

The BULGE BUGLE

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THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

AUGUST 2005

VBOB 60th ANNIVERSARY CONTINUATION

REUNION AND REMEMBRANCE



The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge 24th ANNUAL REUNION

PITTSBURGH



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PAGES 16, 17, 18, 19**

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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.

President's Message

VBOB's Pittsburgh Reunion

Everything is progressing well for our once-a-year, big event!

If you haven't already done so, we encourage you to respond to being present at our reunions starting September 28th in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. There is something for everyone in the interesting, fun-packed itinerary! And, as the late Guy Lombardo's song laments: "It's later than you think!" So be there, you'll be glad you did and we'll love you for it. The comradery is great.



George Chekan

Our History, Membership and Legacy

The Ardennes Campaign--16 December, 1944, through 25 January, 1945--known as the Battle of the Bulge, was the greatest American battle of World War II and involved over one million men.

The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge (VBOB) was founded in Arlington, Virginia, on December 16, 1981, as a non-profit, educational veterans organization. VBOB is composed of veterans who fought in the six-week Ardennes Campaign in Belgium and Luxembourg in fog, snow, rain and ice in the bitter cold winter of 1944-45 and of relatives, friends and history buffs. Since its formation, VBOB has grown to an international organization with over 10,000 members having been enrolled over time; however, the rolls are rapidly depleting. We've been pleased to hold our yearly membership dues at \$15.00 for over ten years.

The objectives of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge are:

1. To perpetuate the memory of the sacrifices involved during the battle,
2. To preserve historical data and sites relating to the battle,
3. To foster international peace and good will, and
4. To promote friendship among the battle's survivors and descendants.

Attention: Non-VBOB, Inc. Members

Are you a Bulge veteran who is not a member of the national organization but goes to chapter meetings and enjoys the objectives and comradery created by the national? If so, we need your help in continuing to perpetuate the memory of the 19,000 young GI's we left behind. Join the national organization today.

BOB Legacy

Be a bona fide national member. It's not just the four yearly issues of *The Bulge Bugle* you will receive. It's the appreciation that you show to the Executive Committee and countless others who have, for over 25 years, given of their free time and at their own expense to promote the legacy YOU and your foxhole buddy leave behind.

With you as a national member, you can help us to continue our noble and worthwhile obligation for a few more years.

I sign off with this quote. **Think about it!**

"Always remembering those American GI's who never made it back home.

For our tomorrows they sacrificed their todays.

Author Unknown

Remember:

Keep our brave soldiers who are sacrificing so much today in your thoughts and prayers--also those who sacrificed so much so many years ago. ■

CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL...

...to see if your dues are due.

The date above your last name on your mailing label is the date your dues were due. Your cooperation in sending in your dues without a reminder saves us money. Thanks.

SOMETHING'S MISSING

You will notice that this issue does not contain the "Members Speak Out" nor the "Letters to the Editor" columns. We had many stories that were accumulating and we tried to use them.

We'll have those columns in the next issue.

DON'T FORGET OUR NEW ADDRESS...

PO Box 101418

Arlington, VA 22210-4418

The old one still appears on many, many things.

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GENERAL GEORGE S. PATTON AND THE AMERICAN TANK

By John J. Dunleavy
737th Tank Battalion

In February, 1943, when the German infantry supported by German tanks gave the American Army a sound beating at Kasserine Pass in North Africa, it caused a rude awakening for the American soldiers, the upper echelon of the American military establishment, and, in particular, for George S. Patton, Jr.

This military defeat was caused by several reasons but mainly, it was caused by the inability of the U.S. Army to provide anti-tank weapons to stop the German armor. At the time, the American infantry was using 37MM guns and the U.S. armored force were using M5 light tanks armed with 37MM guns and the M4 Sherman Tank armed with a low muzzle velocity, short barreled 75MM gun. All of these weapons, including the attached tank destroyers were not able to penetrate frontal German armor.

General Patton had by this time a long record as a leader in American armor, dating back to World War I. In that war, he was wounded, leading the First Tank Brigade in combat. There is no question that General Patton was a courageous, audacious and bold individual in leading tank and infantry drives in Europe; however, with his glowing reputation in the American Army and with the American public, I feel that he could have and should have done more after the Kasserine defeat in February, 1943, to produce better anti-tank weapons and a better American tank.

My outfit, the 737th Tank Battalion, entered combat in July, 1944, at St. Lo, Normandy. Ten months later, we ended up in Czechoslovakia and for the entire time we were attached to Patton's Third U.S. Army. We are very proud of our association with the Third Army. We had loyal and competent soldiers mainly from North Carolina, Alabama, and Georgia, and we were out-gunned by German tanks.

The American infantry anti-tank gun was up-graded to a 57MM, but we still had the low muzzle velocity 75 and the 37MM. The American light tank with the 37MM had no business on the field of battle with German armor. It caused needless American casualties. In several instances, we lost a platoon of five Shermans to one German tank armed with either an 88 or high powered 75.

During the late fall of 1944, the American tank battalions received, as replacement tanks, the M4A3, armed with a 76MM gun and toward the end of the war in spring 1945, we received a few newly-developed T26 tanks, armed with a 90MM and heavier armor. At last, we had a tank that could meet the German Tiger and Panther. We were issued only two of them.

Lt. Cooper, Ordnance Officer of 3rd Armored Division, First U.S. Army, who fought in Normandy, stated that he and the tankers of the 3rd Armored Division were appalled at their tank losses in Normandy to German armor. He further states that the 75MM tank gun was totally ineffective.

All astute military commanders, who lead troops should react quickly to battlefield conditions. Even the Russians, who were routed by German armor at the start of the war, produced a T34 battle tank, with an 85MM gun that could meet and defeat the best German armor.

In my view, which is shared by many combat tankers and infantry in Europe, General George Patton, after the Kasserine defeat in February, 1943, should have demanded that the makers of U.S. tanks, namely, General Motors, Chrysler and the Detroit Tank Arsenal, produce a low silhouette, heavily armored tank, with a long-barrelled 90MM gun. They would have had 16 months to produce this weapon before the Normandy invasion. To my knowledge, there is no evidence available which would indicate that General Patton actively pursued this demand.

American tanks, armored with a 90MM gun, would have had a profound effect on the battlefield for the tankers in the First, Third, Seventh and Ninth Armies and would have aided the infantry in their advance. In fact, I believe that if the soldiers of the 4th, 28th 99th and 106th Infantry Divisions, plus the 9th and 10th Armored Divisions, had better tank and anti-tank weapons, the German advance on December 16, 1944 (Battle of the Bulge), would have been stopped in its tracks.



Sherman Tank (M-4) as shown in "A Time for Trumpets"

The M4 medium tank was mobile, durable and reliable, however, you cannot outrun a German 88. The American soldier deserved better when he was putting his life on the line every day.

In the spring of 1945, the U.S. Congress held Congressional hearings on why the U.S. tanks were deemed inferior to German tanks on the battlefield in regard to guns and armor. At this time, Congress requested an explanation from the Theater Commander, General Dwight D. Eisenhower. It has been written that Eisenhower turned to his tank expert, General George Patton, to ask his help in providing an answer to Congress. It is known that General Patton in turn met with a limited number of his battalion tank commanders, mainly from the 4th and 6th Armored Divisions of the Third Army and requested their knowledge of how their men fought German tanks. At this meeting, General Patton took copious notes and seemed satisfied with their answers.

Within a few weeks, the war in Europe ended, the Congressional inquiry was terminated and both the soldiers in the field and the American public were joyous of the eventual triumph in Europe. The Congressional proceedings never went any further.

General George Patton, reportedly stated in North Africa that he would like to meet General Rommel on the field of battle--Rommel in his tank, a German Panther, and Patton in his, an M4. I feel that if that event took place, General Patton would not have been available for the invasion of Sicily in July, 1943. ■

REUNIONS

2ND ARMORED DIVISION, 17TH ARMORED ENGINEER BATTALION, August 31-September 3, 2005, Kansas City. Contact: John A. Shields, PO Box 106, East Butler, Pennsylvania 16029. Telephone: 724-287-4301.

2ND CAVALRY REGIMENT, July 28-31, 2005, McLean, Virginia. Contact: 2nd Cavalry Association, 87 Overall Phillips, Road, Elizabethtown, Kentucky 42701.

4TH ARMORED DIVISION, September 12-18, 2005, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Contact: Harold A. Mayforth, 15 School Street, Bristol, Vermont 05443. Telephone: 802-453-4066.

5TH ARMORED DIVISION, August 24-27, 2005, Watertown, New York. Contact: Herbert O. Elmore, Box 226, Frewsburg, New York 14738-0226. Telephone: 716-569-4685.

6TH ARMORED DIVISION, October 6-10, 2005, Arlington, Virginia. Contact: Donna Dolovy. Telephone: 602-249-2440.

7TH ARMORED DIVISION, September 7-10, 2005, Washington, DC. Contact: Charles Barry, 947 "A" Street, Meadville, Pennsylvania 16335. Telephone: 814-333-8051.

10TH ARMORED DIVISION, September 3-5, 2004, Arlington, Virginia. Contact: Please provide for next issue.

28TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 103RD MEDICAL BATTALION AND REGIMENT, September, 2005, Ligonier, Pennsylvania. Contact: J. Paul Luther, 626 Hillside Avenue, Ligonier, Pennsylvania 15658. Telephone: 724-238-9849.

30TH INFANTRY DIVISION, August 31-September 3, 2005, St. Louis, Missouri. Contact: 30th Infantry Division Association, 2409 Lookout Drive, Manhattan, Kansas 66502.

75TH INFANTRY DIVISION, August 31-September 4, 2005, Rosemont, Illinois. Contact: James E. Warmouth, 6545 West 11th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46214. Telephone: 317-241-3730.

84TH INFANTRY DIVISION, August 27-30, 2005, Springfield, Illinois. Contact: Troy L. Mallory, 2229 Jersey Street, Quincy, Illinois 62301. Telephone: 217-223-9062.

86TH INFANTRY DIVISION, August 24-27, 2005, Columbus, Ohio. Contact: Walton W. Spangler, 8275 Hagerty Road, Ashville, Ohio 43103. Telephone: 740-474-5734.

99TH DIVISION, September 29-October 2, 2005, Corpus Christi, Texas. Contact: James R. Reid, Sr., 17 Lake Shore Drive, Willowbrook, Illinois 60527-2221. Telephone: 630-789-0204.

159TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, September 6-9, 2005, Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17602. Contact: Nelson Hilf, 432 Ridgmont Drive, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15220.

285TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, September 29-October 2, 2005, Florence, Kentucky. Contact: Nicholas Zillas, 190-12 35th Avenue, Flushing, New York 11358-1918. Telephone: 718-463-1321.

ARE YOUR DUES DUE?

THE MYSTERIES OF BIG BATTLES

By Howard Peterson
4th Armored Division
CCA, Company B

Why some battles catch the public's imagination and translate them into legend is a mystery, i.e., The Alamo; The Battle of the Little Big Horn River; and The Battle of the Bulge.

When a writer attempts to tell the absolute truth about a battle, the absolute truth about that battle is the writer's first causality. The writer who attempts to tell the absolute truth about a battle will be angrily contradicted by those who to them the battle has become folklore. The absolute truth about any battle will forever elude writers because trying to tell the absolute truth about a battle is like trying to describe a steel ball.

Little is known about the American companies and small unit action in the Battle of the Bulge for the first three days because many of those company and small unit records had to be destroyed. The role of these companies and small units who had taken the first shock of the German onslaught and held their valuable positions for hours and in some cases for days before being overwhelmed, as been downplayed, while units which took part in the final defeat of the Bulge are awarded accolades. The absolute truth about any battle is impossible to tell because dead men do not grant interviews.

It is unfair for a writer to refight a battle on paper with the absolute truth using the advantage of hindsight. A writer's material is usually contradictory so he gives more weight to one account than he does to another. The writer must also guard on axes being ground.

The writer attempting to tell the absolute truth about a battle must take great

Up Front

with Willie & Joe

© by the U.S. Army



"Uncle Willie"

32ND ARMORED INFANTRY REGIMENT

Submitted by Oda C. Miller
3rd Armored Division
32nd Armored Infantry Regiment
2nd Battalion
Company E

"Victory Or Death," the motto of the 32nd Armored Regiment, served as an inspirational order to this first of the 3rd Armored Division's two great battering rams. Commanded by Colonel Leander L. Doan, the 32nd contributed much to the powerhouse drive of the "Spearhead" Division through Europe. ...

Allied Counter Offensive 3-6 January 1945

On 3 January, VII Corps started a new offensive to the southeast with 2nd and 3rd Armored Divisions abreast followed by the 84th and 83rd Infantry Divisions. The objective of this attack was to drive rapidly to the southeast, with the armor leading, seize Houffalize and its vital road net; and join up with the Third Army coming up from the south, thereby pocketing elements of the German Army, that had penetrated further to the west before they could be withdrawn.

In the zone of the 3rd Armored, the attack was made with combat Commands "A" and "B" abreast. Combat Command "B" was on the right (west) of the zone. Each Combat Command moved out to the attack in two Task Force columns:

•C COMD. "A" (Brig. Gen. Hickey) TF "Doan"

- Hq 32nd Armd. Regt.
- 2nd Bn., 32nd Armd. Regt.
- 3rd Bn., 36th Armd. Inf. Regt.
- 1st Plat., A Co., 23rd Armd. Engr. Bn.
- 1st Plat., A Co., 703rd TD Bn.
- 54th Armd. FA Bn.

TF "Richardson"

- 3rd Bn., 32nd Armd. Regt.
- 2nd Bn., 330th Inf. Regt.
- 2nd Plat., A Co., 23rd Armd. Engr. Bn.
- 2nd Plat., A Co., 703rd TD Bn.
- 67th Armd. FA Bn.

•C COMD. "B" (Brig. Gen. Boudinot) TF "McGeorge"

- HQ 33rd Armd. Regt.
- 1st Bn., 33rd Armd. Regt. (-3rd Plat., Co A)
- 2nd Bn., 36th Armd. Inf. Regt.
- 2nd Bn., Co. D, 23rd Armd. Engr. Bn.
- 2nd Plat., Co. B, 703rd TD Bn.
- 3rd Plat., Rcn Co., 33rd Armd. Regt.
- 83rd Armd. FA Bn.

TF "Lovelady"

- 2nd Bn., 33rd Armd. Regt. (-3rd Plat., Co. B)
- 3rd Bn., 330th Inf. Regt.
- 1st Plat., Co. D, 23rd Armd Engr. Bn.
- 1st Plat., Co. B, 703rd TD Bn.
- 2nd Plat., Rcn. Co., 33rd Armd. Regt.
- 1st Plat., AT Co., 36th Armd. Inf. Regt.
- 391st Armd. FA Bn.

In addition to the organic elements of the Division, the strength was bolstered by the attachment of the 330th Infantry Regiment (83rd Division) and three artillery battalions the 83rd Armd. 991st (S.P. 155 Guns), and the 183rd (155 Hows.). Each Combat Command had two battalions of infantry and two battalions of artillery in direct support. If a penetration could be effected quickly it was felt that the forces were in sufficient [as printed].

The plan for the day of 15 January called for Task Force "Orr" and Task Force "Miller" (Combat Command "A") to take over Baclain and Mont le Ban; Task Force "Kane" to pass through Yeomans and take the high ground south of Brisy; Task Force "Welborn" (formerly Task Force "Walker") to attack through Sterpigny, thence to Retigny, allowing Lovelady to come into Cherain under reduced pressure. However Task Force "Kane" was able to advance only a short distance and Task Force "Welborn" got only into the western edge of Sterpigny. Task Force "Lovelady" attempted to advance on Cherain. Again they ran into mines in a defile. Anti-tank guns caught the vehicles in column, and at 1530 they had no medium tanks left.

Adding fuel to a fire that was already hot enough, an enemy column moved into Sterpigny to reinforce the garrison there whereupon Task Force "Richardson" from Combat Command "A" was attached to Combat Command "B" and committed to the Sterpigny fight, but the situation remained virtually static. Only the western edge of the town was taken.

Task Force "Lovelady" was relieved in place by Task Force "Bailey" (a Company of medium tanks and a company of infantry from Combat Command "A" area to refit and reorganize.

When Welborn and Richardson continued the attack on Sterpigny on 18 January another enemy column attempting to enter the town from the east was dispersed by artillery. Anti-tank and small arms fire started coming into the town from the woods to the northeast which was thought to be clear. The town itself was secured, but direct fire continued to come in.

Task Force "Hogan" was ordered to send a force into Cherain the morning. He was able to get only Infantry into the town because of a blown bridge between Vaux and Cherain. This force met little resistance. Having fought stubbornly for days, the enemy then withdrew. Task Force "Bailey" was sent into the town to relieve Task Force "Hogan's" Infantry and secure the town to allow Hogan to assemble his whole force in Vaux for an attack on Brisy in conjunction with Task Force "Kane".

Task Force "Kane's" attack toward Brisy was stopped cold by heavy fire of all types. When Task Force "Hogan" got their infantry back out of Cherain they attacked toward Brisy to assist Task Force "Kane," but were also stopped after a very short advance.

Task Force "Yeomans" secured Sommerain, forcing the enemy to withdraw south.

By 17 January, Task Force "Hogan" was reduced to twelve medium and ten light tanks. The Infantry Battalion (1st Bn., 330th Inf. Regt.) was down to one hundred and twenty-five riflemen. Task Force "Kane" had eleven medium and seventeen light tanks left. The infantry strength, including Battalion Headquarters Company, was three hundred and eleven. Both of these task forces held their positions as did Task Force "Yeomans" in Sommerain. Task Force "Richardson" continued operations over in Sterpigny.

(Continued)

32ND ARMORED INFANTRY REGIMENT

(Continuation)

Task Force "Welborn" attacked from Cherain to secure the first hill to the southeast there, a distance of about one thousand yards. On the first attack elements of the force succeeded in reaching the objective, but were forced to withdraw. The second attack carried to the hill and Task Force Welborn held there.

Elements of the 4th Cavalry Group took over the sector from Vaux west to the division boundary on 18 January relieving Yeomans, Kane, and Hogan.

On 18 January, Task Force "Richardson" continued to attack to secure the east edge of the woods east of Sterpigny. When they secured this objective line Combat Command "A" in two task forces, Task Force "Doan" and Task Force "Lovely", assembled in the vicinity of Sterpigny preparatory to continuing division's attack south. It was planned that Doan should seize Rettigny, Renglez and the high ridge south of these town while Lovelady screened his advance and protected his left flank along the wooded ridge southeast of Sterpigny. Task Force "Kane" of Combat Command "R", was to attack south from Cherain and take Brisys and the dominating hill to the south thereof. Richardson secured his objective and the scheduled attack moved rapidly against very light resistance. Both objectives were taken on the afternoon of 19 January. The next day the division started moving northwest to rest areas centering around Barvaux and Durbuy.

The portion of the German salient west of Houffalize had been liquidated, but the enemy had conducted an efficient withdrawal. The effort had cost him heavily but he had succeeded in withdrawing a very large part of his forces not expanded in the fifteen days of bold offensive fighting in December and the stubborn rear-guard actions of 3-16 January. In rare cases was he forced to give ground where the loss would seriously endanger the extrication of his carefully hoarded armor without inflicting severe losses on the attacking force.

During a rest period there is plenty of work to do. The "rest" means that you are not in contact with the enemy. New reinforcements have to be fitted into their places and given additional training. New equipment has to be tested, and there is maintenance work in whatever quantity time permits. It is a time of rest, though. The tension of battle is gone. There is time for a few movies and recreational convoys to nearby cities, and there is time to count the score.

The decisive fighting in the Ardennes salient lasted from 16 December 1944 to 16 January 1945.

For this period there are two sets of concrete figures that can be juggled at will to propagandize either our cause or the German. They are the losses of men and material on each side. A third item for speculation: "what did Von Rundstedt's gamble gain or lose?", does not concern us directly in this outline.

Taken separately loss figures may be used to prove almost anything. Together they serve only to emphasize that it was a hard fight. Here they are.

During the period 16 December to 16 January, the 3rd Armored Division suffered 1,473 battle casualties, of this number 21 officers and 166 enlisted men were killed in action. The rest were wounded or missing.

Battle losses in vehicles were as follows:

Medium Tanks	125
Light Tanks	38
Artillery Pieces	6

Other Vehicles 158

A carefully prepared day to day estimate of losses inflicted on the enemy for this period totals up to:

1,705	estimated killed
545	estimated wounded
2,510 Prisoners	(actual count)

The estimated vehicular casualties inflicted counting only those known to have been destroyed are:

Tanks	98
(31 of them Mk V's)	
SP Guns	20
Motor Transport	76
AT or AA Guns	23
Artillery pieces	8



REVEILLE



HAIRCUT



SHOTS



Sgt. GEORGE BAKER

REPLACEMENT EXPERIENCES

by Oda E. Tidwell
26th Infantry Division
104th Infantry Regiment
Company L

These are only tales of an old man hoping to help someone understand what happened almost halfway across the world. By no means do I consider myself a hero; those were the men who never returned home.

