

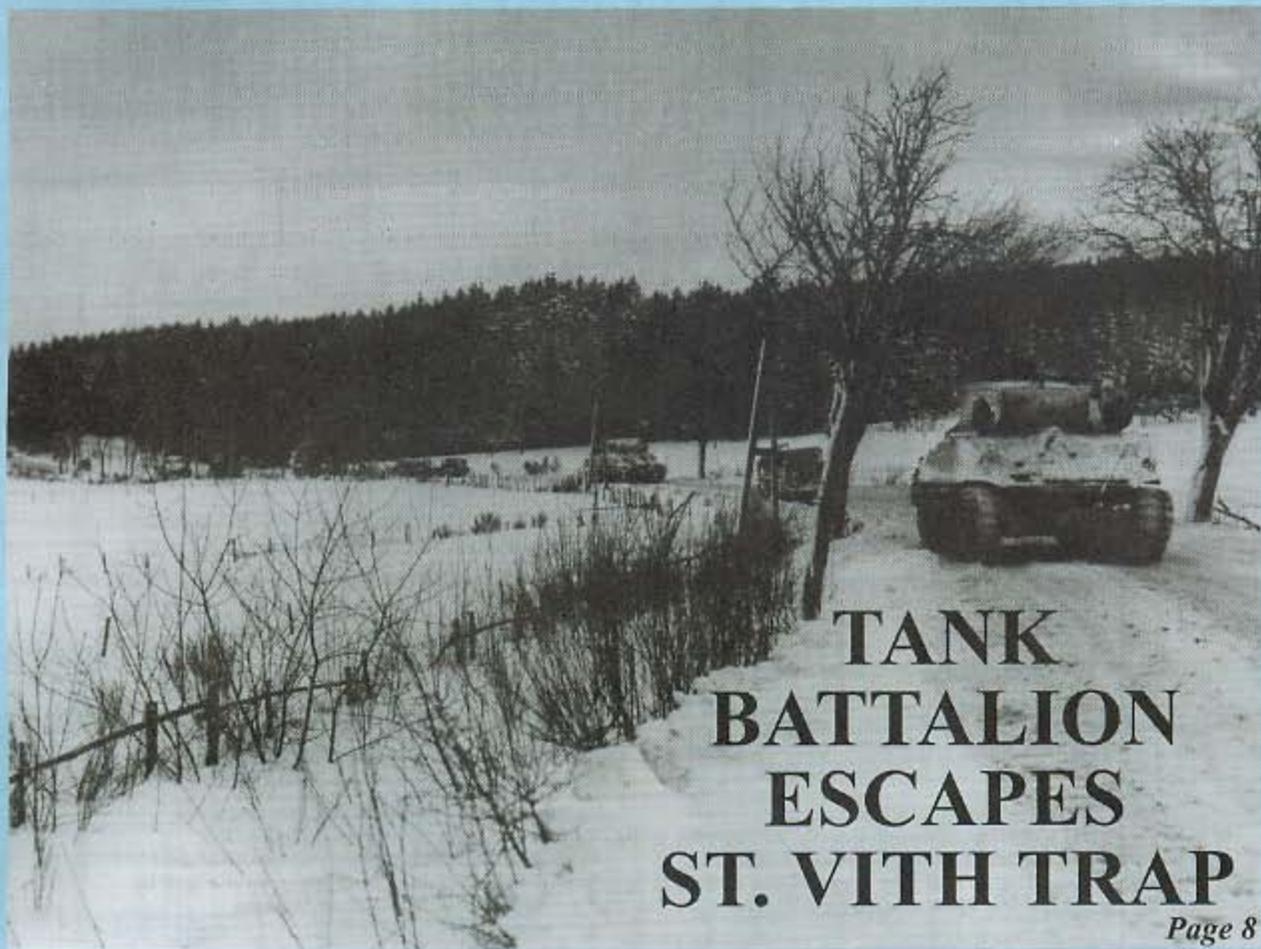
The BULGE BUGLE

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

VOLUME XXVIII NUMBER 1

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

FEBRUARY 2009



TANK BATTALION ESCAPES ST. VITH TRAP

Page 8

VBOB 2009 REUNION

MAKE PLANS
NOW!

Tucson 
ARIZONA

October 6, 09

October 9, 09

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BATTLE OF THE BULGE,
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YOU WILL BE GLAD YOU DID.
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO START A
CHAPTER IN YOUR AREA, LET US KNOW,
WE'LL SEND YOU NECESSARY DETAILS.

President's Message

Keeping You Informed



Demetri "Dee" Paris

The year 2008 was a busy one as we corrected the many operational, legal, and administrative deficiencies that had accumulated over the past several years. We shall provide a detailed report in a future issue of *The Bulge Bugle*.

However, you should have been informed of many of the problems, decisions, and actions taken at the national level if your chapter president has shared with you the information he has received from

us. The national Executive Council meets bimonthly--six meetings were held in 2008. The Council is informed on the status of every project whether contemplated, proposed or underway. The Council is responsible for all major policy and administrative decisions and actions made for VBOB and for the VBOB members.

The minutes of the Council meetings are recorded and transcribed in detail by our competent Recording Secretary John D. Bowen, a highly dedicated associate member. Secretary Bowen mails a copy of the minutes to every VBOB chapter president of record. This is not intended solely for the president's information. The purpose is to allow him to share important information with you--his VBOB chapter members. Your 2009 Executive Council meetings are scheduled for:

- January 13
- March 10
- May 12
- July 14
- September 8
- November 10

Within a month, the dedicated chapter president will share with you the status of VBOB and the important decisions and actions taken by the Executive Council elected at our 2008 reunion in Columbus. ■

27,000 Sorties at Bulge

The measure of Allied air might which played a significant role in stopping Von Rundstedt was approximately 27,000 sorties from December 23, when the mists lifted and the sun came out, up to and including Dec. 27. In these same seven days, the German air force flew about 4,000 sorties.

from Stars and Stripes
January 1, 1945

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

FLORIDA GOVERNOR ISSUES BULGE PROCLAMATION

The Southeast Florida Chapter obtained a proclamation from the State Governor which states in part: "I, Charlie Crist, Governor of the State of Florida do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing December 16, 2008 as Battle of the Bulge Day."

This information came from Harry Kirby of the Chapter. The proclamation also acknowledges several battle facts including the dates, number of American troops and their casualties and December 16th as the 64th anniversary of the start of the battle.

The Southeast Florida Chapter also dedicated their second VBOB memorial, a beautiful marker with a stirring message on the plaque. The dedication ceremony included several officials and a fly over.

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PLEASE CHECK...TO SEE IF YOUR DUES HAVE BEEN PAID. We depend on your dues to keep our organization going. Your cooperation in keeping your dues current will be very much appreciated. Your dues expiration date is on the mailing label of every copy of the *Bugle*. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I WAS THERE

After reading the latest issue of *The Bulge Bugle* (November, 2008), I was totally surprised at seeing the photo on page 28 as I was there.

I was in the 148th Combat Engineer Battalion, Company C, attached to the 82nd Airborne Division as support for infantry troops until Carentan was finally taken after we were in and out of town three times before we were in to stay.

Our battalion built four bridges at Carentan, a treadway and a class 50-ton Bailey north of town and a class 70 ton Bailey and class 40 treadway bypassing the town.

We lost battalion commander Col. John E. Tucker on the Bailey bridge due to German shelling and also Captain Albet Heinz, our company commander, who was wounded by shrapnel from the shelling the bridges were undergoing.

I was a company aid medic and took care of Capt Heinz and had him evacuated to the rear.

I never heard how he made out as he had a severe wound in his right chest that took one whole first aid pack bandage to cover.

I could go on and on but that photo really brought back memories as many of our guys saw that little parade through town that day.

In the Bulge, we were once again attached to the 82nd as support infantry. A great bunch of guys.

Lawrence T. Page
148 CEB C

I WON'T JUDGE

Reference is made to the November (2008) issue of *The Bulge Bugle* and specifically to the photo on page 28. I found this photo extremely offensive and definitely not the type of material that should appear in our publication. The description of the Bulge is defined as pertaining to events of the Battle of the Bulge.

Perhaps I find the photo disturbing because I can personally relate to one of these tar and feather incidents. After liberating a village in France, I was invited to shave the heads of women accused of sleeping with German soldiers. When the gathered crowd learned that I spoke French, they almost insisted that I participate. I could not judge these women and refused to judge them on the basis of the accusations. Did they sleep with the enemy to get a loaf of bread for a sick mother or a can of milk for a sick child? No, I wouldn't judge. I wonder how many of the participants in the photo could have thrown the proverbial stone.

There are plenty of personal accounts, massacres and even a few amusing stories for publication in *The Bugle*. Let us confine editing to events of our famous battle and not resort to stories that took place in a different campaign. We are the Battle of the Bulge--Period.

George F. Schneider
30 INF 120 INF 3 BN

WHAT ABOUT THE 81ST ENGINEER BATTALION?

I received the Battle of the Bulge Certificate and it is very nice. I also got a copy of *The Bulge Bugle*. I read it from cover-to-cover and learned more about the Battle of the Bulge than I ever did before.

I am a veteran of that battle. I was with the 81st Engineer Battalion, Company B, attached to the 106th Infantry Division. We were in the little Town of Schomburg, on the 17th of December when the Germans began. This was for us the Battle of the Bulge. All but seven of my company were killed. I was a field lineman, later called communications officer with orders to contact no one. We were told to head for the Rhine River with our Bailey Bridge and wait on the advance of the American Forces. They didn't show up.

We got slaughtered and the seven of us tried to make it back to American lines, but we didn't make it. This was no surprise as we had no idea where we were going and, at that time, we didn't even know what unit we were attached to....

Enough of this...what I would like to know is do you have any information on the 81st? [See Karl's request for information in the "Members Speak Out" column.] I have much information that I have ordered and I have read many accounts of those who were in the Bulge with the 106th, but there is never any mention of the 81st.

Karl W. Jones
81 CEB B

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RE: ARMORED AWARDS

In the August 2008 *Bulge Bugle*, on page 30, Dee Paris rightfully tries to bring the recognition to the 9th Armored Division for the important role in the Bulge. However, there are two errors there that I want to correct.

First he states that "Combat Command B, which delayed the main German attack in the St. Vith area for six days, was not included in the award granted the 7th Armored Division with whom they were fighting alongside." The flaw in this statement is that there was no Presidential Unit Citation granted to the 7th Armored Division, for reasons that I will go into below.

Second, he then goes on to say, "...the 101st Airborne included Combat Command R in their award..." This gives the impression that the 7th Armored Division omitted CCB/9AD from their Presidential Unit Citation recommendation, and that is not true.

Here are the details:

After the war, Maj Donald Boyer, who had been the S-3 Officer of my Dad's 38th Armored Infantry Battalion (7th Armored Division) and was captured at St. Vith, was given the mission of writing the Presidential Unit Citation recommendation for the 7th Armored Division and attached units in the defense of St. Vith, Belgium. He wrote a document of about 250 pages, with many maps and photographs, in support of the recommendation. That document was published in a small number of copies, some of which were submitted as the formal recommendation for the Presidential Unit Citation, apparently in either late 1947 or early 1948.

When I visited then-retired Col Boyer at his home less

than a year before his passing, he allowed me to borrow and scan his personal copy of the book. On page 80 of that book is the proposed citation that the 7th Armored Division presented, with the following units specified:

7th Armored Division with the following attached units:

203rd Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion (Self-propelled)

814th Tank Destroyer Battalion (Self-propelled)

446th Quartermaster Truck Company

3967th Quartermaster Truck Company

275th Armored Field Artillery Battalion

965th Field Artillery Battalion

Combat Command "B," 9th Armored Division, including:

14th Tank Battalion

27th Armored Infantry Battalion

16th Armored Field Artillery Battalion

"D" Troop, 89th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mechanized) with attached Platoons "E" Troop and "F" Company

"B" Company, 9th Armored Engineer Battalion

"A" Company, 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion (Self-propelled)

"B" Battery, 482nd Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion (Self-propelled)

"B" Company, 2nd Armored Medical Battalion

"C" Company, 131st Armored Ordnance Maintenance Battalion

112th Infantry Regiment, with attached

229th Field Artillery Battalion

"C" Company, 103rd Engineer Combat Battalion

168th Engineer Combat Battalion

Headquarters and Service Company, 81st Engineer Combat Battalion

3rd Platoon, "F" Company, 423rd Infantry Regiment (Note that this platoon was changed in 1999 to 1st Platoon)

Thus, there is no question but that the 7th Armored Division remembered and sought to honor not only CCB/9AD but all of the other attached units who took part in the defense of St. Vith.

However, Col Boyer told me that, by the time the recommendation was submitted, someone very high up the chain of command had made an administrative decision that there would be no more divisional PUCs issued for WWII divisions who had not already received the PUC. The result was that only one combat command of 7th Armored Division could be awarded the PUC for the action at St. Vith, and that award went to CCB/7AD and the units attached to it. This was very unfortunate, since all of the above listed units deserved the PUC but were denied by a post-war administrative decision that had nothing to do with whether they merited the PUC or not.

Associate Wesley Johnston

SHAPIRO FOUND!

