

# The BULGE BUGLE

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VOLUME XVIII NUMBER 2

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

MAY 1999

# TILLY

TILLY  
KIMMES-  
HANSEN

THE  
SWEETHEART  
OF THE  
LIBERATORS OF  
LUXEMBOURG  
Page 9

**19th Annual  
VBOB Reunion**

**Omni Newport News Hotel  
Newport News, VA  
September 23-26, 1999**

Page 20



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

THE BULGE BUGLE

May 1999



# President's Message

As I sit down to write my report to you, the first thing I always do is to leaf through my calendar, check the months ahead, and see where our VBOB Chapters and members can "Make Our Mark."

For example, Memorial Day, a day where we take part in ceremonies honoring our departed comrades as well as veterans of all our nation's wars. This special day really begins a series of national observances where we can "show our colors" and remind the public of the sacrifices made in the Ardennes almost 55 years ago.

We can do this by taking part in Flag Day ceremonies, Armed Forces Day events, the Fourth of July celebrations and Labor Day festivities. In places where no formal events seem to be scheduled let's get out in front and organize them ourselves.

In an age when Love of Country is put on the back burner by many, we can, and should, be in the front ranks of those keeping America's traditions and our heritage alive.

Tradition and heritage are very much on my mind as I write this because your national officers have been working hard these past few months on plans for our 19th Annual Reunion, September 23-26 in Newport News, Virginia. This historic area has played an important part in our country's past, and I might add, it brings back memories to many of us in VBOB who went overseas, or came back home, via Fort Patrick Henry. And it was from this area that General George Patton led the western task force for the invasion of North Africa.

Along with Vice President for Military Affairs Stan Wojtusik, our Secretary Lou Cunningham, and Tom Jones, vice president for membership, I have had the opportunity to revisit this historic area and can tell you that joining us for the reunion will be a perfect way to close out the summer. You'll find more details later on in this *Bulge Bugle*, but two events have special significance for all who fought in the Bulge.

On Friday, September 24th, we have been given the privilege of dedicating a monument to our battle in historic Fort Monroe, one of the Army's hallowed sites. Fort Monroe is one of the Army's oldest bases and we are honored to be able to place a monument there. That will be a memorable way to start our reunion, and I feel our closing banquet Sunday night will be equally memorable. I say that because among the names that stand out in all histories of the Battle of the Bulge, that of Major Creighton Abrams and his Fourth Armored Division task force and its drive to open the highway to Bastogne plays a deservedly prominent part.

Well I am happy to report that General John N. Abrams, USA, the son of Creighton Abrams, and a much-decorated combat veteran himself, has agreed to be our keynote speaker at our banquet. It will be a great evening for all of us so mark your calendars now, and plan your vacation for a great union in the Newport News area where so much of our history began.

As you can tell, I am upbeat about the reunion, and I feel the



George C. Linthicum

same way about our organization and the work you are doing out in the field. We seem to be adding chapters each month as well as adding new members. Just this year alone we have six new chapters, and our ranks have been increased by responses to the associate member appeal in our last issue, as many of you have signed up your children and grandchildren as associates. This guarantees that the memory of our battle will be preserved. We also are inviting members of the World War II battle re-enactors to join us as associates and enlisted quite a few at the January re-enactment in Indiantown Gap.

This is progress, but I really feel that there are so many actual Battle of the Bulge veterans out there who may not have heard about us. As Uncle Sam used to proclaim, "I WANT YOU," we want them. Let's continue to keep spreading the word about VBOB, and helping more of our comrades know that we want them.

They will be welcome as they join with you, our present members, in assuring that the Battle of the Bulge keeps its rightful place in American history.

## CENTRAL FLORIDA SEEKS YOUR HELP WITH ORLANDO BULGE MEMORIAL

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge in Central Florida have begun a drive to erect a memorial monument on the shores of Lake Eola Park in downtown Orlando.

When completed, the monument will be a replica of the magnificent monument erected (by CEBA in 1983) in Clervaux, Luxembourg. In order to recognize the 33 infantry and armored divisions who fought in the Bulge, we must have the address of each division association so we can make exact copies of the shoulder patches which will be affixed to the large plaque.

Please contact: Harry J. Meisel, 1329 Alfred Drive, Orlando, Florida 32810. Phone: 407-647-4672. FAX: Same number, just phone first. ■

## 86TH CHEMICAL MORTAR BATTALION MEMORIAL

A Battalion Memorial was placed at the Chemical Corps Memorial Park at Fort McClellan, Alabama on March 26, 1999. If you would like further information, write to George Murray, 818 West 62nd Street, Anniston, Alabama 36206-1110.

### IN THIS ISSUE

- |                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 3. President's Message   | 24. Reunions           |
| 4. Letters to the Editor | 25. Bastogne           |
| 8. Books You May Enjoy   | 26. St. Louis Chapter  |
| 9. Tilly                 | 27. Patton             |
| 12. Members Speak Out    | 28. US Troops Besieged |
| 15. Bulge Medal of Honor | 30. Bulge Certificates |
| 16. Bulge Incidents      | 31. VBOB Quartermaster |
| 20. VBOB Reunion         |                        |

**ARE YOUR DUES DUE?**



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## COMBAT "UNIT" OR "ENGINEERS"?

Having just read a letter recently submitted by Mr. Willis Case Rowe, I find his assessment of what consists of a "combat unit" a bit strange. For instance, the first American troops to land on Omaha Beach were "Combat Engineers." They were informed that their landing would be preceded by a heavy shelling by the Navy and heavy Air Force bombing. Unfortunately, the Navy guns shelled too far inland and the Air Force never did provide the cover they needed. Those poor souls were cut to pieces by German gun fire. In spite of heavy losses, they gutted their way through the German wall. If they had not been there to clear the mine fields, it would have been impossible to land troops and unload heavy equipment.

I would like to inform Mr. Rowe, that when we were given our basic training at Camp Shelby back in 1943, we were informed that we would become a "new type of engineer." Classified as "Combat Engineers" we would be capable of taking and holding a position all the while performing our mission. Before the break-out at St. Lo, mines had to be cleared, bomb craters had to be filled in, bridges had to be built. All this work was done under fire. I would hope that you did not believe that tanks would go running through mined roads or fields until enough were blown up so that the rest of the tanks could go on safely. And what of the rivers to be crossed. I do not believe that tanks float.

When the Germans broke through our lines during the Ardennes Campaign and we had to pull back; who do you think was blowing up bridges and laying mines? It was not the "Corps of Engineers"--it was the "Combat Engineers."

I am writing not only for my outfit, but, for all the Combat Engineers who fought and gave their lives for our country. I would like to close this letter with a line from a song one of our own men wrote to commemorate our battalion: "We are the ones who get there first to see that they all get through."

I am proud to have been a member of the COMBAT ENGINEERS.

Sebastian H. LaBella  
296 ENGR CMBT BN

## A HUMOROUS EVENT

The purpose of this article is to sooth the ire and maybe create a laugh for all the individuals who "got there first, did the most, took more towns, captured more of the enemy and helped end the war sooner than anyone else." I'm not disputing their remarks. It is great to be honestly proud. I was a member of a field artillery forward observation unit and was attached to several fine units. Not a bad one in the bunch. My team was attached to units in the Bulge, Northern France, Alsace-Lorraine, Holland and Germany.

Now for the important part. Following the massive shelling by about 2,070 artillery pieces supporting the northern most Rhine River crossing at Wesel, Germany, our FO crew crossed the river March 24, 1945 during the wee hours of the morning. Upon reaching the east river bank it was still dark and we found the German defenders disorganized and in shock. While studying the situation with the infantry company commander, Captain Rabbit, I felt it necessary to relieve myself.

Stepping aside about ten yards from the group, I proceeded to take a "leak." To my amazement out of a dugout came a ME42 machine gun, a couple of Schmeissers and a handful of potato mashers followed by three German soldiers more than eager to give up. The company commander thought this very amusing and told the rest of the crew: "Don't fire another shot! Just let Evans p--- on 'em and they'll all give up!"

This incident may not have been a first, or helped win the war much sooner, or was it of historical importance; but it certainly added a bit of humor to a tense situation. It is always good to recall the lighter side.

Enjoy every issue of *The Bulge Bugle*. It is a very good publication.

Tom Evans  
898 FA BN A

## MORE LONG TOMS

In the February issue one of the members stated that the 978th and 979th Field Artillery Battalions were the only 155mm Long Toms in service that

he knew of. I beg to differ with him. I was a member of A Battery of the 200th Field Artillery Battalion--a Long Tom outfit. We landed on the beach at Normandy on June the 8th at 1400 hours. We were in the thick of every one of the battles in the ETO. The Battle of the Bulge was the toughest. In that battle alone we fired 6,719 rounds of H.E. shells. In all five battles we fired 20,967 rounds of H.E. shells and 416 rounds of white phosphorous shells.

We were V Corps Artillery and supported any outfit that needed heavy artillery support. We supported infantry, armored and airborne divisions. We even supported the British 11th Armored and French 2nd Armored Divisions for several days. We were in a firing position at Haslau, Czechoslovakia, on VE Day. It had been a long war for Battery, and now it was over. There was no hilarious jubilation. There was no rowdy drunkenness. The nerve racking tension we all lived under was over. We were all so tired. We had survived the worst war in the history of mankind.

I believe that God took a hand in the affairs of men of goodwill and good triumphed over evil.

Anthony F. Supkowski  
200 FA BN A

## HOW DID I FIT IN?

...look forward to each and every publication of *The Bulge Bugle*. The February issue was, in my mind, one of the best yet.

Who am I? How do I fit into the Bastogne battle--I keep asking myself this over and over again--as I look back on that cold, bitter cold, deep-snow covered arrival night at some farm house on January 16, 1945. Jumping off the 6 x 6 and into the dark, unknown bitterness of my initial combat experience awaiting me, I knew not where or when, as a kid of 20.

All I can recall is: "What do you want to be?" The sergeant threw this at me and my buddies and all I could retort was: "Machine gunner."

It all began somewhere in France, At Dijon, where I guess it was a water treatment or waste treatment place, and we became, after our trip from Grenoble, "The Ground Forces Reinforcement System No. 2." What did I know about the Bulge? Nothing! Where were we going? Who knows! The army always kept us in the dark even when we moved at a moment's notice from one side of the road or from the 5th Army to the 7th Army in Grenoble.

What a far cry from the constant trouble shooting moves which were part and parcel of this magnificent 35th Infantry Division that I had just become a part of. Welcome to the 2nd Battalion, G Company, of the 320th Regiment. I was no longer a 405, clerk-typist, making out morning reports, but a 745 rifleman.

It's only now that I see the information that the 35th was relieved on the 18th and sent to Metz to relieve the 180th Regiment of the 45th Division, as my memory states. We went on to swing all the way north through Luxembourg and Holland and all the way to the Elbe. There were many tight situations, especially at the Wesel Pocket, pinned down by enemy fire. I can't recall the specific combat situations, but this is my story. No, I didn't get wounded, but in the Bastogne area, when the bearded sergeant said: "That your choice, no one's left"--that I remember.

Seymour Kroll  
35 INF 320 INF G

## ONLY MORE CONFUSION

The letter from Willis Case Rowe in the current *Bulge Bugle* creates more errors than it clears up.

In reference to women not being in the Bataan Death March, this is probably true. But, there were army nurses at the army hospital near the tip of the Bataan Peninsula. The fear of a Japanese orgy of rape and murder if the hospital was overrun prompted General King to surrender. The nurses then may have been evacuated to Corregidor by small craft. Survivors of their "hell on earth" as "guests of the Emperor" have mentioned nurses being on duty at the hospital tents.

The reference to the 2nd Infantry Regiment is entirely wrong. I was a member of that regiment from 1942 to 1945, when it was one of the three infantry regiments of the 5th Infantry of General Patton's Third Army from Normandy to Czechoslovakia. The 2nd Infantry took part, along with the 1st Infantry in the Indian Wars in Ohio during the 1790's. The entire Continental Army was disbanded.

(Continued on next page)



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

except for small guard details, after the Revolutionary War. For a period of time prior to 1789 the senior officer of the army was only a captain. The 2nd Infantry suffered defeat under General St. Clair and redeemed itself under General Anthony Wayne. One historian has called Wayne "the Patton of his era."

My assignment in the 2nd Infantry was the Regimental Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon (I&R) during our service under General Patton.

Virgil M. Gordon  
2 INF 2 INF HQ

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### ROYAL LIPIZZAN STALLIONS

I read with interest the column concerning the Royal Lipizzan Stallions by Spero L. Yianilos, of the 3rd Battalion, 328th Infantry, 26th Yankee Infantry Division.

These famous white horses of the Spanish Riding Academy of Vienna, Austria, were captured from German troops at Hostau, Czechoslovakia, by elements of the 2nd Cavalry Group on 3 May 1945. They were then ordered to be delivered to the riding academy at St. Martin, Inkreis (county), Austria, which is located a few miles east of Braunau in what used to be known as "Ober Donau." My wife and I have visited the academy two times over the years and noted that it is still in business.

The stallions were then moved from Czechoslovakia to St. Martin when the Yankee Division was assigned occupation duty of Ober Donau in early August, 1945. The 3rd Battalion of the 328th Infantry was assigned the duty to guard these famous horses before they were to be returned to the Spanish Riding Academy. The publicity of the visit by General Patton appears in many articles of the era including the brochure of Co. Herrmann. The return of the stallions to Vienna (Wien) was executed in November, 1945, after the Yankee Division departed for discharge in the USA.

The original Herrmann Royal Lipizzan Stallions, descendants from those saved, now are trained in Myakka City, Florida (south of Tampa) by the company of Col. Otto Herrmann to perform in shows throughout the USA during the summer months. Viewing stands are in place for free viewing of the rehearsals which many seasonal visitors take advantage of.

William Leesemann, Jr.  
26 INF 101 ENGR CMBT BN

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### YOU, MY FRIEND, WERE NOT ALONE

After reading my *Bulge Bugle* for February, I must respond to Norman Shoults' belief that the 978th and 979th Field Artillery Battalions were the only long toms in Europe. Not so.

I was a gunner on a long tom with the 731st Field Artillery Battalion. We were attached to the XII Corps, spearhead of Patton's Third Army. The outfit earned five battle stars, in nine months of combat.

Besides ourselves, I am aware of (thanks to my copy of XII Corps History Book): 514th, 244th and 273rd Field Artillery Battalions--all 155's.

Like you, Norm, I never SAW any other long tom outfits in all our travels.

George F. Threlfall  
731 FA BN C

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### A "RIFLEMAN" IS AN "INFANTRYMAN"

To Mr. Willis Case Rowe, who is so adroit at pointing out others' 'errors,' may I do him the same honors. When he attempts to dissect 'infantry' and division, first I would like to ask: What does this symbol represent on a battle map?



My dictionary says an infantry-man is "a soldier, trained to fight on foot with relatively light weapons." He refers to "line" divisions. It is a "division" because it can be "divided" into smaller, more manageable units, the basic one being a "company."

Back in the time of Hannibal and Caesar, the infantry advanced in a "line," shoulder to shoulder, each soldier protecting the man on his right. Mounted infantry, known as cavalry, when dismounted formed a "skirmish" line. When naval vessels steamed they did so "in line" and such ships were known as "ships of the line." To designate cavalry as such, they were known as "troops," the equivalent of an infantry "company." It has always been known as the "front line," the line of

troops closest to the enemy troops. During WWII an "infantry division contained 4,000 rifles as opposed to other designated divisions. Old cavalry were basically not mounted infantry because their primary purpose was to move quickly and act as shock troops, creating a gap in the enemies' "line" for the "infantry" or foot trained soldiers, who had to walk to the battlefield too, to exploit any breach created by cavalry.

A "line" division, composed of infantry "line companies" is a "line division," regardless of other internal "company" components. Custer's old outfit was known as the 7th Cavalry. The 82nd and 101st Airborne usually are not referred to with the word division. Being divisions they too could be divided into parachute and glider regiments, while not referred to as "line" infantry. Our "minutemen" met a "line" of British regulars at Breda's Hill near Boston. If your MOS designated you as a "rifleman," then that made you an "infantryman" and qualified you for the "Combat Infantryman" Badge.

There are 26 "Regular Army" divisions. During WWI the 2nd Infantry (Indian Head) Division had two Marine (Race Horse) Brigades as a part of the division, who earned glory at Belleau Wood and have a piece of land there known as de la Brigade de la Marines. An "armored" division contains more tank and half tracks than an "infantry" or "parachute" division. I hope this enlightens Mr. Rowe to be less picky on trivial matters.

Howard Peterson  
4 ARMDD 51 AIB

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### FRIENDS OVER THERE

I have an incident that happened to me back in 1944....