On December 16, 1944, I was transferred to the badly wounded 26th Infantry Division, which had lost a lot of their men in Italy and came to Metz, France. I was in the 1st platoon of L Company, 104th Regiment, in the 26th Division--known as the Yankee Division.

All of the new recruits were suppose to receive 6 weeks of basic training so on the 17th and 18th, we worked on cleaning our rifles and getting familiarized with our commanding officers. But at about 8:00 that night, we were given orders to roll our bedding, pack our duffel bags, and prepare for a long night of riding.

On the morning of the 19th, we unloaded and waited. It wasn't long before we were told we were going to fight the enemy, and that the Germans had broken through the American soldier's barrier and planned to be in Paris by Christmas.

On the 20th, L Company started walking to our destination, we set off at about 2:00 a.m. and were suppose to get there by daybreak.

About halfway along the journey, three tanks met up with us, and followed as extra support, which turned out to be a good thing later on, as we were hiding, the tanks each behind a building, there came three German tanks along a road toward us. The tanks took out two of the enemies', then turned the third one over on its side.

Some six weeks training, huh? But our training lasted much longer than that each and every day was part of our training.

I don't know exactly where we were, but I do know one thing, we ruined the plans of those Germans who planned to be in Paris by the 25th.

I do remember, there was a lot of snow on the ground, and I spent Christmas Eve 1944 climbing the highest mountain I was ever on in the war.

Christmas Day was spent on the top of the mountain, and we got our feast, turkey and dressing with all the fixings, at about 9:00 that night.

The next day, we set off early to keep the pressure on the Germans, we may have ruined one set of plans, but no means did that win the war; we still had work to do.

Shortly after Christmas, I remember my platoon sergeant taking me aside and telling me, "Corporal Tidwell, you'll take your position as head of the first squad from now on." I took head of that first squad proudly and never asked a man to go where I hadn't gone first. We did everything together, walked, crawled, ate, and slept in the snow.

Some days were worse than others, one morning we jumped off in an attack, and immediately came under heavy mortar and artillery shelling. I remember that morning we had to hit the ground several times more, when I glanced around to look at the

whole company crawling down low, rifle in hand, ready to fire all that is except our company commander, he was down on his knee, looking at a map. He was always a great leader.

That week was pretty rough and we had to do a lot of night patrols in the sometimes knee-deep snow. A man that had come from my previous artillery outfit had the position of what we called a platoon guide. Well, somehow he was always chosen for the night shift, and then he'd ask for volunteers. I was always the first to speak up. After a couple nights, I told him to get some rest and I'd ask someone else to volunteer. It just so happened we had just gotten a 2nd lieutenant as a platoon leader, which we'd not had thus far, his name was Summers he volunteered, I'm sad to say he didn't make it back. Lt. Summers was the first man we lost to patrol duties.

After we had made this advancement, we dug in for two or three days to get our breath even though there was a machine gun (nest) which gave our troops trouble. A couple of days later, they brought up food and water and I said to the leader at 2nd squad "Let's see if we can find that machine gun nest." We walked 100 yards through the woods in deep snow and found nothing. The bushes got thick and we decided to crawl the rest of the way. We crawled within 30 yards of the nest and we could see men's heads behind a bank in a low place. We crawled out of this place and went back to our platoon and gave the location. Mortar fire was called in. We fought every step we advanced. This was close to the end of the January 1945.

The next morning we headed out in deep snow while it was still snowing. By dark we had reached a place where there was a field. The farmer had cut the oats raised there and stacked them in the field. We dug in, got some sticks to put over our foxholes. After dark, we got some oats to put over our foxholes even though we were being shot at--a real house. There were two men per foxhole, one watching with his head out of the hole, while the other shut his eyes. We swapped every one or two hours.

That night the greatest miracle that ever could come to anyone came to me. I repented to the Lord Jesus Christ of my sins, and put my faith in him. Believing he and he alone was and is the only Savior for the souls of men. God saved my soul giving me eternal life. The devil lost his battle over me while the Germans were on their way out, losing their battle to conquer our army. I'm so glad to know the truth. The Lord said my arms were not shortened neither my ears stopped that I can't reach to the uttermost.

As I stated before we had gotten short of troops. The next night we were relieved by more troops and moved to their left flank about midnight. We moved right across the German's line about where they had dug in. Some of them ran that night and we got the others at daylight.

We also found out after daylight the Germans had zeroed in on some of us with an 88. When I came out of the foxhole I pulled my britches down and an 88 shell busted about 20 feet from me. I jumped back in the foxhole and saw that my britches leg had shrapnel holes in them. There were no wounds or scratches. Even being in the woods wasn't safe.

After two days we were relieved for about four days. Went back from lines, got showers (finally). As we got more troops we headed back to the front and landed in Saarlautern, Germany. That was the first half of 1945. ■

NOMINATIONS FOR 2005-06 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, I, Louis Cunningham, Chairman, announce the following slate to serve on the Executive Council for the fiscal year 2005-06.

President: Stanley Wojtusik
106th Infantry Division

Executive Vice President: William Greenville
86th Chemical Mortar Battalion

Vice President, Membership: Neil Thompson
740th Tank Battalion

Vice President, Chapters: George Fisher
26th Infantry Division

Vice President, Military Affairs: Robert Phillips
28th Infantry Division

Vice President, Public Affairs: Demetri Paris
9th Armored Division

Treasurer: William P. Tayman
87th Infantry Division

Corresponding Secretary: Dorothy S. Davis
57th Field Hospital

Recording Secretary: John D. Bowen
Associate Member

Trustees: Three-year Term
Joseph Zimmer
87th Infantry Division
John McAuliffe
87th Infantry Division
Harry Meisel
565th Antiaircraft Artillery AW Battalion

Trustees: Two-year Term
Richard G. Guenter
511th Engineer Light Ponton Battalion
Ralph Bozarth
Associate Member

Trustees: One-year Term
Frances Doherty
Associate Member
James W. Hunt
1st Infantry Division

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

Respectfully submitted,
Louis Cunningham, Chairman
Nominating Committee



THE BULGE BUGLE

We're looking forward
to seeing you at the
VBOB Reunion

PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENT

It is to be noted that on February 17, 2005, a VBOB Executive Council Meeting was held at Fort Meade, Maryland.

At that meeting, a motion was made to amend the Bylaws to include a Hold Harmless Agreement. President George Chekan presented the amendment to the Executive Council, a vote was taken and it was passed unanimously.

Therefore, the following amendment to the Bylaws should be immediately inserted on Page 8 after Article 14--Surety Bond for Certain Officers, under the Caption Article 15--Liability and Indemnification.

"Each person who was or is made a party or is threatened to be made a party to or is otherwise in an action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative by reason of the fact that he or she is or was a Director, Officer, Employee or Agent of VBOB, whether the basis of such proceeding is alleged action in an official capacity as Director, Officer, Employee or Agent, shall be identified and held harmless by VBOB to the fullest extent of all expenses, liability and loss, including attorney fees, judgments, fines, penalties and amounts paid in settlement reasonably incurred or suffered."

This amendment will be presented to the General Membership for adoption at the General Business Meeting to be held Friday, September 30, 2005, at the Holiday Airport Inn, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. ■



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Sept. 28- Oct. 2, 2005

GERMAN BREAKTHROUGH V CORPS SECTOR

Submitted by William L. Dudas
2nd Infantry Division
38th Infantry Regiment
Company G

The 2nd Battalion was about 1000 yards north of "heart-break corner" (Wahlerscheid, Germany, crossroad) on the 17th of December after attacking through the 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the 9th Infantry. While in holding positions here after organizing the positions, the Battalion received orders to move to the south and defend the towns of Rocherath-Krinkelt from enemy attack. The move to the south started at about 171830 December, and the battalion moved south along the main road into the towns named. E Company formed the rear guard for the move to the south. After repelling an enemy counterattack of about company in strength with mortar and artillery fire, contact with the enemy was broken easily and the whole battalion was covered in its withdrawal.

The order of withdrawal was F, G, and E with a platoon from E forming the rear guard. G Company was then employed in the defense of a road block along the route of withdrawal. This block had been constructed by the engineers. G Company with some tank destroyers in support assumed positions along the MSR (Main Supply Route) on the east and west sides of the road.

At about 2200 hours, F moved into an assembly area at the cross-road (98.5-06.2) where heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire fell on the company. F remained in this position at the crossroad with both of its left and right flanks cutting the main supply route.

E Company continued south along the MSG and set up a defense between the MSR and the road on its right flank. Capt. Farrell returned to the G Company road block at about 2015, to relieve G from that mission and to place it in a perimeter defensive position around the Regimental CP. G Company moved out from the road block in a column of twos behind Capt. Farrell on one side of the road, and Capt. Joseph E. Skaggs, the G Company commander, on the other. Along the route of advance, the column passed the C Company position and a voice from the C Company area yelled, "Get the hell out of there or be cut to ribbons." No second warning was required and the men hit the ditches on both sides of the road. Farrell and Skaggs made a quick reconnaissance and determining that the route was not safe to travel set off with G Company following across country to a RJ (road jct.) just north of Regiment. Here there was a fight in the dark with a force of enemy of unknown strength. The enemy infantry was driven off and the company set up a defense around the regimental command post.

G remained in this perimeter defense during the night of 17/18 December, during which time small groups of the enemy got through to the CP and were disposed of there. The following mornings, G was ordered to aid in the relief of the 1st Bn CP to the south and to clean out the area to the south and west of it.

The plan that was evolved was that one platoon from G would move down each of the two NE-SW roads leading from the Regimental CP to the 1st Bn. Three tanks were to assist each

of the two Infantry platoons and a light machine gun section was to cover the ground between the two. At 180800 G started out on its assigned mission and had moved part of the way down the road when, at 0830, the mission was canceled and the company again set up a defense around the Regimental CP. When Capt. Farrell returned to regiment he found that an armored threat in the E company vicinity was appearing to endanger the Regimental CP.

Farrell went to E at about 181030 to find that the company had been forced to fall back from its original area to new positions. Shortly after Capt. Farrell arrived at the E Company area, the company commander, Capt. Allen A. McElroy, was wounded and evacuated. Capt. Farrell assumed command of E on the spot.

