

The BULGE BUGLE

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THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

AUGUST 2012



Join us for the **VBOB 31st Annual Reunion** SEPTEMBER 26-30, 2012 ■ NEW ORLEANS, LA



Select activities will include a cruise on the Steamboat Natchez

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc.
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or www.vbob.org**



*J. David Bailey
106th Infantry
Division*

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

First and foremost, if you have not already signed to attend our 31st Annual VBOB Reunion in New Orleans this September 26-30, please complete the application form in this issue of the Bulge Bugle and make your reservation ASAP at the Wyndham Garden Hotel. You can also register on line at www.battleofthebulge.org by accessing "Attend Reunion."

Memorial Day 2012 was a reflection and remembrance to honor fallen U. S. troops and an introduction to this important event was the 26th Annual Massing of the Colors at Fort George G. Meade on May 6, 2012 under the direction of The Military Order of the World Wars. VBOB members present were recognized from the stage and retired Col. Bert L. Rice and Lt Col Alfred H. M. Shehab both members of VBOB's Executive Council and Associate Member retired Lt Col Ruth Hamilton played prominent roles in the ceremony.

On Memorial Day, in Iota, Louisiana it was my privilege to be guest speaker to celebrate the life and honor the legacy of Pfc Elroy Lejune who along with 123 members of his company of 180 men were killed in action during the last days of the Battle of the Bulge in Luxembourg. To honor these fallen heroes 123 small flags with a white cross and a symbolic red poppy lined the processing route to Elroy's grave.

Twenty-five individual poppies were placed on Elroy's grave by family members to represent each year of his life. The family has recognized John Bowen and Ralph Bozorth of the National Chapter and Vernon Brantly of the South Carolina Chapter for their meaningful contribution in collecting and verifying military data regarding Elroy. Veterans of past and current wars were on hand including survivors of the Battle of the Bulge. A video of this impressive event is on our web site.

Dr. Joseph W. Westphal, Under Secretary of the Army,

invited The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge to be among his special invited guests on June 6, 2012 to a commemorative event for the 68th Anniversary of D-Day and to recognize veterans who served in World War II. Dr. Westphal emphasized that the World War II Veterans attending this special event had served their country during one of the most trying periods in our history.

The commemorative event was held at the Officers Club of Fort Myer and the guest list included Washington dignitaries with inspiring addresses made by three United States Senators. Additionally, to be in the company of war hero Senator Max Cleland was, indeed, a special honor.

The outdoor event that followed on Summerall Field was the Twilight Tattoo, a military salute to the History of the United States Army. The VBOB attending were acknowledged as special guests for this very special military pageant that featured soldiers from the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment and the U. S. Army Band.

Our website - www.battleofthebulge.org - is completing its first year of operation. We have received outstanding feedback recognizing its ease of operation, enhanced technology and up-to-date information. Bottom line our professional staff of Kevin Diehl, Tracey Diehl and Ralph Bozorth have applied the latest development techniques to provide our member-oriented Veterans with the "very" best available online gathering site.

The website includes a Research Section with information and links to articles, books, DVD's and Veteran-supported Organizations, all relating to the greatest battle of our times. The Quartermaster Section has a full line of VBOB merchandise that is available; and, members can order Certificates, register at our Annual Reunion, get information on Veteran's tours, renew their membership, join VBOB or even donate to VBOB. Our team specialists are to be congratulated as they are updating our website on a weekly basis.

With sadness and deep regret, I report the passing of Peg Bozorth, a great friend of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc. Peg worked diligently in the last several years on our annual reunions and was always there for VBOB when we were in need. Our deepest sympathy goes to her husband and son, Ralph Bozorth and Kevin Diehl.

In closing, it has come to my attention that His Excellency Jean Paul Senninger of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg will be leaving his post as Ambassador to the United States. We wish him well in his future endeavors and thank him for his great support for the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc. during his tenure.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

KUDOS TO PATRICK HINCHY

Patrick Hinchy, associate member of VBOB and a tour guide for a recent battlefield tour of Belgium did a great job, he satisfied our every need and expectations. I am sure that there will be only compliments coming his way. For one, I welcome his desire to be a member of the 106th Infantry Division Association and look forward to our meeting again. I am currently composing a brief (brief as possible) journal of our tour complete with photos. I will have to select a few from about 400 that I received from participants and friends in Belgium. It won't be easy.

**John Schaffner,
106th ID, 589th FAB**

MY BROTHER ED

I consider myself a charter lifetime member since my official number is CL0037. My auto plates are VBOB-37 and I am 90 years young and get around quite well; but only drive locally 15 to 20 miles no more California, Florida, Colorado, etc.

On October 25, 1944 I found out how near I was to my brother S/SGT Ed Zolandz who was with the 4th Infantry Division. My outfit a fighter control squadron had all code names of front-line troops because we use controlled fighters on the front that gave support missions to the troops.

About October 28-31 I talked to my captain and found out how near my brother was. He told me to get a jeep and take off. It's about 10 miles by air but about 30 with all the crazy country roads. Ed was with the 4th Infantry Division from the start that he was a staff sergeant on a machine gun squad. I spent two whole days with him in the lines. He was in the middle of it in the Huertgen Forest.

Near the end of November of 1944 my Captain told me that the Army and informed him that Ed was killed about November 9 or 10th Huertgen Forest. Then came the bulge one of our units was overrun five or six became prisoners then we withdrew to Liege Belgium.

A few weeks later we were back in Germany when I found out that Ed was buried in Henri Chapelle near Veiruier, Belgium. Again my captain let me have a jeep and an extra can and I took off. The cemetery was still a job in construction nothing fancy, wooden crosses and dog tags. There were large tents with bodies row on row being going over by the grave registration company personnel.

I took some pictures back to Germany for the rest of the war. My last move with the control squadron was in Weimer, Germany a couple of miles from the infamous Buchenwald prison where the atrocities abounded

I was discharged after serving 36 months in 19 days in the service.

**John A. Zolandz,
9th Air Force, 327th FCSq**

SEEKING INFORMATION

For the 55th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge in 2000, VBOB Life Member Patrick Kearney (11 ARMD DIV) arranged for Jacques Tourneur of Belgium to adopt the graves of four "Bulge" dead who are buried at the American Military Cemetery at Henri-Chapelle -- Lee Brown, John Haney, Patrick Lynch and Chester Milhoan. They were all members of the 63rd Armored Infantry Battalion of the 11th Armored Division.

Jacques and his family have now adopted the graves of two more American soldiers at Henri-Chapelle. They are Jerome Matuszewski (18th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division) from Hawks, Presque Isle County, Michigan, and Charles Dilbeck (39th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division), from Habersham, Campbell County, Tennessee.

The Tourneurs would like to hear from the family and friends of these two men. If you are related to or knew Jerome or Charles, please write to:

**Jacques Tourneur
2 rue Waehnet
B-4300 Waremmé
Belgium.**

**Thank you.
Patrick Kearney, 11th AD**

SEEKING VETERANS' AUTOGRAPHS

Hello,

I had the honor of meeting some years ago in 2004 or 2009 in Bastogne, Mr. George Chekan, by this mail I just wanted to say thank all US veterans who came to fight in the battles of the Ardennes to release my beautiful region.

As collector of battles of the Ardennes, I was wondering if would be possible to get autographs of veterans who fought in our regions.

Best regards
Please send to:

**Durand Ludovic
Rue de la Chavee 18
6953 Forrieres
Belgium**

THANK YOU

Just a brief note again to thank you all at the Bulge Bugle for all you are doing in keeping the memories of "way back when" alive, even though many of these memories are not so happy memories. But in retrospect they were all great because of the many new friends and buddies that developed into a lasting friendship.

I am 92 years of age and doing fairly well even though I was recently hospitalized. Now I am home and catching up with many things that were pushed aside. In reviewing the last couple issues of the Bulge Bugle I noted that you are requesting photographs of us veterans so I have included one of myself.

Good luck and keep up the good work!

**Phil Melleno,
955th Field Artillery Bn**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (CONTINUED)

WE FREED A CONCENTRATION CAMP

I received an application for the VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE from Bill Luenig of Syosset, New York and sent in my \$15.00 dues.

I served under General Patton in his Third Army Unit and was in the 285th Engineering Battalion clearing the roads and building bridges ahead of the Army Headquarters, about five miles behind us most of the time. We built the bridge over the Rhine River under fire from the German ground forces and being strafed by three of their planes.

I had been hit with shrapnel in the neck, etc, however, by the time I got back to the first aid station six weeks later, it had healed over somewhat. I did not report it to the first aid station as they were swamped with other veterans that needed more serious wounds attended to. The medical records for our unit was lost and it was never reported. We marched the 100 miles to free the 101st Air Bourne Parachute Troop and arrived there two days before the other supporting forces had arrived.

We were also in the unit that freed the concentration camp and had the villagers go through the camp to see how they had been treated. Many of the villagers looked as stunned as we were when they saw how the prisoners had been treated.

I attended the 285th Battalion Reunions for a few years, but when they held them in California, I was unable to go and not notified of any of their reunions after that. I assumed they had disbanded.

**Bernard L. Wyatt 285th Engineer
Battalion
P.O. Box 533,
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WHEN COMBAT FRIENDS GET TOGETHER

There is a special feeling when combat veterans get together. It's not friendship; we all have friends. Maybe it's because we shared those horrible days of war. Maybe it's because we are survivors and our lives could have ended at any time. We may have less hair on top and a few more inches in the waist, but deep within us is the same comradeship we shared at a most difficult time. We have all been to hell and back. Our relationship has been forged by a common experience from basic training to absolute horror. Nothing can separate us. We remember when all we had was each other.

With the passage of time, World War II is rapidly becoming a distant memory that fewer and fewer Americans share. Decreasing budgets and academic indifference have combined to bring about a worrisome decline in the teaching of military history in both elementary and secondary schools. Our younger generation should see the movies "Saving Private Ryan" and "Pearl Harbor". They should know that freedom is not free. Too many have made the supreme sacrifice.

**George Fisher, 26th ID
President, Florida Southeast
Chapter**

NOMINATIONS FOR 2013 VBOB EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The nominating committee after, considering all recommendations submitted and received, hereby announce their nominations for officers and trustees to serve on the Executive Council for the 2013 year, 16, December 2012 - 15, December 2013.

President: Douglas Dillard
82nd Airborne Division

Executive VP: John Schaffner
589th Field Artillery

VP Membership: Mike Levin
7th Armored Division

VP Chapters: Doris Davis
Associate Member

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Associate Member

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Three Year Trustees:
Alfred Shehab – 38th Cavalry Squadron
Ruth Hamilton - Associate Member
Thomas Chambers – 9th Armored Division

Two Year Trustees:
Robert Rhodes - Associate Member
John Bowen - Associate Member
Robert Bowles – 26th Infantry Division

One Year Trustees:
Mary Ann Bowen - Associate Member
Bert Rice - Associate Member
Gary Patucci - Associate Member

Past presidents are automatically Executive Council Members. The above nominees were unanimously approved by the nominating committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Alfred H. M. Shehab,
Chairman Nominating Committee

A SOLDIER'S STORY

by Dominick D. Santagata, 5th ID, 7th CEB

My name is Dominick Daniel Santagata. I was born on August 23, 1924 in Woodhaven, Long Island, New York.. My parents were both born in Italy and came to America to find a better life and were very proud to become American citizens. I was the eldest of eight children. The family moved to Stamford, Connecticut when I was two years old. The extended family resides here to this day.

My childhood was one of school, family holidays, carefree days of growing up in a tight knit community with a strong sense of our love for America. When World War II broke out I was a Senior in High School, Age 17. All able bodied young men had to register with the Draft Board. By late 1942 all my school friends were being drafted into branches of the service. At that time, I decided it would be best to volunteer in order to join the Army which was my first preference.

Upon signing up I was sent to New Haven, Connecticut for my physical and passed with flying colors. Then it was on to Ft. Devans, Massachusetts for processing for an additional three weeks. My next assignment was Ft. Belvoir, Virginia to begin my training as a Combat Engineer. After tough training at this engineering fort, I was then sent on to New Castle, Pennsylvania, awaiting re-assignment to Camp Shanks, in New York. While stationed at Camp Shanks I got a chance to return home for a week's leave. I bid my Mother goodbye and said I would see again and upon returning to the Camp was instructed we were shipping out the next day for Europe. We left New York Harbor on the Queen Elizabeth and landed in England. We traveled to Scotland, then boarded another ship to Northern Ireland.

By now it was the Fall of 1943, and the sea was very rough and men were becoming seasick. It was a very unpleasant trip. The troops landed in Belfast, Northern Ireland. We trained in New Castle for eight months and one month in Portadown and at that time I was assigned to the Fifth Infantry Division and then we trained for all kinds of warfare. We took part in bridge building, laying mine fields, handling all kind of explosives, flame throwers and constructing barbed wire fences. Most of our maneuvers took place along the sea coast and up into the mountains. The long winter months were cold, wet and very dark. On one occasion we were map reading and the whole platoon got lost. Each one of the men was to use the compass and this did not work out very well. While the platoon was trying to find out which way to go, I saw a phone booth in the area and decided to go in and keep warm. I picked up the receiver to try the phone and a young operator answered "May I help you?" I explained who we were and that we were lost. She told me she could not divulge this information. Somehow I convinced her that we were American soldiers and she gave me the information and we all got back safely to camp.

After completion of our training the Fifth Division put on an exercise for General Patton and General Eisenhower. The picture of this exercise is displayed in General Patton's Museum in Ft. Knox, Kentucky. In early July we left on a ship to Cherbourg, France landing on Utah Beach. A few troops waded ashore in deep water, the rest left from a steel ramp, then walked ashore. There were mines everywhere, dead horses and cows and debris. At that point we were assigned to the First

Army, relieving the First Engineer Battalion in the Caumont Sector. This was hedgerow country, we never knew what was on the other side of the hedgerow. The Germans laid heavy 88 mm on the highways and fields and there was heavy fighting. At this time our division was taken from the First Army of Gen. Omar Bradley and assigned to the Fifth Division under the command of General George S. Patton, Jr. My first river crossing occurred at the Vire River at night. This was a night to remember. When the first boat reached the other shore all hell broke loose, and it looked like the 4th of July. Enemy fire was coming from all directions. We then had to return to get another boatload of men. At Anger the Division moved on to a railroad bridge. Our mission was to make the bridge a highway bridge for tanks and other vehicles. The German snipers kept us under heavy fire and we were always running for cover, however we were successful in completing our task. We then rapidly deployed across, the men riding on M-10 tank destroyers and any other vehicle available. As we traveled through many towns and villages we fought and killed Germans, as well as taking prisoners. We were on the outskirts of Paris, fighting the Germans in foxholes, when the word came we would not be liberating Paris, rather we were assigned to Reims. This was not too disappointing as this was the Champagne city of France. Upon our arrival we filled our canteens with the "bubbly".

