

# The BULGE BUGLE

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

VOLUME XXIX NUMBER 3

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

AUGUST 2010

“  
Ya’ll Come-  
We’re  
Waiting  
For You!  
”



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**29th ANNUAL  
VBOB REUNION  
Columbia, SC  
Sept 1-6, 2010**

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Demetri  
"Dee" Paris



For more than 20 years, Administrative Director Nancy Monson has been serving us. Her loyalty and dedication has been of great value. Due to her health and a move to another state, Nancy has resigned. We shall inform you of the operational changes in this and forthcoming issues of *The Bulge Bugle*. It is most important you use our new post office box addresses.

Father time is taking its toll on our members which means that membership promotion is a number one priority. First, here is what we're doing:

- Trustee Bob Rhodes is revising the VBOB web site to attract younger people to join as associate members who have the same rights and privileges as veteran members;

- For reunions, we furnish press releases, resolutions and sample letters for official to sign, and other materials which result in local publicity and has attracted members to join the reunion host chapter;

- An armored division association announced they were no longer able to have their annual reunion. We have their 73 membership roster which has 19 VBOB members. We will invite the other 54 members to join VBOB and our reunions;

- Vice President Wayne Field is contacting veterans' organizations and retirement homes to recruit members;

- A new VBOB Chapter has been chartered in Kansas which brought great joy since a half-dozen chapters have expired in the past couple of years because they did not have associate members to replace their aging veteran officers;

- ♦Executive Vice President Ralph Bozorth has sent a personal letter invitation to the 910 residents of the Armed Services Home in Washington, DC. All are military service retirees.

## NOW HEAR THIS!

I belong to a number of veterans' organizations and scan their magazine to identify those who publish reunion notices. At the start of my administration in 2008, I furnish the information to EVP Ralph Bozorth. I gave Ralph my membership number for those organization that only publish notices from their members. One organization lists the units in numerical or alphabetical order. This resulted in "Veterans of..." being at the very end of the alphabetical column of fine print. We then started all notices with "Battle of the Bulge Veterans," which solved the alphabetical problem and was an "eye catcher."

•The result? Ralph has received responses from 80 different people inquiring about reunions and/or membership. Some of the inquiries have been from family members whose loved one had fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

You can do your part to prolong the life of VBOB. Use every copy of *The Bulge Bugle* to recruit veteran and associate

members. Make several copies of the membership application form on the back cover of *The Bugle*. Annual membership cost is \$15.00. Send the application and check with a note that you recruited that individual. **GO GET 'EM!!**

## NOTICE *PLEASE NOTE*

As a result of Nancy Monson's retirement the address PO Box 101418, Arlington, VA 22210-4418 will not be valid after 6/30/10. The following will become effective 7/1/10.

Everything pertaining to dues, certificates, quartermaster, reunions and membership should be sent to:

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc.  
PO Box 27430  
Philadelphia, PA 19118  
Telephone 703-528-4058  
e-mail address [kevin@battleofthebulge.org](mailto:kevin@battleofthebulge.org)

\* Membership renewal cards will no longer be sent

Everything other than what is listed above including stories, articles, letters to the editor, etc for inclusion in the *Bulge Bugle* should be sent to:

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc.  
PO Box 336  
Blue Bell, PA 19422  
Telephone 484-351-8844  
e-mail address [ralph@battleofthebulge.org](mailto:ralph@battleofthebulge.org)

## *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.

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VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE  
WEB SITE: [www.battleofthebulge.org](http://www.battleofthebulge.org)



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### THE MEANING OF VBOB

I just finished reading the latest *Bulge Bugle* this afternoon. Then it was out to the barn to get the lawn mower and ride into the wind...poetic for get three acres of grass under control.

It gave me plenty of time to think of what the national organization has meant to me. As an associate member, and probably one of the older American War Orphans, it has given me so much peace as I have met some of the most wonderful soldiers on the face of the earth.

In correspondence with some of those who are working for the continuation of the VBOB organization, I have been aware of the discussions concerning Associate Members. For me, the importance of the group being continued is not that any associate member wants to be in control, or take over an important job. What is important is that as Americans we must not let the history of patriots be forgotten.

It is much too easy for the next generation to expect freedom. It must be fought for, and it must be honored to do so. Our wonderful WWII heroes never have thought of themselves as special. Well, they...and every other service person who has put their life on the line...are not only special, but they are unique. History must protect the story of my father and all the other fathers, brothers and sisters who have given so much for America...and more...for their loved ones.

Please convey my desire to not take stage front, but only to pick up the weapon that a tired soldier is just not able to carry anymore. I will try to support the organization with donations as I can afford. Most definitely, I hope to attend the meeting in South Carolina next September.

Shirley Ricker Theis, daughter of Homer D. Ricker, Jr., KIA Battle of the Bulge, December 31, 1944--to keep the children free.

**Shirley Ricker Theis**  
Associate Member

### CORRECTION

The article, "Thank you, Mitchell Kaidy," should have been from Dale E. Dean.

**Dale E. Dean**  
11 ARMD 21 AIB B

### PROUD OF OUR ASSOCIATES

I am a veteran of the Battle of the Bulge. I was a private in E-395 of the 99th Infantry Division.

I have many memories of my lost buddies near Elsenborn, Belgium, and further on.

I have enjoyed *The Bulge Bugle* for many years and I look forward to receiving each issue. My son, Eddie Carter, joined five or six years ago and looks forward to each issue the same as I. He has a 16 year old son who will join when he has a family of his own.

I am very proud of the associate members we have, I only wish there were more.

I am 84 years old. I'm one of the younger ones who was in the Bulge. It is a known fact that we will all be gone in the next few years. We need to keep the memory alive of what transpired in this great battle--of the 81,000 casualties with 19,000 killed. The only way this can happen is through associate members.

I respect each member of the Battle of the Bulge for the ones that feel differently than I do. But, please don't let this organization when we all die. We just can't let that happen. We all went through too much to just let it all disappear.

**William B. Carter**  
99 INF 395 INF E

### HISTORY OF UNIT

During the Battle of the Bulge, I was assigned to the 514th Field Artillery Battalion, Battery C, and served in the Ardennes and Rhineland. I would like to have any information on the history of our outfit. I would enjoy receiving correspondence from anyone who may have served with me. (Curtis' address is 881 Camden Court, Sequim, Washington 98382.)

In the early part of January, we were firing and the artillery piece was frozen in the ice. The sergeant said we would have to get the jacks and jack the artillery piece out. I had to get blocks under the tails. The other troops were managing the jacks and I was shoving the block under the gun and the Jack slipped and came down on my hand and crushed my thumb. The medic rushed me to the field hospital for surgery. Then I was taken to the Army hospital in Cheltenham, England, for surgery.

I would like to know if I should have received a Purple Heart for this injury. *[We have requested that the necessary forms be sent to him.]* I spent several weeks in Cheltenham, and the Germans surrendered while I was there. I was able to rejoin my outfit and we were scheduled for a 30-day furlough, and we embarked on a liberty ship.

We were in the middle of the North Sea and were scheduled to go to Japan. President Truman authorized the atomic bombing of Japan, so they started our furlough. The Army said we would be discharged. Our outfit never got together again.

I would like to know if there are any reunions of my outfit. *[We found a contact on the internet for the 514th: Melvin M. Pick, 2114 Snyder Avenue, Colorado, Springs, Colorado 80909, and advised Mr. Thornton.]*

**Curtis Thornton**  
514 FA BN C

### WE MUSTA' GOT IT WRONG

You have a thankless task. However, as a fellow editor, I do note here and there when discrepancies occur that are more than the difference in memories for our fellow veterans and their relation to past experiences.

In the recent edition which I read from cover to cover and applaud you to "Keep it going," there are a couple of errors



that might need to be corrected.

One of the six (6) representatives sent to Luxembourg for the 65th Commemorative Ceremonies, one was my 26th Infantry Division's Bob Cragg from Pennsylvania, and to be exact he is listed in *The Bulge Bugle* as hailing from West Boothbay Harbor, Maine. I hope the other addresses are okay.

In the same article you report by Norman Wasserman shows him from the 286th FA Observation Battalion, yet under donations received, he is listed under the 586th FA Observation Battalion. I find no reference to a 586th FA Observation Battalion. The 286 FA Observation Battalion ended the war in Regensburg. They returned to Camp Myles Standish in Massachusetts, October 30, 1945, to be disbanded. I'm sure this was Comrade Wasserman's unit.

Peter E. Bogdan  
26 INF D

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### THANKS FROM NORTHEAST KANSAS

As I am certain many of us read *The Bulge Bugle* as soon as it is received. The May issue was no exception and the purpose of this letter is to thank you for the two articles concerning our new chapter, the Northeast Kansas (69) of Manhattan, Kansas.

We had an outstanding program last Saturday, May 8th, including the USO show presented by the Riley County High School girls (5 seniors and juniors). They were great.

The first article on page 12 and the second on page 20 set out to all people about the newest chapter--Northeast Kansas--shows that we are up and running. The get together last Saturday had about 27 veterans of the Bulge present along with probably interested Bulge members. Again, thank you and keep up the good work.

William F. Stahl  
106 INF D 422 INF K

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### ENOUGH, ALREADY

I think this argument about associate members has gone on long enough, but since you asked for more opinions in the May issue of *The Bulge Bugle*, here's mine.

I am a veteran of the Battle of the Bulge! As a member of the 20th AIB, 10th Armored Division. I (and my battalion arrived in Bastogne before the 101st Paratroopers. I was with Team Desobry and we had orders to hold Noville Crossroad at any or all costs while the defenses of Bastogne were set. After a couple of days of holding back VonRunstead's tanks, we got orders that we would pull back to Bastogne.

This we did, but with a great loss of men and vehicles when we were ambushed at Foy. I was wounded and later lost my right leg due to gangrene. I think this establishes my right to express my thoughts regarding associate members of VB OB.

I think that, we who fought this great battle, are very lucky to have people who were not there interested enough in what we did to want to join our organization and help us keep the memory of the Bulge, and WWII, alive. Our schools are not telling our youth about our great fight. My grandson, now 21, only knows about it through me and

perhaps through a few movies like Patton and Battle Ground.

US, VBOBers, are truly an endangered species. I say thanks to all of those interested enough in the Bulge and WWII to join an "old men's" organization, "Welcome aboard!" It is common knowledge, or arithmetic, any one who actually fought in the Battle of the Bulge would have to be at least 83 years old.

Donald J. Addor  
10 ARMD 20 AIB

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### TRIP TO LUXEMBOURG

I was compelled to respond to the article submitted by Norman Wasserman "Lottery in Luxembourg" in the May 2010 issue. I remember seeing the ad for the lottery and thought about submitting my father's name.

At that time he wasn't in good health, but could travel if he had me to help him. I am sorry to say we lost another hero September 3, 2009. Even after he passed, I still thought of the lottery and how wonderful it would be for the veterans who were chosen.

Yes, Norman, general awareness of the Bulge is fading. I am 41, and vow for the rest of my life, I will keep my father's stories and memories alive, and talk to whoever will listen about the Bulge and how important it is to not only preserve, but communicate this to others. Having been to Luxembourg on a 28th Infantry Division trip, I agree with you that they have not forgotten.

Thank you, Norman, for sharing your trip with us, and thank you most of all to all the veterans, for you have kept us free and we can never repay you. We will never forget the sacrifice.]

Chandra Capps  
Associate Member

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### RUSSIAN RECOGNITION

A while ago, I read in *The Bulge Bugle* a request from a Russian captain at the UN. He asked if anyone in our organization happened to meet the Russians at the Elbe River in Germany near the end of WWII.

It really brought back memories of these days. We met them at Barby[?], and in spite of the language barrier, we enjoyed the meeting. They gave a party for us, and I think the first thing on all our minds was that hostilities were ending and we were survivors.

I sat down and wrote two pages of the meeting and sent it off and forgot about it. About three weeks later I received a package from the Consul General of the Russian Federation at the UN, containing a very nice letter and a medal in a case, inscribed 1945-2010. The letter explained it was to commemorate the 65th Anniversary of the Great Patriotic War (and for my benefit, WWII). I wrote a thank you note to the captain.

...I realize *The Bulge* is concerned with the Battle of the Bulge, and this is much later. But I just wanted to let you know you helped me get another medal (just kidding). Here I am, 90 years old, and there were times I never



expected to reach 26. Thank you for helping me to relive one of the good times in the past.

Henry T. Smith  
292 ENGR CMBT BN A

#### THANKS FOR PUBLISHING THE STORY

I know that *The Bulge Bugle* does not print obituaries but I thought that just maybe you would print the following.

A few years ago, I submitted for publication, at the request of the Eichner Family, the story of Robert W. Eichner, 28th Division, Signal Company, called "Six Days of Christmas, 1944." Mr. Eichner told his story of six days being cut off, alone, surrounded and his efforts to successfully elude the German troops during the Battle of the Bulge all while fighting trench foot. You were kind enough to publish his story much to the satisfaction and gratitude of Mr. Eichner and his family.

As a result of this publication, I was contacted a few weeks later by friends of Mr. Eichner from the 28th Division during the time period of 1944.. These gentlemen had, for all these years since WWII, thought Mr. Eichner was killed in action. They asked me for Mr. Eichner's address so that they could contact him again. I believe these gentlemen were from upstate New York. I foolishly did not think to take the names and addresses of these gentlemen at the time.

I was recently informed by the Eichner family of the passing of Robert (in his sleep) on May 2. The Eichner family and I would now like to communicate the news of Robert's passing to his friends and can think of no other way to make contact with them than *The Bulge Bugle*.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Gerald L. Puff  
Associate

## GOLDEN TRIANGLE CHAPTER 65TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION OBSERVANCE

[Submitted by HARRY MEISEL, 565TH ANTI-AIRCRAFT  
ARTILLERY (AW) BATTALION, C.]

On December 16th, 2009, at 11:00 a.m., over 80 veterans gathered at Lake Eola Park in downtown Orlando, Florida, for a final commemoration ceremony.

High point of the cemetery was the outstanding speech written by Gen. William Carlson, and delivered by local TV commentator Bud Hedinger.

Following our *National Anthem*, played by a local band, 35 local students came forward holding paintings of 35 divisions who fought in the Bulge.

At program's end we moved over to the GI monument for placement of a large floral wreath.

Our GI monument, by local sculptor Chris Scala, is the finest monument in the USA dedicated to those Army veterans who fought in the Bulge and came home and those interred in Luxembourg, Belgium, France, and Netherland cemeteries. ■



## NOMINATIONS FOR 2011 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 2011 year, 16 December 2010 – 15 December 2011.

