

The BULGE BUGLE

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

VOLUME XIV NUMBER 1

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

FEBRUARY 1995

2000 Attend VBOB 50th Anniversary Commemoration



ANNIVERSARY BANQUET: In the forefront is Head Table where Prince Henri of Luxembourg and Prince Philippe of Belgium along with Secretary of Defense Dr. and Mrs William Perry, VBOB President William Tayman and his daughter Bonnie Powell, Past Presidents, Robert Van Houten and his wife Beverley, George Chekan, William Greenville and his wife Mudge, Darrell Kuhn and his wife Kitty and William Hemphill. The hotel informed us this was one of the few occasions when the Grand Ballroom was filled.

After more than 2 1/2 years of planning, the Battle of the Bulge 50th Anniversary Commemoration in St. Louis, Missouri, December 15 - 18, is now a memory that will be long remembered. There were approximately 2000 participants from all over the U.S., along with delegations from Belgium and Luxembourg. From the Opening Reception on December 15th, to the Sunday morning Religious Services held in hotel meeting rooms and the nearby Old Cathedral, there were many comments of praise and sincere appreciation by attendees.

To honor and express the gratitude of their people for their nations freedom, liberty, and to say "We will never forget what you did 50 years ago" were:

- * His Royal Highness Prince HENRI of Luxembourg
- * His Royal Highness Prince PHILIPPE of Belgium
- * His Excellency Alphonse Berns, Ambassador of Luxembourg
- * His Excellency Andre Adam, Ambassador of Belgium

Senior Government Official Participants from our Nation were:

- * The Secretary Of Defense,
The Honorable William J. Perry

(Continued on Page 7)

14th ANNUAL
VBOB
CONVENTION

MARK YOUR CALENDAR...

**SEE YOU IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
SEPT. 3 - 6, 1995**

(Complete details in next issue)

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



All of those attending the National 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of the Bulge in St. Louis, Missouri, December 15-18, 1994, should give Bill Tayman, our Immediate Past President and Chairman of the 50th Anniversary Observances, a **great big hand of appreciation** for a job well done. He certainly did an outstanding job considering the multitude of details he handled so very well.

Bill's thoroughness to every detail resulted in an occasion that will long be remembered by every one in attendance.

The Gateway Chapter, led by their President Kent Stephens, proved to be well up to the job of hosting approximately 2,000 guests in their lovely city. They were most hospitable and right on the spot to handle any and all details encountered. **Our sincerest thanks** for all their efforts.

Words cannot express the gratitude we feel for those involved in the accomplishment of this huge undertaking.

I wish to thank all of those who have entrusted me to keep the organization moving down the "Rocky Road" until the next election. I promise to make every effort to at least equal the many accomplishments of my predecessors. With your help, we can make this a very big year for VBOB.

I'm looking forward to continued growth in VBOB--now that the news media has acknowledged the fact that we exist. I challenge each of you to recommend a new member each month.

Further, I'm looking forward to the formation of many new chapters. There should be one in each Congressional District. We at Headquarters will help. You ask us for the help and we will assist in any way that we can. I believe that you will find that with our assistance the job will be something you will be able to accomplish. We've made it rather easy for you--but we need you to help us.

Lastly! We are looking forward to our "Victories Convention" in early September 1995. So mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Have a great New Year.

Grover C. Twiner

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Official Commemorative Video Celebrating the Dedication of the **BATTLE OF THE BULGE** National Monument



Commissioned by the Delaware Valley Chapter of Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, this commemorative video highlights the dedication of the Battle of the Bulge National Monument.

Celebrated at the Valley Forge Military Academy and College on November 12, 1994, this historic event features dramatic speeches by prominent dignitaries. Witness this special dedication honoring all who served in the greatest battle ever fought by American Forces and ever famous American victory.

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Recently Found Dog Tag

The letter started out:

Mr. President, two days ago I received a "dog tag" that was found in a village 3 miles East of Houffalize. The young man who discovered it in a field close to his house asked me to try to find the owner if possible.

Signed: L. Nollomont

Office of the Mayor of Houffalize, Belgium

Upon receipt of this letter from Belgium I telephoned my long time friend and 87th associate who has a pair of CD-ROM discs (his expense) which have over 70 million names, residential addresses and telephone numbers. He was able to give me the man's address and phone number. I then telephoned the man who lives in Rochester, Minnesota to engage in conversation to be certain we had located the correct WWII serviceman. He was, and was very surprised. I asked him his serial number which was identical to the dog tag. His last comment was, "I can't believe this would have been found 50 years later." I sent him copies of letter from Belgium and my letter to them.

A BEAUTIFUL OFFER: if you are looking for a lost buddy, write JIM AMOR, P.O. BOX 4092, LONG ISLAND CITY, NY 11104. Send him the name or names along with a self addressed stamped, business envelope.

Submitted by William P. Tayman, Past VBOB President

LET US KNOW... PLEASE

Every returned newsletter costs us... so, if you will let us know of your moving plans it will save us money.

If you move South for the winter, you need to let us know. You also need to let us know when you and the robins head North again.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ANOTHER 'BASTARD BATTALION' SPEAKS UP

It is true that so many of the "unattached/unassigned, (Bastard Battalions) never have received their "just due," recognition. These units would be assigned to divisional components on an "as-needed" basis--and often did make a difference in a battle--and after the battle, would be shifted or "rushed" over to another area to assist another divisional component requiring assistance--never any recognition of these "support units," by the media, historians or story tellers.

With your kind permission I would like to "blow my horn" (bugle) for my unit--another "Bastard Battalion"--the 955th Field Artillery Battalion.

