously treated and returned directly to the front line units, thereby alleviating a severe shortage of infantry replacements. The outstanding contributions of the members of the 95th Medical Gas Treatment Battalion reflect great credit upon themselves and the United States Army."■

TACKY OR JUST PLAIN PROUD?

R. KEITH OSTRUM, 87TH CHEMICAL MORTAR BATTALION, writes to ask your opinion, but first you need a little background.

Keith's battalion had been in the Hurtgen Forest and was transferred up to a point near Marche, Belgium. Each company of the 87th had been given a color code and "D" Company (Keith's) was orange. The battalion designation was "Camel," and they were assigned to the 4th Division.

As a result of having been in "Camel Orange," he has taken it upon himself to obtain a baseball-type cap (orange in color) on which he has affixed three patches: a D-Day patch, a patch for the Hurtgen Forest, and a Battle of the Bulge Patch. He purchased a bright orange jacket and took it to a print shop and had the following emblazoned on the back:

Been There/Done That
D-Day
Hurtgen Forest
Battle of the Bulge

Now, Keith asks this question: Are his actions in making and wearing the cap and jacket considered "Tacky" or self-serving? He would appreciate hearing your opinion. Write to him at 2931 Burton Avenue, Erie, Pennsylvania 16504-1443.

[It sounds to us like Keith has found a very good and individual way to express the pride he finds in his and his company's service.]■

WE'RE LOOKING FOR YOU AT THE REUNION--REGISTER TODAY.

NO MORE BLUEBIRDS

An article in the *SHAEF Communique* #57, advises that Dame Vera Lynn, The Forces Sweetheart during World War II, gave her last performance before thousands in front of Buckingham Palace in 1995.

Dame Vera said: "Six years ago I decided that was it. To give it all up. It's time to get on with the rest of my life. I've had a very good run indeed."

Commenting on those wartime songs, she said: "Bluebirds over the White Cliffs of Dover", it tells you that it was written by an American, doesn't it? There's never been a bluebird over the Dover Cliffs--ever! Come to think of it, I don't think anyone has ever heard a nightingale singing in Berkeley Square either. But that doesn't take away the poignancy of the lyrics, does it? And I never tire of them. Never."

Our thanks go out to Vera for the many lovely thoughts she brought to us during those terrible times. She was our nightingale.

ALTOONA VETERANS MEET

WILLIAM R. BOLLINGER, 10TH ARMORED DIVISION, 3RD TANK BATTALION, BATTERY D, sent us the following photograph of a group who assembled on December 16th, 2000 at the Juniata Veterans of Foreign Wars Post to recall the Battle of the Bulge.



[No identification of persons provided.]

EISENHOWER REIGNS OVER GLICK

As you may recall, we notified you in the May issue that the State of Kansas was having a debate over whether to include in Statuary Hall in the Halls of Congress (in Washington) a statue of General Dwight D. Eisenhower or 19th Century Governor George Washington Glick (currently there). Each state is entitled to have two statues in the hall.

It seems that a Statue of General Eisenhower will now replace the Glick one.

THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION
Invites You to Join Your Friends for the
"EVENTS OF REMEMBRANCE AND COMMEMORATION"
OF THE 57th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE
December 14, 15 and 16, 2001
Metropolitan Washington, DC

The Holiday Inn, 3400 Ft Meade Road, Laurel MD 20724 (Rt. 198), has been selected as the site for activities commemorating the 57th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, December 14 - 16, 2001. This hotel is located only a few minutes from Fort Meade and will provide accommodations in "The Towers" (new area of the hotel) for a reduced rate of \$79.00, single or double occupancy. This rate is available for any night(s) between December 13 and December 17. For room reservations please call the Holiday Inn (1-800-477-7410) by December 1, 2001. Mention that you are attending the Battle of the Bulge events.