**President: J. David Bailey**  
106<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division

**Executive VP: Ralph W. Bozorth**  
Associate Member

**VP Membership: Wayne Field**  
6<sup>th</sup> Armored Division

**VP Chapters: Thomas R. Chambers**  
9<sup>th</sup> Armored Division

**VP Military Affairs: Alfred H.M. Shehab**  
38<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Squadron

**Treasurer: Neil B. Thompson**  
740<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion

**Corresponding Secretary: Madeleine Bryant**  
Associate Member

**Recording Secretary: John D. Bowen**  
Associate Member

**Three Year Term Trustees:**  
Robert Rhodes – Associate Member  
Bert Rice – Associate Member  
Doris Davis – Associate Member

**Two Year Term Trustees:**  
Stewart Piper – 26<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division  
John Schaffner – 106<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division  
MaryAnn Bowen – Associate Member

**One Year Term Trustees:**  
Mike Levin – 7<sup>th</sup> Armored Division  
Doug Dillard – 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division  
James Bowman – Associate Member

Past Presidents are automatically Executive Council Members. The above nominees have been unanimously approved by the nominating committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
George Chekan, Chairman  
Nominating Committee

*"Once you survived a war,  
everything is anticlimactic."*

Duery Felton, Curator  
Vietnam Memorial Collection



# The Unknown Bulge Air Battle

By Anthony Strank

981<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Battalion  
A Battery

On the day before my unit pulled out of the Ardennes, i.e., the Battle of the Bulge, I witnessed what was surely one of the greatest dogfights of the war. Since then, nearly 65 years now, I have been alert for details of that spectacular air battle, but without success. No one, it appears, has written a word of it. Even W. J. Boyne, author of *Clash of Wings*, which tells the story of WWII in the air, makes no mention of it. Therefore, lest this unusual air battle be forgotten, I am obliged to make some record of it.

My unit, the 981<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Battalion, was a VII Corps Long Tom artillery outfit and had participated in every major VII Corps action since Normandy. On this particular day, which was either the 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> of December, we occupied firing positions west of Duren, a shattered town on the Roer River and north of the Bulge action area. In this position our primary missions were general support of infantry in the Hurtgen Forest and "long range" interdiction of target areas to the east. Our 155-mm Long Toms were located in the shallow depression of a hilltop one or two miles west of Duren and hidden from enemy observation. Aachen and the notorious Purple Heart Valley were already fading memories. We had encountered no incoming fire and only one strafing run by a pair of German fighters.

VII Corps, part of the First Army, had chased the Germans across France and continued to push them in Germany. Before the Battle of the Bulge, most of the men in Battery A shared the notion that the end of the war was in sight. There was no doubt we were winning. Except for a couple of night-fighting nuisances (Bedcheck Charley and that other guy—Pete) the Luftwaffe was of no consequence. In fact, we all believed the Luftwaffe was caput—finished.

There was always lots of air activity, however. British bombers flew over us at night—virtually every night—and many were shot down in flames by enemy night fighters. American bombers were the daylight workhorses. We were thus constantly aware of, and sensitive to, any activity in the air.

On this particular day, i.e., either the 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> of December, some of us in my gun crew became concerned over the appearance of an unusually large group of aircraft approaching rapidly from the east, from the direction of Cologne. Normally, we saw the daylight bombers returning from a mission on this course, but this swarm of aircraft was approaching too fast for bombers. Anything unusual tended to make a GI uneasy and so the oncoming planes quickly got our attention. In the past, we had been bombed and strafed a number of times, even by our own, friendly aircraft. These planes were coming on too fast; and they were too small for bombers. They were enemy fighters. The Luftwaffe was not caput! There were too many to count—more than 100 and perhaps as many as 200.

Very soon they were close enough to identify: Focke-Wulfs and Messerschmitts with their distinctive black-cross markings. Then, at top speed and streaking in from several directions, came

groups of Spitfires and Hurricanes, P-51s and P-47s, P-38s and perhaps other fighter craft. They closed eagerly with the oncoming foe, diving in with sudden cascades of action, climbing, rolling, looping—filling the sky with noisy maneuver. Here were all the famed fighters of WWII in glorious combat. One moment our guy would be tailing a German, guns firing, and the next moment their positions were reversed. With so much interweaving action, it was not easy to follow a pair in combat. One fighter, obviously defeated, plunged straight down, vertical, at full throttle to explosively disappear on contact with the ground. Another looped and rolled skyward trailing smoke. Another simply exploded in midair. Because of the many crossing patterns in one's visual field it was not possible to keep track of kills or even to stay focused on a combat pair. There were simply too many to take in at one time.

In a very short time, perhaps only a few minutes, they were suddenly all gone, dispersed to the far horizons. The dynamics of air combat had carried them away and left a stunning silence. One moment we ground observers were witness to their sound and fury, to the frenzied imperatives of the kill; then all of a sudden there was empty sky and silence. I had witnessed a spectacular dogfight engaging legendary fighters. In my view, this was an historic battle. I trust that others who were there will add their comments.

Now, nearly sixty-five years later, you guess is that some 25 to 30 fighters, both Allied and German, were shot down before the combat arena drifted to other parts of the horizon. To my knowledge, no one has written an account of this action, of the number of fighters engaged, or the casualties incurred. Charles MacDonald, who wrote *A Time for Trumpets*, which presents his experiences as a company commander trying desperately to hold back the advancing Germans during the early hours and days of the Bulge, mentioned he had no knowledge of the dogfight. Further, as noted earlier, W. J. Boyne does not mention it in his history of the air war during WWII.

The Battle of the Bulge, everyone agrees, erupted on December 16. This air battle most likely took place on that date (or the next). However, I cannot discount the possibility that the fighters staged their spectacular dogfight on the day before. If so, then the Battle of the Bulge began December 15<sup>th</sup>. Surely there are VBOBers around who witnessed this event and can recall the date more precisely.

For my unit, the 981<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Battalion, the "Close Station, March Order" the next morning got us moving again, but this time heading west, back toward Namur, reversing our direction of the past few months. We circled southwestward and then eastward to cross the Meuse River, much of the time in slow, heavy traffic that was often interrupted by incoming buzz bombs. Our initial action in the Bulge was to support the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne at the point of the Bulge. For at least the early part of the Bulge, the 981<sup>st</sup> was attached to the 18<sup>th</sup> Airborne.

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## TRYING TO FIND SOMEONE?

If you have access to a computer log onto this website: [www.whitepages.com](http://www.whitepages.com) type in the name you are looking for. It may be able to find them for you.



On Dec. 16, 1944, Germany launched Operation Watch on the Rhine, a desperate gamble to split the Allied Forces. Reeling before the Nazi onslaught, American troops initially fell back, stiffened, then held in the largest land battle ever fought by the U.S. Army.

# Guns



GERMAN G43 RIFLE WITH ZF 4 SCOPE

BY MARTIN K.A. MORGAN

## Of The "Battle of the Bulge"

**T**he artillery barrage began at 0530 hours when more than 600 German guns opened all along the line. It was Saturday, Dec. 16, 1944—the opening day of the massive offensive known to the Germans as *Unternehmen Wacht am Rhein* (or Operation Watch on the Rhine). To the 800,000 American soldiers who ultimately prevailed against the enemy onslaught, it was known as the Battle of the Bulge. Conceived as a means of recapturing the port city at Antwerp, the German plan called for a massive offensive that would punch through American lines in the remote Ardennes forest area of northern Luxembourg and southeastern Belgium. They hoped to drive a wedge between British and American Army Groups. Hitler hoped to force the British and the Americans to reach a separate peace with Germany. Central

to the success of the operation would be the rapid movement of the mechanized elements of the Sixth SS Panzer Army, which would advance from the Losheim Gap in Germany to the banks of the Meuse River in the vicinity of Liège and then turn to the north to drive toward Antwerp.

While the attack's spearhead overwhelmed many American fighting units, others held their ground heroically and slowed the German advance. A platoon from the 394<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 99<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division

In January 1945 Joe M. Cicchinelli (l.), a private in A Company of the 551<sup>st</sup> Parachute Infantry Battalion, took part in a bayonet charge that routed a German force near Dairomont. An American rifleman takes aim with his M1 Garand during the Battle of the Bulge (below).



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## GUNS OF THE BULGE (cont'd)

held off German paratroopers at Lanzerath for almost the entire day before being overrun. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division held the line at Elsenborn Ridge, and the 7<sup>th</sup> Armored Division did the same at St. Vith when the Fifth Panzer Army struck. To the south, another dramatic clash unfolded when the 2<sup>nd</sup> Panzer Division crossed the Our River, entered Luxembourg and slammed into the forward outposts of the 110<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division near Clervaux. After struggling with and being delayed by the spirited defenders in these locations, German forces broke out into the maze-like roads of the Ardennes. To make matters worse for the defenders, the attack came amid the dense fog of a winter storm that grounded Allied airpower and reduced visibility to hand-grenade range.

As German units swept through town after town, they took prisoners by the thousands and began committing atrocities. In Honsfeld, they shot 19 POWs. At Büllingen, they shot 59 more. On Dec. 17, grenadiers from the 1st SS Panzer Division's *Kampfgruppe Knittel* murdered 11 soldiers from the 333<sup>rd</sup> Field Artillery Battalion in the village of Wereth. That same afternoon, grenadiers from the division's *Kampfgruppe Peiper* gunned-down 86 prisoners from the 285<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Observation Battalion at the Baugez crossroads near the village of Malmedy.

The following day, the 1st SS Panzer Division shot-up a column of American vehicles from the 14<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Group near the village of Poteau. A series of now-famous propaganda images taken there afterward show the armament typical of German troops in late 1944. In the photographs, SS and *Luftwaffe* troops can be seen armed with K98k Mauser bolt action rifles, MP40 submachine guns, MP44 select-fire carbines and MG42 belt-fed machine guns. Surprisingly, one of the SS men in the photos is armed with a Fabrique Nationale



National Archives photo



9 mm Hi Power pistol while another is armed with a captured M1 Carbine. The photographic record from elsewhere in the Ardennes reveals an interesting diversity of guns being used during the Battle of the Bulge. German paratroopers can be seen armed with G43 semi-automatic rifles and at least one captured Sten Mk II submachine gun. American soldiers can be seen armed with captured German arms in addition to guns designed by the three Johns: John Browning, John Thompson and John Garand. Although .30-cal. machine guns in both M1917A1 water-cooled and M1919A4 air-cooled versions, Thompson submachine guns and M1 rifles appear most frequently in the combat photography, U.S. Army soldiers can also be seen carrying M3 Grease Guns and Winchester Model 12s.

Although initially thrown into disarray, the American units that reeled

in the face of the German breakthrough nevertheless did what they could to oppose the enemy's advance. On Dec. 18 *Kampfgruppe Peiper* reached the village of Stavelot a day behind schedule only to find stubborn American defenders. Seeking a spot to get their vehicles across the Amblève River, Peiper's forces then proceeded to the town of Trois Ponts where retreating U.S. Army combat engineers had already destroyed the bridge. They pushed on to La Gleize and then Stoumont, only to find yet another blown bridge. Although *Kampfgruppe Peiper* captured the Meuse River bridges at Huy, it would go no further and would ultimately have to abandon its vehicles and retreat. To the south, the Fifth Panzer Army streamed forward, encircling two regiments of the 106<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division on Dec. 19, capturing more than 7,000 prisoners. It also drove the 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division from Wiltz in northern Luxembourg, entered Belgium and closed in on the crossroads town of Bastogne.



Staff Sergeant Day G. Turner (above) of B Company, 319<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 80<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, earned the Medal of Honor for actions at Am Aastert near Dahl, Luxembourg, on Jan. 8, 1945. Turner was killed a month later and now rests at the Luxembourg American Cemetery in Hamm, Luxembourg. This field-modified M3 submachine gun (l.) is in the collection of Musée National d'Histoire Militaire in Diekirch, Luxembourg. The Grease gun's crank handle has been removed, a channel has been cut in the receiver and a makeshift cocking handle has been added to the bolt.



## GUNS OF THE BULGE (cont'd)

Two grenadiers from the 1<sup>st</sup> SS Panzer Division move past a knocked-out American M8 Greyhound from the 14<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Group near Poteau, Belgium on Dec. 18, 1944 (below). The man at left is armed with an MP40 submachine gun, while the man at right is armed with a captured American M1 Carbine.

With the XLVII (47<sup>th</sup>) Panzer Corps approaching the city on Dec. 19, the Army responded to the crisis by rushing elements of the 10<sup>th</sup> Armored Division and the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division to its defense. The reinforcement of Bastogne came just in time as three German divisions moved in and surrounded the city by noon on Dec. 21. The following day the German corps commander, General der Panzertruppe Heinrich Freiherr von Lüttwitz, sent a note through the lines demanding the surrender of American forces in Bastogne and threatening to "annihilate" them should they refuse. When that note made its way to the ranking officer present, Brig. Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne, he replied succinctly: "To the German Commander, 'Nuts!' The American Commander." Despite its ruthlessness, the German assault had not shaken the fighting spirit of the men encircled in Bastogne. However, with all roads in and out of the city cut off by the enemy it had become necessary to send a relief force to break the siege. General George S. Patton's Third Army, more than 100 miles to the south, received the order to turn to the north and fight through to Bastogne.

As the Third Army began its epic drive north, the fortunes of war began to turn. On Dec. 23 the skies cleared, allowing American air power to begin flying in support of the troops on the ground. By that time the Germans had outrun their supply lines, and shortages of fuel and ammunition created a critical situation. On Christmas Eve the German advance stalled 10 miles short of the Meuse River near Dinant, Belgium. Then during the early evening of Dec. 26, a Sherman tank named *Cobra King* by its crew from the 37<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion reached soldiers of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne near Assenois—breaking the encirclement of Bastogne. Although the German offensive had lost its momentum, it drove a large salient into the U.S. First Army.

In early January 1945, an Allied counter-offensive struck the salient and produced still more intense combat in the bitter cold. At this time, the 551<sup>st</sup> Parachute Infantry Battalion was attached to the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division fighting on the north shoulder of the "Bulge" near Trois Ponts. Private Joe M. Cicchinelli of A Company, 551<sup>st</sup> was one of those cold, shivering paratroopers, and he looked on as the men of B Company began an attack on the village of Dairomont on Jan. 4, 1945. When that attack ran into enemy machine guns concealed by heavy mist and fog, it began to stall. Cicchinelli's platoon leader quickly realized that blindly firing into the mist might result in friendly fire casualties, so he gave the only command that made sense: "Fix bayonets!" Private Cicchinelli obediently drew his bayonet



Archives Photo



## GUNS OF THE BULGE (cont'd)

from its scabbard and mounted it on the lug at the muzzle of his M1 Garand rifle. At the command of "Charge," they all rushed toward the Germans yelling and shouting. "We reached the enemy position, and leaped from foxhole to foxhole, thrusting our bayonets into the startled Germans," Cicchinelli recalled. It was over in minutes and 64 enemy lay dead on the battlefield. Dairomont had been captured by a handful of determined American riflemen at the point of the bayonet.

