

The BULGE BUGLE

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THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

NOVEMBER 2010



REMEMBRANCE

DECEMBER 13-16, 2010

ARLINGTON

Please Join Us



VISIT TO AN AMERICAN OVERSEAS MILITARY CEMETERY

THE MARKERS STAND LIKE SENTINELS
ROW AFTER ROW OF WHITE,
AND MARK THE GRAVES OF HONORED DEAD
WHO FELL AMIDST THE FIGHT.

I WALK AMONG THE HEADSTONES WHITE
WITH SADNESS INSIDE ME,
AND KNOW BUT FOR THE GRACE OF GOD
THAT ONE MY OWN COULD BE.

I READ THE NAMES OF HONORED DEAD
WITH UTMOST PRIDE AND CARE,
AND FIND IT HARD TO HIDE THE TEARS
AND PAIN INSIDE I BEAR

THE MEMORIES OF THE MARKERS WHITE
WILL ALWAYS WITH ME STAY,
AND BE IMPRESSED UPON MY MIND
UNTIL MY DYING DAY.

HAROLD F. MOHN
4TH ARMORED DIVISION

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BATTLE OF THE BULGE,
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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



Demetri
"Dee" Paris

In my first president's message to you nearly three years ago I stated that my predecessor gave me a gavel and a host of major problems. These were legal, financial and administrative problems, which had not only been tolerated but also ignored.

I am pleased and proud to announce that those problems have been corrected and the deficiencies of the past have been eliminated. This was accomplished by our Executive Council members many of whom are associate members and one who is not a veteran, through circumstances beyond his control, but is dedicated to serving VBOB.

We have a debt of gratitude to these workers who are not feeding their egos nor seeking personal glory or publicity. We have Bulge veterans who served in armor, infantry and cavalry units. We have associate members who are not Bulge veterans but served during the Korean conflict and Viet Nam. And others who are not veterans but serve VBOB in memory of a father or other relative who was in the Bulge.

The associate members serving VBOB far outnumber the half-dozen who have opposed them, including libelous and slanderous actions. We did not want to lower VBOB prestige to their level by engaging in debate with them. And the same time, we've had many other VBOB members who have applauded our service and we thank them.

I was one of the half-dozen who met with Clyde Boden in the early 1980s to consider and determine whether we could start a Bulge veterans' organization. It was "touch and go" since we didn't have any funds. But we got started, obtained lapel pins and embroidered patches and a memorial in Arlington National Cemetery alongside the coliseum and Tomb of the Unknowns. We have a magnificent relationship with the Belgian and Luxembourg people and their embassy officials in Washington, D.C.

It has been a satisfying experience - one of which I am proud to have shared.

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

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESSES

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

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



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

* Membership renewal cards will no longer be sent

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



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

PASS THE WORD ABOUT VBOB

Again, let me re-emphasize the need for each of us to generate new members. We know there are many more Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge out there. We know they would be honored to be part of this exceptional organization. They haven't learned about VBOB. You can be our best advertising campaign.

Talk to eligible veterans and encourage them to join. It's the only way we can continue to grow.

Especially, talk to those in your chapter who have not sent in their applications. We can need their support.

We are happy to provide you with extra copies of *The Bulge Bugle* for you to use in whetting their appetite.

Thomas R. Chambers
VP / Chapters

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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. 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.

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 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.

Benefits for **Associate Members** are exactly the same as for Regular Members and include quarterly issues 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 will help preserve WWII history while perpetuating the legacy of this historic battle and, more importantly, those who fought or died in it.

Complete the [APPLICATION FOR NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP](#) found on the back cover of '*The Bulge Bugle*' and mail it to the address below:

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge

An Ex-POW's Experience with "Rolling Thunder," a Motor Cycle Group

*by John Gatens, 106th Infantry Division,
589th Field Artillery, Battery-A*

It all began unexpectedly when Mary Vandermast, my sister-in-law and I were enroute to Branson, MO on a bus tour. We knew the tour guide, Arlene Alape, who knew that I had been a POW. In turn, Arlene introduced us to John and Carol Beck, also on the tour. The Becks were members of the motorcycle group known as "Rolling Thunder." Rolling Thunder is engaged in an ongoing project whereby they host Ex-POWs annually at a celebration honoring war prisoners at the Andersonville National Historic Site in Georgia. Rolling Thunder is doing their part to ensure the memory of all those Americans who had served hard time as prisoners of war.

Also on their agenda are the Gold Star Mothers and immediate families of those deceased POWs and those MIAs. Rolling Thunder sponsors a three day celebration at the Park for their above guests and pays all of their expenses at the event when they attend. They only need to arrive and then room and board is provided. I could not turn down this kind invitation, so Mary and I booked a flight to Atlanta. Arrangements had been made for us to be picked up at the airport by one of the motorcycle group. (I felt that renting a car and driving to Americus was beyond my capability.) At the end of the celebration they returned us to the Atlanta airport as well. This group is certainly sincere in their feelings to honor the POWs and other guests

On Friday 9/17 we boarded four busses and were met by a large group of motorcyclists and a police escort. The busses were sandwiched in between groups of about 20-25 motorcycles. This was how they transported us to the Park for the POW/MIA reception sponsored by "The Friends of Andersonville." It was quite a motorcade with the motorcycles driving slowly in a column of twos. Most of the cycles had two riders but I was offered a seat on one for the ride, but did not accept the offer. Police had stopped cross traffic for the procession and the road was lined with spectators waving flags and cheering us on. The newspapers had published the event about the parade so a great many people had turned out.

When we arrived at the POW Museum there was a Traveling Vietnam Wall erected on the grounds representing the Vietnam Wall in Washington, D.C.. In that area, there were rows of chairs set up for us to sit on for the ceremonies. There were several speakers who reflected on the experience of the prisoner. The ceremony was solemn and respectful of the brave men that did not come back. To accommodate the event the Park Superintendent had erected a huge tent on the parking lot, air conditioned, and complete with chairs and sound system. The "Friends" provided a very good buffet and warmed us with welcoming speeches. All this put a lump in my throat. It was emotional.

There was free time for every one to view the POW Museum and tour the grounds. At 6:00-7:30 PM, there was a Heroes

Dinner Banquet in the air-conditioned tent. Another great meal and guest speakers that made us feel like a real hero. After dinner we had a Candlelight Ceremony at the Vietnam Wall. This was to Honor the Gold Star Mothers. Each mother had a Rolling Thunder Member escort them, arm in arm and down along the wall. Each was presented with a rose.

On Saturday 9/18 we started the day again with the same police escort and motorcycle riders and buses. It was another parade to the POW Museum. This time in the tent the chairs were set in parallel rows from the stage extending towards the back of the tent. Each chair had a POW's name and row number on it. As we entered the tent, a Rolling Thunder member would take you by the arm and escort you to the chair assigned to you. After the speeches thanking us for what we had been through we were given an invitation to attend again next year. This was a real surprise and we were quick to accept. All of the Rolling Thunder Members marched between the rows of seats and stopped so that one member was opposite a POW. The speaker would read a guest's name, unit, date of capture and date of release. Then the Rolling Thunder member who was in front of that person, would reach over and put a beautiful set of dog tags around his neck. He (or she) would then take one step back and salute the Ex-POW. This is something that I will never forget. After all of the dog tags were presented to the EX-POWs there was a social time when everyone said their goodbyes and farewells to old and new friends. We extended thanks to all of those special people who were our hosts for their many kind acts on our behalf. At last we boarded the busses and had a quiet ride back to motel to relax prior to departing in the morning for home.

When I received the invitation to attend this event I had no idea what to expect. It turned out to be one great affair. The Rolling Thunder organization went all out to make us feel special and succeeded with flying colors.

God bless them all.

Special thanks go to Carol and John Beck. They treated us like one of their own. To all of the new friends that we met, "We will never forget you." When I told one of the leaders of the Rolling Thunder that I was going to the reunion of my own division next week he asked me to tell everyone about this event. And, tell all POWs that they are invited to come next year. The same rules apply. Get there and they will provide the room & board for the Ex-POW and one other. Families and friends are also welcome of course, but have to handle their own expenses.

Any Ex-POW that maybe interested in attending next years affair can contact **George Christo, POW Liaison,**
5854 Ansley Way, Mt. Dora, FL 32757
george@TheRideHome.com

Check to see if your dues are due. Save us the cost of a reminder. Thanks.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS 2011 VBOB EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

At the 5 September 2010 VBOB Membership Meeting in Columbia, SC the following Executive Council officers were elected without dissent or abstentions:

President: J. David Bailey
106th Infantry Division

Executive VP: Ralph W. Bozorth
Associate Member

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6th Armored Division

VP Chapters: Thomas R. Chambers
9th Armored Division

VP Military Affairs: Alfred H.M. Shehab
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Recording Secretary: John D. Bowen
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Robert Rhodes – Associate Member
Bert Rice – Associate Member
Doris Davis – Associate Member

Two Year Term Trustees:
Stewart Piper – 26th Infantry Division
John Schaffner – 106th Infantry Division
MaryAnn Bowen – Associate Member

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

Past Presidents are automatically Executive Council Members.

Respectfully submitted,
George Chekan

Treaties are like roses and young girls.
They last while they last.
CHARLES DE GAULLE

MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

Looking for information on my father, Myron "Cash" Overcash who was assigned to the 317th Infantry Regiment of the 80th Infantry Division, and was part of the headquarters company of the 317th's 1st battalion. Others he served with include Si Killian and Lyle Canine. He was stationed at Camp Forrest, Tullahoma TN before shipping out to England. Please send any information to Deb Overcash, 7609 Welshire Blvd Fort Wayne IN 46815 or email dovercash20@comcast.net.

CHAPTER NEWS

LAMAR SOUTTER/CENTRAL, MA (22)

President John E. McAuliffe - 87th

Infantry Division – receives honorary citizenship of the town of Rochefort, Belgium on June 19, 2010. Gilbert Stevenot made the presentation at the Town Hall.



Congratulations Mac

next year you will be mayor!



If World War III is fought with atom bombs the war after that will be fought with stones.

ALBERT EINSTEIN



The lasting Enigma

National Cryptologic Museum

Legend has it that in the early 1990s the National Security Agency bought the Colony 7 Motel, just off the Baltimore-Washington Parkway, after one of its employees, too tired to drive home, discovered his room had a straight line of sight into NSA's super-sensitive communications complex.

Today the erstwhile motel, refurbished as the National Cryptologic Museum, is chocked with the gewgaws and gadgets of electronic eavesdropping and code-breaking. My favorite remains the Nazis' famous Enigma machine, which looks like a very strange old typewriter, but in its day enabled German military units to send and receive completely secure coded messages.

Or that's what they thought. As the world would learn after the war, a team of brilliant Polish mathematicians had duplicated the machine and turned it over to the Allies. In one of the cruelest of wartime ironies, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill could not use what he learned from the German "decrypts," as they're called, to evacuate British subjects from the path of Nazi bombers, lest he tip off the enemy that their codes had been broken.

All of which means that half the allure of the museum's gadgets comes from learning the back story to what they did. But in any event, visitors can make their own codes on the Enigma machine, learning, as they plunk the keys, that nothing stays secret forever.

— Jeff Stein, *Spy Talk* blogger,
national security reporter

65 YEARS LATER

Lester Schwarm
82nd Airborne Division
325th Glider Infantry Regiment

[Lester sent us a copy of page 5 of the May issue of the 82nd Airborne Badger State Chapter newsletter, which included an article about Sam Sanfillippo, who was a medic in his unit.]

I was with the 82nd Airborne Division, 325th Glider Infantry Regiment, during the Battle of the Bulge, December 18, 1944, to January 12th, 1945. We were steady in this battle twenty-four hours a day.

On January 12th, the 82nd was given a short relief along with the 325th GIR. We were sent to Pepinster, Belgium, for a rest.

Rations were short—not because there weren't any but it was difficult to get them to us. As we were loaded on the trucks to go to Pepinster, they gave each of us a K-ration box. I was lucky, I got a breakfast one.

As I was opening the ham and egg can with that little P-38 opener, I could not get the lid out of the can. The truck hit a bump in the road, I flew up, out came the lid and I cut my left index finger.

Bleeding very badly the officer stopped the convoy and got our medic. After he dressed my cut, he asked to see my dog-tags. I ask him why he wanted to see my dog-tags. He said, "You will get the Purple Heart for this drawing blood." I walked away from him.

Had I let him see my dog-tags I would have received the Purple Heart. After the European Campaign was over and you had so many points you could go home. I was four points short and the Purple Heart was worth five points.

