

The BULGE BUGLE

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

VOLUME XVI NUMBER 4

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

NOVEMBER 1997



Stan Wojtusik
VBOB President

President's Message

VBOB President Addresses WORLD WAR II Monument Commission

This will be my last message to you as President of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. I would like to thank you for the privilege of having served as your president and to assure you that the reins are being delivered to the capable hands of George Linthicum. George will, I am sure, do a splendid job.

One privilege I recently enjoyed was representing VBOB before the World War II Monument Commission and herewith follows my testimony.

It is indeed a privilege to appear before you this afternoon in my position as President of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge.

We are veterans of World War II who fought and won the largest land battle ever fought by the American Army--a battle fought by 600,000 American men and women from December 16, 1944, to January 25, 1945, in the snow, sleet and freezing rain in the Ardennes Forest of Belgium and Luxembourg.

It was a battle fought not only against bitter weather, but against Adolph Hitler's fanatical SS troops

and the German Wehrmacht. It was a battle fought and won despite heavy odds, but win it we did.

I am here before you today--almost 53 years after that battle for freedom, to speak for our members in support of a lasting memorial--here in America--that not only honors those who fought in the Ardennes and in Europe--but to honor the thirteen million American men and women who fought and won battles great and small around the globe.

The men and women who endured brutality

(Continued on Page 3.)



UNVEILING OF VBOB MONUMENT AT WAR COLLEGE CARLISLE, PA

Maj. Gen. Robert H. Scales, Jr., Commandant of the U.S. Army War College, David F. Nicholas, President of the Southcentral Pennsylvania Chapter, and National President, Stan Wojtusik unveil the monument September 17th.

**BIG DECEMBER
VBOB EVENTS ... Page 14**

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CONTACT THE CHAPTER IN YOUR AREA. YOU WILL BE GLAD YOU DID.

**We can help you
form a chapter
in your area.**



and torture in the Bataan Death March--the Marines who fought and died at the Tennara River of Guadalcanal--the flyers from Torpedo Squadron Eight who perished to make the victory at Midway possible.

Many of those well-known battles have their own monuments or memorials in various locations here in America, and in the far-flung theaters where they took place.

But it is astonishing to me--and to our members--that here in the Nation's Capital there is no monument or memorial which calls attention to--and honors--the American people who united as one to lead the Allied World to victory in World War II.

Believe me, the American people from December 7, 1941, to September 1945, truly were one in their dedication to victory and freedom. From "Rosie the Riveter" to "the man behind the man behind the gun," to the little boys and girls who collected tin and iron for the war drives, and the parents and grandparents tending victory gardens.

Perhaps I am telling you what you have heard before--but this idea of a lasting memorial honoring those who participated in, and won, World War II, is very much on the minds and in the hearts of our members.

We fought for the American ideals of 1941-1945--God, country, home, and family. The ideas enunciated in our Declaration of Independence and in our Constitution.

Those ideas--and ideals--are still with us and we believe that the planned National World War II Memorial

can keep them alive for future generations. Generations that will continue to affirm the words of our Pledge of Allegiance ... "Liberty and Justice for All."

Just as these words were central to all Americans half a century ago, we believe that the memory of World War II is still central to all Americans who lived in those trying times, and who are still with us today.

Sadly, while others have seen memorials to later conflicts given prominent places in our Nation's Capital, and deservedly so, the memorials to World War II are in Arlington Cemetery and in countless large and small cities throughout the country.

We are calling upon you to rectify that omission by approving the planned World War II Memorial at the center of our government--and our great heritage--on the Capital Mall--on the 7.4 acre site that also includes the world-renowned reflecting pool.

I know some of the finest minds--architects, artists, historians, etc., etc. --have pondered long and deeply over the plans for this monument.

We feel the time for thinking about it, arguing about it, meeting about it, and discussing it, is running out. There are fewer of our World War II veterans alive each day. Your approval of the proposed monument will mean much to them and to their families.

VBOB Contributes \$10,000 to WWII Memorial



At the Annual Banquet closing the 17th Reunion, President Stan Wojtusik (L) presents VBOB's contribution of ten thousand dollars towards the WWII Memorial to Col. Kevin Kelley (USA), Project Manager for the memorial. Col. Kelley © was introduced by Executive Vice President George C. Linthicum (R).

VBOB MONUMENT DEDICATION

Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania

September 17, 1997

Attendees at the VBOB Reunion met at Carlisle Barracks, PA for the dedication of a monument to all who served in the Battle of the Bulge.

The site of the monument was a four acre grove designated "Battle of the Bulge Grove." Plans are to plant approximately 57 fir trees in the grove to simulate the forests of the Ardennes. Col. Tom Sweeney (Ret.), and his committee of the War College, devoted endless hours to the preparations for this day and their tireless efforts ensured this prestigious occasion.

Our sincere thanks go to Chapter President Dave Nicholas and the South Central Pennsylvania Chapter for their diligent efforts in making the reunion a success and also for the bronze plaque which was placed on the monument.

The stone for the dedication was donated by Charles R. DeChristopher, Sr., of the DeChristopher Brothers in Philadelphia. DeChristopher also donated the stone for the VBOB memorial in Hyannis, Massachusetts last year.

ARE YOUR DUES DUE?

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

IT'S A SMALL WORLD

I sure enjoyed your *Bulge Bugle* of February.

I was with the 246th Engineer Combat Battalion during the Battle of the Bulge on the northern shoulder after liberating many villages in southern Limburg, Holland. While fighting as infantry and combat engineers after the Bulge, I transferred to the 29th Infantry Division. I will never forget the weather or the buddies I left behind during that campaign. We have reunions and talk about it.

My buddies and I have joined the Southern California Chapter of the Battle of the Bulge. We sure had a great time in Whittier, California, in December and are looking forward to our next chapter reunion December 7, 1997.

We are getting more of the 246th Combat Engineer Battalion to join our Southern California Chapter. We expect to have many buddies at the reunion. I wish you had a reunion in Southern California.

[The following was extracted from an article Leo wrote in the 29th Division newsletter.]

...I read an article from Jan Hermens from Holland inquiring about information about American troops who liberated villages in his area and had stayed at his family's brick factory in September and October of 1944 during the war in Limburg, Holland.

Before I joined the 29th Division in February, 1945, I was with the 246th Combat Engineer Battalion and on September 29th and 30th, we engineers attacked the Town of Sittard, as infantry and with the tanks of the 113th Cavalry. After two days and many casualties we took the town. Sittard is just outside the Siegfried Line and near Jan Hermens' village.

Our battalion was resting in the area and some platoons were in the brick factories in Horensbeck, Sprecklesheide, Herelen, Winterhagen and other villages.

So when I read...about Jan Hermens, I wrote to Jan and told him I had met a family named Lovenich, and that one of the girls was Mia and that they had a brother named Leo, who had been taken as a forced laborer to France or Germany. ...Jan wrote me and said that after many phone calls to families with the last name of Lovenich, he had a phone call from Leo Lovenich, whose family had lived in Winterhagen and that he had a sister named Mia, and she said her family knew me. So after 52 years, I had contact with them. That's why I say it's a small world.

You are doing a great job with the VBOB magazine. Keep up the good work.

Leo Hernandez
246 CMBT ENGR BN
29 INF 116 INF

MORE ON III CORPS

Thank you for printing the Bulge Commendation on page 28 of the May *Bugle*.

Inasmuch as the activities of the III Corps in the Bulge Campaign have never received much publicity, possibly some explanation of the III Corps participation would be in order.

On December 16, the III Corps Headquarters was in Metz. As realization of the scope of the German attack became known, III Corps Headquarters was ordered to proceed to Arlon, Belgium, where it would be assigned the mission of reaching Bastogne. The Corps moved rapidly to Arlon, arriving there on December 20. The Corps was assigned the 4th Armored, 26th and 80th Infantry Divisions plus supporting units so as to form a complete combat unit. Despite enormous obstacles, the counterattack was launched on December 22 and of course as you all know, advance units of these divisions reached Bastogne on December 26. The III Corps was the first Corps to launch a counteroffensive in this campaign.

III Corps Headquarters was located just outside Arlon in what was said to be a former girls' school called "Chateau du Monarch." It was not too far from the railway station. On December 23, we had a welcoming reception from the German air force, when some 11 bombs were dropped nearby, blowing out most of the building windows. There were other nearby bomb runs on December 26 and 30 that finished off any remaining

windows in the building. Then we had a nightly visit by a single German reconnaissance plane. Obviously something was noted, for at nearly midnight on December 31, there was a single plane bombing run on our building. As I heard the bomb come whistling down, I dove for cover and realized we were in big trouble. The bomb squarely struck our building, went through the roof and two floors and lodged in the basement. It was a 500 lb. dud!

The next morning, as I watched the bomb demolition troops haul out the battered bomb, I said a silent prayer of thanks for our good fortune. I also said "thank you" to the German forced laborer who had probably sabotaged this bomb.

Don Johnson
III CORPS HQ G-2

ANOTHER TROOP SHIP TORPEDOED

Re: The *Leopoldville*. There was a second troopship torpedoed in the Channel by the same U-boat. On December 28 at 1440 the *Empire Javelin*, carrying the main body of the 15th U.S. Army Headquarters, took a hit in mid-channel, leaving it disabled. The men it lost were either blown overboard, or were trapped below decks. *Empire Javelin* was quickly surrounded by LST's, and a French frigate. They took us off, dumped us by landing craft in LeHavre with only the clothes on our backs. We were issued a blanket. We were put into a bombed out hotel for a week while SHAEF, busy with the Bulge, decided what to do with us.

When we caught up with our gear in Suippes, France, guys with girl friends in England got letters saying that Axis Sally had broadcast that the 15th U.S. Army had been sunk. We had no soldier insignia!

When the war ended, our CID found the skipper of the U-boat. He admitted that he knew of the *Leopoldville* and the *Empire Javelin*. ...Once I had my gear, and being ordnance trained in Aberdeen, before drill sergeants, I was sent into the Bulge, to find units, get them R&R, get them re-equipped. Except for a unit I hesitate to mention, all were anxious to get back at the Nazis. A tank battalion I located had a 1st lieutenant and 26 EMTs. The 66th in the pocket came under the 15th. Terrific guys, and had the distinction of accepting the last surrender in the ETO.

Having been trained in bomb disposal at Aberdeen (before drill sergeants), my job in clearing out the Bulge, was to debooobytrap any repairable armor, especially tanks, before taking them to the rear. All tanks were fitted at a railway works in France, with the tread floaters, giving them more grab in the mud.

...I was out in the Bulge for days at a time.... Out of it all came a deep affection and appreciation for the men of the Bulge. Churchill said it far better than I.

Robert J. Ruddy
707 TK BN

HOUSTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

I would like to respond to the letter on page 4 from B. D. Henderson, veteran of the 99 INF 394 INF 2 BN B and his experience with a funeral director about reserved space in the Houston National Cemetery in Houston, Texas.

The first bad piece of advice he received was from the Houston National Cemetery when they advised him that he should contact a funeral director and he could reserve a plot for him.

The second piece of wrong advice was from the funeral director saying he could take care of his plot reservation.

Both parties know better because no one can get a space assignment (reservation of a plot) as cemetery personnel will assign a grave site when interment is required. A reservation for burial space in national cemeteries is not authorized.

Mr. Henderson may be a victim of a scam being worked by the funeral director either accidental or planned...his requirements as to casket selection and type of services required and pre-payment required of all the costs suggest it. I would report this to the district attorney and get their reaction to the matter.

Apparently Mr. Henderson is from Texas. There are some additional national cemeteries in Texas that may be considered by him in case distance, etc., are more favorable to him, i.e., Ft. Bliss National Cemetery;

(Continued on Page 5)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Continued from Page 4)

Box 6342; Ft. Bliss, Texas 79906 and Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery; 1520 Harry Wurzbach Road; San Antonio, Texas 78029.

Kerrville and San Antonio National Cemeteries are closed for new veterans burial spaces. However, there are available spaces for burial reservations of family members already interred.

Because of my award of the Silver Star in the Battle of the Bulge, I have chosen to be buried in Arlington National Cemetery. My Silver Star award qualifies me for this. Even then I cannot reserve space for me there. My brochures from the cemetery are very clear on the note of unauthorized reservations of burial plots.

Roy W. Holmes
146 CMBT ENGR BN

FURTHER ON WWII MEDALS

I just received my copy of *The Bulge Bugle*, and noted on page 30 (August issue), your reference to an address you can write to get WWII medals. For your information, I wrote to this address on April 8, 1997, and 2-1/2 months later they responded to advise me that they no longer handle this. They referred me to: Commander VSE-A, U.S. Army Reserve Personnel Center, St. Louis, Missouri 63132-5200. I sent a request to them on July 8, 1997, to which I have not yet received a response. I'll let you know if I ever get a response to them. [Clyde's letter was dated August 11th.]

Clyde Walton
398 ENGR GS

OOPS--WRONG ADDRESS

Thank you very much for allotting me the lead-off position in the current *Bugle* (August, page 27). If my desired results are possible, you've given me a fine help toward that end.

Unfortunately, any letters sent to the address you have listed for me will never connect. That New Jersey address was Lt. Jacobs' address in 1966. He is no longer there, and even the address no longer exists.

When you print a correction, it would be effective to say that my address is: Tom Leamon, PO Box 58, Whately, Massachusetts 01093-0058.

Thank you for your help--both times!

Tom Leamon
75 INF 289 INF A

LEAVE THE DRINKS BEHIND

As is suggested on page 7 of the February 1997 issue, "The Battle of the Bulge: Its lessons are for your children and your children's children!...Remember."

With this in mind on a trip to San Francisco, I went with my son and grand children (ages 1 and 7) to the wonderful monument at Fort Miley Veteran's Affairs Medical Center.... The monument is in a fantastic location in the picnic area next to the canteen. It overlooks the Pacific Ocean and the hills above San Francisco.

My son brought a picnic lunch for the four of us. We sat down at the picnic table nearest the monument. As I opened the one bottle of beer in our picnic, the center police drove up and asked if we had any alcohol. They had us empty the beer bottle on the lawn and took information from my driver's license and my son's drivers license. They said they would let us off with a verbal warning. There were no signs indicating alcoholic beverages were prohibited.

I trust writing this letter will save problems for fellow veterans of the Battle of the Bulge.

Milton Weiner
106 INF 424 INF M

HEY, WHAT ABOUT THE ARMY AIR CORPS?

The Bulge Bugle does not seem to have much information about the Army Air Corps.

I was a radar technician in the 370th Fighter Group, 402nd Squadron. Enclosed are some clippings from the *Stars and Stripes* during the Bulge. Our group took part in the bombing raids over the targets mentioned in these articles. [Ed: Articles appear elsewhere in this

issue.]

If the Germans had broke through, we would have lost our airfield to them. The situation was so bad that the "Red Ball Express" was waiting with motors running to evacuate the airfield, leaving some personnel behind to destroy various buildings.

The instant the weather cleared, our P-38s were off bombing and strafing, returning just long enough to refuel, load bombs and ammunition for another run.

We were all happy when we didn't hear the big guns anymore and the trucks left. Then, we knew that the Germans had been stopped.

Kenneth E. Sangmaster
9 USAF 370 FGHT GP 402 SQD

NORMANDY WALL OF LIBERTY

Regarding "Normandy Wall of Liberty" article on page 22 of the May 1997 issue, please be advised that I sent a certified letter to that suggested address on June 13, 1997. It was undelivered and returned with a forwarding or new address of PO Box 2310, Merrifield, Virginia 22116-2310.