Onward to Metz! The city of Metz contained five Forts, the toughest fort was Ft. Driant. This fortress had underground connecting tunnels and was heavily fortified by the Germans. Much of the fighting was done underground. There were times when I walked over dead bodies going in and coming out. An order came down that the next day we were to attack using flame throwers. Later on this order was cancelled due to the fact that the risk of losing many men was too great. To this day I believe that if I had entered the fort with a flame thrower I would have not been alive today. I can remember clearly in Metz after fierce house to house fighting, the American troops talking to the Germans to give up. We were billeted in a large home. Upon entering I observed a large picture of Adolph Hitler hanging on the wall in an office. I picked up a inkwell and threw it at the picture destroying it.

During one of our Moselle River crossings Capt. Manos asked me to take six stretcher bearers down to the river to pick up a wounded soldier, Lt. Taylor. We found the Lt., badly wounded, and headed back up the hill with him and the Germans began to fire machine guns through the trees at us. On the way up the hill I lost my helmet and when we got to the aid station Lt. Taylor told me to take his until I could secure a new one. We now entered into the Battle of the Bulge phase of the War. On December 10th 1944 the Germans made a big thrust into the American lines into the Ardennes Forest.

A meeting was held in Verdun by Gen. Eisenhower, Gen. Bradley and Gen. Patton. Patton was asked how soon he could have his army ready to halt this major attack. Gen. Patton replied "I will have three divisions ready in two days time". This was thought to be an impossible task. Within two days all the troops were ready and the men went at top speed on every vehicle available. Patton's Fourth Armored Division headed the attack. They found a hole in the German's line of defense and relieved the troops that were trapped in Bastogne. Another important river crossing was the Sauer River at the Town of Diekirch in Luxembourg. We wore white bed-sheets to camouflage ourselves. I was the platoon radio-man that day,

A SOLDIER'S STORY

(CONTINUED)

when my best friend, Donald Ickes from Chicago was killed on the bank of the river. To this day each year the town reenacts the river crossing of the 7th Engineer Battalion of the 5th Division who was responsible for liberation of their town. After securing the Town of Diekirch, the troops scattered into homes. We all went to mess call and lined up to get our chow and I came upon a container filled with pounds of butter. This butter was to be used for the officer's pancake breakfast the next day. Lo and behold three pounds of butter was missing. The order came down that the company had to stand outside in the cold every half hour in formation until it was returned. Two pounds of butter came back, one remained missing. When I attended my first reunion many years later and met up again with Col. Manos in Kokomo, Indiana, he was reminiscing about the missing butter and he often wondered who had taken it. At that point, I said, "Do you really want to know who took the butter? I did! The reason it was never returned it was due to the fact we had all eaten it. At the conclusion of the reunion I handed him a wrapped gift. Inside was a pound of butter.

Our last major river crossing was the Rhine River which occurred on March 22nd at 2200 hours. There were to be 25 assault boats to each engineer company. On the first return trip Frank DiTommaso and myself were being shelled with mortars. As we approached the shore and got out of the boat a mortar shell came between us but did not go off. It had landed in the soft mud. The good Lord was watching over us that day. All in all our Division made a total of 26 river crossings. We fought in five major campaigns, Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes (Battle of the Bulge), Central Europe. On May 8th, when the war ended we were in Czechoslovakia engaged in removing road blocks. There were two Fifth Infantry men killed because the Germans didn't know the war was over. I believe these were the last two soldiers killed in our division.

In July we returned to France and left from the Port of Le Harve for America. We arrived in the Hudson River on the Liberty Ship, LeJeunes sailing past "Lady Liberty". It was the best feeling in the world. Home at last. There were welcome home signs on the shore, people cheering. We were transferred by truck back to Camp Shanks, New York and all the troops were given a 30 day recuperation furlough. Home at last to Stamford, CT after almost three years. What a wonderful feeling. I stepped off the train and my Mother and Father came running down the platform to me. What a great family reunion we all had!

I had to report back to Ft. Devans, Mass and then on to Camp Campbell, Ky. After six weeks I received an Honorable Discharge from Ft. Knox, Kentucky. After returning home I trained to go into the construction field and worked throughout New York and Connecticut on commercial buildings for over 50 years. I married, had two children, seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

I never spoke of my war experiences for more than fifty years. It was only when I attended a 7th Engineer, Fifth Infantry Reunion in Kokomo, Indiana that I re-united with my war buddies. From there I joined the Veterans of the Battle of Bulge Organization and have enjoyed traveling throughout the United States to their reunions. Each December I travel to Washington to join the Battle of the Bulge Organization

ceremony to honor this historic battle and the men that lost their lives. We place a wreath at the WWII Monument. The Ambassadors from Luxembourg and Belgium are in attendance. At that time I was given an application stating that the French government was presenting veterans that fought in France an award for their service in the liberation of their country during WWII. I completed the necessary paperwork. The French government advised that I have been awarded the "Chevalier" of the Legion of Honor. The Ambassador of France will be presenting me with the insignia of the Legion of Honor at a ceremony on May 8th 2012 at the West Point Military Academy, in West Point, New York. To think that a young 17 year old soldier, that fought a war so many years ago, would have such an honor bestowed on him is more than I could have imagined. This will be the final chapter in my military service.

MY ARMY SERVICE

by David Dixon, 639th AAA AW Bn

I was inducted into the U. S. Army on November 11, 1943. My military basic training was done at Fort Eustis, Virginia and Camp David, North Carolina. From Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, we embarked by ship and after twelve days by sea, landed in Scotland. From there, we traveled by train to Aldermaston Court in England.

I was with the 639 AAA AW Battalion that crossed the English Channel to Le Harve, France. We were assigned to First Army attached to Vth Corps and the 99th Division. Our assignment at Bullinger, Belgium was to shoot buzz bombs. We knew war was getting rough on December 16, 1944, when the Battle of the Bulge had begun. I was a gunner on a Half Track.

Our orders were to move. The front was so confused when we were ordered to withdraw, and if the machinery and equipment could not be moved, we destroyed it.

On the night of December 16, the 639 AW Battalion lost three 40 mm guns, eleven M-51 Half Tracks, and machine guns. When retreating that night, the German army was dropping paratroopers and flares that lit up the sky like daylight. The men that were manning the guns destroyed them and left on foot with only their rifles. We were, more or less, in No Man's Land in the Ardennes, Malmedy Bastogne, St. Vith and other villages for about eleven days. The only food and ammunition we had was what other soldiers shared with us. We went without a bath the entire eleven days. The cold was very severe. It had sleeted and snowed and frozen about four inches or more with heavy fog. The fox holes had frozen, and we had to break the ice to enter them for protection and sleep, if possible, as we moved from place to place. We knew this was a very real war. Frozen bodies of German and U. S troops were everywhere. On December 21 and 22, the 639th was attached to the First Infantry Division, who turned back Von Rundstedt's final attempt to reach Liege.

On December 25, a beautiful, clear day, the fog having lifted, the Air Force gave us some relief. The frozen bodies were stacked like wood on the backs of trucks. We received some turkey for Christmas and a lot of German 88 shells. Many of the soldiers who survived the Battle of the Bulge suffered severe frost bite. Because of my frost bitten feet, I spent ten days in a field hospital in Belgium. After December 25, we were called upon to plug holes wherever needed along the front line.

BASTOGNE BESIEGED AND LIBERATED

by John P. Malloy, 75th ID, 291st IR, HQ

The Allies were shocked 16 December 1944 when the Sixth SS Panzer Army and the Fifth Panzer Army began overwhelming surprise attacks in the Ardennes launching what came to be known as the Battle of the Bulge. The Sixth SS Panzer Army made its attack in the northern sector of the Bulge striking hard at the 99th and the 2nd Infantry Divisions. The 1st Infantry Division soon joined that battle. Simultaneously the Fifth Panzer Army, in the Bulge's southern sector, broke through the 106th and 28th Divisions and began a dash west towards the Meuse River. Elements of the Fifth Army's 2nd Panzer Division, the Panzer Lehr Division, and the 26th Volks Grenadier, on 19 December, reached the outskirts of Bastogne that sat astride a key road junction. Eisenhower sensing a major problem quickly moved the 101st Airborne to Bastogne from Rheims where it had been held in Army Reserve after the Market Garden fiasco. The 10th Armored Division was sent to support the 101st. At the same time he also dispatched the 82nd Airborne from Army Reserve to the northern sector where it took up defensive positions along the Salm River. It was joined there by the 30th, 75th, 84th, 83rd, and the 2nd, and 3rd Armored Divisions plus elements of the 7th Armored. The war diary of the 101st Airborne's 327th Glider Infantry noted the following: "It was on this day, 20 December, that all roads were cut by the enemy . . . and we were completely surrounded." A CC B Armored patrol, that afternoon, discovered the way south was closed. All roads were now blocked; the 101st was surrounded. The 101st was an elite airborne division trained to fight in isolation, thus it had four regiments rather than three. It also had only three battalions of light artillery pieces, plus one battalion of 105-mm howitzers.

The 10th Armored Division and parts of the 9th Armored Division joined the 101st with their forty medium tanks, light tanks, cavalry assault guns, anti-aircraft artillery, and automatic weapons carriers. The 705th Tank Destroyer Battalion gave anti-tank protection. The defensive perimeter was well covered by arriving artillery battalions including the 969th and 755th Field Artillery Battalions armed with 155-mm howitzers.

The defensive perimeter evolved over several days. It was shaped like a fat egg with its longest dimension about sixteen miles. As the siege raged the perimeter contracted to shorten internal lines. The 101st units manned all sides of the perimeter. They included the 502nd Parachute Regiment on the northwest corner, and the 506th PIR on its right flank, facing north; its 501st PIR faced east. The 327th Glider Infantry manned the southeast corner; its 1st Battalion defended the south and west sections. On the 23rd a cold weather front moved in over Western Europe bringing a hard freeze and clearing skies, enabling the Allied Air Force to provide the largest tactical air support of the war. Before the day was out 241 planes made their appearance carrying supplies, this continued the next day. Eleven gliders with four badly needed surgeons arrived. Spirits soared. A furious battle developed on 25 December involving both the 502nd Paratroopers and 327th Glider Infantry, supported by the 705th Tank Destroyer Battalion. They received help from the 10th Armored Division, and the 463rd Parachute Field Artillery. By dark all units had suffered heavy casualties; they rested in the night and waited dawn. Meanwhile Eisenhower and his key generals had met at Verdun on the 19th to plan their counter-attack. It was decided several divisions

south of the Bulge would turn ninety degrees northward and drive into the enemy flank south of Bastogne. A new III Corps led the counter-attack that included the 26th Infantry Division, the 80th Infantry Division, and the 4th Armored Division. The 4th, 5th and 80th Infantry Divisions and elements of the 9th Armored would hold the Bulge's south shoulder, east of Bastogne. The III Corps faced the 5th Parachute, 212th, 276th, and 352nd Volks Grenadier Divisions, currently holding the sector to be attacked. The Corps issued simple orders: the 80th Infantry Division would attack on the Corps right (east) flank; the 26th Division would hit the center. The 4th Armored Division would advance on the left and take Bastogne.

The 4th Armored Division's Combat Command R, on 26 December, after days of bitter fighting, had fought its way close to Bastogne's southern perimeter. Colonel Abram's CC R group was deployed near Clochimont standing by waiting for instructions.

During the day, Abrams watched hundreds of cargo planes dropping supplies to the 101st. He decided a dash through Assenois straight into Bastogne might work. At 1520 he radioed Capt. William Dwight's, C Company of the 37th Tank Battalion and Company C of the 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion to stand by. At 1620 Abrams radioed Dwight; "It's the push!". The team moved out with the Sherman tanks in the lead and the half-tracks behind. Abrams stayed glued to his radio. At 1634 he called the 94th Field Artillery Battalion and asked for a concentration on Assenois at a minute's notice. Exactly one minute later his tank company commander, 1st Lt. Charles Boggess, called in his position from the lead tank. Colonel Abrams passed the word to the artillery, "Concentration Number Nine, play it soft and sweet." Thirteen batteries sent ten volleys crashing onto Assenois. When Lieutenant Boggess reached the village edge, he called for the artillery to lift its fire. He then plunged ahead without waiting to see if the 94th had his message. He followed the artillery attack so closely that not a hostile shot was fired as the tanks raced through the streets. The center of the village was dark as night from the smoke and dust of the artillery blast. The German garrison, from the 5th Parachute Division and 26th Volks Grenadier Divisions, poured out of the cellars. The American armored infantry riding the tanks dealt with the shooting, clubbing, stabbing melee.

The C Team tanks, rolling on to their glory, were now alone. The "relief column" included three Sherman tanks commanded by Lieutenant Boggess, one half-track that had blundered into the tank column, and two more Shermans bringing up the rear.

Boggess kept moving, spraying the tree line beside the highway with machine gun fire. At 1650, Boggess saw some engineers in friendly uniform preparing to assault a pillbox near the highway. They were men from the 326th Airborne Engineer Battalion—contact with the Bastogne garrison had been made! Twenty minutes later Colonel Abrams shook hands with General McAuliffe, the 101st acting commander, who came to the outpost line to welcome the relieving force. Enough of the enemy had been killed or captured by midnight so that 200 vehicles, waiting for the road to open, moved into Bastogne. Later that night, the 37th Tank Battalion escorted forty trucks and seventy ambulances into Bastogne. The 4th Armored Division paid a heavy price to lift the siege. In the seven-day fight it suffered 1,000 casualties. The Bulge Battle continued; on 2 January the Americans launched a massive counterattack that forced the Germans back within the Siegfried Line by 25 January. This brought to a close the largest battle fought by Americans in World War II. Both armies suffered huge losses, the Americans had 89,000 casualties, the German's 85,000. This battle marked the beginning of the end for Germany.

CHRISTMAS EVE ON THE FRONT LINES, 1944

By Floyd D. Ragsdale, 106th ID, 424th IR, Co G

Sixty-five years after The Battle of the Bulge a day by day account of the engagement, after the first three days, will not fall into place from memory; yet, many incidents remain permanently etched in my memories. Some American Soldiers referred to that affair as 'forty one days and nights of freezing hell. That is a good reason for anyone not to remember that campaign in exact order. However, they will be described as reminiscence retracts them but not exactly in order. Much has been written about the Battle of The Bulge, yet it is the individual story that gives a personal touch to that engagement. Those tales relate what the individual GI had to withstand. Not only in fighting against extreme odds in numbers but the bitter cold weather as well.

