

*“This is undoubtedly the greatest American battle of the war and will, I believe, be regarded as an ever-famous American Victory.”*

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL - Addressing the House of Commons following the Battle of the Bulge, WWII.



# The BULGE BUGLE

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*“There is one thing you dare not forget and that you must keep eternally engraved in your heart. It is the memory of those men who came from far away, from overseas and clung to the ground, fighting one against ten, falling down under bombing and shelling for the name of LIBERTY.*

*And when you will pass before a military cemetery, when you will see the little white crosses adorning the tombs of the soldiers of Baugnez, of Steumont, of Rochefort and of so many little villages of the Ardennes, from the depths of your heart cry to them...*

**THANK YOU”.**

Andre' Defer  
Belgian Writer

**VETERANS OF THE  
BATTLE OF THE BULGE,  
INC.**

P.O. Box 11129  
Arlington, Virginia 22210-2129  
703-528-4058

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**THE BULGE BUGLE STAFF:**

**Publisher:** George Chekan  
9th Infantry Division

**Editor:** Roy Gordon  
9th Infantry Division

**Editor, Washington  
Bureau:** Eiturino L. Loiacono  
10th Armored Division

**Historical Re-  
search:** Dorothy S. Davis  
5th Field Hospital

**VBOB OFFICERS--ELECTED:**

**President:** Darrell T. Kuhn  
75th Infantry Division  
301-766-8912

**Executive Vice  
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737th Tank Battalion

**Vice President for Member-  
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740th Tank Battalion  
301-672-3242

**Vice President for Military  
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75th Infantry Division

**Vice President for Chapter  
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16th Field Artillery Observation  
Battalion

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825th Tank Destroyer Battalion

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Beverly VanHouten

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Activities:** William P. Tayman  
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Units:** Gene Drouillard  
75th Infantry Division  
703-356-5708

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\*\*\*\*\*

**VBOB CHAPTER PRESIDENTS  
(Alphabetical by State)**

•ALABAMA•

**GEN. GEORGE S. PATTON, JR.  
CHAPTER (XI)**  
John B. Glaze  
7615 Creek Way  
Mulga, AL 35114  
205-436-4303

•CALIFORNIA•

**FRESNO CHAPTER (V)**  
Kenneth Hohmann  
4111 N. Sherman St.  
Fresno, CA 93728  
209-227-5232

**GEN. GEORGE S. PATTON, JR.  
CHAPTER #13 (XIII)**  
George Waldron  
3801 Soquel Dr.  
Soquel, CA 95073  
408-475-3989

**GOLDEN GATE CHAPTER (X)**  
Martin E. Turkington  
55 Millthwaite Dr.  
Marlinez, CA 94553  
415-372-8031

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER  
(XVI)**

Godfrey R. Harris  
4209 Abington Ct.  
Westlake Village, CA 91361-4504  
818-889-3323

•FLORIDA•

**CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER (XVIII)**  
Tom McFadden  
1217 Buccaneer Ave.  
Dellona, FL 32725  
407-860-1720

•MARYLAND-  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA•  
**MARYLAND/D.C. CHAPTER (III)**

Grover Twiner  
40 Dungan Rd.  
Baltimore, MD 21228-3401  
301-744-4915

•MASSACHUSETTS•

**CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS  
CHAPTER (XXII)**  
John E. McAuliffe  
425 Pleasant St.  
Worcester, MA 01609  
508-754-7183

**C.G. PAUL NEWGARDEN CHAPTER  
(VIII) (serving Massachusetts)**  
Matthew Femino  
711 Colonial Dr.  
Portsmouth, NH 03801  
603-436-2571

•MICHIGAN•

**WEST MICHIGAN CHAPTER (XXIII)**  
Maurice C. Cole  
614 Fenton St. (Box 64)  
Kingsley, MI 49649  
616-263-7222

**GREAT LAKES CHAPTER (XXI)**  
(Upper Michigan-Wisconsin)  
Gregory C. Walker  
523 Terrace Ave.  
Marinette, WI 54143  
715-732-2957

•NEW JERSEY•

**NEW JERSEY CHAPTER (XII)**  
Anthony W. Andriola  
33 Clover St.  
Nutley, NJ 07110  
201-667-9363

•NEW YORK•

**CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER (II)**  
Alexander F. Noce, Sr.  
Champion Mobile Homes, Lot 16  
Eldridge, NY 13060  
315-689-3457

•NORTH CAROLINA•

**NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER (IX)**  
William Robert Strickland  
R.D. #3, Box #514  
Dunn, NC 28334  
919-897-8295

•NORTH DAKOTA•

**NORTH DAKOTA CHAPTER (XX)**  
George K. Peterson  
R.R. 2, Box 107  
McClusky, ND 58463-9592  
701-363-2488

•PENNSYLVANIA•

**DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER (IV)**  
Stanley Wojtusik  
9639 Wissinoming St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19114  
215-637-4191

**SUSQUEHANNA CHAPTER (XIX)**  
Ms. Clara Gustin  
230 Crown Ave.  
Scranton, PA 18505-2016  
717-342-8496

**WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER  
(XIV)**

Leroy D. Schaller  
R.R. #1, Box #341  
Bolivar, PA 15923  
412-236-2297

•SOUTH CAROLINA•

**SOUTH CAROLINA CHAPTER (VII)**  
George A. Worth  
109 S. Live Oak Dr.  
Moncks Corner, SC 29461  
803-899-4364

•VERMONT-

**NEW HAMPSHIRE-MAINE•  
TRI-STATE--VERMONT, NEW  
HAMPSHIRE, MAINE CHAPTER (XVII)**  
Roger Desjardins  
4 Forest Park Est.  
Jaffrey, NH 03452  
603-532-8420

•VIRGINIA•

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER (XV)**  
H. Dean Fravel  
3218 Nealon Dr.  
Falls Church, VA 22042  
703-573-5718

•WASHINGTON•

**NORTHWEST CHAPTER (VI)**  
Casimer Pomianek  
6232 53rd St.  
Seattle, WA 98115  
206-523-0055

•WISCONSIN•

**NORTHERN WISCONSIN CHAPTER (I)**  
Wallace Abitz  
1201 S. 7th Ave.  
Wausau, WI 54401  
715-842-4915

If there's a chapter near you, give their president a call. They are engaged in a lot of activities we are sure you would enjoy. You may encounter some old friends and you surely will make some new ones.

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**If you have information you would like to have included in *The Bulge Bugle*, please submit it to VBOB at least 6 weeks before publication date. Publication dates: February, May, August, and November.**

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**Hope to see  
you at the  
VBOB Events  
Dec. 15th & 16th**

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**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**  
**VBOB ZEROES IN ON 50TH**  
**ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCE**  
**'Build on VBOB's Accomplishments--**  
**Let's Go That Extra Mile'**

The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge will move into a new pioneer formation for a unique event--the 50th anniversary of the battle.

The 50th anniversary of the battle may be the last Class "A" uniform event which would include Department of Defense participation (DOD stated it will not take part in any BoB events in a large scale after the 50th observance).

The situation should pose no problems to the winners of the Battle of the Bulge, the nation's largest land battle, a key event in World War II annals.

Winston Churchill told the House of Commons after the battle: "This is undoubtedly the greatest American battle of the war and will, I believe, be regarded as an ever-famous American victory."

Of course, the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge was front and center in helping plan and set up the national observance of the 50th anniversary.

- We played a key role in getting a commemorative stamp made to be issued near the anniversary date.
- We have caused memorials to be placed at Arlington Cemetery and our chapters have also placed memorials at other points across the nation.
- We are called upon by other veterans' organizations and national civic groups to participate in their observances of civic and national nature.
- We are negotiating with the entertainment media to provide up-date features on the Bulge, either fictional or factual.
- We are pressing countries and organizations to honor each Battler by presenting every VBOB member a Certificate of Participation.
- We have established working liaisons with organizations such as the University of Tennessee's Center for Military History and the Army's Military History Institute at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania 17013-5008, to take our oral histories, written materials, such as diaries or notes, any artifacts and the like. We also have arrangements with most state veterans' museums to accept Battlers' relics either on loan or as a gift in perpetuity.
- We are building on events and structures started by our founder, Clyde Boden and his nucleus of pioneers. They did a magnificent job. We are updating and keeping current their pioneering works, such as the museum at Fort George G. Meade, near Baltimore, Maryland.
- We have enrolled member number 10,000, and look



Darrell Kuhn

- forward to another 10,000 within a short period. Memberships are rapidly pouring in.
- We have instituted many sweeping reforms in the management of the organization, to get the most bang for the buck. I reported on some of those in the last issue.
- We continuing to streamline for the common good. One action we are exploring is getting an executive officer who will handle all the details. This would leave the elected officers free to do their basic jobs--move VBOB along as a national force and a potent factor in veterans' circles.

We do not have to spend a good deal of space telling each other we've done a marvelous job. We have, and outsiders are telling us so, beginning with Winston Churchill....

What we have to do is think of things we want done, and then set about doing them.. I do not mean non-Battle-connected events, such as conventions, where we worry about whether the tablecloth color matches the speaker's tie, or tongue, or eyeballs....

We have to focus on Battle-connected events and press for action on those. No one else will do it. We have been elected by elimination. And, come to think of it, it's no different than we had to do in the Bulge. We just "inherited" the job. And we stuck to our guns and we did it. We did not distract our attention from the main purpose of being there. We didn't worry about whether the "C" rations had matching ribbons all over it, or if the ammo was delivered with a smile.

In the little future time we have, we must do as we did nearly 50 years ago: Go out there and get the job done....

I urge you to step in and help the next administration. That's the only way our dreams can become realities.

Thank you for your help during my watch--my tour on guard duty for the VBOB.

See you on the firing line.

Darrell Kuhn, President

## 1993 Elected Officers

The following officers were elected by the General Membership at its October 9th meeting:

- William R. Hemphill, President
- William Tayman, Executive Vice President
- Grover Twiner, Vice President for Membership
- Stanley Wojtusik, Vice President for Chapter Coordination
- Peter Dounis, Vice President for Military Affairs
- Peter Leslie, Treasurer
- Beverley VanHouten, Recording Secretary
- George C. Linthicum, Corresponding Secretary

## Change in Life Membership Fees

At the General Membership Meeting held October 9, 1992, the following fees were established for Life Membership and go into effect immediately.

- Over 70 years of age-----\$ 75.00
- Under 70 years of age-----\$125.00

# Letters to the Editor...

## Kid Glove Treatment...

"...No account of the massacre at Malmedy should ever be presented without the follow-up account of how the perpetrators got off Scot free, as Dr. Raila did, but Dr. Raila didn't put forth the information that a United States politician, namely Senator Joseph McCarthy, bent all the rules that his office allowed him to, in order to see that these murderers were given kid glove treatment and eventually absolved of their atrocious conduct in this unforgivable act. There are many instances of this being on record--McCarthy's action--at your local public library. No reason is ever given for his actions but there is no reason that cold-blooded murderers should be protected by anyone, let alone an elected official of the American people.

"The editorial on the giving out of medals for service in the Battle of the Bulge brings to mind that soon after the war ended in Europe, all mess sergeants, supply sergeants, and, I suppose all sergeants of the first three ranks received a Bronze Star. The outcry by all was so great that the medals given to these people was changed so that it contained a 'M' for merit on the ribbon whereas the Bronze Star earned for conspicuous bravery was given a 'V' for valor. As far as the cheapening of the Purple Heart, I have heard stories of some medal happy outfits getting them because some of them had contracted venereal disease in Germany--"Wounded by Enemy Action."

"...considering the number of WWII vets involved in the "Notch" bill (HR 917) it would be well to line up all the support that you possibly can to see that a bill that has been kicking around Congress for nine years will be given a public hearing."

GEORGE SCARBROUGH  
3 ARMDD 23 ARMD ENGR

## Hobnailed Boots...

"In regard to the photo on the cover of the August issue of *The Bulge Bugle* the caption stated the 'U.S. Army never issued hobnailed boots.' This statement isn't true. I served in the 101st Airborne Division in Normandy, Holland and Bulge campaigns in an infantry company, ending my service as a rifle platoon leader. (I was wounded and captured near Bastogne.) Hobnailed boots were issued to some members of my company during the winter of '43-'44 while we were training in the UK. I recall the difficulties these men had hiking the turtle-backed macadam roads in England while hiking to our training area which was 7-1/2 miles distant to our barracks. The boots had a horseshoe plate in the heel and hobs on the sole. They were replaced by the combat boot which leaked like a sieve. For dress and parades we wore the Corkran "jump boots." We were forbidden to wear them in combat, but most of the men, including officers, ignored the order and stuck them in bed rolls, replacing the combat boots at the first opportunity."

ROBERT BOWEN  
101 ARBN 401 GLDR INF C

## 80,000 Casualties No Victory...

"...Winston Churchill was forever making some damned fool statement to push the war effort.

"The battle eventually was ours that's for sure, but I would hardly say that 80,000 casualties was a victory.

"The situation should have never happened. Our armies were well into Germany in late September and early October. Everyone stopped for lack of supplies, especially gasoline. Our truck outfits were lacking fuel. Those lines were held for two and a half months because the powers to be were awed at the advance made after the breakthrough at St. Lo. Never expecting this in their wildest dreams, they made the

strategic error of having the supply not keep up with the front. That advance should have halted at the Rhine.

"As far as a lot of GI's are concerned, it was one of the major goofs of WWII.

"Another thing, that picture on the front page and the accompanying caption--Dr. Frank A. Raila should watch his observances. I quote 'U.S. Army never issued hobnailed boots.' For his information hobnailed boots were issued to GI's during the invasion of Normandy. You should never say never. ...[Later] the GX's came up with loads of rubber soled foot wear. Jerries had hobnails and so did we. It was bad for both sides. On paved surfaces GI's in hobnails sound like Jerries and Jerries in hobnails sound like GI's. The outcome--guys on both sides were shooting at each other. It changed quick [to] rubber soles.

"As for the picture, it seems the bodies in the center are piled on each other. The bare rear end in the middle would dictate that they were piled up, gathered, that is, for grave registration pick up. I've seen a great deal of this in Normandy, St. Lo, .... They throw everyone together for health reasons such as cholera, etc.

"We all have our own opinions. I just had to get it off my chest...."

JERRY C. HIBEK  
99 INF 428 MP

## 9th Field Hospital Memories...

"The article by Jack King on his experiences during the Battle of the Bulge with the 47th Field Hospital brings back memories of our unit--the 9th Field Hospital.

"We were stationed in Verviers, about 20 miles from the deepest penetration of the German Army. Our unit received some of the survivors of the 47th, and on December 27, 1944, the hospital, housed in a school building, was bombed.

"Fortunately, we had evacuated our patients to Liege that morning. However, our hospital was destroyed. We lost 20 killed and 21 wounded. We were moved to Tirlemont on December 28th.

"I think the 9th endured the heaviest casualties in proportion to the total strength of any medical unit in the ETO. On December 31, 1944, we were operational again.

ROBERT M. KNOX  
9 FLD HOSP

## Accolades for The Bugle...

[Addressed to Dr. Frank A. Raila]

"I found your article in the latest VBOB publication very interesting and informative. Keep up the good work! It should be reprinted in the veterans magazines (VFW, AL, etc.).

WALTER C. RIGHTON  
704 TK BN

## Medals...5 Points Was 5 Points...

"With reference to your editorial in the August issue about medals, may I suggest we do not pursue such an effort. The matter cannot be 'made right' and should not be allowed to get any further out of hand.

"Some examples: (1) the wholesale delivery of Bronze Stars to everyone who wore a Combat Infantry Badge was an injustice to those who had been a legitimate awardee; (2) a medal for being a POW? Think about that one. I have nothing against an Ex-POW (since I am one) but the real heroes in the Bulge have mostly received white crosses; (3) now the American Ex-POW's are urging members to write Congress for a Purple Heart for ex-prisoners.

"When a medal was worth 5 points, well, 5 points was 5 points! However, who needs them or the medals now.

ROBERT L. THOMPSON  
2 INF 23 INF A

(Continued on Page 5)

## Letters to the Editor...

(Continued from Page 4)

### Misuse of the Term 'Nazi'...

"I applaud Bill Tayman's well-expressed letter concerning the use of 'Nazi' by the media types when they are referring to the German Army (or Navy or Air Force). By the same token, we didn't fight the 'Communists' in Korea either. The enemy was North Korean or Chinese. Other offenders with the misuse of 'Nazi' are the narrators of the otherwise excellent WWII cable TV features."

