

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

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



The BULGE BUGLE

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THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

FEBRUARY 1994

If Nazi Breakthrough Came . . .

DID IKE PLAN TO BLAME MONTGOMERY



Field Marshall Bernard L. Montgomery

FOR 'BULGE' DEFEAT?

*Clarke views
Montgomery*

Article by
George Bowles

Part I, Reprinted from May 2, 1976, The Daily Progress Did General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force in Europe during World War II, believe the Allies faced a disastrous defeat during the "Battle of the Bulge"? Did he intentionally shift commands so if the defeat occurred responsibility for it would fall on a British rather than an American commander?

(Continued on Page 6)

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Is there a chapter near you? Give their president a call. You will be glad you did. You may find some old friends and you will make some new ones. If there is no chapter near you, we can use your help to develop one. Write us for information.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to thank the VBOB Nominating Committee for their confidence in selecting me for the position of President for the next year and the membership for electing me.

I'm honored to accept the position and title as President of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. It will be a challenge that I look forward to. I know it will be more work but I'm also sure there will be joy as the 50th anniversary date comes nearer and we all take part in this very special event.

I feel I will be working with an experienced slate of officers and committee chairmen, most of whom have been involved in the operations of VBOB in important ways. With their help, I will try to build on the fine example of the presidents before me.

I would at this time like to present two suggestions to the membership:

1. Help us make sure all members and other veterans are aware of the 50th Anniversary Commemoration planned for December, 1994 in St. Louis.
2. None of us know how many good years we have left, so let's work together to make them as meaningful and to never stop thanking God for all we have been given and have gone through together in the name of world peace.



William P. Tayman

VBOB PRESIDENT AT THE WHITE HOUSE



In celebration of Veterans Day, November 11, our President, along with other veteran organization officers, had breakfast at The White House in The State Dining Room. Bill spoke with Les Aspin, the then Secretary of Defense, and the new Joint Chiefs of Staff, General John Shalikashvili; at that time they were both scheduled to attend the BoB 50th Anniversary in St. Louis. After breakfast they went to the East Room of the White House for the President's Veterans Day words of appreciation and his signing of a cost of living bill to increase disabled veterans allowance. Effective December 1, 1993, the VA Compensation Cola will be 2.6%. Bill said the food and service were excellent. Before leaving Bill kissed the First Lady good-bye. He had his picture taken with her also!

Chapter/Regions Update

Now that the 50th year of the Great Battle is upon us and the commemoration for it is in December, 1994, there are many out in the land who are not experiencing the camaraderie of belonging to a chapter.

Being the new coordinator of chapter activity, etc., I extend a helping hand to those who wish to organize a chapter by providing details of how, what and who. National can be of assistance to you.

All I need to know is who is willing to get a chapter started and I will help you get organized. It takes as few as five members to get started.

LET ME HEAR FROM YOU.

Grover Twiner, VP for Chapters
40 Dungan Road
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Phone and FAX: 410-744-4915

As I grow old I remember events clearly that never happened. Bill Hemphill

Kilroy Sez...
Are Your
Dues DUE?



VA/DOD TO ISSUE D-DAY ID BADGES

Attending a U.S.-sponsored event in June commemorating the D-Day invasion? Badges will be issued through April 1994 to veterans and will cover their immediate family members for the following ceremonies: Airborne Ceremony, St. Mere Eglise (June 5) and U.S. Army Ranger Assault, Point du Hoc; Utah Beach Commemoration, Utah Beach, Normandy; Omaha Beach Commemoration, Omaha Beach, Normandy; U.S. National Ceremony, U.S. Cemetery, Colleville Sur Mer (June 6). Send applications to: World War II Commemoration Committee, Attn: Veteran Identification Program, 5001 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria, Va 22333. Send the following information with your request: rank (on D-Day); former unit or ship; tour group or association you are traveling with; passport numbers of accompanying family members; and events you plan to attend. You will receive an application to fill out and return

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

[Quite some time ago we received a request for the following information. Can you provide us with any help?]

DID THEY HAVE RAILROADS IN THE WAR?

I received *The Bulge Bugle*. The only thing I cannot find is anything about the railroads and what they did. I have talked to people and if anything is said about the railroads, the comment is "did they have railroads in the war?" Well, I want you to know we had a number of railroad battalions working in Europe and our outfit was one of them. We run to within a mile of the front lines all through the war in Europe (and the Battle of the Bulge).

I lost a train to the German air planes, as I was going to Herbesthal, Belgium, to haul supply out. After the rails were repaired, we were sent to Aachen to pull an engineering company out that was working on a bridge--the Germans were getting too close.

I was also at Remagen when the bridge fell in. We also pulled hospital trains to within about a mile of the front lines. We pulled two to three hospital trains a day from Herbesthal, Belgium, as the Battle of the Bulge was going on.

...Oh, yes, I was a locomotive engineer over there. Also in the states. I am off the PL&E Railroad and am now retired.

Edward R. Craven
740th Railway Operating Battalion

MORE IN SUPPORT OF BASTARD BATTALIONS

In response to the article written by Michael Luciano, in the November issue of *The Bugle*, I want to say that I wholeheartedly agree with him about Bastard Battalions.

I was part of a field artillery battalion, which was attached to many F.A. groups, the 174th, 196th, 333rd and the 422 FAGP. ...also attached at times to the 2nd Infantry Division, 4th Division, 6th Armored, 8th Infantry Division, 17th Airborne Division, 83rd Division, 87th Division, and the 90th Infantry Divisions. ...also the VII Corps, VIII, XII, and the XX Corps. ...also the 1st, 3rd and the 9th Armies.

The divisions did a hell of a job, but they don't know about the field artillery battalions who were reinforcing their field artillery firings.

I also think that some sort of mention should be made at some time, or times about all the Bastard Battalions who were in support of their divisions.

Leonard Schofenberg
174th Field Artillery Battalion, Headquarters Battery

OPEN LETTER TO JOSEPH DOHERTY

[Joseph Doherty's article was the cover story for the November issue of The Bugle.]

I enjoyed your cover article in the November issue of *The Bulge Bugle* very much and wish you good luck on your full book if you choose to go ahead with it.

[This] was not written to blow the 30th Division's horn--history has already recorded that unit's record of achievements adequately. The map from the August, 1993, issue of *The Bugle* backs my recent [correspondence]. Hitler's major thrust was aimed at Antwerp. His five armies were massed, with the 1st Panzer "Adolph Hitler" Division leading the 6th Panzer Army from the center and its path was planned to go directly through Malmedy, Stavelot, and Trois Ponts, hence to Liege (all our gasoline he needed so badly) and Antwerp.

It was there, in these three towns, that Sepp Dietrich (The Butcher) and Col Peiper were stopped by the 30th Infantry Division and the 82nd Airborne. It was the second and last time for the 1st Panzer Division (Adolph's own) to be soundly thrashed by the 30th. (They were put out of action for three months at St. Lo, France.) And were never to fight as a unit again! A review of the book, *Battle* (a story of the Bulge) by Historian John Toland (Random House) will confirm my belief, comments and file.

The full story is covered completely at the Malmedy Museum, built there to record fully the attack by the 1st Panzer--how the attack was repulsed by the 30th, who arrived from the area north of Aachen covering the 100 miles to Stavelot in 48 hours with all units in combat immediately. They succeeded ultimately in cutting-off Peiper's rear,

causing him to abandon over 120 tanks and half-tracks in the Town of LaGleize, Belgium. The colonel was forced to retreat on foot with less than 200 men and that was the end of the Bulge for the 1st Panzer "Kampfgruppe" and the 30th never left Malmedy!

The 2nd Battalion continued its attack to the outskirts of St. Vith. At which time, the Bulge was no more.

Norbert Osterland
30 INF D 119 INF E

TIMELINESS OF DOHERTY ARTICLE

Congratulations for reprinting in the November *Bulge Bugle* Joe Doherty's article "A New Look at an Old Battle"....

It is an important contribution to understanding "our" battle as we near the 50th anniversary and is especially remarkable for having been written "about 15 years ago," as the introduction states. His analysis of the reasons for the Allied intelligence failure, including the negative influence of the Ultra decoding program, parallel the late Charles MacDonald's study of these aspects in the first four chapters of *Time for Trumpets*, published in 1984.

As a former member of the 106th Infantry Division and a fellow student of the Battle of the Bulge, I also endorse one of Doherty's principal points: that the most decisive U.S. action for the outcome of the battle was not the heroic defense of Bastogne but, rather, the successful stand of the 2nd and 99th Infantry Divisions on the Eisenborn Ridge, which established the northern shoulder of the German breakthrough, deflecting the strongest enemy assault force (6th SS Panzer Army) southward, where it had to compete with the other principal German strike force (5th Panzer Army) for the few available roads suitable for heavy armor. The success of elements of the 106th and 28th Infantry and 7th and 9th Armored Divisions in delaying the seizure of the St. Vith road junction for nearly a week also contributed to upsetting the German timetable irreparably.

[Regarding 50th Anniversary Bulge observances] the brave men of the 101st Airborne and 10th Armored Divisions and other units who withstood the siege of Bastogne will be deservedly honored. To the general public, their bravery and sacrifice symbolizes the Battle of the Bulge, and the location of the major memorials there helps to strengthen the impression. But Bastogne is not the whole story. The members of VBOB know that thousands of actions by individuals and units too numerous to mention contributed to the defeat of the German offensive.

Jack A. Sulser
106 INF D 423 INF F

WHO WAS FRANCES Y. SLANGER?

[This article appeared in the Volume III edition of the St. Louis Gateway Chapter "Our Newsletter"]

Well, this is one dogface that didn't know who she was, although I was closer than I knew, to the memory of her. After the war was over, I couldn't seem to get a ride back to the States, for one reason or another. So, it was after most of the guys went home, that I was placed on the *George W. McCrary*, a beat up old Liberty ship. I spent 37 days on that rust-bucket, which lost a boiler and a part of its rudder, on the way in. We were towed into Bermuda by tugs, and a great white ship, was sent to Bermuda to take us home.

We had been without decent drinking water or food for a great while, and a bath was a thing to dream about. Sea-sickness was the order of the day, and if we had a place to go, after jumping overboard, we would have mutinied. But a day or so after getting into Bermuda, we saw this big white ship with great Red Crosses on its sides. We were taken aboard, fed like kings, slept in a bed (with sheets), no fatigue duty, no sickness, just peace and quiet and going the right direction for a change.

We knew that the ship's name was the *SS Frances Y. Slanger*, but we didn't know what that meant really. It wasn't until I read the story by Alton Smally on page 32 of the November issue of *The Bugle*, that the name Frances Slanger meant anything to me, except it was a great ship. It had to be, because it was named in honor of a Great Lady. God Bless you, Frances, and every one of your kind who wore dirty fatigues. They have never made enough bouquets to reward your efforts on our behalf.

(Continued on Page 5)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Continued from Page 4)

November issue of *The Bulge*, that the name Frances Slanger meant anything to me, except it was a great ship. It had to be, because it was named in honor of a Great Lady. God bless you, Frances, and everyone of your kind who wore those dirty fatigues. They have never made enough bouquets to reward your efforts on our behalf.

Robert W. Ward
397 AAA AW BN

BASTARD BATTALIONS OMITTED FROM HISTORY BOOKS

I agree with Michael Luciano: his letter about the Bastard Battalions or trouble shooters. The 633rd AA AW Battalion was attached to several larger units and we went on combat missions as extra fire power with the 80th Infantry Division, but history reports what the larger units did. They never say that we assisted. The great 702 award-winning Tank Battalion has the same problem. They helped several tank divisions out of trouble spots and again they were left out of the history books.

Donald Schoo
3 ARMY 80 INFD 633 AA

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

I was able to send the necessary information to Vernon Reimer, of Texas, regarding his two uncles who were killed in the Battle of the Bulge.

Anyone else needing to locate friends or relatives interred in Europe should write to: Graves Enquiry Bureau, Esplanade, B-8900, Ieper, Belgium.

Jack Brewer
3 ARMDD 32 ARMD B

ARTICLE STIRS UP MEMORIES

I enjoyed the article "A New Look at an Old Battle." Very interesting. Brought back a lot of memories—some good, some bad, and some I don't want to remember. I also had the opportunity to visit Normandy in September and went down to Omaha Beach. I told my wife it's not like I remember it, but it was very emotional to stand on the beach once again without all the commotion of the invasion.

Charles R. Barda
28 INFD 107 FA C BTRY

DIRECT ROUTE TO ANTWERP

I read with a great deal of interest Joe Doherty's account of the northern part of the Bulge. A had a company in Stavelot and I have enclosed an accurate story of what happened there—never been told before. (We will publish this at a later date.)

I agree with Doherty that the Battle of the Bulge was won here in this region. German and American historians say Hitler meant for his troops to go to Antwerp. The closest most direct route was through Malmady and Stavelot to Liege and then to coast. This was denied him. I feel these troops have not received the recognition they deserve.

Charles A. Mitchell
30 INFD 526 AIB A

WHERE WAS THE 180TH FA?

I was surprised to note the confusion concerning the 180th FA and where it belonged.

The 180th FA was the 155 howitzer Battalion, p/o the Division Artillery of the 26th (Yankee) Infantry Division. The Yankee Division fought in Lorraine, not Alsace-Lorraine, from early October 1944 until 12 December, in the vicinity of Sarre Union on the Sarr River, at which time the division was relieved by the 87th Infantry Division and moved to Metz to replenish lost personnel. Other major units in the area were 35th Infantry Division and 4th Armored Division.

Regarding use of chaff, my records show that the German Luftwaffe used the foil, which they called "Düppel," as early as spring of 1942. RAF Pathfinders used it during the several, terrible bombing raids on Hamburg, July, 1943.

William Leeseemann, Jr.
26 INFD 101 ENGR CMBT BN



Dec. 18, 1993. SWEARING IN OF OFFICERS. VBOB Delaware Valley Chapter, Banquet at Philadelphia Navy Yard. Standing L to R: Bill Nichols, Jack Hyland, John Conboy, Bob Fischer, Tom Jones (V.P.), Mike Pettrick (Sec.), Stan Wojtusik (Pres.), Jim Clark. Sworn in by Dave Perrigrin, Master of Ceremonies.

NO TIME FOR TRAVEL

[Source 17th Airborne Division Int Rpt based on research by John D. Bowen in the National Archives Suitland Branch US Army Unit Records.]

A PW, in describing his last journey by rail in Germany (January 1945) remarks, "In former days, it could happen that one got to the station and the train was gone. Nowadays one gets to the train and the station is gone."

Up Front

Bill Mauldin



"My, sir - what an enthusiastic welcome!"

Beast do not fight collectively. Who has ever seen ten lions fight ten bulls? Yet how often do 20,000 armed Christians fight 20,000 armed Christians?

ERASMUS

General Bruce Clarke Views Montgomery

(Continued from Page 1)

Retired Gen. Bruce C. Clarke is convinced Eisenhower's staff feared a major German breakthrough was about to occur during the critical days of the battle. In order to prevent the American forces being blamed for the possible defeat, Eisenhower's staff, in Clarke's view, persuaded the supreme Commander to place the threatened sector of the front under British control.

On the fourth day of the battle, which has begun on December 16, 1944, Eisenhower suddenly and unexpectedly relieved Gen. Omar Bradley of command of two of the three armies in Bradley's 12th Army group and placed them under that of Field Marshal Bernard L. Montgomery, commander of the British and Canadian 21st Army Group.

Montgomery's forces then lay squarely in front of the strongly attacking German panzer armies.

Clarke, who had been recently promoted brigadier general, was commander of Combat Command "B" of the 7th Armored Division. His unit held the front at St. Vith, Belgium, and felt the full weight of the German onslaught.

During an exclusive interview at his home, Gen. Clarke recounted the grim days in December, 1944, a time when the brilliant career that lay ahead of him seemed anything but certain. He also expressed the view the Allied high command was anything but certain the Germans could be stopped as they smashed through the Ardennes Forest in Hitler's last desperate bid to avoid total disaster.

In order to understand the situation facing the Allies at the Bulge, it is necessary to review briefly the events immediately preceding it.

As Christmas 1944 approached, three Allied army groups were grinding across France toward the German border. In the north, under the command of Montgomery, the 21st Army Group was approaching through the Low Countries. On Montgomery's extreme left flank was the 1st Canadian Army under Gen. Henry D. G. Crerar moving along the coast. On his right Lt. Gen. Sir Miles Dempsey pressed across the Maas River at Nijmegen. Both encountered heavy going.

The Allied center was the responsibility of the 12th Army Group under Bradley. On the left was the Ninth Army under Lt. Gen. William H. Simpson. He was facing the German "West Wall" opposite the Ruhr industrial complex. On Simpson's right was the First Army commanded by Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges which had breached the wall in a bloody battle for Aachen.



Ike confers with Monty and Gen. Bradley

On Hodges' right the 80-mile-wide Ardennes stretched to the south. This long sector of the front was lightly guarded by Maj. Gen. Troy H. Middleton's VIII Corps.

On Middleton's right, Lt. Gen. George Patton's Third Army, with headquarters in Luxembourg, was preparing to storm across the Saar River as soon as it could get gasoline and supplies.

On the extreme right flank of the Western Front extending to the Swiss border was the Sixth Army group under Lt. Gen. Jacob L. Devers. It was composed of the Seventh U.S. Army under Lt. Gen. Alexander M. Patch and the First French Army under Gen. Jean de Lattre de Tassigny.

This Group had landed August 15 on the south coast of France and quickly moved northward to take its place beside Third Army for the assault on the German homeland. By linking with Patton, Devers sealed the fate of thousands of Germans trapped in southern France who surrendered without a battle.

Thus, on December 15, these armies were arrayed against the German "West Wall," poised for what they believed would be the final offensive of the war. Christmas 1944 would be a merry one, indeed.

In the meanwhile, on "the other side of the hill," Hitler had other plans.

In September he had issued orders for an audacious attack to be prepared for December. He correctly guessed the approximate position of the Allied armies at that time, and also correctly estimated the long stretch of the Ardennes between Monschau and Echternach would be only lightly defended. Indeed, both the Germans and the Allies had used the Ardennes as a rest area where battle-weary units could recuperate and refit themselves, as Middleton's corps was then doing.