After 65 years after reading this article, I know know the medic's name and we only live about 150 miles apart in the State of Wisconsin. ■



An engineer from
the 2nd Division
laying anti-tank
mines.
US Army

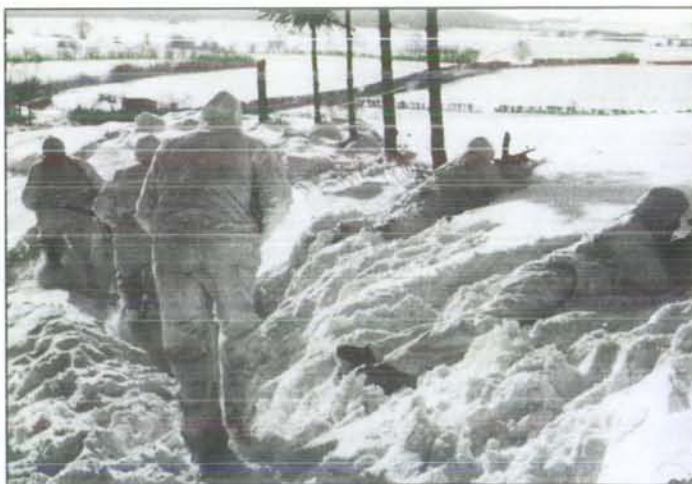
DONATIONS

The generosity of our members is outstanding. We are indeed grateful for your donations. At this time of Thanksgiving, we give thanks to all of you who have contributed to the organization. Each contribution both large and small is appreciated. Thus far it has enabled us to not have to raise our dues to meet our expenses. Below are listed the donors since the last Bulge Bugle. Those with an asterik * are repeat donors. Your generosity is unbelievable. Thank You!

The 41 individuals listed below have collectively donated \$1,081.00 since the last Bugle. Listing is current through 14 October 2010. If you have donated and your name has not appeared please contact our Recording Secretary.

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William S Blaher	Flemington NJ	106 th InfD 422 nd Inf I
Delbert E Bordner	Toledo OH	26 th InfD 328 th Inf C
James B Cash	BowlingGreen VA	30 th InfD 117 th Inf M
*Ralph L Ciullo	Middle Island NY	84 th InfD 33 rd Inf K
Joseph D Civitano	DelRay Beach FL	11 th ArmD 575 th AAA AW
Walter H Connor	Horseheads NY	91 st Chem Mtr Bn C
Michaeline Corkum	S Royalton VT	GDaughter Charles Dewey
GeorgeWm Crowley	NewportNews VA	11 th ArmD 81 st ArmD Med Bn A
James P Curran	Woburn MA	75 th InfD 575 th Sig Co
Frank J Forcinella	Rensselaer NY	5 th InfD 2 nd Inf E
*Eugene L Gaulke	Deland FL	10 th ArmD 20 th AIB C
Scott Gordon	Palm Beach FL	Son 303d Sig Op Bn Hq
Stanley W Gordon	Palm Beach FL	302d Sig Op Bn Hq
James C Gormley	Saint Louis MO	Son Francis J 26 th InfD
Edward G Green, Jr	W Palm BeachFL	Associate
James P Hennessey	Bayonne NJ	87 th InfD 345 th Inf E
Hubert L Jackson	Granbury TX	Assocate
Lee F Johnson	Universal CityTX	99 th InfD 395 th Inf K

Kathleen E Kear	Santa Clara CA	Dau Edward W Kaminski, Jr 7 th ArmD 38 th AIB
Andrew J Kelhart	Allentown PA	1 st Sgt Retired
Elmer Kitchell	Towaco NJ	30 th InfD 120 th Inf F
William A Lake	Vero Beach FL	102 nd Cav Gp 102 nd Rcn A
*Carl H Lavin	Canton OH	84 th InfD 335 th Inf L
Lee Liberman	New Haven CT	95 th InfD 320 th Engr C Bn B
Betty Maddix	MountPleasant ID	In Memory of Donald Maddix
David T Noble	Port Richey FL	2 nd InfD 293 rd Ord MM
Louis Pagano, Jr	Allentown PA	Brother Anthony Pagano
John J Petrelis	Pinellas Park FL	5 th ArmD 15 th AIB
Myron A Polzin	Greendale WI	689 th FA Bn
Clayton S Quimbach	Elkhart IN	172 nd Engr Cmbt Bn C
Harold W Rathjen	San Antonio TX	398 th Engr GS Gp C
David A Reyno	Owings MD	Associate
Douglas A Schreurs	Hollister MO	Associate
Anna Venditti	Bronx NY	Husband 26 th InfD 101 st Inf Hq Co
*Norvin L Vogel	Allentown PA	35 th InfD 134 th Inf
Betty Walsh	Auburn NY	In Memory of brother Pvt Robert W Cool
*Ewald Zurbuchen	Bradenton FL	32 nd Cav Rcn Sqdn E Trp



A patrol in the Ardennes wearing snow-suits made out of village bed-linen. (JWM)

VBOB 2010 REUNION COLUMBIA, SC – 9/1-6, 2010

As usual the favorite hangout was the spacious hospitality room of the Marriott Downtown Columbia, which was staffed by 24 volunteers who were family and friends of members and associate members of the host chapter.

Leif Maseng, president of the local chapter welcomed all at the wine and cheese reception. Barbara Mooneyhan, emcee introduced Dr. Harris Pastides, President of the University of South Carolina and our host for the football game against Southern Mississippi.

George F. Will and George Patton Waters paid tribute to our veterans at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. After lunch the veterans were presented with commemorative coins.

On the way to the football game we rode in antique cars and military vehicles, behind a police escort.



Sure beats today's convertibles...

People lined the streets paying tribute to the veterans. A delicious buffet was prepared and waiting for us when we arrived. Prior to the start of the game VBOB President Dee Paris and South Carolina Chapter President Leif Maseng were escorted to the center of the field to participate in the coin toss. Apparently VBOB's presence was a good omen because South Carolina won 41 – 13.

Our visit to Fort Jackson included a tour of the post stopping at various firing ranges, obstacle courses, exercise facilities, etc. and yes the mess hall where we were served steak, shrimp, crab legs. You name and we ate it! The soldiers saluted our veterans throughout the tour.

The visit to FN Manufacturing, a Belgian owned company, was outstanding. Every employee was wearing a special battle of the bulge t-shirt and greeted us as we entered the building, shaking our hands and thanking the veterans. We assembled in the cafeteria where Jean Louis Vanderstraeten, President and CEO welcomed us. We were given a presentation of our itinerary, after which we went on a guided tour of the gun making facility. Some of our people asked for, but did not receive, a souvenir M249, a sophisticated weapon for the military. A few of the veterans fired a machine gun on the practice range. Back to the cafeteria where we ate chicken, pasta, etc; we all put on a few pounds as a result of the lunch. Prior to leaving the veterans were each given a t-shirt, commemorative medal, tie-tac and a key holder.



*FN President – Jean Vanderstraeten receives
Certificate from VBOB President – Dee Paris*

Our wreath laying ceremony was held at Fort Jackson Cemetery where MG Douglas Lanier Carver, US Army Chief of Chaplains gave the invocation. Also present were MG James Milano, commanding general of Fort Jackson and Col Kevin A. Shwedo, deputy commander of Fort Jackson. A 21 gun, cannon, salute followed the wreath laying.



Fort Jackson Cemetery

All enjoyed the Road to Victory Show! It included a buffet dinner, a large orchestra playing our type songs that resulted in a packed dance floor and the Victory Belles from the National World War II Museum in New Orleans, LA. Tom Burgess, 87th ID was cajoled by the Belles to join them on stage. At the end of his stint Tom was sporting more lipstick smears than General Patton had medals.



Victory Belle & Tom Burgess

Columbia, SC Reunion (cont'd)

We had another great turnout for the dinner and entertainment at the Senate Restaurant, in Columbia.

Our formal banquet was a success despite some problems with the audio/video equipment. The two principal speakers were BG Mike Delobel, Defense, Military, Naval and Air Attaché from the Belgium Embassy and Mario Wiesen, Secrétaire de Légation, Luxembourg Consul. The colors were presented and retired by the 171st Infantry Brigade from Fort Jackson.

In closing the reunion was well organized, enjoyable and will be remembered for the appreciation and respect given to our veterans by the people of Columbia. Local newspapers provided coverage of the reunion including photos and stories about the veterans. Veterans signed autographs in the lobby of the hotel for the people of Columbia. It seemed like everywhere we went we were in the company of generals, commanding officers, dignitaries, etc.

As they say in show business this will be a tough act to follow. Special thanks to Barbara Mooneyhan and the reunion committee for a truly outstanding reunion that will always be remembered.

See y'all next year in Columbus, GA

Reported by Ralph Bozorth
Associate

PLEASE CONTACT ME

I am looking for any information or anyone who served with my father, Charles Philip Aylesworth of Binghamton, NY. He served with the 35th Infantry Division, 320th Infantry Regiment, 1st Battalion and was wounded on 12/28/44 and again on 3/28/45.

Enclosed is a picture of my father in the lower right corner.



James P. Aylesworth 252-221-8797
314 Oneida Trail
Edenton, NC 27932

2011 VETERANS TOURS

PILSEN WW2 LIBERATION FESTIVAL in the Czech Republic is now recognized as the leading European Festival commemorating WW2. That is why several of VBOB's "younger generations" have asked to visit it, and that is the reason for this tour. VBOB's 2nd Infantry Division 'Indianheads' liberated Pilsen and will be guests of honor. You will also see Nuremberg (Nazi Rally Stadium and War Crimes Trials Justice Palace), Flossenbürg concentration camp for VIP prisoners, Lidice (the town destroyed after Reinhard Heydrich's assassination), Theresienstadt concentration camp and the Czech capital Prague – one of the most beautiful and historic cities of Europe. May 5 - 11, 2011. Arrival to Frankfurt. Depart from Prague.

'MEMORIAL DAY' BATTLE OF THE BULGE TOUR/CRUISE. 'Memorial Day' in a Battle of the Bulge American Cemetery is a very moving and spectacular ceremony with the participation of the US Army. It is attended by US and European military, governmental, diplomatic and religious dignitaries. Our VBOB veterans and their families will be guests of honor and for them it will be an unforgettable experience. A Battle of the Bulge 'Memorial Day' is something which every Veteran and their "younger generations" should experience at least once in their lifetime. Afterwards, there are three days of Battle of the Bulge exploration visiting our VBOB group members' "special places" and celebrations with the local people. There is plenty of free time (for shopping, sightseeing, etc.) Finally, there is a seven day luxury cruise from Luxembourg along the beautiful Moselle wine valley and World Heritage middle Rhine valley to Amsterdam for sightseeing and then the flight home. May 28 - June 9, 2011. Arrive to Brussels. Depart from Amsterdam.

FOR MORE INFORMATION on all tours, contact Doris Davis, President of VBOB Golden Gate (San Francisco) Chapter. Email dordavis@earthlink.net Tel (650) 654 - 0101 (PST) "Words can't describe the feelings of standing where my father stood in WW2. It is an incredible experience." Doris Davis

CHRISTMAS 1944

BELGIUM

591st Field Artillery Battalion

We had not shaved, bathed or even washed our hands since Dec. 16. We had been eating and sleeping in dirty holes in the ground and had not had time nor the urge to change. Just at dawn Dec 23rd, we opened fire at a road not far away. Our fire was being directed by a forward observer; consequently we couldn't see our targets. We used up all our shells by firing as fast as possible, and then hooked the big guns up behind the trucks. Our whole gun crew was riding in the back of the truck and was told to stick with the truck as long as it kept moving, but if the truck or its driver was disabled and then each man would be on his own and escape any way possible. We stayed with the trucks and the whole convoy merged on the main road. At this point we could see what we had been shooting at and the damage we had done, being helped by our tanks and also by 82nd Division paratroopers.

We saw disabled tanks on both sides of the road, mostly German tanks with dead German soldiers, lying along the road and several tanks had dead Germans on top of them, their clothing still smoking. There were dead American soldiers scattered all along and as we stopped among this carnage by a log building to relieve ourselves, I personally walked among the dead of the 82nd Div. who had already been gathered up and placed side by side on a canvas along the side of the road. There were two rows of them having been placed with their feet toward each other. There were eleven men in each row, all lying on their backs, most of them with their eyes still open. By now we were becoming accustomed to see dead soldiers but as I stood by twenty-two of them in one place, my thoughts were that there would be sadness in twenty-two families back home when they were notified of the death of their loved ones and I wished that I could talk to the family of each one and tell them what little I knew about his death and that they had died helping to clear this road which we were using to escape capture.

December 23rd. We loaded into the trucks and passed through Belgian towns and villages that had been devastated by fire from both sides. We had not been told that we were moving back to regroup, having lost so many men in such a short time.

We camped in an open field just outside Ville Belgium. Our doming included socks and underwear. Our feet were always cold. At Ville we camped in an open field near a large horse barn. The village was just down the road from us. We built a fire and melted snow in our helmets and stood by the fire, pulled up our shirts and washed our upper body, put clean T-shirts and shirts on, then lowered our pants, washed down as far as possible, changed our boxer shorts and pants. We watched a German and an American plane shooting at each other just above us and they disappeared from our sight. Some of us went into the horse barn and wrote our first letter since the start of the battle. I wrote home telling them that I was safe and not to worry about me.

We had come here to get replacements for the men that we had lost and to clean our guns and get ammo and so on. That night we slept in a warm barn loft and it was a comfortable feeling hearing the horses munching on hay and we expected to be mere for Christmas Eve and away from the fighting. We

spent Christmas Eve fooling around and wondered what was going on in the fighting which was only a few miles away for we could hear the shooting.

Just before dark we were ordered to mount up and get ready to leave.

