

The BULGE BUGLE

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

VOLUME XXVII NUMBER 3

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

AUGUST 2008



**HISTORICAL FOUNDATION
PRESENTS GENERAL
ANTHONY McAULIFFE
HISTORICAL ITEMS
TO 101st AIRBORNE
DIVISION**

Page 9



DEAD MAN'S RIDGE

Al Bryant
17th Airborne Division
513th Parachute Infantry Regiment
Company B

Page 8



Last Call for . . .

**2008 VBOB Reunion
September 9 - 14, 2008**

**The Ramada Plaza Hotel
and Conference Center
4900 Sinclair Road
Columbus, OH 43229**

**VETERANS OF THE
BATTLE OF THE BULGE,
INC.**
P.O. Box 101418
Arlington, VA 22210-4418
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CONTACT THE CHAPTER IN YOUR AREA.
YOU WILL BE GLAD YOU DID.
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO START A
CHAPTER IN YOUR AREA, LET US KNOW.
WE'LL SEND YOU NECESSARY DETAILS.

President's Message

"We the people of the United States in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote general welfare and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this constitution for the United States of America."



Demetri "Dee" Paris

Article 7 of the Constitution states:
"The Congress shall have the power...To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make rules concerning Captures on Land and Water..."

A Letter of Marque is an action by Congress which allows a private citizen to seize citizens or goods of another nation or which allows a private citizen to equip a ship with arms in order to attack enemy ships.. As an example, we used Jean Laiffitte and his pirates in the defense of New Orleans in the War of 1812. Although the war had ended, the information had not reached the American commander.

So, it is clear that only the Congress of the United States has the power to declare war. The last time the Congress declared was following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and all except one Member of Congress voted to declare war which was the action that brought VBOB members into WWII.

Since 1941, there have been about 35 combat actions in as many countries, all of which were authorized by our Presidents.

A listing of some of those actions would include:

<u>Military Action</u>	<u>Combat Deaths</u>	<u>Combat Wounded</u>
1961-63 Vietnam	47,715	153,303
1989-90 Panama	23	240
1987-77 Persian Gulf	2	10
Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm by Bush #1		
**2001-Afghanistan	301	195
**2003-Iraq	4,121	30,004

**Deaths and wounded as of July 14, 2008. Other allied forces had about 312 deaths. It is estimated that 80,000-90,000 Iraqi civilians have been killed. Incidentally, the number of civilian contractors in Iraq is greater than the number of American troops and about 170 contractors have been killed.

Reunions:

In the May 2008 issue of *The Bulge Bugle*, you were invited to offer your chapter and your city as the location of a future reunion. Our experienced national officers will provide all the advice and assistance necessary. It's time you extended a welcome to your Battle of the Bulge buddies.

Send your invitation to: **Future VBOB Reunion**, P.O. Box 101418, Arlington, VA 22210-1418.

Hope to see you at the upcoming Columbus, Ohio, reunion. Complete information is in this issue.■

Important Dues Information

Please check the date your dues were or are due. You will find it directly above your last name on the mailing label for this newsletter.

Dues are:

Annual	\$15.00
Life Membership (65 and over)	\$75.00
Life Membership (Under 65)	\$125.00

We have not had a dues increase for a very long time (about 12 years) and we would like to avoid doing this as many of our members are on very restricted incomes and would be unable to continue their membership. Paper, printing, and postage has raised continually during this period. Therefore, if you feel that you can make a contribution along with your dues, it will be very much appreciated and will help us avoid raising dues. Thank you.■



Kilroy sez...

**PACK YOUR BAGS AND BE READY
 FOR THE VBOB REUNION
 COLUMBUS, OHIO
 SEPTEMBER 9-14, 2008**

***** IN THIS ISSUE *****	
★ 3. President's Message	★ 20. CRIBA Website
★ 4. Letters to the Editor	★ 21. Parker's Crossroad
★ 7. Patton-Legendary	★ 22. Historical Foundation
★ 8. Dead Man's Ridge	★ 24. Belgian Ceremony
★ 9. General McAuliffe	★ 25. Bastogne in Bulge
★ 11. Special Notice	★ 27. Reunions
★ 12. Military Metals	★ 29. VBOB Quartermaster
★ 13. Grosslangenfled	★ 30. 9 th Armed. Div.
★ 16. VBOB Reunion	★ 31. VBOB Certificate

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

WEB SITE: www.battleofthebulge.org

JUST THE FACTS, MAAM!

I am Major Robert W. Likins, U.S. Army (Retired). I was in command of Battery B, 591st Field Artillery Battalion for most of its existence from its first formation in South Carolina; through maneuvers in Tennessee; service at Camp Atterbury, Indiana; to the POE; Thence Northern France--the Ardennes, Europe until its return to the United States. To the best of my knowledge, the battery payroll never exhibited the signature of a member named Eugene Morell. Sergeant Raymond Kurth brought Morell's claims to me recently, and in his experience as one of B Battery of the 591st section chiefs, he, too, has never heard of Morell.

Morell describes himself as a gunner in the third section of 105mm howitzers. The gunner in my third section was Jack Smiley, a former All American basketball star, and his section chief was Sgt. Weblek[sp].

In the course of our retreat early on during the Ardennes Campaign, we had a piece overturn which was temporarily abandoned and later recovered. We also picked up a 105 howitzer that had been abandoned by another unit and became temporarily a five gun battery.

Thank you for your attention to these facts.

Robert A. Likins
591 FA BN B

GENERAL COURTNEY HICKS HODGES

Reference: "Members Speak Out" column of the May issue (2008) of *The Bulge Bugle*.

George C. Hodges seeks information pertaining to his distant relative General Courtney Hicks Hodges, Commander, First United States Army.

My home town of Perry, Georgia, is the birth place of the general. The home in which he was born still stands today. Also, the home in which he grew up stands also. Both were restored some 25 years or so ago and are very beautiful.

The national guard armory was named for him and so is our second busiest street.

Anyone who has a computer, or access to one, can go to GOOGLE and enter the general's name, will find a wealth of information about General Hodges. It is written by Mr. Hal Boyle. [Mr. Boyle's address was in correct in the newsletter. It should have been PO Box 82, Olalla, Washington 98359.]

I disagree with Mr. Boyle's glowing account of the general's record in Europe during WWII, but it is his view. Those of us who are members of the Battle of the Bulge know the facts. Personally, I don't think there would have been a Battle of the Bulge had the First Army been commanded by someone other than General Hodges.

Additional data on the general can be obtained from our local Chamber of Commerce and, upon request, I can provide the names and addresses of a nephew and niece of General Hodges. [Mr. McKinley's address is 824 Moreland Avenue, Perry, Georgia 31069.]

REPLACED? I THINK NOT

In the May issue of *The Bulge Bugle*, I read the excellent article, "The General That History Forgot and One That Popular Lore Created," by Mitchell Kaidy. However, I was surprised by the lack of historical accuracy when he states that General Patton commended General Middleton on the employment of his divisions and in Kaidy's words "succeeding even though one of his divisions, the 11th Armored, faltered and had to be replaced by the 87th Infantry."

"Replaced" in the context can imply failure or disgrace and by leaving it without explanation the reader can only wonder.

From the book *The Bitter Woods* by John Eisenhower: Patton, impatient to get the attack moving on December 30 insisted over Middleton's objection on committing the 11 Armored Division to its first combat without providing enough time for bringing up the rear, for reconnaissance or for preparation. The resulting attack was a piecemeal affair that fell short of expectations.

Given the situation handed to the 11th Armored, it couldn't have been otherwise. If that is faltering, so be it.

General Middleton adjusted the sectors of the 87th and the 11th and charged the 11th Armored to spearhead the drive to Houffalize, near Neufchateau-Houffalize highway and link up with the First Army. On January 16th, the division had accomplished all of the objectives linking up with the 84th Infantry Division, First Army; the first link up.

In none of the many documents and books I have read including After Action Reports, have I found mention of the 11th Armored Division being replaced by the 87th Division.

Let us remember that three new to combat divisions, 11th Armored, 87th Infantry and 17th Airborne, fought valiantly and took terrible losses in pushing back the German Army and helping to pinch off the Bulge.

Clinton C. Barnard
11 ARMD 63 AIB B

NO UNIT DID IT ALONE

I have to take exception to Mitchell Kaidy's article in the May, 2008, issue of *The Bulge Bugle*. I know he is proud of his division and was one of so many who gave their all in whatever position they found themselves, but his account has to be amended.

The most casual reading of what happened will make it clear that there were a few units more than the "green 106" and "veteran 28th Infantry Division troops" between Bastogne and the German border. Contrary to his assertion that German troops encircled Bastogne as a part of their attack on Antwerp, a look at a map will show that this simply cannot be the case.

The 101st got to Bastogne only hours before the Germans and would not have gotten there at all if it had not been for the gallant battles put up by numerous units that slowed down the attack. Some of us had been fighting for four days prior to the German attack on Bastogne.

(continuation)

It took the combined efforts of all of us who were there--no unit did it alone. What was the most deciding battle? Who knows? All who were there deserve equal praise as all of us were just doing the best we could as we saw it.

Thor Ronningen
99 INF 395 INF I

WE ACHIEVED OUR OBJECTIVES

I would like to take exception to the statement in Mitchell Kaidy's story about the "General That History Forgot." He said the 11th Armored Division faltered and had to be replaced by the 87th Infantry Division.

As a member of the 11th Armored Division, I thought we achieved our objectives and did everything that was asked of us. I wish he would explain.

Dale E. Dean
11 ARMD 21 AIB B

WE DID IT, AGAIN!

I'm slightly distressed to write this, but it must be done. I forgive you for your errors about two Battle of the Bulge monuments!

In my current issue of the May, 2008, *Bulge Bugle*, page 7, you have an article concerning two Battle of the Bulge Monuments. The monument shown is truly beautiful of the "Genesee Valley Post.

Now if you will look up a past issue of *The Bugle*, dated May 2007, page 28, you will find a picture of my post 17 monument. Since then the monument has been formerly dedicated in a fine ceremony at the Veterans Cemetery in Randolph Center, Vermont.

I have written you in the past, while we were having our monument being made, with a request that you might aid with funds as you have suggested in earlier articles. I had no response to the matter at all. When I sent in the photo of our completed monument, which you so generously published, thank you. You put in a footnote at the end suggesting that people could contribute to our cause. It did generate over two hundred dollars for which I wrote to all who send money in and thanked them individually.

It's sadly true that our members are rapidly leaving the scene and the time is coming when none of us will be here to keep this organization going. Up here in the northern New England Chapter #17 we hold about four meetings a year. But the time is coming when we must plan to use our funds for some good local cause and plan to say goodbye. I'm very proud to have been a part of history and truly enjoy the comradery of all our members.

Sorry to have brought your published error to light but those are the facts without denial. More power to all of you at headquarters, you have done a great job running the *Bulge Bugle* all these years. I have always looked forward to each issue and being recognized at times when I sent in some stories of mine.

Gordon B. Pettingell
26 INF 101 INF G

A DIFFERENT BATTLE

I am an associate member of the Battle of the Bulge. Thanks to one of your members, Neil Thompson, for taking me into joining your organization.

I was one of McArthur's boys and saw combat in the South Pacific Theater, Bougainville, Philippines and Japan.

I enjoy reading your newsletter because I compare it with the climate and fighting conditions we had. You people froze to death while we had to put up with the jungle, skin infections, malaria, and pouring down rain everyday. I finally retired after wearing my army uniform for 55 years--30 regular, 3 years national guard, and, last but not least, 24 years in the Maryland State Guard.

When I first joined the army in October 1939, it was the New York State Guard--Battery C, 156th Field Artillery Regiment, 44th Infantry Division. The 44th sought combat in the European Theater. My combat unit was the Americal Unit. It got its name by being activated overseas on the Island of New Caladonia so it was Americal Troops in Calonia, giving the name of Americal No number at that time. When it was reactivated during Vietnam it became 23rd Infantry Division.

Next week [letter dated June 18, 2008] I will go to our Americal Division Reunion, I've been to local chapter and state reunions but never to a division one. I wish the organization the best of luck and a growth in its membership.

Please excuse my mistakes but at 88 years, my writing is very poor,

Carlo DePato
Americal Division 247 FA Bn Z

**

ENJOY THE MEMORIES

I wish to thank all of you at the "home base" of *The Bulge Bugle*, for all the fine work you are doing in keeping our memories "of way back when" alive. Although all these memories during this period were not all pleasant.

Many of our memories were of some miserable, yes even terrible moments, for some. Periods of "bitching"--"bitching" and more "bitching"--with many periods of bewilderment and sometimes confusion.