I remailed the original letter via certified mail to that second address. It now has been returned to me as "Unclaimed" by the U.S. Postal Service.

I did read some place awhile back that this promotion is now under investigation by the FBI in Washington, DC. Do you now have any further info on this? One of the two signatures on the plaque I received for the \$40.00 I paid is that of none other than Pierre Salinger as "Wall of Liberty Campaign Chairman."

Harold M. Fruetel

[Editor's Note: Well, this organization has turned out to be very elusive. Since we published that address, they must have closed up shop. Upon checking, we find that the telephone numbers we had have also been disconnected. We'll keep trying to locate them. Quite some time ago, when we were looking, I left a message on Mr. Salinger's answering machine, but guess what? He didn't call back. As for the FBI looking into the matter, I don't know. If I hear anything, I'll let you all know.]

CAMP ABBOTT, COMBAT BOOTS AND RATIONS

I read with some interest the letter from Kenneth Prichett in the August *Bugle* about Camp Abbot, Oregon, combat boots and rations. It did not sound like the Camp Abbott where I took my basic training from July until early October, 1943. As far as I know we were the first group to go through the 13 weeks of basic training at this new facility. There were at least three battalions, the 51st, 55th and 56th, training at the camp. My records do not indicate whether the 52nd, 53rd and 54th Battalions were also training there. I was in the 1st Platoon, Company B, 55th Battalion. Capt. Byrd was the Company Commander, Lt. Pond the Platoon Leader, Sgt. Ryzanych the Platoon Sgt. and Cpl. Hasset was his assistant.

Camp Abbott was dedicated on September 2, 1943, while we were still in training. The camp was under the command of Col. Frank Besson. In fact we were a part of the dedication ceremony. I still have the booklet, with many pictures and names, that was given to us after the dedication. I also have a number of pictures that I took myself of my platoon and company during various training exercises.

The reason I'm giving all of these mundane facts is to establish that I was one of the first to go through basic training at Camp Abbot. Everyone, including officers and cadre wore standard GI issue leggings. There were no combat boots visible in any of the pictures that I took or in the many pictures in the dedication booklet.

I came from the induction center to Camp Abbot with leggings, I left with leggings, I went to England with leggings, and I went to Normandy the 9th of July 1945 with leggings. I am not sure when we were issued combat boots but I think it was late August or early September of 1944, some place in France.

Mr. Prichett is correct about the three-day experiment with the "D" rations. I do not know if the Army considered it a success or not. At least they found out that after three days on "D" rations they needed to send in the replacements.

Thomas B. Tucker
5 INF 7 ENGR CMBT BN B
(Continued on Page 6)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Continued from Page 5)

[Thomas sent us a picture of himself in leggings. We will publish it elsewhere in this issue if space allows.]

RECOGNIZING ALL WHO SERVED

I'm a long time member of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge organization and have, until recently, appreciated it's alleged representation of the hard fighting men of America during WWII.

You have published countless stories and letters over the years about the heroics of many American warriors involved in what is characterized as the biggest battle ever fought by Americans. I'm disturbed, if not distressed, because not a single story addressing the contribution and value of support troops (mostly black) has been published to date.

One million African-American men were involved in WWII and two of them died in my arms at Bastogne from enemy bombs.

I resent published implication that white soldiers alone defeated cold-blooded Germans and I'm equally appalled that VBOB Editors have not recognized that gross omission of fact.

I refuse to accept the traditional weak response offered by VFW magazine editors when confronted with the same question about the omission of the African-American GI involvement.

The VFW used the lame excuse that [it] was an unintentional oversight because African-Americans have not made known their concerns. How can one with 20/20 vision not see a raisin in a glass of milk.

Must I suspect this publication as being one supportive of racism and bigotry?

We, men of the 998th QM Salvage Collecting Company, assigned to Third Army, were awarded Silver Battle Stars for unmatched service to fighting men a quarter to a half mile away on the lines. Half of a sister company, the 237th QM Repair Unit, was blown away in a split second, meeting their responsibility of putting back into service materiel we "Rag Pickers" recovered under fire.

General George S. Patton, Jr., cited the 998th QM Salvage Collecting Company for the quality of service rendered because of difficulty getting equipment and supplies into Europe from the U.S. We met our assigned responsibility of collecting gear and equipment abandoned on smoldering battle lines, hauling gasoline and ammunition to the front and bodies back to the graves registration companies.

Your editors and many men seeking credit for single-handedly winning the war are encouraged to apologize to the courageous men of the black trucking company, better known as, "The Red Ball Express," the Tuskegee Airmen, etc., long over due for equal, if not special, recognition for valor during the Battle of the Bulge.

In a few days I'll be 77 and fighting terminal cancer, but I'm not too sick to wage war against inequality for the apparent "invisible black men" of WWII.

Hugh F. Semple, Sr.
998 QM SAL COL

[From the Editor: I continue to be amazed that we receive letters indicating that we have intentionally failed to recognize the efforts of any one or any unit. We have explained countless times, that we depend on YOU to provide us with information regarding your unit.

We do not plead oversight. We have published a few stories about black units—one was in the February, 1997, issue and in 1995 we published an article on the 761st Tank Battalion. Apparently, this is all we have received.

We would be happy to hear from many of the smaller units regarding their activities in the Bulge. So, if you want it in "The Bugle," you've got to send it in.]

TEXAS AGGIES CARRIED THEIR SHARE OF THE LOAD

In the February *Bugle*, Whitmore came to the defense of the field artillery performance, which had been put down by a captured German battery commander. In May, 1997, *Bugle*, I do take offense at Mr. Powers' inference that the artillery's poor performance might have been because most of the artillery officers came from Texas A&M. Either Mr. Power is from a college that is jealous of the military and intellectual qualities of Texas A&M, or he is not familiar with our accomplishments.

Before I quote some facts and figures about Texas A&M, let me say that I was a field artillery officer, trained at Texas A&M and Ft. Sill. I served

as a forward observer through three European campaigns, including the Battle of the Bulge. I served as air observer the last six weeks of the war. I received the Purple Heart and the Air Medal with four clusters. To my knowledge, neither myself or my crew ever fired short rounds into our troops.

During the war years, Texas A&M was an all male military school. With rare exception the entire class of 1942, 1943, and 1944 served in some branch of the service during the war. I know we furnished more officers than West Point, and I believe we furnished more officers that West Point and Annapolis combined.

During World War II, 20,000 plus Aggies served their country, of which 14,000 plus were officers. Of the 20,000 plus who served, 916 gave their life for their country. Of the 14,000 plus officers, 29 held the rank of general or better. The Congressional Medal of Honor was awarded to seven Texas Aggies.

Whether Mr. Power likes us or not, I believe these figures show that Texas Aggies carried their share of the load.

E.A. Leonard, Jr.
87 INFD 336 FA BN

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

Thanks to Russel Zeleniak for setting the record straight on how the spearhead of the German offensive into the Bulge was stopped. Our division, the 2nd Armored, had been fighting northeast of Aachen with the Ninth Army when the Bulge offensive started. We were ordered to move 100 miles southwest overnight on December 21-22 and to take on the German spearhead near the Meuse River, the first objective of Hitler's plan to then swing north and take Antwerp. How we found the 2nd Panzer Division and destroyed it is also described in *A Soldier's Story*, by Omar Bradley, 1951 (pages 481-482) and in *2nd Armored Division History*, Turner Publishing Co., 1991 (pages 37-40).

I've seen the same misleading PBS documentary about the Bulge that Zeleniak saw. Like other popular accounts, this focuses on Bastogne, the Third Army, and the 101st Airborne Division. Important as these troop actions were, they could not have stopped the German offensive by themselves. At least as important were the heroic, week-long delaying action by the 7th Armored Division at St. Vith, the crucial stand of several divisions at Monschau and along the north shoulder, and courageous actions by numerous units that held up the German columns until U.S. reinforcements arrived. The paratroopers and Patton's troops at Bastogne were simply a few of the many units that did the job that was handed them—and did it at a crucial time.

It would indeed be a public service if the media could somehow be persuaded to give credit for this victory, not just to the few units with the best public relations machines, but to the many that made crucial contributions. We owe it to history and to the memory of those who perished in the battle.

Bob Bragdon
2 ARMDD 66 AR 1 BN

GOLDEN GATE in '98

18th ANNUAL

VBOB REUNION

San Francisco

Airport Marriott Hotel

September 3-7, 1998

Your host—the Golden Gate Chapter

Complete details in next issue

ANGELS OF MERCY... THEY SURELY WERE

The majority of soldiers who served in World War II at one time or another needed medical treatment. Without the treatment provided at the medical tents many would not have survived.

Under primitive conditions, the medical corps men, nurses and doctors saved many lives and improved the spirits of many more.

THE NURSES

These courageous young ladies served as surrogate mother, girl friend, sounding board, letter writer, counselor, etc., etc., to any and all who needed their help. This page honors three of them even though we know there are thousands more out there.

Mary E. Arthur nee Hill, 135th General Hospital:



Mary married a staff sergeant she met overseas while on leave. They were married at the post chapel of a convalescent hospital in Daytona Beach, Florida, where Mary completed her last assignment.

She has two lovely daughters, and three grandsons (one set of identical twins).

Her husband passed away of a massive heart attack in 1977.

She now lives in Pennsylvania just a few miles away from one of her daughters who sees to it that Mary's every need is taken care of.

Mary carried on a correspondence at Christmas time with some of the soldiers she met, but they have dwindled off to the point where there is just one left and he isn't much for writing--only a line or two.

When the war in ETO was over they asked for volunteers for the Pacific and Mary was the first (and maybe only) to do so. News of the A Bomb put an end to that--she already had her shots. It was just as well, as she was stricken with a ruptured appendix shortly thereafter.

Ruth Puryear, 107th Evacuation Hospital:

Ruth had been married 6-1/2 years when both she and her husband volunteered for the service. He was an engineer and the Seabees were happy to get him. The navy didn't want married nurses, so Ruth wound up in the Army.



At the recruiting office for nurses they told Ruth she would never go overseas because she was married and "over 30." Well,

eight weeks later she landed in Belfast, Ireland. From there it was on to England and wading ashore on Omaha Beach. Her husband on the other hand was in the U.S. for eight months and then went to the Pacific.

After moving all across France to Brest, in October, 1944, she "set up" near Bastogne.

With the break through they had to move--taking the patients with them on trucks. As the Germans advanced they moved again and finally moved on to an old textile mill in Sedan, France, where they were flooded with patients from the Bulge--sometimes working 18 hours straight. During the 259 combat days, the 107th Evacuation Hospital admitted 21,250 patients and performed 9,364 surgeries.

Sworn in on the same day, both Ruth and her husband were discharged on the same day in December, 1945. Her husband passed away in 1967.

Ruth lives in Richmond, Virginia, where she has been very active in local veterans groups and she can always be called upon by VBOB for help in any way. She also has some darned good stories to tell.

Dorothy Davis nee Steinbis,

57th Field Hospital:

Dorothy was born on a farm, homesteaded by her grandparents in Tulare, South Dakota. She later graduated from the School of Nursing, University of Minnesota.

After graduating she joined the Army Nurse Corps, serving from February 1944 to February 1946. Most of that period was spent with the 57th Field Hospital, providing medical care to the wounded of the Battle of the Bulge, Colmar Pocket, Rhineland Campaign and prisoner of war camps. Christmas of 1944, in the frigid cold and snow of the Voges Mountains with a steady stream of casualties coming to the hospital was indeed, a long way from her safe home in South Dakota.

After the war, Dorothy married William V. Davis, a career Army Medical Service Officer. For the next 28 years, Bill, Dorothy and their three daughters led a very adventuresome life in the Army as they traveled to interesting assignments in the United States, Japan, France, and Germany. Her husband was on the staff of Percy Jones General Hospital, in Battle Creek, Michigan, during the period when Senator Dole was a patient there. After Bill's death in 1979, Dorothy continued her interest in the military services.

Dorothy is a charter member of VBOB and presently is the Corresponding Secretary. She is Past President of the Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation and now serves as its Executive Officer--providing administrative assistance in collecting and preserving the history of the Battle of the Bulge and the development of the Bulge Memorial Conference Room at Fort George G. Mead, Maryland. She has held various American Red Cross volunteer leadership positions. She was the first woman to hold the position of Commander of the General George G. Meade Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars.

Dorothy resides in Rockville, Maryland, near her three daughters and their families, including two granddaughters.



SPECIAL TO THE BULGE BUGLE

Submitted by Jack Hyland, 84th Inf. Div.

At 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, September 17, 1997, a warm sun came from behind the clouds and shone down on the U.S. Army War College at historic Carlisle Barracks. It shone on some 800 veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, their families and friends, who were there to dedicate a granite monument to the 600,000 American men and women who defeated three German armies in the Ardennes Forest of Belgium and Luxembourg 53 years ago this December.

The veterans came to Carlisle, PA, from all over the country, and the audience included high-ranking officers and enlisted men of today's Army, and distinguished representatives of Belgium and Luxembourg.

The dedication of the monument was, for many, the highlight of the 17th Annual Reunion of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, held that week in nearby Gettysburg.

Maj. Gen. Robert H. Scales, Jr., commandant of the War College, and a combat veteran of Vietnam, was the keynote speaker for the ceremonies. He had high praise for those who fought in the Ardennes, telling the veterans "You gave us a great lesson in what courage is all about. All of us in uniform today, veterans and newly-minted privates are forever in your debt."

Col. Tom Vossler, director of the U.S. Military History Institute at the post, in his remarks said "I consider each and every one of you to be heroes and heroines of this great country." He continued, "You provided the best possible examples of the courage and dedication required to keep this country free."

The monument was unveiled by Gen. Scales, VBOB President Stanley A. Wojtusik, and David Nicholas, president of the South Central PA VBOB Chapter, host chapter for the reunion. The chapter members had raised the funds to donate the bronze tablet inset in the monument, which was donated by noted Philadelphia architect Charles DeChristopher & Sons.

Following the unveiling, Gino Merli, Medal of Honor recipient from the Susquehanna, PA, Chapter, and Ted Paluch, Malmady Massacre survivor from the Delaware Valley Chapter, placed a memorial wreath at the foot of the monument. They were accompanied by the Hon. Carlo Krieger, deputy chief of mission from the Embassy of Luxembourg, and by LTC Raymond Pierlot, Assistant Defense Attache from the Embassy of Belgium.

A rifle salute by the troops from Carlisle Barracks, and Taps closed the ceremony on the five acre plot at the War College, which will now be known as the Battle of the Bulge Memorial Grove. The setting is right beside Collins Hall, the newest facility on the post, named for the late Army Chief Of Staff, Gen. J. Lawton Collins, who commanded the Seventh Corps in the Bulge.

A solid phalanx of military flags provided the background for the monument during the ceremonies, creating a colorful display of the Army's history. They will be replaced by the post engineers with some 57 plantings that will grow into an arbor setting creating an atmosphere recalling the Ardennes woods, so familiar to VBOB members.

In his remarks, VBOB President Wojtusik, noted that the location of the monument is particularly significant, since it will be viewed by high-ranking officers from all branches of the U.S.

(Continued on Page 26)

THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR PERSONAL HISTORY

[We received a letter from Associate Member HOWARD FLEN, who calls our attention to the importance of leaving behind your personal history of your World War II experiences. Howard speaks of the desire of families to know about these experiences and from our own experience, we know how desperate these families are to learn this information. Howard developed the following guide to help you to recapture your autobiography. We hope when you finish preparing your history, you will provide this office with a copy.]

GUIDE TO PREPARE YOUR SERVICE RECORD

Start off with the full name you used upon entering the service. Include your serial number and full information on the unit you served in, i.e., division, regiment, battalion, company, or battalion, battery, etc.