There had been a break-through near Fays, Belgium and our artillery support was needed. It was Christmas Eve and we were on our way back to combat. It was a dark cold night and there was a feeling of gloom as twelve of us rode in the back of the canvas covered truck with everything we owned riding with us. We wore overcoats and were wedged together so that our bodies were not freezing but our feet were so cold that it was miserable. Someone asked me to play a Christmas song. My harmonica and I started to play Silent Night and I could sense that everyone was thinking of home and their families probably gathered around the Christmas tree. I was thinking of home also as I played and realized it was a sad song, so I started playing Jingle Bells and soon we were all singing as we watched our Howitzer trail along behind us.

There is hardly ever a time that the army tells you where you are headed and as usual we rode through the darkness until the trucks stopped and we had to jump down from the trucks and land on our cold feet. It wasn't long until we were warmed up by digging the big gun in and then our four guns started shooting at the unseen enemy. Our fire was directed by our forward observer who was in front of us and saw the targets and where our shells were landing. We spent the night firing the guns and trying to get warm and when daylight came we could see that we were on a hill and were shooting over a valley at another hill. There was a battle going on out of our sight and we were doing a lot of shooting and no one was shooting at us. There was a Belgian farm house in the valley before us and we were shooting directly over the house and barn. There was smoke coming out of the chimney and chickens running around in the snowy yard. It was Christmas Day and we were scheduled for another can of beans for Christmas dinner. Pvt. Katz, PFC Bermudez and I stood looking at those chickens and decided to have chicken for Christmas dinner instead of beans. When the second shift came on to relieve us at the gun we walked through the deep snow down the hill and approached the house. We couldn't be positively sure that there weren't Germans inside, so we took cover behind trees in the front yard and hollered "Hello". The door opened a small crack and a man's voice was saying something in French. Katz stepped out from behind the tree and using sign language gestured that we wanted a chicken. He made a money sign with his fingers meaning that we would pay. The man waved his arm as if to say go ahead and no pay was expected, so we caught two old hens and started back up the hill. We guessed that the Belgian man had stayed to take care of their animals while the war was going on all around over their house.

We took the chickens back to our gun position and wrung their necks and cleaned them and built a fire and stuck a stick through them and took turns holding them over the fire, all the time kidding the guys in the other gun sections about us having

(Continued on next page)

CHRISTMAS 1944 BELGIUM

chicken for dinner and they were having beans. We decided that the chicken was cooked enough and each of us used our trench knife to cut off a piece. It was burned on the outside and raw on the inside and not fit to eat but we were bragging how good it was and how smart we were to be having chicken instead of beans.

Katz said "Let's save some for supper" and took it to the truck and later on when no one was looking, threw it away.

We continued firing all day and it let up some along towards evening. Chow time came and we walked back behind our position to the chow truck to get our can of beans and much to our surprise we were told to bring our mess kits. As we approached the chow truck we could smell turkey. The cooks were putting turkey and dressing in each mess kit as we took our turn at the tailgate. We three chicken eaters were not hungry because of the raw chicken and

Crimes of Kampgruppe Peiper

At the start of the Battle of the Bulge on December 16, 1944, Combat Command B of the 9th Armored Division was in the St. Vith area. The main German attack was by the 6th Panzer Army which included the combat team led by Colonel Joachim Peiper.

On December 12, 1944, Fuhrer Adolf Hitler called a meeting of his corps and division generals and informed them of an offensive that he believed would split the British and American allies and reach the port of Antwerp. His plan indicated the attack would be a "no holds" barred and executed without shame nor pity. German prisoners claimed their orders were not to be concerned with American prisoners which, they insisted, meant don't take any prisoners.

The attack by the 6th Panzer Army was led by 29 year old Obersturmbannfuhrer Jochim Peiper who had established his cruelty in the Russian campaign by burning two villages and killing the inhabitants. Peiper's Kampgruppe was guilty of inhuman acts in violation of war "ethics" during the first few days of the battle.

On the second day of the attack, 17th December, Peiper's task force had reached the villages of Honsfeld and Bullingen where they captured many American soldiers. Although these soldiers had surrendered, they were shot.

The Malmedy massacre actually took place at the crossing in Baugnez on the same day. About 71 American prisoners here herded into a field near a café and mowed down with machine guns on the German tanks and other vehicles. The Germans then moved among the fallen bodies, shooting anyone who showed any movement.

In Ligneuville, a few kilometers south of Baugnez, 22 American soldiers were captured and taken into Hotel Du Moulin. Eight of the men were shot in the head. A memorial has been placed at the site.

Advancing to Stavelot, a German tank crew machine-gunned two Belgian civilians on the Rue Dewalque. Later, on the Rue de Trois-Ponts, two SS foot soldiers following a tank shot the 14 year old son of the family Genoux only because he was leaning out of his family home window. Later, they killed another Belgian named Gonay who was stand-in this doorway.

At 23 Legaye, 23 more Belgian civilians were killed, including children ages 4 to 9. Three more civilians were murdered between Stavelot and Trois-Ponts.

Another nine civilians were killed including children in the area of Petit-Spai and Ambleve. Another in Les Forges. Jean Minguet was shot in his home. On December 20 in the village of Stockeux, seven civilians were killed by being shot in the neck. Three more were killed with hand grenades. Two days later, five more Belgians were killed in the same village.

Also on December 22, the SS shot into a house and wounded three civilians and three other escaped injury. A minister was murdered on December 30.

Following is the number of the American soldiers who, after being captured and becoming prisoners, were murdered by Peiper's troops:

71 - Baugnez	31 - Cheneux
50 - Bullingen	46 - Stoumont
58 - Stavelot	10 - Trois-Pont
17 - Honsfeld	11 - Petit-Spai
41 - La Gleize	

There were other civilians murdered by the S.S. troops following Kampgruppe Peiper. Between December 21 and 24, 1944, a total of 58 civilians were killed, including four seminarians.

The crimes against American soldiers were by the Peiper SS troop. There were no similar crimes by the Wehrmacht soldiers. SS troops were under Reichsfuhrer SS Heinrich Himmler but could be placed into other German troop units.

Source: Camille P. Kohn, President CEBA
Cercle D'Etudes sur la Bataille des Ardennes



"CAN'T YOU GUYS CARRY ON AN INTELLIGENT CONVERSATION
WITHOUT DISCUSSING THE WAR?"
—Capt. Art Gores

A Few Hapless GI's Turned the Tide

Behind the story of the Battle of the Bulge 15 years ago this week, there's another story. It is about a bunch of boys who were in the wrong place at the wrong time and wound up with medals. This account of their unintentional heroism is by a woman war correspondent who talked with them.

[This article was written by Helena Huntington Smith. The name of the publication had been cut off and information as to who sent it was also not available.]

Few of the Americans in Paris at Christmas time in 1944 were alarmed over the sudden German breakthrough. The French, who are pessimists from experience, were scared and believed the Boches were coming back, but Americans are never pessimistic and never seem to have any experience.

None of us knew then that less than a week earlier the Germans had been out in the open with practically nothing between them and Liege, which was the nerve center of the whole western defense at that point. As it turned out after the war, the real objective was not Liege but the River Meuse and the great cities of Antwerp and Brussels. Whatever the final objective, however, the Germans had a clear field before them.



Shaded area held by allies at start of battle of the Bulge.

Mines and Bazookas

What stopped them was nothing except a few handfuls of boys in soldier suits who had never before fired a shot at the enemy. They were engineers, anti-aircraft, and things of that sort, and there were squads and platoons where there should have been divisions and corps. They had been working sawmills and building roads early on December 17, when they were ordered to drop what they were doing and go out and stop the German army. They had had no training since basic. They had no

tanks, no artillery, no mortars. They had hardly anything except mines and bazookas and what Lt. Col. David E. Pergrin called psychology.

Col. Pergrin commanded the 291st engineer battalion, which later received a unit citation "for action in and around Malmédy, December 17-26, 1944." He was round faced, wore glasses, and looked like a young assistant professor. He said a company and a half of the 291st had been running its sawmill near Malmédy the morning of the 17th, when a lieutenant who had been up the road brought back word that the Germans had broken thru the 99th Division at Butgenbach.

Trees for Road Block

Col. Pergrin ordered his men out to the east edge of town, where they tied little packages of dynamite around some tree trunks which they felled across the road and set out some mines. This was known as a road block. With the road block in order, they looked over a hill and counted 68 enemy vehicles coming toward them, 30 of them tanks.

That was when everything in Malmédy started leaving--hospitals, ordnance units, all the rear-echelon odds and ends--in what would never be described as a panic stricken flight because our side was engaged in it. At noon the 7th armored division showed up; the 291st felt much rosier, but the tank commander said: "Sorry, we're ordered to St. Vith." There was a replacement depot with 500 men in Malmédy, and Col. Pergrin tried to borrow some of them to put on his road blocks, but they also had business elsewhere.

Taunts Remembered

The 281st stuck in Malmédy eight days, and as it turned out, nothing much happened except that they were bombed three days in succession by the American air force. The main panzer force bypassed Malmédy, having evidently concluded the place was strongly defended. After a couple of days it was.

The 30th division took over and its commanding officer greeted Pergrin with: "What! Do you mean to say you've been sitting here with only 185 men? Why the hell didn't you beat it?"

Col. Pergrin guessed it was psychology. It seemed that combat outfits moving up the road to the front had a habit of yelling at the road builders: "You engineer so-and-sos! Why don't you come on up there and fight?"

All thru the first two days of the battle, this Malmédy pattern kept repeating itself along the route of both panzer columns. The seemingly timid behavior of the panzers which due to their orders, which were to bypass any opposition and press on, going toward the Meuse. But there was always opposition, or the seeming of it.

There were people such as a lieutenant who had five trucks, and all one night he ran them up a hill with the lights showing and downhill again blacked out, so that they looked like a big convoy moving up. And it was thanks to the 158th engineer battalion that there ever was a siege of Bastogne and that Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe had a chance to say, "Nuts!"

Approaching Bastogne

The southern prong of the panzers was approaching Bastogne on the morning of the 17th, when the 101st airborne infantry, which made that city immortal and vice versa, was still far away at a rest camp. Lt. Col. Sam Tabets, with B company of the 158th engineers, was ordered to chop down trees and lay mines and keep those tanks out of Bastogne until someone of importance could get there.

The night of December 18, the

(Continued)

HAPLESS GI'S

(Continuation)

company was sitting on top of a road block, peering tensely into the dark, when the first German tank came rumbling along. It was encountered Pvt. Bernard Michin of Providence, RI, standing like a stone wall with a bazooka, a weapon he had never fired in his life. No more had the rest of them. The World War II bazooka, which looked like a sawed-off length of stove-pipe and shot a weird projectile like a miniature V-2, was supposed to be good against tanks up to 150 yards away. But Michin waited until his tank was only 10 yards away before he fired. He wasn't trying to be a hero; he simply didn't want to hit an American tank by mistake.

'I Got kinda Nervous'

Michin had forgotten to put on the dark glasses which were supposed to protect the bazooka man's eyes from the flash, and the tremendous explosion which finished the tank also seared his eyes so he rolled into the ditch, temporarily blinded. It was eight hours before he regained his sight.

He couldn't remember how long he had laid in the ditch in great pain. But German infantrymen were riding in with tanks, and after a while a German machine gun was firing toward him.

"I got kinda nervous," he said. So he threw a hand grenade, guided only by the sound, and knocked out the machine gun and killed most of the crew.

Situation Called Fluid

What worried all these green soldiers the most was the danger of killing another American, a danger much more solid and awful to them than death at the hands of the Germans. The fighting those first few days of the Bulge battle was total confusion, what with fog and early darkness, no communications, Germans infiltrating everywhere and nobody knowing where his own or anybody else's lines were. All this was rather prettily described in the SHAEF communiques as "a fluid situation."

The panzer column to the south was to have occupied Bastogne, and then to have moved on up to the main highway, to a junction with the northern column and so on to the Meuse. But because of multiplied incidents like the nervousness of Pvt. Michin, it bent around Bastogne when it could have rolled on in. On the 19th, the 101st airborne arrived to take up the defense of Bastogne which made history, and Col. Tabets' 150 boys on the road block were relieved by some 1,700 men. The boys were not pleased about it. They wanted to go on stalking tanks with bazookas.

Delayed Just Enough

The Germans wanted certain broad highways, but these little units delayed them just enough. Their southern column hesitated at Bastogne. Their main northern column never reached the highway. It came to grief because of three privates and a necklace mine.

On the night of December 18, part of the column again fell afoul of the 291st engineer battalion, which was manning another road block commanding the crucial highway. Pvt. John Rondenell and two companions were out in front with a necklace mine, a chain of five or six mines fastened together.

When they heard tanks coming, Rondenell pulled his string of mines across the road and blew up the first tank. And this destruction of the lead vehicle--now I quote from the citation bestowed on the 291st--"marked the definite stopping of the enemy advance on axis Bullingen-Waimes-Malmedy-Stavelot-LaGleize-Stoutmont-Chevron Werbomont, later learned to be the route designed for the first SS panzer corps."

After the night of December 18, the allied command recovered its poise, and from then on we had divisions were before there were only battalions--and non-combat ones at that. The rollback started, and from there on the story is familiar.

Why did the Germans miss their great opportunity? If they had known, even guessed, how little was out in front, no amount of psychology could have stopped them.