However, in spite of all of these negatives, during this period, the positive result was that these experiences helped mould a great number of "guys" who were just a group of fellow GIs, who happened to part of a military unit, thrust together in a unit of friends--more than friends, more than just buddies--but **real buddies**.

This "bond" continues and became stronger as time went on and when the war ended and we all returned to our homes throughout the States, we realized that now we were real buddies. Reunions were held annually throughout the States and the bond became stronger and stronger with the wives now in attendance.

The wives would laugh and chuckle at all the stories we would tell and re-tell of the time we landed at Omaha Beach and our trip through Europe and especially of all those miserable--cold--terrible days in the Bulge. Of course our stories were always about all the crazy things we did. GIs always managed to do crazy things.

Yes, in spite of all the crazy things we did, we did earn five battle stars and we did receive several commendations, especially for our actions during the Bulge when we provided support fire for several divisions, primarily the 1st, 2nd, 7th Armored Divisions among others.

Yes, again, I say thank you for keeping these memories alive. But alas, after all these years, there are so few of us left. You may rest assured we do enjoy reading all the reports, letters and material you include in *The Bulge Bugle*.

Phil Melleno
955 FA BN



"Time is combat, they say, has a sameness, a kind of dreadful monotony that, once it is ended, runs all days and nights together."

BULGE VIDEO

A video producer, Josh Hoerth is working on producing a video on the Bulge and is interested in talking with Bulge veterans in the state of South Dakota.

For more information please contact Josh at:
Josh Hoerth
2018 N. Jay St.
Aberdeen, SD 57401-1323
e-Mail josh@joshhoerth.com

NOMINATIONS FOR 2009 VBOB EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, I, John D. Bowen, Chairman, announce the following slate to serve on the Executive Council for the 2009 Fiscal Year, 16 December 2008 - 15 December 2009.

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Vice-President, Membership: George L. Watson
87th Infantry Division

Vice-President, Chapters: John E. Mc Auliffe
87th Infantry Division

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Associate Member

Treasurer: Neil B. Thompson
740th Tank Battalion

Corresponding Secretary: Mary Ann D. Bowen
Associate Member

Recording Secretary: John D. Bowen
Associate Member

Trustee, Three Year Term: Thomas R. Chambers
9th Armored Division

Trustee, Three Year Term: Bert Rice
Associate Member

Trustee, Three Year Term: John R. Schaffner
106th Infantry Division

Trustee, Two Year Term: Alfred H. M. Shehab
38th Cavalry Squadron

Trustee, Two Year Term: Robert Rhodes
Associate Member

Trustee, Two Year Term: Robert F. Phillips
28th Infantry Division

Trustee, One Year Term: J. David Bailey
106th Infantry Division

Trustee, One Year Term: Madeleine Bryant
Associate Member

Trustee, One Year Term: Kenneth O. McCreedy
Associate Member

The above nominees have been unanimously approved by the Nominating Committee, John D. Bowen, Ralph Bozorth, George Chekan, Alfred H. M. Shehab. Bios presented at the Membership Meeting, in the Book of Reports, Sep 2008

Respectfully submitted,
John D. Bowen, Chairman

WHAT MADE PATTON A LEGENDARY GENERAL?

[The following article appeared in "The Victory Division News," dated June 2008. The newsletter is published by the 5th Armored Division Association.]

At the height of his fame, a United Press radio report said of General George S. Patton, Jr.:

A fiction writer couldn't create him. History itself hasn't matched him. He's colorful, fabulous. He's dynamite. On a battlefield, he's a warring, roaring comet.... When this war is ended...one of the most vivid human pages will be the saga of General Patton.

For decades scholars have pondered the question of what made Patton, Jr., such a unique figure in history. The answers are numerous and varied. Preparation may be part of the puzzle. Patton knew history, saw himself as a party to it and took concrete steps to be ready to make his mark. He walked the back roads of Normandy in 1913 armed with a Michelin map and the conviction that he would one day fight a major battle there.

As a cadet he wrote the following list in the back cover of a textbook:

Qualities of a Great General

1. *Tactically aggressive (loves a good fight)*
2. *Strength of character*
3. *Steadiness of purpose*
4. *Acceptance of responsibility*
5. *Energy*
6. *Good health and strength*

Author Carlo D'Este explored the question of the General's skill in the book *Patton: A Genius of War*.

He wrote: What made Patton so remarkable was his willingness to take risks and make crucial life and death decisions no one else would dare.

For all his military accomplishments, George C. Scott was right when he asserted that what made Patton unique was his individualism, his understanding that "you live and you die alone--he knew it and he lived it.... But foremost about Patton,

I believe this man was an individual in the deepest sense of the word."

Patton was an authentic and flamboyant military genius whose entire life was spent in preparation for a fleeting opportunity to become one of the greatest captains in history. No soldier in the annals of the U.S. Army ever worked more diligently to prepare himself for high command than did Patton.

However, it was not only his astonishing breadth of professional reading and writing that separated Patton from his peers, that special genius for war has been granted to only a select few.

Combining hard work, study and fearlessness, Patton stood at the head of his army, urging his soldiers on.

PFC David S. Terry never forgot hearing Patton, a towering figure in full dress, speak to the troops at the Third Army Headquarters in Knutsford, England, "I was 18 years old and this was the first time I had ever heard anyone talk as I thought a warrior would. I thought, this man, Patton, is a warrior, and I'm glad we are on the same side," said Terry.



"HE'S BEEN THERE EVER SINCE I ATE THEM K RATIONS."

They came of age during the Great Depression and the Second World War and went on to build modern America--men and women whose everyday lives of duty, honor, achievement, and courage gave us the world we have today.

Tom Brokaw

DEAD MAN'S RIDGE

Al Bryant
17th Airborne Division
513th Parachute Infantry Regiment
Company B

[As we mentioned in a previous issue, the 17th Airborne Division Association has dissolved. We received a copy of their "Airborne Farewell," which was the final edition of their newsletter, Thunder From Heaven. In it was a recollection of Al Bryant. We publish it herewith.]

(On January 4th, 1945, the 17th Airborne and its attached units launched their counter-attack in an area about twelve miles west of Bastogne dubbed "Dead Man's Ridge.")

Here are my recollections of "Dead Man's Ridge"

On the eve of January 3, 1945, Company B, of the 513th, moved in to a wooded area about ten miles from Bastogne. This was our first encounter seeing dead, frozen soldiers laying in the snow, both German and American. They didn't look real. One of our troopers was heard to say "they're sure making this maneuver look real with all those wax dummies laying around."

It was dark when we reached our bivouac area and we were told to dig. The ground was frozen and full of roots. I remember it took a long time for the two of us to dig a hole big enough for both of us to fit into. If only we had known the Germans had left behind a five or six-man bunker no more than eight feet from where we were dug in!

On the morning of the 4th, just as it started to get light, the Germans started an artillery barrage on our position. We were not safe in our fox hole because the artillery shells were going off in the tree tops and raining shrapnel down all around us. It was just light enough to see the opening to the bunker that the Germans had built. About ten other troopers saw it at the same time and we all dove in, someone said "I'll light a match," someone else said "don't!" "Why?" someone else said, "Because," came the answer. "I think I am sitting on a dead German."

When the artillery shelling stopped we moved out over a large open field that had no cover. That was when the artillery shelling started again. There was snow on the ground and every time a shell hit and exploded it left a big, black ring in the snow about 50 feet across. I wondered at the time if the black ring represented the killing zone. When it happened again, I was glad to see one trooper get up and move out of the black zone on his own. It was at this moment that I first experienced the sound of a bullet passing directly over my head. I dropped to the ground and landed on top of my gas mask. When I saw how much the mask elevated my hind end all I could think of was I going to get my ass shot off! I didn't think twice about discarding my gas mask.

We finally made it to the road that was just north of the small village. It had high banks on both sides and that is where we were told to dig in. The Tiger tanks were shelling the tree tops that bordered the village. The raining shrapnel caused me to

give thanks that I was not in the village. Our anti-tank weapons were useless against the German Tiger tanks. When our bazookas fired a missile and it hit one of the tanks it might knock off a little metal but no real harm was done. We had a trooper dug in with a bazooka about 40 feet in front of us. He fired his bazooka at a Tiger tank, the tank fired back and our trooper was directly hit by an 88 mm shell, one of his body parts landed near me.

We had four tanks in support. Two were knocked out almost immediately by the Tiger tanks. In a disabled tank one of the crew was screaming for help. In plain view of the enemy our medic captain climbed upon the tank and pulled him out. The surviving crew member had both feet blown off. We were out of anti-tank ammunition and up the road came two Germans under a white flag. The one in the back was holding a light machine gun. They told our officer in charge that down in the village where our wounded were being kept, they had a Tiger tank with the cannon pointed at them and they would be killed if we didn't surrender. One of our troopers tried to bayonet the German with the white flag and machine gun but several of our troopers stopped him. I remember that the officer who surrendered us was not our regular battalion commander.

As the Germans marched us away, we passed a Tiger tank with the tank commander standing up in the turret. I held up two fingers in the shape of a 'V.' Big mistake, the tank commander pulled out what looked like a 45 pistol, aimed it at me and started shouting in German (which I didn't understand). Luckily there was someone that understood German and he told me that the person with the gun wanted my gloves. I don't need to go into detail how quickly I responded to this request.

The 4th of January, 1945, was one of the longest days of my life. That night they put us in a big barn and interrogated us one by one. When they brought me into the interrogation room, my first thought was that this looks like a WWI movie with all the high ranking officers with monocles standing around. As I could see by the flickering light, they were in their fancy uniforms. They started out by telling me everything they knew of the 513th. I guess that was to make me think since they knew just about all there was to know, it wouldn't matter what I told them. I gave them my name, rank and serial number in reply to each question and said that I would rather not answer. They sent me out to wait with the others until they finished interrogating the remaining troopers.

From there they led us to a big building that looked like a hospital. They led us through a large opening in the basement. I was the last man in the column and as our troopers moved through the opening they started to scream. This is when my imagination ran wild. I think in that moment I knew the end was near and I looked around to see if there was any possibility to escape. But there was the German with the light machine gun bringing up the rear. My only thought at that time was that I would live at least another 30 seconds if I went through the opening. As I passed through the opening much to my relief, but then anger, as I saw what the men were screaming about!

It had been a long and vigorous day and they were extremely tired. It was places in the hay where now they could finally get some rest and sleep. That was what they were screaming about. This had been the longest day of my life!

[Thanks for the story, Al, and thanks to the 17th for all their support during the Battle of the Bulge.] ■

HISTORICAL FOUNDATION PRESENTS GENERAL ANTHONY McAULIFFE HISTORICAL ITEMS TO DIVISION

A special ceremony was held on 18 March 2008, Fort Campbell, Kentucky, for the presentation of the WWII army footlocker, scrapbooks and other historical items that belonged to General (R) Anthony C. McAuliffe, of Battle of the Bulge, Bastogne, Belgium fame.

This memorabilia had circulated through the homes of various McAuliffe family members for many years as no one was sure where these items should be permanently placed. Mary Nolan (Foundation Board of Trustees) heard of their concern and suggested that they consider donating these items to the Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation (BoBHF) for proper preservation. In 2003, Jim Clark, a McAuliffe family member, took the footlocker, scrapbooks, posters and other items to the home of Dorothy Davis, Executive Officer of BoBHF, Rockville, Maryland, for safekeeping while the Foundation spoke with historians to decide upon a suitable location for the material. LTG Harry Kinnard, who had served with General McAuliffe in Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge, was consulted and he suggested that the collection be placed in the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Museum at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. General McAuliffe had commanded the 101st Airborne Division at Bastogne. This museum was contacted and agreed to accept the items.

It wasn't until 2007 when Dorothy Davis moved to Franklin, Tennessee, (an hour from Fort Campbell) and the items were transported with her that plans were made with the 101st Airborne Division staff for proper presentation and display. The museum staff was most pleased when they viewed the items since a new 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Headquarters building had recently been completed at Fort Campbell and had been named "McAuliffe Hall."

A presentation ceremony was planned for 18 March 2008. On the day before the ceremony, members of the VoBHF Board of Trustees traveled to Fort Campbell to participate in this impressive event. Those attending were LTC (Ret) Alfred Shehab, Col (Ret) and Mrs. James Leach, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Goffin, Col (Ret) Robert Rhodes, Dorothy Davis, and LTC (Ret) and Mrs. Scott Cantlon.