**TOM RANEY**  
ASSOCIATE MEMBER

### Many Malmedy Details May Be Lost Forever...

"...It may be that many details of the Malmedy massacre are lost, perhaps forever.

"Dr. Raila may take heart in the fact that the story of what happened at Malmedy has not gone untold. Historian Charles Whiting published a volume in the early 1970's called *Massacre at Malmedy*, Stein and Day, New York (1971). In it, Mr. Whiting constructs an authoritative narrative on Kampfgruppe Peiper, the infamous battle group responsible for the slaughter of soldiers and civilians not only in Malmedy, but in a multitude of places along its path of advance during the Bulge.

"Through eyewitness accounts from survivors, Whiting weaves together the order of events which led ultimately to the killings at Baugnez crossroads and the surrounding areas. Utilizing the recollections of the Kampfgruppe commander Jochen Peiper as a centerpiece, Whiting blends in the remembrances of those American officers and soldiers whose often heroic acts of courage and sacrifice thwarted this prong of the Nazi juggernaut in its drive to the Meuse.

"Whiting also provides an Epilogue in which he discusses the trial of those whom the American public came to know as 'The Malmedy Men.' He does not however detail as Dr. Raila mentions the botched handling of the case by Army investigators. Nor does he take on the ensuing political maelstrom over the defense of the 'Malmedy Men' in a later trial that drew in a little known Junior Senator from Wisconsin named Joseph McCarthy, who would later achieve notoriety in a wholly different sphere debating conscience and ideology.

"Yet despite this shortsightedness, Mr. Whiting created a balanced and compelling chronicle of combat during an early period of the Ardennes campaign."

**PETER COSTON**  
ASSOCIATE MEMBER

### Malmedy Authorities Cited...

"Having fought with the 526th Armored Infantry Battalion in the Malmedy area during the Bulge and having been wounded and captured near Baugnez, Belgium, the actual site of the massacre, I was greatly interested in the article about the Malmedy Massacre.

"In 1991 I organized...a reunion return of my outfit back to Belgium. [A retired British general helped] us in two areas. [The writer offers the names and addresses of two authorities on the massacre. We did not wish them to be flooded with requests for information so we will write to them to obtain information and print it in a future edition.] ...either of these men can give you all the facts that are known about the case. They have done extensive research including talking to Americans, Belgians and Germans who were there before, during and after the massacre.

**RICHARD E. STONE**  
526 ARMD INF BN

## Tell It to the Marines...

I was surprised to note on the front page a comment which could be viewed as a slur to the Marines. Specifically, 'they don't have anything like the Bulge worth telling about,' I believe is an insult. Many of my friends served in three of the six Marine divisions and fought in Guadalcanal, Palau Group, Iwo Jima, Tarawa, and Okinawa. All of these battle locations were terrible hell holes of tragedy, with the jungle, caves, insects, heat, humidity, and of course the frantic Japanese soldiers. Their losses were considerable and comparing battles is in my view stupid. Every battle is a tragedy to the people involved!

Re: Dr. Raila's "Blast"; many of us fought SS divisions before, during and after "The Bulge" and have very little knowledge of the overall history of the organization. Thanex Productions has a good presentation of the "Waffen-SS" which includes interviews with many of the "brass."

Re: Page 28, Conference on Military Historians; Dr. Kleber spoke on being a prisoner at Hammelburg (not Hemmelburg). Hammelburg was, and is, the German Infantry Center, in addition to being a POW camp area. Abe Baum in his book, *Raid*, covers the story of the attempt to free POW's using a task force formed from 4th Armored people, including Baum. My 26th Infantry Division was deployed in the area in July 1945 preparing for the 1 March 1946 invasion of Honshu.

Re: Page 4, Bill Tayman's letter paragraph 3; Bill should be aware of the fact that the military between USA and Germany are very close with joint programs, joint commands, interchange of military and technical people. In fact the Commanding General of NATO air defense, from Scandinavia to the Med, is a German general. Ft. Bliss, Texas, is the Headquarters of the German Air Defense School. The relations between our countries is different today from WWII days and has been for over 25 years.

**WILLIAM LEESEMANN, JR.**  
26 INF 101 CMBT ENGR BN

## REUNIONS

**1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, 8TH ENGINEERS, COMPANY D, (2ND ARMORED DIVISION, COMPANY A, 17TH ENGINEER BATTALION),** May 20-22, 1993, Holiday Inn Pittsburgh-Greentree, 401 Holiday Drive, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15220. Contact: John Shields, P.O. Box 106, East Butler, Pennsylvania 16029. Telephone 412-287-4301.

**17TH FIELD ARTILLERY OBSERVATION BATTALION,** May 13-16, 1993, Charleston, South Carolina. Contact: Herbert Struening, 135 Richard Street, Brick Town, New Jersey 08724. Telephone: 908-840-1582.

**71ST INFANTRY, 44TH INFANTRY DIVISION,** January 7-10, 1993, Clearwater Beach, Florida. Contact: Ben Sudano, 5437 Pentail Circle, Tampa, Florida 33625. Telephone: 813-962-6373.

As we publish only four times a year, many times units provide us with reunion information and it is too late to use them and be effective. As we want you to be able to locate your old units, we will publish the name of the unit followed by the contact person. These are as follows:

**10TH ARMORED DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION--Contact:** Samuel F. Murow, Box 213, Bay Port, Michigan 48720.

**9TH ARMORED DIVISION, 27 ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, COMPANY A--Contact:** Almon Parson, Jr., H.C.R. 61, Box 85, Hunter, Kansas 67452

**27TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, 9TH ARMORED DIVISION--Contact:** GLEN STRANGE, P.O. Box 1, Tonkawa, Oklahoma 74653.

Can anything be more ridiculous than that a man has a right to kill me because he lives on the other side of the water, and because his ruler has a quarrel with mine, although I have none with him?

Blaise Pascal

## ...AND A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL

Approximately 370 veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, their wives and members of their families attended the 11th Annual Reunion held in Nashville, Tennessee, October 8-11, 1992.

**Thursday, October 8--**The morning was devoted to registering, finding old friends and making new ones.

In the afternoon the film "Brave Rifles," produced by Larry Mascott, was shown. Many good comments were received regarding the film.

The evening was devoted to socializing in the Hospitality Room.

**Friday, October 9--**The General Membership Business Meeting was held resulting in: the election of new officers, defeat of the proposal to change the date when dues are payable, and approval of the increase in Life Membership fees.

A Memorial Service honoring those of our comrades who lost their lives during the battle and who have passed on since then was held in the afternoon. Words of honor and praise were given by Chaplain William Owen, of Tennessee, and Msgr. William O'Donnell, VBOB Chaplain from Bethesda, Maryland. Stanley Wojtusik read a list of VBOB members who have passed away during the past year. (This list appears elsewhere in this issue of *The Bulge Bugle*.)

An over-sold Barbeque topped off the evening--but we somehow managed with the hotel staff going out of its way to try to accommodate everyone who showed up. The highlight of the evening was a strolling guitarist--Buster Broussard. Everyone enjoyed his music and many found themselves singing along.

**Saturday, October 10--**With the increase in attendance and the number of people who changed their minds and wanted to go on the tours and to the Grand Ole Opry, this proved to be an exciting day. The bus company graciously drummed up more buses, the Opry came through with more tickets, and with the help of Rubye and Warren Howard, both of whom went out of their way to help, every one was accommodated. Members were delighted when the Opry emcee made notice of the heroes in the audience.

With just a couple of hours to don their finery, every one was back in the Banquet Room pretty much on time and looking very elegant. It was a great evening with music provided by Carl Pride's Band. There were surely some aching feet the next day, as the dancing went on for hours. Bob Justice was our principal speaker. (His comments are elsewhere in this issue.)

The following toast was offered by Bill Tayman:

"Here's to the crisp, clear Tennessee mountain air, country music and sweethearts and wives--those things made freedom worth fighting for; to the sacrifices of war time nurses and Red Cross staff and to the greatest country this world has ever known; to the fellowship and war time bonding and brotherly love of we, the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. God bless each and every one and God bless America!"

**Sunday, October 11--**Msgr. O'Donnell held services in his

room. Then, it was back to the room, finish up the packing, and be on our way.

**WE HOPE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO JOIN US NEXT YEAR.**



*Country music added to the enjoyment at the Bar-B-Q.*



*Early arrivals at the registration desk in Nashville.*



*Entrance to a pleasant afternoon at the Grand Ole Opry.*



## He's got friends in high places

One of the highlights of HUBERT CROWELL's life was his trip to Washington where he met George and Barbara Bush. Hubert recalls: "Me and Barbara were talking. I put my arm around her shoulder and shook hands with her. And I said, 'Forget about George; think about me!'"



Picture of photo of Hubert Crowell with President Bush and First Lady Barbara Bush and photo of the tank he disabled.

He also recalls the day when he shot and disabled a German tank during the Bulge: "My lieutenant said, 'Shoot it.' I had one round left but I knew how to shoot a bazooka. I got down on one knee and put that round in the tank, right between the armor plate and the track." Miraculously, that tank was not cut up for scrap metal but sits as a part of a military museum in Belgium, where Hubert has visited many times since the end of the war.

Hubert, aged 79, is a storyteller, philosopher, Sunday School teacher, dirt farmer, and a dreamer. To quote Herb, "Without a dream we have nothing. What is life but a dream and being able to put a little bit of it to work." Hubert served in the 30TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 119TH INFANTRY, COMPANY "G".

## ENGINEER COMPANY CELEBRATIONS

In June, of this year, a small engineer company which participated in the Bulge celebrated its designation day in New Hope, Pennsylvania. The 511TH ENGINEER LIGHT PONTON COMPANY and its successor U.S. ARMY 814TH ENGINEER COMPANY (ASSAULT) (FLOAT BRIDGE), had the highest percentage of veterans show up at the reunion.

The unit and its successor, combined with the cooperation of town officials from Redange, Luxembourg, placed a plaque in the town center in 1990. This plaque is the only one in Europe which honors a community for its patriotism, hospitality, and sacrifice during the period 1944-45. The Redange mayor, two council persons and the assistant police chief attended the reunion in New Hope, renewing bonds of friendship and loyalty between the brave people of Luxembourg and the 511th.



Four Star General. Portrait of General George S. Patton, Jr. taken at the end of the war in Europe./AWM

*"I'm not supposed to be commanding this Army. I'm not supposed even to be in England. Let the first bastards to find out be the goddam Germans. I want them to look up and howl, 'ACH, IT'S THE GODDAM THIRD ARMY AND THAT SON-OF-A-BITCH PATTON AGAIN!'"*

Patton quotation from his famous 'off the cuff' speeches to his troops in England before D-Day:

## AN INVITATION FOR YOU

An invitation has been received from the Committee, Houffalize Remembers for veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. It reads in part:

"We have the pleasure to invite you to the ceremonies of the 48th anniversary of the liberation of the Town of Houffalize (Belgium) on 16 January 1993.

"We would also like to announce the commemoration of the 50th anniversary that will take place on the 3rd weekend of September 1994. (Note the date!) You'll receive the program before March 1993.

"We are looking forward to seeing you in Houffalize."

If you are interested in attending, please print your name and address and mail it to: Committee HOUFFALIZE REMEMBERS; c/o Madeleine Gourdange; Rue du Pont 12; 6660 Houffalize, Belgium.

If, in order to succeed in an enterprise, I were obliged to choose between fifty deer commanded by a lion, and fifty lions commanded by a deer, I should consider myself more certain of success with the first group than with the second.

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

**Kilroy Say's...**

**PAY YOUR DUES NOW!!**

## Chapter News

**SUSQUEHANNA CHAPTER** • Our July meeting was a chicken barbecue held at Green Gables Pavilion in New Milford. Guests were welcomed. We plan on another bingo party for the Wilkes-Barre VA Hospital. All food, findings and favors will be donated by various members of the chapter. We donated the 50/50 drawing to the "Painting of Dave Turner Portrait Fund" for the VA Hospital. George Waters is taking histories with his camcorder for posterity.

**CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER** • At our June luncheon meeting, the waitress informed us that the wine had been provided by Mrs. Pearl Granoff so that we might toast her brother, Robert Rosenberg, who was killed in the Battle of the Bulge. It seems Mrs. Granoff, who lives in Dallas, was on an inspection visit of the Deltona Inn, which she owns along with other business interests. Upon learning we had our monthly meetings there, she ordered the wine for our luncheon in memory of her brother and all men who had fallen during that battle. We were most grateful and toasted all those who are no longer with us.

**CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER** • VP Bob and Beverley Van Houten attended our first meeting held on June 8th. A good number attended, joined up and enjoyed the maps, books, and artifacts on display. Bob talked about VBOB's history, principles, and chapter activities. Good fellowship and talk abounded. Bob presented our charter and assured us we would enjoy being a chapter.

**CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER** • We had our annual picnic July 7th at Willow Bay on Onondaga Lake. Our guests were VP Bob and Beverley Van Houten, who journeyed from National to feast with us and answer questions. Bob spoke of his hopes for regional meetings in order that chapters could meet each other more often than once a year and talk over procedures and problems and enjoy wider fellowship. We were given good coverage by the news media with TV cameras and personal experiences recorded.

Our annual dinner will be December 13th at the Sheraton Hotel on Electronics Parkway.

**DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER** • Sixteen of our members marched in the Memorial Day Parade in the Bridesburg section of Philadelphia. We were the largest veterans group and drew great applause along the parade route. We were really proud of our flag and our men.

On June 17th, 46 members made our second trip to the Military History Institute in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Presentations to Col. Thomas Sweeney for the museum were "Pass in Review" the history of the 106th Division, by Stan Wojtusik; an autographed book, "A Balcony Seat in the ETO," by its author Clyde Beers; correspondence between chapter member Jim Clark's father and General Patton on their church attendance during the war; and the History of the 506 Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, given by George Vanderslice. Also five personal history questionnaires were turned in.

We continue to work for funds for the Battle of the Bulge Memorial that will be placed in Valley Forge Military Academy. We had a street corner "coin toss" on June 3rd and netted \$971. June 9th we collected \$969 from another location. The third "coin toss" fattened our fund by \$941.

VP Bob and Beverley Van Houten visited our meeting on June 25. Bob talked to us about regionalizing to improve better relations between chapters and answered questions about National. Rear Admiral Daniel C. Richardson, USN (Ret), Chief of Staff at the Valley Forge Military Academy, also spoke. Those of us plodding through the mud, snow, and cold didn't know much about what the navy was doing, so the Admiral's talk was very interesting to all of us.

We have established a Century Club for those who donate \$100; their names and all donors will be noted in a Roll of Honor. At the Annual Meeting in Nashville, we had a table with a model of the Monument and sold VBOB ties and took donations and Century Club memberships.

Our anniversary dinner will be held at the "Wheel House" at the Philadelphia Naval Base on December 11th.

**SOUTH CAROLINA CHAPTER** • June 9th brought 33 of our 90+ members to Fort Jackson's NCO Club. After our luncheons, a few members give their personal experiences.

July 4th, three of us marched in the parade in Moncks Corner. Our flag and the D-Day flag received much applause along the parade route.

Rufus Lewis spoke to us about differences between armored units and others, i.e., caps were worn on the left side of the head, jeeps were called "Peeps", top button of the utility uniform was always buttoned and heads were held high when saluting and the 2nd Armored Division was the only division authorized to wear their patch over the breast pocket.

September 8th, we elected new officers. Tom Smeltzer will head the board as president.

**TRI-STATE CHAPTER** • We met on September 3rd at Libby's Restaurant in Keene, New Hampshire. VP-Elect Stan Wojtusik and VP Bob Van Houten, and their wives, joined 51 members for a lunch/business meeting. We are happy to report 73 members on our list. Bob updated us on National and urged us to get incorporated. Stan reported the activities of his Delaware Valley Chapter. Two new members were introduced. John McAuliffe, who belongs to our chapter and is president of Central Massachusetts Chapter offered to represent us at Nashville Annual Meeting if no one else goes. We voted to give him \$200 toward his expenses. Bernadette Chevrette is doing a superb job of making a scrapbook of our chapter and members' history.