This year, 2001, is the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War and we shall remember and honor those Battle of the Bulge veterans who also served our country in that bitter conflict.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2001

- 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM Registration (Hotel Lobby), receive name badges, Banquet/bus tickets. (If you are only attending the Banquet, you may pick up your tickets with table assignment at the Club Meade Dining Room, at Fort Meade at 6:00 PM Dec 15th.)
- 3:00 PM – 10:00 PM Hospitality Room/Exhibits, scrapbooks. John Bowen & Earle Hart, Battle of the Bulge Historians will be the hosts. A private area in the Hotel cafe has been reserved for supper from 6:30 – 8:00 PM for the Battle of the Bulge Veterans (payment is on your own).

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2001

- 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM Registration/receive name badges, Banquet/bus tickets (hotel lobby).
 9:30 AM Charter buses depart hotel.
 10:00 AM – 11:15 AM Tour through the famous Goddard Space Flight Center.
 11:30 AM Depart for US Naval Academy, Annapolis MD.
 12:12 PM – 2:00 PM Luncheon, Academy Officers' Club/Tour of the Academy.
 2:00 PM – 3:15 PM Bus tour of the historical sights of Annapolis.
 3:15 PM Return by bus to Holiday Inn, Laurel MD.
BANQUET AT CLUB MEADE, FORT MEADE MD
 Share-a-Ride transportation to be arranged at Registration Desk.
 Social Hour/Cash Bar.
 6:15 PM Seated for Dinner.
 6:45 PM Color Guard/Members of the Drum and Fife Corps/Ceremonies.
 7:00 PM Dinner served.
 7:15 PM
- Program:
 Greetings from Dignitaries.
 Speaker: The noted architect of the World War II Memorial,
 Friedrich St. Florian.
 Entertainment: The musical group "Celeb 8" will delight us with World War II music
 and Christmas melodies.

BANQUET ENTRÉE

The choice of entrée for the Banquet is:
Roast Prime Rib of Beef au Jus
OR
Filet of Flounder Stuffed with Crab.

After Banquet Return to Holiday Inn/Hospitality Room open at Holiday Inn.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2001

- 9:45 AM Bus from Holiday Inn to Arlington Cemetery
 11:00 AM Impressive ceremony and placing of wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns, Arlington Cemetery.
 11:30 AM Ceremony of Remembrance, Battle of the Bulge Memorial, across from Amphitheater.
 12:00 PM Bus to Officers' Club, Fort Myer VA
 12:15 PM Buffet Luncheon, Hosted by VBOB, Campaign Room, Officers' Club, Ft Meyer, VA.
 Swearing-in of new VBOB officers.
 Comments by VBOB President.
 Farewell.
 2:30 PM Return by bus to Holiday Inn, Laurel MD.

RESERVATION FORM
"REMEMBRANCE AND COMMEMORATION"
OF THE 57th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE
December 14, 15 and 16 2001
Metropolitan Washington, DC

Return form and check by December 1, 2001 to:
 Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation
 PO Box 2516,
 Kensington MD 20895-0181

Questions:
 Dorothy Davis 301-881-0356
 E-Mail:
jdbowen@gateway.net

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Spouse/Guest: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Battle of Bulge Unit: _____

Korean War Service: (6/25/1950 – 1/31/1955) When: _____

Unit(s): _____ Where: _____

RESERVATIONS:	<u>Number Attending</u>	<u>Cost/Person</u>	<u>Total</u>
Registration Fee	_____	\$10.00	\$ _____

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2001

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM: Holiday Inn Café _____ **on your own**
 Please indicate the number that will be attending so that we can advise the hotel.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2001

Chartered Bus, 9:30 AM – 4:30 PM	_____	\$16.00	_____
Goddard Space Flight Center			
Luncheon, US Naval Academy Officers' Club	_____	\$16.00	_____
Tour of Naval Academy & Tour, Historical Sights of Annapolis			

Commemorative Banquet, Club Meade, Fort Meade MD	_____	\$35.00	_____
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Please make your Main Course selection(s):

