

# The BULGE BUGLE

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VOLUME XXVI NUMBER 1

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

FEBRUARY 2007

## TANK DESTROYERS

*For psychological reasons, General Marshall decided that anti-tank units should be renamed Tank Destroyers.*



As day one of the Battle of the Bulge drew near, American tank destroyers would be thoroughly tested. Their mission would be defensive: Should American tanks avoid fighting enemy tanks? Could towed gun crews survive and win? Could the lightly armored M-10's and M-18's with their shoot-and-scoot tactics deal successfully with German armor?

By Ralph Storm  
11th Armored Division  
21st Armored  
Infantry Battalion  
Battery B

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### Next VBOB Reunion in Chicago Area

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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

Let's start 2007 with my wish for a Happy New Year for you, your family and countless friends.

Historic documentation of the Battle of the Bulge made great strides in 2006 while communities across the country paused to recognize and honor veterans who not only answered the call of their nation but have answered the call of their local towns. Accolades were received from citizens respecting and admiring the example veterans have set, the courage and perseverance veterans have shown and the public service veterans have given.

Spotlighting one major achievement was the May 8, 2006, dedication of our Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery. Years and months of 'yes, no, maybe'; many obstacles, disappointment and despair were met head on with incredible determination, hope and persistent belief our 'Triumph of Courage' warranted a more visible 'investment in history' spanning lifetimes into the future. With sincere appreciation for 62 years of liberty, the unselfish, generous donation by the grateful people of the Kingdom of Belgium and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg offset the construction costs. Our TRIBUTE TO WORLD WAR II AMERICAN SOLDIERS WHO FOUGHT THE GREATEST LAND BATTLE IN THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY IN THE ARDENNES--DECEMBER 16, 1944 TO JANUARY 25, 1945 generated front page headlines, victorious stories, video productions, photographs, tears and smiles both here and abroad. The gentle rain (teardrops from heaven) at the out-start of the dedication ceremony obediently subsided upon the arrival of His Excellency Guy Verhofstadt, Prime Minister of Belgium; Her Excellency Octavie Modert, Secretary of State for Culture of Luxembourg; Honorable R. James Nicholson, Secretary, Veterans Affairs Department; Honorable Congressman Christopher H. Smith, the veteran's friend from New Jersey; His Excellency Frans von Daele, Ambassador of Belgium; His Excellency Joseph Weyland, Ambassador of Luxembourg; our friend and 'brother' Brig. Gen. Dany E. Van de Ven, Defense, Military, Naval and Air Attache of Belgium; Honorable Tom C. Korologos, U.S. Ambassador to Belgium; Honorable Philippe Collard, Mayor of Bastogne, Belgium; Commander Baudouin Litt, Belgian Embassy; Paul Schmit and Monique Thill, Luxembourg Embassy; foreign Military Attaches of our Allied Forces that fought with us in the Battle of the Bulge; General Harry W. O. Kinnard, General William A. Knowlton, Mrs. George S. Patton, Jr., and her sister, Mrs. Richard Roberson; Superintendent John C. Metzler, Jr., and Historian Tom Sherlock, Arlington National Cemetery; Rose and Charles DeChristopher; busloads of our veterans from Delaware Valley Chapter, Lehigh Valley Chapter and Washington, D.C., Veterans Home; and many other veterans, their families and friends.

The official Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Ceremonial Flag with stand was presented to Honorable Chris H. Smith, of



Stanley Wojtusik

New Jersey, which will be publicly displayed in Washington, D.C. Our friend, Congressman Smith and his staff doggedly pursued HR5055, written into the official *Congressional Record* and signed into law by President George W. Bush, granting permission for construction of our memorial in Arlington National Cemetery. We're grateful to Superintendent John C. Metzler, Jr., and Historian Tom Sherlock for the spectacular location at McPherson and Porter Road and also, along with Brig. Gen. Dany E. Van de Ven and Commander Baudouin Litt, their friendship, understanding and expertise throughout the process.

To further accentuate our status as a strong, viable organization, in another unprecedented achievement, Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge were honored with a visit by a member of The President's Cabinet. On December 10, 2006, The Honorable Secretary of the Veterans Affairs Department, R. James Nicholson, canceled his previously booked schedule to be in California and joined members of the Delaware Valley Chapter at the Annual Commemorative Chapel Service & Luncheon and Laying a Wreath of Remembrance at our International Monument at Valley Forge Military Academy and College in Wayne, Pennsylvania. Honored guests were Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Honorable Jim Nicholson, Brig. Gen. Dany E. Van de Ven, Commander & Mrs. Baudouin Litt, VFMA&C President and Mrs. Tony McGeorge, Carlisle War College Colonel & Mrs. Tom Sweeney and Mr. & Mrs. Charles DeChristopher.

With cooperation and participation of our 66 chapters, acknowledgment of the Battle of the Bulge is engraved in granite across the country. You've heard it before but it sounds great to repeat--we can proudly boast of monuments located in Rochester, NY; Indiantown Gap, PA; Winter Park, FL; San Francisco, CA; Quincy, MA; Worcester, MA; Orlando, FL; St. Louis, MO; Ritman, OH; Traverse City, MI; Melbourne, FL; Winchendon, MA; Fort Meade, MD; Colorado Springs, CO; Army War College, Carlisle, PA; Valley Forge Military Academy & College, Wayne, PA; and two in Arlington National Cemetery.

Sadly missed at the Historical Foundation Observances was VBOB Past President and former Historical Foundation Man of the Year William T. Greenville (86th Chemical Motor Battalion), who had been laid to rest with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery on December 15, 2006. The ceremony was attended by a contingent of fellow veterans in town for the December 16th Commemorative Banquet at the Double Tree Hilton Crystal City Hotel. Bill encouraged me to join the National Organization. Our condolences to his wife, "Mudge," and his family. Bill will be missed by all. (Continued on Page 10)

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### REBUTTAL TO U.S. & GERMAN FIELD ARTILLERY IN THE BULGE

The French 75 was furnished and deployed to Headquarters Company, 55th Armored Infantry Battalion. I served on a machine gun crew when a three man 75 mm gun, wheel mounted, crew wheeled up to a railroad track. 21st Armored Infantry Battalion, Company A, was attacking the town, probably Recogne, down the hill. I was astonished. We were in a fire fight.

Following is from Chapter 3 of my memoirs:

*In the spring of 1942 I went to work for the U.S. Army Detroit Ordnance District. My early tasks included finding measuring gauges for armament that had not been seen since World War I.*

Gauges for the French 75 was one of the subjects of my search.

Following is from Chapter 4 of my memoirs:

*From our position next to a railroad track at the top of a hill, we looked down at a small town about 800 yards away. Between the town and the track our troops engaged the enemy in close fighting and hand-to-hand combat. We opened fire and directed an almost continuous stream of bullets at enemy targets. Within minutes an enemy mortar shell dropped the three-man crew of the 75-mm gun 10 yards to the right of us.*

It could easily be assumed that said "U.S. & German Field Artillery in the Battle of the Bulge" is a contrived effort of a feuilletonist and it would be interesting to read the opinions of others who read it.

**M. E. "Mike" Nosanov**  
11 ARMD 55 AIB HQ

### PROXIMITY FUSES

I was an artillery man in the 953rd Field Artillery Battalion (V Corps) in ETO, 4th Gun Section, Number 1 Man (I fired the howitzer).

I noticed as the proximity fuse was used it worked as designed except on cloudy or rainy days. On overcast days as our battery fired--as the shells entered the clouds one or two shells exploded because of the density of the clouds. As the shells on the downward course of its trajectory another one or two would explode and the target would not receive four detonations but because of the moisture (drops of rain) we would have premature explosions. We could see this happening when dark.

Thank you, Charles Biggio, for your information on artillery.

**Anthony Stefan**  
(aka Anthony Stefancavage)  
953 FA BN C

### A SALUTE TO NURSES

As a veteran of the Battle of the Bulge, I can appreciate the disappointment of Ruth Puryear and other army nurses for not being mentioned on the new monument in Arlington

(November issue). I was severely wounded in the vicinity of Bastogne in January 1945 and was fortunate in being brought to a Mash Unit (39th Evacuation Hospital). After surgery, I needed and received nursing care 24 hours a day.

For the gift of life I received, I thank the good Lord and the medical profession which includes the skill, knowledge and kindness of nurses. Since I married a nurse, I include her in my prayers for the 53 years we have been together.

**Ed Morgenstern**  
17 ABND 195 GIR

### A GRATEFUL PATIENT

I enjoyed the article, "The Night Before Christmas, Bastogne, 1944," by Dr. Prior. I was one of his patients in his battalion aid station and a member of the 20th Armored Infantry Battalion. Lucky for me, I was not there on Christmas Eve, but just arriving at an army hospital in Paris.

Captain Prior had sent a couple of ambulances out into the fog hoping that the Germans would let the seriously injured through. They did and I survived although they had to amputate my leg on Christmas morning to get rid of the gangrene.

Thanks for the fine publications.

**Donald J. Addor**  
10 ARMD 20 AIB

*[Don has written a book, entitled "Noville Outpost to Bostogne." If you are interested in purchasing a copy his address is: 1122 Houston Acres III, Millsboro, Delaware 19966-1625. Cost is \$17.00, including shipping and handling.]*

### LEST WE FORGET

As suggested in *The Bulge Bugle*, I have again contacted and corroborated with a few of my veteran friends to make certain that they join me on New Year's Day, 2007, to drink a toast at the scheduled hour to honor the fallen of "BOB." The following will do so: Thad Conway, 575th AAA Battalion, Buffalo, New York; Frank Witkowski, 75th Infantry Division, Buffalo, New York; Frank Tichy, 575th AAA Battalion, Alden, New York; Lloyd Sheldon, 575th AAA Battalion, Mesa, Arizona; Fred Sliwicki, USN (Ret.), Santee, California.

The glass will be lifted by all at the coordinated hour of 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

**Thad Conway**  
575 AAA BN

*[Thanks, Thad, appreciate the feed back.]*

### CORRECTION

Great issue!

Constructive comment: page 14 [November 2006 issue] ending sentence should read 150mm, NOT 105mm as was written.

**Phillip W. Robbins**  
4 INFND 12 INF 2 BN E&F

## A CHANGE OF HEART

My heart is so sad today--I'm watching the observances for Veterans Day and thinking, "I'm not sending any more money to this organization because I never see any names or hear anything about the 87th Reconnaissance Company. Then, it occurred to me that's because of the 157 men in the company only 21 returned. My husband went under the tank, when they were being bombarded so heavily--concussion threw him face up and broke off his teeth and bruised his face--that saved his life. I've tried several times to get acknowledge of his service--he was told all records were burned in Kansas.

[My husband was] 1st Sgt John J. Link. He enlisted to be in the horse cavalry and was first in the 1st Armored Division, then the 2nd Armored and then the third always in reconnaissance. He drove tanks in General Patton's maneuvers in the desert and knew him personally. He fought all the way across Europe--Metz, Holland, Belgium, etc., etc.

He was also in the 7th Armored--went overseas with that division.

Joe Ramset was his Captain.

*[John died over 32 years ago.] Imogene would like to have information about her husband or his unit. If anyone can help her, please do so. She wants her children to have information regarding his service. Any information will help. Her address is: 107 West School Street, Trenton, Texas 75490-2310.]*

**Imogene Link**  
Associate Member

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## ...BROUGHT BACK MEMORIES

Enjoyed the recent issue of the magazine (November, 2007). The article by Dr. Jack Prior was interesting as my wife recognized him as an old family friend who had grown up in St. Albans, Vermont.

In the article, he mentioned working with a Dr. Serrell. I believe he was referring to Dr. Howard Serrell, of Greenwich, Connecticut, who was chief of surgery when I interned at that hospital after the war. We had many discussions regarding the Bulge.

The last point of interest was the letter from Ruth Puryear, who was a nurse in the 107th Evac Hospital, where I served as an operating technician.

I have enjoyed the magazine.

**Robert E. Stanton**  
107 EVAC HOSP

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## FIELD ARTILLERY WEAPONS

The article (in the November issue) "U.S. and German Artillery in the Battle of the Bulge," submitted by Charles P. Biggio, Jr., was most informative and most interesting.

Mr Biggio highlighted "artillery weapons and organizations in the Bulge," specifically noting the battle of Elsenborn--and discussed the participation of the 1st, 9th, and the 99th Divisions--I was a member of the 955th Field Artillery Battalion, V Corps, in the fire direction section and we provided artillery support, as needed, to these divisions.

As I stated above, the article was most informative and

most interesting--however, the article stated in part "As the Battle of Elsenborn began on December 16, 1944, the German artillery of the 6th Panzer Army greatly outnumbered the guns of the opposing V Corps elements--1222 to 314 (thus belying the myth that the American artillery always outnumbered the Germans). For details on the weapons and organization of the artillery and organization of the artillery at Elsenborn see Chart A for the German Order of Battle and see Chart B for the American Order of Battle. (Charts appear at the end of this article). These charts present a picture of the weapons involved and the artillery organizations. Please note! These charts did not appear in this article.

I believe these charts would be most informative and very interesting and support much of what Mr. Biggio was reporting in his article. Can you please print these charts in the next issue of *The Bulge Bugle*?

*[The charts were processed with the article to the printer, we will try to locate them--although it may be that we will have to publish them in a future article or make them available upon request. Space availability did not allow us to print them with the original article.]*

Again, as always, I would like to thank you for the great work you are doing in publishing of the magazine for over these many years--it is really appreciated--especially now as we are getting older and as we are reminded of those days of "Way back when..."

**Felix Melleno**  
955 FA BN

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## SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

I have read the article "Setting the Record Straight" sent by Thomas Williams of the 761st Tank Battalion which was the unit's Presidential Unit Citation received on January 24, 1978, from President Jimmy Carter. Evidently this article was never reviewed by the military for accuracy, I am enclosing an article that I wrote for the 87th Division in 1993 which contains some of my findings with this and other written articles.

**Henry P. Dart, Jr.**  
87 INF 346 MED I

*[We have not printed Mr. Dart's article as we had previously received an article from Michael Petrick and space did not allow us to use the material. We will, however, print his information in a future article.]*

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## CHARTS FOR THE ARTILLERY ARTICLE

Thank you very much for publishing my long article on the Artillery in *The Bulge*. I have received many complimentary letters and phone calls from veterans of the Bulge and I have you to thank for that. However, every one of them asked the same question: "Where are the three charts mentioned in the text?" which were supposed to appear at the end of the article (as noted on page 11). These charts are necessary for a full understanding of the text.

May I respectfully suggest that the three charts be published in your next

(Continued)

issue--if it not too much trouble--and while the article is still fresh in everyone's mind.

Charles P. Biggio, Jr.  
99 INFD

*[Lack of space dictated at the last minute that we could not include the charts. As this issue is nearly complete, we are again faced with the same problem. We will make them available in the May issue and for those of you who would like to receive copies by mail, please send VBOB a self-addressed, stamped envelope and mark "Charts" on the outside of your envelope and we will photocopy them and mail them to you. Our apologies to Mr. Biggio for not having including them with his wonderful article--space available is one of our biggest problems.]*

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#### RE: ARTILLERY ARTICLE

Let me express belated thanks to you and all members of the VBOB organization for their outstanding efforts in organizing and carrying out the 60th Anniversary program in Belgium and Luxembourg two years ago. I am very grateful to have been a participant in this memorable event.

