The BULGE BUGLE

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

VOLUME XXIV NUMBER 2 | THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN | MAY 2005

VBOB 60th ANNIVERSARY CONTINUATION





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Pittsburgh is THE Place! Be There! *Page 16*

"Patton's Wheels" — *Page 7*

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, INC.
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Published quarterly, *THE BULGE BUGLE* is the official publication of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge.

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

IF YOU FIND YOU HAVE A LITTLE TIME, WRITE TO VBOB AND WE'LL SEND YOU THE NECESSARY TOOLS TO GET OFF TO A GOOD START IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CHAPTER IN YOUR AREA.

President's Message

In the spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love....

Alfred Lord Tennyson

[Editor's note: Hey Alfie, how about us <u>old soldiers?...We still have thoughts.</u>]

VBOB ANNUAL REUNION
HOLIDAY INN AIRPORT
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA
SEPTEMBER 28-OCTOBER 2, 2005



George Chekan

Rose Pascal, Holiday Inn Sales Representative (our go-to lady), has given us a tremendous assist in the planning of our itinerary for this VBOB Pittsburgh Reunion.

Many vets' organizations will attest to her help in making their reunions successful.

Come early and enjoy a Wine and Cheese Party featuring the music of Eddie Boron.

The next day we're off on a tour of this friendly city with its many historic points of interest.

One evening we have a delicious buffet Italian dinner for your dining pleasure with a lively Broadway review.

In addition to our Annual Meeting, a Patriotic Assembly sponsored by Moon Township High School will pay tribute to all you veterans.

The Annual Veterans Banquet promises to be a memorial event with good food, prominent speakers and entertainment.

To climax this continuation of the 60th Anniversary Celebration you will enjoy the Gateway Clipper Dinner--cruising the three rivers that make up the Pittsburgh Point, where the Allegheny River and Monongahela River form the Ohio River.

To end this delightful, memorable weekend enjoy the delicious farewell breakfast buffet.

Mark your calendar--don't miss this annual event. You'll love Pittsburgh--they'll love you.

Ensuring BoB Legacy:

At a recent Executive Council Meeting, there was serious discussion regarding the lack of cooperation of many of the chapters to **require** that their members also maintain membership in the national VBOB. I wish I could say that this is an option...it isn't. It's a government requirement because our Bylaws mandate individual membership **before** they can be a member of a chapter. Undoubtedly, the Executive Council will be required to take corrective actions if the Bylaws requirements are not met.

Of course, the chapters are anxious to have as many members as possible in order to carry out their local projects and collect the chapter dues. The Executive Council well understands that the members of chapters enjoy each other's company and activities. However, this is not the purpose that the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc., was founded on. It was established for the purpose of ensuring that the Battle of the Bulge finds its place in history and that the heroes we left there are never forgotten. We strive to do this. **THIS IS OUR LEGACY!**

Our reserve funds will allow us to continue for a period of two or three years after dues income is not sufficient to continue operation. We encourage the chapters' cooperation in seeing that all their members belong to VBOB national. Several chapters have shown remarkable efforts to help in this regard. With this cooperation, we would probably have sufficient funds to continue for another five or six years after dues slack off.

If you belong to a chapter, we hope you will go to your next meeting and bring this up. To capsulize the essence of the above message: **It's important to our survival.**

Remembrance:

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS: Especially those who are in harm's way, let them know that our thoughts and prayers are with them.



A Luxembourg Legend has died...

TILLY KIMMES HANSEN

April 23, 2005

...a true friend of the Bulge Veteran

Farewell Patriot, Farewell

IN THIS ISSUE

3. Presidents Message
4. Letters to Editor
6. Haunted by Memories
7. Patton's Wheels
9. In the Bulge
10. Members Speak Out
11. Vets Recall Tests
12. Key Bastogne Defense
13. Year Without Christmas
15. Central Fla. Chapter
16. Pittsburgh Reunion
20. Reunions
21. Private Eddie Slovik
22. We weren't Heroes
24. Bulge Certificate
25. The Unsung Heroes
26. On to Bastogne
27. Sled Dogs in Bulge
28. Keynote Address
30. Memories
31. VBOB Quartermaster

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

...DON'T BOTHER TO PACK

I was just reading the November issue of *The Bulge Bugle* again... I thoroughly enjoy every issue and read and reread from cover to cover.

Our (Separate) Battalion was at Tilff, Belgium, when we received the orders to leave immediately for Malmedy on December 16th. Don't bother to pack anything 'cause we'll be back in a day or two. We were on the line for 31 days: no shampoo, shave or shine. After that long we were a scrubby-looking group of soldiers.

We had an ideal defensive position on a railroad embankment with a great open field which the German infantry had to come across to get to us. They came to the bottom of the embankment shouting wildly, "Surrender or die." They died--dozens of them--before they retreated. When we were relieved at Malmedy we were sent to Stavelot. Finally, back to Tilff.

Harold K. Hanson
99 INF BN (Sep) A
(Ski Troopers)

DUPLICATE EXPERIENCES

I have just finished reading the February 2005 edition from cover to cover and congratulate you on publishing the best veterans' publication now in circulation.

In reading the experiences of the various members and locales of their battle experiences, they could have been a duplicate of the experiences we veterans of the 7th U.S. Army faced in the Alsace portion of the Battle of Alsace/Ardennes by changing the names of the veterans and the locales from Bastogne, Malmedy, St. Vith and the other locales in Belgium and Luxembourg to the Alsatian cities and towns of Hatten, Drusenheim, Sessenheim, Offendorf, Gambsheim and other venues where the battle was just as intense, the enemy just as ferocious and the American defenders just as heroic. Our 7th Army ("The Seven Steps to Hell") covered itself with as much glory as did the 1st and 3rd Armies did in the Ardennes.

Keep up the good work. By relating our experience is the only way we can keep our exploits alive.

I served as a staff/sergeant in Company B, 242nd Infantry Regiment, 42nd Infantry "Rainbow" Division, where I was wounded at Hatten, France, on January 13, 1945. Our 1st Battalion earned a Presidential Unit Citation for our exploits in Hatten.

Michael J. Diglio
42 INFD 242 INF B

MAYBE PATTON KNEW....

[This article is being republished as there were several typographical errors in its first publication.]

I wish to limit my comments to the one sentence in the May 2004 edition of *The Bulge Bugle* on page 4 which states: "It would appear from the above that Patton did not at that time recognize the major threat either."

Your statement projects a very erroneous conclusion. Patton was the one general who had a grasp of the gravity of the Bulge attack. John Fotheringham of Toledo, Ohio, served as desk sergeant assigned to G-2 section of the Third Army. His task was to log in all intelligence received from any and all sources. He was privy to the vast collection of information about the huge German build-up east of Luxembourg. I worked with John for eighteen months at Willys--Overland. We had lunch together many times and the discussion frequency turned to General Patton and the Bulge.

General Patton withdrew the 26th, 35th, and 80th Infantry Divisions plus the Fourth Armored and many supporting units from the Alsace-Lorraine front and moved them to the Metz area. I was in the 26th Division and remember that we were in Metz a day or so prior to the German Offensive (Bulge).

Perhaps a better conclusion would indicate that he knew the seriousness of the situation and did not want to release the 10th Armored.

The conversation between Bradley and Patton may have been incorrectly quoted or taken out of context. However, Bradley was far less informed than Patton. Patton was known to use diverse strategies to pursue his goals. Maybe he simply "laid a number" on Bradley.

I wish to compliment the 10th Armored Division. They have been denied credit for the defence of Bastogne. I have had many contacts with 10th Armored veterans and discussed their achievements to great length.

My service was with the 26th (Yankee Division) from stateside through the entire war. I was in the 104th Regiment, 3rd Battalion, I Company. ....

William W. Houle
26 INFD 104 INF 3 BN I

NO MARTINIS FOR THAD

As suggested in *The Bulge Bugle*, a few of us VBOB veterans here in the Buffalo, New York, Metropolitan area, collaborated to pay a tribute to the veterans who served in the Battle of the Bulge *[January 1, 2005]*. Namely: Frank Tichy (Alden, New York), 11th Armored Division; Frank Witkowski (Cheektowaga, New York), 75th Infantry Division; Lloyd Sheldon (Mesa, Arizona (by phone), 11th Armored Division; and myself.

We coordinated our toast at the proper hour, on 1/1/2005, to remember all those troops.

The only "bug a boo" in my personal celebration, was that being ill with the flu at the time, I had to settle for a toast with a glass of apple juice, instead of my usual martini.

Thad Conway
11 ARMDD 565 AAA BN A

[Thad, we hope that old bug is gone in time for next year's martini.]

BE AWARE...

...My husband served in the military 30(?) years and 20 days. He served in Europe during WWII for 25 months. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge and was wounded there. He adored General Patton but refused to talk about the war.

He died 20 years ago after a stroke. I learned a little about his war experiences. He had nightmares: D-Day landing, untrained soldiers sent over to fight, lack of equipment and supplies--not even boots. He often hinted about the wars of the commanders between themselves which made it more difficult to fight and progress in the war.

Thanks to your magazine I have become more informed about the war and the Battle of the Bulge.

I worked for the VA for a while--I've never gotten over it. It's a shame and disgrace the way our veterans are treated--still. They get doctors no one else would hire. They experiment with new drugs--as they do with prisoners. They die without the doctors coming to the hospital--they fight, are wounded and suffer the rest of their lives--and so often die alone. "In the greatest country in the world!" Forgive me--maybe you can tell that I'm quite bitter about our wars and the treatment of those who bear the brunt of the battles.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

As Eisenhower said as his last statement on retirement as president. They asked him for a final statement, he said: "Tell the people to be aware of the Military Industrial Complex." He knew!

Thanks for letting me spill my feelings, as I tell you how proud I am that you have your magazine to give your Bulge veterans a chance to tell their stories and the honor that you give them.

God bless you all and those who gave so much.

Elaine Raybon
Associate Member

LOST IN THE TRANSLATION...

The many nice pages written by Mr. Marty Sheeron were most interesting.

As an historian of the Battle of the Bulge, I own 122 books pertaining to this battle, and having spent five full years of World War II in Belgium, I would respectfully take exception with Mr. Sheeron's "Note of Interest," as printed on page 17 of Volume XIV of *The Bulge Bugle* dated February 2005.

I was born an American citizen and at age twelve was taken prisoner by the Germans. My father was the only American citizen condemned to death by the SS for helping American airmen escape back to England. We were forbidden to speak English and were forced to learn Dutch and French. I also understand Walloon(?) which is the language spoken in the Ardennes.

Having lived in Belgium during these awful war years, I really understand why Mr. Sheeron could be confused. I know that most GI's never saw a map and most of the time they had no idea where they were.

For the sake of history and not to get the very patriotic Walloons, who live in the southern part of Belgium, upset, I would suggest that *The Bulge Bugle* correct this faux pas.

Included are two maps *[one is reproduced elsewhere in this issue]* showing where all three languages are spoken. It should be understood that the Flemish section of Belgium has a tendency to be sympathetic to the Nazi regime, in fact 27% of the Flemish speaking people voted for the "Viarmse(?) Belang" party which is very pro-Nazi.

The section where German is spoken is called: "Les Pays Redimes(?)", the "Redeemed Countries." It was part of Germany before World War I and was given to Belgium in 1919 by the treaty ending WWI. The people in this area of Belgium have always resented the fact that they were annexed by the Belgians.

Thank you for listening to another perspective of Belgium.

Christian W. deMarcken
Associate Member

MEMORIES STIRRED...

I thoroughly enjoyed the article on the 60th Anniversary Celebration of the Battle of the Bulge. The named towns and cities, i.e, Houffalize, Wiltz, Luxembourg City, St. Vith, etc., etc., brought back many memories of my time there as a young man.

My thanks to the author.

Wilfred R. Riley
188 ENGR CMBT BN

COINCIDENCE

...see page 5 of the November VBOB publication. The photo on that page was sent in by a Robert F. Kirk--my name is: Robert R. Kirk. If he was the one who took that photo--then we were there at the same time. I was there the day of the German attack. Is that a coincidence or what!

I would like to get in touch with that individual. Is there a way to do that in your VBOB publication? Do you have a way of having your readers being able to get in touch with one another?

Robert R. Kirk
526 AIR BN

[We have sent Robert R.'s letter to Robert F. We'll be happy to do the same for you if you want to contact someone.]

STRESSING THE BULGE

Our ranks are getting thinner as the years go by. No one should ever forget what the Battle of the Bulge was all about. We were just teen aged kids then but now, like me, we are in our 80's.

I try to stress the hardships we endured during that winter of 1944 the few times I speak to school children and other gatherings I speak at and it irks me when I'm asked where the Bulge was.

Frank C. Pagliuca
75 INFD

COMBAT ENGINEER BADGE

I agree that those of us who were in the Battle of the Bulge who were in the combat engineers should have a metal similar to the one that the infantry has. our unit was used as infantry for about two weeks during the break through at the Sigfried Line in Germany. So, maybe our unit should have the Infantry Badge.

George Yancho
172 ENGR CMBT BN

THERE WERE MANY OF US

I just received my *Bulge Bugle* and, as usual, there are some very interesting articles, but unfortunately it seems that the infantry and airborne were the only servicemen who served in the military during WWII.

If I remember correctly, I saw planes overhead, tanks, ships, artillery, ammo dumps, gas storage, and many other service men and they were not all airborne or infantry.

I'm enclosing an operation that I have never seen one article about in the Bulge. I would appreciate it if you could just run some of the information *[elsewhere in this edition]*. Thank you.

Cecil D. Gilliam
788 AAA AW BN A

[As we have stated so many times, we print what you submit or something that we chance upon. We don't have a research staff, per se. Look this issue over--you'll find stories about trucks, artillery, ammo dumps, gasoline and even sled dogs. In the past we've had stories about planes and many about tanks. I can only recall one about ships, but we had one on the USS Leopold quite some time ago.]

NOPE,

WE DIDN'T MOVE...

but the post office has changed our box number.
It is now P.O. Box 101418
Arlington, Virginia
and the zip is
22210-4418

THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS--MASSING OF THE COLORS

The 19th Annual Massing of the Colours was held on April 19, 2005, at Meade Senior High School, Fort Meade, Maryland and conducted by the General George G. Meade Chapter of the MOWW.