**GEN. GEO. S. PATTON, JR. CHAPTER** • Our regular monthly meetings have been changed to the third Monday of each month, to be held in the Pioneer Cafeteria in the Eastwood Mall, Birmingham, at 11:30 a.m. We are proud to announce that we have 150 members. We have the cooperation of radio and TV stations in announcing our meetings.

In March, former Capt. Henry Gobeil told of some of his exploits with a First Army Military Intelligence Interrogation Team in France and Belgium. In April, Gary Seale, retired U.S. Marshal, talked of his work with the investigation of the assassination of Pres. Kennedy. April's speaker was Col. Sharp from Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery. He gave a most interesting talk on his duties as a group commander of A-10 aircraft during Desert Storm.

May 20th, we met at Maxwell Air Force Base as guest of the base commander for lunch at the Officers' Club. After a presentation by one of the school instructors, we enjoyed

a bus tour of the base. The meeting was held in Montgomery that south Alabama members could attend. While there, some of us were interviewed and photographed by local media and base information and publicity personnel.

June found Leonard Goff, member, telling us his experiences as a tank commander with the 3rd Armored Division. Goff was awarded 17 medals during his service. June 20th we were privileged to hear Dr. James F. Tent, Professor of History and University Scholar at the University of Alabama, speak on "Pay Back for Slapton Sands." That was the tragic incident of German torpedo boats sinking many of the landing craft assembled off the coast of England at Slapton Sands for training exercises for the Normandy invasion. The British later caught the German crafts assembled at Le Havre and virtually destroyed the entire flotilla.

We now have a special VBOB auto license plate and we are making plans to erect a monument in Liberty Park, Birmingham. We hope to place the name of Alabama participants on the monument.

**GREAT LAKES CHAPTER** • Eighty-five veterans and wives met August 13 in Henes Park, Menominee, Michigan, to enjoy our first Annual Picnic and meeting. At least a dozen units were represented, some men traveling over 200 miles. Two sailors even floated in. Some of the men hadn't seen each other since their units broke up, unaware they lived in reach of each other. Some fellows brought old pictures and a large Nazi flag "liberated" from around Rocherath was displayed. We had 26 buddies who signed up for our chapter that day, which brings our membership up to 46.

We are making plans for a dinner meeting on February 13, 1993, in Menominee, Michigan in the Menominee VFW.

**NEW JERSEY CHAPTER** • We are trying to form a membership drive to bring our numbers up. We have 65 members and meet four times a year, the next being December 12th at the Nutley Amvets Post 30 Civic Center, 184 Park Avenue.

**GOLDEN GATE CHAPTER** • Life member Al Kitts came all the way from Tempe, Arizona, to attend our June 20th meeting, along with 53 other members. We have a total of 81 members. After lunch, our speaker was Peter Macalka. He was born in Frankfurt, Germany, drafted into the German Army at the age of 14, and assigned to an anti-tank unit. He described the horrors of war from the German civilian perspective, experiencing the pounding the Americans gave the cities. Mr. Macalka deserted the army and crossed over to the allies and was subsequently adopted by Gen. Patton's 3rd Army. He obtained a engineering degree in Vienna, immigrated in 1954, and became an American citizen.

Col. Tom Gillis was presented with the Belgium Croix De Guerre medal by the Belgium people and the 2nd Division Shoulder Patch for his participation in the campaign.

September 19th, we met at the Hilton Hotel in Concord. Tom Gillis was the speaker, telling about the vital part his division (4th Armdd CCR (XO)) played during the Battle of the Bulge.

The Chapter's newsletter editor is disappointed in the lack of exchange newsletters from other chapters. He feels every chapter can benefit from the ideas of other chapters.

**NORTHERN WISCONSIN CHAPTER** • We participated in the Labor Day parade in Wausau with a tractor and trailer for those who couldn't walk. Our regular meeting was held September 17th at the VFW.

We had our annual Christmas dinner on October 11th in order to beat the snow and allow everyone a better chance to join us. We numbered 72. VP Bob Van Houten and his wife, Beverley, joined us by flying directly from the Reunion in Nashville. We had a delicious dinner provided by the Wausau VFW Post. Bob spoke to us, giving us the report of the actions taken at the Annual Meeting. Beverley was asked to speak, so she chose to tell of the interesting letters and problems that she has encountered as Corresponding Secretary for National. Both expressed their pleasure in attending our dinner and meeting with the members of the first chapter of VBOB. We presented them with a (Christmas) present of Wisconsin goodies.

Our annual wreath laying ceremonies will be December 12 at the Wausau World War II Monument. The VFW Color and Honor Guard will accompany us. We will return for warm-up refreshments to the VFW provided by the Brainard and the Hayden Funeral Homes, who also furnished the wreath.

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA** • We had an excellent meeting on July 25th at the Goebel Senior Center in Thousand Oaks. Because of wide coverage in the media, we drew in a good number of new people, some of whom signed up as members. Our speaker was Yvonne Files, who enthralled us with harrowing tales of her work in the Belgian Resistance. She has written a book about her work and autographed them for the members who bought it.

President Godfrey Harris visited Virginia in August and met with Bob Van Houten to talk about VBOB business.

**FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT** • I'm happy to report another possible chapter coming along. William Gaynor in **Rhode Island** had signed up the required five members needed to request a charter and had a meeting, with all Rhode Island members invited, on October 31. As of this writing, I have not heard the results, but expect good things because of the enthusiasm shown by Bill.

We had a good start on a chapter in Bangor, Maine, but before the first meeting Donald Dore unfortunately had a heart attack. We wish him a speedy recovery and return to good health.

This will be my last column. Gen. MacArthur said old soldiers never die, but just fade away. I don't plan on fading away, but rather keeping in touch with all the good friends we have made.

I wish to thank all chapters for their interest and cooperation. Beverley and I have loved every minute of the time spent working with and for you. We can't begin to express the joy we have known in visiting you and getting to know you all. You are doing a great job and I wish you all continued success. I know I'm leaving you in good hands with Stan Wojtusik. He certainly can understand the problems you may experience and should have some solutions. The best of luck to all of you wonderful battlers.

**Robert Van Houten**

## DECEASED VBOB MEMBERS

**September 1, 1991 to October 1, 1992**

*The following comrades who have passed away, as reported to VBOB, were remembered at the 11th Annual Reunion in ceremonies at the Airport Marriott Hotel on October 9, 1992, in Nashville, Tennessee*

WILLIAM BABIK, Ecorse, Michigan, 106 INF 422 INF C  
 JOHN T. BAKER, Athens, Georgia, 4 INF 22 INF  
 CARY A. BARFORD, JR., St. Cloud, Florida, 9 AIR DEFENSE CMD  
 ALBERT L. BARNES, Bessemer, Alabama, 980 SIGNL SVC CO  
 NEAL BATTERMAN, Broadwater, Nebraska, 9 ARMDD 3 AFA BN C  
 MORRIS BEERSON, Swathmore, Pennsylvania, 2 INF 9 INF G  
 GEORGE M. BELLARE, Coeur D'Alene, Idaho, 28 INF 28 SIG CO  
 PETER A. BENESTELLI, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 10 ARMDD 420 AFA BN  
 LEMUEL G. BENJAMIN, JR., Darlington, South Carolina, 86 CHEM MTR BN  
 ALBERT W. BIESTER, Ridley Park, Pennsylvania, 13 POSTAL REG SEC  
 FRANK J. BOGATAY, Belleville, New Jersey, 99 INF 393 INF E  
 LUTHER J. BOSSLER, Havertown, Pennsylvania, 10 ARMDD 61 AIB B  
 FRED BRADBERRU, Dedham, Massachusetts, 150 ENGR CMBT BN  
 DON BRADSHAW, Highland, Indiana, 35 INF 320 INF I BN HQ  
 D'ESTAING D. BUCKLIN, Sun City, Arizona, 9 ARMDD 2 TK BN A  
 IRVING CHENEY, Port Huron, Michigan, 3 CAV MECH SQ 3 ARMY  
 ROBERT J. COHOLAN, Southbury, Connecticut, 76 INF 417 INF H  
 CLAUDE A. DEARING, Martinsburg, West Virginia, 78 INF 310 INF C  
 LEONARD DENBOER, Ellenton, Florida, 87 INF 347 INF 2 BN H  
 JOHN J. DI GIANTOMASO, Malden, Massachusetts, 110 AAA B BTRY  
 LUDWIG D. ECK, Johnstown, Pennsylvania, 159 ENGR CMBT BN  
 HAROLD G. ENO, Tucson, Arizona, 3 ARMDD 3 AFA BN MED  
 PAUL L. FOWLER, Harlingen, Texas, 3 ARMDD 36 AIR HQ  
 FRANK P. GALLAGHER, Scranton, Pennsylvania, 709 MP BN  
 ALEXANDER GEDDES, Cheektowaga, New York, 565 AAA AW BN C BTRY  
 ROBERT C. GENZ, Loves Park, Illinois, 50 SIGNL BN A  
 LEONARD J. GERRITS, Appleton, Wisconsin, 86 CHEM MTR BN  
 JOHN GLICK, Newark, Delaware, 3 ARMDD 36 AFR  
 CLAYTON J. GOULD, Bangor, Maine, 160 INF 424 INF  
 FRANCIS GREENFIELD, Moscow, Pennsylvania, 80 INF 315 FA BN HQ  
 JOHN GRIMBALL, Columbia, South Carolina, 9 ARMDD 14 TK BN A  
 WALLACE A. GUNDERSON, Aniwa, Wisconsin, 553 RAILHEAD CO  
 HAROLD J. HARTLEY, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 30 INF 532 AAA AW BN M  
 RALPH HIGGINS, Birmingham, Alabama, 12 ARMY CORPS 841 ORDN DEPOT  
 WILLIAM H. HALLOWELL, Travares, Florida, 5 INF 10 INF A  
 GWILYM C. JONES, West Chester, Pennsylvania, 200 FA BN CO B  
 ROBERT J. JONES, SR., Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, 17 ABND 194 GLDR INF F  
 ROY JONES, Greenfield, Missouri, 3 ARMDD 33 ARMD REGT CO E  
 CHARLES E. KELLER, Mesa, Arizona, 90 INF 773 TD BN HQ  
 ROY FRANKLIN KING, Carlton, Georgia, 546 AAA BTRY C  
 LAURIER J. LECLERC, Berlin, New Hampshire, 75 INF 290 INF G  
 JOHN J. LOUGHLIN, Rutherford, New Jersey, 106 INF 424 INF  
 JOSEPH C. MAJEWSKI, Eatontown, New Jersey, 217 AAA BN B BTRY  
 EUGENE F. MALICKI, Sam Dimas, California, Unassigned AA ARTY  
 MARCEL A. MARROTTE, E. Swanzey, New Hampshire, 478 AMB CO 3RD ARMY  
 ANTONIO E. MAZZEO, Fresno, California, 2 ARMDD 41 AIR H  
 THOMAS J. McCULLOUGH, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 5 INF 2 INF B  
 WILLIAM R. McMASTER, Glendora, New Jersey, 9 ARMDD 27 AB B  
 HENRY B. MEAD, Bruce, Wisconsin, 7 ARMDD 31 TK BN B

FRANK A. MEIER, Oak Forest, Illinois, 26 INF 328 INF F  
 THEODORE E. MILLER, Dearborn, Michigan, 87 INF 787 ORD  
 BRAME P. MORRISON, Wilson, North Carolina, 2 INF 38 INF G  
 HAROLD MULLINS, Valley Station, Kentucky, 11 ARMDD 1 CAV RECON SQ F  
 CHARLES J. MYERS, Baltimore, Maryland, 70 TANK BN  
 ALBERT HENRY NIEBER, Sun City, Arizona, 168 ENGR CMBT BN C  
 RICHARD BARNES OHME, Birmingham, Alabama, 159 ENGR CMBT BN  
 DWIGHT P. PETERSEN, New Haven, Connecticut, 102 INF 405 INF  
 BERNARD A. PETOSE, SR., Somerset, New Jersey, 9 ARMDD 482 AAA AW BN B  
 WILLIAM E. PRICE, Orangeburg, South Carolina, 517 PRCHT INF REGT  
 WILLIAM W. RANDALL, Royersford, Pennsylvania, 106 INF 106 RECON TRP  
 HENRY F. RAK, LaGrange, Illinois, 76 INF 417 INF HQ  
 EDWARD RAPP, Sun City West, Arizona, 4 ARMDD 35 TK BN D  
 JAMES A. REED, Byrnedale, Pennsylvania, 8 INF 12 ENGR CMBT BN HQ  
 CHARLES A. RENSON, Wainscott, New York, 291 ENGR CMBT BN  
 FREDERICK J. REX, JR., North Reading, Massachusetts, 78 INF 347 INF 3 BN M  
 MAURICE A. RICHARD, Dover, New Hampshire, 2 INF 23 INF  
 RAPHAEL A. ROSSETTI, Wilmington, Delaware, 4 INF A  
 JAMES RYCHILY, Los Angeles, California, 358 INF C  
 ALVIN A. SARETSKE, Tacoma, Washington, 9 FIELD HOSP  
 STANLEY N. SISLO, Jessup, Pennsylvania, 9 ARMDD 14 TK BN SVC  
 BURTON E. SMITH, Wheaton, Maryland, 80 INF 317 INF MED DET  
 WILLIAM R. SMITH, Greenville, Ohio, 87 INF 345 INF C  
 CYRIL J. SPAIN, Bradenton, Florida, 36 ARMDD REGT D  
 JAMES STAGGS, St. Petersburg, Florida, 687 FA BN HQ BTRY  
 GEORGE STANCHAK, Clifton, New Jersey, 980 FA BN B  
 SODOY T. STEIGERWALD, Bernville, Pennsylvania, 78 INF 309 INF H  
 MILTON STILL, Maple Shade, New Jersey, 702 TK BN C&D  
 JOSEPH G. STOUT, Allentown, Pennsylvania, 94 INF QM  
 FRANK STUBER, Akron, Ohio, 105 INF HQ  
 ROBERT COOLEIDGE TAYLOR, Pink Hill, North Carolina, 75 INF 289 INF B  
 EARL D. TERRY, Fairfield, Texas, 90 INF 357 INF L  
 ROBERT E. THOMPSON, Bradenton, Florida, 333 INF L  
 JOSEPH A. TOCE, Mantua, New Jersey, 106 INF 591 FA BN  
 CHARLES E. TRAUT, Cincinnati, Ohio, 2 ARMDD 2 AR MAINT B  
 BILLIE J. VARDEN, Calera, Alabama, 1 INF 16 INF 3 BN K  
 RICHARD N. WAGMAN, York, Pennsylvania, 70 TANK BN  
 HORRACE G. WARD, Rose Hill, North Carolina, 58 AFA BN  
 WILLIAM WATERS, Tucson, Arizona, Unit not available  
 GENE A. WENTLAND, Montebello, California, 2 ARMDD FO  
 WALLACE A. WHITTEMORE, Livermore Falls, Maine, 10 ARMDD 61 AIB HQ  
 VICTOR WOJTIWICZ, Iresgeville, Pennsylvania, Unit not available  
 STANLEY WOLOVICH, Murrysville, Pennsylvania, 9TH ARMY  
 ALFRED YANKOW, Sandy Springs, Georgia, 238 ENGR CMBT BN  
 FREDERICK G. YOUNG, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 28 INF 112 INF B  
 VERLIN D. YOUNG, Goodland, Kansas, 35 INF 35 QM CO

Msgr. William O'Donnell, VBOB Chaplain, offered the following prayer: "With the passage of the years our numbers decrease. But they have been recorded to you, the God who created them. We are confident they have been received with the accolade 'Well done my faithful servant' and that they have reached the eternal peace promised to the just. Amen."

Chaplain William W. Owen, of Brentwood, Tennessee, also offered prayers for those Battle of the Bulge veterans who have passed away. Chaplain Owen has served as chaplain for various posts throughout the State of Tennessee.