As a former artillery man, instrument and survey section, "B" Battery, 666th Field Artillery Battalion, I was especially interested in the article submitted by Charles P. Biggio, Jr., of the 99th Infantry Division. Do you have his address, where I might contact him?

Something mentioned in the article, which was not included, refers to "Note in Chart A" and "Chart B" at the end of the article.

I am interested in obtaining a copy of the complete article. Is it possible it might have been excerpted from a different publication? If so, could I obtain a copy from that source? Of course, I would reimburse whatever cost might be involved.

Dick White  
666 FA BN B

*[We have sent Mr. White the information he requested.]*

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## A GREAT BIG WELCOME 10TH ARMORED DIVISION MEMBERS

As you may or may not know, the 10th Armored Division held its last association reunion this past September.

While, it's a sad situation to have to dissolve an association, we are heartened that members of the group have been encouraged to join with VBOB in order that they might participate in our reunion and continue to receive information regarding the Battle of the Bulge.

We realize that we cannot duplicate the closeness that comes with individual associations devoted to one group, but we always endeavor to provide worthwhile information and the opportunity for such groups to get together at the VBOB reunion.

We welcome those from the 10th who have joined with us and hope that more will become members soon. ☐

## Members Speak Out

Robert A. Clemens is interested in locating an acquaintance or family member of **PFC WILLIAM (BILL) D. KIDNEY, JR., COMPANY B, 21ST ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, 11TH ARMORED DIVISION**. Bill was killed in action in Chenogne (southwest of Bastogne) on December 31, 1944. (Other information indicates KIA in Moty on January 2, 1945.) He is buried in Saint Avold, France. Bill's wife's name was Valerie M. Kidney of Toledo, Ohio. His parents were: William and Marie Kidney, also of Toledo. If you can provide any information please advise Robert at: 130 Coventry Circle, Brockton, Massachusetts 02301.

Associate member **Antoine Nouens** would like to find information on **MIKE HOWANICH, 51ST ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, MEDIC**. He recently found his jacket at a flea market. Any information regarding Mike, his family, or other information would be very much appreciated. Write to: A. Nouens, Aawal 41, 5211 PS Den Bosch, Holland.

**GABE FIENI, 3RD AUXILIARY GROUP, HEADQUARTERS, FIRST U.S. ARMY**, would like any assistance possible in locating a child he befriended during the war. Gabe hid the child and fed him until he got short notice to return to the States in November 1945. He believes a nurse who helped care for the child may have brought him back to the States when she came. The child's name was: Rogut Jasbusz or Jasbusz Rogut. Gabe nicknamed him "Smiley." His family was annihilated. If you can provide any assistance, please contact Gabe Fieni, 516 Elmer Circle, Reading, Pennsylvania 19605.

Gary Hockins (Hawkins?) would like to hear from anyone who may have served with **WILLARD L. HAWKINS (HOCKINS?), 26TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 101ST INFANTRY REGIMENT**. (Sorry about the spelling of the name--couldn't read my own writing). If you can help write to Garry at: 3939 Sommerset Park, Johnstown, Pennsylvania 15905.

Ronnie Wright is looking for information regarding his father: **LUTHER P. WRIGHT, COMPANY A, 46TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, 5TH ARMORED DIVISION**. If you can provide information on Luther or his unit, please contact Ronnie: 165 Liberty Lane, Gallatin, Tennessee 37066.

Paul Gilson would like to correspond with anyone who may have served in the Mertzig (Luxembourg) area. Contact him at: 8, rue de l'ecole; L-9167 Mertzig; Luxembourg.

Army veteran James Crow's hobby is the compilation of WWII German aircraft photos of the 1944-46 period. If you have an old picture of a captured, surrendered, shot-down, junk-piled German plane, he will appreciate your mailing it to him at 389 Yorkfield Avenue, Elmhurst, Illinois 60126-5315. Jim will photo copy and return your original promptly. He wants you to know that this is a hobby to preserve history and not a commercial endeavor.

# Reprinted from *PATTON--A Genius for War*

Author: Carlo D'Estra

[Excerpt] If Patton and McAuliffe emerged as the best-known military figures of the Bulge, "the real victory in the Ardennes belonged to the American soldier," writes Charles B. MacDonald, "for he provided time to enable his commanders--for all their intelligence failure--to bring their mobility and their airpower into play. At that point the American soldier stopped everything the German Army threw at him."

Winston Churchill hailed the Battle of the Bulge as "the greatest American battle of the war [that] will, I believe, be regarded as an ever famous American victory." A British historian has written:

The Battle of the Bulge has been the subject of as much bilious criticism as Waterloo, Gettysburg and Alamein. As a result of only three reputations have emerged with almost unqualified acclaim--those of Eisenhower, the Allied air forces and the American soldier. Justice demands that to these should be added the name of Patton." Moreover, Eisenhower's "faint praise given [Patton] in *Crusade in Europe* for his part in the battle there is a hint of condescension which comes ill from the pen of one who despite all his talents and virtues was an unblooded soldier."

The battles that raged for six weeks in the frozen hell of the Ardennes were among the bitterest and bloodiest of any fought in the West. Casualties on both sides were not only staggering, but "the Ardennes offensive was a rude awakening. The surprise lay not so much in the resurgence of German power as in the revelation of allied weakness." In such terrible conditions Patton was awed: "How men live, much less fight, is a marvel to me." The Third Army after-action report estimated 100,000 German casualties. No official German casualty figures have ever been computed. However, the German High Command's own estimate of loss in the Bulge is 81,834, with 12,652 killed, 38,600 wounded and 30,582 missing." Both sides lost enormous quantities of equipment; those of the Germans were irreplaceable.

The day the Bulge was closed Patton wrote to his son, George, that leadership is what wins battles. "I have it--but I'll be damned if I can define it." Of Omar Bradley he would soon write: "He is a good officer but utterly lacks 'it.' Too bad." He had again defied death when one of Hitler's new jets dropped a bomb nearby, scaring both Willie and his master, "They also shoot rockets at us, but one gets used to such things. It is like a thunderstorm. You are not apt to be in the way. And if you are, what the Hell, no more buttoning and unbuttoning."

After being stymied and frustrated in Lorraine and the Saar, in the Ardennes Patton was presented with another opportunity not only to display his genius for war but to turn a wretched situation to his advantage, and that of the allies. However, as with any military operation, there were flaws. Patton's maneuvering of Third Army to relieve Bastogne did not win the Battle of the Bulge. Indeed, as historians have pointed out, the relief of Bastogne was made in a sector occupied by inferior German formations, and the heaviest German attacks against

Bastogne did not commence until December 26. They also note that credit must be given to the men of the First Army, who stubbornly held the northern shoulder against overwhelming odds.

Nor is Patton without critics of his generalship during this great battle. British historian Peter Elstob writes that, after a dramatic start, the disappointingly slow progress of the Third Army was due to more than the horrible weather conditions. Patton's problem was that he could not mount his kind of battle: "Instead of an all-out attack concentrated on a narrow front designed to cut through the base of the salient--he had to try to push a twenty-five mile wide front some twenty miles through country which seemed to consist of a series of natural defensive features. His attacking forces wore themselves down against Seventh Army's tough and elusive defenses.... Patton got his reinforcements late and committed them too soon."



December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Laying the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown in Arlington National Cemetery were Morrill Worchester, Harrington, Maine; John DiMino, Norristown, PA and National President, Stan Wojtusik, Philadelphia. More than 5,000 Christmas wreaths were placed throughout the Cemetery through the generosity of Mr. Worchester of Worchester Wreath Company in Maine.

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## WORLD WAR II STATISTICS (1941-45)

Total U.S. Service Members	16,112,566
Battle Deaths	291,557
Non-mortal Woundings	671,846
Living Veterans	3,525,769

The above information appeared in the Northern Indiana Chapter newsletter *The Ardennes Campaign--41 Days in Hell*. ■

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**CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR DUES ARE DUE. YOUR DUES DATE IS ABOVE YOUR LAST NAME ON THE ADDRESS INFORMATION ON THIS NEWSLETTER. ANNUAL DUES ARE \$15.00.**

## BULGE MONUMENT DEDICATED IN NEW JERSEY

Battle of the Bulge veterans from the South Jersey Chapter dedicated a beautiful black granite monument on October 21, 2006, in Cape May County Veterans Cemetery, Cape May Court House, New Jersey.

A week of high winds had given way to a beautiful day for the members of the South Jersey Chapter of VBOB to gather to dedicate a memorial to all who served in the Battle of the Bulge.

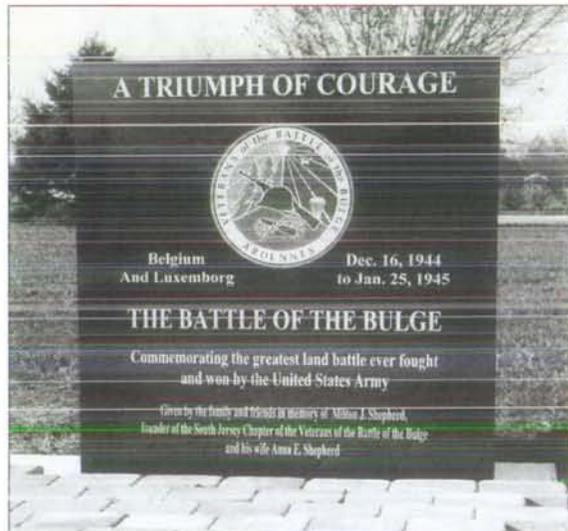
Dedication of a monument was accomplished through the dreams and hard work of chapter founder, Milton J. Shepherd, and his close associate, Rudy Callender. After their passing, chapter members and their families saw that the mission was completed.

Eighteen Bulge veterans attended the ceremony along with many friends and family members. Members who were unable to participate in the ceremonies were recognized.

Augustus "Gus" Epple, current chapter president, presided over the ceremonies, reviewing the statistics of the battle and the hardships the soldiers endured.

An all-girl Coast Guard Recruit Color Guard presented the colors.

Milt Shepherd's grandson, Ryan Hewitt, played *Taps* with his grandfather's campaign cap tucked in his belt.



## STORY OF A FOOT SOLDIER

*[The following was excerpted from a story by THOMAS F. STIMSON, 87TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 347TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, COMPANY K, in "The Golden Acorn News," the newsletter of the 87th Infantry Division.]*

On December 12, 1944, the 87th replaced the 26th Division on the French border near Germany just before dark. As a platoon leader I took my men two at a time and placed them in foxholes vacated by the men of one of the platoons of the 26th Division. After completing this job I decided to go back around the platon

area to be sure my men were okay.

Darkness had settled in and as I moved about the scattered foxholes, I stepped into a hole full of ice water. What a dumb thing to do! I sat down on a rock, took off my boot and pulled on a dry sock from under my shirt. I had just gotten the dry sock on when I heard a noise. I picked up my rifle, stood up and moved to one side and then the other side. I couldn't see a thing. It had never been so dark. I decided I was hearing things, so I moved back to where I thought my boot was. Although I couldn't see a thing I moved around a small area expecting to find my boot. The boot had disappeared. I could have been shot by one of my own men. I found another rock, sat down and waited for daylight. It was a long, cold night.

On December 14, 1944, the 87th attacked the Germans for the first time. This was exactly one year after I graduated from OCS. We received heavy fire and some men were wounded. I lost two men from New York who had been close friends most of their lives. Fragments from the same shell got both of them although they were not close together. The next day we continued the attack from France into Germany, moving forward every day.

On December 18th we received orders to hold our positions. Although we did not understand the extent of the problem, we heard that the Germans had broken through our lines in the vicinity of Bastogne, Belgium. This became the Battle of the Bulge or officially the Battle of the Ardennes.

On December 23rd, 1944 the 87th Division started a move to the rear of 350 miles by truck to Belgium. The back of those open trucks was freezing cold. Three hundred fifty miles is a little more than the distance across the State of Tennessee from Chattanooga to Memphis. And it was not a freeway. We did not have fur lined boots nor fur lined jackets to protect us from our worst enemy--the weather--24 hours every day.

On January 7, 1945, we were fighting in thick woods and deep snow. Company K, my company, was in foxholes in the woods and we were pinned down there for a week. If we moved, the Germans would shoot at us. They were in the same woods. We were pinching the side of the German bulge, so it was important for us to hold our position. We could take off our boots and massage our feet but we could not walk around.

After six or seven days we got orders by radio to move to a nearby town for food and rest. The Germans had given up their positions and had withdrawn. About midnight our company of about 160 men walked out of the woods toward the town. The ground was covered with snow and a full moon made the whole area as bright as day. We were walking single file completely exposed and up ahead sat a German tank--was it empty? Or full of Germans? We had no idea. It was eerie--just the rustle of equipment or the crunch of our feet in the snow might alert someone. Fortunately we did not stir up any Germans.

After we got into the town and got some food and sleep, we were inspected by the medics. Over half of K Company was evacuated to hospitals with frostbite or frozen feet. Frozen feet and hands are serious. You can lose toes or fingers. I was gone five or six weeks so I missed a lot of the heavy fighting--the crossing of the Mosel River and the crossing of the Rhine River. My presence here today may be due to my being in the hospital. □

# TANK DESTROYERS

By Ralph Storm  
11th Armored Division  
21st Armored Infantry Battalion  
Battery B

*[The following appeared in the 11th Armored Division Association newsletter. Assistance was provided by Wayne Tennant, 705th Tank Destroyer Battalion.]*

When the German army invaded Poland in 1939, the U.S. Army had no antitank units or any antitank guns in production. Field artillery officers had been charged with antitank defense however most artillery officers in 1939 had never seen a tank in action. One officer who was keenly interested in antitank defense was General Leslie McNair, of the 2nd Infantry Division. McNair was to become the most influential man in developing an antitank defense.



McNair recommended that each infantry regiment be equipped with an eight gun antitank company. There was much debate and experimentation regarding the doctrine and equipment of antitank battalions. Those supporting the self-propelled guns argued that these vehicles could perfect a shoot-and-scoot technique. The mobile guns would quickly move into firing positions and then retreat. The advocates for towed guns claimed that the towed weapons were easier to conceal. An ironic aspect of this view was that by 1942-43, both the German and Soviet armies were phasing out their towed guns just as the U.S. Army was adopting three inch guns towed by half-tracks. A third view on how to fight enemy tanks was put forth by General Jacob Devers, who argued that the army should simply build a better tank. Eventually this view prevailed but only after both the American tanks and tank destroyers were thoroughly tested on European battlefields.

For psychological reasons, General Marshall decided that antitank units should be renamed Tank Destroyers. A main training center was to be located at Camp Hood Texas. These battalions would be equipped with both guns towed by half-

tracks and self-propelled guns. The tank destroyer complex at Camp Hood grew into a huge complex which at its peak had 28 battalions training at a time. During the war years, 1942-45, GIs wearing the black and yellow shoulder patches from the Tank Destroyer Center were a familiar sight in the railroad stations of the southwestern states.

A main goal in tank destroyer training was to familiarize the crews with their equipment and to operate the main gun. Training for many gun crews involved dismantled tank-hunting with bazookas, thermite grenades, and even containers of gasoline. Some TD men had reservations about the value of the dismantled training, however during the fighting in the Belgian Ardennes, many tank destroyer men found themselves in infantry foxholes defending their sectors with their bazookas and .50 calibre machine guns.