The ceremony focuses on the positive aspects of the nation by acknowledging our American heritage of freedom and it's symbolic representation--the U.S. National Flag.

Participants include representatives of active duty, reserve and national guard units, ROTC and JROTC, public safety and law enforcement agencies, as well as veteran groups and civic, patriotic and fraternal associations.

The massing ceremony originated with the Society of the Massing of the Colours which was organized on Armistice Day, 1922, by distinguished military officers, fraternal and civic leaders. The Military Order of the World Wars inherited and continues this inspiring ceremony.

Many veterans of the Battle of the Bulge participate in this annual Massing of the Colors.◘

DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER PAYS A VISIT TO ARMY HERITAGE CENTER

On April 7, 2005, Members of the DVC chapter bused their way to Carlisle, Pennsylvania, to visit The Army Heritage Center Foundation (AHCF). The United States Army Heritage and Education Center is affiliated with the United States Army War College in Carlisle and is a component of the National Museum of the Army (according to an AHCF brohure).

We were treated to an assortment of items for breakfast and briefed on the purpose and funding of the multi-purpose facility; materials of interest, memoirs, diaries, unit histories, veterans associations, personal letters, and other printed matter relating to military experiences; a tour of exhibits and artifacts on display; and a presentation of newly arrived items yet to be recorded, prepared, indexed, and preserved.

The Education Center will illuminate some 230 years of American military history by focusing on the lives and legacies of individual soldiers. Their own words, faces, and belongings will be used to create an intimate and powerful statement. According to their brochure: Telling the Army story--one soldier at a time. Members were offered membership to help fund education and other programs at the AHCF.

The return trip was via Bliss Hall, at the War College, where the members viewed the BOB stained glass window dedicated September 11, 2001.

Submitted by:
Marty Sheeron
53rd Field Hospital

HAUNTED BY THE MEMORIES

[The following are excerpts which appeared in the CENTRE DAILY TIMES and was written by Chris Rosenbloom (no date given). It appeared in THE RAILSPLITTER, the official newsletter of the 84th Infantry Division.]

It was a scene out of a Christmas card--evergreens, snowy woods, misty mountains. Except for the German tanks. They sat up on a ridge, cannons pointed downward, shelling a Belgian village and American troops. PFC Charles Noel and the rest of Dog Company, 333rd Regiment, received their orders. Christmas Eve, 1944, would be spent assaulting the panzers. The U.S. troops didn't know how many tanks and machine guns were in the trees above them. Some of the soldiers didn't know much at all. They were just teenagers, green as the pines, replacements from the rear. Before them lay an open hillside. In the dark, they slogged through knee-deep snow. The Germans waited until they'd almost made it to the top. "They suffered heavy casualties," said Noel. "Some of them never saw the light of day." Sixty years ago, scores of such fights formed the Battle of the Bulge, the largest WWII land battle involving U.S. forces.

On December 16, 1944, German armies launched a massive invasion in the Ardennes forest, hoping to break through the Allied lines in Belgium, reach the Port of Antwerp and reverse the course of the war. It proved to be Hitler's last gasp. The desperate offensive, successful at first over a wide area, stalled by the end of January, the Allies had closed the bulge and pushed back into Germany.

Half a million Americans, equal to 31 divisions, and about 600,000 Germans fought for weeks in the frigid Ardennes. There, 800 tanks were destroyed. Nearly 19,000 Americans out of about 81,000 casualties died. Almost 100,000 Germans were killed, wounded or captured.

Near the town of Marche, Charles Noel patrolled roads in the hastily formed armored reconnaissance group. Encountering a German force, it would fight briefly and withdraw. "So we would do this five, six, seven times a day to give the impression that there were more Americans there," Noel said. "Actually, we were the only ones there at that time.

They faced a battle-hardened foe. Camouflaged in white sheets, many of the Germans were Eastern Front veterans. Around them, like monsters, Tiger tanks clanked through the woods, armed with their fearsome 88mm guns. Noel watched one, perched on the ridge his outfit tried to take, knock out an American tank destroyer. "I remember, to this day, that motor of the anti-tank gun running all night," he said. "They killed the people in it and then the motor had run all night." "I was scared, I'm still scared," stated one of the men recalling his first day at the Bulge.◘

Please check your mailing label to see if your dues are due....

ALSO, notice that we have a new post office box number.

PATTON'S WHEELS

"The 2-1/2 Ton Truck is our Most Valuable Weapon"
...General G. S. Patton, Jr.

*[The following information was excerpted from a lovely book provided by **JOSEPH F. WILLIAMS, 4049TH QUARTERMASTER TRUCK COMPANY, 514TH QUARTERMASTER GROUP**. The book is a history of the 2-1/2 Ton Truck and its use following D-Day and into the Battle of the Bulge.]*

Patton's warriors were still hacking their way through the Siegfried Line when the Germans launched their ill-famed December counter-attack in the Ardennes.

The resulting situation was chaotic and, in the temporary shifting from the offense to the defense, all troops were pressed into combat no matter what assignment they ordinarily filled.

At this time the 3393rd QM Truck Company was bivouacked in a section of Belgium truthfully known as "Buzz-bomb Alley." The night their CO personally delivered movement instructions was a tense one.

"The Germans have already reached Stavelot," Captain Richard K. Ryan said, "and are travelling in the direction of Sprimont, about 2 kilometers from here. An armored division is set up in Sprimont and they are to notify us if movement is necessary. No further orders will come from Battalion. We are on our own."

The QM Truck Company set up out-posts, reviewed a defense plan in case of attack, and rehearsed a method evacuation. For several days they continued on the alert, stopping all the many refugees filtering through the town and checking closely for any spy activity.

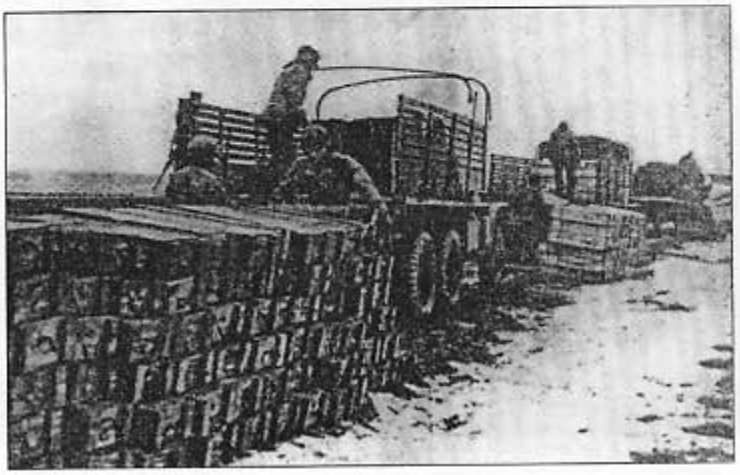


Our Favorite Cargo. A few loads of ex-"supermen" take a last look at the Fatherland before trucks of the 4051st carry them to a waiting PW cage. Prior to VE Day Third Army had captured in battle 956,000 enemy soldiers.

When the situation had eased the 3393rd returned to normal, with nothing to worry about except their usual dangerous assignment and Hitler's buzz-bombs.

The Battle of the Bulge was a major crisis. An immediate change of strategy was necessary and the Third Army was called upon to ease the pressure of the break-through by attacking the Bulge from the south. In this, as in so many emergencies in the Third Army, a tremendous job of moving men and armor, together with their supplies, fell on the QM trucking team.

Patton's entire army had to be moved, and the supplies had to go along with it. Hauls had to be made in almost every direction in line with strategic requirements. It was a monumental assignment and every QM truck in Third Army was mustered to move the fighting forces from the Saar River front to the Bastogne sector.



STORAGE AREA for the ammo is any country roadside near the front. As the front moves, so must the ammunition. Thus to the QM trucker the hauling of ammo becomes a case of pick it up, put it down, pick it up, put it down, all the way from Normandy to Austria.

Elements of the 514th had moved the 26th Division to a rest camp only two days previously. Now this and other supposedly vacationing units were hauled right back into the fray. Some of the supplies had to be moved back to avoid their falling into German hands. The 3910th moved 150,000 gallons of gas in twenty-four hours evacuating a fuel dump.

In less than a week's time, 16 infantry divisions, two armored divisions and two airborne divisions were loaded on and off the QM trucks.

In the accomplishment of this great feat many an unsung deed of heroism, endurance and devotion to duty were quietly chalked up by the Third's QM truckers. They rolled on unceasingly through German strafing, bullets, artillery fire, ice and snow, fatigue, hunger, blackouts and every other imaginable obstacle.

Trucks of the 444th QM Truck Company moved the 4th Armored Division from the Saar to Belgium in 17 hours. In their usual fashion the 4th Armored Division fought their way through to relieve the heroic bastion of Bastogne and the tide began to turn in our favor.

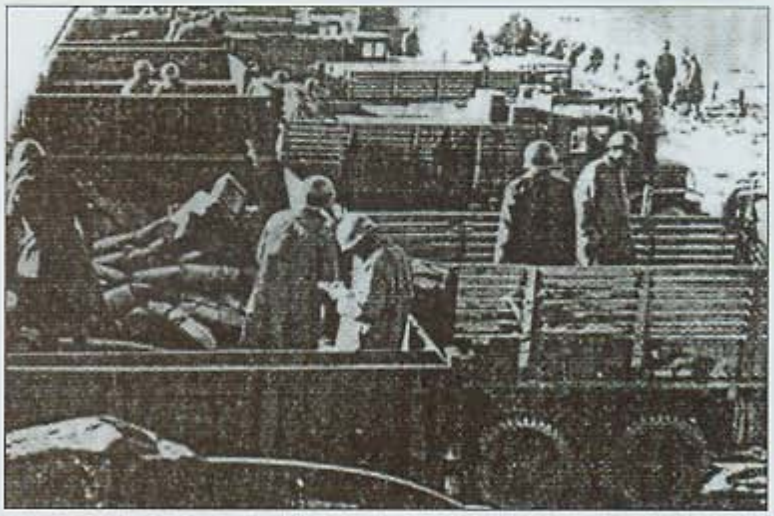
Trucks of the 3433rd worked day and night under enemy fire in this campaign and the unit was given a verbal commendation by Major General Maxwell D. Taylor, C.G. of the 101st Airborne Division.

On December 22nd, trucks of the 3433rd were in Rheims awaiting orders to pull out. (Continued)

PATTON'S WHEELS (Continuation)

A lone German plane came over and dropped bombs, one incendiary landing among a number of drivers, all of whom escaped with the exception of Pfc Bernard Merchant, who was hospitalized for severe burns.

The 3436th also had its share of the miseries and the glory of Bastogne. On December 19th, Pvt Allen Boutte stuck in a snow drift and unable to build a fire because of the tactical situation refused to abandon his truck. He had both feet frozen in the bitter cold and later had to be evacuated.



AN ENDLESS PROCESS. The hauling of ammunition in battle is a never ending process. Here it is shown arriving at the Bastogne railhead where trucks of the 122nd QM Battalion supplied the fighting forces which beat back the German offensive. From the railhead it is hauled to the ASPs (Ammunition Supply Points).

The 642nd had accompanied the 6th Armored Division in its hardest and bitterest fighting days but their worst period of the struggle came in the Bastogne area when the snow, ice and cold were at their most fiendish heights. From the 1st to the 7th of January, the 642nd dispatched 339 trucks, travelled 10,342 miles and hauled 1,912 tons including 62,491 rounds of artillery ammunition. During this period the 6th Armored in the defensive fight of Bastogne fired more ammunition than has ever previously been fired by any armored outfit anywhere. With the pressure being applied in this manner the QM truck drivers had to unload ammunition and gas by themselves to keep the guns firing, and had to load their own trucks at the dumps in order to get moving that much faster.

The 3805th was also in the thick of things at Bastogne, catching plenty of "88" and mortar fire while attached to III Corps. Cpl. Matthew J. Brogan drove one of the first trucks to reach the 101st Airborne Division with Class I supplies. The work of this unit was praised in the following citation from the Commanding General of the III Corps--the exemplary discipline, unselfish devotion to duty, and complete disregard for personal comfort in the execution of the most difficult details by the officers and enlisted men of the 3805th Quartermaster Truck Company are deserving of the highest commendation and praise."

Other truck companies earned similar compliments for their own work during this campaign.

Two officers and 50 enlisted men of the 3989th QM Truck Company were also in on the Battle of the Bulge. The detachment was split into two groups. One group was first attached to the 9th Armored Division and later to the 193rd Glider Infantry Regiment of the 17th Airborne Division. The other group, attached to the 101st Airborne Division, stayed in Bastogne during the entire siege of that city, and were doubly happy to see one of their own trucks in the lead of the first convoy coming to relieve the plucky garrison.

The 3597th moved the 80th Division from foxholes near Saarbrucken to foxholes in Luxembourg in 15 hours, shortly after Von Rundstedt's offensive began. During the Battle of the Bulge the 3597th's trucks travelled 30,000 miles from the 21st to the 29th of January, assisting in the switching of six divisions: the 101st Airborne, the 76th Infantry, the 87th Infantry, the 17th Airborne, the 26th Infantry and the 95th Infantry. A tremendous job, but it left the 3597th with enough on the ball to motorize the 80th Division in February and March during that unit's dash from the Siegfried Line to, and across the Rhine.

It was a monumental assignment and every QM truck in the Third Army was mustered to move the fighting forces from the Saar riverfront to the Bastogne sector.

When rail facilities could be brought into the Bloody Bastion, the 122nd QM Battalion with its attached companies, the 396th, 3510th, 3414th and 4029th moved into the torn and muddy center to haul ammo from the rail head to the ASP (Ammunition Supply Point).

During and immediately following the Battle of the Bulge an almost constant shuffle of divisions took place. It is interesting to note that at this time, General Patton commanded the largest army in history.

A total of 23 divisions were moved during the period of January 16th to the 13th of February. Most of these were either moved entirely or were assisted in moving by Patton's QM trucks, a gigantic operation representing probably the largest mass movement of troops by motor in the history of warfare.

No road net could stand the pounding of such traffic and the travel arteries disintegrated under the enormous strain, thus throwing a further burden on QM trucks. It was necessary to detail a number of companies to the full time job of hauling gravel and other engineering equipment essential for the speedy rebuilding of the highways. Both log type corduroy and gravel roads were hurriedly put in, to enable traffic to keep moving.