1. A) Where and when were you inducted in the service?
- B) Where did you take your basic training and what do you remember about it? Do you remember anyone you trained with?
- C) Were you at any other military bases? Did you take ASTP training?
- D) Where and when were you sent overseas?
- E) What bases, depots were you sent to?
2. A) Tell about your experiences starting with the time you were sent into the line.
- B) Who were some of the guys in your unit and what do you remember the most about them? Include their home towns if you remember them.
- C) Get a map of Europe/Far East and trace the route of your unit.
- D) Do you remember any incidents, events, amusing incidents that impressed you? This is an important part so elaborate on this part of your experiences.

If you are unable to put this on a computer, ask your grandchildren or a friend if they can help. Don't worry about spelling (except names of foreign towns, etc.), the computer can correct spelling errors. Be sure to tell your family you have prepared this and tell them where it is located.

After you have finished, check with your local newspaper. They may be interested in publishing your story. Remember, your history is important to your family and will answer many questions they may have in the years to come.

16TH FIELD ARTILLERY OBSERVATION BATTALION A BATTERY

[The following was received from ASHLEY J. ALTMAN, of the 16TH FIELD OBSERVATION BATTALION.]

Please add my testimony to the others--the Battle of the Bulge was in fact not a surprise, and the concentration camps in their horror did exist. With all of you, I, too, was there.

If my story is late--returned home, no one there had shared my experience. Some others had endured more, and deserved more to be heard. But in 1992 a memorial was planned at the Valley Forge Military Academy near where I live. Word was in the local papers and I learned then of the organized "Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge."

Coincidentally a letter came. "To whom it may concern" it said, signed by Howard Frey and Tom Davis, sergeants in the 16th FA Observation Battalion. They had researched phone directories, connecting names with old addresses. If I receive this letter (it said), please call. I did both, and that emotional phone conversation connection spanned almost 50 years. The floodgates of my memory were opened.

Howard was staff sergeant of my section and remembered well events we shared. Just a few words of mine that amused him so much, spoken half a century before in the heat of a skirmish, he now repeated back to let me know...he remembered me. I hadn't forgotten either, but for so many years it seemed it had been just a thought, unspoken. Howard had heard and remembered. Fleeting as that was, it reconnected us to another lifetime.

So in 1992, I first learned of the reunions of my battalion--men who shared a special bond. Bob Van Houten, a Past President of VBOB, was the non-com in charge of more than one forward observation post we manned together. Bob, and Dan Goldberg, too, had been through so much. I might see them again.

During the first week of December, 1944, we had been separated. Another man and I were posted with men of the 2nd Infantry in a concrete bunker of the Siegfried Line, inside Germany. This pillbox sat on a hillside in the cold, snow-covered Schnee Eifel region, adjoining the Ardennes Forest. In a small clearing, at an edge of the woods, it was approached by a trench running down through the trees, from the right of a road--a road ended right there with a mammoth coil of barbed wire. This I remember, maybe exaggerated by time, as some 12 feet high and stretched 40 or 50 feet across the road, between dense woods on either side. Close by, right alongside the road was another pillbox where the 2nd had set up a kitchen. From time to time we crawled back to get a hot meal, and from time to time a lunchtime shelling.

Down the slope where our bunker sat, the woods curved back a bit. The small clearing let us look down on the valley below. Here was the "BAR hole." About three feet by three with a cold mud floor, it was deep enough to crouch in, concealed. In shifts one of us shared this spot with an infantryman and his lethal Browning automatic rifle, as he watched for any movement. Wired to the sound base and command post, we waited to activate the base on any clear sight or sound of enemy artillery.

At the near right was a kind of berm-protected crawl-way into the pillbox. To the left about 30 feet the dense evergreen woods

began again. Near its edge, just within the clearing, in a blanket of snow lay the stiff frozen corpse of a German soldier. He was turned not quite full onto his back, facing into the woods where his fellow soldiers dared not crawl out for him--and not close enough to us, should we have wanted the body disposed of. There he remained.

For a number of days before December 16th the clear continual sound of convoys came through the woods from the enemy side. Rubber tired vehicles and the rumble of half-tracks or tanks could be told. Relief stops could be told. All of this was reported back to the CP by field phone. One call was transferred back to battalion and repeated. Only then was it understood that calls can be "patched" back to battalion HQ, we knew not where.

The Piper Cubs weren't out. The skies were close and gray. On the ground was snow, and it was cold, and sometimes fog hung over the valley below. Air recon might never see what was being heard. The 2nd Infantry left. Momentarily we were alone, til the 106th came in. The Battle of the Bulge, as it was to be called, would soon explode on top of us. It was no surprise.

The first reunion I could attend was in 1994. My skin chilled with excitement as Howard Frey showed me a photocopy prepared December 31, 1944. It said, "SECRET--AFTER ACTION REPORT"--and there was my name. I had, it said, "reported heavy enemy armor amassing all along the ridge prior to the attack. However, no report was taken by higher headquarters at corps when this information was reported." This was a formal report and, within a couple of weeks, contemporaneous. What I believed I alone knew, for 50 years, others had always know. And others, too, had reported.

Of little note, one thing was misstated--I had not come off the OP on the 15th, as it said, but on the 16th. Bob Van Houten and Dan Goldberg in their ill luck know this too well.

December 16th was to be the first day of a rotation relieving the men on this OP every couple of days. Given the sound, fury and fright of those early morning hours--rocket launchers screaming their fearful message, right here where the clusters burst from the mouths of the tubes--and all the time the pounding, thundering artillery--I knew all bets were off--don't expect to be relieved in the middle of this.

There was no phone contact to the command post. Our lines had been tapped and "Home, Sweet Home" played instead--hard to believe but true. The men of the 106th sharing our pillbox and lucky enough to come home--they can tell you.

Then, after a time that seemed eternal, the artillery and rockets were quieter. It wasn't likely they'd come up that steep slope straight at us. What might be going on back up the road, we couldn't guess. And we waited. It was 10:30 or 11:00 in the morning. Into the bunker walked Bob Van Houten and Dan Goldberg. "You're relieved," said Bob. "(Lt.) Scotty Bryan is waiting for you in his jeep up on the road."

The rotation was still on. Unknowing, we left behind our extra gear and personal stuff--taking little but our weapons and the clothes we wore. After all, we'd be back to relieve them in a day or so. That would be a long day--longest for Bob and Dan, left on their own with the 106th Infantry and soon to be captured and living through hell.

At the sound CP the order came by radio sending us back onto the road to St. Vith, but only in the late afternoon, after events that would make another story. In the days to follow the 16th FOB moved from one untenable position to another before regrouping. We then turned,

(Continued on Page 10)

16TH FIELD ARTILLERY OBSERVATION

(Continued from Page 9)

making our way back through some of the same places we had held before, ultimately crossing the Rhine south of Koblenz and going on into the heart of Germany to the Czech border. On the way, units we supported opened the concentration camp at Ohrdruf--and we were witness to some of the grim remainder of what you too may have seen, and surely heard, of the Holocaust. It happened. Don't let it be denied. It was there that General Patton was later reported physically ill at what he had seen. □

**Prayer Before VBOB Reunion Banquet at
Gettysburg, September 18, 1997
Given by James A. Clark
301st Signal Operations Battalion
Chaplain of the Delaware Valley Chapter,
VBOB**

Almighty God, in whom we live and have our being, we give you thanks for your goodness and mercy that has allowed us to once again gather together as old soldiers, who once in our youth were gathered from all parts of this great land and found ourselves in the Ardennes Forest of Luxembourg and Belgium during those bitter winter days of 1944 and 1945.

It is said that in a crisis a man's character is not developed—it is exposed. And as we remember those days in the Ardennes when the Nazi forces brought a crisis upon us, the character of the American soldier was one of sacrificial bravery and heroism was a common virtue.

In a moment of silence let us pay tribute to those sons and brothers, and husbands and buddies, who paid with their blood their last full measure of devotion to duty—never to return home. We remember also, our fellow members of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge who in recent years have passed away.

(Moment of silence)

And now, our Father, we ask you to bless our fellowship around these tables and bless the food we are about to eat to the nourishment of our minds, bodies, and souls.

This prayer we ask in the Name of Him whom every knee shall bow and every tongue confess as Lord and Savior. Amen.

REGIONS & CHAPTERS REPORT

Richard C. Schlenker, VP

As the end of another administrative year approaches, we wish to thank the chapters for the spirit of participation demonstrated this year.

The response to the program of reporting which was instituted last year has been outstanding.

Communications concerning meetings, ceremonies, membership, officers, suggestions, activities, speakers, etc., etc., were received from the following chapters (listed by number): 2, 3(3), 4(6), 7, 10(3), 12, 14, 18(2), 19(7), 22, 27, 30, 31, 36(5), 39, 41, 42(6), 44(2), 47, 48, 49 and 52.

We especially commend Susquehanna Chapter 19 (Northeastern PA) for their volunteer outreach of 585 hours of service to the Veterans Administration Hospital at Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

We currently number about 8,300 members in 52 chapters (approximately 800 in arrears). Good prospects for new chapters exist in Arizona, Arkansas, New York and Illinois.

We thank you for sharing your ideas and information with the national staff and encourage you to further share with other chapters in your area by forming regional organizations. Information on accomplishing this was shared with all chapters during the year.

BATTLE OF THE BULGE REENACTMENT

The dates for the 53rd anniversary reenactment commemoration will be January 30-31, 1998, at Fort Indiantown Gap, PA. The commemoration will consist of static displays of vintage WWII equipment and modern military equipment, a display of both Americans and Germans in authentic World War II barracks, a flea market of WWII memorabilia and a Bulge tactical reenactment.

A fun time for BOB veterans will be to stay in the original WWII barracks on Friday and Saturday nights. These barracks have been modernized with new latrines and heating systems. For Bulge veterans who have attended in past years, this has become a special event for the comradery and fun of reliving those barracks days of 50 years ago without the hassle that went with them. Last year, over a hundred veterans attended. The reenactors (over 1,000) are especially grateful for the presence of the veterans giving an opportunity to be appreciated for the sacrifices made those many years ago. The price for two nights of lodging, breakfast, dinner, and entertainment on Saturday is \$35, and can't be beat. There is now a women's barracks for the hearty; or, there are nearby motel accommodations for those who still have nightmares about their barracks days.

A number of chapters and divisional associations are sending contingents to this year's event at the Gap. Maybe your outfit would like to get a group together, rent a bus, or car pool among friends—this a great weekend. Please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to John D. Bowen, MD/DC Chapter VBOB, 613 Chichester Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20904-3331, or call 301-384-6533, for a registration form and further details on the event. The Fort Indiantown Gap Reservation is about 21 miles North of Harrisburg and is serviced by the Harrisburg Airport. Pickups at the airport can be arranged.



Carlisle Barracks, PA, September 17, 1997.
Roland Blue and Larry Tucker, Reenactors,
by the "Battle of the Bulge Grove" sign.

FURTHER ON THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE UNIT HISTORIES SPECIAL ISSUES

As we advised you earlier, it is our intent to publish special issues of *The Bugle* which will contain unit histories only. It is now time for you to begin to send these in to us.

Your unit's history should contain only details regarding the **Battle of the Bulge**.

By conforming to the following specifications, time will be saved on both ends. We can accommodate no more than one page per unit. So it is important that you carefully adhere to these requirements in order to avoid return of your article.

1. If at all possible, please submit your entry on a computer disk in WordPerfect 5.2. If this is not possible, typed copy is preferable.
2. Submit a reproducible copy of your unit insignia. If you do not have such an insignia, please put a note with your submitted copy so that we do not waste time in writing to make sure that you didn't forget to send it.
3. For purposes of determining the appropriate size, please use the following:
 - a. The margins should be one inch at the top and the bottom and both sides.
 - b. This is Courier 12 point type. If the type you use appears to be about this size. You may submit about 2 and 3/4 pages.
 - c. This is Courier 10 point type. If the type you use appears to be about this size, you may submit about 2 and 1/4 pages.
4. Be sure to check your article for accuracy not only in spelling of foreign words but for all details. We have no research staff, and therefore cannot be responsible for the information contained therein.
5. In the event there are questions or adjustments needed, please include the name of the person with whom we should correspond. We may also want to send this person a copy to be proofread.
6. Be sure that the spelling for names of foreign towns is clear and readable.
7. Send your history to VBOB, PO Box 11129, Arlington, VA 22219. Mark on the outside of the envelope "Unit History." Failure to comply with this may result in delay.

These will be published on a first come, first served basis. We currently anticipate publishing about 30 per issue. However, if we get good response we may enlarge these issues.

We want this to be a complete history of the Battle of the Bulge and, as such, serve as a document prepared in each instance by those who were there.

Remember!!! No unit is too big or too small to be included. It wouldn't be a complete history of the Battle of the Bulge if it didn't include your unit.

GOLDEN GATE IN '98

Make plans now to attend the convention
next year in San Francisco

RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER DEDICATES BULGE PLAQUE

President Bill Gaynor, announced that, through the dedicated efforts of the Rhode Island Chapter members and American Legion Post #8, a plaque commemorating the Battle of the Bulge was placed at the American Legion, on Legion Way, in Barrington, Rhode Island.

Over 100 persons gathered on August 16, 1997, to dedicate the monument, including 38 members of the chapter.



Dedication

This is a solemn, important occasion--one we shall remember with pride for the small part we are contributing.

We are assembled here to pay tribute to the men and women of our community and the nation who served in the preparations and the winning of the great invasion of Europe known as "The Battle of the Bulge." These men and women were our neighbors. They fought in defense of our country and for the preservation of our way of life. These men and women are worthy of far greater recognition than mere words or markers. The sacrifices they made and the deeds they performed shall be written in history and shall remain alive in our memories for generations to come. We sincerely express our pride and gratitude for the tasks they fulfilled.

Before you is the flag of our nation. That flag is the symbol of all that is sacred to us. Look at it closely for a moment. The flag of the United States reflects what we are and what we hope to be. The white stripes symbolize purity of purpose in our freedom of thought, expression, and worship. These are the privileges we guarantee to all who live in our land. They are the rights we defend against all enemies who seek to crush the way of life that you and I cherish. Also in that flag, we see the red stripes of courage which symbolize our willingness to die, if necessary, for the preservation of American ideals. Then there is the blue of tranquility upon which the stars of our states are united to hold intact all that is truly ours--the desire for peace, prosperity, and happiness throughout our nation.

We emphasize the interpretation of the flag, because we are assembled here to honor those persons who were at "The Battle of the Bulge" and fought under that sacred symbol of our land. We have come here to dedicate this plaque of honor to all our men and women from this community, and from throughout our great land, who have served and went forth as the living strength of our flag. They were the United States Armed Forces--on land and in the air. Some of them did not return. They are the honored dead whose resting places are found in many foreign lands and waters around the globe.

BETTER LATE, THAN NEVER...

William J. Kennedy, of Springfield, Massachusetts, received his Purple Heart in June, 1997.

His records had failed to show that he had been wounded, even though he left the Army in 1945 on a medical discharge and partial disability pension resulting from the bullet wound.

Kennedy was 19 years old when he was wounded in the head during the Bulge. This wound left his face paralyzed for several months and still causes him pain.

He requested his medals in the 1950s, but the Purple Heart didn't come with them. Much later he realized that his discharge didn't recognize his wound.

Members of the 30th Infantry Division encouraged him to contact his congressman, U.S. Rep. Richard E. Neal, Democrat of Springfield. Neal intervened and helped the Army resolve the matter.

