

The BULGE BUGLE

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VOLUME XXVIII NUMBER 3

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

AUGUST 2009

Make Plans Now...



VBOB
2009 REUNION

Tucson
ARIZONA

Oct. 6-11, 09 *Page 16*

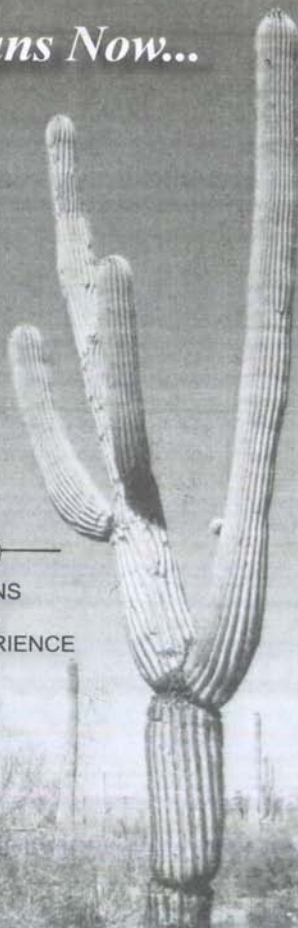
The BULGE:
With The 38th
Cavalry Squadron
& The 146th
Engineer Combat
Battalion

By Wes Ross

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VBOB REUNIONS
ARE SUCH A
WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE



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President's Message

On December 16, 2007, I assumed the Office of President of VBOB. After the swearing in ceremony, outgoing President Stanley J. Wojtusik handed me the gavel used in chairing the Executive Committee Meetings. But he gave me much more than a gavel.

Through past administrative failures, VBOB was no longer incorporated. As a result, the national officials were not protected from any lawsuit that resulted in monetary damages. If incorporated, any monetary penalty would be limited to the assets of VBOB. We are again incorporated thanks to an associate member and a pro bono attorney.

Also, VBOB lost its non-profit status for failing to comply with the Internal Revenue Service regulations and was subject to fines up to \$10,000 for each year for which we were not in compliance. This would have ended the VBOB organization. We are working to regain our non-profit status. The same associate member is solving this problem.

There were other problems resulting from lack of leadership and devotion to personal glorification rather than to veterans who were in that battle. The financial records had not been audited for years. We have now had a complete financial audit at a cost of 1/10th the amount spent by a previous administration.

We owed refunds to some members who were on the 2004 Bulge trip handled by Earle Hart. We have identified those entitled to refunds and all have been reimbursed. This was a difficult operation but was solved by an associate member.

I discovered that old records, purchase orders, broken office equipment, books and pure junk was in a commercial storage costing \$3,036 a year. That is being corrected.

And there is more which, if permitted, I shall report to you. We are cleaning up the mess which we inherited. Who should we credit for correcting this situation?

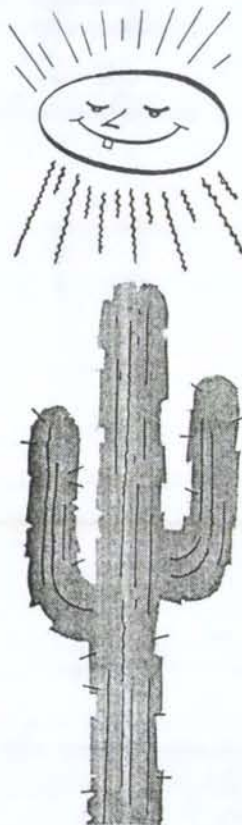
A successful executive is one who surrounds himself with capable assistants. I have been blessed--and VBOB has been blessed. For we have willing and capable and volunteer associate members working for you and your VBOB. They are associate members. They are not satisfying an ego to hold office or parade themselves as heroes as some have been known to do.

We have a number of associate members on the Executive Council. Associate members Ralph Bozorth, John and Mary Ann Bowen and others, have dedicated thousands of hours to serving VBOB and serving you.

Fie upon those short sighted, egotistical and self-serving individuals, and we have three, who cannot recognize that if VBOB is to continue, we must have them in positions where they can do the most good for VBOB. ■



Demetri "Dee" Paris



COME ONE - COME ALL
WHERE? - TUCSON, AZ

When - October 6-11, 2009

The Southern Arizona Chapter VBOB reunion committee is doing a great job in arranging for a fun-filled event so you better register soon because the livery stables are filling up and the few hotel rooms with running water and electricity are going like hotcakes.

The wreath laying ceremony will be unlike any others. A US Army band, an honor guard from a local high school and representatives from Belgium and Luxembourg will participate. Some local dignitaries will also be present.

Extra marshals and a posse will be added to the Tucson police department to help control the rowdy crowd of VBOBers.

Everything is firming up for a great reunion out here in the Southwest. Hope to see you!

George McGee
President - Chapter LIH

You Are the Key to our Membership Growth!

VBOB can't grow effectively unless you help. Our current members are the strength of our continued membership increases. If you know others who were in the Battle of the Bulge, family members of BOB vets, or friends who are interested in keeping the memory of the Bulge alive, tell them about our organization. They will enjoy the comradeship.

**VBOB IS YOUR ORGANIZATION
YOU CAN HELP US GROW!**

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SAVE US POSTAGE

Check your mailing label to see if your dues are due.

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE
WEB SITE: www.battleofthebulge.org

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LEAD, FOLLOW OR GET OUT OF THE WAY...

...probably not very many of you reading this are familiar with the bylaws of the VBOB organization. I have been a member for a lot of years and until recently I had never bothered to read that document. I simply liked the concept of the organization at the outset and followed along. So, now what? I am President of the MD/DC Chapter III and expected to be a leader, what's next?

Article III--Membership, B-3 states, *A member and/or associate member has the right to vote, hold office and enjoy all the privileges of membership.*

Of course there are other provisions in the bylaws, but none negate the intent of Article III, B-3. This item was included from day one to provide for the continuance of the VBOB after the ability or existence of actual veterans of this great battle to carry on. The time has come where if we do not encourage qualified Associate Members to take on the responsibilities of leadership the VBOB will certainly cease to exist.

Currently there are members of the VBOB who actually want to see VBOB die right along with them. I am not one of them. The VBOB has been perpetuating the history of the Battle of the Bulge via *The Bulge Bugle* and other chapter publications. If these vehicles for the perpetuation of this history cease, then surely this part of American military history will fade and die right along with the veterans.

I will work to perpetuate the VBOB any way that I can within the structure of the organization. If you are one of those who want to see it die then my message to you is, "Get out of the way!"

John R. Schaffner
106 INF 589 FA BN

WERETH ELEVEN--333RD FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

This was an all black field artillery group--333rd. This was later changed when the group was split into two battalions then became the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion and 969th Field Artillery Battalion.

On December 16, 1944 the 33rd was stationed in the 106th Infantry Division rear near Shonberg along with the white 587th Field Artillery Battalion and another black unit--the 578th (don't get the numbers mixed up now!) [as written]

The 33rd's location was very bad for those brave men as they would soon find themselves in heavy combat with elements of (1) Kampfgruppe Hansen 1st SS Panzer Regiment, (2) Kampfgruppe Kunitzel, 1st SS Panzer Reconnaissance Battalion, (3) 116th Panzer Division, and 18th Volks Grenadier Division.

In the wake of the German attack 333rd's 155 mm guns got stuck in the mud and could not be towed. They were (the 333rd) in the way of the German plan to encircle the 106th Division.

The men of Battery C were ordered to abandon their guns. Most of the men were killed, wounded or captured.

Only about 35 or 40 men managed to escape.

At about the same time the all black 578th ran into a gauntlet of German fire.

The 578th fired 774 rounds early that first day. Surviving elements of the 333rd and 969th would join the 101st Airborne (Bastogne) where they would deceive distinguished unit citations from General Patton, 3rd Army, General Maxwell Taylor, 101st Airborne Division.

Patrick Lavorgna
Associate Member

[Patrick's father was Pasquale R. Lavorgna, 75th Infantry Division, 575th Signal Company.]

AFRICAN AMERICAN SOLDIERS

Black tankers were in ETO and Pacific Theaters but 761 with the Yankee Division in October and November was specified to support the Yankee Division before leaving USA 27 August, 1944.

Exercise Tiger off Slapton Sands, England, 23 April 1944 had almost 1,000 dead. All were taken in secret to the American military cemetery near Cambridge, England, by a black QM company.

HMS Rohna, enroute to India, was sunk off Tunisia by a German plane wire guided rocket. (The first ever used by anyone.) Hundreds of black soldiers were lost.

QM, of the Red Ball Express, was run mainly by black QM units. We all know the importance of the Red Ball Express.

Bill Leeseemann
26 INF 101 ECB

EVERY MAN IS A VITAL LINK

I take exception to some of the remarks and innuendos made by General Phillippi in his article "No 'good war' for those on the front lines," May 2009, page 21.

His slanted remarks about support troops not quite being equal to the infantry troops is far out of line. It is a shame that General Phillippi is not a reader of history and the speeches made by General George S. Patton. General Patton **recognized the value of every soldier!** He said in one of his speeches, "Don't ever think that your job is unimportant. Every man has a job to do and he must do it. Every man is a vital link in the great chain. Every man serves the whole. Every department, every unit, is important in the vast scheme of this war. The quartermaster is needed to bring up the food and clothes because where we are going there isn't a lot to steal. Every last man on KP has a job to do, even the one who heats our water." He went on to say, "and you should have seen those trucks on the road in Tunisia. Those drivers were magnificent. All day, all night, they rolled over those roads, never stopping, never faltering from their course, with shells bursting all around them all the time."

I was a member of the 603 QM Graves Registration Company during WWII--5 officers and 129 EM. We were attached to the combat divisions attached to the VII US Corps. When a division was pulled off the line for a rest we were attached to the division replacing them, no rest for us. We had two killed, 16 wounded, and one captured.

Oh, yes, we were assigned to the 603rd from the reception center. We did not ask for the assignment, like other millions of men. We went where we were assigned.

Charles D. Butte
603 QM Graves Registration

WE CAN'T ALL BE UP FRONT

In response to General Phillippi's May 2009 article concerning the term WWII as being to some people "the Good War," I agree up to a point. What bothered me was his statistics that only one of the 15 men in uniform were doing the fighting and the rest were sitting back rubbing their fat bellies.

I, for one, was a medical technician with the 201 General Hospital in Verdun, France, from the first week in January 1945 until the war ended in Germany. By the way we were issued a battle star for the Rhineland. Our time was occupied taking care of the battle casualties, sometimes day and night without rest to sit back and rub our bellies! Everyone could not be on the front lines fighting--someone had to transport supplies to the front, coordinate troops, etc. This you now.

I think it was a poor choice of words to make the statement that only 1 in 15 in uniform actually fought in WWII.

John S. Wenzel
201 Gen Hosp

I'LL NEVER FORGET CHRISTMAS DAY

On December 16, 1944, I and two other GI's were on outpost duty on a cliff over-looking the Moselle River in the Town of Echternach.

We were with the 4th Infantry Division, sent to Echternach for R&R after many months of fighting in the Huertgen Forest.

At dawn on that morning, we watched the Germans coming across pontoon bridges which had apparently been installed over-night. We soon heard rifle and automatic weapons fire and called headquarters to learn that our company and division was surrounded and out-gunned. We were ordered to evacuate.

We made our way, just ahead of rifle and machine gun fire to the City of Liege, Belgium. There, we joined stragglers from various outfits and dug in outside of Liege to form a line of defense of the city.

On Christmas Day, 1944, the Germans attacked and we held and drove them back. I will never forget that day--I was 19 years old.

Martin J. Sylvester
14 INF 12 INF G

ANOTHER 82ST CEBer

A letter written by Ed Carpenter stated that he knew of only Ed Wojahn and Ed Kraminski as the only surviving B Company full-time members.

This will inform you [and Ed] that I am still living. So is Red Tetzlaff, of Madison, Wisconsin. I also think that Cal Bauers, of Crystal Falls is still around. Cal was the last of

the B Company POW's that I was with after we both were sent out to work from Stalag4b.

I am not sure if Ed Kraminski was taken prisoner. Ed Wojahn was, of course, and while we were both in Stalag4b for a few weeks, Wojahn was sent out to a differing working group. I was inducted from Madison, Wisconsin. My current address is: 209 Vernon Woods, Glen Mills, Pennsylvania 19342.

Bob Hanson
81 ECB B

NEW YEAR'S TOAST

For the first time, I was part of the New Year's Toast that included a three-way connection. Jack Davis (Lehigh Valley Chapter) joined me in Michigan and Tom Tucker (Escondido, California) in the toast.

In addition, Jack was with the gathering of some 20 members of his chapter at Morris Metz's home (President of the Lehigh Valley Chapter). We all gave the toast at the given time.

Following this, the question came up: What was the origin of this ceremony: A toast to the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge.

I have had three persons ask me the question and I would appreciate it if you could offer the answer. What was the origin of the New Year's Toast--how did it come about?