Following the front along with Army Headquarters, the 514th AM Group had observed the turn of the year by moving out of France into Luxembourg making its headquarters in the general area south and west of Luxembourg City.

As the Bulge was neutralized, Third Army forces moved forward slowly into Germany, grinding down the Nazi army and cracking their way through the Siegfried Line. Snow and ice provided additional hardship as they inched their way against every conceivable obstacle.◘

IN THE BULGE

Harold J. O'Neill
83rd Infantry Division
83rd Signal Battalion

The 83rd Division was pulled out of Germany and sent southwest across Holland into northern Belgium. Bumper to bumper military vehicles stretched for miles on a road on top of a dike surrounded by flooded fields. Air cover patrolled overhead and when a vehicle broke down it was pushed off into the ditch or field. I was transferred to a messenger jeep that now required three men instead of two. The MP's stopped us repeatedly to ask about the winner of the World Series or Betty Grable's leading man in some movie. This was to detect English-speaking Germans in our rear areas.

The jeep had chains on all four wheels and the windshield laid on the hood to stop reflections. We put up a ten-inch board for a windshield and drove with a bobbing motion--peeking over it to see the road. Welded to the front bumper was a six foot tall angle iron with a notch to catch and break cables strung across the road at night. We carried K-rations and sometimes Ten-in-One rations that we heated on the engine block. You had to remember to punch a hole in the can or it would explode and the jeep smelled of burnt eggs or Spam. Jeeps have no winch so larger vehicles had to pull or push us out of drifts or ditches.

We wore long johns, wool shirts and pants and mackinaws instead of overcoats. Finger gloves were useless, so we traded with German prisoners for their fur lined mittens and a rabbit fur vest. The cost was only a few cigarettes. I wore three pair of socks with size 12 boots instead of my normal size nine. Towels with eye holes protected our face. Wet feet meant trench foot and frost bite was a problem. We usually had a pair of socks drying from armpit warmth and growing a beard helped.

The messenger jeep ran between the division headquarters, and the three infantry regiment headquarters. With units on the move the information was often out of date and we spent two or three days on the road before returning to division headquarters. Thirty-five-year-old Pop did most of the driving and I did the navigation. Teen-aged Elmer did a lot of sleeping. We rotated sitting in the back seat since it was the coldest.

The army issued single blanket sleeping bags, so we stopped at an aid station to pick up blankets with the least blood stains. Outdoors or in a building we put six or seven blankets under us and as many above. Only our boots were removed to sleep.

One bitter night we parked between two blazing buildings for extra warmth and another time we slept on the second floor of a windmill. Heavy Elmer collapsed the staircase so Pop and I used our tow rope to get down. We threatened to put him on a diet.

Near the end of the Bulge we picked up an illegal trailer that had no lights or brakes. It carried a small pot-bellied stove, stove pipe, briquettes of coal dust and molasses or something, a 220 volt radio, all volt radio, souvenirs, wine for Pop, rations, a tarp for a ground sheet, army overcoats or mackinaws....

None of us even caught a cold and we were happy when told to head to a coal mine for delousing and showers. The lice came from sleeping in barns and were known as "mechanized dandruff."◘



THE UNKNOWN DEAD
Civilians in the
Battle of the Bulge
Peter Schrijvers

"Original and arresting, *The Unknown Dead* focuses on civilians 'in the path of war.' Schrijvers writes with force and grace and has produced a unique examination of the Battle of the Bulge."
—Allan Millett

"As the 'biggest' battle in U.S. military history, this epic engagement has not received the scholarly and even popular attention it deserves despite its strategic importance. Schrijvers is one of the most promising scholars of my generation to study the history of the Second World War."—Kurt Piehler

"A stunning tale of the realities of war. . . . Schrijvers puts a human face on the 'spoilage' of war as he makes the Belgian inhabitants of the picturesque Ardennes come alive."—Thomas D. Morgan

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60TH ANNIVERSARY MEDALS NOT AVAILABLE

Several members have written to ask about the availability of the medals distributed during the 60th Anniversary Revisit to Belgium and Luxembourg in December of 2004. We regret that these are not available--they were gifts from the respective governments to those who attended the particular functions and were ordered in limited quantities. There are no more available.◘



"Tell me Prunella—just where did we go wrong?"

MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

James Merki is researching the history of his father's unit: the **11TH ARMORED DIVISION.** If you can provide information, please send it to Jim at: 3440 Cottonwood Avenue, San Jacinto, California 92582.

A. H. SMITH, 178TH GENERAL HOSPITAL, would like to hear from anyone who may have served in his unit. Write to him at: 9120 Chatwell Club Dr #5, Davison, Michigan 48423.

Mrs. A. J. Lombardino would like to hear from anyone who may remember her husband, **JOHN (LUM) LOMBARDINO, 778TH ORDNANCE COMPANY.** Drop her a line at: PO Box 1302, Minden, Louisiana 71058-1302.

NORVIN L. VOGEL, 134TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, 3RD BATTALION, COMPANY L, is writing a complete history of his service and would like to obtain a copy of a map for the roads in Germany from January, 1945, to September 1945. If you can help him, let him know: 522 Euclid Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania 18103.

Janice Moore would like information on the next reunion for her father's unit--**ARNOLD J. DOMINICK, 394TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, MEDICAL DETACHMENT.** She's looked on the internet and is unable to find anything. If you can help, write to her at: 26 Windy City Road East, Humboldt, Tennessee 38343.

Barb Boomer is trying to find our more information on her neighbor's service. **PAUL R. FENTON, 80TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 317TH INFANTRY REGIMENT,** lived next door to Barb when he went off to WWII. He was killed in the Bulge on December 25, 1944. If you can provide information on Paul or the circumstances of his death, please write: 155 East Stop Road, Indianapolis, Indiana 46227.

RETURNING SOLDIERS HONORED BY FLORIDA SOUTHEAST CHAPTER...

GEORGE FISHER, 26TH INFANTRY DIVISION, reports that the Florida Southeast Chapter held its spring meeting at a local Hilton Hotel. George, President and Founder of the chapter, further advises that, in addition to the 197 members, wives and guest, there were two tables of soldiers (and their families) who were on leave from Iraq. Albin Irzyk was the featured speaker and gave details on his recently published book, entitled *Gasoline for Patton...A Different Kind of War.*

George also advises that his chapter membership is increasing due to the captive retirement population in Florida and his continued use of publicity has been the key to his success.◘

COMMEMORATION 61ST ANNIVERSARY BATTLE OF THE BULGE

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

Special plans are underway to commemorate the 61st anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge on December 14, 15, and 16, 2005, at the Fairview Park Marriott Hotel, in Falls Church, Virginia.

This year's events will include a "downtown Washington" sightseeing trip, with a wreath-laying ceremony at the World War II Memorial; tour and luncheon at Union Station (an interesting place to do Christmas shopping); and a narrated drive through historic areas of Washington, D.C.

There will be an evening Banquet Gala on December 15, with a noted speaker and Honor Guard. On December 16, VBOB will host a wreath-laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery, followed by a farewell luncheon at the Marriott Hotel.

Look for the information and registration form in the next issue of *The Bulge Bugle.*

Historical Foundation: John Bowen--301-384-6533
Dorothy Davis--301-881-0356

LUXEMBOURG'S NATIONAL LIBERATION MEMORIAL

The accompanying photograph depicts the National Liberation Memorial in Nothum in northern Luxembourg, which was dedicated by the Luxembourg Government in 1994 to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. The memorial lists the names of units engaged in Luxembourg in 1944-45--the 4th, 5th, 8th, 26th, 28th, 35th, 76th, 80th, 83rd, 87th, and 90th Infantry Divisions; the 4th, 5th, 6th, 9th, 10th and 11th Armored Divisions; the 17th Airborne Division; the 2nd, 3rd and 6th Cavalry Groups (Mechanized); and the American and British Air Forces. The plaque was refurbished by the Luxembourg Government in time for the 60th Anniversary of the Bulge this year.



A fitting tribute to all who fought in Luxembourg!

Submitted by:
Patrick J. Kearney
11 ARMD 55 AIB A

BULGE VETERANS RECALL TESTS BY FIRE, ICE

*[The excerpts are from an article sent to us by **ALVIN M. COHEN, 90TH INFANTRY DIVISION**. It appeared in the TIMES UNION (of Albany, New York) on December 17, 2004, and was written by staff writer Carol DeMare.]*

Paul Hillman's supposed quick stint landed him amid famed WWII battle

COLONIE--In early 1942, Paul Hillman joined the Army as a trucking expert, expecting to be in for a short time teaching soldiers how to repair tanks and trucks.

To his surprise, the nearly 40-year-old was shipped overseas with an armored division and put in charge of equipment while dodging German bullets.

The former soldier, who turned 100 earlier this month, became part of World War II's famed Battle of the Bulge. As captain of a maintenance company, Hillman and thousands of other GIs endured frigid weather as they tried to keep the machinery running.

About 60 veterans of the battle gathered Thursday for lunch at Century House to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the start of the German offensive on Dec. 16, 1944, in the forested Ardennes region of eastern Belgium and northern Luxembourg.

All belong to the Hudson Valley Chapter No. 49 of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. The others had been 18-, 19- and 20-year-old recruits during the war, but Hillman, though older, had been just as enthusiastic.

"I didn't get into the shooting," said Hillman, of Cleverdale on Lake George. "My job was to keep the boys supplied with armored equipment," and as a company commander, he instructed soldiers on how to repair tanks and trucks.

"If equipment went wrong, I had to find out what was wrong and get it repaired," he said. "It was cold as hell, and they had snow."

Hillman would "keep the vehicles rolling," said friend, Tim Horgan, 79, of Queensbury, who was with the 2nd Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron of the 3rd Army under Gen. George Patton.

"I went in for three weeks, and it lasted 12 years," he said. He was discharged as a major. In Europe, he was with the 4th Armored Division of the 3rd Army.

"I was no hero," he said. "I had to see that the fighting troops were supplied with the equipment they needed to keep fighting."

Gov. George Pataki proclaimed Thursday Battle of the Bulge Day, and a proclamation was read to the gathering..including spouses and friends, by George Basher, director of the state Division of Veterans' Affairs.

A Vietnam War veteran, Basher said he was humbled to be in the company of the vets. "What you folks did 60 years ago is truly remarkable and an achievement not fully appreciated by the people of this country," he said.

State Sen. Joseph Bruno, R-Brunswick, also sent a proclamation.

The Germans, in a final effort to turn the tide, launched a surprise attack as dawn broke on Dec. 16, 1944, driving through the Ardennes and toward the small town of Bastogne near Luxembourg. Some 1 million troops, Americans and Germans, fought in what was described as the coldest winter in Europe in 50 years.

At the end--which history books show as Jan. 25, 1945, though veterans say it lasted longer--American casualties totaled 81,000, including 19,000 killed. German forces lost about 100,000 troops.

"It was below zero," remembers Alvin Cohen, 79, of Albany, a co-founded of the chapter. "We didn't have the right footwear and clothing. Water in our canteens would freeze, and if there was too much oil on the weapons, it would freeze up.

"The canned rations were frozen; there was no place to bathe, except out a steel helmet if you could find water that wasn't frozen. If they could, they would get a hot meal up to us, which was seldom," he added.

Cohen was with the 90th Infantry Division and had just finished basic training when he was shipped to the fighting at the start of January 1945. A machine gunner, he said he was lucky and went through without a scratch.

Once the weather cleared, ground troops were greeted by allied planes, which helped in the German defeat.

Ray Keech, 80, of Hudson Falls, was an engineer combat battalion, making bridges, laying mine field and taking up mines.

He recalled frozen feet and wet tools. His unit met a friendly farm family in Luxembourg who put them up for a couple of nights. He fondly recalls returning from the fields and finding hot bricks in the bottom of the sleeping bags to warm the soldiers' feet.

After the wear, he worked for Hillman's trucking firm for 34 years.

Retired Army Col. Charles Johnson, of Troy--a West Point graduate, a Vietnam War veteran and president of the Tri-County Council of Vietnam-Era Veterans--was keynote speaker.

He called the Battle of the Bulge "one of the most momentous military engagements in world history," and said a single word comes to mind: "courage."

Those who fought in it are "walking, living, breathing examples of courage," Johnson said.



Paul Hillman, 100, with other veterans of the Hudson Valley Chapter of the Battle of the Bulge association. Photo by Will Waldron/TIMES UNION.

KEY BASTOGNE DEFENSE CAME IN FIRST TWO DAYS

Robert Peterson
9th Armored Division
27th Armored Infantry Battalion

*[This press release was sent to us by **DEMETRI PARIS, 9TH ARMORED DIVISION, 14TH TANK BATTALION.**]*

The three combat commands of the 9th Armored Division were in widely separated locations when the Germans attacked on December 16, 1944. As a result, all three were engaged with different German forces and none were under their division control.

Combat Command R (CCR), commanded by Colonel Joseph Gilbreth, of Columbus, Georgia, had the roughest assignment of the three commands and perhaps of any command in the Battle of the Bulge. CCR stood fast and slugged it out against the overwhelming might of the German panzers smashing toward Bastogne. Had it not been for CCR, the Nazis would have captured Bastogne before the arrival by truck of the 101st Airborne Division and arrival of Combat Command B of the 10th Armored Division.

The 9th Armored Division was on the SECRET list and, consequently, its actions were not being reported. The SECRET classification was not removed until January 5, 1945, after the action at Bastogne. Consequently, the 101st Airborne received the credit for the defense and the highly publicized "Nuts" reply by the acting 101st commander to the German demand for surrender.

Small CCR task forces from the 2nd Tank Battalion and the 52nd Armored Infantry Battalion took up positions on the road leading to Bastogne from the east. Their missions were to block the road at all costs and they did so with considerable loss of men and equipment. Many held their position even though wounded and when German tanks rolled around and through them and when the German infantry infiltrated their positions in the darkness.

There was no front line. Artillerymen, tankers and engineers fought as doughboys. The 2nd Tank Battalion encountered elements of nine German divisions. The 73rd Armored Field Artillery fought its way out of a trap and continued to keep its guns in action.

Three Battalion Commanders Killed

Casualties were heavy. All three of the battalion commanders were lost. CCR was credited with delaying the enemy for 36 to 48 hours east of Bastogne after which its surviving troops managed to fall back into Bastogne. These CCR troops were then employed as a mobile reserve force known as Team SNAFU.