Pictured below is William J. Kennedy (center) receiving the Purple Heart. Looking on is his wife Kay (left). Presenting the medal is Rep. Richard E. Neal.]



SHARPEN YOUR WITS ...a challenge from Phil Melleno

To the Editor: Our outfit, the 955th Field Artillery Battalion along with our "sister" units, the 953rd and the 187th Field Artillery Battalions have been issuing a newsletter to its membership twice each year. We just issued the 100th issue. One of the features of the newsletter is a trivia page in which the members are asked to contribute a trivia question (with answer). It has been very popular and does bring back a lot of great memories.

You may want to consider doing likewise with future issues of *The Bugle*. Just a thought--attached is a sampling of some of the trivia questions recently used.

1. What was the "code name" used by the Allied Forces for the invasion and liberation of Normandy?
2. Can you remember the two periodicals that were made available to the "troops" during their "stay" in Europe?
3. Can you identify the acronym that was used so frequently during WWII to describe a situation when the "situation" was debatable?
4. Most of us probably can recall the "old" "C" rations and "K" rations we all devoured throughout our "life" in the military

in the states. Can you recall the "new" type of rations issued to the troops just prior to our landing in Normandy?

5. During our "journey" through Europe, we passed through the infamous German defense structure, thought to be impregnable. What was the name of that structure?
6. The "D-Day" assault on Normandy "way back when" took place at five designated beaches. Can you name these beaches?
7. While we were in Europe, a presidential election took place and we were given absentee ballots to cast. FDR and Harry S. Truman were the Democratic candidates. Who were the Republican candidates?
8. Most of us remember the character "Sad Sack." Can you name the creator of Sad Sack?
9. Can you identify the following abbreviations that were so popular "way back when"?
a. AWOL
b. KP
c. CQ
d. ETO
e. SHAEF
10. What was the popular name given to the discharge pin issued to all discharged servicemen after WWII?

(The answers appear on Page 29)

Up Front with Willie & Joe

© by Bill Mauldin



"Uncle Willie!"

Please Join Us in Remembering Those
Who Fought in the Battle of the Bulge on
December 16, 1997
Arlington Cemetery, Arlington, VA

VBOB MONUMENT DEDICATION



A Bulge reenactor, a Bulge veteran, and a War College officer discuss the merits of the WWII jeeps displayed at the War College during the monument dedication.



Maj. Gen. Scales welcomes VBOB members, families, and friends.



Col. Tom Vossler, Director of the US Military History Institute at Carlisle praises Bulge veteran's courage and dedication 53 years ago.



Veterans of the Bulge—some in uniform—sign in at the monument dedication welcomed by the Cumberland County, PA Department of Veteran's Services.

Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania September 17, 1997



Pulitzer Prize winner John Toland, author of three books on the Bulge (C), discusses the battle with Maj. Gen. Scales (L), Col. Vossler (R), and veterans following the ceremony.



Our monument at the War College. The bronze plaque inset was donated by the South Central, PA Chapter of VBOB.



LtC Raymond Pierlot of Belgium, Ted Paluch, Malmedy Massacre survivor, Medal of Honor recipient Gino Merli, and M. Carlo Krieger of Luxembourg pause silently as Taps is played.

BATTLE OF THE BULGE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION
Invites You to Attend
"EVENTS OF REMEMBRANCE AND COMMEMORATION"
ON THE 53RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE
December 15 and 16, 1997
Washington, DC

The Sheraton National Hotel (Columbia Pike and Washington Boulevard), Arlington, VA, has been selected as the site for activities commemorating the 53rd Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, December 15 and 16, 1997. This hotel is located only a few minutes from Arlington Cemetery and Fort Myer, and will provide accommodations for a reduced room rate of \$69, single or double occupancy. This rate is available for any night(s) between December 13 and December 17. **For room reservations, please call the Sheraton National Hotel of Arlington (1-800-468-9090) by December 1, 1997.** Mention that you are attending the Battle of the Bulge Banquet and events.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1997

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. | Registration/receive name badges (hotel lobby) |
| 3:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. | Hospitality Room/Exhibits, scrapbooks. John Bowen and Earle Hart, Battle of the Bulge Historians, will be the hosts. A private room in the Cafe Brasserie has been reserved for dinner for the Battle of the Bulge Veterans (payment is on your own). |

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1997

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 7:45 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. | Registration/receive name badges (hotel lobby) |
| 8:45 a.m. | Chartered buses depart hotel for Fort Meade, MD (\$12 per person/round trip) |
| 10:00 a.m. | Movie, "The Code Breakers" |
| 11:15 a.m. | Tour of the National Cryptologic Museum (special guides) |
| 12:30 p.m. | Buffet luncheon at the Fort Meade Golf Club Dining Room |
| 1:45 p.m. | Battle of the Bulge Memorial Conference Room, history of room and the dedication of the miniature dioramas developed by the Washington Model Club from original Signal Corps photographs. Visit to Fort Meade Museum |
| 3:30 p.m. | Return by bus to the Sheraton National Hotel
BANQUET AT HOTEL GALAXY ROOM (Beautiful view of city lights) |
| 6:00 p.m. | Social Hour/Cash Bar |
| 7:00 p.m. | Color Guard/Drummer and Fifers/Ceremonies |
| 7:15 p.m. | Dinner served |
| | Program Speaker Susan Eisenhower, granddaughter of Gen. Dwight Eisenhower |
| After the Banquet | Hospitality Room open |

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1997

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 11:00 a.m. | Impressive ceremony and placing of wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns, Arlington National Cemetery |
| 11:30 a.m. | Ceremony of Remembrance, Battle of the Bulge Memorial |
| 12:15 p.m. | Buffet Luncheon, hosted by VBOB, at the NCO Club Dining Room, Fort Myer, VA.
Swearing in of new VBOB officers. Comments by George Linthicum, President, VBOB. |
| 2:00 p.m. | Farewell |

National Salad/Choice of Dressing
Chicken Roulade with Apricot Amaretto Glaze
Twice Baked Potatoes
BANQUET MENU *Sir Fried Fresh Vegetables*
Mini-Baguettes and Butter
Black Forest Cheesecake with Cherry Rum Sauce
Coffee/Selection of Teas
Glass of Blush Wine with Dinner

RESERVATION FORM
"EVENTS OF REMEMBRANCE AND COMMEMORATION"
ON THE 53RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

December 15 and 16, 1997

Washington, DC

Return form by December 3, 1997, to:

BATTLE OF THE BULGE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 2516, Kensington, MD 20891-0516

Telephone: 301-881-0356

Please make checks payable to BoBHF Commemoration

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ (Zip) _____

Battle of Bulge Unit: _____

Spouse/Guest: _____

I/we will attend the following activities (please complete):

Attending: _____

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1997

6:30 p.m. Dinner, Cafe Brasserie (payment is on your own)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1997

10:00 a.m. Movie/Cryptologic Museum Tour

1:45 p.m. Tour of Battle of the Bulge Memorial Conference Room

Dedication of _____

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1997

11:00 a.m. Ceremonies: Tomb of the Unknown Soldier/VBOB Monument

12:00 N Reception/Buffer hosted by VBOB, NCO Club, Fort Myer, Virginia

PAYMENTS FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 15th EVENTS

	<u>No. Persons</u>	<u>Cost/Person</u>	<u>Total</u>
Chartered Bus (Round Trip), Sheraton Hotel to Fort Meade	_____	\$ 12.00	\$ _____
Luncheon, Fort Meade Golf Course Dining Room	_____	\$ 9.00	\$ _____
Commemorative Banquet, Galaxy Room, Sheraton Hotel	_____	\$ 42.00	\$ _____

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

Banquet Dress: Business suit/black tie/military dress uniform (miniature medals encouraged)

Table assignments for the Banquet will be on your name badge. If you wish to be seated with friends, please list their names: _____

REMINDERS:

Room reservations must be made by December 1 (Telephone: 1-800-468-9090).

Return completed Reservation Form by December 3 (Telephone: 301-881-0356).

No cancellation refunds after December 5, 1997.

LIVING LEGENDS



MEMORABLE

BULGE INCIDENTS

UNEDITED AND HERETOFORE UNPUBLISHED

Accounts of events and experiences in the Battle of the Bulge as recalled and expressed by veterans of the greatest battle ever fought by the U.S. Army in the greatest war ever fought are of much historical significance. These "close-up" combatant accounts are a complement to the study of strategy and logistics and are a legacy of an important battle and victory in the U.S. military annals.

These are priceless first-person recollections by living legends in what General Dwight D. Eisenhower foresaw as our greatest victory and Prime Minister Winston Churchill, in speaking before the House of Commons, characterized as an ever-famous American victory.

ONE DAY IN THE BULGE

December 16, 1944

"Members Speak Out Column."]

.....

Earl T. Chamness
28th Infantry Division
112th Infantry
Headquarters Company
Concrete, Washington

I was only a very short time in the famous Battle of the Bulge--one day--the first day.

I was a radio operator in Headquarters Company, doing my job in the Town of Trois Points, where we were stationed, in a large farm house kitchen.

I was operating a telephone switchboard for regiment and after midnight the 15th, telephone traffic was nil so we decided to sack out on the floor. Around 5:00 a.m. all hell broke loose. The phone rang and when I answered it, I recognized a strange voice answered and I knew it wasn't any of us. So, our officer told us to pack up our switchboards and take off.

My jeep and trailer driver carried a .45 automatic pistol and wanted to exchange it for my M-1 Garrand which I did. He said he wanted more fire power. We went a short way in a truck convoy of ammo and it was captured so we took off across fields till we came to another highway. I was put in a truck load of other men fleeing.

That evening we came to Bastogne and put up in a large barn of hay and cattle. About 5:00 a.m. we were loaded into our trucks and took off with Jerry's powerful searchlights in the east. After traveling quite a while, I saw a sign which said Spa. We had our headlights on at times. We finally reached a rail head, loaded into 40 & 8 rail cars and traveled south to Colmar where we battled Jerry until we locked him then headed north to battle him again until the end of the war.

[Interesting note: In a tavern in Trois Points where GI's and German's alike came to drink and talk (we were warned to watch that we not give out any information), there was a very good looking young lady who talked with everybody. She was known to cross a large field where she lived every night after closing of the tavern. I believe she was killed the night before the 15th of December. We never found out who was responsible. If you have information, send it to Earl at the address in the

A REPRIMAND

December 1944

Mike Klemick
7th Armored Division
87th Reconnaissance
Headquarters Troop
Elysburg, Pennsylvania

We got the order to move out. We were in the Vielsalm area of Belgium taking a short rest period. We were told that the krauts were getting a little restless and nervous. It was time to quiet them down. We were told they were in the Kesfield area. They were hitting our flank. Overhead tracers were streaking the sky, then the sound of the ever present burp gun--brrrr brrrr followed by our tut tut tut tut tut. Then the silence. The silence is what was the most frightening. It is always what follows that silence.

My buddy was a guy by the name of Nichols--more guts than brains--but a real buddy. I lost track of Nichols when our unit was broken up in June of 1945.

The sound of small arms fire began, then the exploding of mortar shells. The question was what the heck were we doing here in the first place. Well, I was a driver for Captain McKeller. I drove a M-8 armored car. Capt. Mac was a liaison officer between battalion and CCB. Nichols was manning the turret with the 37 mm gun and Capt. Mac was car commander. We took turns from time to time in order to limber up. I believe Nichols also manned the radio. We also had a 30-calibre machine gun on the front mount.

My feet were really killing me. I had a good start of trench foot, and I believe at this time I also had some frost bite. During the times we had to button up while under mortar or artillery fire. The inside of our vehicle would turn white from freezing from the vapors from our breathing. It was nearly impossible to keep warm. I'm not sure what was worse, the war itself or the cold. You couldn't stay buttoned up in those coffins too long. You needed to move around or freeze to death. The exposed edges of our wool caps under the helmets would turn white with frost. As you breathed, it would freeze instantly.

We were always glad to get to CCB Headquarters as we were always greeted with a cup of hot coffee. Thanks to General Bruce Clark's staff. They always took good care of the runners. Also, at times, we would kind of arrange the time of arrival so we would arrive just in time for chow. You learned the tricks as you went along. Some call it Good G.D. Smarts.

By the end of January, I had both trench food and frost bite. Capt. Mac sent me to the 46th Field Hospital for treatment. I stayed over night and was sent back to my outfit the next morning. When I got to the hospital the doctor (a captain) called me a gold brick. He said they had better things to do than wash my feet.

Anyway, a nurse dressed in GI overalls took care of me. After I washed my feet, the nurse painted them with a blue liquid and packed cotton between my toes. Early the next morning she gave me two pair of wool socks powdered inside my boots and sent me on my way with a couple of other guys. Anyway, I got two good hot meals. I didn't get much sleep, because some of those guys laying there were really hurting. I sort of felt bad and sorry but considered myself quite lucky to this point.

Some guys got the Purple Heart for frost bite, and for trench foot, you got a reprimand. What a hell of a life.

UNABLE TO WRITE HOME

January 15, 1945

Elton R. Sebaugh

6635th Tank Destroyer Battalion

Oberlin, Kansas

On December 23, 1944, I was wounded from mortar shrapnel. The wound was a compound fracture of the ring finger on my right hand.

After approximately two weeks, I was about to write. Around January 15th, there was a soldier brought to our ward. He had a foot amputated and other wounds which made him unable to write home.

In one of our conversations, he said, "I know by now that mom has received that dreaded telegram." I asked him if he would like me to write a letter as I knew I would want this if our positions were reversed. He said, "Please do." I wrote something like this: Dear Mom, I am seriously wounded but in the near future, I will be sent home and probably will be in a military hospital near home. I'll call you when I get home. These wounds are not what I will die from." I signed his name with my last name below his name.

If this soldier or anyone who knows him recalls this incident, I sure would like to be contacted. [Elton's address: 209 South Waldo Avenue, Oberlin, Kansas 67749.]

A BATH IN THE CONVENT

December, 1944

Raymond Dierksen

2nd Armored Division

3rd Maintenance Battalion

Headquarters

New Braunfels, Texas

One of my friends, a Lt. DeBen and I were walking through the

village. DeBen, was from New Orleans and could speak some Belgique. He stopped a couple of native boys, pointed to an old building with a wall around it, and asked if this happened to be a school. "Oh yes," was the answer. My lieutenant friend knocked on the door to ask if there might be bathing facilities available. Who came to the door but two kindly Catholic nuns. This was a convent. DeBen, rarely at a loss for words, stuttered and apologized for invading their privacy.

The nuns knew we were there for a purpose. In his best Belgique (which was poor), DeBen told them what our wishes were.

Thus, we ended up taking a bath in their bath room, a big tub and plenty of hot water!

Before turning 84 years of age, I should have returned and on the convent door, put a marker: DeBen and Dierksen--The only U.S. Army 'GI's' to take a bath in a convent during World War II.

ATTACKING ON BOTH SIDES

December, 1944

Larry Heber

26th Infantry Division

101st Engineer Combat Battalion

Company B

Brick, New Jersey

Our company CP was in the town of Esch-Sure-La-Sure where we had put up a foot bridge and threadway bridge across the Sure River. While we were there, we were maintaining the roads to this bridge and pass. The town was built up and down the sides of the small mountains here on the river. With all the snow here the roads were very icy and covered with snow. We were living in homes and hotels while there. All day and night a self-propelled gun kept coming up on our right flank and lobbed in shells at us. Our right flank was open because the 80th Division couldn't get over the river.