During the war, when the 30th Infantry Division was passing through the City of Heerlen in Holland, I entered a back shop to purchase a goodie.

The young girl (about 16) spoke English and asked me to visit her mom, who was ill at the time. She wanted to see an American soldier. Of course, I said 'yes.'

Well, since that time mom and pop have passed away, but I'll never forget the family. I spent many a weekend at their home--even had my own bedroom, ate with the family and attended mass with the young girl at the local church. They treated me like one of the family--wonderful, wonderful people, that I'll never forget.

When our division returns to Europe every five years, I always extend our reunion activities for another month so I can stay with one of the daughters for a month. We visit the children who we lived with in other cities in Holland and Belgium and just have a wonderful time. I think the Dutch and Belgian people are the "greatest." The reception we receive is tremendous. They really appreciate their liberation by my division....

Louis Santucci  
30 INF 120 INF G

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### A YOUNG WAR BRIDE

I often wonder if any of you think how it was for the wife of a fellow veteran who was killed in action.

As a young war bride who remained at home with a baby all I could do was wait for the war to end so I could once more be with the man I loved. My life was devastated when I realized that was never to be. Somehow we each managed to go on and finally accept whatever the future may be.

Thanks to each of you for serving our country loyally, and god bless all veterans their loved ones.

Faye Christian Perry  
Widow of Lemuel "Red" E. Christian

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### 14,429 ROUNDS IN 15 DAYS

In the February issue, Norman B. Shoults had a letter on the 155 Long Toms. There were a number of 155 Long Toms pulled by Prime Movers in Europe including my outfit the 731st Field Artillery and its sister battalion the 733rd.

The closing of the great war saw the 731st Battalion through 281 days of action traveling 4,100 miles with the 3rd Army through the countries of France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany and Czechoslovakia firing some 62,484 rounds.

The night of December 19th, being in southern limits of Saarguemines at 2300 came CSMO order to travel 127 miles to arrive in St. Leger, Belgium, on December 21st

(Continued on next page)



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

to help stem the siege of Bastogne. The battalion fired 14,429 rounds in 15 days to help stop the advance of the enemy.

The 731st Field Artillery Battalion had been in four different Army Corps and supported four armored divisions, eleven infantry divisions, including one airborne division plus one cavalry groupment to help the doughboys celebrate V-E day alongside us in Czechoslovakia. I was a field artillery forward observer.

Edward M. Graffeo  
731 FA BN B

### 2ND INFANTRY REGIMENT

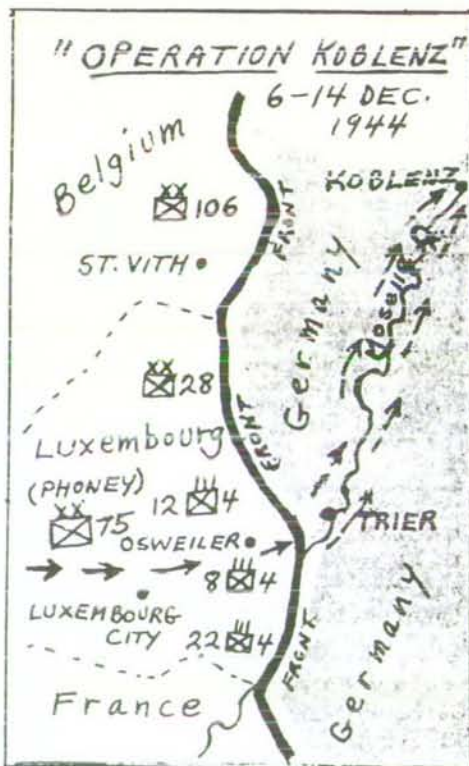
In the February issue, Willis Case Rowe in his article "Pointing Out Errors," points out that the 2nd Infantry referred to in a previous article was probably the 2nd Infantry Division. I take issue with him that the 3rd Infantry stationed at Fort Myer, Virginia, was the lowest numbered regiment in the army at that time. I was in the 5th Division in the fall of 1945 until discharge in April, 1946, and I was in the 2nd Infantry Regiment of the 5th Division. Their other two regiments were the 10th and 11th.

James G. Graff  
35 INFD 134 INF C

### PHANTOM DIVISION CLARIFIED

In the February 1999 issue Edwin Kahner asks for information about the "Phantom Division" in Luxembourg before December 16, 1944. Well, here are the facts:

The "Operation Koblenz" was carried out by the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops in a supervisory capacity for the VIII Corps. In the first phase from December 6 through 14, 1944, a simulated attack of the VII Corps was planned in the area west of the City of Luxembourg. The objective was to contain the present German strain on the VIII Corps front by posing a notional attack down the Moselle Valley toward Koblenz.



as "75th convoys." At night this convoy traffic was augmented by sonic means, to indicate a greater number of vehicles.

On December 12, 1944, engineers began preparations for a fake crossing of the Sauer River. On December 13th some real tanks were moved up to Osweiler. Sonic effects were used at night to triple the sound of the tanks. Not even the 4th Infantry Division Commander knew that the operation was a fake—he thought the real 75th Infantry Division

was behind them.

For some days an additional division appeared as a question mark on situation maps of the intelligence staff of Feldmarschall von Rundstedt, Oberbefehlshaber West. But on December 15, 1944, the day before the attack, OB West was satisfied, that no new division existed and the question mark disappeared. Since December 14th the phoney 75th Division had been fading away from the area and was reported moving north. Two weeks later the real 75th Infantry Division arrived near Marche, Belgium.

The second phase of "Operation Koblenz" was scheduled to begin on December 21, 1944, slightly to the north. This time the "Phantom Division" was the 76th Infantry Division, which was actually to arrive near Osweiler on January 26, 1945. But before Phase II could start, the German counterattack began.

This shows:

1. that VIII Corps Headquarters were not "a lot more knowledgeable of the situation than critics have indicated," for if they knew about the German attack, they would not have planned a deception operation five days after the offensive on December 21, 1944.

2. that the German intelligence officers were not fooled for a long time, because the phoney division had disappeared from the maps before the attack.

3. that the only soldiers who were fooled were the GIs of the 4th Infantry Division. A soldier from the "Ivy Division," who was in an evacuation hospital a few days after the Germans attacked, was heard to remark: "I'd like to get my hands on those elusive bastards of the 75th!" To them it appeared that the 75th turned tail when the Germans attacked.

Jean Milmeister  
VBOB Associate Charter Member  
Luxembourg

### REMEMBERING DECEMBER 16TH

Reading the February 1999 issue of *The Bulge Bugle*, I noticed a letter in the "Members Speak Out" by Mitchell Kaidy. He is absolutely right about 16 December being an important date to remember.

Here in Luxembourg, where I live and work, that important date is remembered every year at the Luxembourg American Cemetery in a ceremony conducted by the "Cercle des Officiers de la Garde Grand-Ducale." This ceremony is usually attended by representatives of the Luxembourg and American governments and a few citizens of Luxembourg.

As Superintendent of the Luxembourg American Cemetery, I am surprised that there are hardly ever any representatives from VBOB at this ceremony. Every year numerous American World War II veterans make a special trip to visit the Normandy Beaches and the beautiful American cemetery there—and well they should. Yet, more men fought in the Bulge than in the original invasion of Normandy. I think you should encourage your members to make a side trip to the Luxembourg of Ardennes or Henri-Chapelle cemeteries where their comrades of the Bulge are interred. They would be warmly received by the Luxembourg people and their presence at the 16 December ceremony would make it all the more meaningful.

On another subject: Did you know that every year on Memorial Day, the U.S. Veterans' Friends, Luxembourg, a local organization, places a red rose on the grave of each of the 5,076 American soldiers interred in this cemetery? Luxembourg remembers.

Leland B. Atkinson, Superintendent  
The American Battle Monuments Commission  
Luxembourg American Cemetery

### 130TH GENERAL HOSPITAL

Rose Young, a 1st lieutenant nurse with the 130th General Hospital, sent your February 1999 issue of *The Bulge Bugle* to me. She knows that I am working on a book about the experiences of my father. The message in this issue was loud and clear to me—recruit the offspring so they can carry the torch for us!

Well, I have subscribed to *The Bugle* and plan to do my part to the best of my ability! I am the 57-year-old son of Lt. Col. Howard E. Sweet, M.D., Executive Officer and eventually Commanding Officer of the 130th General Hospital.

I am trying to gather any information

(Continued on next page)



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I can about the 130th General Hospital. They embarked from Boston, were stationed in England, landed in Normandy at Omaha Beach after D-day, and were one of the closest General Hospitals to the German lines when the Battle of the Bulge started. The hospital was surrounded by the 2nd Panzer Division, who were ultimately rushed out of the area by the U.S. 2nd Armored Division if the information I have so far is accurate. The 130th was located in the Mont de La Salle, a monastery in Ciney, Belgium, when the Battle of the Bulge started.

I wasn't mature enough before dad died to ask about his World War II experiences, and like many other WWII veterans, he chose not to talk about it. I can say this now to all of you remaining veterans--talk about it now or it will all be lost forever!

I have started an Internet Web Site [www.130thgeneralhospital.com](http://www.130thgeneralhospital.com) to help us preserve any pictures, letters and information about the 130th. I will make everything available to anyone in the world with an interest. You can communicate with me via e-mail, [info@130thgeneralhospital.com](mailto:info@130thgeneralhospital.com), regular mail (1213 Brookgreen Drive, Cary, North Carolina 27511), or telephone at 919-460-1018. If you choose you can record your stories and information on a tape recorder, mail the tape to me and I'll transcribe your words.

With a tear in my eye, I sincerely send my thanks to all of the men and women who fought and gave up so much, so those of us who followed could have so much!

John H. Sweet  
New Associate Member

*[John, we need more like you. The message of the Battle of the Bulge is so powerful and strong we can't let it go--ever. Thanks for your support and for the support of all our new associate members. You will make the difference.]*

### MORE ON THE "PHANTOM"

In the February 1999 issue of *The Bulge Bugle*, Edwin Kahner, 16th Field Artillery Battalion asks if anyone knows of the "Phantom" Division operation just prior to 16 December 1944.

He is correct in his assumption that the operation was initiated by VIII Corps and involved some special troops which had been in existence since mid-1944. These troops specialized in impersonating other units. It was, of course, designed to deceive the Germans.

The unit was a group designated as the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops. It consisted of three or four component parts which included the 603rd Engineer Camouflage Battalion, the 406th Engineer Combat Company, the 3132nd Signal Service Company, and others. There were two signal deception units with huge loud speakers which tripled the sounds of military movements including armor, and to send fake radio intelligence about the activities of the "phantom" units.

The 23rd was involved in the pre-D-Day deception in England which included a phantom army under Patton, several other operations including simulating two tank battalions and a field artillery battalion outside of the French City of Brest.

In Luxembourg their activity was called "Operation Koblenz." In addition to their own activity, they acted in a supervisory capacity to VIII Corps units which also acted in deceptive practices. This would account for the 16th Field Artillery Observation Battalion "Special Mission" order supplied by Edwin Kahner.

The 23rd's final activity occurred in the period 7 December to about 14-15 December. They had already been withdrawn to Luxembourg City by 16 December when the Bulge began. During that time they acted as the 75th Division. Before selecting the 75th, other divisions had been considered. These included the 9th, the 106th and the 78th. The decision to use the 75th was made because that division was moving from England to France and it was felt that the Germans were not sure where they were exactly.

This information was taken from documents sent to me by Mr. Ed Biow, a member of the 23rd who lives in Oswego, Oregon. He and I became acquainted in November 1998 when he noticed the 75th Division patch on my uniform when we both attended a ceremony. He introduced himself and in the course of the evening the story came out. Later, he sent me an excerpt from his copy of his unit history, and a copy of an article from the Smithsonian dated April 1985. There were other

documents. If Edwin Kahner would like copies at no cost, write to me at: PO Box 1751, Beaverton, Oregon 97075-1752.

Do hope this recently acquired information explains the "Phantom" Division to Edwin and some members of the 4th Division who were mighty angry with the 75th Division and question our mother's marital status.

Kent S. Freeman  
75 INF 290 INF MED

### WALL OF LIBERTY

In the February 1999 issue of *The Bulge Bugle*, William Leeseman, Jr., refers to "The Wall of Liberty," suggesting that the project was separate from "Le Memorial" [museum]. I, too, visited the Museum at Caen. The exhibits, especially that of the holocaust camp, were superb. There is no doubt that what is in and around the museum is superb. While I found the research library remarkable, and understood the other aspects of the Foundation's efforts, "The Wall" was an absolute disgrace! [I realized that it was a cardboard mockup.]

As a sergeant who served in the ETO during the war, and a professor of American history for over 30 years, I gained an impression from the literature that clearly the "Wall of Liberty" was to be outside the museum--a separate entity. One may be amused to think that this was a separate effort on the part of the Foundation, however, the mass of individuals who contributed had been bombarded by literature which led us to believe that the Wall was a "separate entity" just as each of the other index of memorials was to be completed. The emphasis with hindsight in any way we were shaken down, is that the building of the Wall had a sense of urgency, and that was probably the key to raising the money for all of the Foundation projects proposed. Clearly this was a play on living veterans' egos irrelevant sympathy from relatives of the deceased.

I was not a charter member because not until 1992, did I learn about the Foundation and having received three letters requesting funds. I sent dollars each time hoping for the best. I am not among the mentally employed, but I had a degree of respect for responsible individuals who lent their names to this effort. In the process, however, they brought considerable embarrassment and disappointment to veterans, and the survivors of their families.

I saw the cardboard mockup and was mortified. Clearly the insinuation was that it would be built outside, in an area of three acres donated for the purpose. Why else was the mockup standing in a prominent place in the museum with a smattering of names? At the Caen Museum, when I asked about the real "Wall," the employees told me they did not know anything about it, and advised me to make inquiry in the States. Neither am I the Village Idiot, but it didn't take but a moment on the spot to figure out what had happened. For those who wish to see the cardboard Wall firsthand, look at the WAE Focus on History Page on the Netscape Internet.

Foundation phones were disconnected, and mail remained unanswered. When individuals began to hit the Web Pages asking perceptive questions, I asked for the photo I took to appear with some observations. On another Web Page titled "WAE Wall of Liberty" there were a number of letters from sons, daughters, wives, and veterans who posed some rather intriguing questions. Citizen groups were formed to pursue what they hoped would be a responsible explanation or a hope that the project would restart. As a response a number of contributors wrote several congressmen, a year ago--no answers. I was advised by one of the Internet inquiry groups to gather all of my paperwork and send it to a specific FBI agent in Washington, DC--no response. The matter was pursued in a civil court in Connecticut; "Sixty Minutes" did a cursory exculpatory overview of the Foundation.

As late as December, 1998, the Department of Justice was being asked to finish the inquiry. I cannot speak about the working veteran volunteers or veterans organizations who didn't want to help. The excuse that a lack of funding is irrelevant--but the statements made about the several millions donated by individuals for "The Wall of Liberty" are relevant.

Donors were given sketches of a Wall, with enticing prose, showing how the names of men and women who had been in the ETO would appear. One of these advertisements carried a photo of Pierre Salinger sitting on the Wall of Liberty; another showed a beautiful Wall with people reaching up to trace names which appeared there. Nothing in the bundle of papers I retained ever reflected the idea that this was to be part and parcel of a budget for something else. There is no question that with the help of Salinger and others an enticement of hope

*(Continued on next page)*



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

was made for a memorial

As for the Wall in Washington, DC, the U.S. Congress has vetoed the money bill twice. I care not at all for another Wall on the Mall. Besides, our Congress found it more fulfilling to spend millions peeking through keyholes. Voters remember the historic phrase, "Throw the Scoundrels Out!"

I for one want the wall in Normandy, right in the face of those whom our men and women fought against, and right where our allies could see it, as a reminder of how the men and women of this country helped them, and as a vivid reminder to the Americans who do not know of, or care about the sacrifices made for peace and freedom.

Time has already caused generations younger than ours to forget what Tom Brokaw, Stephen Ambrose and Stephen Spielberg found an incredible moment in time to "reveal." Maybe their sage efforts will yet instill someone to build that Wall so that at least one veteran of WWII may see it before it is too late. Hopefully through their vigor there will be a renewed effort to reflect that ordinary Americans helped keep the freedom that could otherwise have been lost.

Ray Brandes  
547 AAA BN/95 & 35 INFD

## THE PAYMASTER COMMETH

The February issue asked members to submit stories of experiences they have had receiving their pay. We have the following results and wish to thank Clark for sharing. Surely, there were more of you who had experiences we would all enjoy. If so, share them with us.