The morning of March 18th, Mr. Daniel Peterson, curator of the museum and troops of the 101st hosted the Battle of the Bulge group for an interesting tour of Fort Campbell. Everywhere on post the flags of the 101st Airborne Division Eagle insignia were flying. The morning activities included a visit to the Fisher House where families of wounded soldiers may stay at no cost to be near their injured loved ones in the hospital. Fisher Houses are located near many large military hospitals and are supported by donations. A highlight of the morning was the state-of-the-art indoor firing range where firing skills are taught using computer simulations. The veterans had an opportunity to participate in this exercise and enjoyed testing the skills that they learned many years ago. The next stop was a special tour of the 101st Airborne Division Museum. A large portion of the exhibits are devoted to the division's participation in the Battle of the Bulge.

The week before the event, announcements were made on local television stations and in newspapers that the Battle of the Bulge veterans would be on post. Throughout the veterans' visit, they were often stopped by troops and family members with questions about the Bulge.



Attendees: (left to right) Scott Cantlon; Paul Goffin; Ghislaine Goffin; Alfred Shehab; James Leach; Bob Rhodes; Dorothy Davis; Jackie Cantlon; Marion Leach.

In the afternoon we were escorted to McAuliffe Hall for the presentation ceremony. A large audience of troops and dignitaries of the civilian community attended. MG Jeffrey J. Schloesser, Commanding General, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), greeted the veterans and guests and especially thanked the McAuliffe family for the items.

LTC (Ret) Alfred Shehab, President of the Battle of the Bulge Foundation, served as Master of Ceremonies for the Foundation's portion of the program. Col (Ret) James Leach, who had commanded the third tank into Bastogne breaking the stranglehold on the city, told of his experiences. The entire audience was most interested in hearing his personal story about this part of WWII history and gave Col Leach a standing ovation for his impressive presentation. Mr. Paul Goffin, a Belgian teenager during the Bulge, then spoke and expressed the deep gratitude of the Belgian people to the Americans for gaining back for them their freedom. After the comments, MG Schloesser and the Bulge veterans, unveiled the McAuliffe footlocker and other articles. Special exhibit cases have been designed for these historical items and they will be displayed for all to see in the "McAuliffe Hall lobby."

The reception following the program proved to be another opportunity for the troops to talk with the Bulge veterans about their experiences 64 years ago and to share with these veterans their stories of recently fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

It had been a most interesting and memorable several days for the Bulge veterans as well as the 101st troops.

For anyone traveling near Fort Campbell, Kentucky, a visit to the 101st Airborne Division Museum and McAuliffe Hall is highly recommended.

Dorothy S. Davis, R.N.
57th Field Hospital

Paul Goffin Speech at Presentation

General Schloesser, Mrs. Schloesser, Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Thank you for having me here this afternoon to honor General McAuliffe and the gallant
(Continued)

HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

(Continuation)

men and women who took part in the Battle of the Bulge. For us Belgians, you are a special group of people. General McAuliffe has a particular place in the heart of the Belgians after his famous reply "Nuts" when he was encircled in Bastogne. The Nuts expression now symbolizes resistance and determination. In Bastogne there is now a McAuliffe Square and in souvenir shops you find ashtrays with "nuts" on it.

Sixty-three years ago you liberated us from Nazi tyranny. I will always remember that day in September 1944. I was 19 and for the last four years we had only seen German troops and now we had our first glimpse of U.S. troops. It was an explosion of jubilation and happiness. It was a relief for which we had waited anxiously for four long years. But, it did not last very long, two months later the news circulated, "the Germans are coming back." This was not the Christmas we had expected. Our joy turned into fear.

But thanks to the determination and bravery, of men like General McAuliffe and all the soldiers with him, you prevailed in what became one of the most historic battles of the war in Europe, the defeat of the Germans in the Ardennes. This victory, which claimed the lives of 19,000 of your comrades, was decisive in ending the war.

Sixty-three years have gone by, and we have become balder and gained a few inches around our waists, but what has not changed is our gratefulness to all the veterans of the Battle of the Bulge.

The D-Day landing and the Battle of the Bulge are among the most powerful symbols of the triumph of democracy. General McAuliffe was in both. He jumped close to St. Marie l'Eglise in Normandy on D-Day and six months later he fought back the Germans in the Ardennes.

If Ghislaine, my wife, and I, have been able to bring up and educate our children and grandchildren in a free society, it is largely because young Americans in 1944 came to free us at the risk of their lives. Today, we are to honor those heroes and it is for me a great honor to be able to express in the name of Belgians our gratitude and affection to all those who sacrificed their lives for our history. ■

ONLY IKE DID IT...ALL

Flood time in Kansas, and a boy with his brother whirling helplessly about in a flat-bottomed boat in a rampaging stream...until a cowboy hurled them a line.

Then, another time, as a boy, in bed ill, floating in and out of consciousness, with the doctor saying it's going to be the boy's life or the leg, one or the other. But the boy, stubborn, said no to amputating his infected, blood-poised leg.

Two weeks later, for whatever reason, he recovered.

Many years later, now grown up, he was almost lost still another time. Flying from North Africa to the British base at Gibraltar, he was told visibility was practically nil, the landing site ahead was difficult, and there wasn't enough gas to turn back. Even so, the military aircraft landed safely, and Dwight David Eisenhower continued on with life--with an extraordinary and historic career.

If, at any of these crisis points in his life, he had not survived, someone else would have been in charge of the Allied landings

in North Africa. Someone else would have planned and directed the Allied invasions of Sicily and Italy. Some other general would have been the Supreme Allied Commander for Operation Overlord...

Maybe, as the critics sometimes have argued, George C. Marshall should have been the SHAEF commander instead of remaining in Washington as army chief of staff. Maybe some British general would have been better. Maybe "Monty," as Sir Bernard Montgomery was called, was another Duke of Wellington whose advice should always have predominated in the Allied councils of war. And maybe Douglas MacArthur was the most brilliant of American generals, and maybe George S. Patton was unfairly chastised and so on. Many were the criticisms of good old affable "Ike," sometimes dull-looking and by the time he died at age 78, retired president, a kindly, worn-shoe sort of face.

The critics, with all their maybes and implications, sometimes forget that the war was won, the invasion of Europe ultimately was successful (as were those other invasions earlier), and the man at the helm was indeed, Eisenhower.

He was born October 14, 1890, in Denison, Texas, but the family moved almost immediately to Abilene, Kansas, where he spent his boyhood. That was where the cowboy rescued him and his brother, Edgar, with a lasso, where a very young Ike refused to allow amputation of his leg (and Edgar slept at the bedroom door to keep the doctors away).

Like Napoleon, Ike considered a naval career. But, too old for the Naval Academy at Annapolis, he went to West Point instead. He was a football star, a running back, until a ruined knee sidelined him. He then became a part-time football coach, a sideline that nearly ruined his post-World War I army career, since he was often assigned new duties based on a commander's need for a good football coach.

Along the way, though, he befriended Patton and served happily under both Marshall and MacArthur.

Only a fair student in earlier years, but always an avid reader of military history, he began to shine as a career officer--first in his class at the Army Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and a widely publicized star at the Louisiana Maneuvers of 1941.

After Pearl Harbor, he served in Washington as chief of war plans for the War Department. Named Commander of Allied Forces in North Africa in the fall of 1942, he could boast in one year that all German forces had been driven out of Africa...and Sicily. Further, Italy had declared itself out of the war, although at the cost of German occupation.

In the end, it was former aide Eisenhower, who was chosen as Supreme Allied Commander, rather than Marshall or MacArthur. It was "Ike" who had to grin and bear it during the bombing of civilian rail yards in France as preparation for D-Day. It was "Ike" who sweated through those two eleventh-hour decisions to "make" D-Day--one holding back the Allied invasion force due to bad weather, and the other unleashing that massive force one day after, despite gossamer-thin predictions of improved weather.

Someone else might have done some of it, perhaps even all of it, but they didn't. Only Ike did.

[First published in World War II magazine, November 1990.. and taken from "Best Little STories from World War II.] ■

**SPECIAL NOTICE FOR ALL VBOB MEMBERS WHO ARE
ATTENDING THE REUNION IN COLUMBUS
PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN IT WITH
YOUR REGISTRATION FORM**

After the assembly program honoring our veterans at the Orange Middle School on Friday, September 12, 2008 there will be several classrooms, in which the students will ask questions of a panel of three veterans. The students will ask questions about your experiences. They will want to learn when and where you entered military service, what you did during the Battle of the Bulge, what did you eat, how did you sleep etc.

The three VBOB veterans will remain in their assigned classroom while the students rotate between classrooms. Each of the three sessions will last about 30 minutes followed by a five-minute break while students move to their next classroom. The entire program of all sessions will last about 1 1/2 hours.

Your spouse or companion may join you and, perhaps add some useful information for the students. Will you participate in this important learning experience? Please circle one of the following.

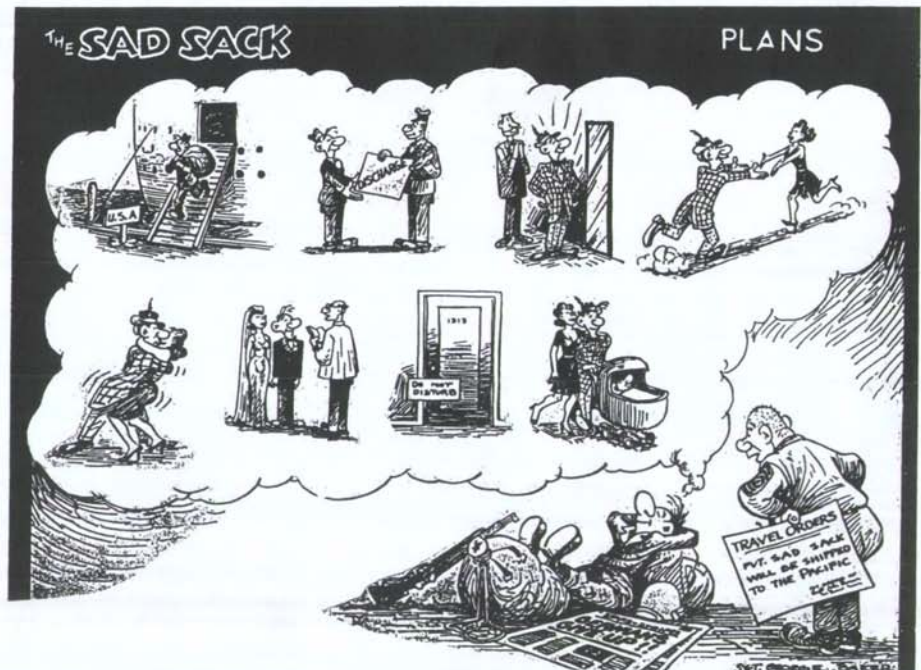
YES, I will gladly participate NO, I will not participate

Name _____ Home town _____

Division _____ Regiment _____ Battalion _____

Company _____ Squad _____

What were your duties and your actions during Battle of the Bulge?



WEARING MILITARY MEDALS

Army Regulation 670-1, "Wear and Appearance of Army Uniform and Insignia," allows retired soldier to "wear all categories of medals (described in this regulation) on appropriate civilian clothing. This includes clothes designed for veterans and patriotic organizations on Veterans Day, Memorial Day, and Armed Forces Day, as well as at formal occasions of ceremony and social functions of a military nature. Personnel may wear either full-size or miniature medals. Personnel who wear medals on civilian clothes should place the medals on the clothing in approximately the same location and in the same manner as on the Army uniform, so they look similar to medals worn on the Army Uniform."

[Emphasis added] Source: "Army Echoes" Jan-Apr 2007 HQDA DAPE-HRP-RSO, Alexandria, VA. 22332-0470.

Submitted by Dee Paris

A CHAMPION IN OUR MIDST

Wayne Field, of Colorado Springs, Colorado, a long time member of VBOB, active chapter member, and reliable attendant at our reunions and other functions.

The year 2008 will be the 16th year he has participated in the National Veterans Golden Age Games, which will be held in Omaha, Nebraska, and the National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Indianapolis. He advises that there are not many WWII veterans competing any more.

Last year, he was chosen (and he says honored) to be selected as one of the twelve competitors to appear on a special Cheerios box which is sold in military markets around the country. All on the box were gold medal winners in their events.

Wayne says that his favorite memory of the National Veterans Golden Age Games "involves being beaten by someone who I had previously coached."

Wayne has already made his plans to attend this year's reunion in Columbus.

Good luck this year, Wayne.



GATEWAY CHAPTER PUBLISHES BULGE REMEMBRANCES on DVD

The St. Louis Gateway Chapter has a few copies of a DVD entitled "Everyday Heroes of the Battle of the Bulge" available. It can be purchased for \$12.70. Make check payable to VBOB St. Louis Gateway Chapter and mail it to Jim Johnson, 4827 Towne Center, St. Louis, Missouri 63128. ■

INCREASED DISABILITY BENEFITS MAY BE AVAILABLE

You may be eligible for an increase in disability compensation. Contact Service Officer Dennis Flynn, St. Louis VA Center, Room 105, Building 1800, 400 South 18th St., St. Louis, Missouri 63103, for more information. Or contact your local Service Officer.