After the U.S. entered the war in 1941 there was a gradual evolution of antitank weapons from the 37mm gun on up to the 90mm guns which were coming into use in late 1944... Colby Ricker of the 609 TD, recalled how in 1942, heavier guns were being introduced into his unit:

"Concerning towed guns, These were the only guns the early TDs had. When I joined the 609th TD, they were in the process of turning in their 37mm guns which were soon replaced by the T-12 half-track, self-propelled 75mm gun. I do know that there were some towed gun units still in use during the Bulge."

Richard Courtney served in an antitank company in the Bulge and recalled some of the defects of the 57mm gun:

"By comparison to the German 88 mm gun, our 57mm was a suicide weapon. It did not have the power to penetrate the armor on a German tank. We had to hit them on the sides or the rear, maybe a lucky shot to the underside if a tank was coming over a rise. The muzzle blast of the 57mm was just like a red line showing where we were. The 88 had a muzzle brake on the front of the barrel...the 88 had a wonderful balance. One man could pick up the end of the trails, and on level ground, move the gun around. Our 57mm gun was not well balanced and required two men to lift the heavy rails and at least one man to lie down on the barrel to offset some of the weight."

The M-10 self-propelled tank destroyer consisted of a three-inch gun mounted to a modified Sherman chassis... With its six road wheels, the M-10 was sometimes mistakenly identified as an M-4 tank. Positive identification could be made by noting the sloping sides and longer three inch gun. The ordnance department built over 6,000 M-10s and it became the main vehicle in the tank destroyer arsenal.

When American divisions arrived in Europe, their antitank weapons were 57mm guns and bazookas. When tank destroyer battalions were brought into the European Theatre, every division commander wanted one.

Until the fighting in Normandy hedgerows, it was believed by the high brass that the M-4 was a superior tank. It was believed that the 76mm gun could penetrate the tough hide of a Tiger tank. Tiger tanks were not readily available in Normandy, but in July, 1944, a firing test was conducted against the glacis plate of a panther. It was found that when a variety of guns pounded the panther front, only the 90mm could make a penetration. Seeing this, General Eisenhower remarked angrily: "Why is it that I am always the last to hear about this stuff. Ordnance told me that this 76 would take care of everything the Germans had. Now I find out you can't knock out a damned thing with it!"

Eisenhower immediately dispatched

(Continued)

## TANK DESTROYERS

(Continuation)

a secret letter to General Marshall carried by Brigadier General Holly in person. Holly was a tank specialist and had made numerous trips across the Atlantic dealing with this and other problems. Ike's letter demanded that both tanks and tank destroyers be equipped with 90mm guns. The 90mm gun was basically an anti-aircraft weapon with a muzzle velocity of 2,850 feet per second. In an earlier experiment, a 90mm gun had been successfully mounted on an M-10. It became known as the M-36 tank destroyer. General Marshall promised that production of the M-36 would be expedited and that shipment to Europe would be speeded up.

When tank destroyer battalions arrived in France, and were assigned to divisions, they were parceled out to regiments and battalions. Typically a tank destroyer company was sent to an infantry battalion which assigned a TD platoon to each company. The main role for the tank destroyers was infantry support. The TD platoons would move forward several hundred yards behind the line companies and would bank away at stone houses, pill boxes, and other enemy strong points. Quite often the tank destroyer guns were used as artillery. These high velocity guns could shoot 4,000 yards further than the standard 105mm howitzer and their shells came with little warning to troops below. A disadvantage was that the three-inch guns under constant firing conditions, tended to wear out rapidly.

Tank destroyers, unlike the M-4 tanks, did not have the armored sides and tops to protect the crews from weather and artillery. Also, once a TD platoon was separated from its company, it had to depend on its own food rations or what they could obtain from the outfit they were attached to. Wayne Tennant, former CO of Company C, 705th Tank Destroyer Battalion, recalled how his crews survived some cold nights in the Bulge near Bastogne: "A lot of us dug a shallow foxhole, then drove the tank over the hole, then crawled into the hole. That way we were protected from overhead shrapnel and the weather. Our tanks had no top over the turrets. Each vehicle had a pretty good supply and each vehicle had a little gas stove for heating the food. I think that we were supplied by whomever we were attached to. We did not use the company kitchen truck on the front line."

As day one of the Battle of the Bulge drew near, American tank destroyers would be thoroughly tested. Their mission would be defensive: Should American tanks avoid fighting enemy tanks? Could towed gun crews survive and win? Could the lightly armored M-10s and M-18s with their shoot-and-scoot tactics deal successfully with German armor?

Charles Bailly commented on several of these questions: "Tank Destroyers played a crucial role throughout the battle. The Battle of the Bulge was a confused brawl that found American command and control fragmented. Combat commanders from army commanders to squad leaders, fought their own local battles with whatever assets they found at hand. But, as the U.S. Army history of the battle points out, 'The mobile, tactically agile, self-propelled tank destroyers are clearly traceable in the Ardennes fighting as over and over again influencing the course of the battle! Combat in the Ardennes completely discredited the towed guns of the tank destroyer units. The towed guns' lack of mobility made them less effective than self-propelled guns and resulted in greater losses. They could not support a counter attack and were almost inevitably lost when a German unit broke

through American lines."

Altogether in the European Theatre, tank destroyers made an immense contribution to Allied victory. Tank destroyer battalions in the Third Army alone claimed to have killed 600 and 86 enemy tanks and 239 self-propelled guns. Total tank destroyer losses in the ETO were 536 M-10s, 215 M-18s, 151 M-36s, and 228 towed guns.

By VE Day there had been so many armored battles involving both tank destroyers and tanks that the lines had become blurred. An ETC General Board studying tank destroyers ruled that because of the blurring between tanks and TDs, these vehicles were becoming so similar that the tank destroyers had become superfluous. It was recommended that the tank destroyer force be dissolved. This is what General Jacob Devers had proposed back in 1941, namely that the army should build a better tank. ■

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## REUNIONS

**5TH ARMORED DIVISION**, August 16-19, 2007, Canton, Ohio. Contact: 5th ARMD, 16471 Nottingham Drive, Wapakoneta, OH 45895-9471. Telephone: 419-739-9677.

**11TH ARMORED DIVISION**, August 12-19, 2007, Jacksonville, Florida. Contact: 11 Armored Division, 2328 Admira Street Aliquippa, Pennsylvania 15001.

**30TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, March 7-10, 2007, Columbia, South Carolina. Contact: Frank W. Towers, 2915 W SR #235, Brooker, Florida 32622-5167.

**75TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, August, 2007, Kansas City, Kansas. Contact: Jim Warmouth, 6545 West 11th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46214.

**80TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, August 15-18, 2007, Dayton (Fairborn), Ohio. Contact: Elmer G. Dorsten, 208 North Elm Street, Coldwater, Ohio 45828-1124. Telephone: 419-678-2618.

**84TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, August 24-26, 2007, Springfield, Illinois. Contact: Troy Mallory, 2229 Jersey Street, Quincy, Illinois 62301. Telephone: 217-223-9062.

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

**297TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION**, June 5-7, 2007. Contact: Hal Miler, 5251 Windy Hollow Road, Owensboro, Kentucky 42301. Telephone: 270-785-4088.

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *(Continued from Page 3)*

Other recent significant events to confirm our efforts to reach out to perpetuate, preserve, foster and promote the mission, purpose and goals of the national organization will be pictured and reported on elsewhere in this publication.

It's gratifying to realize the many ongoing calls, conversations, invitations and correspondence received almost daily which certainly indicates many, many more people of all ages and locations are very much interested in the Battle of the Bulge and the veterans who fought this battle and know the true stories. Once our Charter is official, our exposure will be even greater.

As always, I encourage you to reach out to others and identify ways and means to further publicize our organization and make a difference as history is constantly being recorded.

# SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHTER

by Michael C. Petrick  
87th Infantry Division  
346th Infantry Regiment  
Company M

*[Mr. Petrick's article relates to an article on page 14 in the August 2006 issue of The Bulge Bugle.]*

[Excerpts] I've sat these past few days, since receiving and reading the above *Bulge Bugle*...remembering some previous action taken on that same claim and could not sit back!

That prompted by (in that remembering of then 1st Lt Bob Watson, 87th Infantry Division, 346th Infantry Regiment, Company I, who commanded that company and who were down in Tillet itself?

Bob passed away earlier in this year and in his honor and similarly of those KIA in capturing Tillet, were all deserving to set that record straight.

So, I set about to look into my files, and you will find attached the days of those actions, of units involved and of a S/Sgt Shoup, who posthumously received the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions in Tillet. The only Medal of Honor awarded in WWII to the 87th Infantry Division.

Bob Watson--a hero himself continued in the service and was wounded twice in Korea. He ended his service as a colonel and is buried in Arlington Cemetery. ...

Let me further add something which I witnessed from my mortar OP in Gerimont Station above Tillet.

A 761st tank was behind a house in Gerimont station about 50/75 yards from my OP. Company L, 346th Infantry Regiment, had begun an action at the top of Gerimont Station toward Tillet.

The tank began to move out and was blasted by a tank down in Tillet--a huge orange flame. The armor piercing shell went through and killed the driver, who happened to be their lieutenant. Those in the tank, alive, got out muttering and ran up the street toward Gerimont Station.

I saw 1st Lt. William F. O'Donnell, Company L, 346th Infantry Regiment, run and man the 50 calibre machine gun on the tank, and heroically fire down above the 346th in combat action toward Tillet. (Lt. O'Donnell is the same Monsignor O'Donnell, the National VBOB Chaplain.)... Lt. O'Donnell was later assigned as a general's aid to the commanding major general at Headquarters.

This refutation is no attempt to detract from any of the factual recordings in setting the record straight of the 761st Tank Battalion in WWII action...

*[Following are excerpts from letters exchanged between officers of the 87th Infantry Division and Hollywood director/producer Stanley Kramer, regarding a film being contemplated in 1991.]*

## To Mr. Kramer:

I am one of your many admirers having greatly enjoyed "High Noon" and "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner," "Pride and

Passion," etc. To enjoy the successes you have had, I would imagine, was because of your thoroughness in researching your background material for these great movies, not only for believability, but also truth in matter.

It is with respect to truth in matter that I am writing to you. The item in question is the film you are undertaking to direct: "Eleanor Roosevelt's Niggers." Advance publicity indicates that the 761st Tank Battalion captured the town of Tillet, Belgium. Whatever successes the 761st Tank Battalion may have enjoyed (and I do not deny them any glory) it should not include the capture of Tillet, Belgium.

I know of where I am speaking because Company I, 346th Infantry Regiment, 87th Division, took the town of Tillet by house-to-house fighting. The four day attack was responsible for the attrition from 80 men and 4 officers to the final count of 30 men and 1 officer (myself). The battle was exceptionally bitter and the only "Congressional Medal of Honor" for the 87th Infantry Division was awarded posthumously to Curtis Shoup, a member of Company I in that battle.

## Letter from Stanley Kramer:

Thank you very much for your letter regarding our proposed film "E.R.N."--"Eleanor Roosevelt's Niggers."

The film is based upon the book of the same title by David Williams. The characters--their dialogue--the interrelationships--are all suggested by Mr. Williams but written and developed by our adaptation. The same is true of the fictional town of La Croix--bearing no relationship to Tillet, Belgium. The town is not captured--is used as a run-through for tanks--and there will be no conflict of interest or usurpation of achievement by the 87th Infantry Division. We deal only with a dramatized tank achievement by the black men of the 761st Tank Battalion in a totally different sector--an invested achievement by our writers.

I can assure you there will be no conflict of identification or achievement. Be that as it may, please accept my admiration and regard for the deeds of the 87th Infantry Division. We owe a debt of gratitude and respect and I would be the last to intrude on that debt.

## Wording on Medal Honor Citation to S/Sgt Shoup:

On 7 January 1945, on the outskirts of the village of Tillet, Belgium, S/Sgt Shoup distinguished himself by the following act of heroism above and beyond the call of duty: Company I was occupying the sides of a hill on the approaches of the town. The enemy had a MG placed so as to cover this position and was pinning the company down. The casualty rate was very heavy and unless the MG next was eliminated, the whole company was faced with annihilation. Then, enemy mortar and "88" shells began to fall all around. S/Sgt Shoup, a BAR man crawled up to within 75 yards of the MG and tried to destroy it. Seeing that he couldn't do this from that position, he stood up and firing the BAR from the waist, advanced toward the next with total disregard for his own life or personal safety. Bullets were hitting all around him and shell fragments filled the air near him. He was hit several times and was finally knocked down by enemy fire. Although seriously wounded, he struggled to his feet and continued to advance until he was close enough to throw a grenade and destroy the nest. By his courageous and unselfish act of bravery, he not only saved the lives of over 60 men, but he permitted the company to advance and attain its objective. Right after knocking out the MG nest, S/Sgt Shoup was fatally

hit by a bullet from another machine gun.

[Mr. Petrick also included quotes from "U.S. Army in WWII - European Theater of Operations: The Last Offensive by Charles B. MacDonald]

#### "Victory in the Ardennes," page 35:

Holding part of Bastogne's old perimeter defense to north and northwest. The 101st Airborne Division, with an attached combat command of the 10th Armored Division, was the only readily available experienced force in Middleton's VII Corps.

Middleton had in addition the 17th Airborne Division, and two newcomers to the front, the 11th Armored and the 87th Infantry Division, which General Bradley had specifically directed to be employed at Bastogne lest Patton [shift?] the offensive there in favor of his cherished drive near the base of the Bulge.

In the four days preceding renewal of the offensive on 3 January, the 87th Infantry Division, and the armor had taken substantial losses, leaving the armored division, "badly disorganized" after loss of a third of its tanks.

To enable the armor to catch its breath, the new airborne division was to enter the line of 3 January.

#### "Victory in the Ardennes, page 39:

Will hoping to mount an attack against the base, Patton worried now lest the Germans make good their escape before he could act.

Despite the exodus of German armor American troops found no evidence on 7 and 8 January of German intent to withdraw.

Although the U.S. divisions around the salient postponed further attacks to await the arrival of the new division, patrols found the enemy as full of fight as ever.

The 17th Airborne Division, and the 87th Infantry Division, meanwhile renewed their attacks on both days with the usual German reaction.

For the 87th Infantry Division, trying to break into the crossroads settlement of Tillet, midway between Bastogne and St. Hubert, the fighting proved bitterly frustrating as every attempt met sharp reposte from the--Fuehrer Begleit Brigade--another elite unity heavy in armor--that had been created from Hitler's Household Guard.

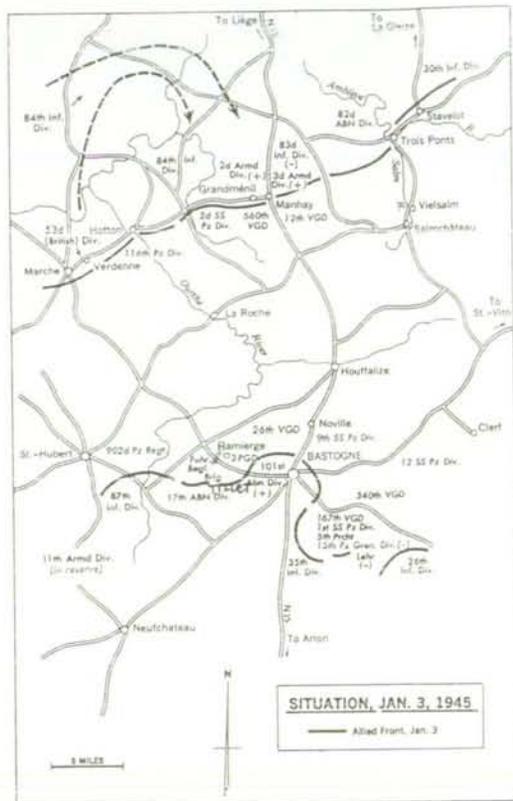
Even the affected units made no precipitate exodus, but instead executed the kind of gradual, grudging withdrawal that nobody did better than the Germans with their penchant for counterattack whenever and wherever a position approached the untenable.