A simple decision concerning matters at hand could save ones life, or take it away. One night, after resting for several hours in a bunker, it was my turn and that of a fellow soldier to stand watch for several hours out in our foxholes. As we approached our battle stations he said, 'which fox-hole do you want?' 'It doesn't matter, I said; one is just as cold as the other one.' Then I thought it best to take the one near our mortar position in case a flare needed to be fired. That decision saved my life but took his. In another hour he would be killed instantly by a direct hit from an enemy artillery burst. This is a story with a better ending. It happened Christmas Eve and the following day; approximately five weeks before that Battle would be brought to a conclusion.

Christmas Eve our Infantry Company trudged into a tiny Belgian Village seeking some sorely needed rest and warmth. To a man, everyone was exhausted from continuous battle conditions for the past seven days. Our officers arranged, with local civilians, to accommodate us with a nights lodging in their homes. The Company Commander announced that we would be there until morning and, our company officers would assign us temporary sleeping quarters. Then he said, "Merry Christmas men, and have a good nights sleep." The platoons, 1st through the 3rd had been dispatched to their short-lived quarters; however they over looked the heavy weapons platoon; the platoon I was assigned to. Calling this to the attention of an officer, he said to me "Find a place where-ever you can." At every dwelling the word was, "There's no room here." Consequently, I roamed the Village searching for warmth and rest. A Military Policeman, guiding traffic in the town circle, directed me to an American Anti Aircraft Gun outfit located just outside the village. They had 10 man tents with stoves and army cots; also they had their welcome mat out. "Come in and get warm" one of the men beckoned. The heat from the stove seemed like a luxury. One of the Gun Crew said, 'It's time for me to go on watch at our gun site, you can have my bunk while I'm on duty. Sleep came effortlessly to me.

A short time later shut-eye was interrupted by a voice saying, 'Wake up soldier, your outfit is moving out' Within minutes, this G.I. rushed into the village circle where the MP said, gesturing with his hand, "Your Company went that way." Bidding that little Village goodbye as I walked into the darkness of the night, alone, wasn't on my Christmas wish list, to say the least. Just a few minutes down the road, one of our companies was organizing for an advance across country. The Company Commander,

learning of my dilemma, said, 'Tom can join our outfit for the time being'; he then appropriated me to be point man in one of his platoons. That sort of post was on the extreme right, or left of a unit Somehow, as we advanced forward, my contact with the platoon vanished, although I could hear the men exchanging words with each other. My location, now in a wooded area, appeared to be a cluster of trees that in actuality was a forest. In this situation, repetition of sounds taught me a lesson. In hills and forest sounds echo from hillside to hillside making it difficult to ascertain what direction the sounds were coming from. "Good grief" I thought; another night to spend, alone; in a forest trying to find a way out. For a while, the sound of two men chopping wood and conversing was most distinguishable. Their language, though quite audible, was not American or English. Consequently, instinct cautioned me to remain unobserved by them. Daylight hours were welcome since the chances of locating a trail, or path that, would lead to somewhere, increased considerably. Warning! Some one was approaching from behind me. What a relief to recognize an American soldier, who of all people, was a GI from my company. His situation the night before had been identical to mine. However, he had a full night's shut-eye and, discovered his circumstance while seeking something for breakfast the next morning. After discussing our circumstance for several minutes we set out to locate our outfit selecting more heavily traveled trails, a path led us to a main road.

Near midmorning, along a roadside, we came in contact with an accumulation of GI's, a mixed variety of vehicles and several Sherman Tanks. It was a residue of personnel assembled by Brigadier General Bruce Clark. Their outfits had been surprised by a German counter attack earlier that day. At this time we became reunited with our company. Our understanding from them was our Company had been ordered to counter attack a German unit in a nearby village late Christmas Eve. The encounter was successful; however in the morning while the men ate their rations the Germans launched a surprise counter attack driving the Company from the hamlet. In the action our Company Commander was seriously wounded; several enlisted men had been wounded and the German's destroyed the company jeep. The Troops withdrew in absolute disorder. Clearly, the German action completely bewildered them. At some point, shortly after that episode, General Bruce Clark, with some of his armored vehicles, came upon the scene; quickly, he analyzed the state of affairs and restored order to the retreat

General Clark assembled a combat force that afternoon, giving pep talks and encouraging the men as he issued orders to everyone; then he gave a brief rejuvenating talk. He said 'I've chased these bastards (Germans) all the way across France and we're not going to run from them now. This afternoon we are going to re-take the ground that you men forfeited this morning'. Minutes later. General dark, overhearing me fussing concerning the mediocre accuracy of my carbine rifle, took a "Springfield 03" with a bandoleer of rifle clips from his vehicle and, handing it to me said "Soldier you can have my rifle; I used it in France during World War I; take good care of it"

The General squandered no time by turning a critical situation into a favorable one. An advance to retake lost ground soon commenced. Again, by chance, my position was point man on the left flank of the company. The opposite point was near a road. Both posts were considered a risky place in a forward move under battle

conditions. All of a sudden, I accepted the fact that surviving this war was not going to be easy. We encountered little resistance until someone spotted several German armored vehicles blocking the road. Two of our men, volunteered to put them out of action with a bazooka. Their first shot missed, alerting the German gun crew who pivoted the gun turret toward them and fired point blank, killing both men instantly. Immediately the Germans fired a number of rounds toward the rest of our advancing company. The terrain was hilly and comprised of dense forest. Hence, movement through the trees could be easily noticed. The German artillery fire had a deadly effect on our advance. One man in our company lost his legs and begged the medics to let him die crying, "I don't want to live like this." Our advance finally dislodged the Germans from their battle stations. As late afternoon approached it was essential to dig in and secure our positions by establishing observation posts for the night. As twilight encircled daylight, the air turned bitter cold. Aware of "enemy searching artillery fire" bursting in treetops, in the near distance, this soldier was prompted to commence digging a fox-hole. It took some time to penetrate through the frost line dig the hole head and shoulders deep. This activity produced good circulation that generated body heat. Meanwhile, somebody passed out tins of rations that the troops welcomed. The ingredients, frozen by now, had to be held between my legs to thaw it out. The nourishment turned out to be bacon-flavored spinach; which, believe it or not, tasted good. Almost anything does when a person is hungry. That's the way it was Christmas Eve and Christmas day 1944 on the American Front Lines somewhere, in the Ardennes Forest, in Belgium, during WWII.

DIARY OF JOHN RAFALIK, 535TH AAA, BATTERY D

by Gary Dimtroff, Associate member
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I attended the Battle of the Bulge Veterans Reunion in Columbus Georgia, Sept. 2011. I was searching for members that were in the 535th AAA Battery D. We went because earlier this year I found a diary from a soldier from the 535th AAA Btry D. I had it out for display as the Corporal was in the Battle of the Bulge. I am copying the daily logs from the Battle of the Bulge for everyone to read. The diary has hand drawn maps pictures, and more. I plan on getting the diary printed. Both of my grandmothers were French. My paternal Grandma was a war bride marrying a US soldier. She was from the village Avasur Aisne.

The diary:

6 June 1944 trip across channel rather quiet broken only by two submarine alerts. depth charges were dropped and we proceeded on towards the coast. at 0800 prepared to disembark. final inspection of packs, equipment. ship struck a mine at 0750 stern has been badly hit and she is afire amid-ship. 0840 left ship for British destroyer escort. transport is already awash and burning fiercely. many are still left on board. Susan B Anthony rolls over and goes down at 0932 hours left destroyer for landing craft hit the beach sugar red at 1235 minus equipment and rifles. Picket up and used German equipment. dug foxholes

200 yards from beach. enemy artillery fire was very light. ME 109's were over staffing the area a number were shot down. P47 dive bombed German positions 1000 yards to our right violent explosions resulted. Enemy was over at intervals during the night. snipers were active and paratroopers were reported in the area. Heavy and small arms fire went on all night. 88's sank a number of ships in the anchor area. Mine fields were very heavy and were many casualties. the navy pounded away at German positions steadily throughout the twenty four hour period

13th dec Heavy concentrations of artillery fire, no air action.

14th dec Krinkelt bombed at 1300 hours, artillery fire continued, no air activity

15th dec 1944 Little of note recons over, artillery fire was light.

16th dec. Enemy artillery fire began at 430 hours continuing all day. Damage was extensive, artillery action was violent.

17th dec. Enemy attack was launched with heavy air and tank support (SS). Intense artillery preparation preceded the assault. General withdrawal began about 1600 as enemy columns broke through. Went into anti-tank positions. Casualties were heavy. Retreat began at 1700 hours, general withdrawal all along the lines.

18 dec 1944 regrouped much material lost set up in new positions with 370th FA A battery at camp Elsenborn. Enemy artillery fire was very heavy all day

19 dec 1944 enemy drive continues artillery fire was particularly heavy all day 16 fw 190's over at 1700 4 downed

20 dec heavy artillery action all day many hostiles were over

21 dec 1944 inclement weather no air action artillery fire continues

22 dec 1944 bad weather again enemy artillery fire continues

23 dec 1944 enemy aircraft were over heavy artillery fire continues some bombs fell in the area

24 dec 1944 clear weather heavy concentrations of our bombers were over German flak was heavy a number of our aircraft were shot down. P47 strafed our position today. German aircraft were up in strength over our sector

25 dec 1944 large scale air activity by both sides two me 109 were destroyed at 1100 today me 262 and fw190 were over night activity by the Germans was reported bed check Charley was over at intervals heavy counter battery fire

26 Dec 1944 Continuing air assaults numerous German aircraft up. V1's and 2's were over P47 machine guns the positions.

27 Dec 1944 Air assaults continue a number of me 109's over at 1045 three were destroyed. P47's dive bombed field artillery positions at 1500. Counter Battery fire was heavy.

28 Dec 1944 Heavy German artillery fire. section received two near misses. 50 Cal was knocked out. Enemy aircraft were over during the night.

29 Dec 1944 Enemy aircraft were over, artillery exchanges were sharp.

30 Dec 1944 Enemy aircraft were over at intervals bombing field artillery installations. Heavy artillery fire continued.

31 Dec 1944 two me 262 over at 1100 hours bombed artillery positions. artillery fire was heavy on both sides.

1 Jan. 1945 German aircraft were up in strength a number of ME's 109 were over at 0835, 0850, 0910. seven were shot down. Heavy counter battery fire through out the 24hr period

2nd. Bomber and fighter formations were over. numerous German aircraft were up through out the 24 hour period. heavy artillery duals continued.

DIARY OF JOHN RAFALIK

(CONTINUED)

3rd. Inclement weather single FW 190 over at 1420, FA bombed.

4th. Bad weather prevails bomber formations were over at 1200, 1300-1340 hours. 88mm air burst overhead.

5th. Inclement weather restricted air activity. two p47's strafed our positions at camp Elsenborn.

6th. Low ceiling again. Hostile aircraft were over during the night. Artillery action was light to medium.

7th. ME 262 over at 1225 hours, bombed 1st division 105's. Artillery action continued as before.

8th Little of note, continuing artillery action V-1s were over

9th Inclement weather held activity to a virtual stand still

10th Little of consequence. no major action to speak of

11th. Increased counter battery fire, a number of bombers were over

12th. There was heavy artillery coupled with intense small arms fire. German patrols were active.

13th. Four FW 190's were over at 1407. Intense 88 fire towards Elsenborn. Air activity was increased somewhat.

14th. Inclement weather. two ME 109's over at 1534 hours.

15th. Bombers and fighters formations over. P38's bombed enemy installations one mile east. Artillery exchanges continued.

16th. Increased air activity., two MK seven Spits down at 1548, 1615.

17th. Counter battery fire increased during morning hours. Flying bombs over at various intervals.

18th. Driving snowstorm. V bombs were over. Incoming mail was of large caliber 170 or 210mm.

19th Weather again restricting most activity.

20th. Inclement weather. nothing but artillery fire and v bombs.

21th. Enemy aircraft were over at intervals. artillery was limited to harassing fire. V bombs were over

22nd. P47 down at 1010 hours . Heavy aerial activity and an increase in counter battery fire. 2130 V bombs over

23rd. Relatively quiet. Light artillery exchanges.

24th. Light 88 fire, heavy machine gun fire to the east.

25th. Nothing of note, sporadic artillery fire

26th. inclement weather, a few fighter bombers were over

LIEGE TO VIELSALM

by Frank Fancher, 32nd Cav Recon Sq, Troop A

We went on to Liege, where we got replacements of men and equipment and started back to the south around Andler. It is hard to put a time and location frame to this. While I was there, I received my Battlefield Commission for action in Luxemburg. I had not had time to pick it up previously because I had been moving too fast for it to catch up with me. On the pull back, we crossed the Salm River into Vielsalm, and I thought, for a short time, that the Bulge was over for me.

Vielsalm was in our hands and there were still nurses and Red Cross girls in town. They helped cook, etc., so I thought we were safe. It was not long before I found out how very, very wrong I was. Several German tank divisions had crossed the Salm River several miles both above and below Vielsam and were attempting to encircle the town. Once again, we were caught between a rock and a hard

place. I still had my seven men and the same replacement first lieutenant and also my half-track.

The job of the Americans in the town and surrounding area was to prevent the Germans from completing the circle. For the present, my group had not received any assignment. It just so happened, that sitting outside a nearby house, was a tank that no one seemed interested in. I said to my men, "Guys. I'm sick and tired of fighting tanks with carbines. I'm going to 'borrow' that tank." And with that, I told my driver to check it out. He wasted no time informing me that he didn't know how to drive a tank. Sgt. Pat O'Brian (from Springfield) was still with me, so I said, "Pat, you are the tank commander. Get a crew and I will drive."

I jumped in and told my driver to follow us in the half-track. I took off down the street, and not being used to the tank, I took off the steps of the houses on both sides of the street for a couple of blocks. I turned on the radio and received a call from an infantry unit that needed tank support, so off we went. I said, "Pat, have you got plenty of ammunition ready?" About this time, we came up to the rear of the American unit. They had some light German armor that was giving them problems, as they only had light weapons.

