

The BULGE BUGLE

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THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

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In combat, the field artillery has two ways to locate its targets; unobserved fire, in which the target cannot be seen and is identified either by intelligence that has been provided or by firing at a location found on the map. For example, you might fire at an important crossroad. It is, in effect, firing blind. The second way is to have someone up front who can observe the enemy and his activity and radio back to the battalion fire direction center (FDC) both his exact location and the location and details of the target he proposes to take under fire. That is the job of the Forward Observer, (the "F.O.").

THE FIELD ARTILLERY FORWARD OBSERVER

BY M. J. "Mike" Levin – see page 8

*We're
Looking to see You...*

**MAKE PLANS
NOW TO
ATTEND THE
CHICAGO AREA
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**SEPTEMBER 25-30
2007**

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

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Publisher/Chief Editor:

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9th Infantry Division

Contributing Editors:

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Historical Research:
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•ALABAMA•

GEN. GEORGE S. PATTON, JR. (XI)
Victor R. Neiland 256-881-3508
510 Suhill Rd
Huntsville, AL 35802-2443

•ARIZONA•

ARIZONA (XXVI)
Philip R. France 480-325-2695
3330 E Main St
Mesa, AZ 85213-8647

SOUTHERN ARIZONA (LIII)

George W. McGee 520-296-3220
7830 E Hampton St
Tucson, AZ 85715-4214

•BELGIUM•

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

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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 925-937-4416
1510 Encanto Pl
Walnut Creek, CA 94597-2319

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Gordon Heame 818-784-8980
4363 Hayvenhurst Ave
Encino, CA 91436

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 Alccve St
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PO Box 7247
Colorado Springs, CO 80933-7247

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Charles Gaffney 302-762-3023
907 Shipley Rd
Wilmington, DE 19803-4927

•FLORIDA•

CENTRAL FLORIDA (XVIII)
Contact: Robert L. Stevenson 407-664-9997
2133 Lake Dr
Winter Park, FL 32789

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 Hernlock St
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3456 S Ocean Blvd #503
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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)
Carroll E. Austin 219-365-5668
9260 Schilton Ave
St. John, IN 46373

CENTRAL INDIANA (XLVII)
Robert R. Cooper 317-291-2668
3436 Beller Ave
Indianapolis, IN 46224-1920

•IOWA•

IOWA (XXIV)
(Chapter no longer functioning)

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

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LAMAR SOUTTER/CENTRAL
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(President's name needed)

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WEST MICHIGAN (XXIII)
Wayne Mertier (Vice President) 231-271-3129
12250 E Lovers Ln
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GREAT LAKES (XXI)

Chapter now defunct

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MISSISSIPPI (XXXIII)
Manning Cooper 601-825-4479
78 Fern Valley Rd
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•MISSOURI•

GATEWAY (XXV)
W. Kent Stephens 618-344-1616
107 Bluffview Lane
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Gerald E. Mount 973-697-5875
40 Old Hoop Pole Rd
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FORT MONMOUTH (LVI)
Edward Tunell 732-264-5447
3 Chestnut Dr
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FORT DIX/MCGUIRE AFB (LX)
Lloyd Orth 856-235-0504
10 Locust Ct
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

SOUTH JERSEY (LXI)
Sus Eppe (VP) 609-463-9690
45 S Desea Dr
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(Chapter no longer functioning)

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James A. Wilson 518-393-2384
19 Park Pl
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1252 Campbell Rd
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NORTH CAROLINA (IX)
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471 Turlington Rd
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NORTH DAKOTA (XX)
Harry Swendson (Secretary) 701-567-2308
PO Box 55
Hettinger, SD 58639

•OHIO•

BLANCHARD VALLEY (XLII)
Richard H. Switzer 419-435-5277
4361 N.U.S. 23
Fostoria, OH 44830

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)
Leroy Schaller 724-238-2297
1839 Route 259
Bolivar, Pennsylvania 15923

OHIO VALLEY (XXXI)
Pete Yanchik 724-375-6451
1161 Airport Rd
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237 Willow Valley Dr
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125 Richard Garr Rd
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3419 Foster Ln
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CUMBERLAND VALLEY (LXV)
John W. Fague 717-530-8817
306 Lurgan Ave
Shippensburg, PA 17257

•RHODE ISLAND•

RHODE ISLAND (XXIV)
Manuel Riberio 401-253-7369
50 Greylock Rd
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•SOUTH CAROLINA•

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

•TEXAS•

GREATER HOUSTON (XXVII)
(Chapter is functioning--
please advise contact again.)

BEN FREEMAN (XXXVII)
Leon St. Pierre 903-561-7116
3325 Bain Pl
Tyler, TX 75701-8871

ALAMO (XLVI)
John Hamilton 210-696-1904
9603 Tioga Drive
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LONE STAR (L)
Charles J. Kam 214-324-9200
8042 Hunnicut Rd
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CRATER (XLIII)
W. Eaxter Perkinson 804-590-1185
9441 W. River Rd.
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•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 WOULD LIKE TO START A
CHAPTER IN YOUR AREA, LET US KNOW,
WE'LL SEND YOU NECESSARY DETAILS.

President's Message

It was worth every nickel, every ounce of effort, head on confrontation with obstacles, disappointments, and sleepless nights throughout many years, but we fulfilled our 'pie in the sky' dream with the dedication of our Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery on May 8, 2006. To date we are still being recognized and folks across the country are continually and currently being educated about the Battle of the Bulge, our experiences, our organization and memorial. We're 'on the map'! Currently Barnes & Noble bookstores are carrying a beautiful hard cover book entitled, *Where Valor Rests—Arlington National Cemetery*, written by Superintendent John C. Metzler, Jr. and Pulitzer Prize Author Rick



Stanley Wojtusik

Atkinson published by National Geographic. In this beautiful piece Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge are pictured full page in color (pgs 130 & 133) along with a current map of Arlington National Cemetery identifying in print the location of our Memorial in Area 21 at Porter and McPherson Avenue. (Pg 29). This map, along with an excerpt from the book, is also featured in the June issue of *National Geographic* magazine.

More and more newspapers and other publications are featuring our individual stories and requests for personal appearances and presentations are very much alive. The determination of our good friend, Congressman Chris Smith, of New Jersey, who carved our memorial project through the bureaucracy relentlessly forges ahead on our behalf for sufficient funding for veterans health services and benefits. His legislative office is diligently assisting us with obtaining an official charter allowing us to continue to be recognized along with VFW, American Legion, Military Order of Purple Heart, Disabled Veterans, etc.

You, who survive, are The Organization and are never forgotten by the different embassies in Washington, D.C. who always invite us to events scheduled throughout the year. The most recent was for a reception in honor of Mr. Paul Schmit's retirement from the Embassy of Luxembourg as Deputy Chief of Mission. At his request, I convey to you his sincere thanks for the opportunity to be with us and his pleasure while working along with us. He wished us all good health, everlasting happiness and continued success with our organization and will miss us.

Quoting a newspaper article from England the reporter describes attendance at a memorial: 'Each year I go, there are fewer veterans and those who do get there are visibly slower.' Each year I am always so pleased to see the robust energy and enthusiasm of our veterans, their families and friends at our reunions. Many 'attention-getting' programs are planned for our upcoming reunion in Lincolnshire, Illinois, (Chicago Area) September 25-30, 2007. Hopefully, you will be registering to

attend and be officially noticed by your 'vim and vigor' while participating in the many interesting events, enjoying the good food and camaraderie with friends. Brigadier General John W. Nicholson, USA (Ret.), Secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission, accepted with great pleasure our invitation to be our featured speaker at the Banquet. We still have the spirit and the 'get-up-and-go' and I look forward to seeing you there.

During the remaining time as President, my hope is that the tail end of 2007 will be sufficient to support my vision for continuing success of this organization. My honor in being recently elected Director of Wreaths Across America Inc., makes me very excited and happy knowing that while representing you, the organization will be fulfilling our mission and goal in perpetuating the honor and memory of the sacrifices of our fallen comrades, preserving the true history, spreading peace and goodwill and promoting friendship among survivors and their descendants. Our friends, Karen and Morrill Worcester have donated and will be escorting 93 tractor-trailers carrying Wreaths to be placed at the gravesite of our valiant heroes at Christmas on Saturday, December 15th at Arlington National Cemetery. This spectacular outpouring of love, patriotism and generosity of the Worcester family has become contagious and given birth to a week long Veterans' Parade from Harrington, Maine, to Arlington National Cemetery along 700 plus miles of streets lined by 'America' to include stops at schools, town halls and veterans' homes to promote awareness and patriotism. Interest world-wide has encouraged 'Wreaths Across America Inc.' to expand their mission to Remember the fallen, Honor those who serve & Teach our children the value of freedom and the sacrifices of our service men and women and are now offering the general public an opportunity to show their appreciation for the freedom we enjoy by sponsoring a wreath to remember our men and women in military cemeteries throughout the states and national veterans' cemeteries representing each branch of the armed forces here and abroad. You will be receiving more information on this program, but in the meantime contact me on the website www.wreathsafteramerica.org or write to my attention: Wreaths Across America, P.O.Box 214, Harrington, ME 04643. Be sure to identify Veteran of the Battle of the Bulge.

'Til then, be strong, be healthy, be happy...!!

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VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

WEB SITE: www.battleofthebulge.org

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

106TH NOT RECOGNIZED

[Edited slightly] I came across the article, on page 25, indicating a book *Alamo in the Ardennes* was soon to be published. The release date was supposed to be March 5, 2007.

Nowhere in the write-up, in bold print, did I see a reference to the 106th Infantry Division. ... Evidently he has not researched the maps and battle positions of all those outfits that participated in the Battle of the Bulge.

..., he would have noticed that the 106th Division, with three regiments of infantry spread over 26 miles of front each of St. Vith was hit by the major thrust of the German Fifth Panzer Army, in the center and southern flank and the Sixth SS Panzer Army north of center.

He would also have noticed that the 14th Cavalry, as well as the 422nd and 423rd Infantry Regiments of the 106th Infantry Division, while taking very heavy casualties delayed the Germans to such an extent that it was six days before the Germans were able to take St. Vith. That delay alone was a major factor in the final defeat of the Germans. That delay was a contributing factor in causing the Germans to run out of fuel for their tanks.

I am not detracting from the brave fighting and courage of the men in those other divisions and units who fought in the battle and I recognize that the stand of th(adviseable) [as received], I refer you to the book *St Vith Lion in the Way*, by Colonel R. Ernest Dupuy, published and copyrighted, in 1949, by Infantry Journal Press, Inc., Washington, DC. This is the history of the 106th Infantry Division, from its inception on November 29, 1942, to the decommissioning in 1945.

In my opinion, before any such book purporting to be an accounting of such a horrendous battle ought to have been reviewed at least by people who were familiar with the entire picture. Not just some incidents by a few. I am sorry to say that this is just another example of "the sign of the times." The 101st Airborne Division at Bastogne, along with the advance of Patton's 3rd Army was the turning point."

However, I do strongly think that the 106th Division deserves at least a little credit for having held the Germans those precious six days, at a cost of over 6,600 dead, wounded, missing and captured brave soldiers. We continued to fight and support the combat throughout the battle, albeit with only a minimum strength 424th Infantry Regiment and one battalion of artillery, the 589th (four 105 MM Howitzers), as well as eight engineers from our 81st Engineer Battalion. We were finally relieved in mid-March. Also re: article "U.S. & German Field Artillery...."

A glaring error concerns the infantry divisions on the front lines of December 16, 1944.

First, the major thrust of the German offensive was in the region manned by the 106th Infantry Division--not the 2nd Infantry Division. The 2nd was relieved man for man and gun for gun on December 10, 11 and 12, 1944, by the 106th Infantry Division. We held our positions for five days while the divisions on either flank gave way within the first two days. Have you ever heard of St. Vith, Belgium? We

lost over 6,000 casualties (killed captured and wounded) those first five days.

Second, the records show that we were expert in the use of both the 105MM and the 155MM Howitzers. One of the reasons the Germans were held up for those five days.

Robert S. Scherer
106 INF DIV HQ

FRENCH MEDAL OF HONOR

I was a member of the 307th Airborne Medical Company, 82nd Airborne Division, during WWII. A while back I received the highest and most prestigious award from the Republic of France.

Of only 14 Americans, I was awarded the French Medal of Honor, the first time given in the United States. Prior to this time (since Napoleon's day) it was only given in France.

Amelio Cucinelli
82 ABND 307 ABN MED CO

48 DAYS IN BASTOGNE

I was in the 101st Airborne Division with the 907th Glider Field Artillery Battalion, B Battery, Gun #3. We had the snub nose 105 mm.

We were in the encirclement in the Battle of the Bulge in Bastogne. We were there for 48 days and had plenty of incoming artillery and they were 88's not 105's. I don't know where all the information about 105's came from.