Not until the third day of the renewed offensive, 11 January, did any firm indications of withdrawal develop. On the west wing of the VII Corps, the 87th Infantry Division, after finally having entered Tillet the night before found the Germans pulling back, abandoning St. Hubert and several smaller towns, but leaving behind rear guards, roadblocks and deadly quilts of mines.

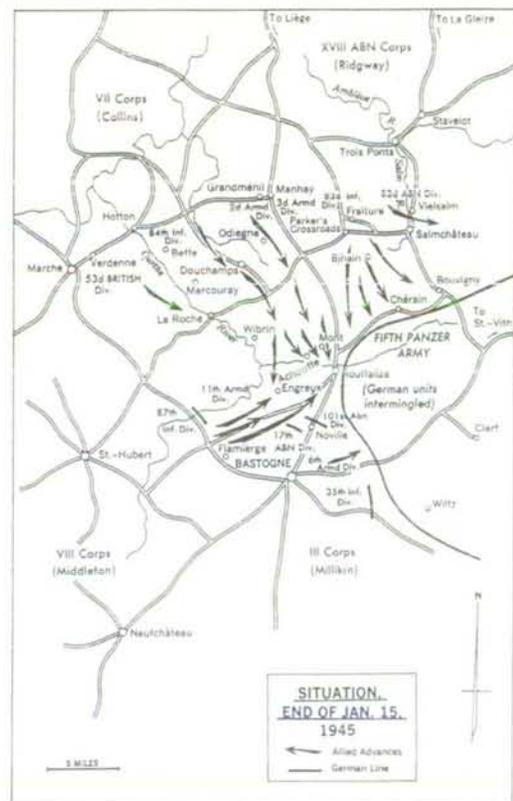
#### Page 2:

Near Tillet, Staff Sgt. Curtis F. Shoup, of the 87th Division's 346th Regiment, charged head-on against a German machine gun firing his automatic rifle as he went. Although the German fire cut him down, he mustered strength as he died to hurl a hand grenade that knocked out the enemy gun. He was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously....

Related maps follow:



414



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## 26<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NATIONAL VBOB MINUTES

The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual National Reunion of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge was held 09 Oct to 14 Oct 2006, at the Holiday Inn Downtown, Louisville KY. A Book of Reports had been prepared by the officers as well as the Nominating Committee's report of nominees for office were distributed, on the seats, to all meeting attendees. Each member of National in good standing, who's dues were paid and current, received a purple voting panel in their Registration packet to use for voting at the meeting.

The Annual Meeting was held on Friday, 13 Oct 2006 at the Holiday Inn Downtown Hotel. Stanley Wojtusik, President, was absent due to health reasons, Past - President Louis Cunningham, chaired the meeting and opened the meeting at 2:03 PM. John McAuliffe, President of the Central Massachusetts Chapter & Trustee led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. John Bowen, Chaplain's Assistant, gave the Invocation. The following officers were seated on the dais: John D. Bowen, Recording Secretary; "Dec" Paris, VP Public Affairs; Lou Cunningham, Past President; John McAuliffe, Trustee and George Watson, Trustee. The Chair advised the group that the meeting was being taped as all meetings are taped. He asked for any objections and there were none.

John D. Bowen, Recording Secretary, rose to present the Minutes of the last 25<sup>th</sup> Annual National Meeting, held 30 September 2005, at the Holiday Inn, Pittsburgh PA. The minutes had been published in the Bulge Bugle and copies had distributed to all attendees at this meeting. The Secretary asked for any corrections, additions or deletions. Hearing none, it was moved by Tom Burgess, seconded and adopted to accept the minutes of the last Annual National Meeting as presented.

George Fisher, Vice President of Chapters, was not present. Nancy Monson reported for him and said that there are two possible new chapters working to form at the present time, one in Cincinnati OH and a possible chapter in Mississippi. Nancy advised the group that if anyone was interested in forming a chapter that she could provide them the info of National members in their area and other assistance to get a chapter off the ground.

Neil B. Thompson, Vice President for Membership was absent due to health reasons

Robert Phillips, Vice-President of Military Affairs was not present.

Dec Paris, Vice President of Public Affairs reported on and talked about his serving on the State of Maryland Veterans Council. He encouraged each Chapter to try and get on the Veterans Council in their state, if there is one.

William Tayman, Treasurer, was not present and Nancy Monson, Headquarters Administrator, presented the Budget for the 2007 Fiscal Year, prepared by him, a copy of which was in the Book of Reports that had been distributed. The budget proposed \$152,195 of Estimated Income and \$141,445 of Estimated Operating Expenses for 2007. In most cases, this budget is based on previous budget expenditures

and the income estimated in a similar manner. Sizeable expenses by committees must be pre-approved by the Executive Council.

The preamble of the Proposed Budget said in part "We have been doing a really good job in maintaining dues at the \$15.00 level due to income from other sources. A great deal of this is due to the income we receive from the sale of Certificates and the Quartermaster items." Nancy Monson - rose to answer questions on the proposed budget for 2006-07. The Budget was based on a membership of 7000 people.

### PROPOSED BUDGET 2006-07

#### INCOME ACCOUNTS

##### Spendable Income

Dues from Annual Members	\$105,000
Donations	750
Quartermaster Memorabilia Sales	17,500
Certificate Sales	2,500
Miscellaneous Income	75
Savings Account	120
	\$126,445
Spendable Income Carryover from 2005-06	15,000
<b>Total Spendable Income for FY 2005-06</b>	<b>\$141,445</b>

##### Reserve Income

Life Memberships (70+)	\$ 5,000
Life memberships (70-)	250
Interest on Reserve Accounts	5,500
<b>Total Reserve Income</b>	<b>\$ 10,750</b>
<b>Total Estimated Income</b>	<b>\$152,195</b>

#### EXPENDITURES

President	\$ 1,500
Executive Vice President	500
Vice President, Chapter Coordinator	1,000
Vice President, Military Affairs	500
Vice President, Membership	500
Treasurer	500
Recording Secretary	500
Corresponding Secretary	250
Headquarters Office	
Contractor, Ofc Supplies, Postage, Prtg	62,500
Storage rental	2,000
Sales:	
Certificates	
Mailing tubes, supplies, postage, etc	650
Quartermaster	
Replenishing inventory, Shpg, Postage	13,950
Bulge Bugle	
Printing, Postage, Mailing preparation	43,595
Professional Expenses	
Auditing, Insurance, etc	1,500
December 16 <sup>th</sup> Luncheon	2,500
Miscellaneous Committee Expenses	7,000
Anticipated 2007 Conv. Costs above Income	1,500
Post Budget Expenses	1,000
<b>Total Operating Expenses for FY 2005-06</b>	<b>\$141,445</b>

(Continued)

(Continuation)

A motion was made by Wayne Field to approve the 2006-07 Budget as presented which was seconded by Richard Wheeler. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

A question later was raised about the Reserve Fund & Income. Nancy Monson said that the dues of Life Members is required to be put in a Reserve (escrow) Fund to sustain the membership of the Life Members. This fund now is about \$222,000 from which the organization is allowed to utilize the interest on that Fund for the Life Members contribution to the organization.

The report on the 2005 Reunion was given by Nancy Monson in the absence of George Chekan. She said that the reunion was successful and had a profit of seven or eight thousand dollars.

John Bowen reported that the Annual Banquet and Commemoration of the start of the Battle of the Bulge would be held by the Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2006 at the DoubleTree Crystal City by Hilton, in Arlington VA. There will be a bus trip to the new US Marine Corps Museum (that opened on 10 Nov 2006) on the 15<sup>th</sup> of Dec followed by the Banquet in the evening starting at 6:15 PM. Further details and Registration Forms are in the current Bulge Bugle. Dorothy Davis will be moving to Tennessee but will still remain active. The BOB Historical Foundation is responsible for preserving the history of the Battle of the Bulge and as such accepts material of a historical nature on the Bulge. This material is stored at the US Army Military History Institute at Carlisle Barracks for further research by historians.

John Bowen reported on Certificates and that duplicate certificates with the same information on them for their children or grandchildren, can be obtained, so they do not have to make that decision. Approximately 500 certificates have been printed this year. He also informed the members that the certificates are done up generally at the end of the month by Nancy Monson in the Headquarters Office and their patience is appreciated. The Post Office Box for VBOB Hqs. was changed by the Postal Service and is now PO Box 101418, Arlington VA 22210-4418.

John then talked about the Battle of the Bulge Reenactment that is held each last full week of January, 23-28 January 2007, at Ft Indiantown Gap PA by the WWII Federation. This group of reenactors invite the Veterans to attend, in order to honor them, as well as to give the veterans an opportunity to spend a few days in authentic WWII barracks again and relive their basic training days. Registration forms were available at the meeting. Bulge Bugle Editor George Chekan was not present for a report.

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE:** Nancy Monson responded to an earlier question about Life Membership costs. Members below the age of 65 is \$125, Members 65 and above the Life Dues are \$75. If you pay to be a Life Member before your dues are due then you can take credit for the dues that you paid for that year. Life Membership rules apply to Associate Memberships also. Nancy said that we have approximately 7000 members. She also said that the VBOB organization would accept donations made by members in their wills. We have had a member leave VBOB \$10,000. Contact Nancy for further information. She also encouraged

units who are disbanding or whose membership is so low that they can no longer put on a reunion to come join the VBOB Reunions. The 10<sup>th</sup> Armored Division, which had its last reunion this year, has made enquiry to that effect. A lengthy discussion ensued about people being members of Chapters that are not members of the National VBOB. The By-laws specifically do not allow any one to be a member of a Chapter that is not first a member of National. Various suggestions and motions were made, which died for lack of seconds. The consensus was that the Executive Council should address this problem and if it does not then the members will

**NOMINATIONS:** Lou Cunningham, Past President and Chair of the Nominating Committee presented the Nominations for the 2006-07 Executive Council as follows:

President	Neal B. Thompson, 740 <sup>th</sup> Tank Bn Stanley Wojtusik, 106th InfD
Exec. Vice Pres.	John J. Dunleavy, 737 <sup>th</sup> Tank Bn
VP Membership	Neil B. Thompson, 740 <sup>th</sup> Tank Bn
VP Chapters	John E. McAuliffe, 87 <sup>th</sup> InfD
VP Military Affairs	Robert F. Phillips, 28 <sup>th</sup> InfD
VP Public Affairs	Demetri Paris, 9 <sup>th</sup> ArmdD
Treasurer	William P. Tayman, 87 <sup>th</sup> InfD
Corresponding Secretary	Dorothy S. Davis, 57 <sup>th</sup> Fld Hospital
Recording Secretary	John D. Bowen, Associate Member
Trustee Three-Year	Frances W. Doherty, Associate
Trustee Three-Year	Earle O. Edmonds, 26 <sup>th</sup> InfD
Trustee Three-Year	James W. Hunt, 1 <sup>st</sup> InfD
Trustee Two-Year	Harry Merisel, 565 <sup>th</sup> AAA AW Bn
Trustee Two-Year	George L. Watson, 87 <sup>th</sup> InfD
Trustee Two-Year	Joseph Zimmer, 87 <sup>th</sup> InfD
Trustee One-Year	Richard G. Guenther, 511 <sup>th</sup> Engr Co
Trustee One-Year	Ralph Bozarth, Associate Member
Trustee One-Year	Vacant*

\*Filled 14 Nov 06 Exec Council by Thomas R. Chambers, 9<sup>th</sup> ArmdD

A secret ballot for President was distributed to members and Stanley Wojtusik was elected President. A motion by Bill France moved that the Secretary cast one vote for the remaining nominees. It was seconded by Dec Paris and the motion was approved unanimously. Jim Barlow moved that in the future that any candidate for office furnish in advance a short bio. It was seconded and unanimously approved.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Wayne Fields asked if Associate Members can hold office and the response was yes. He also asked about the status of the investigation into the 2004 Trip to Europe. Chairman Cunningham stated that the matter was now in the hands of law enforcement.

Bill France indicated that the Governor of Arizona has signed a bill to place a VBOB Memorial on their Capital Grounds.

**Richard Wheeler, 517<sup>th</sup> PIR,** rose to introduce himself as a representative of the new Central Ohio Chapter # 68 bringing good wishes of chapter President Alton Litsinger. He wanted to extend an invitation to the National Organization to Columbus Ohio and let the National organization know that they would be willing to host any reunion of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge in their city in the future. The Midwest

Hotel and Conference Center, which has hosted a number of Veterans organizations there also, would like to welcome VBOB to Columbus, Ohio for a future reunion.

Wayne Fields proposed that we know a year ahead of time where the reunion is going to be. It was made into a motion by Tom Chambers that we have more than a year notice of where and when the next reunion meeting will be held. It was seconded and a show of ballots was had. The motion passed 48 to 5.

Tom Chambers, Recon Platoon, 9<sup>th</sup> Armored Division rose to talk about a proposal, for the creation of a Battle of Bulge Memorial Theater, which was distributed at the meeting. What is the story to be told? Men & women caught up in a war. The events must speak for themselves. Chronicle the spirit of the dutiful men and women. A motion was made by Dee Paris and seconded by Lincoln Harner that, no later than December 15, 2006, the VBOB President or Executive Council shall appoint a committee of five reliable and competent VBOB members to study in a fair manner the desirability and the feasibility of establishing a Battle of the Bulge Memorial Theatre as proposed by VBOB Member Thomas R. Chambers and, further, a report of their findings and recommendations be given to the Executive Council no later than July 31, 2007 and to the membership at large before October 15, 2007. After discussion a vote was taken and the motion passed.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: Jim Johnson, Associate Member, said he looked for the meeting to be handled by Robert's Rules of Order and expressed concern that it could have been better handled according to Robert's Rules. He offered his services to help conduct the meetings by Robert's Rules in the future. He asked that a copy of the organization By-laws be furnished to him.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John D. Bowen,  
Recording Secretary

## GOOD VIBRATIONS--NOPE!

**CECIL D. GILLIAM, 9TH AIR FORCE, HEADQUARTERS,** provides the following regarding his service during Antwerp-X: there were 22 army battalions, 90mm guns, 40mm guns, searchlight and radar units all in contact and we were usually close enough to each other that we could be seen. We surely cooperated and help defend each other. Our reports, information, action was completed in pairs--one for the army and the other went to the 9th Air Defense Command.

