

# The BULGE BUGLE

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

VOLUME XXV NUMBER 2

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

MAY 2006

## VBOB 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL REUNION LOUISVILLE. KENTUCKY



Dinner Cruise on the Ohio River

  
**Holiday Inn**  
Louisville Downtown

October 9 -  
October 14, 2006  
See pages 16-20

*Five Days Filled With Fun Celebrating  
a Quarter Century of VBOB Reunions!*



**VETERANS OF THE  
BATTLE OF THE BULGE,  
INC.  
P.O. Box 101418  
Arlington, VA 22210-4418  
703-528-4058**

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

**Publisher/Chief Editor:**

George Chekan  
9th Infantry Division

**Contributing Editors:**

Robert F. Phillips  
28th Infantry Division

**Historical Research:**

John D. Bowen  
Associate Member

**ELECTED OFFICERS:**

**President:**

Stanley Wojtusik  
106th Infantry Division

**Executive Vice President:**

William Greenville  
86th Chemical Mortar Battalion

**Vice President/Membership:**

Neil B. Thompson  
740th Tank Battalion

**Vice President/Chapters:**

George Fisher  
26th Infantry Division

**Vice President/Military Affairs:**

Robert Phillips  
29th Infantry Division

**Vice President/Public Affairs:**

Demitri "Dee" Paris  
9th Armored Division

**Treasurer:**

William P. Tayman  
87th Infantry Division

**Corresponding Secretary:**

Dorothy S. Davis  
57th Field Hospital

**Recording Secretary:**

John Bowen  
Associate Member

**Administrative Director:**

Nancy Monson 703-528-4058

**TRUSTEES:**

**Three Years:**

Joseph Zimmer  
87th Infantry Division

John McAuliffe

87th Infantry Division

Harry Meisel

565th AAA AW Battalion

**Two Years:**

Richard G. Guenther

511 Engineer Light Ponton Co

Ralph Bozarth

Associate Member

**One Year:**

Frances Dougherty

Associate Member

James W. Hunt

1st Infantry Division

**HISTORICAL FOUNDATION:**

**President:** Alfred H.M. Shehab  
38 Cavalry

**VBOB PAST PRESIDENTS:**

Clyde D. Boden\* 1981-84

Robert J. VanHouten 1984-86

George Chekan 1986-88

2003-05

William T. Greenville 1988-90

Darrell Kuhn\* 1990-92

William R. Hemphill\* 1992-93

William P. Tayman 1993-94

Grover C. Twiner\* 1994-95

Stanley Wojtusik 1995-97

George C. Linthicum 1997-99

John J. Dunleavy 1999-2001

Louis Cunningham 2001-03

\*Deceased

**CHAPTER PRESIDENTS**

**\*ALABAMA\***

GEN. GEORGE S. PATTON, JR. (XI)  
Will S. Temple, Jr. 205-733-0961  
4617 S Lake Ridge Dr  
Birmingham, AL 35224

**\*ARIZONA\***

ARIZONA (XXVI)  
Brian Schwall 602-276-7635  
308 E Monte Way  
Phoenix, AZ 85040

**SOUTHERN ARIZONA (LIII)**

George W. McGee 520-298-3220  
7830 E Hampton St  
Tucson, AZ 85715-4214

**\*BELGIUM\***

5TH FUSILIERS OF BELGIUM (XXXVIII)  
Marcel D'Haese  
Boulevard du Souverain 4914  
1160 Brussels, Belgium

**\*CALIFORNIA\***

FRESNO (V)  
Arthur Steffensen 559-266-2997  
7469 S Cedar Ave  
Fresno, CA 93725-9749

**GEN. GEORGE S. PATTON, JR. (XIII)**

Donald C. Stafford 408-662-0472  
101 Via Soderini  
Aptos, CA 95003

**GOLDEN GATE (X)**

William C. Armstrong 925-937-4415  
1510 Encanto Pl  
Walnut Creek, CA 94597-2319

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (XVI)**

John W. Mosley 562-947-1727  
18428 Lebo St  
Whittier, CA 90603

**SAN DIEGO (LI)**

Robert D. Schrell 858-274-5738  
2530 San Joaquin Ct  
San Diego, California 92109

**\*CONNECTICUT\***

CONNECTICUT YANKEE (XL)  
Richard Egan 203-634-0974  
79 Alcove St  
Meriden, CT 06451

**\*COLORADO\***

ROCKY MOUNTAIN (XXXIX)  
A. Wayne Field 719-598-2234  
P.O. Box 7247  
Colorado Springs, CO 80933-7247

**\*DELAWARE\***

BRANDYWINE VALLEY CHAPTER (LXVI)  
Charles Gaffney 302-762-3023  
907 Shipley Rd  
Wilmington, DE 19803-4927

**\*FLORIDA\***

CENTRAL FLORIDA (XVIII)  
(President's Name needed)

**FLORIDA CITRUS (XXXII)**

Gerald V. Myers 863-686-2121  
320 E Palm Dr  
Lakeland, FL 33803-2650

**INDIAN RIVER FLORIDA (XLI)**

Alfred J. Babecki 561-664-0952  
915 Hemlock St  
Burefoot Bay, FL 32976-7322

**SOUTHEAST FLORIDA (LXII)**

George Fisher 561-585-7086  
3456 S Ocean Blvd #503  
Palm Beach, FL 33480

**GOLDEN TRIANGLE (XLVIII)**

Harry E. Kirby 352-873-8380  
11569 SW 71 Cir  
Ocala, FL 34476-9482

**FLORIDA SOUTHWEST CHAPTER (LXVII)**

Vincent Runowich 727-323-3793  
4063 10th Ave N  
St Petersburg, FL 33713

**\*INDIANA\***

NORTHERN INDIANA (XXX)  
William T. Tuley 219-756-7201  
7201 Cleveland Cir  
Merrillville, IN 46410-3774

**CENTRAL INDIANA (XLVII)**

Loren H. Hewitt 317-888-8232  
438 N Timber Trail  
Greenwood, IN 46142

**\*IOWA\***

IOWA (XXXIV)  
Pius P. Feis 712-368-2335  
103 Davenport St  
Holstein, IA 51025

**HAWKEYE STATE (XLIV)**

Harold R. Lindstrom 515-278-0081  
4105 75th St.  
Des Moines, IA 50322-2551

**\*MARYLAND-DC\***

MARYLAND/D.C. (III)  
Earle O. Edmonds 410-647-5215  
PO Box 79  
Arnold, MD 21012

**\*MASSACHUSETTS\***

LAMAR SOUTTER/CENTRAL  
MASSACHUSETTS (XXII)  
John E. McAuliffe 508-754-7183  
425 Pleasant St.  
Worcester, MA 01609

**CAPE COD & THE ISLANDS (LVIII)**

Alexander W. MacIsaac 508-362-6876  
21 Freeman Rd  
Yarmouth Port, MA 02575

**\*MICHIGAN\***

WEST MICHIGAN (XXIII)  
Maurice Cole 231-879-4040  
PO Box 81  
Fife Lake, MI 49633

**GREAT LAKES (XXI)**

Chapter now defunct

**\*MISSISSIPPI\***

MISSISSIPPI (XXXIII)  
Manning Cooper 601-325-4479  
78 Fern Valley Rd  
Brandon, MS 39042

**\*MISSOURI\***

GATEWAY (XXV)  
W. Kent Stephens 618-344-1616  
107 Bluffview Lane  
Collinsville, IL 62234

**\*NEW JERSEY\***

PETER F. LESLIE, JR. (LIV)  
Gerald E. Mount 973-697-5875  
40 Old Hoop Pole Rd  
Oak Ridge, NJ 07438

**FORT MONMOUTH (LVI)**

Edward Turrell 732-264-5447  
3 Chestnut Dr  
Hazlet, NJ 07730

**FORT DIX/MCGUIRE AFB (LX)**

Lloyd Orth 856-235-0504  
10 Locust Ct  
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

**SOUTH JERSEY (LXI)**

Gus Eppe (VP) 609-463-9690  
45 S Desea Dr  
Cape May Court House, NJ 08210-2041

**\*NEW YORK\***

CENTRAL NEW YORK (II)  
(Chapter no longer functioning)

**MOHAWK VALLEY (XXVIII)**

Kenneth H. Rowland 315-736-5836  
10 Pulaski St  
New York Mills, NY 13417

**HUDSON VALLEY (IL)**

Douglas J. Vink 518-482-5050  
23 Sandhurst Dr  
Slingerlands, NY 12159-9420

**STATEN ISLAND (LII)**

William Abell 917-299-9766  
297 Clarke Ave  
Staten Island, NY 10306

**GENESSEE VALLEY (LVII)**

Thomas W. Hope 585-473-1629  
58 Carverdale Dr  
Rochester, NY 14618

**MID-HUDSON VALLEY (LIX)**

Duncan Trueman 914-986-6376  
29 Overhill Ln  
Warwick, NY 10990-3317

**LONG ISLAND (LXIII)**

David Saltman 516-221-5096  
PO Box 7127  
Wantagh, NY 11793

**\*NORTH CAROLINA\***

NORTH CAROLINA (IX)  
William R. Strickland 910-897-8295  
R.D. #3, Box #514  
Dunn, NC 28334

**\*NORTH DAKOTA\***

NORTH DAKOTA (XX)  
Harry Swendsen (Secretary) 701-567-2308  
PO Box 55  
Hettinger, SD 58639

**\*OHIO\***

BLANCHARD VALLEY (XLII)  
Marvin A. Russel 419-423-8530  
1926 Queenswood Dr #4  
Findlay, OH 45840-6952

**OHIO BUCKEYE (XXIX)**

Milan A. Rolik 330-867-2061  
1278 Culpepper Dr  
Akron, OH 44313-6840

**GEN. D. D. EISENHOWER (XXXV)**

Richard M. Shape  
211 Oakcrest Ct  
Russells Point, OH 43348-9508

**NORTH COAST OHIO (XXXVI)**

Edwin J. Stoch 216-731-1258  
27101 Edgecliff Dr  
Euclid, OH 44132

**CENTRAL OHIO (LXVII)**

Alton L. Litsenberger 740-363-0613  
320 Saratoga St  
Delaware, OH 43015

**\*PENNSYLVANIA\***

DELAWARE VALLEY (IV)  
Stanley Wojtusik 215-637-4191  
9639 Wissinoming St  
Philadelphia, PA 19114

**SUSQUEHANNA (XIX)**

George K. Waters 717-488-6311  
303 Honesdale Rd  
Waymart, PA 18472

**WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA (XIV)**

Harvey B. Waugaman 724-834-4474  
9 Meadowbrook Ave  
Greensburg, PA 15601-1711

**OHIO VALLEY (XXXI)**

Felix J. Cistolo 724-756-3163  
111 Franklin Ave  
Ellwood City, PA 16117-2214

**SOUTHCENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA (XLV)**

George F. Schneider 717-464-9442  
237 Willow Valley Dr  
Lancaster, PA 17602-4782

**LEHIGH VALLEY (LV)**

Morris D. Metz 610-252-3694  
125 Richard Garr Rd  
Easton, PA 18040-6916

**READING (LXIV)**

Samuel B. Scales 610-921-2568  
3419 Foster Ln  
Reading, PA 19605

**CUMBERLAND VALLEY (LXV)**

John W. Fague 717-530-8817  
306 Lurgan Ave  
Shippensburg, PA 17257

**\*RHODE ISLAND\***

RHODE ISLAND (XXIV)  
Manuel Ribeiro 401-253-7369  
50 Greylock Rd  
Bristol, RI 02809-1631

**\*SOUTH CAROLINA\***

SCOUTH CAROLINA (VII)  
Melvin G. Bradenburg 803-604-8774  
PO Box 2010  
Leesville, SC 29070

**\*TEXAS\***

GREATER HOUSTON (XXVII)  
(Chapter no longer functioning)

**BEN FREEMAN (XXXVII)**

Ned W. Smith 972-222-9375  
11399 County Road 2326  
Tyler, TX 75707-9541

**ALAMO (XLVI)**

John Hamilton 210-696-1904  
9606 Tioga Drive  
San Antonio, TX 78269-1904

**LONE STAR (L)**

Ted Young 972-222-9375  
1320 Rivercrest Dr  
Mesquite, TX 75181-1079

**\*VERMONT-NEW HAMPSHIRE-MAINE\***

TRI-STATE (XVII)  
Alpha A. Chevette 603-485-9448  
16 Birch Hill Dr  
Hooksett, NH 03106-1523

**\*VIRGINIA\***

NORTHERN VIRGINIA (XV)  
Robert J. VanHouten 703-273-4168  
3745 Chain Bridge Rd  
Fairfax, VA 22030-3212

**CRATER (XLIII)**

W. Baxter Perkinson 804-590-1185  
9441 W. River Rd.  
Matoaca, VA 23803-1019

**\*WASHINGTON\***

NORTHWEST (VI)  
Arthur P. Mahler 425-746-3923  
1821 122nd Ave SE  
Bellevue, WA 98005-4623

**\*WISCONSIN\***

NORTHERN WISCONSIN (I)  
(President's name needed)

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

At last, it's a reality...! On Monday, the eighth of May, at 4:00 p.m., we will dedicate a memorial in Arlington National Cemetery bearing the inscription:

**A TRIBUTE TO WORLD WAR II  
AMERICAN SOLDIERS WHO FOUGHT THE  
GREATEST LAND BATTLE IN THE HISTORY  
OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY IN THE ARDENNES--  
DECEMBER 16, 1944 TO JANUARY 25, 1945,  
IN APPRECIATION BY THE GRATEFUL  
PEOPLE OF THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM  
AND THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG**

The design, selected by popular vote of the membership at the Pittsburgh Reunion, was presented to the Fine Arts Commission in Washington, D.C., on January 19th, 2006, by myself; Bob Phillips, Vice President of Military Affairs; Arlington National Cemetery Superintendent John Metzler, Jr.; and Charles DeChristopher and Jeff Martel, contractors and designers. However, the commissioners directed that the memorial be scaled down to prevent blocking the view of other monuments. Although the design was rejected, they did acknowledge their personal approval of the concept as presented. Within minutes of exiting the chambers, a new design was on the drawing board per instructions from Mr. Martel and Mr. DeChristopher to be presented at the next meeting of the commissioners on February 16th.

We were pleasantly surprised at the reception we received at the review of the scaled down version on February 16th. We were commended specifically for the quick and thorough response to the January 19th earlier demands of the commission. In addition to the drawing and specifications chart, a photographic mock-up of the memorial, and granite slab samples of the three proposed granite finishes were offered for review and methods to be used in attaining these finishes were discussed. Our official VBOB logo, engraved into a piece of the granite, was presented, for the commissioners to see the actual appearance without color as previously submitted in January. John DeChristopher's long and laborious time and talent in carving our logo into the actual granite was undoubtedly one of positive recognition identifying us as a serious group with determination in planning a May 8th dedication. Formal approval of the revised concept was granted unanimously.

The joy of our success and victory was conveyed within seconds directly to Belgium by Brigadier General Dany E. Van de Ven, Military Attache, by cell phone wire and photos. Conversations on the sweet victory swiftly turned to "let's get down to business." Enjoying the moments of the day along with us were Brigadier General Van de Ven, Superintendent John Metzler, Military Affairs Vice President Bob Phillips; contractors



**Stanley  
Wojtusik**

and designers Charles DeChristopher and Jeff Martel; *Ardenne Voice* Editor Edith T. Nowels and Mrs. Rose DeChristopher.

Much interest and excitement over the dedication has generated inquiries from Belgian and Luxembourg villagers wanting to attend even at their own expense after reading about in their newspapers. The computer skills of John D. Bowen kept communications open here and abroad. As we go to press the following have been invited and are expected to attend: the President of the United States George W. Bush; Prime Minister of Belgium H.E. Guy Verhofstadt; Secretary of State for Culture of Luxembourg H.E. Octavie Modert; Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld; Veterans Affairs Secretary Jim Nicholson; American Battlefield Monuments Secretary John Nicholson; NJ Congressman Chris Smith, father of H.R. 5055 which authorized the memorial; H.E. Baron van Daele, Ambassador (Belgium); H.E. Joseph Weyland, Ambassador (Luxembourg); Brig. Gen. Dany E. Van de Ven, Military Attache, Belgium; General William A. Knowlton; General Harry W. O. Kinnard; Lt. Gen. Claude "Mick" Kicklighter; Lt. Gen. H. Ross Thompson; Mrs. George S. Patton, of S. Hamilton, Massachusetts; and her sister, Marian Roberson, of Washington, D.C.; daughters of 11th Armored Division Commander General Willard Holbrook; many representatives from our allied countries during WWII...plus our most important guests--Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge and their families and friends.

The August issue of the newsletter will provide pictures and further details for your information.

A schedule of events for our reunion in Louisville, Kentucky, organized by Associate Member Ralph Bozorth, of the Delaware Valley Chapter, and personally reviewed during a recent trip to Kentucky is already quite firm and details are published in this issue of *The Bulge Bugle*. We hope that the central location of this reunion in Louisville, will encourage members who have been unable to attend in the past to be with us.

Inevitable, but always sad, is having to report losing another of our extended family. Past President Grover C. Twiner, of Baltimore, Maryland, passed away on January 15, 2006.