Joseph G. Rahie
5 INF 2 INF M

[There is no great story behind the toast. It came about as a result of thoughts in the office that it was a shame that there were veterans and families of veterans who could not attend the reunion or the December 16th celebrations. So, we thought the toast would be something that all could participate in easily. It's been successful and we are glad.]

CORRECTION ON GROSSLANGENFELD

On September 5th [2008], I received the August 2008 copy of *The Bulge Bugle*; and, as usual, sat right down and read it cover to cover.

I was most surprised and pleased to see my story "...What Really Happened at Grosslangenfeld December 16-18, 1944." However, there is one correction to the listed TO&E. We did not have any 50 caliber submachine guns! We did have 3 - 5- caliber machine guns; plus 30 - .45 caliber submachine guns. (I'm being a little picky, picky here!!)

I'm enclosing a copy of a German's account (Ralf Anton Schafer) of the Battle for Grosslangenfeld which definitely proves that the 106th Reconnaissance Troop did not disintegrate at the first assault. Hopefully you will be able to print this report in the near future. *[It appears elsewhere in this newsletter.]*

Joseph C. Haines
106 CAV RECON TP (MECH)

CORPSE ON A SLED

The picture on page 11 of the February 2009 issue of *The Bugle* brought back memories.

On January 24, 1945, as we were preparing to attack with the 6th Armored south of Nilwerdange, Luxembourg, a group of German prisoners had a corpse on a child's sled. He was one of the tallest dead men I had ever seen. Needless to say, he stuck over both ends of that sled. He must have meant something to those POW's. Maybe he was their officer or non-com.

James G. Graff
35 INFD 134 INF C

SOLVING VBOB'S PROBLEMS

Actions taken to Regain Non-profit Status and Incorporation

For many years the national organization has not filed the Internal Revenue Service Form 990 which is required and which is in violation of the IRS regulations. As a result, our standing as a non-profit organization has been severely compromised and we are subject to extreme financial penalties.

At this point, it would be counter-productive to spend man-hours attempting to identify those who did not fulfill their responsibilities as officers and members of the Executive Council.

Immediately upon assuming office, President Demetri Paris focused on correcting this deficiency of our previous administrations by taking positive steps to correct the problem by regaining our status with the IRS. To do so, we have obtained the service of an attorney, who is serving on a pro bono (free of cost) basis to get us back in good graces with the IRS, avoid any financial penalty and again regain our tax-free status under 501(c)(19) of the IRS code.

We've had to return to our accounting firm who conducted our recent financial audit to provide our past financial records for a number of years. The attorney now has these records and we hope our problem will be solved in the near future.

Once this has been accomplished, we shall turn to the matter of chapter fulfillment of the IRS requirements. We have been informed those chapters that have been incorporated and are on the IRS approved list may simply file a postcard form. All other chapters must secure their non-profit status through the national VBOB. This can be accomplished only after the national has regained its status and submits a list of these chapters to the IRS. This cannot be accomplished immediately--we cannot correct a problem in weeks that resulted from years of neglect.

There is another matter which you should be informed about. Again, as a result of failure by previous administrations to file annual continuation reports for ten years, the national VBOB lost its incorporation. Immediately upon assuming office, President Paris took action to correct this deficiency. With free legal service, we have again regained our incorporation status in Virginia, effective October 22, 2008. The next step is to insure we file the reports necessary to retain that status.

We cannot furnish any advice or assistance to chapters who wish to incorporate since every state has its own requirements for obtaining and maintaining corporate status. ■

BUGLE ATTACK NO SURPRISE TO AF

Submitted by Dee Paris

The German attack on December 16, 1944, came as a surprise to the widely dispersed troops on the front line. It was a total surprise to Army and Corps commanders. Gen. Bradley kept insisting it was merely a spoiling attack.

Nor did Gen. Eisenhower and the Allied High Command anticipate the Battle of the Bulge. But it was no surprise to the Ninth Air Force which, according to documents on file at Archives II, in College Park, Maryland, alerted their forces with the following warning six days before the German forces attacked:

Battalion Headquarters and Headquarters Company 10 Dec 44

IX TAC D 253 E

Commanding Officer 555 Sig AW Bn

THE FOLLOWING NINTH AIR FORCE TWX IS QUOTED FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION QUOTE:

"RECENT INTELLIGENCE RPTS INDICATE THAT THERE HAS BEEN A SUBSTANTIAL BUILDING UP IN THE ENEMY FTR AND FTR/BOMBER FORCES IN WESTERN GERMANY TO THE EXTENT THAT A PENETRATION IN FORCE TO A DISTANCE OF SIX ZERO MILES BEHIND EXISTING FRONT LINES IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE PD SUCH AN EFFORT APPEARS MOST LIKELY TO OCCUR IN FIRST AND NINTH US ARMY AREAS AND INDICATIONS POINT TO SUCH AN ATTEMPT WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS PD ALL AIFIELD COMMANDERS WILL BE ADVISED ACCORDINGLY AND TO THE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES WILL BE DISPERSED AND VITAL INSTALLATIONS DUG IN AND FORTIFIED END

VANDENBERG UNQUOTE PAREN SIGNED QUESADA PAREN AC of S A-3

*A. S. FETTERMAN
MAJOR, AIR CORPS
ASST ADJUTANT GENERAL"■*

P. MELVILLE, COM. AC.

*"In a wood they call the Rouge Bouquet,
There is a new-made grave today,
Built by never a spade or pick,
Yet covered with earth ten meters thick.
There lie many fighting men,
Dead in their youthful prime.
Never to laugh or love again
Nor taste the summertime."*

*— Joyce Kilmer, American poet (1886-1918),
written from the front lines in WWI where he died*

350 MILES IN BITTER COLD WEATHER

Kenneth R. Yockey
Headquarters Battery
336th Field Artillery Battalion
87th Infantry Division

As I grow older, memories of dates, places and names fade, but vivid in my mind was the coldest couple of days that I ever experienced.

When the Germans broke through our lines in the Ardennes, the 87th Infantry Division was in the Saar Valley. Word came through that we were to move out of our position around Gros Rederching and proceed to the Ardennes.

We were also advised that the Germans were dropping paratroops and otherwise infiltrating our lines with troops dressed in American uniforms. This made for some anxiety and meant that steps had to be taken to assure that when we asked for the password that the response was authentic. We did wonders with the passwords by asking for names of ballplayers, names of suburbs of cities if the person responded that he was from such and such a place. Anyway, I was selected to be the advance party to pick out a bivouac area for the battalion.

I was assigned to be the jeep driver along with Lt Leonard (I think) and a radio operator whose name escapes me. He was the only smart one of the three as he slid his feet down into a GI sleeping bag. I wore GI winter underwear, the OD uniform, GI sweater, field jacket and overcoat. Underneath my helmet, I wore my wood knit cap pulled down over my ears.

With the windshield down over the hood we had no protection from the bitter cold, piercing wind. The weather was sub-zero and the wind felt like sharp knives. The roads were slippery and when we made our first relief stop, up went the wind shield which was a small help. This trip was around the 23rd of December during the coldest winter that Europe had experienced in quite a few years.

Along the way to Belgium, we stopped over at an airbase in Rheims, France. Why, I don't know. The Air Section had flown separately and were already there when we arrived. The Air Corps treated us like conquering heroes. They gave us the best Christmas dinner and took us on tour of the base showing us some German jet engines crated up to be shipped to the U.S.

Still not thawed out, we continued our journey and ended up near Tiller in a forest for our bivouac area. We had completed our drive--over 350 miles in bitter cold weather, slipping and sliding and freezing cold. I don't think that I stopped shivering all the time we were in Belgium.■

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...from

Commander ARPERCEN
(Army Personnel Center)

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9700 Page Blvd
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Send a **copy** of the discharge papers (both sides)--(do not send the original).

They will verify the wards to which you are entitled. They do not send the medals. The medals are sent from the Quartermaster Depot in Philadelphia. It takes at least six months to get the medals.

The National Personnel Records (NPRC), has advised that the National Veterans Service office in Washington, DC, has an improved method of requesting documents. You can receive copies of documents on the web by requesting via e-mail at: WWW/vetrecs.archives.gov.■

LUXEMBOURG Dec 09 TRIP SELECTEES

Thanks to all who participated in the drawing for the free trip so graciously offered by the Luxembourg Government to commemorate the 65th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge in Luxembourg Dec 13 - 18, 2009. Over 50 requests were received. Each name was placed on a sealed card and placed in a large jar from which 6 names were picked by different members of the Executive Council at their meeting on 14 July 2009. Congratulations to the following six who were drawn. The Luxembourg Government will be contacting you directly.:

Lowell H. Anness
248th Engineers, XII Corps
Rumford RI 02910

George D. Whitten
166th Engineering Combat Bn A Company
W. Boothbay Harbor ME 04575

Frank J. Forcinella
5th InfD 2nd Infantry Company E
Rensselaer NY 12144-5607

Herman Zeitchik
4th InfD 42nd FA Bn Hq Btry
Silver Spring MD 20901

Robert L. Cragg 215-646-254
26th InfD 104 Infantry
Maple Glen PA 19002-3177

Norman Wasserman
286 FA Observation Bn B Btry
Brooklyn NY 11201

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Jr. ROTC Honor Guard

Belgium & Luxembourg
Representatives



WWII UNIT HONORED FOR ITS BAYONET ATTACK

One of the rare bayonet attacks during World War II was conducted by Company A, 551st Parachute Infantry Battalion, on 4 January 1945, against German machine gun positions that threatened another element of the 551st and had to be attacked immediately.

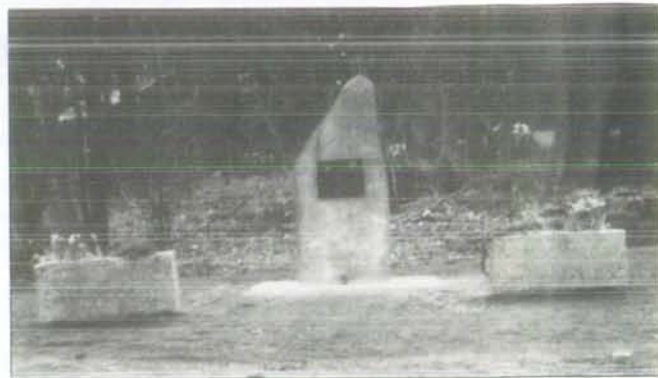
Local Belgian citizens, supported by the City of Vielsam, Belgium, erected and dedicated a monument with a bronze plate attached to the granite base on 23 February 2008.

About 1,200 attendees from Belgium, France, Germany, Holland and England were present for the dedication. Many were WWII re-enactors and have adopted the 551st Parachute Infantry Battalion as their unit, wearing the steel helmet with the 551st distinctive symbol of a white palm tree on the helmet. The palm tree represents the unit's place of activation in the Panama Canal Zone in 1941.

Due to the excessive combat losses, the 551st Parachute Infantry Battalion was deactivated, in the field, and its personnel reassigned to the regiments of the 82nd Airborne Division. In the final attack against RochelINVAL, Belgium, and the last bridge of escape for German forces, west of the Salm River, Company A suffered losses that reduces its personnel strength to less than a platoon size. Sgt Robert H. Hill, Jr., was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (posthumously) for his extraordinary heroism in the attack. The 551st Battalion was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for its demonstrated extraordinary heroism as a unit during the Battle of the Bulge.

Col. Doug Dillard
who participated in the
Bayonet Attack,
demonstrates the
employment of the
bayonet as he
recalls the attack
on January 4, 1945

Dairomont, Belgium
2-23-08



The following inscription best describes the action by Company A on 4 January:

DAIROMONT, BELGIUM

*"COMPANY A OF THE 552ST PARACHUTE INFANTRY BATTALION AMERICAN UNDER THE COMMAND OF LT. RICHARD DURKEE CONDUCTED ONE OF THE RARE BAYONET ATTACKS OF WORLD WAR II. THE AMERICAN PARACHUTISTS NEUTRALIZED GERMAN MACHINE GUN POSITIONS AND INFLECTED GREAT LOSSES ON THE ENEMY WHO GREATLY OUTNUMBERED THEM."
(WE SHALL NEVER FORGET THEIR COURAGE)*



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At the Tucson Convention Center
Tucson, Arizona
October 6-11, 2009**

George W. McGee, President, Southern Arizona Chapter

MEMORIAL DEDICATED IN INDIANA

[The following information was taken from *The Ardennes Campaign - 41 Days in Hell* the newsletter of the Northern Indiana Chapter.]



Bill Turley, 87th Inf. Div.

Chapter Vice President Bill Turley is shown at Calumet Park Cemetery on Memorial Day standing next to the monument erected by the cemetery and dedicated to his devotion to the memory of veterans who fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

The inscription on the monument reads: *Bill Turley brought honor to his country, the 87th Infantry and his fellow soldiers while fighting in Germany, France, and Belgium during World War II. Bill courageously fought in the Battle of the Bulge, or what he named "41 days in hell." Bill was awarded the Legion of Honor from France in 2008, which is France's highest ranking medal.* ■

Get in a tight spot in combat, and some guy will risk his ass to help you. Get in a tight spot in peacetime, and you go it all alone.