The 955th landed at Omaha Beach on D-Day plus 10 and travelled through Europe (earning five battle stars) and ended up in Czechoslovakia at war's end. During this period we were assigned to the 1st and 3rd Armies, the V and VIII Corps and the following divisions: 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 9th, 26th, 28th, 69th, 78th, 79th, 90th, 99th and the 106th. We were also assigned to the following armored divisions: 5th, 7th, 9th and the 2nd Free French Armored Division.

Portion of commendation by Commanding Colonel J.F.R. Seitz: "From the 19th through 22nd December, 1944, the enemy launched repeated, heavy, coordinated, attacks against the 26th Infantry Regiment denying him this vital route. Infantry and armor were attached against the hastily dug in infantry defenses with prodigal and fanatic ferocity. As the infantry regimental commander, I have no hesitation in stating that this position could not have been held save for the intense, unstinting, and accurate fire support rendered by the artillery. The 955th Field Artillery Battalion (155 How.) particularly distinguished itself by its accurate gunnery and the punishing volume of fire it laid down over a long period. All in all, during 4 days of critical combat the battalion fired a total of 5096 rounds (242 tons of projectiles) in support of the regiment, a feat made possible only through the herculean efforts and devotion to every echelon from ammunition train drivers to the personnel of the Fire Direction Center."

Article which appeared in Stars and Stripes: "With V Corps--Men in the 955th FA Bn. have been setting records so fast that it takes a full time clerk to keep track of them. During a minute and 45 seconds every 155 howitzer in the outfit fired an average of 15 rounds, one round per gun every seven seconds. B Battery, Commanded by Capt. C. Morgan, Jr. of Lovett, Alabama, put out 300 rounds in 30 minutes to top the battalion. Three hundred pounds amounts to 15 tons of HE. At one time during the Bulge, A Battery, commanded by Capt. Joseph H. B. Edwards of Cambridge, Massachusetts, fired 45 tons of HE--900 rounds--during one 12 hour period using only 3 guns."

Stephen J. Bednarz
955 FA BN

ROUND DOG TAGS

...my first tags were round with my name and number on them like the ones that they had in WWI. Then when WWII broke out, they gave us new tags. Mine had the notch with my name and my dad's name and address on it. Then they gave the ones like that [were described in the recent article] when I went overseas. We never get too old to learn, it just gets harder.

Milton M. "Pappy" Conner
106 INF 592 FA BN

NON-REFUNDABLE TICKET?

Ref. November 1994 *Bulge Bugle*:

So Patton's European tour was so successful because the Germans "Let them"? As I remember they had damn well better because the estimable general had a non-refundable ticket!

Actually--ask anyone who was there--those Krauts were pretty nice people.

You know those fearsome 88's we've heard so much about? I have it on good authority that they were only fired off to celebrate the 4th of July. Hoo-boy!

Robert W. Shaw
654 ENGR TOPO BN HQ

WHERE'S THE 9TH ARMORED DIVISION?

I have been a member several years now.... I am disgusted that *The Bulge Bugle* never once mentioned the 9th Armored Division, 52nd Armored Infantry Battalion, Company A. We lost nearly our whole company.... [Our unit fought like hell with our Captain George Larson, Colonel Booth and our 1st Sergeant Tom Wright and died and I hope not in vain.] Please put this letter and a request for more in *The Bulge Bugle*.

Donald Owen Dore
9 ARMDD 52 AIB A

SCHUMANN LIBERATION MEMORIAL

The November edition had an article with illustration on page 6.... I would like to make the following clarifications.

The correct name of the memorial which was dedicated on 11 June 1994 at "Schumanns Eck," is National Liberation Memorial since it is dedicated to the Allied Forces engaged in Luxembourg 1994-45. These are listed in the official publications as follows: US Inf Div: 4, 5, 8, 26, 28, 35, 76, 80, 83, 87 and 90th; US Armored divisions: 4, 5, 6, 9, and 10th; US Airborne division: 17th; US Cavalry Groups: 2, 3, and 6th; and US Army Air Force and Royal Air Force.

The plaques attached to the memorial specify the four units which fought in the Schumann Eck area: 28th, 26th, 90th and 6th Cavalry Group. The memorial plaque, in four languages, reads as follows:

TO THE HONOR AND IN MEMORY
OF OUR ALLIED LIBERATORS
AND ALL THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED
TO RESTORE LIBERTY AND JUSTICE.

William Leeseemann, Jr.
26 INF 101 ENGR CMBT BN

AMBULANCE STIRS MEMORIES

...November issue of *The Bulge Bugle*...on page 18, a photograph of an American ambulance that had been hit by a German plane near a village in Luxembourg. You noted that the "driver and patients perished." What terrible memories this picture brought back to me.

I was a patient in an ambulance immediately following the one you showed. I was being evacuated from the front to a hospital in the rear. When our driver stopped, we got a first-hand look at the horrible, horrible sight of the burning vehicle. Your notation was correct. The ambulance indeed had unmistakable Red Cross markings. This incident gave clear testimony of the viciousness of our enemy.

Among the patients in my ambulance was a rather young German prisoner. His manhood had been shot off the night before. He was crying, moaning, and letting everyone know how miserable he was.

(Continued on Page 5)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR *(Continued from Page 4)*

(God, did he have a sickening smell, and not from his wound either). To tell the truth, at that moment we Americans were not very sympathetic with him. In fact, it was all we could do to restrain ourselves from finishing him off. In the years since then I sometimes forget what hellish happenings occur in wartime, but such things as that picture and the "Memorable Bulge Incidents" recalled by veterans bring it all to mind."