TF SNAFU became a potent force in the ensuing defense battles. It was organized chiefly as a trouble shooter for the 101st Airborne, operating under a 10 minute alert, speeding to defend area threatened by German attacks. Bolstered by Armor, SNAFU proved to be an asset in the 101st AB defense of Bastogne until it was relieved by an element of the Third Army.

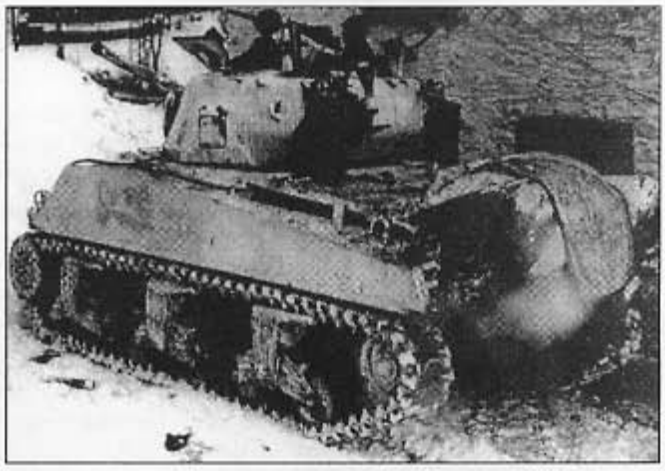
CCR was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for its action in defending Bastogne, the highest award a unit can receive for combat action.

Because of the secrecy order on the 9th Armored Division, and the wide separation of its three commands, and the fact the combat commands were not under their division control and faced different attacking German armies, the division did not receive the public attention it deserved. However, commendations came from two Army commanders--General Courtney H. Hodges and General George S. Patton, Jr. Also from three corps commanders and four division commanders.

It was not until 55 years later that the Cold War ended and German records were obtained that the other two combat commands were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation.◘

MEMORIES?...

*[**MICHAEL V. ALTAMURA, 750TH TANK BATTALION, SERVICE COMPANY, BATTALION MAINTENANCE**, sent us the following picture. We thought it would remind you of scenes from the past.]*



A snow-camouflaged M4A3 (76mm) of the 750th Tank Battalion moves through Salmchateau, Belgium, while supporting an attack by the 75th Division on January 16, 1945, during the Ardennes fighting. Once the ground froze hard in late December 1944, extended end connectors for the track were no longer needed and are absent on this tank. (US Army photo).◘

60TH ANNIVERSARY PROCLAMATIONS

Many of our members and chapters received proclamations from cities, states, etc., during the 60th anniversary recognitions. As space will not allow us to print all that we received, we have chosen not to print any of them. It's wonderful to have so many officials who are appreciative of the efforts of BOBers in keeping this country free.

Thank you for sending the proclamations and please accept our apology for not printing all of them. We couldn't print one without printing all.◘

YEAR WITHOUT CHRISTMAS

*[The following article was submitted by **ALTON LITSINBERGER, 26 INFANTRY DIVISION, 257 FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION/203 FIELD ARTILLERY GROUP**. The article appeared in Columbus Dispatch, December 24, 2004, and was written by Jeb Phillips.]*

Battle of the Bulge soldiers knew only war and cold on that day 60 years ago

Even if it was 60 years ago, you would think they would remember that Christmas.

But mostly they don't. Or they remember the time and the place, and they remember that it was so cold that soldiers didn't take their boots off for days or weeks at a stretch. But they don't remember it as Christmas. They remember it as a day in the middle of World War II's Battle of the Bulge.

Kenneth Worrall, 79, *[101st Airborne Division, 327th Glider Infantry Regiment, 2nd Battalion, Headquarters)*, recalled nearly constant movement, attacks and counter attacks, bullets and rockets. He remembers that it was too cold around Bastogne, Belgium, to dig foxholes. The ground was frozen. The best he could do was find a little dip in the terrain to sleep in.



A member of the 4th Armored Division brings in German soldiers captured near Bastogne, Belgium, during the Battle of the Bulge in January 1945 during World War II. The German offensive to break the Allies' line was the largest land battle ever fought by U.S. Troops. (Photo by U.S. Army Signal Corps)

There wasn't much time to sleep the Germans had Bastogne and the 101st Airborne Division surrounded. And so what was he doing Christmas Day, 1944? He doesn't know exactly. But he can guess. "Praying," he said. "Fighting for my life."

Worrall, an East Side resident, remembered this recently in a meeting room at the MCL Cafeteria in Westerville. *Jingle Bells* and *Do You Hear What I Hear?* were playing over the loudspeakers. He didn't seem to notice. Neither did the 10 other Bulge veterans gathered there.

Sixty years ago on December 16, the largest land battle the United States has ever fought began in eastern Belgium. It ran through Christmas, through New Year's Day, and ended Jan. 25, 1945.

The survivors had come to this cafeteria to commemorate it: the cold, the death, eventually fighting off Hitler's army. All of that just happened to come during the Christmas season. So this is what they remember the battle.



U.S. soldiers fill a helmet and canteens with water in the Village of Samree after a 36-hour battle for the Belgian town. (Photo by Acme Newspictures)

They were just out of high school then. They're around 80 years old now.

"This time of year, this always comes back into your mind," said Alton Litsinberger, 79, president of the Central Ohio Chapter of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge.

The offensive was Germany's last big counterattack of the war, an effort to capture the supply harbor at Antwerp, Belgium, confuse the Allies and force a negotiated peace in the west. A surprise attack from 200,000 German troops caused the Allied line in the forest region of Ardennes to bulge eastward, thus giving the battle its name.

Much of the battle was fought in snow and bitter cold. Some of the vets in the cafeteria put the temperature at 20 below, other sources peg it closer to zero.

The Allies eventually were able to re-establish their line and fend off the Germans in January. There were about 81,000 American casualties, including about 19,000 dead and 24,000 captured. The Germans had 100,000 casualties.

Litsinberger was a machine-gunner attached to Patton's 3rd Army, which was trying to push its way into Bastogne to help the 101st Airborne.

The Germans were shelling Litsinberger's artillery like crazy on Christmas Day. That happened on many days, but there were no carols or presents to mark Christmas. The soldiers were too scared to make it on their own.

"Anyone who says they weren't scared wasn't there," Litsinberger said.

Christmas Day 1944 stands out for Joe Hunt, 82, of North Linden, but only because a U.S. tank almost killed him that day.

He was an armored-car driver for the 83rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Armored Division. His unit was charged with keeping communication open between two small Belgian towns on Christmas Eve (although he didn't think about the date at the time). The unit's drivers were told to sleep in a field.

(Continued)

YEAR WITHOUT CHRISTMAS

(Continuation)

Hunt woke up the next morning unable to move. He couldn't figure it out at first, then saw something hulking over him.

A tank had rolled over his bedroll, pinning him without crushing him. He screamed and screamed until somebody from the tank poked a head out and asked him, "What are you doing down there?"

Gene Kohli, 82, of Clintonville, a driver with the 202nd Combat Engineers, did not talk of Christmas as he stood before the veterans in the cafeteria.

He said he had heard the gunshots of the infamous Malmedy Massacre on Dec. 17, 1944, when German soldiers gunned down 86 unarmed U.S. prisoners of war captured in the Nazi's first thrust.

He remembered another scene in Normandy of a pile of bodies, draped with American flags. Then he looked at the flat in the cafeteria, talked about pledging allegiance and began to cry.

"I'm sorry," he said. "I can't help it."

World War II veterans didn't used to do this sort of thing, Worrall said. They didn't talk about the war. They certainly did not stand in front of a bunch of people and get emotional about it.

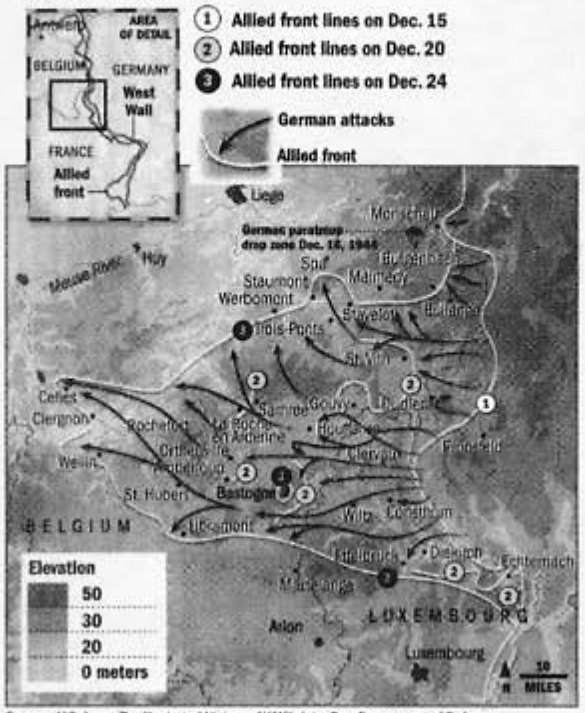
But in the past 10 years, as more and more of them have died, those remaining have decided they need to talk about it, if only to teach others.

Holiday music was being piped into their meeting room, but the veterans instead were thinking and talking about that bloody, awful, cold time 60 years ago.

"We just want to be remembered," Worrall said. "The only way to do that is to tell our story."

Battle of the Bulge

At 5:30 a.m. on Dec. 16, 1944, Germany launched a surprise attack on the U.S. 1st Army, leading to the largest land battle of World War II. Some 200,000 German troops and 600 tanks smashed through the Ardennes mountains unseen through the dark and morning fog. During the bitter cold morning, the massive attack pushed through five U.S. Army divisions which were outmanned, outgunned, and mostly untested in battle. This created a "bulge" in the American lines.



Sources: U.S. Army; *The Illustrated History of WWII*, John Ray; Department of Defense

ASSOCIATED PRESS | DISPATCH

ANTWERP X

...A Combined Defense

[CECIL D. GILLIAM, 788TH ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS BATTALION, BATTERY A, sent us the following information.]

There were over 22,000 men and officers, British, Polish and American who served in "Antwerp X."

History will record many outstanding feats and accomplishments in this war, but, none will overshadow the heroic defense of the Port of Antwerp against flying bombs by 22,000 of the world's finest antiaircraft artillery men.

Organized quickly and secretly, this huge command was dubbed "Antwerp X" and placed under Brigadier General Armstrong as the attack on Antwerp started late in October 1944. Then for 154 days and nights without letup and with ever increasing fury, the "battle of the buzz-bomb" was fought on the cold wet flats of Northern Belgium and Southern Holland.

Bald facts and figures will never convey the full story of endless hours in freezing gun pits, the sweat and strain of endless "digging in," the constant roar of firing guns, the deeper and deathly roar of V1's in flight, the burning eyes from constantly seeking after that last small margin of error.

But facts and figures do tell of a clear cut victory over Hitler's vaunted Vengeance Weapon Number One. In the words of Major General Revell-Smith, 21st Army Group: "This is a great victory; perhaps not heralded or understood by the world at large in the same way as they would appreciate a victory by other arms. The victories of other arms have territorial gains to show. You have not, but nevertheless this does not make it less important than any other form of major military success on the final outcome of the war." ....

In a letter to the members of Antwerp X, their commander, Brig. Gen. Clare H. Armstrong, wrote the following:

[Excerpt] I should like to take this opportunity to personally commend every officer and man who took part in this long and gruelling campaign. Only through your steadfast devotion to duty, your unflinching determination and your utter disregard for self while facing hardship and danger, was this unparalleled antiaircraft record made possible. I defy contradiction when I say the men of Antwerp X were and are the "best damn gunners" in the world.

You are now scattered far and wide...the team is broken up...but to each of you, British, Polish and American, I want to extend my sincerest thanks for a job well done and wish you the best of luck in all future tasks. ◘

CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL... to see if your dues are due. Date above your last name is date they were due.◘

A SITE SO OFTEN SEEN



Original drawing by ***M. H. KUNSELMAN, 106TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 424TH INFANTRY REGIMENT***

CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER REACHES MANY SCHOOLS

In September 1999, Jim McKearney, Harry Meisel and I commenced making presentations to students in grade five, history students in middle and senior high schools, community colleges and university students.

Unfortunately, Jim, who served in the 101st Airborne Division in Bastogne, was unable to participate for the last couple of years due to physical problems. He was a mortar platoon sergeant who received a battlefield commission and was a rifle platoon leader. I was a rifle platoon leader in Company A, 318th Infantry Regiment, 80th Infantry Division and attacked Christmas morning in 1944 to relieve the 101st. Harry was in an antiaircraft unit.

We have found the students attentive, interested, inquisitive, polite, and also receptive. Teachers, too, are most accommodating. We have made multiple return visits.

Following are some of the statistics I have recorded through May 2004:

Number of visits to schools	195
Number of students contacted	31,363
Total classroom hours	512
Round trip miles from my home	2,749

This is a great experience to relate to the youth of today--They are GREAT!

Submitted by:
George W. (Bill) Kane
80 INFD 318 INF A

Harry also has sent a note telling us what a "Labor of Love" this experience is. He encourages all the chapters to put together a team of two or three BoB veterans to visit area schools and make the pages of history live for them. *[You'll be glad you did.]*

PITTSBURGH CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS AND SCHEDULE INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

Our Annual VBOB Reunion will convene at the Holiday Inn Airport to continue with the 60th Anniversary celebration.

We have arranged with the hotel for a special rate of $89.00 per night which includes the 14% tax. We look forward to a great reunion with a variety of activities.

The Hospitality Room is there for you to socialize and enjoy the many exhibits, photo books and Battle of the Bulge memorabilia. The Hospitality Room hours will be posted in the lobby of the hotel.

Plenty of free parking is at the hotel for your convenience.

REGISTRATION FEE

All who attend the VBOB Reunion must pay the registration fee. Wreaths, name tags, programs, table decorations, hospitality room, etc., are paid for from this fee.

The Quartermaster will also be available for your purchase of BOB items.

•WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2005•

· **Welcome Wine and Cheese Reception (6:30 pm)** – This event is complimentary of the Holiday Inn. Eddie Boron (a one-man orchestra) will provide our entertainment for the evening.

•Dinner Wednesday is on your own. The hotel has a great restaurant ("The Bridges") with nightly specials.

•THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2005•

· **Molly's Trolleys Pittsburgh Tour (9:30 am)** – Enjoy a trolley ride through downtown Pittsburgh with tour guides describing the view and loaded with tons of local trivia even the natives don't know. Tour includes Downtown Pittsburgh, Mt. Washington with a one-way Duquesne Incline Ride and other local tour sites.

•Lunch at the Grand Concourse, Station Square--Savor fine American cuisine amidst the splendor of the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie railroad station. This historic landmark features cathedral ceilings, original Tiffany stained glass windows and a grand staircase. Choices: **Lemon Chicken** sauteed with lemons, mushrooms, and artichoke hearts served with Chef's selection of seasonal starch and garden fresh vegetables OR **Fish & Chips** includes French fries, cole slaw and tartar sauce.

Entrees are chosen prior to event. All of the above include hot homemade bread, Martha's vineyard salad, coffee, hot tea or fountain sodas and hot apple dumpling for dessert. Served sit-down style.

•Italian Dinner and Moments to Remember Theatre Review (6:00 p.m.). Enjoy a luscious Italian Buffet and after-dinner theatre review featuring Broadway Show tunes and comedy skits from *Chicago, My Fair Lady, Camelot* and many more, presented by a renowned Pittsburgh Theatre group.

It also provides Patriotic Flair with all the music from our WWII Era. (Cash bar)

•FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2005•

•Moon High School (9:30 a.m.)--Buses depart for Moon High School (across the road) for a Patriotic Assembly honoring veterans of the Bulge.

•Lunch is on your own. Many affordable nearby restaurants and shopping malls.

•General Membership Meeting (2:30 p.m.)--Location will be posted in the lobby.

•Afternoon is free time for shopping at Robinson Town Center. Touring on your own the Old Economy Village, etc. The front desk will help you with printed directions to many of the local tourist spots.

•Reception (6:00 p.m.) and Annual Battle of the Bulge Military Banquet (7:00 p.m).--The famous Pittsburgh Barbershop Choir will be the after-dinner entertainment.

•SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2005•

•Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall, Phipps Conservatory, and Lunch at the Teutonia Mannerchor Club--Lenzer Coachlines will take you to the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall in the Oakland part of Pittsburgh where the University of Pittsburgh is located. Memorial services will be held there or at the Point (downtown). This will be decided later. Then off to Phipps Conservatory for the Fall Flower Show and Butterfly Room Exhibit. Then we will settle down for an authentic German lunch buffet where the staff is dressed in their traditional German outfits.

•Gateway Clipper Dinner Cruise (5:00 p.m.)--The buses will leave the hotel for the docks at Station Square. Enjoy a great time cruising the three rivers which make up Pittsburgh's dynamic Point, where the Allegheny River and the Monongahela River form the Ohio River. While gently relaxing on the ship, a buffet dinner will be served. There will be a band for your listening and dining pleasure. You may also decide to venture to the top deck or outside the first and second deck to view the amazing sites of the city. The bus ride back to the hotel will include a night view from Mt. Washington.

•SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2005•

•Farewell Breakfast (7:30 a.m.)--...'come and say goodbye to all the reunion members at a private breakfast buffet. Don't forget to bring your cameras for last minute pictures.

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, INC. ANNUAL REUNION

Holiday Inn Airport
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
September 28-October 2, 2005

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address: _____

_____ Phone: _____

Wife/Guest Name: _____

Division: _____ Regiment: _____

Signature: _____

	Number of Persons	Cost per Person	Total
Registration Fee (All attendees must register)	_____	$28.00	_____
Wednesday, September 28, 2005:			
•Wine and Cheese Reception (Compliments of hotel)	_____	Free	_____
Thursday, September 29, 2005:			
•Pittsburgh City Tour--Molly's Trolley*	_____	$55.00	_____
•Lunch included* Lemon Chicken #____ Fish & Chips #____			
•Italian Dinner & Moments to Remember*	_____	$35.00	_____
Friday, September 30, 2005:			
•Moon High School--VBOB/Student Assembly	_____	Free	_____
•Lunch on your own			
•Reception (Cash Bar)			
•Banquet-Entertainment (Indicate preference) Sirloin of Beef #____ OR Fish #____	_____	$40.00	_____
Saturday, October 1, 2005:			
•Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall*, plus Phipps Conservatory Flower Show*, plus Authentic German Lunch Buffet*	_____	$55.00	_____
•Gateway Clipper Dinner Cruise	_____	$55.00	_____
Sunday, October 2, 2005:			
•Farewell Breakfast (Compliments of VBOB)	_____		
Total Amount Enclosed (All taxes and gratuities included)			$_____

*See Reunion Activities Information Sheet for Details

Mail registration form and check payable to "VBOB" to:
Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge • P.O. Box 101418 • Arlington, VA 22210-4418
REGISTRATION RECEIPT DEADLINE--SEPTEMBER 2, 2005 - AFTER THAT DATE BRING FORM.
(Refunds for cancellations, will be honored in whole or in part, depending on availability of funds.)

Holiday Inn®
PITTSBURGH AIRPORT

8256 University Blvd • Moon Township, PA 15108-2591
Tel. 412-262-3600 Ext. 1164 • Direct to Rose Pascal--412-631-1344 • FAX 412-262-6221

WELCOME
VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE
September 28-October 2, 2005

HOTEL RATES

The hotel is offering a four-day window before and after the reunion dates that you may take advantage of the many sites in the Pittsburgh area. The rate is $89.00 per night, single or double occupancy. This rate includes all taxes. All reservations can be made by calling the Holiday Inn Pittsburgh Airport at 412-262-3600 and saying you are with the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge group. We suggest you guarantee your reservation with a charge card. If you have any problems making your reservation, our contact at the hotel, Rose Pascal will be glad to assist you. Her direct number is 412-631-1344. Check-in time is 3:00 p.m. and checkout is 11:00 a.m. In the event you need to cancel your reservation, please inform the hotel 48 hours prior to the day of scheduled arrival. Reservation requests received after August 31st will be confirmed on a space available basis.

The Holiday Inn Pittsburgh Airport provides complimentary shuttle service to and from the Pittsburgh Airport. Courtesy phones are in the baggage area of the airport for your convenience.

Hotel amenities: Indoor pool and hot tub, exercise facility. Gift shop filled with lots of Pittsburgh items. Full service restaurant and launge. Ample free parking. RV's are welcome, however, we do not have hook-up facilities.

Sleeping room amenities: coffee, tea, and decaf, with coffee makers, irons and ironing boards, hair dryer, free internet access.

DIRECTIONS TO THE HOTEL

FROM PITTSBURGH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT: Exiting the airport stay in the LEFT lanes and follow the signs for 60 South towards Pittsburgh. Follow 60 South approximately 4 miles to Exit #3 (60 Business/Moon Township). Follow 60 Business North 3 miles to the second traffic light and turn RIGHT onto University Boulevard (formerly Beers School Road). Follow University Boulevard approximately 1/2 mile and the hotel will be on your LEFT.

FROM EAST: Exit Pennsylvania Turnpike Exit #57 Monroeville and follow signs toward 376 West. Take 376 West through Pittsburgh to Route 279 South/Airport. Route 376 becomes Route 279 at the Fort Pitt Bridge and Tunnel. After you go through the Fort Pitt Tunnel Route 279 becomes 22/30 and then Route 60. At split in highway, bear to your right onto Route 60 Business/Moon, exit 3. At second light turn right onto University Boulevard (formerly Beers School Road). Hotel is approximately 1/4 mile on left.

FROM SOUTH: Follow I-79 North, and take the Airport Exit (22-30 West). Route 22-30 becomes Route 60. At split in highway, bear to your right onto Route 60 Business/Moon, exit 3. At second light turn right onto University Boulevard (formerly Beers School Road). Hotel is approximately 1/4 mile on left.

FROM NORTH: Follow I-79 South, to Sewickley/Emsworth, Exit 66. Follow Route 65 North to the Sewickley Bridge (3rd traffic light). Turn left onto bridge; turn right at end of bridge onto University Boulevard (formerly Narrows Run Road). Continue through 4 traffic lights. Hotel is on the right just past the traffic light.

FROM WEST: PA Turnpike to Exit 1A--Take Route 60 South towards Pittsburgh. Follow to Exit 8, Route 60 Business/Moon. Go to 4th traffic light and turn left onto University Boulevard (formerly Beers School Road). Hotel is approximately 1/4 mile on the left.

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, INC.

Holiday Airport Inn
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
September 28-October 2, 2005

REUNION PROGRAM

• WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2005 •

2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	**Registration, Headquarters Hotel, Holiday Inn, Airport**
6:30 p.m.	**Wine and Cheese Reception** (Compliments of Holiday Inn--ticketed function)
	Dinner on your own

• THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2005 •

12:00 Noon - 5:00 p.m.	**Registration, Headquarters Hotel, Holiday Inn, Airport**
	The registration desk will be open the majority of the day.
9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.	**Bus Departs for Pittsburgh City Tour**
	Lunch included
6:00 p.m.	**Italian Dinner & Broadway Show Tunes and Comedy**

• FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2005 •

As needed	**Registration, Headquarters Hotel, Holiday Inn, Airport**
	The registration desk will be open the majority of the day.
9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	**Moon High School Patriotic Assembly**
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	**General Membership Meeting**
	Afternoon is free time for shopping at Robinson Town Center
	(Check at the front desk for printed directions)
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	**Reception (cash bar)**
7:00 p.m.	**Annual Banquet**

• SATURDAY, October 1, 2005 •

As needed	**Registration, Headquarters Hotel, Holiday Inn, Airport**
	The registration desk will be open as needed.
9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.	**Bus departs for Soldiers & Sailors Tour**
	Phipps Conservatory Flower Show
	Authentic German lunch included
5:00 p.m.	**Board Bus for Gateway Clipper Cruise**
	Dinner included

• SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2005 •

7:30 a.m.	**Farewell Breakfast**

Hospitality Room: Location and times will be posted in the lobby.

REUNIONS

2ND ARMORED DIVISION, 17TH ARMORED ENGINEER BATTALION, August 31-September 3, 2005, Kansas City. Contact: John A. Shields, PO Box 106, East Butler, Pennsylvania 16029. Telephone: 724-287-4301.

4TH INFANTRY DIVISION, July 17-23, 2005, Las Vegas, Nevada. Contact: Gregory Rollinger, 8891 Aviary Path R-19, Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota 55077.

5TH ARMORED DIVISION, Watertown, New York, August 24-27, 2005. Contact: Herb Elmore, Box 226, Frewsburg, New York 14738-0226. Telephone: 716-569-4685.

8TH ARMORED DIVISION, July 13-16, 2005, Herndon, Virginia. Contact: Sidney Bishop, PO Box 427, Jefferson City, Tennessee 37760-0427. Telephone: 865-274-2883.

8TH ARMORED DIVISION, 58TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, Herndon, Virginia, July 13-16, 2005. Contact: Not provided.

10TH ARMORED DIVISION, September 3-5, 2005, Arlington, Virginia. Contact: Not available.

11TH ARMORED DIVISION, Louisville, Kentucky, August 14-21, 2005. Contact: 11th Armored Division 2328 Admiral Street, Aliquippa, Pennsylvania 15001.

17TH AIRBORNE DIVISION, Valley Force, Pennsylvania, June 22-26, 2005. Contact: Bill Smith, 105 Shawnee Road, Ardmore, Pennsylvania 19003. Telephone: 610-649-9850.

28TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 103RD MEDICAL BATTALION AND REGIMENT, September, 2005, Ligonier, Pennsylvania. Contact: J. Paul Luther, 626 Hillside Avenue, Ligonier, Pennsylvania 15658. Telephone: 724-238-9849.

30TH INFANTRY DIVISION, St. Louis, Missouri, August 30-September 4, 2005. Contact: 30 INFD Assn, 2409 Lookout Drive, Manhattan, Kansas 66502.

75TH INFANTRY DIVISION, August 31-September 4, 2005, Rosemont, Illinois. Contact: James E. Warmouth, 6545 West 11th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46214. Telephone: 317-241-3730.

76TH INFANTRY DIVISION, New Orleans, October 13-16, 2005. Contact: Bob Donahoe, 160 Sea Gull Lane, Eastham, CT 02642. Telephone: 508-240-1201.

84TH INFANTRY DIVISION, August 27-30, 2005, Springfield, Illinois. Contact: Troy L. Mallory, 2229 Jersey Street, Quincy, Illinois 62301. Telephone: 217-223-9062.

86TH CHEMICAL MORTAR BATTALION, May 12-15, 2005, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Contact: George L. Murray, 818 West 62nd Street, Anniston, Alabama 30206. Telephone: 256-820-4415.

86TH INFANTRY DIVISION, August 24-27, 2005, Columbus, Ohio. Contact: Walton W. Spangler, 8275 Hagerty Road, Ashville, Ohio 43103. Telephone: 740-474-5734.

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, Tampa, Florida, August 10-13, 2005. Contact: Jim Joiner. Telephone: 813-645-8777.

168TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, Devens, Massachusetts, August, 2005. Details to come.

291ST ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, April 28-May 1, 2005, Arlington, Virginia. Contact: Joe Geary, 70 Linden Drive, Kingston, Rhode Island 02881. Telephone: 783-9155.

300TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, June 2-5, 2005, Dallas, Texas. Contact: Randy Hanes, 6400 Ridgemont Drive, Dallas, Texas 75214. Telephone: 214-363-3826..

501ST PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT, June 1-5, 2005, Springfield, Missouri. Contact: Ralph K. Manley, 2335 South Golden Avenue, Springfield, Missouri 65807. Telephone: 417-882-7358.

526TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, Washington, DC, October 6-10, 2005. Contact: 526 AIB Association, PO Box 456, Yolo, California 95697.

557TH ANTI-AIRCRAFT AUTOMATIC WEAPONS BATTALION, May 19-21, 2005, Holiday Inn, Williamsport, Pennsylvania. Contact: Harry M. Rightnour, 110 Fieldstone Avenue, Johnstown, Pennsylvania 15904. Telephone: 814-266-2637.

773RD TANK DESTROYER BATTALION, Corning, New York, September 15-17, 2005. Contact: Edward H. McClelland, 4384 West 182nd Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44135-3862. Telephone: 216-251-0445.

ANZIO BEACH VETERANS, 14-17 April, 2005, Williamsburg, Virginia. Contact: John Boller. Telephone 631-691-5002.

THE ARMY SONG

First to fight for the right, and to build the nation's might,
and THE ARMY GOES ROLLING ALONG.