Immediately following my orders to Pat to fire when ready, I heard the angry response from Pat, "This damn @#*@ gun won't traverse. It will only go up and down!" I told him to put me gun on target and that I would move the tank to the right or left. On my execution of this maneuver, Pat said, "That's it. Hold it. Hot damn, that's right on. Now pull right. I'll make a sweep with my machine gun." Again came the exclamation, "Right on," and "Mad Dog, we had better get the hell out of here before we run into some heavy German armor."

We now knew why the tank had been sitting there and not being used. During this small battle, my half-track had cut loose with their 50 caliber gun and completely destroyed the whole enemy unit, so we came out smelling like a rose. We took the tank back and parked it where we found it. I'll bet the people living along that street still wonder what happened to their steps.

While we were playing with our tank, headquarters had started to evacuate all the non-military people like the Red Cross girls and nurses, along with non-combat troops. In the meantime, I managed to find an ammunition dump and replenished our ammo for our carbines and 50 caliber machine guns and also picked up a few grenades and 30 caliber light machine guns with ammunition. We also filled our canteens and were issued one K-ration per man.

Now we were attached to a tank unit as a security for their tanks. Again, as we pulled out, we ended up as rear guard to keep the enemy from hitting us in the rear. As far as could tell, we got everyone out and were now headed for Liege, Belgium, where we hoped we would be able to get more replacements of men and equipment. I think Liege was about forty miles away, so were talking about possibly two travel days because of the fighting we would encounter along the way. One thing that did disturb me was that our back door would be left open because Montgomery (British) had pulled the 82nd Airborne back on a line to Vaux-Chavanne. I said it before and I will say it again, in my opinion, if they had sent the British Army home, the war would have ended six months sooner.

As we moved from Vielsalm on toward Liege, we moved through the 82nd Airborne's main line of defense and we were now pretty much on our own. As it was getting on toward evening, we began to look for a good place to spend the night. We pulled off into woods and found that it was already occupied with one of our tank outfits

that had set up a defensive position. I asked their commanding officer if we could spend the night and he said OK, but he could sure use some ground security as his tanks were in the woods and just across an open field.

MY BULGE STORY

by John Swett, 106th ID, 423rd IR

At 5:30 on Dec. 16, 1944, we were awakened by a distant rumbling and the word that we must be on our way at once as the enemy was shelling our lines with the possibility of a ground attack coming soon. I remember thinking that I would dress warmly but leave the remainder of my equipment in my duffle bag in the sleeping room on the second floor of our billeting home as we would probably be back by evening. What a mistake. I never saw any of my personal items or clothing again. The greatest loss was my Waltham watch given to me as a graduation present from High School and the silver dollar with my mother's birth date, 1890, given to me by Dad just before I left for the service.

Our convoy stopped in St. Vith before proceeding to the front - possibly to receive detailed (?) orders. After much starting and stopping going basically east, we ended up well east of Schonberg and near Bleiauf pulling in between an artillery battalion and the Germans at a very late time in the night. Our mission was to hold off the enemy until the artillery people could extract their pieces and move them toward the rear. Research would probably give me this unit's name but at that time all we knew was that it's personnel was black (negro) and that we had a job to do. It was after midnight before all but one 155mm were removed. The one piece not removed was too mired in the mud to get out.

The remainder of that night and much of the next two and one half days and two nights is a blur in my memory, with some notable events standing out but I am unable to place them in a firm order. The problem of retaining precise memories is at least partly due to the weather - it was constantly raining, sleeting or snowing with always low visibility, probably less than a quarter of a mile. There was no sun to guide us and we lowly privates had no compasses. We were instructed who to follow in a convoy, or given instructions for short one or two road trips. Some of the events I do remember were: The road from "Purple Heart Comers" to Auw was along a ridge and open on the side facing the enemy. It was down hill and open on the German side and open fields. On our side (still in Germany) also went down hill but there was the cover of a forest only a few hundred feet below the ridge. Our motor pool sergeant Jacob Antonovich thought we should be down near the trees in what turned out to be a very soft muddy field. All of our vehicles had to be winched out of the mud. Sarg's weapons carrier may have been the only one that moved out on its own power. It was a good thing that we didn't have an emergency evacuation.

Another exciting event took place on what road I don't remember, but we were in convoy, stop and go, when a plane flew over strafing the vehicles. I was right behind a truck carrying ammunition, which must have been hit as it started to smoke. Both vehicles in front and back of me were very close, leaving no room to turn around or turn onto the shoulder. My

thought was to remove myself from the scene of a gigantic explosion. I jumped out of my Jeep and hopped on a six-wheeled armored truck going in the opposite direction. It took me back to our Company H. The truck never exploded and I still feel it was Lloyd Diehl who retrieved my Jeep for me. When we were together as a platoon in the forest and near the Engineer's Cutoff, several German prisoners were brought to our area. They had been separated and one was being interrogated, so we had a good chance to observe the one we were guarding. He appeared to be very young, perhaps 14 or 15 years old. He had a deep vertical slice in his back, perhaps 12 inches long and down to his rib cage. He had been given a cigarette and seemed to be unconcerned about his condition. Probably he was in a state of shock. He had evidently been treated by a medic as the wound seemed clean and free of fresh blood.

These were events that I saw first hand, I heard many other stories from buddies that were very interesting, but I do not intend to include in this bio any events that I can not verify by my own observations. The sharpest memory still with me after all these years (I am now almost 82, and this all took place over 60 years ago) are the events that took place on the evening of December 18, and the day of the 19th, the day we were surrendered. As it was getting dark, we received orders to form up our vehicles on the Engineer Cutoff to attempt a run down the Bleiauf/Schonberg road in order to make a breakthrough to the 3rd Battalion, giving us a better chance to fight our way through the encirclement and work our way back through Schonberg and hopefully, back to St. Vim. All 2nd Battalion vehicles were lined up ready to go as darkness fell. As it was almost pitch black we shoved off to drive as fast as we could down the enemy held road. At comers many of our captured field pieces were pointing down the road directly at us. I must have been near the front of the line, as nearly as I made out my jeep wasn't hit by enemy or friendly fire. Ken Smith claimed to be riding on my ammunition trailer, but was thrown off on a comer before we reached 3rd Battalion on a hill just outside Schonberg. I was stopped by 3rd Battalion personnel and told to dump my jeep in the river as the Germans were on the low side of the road and occupied Schonberg. After detaching my trailer, which had some 81mm mortar ammunition in it, I drove to the right and down to the river, and as best I could determine in the dark, dropped off the bank and buried the radiator in the river bank. After doing this I was told that the Germans held the river also. Going back up the hill I fell into a large hole. I went down so suddenly that I fell out from underneath my helmet. For what seemed like many minuets, I felt around for it. I could not locate it, so climbed out of the hole and went up the hill and laid down. It was drizzling, cold and damp. I hadn't slept in three nights so didn't much care where I slept or under what conditions. This was a deeply forested area. The shells from the German 88's were exploding in the trees above us. I got some sleep this night but several stray pieces of shrapnel from the 88's hit my face and hands (wrist), caused some bleeding of surface wounds, but didn't cause me to lose much sleep. I was bone tired and didn't much care at that point if the enemy got a direct hit on me.

The next morning, December 19, we had no meal (most of us hadn't eaten since dinner on Dec. 15) but went to work defending our hill. I soon discovered that only two of our Battalion vehicles made it through the intense fire on the

MY BULGE STORY

(CONTINUED)

German held Bleialf-Schonberg road on the previous evening. The other vehicle was an "H" company headquarters jeep driven by Ramey Boetcher. Days, months and years later I learned many of the stories of the demise of the other unfortunate vehicles, how they were shot up, went off the road, missed turns and some were captured. God must have had future plans for me as he guided me safely down that road. I spent the morning hauling 81mm mortar rounds up the hill from my trailer to the one 3rd Battalion mortar, which had been set up in a clearing over the crest of the hill. During the day, someone noticed my lack of helmet and gave me one that had a bullet hole right through the side. I was told its previous owner had no further use for it. As I was carrying mortar shells up and over the hill, there was a tall lean fellow digging himself a foxhole just to the right of my path and near the forward side of the hill. When he finished his hole he got into it and nothing could pry him loose. As I passed him for more than an hour as he was digging. (Years later at a Division reunion I was telling this story to other members of "H" Co, 423rd, and Ramey admitted he had been the one who had dug his hole and wouldn't be moved out. He said, "I was going to stay out of the way of those 88's")

At approximately 3:30PM, we were out of ammunition, had been for some time. A loud speaker came up from the base of the hill, and a voice with no trace of German accent said, "Your officers have surrendered you. Come down off the hill and form up on the road." This was repeated a number of times and the lack of firing of any kind (very quiet) indicated this was probably the end of the war for the 3rd Battalion. (Later we were to learn that it wasn't only the 3rd Battalion, 423rd, that had been surrendered, but our commanding officers Col. George L. Descheneaux of the 422nd, and Col. Charles C. Cavender of the 423rd, had indeed surrendered our two regiments.) When the truth of the situation sunk in, I had the immediate job of taking my hand weapons apart and throwing their parts as far as I could into the forest. I could see troops already forming up on the road as I came down the hill. As I came onto the Bleialf/Schonberg Road, I noticed a headless GI lying in the ditch. His body was the shape and size of one of our husky privates. Later I learned our husky private had survived and was in fine shape. Ramey's jeep was still sitting in the middle of the road and Sgt. Webb was sitting upright in the back seat, dead. The motor was still running. Soldiers I didn't know, brought a badly wounded fellow dragging between them. They set him on the far side of the ditch, gave him a cigarette, he took several puffs and died. We were surrendered to an SS troop, and while nothing was said, many of us recently free soldiers may have had some worries as to how they would treat us. Evidently, the German officer in charge knew or felt the war was almost over, or perhaps he was one of the few SS officers who was more humane than what we had been led to believe, we will never know which, but we were not treated badly. His troops lined us up on the road and after a half hour or so, we were marched the six or eight miles to Bleialf. It was just getting dark when we arrived in Bleialf. We slept in the churchyard that night (Dec. 19). I still had my heavy GI overcoat, but it was cold and damp and as we had no food for several days and little or no sleep since Dec. 16, I was all set up for one of my winter colds. On the morning of Dec. 20, we were lined up on the road opposite

to the one on which we had arrived the previous evening, ready for the 25-30 mile march to Gerolstein. Still no food. By this time Bud Petersen and I had been reunited and we marched together on our way to the rail junction at Gerolstein. Four or five miles from the start of our march we entered to city of Prum. Other than the central church, every other building had been reduced to rubble. For me it was a very depressing sight. This was really the first physical affects of war that most of us had witnessed - bricks and stones piled haphazardly and flowing into the street.

We had yet many miles to go, marching until dark, arriving in Gerolstein an hour or so after sunset. I remember little of the details of this march as I had awakened that morning with a raging fever. I kept throwing my coat off, Bud kept picking it up and putting it back on me or carried it himself. This probably was a life saver for me. I will always feel I owe Bud more than I can ever repay. We slept on the soiled ground at the bottom of a sheep shed that night. We did have a roof over our heads, however. Still no food.

The next morning (Dec 21) they say we had some thing to eat, maybe so but I have no memory of what it might have been. Sometime during the morning we boarded a string of 40/8 boxcars. These are small cars and it was very possible we had more than forty prisoners on each car. We had a can to use as a latrine and an open window (very small covered with barbed wire) to facilitate the release of deposits. The can was used very little - nothing going in so nothing coming out. We had received no food or liquids for days. Our train's progress was very intermittent - stop and go. We never knew where we were at any time but learned much later (mostly after we returned home) some of the high points of this trip. We were in the same boxcar from the morning of Dec. 21, until the morning of Dec. 25, never being let out or offered food or drink. We tried to sleep but there wasn't enough room for all of us to sit down, much less all lie down at once. The biggest excitement to occur on this short-distance-long-time trip happened in the Koblenz rail yard the night of Dec. 23/24. British Mosquito light bombers bombed the rail yard extensively. One soldier in a nearby car was shouting at the top of his lungs to God for deliverance. I shouted back that God could hear us without shouting. Several cars were hit with some injuries and deaths, but our car wasn't touched. The rail yard just to the east of us in Limberg must have been the British main target that night as their casualty rate was much higher and the tracks were so disrupted we never saw the prison camp there to which the Germans originally intended for our train load.

Sometime early in the morning of Dec. 25, Christmas Day, before daylight, our train stopped. We had arrived in Bad Orb. As soon as there was any light from the dawn, we could see a few scattered German officers standing and walking on the platform. They were dressed in natty uniforms all in light pastel colors. At this time we didn't know where we were. As soon as it was fully light, we were let out of our boxcars and lined up in a nearby street in columns of four. The Germans soon had us organized and we were marched up the town's main street, up the hill, approximately one and one half miles, to our new home, Stammlager IX-B, or for short, Stalag IX-B. We were the first Americans to arrive at this camp.



Stanley Blazejewski,
9th AD, 60th AIB, Co A

CALLING ALL VETERANS!

ORDERS FROM VBOB HEADQUARTERS

We have received many more photos from members since the last issue of *The Bulge Bugle*. We'd really like to honor all our members by displaying their photos (preferably in their WWII uniforms) on our website. Once you have located your photo, please send a copy (photos will not be returned) to:

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge
PO Box 336, Blue Bell, PA 19422

View the photos at: www.battleofthebulge.org



Vernon H. Brantley,
75th ID, 289th IR



John D'Annibale,
28th ID, 110th IR, Co D



John J. Emerick,
166th CEBn, 3rd Army



Robert D. Fischle,
26th ID, 390th AAA AW



Russell Hardeman,
101st AB, 327th GIR



Hope Kirkendall,
16th Gen Hospital



George Chekan,
39th IR, Co C, 9th ID



Harold Mayforth, Jr.,
4th AD, 25th Cav



Anthony L. Venditti,
26th ID, 101st IR, HQ Co

HOW TO VIEW THE WEBSITE GALLERY OF VETERANS' PHOTOS

- Go to our web site: www.battleofthebulge.org
- Click on the word "Photos" (below the helmets)
- Choose appropriate alphabetized photo gallery by veteran's last name

AND TELL YOUR FRIENDS!

WELCOME TO NEW ORLEANS

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE 31ST ANNUAL REUNION



September 26 - 30, 2012

HIGHLIGHTS AND SCHEDULE INFORMATION

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We will need help in many different areas and Doris will be glad to discuss them with you. Your help will be greatly appreciated! If you have talent in audio/visual equipment, please let us know. If you are willing to help us with this reunion, please contact Doris Davis at: doris@dordavis.com or (650) 654-0101.

GENERAL INFORMATION

If you will need a wheelchair, please note this on your Registration Form.