William B. Hornback
5 INFD 10 INF A

MORE ON 'NUTS'D AGAIN'

John Durba's "Nuts'd Again" reflects a reaction that must be common to most veterans of the Battle of the Bulge; namely, the popular identification of Bastogne with the entire Battle. The Ardennes Campaign has gotten a great deal of publicity in this 50th anniversary year, and all of it that I have seen suffered from this disability. No one denies the heroism and spirit of the men of the 10th Armored and 101st Airborne Divisions who withstood the siege and defied the German order to surrender, for which they are justly honored. Paratroops and General Patton attracted newsmen and photographers; thus, there are few photos or newsreels, other than Bastogne, to include in the TV shows being produced for this important anniversary.

Bastogne was a symbol that gave a much needed boost to American morale and a blow to German morale at the time, but history has revealed that it was not the most significant battle of the campaign. We now know that the Germans never intended to seize Bastogne and didn't care much until U.S. defiance turned it into a prestige issue. Since the main German effort in the north had been stymied on the Elsenborn Ridge and at St. Vith, German units became available for the vain attempt to eliminate the annoyance at Bastogne. Durba's letter offers an impressive array of authorities to establish that the defense of St. Vith was more important to the outcome, but those writings and the rest of postwar history have had no noticeable impact on the public and media image that Bastogne turned the tide of the Battle.

Durba also rightly points out that veterans of the Battle tend to look at it from the perspective of their own experience. In that connection, I would add that the 7th Armored Division constituted about one-half of the defenders of St. Vith. Also there from the first day until ordered to withdraw by General Ridgway and Field Marshal Montgomery were one regiment each from the 106th and 28th Infantry and 9th Armored Divisions, plus attached artillery and other support troops.

Jack Sulser
106 INFD

WHERE'S THE 99TH DIVISION

I have read every *Bulge Bugle* through and I have never seen the 99th Infantry Division mentioned in any of your writings.

[Surely, we have mentioned the 99th, but we don't keep a catalog of our articles so I can't tell you when. Nevertheless, we are trying to locate space for the picture you sent--hope it makes it in this issue.]

Herman A. Sims
99 INFD

BATTLE OF THE BULGE MONUMENT REMEMBRANCE

On the morning of December 16th, this year, I drove from my home in New York State to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, for the purpose of seeing the recently dedicated Battle of the Bulge

Monument at the Valley Forge Military Academy. Its simple beauty touched me deeply. I had hoped that some other vets might be there, but none were in evidence.

However, at mid-morning a squad of cadets arrived at the site, where they conducted a little memorial ceremony, concluding with the cadets standing quietly for several minutes of silent prayer.

This was not done for my benefit or for the benefit of other visitors, because none were present. But the corps of cadets apparently do not intend to let December 16 go by without remembering what was done by a bunch of outnumbered GI's in the Ardennes one winter long ago.

I hope some of us will arrange to be present every year on the 16th--to observe the day, lay a wreath, say a prayer, greet each other, or just remember and respect our comrades.

If any were not there this year, remember it next year. And anyone who has never seen the memorial at the Valley Forge Military Academy should not miss the opportunity to do so.

Duncan T. Trueman
106 INFD 424 AT

CLARIFICATION ON RECENT ARTICLES

...Mitchell Kaidy made such strong statements about the paper by Blaine Friedlander in the May 1994 issue that I had to reread the article.

I could not find any statements by Friedlander that the Battle of the Bulge was decided before it began. Friedlander did make inferences about the battle that would be difficult to defend.

I did find it humorous that Friedlander thought it necessary to include the fact that he saw the movie about the battle as part of his qualifications for writing the article. To me that is a statement on a par with President Clinton saying he did not inhale marijuana smoke thus he was qualified to be president.

Some of the statements Friedlander made that need clarification:

1. "World War II was over, its outcome was not in doubt." If the war was over it was over and there was no outcome left. He doesn't identify the time frame when he thought the war was over. While the "Queen of Battle may not have smiled on the individual soldiers and units in the Bulge, it did provide an opportunity for the Allies to knock out a lot of men and equipment in the attack mode rather than in the defense. In almost all cases it is more efficient to eliminate the enemy when they are in the attack than when in the defense. The Allies suffered an estimated 75,000 casualties in the Battle. How many would we have lost if the estimated 250,000 Germans involved in the Bulge had been dug in along the east bank of the Rhine? Thus overall the Queen of Battle may have smiled on the Allied forces by this turn of events. But I don't believe she smiled because the war was over.

2. "...the Germans lost the war on July 20, 1994." Is he inferring by this statement that had the bomb been successful in killing Hitler, Germany would have won the war?

3. "...the Germans made a counterattack in France, and lost their army in France." I participated in the battle at Mortain also and while we did destroy several armored divisions there and other Allied troops also destroyed considerable German equipment and troops the Allied high command allowed thousands of German troops to escape from the trap at Falaise leaving their equipment behind.

4. "...troops were spending the fall consolidating positions and awaiting resupply of troops." We weren't moving as fast as the rat race across France but there were large scale attacks through the Siegfried Line and towards the Roer River in the north. From what I've read there were considerable advances in the south also. At least the advances were much more than the one or two hedgerows a day that we made in Normandy. *(Continued on Page 6)*

5. "...that an attacking army should be three times the forces of an opposing army." I think Clauswitz stated the attacking force (not necessarily armies or total strength) should be three times the opposing force. Even though one's overall army is smaller this margin of forces can be obtained by concentrating one's forces on a small front. By using the word army in the Clauswitz definition and later on to describe the overall comparative size of the Allied and German armies opposing each other Friedlander confuses the issue and alienates those who were overwhelmed by a preponderance of forces. Also he seems to belittle those who fought the initial rush by emphasizing at least twice that the German divisions were at half strength. It makes little difference when 250,000 men attack 50,000 men whether they are in 10 full strength divisions or 20 half strength divisions. In fact there may be more maneuver capability with more divisions at lower strength.