When you heard the shell coming and you could feel it and the ground it was not an 88. But let me tell you they were all 88's that came in at us. The 88's were smaller than the 105's, but nearly twice as long.

If we were there now I could show you just where some are--they went into the ground and never went off. In fact of all the artillery guns we captured, we never saw a German 105. Talk of resupply--all through France and Holland the Germans never had to move artillery shells. They were stacked in piles all over the country. They just set up the gun by the shells and started shooting and those piles were all 88's.

G. A. "Bud" Lauer
101 ABND 907 GIB B

THANKS TO MR. BIGGIO

I would like to elaborate on the excellent article on the organization and operation of the field artillery by Charles Biggio, Jr., that was in the November issue of *The Bugle*.

In addition to the artillery battalions that are part of infantry divisions, there are artillery battalions attached to corps that are sent in support of infantry divisions within the corps area that need added fire power.

My battalion artillery, the 955th Field Artillery 155 mm Battalion was part of the V Corps artillery organization. Our battalion received a special letter of commendation from the CO of the 1st Infantry Division for our support of the 26th Infantry Regiment in the Bullingen-Monchow area during the Bulge. Our after action report of January 31, 1945, indicates that the 955th FA Bn had fired in combat

50,000 rounds since our arrival shortly after D-Day into Normandy.

Thanks for Mr Biggio's artillery article.

P.S. Our battalion at the end of the war was awarded five battle stars.

E. W. Mortensen
955 FA BN HQ

WHY NO FORWARD OBSERVERS?

I spent four years in the 4th Armored Division as a forward observer during the war.

I write as I would like to see something in our *Bulge Bugle* about the duties of the forward observers--FO as we were called.

I was in the Headquarters Battery of the 66th Field Artillery Battalion and trained as a forward observer. We had three medium tanks. We traveled next to the first tank in all actions. When the tank commander needed artillery, we went into action.

Without the FO's the artillery couldn't fire accurately because we called for fire. We could see the target and the guns could not. Without us observing where the guns were. They couldn't see and we could. The T05's could fire to a coordinance but couldn't see the target. Our artillery was the best--ask Col. Leach.

There were a lot of FO's in the 4th and I would like to see something written in *The Bugle*, explaining what we did, always up on the line. Our 105's could not fire accurately without the FO's as we could see the hits on all the targets. We helped a lot to end the conflict.

My call sign was Fox Dog 23.

I am now living in a retirement home and doing pretty good--I am 89 years old. I will never forget those days up on the line and the other days. I lived with the finest people ever in my life. Most of them are gone and remembered.

Albert Gaydos
66 FA BN HQ

[Editor: I believe you will find some information regarding forward observers in this issue. Remember, we print what we receive--we have no research staff and depend on you for our stories.]

REBUTTAL TO PREVIOUS ARTILLERY ARTICLE

In my article in *The Bulge Bugle* of November, 2006, on the U.S. & German Field Artillery in the BoB, I stated that by December, 1944, the American field artillery had rid itself of all WWI cannon and replaced them with ones of American design and manufacture. I stand by that statement.

In response to my article, Mike Nosanov, of the 11th Armored Division, wrote to challenge my article as a "contrived effort of a feuilletonist." He maintains that he saw a French 75mm gun being fired in the BOB by American soldiers of an armored infantry company of his division.

The French 75mm gun (1897) was designed and

manufactured by the French--and was France's main light artillery piece in WWI. Since it was the best gun of its caliber at that era, and since they were plentiful in France, the American AEF decided to use the French 75 as their main light artillery weapon both during WWI and between the great wars. By 1942 the U.S. had developed a 105mm howitzer to replace the French 75 as the U.S. field artillery's main light artillery piece--and the French 75 was phased out. By 1944 there were no French 75's left in the units of the U.S. field artillery.

I realize that Mr. Nosanov firmly believes that he saw a French 75 in action with his 11th Armored Division in the Bulge; however, after thoroughly searching the army files in the Archives and reading all the pertinent books on this subject, I have found no evidence at all to support his contention.

The TO&E 17 of February, 1944, lists all of the equipment authorized by the U.S. armored divisions. The only cannon that were authorized in To&E 17 for the armored division in 1944 were as follows: (1) The field artillery of the armored division was authorized eighteen 105mm howitzers, self-propelled for each of its three artillery battalions--a total of 54 for the entire division artillery. (2) There were seventeen 75mm howitzers (SP) authorized for the armored division--eight in the cavalry reconnaissance squadrons and nine in the armored infantry battalions. These were considered infantry weapons, and did not operate under field artillery control. (3) There were thirty 57mm guns, towed, authorized for the armored division. These also were controlled by the infantry. (4) A 105mm howitzer was also authorized as the main gun of each medium tank in the division. There were no other cannon authorized for the armored division.

I am not arguing that it was impossible for Mr. Nosanov to have seen a French 75 in December of 1944. But I can find no evidence that one was there that day. I believe that what he saw was one of the 57mm guns, towed, by the armored infantry battalions and mistook for a French 75. I wonder if any other members of an armored division which took part in the Bulge thought he saw a French 75 during the battle?

Charles P. Biggio, Jr.
99 INF

TANK DESTROYERS

As a former tank destroyer soldier and a long-time member of VBOB, I appreciate your publishing Ralph Storm's article "Tank Destroyers" in the February 2007 issue of *The Bulge Bugle* which received top notice of the article on the cover, although I must say their mission was offensive instead of defensive, as mentioned on the cover.

Storm dealt well with most of the high points of the strengths and weaknesses of tank destroyer doctrine, tactics, and weapons used during the brief existence of this new "branch of the army." It would have been appropriate for him to mention Major General A. D. Bruce, who established the then Camp Hood for implementing the Tank Destroyer Force. He is known as the "Father of Fort Hood," as inscribed on a state historical marker at the fort.

It must be remembered that the Tank Destroyer Force,

initiated by General George C. Marshal, nurtured by Lieutenant General Lesley J. McNair, and implemented by Major General A. D. Bruce, found that the battlefields and the enemy's combined arms tactics forbade the tank destroyers from implementing its prescribed doctrine. Instead, the tank destroyers developed a new doctrine on their own, creating success where it counted most--on the battlefields of Europe.

Calvin C. Boykin, Jr
7 ARMD 814 TD BN RECON
President, WWI Tank Destroyer Society

BROUGHT BACK MEMORIES

On page 20 of the May copy of *The Bugle*, there appeared an article entitled "Barracuda Restored."

I read this article several times because it brought back many memories.

I drove a tank in Company B and was close by when the Barracuda was hit. I remember those men mentioned. Capt. Ameno was CO. His last words were "The enemy is retreating north, shoot the s--- out of them." ...my tank commander, First Lt. Williamson became CO and rode in my tank for a couple of days and then was wounded after the war was over.

Pvt Goldstein wrote a letter about his ordeal as a POW. I received a copy of the letter and I am glad I was never a POW.

Roy A. Minnerly
11 ARMD 41 TK BN B

OVERSIGHT?

Having received the multi-colored certificate of participation in the Ardennes, I am impressed by its craftsmanship making it a symbol of pride to the recipients and their families. There is; however, a 'glitch' of oversight in the recording of the number of divisions so shown. Specifically, the absence of the insignia of the 104th Infantry Division; one having seen protracted combat at the northern extremity of the Bulge. This absence needs correction to justify the memory of the 16,000 who served, fought and died, in the "Pine Tree" Division.

Possibly a properly designed paste-on recognition would suffice, not requiring a redo of format. Whatever, this outfit merits honoring as others, not inadvertently slighted, as now.

I believe this of sufficient importance to be included in "Letters to the Editor" soliciting input.

Phillip W. Robbins
4 INF 12 INF 2 BN

[The insignia shown on the VBOB certificates are those included in the General Order #114 issued by the War Department 7 December 1945. As there were over 2,000 individual units entitled to the Ardennes credit, it would have been impossible to include all. Therefore, those groups not shown are encouraged to place their patch on the certificate before framing.]

STILL PROUD

I really enjoy reading all the articles in *The Bulge Bugle*.

I was a member of Company C, 202nd Engineer Combat Battalion and was shelled by the Germans at Stavelot, Belgium ... December 16, 1944.

I was driving the command car that led our company out of the town to 1st Army Headquarters in Spa. Our acting company commander, Lt. Chinlund, told 1st Army officers of our encounter with the Germans. They informed him they didn't know the Germans were that close. Our company ended up in Liege, Belgium, during Christmas of '44.

I am still a proud veteran of 83 who helped serve to "Keep America Free." My wife and I are hosting our company's reunion on July 26-28. Our Company C has held a reunion every year since 1954--the last full week in July. This year's reunion (2006) was held in New Oxford, Pennsylvania. One of our buddies came that we hadn't seen in 61 years. I believe he now regrets that he never attended any of our previous reunions. Seventy-eight percent of our company came from Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Carl C. Miller
202 ENGR CMBT BN C

[Thanks for the kind words, Carl. We try to emphasize to our members the importance of attending reunions. No one ever understands like those who were there.]

MISSISSIPPI MONUMENT

In the April 2007 issue of *The Bulge Bugle*, the "President's Message" lists the memorials (monuments) to the VBOB in the U.S.A.

We were disappointed that the Mississippi monument located at the Armed Forces Museum in Camp Shelby [the post office apparently got Mr. Hunt's letter caught up in one of its machines, but we got the message. That particular newsletter item resulted in a number of chapters telling us that the memorials in their vicinity had not been mentioned. We have two of them covered in this issue. I'm not sure if we ran a picture of the monument at Camp Shelby, but it was mentioned in three or four earlier newsletters. Please send us another picture and we'll cover it in a future issue. The same applies if your chapter's memorial was never in the newsletter. Send us a short story regarding same and a picture. No oversight was intentional.]

James W. Hunt
1 INF 1

BATTLE FOR TILLET

With regard to the article "Setting the Record Straight," by Thomas Williams, I think a little more straightening is in order. While the 761st Tank Battalion was a good outfit, and does deserve a lot of credit, they have been credited with far more than their real accomplishments. Because they were a black unit there have been an unfortunate number of actions that they have been credited with that embellish the truth to say the least. Over the years some of these stories have taken on a life of their own.

REUNIONS

2ND ARMORED DIVISION & 17TH ARMORED ENGINEER BATTALION, September 12-16, 2007, Columbus, Georgia. Contact: John A. Shields, PO Box 106, East Butler, Georgia 16029. Telephone: 724-287-4301.

2ND CAVALRY DIVISION, November 8-11, 2007, Vienna, Virginia. Contact: 2nd Cavalry Association, 87 Overall Phillips Road, Elizabethtown, Kentucky 42701.

4TH ARMORED DIVISION, September 3-9, 2007, Niagara Falls, New York. Contact: 4th Armored Division Association, 760 Crestview Drive, Sharpsville, Pennsylvania 16150-8332.

5TH ARMORED DIVISION, August 16-19, 2007, Canton, Ohio. Contact: Jeffrey C. Smith, 404 West 12th Street, Dover, Ohio 44622. Telephone: 330-454-5000.

7TH ARMORED DIVISION, September 27-October 1, 2007, Virginia Beach, Virginia. Contact: Cheryl M. Higley, 292 Scott Swamp Road, Farmington, Connecticut 06032. Telephone: 860-678-1018.

17TH ARMORED ENGINEER BATTALION--see 2nd Armored Division.

17TH AIRBORNE DIVISION, October 4-7, 2007, Hampton, Virginia. Contact: Edward J. Siergiej, PO Box 4793, Dowling Park, Florida 32064. Telephone: 386-658-1292. *As the association is dissolving, this will be their last reunion--try to make it.*

30TH INFANTRY DIVISION, September 19-23, 2007, Raleigh, North Carolina. Contact: 30th INFD, LTC Cliff Wilkins, 1501 Lafayette Avenue, Rocky Mount, North Carolina 27803.

35TH INFANTRY DIVISION, September 27-30, 2007, St. Louis, Missouri. Contact: 35th Division, PO Box 5004, Topeka, Kansas 66605.

38TH SIGNAL BATTALION, September 27-30, 2007, Eatontown, New Jersey. Contact: Bill Foiles, 2208 Dunvegan Drive, Columbia, South Carolina 29209-3012. Telephone: 803-776-1114.

44TH INFANTRY DIVISION, September 15-19, 2007, Springfield, Illinois. Contact: John E. Conrad, 11361 Taylor Pines Drive, Maryland Heights, Missouri 63043. Telephone: 314-739-8408.

75TH INFANTRY DIVISION, August 29-September 1, 2007, Kansas City, Missouri. Contact: Jim Warmouth, 6545 West 11th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46214. (Correction on state)

78TH INFANTRY DIVISION, September 24-28, Louisville, Kentucky. Contact: 78 INFD, 104 Oak Glen Road, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15237.