One story, more than all the rest, seems to me to illustrate the peculiar deadliness of innocence, even in war. Pvt. Roland Seamon was a tall, husky mountain boy from Shinnston, WV; his buddy, Pvt. Albert Darrago, was from Maryland, and all they had done in the war up to then was to shiver in their gun pits and stare at the empty sky.

Two Who Volunteered

The nights of the 18th and 19th, they set up their batteries and listened to the roar of motors and movement of vehicles on the road. In the morning, an infantry lieutenant came over from a square brick house held by Americans and asked for volunteers to know out a tank with bazookas. Neither Seamon nor Darrago had touched a bazooka, but they said they'd try. Upon reaching the house, they were mildly surprised to find it full of infantrymen. Possibly the lieutenant had thought his own men were not expendable.

Seamon and Darrago crawled off across a field, rifle and machine gun fire whistling all around them, and spied sitting there four of the finest, fattest tanks they had ever seen.

The two boys held a whispered consultation and decided not to go back for help--because they were afraid the tanks might get away.

A Double Explosion

They each picked one of the medium tanks and fired. There was a satisfying double explosion, and both burst into flames. The boys crawled back across the field under fire from several sources, found the lieutenant in his nice brick house, and reported. He directed them to go back and put a more shot apiece to make sure of the kill.

With marked lack of enthusiasm but still obedient to orders, they again crawled thru the hedge and put two more rockets into the blazing tanks. They then crossed the field for the fourth time under fire, making the return without incident, except that Seamon had ripped his pants on some barbed wire.

Seamon and Darrago received distinguished services crossed. I have often wondered what the Lieutenant got. He ought to have been a full colonel by V-E Day.



"This is undoubtedly the greatest American battle of the war and will, I believe, be regarded as an ever famous American victory."

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL
addressing the House of Commons following
the Battle of the Bulge



American Generals who won WWII in Europe
photo taken in Bad Wildungen, Germany May 11, 1945

Seated left to right:

William H. Simpson (9th Army), George S. Patton, Jr. (7th Army, 3rd Army), Carl Spaatz (8th Air Force, US Strategic Air Forces in Europe), Dwight D. Eisenhower (SHAEP Supreme Allied Commander), Omar Bradley (1st Army, 12th Army Group), Courtney H. Hodges (1st Army), and Leonard T. "Gee" Gerow (V Corps & 15th Army)

Standing left to right:

Ralph F. Sterling (9th Tactical Air Division, 9th Air Force), Hoyt S. Vandenberg (9th Air Force), Walter Bedell Smith (SHAEP Chief of Staff), Otto P. Weyland (XIX Tactical Air Command), and Richard Nugent (XXIX Tactical Air Command)



A C-47 cargo transport Dakota crash lands safely after dropping supplies to the 101st US Airborne Division defending Bastogne against heavy German attacks./IWM

THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION, INC.

Invites You to Join Your Friends for the

"EVENTS OF REMEMBRANCE AND COMMEMORATION" OF THE 66th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE December 13, 14, 15 and 16, 2010 Metropolitan Washington, DC

Based on a number of requests by those who so enjoyed events last year, in commemoration of the 66th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, we have added an extra day (from our normal three day affair in off years) so that those who come from long distances will have an opportunity to partake of more events. The DoubleTree Hotel Crystal City by Hilton, 300 Army-Navy Drive, in Arlington VA22202 has been selected again, with its panoramic view of our Nation's Capital. This hotel, just off Route 1 in Crystal City is a 7 minute drive from Reagan National Airport and a 2 City block walk to the Pentagon Metro Station and the Pentagon Mall. It provides easy access to Washington DC and underwent a major renovation in 2006 for great accommodations. **We have managed to retain the reduced rate of \$99.00**, single or double occupancy plus taxes, however food has gone up slightly. **We have blocked 30 rooms so it is imperative to make hotel reservations immediately.** Parking is Complimentary. This rate is available for any night(s) between December 11 and December 17. For room reservations please call the DoubleTree Reservations (1-800-Hiltons) or 703-416-4100 by **December 1, 2010**. Mention the **BATTLE OF THE BULGE** for the special rate.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2010

- 2:00 PM – 9:00 PM For those who want to arrive early. Registration (Hospitality Suite), receive name badges, Banquet/bus tickets, and information. (If you are only attending the Banquet, (on the 15th this year) you may pick up your tickets at the DoubleTree by 6:00 PM Dec 15th.)
- 3:00 PM – 10:00 PM Hospitality Room/Exhibits, Books, scrapbooks, memorabilia open everyday. John Bowen BOB Vice-Pres will be the host. Marty Feldman will again be in charge of refreshments. Supper will be on your own.
- 5:00 – 5:15 PM Load Chartered Bus. Depart promptly 5:15PM for Kennedy Center. Prelude by the Belgian Royal Symphonic Band of the Guides at the Millennium Stage at 6:00 PM.
- 7:00 PM We will then attend the beloved ChoralArts' annual *The Treasured Holiday Tradition Concert* at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall for 7:00 PM along with our Wounded Warriors. Though we are quoting a fee for the concert tickets, it is possible that the Concert tickets may end up free for Bulge Veterans, and fee will be refunded, if a sponsor is found, but there are no guarantees at this point.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2010

- 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM Registration open/Receive name badges, Parking Passes, Banquet/bus tickets, HospitalityRoom open.
- 9:00 AM – 1:30 PM Charter buses load & depart hotel promptly at 9:15 AM for National Air & Space Museum's Udvar-Hazy Center near Washington Dulles International Airport which is the companion facility to the Museum on the National Mall. Visitors can walk among aircraft and small artifacts in display cases located on the floor, and view aircraft hanging from the arched ceiling on elevated skywalks. Among the aviation artifacts on display are the Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird, the fastest jet in the world; the Boeing Dash 80, the prototype of the 707; the Boeing B-29 Superfortress Enola Gay; the deHavilland Chipmunk aerobatic airplane and Space Shuttle *Enterprise*. Other space artifacts include the Gemini VII space capsule; the Mobile Quarantine Unit used upon the return of the Apollo 11 crew; and a Redstone rocket. There is also an IMAX theater. Lunch on your own. We will return to the Hotel at 1:30 PM or sooner if everyone is ready.
- 3:00 PM Tree Decoration Ceremony, Hospitality Room, Salute to Bulge Veterans, "Christmas You Never Had."
- 5:45 PM – 8:30 PM Bus departs at 5:45 PM for Reception at beautiful Belgium Ambassador's Residence from 6:30 – 8:30 PM.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2010

- 9:00 – 9:15 AM Load buses and depart promptly at 9:15 AM for a Tour of the Holocaust Museum.
- 9:30 AM Tour of the United States Holocaust Museum and special exhibit *State of Deception: The Power of Nazi Propaganda* which reveals how the Nazi Party used modern techniques as well as new technologies and carefully crafted messages to sway millions with its vision for a new Germany.
- 12:00 – 2:00 PM The buses will depart for Union Station where you may have lunch on your own from the myriad of food places and delicacies and enjoy shopping in the Union Station Mall. Be sure to take in the beauty of this restored train station as well as the traditional Norway Tree and train exhibit on the Concourse.
- 2:30 PM Return to DoubleTree Hotel to rest and prepare for our evening banquet
- 6:00 – 10 PM BANQUET AT THE DOUBLETREE CRYSTAL CITY HOTEL**
- 6:00 PM Social Hour/Cash Bar. 6:45 PM Seated for Dinner.
- 7:00 PM Color Guard & Honors by 3rd Infantry & Old Guard. Tributes by Belgian Royal Band of the Guides.
- 7:15 PM Dinner served: *Apple Brandy Pork Tenderloin* OR *Chicken Florentine*
- Program: Greetings from Dignitaries, Person of the Year Award. After Banquet - Hospitality Room open

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2010

- 8:30 AM - 12:30PM Bus loads 8:15 AM leaves Hotel promptly at 8:30 AM for Wreath layings: Large VBOB Memorial 9 AM, Tomb of the Unknowns 10:15 AM. WWII Memorial 11:30 AM. Tributes by Belgian Royal Band of Guides.
- 12:30 PM Return to DoubleTree Hotel for annual VBOB Luncheon in Windows Over Washington.
- 1:00 PM Lunch of hot soup, Grilled Chicken or Smoked Turkey sandwich, beverage and cookies.
- Swearing-in of new National VBOB officers for 2011.

Notes: Free Airport shuttle provided by the DoubleTree Hotel every half hour, 3 miles from Reagan Washington National Airport.

RESERVATION FORM
"REMEMBRANCE AND COMMEMORATION"
OF THE 66th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE
December 13, 14, 15, and 16, 2010 Metropolitan Washington, DC

Return form and check by **December 7, 2010** to:

Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation, Inc.
PO Box 2516,
Kensington MD 20895-0181

Questions:

John D. Bowen, 301-384-6533

E-Mail: johndbowen@earthlink.net

Name: _____ Telephone: _____ Cell: _____

Name of Spouse/Guests: _____

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

Battle _____ of _____ Bulge _____ Unit _____ You _____ Served _____ With: _____

Did you also serve during the Korean War? YES _____ NO _____ Names if more than one on this form served.

E-Mail Address: _____ Do you have a WWII Pictures to send us? _____

RESERVATIONS:

	Number Attending	If you haven't before? Cost/Person	Total
--	------------------	---------------------------------------	-------

Registration Fee: Provides for Badges, Programs, Hospitality, etc. _____ X \$20.00 \$ _____

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2010

Chartered Bus: Evening Bus Transportation to Kennedy Center _____ X \$20.00 \$ _____

5:15 PM Depart for Kennedy Center Millennium Stage _____ X \$20.00 \$ _____

7:00 PM ChoralArts' *The Treasured Holiday Concert* _____ X \$30.00 \$ _____

Kennedy Center Concert Hall

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2010

Chartered Bus: All Day & Evening Bus Transportation _____ X \$35.00 \$ _____

Evening Transportation Only to Ambassador Res _____ X \$17.50 \$ _____

9:15 AM Lv for Air & Space Museum near Dulles Airport _____ X FREE

5:45 PM Lv for Belgium Ambassador Residence Reception Evening _____ X FREE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2010:

Chartered Bus: To Holocaust Museum & Union Station _____ X \$25.00 \$ _____

9:15 AM Depart _____ X \$25.00 \$ _____

Lunch Union Sta on Own, Exhibits & Shopping _____ X FREE

Commemorative Banquet, DoubleTree Hotel Crystal City _____ X \$65.00 \$ _____

6:00 PM - 10:00 PM Please make your Main Course selection(s): _____

☐ Apple Brandy Pork Tenderloin _____ (Names) _____

☐ Chicken Florentine _____ (Names) _____

☐ Diabetic Meal _____ (Names) _____

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2010:

Chartered Bus: Wreath Layings VBOB Memorials, Tomb of _____ X \$25.00 \$ _____

Depart 8:30 AM Unknowns & WWII Memorial _____

9:00 - 10:15 AM Ceremonies: VBOB Monument & Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers: No. Attending: _____

1:00 PM VBOB Luncheon at DoubleTree Hotel _____

Chicken _____ X \$30.00 \$ _____

Turkey _____ X \$30.00 \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL (Enclose check made out to BoBHF 2010 Commemoration): \$ _____

Permission granted for Hotel to notify BoB Historical Foundation that room reservation has been made.

Signature: _____

NOTES & REMINDERS: Banquet Dress: Business suit/black tie (miniature medals encouraged) or military dress uniform
Room reservations must be made with the DoubleTree Crystal City directly, by **December 1, 2010** Telephone (1-800-Hiltons) Block of 30.
Return completed Reservation Form for events to BOB Historical Foundation ASAP but no later than **7 December 2010**.
No cancellation refunds after December 7, 2010. Hotel Reservations based on Availability. Please do not delay.

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

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

10/20/10

POPE IN GERMAN ARMY

[The following article is edited and excerpted from an article sent to us by **WES LEOPOLD, 281ST ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION**. The article appeared April 20, 2005, in the *Atlantic City Press* and was written by David McHugh.]

Ratzinger risked death in WWII by deserting German Army Unit

•His decision to leave just after he turned military age could have cost the life of the man who eventually became a Catholic cardinal, and now Pope.

BERLIN--In May 1945, thousands of German prisoners of war trudged down the highway toward the Bavarian town of Bad Aibling. Among them--tired but grateful to be alive--was 18-year-old Joseph Ratzinger, who days before had risked death by deserting the German army.

"In three days of marching, we hiked down the empty highway, in a column that gradually became endless," the new pope recalled years later in his memoirs.

"The American soldiers photographed us, the young ones, most of all, in order to take home souvenirs of the defeated army and its desolate personnel." [Wes states that he was among those "young ones" on the other end of a camera--having no idea that one of them might become Pope.]

Like his predecessor, John Paul II, Ratzinger was marked by the terror-filled years of World War II. Karol Wojtyla [Pope John Paul] was forced to work in a quarry and narrowly escaped arrest in a mass roundup of young men by the Germans in Krakow; Ratzinger's experiences also were harrowing.

In particular, his decision to leave his army unit just after he turned military age could have cost Ratzinger his life.