BRENDAN FRANCIS



WWII Recipe SPAM Vegetable Hash

(makes 4 - 6 servings)

- ½ cup chopped onion
- 2 tablespoons butter or margarine
- 2 cups frozen cubed hash brown potatoes, thawed
- 1 12 oz. can SPAM, cubed
- 1 10 oz. package frozen peas and carrots, thawed
- ½ teaspoon black pepper



In a large skillet over medium heat, sauté onion in butter until tender. Stir in potatoes. Cook, stirring occasionally, until potatoes are lightly browned. Stir in SPAM, peas and carrots, and pepper. Cook, stirring occasionally, until thoroughly heated.

Since fresh meat was difficult to get to the soldiers on the front, WWII saw the largest use of SPAM. (Some soldiers referred to Spam as "ham that didn't pass its physical" and "meatloaf without basic training"). Surpluses of SPAM from the soldiers' supplies made their way into the Atlantic and Pacific cultures, making SPAM a unique part of history. Introduced in 1937, the name "Spam" was chosen in the 1930s when the product, whose original name was far less memorable (Hormel **Spiced Ham**), began to lose marketability. A Hormel official stated that the original meaning of the name was "Shoulder of Pork And haM". On their official website, Hormel states that "Spam is just that. Spam."

SPAM FACTS

*In America, it's consumed at the rate of 3.8 cans a second by more than 60 million Americans.

*Each year, 100 million pounds (45 million kg) of Spam are sold around the world.

*SPAM is made in two U.S. locations - Austin, Minnesota, and Fremont, Nebraska - and seven other countries: England, Australia, Denmark, Phillipines, Japan, Taiwan, and South Korea.

*In 1989, the U.S. armed forces bought 3.3 million pounds of SPAM.

*Hawaii consumes the most SPAM per capita, Alaska, Arkansas, Texas, and Alabama follow.

*In South Korea, SPAM is considered an upscale food and one of the most popular American imports. The Wall Street Journal recently spotted a Seoul executive in search of the perfect gift. The executive deliberately skipped over traditional gift items such as wine and chocolates in favor of SPAM, explaining, "It is an impressive gift."

*Nikita Krushchev once credited SPAM with the survival of the WWII Russian army. "Without SPAM, we wouldn't have been able to feed our army," he said.

The Germans paid no attention to the Geneva Convention; they beat our men with rifle butts, failed to feed them, took away their clothes and occasionally refused them medical aid.

**By Sgt. ED CUNNINGHAM
YANK Staff Correspondent**

WITH 104TH DIVISION, GERMANY—The MP sergeant was apologetic. He said he was sorry but there was no other kind of "transportation."

"I'll have to send you all back to corps headquarters in a six by six. It's the best I can do now. The truck will be ready right after chow. The rations are short, because of the long supply lines but we'll make supper as good as possible." Two or three of the 12 soldiers sitting around the room laughed.

"We're kinda used to short rations by now," one said.

"Yes," remarked the soldier on the sofa next to him, "the Germans never spread any banquet* for us."



Scenes like this are being enacted all over Germany these days. Here two liberated soldiers are saluting Maj. Paul L. Bogen of Lincoln, Neb., one of the liberators.

AMERICAN PWs

"I know that," said the MP sergeant, Ray Bunt of Lafayette, La. "That's what gripes hell out of me every day when I have to feed these kraut prisoners. Because of the Geneva Convention or some goddam thing, I have to give those bastards a C-ration at nine o'clock in the morning and another at four in the afternoon. "The Germans who had us never bothered about the Geneva Convention," said another of the men. "They walked us two days and nights without food after they took us at St. Vith. And the only water we had was what we could get in the ditches when the snow melted." That started the rest of the stories. Sitting there; In the parlor of a German home which had been requisitioned as MP billets, the dozen Yanks who had been released from German PW cages when the 104th Division over-ran it told what had happened to them during their captivity.

The "dean" of the prisoners had spent two years and eight months in a PW camp. He had been captured in August 1942 and had been shot in the ankle and thigh by a German sniper just before he was taken prisoner. Despite his wounds, the Germans made him walk 12 miles to a prisoner camp without giving him medical attention.

After a week in the French prison, he and 1,500 other Allied prisoners were herded into French 40 and 8 cars and taken to Stalag 8-B at Lamsdorf in Ober Silesia. The ration for each man for the four-day and four-night train ride was a

loaf of bread, a third of a tin of meat and a quarter pound of margarine.

"When we got to Lamsdorf," he said, "they put all the prisoners in a compound by ourselves. We couldn't have any contact with the other Allied prisoners there. There were 400 men in each hut, which was built to hold only 200. And just to make sure we weren't too comfortable they tied our hands with binder twine from eight in the morning until eight at night. Later they used handcuffs instead of the twine. That went on for a whole year. Sometimes, some of the boys managed to slip out of their manacles but if they were caught they got five day solitary confinement in the bunker with no food at all";

Despite temperatures that dropped to 10 and 20 below zero, the Germans made no effort to heat the prisoners' barracks. The men had to sleep in their clothes with their overcoats for blankets. Many had frozen feet and fingers which were amputated by Allied military doctors in the prison.

"The food at Lamsdorf was terrible," he said. "They gave us a loaf of bread for seven men and it was usually, green with mold. Sometimes we'd get about a quart of watery soup made from the water the Germans boiled their own potatoes in with a few cabbage leaves thrown in to make it look like soup. I lost about 50 pounds in my two years and five months at Lamsdorf."

(Continued on next page)

AMERICAN PWs (continued)

ALONG with the 8,000 other Allied prisoners at Lamsdort, he was evacuated from the Silesian prison camp on Jan. 23, 1945 because the Russian Army had advanced to within five miles of the Stalag. All men who were able to walk were forced to do so. The seriously sick were transported in freight cars. He marched with the column for 13 days until frozen feet forced him to drop out about 60 miles east of Leipzig. "I was lucky," he said. "They put me on a train and sent me here. But some of the other boys who had frozen feet and hands never made it. Their guards clubbed them with rifles and left them laying there along the roadside in the snow and zero temperatures when they - dropped out because of bad feet. God knows what happened to them."

"The bastards did the same" thing to our guys," another soldier said "They beat them with rifle butts when they couldn't walk any further. And if any of the stronger ones tried to help a guy they saw getting weak, the guards clubbed them too. Beside that, they egged on the German kids in the towns we went through to throw stones at us. Another trick they had was taking our personal pictures of our family and girl friends from us and stomping on them or tearing them up. When some of the fellows got sore, seeing their mothers or girls pictures stepped on, and stepped out of line to do something about it, the guards beat them with rifles or the blunt edge of their bayonets."

This man, an infantryman from the 14th Armored Division, was captured at Biche on Jan. 2, during the German breakthrough in Belgium and Luxembourg. Along with 200 other Americans, he was loaded on a freight train and sent to Eastern Germany. They had neither food nor water on the trip, which took four days and five nights. Their overcoats, blankets, field jackets and shoes were taken away from them, together with their watches and other personal belongings "We licked the ice that formed on the hinges of the box car for water," he said. "There were 60 or 70 of us in each car with no blankets, or warm clothes or even straw to sleep on. And just to make sure we didn't get any sleep, the German guard would stop outside the car several times during the night and fire a couple of rounds in on us. They weren't trying to hit us, because they always fired high, but they just tried to keep us awake so we wouldn't have the energy to try to escape."

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You can save us the cost of a reminder.

REUNIONS

2ND ARMORED DIVISION, September 23-26, 2009, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. For further information write: 2nd Armored Division, 4065 Post Oak Place, Suite 210, Houston, Texas 77027.

4TH INFANTRY DIVISION, July 20-26, 2009, St. Louis, Missouri. Contact: Don Kelby. Telephone: 314-606-1969.

5TH ARMORED DIVISION, August 13-16, 2009, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. Contact: Will Cook, 16471 Nottingham Dr, Wapakoneta, OH 45895-9471. Phone: 419-739-9677.

35TH INFANTRY DIVISION, September 23-27, 2009, Topeka, Kansas. Contact: James G. Graff, 1146 100th Avenue, Middletown, Illinois 62666.

78TH INFANTRY DIVISION, August 13-16, 2009, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Contact: Tom Streicher, 2411 Cambridge Court, Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania 16066. Phone: 724-772-4466.

84TH INFANTRY DIVISION, August 28-30, 2009, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Contact: Bruce Morrell, 2825 Brogans Bluff Dr., Colorado Springs, Colorado. Phone: 719-592-1523.

87TH INFANTRY DIVISION LEGACY ASSOCIATION, August 25-31, 2009, Arlington, Virginia. Contact: Joe Mathias, Jr., 87 Stadtmauer Drive, Clifton, New Jersey 07013-2512. Phone: 973-473-7532.

106TH INFANTRY DIVISION, September, 2009, Indianapolis, Indiana. Contact: Murray Stein. Phone: 561-499-7736.

296TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, September 23-25, 2009, Sturbridge, Massachusetts. Contact: Joseph Civitillo, 9 Orelan Road, Wethersfield, Connecticut 06109.

501TH PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT, July 1-5, 2009, Kansas City, Missouri. Contact: Jana Jansen, 1304 Holly Court, Liberty, Missouri 64068. Phone: (Cell) 816-546-6671.

740TH TANK BATTALION, September 3-6, 2009, Grapevine, Texas. Contact: 740th Tank Battalion Assn, PO Box 202549, Arlington, Texas 76006.



A LITTLE TIRED OF SPAM, AREN'T YOU?"

—Pvt. Art Bimrose

THE BULGE WITH THE 38TH CAVALRY SQUADRON AND THE 146TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION

By Wes Ross
146th Engineer Combat Battalion

[Excerpts] On the morning of 16 December, the well orchestrated German attack in the Ardennes (Wacht am Rhein--a subterfuge hiding their offensive intentions behind a pretended defense) was launched. Because Hitler suspected a security leak within his Wehrmacht, he limited disclosures of the attack plans to only his most trusted generals. He was unaware that the British had broken his secret Enigma Code even though some of his advisors had suggested that this may have happened. "Impossible!" said der Fuehrer.

There were so few radio intercepts concerning the upcoming Ardennes offensive that our high level commanders were caught completely off guard even though many of us at the line level were antsy about all of the enemy activity nearby along our front. In general, the Wehrmacht followed the mandated radio secrecy orders but there were enough slip-ups by their airforce and civilian transportation units to have given our top-level commanders sufficient insight had they not been so overconfident that they discounted these critical intercepts.

At 1520 hours on 16 December, Colonel Pattillo from V Corps called Major Baker S-3 of the 146th Engineer Combat Battalion and ordered a company of engineers to be immediately attached to the 38th Cavalry Squadron at Monschau, to serve as infantry. A Company was in the line at 1700 that evening where they supported for the out-numbered troopers. The 38th Cavalry was at the northern tip of the Bulge and just north of Lt Colonel McClelland Butler's 3rd Battalion, 395th Infantry, 99th Division, at Hofen. (The 395th held their ground and so was not involved in a command restructuring which placed the remainder of the 99th Division under command of the 2nd Infantry Division.)

For several days this small force--including 3rd Platoon, A Company, 112 ECB, and attached 105mm and 155mm artillery fought off several attacks by vastly superior enemy forces. Several times they called artillery fire onto their own positions to thwart these attacks. Canister rounds were used with devastating effect when they were about to be overrun. For their stout defense all three units were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. According to *Cavalry on the Shoulder*, the 38th Cavalry was the only mechanized cavalry squadron to be so honored in WWII. The 146th Engineer Combat Battalion had received a Presidential Unit Citation for their D-Day anti-boat obstacle demolition mission on Omaha Beach, so this added an oak leaf cluster of A Company's PUC. A Company, 612 Tank Destroyer Battalion fought nearby and was told that they were awarded a Meritorious Unit Citation--Unconfirmed.

The battlefield success of the 38th Cavalry Squadron in the Bulge was due to a number of elements, including a seasoned cadre who had fought from Normandy, but probably the most important item being their commanding officer--Lt. Colonel Robert O'Brien--a 1936 West Point cavalry graduate. He was fanatical in his dedication to patrolling the area forward of his

lines--to the extent that the 38th came to "own the area between the fronts"! Initially, this was not the case, but came to pass after several fierce firefights that inflicted heavy casualties on enemy patrols.

This recounting of the Monschau defense is from *Cavalry on the Shoulder*: "An example of the quick and deadly fights initiated by patrols is the instance at the end of October, 1944, when a B Troop patrol lead by First Lieutenant Weldon J. Yontz, fought a sharp action against a German patrol in the thick pine forests of the Ardennes. The cavalry point man, Private Herbert H. Whittard, spotted the enemy first and motioned the cavalry men into position to spring an ambush. Waiting in cover, the cavalry troopers engaged the enemy patrol at close range that killed or wounded all 22 of them."

"Prisoners later revealed that this enemy patrol was hand-picked from the reconnaissance company of the opposing German infantry regiment. This type of aggressive acting was repeated often in the Monschau sector, causing enemy patrols to avoid contact and allowing cavalry patrols to make increasingly detailed reconnaissance reports and sketches of enemy positions. More importantly, it left the German commanders ignorant of the details of the cavalry's defensive positions."