There were no anti-tank weapons in E Company. The AT guns with the company had been knocked out by the enemy earlier and the T/E bazookas either didn't work or were knocked out. This placed E in a precarious position from the standpoint of withstanding enemy armored attacks. As soon as the threat that had been imminent when Capt. Farrell went forward abated, he had E company reorganize and occupy a line forward of the one they had fallen back to. They remained in these positions until about 1600. The US tanks in the vicinity were battling it out with the enemy armor. The tankers the enemy was employing behaved like crazy men, sitting in the open on the decks of the tanks while the US infantry shot them off with rifle fire almost at will. Except for occasional gaps, the smoke from buildings coupled with the fog that was on the ground obscured the enemy, but there was enough visibility to aid the defenders in sniping enemy that appeared over their sights.

At about 1600, acting on a hunch, and on the knowledge that the enemy had time to locate the defense to the last inch, Capt. Farrell pulled his men under the cover of dusk to the positions shown as "3" on the overlay [overlay not provided]. He picked up a part of a platoon from L Company and part from B Company of the 38th Infantry and with some stragglers from the 23rd Infantry, put them in position on the left flank of E to aid in the defense. The entire group began digging in at once.

At about 182100 hours, Capt. Farrell received a report that enemy tanks were active in the front of the company positions and being about 100 yards from the US troops, were too close for the effective safe use of artillery. The reported tanks came into the area from which Capt. Farrell had but recently displaced his men and overran the ground, churning the entire area into a sea of mud with their tracks. Apparently to survey the results of this maneuver the enemy tanks turned on their spotlights and shone them in the area they had churned up. The spotlights lighted the new positions of the company and its attachments, and the tanks started toward the new area. They overran the platoon of B Company that has already been described and a part of the E Company platoon that was on the left flank. Capt. Farrell called the Battalion CP, telling them that he had no way of stopping the enemy tanks and that he would "wave them on" in the CP direction for disposal there. Col. Norris at the CP said that he too, had nothing with which to stop the tanks and that he would wave them on back to Regiment. The enemy tanks went through the E positions and fortunately, instead of continuing toward the US rear, they turned to their left (southwest) and went back toward the German lines. There were no more armored attacks that night.

(Continued)

GERMAN BREAKTHROUGH

(Continuation)

The next morning at daylight an estimated platoon of enemy infantry attempted to get through the American lines. The E Rifleman held their fire until the troops were within 50 or 75 yards of the company, then opened up with everything at hand. Most of the enemy were casualties the rest of them fled.

At about 181630, G Company exception of one platoon that was left attached to the First Battalion, set up around the crossroad where the 2nd Bn, CP was located. The positions occupied by G faced to the west and were designed to repel attacks from that direction. This company had no activity until about 190500 when an infantry attack was launched by the enemy from the northeast. F on G's right beat off this enemy attack. The Germans then re-formed and attacked again, this time along the west side of the road running through the company. The enemy apparently thought they were attacking the rear of F Company, but instead, hit the front of G. The Company men waited until the enemy was within 15 or 20 yards of the company positions and opened up with a deadly valley of fire. About 40 enemy dead were counted in the front of the company.

F Company had moved south to positions on the east of the Battalion CP as shown on overlay #1 [not provided] when the withdrawal from Wahlerscheid was effected. The company set up defenses on the east of the crossroad and held there until late on the evening of 18 December at the time that E Company was moving to retake the ground it had lost to the enemy. At this time, F Company was ordered to attack to the east and if possible to retake the crossroad to the east of the battalion CP that had been relinquished to enemy by B and Service Companies the night before. This attempt took place at the time that the 9th Infantry's elements were being driven back from their vigorously defended positions. The nature of the terrain eliminated the possibility of an attack on the enemy's flanks and F was forced to launch a frontal attack against him. F caught Hell. The enemy came in before F got set, attacking with tanks and an estimated two battalions of infantry before F Company could prepare to beat them off. The positions that F had reached when the enemy attack struck them were not suitable for the defense and F was forced back a hedgerow at a time to its originally held position. F suffered considerably in casualties as the result of this engagement.

The order to withdraw was received by Capt. Farrell at 191725. The order called for the withdrawal to begin at 1730, Capt. Farrell arrived at his Company CP to get the already delayed withdrawal started.

The retrograde movement was a masterpiece executed as it was under continuous enemy fire. The companies pulled out in the order in which they, were emplaced from north to south, G started the move, followed by F and E in turn. The orders had included a prohibition of the use by the company commanders of the word, "withdrawal." The men were told that they were to move to previously prepared positions on better ground; that the interval between men was to be carefully observed, and that under no circumstance was any man to move faster than a walk. The instructions further covered the possibility of anyone's becoming lost and instructions were given as the course to follow in such a case.

The withdrawal to the prepared positions was accomplished in a very orderly way. Some 200 to 300 rounds of nebelwerfer fire landed in the general area, but the Battalion came out unscathed.

The prepared positions to which the men moved were not full-depth holes. That had not been the plan. Capt. Farrell said, that from a tactical standpoint, the location of the defensive positions was the best he had ever seen. Capt. Farrell said that the most prevalent reaction of the men to the mass withdrawal was one of chagrin. They felt that as the Rocherath-Krinkelt positions were organized, they could be held indefinitely.

The weather during the battle was as bad an enemy as the Germans. It was wet and cold, bitterly cold. The men fought for three nights without blankets and some of them didn't even have overcoats.

When they weren't digging, the men spent the whole of the first night after the withdrawal warming and rubbing their feet. The snow during the whole of the fight was two to eight inches in depth which added to the extreme discomfort of the troops. The only concession that could be made to the weather was the rotation of the men into warm (comparatively) houses so that at least, they might have something to which to look forward.

Francis H. Phelps, Jr.

Captain, FA, HQ



"My dad speaks two languages — English and Army ... That's Army!"



WAR REMEMBRANCE

[The following article appeared in the *Charlotte Sun*, on January 17, 2002.]

Fifty-seven years later, a Battle of the Bulge trio reunites in Murdock. It was a teary-eyed gathering for three old soldiers. For the first-time in 57 years, the three were back together, this time having lunch at the Olive Garden in Murdock.

They had been members of A Company, 38th Armored Infantry Battalion, 7th Armored Division. This is one of the key American units that took part in this Battle of the Bulge, which ended Adolph Hitler's hope of winning World War II in Europe.

It was de ja vu for Capt. Walter Inst, of Venice, and Sgt. Glenn Fackler, of Punta Gorda. They got together for the first time last winter. But Cpl. Ken Neher, of Tacoma, Washington, the captain's jeep driver, hadn't seen the other two members of his outfit in almost 60 years.

"I thought I'd recognize you," Neher said to Inst as they shook hands. "I don't recognize you," Inst replied. Watching in the background with a big smile was Fackler.

Thus began the latest chapter of an adventure that started when the men now in their 80s were sent off to war so long ago. They knew time is running out for them after almost six decades.

On this day 57 years earlier, Inst, Fackler and Neher were fighting their way back into St Vith, Belgium, after being evicted by the unexpected major German advance.

It was the 38th Battalion that led the 7th Armored into what would become known as the Battle of the Bulge. This was the largest battle U.S. troops participated in during the war.

Some 500,000 American soldiers, 55,000 British and 600,000 Germans took part. When the fighting subsided after more than a month, 81,000 Americans had become casualties, of which 19,000 were killed. There were 14,000 British casualties, including 200 killed. More than 100,000 Germans were killed, wounded or captured.

From that point on, the Germans never took the offensive again. The war in Europe would be over in four months.

Before any of that happened, the trio was trying to stay alive. Their division had been ordered to hold St Vith for 48 hours. It held for six days before what was left of them fell back under heavy enemy fire.

By then, Neher had been transferred from being Capt. Inst's driver in Company A to the Headquarters Company. As the only man left at the command post, Neher wrote in his memoirs:

"As I looked out a window, the flares lit up the valley below and I could see thousands of men, both ours and enemy, running toward the command post and the Town of St. Vith. Machine gun and rifle fire, mortars and cannon shells were coming from all directions--it was frightening pandemonium and confusion.

"About this time a sergeant from C Company came running past the command post to inform me that enemy paratroopers had landed in the area and a huge German Tiger tank was headed my way, blasting everything in its way.

"I got a call from Capt. Inst, of A Company, in the valley, telling me that enemy tanks were operating behind our lines." I told him there was one coming straight for the command post. "I had my own problems," he wrote.

At that point several German paratroopers burst through the front door of the CP where Neher was stationed by himself. He

decided it was time to go.

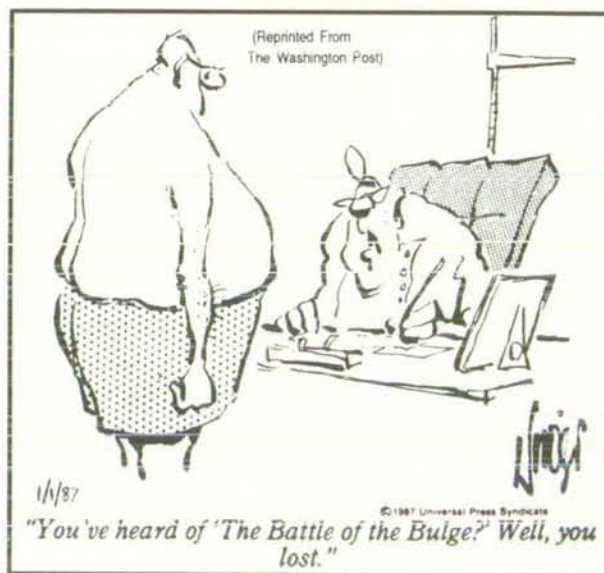
The corporal leaped out the rear window just as the Germans opened up with their weapons. Fourteen feet below he landed in a four foot pile of manure, but escaped down some nearby railroad tracks. Three days later, at 4:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Neher found his Headquarters Company.

Meanwhile, Fackler walked down the same railroad track Neher had used to escape. Eventually, Fackler and a couple of his buddies ran into an American field artillery unit and hooked up with them.

A month later, the 7th Division regrouped and was resupplied with men and equipment. By January 16, 1945, Ansley, Fackler and Neher were taking part in the recapture of St. Vith. By January 23, the Germans lost the town and with it the Battle of the Bulge.

Years later, the German commander at the Bulge said it was St. Vith they had to take within 48 hours or lose the initiative in their attempted breakout. It would take them 144 hours to run the American 7th Armored Division out of town.