## IN THIS ISSUE

- |                                       |                                  |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 3. President's Message                | 20. First Encounter              |
| 4. Letters to the Editor              | 22. 526 <sup>th</sup> Inf. Btln. |
| 8. 2 ½ Ton Truck                      | 23. WWII Re-enactment            |
| 9. 26 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Division | 24. Reunions                     |
| 11. Central Indiana Chapter           | 25. 602 <sup>nd</sup> Tank Btln. |
| 12. Another Point of View             | 26. Bit of Blue                  |
| 13. 9 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment | 29. Bulge Certificate            |
| 15. "Hell on Wheels"                  | 30. Members Speak Out            |
| 16. Louisville Convention             | 31. VBOB Quartermaster           |

## DON'T FORGET OUR NEW ADDRESS...

PO Box 101418  
Arlington, VA 22210-4418

The old one still appears on many, many things.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### ONE FOR THE "REDLEGS"

On page 20 of the May issue (2005), you published "The Army Song." This song was "stolen" from the field artillery, renamed "The Army Song," and came into existence years after we had all returned home. For all the VBOB "redlegs," you should publish "The Field Artillery March" which we all sang and loved:

*"Over hill, over dale, we will hit the dusty trail, as those caissons go rolling along.*

*Counter march, right about, hear those wagon soldiers shout, as those caissons go rolling along.*

*For it's Hi, Hi, Hee in the Field Artillery, shout out your numbers loud and strong--two, three, four.*

*Where'er you go, you will always know, that those caissons go rolling along."*

The march goes back to the days of horse-drawn artillery. The "numbers" are the cannoner positions in a gun crew. The caissons contained the ammunition on the wagon pulling the cannon.

Known as "cannon cockers," artillerymen have red as their branch color and dress uniforms have red stripes on the trousers and red on the shoulder epaulets and caps.

We fought the stealing of "our" march but to no avail. But, whenever they play "The Army Song" today, these are the lyrics I myself sing and know that other redlegs do also.

Warren Jensen  
793 FA BN A

### TO KEEP THE RECORD ACCURATE

Of all the magazines, newspapers, periodicals, trade and professional journals I receive, the one I most look forward to receiving--and the one which is "first read"--is *The Bulge Bugle*. It's a unique and great publication--our thanks go to all who contribute their time and talents to keeping this historic cataclysm alive and meaningful for the succeeding generations.

Having served with the 104th Regiment, 26th Infantry Division, from March, 1944, through mid-April, 1945, my memories of the experiences during that harsh winter are firmly entrenched in my mind. Thus, the article on Page 5, "The Mysteries of Big Battles," was of great interest to me. Unfortunately, the reader is left suspended in mid-air as, in the copy I received, the article ends with, "The writer attempting to tell the absolute truth about a battle must take great".... Surely many readers are hanging by their thumbs wondering and speculating about the words the author used to complete that sentence and others with substantiating reasons. Do you plan to include the concluding sentences in the next issue? [We will look for it.]

The fact of the matter is, from the GI's perspective, the Big Battle is composed of hundreds, even thousands, of smaller battles. Many bearing similarities as well as differences from the others. Just read the words written by the participants--as they have appeared in *The Bugle* over the years--and the wide variety of conditions, circumstances and conclusions bear testimony to this fact.

Another innocuous ingredient is the validity of the facts the writer is presenting as well as the accuracy of his memory. After 60 years some memories and knowledge can become blurred, even with the most diligent author.

A case in point is Oda Tidwell's article "Replacement Experiences," on Page 8.

Mr. Tidwell was apparently misinformed about the activities of the 26th Division as we were never in Italy and could not have "lost a lot of men in Italy." The first combat experienced by the 104th Regiment was October 6 and 7, 1944, when relieving the 4th Armored in the vicinity of Athienville, France. It seems, also, that his memory is a bit clouded about initial contacts with the German troops in the Bulge.

According to the 26th Division history, the move from Metz to Luxembourg began about 1:00 a.m., December 20, on trucks, not the 18th as suggested in the article. First contact with the enemy by the 104th happened on December 22 in the vicinity of Bettborn, Luxembourg, as recorded in the regimental history. It was a head-to-head meeting, the Germans advancing south and us advancing north--both on the same road.

Being a replacement in a line company of an infantry regiment was not an enviable position--indeed, it was miserable. Ever so many replacements never got to know their squad leader's name, let alone become familiar with a division's experiences, before they were killed or evacuated for serious wounds. The replacements are to be admired for making the best of an absolutely deplorable situation. Mr. Tidwell's handling of his squad is certainly commendable. I do hope you will receive these corrections in the manner intended, to keep the record accurate, and not as an adverse criticism of Oda Tidwell's recollections.

Robert L. Craig  
26 INF 104 INF

### COMBAT MEDIC RECOGNITION

...a brief favorable comment about the tribute to the medics in the February, 2006, issue of *The Bulge Bugle*. The report submitted by Ralph Storm, of the 11th Armored Division, was descriptively written. A well-deserved and long overdue tribute to the combat medics and dedicated doctors and surgeons who provided exceptional care and treatment to the overwhelming multitude of sick and wounded soldiers.

I felt additionally proud of the note reference to the 107th Evacuation Hospital in Ralph's article. I wondered where he had obtained information about our location at the time of the Bulge. Perhaps from Henri Rogister, Secretary of CRIBA, whom I met in 1999 on my visit to Belgium and Luxembourg, or possibly from Andre Meurisse, of Bulingen, Belgium, who escorted our 107th nurse Lt. Ruth Puryear, of Richmond, Virginia, when we spent a day visiting with some family members at the Chateau Roumont. Our small group of seven enjoyed a delightful visit and extensive tour of the chateau, and were provided refreshments by a most congenial hostess, Ms. Franz Goka.

Incidentally, Andre Meurisse, then a young lad, aged seven, was a patient in our hospital as a result of shrapnel



in his shoulder. After surgery, Nurse Puryear cared for him during convalescence. Since then, they developed and maintained a very close relationship.

If you care to check your files, you should locate a copy of a story I had submitted to *The Bulge Bugle*. It was printed in the August, 1999, issue.

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

---

## PROXIMITY FUZE

In the February *Bulge Bugle*, I read about proximity fuze for 90 mm guns.

In July, August, and September of 1944 on the Dover, England, coast the U.S. Army had at various times six 90mm gun battalions attached to "British Regiments," firing at the V-1 flying bombs (buzz bombs):

- 120th AAA Gun Battalion
- 124th AAA Gun Battalion
- 125th AAA Gun Battalion
- 126th AAA Gun Battalion
- 127th AAA Gun Battalion
- 134th AAA Gun Battalion

The British team for the operation was called "Operation Cross Bow." We used proximity shells over the channel. As it was top secret ammo, so if any shells did not blow they fell in the channel. The Americans destroyed 854 V-1 Flying Bombs.

I was a "radar sergeant" in the 126th AAA Gun Battalion, Battery B, on the cliffs of Dover, so the proximity fuze shell was used before the Bulge.

The 125th and 126th went on to Belgium and was part of "Antwerp X" which had 22,000 gunners--British, Americans, Polish. We destroyed over 2,200 V-1 flying bombs. We went to Bulge as we were mobile for six weeks and sent our tractors back to move up a semi mobile unit to Liege area, went back to Antwerp X for rest of the V-1 campaign.

Hope this helps clear up the proximity fuze issue.

**Edmund Marks**  
**126 AAA GN BN (MBL) B**

---

## MORE ON PROXIMITY FUZE

In *The Bulge Bugle* of February, 2006, there was a letter from Mr. Wes Ross, 146th Engineer Combat Battalion, Company B, in which he reports that he saw the proximity fuze used near Simmerath, Germany, about 10 November, 1944, by a U.S. Tank Destroyer with a 99mm gun. Simmerath is about 11 miles east of Eupen and was therefore in the First U.S. Army area during the Bulge.

During WWII the proximity fuze was normally referred to by the American troops who used it by its code names Pozit or VT. Hereinafter I shall refer to it as the Pozit fuze. I have done extensive research on the use of the Pozit fuze on the Northern Shoulder of the Bulge--and have considerable data on the use of the fuze in that sector. For those not familiar with the artillery proximity fuze--let me explain briefly: The proximity (or Pozit) fuze was an electronic (radio) fuze for use with artillery projectiles. It activated the projectile's explosive charge as an air burst

at the optimum distance from the target by electronic signals sent and received. Initially developed as an anti-aircraft weapon--by December, 1944, it was also employed in anti-personnel roles by certain caliber field artillery weapons, namely the 105mm, 155mm, 8 inch, and the 240mm howitzers. The Pozit fuze was among the most sophisticated weapon developed in WWII. Only the USA was successful in developing an operational proximity fuze during WWII, and actually using it in combat.

I am quite certain that Mr. Ross did not observe the use of a Pozit fuze in November, 1944, for the following reasons:

### 1. First Use of Pozit Fuze:

The Americans had perfected a proximity fuze for use by the Field Artillery by early 1944. The new fuzes and their special projectiles were shipped to the ETO in the autumn of 1944.

General Eisenhower was authorized by the War Department to decide when the fuze would be fired for the first time in the ETO. On 10 December, 1944, General Eisenhower designated the 25th of December, 1944, as the target date for first use of the new fuze by his ground forces. However, when the Germans launched their Ardennes Offensive on 16 December, 1944, General Eisenhower quickly advanced the date of first use to 18 December, 1944, for ground to ground use by his armies in the field.

In the First Army area vic Elsenborn, where the attack of 6th Panzer Army took place, three battalions of field artillery began firing the Pozit fuze the next day--19 December--a week earlier than originally planned. Within a week most of U.S. artillery battalions which were supplied with the new fuze in that area had commenced using it.

(It should be noted, however, that for the first few weeks the new fuze was not fired in great quantities but mostly experimentally and with caution because of concern for the safety of friendly troops and aircraft.)

### 2. Security Considerations:

In 1944 it was believed that the Germans were trying to build a proximity fuze. Had the Germans been able to acquire one of the American fuzes, it was feared that they could copy the design and build one of their own. Therefore, the Americans took extraordinary measures to keep the fuze from falling into German hands.

In general, the new fuze served two purposes: First as an anti-aircraft weapon (ground to air), and secondly as an anti-personnel weapon (ground to ground). As early as 1943 the U.S. Navy in the Pacific had been using it against Japanese aircraft. In 1944, the new American 90mm anti-aircraft gun was issued the fuze for use against the German buzz bombs attacking England--where it was not likely that the Germans might acquire one.

However, because of security considerations, the new fuze was not issued to anti-aircraft units with the 90mm gun which supported the front line units. This is also true of the M36 Tank Destroyer Battalions with the 90mm guns. These were anti-tank weapons which were often involved in front-line fighting--and there was considerable risk that the ammunition could fall into the hands of the Germans. Moreover, there is no evidence that the M36 Tank



Destroyer was ever issued the Pozit fuze.

While I recognize that Mr. Moss genuinely believes that he really saw an American tank destroyer with a 90mm gun fire a proximity fuze in November 1944--the evidence does not confirm his recollections. After all, the fuze was not even authorized for use by ground troops in the ETO until 18 December 1944--and tank destroyers were never issued the Pozit ammunition.

Charles P. Biggio, Jr.  
99 INFD DIV ARTY

---

## NEW YEAR'S TOAST

This letter is to acknowledge our New Year's Day toast to all our fallen and present day comrades!

My wife and I raised our glasses at 3:00 p.m.

This is from a member of the Phantom Nine.

Saw this in the November 2005 issue of *The Bulge Bugle*...it's a great idea and hope to be able to do it again this year.

Edward A. Siefken  
9 ARMD 52 AIB

---

## INVESTIGATING FALSE CLAIMS

I commend you for publishing Mitchel Kaidy's letter in the February 2006 issue of *The Bulge Bugle* concerning the claims in the American Legion magazine review of Kareem Abdul Jabbar's book about the 761st Tank Battalion.

I have heard other combat veterans state that the 761st failed in combat situations. And other combat veterans told me the 761st claim of liberating a concentration camp was totally false.

Further I saw one book about the 761st in which a gummed sticker affixed to the front dust jacket cover stated the publisher did not endorse any of the claims made in the book.

Also, a New York public television station produced a documentary about the 761st which has numerous questionable claims about their combat actions. There must have been reaction since I was told the station discontinued telecasting the documentary but that it was being shown in England.

Veteran Kaidy's report that the Legion did not publish his letter is not unusual. My experience with magazines and branch journals is they do not want to admit they are publishing fiction rather than fact. One service journal refused to give me the address of the author of an article containing false statements about General Bruce Clark and the 7th Armored Division in the Battle of the Bulge.

The only favorable experience I've ever had was when *The Washington Post* newspaper published my letter regarding the false claim by a commanding general that his infantry division captured the Ludendorff Bridge at Remagen, Germany, and was the first to cross the Rhine River. They also placed a bronze plaque at the bridge site with their false claim. The American Battle Monuments Commission, at taxpayer's expense, changed the language from "captured the bridgehead" to read "enlarged the bridgehead" since they verified that this division crossed the bridge **after** its capture and crossing by Combat

Command B of the 9th Armored Division.

My wish is that we collect all the false claims by any army unit, add the true facts and place them with the records they may have in the National Archives and Record Center, at Carlisle, and any other location where war records are reviewed by historians, writers and interested researchers.

Demetri "Dee" Paris  
9 ARMD 14 TK BN

---

## CLASSIFIED AS AIR TRANSPORTABLE

[Excerpts] My unit was the 563rd Antiaircraft Automatic Weapons Battalion and we trained in early 1943 at Camp Stewart, Georgia, and Camp Davis, North Carolina. We shipped overseas from Boston on October 10th and we landed in Liverpool, England, on October 18. We were carried by train to Southampton, crossed the English Channel, and came ashore by landing craft infantry on Omaha Beach, Normandy, France, on October 21, 1944.

After securing our 40mm cannons and .50 caliber squad mounts at Cherbourg, our first mission was to guard the French Coast opposite the Islands of Jersey and Guernsey where upwards of 20,000 German troops had fled after General Patton had broken through at St. Lo. We were relieved by French troops and resistance forces and we moved eastward across France and arrived in Belgium on December 20--four days after the Battle of the Bulge (Ardennes) started.

During training in the States we practiced loading and unloading our equipment into wooden mock-ups of C-47 transport aircraft. As a result we were classified as an Air Transportable Battalion and in the Bulge we were listed in the Order of Battle with the 18th Airborne Corps (our shoulder patch was a Dragon's Head). We were placed in support positions with the 82nd Airborne Division which was then fighting as infantry troops.

During the Bulge and thereafter we destroyed nine German aircraft and were engaged in several anti-personnel and tank skirmishes. In addition we later participated in the Rhine River Crossing at Remagen and the Battle of Central Europe (Germany). We earned three Battle Stars and lost five men killed in action and 27 were wounded.

Bill Stevenson  
563 AAA AW BN

---

## MORE ON GRAVES REGISTRATION

Reference is made to Volume XXIV Number 3, August 2005, Page 14, "Tending The Dead in ETO," by Joseph S. Liberto.

In the referenced article, I noted a few mistakes in the recorded History of Graves Registration Activities during the Normandy Invasion and on into France, Belgium and Germany. The historical corrections which are made are excerpts from After Action Reports of the 603 Quartermaster Graves Registration Company and the After Action Reports of the 607 Quartermaster Graves Registration Company. In the After Action Report of the 607 there are some mistakes in terminology such as the establishment of a "Permanent Cemetery at St. Laurent



Sur Mer." There were no Permanent U.S. Military Cemeteries established during World War II (WWII) in Europe, Africa, or the South Pacific Theaters. All cemeteries established by the Armed Forces of the United States were Temporary U.S. Military Cemeteries, the term Permanent was applied to those cemeteries designated as such in 1946 and later.

In this connection, some of the Temporary Cemeteries established during WWII were redesignated as permanent [not included]. In addition, I have included a listing of those Temporary US Military Cemeteries established during WW II [also not included as we have published these previously]. This listing is not considered complete, because researching GR activities during WW II consistently reveal additional Temporary Cemeteries.

In the South West Pacific Area small Divisions cemeteries were officially designated Temporary US Military Cemeteries with some containing only one or two burials.

The First U.S. Military Temporary Cemetery established in France during the Normandy invasion was the U.S. Military Temporary Cemetery, Bloiseville established in the early hours of 7 June 1944 by Sgt. Elbert Legg, 4th Platoon, 603 Quartermaster Graves Registration Company, attached to the 82nd Airborne Division.

Sgt. Legg landed in Normandy by glider on 6 June 1944 (D-Day). The U.S. Military Cemetery, St. Martin, was established by the 1st Platoon, 603 QM GR CO on 7 June 1944, (D+1). The U.S. Military Temporary Cemetery, St. Laurent Sur Mer was established in the late hours of 8 June 1944 (D+2). In addition the U.S. Military Temporary Cemetery Heisville was established by the 101st Airborne Division in the early hours of 8 June 1944 (D+2).

In addition it must be pointed out that when the 603 QM GR Co established the U.S. Military Cemetery, Henri Chapelle on 25 September 1944. At this time the 607th QM GR CO was actually located at the U.S. Military Cemetery, Fosse, Belgium. The 607 QM GR CO assumed the responsibility for the operation of the U.S. Military Cemetery, Henri Chapelle on 8 November 1944, reliving the 603 QM GR CO of the operational responsibility of the cemetery.

It is understandable that the Company Commander of the 607 QM GR CO would like for the unit to be credited with establishing the First U.S. Military Temporary Cemetery in France during the Normandy Invasion in June 1944, and the establishment of the U.S. Military Cemetery, Henri Chapelle but this is not historically supported.

**Charles D. Butte**  
**603 QM GRAVES CO**

---

## NO HELP FROM HOLLYWOOD

I have been doing programs at the local area schools for several years. I started after a middle school boy asked me: "Is it fun to kill people."