- ☐ Filet of Flounder w/Crab _____ (Name _____)
 OR
☐ Prime Rib of Beef au Jus _____ (Name _____)

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2001:

9:45 AM	Chartered bus to Arlington Cemetery	\$16.00	_____
11:00 AM	Ceremonies: Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers/ VBOB Monument	No. Attending:	_____
12:00 Noon	Reception/Buffer hosted by VBOB at Officers' Club, Ft Myer, VA	No. Attending:	_____
2:00 PM	Bus Return to Holiday Inn		

GRAND TOTAL (Enclose check made out to BoBHF Commemoration): \$ _____

NOTES & REMINDERS:

Banquet Dress: Business suit/black tie (miniature medals encouraged) or military dress uniform
 Room reservations must be made with the Holiday Inn Hotel directly, by December 1, 2001 (Telephone 1-800-477-7410).
 Return completed Reservation Form for events to BOB Historical Foundation by 1 December 2001, (Telephone 301-881-0356).
 No cancellation refunds after December 9, 2001.
 Please indicate in all places the number & names attending so that we can be advised of the proper number to plan. Thanks!



"My God, what is this man doing to me?"

LTG Bradley, 12th Army Group, receives the traditional "Accolade" hug and kiss on his left cheek from Gen. Alphose Juin, C of S, French Armed Forces, Namur, Belgium, March, 1945.

AMBROSE COMMENTS ON WWII MEMORIAL

Delay on the WWII Memorial prompted a May 19th article by Stephen Ambrose in *The New York Times*, entitled "An Honor Too Long Delayed."

Most of the criticism regarding the monument revolved around the site choice--on the Mall between the Washington and Lincoln Memorials. There was also criticism on the scale of the monument. But most of the detractors objected to the location.

Ambrose was quoted as saying: "No individual, loomed as large as Washington and Lincoln--not even Franklin Roosevelt (who has a monument in Washington near the Mall). We are a democracy, thanks to Washington, Lincoln, and the World War II generation."

It now appears that the World War II Memorial will proceed and take its place with the founding fathers of our democracy on the Washington Mall. ■

M4 SHERMAN TANK (U.S. AND ALLIES)

[We extracted the following information and picture from one of the armored division newsletters which arrive in the office. Somehow the credit information was lost. We believe it may have been the 4th Armored Division newsletter. We thought it might be of interest to you.]



M4A3 (1945)

Height:	9 ft.
Length:	19 ft. 4 in.
Width:	8 ft. 7 in.
Weight:	34 tons
Guns:	75 or 76 mm main 2 x .30 cal. MG 1 x .50 cal. mg
Armor:	75mm turret 50mm hull

The Sherman was the principal battle tank of the Western Allies. Shermans saw action on every front. Rugged and unsophisticated, they were designed by mass-production, not technological perfection. Inferior in most respects to Germany's tanks, Shermans triumphed by sheer force of numbers. In all, 55,000 were built. The Sherman is matched in historical significance only by the legendary Soviet T-34.

Source: British and American Tanks of World War II (Arco); Sherman in Action (Squadron) ■

PACIFIC WING OF D-DAY MUSEUM

The Pacific Wing of the D-Day Museum will be dedicated Friday, December 7, 2001, in New Orleans, Louisiana. Events are scheduled December 5-8, 2001. Write to the Museum for details: 945 Magazine Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130.

Old age is not for sissies

Whoever said old age is only for the brave got it right. For instance, loss of memory—or, more precisely, retrieval—is a problem we all face. Sometimes a name will come back to you after a few minutes, and sometimes it doesn't. You learn to cover up and hope no one notices, or at least, pretends they don't. . . .

We come to a point of realizing the actuarial tables are not going to make an exception in our case. And we hope we can make a final exit painlessly, with grace, style and dignity.