2ND CAVALRY REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION TAPS

"They went with songs to the battle, they were young. Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.

"They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted; They fell with their faces to the foe.

"They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old; Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn.

"All the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them."

--Lawrence Binyon

[The above appeared in the May 2008 edition of The Thoroughbred, which is published by the 2nd Cavalry Association. As you may or may not know, the 2nd Cavalry Division has troops currently serving in the Middle East. This newsletter lists approximately 40 who have given their lives in this endeavor.]

[Of interest: On May 23, 2008, the regiment marked its 172nd birthday...the oldest regiment serving on continuous active duty in the United States Army.]

THE DAILY MAIL

Needless to say, along with dues payments, address changes, newsletter articles, etc., we are receiving a great many notices regarding the passing of our heroes. Lately we have received several notices of grandchildren being killed in Afghanistan and Iraq. These are all heartbreaking and we felt we owe an explanation as to why no mention is made in *The Bugle* regarding the passing of a member or a loved one.

Since the inception of VBOB it was directed that we would not carry obituaries and we have abided by this.

We have lost many, many members and many of those have served the association loyally as an officer of the association--National Presidents, National Treasurers, Chapter Presidents and Officers, etc., but we have carried no obituary for them.

The Founder of VBOB, Clyde D. Boden, said: We simply can't begin to include obituaries. One day that will be all that the newsletter contains. He might have been right. I have noticed that many of the newsletters we receive from divisions, etc., contain mostly obituaries.

We hope that we are maintaining a record of your service--this is what we strive to achieve for future generations. ■

WHAT REALLY HAPPENED AT GROSSLANGENFELD

December 16-18, 1944

Joseph C. Haines
106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop
(Mechanized)

[Excerpts] Since World War II, I have read numerous accounts about the Battle of the Bulge detailing what happened to the various units positioned along the Siegfried Line between Belgium and Germany. **None** of these accounts that mention our 106th Recon Troop relate the **truth** about what really happened at Grosslangenfeld from dawn on December 16th until we pulled out the afternoon of December 17th.

Some of the 'reports' I've read--Col. R. Ernest Dupuy's book, *St. Vith: Lion In the Way* (reprint 1986, pp 55) states...*As the morning waxed, and the 423rd reports 16 December as "clear and cold," it was evident that the enemy had taken Grosslangenfeld in the 424th Infantry sector....* As a matter of fact, we were still fighting in Grosslangenfeld until early afternoon on the 17th!!

Then, on pp 55, Col Dupuy states...*the 106th Reconnaissance Troop at Grosslangenfeld disintegrated, opening Cannon Company's left flank....* The Germans actually advanced between the Cannon Company of the 424th Infantry and the 106th Recon Troop. **We did not disintegrate!!!** and, on pp 57...*Personnel carriers rolling in from Grosslangenfeld disgorged wave after wave of infantry...*

Later, on pp 58, he mentions...*some infiltrating enemy from Grosslangenfeld....* **All** of these statements are **false!** The actual facts are that NO enemy troops or vehicles passed through Grosslangenfeld until mid-afternoon of the second day--December 17th!! These unsupported statements by Col Dupuy are a gross insult to the men of the 106th Reconnaissance Troop who fought valiantly in defense of their untenable position at Grosslangenfeld; completely cut off from other American units, surrounded by the enemy, out of communication and nearly out of ammunition.

Unfortunately, these same **untruths** were repeated by Charles B. MacDonald in his book *A Time for Trumpets*; as well as being noted by several members of our troop in various other so-called 'official accounts' written about the Battle of the Bulge (titles and authors not specifically recorded).

...After a short stay in England, we boarded an LST at Weymouth for the Channel crossing to LeHavre, France. Crossing the channel, we encountered very rough weather. While anchored outside LeHavre Harbor waiting our turn to dock and unload, both anchors were torn loose and we had to return to Weymouth for repairs. After receiving new anchors, we repeated the crossing and a successful landing was made. After unloading, we proceeded by convoy at night across France to the vicinity of St. Vith, Belgium, arriving there on 9 December 1944.

We were attached to the 424th Infantry Regiment, and on 11 December 1944, we were placed on line during a night blackout move to replace a rifle company of the 23rd Infantry Regiment,

2nd Infantry Division. Our orders were to replace the rifle company...man for man, gun for gun.... Plus we were ordered to maintain complete radio silence; dismount our .30-caliber machine guns from our vehicles; hide the vehicles in various buildings in the Village of Grosslangenfeld, which we were to occupy; then assume the mission of a rifle company in the defense.

(Note: At this time, the Troop TO&E authorized:

- 6 officers;
- 149 enlisted men;
- 13 - M-8 armored cars;
- 99 - .30-caliber M-1 carbines;
- 13 - .30-caliber machine guns (light);
- 3 - .50-caliber submachine guns;
- 5 - rocket launchers AT;
- 9 -60 mm mortars;
- 26 - .30-caliber M-1 rifles;
- 24 - 1/4 ton trucks;
- 5 - M-3 halftracks; and
- 1 -2&1/2 ton truck (mess truck).

We were positioned facing the Siegfried Line, with the 424th Infantry Regiment's Cannon Company on our right (we could not see their nearest position to us) and Troop B 18th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron on our left (nor could we see their nearest position to us either). Most of our vehicles were placed where we couldn't readily utilize them. We had a full complement of officers and about 85% of our authorized enlisted personnel and attempted to man the positions vacated by the rifle company in Grosslangenfeld.

We were forbidden to test fire our machine guns and 37 mm cannons on the armored cars, or to fire in our final protective line. We were ordered to use the range cards previously established by the rifle company so the Germans would believe the same unit was still in place.

There were no provisions for artillery support, or any other supporting fire for us. We were told this was a quiet sector or rest camp! Since we were forbidden to use our radios, our only communication with other units was a telephone line to the 424th Infantry Regiment. (It was years later that we learned all the other units in the area had radio contact with Division.)

The only contact we could recall from the 'outside' was the visit by a Red Cross doughnut mobile on the 13th or 14th of December that served us coffee and doughnuts, complete with music and the smiles of two American women!

At approximately 5:30 a.m. on 16 December 1944, we came under attack by German artillery, rockets and mortars. This attack set fire to several buildings in the village, including my command post. The barn where our ammunition trailer had been hidden took a direct hit during the night of December 16-17, and our ammunition supply was destroyed except for the small amounts we had placed at various platoon positions.

Shortly after the initial shelling ceased, German infantry began to advance toward our positions in Grosslangenfeld. We were successful in repulsing them with small arms, machine guns, and 60 mm mortar fire; the mortar ammunition was soon exhausted. Later in the morning, another attack was mounted, and again repulsed, with heavy losses to the Germans.

During the shelling and early ground attacks, three of our men were seriously wounded--Sgt. Arthur LaCroix, T/5 Willis Selje, and PFC Robert House. Since our only medical service consisted of platoon medics,

(Continued)

WHAT REALLY HAPPENED

(Continuation)

the troop commander decided to send the wounded to the rear.. A halftrack was disarmed, and red crosses affixed to the sides, to transport the wounded to the nearest medical facility. Along with the driver, T/5 James Guthrie, volunteers Medic Abraham Freund and Supply Clerk Cpl. Howard Hughes accompanied the wounded. The volunteers were to deliver our wounded to a medical facility, report our situation, rearm, draw as much ammunition as they could transport and return to our position. They never returned. (Years later, it was learned that they had successfully reached St. Vith, delivered the wounded (all survived their wounds), reported our situation, rearmed, drew a supply of ammunition, and attempted to return to Grosslangenfeld. Unfortunately, by the time they were able to begin the return trip, German troops had moved into the area between St. Vith and Grosslangenfeld.)

Shortly after the German attack began early on the 16th of December, our telephone lines were cut to the 424th Infantry Regiment. We were now out of communication with anyone.. The troop commander sent out mounted patrols to both flanks in an attempt to make contact with adjacent units (Cannon Company of the 424th and Troop B, 18th Cav). The patrol to the left flank returned to report they had made contact with Troop B, 18th Cav, and were told...*we thought you guys were wiped out!* Heavy firing was heard on our right flank during this period, and the patrol we sent to the right flank (Cannon Company) did not return; nor did we receive a report from them since we were forbidden to use our radios.

Once the fighting started on the 16th, we uncovered our armored cars and began firing the 37 mm cannon at the attacking German troops. Since these guns were received new in England, we had never had an opportunity to "bore sight" or fire the guns--we accomplished the "bore sighting" firing at the enemy! The ground attacks and shelling continued off and on throughout the day of the 16th, but tapered off that night.

Early on the morning of the 17th of December, the enemy ground attacks and shelling resumed. We were successful in repulsing the ground attacks, but were running critically short of ammunition.

Around noon on the 17th, the Troop Commander Capt Paul Million, called an officer's meeting at his command post to discuss the situation and determine a plan of action. After reviewing the situation, it was determined that only two courses of action were available: one, to continue to hold our position until all ammunition was exhausted or be killed or captured; or, two, to break contact with the enemy and attempt to fall back to Schonberg where it was believed the division reserve was located. It was believed if we could get back to contact division, we could get updated on the situation, get resupplied with food and ammunition, and receive new orders. Course of action two was adopted and orders (verbal) were issued that on a given signal we would break contact, one position at a time, and attempt to reach Schonberg to the north. The order of withdrawal was to be First Platoon (Lt. Edward McGee), Headquarters & Headquarters Platoon (Capt. Million and Lts. George Varem and Leonard Prosnick), Second Platoon (Lt. Joseph Haines), and, last, Third Platoon (Lt. Myron Johnstone).

Our withdrawal began shortly after 1300 with the First Platoon successfully breaking contact and withdrawing as planned. Headquarters and part of Headquarters Platoon then fell in line

behind First Platoon and began their withdrawal. Second Platoon then fell in line behind First Platoon and began their withdrawal. Second Platoon managed to break contact with two-thirds of the platoon intact and joined the withdrawal (the third section of Second Platoon was cutoff by advancing German troops and unable to complete the withdrawal). The Third Platoon leader had arrived late to the officer's meeting and either misunderstood the direction of withdrawal or discovered the planned route was now blocked by the enemy (I believe the latter to be the case); as he attempted to withdraw back the way we had initially entered Grosslangenfeld--from Winterspelt to the west and the area of the 424th Infantry Regiment. Their first vehicle in line was struck and disabled by a mortar or artillery shell thereby blocking the road (possibly by "friendly fire," since it had been reported to others in our sector that "Grosslangenfeld had fallen" the previous day (the 16th)). Lt. Johnstone was "slightly" wounded when a mortar shell exploded on the rail of his halftrack. The enemy was then able to quickly overrun those still remaining in Grosslangenfeld--which included the Third Platoon, parts of Headquarters Platoon, and the third section of Second Platoon. During this brief encounter of intensive fighting, several members of the troop were killed or wounded. The wounded and other survivors were quickly taken prisoner and marched to the rear into Germany. However, one of our severely wounded men was carried to the German aid station by a buddy and received immediate and excellent care by the German medical personnel.

The sections of the troop that managed to withdraw proceeded in a northerly direction on the paved road that ran through Grosslangenfeld toward Bleialf. However, attempting to avoid contact with the enemy, we decided to leave this major roadway and travel cross country, with the hopes of making contact with friendly forces. Shortly after leaving the paved road, we entered a deserted village (Winterscheid--in the 423rd Infantry Regiment area) where we stopped to put tire chains on our vehicles. Resuming our trek, we met up with elements of Troop B, 18th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron at a crossroads just outside Winterscheid. They were really surprised to see us--they thought we had been "eliminated" the day before (December 16th). It was decided we would join them in the attempt to reach Schonberg. Troop B, 18th Cav, attached to the 423rd, had been given approval by radio to withdraw the day before--December 16th! We were not aware of this decision, which left our left flank completely exposed.

We fell behind Troop B, 18th Cav, and continued northward on secondary roads toward Schonberg. During our journey, we were under occasional artillery fire, including some tree bursts, until it began to get dark. We stopped on a wooded knoll just short of Schonberg to confer with the officers of Troop B, 18th Cav. After a short conference, it was decided we would break up into small groups and attempt to infiltrate the lines west toward St. Vith and get back to what we hoped would be American territory.