One night while our squad was back from the front, where we were dug in to help the infantry of the 104th Regiment in a holding position. We were sleeping on the floor of a hotel when one of the shells from this self-propelled gun went through the front wall over our heads and out the back wall without going off. Across the street from us was an A&P platoon truck loaded with ammunition for the infantry. They were sleeping and living down in the cellar. We were always worried about what would happen if one of those shells ever hit that truck.

One day we got a call from the infantry that they wanted some engineers to go with them when they were going to attack. I don't know what they wanted us for, but we figured they needed some mine detector crews and demolition men to help with clearing obstacles.

Our squad got the job and we were riding the road through 88 junction toward Buderscheid, Luxembourg. The Heines had this junction zeroed in and no one went through here without getting shot at with 88's and anything they had.

Before we got to the infantry CP the artillery from our side started shelling the Germans. Then as we were almost up to the infantry, they started sending shells over at us. All their shells were coming over and landing around the road we were going on. Mike, our squad leader, said, "Stop the truck and get out." We ran for the ditch along the road and started clawing our way

into the snow in the ditch.

Some of the guys stayed under the truck while the rest tried to get some protection from the trees around the area. We were here for about 15 or 20 minutes when the shelling started to slow down.

We called each other and started looking for who was wounded or who was hit. If I remember right, three guys were hit with shrapnel and were bleeding. We loaded them on the medics' jeep and they took them back. Three or four other guys were spitting up blood, I think, and we put them on the jeep which was with us and sent them back to the medics also. Pop Emerich, who just got back with us the day before from the hospital, was loaded up and sent back. He was hit in the back by a piece of shrapnel which cut through five layers of clothes and hit his back.

When the shelling stopped our squad leader got in touch with the infantry and they told us the attack was called off and we should return to our company. We later found out that the Krauts were attacking at the same time we were. This they say was the first time that they could remember this happening.

When we got back to the company, they told us the guys who were wounded by shrapnel were sent to the hospital and kept there for treatment. The other guys who were spitting up blood had internal bleeding from the concussion of the shells and would be okay. Pop only had a red mark on his back.

A CHANGE IN PLANS

December 1944

Richard O. Lewis
68th Medical Group
175th Medical Battalion
576th Ambulance Company
Gainesville, Georgia

The 17th of December 1944 rumors became fact, the Germans were attacking through the Ardennes as they had done in 1914 and 1940.

We knew our troops were very thin in this area and unless some fast moves were made this could develop into a battle to be reckoned with.

I had traveled this area some weeks before and had driven the jeep many miles and not seen a sign of Americans or any other troops.

My unit was the 576th Ambulance Company, 3rd Platoon. We had been in service around Kornelimünster--Aachen area. Some of our ambulances were assigned to division aid stations in the Rotgen-Schmidt area. This forest area was a high casualty area. I made my headquarters with the CCR 3rd Armored Division aid and clearing station in Walheim, Germany. Our evacuation routes were sometimes long through Eupen-Gulpen-Liege, Belgium. The evacuation and field hospitals were located in the rear areas. Most of the trips and driving were done at night, the drivers had to administer aid to the wounded as well as making safe trips to and from the hospitals.

Almost overnight the battle plan changed. Many units were shifted around to form various battle groups to face the oncoming Germans. As the 3rd Armored Division under General Rose was called on to head south. Our unit was in the thick of it with CCR we were ordered from Walheim. We went in a huge conveyer through Brand, Eschweiler, Malmédy, St. Vith,

Mohrville, and many more strange names. We arrived at Hotten, Belgium, and set up an aid and treatment station for incoming wounded. This was about the 18th of December, that our unit set up in the local theater, which included the aid and treatment station for CCR of the 3rd Armored Division. Most of the armored equipment and troops continued on south, there were only a few special soldiers left to secure the town.

Hotten, Belgium, was a town on the banks of the L'Ourthe River. Most of its men found employment at the sawmill at the north end of the main street. The Ardennes area furnished huge fir trees which were cut and planed into lumber. Most of the lumber went to reconstruct Antwerp-Liege and other cities bombed by the Germans.

During the German occupation and withdrawal, the town of Hotten escaped any evidence of the violence of war. The school, theater, brick houses, Hotel De la Paux all were undamaged. On the 17th of December, 1944, people of Hotten heard the news the German Army had driven the Americans out of St. Vith and were on their way toward Hotten.

How hope came to the people, armored equipment and vehicles of the 3rd Armored Division rumbled over the bridge. They continued on to meet the approaching Germans. Four half-tracks and medical aid trucks and ambulances with about a hundred service soldiers stopped in the village. The soldiers were greeted and told they could occupy any buildings they needed. This is when the medical people set up a station in the local theater. A headquarters company moved into the school house. Engineers took over some other buildings, signal people were placed in the hotel. All these were known as rear echelon soldiers.

About 7:30 p.m., several rounds of mortar fire exploded in the school yard. It was the town's first warning that a Panzer division had moved in from the east and taken the high ground and the highway that runs from Hotten to Liege.

A reconnaissance told the Americans that the German infantry and four tanks were on the hill east of Hotten. A captain from headquarters company ordered a line of fire set up along the hedgerow from the school to near the sawmill on the north end of the main street. The captain told a special service NCO to take three men and a half-track and set up an outpost at the north end of town--the idea was to protect the flank. The noncom took a 50 caliber and a 30 caliber machine gun along with three men to help with protecting buildings on the north end of town. In the mean time the engineers had set up a defense in the south part of town.

A burst of several mortar rounds ripped off a part of the school house roof, several Americans were wounded and taken to the medical station for treatment. Two of the German tanks were moving on the village supported by some infantry troops in the rear of the tanks thus affording them protection. One tank moved along the ridge in the east near the engineers' command post while the other tank headed along the railroad which separated the village near the school house. There was an American M4 tank left in need of some repair. It started to approach the German tank on the ridge. As they came in sight of each other, the American tank fired at the German tank but missed. The German tank took this opportunity to fire and thus it put the American tank out of action. An American bazooka team was soon to zero in on the German tank and put it out of action. The other German tank shot a large hole through the stone wall. It moved forward to come out on the main street. There was a 90mm American antiaircraft gun around the corner.

It fired through one of the shops and hit the German tank. It became engulfed in smoke and fire. Another tank that had stopped in back of the wall was hit by two Americans with bazookas and was also put out of action. There were many Germans wounded or killed in this affair.

The groups were advised by division to hold the town at all costs as it was an important crossroad and an important objective. It was a main supply route and must be kept open. There were Americans from Headquarters Company, some cooks, clerks, signal people, radio operators, demolition and mechanics. There was also a basic medical unit--an important part of keeping men in action.

The Germans gave the message that an infantry assault at that time was useless. In turn the Germans started to assemble a firing line of the ridge above the village. The Americans took this opportunity, a major arranged the line to form a better field of fire.

This was a good time for the medical people to evacuate the wounded and move some medical equipment out of the line of fire. Several rounds of mortar fire landed near the treatment station. A convoy consisting of a command car, four ambulances with wounded and a special surgical truck headed north out of Hotten. All these units were marked with a red cross. As they reached the open road, the Germans on the ridge opened fire on the convoy. Two of the ambulances and the command car escaped but two ambulances were hit and ended up in the ditch. All the wounded were able to get back to the treatment station. The two surgical trucks were left in the roadway in the protection of the buildings along the roadway. One of the ambulance drivers was wounded requiring medical attention at the aid station.

The mortar fire on the theater and nearby buildings was increasing and many direct hits were observed.

The ambulances were left and the two surgical trucks were retrieved and packed near the rear of the treatment station. It was suspected the Germans were preparing for attack that night or early the next day. The American service people had also prepared for the attack and stationed an 81mm mortar and crew to take up a place on line. The 81mm people had a limited amount of shells and careful observation gave them accurate fire on the Germans.

As the Germans continued to shell the town, many of the buildings suffered much damage. Many of the American wounded were taken to the treatment station for medical attention. The German artillery on the ridge scored many hits on Hotten's sawmill and industrial buildings--several fires were started from the shells.

A defense line was set up along the railroad tracks awaiting the attack. The Germans were surprised--not knowing that the defenders of Hotten were made up of cooks, clerks, mechanics and wounded who were able to defend the position.

It was advised the medical people would evacuate by the railroad tracks at dusk. This evacuation with medical equipment, wounded and ambulances was accomplished.

The Germans were driven out of Hotten and two days later the ambulance platoon sergeant and a mechanic went into Hotten and removed the ambulances.

Our unit being service troops was reassigned and as the Americans advanced we went across Remagen Bridge as medical support for the 78th Division treatment station. We set up a headquarters in the town of Ucker. We had the Bulge behind us

and a future which was uncertain.

HE WAS ONLY 18

December 21, 1944

Cecil G. Davis

87th Infantry Division

347th Infantry

3 Battalion

Company I

Los Alamos, New Mexico

This event occurred about a week before we were sent to intercede in the Battle of the Bulge but I would like to relate it in support of the brave men who died there where by fate it could have been me.

At this time we were protecting our front from German tanks in the small village of Walsheim, Germany.

The evenings were getting cold and the nights were very black. We had prepared our fox holes along the perimeter of the forest and we could hear the German tanks moving along the edge of the forest on the opposite side. As usual we had two soldiers per fox hole and kept our heads down during the day as the Germans had us sighted in from information obtained by observers to our rear.

This event really covers the night of December 21 and the next morning. Our squad left the forward site that evening to be replaced by the next squad that included my friends Laughlin, McGuire and Kennard. It wasn't long after we reached our rear location when someone (I don't remember his name), came storming into the area claiming that something was happening to our forward locations. He wasn't sure what it was but he was very frightened.

Since our squad was still available we were prepared to return to the forward area to check out the problem. As I mentioned it was very dark and foreboding and our sergeant refused to lead us back to the area. A brave corporal volunteered so we started back up a narrow path to the forward site. As we got closer we stopped to listen for sounds which sounded like voices from above. Someone suggested it was only the guys [*portion missing*] ...suspicious and claimed that the voices were German voices and that we should get out of there as quickly as possible. The corporal agreed and we headed back to headquarters to explain what little we knew.

The next morning, December 22, we attacked back up the hill with considerable fire power and quickly overcame the Germans. The Germans had mounted a so-called "tiger" patrol and had overrun our outpost. The sad time came when we had to go around to find our dead and wounded compatriots at their foxholes. In the foxhole I had vacated the evening before, I found my friend Harry Loughlin, dead from a grenade that had been thrown into our hole. This day, December 22nd, was Harry's 18th birthday and he died for his country in a foxhole in Germany which I could have been in. Unfortunately, my other friends, ex-sergeants McGuire and Kennard were also found dead near their foxholes.

A week later we made that tortuous trek with the 3rd Army to fight in the Battle of the Bulge.

War would end if the dead could return.

STANLEY BALDWIN

STAVELOT: DEDICATION AND REMEMBRANCE

For many years the war veterans of the 5th Belgian Fusiliers Battalion have wished to establish a memorial to perpetuate their setting fire to the gasoline dumps in Stavelot in the late morning of 18 December 1944 when the SS Peiper Kampfgruppe penetrated the town despite courageous American defense. As they were the last troops to leave the town with members of the 526th U.S. Armored Infantry Battalion and 825th U.S. Tank Destroyer Battalion, the 5th Belgian Fusiliers platoon who were guarding the huge gasoline depot decided to burn the gasoline to prevent the capture of the precious gas by the Germans. This platoon was commanded by 1st Lt. Albert Detroz.

The Belgian Fusiliers were assisted in this operation by men of the two above mentioned American units. Behind them, more to the north near Spa, the evacuation of the depot was carried on by the responsible unit in charge of this depot: the 3814th QMGSC (US)-CO: Captain Harry Sturgis.

The 5th Belgian Fusiliers' wish to have a memorial at the site of the burning has finally been realized by the courageous action of their great friend Marcel Ozer, of Stavelot, who constructed and installed this memorial with the agreement of the Stavelot authorities and Remembrance Committee of the Battle of Stavelot. It must be mentioned that on 18 December 1944 Marcel Ozer courageously rescued a wounded soldier--Tony Calvanese, of the 825th U.S. Tank Destroyer platoon of 1st Lt. Jack Doherty, bringing him back through the Germans to the American front line.



A group of 5th Belgian Fusiliers with Col. Adams, Military Attaché, on the stairs of the Stavelot Town Hall.

Having heard that a group of veterans of the 526th U.S. Armored Infantry Battalion would visit the area under the guidance of Col. George Wendt (ret.), the 5th Belgian Fusiliers Association made arrangements with the Stavelot authorities and Committee of Remembrance for the dedication of the memorial with the participation of their American comrades-in-arms.

This ceremony took place May 12, 1997, in the presence of 19 men of the 526th group; a large number of the 5th Belgian Fusiliers; Colonel Adams, Military Attaché of the U.S. Embassy; the color guard of the 80th (U.S.) Area Support Group of Chièvres (SHAPE); the Mayor (Mr. Bleus) and authorities of

Stavelot; and many representatives of diverse patriotic associations and school children. The 5th Fusiliers were proud and honored to have the participation of their former 1st Lt. Albert Detroz.



Unveiling of the 5th Belgian Fusiliers Memorial by Paul Wantiez (5th Fusiliers veteran) and George Wendt (526th Armored Infantry Battalion).

After a welcome speech and historical reminder by Marcel D'Haese, National Chairman of the 5th Belgian Fusiliers Association, and a speech by Col. Wendt, the memorial which had been covered with the banner of the 5th Fusiliers Chapter XXXVIII VBOB, was unveiled by Paul Wantiez (5th Fusiliers) and Col. Wendt (526th Armored Infantry Battalion) and many wreaths were laid.

As the 5th Fusiliers Association, the Stavelot authorities and the Committee of Remembrance of the Battle of Stavelot (Chairman, Emile Dalleur) had decided to seize the opportunity of this inauguration to also celebrate the Belgian-American friendship, all the participants then paid a tribute to the 825th Tank Destroyer/526th Armored Infantry Division memorial at the rue du Château, the U.S. Half-Track Memorial at the Square of the 18th of December 1944 (also a realization of Marcel Ozer near the bridge over the Amblève River), the 30th U.S. Infantry Division Memorial in the park, the plate of the Stavelot civilian victims (more than 150) assassinated by the SS without any reason.

In the evening the 5th Fusiliers veterans, the 526th Armored Infantry group and members of the Stavelot Committee of Remembrance along with Mr. and Mrs. Ozer had a supper in a local restaurant where many souvenirs were exchanged in a fine environment of friendship.

The next morning some of the 5th Belgian Fusiliers veterans and the 526th U.S. Armored Infantry group laid a wreath at the stele of Vaulx-Richard (one km from Stavelot), where twelve American prisoners of war and three Belgian civilians were assassinated by the U.S. Peiper Kampfgruppe on 17 December 1944. They then accompanied Mr. Henri Rogister (CRIBA--Center of Research and Information of the Battle of the Bulge) to Malmédy where a reception took place in the Town Hall.

Roger Hardy
Chairman XXXVIII VBOB Chapter
5th Fusiliers of Belgium

CHRISTMAS IN THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

by Joseph P. Barrett

474th Antiaircraft Artillery (AW-SP) Battalion

[Several years ago, I put down Christmas while talking to a friend of mine and he said to several people nearby, "Joe Barrett is a Scrooge." I thought about this and it was true, neither Christmas or the exchanging of Christmas cards interested me. I have always felt that the expression "Merry Christmas" was a hollow saying.

On reflection I realized that holidays such as July 4th or Labor Day bored me and I feel that this was due to the "war." We worked or if in combat we fought on holidays or weekends or whatever. And I sat down and wrote the attached story....

from Joe Barrett]

It was the night before Christmas and all through the house not a creature was stirring not even a mouse.