- Katharine Graham

2ND ARMORED DIVISION

Submitted by Russ Zeleniak
2 ARMDD 41 AIR 1 BN HQ&HQ

[Excerpted from "A History of the Second United States Armored Division"]

At 0130, 25 December 1944 the 1st Battalion, 41st Armored Infantry Regiment, arrived in their forward assembly near Ciney, Belgium and the Battalion passed to control of CC"B." The attack jumped off at 0800 25 December 1944 with the 1st Battalion, 41st Armored Infantry Regiment, attacking south as a part of Task Force "B." A and B companies of the 1st Battalion were in the assault behind a company of medium tanks, with C Company following in support with two platoons of light tanks of A Company, 67th Armored Regiment.

The axis of advance was the line Brazards-Conneux-Conjoux and Soigne. The attack progressed swiftly, with devastating effect on the enemy, as our forces caught them completely by surprise. B Company, the right flank company, encountered a strong enemy armored column driving up the highway headed for Ciney, Belgium. The Company at once dispersed and engaged the enemy armor in a terrific fire fight which halted the enemy armored column, but at the same time was itself pinned down by the heavy fire power of the enemy. At this time, when both the enemy and friendly forces were unable to advance, the mortar platoon leader of Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, realized the dire need for immediate artillery support. He crawled forward to the outer extremities of the woods bordering the road on which the enemy armored column was halted, to within 50 yards of the enemy. From this position he called for the fire of his 81mm mortar platoon and laid it swiftly and accurately on the enemy column. In so doing, the platoon leader called for fire so close to his observation post, that he was forced to hug the ground to escape the flying fragments. This devastating mortar fire scattered the enemy personnel from many of their vehicles and so decreased the enemy fire, that B Company was able to attack and destroy the enemy vehicles, and continue on their mission as scheduled.

HEADQUARTERS
FIRST UNITED STATES ARMY
APO 230

6 January 1945

SUBJECT: Enemy Equipment Counted in CELLES (P-0675) Pocket.

TO: Commanding General, 2nd Armored Division
THRU: Commanding General, VII Corps, APO 307.

1. The Second British Army has reported that the final count of enemy equipment found in the CELLES pocket is as follows:

Destroyed or Captured

81 tanks
7 assault guns
405 vehicles, all types
74 guns

2. It is believed that the bulk of this equipment belonged to the 2nd Panzer Division and that the tanks probably represent almost every operational tank in that division, since the German Panzer Div now contains a total of from 100 to 120 (maximum)

tanks. The 74 guns represent the normal complement of over six battalions and would account for the complete divisional artillery and AT battalions normally under a division.

3. The action of your division therefore destroyed the 2nd Panzer Division as an armored division. This division has always been composed of first-class personnel from Austria, and therefore its overwhelming defeat by your division is regarded as an outstanding and distinguished feat of arms.

4. Please accept my heartiest congratulations to you personally and convey them to the officers and men of the 2nd U.S. Armored Division.

/s/ COURTNEY H. HODGES
Lieutenant General, U.S.A.,
Commanding.

Added in Marshal Montgomery's own hand:

My very best congratulations to the 2nd Armored Division.

/s/ B. L. MONTGOMERY,
Field Marshal.

1st Ind.

HEADQUARTERS VII CORPS, APO 370, United States Army,
6 January 1945.

To: Commanding General, 2nd Armored Division, APO 252,
United States Army.

It is a genuine pleasure to transmit this fine letter of commendation from the Commanding General, First Army, and Field Marshal Montgomery, to which I add my heartiest congratulations.

/s/ J. LAWTON COLLINS.
/t/ J. LAWTON COLLINS.
Major General, U.S. Army,
Commanding.

FLORIDA SOUTHEAST CHAPTER VISITS D-DAY MUSEUM



Pictured above are members of the Florida Southeast Chapter who visited the D-Day Museum in New Orleans.

REUNIONS

1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, August 17-21, 2001, Renaissance Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee. Contact: 1st Infantry Division Society, 1933 Morris Road, Blue Bell, Pennsylvania 19422-1422. Telephone: 888-324-4733.