Meanwhile on the opposite side of the "Bulge" salient, the 80<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division attacked the left flank of the German Seventh Army near Ettlebruck, Luxembourg. On Jan. 8, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 394<sup>th</sup> Infantry advanced to a plateau three miles southeast of the city of Wiltz with B Company occupying the tiny farming village of Dahl. As the company moved in, a nine-man squad lead by S/Sgt. Day G. Turner was sent to establish a flank outpost at Am Aastert, a farm on the northeastern edge of the village. There, Turner's men dug foxholes in the frozen pasture facing north toward the neighboring village of Nocher, less than a mile away across a gently sloping ravine.

Shortly before noon, German artillery began to fall on Am Aastert and enemy infantry advanced from Nocher into a stand of pine trees in the ravine. When the enemy emerged from the tree line and charged uphill toward the farm, Turner's men began to drop them with accurate fire from their M1 rifles at 300 yds. Having failed with the first attack, the Germans pounded the farm again with a mortar and rocket barrage that drove the nine Americans from their foxholes and into the farm house.

Under the cover of the renewed barrage, enemy infantry attempted to cross the ravine and overrun Am Aastert again. This time, Turner and his men directed accurate rifle fire on them from open windows on the second floor—repulsing the second assault with heavy German losses. Undeterred, the Germans sent forward a third assault, this time with tank support. The enemy quickly stampeded toward Am Aastert as


accurate mortar fire rained down around the house, killing one of Turner's men. When German infantry finally reached the farm, the mortar fire lifted, and they closed in on the eight surviving Americans.

From his position on the second floor, Turner heard a German voice order some of the troops to charge the building. Determined to keep them out, he rushed to the top of the stairs and fired into a mass of five Germans as they attempted to climb them. But his Garand only gave him two shots and then locked open with a ping as the empty en bloc clip ejected from the rifle. The survivors pushed the bodies of the two dead aside and continued climbing the stairs toward Turner with his now-empty rifle. Out of ammunition, the 24-year-old staff sergeant reached for the closest object that could be used as a weapon: a nearby oil lamp. Turner hurled the lamp down the stairs at his antagonists, and when it shattered it engulfed them in flames. They immediately fled the building on fire, but then a second wave of attackers rushed in.

Turner tossed a grenade down the stairs toward them and dashed into another room to shelter himself from the explosion. After the blast, Germans stormed into the hallway of the second floor and Turner met them in the doorway where he bayoneted two of them before they could raise their weapons. Turner then grabbed an MP40 from one of the dead Germans and used it as he fought from room to room. Although five of his men had been wounded, he refused to surrender and led the remaining two unwounded soldiers as they mopped up what was left of the German assault force.

When they emerged from the house, they found dazed and wounded Germans anxious to surrender—25 in all. The bodies of 11 German dead littered the farm—most killed by Turner himself. His exceptional actions ultimately resulted in Turner being awarded the Medal of Honor on June 28, 1945, but he never wore it or knew he had received it. One month to the day after his heroic actions at Am Aastert, Turner was killed in action.

By the end of January, the Bulge salient had been reduced, and American lines returned to where they had been before the Germans

launched their offensive. It was the largest battle that the U.S. Army fought during the Second World War, and the cost was enormous, with 19,000 killed in action and almost 50,000 wounded. The German casualties were even worse: 91,000 killed, wounded and missing. But for all the enormity of it, the Bulge was very much a rifleman's battle where soldiers such as Joe Cicchinelli and Day Turner marked the difference between defeat and victory. 



*A G.I. guards German prisoners with his M1 during the Battle of the Bulge*

Submitted by  
Donald Socher  
Associate VBOB Member



# GERMAN PREPARATION FOR THE BULGE-- OBSERVED FROM THE OTHER SIDE

## History of the 602nd Tank Destroyer Battalion

Leonard "Bud" Bornemann, St. Louis, Missouri, who was taken prisoner of war by the Germans in September, 1944, recalled a unique experience. His view was from a German Prisoner of War compound. This report may be the first time something like this has been reported (by an American), and may be of interest to serious historians of WWII and of the Bulge in particular.

As Bud remembers it: Prior to the Germans launching their last desperate drive, a number of English-speaking German soldiers visited our Prisoner of War camp--Stalag III-C. They were well dressed in clean and pressed uniforms. One even appeared in a white ski uniform.

At the time, we did not understand the purpose of their visit. We knew it wasn't a social call or trying to be nice; but they seemed to make it just that. It appeared they wanted to talk mostly about the United States. They talked of nothing of a military nature. They would often ask us about how well they were speaking English. Of course, we flattered them and told them it was excellent, even though there were some pronounced accents.

Little did we realize at the time that these would be the men dressed in American uniforms who infiltrated the American lines during the Bulge. Their purpose in visiting us was to get a better grasp of common English rather than "book" English and to learn more about the United States.

I think this shows that the Bulge was a well planned operation on the part of the Germans. It wasn't something they dreamed up overnight.

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## Nancy Monson Retires

By Mary Ann D. Bowen.

This is a story about a woman that devoted much of her life and work over the past 20 years to the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Association. For twenty years she served our veterans with respect, professionalism, concern and love.

As the years went by she graciously accepted all of the duties that were requested of her, and often took on far more responsibility than that which she was asked to do. Her presence and attendance at Council meetings often lent clarity, direction and guidance to the members' discussions.

Nancy and Bill Monson are now entering a new phase of their lives. They will be retiring from VBOB, to live in Georgia near their daughter Lynn and those precious grand daughters. They will now pursue the grandparent role -- and how fortunate for those girls! As they share their care and guidance with Lynn and her family, we at VBOB will deeply miss them both!

We send our very best wishes, our care, our prayers and our sincere regards along with them. It will not be the same for us, however it is an exciting and promising time for the Monson family.

## 11TH ARMORED DIVISION LAST REUNION

Listed in the "Reunions" of this newsletter, you will find a listing for the 11th Armored Division. We have been advised by **GENE FOSTER** that this will be the last reunion for this group. We are hopeful that they will join with VBOB in the future.

There is always the opportunity for you to take some time away from the scheduled activities and plan a get together all your own. This will allow you to be together while someone else (VBOB) has done all the preparations--except for your special activity.

Gene sent us a really cute joke which I had never heard before:  
*Larry Williams walked into the doctor's office and the receptionist asked him what he had.*

*He said, "Shingles."*

*So, she took his name, address and medical insurance number and told him to have a seat.*

*A few minutes later, a nurse's aid asked him what he had.*

*He said "Shingles."*

*So, she took his height, weight, medical history and told him to wait.*

*Later, a nurse came in and asked him what he had.*

*He said, "Shingles."*

*So, she gave him a blood test, an electrocardiogram, took his blood pressure, and told him to take off his clothes for the doctor.*

*Later, the doctor came in and asked Larry what he had.*

*He said, "Shingles."*

*The doctor asked, "Where?"*

*Larry replied, "Outside on the truck. Where do you want them?"* ■

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This adventure reminds us of an Old Irish ballad, the verse, which I believe best, articulates our feelings:

"Low lie the fields of Aachen Rye  
Where we first watched the free birds fly.  
Now the birds are on the wing,  
They have dreams and songs to sing,  
Ahh, 'tis lonely round the fields of Aachen Rye!"

We thank you, Nancy, for all of your efforts, charm and hours of work on behalf of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. We look forward to seeing you at our Columbia, South Carolina reunion and our reunions for many years to come.

.....

**Please check the mailing information on this issue. Your dues date is above your last name. Save us the cost of printing and postage by paying your dues promptly. Thanks for your help in helping us cut costs.**



## ...ABOUT A SHORT JOURNEY

*[The following article appeared in **Hell on Wheels Bulletin**, the newsletter of the 2nd Armored Division and is taken from the biography of RUDY MOREAU, RECON CO., 66TH AA.]*

We cross the Belgium border about noon on September 2, 1944. This action along with British and Canadian forces trapped the German 7th Army at the Pas De Calais. We concluded by that time that Hitler's stand and no retreat policy, was definitely in our favor. The more prisoners we take now, the less we would have to fight when they start defending their homeland.

After we crossed into Belgium, we were leading a tank battalion when a German roadblock that moved in behind us apparently cut us off. We were too far from the unit we were leading for our radios to receive instructions.

An artillery aircraft flew over and told us to get off the main road and find a defense position. Basically he was telling us to find a place to hide until the main column could breakthrough. For a recon platoon, with light fire capability, that was good advice. We took up defensive position in a large vineyard where we could see the main road. We camouflaged our positions as best we could. We spent that night among the grapes, watching the German tanks and armored vehicles run up and down the road. The battalion finally destroyed the roadblock and we resumed our march.

I do not remember the number of hours we spent behind enemy lines, but not one of us relished the possibility of being a guest in a German prisoner war camp. I can't remember all of the villages and towns we liberated in Belgium, people were most appreciative.

This was the first time as a 19-year-old soldier that I heard about what the Nazi Germans were doing to the Jews. A couple told us that they had friends who were taken away by the Germans, along with several other Jews from the town, and they were sent to a concentration camp and killed. Other people in the town agreed with the story as told by the couple.

The division captured the City of Hasselt on the 7th of September, 1944. This Belgium city is near the Albert Canal. The Germans had blown the bridges, and had set up some defensive positions. I remember that we spent several days in Hasselt. We parked our tank just outside of the home of a very nice family. This family offered the use of their home while we were parked there. The Belgian family was concerned but cooperative. I had not slept in a real bed, since we were back in the U.S. at Al Moretti's home near Boston. I have since lost the name and address of this family in Hasselt. I am sure that if I went back there today I could not find the street or the family. Fifty-nine years later, I'm sure many things have changed, but the memory of that family is still in my heart.

Reconnaissance Company through the last two weeks of November continued in its role of screening, securing holding positions. We had secured a town (I do not remember the name)....

I had just gotten off of outpost duty and had laid down in my sleeping bag, when someone ran through the room and stumbled over several of us. It turned out to be one of the guys from our platoon--he had deserted his outpost. He was later caught and we had to guard him until he was taken to Division HQ for

general court martial....

When we arrived back with the Regiment around the 17th or 18th of December, 1944, we heard that the Regiment was on a 3-hour alert status. Some major enemy activity was going on in Belgium. This was about a 75-mile night march. The enemy had launched a full-scale attack in the Ardennes, in an attempt to split American and British forces. This series of battles would later be known as "Battle of the Bulge."

The Division had stopped the enemy just before they reached the Meuse River, which was one of their major objectives. I had just turned 20 years old the month of November but in all the years to this date, I have never been so cold as I was in the Battle of the Bulge. It was impossible to unroll your sleeping bag in the morning. The sleeping bag would be frozen to the ground. You could not run your tank motors for several reasons; if you're on outpost duty you would render a dismounted listening post ineffective. Running the engine would use up gas (which was in short supply). A two man listening post on snow and frozen ground was terrible when you did not have the right clothing and shoe packs. Having that outpost was essential to the security of your unit.

One miserable cold night I was on listening post duty, when I heard several men walking up the road towards my position. I had my submachine gun and two grenades with me. I could hear them speaking German. I yelled hands up. There were five of them including a captain. That night I acquired a German pistol. The officer had some maps and several other papers on a map case. We sent the prisoners back to the company. There were not many prisoners taken after we heard about the German SS slaughtering our guys who were captured by the enemy near Malmédy.

We had to be alert for Germans dressed in American uniforms. When our own patrols came back into our lines if they didn't know the password they had better know something about baseball. I know that first hand because we were coming back from a night patrol. With all the snow and ice, we missed our reentry point. It's a good thing we knew who the Burns were.

I lost my gloves on that night and my hands were numb. I don't know if I could have fired my weapon, I could not even hold my canteen cup. I can remember one day our 3rd Platoon had a heavy fire fight near the town of Ciergnon, but we had to withdraw due to heavy antitank guns at that roadblock. We had heavier losses on our final push to capture Houffalize and cut off the final enemy concentration.

We met Patton's 3rd Army at Houffalize and cut off the final enemy retreat in the Ardennes. One of our sergeants said that when General Patton heard that 2nd Armored Division was already in Houffalize when his 3rd Army unit reached the town, he said: "What do you expect? I trained the 2nd Armored Division. I do not know if those were his exact words, but that would be a Patton type reaction if someone beat him to an objective.

During this time in the Ardennes, I remember the cold and miserable weather, the many attempts by the enemy to infiltrate our positions. The many foot patrols and outposts we were on. One patrol we were on in a wooded area, John (I don't remember his last name) was on point. We were moving along a ditch for cover, when a burst of fire came from the woods. We all hit the ground, but when the firefight was over John did not get up. We dragged him back along the ditch to a safe position. I yelled "medic" and they came up in a jeep. The

(Continuation)



medic looked at John and said he was dead. We insisted they take him back in the jeep. The night before this happened, we were sitting around a fire and John had shown us an 8x10 picture of his wife (she was a beautiful girl). He said: "I carry her picture in front of my overalls next to my heart." His fatal wound was in the chest and there was a hole in the picture. I thought what a waste; he had so much to live for. This fight for freedom comes at a very high price in friends.

Those of us who were with Division when we liberated Belgium in September 1944 and those of us who fought in the Battle of the Bulge were awarded the Belgium Fourragere by the Belgium Government.

When we were moving in our tank near one of the Belgium towns, we pulled into a firing position, and were preparing to fire when Sergeant Patterson said, "This position does not feel right." So we moved about 30 to 40 yards to the right. Another vehicle pulled into the position we had just left. That vehicle took a direct hit from enemy artillery and it killed or wounded everyone. I can understand how Pat (our tank commander) survived so long in this division. When it doesn't feel right, do something about it. Pat's experience, I'm sure was one of the reasons we survived in the many encounters we had with the enemy.

One day when we were going down a road, Pat yelled at Ike (our driver), "Ike, get off the road now." The next vehicle that got on that road was knocked out by enemy fire. Another time when we were out gunned by MIV German tank, Pat yelled on the intercom, "Rudy fire two quick rounds at his tracks, Ike you get us the hell out of here." Apparently we surprised the German Tiger and he did not pursue although he did fire back. We were moving as fast as an M5 light tank could move as we went back over the hill we notified the column we were leading about the presence of the Tiger. They brought up a tank destroyer and they knocked out the Tiger.

We were pulled back to a small Belgium village southeast of Liege for rehabilitation and we received a few replacements in the company. We were billeted in homes in the village. An elderly couple and their 12-year-old granddaughter lived in this home. They were very friendly and I had a chance to struggle with what little French I knew. When I tried to carry on a conversation, I wished my dad and mother would have spoken French to me when I was a small child. The only time they would speak French was when they wanted to keep things from my sister and me.

I was given an upstairs room, the family was afraid of the German rockets that flew over every night. I guess they were on their way to England or some other target. This was a rare opportunity for us to have our company mess with us so we were getting hot food three times a day. I would go over to the mess and eat, then I would go back for seconds and take the food to the family I was staying with. They also enjoyed any extra C rations I had. We were given a truck ride to Liege (the big city) for additional female socialization. It was only a day time trip and we were back in the village by 9 or 10 p.m. ■

**Do you know a Bulge veteran  
who doesn't belong to VBOB?**

**Ask him to join...we need his support.**

## MALMEDY REMEMBERED

*[Taken from the April, 2006, issue of The Pekan Newsletter the newsletter of the 526th Armored Infantry Battalion. The story was written by NORMAN F. PIHALY, A COMPANY.]*

Your recent story concerning ceremonies at the Malmedy Monument gave me sober thoughts of not only the brave soldiers and medics shot to death in the snow, but on December 19, 20, and 21 our own U.S. Air Force bombed Malmedy.