"The preparation of the defense at Monschau may rank as one of the most thorough defenses by an American battalion-size unit in U.S. Army history. The cavalry men, taking stock of their equipment, time available, and the aggressive spirit of the troopers, quickly established the defense which made maximum use of all available assets. The defense was unique in many respects. First, the establishment of patrol dominance denied the enemy detailed knowledge of the squadron's disposition and strength. Thus any attacking enemy would be forced to guess where the units were deployed, and where the squadron was weak and where it was strong."

"A second aspect of the defense was the unusual attention to ensuring integrated command, control and communications. To this end the squadron employed 16 radio nets, incorporating over 60 radios. The high number of radios--several times the number found in an infantry battalion--supplemented a remarkable wire communications system consisting of 65 telephones, 50 miles of telephone wire, and six switchboards. The wire command and control system integrated all squads, platoons, troops and supporting artillery into a single web."

"This effort is even more amazing, considering the fact that the squadron was not authorized communication specialists. The system was designed to function even if a portion of it were destroyed. It also permitted very small units, in some cases individual four-man machine gun positions and two-man artillery observer teams, to continue to function and receive orders even when cut off from their immediate headquarters. Additionally, all of the wire was buried deep to protect it from enemy infiltrators, accidental cuts and enemy artillery fire. Finally, the entire wire system was duplicated, so that each line had a back-up in the event of failure. This communication system would provide essential to the coordinated defense across such a large sector of front (about six miles) by so small a unit."

"The third unique factor which characterized the defense of Monschau, was the extremely precise and effective positioning of the available weapons, obstacles and units. Machine guns were one of the keys to the defense. The 38th Cavalry dismounted .50 caliber and .30 caliber machine guns from terrain surrounding the town.

(Continued)

THE BULGE

(Continuation)

The weapons were carefully positioned so as to provide interlocking grazing fire along all of the likely enemy avenues of approach. They were further tied into obstacles of concertina wire and personnel mines along these likely avenues. Further, extensive use was made of trip flares to provide early warning of enemy approach. Flares were preferred because they prevented friendly casualties in case of mistakes and they did not give the false sense of security associated with extensive minefields."

"All of the weapons were dug in, with overhead cover to survive artillery attack and they were carefully concealed so that an attacking enemy had to literally be on the position to recognize it as a machinegun position. Finally, the positions were integrated into the squadron command and control telephone net. A final point on the preparation of the Monschau defense was a typical characteristic of defense common to the U.S. Army--the thorough integration and abundance of artillery support--105mm and 155mm howitzers, augmented by their organic 60mm and 81mm mortars."

"The effectiveness of the artillery support was later verified by a German prisoner of war. He reported that German troops in the Monschau sector were forbidden to leave their bunkers and foxholes during the hours of daylight. The German troops were reduced to observing their sectors through the use of mirrors, in order not to attract rapid and deadly artillery fire. This dedicated defensive preparation was tested at 0545 on the morning of 16 December 1944, when the intense German artillery barrage announced the start of the Battle of the Bulge."

At 1525 hours on 16 December, Colonel McDonough, the 1121 Engineer Combat Group commander, called our headquarters and ordered another engineer company to be deployed as infantry. The three B Company platoons moved into position the following morning and for several days formed a barrier line a short distance behind the front between Monschau and Elsenborn. Our purpose was to slow the German advance should they manage to penetrate our lines. The 3rd platoon patrolled a 2,000 yard front in the snow.

We set up three machine guns in defensive positions and patrolled between them, but being in a semi-wooded area we had inadequate fields of fire and would have been overrun or bypassed by any determined enemy attack in force. Sylvain Keck, from the 2nd platoon, manned a daisy-chain road block on a nearby road. These are AT mines roped together so they can be quickly pulled across a road at the approach of enemy vehicles--but they are not very effective unless adequately supported by covering fire. A number of trees had C-2 explosives attached for potential road abatis.

While on outpost duty, the 3rd Platoon had no clue as to the German's intentions. We were positioned in the woods away from our headquarters but the wealth of unverified rumors, the actuality of the paratroopers and the reports of Skorzeny's men in American uniforms kept us alert. Unconfirmed rumors abounded! Anyone moving about was challenged and this included even easily recognized American generals. Our reconnaissance officer, Lt. Leonard Fox, was taken prisoner by a patrol from the 38th Cavalry Squadron because he had not yet received that day's password. After six hours at their CP while they checked on his legitimacy, he was released.

Lt Colonel von der Heydte's parachute force was dropped nearby on the night of 16/17 December. Their initial objective

was capturing the Baroque Michel, a road junction midway between Eupen and Malmedy and ten miles west of Monschau--a brushy, timbered area with streams and swamps forming the head waters of the Roer River. The paratroopers were a day late because of glitches in delivering their gasoline and in getting their forces assembled and were also widely scattered because of inexperienced pilots and minimal advance information concerning their mission.

The initial plan called for General Sepp Dietrich's forces to link up with the paratroopers at this road junction on 16 December--an intended replay of their successful breakthrough in 1940. Had Dietrich been able to push his way through Monschau, he very well may have captured the big gasoline dumps near Eupen and then moved almost unimpeded north to Antwerp. That would have made the 101st Airborne stand at Bastogne a non-event!

The twin "Jumo" engines of the German planes were unsynchronized, and so had a distinctive uneven "yumm-yumm-yumm" beat-frequency sound as they flew overhead at night. We believe that they were for aerial resupply of the paratroopers. We were itching to turn our machine guns on them, but this was specifically forbidden as it would have divulged our defensive positions. Several V-1s (Buzz Bombs) that landed nearby were said to have contained food and medicines instead of explosives but I saw none.

Early in the Bulge, Earl Buffington was riding in Blaine Hefner's truck as they won the race with a German tank to a crossroad near Malmedy. The tank halted and began firing at them as they scurried away. Earl's arm was injured by a low hanging tree limb that also knocked off his Omaha Beach "Trophy Helmet," which sported two clean 8mm holes. The bullet had passed through the front and out the back of the helmet, nicking his ear and the side of his head. That he had not been seriously wounded was considered a good omen so he refused to swap it for a new one. However, his trophy helmet was never recovered! Earl was a volunteer from the 2nd Infantry Division for our anti-landing craft demolition mission and was wounded D-Day morning. He was the only 2nd Infantry Division volunteer who returned to the 146 ECB after his hospitalization.

Engineers have only occasional need for machine guns, but we had both the WW-1 vintage water-cooled .30 caliber Brownings as well as the newer air cooler version and the .50 caliber Brownings (ring-mounted on our truck cabs for anti-aircraft). Our .30s were light years behind the vastly superior German MG-42. During the early hours of the paratroop drop, one of our water-cooled Brownings fired just one round, and sat there mute--the water in the cooling jacket had frozen, jamming the action.

Lt Schindler, who spoke German, led a reconnaissance patrol on one cold winter day, seeking information for V Corps on a German Panzer Division: "The infantry said that we were stupid for going beyond their outpost. Claude Dobbs and Sergeant Roy Durfey were in Lt Schindler's jeep, and Norman Lightell and the rest of the squad were in the truck driven by Robert Richardson. Tom Wilkins manned the ring-mounted .50 cal machine gun. As they approached a house they saw a German soldier run inside. The men in back jumped out while Tom remained on the machine gun."

"Schindler's jeep backed up and he called out in German for those inside to surrender.

(Continued)

THE BULGE

(Continuation)

Thirty-seven of them did so and were captured without a shot being fired. They were then led away to a PW cage. Later Schindler, Cecil Morgan, and Roy Durfey returned to a nearby house from where smoke had been seen coming from the chimney and where Durfey had noticed a mule hooked to a two-wheel cart outside. Morgan kicked in the door and stepped inside with a Thompson sub and 38 more surrendered. Not a bad for a lieutenant and one squad of engineers! Before taking the prisoners away, Durfey unhitched the mule and turned it loose."

On 23 December, while working on a large anti-personnel minefield near Elsenborn, designed to deny the Germans access to a natural infiltration corridor, a flight of British "Typhoons" came roaring in and rocketed a woods 80 yards to the east. We were a bit jumpy as their path was almost directly overhead and we thought that they might have mistaken us for Germans. That would not have been too unusual, considering the chaotic conditions along the front at that time. We saw no indication of German forces before or after the strike; but since we were close to the front lines, there is a possibility that German armor was located there.

A prominent radiator bulge under their engines gave them a distinctive appearance, and their engines made an unusual roaring noise--not at all like the sharp exhaust crack of the Rolls Royce Merlins in Spitfires and Mustangs. I was told that these engines had 24 cylinders--compared to the twelve cylinders of the Merlin--and the 24 exhausts blended the sound into the unusual road. (Since verified)

Christmas Day 1944, on the way to our AP minefield, a doe and a yearling crossed in front of our truck so I told the men in back to shoot her. After a dozen or more rounds had been fired, at a distance of about 80 yards, I yelled "cease fire" as the deer disappeared into the brush. The firing might have been interpreted as a fire fight with a German patrol, initiating a wasteful response. The doe then sauntered back across the road so I shot her. There was one hole in her hide. That's less than 10% accuracy for our "American Marksmen." Our company cooks then served up the fresh meat, which was a welcome change to our regular diet.

Several weeks previously, B Company's various work parties returned to the company bivouac area one evening with five hogs, two cows, and a deer. Someone had suggested that we have fresh meat, but had not coordinated the effort. The animals were a nuisance around our AP minefields, as they hit our trip wires and detonated the mines--killing themselves in the process. We only hastened their demise. The hogs were fried first, and the pork fat was then used in frying the rest of the meat. The meat was tough and chewy, but still much appreciated!

On the night of 26 December, 1944, our bivouac area was shelled heavily for about 30 minutes. We were in an area of large pine trees, so there were many tree bursts. Heading for a safe refuge in a culvert (which he called a tin-horn), Sgt Jackson ran into a truck tailgate and chipped off the corner of an upper front tooth. I flattened myself on the ground at the base of a large tree away from the direction of most of the tree bursts, and was happy when the shelling ceased. We believed that the damage was done by our captured 105mm howitzers. The shelling probably stopped when the Germans ran out of ammunition.

Several trucks had flat tires and other holes, and the driveline

of one truck was completely severed. A shell fragment smashed through the front panel of our headquarters desk drawer, and spinning around inside, made a mouse nest out of the papers within. A number of artillery fragments riddled the battalion aid station tent--one striking Ernest K. Hansen in the chest as he was holding a plasma bottle over one of our wounded.

Lt Colonel Isley was the most seriously wounded. The battalion was moved to Henri-Chapelle that night--per Isley's orders before he was evacuated. Several of Colonel Skorzeny's men who were captured wearing American uniforms after infiltrating our lines were executed by a firing squad at Henri-Chapelle a few weeks later.

I arrived late at our bivouac area, but the only cover I could find was in the haymow of a barn. I tried to find a spot to spread out, but the space was completely filled with bodies. I did my best to find a bare spot, but after some offered to loosen all my teeth if I didn't quite stepping on him, I crawled back out and shivered in the jeep until dawn. The next morning 3rd Platoon--and possibly all of B Company--returned to our original bivouac area, and we continued working on the AP minefield.

New Year's Day morning was clear and cold. While we were adding the red triangles--indicating a minefield--to the barbed wire fence around the AP minefield, the sky was suddenly filled with 28 ME 109s flying northwest at 1000 feet. "Operation Bodenplatte" was the plan to attack our airfields and destroy our planes on the ground--a continuation of the Bulge. A number of airfields near our front were successfully attacked that day, and several hundred American planes were destroyed on the ground. German losses were only one-third of ours but their losses--and especially their losses of trained pilots--were those that they could ill afford.

Luckily for us, our P47s were rendezvousing near the Liege air-fields for a strike of their own, and they caught these Germans by surprise as they were coming in. It must have been a dog-fight, but we saw only the tail end of the action from our work area. In 20 minutes, as we watched in fascination, four ME-109s were shot out of the sky. The first one fell 1500 yards away, and they kept dropping closer and closer until the last one was only 300 yards from our work party.

The story was almost the same in every case. The 109 pilots, who were flying southeast and very close to the deck heading for home, were being slaughtered by the P47s. Our pilots were definitely more aggressive, and must have had superior training and experience. We didn't see any parts being shot off the 109s, but two were spewing smoke--before they crashed and sent up big black pillars. The third downed plane hit 600 yards away, and several of us headed out to see what we could find of interest, (read Lugers or P-38s!) We had just started off, when another 109 came limping toward us, smoking and losing speed and altitude.

The P-47 kept boring in and firing short machine gun bursts. The 109 was hidden by a group of pine trees when the pilot finally hauled back on the stick in an attempt to gain some altitude to jump. His plane rose only a few hundred feet, coming back into our field of view, and then stalled just as he bailed out. We charged down the hill to the crash site, fully expecting to find a dead pilot near the wreckage, since we were certain that he had lacked sufficient altitude to eject safely.