The local schools don't teach history, they teach social studies which barely covers WWII.

The kids have no idea what the war was like. They think it's like a video game and Hollywood is no help.

I tell them about the Battle of the Bulge, the death camps, and the real story of how combat was.

I do programs at colleges, high schools, and middle schools. It's something the kids need to know before we are all gone. What makes it worthwhile are the kids comments, such as: "I was just astonished at what they went through. I didn't know some of the things they had to do in WWII." Another said, "I think it's pretty incredible the things he told us. I didn't realize all the things they went through."

**Robert J. Cassell**  
**8 ARMD 36 TK BN B**

---

## I CONCUR

I just wanted to tell you how much I enjoy *The Bulge Bugle*. I look forward to each issue and read and reread the various articles and relive the whole sordid affair.

I want to call you attention to the November 2005 issue, pages 28 and 29, submitted by Rev. Stanley Hoglund. This is the BEST and most complete article I've read. I was a member of Company E, 11th Infantry Regiment, 5th Infantry Division, and I concur with him completely--especially regarding the viciousness of the enemy and the brutally cold weather. Our unit was in Sara Lautern southern German in house-to-house combat when Von Rundstedt made his big challenge. We, being a part of Patton's 3rd Army, were called to help. We were there until the end. I was taken off the front on February 13, 1945, with severe frostbite and sent to a hospital in France. Since my condition was such that it required more than 30 days, I was sent to a hospital in England. I also want to mention our platoon leader, 1st Lt. James E. Jackes. He was a true leader--brave and bold. He was a leader who his troops respected and followed.

Again, I want to concur with Rev. Hoglund for his very fine article. It was beautifully written.

**Jesse M. Christian**  
**5 INF 11 INF E**

---

## IT WAS GREAT TO HELP

With your last publication of *The Bugle* it brought back many memories I spent with the 201st General Hospital outside of Verdun, France.

Our hospital unit arrived at LeHavre on Christmas Day and moved through the snow through Roven[?] and finally by 40-8 to Verdun the first week in January 1945.

We set up our hospital in what had been a WWI French cavalry building for horses and could hold 50-100 cots. It was mass confusion during the Bulge even though we were 100 miles away.

Though we were not considered in the Adennes Campaign, we were awarded a Battle Star for the Rhineland Campaign.

Our main purpose was to see if the soldiers were fit to go back to their units or go to Paris for further treatment. As the war advanced to Germany, we started to get released prisoners of war and other displaced Poles who were used as workers.

Though we had no heroic stories to tell, it was great helping those that had. maybe one of your readers will remember the 201st Hospital.

**John Wenzel**  
**201 GEN HOSP**



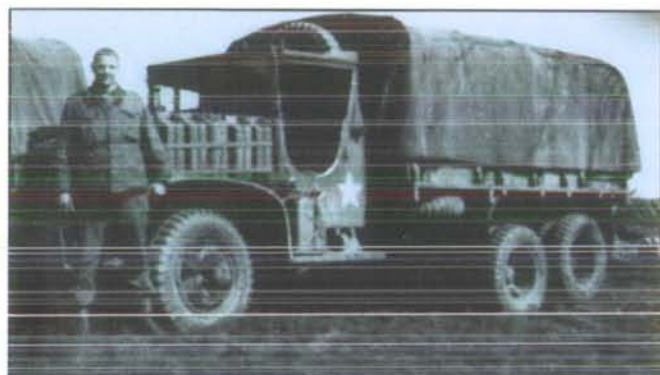
## 2-1/2 TON TRUCK

Fred W. Klooster  
75th Infantry Division  
899th Field Artillery Battalion  
Battery A

[An article in the May 2005 *Bulge Bugle*, entitled "Patton's Wheels," prompted Fred to send us the following comments and photograph.]

My experience with the 2-1/2 ton truck was as described below and as shown in the attached photo.

The 2-1/2 ton 6x6 truck was, I think, the work-horse of WWII. The primary function of the pictured vehicle was to tow the #1 gun of Battery A, 899th Field Artillery Battalion, 75th Infantry Division. Our trucks were also called upon to shuttle infantry on occasion.



This picture was taken at our last gun position in the Ruhr, Germany, March 1945.

The brackets you see holding the gasoline cans on the fender were given to me to install by our motor sergeant right after we landed in France. This enabled each truck to carry an additional 50 gallons of gas; that was in addition to the two factory-installed brackets on the running boards (10 gallons). I don't know if this was done only in our battery or throughout the entire division.

I didn't think anything about it at the time, but looking at it now—that made each truck a potential fire bomb! There was a fuel distribution problem in the ETO prior to this time and evidently someone was trying to make sure that we would not be caught short. Note, also, the extra spare wheel wedged between the cab and the truck body. ■

Just a *Reminder*  
**ARE YOUR DUES  
DUE?**

## TWO LEFT BOOTS

Stephe D. Stoddard  
11th Armored Division  
55th Armored Infantry Battalion  
Company B

I've puzzled over this incident over 60 years and finally decided it might be solved by one of the VBOB readers.

My Company B's sector involved going through Elsenborn Ridge area near Hunningen. We came upon a defensive position that was littered with American equipment, communications wire and included a number of dug-out fox holes roofed over with logs and earth. Looking into the opening of one of those, I noticed a pair of jump boots by the exit of the hole. I lassoed the boots with a loop of communications wire and put them into a 66mm mortar ammo bag. I stashed them in our half-track a day or two later, figuring the next time we hit a rest period, I would replace my worn, wet, combat boots with a brand new pair of Corcorans.

When the opportunity finally came, I got out the boots (10 D's, I believe). The LEFT boot fit perfectly after I removed a pair of GI socks, and a set of buck sergeant's stripes in one of those little Red Cross sewing kits. Triumphant, I grabbed the other boot and much to my surprise and chagrin, found it to be another LEFT boot. It would seem the boot owner left in a hurry, probably during the onset of the Bulge.

Can anyone out there, probably the 2nd Infantry Division, finish this story or at least solve the mystery? There were a couple of helmet liners which had the Indiannhead patch decaled on them laying around the area.

[Stephen's address is: 4557 Trinity Drive, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544. If you can answer this mystery, write to him and let us know too.] ■

## \$50 IS \$50

[From the newsletter of the St. Louis Gateway Chapter]

Morris and his wife Esther went to the state fair every year and every year Morris would say, "Esther, I'd like to ride in that airplane." Esther always replied, "I know Morris, but that airplane ride costs 50 dollars, and 50 dollars is 50 dollars."

One year Morris and Ester went to the fair and Morris said, "Esther, I'm 85 years old. If I don't ride that airplane I might never get another chance." Esther replied, "Morris, that ride costs 50 dollars, and 50 dollars is 50 dollars." The pilot overheard them and said, "Folks, I'll make you a deal. I'll take you both up for a ride. If you can stay quiet for the entire ride and not say a word, I won't charge you; but if you say one word it's 50 dollars."

Morris and Esther agreed and up they went. The pilot did all kinds of twists and turns, rolls and dives, but not a word was heard. He did all his tricks over again but still not a word. When they landed, the pilot turned to Morris and said, "By golly, I did everything I could think of to get you to yell out, but you didn't."

Morris replied, "Well, I was gonna say something when Esther fell out, but 50 dollars is 50 dollars." ■



# TULLY SAYS YD FOUGHT WITH FISTS AND GUNS

**Paris, Jan. 8 (AP)--To the east of Bastogne, Maj. Gen. Willard S. Paul's 26th division drove today to the south bank of the Wiltz river opposite the stubbornly defended Luxembourg town of Wiltz (population 1,326).**

*[The following article was written by ANDREW TULLY, Traveler Staff Correspondent, for the Boston Traveler and was sent to us by DELBERT E. BORDNER, 26TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 328TH REGIMENT, COMPANY C. Delbert also sent us a third article written by Mr. Tully and a summary of his own experiences which will appear in a future issue. A previous article by Mr. Tully appeared in the November 2004 issue of this newsletter on page 30.]*

With the Twenty-sixth Division in Luxembourg, Jan. 8.--This is the second of three stories on the important part played by New England's Yankee Division in stopping the recent German counter-attack in Luxembourg and Belgium.

A soldier's mental processes are never burdened by considerations of overall strategy when he goes into battle. His platoon or squad or company is told to advance and seize a certain position, an arbitrary bit of muddy earth. Except through the unreliable channels of Army scuttlebutt, the GI has no way of knowing the whys and wherefores of this order. His thoughts go no further than the present period.

## Saved Bastogne

Thus when the 26th Division attacked the German bulge in Luxembourg on December 22, the kid clutching his rifle or manning a mortar would have been absent-mindedly interested but not impressed by word that he was beginning a struggle to save the important Belgian city of Bastogne from capture by the German counter-attackers. Bastogne was somewhere off to the northwest; somebody had said the Fourth Armored was trying to get up there. The men of the 26th were vague about it all. But they knew their attack as headed well to the east of the beleaguered city.

Yet, when these Yankee Division troops drove the Germans out of their sector, they saved Bastogne, saved it by relieving the pressure on the Fourth Armored Division so that outfit could push north and chase the Krauts away from the city.

It was cold and raw in the darkness of early morning when the YD attacked. The snow which was to fall in varying quantities every day thereafter was still only a threat, but the beautiful stands of fir trees and broad, rolling meadowlands of the Duchy of Luxembourg were wrapped in heavy, bone-wetting mists. For a while, the men's teeth chattered in the black cold, then their movements and the excitement over what lay ahead warmed their bodies and made them sweat.

## 101st in Reserve

The 328th Regiment was on the left, the 104th on the right, with the 101st in reserve. Cautiously, the patrols probed along the seven-mile front; almost at once they made contact with the enemy. Against the steady banging of artillery the "crack crack"

of small arms fire and the rattle of machine guns bit through the air.

There was a good element of surprise in the thing. German troops had been moving west when the 26th hit them; they now had to turn to face a full scale attack in a sector where they had been only vaguely aware of the presence of Yank forces. Consequently, the YD's forward progress was slowed only slightly at first; it moved ahead steadily all that day and all that night to gain a good seven miles before the Jerries could gather sufficient strength to exchange blows properly with their assailants. By then the advance had netted the 104th the high ground commanding the town of Vic Grosbous; the 328th had secured Hostert Les Folschette.

## Day and Night Battle

The ground was getting hillier, the roads beginning to curve precariously around cruel crests falling into deep gorges. A light snow almost like a fog, began to fall. The 26th pushed on. This was a day and night business until further notice.

South of Grosbous, a storybook hamlet clinging to the side of a cruller-shaped hill, a neck of snow-speckled evergreens barred the attackers' path. The main force by-passed it, sending companies E and I of the 104th Regiment to turn it.

The companies, commanded by Capt. Frank Spiegelberger, of St. Paul, Minnesota, and Lt. Al O'Connor, of Pittsfield, worked a day and night on those woods, cautiously but ruthlessly raking it with machine gun, mortar and small arms fire. When it was all over, they took 190 prisoners from those woods and counted many more dead on the fresh, white snow under the tall trees.

On the YD's left flank meanwhile the Fourth Armored was being fiercely counter-attacked. The YD was ordered to take over a portion of the Fourth's zone up to and including the town of Rambrouch, and immediately sent a reconnaissance troop up there to keep the Jerries busy. The recon troop got through to the high ground overlooking Rambrouch and ran into stiff resistance, blocking and delaying the enemy troops, withdrawing in favor of the second battalion of the 101st regiment, commanded by Maj. J. Burton Stetson, of West Weymouth, whose mission was to take the town.

## Rambrouch Falls

It took another day and a night before Rambrouch fell, but Maj. Stetson's Doughboys took it. With the town, they took a good number of prisoners, members of Volksgrenadier and paratrooper outfits. The YD then took over more of the Fourth Armored's zone. The Fourth was beginning to get its breath now.

It was snowing all the time, it seemed; yet little of the snow seemed to cling to the ground. The whole mountainous countryside was cloaked in the whiteness of a thick, powdery fog; however, and the YD began to encounter German troops dressed in white fresh from the Russian front, it learned from prisoners.

In such a setting, the Yankee Division now found itself with two major battles on its hands, the battles for the important towns of Arsdorf and Eschdorf. Arsdorf controlled the flank roads, Eschdorf the approaches to the Sure river, which wriggled its way across the entire YD front.

The first battalion of the 328th regiment, commanded by Maj. Bill Callanan, of East Boston, the ex-state trooper, went after Arsdorf.

(Continued)



## YANKEE DIVISION

(Continuation)

It fought its way through the Forêt Darsdorf, a black, gloomy patch of towering firs, then struggled a full day against blazing mortar and machine gun fire to take the high ground over the town.

Even then, the stubborn Nazi resistance refused to withdraw. Bill Callahan's outfit went into Arsdorf literally inch by inch and then found a furious street by street, house by house battle on their hands. Through the remaining hours of daylight, Yank Doughboys fought hand to hand with the rugged enemy, in the middle of streets and against stone walls and in dark corridors which were swept continuously by heavy fire. In one house along, the first battalion knocked out 15 machine pistols and two 20 millimeter rapid fire anti-aircraft guns.

### Primitive Combat

One rangy youngster, looking like a Vermont farmer striding across his fields, ambled from doorway to doorway, felling surprised Nazis with rights to the jaw. Others bludgeoned Jerry heads with rifle butts and pistol barrels. Backs creaked and necks snapped back in the fury of the primitive combat.

The street fighting in Arsdorf went on all night. The next morning, the 101st's second battalion, commanded by East Weymouth's Maj. Stetson, moved in from newly-captured Bildorf and helped the 328th finally to make Arsdorf ours.

Reports began to seep in of slow German withdrawals to the left, where the Fourth was seeking to break away to reach Bastogne.

A task force commanded by Lt. Col. Paul Hamilton, of San Antonio, Texas, began the smash at Eschdorf, 1535 feet above sea level. Col. Hamilton, the regular commander of the 328th, had a hard striking force composed of the motorized second battalion, an engineer section, a section of anti-aircraft artillery company, less one platoon of the 755 tank battalion and a platoon of the 818th tank destroyer battalion. He needed it.

Seeking to occupy Hierneck, the approach to the high ground overlooking Eschdorf, the task force ran into vigorous tank opposition. American tanks engaged the enemy armor, while the second battalion, commanded by Maj. Friedman, of Bangor, Maine, south to filter through to Hierneck. Gunfire beat a steady boom against the hillsides as the ground before Hierneck became the scene first of a major tank battle then an infantry battle, then a little of both.

### Had on White Suits

Decent observation was impossible in the midst of such fluid fighting. Early in the battle, Lt. Elmer Burke, of Moscow, Pennsylvania, had gone ahead with a wire crew to establish an observation post on the high ground. Ten minutes later, the battalion command post phone jingled and Lt. Burke's voice told the officer who answered it that he and his crew were within 50 feet of enemy lines, pinned down by heavy machinegun fire. "I didn't see them at first because they've got on those damned white suits," Lt. Burke yelled. "Listen to 'em."

The officer listened heard the rattle of machineguns and then Burke's voice: "Hey, Fritz, you're a lousy shot. Why don't you give up?" Then the machine guns opened up again and Burke's chatter ceased. A few minutes later the lieutenant and his crew made their way back to the CP.

But the task force took Hierneck at last and pushed on to Eschdorf. In the van was company E, commanded by a raging

German eater named Capt. Vaughn Swift, of Manzanola, Colorado. Capt. Swift managed to lead his outfit to the town's out-skirts, where they were cut off and surrounded by enemy armor and infantry.

Crouching and dodging like a halfback, Swift darted through the center of the enemy fire in search of help. On his right flank, he found a group of friendly tanks. "Come on with me," he yelled hoarsely. "I've got a job for you." Then clinging to the outside of the lead vehicle, he directed the tanks into the town, along with his riflemen.

When the leading tank suffered a direct hit from an 88, Capt. Swift, riding on the opposite flanks of the vehicle, was hurled from its side but he managed to crawl back to the third platoon, which has occupied several buildings. Then as enemy tanks closed in, he ordered each window and door to be defended and he himself adopted an exposed position on an upper story, from where he accounted for at least 12 enemy riflemen and caused others to withdraw.

Company couldn't stay in the town that time. As darkness fell, Jerry began to drop mortars and Capt. Swift withdrew his men to a dug-in position just outside the town. Next morning, shortly after 1 o'clock, the task force launched a major attack on Eschdorf and, after fighting all through the daylight hours, occupied the town.

