

The BULGE BUGLE

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

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THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

MAY 2010



AWAITS VBOB IN
COLUMBIA, SC

29th ANNUAL VBOB REUNION COLUMBIA, SC SEPT 1-6, 2010



SECTION OF INFANTRY BARRACKS, CAMP JACKSON, 1943
Some of you were stationed here! Find out what it looks like today.
Full details of Reunion starting Page 16. Hope to see y'all!

ELSENBORN RIDGE Pg. 7
(continuation)

WAR STORIES NEVER DIE Pg. 24

**VETERANS OF THE
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CONTACT THE CHAPTER IN YOUR AREA.
YOU WILL BE GLAD YOU DID.
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO START A
CHAPTER IN YOUR AREA, LET US KNOW,
WE'LL SEND YOU NECESSARY DETAILS.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A major contribution to our operations for the past 27 months has been the dedication and action by our Executive Council members and, in particular, our associate members. The work by the latter--the associate members--is immeasurable.

Contributing to all aspects of VBOB operations and, in particular, his wise advice, is our Recording Secretary John Bowen, an associate member and veteran of the Korean conflict. As one example, John researched and identified the names of 150 or more life members who were deceased but whose death had not been reported. We have stopped mailing *The Bulge Bugle* which is an expensive publication. John was also the key figure in reducing the wasteful cost of storage which has existed for many years. It would take pages to list his work for VBOB.

Associate member, Vietnam veteran, and VBOB Trustee Robert Rhodes heads a team for Membership Development, which includes associate member and VBOB Trustee Madeleine Bryant and Trustee J. David Bailey. Their first objective is to improve the VBOB website--to improve our image and to recognize our associate members. Send your suggestions to Robert G. Rhodes at 2733 Carter Farm Court, Alexandria, Virginia 22306-3257 or use e-mail: rgrhodes@starpower.net.

On page 29, of the February 2010 *Bulge Bugle*, we reported the actions taken to identify and pay VBOB members entitled to refunds as a result of the 2004 trip. This previously ignored action required hundreds of hours by associate member and Executive Vice President Ralph Bozorth. Also, VBOB lost its non-profit status because of failure by previous administrations to submit the yearly IRS Form 990. As a result, we were being levied massive dollar penalties for each of the eight years. Associate member and EVP Ralph Bozorth persevered and we have been cleared.

Ralph also discovered and helped eliminate other wasteful and expensive practices ignored in the past. He has recorded all past issues of *The Bulge Bugle* on discs which will be offered for sale. He has planned and conducted the last three annual reunions.

Our Corresponding Secretary Mary Ann Bowen is an associate member and a Korean veteran. She is leading the group to replace our ancient bylaws which will be presented for adoption at the 2010 Reunion in Columbia, South Carolina. Her committee includes associate member Madeleine Bryant, Past President George Chekan, Membership Vice President A Wayne Field, a Bulge veteran of the 6th Armored Division.

Associate member Jim Bowman, a U.S. Army retiree, undertook a study of our banking practices with the assistance of Trustee J. David Bailey, of the 106th Infantry Division; VBOB Treasurer Neil Thompson, who served in the 740th Tank Battalion; and associate member and 20-year Administrative Director Nancy Monson. Their findings and recommendations will result in better service and lower banking costs than in the past.



Demetri "Dee"
Paris

These are some of the problems we inherited from past administrations. We are not only correcting the deficiencies and failures but have adopted the policy of informing all VBOB members. We believe the associate members should be recognized for their dedicated service for VBOB's future depends upon them.

Yet, there are fewer than a half-dozen members who attack the administration and me, in particular, with what could be considered libelous statements. Let me know your opinions and, even better, your suggestions to help VBOB live longer. ■

Now, hear this...

Please look at your mailing label. Right above your last name is the date your dues were due. If they are past due or about to be due, please submit them and save us the postage on mailing you a reminder.

If the person to whom the newsletter is addressed is no longer reading them, please advise us of this also.

It will save us lots of money. Mailing them is very expensive.

Thank you.

VBOB

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

VBOB ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Apparently, in reading the most recent issues of *The Bulge Bugle*, the issue of Associate Membership appears to be causing somewhat of a continental divide amongst Bulge veteran members as well as Associate members. Therefore, I felt compelled to voice my opinion regarding this issue.

Directly, I am not a veteran of the Battle of the Bulge, in fact I had not even been thought of at the time the Bulge took place. I knew the Battle of the Bulge was a battle campaign lodged in Western Europe during the tail end of World War II. Yet, the Battle of the Bulge to me was more of the battle of the waistline as I had become a chef by trade over the years. I joined the Battle of the Bulge because I was recruited by a family in Carroll County, Ohio, to locate the whereabouts of a brother who had gone off to war, did so to get away from his abusive father, and many of his younger siblings grew up knowing little about his whereabouts.

In my research of PFC Ernest L. Barnes, 99th Infantry Division, 394th Infantry Regiment, K Company, I had high expectations of locating someone who may have known Private First Class Barnes, that could help to educate myself and his present brothers and sisters as to his service to his country. In 2005, I joined nationally as a yearly paid member and joining locally, Ohio Buckeye Chapter #1; I did so because like my father who served in the U.S. Navy and in the Pacific, it would provide me with the educational tools to understand where he had been and what these war heroes accomplished to prevent a totalitarian rule. In order to demonstrate my added support, I became a Life Member of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge in 2007.

You may ask why someone would forfeit a Life Member fee to join an organization, especially someone who is one of the youngest members of the local chapter—I am age 55. I am USAF retired; I served in the Grenada Invasion, Liberation of Panama, and Desert Shield as well as Desert Storm. My dad returned from the Pacific to become a project building officer liaison for LST Shipbuilding for the Navy in collaboration with Dravo and American Bridge Shipyards in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I knew so little about LST's, so I am now an active member of the US/LST Association as well as the Ohio and Pennsylvania Amphibious LST Associations.

Again, one may ask—why. Simply put, I do so to maintain a continuity and a structure of these organizations, to keep the associations vibrant with new younger blood, for if it is not for us—the associates—these organizations will fold and become only a memory, much like names inscribed on a granite wall. Moreover, many countless family members elect to keep the memories of those gone alive and well, further educating generation after generation of youngsters, many of whom today may in fact ask, "What was the Battle of the Bulge?" Is that what our World War II veterans want from their own grandchildren, great grandchildren and beyond?

America boasts over 200 veterans service organizations

that focus on the WWII era alone. Many countless organizations fail to incorporate an associate, auxiliary, or secondary structured affiliation within their charters and, therefore, as the active veteran numbers dwindle, so do the memories of those who could herald their war time accomplishments, keeping their fathers, grandfathers, war time experiences alive and well. Granted, the Library of Congress has the WWII History Project, PFC Barnes and I are not even related, yet I have submitted his Battle of the Bulge experiences to Mr. Peter Hechmanns of www.InHonoredGlory.info and he is now memorialized, for others to witness and experience. I also possess a small shrine in my home, honoring his experiences; I have adopted his grave at Henri Chapelle American Cemetery, and I hope to surrender the dog tags I wear in his honor upon his final resting place.

In closing, I have no intentions as an Associate member to capitalize on his heroic wartime achievements, yet I will do whatever possible to shine a casting light upon his accomplishments. Those who stake claim that Associate members taking the reins of VBOB veteran members in time of their passing and to do so to bask in the glory of their heroic actions, you make that election to do so. That is like pinning a Silver Star to your own accomplishments, minus ever earning that Silver Star; in essence, a fraud. Once these heroes are gone, family can only reflect upon the actions, not reenact them to their own delirious fabrications.

Robert F. Jones
Associate

THAT'S IT

A few lines re: the letter sent in February 2010 newsletter by Barry J. Verden re: associate members.

As a founder/Life Member, I agree completely with his reasons why once all members of the Bulge are history, that's it.

If you poll the men who fought in the Bulge, you will find overwhelming agreement on what Barry Verden states in his well thought-out article.

Arma E. (Ham) Andon
26 INF 328 INF

THERE IS NO "I" IN TEAM

As an associate member of VBOB and the editor of the Yankee Doings, the magazine of the 26th Infantry Division Veterans Association, I do read *The Bulge* from cover-to-cover.

The points of view of many contributors are significant. May I be allowed a few comments?

First, I offer that whatever action taken to maintain the purpose of the organization is the "right" action. Our society will not, on its own, sustain the memory of the terrible tragedy foisted upon the entire world during WWII nor will it sustain the memories of the cost of lives and limbs at the Bulge. Our societal memory is very short and there are always those who will not believe and will plant and foster the ideas that "it never happened." So, I applaud every positive measure you take to keep those

memories alive and fresh just so that there might never be a repetition or even a closely approximate event.

Secondly, the implementation of Associate Members into the governing structure need to be accepted just as those who were sent to replace those "buddies" you lost from your squad or platoon in battle. Would those naysayers just "allow" the association to die? Isn't the continuous reminder of that battle worthy of being remembered? Are you guys thinking beyond your noses? The command for the 101st Infantry Regiment is "FORWARD." Well, let's keep moving forward.

Thirdly, to each of you who feel that your regiment, battalion, division, corps, or squad really WON the war, keep thinking that but remember, that here and there, there are some other units that either were busy doing the same things in another place or who relieved you for a bit, or perhaps fired the artillery that saved your bacon once or twice. Keep on believing that YOU won the war, but collectively you all know that it was each and every one of you who won the war.

I wasn't there but my gut and my common sense tells me that it was your collective participation and dedication that won the bloody war. So as I did the other night when Canada beat the USA in men's hockey, I stated that someone had to get all the glory and someone had to settle for less. If your regiment or division, or battalion does not get any "press," don't worry, we all know that it was a TEAM effort.

Someone smarter than me said, "There is no I in TEAM." Keep *The Bugle* going, keep the VBOB going.

Peter E. Bogdan
Associate Member

TREAT THEM AS MEMBERS

Just reading your editorial in the February issue.

I agree with you wholeheartedly. Our associate members are just that—members. They should be treated as such and should hold any office and be our official representatives at all functions.

John Bowen and I became acquainted during the 2004 Belgium-Luxembourg trip. Ralph Bozorth contacted me about the trip's refund and handled that very well.

We have had a taste of too much Bulge veterans handling things, it is time to move on. Our Legion Post uses Sons of the Legion, the 35th Division Association has second generation, and war orphans in our officers. So, why not the VBOB?

We aren't going to live forever.

James G. Graff
35 INF 134 INF C

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK

I read with great interest your President's Message in your last issue and I think that your organization that you have now is doing a great job and I would like to help a little to keep this organization going.

We don't have any organized group here in the Kansas City Metro Area and I only know of one or two veterans of

the Battle of the Bulge that are still able to attend any veteran activities. But, I still look forward to receiving each issue of the Battle of the Bulge newsletter. Keep up the good work.

Herman Basler
4 ARMD 489 AAA AW BN

IT WASN'T THE LAST GERMAN OFFENSIVE

After reading the story on page 4 about the Bulge not being the last German offensive, I just had to write to verify that statement.

When Ike ordered the Third Army to make a 90 degree turn North, he also ordered the Seventh Army to do the same thing. My division, the 44th Infantry Division, which bordered the Third Army, did the same thing. We followed the Third Army, covering the space they vacated. They had gone about 50 miles North before they stopped, so the 44th took up positions there. My company of the 71st Infantry Regiment was in the Town of Bieisbrucken, either in northern France or in Germany. We never did find out which was correct.

When Hitler realized he was defeated on the Bastogne front, he put in effect his back up plan called Operation Nordwind. He withdrew some of his troops eastward for some miles, then made a huge horseshoe turn back to the West. He then came back very heavily reinforced with additional troops, including two of his personal SS infantry divisions.

They attacked us first on Christmas Day, (December 24th) during the day. However, we learned that it was just a test to see how strong we were. They withdrew and came back in full force at midnight on December 31. The force and weather conditions were the same as the Bulge attack. The weather was reported as 25 degrees below zero!

The fighting lasted about a month, and the 44th Division found itself farther South in France in a city named Bitche which contained the Maginot Forts. From there the war continued on.

This is a very shortened version for the sake of brevity.

John E. Conrad
44 INF 71 INF C

THANKS TO KARL HORST

May I give my thanks to M/G Karl Horst for his statement to the 65th Anniversary Observances [February issue, page 10].

In regard to the 7th Armored Division engaged with the German Panzer army at St. Vith on the 17th of December, following a long, hard movement from Holland December 16th and they were successful in thwarting the German attack.

I was a member of that division, serving as sergeant responsible for evacuation of men in need of medical treatment of CCA and I had a view of the operation.

December 18th, all (10) of my ambulances were in service. I returned to the Army Medical Battalion requesting assistance, and received three ambulances to aid in the evacuation of the casualties.

My trip was via Bastogne and all went well.
My thanks to the men of the 7th Armored Division for a job well done.

Ray Duke
7 ARMD 77 MED A

MAYBE WE DID AND MAYBE WE DIDN'T

I need to tell Mr. Warmouth that he spelled my name wrong in my letter to Dee. My name is Harry Krane—not Kane. Men who are still alive from my 290th RCT 2nd Bn I&R would not recognize me and that I am still alive and kicking. *[I looked and looked through our newsletter and couldn't find what he was referring to so I could correct it. I think he may have been referring to the 75th's newsletter.]*

By the way, the army did finally send me my second Bronze Star, plus all the medals and ribbons I earned. Thanks to *The Bulge Bugle* and the notice about whom I should write to.

Keep up the good work. There aren't too many of us left alive but you are keeping what we did from December 16, 1944, through the end of the war, up front.

Harry Krane
75 INF 290 INF 2 BN I&R

SHE WOULD HAVE KILLED ME

The Battle of the Bulge: I was there with the 38th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz). We lost 80 men in the war. How many of our men are there still living today?

My captain and I was the best supply sergeant in the ETO. He died some time ago, as did my first sergeant.

I still remember landing on Omaha Beach on June 10, 1944. Hedgerows to Normandy.

We killed a cow there. Then the next day the farmer's wife came looking for her cow. If she had known we killed her cow, she would have killed all of us.