Taking the word of a sly German broadcast telling them that Malmedy was in German hands, they flew mission after mission.

Despite the orange bands we stretched across our half tracks and tanks, and despite getting no anti-aircraft fire, they never really checked, since they had fought fog for days.

After the slaughter, over 300 civilians and Americans had died. The Town of Malmedy had only a Catholic Cathedral tower left standing.

After December 19, I rejoined my 526th Armored Infantry Battalion in Stavelot, with the 30th Infantry Division, and the 5th Belgian Fusiliers.

So little has been credited to the fine men of the 30th Division. After our 526th had been chewed up by Col Pieper's tanks, and my S/Sgt Jack Ellery had been killed trying to get more machine gun ammo, our squad split up. To avoid capture, I hid in the dog house of a Belgian woman. The next morning the 30th freed me. Only to send me to Malmedy.

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## REUNIONS

**7TH ARMORED DIVISION**, September 22-26, 2010, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Contact: Cheryl Higley, 292 Scott Swamp Rd, Farmington, CT 06032. Phone: 860-678-1018.

**8TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, August 11-15, 2010, Arlington, Virginia. Contact: Max R. Schmidt, 1716 Noble Place, Greensboro, North Carolina 27408. Phone: 336-288-0983.

**11TH ARMORED DIVISION**, August 3-6, 2010, Louisville, Kentucky. Contact: Gene K. Foster, 1401 17th Avenue, Eldora, Iowa. Phone: 641-858-2158.

**28TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, September 8-11, 2010, Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania. Contact: Chandra Capps, Phone: 912-258-4233.

**35TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, September 15-19, 2010, Branson, Missouri. Contact: Robert A. Dalton, PO Box 5004, Topeka, Kansas 66605. Phone: 785-267-3295.

**75TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, September 8-12, 2010, Indianapolis, Indiana. Contact: Jim Warmouth, 6545 W. 11th, Indianapolis, Indiana 46214-3537.

**84TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, August 27-29, 2010, Cincinnati, Ohio. Contact: Richard Jamieson, 4624 Citation Ct, Batavia, OH 45103.

**296TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION**, September 22-24, 2010, Sturbridge, Massachusetts. Contact: Joseph Civitillo, 9 Ireland Road, Wethersfield, Connecticut 06109. Phone: 860-529-2652.



# 254<sup>TH</sup> ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION

From Ed C. Vickstrom

107<sup>th</sup> Engineers

255<sup>th</sup> Engineer Combat Battalion

[This document was previously listed as "SECRET".] At approximately 162400 hours December, 1944, a message was received from the 1121<sup>st</sup> Engineer Combat Group that the battalion was on a two-hour alert as infantry. The report also directed our commanding officer to report to the G-3, 99<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division at once.

At the 99<sup>th</sup> Division Headquarters, the commanding officer was told that the enemy had broken through and were coming up the Honsfeld-Bullingen highway. The G-3, 99<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division also instructed the commanding officer that all roads leading into Bullingen were blocked with tank destroyers and light tanks and this battalion was to form a defensive line south and east of Bullingen, Belgium, to protect these blocks. [Overlay is not attached.] The battalion was then formed into two echelons; the forward set up a command post in Bullingen with the companies dug in on the south and west side of the town and the rear echelon commanded by Captain Fairfax of Headquarters and Service Company, moved to the vicinity of Waimes, Belgium, to await further orders.

After setting up the command post in Bullingen all guards of units stationed there were notified of the situation and runners were sent to locate the positions of the light tanks and tank-destroyers. The runners returned and reported that no light tanks or tank-destroyers could be found.

One sergeant of a tank-destroyer outfit was brought in by Company B and he stated that he had been captured at Honsfeld, escaped from the Germans, and wanted to report German armor heading toward Bullingen in strength. He said that he had seen twelve (12) tanks and could hear more coming.

A short time later a 1<sup>st</sup> lieutenant walked into the command post, stood around to get warm, asked several questions, and stated that he had a platoon of armored infantry in half-tracks. His identification was checked and was satisfactory. When asked where his command post was he said that he was mobile and that the Germans were coming and he was leaving. This didn't seem unusual as they usually accompany tanks and the tanks had apparently also left.

At approximately 0600 hours four flares, blue, white, red and white, were observed to the right of our Company B front. About five (5) minutes later tracked vehicles were headed in our direction. These were not positively identified as we presumed that there were still some division units in front of us. The first positive identification was shouts that were heard in German. The fire order was then given by 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Huff, Company B, who opened fire with rifles, rifle grenades and machine guns.

The German infantry then piled off the vehicles, one (1) panzer tank and six (6) half-tracks, got within 15 yards of our positions before being driven back. They pulled back and reorganized and in about twenty (20) minutes the infantry charged our Company B positions under supporting fire of the tanks. The tanks fired a

few large caliber shells but most were 20MM high explosive shells and machine guns. This attack was in greater force and in spite of the tanks and shouts of their officers, they were driven back after sustaining heavy losses. The next ten (10) minutes gave us time to evacuate our wounded but now it was getting quite light.

Then, after about ten (10) minutes they charged again, but this time the assault was led by their tanks. As no heavy anti-tank fire was encountered, the tanks spread out and over ran Company B positions crushing two machine guns. The men stayed in their fox holes and only three (3) men were injured by the tanks passing over them.

The German infantry was still unable to over run our positions due to the intensive small arms fire. The German infantry then withdrew and maneuvered around our flank which was exposed. In this action one (1) tank was knocked out and two (2) of the twelve (12) damaged while many Germans were left lying on the battlefield.

Having been over-run, the battalion was instructed to fight a delaying action falling back on Butgenbach, by G-3, 99<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Orders were issued by battalion for Company C to fight back out of town and northwest along railroad tracks, Company A, towards Wirtzfeld, and Company B and Headquarters down Bullingen-Butgenbach Road.

Company C fought back through town and took positions north of Bullingen. Company A as yet had not been pressed and held, and the battalion took positions on the ridge west of town. Company B having been cut off could not reach the road. Headquarters men were moved from position to position to give the appearance of a strongly held line with favorable terrain in front of them. This line could be seen from the town and when their point reorganized it took the St. Vith road south. The enemy point, on reaching cross-roads of the St. Vith-Butgenbach road, halted for approximately ten (10) minutes and finally moved south. Our objective had temporarily been accomplished.

After the enemy point passed, the support, at about 0800 hours, sent tanks toward Wirtzfeld where the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division met them with tank destroyers. They also knocked out one (1) tank flanking Headquarters position west of town.

At about 1200 hours, two (2) platoons of Company B had worked their way through the woods and joined Headquarters west of town and three (3) anti-tank guns were found located at CR K93002. The Germans brought up artillery and shelled the position west of town, and at, approximately 1300 hours, the line, under several light tanks which had just arrived, dropped back to the crossroads.

At about 1500 hours the 26<sup>th</sup> Infantry relieved the unit and took over this position. At 1545 hours Company A was subjected to shelling and straffing by our own troops. Because of this, the company commander ordered the company to withdraw toward Wirtzfeld. Enroute the 23<sup>rd</sup> Infantry was contacted, told of the situation, and they formally relieved Company A of the responsibility of their front.

After being relieved the battalion returned to Camp Elsenborn where we reorganized and prepared for our next missions.

/s/ Edwin F. Shaffer,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt., 254 Engrs,  
Adjutant.



VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, INC.  
THE MARRIOTT DOWNTOWN HOTEL  
COLUMBIA, SC - SEPTEMBER 1-6, 2010

**REUNION PROGRAM**

**Wednesday, September 1, 2010**

- 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm Registration headquarters, The Marriott Downtown Hotel  
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm Wine and cheese reception. (compliments of the Marriott Hotel)  
Hospitality room will be open  
Dinner on your own. The hotel has a great restaurant.

**Thursday, September 2, 2010**

- 10:00 am – 5:00 pm Registration headquarters The Marriott Downtown Hotel  
11:00 am – 1:30 pm Bus departs for Convention Center - speakers George Patton Waters and George F. Will, Washington Post columnist and guest on ABC "This Week"  
**NOTE** – The parade originally scheduled from 8:30 – 11:00 was cancelled.  
1:30 pm – 4:00pm Free time  
4:15 pm – 11:00pm Bus departs for Williams Brice Stadium - USC vs. Southern Mississippi football game. Kickoff at 7:30 pm

**Friday, September 3, 2010**

- 8:00am – 1:00pm Bus departs for Fort Jackson. Review of troops at 9:00am  
5:00pm – 9:00pm Bus departs for National Guard Armory – ROAD TO VICTORY USO SHOW

**Saturday, September 4, 2010**

- 8:30am – 10:00am Bus departs for Fort Jackson National Cemetery – wreath laying ceremony.  
10:30am – 1:00pm Bus departs for FN Manufacturing - lunch, compliments of FN Manufacturing.  
1:00pm – 4:00pm Free time  
5:00pm – 8:30pm Bus departs for the 300 Senate Street Restaurant – Southern themed dinner

**Sunday, September 5, 2010**

- Free time in the morning - lunch on your own.  
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm General membership meeting.  
6:00pm – 6:45pm Reception (cash bar)  
7:00pm Banquet seating

**Monday, September 6, 2010**

- 7:30 am Farewell Breakfast – on your own

**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**

**REGISTRATION RECEIPT DEADLINE-AUGUST 1, 2010**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Division: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Regiment: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wife/Guest: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Airline: \_\_\_\_\_ Flight Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Arrival Date and Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Departure Date and Time: \_\_\_\_\_

	<b>Number People</b>	<b>Cost Person</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
<b>Registration Fee</b> (all attendees must register)	_____	\$20	\$ _____
<b>Wednesday, September 1, 2010</b>			
Wine and cheese reception (compliments of hotel)	_____	Free	
Dinner on your own			
<b>Thursday, September 2, 2010</b>			
Columbia Convention Center, (includes lunch and transportation)	_____	\$30	\$ _____
Football game and transportation	_____	Free	
<b>Friday, September 3, 2010</b>			
Fort Jackson, (includes bus and lunch)	_____	\$15	\$ _____
Road to Victory Show; (includes bus cost)	_____	\$45	\$ _____
<b>Saturday, September 4, 2010</b>			
Wreath laying & FN Manufacturing tour, (incl lunch)	_____	\$10	\$ _____
300 Senate Street Restaurant – includes bus cost	_____	\$45	\$ _____
<b>Sunday, September 5, 2010</b>			
General membership meeting	_____		
Reception (cash bar)			
Banquet (indicate preference) Sirloin _____ Salmon _____		\$40	\$ _____
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>\$ _____</b>

Mail registration form and check to:

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc PO Box 27430, Philadelphia, PA 19118

**REGISTRATION FORM DEADLINE – AUGUST 1, 2010**

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



**DISCOVER SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY**  
**VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE 29<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL REUNION**  
**HOSTED BY SOUTH CAROLINA CHAPTER 7**  
**SEPTEMBER 1-6, 2010**  
**HIGHLIGHTS AND SCHEDULE INFORMATION**

**INTRODUCTION**

We are planning to have people from the South Carolina Chapter 7 assist people at the airport when they arrive. Therefore please fill in the blanks about arrival time, etc. on the Registration Form.

Our Annual VBOB Reunion will convene at The Marriott Hotel to continue with the 66<sup>th</sup> 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. Shuttle service to and from the airport.

**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.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2010**

Welcome wine and cheese reception, (6:30 – 7:30)  
Compliments of The Marriott Hotel  
Dinner on your own. The hotel has a great restaurant.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2010**

**NOTE! NEW ADDITION TO THE SCHEDULE!**

Bus departs for a luncheon with renown speaker, George F. Will, a syndicated columnist with the Washington Post since 1974 and a founding panel member on ABC's "This Week". Also speaking will be General George Patton's grandson, George Patton Waters. Entertainment and memorabilia to accompany this event. Catered lunch includes tax and gratuity.

Our bus departs for the Williams-Brice Stadium, the home football stadium for the South Carolina Gamecocks, the college football team representing the University of South Carolina in Columbia, South Carolina. The University of South Carolina will play Southern Mississippi. Food will be provided at no cost at the invitation of USC's President, Dr. Harris Pastides. Our veterans will be honored prior to kickoff with our Presidents serving as honorary captains..

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2010**

Bus departs for Fort Jackson. In November 1939, two years before Pearl Harbor, the United States

began enlarging its military installations as the "Blitzkrieg" swept across Europe. Suddenly, Camp Jackson was activated again as the streamlined 6th Division of the Regular Army was ordered to duty in October 1939, only one month after the outbreak of war between Britain and Germany. From what we understand many VBOBers went through Fort Jackson. A tour of the fort and active ranges, followed by lunch with the troops.

Relive the memories of the 40s at the "Road to Victory USO Style Show" at the National Guard Armory. Featuring a big band orchestra, the evening will include *The Victory Belles*, straight from the Stage Door Canteen at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans. These gals are a charming vocal trio who will take you down memory lane in rich, three part harmony. The catered dinner cost includes tax and gratuity.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2010**

Our wreath laying ceremony will take place at Fort Jackson National Cemetery.

We then depart for FN Manufacturing which is a precision machining manufacturer specializing in the production of small arms. Their products include the families of M16 rifles, M249 light machine guns, M240 medium machine guns, and FNP pistols. After the tour a complimentary lunch will be provided

Join us for dinner at the 300 Senate Street Restaurant; a unique location that offers alfresco views of the Gervais Street Bridge and Congaree River. A southern, themed dinner with entertainment by *Amick's Junction* – they have a "big band sound" and play traditional blue grass, country music. The cost includes tax and gratuity. Cash bar.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2010**

Free time in the morning – lunch on your own  
General membership meeting  
Banquet reception (cash bar) - Color Guard; speakers, choice of beef or fish

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2010**

Farewell Breakfast – on your own

**SEE "REUNION PROGRAM" FOR BUS DEPARTURE TIMES.**  
**SEE "REGISTRATION FORM" FOR COSTS.**



The Columbia Marriott Hotel  
1200 Hampton St. – Columbia, SC 29201  
Tel. 803-771-7000 – Fax 803-758-2456  
Toll free – 1-800-593-6465  
<http://www.marriottcolumbia.com/>

## WELCOME

### VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

September 1- 6, 2010

#### HOTEL INFORMATION

The room rate is \$89 per night, single or double occupancy, plus taxes and includes complimentary parking. The hotel is offering five rooms for two days before, during the reunion and two days after the reunion at the same rate as listed above. The hotel is smoke free and pets are not allowed. Check-in time is 4:00 PM and checkout is 12:00 noon.