REGISTRATION FEE

All who attend the VBOB Reunion must pay the registration fee (\$25/person). (Children under 12 free.) This fee covers the expense of nametags, programs, table decorations, Hospitality Room, etc.

WEDNESDAY, September 26

Enjoy a horse and buggy tour of New Orleans "French Quarter." See more of New Orleans on a guided bus tour (with a tour guide). Visit with each other in the Hospitality Room.



Horse and buggy tour of the French Quarter

THURSDAY, September 27

Visit Mardi Gras World - the largest float designing and building facility in the world. This is where most of the floats that are in the Mardi Gras Parade are



Floats on exhibit at Mardi Gras World

designed and built. Learn about the many traditions surrounding Mardi Gras parades, balls and music, as well as the intricacies of float designing and building. On our tour, we will see a short video and learn about Mardi Gras history and floats (www.mardigrasworld.com).

In the evening at the hotel, we will have a **presentation by Mr. Kevin Secor**, Special Assistant to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, who will be speaking to us on topics of interest to all Veterans.

FRIDAY, September 28

Attend a presentation entitled "The Battle of the Bulge" presented by our guest speaker, Professor Andrew G. Jameson. Prof. Jameson was an infantry Sergeant in the Battle of the Bulge. His presentation will explain the reasons behind the German offensive, and why it failed, and the American failure to anticipate the offensive, and the epic defense of Bastogne as well as the execution of Americans at Malmedy. Both the German and American positions in the battle will be illustrated. Prof. Jameson has taught military history for many years and usually has standing room only at his presentations. He served in the 30th Division was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Following the presentation (and lunch at the hotel), **visit a world famous cafe called Cafe Du Monde** (www.cafedumonde.com).

Take a cruise on a paddle wheeler called Steamboat Natchez. The cruise is 2 hours long and it's quite enjoyable! (www.steamboatnatchez.com).

Attend a USO Show at the WW II Museum. Take a trip down memory lane with this show. Sing along with the performers!

SATURDAY, September 29

Attend the general membership meeting in the morning, followed by lunch (at the hotel). **Visit the WW II Museum.** See artifacts of the war (including a real Higgins Boat) and see exhibits on D Day at Normandy, the Home Front and the Pacific. See a film entitled *Beyond All Boundaries* in the Solomon Victory Theater. (www.nationalww2museum.org)



Sherman tank on display at the National WW II Museum

Enjoy our farewell banquet at the hotel. Choice of meals will be Artichoke Stuffed Chicken Breast with Lemon Cream Sauce with Roasted Vegetables, or Marinated Flank Steak with Seasoned Rice. *Please make your choice on the Registration Form.*

SUNDAY, September 30

Farewell breakfast - on your own.

Photos courtesy of NewOrleansOnline.com and Blaine Kern's Mardi Gras World

You can also register online: www.battleofthebulge.org; click on "Attend Reunion." And, "Like" us on Facebook!

VBOB REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

Deadline: September 9, 2012

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Division _____ Regiment _____

Signature _____ # Wheelchair(s) needed: _____

Wife/Guest(s) *(use additional paper if necessary)* _____

	No. of People	Cost/Person	Total Cost
Registration Fee <i>(all attendees must register, except children)</i>	_____	\$25	_____

Wednesday, September 26

Lunch at the hotel	_____	\$15	_____
Guided bus tour of the city	_____	\$20	_____
Horse and Buggy Tours <i>(choose time)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> 10 am <input type="checkbox"/> 4 pm	_____	\$15	_____
Wine & cheese reception in Hospitality Room <i>(complimentary)</i>	_____	free	_____

Thursday, September 27

Breakfast in Hospitality Room	_____	\$5	_____
Mardi Gras World Tour <i>(includes bus & lunch)</i>	_____	\$45	_____
Dinner at the hotel, cash bar	_____	\$35	_____
Presentation by Guest Speaker, Kevin Secor (Veterans Affairs)	_____	free	_____

Friday, September 28

Breakfast in Hospitality Room	_____	\$5	_____
Presentation by Prof. Andrew G. Jameson (Battle of the Bulge)	_____	free	_____
Lunch at the hotel	_____	\$15	_____
Bus all day <i>(pay once for either/both excursions)</i>	_____	\$15	_____
Natchez cruise	_____	\$22.50	_____
Adults \$22.50; Children <i>(age 6-12)</i> \$11; <i>(under 6 free)</i>	_____	\$11	_____
WW II Museum	_____	\$45	_____
Dinner and USO show	_____	\$20	_____
or USO show only	_____	\$20	_____

Saturday, September 29

Breakfast in Hospitality Room	_____	\$5	_____
General Membership Meeting	_____	free	_____
Lunch at the hotel	_____	\$15	_____
Tour of WW II Museum <i>(includes bus cost)</i>	_____	\$15	_____
Veterans \$15 (for bus only: museum is free); Seniors \$30;	_____	\$30	_____
Active Military with ID \$25; Adults \$35; Children \$15	_____	\$25	_____
	_____	\$35	_____
	_____	\$15	_____
Reception, cash bar	_____	\$45	_____
Banquet <i>(indicate preference)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Marinated Flank Steak <input type="checkbox"/> Artichoke Stuffed Chicken Breast	_____	\$45	_____

TOTAL _____

Mail registration form and check to: Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc., PO Box 27430, Philadelphia, PA 19118
(Refunds for cancellation will be honored if notice is received prior to the end of the reunion.)



VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, INC.

WYNDHAM GARDEN New Orleans Baronne Plaza Hotel
New Orleans, LA • September 26 - 30, 2012

REUNION PROGRAM

Wednesday, September 26

- 10:00 - 11:00 am** Horse and Buggy Tour of the French Quarter
- 11:00 am** Lunch at Hotel
- 1:00 - 3:00 pm** Guided Bus Tour of the city of New Orleans
- 4:00 - 5:00 pm** Horse and Buggy Tour of the French Quarter (repeat of earlier tour)
- 3:00 pm - 10:00 pm** Registration Desk open in Hospitality Room
- 5:00 pm** Wine and Cheese reception in the Hospitality Room
- Dinner on your own (*we will have some food in the Hospitality Room*)

Thursday, September 27

- 8:00 am** Breakfast in Hospitality Room
- 9:00 - 11:30 am** Registration Desk open in Hospitality Room
- 11:30 am** Bus departs for the Mardi Gras World
(**12:00 pm**- Lunch at the Mardi Gras World; **2:00 pm**-Tour of the Mardi Gras World)
- 3:15 pm** Bus departs to the hotel
- 5:30 pm** Dinner (at the hotel)
- 7:00 pm** Presentation by Kevin Secor (about Veterans Affairs)
Hospitality Room will be open from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm

Friday, September 28

- 8:00 am** Breakfast in Hospitality Room
- 10:00 am** Presentation by Professor Andrew G. Jameson entitled "The Battle of the Bulge"
- 11:30 am** Lunch at Hotel
- 12:30 pm** Bus departs for the Cafe Du Monde (in the French Quarter)
- 2:30 pm** Board the Natchez Cruise Steamboat (walking distance from the Cafe Du Monde)
- 4:30 pm** Disembark from cruise ship and board bus to return to hotel
- 5:30 pm** Bus departs for the WW II Museum (for those who are attending the USO dinner show)
- 7:00 pm** Bus departs for the WW II Museum (for those who are attending just the USO show)
- 9:15 pm** Bus departs from the WW II Museum to return to the hotel
(*We will arrange dinner for those who are not having dinner at the WW II Museum — those plans will be in your registration packet*)
Hospitality Room will be open from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm

Saturday, September 29

- 8:00 am** Breakfast in Hospitality Room
- 9:00 am - 11:00 am** General Membership Meeting
- 11:00 am - 12:00 pm** Lunch at Hotel
- 12:00 pm** Bus departs for the WW II Museum
- 4:00 pm** Bus departs Museum for the hotel
- 6:00 pm** Evening Banquet at the hotel
Hospitality Room will be open from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Sunday, September 30

- Breakfast on your own; Depart hotel



**Wyndham Garden
New Orleans Baronne Plaza**
201 Baronne Street
New Orleans, LA 70112
Phone: (504) 522-0083
Fax: (504) 522-0053

[www.wyndham.com/hotels/MSYBP/
mapanddirections/main.wnt?param=1](http://www.wyndham.com/hotels/MSYBP/mapanddirections/main.wnt?param=1)

WELCOME VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE September 26 - 30, 2012

Hotel Information

The room rate is \$99 per night, single or double occupancy, plus taxes. Suites are \$149/night. **These rates are guaranteed through August 29, 2012. Reservation requests received after August 29, 2012 will be confirmed on a space available basis.** (Suites have refrigerators as well as a separate living room, with sofa sleeper). Parking is \$12 (discounted from \$20). They have 8 handicapped rooms: 4 with double beds and 4 with a king bed. If you need a **handicapped room**, please make your reservation soon.

Hotel amenities: High-speed internet throughout the hotel and in the guest rooms. Complimentary Business Center. Both a microwave and refrigerator can be added to your room for an additional \$10/day (if available). When you make your reservation, please mention that you would like to have a microwave and/or refrigerator.

DIRECTIONS TO THE HOTEL FROM THE AIRPORT

(the hotel is 15 miles from the airport)

East on Airline Dr/Airline Hwy/US-61 toward Warren St. Turn left onto Airport Access Road. Merge onto I-10 E. Take Exit 234 B. Stay toward the left toward Poydras St/Superdome. Stay straight to go onto Poydras St. Turn left onto S. Claiborne Ave. Turn right onto Tulane Ave. Stay straight to go onto Common St./Tulane Ave. Turn left onto S. Rampart St. Turn right onto Canal St. Turn right onto Baronne St. Hotel is on right.

GENERAL DIRECTIONS TO THE HOTEL

Take I-10 East and take the Canal Street/Super Dome Exit. (Exit is to the right). Loop around and go 5 blocks on Canal Street to Baronne Street. There will be a fork in the road. Stay right on the fork. The hotel is on the corner of Common and Baronne.

TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM THE AIRPORT

The hotel does not have an airport shuttle. The shuttle to and from the airport can be arranged at the airport or before your departure from home. **Options:** Airport Shuttle New Orleans (a shared ride van service, \$20 one way, \$38 round trip). Call (504) 522-3500 or toll free (866) 596-2699. Located on lower level across from bag claim areas 3, 6, and 12. (www.airportshuttleneworleans.com), OR you can take a taxi \$30 one way.

NOTE: If you also need a room for Sunday night, please know that rooms at this hotel are limited. If you have plans to stay an extra night, please make your reservation early. If you have any problems with making a reservation, please contact the sales person at the hotel, Kimberly Mitchell, kmitchell@wyndham.com, (504) 522-0083, Ext 3100 or Doris Davis, doris@dordavis.com or (650) 654-0101.

MY LETTER TO HOME

by Robert Rhett, 106th ID, 591st FABn

Dear Folks,

Hello to all. Greetings from Belgium. Since this news is already out, the censor might allow me to tell it. This seems to be the real opportunity to tell what has happened to me since I have left England. After we crossed the channel, we moved through France which was very interesting. We then crossed into Belgium where the weather we soon found was our worst enemy and biggest worry. It got colder as we got into Belgium and rain turned to snow and then hail a bit. Along the way ever so often we would stop to thaw out. By the time we reached our destination, those like myself in a jeep, soon found ourselves wearing a coat of snow. Although miserable as it was, we came ^through with nothing more than a few toes that still feel fanny to touch. However, after reaching the front line, we soon found out such was our least worry!

Yes, if you haven't already guessed, the Seigfried found me in a wrecked shack that we used as our O.P. to observe out through a shell hole in one of the attic walls. Looking out at the distance of six or eight hundred yards could be seen the pill boxes, dragon teeth and such that we later found the jerries fully occupied, just waiting to give us the biggest surprise of our life. Getting aroused at an early hour before knowing what was up, we found ourselves getting thrown at us everything under the moon. The booming of artillery, mortars, screaming meemies started the show of softening things up. The old shack we were in rocked and shook like a leaf, everything but collapsed. Following this to be heard were the echoes as they increased range a little going towards the rear. Soon after this came the opening of small arms first our 50 cal. that were just outside the door.

They sounded as if they were inside. The onslaught soon began as the jerries in the distance dark gradually surrounded us. Battling it out for quite some time, both sides with all they had. Finally, they broke through with their runaway machine guns and bazooka guns, the fastest dam firing things I had ever heard before. Next thing we knew they had set up one just outside near our cellar window where we were sitting on pins wondering when or what would take place next. We just waited, counting away each heart beat that went with each breathing. Laying clutched one on top of the other we were lifted from each blast of the guns. Not quite satisfied standing off blasting away with bazookas through what was left of the wall and windows, they stumbled about inside in the dark hoping to make sure no one was in there, they kicked through our C ration cans, etc. We still sat tight. Then, they thinking their job was done, turned and to make sure threw in grenades. Till yet we wonder how we ever survived through it all. Still with not a whisper from any of us, we could hear the cry of wounded outside.

The yelling of jabber jabber I'll never forget sounded like a wild bunch of maniacs running around shouting at each other as the attack kept up until day break with us still sweating out the decision. It came about ten in the morning when we thought we heard English from a faint voice of some GI off in the distance. We were not sure but were able to get a more relaxed feeling. I loosened myself from the clutches of the other three enough so as to reach a resting position and to become all ears. Sure enough a little later I did catch a Tommy

telling a jerry to take his belt off. With this, which was more than hot jazz to a jitterbugger's ears, we all got up to yell outside to some Joe that four yanks were coming out and not to shoot. Even though I was the only Rebel, I didn't for once mind being called or classed as such. (Some censor will probably shoot me for saying so.) No but yes, sir. Anyway with the Tommy's gun staring us in the face, we came out with our hands up and in a half cramped style formation, yet filled so with joy when we did we grabbed each other to hug and laugh all at the same time out loud with happiness. Gee, what a feeling. It was too much to ever be afraid again. So ends part one. Part two followed that night when a retreat movement was made. Wandering around, disorganized and getting snipped by troops which for sure we didn't know who they were. It was enough to hit the snow and crawl the biggest part of the way. I'll never forget it. I am sure. Added to this, the sloping around alone. I had one shoe fall of snow I had gotten from crawling around in observing. Finally, struggling into our battle position.

Here with the set up a Belgium hut I gradually thawed out and recovered. As I did, I found myself going over all that had happened. My first real thought was how happy I was that God had pulled me through. I couldn't hold back the big tears that tumbled down my cheek and off the end of my nose. Too tired to wipe off and with the shock we had begun to feel. It was too much to get any sleep the following couple of nights. Just the relax and rest was enough to do the job of putting us back on our feet again.