The "Shapiro" you were looking for as the writer of the article, "The Zachritz/Blodgett/Reamer Affair" [*November 2008 issue*] is Murray Shapiro, who was not a member of the 78th Division but of the 28th Division. I served primarily as action 1st Sergeant, Company M, 3rd

Battalion, 112th Infantry Regiment of the 28th Division, when it was officially with the U.S. First Army. However, due to the exigencies of combat and the chaos the Bulge caused, our battalion served or fought with almost every army on our side during the Bulge and immediately after.

The Bulge caused our regiment to be sliced off from the rest of the American front and shoved us off into the Second British Canadian Army. We served there, but fought little before being rushed to Verdun to be placed under Simpson's 9th Army control. From there we were sent all the way around the rear to Deavers Army Group who sent us to Patches 7th Army. Our battalion was separated and assigned to be under command of Gen [later Marshal of France] Lotte de Tasigny's 1st French Army.

I was now promoted from being a leader of one heavy m.g. squad to a section sergeant, and was reinforced by a squadron of Moroccan "mule skimmers" who helped carry our ammo and supplies part way over the lower French Alps [the Vosges Mountains]. Our mission was to get behind the retreating newly created German Vosges Army and block them while Deavers group composed of the rest of the 28th Division, the 7th and 9th American Armies and the French 1st Army attacked across the Colmar Plain.

When we finally traversed the Vosges Mountain area, I set up my gun section at the top of a high cliff looking down at our rifle battalion attack the first mountain town; and my vision carried across a good part of the Colmar Plain where I could see the attacking armies battling the retreating Germans. It was the grandest "field of fire" that any sergeant could want to provide me with a bird's eye view of the battle.

Three things happened at this point, none of which I will ever forget: First of all, as I leaned next to the gunner of one of my guns with only about a foot between our shoulders, a "WHOOSH!" went through and then a huge explosion below the cliff. I quickly realized that the great wind between our shoulders was a big shell. I turned around, and sure enough, there was a captain, artillery spotter, using his sergeant's backpack phone, directing fire. On shaking feet I ran over, grabbed him by the tunic and said, "For God's sake, sir, raise that arc or you will blow us off the cliff!" He replied calmly that I should relax as he had already done so.

Then, I turned to the battle and saw about a platoon of Germans fleeing the town. I pointed to them and gave orders to fire both guns. THEY BOTH JAMMED! And with the utmost effort, I could not remove the broken cartridges with my ruptured cartridge extractor. Well, I took my M-1 rifle [I was the only one in the company to carry one—I refused a pistol] and fired a couple of clips keeping the Germans down behind some rocks when the rifle company commander called me on my handtalker ordering a cease fire. He didn't want me firing over the heads of his troops.

To complete my tour of American armies, I was later assigned to General Patton's left flank with a reinforced platoon, not to fight, but just to see that no one came through the assigned town to attack him there while he jumped the Rhine River.

I tell you this because of the continuous, and even later constant movement, I felt more like a pawn in a chess

game than a real combat soldier.

Murray Shapiro
28 INF D 112 INF M

SOME SPARKLING CIDER

I will celebrate January 1, 2009. I do not know of any other BoB persons in my area. I will drink a bottle of sparkling cider.

I will remember a lieutenant and a medic that died the day I was shot down. The medic had gone out onto the battle field to get me. He never made it. I don't know when or how the lieutenant died. A friend told me 50 years later.

I always enjoy the magazine. I search it for a name I might know. I always enjoy the contents.

On page 12 in the November 2008 issue there are some questions.

I was a soldier in the Ruhr Pocket. We cleaned up till I got shot down April 20, 1945.

You asked if your father, grandfather a member. No. Dad had finished his basic training at Camp Funston, Kansas. The train that was to take him to the POE brought the Armistice. He got his discharge and never regretted not being on the battle field. Especially after we talked.

I remember one German soldier. He fired his last shells and came out saying "Comrade." I was forbidden to shot him.

Paul L. Fort
97 INF D 387 INF I

MORE ON MALMEDY

Just reading the Bugle August 2008 and the 941st Field Artillery report that I found quite interesting. I would like to clarify one point about the massacre at Malmedy though, as I have done a considerable research on the subject and do not wish to seem critical.

The figure of 500 Americans murdered is not correct but under the circumstances at the time it is understandable with all the rumors flying within the American troops and anchored in our minds at the time.

Major McKeever, JAG of the 99th Infantry, became the prosecutor in KZ Dachau at war's end and convicted the SS who committed those crimes plus the guards of Dachau and Kaufering. The correct figure is 71 Americans murdered by the SS at Baugnez on December 17, 1944. Six men escaped and survived to testify at the War Crimes in Dachau.

David Israel and the Ritchie Boys (Intelligence Section), interrogated hundreds of thousands of SS brought to Dachau after the war to find the Malmedy SS and other War Crimes SS. During that time, one SS escaped, boarded a train going east into the Russian sector. He was immediately discovered and shot.

The rest of the Malmedy SS were convicted including Col. Peiper. Unfortunately, Col. Willis M. Everett, Jr. & Senator Joe McCarthy with the help of German/Americans and wealthy right wingers re-tried them in the media, accusing the American soldiers of kicking the 16-17 year old SS in

the testicles, etc., finding a reduced sentence and soon released many SS.

Peiper served eleven years—finding the environment hostile in Germany, went to Traves where, being discovered, his home was bombed and he was killed.

There were a number of other massacres during the Bulge but they did not catch the eyes of the media—none were as large in numbers as Malmedy

Curtis R. Whiteway
99 INF D 394 INF E

TRUE FACTS DIFFER

This is in response to Mr. Mitchell Kaidy's May 2008 article in *The Bulge Bugle*, as well as Mr. Clinton C. Barnard's letter response in the August 2008 issue.

In his May 2008 article, Mr. Mitchell Kaidy incorrectly claimed that in its first four days of battle, the 11 Armored Division "faltered," and was replaced by the 87th Infantry Division. The true facts differ.

After an 85-mile forced march on icy roads from Sedan, France, the 11th Armored Division was rushed into battle on December 30, 1944. The attack took place along the south flank of the Bulge—a few miles southwest of Bastogne.

In four days of costly combat, the division met and resisted a four division enemy frontal attack, led by Hitler's elite Fuhrer Begleit Brigade. The enemy attack was aimed at closing the recently-opened narrow relief corridor leading into the besieged Bastogne perimeter from the south.

During those four days, the 11th Armored Division not only held, but continued to attack, advancing over six bitterly contested miles into enemy held territory. The all-out enemy effort to close the encircling ring from the west, and again isolate Bastogne was thwarted, once and for all.

Division losses were very heavy. In four days, 220 soldiers were killed or missing, and 441 were wounded. In the same period, 42 medium tanks and 12 light tanks were lost to withering enemy fire.

On January 3, 1945, the division was temporarily withdrawn from the battle line for refitting. It was relieved by the 17th Airborne Division. However, 11th Armored Division artillery batteries remained engaged, in support of the 17th Airborne.

During this period, the 87th Infantry Division, fighting on the left flank, successfully defeated fanatical enemy attacks in their assigned sector, and in conjunction with the 17th Airborne, made substantial gains into enemy held areas.

Refitted after only ten days in reserve, the 11th Armored Division was again ready for battle.

On January 13th, it was committed into action, participating in a joint attack with the 101st Airborne Division. Together, they broke out of the northwest and northeast quadrants of the Bastogne perimeter.

The 11th Armored went on to capture the Villages of Vertogne, Compogne, Velleroux, Mabrompre, and Wicourt.

On January 16, near Houffalize, the 11th Armored Division met elements of the 2nd Armored Division and the 84th Infantry Division, who were attacking from the north.

The historic meeting of these First and Third Army units successfully cut off the Bulge incursion.

[The author of this article is President of the 11th Armored Division Association.]

Daniel W. O'Brien
11 ARMD 56 AEB A

MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

LAURENCE R. CAMPTON, 4TH INFANTRY DIVISIONB, 22ND INFANTRY REGIMENT, 3RD BATTALION, COMPANY K, wonders if anyone remembers and can provide details regarding an incident which he believes occurred on Christmas Eve. A church up the street from where they were, had a pump organ (which Laurence says he pumped because he couldn't sing worth a darned) and sang Christmas carols together--joined in by the German troops. Shortly after they left the Germans destroyed the church. Do you remember, if so write to Laurence at: 7555 County Road 111, Salida, Colorado 81201-9736.

MIKE QUIROZ, 134TH GUN BATTALION, would like to find a copy of his unit's history. If you can help, write to Mike at: 2444 Snead Dr, Lake Hausau City, Arizona 86406.

We have a friend in search of some information to help Merchant Marines who served on seagoing barges during WWII. It seems they are having difficulties in getting their service recognized because they have been told records do not exist to prove their qualifications for eligibility. If you can help, contact Don Horton, 104 Riverview ave, Camden, North Carolina 27921. Or <http://www.usmmv@glogspot.com> or e-mail jdonhorton@embargmail.com.

One of our Associate members, **Dick Tuttle**, has been searching for information regarding the activities of his dad's (**LEONARD TUTTLE**) unit. Leonard served in **COMPANY A, 654TH ENGINEERING BATTALION (TOPO)**. If you can help, write to Dick at: 309 East 500 South, Farmington, Utah 84025.

EUGENE PATTERSON, 10TH ARMORED DIVISION, reports that his new book *Patton's Unsung Armor of the Ardennes: The 10th Armored Division's Secret Dash to Bastogne*. For further information (prices,etc.) contact the publisher: Xlibris Corporation, International Plaza II, Suite 340, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19113 (Telephone: 888-795-4274.

KARL W. JONES, 81ST ENGINEER BATTALION, COMPANY B (Attached to the 106th Infantry Division, is concerned there is never any information regarding his unit. [We publish what we receive from the members as we have no research staff.] So, if someone has something, send it to VBOB.

CHARLES BOST, 75TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 730TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, BATTERY B, writes that he is in pretty good shape. He would love to hear from anybody who may have served in his group. Write to him at: 457 Hillcrest Drive, Statesville, North Carolina 28677.

Andy Fillmore writes that his dad (**M.A. FILLMORE, JR., 87TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 787TH ORDINANCE**) would like to hear from anyone who may have served with him and/or receive any information regarding his unit. Call Andy at: 352-875-6215.

EARL FORT, 97TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 387TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, COMPANY, wants to buy some

Purple Heart Stamps. Anybody got any suggestions, write to Earl at: 373 South Terrybrook Court, Cornelius, Oregon 97113.

Barl Cooper, daughter of **HAROLD (MAT) MATSON, 86TH CHEMICAL MORTAR BATTALION, COMPANY B,** writes to tell us of a website she maintains for the 86th: <http://web.mac.com/barbcooper/iWeb/Site/Welcome.html>.

"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



TANK BATTALION ESCAPES ST. VITH TRAP

By Meron J. Thompson
9th Armored Division
14th Tank Battalion

After participating in combat action night and day from December 17-23, 1944, in the vicinity of St. Vith, Belgium, we received an order on the morning of December 23rd to withdraw from the area to a line set up by the 82nd Airborne Division

We had been in St. Vith four or five days before I realized that there was a general attack other than the combat in our area. I heard on BBC radio that the brightest spot on the whole front was at St. Vith to my surprise. Then, I realized there were attacks up and down the line.

On the morning of December 23, 1944, about 5:30, I heard orders on the radio and the plans and orders by which we should disengage and withdraw from the area.

I understand at this time that Combat Command was using our 14th Tank Battalion Headquarters as its command post since it was not safe to have the company commanders meet at CCB Headquarters to receive orders because the enemy was in the whole area.

The order was for my Company C to lead the 1st platoon under Lt Morrison's leading. We withdrew to an area to the west and to a line being held by the 82nd Airborne.

We expected to have a little rest that night but, after servicing our tanks, gassing up and cleaning our guns and eating a warm meal, we received orders to move out shortly after dark. Again, the 3rd platoon was leading. I did not know our destination at that time but on the way we met a Colonel Swift, who flagged us down and asked to speak to the commanding officer who was directly behind the 3rd platoon. This was Lt. Col Engeman, who commanded the 14th Tank Battalion.

Swift told Engeman who he was and that he had orders from Corp Headquarters to get any outfit he could find and use them. He told our CO could get authentication by radio from headquarters. Swift then wanted our CO to give orders to the leading platoon leader, Lt. Morrison.

Swift told Morrison that the Germans had broken through with Tiger tanks and SS panzer grenadiers. He ordered to go to a village and set up a road block to stop the Germans.

We arrived at the village, set up the roadblock and waited all night with no action. We were still there at noon on December 24th.

Sometime after lunch, Lt. Morrison told me he had orders to support the 82nd Airborne in the village they were trying to recapture. Later that afternoon, we moved forward in a line with Lt. Morrison on the extreme right and my tanks on the extreme left. As we moved in this formation, we received orders from Lt. Morrison to turn left 90 degrees. We were then in a column with my tank leading and Lt. Morrison bringing up the rear. Three tanks were between us.

We had moved a short distance when I received the first hit which was on the barrel of my tank gun. The second one hit the motor, the third was underneath my feet. Then I heard the

explosion of shells in our ammunition. That is when I gave the order to bail out.