6. "...The panic of the press was transferred to the public." I think not only the press panicked. I think some of the Allied commanders also panicked. I believe some of them did not have faith in the ability of the experienced combat divisions to stop the German forces. This was exhibited to me by the complete absence of rear echelon troops upon our arrival to the Malmedy area on December 18. Also panic in the high command was in evidence when the Army Air Corp bombed Malmedy on December 23, 24, 25, and 27. Rear headquarters had been well advised of our location and Malmedy was well identified by the "Cold Fire" panels on tops of buildings and equipment.

7. "...The civil rights movement began there...." I think this statement makes a conclusion with very little evidence. The fact that blacks served as combat troops is commendable. I doubt that this action contributed much to the civil rights movement let alone be the beginning of it.

In the November 1993 issue of *The Bugle*, Joe Doherty makes a strong statement about the legend that the "German attack failed because the Germans could not take Bastogne. I believe this statement was not to belittle the battle. But the fact the Germans could not and/or would not break through the northern flank of the Bulge reduced them to nothing more than a very large and dangerous raiding party. Once in the Ardennes and unable to move north there was very little of strategic importance for 60 miles (Meuse River). They used up their resources fighting for non-strategic areas. This says something about their battle planning and execution. They failed because they could not move north against the American troops at Elsenborn Ridge, Malmedy, Stavelot, Trois Pont or any of the other locations the Germans tried and failed to go north.

Richard Jepsen
30 INFD 120 INF D

DO YOU ENJOY THE STORIES IN THE "MEMORABLE BULGE INCIDENTS" COLUMN??

Would you like to have a collection of all that we have published through the November, 1994, issue? They are now available--printed on three-hole punched paper for you to put in to a loose-leaf notebook. Simply send your payment in the amount of \$15.00 to VBOB, PO Box 11129, Arlington, VA 22210. Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.

CERTIFICATE DELIVERY UP-DATE

Military training may have taught that there is "no excuse, sir," so we would like to offer this "explanation" for not having mailed your certificate more promptly. (We cannot possibly answer the number of inquiries that we have received regarding our failure to get these out promptly.)

First, the 50th Anniversary Commemoration took a great deal more time and thought than we had anticipated. It put us nearly three weeks behind in our regular work. The publicity regarding the meeting also generated many hundreds of letters asking for information about the meeting and the Battle of the Bulge. We were gone a week to the Commemoration, which meant that we were about five weeks behind when we returned.

Then, there were things that had to be done to wrap up the loose ends of the meeting details--resulting in probably another four or five days behind.

Then, we were over three weeks behind in processing dues payments and new membership applications. These had to be done before anything else.

Then, we had to answer some of the more important mail that had accumulated during the five week period mentioned. Hundreds of letters are received in a normal week.

Then, we had to get this issue of *The Bulge Bugle* ready for publication. Interest resulting from the meeting and publicity resulted in a deluge of "really good stuff" to be considered for this newsletter. All of this had to be read and decisions made on how to use as much of it as possible. If you submitted something and it was not used, we are sorry. There was so much information that it was very difficult to make the hard decisions necessary as to what information to use. We tried to use as much as possible.

Then, there were various details that had to be worked out with respect to the certificate itself--purchasing a printer and mailing tubes--ever conscious of trying to find the best price. There were over 800 orders for the certificate received right at meeting time and processing them is taking more time than anticipated.

Additionally, it was the holiday season and there are only two persons in the Headquarters Office to take care of these matters.

However, we are delighted to announce that the first batch of them has been mailed (the first 240 orders received) and the rest (of the 800) should be in the mails by the 20th of February (if not before).

So, if you have exercised patience in this matter, we thank you. If you are angry, we understand. We ask for your patience a little longer--we're getting them done and your order will be processed in the order in which it was received.

We're here to be of provide you with the best service that we can. We are always disappointed whenever we are unable to respond to you quickly. Getting this project accomplished has weighed heavily upon our minds.

Grover Twiner, VBOB President

(Continued from Page 1)

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE:
Dr. William Perry
was guest speaker
at Anniversary Banquet,
his humble words
of praise and the
Nations thanks to the
BoB Veterans for their
bravery and sacrifices
received a standing ovation.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
Chairman of the
Joint Chiefs of Staff US Army
General John Shalikashvili
thanks Battle of the Bulge
Veterans for their sacrifices
and dedication during WWII.



Pictorial Highlights

WWII - BATTLE OF THE BULGE
National Commemoration
of the 50th Anniversary
St. Louis, MO. - Dec. 15-18,1994



COMMEMORATION WATCH GIFT: Presenting Battle of the Bulge 50th Anniversary watches to H.R.H. Prince Phillipe of Belgium, H.R.H. Prince Henri of Luxembourg, Secretary of Defense William Perry, His Excellency Alphonse Berns Ambassador of Luxembourg, His Excellency Andre Adam Ambassador of Belgium, President William Tayman (back to the camera) gives watch to Monsignor William O'Donnell.



MEMORIAL SERVICE: The Great St. Louis Cathedral - The Belgium Symphonic Band play a musical prelude at the Ecumenical Memorial Service.



MEDAL PRESENTATION: His Royal Highness Prince Philippe of Belgium presents medals to VBOB President William Tayman, and Past Presidents Robert Van Houten, George Chekan, William Greenville, Darrell Kuhn, and William Hemphill.