84TH INFANTRY DIVISION, August 24-26, 2007, Springfield, Illinois. Contact: Troy Mallory. Telephone: 217-223-9062.

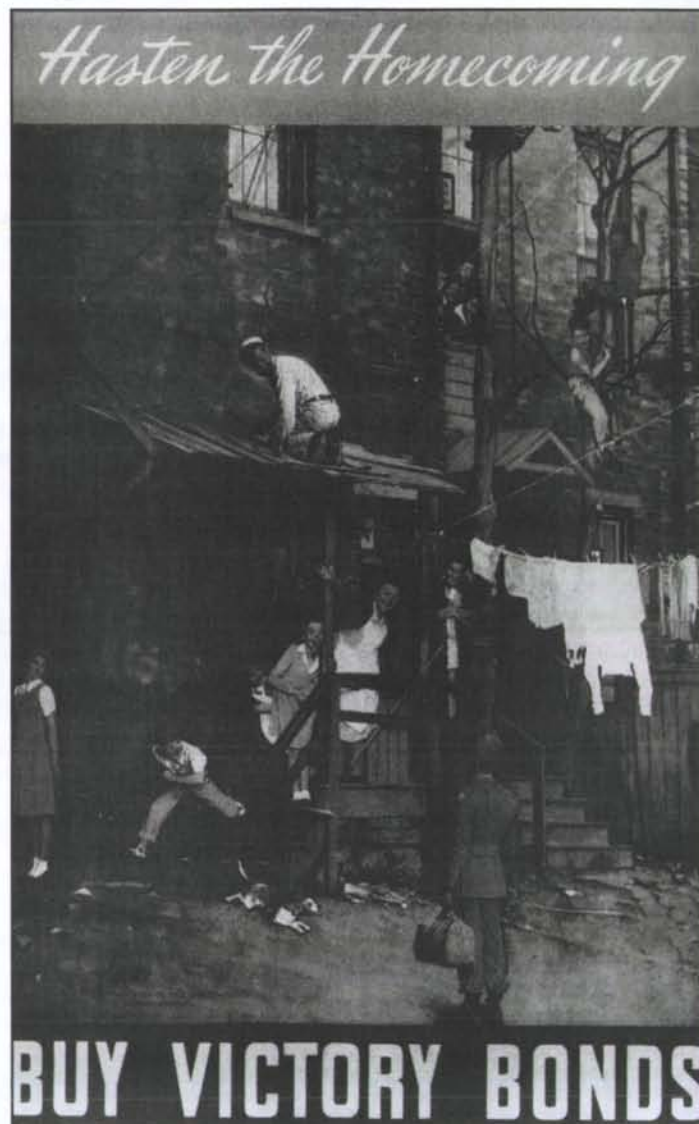
87TH INFANTRY DIVISION, October 7-13, 2007, Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Contact: 87 INFD, 400 Hemlock Road, Flourtown, Pennsylvania 19031-2211.

90TH INFANTRY DIVISION, August 9-12, 2007, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Contact: James R. Reid, Sr. Telephone: 630-789-0204.

296TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, September 26-28, 2007, Sturbridge, Massachusetts. Contact: Joseph Civitillo, 9 Ireland Road, Wethersfield, Connecticut 06109.

526TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, August 29-September 2, 2007, Cody, Wyoming. Contact: Sherrie Morrison, P.O. Box 456, Yolo, California 95697. Telephone: 530-662-8160.

740TH TANK BATTALION, August 30-September 2, 2007, Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas. Contact: 740th Tank Battalion, PO Box 202549, Arlington, Texas 76006.



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 1939-1945 73 X 51 cm

Artist: Norman Rockwell

The family and neighbours welcome a returned soldier. Poster taken from a cover painting for Saturday Evening Post

America must never forget the debt we owe the World War II generation.

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The Field Artillery Forward Observer

By M. J. "Mike" Levin
7th Armored Div, 489th AFA Bn, A Btry

In combat, the field artillery has two ways to locate its targets; unobserved fire, in which the target cannot be seen and is identified either by intelligence that has been provided or by firing at a location found on the map. For example, you might fire at an important crossroad. It is, in effect, firing blind. The second way is to have someone up front who can observe the enemy and his activity and radio back to the battalion fire direction center (FDC) both his exact location and the location and details of the target he proposes to take under fire. That is the job of the Forward Observer, (the "F.O.").

Using unobserved fire you might never know how close to your target your rounds landed or what damage you may have caused to the enemy because nobody was looking. With a Forward Observer you have someone not only directing the fire, but able to report the results. There is a down side to the F.O. job, however. In order to do his job effectively he has to be out front, usually in front of the troops he is supporting. The casualty rate among F.O.'s was very high. You had to try to make yourself as invisible as possible; hide your insignia and make sure whatever equipment you were using didn't betray what you were doing.

In Armored Divisions, the F.O. was normally a 1st Lt. or a 2nd Lt. He was provided a jeep, a sergeant, a driver/radio operator and a two part demountable radio (SCR 610). One part was the radio itself; the second part was a battery pack. The battery pack recharged itself when mounted in the vehicle with the motor running. Each part weighed between 20 and 30 pounds. The radio operated on frequency modulation (FM) and was limited to "line of sight" transmission. Because of this technical limitation, the F.O. was also provided a relay vehicle, (a half track), which was able to relay transmissions, when the territory between the F.O. and the Fire Direction Center interfered with line of sight communications.

The F.O. would normally "adjust" fire, (that is, zero in on a target) using one of the six 105mm self-propelled howitzers in his battery. Once adjusted on target, depending on the size and importance of the target, the S3, (who ran the Fire Direction Center) would determine the number of weapons to be used on the target when the F.O. called "Fire For Effect".

The Fire Direction Center is critical to effective artillery battalion operations. In the case of unobserved fire the center must not only react to requests for fire based on incoming target information; they must also maintain meteorological and related information such as ambient temperature, wind speed and direction and even temperature of the gunpowder. These factors are important when no one is observing the target because they all affect the trajectory and therefore the accuracy of the fire. When a Forward Observer is

conducting the artillery fire these factors are not important because the F.O. will "adjust" the fire until it is on target.

During combat most of the artillery shells we received were equipped with adjustable fuses. For example, we could set them to detonate on contact ("Fuse Quick") or to detonate after penetrating a target ("Fuse Delay")

During the Battle of The Bulge we started to receive shells with a newly developed fuse that did not require any setting. It was called a "proximity fuse" because it would automatically detonate the shell at the proper distance from the target. We called it "posit". Unlike most military equipment, however, which usually came with detailed instructions or Field Manuals, they rushed the proximity fuse into combat with no instructions whatsoever. We understood only that the posit apparently contained a small radar-like transmitter under its plastic nose cone.

We had no problem adjusting fire using one howitzer shell at a time with posit fuses. Before very long, however, we started to hear stories of shrapnel falling on friendly forces. It took some detective work to figure out what was happening. Once the F.O. had adjusted fire the Fire Direction Center would direct fire for effect, using one battery (six howitzers) or, depending on the target, the entire battalion (eighteen howitzers). For maximum surprise, they would usually call for "volley" fire; that is, all the guns would fire together. There was the problem! The shells would self detonate if close to another shell in flight. The fix was very simple. Instead of firing by volley, we would fire by salvo fire; that is, --gun # 1 -- Fire, gun # 2 -- Fire, gun # 3 -- Fire, etc. No more shrapnel on friendly troops.

The writer of these notes would ask his kind readers to be easy on him if they find mistakes. His sixty two year old memory just "ain't" what it used to be.

(Editor's Note: Mike Levin received his commission at Ft Sill, Oklahoma, Officer Candidate School (OCS), and was assigned as a Forward Observer to the 489th Armored Field Artillery, A Battery of the 7th Armored Division. Mike was asked to prepare this article and is a member of the MD/DC Chapter of VBOB)

WEARING MILITARY MEDALS

Army Regulation 670-1, "Wear and Appearance of Army Uniform and Insignia," allows retired soldiers to "wear all categories of medals (described in this regulation) on appropriate civilian clothing. This includes clothes designed for veteran and patriotic organizations on Veterans Day, Memorial Day and Armed Forces Day, as well as at formal occasions of ceremony and social functions of a military nature. Personnel may wear either full-size or miniature medals. Personnel who wear medals on civilian clothes should place the medals on the clothing in approximately the same location and in the same manner as on the Army uniform, so they look similar to medals work on the Army uniform." Source: Army Echoes Jan-Apr 2007. HQDA APRE-HRP-RSO, Alexandria, Virginia 22332-0470. ■

MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

ELMER MULLINS, 583RD MOTOR AMBULANCE COMPANY, would like to hear from anyone who was there when they crossed into Germany. Write to Elmer at: R.R. 2, Box 197H, Clintwood, Virginia 24228.

Rita Jacquemin is looking for two American soldiers who were friends with her parents--her mother was a Red Cross nurse. The soldiers are: **LT JOEL W. STEIN, 456TH AAA BATTALION, BATTERY B** (formerly of Baldwin, New York), and **LT RALPH J. FORSBERT, 456TH AAA BATTALION, BATTERY B** (formerly of Madison, New Jersey). If you can provide any information, write to her at: 51, Rue du 131EME Ri; F-54.730 Gorcy; France.

Guy Jacquemin would like to find information and a photo of Pathfinder Unit Radar Equipment from the 101st Airborne Division in Bastogne. If you can help him with information on finding this write to him at: R, Rue Devant Wachert; 6747 Saint Leger, Belgium.

MURRAY LEFF, 35TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 137TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, COMPANY E, announces publication of his book *Lens of an Infantryman*. The book contains over 100 photographs taken at the instant of the described action at the rifle squad level. To inquire about availability write or call: McFarland & Company, Inc., Box 611, Jefferson, North Carolina 28640--Phone: 336-246-4460. Murray suggests that when you are finished with the book you give it to your local library or purchase a copy for them.

COY LEE TATE, 106TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 423RD INFANTRY REGIMENT, COMPANY F, who was held captive from December 19, 1944 to April 12, 1945, in Branch Camp 4B, in Liksik, Germany, would like to hear from anyone who may have served with him. His address is: HC 69, Box 34, Hugo, Oklahoma 74743.

AZIL T. WALLEN, 788TH ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS BATTALION, would like to know the whereabouts of the following or their families: **AMBROSE RICHARDS** (Port Arthur, Texas), **EARL FISHER** (Fort Dodge, Iowa), and **HYMAN HINDLE** (New York City). If you can help write to Azil at: 103 Greenbriar, Ripley, West Virginia 25271.

MURRAY EDELSTEIN, 442ND MEDICAL COLLECTING COMPANY, would like to find a listing of all individual units involved in the Ardennes. If you know, drop him a note at: 4398 Fountains Drive, Lake Worth, Florida 33467. [If you know where there is a complete listing, I'd like to know, too.]

Associate Member **Gary J. Springstubb** is interesting receiving any information available regarding personal or unit for **SGT. WILBERT SPRINGSTUBB, 193RD GLIDER INFANTRY REGIMENT, 17TH AIRBORNE DIVISION**. Sgt Springstubb was wounded on January 8th or 9th. Write to Gary at: 2880 Sylvan Court, Oceanside, New York 11572.

Carol H. Albritton would like to receive information regarding **WILLIAM "BILL" MILLER, 28TH INFANTRY DIVISION**. Bill's hometown was Lafayette, Indiana. He was stationed at Camp Gordon Johnston, Florida, in 1943. Write to Carol at: 236 South Lipona Road, Tallahassee, Florida 32310.

EDWARD ECHMALIAN, 557TH ORDNANCE HEAVY MAINTENANCE COMPANY (TANK), served in Eupen, Belgium at the bolt factory. He would like further information on the story by James S. Beresford re: Cherbourg, France. (August, 2006, page 5) If you can help write to him at: 9634 Gainford Street, Downey, California 90240-3516.

EDWARD SUMMEY, 773RD FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS BATTERY, is trying to locate a Sergeant from New York whom he met in November of 1945 at Camp Philadelphia. The sergeant was going to marry a nurse when he returned home. The two of them were in a tent with four rangers who played cards all day, every day. You can contact Ed at: 20 Sunset Circle, Cartersville, Georgia 30120.

Associate Member **Hans J. Wijers** announces he has finished his fourth book--"The Battle of the Bulge--Seize the Bridges." Its the last one on the North Shoulder and gives credit to all units who fought at the North Shoulder during the opening hours of the Battle of the Bulge. Please contact Hans for ordering information at: Zegerijstraat 27, NL-6971 ZN BRUMMEN; The Netherlands. e-mail: wijers@planet.nl.

Paul C. Moody writes to see if anyone can provide information regarding his brother, **CPL JAMES L. MOODY**, from Linton, Indiana. He was following Patton's tanks through Luxembourg on February 15, 1945 when he stepped on a land mine and messed up his foot. The medics patch him up and sent him back to the **414TH AAA AUTOMATIC GUN BATTALION**. If you can provide more information, write to Paul at: 4101 Amherst Lane, Raleigh, North Carolina 27609.