In a masterpiece of covered movement during the eight weeks before the offensive opened, Field Marshal Gerd von Rundstedt, German Commander-in-Chief West, and Field Marshal Walther Model, Commander, German Army Group "B," which had responsibility for the Ardennes sector, moved their attack force into position opposite Middleton's exposed and totally unsuspecting position.

The German force included about 20 divisions of some 220,000 men and 800 tanks. It was divided into three armies.

On the German right opposite Monschau was the Sixth SS Panzer Army under Gen. Sepp Dietrich. On his left commanding the main assault force was Gen. Hasso von Manteuffel, a youthful and imaginative nobleman who had convinced Hitler of the feasibility of the operation. He commanded the Fifth SS Panzer Army.

On Manteuffel's left was the German Seventh Army under Gen. Ernest Bradenberger. His role in the attack was to screen the units to the north from a flanking attack by Patton's Third Army.

"Intelligence officers should carefully study this German build-up," said Clarke during the interview. "It was a classic. How they could hide that many troops that long, I don't know. We couldn't keep American soldiers still that long."

"The attack began in a highly unorthodox way," Clarke explained. "They had planned to start with the usual artillery preparation, but Manteuffel told me after the war he figured everyone on our side was asleep and there was no reason to wake them up."

(Continued on Page 7)

General Bruce Clarke Views Montgomery

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As a result, at dawn on the 16th, along a 75-mile-wide front, German patrols and larger formations silently filtered between American units, enveloped them and cut them off. Each Allied commander believed he was being subjected to a local attack, and it was hours before the Allied high command grasped the magnitude of the assault.

By the time they did so, vast gaps had been torn in the VIII Corps front, and Manteuffel had unleashed his panzer divisions.

With Dietrich screening his drive from a flanking attack from the north and Brandenberger running interference on the south, Manteuffel burst through.

The plan called for his main thrust to carry him through St. Vith, on to Liege and the Meuse River. If all went well he would then press on toward Brussels and Antwerp cutting off and isolating Montgomery's 21st Army Group as well as the First and Ninth U.S. Armies.

It was a grandiose scheme, and it all depended on quick breakthroughs and no delays that would consume the limited supplies of fuel, food, and ammunition.

By the second day, however, severe problems began to develop. The weather, which protected the German columns from overwhelming Allied air superiority, also slowed the pace of the attack to a dangerous crawl. Snow, fog, rain and freezing temperatures made the battle a particularly hellish experience for both sides.

Manteuffel drove beyond the protective screen of the German Seventh Army and, fearing a U.S. Third Army attack beyond the Seventh's right flank, sent a screening force of his own under Gen. Heinrich von Lutwitz to protect his left.



**Brig. Gen.
Bruce C.
Clarke**

Lutwitz made excellent progress. He bypassed and masked Bastogne, and his supporting force plunged on into the vast but strategically valueless Sedan region.

In the meantime, to the north, von Manteuffel ran into a major problem in the person of brand-new Brigadier General Bruce Clarke at St. Vith ably assisted by his old friend from the Engineers, Brig. Gen. William Hoge and his Combat Command "B" of the 9th Armored Division. Hoge had been cut off from his own division.

In a brilliantly executed delaying action, Clarke traded acre by bloody acre of Ardennes wilderness for time. By a measured and orderly withdrawal, he saved American casualties while inflicting heavy losses on the enemy which, with its timetable critically upset, was fighting desperately to get past the stubborn defenders, across the Salm River and on the road to Liege.

By December 19th, the Allied situation looked bleak. The German thrust had penetrated 40 miles and had driven a deep wedge between Patton's Third Army and Hodges First. The Germans were assaulting Clarke in a determined effort to break the St. Vith roadblock.

Late in the afternoon of the 19th, the most crucial day of the battle, Ike dropped a bombshell of his own on his command set-up.

An amazed Bradley received a call from Gen. Bedell Smith, Eisenhower's chief-of-staff, informing him that Montgomery was to assume command of all forces on the north side of the salient, including Bradley's First and Ninth Armies. The shift left Bradley in control of only Patton's Third Army on the salient's southern front.

Patton, meanwhile, had begun a gigantic wheeling operation, moving Third Army from its position facing each opposite Germany's West Wall to the new front facing north along the Bulge's southern rim. The move, accomplished in four days, stands as one of the most masterfully conducted such maneuvers in the history of warfare. To the south, Patch's Seventh Army extended its left flank to cover the front being vacated by Patton.

Still, the key to stopping the immediate German menace lay in frustrating Manteuffel's main thrust toward Liege via St. Vith and Vielsalm. This Clarke and Hoge were struggling desperately to do.

As explained by Eisenhower in his book, "Crusade in Europe," the change of command made sense. Ike feared the German thrust would cut Bradley off from two-thirds of his command, if, indeed, it had not already done so. He believed the conduct of the battle could be better handled by temporarily placing all Allied forces on the critical north side of the salient under a single commander.

While Bradley went along with the plan, it nevertheless troubled him. In a heretofore unpublished letter to Clarke dated 19 December 1974, parts of which follow, he detailed his concern:

"During the evening of December 19, 1944, I received a telephone call from Bedell Smith. He told me Eisenhower thought it might be a good idea to turn over to Montgomery the First and Ninth Armies on the north and let them run that side of the Bulge from 21st Group. It was his thought that this could save us a good deal of trouble, especially if our communications with Hodges and Simpson were cut.

"This was the first time I had heard of the change of command that was to put both Hodges and Simpson under Montgomery; the former for a month, the latter until after we crossed the Rhine. Ike had not previously raised the issue nor had he shown concern over my communications to the north. Our lines through Bastogne had been cut but an auxiliary circuit had been run across the western tip of the Ardennes. Still another was being strung for safety's sake behind the Meuse. As long as the enemy was contained within the Meuse, it seemed unlikely that we would lose all our long lines to either the First or the Ninth Armies. And, as a matter of fact, we never did.

"In discussing this proposal with him I questioned its necessity. When we are ready to drive the German's out of the Bulge it would be easier to coordinate the

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General Bruce Clarke (Continued from Page 7) Views Montgomery

attack from my headquarters. If Montgomery were to come into the picture as Bedell had suggested, coordination between both Army Groups would have to be directed from SHAEF.

"But Smith was for the changeover. He thought it logical to have Monty take care of everything north of the Bulge and me everything south. If Montgomery's were an American command, it was a logical move from that standpoint. In this moment of decision I could not tell him that what I feared most was the likelihood that this forced changeover would discredit the American command.

"I had to admit there was ample justification for the Army Group on the north taking temporary command of all armies on that side of the penetration. Furthermore, if Von Rundstedt were to force the Meuse behind both our U.S. Armies, Montgomery would find his 21st Group seriously jeopardized by the offensive. To protect himself he would undoubtedly want to establish a reserve on that right flank. Yet if his command were to include the U.S. Armies and be extended all the way down to the Bulge, he would probably employ that British reserve against the enemy threat to the Meuse. I had to agree that if a changeover were made, we would get more help from the British in the way of reserves.

"I asked if the changeover was to be a temporary one. Bedell agreed that it was and that it would last only as long as the Bulge.

"With this assurance, my only other objections revolved around the question of face. For unless the changeover were clearly explained by Shaf, it could be interpreted as a loss of confidence by Eisenhower in me--or more significantly in the American command. If as a result of the shift the public were to lose confidence in me, Eisenhower could quickly remedy that situation by sending me home. But if this action were taken to mean repudiation of the American command, if it were inferred that we were bailed out by the British, the damage could be irreparable to our future role in the war.

"Although these objections seemed rational enough, I nevertheless distrusted them, fearing that there might be too much involved in my concern for my career. Eisenhower had resolved to side us together as an allied command. If there were to be no distinctions between allied, then I questioned my right to wave the flag for prestige in this particular crisis.

"The changeover was made at noon on December 20. With this acquisition of the First and Ninth U.S. Armies, Montgomery's command was expanded to four and I was left temporarily with only Patton's Third.

Field Marshal Montgomery did not agree with Bradley that all was well with the existing command situation. In his book, *Memoirs*, (The World Publishing Co., Cleveland, 1958, p. 276) he wrote:

"At 10:30 a.m. on the 20th December Eisenhower telephoned me from his headquarters and ordered me

to take command at once of all American forces on the northern flank of the bulge. That order put two American armies under my command: Ninth Army (Simpson) on my immediate right, First Army (Hodges) to the right of the Ninth Army.

"The First Army was fighting desperately.

"Having given orders to Dempsey and Crerar, who arrived for a conference at 11 a.m., I left at noon for the HQ of the First Army, where I had instructed Simpson to meet me. I found the northern flank of the bulge was very disorganized. Ninth Army had two corps and three divisions; First Army had three corps and fifteen divisions. Neither Army Commander had seen Bradley or any senior member of his staff since the battle began, and they had no directive on which to work."

Of the fact the situation was confused there is no doubt. In our excellent biography of Gen. Clarke, (*Clarke of St. Vith*, Dillon-Liederbach, Cleveland, 1974, p. 114), Col. Thomas J. Cunningham and William Donohue Ellis describe a significant and perhaps decisive incident which took place December 18.

"Stoney-faced General William M. Hoge, commanding CCB of the 9th Armored, stalked into Clarke's command post. He had just withdrawn behind the Our River, where he was ordered to make contact with the 106th's remaining regiment, the 424th Infantry. He did that and then anchored his left flank to Clarke's right flank. But he was out of orders. 'I was sent down here to be attached to Jones' 106th Division. Where is Jones? I can't get any information on what I'm supposed to be doing. Maybe I better go back to Bastogne and find out.'

"Don't do that,' Clarke said. 'Stay here, there's enough fighting to go around. You're needed south of St. Vith more than at Bastogne.'

"When they agreed on this, Clarke called his boss, 7th Armored C. G. General Hasbrouck, and told him that he and Hoge were 'working side-by-side to hold this ground.' They had known each other for 20 years as engineers officers; Clarke admired Hoge all that time.

"Neither general was in charge of the order, but they worked together well in the heat of the action. Together they worked out mutually coordinated withdrawal routes in anticipation of a German breakthrough that would surely come on this day or next."

In Eisenhower's headquarters back at Versailles near Paris, the battlefield situation was also obscure. In the confusion of the stream of battle reports, the supreme commander apparently received information that Clarke and the defenders at St. Vith had been overrun and a breakthrough by Manteuffel was imminent. Clarke believes this may have triggered Eisenhower's decision to place Montgomery in command of the front.

"Of course," said Clarke, "there has been no end of speculation as to the reason 'why' of this change in command in the midst of the American army's greatest battle. The following theory has been advanced, however, based on Eisenhower's erroneous information about the destruction of my command at St. Vith on the 19th.

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General Bruce Clarke (Continued from Page 8) Views Montgomery

"Since the war," continued Clarke, "it has been reported to me that some of the people on Eisenhower's staff were concerned because of the adverse publicity that had resulted from the complete surprise achieved by the German's in their initial breakthrough on December 16.

"These staff people believed steps should be taken to insure that if a second breakthrough occurred, it would not reflect adversely on the American command.

"The step decided upon was relieve Bradley, the American commander, of responsibility for the threatened sector and place that sector under Montgomery and the British 21st Army Group," said Clarke.

Whatever the top-level politics may have been, at the time they were the least of Clarke's worries as his command fought doggedly--and successfully--to make the Germans pay for each inch of ground they captured in the St. Vith-Vielsalm pocket.

His front held for seven long days. Indeed for a time it was "a bulge within the bulge." In the end St. Vith fell, but the momentum of the German main drive had been destroyed, and with it Manteuffel's tactical initiative.

By Christmas, the weather cleared and the Allied tactical air force entered the battle. The German attack was contained and the front stabilized as Patton opened his attack from the south and Montgomery, his front "tidied up" as he put it, began to close in from the north.

In the meantime, Clarke has reason to develop an undying admiration for the talents and character of the British field marshal.

Part II, Reprinted from May 3, 1976, The Daily Progress
On December 22, 1944, two days after General Sir Bernard Montgomery assumed command of all Allied forces on the northern rim of the "Bulge," Gen. Bruce Clarke began to develop a profound respect for the British officer's generalship.

Clarke's outfit, Combat Command "B" of Maj. Gen. Robert W. Hasbrouck's Seventh Armored Division, has been in the line since shortly after the initial German attack on December 16. Clarke and his men had been fighting without respite or sleep for six days. The pressure of the enemy on the St. Vith sector was unremitting and growing more intense by the hour.

Clarke had skillfully delayed the enemy's advance by a phased withdrawal, but by December 22 it appeared his own salient in the Bulge would have to be evacuated in order to save his command from destruction by the overwhelming enemy force bearing down on him and threatening to envelope his flanks.

Hasbrouck entered Clarke's command post on December 22 with some grim news. The Seventh Armored had been ordered by Lt. Gen. Matthew B. Ridgeway, commander of the XVIII Airborne Corps to which it was attached to hold the ground. The Division was to permit itself to be surrounded and to prepare for a 'goose-egg' defense.

"It looks like Custer's last stand to me," remarked Clarke to Hasbrouck as they studied their impossible position.

Hasbrouck and Clarke began to prepare to carry out the order although Hasbrouck dispatched a message to

Ridgeway informing him of the hopelessness of his exhausted command's situation.

Also present in the command post at the time was a liaison officer from Gen. Montgomery's headquarters. Without comment the liaison officer departed to brief the 21st Army Group Commander on the condition of the Seventh Armored and on Ridgeway's order.

Shortly thereafter a message arrived from Montgomery to Hasbrouck.

"You have accomplished your mission,--a mission well done." The message said, "It is time for you to withdraw."

Shortly thereafter a formal directive arrived reversing Ridgeway's order and authorizing abandonment of the goose-egg defense concept.

In a letter to Clarke in 1974, Hasbrouck expressed his view of the episode:

"I find it difficult," he wrote, "to refrain from expressing my indignation at Hodges and Ridgeway and my appreciation of Montgomery whenever I talk about St. Vith. It is my firm opinion that, if it hadn't been for Montgomery, the First U.S. Army, and especially the troops in the St. Vith salient, would have ended up in a debacle that would have gone down in history."

Clarke has in his possession a heretofore unpublished note in Montgomery's handwriting in which the British commander describes his role in the matter:

"I, personally, did not visit the Seventh Armored Division; the situation in which the division was placed was reported to me by one of my liaison officers who had been there and had talked to Gen. Hasbrouck. As soon as I heard about the division, and about Ridgeway's order, I went at once to the headquarters of the First Army, discussed the matter with Hodges, and ordered the division to be withdrawn. I instructed Hodges to inform Ridgeway that I had canceled his order and to tell him that I was not prepared to lose a very good American division because of the sentimental value of a few square miles of ground; men's lives being of more value to me than ground which is of no value. Ridgeway never forgave me for canceling his order--so I was informed. His philosophy was that American troops never withdraw."

Thus Clarke learned first hand one of Montgomery's cardinal principles: the conservation of his strength and the protection of his men from needless casualties to fight another day. It is a precept to which Clarke heartily subscribes.

As soon as Montgomery assumed command of the First and Ninth U.S. Armies on the disorganized and confused northern rim of the Bulge, he set about a task with which his own command was already well familiar. That task was what he called "tidying up the battlefield."

Contact was established between units, cohesive plans were developed for coordinated action, communication lines were secured and the entire crescent-shaped front from the tip of the Bulge to the sea was viewed as an integrated whole.

"He was magnificent," said Clarke. "Montgomery was the complete master of the situation. He was calm and relaxed and refused to be shaken by the enormity of the problem with which he was confronted.

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General Bruce Clarke (Continued from Page 9) Views Montgomery

"Contrary to the practice of some American commanders, Montgomery believed men would fight better and accomplish more if they were given an opportunity to rest and refit themselves. He would keep a unit in combat for three days and then pull it out for a day. The men in these units were far more effective than those who were kept constantly in the line.

"It was a practice, however, that galled many of Montgomery's associates," said Clarke.

"I feel the officers and men of the Seventh Armored Division and its attached units which held up the main attack of the German army under Gen. Manteuffel from 17 December 1944 until 23 December 1944 in the St. Vith-Vielsalm area, until their withdrawal on orders across the Salm River on 23 December had great confidence in Field Marshal Montgomery, who was their commander starting on 20 December 1944.

"They sensed that he exercised integrity, courage and common sense in the crucial days of this bitter battle. The Seventh Armored Division had recently moved south from Holland where it had fought for several weeks under Montgomery.

"I feel also that the same troops had equal confidence in Gen. Omar Bradley under whom they had fought in the Battle of France, and under whom they were committed to the Ardennes battle on 17 December. They would have retained that confidence had Bradley remained in command of the First and Ninth armies for the remaining period of the Battle of the Bulge."

Clarke feels one key question has never been adequately answered about Hitler's last great offensive.

"What was Hitler trying to accomplish?" he asked. "I have read 20 books on the battle and not one of them has actually come to grips with the question.

"Hitler must have known he could not actually defeat the Allies at that stage of the game, so what was the reason for this final drive?"

"In my view," said Clarke, "Hitler was making a last desperate bid for an armistice similar to that achieved by the Germans in 1918. He must have reasoned that the British were sick of the war, and if he could inflict a major tactical setback on the Allies, he could negotiate a peace without Germany being invaded.

"If he could have done this, he could have then concentrated on holding off the Russians, who were closing in on the Eastern Front."

It could never have worked, of course. After the Bulge, Hitler fought what Manteuffel later described as "a corporal's war," uncoordinated and futile actions all leading to the final "Gottterdammerung" of the third Reich May 8, 1945--31 years ago this week.

It is thus that mutual cowardice keeps us in peace. Were one half of mankind brave and one cowards, the brave would be always beating the cowards. Were all brave, they would lead a very uneasy life; all would be continually fighting; but being all cowards, we go on very well.

SAMUEL JOHNSON

"I'm a Spam Fan"

Reprinted from The Washington Post, Nov. 17, 1993

For the Record

From Larry Rosenthal's Associated Press report on Carolyn Wyman's new book, "I'm a Spam Fan":

[Wyman is] interested in the foods that Americans eat most, like best and remember the fondest: from Spam and Twinkies to Jell-O, Kraft Macaroni & Cheese and Kool-Aid. . . .

Make fun of Spam all you want, she says. (World War II GIs certainly did, calling it "ham that didn't pass its physical.") Fifty-six years after its creation, Spam remains the most popular canned meat on America's supermarket shelves; it's served in nearly 30 percent of all American households. The pink brick of pork shoulder, ham and spices in a clear gelatin casing is the "quintessential processed food" because "it's like nothing you find in nature," Wyman says. Its name was derived from taking the "Sp" from spiced and the "am" from ham. Her favorite recipe: Spam, baked beans and pineapple casserole.