7TH ARMORED DIVISION, September 6-9, 2001, North Charleston, South Carolina. Contact: Charles Barry, 947 "A" Street, Meadville, Pennsylvania 16335. Telephone: 814-333-8051.

7TH FIELD ARTILLERY OBSERVATION BATTALION, October 3-6, 2001, Hilton Huntsville, Huntsville, Alabama. Contact: Hank Lizak. Telephone: 516-796-4853.

17TH AIRBORNE DIVISION, August 23-26, 2001, Branson, Missouri. Contact: Norvel Lucas. Telephone: 417-334-1186.

35TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 216TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, September 27-29, 2001, Drury Inn Nashville South, Nashville, Tennessee 37211. Contact: James C. Franklin. Telephone: 706-648-2837.

38TH SIGNAL BATTALION, October 8-11, 2001, Atlantic City, New Jersey. Contact: Bill Foiles, 2208 Dunvegan Drive, Columbia, South Carolina 29209-3012. Telephone: 803-776-1114.

63RD INFANTRY DIVISION, September 28-October 1, 2001, Virginia Beach, Virginia. Contact: Mrs. Barney Forest, 360 East 9th Avenue, Collegeville, Pennsylvania 19426. Telephone: 610-489-9523.

146TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, September 21-22, 2001, Tulsa, Oklahoma. Contact: Gene Beleele, 6353 South 30 West Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74132-1365. Telephone: 918-446-1423.

244TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, September 18-20, 2001, Savannah, Georgia. Contact: Damos Rowe, 1930 Orchard Road, Sylvania, Georgia 30467. Telephone: 912-857-4496.

279TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, August (2nd weekend), 2001, Johnson City, Tennessee. Contact: Norman E. McGaha, 615 North Hills Drive, Johnson City, Tennessee 37604. Telephone: 423-282-2806.

285TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, September 27-30, 2001, St. Louis, Missouri. Contact: Nicholas Zillas, 190-12 35th Avenue, Flushing, New York 11358-1918. Telephone: 718-463-1321.

293RD ORDNANCE MM COMPANY, October 23-25, 2001, Caravelle Resort, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Contact: Carmine Baselice, 183 Hebbard Avenue, Paramus, New Jersey. Telephone: 201-262-4436.

398TH ENGINEER (GS) REGIMENT, September 19-22, 2001, Sacramento, California. Contact: Ross Harris, 2512 Mimosa Street, Santa Rosa, California 95405. Telephone: 707-579-1909.

428TH MP EG COMPANY, September 28-30, 2001, Atlanta, Georgia. Contact: J. W. Burson, PO Box 1417, Oxford, Georgia 30054-1417. Telephone: 770-786-2219.

440TH ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS BATTALION, September 13-15, 2001, Springfield, Missouri. Contact: Harry Appleby, 2504 South Delaware, Springfield, Missouri 65804. Telephone: 417-887-0990.

482ND ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY AW BATTALION (SP), September 26-30, 2001, Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. Contact: Chuck Gregorovich, 908 Williams Street, St. Marys, Ohio 45885-1562. Telephone: 419-394-3548.

501ST PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT, August 2-5, 2001, King Of Prussia, Pennsylvania. Contact: Clair Hess, 557 Powderhorn Road, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406-3053.

551ST PARACHUTE INFANTRY BATTALION, September 26-29, 2001,

Springdale, Arkansas. Contact: Douglas C. Dillard, 12114 Longridge Lane, Bowie, Maryland 20715.

643RD TANK DESTROYER BATTALION, September 28-29, 2001, Sheraton Tara Airport Motel, Warwick, Rhode Island. Contact: Marie Cataldo, 71 South Fuller Street, Brockton, Massachusetts 02401. Telephone: 508-580-1034.

774TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION, September 30-October 4, 2001, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Contact: Art Pelkey, 705 38th Avenue South, North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29582. Telephone: 843-272-5378.

SHAEF/ETOUSA, October 12-15, 2001, Louisville, Kentucky. Contact: Don Thriffley, 7340 Dundee Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70126. Telephone: 504-241-3065.