By then it was too late. The Fuhrer had fallen. ■



**Can you find a new member?
We need your help to ensure
the organization's survival.**

GENERAL JAMES A. VAN FLEET

Submitted by:

Julius Yuhasz

343rd Field Artillery Battalion Headquarters Battery

[Excerpts] A full 59 of the 164 members of the U.S. Military Academy's class of 1915 became general officers, including Dwight D. Eisenhower, Omar N. Bradley and James Alward Van Fleet. But on June 6, 1944---while Eisenhower and Bradley were leading the D-Day invasion---Van Fleet was nowhere on the radar screen for promotion to general officer rank. That, however was soon to change. By the end of World War II, Van Fleet had not only become a four-star general but was the most decorated man in his class, with three Distinguished Service Crosses (DSC), two Distinguished Service Medals, two Silver Stars (he had received one in World War I) and numerous other awards.

James Van Fleet grew up in a humble dwelling in the small Town of Bartow deep in Florida's interior. He entered the U.S. Military Academy in 1911, and upon graduation chose to go into the infantry, which he considered the "heart of the United States Army."

In early November [1944] the crossing of the Moselle River north of Metz was designed to be the northern prong of a double envelopment. Metz, with its many strong, well-sited forts, had been holding up Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army could out flank Metz's defenses, however, the Moselle River, which flowed from south to north, had to be negotiated. The plan was for the 90th to cross the river north of Metz above Thionville, with the 5th Infantry Division to break out of its tenuous bridgehead below the city, and the two divisions meet short of the German border.

An audacious early morning assault planned by Van Fleet's operations officer Lt Col Richard Stilwell, surprised the defenders. By the end of the first day, eight of the nine infantry battalions were across the flooded river. After testing the German resistance and the brutal terrain the 90th met the 5th well to the east of Metz on November 19, which sealed the fate of the large German garrison in and around the town.

On November 15, Van Fleet had been promoted to major general. His division was also recommended for the Distinguished Unit Citation, but the recommendation was turned down. To the day he died, Van Fleet regretted the division did not get the recognition he felt it deserved. Yet for many years after the war, the crossing of the Moselle River was taught as a textbook operation at Fort Leavenworth's Command and General Staff College.

The next obstacle in the way of the 90th was the Saar River and the thickest part of the Siegfried Line. Van Fleet sent the 357th and 358th regiments across the Saar in a lightning move early in the morning of December 6, 1944.

Soon after the Americans established their bridgehead, the Germans counter attacked from the environs of Dillingen, but they were unable to drive the Tough Hombre back across the river. By December 9 the division had captured Dillingen and was effectively through the densest part of the Siegfried Line. For gallantry in action, Van Fleet earned his second DSC.

By January 8, 1945, when many historians feel the Battle of the Bulge ended, the 90th was in position to attack Wiltz, close to the border between Luxembourg and Belgium. Patton had taken Van Fleet aside after directing the 99th to spearhead the attack to link up with the Americans advancing from the north. According to Van Fleet. Patton told him, "...you've never failed me. I know you can do it. The 90th has always accomplished anything I give them to do." This message was not lost on Van Fleet.

The 357th Infantry jumped off on January 9, deftly gaining the high ground on which the Luxembourg Hamlet of Berle stood. The 359th came up beside it, encountering still more resistance. The next day the 1st Battalion of the 359th took very heavy casualties trying to advance across open ground against elements of the German 5th Parachute Division. Somehow, however, the word mistakenly got back to the 90th Division's command post (CP), just as Patton arrived there, that the 359th's objective had been taken, and, well pleased, he departed.

When Van Fleet returned to the CP he learned of Patton's visit and immediately determined to correct the situation by ordering an attack that night to capture the key crossroads that intersected the main route of German retreat from Bastogne. That night the 2nd and 3rd battalions of 359th Infantry literally marched through the German lines. With a battalion on either side of the road walking single file, the two units sliced up the seam separating two German divisions without being detected. The next morning the Germans counter attacked, but the two battalions supported by tanks and tank destroyers, stopped the enemy cold. Van Fleet's keen judgment was amply vindicated. The German 5th Parachute Division went down in the official U.S. history of the war as the only German unit of that size to be destroyed in the Battle of the Bulge. For his valorous conduct during the 90th's fighting in Luxembourg Van Fleet was awarded a third DSC.

Van Fleet's division continued on through Luxembourg, and on January 29 it crossed the Our River and plunged into the Siegfried Line for a second time.

Patton called Van Fleet to his headquarters in Luxembourg in early February, 1945, complimented him on the 90th's performance and informed him that he was to get a corps command. On March 17, 1945, he was back in Germany commanding the III Corps of the U.S. First Army. The III Corps had just crossed the Rhine River at Remagen, and Van Fleet was eager to push forward. The 9th and 99th Infantry Divisions and the 7th Armored Divisions, which made up the core elements of the III Corps, were experienced units. The corps under its former commander had gained the nickname of the "Phantom Corps" because of its stealth and speed of movement. After repelling a major German counterattack on March 21, the III Corps led the First Army's southern push eastward on the 25th and then turned north to assist in the encirclement of the Ruhr industrial region. ■

The troops will march in, the bands will play, the crowds will cheer, and in four days everyone will have forgotten. Then we will be told we have to send in more troops. It's like taking a drink. The effect wears off, and you have to take another.

JOHN F. KENNEDY

ARE YOUR DUES DUE?

TENDING THE DEAD IN ETO

GRS is Completing the Mission

Submitted by

Joseph S. Liberto

44th Infantry Division

174th Infantry Regiment

607th Quartermaster Graves Registration Service

The cost of winning the war in Europe is spelled out in crosses and Stars of David stuck in the soil of 54 U.S. Military cemeteries in ETO.

There are two in England, one in Northern Ireland, thirty in France, one in Luxembourg, four in Belgium, four in Holland, and twelve in Germany some of which are already being removed to Belgium and France.

Recent tabulations show that the QM Graves Registration Service has buried in these cemeteries 125,670 Americans, 3,463 Allies, and 77,773 enemy dead.

Unidentified U.S. dead number only approximately 2 percent of the total buried. It was more than twice this percentage at the end of a comparable period after World War I. GRS personnel are working to reduce present unknowns to an even smaller figure. At the end of the war there were an estimated 18,000 isolated burials throughout the theater--men who were buried where they fell instead of being transported to established cemeteries. The top priority post V-E job for GRS men in ETO is finding these graves, as well as unburied remains and interring the dead in one of the military cemeteries.

Another high priority job is evacuating the 8,000 American dead who were buried in Germany. They will be re-interred in liberated countries.

Where and Who? To locate isolated burials. GRS men use methods ranging from searching battle areas indicated by day-to-day situation maps. In interviewing civilians in likely areas. Identifying the man who was buried in some isolated spot may not be simple, for sometimes identification tags are missing. Investigations may involve more interviews with civilians who were near the scene of death, probing for data in the man's unit, in missing Air Crew or Battle Casualty reports and careful examination of the remains.

Unknowns both in isolated graves and in established cemeteries often can be identified through a careful check of physical characteristics: finger prints, body scars, tooth charts and so forth. Also aiding in identification are pay books, drivers' licenses, letters, laundry marks, and equipment serial numbers. Some of this information may be registered on burial or KIA and MIA reports.

All these aids to identification are cross-checked painstakingly, and no case is closed until the deceased has either been identified or every possible source of information has been exhausted. When a case is closed papers concerning it are forwarded to the Office of The Quartermaster General for review and further investigation.

Although regular GRS practice is to wrap bodies in clean white shrouds before burial, that wasn't always possible in fast-moving warfare. Many casualties were simply buried in the clothes they were wearing when they were killed, or wrapped in blankets or shelter halves.

If there wasn't time for a burial service, chaplains returned to the grave as soon as they could and read the service over it. If he didn't know the religions preference of the dead man, the chaplain read a combined Protestant-Catholic-Jewish Service.

The Markers. Markers were erected over all known graves as soon as possible. Often they were only simple stakes with one of the man's identification tags nailed to it. But as soon as possible or when the area passed under Com Zone control, crosses and Star of David were erected.

The name, rank, and serial number of the dead were stenciled on their grave markers, too.

Personal Effects. The system of safeguarding personal effects of the deceased was worked out in detail to ensure their eventual return to the next-of-kin. As soon as a man was killed, it became his CO's responsibility to collect the dead man's personal belongings, including money, inventory them, and begin their evacuation through echelons to the rear.

Two effects depots served as intermediate collecting points. They were located at Liverpool, England, for the UK base, and at Folenbray, France, for continental forces. They forwarded effects to the Army Effects Bureau in Kansas City, Missouri, where trained personnel sort the man's belongings and prepare them for shipment home. There, blood-stained clothing is cleaned and pressed, items that might cause embarrassment to relatives are set aside, and documents that might prove of military value such as diaries, are diverted for study by Intelligence. The two overseas depots are scheduled to go out of operation, all effects going directly to Kansas City.

Beautification. When the cemeteries in Germany are cleared out about 40 will remain in the UK and the liberated countries of Europe. These plots are being landscaped in keeping with the War Department policy for military cemeteries. The objective is to make each a scene of simple beauty in harmony with the surrounding area.

One such cemetery, now the largest in ETO of World War II, is the one at Henri-Chapelle, 18 miles from Liege, Belgium. More than 17,000 men lie there.

This cemetery was established and cared for by the 607th Quartermaster Graves Registration Company, whose men scrambled ashore on Omaha Beach on D-Day. Three platoons were each attached to engineer Special Brigades under the First Army.

In the confusion of those early days on the beaches, under enemy artillery and small arms fire men of the 607th gathered bodies from the beaches, in the water, and inland. In ducks(?), second platoon men searched the off-shore waters and recovered many bodies some of which they had to cut from wrecked landing craft submerged in the shallow water, and carried them ashore.

Beaches Clear. By the end of D-plus-2, the third platoon alone had buried 457 American dead. By working day and night, the three platoons together were able to clear the beaches of all dead. Later, bodies were reburied in permanent cemeteries at St. Laurent sur Mer, St. Mere Englise, and Oreglandes.

The cemetery at St. Laurent sur Mer was the first to be established on European soil. First burials there were made on D-plus-3 by the second and third platoons of the 607th, which operated it until the St. Lo break-through. By that time 4,000 Americans, 50 Allied soldiers, and 1,200 Germans were buried there.

(Continued)

The Star Halfback

With Germany nearing final defeat, TIME profiled America's single most charismatic—and confounding—commander, General George S. Patton

LAST WEEK EUROPEAN CORRESPONDENTS were telling another war story about unpredictable Lieut. General George S. Patton Jr. An Allied officer had asked Supreme Commander Dwight D. Eisenhower where in Germany General Patton might be. Ike's reply: "Hell, I don't know. I haven't heard from him for three hours."

George Patton was sitting in his headquarters van, his high-polished cavalry boots cocked on the glass top of his desk. He listened now & then over his command radio to battle reports. They were good. His tankmen were rampaging around, deep in Germany, on the loose and on the prowl, raiding and rolling on. Patton could turn off the radio and turn on one of his favorite topics: the Civil War battle of Fredericksburg. Willie, the General's white bull terrier, snuffed sleepily on the rug.