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. **This is a big week in Columbia so we strongly suggest you make your reservations early. Reservation requests received after August 1, 2010 will be confirmed on a space available basis.** In the event you need to cancel your reservation, please inform the hotel 48 hours prior to the day of scheduled arrival.

**Hotel amenities:** Complimentary shuttle service on request to and from Columbia Airport, indoor heated pool, two full service restaurants and lounge.

**Sleeping room amenities:** Complimentary coffee/tea; phone calls toll free.

#### DIRECTIONS TO THE HOTEL

**FROM WEST:** Get off I-20 at exit 61 and go east on route 378. Turn left on Jarvis Klapman Blvd. Turn right on Huger St and then left on Hampton St. The hotel is at the intersection of Hampton and Main St.

**FROM EAST:** Get off I-20 at exit 73 and go south on route 277. Turn right on Elmwood St. Turn left on Huger and then left on Hampton St. The hotel is at the intersection of Hampton and Main St.

**FROM NORTH:** Get off I-77 at exit 18 and go south on route 378. Turn right on Elmwood St. Turn left on Huger and then left on Hampton St. The hotel is at the intersection of Hampton and Main St.

**FROM SOUTH:** Get off I-26 at exit 111 and go east on route 378 Jarvis Klapman Blvd. Turn right on Huger St and then left on Hampton St. The hotel is at the intersection of Hampton and Main St.



## DONATIONS

Again we are most grateful for all of the donations that have been made since the last Bulge Bugle. Your generosity is unbelievable. Thank You! Thank You!

The 53 individuals listed below plus Mil Spec Tours have collectively donated \$4,275.50 since the last Bugle. These donations have come in during April, May & June and are current through 21 June 2010. If you have donated and your name has not appeared please contact our Recording Secretary.

William J Bishop	Socvay NY	299 <sup>th</sup> Engr Cmbt Bn Hqs
Stewart Boone	Garden City KS	99 <sup>th</sup> InfD 924 <sup>th</sup> FA Bn Svc
James E Bowman	Laurel MD	Associate
Julia Buckmaster	Ft Wayne IN	In Memory of Father William B Hornback 5 <sup>th</sup> InfD 10 <sup>th</sup> Inf A
Tanley Caplanh	Gambrells MD	99 <sup>th</sup> InfD 393 <sup>rd</sup> Inf Hqs 3Bn
Chandra Capps	St Simon Isl GA	In Memory of Chandler H Capps 26 <sup>th</sup> Recon Troop Mecz
Ralph L Ciullo	Middle Island NY	84 <sup>th</sup> InfD 33 <sup>rd</sup> Inf K
Soazig Crawford	Newhall CA	Associate
Kenneth Compton	Corunna MI	76 <sup>th</sup> InfD 417 <sup>th</sup> Inf B
William M Cosgrove	Arnoldville GA	Associate
Geza Csapo	Osceola IN	32 <sup>nd</sup> Cav Recon Sqdn
Edward Droste	Waverly IA	17 <sup>th</sup> AbnD 194 <sup>th</sup> PIR D
Steve Epperson	Dyersburg TN	Associate
Gordon W Fertuson	Amhurst VA	101 <sup>st</sup> Evac Fld Hsp 452 QM
Wallace E Frank	Mapleton MN	10 <sup>th</sup> ArmD 419 <sup>th</sup> AFA B C
Eugene L Gaulke	Orange City FL	10 <sup>th</sup> ArmD 21 <sup>st</sup> AIB C
Paul M Graham	LaPorte IN	99 <sup>th</sup> InfD 395 <sup>th</sup> Inf Hqs
Venon Gregory	Kettering OH	44 <sup>th</sup> InfD 157 <sup>th</sup> FA Bn
Roland P Gugel	Frankenmuth MI	99 <sup>th</sup> InfD 324 Engr Cmbt B
Bernard J Haas	Archbold OH	643 <sup>rd</sup> TD Bn B
William H Hartford	Jackson MS	44 <sup>th</sup> InfD 324 <sup>th</sup> Inf M
Margaret Hilbard	Maitland FL	In Memory of Curtis T Hibbard 99 <sup>th</sup> InfD 393 <sup>rd</sup> Inf I
Clyde J Hunzeker	Syracuse NE	87 <sup>th</sup> InfD 347 <sup>th</sup> Inf C
Christine G Jeziorski	Ruckersville VA	In Memory of Edward J Jeriorski 17 <sup>th</sup> AbnD 507 <sup>th</sup> PIR C
William S Kime	Fairmont WV	75 <sup>th</sup> InfD 290 <sup>th</sup> Inf
Wayne E Kiser	Williamsport PA	26 <sup>th</sup> InfD 101 <sup>st</sup> Inf H
James H Langford	Springdale AR	99 <sup>th</sup> InfD 394 <sup>th</sup> Inf I
Edward P Laughlin	Chesterfield MO	82 <sup>nd</sup> AbnD 505 PIR Hq
Sidney LaPook	New York NY	193 FA Gp
Carl H Lavin	Canton OH	84 <sup>th</sup> InfD 335 <sup>th</sup> Inf L
Robert L Madson	Green bay WI	26 <sup>th</sup> InfD 328 <sup>th</sup> Inf I
Donald G Malarkey	Salem OR	101 <sup>st</sup> AbnD 506 <sup>th</sup> PIR E
Carl W Meiser	Prescott AZ	4 ArmD 489 AAA AWHq
Robert R Mest	Mt Penn PA	1567 <sup>th</sup> Engr Depot Co
MilSpec Tours	Flourtown PA	
Edgar G Miller	Powell TN	35 <sup>th</sup> InfD 137 <sup>th</sup> Inf C
Thomas Morse	Jalisco, Mexico	8 <sup>th</sup> ArmD 130 Ord MaintC
Earl W Mortenson	Concord CA	995 <sup>th</sup> FA Bn Hqs
Merle L Otto	Naples FL	99 <sup>th</sup> InfD 394 <sup>th</sup> Inf C
Lisa A Perlma	Worcester MA	In Memory of

		Joseph Rosenbaum 6 <sup>th</sup> ArmD 777 <sup>th</sup> AAA AW
George J Pelletier	Fitchburg MA	87 <sup>th</sup> InfD 345 <sup>th</sup> Inf M
D Daniel Santagata	Stamford CT	5 <sup>th</sup> InfD 7 <sup>th</sup> Engr Cmbt BnB
William Scalzo	Rumson NJ	26 <sup>th</sup> FO Bn
Mr & Mrs Kenneth Schanke	Tucson AZ	In Memory of Damon Hervey, Jr WWII Vet/USN
John T Schontemeyer	Haymarket VA	Associate - Reenactor
Andy Semonco	Bluefield WV	5 <sup>th</sup> InfD 2 <sup>nd</sup> Inf B
Paul J Shea	Greenville IL	84 <sup>th</sup> InfD 334 <sup>th</sup> Inf A
Milton D Shrier	Great Cacapon WV	4 <sup>th</sup> ArmD 10 <sup>th</sup> AIB b
Robert E. Theis	Wausau WI	28 <sup>th</sup> infD 112 <sup>th</sup> inf D
Norwin L Vogel	Allentown PA	35 <sup>th</sup> InfD 134 <sup>th</sup> Inf
James Braz White	Rosamond CA	80 <sup>th</sup> InfD 317 <sup>th</sup> Inf L
Gordon Wilson	Baltimore MD	202 <sup>nd</sup> Engr Cmbt Bn B

## BELGIUM EMBASSY MILITARY CHANGES

Effective at the beginning the August there will be the periodic change in the Military and Deputy Military Attaches at the Belgium Embassy.

We will be saying goodbye to our friends Rear Admiral (lower half) Willy Temmerman, the outgoing Military Attaché and LTC Martine Dierckx, the Deputy Military Attaché. We will miss them and wish them all the best in their new assignments in Belgium. It was in no small measure that the success of our 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event last December was due to the fine cooperation and the extraordinary effort that they put in to honor our Veterans. We are indeed grateful for their three years with us.

The new Military Attaché will be Brigadier General Mike P. DeLobel of the Belgium Air Force and Major Military Administrator Patrick De Smedt.

General DeLobel joined the Belgium Royal Military Academy in 1975 from which he graduated in 1980 with a Masters Degree in Electronic Engineering (major in telecommunication) and ballistics. He started his career in F-16 Avionics and spent a few years the Belgian Liaison Officer at Wright Patterson AFB in Dayton OH. He has served in Air Force Logistics and Communication and Information Assignments. He comes to this assignment from the international Military Staff, NATO HQs as Deputy Asst Director, Logistics and Resources Division. He is married with Annouy Numsali.

Major De Smedt joined the Belgium Royal military Academy in 1978 where he graduated in 1982 followed by studies at the Logistic School of Doornik (Tournal). In mid-1983 he received his first assignment in his Logistics career. At the end of 1986 he transferred to the Military Technical Cooperation in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He returned to Belgium for an assignment at the Logistics School and in 1993 started a two year study at the school of Military Administrators. He has been involved in Logistics and Procurement until his prior assignment as the Defense Attaché in Luanda/Angola prior to being assigned to Washington. He is married to Regina Drieghe.

We welcome both General DeLobel and Major De Smedt to their new assignments and look forward to working with them.



## 1<sup>st</sup> Military Police Company Battle of the Bulge

by Peter Thomas

Our first rest period since D-Day came during the first week of December 1944. We left the miserable Hurtgen Forest and went to Spa, Belgium for showers, hot food, and new uniforms. It was heaven. I remember I took my socks off and they stood up by themselves. We told that to the green troops relieving us. There's nothing but old men and young boys out there. How wrong we were. On December 16, 1944, the Germans broke through with a massive attack, and the Battle of the Bulge began. During those few days in Spa our beloved Sgt. Stamborsky came back to us. He had been wounded in Normandy and had the chance to go home but wanted to rejoin his outfit. He said, "I knew you guys couldn't win the war without me." He was killed during the first week of the Bulge.

We lost 19,000 soldiers in that freezing cold battle. Out of the fog and snow, three German armies crashed through our lines on a 50 mile front. 1,900 pieces of heavy German artillery bombarded the Ardennes. 250,000 German soldiers and 1,000 tanks attacked, shells shrieked overhead, mortars and machine guns fired. Search lights stabbed through the morning dawn. V1 bombs dropped from the sky. It was a complete surprise, and we were unprepared. We climbed into trucks and headed for the Ardennes. After a few hours of slow creeping through the dark, we saw something we had never seen before—American soldiers streaming to the rear, retreating.

We went into that unbelievable hell. The cold was unbearable. The wind cut like a knife. Our buddies in the sky couldn't help us. The fog was so thick, there was no chance to fly. We couldn't dig foxholes. The ground was frozen—the roads like ice. It was the worst winter in Europe in 20 years. Our First Division had fought the Germans in Africa, Sicily, and Europe. We made our stand and there was no retreat. On December 17<sup>th</sup> word went through the line that Kampfgruppe Peiper (part of the 1<sup>st</sup> SS Panzer Division) had executed 120 American prisoners in a field in Malmedy, Belgium. That made us more determined to beat the enemy—we fought like demons. On Christmas Eve, six of us spent the night in an old barn. Being a minister's son, I was able to recite from memory Luke 2—my buddies said it made them feel like they were home at Christmas.

So many memories. Trucks coming up from the rear filled with cooks and clerks—non-combat soldiers. They were taken out into a snowy field and taught how to fire an M1, then sent ahead into battle. I knew most of them would be killed.

I remember standing on a frozen road directing tanks and trucks. A jeep came up followed by a convoy. I noticed the lead Jeep had the occupant's rank covered. It was General Omar Bradley. He said to me, "How long have you been out here soldier?" I said, "About five hours, sir." He said, "There's a German sentry box about a mile down the road. Would you like it?" I replied,



WWII-ERA  
Photo of Peter Thoms

"Yes, sir." He sent a Jeep back for it—what a relief to get out of that wind.

I remember one of the first days of the Bulge—I was left on a crossroads to direct traffic. An American soldier walked across a snowy field and asked, "Hey Joe, where is the 16<sup>th</sup>?" I told him I didn't know. At that moment one of our Jeeps came up—the soldier left. About an hour later a jeep pulled up with this soldier in the back. "Did you let this 'Kraut' through?" I said he's an American. "Like hell, he is!" I hadn't noticed he was wearing a WWI overcoat. A group of English-speaking Germans had been dropped behind our lines, to kill and sabotage. They were shot as spies. The night before they died, German nurses sang Christmas carols to them. Hearing Silent Night sung in German is something I can never forget.

I remember on Christmas Day the skies cleared and our bombers and fighter planes came to help. We saw the first German jet streak across the sky. We all felt we were lucky that the plane hadn't been available to the Germans earlier. On December 27<sup>th</sup>, I was hit by German shrapnel. The wounds were not life threatening, and I rejoined my platoon in a couple of days. The German advance was stopped by the middle of January. The enemy was

on the run. If we hadn't succeeded, the war could have gone on for years.

As we moved forward in early January 1945, we saw hundreds of our buddies lying dead in the snow. That memory will stay with me always. How can we ever forget what they did?

I am so proud to have been a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division MP Platoon—the finest group of men I have ever known. Our Provost Marshall was Colonel Tom Lancer—the best officer I have ever known. We did our job—followed orders. We were dropped off alone in recently held enemy territory, in snow, rain and mud for hours. We had been shot at by snipers, shelled at crossroads by 88's, strafed by enemy planes, we took German soldiers back and guarded our military installations. Our contribution could never compare to the front line infantryman. But we were vital and necessary, and yes, we did help win the war. "No mission too difficult, no sacrifice too great—duty first." In closing, I submit this article about the MP's from the *Stars & Stripes* published just after D-Day.

I am proud to have been a part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division MP Platoon. ♣



Peter Thomas  
On duty during WWII



# BULGE COULD HAVE ENDED EARLY...

## IF BRITISH TROOPS MOVED BEFORE ATTACK STARTED ...Says GERMAN

By Mitchell Kaidy  
87<sup>th</sup> Infantry Div., Historian

"It is beyond comprehension that the British did not launch the expected large-scale attack, the preparation of which was in full swing. If the British forces had launched a large-scale attack during the time the German Offensive was being prepared, further German forces would have been exhausted, which would have forced us to use up more forces and more material... Their attack across the Roer would have carried them across the Rhine..."

In a virtually unknown interview immediately after World War II, one of Germany's most feared and-respected officers, Gen. Hasso von Manteuffel, commander of the Fifth Panzer Army, flatly wrote that a British attack would likely have "annihilated the entire Heeresgruppe B (army unit) to the west of the Rhine..." and effectively prevented both the Ardennes attack and ended World War II in Western Europe.

This stinging revelation rips open a key British failure before the German counterattack was launched on Dec. 16, 1944. More amazingly, von Manteuffel reveals that the British were organizing just such a counterattack.