As we got out, I saw three other tanks being hit consecutively--that is all the other tanks except that of Lt. Morrison. There was a small ravine and all the men gathered there with me. I gave the order for the men to scatter out and make it back to our lines.

All, four tanks were knocked out. I was the only one wounded in a tank. My gunner was wounded after he left our tank. In withdrawal, I was on the extreme right, came to an 82nd Airborne position and they evacuated me to the hospital.

When the first round hit my tank gun, small fragments of the AP shell hit me in the face and numbed it. I had not shaved for several days and the blood from the wounds froze on my face. Even though only slightly wounded, I had the appearance of having been through a sausage grinder.

The sun appeared on December 24th. This was the first day the air force came out in mass formation. I think they were bombing Manhay. There were so many airplanes and so many groups that I could not attempt to count them.

As for our physical condition, we were very tired, having no sleep nor rest for some time. We were not particularly hungry since we were given two hotcakes with a spoonful of jam and lukewarm coffee that morning.

I was evacuated by the 82nd AB medics as was my gunner, Leo Sobrisiki, who had also been wounded. Our own company did not know what happened to us with the result that we were carried as missing in action for a while.

I was evacuated to Liege, Belgium, and then to the first General Hospital in Paris, arriving on January 1, 1945. I returned to my tank company and was wounded again seriously on April 12 and remained in the hospital for more than two years. My platoon leader, Lt. Morrison, was killed in action on April 19, 1945.

ADDENDUM

In his account of this combat action in which four tanks were knocked out, he reported he was wounded and evacuated by medics of the 82nd AB but this was not known by his Company C commander nor by the 14th Tank Battalion Headquarters. As a result, the following telegram resulted:

"Govt-WUX Washington DC Jan 13, 13 100 rP. Mrs. Katherine B. Thompson, Route 1, Jacksonville, Ala Rte Anniston. The Secretary of War desires me to express deep regret that your husband Staff Sergeant Meron J. Thompson has been reported missing in action since 24 December in Belgium. If further details or information are received you will be promptly notified--Dunlop Acting Adjutant General."

But a second message followed later:

"Washington DC 251A Jn 21, 1945. Mrs. Katherine B Thompson (sic). Reference my telegram thirtyth Jany, and a letter of fifteen January report now received your husband stall (sic) Sgt. Meron J. Thompson was slightly wounded in action twenty four Dec in Belgium and is not missing in action as previously reported. Mail address follows direct from hospital with details, J. A. Ulic, The Adjutant General."

Submitted by Dee Paris

38TH CAVALRY SQUADRON AT MONSCHAU

From Wes Ross
146th Engineer Combat Battalion

At 1520 hours on 16 December, Colonel Pattillo from V-Corps called Major Baker, the S-3 of the 246th ECB, and ordered a company of engineers to be immediately attached to the 38th Cavalry Squadron at Monschau, that was at the northern shoulder of the Bulge, and just north of the 3rd Battalion, 395th Regiment, 99th Infantry Division, who managed to hold their ground during the Bulge, even though the remainder of the 99th Division was badly chewed up. A Company, 146th ECB, was in the line at 1700 that evening.

For several days this small force--including 3rd Platoon, A Company, 112th ECB--and attached 105mm and 155mm artillery fought off several attacks by vastly superior enemy forces. Several times artillery fire was called onto their own friendly positions to thwart these attacks. Canister rounds were used with devastating effect, when they were about to be overrun. For their stout defense, all three units were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation--the nation's highest unit award. The 38th was the only mechanized cavalry unit to be so honored in WWII--according to the publication *Cavalry on the Shoulder*.

The battlefield success of the 38th Cavalry Squadron in the Bulge was due to a number of elements, including a seasoned cadre that had fought from Normandy; but probably most important was their commanding officer--Lt. Col. Robert O'Brien--a 1936 West Point cavalry graduate. He was fanatical in his dedication to patrolling the area forward of his lines--to the extent that the 38th eventually came to "own the area" between the fronts! Initially, this was not the case, but came to pass after several fierce firefights that inflicted heavy casualties on enemy patrols.

The following recounting of the Monschau defense by the 38th Cavalry Squadron is from *Cavalry on the Shoulder*:

"An example of the quick and deadly fights initiated by patrols is the instance at the end of October 1944, when a B Troop patrol lead by First LT. Weldon J. Yontz, fought a sharp action against a German patrol in the thick pine forests of the Ardennes. The cavalry point man, Pvt. Herbert H. Whittard, spotted the enemy first and motioned the cavalrymen into position to spring an ambush. Waiting in cover, the cavalry troopers engaged the enemy patrol at close range that killed or wounded all 22 of them.

"Prisoners later revealed that this enemy patrol was hand-picked from the reconnaissance company of the opposing German infantry regiment. This type of aggressive action was repeated often in the Monschau sector, causing enemy patrols to avoid contact and allowing cavalry patrols to make increasingly detailed reconnaissance reports and sketches of enemy positions. More importantly, it left the German commanders ignorant of the details of the cavalry's defensive positions.

"The preparation of the defense at Monschau may rank as one of the most thorough defenses by an American battalion-size unit in U.S. Army history. The cavalry men, taking stock of their equipment, time available, and the aggressive spirit of the troopers, quickly established the defense which made maximum

use of all available assets. The defense was unique in many respects. First, the establishment of patrol dominance denied the enemy detailed knowledge of the squadron's disposition and strength. Thus any attacking enemy would be forced to guess where the units were deployed, and where the squadron was weak and where it was strong.

"A second aspect of the defense was the unusual attention to ensuring integrated command, control and communications. To this end the squadron employed 16 radio nets, incorporating over 60 radios. The high number of radios--several times the number found in an infantry battalion--supplemented a remarkable wire communications system consisting of 65 telephone, 50 miles of telephone wire, and six switchboards. The wire command and control system integrated all squads, platoons, troops, and supporting artillery, into a single web.

"This effort is even more amazing, considering the fact that the squadron was not authorized communication specialists. The system was designed to function, even if a portion of it were destroyed. It also permitted very small units, in some cases individual four-man machine gun positions and two-man artillery observer teams, to continue to function and receive orders even when cut off from their immediate headquarters. In addition, all of the wire was buried deep to protect it from enemy infiltrators, accidental cuts, and enemy artillery fire. Finally, the entire wire system was duplicated, so that each line had a back-up in the event of failure. This communication system would prove essential to the coordinated defense across such a large sector of front (about six miles) by so small a unit.

"The third unique factor which characterized the defense of Monschau, was the extremely precise and effective positioning of the available weapons, obstacles, and units. Machine guns were one of the keys to the defense. The 38th Cavalry dismounted .50 caliber and .30 caliber machine guns from the terrain surrounding the town. The weapons were carefully positioned, so as to provide interlocking grazing fire along all of the likely enemy avenues of approach. They were further tied into obstacles of concertina wire and personnel mines along likely avenues of approach. In addition, extensive use was made of trip flares to provide early warning of the enemy's approach. Flares were preferred because they prevented friendly casualties in case of mistakes, and they did not give the false sense of security associated with extensive minefields.

"All of the weapons were dug in, with overhead cover to survive artillery attack, and they were carefully concealed so that an attacking enemy had to literally be on the position to recognize it as a machinegun position. Finally, the positions were integrated into the squadron command and control telephone net. A final point on the preparation of the Monschau defense was a typical characteristic of defense common to the U.S. Army--the thorough integration and abundance of artillery support--105mm and 155mm howitzers, augmented by their organic 60mm and 81mm mortars.

"The effectiveness of the artillery support was later verified by a German prisoner of war. He reported that German troops in the Monschau sector were forbidden to leave their bunkers and foxholes during the hours of daylight. The German troops were reduced to observing their sectors through the use of mirrors, in order not to attract rapid and deadly artillery fire. This dedicated defensive preparation was tested at 0545 on the morning of 16 December 1944, when the intense German artillery barrage announced the start of the Battle of the Bulge." ■

PARKER'S CROSSROADS

Submitted by **Randolph C. Pierson**
589th Field Artillery Battalion
106th Infantry Division

Note from Randy: *Being a member of the 106th Infantry Division during the Battle of the Bulge was not pleasant regardless of your assignment. As a T/4, I worked in the 589th FA Battalion Fire Direction Center. Major Arthur C. Parker, III, the Battalion S-3, was my big boss.*

The intent of this fully documented article is intended to explain the relationship with "The Battle for Parker's Crossroads" and the historical military analysis of "The Alamo Defense." This article is not intended to de-emphasize the importance of other heroic defenses which happened during the Battle of the Bulge which are now erroneously depicting these defenses as an "Alamo Defense."

For your information, I have enclosed two historical documents. I also have the Raymond analysis of "The Alamo Defense," and the German SS Panzer Officer After Action Report in my military library which I cannot locate. This article was requested by several of your readers who wish the record to be correct. I sincerely hope you will publish this article.

The Battle for Parker's Cross Roads

For more than 2,500 years, military leaders have pondered one simple question: What motivates some men to stand and fight, while others run, or become immobilized by fear? In 1993 a military historian, Mr. Richard Raymond, III, at the Artillery School in Fort Sill, Oklahoma, addressed this issue with an award winning analysis entitled "The Alamo Defense." In his analysis Mr. Raymond chose two famous historical battles, the heroic battle of Thermopile, fought in 480 BC, the battle at the Alamo which was fought in Texas in 1836, and the little known 5-day WWII battle for Parker's Crossroads, fought in December 1944 at Baraque de Fraiture, Belgium, during the Battle of the Bulge.

My interest in Mr. Raymond's analysis of the "Alamo Defense" is very personal. I fought during the entire 5-day battle and never thought I would survive the ever-increasing pressure of over-whelming enemy attacks and/or the deadly cold of horrible weather.

This holding action began on 19 December 1944, my 21st birthday. The stated purpose of this holding action was to deny the use of the main highway, which ran from Bastogne to Antwerp, by the two reinforced German SS 2nd and SS 9th Panzer Divisions, during the Bulge. This main route supported the German objectives of driving a wedge between the British and U.S. Armies, and also establishing a much-needed seaport to the North Sea.

Orders were issued to Major Arthur C. Parker, III, Acting Commanding Officer, 589th FA Bn, 106th Infantry Division. The mission, "Hold this ground as long as humanly possible."

When this order was received, the 589th, a once proud and well-trained battalion, with some 500 men and officers, and equipped with twelve 105mm howitzers, had already been reduced to 100 men and three howitzers by combat attrition. I could not understand the importance of given mission because I

did not know how important it was to the German high command to use this highway through Liege and Brussels to get to the needed seaport City of Antwerp.

Fortunately, for the Allies, Majors Parker and Elliott Goldstein understood the importance of denying this highway to the enemy. After their reconnoitered the area, they setup our defensive positions and decided to "Stand Here and Fight."

The German attacks of the defenders at Baraque de Fraiture increased steadily each day, in numbers and violence for five days and four nights. The weather did not help--it was miserable, sleet ice and snow, with temperatures hovering around zero. On the fifth day, 23 December, the 589th defenders were down to about 40 men and no howitzers. Ammunition was scarce, food was low, and resupply was not possible. German units had us completely surrounded.

The afternoon of 23 December, Captain George Huxel, the Asst S-3, the only officer left standing, advised each enlisted man that the situation here is hopeless. That we have given our best, and each man had to make his own decision. "Try to escape through the German encirclement, and reach ground near Manhay, Belgium, held by the 82nd Airborne Division, or remain and be killed or captured." He also added, "I am going to try to escape," and offered to lead the group who wanted to leave. After making my decision to leave, I made another decision. I felt I had a better chance of surviving, by myself, than with Captain Huxel and his group.

My escape was a disaster! I was wounded, and later captured, the night of 23 December by members of the German 2nd SS Panzer Division. Interrogated by a German Intelligence Major on the 24th. This terrifying experience lasted for more than three hours, while he played "Good Guy/Bad Guy" to keep me off balance. I tried my best to convince him that I had no strategic information for him. At the end of my interrogation, he asked: "Why did you fight so hard at Baraque de Fraiture? Do you hate the Germans so much?" My answer was very calculated, "I don't hate the Germans, but your men were trying to kill me." He smiled, and then he asked, "Sergeant have any personal concerns?"

Without hesitation, I answered, "Yes, Sir! First, are you going to have me killed? Second, my wounded leg and frozen feet need medical attention. And, third, I have not eaten in two days."

With out comment, the SS Major summoned a huge SS sergeant and terminated the interrogation with these orders in German. "I have given my word that this young American sergeant will now be executed. His wounds and feet need medical attention. Give him what food we can spare. Sergeant, he is now your responsibility." As I was leaving his tent, the German major turned to me and in English told me, "Sergeant Pierson, I hope you survive this ugly war. If you do, I advise you to finish your college education." I saluted my thanks and never saw the man again.

Late 23 December afternoon, an 82nd Airborne Division trooper and I were being guarded by a wounded SS corporal as we walked to a POW collection center. To my surprise, the trooper suddenly bent over as if in pain, the guard approached him, and the trooper dropped the SS guard with a vicious right hand upper-cut. I caught the German's rifle as it flew into the air, out of his hands, and pinned him to the frozen ground with a vicious bayonet thrust through his chest. The trooper and I

(Continued)

PARKER'S CROSS ROADS (Continuation)

instantly broke into a hard run for the fast and snowy Ardennes forest. He in one direction and I in another.