Where General Patton might be in the next three hours he himself did not know. If Patton got a hunch—and Ike Eisenhower gave him the green light—he might peel off with a tank column for Berlin, or Leipzig or Berchtesgaden, at a moment's notice. If Patton's wildest dream came true, he would find Adolf Hitler in a German tank and slug it out with him. But for the moment, dreams aside, Patton had reason for calm and happy reflection. He was having the time of his action-choked, 40-year Army career.

His armor-heavy Third Army was performing brilliantly all the tricks he had worked hard to teach it. Patton's tankmen were carrying out his prime rule of battle: fire and movement. If they were stopped they did not dig in. They moved around the obstacle and kept firing. Patton was playing his favorite role. He was the swift, slashing halfback of Coach Eisenhower's team. His quarterback, General Omar N. Bradley, had set up a climax play and had called Patton's signal. Halfback Patton had had superb blocking from Lieut. General Courtney Hodges' First Army. Now the star open-field runner was ripping into the secondary defense.

Basically it was the play on which Patton had sped to a



touchdown in the Battle of France, after the First Army had opened up a hole for him in the Saint-Lô breakthrough. There, as at the Rhine, it had been Quarterback Bradley's precise timing and teamwork that had shaken Patton loose to do his spectacular stuff. Now, as he had after Saint-Lô, it was Halfback Patton who captured the headlines. He is fast becoming a legend. The U.S. public, always more interested in the ballcarrier than in the blockers who open a hole for him, liked Patton's flourishes, his flamboyance, his victories.

Long forgotten is that emotional storm of 19 months ago in which Patton literally gave the back of his hand to a soldier sitting on a hospital cot. The U.S. has not forgotten the episode—but it has begun to misremember it, to transmute it into the Patton legend. The U.S. newspaper with the largest circulation—the tabloid *New York Daily News*—a few weeks ago editorially referred to him as "Patton, who ... slapped a soldier ... for going in the wrong direction from the front."

In slim, big-chested Patton, hero-worshipping Americans had a candidate to fit the mass idea of what a Hero General should be—the colorful swashbuckler, the wild-riding charger, the hell-for-leather Man of Action, above all the Winner. A favorite story with his officers is how the General stopped the rain in the Battle of the Bulge last December. The German offensive was blessed by soupy days at its start. No planes flew. Tankmen could not find the enemy in the endless drizzle. Patton, who can be reverent and blasphemous in the same breath, called one of the Third's chaplains. The conversation:

Patton: I want a prayer to stop this rain. If we got a couple of clear days, we could get in there and kill a couple of hundred thousand of these ... krauts.

Chaplain: Well, sir, it's not exactly in the realm of theology to pray for something that would help to kill fellow men.

Patton: What the hell are you—a theologian or an officer of the U.S. Third Army? I want that prayer!

The General got his prayer; it was printed on thousands of small cards with Patton's Christmas greeting on the reverse side. On the fifth day of rain, it was distributed to the troops. On the sixth day the sun shone, and the Third proceeded to its warlike harvest. ■

DRESSED TO IMPRESS Patton's military model was Colonel John S. Mosby, the Confederate cavalryman who rode into battle in a scarlet-lined cape, a brilliant plume in his campaign hat. Mosby lived until 1916; Patton's father was a friend

Anecdotal Evidence of German Preparations for Major Attack in the Ardennes

[The following is extracted from "The Shock of War: Unknown Battles that Ruined Adolph Hitler's Plan for a Second Blitzkrieg in the West, December-January, 1944-45," by J. C. Doherty, published by Vert Milon Press, of Alexandria, Virginia. We are unable to determine who sent it in.]

Questions concerning what the American and British commands knew about *Wacht am Rhein*, Adolph Hitler's plan for the attack in the Ardennes-Eifel region of Western Europe in late autumn 1944, will continue to fascinate professional and amateur historians so long as the Battle of the Bulge and World War II remain of interest to them. (See also Introduction, Volume 1, p. 30-32).

In the course of our research and interviewing to gather material for this history several veterans of front-line units volunteered the information that days before the Wehrmacht struck in the Ardennes-Eifel, they witnessed or heard enemy activity "on the other side of the hill," which indicated unusual preparations not for hardening a defense but for taking aggressive action. A few others who served in higher commands also volunteered that at the time they too were receiving information indicating forthcoming enemy action.

Like all events recollected in tranquility forty and fifty years afterward not all of these "sightings" and "hearings" can be accepted at face value. And as every historian knows remembrances of participants in an event that followed long after. Nevertheless, so many veterans of the Elsenborn battles whose stories we used for the Narratives made reference to increased enemy activity before December 16 that we decided to include some of their comments here. Explanatory notes and minor additions for the sake of coherence are not in quotes.

"I recall how we were very much aware of a change in the enemy units" (opposite us on the Schnee Eifel). "We lost some people occupying a forward outpost one of the last nights we were in position. This indicated a more highly trained and aggressive unit opposing us than we had known in that area. Also, some of our patrols reported that the wood tank obstacles to our front had been sawed close to the ground but were still standing so as to escape detection" (as though being prepared for an attack). (Thomas H. Birch, 333 S. Cascade St., Colorado Springs, Colorado, letter to author, 4/20/82. He was with the 9th Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division.)

"I remember when we were fighting for Aachen several weeks before December 16, we exchanged intelligence with a British armored division. There were many snippets in their output that we read with interest--long trains moving even then by night into the Schnee Eifel, clusters of Panzer troops at the railheads, etc."

"So the intelligence was 'out.' It must have simply been that 12th Army Group (Bradley's HQ and SHAEF (Eisenhower's HQ) didn't care to get exercised. Why this could have been given the terrific (sic) use of the 'difficult' Ardennes in the early days of the war (AN: During the German May 1940 attack on Belgium) still is a mystery to me." (Sutherland, Documentation, Narrative IX, Volume 2).

"(Pilots of artillery spotter aircraft, i.e. L-2 Piper Cubs) with the battalion detected tank build-up about December 14. It was reported to battalion HQ and relayed to division." (AN: 99th Division HQ Intelligence staff) (Duplantier, Documentation, Narrative III, Volume I).

(AN: A soldier of a 393rd Infantry company occupying a sector overlooking a German-held village before December 16.) "Germans active. We could hear them at night. Gave the feeling lots of people there doing something." (Ballard, Documentation, Narrative III, Volume 1).

"The increase in German activities during the final week before they launched their Ardennes offensive greatly increased the number and length of the daily intelligence summary we (artillery battalion forward observers) turned in on this section of the front. (AN: defended by 394th Infantry, 99th Division) The reports were bucked up to 99th Division HQ or higher..." (Byers, Documentation, Narrative IV, Volume I).

"First Division artillery HQ pinpointed 256 batteries of enemy guns east and south of position. Each fired one or two rounds per day. They were registering in during the week preceding December 16." (Mason, Documentation, Narrative X, Volume 2).

"Our 90mm AAA gun battalion was positioned near Bullingen, Belgium, November 23, 1944. On December 11...we were visited by Colonel Hunt, our battalion commanding officer. (He) conducted a meeting. I was present with four of our officers of the battery. (The colonel told us) the Germans were gathering troops to our front along with tanks and artillery in order to make a last desperate attack against the American lines...we were reminded that some of our radar equipment was 'secret' and had to be destroyed if capture was likely." (Edward Kapala, 134th AAA Battalion, quoted in *The Checkerboard*, September 1919).

(AN: Source of the following was a U.S. Office of Strategic Services [OSS] officer stationed in Ettlebruck, Luxembourg, ten miles north of Luxembourg City, m General Bradley's 12th Army Group HQ. His duties were to turn German POWs and pass them in and out of Germany in the vicinity of Vianden on the Our River, a few miles north of Ettlebruck.)

"(We) picked up lots of information that in the hills above Viaden on the German side there was a tremendous amount of buildup of armor troops and fuel. This information we passed on to Eagle Tac" (U.S. 12th AG HQ)... "It was very evident from an intelligence standpoint that something large was in the making. After about three meetings in which we presented the facts as we saw them, I was very strongly scolded by the colonel at the time. (AN: presumably an officer on the G-2 staff of 12th AG HQ)...they didn't believe this was possible."

"My (OSS) commanding officer in Nancy, France told me to bypass Eagle Tac and let (him) have the information." (Charles L. Barnes, address to meeting of Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Alexandria, VA December 13, 198).

"Around December 11, just before the 2nd Infantry Division left St. Vith, Belgium, we became very concerned about what was going on on the German side. We directed all units to patrol actively in the hope of corroborating apparent evidence of considerable movement on the German side. We thought there was more to it than simply a relief of units. General Robertson (AN: Walter Robertson, 2nd Division commander) became so concerned he telephoned Middleton (Major Troy H. Middleton, CO of U.S. 8th Corps). He told Middleton of his concern and

(Continued)

Anecdotal Evidence of German Preparations

(Continuation)

asked for air reconnaissance or something to confirm or disallow (sic) what he thought was happening. Middleton replied 'Robby, go back to sleep. You're having a bad dream.'" (Ralph Zwicker, former chief of staff of 2nd Division, quoted by Charles MacDonald in papers on file at U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. Zwicker said he was present when Robertson phoned Middleton.)■

HUDSON VALLEY CHAPTER RECEIVES PARTNERS IN EDUCATION AWARD

The New York State Capital District Council for Social Studies has awarded the Hudson Valley Chapter's Education Committee their annual Partners in Education Award for 2005.

The Education Committee has been active since the chapter's formation (6-7 years ago) and demands for their presentation to area schools and other organizations has increased each year. The committee has been very visible and has earned the respect of everyone they have come in contact with. They have been interviewed by capital district radio and television stations and one member of the committee was interviewed by Oliver North for his May 8, 2005, "War Stories" program on Fox News Channel.

The committee consists of three men: Doug Vink, Chairman; Alvin Cohen; and Richard Marowitz.

Their presentations include a large display of World War II memorabilia which is very popular with the students. A recent presentation had 200-250 high school students in attendance and lasted over three hours. At the end, there were still lots of students who were looking at the display and asking questions--school had ended and the buses left at 2:45 p.m.

School administrators are amazed at how well these three fellows keep the attention of the students.