Proud of all we have done, fighting till the battle's won,
and THE ARMY GOES ROLLING ALONG.

Then it's Hi! Hi! Hey! The Army's on it's way
Count off the cadence loud and strong!
For where e'er we go, you will always know
That THE ARMY GOES ROLLING ALONG.

Reprinted From
The Battle of the Bulge 60th Anniversary
Special Issue

EDITORIAL

By Michael E. Haskew

THE EXECUTION OF PRIVATE EDDIE SLOVIK REMAINS A FORLORN FOOTNOTE TO THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

At 10:04 on the morning of January 31, 1945, a single prisoner was bound and blindfolded in the courtyard of a French country house near the village of Ste-Marie-aux-Mines. A detail from the 109th Infantry Regiment, 28th Division, fired a volley, carrying out the death sentence.

The prisoner was not a member of the sabotage teams sent by SS Lt. Col. Otto Skorzeny behind American lines during the recently ended Battle of the Bulge. He was not a spy. He was a conscripted former petty criminal from Michigan—a replacement for the ranks of the 28th Division, which had suffered heavy casualties during the fighting in Western Europe in the summer and autumn of 1944.

With the end of his life, Private Eddie Slovik became something else. He was the first American soldier executed for desertion under fire since the Civil War. No executions had taken place for such a crime in the U.S. military for 80 years, and none have taken place since.

Why Slovik? Why then?

Slovik had originally been classified 4-F due to his prison record, but as the cost in lives grew steadily during the war, his status changed to 1-A and he was drafted in January 1944. By August, he was headed to the front. When the convoy carrying Slovik and other replacements came under German shellfire, he and another soldier became separated from their company. Eventually, the pair happened upon the camp of the Canadian 13th Provost Corps. They remained there until October.

The deserter did in fact rejoin his unit, but only briefly. A day after finding Company G of the 109th Regiment, Slovik walked away again. After another day, he turned himself in and penned and signed a confession that would play an important part in his undoing. The military tribunal that convicted him voted three separate times, each unanimously, for the death sentence.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower, the supreme Allied commander in Europe, was obliged to review Slovik's case because of the sentence. He concurred.

In his landmark 2002 biography *Eisenhower: A Soldier's Life*, acclaimed historian Carlo D'Este notes that during the campaign in Europe in 1944-1945 no less than 49 U.S. soldiers were arrested, tried, convicted, and sentenced to death for desertion. Slovik apparently refused at least one offer from the 28th Division judge advocate to return to his unit in exchange for dropping the charges against him. He also wrote a personal letter to Eisenhower asking for mercy.

D'Este wrote, "In the Slovik case, however, the death penalty was imposed on a soldier who had committed no violent act and whose intent to desert was questionable. Eddie Slovik became a cause celebre when journalist William Bradford Huie published *The Execution of Private Slovik* in 1954. When Eisenhower was interviewed in 1963 by historian Bruce Catton, his recollection of the event bore the hallmarks of a faulty memory. Claiming he had sent his judge advocate general to offer Slovik an olive branch if he would express remorse and return to his unit, Eisenhower described Slovik as 'one of those guardhouse lawyers who refused to believe that he'd ever be executed.... '

"Slovik had actually written Eisenhower a heartfelt personal plea to spare his life, and would willingly have complied with an offer to return to duty. It has not been established if Eisenhower ever saw Slovik's letter, but what is clear is that no one from SHAEF was ever sent to the 28th Division before Slovik's execution."

It is noteworthy that incidences of desertion and self-inflicted wounds had reached a worrisome level in the ranks and that Eisenhower may well have felt compelled to offer Slovik as an example. The fact that the largest single fight in the history of the U.S. Army, the Battle of the Bulge, was at its height during a critical period in the disposition of Slovik's case cannot be discounted either.

Slovik was buried in the Oise-Aisne Cemetery at Fere-en-Tardenois, France. Ninety-four other Americans, executed for the crimes of rape and murder, were also interred there. In 1987, more than 40 years after his death, Slovik's body was exhumed and reburied in Michigan beside his wife. □

Reprinted from
The Victory Division News
March, 2005

6 Average Age Of 5th Armored Men in 2004 is 85

Reported Birthdate by Year Tally

Average Age of Reported Birthdates 85

Median Age of Reported Birthdates 85

Total Reported Birthdates 770

Year	AGE	#
1906	98	3
1907	97	1
1908	96	1
1909	95	1
1910	94	2
1911	93	6
1912	92	12
1913	91	20
1914	90	25
1915	89	26
1916	88	46
1917	87	67
1918	86	92
1919	85	107
1920	84	88
1921	83	50
1922	82	59
1923	81	53
1924	80	54
1925	79	46
1926	78	11

WE WEREN'T HEROES:

We Just Did Our Job and a Little Bit More

Henry H. Kimberly, Jr.
560th Quartermaster Railhead Company

[The following story was written and submitted by Kimberly Lehman, grandaughter of Henry Kimberly.]

Prior to the Battle of the Bulge, Kimberly and the 560th Quartermaster Railhead Company operated Truckhead 55 in Butgenbach, Belgium. There, he and his company serviced Class I supplies for V Corps and First Army troops from October to December 15, 1944, with little variation of daily activity. At 0600 hours on December 16, seven enemy artillery shells landed a quarter of a mile away changing all of that.

Between December 16 and 19, Kimberly and his company evacuated nearly 200,000 Class I food rations and 500,000 Class III gallons of gasoline that the Germans eagerly sought and came within one-half mile of reaching. During this time, Kimberly temporarily housed German POW's and treated U.S. escapees from the German captured Town of Bulligen. All the while enemy mortars and allied fighter bombers flew overhead. Kimberly was cut off from his evacuation route and would later find out that the Malmedy Massacre had been the cause. V Corps had assumed Kimberly captured and Butgenbach surrendered, but surrender never happened. Instead, Kimberly and his men thrived on fear and acted on instinct to make sure their critical supply of food and gasoline rations did not fall into German control.

> "The leadership of the officers and NCO's and the full cooperation of every enlisted man in the face of enemy counter attack, 17 Dec 44 to 19 Dec 44, made possible the complete evacuation of all three truck heads with the loss of no Class I supplies, no personnel, and minor quantities of organizational and personnel equipment. All persons remaining behind in the rear detachments were volunteers and were fully aware of the tactical situation. All men had complete knowledge of methods of destruction of Class I and Class III supplies and were determined that none would fall into enemy hands in a useful condition."

Captain Henry H. Kimberly, Jr., typed his Report of Major Incidents on January 7, 1945, discussing the events of Truckhead 55 in Butgenbach, Belgium, in December 1944. He reflected on the first days of the Battle of the Bulge. As he did, he realized how each of his actions over those three days crucially affected the result.

Within hours of the initial German counter attack, allied troops from the front line, six miles from Butgenbach, began to move back. As they reached Truckhead 55, Kimberly learned of the breakthrough on the front to the east near Losheim, and one up further north near Monschau, Germany. He informed the 3815th Quartermaster Gas Supply Company and made immediate plans to evacuate supplies.

The adjacent 560th and 3815th Quartermaster Companies had spent the past several weeks building up food and gasoline for the drive to the Rhine. Kimberly was sitting atop enough food rations and gasoline to change the influence of the war. He recognized the impending danger, but concentrated on each task of preparation while he waited for evacuation orders.

At 1700 hours, Kimberly's company was restricted to their quarters. Kimberly doubled the guard and set up machine guns to defend the installation. The company packed the truckhead records and the 99th Division Headquarters was again contacted. Headquarters informed the 560th Quartermaster that they would serve in the 99th Division's defense. Two hours later, at 1900 hours, Kimberly received further information from the 200th Field Artillery Battalion that the front lines were withdrawing to within two miles of Butgenbach.

Meanwhile, 2nd Division MP's arrived with 141 German prisoners. Kimberly, having no other alternative, secured the prisoners in the low ceiling basement of the church. The area was confined with one guarded door and a tiny window. Housing the German POW's heightened the anticipation that the front lines were getting closer.

At 2230 the MP Battalion sent a truck to pick up a group of prisoners and take them to the 1st Army POW cage. Fewer than half of the prisoners packed into an already cramped truck. To evacuate more prisoners, Kimberly ordered the truck forward a few feet and jam on its brakes creating more room. This repeated procedure successfully packed in 68 prisoners on a two and one-half ton truck headed for the POW cage.

With half of the POW's moved out, Kimberly focused on evacuating his own men. At midnight on December 17, Kimberly received a message from the V Corps Quartermaster to get ready for movement. The company loaded the mess and supply trucks and packed the personnel equipment as they prepared to meet any new tactical situation resulting from paratroop landings a few miles to the north. They were to evacuate the truckhead by any means possible to Malmedy, the alternate truckhead site eight miles back from Butgenbach.

The remaining 73 German prisoners were sent out while 40 trucks of the 471st Truckhead Company were en route to move out the most impending threat, the Class III gasoline supplies. Lieutenant Dan Twomey leading the 2nd Platoon and First Sergeant Clyde Cumberland commanding Company Headquarters, all instructed to Malmedy, evacuated along with all the records and supplies. Personnel, finding no room on the supply trucks, climbed on top of trucks shipping out gasoline and food rations to Malmedy. All personnel clearly understood that gasoline tanks and hand grenades should be used on orders of the Commanding Officer to destroy all the supplies to avoid surrendering them.

At this point, the Germans had captured Bulligen, just three miles away from Butgenbach, P-47 fighter bombers arrived for air support and dive bombed the vicinity of Bulligen. Kimberly was left with 40 volunteers of his original 200 men to secure and protect their installations. He recalls:

> "During the course of the day, soldiers were escaping from Bulligen by any means possible; crawling on their hands and knees a lot of the time. And some did it in the daytime. Bulligen was captured. The 2nd Division Rear Headquarters was there, and their supplies were all there. And the Germans captured those. They got maybe 15,000 gallons of gasoline. We had 50,000 gallons in Butgenbach."

(Continued)

WE WEREN'T HEROES (Continuation)

As Kimberly's remaining men were told of the escape route via Camp Elsenborn, at 1215 hours the 99th Division MP's informed the truckhead commander of an enemy armored column headed for Butgenbach and expected in forty minutes. Kimberly and his men had operated swiftly and efficiently. But it was at this point, Kimberly admits, that he became very concerned. German troops were fast approaching.

At 1315 two infantry companies from the 2nd Battalion of the 26th Regiment, 1st Division, led by three tank destroyers set up a line one-half mile from Butgenbach. Kimberly received word from the Class III Truckhead Commander, Captain Fletcher, that he was left with four men to clear out the gasoline supply. Kimberly, down to 23 men and Lieutenant Tom Putnam, sent part of his company over to help them. Kimberly knew the Germans needed gasoline badly and prayed the enemy would remain ignorant to what Butgenbach held within it.

Both companies of the Class I and Class III Truckheads were engulfed by sounds of battle just beyond the city limits as they desperately continued to evacuate all installations. A buzz bomb landed 250 yards from Kimberly's truckhead sucking out the windows of a schoolhouse they had been using to sleep.

Kimberly and Fletcher combined headquarters for the night. They took shelter in an old restaurant and tried to sleep. But, Kimberly recalls, they slept very little. Throughout the night, allies were escaping through the lines from Bulligen to Butgenbach where Kimberly's company gave them a hot meal and a place to sleep. At 2100 hours, they received confirming reports that the Malmedy Road was closed by armored enemy units and no trucks from the 3815th Quartermaster Gas Supply Company were to arrive. Kimberly reflects, "We much later, probably after the war, realized that at that point is where the Malmedy Massacre took place."

The next morning, on December 18, Kimberly checked in with the 2nd Battalion Headquarters of the 26th Infantry Regiment to hear that the front was quiet overnight, but the road to Malmedy was still closed. Kimberly decided to go back to Eupen, the V Corps Headquarters, to enlist help. On his 17-mile journey, he traveled through the area where the paratroopers had landed the night before. Kimberly saw several of the men, still hanging in the trees, dead.

When he arrived and reported to the Corps Quartermaster, the Quartermaster demanded to know where Kimberly came from. "Butgenbach," Kimberly replied unaware. The Quartermaster told Kimberly that V Corps Headquarters assumed Butgenbach was captured and he had received 'holy hell' for losing Kimberly and Fletcher. "No, we're both safe," said Kimberly, "but we need help."

Kimberly and Wilson, assistant Quartermaster of V Corps, returned to Butgenbach to find it, once again, surrounded by battle. American artillery was shooting over Butgenbach to Germans on the other side. Germans were firing mortars a mile out the other way. Right behind Butgenbach on the Elsenborn Ridge, Kimberly claims he had never seen so many guns or heard so much noise. Trucks and the 3752nd Quartermaster Service Company arrived to shuttle out the remaining 50 truckloads of gasoline and six truckloads of food rations to safety. As they worked, the fighting continued overhead. All of the men, manifested by fear, stayed focused and evacuated every bit of the original 200,000 food rations and 500,000 gallons of gasoline that had once occupied Butgenbach. The front line held. The Elsenborn Ridge never gave. Kimberly and his men, who had endured 70 critical hours of threatening warfare, returned to the 1st Army Headquarters in Spa. They were ordered to Francorchamps where they met the rest of their company coming from Malmedy. After once more moving out supplies, they finally rested.

As Kimberly looks back, he realizes the significance of his role over those three days.

> "Butgenbach had what Germany wanted more than anything else. They were looking for gasoline and they didn't know that we had 500,000 gallons of gasoline there... They thought they'd captured some in Bullingen, and that was all there was. They didn't know anything about the supply companies that were located in Butgenbach, only three miles away. They got to within a mile of the supply and never came in."

As a result of his role during the Battle of the Bulge, Kimberly was promoted to a battalion executive officer. Several months later, he was awarded the Bronze Star on recommendation of the 99th Division Headquarters Commandant for his perseverance and quick-witted command during those three days in Butgenbach.

Even today, Kimberly's memory of the events is still sharp. He proudly celebrates what he and his men accomplished. Kimberly attended the Battle of the Bulge Association Meeting in St. Louis on the 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. Three service troop members joined him on his way down the elevator one evening. Kimberly inquired whether any of them were in Butgenbach on December 18. All three men riled about being there with artillery shooting behind them, enemy mortars shooting back, with so much noise they couldn't even talk to one another and all while they emptied out a gasoline dump. Kimberly laughed and introduced himself. "I'm the son-of-a-bitch who got you there."