VII CORPS HEADQUARTERS, October 1-5, 2001, Norman, Oklahoma. Contact: Art McGown, 6157 Beckworth Way, Oroville, California 95966. Telephone: 530-589-2578.

Received too late for last issue:

2ND INFANTRY DIVISION, July 11-14, 2001. Contact: Bob Gray, 80488 Courtney Lane, Enterprise, Oregon 97828. Telephone: 541-828-7723.

RICHARD G. GUENTER TO BE HONORED

LTC Richard G. Guenter, retired, has served as a Board Member on the VBOB Executive Council for many years, has worked tirelessly for the Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation, and has been nominated as VBOB Executive Vice President for the year 2001-02. He will receive a very special honor in October of 2001.

Gerry, as he is known to all who have the good fortune to be around him, will be honored by having a newly-constructed bridge park named after him in Fort Polk, Louisiana. The bridge park will store and provide a practice area for every type of bridge in the present Engineer Corps inventory.

This announcement was made by Captain Warren G. Seymour, of the 814th Engineer Multi-Role Bridge Company. The 511th Engineer Light Ponton Company in which Gerry served as its captain during World War II, is the predecessor of the 814th.

Gerry was acknowledged to be the riverine expert of VII Corps and aided in the initial planning of the Rhine crossings before and after the Bulge. During the battle for the Port of Brest, in August and September of 1944, the 511th assumed the role of the present Multi-Role Bridge Company as the only bridge unit with VIII Corps conducting the battle. It carried and supplied every type of bridging equipment available in the Theatre of Operations and managed a supply base.

During the five campaigns, the 511th built, supervised, or supplied about 100 floating or fixed Bailey Bridges, numerous foot and five ton assault bridges, and participated in many river crossings in assault boats with the infantry (including the Rhine on the night of March 22, 1945).

Gerry holds five Battle Stars from Normandy to the Danube; has a Silver Star for gallantry in action; the Bronze Star; and the French Croix de Guerre, among other decorations.

[Gerry is a modest man and will, no doubt, be a little upset that we are tooting a horn for him, but such an honor could not go unrecognized. Congratulations, Gerry. We are sure that the men of the 511th are proud of this well deserved recognition.] ■

EYE WITNESSES TO HISTORY

By Harry Meisel
565 AAA Bn

Shortly after we dedicated the GI monument in Downtown Orlando, a member of our committee (Central Florida Chapter) visited a restaurant near the University of Central Florida campus. Noting that his waiter was of college age, he asked if he was a UCF student. The waiter nodded and added he was a junior and a history major. Jim then asked, "Did you study about the Battle of the Bulge?" The young man paused and then replied, "Is that where they take fat people to lose weight?"

When Jim passed this on to our committee members we were shocked to learn that a college student had no knowledge of this ever famous American battle-- the largest and bloodiest battle ever fought by the United States Army. Our response was to form a diverse group of committee members and book talks at area high schools.

Patterning our program after the highly successful Lehigh Valley Chapter's "Eyewitnesses to History" booklet (forwarded by Judy Greenhalgh), we really got rolling in late January, 2001. To date we have visited 20 area schools and met with 5,000 students. On our busiest day we spoke to six classes between 7:45 a.m. and 2:25 p.m. When the dismissal bell rang we had covered every history class and spoke to 1,800 students. We have concluded that not only are we teaching the students, we are also teaching the teachers about the Battle of the Bulge!

To get our message across, we hand out a typical map of the Bulge that the students can follow as we set the stage, and develop the battle on an overhead projector, or white board using red, blue, green and black marking pens. Once the stage is set, each veteran steps to the podium and relates his personal experiences.

With long classes, up to one and a half hours, we show all, or part of the "Brave Rifles" VCR film. Surprising, very few have seen "The Longest Day," "The Battle of the Bulge," or "Patton" on home TV, while over 60% have seen "Saving Private Ryan." Memorabilia, such as medals, photo albums, and so on are on display on a table. This brings forth questions on the Purple Heart, Silver Star, campaign ribbons, and unit patches. Remaining time is devoted to answering questions.