The pilot could not be found, but the plane was on fire and its magnesium castings were burning brightly. We poked around in the wreckage until

(Continued)

THE BULGE

(Continuation)

the machine gun and cannon shells began to cook off and then made our made exodus. We searched the surrounding area and finally found the pilot's chute in a pine tree 100 yards back in the direction from which we had come. Landing in the tree surely saved him from severe injuries or death. He had slipped his chute and hid until we passed, and then backtracked in our trail in the snow. We followed his tracks, but lost them at dusk in the area where the snow had been heavily trampled.

After escaping death in such a remarkable exit by parachute, we were saddened the next morning to find the young pilot dead within our AP minefield. He had crawled through our wire barrier and suffered modest wounds from an anti-personnel mine. We surmised that he believed he would freeze to death before morning, so he killed himself with his 9mm P-38.

The winter of 1944 was one of the coldest in many years, often dropping well below zero degrees Fahrenheit. We slept in pup tents in the snow and motored about in our Jeeps with the windshields folded down to be out of the way in case of an ambush or a firefight and slithered around in the snow in lose foot-freezing GI leather boots.

Our battalion had few medical problems during this period, although some, who failed to change their socks frequently contracted trench foot (but none were from the 3rd platoon). Our armies lost many man/days to this malady during the Bulge. It was easily prevented by keeping spare woolen socks ducked in one's pants. Body heat dried them out and they could then be swapped several times a day--meanwhile, giving the feet and toes an energetic massage. Infantrymen, occupying foxholes out in the open and underfire, did not always have that option and so suffered many cases of trenchfoot. Dr. Stanley Goodman treated several combat exhaustion cases with sedatives and rest--followed by several days of heavy labor. Having all of this happen within the sounds of artillery and other battle noises near the front apparently did the trick.

A group of B Company men built a cardboard warming shack with a diesel drum stove in the center. When one man tried to force his way in near the stove in an already full shack, he was unable to do so, and no one offered to swap places. Not deterred, he yelled, "I'll show you sons of bitches," and threw a full clip of M-1 ammo into the fire. The mad scramble for the doorway almost completely demolished the shack--after which the perpetrator was run down and pounded.

We must have been a bit odoriferous as we barely had an opportunity to shower. "Whore baths"--water heated in helmets over an open fire was our only option for washing faces, ears, neck, underarms, crotch and feet--in that order. Our helmets then took on a dingy hue. We were usually able to shave daily--often in cold water--but our razors were not the sharpest ones on the planet. I often fantasized about luxuriating in a tub of steaming hot water followed by a professional barber's shave. When the opportunity later arose for a German barber to do the job, I had to mentally restrain myself to keep from bolting from his chair when I realized how close to my throat his straight-edge razor was operating.

Surprisingly, although we were often half frozen from riding in jeeps--with the windshield down--or from sloshing about in the snow, few of us were ever sick with colds or flu. After most of the Bulge fighting was over and the weather had improved, we were issued insulated shoe pacs in lieu of those foot-freezing GI leather boots. *Citizen Soldiers* by Stephen Ambrose noted that

the American commanders gambled that the war would be over before we needed shoe pacs--in retrospect an error in judgment but C'est la Guerre--you can't win 'em all!■

NOMINATIONS FOR 2010 VBOB EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Nominating Committee, after considering all recommendations for consideration submitted and received hereby announce the recommendations of the Nominating Committee for officers to serve on the Executive Council for the 2010 year, 16 December 2009 – 15 December 2010.

President: Demetri Paris
9th Armored Division

Executive Vice-President: Ralph Bozorth
Associate Member

Vice-President, Membership: Wayne Field
6th Armored Division, 86th Recon, Chapter Pres

Vice-President, Chapters: Thomas R. Chambers
9th Armored Division

Vice-President, Military Affairs: Alfred H. M. Shehab
38th Cavalry Squadron

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: J. David Bailey
106th Infantry Division

Trustee, Three Year Term: Madeleine Bryant
Associate Member

Trustee, Three Year Term: Doris Davis
Associate Member, Golden Gate Chapter President

Trustee, Two Year Term: Stewart G. Piper
26th Infantry Division

Trustee, Two Year Term: Bert Rice
Associate Member

Trustee, Two Year Term: John R. Schaffner
106th Infantry Division, Chapter Pres MD/DC

Trustee, One Year Term: Michael A. Rizzo
28th Infantry Division

Trustee, One Year Term: Robert Rhodes
Associate Member

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

Past Presidents are automatically Executive Council Members.
The above nominees have been unanimously approved by the Nominating Committee, John D. Bowen, Ralph Bozorth, George Chekan, Louis Cunningham, Alfred H.M. Shehab. Bios will be provided at the Membership Meeting in the Book of Reports, Oct 2009. Respectfully submitted, John D. Bowen Chairman

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, INC.
THE HOTEL ARIZONA AT THE TUCSON CONVENTION CENTER
TUCSON, ARIZONA
OCTOBER 6-11, 2009

REUNION PROGRAM

Tuesday, October 6, 2009

- 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm Registration headquarters, The Hotel Arizona
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm Margarita, chips & salsa reception. (compliments of the Hotel AZ)
Hospitality room will be open
Dinner on your own. The hotel has a great restaurant.

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

- 12 noon – 5:00 pm Registration headquarters The Hotel Arizona
10:00 am Memorial Wreath Laying in Presidio Park. An easy walk from the hotel including wheelchairs.
Spend the afternoon visiting shops on Convention Plaza or rest.
Lunch on your own.

Wednesday Night, October 7, 2009

- 5:30 pm – 10:00 pm Bus departs for Gaslight Theater. Board the bus after the show.
Dinner on your own before or at the theater

Thursday, October 8, 2009

- 9:00 am – 3:00 pm Bus departs for The Pima Air and Space Museum and the AMARG. Tour both facilities. Return to hotel about 3:00 pm.
Lunch on your own at Sweet Tomatoes. Dinner on your own.

Friday, October 9, 2009

- 10:00 am – 3:00 pm Bus departs for the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum Tour. Return to the hotel about 3:00 pm. Lunch on your own at museum 4 cafes.
6:30 pm – 9:30 pm Mexican Fiesta buffet dinner with Mariachi's and dancers.

Saturday, October 10, 2009

- Free time and enjoy Tucson Meet Yourself. Lunch on your own.
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm General membership meeting.
6:00pm – 7:00 pm Reception (cash bar)
7:00 pm Annual Banquet - Reenactors Color Guard

Sunday, October 11, 2009

- 7:30 am Farewell Breakfast
Hospitality Room: Location and times will be posted in the registration room.

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: _____ Departure time: _____

	People	Cost per Person	Total Cost
Registration Fee (all attendees must register)	_____	\$20	\$ _____
Tuesday, October 6, 2009 Margarita, chips and salsa reception (compliments of hotel) Dinner on your own	_____	Free	
Wednesday, October 7, 2009 Memorial Wreath Laying – lunch on your own Bus to Gaslight Theater – dinner on your own	_____	\$30	\$ _____
Thursday, October 8, 2009 Pima Air Museum and AMARC - lunch on your own Dinner on your own	_____	\$45	\$ _____
Friday, October 9, 2009 Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum – lunch on your own Mexican Fiesta (catered by Hotel)	_____ _____	\$30 \$30	\$ _____ \$ _____
Saturday, October 10, 2009 Visit "Tucson Meet Yourself" (food fair in Presidio Park) General Membership Meeting Reception (cash bar) Banquet (indicate preference)	_____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Prime Rib <input type="checkbox"/> Salmon	_____	\$40	\$ _____
Sunday, October 11, 2009 Farewell Breakfast	_____	Free	
Total amount enclosed (all taxes and gratuities included) See Highlights and Schedule Information Sheet for details			\$ _____

Mail registration form and check to:

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, PO Box 101418, Arlington, VA 22210-4418

REGISTRATION FORM DEADLINE - SEPTEMBER 14, 2009

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

**DISCOVER TUCSON AND THE SOUTHWEST
VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE 28TH ANNUAL REUNION
HOSTED BY SOUTHERN ARIZONA CHAPTER LIII
OCTOBER 6-11, 2009**

**TUCSON REUNION HIGHLIGHTS AND
SCHEDULE INFORMATION**

INTRODUCTION

We are planning to have people from the Southern Arizona VBOB Chapter LIII, Tucson, and from the Arizona Chapter XXVI, Phoenix, assist people at the airports 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 Hotel Arizona at The Tucson Convention Center to continue with the 65th 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, OCTOBER 6, 2009

Welcome Margarita, chips & salsa reception,
(6:30 – 7:30) Compliments of The Hotel Arizona.
Dinner on your own. Hotel has an excellent restaurant.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2009

Memorial Laying of the Wreath at the Southern Arizona Chapter LIII Monument in Presidio Park with Army band from Fort Huachuca and color guard. An easy walk from the hotel. Lunch on your own. Visit Convention Plaza shops and hospitality room.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT, OCTOBER 7, 2009

Enjoy a great evening at the Gaslight Theater. Thrill to foot stomping musical comedy, melodrama with honky-tonk piano. Cheer the hero and boo the villain. The show is "The Legend of Cronan the Barbarian" or "Take My Sword For It". Enjoy mountains of free popcorn with the show. Dinner on your own or at the theater, which features pizza, sandwiches, beer, wine, soft drinks, etc.

The Bulge Bugle – May 2009

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2009

Explore aviation history at The Pima Air and Space Museum and the Aircraft Maintenance & Regeneration Group (AMARG) More than 260 aircraft are on display including all WWII planes, JFK's Air Force One, X-15, SR-71 and more. Some are in hangers but the majority are an outdoor exhibit. The AMARC on the grounds of the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base contains over 6,000 "mothballed" planes. Lunch at Sweet Tomatoes on your own and dinner on your own.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2009

Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum exhibits the living, outdoor world of nature found in the Sonoran Desert region. More than 200 different living animals and 500 kinds of plants are on display in naturalistic settings. This region has more species of hummingbirds than anywhere in the United States. This will be an unforgettable experience. Lunch at your own, 4 different eateries on the grounds.

FRIDAY NIGHT, OCTOBER 9, 2009

A Mexican Fiesta in the hotel banquet room. A full Mexican Buffet and entertainment by the Mariachi Azlan de Pueblo High School. There are 12-15 students who will knock your socks off with their excellent Mariachi music in full costume. They have played around the world and also with the Tucson Philharmonic Orchestra. Beautiful dancers included.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2009

Tucson Meet Yourself. A once a year event and it takes place during our reunion. Wander through hundreds of ethnic foods from Vietnamese fish dishes to Columbian empanadas. Five stages filled with traditional dances and song. This takes place in Presidio Park and back of the hotel in the Community Center.

General Membership Meeting (2:00-4:00 PM)
Location will be posted in the lobby.
Reception (6:00 PM) Cash bar.
Annual Battle of the Bulge Military Banquet (7:00 PM)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2009

Farewell Breakfast (7:30 AM) Say farewell to all.

The Hotel Arizona at the Tucson Convention Center

181 West Broadway – Tucson, Arizona 85701

Tel. 520-624-8711 – Fax 520-622-8143

Toll free – 1-800-845-4596

www.thehotelarizona.com

WELCOME

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

October 6-11, 2009

HOTEL INFORMATION

The hotel is offering a three-day window before and after the reunion dates at a rate of **\$101.00** per night, single or double occupancy. This rate includes all taxes, a full American breakfast, and free covered parking.

When calling in to make your reservation use either the hotel phone number or their toll free number and say you are with the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge group. We suggest you guarantee your reservation with a charge card.

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 21nd will be confirmed on a space available basis.

Check-in time is 3:00 PM and checkout is 12:00 noon.

Complimentary shuttle service to and from Tucson International Airport

Hotel amenities: Complimentary shuttle service within a 5 miles radius of the hotel based upon availability. Large heated outdoor pool, full service restaurant and lounge, gift shop, secured and covered parking.

Sleeping room amenities: Coffee maker, hair dryer, iron and ironing board, FREE high speed internet, TV.

DIRECTIONS TO THE HOTEL

FROM SKY HARBOR AIRPORT, PHOENIX: We recommend you take the Tucson-Phoenix Shuttle to Tucson. Fare is approximately \$65, round trip.

FROM EAST OR WEST: Exit I-10 (exit #258) on Congress Street. Turn east on Congress St. about one block to Granada Ave. The Hotel Arizona is on your right

FROM TUCSON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT: (about 9 miles) Exiting the airport parking lot you are on Tucson Blvd. Continue on Tucson Blvd. (north) to Valencia Road (about one mile). Turn left (west) and go about ½ mile on Valencia to Campbell Ave. Turn right (north) on Campbell and go about 6 miles to Broadway Blvd. (NOTE: Campbell changes name to Kino Blvd. about half way to Broadway.) Turn left (west) for about 2 miles on Broadway (which becomes Congress). You can either turn left at the median break to the Hotel or do a U-turn left at the light at Granada Ave. and the Hotel will be immediately on your right.