MALMEDY MASSACRE MUSEUM TO BE DEDICATED

The newsletter of the 30th Infantry Division advises us that there will be a dedication of a new museum at the site of the Malmedy Massacre at Baugnez, in Belgium on 17 December 2007. Further information can be found on the web at:

<http://www.tours-international.co.uk/Tours/Malmedy+Massacre+Tours>.

GERMAN GENERALS

[The following was excerpted from the newsletter of **GOLDEN GATE CHAPTER**, dated June, 1997.]

There were approximately 2,500 generals in the German military, 786 of whom died in WW II. Of these:

- 253 were killed in action
- 44 died of wounds
- 81 committed suicide
- 23 were executed by Hitler
- 41 were executed by the Allies
- 326 died of other causes.

(Pupnt Facts WW II)

PFC JOSEPH G. FARINA 526TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION COMPANY B

[The following article appeared in the July, 2007, issue of The Peka Newsletter and was submitted to the Peka by Michael Perry, son of Sgt. Manuel Perry, of Company C, and was written by Jerome Sheridan.]

[Excerpts] Pfc Joseph Farina was born 28 October 1924 to Italian immigrant parents. He lived with his parents and sister, Mary, in Highwood, Illinois.He joined the army on 15 June 1943. Joe Farina was assigned to the 526th Armored Infantry Battalion (AIB).

...Among the army's various AIB's, the 526th was a special unit. When Joe Farina joined the 526th AIB, it was training at Camp Bouse in the Arizona desert with a new secret weapon called the Canal Defense Light (CDL). The CDLs were powerful lights that the battalion would use to blind and disorient an enemy while infantry and armor attacked. The men of the 526th AIB were sworn to secrecy about the CDLs. They could only take leave in groups, and they faced the penalty of execution for treason if they revealed its existence. (CDLs were declassified in 1958.)

So, in October of 1944, the 526th AIB was sent to Belgium for retraining as a counter intelligence task force. (The battalion left their CDLs behind and never did use them in battle.) From 30 October to 17 December, 1944 Joe Farina's Company B, was quartered in the vicinity of Comblain-la-Tour in Belgium for this retraining as a counter intelligence task force. Farina was assigned residence in the home of Joseph and Madeleine Pacchiotti. The Pacchiottis had two children, a son, Louis, and a daughter Jeanninne [sic], and they live on the rue du Vicinal in the village of Comblain-Fairon. Their son, Louis, had been active in the Belgian Resistance. However, the Nazis captured, tortured, and executed Louis on 9 September 1944, a little over six weeks before Joe Farina entered the Pacchiotti home. Joe Pacchiotti was of Italian origin, as was Joe Farina. They both spoke Italian and both were Catholic. Moreover, Farina was about the same age as Pacchiotti's lost son. A natural bond grew between Joe Farina and Joe Pacchiotti. They became so attached to each other that the Pacchiotti family considered Joe as their son, and Joe considered the Pacchiotti's to be his second family.

On 16 December, the Nazis launched the Battle of the Bulge. On 17 December, with three hours' notice, Joe's Company B was ordered to leave Comblain to face the onslaught. It was a very cold and dark night, and the traveling was slow because the half-track drivers had to use their slit lights to avoid detection by the enemy. Company B was first sent to LaReid, and then to Malmedy. As they arrived in Malmedy, church bells welcomed them with the tune of "Yankee Doodle Dandy." However, there was no time for celebration. Company B was immediately split up into teams that were sent to block all roads leading to Malmedy. One of these teams manned a roadblock on the road leading to Trois Ponts that encountered the spearhead of Joachim Peiper's I SS Panzer corps. Instead of losing time in an assault, Peiper chose to bypass the position using side streets, but the 526th AIB's guns continued to harass Peiper until the panzers were out of sight. (At Stavelot, Peiper encountered the 526th AIB's Company A which blew a fuel dump that Peiper needed.

This action was later inaccurately immortalized in the movie "The Battle of the Bulge"). Although Peiper's panzers ground to a halt, bitter fighting continued for the next several days, under miserable winter conditions. The 526th AIB remained locked in combat, surviving on cold "C" Rations and little sleep. A 526th AIB veteran, Willard Ingraham, described how they spent Christmas Day 1944:

"We heard via the grapevine that we were finally going to get a hot meal. It was a turkey dinner to be exact.... It was both elation and disappointment when they plopped that black boned piece of turkey on my plate. I was raised on a farm and knew good meat from bad. That turkey was so locker burned that no good cook would have it in the kitchen but we had been on the 'C' diet so long that any cooked food tasted better than that.... All of the 526 AIB that ate that turkey got dysentery so bad that they had to pull us off the defense line back somewhere to recover for a few days.... Can you imagine having that kind of a problem while on the front lines in a foxhole?"

But the relief from combat did not last long. On 3 January 1945, Joe Farina's company was at Hedomont (near Malmedy), and they were ordered to capture Houyire Hill. It was a bitter cold day with light snow, and the German positions were well prepared to meet the assault. Heavy German artillery and machine gun fire rained down on Company B as they attacked up the hill. Company B suffered 65 casualties in the battle for Houyire Hill. One of these casualties was Joe Farina, who was killed in action by a gunshot to the head. After his remains were recovered, Joe Farina was buried at the Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery on 25 February 1945.

Before he left for the Battle of the Bulge, Joe Farina left instructions that, if he were killed, his remains were to be laid to rest in the Pacchiotti family's plot in Comblain-la-Tour. In 1946, the Farina family sought to honor Joe's request but the U.S. Army opposed the idea. In the spring of 1947, Farina's mother, Julia, and sister, Mary, came to Belgium to visit the Pacchiotti family. The Pacchiottis and the Farinas quickly became very close friends. As a result of this visit, the Farina family again petitioned the American Government to move Joe's remains to the Pacchiotti family plot, and the Farina family convinced the American Legion to support the request. As Mary wrote to the Army, "You cannot realize how important it is to my parents to know my brother is in his final resting place near his friends." About a year later, the U.S. Army granted the Farina family's request. Joe's remains were finally laid to rest in the Pacchiotti family plot at Comblain-la-Tour on 5 August 1948. The Farina and Pacchiotti families continued to correspond with each other until the 1960's, and Madeleine Pacchiotti always felt that she had lost two sons in the war. At her request, when she died she was buried with two special items: the gun that her son, Louis, carried when fighting the Nazis, and an American flag for her American son, Joe.

Sources for Jerome Sheridan's story:

- IDPF of Pfc. Joseph G. Farina.
- Personal interview with Daniel DeFays, grandson of Joseph and Madeleine Pacchiotti.
- Information provided to Henri-Chapelle Cemetery by Mrs. Marguerite Piroton, who was a young teacher at the Comblain-la-Tour school in 1944. (The funeral director who arranged for the transfer of the body was Clement Piroton (possibly related).)
- Willard Ingraham, from "Farm Boy to Soldier" (Gilbert, AZ: Bizzy Enterprises, Inc., 2004).
- Various histories of the Battle of the Bulge.

THE GAS DUMPS AT STAVELOT

Submitted by Vic Neiland
30th Infantry Division
117th Infantry Regiment
2nd Battalion
Company F

I was in the 2nd Battalion, 117th and we were protecting the flank of the 1st Battalion who were in Stavelot.

On the 20th of December, 1944, I was part of a four man patrol to Stavelot (first one). The Germans were between us and Stavelot.

We started out at 3:00 a.m. on the 20th and reached the first battalion. We could hear Germans on both sides as we went in diamond formation.

Coming back we found a man who said he was an American. He said he was an engineer. But he had no helmet or arms or belt. He had on an OD uniform and was dirty and smelled of gasoline. We took him back but he was hard to understand--mumbled. Worst of all he kept on stumbling and making noise. We got back and gave him to the road block guard. We never found out who he was, nor was I interested at the time.

Vic attached the following:

**The Rest of the Story:
A Cameo of History from
the Battle of the Bulge
By Hank Stairs
30th Infantry Division
117th Infantry Regiment
1st Battalion
Headquarters**

The site is the vicinity of Stavelot, Belgium, in mid December, 1944. The Battle of the Bulge was been underway for two days as Jochen Peiper and his SS armored tank/infantry task force crossed the Ambleive River and entered the Town of Stavelot. Up the hill to the north on a narrow road was an enormous gasoline dump consisting of five-gallon "Jerry" cans stacked three high, three meters wide, and approximately 20 meters long (2,500 cans per stack). The U.S. Army had evacuated the town and the only troops between this "treasure" and the Germans was a squad sized detail of the 5th Belgian Fusiliers. They could hear the clatter of armor and the shouts of infantry as the SS maneuvered into the town. An attempt by the Germans to gain the prize of Gas Dump #3 seemed eminent. The order to fire the dump was given by the 5th Belgians. One of the Fusiliers fired his automatic rifle into the first stack but the tracer failed to ignite the gas. They then used their bayonets to puncture the cans and spread the gasoline to the next stack. The was then started with a match. It was a very hot Sunday afternoon.

Prior to the ignition of the Gas Dump, much of Peiper's German column of tanks and infantry entered the town and continued the western attack toward La Gleize. They never attempted to take the northern road out of Stavelot.

(Note: This review of the burning gasoline dump is a far cry

from the action depicted in the movie, "The Battle of the Bulge." There were no barrels of gas to roll down the hill at the attacking Germans. Hank Stairs used the 30th Division history and a handwritten report from the 5th Belgian Fusiliers to research this account.)

I was Lieutenant Colonel Robert E. Franklin when the 1st Battalion, 117th Infantry detrucked at the top of hill leading into Stavelot. Remnants, as I recall, perhaps 30 men from the 526 Armored Infantry Battalion, were at roadside when they arrived. With a rifle company on either side of the road, we attacked down the hill. The reserve and Heavy Weapons company, along with battalion headquarters walked the narrow road passing thousands of burned, bloated gas cans. Gas Dump #3 was still hot and smoldering on Sunday, December 18, 1944.

Fast forward, our battalion captured the town and controlled the Stavelot bridge, thus cutting off Peiper's supply line. The Battle of the Bulge continued.



The picture above of Gas Dump #3 was drawn by Hank Stairs and shows the gas cans neatly stacked prior to the fire.



The picture above is what was left of the gas cans on December 18, 1944.

**"How old would you be if you
didn't know how old you was"**

-Satchel Paige

GERMAN PROPAGANDA IN THE BULGE

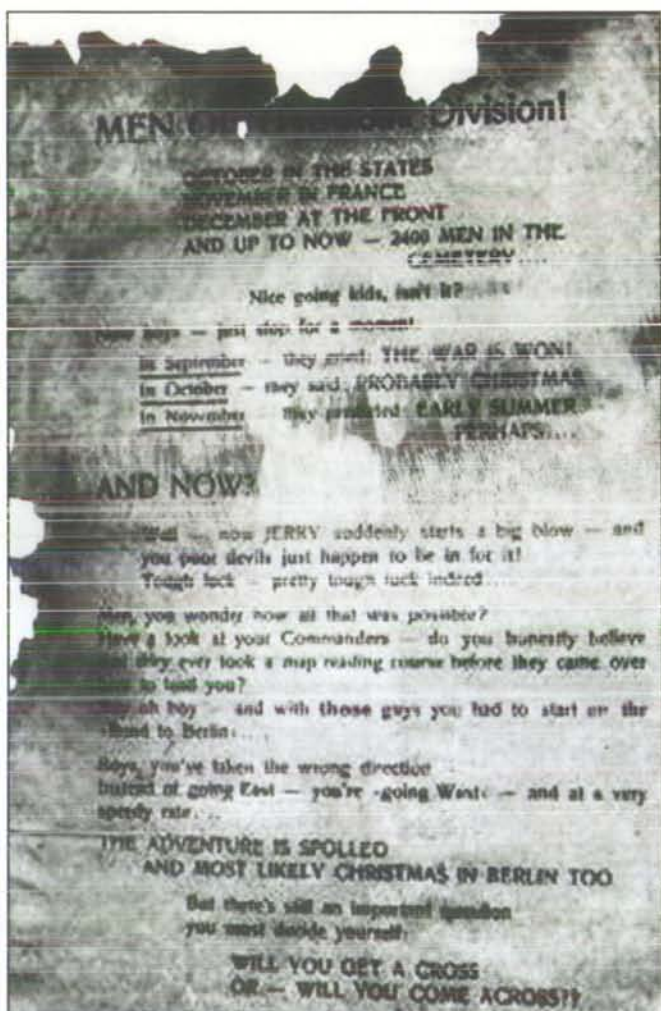
[The following article appeared in the April 2007 issue of The Flash--the newsletter of the 78th Infantry Division.]