We had very few contacts with anyone except about every other week we would get replacement ammunition, 5 gallon cans of water, 5 gallon cans of gasoline for the power plant, and C or K rations and occasionally mail. It was very lonely except when the quiet was broken by strafing and the V-1 Buzz Bombs which were constantly screaming over us. You could first hear them coming, feel the vibrations and see the flames. Then the artillery would attack, and they either blew up or headed straight for the ground. ■

## Task Force Peiper

*[MITCHELL KAIDY, 87TH INFANTRY DIVISION, remarks at Battle of the Bulge Monument, Ontario Beach Park, in Rochester, New York, December 16, 2006]*

Sixty-two years after the Battle of the Bulge, there are still phases of the world's largest battle that are fascinating, repulsive, but not generally known. One of these involves Task Force Peiper, a crack force of 6,000 German troops led by the decorated and fiercely dedicated Nazi, Colonel Joachim Peiper.

As you all know, Peiper's Task Force was responsible for the hideous massacre of over 300 American troops plus 100 unarmed civilians at Malmedy, Belgium. But Task Force Peiper should also be remembered for what it didn't accomplish--attempting to pioneer a huge ground/airborne operation that, although it ultimately went awry, deserves to be better known.

What Peiper and the leading Nazi generals planned was to terrorize American Troops by dropping paratroopers from over 100 aircraft who would meet with Peiper's 30 Panther tanks and 30 German half-tracks, plus 6,000 heavily-armed Nazi soldiers. This huge force would then move on to Antwerp--the supply port that was the ultimate Battle of the Bulge objective.

According to their precise timetable, this was to happen the second day of the Battle of the Bulge, December 17, 1944. German paratroopers, flown in on more than 100 aircraft, were to be dropped at a pre-arranged time at a clearing in the Ardennes area.

Well, Peiper and his rampaging forces (and I mean rampaging) arrived at the drop point, but what the Nazis hadn't anticipated was severely-overcast weather. On December 17, over 100 German carrier planes descended toward the drop zone and promptly got lost in the thick mist which we all remember...and get this...of the several hundred German paratroopers, only about ten found the right clearing. The rest got lost, provisionally got separated, and, being alone and leaderless, were never a factor in the war.

One who jumped in the right place was the paratroop commander, the aging Col. Vander Hydt, who found himself almost alone. When Peiper looked and couldn't find either Vander Hydt or the crack paratroopers, it set the stage for his murderous rampage against the Americans who were blocking him from keeping to his timetable. And during these rampages, for reasons unknown, he also killed the unarmed Belgian citizens.

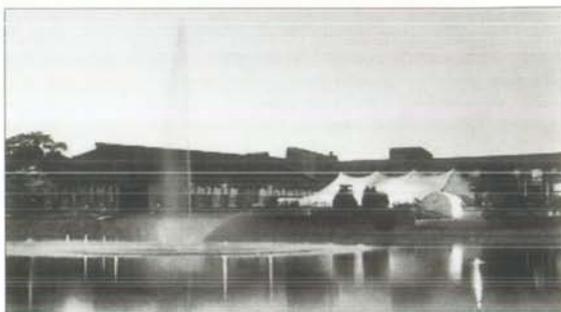
Colonel Peiper was tried after the war and imprisoned for war crimes. Because of some sort of faulty evidence, he was released years later and moved to France. There, in a suspiciously-set fire, he and his house went up in flames--a deserved end for a mass murderer. ■



MARK YOUR CALENDARS -

# VBOB 2007 REUNION

Dates: September 25, 2007  
to September 30, 2007



## Location: Lincolnshire Marriott Resort in Lincolnshire, IL

The Lincolnshire sits on 190 wooded acres in the North Shore Chicago suburbs about 18 miles north of O'Hare Airport. It includes an 18-hole golf course and jogging and hiking trails along the Des Plaines River Trail. There are five restaurants and lounges and an 800 seat capacity theatre, which attracts nearly half a million people a year to its musicals. The musical "The Producers" by Mel Brooks will be playing in the theatre during our stay. This is truly a magnificent resort.

The web site for the Lincolnshire is

<http://marriott.com/property/propertypage/CHILN>

## Room rates: \$85/night plus tax

### Attractions/Sightseeing:

- Cuneo Mansion and Museum - Built as a private residence, the Cuneo mansion is now a historic house museum, which is really many museums blended into one.
- Chicago Botanic Garden - board a tram for a beautiful overview of the Garden's 385 acres.
- Volo Auto Museum and Antique Malls - contains three auto showrooms, a WWII combat zone, mercantile mall, Hollywood showroom, etc.
- Chicago Tour and River Cruise - see the Memorial Water Wall at Soldier Field, Millennium Park, Navy Pier and the architectural river cruise tour.

**Complete details will be published in the May issue of the Bulge Bugle.**

## WE NEED YOUR PHOTO

A video/audio presentation, containing photos of all people who attend our reunion in Lincolnshire, IL is being developed. Make a copy, not a Xerox copy, of the following photos and print the first and last names of all people on the back of each photo.

- A bulge veteran, during the war, in their WWII uniform, (include the name of the unit in which he/she served).
- A recent picture of the veteran.
- A picture of both the veteran and their spouse/companion.

Mail to:  
Ralph W. Bozorth  
608 Treaty Road  
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462  
610-825-9409

## REPORT

from John E. McAuliffe  
VBOB Vice President for Chapters

Through this report let me please extend my congratulations to the newly-elected officers of the VBOB organization, elected in October, 2006, at the Reunion in Louisville, Kentucky. I humbly accept my post as the newly-elected Vice President of Chapters succeeding the retired past holder of that office, George Fisher, President of the SE Florida Chapter (LXII). I must congratulate George for the great job he has done over the past five years in this position and reaching out to the chapters for the good of the organization. His involvement with his own SE Florida Chapter, by increasing their numbers immensely, as one of the top three chapters in membership speaks of his hard work and devotion not only for the benefit of his chapter but for all the chapters he has corresponded with. I can only hope to do as well as I assume the office he served so diligently.

We are all aware of the current problems that veterans organizations are faced with today. The VFW, AL, AMVETS, and others are losing members, mostly due to the advanced age of the WWII veterans that comprise the bulk of these groups and the fact that 1,500 WWII veterans are dying daily--thus diminishing their memberships. Our own VBOB members, now in their 80s, and most with physical handicaps which limit their active participation are now bowing out of membership. Thus, we have seen that about 4-5 chapters have become non-functional and others are considering "folding their tents"...so to speak.

Since the VBOB chapters have no physical properties and most meetings are held at veterans posts or restaurants, the problems incurred on disbandment are not quite as existent. VFW and AL posts city-wide have joined forces in some places and others pooled their resources to cope with the current crisis of lack of members. For the VBOB chapters to do likewise is quite impossible because of the extreme distances between state chapters. I believe we have reached the end of the line in forming new chapters considering the factors mentioned above. For the larger chapters, continuance may present little or no problem to stay existent, but for the others, to remain in force may be a hardship. Thus we may see in the ensuing 2-3 years the closing of more chapters. The demise of the National VBOB at this time has not been a topic of intense discussion but does loom in the very near future.

ROR

Considering the above I would like to see the remaining chapters adopt the practice of "preserving our legacy" as set forth in the reasons for our existence as an organization. Before disbandment it would behoove chapters to create a memorial in the form of a monument in their respective areas. Such a monument would acknowledge the sacrifices made by the gallant men and women who participated in Ardennes Campaign, the greatest battle ever fought by the American Army. A nationwide of memorials would thus pay the deserved tribute to our comrade "battlers." Several chapters have already established monuments in their areas that are visible to the public in their locale. They are to be commended. I suggest that these chapters forward a photo and accompanying text of their monument to the VBOB website which can be found in *The Bulge Bugle*. This has been recommended by the webmaster of the site.

Please take note that the topic of chapter members paying their

national dues has been a critical issue and was discussed at the October Louisville Reunion. It is expected that all members submit national dues annually. Membership starts with belonging to the parent Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc. Hopefully, the presidents of all chapters will remind their members to pay the annual national dues. This issue has been stressed from time-to-time by the Executive Council and the chapter presidents have been reminded as well.

Please send to me reports of your chapter activities at least twice throughout the year. Notice of important events may also be sent to *The Bulge Bugle* for publication.

Finally, I wish you all good health in the New Year and continued great comradeship throughout '07.

Please respond to:

John E. McAuliffe  
VP Chapters, VBOB  
425 Pleasant St, #1410  
Worcester, MA 01609  
508-754-7183

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## GOOD FUND RAISER

Harry Meisel reports that his Florida chapter collects used books and delivers them to their local VA clinic. Their volunteer group raises funds by selling them on Monday mornings and they sell like hot cakes. Harry places labels on the inside cover stating that the books are a donation of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge.

In addition they bring magazines of all kinds (*The Bulge Bugle* included) which are placed on large tables in the same area.

Some of the books go to the nursing home. ▣

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## A LITTLE DOG TAG HISTORY

[The following information appeared in "Old Hickory News" the newsletter of the 30th Infantry Division.]

Dog tags evolved during WWII to 4 types:

**Type I** was used from December 1940 to November 1941.

**Type II** was used from November 1941 to July 1943.

Both bore the soldier's name, serial number (ASN), and next of kin's name and address.

Blood type and religious affiliation were added in the later months, to Type II.

**Type III** dropped the next of kin, and added blood type and date of tetanus shots, and was used from July 1943 to March 1944.

**Type IV** then came into use in April 1944, and differed from Type II in that one's surname was now listed first, followed by first name and middle initial. ▣



**ARE YOUR  
DUES DUE?**

## Remembrance & Commemoration 62<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary VBOB Banquet, 15 Dec 2006

by Joseph F. Zimmer  
87<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division  
Company B, 345<sup>th</sup> Infantry

Once again, we meet to recall and honor, those days, those men, those women, those warriors, who helped save Western Civilization those many years ago in WWII. Emerson said "Every hero becomes a bore at last" Nevertheless, the story telling will ensure that our journey to this sacred will keep us connected to each other, to what we experienced in battle during those terrifying times, our inherited strength, and most especially, to those who have gone before us. Life becomes death, the shatter of worlds and dreams. Our Armed Forces numbered about 174 thousand men, ranking 17<sup>th</sup> in the world behind such nations as Bulgaria and Portugal, at the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor, whose 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary we commemorated eight days ago. We turned into a global fighting force of more than 8 million, an Army without which our Allies could not have defeated Nazi Germany under Hitler, and, Emperor Hirohito of Japan.

In all of this, it is worthwhile to remember some words of war. They were uttered by Joshua Chamberlain when he returned to the battlefield, many years after his heroics on Little Round Top during the Civil War. "In great deeds something abides. On great fields of battle something stays" said the old soldier. "Generations that know us not and that we know not of, heart-drawn to see where and by whom great things were suffered and done for them, shall come to know their this deathless field, to ponder and dream." This too can be said about all the areas we fought in particularly during the Battle of the Bulge, the river crossings, etc., in WWII.

The history of the world, like letters without poetry, flowers without fragrance, or thought without imagination, would be a dry matter indeed without its legends. And yet, many of these, though scorned by proof of a hundred times, seem worth preserving for their own familiar sakes. What we did as participants, what we experienced, represents the engrafted love of our beloved country, our fellow citizens and freedom. In the suburbs of our hearts, we remember that we were part of a gathering of the noblest of men who ever lived in the tides of times.

We feel that we must draw on our history, what we went through, to experience. It all fits us, each one, to a "T" - Honesty, Loyalty, Integrity. Our founders, present and past officers, Chapter leaders and our Historical Foundation, are owed a great debt of gratitude to afford us such a vehicle; and each of these annual commemorations, in the company of our companions, to once again gather together, keeps alive in the special vault of the national imagination, the gallantry, bravery, glory and sacrifices displayed during our service in World War II. It is good to be reminded that there were such men, that there always have been and always will be. "We sometimes forget I think," said historian Stephen Ambrose, "that you can manufacture weapons, and you can purchase

ammunition, but you can't buy valor and you can't pull heroes off an assembly line."

A highlight of happenings since our last commemoration is the memorial at Arlington National Cemetery, Section 21, that garden stone, where over 260,000 are buried. It was dedicated on May 8, 2006 to the American Soldier (both men & women) who fought in the Battle of the Bulge. So much thanks and gratitude is due to Superintendent of Arlington Cemetery, our Congress, the Belgium and Luxembourg people, a few members of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, particularly, our current President, officers and Executive Council. Our thanks and gratitude to the grateful people of the Kingdom of Belgium and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

The 19,000 who died, during the 41 days, did not leave this earth in the snows of Belgium and Luxembourg, the way a snowflake disappears, without a single permanent imprint to mark their passing. Their mark is in the freedom now enjoyed by the peoples of those brave countries, particularly, and western civilization. We also remember the 69,000 wounded and the 10,000 captives. We rarely realize it, but as we grew up in the war we were living and writing our own book of lessons. Most of us cast the book aside when we got too busy being adults. But we really needed those lessons when we had our own children - not to teach our kids, but to reeducate ourselves. Sure it changed us. We, everyday, looked death right in the eye. It helped us sift out our priorities and the true meaning of life.

Even we who were trained to kill or destroy - surely most of us were nauseated at what we must do to survive; when we reached the end of our rope, we tied a knot and hung on. Combat life is a daily uncertainty.

Before many more years pass, all that will remain of history's most terrible war will be the books, cemeteries and monuments and museums. No one will remain to remember those who fell, where they came from, why they fought and served so valiantly, how it felt to watch them die. We can only ask why weren't they given more time. There will be no reunions of those who served, retelling improbable tales. We here, often think of the passing years and quietly note who else hasn't made it back this year. These are not statistics - these are persons - friends.

The women who waited - a mother, wife, sister, even a daughter, all the women who have accompanied us here - wish to express their thanks, I'm sure, to God, whom we all worship, for His bringing their men and women, sons and daughters, home safely and to have shared them all these years. They have been sweethearts, wives, daughters - and as companions, homemakers and mothers, too; they have helped to heal the wounds both in mind and body of us veterans.

Then, 34 million were drafted and in that number only 271 were conscientious objectors - speaks volumes of the just cause and spirit we had as a nation. One hundred thousand women also served in uniform, and another two million left home for the first time, serving in factories (Rosie the Riveters) performing jobs to contribute to the war effort, replacing the men who were in the battle. As we are the living, we happy few, a band of men and women, we must allow the greater share of honor to fall on ourselves. The bond we formed long ago had many of its roots with everyone here this evening and the many more who are not here. The truth of

what we went through has no special time of its own. Its hour is now – always. It gives the lie to Socrates who thought nothing bad could ever happen to good people.

In summary then, facing death in the cruel fierce world of combat, everything abnormal and unstable, the cold, wind, snow, below freezing temperatures, it gives one a different perspective of what is important in life. Have heard that of the original 200 men in our rifle company, perhaps only twenty-nine came home, many wounded. Those were the numbers we experienced as we fought and saw our brave comrades die, and also many wounded or captured. That part of our lives was never poor in purpose or barren in results, and the new friends we made, from time to time, were always a continuing blessing.

Thanks to all those who keep the torch lit, keep our Chapters and Historical Foundation going these many years: volunteers and officers, so faithful in the pursuit of the idea that we must never forget those who perished in the battle, were wounded, and those who have passed on in the intervening years. Today, the VA tells us, that less than 3,000,000 of us are still here – passing on about 1,700 a day.

Have a great holiday season and a Happy New Year 2007. May God bless our country, and, all it stands for these past 239 years. Hope to see you next year, God willing, one and all.

*(Editor's Note: Joseph Zimmer was selected by the Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation for their 2007 Man of the Year Award at the Commemoration Banquet.)*



## GREETINGS TO VETS OF BOB

Good evening, my name is Paul Goffin and I am happy to be here.