# What is C.R.I.B.A.?

**CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND INFORMATION ON THE BATTLE OF THE ARDENNES (Battle of The Bulge)**



From:  
**Fernand ALBERT**  
Founder & Past President  
Rue Duvivier, 19 B. 4000  
LIEGE, Belgium

Present President  
**Andre' HUBERT**  
Rue du Centre 29  
B. 6670 LANGLIRE, Belgium



*"There is one thing you dare not forget and that you must keep eternally engraved in your heart. It is the memory of those men who came from far away, from overseas and clung to the ground, fighting one against ten, falling down under bombing and shelling for the name of LIBERTY.*

*And when you will pass before a military cemetery, when you will see the little white crosses adorning the tombs of the soldiers of Baugnez, of Steumont, of Rochefort and of so many little villages of the Ardennes, from the depths of your heart cry to them...*

**THANK YOU"**

**Andre' Defer**  
Belgian Writer

This non-profit, non-political and non-philosophical association was born in 1980. Why has it been formed?

We remember the famous words: "Give victories to the people and they will not care about those who gained them". That is the reason why we have thought it would be right that people who want to remember those events get together and spend a part of their time searching testimonies and documents to complete what was already said/or written on this awful chapter in the Ardennes history.

Young people who didn't know the war must learn that, sometimes in your life, we have to assume a responsibility even though it is not our problem: that has been what thousands of young Americans have done because they have been aware that the world is not made of individualism. We want also to remind the sufferings of the civilians who were suddenly involved in the hell of the battle.

### What are our aims?

1) To associate all those who are interested in the events of the winter 1944-1945. Luckily, C.R.I.B.A. is not an organization of retired men; as a matter of fact 30 to 40% of our members are people who were not born at that time. They are taking a large part in the activities and we believe that it is a token of long life.

2) To establish a detailed documentation on the Battle of the Bulge.

3) To inform our fellow-citizens and perpetuate the memory of the sacrifices of the soldiers and the civilians.

4) To preserve historical data and sites.

5) To be on friendly terms with American Veterans.

### Practically, what are we doing?

1) We have a monthly meeting in Liege, Belgium in which every member can take part. We put together the results of our researches and our activities. There is often a lecture and a debate on a subject about the battle.

2) We publish a quarterly publication which includes episodes of the battle, reports of our activities, ceremonies and meetings, interviews of soldiers and civilians and criticisms of books or documents.

3) We organize photos, books, and documents exhibitions.

4) We take part to all the ceremonies reminding the Ardennes' campaign but especially to the ceremonies of the Memorial Day in Belgium which take place in the American Military Cemeteries of Neuville-en-Condroz and Henri-Chapelle but also in Baugnez.

Finally, one of our most important activities is the welcome of American Veterans who come back to the battlefields. We help them to find the places where they have lived days which are indelibly etched in their memories. We help them locate villages, houses, crossroads and people. Of course, a travel agency can not satisfy your personal wishes but we in C.R.I.B.A. want to do that. Sometimes we accompany groups and try to show them places of particular interest. Very often, we drive Veterans by small groups or individually to the specific places they want to visit again, places where they left a part of their heart.

And now, what are our aims for the next years? We hope to develop more and more contacts with Veterans and welcome them. Dear friends, if you come some day to our Belgian Ardennes, alone or by groups, let us know the time of your visit and you can be sure that we will find members of the C.R.I.B.A. who will be happy to drive you to the places of high interest for you.

There is another ambition we have. We would like to give to every participant of the battle the part of glory that he deserves.

In fact, when it is spoken about the Battle of the Bulge, people immediately think of Bastogne because they remember the "Nuts" remark of General Mac Auliffe and the fantastic ride of one of the greatest soldiers of all times, General Patton.

For us, Bastogne is a very important chapter of history and we have a great admiration for the sacrifices of the fighting men and of the civilians in Bastogne. **But we can not forget that the Battle of the Bulge was also the the battle of Saint-Vith, Elsenborn, Manhay La-Gleize, Celles and many other villages where small groups of courageous men have fought against the German Armies.** We don't forget that the Battle of the Bulge was the battle of more than half a million men. We will that the lights of glory also shine for them and we believe that our people will never, never forget them.

## MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

Douglas E. Goodfriend writes to see if anyone remembers his father, **ARNOLD IRWIN GOODFRIEND, 87TH INFANTRY DIVISION**. Arnold passed away while Douglas was still quite young and was never able to pass along information regarding his service with the 87th. [Douglas doesn't know it, but the Golden Acrons are a very active group, and surely someone will remember and be able to fill him in.] Douglas' address is: Rural Route #1, Box 293, Purdys, New York 10578.

Betty writes on behalf of her husband, **EUGENE JOHN MAY, 9TH ARMORED DIVISION, 60TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION**. Eugene would like to hear from anyone from his old outfit. Betty says he often talks about his old friends **ARVID EARL HARRIS** (from North Carolina) and **WILLIAM "BILL" PATTON** (from West Virginia).

Bertha Carter is seeking information from anyone who may have known her father, **JAMES FRANK FLING, 26TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 328TH INFANTRY**. If you can help write to her: 3626 - 155th Street, West, Rosemount, Minnesota 55068.

Terry Johnson is looking for anyone who remembers **ERNEST O. JOHNSON, 90TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 358TH INFANTRY**. Write to Terry at: P.O. Box 1346, Hawthorne, Nevada 89415.

**FRANK J. KUHN, JR., 327TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION**, would like to hear from men who were in his platoon in the Bulge where they were laying mines when the attack came. He also remembers that the truck with Christmas presents was captured, do you? He would also like to hear from someone who was with **VII CORPS, FIRST U.S. ARMY**, who received a pamphlet entitled *Mission Accomplished* at the end of the war. Write to Frank: Plentiful Creek Farm, 14101 Sullivan Road, Spotsylvania, Virginia 22553.

Velda Jackson would like to hear from anyone who might remember **DELBERT E. MELTON, 35TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 137TH INFANTRY**. Write to Velda at: 4703 Balboa Drive, Wichita Falls, Texas 76310.

**EDWARD R. CRAVEN, 740TH RAILWAY OPERATION BATTALION**, recently wrote to see who remembers the role that the railroads played in the Battle of the Bulge. He states that he lost a train to German planes as he was going to Herbesthal, Belgium, to haul supply out. When the rails were repaired they went to Aachen to pull out an engineering company working on a bridge as the Germans were getting too close. The trains also pulled hospital trains to and from front lines. If you have information on the functions of railroads, drop us a line.

Jean Sark has written to see if anyone remembers her husband **LESLIE R. SARK, 80TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 318TH MEDICAL DETACHMENT**. Write to Jean at: 2125 Choctimar Trail, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46808-1828.

Sandra K. Willey Cales writes to see if anyone can provide information regarding her father **LEROY WILEY, 101ST AIRBORNE**. LeRoy was killed during the Battle of the Bulge--Sandra was only nine months old. If you have information, please write to Sandra: 274 Main Street, Hinton, West Virginia 25951.

**R. KEITH OSTRUM, 87TH CHEMICAL MORTAR BATTALION** will send you a photostatic copy of a picture taken of **COMPANY "D"**, if you will help him identify the persons therein. The photo was probably taken at Camp (not Fort) Rucker, Alabama. He has some of them identified and will provide you with those names. Can you help? Write to Keith at: 2931 Burton Avenue, Erie, Pennsylvania 16504-1443.

Lois A. Green would like to know if there is any permanent monument for the **398TH INFANTRY** in Belgium or Luxembourg. Her brother **CHARLES N. JONAS** [correct spelling] was killed in the Battle of the

Bulge and buried in France. Contact Lois at: 5215 Northeast 89th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97220.

**JAMES SNYDER, 820TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION, B COMPANY**, would like to hear from anyone from his old outfit. He would also like to purchase a patch of the panther crushing the tank. If you can help him, write to him: 1023E Pioneer Drive #120, Irving, Texas 75061.

**CATHERINE KREMER** has written to obtain a membership application, citing the following as her reason: "I was born in the Country of Luxembourg in the Town of Weisnanyrach(?). I went with my mother and my youngest sister through that whole Battle of the Bulge and I can't tell you how happy we were when we saw the American soldiers for the second time. We saw them first in September and you can not imagine the happiness that came with them and it did not last long. The Germany Army was right back. We were wondering if we [would] ever see them back. We almost gave up. And [we were] so happy when we saw the American soldiers again." Catherine now lives in Calumet City, Illinois.

**JOHN E. McAULIFFE**, President of the Central Massachusetts Chapter, writes to thank us for the mention of his chapter in the August *Bugle*. He writes: "A Rhode Island member saw it, and wrote me, with the desire to join us. His enthusiasm was overwhelming, and through further correspondence, I induced him to accept the presidency of the Rhode Island Chapter. Isn't that great?" [We're happy to be of help.]

**KENNETH E. FOGLE, 746 TANK BATTALION, COMPANIES D AND B**, writes to say that he spends hours pouring over his new *Membership Directory*. However, he wants to know if there is anybody else who was in the BoB from his outfit. Write to him: 418 Logan Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701-6339.

James R. Eppers would like to contact anyone who remembers his brother--**JOHN BOYD ETTERS** (aka J. Boyd Eppers or John B. Eppers), who was with **3RD ARMY, 10TH ARMORED INFANTRY DIVISION, 20TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS COMPANY**. Write to James at: 623 Highland Drive, Perkasic, Pennsylvania 18944-1521.

**JOHN S. WENZEL, 201ST GENERAL HOSPITAL**, would like to hear from anyone in his old outfit. Write to John at: 33 Hughes Avenue, Rye, New York 10580-1221.

**ENRIQUE E. (CHICO) SANCHEZ, 4TH ARMORED DIVISION, 8TH TANK BATTALION, COMPANY A**, would like to hear from someone in his group. Write to him at: P.O. Box 262, Ozona, Texas 76943-0262.

Virginia Kinkade would like to hear from anyone who remembers **KENNETH D. BOWERS, 7TH ARMORED DIVISION, 38TH INFANTRY BATTALION**. He was killed in action on December 19, 1944. Write to Virginia at: 678 Woodcrest, Myrtle, Creek, Oregon 97457.

Don and Connie McCray write to see if anyone remembers **EDWARD PINNEKE, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION**, who was killed in action January 13, 1945. He was from Madison, Wisconsin. Write to them at: 5118 Open Wood Way, Madison, Wisconsin 53714.

Press deadlines prevented identifying those pictured on the right-hand side of the page devoted to the **168TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION** Memorial dedication. Those BoBers are left to right: Louis Bouchard, Lester Bornstein, James Hill, Joseph Sheehan, Dan Haver, Ralph D'Elia, Dick Lewis, Bill Holland, Bill Porter, Joe Canavan, John Fleckenstein, Charles Willette, Dean Jewett and William Nungesser. The monument reads that the Battalion received "the Distinguished Unit Citation from the United States Government and also the Croix de Guerre Award from the Belgian Government." Funds for the monument were raised by former members of the 168th, their friends and associates--no government funds were involved. Thanks to **DEAN JEWETT** for the information.

## MEMBERS SPEAK OUT (Continued from Page 12)

**WILLARD H. FLUCK, 84TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 333 INFANTRY, 2ND BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS COMPANY,** writes to ask the following: "In your 'Pig Killer Sepp Dietrich' article [*The Bulge Bugle, May, 1992, edition*], there is a Fritz Kraemer mentioned. The 84th had a German-English speaking Fritz Kraemer also (who was Henry Kissinger's mentor). By some odd chance, could they be the same person??? I would be interested to know." Do you know? Write to Willard at: 401 North Ambler Street, Quakertown, Pennsylvania 18951. Let us know if you learn anything, Willard.

**ARNOLD L. EWOLDT, 3040TH ORDINANCE BASE, AUTOMOTIVE REBUILD COMPANY** writes to say that "...in November of 1944 the 5th U.S. Army had 500 trucks 'dead lined' for lack of exhaust manifolds. I was loaned to 3038TH ORDINANCE COMPANY to work in the shop manking manifolds. Thirty men were getting 50 manifolds a day. I told the shop officer that I knew how to make them much faster by making 'Fixtures' to drill the holes. He said I would have to work nights so the colonel of this battalion wouldn't be likely to see me working on something that wasn't actual production, but that I could use the shop machines and build the 'Fixtures' on my own. I worked that night and on the 2nd night I had the 'Fixtures' built and the machines set up ready to run. I showed the operator the procedure and he ran 50 pieces in the first hour, thereby getting 50 an hour instead of 50 per day. The 500 trucks were in service about 8 days sooner which I think had a big effect on the Battle of the Bulge. This happened at DiJan, France."

**EDUARDO PENICHE, 101ST AIRBORNE,** was honored in August of this year by his native Yucatan in Southern Mexico for his service in the Battle of the Bulge. Eduardo was co-founder of the Mexican Army Parachute School in 1948.

A unidentified member sent us the following announcement: The National Order of Battlefield Commissions is looking for men who were commissioned on the field of battle while engaged with an armed enemy in WWI, WWII, Korea, or Vietnam. Contact: John C. Angier, NOBC #338, 67 Ocean Drive, St. Augustine, Florida 32084. Phone: 904-471-7695.

**HERB "CHICK" FOWLE, 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 22 INFANTRY, 2ND BATTALION, COMPANY F,** wishes to advise that his book *The Men of the Terrible Green Cross*, is now available. You can order it by sending your check payable to Herb in the amount of \$19.95, including postage. Michigan residents must add 68 cents sales tax. Additional charges apply to foreign orders (contact Herb). Herb's address is: Box 3175-South Texas Haven, LaFeria, Texas 78559.

As a result of a recent press release, we received a letter from Helen Scannell, formerly Helen Hall, who sent good wishes for the reunion. Her husband, **THEODORE "TED" HALL,** served in the Battle of the Bulge and was killed in action. If anyone remembers Ted, Helen would very much appreciate hearing from you. Write to Helen at: 2711 C. R. 208, St. Augustine, Florida 32092.

**CLIFFORD "POP" BIRD, 32ND CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE,** reports that he has heard from some of his old buddies, but is still anxious to hear from anyone who might know the whereabouts of **CHUCK DeROSA, KEITH BLOWERS, "ROSY" ROSENHAHN, GORDON BARTH, DANNY RUSE,** and other members of the 32ND. Write to "Pop": 102 North Gospel, Apt. 5, Paoli, Indiana 47454.

Elsie Griles is trying to find out any information she can about brother-in-law **JOSEPH D. GRILES,** who was killed in action in Europe on January 20, 1945. The family has no further information other than they received the Purple Heart. If you remember Joseph please write to Elsie at: Route 1, Box 5C, Clover, Virginia 24534.

Elmer J. Wilson is hopeful of finding someone who knew his brother **TRACY WILSON, 12TH ARMORED DIVISION, 17TH AIB.** Tracy was

killed in action January 17 or 18, 1945. Please write to Elmer at: 2017 South Ridgewood Avenue, Edgewater, Florida 32141.

Bertha Dering would like to hear from anyone who can verify the wounding of her husband **ALBERT J. DERING, TRAFFIC REGULATING COMPANY,** during the Battle of the Bulge. Please contact her at: P.O. Box 10932, Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17605.

Linda Jordan would like to find someone who remembers her father **GUNARO H. MONDRAGO, 17TH FIELD ARTILLERY.** He was killed in Belgium on December 16, 1944. Linda's address is: 5320 Yorktown Road, Bethesda, Maryland 20816.

Weber Rick would like to contact or get information on **M. ERLING BOGGILD,** who was a speaker on Radio Luxembourg during WWII.\* Please write to: Weber Rick, 147 Val Ste Croix, 1371 Luxembourg, Europe.

Ethel Phebus Wallace would like to hear from anyone who remembers her husband **JAMES DELBERT PHEBUS.** She did not include his outfit but said he was infantry and took his training at Ft. Lewis, Washington, and Kansas (Ft. Riley if she remembers correctly). Write to her at: 1000 Airport Road, Apt. B-8, Huntsville, Alabama 35802.

**ORLANDO J. CAFASSO, 95TH INFANTRY DIVISION,** would like to locate someone from his division. [*Incidentally, we do not have the 95th on our mailing list of outfits. If someone has this address, please let the VBOB office know what it is. Thanks.*] Orlando's address is: 40 Whitman Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-6439.

Linda Jordan would like to hear from anyone who remembers her father **G. H. MONDRAGON, 106TH INFANTRY DIVISION 592ND FA BATTALION.** He was killed in a German prison camp holding area shortly after December 16, 1944. Write to Linda at: 5320 Yorktown Road, Bethesda, Maryland 20816.