But there was another consequential English failure. As the American forces waged their bloody counterthrusts from the south, the British could have enveloped the Germans from the north where, commanding both British and strong American elements, Marshall Montgomery's forces sat idly while American divisions under Gen. George Patton savagely drove northeast toward Bastogne.

Once the massive German attack through the Ardennes was launched Dec. 16, its supply systems were forced to stretch across three countries—part of Germany, all of Luxembourg and Belgium. Huge Nazi supply trains, shouldering heavy tanks, had been prepared to move on the rail-lines. But it was discovered that those lines, which had been repeatedly bombed, could not quickly be repaired, forcing the Germans to resort to World War I supply methods—trucks and horsedrawn wagons.

And what was Marshall Montgomery's plan for meeting this unparalleled offensive while the American Air Force was locked down by weather? Montgomery wanted to retreat, realign, and counterattack later. On hearing this, both Lt. Gen. Omar Bradley, and Lt. Gen. George S. Patton; as well as Patton's V111th Corps commander, Maj. Gen. Troy H. Middleton, not only reacted with rage and anger; they both threatened to resign if ordered to retreat.

Patton had earlier perceptively dissented about attacking the Panzer spearheads exclusively from the south. He wanted to drive east, then turn north and envelope the Nazis. "If you catch a monkey up a tree," he insisted at an early meeting of American officers, "you don't punch him in the face. You cut off his tail." But heavy snow and a lack of secure roads, as well as higher-echelon dimwittedness frustrated such ambitions.

The Germans, who believed they had measured their opponents carefully before their surprise offensive, were shocked and set back by the lightning-like American response. In that response, two American units proved particularly effective--the 87<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, which had reached the Belgian front after a three-day 350-mile forced motomarch from Germany's Saar Valley; and the 11<sup>th</sup> Armored, which arrived after its own laborious 350-mile trek from Le Havre, France. A week later the 17<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division was flown from Britain to Rheims, then trucked to the front. Lacking tanks and heavy artillery, the 17<sup>th</sup> troopers fought valiantly, but met a bloody fate.

After a series of month-long counterattacks, these three divisions comprising 45,000 troops, plus a 3,000-member 28<sup>th</sup> Division regiment, were credited by Gen. Middleton as the main units that blunted the surprise German offensive. Said Middleton in a postwar interview: "If the 110<sup>th</sup> Regiment (28<sup>th</sup> Division), hadn't put up the great fight it did, the Germans would have been in Bastogne the first night."

But the "hardest fighting around Bastogne involved the 17<sup>th</sup> Airborne, 87<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 11<sup>th</sup> Armored Division...and elements of the 111 Corps," Middleton affirmed. These showdown engagements took place not when the Germans dramatically delivered a surrender demand to the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division but after Dec. 26, 1944,, as SHAEF Commander Gen. Dwight Eisenhower noted in his postwar memoirs.

All of that should be considered in the light of the notorious revelation that the British twice notoriously failed to shut the door before the trap was sprung. That they didn't move, as Maj. Gen. Middleton rightly complained, hugely multiplied the human cost—81,000 killed, wounded and captured Americans. British losses were under 3,000.

No wonder British Prime Minister Winston Churchill later recognized the Battle of the Bulge as "an ever-famous American victory." It was that, but it was also a classic and humiliating defeat for the British, their commanders, and their high-echelon planners.

(Mitchell Kaidy of Rochester, N.Y. served with the 87<sup>th</sup> Division throughout its five-months experience in Europe, four of them in combat. A journalist, he won two notable awards, and is listed in "Who's Who in America.")



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# 86<sup>th</sup> CHEMICAL MORTAR BATTALION (MOTORIZED) COMPANY C

By Harold S. Fischgrund

The lieutenant and his radio operator left the CP of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 38<sup>th</sup> Infantry, and took off through the woods in a hell of a hurry. Although the gold bar on his collar was so new it hadn't begun to tarnish, the lieutenant had the weight of the world on his shoulders.

The CO of the battalion said that the mission had to be fired, and fired fast. The fate of the battalion depended on it; the fate of the regiment depended on it; and you could carry it on from there. At this particular instant on 16 December, 1944, it looked like the whole damned war depended on it.

The colonel cursed vehemently when he was told that most of the artillery had pulled out, but when he saw that the lieutenant was still present, he grinned and said, "Hell, we've still got the 4.2's. We'll lick the bastards anyway."

So Lt. Raymond C. Lindsey (Nashville, AR) and his radio operator, PFC Cook (Florien, LA) took off through the woods by foot headed for their new gun positions. Lindsey talking as he walked and giving firing data over his radio to the fire direction center.

Without an artillery barrage and seeking the element of surprise, the Germans had attacked with everything they had: tanks, half-tracks, mortars, heavy artillery, and fanatic infantry. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division was in an offensive posture, attacking toward the important hub of Monshau, with objective of controlling the important Schwamman Dams and the Roer River. The division caught much of the force of the German attack, now known as the Ardennes Offensive. The elements of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division held on and slowly drew back to more favorable defensive positions.

Withdrawal along the flank is a most difficult infantry maneuver, particularly under fierce German pressure. But the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division had to salvage what it could of the men and equipment remaining after the first savage blow to gain time to maneuver from the attack mode and to prepare defenses. Already the enemy was pressing closer. Slightly more than 200 yards separated the two sides.

As Lindsey rushed back through the woods, he and Cook were giving the C Company fire direction center coordinates and orders to "fire like you've never fired before."

At the FDC, S/Sgt Jack Feldman (soon to receive a battlefield commission) (Marysville, CA) and Cpl. Marvin Zuidema (Cedar Rapids, LA), went into action: "Fire Mission!"

The words rang out through the mortar positions, and the combat hardened men of Company C leaped from their slit trenches and dugouts, rushing to the gun position.

Feldman and Zuidema, knowing the gravity of the situation, also knew that now, if never before, their data must be correct. Two hundred yards doesn't leave much of a margin for error. But most of all, speed was essential; so they computed their data and sent it to the guns without rechecking it; there wasn't a second to be wasted. The data must be correct.

In a moment, the first volley was on its way. Eight mortars coughed with monotonous regularity, spitting out 25 pounds of white phosphorus, and in less time than it takes to tell, a deadly burning screen of phosphorus enveloped the Panzer tanks and attacking infantry, blinding and searing. The tank drivers lost their sense of direction and charged blindly into each other, off roads, into trees, into gullies, into men. The infantry, caught in the same screen and flames, lost their will to continue the attack, beat at the flames, screamed and milled, vainly seeking cover.

To make the situation more interesting, the mortar men of Company C reached into their bag of tricks and pulled out high explosive shells, mixing them liberally with the white phosphorus. The attack against the 38<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment slowed down considerably.

From 1430 hours and 1600 hours, the 4.2 mortar men laid out their murderous mixture of smoke, flame, and HE. This allowed the infantry the breathing space they needed, moving back to stronger defensive positions. Many of them filed past the mortar positions, down the muddy road to the rear, and as they passed, they waved and shouted greetings: "Attaboy!" "Give 'em Hell!"

Other units too pulled out under the cover of the protective fire; the infantry, remaining artillery, smaller weapons squads, and finally the tanks left. Company C remained in position, still firing until everyone else had pulled out. Then, it job done, the command was given "Cease firing" and "March Order," and it too began the process of moving out.



Left to right: Lts. Ray Lindsey, George Murrari, Bill Greenville (our own VBOB Past President), Capt. Jack Dalton, Lts. Hal Fischgrund and Mike Tolmie, May 1945

Dusk had begun to settle; before long the deep blackness of the winter would be closing in on everything. Still the mortar men did not hurry. Methodically and meticulously, remaining ammunition, guns, food water, gasoline and men, were loaded into jeeps and trailers and moved back on the quagmire road to a new position, already selected by the Company Commander, Capt Jack Dalton (Sierra Vista, AZ).

Under the cover of darkness, the company moved into new positions to the rear. Guns were dug in, ammunition prepared, slit trenches and foxholes dug. C Company was ready for the next German attack.

(Continued)



They did not have long to wait. This time, early on the morning of the 18<sup>th</sup>, Lt. William T. French (Pittsford, NY) called the FDC with an urgent fire mission. It was almost the same story as the previous day's. The Germans had mounted a savage attack with panzers and infantry, and were pouring tanks, men and supplies through a gap in the U.S. lines. This lifeline had to be cut. In a period of only 45 minutes, C Company's mortars threw out 400 rounds of WP and HE, and helped stop the Germans.

But the enemy quickly reorganized and kept pressing and later in the day it was apparent that C Company and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division unit supported would have to take up new defensive positions.

At 1300 hours a new mission was received from Lt. French; four coordinates, HE and WP, enemy tanks, troops, mobile guns, routes of approach. Hold them off until the new defense could be reached.

For four long hours the mortar men hurled round after round of smoke and explosives at the Germans. Again, long files of U.S. infantry, smaller weapons, and tanks were moving on the muddy road to the rear of Company C's position.

In the meantime, Capt. Dalton, Sgt. Feldman, and Cpl. Joseph C. Venable (Scott, LA), were reconnoitering for new mortar positions. They found a good site in the little hamlet of Rocherath.

While they were in Rocherath, they cut roads, the enemy between them and the gun positions, and host of rumors depicted a grim situation. Dalton realized there was no time to waste. They headed back to the gun positions despite the stories, reaching it to find no one. C Company had pulled out!

The men, mortars, and jeeps and trailers were gone. They searched the gun pits for some evidence of what had happened. While thus occupied, out of the woods stepped Lt. Mike Tolmie (Deer River, MN), only recently was presented a battlefield commission. Tolmie explained to his company commander that while closeness of the enemy.[sic] When the fire mission was completed, Tolmie gave: "March Order!" and directed the men to defensive positions nearby, to be held at all costs. The company was still intact and ready to move on order.

So, in short order, the move to Rocherath was completed and the town became the focal point of the defense.

The company moved into a protected area which had a strong house for shelter. Within minutes after digging in the mortars, a German tank fired an armor piercing shell which passed completely through the house. It missed PFC Walter J. Henning (Montrose, NY), who was later killed in action, and PFC Ed Jones (Victory, WV) by inches, blowing them down a flight of stairs into the concrete cellar, without injury.

When the barrage subsided Sgt. Bernard McDaniel (Slidell, LA) was checking the mortar positions for damage. Sgt. Feldman was doing the same. When he saw McDaniel, he hollered, "What are you doing out there?!" McDaniel stopped in his tracks framing a reply with his lips. At that instant an enemy round hit exactly in the spot where McDaniel would have been had he not stopped to answer the question. Luckily it was a dud but it showered both men with mud, ice, and snow and they made a swan dive through a window back into the house.

All that night the position was shelled. Enemy tanks had moved much closer. The rumble of their motors and tracks could be heard above the gunfire.

Just before daylight, the Germans mounted another attack. By noon it was apparent that another move was imminent. To gain time for the withdrawal, Lt. Lindsey again called for a protective curtain of fire, this time on two German tank locations. For over an hour the men of Company C fired their mortars, traversing 180 degrees and down nearly to minimum range.

By dusk the town had to be evacuated. Company C's mortars spoke in a final mission at the lowest range the company had ever fired, 780 yards, against panzer tanks. Then came the order to move. And Company C, for the third time in less than three days, got out safely. The little unit moved to an assembly area near Butgenbach awaiting orders to a new firing position.

Nothing has been said thus far about the job of ammunition resupply. For some reason, known only to history, tons of 4.2 mortar shells were located in a list Army ammo dump north of Malmédy. Ably assisted by headquarters, 86<sup>th</sup> Chemical Battalion Ammunition Section, under the most adverse conditions, including ice, snow, muddy roads, where there were roads, and enemy infiltrators, the company supply section maintained a steady flow of ammunition which allowed the company to carry out its critical mission.

A final note, the company mortars were at one time located in a well defiladed position near a dam, and were able to support both the 1<sup>st</sup> Division and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division. And support them they did superbly, for which it was awarded the Belgian Fourregiere. All of the officers excepting the C Company Commander and his Executive Officer were deployed as forward observers defending units of the two divisions. They included, in addition to those already mentioned, the following: Lt. Morris Chertkov (Chevy Chase, MD), Lt. William T. Greenville (Kensington, MD and a VBOB Past President), Lt. George L. Murray (Anniston, AL), Lt. Bliss Price (Plymouth, MA) and Lt. John C. Wall (Edgewood, MD).

Most of all the men of C Company, the mortar crews, were valiant in this battle. They are: Eugene E. Bozych (Lemont, IL), William Corcoran (Philadelphia, PA), C. Ferrand Cumpton (Columbia, LA), Benton Dillard (Rayville, LA), James L. Ferguson (College Park, LA), Glen W. Forbes (Orrstown, PA), Rolland H. Griffith (Houston, PA), Stanley E. Guzik (Chicago, IL), Joseph Jindra (Houston, PA), John J. Kellett, (Vincetown, NJ), Waltr C. Klingemeyer (Racine, WI), Leeward J. LeBeauf (Montegut, LA), John C. Kretz (Pittsburgh, PA), Marvin P. Lemoine (Metairie, LA), Harold F. Nehmer (Gladstone, MI), Joseph O'Donnell (Burlington, VT), Phillip Riccobono (Ocean City, NJ), Clarence D. Seamster (South Boston, VA), Elmer C. Wallace (Leander, LA), James C. Whitaker (Toledo, OH), Fields V. White (Alexandria, LA), Harold E. Wickman (Gardner, MA), Salvador J. Zanco (New Orleans, LA), Edward J. Lane (Palm Harbor, FL).

And, of course, the real heroes of Company C are the mortar men mentioned in this piece and those not mentioned because of passage of time. This and all other battles that this unit was engaged in were successful because of outstanding teamwork—the hallmark of victory in battle.

Charles B. MacDonald write in his book, *A Time for Trumpets*, "Between 13 and 19 December, 1944, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division had penetrated a heavily fortified section of the West Wall, then executed an eight-mile daylight withdrawal while in close contact with the enemy and assumed

(Continued)



defensive positions at the twin villages in another direction. There they came immediately under heavy attack, held the villages for two days and nights while troops of the 99<sup>th</sup> Division streamed through, and then broke contact and withdrew to new positions on the Elsenborn Ridge." It was, as the division commander, General Robertson, noted "a pretty good day's work for any division. Leavenworth would say it couldn't be done, and I don't want to do it again." He was not alone in this assessment, for the commander of the First Army, General Hodges, told Robertson: "What the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division has done...will live forever in the history of the United States Army."

What the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division had done was to block an attack by Sepp Dietrich's Sixth Panzer Army constituting the main effort the Schwerpunkt-of-Hitters Offensive [sic] That main effort had failed to get more than three to four miles beyond the German frontier and had failed to open three of the five routes assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> SS Panzer Corps for the drive to the Meuse.