### Clark J. Hall, Jr. 300th Engineer Combat Battalion Company C (in the Bulge)

After hostilities and several transfers and a great deal of travel in my army job, the army decided to catch up with me for six months' pay. The day was a bleak winter day with icy roads and it was at least 40 miles to 7th Armored Division Headquarters. Immediately upon getting the six months' pay, I wired it all home. With my job, I really had no need for the money, and I needed all the money I could scrape together to continue my college education. I did not know there was going to be a GI Bill.

Our Company of the 7th Armored Division was assigned two new West Point graduates. Both the 1st sergeant and I decided that these two splendid young men should do the company payroll. So off they went the 40 or so miles to division headquarters to get the German Marks. What they brought back was the least amount of large bills. When asked how they were going to pay the men, they replied that the men would have to supply the change. So we gave them a lesson on just how a payroll was prepared. Their comment was, "They never told us about payrolls at West Point." Our response was, "Well, you are in the army now."

[Clark was first assigned to Company C of the 300th Combat Engineers, and then the 90th Infantry Division and finally the 7th Armored Division. He was with the 300th from Normandy through the BOB and into Germany until hospitalized.]

## BOOKS YOU MAY ENJOY

Last month we were unable to list the books which had been donated because of space limitations. Here are the generous donations we have received over the last four or five months:

*Death Traps: The Survival of an American Armored Division in World War II* by Belton Y. Cooper. When America's soldiers went into combat in Normandy, they believed they had the best equipment in the world. This was particularly true of our armor soldiers: in their M-4 Sherman medium tanks they were more than ready to take on the best the Nazis had to throw against them. It didn't take long for the young American tankers to discover that they were wrong, very wrong. Outgunned, outarmored, and less mobile, the Sherman proved to be easy pickings for battle-seasoned German panzers. During its campaign across Europe, more than 1,400 miles from the Normandy beaches to deep into Germany the 3rd Armored Division had 700 tanks knocked out in combat and were able to be repaired and put back into combat with an additional 648 tanks completely destroyed. It is a never-before-told story. Order from: Presidio Press, 505B San Marin Drive Suite 300, Novato, California. Cost is \$28.95 (ISBN: 0-89141670-6)

*How a Ninety-Day Wonder Survived the War* by Charles D. Curley, Jr. The story of a rifle platoon leader in the Second "Indianhead" Division during World War II. He recounts the crossing of the English Channel, then landing on Omaha beach after D-Day, seeing the carnage of war. His next assignment was with the 38th Regiment as 1st platoon leader of Company E, replacing its former wounded officer. From this point forward, he details the intense training with tanks used to breach hedge rows in France. His platoon's encounters with German paratroopers defending Hill 192 in Normandy are incredible. Later his platoon moves back into the thick of fighting in the Schenee-Eifflé Mountains. The men of E Company were in the maelstrom of the Battle of the Bulge. Order from and make checks payable to Charles D. Curley, Jr., 3906 Hanover Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221-1918. Cost is \$19.45 including shipping and handling (Virginia residents add 76 cents sales tax).

*The Authorized Press in Vichy and German-Occupied France, 1940-1944*, a bibliography compiled by Donna Evleth. Despite heavy censorship and sometimes outright control by either Vichy or the Germans, the authorized press is a useful and necessary source for anyone studying the period of German occupation and the Vichy government in France. The political press, the press created by Vichy for its Chantiers de la Jeunesse youth movement, its Legion of War veterans and its Peasant Corporation for agriculture show the regime's ideology and priorities. A wide variety of other periodicals, including religious publications, advertising papers, trade papers, and sports papers, provides insights into the professional and local life of the period. This book provides a guide to the authorized press of the occupation period. (Lists 2,500 periodicals.) Order from: Greenwood Publishing Group, Inc., PO Box 5007, Westport, Connecticut 06881-5007. Cost including shipping and handling is \$69.50 (ISBN 0-313-30784-9)

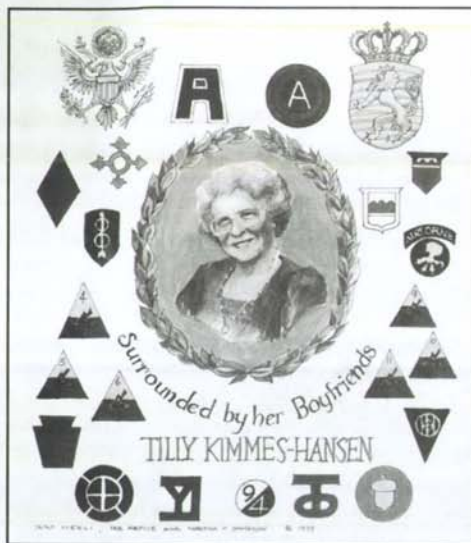
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## FORWARD

*It was a hot and steamy evening in Boston, Massachusetts when I met her flight from Luxembourg at Logan Airport. The hour and a half ride to the cool shores of Cape Cod at Hyannis by car was a delightful respite as we arrived to meet and join for another reception with Tilly's Boyfriends at the annual reunion of the Bulge Veterans in September of 1996. I was delighted with the thought that for a little while I was the best and only Boyfriend of Tilly Kimmes-Hansen.*

by John E. McAuliffe  
87th Infantry Division Association



Men of the 80th Division Association have honored Tilly with a portrait painting with the fleur de lis, and "Surrounded by Her Boyfriends," the insignia of the 19 divisions and the 1st and 3rd Army patches which served in Luxembourg. Over 500 photos were printed. The original painting is 20 inches in length.

# TILLY

***Little Luxembourg, a country no larger than the state of Rhode Island had produced a gracious hostess and a friend of the GI soldier, with a heart as big as the state of Texas.***

On September 10, 1944, the tanks of the 5th Armored Division crossed into Luxembourg from the region of Sedan, France and liberated the town of Petange. The two Combat Commands, CCA and CCB were destined for Luxembourg City and Mersch respectively. The people of Petange, aware that the Americans were approaching, were not surprised to see German soldiers herding cattle, horses, and pigs along the Rue d'Althus; the young Americans themselves were not aware that they were restoring liberty to a nation that had suffered greatly under a reign of terror for four long years. It was on May 10, 1940, that the Nazis invaded neutral Luxembourg, and tried to adjust the borders of the Grand Duchy and introduced the notorious nationality survey, followed by the conscription into the German army of all Luxembourg men born in the years 1920-1924. Protest demonstrations and widespread strikes were called throughout the whole country with the Nazis on the verge of despair. Imprisonment, deportation, and concentration camps were in order for Luxembourghers, who walked off their jobs in devotion to the homeland. Others were executed following barbarity and torture.

In the town of Steinsel, just north of Luxembourg City, a 27 year old teacher, Tilly Hansen, was lucky to be home from her teaching job in a German school in a relatively quiet area. She had been one of the teachers deported. Her future husband-to-be was also deported and conscripted into the German army against his wishes. Among the priests and seminarians taken to Germany was Tilly's younger brother Joseph, who was imprisoned at Trier. But on that glorious day of September 10, she joined with thousands as "unbridled joy and frenetic jubilation" broke out among a people who had been oppressed for years. They hugged, shouted, sang, laughed, and wept with joyful excitement. It was Sunday, and as Tilly and the congregation left church, they could hear the bells on the Luxembourg City Cathedral in the distance announcing that the Americans had come. The townspeople ran home and brought baskets of fruit, flowers, cakes, biscuits, and other offerings to greet the Americans entering the town of Steinsel. With the church bells ringing and the people cheering and throwing flowers, Tilly was lifted up on the lead tank to read her prepared speech in English to the liberators. They hugged the tankmen who quickly drove on across the river, as more tanks were coming behind them.

(Continued on next page)



# TILLY

Born on November 3, 1916, in a farmhouse in Steinsel, Tilly was the eighth of eleven children. She never met her first three siblings, since they died during World War I, as medicines and doctors were scarce in those days. But all the children did well in school. Two married farmers in nearby towns; one sister went off to Paris to become a nursery-maid to a wealthy family. Tilly attended the strict Catholic Sister's boarding school in Luxembourg City, where home visits were allowed on the church feast days. But the discipline paid off as she mastered three languages: French, German, and English, graduating at the age of 15. Upon graduation from college, she took special courses at night school and received her certificate for proficiency in the English language. At the invitation of her uncle, her father's brother who had immigrated to America, she had the promise of a teacher's job. But that was quickly thwarted when the Nazis came. During her teaching days in Germany, she had to wear a pin, "Heim ins Reich." No French was spoken and no prayers were allowed. In a short time hundreds of Luxembourg citizens sat in prison for "crimes against Nazis." Anticipating the arrival of the Nazis in 1940, both Prince Jean and Prince Felix fled the country and remained in England during the occupation. On liberation day, Prince Jean, who later became the Grand Duc, appeared among the jubilant crowd in the uniform of a lieutenant in the Irish Guards. Life in Luxembourg returned to normal. A provisional police force was formed. American officers worked together with the administration of the capital city. Tilly Hansen was home for good and soon her two brothers arrived—one in a US Army jeep—each with a long story to tell. Like so many of their countrymen, their tales of hardship and suffering were meshed with stories of heroism. Tilly was soon appointed to teach in Rumelange, a town on the French border in the south.

One morning, Tilly was awakened by a neighbor in the same house, telling her the Germans were back. It was December 17, the day after the big German breakthrough into the Ardennes area, which extended from Monchau to Echternach. She hurried home to Steinsel. When she learned that the attack was confined to Luxembourg north of Ettlebruk, she returned to Rumelange. She was in contact with American officers at the restaurant where she ate, and was asked by the officers of the advanced special service to accompany them to Bad Tonistein, Germany, where they set up a German government.

As an interpreter, she and other Luxembourgers staffed the office in the castle where General von Rundstedt once had had his headquarters. It was while working here with the new provisional German government that she met and visited with Konrad Adenauer, who later became the first German prime minister, or president, of West Germany. As Tilly relates, "he loved Luxembourg and tried to excuse the Nazi-idiots." On V-E Day, May 8, she joined many GIs at a huge casino at Bad Neuenahr, where they were introduced to General Patton. "He hugged all us Luxembourgers and we thanked him for our liberation."

Shortly after, Tilly received word from home that there were nine teacher's positions available in Luxembourg. She left the CIC group and in September 1946, began teaching in Goetzange. It was here at a carnival ball she met a "good-looking" gendarm, Roger Kimmes, whom she would marry in 1950.

Roger had been forced into the German army in 1940, and was wounded on the Russian front. He had finally found his way back to Luxembourg at the end of the war by train, on foot, and by wearing his uniform, evading the retreating Germans. As a gendarm, or state policeman, he was obliged to change his jurisdiction after 10 years.

**Tilly before she married in 1948**

*Roger wanted a good picture made by a first class photographer*



After 14 years, Tilly and Roger moved to the Northern Ardennes area of Heiderscheid, where Tilly taught American children in the government school. The children were the dependents of employees of Goodyear and DuPont de Nemours companies located in Luxembourg. She also began teaching English courses at a nun's boarding school for girls in Ettlebruck. During the next 14 years of teaching, she and her husband Roger moved to Mersch and eventually built a new house in her native town of Steinsel. She loved teaching English. It was during these years that she met a young gendarm who was a friend of Camille Kohn, who were all influential in founding CEBA, the Center for the Study of the Battle of the Ardennes. Thus began a new chapter in the life of Tilly Kimmes-Hansen. It would lead to her fulfillment years after she had retired from the teaching profession. As her husband Roger told her before he died from cancer in 1988, "You must stay in CEBA otherwise you will always feel dull." He knew of her love for the veterans and how she liked to form receptions for their return to Luxembourg where they fought during the war. With her job as secretary for CEBA she got to know all the mayors of the Ardennes. It wasn't long before they had erected 24 memorials to the veterans, divisions, and units that had fought in Luxembourg, as well as the CEBA museum at Clervaux Castle, one of the best and most complete museums in Europe. Because of her fluency in speaking and writing English, Tilly was approached to write to the Pentagon in Washington, DC to get the names of the units involved in the great battle. This led to her meeting with the military historian, Charles B. MacDonald, author of *A Time for Trumpets*, and Hal Ryder, a former officer who now owned the Galaxy Tour Agency in Pennsylvania. Now began the influx of the GIs making what the Belgians and Luxembourgers affectionately referred to as "the comeback" visits. They came alone or with their wives, in groups, with the division associations, or the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. Whether alone or in groups, everyone was treated the same. They were greeted by President Camille Kohn, by Tilly, or with Jean Milmeister, the researcher-historian of CEBA. They were received in the towns where they fought with honor and tribute, and at the Clervaux statue and castle where they were presented with the medal of the Liberation of Luxembourg, and a certificate of appreciation by Jean Milmeister.

*(Continued on next page)*



# TILLY

Getting to know the many GIs, Tilly would now be invited to the US to attend the many division association reunions. She first came to the US in 1968, when she and Roger visited his brother's family in Indiana, and all 32 of his cousins in the midwest. It was a wonderful reunion after visiting Washington, DC, Niagra Falls, Greenfield Village, and Ford Village in Detroit, Michigan. In all, Tilly made 17 trips to the US, mostly combined with CEBA as the guest of the division associations.

For example, seven times she was the guest of the 80th Division which liberated 30 villages in Luxembourg, five times with the 6th Armored Division in Louisville, her favorite, which liberated many villages in cooperation with other units; the 5th, 90th, 35th, 28th Divisions, the 707th TK BN, and also the 26th Division which liberated 30 towns and villages, including Wiltz and Clervaux on January 25, 1945.

In all, there were 19 divisions which served in Luxembourg between September 1944, and February 1945, including the 4th, 87th, 67th, 8th, 83rd, 94th Divisions, and the 4th, 5th, 9th, 10th, 11th Armored Divisions, and the 17th Airborne Division, as well as those mentioned above. If Tilly did not visit these divisions in the US, she was there with the members of CEBA to greet them at the Clervaux Castle.

The men of the 80th Division Association have honored Tilly with a portrait painting outlined with the fleur de lis, and "Surrounded by Her Boyfriends," the insignia of the 19 divisions and the 1st and 3rd Army patches which served in Luxembourg. Over 500 photos were printed. The original painting, 20 inches in length and under glass, hangs in her personal home museum.

In Orlando, she was presented with the Key to the City. Many framed certificates and pictures grace her walls, including one of the Four Chaplains, one with Major General Robert W. Grow, Commander of the 6th Armored Division, a citation from Ambassador Constantinou, medals from generals, and an Eisenhower jacket, which was a gift from the 26th Yankee Division. Another honor was from the Elmwood, Pennsylvania Rotary Club.

Tilly Kimmes-Hansen was well known in her town of Steinsel from before the liberation and that Sunday she climbed atop the first tank to read her welcome speech of thanks to the American soldiers. Her smiling face and cheerful countenance at future receptions for the returning GIs soon became as prominent as the Clervaux GI, which is the most photographed statue in Luxembourg. Her warm, hearty laugh could be heard across the ocean to the American shores and beyond. Little Luxembourg, a country no larger than the state of Rhode Island, not only had produced a gracious hostess and a friend of the GI soldier, but one with a heart as big as the state of Texas. The little farm girl who played with her older sister Agnes, in the lovely green valley and meadows in peacetime before the arrival of the Nazis, had lived through five years of occupation and terror. In her middle adult years she had undergone several operations which would deny her the possibility of raising a family. Now, in her twilight years she still lives in her native Steinsel, but with memories of the new family of GIs she has adopted. She is "Surrounded by Her Boyfriends," the Liberators of Luxembourg.



**GI Memorial**  
Erected by:  
**CEBA**  
**War Museum**  
on  
September 11, 1983  
**Clervaux**  
**Luxembourg**

**Tilly**  
in the  
**Wilkes Barre/  
Scranton**  
**Veterans**  
**Hospital**  
1994



*The trumpets of war have long since silenced. The battle-scarred valley is green again, and the splintered trees have overgrown with new foliage. The once great leaders of the armies have long since passed on—but the 18 to 20 year olds who fought from the foxholes are now in their 70s. Today, they hold a warm spot in Tilly's heart.*

References:

1. *The Liberty Road in the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg*  
Copyright by Comité Luxembourgeois de la Voie de la Liberté  
Imprimerie Saint-Paul S.A., Luxembourg, 1994.
2. Tilly Kimmes-Hansen personal memories as told to John McAuliffe,  
February 14, 1999.



## MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

Student Martha Norman would like information from veterans who were in the Saar-Moselle Triangle, February 20, 1944-March 6, 1945, for a research paper she is doing for her masters. Write to her at: 917 Eldorado Drive, Dothan, Alabama 36303.

Free-lance writer Thomas Hammer is interested in receiving stories about the **106TH INFANTRY DIVISION**. If you can help write to him: 72 Harrison Street, Garden City, New York 11530.