Dear Bill *[This is Bill Parsons who has served as editor of the 78th's newsletter for many, many years.]*:

The attached document was found for sale on Ebay (\$107.00), but there have not been any bids on it as yet. I was wondering if anyone recalls actually seeing this leaflet during the war or has been mentioned in any *Flash* articles. My father never spoke about propaganda leaflets but he did mention radio broadcasts. Thought I'd send a copy for your information. Sorry about the quality. Below is the text associated with the Ebay listing.

Jim Cooper
Associate Member

The picture and information follows:



[Space limitations dictated that we reduce the size of the document; therefore, we provide you with the wording as nearly as we can read it:]

MEN OF THE 78TH DIVISION!

OCTOBER IN THE STATES

NOVEMBER IN FRANCE

DECEMBER AT THE FRONT

AND UP TO NOW--2400 MEN IN THE CEMETERY...

Nice going kids, isn't it.

Now boys--just stop for a moment

In September - they cried: THE WAR IS WON!

In October - they said: PROBABLY CHRISTMAS

In November - they predicted: EARLY SUMMER PERHAPS...
AND NOW?

Well - now JERRY suddenly starts a big blow--and you poor devils just happen to be in for it!

Tough luck - pretty tough luck indeed...

Men, you wonder how all that was possible?

Have a look at your Commanders--do you honestly believe that they ever took a map reading course before they came over here to lead you?

Boy oh boy - and with those guys you had to start on the Road to Berlin.

Boys, you've taken the wrong direction -

Instead of going East - you're going west - and at a very speedy rate.

THE ADVENTURE IS SPOILED.

AND MOST LIKELY CHRISTMAS IN BERLIN TOO

But there's still an important question you must decide yourself.

WILL YOU GET A CROSS

OR--WILL YOU COME ACROSS??

This leaflet was deployed by shell artillery over American troops during the Battle of the Bulge (date unknown)

(Leaflet size 14.6cm x 21cm)

Leaflet headings are: MEN OF THE 78TH DIVISION

Leaflet condition: This leaflet was found still inside the artillery shell it was fired from, it has a great deal of water damage, very discolored, large paper nicks top edge and right hand side edge, but no text missing, still readable and very rare.

This leaflet was deployed over American troops during the Battle of the Bulge notes: In early 1944, the German Government decided to reorganize its organization for propaganda to the enemy. The Wehrmachtpropagandaabteilung (Military Propaganda Section) was dissolved and the (SS-Standarte "Kurt Eggers") replaced it. The SS was considered more loyal and trustworthy, and its propaganda would be more in line with Nazi policy. Few records of this (Kurt Eggers) organization have survived the war for the study by historians and collectors. Although Germany was clearly in decline, the leaflets show a spirit of vitality and ingenuity hardly seen until the present day. These leaflets are better known as ("Skorpion-west"). The Dissemination was by (Rocket "Pr. Gs. 41" and by Artillery Shell), both being specially designed for the purpose. Because of the Allied air superiority airplane dispersion was seldom used. Rocket and artillery range was relatively small so leaflet dissemination took place in the front line only. This is reason why these SS leaflets are so seldom seen. This information was obtained from (Dr. Klaus Kirchner), his knowledge of all the War leaflets is simply endless, and he has put this information down in great detail in all his published works. ■

GEN HASSA VAN MANTEUFFEL 5TH PANZER ARMY COMMANDER

Defense of St. Vith Area and Impact on German Offensive

Submitted by Ray Brassard
774th Tank Destroyer Battalion

[This is a speech prepared by a general for presentation to a group of former 106'ers at the 23rd Annual Reunion of the 106th Infantry Division at St. Vith, Belgium, July 1969. He did not appear at the reunion, but his speech made its way to the 106th Infantry Division History archives.]

Whereas Bastogne had an honorable place in American military history, St. Vith is hardly mentioned. The heroic defense in the St. Vith area has suffered depreciation and a strange denigration at the hand of the popular media. The Battle of the Bulge was not fought ONLY or solely in Bastogne or by the admirable coming into action of Patton's Third Army. Around St. Vith were all elements of tragedy, or heroism, and self-sacrifice which make up the human experience at its most acute phase, when it is under the strain and stress of War!

The actions around St. Vith exerted a great influence on the result of the German intentions. A whole army corps was delayed by your defense around St. Vith, in spite of the ill-fated elements of your division in the Schnee-Eifel, you held up the German 66th Army Corps five days longer than their time-table allowed. You forced the detour of attacking forces so much more as the right neighbor, the 6th Panzer Army, had no success of the attack.

The 6th Panzer Army's attack to the north was bogged down in the first few days of the offensive by the brave soldiers of the 106th Infantry Division that were left.

Under those circumstances the energy and momentum of the attack in this area was diminished decisively!

In this respect, the actions around St. Vith are in my opinion and from the German side--equivalent to the defense of Bastogne!

The fact that this area around St. Vith was obstinately and successfully defended, the result, as demonstrated by the gallant men of the 106th Infantry Division and the CCB 7th Armored.

The attack of the Germans on both sides of the Schnee-Eifel outflanked these units, parts of this "green division" (that means inexperienced soldiers without combat experience), that "rest-camp" as the departing veterans quipped.

The units were encircled! While they marched and fought through that terrible terrain, in winter time, fire came from the left and fire came from the right, and from the rear also. These units suffered heavily. Further, they did not know what was happening on their flanks and in the rear, the sources of communication with the rear was destroyed.

The cavalry on their flank made no attempt to put up a fight and drew back. The visiting patrols were shot or captured. The ammunition was gone with except for a few rounds per gun for their machine guns. No help or assistance came by the artillery,

no supplies came in. Most of the men had not had a drop of water or a bite of food. These units were overwhelmed, in a real sense of a word--by powerful German forces, superior in numbers and arms--with great intensity--the Germans fired into their massed ranks with every cannon they had. It was a rain of steel, no tank destroyers were available, there was confusion and temporary panic spread out. All of that with the blood, dirt, cruel weather, deep snow with fog, cold and confused was what happened in those days in Schnee-Eifel.

They did not weaken, they broke into small groups, they formed improvised perimeter defenses, even though they did not know what was happening on their flanks and in the rear their unbreakable will to fight, thus indestructible "esprit de corps." These surviving elements of the 106th Infantry Division joined by the very brave men of the CCB, fell back to the crossroad east of St. Vith and stayed and fought until they were killed, wounded or captured. ■

NATIONAL POW-MIA MEMORIAL

Riverside National Cemetery
22495 Van Buren Blvd.
Riverside, California 92518
Dedicated in 2005

[The following is excerpted from a dedication address by Kerry McLaughlin (Gold Star Son). Kerry was born three days before the Battle of the Bulge began. After many years of wondering what happened to his father, he was about to learn that his father was mortally wounded through conversations with Leo "Marty" Schlocker, 17th Airborne Division, 513th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Company D. Marty had been a good friend to Howard Myles McLaughlin, Kerry's father.]

My airborne friend asked me one day:

'What does it mean to never have met your father?

'Not to know what became of your father?

'To be the son of an MIA soldier for your entire life?

'To not have the peace of mind to know that your father is buried with the dignity and respect of others. Under the white marble crosses, on the green manicured lawns of well-kept cemeteries?'

There is no cemetery to visit; no grave-site to place flowers upon.

I often felt alone in my search for information about my father. But according to the American Battle Monument Commission, there are 78,976 MIA from WWII alone, not to mention 2,504 MIA from Vietnam, and 8,196 from Korea. There are at least that many mothers, daughters, fathers, sons and other relatives seeking closure and a focal point for their sense of loss

(But,) now at least, there is a memorial that we can all treasure, that we can touch, that we can feel, that we can see, so we can let people know that these missing men existed.

And now, for me, I have more than a fading photograph. And there are now two men I can call "Dad." ■

FRANK WALSH GOES TO WASHINGTON

On June 21st, Frank Walsh, 705th Tank Destroyer Bn and ardent Veteran of the Battle of the Bulge supporter, returned to Washington with his son Jerry Walsh. Frank could be counted on to be at all VBOB affairs & reunions and the reenactment, until his stroke curtailed his driving.

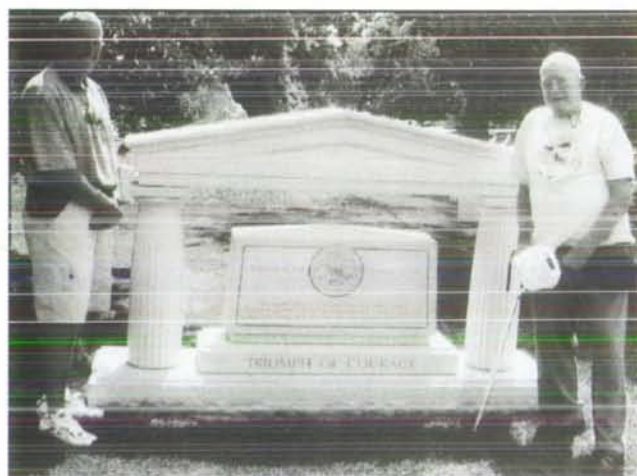
He had missed the World War II Memorial Dedication and the new VBOB Memorial event in Arlington Cemetery. He wanted to see these and all of the War Memorials in Washington and his son Jerry, drove him to Washington, to do just that. Frank had also contacted his 'ole travelling buddy, John Bowen, VBOB Secretary, who lives in Silver Spring and asked him for a five dollar tour of Washington.

John & his wife Mary Ann with Frank & his son Jerry started out first with a drive through Arlington Cemetery to visit first, the VBOB Memorials, followed by a visit to the Tomb of the Unknowns and the Changing of the Guard. Next stop was the WWII Memorial followed by the Vietnam Memorial and the Korean War Memorial.

At both the WWII Memorial and the Vietnam Memorial, Frank with his affable personality, was greeted by boys and girls of the present generation. He particularly dazzled a high school group from just outside of San Diego, California all of whom wanted to shake his hand. Some pictures of his day are below.



John Bowen
Frank Walsh
at Reflecting
Pool



Jerry Walsh and Frank Walsh
705th TD BN - VBOB Memorial



Frank Walsh dazzles students of
Arer High School, San Diego, CA
(Photos by Jerry Walsh, 6/21/07)

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

**LINCOLNSHIRE MARRIOTT RESORT
LINCOLNSHIRE, IL
SEPTEMBER 25 -30, 2007**

Be There!

Battle of the Bulge Casualties At Sea Not All American Casualties Were in Belgium and Luxembourg

*By Demetri Paris
14th Tk Bn 9th Armd Div*

There were more than 600,000 American forces in the Battle of the Bulge. American forces suffered 81,000 casualties which included 19,000 killed in Belgium and Luxembourg.

But these were not the only casualties. Troops in England were being rushed to strengthen the American forces – both individual replacements and complete units. One of those replacement units was the 66th Division.

On Christmas Eve, December 24, 1944, the 66th Division troops boarded the Leopoldville, a Belgian vessel named for the city in the former Belgian Congo. It had a crew of 237 and its officers were Belgian, Congolese and English.

This vessel had been a cruise ship capable of handling 360 passengers yet it was packed with more than 2,200 66th Division soldiers.

The ship was bound for Le Havre, France via the cold and rough English Channel. But the journey was interrupted when a German submarine torpedo struck it. An alarm and abandon ship was sounded in Flemish, a language spoken in Netherlands, Northwest Belgium and Northwest France.

The ship's officers and crew abandoned the ship, taking the few lifeboats. About 1400 or 1500 of the soldiers managed to be saved by the destroyers which were to protect the ship. The others either drowned or were crushed between the Leopoldville and destroyers. It is believed that about 800 of the soldiers died yet none of the crew or officers. The survivors were taken to several Army hospitals in France where they spent Christmas Day.

This tragedy was not announced and, as a result, was not reported by the press. In 1959, 15 years after this tragic incident, a report was issued without the unpleasant and shocking facts. A 1960 report by the British Admiralty (navy) excused the officers and crew. A 1992 Belgian report claimed Americans were in the lifeboats, a claim denied by the soldiers who survived.

One might suppose that, for security reasons, the American Army command in Great Britain decided to withhold announcing this tragedy so as to keep the information from the German high command. But if the German submarine had any signal capability, they most likely reported it to gain credit for the hit.

NOMINATIONS FOR 2007-08 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, I, George Chekan, Chairman, announce the following nominations to be voted on for the Executive Council at the General Membership Meeting for the fiscal year 2007-08.