As a post script, special mention is made of the following: The Battalion Commander, LTC (Brig Gen. USAR) Wesley B. Hamilton (Tacoma, WA) and the oldest living general officer of the U.S. Army, Maj. (Col. USAR) James J. Doyle (Houston, TX), his Executive Officer, the Adjutant (LTC USAR Ret.) John B. Deasy (San Francisco, CA), the Adjutant, John Sawka (Scranton, PA), also of battalion headquarters who led the ammunition detail night and day without rest to insure delivery of mortar rounds, and Raymond C. Sylvester, of Battalion Headquarters, who was responsible for keeping the trucks operational under adverse conditions.

## BOB MONUMENT DEDICATED IN LUXEMBOURG CITY



On the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of war in Europe, V-E Day, this May, Bulge Veterans and other dignitaries and guests gathered in Pescatore Park, Luxembourg City to unveil a beautiful black granite monument to honor the sacrifices of soldiers and civilians during the Battle of the Bulge.

The monument was dedicated by the Mayor of Luxembourg City, Paul Helminger and, the donor of the monument, Alvin D. Rosenzweig, of the 78<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and his wife Cecile. Also assisting in the dedication was US

Army BG Jeffrey C. Horne and Richard D. Minor, an American living in Luxembourg. Mr. Minor did the coordination there to help make this possible, after meeting Alvin and Cecile there, by chance during the VBOB 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Trip to Belgium & Luxembourg.

This is one of three monuments that Al or "Rosey," as many VBOBers and comrades in arms know him, has purchased with his hid own funds and placed. All were made in Texas with a similar monument placed at Fort Hood, Texas and another in a Texas Military Cemetery. Al has undertaken these memorials to remember and to honor the many sacrifices made by those who gave up all their tomorrows so that others will never forget. This monument in Luxembourg also honors the sacrifices made by local civilians during the Battle of the Bulge.

The location has particular significance for "It was here," said Richard Minor in his remarks, "in the main Pescatore Building next to us that General George S. Patton set up his Third Army Headquarters, in December 1944. In this building, General Patton and his staff prepared a plan for the relief and reinforcement of the US divisions which had received the brunt of the surprise attack across the Luxembourg border."

Helen Patton, the General's granddaughter, thought it important enough to rearrange her previous commitments so she could be there to read General Patton's prayer which he wrote in the Pescatore Chapel. She later honored the twelve Bulge Veterans in attendance with gifts from the "Luxembourg Friends of the US." Also in attendance while touring Luxembourg were three of our VBOB Trustees, Madeleine Bryant, Doris Davis, and Robert Rhodes. The Bulge Veterans in attendance were Robert Dians, 9<sup>th</sup> Air Force; Maurice Diamond, 87<sup>th</sup> InfD 347<sup>th</sup> Inf Cos I & F; Jake Eastham, 26<sup>th</sup> InfD 328<sup>th</sup> Inf Co K; Vinson Freeman, 83<sup>rd</sup> InfD 329<sup>th</sup> Inf Hqs 2 Bn; Roger Leavitt, 26<sup>th</sup> InfD 328<sup>th</sup> Inf K Co; Arthur Loukas, 83<sup>rd</sup> InfD 330<sup>th</sup> Inf F Co; Mike Ottomano 36<sup>th</sup> ArmD POW; Wilfred Pettus, 87<sup>th</sup> InfD 346<sup>th</sup> Inf AT Co; Edmund Marks, Antwerp X; Howard Scheinholz, 87<sup>th</sup> InfD 345<sup>th</sup> Inf E Co; and Dick Williams, 80<sup>th</sup> InfD 318<sup>th</sup> Inf I Co.

Al Rosenzweig, who served with HQs Company of the 311<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 78<sup>th</sup> InfD in his remarks, spoke about the US Army's sacrifices in WWII and peace in Europe post World War II.

The Mayor of Luxembourg City, Paul Helminger, was able to speak about his feelings as a young boy when he saw troops of the 5<sup>th</sup> Armored Division liberate his City on 10 September 1944 and how victory in Europe 1945 was responsible for freedom in Europe today.

Brigadier General Jeffrey C. Horne flew in from the Pentagon at Al Rosenzweig's request and tied the conflict in the Ardennes then to the US military's sacrifices today and the necessity of war in certain instances to secure and restore basic freedom.

The beautiful monument bears the emblem of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc.. All US Army Divisions and Army Air Forces that fought in the Battle of the Bulge are listed on the brass plate on top. On the lower front are the flags of Belgium, United States of America and Luxembourg.

In his remarks, Richard Minor also mentioned, "The monument remembers the sacrifices of the Luxembourg civilian population during the Battle."



# Roadblock Overrun 12 Hours Into First Combat Mission

**Baraque de Fraiture  
(Parker's Crossroad)  
December 22-23, 1944**

**Bernie Haas  
643<sup>rd</sup> Tank Destroyer Battalion  
Company B**

During the time we were in training in the States, we were told we would never be deployed without infantry ahead of us. We queried of those who were telling this, "Whose, friendly or enemy?" We were assured they would be friendly. As we were to find out in actual combat, we found there was plenty of evidence that we were entitled to our doubts.

On Page 28 of the issue of *Armor* January-February, 1991, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. John A. Nagl states "Tank destroyers were intended to defeat enemy tanks attacking en masse. They were to be held in division or corps reserve until such an armored thrust was identified. Once the direction of the enemy attack was identified, the tank destroyers would deploy to positions previously prepared along likely avenues of approach and ambush the attacking columns. Under no circumstances were the tank destroyers to engage in head-to-head 'slugging matches' with tanks, nor be split up into smaller than battalion-sized units and parceled out to front-line infantry or armored units: The light armor on tank destroyers would not allow much missions."

During the entire year 1943, we were trained on self-propelled high velocity 76 mm guns. The carriage was lightly armored with an open turret. The vehicle looked like, sounded like, and smelled like a tank. Commanders of infantry and armored divisions concluded that tank destroyers were tanks and deployed them in violation of all of the tank destroyer doctrine stated in the above paragraph.

*Armor*, Jan-Feb 1991 also contains this quote: "On July 21, 1941, Lt. General Leslie J. McNair, General Headquarters chief of staff, argued: Decisive action against a tank attack calls for a counterattack in the same general manner as against the older forms of attack. A counterattack may, of course, be delivered by other tanks, but the procedure is costly. There is no reason why anti-tank guns (towed) supported by infantry, cannot attack tanks just as infantry, supported by artillery, have attacked infantry (and tanks) in the past. Certainly it is poor economy to use a \$35,000 medium tank to destroy another tank when the job can be done by a gun costing a fraction as much." How does this decision consider the cost in human lives? The armor protection for 10-man gun crews of a towed 76 mm gun was far less than that provided in a self-propelled vehicle with a 5-man gun crew.

In December, 1943, many self-propelled tank destroyer battalions traded in their self-propelled M-10s for towed high velocity 76 mm guns. Many of these towed battalions were sent ashore on June 6 in the D-Day invasion and all ensuing battles including the Battle of the Bulge. As early as August some tank

destroyer battalions turned in their towed guns for self-propelled M-10s, M-18s, or M-36s each having a 5-man gun crew. The M-10s and M-18s had 76 mm high velocity guns. The —36 had a high velocity 90 mm gun. By the time tank destroyer units reached the Rhine River in March, 1945, the stupidity of putting towed guns against German armor was realized and many more towed gun battalions had been supplied with self-propelled high velocity 76 mm and high velocity 90 mm guns. To have speed, armor was sacrificed and the open turret made attractive targets for German hand grenades, mortar shells and snipers.

The 643<sup>rd</sup> TD Bn was one of those trained on M-10 self-propelled guns in 1943 and were then trained on the towed gun in 1944 prior to going overseas in August. This towed gun was the weapon with which 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon, Company A, and the other gun companies would be equipped throughout the Battle of the Bulge and until they reached the Rhine River in early March.

On the afternoon of December 22, 1944, the 643<sup>rd</sup> TD Bn reached Manhay, Belgium. Headquarters personnel from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Division and the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division occupied positions in Manhay. Gun companies of the 643<sup>rd</sup> were parceled out (some of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Division and some of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division).

Platoon leader, Lt. John Orlando, 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon, Company A, 643<sup>rd</sup> TD Bn was given orders by a colonel (probably Col. Charles Billingslea, commander of the 325<sup>th</sup> Glider Infantry Regiment) to travel southward from Manhay to Parker's Crossroad and report to Capt. Junior Woodruff, Commander of Company F, 325<sup>th</sup> Glider Infantry Company, for instructions as to where to set up road blocks.

As the platoon neared the crossroad, it was necessary for them to pull off onto the berm of the road to let a long column of 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Division tanks, armored cars, and soft skinned vehicles withdraw from the crossroad toward Manhay. When the column had passed northward, Lt. Orlando's platoon proceeded southward toward the crossroad.

When Lt. Orlando reached Capt. Woodruff's CP (Command Post) at the crossroads, he entered the CP to receive instructions. His men sat in their haltracks headed southward with their guns in towing position. Three men from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored came walking northward past the TDs. Pvt. Edgar Kreft, a member of one of the guncrews in Lt. Orlando's platoon, recognized one of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored men to be Russell Bye, a neighbor from his hometown of Rogers City, Michigan. Russell asked Edgar what they were doing here. Edgar said they were waiting for instructions about where to set up their guns. Russell said there was nothing around there that wasn't occupied by Germans. He continued to say that, "We may even be surrounded by Germans now."

In January, 2006, I was given the phone number of PFC Jim Bryant, who was Capt. Woodruff's runner on December 22, 1944. He told me that he was aware that a tank destroyer platoon leader was with Capt. Woodruff for instructions about where he was to deploy his guns.

Lt. Orlando returned to the column and they proceeded southward a short distance where they set up their roadblocks and to hold at all costs. Privts. Edgar Kreft and Joe Stitt confirmed that they set up the guns southward from the crossroad. Gun commanders, Sgt. Joseph Giordano and Sgt. Frank Martilelli set up their guns

(Continued)



## ROADBLOCK OVERRUN

(Continuation)

farthest southward. Sgt. John Sienkiewicz and Sgt. Ernest Maynard set up their guns north of Giordano's and Sienkiewicz's guns but still south of Parker's Crossroad as instructed by Capt. Woodruff...

As Giordano's and Martinelli's gun crews started digging in, they could hear German-speaking men digging in within hearing distance just ahead of them. Had they had been able to understand German, they would have known what they were talking about.

Lt. Orlando told me he went back (I assume that "back" meant northward?) To Capt. Woodruff's CP to request infantry support. Capt. Woodruff informed Lt. Orlando he had none available.

Disheartened, Lt. Orlando returned to his men with the bad news. Some time later, men's descriptions vary about when, a shelling (artillery, mortar, or a combination of the two) began toward daybreak on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. T/5 Anthony DeFoster and Sgt. Giordano were killed. The guns and halftracks of St. Giordano and Sgt. Frank Martinelli were disabled. German infantry men swarmed onto the crews of these guns taking 14 of them prisoner, including Martinelli, Kreft, and Stitt. An additional seven men were wounded. Some of the wounded became prisoners, but others were either picked up by American medics or were able to reach friendly units and returned to the 643<sup>rd</sup> later.

PFC Jim Robinson, loader on Sgt. Maynard's gun crew has told me they could hear men from Sgt. Martinelli's crew and Sgt. Giordano's crew being taken prisoner so they hooked onto their guns and withdrew to Manhay. They didn't improve their position very much because the Germans were attacking Manhay too. An officer asked PFC Robinson if their gun was operable and he reported that it was. The officer told them to set up in a position he designated. Soon a different officer came by and told them the Germans had some U.S. Sherman tanks so extreme caution should be used in identifying targets before firing. Consensus in the crew was that the designated position and added confusion of difficult identification of tanks they might be better off to select a position better suited to their own welfare and they did just that. Their decision allowed them to watch the progress of the battle. They and crews of other guns in their platoon returned to a rest area on December 26<sup>th</sup> in Les Avins, Belgium, according to battalion history.

The battalion history states that "On the 23<sup>rd</sup>, two guns, (Maynard's and probably Sienkiewicz's) of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon of Company A, returned to Manhay and the gun sergeants reported an attack by enemy paratroopers and infantry had overrun their positions, some men had been killed or captured and they thought the platoon leader and platoon sergeant were among them.

Quote from battalion history—"The towed guns were sent back under Lt. McCarty to go into position and two platoons of paratroopers were sent down by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Division to drive out the enemy." There is no entry that tells what happened, but Jim Robinson, in Maynard's crew, has said they were repulsed and returned to Manhay.

In training, we had been instructed to place a thermite grenade in the gun barrel if it seemed imminent that our gun would be captured and turned on us by the Germans. Sgt. Sienkiewicz determined that his gun was about to be captured and destroyed his gun. When he got back to the 643<sup>rd</sup>, he was court-martialed, broken from sergeant to private and transferred to an infantry

outfit. I talked to him at one of the battalion reunions and got this information directly from him.

I had conversation with a man who said he was in Parker's Crossroad when Capt. Woodruff was given permission to evacuate his CP. He told me there were no tank destroyers present in the crossroads itself when Woodruff evacuated his CP. This didn't make sense to me at the time since I had heard our Company A men say they were there on the morning of December 23. Information provided recently (in response to my further questioning) by Lt. Orlando, Pvt. Kreft, and Pvt. Stitt saying they proceeded southward from the crossroads where they put their guns in position provides me with evidence that if they were south of the crossroads the unknown man would not have seen any tank destroyers in the crossroad.

Lt. Orlando chose to remain in the army as a profession. He rose to the rank of major while serving through the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam Conflict before retiring. I have had a number of conversations with John at reunions and on the telephone since the mid-1980's.

He blames himself for the casualties incurred by his men at the crossroads. On one occasion, he told me that if he hadn't been on his first combat mission that night, with nothing but the indoctrination of OCS to guide him, he would have considered other alternatives when the mission appeared suicidal. He did not elaborate, but my interpretation is that he may have found out in his years in the Army that he would have been within his rights to have countered Capt. Woodruff's orders with suggestions less dangerous to him and his men.

Capt. Woodruff's runner, PFC Jim Bryant, was told to obtain a jeep to go northward to an ammunition supply that his men needed badly. Lt. Orlando told me he gave up his jeep for a glider infantry man to carry out his mission. Germans had infiltrated to the north of the crossroads and killed Bryant's driver and a passenger sitting by the radio in the back seat. Bryant, being uninjured, rolled from the passenger seat in the jeep and into a ditch alongside the road.

Knowing the Germans would be searching for survivors, Bryant continued as soon as possible into the woods bordering the road and found a log lying on the ground. It was large enough to provide some protection. He snuggled up to the log and covered himself with leaves and snow. Before long, two Germans came to the log, stepped over it without stepping on him and proceeded further into the woods.

When PFC Bryant thought it was safe to come out of hiding, he walked in the direction he thought he would find friendly troops. When he found some, they thought he was enemy and started shooting at him. In the darkness with no way of convincing them he was an American, he wandered through the woods until he found friendly troops who he could convince that he was American.