We disabled our vehicles, guns, and radios; then walked a short distance into the woods to what appeared to be a woodcutter's shack. It was then decided we would spend the night here and see what the situation was in the morning. Just after daylight on 18 December 1944, we were nudged awake by German troops holding submachine guns and rifles and told we were now prisoners of war and the war was over for us!! (Note: I read one story that stated...

(Continued)

WHAT REALLY HAPPENED?

(Continuation)

they surrendered to a group of 14-year-olds without firing a shot.... I wonder if the author of that statement ever looked into the muzzle of a "burp gun" and asked the soldier holding it: How old are you?)

The greatest irony of all is the fact that the 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop was deployed as infantry (replacing a rifle company in the defense) prior to any combat activity in the area. And, we fought as infantry--although we had not been trained or equipped as infantry--yet, we were not considered eligible for the Combat Infantry Badge. Nor, have we ever been considered for any of the other medals or accolades deservedly heaped onto all the other units in the area on that day that did their duty exactly as we did because of all the inaccurate and misinformation recorded about us in so-called "official" records!!

I have had no contact with anyone from the Troop who said they had ever been interviewed "officially" about what we did or did not do during this period December 16-18, at Grosslangenfeld!! After my release as a prisoner of war, I was 'debriefed' by being asked 3 questions: *Did you see any acts of heroism by any member of your Troop?* (This was the point at which I related the "act beyond the call of duty" performed by S/Sgt Roy Mechling at Grosslangenfeld; recommending he be awarded the Silver Star for his bravery. On 16 May 1996 (about 52 years later!!), S/Sgt Mechling was finally awarded the Bronze Star Medal with "V" device in an appropriate ceremony at Fort Jackson, South Carolina *Did you see any cowardice by any member of your troop?* (I answered, **absolutely not.**) *Were you treated in a humane manner while a prisoner of war?*

This account as written is the **truth** of what **really** happened, and to **prove** the 106th Reconnaissance Troop **DID NOT DISINTEGRATE** on 16 December 1944.■

ORAL HISTORIES

Submitted by Dee Paris

TANKS NEED AMMO AND GAS TO FIGHT

Joseph J. Semanek
9th Armored Division
14th Tank Battalion
Service Company

I was a truck driver in Service Company during the Battle of the Bulge. I drove a 2-1/2 ton with two tandems and two wheels in front.

I hauled ammunition and gasoline but not at the same time. I might have ammo on one trip and gasoline on the next in both the truck and the trailer. We had a flat trailer for ammo but a stake trailer for the gas.

We got this stuff at depots or dumps. We would travel in convoy to the depot and either Lieutenant Tripp or a sergeant would lead us. I don't remember how much ammo or gas we

would haul on each trip.

We handled all kinds of ammo since the tanks fired AP, HE, smoke. And we served all four tank companies of the 14th Tank Battalion. We took the ammo or the gas to where the tanks were. Sometimes they would pull back from their combat positions to get these supplies. Other times, we might drop off the supplies and to go to another tank platoon or company. In these cases, we'd come back later to pick up the gas cans.

The tank crews would stow the ammo and fill their gas tanks. We always had to take the gas cans back to the depot. I don't remember if we ever returned the ammo boxes.

One time during the Battle of the Bulge, we were going to St. Vith for gas. It was around midnight and some of the men of the crew were sleeping. I was in the back of my gas trailer sleeping on a camouflage net.

We saw a weapons carrier coming. It was our vehicle but it had a German driver and it was on fire. We entered the depot, circled around, and went right out without being loaded. The reason was the Germans had captured the depot. No shots were fired.. Captain Voegli got us out and we didn't lose any trucks.■

AVOIDING FEAR IN BATTLE

Hardy A. Trent
9th Armored Division
14th Tank Battalion
Headquarters Company

I was in Headquarters Company while in combat during the Battle of the Bulge. It was cold as Billy Hell.

Lt. Rogos had the assault gun platoon way up in front. It was the middle of the night and we were firing phosphorus shells. We removed all of the charges but one so we could "poop" them in the air and land them close because the Germans were coming right to us.

I couldn't see anything because it was dark and foggy. I felt like I was just going to burst, just blow up. I felt a tug on my pants leg and, looking down, found it was my loader, a guy named Wiggins. I believe he was from Tennessee or Kentucky.

"What in the hell do you want?" I asked. He replied, Sarge, where's that comic book that I had in there?"

I replied, "It's on top of the radio." He said, "O.K., Sarge." Well, then he reached up, got his comic book and settled down to read.

Well, that straightened me out. I believe that I would have lost everything if it hadn't been for Wiggins. Even today, he'll never know what he did. I thought right then that here's a guy setting down there, waiting to load that gun, the 105, and he's looking for a comic book that he's done read a hundred times!

I said, if he can do that--I can stay up here and try to see in the dark. I'll never forget that.■

SAVE US SOME MONEY.

Check to see if your dues are due. Then, we won't have to send a reminder...Thanks.

**VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, INC.
RAMADA PLAZA HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER
COLUMBUS, OH
SEPTEMBER 9- 14, 2008**

REUNION PROGRAM

• **Tuesday, September 9, 2008**

2:00 pm – 5:00 pm Registration headquarters Ramada Plaza Hotel and Conference Center

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm Wine and cheese reception (compliments of the Ramada Plaza)
Dinner on your own

• **Wednesday, September 10, 2008**

12 noon – 5:00 pm Registration headquarters Ramada Plaza Hotel and Conference Center

8:30 am Bus departs for Motts Military Museum. Columbus City driving tour. Return to hotel about 1:00pm. Lunch on your own.
Dinner on your own

• **Thursday, September 11, 2008**

9:00 am Bus departs for Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Tour the US Air Force Museum. Lunch on your own. Return to the hotel about 4:30 pm.
Dinner on your own

• **Friday, September 12, 2008**

8:30 am Bus departs for Orange Middle School, lunch included; return to the hotel about 3:00pm.

6:30 – 9:30 pm Oktoberfest buffet dinner with music
Video presentation; photos of veterans, family and friends will be shown during dinner.

• **Saturday, September 13, 2008**

Free time and lunch on your own
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm General membership meeting
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm Reception (cash bar)
7:00 pm Annual banquet

• **Sunday, September 14, 2008**

7:30 am Farewell breakfast

Hospitality Room: Location and times will be posted in the registration room, 6th floor

See “Highlights and Schedule Information” sheet for details

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, INC.

ANNUAL REUNION

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 _____ Phone: _____
 E-mail address: _____
 Division: _____ Regiment: _____
 Wife/Guest Name: _____
 Signature: _____
 Airline _____ Flight Number _____
 Arrival date _____ Arrival time _____
 Departure Date _____

	People	Cost/ Person	Total Cost
Registration Fee (all attendees must register)	_____	\$ 20	\$ _____
Tuesday, September 9, 2008:			
Wine and cheese reception (compliments of the hotel)	_____	Free	
Dinner on your own	_____		
Wednesday, September 10, 2008:			
Motts Military Museum and City tour	_____	\$35	\$ _____
Lunch and dinner on your own	_____		
Thursday, September 11, 2008:			
US Air Force Museum, lunch on your own	_____	\$35	\$ _____
Dinner on your own	_____		
Friday, September 12, 2008:			
Orange Middle School, lunch included.	_____	\$25	\$ _____
Octoberfest buffet dinner	_____	\$35	\$ _____
Saturday, September 13, 2008:			
Free time in the morning	_____		
General membership meeting	_____		
Reception (cash bar)	_____		
Banquet (indicate preference)	_____		
Prime Rib _____ or Salmon _____	_____	\$40	\$ _____
Sunday, September 14, 2008:			
Farewell breakfast	_____	\$15	\$ _____
Total amount enclosed (all taxes & gratuities included)			\$ _____

- See Highlights and Schedule Information Sheet for Details

Mail registration form and check to
 Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge • P.O. Box 101418 • Arlington, VA 22210-4418
**REGISTRATION RECEIPT DEADLINE-SEPTEMBER 1, 2008 - AFTER
 THAT DATE BRING FORM.**

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

COLUMBUS REUNION

HIGHLIGHTS AND

SCHEDULE INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

We are planning to have people from the Central Ohio VBOB Chapter assist people at the airport when they arrive. Therefore please fill in the blanks about arrival time, etc. on the Registration Form.

Our Annual VBOB Reunion will convene at the Ramada Plaza Hotel and Conference Center to continue with the 63rd Anniversary celebration.

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

REGISTRATION FEE

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

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

•TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2008

• **Welcome Wine and Cheese Reception (6:30 pm – 7:30 pm)**
Compliments of the Ramada Plaza Hotel

• **Dinner is on your own.** The hotel has a restaurant.

•WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2008

• **Motts Military Museum and Columbus City Tour** – Bus departs hotel at 8:30am – **The Motts Museum** contains exhibits, artifacts, etc. from the Revolutionary War up to the present. We will conduct our wreath laying ceremony at the Museum. The **Columbus City** tour includes the Brewery District, German Village, The Short North, Italian Village, Victorian Village, Ohio State University (including the Ohio Stadium-Schottenstein Center-Bill Davis Baseball Stadium, Jessie Owens Memorial Stadium, Woody Hayes Athletic Center), Jack Nicklaus Museum, Ohio State House, Ohio Veterans Plaza and Battelle Riverfront Park. Return to the hotel at 1:00pm. **Lunch on your own.**

• **Dinner is on your own.** The hotel has a restaurant.

• THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2008

• **The US Air Force Museum** at Wright Patterson Air Force Base is the largest and oldest military aviation museum in the world, boasting more than **400 aerospace vehicles** -- many rare and one-of-a-kind. The **Air Power Gallery** houses one of the world's top collections of World War II aircraft and a variety of engaging and evocative exhibits to tell the proud story of the U.S. Army Air Forces during the war. The **Missile and Space Gallery** is contained in a silo-like structure that stands 140 feet high. Visitors can view missiles such as the Titan I and II and Jupiter. **Lunch on your own. Return to the hotel at 4:30pm**

• **Dinner is on your own.** The hotel has a restaurant.

•FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2008

• **Orange Middle School** – The students will prepare a program to honor the veterans. At the conclusion of the assembly the students meet with the veterans to learn more about the battle of the bulge. Lunch included.

• **Octoberfest buffet dinner with music.**
6:30pm to 9:30pm

•SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2008

• **Free time and lunch on your own**

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

• **Reception (6:00 p.m.) cash bar**

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

•SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2008

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

Bus departure times will be in the packet that you receive when you register.

Ramada Plaza Hotel and Conference Center

4900 Sinclair Road – Columbus, OH 43229

Tel. 614-846-0300 – Fax 614-846-3251

Toll free 1-877-609-6086

www.ramadaplazacolumbus.com

WELCOME

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

September 9 – 14, 2008

HOTEL RATES

The hotel is offering a two-day window before and after the reunion dates at a rate of \$89.90 per night, single or double occupancy. This rate includes all taxes. In lieu of using the toll free number listed above for making your reservations you may call the Ramada Plaza Hotel and Conference Center at 614-846-0300, ask for Annetta Chesney and say you are with the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge group. We suggest you guarantee your reservation with a charge card. Check-in time is 3:00 p.m. and checkout is 12:00 p.m. In the event you need to cancel your reservation, please inform the hotel 48 hours prior to the day of scheduled arrival. Reservation requests received after September 1st will be confirmed on a space available basis.

Complimentary shuttle service to and from Port Columbus Airport

Hotel amenities: Complimentary shuttle service within a 5 mile radius of the hotel, based upon availability. Indoor pool, spacious whirl pool, fitness center, full service restaurant and lounge. Free wireless Internet service. Ample free parking. RV's are welcome, however, we do not have hook-up facilities. Hotel requests that you do not use your RV for overnight sleeping.

Sleeping room amenities: coffee, tea, and decaf, with coffee makers, irons and ironing boards, hair dryer

DIRECTIONS TO THE HOTEL

FROM PORT COLUMBUS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (about 12 miles): Exit the airport, take I-670 to I-71 North. Take I-71 North to Morse Road Exit (Exit 116). Turn left under freeway to the first street, Sinclair Road. Turn right, one block to hotel.

FROM EAST OR WEST: Take I-70 to I-71 North. Take I-71 North to Morse Road Exit (Exit 116). Turn left under freeway to the first street, Sinclair Road. Turn right, one block to hotel.

FROM NORTH: I-71 South to Morse Road Exit (Exit 116). Ramp ends at Sinclair Road. Turn right to hotel entrance

FROM SOUTH: Take I-71 North to Morse Road Exit (Exit 116). Turn left under freeway to the first street, Sinclair Road. Turn right, one block to hotel.

IS YOUR STORY ON THE CRIBA WEB SITE?