The Sure river lay invitingly before the men of the 26th Division. When they crossed it, and they would cross it, the enemy harassing the Fourth Armored on the left would have to fall back or be caught between two American forces. ■

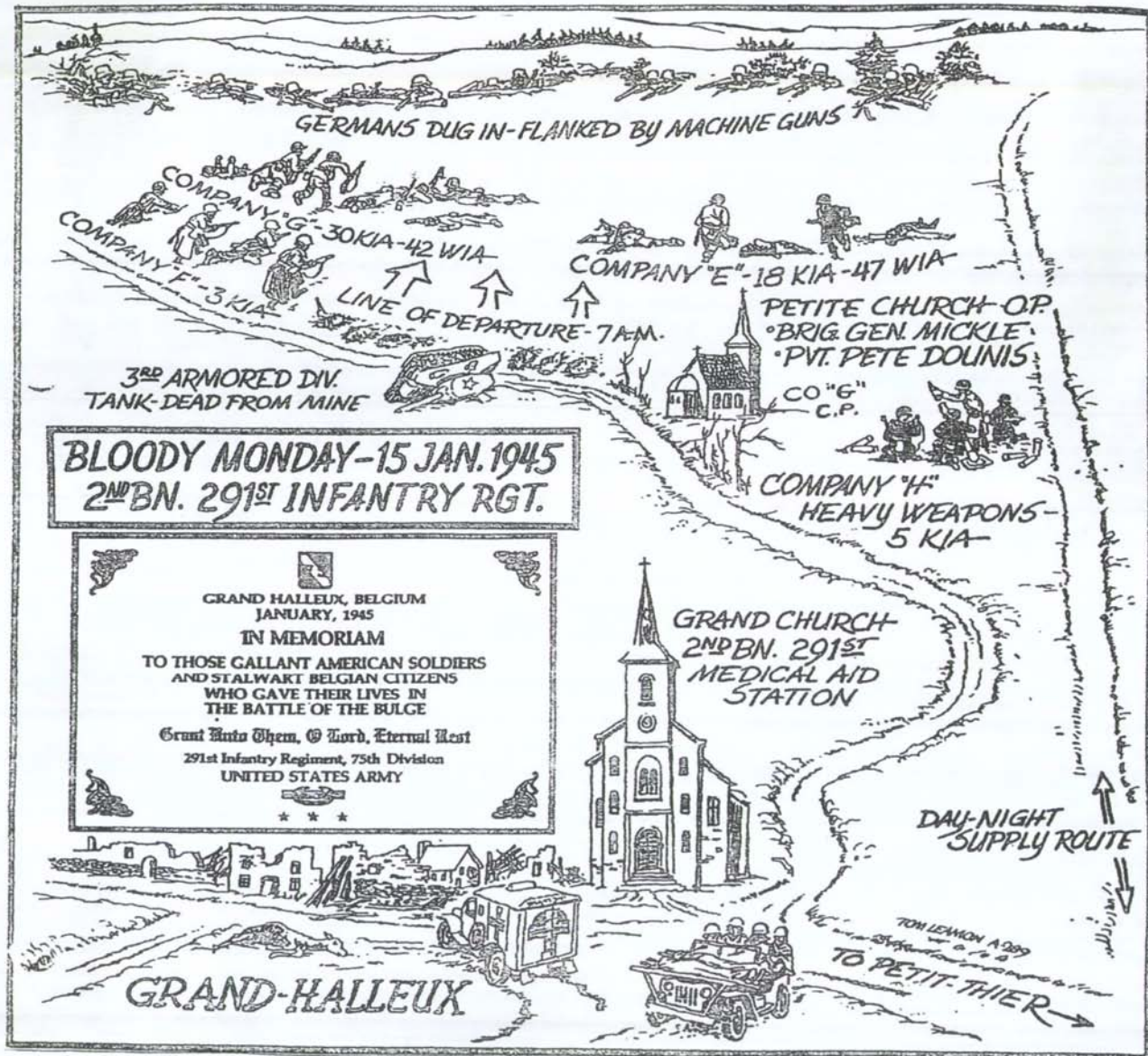


*"Ya don't git combat pay 'caus you don't fight".*





Left to right: Reenactor; Bob Cooper; Carl Roberts; Harold Freeman; L. Terry McDaniel; Reenactor.



Map which appeared in the Central Indiana Chapter newsletter (March, 2006) depicting Grand-Halleux and troop positions.



## ANOTHER POINT OF VIEW

[The following article appeared in *The Marcher* the newsletter of the Maryland-DC Chapter. It is excerpts of the interrogation of Generalfeldmarschall von Runstedt (C-in-C West) captured BAD TOLZ 1 May 1945 by two British Army Officers (BAO). The information is obtained in ML Series 2125 files. National Archives and Records Administration. Record Group 407, Box 242312, College Park MD. Information was received 18 Jul 1945.]

RUNSTEDT: I do not suggest this ARDENNES offensive--I told the American officers that I dislike the expression 'RUNDSTEDT OFFENSIVE.' On the contrary I proposed quite a different solution, and that was turned down.

Close to my headquarters, a quarter-of-an-hour away, there was a sort of 'Bunker' and when things got a bit stuck, in the ARDENNES offensive that is, I went there to kick up a fuss. For if, as the Fuhrer put, I am to exert our utmost effort, by throwing in everything I could still bring up in the way of troops and artillery, etc., then I would not take such a--pardon the expression--fool like Sepp Dietrich (laughter all around), a former 'Wachtmeister,' but I would have taken the best person, such as little Manteuffel, who commanded the one 'Panzerarmee' which was kept the weakest. We said "it must be the strongest." No.

So then I went there, kicked up a frightful row, and blew up--as one says: I went off like that and hit the Fuhrer on the hand and said, "Oh sorry!"--20th July--you see. And then when I went there afterwards the Fuhrer said: "Please take a seat!" and then a chair was fetched and I had to sit down and fat old Goering had to stand on the other side. Those days were I can tell you, frightful.

### II The Ardennes Offensive

BAO: And what was your plan in December 1944 if the ARDENNES offensive had been successful?

RUNSTEDT: The ARDENNES offensive bore my name quite wrongly. I had nothing to do with it. It was ordered from above down to the smallest detail. Every protest on our part, including those from the late Feldmarschall Model, was turned down. If it had been my concern at all, I should have confined myself to a smaller objective, roughly speaking I would have attacked the Aachen pocket from two sides and, if possible, destroyed it. For a far-reaching operation such as the ARDENNES offensive, aimed first at the Maas, and possibly still further, the forces were much, much, much too weak, and the possibility of driving inland with armored 'Divisionen,' with no GAF (German Air Force), was out of the question.

Reinforcements and supplies, with their railheads back on the Rhine, took longer and longer and it was impossible to get them up. That offensive was bound to fail. There was no other possibility. Look, supposing I want to carry out an offensive of that kind--I'll compare it with the one we made in 1940 from Trier in the direction of Luxembourg and Calais. We had that vast member of troops chiefly to cover the flank on the right and left and protect the spearhead. The forces in the ARDENNES offensive were far too weak to do that, as you saw from

Bastogne and up near Stavelot-Malmedy. If I do anything like that I must have many, many more forces. But those suggestions were not heeded and things turned out as I'd expected. The root of the whole troubles: air power, air power!

### BATTLE OF THE ARDENNES

[Interview with Lt. Col Kari Von der Heydied. In charge of the Paratroop dropping during the Ardennes Offensive 31 Oct 1945 at London district Cage, London. Interrogator: Captain R.K. Merriam. Note: This very brief interview outlining the key points of the von der Heydte drops is supplementary to a complete account of the drops which he is preparing for this section. In formation found in ML Series 1068 Box 24206 RG 407.]

The original von der Heydte group consisted of 1,200 men of whom 150 were left behind at the time of the drop. These latter troops were to go forward with the ground forces and were mainly service and supply troops.

Because of the bad drop the approximately 1,000 men were widely scattered and actually only about 300 men were assembled around the road junction south of Eupen. Actually, on the morning of 17 December, immediately following the drop von der Heydte had only about 25 men with him and the rest of the 300 filtered in during the day. Because he had such a small force von der Heydte did not attempt to block the road leading from Eupen to Malmedy but instead sent out small reconnaissance groups which actually went into Stavelot, Malmedy, Verviers, and even so far a distance as Werbomont and these groups brought back very valuable information of American troop movements. However von der Heydte was unable to communicate this information to the Sixth Pz Army because his radio had been smashed in the drop. He had asked Dietrich for carrier pigeons to relay messages as he had seen the American paratroops with them in Normandy. Dietrich only laughed at this suggestion and said that a radio would be sufficient.

Von der Heydte stated that he addressed a message to Gen Taylor of the 101st Abn D because his was the only General's name von der Heydte could recall at the time and because his patrols had told him that paratroops were moving in the area near Werbomont. In view of the fact that paratroops were in the vicinity von der Heydte felt that Taylor's troops might also be around and so when he sent this message he asked to give up some of his wounded men he addressed it to Taylor.

Von der Heydte himself went to Monschau about four days after the drop. He went there because he knew that on the plans for the attack that Monschau was to be captured on the first day and although he saw American Artillery units west of Monschau he went into the town and was captured. About 150 of his men were successful in making an escape and went back through the American lines, he later discovered. ■



*Kilroy says...*  
**THINK LOUISVILLE!**



# THE FARM HOUSE OF COMPANY K 3RD BATTALION 9TH INFANTRY REGIMENT 2ND INFANTRY DIVISION

*[The following story was dictated by Marion "Bob" C. Gray to his wife, Gail, relating the story of what happened at the Company K farm house on December 17-18, 1944.]*

Company K, 9th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Battalion, 2nd (Indianhead) Division was attached to McKinley's First Battalion by General Walter Robertson (Commanding General, Second Division) on December 17 while the 9th Infantry Regiment was withdrawing along the Wahlerscheid-Krinkel road.

On December 13, the Second Division with the nearby 99th Division were to begin an offensive, pushing east towards the Ruhr River dam, at Wahlerscheid, on the Belgium-German border. General Robertson realized that the massive German offensive (German 12th SS Panzer 2nd, 277th Volksgrenadier) on day one of the Battle of the Bulge (December 16), would stop his Division's offensive, as well as cut off the 2nd and 99th Divisions' escape route, and only supply road. The Wahlerscheid road to Krinkel-Rocherath (about 7 miles) was the only way out.

Since the 9th Infantry Regiment was the first into the Wahlerscheid offensive, with other regiments and attachments behind when the General ordered withdrawal (not "retreat"). All units turned around, fighting their way out of the German trap. Since the 9th was the first into the offensive, they were the last to leave those bitter cold forests, once turned around. General Robertson met Company K and McKinley's First Battalion along the Wahlerscheid-Krinkel road. He directed Company K and McKinley's men to the Lausdell Crossroads, 1000 yards east of Rocherath. At Lausdell, there were several roads mostly farm tracks. The Nazi objective was to march through Krinkel-Rocherath, over Elsenborn Ridge, on to Antwerp, the vital shipping port for U.S. and Allies supplies.

The actions at the Lausdell Crossroads prevented the Germans from reaching their goal. Within a few days, survivors of the 2nd and 99th Divisions were atop Elsenborn Ridge. The Germans never set foot on the Ridge.

The farmhouse at Lausdell, as seen in Sergeant Stanley's painting, is accurate, Bob says. The farm house was the Company K CP December 17 and part of December 18, 1944. To the left and right of the back door, a viewer can see the above-ground cellar windows. On the right is seen the remains of the barn. This barn was destroyed by German tank fire, about 9:30 pm December 17, 1944, as Charles MacDonald, Company I Commander, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, was attempting to get some sleep.

So why was Bob in the farmhouse, about 5:30 pm on December 17th? He was a Staff Sergeant squad leader, 3rd platoon, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Division. While withdrawing along the Wahlerscheid Road earlier on the 17th, General Robertson spoke to some 9th Regiment men, including Bob. Using a map, Robertson pointed to an area called Lausdell, and to a narrow road slightly northeast of the Crossroads, on a

slope. This position was a dense forested area, the trees planted in rows, branches almost touching the ground, heavily laden with snow. Bob chose a better position for his squad—a farm track that branched off the road, an E-W farm track. Visibility was much better—watching for Germans coming from the east.

Company K CO Captain Jack Garvey and some of his HQ staff were in the farm house, with Company K and some men from McKinley's First Battalion in nearby foxholes. About 5:30 pm, as we were digging in alongside the E-W Farm track a HQ Lieutenant from the Second Division, driving a Jeep, alone and in a hurry, picked me up from our position, drove me to the farmhouse. I talked with Captain Garvey for less than five minutes. He told me to hold our position "at all costs," and that we were attached to McKinley's First Battalion. (Garvey was on the first floor, seated at a table with benches, not chairs, studying a map. The Captain did not order patrols the night of the 17th, as he had no knowledge that his farmhouse and adjacent areas, were surrounded by Germans.) I hiked about half-mile, back to my squad position, as the Jeep lieutenant had already left.

My squad was a mixed group. Three machine guns, one was water-cooled; one 81mm mortar team of 2 men; 2 Bazooka men; 2 riflemen (Bob and one other); 2 men (Dalbert and Sammy) who had mine detection equipment, and knew how to set mines. In addition, Delbert and Sammy were expert riflemen. These two fine soldiers were about 23; I was 25; the other soldiers were 19 years old or so. There were 12 of us in the squad.

The squad tried to dig foxholes in frozen ground amidst the tree roots. Snow and so bitter cold. The night of the 17th, we could hear the tank battles at/near the farmhouse and we could see, above us, a pink glow which was burning tanks and the barn reflected in low-lying clouds. We could hear rifles, mortars, bazookas. We were about half mile from the farmhouse. My instructions to the squad were: no talking, no moving about, no smoking, be ready. That night, the woods were full of noises, and on the road adjacent to our position we could hear boots in the snow. We did not know if the noises was snow falling from branches, wild hogs or deer, German soldiers or our own. I believe now that the boots in the snow, and woods' noises were withdrawing 99th and 2nd Division soldiers, I could usually smell Germans, if the wind was right, because of the cheese and garlic sausages that they ate.

On the morning of the 18th, all hell broke loose. Tank battles, terrific in-coming artillery hitting, we hoped, German positions near the farmhouse. Foot traffic increased on our farm track road, and the adjacent road. German soldiers running in our patch of woods--headed towards the farmhouse. I climbed a tree with my rifle and pack. When nearby firing noises were loudest, I shot from my tree, with intent to kill German officers. Nobody looked up into my tree position. One of the squad soldiers climbed another tree. He saw a tank parked at the farmhouse front door. He saw soldiers being rooted out of their foxholes. We learned later that Company K surrendered about 12:30 pm, along with some of McKinley's men. About 1 pm, all the noise suddenly stopped. There was some foot and vehicle traffic on the road towards Krinkel, southeast of us.

I talked with Delbert and Sammy, and others in the squad, about 1:30 pm. We decided to walk cross-country, if possible to Elsenborn. Just as our position had been in a difficult place, leaving our patch of woods would be dangerous. The trees were planted in neat rows, boughs reaching almost to the ground. Almost no visibility anywhere.

(Continued)



## FARM HOUSE (Continuation)

except tree trunks and snow-laden branches. With Delbert and Sam as point, we headed west. By now the woods were teeming with U.S. soldiers, most without weapons, some without helmets and personal gear. Most soldiers appeared to be wandering, aimlessly, without direction. I indicated with an arm gesture to some of the soldiers--come with us, we are leaving, going to Elsenborn. I believe that there were 25 or so soldiers who joined up with us and they were without any leadership, very frightened and battered. All they needed, I think, was a senior NCO to tell them what to do.

Difficult terrain--steep wooded ravines, with nearly frozen water in the bottoms, some open fields, more gullies, draws, ravines, downed trees. The ice water overflowed the tops of our boots, adding to the misery of trench foot and frost bite. (Most of us had not taken our boots off since we began the offensive at Wahlercheid on December 13--no hot food either.) As we climbed a slope, part of lower Elsenborn Ridge, I looked back and saw the 25 or so soldiers that had joined up with us, and behind them, going single file, were about 30 to 40 more soldiers. After dark, we found a road with two MP's and a jeep. Delbert, Sam, myself and others clustered around the MP's asking directions. Go to the top of this slope, another MP outfit will guide you to Elsenborn Village. I stated that some of the soldiers following us appeared to be wounded or have frozen feet. Could the MP jeep take them to the nearest medical aid station? Yes, the MP's said.

The second MP jeep directed us a short distance to the village square. A kitchen truck was parked there, and we were directed to a two story brick building probably a general store. Blankets covered the unbroken front windows so as not to attract unwelcome German artillery, I suppose. Delbert went with me to the store. Two young officers were there. We explained we were Company K, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Division. We believed that our company had surrendered about 12:30 today, at the Lausdell Crossroads, along with some of McKinley's 1st Battalion soldiers. We had hiked out cross country. I stated that some of my men, and those following needed medical care, blankets, hot food, some place to sleep, and to find our outfits. I often wonder what those two clean shave lieutenants in the store thought of us. Some of us were hollow-eyed, filthy dirty, unshaven for 5 days, beyond exhaustion, torn and tattered uniforms, too tired to be hungry. While we were in the store, Sam went to the kitchen truck, telling the good cooks that they were about to have 75 guests for dinner. One of the cooks, pleased with himself, said we have plenty of hot food. We did a little hunting on our way here. Venison stew was for dinner. The squad gathered together, except two soldiers who were taken to the aid station for treatment for frost bite. We went to eat at the kitchen truck. The officers in the store invited us to sleep upstairs, handing out blankets to soldiers without their sleeping bags. I found a place on the floor, as did the others. I think we were in a store because, stored at the back of the second floor, could be seen burlap sacks of seed and wooden crates. This farm boy knows what a seed sack looks like. All night, there were sounds of boots on the wooden staircase, more soldiers arriving, finding an empty place on the floor to sleep. In the morning, there was a second kitchen truck, serving breakfast.

After breakfast and such delicious hot coffee, MP's in the village square directed us to our outfit, the 3rd Battalion CP, combined with 9th Infantry Regiment CP. I explained at the CP

what had happened the day before, at the Company K farmhouse. We had hiked cross country--12 of us. We learned that about 600 men--McKinley's 1st Battalion and the attached Company K, went into position at the Lausdell Crossroads. K has 12 survivors, with about 213 out of 600 unaccounted for. Accounts vary slightly as to soldiers held POW, KIA, wounded--those that survived, those missing. My squad was among the unaccounted for/missing. We were no longer missing.

Company K was essentially wiped out at Lausdell. In January 1945 the company was re-formed, with almost all soldier replacements. (Why didn't the Army keep us few surviving Company K soldiers--as a foundation for the new Company K?)