This was not the situation on Christmas Eve, 1944, after four German Armies, including five armored and twelve infantry divisions, had struck four American divisions on December 16th, creating the Battle of the Bulge.

Within a week a million soldiers in both armies were swirling through the heavy snow of the Ardennes Forest in what was described by Winston Churchill as the "greatest American Battle."

My outfit the 474th Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion was a part of Seventh Corps Artillery and we were stationed just across the Roer River from Duren. Corps Commander, General J. Lawton Collins, nicknamed "Lightning Joe," was planning to cross the Roer, attack Duren and advance to Cologne on the Rhine River. This was scrubbed when the Germans began the counter offensive, more popularly known as the Battle of the Bulge.

I had just received a letter from my mother, saying that my Christmas gifts, including a necklace, had arrived at our row house in the Swampoodle section of North Philadelphia.

During combat every few weeks a group from special services would visit us and give us our ration of candy, chewing gum, cigarettes and so forth. When we were in Northern France in the later part of August, this group presented a catalog of gifts in which we could order Christmas presents for the folks at home and they promised to have them delivered by Christmas. Thank goodness they arrived. I was worried about this. It would have made matters so much worse if they had no presents from their soldier boy overseas.

On December 22nd Seventh Corps was ordered to move down into Belgium to blunt the German counter attack which now had rolled east for about 50 miles. When it crested it would extend 60 miles from its base to Celles and it was also 60 miles wide. The Wehrmacht had at that time 24 divisions in the field, 13 more in the reserve and still others reported in the reserve at Duren. In addition, army intelligence was worried about the lack of a Russian offensive along the Vistula River which would allow more German divisions to be diverted to the Ardennes.

So we set out over slick and icy roads. I remember going around a mountain on an ice covered road and a tank began to slide across the road toward us and our driver, Patsy Tosseli, deftly maneuvered our half-track around the tank before we went over an abyss to our right. Another time our half-track just grazed the left handle bar of a motorcycle sending it and the

driver across a field. I can still see the driver screaming out curses and waving a fist in the air.

General Collins was awaiting the arrival of the 2nd Armored Division and corps artillery at Marche, where the 84th Division was already engaging a German Panzer Division. Then he would begin his counter attack. We pulled off the road for the night to allow the 2nd Armored to come down from the north. I can still hear the grinding of the tank tracks as they ground through the night. The armored train was 100 miles long.

As we came down through darkened and scared Belgium towns whose houses were shuttered, Dave Pearlman picked up BBC on a small portable radio and we listened to Dickens' *Christmas Carol*. This time the traditional Christmas story had a deeper meaning because I had now lived in England. Even had friends there. And the characters spoke with a strong English accent. We were travelling through deep forest of Spruce trees which would have made beautiful Christmas trees, except that the tops were all blasted off by artillery fire.

All around us were scenes of which Christmas cards are created. Thousands of trees, tons of branches and it snowed every so often. Layer upon layer. Snow rose on each branch like a pyramid. Or dust on wine bottles in an ancient wine cellar. Around noon the sun came out for a brief few moments, just enough to kiss the snow so it glistened in the moonlight. Some times it seemed so serene and beautiful that it was difficult to believe that men were killing each other amidst such beauty.

Motor mechanic Leroy Uber had the Coleman burner going and was making a pot of coffee and Harry Anderson, the medic, held it so it wouldn't tilt over as the half-track bounced along.

Back home my father and my brother, Marty, would be wrestling a huge spruce into the parlor before the family would begin the job of decorating the tree. Even as the half-track rumbled through the forest towards one of the greatest tank battles of the war, my mind went back to just a half a dozen years or so ago when I got a bicycle for Christmas. Before that a one-shot BB gun. Now I had qualified for new toys. The M-1 rifle and the Thompson sub-machine gun, which I cradled on my lap as I sat with the others wearing heavy winter clothes, overcoat, cartridge belt and helmet.

No one was talking. Some were nodding off to sleep.

And the U.S. 2nd Armored Division was within hours of making the greatest goal line stand of all time by crushing the German 2nd SS Panzer Division in the Celles Pocket within striking distance of the Meuse River.

But my mind was on the huge tree. Mom and Pop had been married nearly 20 years when I believed in Santa Claus. The huge tree filled the parlor and it seemed that my folks never threw any decorations away. They fixed Christmas balls which had the hook broken with a piece of thread and a wooden match stick. They kept the tinsel since the time when tinsel was invented. Nothing was thrown away during the Depression.

It is said that if one is 100 yards behind the front line, he is in the rear echelon. It was in this area that GI's were able to form some semblance of Christmas.

In numerous farm houses, barns, sheds, anywhere a guy could get out of the cold, a couple of soldiers would fashion a Christmas tree out of a broken tree limb or bush and decorate it with strips of tin cut from "C" ration cans, bits and pieces of colored paper as well as chaff, a strip of silver that bombers dropped to confuse German radar. Ration and ammunition boxes simulated Christmas boxes for presents.

(Continued on Page 22)

CHRISTMAS

(Continued from Page 21)

Many times the American infantryman would storm a house, killing or capturing the Germans inside. When the shooting stopped with dead Americans and Germans laying about, they would discover over in the corner a similar home-made Christmas tree created by the Germans, of course, they decorated the tree with tin foil from cigarette packages and bits of torn colored paper. They too believed in Christmas. This always made our guys very sad. We were only kids, you know, who once believed in Santa Claus. And the Germans. They also were only kids.

A German Panzer tank battalion crept into a woods after pushing through the burning town of Verdun. The men were exhausted. After all it was Christmas Eve, so the commander told them to button up.

As they dozed off they could hear the church bells ringing for the Christmas Eve mass in the cathedral in Cologne. Infantrymen from the 84th Division attacked the tanks and took German prisoners to the rear on top of the tanks. Both the German prisoners and their American captors lustily sang Christmas carols.

There was a small town in Belgium, a short distance behind the lines, where a midnight mass was taking place. GI's of every religious persuasion attended because God had been good to them. They were alive.

The men squeezed into the pews wearing all of their combat gear, carrying rifles and bazookas. And sometimes a helmet clattered across the marble church floor, having been kicked by a worshipper.

It was not until after the service that the worshippers discovered that six soldiers slept soundly all through the mass. They were members of a tank crew which slipped into the darkened church before the mass had begun, threw down their bed rolls and went to sleep around the altar. The priest when he arrived to celebrate mass saw the men and felt that they were exhausted and left them to sleep in peace. One GI was awakened by the organ music, zipped open his sleeping bag only to see grinning choir boys singing "Adeste Fidelis."

Fifty thousand American, English and Italian soldiers jammed the Basilica of St. Peter's in Rome to attend a mass celebrated by Pope Pius XII. It was the first Christmas mass celebrated in the Vatican that was no longer surrounded by the Wehrmacht.

Ironically when Christians, not only at the Pope's mass but at services all over the world, were singing "Silent Night, Holy Night," bombers of the 15th American Air Force were bombing Salzburg. This was the town in Germany where this traditional Christmas hymn was written by Reverend Joseph Mohr and a teacher Franz Gruber. It was heard the first time in public at midnight mass in Oberndorf, near Salzburg, Christmas Eve 1818.

In my little row house in North Philadelphia where I had enjoyed so many happy Christmases, the family had a quiet somewhat solemn Christmas. My mother had an empty place setting for the soldier who at that time was sitting in a copse of woods quietly watching the Air Force flying large bombers and cargo planes to Bastogne. I can still see the C-47 Transports of the IX Troop Carrier Command flying across the clear blue sky not very high above the frosty landscape. I later learned that 241 planes dropped 144 tons of supplies to the isolated 101st Airborne. In addition another 160 transport planes dropped 100 tons to the surrounded garrison at Bastogne. The line of transports stretched from one horizon to the other. One after another after another like a long line of traffic.

The weather made a dramatic change. General Patton's prayer was answered. Over 3,100 Allied planes dropped tons of bombs on roads and traffic targets. German soldiers cowered in fox-holes and cellars as tanks and artillery pieces hid in the woods.

When the airmen returned to their bases in England, they stayed longer than usual at the bar but it didn't help erase the memory of what they had seen. Of course these fellows had friends and relatives, some had brothers, in the Ardennes. Their Christmas dinner, even though the cooks put in an extra effort, stuck in their throats. As the cold winds swept past the new deserted runways and through the Quonset huts, they didn't complain about the winter drafts. At least it is warmer than the Ardennes. They shared stories with the ground crew who remained at the air base in England.

"You should have seen those doughboys."

"Livin' like wolves, they were." A pilot said as he tried to fork down some white meat.

"In holes covered with brush." Put in a bombardier.

"And when they saw us, they ran across the snow covered fields. Waving their rifles in the air." A tail gunner said.

"Running stiff-like on frozen feet." But the stuffing was tasteless.

"Bundled up, they were. Some carried brown, GI blankets over their heads. Others had gray German Army blankets."

"They were so God damned miserable and yet so God damned happy because we were there."

A captain said without emotion, "They are eating tonight thanks to the United States Air Forces."

"Yeah," pointed out the navigator, "'K' rations and 'C's'."

"Yeah," another gunner pointed out, "dry cheese." "Shit called ham and egg yolk." "Hard crackers." "Stew." "Baked beans." All cold.

The Colonel stood up.

"Let say grace," he said rather embarrassed because he was a rough and tough old flyboy not really known as a man of prayer.

"Dear Jesus, who was born in a manger this day in Bethlehem,...."

And he stopped for a long moment. Coughed. Cleared his throat.

"Please help those poor bastards fighting in the snow in Belgium."

And the tears fell on the mince pie some of which was left untouched.

My brother, Frank, at Christmas dinner kept staring at the empty plate. In January I received a letter from him and he wrote that the dinner was "spooky."

I cannot remember any soldier saying "Merry Christmas" to a fellow soldier on that Christmas Day in 1944. Of course, we did not exchange Christmas cards either.

Passages taken from The Bulge Bugle, May 1992 issue, pages 14 and 18. Christmas Eve Mass in Rome from Stars and Stripes, late December and early January, 1944 and 1945.

Also Parker, Danny S., Battle of the Bulge: Hitler's Ardennes Offensive, 1944-45. Combined Books, Inc., 1991. Pages 177, 178, 180 and 182.

See also Eisenhower, David, EISENHOWER: AT WAR 1943-45. Random House, New York, 1986. Pages 572 through 592. ■

MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

We received a letter from Vita Francavillo, would like to find out more about her husband's time in the Bulge. He was **PVT. ALPHONSE J. FRANCANILLO**, who was killed in the Bulge in Belgium on December 23, 1944. He shipped out of Ft. Dix in August 1944, was in London and then Holland for 2-1/2 months. He was reported missing in action on December 23, 1944. Finally, in April, 1945, she received word that he had been killed on December 23, 1944. She would appreciate any information anyone could provide her. Write to her at: 1755 East 93rd Street, Brooklyn, New York 11236-5411.

Every year we receive a lovely note from Associate Member **STAN C. BELLENS**. Again this year, he graciously offers to be of assistance to you in getting around in Europe. If you're going and would like some help, write to Stan at: 4 Rue de la Trompette; B-4680 Hermee; Belgium. [Thanks, Stan.]

EARL T. CHAMNESS, 28TH DIVISION, would like to have information on Colmar. If you can advise him (or tell him what book to read), write to him at: PO Box 96, Concrete, Washington 98237.

E. H. PITZER, 4TH ARMORED DIVISION, 46TH MEDICAL BATTALION, COMPANY B, would like to know if anyone remembers **EDGEL J. LANDFORD** (name could be **E. JOHN LANGFORD**), who was killed in the Bulge on December 17, 1944. All of his papers were lost quite some time ago. If you can help write to him at: 1416 Normandy Drive, Mt. Dora, Florida 32757.

G. J. Wynn is trying to find **RED ROGERS**. Red may have been a member of the **75TH INFANTRY, 291ST INFANTRY**. He was stationed at Haverfordwest, South Wales, UK during November of 1944. As the name would indicate, he had red hair. Write to Mr. Wynn at: Alresford Golf Club; Cheriton Road; Alresford; Hants S924OPN; UK.

PETER J. JAHNER, 83RD INFANTRY DIVISION, is very interested to find pictures of Bihain, Belgium, taken in mid-January, 1945. He is also interested to know if there has been a history of the 83rd published. Write to Peter at: 1115 10th Street, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83404-5007.

Associate Member Joe Edelhausen has written with two requests: (1) He would like to find a member of the **101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION** who attended the 50th commemoration in Bastogne. This particular GI entered Bastogne on the 19th of December, 1944. He was interviewed (at the 50th) on McAuliffe Square near a Sherman tank. (2) He would like to find **BILL TUCKER, 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION**, who attended a commemoration march in Fosse, Belgium, in February, 1997. If you know these men tell them to contact Joe. Joe has pictures he would like to send them. Joe's address is: Falconetruwe 11; 6218 RL Maastricht; The Netherlands.

Estelle Sladek would like to hear from anyone who served with her husband: **EDWIN SLADEK, 95TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 378TH INFANTRY, COMPANY C**. Write to

Estelle at: 3500 Country Road 414, Taylor, Texas 76574.

Jerome H. Long writes to let us know he would like to hear from any veteran who served with the **969TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION** or the **333RD FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION**. Write to Jerome at: Wesleyan University, Department of Religion, 171 Church Street, Middleton, Connecticut 06459-0029.

Associate Member **PIERRE BAERTEN** writes to advise that he and others are preparing a history of their region. As a result he would like to hear from vets of the following units who were in the vicinity of Tongeren (Tongres), Maastricht, Bilzen and (near Hoeselt): **2ND, 9TH, 8TH, 84TH, 95TH, 79TH, 104TH INFANTRY DIVISIONS, 2ND & 9TH ARMORED DIVISIONS** and **667TH TOPOGRAPHIC COMPANY**. He would like to hear from you regarding when and for how long you were there (about six miles south of Maastricht). If you were not with these particular units, but were there--he would also like to hear from you. Write to Pierre at: Bronstraat 6; 3730 Hoeselt; Belgium.

COOLIDGE S. COPELAND, 87TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 334TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, SERVICE COMPANY, recently attended a Red, White and Blue ceremony at the Saratoga Race Track in Saratoga, New York. One of the groups participating had a battle streamer attached to their colors. It is his understanding that the streamer was given by Luxembourg and related to the Ardennes Campaign. If you know where Coolidge's chapter could obtain one, write to him: PO Box 142, Argyle, New York 12809-0142.

ROGER MARQUET, Belgian Associate Member and CRIBA member, would like to learn more units who collected bodies of the **11TH ARMORED DIVISION** December 29-31, 1944 and January 1-3, 1945, in the following areas: Jodenville, Chenogne, Monty, Mande-Saint-Etienne. These were battle areas of the 21st Armored Infantry Battalion and the 22nd Tank Battalion. Does anyone remember who was in charge of this? If so, please write to Roger at: 67, Fonds de Foret, 4870 Trooz, Belgium.

EDDY LEMOINE, was 4 years old when the town of Mons was liberated in September, 1944, by the **1ST INFANTRY DIVISION**. Since that time his efforts have been unsuccessful to find **ROBERT WILHOITE (16TH REGIMENT, COMPANY I)**, who lived with his family at that time. (Last known address was Washington, DC.) If anyone can help Eddy find Robert or information regarding him, write to him at: 42, rue Victor DeJardin, Mons 7000, Belgium.