<http://www.criba.be/>



C.R.I.B.A. - Center of Research and Information on the Battle of the Ardennes.

The CRIBA web site contains among other things, over 225 stories submitted by veterans, family members, friends, etc. about events that occurred during the Battle of the Bulge. This web site helps to ensure that the sacrifices made by all who served will always be remembered.

Help to insure that your legacy will never be forgotten by sending your type written story, including your photo and the names of the medals you were awarded to the webmaster, Henri Rogister.

Henri ROGISTER

22 Rue du Progres

B-4032 LIEGE

BELGIUM

Website: <http://www.criba.be>

Email: henri.rogister@skynet.be

2008 VBOB Reunion

2008 VBOB Reunion

September 9 – 14, 2008

**The Ramada Plaza Hotel and Conference Center
4900 Sinclair Road**

Columbus, OH 43229

Room rate \$89.90 per night includes all taxes
Free shuttle to and from the Columbus Airport
Reunion highlights:

- City tour, including the Motts Military Museum.
- US Air Force Museum – see over 300 aircraft and missiles and roar into space in the IMAX theatre.
- The Olentangy School District Veterans' Day program will honor VBOB

A Memorial To Parker's Crossroads (Baraque de Fraiture)

Ghosts of Alamo raise your herald voices
Thine heroic stand within battered fortress walls
gives life and hope to embattled men at new crossroads
where your battle cry sings out.
The brave "300", entrenched before the rushing tide
of Panzer might—relive the spirit of THERMOPOLAE, and
and like that of Houston's men allows time for friendly units
to fight another day....
Brave men of PARKER, now subdued and captive taken
lift your heads akin —
Your noble efforts are not forsaken
For of such deeds battles are won
and ghosts rise up, shaken.

John E. McAuliffe
87th Infantry Division

This poem was written to honor the efforts of some 300 infantrymen, tankers, and artillerymen whose main units were broken up and dispersed by the attacking Germans during the first days of the battle. For two days around the 20th and 21st Dec. stragglers from these units were gathered under the direction of Major Arthur C. Parker III, Exec. Officer of the 598th P.A. and formed a line of resistance at the X-shaped crossroads known as Baraque de Fraiture. The 2nd highest elevation in the Ardennes, the crossroads stood high on a windswept ground at 2,200ft elevation. The roads generally were east-west Salmchateau-La Roche highway and the major north-south routes Highway N-15 linking Bastogne, Houffalize and Liege.
Major Parker was able to scrape together 3 105 Howitzers and a few men from his

589th FA BN Service BTY, 3 halftracks of mounted quad-50s and a self propelled 37mm gun, and 2 selfpropelled assault guns. Parker refused an order to move to the rear which would have left the remaining small group with no hope of holding the crossroads.

Protecting the north flank of the advancing 5th Panzer Army was the newly committed 2nd SS Panzer Corps, which having circled behind St. Vith and entered Losheim Gap. It was the troops of this Corps which in June 1944 had destroyed the French village of Oradour-sur-Glane and murdered 642 of the inhabitants, including women and children.

TO THE MEMORY OF THE SOLDERS
OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY
WHO WERE PRISONERS OF WAR
WERE MASSACRED BY NAZI TROOPS
ON THIS SPOT ON 17 DECEMBER 1944

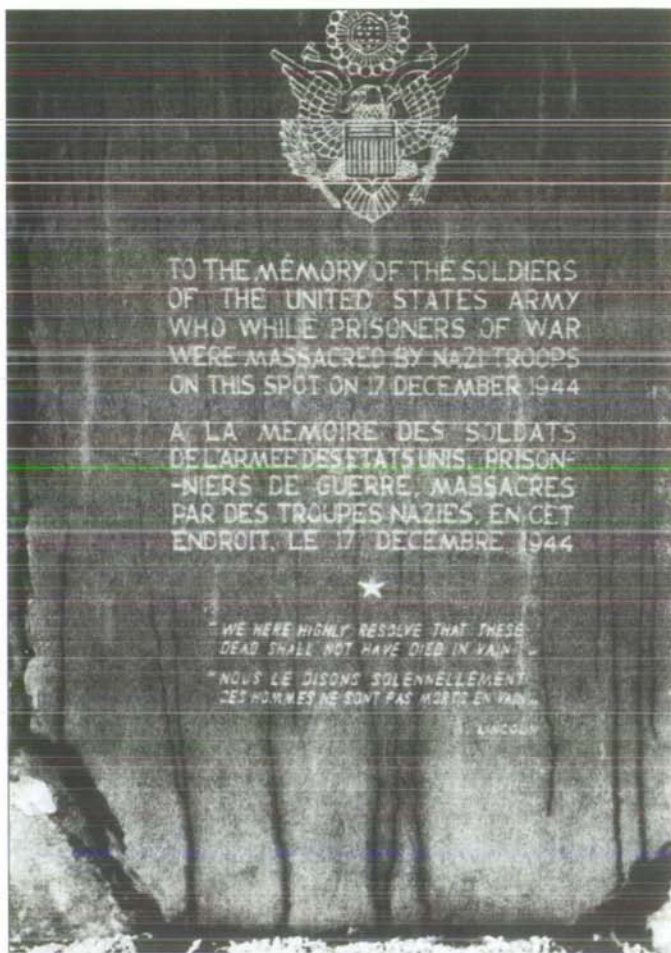
A LA MEMOIRE DES SOLDATS
DEL' ARMEE DES ETATS UNIS PRISON-
NIERS DE GUERRE, MASSACRES
PAR DES TROUPES NAZIES. EN CET
ENDROIT. LE 17 DECEMBRE 1944

"WE HERE HIGHLY RESOLVE THAT THESE
DEAD SHALL NOT HAVE DIED IN VAIN —

"NOUS LE DISONS SOLENNELLEMENT
DES HOMMES NE SONT PAS MORTS EN VAIN"
A. LINCOLN

This is the wall for the Malmedy massacre
erected by the Belgian citizens who hold a
memorial ceremony there each year.

The wall has a plaque for "A. Lincoln" for a
member of Combat Command B of the 9th
Armored Division whose name was actually
"Lincoln Abraham."



RESERVATION FORM
"REMEMBRANCE AND COMMEMORATION"
OF THE 64th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE
December 14, 15 and 16, 2008
Metropolitan Washington, DC

Return form and check by **December 1, 2008** to:
Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation, Inc.
PO Box 2516,
Kensington MD 20895-0181

Questions:
John D. Bowen, 301-384-6533
E-Mail: johndbowen@earthlink.net

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Spouse/Guest: _____

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

Battle of Bulge Unit You Served With: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

RESERVATIONS:	<u>Number Attending</u>	<u>Cost/Person</u>	<u>Total</u>
Registration Fee: Provides for Badges, Programs, Hospitality, etc.	_____	\$10.00	\$ _____

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2008

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM: DoubleTree Hotel Café Restaurant _____ **on your own**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2008

Chartered Bus, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM _____ **\$35.00** _____

9:00 AM – 3:30 PM Visit Newseum & Union Station _____

BOB Veteran _____ **Complimentary**

Guests of Veteran up to four people: _____ **Complimentary**

Names: _____ **Complimentary**

Commemorative Banquet, DoubleTree Hotel Crystal City _____ **\$60.00** _____

6:15 PM - 10:00 PM

Please make your Main Course selection(s):

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Medallions of beef tenderloin _____ | (Name _____) |
| | OR | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Chicken Piccata with lemon caper sauce _____ | (Name _____) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Diabetic Meal _____ | (Name _____) |

Plan ahead with your friends to be seated at the same table. Tables are Rounds of 8. Please indicate friends with whom you would like to sit: _____

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2008:

9:00 AM Chartered bus to World War II Memorial _____ **\$17.50** _____

10:00 AM Bus to Arlington Cemetery; _____

11:00 AM Ceremonies: Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers and VBOB Monuments **No. Attending:** _____

12:30 PM Bus Return to DoubleTree Crystal City Hotel _____

1:00 PM VBOB Luncheon & Installation of Officers _____

Active National VBOB Member # _____ **+ Guest** _____ **\$10.00*ea.** _____

Non-Active or Non-National VBOB Member _____ **\$28.00 ea.** _____

*Total Cost of Luncheon is \$28.00 of which VBOB will fund \$18.00 for active VBOB National Member & one Guest.

VBOB Membership # as shown on your last page of the Bulge Bugle _____

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

NOTES & REMINDERS: Banquet Dress: Business suit/black tie (miniature medals encouraged) or military dress uniform

Room reservations must be made with the DoubleTree Crystal City directly, by December 1, 2008 (Telephone (1-800-Hiltons)).

Return completed Reservation Form for events to BOB Historical Foundation by 1 December 2008, (Telephone 301-384-6533).

No cancellation refunds after December 8, 2007.

Please indicate in all places the number & names attending so that we can be advised of the proper number to plan. Thanks!

*****PLEASE BRING A PICTURE ID (Drivers License, Passport, Mil ID) for the Washington area*****

08/01/08

THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION
Invites You to Join Your Friends for the
"EVENTS OF REMEMBRANCE AND COMMEMORATION"
OF THE 64th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE
December 14, 15 and 16, 2008
Metropolitan Washington, DC

The DoubleTree Hotel Crystal City, by Hilton, 300 Army-Navy Drive, in Arlington VA22202 has been selected again, with its panoramic view of our Nation's Capital, as the site for activities commemorating the 64th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, December 14 - 16, 2008. This hotel, just off Route 1 in Crystal City is a 7 minute drive from Reagan National Airport and a 2 City block walk to the Pentagon Metro Station and the Pentagon Mall. It provides easy access to Washington DC and underwent a major renovation in 2006 for great accommodations. We have managed to retain the reduced rate of **\$99.00**, single or double occupancy plus taxes, however food has gone up. Parking is Complimentary. This rate is available for any night(s) between December 13 and December 17. For room reservations please call the DoubleTree Reservations (1-800-Hiltons) or 703-416-4100 by **December 1, 2008**. Mention that you are attending the **BATTLE OF THE BULGE** events for the special rate.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2008

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM Registration (Hospitality Suite, Van Buren), receive name badges, Banquet/bus tickets, and information. (If you are only attending the Banquet, you may pick up your tickets at the DoubleTree by 6:00 PM Dec 15th.) Plan ahead with your friends to be seated at the same table (rounds of 10 per table).
 3:00 PM – 10:00 PM Hospitality Room/Exhibits, scrapbooks. John Bowen & Bob Phillips, Battle of the Bulge Historians will be the hosts. Supper will be from 6:30 – 8:00 PM. Those wishing to (payment is on your own) can eat in the hotel's Café Restaurant. A time to renew friendships & visit w/old friends.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2008

8:00 AM Registration open/Receive name badges, Parking Passes, Banquet/bus tickets, Van Buren (Hospitality).
 9:00 AM Charter buses depart hotel.
 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM We will be visiting the new NEWSEUM in Washington which opened this year. **The Newseum is pleased to honor Bulge Veterans, as their guests, and up to four family members complimentary.** This is an \$18-20 savings based on age. You may visit 15 theaters, including a 4-D immersive experience and feature films that highlight the world's greatest stories & moments and 14 major Galleries that blend five centuries of news history – including the people, places and times – with up-to-the-second technology. You may lunch there or proceed to Union Station for lunch on your own and shopping. We will pick-up at 3:30 PM from both locations. An incredible new Newseum!

BANQUET AT THE DOUBLETREE CRYSTAL CITY

6:00 PM Social Hour/Cash Bar. (Hospitality Room closed at 5:30 PM for Military to change clothes)
 6:45 PM Seated for Dinner.
 7:00 PM Color Guard/Members of the Fife and Drum Corps/Commemoration Ceremonies.
 7:15 PM Dinner served.

BANQUET ENTRÉE

The choice of entrée for the Banquet is:

Medallions of Beef Tenderloin

OR

Chicken Piccata with lemon caper sauce

Program:

Greetings from Dignitaries and Speaker:
 After Banquet Hospitality Room open, Van Buren Suite, at DoubleTree Crystal City.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2008

9:00 AM Bus leaves from DoubleTree Crystal City Hotel to Arlington Cemetery
 10:00 AM Wreath laying, World War II Memorial, 17th Street NW, Washington DC
 11:00 AM Impressive ceremony and placing of wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns, Arlington Cemetery.
 11:30 AM Ceremony of Remembrance, Battle of the Bulge Memorial, across from Amphitheater.
 12:00 PM Ceremony of Remembrance, Battle of the Bulge Memorial, Porter Avenue, Arlington Cemetery
 1:00 PM Buffet Luncheon, in beautiful Windows Over Washington Hosted by VBOB, at DoubleTree Hotel
 Consisting of hot soup, sandwich, beverage and cookies for dessert.
 Swearing-in of new National VBOB officers.
 Comments by National VBOB President & Farewell.