9TH ARMORED DIVISION FOUGHT GERMAN ARMIES

by Demetri Paris
14th Tank Battalion
9th Armored Division

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 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 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 advances 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 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

On 9 December, 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 better were:

- CCB fought in the north to 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.

PUD 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. The other two combat commands were denied the PUC because of the lack of records of their combat action caused by the secret classification. However, when the cold war ended, the German records were obtained and submitted to the Awards Branch. As a result, CCB and CCA were awarded their PUC 50 years after their Bulge combat action. ■

TWO GERMAN REPORTS ON GROSSENGELFELD

From Ralf Anton Schafer

[Excerpts] As a German historian I have been researching the history of the 62nd Volksgrenadier Division for a number of years. In 1997 I started collecting information regarding this division--the division came from Silesia, an eastern part of Germany which is now in Poland. The 62nd Volksgrenadier Division was one of the infantry divisions of the 5th Panzerarmee in the Battle of the Bulge. The opposing forces during the first days were units of the 106th "Golden Lions" Division.

Over the years, I have collected stories from the survivors of both sides and now I have one account that pays respect to you and your men of the 106th Reconnaissance. It's the German perspective of the hard days in and around Grossengelfeld in December 1944. I will enclose a copy of the report of Lt Gerhard Wurm, who was at that time platoon leader in 3rd Company of the 164th Grenadier Regiment of the 62nd VGD.

I can confirm that your men never disintegrated in Grossengelfeld! The 106th Recon was under hour-long, heavy artillery fire when the ground attacks started. The official history of the 62nd VGD states the following:

16th December: Enemy machine gun and rifle starts fast fire, by a war inexperienced division (the 106th) was to expect with tough resistance.

16th December: progress report for the early morning, 190th Regiment took the wooded hilltop south of Grossengelfeld and could temporarily penetrate Grossengelfeld. The edge of the forest northwest Eigelscheid was reached.

16th December, 7:00 o'clock: Regiment 190th reported to division staff, that the forest edge at Eigelscheid was reached and the resistance in the area was decreased, Grenadier Regiment 164 received orders to move on...they run into already [sic] by 190th overrun field fortifications at and west of Weissenhof and in the forest lengthwise the road leading to Winterspelt and received new enemy resistance, which first must be broken...minefields and barbed-wire entanglements at Grossengelfeld and Heckhuscheid, hold back for days.

16th December, concept of the enemy: In Grossengelfeld stands a reconnaissance unit, at Winterspelt and in Heckhuscheid very strong resistance, particularly tanks in Winterspelt.

16th December, progress report for the night: 190th Regiment without one amplified company, which stand at Grossengelfeld, took high ground north of Winterspelt and the height northeast of Ihren.

The 164th reached Wallmerath, where an enemy command post could be occupied. In Winterspelt the enemy was pushed into the west part of town, furthermore on Hackhalenfeld. He defends oneself ever brave.

December 17th, concept of the enemy: At Grossengelfeld the resistance slows down. The enemy in from of 190 and 164 must be worn down by artillery and heavy infantry weapons before he withdraws. In western part of Winterspelt still opponent, who disturbs reinforcements. Heckhuscheid is still enemy territory.

December 18th, concept of the enemy: Enemy in Grossengelfeld has withdrawn.

Lt Wurm says about the battle at Grossengelfeld the following:

"In conversation with other comrades of the division, I learned years after the war, that our company was up to 90% destroyed and was sent to break the toughest resistance, faced the hardest fighting in the battalion's area. The defenders of the town were outnumbered and already shattered by our artillery fire. Nevertheless, they fought bitterly and held out beating back the attack of two full companies. To these American soldiers I can only pay my fullest respect."

The strength of an infantry company in a VGD was 119. Both companies in the ambush on Grossengelfeld were amplified with one rifle platoon, each count 33 men. This count up to 301 attacking soldiers against 149 men in Grossengelfeld from the 106th Recon. Additionally, must be mentioned, that Juttner's regiment, the 164th Grenadier Regiment, consists of the most experienced soldiers in the 62nd VGD, because his regiment was planned from the rebuilt in Neuhammer as an attacking unit in the division. It needs no further comments how hard you and your men (the 106th) must have to fight during those two days without any supporting units, lost connections to the neighbors and surrounded by the enemy.

[Ralf is interested in hearing from anyone who can provide further information regarding this action. If you can provide, please contact him at: Birkener Strasse 21; 51597 Morbach; Stockshohe; Germany.]

From Lt Gerhard Wurm

[Excerpts] December 1944

We transfer to the Eifel, not to the East as expected. This is good for the morale of the men. Around the 10th of December we reached our new operational area southeast of Prüm. In a barn in Rommersheim we take shelter. We have it so much better than the comrades, who have to dig in in the local forests. Movements during these days are strictly forbidden and receive hard punishment. All conspicuous movement is to be avoided. In view of the enormous troop concentration, we are all thinking of what is to come next. A big offensive is about to take place. This offensive should break through the American lines.

From 14th of December on the division and other units in the vicinity moves to the nearby front line. Small groups of at most five men move out by foot. Larger formations advance at night. Our way leads us through Oberlauch (forest in the vicinity of Pronseld-Watzerath) where we become "invisible." Much of what had to be done outdoors is now done in the evening or in the early morning. We were told: Tomorrow morning we advance on France!

The 15th, 16th December moves closer. These are days we soldiers will never forget, can never forget. We spend the night full of uncertainty in the local church. At 4:00 o'clock we wake up and a quarter hour later we fall out ready for battle. The men stand in front of houses and on the town square, all streets are blocked and men of all the branches of the army can be seen. It is as if it were an anthill, everyone is waiting for the decisive order. Everyone was equipped to break out. In the meantime, we ate and checked our weapons.

At approximately 4:30 the regimental commander gave us our orders. A few minutes later the fireworks began. Our artillery tore the silence of the night with loud salvos. An enormous reign of fire fell on the American lines. Searchlights lit up the night and illuminated the paths of

(Continued)

GROSSLANGENFELD

(Continuation)

the attacking grenadiers. With the course of time, the opposing fire became stronger. We were waiting for our orders to attack, which we received later. Only isolated American artillery fire goes up, to which we hardly take notice.

At around 7:00 o'clock we also join the advance. Our objective is St. Vith. In order to take the town as soon as possible, Regiments 183 and 190 are to clear a path and break through the front lines. We are then to pour through the gap and advance on St. Vith. Just after moving through Habscheid we received heavy fire for the first time and the battalion gets ever more spread out and had difficulty achieving the targets for the first day. Since we received heavy fire from the north by Grosslangenfeld, a reinforced company received orders to support the regiment, which is there already fighting. Because we are next in line, we hit draw--the short straw.

Along the road from Eigelscheid we pushed in a northerly direction toward Grosslangenfeld and received such heavy fire from 37 mm cannon, mortars, and light and heavy infantry weapons, that we withdrew into the forest on the right river bed to the left. At the same time, the Americans were attacked from the west by parts of Regiment 190, which stood on the tree covered Hill 508. A courier from the neighboring company sent orders to coordinate the next attack, which now should start at the same time in order to deny the Americans the possibility of a concentrated defense of their positions and force them to surrender. Our company should start the attack and five minutes later, the other company attacked from Hill 508 and is supposed to push into the village.

However, the attack does not go as planned. The resistance is much stronger than we had expected and coordinated very well tactically. The defenders of the town seem to be everywhere and defend against one wave after another. We take heavy losses and there are rumors that our two companies are facing an entire battalion. Until the late evening, it is not possible to penetrate the town and the fight goes relentlessly on until 10:00 o'clock, when an American armored car gets hit by a Panzerfaust and begins to burn. And then "peace" falls over the village, but I do not want to leave my foxhole because every movement draws direct fire and so I hoped to break in the fire, since I would like to take a look at the rest of my platoon. I creep up and down our positions and see a high number of wounded and dead in their foxholes. From my platoon is not much left, only some eight men were still fit for action and most of their ammunition had been used up. Under these circumstances, we await the next morning in icy, cold weather.

Just even with the dawn the attacks resumed. The battle now took on a gruesome form, as now we could see the bodies of our comrades who were killed the day before and during the night, which were strangely frozen, preserved in their death throes by, their blood turn the surrounding snow pink. A few looked like they were only sleeping, but among others, one recognized the hideousness of death immediately.

Just only a line up and short orders. Everyone in the company knew what he has to do...and we attack our old target from the forest again. As soon as I saw the muzzle flash, it was too late. I tried to throw myself into the snow, into the turned up soil, but I got hit in the chest by two .30 caliber rounds. My attempt to crawl back into the forest were foiled due to my fading strength. For me the war was over. I wake up three days later in the hospital at Daun. I entered captivity around the 6th or 7th of

March 1945, after the Americans take the town.

The Ardennes Offensive did not bring the hoped-for success. Apart from me, I have only met one surviving member of my company, Josef Graf, who was captured around noon of December 17th. In conversation with other comrades of the division, I learned years after the war that our company was up to 90% destroyed and was sent to break the down were outnumbered and already shattered by our artillery fire. Nevertheless, they fought bitterly and held out beating back the attack of two full companies. To these American soldier, I can only pay my fullest respect.■

POTTSVILLE MEMORIAL



The above is the project of Frank Madera, 159th EBC, and is in honor of all who served in the armored forces of the United States who lived in Pottsville.

EUROPEAN TRIP PLANNED

79th Infantry Division
Paris to Brussels
Sept 14 - 22, 2009
65th Anniversary Tour
Cost: \$2,359 approx (plus airfare)
Contact: Doris Davis,
President, Golden Gate Chapter
(650) 654-0101 (PST)

Or dordavis@earthlink.net for details as
well as the full itinerary and Registration Form.
Tour Guide: Patrick Hinchy, Expert on WWII Tours

Places included on this Tour will include:

Paris - La Roche Guyon (Marshal Rommel's Normandy HQ)
- Omaha Beach - Normandy American Cemetery - Utah Beach
- Ste. Mère Eglise - Cherbourg - St Lô - Reims (German
Surrender May 8 1945) - Lorraine - Luxembourg -
Luxembourg American Cemetery (General Patton's grave) -
Belgium - Bastogne - Brussels

BOB MONUMENT IN TENNESSEE

On the 80th birthday of **ERNEST TALLENT, 106TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 423RD INFANTRY REGIMENT, 3RD BATTALION, COMPANY H**, his family threw a block party in celebration.

For a few years he had been thinking about the need for a monument for the veterans who participated in the Battle of the Bulge who were from Blount County, Tennessee. That day at the party, family and fellow veterans encouraged Tallent to proceed with his plan for the project.

He formed a small committee which consisted of himself and veterans Charles Tungett, Joe Cunningham, James Burns, John Miller and Charles Staley (Blount County Veterans Service Officer).

Mr. Tallent worked vigorously for five years collecting names from Blount, Knox and Monroe Counties by speaking at various veterans meetings and working with the local veterans office as well as collection donations for payment of the monument and to have the names engraved.



There are 183 names on the monument which is located on the lawn of the Blount County Courthouse in Maryville, Tennessee.

On April 11, 2006, the local Chamber of Commerce Blount Partnership and The French Government Friends from la Manche, France, and The French Embassy in Atlanta, Georgia, presented a ceremony at the monument to the veterans in honor of their service in France. The French dignitaries decorated all the men present with a medal, certificate of the Battle of the Bulge, lapel pin (The Flag of France) and a globe of sand from the beach. Mr. Tallent also presented these items to about 12 family members not present at the ceremony of those veterans, two who were killed in action and others now deceased. ■

FLORIDA SOUTHEAST CHAPTER

The Florida Southeast Chapter held its Spring Meeting in the Grand Ballroom of the Hilton Hotel. It was attended by 196 members and guests.

As in the past, the chapter issued an open invitation to returning soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan as guests of the

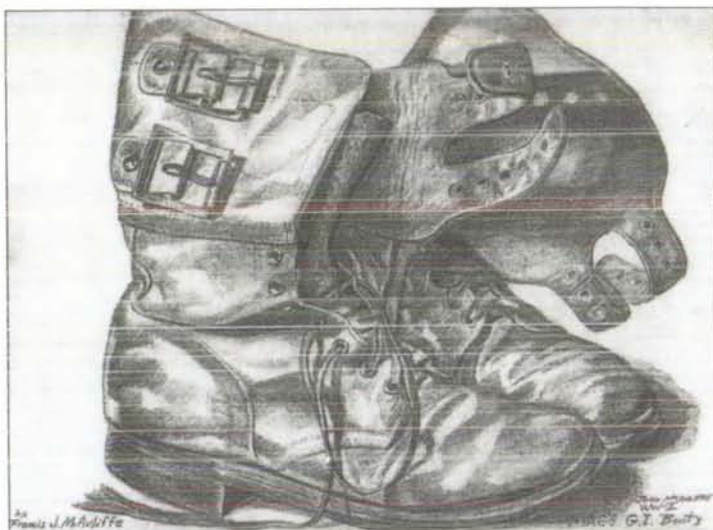
chapter. They were introduced individually and received a standing ovation. ■

FRESNO CHAPTER MEETING

The Fresno Chapter held a special meeting in May of 2009 at the Green Valley Dairy Farm--the home of Dominic and Jackie Mendivil who were their hosts for the second year. ■

THESE BOOTS WERE MADE FOR WALKING...