David Levine
38 CAV RECON SQD

THAT'S HOLLYWOOD FOR YOU!

This is further comment with regard to George C. Williams (3275 QM) Letter in the February *Bugle*, page 5.

I, too, attended the 50th VBOB Anniversary Reunion in St. Louis, Missouri. Present were the two Crown Princes, Henri and Phillip of Luxembourg and Belgium, the Belgium Symphony Orchestra, and the 5th Belgian Fusiliers, and others.

Mr. Williams' letter laments that his outfit did not receive credit for saving the enormous U.S. Army supply of gasoline. That may be so. The Germans never did find it because of the 3275th QM action...but it was more like 300 million gallons and was removed by trucks and rail.

The movie shows burning drums of gasoline rolling down the hill onto Pieper's personal tank and others. Also Pieper is portrayed as the blond, blue-eyed German of Aryan stock...totally nonsense.

I was talking with one of the Belgian Fusiliers who were not combatants but performed other tasks. He could not speak one word of English, but made the gesture of striking a match, and point to himself said, "Moi Moi!!" He was telling me that he personally lit the gasoline on fire...at least, some of it! Pieper

never did find the gasoline that at Forcomchamps. The movie filmed in Spain contained many errors...but that's Hollywood for you!

As a result, both the Belgians and Luxembourgers formed groups such as the CRIBA and CEBA, which preserves the true and accurate history of the Ardennes Campaign. Clyde Boden, in America, formed a group which is now the VBOB, which preserves our history of the battle.

John E. McAuliffe
87 INF 4

WE WERE THERE

I served in the 2nd Infantry Division and we were in the Hurtgen Forest in December. I'm from the 9th Regiment of the 2nd and we were in the Hurtgen.

I don't know why anyone from the 23rd would say that we weren't there. I was there. I wish people who don't know anything about something would keep quiet.

Joe Busi
2 INF 9 INF

THANK YOU, MITCHELL KAIDY

Your article about the "Ride" and the battle that followed was very good.

The 11th Armored Division arrived near Bastogne late December 29, 1944. The 21st Armored Infantry Battalion arrived after dark and was ordered to attack the next morning--December 30th.

Hitler had ordered his generals to attack and cut the supply road and capture Bastogne. They were to use the Elite Remer Brigade plus other supporting units. They were to attack December 30th. The 11th met the Germans head-on in a rare frontal meeting engagement.

The 11th Armored had no combat experience and hadn't been equipped for fighting in winter weather. With little or no reconnaissance lacking adequate tank or artillery support, in the bitter cold, snowy winter weather, over terrible terrain not suited for armored warfare the 11th didn't achieve a breakthrough, but it did drive the Germans back 10 km, liberated 12 Belgian villages and cost the Germans most of their offensive power.

When relieved by the 17th Airborne, the 11th had lost 220 killed or missing, 441 wounded, 54 tanks destroyed, plus lots of other equipment.

Dale E. Green
11 ARMD 21 AIB B

BACK ALIVE IN '45

Way back in 1944, as we fought our way across Europe, I often heard a fellow soldier say, "Back Alive in '45."

And at 9:00 a.m. on the morning of September 2, 1945, on a liberty ship, *The John Cropper*, as we sailed into New York Harbor, I heard a voice exclaiming, "There's the Statue of Liberty." I hurried to get on deck to view the Lovely Lady of Freedom. I heard another voice shouting, "We're Home!"

Yes, indeed "Back Alive in '45" and here it is 65 years later and I am still alive and writing a check for \$15 to pay my annual dues to a fine organization--the VBOB.

See you next year. And why not, after all I did make it back alive in '45.

W. R. Riley
188 ENGR CMBT BN

ELSENBORN RIDGE

[This is a continuation of an article which appeared in the February, 2010, issue of the newsletter.]

At Hünningen, Colonel Hightower anticipated a major attack as the Germans moved past his rear. But what the 1st Battalion commander did not realize was that the enemy column (*Kampfgruppe Peiper*) was actually detouring around Hünningen, interested only in getting back onto its assigned route.

At 1600, the expected attack unfolded, but not from the rear. Heavy shelling preceded an infantry attack from around Losheimergraben. American artillery fire, called down by an observer in the church steeple, was highly effective in stopping the onrushing German troops. But the enemy kept coming, the German commander sending seven distinct attacking waves during the afternoon and early evening. Several penetrations of the thin American line were made but at no time was the enemy able to take Hünningen.

Sometime during the afternoon, Hightower received a radio message removing him from the 394th and assigning him to the 9th Infantry Division headquartered in Wirtzfeld. The message, from Colonel Chester Hirschfelder, 9th Infantry commander, also instructed Hightower to 'pull back to new positions or you will be cut off.' By then, however, Hightower's men were so closely engaged with the Germans that he was not sure if he could break off and move without great difficulty. Nevertheless, he called Colonel Riley of the 394th and advised him of the change in plans. Riley was notably upset, for if Hightower's men pulled out now, his entire right flank would be up in the air, and he still did not know the whereabouts of his 2nd Battalion. A quick radio exchange with General Lauer confirmed the order. Riley knew now that he had no alternative—with ammunition running out and enemy pressure increasing by the minute, he would also have to pull back. Lauer agreed but insisted that any move would have to be coordinated with the 23rd Infantry. Riley spoke with Hightower again, and between them a plan took shape. The withdrawal from Hünningen and Mürringen would commence soon after midnight.

The men of the 393rd's 3rd Battalion, meanwhile, had counterattacked east along the northern forest trail early on December 17, in an attempt to regain their positions along the International Highway. They drove the Germans back off the trail, but then ran into a reinforced battalion of SS *Panzergranadiers* coming from the opposite direction and soon joined by the 12th SS Panzer Division. Roving teams of GIs using bazookas managed to hold the panzers at bay for a short time, but the combination of armor and numerical superiority was too much for the defenders. The GIs—critically short of just about everything by then—had to withdraw again.

At 1030, Colonel Jean Scott, 393rd Regiment commander, obtained the OK to withdraw to a new line east of Rocherath. The 3rd Battalion slowly withdrew along the trail and firebreaks, eventually passing through the line established by the 23rd Infantry's 3rd Battalion. As they filed past, the men of the 23rd Infantry begged for any ammunition the others could spare, since they had been issued only the basic load, which would not last for long. At that point, although they did not know it, the few hundred men of the 23rd Infantry's 3rd Battalion were all that stood in the way of the Germans' cutting off all 2nd and 99th Division troops in the Wahlerscheid sector.

By late morning, the situation in the woods had deteriorated to such an extent that Colonel Tuttle's orders had been changed to 'Hold at all costs.' Unsure of what to expect, Tuttle called his company commanders together and passed the order to them.

Robertson had realized by daybreak on December 17 that his division and the 99th were fighting for their very existence. Finally receiving permission to call off the Wahlerscheid attack, he immediately began to implement the withdrawal that had been planned during the night. The plan, 'skinning the cat' as Robertson phrased it, called for the most forward units at Wahlerscheid to pull back first, through those behind them. This included the three battalions of the 395th RCT, which was now attached to the 2nd Division. Robertson's plan envisioned the RCT pulling back along a trail that ran nearly parallel to the main road, before joining it about a mile and a half north of Rocherath. Marching south along that trail, the RCT would provide a cover for the other battalions coming back south along the main road.

Waiting on the main road, Robertson met the first of the RCT members and directed the 1st Battalion to positions north of Rocherath, along both sides of the Wahlerscheid road. The first of his own units, the 38th Infantry's 3rd Battalion, came into view a short time later. As had previously been arranged, Colonel Frank Boos, the 38th Infantry commander, had instructed his 3rd Battalion to proceed south past Krinkelt and establish a line south-southeast of the village to deny use of the roads in that area to the Germans.

In the early afternoon, the 9th Infantry's 1st Battalion started south down the main road. The 1st Battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. William D. McKinley (a grand-nephew of President William McKinley) was last in line. As they headed south, the men heard the sound of the battle through the falling snow.

East of the road, the battle in the forest reached a critical stage. Just after the survivors of the 393rd's 3rd Battalion had passed, German tanks and infantry unleashed a torrent of fire against the 23rd Infantry's roadblock. Company I was hit especially hard but held its ground until ammunition gave out. Falling back to a firebreak just a few yards behind their original line, the Americans attempted to establish another defensive position, but the Germans, sensing victory, closed too quickly. Two Sherman tanks positioned to back up the 3rd Battalion duelled with the advancing panzers in a gallant effort, but they were no match for the Tigers and Panthers and were quickly knocked out.

As they withdrew, the GIs came out onto large stretches of open ground that were raked by German artillery and rocket fire, adding to the confusion. Many men became separated from their units and made their way to the rear individually or were rounded up and captured by the rapidly advancing Germans.

At 1600, Robertson learned that the 393rd's 3rd Battalion had pulled back from the woods and that his 23rd Infantry's 3rd Battalion had been badly mauled. He realized that there was now no effective resistance to the east and that the Twin Villages and the Wahlerscheid road could be captured at any time. Hurrying back along the road toward Wahlerscheid, he came upon Company K of the 9th Infantry's 3rd Battalion. He quickly directed the commander to take his men southeast to Lausdell, a point where several farm roads and trails converged. That done, he jumped back into his jeep and rushed north toward Wahlerscheid again. Just up the road he met McKinley's badly depleted 3rd Battalion. Locating 10 trucks, Robertson instructed McKinley to load as many men as possible and

ELSENBORN RIDGE (continuation)

have the rest follow on foot. He then led the convoy to the Lausdell junction. Once there, he told McKinley to round up and take command of all the troops in the immediate vicinity, set up a defense around the junction and hold 'until ordered otherwise.'

McKinley's force—roughly 600 men—began the tedious but necessary task of digging in. As they began, survivors from the 23rd Infantry streamed back from the woods to the east. Seeing the friendly faces, one of the retiring troops asked which outfit was taking up the Lausdell position. Through gritted teeth one of the digging men replied: 'Ninth Infantry. It ain't enough we attack for five f-ing days. We gotta turn around and take up somebody else's defense.' By 1800, McKinley's positions were fairly well-established, including some mines and a direct communications line to supporting artillery emplaced around Elsenborn.

At about 1830, one of the forward companies reported that tanks were approaching. By now it was pitch dark, and positive identification of the armor was impossible. Forewarned that still more men from the 23rd, 393rd and 394th might yet come out of the forest, the GIs held their fire, and by the time anyone realized the tanks were German they had rumbled past the forward outposts and headed for Rocherath. A short distance behind the front line, two GIs started on their way to verify the tanks' identity. As they were standing alongside the road SS *Panzergradiers* walked right past the GIs, not paying them any attention. Then the tanks came roaring by, and one of the commanders riding high in a turret gestured rudely at the two men as he passed. As the two men raced off quickly toward the CP to request artillery support, the Germans opened fire, killing one of them. The other made it to the CP, and soon mortars were falling, but just one tank was hit.

Meanwhile, more tanks and infantry appeared at the front. Realizing now that anything approaching along the road from the forest was German, McKinley's men were galvanized to action. A string of mines pulled across the road stopped two of the panzers, while daring bazooka teams accounted for two more. Along another road still more German armor appeared. Artillery fire took out four of those tanks, but several others ran the gantlet of fire and continued on to Rocherath. Just a few minutes later, still more enemy tanks materialized on the main road, this time accompanied by a large number of infantry. The artillery liaison officer screamed into his radio handset for fire on the rapidly closing column, saying, 'If you don't get it out now, it'll be too goddamned late!' The response came a minute later in a deafening crash of exploding shells, and the German attack withered under the brutal pounding. When the shelling ceased, a silence described by one man as 'almost frightening' fell over the battlefield.

While McKinley's men were digging in, the last American troops left Wahlerscheid en route to the Twin Villages. Two battalions from the 38th Infantry were nearing an area called the Baracken Crossroads when German artillery began to fall on them. The 1st Battalion, under Lt. Col. Frank Mildren, ran through the deadly fire, with two companies taking heavy casualties. Making his way to Rocherath, Mildren tried to locate his executive officer. He finally spotted him near the gray stone church that separated the two villages. Mildren got a quick briefing, then made his way to the CP, a house just south of the church. Locating as many of his men as possible, he directed them into positions east and northeast of Krinkelt, placing one platoon farther out in front of the others to give the alarm if the Germans broke through. The 2nd Battalion, meanwhile, filtered into Rocherath to positions east and northeast of that village, almost directly behind McKinley's positions at Lausdell.

West of Krinkelt, engineers from the 2nd Division worked feverishly to shore up the single dirt road between the Twin Villages and Wirtzfeld. It was along that road that Robertson planned to move the men from the two divisions as soon as a cohesive defense could be created along the Elsenborn Ridge.

That night, east of the Twin Villages, the roads and fields were akin to a scene from hell. Vehicles and buildings burned brightly, tracers skipped back and forth, and flares of all colors floated down through the inky darkness while artillery shells and rockets exploded everywhere. As one officer saw it, 'The night was ablaze with more noise and flame [than he had] thought possible for men to create.'

In the Twin Villages, the tanks that had earlier gotten by McKinley's men roamed the streets shooting at anything that moved. Near the church they encountered three Shermans. The ensuing fight was short and one-sided; soon all three American tanks were smoking hulks. Adding to the bedlam, German artillery bracketed the villages, setting more buildings afire.

Late on December 17, two events occurred that would have an effect not only on the raging battle in and around the Twin Villages, but also, later, the defense of the Elsenborn Ridge itself. First, the 1st Infantry Division's 26th Infantry Regiment had arrived and taken up positions between Butgenbach and Büllingen. This took some of the pressure off the few remaining troops of the 99th Division south and southwest of the Twin Villages. It also strengthened the weak southern flank and alleviated some of Robertson's concern about a thrust from Büllingen. Secondly, the remaining men of the 394th's 1st Battalion at Mürringen, as well as the 23rd's 1st Battalion at Hünningen, gave up their positions. Adhering to Lauer's orders, both units broke off contact and made their way to the Twin Villages. In the confusion around Krinkelt, many men became lost and separated, but the majority of the 394th made it through Krinkelt and Wirtzfeld to Elsenborn while those of the 23rd made it to Wirtzfeld, where they joined the 9th Infantry in establishing a defense of the village.