Mary E. Bobbett would appreciate hearing from someone who remembers her husband **PETE W. BOBBETT, 30TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 117 INFANTRY.** If you can help write to her at: 208 Cordia Street, Potosi, Missouri 63664.

**JOHN WENZEL, 201ST GENERAL HOSPITAL,** would like to hear from any 201st personnel who might remember their stay in Verdun. Write to him at: 33 Hughes Avenue, Rye, New York 10580-1221.

**REID W. McNARY, 981ST FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, VII CORPS, 1ST ARMY,** writes to tell us of his love affair with "Long Toms." He would like to know if anybody knows where there are any in existence. He recalls being in Costa Mesa and test firing these guns off the bluff overlooking the ocean. The people who lived in the area hated them but the glass companies thought they were great (business went up 100+%). He promises us a story regarding his affair at a later date. If you can help Reid locate one of these beauties, write to him at: 1054 University Avenue, Salinas, California 93901.

**BRUCE E. EGGER AND LEE MacMILLAN OTTS,** both of 26TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 328 INFANTRY, 'G' COMPANY, have a book hot off the presses. *G Company's War* is a day-by-day record of the campaigns in Europe as seen by two men in the same company—one an enlisted man and the other an officer. Its available from The University of Alabama Press, Box 870380, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35487-0380. Cost is \$29.95, plus \$2.50 for shipping and handling (only 50 cents each for each additional copy). Alabama residents add 4% sales tax.

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**Please check to see  
if your Dues are Due**

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**RESERVATION FORM**

**RETURN FORM BY DECEMBER 7, 1992, to:**

**BATTLE OF THE BULGE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION**

**P.O. Box 2516, Kensington, MD 20891-0818**

**Telephone: 301-881-0356**

**Please make checks payable to BoBHF GALA**

**Tuesday, December 15, 1992--Dinner Gala, Officers' Club, Fort Meade, MD**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Reservations: \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Cost @ \$35.00 per Person** \_\_\_\_\_

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

Tables may be reserved for groups of 8 or 10 persons, please so request with your Reservation Form along with the names of those who will be seated at your reserved table.

**Wednesday, December 16, 1992**

1100 hours Ceremonies at Tomb of Unknown Soldier and VBOB Memorial, Arlington  
Number of persons attending \_\_\_\_\_

1200 hours Reception/Bufferet, Officers' Club, Fort Myer, VA  
Number of persons attending \_\_\_\_\_



**RESERVATION REQUEST - Return By**

**RATE \$48.00**  
Single or  
Double

**GROUP/COMPANY NAME**  
Veterans of Battle of the Bulge

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Arrival \_\_\_\_\_ ETA \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Departure \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Number of People \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Accommodations Requested:

Single \_\_\_\_\_ Triple \_\_\_\_\_

To guarantee reservations, please enclose Check/Money Order or use your favorite credit card.

Double \_\_\_\_\_ Quad \_\_\_\_\_

Card Type \_\_\_\_\_

Executive Suite \_\_\_\_\_

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

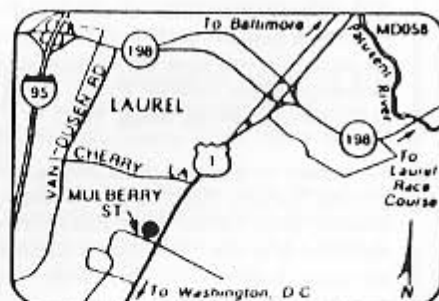
Extra Person \_\_\_\_\_

Cancellation policy - 6 pm on DAY of Arrival Date.

SMOKING OR NON-SMOKING?

**MAIL TO:**

Comfort Suites Laurel Lakes, 14402 Laurel Place, Laurel, MD 20707  
(301) 206-2600



## Battle of the Bulge

# Library to house World War II room

By Christine B. Laurich

In a ceremony at the Museum Oct. 6, members of the Battle of the Bulge Foundation were on-hand to see the official dedication of space for the "Battle of the Bulge Memorial Conference Room."

Marked by the presence of those who fought and served in the pivotal World War II battle, Garrison Commander Col. Kent D. Menser and foundation President William Greenville, signed a document which will preserve the history of the battle here.

The conference room, to be built in a space at the current Post Library, will house a collection of period memorabilia. This will include a table and chairs which will be built from oak from the area in which the battle was fought.

The design for the table and chairs was done and presented at the ceremony by artist Tedd Determan; the room design will be done by Harry Wilber, D & P Exhibits, Inc.; Gaspar Meubles, Stavelot, Belgium will use oak from the Ardennes area to build the

table and chairs; and members of the 5th Belgian Fusiliers and retired Lt. Col. Roger Hardy will be in charge of transporting the items back to the United States.

"We hope to have things in place by V-E (Victory in Europe) Day, 1994," said Greenville.

The design of the table and chairs and the transportation of these items are gifts to the foundation.

The purpose of the conference room, according to Dorothy Davis, executive officer of the foundation, is to pay homage to the more than 600,000 Americans who participated in the battle Dec. 16, 1944 to Jan. 25, 1945 in the Ardennes area of Belgium and Luxembourg.

"Our job is to preserve the military's history," said Col. Tom Sweeney, director, U.S. Army Institute of Military History. "It is harder to preserve the memories and heritage when the event was on foreign soil, like this one. This [conference room] enables us to acknowledge our history for future generations to see here on U.S. soil."



Photo by Christine Laurich

Monsignor William O'Donnell and Joseph Zimmer, formerly of the 87th Infantry Division during the Battle of the Bulge, search for names of fellow soldiers on a plaque commemorating the battle at the Museum. The two were at the Museum for the dedication of the "Battle of the Bulge Conference Room."

## THE INCOMING PRESIDENT'S PLATFORM

Thanks for your confidence in electing me president. I accept the challenge as incoming president and request your help to provide the leadership you need.

Some of the principal problems which must be addressed during the coming year include:

Transfer of duties to officers who have not served VBOB in any leadership capacity before.

Duties and responsibilities of officers and committees should be better defined and a procedures manual developed. (My ideas shall be presented to the Executive Council and Chapter Presidents immediately.)

The Bylaws should be reviewed and updated.

Establish an additional office to act as day-to-day coordinator.

Communication between headquarters, chapters and members must be improved.

Chapters must be more active.

The region concept should be implemented, officers selected and procedures developed.

We need Associate members to carry on the history and activities of VBOB. The most fertile sources are children, grandchildren, other family members and friends.

I ask each member to join with me in successful attainment of the forgoing.

Bill Hemphill,  
President-elect

*Dean Fravel, President of the Northern Virginia Chapter, recently came across this verse while conversing with a relative of a nurse who served aboard the U.S.S. Comfort. This verse was written by a patient aboard the U.S.S. Comfort in WWII and given to a nurse aboard the ship. It pays tribute to those nurses and other medical personnel, who served during those difficult times. We can all appreciate how much they did and this poem says it in a manner we all understand, whether we were wounded or were fortunate enough to escape that fate.*

### TO THE PERSONNEL OF THE U.S.S. COMFORT

The saga of saving lives is this,  
A story of mercy, a heaven of bliss,  
To war-weary men, wounded and torn,  
Weaving the scars of the battle, they've borne.  
A salute to the nurses and medical men,  
Who rescue torn bodies from death's dingy den.  
A salute to the girls of the cross crimson red,  
And the comfort they bring with a word gaily said.  
The corpsmen, God bless 'em, who do all the work,  
A fine bunch of lads, be they ward-bay or clerk.

No thanks can we give, no praise bestow,  
That will tell how our hearts feel, but we want you to know,  
That we truly are grateful, for your kind words and deeds,  
You'll be with us in mem'ry, where ever life leads.

(Signed) A Patient



**Living  
Legends**

# **Memorable Bulge Incidents**

**UNEDITED AND  
HERETOFORE UNPUBLISHED**

## **TAC SIGNALLER HURT BY BUZZ BOMB**

**December 1944**

**Orville "Ivy" Iverson  
9th Tactical Air Command  
926 Signal Section  
Woodside, California**

On December 23, I can remember one of the war correspondents came back to the school where we stayed. We had just gotten off duty so it must have been about 5:00 p.m. I can remember it was almost dark and we could see many military vehicles on the move. The 7th Armored Division had passed through Verviers going toward the front. However, now the vehicles were moving in the opposite direction, away from the front, and moving fast. Now the correspondent informed us that we would be leaving Verviers in fast retreat. For both Roy and me this was very hard to believe. After all we had been moving forward at a very fast pace all these past months. Well, within an hour we were told to grab our personal belongings, load the signal section truck, and leave for a new location, back to Liege, Belgium, about 15 miles to the rear. In other words retreat.

The road to Liege was congested so we did not arrive until late at night. The weather was near freezing. Rain was changing to snow. Just as we arrived in Liege a buzz bomb cut out above us. We were on top of the load on the six-by-six truck. We jumped off the truck and crawled under the truck in the slushy snow just as the buzz bomb exploded. This was the night of December 23.

The telephone lines had been cut so now communication had to be done via radio using coded international Morse Code. My classification was high speed radio operator, even though I had been working in a different area, I was required to go back to radio operating. Although I cannot recall being transferred I was now with the 926th Signal Battalion, Company "A," as radio operator. The worst was yet to come here in Liege.

The possibility for rotation back to the USA no longer existed. I was no longer with my 9 TAC comrades. Christmas was approaching. Our mail was no longer coming through. There were many other priorities. The weather

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

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

had turned cold and rain had begun to turn to snow. The sky was heavily overcast and remained this way day after day. Only the buzz bombs continued to come over, seemingly every 15 minutes. I can remember the window glass falling as we walked the mile or so from our billets (a catholic girls' school), to the radio van. We were on duty six hours then off six hours.

On the night of December 28 I finished my duty at midnight. As I walked back to our billet with the other radio operators, I can remember one operator especially, Jim Monger. He sort of took me under his wing when I was placed with Company "A" of the 926th Signal Battalion to work as radio operator. The buzz bombs were dropping very close to us as we neared our billet. Jim decided to sleep down in the basement so he would be rested to go back on duty again in the morning. I was feeling extremely tired so I did not want to move my cot and bedding down into the dirty, damp basement. Even though the bombs were falling very close, I crawled into my cot, pulled the blankets over me, and I placed my jacket over my feet to help keep them warm. Immediately I fell asleep.

The next thing I found my self buried under the wooden chalkboard that had been hanging on the wall above my head. A buzz bomb had exploded just outside of our window. It was difficult to breathe. There was a strong smell of gunpowder. My cot had broken from the weight of the debris resting on the wooden chalkboard. I was able to extricate myself from the debris. As I emerged from the debris I could see just less than 20 feet from me, a blue flame. I believe it was a magnesium part from the buzz bomb. I hurried as fast as I could in the opposite direction over piles of debris. As I was passing through what was left of the doorway, I could see one of the GI's, I believe his name was Harris. He was face up, buried under large beams. His face was pure white in the moonlight. He did not make any moves so I assumed he was dead. Later I found out he had survived.

I tried to go to the building across the street where the others were housed. I staggered almost all the way across the street, but I collapsed by a wall. The next thing I knew I was being carried by a very large GI into the building

where I was put on a cot. I began regaining my senses on the cot when Lt. Staib was brought in. He was bleeding badly from a large flap of skin hanging from his cheek. I got up to give him my cot and as I was going out the door Chaplain Brooks gave me his trousers. I only had my summer underwear on. Also as I got out the door two medics grabbed me and attempted to put me in their ambulance. However, just as I was getting into the ambulance, Jim Monger came along and told me there was a need to help dig out the GPs who were still buried.

The sky had cleared so the moonlight cast an eerie effect over the demolished building which had only minutes before had been our dormitory where most of the GPs were sleeping soundly. I walked back to where the other GPs were still buried. Because the chaplain was very tall the legs of his trousers folded over the bottom of my feet, sort of protecting my bare feet from the cold, the broken glass, and other sharp debris. Snow was all around us, but the explosion had scattered dirty debris so very little of the snow was evident. The blood from my leg injuries had caused my borrowed pants to stick to my feet. I was coughing up blood and had blood trailing from my nostrils. My chest was giving me some pain. However, as I try to recall feeling the cold and pain, it seems like some kind of dream I was locked into. I didn't seem to feel the cold even though at this point I only wore my summer underwear and the chaplain's OD pants. It was as if the pain and cold were irrelevant.

At first I came upon Sgt. Hunt. Some of the other GPs were feverishly pulling away the bricks that covered Sgt. Hunt with their bare hands. Apparently he died instantly while he slept on his cot. We carried his body out of the debris and the medics took him away. In the meantime we could hear the muted voices of the kitchen crew from far under the debris. There were some timbers which left an opening--with flashlights we could see someone's hand. By now more help was arriving so we took turns pulling off the debris at a feverish rate. After awhile we did not hear any sounds coming from under the debris. It was too late. No one was alive. We found Fritz in his bunk. There was blood oozing from his ears, but seemingly no apparent injuries that caused his death.

My bunk had been in the same room so my friend Jim helped me recover some of my belongings. A wooden chalkboard had fallen off the wall and covered me and John Pasquale, but my cot had broken from the weight of the debris. I think this may have saved us. I was able to find my British issue battle jacket which I used to cover my feet at night for warmth. The inside lining was shredded from flying debris.

I find it difficult to remember the next phase of this, the night of the 28th of December, 1944. I must have passed out again, at least I cannot remember much until I woke when daylight arrived and found myself on a pile of debris in what was left of the basement of the building across the street.

I guess I was not sure what I was supposed to do at this point. Actually I was supposed to be on duty at the radio

station, but it was as if I was forgotten. I walked over to the 9 TAC operations where Maj. McCabe saw me and said, "Iverson, it looks as if you've had a tough night, why not use the officers' washroom to cleanup?" I gave no explanation for my condition, but thanked him and promptly washed my face and washed the blood off my legs and feet.

I managed to find a cot and set it up down in the basement of the operations building. It was a reinforced concrete room about seven feet by five feet. The floor was covered with about four inches of water, but I placed some broken concrete slabs for stepping stones to my cot. When I slept I had to keep all my belongings on the cot with me. I felt relatively safe and it was not far from the radio van. Some of my old comrades from the 9 TAC stayed there so they helped.

We were assigned to the 29th Infantry Division for rations. Most of the time I would skip meals because it was a long walk to their mess hall. I became very nervous and sometimes when the buzz bombs would cut off above and I couldn't see them I would run back to my "catacomb" as we called our living space. It was too dark in there to write letters so I would go to the Red Cross which was located upstairs of a nearby building. However when the buzz bombs would fall nearby I would shake so much I could not finish letter writing. Then I would retreat back to the "catacomb" and finish letter writing using a flashlight. There was no heat and no place to bathe so we slept in our clothes.

One day when I was finishing my radio tour of duty, I noticed the GI relieving me had a very frightened look on his face. He told me a buzz bomb had landed in the nunnery just on the other side of a stone wall behind the radio van. It did not explode on impact. Without giving him my summary of messages I took off and ran back to my "catacomb." Sure enough about two hours later the bomb exploded. However because it had not gone off on impact it was buried and the explosion did very little damage and no one was hurt. I can remember walking with a radio operator who I had known in Africa. He had been sent up from the 414th in Paris to replace one of the radiomen lost in the bombing. A buzz bomb cut off above us and was blocked from view by buildings. I jumped down in the nearest basement well window and tried to get him to do the same. He looked at me as if I were crazy. If I remember correctly these buzz bombs came over every 15 minutes for about a month.



## WOUNDED IN "MAD MINUTE"

December 1944

**Eduardo Alberto Peniche**  
**C Battery**  
**81st Antitank-Antiaircraft Airborne Battalion**  
**502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment**  
**101st Airborne Division**  
**Lynchburg, Virginia**

The new year of 1945 was welcomed with a big bang in our sector: it seemed that our division's artillery and mortars had joined every gun on the 3rd Army front in a midnight barrage, all of them pouring high explosives toward the German lines. By this date, the entire Bastogne area was deep in snow that had been coming down at intervals during the seven days of the siege.