Most rewarding are the smiles, firm hand shakes and hugs we receive as the students file from the room. As a follow-up we usually receive a bundle of very colorful and original messages from the kids. With school closing for the summer, we will be taking a break, but looking ahead to fine tune our presentation for the fall classes. "Old Soldiers Never Die--they jut orate away."

"Eyewitnesses to History" speakers are: **BILL COLEMAN, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION; BILL KANE, 80TH INFANTRY DIVISION; BILL KAHN, 106TH INFANTRY DIVISION; JIM McKEARNEY, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION; and HARRY MEISEL, 565TH ANTIAIRCRAFT ARTILLERY BATTALION.** Coleman and McKearney jumped on D-Day. Coleman was a POW. McKearney got a battlefield commission in Holland. He has a stiff knee from machine gun fire in Bastogne. Bill Kahn was also a POW. ■

[Needless to say, such programs as this are a very worthwhile and gratifying project.]

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

It is encouraging that finally Congress has come to its senses and has passed the necessary legislation to get the construction of the WWII Memorial started right away.

The legislation passed makes the construction on the Mall immune from further dilatory delays by folks with their own agenda and lack of respect for you, our WWII veterans. The house passed their bill with 400 Yeas, 15 Nays* and 16 Not Voting**. The Senate vote was unanimous.

The Congress has spoken and has shown their appreciation once again of the service to our great country and of the sacrifices to you, the Greatest Generation.

What some fail to realize with all this B--- S--- about vista and history is that the Potomac River came almost up to 17th Street, the site of this memorial and there was no Mall until well into the 19th Century when the river was pushed back by back-filling to make the Mall that we know today. That is when they placed the Lincoln Memorial at the end of the landfill where it sits today. It is time to get on with the construction so that some of our WWII heroes will be able to see it completed. ■

— John D. Bowen - Research



Vin Saccone

Tilly

Al Megna

A Visit With Old Friends...

On Thursday, 12 April, my friend, Al Megna, and myself (Vince Saccone), of the 26th Infantry Division had the opportunity to visit the sweetheart of all the GI's who helped liberate Luxembourg during the Battle of the Bulge, Tilly Kimmes. We also met with our very close friends of CEBA: Comille Kohn, Jos. Schoettert, Jean Milmeister, and Frank Kieffer. They all send their best wishes.

When we went to visit our old friend Tilly, we found a still vivacious 85-year young woman. Instead of the nursing home we expected, Tilly's home is more of an assisted living home, which is run by the Sisters of Saint Jean de la Croix. Tilly is still able to get around and go out to enjoy walking in the City of Luxembourg.

We spent almost four hours talking and killed a bottle and a half of wine. She spent a lot of time talking about you men from the Bulge whom she's met over the past years. She also said that when we get back to the States and run into you guys to give you a big hug and a kiss.... "No thanks," I said, "but I might shake their hands."

Tilly still lives at the same address:

Kimmes-Hansen Mathilde
Center Saint Jean de la Croix
40 Rue St. Zithe
L-2763 Luxembourg, Europe ■

THE CIGARETTE CAMPS



Many GIs went through a Cigarette Camp either as they entered the Continent or when they were leaving to come home. The author of this article Larry M. Belmont has produced an excellent web site on the internet about the Cigarette Camps. This Introduction may bring back many memories by each of you and Larry would appreciate hearing about these memories so that they may be saved for posterity. You may contact Larry at 30 Purick St., Blue Point NY 11715-1120, By phone at 516-363-8014 (leave a message), by FAX at 516-363-8014 or by e-mail at webmaster@skylighters.org Please visit his web site at <http://www.skylighters.org/special/cigcamps/cigintro.html>