Throughout the night, artillery continued to pound the Twin Villages as German tanks prowled the streets in search of American positions. But more than a few panzers fell prey to teams of bazooka-firing GIs who stalked and then destroyed the steel behemoths in the narrow lanes. In several cases when bazooka rockets ran out, GIs emptied gasoline cans over the often slow-moving tanks and lit them with thermite grenades. After losing their infantry support, three German tanks hid in the rubble and played dead, content to wait until daylight before resuming the attack. Farther east, throughout the night, the Germans funneled men and armor into the woods in preparation for an all-out assault at dawn.

At 0700, with thick fog and smoke obscuring the battlefield, the Germans sallied forth again, a heavy barrage of artillery and rockets preceding their advance. Near Lausdell, McKinley's men, fed and resupplied overnight, prepared to meet the challenge. They did not have to wait long—soon, hundreds of SS *Panzergradiers* supported by tanks loomed out of the fog. Letting the first wave of armor pass, the GIs rose from their foxholes and engaged the enemy infantry with any weapon at hand—guns, knives, even shovels. 'One man tried to stop a tank by jamming his rifle between the cleats of its track,' recalled an eyewitness. Bazooka teams crept up to the slow-moving armor and knocked out several, small-arms fire picking off any crewman who tried to escape. Excellent shooting by American artillery finally broke up the savage attack, but the determined Germans were not finished. At 0830, after regrouping in the woods, they came on again in even larger numbers. This time, even with the

ELSENBORN RIDGE (continuation)

deadly artillery fire right on target, the GIs around Lausdell were unable to stem the German tide. Several tanks broke through followed closely by German infantry, both headed for the cauldron that was the Twin Villages.

During the night, McKinley had received word that his men would be withdrawn as soon as the 38th Infantry's 2nd Battalion had established its defense, but the Germans struck before McKinley's men could pull out. Via radio, McKinley told Colonel Boos that he could not disengage unless tank or tank destroyer support could be found. Suddenly, as if on cue, four Shermans appeared at the Baracken Crossroads. Asked if he wanted to fight, the tank platoon commander yelled loudly, 'Hell, yes!' The Shermans moved in quickly, firing at enemy armor between the front lines and Rocherath. In quick succession, they accounted for four knocked out German tanks. The planned withdrawal commenced shortly after noon with the Shermans providing close support, as American artillery again rose to the occasion and prevented any interference by the enemy infantry. The last out of the CP, McKinley and his operations officer ran, heads lowered, towards the Baracken Crossroads, and as they fled they heard Germans shouting behind them, demanding their unit's surrender.

Just a little over a day earlier, 600 men had gone into Lausdell; now only 217 came out. The magnificent stand by McKinley and his men was a high point seldom witnessed in battle. 'You have saved my regiment,' Boos told him.

In Krinkelt, the men of Mildren's 1st Battalion had been fighting tanks practically barehanded all morning long. Mildren had tried more than once to secure assistance from Boos in Rocherath, but to no avail. As the morning wore on and more panzers appeared, Mildren directed one of his staff to call the CP again for armored support. In short order, a junior officer was on the radio talking with Boos. 'Sir, we've got to have TDs [tank destroyers]. We're being overrun by Jerry tanks.' Calmly, Boos asked, 'How many tanks? And just how close are they to you?' Just then, one of the German tanks roared by outside Mildren's CP, shaking the house to its very foundation. The young officer then replied, 'Well, Colonel, if I went up to the second floor, I could piss out the window and hit at least six.'

The savage fighting continued nonstop all day. Infantry and tank battles raged throughout the villages. The streets and lanes of both were filled with wrecked and burning tanks. Bodies of American and German dead were strewn about everywhere, frozen into the grotesque positions that only violent death can fashion. Men were captured, escaped and were recaptured. For hours GIs and grenadiers fought one another separated only by a narrow road. Word that the SS had been murdering prisoners and bayoneting wounded spread like wildfire through the American ranks and as the battle for Krinkelt and Rocherath continued—they neither gave nor expected quarter.

Near Mildren's CP in Krinkelt, a Tiger tank was wreaking havoc. Lieutenant Jesse Morrow, Mildren's communications officer, watched as the 60-ton monster rolled over a jeep, flattening it. Grabbing a bazooka that had been flung from the jeep, Morrow aimed at the rear of the tank and fired. The tank rolled on a little, out of control, then careened into a house. A crewman stuck his head out of the top hatch, and Morrow fired his .45 at him until it was empty. Just then a second jeep came toward the young officer. Spotting another bazooka in the vehicle, he stopped the driver, grabbed the weapon and leaped around the corner, ready to fire. Then he froze.

He was looking directly down the tank's cannon. The tank's gunner fired, and the concussion from the shell exploding behind him knocked Morrow unconscious.

Coming to, Morrow saw the tank was a smoking hulk. He crawled back to the CP where Mildren, who had watched the entire scene unfold, could not believe that Morrow was still alive—alive, but not unscathed. The 88mm round from the Tiger had grazed Morrow's neck as it passed, and he was bleeding profusely. Mildren ordered him evacuated immediately to a field hospital. As he was being loaded into an ambulance, Morrow noticed three badly burned German prisoners. A medic told him, 'These guys were in the tank that shot you. A GI threw a thermite bomb down the turret.' Smiling at the young American officer, one of the Germans asked, 'Do you have a cigarette? Cigarette?' Morrow tried to get up. But with his fingers still clawing at the German, he dropped back, unconscious.

The plan for the withdrawal from the Twin Villages had been finalized by early morning December 19. It was simple: units would be pulled out from left to right, or from north to south. General Robertson encouraged the officers who were actually leading men not to use the word 'withdrawal.' This action was 'a move to new positions,' and would be conducted in an orderly fashion. The men would 'walk, not run.' About 1330, Colonel Boos ordered all equipment that could not be carried out of the villages to be destroyed. The Germans, still unwilling to give up, attacked throughout the day, but not on the scale of previous days. This was partially due to the fact that the 12th SS Panzer Division had been ordered to detour south and bypass the bottleneck, and continue on to its final objective—the banks of the Meuse River.

Commencing at 1730, the 395th RCT fell back from positions around the Baracken Crossroads, withdrawing along a boggy trail toward Elsenborn. The 38th Infantry's 2nd Battalion was next, followed by Mildren's 1st Battalion. Soon thereafter, the majority of American troops were gone, out of the charnel house that the Twin Villages had become. A rear guard consisting of infantry, engineers and some tank destroyers held the back door through Wirtzfeld open until early morning on December 20. Then they too made their way back along the muddy, deeply rutted road to Elsenborn.

After three long, difficult days of practically nonstop combat (seven days for most of the 2nd Division), the initial phase of the battle around Elsenborn Ridge was over. Although some units lost as much as 80 percent of their combat strength, the back of the German offensive in the Ardennes was effectively broken at the Twin Villages. The continuing efforts of the 2nd and 99th divisions, in concert with the 1st Division to the south and the 78th Division in the north, near Elsenborn Ridge, would end all German hopes for a successful drive to the Meuse River and then the vital Belgian port of Antwerp.

[This article was written by Ralph E. Hersko, Jr. and originally published in the November 1998 issue of World War II. For more great articles subscribe to World War II magazine today.]

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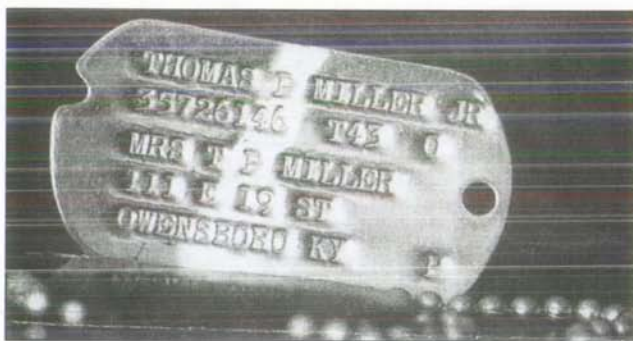
LOST AND FOUND AFTER 65 YEARS

HAL MILLER and his brother, **TOM**, both served through Normandy, the Battle of the Bulge, and the Rhine River, with the **297TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION**.

Somewhere in France Tom lost his dog tags. He never mentioned it to Hal and 35 years after his passing, Hal was contacted that his dog tags had been found in France.



In 2008, Hal's daughter, Evelyn McCarty received an e-mail from Philippe Vimond, a history buff in St. Lo. A friend of Vimond's had found the dog tag in one of the hedgerows, and Vimond was able to find her on line. It was returned to Hal by a circuitous route.



Dog tags on display along with other WWII memorabilia at Hal's restaurant.

Hal said, "It is emotional. It's a proud possession," looking at the tag. "This has been lost for 64 years. That's really some history. I can't forget it and I don't like for anybody to forget it and what we went through. ■"



VE 65TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR 1ST AND 4TH INF DIVS NORMANDY AND THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE - JULY / AUG 2010

Veterans, family members and friends visit Normandy (July 23 - 30, 2010) and then significant sites of the Battle of the Bulge (July 30 - Aug 3, 2010), following in the tracks of 1st Inf Div and 4th Inf Div, with battlefield visits, ceremonies and receptions with the local people. Your "special requests" will be included wherever possible, not only in Normandy and the Bulge, but also around Aachen and the Huertgen Forest. The Grand Finale is a Cruise down the Rhine River with elegant lunch and wine.



VE 65TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR ALSACE-LORRAINE WELCOMES THIRD ARMY AND SEVENTH ARMY VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES & FRIENDS SEPT 13 - 24, 2010

2010 is the 65th Anniversary of Hitler's ferocious but unsuccessful offensive in Alsace-Lorraine against Third Army and Seventh Army to counterpunch mounting American success in the Battle of the Bulge. Route: Paris - Epinal American Cemetery - Luneville - Vosges mountains - Struthof Concentration Camp - Northern Alsace/Operation Nordwind battlefields - Strasbourg - Heidelberg - Grand Finale Rhine Cruise with dinner - Frankfurt.

For more information, contact: Doris Davis, Email dordavis@earthlink.net or Tel (650) 654-0101 (PST). Doris is President of the VBOB Golden Gate (San Francisco) Chapter. She says, "It was so meaningful to me to stand on the soil where my Father told me that he was in battle. I can't describe it - you have to experience it for yourself."

NEW BOOK AVAILABLE SOON

JOHN P. MALLOY, 291ST INFANTRY DIVISION, 75TH INFANTRY DIVISION, will soon finish a book that he has been working on for three years. It is devoted to the history of WWII. About 40% is devoted to his experiences in WWII and 60% to the larger picture of that struggle. If you are interested in purchasing a copy, please contact him: 6581 E Via Algard, Tucson, Arizona 85750. E-mail: joevie23@comcast.net ■

398TH ENGINEER GS REGIMENT

Clyde Walton 398th Engineer GS Regiment H&S Company

By way of prologue, our unit, the 398th GS Regiment, was more at home building roads, training facilities, assisting in rebuilding the docks in Cherbourg to provide supplies for the men at the front (for which we received a Meritorious Unit Award) and to prepare hospitals for their recovery when wounded. Perhaps, in our youthful exuberance, we may have wished to be where the "action is," but by the luck of the draft, we were not.

Then the unthinkable happened. Field Marshall von Rundstedt's December 16th breakthrough into Ardennes gave the European war picture new significance. What had begun just as another counterattack was developing into threatening proportions. The Nazi army was staking all in an apparent gamble and it was up to the Allies to match their stakes or lose. What followed then was best told by Colonel Karl Detzer, taking an excerpt from his *The Mightiest Army*.

"As the situation on the front became more desperate, General Eisenhower called General Lee and asked whether he had any units or any men he could spare. General Lee called General Plank and General Thrasher. Did they have anyone they could throw into the lines to back up the infantry?"

"Anyone, Hell, yes! They had thousands of the best damn soldiers in the world. Maybe they weren't all you could ask for physically and they hadn't trained for combat but by damn!, you could count on them to stand up and fight. So they formed battalions and companies of this collection of pen-pushers and truck drivers, of grocers and laundry operators and shoemakers and sent them forward toward the approaching battle line."

We were alerted at 1500 hours, December 22nd. Two hours later, construction projects had been shelved, our tools were put away. We were on our way. As with most units, we had no winter clothing. We were equipped with 1903 Springfield rifles. We later received M1's and winter clothing. Although considerable enemy air activity was observed during the moves, no enemy fire was directed at the convoy.

Upon arrival in Luxembourg City, XII Corps Headquarters was consulted and learned the 398th had been attached to Task Force Reed, XII Corps, Third Army.

Task Force Reed was composed of the Second Cavalry Group, Second Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, 808th Tank Destroyer Battalion (less one company), 276th Field Artillery Battalion (105's), 398th Engineer General Service Regiment and 372nd General Service Regiment. This task force was divided into two units: Combat Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, Company A of 808th Tank Destroyer Battalion.

The mission of Combat Team Costello was to relieve elements of the Fourth Infantry Division in sector extending from Ihnen to Mertert inclusive, and to defend and repel any crossing of the Moselle River attempted by the enemy, and to prepare alternate delaying positions.

"This flank had been a constant concern to General Barton during the 4th Division battles and had absorbed Battalions of the 22nd Infantry badly needed on the fighting line."

Immediately following a reconnaissance made by battalion and company commanders in conjunction with Second Cavalry Troop commander, defensive positions were agreed upon and we began "digging in." By 1800 hours on December 24th (Christmas Eve) the 4th Infantry was relieved of responsibility on this front of approximately 15 miles from Ihnen to Mertert, along the Moselle River. Regimental Headquarters and H&S Company took up positions in Biwer, adjacent to Wecker. First Battalion Headquarters were at Niederdonven and Second Battalion Headquarters were at Maternach. Company A's Headquarters were at Lenningen, while its platoons were at Ihnen, Lenningen and Oberwormldange. Company B was held in reserve at Gostingen, with Company C at Oberdonven and Companies D, E, and F were located in Manternach.