**PATRICK J. KEARNEY, 55TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION**, writes that "Scholars in Foxholes: The Story of the Army Specialized Training Program in World War II" has been reprinted. The book contains many stories of ASTP men in the Bulge. Write to author Louis Keefer at: PO Box 2160, Reston, Virginia 20195.

**CHARLES McPHERSON, 28TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 630TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS**, is looking for the following who were in his battalion: **S/SGT ALEXANDER** (Company A, motor pool), **PFC MURRAY** (Company A, Florence, Alabama), **T/5 WILLIS JOHNSON** (HQ, Missouri). Write to Charles at: 58 Old Tennessee Road, N.E., Cartersville, Georgia 30121.

**ALBERT WILKINS, 485TH ORDNANCE EVACUATION COMPANY**, would like to hear from any of the men he served with. Write to him at: 404 Mulberry Lane, Hague, Virginia 22469.

Associate Member John Walker would like to find someone who can pinpoint on a map in his possession, the location of the first Westwall bunkers encountered by **COMPANY F, 345TH INFANTRY, 87TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, east of Kobscheid around dawn on 6 February 1945. (His father, **DONALD WALKER**, was in that company.) The same bunkers were probably occupied by the **106TH INFANTRY DIVISION** prior to the Bulge. He will send you a copy of the map. Write to him: 15 Morrison Avenue, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221-2124.

**CHESTER B. DUKEMAN, 83RD INFANTRY DIVISION, 331ST INFANTRY, COMPANY A**, would like to contact anyone who may have served with him. Write to Chester at: 2512 Willow St. Pike, Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17584.

Steve White would like to receive information regarding the following: **1ST LT THOMAS MULDOON COLWELL, III**, and **CAPT. CORY**, both from the **502ND QUARTERMASTER CAR COMPANY, THIRD U.S. ARMY HEADQUARTERS**. If you can help, write to him at: 10545 East Cedar Waxwing Drive, Sun Lakes, Arizona 85248.

Is some one able to provide the inscription on the monument walls at Bastogne? If so write to: Andrew M. Silverstone, 615 Queen Street, Charlottetown, P.E. C1A 9C7, Canada.

**WARREN H. GOWERS, 254TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, COMPANY A**, would like to her from anyone

who may have served with him. Write to Warren at: 105 Woodland Road, Augusta, Georgia 30907.

Regina Pradier-Beldzik (from England) searched for her father for over 30 years. In 1977 she learned that her father had died in 1980. He was **WILLIS PRADIER, 4059TH QUARTERMASTER BATTALION**. Regina is anxious to learn whatever she can either about her father or about the unit in which he served. Write to her at: 31 Glovers Lane, Heelands, Milton Keynes, MK13 7LW, England.

Albert Horn's brother **WILLIAM R. (BILL) HORN, 6TH ARMORED DIVISION, 44TH ARMORED INFANTRY, C COMPANY**, was killed near Bastogne on December 31, 1944. His nickname was "Pee Wee," which he may or may not have used. If you remember Bill or can provide any information write to Albert at: 112 North West Street, Westerville, Ohio 43081.

**JAMES H. LENDRUM, 740 FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS COMPANY**, would appreciate hearing from someone in the 740th. Write to him at: 17715 Gulf Blvd. #152, Redington Shores, Florida 33708.

Arlette Voue, of Belgium, is looking for **FELIX WEBB**, formerly of Cleveland, Ohio. Felix was in the Battle of the Bulge and served with the U.S. Occupation Forces in Germany. Please write to Arlette at: 1/2 Grand'Place; 4400 Flemalle, Belgium.

**HAROLD E. GANN, 18TH CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE**, would like to locate **CARL R. PETERSON**, who served with him. He was last known to live in Chicago, Illinois. Do you have any information? If so, write to Harold at: 751 Coleen Drive, Winder, Georgia 30680.

**SEYMOUR KROLL, 35TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 320TH INFANTRY, COMPANY G**, wants to know if any one can provide information regarding **LAUREN SHULTZ**, who was a replacement with him. Write to Seymour at: 2958 West 8th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11224-3223.

**ROBERT W. PEARL, 150TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION**, is looking for one of his outfit buddies--**ARNOLD C. BALDWIN**. Arnold was from Wilton, New Hampshire. Write to Robert at: PO Box 61, Orleans, Massachusetts 02653.

A question for you: **RICHARD K. LEPARD, 3886TH QUARTERMASTER TRUCK COMPANY**, wants to know if there were semi's in truck companies other than the 3886th. There were 48 in his truck company and they were flat beds. They hauled ammunition and gasoline mostly and worked behind General Patton and the 3rd Army. If you have an answer, write to Richard at: 209 East Tiffin Street, Attica, Ohio 44807.

Robert L. Brooks is looking for information regarding his father or men who may have served with him. His father, **T/Sgt WILLIAM F. BROOKS, 26TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 101ST INFANTRY, 2ND BATTALION, COMPANY B**, was killed in action

*(Continued on next page)*



## MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

January 27, 1945, in Clervaux. If you can help Raymond write to him at: 2533 Forest Lake, Santa Ana, California 92705.

Joan Gagne is looking information regarding her father or the unit in which he served. His name was **EUGENE A. TROTTIER**, and he served with the **4TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 12TH REGIMENT, COMPANY G**. He was killed March 7, 1945 in a small town called Bolsdorf. Can you help? If so write to Joan at: 38 Farm Street, Blackstone, Massachusetts 01504.

Looking for anyone who was with the **705TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION**, particularly **COMPANY C**. My uncle, **SERGEANT MELBOURNE E. PAWLEY**, was with that organization. Please contact: Mrs. Lois Pawley Wick, PO Box 64388, University Place, Washington 98464.

Michael Martin would like information from anyone who served in the **635TH AAA (AW) BATTALION. PVT. MILFORD C. MARTIN**, was with this unit (**BATTERY D**). He was killed in action on December 18, 1944. Write to Michael at: 25 Blue Ridge Drive, South Windsor, Connecticut 06074-2808.

**WILLIAM E. CAUFIELD, 26TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 101ST INFANTRY, COMPANY H**, would like to hear from anyone who may have served with him. Write to him at: 250 Weldon Street, Rochester, New York 14611.

**ROBERT D. MOLLENAUER, 84TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 333RD INFANTRY, COMPANY C**, has been ill and would very much appreciate hearing from anyone who may have served with him. Write to him at: Building A, Room 1305, Unit 1100; VA Home of California; 100 East Veterans Parkway; Barstow, California 92311.

**HUGH F. SEMPLE, SR., 998TH QUARTERMASTER SALVAGE COLLECTING COMPANY**, would like information from anyone regarding an April, 1944, botched (apparently top secret) sneak invasion of France. One morning in Plymouth, England, they were given the task of unloading dead and injured allied warriors from badly damaged ships. They were immediately and forever silenced by a threat of court martial if a word of the disaster leaked out. Forty years after the event, a monument was erected in southern England on behalf of those lost lives. Does anyone know about the sneak invasion or the whereabouts of the monument? If so, write to Hugh at: G-1355 East Kurtz, Flint, Michigan 48505.

**GEORGE H. ALLEN, 3RD ARMORED DIVISION, 67TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, BATTERY A**, would like to find out more about his division and locate some of his old buddies. If you can help with either cause, please write to him: 614 Cypress Street, Pittsburg, Texas 75686.

**Associate Member ROGER MARQUET** writes to see if any one knows where the Sherman tank which is on display in McAuliffe Square in Bastogne was manufactured. He would also like to know the date of issue from the factory, when it was

delivered to the Army, and when was it assigned to the **11TH ARMORED DIVISION**. He has the serial number (3081532) if that helps. He notes that he has tried the National Archives at College Park, Maryland, and they were unable to help. If you can help, let him know: Fonds de Foret 67, 4870 Trooz, Belgium.

We received a request from an amateur historian which will test your memories. One of his interests is restoring and collecting WWII era M1 30 caliber Garand rifles. He would like to know if you remember the serial number of the rifle(s) you had and where you were, with what outfit, and the month and year. Write to George Conduris at: 83 Goff Terrace, Centerville, Massachusetts 02632.

**JOHN VALENTINE, 202ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, BATTERY B**, would like to hear from anyone who may have served with him. Write to: 43 Minnisink Drive, Roseland, New Jersey 07068-1114.

**EARL S. STONEFIELD, 160TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION**, would like to hear from any one who may remember **JOHN P. STONEFIELD, 705TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION**, who was killed in action December 25, 1944, near Bastogne. Write to Earl at: 8513 Pennsylvania Run Road, Louisville, Kentucky 40228.

Al Vogel wonders what may have happened to his father's M1 Winchester carbine (serial #3400). He says his father **HENRY WILLIAM VOGEL, 975TH ENGINEER MAINTENANCE COMPANY**, was in the Battle of the Bulge and never spoke much about his battle experiences as he was never in a big battle but when out on numerous patrols to determine German strength. Would you know how Al could go about fiding this information on the carbine? If so, write to him at 201 B 5th Avenue East, Dugway, Utah 84022. *[Al, while your father was modest about his role in the Bulge, his actions surely saved many lives.]*

William L. Beigel is researching **PFC JACK A. McHENRY, 7TH ARMORED DIVISION, 38TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS COMPANY**. He also asks if he participated in the Battle of the Bulge. While the 38th Armored Infantry Battalion did serve in the Bulge, we have no way of knowing if Jack himself was there. Does anyone remember Jack? If so write to William at: 4824 Newton Street, Torrance, California 90505.

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## 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

We regret that we were unable to proceed with plans to reprint the *50th Anniversary Book--Battle of the Bulge* as outlined in the February issue. It was necessary that we order 300 copies for the book to pay for itself and we received orders for 104. Therefore, checks have been returned to those who placed an order and we will be unable to order the book. We thank those of you who were interested and regret that we cannot comply with your request. ■

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# 55th Anniversary Battle of the Bulge

September 4-12, 1999 Optional Post tour:

**Normandy and Paris**

It hardly seems possible that 55 years have passed since that snowy winter of 1944, when the Allied Armies stood on the doorstep of Germany and final victory over the Third Reich. Hitler however, had one last gasp. At 0530 on December 16th, he launched the final German offensive of the war as the Fifth and Sixth Panzer Armies, along with the Seventh Army stormed across the Schnee Eifel into the Ardenne Forest of Belgium and Luxembourg.

**MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS (MHT)** is pleased to offer this very special 55th Anniversary return to the battlefields, cities and villages which were the centerpoint of attention during that crucial winter month. The tour originates in Newark and proceeds to Brussels, where we will be met by our local European Partner, Mr. David Rossi and his staff, who have provided tours and "staff rides" for US Army personnel stationed in Europe for over 13 years. Dave and his staff have toured the battlefields over 200 times and are intimately familiar with all of the sites of interest and historical significance.

The tour itinerary will be fine-tuned to the needs and desires of the participants. Each member will provide a listing of the sites of personal interest and importance to them. Special pre-tour informational materials, maps and reading materials, as well as a complete MHT Trip Kit and Travel Attache' will be provided to assist in your planning and preparation. **MHT** leads the way as the country's premier tour company dedicated specifically to historical tours for Veterans, Historians, Educators, Family and Friends. We are pleased to place our talented and knowledgeable Veteran tour and office staff, and our years of specialized tour experience, to work providing you with the finest and most memorable tour possible.

**Tour cost is \$2,395** and includes: **Roundtrip international airfare from US to Brussels, deluxe motor-coach transportation, superior hotel accommodations, meals as indicated in the itinerary, pre-trip materials and MHT trip kits, services of an experienced MHT Tour Director, local guides and much more.**

## ADVANCE REGISTRATION:

### 55th Anniversary Battle of the Bulge September 4-12, 1999

Yes, please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ space(s) on this historic anniversary tour. I understand that my advance deposit of **\$300 per person** will be applied toward my final invoice and is fully refundable until **July 5, 1999**. Your deposit may be made by check, money order or credit card. (Visa and Mastercard only)

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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_  
FAX \_\_\_\_\_ UNIT SERVED IN: \_\_\_\_\_

I authorize MHT to charge my credit card # \_\_\_\_\_, expiration date \_\_\_\_\_,  
issued in the name of \_\_\_\_\_ for the tour deposit indicated above.

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# BULGE MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

## Second Infantry Division:

### RICHARD E. COWAN

Rank and Organization: Private First Class, Company M, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, G.O. 48 dated 23 June, 1945

Place and date: Near Krinkelter Wald, Belgium, 17 December, 1944.

Cowan was a heavy machine gunner attached to Company I. That company was attacked by a numerically superior force of German infantry and tanks. Six tanks of attackers were repulsed at a heavy cost in American casualties. A seventh drive spearheaded by tanks killed or wounded all except three members of Cowan's machine gun section. That left Cowan to man his gun supported by 15 to 20 riflemen of Company I. Cowan held off the attackers until what was left of shattered I Company set up a new defensive position along a firebreak. Then, unaided, Cowan moved his machine gun and ammunition to the new position. At the approach of a Tiger Royal tank, he held his fire until about 80 German infantry supporting the tank appeared about 150 yards away. His first burst killed or wounded half of this force. Cowan's position was rocked by an 88 mm round from the tank. Cowan continued to man his gun, pouring deadly fire into the German ranks. Another 88 mm round barely missed Cowan. Fire from three automatic weapons struck all around him. A rocket launcher's blast shook him badly but he stayed at his gun. Infiltrating enemy had by this time almost enveloped his position. What was left of Company I was ordered to withdraw. Cowan was the last to leave, voluntarily covering the pullback of his few remaining comrades. His heroic actions were entirely responsible for allowing the remaining men to fall back to a new line which the Germans never did penetrate.

### JOSEPH M. LOPEZ

Rank and Organization: Sergeant, 23rd Infantry Regiment, Company M, G.O. 47 dated 18 June, 1945

Place and date: Near Krinkelter, Belgium, 17 December, 1944

Lopez's heavy machine gun section was supporting Company K, which came under an all-out German assault. Acting on his own, Lopez carried his machine gun from Company K's right flank to its left in order to protect that flank from onrushing infantry and tanks. It appeared the Germans would break through at any moment. Lopez occupied a shallow hole which offered no protection above his waist. He immediately gunned down ten enemy infantry. Ignoring intense machine gun fire from a tank, Lopez continued spraying infantry attempting to outflank him. It was a costly effort which resulted in about 25 more German casualties. Glancing to his right front, Lopez saw a large group of infantry swarming toward him. Shaken by 88 mm rounds exploding just a few yards away, the Company M gunner realized he'd soon be outflanked. Alone, he carried his gun to the right rear of Company K's sector. Knocked backward by an exploding shell, he reset his gun and resumed firing. Single-handed, he held off a German horde until he was certain Company K had made a successful pullback. Again he loaded his gun and tripod on his back, and in a hail of small arms fire

ran to a point where a few of his comrades were trying to establish a new defense against an onrushing enemy force. He fired from this position until his ammunition was gone. Again carrying his gun, he fell back with a small group to Krinkelt. Sgt. Lopez's gallantry on seemingly suicidal missions, in which he killed an estimated 100 Germans, was almost solely responsible for allowing Company K to avoid envelopment and give other forces coming on the scene a chance to build a line which decisively repulsed the enemy.

*Our thanks to RALPH RAY, 2ND INFANTRY DIVISION, 23RD INFANTRY REGIMENT, HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, for submitting the above. You are invited to send information regarding Medal of Honor recipients awarded for Battle of the Bulge actions. ■*

## A FEW VERY SPECIAL PRIVILEGES

By J. Robert Hovenstine  
10 ARMDD 150 SIG CO

As division messengers, John Wiley and I were given special privileges while delivering messages. Quite often we delivered messages to rear division headquarters or to corps headquarters. When we went in that direction it meant going in a safer direction. One day, while the town was being bombed, we had a message for the rear, and boy did we GO! I didn't know a peep (jeep) could go so fast.

As division messengers we had priority on the road, along with the Red Ball guys. Another privilege we enjoyed was that wherever we were at meal-time, that outfit was required to serve us. We had a pretty good idea where to be at which meal-time. Some outfits had their big meal at noon and some had the big meal at supper time. We would try, when going to the rear, to be at the right outfit at the right time. It often worked out pretty well. We couldn't always hit the right place to get the bigger meal. We delivered messages one day at noon, knowing that the meal there would be a lunch-type meal. When we went into the building where the men ate, did we get a shock! Several of the tables were loaded with dressed chickens, waiting to be cooked for supper. I'm not sure what we had to eat for lunch, but it wasn't chicken.

Sometimes our messages were for CCA, CCB, CCR or one of the battalions in the division. I remember returning to the division message center one night when we almost ran into one of our tanks going in the other direction. We were using no lights and the tank was using no lights. We were moving along in a very dark night when all of a sudden something huge and very black appeared in front of us. I stepped on the brakes as did Wiley, even though Wiley had no brakes on his side of the peep. The tank driver used his brakes and what would have been a disaster for the peep was avoided. Wiley and I were not flattened.