Photos by Sam Silverman

50th Anniversary Commemoration

- * The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General John M. Shalikashvili
- * United States Postal Service, Deputy Postmaster General Michael Coughlin
- * Commander First US Army, Lt. General John P. Otjen
- * Commander in Chief, US Transportation Command from Scott Air Force Base, General Robert L. Rutherford
- * Commanding General 101st Airborne Division, Major General John M. Keane
- * Executive Director, 50th Anniversary of World War II Commemoration, General Claude Kicklighter

The Opening Reception was held in the Regal Riverfront Hotel's Grand Ballroom with an "overflow" room required. The "Gateway City Big Band" provided dinner music from 6: - 8: pm during the Buffet Dinner. At 8 pm the Master of Ceremonies, VBOB President Bill Tayman, gave a welcome message to the Veterans, their spouses, their families, and the honored guests. In the words of General Kicklighter "The Veterans are the VIPs." Bill then introduced the following honored guests whose messages paid tribute to every veteran present.

- * Lt. Governor Roger E. Wilson, of The State of Missouri
- * Mayor Freeman Bosley, of The City of St. Louis
- * Superintendent Roger Hill, of The Soldiers' Memorial Military Museum
- * Colonel Steve Bowman, Director US Army History Institute Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania
- * Deputy Postmaster General Michael Coughlin, of The United States Postal Service.
- * The Keynote Speaker: The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General John M. Shalikashvili

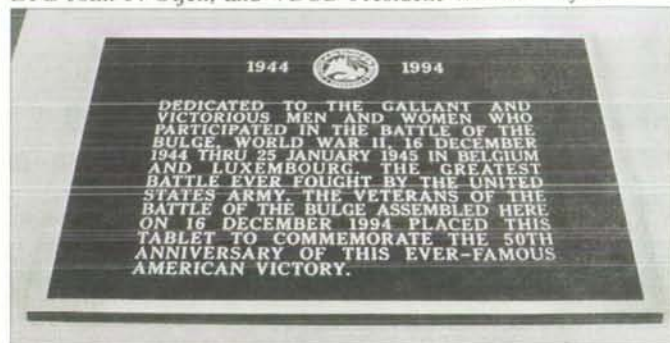
General Shalikashvili gave a very moving and heartfelt message of gratitude to the Veterans for their sacrifices and dedication to our Nation and the world 50 years ago. Before leaving he, along with his lovely wife Joan, visited many tables and the "overflow" room to speak to as many veterans as time would permit.

The evening was a wonderful occasion as the "Gateway City Big Band", under the Direction of Professor Bob Wagner of Meramec College, played the old favorites from the WWII era for dancing and listening pleasure.

On December 16th, there was to be a parade up Market Street, from Kiener Plaza to The Court of Honor, where a 50th Anniversary plaque was to be dedicated in an outdoor ceremony. Due to rain and the prediction of all day showers the parade was cancelled. Your Committee Chairman had more than one tear in his eye that morning as he, along with other committee members, were looking forward to the sound of two military bands, a 101st Airborne Division Battalion marching unit, paratroopers with flags and smoke markers to jump, landing in the street where the veterans would be reviewing the parade — the disappointment, however, was soon forgotten once the indoor contingency plan was set in motion.

The program started with the Belgian corps of 23 cavalry trumpeters presenting a musical prelude, followed by the three National Anthems played by bands from each nation. Special honors Medal was given to each VBOB past president by H.R.H. Prince Philippe. This was followed by H.R.H. Prince Henri, placing a Luxembourg Croix de Guerre World War II Flag Streamer on the VBOB Colors.

The keynote speaker for the plaque dedication was Lt. General John P. Otjen, Commanding General of the First US Army. He is an honored soldiers leader, who's depth of background knowledge of the Battle of the Bulge is truly outstanding. The Plaque was unveiled by H.R.H. Prince Henri, H.R.H. Prince Philippe, LTG John P. Otjen, and VBOB President William Tayman.



After taps, by 101st Airborne Silver Taps Bugler, everyone sang "God Bless America." Vocalist Steve Zacher from Nashville, Tennessee sang his song, the "Patriot."

Later in the day, the two wreaths were laid at the rain soaked Court of Honor Wall by Prince Henri, Prince Philippe, VBOB President Tayman and Past President Greenville. The Court of Honor Wall was dedicated on Memorial Day 1948. The names of 2,573 men from St. Louis who gave their lives in WWII are remembered here - of this number, 128 were killed in the Battle of the Bulge.

The services of 16 tour coaches were required to shuttle the participants to The Memorial Service at The Great Saint Louis Cathedral. The Great Symphonic Band of the Belgian Guides, under the leadership of Commander Norbert Nozy, provided a musical prelude for over half an hour before the service. The Cathedral is breathtaking with the magnificent mosaic art - the greatest collection of mosaic art in the entire world. The procession of the Colors and our 50 State Flags, the Cathedral Organist music, the Memorial messages by the Rev. Martinus E. Silseth, Rabbi Alvan D. Rubin, and Msgr. William F. O'Donnell, along with everyone joining in singing old favorites - "How Great Thou Art", "Amazing Grace", "Battle Hymn of the Republic", Taps from the cathedrals balcony by Bugler Stewart Boone, and the musical postlude by the Brass Quatuor of the Luxembourg Military Band all contributed to make this a memorial service one could never forget!

This evening a two hour musical tribute to the Veterans was given in the Grand Ballroom by The Symphonic Band of the Belgian Guides' Regiment. During the program, on behalf of his Father - Albert II, King of the Belgians, His Royal Highness Prince Philippe once again thanked the Veterans for their courage, valor and resolution to liberate Belgium from the yoke of oppression fifty years ago. "The gift of this musical program tonight is but a small token of the gratitude the Belgian people have for the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge." The band consisted of 85 selected musicians and 23 trumpeters under the leadership of Conductor Norbert Nozy. The evening of music, like the concert at Constitution Hall in Washington on December 14th, is truly difficult to describe, magnificent to say the least. One can listen to music of this quality and only wish for more. Many persons purchased the compact disc that was especially released as a tribute to the Veterans on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary.