I was transferred to Battery B, 12th Field Artillery in mid-January 1945, protesting that I knew nothing about 155 Howitzer cannons. I was an Infantryman. Protesting to no avail. I was wounded by cannon recoil in late January--with a broken sternum, broken ribs. Paul Thompson pulled me away from the cannon, and nursed me for a long time, and I had refused to go to an aid station. Rumors were strong that if a soldier went to an aid station recovered from his injuries, he would not be sent back to his original outfit. I had lost my Company K buddies and was not about to lose my Battery B fellows. So--on we went, all the way to Pilsen in May. A very special moment--I drove a prime mover towing our 155 cannon across the bridge at Remagen on March 11, the day before the Ludendorff bridge was closed for repairs.

I was one of the 150 Second Division soldiers attached to the First Division, for the D-Day landings June 5, 1944. Dog Green sector Omaha Beach, 2nd wave. Assault Gap Teams, Special Engineer Task Force, in support of the 146th Engineer Combat Battalion, Support Boat Team A.

Again thank you, Hans, for writing your excellent book. Now, after all these years, I think it is mentally healthy to write about those things that happened so long ago.

### References:

Al Castillo. *Keep Up The Fire. The Ninth Infantry Regiment in WW II.* Southern Heritage Press, St. Petersburg, FL 2001.

William C.C. Cavanaugh. *Krinkelt-Rocherath - The Battle for the Twin Villages.* Christopher Publishing House Norwell, MA 1986. (Out of Print)

William C.C. Cavanaugh. *A Tour of the Bulge Battlefield.* Pen and Sword Books, Barnsley, Yorkshire, Great Britain. 2001.

Charles B. MacDonald. *A Time for Trumpets.* Wm. Morrow Publishing, New York. 1985

Charles B. MacDonald. *Company Commander.* Infantry Journal Press, Washington, DC 1947

Hans Wijers. *The Battle of the Bulge: Holding the Line.* Printed at Heerenveen, Holland. 2003.

---

An old army favorite is the home-town sweetheart who cabled her fiancé in France: "Couldn't wait another day for you, darling, so married your father."



# "HELL ON WHEELS" TANKMEN HALTED DRIVE TO SPLIT U.S. ARMIES

By Kenneth J. White  
Company D  
41st Armored Infantry  
2nd Armored Division

*[The following article appeared in the January, 2005, issue of the Newsletter of the 2nd Armored Division Association. It is reprinted from a story published in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch on Sunday, January 7, 1945.]*

**Gen. Harmon's men stopped  
Von Rundstedt after spectacular  
100-mile night march--"Bloody  
Bucket" Group shattered in epic fight  
to gain precious time.**

**The Second Armored Division in Belgium, January 4--(AP)--**"Old Gravel Voice" is happy again. His Hell on Wheels tankmen are belting back the Germans after their heroic action that saved American armies from being cut in two.

Little Ernie Harmon, who has killed and captured more Nazi troops than any other division commander, is spearheading the American drive across the enemy salient towards Bastogne with his hard-riding Second Armored Division.

His men have taken several hundred prisoners and have again liberated a half-dozen Belgian villages in weather that would have irritated a polar bear.

They are back in combat after only three days of rest following one of the greatest battles of war--a head-on smash that broke Von Rundstedt's drive towards the Meuse River, kicked the Nazis back ten miles and practically destroyed one of the German army's prize Panzer Divisions. The lifting of censorship today permitted for the first time the telling of the full story of how the "Hell on Wheels" Division, after a spectacular 100-mile march to the battle scene, finally halted the great Nazi drive only three miles from its river goal.

It was an epic engagement, ranking with other achievements of this famous division--the capture of Palermo, Sicily, the breakthrough at St. Lo, and the piercing of the Siegfried Line north of Aachen.

Here is the box score of the four-day battle:

**Enemy losses--**69 tanks, 33 artillery pieces taken intact, 211 armored cars and trucks, more than 1,200 dead and 1,213 lost as prisoners.

**The Second Armored Division losses--**4 Sherman tanks and light casualties.

"And a good number of these were from respiratory diseases rather than battle wounds," said Captain Harry Volk, former Cleveland newspaper man.

Harmon's Division was sitting along the Roer River front in Germany when it was called on its emergency mission to assemble near Ciney, Belgium, to keep the enemy from reaching Dinant or Namur on the Meuse and then sweeping north to besieged Liege.

Lieutenant Colonel Joe A. Clema, Humboldt, Nebraska,

organized the traffic control and sped the tanks along the 100-mile difficult night march, losing only 17 vehicles from breakdowns and minor accidents.

The Division went into action on December 24 after patrols ran into strong German forces at Celles, only 3 miles from Dinant.

The Division's two big Combat Commands went to work. A task force under Brigadier General John H. Collier, Dallas, Texas, raced into Ciney, knocked out all the enemy tanks there, and broke up a Nazi column of 125 vehicles going toward Celles. The "Hell on Wheels" tankers had arrived in the nick of time. Another few hours and the Germans would have reached Dinant in force--thus splitting the American armies in half.

A second task force under Brigadier General I. D. White, Des Moines, Iowa, swept through Ciney to Celles to polish off an enemy column just outside the town. The Nazis were by then trying to regroup and stab back but the trapped armor was virtually destroyed and 800 prisoners were flushed out of the woods.

When the battle ended four days later, the Nazis, after heavy fighting, had been thrown back ten miles and the German Panzer division which fought against the Second Armored was a division in name only.

One captured German officer complained: "How many Second Armored Divisions does the American Army have? We thought you people were pretty well bedded down in Germany."

Complimenting Harmon's tankers, a statement from an American Corps headquarters said:

*The attack of the Second Armored Division may well be remembered as having one of the far-reaching effects of any action of World War II, for the masterful execution of this attack by the Second "Hell on Wheels" Armored Division not only stopped a German Panzer division long before it could reach Namur but annihilated a great deal of it and forced remnants to withdraw from Celles, Leignon, Buissonville and Humain, towards Rochefort, thus bringing to a halt the greatest sustained German counter-drive against Allied troops on the continent since D-Day.*

The meeting of the U.S. Second Armored Division and the German Panzer division was a fitting comparison of Allied and German armored might.

It was also a testimonial to the generalship of little Ernie Harmon, the most aggressive game-cock in the American tank force. And as a reward for his victory, his Corps Commander presented Harmon with--a free bottle of whiskey to toast his "Hell on Wheels" men.



*Kicking up some dirt--thanks to the 2nd Armored Division*

---

**Please check your mailing label to see if your dues are due--the date is above your last name. Thanks.**



# LOUISVILLE CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS AND SCHEDULE INFORMATION



Churchill Downs and Kentucky Derby Museum

## INTRODUCTION

Our Annual VBOB Reunion will convene at the Holiday Inn Louisville Downtown to continue with the 61th Anniversary celebration.

We have arranged with the hotel for a special rate of \$90.85 per night which includes all taxes. We look forward to a great reunion with a variety of activities.

The Hospitality Room is there for you to socialize and enjoy the many exhibits, photo books and Battle of the Bulge memorabilia. The Hospitality Room hours will be posted in the lobby of the hotel.

Plenty of free parking is at the hotel for your convenience.

## REGISTRATION FEE

All who attend the VBOB Reunion must pay the registration fee. Wreaths, name tags, programs, table decorations, hospitality room, etc., are paid for from this fee.

The Quartermaster will also be available for your purchase of BOB items.

## •MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2006

### • Welcome Wine and Cheese Reception (6:30 pm – 7:30 pm)

This is complimentary of the Holiday Inn.

• **Dinner is on your own.** The hotel has a great restaurant, Bentley's with nightly specials.

## •TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2006

• **Male High School** – One of Kentucky's renowned high schools for academics and its Army ROTC program has rescheduled their annual Patriotic Day to coincide with our reunion. A video presentation depicting the soldiers, equipment and the horrible weather conditions will be shown. The ROTC color guard will advance and retire the colors.

### • Lunch at Holiday Inn

• **Louisville Stoneware Company** – Take a showroom and factory tour, purchase handcrafted, hand painted stoneware.

• **Holiday Inn - Italian Dinner and Entertainment (6:00 p.m.)**. Enjoy a luscious Italian Buffet, with salad, 3 entrees, vegetables, desert and red and white wine. Cash bar.

## •WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2006

• **Fort Knox**- Fort Knox, Visit The Patton Museum, gold depository, tour of the fort, wreath laying ceremony and lunch.

• **Dinner is on your own**

See "Reunion Program" for bus departure times

## •THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2006

• **Louisville Slugger Museum** - Factory tours last approximately 30 minutes. We cannot guarantee you will see full bat production on any tour. Visitors normally allow an hour and a half to 2 hours for the entire museum experience. Everyone will receive a free miniature souvenir bat on the tour!

• **Frazier Arms Museum** - History comes alive in our 100,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art museum encompassing three floors. Here you can relive the historical events that challenged our ancestors. Meet famous leaders of America and the world whose military victories and defeats changed history.

### • Lunch on your own at Kunz Restaurant

• **Afternoon is free time** –The front desk will help you with printed directions to many of the local tourist spots.

• **Belle of Louisville Dinner Cruise** – Enjoy a fine dinner while cruising on the Ohio River. Jeff Rehmet (a one man band) will provide our entertainment.

## •FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2006

• **Churchill Downs and Kentucky Derby Museum** See and hear the sounds, images and artifacts that bring the pageantry and excitement of the Kentucky Derby to life for all of our visitors. See "The Greatest Race", a presentation of Derby Day and the activities surrounding it. Tour famous Churchill Downs.

• **Glassworks** - The tour takes about an hour and includes a 12 minute video covering the history of glass art; visit to a stained glass art studio; sculpting glass with an oxygen/propane torch and watch artists blow glass.

### • Lunch at Holiday Inn

• **General Membership Meeting (2:00 pm – 4:00 pm.)** Location will be posted in the lobby.

• **Afternoon is free time for shopping** The front desk will help you with printed directions to many of the local tourist spots.

### • Reception (6:00 p.m.)

• **Annual Battle of the Bulge Military Banquet (7:00 p.m.)**

## •SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2006

• **Farewell Breakfast (7:30 am)** - come and say goodbye to all the reunion members at a private breakfast buffet. Don't forget to bring your cameras for last minute pictures.



VETERANS OF THE BATTLE  
OF THE BULGE, INC.  
ANNUAL REUNION



## REGISTRATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Wife/Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Division: \_\_\_\_\_ Regiment: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

	People	Cost/ Person	Total Cost
<b>Registration Fee</b> (all attendees must register)	_____	<b>\$ 25</b>	\$ _____
<b>Monday, October 9, 2006:</b>			
*Wine and cheese reception (compliments of the hotel)	_____	<b>Free</b>	
*Dinner on your own	_____		
<b>Tuesday, October 10, 2006:</b>			
*Male High School, Patriotic Day	_____	<b>Free</b>	
*Lunch at the Holiday Inn	_____	<b>\$ 12</b>	\$ _____
*Stoneware Company	_____	<b>\$ 12</b>	\$ _____
*Italian dinner buffet, wine and entertainment at the hotel	_____	<b>\$ 33</b>	\$ _____
<b>Wednesday, October 11, 2006:</b>			
*Fort Knox includes lunch	_____	<b>\$ 37</b>	\$ _____
*Dinner on your own	_____		
<b>Thursday, October 12, 2006:</b>			
*Louisville Slugger Museum & Frazier Arms Museum	_____	<b>\$ 18</b>	\$ _____
*Lunch on your own at Kunz Restaurant	_____		
*Belle of Louisville dinner cruise with music	_____	<b>\$ 34</b>	\$ _____
<b>Friday, October 13, 2006:</b>			
*Churchill Downs, Kentucky Derby Museum, Glassworks	_____	<b>\$ 18</b>	\$ _____
*Lunch on your own	_____		
*Afternoon free time	_____		
*Reception (cash bar)	_____		
*Banquet (indicate preference)	_____		
Beef tips _____ or Salmon with crabmeat _____	_____	<b>\$ 33</b>	\$ _____
<b>Saturday, October 14, 2006:</b>			
*Farewell breakfast (compliments of VBOB)	_____	<b>Free</b>	

Total amount enclosed (all taxes & gratuities include) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- See Reunion Activities Information Sheet for Details
- I will serve as a bus captain \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

Mail registration form and check to  
Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge • P.O. Box 101418 • Arlington, VA 22210-4418  
**REGISTRATION RECEIPT DEADLINE-SEPTEMBER 2, 2006 - AFTER  
THAT DATE BRING FORM.**

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





**DOWNTOWN**

**Louisville, Kentucky**

**120 West Broadway – Louisville, KY 40202**

**Tel. 502-582-2241 – Fax 502-584-8591**

**Email: [HILD.reservations@att.net](mailto:HILD.reservations@att.net)**

**[www.holiday-inn.com/sdf-downtown](http://www.holiday-inn.com/sdf-downtown)**

## **WELCOME**

### **VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE**

## **HOTEL RATES**

The hotel is offering a three-day window before and after the reunion dates that you may take advantage of the many sites in the Louisville area. The rate is \$90.85 per night, single or double occupancy. This rate includes all taxes. All reservations can be made by calling the Holiday Inn Louisville Downtown at 1-800-626-1558 and saying you are with the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge group. We suggest you guarantee your reservation with a charge card. If you have any problems making your reservation, ask for Elizabeth Scott, reservation manager. The best time to reach her is Mon-Fri 8:00am-4:00pm. Check-in time is 3:00 p.m. and checkout is 11:00 a.m. In the event you need to cancel your reservation, please inform the hotel 48 hours prior to the day of scheduled arrival. Reservation requests received after September 1st will be confirmed on a space available basis.

The Holiday Inn Downtown provides complimentary shuttle service to and from the Louisville Airport. Courtesy phones are in the baggage area of the airport for your convenience.

**Hotel amenities:** Complimentary continental breakfast, indoor pool, fitness center and complimentary shuttle service within a 3 mile radius of the hotel, based upon availability. The shuttle cannot cross the bridge into Indiana. Gift shop filled with lots of Louisville items. Full service restaurant and lounge. Ample free parking. RV's are welcome, however, we do not have hook-up facilities.

**Sleeping room amenities:** coffee, tea, and decaf, with coffee makers, irons and ironing boards, hair dryer, free internet access.

## **DIRECTIONS TO THE HOTEL**

**FROM LOUISVILLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT:** Exit the airport and follow the signs for I-65 North towards Louisville. The hotel is about 4.5 miles from the airport. Exit I-65 at Broadway, turn left and go about three blocks. The hotel is on the left.

**FROM EAST:** Take I-64 to route 264 South. Follow Route 264 South to I-65 North. Follow I-65 North to Louisville and exit on Broadway St. Turn left and go about three blocks. The hotel is on the left.

**FROM NORTH:** Take I-65 South to Louisville. Exit on Broadway St and turn right and go about three blocks. The hotel is on the left.

**FROM SOUTH:** Take I-65 North to Louisville. Exit on Broadway St. Turn left and go about three blocks. The hotel is on the left.

**FROM WEST:** Take I-64 East to I-65 South. Exit on Broadway St. Turn right and go about three blocks. The hotel is on the left.



**VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, INC.**  
**HOLIDAY INN DOWNTOWN**  
**LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY**  
**OCTOBER 9 - 14, 2006**

**REUNION PROGRAM**

• **Monday, October 9, 2006**

- 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm** Registration headquarters Holiday Inn Downtown Louisville  
**6:30 pm – 7:30 pm** Wine and cheese reception (compliments of the Holiday Inn)  
Dinner on your own

• **Tuesday, October 10, 2006**

- 12 noon – 5:00 pm** Registration headquarters Holiday Inn Downtown.  
**8:45 am** Bus departs for Male High School. Program begins at 9:45 and ends at 10:45 - Lunch at the Holiday Inn.  
**1:00 pm** Bus departs for Stoneware Company, back at hotel at 3:30 pm  
**6:30 pm** Italian dinner buffet with wine and entertainment at the hotel.

• **Wednesday, October 11, 2006**

- 8:45 am** Bus departs for Fort Knox, lunch included – return at 4:00 pm.  
Dinner on your own

• **Thursday, October 12, 2006**

- 8:30 am** Bus departs for Louisville Slugger Museum and Frazier Arms Museum.  
**12:30 pm – 2:00 pm** Lunch on your own at Kunz Restaurant  
Afternoon on your own  
**5:00 pm** Bus departs for Belle of Louisville dinner cruise. Boarding starts at 5:30, cruise ends at 8:00 pm

• **Friday, October 13, 2006**

- 8:30 am** Bus departs for Churchill Downs, Kentucky Derby Museum and the Glassworks – return at 12:30 pm.  
Lunch on your own and free time  
**2:00 pm – 4:00 pm** General membership meeting  
**6:00 pm – 7:00 pm** Reception (cash bar)  
**7:00 pm** Annual banquet

• **Saturday, October 14, 2006**

- 7:30 am** Farewell breakfast

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

See “Highlights and Schedule Information” sheet for details



# OUR FIRST CLOSE-UP ENCOUNTER

Armand F. Boisseau  
172nd/941st Field Artillery Battalions

I would like to share my small story with you and the rest of our Bulge veterans. Hopefully I'll hear from other veterans who were there, and may know more about my battalion's history. After 60 years my memory is no longer what it used to be, my son has researched as much as he could with some success but we believe there's more to the unit's history. This much we do know, the 1st Battalion, 941st Field Artillery, was built from the 172nd Field Artillery Regiment and the 773rd Field Artillery Battalion was built of elements from both the 172nd and the 941st.