Recently, I attended a meeting of retirees at the World Bank. Among the topics discussed were the challenges of getting older. One retiree, who wanted to make his point stood up and stated that as one gets older, there are many problems. But there are, particularly, two important ones: one is the loss of memory and the other one, well... he paused for awhile, looked around and then said I don't remember and sat down. After all, we all agreed that some things are easier to forget than others. Likewise some events are more important to remember than others. For example, you may easily forget your mother – in – laws birthday but it is not to forget your wife's birthday.

Now let me turn to the end of World War II. It is difficult if not impossible to forget the milestone known as the Battle of the Bulge.

It is a significant anniversary as a Commemoration to its participants, to both the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge and the people of the Ardennes.

It is also a celebration of the outcome.

I myself am here for three reasons. First I am here because you were kind enough to include me.

Second I am here because, 62 years ago you liberated us from 4 years of Nazi occupation.

And third, I am here to personally salute you on behalf of all the Belgians.

You fought for Freedom with great determination and courage.

You returned my country and Europe back to us. I am 82 years old and, fortunately, I remember why I here and can still thank you very much for the memory and by the way Merry Christmas.

*(Editor's Note: Paul Goffin is a member of the Belgian-American Society and was selected as one of the Historical Foundation's Men of the Year in 2002.)*



## VETERANS REMEMBER BATTLE OF THE BULGE

*Memories are aging, but  
recall of the great World War II  
Battle is Vivid*

Reprinted from  
The Rochester Democrat  
& Chronicle

*[By Staff Writer, Diana Louise Carter]*

Some walked with canes or a walker and one used an oxygen tank.

But all of the octogenarians who participated in Saturday's ceremony at Ontario Beach Park stood proudly at attention as they observed the 62nd anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, the decisive battle of World War II in Europe.

"It was an event that would change our lives for many, many years," said Marty Cocca, 80 of Webster. "It was an extraordinary amount of human life destroyed."

The battle involved 600,000 American troops. About 19,000 were killed and 62,000 others were injured or missing in action, making it a major event in the bloodiest war in U.S. history.

Veterans offered their memories of the month-long battle, fought in Luxembourg and Belgium before crossing the Rhine River into Germany.

Cocca said the men in his division were just boys, untested by battle before they were given 17 miles of front line to defend. They were told, he said, that the war was drawing to a close and this would be their chance to get some combat experience.

"Apparently nobody told the Germans the war would be over very soon," Cocca said. He celebrated his 19th birthday on the front lines by eating cold, canned corned beef and cabbage. His facial expression showed how unsavory that culinary experience was.

One veteran recalled waking up in a trench in the Ardennes Forest, fearing he was dead because all he could see was white. It had just snowed while he slept on the night before the big battle.

Another veteran, Bob Liming, 82, of Irondequoit, drove a jeep during the battle and noted that he never had to dig a trench. But he recalled losing a chain on one of his tires and having to drive without brakes for two weeks until it could be repaired.

"I'd have to run into a snow bank to stop," Liming said. "At the Battle of the Bulge, we had a pile of snow."

Having survived the many comrades who were killed 62 years ago, and others who have died more recently, the veterans genially poked fun at their infirmities.

As one of the group's leaders tried to get the vets to line up without much success, William Statt, of Irondequoit, wearing his 62-year-old Army uniform, told others, "You guys who can't hear, the gentleman said to fall into two ranks."

## NURSES PLEADED TO REMAIN WITH WOUNDED AS NAZIS NEARED

*[The following article appeared in Stars & Stripes, December 16, 1945, and was sent to us by CURTIS WHITEWAY, 99TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 394TH INFANTRY, 3RD BATTALION.]*

Curtis writes:

*Just reading my November copy and saw Ruth Puryear's letter (army nurse). Thought that she might appreciate the enclosed [article]. She is correct, we tend to take for granted those wonderful nurses in that war. Though we love them to pieces, we tend to neglect them, forgetting to give credit due them.*

[Stars & Stripes article, author not cited] Eight nurses of the 107th Evac attending the wounded including Lt. Ruth Puryear and Lt. Helen Yances, were in danger of being over run during the Bulge. [...believe this is the end of the article.]

Ruth is still with us. On April 22nd they entered Buchenwald. Marie Ellifritz and Jessie McIntyre, of the 203rd Evac, also attached to the 394th Infantry during the Bulge and later they were into Mauthausen to help.

Ethel Greenbaum of the 102nd Evac nurses, also attended the wounded during the Bulge.

There were nurses aboard the hospital ships attending our wounded, such as Lt Beatrice Westbrook, Helen Taylor, Edna Raasoch, Suzan Tidmarsh and Virginia Thomas. The general hospitals in England such as the 802nd and 111th plus the 302nd transport wing, (air evacuation) and Ninth Air Force troop carrier command composed of 13 transport planes with the 18 litter patients each, the Paris General Hospital.

Five, who were the first nurses to land on Normandy such as Lts Elenor Govanelle, Mary Young, Helen Melissa, Marijean Brown, and Luella Bernard.

Nurses in England like Capt Princes Wilson, Lts Elsie McAmis, Josefa Dymacek, Grace Dimiichele, Vivian LaMontagne, Lee Hee, Cecila Chenette and Betty Pelzer. They continued caring for the wounded in the 102nd during the Bulge.

Oh, so many wonderful nurses who cared for us wounded and I do remember them. We combat [soldiers] placed halos over their heads. In fact, I did a little research on the army nurses having three file holders on them containing clips from the Stars and Stripes. Searches in Ft. Carlisle Archives, letters, etc., just for my own information. Yes, Ruth, we do remember the nurses with deep gratitude, always.

I was taken off line, put on top of a jeep with three other wounded, soon to an ambulance. They gave me a shot and I came to in the entrance of the Spa hospital. Standing there was a woman with a glow around her. I hadn't seen an American woman in a long time. It was hard to believe that I was seeing a real live nurse after all I endured in those days, but I was still alive and so was she, what a moral boost. I landed in the hospital at ward's end in Wurzburg (again with the 107th).

I remember when I was in the hospital in Spa. One night I woke up around 2:00 a.m. and had to use the toilet. I quietly

staggered down the long ward passing the nurses' station with a night light on the desk. I saw a nurse quietly crying there and stopped. "He was only 18 years," she said. The doctors had worked on him for many hours trying to put him back together and she had attended the operations. Nurses were not supposed to show emotions, just continue doing their job too. I was only 19 years at the time. I simply hugged her as best I could until she felt better and continued on my way.

After the war Marie Ellifritz continued as a nurse in Washington, D.C. She attempted to tell the VA about PTSD the nurses suffered, caring for the terribly wounded and after, tending the survivors in the horrible camps. No one would listen.

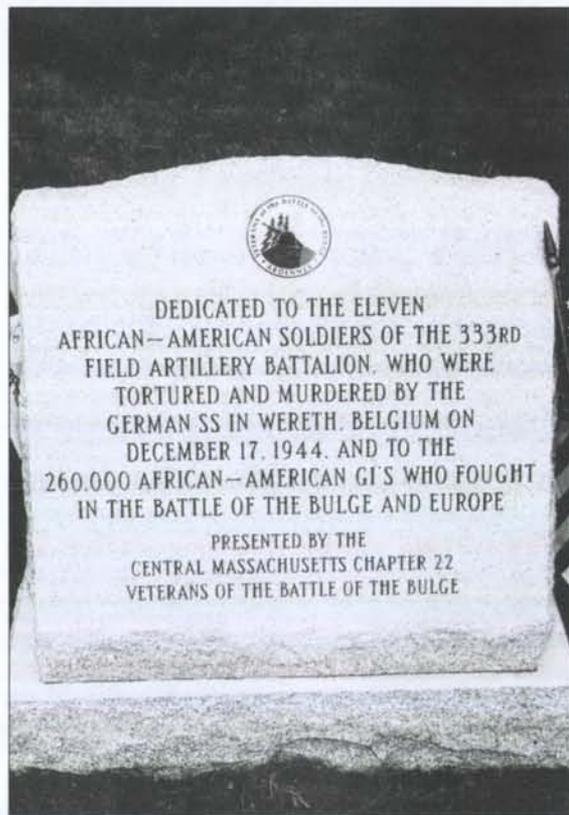
Today, people contact me on occasion: "Can you find out about my mother. She was a nurse in the Bulge," or a certain unit? I do what I can.

**No Ruth, we have not forgotten the wonderful army nurses, doctors and staff, medics and combat medics. They were do very important, saving so many of our lives in that war. Thank you.□**

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## MASSACHUSETTS MONUMENT

*[Pictured below is the monument dedicated by the Massachusetts Chapter--full information regarding the monument appeared in the November 2006 issue of The Bulge Bugle. Thanks to Christian W. deMarcken for providing the picture and further information.]*



## BATTLE OF THE BULGE DVD



A DVD containing two movies about The Battle of the Bulge is available for sale and can be purchased through the Quartermaster at a cost of \$25, which includes shipping and handling. The movies are entitled **“The Enemy Strikes”** and **“The Battle of the Bulge, The Men and the Women”**.

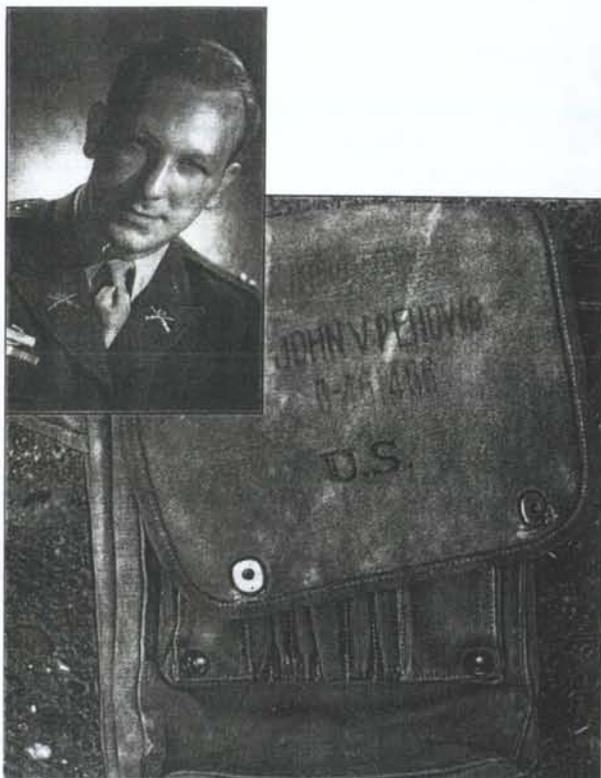
**“The Enemy Strikes”** is 10 minutes in duration and was prepared by the Office of War Information on the Battle of the Bulge and was distributed in Mar or April 1945 to describe the battle and to encourage men and women to continue to produce for the war effort. The movie:

- Documents the German counterattack in Belgium in December 1944.
- Warns against complacency in the closing months of the war.
- Uses U.S. and German films to show the activities of the respective troops.
- Shows burning and wrecked U.S. equipment, dead and wounded soldiers.
- Shows U.S. soldiers and Belgian citizens massacred at Malmedy.
- Explains the costliness in men and material of such counter offensives.
- Emphasizes Germany’s willingness to sacrifice everything to stave off defeat.
- Includes General Eisenhower’s talks with soldiers.

**“The Battle of the Bulge, The Men and the Women”** is 13 minutes in duration and was made from the video/audio presentation that was shown at Male High School during our 2006 reunion in Louisville, KY and also shown at the Friday banquet held in Washington DC as part of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Commemoration, by the Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation. The movie includes:

- Insignias of all the units that are listed on the VBOB Certificate.
- Equipment used by the Army and Army Air Corps.
- Men and women in action.
- Patriotic music.
- “Then” and “Now” photos of the men and women of VBOB.

## MILITARY MAP BAG'S AMAZING JOURNEY



In 1945, Lt. John Pehovic left behind his military map bag when his army unit (the 526th) moved on to another location.

In 1947 Karl Neuroth bought the bag from a German mail-order company along with other WWII artifacts. He used it all during his Boy Scout years--taking it on many tours.

Years later, Markus Neuroth found the bag in his grandparent's home in Bruhl, Germany. He used the bag for several years during his mining trips in Germany.

In 2005, Markus became curious about the former owner of the bag--John V. Pehovic.

In June, of 2006, he found information regarding Mr. Pehovic on the internet of a Belgian website for CRIBA and contacted Mr. Henri Rogister there to ask for help in locating the original owner of his olive-colored green WWII bag.

To make a long story short, Mr. Rogister contacted the 526th AIB Association. The 526th, through the efforts of Sherrie Morrison, editor of the newsletter, Mr. Neuroth was able to contact a member of the Pehovic family (also, John), who lives in Michigan. John located the address of John's widow Gene in Richmond, Virginia.

The map bag was delivered by the post office to Gene on September 1, 2006. ■

You can read more about the 526th at its web site: [www.criba.be](http://www.criba.be).

## CHRISTMAS REMEMBERED

By John Swengel  
78th Infantry Division  
309th Infantry Regiment  
Company L

*[The following appeared in the July 2006 issue of "The Flash" the newsletter of the 78th Infantry Division.]*

After so many Christmas seasons have gone by, there should be several that ought to stand out in my mind, but that is not so. There is only one that stands out in my memory. Christmas 1944 was a long time ago, but the details are clear in my mind.

We had our introduction to combat on December 13, 1944, our objective was to take a small town in Germany. We were successful in taking our first objective. That night we spent in one of the captured houses. This was the last time we were to spend the night inside a house for a while.

Germany was very cold that winter, and there was a lot of snow. On December 16, the day the Battle of the Bulge began, we were moving into another town, and the Germans did not want us there. We were into the town when we got word not to advance any further, but to hold what we had taken.

We went into foxholes, not getting much sleep, because of the cold and because we had to be on the alert for a counter attack. Our food for the next eight days consisted of K rations; three boxes the size of Cracker Jacks per day. Each night after dark we received a new supply of rations.

It seemed that time was endless, every day was the same, we didn't get enough sleep, were always cold, and quite concerned about what the Germans might do. Living in a foxhole was not the greatest.

Christmas Eve came, and after dark, we were told to get out of the holes, and move out. We then walked several miles and were directed into a building. We were given sleeping bags, and were able to take our boots off for the first time in several weeks, and then into a sleeping bag. We slept on the floor, but it was quite comfortable. We were finally able to be out of the cold, and lay down.

Christmas Day came and with it we had a hot breakfast, a church service, and then a turkey dinner. We also received mail from home, and were able to write letters home. We had a very enjoyable Christmas Day even though we had no tree or decorations. What a Christmas Day.

In the next couple of days, I was able to take off the clothes that I had worn continuously since leaving England in mid-November, also was able to take a shower and receive a clean set of clothes.

That was a Christmas season worth remembering. ■

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

**THANKS.**

## WANTED: ONE GERMAN PRISONER

By Robert L. Martin  
17th Airborne Division  
194th Glider Infantry Regiment  
Company B

[Excerpts] I left for Fort Benning, Georgia about 27 October 1944, and sailed to Europe first class on the *Queen Elizabeth*, which had been converted to a troop carrier. I boarded the ship 3 November 1944, and arrived in Europe 10 November 1944, somewhere in Scotland, then by plane to England.