We had left Camp Mourmelon in France at 1500 hours Monday, December 18, 1944. In our deployment toward Bastogne, Belgium, our AT squad ("C" Battery AT, 81st AT/AA Airborne Battalion) was assigned to Company "D," 2nd Battalion, 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment. By dawn on Tuesday, December 19th, we took defensive positions in the outskirts of the Village of Longchamps. We emplaced our 57mm AT gun (it was a British gun, a six-pounder) on a knoll overlooking a valley. We were covering one of the main roads leading into Bastogne. Our main mission was to protect the road block on that road. We had piled all the plows and other farm implements that we could find in the area to set the road block, and we felt that we could defend and hold the position against any German attack. We had dug the gun in until the barrel was just barely above the snow. Down in front of us was no man's land.

On 3 January, 1945, the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment was attacked in force and its MLR was overrun by enemy armor. The action began around 1330 hours. The enemy armor came down the road which runs southward from Compogne to Longchamps. In a well-planned maneuver the German tanks, about 15 or 17 of them, fanned out for the attack. They were being followed by infantrymen and panzer grenadiers. It was a fierce and determined attack against our front. As the German tanks and infantry began to advance against our position and towards the road block, our squad leader, Sgt. Joe O'Toole (Vincennes, Indiana), gave us orders to engage the enemy--the enemy fire was effectively raking our positions. The entire Longchamps-Monville front was under attack!

I am sure that at that moment everyone else was as scared as I was...PFC Alfred Steen (Bronx, New York) was ready to load the piece again as PFC Darrell Garner (Florence, South Carolina), our gunner, was finding the range.

I quickly moved two more AT Shells to the gun position making sure that they had AP fuse, a new type of high velocity shell.

Several air bursts exploded between us and the road block; our machine gunners to our right were keeping the

grenadiers from reaching the road block. As a Mark V Tiger tank approached that point in the road, we hit it twice; the second shot took its turret off and as the crew was leaving the burning tank, they were riddled with machine-gun fire--our AP ammunition was proving to be very effective AT ordinance. Behind our position one or two armor vehicles (either W.S. TD's or captured German half-tracks or SP guns, not too clear which) sporadically came up the ridge to lob a shell or two against the attacking force. The German 88's were proving to be accurate and devastating--shells and bullets were spraying our emplacement. In reality, once an AT gun is committed to battle, its position is easily spotted and the situation becomes one of do-or-die. There are no avenues of retreat nor room for maneuverability.

I crawled back to our ammo dump to bring more AT shells and assisted in loading the gun.

As we destroyed a second tank, all hell broke loose around us. We were determined to offer a heavy resistance, but the German gunners zeroed in on our emplacement; we were being hit with everything that the enemy could fire. It was the hour of the mad minute. It was that terrifying moment when all the weapons on the line seemed to explode violently all at once. The incoming shells were so numerous that the ground felt tremoring. Our gun took a direct hit and was destroyed. All three of us, O'Toole, Garner, and myself were hit by shrapnel. The battle raged on all around us, the TD's and our mortars were hitting the advancing German infantry. The German tanks were not advancing but were continuing their murderous fire. The mad minute indeed was upon us at Longchamps and yet, our other AT squads were joining the fire fight.

By this time, I crawled to assist O'Toole, who had been severely wounded. He had been hit in the hip and leg. He was bleeding profusely and looked like he was going into shock. To mitigate the pain he had given himself a shot of morphine. Darrell was hit in the face and shoulder. My left leg was numb above the knee, but my knee was hurting a lot. I looked down and saw the blood on my muddy trousers. Voices and moans of some other men could be heard. I remember praying both in English and Spanish. As I crawled on the snow toward the ridge, I heard the bullets and the shrapnel cutting the air above me, but I needed to reach our CP just behind the knoll. We needed medical attention.

The entire mad episode could not have lasted more than 15 or 20 minutes.

I finally reached the CP and reported what had happened and was happening.

While the medic was tending my wound (foreign body, left knee), I heard our artillery rounds heading toward the advancing Germans. It was then that I realized how close I had been to being killed in action. It was then that I realized once again that we were heavily engaged with the enemy. Casualties on both sides proved to be numerous.

The attack lasted three hours. Several of our division artillery guns were ordered to assume anti-tank positions in anticipation of a possible breakthrough. More TD's were

thrown into battle and thus our line held. The crisis at Longchamps was over for the moment. Our wounded were being evacuated to field hospitals. My ambulance was on its way to Arlon (USAH). The trooper on the stretcher below me mumbled something and I agreed--for us the Battle of the Bulge was over.



In summary, we had been exposed to terrible moments of adversity before a determined attacking force, but we had given a good account of ourselves. Of our five 57 mm guns attached to the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment, four were knocked out during that afternoon, but in the meantime we performed splendidly. The anti-tank gunners of Battery "C," 81st AT/AA Airborne Battalion, were credited with knocking out ten Mark IV tanks, but in effect two of those tanks were Tiger tanks, Mark V, destroyed by our squad.

As for me, although I received the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star with "V" for bravery, my greatest award at Longchamps was, and has been, that Almighty God allowed me to rub shoulders with such gallant comrades-in-arms as I did that afternoon of long ago where I experienced the agony of the mad minute in battle.

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#### NOTHING WRONG WITH THIS DOG'S LIFE

December, 1944

Frank W. Wince  
Headquarters Company  
2nd Battalion  
120 Infantry Regiment  
30th Infantry Division  
Anchorage, Alaska

My most vivid memory of the bulge is the mental picture of the victims of the Malmedy massacre lined up in the snow-covered field.

My second most vivid memory is of a fairly long (several months) association with a victim of the battle; namely, a little white female dog which we decided was a Spitz breed.

As the battalion liaison officer, I had a jeep and driver assigned to me and our unit was in place at the northern edge of Malmedy. One day, I am positive it was a few days before Christmas, we were travelling along a main road (to the west or northwest) out of Malmedy, we came upon this small dog who was scared and running at full speed up the

road. We stopped and I picked the dog up and held her in my arms as we continued our short mission. Then I attempted to find some persons or some building which the dog might recognize. We had no success. I had to have a name to call her and chose "Mitzi," which she soon accepted.

Mitzi stayed with me in the second story of a house in which I and three other men were billeted. This house was located in the northern edge of Malmedy on slightly higher ground than the town. Food and water was no problem as Mitzi shared whatever I had. She drank from my canteen cup and ate from my mess kit. The worst she ever had was "C" rations.

We attempted to find someone or some place Mitzi seemed interested in but she showed no interest. During our time in the Malmedy area, she stayed in the house or went with me in the jeep where we fixed a bed with a blanket and shelter-half for protection from the weather. On one of our trips to visit some of our troops, Mitzi decided it was time to add to the dog population and gave birth to four puppies. Two of the pups were not healthy and died very soon. The other two lived and remained healthy throughout the remainder of my stay in Europe.

Mitzi and the two pups stayed with me constantly as my unit returned to our previous location north of Aachen and then throughout the advance to the Elbe River. After the German capitulation, the dogs stayed with me for some months as I was detailed to various duties and locations in the zone of occupation. We participated in some mopping up in the Harz Mountains and other duties in the Plauen/Bayreuth area where I was detailed to escort two prostitutes back across the Czechoslovak border. The girls tried to talk me out of the dogs, or at least one, but we had become a family and I had visions of bringing them home to the farm in Illinois. This, however, was not to be. We got through the processing center near Frankfurt, a.M., and to the staging area to board a ship to England where we were separated. The girls at the Red Cross unit loved the dogs and promised them a good home.

*[Frank says that a previous article about William Cavanagh in the Bugle makes him wonder if someone in Malmedy doesn't look back at times and grieve over the loss of a wonderful pet almost 50 years ago. He would like to assure them that their pet was not killed in action but had a wonderful life for some time.]*

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#### BREAKING A TRAIL, THE HARD WAY

December 11, 1991

Clifford McComas  
E Company  
325 Glider Infantry Regiment  
82nd Airborne Division  
Denver, Colorado

Being a late arrival in the Ardennes, I did not witness the hoards of enemy threatening to over-run the first defensive position I occupied. The battle had raged for ten days

before I joined the 20,000 meter front occupied by the 325th Glider Infantry Regiment, and other units of the 82nd Airborne Division. Needless to say, there was minimal contact right or left. Communication was in tact only from the platoon CP. Rumors run heavy, mostly to the effect that all units to our front had been killed or captured, and the unstoppable Germans were headed our way.

Here I was with my Bar and PFC Yeager, a rifleman, the only support I had. I could see no way we might stop anything more than one rifle squad attacking us from the front. Yet, we had been told that we were the last line of defense and we had to stop the enemy breakthrough or go back and do Normandy again.

Fortunately, another sector of the division was hit. But that's where the German offensive stopped and the German troops abandoned much equipment and started back to their homeland with us hot in pursuit. Our mission was to clear the forest of German soldiers. As I remember, we crossed the LD and moved into the attack early on 2 January, 1945. The snow was still deep, hindering movement. One man would break trail until he was almost exhausted, step aside and allow the next man in line to do likewise.

Resistance was light, but we did find pockets of five to eight enemy left behind as a covering force. Most surrendered without putting up any fight.

We had heard some information about the Malmedy crossroads incident. Word started around that we were to take no prisoners. Many troopers took advantage of this rumored order and expelled vengeance on any German soldier. Several times during my first day of real combat I observed a German come out of a bunker or fox hole, hands over head, only to be shot through the head at close range. Some troopers could not miss, firing an M1 rifle from the hip at a range of about five yards. I'm sure the Malmedy massacre was the reason for some to believe that these actions were a justified means of vengeance.

The above is part of an experience that I would not take a million dollars for. Yet, I would not give one dime to go through such experience again.

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### BEEF SAUSAGES, A LA SUKON

December 16, 1944

Garland B. Glovier  
G Company  
39th Infantry Regiment  
9th Infantry Division  
Lebanon, Virginia

...few memories I would like to share with my comrades-at-arms. Briefly, I would like to mention the week before December 16, 1944. We were relieved by the 99th Infantry Division. At least our 39th Regiment was. Our objective was to shuttle back through Eupen, Belgium, by truck to relieve the 1st Division, which had been in a tough fire fight with the Krauts. Our objective was to take two towns. The names I believe were Cain and Duren, Germany. We were

promised a five-day break when this mission was accomplished.

After some tough fighting, we had taken the second town on the 15th of December. I remember very well Sergeant Sukon, our squad leader, instructing me to kill a young cow that was grazing just outside of town. He and another one of my buddies, I don't remember his name, would try and locate a sausage grinder. We waited until dusk so we could drag the cow into a shed because the Germans were in a patch of woods just across this field. They found the sausage grinder, so we had fresh beef that night.

At this time I was 1st scout--had been since the Normandy Invasion. So they decided that they would promote me to light 604 machine gunner, in which capacity I served until January 13, 1945.

Unfortunately, at dawn the next morning, December 16th, 1944, we were ordered back into the Ardennes that the Germans had overrun the 99th Division. We moved back through Eupen by truck. We didn't know it at that time but the 6th Panzer Army had encountered our troops. As we moved back in there everything was in confusion. I understand years later that the 9th Infantry Division was instrumental in stopping the 6th Panzer Army cold.

During the period of December 16th, 1944, to Christmas Day the Germans were hitting us with counter attacks with everything they had. All of my buddies were replacements. There were only five of us original ones left. When an officer, a lieutenant whose name I can't recall, being a replacement left me and one replacement as rear guard until they could pull back. The lieutenant told me if I survived it until daylight when they got out to hide and not try to follow them he would come back at break of day and get me. So, with me and my light 604 and the soldier that was with me, we gave them the protection they needed. We held the Jerry's at bay. I will never forget that night. I had told this soldier when I gave him the orders to cease fire to pick him out a good place to hide while it was still day. I hid in a tree lap from which the tops of the pines had been blown out by artillery. The Germans looked for us for several hours. They knew we were there somewhere. They found my machine gun which I had left. I thought that they could hear my knees knocking together in the pine needles.

The lieutenant kept his word and at dawn he came in with a patrol and rescued us. I assume he took it on himself, because at this time my mother was notified that I was missing in action. If the lieutenant is somewhere out there somewhere and remembers this incident, I would sure love to hear from him.

We lost many of our capable leaders and men. Some I haven't heard from since. Don't know what ever happened to Sgt. Sukon. I would love to hear from anyone who has any information on him.

Things quieted down considerably at this time. We were on the attack again when I was ordered back to the command post with some message which I don't recall at this time. The aid man wanted to take a look at my feet, which were frozen. I was taken back to England to the

hospital. That ended my combat experiences.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**U.S. PLANES CHASE OFF GERMANS**

December 18, 1944

**Jack J. Mocnik**  
**A Company**  
**526th Armored Infantry Battalion**  
**Pittsburg, Kansas**

After over 40 years memories get blurred and out of order. The 117th Regiment came to us about noon on 18th December, 1944, and as previously written by me, our C.O. Capt. Mitchell took our few men back into Stavelot and I became a messenger between our battalion's Maj. Solis and Capt. Mitchell. I made numerous trips from battalion to company C.P. that day and it was very chancy, I tried to take the jeep but the Germans didn't like me doing that so the bastards shot at me, so it was on my knees and belly that I made my trips.

On one of my trips from battalion to company C.P. the Germans were laying on heavy artillery and I was slowly making my way back to Stavelot and as I slithered over a small rock fence and was laying in a depression I felt someone else join me in my hole--he was a 2nd lieutenant. He was small in stature and had on a black leather jacket. Unusual but that's exactly how it was. He said to me, "Look over there that will put s--t in your eye" and I looked where he indicated and as far as I could see were German armor and vehicles coming toward Stavelot on the other side of the Ambleve River. This was late in the afternoon of 18 December, 1944. Suddenly directly over our heads (we were on a hill) came the P-47's. They made pass after pass on the German column and as far as I could see other planes were strafing the column. The Germans would not fire at one P-

## **BATTLE OF THE BULGE REENACTMENT**

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge have been invited to Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, Friday 15, 1993, through Sunday, January 17, 1993, for a fun weekend. Activities include staying in original World War II barracks on Friday and Saturday nights and meals in the mess hall. Relive those days of old. The Federation of Reenactors will reenact the Battle of the Bulge on Saturday during which the veterans will be able to observe the reenactment. A USO canteen is planned for Saturday evening. The last reenactment in January was attended by approximately 19 VBObers and all will attest to the memorable weekend and comradeship enjoyed by all. Some thought that they would be uneasy not knowing anyone but all stated that within the first five minutes it was like 'ole' buddies bunking together. The Delaware Valley Capter anticipates that they will triple their attendance this year based on the good time they had. A particular highlight was visiting the barracks of the Allied reenactors and of the German reenactors. Each of the reenactors' barracks had been done up authentically as they have

47 until they made their pass and then the sky would turn red as the Germans fired at the planes. This went on for some time, I don't know which side fired the smoke but the complete valley was covered by smoke and nothing could be seen. I then proceeded on to "A" Company CP to deliver my message.

Interestingly enough early on the morning of 19 December, 1944, I looked to where the German column had been and could not see one damned vehicle. Incidentally, I did not notice any artillery fire against the German column.

## **WHAT ABOUT YOUR STORY?**

**HAVE YOU SUBMITTED YOUR STORY?** If not, we would really like to have it. We have received quite a few lately and will be using all of them. We will use them in the order in which they were received.

These stories will be preserved as a historical record of memories of the Battle of the Bulge and we would like to have every member's story.

**If it is difficult for you to write, grab some one's tape recorder and TELL us your story.** Be sure to include your name, address, the date of the incident you are recording, and the unit with which you were affiliated at that time.

**If you are a whiz bank on the computer and happen to have WordPerfect on your machine, TYPE us your story.** Begin with your name, address, the date of the incident, and the unit you were attached to.

**YOU were a part of this historical event and we want your story in its recorded history.**

a contest for the group who has the best barracks. It was unbelievable how authentic it was. Plan to attend, you will not regret it. Be sure to bring a sleeping bag and/or blankets and a pillow. You will be sleeping on authentic GI bunks. If you have some WWII momentos bring them along. For further information contact: John Bowen; 613 Chichester Lane; Silver Spring, Maryland 20904-3331; or phone 301-384-6533.



*Reunion Guest Speaker Robert W. Justice.*

## 50th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION



"There is a mysterious cycle in human events. To some generations, much is given. Of other generations, much is expected. This generation has a rendezvous with destiny."