Capt. Woodruff ordered PFC Bryant a battlefield commission sometime later. Bryant declined. He was then offered promotion directly from PFC to First Sergeant of his company and willingly accepted the promotion. He later chose the Army as a career until he retired.

**PLEASE DISPOSE  
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*Use it to recruit a member  
or associate member*



## THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION, INC

*Invites You to Join Your Friends for the*

### “EVENTS OF REMEMBRANCE AND COMMEMORATION” OF THE 66<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE December 13, 14, 15 and 16, 2010 Metropolitan Washington, DC

Based on a number of requests by those who so enjoyed events last year, in commemoration of the 66<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, we have added an extra day (from our normal three day affair in off years) 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 20 rooms so it is imperative to make hotel reservations immediately.** Parking is Complimentary. This rate is available for any night(s) between December 11 and December 18. For room reservations please call the DoubleTree Reservations (1-800-Hiltons) or 703-416-4100 by **December 1, 2010**. Mention the **BATTLE OF THE BULGE** for the special rate.

#### MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2010

- 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 15<sup>th</sup> this year) you may pick up your tickets at the DoubleTree by 6:00 PM Dec 15<sup>th</sup>.)
- 3:00 PM – 10:00 PM Hospitality Room/Exhibits, Books, scrapbooks, memorabilia open everyday. John Bowen BOB Vice-Pres will be the host. Marty Feldman will again be in charge of refreshments. Supper will be on your own.
- 6:00 - 6:15 PM Load Bus. Depart promptly 6:15PM for Kennedy Center.
- 7:00 PM We will attend the beloved ChoralArts' annual *The Treasured Holiday Tradition Concert* at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall for 7:00 PM along with our Wounded Warriors. Transportation will be via chartered Bus. Though we are quoting a fee for the concert tickets, it is possible that the Concert tickets may end up free, and fee refunded, if a sponsor is found, but there are no guarantees at this point.

#### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2010

- 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM Registration open/Receive name badges, Parking Passes, Banquet/bus tickets, HospitalityRoom open.
- 9:15 AM Charter buses depart hotel for National Air & Space Museum's Udvar-Hazy Center near Washington Dulles International Airport which is the companion facility to the Museum on the National Mall. Visitors can walk among aircraft and small artifacts in display cases located on the floor, and view aircraft hanging from the arched ceiling on elevated skywalks. Among the aviation artifacts on display are the Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird, the fastest jet in the world; the Boeing Dash 80, the prototype of the 707; the Boeing B-29 Superfortress Enola Gay; the deHavilland Chipmunk aerobatic airplane and Space Shuttle *Enterprise*. Other space artifacts include the Gemini VII space capsule; the Mobile Quarantine Unit used upon the return of the Apollo 11 crew; and a Redstone rocket.
- 4:00 PM Tree Decoration Ceremony, Salute to Bulge Veterans
- 5:45 PM – 8:30 PM Reception at Belgium Ambassador Residence and concert by Belgium Band. The Belgium Royal Air Force Band will be returning again this year to perform.

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2010

- 9:00 – 9:15 AM Load buses and depart promptly at 9:15 AM for a Tour of the Holocaust Museum.
- 10:00 AM Tour of the United States Holocaust Museum and special exhibit *State of Deception: The Power of Nazi Propaganda* which reveals how the Nazi Party used modern techniques as well as new technologies and carefully crafted messages to sway millions with its vision for a new Germany.
- 12:00 - 2:00 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 Return to DoubleTree Hotel to rest and prepare for our evening banquet
- 6:00 – 10 PM **BANQUET AT THE DOUBLETREE CRYSTAL CITY HOTEL**
- 6:00 PM Social Hour/Cash Bar. 6:45 PM Seated for Dinner.
- 7:00 PM Color Guard & Honors
- 7:15 PM Dinner served: *Apple Brandy Pork Tenderloin* OR *Chicken Florentine*
- Program: Greetings from Dignitaries and Speaker; Person of the Year Award
- After Banquet - Hospitality Room open

#### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2010

- 8:30 AM - 12:30PM Bus leaves from Hotel promptly at 8:30 AM for Wreath layings: WWII Memorial 9 AM, Large BOB Unknowns 11AM; Small BOB Memorial 11:30 AM; Large BOB Memorial 12:00 PM.
- 12:30 PM Return to DoubleTree Hotel for annual VBOB Luncheon in Windows Over Washington.
- 1:00 PM Lunch of hot soup, Grilled Chicken or Smoked Turkey sandwich, beverage and cookies.
- Swearing-in of new National VBOB officers for 2011.

**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 METRO: Pentagon City (Blue/Yellow Line) and to: Pentagon City Mall. Skydome Lounge, the area's only revolving rooftop lounge, for a spectacular view of Washington at night. 06/30/10



**RESERVATION FORM**  
**"REMEMBRANCE AND COMMENORATION"**  
**OF THE 66<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE**  
 December 13, 14, 15 and 16, 2010 Metropolitan Washington, DC

Return form and check by **December 1, 2010** 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](mailto:johndbowen@earthlink.net)

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

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Battle of Bulge Unit You Served  
 With: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**RESERVATIONS:**

	Number Attending	Cost/Person	Total
Registration Fee: Provides for Badges, Programs, Hospitality, etc.	_____ X	\$20.00	\$ _____
<b>MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2010</b>			
Chartered Bus: Evening Bus Transportation to Kennedy Center	_____ X	\$20.00	\$ _____
6:15 PM Depart			
7:00 PM ChoralArts' <i>The Treasured Holiday Concert</i>	_____ X	\$30.00	\$ _____
Kennedy Center Concert Hall			
<b>TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2010</b>			
Chartered Bus: All Day & Evening Bus Transportation	_____ X	\$35.00	\$ _____
Evening Transportation Only to Ambassador Res	_____ X	\$17.50	\$ _____
9:15 AM Lv for Air & Space Museum near Dulles Airport	_____ X	FREE	
5:45 PM Lv for Belgium Ambassador Residence Reception Evening	_____ X	FREE	
<b>WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2010</b>			
Chartered Bus: To Holocaust Museum & Union Station	_____ X	\$25.00	\$ _____
9:15 AM Depart			
Lunch Union Sta on Own, Exhibits & Shopping	_____ X	FREE	
Commemorative Banquet, DoubleTree Hotel Crystal City	_____ X	\$65.00	\$ _____
6:00 PM - 10:00 PM Please make your Main Course selection(s):			
<input type="checkbox"/> Apple Brandy Pork Tenderloin	_____ (Names) _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Chicken Florentine	_____ (Names) _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Diabetic Meal	_____ (Names) _____		

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**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, 2010 Telephone (1-800-Hiltons) Block of 20.  
 Return completed Reservation Form for events to BOB Historical Foundation ASAP but no later than 1 December 2010.  
 No cancellation refunds after December 8, 2010.  
 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\*\*\*



**Kenneth Reiter**  
**Staff Sergeant**  
**413<sup>th</sup> AAA – B Battery**

## SURROUNDED

The 413<sup>th</sup> Anti Aircraft Artillery 90 mm Battery "B" gun number two, was stationed approximately 3 miles east of Bulligen, Belgium in an area known as "Buzz Bomb Alley." At that time it was like a powder keg and we knew it. On December 10 we moved into this area being attached to the 106<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. We were told it was a static area and our first rest area. With Christmas coming up our spare supply of trucks and drivers were loaned out to haul up supplies to the first Army.

So in this condition at the time we were caught with our pants down. However we did wipe out the Germans on December 12. They fired a buzz bomb in the alley about 20 feet from my gun crew and when the motor shut off we hit the dirt and slid some 100 yards and a cloud of dust, probably a dud. On the 14<sup>th</sup> of December it was about zero degrees and we got hit with snow, which no thanks to with the wind blowing came halfway up to the peak of our tents.

Then on December 16 at 5:30 a.m. all hell broke loose. Searchlights lit up the sky and the artillery began to fire with shells coming into the trees overhead. Now about this time the battalion commander arrived from headquarters and ordered us to march to Monchau. Our gun crew was given orders to fire until all our ammunition was used and then blow up the gun, if we were surrounded.

The spearhead attack by the Germans came between 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. So help me, only God saved us from being massacred. During our retreat I could see off to our right many Germans with white uniforms moving across the snow-covered field about 400 yards away and about five yards apart. Germans headed for the rear of the road where our convoy had just left. I expected to encounter tanks followed by infantry. Our machine gun crew would protect us if the enemy would come around by my left flank. Sure enough we were surrounded!

On the other side of road German tanks began to appear and I gave the order to open fire. The third armored shell scored a direct hit resulting in a fireball and black smoke. We could not see much; therefore we immediately went to firing bursts parallel with the ground in hopes of stopping the German infantry. We fired numerous rounds and when the smoke cleared our machine gun crew had captured some Germans, one of them was an SS officer. All were taken to be interrogated. We were able to take all our equipment with the exception of 50 duffel bags and some personal belongings to our next destination

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## MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

Associate member Michel Lorquet advises that his pupils have adopted the grave of **JOSEPH LIPPI**, at the Nenri-Chapelle Cemetery. Joseph was killed in action January 8, 1945. His son, Joe, was able to be in Belgium for Memorial Day, along with his buddy **ART MAHLER**, who fought with Joe in the 84th Infantry Division. They were welcomed with more than 500 children and guests. You can see the ceremony at website: [www.rtc.be/content/view/651986/281/](http://www.rtc.be/content/view/651986/281/).

Mary Reisburg is searching for any one who may have known **SGT. JOHN CHARLES RIESBURG, 25TH REGULATING STATION**. If you can help, contact Mary at 719-481-3412.

## MISSISSIPPI CHAPTER BOOK

The Mississippi Chapter book has been well-received by history buffs in the USA. From only one notice in *The Bulge Bugle*, the book, *What Is Brave?*, was ordered and sent to people in California, Michigan, Illinois, Maine, Florida, Louisiana, Texas, North Carolina and other states around the country. Three hundred and fifty books were given and delivered free to all the public high schools in Mississippi. This was the 4th and final printing. There have been many requests for books which we could not fill because there were no more. The Mississippi Chapter can be justly proud of this unifying project as they were brought together in this great service project that was planned to preserve the history of the WWII Battle of the Bulge. Many citizens are still not aware of the importance of this battle and the effect it has had on lasting peace. The book has over 300 pages of first-hand accounts and stories of this landmark battle.

Just recently, Jim Hunt received a letter from Jeb Bush telling of the Bush Presidential Memorial Library at Texas A&M and asking for contributions if anyone was interested. Jim responded with information about our book and with reference to the article and story contained therein about the former President Bush's experience in WWII after being shot down in the Pacific. After Jim sent a contribution, Jeb Bush's secretary wrote to ask if the book could be put in the new library. Jim immediately sent one to him. President H.W. Bush was shot down while flying a TBM Avenger and the story of this is now in the Bush Presidential Memorial Library in their archives. This is a high honor for the Mississippi VBOB.

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## 106TH INFANTRY DIVISION BOLO TIES

A mix-up on a recent order for VBOB bolo ties resulted in our supplier sending us 50 106th Infantry Division bolo ties. He now has these on hand and we would like to help him get rid of them. He has been a faithful supplier for over 20 years and feel we should help. If you would like one send him a check for \$25.00 made payable to Leslie L. Brown. Mail it to 4132 East 36th Place, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74135. Thanks.

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## SEEKING WWII INTERVIEWS

Impossible Pictures, a British television production company, is preparing a television documentary on WWII in Europe from the D-Day landings to the German surrender in May 1945 for showing in the U.S. and international. They want to interview veterans with "front line" combat experience and especially those who were in several campaigns - Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe.

If you are interested in being considered for interview, contact the film Producer Mr. Thomas Viner at:

[thomas.viner@impossiblepictures.co.uk](mailto:thomas.viner@impossiblepictures.co.uk)

Furnish your name, telephone number, your postal and an e-mail address and a brief description of some combat action in which you participated. Respond promptly since they have already started production.

Impossible Pictures, not VBOB, will select the participants. However, the Bulge Bugle would like to know if you are selected.



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VBOB Logo Stickers - 1 1/4" (in quantities of 10)	10 for \$1.25		\$
Baseball Cap w/3" VBOB Logo Patch - Navy only	\$ 10.00		\$
Windbreaker w/4" VBOB Logo Patch - Navy only Please circle size (they run a little snug): S M L XL XXL XXXL (XXL and XXXL - see prices)	\$ 25.00 (S, M, L and XL) \$ 26.00 for XXL \$ 27.00 for XXXL		\$
VBOB Logo Lapel Pin - 1/2"	\$ 5.00		\$
Miniature VBOB Logo Medal w/Ribbon (pin on type)	\$ 8.50		\$
VBOB Logo Belt Buckle - Silver tone or Gold tone (Please circle choice)	\$ 16.00		\$
VBOB Logo Bolo Tie - Silver tone or Gold tone (Please circle choice)	\$ 16.00		\$
VBOB License Plate Frame w/Logos - White plastic w/Black printing	\$ 5.00		\$
VBOB 100 Sheet Notepad w/Logo - "This Note Is From... A Veteran of the Battle of the Bulge" - White paper with Blue printing	\$ 4.00		\$
BACK IN STOCK Large VBOB Logo Neck Medallion w/ribbon Ideal for insertion in medal shadow box	\$ 25.00		\$
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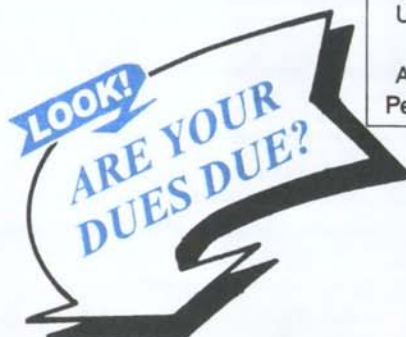




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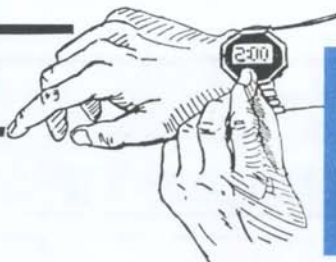


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☐ Regular Membership ☐ Associate Membership ☐ New ☐ Renewal—Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Regular Membership is for those who have received the Ardennes campaign credit. Associate membership is for relatives, historians or others with an interest in preserving the memory of the Battle of the Bulge. Both have the same rights and privileges.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP+4 \_\_\_\_\_

TEL ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

CAMPAIGNS \_\_\_\_\_

All Regular members, please provide the following information below:

Unit(s) to which assigned during period 16 Dec 1944 – 25 Jan 1945 – Division \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

All Associate members, please provide the following information below: (Military Service is not a requirement but as a 501 c(19) we need to identify all veterans)

Relative of Bulge Veteran \_\_\_\_\_ Bulge Vets Name & Unit \_\_\_\_\_  
Son, daughter, brother, niece

Historian \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_ Associate's Military Svc (dates) \_\_\_\_\_ Branch \_\_\_\_\_

Make check or money order payable to  
VBOB and mail w/application

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_