*Thanks, Bob, for providing us with some food for thought. Bob authored a book entitled "A Peep Driver Reflects on World War II." ■*

REUNION: September 23-26, 1999, in Newport News, VA.



## LIVING LEGENDS



### MEMORABLE

# BULGE INCIDENTS

UNEDITED AND HERETOFORE UNPUBLISHED

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

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

### CLOSE CALL IN BASTOGNE

December, 1944

**Robert T. McConnell**  
770th Field Artillery Battalion  
Mableton, Georgia

We went into Bastogne with Patton's 4th Armored Division. Patton was in the second tank. We had to fight our way in. Tanks were firing on both sides of the road.

I had six 50 caliber machine guns on my trucks. We were firing on both sides of the road at anything that moved. That's the way we went into Bastogne with Patton's tanks.

After we set up our guns and started firing, Ole Sarge and I had to carry ammo around to the other side of Bastogne. The colonel was over there laying in on some buildings. We unloaded ammo and started back to our outfit.

Sarge was driving and traffic was heavy. Shells were coming in all around us. The traffic came to a standstill. I told Ole Sarge to get up on the wide sidewalk. We were moving pretty good and I yelled hold it. We almost ran over Patton. He was there trying to get MP's out of basement doors to direct traffic because shells were hitting a lot of vehicles.

We had to stop to keep from running over Patton. He said these are the only two SOB's who know where they are going. We made it back to the outfit alright and after the war was over, we both got back home.

\*\*\*\*\*

### CHRISTMAS DINNER IN THE ARDENNES

December 25, 1944

**Joseph W. Bulkeley**  
10th Armored Division  
61st Armored Infantry Battalion  
Company B  
Clearwater, Florida

Us armored guys had the word that Ike Eisenhower had vowed

every GI in the ETO would have Christmas dinner, no matter how or no matter what. And we had ours at three o'clock on the morning of December 26, 1944. The weather was so cold we ate out of our mess kits with our mittens on and the cranberry sauce in our mess kits had developed a thin coating of ice. But, the food was good and after we ate we found a hay barn and climbed up into a loft to sleep. Before we dropped off we smuggled down in the hay and lit up cigarettes--why we didn't end up a gang of fried GI's I'll never know. How many of you who were there that Christmas night remember that there was full moon that threw gigantic shadows over the snowy fields on either side of the road?

The armored division of 1942-44 trained two full years before we went overseas and so being with the 10th Armored was like "home away from home." To this day I don't remember if I belonged to Combat Command A or Combat Command B. One of the other--A or B--went to Bastogne when the 10th left the Saar River area where George Patton was planning a drive. One combat command went straight up to Bastogne (and got there ahead of the Screaming Eagles) and my combat command went to Luxembourg. So I was in Luxembourg that Christmas night.

Us men of "B" Company were not too happy that Christmas Eve because the Germans had dropped a heavy barrage on the section of forest where we were dug in and we lost Andy Klein that Christmas Eve. Andy's wife had knitted him a winter scarf and sent it overseas. Andy wore the scarf and with all his heavy clothes, he looked like Uncle Wiggley from the Cabbage Patch with it on. Andy was in his foxhole that Christmas Eve and a tree burst hit the tree close to his foxhole and a tiny piece of metal no bigger than a hang nail went through his steel helmet and helmet liner and his cloth cap and into his brain and Andy never knew what hit him. When we found him we first thought he had dropped off to sleep.

But maybe I have let the point of this recollection get away from me. The point is that as the armored division had trained two years before leaving the Land of Uncle Sam we were like

*(Continued on next page)*



family and we cried when we found Andy because we had lost a brother.

\*\*\*\*\*

### FIRST BATTLE IN BELGIUM

December, 1944

George Schumacher  
87th Infantry Division  
345th Infantry Regiment  
Company D  
Hollywood, Florida

#### Dedicated to Sgt. Jay Morgan

My vivid remembrance leading to the Battle of the Bulge was the sub-zero biting cold, and the freezing trip in open trucks from the Saar Basin campaign to Belgium. Our first battle assignment in Belgium was to take the town of Moiricy, the date was a few days after Christmas.

As we crossed the frozen fields, our initial attack was met with enemy artillery and mortar fire that swept the fields leading into the town. Another GI (name unknown) and myself were able to capture several prisoners who came out of the woods to surrender. One was a young beardless Jerry, about my age (I also hadn't begun to shave). In trying to move these prisoners back to the rear, we were hit by an enemy mortar barrage. Several of our prisoners were wounded by their own shells and one was killed. Finally, there was a short pause in the shelling. We then left the dead man and (mach schnell) double-timed the open field, and quickly moved the prisoners to the rear.

After turning over the prisoners, I rejoined my unit. We then set up a machine gun in a barn at the far end of town. The right wall of this barn was constructed of corrugated metal. Our water cooled 30 caliber was positioned just inside an open doorway, at the rear of the barn. This gave us an excellent field of fire that covered the rear fields and hedgerows. A building to our right was on fire, and as darkness fell, this fire afforded some illumination of the snow-covered terrain. The two of us, Jay Morgan, in position as gunner; and I, acted as his second gunner protected the rear of the town. We talked in hushed tones about the possibility of a counterattack--and we waited.

Later during the night, we could hear the faint sound of voices carrying over the cold air--they were not speaking English. Unexpectedly, from a dark hedgerow to our right front, we heard sounds--then movement. The outline of one soldier came out, followed by a full squad of men--it was the enemy in their long dark overcoats and coal scuttle-like helmets.

As I watched, Morgan tracked the machine gun to fire. We had a quick whispered discussion and decided not to fire until the squad was at the center of the field--between each hedgerow. When the squad reached center field, Morgan opened fire. Taken by surprise, they never had the opportunity to return our fire. Several men, who were not hit by our machine gun fire, tried to make a run for it to the next hedgerows. With my carbine, at a rear window, I picked off the runners. There was no movement on the field--their counterattack went nowhere.

Suddenly, there was popping noises all around us. Farm equipment, harnesses, tools, etc., hanging on the wall to our left began falling to the ground. A heavy piece of timber, it seemed like a huge wooden door or a work bench in the darkness, fell and pinned me to the floor. Struggling to free myself from

under the timber, I managed to lift it off my back. Morgan called to me that he was hit. Dazed and blood running down the right side of his face, he continued to fire. Looking around in the dark, I saw the metal wall to our right was now full of bullet holes. Fire light from the adjacent burning building was shining through the holes, making the wall look like a sieve.

I now realized there was an enemy machine gun in the right front hedgerow, covering their infantry's advance, and was now firing directly at our position. Morgan continued returning fire until our ammunition ran out. Now, mortar shells were bursting directly in front of the open doorway. Fortunately, neither Morgan nor I were hit with shrapnel; however, from the bullet that hit his helmet, Morgan was now semi-conscious and going into shock from loss of blood.

Half carrying and half pulling him, I crawled to the front door. Some GI in his "infinite wisdom," had parked a 2-1/2 truck parallel and against the front door, blocking our egress. What to do? We had only one choice. Crawling underneath the vehicle, I dragged Morgan with me into the open road. Fortunately, I recognized the red cross arm band of a medic down the street, and his quick examination revealed that a bullet had struck Morgan's helmet and grazed his skull, causing much bleeding. The medic said, "You're a luck s.o.b., an inch to the left and you would be dead!"

Morgan's luck ran out several months later--he died in action. By any standard, Sergeant Jay Morgan was a true hero. May he rest in peace.

"Now night her course begun, and over heaven  
Inducing darkness, grateful truce, impos'd  
Her silence on the odious din of war;  
Under her cloudy covert hath retired  
Victor and vanquish'd." John Milton.

\*\*\*\*\*

### THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM

December 15, 1944

Russell E. Kuehn  
28th Infantry Division  
110th Infantry Regiment  
Company I  
Plymouth, Minnesota  
The day before the Bulge!

For some reason, over the many years that have passed, I have recalled that day frequently. It was a day of relative quiet although, ominously, the growing presence of more and more Germans facing us was emphasized by very loud noises coming from the building across the Our River, about 1/2 mile to our east near the German town of Gemund.

A little background is in order. I was an infantry replacement assigned to the 28th Division in mid-October, 1944, and shortly thereafter we went into action in the Hurtgen Forest. The first week in November was especially brutal when we tried to assault the Town of Schmidt. The entire division sustained extensive casualties. On November 16th, a very wintry day with sleet and very icy roads, we were taken by truck to the "quiet sector" in Luxembourg and about 30 of us were unceremoniously dropped off at a farmhouse overlooking the abandoned village of Wahlhausen, located on a steep, heavily-wooded bluff across from German on the Our River.

Our platoon consisted of remnants from I Company, some

(Continued on next page)



replacements, and other survivors of the Hurtgen battle. As is typical of all Europe, the farmhouse and barn were attached and were very solidly built. Our sergeant, radioman, and medic got to stay in the farmhouse while the rest of us occupied the barn. Although we were under strict "no fires" orders, the barn with a cement floor was always cold but infinitely better than a foxhole!

Our routine included the inevitable "2 hours on, 4 hours off" guard duty during night-time hours and by day we were on patrol or occupied a house at the eastern edge of Wahlhausen. Actual contacts with Germans where fire was exchanged were rare but we did not get close enough to the Our River to hear the enemy talk, test their weapons, and tune the engines on their tanks and trucks. From our arrival November 16th to December 15th the only fatality in our sector was a 1st lieutenant from our division (or regiment) S-2 who came into our position with two GI's to inform us that he was going to reconnoiter the area to our east toward the Our River. On the way, he was killed when he tripped a mine. Six of us (the writer included) went with a litter to pick up his body to take back for pick-up by graves registration. It was a very difficult task since he was a big man and the terrain was very rugged.

During the month spent in Luxembourg, the 28th Division (far from full strength) had responsibility for 30 miles of the border with Germany. My best guess is that the (no more than) 30 GI's in my platoon had one mile of that.... I Company HQ was in Weiler, a village about two miles to our south. Regiment HQ was in Clervaux, a very picturesque village about 12 miles to our northwest.

Here is how I recall the "day before the Bulge, December 15, 1944."

As was usual, about 0600 hours a Jeep from Weiler delivered our necessities for the day including food, ammo, extra socks, mail (in and out) etc. This delivery was always pre-dawn to minimize road activity that the Germans could monitor.

That particular morning I got a letter from my mother that caused alarm because her handwriting, which was always very good, appeared irregular so I opened the letter with apprehension thinking something had happened in the family. It turned out that she wrote the letter immediately after receiving a telegram that I had been "wounded in action." Then I recalled that when going to Weiler by Jeep around December 1st to get paid (with absolutely no place to spend the money), they told me their roster showed that I was hospitalized from wounds in the Hurtgen Forest. Of course, it was all a mistake but I knew that before the day ended I would try to get a letter off to my family to ease their minds.

The main task for that day was for the three of us to dig a fourth defensive position facing east toward Wahlhausen. Although the ground was frozen, we were able to dig through on the perimeter of an old haystack that had somewhat insulated the ground. It took a couple of hours to finish and we were even able to scrounge for something to cover it for protection.

As I mentioned previously, there was a medic attached to our platoon and we found out early in our stay near Wahlhausen that we were both from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In letters home we had both mentioned this fact. Besides being our medic, he was our "barber" and that day he cut my hair for the first time in months and did a good job. Whether or not barbering was his trade I never found out.

The balance of the day was spent watching our perimeter and all the time we were aware of increasing intensity in the building

of the bridge to our east. The deadline for the enemy to build that bridge was rapidly approaching.

My last task at night was to write the letter to my folks that "everything was going well." The letter would go out in the morning when our 0600 delivery was made. And that's how the day ended.

Epilogue: The letter never went out! We were attacked in force early the next morning and held out until very late in the afternoon when a Panther tank came across "that bridge" and started to fire 88's directly into our position.

My Milwaukee friend, the medic/barber, spoke fluent German and for some reason (against our pleading) chose to remain at the farmhouse with the Germans instead of marching east with the rest of us. He never made it and when I got back to Milwaukee in August, 1945, his mother came to my folk's house to talk to me about what might have happened to him. She had never given up hope and it was a sad meeting.

End of story.

.....

## NEAR THE FRONT

December, 1944

**George Sperl  
75th Infantry Division  
290th Infantry  
Company F  
Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin**

We spent about a week in the country just outside of Rouen, France, when suddenly we were told to stack our duffelbags and take only our bed rolls and light pack as we boarded 6 x 6 trucks to go to a railroad station.

No one knew where we were going but figured it was somewhere toward the front. I remember on the 40 & 8's looking out at night and seeing a buzz bomb going overhead. Along the way French or Belgian civilians would give us bottles of wine and we gave them chocolate and cigarettes from our D rations. When we reached our destination (probably somewhere in Belgium), we again got on 6 x 6's and took off in the middle of the night. Those drivers went like a bat out of hell through small villages, etc. About dawn we got off the trucks in what must have been an artillery emplacement. We still didn't know about the Bulge or where we were. That night I was one of four guys picked by our sergeant (I believe his name was Olds) to go out on patrol. Needless to say, we were all scared as hell but we returned without incident.

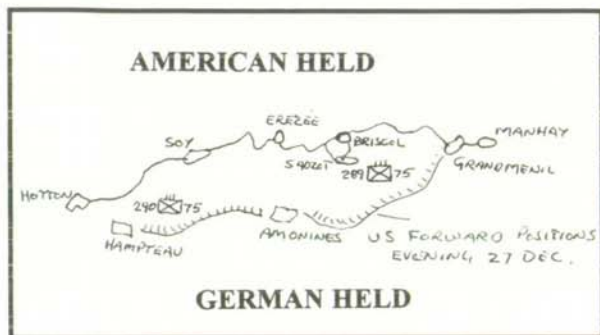
Later, we were told to get ready to move out. We hiked along roads for quite some distance and came to some farm buildings. We were told to go up in the barn and get some sleep on the hay. Near daybreak the kitchen crew caught up with us and gave us a warm breakfast. We moved out along a road at sunrise on what turned out to be a clear, sunny Christmas Day. We still didn't know our mission but later found out we were to retake some high ground which another company in our division had taken the day before but got overrun that night by a German counterattack.

After going about a mile spread out on either side of the road we saw our first dead German soldier. He was lying in the road at an intersection holding a machine gun in firing position. Behind him was a small anti-tank gun. At that instant I believe we all realized we must be very near the front and it could very

*(Continued on next page)*



easily be one of us instead of the enemy lying there. We moved slowly most of the day until afternoon when we left the road and moved across a pasture with a few trees in it. Suddenly, we heard 88's coming overhead and exploding behind us. I crouched next to a large log as something hit my back pack, but it was only a piece of wood from a tree. I recited what little I could remember of the 23rd Psalm.



*As near as I can tell from maps in the book "The Ardennes Battle of The Bulge" by Hugh M. Cole, this is where I was on December 25, 1944.*

We moved up to a road where there was a 6 x 6 parked on the road with a single bullet hole in the middle of the driver-side door. We crouched in the ditch next to the road with a ploughed field ahead of us on a gradual upslope toward a woods at the top. Our sergeant spread the word down the line that when the captain blows his whistle we were all supposed to rush up the hill firing like hell. This seemed more like a civil war tactic but we did it with bullets snapping past our heads. I believe none of us ever thought any of us would get to the woods. After covering about 1/4 of the way, I saw one of our guys fall. Later I found out he got hit in the elbow. (I believe his last name was Black and he always talked about wanting to be a boxer.) About half way to the woods, I saw some movement and as I got closer it turned out to be one of the GI's from the previous day's assault who was wounded and lay there all night. I assured him the medics would be there soon as we had to press on. Incredibly when we got to the woods the firing ceased and we all looked at each other in disbelief at how we got up the slope. Only one other guy was hit--a flesh wound in the calf of his leg. One of the guys in our company was showing off a luger that he took off a German officer after he shot him.

I have often puzzled about why a few German soldiers with automatic weapons could not have mowed us all down as we advanced up the hill. The only explanation I can figure is that by Christmas Day their drive had stalled and perhaps their defense was getting stretched, not to mention that they were experiencing supply problems and were rationing ammo although that didn't seem to be the case when we were charging up the hill.

So that was our baptism of fire and we were all quite relieved that we had accomplished our mission in good shape.