After the Allies secured the French harbor of LeHavre (on the eastern side of the bay of the Seine, opposite Cherbourg, in Northern France), the Americans began ringing the city with camps that served as staging areas for new troops arriving in the ETO. Most of the camps were located between LeHavre and Rouen

[They had constructed the so-called "City Camps" around the city of Reims. The wartime plan was for incoming units to pass through camps named for cigarettes and departing units to pass through camps named after American cities. The names of the cigarettes and cities were chosen for two reasons. First, for security. Referring to the camps without an indication of their geographical location went a long way to ensuring that the enemy would not know precisely where they were. Anybody eavesdropping or listening to radio traffic would think that cigarettes were being discussed or the camp was stateside, especially regarding the city camps. Secondly, there was a subtle psychological reason, the premise being that troops heading into battle wouldn't mind staying at a place where cigarettes must be plentiful and troops slated to return to the USA would be somehow comforted in places with familiar names of cities back home (Camp Atlanta, Camp Baltimore, Camp New York and Camp Pittsburgh, among others.). (I doubt if the GIs heading into Europe were taken in by any of that cigarette mumbo-jumbo!) By war's end, however, all of the cigarette and city camps were devoted to departees. Many processed liberated American POWs (Prisoners of War) and some even held German POWs for a while]

The city of LeHavre had fallen on September 12, 1944, but because of the persistence of the German defense and the ferocity of the Allied air assault, much of it was destroyed, including the world-class harbor facilities so coveted by the British and Americans. Considering that Cherbourg's harbor facilities were slowly being restored after being demolished by the Germans prior to surrendering the port, most of the Allies' men and materiel were being landed directly on the Normandy beaches and ferried inland, initially to be injected directly into combat and later to be sent to staging areas for placement. In late 1944 these camps were rather primitive places, usually sprawling tent cities characterized by a sense of transience, with little if any conveniences. Those "canvas" camps were at the mercy of the weather that was particular to Northern Europe in the Fall and Winter of 1944-45, and many US veterans who spent time at any of them before the onset of the battle of the Bulge and prior to being shuttled forward recall nothing but cold rain and colder mud, and, of course, snow. Trenchfoot ran rampant. So did the flu.

The camps were named for American cigarettes, which were fast becoming universal currency in the ETO. Soon, GIs were cursing places called Camp Chesterfield and Camp Lucky Strike. And there was Camp Old Gold too, and Philip Morris, Pall Mall, Herbert Tareyton, Wings, Home Run, and Twenty Grand. They'd cross the channel in some LST or tinier tub, perhaps an LCI, spend a few days in what must have seemed like a hell hole, and then entrain to the front in boxcars known as "40 and 8s" (so called for the French designation "40 hommes et 8 chevaux," which means the boxcars had a capacity of 40 men or eight horses) or in trucks. The camps were also known as "pneumonia holes," "repple-depples," or "Repo Depots" (denoting replacement Depots). (WWII movie buffs will recall that the opening scene of William Wellmann's *Battleground* evoke the atmosphere at these camps pretty accurately.)

In 1945, when the end of the war in Europe was in sight, some of the camps underwent tremendous changes, in anticipation of the role they would play after the war in Europe was over. Barracks and other permanent structures were built. Hospitals and PXs too. Mess halls replaced outdoor chowlines snaking through rows of tents to mobile field kitchens. Wood began replacing canvas and concrete and asphalt replaced the mud. The Red Cross had a tremendous presence at those camps that were to handle returning POWs. "Java Junctions," those ubiquitous dispensaries of real coffee and doughnuts, were established at all of the camps. (Spend a day at a camp and one would come away thinking that the American GI could be sustained solely by tobacco and doughnuts!)

Larry M. Belmont

VBOB QUARTERMASTER

August 2001

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VBOB License Plate Frame w/Logos - White plastic w/Black printing	\$ 5.00		\$
VBOB 100 Sheet Notepad w/Logo - "This Note Is From... A Veteran of the Battle of the Bulge" - White paper with Blue printing	\$ 3.00		\$
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