When President Franklin Roosevelt said this in 1936, he had no idea just how much would be expected of the young generation of the time. He was speaking of lifting the United States out of the Great Depression. But the generation that came of age in the 1930s would be expected to bear the burden of the greatest war the world has ever seen.

Fifty years later, the citizens of the United States remember the sacrifices of that generation of Americans. "It was truly a war supported by all, and we can never say thank you to that generation enough," said Claude Kicklighter, executive director of the 50th Anniversary of World War II Commemoration Committee. "When the country is finished with this commemoration I hope the veterans of World War II understand Americans are proud of them and are thankful for their efforts."

From an article by Jim Garamone, American Forces Information Ser.

Your 50th Anniversary Committee has been working diligently since February to organize and plan a 50th Commemoration to ensure that our members and their families will be appropriately honored, respected, and pleased on this very special anniversary.

We are planning all our activities with the cooperation and support of the Department of Defense, 50th Anniversary of World War II Commemoration Committee. We have been working with the St. Louis Convention and Visitors Commission since early Spring.

We do not have a VBOB Chapter in St. Louis, however, at this time 12 members and their spouses have volunteered to help during this 50th Anniversary Commemoration.

In the August BULGE BUGLE, Page 10-12 was information and an Advance Registration Form for a member interest survey. We requested these forms be returned by September 1, 1992. This information was to be reported to those attending the Nashville Reunion, October 8-11th. The response was lower than we had anticipated. 285 members responded, with 427 for the banquet.

This will be our reunion for 1994, with a number of special events taking place. We would like to request any member who has not mailed in the Advance Registration Form to please do so if you are interested. There will never be another 50th anniversary. This may be the last major commemoration anniversary in which many WWII veterans will be able to participate.

From the 50th Anniversary Fall 1992 newsletter - DISPATCH:

Thousands gathered on Aug. 7, at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, VA., marking the 50th anniversary of Guadalcanal. President George Bush, Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney, Guadalcanal veterans from all services and members of the 1st Marine Division Association, joined to honor veterans from the first offensive of World War II.

More than 600 Guadalcanal veterans performed a "march-on" to the area in front of the memorial, preceded by nearly 2000 1st Marine Division veterans from all wars, who marched on by regiment. There were more than 6000 people gathered for the event.

Your committee is doing all we can; we are inviting all military units who participated in the Battle of the Bulge to join in this 50th Anniversary Commemoration.

William P. Tayman  
Chairman, VBOB, 50th  
Anniversary Committee

# JOIN OUR OFFICIAL V.B.O.B. 50th ANNIVERSARY RETURN TO EUROPE!

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- \*\*\* **GUARANTEED PRICES - Pay 1992 Prices for a 1994 Tour!**
- \*\*\* **COMPLETE PROTECTION** through a *special insurance policy including full refunds* for covered cancellation plus many travel insurance benefits
- \*\*\* **Convenient, easy monthly payment plan**
- \*\*\* **Galaxy's 32 years of Veterans Experience**
- \*\*\* **Toll-Free Number (1-800-523-7287)**
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- \*\*\* **Professional, Experienced Tour Managers**
- \*\*\* **Participation in 50th Anniversary Events!**

GUARANTEED PRICES are available, as well as FREE INSURANCE! It may seem "too good to be true," but it's a fact! If you register now and participate in Galaxy's exclusive *Time Payment Plan* or Pay in Full, your 1994 tour price will be guaranteed at present prices! YOU SAVE MONEY! Plus, you will be fully protected by a comprehensive and complimentary insurance policy, providing complete cancellation and travel insurance coverage. It's a WIN/WIN situation! You won't find better value anywhere!

Guaranteed 1992 Tour Prices start as low as \$2,673.00 per person for the 11 day Main Tour, including virtually all of your travel needs: round-trip airfare from New York, first-class hotels, 2 meals daily, motorcoach transportation, sightseeing with guides/admission fees, group transfers, portorage, tips & taxes and a professional tour manager. But remember, 1993 prices take effect January 1st, so don't delay another minute! Call Galaxy Tours TODAY (1-800-523-7287) for your descriptive brochure. Better yet, make a phone reservation (using Visa, MasterCard or Discover) to reserve your place on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!

For further details or a complete brochure, call GALAXY TOURS at 1-800-523-7287 (toll-free) or write P.O.Box 234, Wayne PA 19087-0234! Don't delay! Lowest tour prices expire December 31, 1992!

## SKELETON ITINERARY

Sunday, October 23 - USA/ALOFT.  
Monday, October 24 - BRUSSELS/LIEGE. Welcome Dinner.  
Tuesday, October 25 - LIEGE. Aachen, Duren, Hürtgen Forest, Gey, Simmerath, Monschau.  
Wednesday, October 26 - LIEGE. Henri Chapelle Cemetery, *Hospitality Day* with local hosts.  
Thursday, October 27 - LIEGE. Northern Shoulder: Waimes, Bütgenbach, Stavelot, Trois-Ponts, Vielsalm, Houffalize, Grandmenil, Werbomont, Aywaille, St. Vith, Vielsalm, Baraque de Fraiture, Bülligen, Losheim Gap, Elsenborn, La Gleize.  
Friday, October 28 - LIEGE/LUXEMBOURG. Bastogne, Clervaux, Luxembourg City.  
Saturday, October 29 - LUXEMBOURG. Southern Shoulder: Mersch, Echternach, Diekirch.  
Sunday, October 30 - LUXEMBOURG. Hamm Cemetery, *Hospitality Day* with local hosts.  
Monday, October 31 - LUXEMBOURG/PARIS. Reims, Champagne Cellar, City of Lights!  
Tuesday, November 1 - PARIS. Morning city tour, afternoon shopping, Farewell Dinner.  
Wednesday, November 2 - PARIS/USA.

## OPTIONAL NORMANDY EXTENSION

Wednesday, November 2 - PARIS/NORMANDY. Pont l'Eveque, Caen.  
Thursday, November 3 - NORMANDY. Arromanches, Mulberry Harbor, Omaha Beach, Normandy American Military Cemetery, Vierville, Pointe du Hoc, Bayeux.  
Friday, November 4 - NORMANDY. Ste. Mere Eglise, Utah Beach, St. Lo, Cherbourg, *special places*.  
Saturday, November 5 - NORMANDY/PARIS. Falaise Gap, Chartres, St. Symphorien, Paris.  
Sunday, November 6 - PARIS/USA.

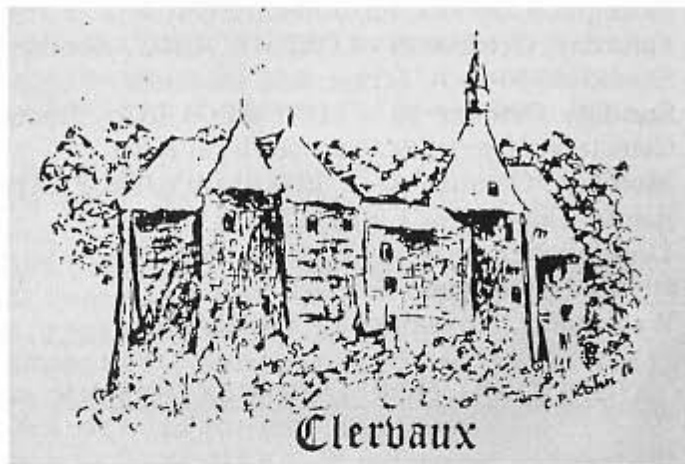
## LUXEMBOURG GROUP'S PRESIDENT RECALLS THE LIBERATION OF HIS COUNTRY

*[The following are remarks by Camille P. Kohn, Life President of Cercle d'etudes sur la Bataille des Ardennes (CEBA) (English translation: Circle for the Study of the Battle of the Ardennes). These remarks were made in August, 1990, before CEBA members and a group of 87th Infantry Division veterans visiting in Luxembourg. We thought you would find interesting the feelings of the people who live in this small country where your efforts and sacrifices are so much appreciated.]*

As President and on behalf of CEBA, it is my honor and pleasure to welcome you most warmly here in this medieval castle, in the City Hall of Clervaux.

Dear veterans of the 87th Infantry Division, first of all, I would like to thank you so much for coming to Luxembourg. In 1945 we couldn't thank you for your loyal and self-sacrificing work. But now, we have you with us and so we are able to express our deep gratitude and appreciation for all you did for us and for your contribution in the Battle of the Bulge. You took part in the liberation of our country in 1945 and we know very well of the achievements of your great unit. We know of the hardships you men suffered during that hellish period.

Of course, when I'm talking about men, I include always our girl friend Dorothy Davis, who is among you. She was a nurse and she helped to save the lives of thousands and thousands of GI's. By the long chain of medical rescue, 96 percent of the 369,000 men wounded in the European Theater have been saved.



Clervaux

Well, let me tell you, dear veterans, that our people suffered terribly before you could come to our rescue. Luxembourg was the only country annexed by the Germans and so it came under a real dictatorship government. That made the most traumatic and lasting effect on the people, who never accepted the Nazi despotism.

Do you know, dear veterans, that about 12,000 young Luxembourgers, a huge percentage of our country's small population were drafted into the German Army and that these young Luxembourgers were forced to fight in Italy, Yugoslavia, Russia, etc. In Italy, in France, in Luxembourg

and in Belgium and later in Germany our countrymen had to fight against soldiers, who later became our liberators. I mean they had to fight against American soldiers. Highlights of perversity! Today it seems just incredible.

In this connection I have to tell you that a great deal of the Luxembourgers, forced into the German Army, refused spontaneously to join the Wehrmacht. But when captured in old barns or in self-made bunkers in the deepest woods, they were executed as criminals and the families of these men were deported to Germany or Poland or put in a concentration camp. It was just a reign of terror.

After this short description of a devil's period, you can better imagine the hysterical joy overcoming our people when suddenly the first American soldiers appeared in our streets with tanks, trucks of every kind, all marked with white stars, serial numbers and antennas and between all these war vehicles the euphoric crowd. There is no language that could describe this whoopee.

But unfortunately, this exultation was very short. On December 16, 1944, the Jerries started the Big Push, the Battle of the Bulge. Nobody else could better describe the battle than you, dear veterans. At that time, the weather was more suitable for Eskimos than for American soldiers, neither trained nor equipped for winter-war fare. You men suffered the tortures of the damned, while holding out against tremendous odds. Blizzards swept the Ardennes. Icy gusts blew over the Ardennes, making life miserable for soldiers, civilians and even for animals. Winter was the Commanding General the entire battlefield a frozen world of white dunes. Snow muffled the sporadic sounds of war, making a new world of white silence.

The Battle of the Ardennes, the greatest battle which American soldiers ever had to fight, destroyed the homes of 60,000 persons in this part of the Ardennes. But, finally, the valiant American soldiers, among them the 87th Infantry Division, assumed the offensive and succeeded in checking the enemy's onslaught, driving the Germans back beyond their border.

Dear veterans, since that time the world has changed to all intents and purposes and certain memories have been effaced. But I promise you, dear friends, the Luxembourg people never forget, now as before, what American soldiers have done for them. We are fully aware of the independence we owe to you and to your great nation and the protection is still given us against enemies of every kind and tyranny.

...happiness and prosperity have been ours now for more than four decades, [and] we owe it to you. We are ready to forgive, but not ready to forget. Neither are we ready to forget that young American soldiers fought and suffered and gave their lives to give back freedom and human dignity to a small country--yes, to the people of Luxembourg.

Thank you, dear veterans, from the bottom of our hearts. You deserve our deep admiration and affection, not only today, but forever.

"Why me?" That is the soldier's first question, asked each morning as the patrols go out and each evening as the night settles around the foxholes.

William Broyles, Jr.

## REMARKS OF GUEST SPEAKER AT VBOB REUNION BANQUET

The following are the remarks of **ROBERT H. JUSTICE, 75TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 291ST INFANTRY, 2ND BATTALION, COMPANY "E,"** as presented at the October VBOB Reunion:

"...Now to the subject at hand: My vivid experiences of the Bulge were at Rochefort-Grand Halleaux and Spa, all in Belgium. Out of these experiences some humor happened--but at the time it was not realized.

"One city most men of the 2nd Battalion of the 291st remember is Rochefort, Belgium. On the evening of the 24th, when much of the world was celebrating Christmas Eve, we received orders to move out and we were not attached to the 2nd Armored Division. We spent much of the night traveling by truck to another location. Christmas morning we woke up in a forest covered with heavy snow and were given notice that we were going to attack.

"The next days we raced across open fields riding on tanks--getting to Berlin. When we reached wooded areas we ran alongside of tanks to protect them from flanking bazooka fire. The nights we spent dug in the frozen ground, protecting the tanks from enemy patrol action. We were now faced with increasing snow, ice and cold.

"The 2nd Armored Division deservedly receives much credit for its part in stopping the advancement of the Nazi forces in the famous 'Battle of the Bulge.' Any observations I make are my own. Our command was now made up of two armored companies and 'E' Company.

"On December 27th, 'E' Company was located at a road junction 2-1/2 miles north of Rochefort. The 'E' Company mission was the mining of road junctions in the area and establishing a road block about 1-1/2 miles from Rochefort.

"During the late afternoon of the 27th, 'E' Company received orders to prepare to attack. We were told to leave our overcoats and packs in the snow and move out with the tanks. Our attack started through heavy woods. The tanks crashed through the trees and the infantry ran alongside until we reached an open area north of Rochefort. By this time it was very dark but the buildings of the city were clearly visible by the flashing of heavy artillery fire. At this time the tanks lined up in the cover of the woods and 'E' Company was ordered to attack in the direction of Rochefort.

"An attack at night is supposed to be made only be experienced troops with careful planning. We were the newest division in the battle, and as we were rapidly moving with the armor, any coordinated planning was difficult. By the time I arrived at the open area some casualties were already being removed. Machine gun tracers could be seen in front of us and sniper fire was coming from everywhere.

"Some individual squads did make progress and did get very close to the city. During the night we received word that we were to be relieved by the 84th Division. Our C.O.

was told to select some men and go back and pick up our overcoats. The cold in the middle of the night was bad enough, but without overcoats, was xxx!! cold.

"On the 28th we started our trip back to our own division and the north side of the Bulge were two new names were burned or frozen into our memories--'Grand Halleaux' and 'Creppe-Spa'--also in Belgium.

"**Spa, Belgium**--Although we went into First Army Reserve, little rest was forthcoming. Relief of another division was imminent and the 75th went back into the line to take over the 82nd Airborne sector while in the Spa, Belgium, where we drank the local beer and bargained for wine and schnapps. Weapons were cleaned and equipment readied for our next assignment.

"On the 9th of January, following a three day rest with baths, clean clothes, and hot meals, the regiment left Creppe-Spa in the early hours of the evening. Marching for eleven hours, over 22 miles of icy roads and knee deep snow, the regiment arrived at Basse Bodeux, Belgium, at 0500 hours. This hike lasted all through the night, and it shall never be forgotten by the men who made it. It was bitter cold, and marching had to be done on roads that were icy, on country roads that were filled with snow, across fields and through snow drifts, sometimes two feet deep.

"**Grand Halleaux, Belgium**--Completing relief of the 82nd Airborne Division, the next few days were spent in sending out patrols and preparing for a prospective attack on the enemy near Grand Halleaux.

"On the morning of January 15th, the 291st went into its first attack as a regiment. The objective was high ground, outside Grand Halleaux, where the enemy was strongly entrenched.

"The 2nd Battalion with an exposed left flank attacked from Grand Halleaux toward Petit Thier. 'E' and 'G' Companies led the attack with 'F' Company in reserve. Both companies were pinned down during the day by heavy enemy fire.

"This town will be remembered for a life time by the survivors of this engagement with the enemy. The men of the 2nd Battalion, 291st Infantry, especially Companies 'E' and 'G' had many factors that were against them. But we held what ground we took that day and suffered heavy casualties.

"Our main obstacles that day were not only the enemy--but again snow--OD clothing. We were like ducks on a pond and it was our first offensive action. But we soon became a team and our stateside training began to pay off.

"The battle on the 15th is history and for the Allied Armies it was a great success. It was the beginning of the final drive to eliminate the Bulge, relieve pressure on the Bastogne sector and join a main concerted thrust of U.S. First Army towards St. Vith.