President:

•Demetri Paris
9th Armored Division

Executive Vice President:

•John J. Dunleavy
737th Tank Battalion

Vice President, Membership:

•Robert F. Phillips
28th Infantry Division

Vice President, Chapters:

•John E. McAuliffe
87th Infantry Division

Vice President, Military Affairs:

•Stanley A. Wojtusik, Sr.
106th Infantry Division

Vice President, Public Affairs:

•George L. Watson
87th Infantry Division

Treasurer:

•William P. Tayman
87th Infantry Division

Corresponding Secretary:

•Dorothy S. Davis
57th Field Hospital

Recording Secretary:

•John D. Bowen
Associate Member

Trustees: Three-Year Term:

•Frances W. Doherty
Associate Member
•Earle O. Edmonds
26th Infantry Division
•James W. Hunt
1st Infantry Division

Trustees: Two-Year Term:

•Harry J. Meisel
565th Antiaircraft Artillery AW Battalion
•Joseph F. Zimmer
87th Infantry Division

Trustees: One-Year Term:

•Richard G. Guenter
511th Engineer Light Ponton Battalion
•Ralph Bozarth
Associate Member

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

Respectfully submitted,
George Chekan, Chairman
Nominating Committee

LINCOLNSHIRE CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS AND SCHEDULE INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

Our Annual VBOB Reunion will convene at the Lincolnshire Marriott Resort to continue with the 62nd Anniversary celebration.

We have arranged with the hotel for a special rate of \$93.50 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, nametags, programs, table decorations, hospitality room, etc., are paid for from this fee.

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

•TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2007

• **Welcome Wine and Cheese Reception (6:30 pm – 7:30 pm)**
Compliments of the Lincolnshire Marriott Resort.

• **Dinner is on your own.** The hotel has three restaurants.

•WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2007

• **Botanic Garden – Bus departs from hotel at 9:00am.** Find blazing colors in our gardens, woodlands, and prairie, including lavender asters, bright red and orange maples and sumacs, and the deep gold of yellow coreopsis and goldenrod. The Garden is your autumn wonderland! Put on your walking shoes for a guided stroll through the Garden, or settle in for a narrated tram ride. Either way, you'll be delighted by what you see and learn in our 23 different gardens situated on 385 acres. **Lunch included.**

• **Volo Auto Museum** - has over 300 classic cars on The Volo Auto Museum is home to the world's largest muscle car collection and the George Barris TV & Movie Car Collection. In addition there are five antique malls and a World War II "Combat Zone" at Volo. The Combat Zone contains nine displays about the war in the ETO. **Bus returns to hotel about 4:30pm**

• **Lincolnshire Marriott - Italian Dinner (6:30 p.m.).** Enjoy a luscious Italian Buffet. Cash bar. **Video/audio presentation** – "A Musical Stroll Down Memory Lane".

•THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2007

• **Chicago Tour – Bus departs from hotel at 9:00am.** Enjoy a fully narrated driving tour of Chicago. You will see the new Memorial Water Wall, a veteran's memorial at Soldier Field and see the beautiful parks along the magnificent Lakefront. You will see Navy Pier, a former Navy training center and now the top attraction in Chicago. You will enjoy a cruise on the Chicago River to learn about the architecture of Chicago's awe-inspiring buildings. This is one of the top things to do in the city. You will see its outdoor art, the Magnificent Mile, the stunning new Millennium Park, and the landmark Water Tower that survived the fire. It will truly be a day to remember. Lunch on your own at Navy Pier. **Bus returns to hotel about 4:00pm.**

• **Dinner is on your own.** The hotel has three restaurants.

•FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2007

• **Cantigny, Wheaton, IL – Bus departs hotel at 9:00am.** Home of the Robert McCormick estate. We will be the honored guests of the First Division Foundation and will tour the formal gardens, the First Infantry Division Museum and the McCormick mansion. A band along with active duty soldiers will greet us. **Lunch included.** In summary, the First Division Foundation is going all out for VBOB. **Bus returns to hotel about 3:30pm.**

• **Dinner is on your own.** The hotel has three restaurants.

•SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2007

• **Free time and lunch on your own**

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

• **Reception (6:00 p.m.)**

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

•SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2007

• **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.

**LINCOLNSHIRE MARRIOTT RESORT
LINCOLNSHIRE, IL
SEPTEMBER 25 -30, 2007**

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Wife/Guest Name: _____
Division: _____ Regiment: _____
Signature: _____
Arrival date _____ Departure date _____

	People	Cost/ Person	Total Cost
Registration Fee (all attendees must register)	_____	\$ 30	\$ _____
Tuesday, September 25, 2007:			
Wine and cheese reception (compliments of the hotel)	_____	Free	
Dinner on your own	_____		
Wednesday, September 26, 2007:			
Botanic Garden lunch included,			
Volo Museum *	_____	\$55	\$ _____
Italian buffet dinner	_____	\$40	\$ _____
Thursday, September 27, 2007:			
Chicago tour/river cruise/lunch on your own *	_____	\$ 55	\$ _____
Dinner on your own	_____		
Friday, September 28, 2007:			
Cantigny, Robert McCormick estate *			
First Infantry Division Museum, lunch included.	_____	\$45	\$ _____
Dinner on your own	_____		
Saturday, September 29, 2007:			
Free time			
Reception (cash bar)			
Banquet (indicate preference)			
London Broil _____ or Salmon _____	_____	\$55	\$ _____
Sunday, September 30, 2007:			
Farewell breakfast	_____	\$10*	\$ _____
*Total cost of breakfast is \$25 of which VBOB will fund \$15 for active VBOB National Members and Guests			
Total amount enclosed (all taxes & gratuities included)			\$ _____

* See Highlights and Schedule Information Sheet for Details

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, 2007 - AFTER
THAT DATE BRING FORM.**

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

Lincolnshire Marriott Resort
10 Marriott Drive – Lincolnshire, IL 60069
Tel. 847-634-0100 – Fax 847-634-1278

www.marriott.com/property/propertypage/chiln

Welcome
VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE
RESORT RATES

The resort is offering a two-day window before and after the reunion dates at a rate of \$93.50 per night, single or double occupancy. This rate includes all taxes. All reservations can be made by calling the Lincolnshire Marriott Resort at 1-800-228-9290 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 Tina Beasley, her number is 847-634-0100. Check-in time is 3:00 p.m. and checkout is 12:00 p.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.

NOTE: THE HOTEL IS NON-SMOKING AND PETS ARE NOT ALLOWED

Hotel amenities: Indoor pool, fitness center and complimentary shuttle service within a 5-7 mile radius of the hotel, based upon availability. Full service restaurants 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

Transportation from O'Hare to the resort: The least expensive is **American Taxi** whose current rate is about \$30/taxi. Free courtesy phones are located on the luggage level at Terminals 1, 2, 3, 5 along with the Bus Shuttle Center. Once you have gathered your luggage, go to the phones and dial 15 to request your taxi. The operator will confirm your present location, name and destination. Please feel free to confirm your flat rate. A taxi will be assigned to you and the operator will give you the taxi number. Since all rides are prearranged, only take the taxi assigned to you.

If you fly into Midway Airport expect to pay at least \$60/taxi.

DIRECTIONS TO THE RESORT

FROM O'HARE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (about 18 miles): Take 294 North to Half Day Road Exit. Turn left. Approx. 2 miles to Milwaukee Avenue. Turn left. Turn left at first stoplight into Marriott entrance on Marriott Drive, 1/4 mile south of Half Day Road.

FROM EAST: Take I-80 West to 294 North to Half Day Road Exit. Turn left. Approx. 2 miles to Milwaukee Avenue. Turn left. Turn Left at first stoplight into Marriott entrance on Marriott Drive, 1/4 mile south of Half Day Road.

FROM SOUTH: Take 57 North to 294 North and go to Half Day Road Exit. Turn left. Approx. 2 miles to Milwaukee Avenue. Turn left. Turn left at first stoplight into Marriott entrance on Marriott Drive, 1/4 mile south of Half Day Road.

FROM NORTH: Take 294 South to Half Day Road Exit. Turn right. Approx. 2 miles to Milwaukee Avenue. Turn left. Turn Left at first stoplight into Marriott entrance on Marriott Drive, 1/4 mile south of Half Day Road.

FROM WEST: Take I-80 East to 294 North to Half Day Road Exit. Turn left. Approx. 2 miles to Milwaukee Avenue. Turn left. Turn left at first stoplight into Marriott entrance on Marriott Drive, 1/4 mile south of Half Day Road.

The Battle of the Bulge

December 16, 1944 – January 26, 1945

Source:

National Archives & Records Administration
College Park, MD Exhibit No. 3, Picture Division,
London Office of War Information as published
by John Bowen in the MD/DC VBOB Chapter
newsletter. Submitted by Demetri Paris, 14th Tk
Bn 9th Armd Div.

March 27, 1945 when General Eisenhower proclaimed that the Germans "as a military force on the Western Front are a whipped army," he added that the Ardennes drive was the worst mistake the Nazis had made in the west.

It had cost the enemy 220,000 men, of whom 110,000 were taken prisoner, it had cost hundreds of millions of dollars worth of equipment. These men and this material were sorely needed when the Allies forged across the Rhine and struck into the heart of the Reich. But the Germans had gambled them away in the ill-fated Ardennes offensive.

When the Nazis struck in the Ardennes, only small detachments of US non-combatant troops stood in the path of the German armored spearhead to Stavelot, Belgium and the vital Allied supply point of Liege. But the column was stopped. The Germans had counted on smothering fog to hide their movements. They had not counted on US pilots who risked their lives to fly 100 feet from the ground to blast the attack forces with bombs, rockets and bullets.

[Contrary to the statement that only non-combat troops delayed the German attack, Combat Command B of the 9th Armd Div, CCB of the 7th Armd Div and other combat units were in the path of this attack at Stavelot and St. Vith. They did not see any US aircraft until after their withdrawal on December 23, 1944. D. Paris]

Nor had the Nazis counted on the raw courage of American airborne soldiers who, fighting as ground infantrymen, held out against a week-long siege of Bastogne until they were relieved December 27, 1944 by troops of the Third US Army who swung north from the Saar. Although surrounded by confident Nazis and supplied only from the air the 101st Airborne Division held the vital communications center of Bastogne and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy. On the Nazis own admission, the lightning drive of the relieving Third Army slowed down and eventually checked the advance of German Marshall Gerd Von Rundstedt.

[This account fails to reveal that the 101st Airborne Division was 100 miles away when the Germans struck, that other troops suffered heavy losses in men and equipment in delaying the Germans until the arrival of the 101st AB. The American troops who survived and were not captured infiltrated through the Germans and joined the 101st AB in the defense of Bastogne. For an accurate and detailed account see "Alamo in the Ardennes" by Dr. John C. Mcmanus published in 2007 by John Wiley, Inc – D.Paris]

From that point on, the German bulge was squeezed to complete deflation by Allied arms pressing from the front and sides and planes hammering from the top. Parts of the First and Ninth US Armies and the second British army pushed from the Northern ground which had previously been held in defensive victories. The linkup of the First and Third US Armies on January 16 in Houffalize, key communication center of the salient, was the signal for the start of a mass withdrawal by the enemy to positions behind the Siegfried Line.

By January 26, the Battle of the Ardennes was declared officially over and the Germans, who at one time had reached a point four miles from one of the major objectives, the Meuse River, were again waging defensive warfare on home soil. Weakened and with few replacements, they faced Allied Armies massing for assaults across the Rhine. When the onslaught began, German troops who might have served a reinforcements were in Allied prisoner-of-war cages or buried in Belgium soil-victims of the Nazis' irreparable mistake, "the Battle of the Bulge."

[Note the official end of the Battle of the Ardennes was January 26, 1945. The Alsace operation was added later. One possible explanation is that Alsace was added rather than granting a separate battle star for the Alsace operation. D.Paris]

Requesting Your Personnel Records

The National Personnel Records Center claims they have a new and improved method to obtain your records from the NPRC. They will furnish the records to authorized requesters. Their web site is:

[Http://vetrecs.archives.gov](http://vetrecs.archives.gov)

Note there is no "www" required at the beginning of their address

They claim this procedure will eliminate the long delay caused by their mail room processing the many Forms 180 submitted by veterans and their next of kin.

[Source: Victory Division News published by editor Will Cook for the 5th Armored Division]

CHAPTERS REPORT

John McAuliffe
Vice President for Chapters

It is encouraging to see in the May, 2007, issue of *The Bugle*, photos showing the group of the Indian River Chapter members who have just placed a plaque honoring Bulge veterans and another photo showing the VBOB monument dedicated at Greensburg, Pennsylvania. This is an indication that the chapters remain active and enjoying the comradery of meetings and participation in events which honor our gallant men and women of the Bulge.

Some chapters, looking ahead to possible dissolution in 2-3 years have sent ballots to their members asking if they want to continue with the meetings. This was necessitated because of poor attendance at some meetings as well as the members reaching their mid-80's and many in poor health, they have lost the ability to get around. Surprisingly, the report from one chapter showed an overwhelming vote to continue not for 2 or 3 years, but for 5 years or more. This shows their confidence and is encouraging, and so long as there is good leadership the members should continue to convene even should their activities or events be lessened.