Christmas Day found us improving and shifting always closer to the Moselle, with an eye toward clearing its west shore of enemy troops.

On December 31st, a platoon from Company C and from Company B failed to dislodge an enemy force from the 212th Volks Grenadier Division, occupying Mactum. At 1900 hours, a 12-man patrol crossed the thinly iced Moselle in the Wincheringen area. Here they encountered a nest of five enemy machine guns. Four men of the patrol (three from the 398th) were cut down. The fur who had been shot down were beyond reach and evacuation was impossible. Later we learned only one man survived.

Earlier in the day, efforts were begun to dislodge enemy holdings within Mactum. Friendly artillery laid down a moving barrage on the town and followed with Second Cavalry light tanks. A 398th platoon occupied a hill down a moving barrage on the town and followed with Second Cavalry light tanks. A 398th platoon occupied a hill overlooking Mactum at 1630. Meanwhile the Second Cavalry forces withdrew from the town. A 398th Squad attacked an adjacent hill overlooking Mactum and removed an enemy strong point. The Germans then laid down a 3-hour 88mm and mortar barrage, pinning down the squad, and followed it up with attacks by three patrols. At 0300 hours the 1st of January our squad withdrew because of lack of sufficient tank support for they were unable to maneuver steep slopes near town and had to be withdrawn. However, the 398th suffered no casualties during the operations.

"On December 31, 1944, and New Year's Day, 1945, there occurred one of the war's unpredictable situations when, on the last day of the year, American B-17's roared over...and dropped approximately 150 demolition and several incendiary bombs on the western edge of Wecker, Luxembourg (about one half mile from our Regimental Headquarters). We sustained some damage in our Regimental Headquarters area but fortunately there were no casualties. Shortly thereafter, headquarters moved to Bucholz.

At 1100 hours, two 398th platoons, supported by a platoon of Second Cavalry light tanks again attacked the enemy's hill position outside of Mactum. An undetermined number of Germans were killed and wounded. The position was overtaken and 398th personnel manned former German installations from that time onward. Our casualties during the mission numbered nine wounded, seven seriously.

During patrol operations across the Moselle on the night of January 2nd, another 398th man was wounded and listed as "missing in action."

Another German patrol operated within our lines on January 6th and attacked one of our

(Continued)

398TH ENGINEER GS REGIMENT (Continuation)
company's machine gun positions, killing two 398th men and seriously wounding a third.

Elements of the 398th participated in creating a diversion in the vicinity of Ihnen to Ahn to assist in simulating preparations for crossing the Moselle River. This sham was aimed at diverting the 11th Panzer Division, which was somewhere in the Saarburg locality, to this area, and away from the drive being prepared for the north front at Echternach. Various amplified sounds of starting tank motors, grinding gears, running vehicles, recorded on records were thrown across the river. Our attempts to manufacture a "dry-run" assault were successful and the 42nd Division made its northward drive.

Until we were relieved by the 1252nd and 1258th Engineer Combat Battalions on January 23rd after 31 successive days on the line, activities were becoming commonplace as compared with what had already gone before. No longer were we "green," to which we have the tutelage of the Second Cavalry to thank.

Through our "baptism of fire," we learned a greater appreciation for those men who were constantly in these circumstances. We learned the hardships and uncertainties of battle and the loss of friends and comrades. Like the little Dutch boy who had plugged the hole in the dike with his finger until help could arrive to seal the breach, we had filled a niche that was sorely needed and we felt the satisfaction of a job well done.

We went back to doing that which we did best, ultimately building the camps for our fighting men to be processed for their return to home and family. At last, we realized the full import of our regimental motto, "Factum Est," or "It Is Done!"

WHAT A WELCOME

Marlene Dietrich welcomes home members of VII Corps.



Photo submitted by **HAL MILLER, 297TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION**■

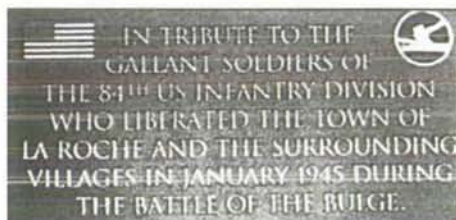
84TH INFANTRY DIVISION REMEMBERED IN BELGIUM

*[The following information was taken from The Railsplitter, the newsletter of the 87th Infantry Division, with information provided by **BOB REID, 335TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, COMPANY H.**]*

On September 12, 2009, in front of the Battle of the Bulge Museum in LaRoche, Belgium, a bronze plaque was mounted on a section of a Sherman tank was dedicated. The plaque was covered by an American flag and, Bob Reid, along with the curator of the museum, had the pleasure of unveiling the plaque.

LaRoche had been liberated by units from the 334th on January 11, 1945. The street name is "Chem de la 84e Division Americaine" which translates to "Path of the 84th US Division."

Reid states that he arrived with two stars on a jeep and, thus, his two stripes turned into two stars--a general.



Reid stated that the trip made him realize "How Proud I am to be a Railsplitter."■

KANSAS--ON A ROLL

*[The following information has been extracted from information provided by both **Jim Sharp** and **Gloria Freeland**. Our thanks to both.]*

In observance of the 65th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge a group of Kansas veterans organized a luncheon, which was held on January 15, 2010, at the Manhattan, Kansas, American Legion. As a result of media coverage, they served over 187 for lunch and 15-20 came in after lunch.

Jim Sharp, 1st Infantry Division, 18th Infantry Regiment, 1st Battalion, Company B, served as Steering Committee Chairman. Members of his committee were Bill Stahl, 106th Infantry Division; Dick Jepsen, 30th Infantry; and Wallace Jeffrey, 327th Fighter Control Squadron.

Major General (Retd) Orris E. Kelly gave the invocation.

Dozens of veterans spoke as did representatives of the Embassies of Belgium and Luxembourg.

Honorary Consul from Belgium, David Barber, spoke of the chaos in Belgium with food shortages and hundreds of thousands of people homeless. He stated: "The passage of time has not caused us to forget what you did."

Honorary Consul from Luxembourg, Robert R. Schaeffer, stated that he was 14 when the battle took place. "Thank you from the heart," he said, "Thank you from my people. As I look at your faces, I can see that you still have the same spirit you needed when you fought the battle."

The extreme interest shown, indicated that another reunion would possibly be held next year and there seemed to be sufficient interest to pursue formation of a VBOB chapter.

SKETCHES & MEMORIES

Maurice H. "Bill" Kunselman
106th Infantry Division
424th Infantry Regiment

[Maurice Kunselman sent us a copy of his book (title above). He carefully details each day along with pictures of his encounter in the Bulge. We have extracted one day of his memories.]

December 16, 1944—I remained on duty by the field phone in the CP until about 3 a.m. The battalions made their routine reports. The several patrols that were out, reported some sounds of enemy activity, but nothing unusual. A rocket barrage hit K Company in the 3rd Battalion area. Turning the duty over to Jim Gillum, I went up to the attic and crawled into my sleeping bag. I had hardly gone to sleep when Gillum was shaking me awake and I was aware of a bedlam of noise around me. Half awake, my first thought that the building was on fire, Jim said heavy artillery fire was falling on all our positions and they wanted everybody downstairs. Suddenly, I realized that wasn't hail rattling on the stone roof above, but shrapnel and we got out of there. I flashed the light on my watch and noted it was about 5:50 a.m.

It's quite an experience to come under heavy shellfire the first time and I will admit my stomach felt like hello for a while. I suppose some others felt the same way, but none of us would admit it. It is one thing to experience it under training exercises but when the real thing hits, you think, "Hey, this is for keeps." Communications from the forward positions were busy but those to division HQs were cut, probably by the shellfire. Cannon Company reported swarming in the minefields in front of their positions. Things picked up fast then as our 591st artillery started responding to calls for help. All along the line there were reports of activity in the darkness in front of our positions, and the twinkling of dim red and green lights, apparently signaling devices to control the movement of the assaulting forces. 3rd Battalion, last to be hit, was being attacked by infantry and tanks. With communications to division out, we didn't know if this was just a local attack on our positions, or if the whole division was involved.

Stepping outside, I saw the eerie effects of the searchlights to the northeast and the reddish glow of artillery fire flaring up and dying all along the dark hill masses. To the southeast a swarm of screaming mimis trailing fire rose over a ridge and fell, to explode with a muttering roar somewhere in our battalion positions. A fearsome sight and I compared it to Dante's Hell. Meanwhile shells ripped and howled overhead (both incoming and outgoing). I thought, if this was a quiet sector it sure is going to get rough when we meet the real thing. About that time a couple of shells exploded in the lower village, throwing out a shower of sparks and I ducked back into the shelter of the building.

By eight o'clock, the 3rd Battalion had counterattacked and retaken their positions and 2nd Battalion had repulsed their attack, claiming two tanks destroyed and the others withdrawing. They reported many enemy dead and wounded in front of and in their positions, and 200 prisoners taken. However, Cannon Company was slowly giving ground along the Prum-St. Vith

highway in face of persistent heavy attacks. In heavy weapons, they only had a couple of 50-caliber and 30-caliber machine guns (MGs). They reported the enemy up Hwy 265 in big halftrack personnel carriers, unloading and marching up the road four abreast. They were being mowed down, but more took their place. Colonel Reid ordered Company C, 82st Engineers, who were in the east end of our village to move northeast and cover Cannon Company's right flank. Meanwhile the 106th Reconnaissance Company on Cannon Company's left flank just vanished. The radio was jammed and telephone lines to 106 Recon and Cannon Company were soon cut, either by enemy patrols or shellfire. It was imperative to know what was going on in those areas.

Later an officer from Cannon Company reported they had been overrun by masses of infantry supported by armored vehicles advancing up the road from Prum. Cannon Company was falling back toward Winterspelt and needed ammunition as well as reinforcements. Unfortunately, our 1st Battalion was still division reserve and unavailable to us. Company C, 81st Engineers, were ordered to move up and support Cannon while the I&R Platoon under Sgt. McKenna established a defense between the regimental CP and the Winterspelt Road. Meanwhile, the messenger sent to contact 106 Recon Company on our far left flank returned reporting he could not contact them because of Germans swarming in that area. He did see an officer from the 423rd Regiment who said a strong force of Germans were advancing around the southern tip of Schnee Eifel and threatening the Town of Blielf. Also, the messenger said he had been fired on. It certainly looked as if our left flank was in real trouble.

Communications were reestablished with division around 8 a.m. and we learned the whole VIII Corps area was heavily attacked by panzers (tanks) and infantry, but thought to be just a spoiling attack to force First Army to halt its attack on the Roer River dams. Later in the morning, General Perrin (Div.Exec.) visited our area to access the situation. Recognizing the danger on our left, he secured the release of our 1st Battalion (Lt.Col. Welsh) from division reserve to stabilize the situation. They moved quickly from Steinbruck, sending C Company ahead to support Cannon Company at Eigelscheid while the rest of the battalion dug in around Winterspelt. We could plainly see the church steeple at Winterspelt, about a mile north of our command post (CP). The Germans continued to attack along the highway and the antitank platoon knocked out two tanks, but a third tank destroyed the gun with a direct hit. C Company and the remainder of Cannon Company fell back into the perimeter of Winterspelt. With the momentum of the German attack, one of their combat patrols penetrated the town and grenaded the battalion CP, located in a basement. Luckily, the CP personnel spotted the danger and they vacated the basement just before the grenades demolished it. However, the 1st Battalion held fast to their positions and the southern route to St. Vith was blocked for the time being. Although the enemy attacks and shelling continued all along our regimental sector, our positions held the rest of the day and into the night.

To our south it appeared the 28th Division had been overrun and its 112th Infantry Regiment separated from the rest of the division. In turn, B Company, 112th, had been forced out of Lutzhampen and into our rear area on the Burg Rueland Road. They were separated from the rest of their regiment (112th) and asked for help. Colonel Reid ordered our 2nd Battalion to send

(Continued)

a platoon and ammunition. Ironically, I had gone into service back in 1941 with B Company from Meadville, Pennsylvania.

Later in the afternoon, our Service Company at Elcherath (to our rear) was attacked by enemy soldiers wearing American uniforms and using an American halftrack towing a 3-inch antitank gun. At first, they thought it was Americans so they were taken by surprise. We were to learn later that the 150th Panzer Brigade was composed of Germans wearing our uniforms and using captured American vehicles and tanks were slipped into our rear areas to confuse and demoralize our troops. For the duration of this campaign this deceit had to be dealt with using special passwords that were uniquely American and carefully screening any strange unit we might meet. German patrols in our rear areas would cut into our phone lines and using American speaking Germans would try to give false orders or information, and, of course, the same was true with radio. Sometimes, they were successful.

To our immediate northeast (left flank), we had no contact with the 423rd and 422nd Infantry Regiments on Schnee Eifel and there was a gap between us in which then enemy was moving. Further north in the Losheim Gap, the real catastrophe was taking shape as the Sixth Panzer Army was rolling over the 18th Cavalry Squadron and its attached units, threatening to break through and sweep down behind our regiments on the mountain mass surrounding them. Already their escape road to the north was blocked, and the artillery was defending itself from tanks with direct fire. If the enemy broke through at the railroad tunnel and took Beilf, the southern escape route would be blocked and 2/3rds of our division trapped. All of this and in less than a week [after] we arrived.

There were a lot of heroes this day, but one would have to read the division history to learn their stories. I will only mention several instances I observed. One was a young battalion messenger. Early in the fighting he was driving his jeep to our Command Post when a bullet passed through the lower edge of his helmet and through his neck. He had a bloody bandage tied around his neck and refused to be evacuated, continued running messages the rest of the day.