SOL LEWIS writes to see if we can help him. He was taken prisoner in Luxembourg on January 28, 1945, in Luxembourg. He was a radio operator with a liaison officer and was a replacement. He was sent to an infantry company. He is unable to recall the outfit number. After many days he was sent to the final destination in a camp in Bad Orb. He was wounded in both legs. He was liberated April 2 and returned to New York on April 28th. If you can help him with outfit numbers, please write to him at: 23231 Harding, Oak Park, Michigan 48237.

(Continued on Page 24)

MEMBERS SPEAK OUT (Continued from Page 23)

DOUGLAS JOHNSON, 28TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 112TH INFANTRY, COMPANY L, writes in response to our article "WWII Medals Available," to find out who decided who could receive the Combat Infantry Badge in a combat unit. As no mention of this badge was made before, during or after the campaign he wants to know if all riflemen in combat in the Bulge qualify? Write to Douglas at: 2858 - 32nd Avenue W #106, Seattle, Washington 98199.

BENEDICT B. KIMMELMAN, 28TH DIVISION, HEADQUARTERS, SPECIAL TROOPS, writes with regard to the availability of a Bronze Star to those who earned a Combat Infantryman's Badge or a Combat Medic's Badge: "I would appreciate your publishing the authority for this statement or a correction. As I still read it, the Bronze Star Medal was awarded for heroic or meritorious achievement." If you can answer Benedict, write to him at: 1711 Pine Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103.

Associate member **HENRI HANNON** writes to see if anyone can help him locate Jimmy Moore who served in the Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC) of the 1st Army at Spa Belgium during WWII. In 1952 it was known that Jimmy lived in Boston. Jimmy was a friend of an underground advisor in Spa whose name was Rousseau Celestin (nicknamed Freddy). If you can help write to Henri: %Masi, Rue Walther Jamaer 311/01; 4430 ANS; Belgium.

DONAGH F. O'HARA, 912TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, BATTERY C, would very much like to hear from any of his old buddies. Write to Don at: 47 Sprucewood Drive, Gilford, New Hampshire 03246-7514.

JACK MOCNIK, 526TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, recalls having seen a stone wall on the east side of the Rhine which had large (5 or 6 feet) red letters which read: ONWARD FOOLS OF MOSCOW, YOU ARE SEEKING LOVE BUT FINDING DEATH. Did you see it? If so write to Jack at: 705 East Quincy, Pittsburg, Kansas 66762.

FOREST HARTLEY, 196TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, BATTERY B, would like to hear from any one who was with him during WWII. Write to Forest at: 4447 Friermuth Road, Stockbridge, Michigan 49285-9509.



Commando Otto Skorzeny, towering over his patron, Adolf Hitler, was given only six weeks by the Fuhrer to prepare his commandos for their disruptive behind-the-lines forays in the guise of American soldiers. But Skorzeny had executed equally urgent and unorthodox schemes before; in his greatest coup he had rescued the ousted dictator Mussolini from a mountaintop lodge 75 miles northwest of Rome, where he was being held prisoner in 1943 by the Italian successor government. When Hitler informed Skorzeny of the commando mission, he said, "I know the time given you is very short but I count on you to do the impossible."

IT'S GREAT TO BE AN AMERICAN

By Denis E. Bergeron
80 INF 318 INF 80 SIG

My hometown of Friendswood (Texas) had its usual Fourth of July festivities. The mile long parade route was crowded well before the parade began at 10:00 a.m. I paraded as a WWII member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Friendswood Post 3002.

I looked at a sea of faces, young and old, as the parade went along. It was very hot but people shouted happy Fourth of July greetings. The first time I asked a crowd of spectators, "Isn't it great to be an American?" It was like a spark igniting the true emotions of the Fourth of July. People jumped, waved, and shouted how great it is to be an American.

Just about everyone in Friendswood participated in the celebrations which kept going all day long and into the evening with entertainment, speeches, and fireworks. But there is absolutely no doubt that the spirit, the feeling, the emotion, the pride, and the overall patriotic spirit of the day can be summed up with a resounding "YES" to the question, "Isn't it great to be an American?"

We remaining World War II veterans were brought up during the depression of the 1930's, and we fought for our country in the 1940's. We know that this is still the land of opportunity. And we have no sympathy for those who continually belittle our nation and our government. They need to wake up, join the vast majority in building a better, stronger country, and cherish what we already possess.

KILROY?...CHAD? DO YOU KNOW THE TRUTH?

[This article was sent in by GAYLORD BRENNAN,
539TH ORDNANCE TANK MAINTENANCE.]



Several times in the past, our magazine has printed references to the cartoon character on the left as "Kilroy." Not true. Kilroy was never seen, only words to the affect that he had been there.

This little guy was British. His name was "Chad." He was seen on walls and doors in railroad stations, pubs, and other public places all over the UK. The accompaniments to this fellow's picture were phrases similar to our "loose lips sink ships." One I remember was, "Shhh, Chad is listening."

Many of our members were in the UK. Some for years before we ended up in the Ardennes. I'm sure they will remember "Chad."

VARIOUS & SUNDRY

We receive many items which do not fit into any particular category in this newsletter; therefore, we are using them in this manner for your reading pleasure.

WHEN IT ALL STARTED

I was in Manderfeld, Belgium, when the Bulge Started. Manderfeld is in the Losheim Gap. We were holding a 9,000 yard sector between the 106th Division and the 99th Division. We held out until the afternoon. We left one end of the town and the Germans were coming in the other. We were in the pocket until around the first of the year

Harold E. Gann
18 CAV RECON SQD

□□□□□

EACH YEAR GETS TOUGHER

...glad to be a member and still kicking--got two Purple Hearts during the Bulge. I was 19 years old and really hoped that I would make it to 20 but wasn't sure. Now I'm 72 and hope to make 73--getting tougher every year.

I met four other troopers from the 17th Airborne Division at Carlisle Airborne and Special Forces Reunion--none of us knew each other but we do now. Don Lassen, Editor of *Static Line*, was there and took our photo together. We were the only WWII veterans at the reunion.

Robert Strong
17 ABND

□□□□□

A GENTLE BEAR

The story I am about to tell is more of a humorous one, at least I think so. It is about my experience entering the outfit as a sad sack replacement. The sergeant took me to meet members of the platoon I was supposed to be attached to. The first man I came face-to-face with was a guy named Delmar Wilson, a rough-looking individual over six feet tall, with a beard as heavy as that of a grizzly bear, right there and then it made me want to cry for my mama.

The squad was in a sort of break that day, so everyone was cleaning up a bit, including of course shaving off what looked like to me a month of old whiskers. A little later that same day I asked around for Delmar so I could get acquainted with him, knowing by now that I was in fact his new bed buddy. Even though he was standing less than ten feet from me, I did not recognize the man after he had shaved off his enormous beard.

This, needless to say, brought out a big laugh from everyone in the room and a red face to a very scared young replacement.

It didn't take us very long to become the best of friends. He looked after me as if I was his younger brother. Did not know how lucky this day was for me to have Delmar as my bunk buddy, until the cold weather hit us. You see, he was our squad truck driver, along the way he had managed to "liberate" about a dozen or so blankets, and together with my two, we kept pretty warm during that miserable 1944-45 winter.

He was not at all the grizzly bear I had met that first day, but a mild and gentle man. He was the only one who did not make fun of my very poor English. You see, I wasn't just new in the outfit, I was also very new to the country. He made me feel welcome in both places.

I said it before and I will say it again: Thanks, Delmar. Thanks for every thing.

Domenic Firmani
80 INF 305 ENGR CMBT BN

□□□□□

ONE WEEK OFF...WITH PAY

I won't be able to attend the reunion, but I will be thinking of you and all the men who fought, died and were wounded at the BOB.

I was there with the 2nd (Indianhead) Division, 9th Infantry, Company H--Normandy invasion to the end of the war.

For eleven months of combat, I had one week off of the front line--a 48 hour pass. Not everything can be written down, people would not believe it. I can't believe how we coped with the weather and still be alive after all the battles fought.

I was wounded and received two Purple Hearts, five major battle stars and other things. Nothing can compare to the men who gave their lives.

I read the articles in *The Bulge Bugle* and they bring back so many memories that we can never forget--losing our buddies and best friends at the Battle of the Bulge.

Leonard L. Huskey
2 INF 9 INF H

□□□□□

CAUGHT NEAR ST. VITH

Just briefly, the 9th Armored Division was caught in the Battle of the Bulge. Each combat command had to fight by themselves. We were caught near St. Vith as CCB of the 99th Armored. One combat command defended the road to Luxembourg City. The other was near Bastogne.

I thought you might like a copy of this [a 66-page history of the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion] for your history. If not, throw it in the trash. [Elmer, this will never go in the trash. We thank you sincerely for it and, rest assured, we will see that it forever remains a treasure.]

Elmer B. Lindsey
9 ARMDD 27 AIB A

□□□□□

HEARD IT ON THE GRAPEVINE

I don't recall having read in *The Bulge Bugle* at any time and doubt if I could have missed it. It seems there are officers from WWII that would love to have the German divisions that we fought against attend the conventions of American GI's. Has this really happened. Have we forgotten what took place those long years ago? In my mind I think it's one of the craziest, stupid things I ever heard of. Maybe its just me, but I can write a long list of good men who died in combat--many still buried over in France, Luxembourg, Germany, England, etc., who would never have a voice in this. If it's your choice to forgive is one thing. Don't bring these past night mares to our special place--our conventions.

I have talked and written to men from different divisions and to a man, they say "NO. Don't let them in."

A few have said to me that maybe these officers, some of whom think they won the war by themselves, are so thin on battles to win, they want this last shot at being in the headlines again. If so, just have the Germans come to their houses and leave our conventions to the U.S. soldiers and service men.

My question is: has this happened? And, if so, what were the thoughts of the men that didn't have a say in the Germans (or Japs) being there?

(Continued on Page 26)

VARIOUS AND SUNDRY (Continued from Page 25)

Many thanks for your stories in *The Bulge Bugle*. It's still cold every winter and it was darned cold in the Bulge.

Frank Yerks
4 ARMDD, 51 AIB B

[Frank, it must be just a rumor. To the best of our knowledge this has not been considered.]

LIVING TO SEE MY 81ST BIRTHDAY

February 26, 1945--Our job was a dismounted attack on the Village of Schoden, just across the Saar River from the Town of Ayl. I was with a communications group that had set up housekeeping in one of those large German pillboxes. They hit us in a stiff counter attack on Sunday night of the 25th. We fought them all through that Sunday night and into Monday morning. A German yelled "Come out or we'll blow you to hell" and then they came down into the pillbox. I had been bleeding through the night from a wound to the left of my windpipe. We came out of that pillbox with our hands over our heads. It was coming daylight and beginning to rain and every time we stopped I would pass out.

This German kid probably wasn't 15 years old. His uniform was too big for his child's body. I was lying in a ditch along side the road and bleeding like the proverbial stuck pig. He bent over me, and then he stopped the bleeding and put a bandage on my neck. As he turned to leave, I called after him, "Danka Schoen." He turned around and came back to me and fussed over me like a mother hen, and when he was finished I had a huge bandage around my neck. I'll bet I looked like Uncle Wiggley from the cabbage patch. I'm as sure as I am that God makes little green apples that I would not be 81 if it had not been for that German kid.

Joseph W. Bulkeley
10 ARMDD 61 AIB B

[Joseph, although we try to stay away from stories that did not occur in the Bulge, we, too, are happy that you're going to make it to 81.]

MY FRENCH CAME IN HANDY

In Germany during the Battle of the Bulge, I was a sergeant in the motor pool and had to pick up stuff at Headquarters all the time.

One day I was on my way there and had two beig Belgian soldiers with me. Above us was a dog fight between a small American and a German one. The American plane had shot down the German one and the pilot of the American plane came down low and hollered at us to get the German pilot, who was floating down.

As I was due to pick up food for the company at headquarters, I told the Belgians to capture the German and I would pick them up enroute back.

When I got back the Belgian soldiers were waiting for me and told me the German was dead. One of them had on his boots and I could smell fresh gun powder on them. I had wanted to take the German pilot in as a prisoner.

I would take these Belgians down to headquarters to eat--they could eat, they were so big and always hungry. I wish I had got their names and addresses, so I could have stayed in touch. The Belgians liked us Americans and would have done anything for us. I could converse with them in French, which came in handy many times.

We really enjoy *The Bugle*. Keep up the good work. I wrote because I never see anything from our 78th Division. Hope this can be put in the next edition so we can be represented.

Raymond J. Rocheleau
78 INF 310 INF AT

A NICE SURPRISE

On a very nice sunny July 15, 1997, morning in Oslo, Norway, our touring group of 13 Americans from Oregon and Washington States, were awaiting street car #19 on the street outside our lodging. An elderly man approached us along the sidewalk. He started speaking loudly in English, "You Americans?" I answered, "Yes," rather quizzically, wondering what's coming next. He continued, "I just want to thank you!" Now we were all looking right at him and showing surprise at his statement and with a "for what look" about us! He continued, "I just want you to know how much I appreciate what the United States did for me and for all of us. You rescued me from a concentration camp and gave us all our freedom. You Americans made it possible for us to enjoy the freedom of life we have today! I just wanted you to know how much I appreciate what you did for us!"

Our street car came clanging up, and we had to jump on! Now, I wish I had stayed and talked to the man--found out more about him. Maybe he was liberated in Germany--maybe by the 11th Armored Division

This happening was a wonderful highlight of our recent tour of the Scandinavian countries.

Roger J. Mockford
11 ARMDD 55 AIB C

LEOPOLDVILLE REMEMBERED

Many of you will remember the stories and comments we have recently published regarding the ill-fated *Leopoldville*. This Belgian ship was sunk in the English Channel on Christmas Eve 1944. It carried 2,235 members of the 66th Infantry Division--replacements being sent to the Battle of the Bulge.

A monument listing the names of the 763 American soldiers who died when the ship was torpedoed will be dedicated at 1:00 p.m., November 7th at Ft. Benning, Georgia (Sacrifice Field). Four hundred ninety-three of the bodies from this tragic event were never recovered.

Organizers expect several hundred persons whose families were affected by the disaster to attend the dedication.



Above left to right: Susan Eisenhower and Dorothy Davis. Susan will be the speaker at the December 16th banquet. The above picture shows Susan autographing copies of her new book "Mrs. Ike" at the dedication of the Armored Division dedication at Fort Meade.

VBOB REUNION, Carlisle, PA

(Continued from Page 8)

military services who attend the War College, and similar officers from the armed forces of friendly nations who study at Carlisle Barracks.

Music for this memorable ceremony was provided by the U.S. Army Band, "Pershing's Own," from Fort Myer, VA.

Following the monument dedication, VBOB members and their families participated in tours of the War College, the Military History Institute, and the many historic areas of Carlisle Barracks. The Military History Institute at the post contains over 9,000,000 articles relating to the history of America's wars. They include the personal wartime histories of many of the veterans who fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

Speaking on behalf of all VBOB members, Pres. Wojtusik expressed thanks to Gen. Scales, Col. Vossler, and to all soldiers and civilians at Carlisle Barracks who made this September 17, 1997, so special for the veterans of the battle, and their families and friends.

BOOKS YOU MAY ENJOY

The following books were recently received for our archives:

The Shock of War (Volumes I & II), by J. C. Doherty. Author Doherty was in a heavy mortar squad in the 99th Infantry Division. This 900-page history deals with the crucial battles southeast of Liege on and around the Elsenborn Ridge. These battles forced the Wehrmacht high command to pass the lead role in the German Ardennes attack from 6th SS Panzer Army to 5th Panzer Army and thereby changed the course and direction of the attack. Doherty's history features the operations of the U.S. 1st, 2nd, and 99th Infantry Divisions and many attached units. Order the two-volume set from: Vert Milon Press, Box 332, Alexandria, Virginia 22313. Cost is \$32.00 for both, including shipping and handling.