Jell-O is also dear to Wyman's heart. She calls its success a tribute to American business and advertising. "When you get down to essentials, Jell-O is basically the glutinous material from animal bone, skin and connective tissue combined with colored and flavored sugar," she writes in her book. "And yet, Jell-O is the savior of the sickroom and a major ingredient in more than 1,700 published recipes." Jell-O also is America's biggest-selling prepared dessert, she says.

Another favorite of Wyman's and millions of Americans: Kraft Macaroni & Cheese Dinner, a food product that is cheap, can sit on the shelf "until whenever you need it" and is easy to make. "Who is immune to that special thrill when you pour the packet of dry cheese into the pan, and the cooked noodles suddenly glisten with color?" she writes. Introduced nationally in 1937, [it] was an immediate success. But sales really took off when rationing was instituted during World War II.

No Sweat

Jake Schuffert



"Congrats, Duckdong—we all stuck our necks out and went to bat for you and got you the 'Purple Heart!'"

**HAVE YOU MADE PLANS
TO ATTEND THE
50TH ANNIVERSARY
BATTLE OF THE BULGE
COMMEMORATIVE
SERVICES?
DECEMBER 15-18, 1994
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI**

49th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge Commemoration Services

These ceremonies, held each year in connection with the anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, would make all members proud. We have, therefore, prepared this narrative so that you can be a part of it.

December 15, 1993

The Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation held its Commemorative Banquet on December 15th at the Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington, Virginia.

Members of the 3rd U.S. Infantry, Fife and Drum Corps, played as the veterans, their wives and guests took their places in the dining room. **William Greenville**, President of the Historical Foundation, welcomed everyone and expressed his thanks to all attendees. The 3rd Infantry's Color Guard posted the colors and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Gene Drouillard**.

•VBOB Chaplain, **Msgr. William O'Donnell** offered the invocation:
Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank you for the blessings that bring us together this evening.

We thank you for the representatives of the people of Belgium and Luxembourg who share this occasion with us in recognition of the friendship begun in the dark days of the Battle of the Bulge and which has continued through the 49 years since the battle.

We thank you for the many friendships begun in battle and nurtured in peace.

Bless those who serve us this evening on this auspicious occasion.

And above all, grant us God's peace and mercy on all those he called to himself in battle and the years that have followed. May they rest in peace. Amen.

•Gala Honorary Chairman, **Col. Robert G. Morris, III**, Garrison Commander, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, welcomed the guests.

Good evening, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, and members of the Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation. It is a pleasure to be with you for your commemorative banquet. I am honored to serve as the Honorary Chairman for the evening.

Before we commence with tonight's activities, I think it is appropriate for us to pause and reflect on the Battle of the Bulge.

It was the greatest land battle fought in western Europe during World War II. And, the victory wrestled from the German army by the Americans spelled the end of the German armies in the west and ultimately Germany herself. But, ladies and gentlemen, this is really the story of squads, platoons, companies and batteries. It is really the story of honor and heroism in its purest sense. To describe this heroism, I borrowed a phrase that a marine general used to describe actions at Iwo Jima--"Unknown valor was a common virtue."

Fort Meade has enjoyed the working relationship we have established with the Battle of the Bulge Foundation. In 1991, the Battle of the Bulge Foundation approached Fort Meade with an idea and a concept to create a useable memorial on the installation. Fort Meade donated space in the post library, and along with Mrs. Davis and her committee, we implemented plans and assisted in designing the Battle of the Bulge Memorial Conference Room.

The Conference Room is a welcomed addition to the installation. We thank you for donating the conference table and the chairs to the U.S. Department of the Army and the installation. It will enhance our rich history and reminds us of the many military personnel who passed through Fort Meade in route to Europe and the Battle of the Bulge. The Conference Room will stand as memorial to those veterans who fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

We look forward to the dedication of the Conference Room on July 14-15, 1994, and the Battle of the Bulge 50th Commemorative Anniversary on December 16, 1994.



Featured speaker **Robert F. Phillips, 28 INFD 110 INF F**, addressing the December 16 ceremonies at the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Memorial. (Address appears in this issue.)

Mrs. Davis, I shall continue to work on the models to be displayed in the conference room. To all veterans and your families we honor you and salute you. Thank you.

•The following toasts were offered:

Ruth Puryear--To Those Who Served in the Battle of the Bulge: Winston Churchill referred to it as "the greatest American battle of the war and will be regarded as an ever famous battle. Here's to those who served in that famous victory--the Battle of the Bulge.

Darrell Kuhn--To the Ladies and Guests: Here's to the ladies who we proudly support for their efforts on the home front during that bitter cold winter, and to our guests who have joined with us tonight to commemorate the 49th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge.

William P. Tayman--To Success of the Foundation: Let's raise our glasses in gratitude and appreciation for one of our members who has led us in her untiring efforts and dedication in the establishment of the Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation. Here's to our war-time angel of mercy--**Dorothy Davis**--and the future success of the Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation.

Sgt. George Doyle--To Our Fallen Comrades: Here's to friends and buddies who did not return, especially those from the battle fields of Belgium and Luxembourg known today as the Battle of the Bulge.

•Taps were played by a bugler of the U.S. Army band.

•**William Greenville** introduced the evening's guests prior to dinner which was followed by the Color Guard retiring the colors.

•**Brigadier General Andre De Smet**, Military Attache, Embassy of Belgium, spoke to the assemblage:

It is not only a pleasure but also a great honor for my wife and myself to be here tonight. I would like to thank you very much, Mrs. Davis, for giving us that opportunity.

It is very important for us to be among you at this magnificent banquet where such a distinguished assembly has been gathered to remember, thank and honor those whose unconditional and remarkable courage have enabled us and our children to live in peace.

These men and women are part of our history and Belgium is forever thankful for what they have done almost 50 years ago. I want to thank particularly the veterans of the Battle of the Bulge present tonight and tell them how honored I am to be here among them.

Now I must confess I am also very thankful personally because my mother had the brilliant idea of have her first baby on a farm in the Ardennes and not in Brussels.

So around December 18-20, 1944, we crossed on the road, two of us on a bike in one direction, and I guess some of you in the other direction to Bastogne.

Nineteen ninety-four will be very important to all of us with a lot of commemorations, and through the Commemoration Committee, Mr. Tayman, Mrs. Davis and the other very active people of your organization, we will do our very best to support you.

Finally, I would like to extend my very best wishes to those who will travel and visit the battlefield where they so courageously fought 50 years ago.

Again, on behalf of the Belgian people, thank you to all of you.

•**Jean-Paul Munchen**, Minister, Embassy of Luxembourg, spoke to the audience:

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COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONIES (Continued from Page 11)

Honorable members of the Foundation, distinguished guests and friends, I would like to thank you very heartily for your kind invitation to attend the 1993 Commemorative Banquet of the Battle of the Bulge Foundation which gives me the opportunity to pay tribute to the United States and its courageous soldiers who served in that pivotal World War II battle.

There was no American military event more decisive than the Battle of the Bulge which lasted from December 16, 1944, to January 16, 1945. Launched with surprise by three German armies in the Ardennes region of Luxembourg and Belgium in the worst conditions of winter by a lightning strike aimed at "divide and conquer" of the American and British armies, their success would have inevitably forced a negotiated peace with Hitler.

By Christmas Day, the Germans had created a triangular bulge 50 miles wide at the base and 60 miles deep that gave the battle its name and was meant to strangle the allies.

Most historians view this battle as a series of separated but interrelated battles for strategic terrain and vital crossroads. In these areas, the actions of small groups of men on the platoon, company and battalion levels, proved to be decisive in winning the overall conflict.

More than 600,000 Americans had been involved in this most violent and murderous battle and when it ended about 81,000 had either been killed or wounded.

This American victory was the turning point of the war in Europe. Let me once again pay tribute to the American troops and also to the heroic people of Luxembourg and Belgium who took part in this epic victory which liberated our countries from the invader.

Luxembourg will never forget what the United States of America did for the liberation of our country. I thank you.

• **Brigadier General Hal C. Pattison** introduced the speaker for the evening:

Our speaker tonight is General Bill Knowlton, who spent World War II as a lieutenant in the reconnaissance squadron of the 7th Armored Division. He served through four campaigns in Europe, from the Normandy break out to the Baltic Sea, and was awarded a Silver Star from the 82nd Airborne Division, to which he was twice attached. He also served through four campaigns in Vietnam, winning two more Silver Stars while serving with the 9th Infantry Division in the Delta.

Bill spent 41 years in uniform from enlistment in 1938 to retirement in 1980 as the second ranking general in the army. More important to us is that he served in the Battle of the Bulge as described in the latest bulletin of our association.

He has been active in civilian as well as military fields since retirement, and continues to serve at the National Defense University teaching new generals and admirals some of the things they need to know in the conduct of their new responsibilities. In recognition of his accomplishments it has just been announced he has been selected to receive, in March, the National Defense University Lyman L. Lemnitzer Award for life-time contributions to joint and combined operations.

In pursuit of another life time interest, he also serves on the Advisory Board of the Defense Intelligence Agency. And, he is justly proud of being Honorary President of the 7th Armored Division Association which he helped found after World War II.

He speaks to us tonight on "Intelligence and the Bulge."

It is with pleasure that I present to you my good friend—a distinguished citizen and soldier—General Bill Knowlton.

• **The speech of General Bill Knowlton:**

Thank you, General Pattison, for that kind introduction.

Distinguished Guests, Fellow Veterans, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to see us all here for another year, as someone said to me earlier tonight "Thank you for coming for the 49th. For the 50th we are going to go all out and get a really well-known speaker."

But a few thoughts strike me as I look back over the 49 years which have elapsed since that December. Why do we assemble in celebration? I remember many years ago when I was studying classical Latin in Prep School, there was a scene in Vergil where, in the middle of a battle, one old trooper exclaims "Forsan et haec

olim meminisse iuvabit." Loosely translated that means, if I remember from the 1930's, "Perhaps some day it will be pleasant to remember even these things."

And so we gain a certain pleasure from reliving our youth—even the difficult part. And part of our reason is to remember those who are no longer with us and who did such brave things upon the cold and frigid battlefield. But we shall do that better tomorrow when we lay the wreath.

And part is because—as with all old veterans—we enjoy elaborating slightly on the significance of our own role. I cannot remember where I read it, but one old timer was quoted as saying "As I grow old, I remember with ever increasing clarity, events which never happened." So we need to acknowledge in our minds, if nowhere else, that the bravery was exhibited by the few, and that there were many who played a less glorious role upon that field. It is only human nature for them to create a more praiseworthy role for themselves. And yet, the result of our battle was to use up the last offensive gasp of the Wehrmacht. Hitler's aims were not accom-



Incoming President William P. Tayman, 87 INF 345 INF C, and Demetri (Dee) Paris, 9 ARMDD 14 TK BN, lay a wreath at VBOB Memorial in Arlington Cemetery on December 16, 1993.

plished, and the sacrifice of our comrades led to a fairly steady push from the Ardennes across the Rhine to the Elbe and to link-up with the Red Army.

But I came here tonight to address one aspect of the Bulge and that is the question of military intelligence. I do this because I do not think it is enough for us to assemble merely to praise. We need to draw lessons from what happened to us and to apply those lessons to the future. All that sacrifice is not worth anything if we do not learn and see that others profit from our experience. I also need to say, since I still work in the field, that all I say tonight is my own opinion and not that of any official agency.

It is widely perceived that what happened to us in mid-December was an intelligence failure. Even our own newsletter says as much in the latest issue. My thesis tonight is that it was not an intelligence failure, but a command failure to recognize the intelligence which was presented. And there were reasons for that. They have to do with something called indicators. I hate to get deeply into the arcane world of intelligence, and I will not dwell on the very complex area of collection, but only of information in the form of indicators.

I have long been an intelligence buff. In my teen years I purchased a book from the Infantry Journal Press entitled *S-2 in Action*. In it I found the story of a World War I Observation Post which noticed that on the shoulders of some Germans opposite the OP was an occasional flash of green on a shoulder or two. It meant nothing to them, but they sent the information back. Happily, it finally reached SHAEF. Here it was recognized to mean that a German Jaeger unit, normally used to spearhead major attacks, had finally been located. That recognition of an indicator allowed time to prepare the area for defense against the German attack which came a few days later. The location of a Jaeger unit on the front was an indicator of a coming attack.

Let me give an example from more recent times. During the long Cold War, our troops in Germany were often called out on practice alerts. Since many of the actions taken to move out on alert were the same as a unit preparing for battle, the Russians looked for in-

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COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONIES *(Continued from Page 12)*

dicators of a difference. Over the years, with a concern for safety, many ammo dumps were located across town from barracks areas, which was often in town. So, at the first sign of an alert, a car from the Soviet Mission would pull up opposite the gates to the ammo dump to see if the unit was taking on its basic load. To the Russians, the loading of ammunition was an indicator that we were serious.

I have mentioned that any one indicator can be an indication of various courses of action. A strong counter-reconnaissance screen—our patrols cannot seem to get through enemy lines—can indicate the screening of a withdrawal, OR of the assembly of a heavy attack force. So that is listed in both columns. But with hundreds of indicators, eventually ONE column will have the bulk of the indicators. A commander disregards that at his peril.

But historically we go through episodes where commanders refuse to believe the huge number of indicators, and that is what happened in the Bulge. Why? Not because our commanders were not competent. Not because the Intel folk were not persuasive. But because of something called ULTRA.

Much earlier in the War we had broken the enemy code—a story in itself—and from that point all of his top command cables were being read by us—the enemy. We can all see that it was absolutely essential that knowledge we were reading his mail had to be confined to a very small group at the top. The project was known as ULTRA, and it was key to many American victories.

What happened in December? Hitler decided to use only motorcycle messengers to send out his orders. ULTRA went absolutely silent. And so, when the indicators began to pile up that there was a massive attack brewing, those in the upper levels nodded politely and did little by way of adjustment. They knew better, since ULTRA had no indication of such massive concentration of troops. No point in exciting the troops when ULTRA did not confirm the reports. Only one of the US Armies opposite the Ardennes finally submitted a report saying that it was now obvious that a massive attack was ready to go. It was ignored.

Ten years after the Bulge, Fort Leavenworth had an all-day exercise in the Command and General Staff College where the students drew up an intelligence assessment for the 10th of December. Then the historical assessment was put on the screen. Almost identically we students were then given a day's worth of intelligence reports and asked what we would change for that day. We began to see the indicators of assembling troops, and issued a changed report. Historical assessment: "No change." And so it went. As day after day we got the reports for that day, we could see the buildup for the Bulge right in front of our eyes. But always the daily report from history: "No change."

Now, mind you, I have made it seem easy, because the school screened out the massive pile of reports for each day, and sent us only the most pertinent because of time. And that is another intelligence problem in training a professional. As I was told in Berlin in 1945, in Intel the prize goes to the person who can take a great pile of paper, pull out six or seven pieces and say: "These are significant, and they mean this." Too many Intel types will caveat all their findings: However, nevertheless, despite all that, yet it seems. To the point that whatever happens they can say "Aha, I knew that. Just look at the third sentence on page 2." A commander needs a G-2 not afraid to make a clear judgment.

What are some of the reports our betters missed as we sat on the frozen ground? In one, an OP reported that the German unit opposite them, a disparate group of badly uniformed older men, suddenly had new winter uniforms. An indicator! But of what? It was interpreted that requisitions were finally getting filled. The other solution: The unit of old men had been replaced by a new, high-priority unit. One indicator; two possibilities.

Another case. Opposite one of our units was a unit of sick men, hastily assembled for defense. Suddenly one day the OP sees the unit doing vigorous PT. What was going on? One solution: The unit has a new and chicken commander who is cracking down. The other solution: A unit has moved in so full of P&V that they have to be given lots of PT to let off steam. One indicator; two possibilities.

A more interesting story concerns two important indicators. You will all remember that the Belgians in that area spoke German, and

many had family ties across the borders. One such lady traveled over to see friends or relatives, and was grabbed by the Germans in their counter-intelligence net. She was thrown in a small prison. From the window of her cell every night she could hear a steady stream of trucks and armored vehicles passing, plus interesting conversations as the troops yelled at each other.

"Where are you from?"

"We are from the OstFront. Where are you from?"

"We are from Italia."

Finally, through some error, she was released about 14 December, crossed through the lines (knowing the back ways) and reported to one of our units what she had heard each night. This report horrified the unit and they immediately asked the Air Corps to run a photo mission that night over the area where she reported the troops moving.

Response: "Hey, guy, it's well after 1600 hours. You know the rules. You want a night flight you get the request in by 1600. We'll fly it, but not until tomorrow."

Then another critical thing happened. One of our pilots walked in. He had been shot down earlier in the day and landed near a main road. The Germans quickly put out the word. "Let him walk through and out. Have him hear nothing and see nothing."

And so our pilot walked out the main drag and right into our lines. When they told him what the Belgian lady had said, he replied "She's nuts. I just walked through that whole area and there is nothing there."

One solution for his indicator: There was nothing there. Another solution: The discipline of the hidden German forces was so good that not a man coughed, not a water can dropped, and not a hatch clanged shut as hundreds of pairs of eyes watched him walk out. I don't know about your outfit, but in mine that would have been darned near impossible.

But what of the Belgian lady and her reports? On 16 December the unit concerned was in a terrible fight and having to withdraw in the face of a very determined German attack. In the middle of the battle the phone rang and a voice said "Hey, you know that mission you had us fly. Well, there are all sorts of German armored units in that area." Good information 24 hours late.

So all sorts of things conspired to keep us off guard. The most important was the fact that ULTRA was silent. Like Sherlock Holmes and the story of the dog that did not bark, the fact that ULTRA was silent led the highest levels to ignore the overwhelming pile of indicators.

Did we learn from that? For some examples, let us move to the summer of 1974. The junta running Greece had decided to sponsor a coup in the independent country of Cyprus, an island lying off the coast of Syria and Turkey. In the place where I served, the indicators of that piled up in the attack column. But one of highest ranking Greeks went to someone high ranking in our government and said "You may have heard that we are going to sponsor a coup in Cyprus. I am here to tell you not to worry. We have no intention of so doing." And so only our headquarters forecast the Greek coup. Once again, the indicators were ignored, because someone high ranking "knew better."