A lot of prisoners had accumulated in our stockade by afternoon and it was necessary to get them back to division and off our hands. My friend, M/Sgt. Gene Justis, took three truckloads and after turning them over to the Division Provost, offered to guide truckloads of badly needed ammunition back to regiment. Ten of them with artillery ammo were dropped off in the artillery rear area and he continued with the other five. As they entered one village in a rear area, they were surprised to see armed Germans in the street. Firing their 50 caliber MGs from the truck ring mounts, they barreled their way through the surprised enemy. Three trucks with the badly needed ammo made it. Further along he reported seeing several houses with candles burning in the windows. They shot one out as they passed, figuring it was a signal for the advancing Germans. We know the enemy was in contact with the civilians in our area because we discovered the local people had gathered in sturdy basements prior to the opening barrages that morning. Several of our men remembered seeing a woman going from house-to-house the evening before probably warning the people. I guess we would try to do the same if it were our people.

From identities of prisoners taken that day in our sector, it appeared we were being attacked by the 116th Panzer Division, 62nd VG (Inf) Division and part of the 110 Luftwaffe Division.

Papers and maps found on a captain from the 116th Panzer, captured by 2nd Battalion, showed their first day's objective was Crombach, about nine miles to our rear and their major objective was Liege, Belgium, a major communication and supply center for the whole American front. This was a small attack. Apparently, we had managed to upset their timetable--for a little while anyway.

None of us slept much that night; maybe catching a catnap as the opportunity afforded itself. We stuck close to the field phones and message center while S-2 continued to question prisoners and glean a little more information. We had no idea what was happening in the rest of the Corps area and not sure what was happening in our own. As we added new reports of enemy units to our map with a red grease pencil, our own position began to look like a peninsula jutting into a German sea. That night, division reported it was being shelled by 14-inch guns. That would be big railroad guns. Artillery grumbled and flares hung low in the sky over our forward position as they watched for and reported seeing strong enemy patrols bypass them and move to our rear, at least no reports of tanks. Several buzz bombs droned over, probably headed for Liege. Several platoons from the 168th Engineers were sent up to reinforce Company C, 81st Engineers. Communications improved as our wire crews repaired and replaced the lines that had been badly torn up by artillery fire. Messengers were kept busy as static jammed radios left a lot to be desired in performance.

We received news that CCB, 9th Armored Division, was assigned to our division and would attack in the morning to reestablish the line between Wintzspelt and Beilf. That was good news to know there would be tanks to oppose tanks. More good news as we learned CCB, 7th Armored, was to move through St. Vith and attack in the Losheim Gap and drive the enemy out of there. So, as the day drew to a close, things were looking up.

Since our destiny henceforth will be tied to armored divisions, I will try to clarify their makeup. As an infantry division has three combat teams, each with its own artillery, engineers, anti-tank units, etc., the armored division has two combat teams made up of tank battalions, armored artillery, armored infantry, engineers, tank destroyers, etc., these are called Combat Command A and Combat Command B (referred to as CCA and CCB). There is also a CCR which is mainly supply and support units but it does have combat capabilities, too. So what was being set down for the attacks in the morning was not two armored divisions, but a combat command from each.

[The book contains 85 pages of text and 138 sketches, plus other data. It is available through www.Amazon.com and www.Trafford.com. It's book number is: ISBN: 978-1-4120-9674-4]



NOMINATING COMMITTEE APPOINTED

President Demetri "Dee" Paris has appointed the following members to the 2010 Nominating Committee: George Chekan, Chair; Ralph Bozorth, Member; J David Bailey, Member; Louis Cunningham, Member; Alfred H. M. Shehab, Member. The Committee will present to the membership as a whole a slate of candidates for office for the annual election, which will be held in Columbia, SC on Sunday, September 5, 2010 at the Annual Membership Meeting.

As stated in the present Bylaws, a slate of candidates for office shall be presented by the Nominating Committee and publicized separately, or in the Bulge Bugle, or other Corporate publication at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to the election. The Nominating Committee shall consider recommendations for nominations made by any Chapter or by petition from at least five (5) active members received forty-five (45) days prior to publication of the slate of officers; the assent of the nominee shall be indicated. Publication is scheduled for August 1, 2010.

Recommendations for consideration should be mailed to the Chairman of the Nominating Committee at 520 Small Reward Road, Huntingtown, MD 20639 so as to arrive before the June 15, 2010 date.

According to the Bylaws Nominations shall be presented by the Nominating Committee for:

President
Executive Vice President
Vice President for National and Regional Coordination (Chapters)
Vice President for Membership
Vice President for Military Affairs
Treasurer
Recording Secretary
Corresponding Secretary
Three Three-year Trustees

Those seeking consideration by the Nominating Committee should be aware that meetings of the Executive Council are held in the Washington Metropolitan Area, presently at Fort George G. Meade, MD Golf Clubhouse. Executive Council Members pay their own travel and lodging expenses. Traditionally there is no reimbursement of expenses related to meeting attendance. All Living Past Presidents of VBOB are automatically members of the Executive Council.

PLEASE CHECK...TO SEE IF YOUR DUES HAVE BEEN PAID. We depend on your dues to keep our organization going. Your cooperation in keeping your dues current will be very much appreciated. Your dues expiration date is on the mailing label of every copy of the Bugle. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

**Do you know a Bulge veteran
who doesn't belong to VBOB?
Ask him to join...we need his support.**

VBOB MARCHES IN Nation's St Patrick's Parade Trophy Winners



Our VBOB marchers were a hit again in the 39th annual St Patrick's Parade, in our Nation's Capital, on Sunday, 14th March. They were well received as they marched down Constitution Avenue NW and were awarded "The People's Choice" trophy sponsored by the Prince George County Firefighters Emerald Society.

Though the sky's were foreboding with rain throughout the morning, the Good Lord shone upon the Irish and ended the rain ten minutes before the start of the parade. The temperature was in the 50's and there was a nip in the air but nothing that could deter these VBOBers.

They were preceded by the outstanding Randolph-Macon Military Academy Band and AF ROTC Marching Unit. Our marchers, again dazzled the on-lookers as they marched to this outstanding beat of the Randolph-Macon Band.

The theme of this year's parade was "The Irish That Built America." The Grand Marshal was Frank Saul, Founder of Chevy Chase Bank, and his wife Tricia Saul.

The Gael of the Year was Robert J. Hickey, Jr, Retired FBI and founder of the local chapter of CCE the largest group involved in the preservation and promotion of Irish traditional music.

A tip of the Irish Top Hat goes to Griffen Diday and Katie Kilmer who carried the VBOB banner, Mike Levin (489th Armored Field Artillery, 7th Armored Division), Emmett Lang, (84th InfD), Warren Horn (USMC), and Glenn H. Lahman (6th ArmD 68th Inf). John Bowen, Associate carried the American Flag and Scottie Ooton (84th InfD, 333rd Inf Co H), in his WWII uniform carried the Irish Flag. This year we had two military vehicles to support us and two of our members rode to the delight of the crowds. Each of the restored vehicles, WWII Jeep, and Marine Corps Mule were driven by reenactors Tim Ketchum, and Calvin Youngblood respectively.

It was a beautiful Irish Parade. The public again was particularly pleased to see these veterans and applauded and cheered the group continuously. Many of the younger generation were hollering 'Thank You' among the applause which was appreciated.



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

8:30am Antique cars pick up parade participants (our veterans)
9:30am – 10:30am Ticker Tape Parade of Honor – reviewing stands outside hotel
10:00am – 5:00 pm Registration headquarters The Marriott Downtown Hotel
11:00 am – 4:00pm Free time – lunch on your own.
5:00pm – 11:00pm Bus departs for Williams Brice Stadium – USC vs. Southern Mississippi football game. Kickoff at 7:00 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: _____

	Number of People	Cost per Person	Total Cost
Registration Fee (all attendees must register)	_____	\$20	\$ _____
Wednesday, September 1, 2010			
Wine and cheese reception (compliments of hotel)	_____	Free	
Dinner on your own			
Thursday, September 2, 2010			
Parade of Honor – outside our hotel			
Lunch on your own			
Football game and transportation	_____	Free	
Friday, September 3, 2010			
Fort Jackson, includes bus and lunch	_____	\$15	\$ _____
Road to Victory Show; includes bus cost	_____	\$45	\$ _____
Saturday, September 4, 2010			
Wreath laying at Fort Jackson National Cemetery (bus)	_____	\$10	\$ _____
300 Senate Street Restaurant – includes bus cost	_____	\$45	\$ _____
Sunday, September 5, 2010			
General membership meeting	_____		
Reception (cash bar)			
Banquet (indicate preference) Sirloin _____ Salmon _____		\$40	\$ _____
Grand Total			\$ _____

Mail registration form and check to:
 Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, PO Box 101418, Arlington, VA 22210-4418
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 29TH 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 66th 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

A ticker-tape parade honoring veterans will be held from 9:30am to 10:30am, right outside our hotel. Those veterans who want to ride in the parade will be picked up at our hotel at 8:30am and will ride in antique cars. Viewing stands will be available for those who want to sit and watch.

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. Our veterans will be honored at halftime.

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 review of the troops begins at 9:00am followed by a tour and lunch with the troops.

Relive the memories of the 40s at the "Road to Victory" USO Show at the National Guard Armory. 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 themed dinner with entertainment and 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 comprised of rein actors
Banquet; 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.

A NEW CHAPTER FOR VBOB

On Saturday March 27, 2010 a Petition was signed for the establishment of a new chapter within VBOB in Manhattan, Kansas. It brought into being the NORTHEAST KANSAS CHAPTER. The petition signers included Jim Sharp, Dick Jepsen, Bob Johnson, Bill Stahl, Wally Jeffery, Bob Jackson, Tanya Coons-Redig, Andrea Bell, Brian Sharp and Ray Thompson. Jim Sharp, an organizer of the Chapter, chaired the meeting and proceedings were carried out in keeping with accepted rules of VBOB chapter organization. There were approximately 60 individuals present. This included veterans along with spouse, children, grandchildren and interested friends. The program consisted of an information and educational period, which was followed by the organization and business part of the program.

The information and entertainment consisted of a video made at the original organizational interest meeting a number of weeks before. The video was the handiwork of Leroy Brooks, retired college professor and Associate Member. It featured Honorary Consul Generals for both Belgium and Luxembourg. The Honorable Robert Shaeffer, a native of Luxembourg was a boy fourteen years of age when the battle swept past his home. His address was genuine and heartfelt. He was in attendance at the 50th Anniversary celebration in St. Louis; referred to this event on a number of occasions, saying "You still have the great spirit that you needed when you fought that battle." Then squinting his eyes and looking into the distance, his face showing the emotion of the moment, he said, "I don't know how to justify you ----." Then he recounted a recent assembly of military leaders from England, France, Belgium and Luxembourg that had convened a seminar to study the Battle of the Bulge. After several days of discussions they concluded that if it were necessary to fight the same battle today, the allies would lose the battle. The American troops on the ground "had the willingness to fight, they had the spirit to fight and the honor in the field that carried the day. If those were not heroes, I don't know what you would call them."

Mr. David L Barber, Honorary Consul General for the Government of Belgium; Kansas City lawyer and family man addressed the assembled group. He painted a world view of events leading up to the Bulge by showing Belgium as being caught in the geographic middle of invading armies from the south and the east. He iterated the fall of Czechoslovakia, Austria and Poland and finally the lightning fast strike of Blitzkrieg on May 10, 1940 that brought Belgium under German domination for four and a half years.

Mr. Barber stated, "The passing of time has not caused us to forget what you did for the world." He then cited to "toughening" that young Americans received by living through the Depression, the stock market crash of 1929 and coming of age in the beginning of WWII. Finally he paid

tribute to the price paid by American families when the dreaded telegram came that began, "The War Department regrets to inform you"... Mr. Barber expressed the profound appreciation of the Belgian people for the price paid by American soldiers in December of 1944 and January 1945.

But, the best laid plans or mice and men, aft gang alee! Kansas State University was pitted against Butler University in the NCAA Basketball Tournament on March 27th. So, what did this stalwart group do? They did the same as in the Ardennes in December 1944. They employed the best available tactical maneuver. But this time the best maneuver was to adjourn in time for the coming basketball game. Everyone had a wonderful time on March 27th in Manhattan, Kansas.

CONGRATULATIONS MEMBERS



Submitted by Thomas R. Chambers – VP of Chapters – 9th Armored Division

AND STILL MISSING

Information from:

George K. Waters

796th Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion

[The following story is extracted from an article which appeared in The Eagle News, and written by Josh Wengler and other information submitted by George Waters.]

"Bastogne. Belgium--On Christmas Eve, 1944, as the largest battle American Forces had ever participated in, raged in the Ardennes, one unit of the 10th Armored Division known as the Woodchoppers knew they were in for a long night, but unaware they were making history.

"Waymart [Pennsylvania] resident George Waters was a cannoneer in a half-track assigned to the 796th Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion of Command Company B (CCB) outside Bastogne on that fateful morning. His unit had been positioned on a high field to protect American outposts around the town when they were overrun by much heavier German forces and were forced to retreat, nearly crippled.

"Their other cannoneer, gunner and driver injured, the unit moved into the center of Bastogne and took position across the central square from a house converted into a makeshift hospital. The aid station housed some 600 wounded under the care of a single field surgeon and two nurses.

"Not 15 minutes after establishing their position in the cellar of a bar, a shell attack close by rocked the building they were in, leaving them dazed. Soon after, a voice called from the stairs at the rear of the cellar, saying 'The Hospital has been hit! We need to get survivors out of the burning building!'

"Five of us went up the stairs, out the front door, and saw the carnage across the square,' Waters recalled. 'Two of my friends and two guys I didn't know approached...profusely burning shambles of the former three story building.

"As we approached, it appeared as if a huge cleaver had cut the building in a diagonal swath from the top corner to the ground level on the opposite side. Part of the second floor dangled over the first, and victims were being helped out of a huge hole leading to the basement.'

"Knowing they would likely be strafed at any time by the German bomber circling overhead, the five men surveyed the situation in the bright glow of magnesium flares dropped by the bomber. They knew they would be prime targets when it returned.

"We turned to retreat to the cellar,' Waters recalled. 'Took a couple of steps, and then said: Wait a minute. What if we were in there and no one would help us?'" The men turned back and made their way across the square to help carry out the wounded..."

The irony of this situation was that this was the hospital that our driver, Pasquale Orientale; our gunner, Davis Seigle; and the other cannoneer, Jasper Mauk, were assigned to. Two men of the three survived that inferno.