"Long after dark on the 15th our battalion was relieved by other units. After positioning the new units as directed by the battalion commander of Company 'E' and other companies moved back to Grand Halleaux. In a barn, which was Company 'E' Headquarters, work was started on the morning report. Small groups worked by candle light putting together their reports.

(Continued on Page 26)

## BANQUET REMARKS (Continued from Page 25)

"The 1st Sergeant was missing, the company commander and three platoon commanders were wounded. The one remaining platoon commander was removed with frozen feet. Several key NCOs were killed or wounded. Slowly the report took form and in darkness a messenger took the report to Battalion Headquarters. Company 'E' had left a strength of one officer and about 35 combat troops. On the 16th, Company 'E' left Grand Halleaux again, as one weak platoon, attached to Company 'G.' Company 'E', like many other units, did not get a rest period, but was rebuilt as it moved into other battles in the Bulge, the Colmar Pocket and in the Ruhr Pocket. Most of these encounters are vivid memories, but none can compare to January 15th at Grand Halleaux, Belgium!

"That's how my experiences were 47 years ago during the Battle of the Bulge. I hope you will remember along with me your vivid experiences of those days and remember those friends and GI 'buddies' that paid the supreme price.

"May the road rise to meet you.

"May the wind be always at your back.

"May the sun shine warm upon your face,

"The rains fall soft upon your fields, and,

"Until we meet again,

"May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

"Thank you."

## FIND YOUR OLE BUDDY

We have received very good response to *The Membership Directory*, which was recently published and distributed. Many report that they have been able to locate old buddies. We still have approximately 50 copies left for sale. If you would like one, please fill out the order form below and return it with your check in the amount of \$15.00 payable to Nancy Monson. The Directory reflects VBOB's membership as of July 1, 1992.

The directory includes an alphabetical listing of all members with addresses; a list by units; a list by geographical location; and other information regarding VBOB operations (Bylaws, officers, etc.). All printed on three-hole punched paper. You can provide whatever cover you desire.

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Here's a little breakdown of our honored dead over the years. Pray for them.

Revolutionary War.....	25,324 Killed
1812 War.....	2,260 Killed
Mexican War.....	13,288 Killed
Civil War.....	529,332 Killed
Spanish-American War.....	2,446 Killed
World War I.....	116,516 Killed
World War II.....	405,399 Killed
Korea War.....	54,246 Killed
Viet Nam War .....	56,480 Killed
Total.....	1,205,291

## LOST AND FOUND

We have received a letter from WEBER RICK, of Luxembourg, advising that he has found a silver bracket which belonged to a GI named R. K. BOWMAN, 5TH INFANTRY DIVISION. Bowman was from LaPorte, Indiana. The bracelet was found on September 1, 1991, in the Forests of Dillingen, Luxembourg. Can anyone help with getting this bracelet back to its owner or his relatives?



Weber also would like to locate M. H. T. DE LONG, who was from Toledo, Ohio. De Long carved his initials in a tree that stands in Colmorberg, Luxembourg on October 21, 1944. Can anybody help locate this person?

If you can provide information on either of these men, please write to: Weber Rick, 147 Val Ste Croix, 1371 Luxembourg, Europe.

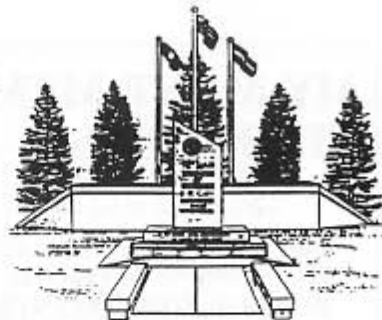
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To insure that the American troops in the Battle of the Bulge are not forgotten, the Delaware Valley Chapter of VBOB has undertaken the erection of a commemorative monument at the Valley Forge Military Academy and College in Wayne, Pennsylvania - about three miles from Valley Forge National Park. Its design is shown above and honors three nations - the United States, Belgium and Luxembourg - with their colors to fly majestically above our seven-foot high monument, which proudly proclaims the reality of the Battle with the simple words, "A Triumph of Courage."

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THE BULGE BUGLE  
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# MY MOST MEMORABLE CHRISTMAS

By Albert D. Dian

The following story was passed along to us by Bertie Dian, widow of **ALBERT D. DIAN, 80TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 318TH INFANTRY, CANNON COMPANY.** Albert was a member of the VBOB Central Florida Chapter.

## Christmas Eve, 1944

The time was December 24, 1944. The Battle of the Bulge was very much in doubt. We were located in Luxembourg, north of the capital. About the 14th or 15th of December, we were poised near Saarburg in France for a big push by Patton's Third Army to pierce the West Wall. Alerted on the 16th for a rapid move northward, the 80th Infantry Division moved at night, in convoy, to help stem the tide of the Wehrmacht offensive. As we moved northward, the temperature kept dropping and we experienced the first snow of the winter. Arriving in Luxembourg City about dusk, lo and behold, the street cars were running and no blackout in effect. What a strange scenario! Artillery and machine gun fire was audible in the distance.

Proceeding to an area near Merach, Luxembourg, we halted for a few days. The ground was almost too frozen to dig in but the snow deep enough for insulation at night enabling us to get a warm night's sleep.

Somewhere about the 20th, we moved northeast toward Diekirch and Ettelbruck. On our way, we encountered our first Nebelwurfers, the "screaming meemies"--multiple rockets fired at us with an eerie sound that was terrifying. At the same time, the walking wounded of the 28th Infantry Division were moving to the rear while we were advancing to take up the positions they had held.

We passed by a typical guard house, the same type you see in old movies with the guards in their comic opera uniforms. As we approached the guard house, the Nebelwurfers came raining down and the sentinels disappeared "toute suite" in the direction of the castle of the Grand Duchess of Colmar-Berg.

Proceeding to our designated area, we dug in our guns. Although an infantry company, the Cannon Company had six 105 millimeter howitzers designed to give the infantrymen ahead of us close support.

We set up our command post in an abandoned farm house and started to run telephone lines to our gun platoons. The weather for days had been miserable--poor visibility for our air force. This probably was the greatest advantage the Wehrmacht had since they moved so rapidly on the terrain they knew so well. Somehow (maybe a break in the clouds), our position was revealed to a German forward observer and we started to get hostile fire on our headquarters. Glass and mortar through the windows made it expedient for us to retreat to the potato cellar below the house.

Lo and behold, as we peered into the darkness, a mother, father and tiny baby were huddled there, terrified. We could

only communicate with sign language--their native language was a patois of French and German and hard to understand. We shared our cold rations with them for several days until our kitchen truck could move up to a safe area and provide us with hot chow.

Mail finally caught up with us and I had a package from one of my sisters in Cleveland, Ohio. She had read that the little children in war torn France, Holland, and Belgium would not have any gifts of any kind for Christmas. She didn't even know that I was in Luxembourg at the time.

Christmas Eve came, cold--no stars, cloudy weather. Despite legends otherwise, the guns were still audible, both sides. I finally opened the package and it was an assortment of small, cheap trinkets. I believe my sister hoped I would distribute them at some orphanage.

By candlelight, I started giving little gifts, one at a time, to the little boy--"Edie"--the name I best remember. At each gift, the mother and father would cry and thank me with gestures. Was this a reenactment of that "Holy Night" in Bethlehem many years ago?

I know how the Wise Men of old must have felt since this tiny babe also lay in a bed of hay, smiling all the while. Perhaps, the angels were smiling from on high. I like to think so!

Before falling asleep, we said our silent prayers--"Peace on Earth, Goodwill towards Men."

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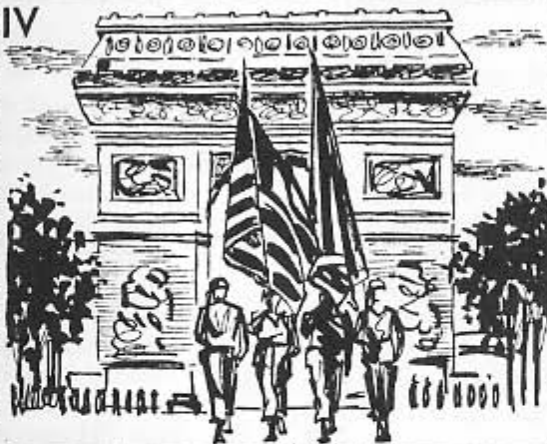
## ARE YOUR DUES DUE??

# Battle BIOGRAPHIES

By Sgt D. N. Roman and T/Sgt Chuck Voorhis

## 28th INFANTRY DIV

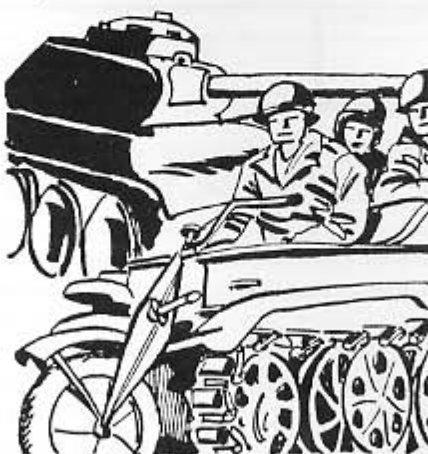
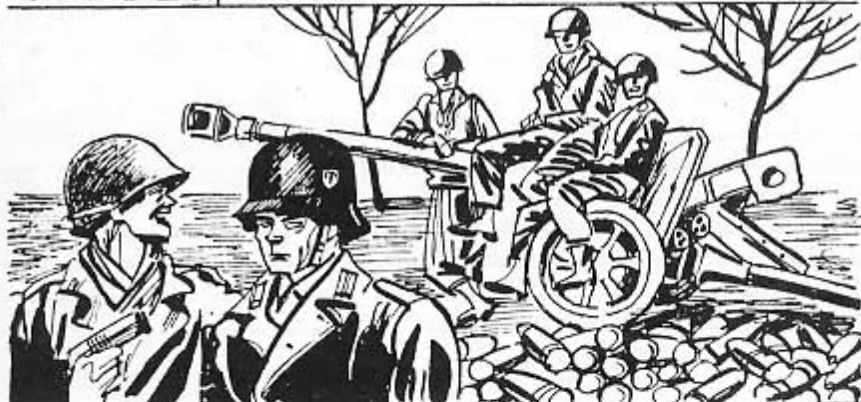
Like the 82d Airborne, the 28th (Bloody Bucket) Inf Div has had some famous names on its roster. One is Chief of Staff, Gen George C. Marshall, who was a second loopy in one of its regiments in 1906-07. Another is Gen Omar N. Bradley, who commanded it from June 1942 to January 1943. . . . The 28th, also known as the Keystone division because it originally was composed of National Guard Units from Pennsylvania (the Keystone State), got its World War II nickname from a German officer. After one particularly vicious attack, the German officer, who was captured, said, "You must either be madmen or picked troops, so fiercely do you fight." He then pointed to the blood-red keystone shoulder insignia and added, "We call you *Der Blutige Eimer* — Bloody Bucket."



The 28th left the States for World War II in the summer of 1943 and landed in South Wales in October. It reached Normandy in July of 1944 and had its baptism of fire in the hedgerows at Percy below St Lo on 7 July. In quick succession, it captured Verneuil, Breteuil and Damville while the Wehrmacht withdrew toward Paris. Then on 29 August, the Bloody Buckets moved into Paris and paraded on the day the French capital celebrated its liberation. Seven days later, it crossed the Meuse River and, four days after, entered Germany, the first US division to enter the Reich in force. One Pfc distinguished himself by running 25 yards to a pillbox and placing a 35-pound TNT pole charge. It failed to go off. He repeated his effort, and the second charge failed to detonate. He made the trip a third time, lit the fuse with a match and waited until it began to burn. The pillbox was blasted; the 28th moved forward.



November found the 28th in the fastness of the Hurtgen Forest, east of Aachen, where it hit the Siegfried line for the second time. It was bitter cold when it plunged through Vossenack, Germeten and Simonskall in a lone thrust that paced the First Army's offensive to Duren to capture the Schwammanuel Dam on the Roer River. From Hurtgen, the division withdrew to a sector on the Luxembourg-German border, where it was stretched out over a front of 25 miles. Then came the big wallop—the Battle of the Bulge. At one time, the Bloody Buckets stood off nine German divisions and helped hold up the advance on Bastogne long enough to permit the 101st Airborne to dig in for its heroic defense. Withdrawn from the Bulge to regroup, the 28th was assigned to the 3d Army, moving south to the Colmar sector where it distinguished itself by taking that city in a cleverly-manuevered overnight assault.



So quickly did it move into Colmar that the German garrison was not aware of its arrival. For the Colmar operation, the 28th was assigned to the French 1st Army. . . . From Colmar, it pushed north again, joining the 1st Army for its drive across the Rhineland. En route, it captured 2,800 enemy vehicles in a single day. . . . After taking the key city of Schleide, the division swept through the crumbling Nazi defenses until it reached the Rhine north of Coblenz. Two weeks later, it crossed the Rhine and, with the end of the war in sight, was withdrawn for a rest. It was attached to the 15th Army and pegged for temporary occupation duty, moving into the Saar Basin where it took over 3,000 square miles of German territory. . . . One event which the Keystoneers will long remember was the audacious bayonet charge, led by two privates, which resulted in the capture of the town of Spineux in Belgium. They exploited fully the slogan of their commanding general, Norman D. "Dutch" Cota, who said: "Fire and maneuver—keep going."



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# A PULITZER PRIZE FOR BILL MAULDIN

*This trenchant picture of "Fresh, spirited American Troops" by Bill Mauldin won the Pulitzer Prize as the outstanding newspaper cartoon of 1945.*

*Bill Mauldin's success story is fabulous. Only 18 and fresh out of art school when his army career began in 1940, he is now an established author and looms large in the great artistic tradition of social satire.*



*"Fresh, spirited American troops, flushed with victory, are bringing in thousands of hungry, ragged, battleweary prisoners..."*  
(News item)

## SUPPORT FOR "COLONEL MAGGIE" URGED

Since 1987, an effort has been underway to have the president award to "Colonel Maggie," the Presidential Medal of Freedom. "Colonel Maggie," as some of you may know is Martha Raye, who bravely gave so much of herself to the servicemen and women who served in World War II.

Martha began her service to U.S. troops soon after the attack on Pearl Harbor and before the formation of the USO. She entertained men and women in uniform around the world. Her close association with the Special Forces earned her the honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Green Beret. (This resulted in her nickname of "Colonel Maggie.") She was wounded and received two

## Excerpts from Bill Mauldin's book, "UP FRONT"

"To a soldier in a hole, nothing is bigger or more vital to him than the war which is going on in the immediate vicinity of his hole. If nothing is happening to him, and he is able to relax that day, then it is a good war, no matter what is going on elsewhere. But if things are rough, and he is sweating out a mortar barrage, and his best friend is killed on a patrol, then it is a rough war for him, and he does not consider it "comparatively quiet."

That situation can't be remedied much. Newspapers at home have to print the news as it appears on a world-wide scale, but if they would clamp down a little harder on their enthusiastic rewrite men who love to describe "smashing armored columns," the "ground forces sweeping ahead," "victorious, cheering armies," and "sullen supermen," they wouldn't be doing a bad job. A dogface gets just as tired advancing as he does retreating, and he gets shot at both ways. After a few days of battle, the victorious Yank who has been sweeping ahead doesn't look any prettier than the sullen superman he captures."

Mauldin's reputation became general when he was transferred to *Stars & Stripes*, and his cartoons were soon snapped up by a national newspaper syndicate. Celebrity or not, Mauldin could usually be found up front where the shooting was.

Out of the army in 1945, Mauldin switched to civilian themes and post war problems in his syndicated cartoons jabbing at stuffed shirts and injustice with the same biting clarity that endeared him to the fighting men. Active in veterans affairs, never too busy to speak out for what he believes in, Mauldin has found the time to write and illustrate two more best-selling books, *Back Home* and *A Sort of a Saga*.

Purple Hearts. She was also awarded the Army Combat Field Medical Badge. General Westmoreland called her "...the grandest trouper of all."

The efforts to honor her with the Presidential Medal of Freedom have faltered. Two resolutions--SCR 62 in the Senate and HCR 100 in the House--have languished in both houses. You can help get this off dead center by writing to the President of the United States, your congressman and senators. Or, you can write to T. N. Bagano, 42619 Charleston Way, Fremont, California 94538, to see how you can help with this effort.

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