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**VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, INC.**  
**Newport News, Virginia**  
**September 23-26, 1999**

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Unit or Company: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Wife/Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Division: \_\_\_\_\_ Regiment: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide the name of the hotel where you have made reservations \_\_\_\_\_

|   | Number of<br>Persons | Cost per<br>Person | Total |
|---|----------------------|--------------------|-------|
| <b>Registration Fee</b> (All attendees must register) | _____                | \$30.00            | _____ |
| <b>Friday, September 24, 1999:</b>                    |                      |                    |       |
| Pass in Review Ceremony - Fort Monroe                 |                      |                    |       |
| VBOB Monument Ceremony                                |                      |                    |       |
| Reception Lunch - Chamberlin Hotel                    |                      |                    |       |
| Tour Casemate Museum - Fort Monroe                    | _____                | \$35.00            | _____ |
| Bar-B-Que - Omni Hotel                                | _____                | \$18.00            | _____ |

**Saturday, September 25, 1999:**

|  |       |         |       |
|--|-------|---------|-------|
| Fort Eustis, U.S. Army Transportation Museum -             |       |         |       |
| Tour of Norfolk, Virginia - Chrysler Museum -              |       |         |       |
| Two Hour Luncheon Cruise on the <i>Spirit of Norfolk</i> - |       |         |       |
| MacArthur Memorial - MacArthur Shopping Center             | _____ | \$48.00 | _____ |

**Sunday, September 26, 1999:**

|                                |       |         |       |
|--------------------------------|-------|---------|-------|
| Colonial Williamsburg Overview | _____ | \$27.00 | _____ |
| Banquet                        | _____ | \$28.00 | _____ |

Please indicate whether you prefer: Beef #\_\_\_\_ OR Chicken #\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount Enclosed** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail registration form and check payable to "VBOB" to:

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge • P.O. Box 11129 • Arlington, VA 22210-2129

**REGISTRATION RECEIPT DEADLINE--SEPTEMBER 10, 1999 - OR BRING FORM WITH YOU.**

(Refunds for cancellations, will be honored in whole or in part, depending on availability of funds.)



**VETERANS OF THE  
BATTLE OF THE BULGE, INC.  
REUNION PROGRAM  
Newport News, Virginia  
September 23-26, 1999**



• THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1999 •

**12:00 Noon - 5:00 p.m.** Registration, Headquarters Hotel, Omni Newport News  
The registration desk will be open the majority of the day.  
**7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.** Welcome Wine, Cheese & Pasta Reception  
Hosted by VBOB. Attendees must be registered.

• FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1999 •

**As needed** Registration, Headquarters Hotel, Omni Newport News  
The registration desk will be open the majority of the day.  
**8:15 a.m.** Board Buses for Fort Monroe  
**9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.** Fort Monroe Pass in Review Ceremony - Parade Grounds  
**11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.** VBOB Monument Dedication and Memorial Service at Fort Monroe (Details on information sheet.)  
**12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.** Reception and Buffet Lunch - Chamberlin Hotel, Fort Monroe (Details on information sheet.)  
**1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.** Tour of Casemate Museum - America's largest stone fort (Details on information sheet.)  
**5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.** Outdoor Patio Bar-B-Que - Omni Hotel

• SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1999 •

**As needed** Registration Desk  
**8:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.** Board buses for Fort Eustis Army Transportation Museum - Riding Norfolk City Tour - *Spirit of Norfolk* Lunch Cruise - MacArthur Memorial. (Details on information sheet.)  
**Dinner** On your own

• SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1999 •

**As needed** Registration Desk  
**9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.** Annual Membership Meeting. All are welcome to attend.  
**11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.** Colonial Williamsburg Overview (Details on information sheet.)  
**6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.** Social Hour - Cash Bar  
**6:30 p.m.** Annual Banquet with guest speaker--General John N. Abrams, Commanding General U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command. Dinner will offer your choice of Chicken Marsala or Roast Prime Rib of Beef, salad, potato or rice (chef's option), vegetables, rolls, dessert and beverage. Dinner will be followed by dancing.

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



# VBOB REUNION INFORMATION SHEET

•FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1999•

## MONUMENT DEDICATION CEREMONY AT FORT MONROE, RECEPTION AT CHAMBERLIN HOTEL, & TOUR OF CASEMATE MUSEUM

Visit historic Fort Monroe, Home to the Army Training and Doctrine Command. Fort Monroe is the "think tank" of the Army where the doctrine, weapons systems, equipment, organization and training needs are developed. The fort, occupying 63 acres, was first established in 1607 by English settlers, and has been used as a strategic site because of its vantage point on the Chesapeake Bay during all major wars.

A monument will be dedicated at the fort in memory of all who served in the Battle of the Bulge with ceremony as planned by members of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc.

Following the ceremony there will be a reception at the beautiful Chamberlin Hotel which is located on the base.

Next, there will be a tour of the Casemate Museum which is housed within the thick walls of America's largest stone fort. Exhibits include the prison cell of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, Civil War artifacts and displays relating to the Battle of the Monitor and Merrimac.

See the beautiful Centurion Chapel on base where Dwight D. Eisenhower's son was married and the Old Point Comfort Lighthouse.

•SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1999•

## FORT EUSTIS ARMY TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM, RIDING NORFOLK CITY TOUR, *SPIRIT OF NORFOLK* LUNCHEON CRUISE, & MacARTHUR MEMORIAL or MacARTHUR CENTER

Depart via motor coach for the short drive to Fort Eustis, home of the U.S. Army Transportation Corps. Here at the U.S. Army Transportation Museum, you will explore the world of motion and transportation, from mighty steam locomotives of days past to the world's only captive "flying saucer," experience the history of wagons, and trucks, airplanes and helicopters, locomotives, tugboats and DUKW's and experimental hovercraft, such as the "flying jeep," and examine more than 200 years of Army transportation history.

Next, visit downtown Norfolk and enjoy a narrated riding tour through the beautiful historic district and restored areas. View the Chrysler Museum, the lovely homes along the Hague, the Moses Myers House, old St. Paul's Church and many other points of interest.

Board the magnificent *Spirit of Norfolk* for a two-hour luncheon cruise. Feast on a sumptuous buffet and enjoy the informative narration as you cruise through the Hampton Roads Harbor. View the many interesting sights along the waterfront, including the mighty aircraft carriers and nuclear submarines at the Norfolk Naval Base. Enjoy dancing and a show following lunch. The ship has two climate-controlled lower decks and an open-air upper deck.

Following the cruise, visit MacArthur Memorial for a glimpse into our country's history. During your visit you will view the outstanding collection of artifacts, documents, photographs and memorabilia housed in Norfolk's historic city hall which trace the life and times of five-star General Douglas MacArthur. You will also have the opportunity to view the 25 minute film which chronicles General MacArthur's life. The general is entombed in the rotunda of the memorial.

Choose between visiting the unique gift shop located on the premises OR visit the brand new MacArthur Center, anchored by Nordstrom's and Dillard's and offering over 150 specialty shops, boutiques and restaurants. This beautiful new mall is considered to be one of the most outstanding in the entire Mid-Atlantic region. Special discount coupon books will be made available for members of the VBOB tour group.

•SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1999•

## COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG OVERVIEW

Depart via motor coach with your guide for the charming Town of Williamsburg. Your guide will provide interesting and informative narration during your ride about the historic Virginia Peninsula and the Hampton Roads area.

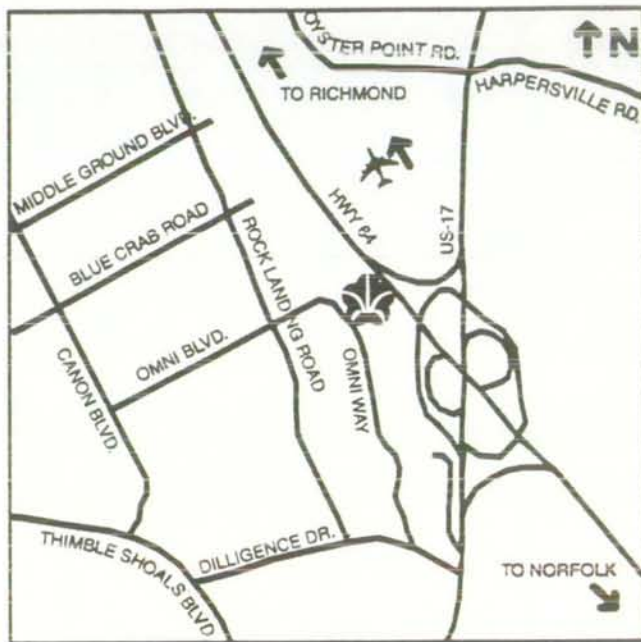
Once you arrive in Williamsburg, you will step back into the 18th century while strolling through the streets of this colonial capital city. Your historical interpreter will guide you through the past and the events that helped shape America's history, as you enjoy a one and one-half hour leisurely walking tour through the restored area of this lovely town. (Actual distance is about 4-5 blocks.) There are many opportunities to stop and rest along the way and beverages are also available.

Following your overview tour, enjoy approximately two hours to shop and browse in the many unique specialty shops in Merchants Square. High quality apparel, gifts, jewelry, unusual quilts, beautiful furniture, fine porcelain, pewter and Christmas decorations are but a few of the offerings found in this quaint, picturesque shopping area.

Enjoy lunch on your own in one of the historic Colonial Taverns or in Merchants Square. Your tour guide will point out all of the dining options as you pass through town.



# OMNI NEWPORT NEWS HOTEL



**From Washington/Dulles: (3 1/2 Hours)** Take I-495 to South I-95 then to I-64 East. Once in Newport News, take exit 258-A (South J. Clyde Morris Blvd.). At first light, turn right onto Diligence Dr. Turn right onto Omni Blvd. to hotel entrance.

**From Norfolk: (45 Minutes)** Take I-64 West. Once in Newport News, take exit 258-A (South J. Clyde Morris Blvd.). At first light take a right onto Diligence Dr. Turn right onto Omni Blvd. to hotel entrance.

**From Newport News/Williamsburg: (10 Minutes)** Exit airport on Bland Blvd. Make a left onto Jefferson Ave. and stay in right hand lane to merge onto I-64 East. Take exit 258-A (South J. Clyde Morris Blvd.). At first light, turn right onto Diligence Dr. Turn right onto Omni Blvd. to hotel entrance.

## GUEST ROOM REGISTRATION FORM

Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Group: Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge

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

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# of People: \_\_\_\_\_ Room Type:(request only) \_\_\_\_\_ Room Rate: \$76.00+tax

Special Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

Reservations must be received no later than **8/23/99** to insure guest room availability as outlined above. Reservations received after the above date will be accepted on a room availability basis as unused guest rooms will be released for general sale. Please return mail this form or fax it to us at (757)873-1732. You may also call in your reservations to 1-800-THE-OMNI or (757)873-6664.

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# REUNIONS

**4TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, July 26-August 1, 1999. Contact: Roger Barton, 2 Spring Drive R-19, Walkersville, Maryland 21793. Phone: 8888-845-4040.

**7TH ARMORED DIVISION**, September 15-18, 1999, Hilton Hotel Downtown, Knoxville, Tennessee. Contact: Charles E. Barry, 947 "A" Street, Meadville, Pennsylvania 16335-2006. Phone: 814-333-8051.

**10TH ARMORED DIVISION**, September 2-5, 1999, Sheraton Four Points, Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Contact: Jack Garrity, 19 Chimney Lane, Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Phone: 609-424-2189.

**11TH ARMORED DIVISION, 55TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, COMPANY B**, September 9-12, 1999, Tulsa, Oklahoma. Contact: Gene Foster, 1401 17th Avenue, Eldora, Iowa 50672. Phone: 515-858-2158.

**17TH INFANTRY REGIMENT**, September 16-20, 1999, Columbus, Georgia. Contact: John T. Carrig, 1515 Jeff Davis Hwy #1505, Arlington, VA 22202-3317. Phone: 703-418-4069.

**26TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, May 16-17, 1999, Signature Inn, Springfield, Illinois. Contact: W. Kent Stephens, 107 Bluffview Lane, Collinsville, Illinois 62234-1914. Phone: 618-344-1616.

**26TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, June 8-10, 1999, Ashworth by the Sea, Hampton Beach, New Hampshire. Contact: Robert R. Raney, 27 Forest Street, Peabody, Massachusetts 01960-4138. Phone: 978-531-2257.

**30TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, October 20-24, 1999, Holiday Inn Oceanfront, 415 South Ocean Blvd, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29577. Contact: Bruce W. Tate, Jr., 948 F Avenue, Cayce, South Carolina 29033. Phone: 803-739-1416.

**76TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, September 23-26, 1999, Regal Maxwell House, Nashville, Tennessee. Contact: Jay M. Hamilton, 308 Medford Heights Lane, Medford, Oregon 97504. Phone: 541-857-9296.

**78TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, July 17-18, 1999, Holiday Inn, 2511 Route 9 and Interstate 84, Fishkill, New York 12524. Contact: Philip T. DiPace, 123 Yardboro Avenue, Albany, New York 12205.

**83RD INFANTRY DIVISION**, August 18-21, 1999, Radisson Plaza Hotel, Lexington, Kentucky. Contact: Robert Derickson, 3749 Stahlheber Road, Hamilton, Ohio 45013-9102. Phone: 513-863-2199.

**84TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, September 11-14, 1999, Marriott Hotel, Torrance, California. Contact: Nick Cipiti. Phone: 310-833-3977.

**86TH CHEMICAL MORTAR BATTALION**, September 14-19, 1999, Jekyll Island, Georgia. Contact: George L. Murray, 818 West 62nd Street, Anniston, Alabama 36206. Phone: 256-820-4415.

**86TH ORDNANCE COMPANY**, October 7-9, 1999, Holiday Inn, New Castle, Pennsylvania. Contact: Richrd Schildbach, 101 South Whiting Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22304. Phone: 703-370-2707.

**87TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, September 26-October 3, 1999, Fort Mitchell, Kentucky. Contact: Louis C. Gueltzow, 9906 Stonehenge Way, Louisville, Kentucky 40241-2135. Phone: 502-426-3057.

**94TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, May 27-29, 1999, Cavanaugh's Inn, Spokane, Washington. Contact: Harry Helms, 609 Dogwood Drive, Downingtown, Pennsylvania 19335.

**95TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, September 2-5, 1999, O'Hare International Holiday Inn, 5440 North River Road, Rosemont, Illinois. Contact: Lester W. Wolf, 8032 South 86th Court, Justice, Illinois 60458-1445. Phone: 708-458-3047.

**106TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, September 1-5, 1999, Schaumburg, Illinois. Contact: Russell H. Villwock, 8560 West Foster #510, Norridge, Illinois 60656.

Phone: 708-452-8628.

**134TH INFANTRY, 35TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, September 3-7, 1999, Radisson Plaza Hotel, Alexandria, Virginia. Contact: James Graff, 1146 - 100th Avenue, Middletown, Illinois 62666. Phone: 217-445-2570.

**159TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION**, September 25-28, 1999, Lantern Lodge Motor Inn, Myerstown, Pennsylvania. Contact: Russ Ruch. Phone: 570-622-2942.

**179TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION**, September 23-26, 1999, Ramada Inn, 5150 West U.S. 192, Kissimmee, Florida 34746. Contact: Garry A. Huck, 2239 Fulton Way SW, Largo, Florida 33774-1516.

**246TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION**, September 13-15, 1999, Holiday Inn Airport, 3522 Sprinkle Road, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49002. Contact: Howard S. Shelp, 9151 Vanderbilt Avenue, Portage, Michigan 49024. Phone: 616-327-3605.

**254TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION**, July 30-August 1, 1999, Baraga (Upper Peninsula), Michigan. Contact: Ed Vickstrom, 2012 Washington Avenue, Ishpeming, Michigan 49849. Phone: 906-486-4804.

**297TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION**, July 14-16, 1999, Ellenville, New York. Contact: Cye Cynamon, 448 Neptune Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11224. Phone: 718-996-1535.

**328TH INFANTRY COMBAT TEAM**, October 15-17, 1999, Allentown, Pennsylvania. Contact: Alex Pagnotta, 46 Sandown Road, Audobon, Pennsylvania 19403. Phone: 610-539-5685.

**390TH ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS BATTALION (SP)**, August 19-21, 1999, Holiday Inn, Long Beach, California. Contact: Carl Murray, 14637 Lorca Road, La Mirada, California 90638-3940. Phone: 714-521-2995.

**612TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION**, August 4-8, 1999, Howard Johnson Hotel (Airport), Nashville, Tennessee 37217-9981. Contact: Jack Flanagan, 139 St Andrews Road, Severna Park, Maryland 21146. Phone: 410-987-1701.

**643RD TANK DESTROYER BATTALION**, October 1-2, 1999, Sheraton Tara Airport Motel, Warwick, Rhode Island. Contact: Marie Cataldo, 71 South Fuller Street, Brockton, Massachusetts 02401. Phone: 508-580-1034.

**745TH TANK BATTALION**, September 21-23, 1999, Fort Knox, Kentucky. Contact: A. G. Spencer, 760 Glen Avenue, Marseilles, Illinois 61341-1126. Phone: 815-795-4838.