It all started when our outfit was assigned to the 1st Army, V Corps, V Corps Artillery, 406th Field Artillery Group, 30th Division Artillery serving in the 1st Battalion, Headquarters Battery, 941st Field Artillery (heavy), commanded by Lt. Col. John F. Ahern.

We were ordered out to advance on the German positions marshaling along the Belgium/German border, in direct support of the 38th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (mecz) and advanced units of the 30th Infantry Division from 16 to 21 December 1944. We set up firing positions in the vicinity of towns called Venwegen Monschau, Eupen, Hofen, Niveze, Longfaye, Hockai, Cockaifagne. Our call-sign was "Vineyard," and I was assigned to Headquarters Battery as forward lineman and assistant switchboard operator on the wire detail. From time to time we would set up OP's and assist after-action artillery surveying teams.

G2 Hq had advised the battalion commanders of the (186th, 941st and 955th) to take heed about enemy infiltrations. We're told some specialized English-speaking Germans were dressed as American MP's and regular GI's disrupting communications and sabotaging roadways. The Ardennes was so heavily rugged, it was not well suited for towing 155's and the new 4.5" guns. Everywhere we went there were large fields of ice/snow, cold/freezing rain and thick sticking mud. We all endured the cold--first it would snow then snow again it seemed never to stop for days on end. To this day, cold weather does not set well with me.

We all hoped this campaign would be over by Christmas. I had just spent my 24th birthday anniversary (December) with two buddies huddled underneath a burned out, destroyed truck in the freezing snow/rain hoping to win the war soon and go home. It was not to be, the Germans launched their major offensive against the allies early 16 December 1944 and hit us hard.

There was a full scale assault against our own positions, temporarily repulsed by forward elements of the 38th Cavalry, some ack-ack guns, a few 105's. It gave the rest of the battalion time to advance in the opposite direction, to regroup and return fire covering the retreat of the forward elements that were holding the line. Not sure about the 186th and the 955th Field Artillery Battalions--where they were at this time I do not know. In the Ardennes Forest of Belgium we learned the Germans broke through many thinly held American lines and drove toward the English Channel heading for the Town/Port of Antwerp

nearly destroying two American divisions in their path.

The fighting was fierce, our battalion would constantly move out, set-up firing positions, discharge hundreds of rounds, move out, set-up and fire again. This would go on day in day out for two-three weeks without a warm break. The battalion commander would remind us from time to time to think about the infantry and armored units up on the front lines slugging it out with German tanks and elite well trained mechanized infantry. Saying, "If you think you got it bad, think about the boys up front." The colonel was a good man. We all liked him a lot.

Interestingly enough, after reading the story about the 146th Engineer Combat Battalion in the August 2004 *Bulge Bugle* newsletter, we too were tasked with augmenting some men from the 941st Field Artillery to the 38th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz). It was a successful attempt to block and delay the advance of the ruthless Col. Peiper's 1st SS Panzer Division and advanced elements of the 326 Volksgrenadiers. Two of the 15 men who were out of Services Battery were from my hometown, Homer Hewitt and George Landry, of Manchester, New Hampshire. We learned they all earned the "Distinguished Service Badge" for their actions. Once again word came down that it was Col. Pipier's forces that had intercepted and captured a large group of U.S. soldiers most of which were artillerymen driving south along with elements of the 7th Armored Division. Under orders they were herded into a large snow covered meadow and gunned down with machine guns and automatic weapons and left to freeze in the snow.

The men of the wire details out of Headquarters were Henry Plante, Horace Abbercrombie, John Busse, Peter Olean, George Pasqual, Hank Henderson, John Busse, Knee-high and myself to name just a few who were under supportive vigilance of Camile Cevalier, Harvey Lessard, Lester Bloom and Ralph Hooper. We were always under constant threat of German snipers, land mines and booby traps. Each time we were sent out to lay or repair broken communications wire, we all had to keep a watchful eye for these personal hazards. I later received the Purple Heart for wounds received when our weapons carrier hit a German AT land mine, killing one and wounding four.

Our first up close encounter with German armor scared the living daylights out of us all. The wire detail was out running new lines up forward to a new OP. Headquarters had marked the roadway (if tracked snow and mud dug-out by heavy armor and trucks constitute a road) guiding us to the OP. All morning we would see our small truck and armor convoys passing us while we were working on the wire placement. We later would hear an echoing sound coming from the thick dense forest just ahead and from both sides of us, metal clanking and squealing sounds muffled with low rumbling engine moving around just on the other side of the tree lines. We believed it was our guys moving into defensive positions, perhaps digging in waiting for others from division, we just kept on working, it was snowing cold, wet and muddy.

We were taking a quick smoke break while heating up a couple of cans of beans (we would place them on the exhaust manifold of our running truck). Then, we heard heavy artillery and mortar barrages. Next came machine gun and rifle fire. It got closer and closer--still, we were unaware of the danger we were in. One of the guys said, "Armand, we should saddle-up and get out of here," good idea! As we started to load our tools into the truck, we turned to the tree line

(Continued)



## OUR FIRST ENCOUNTER

(Continuation)

and saw GI's running out from the forest slipping, tripping and falling--running as fast as they could go, howling at the top of their lungs, "Tanks, German Tanks"!

This was the first time we saw German tanks in action. What we saw earlier were burned and destroyed hulks of either Mark II and III Panzers but, here we would learn were the heavy Mark V Panthers and Mark VI Tigers. They were the biggest armored machines we had ever seen--cannons blasting, machine guns firing, crashing through the tree lines. Armed only with sidearms and carbines we were no match for what was heading our way so we did the next and only best thing..."Bug the hell out!" No time to pick-up, dropped everything even left the truck running in place. (We had a utility trailer in place and extra spools of wire hanging off of it.) We finally made Headquarters and reported what happen. We then learned that the Germans had broken through our lines and were pushing us back.

The whole battalion started to bug-out, jeeps, weapons carriers, 6x6's, M3 Halftracks towing 105's and trailers, M5's (hs) tractor towing big boys, the 155's and the new 4.5" gums, Ack-Ack gun crews, ambulances, medics, maintenance and service personnel. MP's directing traffic, secret teams setting up machine gun and motor emplacements (serving as a first line of defense) against the advancing Germans. It didn't appear to be chaos, more like well "orchestrated" confusion, everybody had a job to do and that's what we were doing. The battalion had trained for this State side while on field maneuvers in Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas and desert training in southern California at Camp Iron Mountain.

Once the battalion regrouped we set up new firing positions, posted heavy security, new OP's and informed division we were ready for fire missions. Orders to fire came, the 941st had three batteries four guns each, (12) guns total, and they let loose with such a tremendous explosion of fire and defending thunder it felt like the earth around us was coming apart at the seams. The roar of these guns echoed for many miles around. I can't say what damage we did but, this it is for sure (1) we blasted the Germans' advancement three times harder than what they dished-out to us (2) we made plenty of fox holes for our own GI's to fight out of.

An after action report from G2 revealed the 941st Field Artillery had expended over 15,300 rounds into the advancing Germans for the month of December 1944 with only (4) battle casualties. No idea what the other two Battalions (186th and the 955th) had also fired but, it would be safe to say at least the same, if not more. The German army had surely paid dearly for this mistake, and we set up headquarters and firing positions through towns known as Hemmeres, Courtil, Tillet, Venwegen, Mont, Vossenack, Rohren, Wiltzfeld, Rotgen, Honsfeld and Winterscheid. If there were others I've long forgotten their names.

I wish to express my most sincere, humble appreciation for being able to serve with the men of the 941st Field Artillery. If not for their courage and dedication, I feel I would not be here alive today writing this letter. For all VBoB's its an honor to have served with you, it was a good fight and hopefully with God's grace not worth repeating. A special thanks to Harry Plante (deceased) and Horace "Abbie" Abbercrombie of Headquarters Battery--two men who taught me well and became my good friends. I welcome all who can correspond helping to

validate your story, good bad or indifference. Would appreciate hearing from anyone who served in the 187th and 406th Field Artillery Groups as well as the 186th, 941st and 955th Field Artillery Battalions. As we used to say in the Guard "Load with Cannister."

[Armand's address is: 1320 Naval Avenue, Bremerton, Washington 98337]■

## VETERANS DAY--2004

Members of the Florida Southeast Chapter marched in the 2004 Veterans Day Parade in Lake Worth.



Photo by Betty Thomas

Pictured left to right: Red O'Hare; George Fisher, president and founder of the chapter; Bob Sendker; Brig. Gen. Al Irzyk (Ret); Jack Ott; and Will Jasmund.■

# I WANT YOU



## ...TO ENCOURAGE YOUR CHAPTER NON-MEMBERS TO HELP SUPPORT VBOB.

Last year's study of chapter membership revealed there are probably more non-national members in your chapter than there are those who belong to national. We need them in our efforts to continue.

**So, encourage them to enlist or re-up.**

"Uncle Charles Gerry"  
Gliderman - Airborne  
"Nuff Said"



# HISTORY OF 526TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION

*[The following article was taken from The Pekan Newsletter, dated October, 2005, and was taken from an article written by the battalion's historians, JAMES AMMONS and GEORGE WENDT.]*

While in Normandy, the 526th was assigned to the 12th Army Group. This group consisted of several American and British Armies and was under the command of General Omar Bradley. On or about October 26, 1944, the 526th left for Belgium with a stopover in Verdun, France. From there the battalion went into Belgium, settling in the Malmedy, Harze, Aywaille area in eastern Belgium. "C" Company was detached from the battalion at this point and was assigned to the 12th Army Group Headquarters in Luxembourg City where they served as personal security guard for General Bradley and his staff.

On December 16, 1944, Hitler shot his last wad of the war by invading eastern Belgium by the way of the Ardennes Forest. He hit the weakest point of the front line by attacking the American 106th Infantry Division. This division was made up mostly of raw recruits who had just finished their basic training in the United States and who had been sent to Europe only a few days before the Germans mounted their offensive.

All of the companies of the 526th were involved with fighting in the Battle of the Bulge, except "C" Company. They were kept busy protecting General Bradley and his headquarters from the German assault. Killing General Bradley and his staff was a German top priority, and, "C" Company can be given credit for not letting that happen.

"B" Company was hit the hardest, suffering numerous casualties and many men were taken as Prisoners of War by the Germans.

"A" Company was hit hard at Stavelot, Belgium. While in the thick of the fighting in Stavelot they were given credit for stemming the German advance by setting afire 4 million gallons of American gasoline. Had the Germans captured this fuel depot the outcome of the Battle of the Bulge might have been different.

Headquarters Company was not spared. They had their problems with a German mine field.

Men from Service Company were moving targets for the Germans, as they feverishly tried to supply the various companies with ammunition and supplies.

And, the Medical Detachment, was in grave danger, especially the Medics assigned to "B" Company.

On or about January 27, 1945, "C" Company moved with the 12th Army Group to Namur, Belgium. A short while later, Headquarters Company and "A" and "B" Companies joined T-Force, and all went their separate ways into Germany.

T-Force was a unit of special troops of the 12th Army Group selected for specific missions, the 526th was assigned as security personnel for this unique force. T-Force was a highly mobile group and traveled extensively throughout Germany. ■

You Earned It! Why not be part of the elite;  
Join the organization for Combat Infantrymen



Membership requirements: The applicant must have been awarded the Combat Infantry Badge as certified to by official notation on the applicant's DD-214, Official Army Orders, or other official documents. Applicant must attach a copy of such documentation to this Enlistment (Membership) Application. Dues are \$20.00 for two years or \$75.00 for a life membership. We do not have a one (1) year membership.

For more information and membership application please visit our website at [www.cibassoc.com](http://www.cibassoc.com) or contact:

Daniel R. Sankoff, Major, C.I.A.  
National Membership Officer  
236 Danby Road  
Lehigh Acres, FL 33936-7531  
E-mail: [silverfoxx236@aol.com](mailto:silverfoxx236@aol.com)

N O S W E A T



"You may be a good Soldier, Hideneck, but you don't know a damn thing about women!"



# Military buffs fight for authenticity at WWII re-enactment

BY MONICA VON DOBENECK  
Of Our Palmyra Bureau

**FORT INDIANTOWN GAP •** Frank Fanning of New Jersey brushed his teeth with a World War II-era German toothbrush this week as he portrayed a German soldier during the annual Battle of the Bulge re-enactment at Fort Indiantown Gap.

Donna Cusano of New York City broadcast Woody Herman, Glenn Miller, Duke Ellington and Harry James over her temporary station while some of the 1,500 re-enactors listened on vintage radios.

Abbot and Costello's "Buck Privates" played in the makeshift theater. Vendor Derek Patton of Indiana sold original German gas cans for \$400, World War II German bars of soap for \$5, and original GI boot laces for \$2 a pair. Aileen Derrett of England, portraying a British transport officer, learned to style her hair and apply makeup 1940s style.

The goal of the re-enactors is to avoid "farby," according to David Kemper of Watson, Northumberland County, who was portraying an "Unterscharfuhrer," or senior corporal, with the SS. "Farby" stands for "far from being correct," he said. Like most of the re-enactors, Kemper strives for accuracy.

His uniform is an authentic reproduction, and his infantry assault badge, belt buckle and ribbon bar are original. He is teaching himself German and has written a 68-page pamphlet on the proper way to

portray a German soldier.

"You want to improve your impression so you don't look farby," he said. "Sometimes you see people in the field wearing modern boots or camo. The worst, German veterans tell us, is to see German re-enactors with their hands in the pockets, slumped over, chewing gum."

"You have to play by the rules," he said.

Uniforms and weapons can cost \$1,200 to \$1,500, the re-enactors said, but some go much farther for authenticity during the annual re-enactment sponsored by the World War II Federation. The re-enactment wrapped up yesterday.

Richard Abbate of Connecticut, portraying a flight officer, has a 1944 Jeep with pin-up girls painted on the hood. He is trying to buy a vintage airplane.

Fanning's German unit bought an original field kitchen, with which he cooked German potato salad and bratwurst this weekend. The kitchens, which operated behind the front lines and were sometimes pulled by horses, work like Dutch ovens.

Veterans said the re-enactors pretty much got it right, except that temperatures in the 50s yesterday were nothing like the brutal cold that greeted soldiers in the real Battle of the Bulge. The battle, in the winter of 1944-45, was the last German offensive on the Western Front.

Rudolf Kerl of New Jersey,

Reprinted from  
the SUNDAY PATRIOT NEWS  
Sunday, January 29, 2006

who was a 17-year-old German soldier when he was captured by the Americans in 1945 and later served with the U.S. Army during the Korean War after emigrating, said the German uniforms were correct up to the belt buckles and shoes.

"They march the German way," he said. "They strive for accuracy, I can tell."

Herbert Garvie, 85, of Lebanon, fought at the Battle of the Bulge and was captured by Germans. He weighed 86 pounds when he was liberated after surviving on half a potato a day. He remembers digging a foxhole and hiding in it "while the Germans threw everything at us."

"The uniforms are accurate. They're the real thing," he said. "And the barracks, they really bring back memories."

David Shaw, organizer of the re-enactment, said people are fascinated by World War II history. When veterans and re-enactors visited Cedar Crest Middle School last week, they had to cut off questions from eager students after two hours, he said.

He thinks the current war on terrorism adds to the draw.

"World War II was the last honorable war we fought where we really knew who the enemy was," he said.



A German soldier stands at attention in his guard shack outside the barracks during yesterday's re-enactment.



VBOB, Inc. is non-partisan. It encourages candidates of all political persuasions and incumbents to support legislation important to: National Defense and to Active, Reserve, National Guard, retired members of the uniform services, other veterans, their families, and survivors.



# WWII FEDERATION

We would like to thank the World War II Federation and particularly David Shaw for sponsoring and remembering the Battle of the Bulge each year through the Federation's Reenactment, each January, at Fort Indiantown Gap, PA. Dave has led this organization for on most twenty-years. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has recognized the Battle of the Bulge Re-Enactment as an educational experience.

Their Living History Commemoration portrays Soldiers of World War II. Their purpose is to Honor the Veterans of World War II, Battle of the Bulge and present it in an Educational manner as accurately and objectively as possible. They stress "objectively" – they concentrate on the military aspects of the soldier and they do not support or in any way condone the politics, which directed them.

This Living History Commemoration and its people try to portray the common soldiers in a unit. The Axis Historians provide an important foil to the Allied Historians at public display battles and living history events. The victory of the American, British and Soviet Forces did not come easily. An accurate portrayal may permit the uninformed to gauge more accurately the difficulty and the sacrifice made by all soldiers in achieving what General Eisenhower titled: "The Crusade in Europe."

The WWII Federation has honored Bulge Veterans to attend the event, which is held the last full week of January from Tuesday through Sunday morning. Veterans are given the opportunity to interface with the re-enactors, to answer questions that the re-enactors may have about how it actually was but mainly to pay their respects to the veterans for their service as they try to reenact their service as accurately as possible.

In short order the reenact transform their barracks with their clothing and bedding and other equipment which transforms these authentic World War II barracks to the way they looked sixty years ago.

Veterans are given the opportunity to stay in their own Veterans World War II Barracks and sleep in improved bunk beds. Hospitality, WWII movies, Memorabilia and souvenirs are displayed and there is a great deal of story telling and "war stories." Instantly there is the camaraderie among veterans like they served together. It also gives the veterans a week to relax and relive a portion of their lives in a more relaxed atmosphere with no duties to perform.

On the Friday, the Veterans are recognized by the Federation and they are able to view the reenactment battle of Saturday and partake in the USO-type show and banquet on Saturday Evening.