The morning of 24 December I was captured by an 82nd Airborne Division intelligence patrol, while asleep in a haystack. I say captured, not rescued, because I was treated like a German soldier dressed in an American uniform. Later, I was court-martialed and told I would be shot. But that is another story!

With all due respect to the heroic stands of the 101st Airborne Division at Bastogne, and the 99th Division's five-hour "Alamo Defense" in the Ardennes, they do not qualify as an "Alamo Defense" according to the criteria historian Richard Raymond established for an "Alamo Defense." Our stand at "Parker's Cross Roads" does.

Mr. Raymond concludes his analysis with these facts. The 589th FA Battalion was awarded the French Croix de Guerre for these gallant actions during the Battle of the Bulge. Unfortunately the U.S. Government did not recognize this gallant effort. However, our government did award Major Arthur C. Parker, III, the Silver Star for what Mr. Raymond described as a clear "Medal of Honor" performance. I was there and fully agree with Mr. Raymond's conclusion!

In a German Army after action report, a high ranking SS Panzer commander wrote that he had participated in many violent battles on the Northern Front in Russia, but the defense at Baraque de Fraiture, Belgium, in December 1944, was the most violent he had experienced in his extensive combat career.

In a letter of Major Parker, dated July 2, 1980, from Lieutenant General James M. Gavin, former commander of the 82nd Airborne Division, said, and I quote: "That stand your defenders made at the crossroads was one of the greatest actions of the war."

General Gavin should know. The 5-day holding action by the 589th FA Battalion bought enough time for General Gavin to re-deploy enough American forces to stop the German advance short of Liege in January 1945.

This short statement by General Gavin "Says It All." □



Sledges in the Ardennes. On the left snow camouflaged soldiers pull supplies up to the forward area of battle in the Ardennes, while at the right, medics pull wounded over the snow on sledge litters to the rear and safety.

WRONG INSIGNIA USED FOR 17TH AIRBORNE DIVISION

Submitted by Isaac Epps
Proud Son of Rev. Ralph Epps
17th Airborne Division
194th Glider Infantry Regiment
AT

On the cover of the August, 2008, issue, there is mention of the 17th Airborne article about Dead Man's Ridge.

My issue is that you displayed a 101st Airborne patch by the story. It surely would have done those proud 17th troopers good to see their beloved "Talon" there instead; as it properly should have been.

The 17th Airborne Division has gone largely unrecognized when considering WWII history. The division had four Medal of Honor recipients; more than any airborne unit; and performed valiantly at the Bulge.

Two-and-a-half months later, the 17th spearheaded the largest airborne drop in history; across the Rhine into heavily fortified Germany. On 24 March, 1945, Operation Varsity proved to be the bloodiest day in airborne history.

Because of the the heavy casualties that late in the war, the "powers that be" decided not to make such of that fateful day. Word has it that they didn't want to embarrass British General Montgomery, who planned the operation. When it is mentioned that Varsity might not have been necessary, you get a look from those steely, old eyes that says, "Back off that crap, buddy!" Troopers from the 17th lost friends and sustained wounds that still affect their lives today.

As their ranks rapidly diminished, I take any opportunity to say thanks to those brave warriors for their sacrifices. It would have done them proud to see their patch by their story.

Thank you again for your publication, and for what you do to honor WWII veterans. I offer a special thanks to all WWII veterans for saving the world, and I pray for their peace and happiness.

[While this article did not deal specifically with the Bulge, we felt we owed the 17th Airborne an apology. Our mistake was not intentional. We honor all who served.] □

Everything, everything in war is barbaric. . . . But the worst barbarity of war is that it forces men collectively to commit acts against which individually they would revolt with their whole being. —ELLEN KEY, *War, Peace and the Future*

The Talon



A CHRISTMAS THAT WASN'T CHRISTMAS

May A. Alm
104th Evacuation Hospital

What was I doing on December 25, 1944?

The setting was in Luxembourg and I was a nurse in the 104th Evacuation Hospital. The day was cloudy and bitter cold. The ground was frozen and covered with snow. There was a feeling of foreboding. I was in the middle of a war! Earlier in the month, a cadre from our unit, which was then based in Nancy, France, had been sent to seek out a site near Metz. Then, on December 16th, the word came of the German last ditch stand in the Ardennes.

Our unit arrived in Luxembourg late in the day, around 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve having been transported by convoy from Nancy. As usual, the nurses rode in the ambulances. Later on, rumor that it had a vehicle had been blown up on the way but it was never confirmed.

As soon as we arrived, the setup began immediately as the casualties came pouring in. Our setup didn't take long to be in full operation! We were extremely busy caring for the wounded. Rest was forgotten. There were no helicopter deliveries--only ambulances and litters strapped to jeeps to carry the wounded. The receiving area, triage, was soon inundated and surgery became a very busy place. Alone with three wonderful corpsmen, we kept the gas-fired autoclaves running constantly so necessary supplies were kept ready for the surgeons as they donned their "beanies" and rubber gloves to repair the various wounds. Belly wounds, face wounds, and amputations took priority.

Chow time that night consisted of C-rations--the cooks were the last to set up--eaten by flashlight in the dark. The table was the nearest crate available--wherever we could find a place. There was no separation by rank since all were in fatigues but as I entered a darkened tent to sit on a box while I ate, one of the corpsmen said: "Cut it, fellas, there's a lady in here." It's hard to say what they had been talking about before that. I don't know how they knew I was a different gender as I was in fatigues and helmet like they were. Then a light was shone on my face from one of their flashlights.

I must have been relieved for a little rest but I don't remember sleeping that night. I was on duty all Christmas Day. No one had time to mention Christmas on that terrible Sunday. We ate C-rations in lieu of Christmas turkey. That continued to be our meals for several days. A Merry Christmas greeting was not heard until a few days later when the work slackened somewhat and the cooks were able to prepare a great turkey dinner.

Our unit was setup in what had been an old peoples and orphans home. The old people had been transferred to other accommodations but the orphans (at least 400 were left in their building). While still in Nancy, packages from home had arrived for us containing Christmas candy and other small items. In Luxembourg, when work had simmered down somewhat in the hospital, we collected things from these packages and gave them to the children. Those of us not on duty went to church services where a Christmas message from General Patton was read to us. Our prayers were for the weather to clear so the planes could come in and relieve to some extent, the men who were giving so much in the bitter cold and snow. ■

HUBERT

by SGT. DICK WINGERT



"Hey! Guess what day it is!"

REUNIONS

2ND ARMORED DIVISION, September 23-26, 2009, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. For further information write: 2nd Armored Division, 4065 Post Oak Place, Suite 210, Houston, Texas 77027.

4TH INFANTRY DIVISION, July 20-26, 2009, St. Louis, Missouri. Contact: Don Kelby. Telephone: 314-606-1969.

5TH ARMORED DIVISION, August 13-16, 2009, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. Contact: Will Cook, 16471 Nottingham Dr, Wapakoneta, OH 45895-9471. Phone: 419-739-9677.

30TH INFANTRY DIVISION, March 26-29, 2009, Charleston, South Carolina. Contact: 30th INFD, 2915 W SR #235, Brooker, Florida 32622-5167.

78TH INFANTRY DIVISION, August 13-16, 2009, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Contact: Tom Streicher, 2411 Cambridge Court, Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania 16066. Phone: 724-772-4466.

501TH PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT, July 1-5, 2009, Kansas City, Missouri. Contact: Jana Jansen, 1304 Holly Court, Liberty, Missouri 64068. Phone: (Cell) 816-546-6671.

"Peace upon earth!" was said. We sing it,
And pay a million priests to bring it.
After two thousand years of mass
We've got as far as poison-gas.

—THOMAS HARDY, "Christmas: 1924"

2008 ST PATRICK'S PARADE

Sun, 15 March 2009

11 :30 AM

Washington DC Mall

VBOBers Invited to March

We didn't get invited to march in the Inauguration Parade this year, but once again we have been invited to march in the St Patrick's Parade in Washington DC.. Get your marching shoes shined! Our National Organization and all Chapters have been invited to march in our Nation's St Patrick's Parade, down Constitution Avenue from 7th to 17th Streets NW, in our Nation's Capital on Sunday, 15 March 2009.

We will gather outside the old Smithsonian Castle, on the Mall Side (Jefferson Drive). Look for the VBOB Flag and WWII vehicles and uniforms. Please wear an overseas cap and your medals or ribbons.

Vehicles will be available for the walking wounded, furnished by the Military Collectors Society, however as many of you as feel up to marching are asked to show the younger generations how it is done.

We especially would like to have marchers to show the crowd that you Bulge Veterans still have alot of kick. The march is about one mile, down Constitution Avenue NW. Nothing like those five mile or twenty mile hikes that you so enjoyed. Each year that we have marched we have had continuous applause from the crowd along the whole parade route, something no other unit other than our active duty troops has sustained. We have now won five trophies.

So put your caps on and wear your medals, and if you can still get into your uniform, please wear it, as it really is a crowd pleaser. We must replace Moe Schulman and Warren Chase who were our faithful banner carriers, who passed away this past year

Please contact our Secretary, John Bowen, at 301-384-6533, or johnbowen@earthlink.net for further information about marching and the parade and getting to the parade.

In battles won and battles lost
There always is an awful cost,
In lives of men, pain, brief and woe
That victor and the vanquished know.

If only wars need not be fought
And power and conquest never sought,
But nations strive to seek and find
A lasting peace for all mankind.

Harold F. Mohn — Charter Member, VBOB

ARE YOUR DUES DUE?

Military Punishment

A US Air Force C - 130 was scheduled to leave Thule Air base, Greenland , at midnight. During the pilot's preflight check, he discovers that the latrine holding tank is still full from the last flight. So a message is sent to the base and an airman who was off duty is called out to take care of it.

The young man finally gets to the air base and makes his way to the aircraft only to find that the latrine pump truck has been left outdoors and is frozen solid, so he must find another one in the hanger, which takes even more time. He returns to the aircraft and is less than enthusiastic about what he has to do. Nevertheless, he goes about the pumping job deliberately and carefully (and Slowly) so as not to risk criticism later. As he's leaving the plane, the pilot stops him and says, "Son, your attitude and performance has caused this flight to be late and I'm going to personally see to it that you are not just reprimanded but punished."

Shivering in the cold, his task finished, he takes a deep breath, stands up tall and says, "Sir, with all due respect, I'm not your son; I'm an Airman of the United States Air Force. I've been in Thule, Greenland, for 11 months without any leave, and reindeer's asses are beginning to look pretty good to me. I have one stripe; it's two-thirty in the morning, the temperature is 40 degrees below zero, and my job here is to pump shit out of an aircraft..

Now, just exacty what form of punishment did you have in mind?"



"...AND FURTHERMORE, MEIN FUEHRER BESIDES SAYING 'NUTS TO OUR DEMAND TO SURRENDER, HE HAD A PECULIAR SUGGESTION AS WHAT YOU COULD DO WITH OUR SURRENDER DEMANDS."

HARRY W.O. KINNARD II, 93

WWII, Vietnam Action Highlighted Career

By JOE HOLLEY
Washington Post Staff Writer

Lt. Gen. Harry W.O. Kinnard II, who died Jan. 5 at his home in Arlington County, was a West Point graduate whose decades-long military career stretched from World War II to Vietnam, but he was most often associated with one word that became instant legend. The word was "nuts," the reply to a German surrender ultimatum during the crucial Battle of the Bulge.

Gen. Kinnard, 93, died of complications of Parkinson's disease.

In 1944, then-Col. Kinnard was a 29-year-old assistant chief of staff to Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe, commander of the 101st Airborne "Screaming Eagle" Division. When the German army launched a last-ditch attack in the Ardennes Forest on Dec. 16, the 101st was rushed into the Belgian town of Bastogne to defend the intersection of five strategic roads. Two days later, the division, outnumbered by more than 4 to 1, found itself surrounded by German tanks and infantry. The Americans were unprepared for fighting in the bitter cold and were pounded relentlessly by artillery. Their situation seemed hopeless.

On Dec. 22, the Germans sent two officers and two noncommissioned officers into Bastogne with a white flag and Lt. Gen. Heinrich von Luttwitz's typewritten demand that U.S. forces surrender, the "one possibility" of saving American troops from "total annihilation."

McAuliffe's instinctive response was to laugh and exclaim, "Us surrender? Aw, nuts!" He told his staff that he wasn't sure how to respond officially and asked for suggestions.

"That first remark of yours would be hard to beat," Col. Kinnard told him, and other staff members enthusiastically agreed. McAuliffe then called in a typist and dictated: "To the German Commander: Nuts!" and signed it, "The American Commander."

The American soldiers who escorted the German emissaries back to their lines had to explain that "Nuts!" was the equivalent of "Go to hell."

In the early morning of Christmas Day, the 101st Division repulsed a German assault. The siege of Bastogne ended when U.S. forces attacking from the south joined the 101st.