**814TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION**, June 26-27, 1999, Savannah, Missouri. Contact: Mrs. Cloma Christmas. Phone: 816-324-4100.

**987TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION**, September 21-23, 1999, Vacation Place REsort, Branson, Missouri. Contact: W. D. Crawford, 13331 Camp Joy Road, Ore City, TX 75683. Phone: 903-968-6350.

**SHAEF**, September 10-12, 1999, Antlers Adam's Mark Hotel, 4 Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Contact: Secretariat, 7340 Dundee Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70126. Phone: 504-241-3065.

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## VBOB REUNION September 23-26, 1999 Newport News, Virginia

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

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# BASTOGNE!

The following article was provided by **JOHNNIE VANCURA, 755TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, BATTERY B.** The article appeared in *The Stars and Stripes*. While no date appears on the article, it reads as though it was right during the thick of things. The article was written by James Cannon.

## Siege Is Ended But Battle of Bastogne Goes On As Epic Stand Takes a Place in Pages of History

The 101st Airborne Division and a number of other U.S. Units had an appointment in Bastogne. This is the story of how that appointment was kept.

For five days, Americans besieged in the city stood like a rock. The tide of Von Rundstedt's winter offensive swirled 'round them and past them toward the Meuse. Those were five of the war's most critical days.

Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley's decision to defend Bastogne has been hailed as a stroke of genius. No words have yet been said that describe the defense of the city any better than those of an anonymous dough who commented: "They've got us surrounded--the poor bastards."

It remains only to say that Bastogne was the rock on which the Nazi winter offensive was wrecked.

This story is late because it is history. It has been coming out in pieces and some of it was held up for security reasons. Jimmy Cannon has put the pieces together.

But this is not all. The siege of Bastogne is over. The battle is still being fought.

## How Gallant Units Kept Fateful Appointment

The German winter offensive began to roll in full speed out of the Siegfried defenses on December 16. It approached Bastogne like an avalanche--infantrymen wearing snow capes, tanks concealed in white gauze--and it came out of the white blankness like snowbanks peopled with homicidal men and guns.

The next day the Germans reached the tanks of the Tenth Armored Division which protected the three main roads east of Bastogne. The attack buckled, then swept around the flanks of the Tenth.

Hurriedly the 101st Airborne Division began to assemble west of Bastogne. On the foggy morning of the 19th, the 101st sent a combat team of the 501st Parachute Infantry eastward to contact the Tenth. The sky foot soldiers engaged the onrushing Nazis on the tall forest of fire between Longueville and Bastogne.

It was a violent action and in the language of an officer of the Division: "We gave them one hell of a beating!"

## Ninth Forced Back, But Delayed Nazis

When the Germans first launched their offensive, Combat Command R of the Ninth Armored Division, which had been at Trois Vierges, moved southwest to Oberwampach, east of Bastogne. Two road blocks were organized and the remainder of the command rolled into Longueville, closer to Bastogne.

On December 18, the forces at Longueville were threatened with encirclement and the artillery started moving back a battery at a time. The Ninth was forced to withdraw into Bastogne, but their heroic stand

had delayed the German steamroller from 36 to 48 hours, enabling the 101st to prepare its defenses. In this action were elements of the 52nd Armored Infantry Battalion.

Meanwhile, other elements of the 101st were being strung out in a temporary scheme of defense. The northwestern sector was protected by the 3rd Battalion of an infantry regiment and the northwest sector was dominated by the 502nd Regiment.

The southeast terrain was held by the 2nd Battalion of the 327th and in the south the 326th Airborne Engineers were fighting as infantry on the main Arlon-Bastogne road.

The 10th Armored units and the 705th Tank Destroyer Battalion, which was attached to the 101st, became the armored reserve. They hurried in fast moving prongs to each sector where the Germans threatened to break through. Small units of the 10th Armored and the 28th Infantry Division were regrouped as a security force inside the city, prepared to battle it out house by house if necessary.

## Artillerymen Fight With Carbines

The German pressure kept tightening the ring and some 10th elements and the 1st Battalion, 101st, were pocketed near Foy. A shrewd and delicate operation by regiments of the 101st forced an escape avenue. During this battle of withdrawal, which developed into other elements being pocketed, the 2nd Battalion of the 506th rigged a sack of its own. On the afternoon of the 19th, they trapped many Germans in a woods near Noville. The Germans paid a terrible price.

As the withdrawal continued other units of the 10th and the 755th Field Artillery fought a point-blank action with German tanks near Villeroux. Artillerymen whose guns were knocked out took up the fight with carbines.

Also at Villeroux was a battalion of Negro artillerymen, the 969th Field Artillery. As the Germans pressed the attack, cooks, clerks, radio men and truck drivers became infantrymen. Fire from the battalion's batteries alone broke up at least six enemy attacks, two of which were in battalion strength.

On December 22, the Germans welded a complete circle around the defenders of Bastogne. As one doughboy said, "Well, they have us surrounded, the poor bastards!"

## McAuliffe Said One Word, 'Nuts'

At this stage it was a case of surrender or slug it out. Brig. Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe, commanding the 101st, elected to slug it out. When the Germans offered him the chance to surrender he made his now world-famous one-word reply: "Nuts!"

The Germans then launched two strong attacks, one from the northwest and another from the southeast. The doughboys in the foxholes let the tanks joggle over them and then came out to meet the trailing infantry.

"Our tanks ate their armor for supper when they hit the rear," laughed an officer with a somber humor.

That attack petered out the night of the 23rd. Bastogne still held.

On Christmas Day the Germans came again in the biggest attack of the action. They broke into the sector held by the 502nd and the 3rd battalion of the 327th. Clerks and cooks fought alongside the regular, piling up German dead high in front of their position.

"We broke their backs Christmas Day," recalled an officer. "But we never had as much ammunition as we'd like to have had. When you're down to eleven rounds a man, brother, that's the kiss of death. But we made it."

During this action the medical company had been captured. The Germans first machine-gunned them, although their hospital was plainly marked. The medics were forced to load their wounded and leave.

*[The rest of the article is missing. But we thought you would enjoy the perspective of the author. If anyone has the rest of the article, please send it in, we'll use it.]* ■



# ST. LOUIS GATEWAY CHAPTER BADGES OF HONOR QUILT

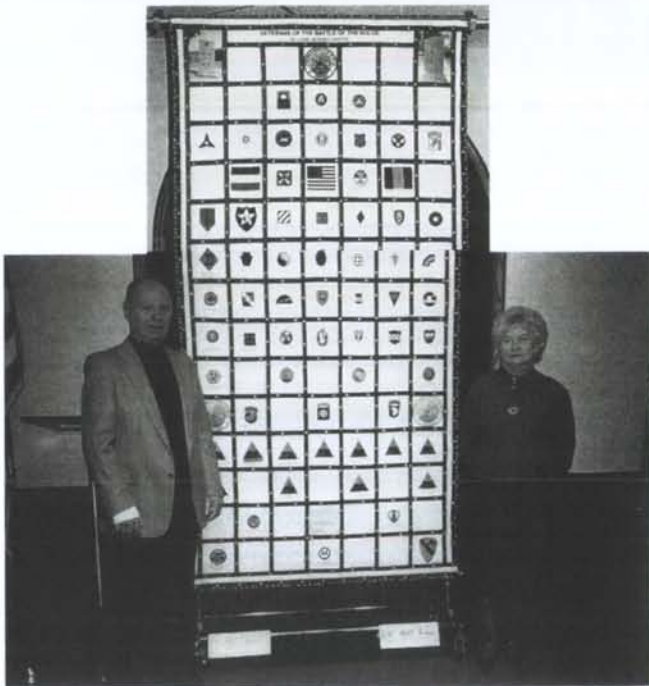
By Firman (Dick) Cotter  
26 INFD 101 FA BN HQ

At the November, 1997, St. Louis Gateway Chapter meeting, one of the auxiliary women over heard one of the veterans mention: "Wouldn't it be great to have a quilt with all our patches?" This idea was discussed among the women's auxiliary at their meeting. Helen Keilholz announced at the next auxiliary meeting that she would take on the project. She was a prolific quilter who has been making quilts for a year. She credits her neighbor Pat Bank with getting her started.

Rudy Reitz called Helen and volunteered his services. He agreed to do the research and accumulate the patches and the nicknames of each patch (where there was one).

Rudy addressed the next chapter meeting asking if any of the veterans had an extra patch which they could donate to the project. He received a few but had to go searching for the remainder. Rudy was not only looking for the patches but was also trying to find the nicknames for the various outfits. In addition to many phone calls to military commands, this mission took Rudy on trips throughout Missouri, Illinois and Indiana.

In October, 1998, after Rudy had gathered the patches and information, he and Helen discussed the layout and order of the patches to be placed in the quilt. It was their hope to have the quilt completed for the 54th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge and the St. Louis Gateway Chapter Christmas Party. They were successful and the unveiling of the quilt took place on December 16, 1998.



*Pictured above are Rudy Reitz, 78th Infantry Division, 309th Infantry, Company M, and Helen Keilholz, maker of the quilt.*

Helen typed the following message which was transferred to the front side of the quilt:

This quilt was made in the honor  
of the men who fought in the  
BATTLE OF THE BULGE  
16 DECEMBER 1994--25 JANUARY 1945

"THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE  
WAS THE GREATEST LAND BATTLE EVER FOUGHT  
BY THE UNITED STATES ARMY"

--Charles B. McDonald

"THIS BATTLE WAS WON BY THE COMMON SOLDIER,  
THE AMERICAN GI"

--George S. Patton, Jr. 1945

All men belonged to an Army Unit: 1st, 3rd or 9th. They were assigned to a Corps. Then an Infantry, Air Force or Armored Unit. Each Division had a nickname which is printed under the patch.

A monument has been erected by the Gateway Chapter of the Battle of the Bulge at the Jefferson Barracks National Park.

Monument photo on the quilt was taken by Bob Long. Research and advisor for the patches were by Rudy Reitz. Printing on the quilt was done by Ron and Kelly Keilholz. Quilt was made and hand-stitched by Helen Keilholz.

Officers:

W. Kent Stephens, President

Elmer Potzman, Vice President

Clarence Lauman, Treasurer

Billy Stiegemeier, Secretary

Marvin Korte, Sergeant-at-Arms

Millie Knize, President of the Ladies Auxiliary

16 December 1998

Helen typed the following message which was transferred to the backside of the quilt:

"As I sew this QUILT together and as I stitched around each PATCH, my thoughts were: If the PATCHES on this QUILT could talk, they would say, how hard it was for the young men to be there fighting in the war. They had their whole life ahead of them. They did not know if they would ever see their families again, with death and dying all around them. But, many did come home to their families and now have families of their own.

"Their PATCHES have been sewn together on a QUILT. A QUILT that shows great HONOR and PRIDE for all generations to see.

"The men were in different units but side-by-side and won the BATTLE. We must never forget what they did there. DUTY, HONOR, COUNTRY.

"I feel very honored to have been allowed to make this QUILT in memory of the men living now and who have died.

"Thank you,  
HELEN KEILHOLZ  
ST. LOUIS, MO.  
16 December 1998"

Helen Keilholz said she was happy to have the honor to complete the Quilt. "It belongs to them--it's theirs; they risked their lives for these patches." ■



*Controversial in Life ...  
A Goldmine in Death ...*

**GEN. GEORGE S. PATTON**

By Mitchell Kaidy

*On the eve of D-Day Gen. George S. Patton ascended a stage in England and delivered a speech that has become famous in history.*

A laundered version of it known today as "The Speech," was depicted by George C. Scott in his widely-known movie, "Patton."

In those days, Patton and his army were actually being hidden by SHAEF to keep the Germans guessing about where the mercurial General and his new army would strike. Because it contained vulgarities which Patton always used for effect, the serious and controversial aspects of the original speech have been overlooked by history.

At one point in his speech, Patton advises his troops never to dig foxholes. And, shocking as it must be to most experienced infantrymen, he never changed his mind.

"My men don't dig foxholes," Patton declared in The Speech on June 5, 1944. "I don't want them to. Foxholes only slow up an offensive. Don't give the enemy time to dig one either." And he explained, "When a man is lying in a shell hole, if he just stays there all day, a German will get to him eventually ... I don't want to get any messages saying 'I am holding my position.' We are not holding a Goddamned thing ... We are advancing constantly and not interested in holding anything except the enemy's balls."

Three years later, in his penetrating and knowledgeable summing-up, "War as I Knew It," published after the war, Patton returned to and reinforced his view about foxholes. In the book Patton pointed out that even soldiers in foxholes were exposed to shrapnel and airbursts. And he went on to advocate a Civil War-style picket line tactic for the infantry. "The proper way to advance, particularly with troops armed with that magnificent weapon, the M-1 rifle, is to utilize marching fire and keep moving."

Patton reasoned that most artillery fire tended to overshoot and land behind frontline riflemen. With the rifle held between the ammunition belt and armpit, Patton proposed "marching fire." "The whistle of the bullets, the scream of the ricochet, and the dust, twigs, and branches which are knocked from the ground and trees have such an effect on the enemy that his small-arms fire becomes negligible."

Astonishing advice about both no-foxholes and marching fire. In almost six months on the frontlines, I knew of few (Sgt. Dick Goldhardt of my company was an exception) who didn't regularly dig foxholes. And neither did I witness marching fire, which few American infantrymen, probably considering it a Civil War-type tactic, would have utilized.

Patton, who was nothing if not complex, has been described

in many ways by many authors. One of his biographers, Carlo, D'Este, claimed Patton possessed "A Genius for War." But D'Este's exclusive focus was on Patton the Third Army leader and tactician. Then Hollywood discovered Patton, and George C. Scott depicted him as an outspoken, inspirational but unerring leader. Others, like Marshal Bernard Montgomery, hated Patton's guts and disparaged his military achievements. Until late in the war, Eisenhower considered Patton a public relations disaster. Even members of the press in World War II considered Patton a pretentious blowhard. Andy Rooney, an Army correspondent during the war, still disparages him.

But beyond the movie stereotypes, beyond the profanities, beyond the pretentious braggart, beyond the strutting martinet, any careful reading of Patton's battlefield analyses, as well as his personal reflections, the most accurate description of the controversial general is that he was cerebral—and yes, in important ways, he could not be false.

Of the major world War II leaders, who besides Patton ever admitted mistakes and failures on the battlefield? Not Eisenhower. Not McArthur. Not Montgomery or any other American or British general. Only Patton. He not only admitted errors, he analyzed and wrote about them as a means to improve his performance as well as to enlighten his successors, who now have his books and correspondence including his controversial battlefield proposals, to read and analyze. One can only hope that in West Point, in the Army War College, and the General Staff Schools, Patton's apparent flash and dash are properly reviewed and reflected upon. There's military gold—and a thoughtful persona—there that doesn't necessarily flash.