Citizen Soldiers by Stephen E. Ambrose. This sequel to *D-Day* opens at 0001 hours, June 7, 1944, on the Normandy beaches, and ends at 0245 hours, May 7, 1945. In between come the battles in the hedgerows of Normandy, the breakout at St.-Lo, the Falaise gap, Patton tearing through France, the liberation of Paris, the attempt to leap the Rhine in Operation Market-Garden, the near-miraculous German recovery, the battles around Metz and in the Huertgen Forrest, the Battle of the Bulge..., the capture of the bridge at Remagen, and ends with the overrunning of Germany. Hundreds of interviews and oral histories from enlisted men and junior officers on both sides of the battles. Available for \$27.50 at your local book stores--published by Simon & Schuster.

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The Lion's Share

by D. J. Young

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on The Battle of the Bulge

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John Toland, *The Story of the Bulge*

"The book is wonderfully readable."

Paul Fussell, *The Great War and Modern Memory*

"The Lion's Share stirred lots of memories of WWII."

Page Smith, *A People's History of the United States*

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ADDRESSES FOR CREBA & CEBA MONUMENT GUIDES

Many of you have written to Roger Hardy in Belgium, to obtain a copy of the pocket guide *Battle of the Bulge Memory Routes*. Your inquiries should be addressed to:

Andre Hubert
President of CRIBA
29 Rue du Centre
6674 Langlire (Gouvy), Belgium

or

Tilly Kimmes
CEBA
29, rue de Hunsdorf, L-7324
Steinsel, Luxembourg

This guide was mentioned in the May, 1997, *Bugle*.

•ATTENTION•ATTENTION•

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If you were awarded the Combat Infantry Badge (CIB) (WWII only), you are entitled to a Bronze Star Medal. If you have not received this award write:

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Make the request and include a copy of your discharge certificate. This document should show you received the CIB.

The VBOB office has no military records and we are unable to help you obtain any of the above. When we receive a request to be of assistance with the above, all we can do is pass your inquiry along to the above addresses. Writing to the VBOB office only slows your inquiry down.■

143RD AAA GUN BATTALION COMMENDATION

[The following was received from FRANKLIN (BUD) KOEPKE, 143RD AAA GUN BATTALION.]

HEADQUARTERS
ELEVENTH ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY GROUP
APO 758, U.S. Army

23 August 1945.

Subject: Commendation on Performance
During Ardennes Offensive.

To: Commanding Officer, 143rd AAA Gun Battalion.

1. During the period 18 December 1944 to 3 January 1945 the 143rd AAA Gun Battalion was attached to the XVIII Corps (AB) and subsequently attached to this Group Headquarters and the 30th Infantry Division primarily in an antimechanized role initially and later in an AA role. This battalion performed in a superior manner during this period and I deem it fitting that I, the Corps AA Officer at that time, should take the initiative and express the praise for this unit that was felt throughout the Headquarters of the XVIII Corps (AB) and the 30th Infantry Division.

2. As shown by the battalion's official records the 143rd stopped the enemy's armored spearhead that was thrusting North toward LIEGE in the vicinity of STOUMONT and STOUMONT STATION on 19 December 1944. It was during this action that the 143rd fought their guns with practically no infantry support, knocked out six (6) Tiger tanks and two (2) M-4 tanks with their 90 mm guns, and bazookas borrowed from what withdrawing infantry troops there were in the vicinity. When on 21 December 1944 the battalion was attached to the 30th Infantry Division for an AT and TD mission, the same superb performance of duty prevailed and again the 143rd proved their fearlessness and was the victor over three (3) Mark VI Tiger tanks and one (1) M-4 Sherman being operated by the enemy, in the vicinity of La Gleize.

3. While the 143rd was given practically no opportunity to prove their efficiency in an AA role while attached to this headquarters, they did hang up an outstanding record as tank destroyers and as infantry. I cannot praise this battalion too highly for their courageous and inspiring actions at a time in the initial phases of the ARDENNES offensive when the courage to stand and fight one's guns was almost a supreme sacrifice in itself. This battalion definitely stopped the enemy spearhead headed for LIEGE and I salute every man in that battalion for their super performance during this period.

Signed: Harry P. Newton
Colonel, CAC
Commanding

The following pictures relate to the commendation on the left:

Stoumont Station was Kampfgruppe Peiper Tanks' furthest penetration west.



"X" marks the approximate spot at the Stoumont Station in Belgium where the 99mm gun which stopped Kampfgruppe Joachim Peiper would have been.



The translation on the above monument says: Here the Invader was Stopped. The monument is near the Stoumont Station.

The pictures were taken by Captain Leon Kent of the battalion (Battery C) in 1996. Captain Kent was also with the 90mm gun on 19 December 1944.

They were learning the reality of war, these youngsters, getting face to face with the sickening realization that men get killed uselessly because their generals are stupid, so that desperate encounters where the last drop of courage has been given serve the country not at all and make a patriot look a fool.

BRUCE CATTON

REUNIONS

78TH INFANTRY DIVISION, October 7-12, 1998, Rosemont (Chicago area), Illinois. Contact: Stanley Zolna, 422 Super Street, Monsinee, Wisconsin 54455.

94TH INFANTRY DIVISION, May 28-30, 1998, Atlanta, Georgia. Contact: Harry Helms, 609 Dogwood Drive, Downingtown, Pennsylvania 19335.

99TH INFANTRY DIVISION, July 22-26, 1998, Kansas City, Missouri. Contact: Bill Meyer, P.O. Box 99, Marion, Kansas 66861.

526TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, March 4-8, 1998, Doubletree Hotel, Costa Mesa, California. Contact: Tom Henderson, 4465 Outrigger Circle, Huntington Beach, California 92649. Telephone: 714-846-0478.

Received too late for last issue:

17TH AIRBORNE DIVISION, September 4-7, 1997, French Lick Springs Resort, French Lick, Indiana. Contact: Edward J. Siegiej, 2903 Revere Place, Deland, Florida 32720-1459. Telephone: 904-736-6722.

80TH AIRBORNE BATTALION, October 3-4, 1997, Dayton, Ohio. Contact: Joe Oberkrieser, 53 South Lane, Orchard Park, New York 14127-3342.

249TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, held September 18-20, 1997. Contact: James Hand at telephone number 716-593-5094.

ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUESTIONS

1. Overlord
 2. Stars and Strikes and Yank
 3. SNAFU
 4. "Ten in One" Rations
 5. Siegfried Line
 6. Omaha, Utah, Gold, Juno, and Sword
 7. Thomas E. Dewey and John W. Bricker
 8. George Baker
 9. a. Absent Without Leave
b. Kitchen Police
c. Charge of Quarters
d. European Theater of Operations
e. Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces
 10. Ruptured Duck
-

NORMANDY MEDAL AVAILABILITY

[The following information was found in the newsletter of the 749TH TANK BATTALION ASSOCIATION. It was submitted to them by TONY GRABIAK, who found it in the June/July 1997 issue of VFW.]

"The French Embassy does not issue medals to U.S. WWII vets who served in the Normandy Campaign. Nor does the U.S. Government issue the "Jubilee of Liberty" medal created by the Regional Council of Normandy in 1994 to commemorate D-Day's 50th anniversary.

"To request this medal, send a copy of your military records to prove Normandy involvement to: Association Debarquement et Bataille de Normandie 1944, Abbaye aux Dames, Place Reine Mathilde, B.P. 311, 14015 Caen Cedex, France. (FAX 011-33-2-3195 1281.)"

WWII VETERANS MEETINGS/LECTURES

PETER G. DOUNIS, 75TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 291ST INFANTRY, COMPANY G, advises us that **ROBERT F. PHILLIPS, 28TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 110TH INFANTRY, COMPANY D**, (and VBOB's Historian) will be the featured speaker at the M. Schweinhaut Senior Center at its next meeting. The senior center features speakers from different theatres of WWII every 3rd Monday of each month, except for December and the summer months. Phillips will speak on the Battle of the Bulge. The senior center is located at 1000 Forest Glen Road in Silver Spring, Maryland. If you would like more information, call Pete Dounis 1-301-589-6730.

ABOUT OUR NEW YEAR'S TOAST

Several of you have written or called about the time of the New Year's toast proposed in the August issue--our article didn't specify whether it would be noon on the East Coast or noon on the West Coast.

Let's do it at noon New Year's Day Pacific Standard Time. That will allow all of us who are raising our glasses to do so when our stomachs might be able to adjust to a glass of champagne if this is what we choose for our salute.

Let's all be together at this time to honor all who served in the Battle of the Bulge.

MURPHY'S 12 BASIC LAWS OF COMBAT

[The following was sent in by MICHAEL A. DENEEN, 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION, 325TH GLIDER INFANTRY REGIMENT, COMPANY A.]

1. Incoming always has the right of way.
 2. Never share a fox hole with anyone braver than you.
 3. If your attack is going really well, it's an ambush.
 4. The important things are always simple.
 5. The simple things are always hard.
 6. The easy way is always mined.
 7. If you're short of everything except the enemy, you're in combat.
 8. When you secure an area, don't forget to tell the enemy.
 9. Tracers work both ways.
 10. If the enemy's in range, so are you!
 11. Professional soldiers are very predictable. Unfortunately, the world's full of amateurs.
 12. When in doubt, empty the magazine!
-

WOMEN'S WAR MEMORIAL

Dedicated October 16-19, 1997

The Women in Military Service for America Memorial, to honor all military women--all wars--all services--all grades--all periods of time was dedicated at Arlington Cemetery. If you would like further information or wish to make a contribution, call 1-800-222-2294.

VBOB QUARTERMASTER

November 1997

This is the last issue before the upcoming holidays -- if you are planning to buy something for a holiday present, please get your orders to me as early as possible (before December 1st). I wish you all Happy Holidays and a wonderful New Year! -- Lynne

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Memorable Bulge Incidence Book* - This is a compilation of all the MBIs that have been published in the Bugle from 1991 through 1994 (Book is not bound - it is three hold punched, you provide the binder)	\$ 15.00*		\$
Engineering The Victory - The Battle of the Bulge - A History*, by Col. David Pergrin - hard cover, 441 pages	\$ 30.00*		\$

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NOTHING CAN STOP THE ARMY AIR FORCE, THANK GOD

[The following articles which appeared in the Stars and Stripes December 28, 1944, were submitted by Kenneth E. Sangmaster, 9TH U.S. AIR FORCE, 370TH FIGHTER GROUP, 402ND SQUADRON.]

Reporter Rides 'Piggyback' in P38 on Prowl of Front

By Pat Mitchell
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

From 10,000 feet over Marche I watched from the piggyback seat on a Lightning piloted by 2/Lt. Robert A. Berry, of Los Angeles, as American soldiers battled the Nazis below in freezing weather.

We dodged 20, 40 and 88mm flak as other P38s of the group commanded by Lt. Col. Seth J. McKee, of Orlando, Florida, cart-wheeled at better than 250 miles an hour over the area.

While circling above St. Vith, I learned by radio that 1/Lt. William F. Osborne, of St. Petersburg, Florida, had spotted 11 FW190s south of Liege. A minute later I heard him say he had got one plane.

Osborne, who downed the first plane on the first day of the Nazi push, is now credited with three enemy planes destroyed.

South of the Meuse River, snow blanketed fields and brown earth showed through where shells or tanks treads had churned up the frozen mud.

P38 pilot groups, commanded by Colonel McKee and Colonel Clinton C. Wasm, of Dover, Ohio, were prepared to defend their own field as the Nazi drive came to within 15 miles of their runway. The crews slept in planes, taking turns walking guard along the wings.

Pilots Defy Snow To Hit Transport

Fighter-bombers of the Ninth and 29th TACS, operating between snowstorms yesterday, wrecked 52 motor transports, destroyed and damaged 99 railcars and four locomotives.

The Ninth TAC flew 19 sorties. A squad of Lightnings in a group led by Lt. Col. Seth J. McKee, of Orlando, Florida, observed a concentration of more than 200 motor transports and armored vehicles 15 miles northeast of St. Vith. Fifty-one of the transports and two tanks were destroyed and one tank damaged.

Sixty-three P47s from the 29th hit railroad yards on the two main lines south from the industrial Ruhr Valley to the Roer River front.

Yards at Rheydt were hit twice and Thunderbolts dive-bombed other yards at Munchen-Gladbach and Gravenbroich.

P47s led by 1st/Lt. Richard Gibian, of Montgomery, Alabama, attacked the Grevenbroich yards, destroying 50 railcars and loading platform. Sixteen light flak guns which had been hampering the Thunderbolts' strafing attacks on the yards were silenced by 1st/Lt. John J. Reynolds, of Collingsdale, Pennsylvania.

□□□□

UPDATE ON YOUR NATIONAL MEMORIAL

Much has been said lately about the progress (or lack thereof) of the **World War II Memorial**. We want to keep you as up-to-date as possible without being misleading. So, herewith, we relay to you information from the *World War II Memorial Newsletter*.

"In a victory for your World War II Memorial, two commissions recently reaffirmed the memorial's reserved spot on the National Mall.

"The Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) and the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) met in late July to consider Friedrich St. Florian's design concept. Although they recommended a number of design modifications, both rejected proposals to move the memorial to a less prominent location.

"J. Carter Brown, CFA chairman, summarized his commission's feelings when he said, 'This site is so appropriate for an event of this significance. We will never find a subject more fitting for this site.'

"The CFA asked that the memorial berms and columns be re-examined and the plaza softened with landscaping to keep a 'park-like character.'

"The NCPC endorsed the CFA design comments, recommended eliminating the enclosed spaces, and questioned the size and bulk of the berms and the height and form of the columns.

"The design concept will now undergo modifications to meet the commissions' guidelines. A revised concept should be ready this fall.

"Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) announced that 160 House members had signed a letter backing the site and design. She also presented a letter of support from 10 senators.

"Twenty-seven veterans groups and the Daughters of the American Revolution publicly expressed support through personal testimony or letters.

"Joseph J. Frank, American Legion national commander, echoed veterans' sentiments when he said, 'For all they've done, the World War II generation has earned a spot smack-dab in the hearts of all Americans. Their memorial deserves a spot smack-dab in the heart of our nation's capital.'

At the 1996 Reunion in Hyannis Port last year, the members voted to set aside from the 1996-97 budget a contribution to the memorial in the amount of \$10,000.00. This contribution was presented on behalf of the members of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc., to Memorial Project Manager Col. Kevin Kelly "smack-dab" in the middle of our annual banquet this year in Gettysburg.

Friedrich St. Florian, designer of the memorial, was 12 when U.S. troops liberated his village near Salzburg, Austria. Inspired by President Roosevelt's words: "To some generations, much is given, and of others, much is asked," St. Florian said, "I belong to a generation to whom much has been given, so this contest became a personal challenge to design a memorial that is worthy of the event as well as its spectacular site."

□□□□



VETERANS of the BATTLE of the BULGE

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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE
P.O. Box 11129, Arlington, Virginia 22210-2129

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Annual Dues \$15

Do not write above this line

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal - Member # _____

Name _____ Birthdate _____

Address _____ Phone () _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

All new members, please provide the following information:

Campaign(s) _____

Unit(s) to which assigned during period December 16, 1944 - January 25, 1945 - Division _____

Regiment _____ Battalion _____

Company _____ Other _____

Make check or money order payable to VBOB
and mail with this application to above address:

Applicants Signature _____

RECRUITER (Optional)