50th Anniversary Commemoration

(Continued from Page 8)

Near the end of the program, VBOB President Bill Tayman presented a polished brass plaque to Conductor Norbert Nozy.

The Postal Service set up the temporary "Gateway Arch Station" in the Regal Riverfront Hotel. The hours of operation were Friday, December 16th from 11:am - 6:pm and Saturday from 8:am - 5:pm. Attendees purchased over 4,000, "1944 Road to Victory" sheets of 10 stamps that included the "Battle of the Bulge" stamp. The entire printing of the 50th Anniversary Envelopes was given the Special December 16th, BoB Commemoration Cancellation. Were we to repeat this event, we would order many more anniversary envelopes.

On Saturday morning over 900 attendees boarded coaches for the "Gateway To St. Louis Tour" returning to the hotels after lunch.

At 1:30 there was a short meeting in the Grand Ballroom, the only hotel room large enough, also the largest ballroom in the State of Missouri. Following the installation of New VBOB Officers and a few other details acted on, the meeting was devoted to the showing of what is probably the most honored documentary film of WWII, "The Battle of The Bulge - The Brave Rifles." Larry Mascott, a BoB veteran who was wounded in the Bulge, was the writer, producer, and director of this award - winning film, and along with his wife, participated in all four days of the St. Louis Commemoration. Regardless of how many times you have seen this film, once more is still looked forward to. Those who may not have taken down this information when Larry spoke, may wish to have the following.

***** Order Information *****

New Horizon Video, 2218 W. Olive Ave, Burbank, CA 91506
Enclose check for \$26.00 which includes S/H charges.
Request videocassette "THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE - BRAVE RIFLES"

Saturday evening at 6:30 the participants, in Business Suit or Black Tie/Army Mess Dress, and the ladies looking their finest - most veterans wore their Miniature Medals - began gathering for the 50th Anniversary Banquet. During the social period an Aperitif Concert was given by The Brass Quatuor of the Luxembourg Military Band. At 7:pm Assembly was sounded by a US Army Field Band Bugler and at 7:15 the well known "Mess Call" was sounded. With everyone at their tables, the Colors were posted by an Army Color Guard with Lt. General John Otjen, Commanding General First US Army, receiving and returning the Color Guard Salute.

The Invocation was given by Msgr. William O'Donnell, Guest Introduction by Robert Phillips, and The Toast to the Vips, the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge both living and deceased, by Lt. General Claude Kicklighter. The 50th Anniversary Souvenir Wine Glasses were raised-on-high.

The Honorable William J. Perry, Secretary of Defense, was the guest speaker, giving a warm message of gratitude - with humble words of praise for having fought in one of the fiercest battles in our history - for our personal sacrifices, and the agony and hardship we endured in the winter of 1944-45 in the Battle of the Bulge.

Dinner was served, with everyone enjoying the hotels' expertise in the culinary art of fine cooking and formal service. His Royal Highness Prince Henri of Luxembourg gave a short message of

gratitude. Following his remarks, both Prince Henri and Prince Philippe presented a gift to each veteran present. These gifts were distributed with the assistance of 44 persons of the Belgian Fusiliers group and 45 students from the Orchard Farm High School (outside St. Louis) that had received aid from Luxembourg after the devastating floods of 1993. When this gift presentation was accomplished, VBOB President Bill Tayman presented gifts to all the Fusiliers group, and 50th Anniversary watches to H.R.H. Prince Henri, H.R.H. Prince Philippe, Secretary Perry, Ambassador Berns, Ambassador Adam, General Otjen and Msgr. O'Donnell.

The next highlight of the evening was a Musical Show presented by The Soldiers' Chorus of The US Army Field Band in tribute to the American Soldier of WWII - music that lifted the spirits of fighting men who so proudly served our Nation in the defense of the free world. After several encores, these "Musical Ambassadors of the Army" closed with the singing of a favorite Christmas song.

Sunday morning was spent by most veterans and family members attending one of the three Religious Services.

Everyone who was registered for the 50th Anniversary in St. Louis will receive the "VBOB 50th Anniversary Souvenir Program Book". It is planned to include all the quest speakers messages and details of the entire four days. There will be a write-up on the Golden Anniversary Trip to Europe, October 23 - November 6, 1994. It is planned to offer these books for sale to those members who did not attend the St. Louis Commemoration. Additional information will be given in a later issue of the B/B.

Prepared by: William Tayman
Chairman, VBOB, 50th
Anniversary Committee



PLAQUE TO SYMPHONIC BAND: Col. Robert Wells, VBOB President William Tayman, Col. Ret. Vergucht, Honorary Vice-President of the Band, and Belgium Military Attache Brig. General Andre De Smet. Picture taken just prior to Plaque presentation.



OHIO NORTH COAST CHAPTER

The Ohio North Coast Chapter (#36) was organized on August 3, 1994, with its first official meeting taking place on October 12th. The chapter has approximately 50 members and is growing fast.



[Officers are, left to right: George Tachuk, Treasurer; Albert Pekrul, 2nd Vice President; Don Ratliff, President; Paul Top, Vice President; and Dorothy Simonds, Secretary]

CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER COMMEMORATES 50TH

After their annual banquet on December 11th, members of the Central New York Chapter visited the Onondaga County War Memorial on December 17th and presented the memorial with a large poster depicting the Bulge.



The Central New York Chapter's Anniversary Committee poses with the poster presented to the Onondaga County War Memorial. Left to right: Tom Netti, Don Veator, Jim Burke, Chuck Hurlbut, Jim DePalma, Jim Oliva and Paul Pirro (all members of the 299th Combat Engineer Bn).