Thirty-five years later, I happened to talk with Mr. Mauk at one of our reunions. He told me that Dave was on the second floor with him and a large stove on a table in the corner of the room fell on him killing him instantly.

Besides the loss of wounded, a young Belgian girl who

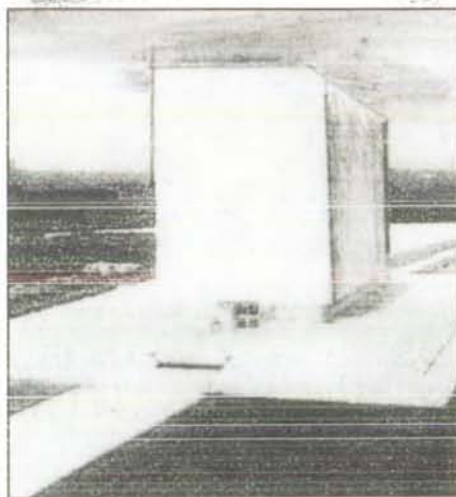
volunteered to nurse the soldiers was also killed. Her name was Renea Lamay and her story is legendary.

There are two events which took place on Christmas Eve which are not remembered today by most citizens. They should be remembered, however.

On that evening sixty five years ago, one of the events that should be remembered is the loss of approximately 800 soldiers who were being transported to the Continent from England on the *St. Leopoldville*, a Belgian ship, which was sunk by a German submarine.

The 2,235 soldiers being transported were members of the 262nd and 264th Infantry Regiments of the 66th Infantry Division. (493 bodies were never recovered)

The second event took place in the Town of Bastogne, when an aircraft from the Luftwaffe bombed a building used as an aid station or hospital.



*Above is a memorial to David Siegal and others
Missing in Action or Lost at Sea*

David was a gunner on an M-15 in Battery B of the 796th Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion. He was wounded on December 21, 1944, in Sennonchamps and removed to the hospital. After 65 years, David is still listed as missing in action. Only his dogtags were found.

George says, "I just want people to remember all the men and women who gave their lives to the world as a Christmas present that year. It wasn't just for America, it was so the world could remain free, which it does." ■



DIG DEEP AND LIVE

GENESSEE VALLEY CHAPTER FOLDS ITS FLAG

[The following story is excerpted from a newspaper article by Mark Hare, of the DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE.]

[Excerpts] They survived the Battle of the Bulge, but time is another matter.

The Genesee Valley Chapter of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge held its last official meeting Wednesday at the Greece Town Hall--65 years to the day of the start of the battle.

"We have lost the power to keep going," says Dick Brookins, 87, of Pittsford. "The guys are too old."

"It's a sad, but it's a good feeling," says Brookins, who agreed last year to serve one last year as chapter president. The vets will still be available to talk to school groups or social clubs, he says, and they will still gather on special occasions at the monument to their service at Ontario Beach Park.



Jack Foy, secretary, is overcome with emotion during his address at the last meeting of the group.

"I was 22," says Isaac Kaplan, 89 of Pittsford. He removed landmines with the 353rd Combat Engineer Battalion of the 7th Army. It was dangerous work. "I was really scared, but then not scared," he says, because the work was so intense there was no time to worry. He searched for light mines with a bayonet and then gently removed them.

What he remembers most clearly, as do most vets of that battle, is the winter cold. "There were guys on guard duty who froze to death just standing around," he says.

Larry Briggs, 84, of Livonia, was a truck driver with the 361st Engineer Regiment, supporting 101st Airborne Division. Moving supplies was harrowing work, he says. "The road were non-existent after a while, he says, "and we just battled our way through. We drove as fast as we could, with no lights at night. We were driving blind and hoping for the best." And, yes, it was cold. "On cold days, I'm still glad I'm inside."

The Germans were in white; the Americans wore their khakis and stood out against the snowy backdrop. They had no boots, no winter coats.

In early December 1944, just before the battle, Brookins was drafted to play St. Nicholas for children in the tiny Village of Wiltz, in Luxembourg. Soldiers chipped in their own candy and gun, and the villagers baked cakes.

He'll never forget the bright smiles on the faces of the children--some of whom would lose their lives in the battle that started days later. He has returned to Wiltz six times over the decades--most recently just weeks ago--to re-act that day, always at the invitation of the people of Wiltz.

Jack Foy, of Greece, chapter past president and its final secretary, left his friends with some powerful words.

"Most of us hoped for the million-dollar wound," he said, "relatively minor but severe enough to be sent off the frontline."

Still, he said, his voice breaking, because of their buddies the soldiers learned to love as never before. They would--and did--endure whatever was necessary.

"The war may have ended 64 years ago," Foy said, "but for us, it never ended." The images are still fresh. "The snow-covered mounds, once men, frozen arms legs" reaching out, "seemingly begging us not to forget."

After Foy spoke, they retired the chapter flag and sang *God Bless America* one last time.



ANNETTE LEIN staff photographer

David Brookins, left, and John Cipolla roll up the flag for the last time. The chapter is closing down after 11 years.

David Brookins, left, and John Cipolla roll up the flag for the last time. The chapter is closing down after eleven years. ■



94TH INFANTRY DIVISION 65TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR OCT 23 - 29, 2010

Veterans, family members and friends will experience an in-depth visit to the 1945 battlefields of the Saar-Moselle Triangle with WWII military expert Tony Le Tissier, author of "Patton's Pawns: The 94th Infantry Division at the Siegfried Line."

For more information, contact Doris Davis, President of VBOB Golden Gate (San Francisco) Chapter.

Email dordavis@earthlink.net
Tel (650) 654 - 0101 (PST)

LOTTERY IN LUXEMBOURG

By Norman Wasserman
Battery B, 286th Field Artillery Observation Bn

December 16, 2009 marked the 65th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. I was one of the fortunate six veterans to be invited by the government of Luxembourg to participate in commemorative ceremonies in that country. We were all chosen by VBOB lottery. The last time I had won a lottery was when I was 8 years old; my prize was a box of crayons.

I was stunned when I was informed I was a winner. Then came elation along with some hesitation. Did I really want to go back to the battlegrounds? The winter of '44-'45 was the coldest on record in Luxembourg (it still is): there was snow, ice, digging a foxhole was torture. But it was a rare opportunity, to revisit history after nearly two-thirds of a century. The offer was generous: free airfare, meals and lodging for me and my wife for five full days. It was a real honor. (From somewhere came a remote throb: *Sal Mingione should be going.*)

General awareness of the Battle of the Bulge is fading. Younger people often use the phrase when referring to their efforts to keep slim. Yet the outcome of that hard fought military engagement in WWII was pivotal. The tiny country of Luxembourg, along with Belgium, bore the brunt of Hitler's final desperate attempt to turn the tide of Allied advances on the Western front. Winston Churchill described it as "the greatest American battle of the war." U.S. casualties totaled 81,000 with 19,000 killed.

When I mentioned to my mailman how lucky I was to be among six veterans to be invited by the Duchy of Luxembourg, he looked at me thoughtfully and said I was lucky to have come back. It gave me pause. I had been alive too long to fully realize that.

Luxembourg was liberated twice. The first time, in September '44, followed years of brutal oppression by German occupiers. There was widespread resistance. Many risked their lives to save Jews from deportation and death. More than 4000 Luxembourg men and boys were conscripted into the Wehrmacht and sent to fight against the Russians; most never returned. Final liberation came only after victory in the Battle of the Bulge.

The people of Luxembourg have not forgotten. The momentous events of that period are indelible in their history, terrain, schoolbooks, museums and monuments, their vigils in December, their warm hospitality to Americans. Everywhere we went we were given the red carpet treatment. The official symbol of the anniversary ceremonies consisted of the flags of both countries—U.S. and Luxembourg—attached like wings flying together.

We were six ordinary--and yet extraordinary--guys, once 18 and 19-year old draftees, now octogenarians, one with a cane, a couple wounded, from different fighting units. Each of our outfits received wartime citations for outstanding achievements in battle. Sixty-five years later we were being feted, photographed, presented with gifts; our names were

read aloud at official events. We were brought to historic locations--Bastogne, Luxembourg City, the General Patton Memorial Museum. We were welcomed by mayors, ministers, ambassadors, military staff, citizens who remembered.

At a candlelight peace ceremony, each of us was handed a rose from a girl who recited a poem with the line: "You have brought us freedom/we children will never forget." We were emissaries, always mindful that we represented others--in our batteries, platoons, companies, regiments, divisions, armies, the many thousands who also fought in the Battle of the Bulge and throughout Europe.

In Hamm we visited the Luxembourg American Cemetery. The remains of 5076 American soldiers are buried here, including 22 paired gravesites where brothers lie side by side. The weather was bitter cold in the gathering dusk. Taps was played, wreaths were placed, a number of dignitaries gave speeches. One of us, a spokesman for the rest, also delivered remarks, referring to our mixed emotions, our pride, and humility on this occasion.

In the milling around that followed, some of us were interviewed for television and other media. I found myself answering questions from a local radio commentator. Our first casualty--? *Salvatore Mingione. He was 19 years old. From New Jersey. Loud, brash, lovable, still with baby fat on him. You could hear his voice all over the place. Then one night-- I broke off and moved to a dark corner overlooking the sea of white crosses in the fading light. One night--Sal was a second too late in diving into his foxhole. A piece of shrapnel ripped through his helmet and penetrated his head. Had he lived he would have been a loud, brash, loving grandfather. Sal Mingione lost the lottery in Luxembourg.*

The last night we were all tired and still exhilarated. We hugged, strangers before, declaring new friendships, yet destined to live out our remaining years at a distance, recalling our good fortune in being selected for five magical days. There will never again be a 65th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Norman was one of six who were selected from 50 requests which were received by VBOB to the Luxembourg Government's request that we send six representatives, all expenses paid by Luxembourg from 13 - 18 Dec 2009. Each name was placed on a sealed card and placed in a large jar from which 6 names were picked by different members of the Executive Council at the meeting on 14 July 2009. The representatives were:

Lowell H. Anness 248 th Engineers, XII Corps Rumford RI 02910	Norman Wasserman 286 FA Observation Bn B Brooklyn NY 11201
Robert L. Cragg 26 th InfD 104 Infantry W. Boothbay Harbor ME 04575	George D. Whitten 166 th Engr Cmbt Bn A Maple Glen PA 19002
Frank J. Forcinella 5 th InfD 2 nd Infantry E Rensselaer NY 12144-5607	Herman Zeitchik 4 th InfD 42 nd FA Bn Hq Silver Spring MD 20901

WAR STORIES NEVER DIE

Despite numbers, group of tale-tellers soldier on

[The following article appeared in the FLORIDA TODAY newspaper. It was written by R. Norman Moody (date unknown).]

MELBOURNE--Local veterans who took part 65 years ago in one of the most important firefights of World War II haven't grown short on war stories.

They've just grown short on numbers.

Members of the local chapter of Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge have considered disbanding, especially when only four members of their group showed up for a recent meeting.

But today, the 65th anniversary of the end of the Battle of the Bulge, the men, all in their 80s, are talking instead about the difficulties of battle. Sometimes, they even inject a little humor into their stories.

John Gaynor, 84 of Palm Bay, president of the Indian River Chapter of Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, recalled that after a fierce firefight in which a platoon leader was killed, he came in line for a promotion and was offered a commission.

"I said no because I'd have to leave my rifle company," Gaynor said. "But they told me I could stay with my company."

"How could they pick you?" fellow veteran Miles Allen chimed in to the laughter of the others around a table at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post on Dairy Road in Melbourne.

"He could run the fastest," another said.

"I was the most handsome," Gaynor said, drawing more laughs.

The men get together less often because some of the group's aging members have difficulty getting to meeting places because of illness or because some no longer drive. Others have died.

But those who can gather enjoy the camaraderie.

Recently, the men switched back and forth from humor to serious discussion in talking about the Battle of the Bulge, Nazi leader Adolf Hitler's last major offensive as the Germans attempted to split allied forces in two and drive toward the English Channel. The Germans struck in the Ardennes, a 75-mile stretch of dense woods in Belgium, France and Luxembourg.

It was one of the coldest winters they had ever experienced, the veterans said.

"It was so cold I didn't care who won," said Joseph Alreo, 85 of Melbourne Beach, who fought with the 504th Infantry. "I wanted to go home. I never was so cold in my life."

Miles Allen, 87, of Palm Bay, was in the Army for less than a year when recruiters came looking for soldiers to become part of the airborne division. Soon, he found himself in the Belgian town of Bastogne. He and fellow soldiers were in a barn with their guns trained on a hill.

The American soldiers opened fire on the tank with their

machine guns and quickly got out of the way as the tank pulled back.

"We grabbed that gun and went back across the road where the others were," Allen recalled. "When he came back over the second time, he fired. He fired and hit right where we were."

The men from the Indian River Chapter shared a lot of the same experiences during the Battle of the Bulge from December 16, 1944, to January 25, 1945.

Don Champlain, 87, of Melbourne talked about how he escaped a "buzz bomb" that landed in a school where he had been. He and other soldiers had been occupying the school. He got into a Jeep and began to drive away when the bomb hit, killing eight fellow soldiers and injuring others.

"The house next door was blown up," he said,

Despite the bitter cold and the long, hard-fought battle, some of the troops made lasting friendships.

In the middle of the war, Gaynor, who served in the 82nd Airborne Division, befriended and for years later corresponded with the Rev. Leis Muller, a Catholic priest in Pepinster, Belgium. He still keeps yellowing letters he received years ago.

For now, the men remain a band of brothers. They say they will continue to share the memories and pass on the history for as long as they can.

"We're all getting older," Gaynor said, "except me." ■



John Gaynor



Men of War. From left to right, Don Champlain, 87; Miles Allen, 87; Joseph Alreo, 85; and John Gaynor, 84.

MARYLAND SEEKS VETERANS

The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that there are more than 476,200 veterans in Maryland. It is seeking to verify the actual number and obtain their names so they can plan services and benefits available to those veterans. They state there will be no other use of your name and address.