Let's move to 1979 and Afghanistan. All the indicators were in the attack column. To the point that President Carter is reported by the press to have used the hot line to Mr. Brezhnev. Brezhnev's reply "Invade Afghanistan? We have no intention of doing that. Your CIA is just making trouble for us." And so we told NATO to relax and not worry about the indicators. Then at Christmas, the Soviet Army invaded Afghanistan. You may recall that the press reported President Carter as saying two things: "They lied to me." And: "I have learned more about the Russians in the last two weeks than the rest of my life."

This does not happen only to Americans. Saddam Hussein pushed all his troops down to the line of departure, a clear indicator of trouble. But he told President Mubarek of Egypt personally that he had no intention of invading Kuwait. Once again, we knew better than to watch the indicators. But one result of this ploy was early commitment of Egypt on our side in that 100-hour war.

So we learned a lesson from the Bulge. For one reason or another, the highest levels may ignore indicators. But they do so at their peril. Intent is very hard to gauge; capabilities cannot be

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COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONIES *(Continued from Page 13)*

ignored. And when indicators are ignored, we cannot call it an intelligence failure.

But do we still do it? Do you recall the big flap over armored vehicles being requested in Somalia to get the Rangers out of trouble after they would be helicoptered in? The request was denied by the Secretary of Defense, as he has the authority to do. But watch the squirming when it turned out to have been wrong. First: There was no request. Colin Powell immediately reported not one but two requests. Then: But some of the JCS were not in agreement. That is not important since the recent legislation where the Chairman of the JCS speaks for them regardless of how one may have voted. Then we go to Tony Lake, the national security adviser. In the newspapers he was quoted as saying "Well, I would not say that it was an intelligence failure, but clearly we did not have the intelligence we needed."

But it was not an intelligence failure. A commander on the ground requested forces to do a changed mission—forces that his intelligence told him he needed. A lot of American dead proved him right. If a higher level officer chooses to overrule the request, then—in the terms used by Harry Truman—The Buck Stops Here. When a political appointee here in the capital overrules a field commander, as he has the right to do, he needs to be prepared to stand up to the results of his decision.

But I have held you far too long. Let me return to my original point. We learned painfully what happens when higher levels ignore indicators. It turned out OK in the end, but it was a close thing and we lost many friends. As we judge policy on the part of those we elect and those they appoint, we need to be careful of anyone who says "It was an intelligence failure!"

Is it still pertinent today? Let me leave you with a guess. A few days ago the newspapers reported that all North Korean Army units—active and reserve—were being made to shave their heads. An indicator, but of what? Or large-scale preparations for gas masks which need a close seal against flesh and not hair? You be the judge.

I never told you it was easy. Thank you for your attention and courtesy. See you tomorrow.

The evening ended with entertainment from the U.S. Army Band Brass Quintet. We wish to thank the Quintet, along with members of the Fife and Drum Corps, "H" Company, composed of SSG Stephen Eisen; SSG Gerald Chewning; SSG Glen Patton; and SSG Richard Ruddle. Thanks also to members of Delta Company's Color Guard: SPC Tom Taggart, CPL William Gardner; SPC Clint Barb, and SPC Johnny Wright.

A special thanks to Dorothy Davis for her usual very fine job of putting together a special and lovely evening of remembrance.

December 16, 1993

The crisp, misty morning quiet was broken by the 3rd Infantry Honor Guard's changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington Cemetery at precisely 11:00 a.m. A wreath was laid by VBOB President William R. Hemphill and founding member Frances W. Doherty. TAPS, played by a bugler from the U.S. Army Band, reverberated through the air stirring memories of a time which now seems so long ago.

Veterans and guests walked in quiet reverence to the site of the VBOB Monument where President William R. Hemphill welcomed everyone and asked for the advance of the colors by the U.S. Army Color Guard.

The assemblage was lead in the Pledge of Allegiance by Eugene G. Drouillard and a prayer was offered by Msgr. William O'Donnell, VBOB Chaplain.

President-Elect William P. Tayman and Demetri Paris laid a wreath on the VBOB Memorial.

Ceremonies Chairman and Vice President for Military Affairs Peter G. Dounis, introduced the speaker Robert F. Phillips, citing his years of military and civil service duties and responsibilities. Peter read a list of the many books and articles written by Bob, along with the many organizations in which he actively participates.

•Speech by Robert Phillips:

We are gathered together here on this 49th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge to commemorate that epic battle and to honor our comrades who gave their lives winning that battle.

On October 8, 1940, during some of Great Britain's darkest hours, Winston Churchill, addressing the House of Commons, said: "Death and Sorrow will be the companions of our journey; hardship our garment; constancy and valour our only shield." What applied to Britain then, I think you will agree, could just as easily have applied to our darkest hours during the Battle of the Bulge.

When the veterans of the Battle of the Bulge get together next year during the 50th Anniversary of that largest single land battle fought by American soldiers, the conversations, as they have so many times in the past, will probably center on the highlights of that battle—Bastogne, St. Vith, and Elsenborn Ridge. Each of these key areas has its champions as to which played the most important role in securing the final victory. The fine points of each have been discussed over and over again. The proponents of each area maintain that but for their efforts the Battle of the Bulge would have been lost. But in reality, in order to achieve victory in the Battle of the Bulge the coordination of events in each of these areas was badly needed. But to say that Elsenborn Ridge, St. Vith, or Bastogne alone was the deciding factor just doesn't ring true when you visualize what might have been in each case had the other areas come under German control.

For example, suppose the northern shoulder held firm, as indeed it did, but the Fifth Panzer Army had broken through the Our River line on the first day, had driven to Bastogne by the 17th as the Germans planned, then went on to the Meuse the next day, drove north along the east bank of that river, as Manteuffel had wanted to do, and ended up to the west of the north shoulder positions. This would probably have meant that the two airborne divisions, and perhaps the British XXX Corps as well, would have had no choice but to dig in along the west bank of the Meuse River. The Ninth Army units coming south would by the same token have had to form a north shoulder defensive line between Elsenborn and the Meuse, until further help arrived. In the meantime much of the First Army would have been in the bag, at least temporarily. Third Army would have had its hands full shoring up the southern shoulder all the way to the Meuse, there being no Bastogne to relieve. And all this would have been going on during bad flying weather. And as a further thought, where would this have left the St. Vith sector?

While holding all of these positions was of great importance, a great deal of the American success in slowing and eventually stopping the German onslaught was due to the GIs manning that 85-mile front stretching from Elsenborn to Echternach. That front was so thinly manned that in some cases a front line as we know it was virtually non-existent. In many cases unit defenses consisted of village strong points connected by jeep patrols. Knowing this, the Germans counted on a quick penetration and a subsequent dash to the Meuse, arriving there by the evening of the 18th. But the quick penetration didn't happen.

The scattered defending units, as John Eisenhower observed in his book, *The Bitter Woods*, "set up shop and went into business for themselves," taking the Germans on with a heavy volume of firepower. And to further complicate matters for the German attackers, the Americans who were spread too thinly to make digging foxholes feasible, did not attempt to set up any semblance of a solid line, but instead ran their patrols during the day and withdrew into their village strong points during the night. And thus, when the Germans struck at dawn and the Americans "went into business for themselves," it was in and around those villages and they consequently denied the Germans the roads they needed so badly to drive west to the Meuse. Even when driven out of those villages they fell back down the road to the next village and continued the fight and thus continued to deny crucial road junctions to the attacking Germans. While these tactics were not a part of a great overall pre-planned defensive strategy, they turned out to be the ideal solution for a very sticky and unplanned situation.

Nor was it the infantry alone who were carrying the load. Engineer units were not only blowing bridges to slow the German advance, but were pressed into action in an infantry role again and again. Tankers, in many instances thrown piecemeal into combat without adequate infantry cover and in many cases outgunned by German armor, nevertheless "set up shop" in their own way and fought, fell back, fought again, and set up ambushes for German armor. Artillerymen stuck by their guns until they ran out of ammunition or

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were overrun. In the latter case, many of the gun crews regrouped and fought as infantry to regain their guns, after which they continued their artillery support until out of ammo or forced to fall back when the infantry screen in front of them was driven back or wiped out. Even MPs got into the act. When the traffic they were directing changed from American to German, they dived into crossroad houses or ditches and took on the Germans.

In most cases there were no orders from above directing these units, be they infantry, engineers, armor or artillery, as most communication with the frontline units was lost early that morning. These men just knew the enemy had to be stopped, or at least slowed, and they were the ones to do it. Like the French and Indians who defeated Braddock's army in July 1775 at the Battle of the Wilderness, they fought, fell back, set up ambushes, and then fought again like a swarm of angry hornets. These tactics, especially during the first two days, according to General Von Manteuffel, commander of the German Fifth Panzer Army, were the ruination of the German time table. It caused them to burn up gas going nowhere, greatly increased their casualties, and gave the Americans time to bring up reinforcements to continue the delaying tactics, shore up the north and south shoulders of the penetration, and to hold Bastogne.

The official histories gave December 26th as the turning point in the Battle of the Bulge. The Siege of Bastogne was broken on that day when a Third Army armored column broke through, the Eisenborn Ridge was still holding firm, and although St. Vith had to be evacuated during December 22-23, the American lines to the west of there were firming up. There was still some hard fighting in the area, but by December 27th the north shoulder positions were consolidated and Third Army units on the south shoulder began their push northward with the object of cutting the Bulge in two. There was no chance therefore that the German forces could recoup their losses and any further attempts to push westward or even hold their positions were useless and they were merely reinforcing failure.

Third Army's push northward and First Army's consolidation prior to pushing southward to meet Third Army represented a new phase in the Battle of the Bulge. From desperate delaying actions to buy time, the fighting now took on a more organized conventional offensive role. Not that the fighting was any easier, and with the winter weather turning even colder as the days wore on, these units still had a month of bitter cold and stubborn German defense to contend with. But the same spirit that helped delay the German offensive during its first week was still evident in those GIs who drove the Germans back to their border in the Ardennes area by January 25th.

Yes, it was the biggest battle the United States Army ever fought, and one of its toughest, and those of us who were there will never forget it; and we hope the rest of the nation will always remember it as we do.

TAPS echoed again as the Color Guard retired the Colors. The Chaplain, Msgr. O'Donnell, offered words of prayer.

A reception was held for all those in attendance at the Officers' Club at Fort Myer.

The new VBOB Executive Council was installed after a toast by Pete Dounis. Newly-elected VBOB President William P. Tayman's remarks to the reception and membership appear in "The President's Column" of this *Bugle*.

A great big "job well done" to Pete Dounis for his thoroughness in all the preparations for this day. These ceremonies are something every member should be a part of and Pete went all out to insure that it was a memorable occasion.

Sarge says...

One of the best things about getting older is that all those things you wanted and couldn't afford when you were younger, you no longer want.

For the Record

From Larry Rosenthal's Associated Press report on Carolyn Wyman's new book, "I'm a Spam Fan":

[Wyman is] interested in the foods that Americans eat most, like best and remember the fondest: from Spam and Twinkies to Jell-O, Kraft Macaroni & Cheese and Kool-Aid. . . .

Make fun of Spam all you want, she says. (World War II GIs certainly did, calling it "ham that didn't pass its physical.") Fifty-six years after its creation, Spam remains the most popular canned meat on America's supermarket shelves; it's served in nearly 30 percent of all American households. The pink brick of pork shoulder, ham and spices in a clear gelatin casing is the "quintessential processed food" because "it's like nothing you find in nature," Wyman says. Its name was derived from taking the "Sp" from spiced and the "am" from ham. Her favorite recipe: Spam, baked

beans and pineapple casserole.

Jell-O is also dear to Wyman's heart. She calls its success a tribute to American business and advertising. "When you get down to essentials, Jell-O is basically the glutinous material from animal bone, skin and connective tissue combined with colored and flavored sugar," she writes in her book. "And yet, Jell-O is the savior of the sickroom and a major ingredient in more than 1,700 published recipes." Jell-O also is America's biggest-selling prepared dessert, she says.

Another favorite of Wyman's and millions of Americans: Kraft Macaroni & Cheese Dinner, a food product that is cheap, can sit on the shelf "until whenever you need it" and is easy to make. "Who is immune to that special thrill when you pour the packet of dry cheese into the pan, and the cooked noodles suddenly glisten with color?" she writes. Introduced nationally in 1937, [it] was an immediate success. But sales really took off when rationing was instituted during World War II.

WATCH THAT GERMAN "PISTOLE"--BE SAFE

[Source: *The Ordnance Sergeant*, March 1945. Source: 99 Infantry Division--thru 5th Armored Division G-2 Report #274 based on research by John D. Bowen in the National Archives Suitland Branch US Army Unit Records.]

If you are the proud owner of a German Pistole 08, popularly known as the Luger, or a German Pistole 38, known as the Walther, be careful! These pistols are 9mm caliber and are perfectly safe with many of the several types of 9mm cartridges available, but they are not safe with the 9mm cartridges made especially for the German machine pistol (Burp Gun).

The proper German cartridge to use in the pistol is easily identified: the bullet has a black band painted around the body of the bullet just at the mouth of the cartridge case. This cartridge develops a comparatively low chamber pressure and the muzzle velocity of approximately 1,050 feet per second. However, there are two German cartridges that should not be used! The German 9mm cartridge with the bright copper colored bullet or the solid black painted bullet should not be used in the pistol! These cartridges are for use in the machine pistols only and develop pressures that are unsafe for either the Luger or the Walther. **Be careful!** Use the black banded German cartridge or British cartridges and your Luger or Walther will perform with safety.

BOOBY TRAP

[Source 29th Infantry Division G-2 Rpt #320 based on research by John D. Bowen in the National Archives Suitland Branch US Army Unit Records.]

At approximately 0400 hours, 30 April, a booby trapped window cost a soldier from the 116th Infantry the loss of one of his hands. This soldier, needing a piece of wire, found a length dangling invitingly from a window in a barn, 308090, which had been occupied in the past week by our troops. In his attempt to pull the wire from the window an explosion was caused.

VBOB 50th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORTION

DECEMBER 15-18, 1994 • ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI



50th Anniversary BOB Souvenir Program Book:

The pictures and short write-ups continue to come in. We want to have many profiles and photos to incorporate in this 50th Anniversary book--remember the cut-off date is not until March 1, 1994. (See *Bulge Bugle* November issue, page 7, for more details.)

50th Anniversary European Tour:

In answer to a frequently asked question, VBOB 50th Anniversary European tour trip will be from October 23-November 2, 1994. There will also be an optional Normandy extension from November 2-6, 1994. VBOB has planned this custom-designed tour with the Galaxy Tour Company of Wayne, Pennsylvania. Please refer to the tour information on the accompanying page for the 50th Anniversary announcements.

The Belgium (CRIBA) members and Luxembourg (CEBA) members want to extend a hand of hospitality, on this 50th Anniversary of their Liberation, to the men and women who participated in the Battle of the Bulge.

- CRIBA, Center of Research and Information Battle in the Ardennes (Belgium)
- CEBA, Center to Study about the Battle of the Ardennes (Luxembourg)

Their aims are:

- To associate persons interested in the Battle of the Bulge.
- To establish detailed documentation on the Battle of the Bulge.
- To organize official receptions for U.S. Veterans coming to visit the battlefields.
- Hosts to all returning U.S. Veterans who participated in the Battle of the Bulge.

TV Interviews at the 50th Anniversary:

The USA 50th Anniversary Committee has been asked by the major TV networks to be prepared to give them names of veterans who would consent to being interviewed in St. Louis, December 15-18, 1994. If you would be willing to describe your experience during the BoB, please send in a one-page letter briefly describing your participation or action account.

This information should be sent to:

William P. Tayman, Chairman
VBOB, 50th Anniversary Committee
2402 Black Cap Lane
Reston, VA 22091-3002

50th Commemoration Agenda and Registration:

We hope to be able to publish the 50th Anniversary Commemoration Agenda and registration and hotel forms in the next issue of *The Bulge Bugle*.



ATTEN-SHUN VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE!



RETURN WITH US TO EUROPE FOR 50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIONS!

It's hard to believe, but it's been almost two years since plans were announced for 50th Anniversary Commemorations in 1994. Our Sentimental Journey back to the Battle of the Bulge areas in Luxembourg and Belgium has been scheduled for October 23 to November 2, 1994, and over 50 of our members have registered. We're filling our second coachload! But, unbelievably, many members still seem to be unaware of our travel plans!

In case you've missed our previous announcements and mailings, this message is for you:
We're Going Back!

Special receptions and events are planned with local officials along our route, which will be adjusted to include your special places, as requested! We'll see Liege, the Hürtgen Forest, Monschau, Trois-Ponts, Vielsalm, Houffalize, Bastogne, Clervaux, Echternach, Diekirch, Luxembourg City, Paris and more! Golden Anniversaries only happen once in a lifetime and our European friends are anxiously awaiting our arrival to share these exciting moments with us! Don't disappoint them! Don't be disappointed yourself! Call *Galaxy Tours* today, toll-free, at **1-800-523-7287** for a descriptive brochure with all of the details. You can even make your reservation over the phone with a major credit card!

While guaranteed 1993 prices have expired, if you are not yet registered for the tour, *we do have good news!* Because of our October departure, and as many VBOB members were unaware of our plans, Galaxy Tours has agreed to **provide FREE insurance coverage** for reservations received on or before **March 1, 1994!** This is a **\$75.00 value**, which provides comprehensive travel and medical coverage, protecting both you and your payments, yours FREE just for confirming your place with us NOW!

This is our LAST CHANCE to return for Golden Anniversary commemorations and also our LAST CHANCE to receive **free insurance!** Don't delay another minute! Register for our 50th Anniversary Return to Europe and make the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge part of history once again! **Call today!**

☎ 1-800-523-7287 ☎

1994 Skeleton Itinerary

Sunday, October 23 - USA/Aloft.
Monday, October 24 - BRUSSELS/LIEGE.
Tuesday, October 25 - LIEGE.
Wednesday, October 26 - LIEGE.
Thursday, October 27 - LIEGE.
Friday, October 28 - LIEGE/LUXEMBOURG.
Saturday, October 29 - LUXEMBOURG.
Sunday, October 30 - LUXEMBOURG.
Monday, October 31 - LUXEMBOURG/PARIS.
Tuesday, November 1 - PARIS.
Wednesday, November 2 - PARIS/USA.