Harry William Osborn Kinnard II was born in Dallas and was raised in an Army family. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1939 and was a member of the Hawaiian Division



Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe, left, and then-Col. Harry W.O. Kinnard II at Bastogne, where a German surrender demand got a memorable response. General Kinnard, at left, retired from the Army in 1969.



when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. As a platoon leader in the 27th Infantry "Wolfhound" Regiment, he commanded a machine gun nest on Waikiki Beach

in anticipation of a Japanese land assault.

He parachuted into Normandy overnight on June 5-6, 1944, and took command of the 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment. He was battalion commander during the airborne invasion of Holland later in the year.

After the war, he headed the Airborne Test Section at Fort Bragg, N.C. While at Fort Bragg, he was technical adviser on the war movie "Battleground" (1949), the Oscar-winning account of the 101st at Bastogne directed by William Wellman.

Gen. Kinnard was assigned to the Pentagon in 1958 and served at the National War College and as executive to the secretary of the Army.

In 1963, he took command of the 11th Air Assault Division (Test) at Fort Benning, Ga., and was credited with developing a quicker way of getting troops into combat.

As commander of the First Cavalry Division (Airmobile) in November 1965, he

led the troops in the Army's first major engagement of the Vietnam War, the Battle of the Ia Drang Valley. He later served in Vietnam as commander of 1st Field Force and as assistant deputy chief of staff for force development.

He retired from the Army in 1969. His awards include the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star Medal and the Silver Star.

After his retirement, he was a consultant on Army aviation and served as president of the Army Aviation Association. In 1974, he was one of the first seven inductees into the Army Aviation Hall of Fame.

He was a champion tennis player as a young man. He played golf into his 80s and shot his age at 82, 85 and 86.

Gen. Kinnard's son Bruce Kinnard died in 2007.

His marriage to Eppe Ann Kinnard ended in divorce.

Survivors include his wife of 25 years, Elizabeth "Libby" Kinnard of Arlington; five children from his first marriage, Susan C. Payson and Robert H. Kinnard, both of Prescott, Ariz., Kathleen L. Coursey of Stockton, Calif., Cynthia L. Harman of Lexington, S.C., and Harry W. O. Kinnard III of Gainesville, Fla.; three stepchildren from his second marriage, Libby Nicholson of San Clemente, Calif., Janmarie N. Hall of Hamilton, Va., and Tom Nicholson of Augusta, Ga.; 16 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR DUES ARE DUE. WHERE???
ABOVE LAST NAME ON LABEL.

FLORIDA SE CHAPTER HOLDS BoB OBSERVANCE

Chapter President George Fisher advises us that his chapter had 292 in attendance at the December 14, 2008, observance of the commencement of the Battle of the Bulge. George always does a super job with this observance which is known as "The Christmas We Never Had." ▣

ON THE INTERNET? INTERESTED IN DOGS DURING WWII?

If interested go to www.dobertoons.org.

A LITTLE HUMOR

A spaceship from outer-space landed on our earth. One of the first things they did was capture an adult man earthling. They examined him from head to foot. One alien said to the other: "Hum, he's made out of some cheap materials, I don't think he can last more than a hundred years."

[Sent in by *EUGENE W. JENISTA, 555 AAA BATTALION, COMPANY D.* Eugene comments, "Boy, is that ever true." ▣

RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER MONUMENT



Manny also reports the chapter had a very successful Macaroni dinner on December 13th. ▣

Military Police Memorial

There is now a memorial to those who served as military police at Fort Leonardwood, Missouri. There is a Memorial Grove with a memorial walk. It consists of bricks donated in the memory of fallen and past military policemen from various divisions. ▣

LONG ARTICLES

We have a terrible time working in articles we receive that are just so long we have to hold them--there simply isn't room.

We do not have the authority nor the time to try to condense them.

So whatever you sent, try to limit it to one memorable day or event and it stands a chance of being used quicker.

We have quite a few long ones on hand. ▣

Our God and soldiers we alike adore
Ev'n at the brink of danger; not before:
After deliverance, both alike requited,
Our God's forgotten, and our soldiers slighted.

—FRANCIS QUARLES, *Emblems*

MANNY RIBEIRO, 11TH ARMORED DIVISION, sent us the following picture of a monument his chapter erected at the American Leagon Post #8, in Barrington, Rhode Island.

2009 VBOB Reunion Tucson, Az

Dates – 10/6 – 10/11/09
Hotel – The Arizona Hotel
Room rate - \$101/night
includes all taxes and:

- * Daily full breakfast
- * Transportation to and from the airport
- * Parking at the hotel
- * Margarita reception 10/6/09



Sightseeing attractions:

- * PIMA air and space museum
- * Saguaro National Park
- * Titan Missile Museum
- * Old Tucson Studios
- * El Presidio Park – VBOB Memorial



Complete details will be included in the May issue of the Bulge Bugle



VBOB MEDALLION

Have you ordered your lovely VBOB Medallion shown below. This beautiful large Medallion of the VBOB Logo Emblem, in enameled colors, is two inches in diameter and comes with a thirty-two inch ribbon in ETO Campaign colors for hanging round your neck.

These Medallions also have been used quite attractively in shadow boxes along with your medals, ribbons, insignia, rank and what have you to personalize your shadow box.

They are available from the VBOB Quartermaster at \$25.00 plus shipping & handling. Please see the VBOB Quartermaster Order Form in this issue of the Bugle. Hurry before they are sold out again.



On August 29th, 1944, the 28th Division marched in Paris to commemorate the liberation of that city by the French two days before. The 28th Inf. Div. was the first American division to enter Paris since 1918.



A special postage stamp was issued in honor of this event and it was taken from the photograph above.



FROM BILL MAULDIN'S ARMY

"Th' krauts ain't followin' ya so good on 'Lili Marlene' tonight, Joe. Ya think maybe somethin' happened to their tenor?"

ARE YOUR DUES DUE?

CHECK BACK PAGE

Christmas, 1944: Battle of the Bulge

By Peter N. Russo

Badly mauled during the Battle of the Hurtgen Forest, the Fourth Division, my division, was ordered to Luxembourg for resupply and a much-needed rest. The Fourth Division was one of the spearheads of the D-Day Normandy Invasion on June 6, 1944. The division had fought the Battle of the Hedgerows en route to the Port of Cherbourg. It had spearheaded the breakout from St. Lo and raced to liberate Paris. The Fourth had breached the Siegfried Line in Germany, and was then dispatched to the Hurtgen Forest.

In Luxembourg, the artillery battery received new truck-drawn 105 mm howitzers in trade for its worn self-propelled. The men were able to shower, and a few troop replacements were integrated. All were treated to a hot meal. This rest period was short-lived, however, and ended early on December 16, 1944, when a fire mission was sounded in the wee morning hours. The fire mission was for 300 rounds covering a 270 degree perimeter, leaving only a free rear.

The German drive, later known as the Battle of the Bulge, struck our depleted infantry line in Luxembourg. Orders for weapons destruct preceded the fire mission. Complete encirclement by German forces was expected. Somehow, our infantrymen held the superior German force in check. The destruct order was called off, and continued fire missions were called upon the enemy.

Christmas Eve found our gun battery in contact with the retreating enemy when the halt order was sounded. Darkness was approaching, and provisions for the upcoming hot Christmas dinner needed to be complete before nightfall. We settled the four 105mm field howitzers in a field of snow and mud midway between the roadway and a farmhouse up the slope. The farmhouse would be our dining area on Christmas Day.

Inspection of the field position left much to be desired concerning the safety of the men and equipment. The best cover would be a two-log cover for the field pieces. Digging in was impossible because of the frozen ground. The slope and the farmhouse were declared off-limits, guards were posted, and the crew was left to the confines of their weapons. Cold, snow, and frozen mud would be our bed companions this Christmas Eve.

The night was dark and overcast as the tired men bedded down in the snow. As Christmas Eve ever so slowly drifted into Christmas Day, the moon broke through the clouds and cast a blanket of soft light on the winter landscape. But a few hours into this holiest of days, the peace and serenity were abruptly shattered.

Suddenly, we found our position bombarded by incoming enemy artillery. The accuracy of the enemy fire immediately inflicted heavy casualties. The pinging of hot enemy shell fragments brought about a steady echo of cries from the wounded whom called out for "Doc."

Doc arrived in short order and set about his tasks. Then an unexpected cry for help came from the restricted slope. Doc set off in the direction the call had come from. A few seconds passed, then a cry from Doc himself was heard. I scanned the faces of my men, and knew I could not ask any out.

I climbed onto the slope and began a crawl toward the two men. I was relieved to find that Doc was not hurt, but needed help to carry the wounded man back to the safety of the gun position. I took hold of one of the man's arms. Doc took the other and we began to crawl back.

When we returned from the slope, Doc called for a covering so that he could examine and treat the wounded man. As before, I could not bring myself to order anyone to make the hazardous run to the truck for the tarp. We fashioned a cover from two raincoats and flung it over Doc and the injured soldier.

Moments later, Doc's arm extended from beneath the makeshift cover to motion me in. As I slid under the cover, my eyes followed the narrow beam of a penlight. The light exposed the wounded soldier's almost-severed foot. Little more than two inches of skin held the foot to the ankle. "Hold while I tape," was the word from Doc. I placed the leg on my lap and applied pressure as Doc poured in sulfur and taped the foot together.

The call went out to the Aid Jeep, and it came in an instant. The stretchers were filled with wounded. Doc and I lifted our man into the back seat. Doc signaled the driver to the rear, but the driver motioned me to the other back seat, thinking I was wounded. Doc and I smiled when we looked at my bloodied uniform. We were about to wave the driver off when another soldier came running, holding a blood-soaked towel to his chin. Doc pulled the

hand and towel away from the chin to look. Part of the chin was cut away, so Doc placed the hand and towel back as we lifted this man into the back seat. The driver sped off. Doc ran to another cry for help and I fell to my knees and threw up.

Later, the division was in pursuit once again, and casualties were low. Doc came to visit and fill me in on the aftermath of that Christmas Day. "The guy with the foot is on his way home," was the report. "He will walk with a limp," Doc concluded. Walk with a limp? Hell, I never thought he could survive. More of his blood had soaked into my uniform than had been left in his body. Doc left stating that he did not know the outcome of the chin wound.

The war in Europe is ancient history, yet, I will reflect on Doc every Christmas Day. Doc carried nothing but his Bible and medical kit into each battle. He fired no weapon nor did he kill any of the enemies, yet I rate him the greatest warrior of all.

Peter N. Russo, 91 Summit St., Brooklyn, New York 11231 served with B Battery of the 29th Field Artillery Battalion.

Old Age Needn't Be Affliction

"A Senior Citizen's Lament"

Thought I'd let my doctor check me
'Cause I didn't feel quite right.

All those aches and pains annoyed me,
And I couldn't sleep at night.

He could find no real disorder,
but he wouldn't let it rest.

What with Medicare and Blue Cross
it wouldn't hurt to do some tests.

To the hospital he sent me,
though I didn't feel that bad.

He arranged for them to give me
every test that could be had.

I was fluoroscoped and cystoscoped,
my aging frame displayed,

Stripped upon an ice-cold table
while my gizzards were X-rayed.

I was checked for worms and parasites
for fungus and the crud,

While they pierced me with long needles
taking samples of my blood.

Doctors came to check me over,
probed and pushed and poked around,

And to make sure I was living,
they wired me for sound.

They have finally concluded;
(their results have filled a page)

What I have will someday kill me,

my affliction is OLD AGE. — (Author unknown) — I Remember Mama

COMPUTERS IN BASTOGNE

**THE ONLY BOOK PUBLISHED OF THE IMPORTANCE THAT
COMPUTERS PLAYED IN EUROPE FROM NORMANDY, THE
BATTLE OF THE BULGE TO VE DAY**

A SOLDIER AND IBM MACHINES IN WORLD WAR II



John J. DiMino

From his memoirs written sixty years ago, on the history of his Unit, the 13th Machine Records Unit, John DiMino's Book is an autobiographical story with over 100 of his photos, including those taken in Bastogne, before the Battle, after the battle and those taken on his return to Bastogne, fifty years later of the same location. Pictures and data were also supplied through the courtesy of the IBM Corp. Archives. The 13th Machine Record Unit was awarded five Battle Stars

The sale of this book is a fundraiser.
All proceeds will go to the VBOB.
Contact Author at: jjdsenior@comcast.net

-----Detach and Mail-----

VBOB Order Form
VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, INC.
PO Box 101418
Arlington, VA 22210-4418

Name _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make checks payable to VBOB - \$15.00/Copy includes shipping

LITTLE GROUPS OF YANKS BROKE UP BIG NAZI PUSH

[The following article which appeared in the January 5, 1945, New York Daily News, was sent to us by ORN HIER, 10TH ARMORED DIVISION, 80TH ARMORED MEDICAL BATTALION.]

With the U.S. 3rd Army, January 4. As details of fighting in the early stages of Field Marshal Karl von Rundstedt's breakthrough emerge from a shroud of secrecy imposed by disrupted communications and censorship, it becomes more and more apparent that the initial impetus of the German drive was broken by isolated American units which chose to fight to the last cartridge against overwhelming odds.

It was such a last ditch fight by Major General Raymond O. Barton's 4th Infantry Division and part of Major General William H. H. Morris, Jr.'s, 10th Armored Division which kept the Germans from capturing the City of Luxembourg and its road network over which Lieutenant General George S. Patton later moved his divisions to launch a counterattack. And it was that kind of American resistance that centered around Berdorf, 17 miles northeast of the City of Luxembourg.