WEST MICHIGAN CHAPTER PARADE PARTICIPANTS

Members of the West Michigan Chapter participated in the National Cherry Festival Parade, July 9th, 1994, in Traverse City, Michigan. They received a tremendous reception.

One "watcher" stood out in Wayne Mentier's mind: He had a Vietnam cap on and a sad look on his face. He removed his cap, placed it over his heart and gave a victory sign.

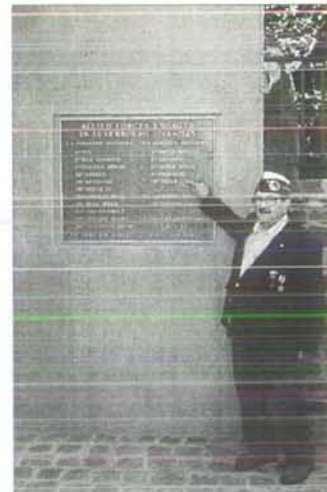


Parade participants, left to right: Tom Notebarte, Maury Cole, Ervin Lantzer, James Pekkala, Fred Korb, Wayne Mentier, Bill Kuhn, and Jack Phillips.

NORTHERN INDIANA & NEWGARDEN CHAPTER PRESIDENTS IN EUROPE



Northern Indiana President Stew McDonald at Soldiers' Monument in Clerveux, Luxembourg.



C.G. Paul Newgarden Chapter President Matt Femino standing before memorial to Allied Armed Forces in Luxembourg

WANT A CHAPTER IN YOUR AREA?

We will be happy to help you in the formation of your chapter. You won't believe how easy we can make this for you. Just drop us a note and we will provide the necessary information to get you started.

Every citizen [should] be a soldier. This was the case with the Greeks and the Romans, and must be that of every free state.

THOMAS JEFFERSON

MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

Is there anyone out there who remembers the "ghost patrol" in December or January, 1944, while on a detail in the Bastogne area. I was told the story by a couple of guys from the **101ST AIRBORNE**. They said that a mystery patrol of eleven figures was seen walking through the snow, having entered the American lines unchallenged. These soldiers carried no weapons. They weren't recognized as either American or German because of the haze. They moved along without any caution, climbed over fences and whatever else was in the way. They moved along like any other GI but they didn't speak to one another. I was told at the time that they, the ghost patrol, were seen by several units of the 101st at different times of the night--they traveled only at night. Write to VBOB--we'll pass it along.

THOMAS DUSZAK would like to see if one of you can help him. Can you verify that two veterans from Wilmington, Delaware, were killed in Belgium? Their names were: **WILLIAM W. LEWANDOWSKI**, who died December 22, 1944, and **STEFAN J. KRAJEWSKI**, who died January 14, 1945. Information about division, platoon and rank will be very helpful. Write to Thomas at: 1016 Green Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105.

GEORGE KOSKIMAKI advises us regarding his book *The Battered Bastards of Bastogne*. This book deals with the role of the **101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION** in the Bastogne perimeter and 530 individuals contributed stories to this 486-page account. Cost is \$27.00 (with S&H) and can be ordered from: 101st Airborne Division Association, P.O. Box 586, Sweetwater, TN 37874.

ROY W. HOLMES, 146TH COMBAT ENGINEER BATTALION, would like to hear from BoB veterans who live near him--Columbia, Tennessee. If you fit the bill write Roy at: 906 Trotwood Avenue, B-10 (zip 38401).

Any one who knows the whereabouts of **DERALD MILLER (16175970)**, please let him know that a drinking cup of his was found in the Ardennes by **NORBERT VAN DEN BERGHE**. Write to Norbert at Kortrijksesteenweg 1250; 9051, Gent, Belgium.

STEVE WHITE, 502 QUARTERMASTER CAR COMPANY, DET SERVICE, THIRD USA HQ, would like to contact **THOMAS MULDOON COLWELL, III**, from his unit. Can you help? Write to Steve at: 25845 South Cloverland Drive, Sun Lakes, Arizona 85248.

Do you remember our request from **GILBERT BRAUN** (Belgium) requesting that we help with his stamp collection? Gilbert is still looking for stamps so if you can help please do so. Gilbert is also looking for two GIs named **LACKY** (probably **LUCKY**) and **ERNIE SWARIER** (maybe from New York). They were probably with **3RD ARMORED DIVISION, II CAVALRY** or **1ST INFANTRY**. Would also like to correspond with soldiers who were near: Baelen-Membach, Dison, Spa, Dolhain, Verviers, Eupen, Limbourg, Malmedy, St. Vith, LaGleize, Stoumont, Houffalize, Bastogne, Aachen, Duren, Hurtgenwald. His address is: Ruede l'Invasion No 20; B-4837 Baelen-Membach, Province de Liege, Belgium.

WALTER A. CLARKE, 87TH INFANTRY DIVISION 549 AAA AW BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS, would like to recommend two places in the ETO: Jan Driessen's 82nd Airborne Museum, Veghel, Holland, and the Muckleburgh Collection of Tanks, near Blakeney Point, Norfolk, England.

MAICATIN JOSEPH CONNOR is trying to locate **WILMOT (BILL) BAUMAN**, from Boston who was stationed at Camp Blandining,

Florida, with him before the Bulge. Write to Maicatin at: 14 Coury Drive, New Bedford, Massachusetts 02743.

GEORGE O. FUNKE, 609TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION ASSOCIATION, advises there is a good possibility that the latest edition of the 609th overseas mini-history may be published--depending on interest. Communicate with: Al Ahrenholz, 49 Mariners Court, Port Royal, South Carolina.