Members Speak Out

ELIZABETH A. FELDHUSEN, 131ST EVACUATION HOSPITAL, wants to know if any one can help her locate **MARGARET TINSHAW COTTER** and/or her husband **MICHAEL COTTER**. Margaret was a nurse in Elizabeth's unit and she and Michael have dropped out of sight. Can you help? Write to Elizabeth at: 236 Heath Village, Hackettstown, New Jersey 07840.

A. J. PANTALEO, 771ST FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, HQ BATTERY, would like assistance in locating four men he served with: **ELMER D. BENNER**, **RICHARD J. MORGAN**, **WILLIAM B. POWERS**, and **MURRAY WEISS**. Write to him at: 134 Nickerson Parkway, Lafayette, Louisiana 70501.

MRS. IVAN KRAEMER would like to find someone who remembers her brother, **HARRY ANDERSON**. She has read over his letters and these are some of the addresses he gave: **COMPANY E, 209TH BATTALION, 65TH REGIMENT** (in 1944) and **COMPANY D, 41ST ARMORED INFANTRY REGIMENT** (1945), Calas Staging Area GFRS Replacement Pool. Write to her at: Box 145, Nisswa, Minnesota 56468.

Laura Dean is interested in hearing from some one who may remember her husband, **SGT. WILLIAM H. DEAN, JR.**, who was killed in action in the Battle of the Bulge. She and Bill met at Fort Monmouth, in Long Branch, New Jersey. Laura raised their daughter alone and now has two grandchildren. She is most anxious to hear from anyone who remembers Bill. Address: 18 Field Street, Toms River, New Jersey 08753. (No information available regarding unit, etc.)

Gilbert Braun, a citizen of Belgium, who suffers from an incapacitating arterial problem, has written us with a couple of requests. During his days of being laid up, he has become very interested in the Battle of the Bulge. He remembers his grandfather talking about GIs named: **LUCKY (?)**, **ERNEST TAVARIER (?)**, and **ERNEST KETTERLING (?)**. His grandfather lived in the Village of Baelen-Membach, and these soldiers stayed with him for a while. Does anyone know these men? Gilbert would like to correspond with any American veterans would could provide him with information on the region where he lives: Baelen-Membach, Dolhain, Limbourg, Eupen, Verviers, Malmedy, LaGleize, Bastogne, Aachen, St. Vith or Hurtgenwald. He would also like to receive cancelled American stamps. His address is: Rue de L'Invasion #20, B-4837 Baelen-Membach, en Province deLiege, Belgium.

Associate member Garry J. Purgett would like to hear from anyone who may have known his father, **EARL "DODD" PURGETT**, 441ST TCG, 302ND SQUADRON, Aerial Engineer of the C-47 "Erma Mae" 42-100870, piloted by 1st Lt. Robert L. Anstey. The plane was shot down while delivering supplies to Bastogne on December 23, 1944. Earl was on the POW march from Gerolstein to Limburg. Garry would also like to hear from **LOUIS "DANNY" DENENBERG** from New York, whom his father often referred to. Write to Gary at: W9435 Kroll Road, Ladysmith, Wisconsin 54848.

Kathryn Herfurth is looking for someone who may remember her uncle **JAMES FRANKLIN HERFURTH** (Oklahoma). She does not have further information regarding unit, etc. If you can help write to her at: 225 West Carmen Lane #39, Santa Maria, California 93454.

Faye Lewellen would like to hear from someone who recalls her father, **HOWARD L. BELL**, 643RD TANK DESTROYER BATTALION. Write to Fay at: 124 Sunset Drive, Bonne, North Carolina 28607.

Katherine Brady Scott would like to hear from any of her dad's service buddies. Her dad's name and unit: **HOMER BRADY**, 26TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 104TH INFANTRY, ANTI-TANK COMPANY. Write to Katherine at: 875 West River Street, North, Elyria, Ohio 44035.

R. KEITH OSTRUM would like to hear from members of the 87TH CHEMICAL MORTAR BATTALION regarding the possibility of planning a future reunion (preferably before the 50th anniversary of the Battle of

the Bulge). Write to Keith at: 2931 Burton Avenue, Erie, Pennsylvania 16504-1443.

CHARLES G. MALLON, JR., is trying to find members of his old outfit--**A COMPANY, 351ST ENGINEER (GS) REGIMENT**, and eventually attached to the **5TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 10TH INFANTRY**. Write to Chuck at: 8913 Seneca Lane, Bethesda, Maryland 20817-3556.

DEXTER JAVOS, 80TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 315 FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, BATTERY A, wants to know if there is any of his outfit out there. Do you fill the bill? Write to Dexter at: 516 Bay Blvd., Bayville, New Jersey 08721-2604.

FRANK YAROSH, 70TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 274TH INFANTRY, 1ST BATTALION, COMPANY C, lets us know about the recent publication of his book *World War II Is Not Over*. It begins with brutal infantry action in the Hardt Mountains near the Rhine River in December, 1944. Includes capture by SS troops in Maginot Line pillbox and horrible accounts of POW life in Stalag 11B at Fallingbosten, Germany until liberation in April, 1945. Autographed by Frank and costing \$11.40 (including S&H) (6% sales tax for Pennsylvania residents), can be ordered from Frank at: 117 Gordon Road, Erdenheim, Pennsylvania 19118.

BERNARD J. COHN, 84TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 335 INFANTRY, COMPANY G, advises us that he is reprinting *The 84th Infantry Division in the Battle of the Ardennes, December 1944-January 1945*, written by Sgt. Theodore Draper. Cost for this 55-page booklet is \$7.00 postage paid. He is also working on a reprint of *Fortune Favored the Brave*. This is a 231-page history of the 84th Infantry Division 334th Infantry by Cpl. Perry S. Wolff. Shipping via UPS included in the \$20.00 cost. Write to Bernard at: 2520 N.E. 1st Court, Building 8, #306, Boynton Beach, Florida 33435 until the 1st of April. After that: 3814 Cherry brook Road, Randallstown, Maryland 21133.

Allen Williams, son of **J. T. WILLIAMS**, 468TH AAA BATTALION, BATTERY D, would like to hear from someone who knew his father or knew of his father's part in the Battle of the Bulge. In December, 1944, his father's unit was assigned to III CORPS, THIRD ARMY. Can you help Allen? Write to him at: Route 1, Box 83, Sumner, Texas 75486.

To further expand experiences I recorded as a Red Cross recreation worker, first at Spa, Belgium, then at Huy and, ultimately, at the 8th Air Field Hospital outside Paris during the BoB, I'd like to hear from or about "SGT. SMITTY," Lt. **PHILLIP F. HARMON**, and that illustrious rook, all of **COMPANY C, 783RD MILITARY POLICE, 30TH CORPS**, and from members of my own outfit, the **4TH CONVALESCENT HOSPITAL**--especially S/Sgt. **RALPH SELLERS**, Dr. **E. L. BAISH** and Capt. **GALLENNI**, Det. C.O. Write to S. Penn (Penny) Wenrick, 6250 N. Piqua-Troy Road, Piqua, Ohio 45356.

ROGER M. HARDY, 5TH BELGIAN FUSILIERS BATTALION, and his comrades of the 5th Fusiliers Association would like assistance in finding the current address of Capt. **HARRY L. STURGIS**, 3814TH U.S. QUARTERMASTER GASOLINE SUPPLY COMPANY, stationed in Spa, Belgium, when BoB started. Write to Roger at: 14, Landdijk, 8370 Blankenberge, Belgium. (Continued on Page 19)

HOLIDAY GREETINGS RECEIVED

Just thought that you would want to know that several greeting cards were received over the holidays to "Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge" from citizens of the area you were instrumental in liberating so many years ago.

WITH DEEPEST REGRET, we apologize for our mistake in omitting the name of **RUSSELL L. LAKE**, 3 ARMDD 67 AFN BN HQ, Midlothian, Virginia, from the list of deceased VBOB members in the November issue of *The Bugle*.



Check your label--are your dues due?

IMPORTANT NOTICE CALL FOR ELECTION

In accordance with Article 7, Section 5, ELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICE, of the Bylaws of The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc., as approved by the VBOB Membership on the 17th of September, 1993, the Nominating Committee and the Bylaws Committee publish the following Call for Elections for the VBOB fiscal year 1995:

All members of VBOB are invited to submit their application to stand for election for one of the following elected positions of The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Incorporated:

For a one-year term beginning 16 December, 1994:

President
Executive Vice President
Vice President for Regional/Chapter Coordination
Vice President for Military Affairs
Vice President for Membership
Treasurer
Corresponding Secretary
Recording Secretary

For a three-year term beginning 16 December, 1994:

Three (3) Trustees (to replace the three serving a one-year term)

The application for nomination must:

1. Designate the position sought;
2. Include a biographical sketch and photograph of the applicant;
3. Enclose a signed agreement that the applicant plans to attend all meetings and carry out all duties of the office sought.

The application must be addressed to:

William R. Hemphill, Chairman
VBOB Nominations Committee
1200 South Courthouse Road
Arlington, VA 22204-4654

The application must be received no later than 1 May, 1994.

BELGIUM PLANS EXHIBIT

In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Belgium, the Centre Culturel de Welkenraedt plans to open a huge exhibition called "Le Vent de la Liberté." The exhibition will be in the Cultural Center of Welkenraedt from mid-June to the end of October, 1994.

It will consist of an important collection of vehicles, pictures, uniforms, archives materials, etc., along with other official activities and fairs.

As the exact calendar of events has not been formulated as we go to press, we suggest that you contact them regarding the finalized program. Contact: Centre Culturel de Welkenraedt, rue Gretry, 10, 4840 Welkenraedt, Belgium.

(Continued from Page 18)

Members Speak Out

Will all units who passed through the Village of Werm please respond to this request? The village plans to raise a memorial with the name of each of these units engraved on it. Write to: Pierre Baerten; Geschied-en Heemkundige Kring van WERM, v.z.w.; Bronstraat 6; 3730 Hoeselt-Werm.

Pierre would also like to have all men from the 75TH INFANTRY DIVISION write to him giving him their name and address so that he may issue a personal invitation for the memorial celebrations planned for August 27-28, 1994. Also he would like to know if anyone knows who may have parachuted from an airplane which crashed on March 3, 1945 in Brustem. Pierre's address appears in the first announcement.

PAUL E. DEADRICH, 11TH ARMORED DIVISION, 55TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, COMPANY B, writes to tell us how warmly he and his wife were received in the City of Bastogne in April, 1993. They were advised that the people of Bastogne plan to plant 2,000 trees as living memorials to fallen Americans—each tree will bear a name. Paul wants you to know that the people of Belgium are ever mindful and grateful for the effort and sacrifices made in freeing their country and those planning to return will be most grateful.

Linda Anderson would like to hear from someone who remembers her father ADDISON (ANDY) S. ANDERSON. Linda isn't able to determine from her father's papers exactly which unit he was with: maybe, 99TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 634 TANK DESTROYER BATTALION, 1ST ARMY, or FIRST DIVISION. Write to Linda at: 204 North Shenandoah Drive #101, Latrobe, Pennsylvania 15650.

RUSSELL E. HILL, 9TH AIR FORCE, 787 AAA AW BATTALION, HQ BATTERY, would like to hear from anyone in the 787th AAA and would especially like to make contact with forward OP member in the Holland and Ardennes Campaigns. Write to Russell at: Route 1, Box 102, Dillwyn, Virginia 23936.

Bill Dennis would like to locate persons who knew his dad, FRANK A. DENNIS, 6TH ARMORED DIVISION, HQ COMPANY. Frank was leading a wounded comrade to safety when he passed by a pill box and heard talking. After hiding his comrade, he shot at the pill box: 15 or more Germans surrendered. If anyone knew Bill's father or the comrade he helped, please write to Bill at: 12740 Humeston Lane, Bridgeton, Missouri 63044.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE NURSES OF WWII

I should have written years ago to thank the nurses who helped us.

When I landed in Normandy, I was moving up the hill when a shell came down from the top. It didn't hit my legs but it went by so close that my legs were paralyzed and I went down. In the hospital (made over from a church), I used to reach for the next bed and pull myself over with a nurse's help. I went from one bed to the next. I don't remember how long until I was able to walk, but I fell down plenty.

God bless the nurse that helped me.

The second time I was in the hospital, I think it was a hospital as the room I was in was about 6 x 8 with no windows. I don't even know how I got in there and I never knew what happened or how I left. I don't know how long I was there. I only know that every day the door would open and in would come a Red Cross nurse with a glass of water. She is the only one I ever saw, but she came every day. Until this day I never found out how I got in that small room or got out. (Three pieces of shrapnel were taken out of my mouth, tongue, and jaw.)

God bless that Red Cross nurse and all the rest of the nurses. We haven't forgotten them even years later.

Written by: Ira A. Bonett, Sr. 84 INF 4 AMPH BR

THE TIME HAS COME FOR US TO BUILD OUR SECOND LINE OF DEFENSE

As you can well imagine, a power bigger than all of us is daily taking its toll on our numbers. We must begin to look to our spouses, children, relatives and history buffs to carry the load and see that the Battle of the Bulge is never forgotten.

VBOB continues to grow by leaps and bounds--but we are the ones who must ensure that that we have built a fortress so strong that it will not crumble with time.

We are, therefore, making a special effort to enroll family members and history buffs so that they can carry on our efforts. We are offering a two-year membership to any member of your family for the price of one--\$15.00 for two years.

"What am I going to do with two copies of *The Bugle*?" you might ask.

Glad you asked. This could be the most important piece of second class mail you have ever received--other than the *Victoria's Secret* catalog. The extra copy of *The Bugle* should be taken to your local high school or public library. If you have a college in your area, take it to their history department library. If there is a military post in your area, take it to the library there. These copies will be instrumental in helping to educate students of the sacrifices made during "America's greatest battle."

Many of you have a difficult time talking with your family about your war experiences. Perhaps, a gift of a two-year membership would whet their appetites to learn more and enable you to be able to speak of your experiences a little easier. Many of the letters we receive are from children who are eager to learn of their dad's experiences--"Dad never talked about it."

To take advantage of this offer, it is necessary that you use the membership application below--the regular membership application will not do. If you need more than one or do not wish to cut up this newsletter, make a Xerox copy and send it in along with your check.

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

SPECIAL ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP
Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc.
P.O. Box 11129, Arlington, VA 22210-2129

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

AO _____

Do not write above this line

Two Year's Dues--\$15.00

Name _____ Birthdate _____

Address _____ Phone (____) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

I am joining VBOB in honor of my _____ (relationship), whose name is: _____

He/she was in the following campaigns: _____

Unit(s) assigned to 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.

Applicant's signature _____

THE ACK ACK MEN COME DOWN TO EARTH

Their 90 MM Guns Blasted Tanks On the Ground When Von Rundstedt Tried his Belgian Breakthrough

[This article appeared in the February 16, 1945, issue of The Stars and Stripes. It was written by John Christie.]

The two ack-ack men volunteered to go with the infantry lieutenant to the outpost position which was defending the dug-in 90 mm anti-aircraft gun being used against tanks in the path of one of Von Rundstedt's armored thrusts.

They didn't know exactly what the mission was to be. They only knew it had something to do with going after an enemy tank and that the lieutenant had said he would show them how to fire a bazooka.

"Fire in the rear through the engine compartment," the lieutenant said. "It's a Tiger Royal and anywhere else won't do any good. Now go get the bastard." That was the extent of the briefing given after a three-minute demonstration on how to put ammo in the stove pipe.

Under heavy machine-gun fire coming from the three guns the Krauts had just overrun not far from the 90mm replacement. Pfc Alberg A. Darago, of Parkville, Maryland, and Pvt Roland E. Seamen, of Clarksburg, West Virginia, crawled under a wire fence and up to the hedgerow which lined the road on which the tank was located.

But, instead of one "bastard" the infantry loopy had talked about, there were four of them, two Tiger Royals and two Mark Vs. One, on the left, faced north up the main road. Two others, the Mark Vs were to the immediate front facing directly away from the two men. The other Tiger was on the right, facing northwest with its 12-foot gun barrel staring 'em straight in the face.

Biggest Noise Ever

After a brief conference, the two bazooka novices decided to fire into the rear ends of the two Mark Vs. They let their charges go right into the center of the engine compartments. "Biggest goddam noise I ever heard," said Seamen. "Fire burst out the rear of both tanks." After returning to the infantry position, the two were ordered to go back and make sure of their kills. They found them burning, but obediently gave them another charge each.

Seamen and Darago were from a 90mm crew of the 143rd AA Gun Battalion, commanded by Maj Myron T. Fleming, of Philadelphia. This was the outfit which helped stop a decisive enemy armored spearhead that was pointing north toward Liege in the vicinity of Stoumont and Stoumont station during the breakthrough.

Since H plus 20 minutes, First Army ack-ack outfits had been the "also rans" in the campaigns that led from the beaches to beyond the Siegfried Line due to the Luftwaffe's relative scarcity, but when the breakthrough came every outfit had good use for them, and what they accomplished against Von Rundstedt's forces constitutes one of the great chapters of the war in the west.

The odd part of it is that at a time when battle expediency made it necessary for these Army orphans to perform anti-tank and infantry support roles, they also had to slug it out with the greatest number of planes the Luftwaffe has yet used to support a single ground operation.

How they accomplished their air mission can be told by a simple box score. The enemy sent 1,178 planes over First Army territory between December 16 and January 2, and AA batteries accounted for 295 positives and 157 probables for a total of 452. (Definition of a "probable" on the Western Front is that the plane must be seen losing altitude, smoking or burning, losing vital parts or, in other words, appears damn certain to be unable to make its home base.)

New Year's Shoot

That means the ack-ackers got 38 percent of all enemy planes sent over the First Army area during the breakthrough. Ten percent is the normal expectancy for AA. Then there were special occasions like New Year's Day when they knocked out 115 of the 288 planes sent over. And there were individual unit accomplishments like that of the 116th Gun Battalion, which bagged 35 enemy planes and got 18 probables in two nights of action. Many of them were JU52s carrying paratroopers.

The ground roles played by the ack-ackers can't be dismissed by a single box score because they were part and parcel of all that went into stemming the tide of Von Rundstedt's armor. It is possible to list the number of tanks knocked out by the AAs men and even to estimate the number of infantrymen and paratroopers mowed down but all that wouldn't tell the whole story either.