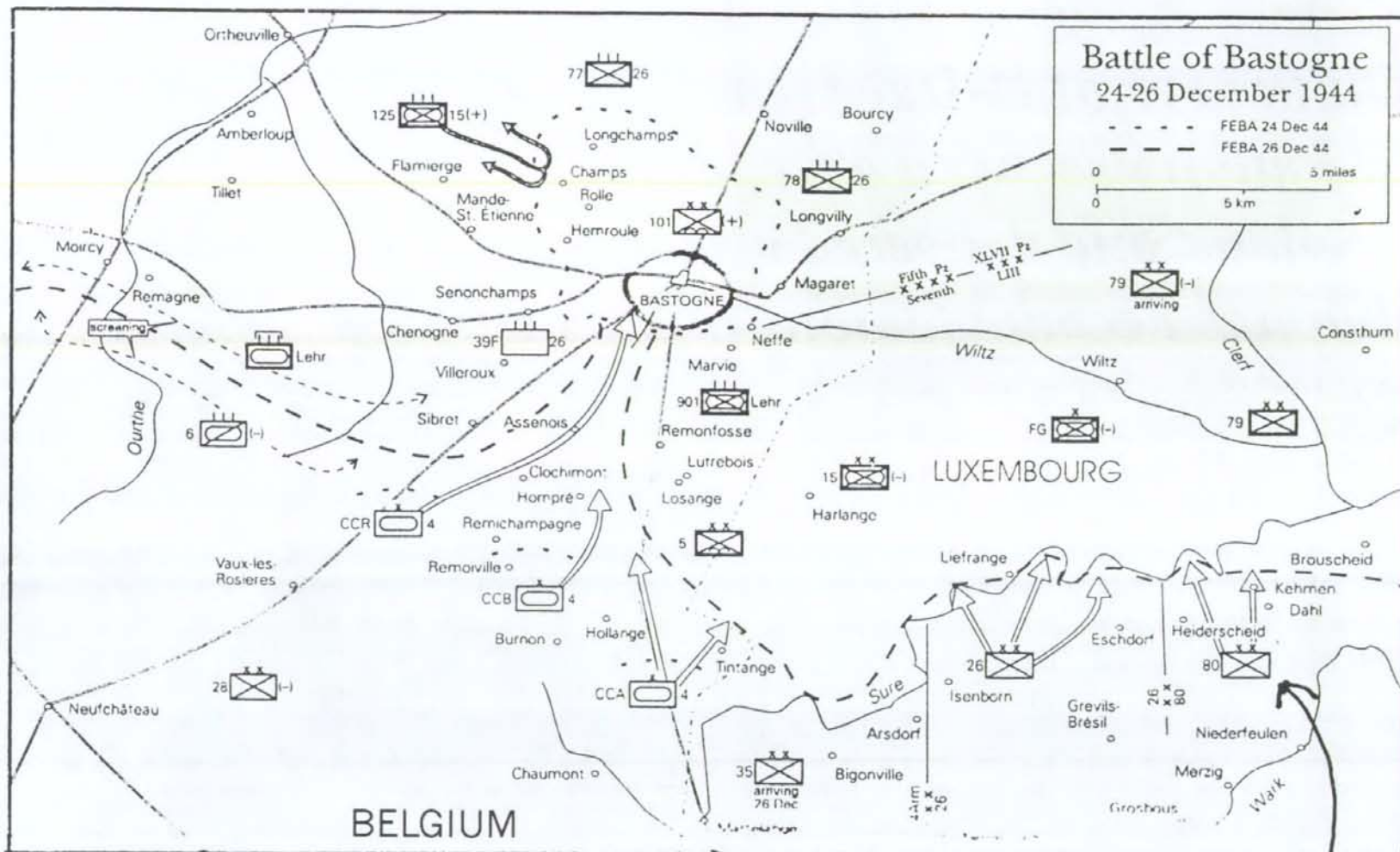
*A prize-winning journalist, Mitchell Kaidy won the Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star Medal, and three battle stars while serving with the 87th Infantry Division in Europe.*





# RELIEF OF THE BESIEGED U.S. TROOPS IN BASTOGNE

By Richard Radock  
80 INF 319 INF 305 MED BN C



Many of the Veterans of the Bulge are writing about their units' participation in the relief of the 101st Airborne and other troops trapped in the Bastogne perimeter even though we had 600,000 troops fighting in the Bulge and every unit and soldier contributed in some manner in the relief of these troops, even though it may have been indirectly. These enemy troops had about 9 divisions and assorted small units surrounded Bastogne and it took 6 infantry divisions, 2 airborne, 3 armored division, 1 CCR-9th Armored, 1 CCB-10th Armored to destroy the Germans and push them back to their starting line of their counterattack.

This story is about my division's (80th Infantry Division) role in the early shift of the 3rd Army troops from the Saar Valley and travel 150 miles from St. Avold, Bitche and Rohrbach which we were in this area for rest, refitting and maintenance of our vehicles, tanks, guns and equipment in preparation to assault the West Wall. General Patton ordered us to move north as fast as we could, the 4th Armored to Longway, the 80th Infantry Division to Luxembourg City and the 26th Infantry Division toward Liefrange 14 hours later--this was on December 19, 1944.

We were to set up a defense to stop the German 7th Army from penetrating southward and we were to attack the southern German flank quickly. The only divisions located here were part of the 28th Infantry Division and the 4th Infantry Division also Patton sent the 10th Armored Division to Bastogne to help.

We were assigned to General Milliken's III Corps.

We were to pull out of the 3rd Army front lines, load up all the infantry troops, extra gasoline, ammo, rations, medical supplies and get ready to travel 150 miles at a great speed as fast as conditions warranted and set up a defense perimeter around Luxembourg City and dig in about 10 miles north of the city as the

Germans wanted to seize this communications center. We drove in a blizzard about 0530 hours, the roads were icy and covered with snow, it was so dark we took a chance and drove with bright headlights on so we could drive faster. It was Tuesday, December 19th, 1944, and with a long drive with the entire division. We moved in a very long convoy. Our 305th Engineers went first to check the roads, bridges and for mines. Our division MP's were road guides and kept the convoy close so none of us would get lost. Then came the trucks with our 3 Infantry Regiments (317, 318 and 319th) and 702 Tank Battalion, 633 AAA Battalion, our Artillery Battalions (313, 314, 315 and 905), then the service companies, headquarters units, then the division headquarters. All of the tired vehicles had chains on all wheels.

The trip was long and tedious, stop and go movement. Thirty-three hours of driving. We had to get out many times to stretch, relieve drivers and eat cold K rations--there was no hot food or even coffee.

We arrived in Luxembourg City and found a lot of rear echelon troops of the 28th Infantry Division--mostly clerks, mess workers, cooks and headquarters troops. They were glad to see us.

We placed guards at strategic cross roads, billets and command posts and medical facilities.

Our infantry took up positions north of the city to defend and protect it from the Germans as they were ready to launch an attack against the city. One of our infantry regiments loaded up in trucks, moved north of the city, registered their guns and fired on the enemy on December 22, 1944. The rest of the division set up a defense north of the city and were ordered to attack at 0600 hours on the same day.

We attacked and advanced 14 miles in 48 hours in the deep snow and caught the enemy by surprise and

(Continued on next page)



## BESIEGED U.S. TROOPS

and slaughtered about two-thirds of a Grenadier Division of the Wehrmacht 7th Army.

The 80th Infantry Division would move toward Etelbruck, the 26th Division toward Wiltz and the 4th Armored toward Bastogne. The 80th Blue Riders destroyed an enemy artillery battalion in Etelbruck and we stopped the German drive on Luxembourg City. We also seized a 4 mile stretch of the German main supply road from Trier to Bastogne.

Two battalions of our 318th Infantry Regiment were ordered by General Patton to provide infantry support to the 4th Armored Division. They loaded up on trucks and motored 22 miles toward Bastogne. The Germans kept up pressure on the Bastogne perimeter. The 101st Airborne Division and other troops were surrounded. The 80th Division fought with tenacity and advanced 5 miles clear Merzig of enemy troops. On December 23, 1944, clouds lifted and our XIX-TAC had a field day bombing and strafing the enemy. My Company C, 305th Medical Battalion Collecting Station was located in Etelbruck so I had to set up an ambulance shuttle post in Heiderscheid to cut down travel time for my ambulances which were assigned to the three infantry battalion aid stations of the 319th Infantry Regiment. My job was to evacuate the wounded soldiers immediately including the enemy and civilians, with great speed so the wounded would not go into shock or hypothermia. Other ambulances would transfer the wounded and drive them to our Company C Collection Station located in Etelbruck. Since the 80th Division was ordered to move to Etelbruck and join the XII Corps, the 35th Division took our positions.

On Christmas Day, 1944, we slugged it out with the enemy for three days but we held our ground. We captured many enemy soldiers and pounded them with thousands of rounds of artillery and mortar shells. Good news this day as the 4th Armored, 37th Tank Battalion, led by Lt. Col. Abrams, rolled into Bastogne through a narrow corridor. The besieged troops were glad to see them. Lt. Carr, of the 2nd Battalion of the 318th Infantry Regiment, with a four man patrol, slipped through enemy lines and made contact with an engineer outpost on the outskirts of the Bastogne perimeter. He then was escorted to the 101st Airborne Headquarters and had overlays made of our defense positions, conditions of the wounded, supplies needed and ammo.

The major crisis ended at Bastogne but many tough battles were to be fought as the Germans had about 9 divisions and small units surrounding the perimeter around Bastogne. The next few days, the corridor to the city was widened and ambulances and supply trucks moved into Bastogne--all of the wounded and civilians were evacuated. Many fresh troops relieved the paratroopers and other besieged troops.

The trucks hauled ammo, blankets, rations, guns and medical supplies into Bastogne. There was much bloody fighting yet, as the Germans had the tenacity and made counterattacks even though they were not productive in capturing territory.

After a couple of weeks Hitler ordered his troops to retreat east to the Fatherland to defend the West Wall. The Germans abandoned their panzers, heavy guns and trucks and retreated on foot to Germany as they had no gasoline, ammo, rations, or medical supplies. They even left their wounded.

The siege of Bastogne was over and can be attributed to the 600,000 U.S. troops who fought a gallant battle. Our cost was about 81,000 casualties--47,139 WIA, 8,600 KIA, and 21,144 MIA. The Germans suffered much worse in casualties and thousands were taken prisoners.

Each U.S. soldier who participated in this campaign in the Ardennes deserves much credit for a job well done--no matter what your job entailed. ■

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## BOLO TIE FOUND

Someone found a bolo tie and it now resides in the Headquarters Office. If you lost one around December of 1998 in one of the New England States, please contact us at 703-528-4058.

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*A tisket, a tasket,  
Hitler's in his basket  
Eanie, Meanie, Mussolini,  
Ought to be there too!*

WWII Ditty, sung by  
American Children

## BOOKS YOU MAY ENJOY (Continued from Page 8)

*World War II* by Loyd E. Lee. This readable analysis and ready-reference guide is designed to help students and interested readers to understand the causes of WWII, interrelated events, and implications of the war, and to provide a wealth of material for research. A detailed timeline of events traces the history of the war. It examines: the relations among the Allied powers and how their decisions affected the shape of the postwar world; how emerging technology changed the nature of war; the effect of the war on the homefront of the warring nations; and the importance of resistance movements in Europe. Order from: Greenwood Publishing Group, Inc., PO Box 5007, Westport, Connecticut 06881-5007. Cost is \$39.95 (with shipping and handling) (ISBN 0-313-29998-6.).

*On the Way: General Patton's Eyes and Ears on the Enemy* by Edward A. Marinello. This is an account written during combat and thus imparts an authenticity and immediacy that is not common in military history. It focuses on Battery B of the 286th Field Artillery Observation Battalion, a free-wheeling collection of forward observers and specialists who used sound and flash devices to track German artillery. Indicative of their great success, similar battalions were strung one to another along the entire length of the Western Front, starting with First and Ninth Armies in the north, Third Army in the Center, and Seventh Army to the south. The writing deals with the nature of combat from the GI's point of view. Order from: Nova Science Publishing, 6080 Jericho Turnpike, Commack, New York 11725 (or your local book store). Cost with shipping and handling is \$31.50 (ISBN 1-56072-605-9).

*A Personal Account of WWII by Draftee #36887149* by Clarence Blakeslee. Clarence served with the 28th Infantry Division, 112th Infantry Regiment (several companies within). This account details the experiences of Clarence and his Regiment through Normandy, the Hurtgen Forest, the Battle of the Bulge, and the Rhine River. Order from: Charles Blakeslee, 17 River Street, Rockford, Michigan. Cost is \$13.00 including shipping and handling. Profits go to the Rockford Area Historical Society.

Thanks to all of you. Also received for the archives (but not available for sale) were:

*Strike, Fight and Conquer*, by Paul M. Crucq, a history of the 60th Armored Infantry Battalion, Ninth Armored Division. It was sent to us by Reginald L. Sawyer.

*War at Ground Level: The Experiences of a Combat Infantryman in Europe during World War II* by A. P. Wiley, Jr., of the 30th Infantry Division.

Needless to say, these are welcome additions to our archives.

The value of the books we receive is immeasurable and we will see that they are treasured always. ■

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# VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE CERTIFICATE



The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Assn is proud to offer a full color 11" by 17" certificate, which may be ordered by any veteran who received credit for the Ardennes Campaign. It attests that you participated in, endured and survived the greatest land battle ever fought by the US Army. You do not have to be a member of the VBOB Assn in order to order one but you must have received the Ardennes credit. This beautiful certificate is produced on parchment-like stock and is outlined by the full color WWII insignias of the major units that fought in the Battle of the Bulge starting with the 12th Army Group followed numerically with Armies, Corps and Divisions and the two Army Air Forces. We wished that each unit insignia could have been shown but with approximately 2000

units that participated in the Bulge it was impossible. However any unit which served in the Bulge would have been attached to or reported through one of the unit insignias depicted. You may want to add one of your original patches to the certificate, when you receive it. Units were researched in the Official General Order No. 114 for Units Entitled to the ARDENNES Battle Credit and will be the basis for sale of this certificate. The unit insignias shown are also those used in the design of the Battle of the Bulge Memorial Conference Table dedicated and on view in the Garrison Library at Ft Meade, MD (open Mon & Wed 12:30-3:00 PM). The requests to date have been overwhelming, therefore we would request that you allow approximately 3-4 weeks for delivery.

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

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

## VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE CERTIFICATE ORDER BLANK

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

|   |          |   |                              |
|---|----------|---|------------------------------|
| First Name  | MI       | Last Name                               | Serial Number                |
| Organization/Company, Battalion and/or Regt, Division |          |   | Rank (Optional)              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Killed in Action             | Location | <input type="checkbox"/> Died of Wounds | <input type="checkbox"/> POW |
| date  | place    | date                                    | dates      Camp              |

### MAILING INFORMATION:

|   |                |                  |
|---|----------------|------------------|
| Name  | Street Address | Apt No.          |
| City  | State          | Zip + 4 Code     |
| Telephone Number (In case we need to call you)                        |                | Signature & date |
| VBOB Member: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |                | 01/08/99         |

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



# VBOB QUARTERMASTER

MAY 1999

Please ship the following items to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (first) (last) (phone #-will call only if there is a problem)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (no.) (street) (city) (state) (zip)

| Item Description  | Price Each   | Quantity | Total Price |
|---|--|----------|-------------|
| VBOB Logo Patch - 3"  | \$ 4.50  |          | \$          |
| VBOB Logo Patch - 4"  | \$ 5.50  |          | \$          |
| VBOB Logo Decal - 4"  | \$ 1.25  |          | \$          |
| VBOB Windshield Logo - 4"   | \$ 1.25  |          | \$          |
| VBOB Logo Stickers (10) - 1 1/8"  | 10 for \$1.25  |          | \$          |
| Baseball Cap w/3" VBOB Logo Patch - Navy only   | \$ 10.00   |          | \$          |
| Windbreaker w/4" VBOB Logo Patch (Navy only)<br><i>Please circle size (they run a little snug): S M L XL XXL<br/>                 XXXL<br/>                 (XXL and XXXL - see prices)</i> | \$ 25.00 (S, M, L and XL)<br>\$ 26.00 for XXL<br>\$ 27.00 for XXXL |          | \$          |
| VBOB Logo Lapel Pin - 1/2"  | \$ 5.00  |          | \$          |
| Miniature VBOB Logo Medal w/Ribbon (pin on type)  | \$ 8.50  |          | \$          |
| VBOB Logo Belt Buckle - Silver tone or Gold tone<br><i>(Please circle choice)</i>   | \$ 16.00   |          | \$          |
| VBOB Logo Bolo Tie - Silver tone or Gold tone<br><i>(Please circle choice)</i>  | \$ 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<br>Battle of the Bulge" - White paper with Blue printing   | \$ 3.00  |          | \$          |
| ★ NEW ITEM ★ VBOB Tote Bag - 18" x 15" natural (off-white) color tote<br>bag with navy handles and large navy VBOB logo   | \$ 8.00  |          | \$          |

Only Cash, Check or Money Order Accepted  
 Make Checks Payable to "VBOB" - Mail Orders to VBOB-QM, PO Box 11129, Arlington, VA 22210-2129

**DO NOT INCLUDE ANY OTHER MONIES WITH QM PAYMENT**

Shipping and Handling:

\$0.00 to \$5.00 - \$ 2.00

\$5.01 to \$10.00 - \$ 3.00

\$10.01 and over - \$ 4.00

Please add an additional \$1.00 to regular shipping and handling for all items shipped outside the USA.

Cost of Items: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

S&H: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

***Office Use Only - Do Not Write Below This Line***

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Mailed: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment: Cash Check MO

Check No.: \_\_\_\_\_





# VETERANS of the BATTLE of the BULGE

P.O. Box 11129  
Arlington, Virginia 22210-2129

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



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED  
FORWARDING and RETURN  
POSTAGE GUARANTEED

LC0071 LIFE  
NEIL BROWN THOMPSON  
525 PATRICIA CT  
ODENTON MD 21113-1716

**MAY, 1999**

## BE ON BOARD -----

**September 23-26, 1999  
Newport News, Virginia  
VBOB REUNION  
DETAILS IN THIS ISSUE**



*-Detach and Mail-*

OFFICIAL USE ONLY



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

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Do not write above this line

Annual Dues \$15

Do not write above this line

New Member     Renewal - Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

*All new members, please provide the following information:*

Campaign(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Regiment \_\_\_\_\_ Battalion \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

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

Applicants Signature \_\_\_\_\_

RECRUITER (Optional)