Armor Split Up

The 10th Armored was the first 3rd Army unit rushed north to help stem the German tide. By forced march the 10th reached Luxembourg on December 17, the day after the attack opened. There it was split, one part being scattered to the northeast to bolster various units, while the rest rushed toward Bastogne.

Incidentally, it was the 10th Armored which met the German drive head on outside Bastogne, threw it back on its heels and saved the city. The 10th repulsed attack after attack in eight hours of continuous battle before the first elements of the 101st Airborne entered the city and joined in its defense. Ironically, the 101st got credit for the defense of Bastogne because censorship permitted it to be mentioned before the 10th.

Berdorf was nearly encircled the morning of December 18 when two platoons of tanks and two of armored infantry from the 10th drove through heavy artillery fire to reinforce two companies of the 12th Infantry Regiment of the 4th Division, which had been holding out there.

Then for three days this force of about 250 men commanded by Captain Steve Lang, of Chicago, threw back the best the Germans had to offer, killing 350 of the enemy and destroying large numbers of German tanks and armored vehicles, while losing only four dead and one medium tank.

All during the day of the 18th, Lang attempted to attack, but the German pressure and artillery fire was too heavy. That night he set fire to a house at the edge of town, and the light prevented the Germans from infiltrating in the dark hours. The next morning the Germans attacked with artillery and rockets, but in the face of this Lang managed to advance about 350 yards.

Tank Chief Battered

That day Lieutenant John F. Gaynor, of Freeport, Long Island, platoon commander of the 11th Tank Battalion, wore most of the fur off his rabbit's foot. His tank was hit by bazooka fire, setting his machine gun ammunition ablaze, and artillery knocked out his last machine gun.

But under cover of tanks commanded by Sergeant John Shea, of the Bronx, and Sergeant Francis J. Cleary, of Massachusetts, Gaynor pulled back and removed machine guns from a knocked out tank to replace his own.

No sooner were the guns in place when another bazooka shell struck his turret.

All that day the Germans attacked and were beaten off. At 4:30 the next morning, the Germans massed for a surprise attack. Three times they tried. Three times they were pushed back.

Later that morning the Germans struck northeast and west under heavy artillery fire. For an hour and a half the defenders beat back the Germans, and then just as American ammunition was running low, the enemy pulled back to reform.

When Lang called back for supplies and ambulances to evacuate his wounded, he was told he had been cut off from the rear, but later in the day Sergeant James C. Halligan, of New York, broke through with two medium tanks and three half-tracks loaded with supplies. With the half-tracks, he evacuated the wounded.

And at 4:00 that afternoon, Lang ordered a withdrawal if possible. He divided his tanks, guns and half-tracks into four units which left at eight-minute intervals under cover of artillery fire, which also covered the noise of his retreat.

He got his entire force out of town without the Germans knowing it, leaving demolitions and mines to delay the enemy further.

Heavy Guns Go To Work

The Germans didn't discover Bardorf had been evacuated until the next morning, for as soon as Lang had pulled out, the artillery kept pounding it for hours.

By the next morning, however, other American units had dug in on high areas back of the town, further blocking the Germans.

The defense of Berdorf and Echternach, three miles to the southeast, by the 12th Regiment of the 4th Infantry Division stopped the left flank of von Rundstedt's drive preventing him from swinging south and grabbing the rich prize of the City of Luxembourg before stronger units could be thrown into line. ■

DONATIONS APPRECIATED

As you may or may not know, VBOB has never increased the amount of dues for over 15 years. We have purposely avoided this as, quite frankly, many of our members simply are not in a position to afford it. We surely do not want to lose members for that reason.

During this period of time, almost all of our costs have increased: printing costs, postage costs, supplies, etc., etc.

These increases in costs have been offset by the small mark up we have on the Quartermaster items and the Battle of the Bulge Certificates.

As time wears on, we are steadily losing members who pay dues on an annual bases. A recent comparison of our Life Membership members against Social Security files of deceased revealed that well over 100 who are receiving *The Bugle* are deceased and we were never advised (some for many years). This, too, has caused considerable expense. Further review will reveal others.

We have recently received several very nice donations from members and one life member who felt he had long ago used up his \$75.00 Life Membership (David Saltman) sent us \$100.00.

So, we would like to encourage those of you who can afford it and you feel that our work merits, help us avoid a dues increase. ■

SOME VBOB FORMATION HISTORY

December 16th Is Bulge "Day of Infamy"

By Demetri Paris
14th Tank Battalion
9th Armored Division

The dozen men who met to discuss the possibility of founding a Bulge veterans organization differed on some matters but all agreed on one--December 16th must be remembered as the day the attack started. As a result, a provision was included in the VBOB Bylaws that this date must be recognized every year in some manner. And it has been in the Washington, D.C., area.

Each year the Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation conducts a program that includes visits to some of the dozens of sightseeing attractions in the District of Columbia and also nearby locations in both Virginia and Maryland.

Let's look back to the ceremony held 23 years ago on December 16, 1986. It opened with the dedication of a small memorial marker and a tree at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. It was followed by placing a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknowns and viewing the formal changing of the guard ceremony.

A most impressive list of guests attended and participated in the first program. They included then Ambassador and Mrs. Peters, of Luxembourg, military attaches of Belgium, Canada and France, the assistant military attache of Great Britain, and a rear admiral representing The Netherlands.

Also present: Senator Strom Thurmond, of South Carolina, and General Bruce Clark, who commanded a 7th Armored Division combat command in the St. Vith area, which was in the path of the main German attack. General Clark remarked: "...42 years ago this morning, I was the junior brigadier general of less than one week of service and with very little information with plenty of people making suggestions." He noted that he had 22 books on the battle which reflected the differing viewpoints of the authors.

Also present was the nearby Fort Myer post commander and the Arlington Cemetery Superintendent Raymond J. Constanze.

The principal speaker was Charles B. MacDonald, past official U.S. Army historian and author of *A Time for Trumpets*. His review of battle facts was impressive and his closing remarks quite moving. MacDonald also wrote the introduction to the program which was narrated by Demetri Paris, a VBOB charter member and current VBOB President.

Program for First VBOB Observance December 16, 1986

1. Dedication of plaque and tree at Arlington National Cemetery
2. Tomb of the Unknown Soldier--changing of guard and placing wreath
3. Crown scenes of VBOB members at Ft. Myers and Arlington Cemetery

1. Dedication of plaque and tree:

This ceremony by the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge on December 16, 1986, at Arlington National Cemetery is for the dedication of a plaque and tree near the amphitheatre in memory of those who participated in that battle.

Distinguished guests include Ambassador and Mrs. Peters of Luxembourg; Brigadier Generals Military Attaches from Belgium, Canada, Canada and France; the Assistant military attache of Great Britain; a rear admiral from The Netherlands; Senator Strom Thurmond, of South Carolina; General Bruce C. Clarke, who commanded the forces in the St. Vith area; the Fort Myer Post commander; and Arlington Cemetery Superintendent Raymond J. Constanze.

VBOB Founder Clyde Boden offers a few remarks concerning the part played by VBOB., Principal speaker in Charles B. MacDonald, historian and author of *A Time for Trumpets* and other books. MacDonald's review of the facts of the battle are impressive and his closing remarks moving.

General Clarke noted that "...42 years ago this morning I was the junior brigadier general with less than one week of service and with very little information but with plenty of people making suggestions. He noted that the 22 books he had read reflected differing viewpoints of the authors.

2. Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

This is an impressive ceremony. The first part pictures the formal changing of the guard. Following this, a wreath is placed by VBOB officers and *Taps* is blown.

3. Crown scenes of VBOB members of interest to those who participated and who know the participants.

The introduction was written by Charles B. MacDonald. This [tape translation] is narrated by Dee Paris, a charter member of VBOB and participant in the battle in the St. Vith area.

Reprinted from STARS and STRIPES
December 24, 1944

Acid-Throwing Nazi Chutists Hunt High Ranking U.S. Chiefs

By Jules B. Grand

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH U.S. FORCES, Belgium, Dec. 21 (Delayed) - German parachutists dropped behind U.S. lines to sabotage communications and kill high-ranking officers constitute a well-organized task force specially trained and equipped, a U.S. spokesman disclosed today.

They carry small phials of sulphuric acid which fit into match boxes and can be thrown in the faces of any who try to intercept them.

Their American uniforms were taken weeks ago from captured U.S. officers and men who were forced to strip to their underwear and then shot.

The parachutist force equivalent to two battalions in strength was specially organized to operate with the Nazi drive whenever it should start.

To organize it, the German high Command last October quietly withdrew all English-speaking soldiers from the Western, Russian and Italian fronts and sent them to a training center at Friedenthal, Berlin suburb.

Three Short Stories About the Bulge

The **First** occurred as we were withdrawing from the enemy south east of St. Vith. We the 561st F. A. Bn. had just come through the village of (VECMONT). As we were leading I could see many trees up ahead with blocks of TNT wrapped around one side of the tree on both sides of the road. Up ahead was a Sgt. standing up in the back of a 3/4 ton truck, a sheet of paper in his hand, and his other hand on a detonator box. He was pumping his arm up and down, the signal to hurry up. I am sure he had a list of outfits that would be coming down that road. I am sure glad he did not push that plunger prematurely to fell those trees, or we would have been trapped. Apparently we were the last outfit to pass him, because shortly thereafter we heard a series of explosions.

The **Second** episode occurred also while fleeing the on rushing panzers. Since the ground was frozen and covered with snow, any field would do, as we could not dig the guns in. We would pull off the road, lob a few shells back in the direction we had come from, then load up and go down the road another 2 or 3 miles and repeat the same thing. At one point it was reported the enemy was only a mile or so behind us. On or about December 20, 1944 we pulled off the road and our Captain Victor Woodling, (Baker Battery Commander) came running down the middle of the road yelling to the truck drivers to remove all their excess gas cans and get ready to torch their trucks. He also told us if we had any pictures in our wallets of loved ones back home to get ready to destroy them. He no more than told us that when we heard tank tracks clanking the sound was coming from a near by patch of woods. We all thought this was it, that we had done bought the farm. The man above was surly with us this day, as it turned out to be an American T. D. outfit, with a young Lt. standing up in the open turret. He yelled to Capt. Woodling, what outfit are you, and did you come down that road? Pointing to his right, Capt Woodling said yes. The Lt. said, get your people loaded up and get down the road as fast as you can. The truck drivers threw their gas cans into the back of the trucks, and we all mounted up, and really took off. To this day I've wondered how those T. D.s made out meeting the enemy head on.

The **Third** episode occurred two day's later. Around mid-night I was riding in the back of our kitchen truck, when our convoy came to a halt. Out of the woods came two Americana officers, a Captain and a Lt. They ask our one cook, T/5 Arthur R. Turner of Chattanooga, TN, what outfit we were, where we had come from, and where we were headed? Only the Capt, spoke. I said to Turner out the side of my mouth, he's asking a lot of questions. Turner being from the south said, beats the shit out of me Capt and at the same time our convoy started to move again. Two days later we found out Germans were running around in American uniforms. I thought something was wrong, as our officers never wore their shiny rank on their uniforms on account of sunlight bouncing off the metal. Officers always were preferred targets for snipers!

Billie E. Houseman 561st F.A. Bn. ETOUSA

The most terrible job in warfare is to be a second lieutenant leading a platoon when you are on the battlefield.
DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

John B. Savard
G Company
38th Infantry Regiment
2d Infantry Division
North St. Paul, Minnesota

"The enemy drive was halted."
It said in the papers one day,
But little the folks back home realized
The price we had to pay.

Our position a farm at a crossroad,
To hold as long as we could.
There may be some friendly troops out there,
Making their way through the wood.

A patrol was sent out to make contact,
But none of the men returned.
The rest of the company dug foxholes,
While off to our right a town burned.

Then quickly the Germans were on us.
We could hear them scream and yell.
But our guns opened up in an instant,
and the din of battle was hell.

They seemed to be coming from every direction
Their panzers were belching flame.
The infantry man and his "burp" gun,
To kill and destroy was his aim.

Our mortars fired from back of the barn
Till all of their shells were gone.
The men in the fox holes held the line
As the night and the battle wore on.

A group of S.S. broke through our line,
In a charge straight down the road.
But our 1st sergeant using some headquarters men
Cut them down like wheat freshly mowed.

The pressure was getting stronger.
The line was beginning to tear.
Then the captain called for artillery fire
Upon our position there.

We all crouched deep in our fox holes
Or took cover wherever we could.
As the shells fell all about us,
The Germans withdrew to the wood.

We held and the first rays of dawning
Showed destruction on every hand.
Twisted bodies of Yank and German
Lay there where we made our stand.

Missing WWII Soldiers are Identified

VBOB Officials In the News

The Military Order of the World Wars selected President George Herbert Walker Bush as their Twelfth Honorary Commander-in-Chief on November 7, 2008. The presentation ceremony was pictured on the front cover of the December 2008 Officer Review, the MOWW magazine. In the picture along with President and Barbara Bush, the present and past MOWW Commanders-in-Chiefs was Alfred H. M Shehab, a member of your VBOB Executive Council and president of the VBOB Historical Foundation. Shehab, a past commander of MOWW, is also in a second picture with President Bush which is included in the article about the ceremony.