Kimberly recognizes the importance of his actions. When it comes to his heroism and triumphant intuition, however, he shies away. Kimberly insisted on the title of this article: "We Weren't Heroes; We just did our job and a little bit more. Heroism, however, was clearly defined in Butgenbach by Captain Kimberly's actions and contributions to the Battle of the Bulge.◘

BOOK BIBLIOGRAPHY AVAILABLE

CARL W. HALL, 99TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 395TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, 1ST BATTALION, and long-time VBOB supporter has compiled a seven-page bibliography of book titles which deal with the Battle of the Bulge.

If you would like a copy, please send a letter-sized, self-addressed envelope bearing **60 cents in postage**. We'll send you one.◘

POST OFFICE CHANGED OUR BOX NUMBER

Please note our **NEW** post office box number:

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Arlington, VA 22210-4418

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE CERTIFICATE



The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Assn is proud to offer a full color 11" by 17" certificate, which may be ordered by any veteran who received credit for the Ardennes Campaign. It attests that you participated in, endured and survived the greatest land battle ever fought by the US Army. You do not have to be a member of the VBOB Assn in order to order one but you must have received the Ardennes credit. This beautiful certificate is produced on parchment-like stock and is outlined by the full color WWII insignias of the major units that fought in the Battle of the Bulge starting with the 12th Army Group followed numerically with Armies, Corps and Divisions and the two Army Air Forces. We wished that each unit insignia could have been shown but with approximately 2000 units that participated in the Bulge it was impossible. However any unit which served in the Bulge would have been attached to or reported through one of the unit insignia depicted. You may want to add one of your original patches to the certificate, when you receive it. Units were researched in the Official General Order No. 114 for Units Entitled to the ARDENNES Battle Credit and will be the basis for sale of this certificate. The unit insignias shown are also those used in the design of the Battle of the Bulge Memorial Conference Table dedicated and on view in the Garrison Library at Ft Meade, MD (open Mon & Wed 12:30-3:00 PM. The requests to date have been overwhelming, therefore we would request that you allow approximately 3-4 weeks for delivery.

A Special Certificate is available to spouses or children of those who made the Supreme Sacrifice in the Battle of the Bulge or who died of wounds received in the Battle of the Bulge. The individual request should have the date and place of death and be certified by the family requestor or by a buddy who was present. Multiple copies of the same certificate may be ordered if you have a number of children/grandchildren. Rank or command during the Bulge is preferred. It will be abbreviated to the WWII or three character standard. The certificate will be shipped rolled in a protective mailing tube. Please be sure to **place your name, service number and unit as you would like it to appear on the certificate.** The unit name should as full as possible as you want someone reading it to understand what unit you were in. We will abbreviate it as necessary. It is important that you type or print this information. The unit must be one of the 2000 units authorized for the Ardennes Campaign credit. **The cost of the certificate is $15.00 postpaid.**

Unfortunately we do not have any more frames available at this time. John Bowen is presently trying to arrange with other suppliers who will produce these special sizes in quantities of 100. This may result in a higher frame cost. Our previous order had to be for 500 frames which took over three years to sell and resulted in the non use of a garage where they were stored. We will keep you posted.

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE CERTIFICATE ORDER BLANK

I request an 11" x 17" Certificate and certify that I received credit for the Ardennes Campaign during my military service. I have enclosed a check for $15.00 for the Certificate. Please include the following information that I would like on the certificate:

_____ ____ _____ _____
First Name MI Last Name Serial Number

_____ _____
Organization:Company, Battalion and/or Regt, Division Rank (Optional)

☐Killed in Action_____ Location_____ ☐Died of Wounds_____ ☐POW_____
date place date dates Camp

MAILING INFORMATION:

_____ _____
Name Street Address Apt No.

_____ ____ _____ - _____
City State Zip + 4 Code

_____ VBOB Member:____Yes ____No _____
Telephone Number (In case we need to call you) not a requirement Signature & date

Make checks out to VBOB for $15.00. Orders should be mailed to VBOB Certificate, PO Box 11129, Arlington, VA 22210-2129. Questions can be directed to John D. Bowen, 301-384-6533, Certificate Chairman.

NO SWEAT



"I can't get this door combination to work, Ajax—looks like we'll have to crawl thru the window again!"



ON APRIL 20, 1939, Adolf Hitler, the Fuhrer of the German Reich, was 50. He had told Sir Nevile Henderson that be would rather have war before he was too old.

Britain called it 'Hitler's War'. The Nazi encyclopaedias named it 'the English war against Germany'.

Four months later Hitler and Stalin signed a pact which neither of them intended to keep. And at dawn, on September 1, the German Panzers and bombers struck at Poland. The pattern was set for so many invasions; the first *Blitzkrieg* began.

—From Twenty Tremendous Years

"Those Unsung Heroes"

If there were ever unsung heros of the Battle of the Bulge, they were the replacements, the cannon fodder troops. They would be parceled out to the Companies in the line as casualties were incurred, they would come from replacement depots, most of them with very little training, and in some cases only a few days out of the United States, such were the misfortunes of war as the country went on a full military basis, and the nation's numbers grew in the armed forces.There wasn't adequate time for the proper training. Later they would be called reinforcements, supposedly to add a little credit to their almost impossible mission.

We never had time to give the replacements the proper orientation and there never was time for them to get acquainted with the other men in the outfit. Seems like we'd always get them about the time we were going into an attack, just told them to watch the rest of us, told them if they could survive the first couple of days, they'd probably get by for awhile. We'd get say 20 replacements before an attack, the next morning five might still be alive. Some never even got on the morning report. It was the same way with officers in combat. The Infantry school at Fort Benning was graduating 200 2nd Lts. every day, seven days a week, to keep the platoon positions filled, and then sometimes there weren't enough, on numerous occasions, enlisted men led platoons. Many were commissioned on the battlefield.

From the "ARDENNES ECHO",—publicaton of the Central Massachusetts Chapter





I WANT YOU

at the

VBOB REUNION
Holiday Inn Airport
Pittsburgh, PA
Sept. 28 – Oct 2, 2005

Come and be with us for this exciting event.
You'll make new friends and may find some old ones.
There are no strangers.
We all shared an experience like no others.

ON TO BASTOGNE

By Ed Bredbenner, Historian
80th Infantry Division
318th Infantry Regiment
Company B

Bob Murrell in the last issue *[November, 2004]*, described the actions of the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 318th Regiment, 80th Infantry Division, with their attack towards Bastogne with the 4th Armored Division. To continue this on further: on Christmas Eve those of us in Company B, 318th Regiment, moved by open truck, and it was very cold with no coats or blankets, to an area near Bigonville, Luxembourg.

Early Christmas morning we attacked. We were on the right flank of the highway deep in the dense woods. We were being fired on from the right, rear and the front. We did capture Tintange, Belgium, after a severe fight, losing many men. We continued the advance until December 28th when we were relieved by units of the 35th Infantry Division. We did not have enough man power to continue. We never did get to Bastogne, but reached an area near the village.

We had moved from an area in France after slogging through the mud for many months to finally get relieved after 129 days of combat. This was December 8, 1944. We went into Corps reserve for six days training in river crossings and the taking of pill boxes. We moved into the Saar area ready to hit the West Wall.

This was the 16th of December. Then, we were alerted to move north and fast, which we did--traveling by open truck for two days and nights. We were over-strength and had about 220 in the company. General Patton knew we would have heavy losses in the attack. We had new replacements and casualties returning (wounded men returning to action). When we were relieved, 20 men remained in the company. We had moved from France in 15 trucks and returned in one truck. We were led by a PFC. We returned to Ettelbruck and three days later we were back in action. I do not know how the men survived the cold, no blankets or overcoats, but they kept on advancing. We had lost many men in three days' fighting in Ettelbruck before joining the 4th Armored Division in their attack on Christmas Day. We were told to hike out or stay and freeze to death when wounded.

As for myself, I was wounded in the thigh and out of action. The medics told us to walk out since the medics were not getting through the deep snows and the enemy closing in the rear. Three of us hiked to the aid station about five miles. We took our rifles and had a few firefights on the way. I spent over two months in the 50th General Hospital in Commerce, France, and then right back into action. It was so cold that none of us were bleeding.

The losses were heavy for all the units fighting up from the south. The 26th Infantry Division and the 80th fought in very rugged country with many streams and steep hills, fighting uphill into heavy defended areas. When spring came and the snows melted thousands of German and American bodies littered the area. The German cemetery, near Hamm Cemetery, has a common grave where over 7,000 men are resting.◘

BRIDGING THE YEARS
...a Sweet Reunion

By Michael Accordino
299th Engineer Combat Battalion

At one point during the Battle of the Bulge, our battalion was put to the task of guarding bridges. Our squad guarded a bridge at Lorch, near Spa, Belgium. There was a family, the Tedescos, living in a home at that site. We became acquainted with them and spoke frequently with Mrs. Tedesco and her two young daughters.

A few years ago Mr. Francois Bourotte, an historian from Spa, found the last remaining member of that family--a daughter named Lucy. Sixty years later I was reacquainted with her.

Breaking away from the tour I was on, commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, I spent a heart-warming two days with Lucy and the Bourotte Family. We visited the bridge site, her old home, and had a couple of meals together, where we spoke of family and my time in the service. It was a happy occasion and one I will never forget.◘

REMEMBERING....

We are some young Belgian and European citizens who come today from a multiracial and multicultural society. We are happy to be able to tell you our feelings and what we owe you. Please excuse us if we cannot tell you this properly....

The first feeling which touches our minds and hearts is **Gratitude:**

Thank you. Sixty years ago, when terror and obscurantism ruled a world gone mad, you were just a little older than we are today. You sacrificed the most beautiful years of your boyhood, you learned the fear of fighting, you suffered from starvation and coldness but you never failed in your mission and always hit your target.

Thanks, too, for your brothers-in-arms who gave their lives...for our grandparents yesterday, for our parents and for us today, maybe for our children tomorrow, and also for **Liberty and Democracy** that you returned to them and us.

The second thing we also want to tell you is that we have got a duty of **Remembrance:**

We cannot forget your will, your determination, your courage, in one word, your heroism to give the world and, in particular our continent, Unity, Broadmindedness and Future without war.

We know that all these values which were obtained by your blood and pain are never definitely secured. Gandi told that people who forget the past are condemned to live the same life again.

That is why we promise you to preserve for the next generations these values you fought for. Mankind will never know these painful events again because nobody will forget what you have done for all of us.

Please stay in our minds and our hearts, forever. God bless you.

From the students' 7th secondary professional school Charleroi (Jumet) (Belgium)◘

COMBAT ENGINEER MOTORCYCLE MANIAC

Submitted by Joseph H. Geary
291st Engineer Combat Battalion

*[Joe sends us the following story about **JEFF ELLIOTT, COMPANY A**, and his escapades in Europe.]*

Arriving in Normandy in June of 1944, Jeff was assigned as jeep driver for the platoon lieutenant, and was promoted to T/5. That didn't last very long...the lieutenant busted him because he and the jeep were not available when needed. Jeff had been off tinkering with a deserted German half-track, got it running, and was jazzing around the territory in his new toy.

Back to the Motor Pool...Jeff was just in time as the motorcycle messenger became disabled, and the officer was looking for someone with motorcycle experience. Jeff spoke up quickly having been on a motorcycle about twice in his young life.

Failing to start the machine after seven tries, the officer suggested that he should get someone else, but Jeff said, "No, No, I'll get it going in just a minute," and he did. Jeff had a new job as messenger between the four battalion company headquarters and the 1111th Engineer Combat Group.

As our First Army moved across the continent, combat engineers supported the combat divisions. Jeff stayed busy running messages between the scattered companies and the group, becoming familiar with the road nets and short cuts, of the battle areas with its assorted equipment and vehicles destroyed and abandoned in the recent battles. True to form, Jeff came upon a Mark IV German tank...apparently the German crew simply ran...and the tank was whole and in perfect shape. With the ignition key from the half-track still in his pocket, Jeff, ignoring all booby trap cautions, climbed in and started the tank and had fun driving it around. (Germans used common ignition keys.)

Jeff tells me that someone probably "ratted" on him because the Battalion Commander, Colonel David Pergrin, called Jeff in to inquire about his driving a German tank. The colonel was interested in the German weapon, and Jeff invited the colonel to take a ride with him, and the colonel accepted.

Both men climbed into the Mark IV and Pvt. Jeff Elliott gave the colonel the full treatment and finally into a large crater. Unfortunately, the tank's long barrel of its big gun jammed into the far side of the crater and stuck fast...nothing Jeff could do could move the tank...and the demonstration was over.

Shortly thereafter the U.S. Army wanted this perfect tank for study and Jeff helped the tank retrievers salvage the Mark IV, and then even backed it onto a large trailer so they could take it away.

Jeff had a full war experience. Later in life, Jeff broke his arm and X-rays revealed small pieces of shrapnel in his hand.... "Didn't the medics patch you up...and give you a Purple Heart?" "No," says he, "it wasn't bad and I didn't want to go to the medics because I didn't want to lose my job."

This interesting 18-year-old fought through Normandy to central. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge...riding his bike on the back roads avoiding the Germans who had broken through on the Northern Shoulder.◘

SLED DOGS IN THE BULGE

Submitted by Harold J. O'Neill
83rd Infantry Division
83rd Signal Battalion

[As you may recall, the last issue of this newsletter asked if anyone was aware of sled dogs performing a function in the Battle of the Bulge. Harold provided us with the information which appears below which was found on the internet at "K-9 History: Army's Search & Rescue!" Thanks, Harold.]

Across the Atlantic, the German Army was making its last great breakthrough. In December, 1944, Von Runsted's armor rolled through the Ardennes, overwhelming American battalions and regiments in its path.

With superior American aviation grounded by impossible flying weather, Panzer armies drove on through bitter cold and heavy snow, that rivalled even the Arctic's. When at last the drive was slowed down by the bloody fighting called the Battle of the Bulge, snows were hip deep.

At many points, the drifts bogged down stretcher bearers and were impossible for motor ambulances. Lives were being lost by delays in bringing wounded back from the front lines to advance medical stations. It was then, that a rush call was sent out for sled teams.