Submitted by Coolidge S. Copeland■



"PHANTOM" DIVISION FRUSTRATES HITLER

By John W. Leonard Jr.
14th Tank Battalion
9th Armored Division

After their defeat in Normandy and retirement across France, the German army rallied and dug in along their front in the hills, forests and the Siegfried Line. Hitler knew he had to stop the Allied force short of the Rhine River. The Rhine was a major transport artery of their army and, if the Allies reached the Rhine from Cologne south (upriver) to Mainz, it would be a disaster. No coal could be transported by barge from the Saar to the industrial area of the Ruhr.

Having defeated the airborne attempt to cross the lower Rhine River Hitler concentrated on the defense of the plains west of Cologne and, specifically the Roer River. This was the classic military approach to Germany from the west which was to be used by the 9th Armored Division.

A key element of Hitler's defensive scheme was the several reservoirs upstream in the hills and forest on the Roer River. Once the Allied forced their way over the Roer River, 30 miles west of the Rhine the reservoir would be emptied to flood the crossing sites and isolating the Allied troops east of River. The second element of Hitler's plan was six Panzer Divisions prepared to wipe out anyone crossing the river.

There had been several months of heavy fighting in the approaches to the reservoir. The German resistance was strong and holding. But two things happened in early December 1944. First, the Port of Antwerp was opened which eased the Allied supply line situation. This troubled Hitler. But the clincher came when he learned that a crack combat unit of the 9th Armored Division, Combat Command B, would join the first rate 2nd Infantry Division to go after the reservoir.

So Hitler took a gamble by giving up the Roer River plan and throwing the six Panzer Divisions plus infantry units into the Ardennes in an effort to capture Antwerp.

However, his attack plans resulted in his troops being delayed by widely separated units of the 9th Armored Division. When his unit commanders in three different areas on a wide front reported they were opposed by the 9th Armored Division, Hitler's command promptly named the 9th the "Phantom Division."

All three combat commands of the "Phantom" division were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for the Battle of the Bulge. Combat Command R received their citation for delaying the German forces at Bastogne until the arrival of the 101st Airborne Division and CCB of the 10th Armored Division and then continuing to serve in the defense of Bastogne. The other two combat commands were awarded the PUC 55 years after the battle when they obtained the German records following the end of the cold war.

Optical Editor's comment: John W. Leonard Jr. was the Major General John W. Leonard who commanded the 9th Armored Division.■

Check to see if your dues are due...it's right above your last name on your mailing label.

THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION
Invites You to Join Your Friends for the
"EVENTS OF REMEMBRANCE AND COMMEMORATION"
OF THE 61st ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE
December 14, 15 and 16, 2005
Metropolitan Washington, DC

The Marriott Fairview Park, I-495 (Capital Beltway) and VA Route 50 (towards Fairview Park), Falls Church VA has again been selected as the site for activities commemorating the 61st Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, December 14 - 16, 2005. This hotel, just off the Beltway will provide easy access and accommodations, for a reduced rate of **\$94.00**, single or double occupancy plus taxes. Parking is free. This rate is available for any night(s) between December 13 and December 17. For room reservations please call the Marriott Reservations (1-800-228-9290) or by December 1, 2005. Mention that you are attending the **BATTLE OF THE BULGE** events for the special rate.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2005

- 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM Registration (Hospitality Suite, 16th Floor), receive name badges, Banquet/bus tickets, make Banquet table selections. (If you are only attending the Banquet, you may pick up your tickets at the Marriott Fairview Park by 6:00 PM Dec 15th.) This year you will be able to select your Banquet Table seating at the Registration Desk. Plan ahead with your friends to be seated at the same table (rounds of 10 per table).
- 3:00 PM – 10:00 PM Hospitality Room/Exhibits, scrapbooks. John Bowen & Bob Phillips, Battle of the Bulge Historians will be the hosts. A private area in the Hotel restaurant has been reserved for supper from 6:30 – 8:00 PM for the Battle of the Bulge Veterans (payment is on your own). A time to renew friendships & visit w/old friends.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2005

- 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM Registration open/Receive name badges, Banquet/bus tickets, Table selections (Hospitality Suite).
- 9:00 AM Charter buses depart hotel.
- 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM Guided tour of Downtown, Washington DC & stop at the World War II Memorial.
- 12:30 PM Depart for Union Station, Washington DC.
- 1:00 PM -- 3:00 PM Lunch on your own at Union Station/Mall. Time to do unique Christmas Shopping & view fascinating exhibit of model railway from Norway. Leave at 3:00 PM to Marriott Fairview Park.

BANQUET AT JUNIOR BALLROOM MARRIOTT FAIRVIEW PARK,

- 6:15 PM Social Hour/Cash Bar.
- 6:45 PM Seated for Dinner.
- 7:00 PM Color Guard/Members of the Fife and Drum Corps/Ceremonies.
- 7:15 PM Dinner served.

BANQUET ENTRÉE

The choice of entrée for the Banquet is:

Seared Chicken Breast

OR

Mustard Herb Loin Pork

Program:

Greetings from Dignitaries.

Speaker: Mr. John Metzler, Superintendent-Arlington National Cemetery, who will share with us the plans for the upcoming facelift of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers.

After Banquet Hospitality Room open, 16th Floor, at Marriott Fairview Park.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2005

- 9:00 AM Bus from Marriott Fairview Park to Arlington Cemetery
- 10:00 AM Ceremony of Remembrance, World War II Memorial, Washington DC
- 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.
- 12:30 PM Buffet Luncheon, Hosted by VBOB, Marriott Fairview Park
- Swearing-in of new VBOB officers.
- Comments by VBOB President.
- Farewell.

PEIPER'S PANTHER TANKS

Stavelot, Belgium

December 18, 1944

Translated by
CHRIS BREUNMINGER
526th Armored Infantry Battalion
A Company

In September of 1944 American forces liberated a great portion of Belgium, including the Village of Stavelot, Belgium. In this area lived a young Belgian boy, 13 years of age, by the name of Huber Laby. He experienced the arrival of the American forces and the liberation of his hometown. When the war ended, he continued with his education, joined the newly formed Belgium Army, and rose to the rank of major. Some years later in recalling the arrival of the American forces and the liberation of his town he decided he would like to write a book about the incidents that happened in December 1944 when the German Army attempted to return and retake his village. His desire in writing this book was to put in perspective the historical events of his childhood and also to show his deep appreciation to the liberators of his country. Following is an incident of the minute detail that the author used to capture the realities of the battle with Peiper's tanks on the 18th of December 1944.

First a Little Background of Company "A"

On December 17, 1944, Company "A" was billeted in a baron's chateau called Grimmonster. That night we were told to head to the Village of Stavelot, Belgium, where it was reported that German paratroopers had landed in that town. We arrived there in the very early morning of the 18th and were briefly given orders to take up positions along the Ambleve River. To say the least, there was some confusion as to what we were about to face. Having taken up positions along the river, we could hear small fire in the distance.

Next a little Background on Peiper's Panthers

The Americans were to find out later that the German forces they were to encounter were forces from the 1st SS Panzer Division and the 3rd Parachute Infantry Division (Waffen SS). In charge of the 1st SS Panzer Division was Joachim Peiper. Peiper was a dedicated Nazi and one of the favorite leaders of Adolph Hitler's army. During his tour with the 1st Panzer Division fighting against Russian troops on the Eastern Front, his division was known as "Blowtorch Battalion" because they burned the villages and destroyed the inhabitants.

His unit was pulled from the Eastern front and with direct orders from Hitler, he was to command the spearhead division in the battle code-named "Watch am Rhein" (Watch on the Rhine). His Panzer Group command was composed of 100 Mark IV and Mark V tanks plus 42 King Tiger tanks. This force, plus motorized Panzer grenadiers, was the larger part of the forces that the 526th Armored Infantry Battalion was to encounter at Stavelot and at Malmedy. (Peiper's forces were responsible for the Malmedy Massacre at Baugnez.) (At the end of the war Peiper was charged with war crimes at the Munich Tribunal).

As stated previously, there were many incidents that the 300 pages covers and this is only a small, but significant section that

tells about the following incident.

In the early morning of December 18, 1944, soldiers of Company A, 526 Armored Infantry Battalion, arrived at the Town of Stavelot, Belgium. We were ordered to take up positions along the Ambleve River and more specifically to be able to observe and protect the one bridge in town that crossed the Ambleve River. We could hear, on the other side of the river the rumble of German armor moving towards the bridge.

The first tank of this Panzer spearhead was able to come across the river. This tank was commanded by a German named Eugene Zimmerman. As he crossed the bridge he started up the street called Rue Gustave Dewalque. Sergeant Carl Smith, of Company A, was in charge of a 57mm anti-tank gun squad. He had positioned his gun on the street Quai des Vieux Moulins. As Zimmerman's tank moved past the road where Sergeant Smith's gun was set up, a minimum of two shots were fired from his 57mm gun as the tank crossed in front of their position. The shots hit the side of the tank and the Germans inside were momentarily stunned and the tank stopped.

Up the street at the next intersection called Place Wibaid taking cover behind Cafe Henriette Carl's were Lt. James Evans, Jim Lego, Chris Breuninger and several other members of Company A. Lt. Evans looked down the street and after hearing the shots from Sgt. Carl Smith's 57mm gun and the tank abruptly stopping, he stepped out into the street to observe further if the anti-tank gun of Sgt. Smith had knocked out the German Panther tank. The movement of the GI's does not escape Zimmerman and he orders his gunmen to fire a high-explosive shell in the direction of the Americans. The shell exploded on the pavement exactly opposite the house of Ferdinand Courtejoie. In this narrow street the effect is terrifying as the glass from all the windows flies everywhere, fragments of the masonry buildings fall and the electrical and telephone wires fall down on the street and on the American soldiers huddled there near Henriette's Cafe. The results of that exploding shell unfortunately mortally wounded Lt. Evans. James Lego, of Altoona, Pennsylvania, had a large fragment in his right shoulder. Chris Breuninger went immediately to help him and assisted him to the top of the hill of the Rue du Chatelet. Fortunately all the other GI's at that intersection are uninjured.

Zimmerman's tank starts to move forward up the street [named] Rue Gustave Dewalque and the GI's are withdrawing from the location. Other members of Company A are holed up in warehouses along the Ambleve River. One of these squads is Staff Sgt. Boyce Williams' and with him in one of these warehouses are other members of his squad including PFC Harlan Bittinger, Keikgh Horne, John Sitnik, PFC William Daerden, John Mills, Frederick R. Reczkowicz, Irwin Schneider and Ernest Washmuch. All of these GI's have weapons that are mostly M1 rifles. The exceptions are Mills and Darden who each have one rifle and they carry between them a bazooka and four rockets. They can do nothing to Zimmerman's Panther that has already crossed the bridge and is on the move.