Another member of your VBOB Executive Council, Bert Rice, has been recognized by the Greater Odenton, MD Improvement Association for his service to the civilian community. Colonel Rice was stationed at Fort Meade, Maryland in 1976 and returned there after military tours at other locations where, in retirement, he now serves as Executive Officer of Fort Meade, a vital position at a large U.S. Army post that is destined to receive an additional 3,000 employees under the Base Realignment and Closure program.

Rice's service to civilian organization and the local community in the Anne Arundel County Council, the YMCA and the Chamber of Commerce. He is a past commander of the Military Order of the World Wars and a member of the VBOB Executive Council. The story of his services to the civilian community is a featured article in the November issue of the November 2008 MOWW magazine,

Dee Paris

Reprinted from the Washington Post

Beetle Bailey By Mort Walker



The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced today that the remains of two U.S. servicemen, missing from World War II, have been identified and will be returned to their families for burial with full military honors.

They are Pfc. Julian H. Rogers, of Bloomington, Ind, and Pvt. Henry E. Marquez, of Kansas City, Kan. Both men were U.S. Army. Rogers will be buried in the spring in Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C., and Marquez will be buried on May 30 in Kansas City, Mo.

Representatives from the Army's Mortuary Office met with the next-of-kin of these men in their hometowns to explain the recovery and identification process and to coordinate interment with military honors on behalf of the Secretary of the Army.

In November 1944, the 112th Infantry Regiment, 28th Infantry Division, was attacking east through the Hurtgen Forest in an attempt to capture the German towns of Vossenack and Schmidt. On Nov. 4, the Germans counterattacked in what would become one of the longest running battles in U.S. history. Rogers and Marquez, both members of G Company, 112th Infantry Regiment, were reported killed in action near Vossenack on Nov. 4. Their bodies were not recovered.

In 2007, a German citizen searching for wartime relics in the Hurtgen Forest uncovered human remains and military identification tags for Rogers and Marquez. He notified U.S. officials and a Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) team excavated the site later that year. The team recovered human remains and non-biological material.

Among dental records, other forensic identification tools and circumstantial evidence, scientists from JPAC and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory also used mitochondrial DNA in the identification of the remains.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for missing Americans, visit the DPMO Web site at <http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo> or call (703) 699-1420.

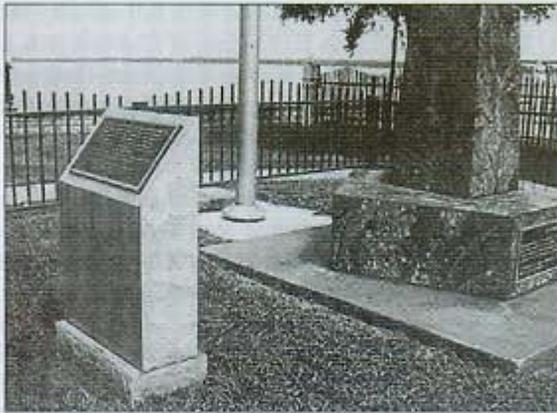
Source: Department of Defense News release 052-09, 23 January 2009.

JDB

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New Bulge Monument Dedicated in Florida



Golden Triangle, Chapter 48, Monument

On Veterans' Day 2008, Florida *Golden Triangle* Chapter 48 dedicated a new monument to the Battle of the Bulge in Eustis, FL. It is in beautiful lakefront Ferran Park and takes its place next to an impressive obelisk, erected in 1992, honoring all Lake County, FL veterans.

Assisted by VFW Post 8087, the dedication ceremony included a fly-over by vintage military aircraft and the Lake Concert Band. Wreaths were placed by numerous patriotic organizations. The principal speaker was the Chapter's Past President, Harry Kirby. More than 500 people attended the program.

When Kirby sought permission from the Eustis City Council to place a Battle of the Bulge monument in the city park, a newspaper reporter was present. He phoned Kirby the next day for more information, resulting in a fine write-up in the paper with a front page photo of current President, Fred Parks. Two days later checks started coming in, many with touching letters about relatives who had been in the battle. In about ten days, when added to the Chapter's own contributions, the Chapter had more than enough money to pay for the project. They then returned checks, with a note of thanks, suggesting the money be donated to other veterans organizations.

This is the second BoB monument put in place by this VBOB Chapter. The first one, in Veterans Park, Ocala, FL, was funded by selling engraved bricks. It was dedicated on Veterans Day 2003.



Harry Kirby dedicating the new monument

Two members, who live in Ocala, Kirby and Clarence Buckman, recently appeared on an hour-long radio program in which they told of the Battle of the Bulge experience. They also speak to local school history classes.

Chapter 48 is now planning a web site.



Part of the Veterans Day Crowd



Vintage Military Aircraft Fly Over

Just a  **Reminder** ARE YOUR DUES DUE?

VBOB Memorial

Dedicated in Florida

By Harry E. Kirby
Golden Traiangle Chapter #48

This is how we obtained and dedicated an enduring VBOB monument to the Battle of the Bulge and to the Florida veterans of that battle.

Our Golden Triangle Chapter meets monthly at the Veterans of Foreign Post 8087 in Eustis, Florida. So, I attended a meeting of the Eustis City Council and proposed a VBOB monument in city park. I had no idea how it would be received and was quite surprised when the first response was: "How soon can you get it done?"

The following day I received a telephone call from a reporter for the *Orlando Sentinel* who had been at the meeting. I gave him additional information after which he requested for an address to which donations could be sent. I gave him my address. This resulted in an excellent story in the *Lake County* edition of the *Orlando Sentinel*.

Within a few days, the contribution checks began arriving. Within 10 days, we had received more than enough money for the project. We returned the additional donations to the donors with thanks and suggested they be contributed to another veterans' organization.

I had originally planned to solicit contributions from the local business community to supplement the contributions from our chapter members. However, that was not necessary.

The VFW Post plans and conducts the annual Veterans Day program. I asked to have a few minutes on the program to dedicate our monument. The result was the entire Veterans Day program was built around our dedication.

The program opened with presentation of the colors, the National Anthem and invocation. Then came a flyover by old military aircraft, brief talks by the Mayor and a city councilman, several selections by the local band, the laying of wreaths by a number of patriotic organizations, my dedication speech, a 21 gun salute and the playing of taps.

There were about 500 people present and we received many compliments on the program. Also, I was pleased to receive several request for my dedication speech.

We encourage all chapters that have not done so to erect a VBOB memorial marker in their community. And those that have monuments, perhaps you can make it part of your next local Veterans or Memorial Day program.

The Wereth 11

On December 17, 1944 eleven black American soldiers were brutally murdered by German SS in a snowy pasture in the Ardennes Forest of Belgium, after they had surrendered during the first days of the Battle of the Bulge. The men were part of the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion of the 106th Infantry Division, servicing the 155 mm howitzers pounding the Nazis from 10 miles behind the front lines in the Ardennes Forest of Belgium.

When the Germans launched the furious counterattack now known as the Battle of the Bulge, the men found themselves enveloped by Nazi troops. Unable to move their heavy artillery pieces, they fell back through the woods during one of the worst winters of the century. The cold, hungry soldiers sought haven in Wereth, a tiny cluster of farm houses not big enough to be called a village, located in the Eastern part of Belgium,

The family of Mathius Langer gave them shelter for the night, but a German sympathizer saw them and tipped off the SS. Next day, the SS marched the Americans up a small cow path and into the corner of a pasture. There the Nazis brutalized and murdered them, their bodies were soon covered with snow and they remained there until the spring thaw.

The Wereth Memorial - Belgium



The U.S. Army Freedom Team Salute Program



Freedom Team Salute is a Secretary of the Army and Chief of Staff of the Army program launched in May 2005. Among others, the program recognizes U.S. Army Veterans for their service to our Country. For additional details visit the program's web site www.freedomteamsalute.com

As a result of your Executive Council working with the Freedom Team Salute Program, paid up National VBOB members as of January 1, 2009 will receive an official Commendation package, which includes a certificate of appreciation and a personalized letter signed by the Secretary of the Army and Army Chief of Staff thanking them for their support of today's Army. The package also includes an official U.S. Army lapel pin and two Army decals. The entire package is provided at no cost to the recipient and should be mailed by Freedom Team Salute, beginning in April 2009.

VBOB extends our sincere appreciation to Freedom Team Salute for honoring our veterans.



Chaplin with Jeep "Going My Way"
in preparation for religious services.

CONTRIBUTIONS

VBOB on occasion receives contributions from our members and we want you to know that these are very much appreciated. We would like to thank all of you who send us "a little something extra." Needless to say, these moneys are put to good use.

Space does not permit us to thank each of you individually, so, collectively, we thank you.

SOLDIER -

How sleep the brave, who sink
to rest,
By all their country's wishes
blest!

WILLIAM COLLINS-Ode



ONE SMALL CORNER

By John W. Fague
21st Armored Infantry Battalion
Company B

[The attached is an excerpt of a thorough description of the 21st's activities in the Battle of the Bulge. We have excerpted the first day of their Bulge activities. Rest assured, his complete story will be preserved and will rest where historians can refer to it in the future.]

The beginning of our part in the Battle of the Bulge was the 29th of December 1944 near the town of Neufchateau, Belgium [France]. Our column of tanks and half-tracks as Combat Command B had been rolling north all day, where to and what for I had no idea. The day was cold and windy. There was a layer of snow blanketing the ground; here and there it had drifted. We met many supply trucks on the road headed for the rear, their mission was accomplished. I was particularly aware if the ambulances that we met, red lights flashing, passing to the rear. They were evacuating the wounded and this meant there must be fighting ahead. Finally we passed artillery with their muzzles pointed skyward. The guns would cough and spit and belch their flames and then relax. First we passed the big boys, the Long Toms, 240 mm and 155 mm howitzers, and then closer to the front the standard army 105 mm pieces which backed up the line. From this I realized that our time had come, the moment of truth had arrived.

Late in the afternoon my company pulled off the road to the left. It was on a hill, which made an ideal place to bivouac. The first thing I noticed was the wreckage of an airplane and two lifeless forms on the snow that resembled bodies. The sight of dead bodies was something new to a nineteen-year-old boy from Shippensburg, Pennsylvania. I was anxious and curious to have a closer look at them. When I inspected the first body in the snow, I knew I should not have looked. It was the body of a German fighter pilot. His face was frozen and gray in color. It had a horrible far away stare. He had been lying there 36 hours or more and was frozen stiff. His fingers were gray and rigid. His legs were broken and doubled up under him. G.I.'s had already looted the corpse. Someone had taken his fleeced-lined air corps boots and he lay in his stocking feet. The pockets of his uniform had been pullet out and the contents removed. I noticed the stump of a finger. It has been cut off to get the ring he wore.

That was enough. I had seen more than I wanted to. I walked away with a hollow sickening feeling in my stomach. It was chow time but I didn't have much of an appetite anymore.

This was my first encounter with death. It left a vivid impression on my young mind. All during that sleepless night I could see the face of that flyer before me. In the days that followed I rubbed elbows with death many times. I saw my friends die and the strangeness of the phenomenon of death became blurred.

As had become instinctive with us, the company set up an all around defense and prepared to bed down for the night. We set up our machine gun outposts and dug slit trenches in the event of an air or artillery attack. Other elements before us had dug foxholes and gun positions on this slope so that we had few

holes to dig.

Fortunately there was a straw stack in our area around which we made our beds. I pulled some straw off the stack and laid my bedroll on it. I got some more straw to put over me. That night was bright with a moon illuminating the snow. While I took my turn as outpost guard, a German reconnaissance plane swooped low over our position. The second time it came down some of our units arched machine gun tracer bullets in the direction of the sound but with no effect. During the night our artillery kept up its harassing fire on the enemy positions. They were firing on the enemy rear and shell bursts would illuminate the sky. The firing was spasmodic during the night but the tempo increased toward morning.

Early in the morning my platoon leader, Lt. Roy C. Stringfellow, came back from a meeting with the company commander, Capt. Elmore F. Fabrick, and brought information of the attack we were to make the next day. I was lying awake in my bedroll and heard him give the details of the attack to the platoon sergeants and the squad sergeants. One instruction of the lieutenant I could not forget: "There will be enemy artillery fire and plenty of it. The Germans always advance their fire, so keep the men moving."

At 4:30 a.m., I rolled up my bedroll and took off for the kitchen truck. After eating a hurried breakfast I came back to my half-track and got things ready to move out in the attack. Our company was to follow Baker Company of the 22nd Tank Battalion. The tanks were to pass our area at 6 a.m. For some unknown reason the tanks passed too early. Capt. Fabrick signaled for our platoon to take off down the road after the tanks. We hastily threw our equipment of the half-track and took off down the road. There had been some delay after the past tank had passed and so our platoon lost contact with the tank column. At the first intersection Lt. Stringfellow asked the battalion commander, Col. James R. Hoffman, who was standing there, the direction the tanks had taken. The colonel directed us down the wrong road.