So ends my Seigfried miricle, one never to be forgotten by Robert A. Feeling fine. Take good care of mother while I'm away Lots of love always,

Bob (Rhett)

MY MILITARY EXPERIENCE

by Harold Smith, 1st ID, 16th IR

I was a heavy machine gunner #605/rifleman #745 14 weeks of basic training in Camp Wheeler, GA. shipped overseas as a combat replacement. I entered combat "D" Day plus one and assigned duty as a BAR rifleman. was wounded in St.-Lo, France. went back to a hospital in England. after six weeks stay in South Hampton, I was sent back into combat duty as a heavy machine gunner.

On December 11, 1944, the 16th Inf. was sent back to Verveers, Belgium for a rest and refitting. we had for two months battled the cruel weather and heavy fighting in the Hurtgen Forest. between Sept 12 and Dec 9, a total of 1,221 men of the 16th inf. had been killed, wounded or captured. On December 16, 1945 (my birthday) at 2:00 pm we were called to emergency assembly for moving out from Verviers, to replace another div. near Waywertz. this was the beginning of the "Battle of the Bulge". we fought off attacks from December 16, 1944 to January 25, 1945.

after the b.o.b. our company engaged in many battles through out Germany and into Czechoslovakia. at 6:00 am on May 7, the 16th Inf. jumped off on it's last attack of WWII. after two hours the 16th Inf. received a radio communication from the 1st div. headquarters to "cease all forward movements". During a month long effort the 16th Inf. processed some

50,000 German pows and repatriated over 15,000 allied pow's. on June 8, the 16th Inf. motored to Bamberg, Germany and took over it's new assignment of occupation duties. Co. M started their occupation duties in the small town of Hallstadt, which was just outside of Bamberg. During my tour of duty I was honored with the following awards:

- Marksman badge with rifle bar
- Machine gun bar
- Combat infantryman badge
- Two bronze star medals
- Purple heart
- World War II victory medal
- European middle eastern campaign medal with 4 bronze service stars
- Good conduct medal

MY STORY

by Jacob Eastham, Jr. 26th ID, 328th IR, Co K

About 8:00am on January 5, 1945 I was in the middle of a gunfight, and it was cold, snowy and foggy. I was pinned down in the middle of a field. After a heavy bombardment, my buddy, next to me got hit by machine gun fire and I called the medics.

The medic asked me to help him so I got up and helped the medic move this injured man back into a crater made from a bomb. There was ice on top of about 2 feet of water. Just as we got him there and were tending to him a mortar shell hit right at my feet inside the crater. I was out for about a few minutes or so and the next thing I knew I was on one of the end of a litter carrying it to the aid station. I do not know how or what happened to the medic and the G.I. and to this day I still do not know. I was slightly wounded enough to be hospitalized for about a week and I went back to my company.

So if anyone knows anything about this incident occurred on January 5, 1945 I would love to hear from you.

Telephone 513-683-3485

RETURN TO LUXEMBOURG

by Glen Beville, 106th ID, 424th IR, Co K

On June 14, 2011 we (Glen Beville, wife Etta, son Mike & wife Sherry) flew to Luxembourg for 12 wonderful days. We were taken on tours daily through Luxembourg, Belgium & Germany. We stayed at the Euro Hotel and this entire trip was sponsored by US Veterans Friends. Some of the highlights included General Patton's former headquarters with a beautiful monument dedicated to WWII Battle of the Bulge; Presentation of the Chapel of four Chaplains at the Cultural Center in Oetrange (Glen received his US Veterans Friends medal here plus the book "A Grateful Nation Remembers"); the American Military Cemetery in Hamm, Luxembourg (we looked up names of men who served in the 106th Infantry Division. In St. Vith, we toured areas that were the battlefields where the 106th fought, and several of these veterans stood on the tour coach and told stories of their experiences as they remembered them. We were very excited when Daniel, our tour guide, took the coach right by the exact spot where Glen was fighting when captured. We also stopped and walked among the field of Dragon Teeth that

were used to stop the tanks in Kesfeld, Germany—very interesting. We were delighted, and really felt honored, that we were able to visit the Cathedral in Luxembourg in celebration of the Grand Duke's birthday. That place was simply 'out of this world'. There were dignitaries from every country imaginable, in all of their finery. Throughout our tours, we visited at least 15-20 different monuments. These people are the most appreciative & gracious that we have ever met. They treat the American Veterans almost like idols—with great appreciation for the liberation of their people. The wine tasting & lunch at Ahn, at the Moselle River, was a delightful experience. The vineyards ("winyards" to them) and flowers, grapes, etc. were beautiful. All of the countryside was so-o clean and pretty. We visited so many monuments that they are too numerous to list by name. However, each one was presented with love & appreciation from these people, honoring the American Veterans for what they did for their countries. Daniel, the new President of the organization, volunteered Saturday to take Glen & his family on a "special tour". He was able to locate the new address for Maureen, the young girl (then 12, now almost 17) from Belgium that Glen had met when he was in Luxembourg in 2004 for the 60th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. We spent maybe an hour with Maureen & her mother in their home in Houffalize, Belgium. Then Daniel took us back to the exact place where Glen fought & was captured. We were very happy to meet Mr. Jacoby, who lived with his family in the old house in Heckhuscheid, Germany, in 1944, during the Battle of the Bulge. This is a trip that all four of us will always remember. Both Etta and Sherry realized better and more clearly what really took place. It was a very emotional experience for all of us.

V1 BUZZ BOMB

by Norval Gee, 341st AAA Bn

I was in the Battle of the Bulge and crossed the Rhine River on the pontoon bridge you showed in your February edition of the Bulge Bugle. Hitler was trying to get to Antwerp and as one commentator put it, no damn fool would try it but Hitler did. Below is a picture of the V1 buzz bomb and a picture of the radar device that I was operating. Radar stands for Radio and Detection and Ranging and at that time it would reach 40,000 feet in the air and took three men to sit outside and operate. It was later replaced by a Mickey Mouse and a large detector.



WAR MEMOIRS

by James Stanley 30th ID, 117th IR

I worked for the Southern Bell telephone company before being drafted into the Army. I could have received a deferment since I worked for the telephone company that was essential to communication. But for some strange reason I thought that joining the Army would be easier to climbing up and down that his telephone poles touring our hot Mississippi summers. Little did I know what I was getting into at Camp Shelby I joined the paratroopers if we were painted a beautiful picture about the training in Florida.

We would be breathing the air that all those millionaires paid to breathe. So I took basic training with the 82nd Air Borne Division, but because of bronchial problems I was released from there and sent to Fort Benning, GA. Joined the 2nd Bn. 117th Inf. Regiment Anti-Tank Unit From Ft. Benning, I went back to Camp Blanding and trained with 37mm Anti-Tank Gun and Bazookas. Later we had to change to 57mm because the Germans had perfected their armor so that it could not be penetrated by the 37mm.

From Camp Blanding we went to maneuvers in Tennessee between Nashville and Chattanooga around the Murphysboro area. From there to Camp Atterbury, Ind. Where we practiced in the snow which was good, since we later had to brave the days & nights of snow in the Ardennes Forest during the BULGE.

Next, we were sent to Camp Miles Standish, MA from where we shipped out on the John Ericsson, a captured German ship still marked with their insignias. We disembarked at Liverpool Eng on Feb. 23, 1944. This was the largest conveyer ever to cross me Atlantic and several times there were warnings of German U-Boats. We arrived at Petworth on Feb. 24, Sussex (Camp Browning) which was my first time I ever slept on a straw mattress which was rather "sticky".

On April 1, we arrived in Hemel Hempstead, England where we stayed in the back of a church until June 8. During that time, we were visiting the pubs, enjoying the girls and eating fish and chips. We had work to do also as we had to seal (or impregnate) all our vehicles, guns, equipment and clothing to make them waterproof and rust-proof from the salt water.

June 8 we went to S. Hampton marshalling area and crossed me English Channel to Normandy Beach which was D + 3 (3 days after Normandy initial landing). We set up in defensive position on the Vire River approximately 7-9 miles from the Beach. After crossing this River we fought through the hedgerows toward St Lo, a large town in France held by the Germans. The bombing of July 25 (which was a huge bombing of St Lo) was not followed by an attack on that day because that was when our General McNair was killed by our own planes. Our planes were blinded by the smoke shells we were firing over the enemy and the wind changed bringing the smoke back over us.

The next day we resumed bombing and attacking St Lo. Frank Webb, a friend of mine had his heel blown off during this battle. After capturing St Lo we marched on and captured many towns until August 6, when we relieved the First Division in the vicinity of Mortain, France. From August 6 -12, we had the German First & Second SS Panzer Division against us, which was a huge force and made it very difficult to defend ourselves. This is the only time during the entire war when I thought I

would not make it through. The fighting was so ferocious, no sleep during those 6 -7 days and continuous battles. Also, this was the first time that I saw rockets fired from planes so close to us that we could see the German pilots as they flew over. Needless to say, we suffered many casualties during this battle and one Company was almost completely wiped out because they would not surrender.

We crossed the Seine River, from there captured many more towns, the names of which I cannot remember. September 4 we were in Merlin, Belgium. Sept. 5 - 12 we had long foot marches into Holland, and on Sept 13, we liberated Maastricht, Holland. These were the happiest people I have ever seen when they realized we had actually freed them from the German stronghold. Our first time in Germany was Sept. 18 when we entered Scherpenseel. On October 4th we fought through the Siegfried Line and across the Wurm River fighting as we went. There was never any time when we were not scared as Hell!!

December 17, we moved to Malmedy and Stavelot, Belgium. The enemy had not occupied Malmedy in its counter offensive. On the 19th, we moved 6 miles West to Francochamps, Belgium, an active defense and limited attack to drive the enemy from Stavelot and South of the La Ambrieve River. The snow was deep and the weather cold; buzz bombs coming over often and much action from enemy planes. I would wash my feet with snow every day and massage them, dry them as best I could and put on another pair of socks I kept next to my body to keep them dry and warm. This is probably what kept me from having frostbite which many soldiers did, and even lost toes and feet from the severe cold. We seldom ever got a chance to change clothing - probably not during the entire Battle of the Bulge, but there were clean socks available on the truck the pulled our Anti-Tank Gun.

On Christmas Day we were brought turkey & dressing about 2:00 in the afternoon, which was a complete surprise and a great treat to us as we were so used to eating nothing but K-rations. We can't figure out to this day how those cooks could possibly have done this, but it most certainly was appreciated. New Year's Day 1945 was also spent there in the Ardennes Forest. January 13 - were counter-offensive by the 30th Division attacking south from Malmedy.

Jan. 14 we committed to attack, advanced 2 miles. Jan 15 - sough to Geromont, our battalions still attacking. Jan. 19 - Reicht and the infamous Road Block Two taken under very severe weather conditions and heavy enemy resistance. The snow as 18 inches deep at this time and we used ski litters for evacuation during the entire attack. Jan.. 24 - 28 we went into reserve out of action. Feb. 1 - we had a night motor march to Aachen, Germany Assembly area. In Aachen, one of our men who was a boxer got his leg blown off in a mine field. He was always alert, shadow-boxing, moving and shuffling his feet in mock boxing. I've often wondered what happened to him when he got home, but did not keep in touch with him.

On Feb. 24th our Regiment crossed the Roer River at 1:00 or 2:00 a.m. Unfortunately this seemed to always be the time we made river crossings. By Feb. 26 we were to Oberempt, attacking day and night, awfully tired, but moving on. March 3 we practiced crossing the Maas River getting ready for the Rhine River crossing. Then we had a night secret march to Rayen, Germany near Issum, assembling for the Rhine assault. March

23 - watched British bomb - heaviest & most concentrated artillery and bombing preparations of the entire war. The attack was begun and continued - firing 57 mm Anti-Tank gun into a house trying to knock out enemy fire.

This was the first time I ever shot at a man with my 45 pistol. After crossing the Rhine we could see American paratroopers were dropping out of planes and many were being shot down. My Squad captured more than 20 - 30 men during this time, sending them to the rear of the line with MP's. On April 1 our 30th Division was assigned to XVth A-B Corps, advanced NE 58 miles behind British Sixth Armored Division and 17th Division to Assembly area at Drenstrenfurt, preparing to mop up after the Second Armored.

April 6, we reached the Weser at Hamem, having mopped up behind the 2nd Armored to the River. Battalions crossed on the 2nd Armored bridgehead. Took Hamem on the next day. I remember the snow there - very deep - many people killed. In a few days we had advanced 58 miles to Bettmar behind Division Calvary and armored screen. On the 12th of April we captured Brunswick and moved out the same day. April 14th we reached the Elbe River at Rogatz, receiving stiff opposition from S.S. men and Junior S.S. men (very young, maybe 12-15 years old - just kids really). I have a small pistol I retrieved from one of them that day.

April 16 we moved 20 miles sought to Guttenswagen, prepared to assault Magdeburg. The next day we began to take Magdeburg and completed on April 18th. We stayed here until May 2 and guarded the supplies and warehouses in the town. My Squad was in charge of guarding the warehouse with food upstairs and a wine cellar beneath, containing the best wines and liquors that came from France. (We did get to sample some.) A few of our men from the 117th sampled some alcohol in a tank car on the R.R. track when 2 of them started foaming at the mouth and died, later finding out it was alcohol fuel for the buzz bombs. On May 2nd, Russians entered the town, some walking. We were angered to see some of them push an old German couple down a steep embankment. They were so old and carrying their only possessions with them. We knew of some Germans who killed themselves rather than be under the Russian occupation.

After we crossed the Elbe River, we could have gone on and taken Berlin, because we had the strength and supplies, but because of the Potsdam Agreement between Stalin and Roosevelt, we had to wait for the Russians to meet us there.

May 8th V.E. DAY!! I was in Magdeburg and nearly went crazy after all the guns, bombs, screaming meemies, buzz bombs were silenced. 'After we had gone for 11 months or so listening to this day and night, the silence was maddening. This was difficult to overcome. We continued to occupy the town of Magdeburg and actually were the local government.

We left Magdeburg on May 26th going to Oelsnitz, Germany, called the Sedatenland in the Bohemian Mountains, one of the most beautiful places in the world. We stayed in a large castle overlooking an Olympic size swimming pool and other mountains. In this town there was housed a troop of ballet dancers, many of the best in the world. More ballet dancers came from that area than any other place at that time. They continued to practice their art even though everyone was hungry as food supplies had not caught up with them yet. Young children would get food from our garbage pit because a mess tent had

been set up for the soldiers. Because some of the children were getting sick with dysentery from this practice, we were ordered to burn the garbage. I became acquainted with one of the dancers and would often take her a chicken leg or two from my tray.