From the 9-10 reports I received from chapter presidents the past six months, it is notable that the chapters continue to enjoy that great comradery and fellowship as in the past. Meetings are attended by as many as 65-85 veterans and their guests. Speakers from veterans groups, state senators, VA directors, national and local dignitaries, etc., are engaged...education programs are held in the schools speaking to hundreds of students by the veterans of various activities of the Bulge battle...(Freedom is not Free)...The 'old battlers' march or ride in Veterans Day, Columbus Day, St. Patrick's Day and other local parades--sit down dinners, picnics and museum visits are standard fare...some chapters join forces with other organizations like the MOPH in annual banquets...on the international level, chapter members have joined 'the Liberated' in the annual American-Luxembourg Friendship Week...held every month of June. The annual Battle of the Bulge Reenactment held the last week of January at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, is still frequented by the heartiest of the members...but now occupying only one floor of the barracks.

These as well as other activities continue to draw the members together. As one veteran put it: "There is nothing like partaking in a battle together that solidifies a friendship forever."

Reports received: Lehigh Valley--President Morris D. Metz; Central Indiana Chapter--President Bob Cooper/Editor Terry McDaniel; Florida Southeast--President George Fisher; Citrus--President Gerald V. Myers; Central Massachusetts--President John McAuliffe; Ohio Buckeye--President Milan A. Rolik; Maryland/DC--President Earle O. Edmonds/Editor John D. Bowen; Delaware Valley--President Stanley Wojtusik/Editor Edith Knowles; and Peter F. Leslie, Jr.--President Jerry Mount.

Respectfully Submitted,
John E. McAuliffe



*"We shoulda drank th' cognac
an' walked to git gas."*

MICHAEL E. THORNTON MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT ENROLLED IN VBOB

As overall American conventional forces were gradually withdrawn from Vietnam in the early 1970s, the "unconventional warfare" role of Navy SEALs grew. In the spring of 1972, Petty Officer Thornton was assigned to a mission under the command of Lt. Thomas Norris.

Thornton and Norris accompanied a three-man South Vietnamese Navy team on an intelligence-gathering mission in enemy-held territory. Launched from a Vietnamese Navy junk in a rubber boat, the patrol reached land and found themselves further behind enemy lines than they had planned. Continuing on foot toward their objective they came under heavy fire from a far larger force and were in danger of being surrounded. While inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy, they headed for the shore, in hopes of escaping by sea.

On hearing that his Navy SEAL commander, Lt. Thomas Norris had been killed while covering their escape, Thornton replied, "I'm not leaving without my Lieutenant," and returned under fire to find Norris gravely wounded but alive. Quickly disposing of two enemy soldiers who approached at that moment, Thornton slung Norris over his shoulder and dashed for life over 400 yards to open beach, returning enemy fire as he ran. He carried Norris and another wounded comrade out to sea, beyond the range of enemy fire. The company floated for approximately two hours before being retrieved by the South Vietnamese Navy.

Check mailing label to see if your dues are due.

SOUTHERN ARIZONA CHAPTER MONUMENT

On May 30, 2003, members of the Southern Arizona Chapter dedicated a memorial in Presidio Park, facing City Hall and Federal Building in Tucson, Arizona.

Then Chapter President John Westover, designed the original sketch and was very instrumental in accomplishing the end result. The monument was funded entirely by donations from chapter members which numbered 65 members at the time of the beginning of the planning--presently there are about 50 members.



The photo above is a copy of the monument. The photos of the monument itself were fuzzy and did not do the monument justice, so we are using this. It is identical to the monument.



Replica of monument in Veterans Day Parade, 2006, left to right, Buck Bloomer, 28th INFD; George McGee (chapter president) 109th EVAC HOSP; Harper Coleman, 4th INFD; and John Swett, 106th INFD. ■

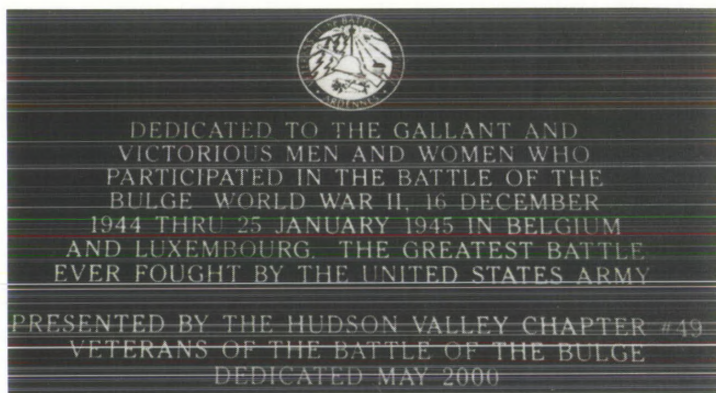
HUDSON VALLEY CHAPTER MONUMENT

**Saratoga National Cemetery
200 Duell Road
Schuylerville, New York**

Dedicated: May 30, 2000

[In a recent issue several monuments were cited and, apparently, many were omitted--although not intentionally.

Jim Wilson, President of the Hudson Valley Chapter (New York) provided us with the following photos of a monument erected in their area and we are happy to provide this information to you.]



Wording which appears on the monument



Monument as it appears on Memorial Walk (foreground)

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT...CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL. Your dues date is printed directly above your last name. If your dues are due please submit them promptly and it will save us having to mail a dues reminder. Postage and printing costs have skyrocketed. Thanks.

MORE ON THE PROXIMITY FUZE

**Provided by: Rufus D. Lewis, Jr.
10th Armored Division
420th Armored Field Artillery Battalion
Headquarters**

[Note from Rufus: This is not to debate nor contradict several past articles on the proximity fuze but to add facts to its use. The following article was written by the battalion commander of the 420th Armored Field Artillery Battalion. The 420th was of the 10th Armored Division, Combat Command "B." CCB served with the 101st in Bastogne.]

**420th Armored Field Artillery Battalion
Fires New (Secret) Fuze**

**W. D. Crittenberger, Jr.
(Then) Battalion CO of the 40th
Major General, U.S. Army, Retired**

After participating in the XX Corps capture of Fortress Metz, the 10th Armored Division joined the Corps effort to break the Siegfried Switch in the Saar-Moselle Triangle. While in position near Perl, Germany, the 420th AFA Battalion was selected to organize and perform a demonstration of the new, then secret VT or Pozit fuze. All available field officers, particularly artillerymen, of XX Corps were to attend.

On 6 December, 1944, the battalion CO and an Advance Party strong in Survey, Fire Direction Center and Communicators moved out to select a demonstration area suitable for this mission.

The next day, 7 December, the battalion followed, cutting across the main supply routes of the three divisions in contact, and covering the 43 mile move in four hours. The nearest town on the map was Marange, France, on the southern edge of XX Corps. The journal entry reads "Departed Perl, Germany, at 1045 on mounted motor march to Marange, France, arriving at 1500. Distance traveled 43.6 miles. Weather cold and rainy. Morale good."

An "impact area" of rolling, varied terrain was picked, and shot-up vehicles and farm equipment placed as identifiable targets in the valley, on the slope and even on the crest, to best illustrate the standard height of burst of the new fuze. Survey and registration took place as others were laying communication lines for us and to tie into Corps lines, should higher headquarters need to reach any of the attendees. The usual "demonstration" services were set up; latrines, warming tents, parking areas, hot coffee, mess tents with a hot meal, and yes, extra field glasses, a public address system and some folding chairs for the real VIPs.

The day of the "shoot," 11 December, dawned cold and rainy but happily not foggy. Our preparations for such a day were both needed and appreciated. The Corp Commander Walton Walker, led the list of attendees, dressed for the cold as the picture shows.

The firing went well. The targets had been placed to show that

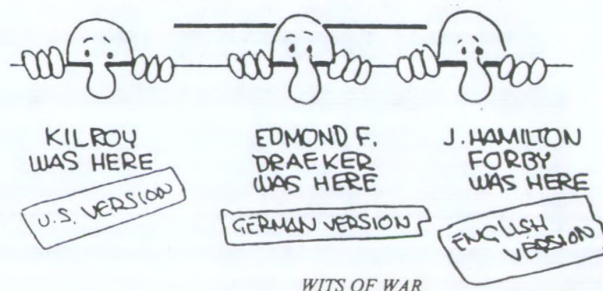
the new fuze would burst the shells uniformly above the target, whether it was on flat ground, on a slope, up hill or down. The hot meal and coffee were big hits, too. Following the shoot, those interested talked to the Fire Direction Center and Survey crews; and the gun crews as well.

The remainder of the day was spent in cleaning up the battlefield for the next day, 12 December, our "vacation" was over, and we marched back to the north boundary of XX Corps in Merziq-Launstroff area to fire for Task Force Polk, the Corps Mech. Cav. in an economy-of-force role holding a part of the "front." (Our Bastogne experience was but five days away.)

This VT demonstration and hands-on experience stood us in good stead, for when the 4th Armored Division TF Abrams broke the German ring around Bastogne, our ammo trains came with them, bringing in ammo with the new, now-declassified, TV fuze, and permission to shoot it. It worked beautifully "for real," and its use up and down the front had to be one of the big factors in winding up the Battle of the Bulge successfully for the Allies.



Chaussy, France: Commanders observe artillery demonstration. General Morris commanding 10th Armored Division; General Walker, commanding XX Corps; General Irwin, commanding 5th Infantry Division. (Picture taken from XX Corps History of WWII, page 216.)



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REMEMBERING ANOTHER ENEMY: COLD WEATHER

Reuel Long
90th Infantry Division
357th Infantry Regiment
2nd Battalion
Company E

Although the information we had received about the Battle of the Bulge from articles in the *Stars and Stripes* was old and sketchy nevertheless the situation must have required help from our division, as we headed north in trucks on January 6, 1945. We were always kept in the dark by our company commanders as to where we were headed next, except the immediate objective a of hill, town or stream as we departed Monneren, Alsace-Lorraine, France.

We kept track of any major towns or cities that we passed through, however, and when we reached the City of Luxembourg, we knew we were nearing the fighting and reasoned why we had been pulled back from our foothold across the Saar River in December. This must be something big, and as we continued north after spending all night in the truck sitting up in what was below zero weather, we started to see our ambulances coming back from the front. I recalled seeing a road sign point directions to the Town of Wiltz and of St. Vith, which I later learned had been flattened by a battle in which the 7th Armored Division had heroically held up the German advance for a time to enable American defensive positions to form farther back in Belgium, back in December.

Our division was evidently going to strike the enemy on the left flank of his salient into the American positions. I remember our trucks moving up the road with a steady stream of ambulances moving down the other side as we could now hear the noise of battle near the front. It was here that General Patton later wrote that during that afternoon he drove through the 90th who stood up and cheered as he passed. These men did this in spite of spending a great many hours in truck at 6 degrees below zero and in spite of all the wounded coming down the other side of the road.

I didn't see the general, but feel certain this is the place he wrote about, figuring he passed through the 90th ahead or behind our particular truck. We stayed the night in a farm house that had just been liberated by other American forces that we would soon be relieving. The warm accommodations were welcome after two bitter cold days in the truck.

The father of this family in Luxembourg brought out an all-wave table model radio that he had kept hidden from the Germans, and our squad gathered around it to listen to BBC and other broadcasts, including Nazi propaganda broadcasts in English. Somehow I ended up sleeping on the living room rug instead of in the hall, which was a big treat. Actually, we grew to become thankful for just little things, like a clean drink of water, or warm water to shave in.

The next day we had a festive celebration dinner of chicken (procured by our squads' backyard "recon" crew) and dumplings. The farmer, his wife and 15 year old daughter ate with us. He spoke little English, but we enjoyed sharing his jubilation of liberation. It was a fine dinner all around and made us feel very satisfied. We stayed again through the night and moved out the

next morning. I had gotten rid of the bazooka, but found a different responsibility with my new mobility, that of taking turns being the "point" man for the squad. When in the lead, you had to be very alert for any movement or sounds up ahead, but with the ground now completely covered with a white blanket of snow, it was easier to detect the enemy. We still just had our leather boots and our feet were cold all of the time. Foxholes were harder to dig, and even though strapped to our sides, the water in our canteens would always be frozen by morning. We were getting three square "K" ration meals per day though and used the cartons to make a fire to melt our water.

After digging our two man foxhole at night, and spreading down our raincoats on the ground, each having one blanket, we placed one doubled under us and one doubled over us for what warmth we could get for one hour of sleep. At daybreak, a normal day would include, since we were already dressed, of thawing our water and eating our "K" ration breakfast. Our latrine was a slit-trench, and we had soap and ice-cold water for our hands. We now had wool gloves with leather palms, and stocking-cap style helmet liners which would pull over our ears.