Notes: Free Airport shuttle provided by the DoubleTree Hotel every half hour, 3 miles from Reagan Washington National Airport. Free Shuttle from DoubleTree Hotel every hour on the half hour to Pentagon City Metro (Blue/Yellow Line) and Pentagon City Mall Skydome Lounge the area's only revolving rooftop lounge for a spectacular view of Washington at night. The Café Restaurant opens 6:30 AM to 11:00 PM

BELGIAN WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY

On Saturday, June 7, 2008, the Belgian Minister of Defense Pieter De Crem laid a wreath at the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. The Belgian Ambassador Dominique Strute de Swielande and other military and civilian officials of the embassy participated in the ceremony.

After the ceremonial laying of the wreath with the message "From the Grateful People--Kingdom of Belgium--June 2008, the Defense Minister presented a moving tribute to the Americans who liberated their country and its peoples from the Nazi German Army.

Minister DeCrem individually greeted and spoke to every VBOB member attending the ceremony. The Ambassador also spoke to individuals who were present.

VBOB was represented by President Demetri Paris and Executive Council members J. David Bailey and Stanley Wojtusik, who was accompanied by a group from the Delaware Valley VBOB Chapter.



Lt.Col.Martine Diercks
Assistant Defense Attache
VBOB President Demetri Paris

(photos by "Dee" Paris and F. David Bailey)



Battle of the Bulge Memorial
at Arlington Cemetery



Ambassador Dominique Strute deSwielande
Minister of Defense Pieter De Crem
Photo by J David Bailey



The Wreath-laying Ceremony included Army Troops

Just a *Reminder* ARE YOUR DUES DUE?

BASTOGNE IN THE BULGE

Chapter Five

Battle of The Bulge - December 1944

941st Field Artillery Battalion
Battery A

[We do not have information regarding who sent this article in for publication.]

At this point in time, our unit was assigned to V Corps of the American First Army. As in the past three major battles--Normandy, Northern France, and Central Europe--we thought this was to be our last major battle. We were moved into the north of the City of St. Vith under orders to cross the Rhine River and then move into Germany.

The war seemed to be going well, if that's possible in a war, as we moved into what was really a rest area in the little country logging town of Monschau, Belgium.

This was around the second week in December. It was a beautiful country, much like home in Virginia. Snow was about six inches deep at the time and the temperature hovered around 15 or 20 degrees.

Our first gun position was in a deep forest area lined by mountains and high bluffs, with rock cliffs around the whole area. There were numerous cut logs and trees on the ground, indicating some type of lumber industry in the area. We eventually used this to our advantage in the battle that followed.

After setting the guns in firing position, with no known target, we dug a hole behind our gun position just to keep busy and stay warm. It measured about six feet by 10 feet, and it was about four feet deep, and was covered with logs which were easily rolled into position from nearby supplies that were already ten feet long.

Two men could sleep in this dugout. With proper care, we could use a candle to write a letter home, even at night, by covering all openings carefully so that no light showed in the darkness outside to give away our position.

This rest did not last long, however. During the next day, another cannoner from Manchester, New Hampshire, and I got permission to leave the gun area to go deer hunting. Many deer had been seen in the area and we were hungry for fresh meat of any kind.

We were all armed with our regular weapons, a 30 caliber carbine that fired 15 rounds, either automatic or semi-automatic. After a short walk through the hills and cliffs we spotted a young deer which was quickly taken down by friend with one shot. We dragged it back through the snow to the gun position and proceeded to dress it, hanging it from a tree. The one shot had hit him right behind his neck and before long, we had him ready to cut into steaks.

As night fell, I was pulled from my gun position and was assigned to a 50 caliber machine-gun position for security duty, to be relieved the next morning. The night was overcast but visibility was good across the snow and not one shot was fired during the night because I saw no target that reflected danger to our unit.

During the night, however, I heard a large force of aircraft coming over from the north. I didn't understand why because our own bombers came over from the west going north. They

would bomb targets in Germany and then would return by almost the same route. This force made a circle and returned to the north into Germany. I could distinguish the sound of German aircraft from that of an American aircraft by the differences in the noises that each made. Ours had a continuous drone and the Germans, whose engine was made differently, had a swishing sound like a washing machine. There were no jets at this time and all air power was run by piston or fuel type engines.

Because I had suspicions, I reported what I had observed during the night to my commanding officer when I returned to my gun position at daylight. No one believed me and my report was discarded, with no further action taken.

Things had been so quiet that a lot of our people thought that the war must be over. How wrong they were. In reality it had only just begun. The ensuing battle turned out to be the most deadly and brutal of all we had.

The Battle of the Bulge began that morning on December 16, 1944. My thoughts turned to home as I realized that everyone was probably preparing for Christmas.

The early morning was cold and we were all standing around a little gas stove. We were deciding on what we should do with the rest of the deer meat and attempting to keep warm when all hell broke loose. One 88 shell burst over the tree tops and I had enough experience to know that this was a marker round from the enemy. I yelled four words, "Incoming mail! Take cover!"

In a few seconds there were at least eight men piled in our dugout which was designed for two men. For more than ten minutes, though it seemed like hours, the barrage continued. This was the worst bombardment since Normandy. They hit us with artillery, 88's, rockets, mortars and everything they had in their arsenal, all at the same time.

When the earth finally stopped shaking we all climbed out of our hole under the logs to survey the damage. There was not a tree left standing and three of our guns were destroyed by direct hits. There were, as we expected, many injuries and casualties.

About 30 yards from our dugout was a steep rock cliff which could have been used for cover. But halfway to this location, I saw my friend who had been hunting with me. He had attempted to make it to this cliff, but he didn't succeed. When I saw him, he was lying on his face in the snow and blood was oozing from a big hole in his back. He was still conscious but with every heartbeat the blood was pushing out of his back. I yelled for help and immediately pulled his first aid sulfur pack from his gun belt and applied it to the hole in his back. That was not enough, so I had to use my own pack, my undershirt, and whatever else I could find to try to stop the flow of blood.

Our forward observer, a captain, appeared on the scene and called the command out post, by the only highway, to send a truck and stretcher to pick him up.

One of the bravest men I have ever known is Tom Swafford, who was from Tennessee. He drove a weapons carrier across the open snow-covered field under fire to pick him up. As we loaded him up on the stretcher in the middle of the field, the Germans must have been watching us. They hit us from all sides with 88's. I had dived under the back side of the vehicle and the explosion rolled my buddy off the stretcher and into the body of the truck. I got up and told him to stay put, then the driver took off again and made it to the main road and on to the hospital.

(Continued)

941st Field Artillery

(Continuation)

There was nothing but mass confusion as I ran back to my gun position to await orders from the captain. He told me that the crew chief at one of our guns was out of his mind and froze at the controls of his blown up gun.

He only said, "Raymond, see if you can get him out and I will get the rest the hell out of here."

I ran over and talked to him as calm as I could and removed the phone from his hand. Then I pulled him out of the dugout. By this time our primer movers and trucks had arrived on the scene to move what was left of our gun battery. I loaded him on the first available vehicle and then proceeded to help move our gun, which was the only one that had survived. Our captain, who lead the convoy, had seen the situation from the front lines and knew that this one road was our only way out from the advancing German Panzer armies. Fortunately, there was an American engineer battalion along the side of us. As our convoy moved out and down the road, they covered our retreat in a manner that I had never before witnessed.

The road, a two lane country road, was lined on either side by tall trees like Lombardie Poplars, but larger in diameter.

My vehicle was the last one in the column. As we passed, the engineer used straps of explosives to blow the trees across the road from each side in rows. The snow was so deep that the Germans would have to use this roadway to navigate. It took them a long time to clear the roadway, the trees slowing them down enough for us to escape and regroup.

For the next three days and nights, we did nothing but move until we had gone 60 miles, back to where we had taken over months before. Finally, we were ordered to dig in and hold the line at any cost.

Everything of value was moved back even further, and we were left on our own to hold the line or die there.

The reason for all this turmoil was the fact that the planes I heard while on guard had been German paratroops. Five thousand of them, dressed in American uniforms, had been dropped on an adjoining artillery unit. By surprise, they stabbed and killed every man, completely wiping out the unit. In the Town of Malmedy, near Monschau where we escape from, they captured and murdered over 500 of our men by machine gun fire. During this process, they surrounded a whole division of our boys and took over 7,000 prisoners. This was three days before Christmas in 1944.

Finally, by the end of our ordeal, we received brand new guns and were back in business again. We learned that the 101st Airborne Artillery had taken cover in the Town of Bastogne, which was located about halfway in the middle of our retreat area, and were surrounded by two German Panzer armies.

This town was only a small village with a population of about 6,000. It was on high ground with stone buildings, which made it an important control point of all major roads leading into all points south, east and west.

In this area it was easy to command a large area of roads necessary to supply troops of either side. The Germans had underground munitions factories there, and were using Russian prisoners for labor. They had a contingent of over 200 SS troops stationed outside Bastogne to guard their prisoners.

The German 6th Panzer Army had ordered the 101st Airborne, which was under the control of General McAuliff, to surrender. His answer was, "Nuts," even though the Germans had formed a donut-like circle around the city.

He must have known that help was on the way because by this time, I know that our artillery was already in position and within range to destroy the whole town if necessary.

We could not fire on the city, but by Christmas Eve, we received a very important fire mission, a call for guns to fire ten rounds each, and to be ready to fire on command.

The mission was completed at midnight on Christmas Eve. The target was the German guard barracks, which were outside the donut on the outskirts of Bastogne. The barracks buildings were all destroyed and all its occupants were killed with no prisoners taken. We had partly paid them back for the 500 of our boys that were murdered at Malmedy.

The next day, the 82nd Airborne Division moved in on foot in the snow. In columns as long as you could see, they took over command of all German troops in the area. There were also elements of Patton's Third Army in the area to help out.

If it is of interest to you, my friend whom I had been determined to save, even if it had meant my own life, had lived.

I heard from him through another survivor in 1968. He was in a wheelchair because his spine was completely severed by the shell fragment that had been in his back when I last saw him. I hadn't attempted to remove it because if I had, he would have bled to death. I'm grateful to God that he lived and I hope some day I might see him again. ■

The Army vs. the Air Force

[The following amusing item was taken from The Pekan Newsletter, the newsletter of the 526th Armored Infantry Battalion.]

There's an Army guy driving from Ft. Lewis to McChord, and an Air Force guy driving from McChord to Ft. Lewis. In the middle of the night, with no other cars on the road, they hit each other head on, and both cars go flying in different directions.

The Army guy manages to climb out of his car and survey the damage. He looks at his twisted car and says, "Man, I am really lucky to be alive!"

Likewise the Air Force guy scrambles out of his car and says to himself, "I can't believe I survived this wreck!" Then the Air Force Guy walks over to the Army guy and says, "Hey, man, I think this is a sign from God that we should put away our petty differences and live as friends instead of archrivals."

The Army guy thinks for a moment and says, "You know, you're absolutely right! We should be friends. Now I'm gonna see what else survived this wreck."

The Army guy pops open his trunk and finds a full bottle of Jack Daniels. He says to the Air Force guy, "I think this is another sign from God that we should toast to our new found friendship."

The Air Force guy replies, "You're darned right!" and he grabs the bottle and guzzles the Jack Daniels. After putting away nearly half the bottle the Air Force guy hands it back to the Army guy and says, "Your turn!"

The Army guy twists the cap back on the bottle and says, "Nahh, I think I'll wait for the cops to show up."

HAVE YOU SENT IN YOUR REGISTRATION FOR THE COLUMBUS REUNION??

REUNIONS

5TH ARMORED DIVISION, August 21-24, 2008, Louisville, Kentucky. Contact: 5th Armored Division, 16471 Nottingham Drive, Wapakoneta, Ohio 45895-9471. Telephone: 419-739-9677.

9TH INFANTRY DIVISION. This announcement arrived too late for a timely announcement. However you can contact the 99th Infantry Division Association at PO Box 99, Marion, Kansas 66861.

17TH ARMORED ENGINEER BATTALION, September 10-13, 2008, Louisville, Kentucky. Contact: John A. Shields, PO Box 106, East Butler, Pennsylvania 16029. Telephone: 724-287-4301.

28TH INFANTRY DIVISION, September 3-6, 2008, Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania. Contact: 28th Infantry office, 1400 Calder Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17103-1297. Telephone: 717-787-9385.