At the time, he knew that the dreaded SS units would shoot a deserter on the spot--or hang him from a lamppost as a warning to others. He recalled his terror when he was stopped by other soldiers.

"Thank God they were ones who had had enough of war and did not want to become murderers," he wrote in his book, *Aus meinem Leben*, published in English as *Milestones: Memoirs 1927-1977*.

"They had to find a reason to let me go. I had my arm in a sling because of an injury."

"Comrade, you are wounded," they told him. "Go on."

Soon he was home with his father, Josef, and his mother, Maria.

For years, he and his family had watched the Nazis strengthen their grip on Germany. His father, a policeman and a convinced anti-Nazi, moved the family at least once after clashing with local followers of the party. A local teacher, he remembered, became an ardent follower of the new movement and tried to institute a pagan May pole ritual as more fitting of Germanic ways than the traditional, conservative Catholicism.

In 1941, Ratzinger, 14, and his brother, Georg, were enrolled

in the Hitler Youth when it became mandatory for all boys. Soon after, he writes in his book *The Salt of the Earth*, he was let out because of his intention to study for the priesthood.

In 1943, like many teenage boys, he was drafted as a helper for an anti-aircraft brigade, which defended a BMW plant outside Munich. Later, he dug anti-tank trenches. When he turned 18, on April 16, 1945, he was put through basic training, alongside men in their 30s and 40s, drafted as the Nazi Reich went through its death agony. He was stationed near his hometown--he doesn't say where--but did not see combat with the approaching U.S. troops.



After he returned home, the Americans finally arrived--and set up their headquarters in his parents' 18th century farmhouse on the outskirts of the town.

They identified him as a German soldier, made him put on his uniform, put up his hands, and marched him off to join other prisoners kept in a nearby meadow. Taken to a camp near Ulm, he would up living outside for several weeks, surrounded by barbed wire.

He was finally released June 19 and hitched a ride on a milk truck back to Traunstein.

His family was happy to see him.

"Of course, for full joy, something was missing. Since the beginning of April, there had been no word from Georg," he remembered. "So there was a quiet worry in our house."

Suddenly in the middle of July, in walked Georg, tanned and unharmed. He sat at the piano and banged out the hymn, "Grosser Gott, wir Loben Dich," ["Mighty God, we Praise You"] as his family rejoiced.

The war was truly over.

"The following months of regained freedom, which we now had learned to value so much, belong to the happiest months of my life," he wrote.

[Although not related to the Bulge, Wes felt you would enjoy knowing that he may have witnessed the Pope march by.] ■

THE CHILDREN OF LUXEMBOURG

The children of Luxembourg talked to me.
They alone could understand.
Only the little ones walked with me
in their tiny, story-book land.

The adults treated me kindly,
though I came from a far-off strand;
but the little ones followed me blindly
and I walked with hands in each hand.

Chattering children, curious friends,
though my days with you were few,
the love of an alien soldier,
I loose on the winds for you.

DECEMBER EVENT UPDATE

66th Anniversary Commemoration

13 -16 December 2010

As we go to press we are pleased to tell you that the Belgium Embassy and the Belgium Government will be sending their internationally renowned Royal Symphonic Band of the Belgian Guides to honor you.

For those of you who attended the 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of the Bulge, in 1994, in St. Louis MO, you will recall that this is the same great band. Though in our American context we generally think of a "band" more of a marching unit, be assured that this group is much more than that. The Royal Band of the Guides consists of a Symphonic Band composed of 88 strictly selected artists and first class musicians. It is considered one of the world's foremost wind bands and is internationally top class. The present conductor is Yves Segers.

The Royal Band of the Guides will perform in a prelude on the evening of Monday, the 13th of December at the Kennedy Center before the ChoralArts Societies Annual Christmas Program. Thus we will be leaving earlier than originally planned for the Kennedy Center that night at 1715. The Kennedy Center is especially beautiful during the holidays and really gets you into the Spirit of the Season.

On Tuesday and Thursday, Oct 12 & 14 respectively, we met with representatives of the Belgian Guides at the Belgium Embassy as they did their on-site planning. Though the times may vary slightly we have attempted to be as close as can be determined before we go to press. We will have an update in your registration packet. The Registration Form and information has been updated in this issue of the Bugle and for those who have already sent in their Registrations there is nothing that you need do.

We hope that you will join us for another great event as we had last year. It is important that you make your hotel reservations now as we have already run out of the first block of rooms and have added more rooms to the block. Since the Guides will also be staying in the Hotel with us you can see that there may not be unlimited rooms available. You can always cancel your room before the hotel deadline.

We will have a five piece ensemble joining you for "The Christmas You Never Had" tree decoration ceremony at 1500 on the 14th of Dec in our Hospitality Room for this traditional event. For those veterans who were not able to attend last year please forward a photo of yourself in uniform and a line to identify your unit that you served with, to our chairman, John Bowen (613 Chichester Lane, Silver Spring MD 20904).

In the evening of the 14th the Belgium Ambassador H. E. Jan Matthysen and his wife has invited us to their beautiful Residence for another wonderful evening that folks from last year are still talking about.

The Holocaust Museum will be opening earlier just for us on the morning of 15 December followed by lunch and shopping at beautifully decorated Union Station. This year we will be fortunate to have musical entertainment at our banquet on the 15th of December, to which we have invited dignitaries from the Belgium & Luxembourg Embassies and our military.

We will conclude the Commemoration on 16 Dec with our wreath layings at Arlington Cem. & at the WWII Memorial followed by Lunch & VBOB officer installation.

2011 BULGE REENACTMENT

66th Anniversary Commemoration Battle TO HONOR VETERANS of WORLD WAR II & THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

Fort Indiantown Gap PA

25 Jan - 30 Jan 2011

The World War II Federation invites all vets to the Battle of the Bulge Reenactment this coming January and will again be honoring the WW II Veterans during the week, with a special Reception scheduled for Friday, 28 Jan 2011, free for WWII Vets.

Veterans may arrive after 1400 hours on Tues 25 Jan 2011. As usual, the Veterans will have a hospitality suite set up in their barracks as well as memorabilia & video displays.

Veterans should bring a pillow, sheets and a blanket (or a sleeping bag) for their bunk as well as wash cloth and towel and shower clogs. Enjoy a week of camaraderie, relaxation, WWII videos, stories and hospitality and a chance to relive your basic training days in original WWII Barracks. Enjoy the transformation of the barracks area by the reenactors to WWII period and enjoy the many restored WWII vehicles. Meet reenactors who are interested in learning from WWII veterans about the period as well as the respect that they hold for you.

Wed we will be transported by bus on Wed to N Lebanon HS for Vet Program followed by tour at 1300 of Ft Indiantown Gap. Flea Market will open at 1400 hours and will remain open to 2200 hours. Thurs visit by bus to the VA Hospital in Lebanon PA for our annual visit, so we can meet with fellow veterans

On Friday the Federation will salute the Veterans. At 1600 hours there will be a Wreath Laying at the VBOB Monument and 21 gun salute, and a Tactical Battle Briefing at 1630 Hours in the Community Club. There will be a free reception there for WWII Veterans at 1700 hours (others may attend at \$15.00). As usual there will be 1940 Movies in Veterans Bldg #12-15 and hospitality in the Veterans' Barracks. The cost of the event is \$70.00 which includes 5 nights bunk in the barracks and Dinner and Period Entertainment USO-type show on the Saturday night.

On Sat 1030 hrs Veteran Tour of the Battlefield, at 1300 Public Battle scenario Area 12, 1700 Buses leave for Community Club, 1800 Dinner, 2000 period entertainment & talent show followed by dancing.

WWII Veterans who have attended these Reenactments in the past will be free again this year. First time WWII veterans and others will pay \$70 for the 5 nights in the barracks which will also include the Saturday nite dinner (Option A). Those not wanting the Sat Nite Dinner the fee is \$50 (Option B). Those not staying in the Barracks but want the Sat nite dinner the fee is \$25 (Option C). Veteran registration deadline is extended to 31 Dec 2010. Contact John Bowen for Registration forms at 301-384-6533 or go to www.wwiifederation.org for Registration forms.



NEW WW II DOCUMENTARY PLANNED

REMEMBERING THE FALLEN HEROES OF THE "MIGHTY EIGHTH"... WW II

With Frenchman Jean Paul Favrais

Operating from England during World War II was the EIGHTH AIR FORCE on daring daylight bombing raids on German targets. After his retirement, a Frenchman, Jean-Paul Favrais, tirelessly researched U.S. aircraft crashes in France and has obtained names of many perished airmen from U.S. Archives and matched them with the crash sites. This, in itself, is an amazing achievement.

Favrais continued with his pursuit locating nine families of these airmen through the Internet and hosted them in France where they were escorted separately to the respective sites. In 1944 when Jean-Paul was nine years old he saw a U.S. Eighth Air Force P-38 fighter plane crash near his home. He saw the pilot's body and never forgot. In retirement, he spearheaded a movement to build a monument of granite shaped like the wing of the airplane, in memory of the pilot. In 1995 the monument was dedicated with American and French dignitaries present, as well as the pilot's younger sister and her son.

The father of Mrs K. Stanclift was a B-17 pilot whose plane was hit by German anti aircraft fire. He ordered the crew to bail out and landed the plane on a farm with the tail gunner aboard who was trapped. French farmers got them out of the burning plane. Shortly after, they became prisoners of the Germans and were taken to a hospital where the tail gunner had a leg amputated. This was in 1943. In 2006, sixty-three years later, Mrs Stanclift was hosted by Favrais where she was brought to the farm where her father crash landed and met the second and third generation families living there then. She

visited the hospital where her father and tail gunner were taken in 1943 and they still have the records!

A proposed documentary will be a military/human interest story about the Eighth Air Force operations from England during 1943, 1944 and 1945... The "Mighty Eighth", as they were known, suffered 26,000 killed, more than the Marines in the Pacific and 58,000 casualties. The film will highlight Jean-Paul's relentless search of American aircraft crashes in France. His captivating stories will be told. Included will be the experiences of families who visited crash sites of their loved ones for closure. We will see and hear from some of the airmen themselves who survived...the Veteran Airmen of the Mighty Eighth.

It is virtually unknown that the U.S. Air Force had more casualties, percentage-wise, than any other branch of the Armed Services in WW II.

Funding is being sought to make this film possible. For further information, please contact:

George Ciampa

LET FREEDOM RING a 501 © (3) non-profit organization

3304 Whiffletree Lane

Torrance, CA 90505

310 539 4345

310 408 2345 Cell

gciampa@sbcglobal.net

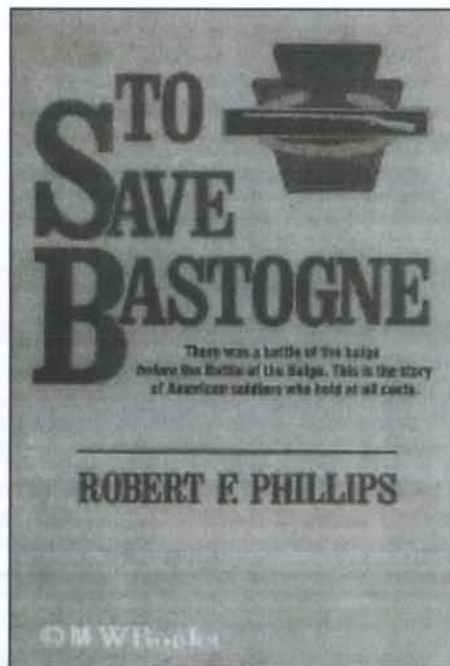
www.letfreedomringforall.org

ATTENTION VBOB AUTHORS

Many of you and your VBOB comrades have written books about your World War II battle experiences in the European Theatre. Now is the time that the world knows about what you endured during that horrific war. One method of accomplishing this is to list some information about your book in the Bulge Bugle and on our web site.