Our half-track was now in the lead heading an independent attack. I noticed a few tanks peeking ut from behind some buildings as we went by. And these I soon learned were our advance outposts. The next thing I knew we were out in no man's land [land between opposing forces] and all hell was breaking loose. The Krauts [nickname for the Germans] were preparing to make an attack of their own and their artillery was preparing the way. When the lieutenant realized we were on the wrong road, he brought out little column to a halt. There we sat on the road while he was attempting to establish contact by radio with the rest of our column. It was just beginning to get light, that gray sort of dawn. The German shells were exploding only a short distance away, and I could hear the shrapnel whining through the air. A farmhouse was smoldering in ruins beside our vehicle. It gave me a very terrifying feeling to sit there in that vehicle and hear those shells land. I knew that at any moment one might hit our vehicle or burst in the trees overhead. This was my first experience with the thought that I might die or be horribly wounded. Even though I was scared I tried to make a few jokes out of it but the boys were in no mood for my humor. We all sat huddled together in the half-track trying to make ourselves as small as possible and trying to keep our heads down below the quarter-inch armor plate that formed the sides of the track.

(Continued)

In the meantime Lt. Stringfellow had gone back on foot to the last crossroads and discovered that we should have turned left there. He came back to our vehicle and got our column turned around and started back. Once we moved back I felt better. As long as we were moving or doing something I had no time to be afraid, but when we stopped I felt helpless.

The lines through which we were passing were held by another division. They were very worried and concerned when they saw our vehicles withdraw. I saw a line of infantrymen bearing the insignia of the red keystone withdrawing across the railroad tracks. I later learned that they were my own Pennsylvania 28th Division which had been gallantly trying to hold their line against the German onslaught. They had been holding on, I learned, ever since the attack began. Groups of these infantrymen were straggling down the road beside our vehicle. They looked tired and weary, as if they didn't care any more. Their rifles were slung over their shoulders and a dark growth of beard was on their faces.

The sight of these withdrawing men filled me with fear. I expected to see German infantry coming across those tracks. The fighting was coming closer and I wanted to be prepared. I put a cartridge in the chamber of my rifle, and kneeling on the seat I was ready to fire on any Germans that came over the rise formed by the railroad tracks.

When we reached the crossroads again, the situation was in general confusion. Vehicles were trying to go all ways at once. Several officers were trying to direct traffic and restore order from chaos. The tension was increased by the sound of shells crashing in the trees on each side of the road. We drove up a hill and found our tanks deployed in battle formation at the crest of the ridge. My vehicle stopped at the top of the hill and then moved on about 20 yards. I heard an explosion behind us and saw that a mortar shell had hit the second squad vehicle behind us when it pulled into our old position. The vehicle was disabled and three men wounded. These were our first casualties so far as I knew at the time. They carried the wounded to a pit that the Germans had evacuated just before we came over the hill. I later learned that several shells had hit the crossroads after we got through. One shell had made a direct hit on the third platoon half-track, killing three and sounding several others.

My position in the platoon was that of runner for Lt. Stringfellow. I followed him around like a dog following its master. The object of this was to keep one shell from injuring more than one or two men. It was here I received my first lesson in German camouflage. In a corner of a haystack the Germans had neatly concealed a machine gun. They had dug out a corner of the stack and placed strands of straw in the fence. You could walk right up to the gun and not notice it. I was so intent on following the lieutenant that I didn't notice it as we walked by. He pointed it out to me. The Germans who had occupied this position had left only a few minutes before. They had left the machine gun, ammunition, rifles and personal equipment lying around. I remember that we were all "booby trap" conscious from the lectures we had received on the subject. Leonard Dricks got a long strand of fence wire and hooked it on the gun. He backed off ten yards and jerked. Much to my surprise it wasn't "booby trapped" in spite of all the lectures to the contrary.

We waited on the hill for a short time until the arrival of Capt. Fabrick. He had taken the other part of the company, which was

not with us and gone down into the little town of Jodenville. He came back all smiles telling about the nice little fight they had done there in the town.

Very soon the battalion commander arrived and there was a conference among the officers. It was decided that we would attack cross-country. Our objective was a wooded area on a distant hill. The tanks led the attack. I remember seeing the light tanks scooting across the snow, bucking and tugging and kicking up clouds of snow. The tanks were attacking in a skirmish line and our infantry half-tracks followed in dispersed formation at a distance of 100 yards. I remember as we dashed down the hill seeing several of our General Sherman tanks burning in the plain below. Our tanks were no match for the German low silhouette Tiger tanks with their "88" cannons. The tanks that were leading were already on the crest of the slope facing the woods that concealed the enemy guns. The engagement was on. Our tanks were blasting away and receiving fire. We pulled up beside our tanks and dismounted. We formed a skirmish line of infantry across the hill. It was easy to see that our tanks were taking a beating. All along the line tanks were beginning to burn. The German anti-tank guns and "88" pieces were well dug in and camouflaged. We had failed to register preliminary artillery fire on the enemy position. Our artillery only now was beginning to land a few shells into the woods. As we lay in the snow, Lt. Stringfellow gave the command to fix bayonets. I think every man in the platoon had a little of the hysterical feeling of fear which will grip a new soldier. The enemy must be close or why the order to fix bayonets. I expected to see a wave of German infantry come charging over the slight rise in front of us. All the time a few shells were coming in on us. A piece of shrapnel hit the half-track. Our tanks were firing and being fired at. At the time, the privates were ignorant of the plan of attack. We did not know what we were to do. I had only the faintest idea that the enemy fire was coming from the woods ahead. I saw some of our shells land in those woods, which were about 500 yards in front. I blame our officers for not acquainting us with the situation.

I later learned we were to assault the woods with the tanks in support. The lieutenant must have decided that we were too far from our objective to make a direct foot assault, so he gave the order to mount up. This order didn't take any coaxing. We all piled into vehicles. With all the equipment in the track it didn't seem as if there was enough room. Several of the boys in their haste sprawled across the knees of us who were sitting. We were gripped with a fear that at any time one of those German anti-tank shells, which were knocking our the tanks, would hit our vehicle.

It now became apparent that some of our tanks were pulling back, trying to take shelter behind the crest of the hill and screen themselves from the murderous fire. Our lieutenant yelled to the tank major in the tank next to our track and asked him why the tanks were withdrawing. The major didn't seem to know, Lt. Stringfellow gave another order to dismount and withdraw. Then began a mad scramble down into the draw from which we had just come. The drivers brought up the vehicles just as soon as they could turn them around. We attempted to form a temporary defense line along a fencerow, but when the vehicles came by we mounted up and returned to the town of Jodenville from where we had just come.

At Jodenville the tanks were dispersed in a field behind the town and the men found what cover they could. This was the end of our action for the first day. ■

VBOB QUARTERMASTER ORDER FORM

February 2009

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| VBOB Windshield Logo - 4" | \$ 1.25 | | \$ |
| VBOB Logo Stickers - 1 1/4" (in quantities of 10) | 10 for \$1.25 | | \$ |
| Baseball Cap w/3" VBOB Logo Patch - Navy only | \$ 10.00 | | \$ |
| Windbreaker w/4" VBOB Logo Patch - Navy only Please circle size (they run a little snug): S M L XL XXL XXXL (XXL and XXXL - see prices) | \$ 25.00 (S, M, L and XL) \$ 26.00 for XXL \$ 27.00 for XXXL | | \$ |
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| Miniature VBOB Logo Medal w/Ribbon (pin on type) | \$ 8.50 | | \$ |
| VBOB Logo Belt Buckle - Silver tone or Gold tone (Please circle choice) | \$ 16.00 | | \$ |
| VBOB Logo Bolo Tie - Silver tone or Gold tone (Please circle choice) | \$ 16.00 | | \$ |
| VBOB License Plate Frame w/Logos - White plastic w/Black printing | \$ 5.00 | | \$ |
| VBOB 100 Sheet Notepad w/Logo - "This Note Is From... A Veteran of the Battle of the Bulge" - White paper with Blue printing | \$ 4.00 | | \$ |
| BACK IN STOCK Large VBOB Logo Neck Medallion w/ribbon Ideal for insertion in medal shadow box | \$ 25.00 | | \$ |
| VBOB Tote Bag--SOLD OUT | | | \$ |

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BATTLE OF THE BULGE FACTS

The Largest Land Battle Fought by the United States Army

- WHERE: The heavily forested Ardennes region of Eastern Belgium and Northern Luxembourg.
- WHEN: December 16, 1944 to January 25, 1945
- WHO: **MORE THAN ONE MILLION MEN!**
- 600,000 Americans (more than the combined union/Confederate forces at Gettysburg) – 3 American Armies and 8 Corps 9 equivalent to 31 divisions)
 - 55,000 British – 3 British divisions plus contingents of Belgian, Canadian and French
 - 500,000 Germans – 3 German Armies and 10 corps (equivalent to 25 divisions)

**LEST
WE
FORGET...**

CASUALTIES: American: 81,000 including 19,000 killed
British: 1,400 including 200 killed
Germans: 101,000

EQUIPMENT: 800 tanks lost on each side; 1,000 German Aircraft

Three powerful German armies plunged headlong into the rugged mountains and dense forests of the Ardennes determined to break the American line of defense, and trap the Allied Forces in Belgium and Luxembourg.

They met fierce opposition the minute they engaged the thinly spread American line and paid a heavy price for every inch of ground they gained.

The battle raged for three consecutive days until powerful Allied reinforcements arrived to join the fighting, and keep the Germans from breaking through.

The fighting then continued for four weeks in bitter cold and snow, and all the Germans could accomplish was to put a small bulge in the line. And at the end, the line held firm and the Germans suffered a terrible loss of men, tanks and planes.

Those who fought in the Battle of the Bulge will never forget it. The Veterans of the Battle (VBOB) was organized to make **CERTAIN THAT IT WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN.**

The Malmedy massacre, which occurred during the Ardennes Campaign, was the worse atrocity committed against American troops in Europe during the World War II.

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE CERTIFICATE

Have you ordered Yours?

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

You do not have to be a member of the VBOB Assn in order to order one but you must have received the Ardennes credit. This beautiful certificate is produced on parchment-like stock and is outlined by the full color WWII insignias of the major units that fought in the Battle of the Bulge starting with the 12th Army Group followed numerically with Armies, Corps and Divisions and the two Army Air Forces. We wished that each unit insignia could have been shown but with approximately 2000 units that participated in the Bulge it was impossible. However any unit, which served in the Bulge, would have been attached to or reported through one of the unit insignia depicted. You may want to add one of your original patches to the certificate, when you receive it. Please allow approximately 3-4 weeks for delivery, they are normally printed at the end of the month. The certificate will be shipped rolled in a protective mailing tube. Please be sure to place your **name, service number and unit, as you would like it to appear on the certificate**. The unit name should as full as possible as you want someone reading it to understand what unit you were in. We will abbreviate it as necessary. It is important that you type or print this information. The unit must be one of the 2000 units authorized for the Ardennes Campaign credit in the Official General Order No. 114 for Units Entitled to the ARDENNES Battle Credit and will be the basis for sale of this certificate. **The cost of the certificate is \$15.00 postpaid.**

We no longer have frames available but if you have an A. C. Moore Craft Store near you they sell a 16 X 20 Inch Floating Glass Frame which these certificates fits into nicely and are quite attractive. They also sell an 11 X 17 Inch frame with a slim plastic black border which can also be used. The 16 X 20 Inch frame normally sells for \$20.00 but is sometimes on sale for \$15.00.

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE CERTIFICATE ORDER BLANK

I request an 11" x 17" Certificate and certify that I received credit for the Ardennes Campaign. I have enclosed a check for \$15 00 for the Certificate. Please include the following information that I would like on the certificate:

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Serial Number _____

Rank : _____ Unit: _____

Organization: usually Company, Battalion and/or Regiment, & Division

Signature: _____ Date: _____

I certify that I have received the Ardennes Credit

MAILING INFORMATION:

NAME: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

VBOB Member: Yes No (not a requirement). Make checks out to VBOB for \$15.00. Orders should be mailed to VBOB Certificate, PO Box 101418, Arlington, VA 22210-4418. Questions can be directed to John D. Bowen, 301-384-6533, Certificate Chairman. Or by e-mail to: johndbowen@earthlink.net
10/18/2008



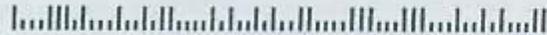
VETERANS of the BATTLE of the BULGE

P.O. Box 101418
Arlington, Virginia 22210-4418

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Arlington, VA
Permit No. 468



A018090 090812
RALPH W. BOZORTH
608 TREATY RD
PLYMOUTH MEETING PA 19462-2317



FEBRUARY, 2009



**THE TIME IS NOW!
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
DATES INCLUDED HEREIN
FOR THE TUCSON MEETING
COMPLETE DETAILS IN NEXT ISSUE**

Detach and Mail

OFFICIAL USE ONLY



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

PO Box 101418, Arlington, Virginia 22210-4418

Annual Dues \$15

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Do not write above this line

Do not write above this line

New Member Renewal - Member # _____

Name _____ Birthdate _____

Address _____ Phone () _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

All new members, please provide the following information:

Campaign(s) _____

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

Regiment _____ Battalion _____

Company _____ Other _____

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

Applicants Signature _____

RECRUITER (Optional)