The things that were done to stop Von Rundstedt are legendary, largely because it was the will to fight on the part of the "little men," the cooks and bakers and clerks and truckdrivers and also of ack-ackers like Seamen and Darago, that saved the day.

AA Strong Points

What the ack-ack batteries did is now legendary, too. Here was tremendous fire power quickly adapted to a critical situation and employed with devastating effect. While ground fire always has been a secondary mission of the AA, never before was it employed on such a big scale and never before was it the decisive factor in the success of a big operation.

As you go over the regained area of Von Rundstedt's penetration the ex-Belgian Bulge, there is hardly a strategic road or junction where some AA outfit did not form a strong point along with a few infantrymen from which the enemy's thrusts were either blunted entirely or delayed to gain valuable time for getting up reinforcements. From these road blocks they took on everything the Germans had to offer, from Tiger Royals on down. Scores of infantry attacks were turned back or badly mangled by the fire of the hell-spitting AA quadruple mount 50-caliber machine-guns or 37mm automatics on the flak wagons.

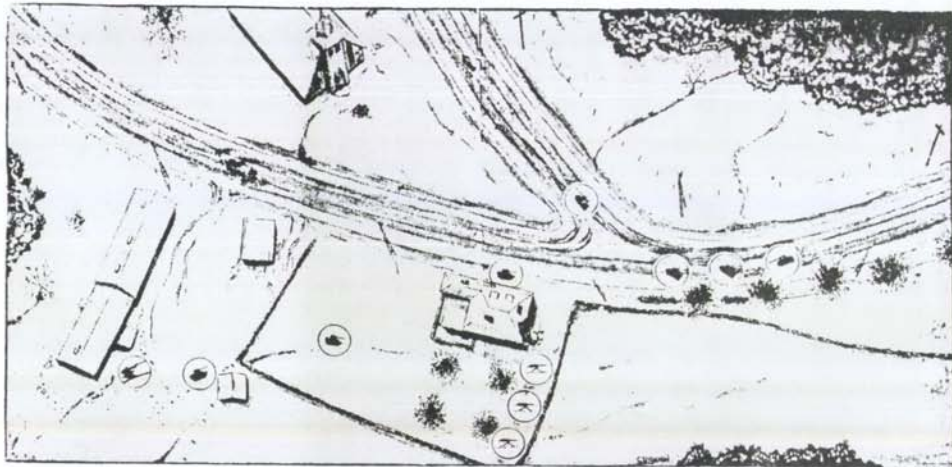
It must be remembered in reviewing some of the actions fought by the AA batteries during the breakthrough that ground firing must always be the AA's secondary mission. However, the record of the First Army ack-ack units during [portion missing] down they can be counted on to assist infantry and armor effectively.

There are hundreds of dogfeet in these parts who are now thoroughly convinced that flak wagons, especially the M16s with the quad mount 50s are damn handy to have around. In fact, some of them would revolutionize the infantry's tactics by making it SOP to have 'em with each small formation.

(Continued on Page 22)

(Continued from Page 21)

The Ack Ack Men Came Down To Earth



New use for anti-aircraft guns was an outstanding success at Stoumont, Belgium, where Kraut spearhead, aimed at Liege, was stopped cold. Sketch, reproduced from scale diagram made on the spot, shows how AA gun (extreme left) was emplaced to cover road, protected TDs and MGs. Enemy ranks (on road, upper right) were stopped by combined bazooka fire, from hedge, and longer range fire from heavier pieces. This was almost perfect example of how AA guns should be used for ground fire. Note how MGs and TDs screen less mobile, but more powerful 90MM.

Harass Enemy Formations

"The meat chopper" is what the M16 was dubbed by one artillery outfit which saw 150 out of 200 German paratroopers mowed down in a few minutes as they emerged from a wood. The flak wagon was being used to outpost the artillery position at the time.

For harassing enemy troop concentrations, both observed and unobserved, there is nothing better. It really keeps 'em pinned down. The same is true of the 37mm automatic mounted on the M15 half-track and also the 40mm Bofor.

The harassing value of these weapons also applies when the enemy is taking refuge in houses and buildings. Even before the breakthrough AA units, firing occasional ground missions, had managed to burn up several small German villages and hamlets. One method is to use the 37mm, and 40mm, with armor-piercing ammo to open up cracks in walls and then pour in HE to start fires. The job has also been done with the quad 50s by using incendiary ammo and shooting at roofs, which can generally be counted on to have some wood in the structure.

One of the most decisive ground roles played during the breakthrough by AA automatic weapons battalions was the work of Battery C of the 197th commanded by Capt William Olcott, of St. Paul, Minnesota. This battery was responsible for the recapture of a field hospital which the Germans already had prepared for a move east out of Waimes and for protecting and issuing more than \$12,000,000 worth of critical artillery ammo. It was also responsible for deflecting armored thrusts which could have overrun at least one division headquarters and could have directly threatened the city of Liege.

"The infantry must always keep in mind that while we have tremendous fire power, we also have definite limitations in a ground support role," emphasizes Capt. Olcott who has received the Silver Star for his action at Waimes.

"For one thing these quad 50s and 37mms on the flak wagons cannot fire forward point-blank at a ground target

because of the weapons automatic cut-off which silences the guns when the barrels are over the tracks caps for safety's sake," the captain points out.

Perhaps the most important limitation to keep in mind regarding use of the tracks in a ground role is their vulnerability. They have no armor. They're a good target when located.

"We must have defilade," explains Capt. Olcott. "Also remember that in a defensive position we need strong outposts to prevent infiltration by enemy foot troops.

"It's all right to boast about the job these weapons can do against armor," says Sgt Claude H. Anderson, of Washington, Missouri, "but it's another thing to face these German tanks bearing down on your position. Every ack-ack unit sent on a roadblock mission or anti-tank role should be well supplied with land mines. They will help protect your position against inroads by enemy armor and will help channelize a tank penetration into a better target position."

Try Anything Once

There are a lot of tricks to the trade of employing AA automatic weapons fire against armor. Battle expediency more or less dictated that the ack-ackers try anything and the results are worth noting for when in a pinch.

While their armor-piercing ammo could do an effective job against armored vehicles at fairly long range, they needed well-placed shots at too damn close range to put out tanks. However, they could sometimes get light tanks at fairly close range with good success [word indistinct] hits on turret tracks and wheel tracks

Generally, the ack-ackers depended on HE ammo to keep tanks out-toned up all the while trying to put the tracks out of action or to get shots through the apertures. By proper use of HE fire they were frequently able to channelize a penetration into the range of an anti-tank gun. In fact the AA weapons and AT guns proved to be a good partnership in most of those ground firing missions.

REUNIONS

4TH INFANTRY (IVY) DIVISION, 24-31 July, 1994, Cleveland, Ohio. Contact: Elmer Klaus, 2397 Bennett Road (R-7), Madison, Ohio 44057.

5TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 2ND INFANTRY, AT COMPANY, 9-10 September, 1994, Pipestem State Park, Pipestem, West Virginia. Contact: Billy R. Hall, 10947 East Heywood Drive, Seymour, Indiana 47274.

6TH ARMORED DIVISION, September 13-18, 1994, Hilton Hotel, Bloomington, Minnesota. Contact: W. R. Heidenreich, 1998 Hawthorne Avenue, East, St. Paul, Minnesota 55119-3242.

16TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY, September, 1994, Columbus, Ohio. Contact: Hubert D. Mann, 3521 Oaklawn Street, Columbus, Ohio 43224-3456. Telephone: 614-267-7971.

78TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 309TH INFANTRY, COMPANY G, September, 1994, St. Louis, Missouri. Contact: C. F. Fountain, 153 Windswept Drive, West Wareham, Massachusetts 02576-1245.

80TH INFANTRY DIVISION, August 17-21, 1994, Omni Netherland Plaza Hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio. Contact: William Petrollini, 20 Woodleigh Court, Youngstown, OH 44511. Telephone: 216-792-8089.

84TH INFANTRY DIVISION, August 27-31, 1994, Little America Hotel, Salt Lake City, Utah. Contact: Royal V. Coburn, 3580 Warr Road, Salt Lake City, Utah 84109. Telephone: 801-484-6389.

86TH ORDNANCE COMPANY, September 12-15, 1994, The Pines, South Fallsburg, New York. Contact: Richard Schildbach, 101 South Whiting Street, Apt. 514, Alexandria, Va 22304. Telephone: 703-370-2707.

92ND ORDNANCE (MM) COMPANY, April 22-24, 1994, Holiday Inn, Briley Parkway, Nashville, Tennessee. Contact: Rudolph Michalka, 620 Catalina, Waco, Texas 76712.

94TH INFANTRY DIVISION, June 16-18, 1994, Radisson Hotel, Niagara Falls, New York. Contact: Harry Helms, 609 Dogwood Drive, Downingtown, Pennsylvania 19335.

501ST PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT, June 3-6, 1994, Seattle, Washington. Contact: John Voersolenko, 15 E. Street, S.E., Auburn, Washington 98002. Telephone: 206-833-6335.

511TH PARACHUTE INFANTRY, September 28-October 2, 1994, Omni Hotel, Newport News, Virginia. Contact: M. Pike, 653 Avenue C, Bayonne, New Jersey 07004.

557TH AAA AW BATTALION, May 20-22, 1994, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. Contact: Jim Nealon, 6304 Crafton Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19149. Telephone: 215-288-1157.

561ST FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, April 28-30, 1994, New Orleans, Louisiana. Contact: R. P. Zwisler, 2810 Heidelberg Drive, Boulder, Colorado 80303. Telephone: 303-494-6284.

607TH QUARTERMASTER GRAVE REGISTRATION COMPANY, May 17-21, 1994, Fresno, California. Contact: Ernest J. Terry, Box 463, Clovis, California 93613. Telephone: 209-299-5967.

609TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION, September 15-17, 1994, Fayetteville, North Carolina. Contact: George O. Funke, 3260 Oakford Road, Trevese, Pennsylvania 19053.

629TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION, Date to be announced-1994, Contact: J. M. Collins, 26801 Northeast 96th Court, Battleground, Washington 98604. Telephone: 206-687-1368.

838TH ORDNANCE DEPOT COMPANY, August 6-7, 1994, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. Contact: Bernard Kersting, 7912 Elmhurst Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21234-5506. Telephone: 410-668-3569.

1255TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, October 5-8, 1994, West Point, New York. Contact: A. J. Babecki, 915 Hemlock Street, Barefoot Bay, FL 32976. Telephone: 407-664-0952.

86TH CHEMICAL MORTAR BATTALION ASSN. May 7-15, 1994, on a cruise out of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Information - John B. Deasy, 1830 -30th Avenue, San Francisco CA 94122 (415) 566-2177.

26TH INFANTRY "YANKEE" DIVISION, Midwest YD, May 13-14, 1994, Holiday Inn, Normal, Illinois. Contact: W. Kent Stephens, 107 Bluffview Lane, Collinsville, Illinois 62234. Telephone: 618-344-1616.

101ST FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, May 13-14, 1994, Holiday Inn, Normal, Illinois. Contact: W. Kent Stephens, 107 Bluffview Lane, Collinsville, Illinois 62234. Telephone: 618-344-1616.

26TH CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE TROOP, May 13-14, 1994, Holiday Inn, Normal, Illinois. Contact: George C. Linthicum, 2605 Orchard Drive, Broomall, Pennsylvania 19008-2121.

TIME MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE

Recently someone complained that they did not receive an answer to the VBOB telephone. There are two of us in the office, so you should be able to reach some one. Rarely, are both of us out at the same time--if we have something that one person can't do alone, etc.

I think the problem is the difference in time zones. We are open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Eastern Standard (or Daylight) Time. We have not put an answering machine on the phone as so many complain that they do not like talking to such an apparatus and resent having to pay for a long distance call to a machine.

So, if you're giving us a call--remember the difference in the time zones. The number is: 703 528 4058.

EDUCATION KIT STILL AVAILABLE

We announced in the November Bugle the availability of an Education Kit for use in informing school children about the Battle of the Bulge. We were happy to provide so many of you with a copy, but we are hopeful that more of you will write for the Kit and use it. It can be added to or subtracted from. If there is something that you would like to include, just add a sheet with your message.

The Kit includes (1) a list of most of the units who fought, (2) map of the area of battle, (3) a fact sheet on the battle and explaining VBOB, (4) a brief history of the battle, (5) sample stories from VBOB members, and (6) a list of videos and books for those children who might wish to explore the subject further.

With some modifications, the Kit can be used in speaking to groups at church, civic gatherings, etc.

If the Battle of the Bulge is to be remembered, it is our responsibility (yours and mine) to see that this is done. If you would like a copy of the Kit, write and ask for the "Education Kit."

NOTICE

Any veteran who needs help checking benefits, their service records, help with different VA programs or whether they qualify for medals or decorations, should call a VA hot line, 1 (800) 827-1000 for the necessary forms.

SOME HUMOR IN THE BULGE

'THESAURUS' HELPED WITH THE TOUGH TIMES

Submitted by: Abraham Lashin
80th INF 319 INF K

A couple of days after Christmas, 1944, a 6 x 6 truckload of reinforcements arrived at the Duchess of Luxembourg's castle (80th Division HQ). I was one of them. Although half-frozen, we were made welcome after reporting, and spent the night in a large room, the Master Bath, with an extraordinary view of the snow-covered valley and forest. The next day along with others, I was transported to a recently liberated village where the 1st platoon, 3rd squad of Company K, 319th Infantry, were bedded down. The squad had just relieved another unit that went to a rest area.

Introductions were just barely completed when some GI, a recent occupant, came bursting into a room that I was in, and shouted, "Anybody in here seen a P-38 (the German Luger)?" Everyone shrugged their shoulders and said, "No." But I thought maybe a little humor might be OK. I answered, "No, I didn't, but I did see a B-17 go through that big door out back...." You could have cut the air with a dull bayonet, after I answered. I got a response from that GI that I cannot print here, although there was a little snickering from my new found foxhole buddies.

My squad leader, Sgt. Buncic, knew my name but he just wanted to call me Charlie...didn't think I'd be around too long. Don't know what he meant by that to this day.

The fact that I carried a thick copy of *The Thesaurus of Humor*, published by the Infantry Journal Press in my left breast pocket of my field jacket helped me through some "bad times."

WIRE CREW GETS A HAND

Submitted by: F. Keith Davis
16th FA OBSN BN, BTY A

The 16th Field Artillery Observation Battalion, Battery "A," wire crew was usually with the Command Post and they would lay communication wires to the Observation Post where I spent most of the time. When they would lay the communication wires from the CP to the OP so we could communicate, they often would loop the wires around fence posts or anything sticking out of the snow for holding the wire in place. When they would come to a dead soldier they might wrap the wire around his protruding hand and go on down the road.

The artillery barrages and the tank duels would often break these wires and they would have to be spliced before the CP and OP could communicate.

One night the wires were broken and the wire crew had to go out in pitch dark to find the break and repair it. A new man was in the wire section and they had him lead the way to find the break. A common way to find a break in the dark was to run your hand along the wire until a break was found. This new man, while checking the wire and posts in the dark, grabbed the dead hand of a German soldier that the wire had been around.

Needless to say, he was shocked and more than a little scared! It was necessary to turn the lead over to a more seasoned man in the "Wire Crew."

A SET OF FALSIES

Submitted by: Robert T. Rice

...In fact it began in July, 1943.... Because of a very bad case of pyorrhea I had to have all of my teeth pulled. ...I was presented with a set of falsies emblazoned with my army Serial Number on the insides. I attempted to wear them but as my gums shrunk the falsies became looser and looser.

Finally, I got to the point of asking for a new set. This was met with the statement that I had been given a set and to wear them. Since they got all jumbled up in my mouth, I decided to carry them in my fatigue jacket pocket or my barracks bag. In the meantime, I gummed a lot of army chow. This continued through a number of assignments here in the States and followed me to England in April 1944 for a stint with the 8th Air Force. No one there would do anything about the matter either.

Then came the "Battle." You may recall that you fellows were having a hard time getting replacements as the "Battle" progressed. It got to the point where they were shipping some of the fellows back to England and assigning them to the 8th. At the same time they were taking fellows from the 8th to use as replacements in the Bulge.

I was called for my physical. I progressed through it pretty well for someone who had a hard time getting into the service—a broken ear drum, slight hernia and a heart three inches lower than it should be. Then came the dental check. I walked in. The dentist told me to climb into the chair. As I did so, I thought: Oh, no. I had forgotten to bring my teeth in. As I was about to climb from the chair to go get them the dentist said, "Stay in the chair, son." I stayed.

The dentist being a somewhat small fellow pushed his little stool up to the chair, climbed upon it and said, "Open your mouth." As I did, the poor little fellow almost fell in. He shouted, "Where in the hell are your teeth, soldier?" I told him they were out in the hall in my fatigue jacket pocket. Again he shouted, "Get out there and get them." By this time I could sense that he was becoming somewhat irate.

I retrieved the teeth and returned to the chair. Still shouting the dentist told me to put the teeth into my mouth. As I did the top ones would fall down and the bottom ones would flop up. Finally, he said, "Let me see those." He took them and tried to fit them in. Again the top would fall, the bottoms would flop up.

Jumping up and down on his little stool, he shouted, "These aren't your teeth, soldier." I told him, "I tried to tell them that back in the States but they kept saying they were. And if you will look inside you will find my serial number on each plate. He looked, matched up the numbers and again shouted, "I still don't believe these are yours." I told him that I agreed but had never been able to get anything done about it. This seemed to irritate him a little more. (I believe to this day that if we had had super glue back in those days those ill-fitting plates would still be welded to my gums and perhaps my mouth glued shut to hold them in.)

Still shouting and jumping up and down on that little stool he said, "You are not going to beat this, soldier. We are going to get you another set of teeth and you are going to the infantry." I tried to tell him that I was not trying to beat anything but this seemed to perturb him even more. They took impressions, etc., and were not too kind in doing so. Eventually, they sent everything to a London lab to get the new set of falsies made. I forget just how long it took but by the time the teeth came back the fellows in the Bulge had broken out and they weren't taking any more Air Corps lads.

When I went to pick up my new set, the little dentist was on leave or just didn't show up. I met him a couple of times later on but he never mentioned our little session. Incident-ally, except for a few missing teeth, I am still wearing these plates nearly 49 years later. I will say one thing for the little dentist—he certainly got me a good pair and they fit.