Please send the following information to VBOB, P.O. Box 336, Blue Bell, PA 19422

- 1 Your full name
- 2 Unit in which you served
- 3 Title of book
- 4 Publisher
- 5 ISBN #



514TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION ACHIEVEMENTS

A Diary of the European Theatre Operation

On September 15, the battalion boarded *HMT Aquitania* and left New York on the 27th. We anchored in Scotland's Firth of Clyde on October 3rd. A craft delivered us to Gronouck, Scotland. There we entrained and traveled through most of England to the Port of Southampton, where we boarded two passenger-cargo vessels, the *Antenor* and *Llangibby Castle*. The ship was delayed until the 8th because of rough waters. On the 9th, we jammed aboard an LCT which deposited us (D+126) on Utah Red Beach, 85 miles south of Cherbourg, where initial invasion landings were made. Camp-sites were set up in the mud near Montebourg and later Les Pieux. Since equipment was scattered throughout France and the UK, there were no facilities for training during the three months we remained on the Peninsula. During that time, the battalion did quartermaster operations and patrolled the beaches against enemy infiltrations from the Channel Islands. Two casualties resulted from the mines during these operations. The battalion on December 18th to 20th to a camp-site near Forges-les-eaux. At this time, the great German offensive had reached its furthest penetration. On Christmas Day, the battalion took quarters in hotels in Forges. Then, part of the 3rd Army, we journeyed to our jumping-off place, Longuyon, France. Then on the 7th of this year, the first elements left for gun positions six miles south of Bastogne, Belgium. Baker Battery fired the first round on the afternoon of the 9th—three months to the day after reaching France. Our guns were the farthest advanced of any unit of its type in this sector. In the remainder of January, the guns fired 6,212 projectiles on observed and unobserved targets. Most of these rounds were expended in the Battle of the Bulge or the Ardennes Battle as it has been officially named. It is emphasized that were lacking in supplies but despite this, bad weather and an enemy in its dying convulsions, we showed as well as could be expected. On the 22nd we motored into Luxembourg and took positions near Winorange and subsequently Cherveau and Manshausen. For the first time the 514th hit the enemy in their homeland and has successfully straightened out the bulge, and from all practical aspects, helped eliminate it. The first phase of February operations were defensive. From the 1st to the 17th, we supported the 3rd and 8th Corps. Gun positions were opposite the toughest section of the Siegfried Line and far enough forward to be flanked by pack 75. The second phase which consumed the remainder of February was offensive and in support of the 8th Corps. On the 23rd, we made our initial entry into Germany through the Dragon's teeth and pill boxes of the Siegfried Line, Heckhushed. During the month the battalion fired 220 missions expended 4,874 rounds on such targets as enemy guns, personnel, towns, tanks, CPs, etc. Three German soldiers surrendered to battalion personnel. In the early days of March, the 514th aided some of the best elements of the AEF in the breakthrough that carried them to the Rhine River. Before we left Germany on the 10th, we had established CPs in Matserath Niederhershendorf and Budesheim. Then we moved by motor column through Luxembourg City, past Metz, went to position at Ettendorf, Engweiler, Steinseltz, and moved into Germany at Oberoterbach. Later, under the command of the 7th Army, we pushed the enemy

from the Wissembourg area in France and proceeded by way of Kaiserslautern to positions near Abenheim in the Worms area. Here we aided in the important Rhine crossings. From there, we proceeded to a area outside of Frankenthal where the 514th participated in the reduction of the Mannheim Pocket. In this month, the battalion occupied 15 CPs and 9 gun positions which carried us from the vicinity of Prum, Germany, to Haguenau, France, and to Worms, Germany—a distance of nearly 470 road miles. On one march of 190 miles, we arrived 10 minutes ahead of schedule. The guns fired over 6,000 rounds and 25 prisoners were captured. April was an interesting month. On the 2nd guns and equipment arrived at Reding, near Saarbourg for entrainment while a motor convoy proceeded on a 600 mile trip to Cognac, France, via Belfort, Autun, Lotheiers, Chatteauroux and Angouleme. The train left on the 4th and arrived in Cognac on the 6th. A short motor trip brought us to positions close to Biron and in vicinity of Pons. Our specific mission there was to eliminate the German pockets along the Gironde Estuary where the last of the enemy in France was nullifying Bordeaux's value as a port of a starving nation. At the beginning of this campaign, we were assigned to the 3rd Army, but soon transferred to the 6th Army Group and were directed by the veteran 13th Field Artillery brigade of the 7th Army and the French Army Detachment of the Atlantic. Temporarily attached to the battalion was the French Marine "Albatross" Battery. The type of forces in this operation made it an unusual one. There were French marines, North Africans, FFI French marquis, Martinique French Negroes, Regular French Army and American troops. The 514th was one of the four American field artillery battalions in this battle. In our fastest firing of the war, we hurried 1,800 rounds into the pocket in a 24-hour period. To get in a better position to hit the Jerries that had been forced onto Pont la Grave, our guns moved into direct range. The enemy was able to observe our registering gun and fired six rounds into its position. Fortunately, however, several of the shells were duds. The extent of the damage: not great and there were no casualties. Resistance ended after we fired on Royan and the Ile d'Oleron from positions near Hiers. In this April action, the 514th fired almost 6,300 rapid rounds which made replacement of tubes on seven guns necessary. All units of the brigade assembled near Saintes for preparation to depart. The departure took place May 5th and 6th. The members of the battalion who were on box cars learned of VE Day while in Nancy, France. Those on the motor convoy first head the news while in Chatteauroux, France. The train-borne group joined the remainder of the battalion at a brigade rendezvous area near Ottingen, Germany, after detraining at Strasbourg, France. The final move to this date was made to Nordlingon—arrival being May 17, 1945. Approximately 23,00 rounds expended on enemy artillery, enemy flak batteries, vehicles, personnel, smoke screens, towns, command posts, pill-boxes, ranks, observation posts; by observed and unobserved fire through sound, flash, ground and air observation in the Battle of the Ardennes, the Battle of the Rhineland, the Battle for Central Germany, and the Gironde Campaign—the accomplishments of the 514th Field Artillery Battalion in the European Theatre of Operations during World War II.

[Editor's Note: At this writing official battle participation credit has not been received.]

FRIENDSHIPS GAINED

By Beverly Pangborn
Associate Member

My name is Beverly Pangborn, I am an associate member of VBOB. My uncle was in the 89th Recon. Squadron Mecz of the 9th Armored Division. He came home safely from World War II in Europe.

I am also an associate member of the 84th Infantry Division, the Railsplitters. My other uncle was in Company I of the 333 Regiment of this Division. He did not come home from the war. He is buried in the American cemetery south of Liege, Belgium.

I read an article in the Bulge Bugle and also in the Railsplitters newsletter about the trip to Belgium by Joe Lippi, Jr. during which a 4th grade teacher and his students adopted Joes father's grave at Henri-Chapelle Cemetery.

I then contacted Forrest Lothrop, the Railsplitter's treasurer, and obtained the Belgian teacher's address. I also contacted Joe Lippi who gave me information and pictures of

his trip to Belgium which he made with his chapter president, Art Mahler. Through these two men, I made contact and started correspondence with the Belgian teacher, Michel Lorquet, and his students. As a result they have adopted my uncle's grave and received the Certificate of Adoption on September 23, 2010.

Because of these men, my dear friend Forrest Lothrop, and my new friends, Joe Lippi and Art Mahler, I have a new friendship with teacher Michel Lorquet. Michel's students are so very interested in the men that liberated their country. Also, my family and I now know that our loved one's grave is adopted and cared for by them

The People of Belgium and Luxembourg are so very gracious in their care for our veterans who are buried there. Their gratitude knows no end toward our great veterans.

Beverly Pangborn, Bullhead City, AZ

ASSOCIATE MEMBER ACTIVE IN CHAPTER

The Litsinberger Chapter of Central Ohio (Columbus) report they have a 12 year old associate member, Kyle Miller, whose home school project is to write a paper on the veterans of the Chapter.

An autobiographical questionnaire was given to all members and associate members of the chapter. Kyle attends the chapter meetings and reports on his progress in preparing the research page.

A slate of chapter officer nominees for 2010 was presented at the November 18, 2009 chapter meeting. Nominating Committee Chairman Tom Tomastik announced there was no nominee for chapter treasurer. Chapter Secretary/Associate Member Katherine Wheeler volunteered she would serve.

Since an associate member has the same privileges and authority as a chapter member, Kyle Miller promptly nominated her for the office and the completed slate of officers was then elected.

Can you find a new member?
We need your help to ensure
the organization's survival.



Belgian civilians killed at Stavelot.



ARE YOUR DUES DUE?

DID THEY FOOL US?

William J. Gaynor

67th Armored Field Artillery Battalion
3rd Armored Division

At the beginning of the Bulge there were numerous attempts of the Germans to infiltrate our lines dressed as Americans or to deceive us. We are familiar with Otto Skorzeny and his Operation Grief, here are other inputs.

The 14 December 1944 S-3 Station Log, for the 67th Armored FA Bn, opened at 0130 hours with the notation "Two strange officers reported in the Division area this afternoon asking questions about anti-aircraft defenses, front lines, locations of and communication systems. Descriptions follows: A captain wearing .45 Cal. Pistol, height six foot., 1 inch about 210 lbs. Dressed in new trench coat and all new army clothes, a 1st Lt. armed with a carbine, height five feet, ten inches, weight about 175 lbs., dressed in new clothes, trench coat, olive drab, heavy growth of beard. Story (quote) had come from Roe River and were interested in radio equipment (no quote). Officers had not any transportation in evidence. Time sqd 132221."

The movement from Stolberg began at dusk on the 19th, but it was not until the morning that all elements closed in assembly areas near Manhay. Wet and muddy, weary with fatigue induced by the nerve-racking all night journey, men of the commands waited for the inevitable order to establish contact with von Rundstedt's legions.

Added to the fog and the pitch black night were hundreds of Jerry buzz bombs which seem to bore through the tree tops along the route. Several of the robots crashed near vehicles of the command, one landing less than 100 yards from General Rose's jeep. The blast threw his aide, Major Robert Belinger out of the vehicle, but the general was unhurt.

The Malmedy incident was by no means the only atrocity committed by the Germans in the Ardennes. Indisputable evidence shows that Kampfgruppe Pieper killed another eight prisoners at Lingneville a further three miles down the road, 12 GIs and three civilians at La Vaux Richard, several US soldiers at Honsfeld and dozens of civilians in the town of Stavelot. In the tiny villages of Steyr, Parfondruy and Renardmont, the US 3rd Armored Division found bodies of 117 local civilians. Some of these appeared to have been killed by American shelling, but many had been brutally murdered by the SS. Nor were such atrocities necessarily confined to the 1st SS Division. Evidence suggests some shooting of prisoners by the 12th SS Hitler Jugend Panzer Division in the twin villages of Rocherath-Krinkelt. Elsewhere at Bande, between Bastogne and Marche, the nefarious SS Police, the Sicherheitsdienst or SD, shot down 32 civilians who they claimed were Belgian terrorists.

In terms of casualties, the Malmedy Massacre was a minor incident in the Ardennes Campaign. However it did give the American GI a taste of the mentality that had produced the Sonderkommandos of the Eastern Front, Oradour-sur-Glan in France and the diabolical concentration camps within Germany. If the typical American soldier in fall of 1944 wondered why he was fighting, incidents like that at Malmedy provided some good

reasons.

Never a defeatist, von der Heydte kept his small force moving, trying to give the impression that the airdrop was much larger than it actually was. In a sense, this was the most successful part of his mission. Because of the scattering of his men and the ruse of the dummy parachutists the Allies feared that another Crete-size air drop was underway. On December 18, a unit of the US 3rd Armored Division was sent on a three day wild goose chase to find the paratroopers. The soldiers were seeing English-speaking German parachutists behind every bush. Even though Operation Stosser must rank as an unqualified military failure, it did create such confusion and uncertainty that a US Infantry Regiment of 3,000 and an armored combat command of more than 100 tanks and several thousand men had to spend several critical days of the Battle of the Bulge protecting the US V Corps at Eupen and searching for the German parachutists. The above was gleaned from research in the unit records of the 67th Armored FA Bn and the 3rd Armored Book "Spearhead in the West" and the memories of Bill Gaynor in those dark days from 16 Dec 44 to 25 Jan 45.



I think he should at least try to lie at attention."



Lt. Dave Breger

THE OPEN FIELDS OF ELSENBORN

Curtis R. Whiteway
99th Infantry Division
394th Infantry Regiment
Company E

After fighting our way out of the trap and coming out at Krinkelt we were brought to the open fields of Elsenborn to set up a defense and re-organize. I was made S/sgt.(you, you & you stuff) but at first with out any men. Gradually replacements began to arrive and I got four men. I received orders to go back to Elsenborn to the ammo dump and get 300 lbs of TNT, caps and fuse to blow holes on the frozen ground. We found the dump and picked up the TNT and headed back through town when we passed a building that was a supply room.. "Coats" I thought as I didn't have any, only my OD shirt and pants. I had laid my coat on a wounded man at Krinkelt after the barrage was laid on us. We entered the room with a G.I. quietly sitting at a desk writing. He looked up to see several men standing there, Ya! What do you want he asked? I told him that we were drawing as many coats we could carry. What outfit ya from, he asked? Company E in front of you, I replied. Can't give you anything without a req---. He stopped talking as several Garand rifles were pointing at him. A second man ran in from another room and he was taken prisoner as we tied them both up and grabbed the coats. One man grabbed nice warm mackinaws but I told him to leave them. They are officers mack's and enemy snipers would be looking for them. We took Field jackets instead and left. On the way back I saw three pair of ski's standing there against a building and we liberated them also.

We were in reserve of the battalion having only 18 men & 2 officers left of the company So we drew the patrols. One night, I was ordered to take out a patrol to take some prisoners. I was given a few more men on loan from another squad. We slipped through "F" company lines where German patrols had been slipping through and set up a trap in case they came by that night. After waiting patiently for a couple hours, we saw them coming and buried ourselves in the snow. As they arrived, suddenly several of us stood up in front of them and then the rest of my men came up out of the snow behind them. They quietly dropped their weapons and raised their hands. We searched them and headed back for our lines and as we gave the password approaching F company outpost, the prisoners began to talk saying something about. Ski troops in German. I ordered them to be quiet but as we passed through F company lines and onto the open fields, they became very excited calling out Ski Troops again. Ya I called out, we are ski troops and the prisoners were quite upset as Ski troops in the German Army are Elite troops. We looked out over the fields and they were covered with our ski tracks of the night before. When we decided to try the ski's out, as we tried the ski's were passed on to others who too were quite bored sitting

here in our holes. As I was skiing, one guy was coming up out of his hole and I slid right over his helmet and he dived for safety as I ski'd on down the hill. It was a great night goofing off.