Following breakfast our squad leaders would receive instructions about our objectives for our platoon leader, a 2nd lieutenant. We made certain our little cardboard fires were out and then folded up our blankets in our little combat packs, attached our shovels to our belts, shoulder-strapped our rifles and got ready to move out. If there was no enemy fire, leaning up against a tree lent support to the various paraphernalia that you had to carry. The M-1 weighed 9 pounds, extra ammunition, two grenades, canteen, pack, shovel, bayonet and helmet must have weighed at least 20 pounds, making it almost easier to walk and get all those things on a synchronous motion than to try to stand still in one place.

Then we reminded whoever's turn it was to be point or scout, and upon command we moved out, almost always in single file with about 15 feet between squad members, as an average distance, which varied according to terrain, enemy location, etc. Advancing through woods, up a road or through an open field was always a cautious affair, looking to see what might be in the next group of trees, over a small rise or behind a hedgerow, particularly troublesome because they were usually built partially of stone, with a thick hedge on top to obscure your vision. The Germans were to use the hedgerows to good advantage as we were soon to learn in the Battle of the Bulge. Advancing up a hill was also a grueling ordeal, moving cautiously or quickly as the conditions dictate.

The mental stress was more tiring than the physical strain though (I thought). And even though you didn't find enemy for hours or sometimes a full day, several "breaks" a day besides lunch were necessary and welcome, unless of course, the enemy was encountered or an incoming shelling attack was experienced. All the "break" had to be was a drink of water, an extra "K" ration dog biscuit, a cigarette for some, where possible, or a stick of gum to provide a few minutes away from the concentration of advancing.

Often times there was a few extra minutes for lunch, other times on the move it was eaten later in the afternoon, sometimes on the move, and other times, of necessity, skipped entirely. The Battle of the Bulge was fought largely in overcast weather and there was about an average of 8" loose snow on the ground, depending on the area, and the temperature probably averaged about 20 degrees overall, although usually not windy.

(Continued)

REMEMBERING ANOTHER ENEMY (Continuation)

When dusk arrived, we would try to stake our foxholes in a defensive perimeter to the front in case of counter attack, unless we planned a night attack. There were times when we would have our foxhole well started, or even completed, when we would be ordered to change our positions to be on the line with other units. Sometimes this change came after dark, making another hole more difficult to dig, as you couldn't see the rocks, or even worse obstruction, roots, while digging. We usually ate our supper ration as a reward after the hole was completed. We felt more protected then, and one of us could relax at a time to partake of food.

There wasn't much of a ritual to get ready for bed--no clothes to change, no shaving or even taking off the helmet. I usually tried to brush my teeth and then tucked the breakfast "K" ration under my armpit before retiring for an hour, to keep it thawed for breakfast. Our feet were becoming almost as big a concern now as the enemy and during this period of time we started losing men we could afford to spare to frostbite, trench feet, and frozen feet.

We weren't getting our usual dry change of socks every few days, and it didn't help to bare your wet foot in below-freezing weather. So most of us tried to keep wiggling our toes while on night guard duty, or during periods that we weren't marching during the day. But we all soon became run down and tired due to the strain of combat and being outside in the cold for an extended period so that many just gave up the additional effort to take care of their feet.

This, then, comprised what was a representative day of the foot soldier during the Battle of the Bulge except for the various experiences in combat, which we were very soon to encounter. ■

ANTI-TANK GUNS

Submitted by Elmer J. Potzmann
110th AAA 90mm Gun Battalion (TD)

[Elmer writes: Enclosed is a photo copy of the original document not altered in any way. Check the dateline of July 9th, 1944. I have the original document in my so-called War Room with my other memorabilia. This order document was given to our battalion. We employed it whenever necessary. We were very useful and effective in the Battle of the Bulge--in Belgium, Malmedy, St. Vith and Leglise and two other towns close by.]

CONFIDENTIAL

9 July 1944

Major General M. S. Eddy,
Commanding, 9th Infantry Division,
APO #9, United States Army.

Dear Matt:

The Army Commander has attached an anti-aircraft battalion of 90mm guns to VII Corps to deal with heavy German tanks. The 90mm guns can knock these tanks out frontally, which the 3-inch

gun cannot do. General Bradley wants us to use them exclusively as anti-tank guns, and to develop a doctrine for their use as anti-tank guns elsewhere in the First Army.

I am accordingly attaching one battery to the tank destroyer battalion which is attached to your division. The battery is stripped of its AAA directing equipment. Attachments to the tank destroyer battalion is essential in order to take full advantage of its anti-tank reconnaissance and security facilities, and to give the 90mm unit guidance by experienced tank destroyer commanders. The 90mm personnel have had little anti-tank training. Each gun must have with it an experienced tank destroyer officer or non-commissioned officer to designate its targets and especially to prevent firing at our own tanks, armored card, artillery and engineer tractors.

I am particularly anxious for the 3-inch and 90mm guns to be worked into a team in which the 90mm fire is reserved for heavy German tanks. It is understood that the German heavy tank Mk VI is employed only, at rough, from 1100 to 2000 yards. In this hedgerow country, they are unlikely to operate off the good roads. The 90mm gun requires a little time to unlimber, emplace, and conceal properly, and is, of course, purely a defensive weapon. Therefore, the 90mm guns should be leap-frogged along the main road, seeking single gun positions with a field of fire down the road about 1500 yards. The 57mm and 3-9 inch guns should seek to canalize the German tanks into the main road where the 90mm gun awaits them.

Since your tank battalion is not engaging in dependent tank attacks, I believe the question of direct cooperation between your tanks and the 90mm gun can be deferred in favor of developing first the anti-tank teamwork suggested above.

Please see that your battery gets a good start and is carefully guided in this new line of work. Let me have your ideas on the subject as you go along.

Sincerely:

J. LAWTON COLLINS
Major General, U.S. Army,
Commanding

CONFIDENTIAL

C O P Y ■

WANT TO TODDLE?? CHICAGO, CHICAGO... THAT TODDLIN' TOWN

Frank Sinatra made it sound so adventuresome and fun.

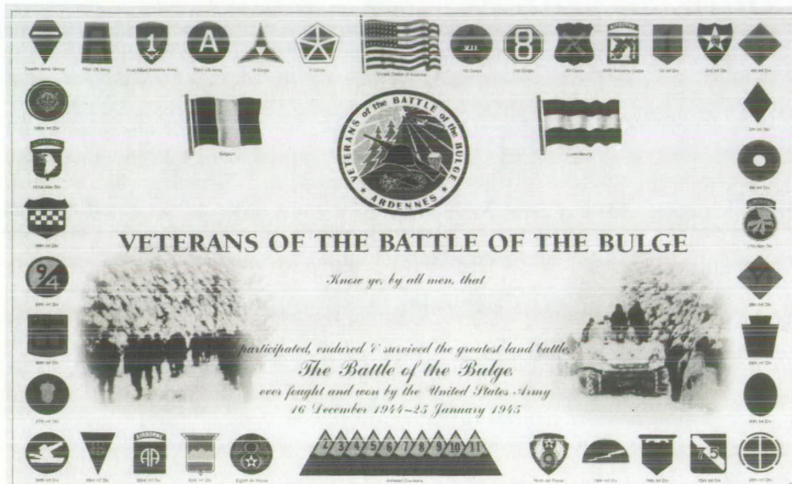
Toddling means: walking with short tottering steps in the manner of a young child.

Tottering means: threatening to collapse or move unsteadily. Now don't let that discourage you, 'cause we're going to have fun and be adventuresome anyway.

So, pack your bags and join us at the Lincolnshire Marriott Resort, September 25-30, 2007, in Lincolnshire, Illinois--on the north shore of Chicago.

Don't forget to bring a warm wrap of some type--the winds off of the lakes can be rather crisp when autumn rolls around. ■

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:

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date _____	place _____	date _____	dates _____	Camp _____	
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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.					

THANK GOODNESS FOR DUDS

Edward Echmalian
557th Ordnance Heavy Maintenance
Company (TK)

December 18, 1944: We were awakened by the sound of a breaking glass window; by a piece of shrapnel breaking a glass window and piercing a closet containing some hanging clothes.

All of us god up--didn't speak a word and got our clothes on. It was exactly three o'clock in the morning. For us, that was the beginning of the Battle of the Bulge.

We were on the fourth floor of the cable works (still there but greatly expanded) in Eupen, Belgium.

We went down to the cellar of the building where an ordnance company was staying. They had had a previous experience where they suffered some casualties and knew better than that. We were then told to line up for chow. Before we could form the line, three shells came screaming in. The shells were really screaming.

After we were outside on the ground, we heard three shells screaming at us to hit the ground--which we did. I was told by a fellow ordnance man that my carbine really hit the ground. That was followed by three more shells screaming at us to hit the ground--which we did again. None of the shells exploded nearby and were duds.

A fellow ordnance man followed up the recovery of the shells. They were 170mm shells.

About two nights later, a couple of our guards were walking off a detail when they heard a shell coming in. They heard a bomb hit the wall of a small building. It put a large hole through the wall of the building. A recovery technician from the ordnance was later available to defuse the shell.

That was our experience of the beginning of the Battle of the Bulge. It was over a week before we were told to leave and make our way to Huy, Belgium.■

SUSQUEHANNA CHAPTER VA VOLUNTEERS

A copy of a VAVS Summary of Annual Joint Review informs us that the Susquehanna Chapter is continuing its work assisting the Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania, Veterans Administration Medical Center.

Great work.■

740TH TANK BATTALION DIARY OF A MEDIC

Preserved by S/Sgt Howard E. Small
Author Unknown

[The following article appeared in the July 2006 issue of the tank battalion's newsletter, "Newsletter and Historical Quarterly. It is a continuation of an earlier article.]

We heard over the radio of the German breakthrough and we knew we were going to go into battle. The night the German breakthrough started, we saw and heard German planes and they dropped flares and we thought for sure they were parachutists, so we didn't sleep much.

Our companies started leaving (Aubin-Neufchateau) as soon as possible and left at 10:25 a.m., December 19, 1944, not knowing when or where we would meet the Germans. We arrived at Sprimont, Belgium, 19 December 1944 at night and everyone was retreating and rumors were that the Germans were still coming our way, all the ordnance companies were pulling out and leaving their vehicles so we got whatever tanks, peeps, armored cars, and anything we could find and rushed into battle.

We set up our first combat-aid station in a dry goods store, run by Marcella. Our first casualty was Maddox, we treated him and kept him with us. We moved to a chateau in Sprimont and on Christmas Eve we saw a tremendous air battle and a lot of American bombers and fighters were knocked down. Left Sprimont 26 December 1944 and arrived 1/2 mile northeast of Spa, Belgium, for a rest but we left 9:00 in the morning on the 29th of December, 1944. We fought with the 30th Infantry Division but on the 29th of December we were sent to the 82nd Infantry Division and we arrived out in the open field near a wooded area near Chevron, Belgium, on the 30th of December 1944. We lived in a house that had a large wood shed and it was so cold and Germans were just over the next hill. The 82nd Airborne fellows were in fox-holes all around us. We finally found an old farm house for the aid-station, near an artillery battery and we thought by the sound were past the front line.

...We were in a lot of battles in this area with the 82nd Airborne Division. This is where Small & Holman rolled their weapons carrier over a cliff, the roads were so icy on the way to the clearing station.

We left Chevron, Belgium, 10 January, 1945, and arrived at Winamplanche, Belgium, for a rest. We had movies there, but it was awful cold. We went to Spa several times and took a mineral bath. Left Winamplanche, Belgium, and arrived at a little village near Stavelot and were shocked at the sights of things the Germans had done.

We fought around LeGleize, Stoumont and the surrounding area. We moved to a shot up old hotel in Recht, Belgium, 28 January 1945. Artillery nearly shook the place down--we were the first Americans to occupy this little pro-Nazi town. We moved to Anderstrasse, Belgium, 30 January, 1945, and there were dead Germans everywhere, they were still fighting hard but we were gradually pushing them out of the Bulge. The weather was so cold, snowy and bad it was as hard to fight as the Germans.

Left Anderstasse 1 February 1945--arrived at Medell, Belgium. Fierce fighting went on at Udenbreth and Germans were killed by large groups at a time. We entered Germany for the first time and pushed through the Siegfried Line near there. We pulled back to Hebronval, Belgium, for a rest 5 February 1945 and we were detached from the 82nd Airborne Division.

We left Hebronval 8 February 1945, and went to Kornel-muenster, Germany, near Aachen, Brad and Stoleberg.

[This completed the Battle of the Bulge for the 740th Medics.]■

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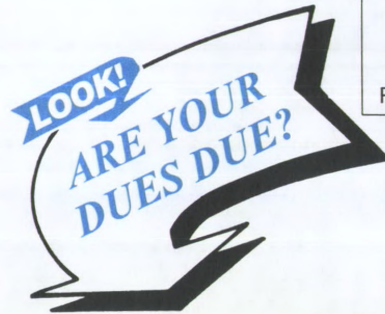
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