I would be lying if I said I really wanted to join the fellows there in the Bulge, but I never tried to beat it. I had just turned 20 years old and 20 year olds in those days didn't care much where they were sent as long as we got the war over and could get back home.

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

"The Combat Infantryman Badge is awarded for exemplary conduct in action against the enemy." It resulted in an extra \$10.00 per month. [Courtesy of *The Mule* 7 July 1944, based on research by John D. Bowen in the National Archives Suitland Branch US Army Unit Records.]

EXPERT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

"The Expert Infantryman Badge is awarded by attaining the standards of proficiency established by the War Dept." It resulted in an extra \$5.00 per month. Some of its requirements were a foot march with full field equipment for 25 miles in 8 hours and nine miles in two hours. [Courtesy of *The Mule* 7 July 1944, based on research by John D. Bowen in the National Archives Suitland Branch US Army Unit Records.]

THE END OF THE TRAIL FOR TIGER 222

By Tom Raney

In preparation for the German offensive in the Ardennes which jumped off 16 December 1944, the 501st SS Heavy Tank Battalion, equipped with Tiger IIs (aka King Tigers), was attached to the 1st SS Panzer Division (Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler) and further attached to the Kampfgruppe commanded by SS Lt Col Jochen Peiper. One of these Tigers was Number 222. Thanks to the pictures taken by German camera men, reproduced in *Battle of the Bulge: Then and Now*, by Jean Paul Pallud, we can trace the tank's route in several points before and after its journey ended. It is first seen in the Village of Dienenberg, Belgium, some 11 kilometers southeast of Malmédy. In an obviously posed picture, nine or ten paratroopers are sitting on the turret. (A paratroop regiment was attached to Peiper for a time.) Next, 222 appears at a road junction called Kaiserbaracke, a little closer to Malmédy, this time with four paratroopers perched on the turret. A little farther on, outside of Ligneuville, a rear-view shot shows eight paratroopers on the back deck, grinning happily as they pass around a pack of cigarettes, American, no doubt. A bit later, the same soldiers are sharing their cigarettes with a Waffen SS motorcyclist who has pulled up to the rear of the tank.

The scene now shifts to Stavelot, which was being cleared and defended by the 1st Battalion, 117th Infantry, 30th Infantry Division, reinforced by the 1st Platoon, Company C, 823rd Tank Destroyer Battalion. These units had fought their way into Stavelot on 18 December and secured that part of the town north of the Ambleve River, except for several blocks still held by the SS at the western edge. With a Recon Platoon of the 823rd, I joined the 1st Platoon of Company C on 19 December. The M-10 platoon leader with 1st Lt Ellis W. McInnis, a courageous soldier and a good friend.

Sometime on the 19th, Mac and I were in an observation post on the second floor of a building. From a window to our front we could see the Ambleve River and the bridge leading into Stavelot from the south at about 150 yards from us. To our left was a window through which we could look down on one of Mac's M-10s, commanded by Sgt Ray Dudley. He was covering the bridge and the road leading to it from the southeast. This road, which descended a long hill into the Ambleve valley at an angle to our location, was lined with buildings except for the last 100 yards or so before the bridge. I've forgotten whether we had warning that a tank was coming down that road. At any rate, we saw the long tube of Tiger 222's 88mm gun emerge from behind the last building. The M-10 gunner must have been tracking the tank with his telescope sight, for as soon as the Tiger had cleared the building, the M-10 fired one round of armor-piercing shot which penetrated the armor on the right side above the track, about 14 inches under the turret and some four to five feet to the rear of the front glacis plate. The tank stopped dead in its tracks. (The only way we could knock out the mighty Tiger was to hit it where the armor plate was relatively thin (a little more than three inches on

the sides). (The six inches of frontal armor was impervious to our guns.) The round probably struck the gunner and the loader. The hole made by the three inch round can be seen in the picture on page 161 of the book referred to above. Surprisingly, the tank did not burn. Neither did we see any of the crew members bail out, but they must have exited through an escape hatch in the rear of the turret. There were no paratroopers aboard. Too bad; they missed a thrilling experience.

No sooner had the M-10 fired than a hail of small arms fire was directed at the M-10 from across the river. This resulted in a fire breaking out in the caliber .50 machine gun's ammunition box on the turret. Immediately an asbestos-gloved hand, probably Sgt Dudley's, came out of the turret and beat the fire out.

To the best of my knowledge, that was the last enemy tank that attempted crossing the bridge at Stavelot.

BATTLE LESSONS

FROM THE DEC 1944 AFTER ACTION REPORT 591st FA BN

[Source 591st FA Bn After Action Report, 31 Dec 44 based on research in unit records by John D. Bowen in the National Archives Suitland Branch US Army Unit Records.]

1. Particularly in a stable situation, a company will try to maintain communication to the platoon and thence to each squad on line with its sound power phones. By hooking on to their line, you have unlimited possibilities for keeping abreast of the situation and firing missions from any point. This gives you a party line with all of the infantry, the FO, the Ln O, and Fire Direction. Any infantryman can adjust fire if the FO is on the line to convert what he wants into a proper sensing. One drawback with this setup is that the extra pull on the Ln O-FO Line makes ringing very faint and sometimes negligible. This is easily taken care of by arranging whistle signals between the two parties and keeping the earpiece within easy hearing range.
2. Since much of the infantry is alert at night, and the FO party needs some sleep, the infantry is willing to provide security for the party during the night. The infantry is always your best protection.
3. The infantry will go out of its way to get information regarding enemy targets. But the doughs have difficulty giving accurate descriptions of positions. If a man has a target spotted from his position, go to that position to get the target location rather than waste time having him try to point it out from an unfamiliar angle.
4. The infantry is always short of phones. If you have a spare remote unit, loan it to them. They will lend you anything of theirs.
5. Carry plenty of D rations in your pockets. They are invaluable when you start shooting fast in the middle of the day.
6. Be as inconspicuous as possible. Keep all ornaments off of your clothes. Dress like an EM. Keep maps, binoculars, etc., stuffed inside your field jacket or coat. Do not bother with extra weapons. It is only added weight and will draw attention.
7. Many times in hilly and wooded terrain, once you find your round, you will get on your target quicker by moving it along the slopes and ridges by small range and deflection changes, rather than by bold sensings. Judgment applies here rather than shooting "by the book." When completely lost, do not hesitate to call for an air burst; then by lowering it you can tell behind which ridge the shells are landing. -FO
8. Nothing in the way of communications beats the personal and constant contact afforded by intelligent liaison officers who have the confidence of both their own commanders and the commander with whom they are working. They can make decisions on the spot that would otherwise require a lengthy and difficult conversation over long and busy lines between two people who cannot "look over each others shoulder". In other words, a liaison officers job is no spot for a green young officer or an old dope who cannot carry his weight in any other position. - Exec.

EVER HEARD OF "CODE TALKERS"?

[The St. Louis Gateway Chapter members recently were enlightened by a unique group of Americans who told of their involvement in World War II as "Code Talkers." We thought you would be interested. Much of the information used is quoted from an article by Amber Grimes of the *Belleville News-Democrat*.]

The Comanche and Navajo American-Indian soldiers of the 45th Infantry Division were asked to join the Communications Unit during World War II. Many military messages and codes had been broken by the Japanese in the Pacific and the Germans in Europe. It was felt that use of the American Indian language would solve this problem. Comanches were used in Europe and the Navajos in Asia, adapting their languages to military terms, etc. This proved to be a major contribution to the Allies' successes in WWII. This was the establishment of "Code Talkers."

"Collinsville--The Nazis never figured out what Forrest Kassanavoid and Edward Nahquaddy were talking about during World War II.

"Kassanavoid, 72, and Nahquaddy, 73, were two of 17 Comanche Indians who kept the Nazis from breaking the Allies' codes during the war.

"We were called code talkers,' Kassanavoid said. 'We were part of the 4th Infantry Signal Corps stationed over in Europe.' ...

"During the war, the U.S. Army used the Comanche language as a way of communicating the German Army's position and fire power.

"We'd be up at the front, and we'd send back messages on where they were and what kind of guns they had.' Nahquaddy said. 'We found words in the Comanche language that sounded most like the things we were describing. For tanks, we used the Comanche word for big turtles, and for machine guns, we'd use the Comanche term for sewing machines because that's what they sounded like to us.'

"It was Comanche Larry Saupitty, who has since died, who sent the first message to President Franklin Roosevelt after the Army landed at Utah Beach in Normandy, France.

"We have landed in the wrong place,' Kassanavoid said. 'So he sent back the message 'Made good landing, but in wrong spot.' That was one message we didn't want the Nazis to figure out.'

"They never figured it out,' Nahquaddy said.

"Out of the original 17, only five Comanche code talkers are still alive. ...

"...during their 11 months overseas, Nahquaddy and Kassanavoid saw a lot of Europe.

"We started in England, then moved on to Paris and liberated several towns in Germany and were on our way to Austria when the war ended,' Kassanavoid said. 'We were all over.'"

The Code Talkers were honored by Heritage America in September, 1993, at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, for their contributions to the victories of the WWII Allies.

A great big thanks from VBOB members, too.

Reprinted from the 9th Division's *8 Stars to Victory*

PEACE and OCCUPATION

Everything seemed to have become transformed now; even the gay cities of France and Belgium. This was the first dreadful winter after the war and there were no extra supplies of food and fuel for the impoverished liberated peoples of Europe ... barely enough, in fact, for mere existence. Most of all, Paris had changed, as was reported by the author in the *NINTH DIVISION NEWS*



The *Gay Paree* we knew during the war has marched into the past. In its place is a cold, matter-of-fact city fighting to survive the twin threats of starvation and inflation. Snow and slush add to the misery of once festive Parisian life.

To those of us who finagled a *Paris Pass* during the war, a wonderland seemed to rise upon the horizon. Things we had heard about all our lives--the mesdemoiselles, Eifel Tower, famed Montmartre and unforgettable Pig Alle--became a reality. Women pulled at our arms on the crowded streets. Cognac and Calvados flowed like the troubled waters of the Seine. Gendarmes, with their continental half-capes and long nightsticks true to movie form, saluted when we asked a direction.

Coffee, doughnuts and cokes could be had at a dozen Red Cross Clubs. Most famous of these was over-patronized *Rainbow Corner*. If you wanted to meet an old buddy, here was the place.

Here, too, was information, a hot shower, and a chance to dance with pretty French hostesses.

Down the line, at palatial *Grand Hotel*, GIs enjoyed rest, excellent food, dancing--and an almost civilian feeling. This was the *Allied Club*--run primarily for groups of infantrymen on reprieve from combat. Battle-weary doughs were served in the golden splendor of a dining hall which unshamed could seat a king.

Those were days of entertainment, too. Allied movies, stage shows, and the unusual *Folies Bergere* drew thousands of eager patrons. Soldiers were pleasure-starved and became pleasure-fed. Everything was for the GI and the GI was for everything.

You wouldn't have believed that so many combinations could have been conjured from the small issue of clothing the men on pass had. Every soldier was his own uniform designer. Top hats, beaver-skin hats, multi-colored scarves, fancy jackets and combat sweaters became ingredients for the Parisian hodgepodge of mufti.

Today that is no more. Beautiful Champs-Elysses is a mass of muddy snow and iced water. Whistling cold winds almost blow out the eternal fire under symbolic Arc D-Triomphe. One scarcely notices a uniform ... is even surprised by the lack of Army vehicles jockeying in the crazy French traffic.

Yes, the Eifel Tower is still there ... the rivers are their picturesque selves, Place de la Concorde is as historic as ever, and the Metro continues to run on time. Yet gone is that atmosphere of freedom and ease which once spread over the surging carnival of humanity. Where street-walkers once trod the concrete after a thousand dishonest francs (or a carton of smokes), today are men trying to buy something ... anything.

The doughnut circuit is closing down. A few Red Cross Clubs are left but they are few and far-between. Old buddies seldom turn up. There are no visible signs of a once vast army of M.P.'s. One feels as if he is in a foreign country!

At gaudy *Casino de Paris*, freezing girls miss their departed fans in OD--for the theater houses are half empty. Most shows have lost some of their GI trade.

The Anglo-American hordes of occupation have left, and Paris is at peace. It is a Paris rising out of the chains of bondage ... it is a city of hunger and regret.

But, the tales of gaiety and naughtiness, and of "the most beautiful city in the world" still will be told. They were the yarns of our fathers and uncles ... it is a fairy tale come true. And, as such it cannot die!

591ST FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION-- DECEMBER 1944 AFTER ACTION REPORT

[Source 591st FA Bn After Action Report, 31 Dec 44 based on research in unit records by John D. Bowen in the National Archives Suitland Branch US Army Unit Records.]

The 591st FA Bn relieved the 37th FA Bn, 2nd Inf Div in position on 10 Dec in the vicinity of Heckhalenfeld, Germany (coord 90.2-78.8). A, B and Hq Btry were situated in and around Heckhalenfeld. C Btry was in position at Stefeshausen and Svc Btry was located at Burg Reuland. ...first round was fired by B Btry, commanded by Capt Robert A Likins, at 1653, 10 Dec 1944. The Bn was engaged chiefly in firing harassing fires with a primary mission of direct support of the 424th Inf until the early morning of 16th Dec. The enemy began shelling the front lines shortly after 2400 15 Dec and also started sporadic counterbattery fire on our positions about 0530. This latter continued for about two hours and then the Germans launched a determined attack all along the Division front. No casualties were suffered in this unit from enemy shellfire at that time, but communications were continually being disrupted.

During the next 24 hours the Germans moved up and attacked with very heavy forces, including tanks, infantry and artillery. Considerable horse drawn artillery was also seen in this area. The Bn fired 2622 rounds of HE during that time in support of the infantry and could have fired more of it if it had been available. Late in the afternoon of 16 Dec the 1st Bn 424th Inf was committed at Winter-spelt to fill a gap caused by the overrunning of the Inf Cannon Co and the Div Recon Troops. Capt Edward A Chateaneuf, the liaison officer with the 1st Bn, Pvt Harold R Schnerfinger, his wire man, Lt John D MacKinnon, the forward observer and two men from his section, Cpl Harold B Walker and Pvt Frank Carey were reported missing in action during this operation. While the CT awaited assistance from the 9th Armd Div advancing south from St Vith and held doggedly to its position along the 2nd and 3rd Bn fronts, the enemy succeeded in driving the 1st Bn from Winter-spelt in a savage, costly attack by tanks and infantry. With the loss of Winterspelt the only good route for withdrawal was lost. Div Arty relinquished control of the 591st FA Bn to Col Reed, commanding the 424th Inf. Col Reed, still counting on support from the 9th Armd Div, decided to hold his position and the Bn remained in support. Fighting continued throughout the night and considerable enemy patrol activity was encountered on our north flank and to the rear. The following day, 17th Dec, the situation remained critical and the 9th Armd Div made no headway. During the day some of the forward observers with the 2nd and 3rd Bns were cut off but managed to withdraw back into our lines. In spite of their inexperience, all FO's displayed a marked courage and coolness under fire and did a superb job. 1st Lt James J Kelly, FO of C Btry, was cut off twice. The first time he was rescued in a counter-attack by our infantry and 193 prisoners were taken in and around the battered house in which he was situated. The second time he managed to crawl back to safety under cover of darkness. 1st Lts Herbert A Pihl, John H Stauff, Peter F Fleischmann, Lawrence O Myers and **Bernard Rosenthal** and 2nd Lt William Nolan had similar experiences and in several instances during the day were compelled to defend the OP's with their pistols and carbines while conducting artillery fire on the attacking enemy. The infantry of the 424th Regt fought savagely and heroically, and a firm bond of mutual respect and confidence between them and their artillery was cemented in the cooperation and support that existed throughout the battle.

In the artillery Bn the critical item was ammunition. The main supply route had been cut off and the only alternate was a crosscountry route to Svc Btry at Burg Reuland. Due to the heavy mud this route was impassable to any but light vehicles. All day long ammunition for both the artillery and infantry was hauled over this route in jeeps. Just prior to the fall of Winterspelt the Bn Executive, Maj Carl H Wohlfeil, managed to get a detail of three trucks back to Elcerath to get the ammunition left there by the Inf Cannon Co. This ammunition was used by the artillery batteries. About this time, too, Pvt Bill T Ervin, B Btry, driver of an ammunition truck displayed great courage and heroism in hauling a truckload of ammunition through enemy fire which knocked off the right front shock absorber and riddled the truck with holes.

Finally, about 1500, 17 Dec, Col Reid decided that the situation was no longer tenable. The enemy was pouring into the gap at Winterspelt and the 112th Inf Regt of the 28th Inf Div on the right flank was being

hard pressed and falling back. He gave the order to evacuate as soon as darkness closed in. Lt Col Hoover called in the BC's of Hq, A, and B Btries, 1st Lt Bernard L Lockridge, Capt Arthur W Corcoran, and Capt Robert A Likins respectively, explained the situation and showed them the proposed route of withdrawal. This route led back to within 300 yards of the then known front lines and then proceeded northward to Berg Reuland. He then left with Capt Wetherill, the liaison officer from the reinforcing 965th FA Bn, who had been over the route, the S-3, and a route-marking party. The remainder of the Bn under the Bn Exec followed about a half hour later. During the march the route was under sporadic nebelwerfer fire. About 1900 the infantry withdrew on a compass of 270. At approximately 2330 the Bn was reunited at Burg Reuland and proceeded to Grufflingen where the batteries were put into position. Except for three vehicles and some personal equipment abandoned at Heckhalenfeld, the Bn remained intact and no casualties were suffered. C Btry abandoned one truck and howitzer at Stefeshausen but returned the next day, 18 Dec, and retrieved the howitzer. The truck had been burned.

At Grufflingen the Bn again rendered direct support to the 424th Inf which had taken up a defensive position along the high ground between Bracht and Gurg Reuland. The Bn Commander adopted one platoon of the Inf Cannon Co which had managed to escape and employed it as a forth battery. This platoon remained attached to the Bn for the following two days and, under Lt Beudingen, the Cn Co exec did a magnificent job.

While in position at Gruffligen, all Btries of the Bn were continually under enemy artillery fire and two linemen, Pvt Richard D Savage and Pvt John R Panizza, both of Hq Btry, were wounded. The Bn Cmdr decided to displace Braunlauf and this was accomplished the night of 21 Dec. That night the enemy again broke through at St Vith, thereby threatening our flank and rear once more. The Bn received orders to withdraw to the vicinity of Commastern the following day. During the occupation of Braunlauf the Bn continued to receive hostile artillery fire but no casualties occurred.