During the day before, one of the men came to me complaining about all the cases of "C" rations piling up by each hole giving away our positions. I looked over the field and there were piles of O.D cases stacked by each hole outlined by the white snow. I told him to pass the word to spread the cases out away from our holes. We were normally given only "K" rations but now we were just sitting here waiting for new men so those behind us began to send up "C" rations **but** for full companies. We only had 18 men left with a few replacements arriving very slowly.

The Germans saw our ski trails and all these cases of ammo (they thought), and figured that we had been replaced with the 10th mountain division over night and were perhaps ready to attack them. I smiled as the Jerry kept saying Ski Troops. One morning about a month later, we looked out behind us and coming from Elsenborn were hundreds of men walking in lines over the snow toward us. Our new replacements had finally arrived, to fill the 2536 men we lost, but this also meant that we would soon go on the attack and no more C rations that we could warm up.

WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?

I read with great interest the article "Malmedy Massacre" by Ralph Storm in the May issue of the bulge bugle. It reminded me of an incident on night of the massacre. I was a medic in the 99th Infantry Division, 395th Infantry Regiment, Headquarters aid station. A soldier came into an old farmhouse outside the town of Rockerath around where he had had this aid station.

He was as visibly upset as I had ever witnessed in my life. He told us the story of the massacre and how he survived. That is how we first heard of the shootings. We had a part of a bottle of whiskey there so I gave him several drinks to try to settle him down and we send him back for further care.

I often wondered if that soldier is still alive. We never remembered the names of soldiers that we had tried to help. Once they were evacuated we never knew the end results.

Harry McCracken
99th ID, 395th IR

Western Pennsylvania Chapter 24



Happy Holidays

Winter War

Reprinted from YANK Magazine

U.S. SOLDIERS ON THE WESTERN FRONT LEARN TO FIGHT WEATHER THE HARD WAY.

By Sgt. ED CUNNINGHAM
YANK Staff Correspondent

WITH THE 83D DIVISION IN BELGIUM—The Ardennes campaign was more than a fight against the strongest German attack we had faced since the early days in Normandy. It was also a fight against almost daily snowstorms in near sub-zero temperatures and face-freezing winds which doubled the difficulty of rolling back the German advance.

We learned a lot about winter warfare in the Ardennes. Some of it was learned the hard way by frostbitten hands and feet, pneumonia and various bronchial ailments. Besides physical difficulties, there was the added trouble of frozen weapons, equipment and even food. But out of it all came the GI's usual improvising and home-made remedies which will be unofficial SOP from now on.

Line-company men of the 83d Division, who cleared the Bois de Ronce of German opposition in a continuous eight-day push that enabled the armored spearheads to follow through to the vital St. Vith-Houffalize highway, learned a lot of ways to fight winter weather during that operation. Their methods were often makeshift and crude because there was no time to waste on details. But those hastily improvised methods of keeping themselves moderately warm and dry and their weapons and equipment workable played an important part in the ultimate success of the operation.

T/Sgt. Wilburn McQuinn of Helechawa, Ky., a platoon sergeant in the 331st Regiment, used the usual method for frostbite prevention in his platoon by insisting on frequent toe- and finger-clenching exercises to keep the blood circulating. But he and his men learned some other tricks, too.

"Some of the men took off their overshoes and warmed their feet by holding them near burning GI heat rations (fuel tablets) in their foxholes," McQuinn said. "Others used waxed K-ration boxes which burn with very little smoke but a good flame. Both GI heat and K-ration boxes are also fine for drying your socks or gloves. I also used straw inside my overshoes to keep my feet warm while we were marching. Some of our other men used newspapers or wrapped their feet with strips of blankets or old cloth."

McQuinn's company commander, Capt. Robert F. Windsor had another angle on keeping feet warm. "We found our feet stayed warmer if we didn't wear leggings," Capt. Windsor explained. "When they get wet from snow and then freeze, leggings tighten up on your legs and stop the flow of blood to your feet. That's true also of cloth overshoes which are tight fitting. When snug-fitting overshoes get wet and freeze, they bind your legs. It looks to me like overshoes should be issued two or three sizes larger than shoes to prevent that."

"Another 'must' in this kind of weather," Capt. Windsor continued, "is to have the men remove their overshoes at night when it's possible. Otherwise these cloth arctics sweat inside, and that makes the feet cold. Of course, the best deal is to have a drying tent set up so you can pull men out of the line occasionally and let them get thoroughly dried out and warm."

The drying tent to which Capt. Windsor referred is nothing more than a pyramidal tent set up in a covered location several hundred yards behind the front, with a GI stove inside to provide heat. There an average of seven men at a time can dry their clothes and warm themselves before returning to their foxholes. This procedure takes from 45 minutes to two hours, depending on how wet the men's clothes are. All the front-line outfits in the 83d Division used this method.

Sgt. Estelle Jacoby of Canton, Ohio, set up a stove in his foxhole to protect himself from the frigid temperatures of the Ardennes. First he stretched his shelter half over the foxhole for a

roof, leaving a few inches uncovered at one end. Then he rigged up an empty ammunition box as a stove, burning tree branches for fuel. The opening at the end served as a smoke escape.

Another 331st man used a modified version of Jacoby's plan by stretching a blanket over his hole and using GI heating rations for the stove. Fuel tablets, used primarily for cooking purposes, which come in units of three, like D rations, are burned one at a time. Each third of a unit burns for about 15 minutes, throwing off a fair amount of heat. They should be placed in a cup or a can near one end of a hole to control the draft. When used for cooking, the fuel tablet is sufficient to heat a can of C rations and a cup of coffee.

Other 83d men, who were sufficiently far back to do a little more detailed improvising, found that a pretty fair stove could be made by cutting off the tops of unusable jerry cans and using an 81-mm mortar tube as a stovepipe. The same procedure works well with gasoline drums, and such a home-made stove will throw enough heat to make a cellar room quite comfortable.

BECAUSE of their almost continuous advance, it was all but impossible to get sleeping bags and straw up to the front-line troops. In place of straw, the men used branches of trees as matting for their foxholes. Logs and more branches were used as a roof to protect them from tree bursts. GI pioneer tools, which include axes and saws, were issued to each outfit for foxhole-construction work. Raincoats, other coats and the usual GI blankets were used for covers. Two or three men slept in each hole, close enough so that they could pool their blankets. Some slept with their helmets on, for an extra measure of warmth.

The chief difficulty men had in carrying their own blankets was that they got wet with snow and then froze, making them hard to roll and heavy to carry. The same held true with GI overcoats, which became water-logged after several days in the snow and slush.

On some of the more frigid nights, the men abandoned any hope of sleep and walked around and exercised all night to keep from freezing.

The front-line troops of the 83d were issued a dry pair of socks each day. However, wading through icy streams and plodding through knee-deep snowdrifts often resulted in men soaking two or three pairs of socks within a few hours. In such cases, the men wrung out their socks thoroughly and placed them inside their shirts or under their belts, where the heat generated by their bodies gradually dried them out. Another sock-drying method was to put them under the blankets and sleep on them at night.

"When we had to wade through snowdrifts and streams our pants would sometimes get wet clear up to the knees," S/Sgt. Leslie C. Haessley, a squad leader from St. Paul, Minn., said. "For a while our legs would be almost numb. Then our pants would freeze solid and they'd be a sort of windbreaker for us and

keep us a little warmer. But when it warmed up, our pants would thaw out and we'd get numb all over again. Another thing that bothered us was that we couldn't always take off our wet shoes at night. If we did, and didn't have time to dry them out before we went to sleep, they'd be frozen stiff in the morning and we couldn't get them on."

Some of the men preferred to let their pants legs drop outside their overshoes to keep the snow out. All of them agreed that the cloth overshoes are not very good for snow fighting as they soak through easily and then freeze stiff, which makes them difficult to take off. The men are convinced that rubber overshoes are the better of the two types of footwear.

Marshlands in some sections of the Bois de Ronce added to the infantryman's troubles. When digging in for the night, they hit water two feet down. That meant two or three inches would accumulate in their foxholes before they were ready to go. This also forced them to move around gingerly on branches to avoid sinking into the water. One night, a platoon of the 83d had to dive into muddy foxholes without any preliminaries when a German tank came along a forest path spraying MG bullets. By the time the tank had retreated, every man in the platoon had had the front of his field jacket and pants, plus shoes and socks, thoroughly soaked. Enemy pressure that night was so strong that none of the dripping soldiers could be spared to go back to the drying tent. They spent the entire night in wet clothes with the temperature less than 10 above zero.

THE front-line troops were critical of their white snow capes. They all said the capes were too loose for fighting and that, as a result, they caught on nearby branches and not only ripped, but forced their already overburdened wearers to take time out to unhook themselves. The thin fabric soaked up rain and melted snow very quickly.



The GIs in these trucks have just been relieved and are due a rest.

REPORT ON 65TH ANNIVERSARY TRIP TO LUXEMBOURG

Robert L. Cragg
26th Infantry Division
104th Infantry Regiment

Last July, I was one of the lucky six whose names were drawn out of a hat by VBOB to attend the week of ceremonies held in Luxembourg in recognition of the 65th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. All of us, together with a companion, were invited as guests of the Government of Luxembourg, who picked up all our expenses--transportation, lodging, meals, the whole works. It was a phenomenal week; one that exceeds description and one that will never be forgotten.

The six veterans, who had not met before, and their companions, arrived in Luxembourg, Sunday, December 13, and gathered at the Hotel du Vieux Chateau in Wiltz. We had dinner at a restaurant close by, the Hostellerie des Ardennes/Shinn, and got to know each other a little bit. Throughout the course of the week our new acquaintances evolved into lasting friendships.



Left to right: Robert L. Cragg, 104th Infantry Regiment, 26th Infantry Division; Lowell H. Anness, 248th Engineers, XII Corps; Norman Wasserman, B Battery, 286th FA Observation Battalion; Ambassador Cynthia Stroum, Embassy of the United States of America; Herman Zetchik, 42nd FA Battalion, 4th Infantry Division; George D. Whitten, A Company, 106th Engineer Combat Battalion; Frank J. Fornicella, E Company, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division. The picture was taken December 17, 2009, in the United States Embassy in Luxembourg City.

Our host, Roland Gaul, who headed the Luxembourg Committee making all the arrangements for our trip and activities, together with many volunteers, did an outstanding job. They made us feel very welcome, continually expressed and demonstrated their affection and appreciation for the sacrifices made by

the United States soldiers in liberating Luxembourg and saw to our every need without hesitation. Indeed, we were treated like royalty; first class accommodations, every meal was excellent and the menus varied to suit everyone's palate, and made all the more enjoyable being accompanied by full-bodied local wines.

To say we were busy would be an understatement. On Monday and Tuesday we visited Clervaux, the Memorial and Museum at Bastogne, the National Museum of Military History in Diekirch and the General Patton Museum in Ettelbruck. Transportation was by a luxurious bus, occupied only by our group, so that stops were made along the way to visit memorials erected by the people of Luxembourg in recognition of the various outfits that were involved in the BoB. At times, we had a police escort to avoid any traffic interruptions as we toured Luxembourg. Wow, that never happened to me before.

Monday evening we were honored at a reception hosted by the Mayor and Officials of the City of Wiltz.

Wednesday, December 16, was the Official Anniversary Day, as it was on that date in 1944 the Germans initiated their Ardennes Offensive Thrust. Commemorative wreath laying ceremonies were held at Schumann's Eck, Echternacht and the Luxembourg-American Cemetery at Hamm. All the ceremonies were attended by Luxembourg and United States military escorts, the playing of *Taps* and included remarks made by high-ranking Luxembourg and United States Officials, and at the Hamm Cemetery one veteran, representing all the veterans, offered a few words of appreciation.

The luncheon on Wednesday was particularly significant as each veteran was recognized and awarded a unique and unusual, native slate plaque denoting participation in the BoB. Later, in early evening, we attended the night vigil in Schumann's Eck. The night vigil is a celebration sponsored by a volunteer, community organization. "The Friends of Patton's 26th Infantry Division" continues to recognize and pay tribute to the sacrifices and achievements of the 26th Division at these important cross roads.

Vianden Castle, dating back to the 1200's, situated on a mountain at an altitude about 1500 feet, was our initial destination Thursday. That afternoon we visited Luxembourg City and had a special treat by touring the Chamber of Deputies followed by a reception in the United States Embassy and hosted by the new Ambassador to Luxembourg, Cynthia Stroum. What a fitting way to conclude such a week.

Yes, we all saw familiar places, some changed little and others dramatically, since those times of combat during the winter of 1944/45 and many memories were awakened and revived. However, by and large our conversations were not "war stories" as such but more attuned to the privations suffered due to the severe weather and the difficult combat conditions imposed by the terrain and heavily wooded areas as well as the temperatures and the amount of snow. Truly, we were happy to be around and still fit enough to participate in and enjoy this week of significant ceremonies.