...and walk they did--through three European Campaigns. They were worn by **JOHN McAULIFFE, 87TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 347TH INFANTRY REGIMENT**. The boots were drawn by John's brother Frank McAuliffe when he applied to the Syracuse University School of Architecture in 1950. ■



ATTENTION ALL ARMORED UNITS

Secretary Will Cook, of the 5th Armored Division, has alerted us to changes at the Fort Knox Museum by furnishing an e-mail from Chris Golden representing the National Armor and Cavalry Museum Association. It states the Armor Center, school and museum are moving to Fort Benning, Georgia, where a new Armor and Cavalry Museum is being built.

He states the armor memorials at Fort Knox will have to be moved because the Patton Museum is being moved to another location on post and will no longer be an Army museum.

The message was not clear as to whether the armor memorials would have to be moved to another location at Fort Knox or to Fort Benning, Georgia.

Golden states the full story is on a temporary website: <http://www.armorcavalrymuseum.org>. Golden's address is: chrisgolden@rcn.com. ■



THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION, INC.

Invites You to Join Your Friends for the

"EVENTS OF REMEMBRANCE AND COMMEMORATION" OF THE 65th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE December 12, 13, 14, 15 16, and 17th Dec 2009 Metropolitan Washington, DC

In commemoration of the 65th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge we have extended the length of the commemoration activities so that those who come from long distances will have an opportunity to partake of more events. 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. 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 slightly. **We have blocked 50 rooms so it is imperative to make hotel reservations immediately.** Parking is Complimentary. This rate is available for any night(s) between December 10 and December 19. For room reservations please call the DoubleTree Reservations (1-800-Hiltons) or 703-416-4100 by **December 1, 2009**. Mention the **BATTLE OF THE BULGE** for the special rate. Some events are presently in negotiations with the government so the right to change or modify based on these negotiation is reserved.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2009

- 2:00 PM – 9:00 PM For those who want to arrive early. Registration (Hospitality Suite), receive name badges, Banquet/bus tickets, and information. (If you are only attending the Banquet, (on the 16th this year) you may pick up your tickets at the DoubleTree by 6:00 PM Dec 16th.)
- 3:00 PM – 10:00 PM Hospitality Room/Exhibits, Books, scrapbooks, memorabilia open everyday. John Bowen & Bob Phillips, BOB Bulge Historians will be the hosts. Marty Feldman will again be in charge of refreshments. Supper will be on your own from 6:30 – 8:00 PM. A time to renew friendships & visit w/old friends.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2009

- 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM Registration open/Receive name badges, Parking Passes, Banquet/bus tickets, HospitalityRoom open.
- 12:30 PM Charter buses depart hotel for Newseum Tour
- 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM We will be visiting the new NEWSEUM in Washington which opened last year. 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. An incredible new Newseum!
- 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM Back by popular demand - Bus tour of Washington Under the Lites. Washington is a beautiful city not only by day but especially at nite with the lites. We will stop at the WWII Memorial with its lights.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2009

- 9:00 – 9:15 AM Load buses and depart promptly at 9:15 AM for a Tour of the White House.
- 10:00 AM Tour of the White House. The home of the President and First Lady is beautiful anytime of the year but it is especially a delight during the Holidays with the exquisite holiday decorations.
- 12:00 - 2:30 PM The buses will depart for Union Station where you may have lunch on your own from the myriad of food places and delicacies and enjoy shopping in the Union Station Mall. Be sure to take in the beauty of this restored train station as well as the traditional Norway train exhibit on the Concourse.
- 2:30 PM Lv Union Station for Return to Hotel
- 5:30 PM Buses depart for Luxembourg Embassy, 2230 Mass Ave NW, for an evening reception by the Luxembourg Ambassador at the beautiful Luxembourg Embassy. This will be a standup reception with finger foods. Business or formal dress is appropriate. Reception will be approximately one to one and a half hour.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2009

- 9:00 – 9:15 AM Load buses for US ARMY Military Review to commemorate the 65th Anniversary of the US Army's largest land Battle ever fought. Event will take place at 10:00 AM at Conmy Hall on Ft Myer hosted by the US Army Chief of Staff.
- 12:00 PM Load buses and proceed to DoubleTree Hotel for Lunch of hot soup, sandwich, beverage and cookies.
- 1:30 – 4:30 PM Load Buses and leave for International Spy Museum Visit Leave Spy Museum Tour at 4:30 PM
- 5:45 PM Buses leave for an evening reception at Belgium Ambassador's Residence, 2300 Foxhall Rd NW. Dress & time similar to Luxembourg Embassy reception.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2009

- 9:00 AM 12:30PM Bus leaves from Hotel for Wreath layings at WWII Memorial 10AM, Tomb of the Unknowns 11AM; Small BOB Memorial 11:30 AM; Large BOB Memorial 12:00 PM Leave for Capitol 12:30 P.
- 1:00 PM Luncheon US Capitol Senate Office Building and Swearing-in of new National VBOB officers
- 2:30 pm Tree Presentation Ceremony US Capitol, Salute to Bulge Veterans and Memorial Service.
- Tour Capitol Visitors Center. Leave US Capitol for Hotel No Later Than 4:30 PM
- 6:00 – 10 PM BANQUET AT THE DOUBLETREE CRYSTAL CITY**
- 6:00 PM Social Hour/Cash Bar. 6:45 PM Seated for Dinner. 7:00 PM Color Guard & Honors
- 7:15 PM Dinner served: Medallions of Beef Tenderloin OR *Chicken Piccata with lemon caper sauce*

Program: Greetings from Dignitaries and Speaker: After Banquet Hospitality Room open.

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.

RESERVATION FORM
"REMEMBRANCE AND COMMEMORATION"
OF THE 65th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE
December 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17, 2009 Metropolitan Washington, DC

Return form and check by **December 1, 2009** 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/Guests: _____ ; _____ ; _____

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

Battle of Bulge Unit You Served With: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

<u>RESERVATIONS:</u>	<u>Number Attending</u>	<u>Cost/Person</u>	<u>Total</u>
Registration Fee: Provides for Badges, Programs, Hospitality, etc.	X	\$20.00	\$ _____

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2009

Chartered Bus: Afternoon & Evening bus transportation	X	\$35.00	\$ _____
Afternoon only _____ Evening Only _____	X	\$17.50	\$ _____
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM: NEWSEUM Tour	X	\$16.00 age 19 >	\$ _____
	X	\$11.00 age 18 <	\$ _____
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Bus Tour Wash Under Lites	X	\$3.00 Guide Fee	\$ _____

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2009

Chartered Bus: All Day & Evening Bus Transportation	X	\$35.00	\$ _____
Evening Transportation Only to Embassy	X	\$17.50	\$ _____
Tour of White House	X	FREE	
UNION STATION Lunch on Own & Shop	X	FREE	
Embassy of Luxembourg Reception Evening	X	FREE	

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2009

Chartered Bus: All Day & Evening Bus Transportation	X	\$35.00	\$ _____
Evening Transportation Only to Embassy	X	\$17.50	\$ _____
US Army Chief of Staff Review Ft Myers 10AM	X	FREE	
Lunch at DoubleTree 12:00 Noon	X	\$28.00	\$ _____
Spy Museum Tour 2 - 5 PM	X	\$15.00 (65+)	\$ _____
	X	\$18.00 (12-64)	\$ _____
	X	\$13.00 (5-11)	\$ _____
Belgium Ambassador Residence Reception Evening	X	FREE	

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2009:

Chartered bus Transportation All Day	X	\$35.00	\$ _____
11:00 AM Ceremonies: Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers and VBOB Monuments,		***** No. Attending: _____	
12:30 PM Bus to US Capitol			
1:00 PM VBOB Luncheon US Capitol Senate Ofc Bldg	X	\$28.00	\$ _____
2:30 PM Tree Presentation, Bulge Vets Tribute, Capitol Visitor's Center,		No. Attending: _____	

Commemorative Banquet, DoubleTree Hotel Crystal City	X	\$65.00	\$ _____
6:00 PM - 10:00 PM <u>Note: Only 225 Place Settings available, Please register early.</u>			

Please make your Main Course selection(s):

- ☐ Medallions of beef tenderloin _____ (Names) _____
☐ Chicken Piccata with lemon caper sauce _____ (Names) _____
☐ Diabetic Meal _____ (Names) _____

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: _____

GRAND TOTAL (Enclose check made out to BoBHF 2009 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, 2009 (Telephone (1-800-Hiltons) Block of 50.
 Return completed Reservation Form for events to BOB Historical Foundation ASAP but no later than 1 December 2009.
 Banquet setting is limited to 225 so please get reservations in early. No cancellation refunds after December 8, 2009.
 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

08/04/09

THE 740TH TANK BATTALION IN THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

[The following excerpts are from an article which appeared in the 704th Tank Battalion Association newsletter and on the internet. It was written by Alex McCrae, The Times Herald of Cowetta County, Georgia. We have excerpted the portion leading up to and dealing with the Battle of the Bulge.]

The morning fog had reduced visibility to near zero as the M-4 Sherman tank commanded by Cecil Taylor (HQ&B) crossed the Rhine River on a shaky pontoon bridge near Siegen, Germany. Taylor was part of the 740th Tank Battalion. The unit had been in battle constantly since arriving in France months earlier. Veteran commanders like Taylor knew bridge crossings were dangerous--especially when German 88mm artillery pieces were in range.

As Taylor's tank reached the far side of the river, the visibility was so bad he had no choice but to stick his head out of the tank's turret to get his bearings. "They trained us to stay buttoned up," Taylor says, "but I had to find out where we were, and there was no other way to do it." Almost as soon as Taylor's head appeared, a German artillery shell exploded sending shrapnel through Taylor's face and neck. "I was bleeding like a stuck hog," Taylor says. "I couldn't see a thing, but I stayed conscious and tried to keep going." When a medic arrived to tend the wounds, he urged Taylor to leave the area for better treatment.

Taylor said no. "There were no replacements, and I wasn't about to leave my crew out there by themselves," he says. "They cleaned me up and taped me up, and in an hour we were rolling again." Taylor was shaky for a while, but the next day, the tanks gunner, who sat directly beneath Taylor, decided to lighten the mood. "He said, 'Sarge, the next time you get shot, I wish you'd keep your head outside, because you bled all over me,'" Taylor says, "We had a good laugh and then got back to business."

...in 1942, [Taylor] went to Fort Sill, Oklahoma to join the Army. He reported to Fort Knox, Kentucky, in March 1943. Taylor trained as a tank commander. Each tank had a five-man crew consisting of a driver, assistant driver, gunner, loader, and tank commander. During training, Taylor was tapped as tank commander and rose to the rank of sergeant. "The company commander gave us the orders for what we were supposed to do before every battle," Taylor says. "But once you got out there, you were pretty much on your own. You had to be able to think on your feet."

Taylor was a member of the 740th Tank Battalion, a specialized unit which was assigned to different infantry divisions whenever extra armored support was needed. Because the 740th was not permanently attached to a division, it was known as a "bastard battalion."

After training at Fort Knox, the 740th traveled to Bouse, Arizona, just outside Phoenix, for months of specialized training. The 740th returned to Fort Knox in April 1944. In July, it sailed for England and continued to train until October 1944, when the 740th crossed the English Channel and entered France.

The battalion traveled through Paris and passed through several French towns on the way to Neufchateau, Belgium, where they prepared men and equipment for the battles ahead.

On December 16, the call to action arrived when a huge

German force pushed deep into Belgium on the first day of the Battle of the Bulge.

The 740th headed for the ordnance depot at Sprimont, Belgium and, after spending the night taking on fuel and arms, rolled for the Ambleve Valley, where the unit faced enemy fire for the first time.

On 19 December, 1944, the 740th encountered one of Germany's toughest tank units, the 1st SS Panzer Division. By then, every American soldier was aware of the 1st SS Panzer Division--and not just because of its battlefield reputation. The 1st SS Panzer Division was also notorious for executing more than 80 captured American soldiers at the town of Malmedy. Americans knew about the "Malmedy Massacre" and the 740th was ready for some revenge. "We all knew what had happened at Malmedy and we were fighting mad," Taylor says. "We hadn't been in battle before, but we went after them with all we had." Taylor said the first enemy encounter was an eye opener. "At first we were all scared as hell," he says. "But you got hard-hearted pretty quick. Especially when you started seeing your friends get killed."

Once the battle began, the vaunted 1st SS Panzer Division was no match for the 740th, and began to retreat. Taylor's unit chased the Germans for miles until the crippled 1st Panzer Division escaped. No one in the 740th was killed in that initial action, but the unit lost six tanks and had 10 wounded. Just a few days later, things got worse when a tank was taken out and three men wounded by an American pilot who mistook his troops for Germans.