They have contacted veterans with a list obtained from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the VA has nothing more to do with the Maryland program. If you are not listed on the VA rolls, you may wish to have your name listed by the MD veterans department. Contact:

Director, Outreach and Advocacy
MD Department of Veterans Affairs
16 Francis Street, 4th Floor
Annapolis, MD 21401
1-866-793-1577 or 410-260-3838
www.mdva.state.md.us

DONATIONS

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

We are overwhelmed with the donations that continue to come in after each Bugle and they are really appreciated in helping our income line. Your financial support of VBOB is especially generous and very much appreciated. With the increasing number of deaths of our members these donations help reverse the dues revenue lost. We continue to be amazed particularly with the number (69) and the size of donations (total for this quarter of \$4670). Even the smallest amount helps. These donations have come in during Jan, Feb & Mar and are current through those received as of 29 March 2010. If you have donated and your name has not appeared please contact our Headquarters Office.

Lowell H Arness	Ruhford RI	248 Engr Cmbt Bn
J David Bailey	Alexandria VA	106th InfD
Clara V Barnowski	DuBois IL	In Memory of Husband Enoch 771 FA BN
Herman Basler	Independence MO	4 ArmD 489 AAA AW
Ralph W Brett	Abington MA	11 ArmD 22 Tank Bn D
Darrell B Carter	Glen Ellen CA	99 InfD 393 Inf 3 Bn MED
Dale Cooksey	Kansas City MO	28 InfD 110 Inf A
Charles Ken Corrigan	Tomwater WA	106 InfD 591 FA Bn
Tim W Delpha	Oklahoma City OK	Associate
Michael J Digllion	Port Richey FL	42 InfD 242 Inf B
Ralph I Dinin	Toms River NJ	740 Tank Bn D
Thomas J Dobinski	Martinez GA	275th AFA A
Mrs Herbert Doehring	Fort Wayne IN	In Memory of Husband Herbert 254 FA Bn
Peter Fiorella, Sr	Staten Island NY	84 InfD 334 Inf Svc
Walter F Fischer	St Louis MO	75 InfD 291 Inf C
H. Neil Garson	Gaithersburg MD	10 ArmD 83 Med BnCCB
John Gatens	Fair Lawn NJ	106th InfD 589 FA Bn A
Rocco N Gedaro	South Portland ME	90 InfD 357 Inf 1 Bn C
John Gray	York PA	44 InfD 114 Inf HQ 2 Bn
Mrs Walter R Gronlund	Verndale MN	In Memory of Husband Walter R. 78 InfD 309 Inf F
Charles J Hardy	Cumberland MD	282 Engr Cmbt Bn
Family of Hershell S Harper	Broken Arrow OK	In Memory of Hershell 26 InfD 104 Inf L
Mrs John B Hazelton	Keene NH	In Memory of Husband, John B 87th InfD 912 FA C
D M Hoffman, Sr	Parkersburg WV	200 QM Gas Supply
Russell J Houtz	Williamstown PA	200 FA Bn
Robert I Jacoby	Rohnert Park CA	87 InfD 912 FA Bn B
Ben C Jameson	Buena Vista VA	75 InfD 310 Inf F
Leo Keebler	Pine City NY	5 ArmD 587 AAA Bn A
Charles Kizina	Girard PA	133 AAA Gun Bn B
John S Kovach	North Huntingdon PA	4 ArmD 489 AAA AW Bn B
Carl Lavin	Canton OH	74 InfD 335 Inf L
James Lendrum	Southfield MI	740 FA Bn
Edward J Leonard	Margate FL	186 FA Bn A Btry

Clyde E Littlefield	Sandpoint ID	87 InfD 345 Inf HQ 2 Bn
Norman Locksley	Hillandale MD	176 FA Bn
Donald B Loomis	Sun City West AZ	2 ArmD 66 AIR HQ 2 Bn
Richard F Maskell	St Louis MO	2 InfD 23 Inf F
Neil Mc Cormich	Lewellen NE	75 InfD 289 Inf 3 Bn K
Vincent J Meinhardt	Scranton PA	61 Chem Dep Co
Harry J Meisel	Orlando FL	565 AAA Bn C
Carl W Meiser	Prescott AZ	4 ArmD 489 AAA AWHq
Phil Mellano	Verona NJ	955 FA Bn
Andre R Meurisse	Bullingen Belg	Associate
Sherrie D Morrison	Yolo CA	Associate
Harry Neff	Chicora PA	78 InfD 303 Med Bn A
Ernest E Nevins	Ethridge TN	106 InfD 424 Inf E
Philip J Orlando	Alhambra CA	10 ArmD 11 Tank bn B
Nicholas F Ortiz	Seaford NY	Honoring Father Nicholas D 706 TD/772 FA Bn
Frank Pagliuca	Brockton MA	75 InfD 291 Inf/89 FA Bn
Raymond W Patterson	Riverside RI	80 InfD 317 Inf A
Albert R Paul	Troy MI	89 InfD 1252 ECB H&S
Alfred E Perkul	Parma OH	6 ArmD 212 AFA Bn
Eugene B Pflughaupt	Tucson AZ	30 InfD 120 Inf 2 Bn G
Henri Rogister	Liege, Belg	Associate
Mrs Mike Shimansky	Danville CA	In Memory of Husband Mike 9 InfD 19 Inf C
Frederick A Sino	Bristol RI	7 ArmD 23 AIB A
Ray Snow	Port Orchard WA	75 InfD 290 Inf L
Loman Sparks	Shelbyville TN	87 InfD 346 Inf K/L
Jacob Bryan Sperry	Pittsburg KS	75 InfD 291 Inf HQ 1 Bn
Robert L Summerlot	Cape Coral FL	6 ArmD 44 AIB B
Ronald A Thompson	Granite Bay CA	Father Ronald A 26 InfD Hq 104 Inf
Family of Oliver Tveit	Williston ND	In Memory of Oliver 4 ArmD 740 Tank Bn HQ
Oliver J VanWagner	Saginaw MI	91 Chem Mtr Bn C
Norman Wasserman	Brooklyn NY	586 FA Obsv Bn B
Joseph C Watson	Ridge Spring SC	75th InfD 291 Inf D
Bill Wiegand	Philadelphia PA	Associate Father 83 InfD
K F Williamson	Brenham TX	Associate
Peter R Wiltgen	Stevensville MT	6 ArmD 50 AIB
Robert H Zeller	Napa CA	87th InfD 347 Inf HQ 2 Bn

I DIDN'T KNOW

The Nazis considered the Enigma infallible. But in 1939, cryptanalysts in England discovered that weather reports on radio frequencies listened to by U-boats always began with the same expression: "The weather off the coast of France will be...." What came next was key to deciphering the German code for the day. The Allies used that information to eventually decipher the Enigma-coded messages. ■

MEMORIES ...of way back when

**Phil Melleno
Fire Direction Section
955th Field Artillery Battalion**

Recently, I went about doing what many of my age group (90 years of age) do...began disposing of old photographs, records, and the "stuff" we accumulate over the years. One of the photographs I started to get rid of was an old photo taken "way back when"--right after the Battle of the Bulge.

The photo was of me with my good old buddies, members of the Fire Direction Section of the 955th Field Artillery Battalion of V Corps. I have been so proud of these guys and always will be.

Some thoughts ran through my mind--memories of way back when....the times we shared together. (Some happy times, some not so happy times, and some miserable times.) Fort Ethan Allen in Vermont, where it all began...a bunch of strangers, who became friends and then "Buddies."

**1st Row: Phil Melleno, Kenny Richards
Jerry Shannon, Walt Trice, Howard Mohler**

**2nd Row: Frank Aceto, Bill Mermit,
Harold Glazer, Ray Pincus**

**3rd Row: Jim Powers, Harold Counts
Oscar Rentz, John Macinnis**



REUNIONS

7TH ARMORED DIVISION, September 22-25, 2010, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Contact: 7th ARMD, 292 Scott Swamp Dr, Farmington, Connecticut.

11TH ARMORED DIVISION, August 2-8, 2010, Louisville, Kentucky. Contact: 11th ARMD, 2328 Admiral St., Alquippa, PA 15001. Phone: 724-375-6295.

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

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

The days we spent together in England, prior to landing at Omaha Beach (Day-Day plus 10). The days we spent together travelling through Europe--St. Lo--Falaise Gap--Liberation of Paris--through Belgium, then Germany. Then, of course, those blankety, blankety days during the Battle of the Bulge (where we received a commendation for our support of the 1st Division). Then, of course, the times we spent together with our new recruits--our wives at the reunions we held throughout the U.S.

And the memories live on. Sadly, there are so few of us left to talk about it and to recall those memories we shared together.

With the approaching of Memorial Day, I would be so honored to have this photograph appear in the Memorial Day issue of *The Bulge Bugle* as a tribute to all my buddies, no longer with us--and to all my fellow GI's who served during the Battle of the Bulge.

We will always remember those blankety, blankety days we went through together.

On behalf of all your readers and members, thank you one and all for the great work you are doing in keeping those memories alive. The "Good Days, the "Bad Days" and, yes, even those "Blankety, Blanket Days." ■

80TH INFANTRY DIVISION, August 11-15, 2010, Arlington, VA. Contact: Max R. Scjmidt, 1716 Noble Peace, Greensboro, NC 27408. Phone: 336-288-0983.

84TH INFANTRY DIVISION, August 27-29, 2010, Cincinnati, OH. Contact: Richard Jamieson. Phone: 513-732-2317 or 513-680-2317.

296TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, September 22-24, 2010, Sturbridge, Massachusetts. Contact: Joseph Civitillo, 9 Ireland Road, Wethersfield, Connecticut 06109. Phone: 860-29-2652.

297TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, June 4-6, 2010, Owensboro, Kentucky. Contact: Hal Miller, 5251 Windy Hollow Road, Owensboro, KY 42301. Phone: 270-785-4088 and 270-683-4180.

REUNION TIME IS RECRUIT A VBOB MEMBER TIME

You will be surprised to learn that many of your buddies in your old outfit do not know of VBOB's existence. Tell them...take along some membership applications.

WESTERN MICHIGAN CHAPTER COMMEMORATION

[The following information was excerpted from an article written by Art Bukowski, of the RECORD-EAGLE newspaper and was sent to us by JAMES E. WIBBY, President of the chapter.]

Traverse City--Maury Cole's thoughts often drift to the past when snow and freezing temperature engulf northern Michigan.

Cole, of Fife Lake, recalls how he and thousands of other American soldiers often had no escape from the bitter cold as they fought the Battle of the Bulge from December 1944 through January 1945.

Cole, 18 at the time, spent several weeks hole up about eight miles from Bastogne in Belgium. He vividly remembers the piercing chill that left several of his friends with painful frostbite on their hands and feet. "It was hard, but you got used to it," he said. "We were tough and young."

Fighting raged during daylight, and soldiers after dark curled up in dirty, freezing foxholes as German shells pounded around them throughout the night. "Everytime you crawled in the foxhole at night, you said, Man, I wish I was at home between two clean white sheets... If you could, you went to a two-man foxhole, where two guys could sleep back-to-back and figure out a way to keep warm," Cole said.

Cole is a founding member of a dwindling group of local Bulge veterans. They'll meet tonight at Minerva's in Traverse City for a dinner held each year on the anniversary of the battle's first day.

As many as 30 veterans attended the meetings in past years, but just five are expected to be at tonight's event.

"We're all in our 80s and 90s now," said Richard Rizzio, 84, of Interlochen. "We're kind of the last of the Mohicans."

This dinner is meant to honor all the men who fought in the battle, especially those who lost their lives.

"We do this each year in memory of the men that did not return," said Rizzio, a Chicago native and Army veteran. "We were the lucky ones; we were the ones who made it back."

The meal won't be somber. The group chats and catches up, Rizzo said, though the conflict, the conflict that unites them, is never far from anyone's mind.

"We don't talk too much about the battle, but it's one of those things that kind of sits in the background," he said. "Every now and then a story creeps out."

The group usually meets once a month at the VFW post on Veterans Drive near Traverse City. Several veterans groups exist, but they're filled with vets of several ages from different wars. The Bulge group gives members a chance to share their memories with those who saw what they did.

"It's a group of guys that are all about the same age and all have basically the same experience," said Jim Wibby, a Traverse City resident who's been a member for about 15 years.

Wibby, 85, a Detroit native, remembers how he became more battle-hardened as time went on.

"By February (of 1945) I'd been in combat for 123 days. it was kind of old-hat," he said. "But in the first few days, there was naturally a fear that got into you. You're adjusting to the noise, you distinguish from German shells and American shells...there's a lot of stuff going on."

Members have in the past spoken with local school-children about the battle. They want to make sure future generations understand the significance of the conflict that wrapped up a few months before the German surrender in May 1945.

Wibby, who was positioned in Germany north of the bulge, recalls that spirits were high as troops closed in on Germany.



Jim Wibby

"The morale going into Christmas was high, because we were making good ground," he said. "As the bulge dragged on, we realized it was going to be more than a hop-skip and jump."

As with Cole, winter brings back memories for Wibby.

"When the snow and cold come, you think automatically think of (the battle)," he said. "It's not a nightmare thing, just a reminder."

Some veterans of the group think more about the war these days, Cole said, particularly with nonstop news of wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"You just think of what those guys are doing over there in the holes and mountains; like what we did in the Ardennes foxholes," he said. ■

THE ARDENNES FOXHOLE

The guns are silent now, that belched forth fire propelling
deadly rounds toward my bed exploding shrapnel round my
head.

The guns are silent now and in my layer neath splintered wood
I lie all numb where tall firs once so stately stood.
A solemn quiet permeates the acrid smoke and now lesser
sounds are heard where moments before imploring words
were spoke.

The guns are silent now and as my shaken body calms
My mind transcends to quiet lands and thoughts of loved ones
warm my frozen palms.

A fog lain forest stretched upon a winter snow
Reddened by the awful guns that only youths in foxholes
know.

The guns are silent now, but none too soon again to roar and
pound the churned up earth that holds my fragile body within
its core.

John E McAuliffe
87th InfD 347th Inf M Co

MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

WILLIAM T. WALKER, 644TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION, would like you to visit his battalion website: 644td.com.