Frankly, it was a humbling and emotional experience to represent the hundreds of thousands of GI's who were involved in the BoB and the tens of thousands wounded and killed during those six weeks of extremely fierce combat. Surely every time *Taps* was played a tear came to one's eyes.

On the other hand it was an exhilarating experience to accept the gratitude and appreciation of the Luxembourg people for the privations endured and the sacrifices made (Continued)

LUXEMBOURG TRIP

(Continuation)

They honor us as their "liberators." Think about that for a moment; here, two generations after the battle, ones who were not yet born at that time, showered us with expressions of thanks for driving the Germans out. Such feelings tell us a lot about the values of liberty and freedom and how a nation that had them taken away cherishes their return. Children, from birth, are educated about the German oppression, the loss of freedom and the final liberation after that winter of struggle. The monuments, museums, plaques, commemoration ceremonies, school books and newspaper articles are constant reminders of an intense desire to ever remember what was done for them during the BoB. I am certain each of the veterans was proud of the opportunity representing all those comrades who could not be present.

For myself, I learned a lot—probably more than during the battle. When we were dispatched from Metz to engage the Germans and help contain the winter offensive in the Ardennes, my only thoughts were those succinctly expressed by General Patton, that our job was to "Kill those Kraut bastards!" Never did I consider those in Luxembourg who had suffered so much under German rule, never did I think about their relief nor their future. In my naivete was no consideration or understanding of the resolute joy and thanksgiving experienced by those whose country was again a sovereign Nation and no longer under the bondage of the Thousand Year Reich.

Most of my recollections pictured destroyed homes and bridges, crumbled churches, torn up roads, bombed out towns and bloated, dead cows and other farm animals. What a pleasant discovery to witness the determination and resilience of the Luxemburgers, the reconstruction of homes, towns, cities, road ways, farms and industries. Yes, an important thing which I did not comprehend in 1944 was clearly evident. While our primary objective during the BoB was to defeat the Germans, the foremost goal was the restoration of freedom and liberty to a most deserving nation. Yes, I learned that those who gave their lives so that others might regain their freedoms did not die in vain. Freedom is not free and must be lived to its fullest extent, not abused and preciously guarded so it is not lost.

As I'm sure you realize, this was a wonderful experience; I urge every BoB veteran who has the opportunity of visiting Luxembourg to take advantage of it. My thanks are extended to VBOB for enabling me to participate in these ceremonies and the Government and people of Luxembourg for their cordial reception and heartfelt feelings toward all of us. ■



BLESSINGS
at
THANKSGIVING

NOW I'M AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER...What do I do now?

The best answer to that is **get involved.**

At the reunion and in response to recent appeals in *The Bugle*, we have enrolled approximately 100 associate members. As time passes, you will be the ones to see that the Battle of the Bulge is never forgotten. We can't let this interest on your part go untouched.

So, you might want to:

1. Help your veteran get his experiences onto a piece of paper. Too many of their remembrances will disappear forever if they are not recorded. When you have done this, send them to us and we'll see that they are preserved.
2. Assist your veteran in chapter activities: drive him to the planned functions and volunteer to help them with their events, help him form a chapter (or just a chat group) in his own area (we can send you names of Bulge veterans in your own area), etc.
3. Use your influence to see that the Battle of the Bulge is introduced to school children in your area. You'd be surprised how little the children are taught about World War II.

We are sure that you also have other ideas that will be helpful, so take your ideas and put them to use.

We thank you for your support and know that we have put our legacy in good hands. ■



"... AND THE PFC. STRIPE I GOT AT FORT BENNING, GA."

—Pic. Tom Flannery

HOW HITLER RAN HIS ARMY WITHOUT GASOLINE

By Warren C. Luft
11th Armored Division
575th AAA AW Battalion
Battery D

I was inducted into the Army in 1943. I went to Camp Callan in California where I got training in repairing halftracks. We formed the 575th AAA Battalion. Then, we moved to El Paso, Texas.

I advanced to sergeant (T4) from a private rank because of my mechanical experience. We then trained more on the halftracks.

In 1944 we shipped out overseas to England and France and ended up in the Town of New Chateau. From there we went to Bastogne.

We were not mentioned much in the 11th Armored Division, but I know I was at Foy and Noville in Belgium where we saw a lot of action.

I continued my work as a mechanic and was sent out as a runner [a messenger] between the halftrack and tank battalions.

Later we went to the Ardennes and Andernach on the Rhine River. We saw some action in the area. We then crossed the

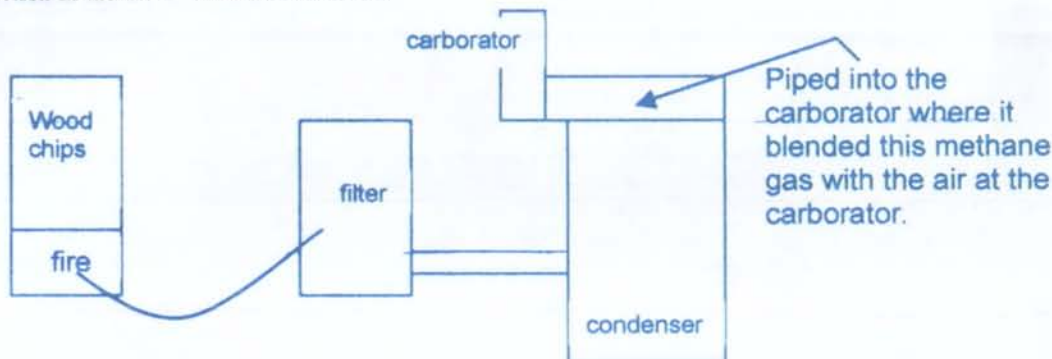
Mosel River at Bully and to Worms where we crossed the Rhine River on pontoon boats. We then went to Frankfurt and Coburg and other towns in that area, where we captured a large group of Germans (several thousand) with their vehicles.

Since I was a mechanic and a runner, the German vehicles caught my interest. I went to this German halftrack and asked this German soldier how this thing worked because it had a woodburner on it. This young man answered me in a perfect American accent in English. I told him he should be on our side!

The young man had come from Canada with his family on a vacation to Germany during the war. Still being a German citizen, Hitler put him and his father into the German army.

When I asked him about the woodburner, he said, "Let me show you." This was a woodburner that produced methane gas. He turned on the blower and lit the exhaust pipe to start it up and blue flames shot out about five feet from the exhaust pipe. They ran all of their rear echelon vehicles (halftracks, big trucks and others) on methane gas wood burners. This is the way the German Army ran its vehicles. When they lost power, they would take a stick and push it down in the woodburner to increase the flame of the fire to make it burn hotter.

The German Army vehicles lost about 25% of their power, and the engines carboned-up very easily. {see diagram below}



"...And now we take you to Times Square, where thousands of joyous merry-makers await the stroke of twelve to usher in the New Year..."

DON'T FORGET OUR NEW YEAR'S TOAST

In tribute to all who served in the Battle of the Bulge, let's all drink a toast again this year.

The choice of beverage is yours. Again this year the time will be: Noon—Pacific time; 1:00 p.m.—Mountain time; 2:00 p.m.—Central time; and 3:00 p.m.—Eastern time on New Year's Day.

It's our special way to be together again, even it is only in our thoughts. We shared so much so many years ago, we should remember those we were with and be grateful for each and every one.

Comments from our members indicate that many of you join in this special observance.

A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO EACH OF YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES.

VBOB Wants Your Photo

VETERANS' GALLERY

By Ralph Bozorth

To help preserve your legacy we are planning to include your photo on our web site. Please send a copy of your photo to VBOB, P. O. Box 336, Blue Bell, PA 19422.

Include your name, telephone number and the unit in which you served.

If you have any questions contact Ralph at

484-351-8844 or

ralph@battleofthebulge.org



Arthur Loukas
83rd Infantry Division



Alvin Rosenzweig
78th Infantry Division



Dan Santagata
5th Infantry Division



Kathryn Flynn Nolan
53rd Field Hospital



SS soldier in American uniform,
killed near Hotton on 26 December/ US Army

465th MEDICAL COLL. CO.
VIII CORPS, 3RD ARMY
Sergeant Eddy Wydra

On Dec. 15, 1944 we were in town of Neider Emmels, four kilometers north of St. Vith on the Malmedy road, German artillery fire all day and at night the sky was all lit up by search lights. On 16 Dec. 44 S/Sgt. Harold Smuckler from Albany, N. Y. was attached to VIII Corps field artillery told of German counter attack which had taken three towns. German shell landed in back of the hospital.

On 17 Dec. 44 the break through came and we are right in the middle of it. The 106th infantry division in the front of us was over run. Guns louder than ever, reports of more shells landing near St. Vith, 7th armored division moving into Neider Emmels. We were alerted to move out around noon. We packed in a hurry, and the convey left at 1330 hrs. with the first section, but the second section had to leave by jumping on passing cavalry trucks, leaving much equipment behind. The roads were choked stopped at Gorrone outside of Vielsalm.

18 Dec. 44 We pulled out again at 1100 hrs., went through La Roche and on to Marche, then to Vecmont. Plane activity near La Roche. Lost two ambulances and didn't hear from them for a week. Had very bad weather and not enough food. We set up our station here, but had to retreat further. VIII Corps field artillery units moved into our area during the night.

19 Dec. 44 left Vecmont, Belgium, arrived at Bertrix Belgium. Field artillery all over the place. Ammunition stacked for miles along the St. Hubert road. Arrived at Libramont where Bn. located. Moved to a field near Braux temporarily. We saw trees prepared with dynamite for road blocks. We moved again and parked on the road for three hours. Then into Bertrix after dark. We then set up our station here and worked all night handling casualties from the 101st Airborne Division. We treated more casualties here than at any other time. The 429th Med. Coll. Co. Was attached to the 101st A/B Div. To replace the 326th A/B Med. Co. which had been captured. We evacuated and operated an ambulance relay point between the 429th Med. Coll. Co. During the night the 101st was completely cut off from all the outside reach and above arrangements ceased to function. Meanwhile two men, S/Sgt. Morrison House of Ticonderoga, N.Y. and private Edward Kelleher from Brockton, Mass. Were attached to a stragglers point, operated by the 818th MPS and one officer Captain Fred Jameson from Grand Rapids, MI. and four men, Sgt. Orville Kramer, from Oshkosh, WI, Sgt. Eddy Wydra from Manchester, N. H., Pfc. Matthew Burty from Richmond Heights, Ohio and Pvt. John Dance from Elizabethton, Tenn. on detached service to VIII Corps, started out for Bastogne late in the day feeling comfortable in the company of many tanks. This protective assurance disappeared when the tanks left the road and moved into the woods. Darkness came and MPs guided them under black-out toward Bastogne. A sentry halted them and wanted the password. Our officers response was black widow did not satisfy him but eventually he let them pass. Officers in Bastogne expressed surprise that they were able to get there. They were surrounded on three and a third sides and had to move.

They ended up in Sibret ,road blocks, German tanks in town - unable to get out of trap set up aid station in chateau. Eating nothing, we burned letters, papers, etc. Tank knocked out but five men all got out. Jeep hit and one man killed, others escaped. All medics stayed in Sibert.

22 Dec. 44 March order came at midnight. We went about one mile and lead halftrack hit by shell from German tank, no casualties. Ordered to abandon town, burned vehicles, lead by paratroopers, infantry, artillery men and medics bringing up the rear, walked through woods and across fields to Neufchateau.. We stayed at stragglers Collecting Point, established by Collecting Company B 103rd Med. Battalion 28th division.

23 Dec. 44 Burty and Dance back to the front lines as medical aid men.

24 Dec. 44 Capt. Jameson, Kramer and Wydra returned to company in Muno, Belgium. We shaved and washed for first time in three days.

25 Dec 44 Sgt. Clayton Thompson from Ticonderoga, N. Y. took five of our ambulances in a convoy of twenty into Bastogne under flag of truce to evacuate our wounded. We spent Christmas here and ate hash for dinner. We handled no casualties.

26 Dec. 44 left Muno, Belgium went to Mouzom, France as we had only a few trucks we took this precaution in case we had to retreat across the Meuse.

27 Dec. 44 Left Mouzon, France and returned to Marne, Belgium. Bob Thompson's platoon sent to the 87th Inf. Div. for six days. Our easiest, as we worked at the Clearing Company and not at the front lines. Spent New Years here and had turkey trimmings for diner. Bob Thompson's platoon recalled from 87th and sent 101st Airborne Division as their medical company had been captured. Here we had the roughest work of me whole war. We had eight casualties, Francis Maguire from Boston, Mass., Edward Caldwell from Manchester, N.H., Frank Andrian from New York city, Chris Kampman, Abdon Siemenski, Norman Stark, Warren Williamson from WI and Joseph Pagan from Boston. Pagan never returned to the unit.



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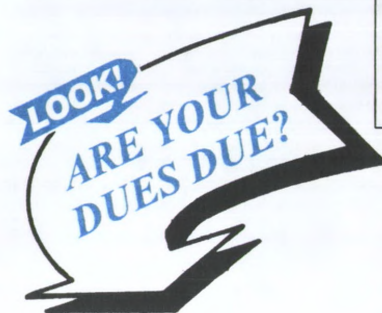
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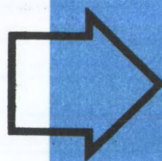
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