Teams and their drivers had been purposely stationed at widely distant points over the Arctic Circle so that they could rapidly reach crippled planes wherever they fell. To call them in and ship them by *[word omitted]* would take weeks. They would have to be transported by air with top priority.

The order went out to 23 picked teams one evening. Drivers and dogs, collected by C-47's from rescue stations in Greenland, Labrador, Newfoundland and other points in Canada, were assembled at serial ports of embarkation. There, they were transferred to big four motored transport planes for the Atlantic hop.

The 80 pound, tawny or grey and white Huskies were chained to the bucket seats of the planes. To be doubly safe against all too likely dog fights, pilots climbed to 11,000 feet. This was high enough to keep the dogs drowsy from lack of oxygen. As a result there was only one fracas with no worse casualties than a nipped ear.

Clearing weather and the recession of the German drive kept the teams from showing their full ability, but the operation had set a remarkable record.◘



KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Brig. Gen. William E. Carlson
December 16, 2004
Orlando, Florida

*[The following speech was submitted by **HARRY MEISEL, 565TH ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS BATTALION, COMPANY C.**]*

The Battle of the Bulge-- This is a story that should be told to the sound of trumpets.

It was the 16th of September, 1944. Adolf Hitler had summoned a group of his senior officers to his study in the huge, underground bunker called the Wolf's Lair (Hitler's secret headquarters), hidden deep underground in a pine forest in East Prussia.

Those summoned were his closest and most trusted military advisory. Among them, there was only one who wore the red stripes of the German General Staff on his uniform. He was the head of the Operations Staff of the High Command of the Wehrmacht, General Alfred Jodl. The officers were waiting when Hitler entered.

Looking considerably older than his 54 years, he was still recovering from the injuries he had received in the assassination attempt on his life two months earlier. His shoulders were sagging. His face was drawn and drained of color and his skin had turned yellow, as if he had jaundice.

Slowly taking his seat, Hitler instructed Jodl to sum up the situation on the Western Front. Jodl first noted that the strength of the opposing forces heavily favored the Western Allies.

There was one area of particular concern. That area was the region of Belgium and Luxembourg--called the Ardennes. At the word "Ardennes," Hitler suddenly said, "Stop the briefing." There was a long pause. Strained silence permeated the room.

The silence was finally broken when Hitler, reminiscent of his once moving and powerful rhetoric, said, "I have made a momentous decision!" His voice belied the weakened condition of his body, his blue eyes sparkled and were alight with a fervor that no one had seen since the attempt on his life.

He pointed to the map unrolled on the desk before him and he boldly announced, "I shall go on the offensive here!" "Here, out of the Ardennes! The objective is Antwerp!" Those assembled sat in stunned silence. With those words Hitler set in motion preparations for the greatest attack in the West since the campaign of 1940. Gradually, very gradually, the German commanders who would direct the battle were told of the plan, a few at a time.

The operation would be launched along a 60-mile front from Monschau in the north to the medieval town of Echternach in the south. On the eve of the battle, on the German side of the line, German commanders read a message from Field Marshal von Rundstedt. The message began as follows: "Soldiers of the West Front! Your greatest hour has arrived! We attack at dawn."

In the early morning hours of 16 December, the tramping sound of hobnailed jack boots broke the stillness of that cold, silent night as Nazi troopers, with visions of past glory, strutted upon the field of battle as they marched to the line of departure and formed into assault formations.

A split second after 5:30 a.m., an American soldier in the 28th Division, manning an observation post high on top of a water tower in the Village of Hosingen, frantically turned the crank on his field telephone and reported to his company commander that in the distance on the German side he could see a strange phenomenon: countless flickering pinpoints of light piercing the darkness of the early morning fog and mist.

Within a few seconds both he and his company commander had an explanation. They were the muzzle flashes of over 2,000 German artillery pieces. The early morning stillness of the fog-shrouded forest was suddenly shattered with the thunderclap of a massive artillery barrage landing on the Americans. The onslaught had begun.

The German code name for the operation was **Autumn Mist.** The Americans called it the **Battle of the Bulge.**

The Battle of the Bulge lasted for 43 days, from the 16th of December 1944 until the 28th of January 1945. More than a million men participated in this battle including 600,000 Americans, 500,000 Germans, and 55,000 British. The American military force consisted of three Armies with 33 divisions. While the German military force consisted of two panzer armies with 29 divisions. It was to become the greatest battle ever fought by the United States Army.

Early on that morning of 16 December, masses of German troopers dressed in greatcoats, emerged through the veil of the early morning fog and mist, and charged towards the Americans like men possessed.

Low in their foxholes, the American GI's prayed to the Lord, and the enemy discovered the fury of their rifles. The real story of the Battle of the Bulge is the story of these soldiers and the intense combat action of the small units, the squads, the platoons, and the companies, and the soldiers who filled their ranks. For the most part they were citizen soldiers, draftees, young men, hardly more than boys. Resourceful, tough and tempered as hard as steel in the crucible of the Great Depression, these men were as tough as the times in which they were raised.

These are the men who made up the fighting strength of the divisions, carried out the orders of the generals and engaged the Germans in mortal combat. Battalion commanders and company commanders--young, lean, tough, battle-wise and toil worn. And second lieutenants, newly minted officers and gentlemen, some still sporting peach fuzz on their upper lips--too young to require a razor. And grizzly NCO's with faces, chiseled and gaunt from the gnawing stress of battle and the rigors of a soldier's life in combat. And seasoned troopers; scroungy and unkempt, but battle-hardened; competent and disciplined in the automatic habits of war never learned in school.

Around their necks hung their dog tags and rosaries, on their heads were their steel pot and in their pocket, next to their heart, was a picture--the picture of their girl back home.

The battle was very personal for them. Concerned with the fearful and consuming task of fighting and staying alive, these men did not think of the battle in terms of the big picture represented on the situation maps at higher headquarters. They knew only what they could see and hear in the chaos of the battle around them. They knew and understand the earth for which they fought, the advantage of holding the high ground, and the protection of the

(Continued)

KEYNOTE ADDRESS (Continuation)

trench or foxhole. And they knew the fear of having German artillery rounds falling like rain drops around, without pattern, in the snow. They knew the overwhelming loneliness of the battlefield, the feeling of despair, confusion and uncertainty that prevails in units in retreat. And they knew that feeling of utter exhaustion--the inability of the soldier's flesh and blood to continue on, yet they must, or die. It was a hell that had to be endured, and they endured it.

[The] GI's, their bodies numb, were blue-lipped, and chilled to the bone. The night sky was aflame with shimmering lights and pulsating patterns--casting an eerie, ghostly light in the fog and mist over the snow-covered field of battle. These are the soldiers who when their officers lay dead and their sergeants turned white, held the enemy at bay in the days when the battlefield was in flames with all the fire and noise humanly possible for over a million warriors to create.

For a brief moment in history, these men held our nation's destiny in their hands. They did not fail us. They blew the trumpets that tumbled the walls. Their's was the face of victory. Super heroes--super patriots. Their legacy victory--victory in the greatest battle ever fought by the United States Army.

But the cost of victory was high. There, on that cold brutal field of battle, 19,000 young Americans answered the angel's trumpet call and had their rendezvous with death. Today we look into the mirror of the past and we remember them. In the muffled cadence of memory only, they go marching by, and we salute them.

Over 23,000 American soldiers were captured during the heat of battle. Prisoners of war who staggered in tattered columns as they were marched to German stalags.

Purple Hearts were awarded by the thousands. The bleeding wounds of 81,000 young Americans stained the snow and left the "red badge of courage" on that blood-soaked field of battle.

Amid the serene hills of the Ardennes to this very day, reposes the dust of American soldiers listed as "missing and unaccounted for" from that battle. These, known only to God, who were left behind, never to return. There on that field of battle they perished and disappeared as though they had never been born.

As we muster here today, we remember and pay tribute to all those brave young warriors who served with honor and won that battle. We are reminded of what their journey through life has left behind us. They have passed "Old Glory" on to the next generation, unsoiled, their swords untarnished, their legacy, a great nation, under God, with liberty, justice and freedom for all.

These are the soldiers who in the hours when the earth's foundation shook and the ground did tremble stood their ground. Our nation's warriors on that field of battle followed duty's call and lived the code of the soldier: **duty, honor, country.** Before them, the Nazi's visions of glory drifted away like the sound and fury of battle.

When the smoke had cleared more than 120,000 enemy soldiers lay stiff in the snow, wounded or captured, and over 800 enemy tanks were left burning and rusting in the wooded hills of the Ardennes. **The Bulge was no more.**

With the duty done, with their saber in the scabbard placed and their colors furled away, their dreams turned to the journey home, the harbor lights of New York and the girl they left behind. Their place in history secured as the greatest generation, the generation that saved the sum of all things we hold dear. ...and all this for love of their country and the meager pay of a soldier.

Ask yourselves now--with heads bowed--from where, Oh God, came such men as these? Our country was truly blessed.

The Ardennes woods are silent now, the battle smoke has fled. Fifty years and ten have passed....Now only memories and the dead. And May God bless them, everyone.

God bless the U.S.A. Thank you.◘

NOT ONE...but TWO Monuments...

at my expense and my pleasure.

Approximately two years ago Al Rosenzweig placed a Battle of the Bulge monument at the Dallas-Ft. Worth National Cemetery at his expense and at his pleasure. He eventually hopes to have a dedication, however, it is there for all to see and remember and that is what is most important. It was approved by VBOB but never acknowledged in *The Bulge*.



His desire to duplicate this monument at Fort Hood, Texas, is now coming to fruition with thanks to Jack Hemingway, who was instrumental in getting permission from Major General Thurman, the division commander of the 4th Infantry Division. Jack is a retired Brigadier General. They (Jack and Al) served together in the 78th Infantry Division in Europe and in the Hurtgen Forest during the Bulge.

Jack would appreciate the availability of any member from National attending the October 25, 2005, dedication at Fort Hood. Of course, his Texas 78th Infantry Division members will be in attendance; however, he feels it would be appropriate for other Bulge veterans to be there as well.

*[**AL ROSENZWEIG** served in the **78TH INFANTRY DIVISION** and is a long-time member and supporter of VBOB.]*◘

MEMORIES

By Billie E. Houseman
561st Field Artillery Battalion
B Battery

We, the 561st Field Artillery Battalion, arrived at our first firing position near Schonberg, Belgium, on October 4, 1944, after helping to destroy the submarine pens at Brest in France.

Our weapon was the 155mm (Long Tom) rifle. We were Corps Artillery, and our prime objective was to take out warehouses, ammunition dumps, road junctions, etc., and to beef up the Divisional Artillery to our immediate front.

On or about November 20, 1944, my battery, Baker, set up 3,000 yards out in front of our other two batteries, Able and Charlie. As you all know all hell broke loose in the early morning hours of December 16, 1944.

To our front was the 106th Infantry Division which only days before had replaced the 2nd Infantry Division (Indian Head). 150mm German shells began landing in our area by 10:30 a.m. that morning. We had built log cabins, or huts to protect ourselves from the increasing cold. We stole rough-sawed lumber from under the Germans' noses and nailed it to the trees, clapboard fashion. Since nails were in short supply, we allowed only one nail to each end of the board. We used flattened cardboard boxes to insulate the walls.

With the uncertainty of the 106th, we were ordered to pull back. C Battery dug in on a hilltop to cover our withdrawal. Three of their guns had to be destroyed to prevent capture. By 1:30 p.m. on the 16th, we pulled back through St. Vith, Bastogne, Houffalize, and Arlon finally stopping at Neufchateau. All of this occurred over a period of several days.

We, along with several other artillery units including AAA joined in with the 26th Division, 80th Division and the 83rd Division with Colonel Creighton Abrams leading a combat regiment of the 4th Armored Division. It would be February 4, 1945, before we returned anywhere near our original positions. There were still several more months of hard fighting ahead.

Those booming 155's took us across five countries, earned us five bronze campaign stars in 303 days of continuous combat, while expending 54,991 rounds of high explosive shells.◘

COLD WAR RECOGNITION CERTIFICATE

DAVID SALTMAN, 638TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION, and President of the VBOB Long Island Chapter, advises that the Cold War Certificate is available to anyone who served in the armed forces during the period of September 2, 1945, until December 16, 1991.

Send a letter to: Commander, Personnel Command; Cold War Recognition, Hoffman II; 200 Stoval Street; Alexandria, Virginia 22332-0473.

Include: Your name, full address, social security number, military service number and your branch of service. Send a copy of your DD-214 verifying your service (it will not be returned).

Certify: You served during the above period of time and was discharged from the service honorably.◘

SERIAL NUMBER DATABASE AVAILABLE

National Archives Offers Information Source

[DEMETRI "DEE" PARIS, 9TH ARMORED DIVISION, 14TH TANK BATTALION, advises us of the following which may be helpful to you.]

The National Archives has added a new source of information that may be very important to those seeking information about World War II veterans whose records were lost or damaged in the fire at the Military Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri.

The Archives database has data for most of the Army personnel, both men and women, who served in WWII. Entry to the database is by entering the serial number **OR** by entering the last name followed by the # sign and the first name. www.archives.gov

There are some of the serial numbers for which they do not have data. And they use the word "enlistment" for both draftees and those who volunteered. The database includes the county and state from which the veteran entered service, the place and date of induction, year of birth and date of induction, year of birth and state in which you were born. It also has a broad classification of civilian occupation.

The information is only about the time the veteran entered service and not about later service. With the individual's serial number, you can contact the Veterans Affairs Department to ascertain if they have that individual in their records. If they do have a record, they will forward your letter to the address in their files for a fee of $2.00. (Thanks to John Bowen, Officer of VBOB and Archives Researcher for this information.)◘

MONUMENT DEDICATED IN MASSACHUSETTS

JOHN McAULIFFE, 87TH INFANTRY DIVISION, and President of Central Massachusetts Chapter advises that the monument dedication in Framingham, Massachusetts, on January 16, 2005, was a huge success.

Conceived and designed by Nicholas Paganella (a Korean War veteran and associate member of John's chapter) wanted to honor the 60th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge on the grounds of the former Cushing General Hospital, where over 3,000 wounded in the Bulge were treated, by erecting a monument there.

The event was sponsored by the Framingham Veterans Council and included the presentation of a flag for each branch of the five armed forces and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The beautiful chapel where this event was held is the sole remaining ediface on these hallowed grounds.◘

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All new members, please provide the following information:

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