We left Oelsnitz on June 29th and next day arrived in Burstadt. There we stayed from June 30 - July 8th. On July 9th we arrived at Camp Oklahoma City - pup tent camp not far from Paris. I visited Paris a few times while there. You could take a carton of cigarettes and get \$300.00 for it. The children and ladies loved the chocolate bars we had in our K-rations.

July 30th, we arrived at Camp Lucky Strike, Normandy, France, staying only a day. We left by ship going to Tidworth Staging Area in England. We were there from August 1-13. We were scheduled to come back to the United States to train for active duty in the Pacific. I was in London the day the war was over, and even have a newspaper from that day. Words cannot describe how happy we were upon hearing that good news!

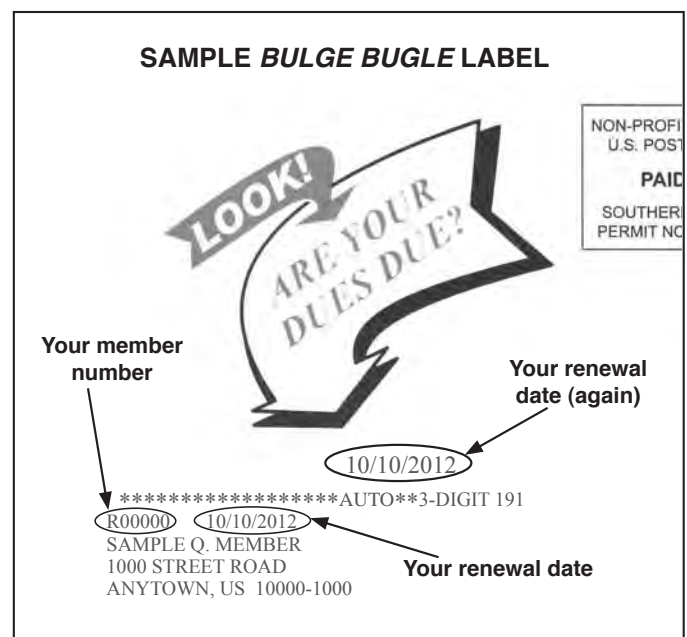
We loaded onto the Queen Mary on August 14 & 15 at S. Hampton England headed for home, and docked in New York City 5 days later. During the crossing I was in charge of the 15 PXs on the ship, along with 15 men assigned to me. All troops departed for Camp Kilmer, N.J. and the following day were on our way to Separation Centers throughout the U.S.

Upon returning home, I received 14 medals, 5 Battle Stars including the French and Belgium Fourragere. The 5 Battle Stars were Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes and Battle of Central Europe. I returned to Camp Shelby where I received my discharge, even though I had been offered a good promotion if I would remain in the Service, but I had enough of war and the Army and just wanted to be home.

The percentage of casualties of the 117th was 147.35. Very few of us made it all the way through from D+3 to Magdeburg and I was one of the LUCKY ONES.

THANK GOD!!!!

HOW DO I KNOW MY RENEWAL DATE AND MEMBER NUMBER?





WELCOME ABOARD!

We'd like to salute these new members—regular and associate—who joined VBOB between January 1 and June 25, 2012:

Retha M Robinette
Bessie Zillas
Arthur B Morrill III
Brian White
Darrin White
Adam Davis
Kurt Davis
Joel Davis
Mark Zangara
Robert E Anderson
Curtis Mark Sprouse
Henry A Dawson
Ann Sweat
Mary M Labella
Rebecca Fowler
Jeannie S Cravey
Leon Goldberg
Bernard Mrugala
Anthony Pepe
Don Pepe
Carole Giovacchini
Vern L Frank
Robert C Brown
Mary Hyre Scafidi
Criba (Belgium)
Brian J Emerick
Keith Serkes
Betty W Bishop
Mary Jane Ingui
Patsy Stephens
Marjorie Duffield
Werner Friedenberger
Justin Hoover

G L Steele
Rodrick L Kelley
Jon F Grubbs
Ervin Szpek, Jr
Lawrence Berkelhamer
Bruce Buit
Peter Avery
Carmen Hagen
Scott Waugh
Josph C Bowsher
Jim Maurer
Jerry Walsh
Rupert Starr
Karen Lindwall-Bourg
Donna Beverley-Meise
Sara Persselin
Luxembourg American
Cultural Center
Marilyn Huddleston
Michaeline Corkum
Dorothy W Sparks
Peter R Pettingell
Drake Szczepanski
Mark Parachini
Henry Campuzano
Mary Fraser Hodson
Richard E Stone
Donald D Stephens, Jr
Bernard L Wyatt
Philip M Walsh
Paul J Imber, Sr
Margery Pflughaupt
James L Young

Elizabeth A Lilly
Arthur S Emerson
Glen Hawley
Peter Hawley
Francis W Boyle
Luke Kinder
Julie Fredrich
Douglas E Wright
Joanne Hicks
Orlando J Rosado
Steven Fick
Roy Conners
Albert Panzinno
Andrea Pollinger
Chris Digregorio
Lyle Brewer
Matthew Gilman
Ada M Heckman
Walter C Bishop
John M Nolan
Scott Gericke
Simone Northrup
Edward Kotrady
Alain Larock
Brady Pigg, Jr
Carol Renfro
Patricia Paul
Janis Brenner
Oliver Wilcox
Michael J Glenn
Bill Huxley
Troy Nunley
Loree Pederson

Loren Johnson
Carolyn Truesdale
Timothy R Debick
Kevin Kelleher
Robert M Gaia
Daniel Reiland
Glenn Vance, Jr
Victoria L Hibbard
James Hastings
Sheila Shupe
Rosemary Pancake
John C Sito
William King
Vincent J Marino
Alan Caniglia
Barbara Boone Buescher
Neal Mccarthy
Chris Wolfe
Lisa Buchanan
Roger B Murray
Joe Pitzulo
Stephen Strand
Frank Gubbels
Donna Hazleton
Milton A Walker
Samuel Warm
Zechariah Brewer
Harry Wintemberg
Joelle Cole
Donald C Mayes
Ava L Mayes
Tom Henderson
Bernard Tillis

Wayne S Holmes
Marcia E Maeske
Allan Dullivan
W Glenn Damron
Ken Soderstrom
Linda Dahl
Jennifer Jahner
Paul Jahner
Glenn Mckay
Geoffrey Parker, Jr
Geraldine A Giesler
Myles Caryer
Laura E Mclaughlin
Martin R Dunetz
Jean Lau
Ruth S Gambescia
Nell S Mosley
Meyer Diamond
Mary Louise Vaught
Edward H Neilson
Luke Jackson
Dr Lon Keith
Gary Joy
Linda Peter
Dan R W Harrity Jr
Dave Fleischer
Jacklyn Ivy
Alan Katz
Marie Byford
Randal Corrigan
Andrew Borgia
Paul Burham
Francis Kazista

We certainly are pleased to have you with us and look forward to your participation in helping to perpetuate the legacy of all who served in that epic battle. You can help immediately by:

- Talking to people about VBOB and suggesting that they also join
- Sending us articles to be included in *The Bulge Bugle*
- Spreading the word about our website: www.battleofthebulge.org
- Attending our annual reunion, September 2012 in New Orleans

EDITOR'S NOTE: Due to a printer's error, some new members' names were misspelled in the February 2012 issue of *The Bulge Bugle*. We sincerely apologize for any errors or omissions.

HOW TO ACCESS THE BULGE BUGLES ON OUR WEB SITE

Our complete archives of *Bulge Bugles* are now on our website. Here's how to access them:

- Go to our web site: www.battleofthebulge.org
- Enter the password: readbugles!
- Click on the "Research" helmet
- Click on "Submit"
- Click on "Newsletter Archives"
- Follow the directions



HONORING WORLD WAR II VETERANS - 68TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

The Under Secretary of the Army, Joseph W. Westphal, along with a crowd of more than three thousand people honored World War II veterans at a reception at the Fort Myer Officers' Club and at a 'Twilight Tattoo' at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Virginia, on 6 June 2012. The theme of the reception and ceremony was "Saluting World War II Veterans on the 68th Anniversary of D-Day."

During the reception the Honorable Dr. Joseph Westphal welcomed the attendees and recognized, by name, the World War II veterans including Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. Those VBOB members recognized were J. David Bailey, 106th Infantry Division and VBOB President; LTC (R) Alfred H. M. Shehab, 38th Cavalry Squadron and VBOB Vice President for Military Affairs; COL (R) Douglass Dillard, 82nd Airborne Division and VBOB Executive Vice President; and Louis Cunningham, 106th Infantry Division, POW and Past President of VBOB.

United States senators also spoke to the assembled group and included Senator Frank R. Lautenberg (NJ), Senator Susan M. Collins (ME), and Senator Daniel K. Akaka (HI). Both Senators Lautenberg and Akaka served during World War II and Senator Susan Collins' father served in the European Theater of Operations. Also present for the reception and 'Twilight Tattoo' was former Georgia Senator Joseph Maxwell 'Max' Cleland, a Vietnam triple amputee, and currently Secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission.

Following the reception the World War II veterans were honored guests at the 'Twilight Tattoo' an hour-long military pageant featuring soldiers from the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment 'The Old Guard', the Presidential Salute Battery, the Fife and Drum Corps, the U.S. Army Drill Team and the U.S. Army Band 'Pershing's Own'.



(l-r) LTC (R) Alfred Shehab, VBOB Vice President for Military Affairs and J. David Bailey, VBOB President



U.S. Army Band 'Pershing's Own'



Former Georgia Senator 'Max' Cleland (foreground), Other VBOB'ers in first row - David Bailey, Louis Cunningham, Alfred Shehab, Douglass Dillard



(l-r) LTC Ruth Hamilton - VBOB Associate Member, LTC (R) Alfred Shehab - VBOB Vice President for Military Affairs, COL (R) Douglass Dillard - VBOB Executive Vice President

THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION, INC.
Invites You to Join Your Friends for the
“EVENTS OF REMEMBRANCE AND COMMEMORATION”
OF THE 68th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE
December 14, 15 and 16, 2012 Metropolitan Washington, DC

The Belgium Ambassador and Mrs. Matthysen have invited us again to their beautiful residence, on Friday, 14 December 2012, from 6:30 – 8:30 PM, for their wonderful reception. As a result we will hold our annual Commemoration Banquet, on Saturday evening, 15 December 2012, between 6:00 and 10:00 PM. Our speaker for the Banquet will be Lieutenant General Theodore C. Nicholas, Assistant Director of National Intelligence for Partner Engagement, Office of the Director of National Intelligence. Our bus trip this year on the 15th of December will be to Fort Mc Henry in Baltimore in commemoration of the 200th Anniversary of the War of 1812 and the composing of the Star Spangled Banner by Francis Scott Key. 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 City Metro Station and the Pentagon Mall. It provides easy access to Washington DC and has just completed major renovations for great accommodations. **We have managed again to retain the reduced rate of \$99.00**, single or double occupancy plus taxes, as well as food prices and free parking. **We have blocked 20 rooms so it is imperative to make hotel reservations immediately.** Parking is complementary. This rate is available for any night(s) between December 12 and December 18. For room reservations, please call the DoubleTree Reservations (1-800-Hiltons) or 703-416-4100 by **December 6, 2012**. Mention the **BATTLE OF THE BULGE** for this special rate.

•FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2012

- 2:00 PM – 9:00 PM **Registration & Hospitality Room open – Harrison/Jackson Room** - Receive name badges, Parking Passes, Banquet/bus tickets. Sign Attendance Books. (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 – 11:00 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.
- 4:00 PM We will be having our traditional **Tree Trimming Ceremony** “Salute to Bulge Veterans” in the Harrison Hospitality Room
- 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM Bus loads at 5:30 PM for **Reception** at beautiful Belgium Ambassador's Residence from 6:30 – 8:30 PM

•SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2012

- 8:45 AM - 9:00 AM Load buses and depart promptly at 9:00 AM for Fort Mc Henry, Baltimore MD.
- 10:30 AM We will first visit the new visitor center of this star shaped fort which defended Baltimore, from the British, during the War of 1812. In spite of the bombardment the fort held with the American flag still flying which inspired Francis Scott Key to pen the Star Spangled Banner which became our National Anthem. At 11 AM we will participate in their flag ceremony holding that special garrison flag by its edges, "a flag so large that the British will have no difficulty in seeing it from a distance." **If you have a Golden Age Card or National Park Service Pass please bring it.**
- 12:00 PM - 2:30 PM We will travel to Baltimore's Inner Harbor for lunch on your own and shopping at Harborplace & The Gallery.
- 2:30 PM Return to DoubleTree Hotel to rest and prepare for our annual commemorative Banquet.
- 5:00 PM Hospitality Room Closed till after Banquet.
- 6:00 – 10:00** **BANQUET AT THE DOUBLETREE CRYSTAL CITY HOTEL COMMONWEALTH ROOM.**
- 6:00 PM Social Hour/Cash Bar. Seated for Dinner at 6:45 PM.
- 7:00 PM Color Guard & Honors.
- 7:15 PM Dinner served: *Apple Brandy Pork Tenderloin OR Chicken Florentine*
- Program: Greetings from Dignitaries, Person of Year Award, Speaker LTG Theodore C. Nicholas
- 10:00 PM Hospitality Room open

•SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2012

- 8:45 AM - 12:30PM Bus loads 8:45 AM leaves Hotel promptly at 9:00 AM for **Wreath layings** at World War II Memorial, large VBOB Memorial, and Tomb of the Unknowns and changing of the Guard.
- 12:30 PM Return to DoubleTree Hotel for annual **VBOB Luncheon** in Windows Over Washington.
- 1:00 PM **Lunch 14th Floor** of hot soup, Grilled Chicken or Smoked Turkey sandwich, beverage and cookies.
- Swearing-in** of new National VBOB officers for 2013.