The 740th moved on to Spa, Belgium, and joined with the 82nd Airborne Division. For weeks the fighting was fierce and the weather was worse, as northern Europe was gripped by record-breaking cold. Infantrymen hitched rides on tanks when the snow was too deep to walk in. Inside the tank, things were not much better. The tank's head was supplied by the engine, but the engine sucked cold air through the tank for combustion--negating most of the engine's potential heat. "Usually it was too cold to sleep," Taylor says. "All we could do was curl up in the tank like dogs. You even learned to sleep standing up."

The American Sherman tanks had enough firepower and maneuverability to go toe-to-toe with smaller German tanks. But Taylor says they were completely outmatched by the German massive Tiger tanks, heavily-armored monsters armed with the feared 88 mm guns. Taylor says there was only one way to take on a Tiger.

"First of all, you hoped you saw it first," he says. "If you come around a corner and ran into one of those things, you were in trouble. We had to attack the Tigers in a group. One tank would knock off the tracks to make it immobile, and then others would take it on and tear it up. We were more maneuverable so once we got moving they couldn't keep up, but you couldn't go one-on-one with them."

On one occasion, Taylor's worst nightmare came true when he rounded a bend in the road and found himself staring straight at a Tiger tank. Luckily, the Tiger's gun turned the other way and before Taylor had time to give the order, his gunner blew out the Tiger's tracks. Moments later, another American tank joined the attack. "We did what we could, but if that other tank hadn't showed up, I wouldn't be here today," Taylor says.

When the BoB ended late January, 1945, so many tanks had been destroyed, the 740th was at half strength. ■

MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

Shirley Brown is hoping someone can provide her with or tell her where she can obtain the special stamp in honor of the troops marching into Paris. Let Shirley know at 8324 Scottingham Dr, Richmond, VA 23236-2674. *[We tried three post offices in Arlington, VA, with no luck. Hope your luckier than I was.]*

Associate Member Pete Weisenberger is looking for information on his uncle, **CHARLES A. WEISENBERGER, 80TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 317TH INFANTRY REGIMENT.** Charles was killed in action January 21, 1945, and is buried at Henri-Chapelle Cemetery. If you can help write to Pete at: PO Box 570, Flora, Mississippi 39071-0570.

Charla Cziraky is trying to put together her father's service. He passed away in 1953 when she was only two years. Here is the information she has: **CHARLIE LA SCOLA, 146TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION.** He was from Pittsburg. If you can help write to Charla at: 614 Magellan Drive, Sarasota, Florida 34243.

CHARLES R. HICKS, 52ND MEDICAL BATTALION (attached to the **44TH INFANTRY DIVISION**) would like to find any information on his unit. Write to Charles at: PO Box 162, Mashpee, Massachusetts 02649.

MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Clyde Boden, the founder of VBOB, along with the founding members had the vision of how to perpetuate the VBOB organization, aware that the associate members would be invaluable if the legacy of the veterans is to be preserved. They developed an organization devoid of military titles and established that all members, both Veterans and Associates would have all the same rights and privileges except to be called a regular member, which is reserved only for members that fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

Today we have over 750 associate members, some of whom over the years, have made significant contributions to the organization and in addition serve in such capacities as chapter president, chapter vice president, members on the executive council, etc.

Stuck in the Mud!

American soldiers struggle to reposition their 57mm M1 anti-tank gun in a forward area on the German - Belgium border, in order to try to stem the German offensive, December 1944./ US Army



LEGION OF HONOR

PRESENTED... to Virgil Villa, Company D, 312 Medical Battalion, 87th Infantry Division.



Retired Navy Captain Morris Steen, right, presented the medal to Villa during the county commission on April 7th.

The Legion of Honor, was first given by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, and is one of the oldest military medals awarded by the French Republic. Villa received a standing ovation. "America thanks you," Chairman Rudolph Parker said. ■

Despite this, a few VBOB members are proposing, "Only veterans should be officers of the organization".

The chapters that had the foresight to utilize the dedication and the energy of the associate members in leadership roles are reaping the benefits and are the strongest Chapters in the Association. This is exactly what the organization plans to continue to encourage and support in order to ensure the legacy of VBOB will be perpetuated so that future generations will continue to learn about the valiant men and women who served in the Battle of the Bulge.

Failure to allow associate members to continue to assist in the guidance and leadership of VBOB at this time will without a doubt result in the demise of VBOB.

WE WILL NOT ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN!

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 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

DONATIONS

We are indeed grateful and wish to thank those who have sent a contribution in response to the article about Donations in the February Bulge Bugle. We were overwhelmed with the response and the size of some of the donations. With the many deaths of our VBOB members our dues revenue has declined accordingly and these donations are a big help. We are especially appreciative of the following members for their contribution as of 24 Jul 2009:

George R. Allin, Jr.	Arlington VA	35 InfD Hq
Robert Bass	Walnut IL	243 Engr Cmbt Bn
J. David Bailey	Alexandria VA	106 InfD 422 Inf F
Thomas M. Bardolf	Danbury CT	Assoc Son 751 FA Bn
Kenneth S. Beck, Sr.	Richmond VA	957 FA Bn Svc
George Berlin	Lawrence KS	75 InfD 291 Inf 2 Bn
William Bishop	Solvay NY	299 Engr Cmbt Bn
John D. Bowen	Silver Spring MD	Assoc. 31 InfD 167 Inf
Mary Ann D. Bowen	Silver Spring MD	Assoc. WAC Corps
Malcolm Bownes	Plymouth NH	26 InfD 101 Inf
Frederick M. Boyce	Wilton ME	28 InfD 342 Engr Cmbt
Ralph Bozorth	Plymouth Mtg PA	Associate
Margaret K. Bozorth	Plymouth Mtg PA	Associate
Lawrence W. Brunger	Denver CO	Associate
Kenneth G. Bush	Nashville TN	2 InfD 23 Inf 2 Bn Med
Stanley Caplan	Gambrills MD	99 InfD 393 Inf Hq 3d
Truman W. Christian	Camp Hill PA	106 InfD 424 Inf D
Ralph L. Ciullo	Middle Island NY	84 InfD 333 Inf K
Kenneth Compton	Corunna MI	76 InfD 417 Inf B
Charles Corrigan	Olympia WA	106 InfD 591 FA Bn
Allan Cramer	Shrewsbury MA	11 ArmD 21 AIB A
John Dibble, Jr.	Satellite Bch FL	705 TD Bn 7 TD Grp
John DiMino	Norristown PA	13 th MRU (M)
James H. Duncan, Sr.	Santa Fe NM	38 InfD 2BF
Donald Edwards	Sarasota FL	84 InfD 335 Inf 2 Bn E
Peter Fiorella	Staten Island NY	84 InfD 334 Inf SVC
Frederick Fischer	St. Louis MO	188 FA Bn Hq
Earl Fort	Cornelius OR	97 InfD 387 Inf I
Wallace E. Frank	Mapleton MN	419 AFA Bn
Daniel C. Funk	Washington DC	28 InfD 728 Ord
Everett Geske	St. Paul MN	188 FA Bn Hq
Vincent A. Gish	W. Covina CA	6 ArmD 25 ArmD Egr
Henry Gordo	Patchogue NY	385 Engr Cmbt Bn C
James Graff	Middletown IL	35 InfD 135 Inf C
Edward G. Green, Jr.	West Palm Beach FL	2 InfD 9 Inf AT
John L. Hilden	Boonville MO	7 ArmD 38 AIB C
Russell D. Hoff	Warrington PA	106 InfD 422 Inf M
Russell Houtz	Williamstown PA	200 FA Bn
Robert B. Howard	Peace Dale RI	99 InfD 799 Ord
Dewitt Huckabee	Camden SC	516 PIR
Dr. James W. Hunt	Columbus MS	1 InfD 18 Inf K
Robert L. Jackson	Buchanan MI	28 InfD 109 Inf F
Lee F. Johnson	Universal City TX	99 InfD 395 Inf K
Edward Kankosky	Shelbyville DE	30 InfD 117 Inf 2 Bn E
Leo Keebler	Pine City NY	5 ArmD 387 AAA Bn
Wayne E. Kennedy	New Galilee PA	90 InfD 357 Inf I
William S. Kime	Fairmont WV	75 InfD 290 Inf
Richard E. Knupp	Lima OH	71 RCT 756 FA Bn Hq
Carl W. Kuhn	Paterson NJ	588 Engr Lt Ponton Co
Athanace Landry Jr.	No. Beach SC	776 FA Bn

A. B. Littlefield	Booneville AR	106 InfD 424 Inf
Arthur Loukas	Houston TX	83 InfD 330 Inf F
Charlotte Loukas	Houston TX	Assoc 83 rd InfD 330
Carroll Lund	Delancy MN	75 InfD 291 Inf E
Edmond P. Magner	E Greenwich RI	75 InfD 290 Inf C
Edward Martincak	Lorain OH	11 ArmD 55 AIB B
James O. Mc Kinley	Perry GA	35 InfD 320 Inf H
William McKinzie	Lincoln NE	561 FA Bn
Armando Mercado	Hayward CA	26 InfD 101 Inf C
Mayroe E. Michael	Montpelier OH	264 FA Bn
John R. Milroy	Alpena MI	94 InfD 376 Inf L
Rudolph Mohr	Savannah GA	9 ArmD HQ
William E. Myers	Danville KY	78 InfD 309 Inf H
Alvin K. Nelson	Kenosha WI	87 InfD 347 Inf C
Leo F. Nencini	Quartzside AZ	87 InfD 346 Inf 3Bn
Frank Patullo	Nazareth PA	30 InfD 117 Inf 2 Bn F
James C. Pendleton	Madison IN	30 InfD 119 Inf Hq 3d
Leslie Pocs	Almo NM	28 InfD 110 Inf 2 Bn
James M. Power	Memphis TN	11 ArmD 55 AIB C
Gerald Puff	Butler PA	Associate
David M. Orlosky	Waterford CT	Associate Son 75 InfD
Jack E. Reyome	Phoenix AZ	771 FA Bn
Richard V. Rheinberger	Narragansett RI	Assoc. Son 17 AbnD
Robert Rhynsbarger	Arlington VA	75 InfD 290 Inf M
Richard Rizzio	Interlochen MI	274 FA Bn
Thor Ronningen	Wilmington, NC	99 InfD 290 Inf I
Earl L. Rowan, Sr.	California PA	191 Tk Bn
Fred R. Rose	Cincinnati OH	28 InfD 112 Inf I
David Saltman	Wantagh NY	638 TD Bn
Chester Sebastianelli	Archbald, PA, 4	4 ArmD 489 AAA AW
Andy Semonco	Bluefield WV	5 InfD 2 Inf B
Casimer A. Serva	Cleveland OH	87 InfD 346 Inf 3 Bn
Arthur T. Smith	Rye NH	28 InfD 109 Inf 2 Bn
Scott Smith	Greenville NC	2 InfD 38 Inf B
Walter Speelman	Isle of Palms SC	29 InfD 269 FA Bn
Edward J. Speers	Urbana IL	11 ArmD 55 AIB Hq
Jacob B. Sperry	Pittsburg KS	75 InfD 291 Inf I Bn
William Stahl	Junction City KS	206 InfD 422 Inf K
Donald Stanton	Spring Hill FL	447 Sig Bn
Frank Steinberg	Kinston PA	84 InfD 333 Inf A
Jack Streeter	Reno NV	1 InfD 18 Inf H
Jack Tuttle	Webster NY	4 InfD 8 Inf 1Bn B/D
Robert Vivian	Butte MT	Unit Unlisted
George West	Preto PA	80 InfD 318 Inf I Bn C
Joseph F. Williams	Lacey WA	4049 QM Trk Co
William Whiting	Contoocook NH	802 FA Bn
Carl J. Witteck	Rialto CA	75 InfD 289 Inf Hq
Peter Weisenberger	Flora MS	Assoc. Uncle 80 InfD
Edward Weiss	Bellevue IL	76 InfD 304 Inf K
Anthony Wojciechowski	Surprise, AZ	10 ArmD 420 AFA Bn
Grant Yager	Sandusky MI	99 InfD 924 FA Bn

Chapters:

1 st FAO Observation Battalion Association	
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MD/DC Chapter	MD/DC Chapter 3
Western PA Chapter	Greenburg PA Chapter 14

In Memory of: LTC Leon T. (Pat) Scarbrough

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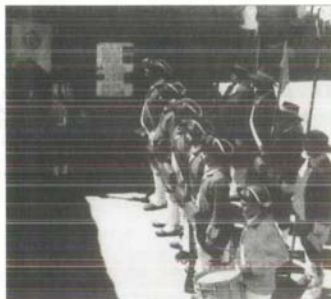
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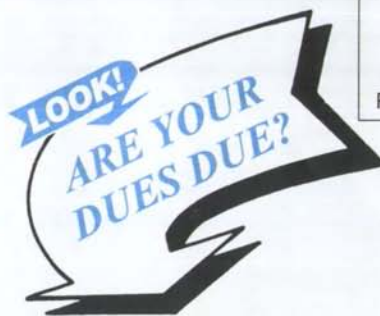
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AUGUST, 2009



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