We thank Dave Shaw and the WWII Federation for putting this on and remembering us veterans and for keeping the memory of the Battle of the Bulge alive.

# REUNIONS

**2ND ARMORED DIVISION, 17TH ARMORED ENGINEER BATTALION,** September 13-16, 2006, Herndon, Virginia (near DC). Contact: John A. Shields, PO Box 106, East Butler, Pennsylvania 16029. Telephone: 724-287-4301.

**4TH ARMORED DIVISION,** September 11-17, 2006, Niagara Falls, New York. Contact: Rick Schenker, 760 Crestview Drive, Sharpsville, Pennsylvania 16150-8332.

**6TH ARMORED DIVISION,** October 19-23, 2006, Las Vegas, Nevada. Contact: Donna L. Dolovy (telephone 602-249-2440) or Paul Campbell (telephone 704-855-1050).

**9TH ARMORED DIVISION,** September 11-13, 2006, Louisville, Kentucky. Contact: Dee Paris, 13110 Holdridge Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20906-3937. Telephone: 301-946-4820.

**84TH INFANTRY DIVISION,** September 4-5, 2006, Nashville, Tennessee. Contact: Tessa Swinehart. Telephone: 615-824-0348.

**90TH INFANTRY DIVISION,** August 17-20, 2006, Louisville, Kentucky. Contact: James R. Reid, Sr. Telephone: 630-789-0204.

**106TH RECONNAISSANCE TROOP,** May 23-25, 2006, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Contact: Joseph C. Haines, 7503 Haines Drive, El Reno, Oklahoma 73036-9599. Telephone: 405-262-3867.

**109TH EVACUATION HOSPITAL,** August 10-13, 2006, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Contact: Howard Klitgaard, 9073 N Silver Brook Lane, Brown Deer, Wisconsin 53223. Telephone: 414-354-4857.

**254TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION,** September 7-9, 2006, Cleveland, Ohio. Contact: Earle E. Schwark, Sr., 8222 Stratford Drive, Parma, Ohio 44129-5510. Telephone: 940-774-4323.

**300TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION,** June 1-4, 2006, Dallas, Texas. Contact: Randy Hanes, 6490 Ridgemont Drive, Dallas, Texas 75214. Telephone: 214-363-38267.

**557TH ORDNANCE HM CO (TK),** June 14-19, 2006, Petoskey, Michigan. Contact: John E. Demmer, 2106 Tecumser River Drive, Lansing, Michigan 48906.

**SKORZENY** A member of the SS who was responsible for Operation Grief, to infiltrate the Bulge area in American uniforms and raise confusion and havoc among the Allied troops. It was also believed that his group would try to kill Eisenhower. Consequently Colonel Baldwin B. Smith served as a double for Eisenhower during the Battle of the Bulge at SHAEF Headquarters to try and draw fire. Skorzeny was tried but acquitted due to testimony that the British used German uniforms on commando missions.

## DID YOU KNOW

### WWII Tid-Bits

## SAVE US THE EXPENSE OF SENDING A REMINDER...

The certificates and quartermaster items we sell have helped us keep our dues at \$15.00 for many years. Your help in submitting your dues on time can also help. So check your mailing label to see if your dues are due (or past due) and submit them without a reminder. Reminders are costly. Save us the expense. Thank you. ■



## 602nd TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

By Raymond J. Young  
President of Battalion Association

Because some Army records regarding the Battalion are incomplete, inaccurate, and misleading regarding its combat action during the Battle of the Ardennes, I hereby submit a true and accurate record, as documented by after action reports, medical records, and morning reports and two diaries.

After an all night, 150-mile march with no lights or radio transmission, Battalion Headquarters and Medical Detachment, A & B firing companies, and two platoons of Reconnaissance Company arrived at 1300 hours 21 December 1944 vicinity of Neufchateau, Belgium.

Company B and one platoon of Reconnaissance Company were immediately dispatched to Libramont/Recogne and were attached to the 7th Tank Destroyed Group Headquarters there.

Company A and one platoon of Reconnaissance Company was ordered to get into Bastogne if possible and were attached to what was left of the desimated 28th Infantry Division which only that morning had, with General Norman Cota leading, barely escaped out of Sibret (7 km from Bastogne city center).

One platoon of Company A helped secure General Cota's Provisional Battalion and could go no further because of enemy positions and vehicles crossing the Neufchateau/Bastogne road in front.

The 2nd platoon of Company A, lacking full strength, was assigned to guard Battalion Headquarters that, located at Straimont and were attached to VIII Corps.

The 3rd platoon of Company A attached to the 28th Division was located on high ground near Witry and later observed and had contact with the 4th Armored Division when it came up the Arlon/Bastogne road several days later.

Company C was attached to the 6th Cavalry positioned east of Metz on the west side of the Saar River across from Volkingen with one platoon of Reconnaissance Company (approximately 10 km west of Saarbrücken, Germany).

For eight (8) long days, the 602nd Tank Destroyer units were the only organized American military units west and southwest of Bastogne City and repulsed repeated attempts of the enemy units to use the road toward Neufchateau.

On 29 December, finally, the 11th Armored Division came into the area we had held and patrolled around the clock. All battalion units, except Company C, were attached to the 11th Armored.

On 5 January 1945 General Patton, who was in our area, relieved the 11th Armored, and the 602nd was attached to the 101st Airborne Division one day then attached to the 17th Airborne Division for the push against the German 6th Panzers through the north side of Bastogne City.

On 14 January, 1945, the battalion was reattached to the 11th Armored Division. **Therefore, we did not enter the Bulge** with the 11th Armored Division as some historians have written. We were there long before they showed up. ■

## GENEVA CONVENTION

### For Your Information

The Hague and Geneva Conventions state how Prisoners-of-War were supposed to be treated by the enemy when captured:

Prisoners-of-war POW. The Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907 declared that in modern warfare fighting men who laid down their arms were to be decently treated; the Geneva Convention of 1929 spelled out the details. This last convention was signed and ratified by all the principal warring powers but two. The Japanese signed, but did not ratify. The USSR did not sign at all, for in Stalinist theory no soldier in the Red Army would ever surrender.

Under the Geneva Convention, POWs were to be removed promptly from the battle area; if wounded, they were to be given adequate medical treatment; and they were to be housed and fed no worse than garrison troops of the capturing power. Under interrogation they were entitled to refuse all information except their name and rank, or their service number. They could practice any religion and they could correspond with their families and friends; if they escaped, they were to undergo no worse punishment on recapture than a month's solitary confinement. The International Red Cross committee was to be allowed to inspect the permanent camps in which they were held.

The Geneva Convention forbade work of any kind for officer prisoners and NCO (non-commissioned officer) prisoners were only supposed to do supervisory work. Private soldiers could be made to work (they were to be paid for it, after the war) provided they were not given any tasks of military importance--a rule everyone often found it convenient to forget. For instance, Italian POWs in the UK were mostly used as farm workers, thus saving shipping space by reducing the need for food imports. An American prisoner who thought he was being overworked, contrary to the convention, for 14 hours a day, 7 days a week, complained to his guard who tapped his own rifle and remarked, "Here is your Geneva Convention!" ■

---

## STAINED GLASS POST CARD WINDOW STILL AVAILABLE

As you may know, VBOB dedicated a stained glass window at the U.S. Army War College, in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, on September 11, 2001. We still have in stock a full color, post card picture of this beautiful window.

During the dedication, Robert R. Ivany, Commandant of the War College, said: "This window will serve as a glowing inspiration for future generations and as a lasting reminder of the heroism of the American soldier. For this gift we are grateful, and for this 'Triumph of Courage' we are forever in your debt." Your dues made this gift and remembrance possible.

If you would like one, please send \$1.00 (cash, check or money order) along with a self-addressed, stamped (39 cents) envelope to VBOB. (The post card is 6" x 4"--make sure your envelope is big enough to accommodate it.)

---



## A BIT OF BLUE

By George Ruhlen

### 3rd Armored Field Artillery Battalion CCA

*[The following article was sent to us by George J. Winter.]*

A bit of blue--a small bright blue ribbon in a gold frame--worn only by those who are, or once were, a band of courageous warriors--symbolic of the blue streamer carried on the colors of their regiment--commemorates forever their gallantry in battle.

They wear no medal--for these exploits it is the unit, not the individual, that is decorated.

The streamer bears witness that the entire organization has been cited by the President of the United States for extraordinary heroism and gallantry in combat. It is the highest award a unit of the United States Army can receive. It is equivalent to decorating each man with the Distinguished Service Cross. First named the Distinguished Unit Citation when established in 1941, it's now the Presidential Unit Citation.

On the 12th of last June, the Secretary of the Army announced that Combat Commands "A" and "B", 9th Armored Division, had been awarded this decoration for extraordinary heroism and gallantry in combat during the early days of the Battle of the Ardennes--the Bulge. Since Combat Command "R" had been included in the award to the 101st Airborne Division, to which it had been attached during the defense of Bastogne, all combat units of the 9th had now been cited for their outstanding performance of duty in this--their first battle.

This was a remarkable accomplishment. The combat commands fought as independent task forces never closer than 30 miles (by air, twice that by road) to each other. They were attached to nine different divisions, five different corps, two different armies, and two different army groups during a three week period. The 9th Armored Division was certainly the "Bulge Division" if ever there was one. Spread across the 95 mile Bulge front, wherever the Germans attacked they met some unit of the 9th. No wonder they thrice reported they had destroyed it. Despite ample evidence that the presence of the 9th Armored Division was well known to the Germans, it remained on the Allies' secret list and no identification nor location of its units was permanent until about January 5th when General Leonard's pleas for some recognition of his division's accomplishments were finally granted. But the damage had been done.

For years afterwards the 9th's actions were omitted or inaccurately described by historians who, rather than research primary sources, merely repeated the earlier factual errors of others. When a briefing team was sent to Paris in early January 1945, the opening statement of the officer conducting the meeting was, "It's OK now to mention the 9th Armored Division in your dispatches." The correspondents' first question was: "When did you arrive in France?" It became obvious that there was plenty of briefing to be done but by then our story was yesterday's news.

Although the 9th seemed to the Germans to be everywhere, its significant operations were isolated battles by three independent Combat Commands, in three well defined areas. How and why this occurred started with its arrival in Luxembourg in mid-October of 1944 and its assignment to VIII Corps--the only front

line U.S. Corps without an assigned armored division. At that time it was defending an 80 mile front opposite the German border with--from northwest to southeast the 2d, 8th, and 83d Infantry Divisions. The orders of the Corps Commander, Major General Middleton, were that 9th Armored Division units would be committed only upon his orders at which time they would fight according to the instructions of the infantry division commanders, thus indicating the intent to piecemeal the 9th and use its units as a ready reserve and not as an integral combat division.

The piecemealing started soon after arrival. CCB, under Corps control, was sent about 30 air-miles due north to the Luxembourg-German border near Trois Vierges as backup for the 2d and/or the 8th Divisions. The rest of the division would not see them again until early January 1945. Meanwhile, directly under division control, infantry and cavalry units relieved 8th Division companies and battalions for short periods to gain front line experience; tank destroyer and tank battalions were attached to artillery battalions to augment long range harassing missions using artillery indirect fire techniques. The 73d and 3d Field Artillery Battalions, under Corps control, reinforced the artillery of the 8th and 83d Divisions. About November 19 the 8th Division was replaced by the 28th who badly needed a respite from weeks of bloody fighting in the Hurtgen Forest. The training and battle indoctrination of the 9th's unit continued with the 28th Division.

Despite the optimistic intelligence summaries some WW I history buffs recalled reading of the Germans' surprising and almost successful offensives in the spring of 1917 and summer of 1918. Prisoners captured by patrols in early November were not the docile, apprehensive deserters of a month earlier but arrogant fighters subdued only after bloody fights. A sudden volley of four shells bracketing a crossroads gave us something to think about as was the appearance--twice--of small groups in long black overcoats inspecting the pill boxes across the river. All of which was dutifully reported to division intelligence and presumably ignored. But were the Germans really thinking of attacking quiet, weary old VIII Corps? And, if they did, how would fare the 9th?

Well, they certainly were and in fact their planning directive issued on October 22d, even as we were arriving in Luxembourg, had set a D Day for the attack for November 25th. Three more were to be set before the attack was finally made. And what would have awaited the 9th on these days? Let's see what events would have had a significant effect:

**September 16:** Hitler announces his great decision: through the Ardennes to Antwerp and split the Allies; code name Die Wacht Am Rhein (WAR)

**October 22:** WAR planning directive submitted; D Day: Nov. 25

**November 2-3** WAR operational plan arrives

**November 4** 99 Div assigned to V Corps; Gen Hoge returns to CC

**November 8** Third Army begins Moselle offensive

**November 10** Hitler directive rec'd von Rundstedt; confirms D Day

**November 16** First Army offensive Aachen salient starts

**[November 17]** [Hitler realizes Nov 25 date unrealistic; agrees to new D Day: Dec 10]

**November 19** 8 Div replaced by 28 Div in VIII Corps

*(Continued on Page 27)*



## A BIT OF BLUE

**November 23** Hitler reviews situation

**November 25** Date of first D Day, US situation?

**SUMMARY:** The veteran 2d Division, hard pressed by the sudden attack, managed to extricate most of its infantry from their untenable forward positions; German armor pushes through the Losheim Gap and roads, although narrow and muddy, are open to Viesalm, Marche Namur and the crossings of the Meuse River. That part of the 28th Division north of the Sure River fought a stubborn delaying action and, assisted by CCB's counterattacks, slowly withdrew towards Bastogne. General Middleton, apparently respecting General Hoge's battlefield experience and imperturbable demeanor, refrained from micromanaging CCB's operations.

The battalion of the 109th Infantry south of the Sure attempted to defend the Beaufort sector without sufficient artillery support and was forced out of their river line positions but managed to form a shaky defense on the high ground just east of Larochette. Efforts by the 73d AFA Battalion to give some artillery support were generally unsuccessful due mainly to the incompatibility of the infantry and armor radio channels. The 9th AD finally organized CCA from the 19th TK Bn, 60th AB and 73d AFA Bn, and began to prepare defensive positions on the high ground from Savelborn to Christnach. CCR was organized from the 2d TK Bn, 52d AIB, and 89th Cav Sqdn(-) and prepared defensive positions north and east of Mersch. The 89th Sqdn Hq was used to augment CCR communications; assault guns were pooled into a provisional artillery battery. The gap between the 28th and 9th AD opened an undefended road to Ettelbruck then to Margelange and Arlon. The absence of the 3d AFA Bn was critical, but heavy shelling in the Consdorf area prevented movement until late afternoon when it was able to reach the Echternach highway to the south and then west to Lorentzweiler and rejoined the division that night near Mersch. It had sustained about 20% casualties but was able to resume its direct support mission.

The 9th could have reacted faster to this sudden attack if all tactical units had not been directly under division control but organized into tactic formations located in tactical rather than administrative areas. The sector assigned to the 109th Inf Bn was far too extensive for a single battalion to garrison, and its artillery support was ineffectual. All these conditions contributed to splitting the 28th Div area and facilitating the German thrust toward Martelange and Bastogne.

CCB was reduced to about 45% combat effectiveness and required time to rebuild. The 3d AFA was reduced to about 60% combat effectiveness, and the 73d AFA to about 75%. The rest of the division did not fare too badly and participated in the subsequent counterattack.

The November 25th D Day was canceled by Hitler on November 17 and December 10 selected as the new D Day. Significant events affecting new D Day:

**November 26** FM Jodl tells FM von Rundstedt new D Day is December 10

**December 2** Hitler calls new conference at Reichschancellery

**December 3** At 1400 3d AFA informed it will replace 322 FA as direct support for 329 Inf by 0600 4 Dec; in view of time of order, relief time extended to 900 with 420 FA Group taking over direct support responsibility after 0600

**December 4** 322 FA departs Herborn positions 0400, no

artillery support for 329 Inf until 0600. Hq and Hq Co, 12th Armed Gp reports to 9th AD, is attached to Reserve Command; with its communications makes communications makes Res Cmd a viable tactical unit; - CCR

**December 6** Advanced party 4th Div Arty tells 3d AFA 12th Inf will relieve 329th Inf on the 9th artillery will relieve 3d about the 13th.

**December 7** 83d Div leaves VIII Corps, to be replaced by 4th Division

**December 8** Third Army offensive from Moselle River begins; 329th Inf departs in afternoon from Moselle River begins; 329th Inf departs in afternoon no sign of replacing 12th Inf; front line undefended \*[Germans cannot get troops and supplies in position for attack on December 10; D Day postponed to December 15 at 0530]. Beaufort sector garrisoned by Bn of 109th Inf to be assigned to 9th AD, change to be made Dec. 10.

**December 9** CCB trfd to V Corps to support attack on upper Roer dams; moves to Waimes about 35 miles north of former position thus wiping out armor support to 28th Div. In last PM 12th Inf arrives to take over former positions of 329th Inf. For over 20 hours right flank of VIII Corps defended by recon company, infantry platoon and 5 OPS of 3d AFA. No replacement for CCB made as yet. 42d FA relieves 3d AFA of direct support of 12th Inf.

**December 10** \*60th AIB relieves Bn of 109th Inf of defense along Sure River east of Beaufort. 9th AD now has sector of VIII Corps front assigned to it. 106 Div assigned to replace 2d Div in VIII Corps. \*73d AFA in direct support of 60th AIB. (73d has 5 OPS on party line to Fire Direction Center) 9th AD combat Bns still under direct Division control; Cavalry Group assigned to VIII Corps to provide defense of Loseim Gap. 3d AFA back in old positions in Consdorf. (\*: these actions would not have occurred had attack occurred on December 10.