Notes: Free Airport shuttle provided by the DoubleTree Hotel every half hour, 3 miles from Reagan Washington National Airport. Free Shuttle from DoubleTree Hotel every hour on the half hour to METRO: Pentagon City (Blue/Yellow Line) and to Pentagon City Mall. Skydome Lounge for dinner, the area's only revolving rooftop lounge, for a spectacular view of Washington at night. 7/7/12

RESERVATION FORM
“REMEMBRANCE AND COMMEMORATION”
OF THE 68th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE
December 14, 15, and 16, 2012 Metropolitan Washington, DC

Return form and check by **December 7, 2012** 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: _____

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

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2012

4:00 PM	Tree Trimming Ceremony Harrison Room	_____ X	FREE	
5:45 PM	Bus to Belgium Ambassador Residence Reception	_____ X	\$20.00	\$ _____

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2012:

Chartered Bus: Ft Mc Henry Baltimore Bus Transportation	_____ X	\$35.00	\$ _____
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9:00 AM Bus Leaves for Ft Mc Henry

Commemorative Banquet, DoubleTree Hotel Crystal City	_____ X	\$65.00	\$ _____
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6:00 PM - 10:00 PM Please make your Main Course selection(s):

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Apple Brandy Pork Tenderloin | _____ (Names) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Chicken Florentine | _____ (Names) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Diabetic Meal | _____ (Names) _____ |

Sitting is assigned. 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: _____

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2012:

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

Depart 9:00 AM Unknowns & WWII Memorial

09:00 – 12:00 AM Wreath Laying Ceremonies: Number 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 2012 Commemoration): \$ _____

NOTE: Checks will not be deposited until 1 Dec 2012 so you can register now.

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

Signature: _____

NOTES & REMINDERS: Banquet Dress: Business suit/black tie optional (miniature medals encouraged) or military dress uniform
Room reservations must be made with the DoubleTree Crystal City directly, by **December 6, 2012** Telephone (1-800-Hiltons) Block of 20.
Return completed Reservation Form for events to BOB Historical Foundation ASAP but no later than **7 December 2012**.

No cancellation refunds after December 7, 2012.

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

7/7/12

DONATIONS

We thank the following for their generous donations, received between January 1–June 25, 2012:

Anness, Lowell	Derieg, Dominique	Haas, Bernard	Mead, Jr., Fred	Schooley, Michael J
Armstrong, William	Diglio, Michael	Hardy, Charles	Meinhart, Vincent	Serva, Casimer
Avedisian, Kachadour	Digregorio, Joseph	Henderson, Tom	Melleno, Felix	Shalhoub, Francis Jean
Babecki, Alfred	Doehring, Mrs. Herbert	Hinchy, Cornelius	Mest, Robert	Siebert, Oliver
Bailey, James	Dottore, Oliver	Hoffman, Sr, Donald	Meurisse, Andre	Siembor, Louis
Bardolf, Thomas	Douglas, Bobby S	Hostovichak, George	Montgomery, Philip	Strasser, Sherman
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Basler, Herman	Edquist, Glen	Hoy, Edward W	Murray, George	Theis, Robert
Berkelhamer, Lawrence	Ehringer, Lawrence	Hurd, Francis	Myers, William	Vassos, John & Joan
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Bott, John	Engle, Stephen G	Kesselring, Bruce	Orth, Herbert	Wenning, Ray
Bush, Kenneth	Evans, Allen	Kirtley, Marilyn	Pace, Andrew	Wenzel, John
Ciullo, Ralph	Evans, Tom H	Kizina, Charles	Pendleton, James	Whiting, William
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Colburn, Jr., James	Fiorella, Sr., Peter	Kuhnen, Carl	Puff, Paul	Zafonte, Leo
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Costales, Roberto	Garner, J W	Lombardo, Samuel	Reyome, Jack	
Crain, Charles	Gatens, John	Lone Star Chapter 50	Rhodes, Robert	
Dean, Dale E	Graham, Paul	Madson, Robert	Robinette, Retha M	
Demarcken, Christian	Gugel, Roland	Maskell, Richard	Schaefer, Vernon	

VBOB TOURS

2012 VETERANS TOUR HONORING GENERAL GEORGE C MARSHALL ON THE MARSHALL PLAN'S 65th ANNIVERSARY - Sept 29 - Oct 7 Arr Paris - Dept Paris. Franklin D Roosevelt and Winston Churchill hailed General Marshall as "the true organizer of victory." This tour covers Marshall's achievements in Europe. Firstly, the WW1 battlefields from Cantigny to the Meuse-Argonne where the young Marshall first showed his promise; then his greatest achievement, organizing the final defeat of Germany in WW2 and post-war European peace and security, in which we highlight Normandy, the Battle of the Bulge and the Marshall Plan.

2013 VETERANS TOURS Full color brochures of the following Veterans tours will be available on the VBOB website as soon as they are finalized (www.battleofthebulge.org). Remember, these are not just pilgrimage tours for our Veterans. They are also an important and essential service to our younger generations and friends of Veterans who want to learn as much as possible about our Veterans' achievements, so that they can proudly continue to commemorate and honor them over the years to come.

PILSEN LIBERATION FESTIVAL AND PRAGUE - MAY 3 - 12, 2013 Arr Frankfurt - Dept Prague. This is the biggest and most famous World War II Liberation Festival in Europe. It welcomes all American World War II Veterans as liberators and guests of honor with their families and friends. General Patton and Third Army who liberated western Czechoslovakia are especially revered.

MEMORIAL DAY 2013' IN THE BULGE, AND NORTHERN BULGE TOUR - MAY 22 - 30, 2013 Arr Brussels - Dept Frankfurt Memorialize those who gave the supreme sacrifice. You are guests of honor in the prestigious Memorial Day ceremonies at the Battle of the Bulge Cemeteries. Then we explore the Northern Bulge battlefields. The tour is of special interest to all First Army Veterans and their families. We also go through the Aachen/Rhine battlefields and Huertgen Forest. Our itinerary will be customized according to the requests of our group members.

LUXEMBOURG-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP FESTIVAL, AND SOUTHERN BULGE TOUR - JUNE 16 - 26, 2013 Arr Paris - Dept Frankfurt. The Luxembourg-American Friendship Festival celebrates the Battle of the Bulge and warmly welcomes all American World War II Veterans and their families as guests of honor. We explore the Southern Bulge battlefields in depth. This will specially interest all Third Army Veterans and their families. Our itinerary will be customized according to the requests of our group members.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about special customized group tours and/or the above tours, contact Doris Davis, President of VBOB Golden Gate (San Francisco) Chapter. Email doris@battleofthebulge.org Tel (650) 654-0101 (PST).



MEMBERS: IN MEMORIAM

In 2011, we began honoring our recently fallen comrades by listing them in *The Bulge Bugle*. Please notify us when you hear that any member of our organization has recently passed away, so that we may honor them in a future issue.

Notifications can be sent by mail to: Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc., PO Box 27430, Philadelphia, PA 19118-0430; by phone: 703-528-4058; or by email to: tracey@battleofthebulge.org. Please notify us of any errors or omissions.

We have received word, as of June 25, 2012, that these members of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc. have also passed away:

2011

Aulston, Russel
Boeger, Erving L
Booth, James E
Carr, Sr., James W
Chandler, Maurice A
Defauconval, Charles
Emerson, Robert W
Evans, Martin
Futscher, Maynard B
George, Donald W
Hardeman, Russell
Hazelgrove, Paul V
Henne, David S
Ioanes, Edward H
Klotz, Harry E
Labella, Sebastian H
Levy, Leon C
Mansfield, Walter
Meier, Carl
Moore, Bill
Mosley, John
Nelson, Jr., Wilbur O
Peters, Daniel
Petrick, Michael C
Rich, Gordon
Ruether, Wilbert

Smith, Harold C
Sparks, Harold B
Thomas, Donald T
Thomas, Kenneth B
Trebisacci, James V
Vetrovec, Robert S
Vine, Rueben W
Vivian, Robert W
Walker, Harold R
Walker, Russell R
Walton, Wesley W
Warmouth, James E
Wenzel, William W
Werts, Merrill H
Williams, Jr., Frank J
Womack, Clarence W
Woodhouse, Richard F
Ziebell, John L

2012

Belcher, Lewis E
Benesch, George
Bill, Maxi
Bloomer, Vernon L
Boldt, Leland H
Borgia, Andrew A
Campton, Laurence R.

Comly, Edward
De La Motte, Conrad
Everett, Raymond
Grimo, Pasquale L
Houtz, Russell J
Hurley, James F
Jahner, Peter
Jones, Jack
Kiendl, Jr., Theodore
Kleven, Joseph
Lebda, John
Litsinberger, Alton L
Lyll, Clarence O
Mankowsky, Leon
Melton, William
Nolle, Willis
Patterson, Raymond W
Patterson, William
Ranger, Hubert O
Richards, Richard
St. Amand, Gerard R
Stanton, Donald
Temple, Jr., Will S
Watkins, James
Wynn, Jesse
Young, Clyde



VBOB QUARTERMASTER ORDER FORM

IMPORTANT NOTE: QM prices are changing, due to increased manufacturing and shipping costs. Therefore, we will no longer accept old QM forms from previous issues of the *Bulge Bugle*. Please complete this form and send your payment to the address listed below.

AUGUST 2012

Please ship the selected items to:

Name _____
(First) (Last)

Address _____
(No. & Street) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

Telephone number _____ E-mail address _____

ITEM DESCRIPTION	PRICE EACH	QUANTITY	TOTAL PRICE
VBOB logo patch 3" <i>BACK IN STOCK!</i>	\$4.50		\$
VBOB logo patch 4"	\$5.50		\$
VBOB logo decal 4"	\$1.25		\$
VBOB windshield logo 4"	\$1.25		\$
VBOB logo stickers 1 1/8" (in quantities of 10)	\$1.25		\$
Baseball cap with 3" VBOB logo patch (navy, solid twill)	\$12		\$
Windbreaker with 4" VBOB logo (navy only) Please circle size (they run a little snug): S M L XL XXL XXXL XXXXL	\$36		\$
VBOB logo lapel pin 1/2"	\$5		\$
VBOB logo tie tack	\$3.50		\$
VBOB challenge coin 1 3/4" NEW ITEM!	\$10.00		\$
Miniature VBOB logo medal with a ribbon (pin-on type)	\$8.50		\$
VBOB logo belt buckle (gold tone only)	\$16		\$
VBOB logo bolo tie silver tone or gold tone (please circle one)	\$16		\$
VBOB license plate frame with logo (white plastic with black printing)	\$7		\$
VBOB 100-sheet note pad with logo "This Note is from....A Veteran of the Battle of the Bulge" (white paper with blue printing)	\$6		\$
Large VBOB logo neck medallion with a ribbon (Ideal for insertion in medal shadow box)	\$25		\$

***SHIPPING AND HANDLING:**

Cost of items up to \$5.00: \$3.00

Cost of items \$5.01 to \$10.00: \$4.00

Cost of items \$10.01 and over: \$8.00

International Shipping: Please add \$4.00 to the shipping charges for delivery outside the USA

COST OF ITEMS: \$ _____

ADD S & H*: \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Only cash, check or money order accepted. Make checks payable to: VBOB

Do not include any other monies with QM payment.

Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

MAIL ORDERS TO: VBOB-QM, PO BOX 27430, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19118-0430

Questions? Call 703-528-4058

ORDER ONLINE AT WWW.VBOB.ORG



THE VBOB CERTIFICATE: Have you ordered one?



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

You do not have to be a member of VBOB to order one, but the veteran must have received

the Ardennes credit. This beautiful certificate is produced on parchment-like stock and is outlined by the full color World War II insignias of the major units that fought in the Battle of the Bulge, starting with the 12th Army group, then followed numerically with Armies, Corps and Divisions and the two Army Air Forces. We wished that each unit insignia could have been shown, but with approximately 2000 units that participated in the Bulge, it was impossible. However, any unit that served in the Bulge would have been attached to or reported through one of the unit insignia depicted. You may want to add one of the veteran's original patches to the certificate when you receive it. **Please allow approximately 4 to 6 weeks for delivery.** The certificate will be shipped rolled in a protective mailing tube. **Please be sure that you write the name, service number and unit as you would like it to appear on the certificate.** The unit name should be as complete as possible because you want someone reading it to understand what unit the veteran was in. We will abbreviate it as necessary. It is important that you type or print this information and the unit must be one of the 2,000 units authorized for the Ardennes Campaign credit that is in the Official General Order No. 114 for units entitled to the Ardennes Battle Credit and will be the basis for sale of the certificate. **The cost of the certificate is \$15 postpaid.**

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Certificate Order Blank

I request an 11" by 17" certificate and certify the veteran named below received credit for the Ardennes campaign.

I have enclosed a check for \$15 for the certificate. Please include the following information on the certificate:

First Name _____ Middle Initial _____ Last Name _____

Serial Number _____ Rank _____ Unit _____

Organization _____

(usually Company, Battalion and/or Regiment and/or Division)

☐ Killed in Action

☐ Died of Wounds

Signature _____ Date _____

Mailing Information:

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone number _____ E-mail address _____

VBOB member: ☐ yes ☐ no *(membership not a requirement)*

Make checks out to VBOB for \$15.

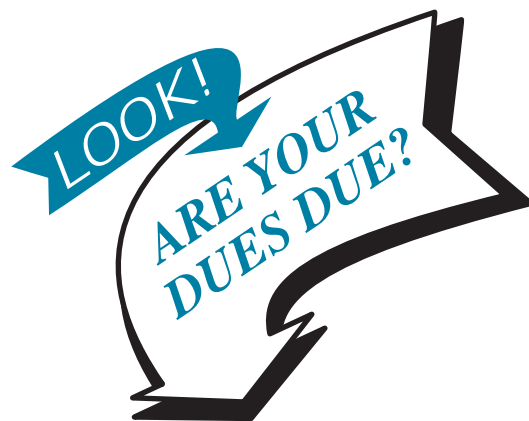
Orders should be mailed to: VBOB Certificate, PO Box 27430, Philadelphia, PA 19118-0430

Questions can be directed to John D. Bowen, telephone: 301-384-6533 or by e-mail to: johndbowen@earthlink.net



VETERANS of the BATTLE of the BULGE

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August, 2012

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form on pg. 17

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APPLICATION FOR NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge

PO Box 27430, Philadelphia PA, 19118-0430

ANNUAL DUES \$15.00

☐ Regular Membership ☐ Associate Membership ☐ New ☐ Renewal - Member # _____

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

Name _____ DOB _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Campaigns _____

All regular members please provide the following information below:

Unit(s) to which assigned during the period 16 Dec 1944 to 25 Jan 1945 - Division _____

Regiment _____ Battalion _____

Company _____ Other _____

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

Relative of the Bulge Veteran _____ Bulge Vet's Name and Unit _____
(wife, son, daughter, niece, etc.)

☐ Historian ☐ Other Associate's Military Svc (dates) _____ Branch _____

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

Make check or money order payable to VBOB and mail application