At daybreak 22 Dec the Bn Cmdr with the S-3 led the Bn less C Btry to the new positions in the vicinity of Commastern. The Bn Exec with a section of the FDC was left behind with C Btry to give the infantry artillery support until such time as the infantry withdrew. Visibility was limited to approximately 50 yards and radio communication with the front was very poor--only one FO was in the net. No missions were fired for almost three hours and finally the FO reported that the infantry was moving to the rear. C Btry fired an unobserved mission to the front of the infantry to cover its withdrawal and then, having received permission by radio from the Bn Cmdr, executed march order and proceeded to its position at Commastern.

The Bn remained in this position, attached to the 7th Armd Div, and continued to support the 424th Inf until the morning of 23rd Dec when a general withdrawal was ordered to the west of the Salm River. At 0800, 23 Dec, the Bn Cmdr and S-2 left to reconnoiter a rendezvous area in the vicinity of Ville, Belgium. The Bn, under the control of the Bn Exec, followed at 1130 crossing the river at Vielsalm. At about 1600, the Bn closed in Ville and were quartered in civilian homes. The next day, 24 Dec, was spent in reorganizing, cleaning equipment, and replacing supplies.

At 1900, 24 Dec, the Bn again moved to the vicinity of Chene-al-Pierre to go into action behind the 7th Armd Div. Since the position was exposed to a threatened enemy armored attack, positions were reconnoitered by the Bn Exec to the rear in the vicinity of Fays. These positions were occupied on the morning of 25 Dec with the Bn CP at Sodelheid.

Meanwhile the 424th Inf was again committed on the front of the 7th Armd Div and the Bn rendered them direct support. This situation continued until the 75th Inf Div relieved the 424th Inf about noon 28th Dec at which time the Bn again displaced to the vicinity of Chevron and was attached to the 82nd A/B Div with a mission of general support. In this position replacement supplies are being received daily and replacement personnel are on the way. By midnight, 31 Dec, the Bn had lost in 21 days of continuous action against the enemy 2 EM wounded; 2 officers and 3 EM missing in action; and 7 men evacuated sick or injured as non-battle casualties. No material was lost with the exception of one howitzer which B Btry was forced to abandon and destroy in the general withdrawal on 23 Dec. This howitzer has since been replaced and the Bn continues to perform its mission at 100% efficiency.

THE BULGE: A REMEMBRANCE

[Article by Lt.Col. ALBERT N. GARLAND, 84TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 334TH INFANTRY, COMPANY L. The article appeared in the November-December, 1993, issue of *INFANTRY*.]

On the morning of 20 December 1944, I was a first lieutenant commanding Company L, 334th Infantry Regiment, 84th Infantry Division. For the past month we had been in almost continuous action as part of the U.S. XIII Corps, Ninth U.S. Army, in and around the North German towns of Prummern, Beeck, Wurm, and Lindern. (For part of that month, we were under the operational control of the British XXX Corps, then commanded by Lieutenant General Brian Horrocks.) Our primary objective from the beginning was the Roer River, and we were getting close to it despite strong German resistance and miserable weather conditions.

I had been told the previous evening that our battalion—the 3d Battalion—was being pulled out of the lines for a short stay at the division's rest center at Eygelshoven, a small Dutch town that lay just across the border some 10 or 12 miles from our present location. I had also been told that my mess crew and its equipment was going there right after it had delivered a hot breakfast on the 20th, and that I could expect a number of two-and-a-half-ton trucks to reach me shortly after the mess crew departed. These trucks would take my company to Eygelshoven, at which time I would release them to their parent unit. (If I remember correctly, these trucks belonged to a Quartermaster truck company, one of several such units then supporting the division.)

My mess crew arrived with our hot breakfast early on 20 December and left about an hour later. The mess sergeant and I talked about his going to Eygelshoven, and he promised he would have a good meal ready for us when we got there about noon.

At about 0900 the trucks arrived and I soon had the company loaded and ready to go. As we pulled out to become part of the battalion's convoy, my soldiers were in good spirits, thinking ahead to several days in warm, dry billets among a civilian populace that really seemed to care for them.

We did not reach Eygelshoven that morning. (We did get there eventually, but much later—February 1945.) I did not know at the time, but shortly after we started out the battalion commander received orders to head for Aachen, which lay in the opposite direction.

When we reached Aachen we were told we were going to Belgium, but where in Belgium no one seemed to know. Why we were going was another unanswered question. My main concern was for my mess crew: I kept wondering if the mess sergeant had been told about the change in plans, and whether would ever see my cooks again.

I don't think anyone in the convoy that day had any idea of the extent of the German breakthrough, or what steps were being taken to counter it. (We found out much later that we had followed the 7th Armored Division, another Ninth Army unit, to Belgium. We did run across some of that division's rear echelon units, but never encountered any of its combat elements.)

We paused for a short break in Liege, where I had to turn over to the MPs a truckload of my soldiers who were designed to serve as guides along the way to our final destination. We still did not know where that was, and I screamed and hollered about giving up my soldiers, but lost the argument. With the way things were going, and with so little information, I feared I would never see those men again—the same fear I had about my mess crew. (The soldiers did get to me in the next few days, seemingly none the worse for their experiences.)

From Liege we headed almost due south and reached the town of Marche early in the evening. (It seems to me that we traveled almost 130 miles.) We were ordered off the trucks and into defensive positions on the outskirts of town. We had no maps of the area, we did not know where the Germans were, and we did not know what we were expected to do. We knew there were other U.S. units around but did not know where they were. A 7th Armored Division aid station was just closing down and leaving, but the medical personnel could tell us little about the situation.

Two days later my company was defending a three-mile front that ran from one small Belgian town—Marenne—to another equally small one—Menil. We weren't sure who was on our left, but a sister program was on our right, across a small valley, in the town of Verdenne. It, too, had a wide front to defend.

I kept one platoon in town with me, plus a platoon of tank destroyers

that had been sent up by someone in the rear. My other two rifle platoons occupied strong points along a wooded ridge that ran almost to Menil. They used foot patrols to keep in touch with each other, with me, and eventually with a U.S. unit that appeared in Menil. We also had wire communications with each other, but we could communicate with battalion headquarters only by radio.

We did know we had one heck of a lot of artillery in support and were told to call for it on the slightest German provocation. That we did, in a big way, even when one German force broke through the Verdenne defenders and circled to our rear. There it stayed in a wooded area about 1,000 yards away until the day after Christmas. Actually, that German unit's advance had been halted by our battalion's reserve company and by other companies from the regiment that had been fed into the fight. The only thing we knew for certain, however, was that we were to stay where we were as long as we could.

We received a welcome surprise early on 26 December when our mess crew arrived with a Christmas dinner, which featured turkey and all the trimmings. (Well, almost all of them!) My mess sergeant told me he had been trying to get in touch with me for several days, but had not been able to do so. He had finally found a back road into Marenne that skirted the German force in our rear, and had received permission from battalion to try to get to us with some hot food. He and his crew were a most welcome sight, and the platoon carrying parties were soon on their way to pick up their share of the food.

Unfortunately, before we could distribute the food, and before the carrying parties arrived, I was told by the leader of the platoon I had kept in town that the German force that had been in our rear was coming in our direction, down the valley between Marenne and Verdenne. It was still early in the morning, and he told me that while he could not make out the German vehicles, he was sure—from the sound of their engines and the noise their tracks were making—that they were headed for our town.

I instructed him to pull his "daisy chains" (antitank mines tied together) across the street (there was only one in town), and I alerted the tank destroyer platoon leader to get his vehicles cranked up to take on the approaching German armor. From what information I had, I assumed we still had some time before the Germans came in. It was a sizable force headed our way. I knew because we had been dueling with those people for the past several days.

I was sadly mistaken about how much time we had; I had no sooner finished talking with the tank destroyer commander than the lead German vehicles were coming down the street. Apparently, my platoon had not been able to place its mines across the roadway, and the tank destroyers were now practically helpless, since each was in a separate building and not prepared to fight.

Our few bazooka rounds bounced harmlessly off the side of the lead German tank, which was a monster, so I did the only thing I could: I called for an artillery concentration right on top of us. Fortunately, we had plotted just such a concentration, thinking we might need it at a future date. I had some difficulty convincing the artillery liaison officer at battalion headquarters that I knew what I was doing, but he finally approved the shoot.

I managed to get word to my other two platoons as to what was happening in Marenne, and told the farthest one out to alert the U.S. unit it had made contact with in Menil. I ordered the nearest one to take positions on the west edge of town where it might pick off any German stragglers, but I warned the platoon leader about the concentration that was about to come in. Those of us still in town headed for cellars.

I don't know how many artillery battalions fired that concentration for us, but there must have been quite a few. Any German soldiers and vehicles that did not see their end in Marenne fled the town, only to be mopped up by my two platoons and the unit in Menil. Unfortunately, I think we took the second stories off most of the houses in Marenne and deposited them in the street.

But I came up out of my cellar grinning from ear to ear and very happy to be alive. So were the few men I still had with me, including the mess crew, none of whom had ever been through anything like this. To our sorrow, though, we saw that a German tank had flattened the trailer that held our Christmas meal.

My company was relieved several days later, and we moved to a reserve position, strangely enough in what was left of Verdenne, the town just across the valley, although it took us several days and lots of walking in what seemed to be circles to get there.

Still later, beginning on 3 January 1945 in a driving blizzard, our battalion was committed as part of a large U.S. counterattacking force

(Continued on Page 29)

Hunt intensifies for murder suspect

By SUSAN RUIZ
Of The Morning Call

Lehigh Valley Crime Stoppers has made the 5-year-old case of Carl Daub the focus of its attention this week, seeking clues to the whereabouts of the war hero turned murder suspect. Coverage on TV's "America's Most Wanted" and intense police investigation have failed to lead police to Daub, who is accused in the 1988 slaying of his wife in Whitehall Township.

Crimestoppers is offering up to \$1,000 for information that results in Daub's arrest. Callers can remain anonymous and should call 1-800-426-TIPS.

On May 31, 1988, Daub 64 years old at the time, struck and killed his wife, Myra, with a claw hammer in their home, police charged.

When their son, Scott, arrived at the 3rd Street home about 5 p.m., he noticed the front door was open. He thought his father had left it open, because he "hadn't been acting right" lately.

Scott Daub walked upstairs and found his father hunched over, hyperventilating. Scott asked his father if he was all right.

"Your mom's in the kitchen. She wants to talk to you," Carl Daub responded.

"I really didn't look at him that closely," Scott Daub told The Morning Call a month afterward. "I just walked by him and into the kitchen; he hit me on the right side of my head with a hammer. I felt a dull thud and fell on my knees. I saw my mom for a split second and she appeared to be dead."

Scott Daub shook off the blow and fought with his father over the hammer.

"He had a cold, blank, angry look in his eyes," Scott Daub said.

After throwing his father down on the floor, Scott Daub grabbed the hammer, ran across the street to a bar and asked the patrons to call police.

The owner of the bar, Joseph Clark, told police he saw Carl Daub drive away and tried to follow him but lost him in traffic.

The cause of Myra Daub's death was listed as blunt force injury to the head. Scott Daub was treated for head injuries.

Police believe Carl Daub survived an automobile accident on Route 191 on Bangor Mountain, and disappeared.

Whitehall Detective Gerald Procanyn said Carl Daub sightings in the Stroudsburg area and across the country suggest that Daub is alive.

Daub would be almost 70 years old today, and may have Alzheimer's disease. A Veterans Administration doctor diagnosed him with the disease before the slaying, but family members did not agree with the diagnosis.

A factor in this case is Carl Daub's military experience, Procanyn said Daub was one of six survivors of the Malmédy massacre during the Battle of the Bulge in World War II. He was among 250 U.S. soldiers rounded up in a field, where a German officer began shooting them. When all the Americans were ordered to be shot, they jumped into a pile and Carl Daub pretended to be dead. Procanyn said Daub told others to pretend the same thing.

Daub directed survivors to run and drop among corpses whenever they were shot at, eventually running three miles to safety, Procanyn said. Some of his comrades believe they owe their lives to Daub.

Procanyn said he believes Daub caught a ride with somebody and traveled along Interstate 80, explaining why some of the "America's Most Wanted" viewers reported significant sightings in Arizona, Wyoming and Colorado.

Procanyn said it is his opinion that Carl Daub is alive and living with someone he knew through the service.

Procanyn, the chief investigator on the crime, rejects the idea that Daub is dead because no evidence of his death has been unearthed over the years. The region near where the car was abandoned after the accident is heavily traveled by hunters, who would have turned up something if it was out there, Procanyn said.

THE BULGE: A REMEMBRANCE

(Continued from Page 28)

(the VII Corps) to close the bulge the Germans had driven in our lines. (Three days later, I was lying in a roadside ditch trying to hide from the effects of a German artillery bombardment that was shredding the tops of the trees that bordered the ditch and covered the surrounding hills and valleys. My radio operator, just behind me, tugged on one of my boots. When I turned toward him, he motioned that I had a call on the radio, which was on the battalion command net. I inched back to him, reached for the mike, and gave my call sign. Our battalion S-1 was on the other end. He said he just wanted to let me know that Headquarters First Army had just approved a battlefield promotion to captain for me, effective 4 January. Rather sarcastically, I suppose, I accepted the news, which was the last thing I needed to hear at the time, and asked him to get me a set of captain's bars for when and if I ever got out of that ditch alive!)

We took part in the rest of the so-called Battle of the Bulge and ended our stint in Belgium in late January in the small town of Beho. (I don't remember when I got my bars.)

In early February, we finally made it to Eygelshoven and those warm, dry billets. And for those of us who were left—there weren't many—it was good to be home.

[Albert N. Garland served as editor of INFANTRY before his retirement from the Army in 1968 and again as a civilian from 1983 to 1992. During an earlier assignment to the U.S. Army Center of Military History, he co-authored Sicily and the Surrender of Italy, a volume in the Army's official World War II series. He edited several other military books, including Infantry in Vietnam.]

THEY START YOUNG

[Source: 2nd Armored Division-thru XVI Corps based on research by John D. Bowen in the National Archives Suitland Branch US Army Unit Records.]

Twenty-eight Hitler Jugend members, 13 to 18 years old, were apprehended during the night 26-27 April in general area (05060) by 17th Engineer Battalion through information gained from civilian sources. The Hitler Jugend were well armed with pistols, were banded together and contemplated sabotage. These would-be-saboteurs are being tried by Military Government.

Past President Hemphill, 80, is taking his 24yr old granddaughter on the VBOB/Galaxie Tour in October. How about some of you young fellows coming along to chaperone? Bill, you never did say, is it to chaperone you or the granddaughter?

Meet me in St. Louie, Louie!!



Dixon Poole, National Quartermaster
Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge

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VALLEY FORGE--A FITTING PLACE FOR THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE MEMORIAL

[The following edited article was submitted by JOHN H. HILL, II, 99TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 394TH INFANTRY, COMPANY I]

...Valley Forge was selected for this great honor because it is where the American Army held on in the winter of 1777 to assure our country of freedom finally won at Yorktown in 1780. ...many who graduated from the academy served in the Bulge with distinction.

[Among them was] Eric Fisher Wood, Jr., Class of 1937, [who] was recommended for the Congressional Medal of Honor in that battle.

He lost his life after mortal combat with eight German soldiers who he managed to kill before his ammunition was exhausted. For 22 days he fought alone in the Ardennes Forest killing and disrupting combat operations of 'Sepp' Dietrich's 6th SS Panzer Army. Eric gained the title of 'Robin Hood' with the Belgian folks who fed and sheltered him during his lone combat.

There is no record of how many he killed or wounded during his month behind enemy lines, but, when the American graves registration team arrived at the place of his death, they found his body, with his empty pistol in his hand. There were no foot steps in the snow leading to his body and his wallet contained nearly 4,000 francs. He had killed his enemy without being looted by them, and his last round of ammunition killed that last foe as he himself died.

...When his last day of battle (January 22, 1945) arrived he had died much like the "professional soldier" in General Patton's quotation: "The proper end for the professional soldier is a quick death inflicted by the last bullet of the last battle."

Every December the Bulge veterans remember, "Bastogne, the Losheim Gap, Elsonborn Ridge, St. Vith, Hoffen, and the little Town of Mayrode where the people of that town have erected a monument along the woodmen's trail in honor of 1st Lieutenant Wood's last heroic stand against tyranny. All Americans may be justly proud of what these Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge did in 1944 as they are proud of General Washington's little army encamped at Valley Forge in the bitter cold winter of 1777. Both fought for freedom and a just way of life.

As the words in the last stanza of the [Valley Forge] academy's 'Alma Mater' proclaim:

"When our last taps are played
May thou not be dismayed.
We pray as once he prayed,
Valley Forge for thee."

Battle of The Bulge Historians Attend Ceremony

Among the attendees at the December 16, 1993 Wreath Laying Ceremony, Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers, Arlington National Cemetery were those who are actively involved in gathering and preserving the written materials for the Battle of the Bulge Collection, U.S. Army Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.



From right to left: Colonel Thomas W. Sweeney, Ret. former Director of the Institute and instrumental in establishing the Battle of the Bulge Collection; Colonel Stephen L. Bowman, Director of the Institute; Dorothy S. Davis, Executive Officer, Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation; General William A. Knowlton, Military Historian, and Warrent Officer Bruno Jaurissen, Office of Military Attachee, Embassy of Belgium.

Photo by Sam Silverman

ANOTHER CHALLENGE FOR VBOB MEMBERS

George Linthicum (26th ID Recon), chairman of the Battle of the Bulge Memorial Monument Committee, reports that the fund-raising effort for the monument to be built near Valley Forge, Pa., has received a challenge-matching grant to spur support for the project.

Benjamin I. Twigg (75th ID, VBOB member) who has contributed generously to the fund, now is offering to donate a grant of \$5,000 to match the next five thousand dollars contributed to the project.

"This is too good an opportunity to miss" Linthicum said, and encouraged VBOB members to help match Twigg's generous offer. You can help win this battle by sending your tax-exempt contribution to George Linthicum, VBOB Monument Fund, 2605 Orchard Drive, Broomall PA 19008. Or call for more information: 1-610-356-9552

We repeat, this is a VBOB volunteer project, with no outside fund-raisers involved. All contributions go directly to the monument fund.



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