Associate Member **James V. D'Amore** would like to find any information regarding **JOSEPH JOHN D'AMORE, COMPANY C, 714TH TANK BATTALION, 33RD REGIMENT, 3RD ARMORED DIVISION**. Contact James at: 3 Roosevelt Road, Clarksburg, NJ 08510.

CHARLES MALACHOSKY, 2ND ARMORED DIVISION, 124TH ORDNANCE BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS, sends a note with his dues. {Re: the newsletter and VBOB} I love it and the best of all reunions we attend. [Genuine Thanks, Charles.]

Sid Smaka is looking for information on his uncle: **ANTHONY J. SMAKA, 9TH ARMORED DIVISION, 2ND TANK BATTALION**. Sid is going to Luxembourg May 23rd and it's probably too late for you to provide information to him before his trip, but he will appreciate any information you may have. His uncle died on or about December 18, 1944, and is buried at Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery, Plot H, Row 3, Grave 17. Write to Sid at: 392 Duke Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55102.

Jim Russell is looking for information regarding his uncle, who was killed in the Bulge: **DON E. RUSSELL**. He did basic training at Camp Fannin with the 68th Battalion, 14th Regiment, Company C. He shipped to Europe on the U.S.S. Montecello. His friends were **EARL SCHONOV, JOE ZAGDEL, RUSSELL MEYERS, STANFORD SMITH, JAMES T. RUSSELL, STAN ROSKOW**. If you can provide any information, contact Jim at: 5761 Oak Drive, NW, Canton, Ohio 44718.

Ray Mercer is looking for anyone who may have served with his dad: **LIONEL J. MERCER, 166TH COMBAT ENGINEER BATTALION, COMPANY B**. Ray would appreciate any information. His address: 668 Seven Gables Circle, SE, Palm Bay, Florida 32909.

Associate **Tom Tomastik** sent us an internet link that those of you who have access to a computer might want to take a look at: <http://www.history.army.mil/html/bookshelves/collect/eame-cmps.html>. [For those of you without computers, we have published the story about the Ardennes in the newsletter--in two parts, last issue and this one.]

Associate **Billie Joe Freeze** would like to hear from anyone who remembers her dad or his unit: **THOMAS H. BURKS, 724TH RAILWAY OPERATIONS BATTALION, COMPANY A**. He was wounded at Crele(?), France, December 21, 1944, at 1900 hours. Taken from there to the 62nd General Hospital in France, then to the 164th General Hospital around December 15, 1944, and the 83rd General Hospital in England around January 22, 1945. If anyone was in his unit or may have been with him in any of these hospitals, please write to Billie Jo at P.O. Box 372, Bristol, Indiana 46507. She will be glad to hear anything you might know.

JOHN S. WENZEL, 201ST GENERAL HOSPITAL, in Verdun France, wants to know if any of you have the pleasure of treatment at the 201st? They treated ex-American POWs, displaced persons and wounded German POWs, in addition to the fighting soldiers. Write to John at: 23 South Point Court, Bluffton, South Carolina 29910.

Jeffrey Kern is seeking information regarding his grandfather: **JAMES TAYLOR HAMILTON (JIM or HAM), 9TH ARMORED DIVISION, 60TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION**. He is hopeful to know more about the role his grandfather and/or his unit played in the BoB. Write to Jeffrey at 618 California Avenue #1, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15202.

Marty Smith write to see if anyone served with him in the **1258TH COMBAT ENGINEERS, attached to 103TH INFANTRY REGIMENT**. His company commander was Capt. David Eggers, Platoon commanders were 2nd Lt Koch and M/Sgt Kish. If you can provide any information on members of his unit please write to him at: 253 South Mountain Road, New City, New York 10956. He'd love to share some laughs with his old buddies.

Associate **Michel Lorquet** is interested in making contact with members of the following units: **84TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 99TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 106TH INFANTRY DIVISION, and 327TH GLIDER REGIMENT, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION**. Michel is a school teacher and has been involved in research regarding the BoB. Contact Michel at: Chapelle des Anges, 67; B-4890 Thimister-Clermont, Belgium.

ARTHUR P. MAHLER, 84TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 334TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, 2ND BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS, and the son of **JOSEPH T. LIPPI, 334TH, E COMPANY**, are making a trip to Henri-Chapelle to visit Joseph's grave site. If you would like to learn more, go to the website: "IN-HONORED-GLORY" and pull up the information for Joseph. [We tried to copy some for your reading pleasure and were unable to.]

Dave Bender is looking for information regarding **ALFRED EMIL GROSSENBACHER, JR., of the 28TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 110TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, COMPANY A, 4TH PLATOON**. He was a replacement during the BOB. If you can help, write to Dave at: 1952 East 173rd Place, South Holland, Illinois 60473.

Can anyone provide information to Robert Miller concerning his uncle, **HERMAN J. EARNEY, 90TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 358TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, COMPANY A, 2ND PLATOON**. He was a German POW in Stalag 12A (near Limburg, Germany). At some point he may have been in a different unit. Write to Robert at: 825 West 375 North, Lebanon, Indiana 46052.

David Stead is searching for information on **RUBEN TETESKY**, who served in the **101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION**. Ruben was in the infantry as a mortar crew member and also served as a cook. Please send any information to David at: 493 Millstone Drive, Orange Park, Florida 32065.

Lindsey Rouillier is looking for information about her grandfather: **ALLEN P. ROUILLIER** or his unit: **80TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 317TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, ANTI-TANK COMPANY**. In February, 1945, he was transferred to **305TH ENGINEER BATTALION, COMPANY A**. In May, 1945, back to his original unit. If you can help, e-mail Lindsey at: larreynolds@yahoo.com.

VBOB's ASSOCIATE MEMBER PROGRAM

A Call for Action...

Associate Members have been an integral part of The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc. (VBOB) since its inception in the early 1980's. As time marches on, however, the need to recruit additional **Associate Members** becomes even more important as responsibilities once held by Regular Members are being passed on to **Associate Members**.

VBOB's Regular Members, by definition, are those WWII veterans who served in the Battle of the Bulge earning the Ardennes Campaign credit in accordance with War Department General Order 114 dated 7 December 1945.

VBOB's **Associate Members** are all others who desire to preserve WWII military history and especially the legacy of the Battle of the Bulge. **Associate Members** can be family members or friends such as sons, daughters, grandsons, granddaughters, nephews, nieces, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, WWII orphans, and spouses as well as students, school teachers, historians, history buffs and the like. Citizens from Belgium and Luxembourg are especially encouraged to join.

The Ardennes Offensive, fought from 16 December 1944 to 25 January 1945, and more commonly referred to, as 'The Battle of the Bulge' is the greatest land battle ever fought by the U.S. Army. It was Hitler's last offensive and elimination the bulge eventually lead to victory in Europe. In six weeks of fighting, American forces suffered more than 81,000 casualties including 19,000 soldiers killed in action, however the battle and those who fought in it changed the course of world history forever.

Benefits for **Associate Members** are exactly the same as for Regular Members and include quarterly issues (February, May, August, November) of *The Bulge Bugle* - the official publication of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. *The Bugle*, is chock full of first-hand accounts of war experiences, upcoming trips to the battlefields of Europe, VBOB chapter highlights, reenactment information, reunion details, and opportunities to connect with fellow 'Bulge' veterans. As an **Associate Member** you are eligible to serve in leadership positions at the national level.

VBOB's website <www.battleofthebulge.org> is currently undergoing a comprehensive review to ensure that all information is timely including numerous resources for all members. Links, especially designed to provide members with in-depth research material, will be included. Special attention will be paid to resources directly related to Bulge units and other resources such as maps in the collection of the Library of Congress and digital collections held at the National Archives.

By becoming an **Associate Member** you will help preserve WWII history while perpetuating the legacy of this historic battle and, more importantly, those who fought or died in it.

There are innumerable ways you can help the organization grow, e.g., support your local chapters' meetings and reunions, suggest website features designed to attract and retain **Associate Members**, attend neighborhood schools with a WWII veteran and discuss the historic significance of the Battle of the Bulge, provide transportation for a WWII veteran

to and from meetings and reunions, and encourage other potential **Associate Members**, especially the younger generations, to join - and so much more.

What to Do?

Fill out the Application For National Membership found on the back cover page of 'The Bulge Bugle' and mail it to the address shown on the application.

E-mail Nancy Monson at ncmonson@starpower.net to identify a VBOB chapter near you and then get involved.

"THOSE WHO FORGET THE LESSONS OF HISTORY ARE DOOMED TO REPEAT IT"

Please e-mail me with your questions and, more importantly, your offers to help expand VBOB's Associate Member Program.

Robert G. Rhodes, VBOB Trustee, Associate Members Program, US Army (Retired) rgrhodes@starpower.net

ALL HELL BROKE LOOSE

Eugene D. Shaw
28th Infantry Regiment
8th Infantry Division

It has been a long standing omission that the 28th Infantry Regiment, 8th Infantry Division, has never been included with the division patches of the Bulge.

Major Dughi, of the 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, stated that as of the 9th of December, 1944, we were the furthest point of penetration into Germany proper!

Also, I and my fox hole buddy, Pvt Wendell Scarbrough, on 9th December were outside of Vosniac Heurtgen Forest and were told by Sgt MacKenzie to dig a fox hole and not let any Krauts come through there! Our 2nd Lt/2nd Platoon Commander had been killed a couple of days before.

We were in a rest area behind our 28th Infantry Regiment went on the 16th of December, 1944, all Hell broke loose. I became the platoon runner as we returned to the front fox holes. Our division rear had all our duffle bags burned. We were placed under General Montgomery's British 9th Army. We were still there in Vosniac when I was evacuated on the 15th of January, 1945.

I was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge and 61 years later, I was awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

Having had a lot of illness lately, I decided it was best that Life Membership be requested.

Our members are eagerly
anticipating VBOB's 29th
Annual Reunion to be
held in Columbia, South Carolina
Sept. 1-6 2010

KATZ ON A MISSION

Gene Morell
Battery C
591st Field Artillery Battalion
106th Infantry Division

There were times when we would move from one place to another. There would be a whole convoy of trucks pulling our big guns which came bouncing along behind four of the trucks which were loaded with the ten man gun crew of each truck. Each truck had a row of benches in the back, down each side for seating the gun crew. The back of the truck was covered with canvas for protection from the rain and the rear of the truck was wide open at the tailgate so that the crew could look at the country side and at the truck following behind. There were jeeps and other vehicles in the convoy.

If it were to be a long trip the whole convoy would halt every so often for a nature break. The stops were usually made where there were no houses and the men would stand behind the trucks to relieve themselves. However, once in a while the problem would be a stomach ache for which the procedure would be for the unlucky fellow to take a shovel from a truck and a wad of toilet paper and hurry to the nearest cover, preferably a woods. After making sure that he could not be seen from the road he would use the shovel to dig a shallow hole in the ground, then squat over the hole and do what he came there for. Then he would use the shovel to cover the mess he had made, then bring the shovel back to the truck and join the rest of us in the truck. Nothing was said about it because we were used to the procedure and it usually worked out well except for one guy in our truck. His name was Katz, who was a jovial, easy-going guy who was built straight up and down with no athletic ability.

One day the whole convoy stopped and Katz grabbed the shovel and a wad of toilet paper and started across an open field toward small woods, with the shovel on one shoulder. He hadn't said anything and none of us paid any attention until the guy at the back of the truck drew our attention and said that Katz was in a mighty big hurry. We laughed and one said that Katz was hurrying because he was afraid that we would run off and leave him and someone said it was because he was afraid that it was because he was about to mess his britches. We were watching as he disappeared behind a bush but we could see his head until he sat down. For some reason the trucks started their engines earlier than usual and someone hollered, "Hey, How About Katz?" Someone said, "Here he comes." We all gathered at the back to the truck because we were sure that he hadn't been given enough time and here he comes from behind the bush with the shovel in one hand and holding his pants up with the other. He was trying to hurry but the shovel and trying to hold his pants up was holding him back, but he did reach the side of the road as the convoy started moving.

He entered the road just behind our truck still carrying the shovel in one hand and holding his pants up with the other. Meanwhile we were cheering for him and laughing, also, as he was losing ground and our truck was pulling away from him. Finally, he waved a short good-bye and stepped aside for the next truck in line stopped for him.

As we watched he disappeared behind the truck getting ready to get aboard and suddenly the shovel went flying through the air and into the ditch.

The next time we stopped, Katz took his place in our truck amid a lot of joking and questions directed at him while he kept a wide grin on his face as he went along amiably with the fun. Someone asked: "Did you finish your business? And, did you cover it up? And, did you use the toilet paper?" In response, Katz said, "No?" and jokingly tried to move over and sit on his lap. Someone asked, "Why did you throw the shovel away after carrying it all the way to the road?" Katz answered that he never realized he was carrying it until he was trying to find a place for it on the truck. Katz was a good guy and well liked by all of us.

This is a true story that I thought was worth writing about. ■

"NUTS CELLAR" SAVED

"Nuts Cellar" is the cave in which Brigadier General Anthony McAuliffe maintained his headquarters and penned his famous reply of "nuts" to the German Demand to surrender Bastogne on December 22, 1944.

Belgian Defense Minister, Pieter DeCrem, had given instructions to destroy the Heinz Barracks in which it is located and replace the site with a prison.

Thanks to Chapter President John McAuliffe, members of his Central Massachusetts Chapter, and many Belgian citizens through a petition, this historical marker will not be destroyed.



The Office of General McAuliffe

Associate member Christian W. deMarcken's daughter <Myrian P. Harmann, each year designs a Christmas card relating to the Battle of the Bulge and this year it pictured the "Nuts Cave."

The citizens of Belgian are very grateful to John and all those who responded. Five large envelopes containing 18-20 letters were written to the Bastogne Mayor urging him to save the cave.

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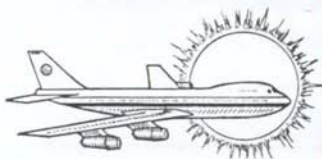
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APPLICATION FOR NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

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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 _____