75TH INFANTRY DIVISION, September 24-27, 2008, Norfolk, Virginia. Contact: Emery antonucci, 801 N. Ashton St., Alexandria, VA 22312. Telephone: 703-354-8495.

78TH INFANTRY DIVISION, September 24-28, 2008, Louisville, Kentucky. Contact: John Pittenger, 1434 Rosewood Avenue, Louisville, Kentucky. Telephone: 502-451-3731.

80TH INFANTRY DIVISION, August 13-16, 2008, Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Contact: Eugene O'Neil, 4718 Colonel Darnell Place, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Telephone: 301-627-1793.

84TH INFANTRY DIVISION, August 29-31, 2008, Branson, Missouri. Contact: Daryl Mitchell, PO Box 136, Nixa, Missouri 65714. Telephone: 417-725-1053.

526TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, September 1-4, 2008, Napa, California. Contact: Sherrie Morrison, PO Box 456, Yolo, California. Telephone: 530-662-8160.

MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

James D'Amore would like help in finding information on his brother, **JOSEPH JOHN D'AMORE, 3RD ARMORED DIVISION, 33RD REGIMENT, 714TH TANK BATTALION, COMPANY G**. Joe lost five tanks and had been wounded five times (although not wanting to be tagged several times. James served in the Pacific and he and Joe joked about who would get home first. If you can help, write to James at: 3 Roosevelt Road, Clarksburg, NJ 08510.

Pat Asmussen would like to find information on his uncle, **EARL SCHRANK**, a P47 pilot. Earl was with the **365TH FIGHTER GROUP**, which served during the Bulge. Write to Pat at: 6513 West Elmwood Drive, Black Hawk, South Dakota 57718.

MAXI BILL, 639TH ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY BATTALION (AW) advises that you can get a frame for your certificate at A. C. Moore. Cost is \$5.39 (on sale.) Thanks for the information Maxi.

ANGELO D'ARMINIO, 41ND INFANTRY DIVISION,

would like to hear from his buddies who served with him in Company H2B-232nd Infantry Regiment. Please drop a card to Angelo at 500 Jorge Road #15L, Cliffside Park, New Jersey 07010.

HUBERT

by **SGT. DICK WINGERT**



"I said, how should I know what they've lost, Granmaw?"

Battle of the Bulge / World War II

December 16, 1944—January 25, 1945

The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, World War II, are encouraging funeral directors to ask family members of the deceased to include the specific unit served, as well as the Branch, in the printed obituary. According to association President Stanley A. Wojtusik, they have active chapters across the country and members make every effort to attend funeral services. Oftentimes, the printed obituary is the only notice that is brought to their attention. Printing the specific unit along with the branch helps keep their local chapter and national organization files updated and for individual identification. Family and friends are always grateful knowing their veteran was still being honored and remembered.

From VBOB Delaware Valley Chapter Newsletter, July, 2008

*"...a message
to a special
group of
veterans."*



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

May 20, 2008

Mr. Demetri Paris
President
Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge
PO Box 101418
Arlington, VA 22210-4418

Dear Mr. Paris:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a message to a very special group of veterans.

The term "Greatest Generation" has almost become cliché, but you and your comrades truly represent the essence of the patriotism, strength and sacrifice of those who served abroad and at home during World War II.

I wish you and your fellow Battle of the Bulge veterans the very best – at your convention and beyond.

Sincerely yours,

James B. Peake, M.D.

Enclosure

Reprinted from MD Combat Veteran
March/April 2008

Expansion plans at Arlington

Expansion plans over the next 10 years are expected to keep Arlington National Cemetery open for burials through 2060, according to John C. Metzler Jr., cemetery superintendent. A series of land acquisitions will help make this possible. Contracts to control drainage on 26 acres of the cemetery have been awarded. Under survey are 12 acres transferred from the National Park Service historic Arlington House, onetime home of Robert E. Lee, 10 acres from the adjacent Fort Myer and 4 acres of cemetery maintenance property. The new space is expected to provide room for 14,000 ground burials and 22,000 inurnments in a columbarium. Additional space will be acquired in 2010 when the cemetery acquires the Navy Annex property on Columbia Pike. One building was removed two years ago to permit construction of the Air Force Memorial. Remaining buildings will be demolished in 2013. The number of veterans' deaths is peaking, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs. Annual deaths of about 680,000 are expected to fall to 671,000 in 2010 and 562,000 in 2020. Of some 3 million surviving World War II veterans, about 1,000 die each day. More than 400 service members killed in Iraq and Afghanistan have been buried in Arlington.

VBOB QUARTERMASTER ORDER FORM

August 2008

Please ship the following items to:

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

Address: _____ (no.) _____ (street) _____ (city) _____ (state) _____ (zip)

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

Only Cash, Check, or Money Order Accepted

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

DO NOT INCLUDE ANY OTHER MONIES WITH QM PAYMENT

Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery

Shipping and Handling:

\$0.00 to \$5.00 - \$ 2.00

\$5.01 to \$10.00 - \$ 3.00

\$10.01 and over - \$ 4.00

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

Cost of items: \$ _____

S&H: \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Office Use Only - Do Not Write Below This Line

Date Received: _____

Date Mailed: _____

Payment: Cash Check MO

Check No.: _____

9TH Armd Div Fought German Armies Three Combat Commands Widely Separated

By Demetri Paris
14th Tank Bn 9th Armd Div

Units and elements of the 9th Armored Division were attached to or fought with more major commands during the Battle of the Bulge (Ardennes) than those of any other U.S. Army division.

This is based upon military records and explains why the German high command called the 9th a "phantom" division after receiving reports from several German armies that they were attacking the 9th AD in separate locations.

The Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation (BOBHF) has identified nine major American commands which fought in the Ardennes campaign. The 9th AD fought under eight of these commands and, in addition, also fought under the command of the British 21st Army Group.

These findings were the result of studies by Maj. Gen. George Ruhlen who commanded the 2nd Armored Field Artillery Battalion of the Division. Ruhlen, now deceased, was known as an historian dedicated to accuracy.

The three combat commands A, B and R were attached to:

- three of the 18 infantry divisions
- two of the three airborne divisions
- three of the eight armored divisions

who fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

In addition, smaller units of the 9th AD were attached to or fought under

- another infantry division
- another armored division

Other 9th AD units supported elements of

- two other infantry divisions
- a third airborne division
- another armored division.

The only critical Bulge areas where the 9th AD was not involved nor engaged in combat were the far north sector around Elsenborn and in the west from Marche to Celles.

Division Action Not Reported

There are factors which resulted in the combat actions of the 9th AD not being reported.

1. The most likely reason the 9th AD actions were not reported in the press nor in published historical books is the Division was under SECRET classification throughout the battle. The attacking German armies knew the 9th was delaying their advance yet American correspondents were prohibited from writing about this combat. Unfortunately, the secret classification was not lifted until about January 5, 1945.

2. It is well known that an attached or supporting unit generally receives no mention in the After Action Report of the unit to which it is attached or is supporting. For example, Combat Command B which delayed the main German attack in the St. Vith area for six days was not included in the award granted the 7th Armored Division with whom they were fighting alongside.

One exception is the 101st Airborne included Combat Command R in their award of the Presidential Unit Citation (PUC) for the defense of Bastogne.

3. Yet a third reason was that none of the 9th AD units were under division control. Maj. Gen. John W. Leonard, the division commander, did not have any of the three command commands under his control. All were fighting in widely separated locations. The 9th AD did not fight as an entity as did other divisions except the 10th Armored Division.

Division Separated Before Bulge Attack

Ca December 9, 1944, Combat Command B (CCB) was relieved from the 9th AD control and attached to V Corps to support the 2nd Infantry Division. The 2nd was to attack and open a gap through which CCB was to advance and capture the Roer River dams and prevent the Germans from flooding the Roer Valley which would establish a geographical barrier to Allied advance.

The status of the three combat commands during the battle were:

+++ CCB fought in the north the delay the German capture of St. Vith,

+++ CCR fought in the center and, along with other troops, delayed the German advance at Bastogne until the arrival of the 101st Airborne Division and CCB of the 10th Armored Division.

+++ CCA was initially in the south at Beaufort, Luxembourg and then at Bastogne with the 4th AD.

When attacking German armies reported action against the 9th in widely separated locations, the German high command dubbed the 9th a Phantom Division. Also, German armies twice reported they had destroyed the 9th AD. They learned the 9th was not a "phantom" division on March 7, 1945 when CCB captured the Ludendorff Bridge at Remagen, Germany and were the first Allied troops to cross the Rhine River.

It was not until January 8, 1945 that all elements of the 9th AD were joined again under the command of Maj. Gen. John W. Leonard.

PUC Delayed By SECRET Classification.

As cited above, CCR of the 9th AD was included in the Presidential Unit Citation awarded to the 101st Airborne Division for the defense of Bastogne.

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE CERTIFICATE

Have you ordered Yours?

Over 6,500 certificates have been purchased by Battle of the Bulge Veterans. If you haven't received yours then you might want to consider ordering one to give to your grandchildren. They are generally most appreciative of your service now. They make excellent gifts for that buddy that you served with in the Bulge. The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Assn. is proud to offer this full color 11" by 17" certificate, which may be ordered by any veteran who received credit for the Ardennes Campaign. It attests that you participated in, endured and survived the greatest land battle ever fought by the US Army.

You do not have to be a member of the VBOB Assn in order to order one but you must have received the Ardennes credit. This beautiful certificate is produced on parchment-like stock and is outlined by the full color WWII insignias of the major units that fought in the Battle of the Bulge starting with the 12th Army Group followed numerically with Armies, Corps and Divisions and the two Army Air Forces. We wished that each unit insignia could have been shown but with approximately 2000 units that participated in the Bulge it was impossible. However any unit, which served in the Bulge, would have been attached to or reported through one of the unit insignia depicted. You may want to add one of your original patches to the certificate, when you receive it. Please allow approximately 3-4 weeks for delivery, they are normally printed at the end of the month. The certificate will be shipped rolled in a protective mailing tube. Please be sure to place your **name, service number and unit, as you would like it to appear on the certificate**. The unit name should be as full as possible as you want someone reading it to understand what unit you were in. We will abbreviate it as necessary. It is important that you type or print this information. The unit must be one of the 2000 units authorized for the Ardennes Campaign credit in the Official General Order No. 114 for Units Entitled to the ARDENNES Battle Credit and will be the basis for sale of this certificate. **The cost of the certificate is \$15.00 postpaid.**

We no longer have frames available but if you have an A. C. Moore Craft Store near you they sell a 16 X 20 Inch Floating Glass Frame which these certificates fits into nicely and are quite attractive. They also sell an 11 X 17 Inch frame with a slim plastic black border which can also be used. The 16 X 20 Inch frame normally sells for \$20.00 but is sometimes on sale for \$15.00.

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE CERTIFICATE ORDER BLANK

I request an 11" x 17" Certificate and certify that I received credit for the Ardennes Campaign. I have enclosed a check for \$15 00 for the Certificate. Please include the following information that I would like on the certificate:

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Serial Number _____

Rank : _____ Unit: _____

Organization: usually Company, Battalion and/or Regiment, & Division

Signature: _____ Date: _____

I certify that I have received the Ardennes Credit

MAILING INFORMATION:

NAME: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

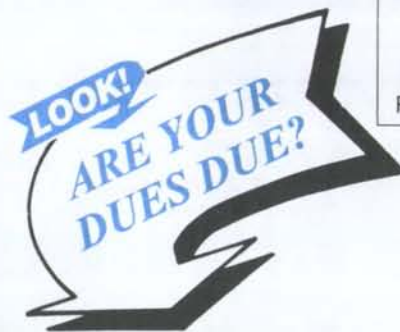
VBOB Member: ☐ Yes ☐ No (not a requirement). **Make checks out to VBOB for \$15.00. Orders should be mailed to VBOB Certificate, PO Box 101418, Arlington, VA 22210-4418. Questions can be directed to John D. Bowen, 301-384-6533, Certificate Chairman. Or by e-mail to: johndbowen@earthlink.net**
10/18/2008



VETERANS of the BATTLE of the BULGE

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

AUGUST, 2008



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**GOT YOUR BAGS PACKED?
WE'RE LOOKING FOR YOU
TO ATTEND THE
COLUMBUS, OHIO, REUNION
SEPTEMBER 9-14, 2008**

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

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Detach and Mail

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

PO Box 101418, Arlington, Virginia 22210-4418

Annual Dues \$15

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Do not write above this line

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal - Member # _____

Name _____ Birthdate _____

Address _____ Phone () _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

All new members, please provide the following information:

Campaign(s) _____

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

Regiment _____ Battalion _____

Company _____ Other _____

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

Applicants Signature _____

RECRUITER (Optional)