It was rumored that most of us would be sent to the 101st Airborne as replacement for the men lost on D-Day. I am not sure what area we were sent to fight in, but learned this was for real--a man could get killed and never know what happened. I remember walking dirt roads, along side wooded areas, cold and snow making walking difficult, not to mention carrying rifle, ammo, and a back pack.

An officer kept yelling, "Spread out, one shell will kill you all." When the German shells began coming at us, we knew what the officer was saying was very true. We finally had to move up into the wooded area and take cover. The shellings were coming steadily. We were ordered to dig in. The men paired off and dug two-man fox holes. It was not easy, the ground was frozen down to at least 12 inches. Fox holes were dug a couple of trees back from the tree line. Holes were dug in record time, as all the soldiers wanted to be down in the hole for protection from the incoming fire.

I'll never forget the whistling sound the shrapnel from the shells made when they exploded in the trees near our fox holes. We were also getting small arms and machine gun fire coming at us. Then came the tank mounted 88s. We held our position for several days, but we were losing men faster than they could be replaced.

The Germans would put up a bright flood light at night so that we could not see past the light and therefore couldn't see what they were doing. If we shot at the light, they could see where the shot was coming from and all hell would open up. It was better not to shoot at the light.

We found we were at the edge of the Ardennes Forest on the border between Belgium and Germany. At one point, we had Germans directly in front of us and beyond them Americans were dug in. Behind us were our own troops. After days and nights of this, we started thinking it would be nice to get out of this war. So, if you and your buddy shot each other just enough to draw blood, you might get out. Then we would consider that we could both bleed to death there in the fox holes and the idea would pass without a second thought. We had tried making small attacks out of the woods, but were driven back each time, sustaining heavy losses. We had to leave the dead lying where they dropped. My fox hole buddy and I pulled a wounded man into our hole. He died before a medic could get him. We had to keep his body in the hole with us for a while before we could get him out. Things were getting worse every day.

One morning we were told Headquarters wanted a prisoner from the German lines in front of us. My buddy and I decided just before daylight that we would creep along a small creek

bank that would give us some cover. There was a thin coat of ice on the water and we, by being quiet, could get behind one of their machine gun emplacements and surprise them while they were still have asleep. We were around almost behind them when they saw us, but they were not minding their emplacement, they were crawling towards the creek.

With my gun, I motioned for them to get up ahead of us and go towards our lines on their hands and knees. Half way back we stopped to rest and one of the German soldiers said there were a lot of them that wanted to surrender. I asked why they didn't. He said that if any soldier wanted to surrender, they had to first get by the outpost that had orders to shoot anyone trying to surrender. I asked how they managed to get by the out post without getting shot. He said, "We are the out post." About that time, we were laughing and small arms fire was coming at us.

Up the creek we went, breaking ice as we went on hands and knees, delivering the prisoners as ordered. The next day we made the attack and pushed the Germans way back.

Our group could not follow them. We were drawn back. I don't think there were more than a dozen of our original group of approximately 150 left. Our remaining men were scattered out among other units. I remember fighting for a bridge, but don't recall what company or division I was in with at the time.

It was now the end of January 1945. The Battle of the Bulge was over and the Germans were fighting their way back into their homeland. ■

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## BRING BACK MEMORIES?

*[The following picture and squib from BERT H. MORPHIS, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, 26TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, 1ST BATTALION, B COMPANY, appeared in the Winter, 2006 issue of ON POINT magazine.]*



"I think everyone's most vivid memories are the numbing cold. Mine certainly are! The cold was enough of an adversary without the Germans. Just staying alive took all one's ingenuity. I remember being on an outpost right in front of the German lines where the choice seemed to be moving and being shot, or lying perfectly still and freezing to death. Somehow we survived, I with trench foot on only one great toe." ■

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# THE SERVICE COMPANY

By Carroll E. Austin

3519th Ordnance Medium Maintenance Company

Automotive

[The following article appeared in *The Ardennes Campaign--41 Days in Hell*, which is the newsletter of the Northern Indiana Chapter of VBOB.]

Of all that has been written about WWII, little has been said about the role service companies played in helping to bring this conflict to a close. Those of us who served through that era are aware that men on the front lines would have lasted but a short time if had not been for the efforts of the men who served in the rear. I recall having read somewhere that it took three or four men in the rear to keep one man on the front lines.

Someone had to move the clothing, food, gasoline, ammunition, vehicles and tons of items too numerous to mention, plus keeping the equipment in repair. I served in one of those repair units. My unit was an ordnance company, known as the 3519th Medium Automotive Maintenance Company. We served under the command of General George S. Patton, Jr., Third Army.

Our primary objective was to repair vehicles from the lowly Jeep to the six by six trucks, thus the description "Medium Automotive Maintenance Co." In addition to the automotive mechanics, six of our approximately 130 man company were "Small Arms Repairmen," I was one of the six. We repaired 45 caliber pistols, Carbine M-1 Rifle, Springfield Rifle, Sub-Machine Gun, Browning Automatic Rifle, plus the 30 and 50 caliber machine guns. We were good at what we did because we were well trained.

In addition to the training I received with my own unit, I spent eight weeks at the Army Ordnance Proving Grounds, Small Arms School, Aberdeen, Maryland. When we finished there we were able to disassemble and reassemble any small arm piece, blindfolded. Although we were capable, I don't recall ever being asked to assemble a piece in the dark.

Even though our unit was primarily vehicle repair, we were called on to do other things that were essentially necessary. As an example, after the ground troops got a toe hold on the French soil, the infantry was losing men to a fine wire stretched tightly across main roads. As men were traveling unsuspectingly in an open Jeep, roaring down a road, they were decapitated by the tight wire. After a few of those incidents our unit was called on to weld steel bars with a sharp blade built into a hook. The blade was welded to the front bumper of the Jeep. As the Jeep traveled down the road, the hook would catch and cut the wire. This bar idea was the brainstorm of some lowly GI. Their ingenuity was uncanny.

In another incident, soon after landing on French soil, the German soldiers were hiding behind hedgerows and pinning our infantrymen down. Some GI thought up the idea of welding blades onto the front of tanks, much like a bulldozer. The blade cut through the hedgerow allowing our infantrymen to cross to the next hedgerow and to the next.

There were times that our men repaired half-tracks and other vehicles but most of the vehicles were Jeeps, weapons carriers and six by sixes.

In the lull before the Battle of the Bulge, we were located in Nancy, France. One day four or five six-byes came roaring into our area, all loaded with damaged small arms covered with mud and blood, which had been picked up from the villages and open fields after a recent battle. They were brought to us for repair. We took every M-1 and Carbine apart, piece by piece, cleaned them and replaced parts. After reassembling, we fired 8 rounds of ammunition through each before returning them to service. Generals Eisenhower and Patton just happened to make an inspection of our unit at the time. We received a Presidential Citation for the efficient manner in which we conducted our work. The citation recognized the entire company, not just the small arms division.

Ordnance units were only one of the many service companies that contributed so much to the soldier on the front line and to help bring this war to a conclusion. ■

## This was the army-- as I saw it

[The following appeared in the October 2006 edition of the 14th Tank Battalion Association newsletter edited by Dee Paris. It comes to you as a result of our chuckle and we hope it gives you one too. We don't know who submitted it to Dee, but we thank him.]

In addition to being assigned as a platoon leader, I was also the company motor officer despite my explanation that I could pass mechanical tests with a high score but I was definitely not a mechanic.

Our tanks in the company motor pool were in open sheds. All were in perfect alignment in case of an infrequent inspection of the area. Came one week I had one tank moved forward, outside of the shed. I knew this would attract the attention of an inspecting officer. As anticipated, the inspecting officer went directly to that tank where I had the crew standing.

"What are those red dots?" asked the officer.

"Those are the zerk fitting which I just grease during every tank maintenance," replied the tank commander.

Then the inspecting officer climbed onto the deck, looked at the dashboard and asked, "What are those red marks on that dial?"

"Those marks, Sir, tell me to downshift at 1000 RPMs and the shift up at one five hundred RPMs," was the sergeant's reply.

With this, the officer left in his peep. Minutes later the company commander telephoned me to report the regimental sergeant major had informed him the company was going to get a citation. I told the captain to hold tight until I got there with the full story.

Upon arrival, I explained that the tank had been pulled out of the shed to lift engine and to take it to ordnance for repair. That I replaced the full deck and placed the bolts in their holes. That I had also placed the red markings on the tank to attract the inspector's attention and his questions. Also I briefed the tank crew on replies to questions. I assured the company commander that the tank was utterly useless.

"Weren't you afraid your deception would be caught by the inspecting officer?" was the captain's frightened question.

"No," I replied, "because he is a cavalry officer accustomed to inspecting horses and you don't lift a horse's tail to see if it has an engine."

So the nervous company commander remained silent and later accepted the commendation.

I took the gamble because I had once observed the regimental adjutant reading a field manual on machine guns to select a couple of questions he could ask before visiting the firing range. It was his way of giving the impression of his vast knowledge. This was the same officer who "inspected" the tank. ■

THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE  
AMERICAN SOLDIERS WHO MADE THE  
DEFENSE OF BASTOGNE POSSIBLE

# ALAMO IN THE ARDENNES

JOHN C. McMANUS

At last, the full story of the turning point in the Battle of the Bulge. In December 1944, the Belgian town of Bastogne was a key objective of the Germans' surprise offensive in the Ardennes--and they had to take it quickly. For five crucial days, small groups of American soldiers from the 28th Infantry Division, 9th and 10th Armored Divisions and 101st Airborne Division, slowed the German advance and allowed Bastogne to be reinforced. At times, these beleaguered defenders were outnumbered ten-to-one. Theirs is a tale of last-ditch efforts, incredible courage, and impossible odds. This is their story....

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The author, John C. McManus, advises dozens of VBOB members contributed to his research in writing this book, whether through personal interviews, networking, or documentary material they provided.

The book *Alamo in the Ardennes: The Untold Story of the American Soldiers Who Made the Defense of Bastogne Possible* will be released March 5, 2007, and will be available at Borders, Barnes and Noble, Amazon.com or just about anywhere books are sold.

## WHEN DID IT END?

By John Meli  
90th Infantry Division  
359th Infantry Regiment  
Company F

*[John sends this article not to be arbitrary, but he thought you might be interested.]*

After crossing the Our River and into Germany January 29, 1945, I realized that we were taking land that was previously occupied by the U.S. Army.

I recall that the incident, which I describe below, took place in the first part of February. My platoon received orders to capture a particular village in the Rhineland. Moving down the road unseen, the platoon's two scouts encountered a German outpost and captured two enemy soldiers. With the outpost phone disabled, the platoon could advance without detection. On a hill ahead stood a house with about 30 Germans milling around and not expecting anything. Taking positions at roadside with rifle in hand and machine gun set up, the platoon opened fire on order. After firing eight shots, I watched the empty clip fly out of my rifle. The noise and smoke scared the Germans, and they raised the white flag of surrender.

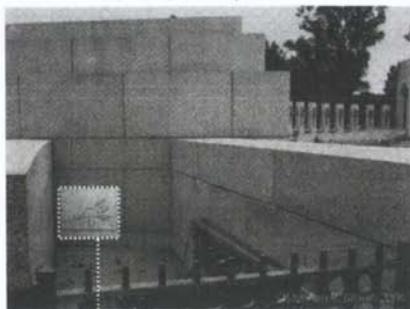
We advanced to the hilltop only to find two German tanks at the bottom. They spotted us and began to open fire. The shells sounded like a train coming in. While hugging the ground behind this hill the shells made slots in the snow and exploded behind us. With no antitank weapons, the Germans not aware of it withdrew. We rushed the first house and took some prisoners. On the stove, the landlady had a pot of stew. She asked if she could feed the prisoners. We said no, but each of us sampled the stew with the same spoon. Then a runner arrived with news that Lt. Dwyer had been killed by a sniper.

We moved to the next house. Standing just inside the door, a woman was holding a paper certificate against her chest. It became immediately clear that the U.S. had occupied this town at an earlier date and that it had issued this identification form to the civilian population.

Under sniper fire, we continued from house to house until halted by a machine gun that was shooting out of a window. One by one we ran to the house next door as snipers tried to pick us off. I took my turn and ran like hell into the house. While on the way, a single round was cracked by my ear. Later on I learned that a new man who had been following me closely had been hit and was lying dead on the road. In the house, a German was lying on the floor. He had a stomach wound and was crying for water. The machine gun was still firing. It had to be silenced. The firing stopped for some reason.

Squad leader Fitz led us to the front door and kicked it in. Screaming and hollering, we ran into the house. One of our squad fired a shot into the ceiling. It made a loud noise that scared the Germans. One got away out the back window. Out of a dark hallway came three Germans where I was standing. I led them out with the point of my rifle under the chin of the first German. They surrendered easily. We took them outside, searched them, and sent to the rear.

The next day, a German villager showed us where some Americans had buried their weapons before capture by the Germans. Maybe after all, there was a little more land to be retaken after January 25, 1945. ■



## Kilroy is back

Nearly every soldier in every theater of World War II came eye to eye with a "Super GI" who seemed to be everywhere. He showed up in mess halls, latrines, tanks, planes and boats. He remained after everyone else left and somehow got to the next stop first.

"Kilroy" was his name. He was nothing more than a graffiti character whose nose and hands were suspended over a fence. The ubiquitous drawing's caption: "Kilroy Was Here."

More than 62 years after World War II, Kilroy is back again, etched on an obscure granite pane on the National World War II Memorial in Washington.

The National Park Service says visitors often report it as graffiti.

Peter Wheeler of Georgia, who

served as chairman of the National World War II Memorial Advisory Board, says Kilroy deserves his place there. "It is a pleasant surprise to find out that Kilroy has become part of our country's greatest monument. I wonder how he got there."

As it was during World War II, when he seemed to be everywhere, no one cares how or why – just that Kilroy is there and always will be.



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American Legion Magazine  
December, 2006

Legion  
54  
12/12/06

## "NUTS" IN A NUTSHELL

**December 16** (Europe) The Battle of the Bulge. In the last major German counteroffensive, Allied troops are pushed back in Belgium's Ardennes Forest. (As Allied lines fall back, a "bulge" is created in the center of the line, giving the battle its familiar name.) Two weeks of intense fighting in brutal winter weather follow before the German offensive is stopped. One of the most famous moments in the long battle comes when the American 101st Airborne Division is encircled by Germans in Bastogne. When the German general demands surrender, General Anthony McAuliffe reportedly replies, "Nuts." The 101st is relieved a few days later as Patton sends in his tanks. The last-gasp German gamble is followed by rapid defeat for Germany.

Reprinted from  
"Don't Know Much About History"  
Kenneth C. Davis

## VETERANS REMEMBER *(continued from page 19)*

Three European immigrants, two of whom served in the U.S. military, expressed their gratitude for their adopted country.

Issac Kaplan, 86, of Pittsford, a Danish immigrant who came to the United States in 1930 at the age of 10 kissed the ground before the battle monument. "I fought for my country and I'm very proud to be an American," Kaplan said.

Greta Stephany, 74, of Irondequoit, said she can still recall seeing American paratroopers dropping from the sky to liberate Holland when she was a child living there in 1944. "It's been such a blessing for me to have met these men," she said of great war's veterans.

Richard W. Brookins, of Pittsford, 84, a founder of the veterans group, asked the 30 Bulge veterans and 50 others to honor the memory of the "21 people who began with us who are not here any more."

Brookins said the Genesee Valley Chapter, Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, has about 70 members.