As the second tank starts across the bridge, that is the Panther 111, with tank commander Hans Hennecke, John Mills decides he would like to take a shot at the tank with his bazooka. He thinks that he would like to get closer to the bridge but he realizes that the Germans continually fire automatic weapons at any movement of soldiers near the bridge and besides that he is scared to move closer. He decides that he would shoot from the window in the warehouse.

(Continued)

PEIPER'S PANZER TANKS

(Continuation)

He realizes he may be a target for the automatic weapons that the Germans are armed with. So without hesitation, he calibrates the bazooka on his shoulder and waits until William Darden loads a rocket into the chamber. The safety pin is removed and he connects the two wires then gives a slap on the helmet of Mills. At this point John Mills sees in his mind the instructor at Ft. Knox. He is reminded of what he has been told hundreds of times--that in order to stop a large armored tank with a bazooka it is necessary for him to aim at the track of the vehicle and not at the heavy armor. In other words, he is reminding himself that he could stop the tank if he could knock off one of its tracks.

He takes a deep breath, holds his breath and brings the cross-hairs of the bazooka in sight of the left track of the large tank and he presses the trigger. The shot pierces his ear drums and a second later is the explosion. John Mills makes a jump backwards and couldn't believe his eyes that he hit the track on his first try. Boyce Williams goes cautiously to the window and sees the tank is paralyzed in the middle of the bridge with the left track obviously severely damaged. The Panzer III of Hans Hannecke is immobilized, clogging the bridge completely. Not only did the bazooka shell that hit the Panther III knock the track off, but the driver reported there was extensive damage to the vehicle's transmission and it could no longer move on its own. The Germans inside the tanks are unable to dismount because the Americans fired automatic weapons in the direction of the tank so that no one dares to exit the tank. The solution to the problem of getting the immobilized tank back to the southern bank of the Ambleve River, is for pioneers of the 9th Company (these are combat engineers of the German Army) to risk themselves. Nobody in this Company is ready to go on a mission to retrieve the tank. The Germans did not want to play "Death Dodger." The 1st Lieutenant (Obersturmführer Karl Kremser), who is in charge of the tanks, has heard by radio that the tank is immobilized on the bridge. Finally he jumps from his tank and hurries toward the bridge. When he hears the store of Crismer he enters it and on seeing his men hiding instead of trying to retrieve the tank, he goes into an insane rage.

It is true that as soon as the German soldiers show themselves or try to go on the bridge, they are shot at from the buildings on the opposite bank of the river. First Lieutenant Kremser immediately takes charge and looks for a pioneer with a flame thrower. The man comes running with his heavy load and there at the corner where the men have been hiding, he aims a long fluid stream of fire at the Americans who have been firing their automatic weapons at them. Soon the burning buildings make so much smoke the whole city is covered and the Americans withdraw.

Lieutenant Kramer is not finished yet. He can now send some pioneers with a cable towards the Hennecke tank. He does not know that the guys of Boyce Williams are still at the location where they fired the bazooka. Some Waffen SS who dare to try to get on the bridge, become targets and no one can reach the tank. The impatient Kremser leaves the building on the corner and it does not go well for him as he takes a bullet to the chest and falls down. His men rush to him and transport him into the building.

There is little resistance from the Americans on the opposite side of the river. So the Germans set up machine guns and fire at the buildings across the river. The pioneers of Company 9 take advantage of this situation and at the same time Panther 114

goes onto the bridge, one of the pioneers puts a cable on the tank of Hennecke and the tank is then returned to the German side of the river. The Panther 114 of Kurt Briesmeikster starts at once to cross the bridge and joins the tank of Zimmerman. Other Panthers follow. The spearhead is without a commander. Sturmbannführer Werner Poetachke designates at once Hans Hennecke to take command of the unit. The tanks move freely through Stavelot with little resistance from the "Men of Mitchell." They now proceed towards the Village of Trois Point.

Editors Note: This incident of the bazooka shell hitting the track of the panther tank on the bridge was a significant occurrence because:

It delayed the convoy of the spearhead tanks from proceeding to their ultimate objective the Belgian Port of Antwerp which they ultimately failed to achieve.

It gave an opportunity for those in the immediate vicinity of the bridge to withdraw to a safer location.

It gave time for the forces in this area to destroy the gasoline dump, which was one of the targets of the armored spearhead.

It gave time for other forces to blow up the bridges ahead of the onslaught.

It delayed the impact of that armor upon that town so that reinforcements were given time for join in the defense of Stavelot. ■

BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW HIM...AND HE HELPED SAVE YOUR LIFE...

Last month, *The Washington Post* carried an article announcing the passing of Ancel Keys.

Born in Colorado Springs in 1904, he was the nephew of movie actor Lon Chaney. He grew up in California where he was identified as one of the 1,528 "gifted" children studied by Stanford University researcher Lewis Terman.

Before Keys was out of his teens, he had worked in a lumber camp, shoveled bat guano in an Arizona cave, mined for gold and sailed to China on an ocean liner as a member of the crew.

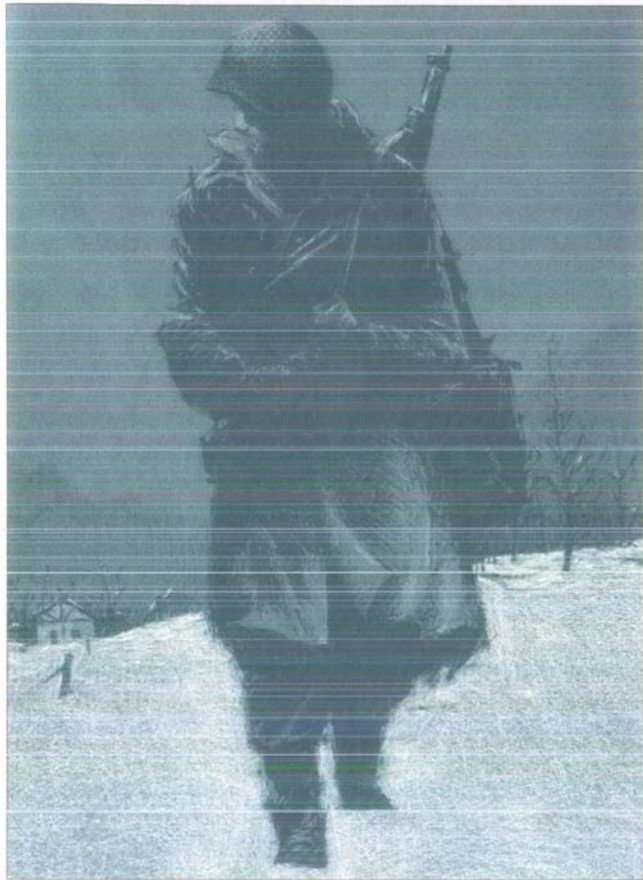
After receiving many college degrees, he led a scientific excursion to the Andes in 1935 to study the physiological effects of altitude. That research, he believed, which led to an assignment from the U.S. Government at the start of World War II.

What did he do for me, you ask?

He designed a lightweight but nutritionally robust ration for paratroops. The "K" ration, named for him, was originally made up of items from a Minneapolis grocery store--hard biscuits, dry sausage, hard candy and chocolate.

His (1958) study of 12,000 Mediterranean middle-aged men, "Seven Countries Study," provided evidence that a diet rich in vegetables, fruit, pasta, bread and olive oil and sparing of meat, eggs, butter and dairy products reduces the occurrence of heart disease.

"He was a giant in the field of nutrition in a variety of ways," said Walter C. Willett, chairman of the nutrition department at the Harvard School of Public Health. "His studies held up in the big picture. Yes, he missed some things that are important. Smoking and obesity didn't show up. But the basic conclusion is...the vast majority of heart disease is preventable. ■



"Bastogne"

Painting done by George Fisher
Little Rock, Arkansas
(deceased 12/03)

76th Infantry Division
He was a member of the
Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc.

Submitted by: Pat Murphy
78th Inf. Division

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I'm sure many of the book stores also have it.

It also includes coverage of WWII experiences of our own President George Chekan, Executive Vice President John J. Dunleavy, and Vice President for Chapters George Fisher.

Nancy Monson

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE CERTIFICATE



The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Assn is proud to offer a full color 11" by 17" certificate, which may be ordered by any veteran who received credit for the Ardennes Campaign. It attests that you participated in, endured and survived the greatest land battle ever fought by the US Army. You do not have to be a member of the VBOB Assn in order to order one but you must have received the Ardennes credit. This beautiful certificate is produced on parchment-like stock and is outlined by the full color WWII insignias of the major units that fought in the Battle of the Bulge starting with the 12th Army Group followed numerically with Armies, Corps and Divisions and the two Army Air Forces. We wished that each unit insignia could have been shown but with approximately 2000

units that participated in the Bulge it was impossible. However any unit which served in the Bulge would have been attached to or reported through one of the unit insignia depicted. You may want to add one of your original patches to the certificate, when you receive it. Units were researched in the Official General Order No. 114 for Units Entitled to the ARDENNES Battle Credit and will be the basis for sale of this certificate. The unit insignias shown are also those used in the design of the Battle of the Bulge Memorial Conference Table dedicated and on view in the Garrison Library at Ft Meade, MD (open Mon & Wed 12:30-3:00 PM). The requests to date have been overwhelming, therefore we would request that you allow approximately 3-4 weeks for delivery.

A Special Certificate is available to spouses or children of those who made the Supreme Sacrifice in the Battle of the Bulge or who died of wounds received in the Battle of the Bulge. The individual request should have the date and place of death and be certified by the family requestor or by a buddy who was present. Multiple copies of the same certificate may be ordered if you have a number of children/grandchildren. Rank or command during the Bulge is preferred. It will be abbreviated to the WWII or three character standard. The certificate will be shipped rolled in a protective mailing tube. Please be sure to **place your name, service number and unit as you would like it to appear on the certificate**. The unit name should as full as possible as you want someone reading it to understand what unit you were in. We will abbreviate it as necessary. It is important that you type or print this information. The unit must be one of the 2000 units authorized for the Ardennes Campaign credit. **The cost of the certificate is \$15.00 postpaid.**

Unfortunately we do not have any more frames available at this time. John Bowen is presently trying to arrange with other suppliers who will produce these special sizes in quantities of 100. This may result in a higher frame cost. Our previous order had to be for 500 frames which took over three years to sell and resulted in the non use of a garage where they were stored. We will keep you posted.

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE CERTIFICATE ORDER BLANK

I request an 11" x 17" Certificate and certify that I received credit for the Ardennes Campaign during my military service. I have enclosed a check for \$15.00 for the Certificate. Please include the following information that I would like on the certificate:

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