**December 10** Date of second D Day, U.S. situation?;

**SUMMARY:** Major troop reassignments occur just prior to or during changeover. CCB's move, without replacement, leaves 28th Div without armor back up. 4th Div not yet adjusted to new area, new missions. Planned relief of 19 Inf Bn by 60th AIB in Beaufort sector on December 10 cannot be made; same situation regarding planned relief of 2d Div by new 106th Div except relief already underway on 10th, 106th used to bolster VII Corps defense;

28th Div, overextended, forced back to west, remnants eventually reach Astogne but can not stop German advance to Marache and Namur. CCB used to support VII Corps. 60th AIB mission changed to form part of newly organized CCA with 19th TK BN and 73d AFA BN and prepare defensive position on high ground just east of Larochette. CCR organized with 2d TK Bn, 52d AIB, and 8 Cav Sqdn(-) formed defense to north and east of Mersch. A welcome addition that night was the 3d AFA Bn who had eventually managed to make its way south to the Echternach highway and then west to Lorentzweiler to join CCR. The 2th Division battalion which the 60th was to replace, withdrew in disorder; remnants joined the 60th east of Larochette. A wide gap was created between units of 28th and 9th Armored Divisions through which German columns pushed toward Arlon, Martelange and points west. The 28th's effectiveness was reduced to almost nothing; CCB although hit heavily was still effective.

(Continued on Page 28)



## A BIT OF BLUE

The 73d AFA was reduced to 50% effectiveness and changed places with the 3d AFA. The remainder of the Division was not hard hit and participated in the subsequent counterattack.

Since there was no attack on December 10th the 60th AIB took over defense of the newly created 9th AD sector by 1100; the 73d AFA was placed in direct support with its five forward observers on one long wire line.

Significant events affecting proposed December 15 D Day:

**December 10** 106 Div replaced 2d 4th Div takes over positions formerly occupied by 83d Div; 3d AFA rejoins rest of Bn at old Consdorf positions; 9th AD assigned own sector between 28th and 4th Divs to be defended by 60th AB supported by 73d AFA in vicinity of Christnach; 3d told would probably take over DS of 60th; all units except CCB remain directly under division control; responsibility for sector removes last bit of mobility from Div; Cav Gp assigned to VIII Corps for defense of Losheim Gap.

**December 11** Hitler briefs half of senior commanders on WAR and D Day

**December 12** Hitler briefs remainder of senior commanders, then finally accedes to their requests to delay planned attack, sets new D Day as 0530 on December 16: 3d FA while reconnoitering for new positions is told by Div Arty no need to rush occupation--instructions will be issued at proper time.

**December 13** CCR ordered to replace CCB as back up for 28 Div; starts attack on Roer River dams; at 1630 (sunset) Div Art tells 3d AFA that after 0700 next day it will be in direct support of 60th AIB and displace to new positions as soon as 73d AFA leaves area; this means fire missions go by wire from Sure River OPs through 73d switchboard at Christnach to 3d's FDC--10 miles on one wire line--an unacceptable arrangement!

**December 14** 73d clears area in mid afternoon; 3d frantically tries to line companies, select new location for Hqs and Svc Btrys--decision made not to risk night occupation but to displace A battery at first light, accompanied by base pieces of B and C Btrys and so register as soon as possible.

**December 15** Displacements made according to plan; new locations Hqs and Svc Btrys not yet selected; each battery adjusted normal barrages on three best enemy river crossing site in front; mail arrived early evening; attack on Roer dams canceled, little progress made;

### December 15: Date of third Day; U.S. Situation:

**SUMMARY:** Changes in locations and missions were made right up to the time of attack and less time was available to make adjustments.

In the northern sector of VIII Corps Germans launched heavy attacks; 2d and 99th Divs put up stout defense and give ground slowly. 106th Div's two forward regiments are soon cut off and after three days surrender. CCB's quick response ad counter attack deflects main enemy thrust to Lignueville-Stavelot route. Reinforced by a regiment from the 106th Div and one from the 28th and a combat command from the 7th AD, CCB holds Germans just west of St. Vith until entire force is ordered to withdraw to new defensive line on Salm River north and south of Viesalm. Exhausted and decimated the 28th Div is no longer combat effective and the newly formed CCR of the 9th AD is no longer viable as a combat command as scattered groups make their way back to friendly lines. Surprise and micro-managing by VIII Corps has taken away much of CCR's integrity and resourcefulness; an undefended gap from Etalle to Bastogne is open to the German 5th and 7th Armies.

The dawn attack not only caught the 60th AIB by surprise but the heavy shelling prevented the 3d AFA from displacing to its new positions near Haller. CCA was hastily and finally organized using the 60 AIB, 19th Tk Bn, three Cav Recon companies, and Hqs and a gun company from the 811th TD Bn, but the pooled assault guns of the tankers and Cavalrymen were not a substitute for the 18 105 howitzers of the 3d AFA Bn, although Div Arty had arranged for some support by two Corps artillery battalions near Beck and Herborn. The 3d was

finally able to march south to the Echternach highway and thence via Lorentzweiler and reach the Division the night of the 15th. CCA and a Provisional Reserve were reorganized using all available men. Contact with the 28th to the north could not be made and the roads to Margelange, Neufchateau, Marche and Namur were undefended and open, attacks toward Luxembourg City and Arlon were repulsed.

In retrospect the late departure of the 73d AFA from the Christnach positions on the 14th and the laissez faire attitude of Div Arty had prevented from 3d from displacing as planned on the 14th which would have put them in position fully ready to support the 60th. The 60th finally received word to infiltrate back to friendly lines, but less than 25% make it back. The Division was finally able to establish and hold a defensive line just west of Larochette. CCA as rated as about 40% combat effective.

None of the D days were models for rest, but were some better for the Combat Commands than others?

**D-Day November 25** CCB-heavy losses, Combat Effectiveness: 45% (backing up 28th Div); 28 Div about out of action--CE 20%; 9th AD, CCA, CCR- CE: -60%;

**D-Day December 10** 28th Div-heavy losses (no combat Command back up)--CE 10%; CCB--about 70%; 9th AD--65%

**D Day December 15** 28th Div about out of action--CE 15%, CCB-CE 0%; 60 AIB--50% CE; remainder Div--60% CE;

**D-Day December 16** 28th Div (after seven days)--10% CE; CCA--40% CE; remainder of Div--60% CE.

Division CE about the same; low CE for CCB at end of attack for 25 Nov D Day due to it backing up extended 28th Div. 28th is practically wiped out for many of D Days due to overextension of defensive lines. In all cases except 16 December D Day, routes to crossing of Meuse River are lightly defended if at all, and little impedes attacking German columns except weather and shortage of fuel.

### December 16: Date of fourth and actual D Day: U.S. Situation;

For the 28th Div and CCR it was practically a repetition of the December 15th D Day. Their stubborn withdrawal to Bastogne disrupted the German attack schedule but left them both noneffective as a combat force. CCB, well enforced, delayed German attacks in its sector sufficient to prevent the Germans from reaching the crossings of the Meuse River. The 3d AFA occupied positions in the Haller area in time, as planned, and with the 60th AIB delayed the German attack on the south shoulder of their penetration, despite the 60th rifle companies being surrounded on the west bank of the Sure River. The 60th, 3d, 19th Tk Bn with three troops from the 89th Cav Sqdn, a TD gun company and an AAA SP battery, were released from Division control and assigned to CCA Hqs about twelve hours after the attack started. This force successfully repulsed repeated enemy attacks and held the defensive line just east of Larochette for the next week and thus prevented enemy access to the roads leading to Arlon, Neufchateau and Huy on the Meuse River, and attack on Luxembourg City.

Why did over 56 years elapse before CCA and CCB received their Citations? A good question, which will probably never be answered truthfully. In February 1945 a recommendation for award of a Distinguished Unit Citation (as it was then called) to the 3d Armored Field Artillery Battalion was submitted to Division Hqs who promptly returned it explaining that CCA was being recommended for the award and the 3d would of course be included in the recommendation. A query to Division shortly after CCB was cited for its capture of the bridge at Remagen disclosed the CCA recommendation had not yet been dispatched. Dated March 20, 1945, a recommendation was dispatched to First Army. Receiving no information as to action on this letter, Division sent a query as to its status on July 24, 1945 to Third Army (First having left the Theater), which replied through channels on August 6th that the recommendation had been forwarded to 12th Army Group, approved, by both commands to the Adjutant General of the Army and never heard of again.

*[We do not have the remainder of the article.]*



# 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 insignias 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:

First Name	MI	Last Name	Serial Number
Organization: Company, Battalion and/or Regt, Division			Rank (Optional)
<input type="checkbox"/> Killed in Action	Location	<input type="checkbox"/> Died of Wounds	<input type="checkbox"/> POW
date	place	date	dates Camp
MAILING INFORMATION:			
Name	Street Address		Apt No.
City	State	Zip + 4 Code	
Telephone Number (In case we need to call you)		VBOB Member: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Signature & date
		not a requirement	
Make checks out to VBOB for \$15.00. Orders should be mailed to VBOB Certificate, PO Box 101418, Arlington, VA 22210-4418. Questions can be directed to John Bowen, 301 384-6533, Certificate Chairman.			



## MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

New Associate Member **Jim Strutz** would like any information you can provide regarding his father, **WILLIAM JOSEPH STRUTZ** or his unit **HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, 100TH INFANTRY DIVISION**. If you can supply any information, write to Jim at: 816 Park Street, Alexandria, Minnesota 56308.

**Albert Pepe** is interested in getting in touch with anyone who served in the **526TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, COMPANY A**. Please write to him at: 321 Clay Street #21, Ashland, Oregon 97520.

**JAMES B. WHITE, 80TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 317TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, COMPANY L**, would like to find three soldiers in a tank who saved his life. He was wounded in the abdomen on Christmas Day, 1944, in Luxembourg. One soldier thought he was dead and the other one said they would take him anyway. They laid him on the tank and one of the soldiers laid on top of him to keep him from rolling off. The next thing he remembers is waking up in a field hospital. He would personally like to thank them. Contact James at PO Box 244, Rosamond, California 93560 or telephone at 661-256-3204.

**H. GERARD ERATH, 666TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, BATTERY C**, would like to hear from anyone who may have served with him. Hurricane Katrina totalled his home and all his personal items. Gerald's address is: 1205 St. Charles Avenue #805, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130.

Peter Lion is looking for anyone who may have known or served with **GEORGE MERGENTHALER, 28TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 110TH REGIMENT**. Private Mergenthaler was killed in action outside the Town of Eschweiler on December 18, 1944. If you have information, contact Peter at: 121 Indian Hill Road, Canton, Connecticut 06019.

Michael Gustman is looking for information regarding his grandfather, **MILTON GUSTMAN, 134TH AAA GUN BRIGADE** and while at Ft. Bliss a part of **49TH AA BRIGADE, 32ND FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE**. Write to Michael at: 101 Plaza Real S #527, Boca Raton, Florida 33432.

**HARRY PRITTS, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, 16TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, COMPANY A**, wants to know if anyone knows what happened January 15, 1945, at Faymonsville. Let Harry know at: HC 72, Box 362, Keyser, West Virginia 26726-9604. *[Let us know too.]*

**WALTER R. CHRISTOPHER, 398TH ENGINEER GS REGIMENT (ATTACHED TO 2ND CAVALRY GROUP (MECHANIZED))** would like to hear from any one who was with or can provide information regarding the 2nd Cavalry. Hopefully you can help him. Write to him at: 332 Dun Station Road, Prosperity, Pennsylvania 15329-1528.

## KEEPING AN EYE ON OUR FREEDOM

*[Excerpts from Hometown Newspaper dated October 12, 2004, regarding EUGENE L. GAULKE, 20TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION.]*

When Gene Gaulke set his sights on joining the U.S. Navy in 1944, he did not let a vision problem stand in his way.

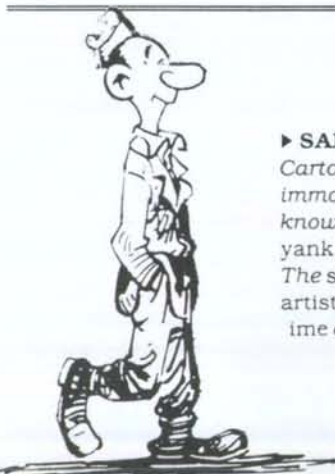
Gaulke, who had practically no sight in his left eye, was not cleared for enlistment. He did not want to give up. He did not want to be left out of the war. Nor did he want to carry the stigma of a 4-F classification for his lifetime. He wanted to fight for his country and to live to tell his children and grandchildren about it. So, he waited for his next opportunity, the draft.

He was drafted on September 26, 1944, and sent to Fort Snelling, Minnesota, for his physical. With a determination to serve in the military in his heart and the disappointment of the Des Moines trip lingering in his head, Gaulke stood in line for his turn at the eye chart. While he waited, he watched--not taking his eyes off the black letters and numbers on the white board. With his good right eye closed and his left eye open, he rattled off the letters in perfect sequence. He had memorized the chart and passed the test. He was later tested by an optometrist and it was determined he did not have sufficient sight in his left eye. He did not want to return home a 4-F, so with his sights set on staying, he sold his superiors on a solution: he would aim his rifle with his good right eye.

He was assigned to the 10th Armored Division which was headed for Bastogne. At their first stop Gaulke jumped into a foxhole and found three dead GIs. A PFC from New York calmed Gaulke's spirits and restored his morale by reminding him that death happens in all places, whether it be the heart of the battlefield or the safe haven of hometown, Clarion. And so, Gaulke traveled on.

Even with his limited vision, Gaulke saw much action in WWII. He, like so many others including ordinary men and women from Clarion, set his sights on serving his country. Because of the vision and dedication of the "Greatest Generation," we won the war and have our freedom today.

*[On October 12, 2004, Gene was awarded the Bronze Star for his service in World War II in Europe at the Battle of the Bulge in Bastogne.]*



### ► SAD SACK

Cartoonist George Baker immortalized the soldier, also known as a dogface or yank, bewildered by his duties. The sack was bed, and a sack artist was one who had sack time down to a science.



# VBOB QUARTERMASTER ORDER FORM May, 2006

Please ship the following items to:

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

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

Item Description	Price Each	Quantity	Total Price
VBOB Logo Patch - 3"	\$ 4.50		\$
VBOB Logo Patch - 4"	\$ 5.50		\$
VBOB Logo Decal - 4"	\$ 1.25		\$
VBOB Windshield Logo - 4"	\$ 1.25		\$
VBOB Logo Stickers - 1 1/8" (in quantities of 10)	10 for \$1.25		\$
Baseball Cap w/3" VBOB Logo Patch - Navy only	\$ 10.00		\$
Windbreaker w/4" VBOB Logo Patch - Navy only Please circle size (they run a little snug): S M L XL XXL XXXL (XXL and XXXL - see prices)	\$ 25.00 (S, M, L and XL) \$ 26.00 for XXL \$ 27.00 for XXXL		\$
VBOB Logo Lapel Pin - 1/2"	\$ 5.00		\$
Miniature VBOB Logo Medal w/Ribbon (pin on type)	\$ 8.50		\$
VBOB Logo Belt Buckle - Silver tone or Gold tone (Please circle choice)	\$ 16.00		\$
VBOB Logo Bolo Tie - Silver tone or Gold tone (Please circle choice)	\$ 16.00		\$
VBOB License Plate Frame w/Logos - White plastic w/Black printing	\$ 5.00		\$
VBOB 100 Sheet Notepad w/Logo - "This Note Is From... A Veteran of the Battle of the Bulge" - White paper with Blue printing	\$ 3.00		\$
<b>BACK IN STOCK</b> Large VBOB Logo Neck Medallion w/ribbon Ideal for insertion in medal shadow box	\$ 25.00		\$
VBOB Tote Bag--SOLD OUT			\$

Only Cash, Check, or Money Order Accepted

Make checks payable to: "VBOB" - and mail orders to VBOB-QM, PO Box 101418, Arlington, VA 22210-4418

**DO NOT INCLUDE ANY OTHER MONIES WITH QM PAYMENT**

Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery

Shipping and Handling:

\$0.00 to \$5.00 - \$ 2.00

\$5.01 to \$10.00 - \$ 3.00

\$10.01 and over - \$ 4.00

Please add \$1.00 to for all items shipped outside the USA.

Cost of Items: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

S&H: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Office Use Only - Do Not Write Below This Line**

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Mailed: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment: Cash Check MO

Check No.: \_\_\_\_\_





# VETERANS of the BATTLE of the BULGE

P.O. Box 101418  
Arlington, Virginia 22210-4418

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Arlington, VA  
Permit No. 468



**MAY, 2006**



A018090 08/12/06  
RALPH W. BOZORTH  
608 TREATY RD  
PLYMOUTH MEETING PA 19462-2317



The Slugger Museum

**STEP UP TO THE PLATE...  
MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW FOR THE REUNION  
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY  
October 9-14, 2006  
Complete details in this issue.**

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Do not write above this line



## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

PO Box 101418, Arlington, Virginia 22210-4418

**Annual Dues \$15**

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Do not write above this line

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal - Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

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

*All new members, please provide the following information:*

Campaign(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Unit(s) to which assigned during period December 16, 1944 - January 25, 1945 - Division \_\_\_\_\_

Regiment \_\_\_\_\_ Battalion \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Make check or money order payable to VBOB  
and mail with this application to above address:

Applicants Signature \_\_\_\_\_

RECRUITER (Optional)