Arlington  
Cemetery,  
Dec. 16, 2007  
VBOB Chaplain  
John Bowen  
offers a  
Prayer at  
VBOB  
Monument  
adjacent to  
amphitheater.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

# VBOB 2007 REUNION

September 25, 2007  
to September 30, 2007

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Lincolnshire, IL

**PUBLIC OPINION, MEDIA  
ENTERPRISE, AND THE  
REALITIES OF WARFARE--  
AN INCOMPATIBLE MIXTURE**

**By Joseph C. Doherty  
99th Infantry Division  
393rd Infantry Regiment  
4th Battalion**

White House spokesperson, Tony Snow, told a CNN interviewer Sunday, June 18 (2006), that "if somebody had taken a poll in the Battle of the Bulge I dare say people would have said 'Wow, my goodness, what are we doing here.' But you cannot conduct a war based on polls."

Unfortunately for Snow, somebody did conduct a poll at the time of the Bulge when some 750,000 U.S., British and German troops were engaged in a mortal struggle in eastern Belgium and Luxembourg. (December 16, 1944, to January 31, 1945).

*The Washington Post* Federal Page writer, Al Kamen, reported that George Gallup polled a sampling of the American people at the time. He found that in spite of the carnage an overwhelming percentage of people interviewed continued to support the war on Hitler, and opposed any compromise (*Post*, June 23, 2006).

However, as usual with polls then and now, generalized and volatile public opinion reflects only part, and not the most important part, of the historical reality.

The poll results at the time of the Battle of the Bulge would surely have been more nuanced and negative if the media covering World War II had been as multifaceted, uncensored, free-wheeling, and eager for leaks by insiders as it is now.

Certainly there were plenty of negative happenings and major failures on the Allied side, not to mention high-level disputes crying out for exposure, if exposure had been the order of the day as it is now with our Iraq experience.

To call the roll of only the most egregious and unreported or glanced-over aspects of the Battle of the Bulge:

•In November and early December 1944, the Wehrmacht was able to bring a half million troops, thousands of artillery pieces and rocket-throwing tubes, more than a thousand armored fighting vehicles, and twelve hundred aircraft up to or near the American front line at its most vulnerable place (the Ardennes region).

Yet American corps, army, and army group commanders whose troops were most at risk due to the German buildup made virtually no preparations for what this mighty enemy force may have been planning. Nor did General Eisenhower's headquarters at SHAEF.

•The American Army suffered eighty thousand battle casualties in six weeks of bitter fighting. Not a few of the casualties were rear-area soldiers hastily dispatched to the front and men from replacement depots with very little training in infantry warfare.

•The U.S. Army was plainly unprepared for a major battle on the Western Front during the coldest, most punishing winter weather in 50 years. The soldiers' OD (olive drab) uniforms made obvious targets against the snowy fields and woods and were inadequate to protect them from the cold. The cuffed boots most of them wore sucked up icy water at every seam. This resulted in tens of thousands of men who had to be evacuated due to immersion foot and frozen feet.

•Some of the most important weapons used by American troops in the Bulge fighting were inferior to those of their German foes: high velocity anti-tank guns, anti-tank weapons operated by individual soldiers, machine guns, armored fighting vehicles, for example.

•The crisis of men and arms of the American side in the early days of the German counterattack gave General Eisenhower's two principal allies, General Charles deGaulle, commander of the 1st French Army, and Field Marshal Bernard Law Montgomery, commander of the British 21st Army Group, many opportunities to assert themselves, which they did.

DeGaulle threatened to remove his army from the Allied coalition if Eisenhower did not rescind an order to shorten the American lines in the Strasbourg area in order to obtain reinforcements to fight in the Bulge.

Montgomery used the crisis to push hard once again that a single commander be put in charge of all Allied forces in combat, from the North Sea to the Swiss border. The Field Marshall's opportunism infuriated Ike. So much so, that he told his staff he planned to message the Allied Joint Command to choose: "Monty or me." Ike's staff talked him out of it.

Monty wasn't through. He called a press conference as the Battle of the Bulge was winding down to announce that he and his British Army had turned the tide and saved their American allies. General Omar Bradley, U.S. 12th Army Group Commander, and the generals commanding his three armies were outraged. They urged Ike to fire his incorrigible British subordinate. (And wouldn't that have been a media sensation in Great Britain.)

•Both Winston Churchill and Eisenhower appealed in secret to Stalin to step up his plans for a winter offensive in the East to relieve pressure on the U.S. forces fighting in the Bulge. As might be expected, Stalin took maximum propaganda advantage of his Allies' pleas, which he didn't keep secret. Stalin would claim thereafter that the Red Army, though not prepared, speeded up its offensive and thereby "saved" their American allies from a crushing defeat.

•In Washington, Secretary of War Henry Stimson, was shocked and unnerved by the dramatic early success of a foe believed was on the verge of surrender. He met with General George C. Marshall, U.S. Army Chief of Staff, to ascertain how bad the damage and what now should be done.

At the time of the meeting Wehrmacht troops had torn a wedge in the American lines sixty miles deep and sixty-four miles wide at the base, destroyed one infantry division, come close to destroying two more, and chewed up American armored units in the breakthrough area. American rear guard actions and repositions were going on all across the battlefield.

Marshall was optimistic about stopping the German counter-offensive. But he was not unrealistic about the new conditions that might result. He told Stimson it might be necessary to go to the American people to obtain their approval of an expanded mobilization and a more cautious strategy that could prolong the war. Marshall added he didn't believe this would be necessary in the end, however.

•A few reporters of major newspapers sounded a pessimistic note after so many months of writing and broadcasting upbeat stories and predictions of an imminent German collapse.

(Continued)

## PUBLIC OPINION

(Continuation)

Hanson W. Baldwin, chief military analyst of *The New York Times*, wrote that if Liege, Belgium on the Meuse River was taken by the Germans two U.S. armies would need to pull back and the great Port of Antwerp, Belgium, would be endangered. Drew Middleton, another *Times* man that people paid attention to, wrote, "[The German] offensive has lost its local character. It now affects...the whole character of the war in the West."

In general, however, censored U.S. media was content to file and broadcast stories of heroic American soldier conduct on the Bulge battlefield and rewrite Army press releases on the general situation (bad, but getting better).

None of the media efforts at the time even began to cover what General Bradley described in a memoir written long after as, "The high-level political and strategic battles (that) violently shook, and very nearly shattered, the Allied High Command."

Tony Snow made a mistake not looking up George Gallup's post-Battle of the Bulge polling before his off-the-cuff remarks. His larger mistake was not drawing the logical and important big lesson of the Battle of the Bulge happenings, their coverage by the U.S. media at the time, and its influence on public opinion.

Error, surprise, failure, lack of sufficient forces, ineffective weapons, and lots more are a constant in warfare, intrinsic to the actions of commanders and the experiences of their men (and now women).

If a freewheeling and uncensored media make these the only reality for our side hereafter, America better find a safe, errorless, death-and-injury-proof way of fighting its wars, large and small.

Or renounce war altogether, if it can. ■

*[Joseph was with an infantry battalion's heavy weapons company in the Battle of the Bulge. He is the author of a three-volume study of the battle between the 1st SS Panzer Korps and the U.S. Vth Corps at the Elsenborn Ridge in eastern Belgium in late December, 1944.]*

## NEW YORK HONORS 299TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION

*[The following article appeared in a New York State Assembly bulletin form Assemblyman Robin Schimminger (date unknown).]*

Last fall, long time Town of Tonawanda resident Mike Accordino (VBOB member) approached me regarding plans for the 63rd reunion of the U.S. Army's 299th Combat Engineer Battalion at Fort Niagara. Mr. Accordino noted that members of the 299th were predominately New Yorkers and all were inducted at Fort Niagara. Therefore, he suggested that part of the roadway leading to Fort Niagara be dedicated to the 299th.

I thought Mr. Accordino's suggestion was a great one. Fort Niagara itself has a long and distinguished military history that dates back to 1726. This historic military fortress served as a training station and active barracks from the Civil War until the last army units were withdrawn in 1962. During World War II, Fort Niagara was the induction center for all of the army recruits who were to become members of the 299th Combat Engineer Battalion. The battalions official history notes that "trainloads of men arrived (at Camp White, Oregon) nearly every day--all of them from Fort Niagara, New York, until our strength was built

up to battalion level." These men, many of them boyhood friends, came from Buffalo, Niagara Falls, Rochester, Auburn, Syracuse and many small towns in between.

Given the special tie between the 299th and Fort Niagara, I immediately wrote and introduced a bill in Albany to designate portions of the Niagara Thruway and Robert Moses Parkway, beginning at the intersection of the I-190 and River Road in the Town of Tonawanda and ending in Fort Niagara State Park in the Village of Youngstown, as the **299th Engineer Combat Battalion Memorial Highway**. So, as the veterans of the 299th gathered at Fort Niagara in June to renew friendships and remember deceased and fallen comrades, the legislation dedicating the roadways to Fort Niagara in their honor was being finalized by the Legislature. That bill, A.10576-S.7329, has now been passed by both houses and is awaiting the hoped for signature of the Governor.

This dedication is a fitting tribute to the brave soldiers of the 299th Engineer Combat Battalion, whose unparalleled bravery was evidenced by numerous military decorations, which included the Distinguished Unit Citation and Bronze Service Star for each of the following campaigns: Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland, Ardennes and Central Europe. ■

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## •ATTENTION...ATTENTION•

### HOW TO REPLACE LOST MILITARY MEDALS/RECORDS

To obtain lost decorations or awards from WWII, write:

Commander (ARPERCEN)  
9700 Page Blvd  
St. Louis, Missouri 63132-5260

explain how you lost the medals, request replacement and send copies of discharge certificates to show you are entitled to them.

To obtain a copy of missing discharge records (Form 214) write:

Commander (ARPERCEN)  
ATT: DARP-PAS-EVS  
9700 Page Blvd  
St. Louis, MO 63132-5260

If you have been awarded the Combat Infantry Badge (CIB) (WWII only), you are entitled to a Bronze Star Medal. If you have not received this award write:

Commander (ARPERCEN)  
ATT: DARP-PAS-EAW  
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St. Louis, MO 63132-5260

Make the request and include a copy of your discharge certificate. This document should show you received the CIB.

*[You will need to exercise patience. It will take time. Don't forget to send copy of your discharge.]*



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

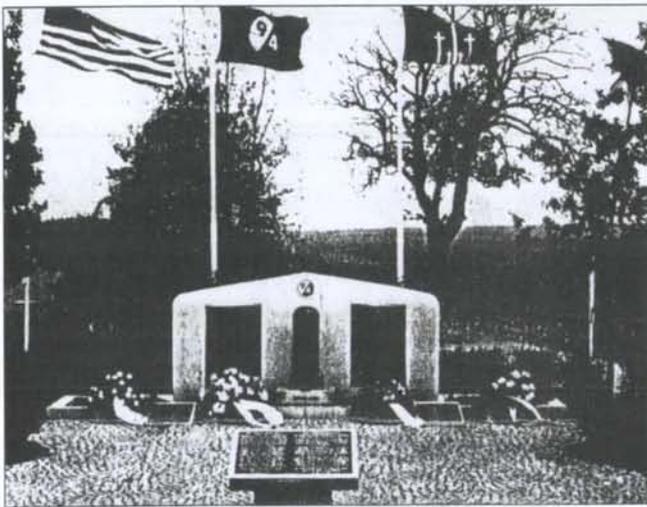


# 94TH INFANTRY DIVISION MONUMENT IN GERMANY

Information submitted by:  
**CARL HEIN**  
94TH INFANTRY DIVISION  
319TH MEDICAL BATTALION  
COMPANY A

*[Carl wanted us to know that in addition to the cemeteries in Belgium and Luxembourg there is a cemetery dedicated to the 94th in Germany. Although not identified, the article he sent seems to have come from his association's newsletter and the story was written by Douglas LaRue Smith, 302nd Infantry Regiment, Company M.]*

--the only monument our country has on a famous battlefield on former enemy soil, and was the first American monument erected after VJ Day of World War II. It is truly a soldier's monument--first built by men of Company M of the 302nd Infantry, 94th Division in Czechoslovakia, as a tribute to fallen comrades. Taken back to the battle site on the Siegfried Line in Germany in 1945, it remained there for forty-five years. Then, in 1990 it had to be moved due to a road widening project, and now the former soldiers of Germany and America, who had fought on this same ground, agreed it should be mounted as a mark of peace between our two countries.



Our German friends generously donated land for the new site and paid half the cost for construction, creating a small park of beauty and charm. A dedication ceremony in 1991 grandly established it as an eternal tribute to Peace, and in 1944 a re-dedication was held to add a message from President George Bush, cast in bronze tablets on a granite wall, that added profoundly to it. Considering that our countries have been at war twice in this century, the monument now stands as a true symbol of peace for all mankind. ■

---

ARE YOUR DUES PAST DUE??

## VBOBers to March

In our Nation's  
St Patrick's Day Patrick  
Sun, 11 March 2007 11:30 AM  
Washington DC Mall

Get your marching shoes shined!  
We will gather outside the old Smithsonian  
Castle, on the Mall side.  
Look for the VBOB Flag  
And WWII Uniforms & vehicles

Please wear an overseas cap and your medals or ribbons  
Vehicles will be available for the walking wounded, furnished  
by the Military Vehicle Collectors Society, however as many  
of you as can march are asked to show the younger  
generations how it is done!

Our National organization and all Chapters have been  
invited once again to march in our Nation's St Patrick's  
Parade, down Constitution Avenue from 7th to 17th Streets  
NW.

We especially would like to have marchers to show  
the crowd that you Bulge Veterans still have a lot of kick. The  
march is about one mile, nothing like those five mile or 20  
mile marches that you had to pass. It is a particular pleasure to  
march in this parade because we salute "Those Who Serve" as  
you once did. Each year that we have marched we have had  
continuous applause from the crowd along the whole parade  
route, something no other unit has sustained. We have won 4  
trophies.

So get those marching shoes shined and caps out and  
if you can still get into your uniform please wear it as it really  
is a crowd pleaser. Mark your calendars for the 16th of March.  
Call John D. Bowen at 301-384-6533 if you will be marching.  
See you there!

We salute

**THOSE WHO SERVE**

*Fire-Police-Active Military-National Guard-Postal*

*As You Once Did*

**FREEDOM IS NOT FREE**

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS?

**Are they allowed?**

Maybe we don't do enough to enlighten our members regarding  
the fact that we gladly accept associate members. Occasionally,  
we run an article but maybe that's not enough.

**A. NORBERT VERZOSA** one of our long time members,  
recently called to our attention that our application makes no  
mention of the fact that those other than those who served in the  
BoB can become members.

We have well over 700 members who are associates. Needless  
to say, this will not be enough in the future to carry on as usual.

We will make a change in the next issue of the membership  
application to show that associates are welcome.

...and in the future we will try to remember to encourage  
families, historians, etc., and that we welcome their membership.

In the meantime, if you know of someone who would like to  
become a member who did not serve in the Battle of the Bulge,  
please encourage them to do so...**They are our future.** ■

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(first) (last) (phone #-will call only if there is a problem)

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

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Lincolnshire Marriott Resort in Lincolnshire, IL  
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*- Detach and Mail -*

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VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE**

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**Annual Dues \$15**

Do not write above this line

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RECRUITER (Optional)