ROBERT H. JURICK, 70TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 274TH INFANTRY, 2ND BATTALION, COMPANY E, (after the war with **3RD INFANTRY DIVISION, 7TH INFANTRY, HEADQUARTERS**), would like to hear from you if you were with his group. Write: 70 Marcus Drive, Melville, New York 11747-4278.

HOWARD S. GRAHAM, SR., 184TH AAA AW BATTALION, B BATTERY, visited Belgium and Luxembourg recently and wanted you to know that Belgium has put up a plaque in honor of the 50th Brigade--the defenders of Antwerp in Buzz Bomb Alley. The many people he spoke with were "so grateful for what we did and will never forget us."

CLEMENS LOFTSGARD would like to hear from anyone who may have known **MYRON ANDERSON, 106TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 424TH INFANTRY**. Myron was a jeep driver with an anti-tank outfit. Clemens' address: Box 95, Luana, Iowa 52156.

Lucille Perkins would like to hear from someone who knew **CHARLES C. ADDINGTON, 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 141ST INFANTRY, COMPANY L**. Write to her at: 806 East Cascade Place, Spokane, Washington 99208.

RUSSELL E. ALBRECHT, 30TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 120TH INFANTRY, COMPANY A, would like to hear from someone who was with him in Malmedy just before Christmas, 1994. Write to him: c/o Ms. Faye Berger, 7810 Winnetka Heights Drive, Golden Valley, Minnesota 55427.

ROBERT R. FORD, SECOND EVACUATION HOSPITAL, wants to know if anyone was successful in collecting the severance pay promised to U.S. service men when they were discharged. Let him know: 409 Woodland Court, Arnold, Missouri 63010.

Bernie Elmore would like to receive canceled postage stamps to be used in the VA Hospitals in Buffalo, Washington, DC; and other places across the States. Address: Bernie Elmore, P.O. Box 398, Depew, New York 14043-0398.

FREEMAN SEXTON, 9TH ARMORED DIVISION, 73RD FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, C BATTERY, would like to know if any one can help him locate **BURLEY BRAY** (old home address Manchester, Kentucky), **LUTHER HIGDON** (Evansville, Indiana), and **CHARLEY PAYNE** (Ohio). Write to Freeman at: P.O. Box 5144, Cleveland, Tennessee 37320.

As an amateur historian, **ASSOCIATE MEMBER MARK C. BECKER** would like to correspond with members of the 101st Airborne who were in Bastogne during the siege. This would be of assistance to him in his studies of the valiant struggle and hard fought victory won there. Mark's address: 5943 West Grace Street, Chicago, Illinois 60634-2645.

Ralph Good is looking for anyone who may have known his brother **RAYMOND ANTHONY GOOD**, with the **75TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 291ST INFANTRY, COMPANY H**. Any information will be appreciated. Write to Ralph at: 12700 East 55th Avenue, Denver, Colorado 80239-3615.

(Continued on Page 12)

MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

(Continued from Page 11)

A short history of the **357TH INFANTRY REGIMENT** is available in trade for a shoulder patch of the **90TH INFANTRY DIVISION**. The history is a first edition compiled by S/Sgt George Von Roeder and printed in Weidm Oberpfaar, Bavaria--74 pages and in fairly good shape. Write **PALMER PIERCE, 84TH INFANTRY DIVISION** at: 871 Nottingham Drive, Macon, Georgia 31211.

Mrs. David Gleason is looking for anyone who can provide information regarding her father, **HENRY A. BIEGLER**. Henry served with the **28TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 112TH INFANTRY, HEADQUARTERS COMPANY**. If you can help write to her at: PO Box 15, Claire City, South Dakota 57224.

STEPHEN (STEVE) MESARCH, 58TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY, HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE BATTERY, just learned about VBOB. He would love to hear from any of his old group. Steve's address: 9677 Troon Court, Desert Hot Springs, California 92240.

Bruce Cameron is looking for anyone who may have known his brother **CPL. JOSEPH E. CAMERON, 56TH ARMORED ENGINEERS, 11TH ARMORED BATTALION**, who was killed in the Battle of the Bulge on January 18, 1945. Please write to Bruce at: 1968 Pageant Way, Holt, Michigan 48842.

Gladys Taylor is trying to find out some information regarding a patch on her brother's uniform. Her brother was with the 1st Army during the Battle of the bulge and his name was **MILTONE. VROMAN**. The patch is: blue star on white background; red lightning bolt with blue lightning bold in the middle; two gold chains all on a blue background. Can you help? Write to Gladys at: 4581 North Canyon Terrace, Hernando, Florida 34442.

OSCAR BIZZELL is trying to find information regarding his friend **ROYAL DOMESTIC JAMES, JR.**, who was from Derita, North Carolina. Sergeant James was killed in action by shrapnel while leading his platoon in the Battle of the Bulge near Winter Spelt.

William N. Balliet is a modeler who builds armor models and is doing a diorama of the **37TH TANK BATTALION's** breakthrough to Bastogne. He's looking for a detailed history of the event and/or some other information such as pictures of the three tanks of 1st LT Charles Boggess, Jr.'s team. He would also like information on the two soldiers from the **326TH ENGINEERS** who spotted these tanks. If you can help, write to William at: 14400 Harvey Road, Grass Lake, Michigan 49240.

Norman Doray would like information regarding his brother-in-law who was killed in the Battle of the Bulge on December 16, 1944. His name was **CPL JOSEPH W. CIESLUK, of 5TH ARMORED DIVISION, 46TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, COMPANY A**. Write to Norman: 45 Lombard Street, Chicopee, Massachusetts 01020-4425.

LEO E. McCOLLUM, 951ST FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, VII CORPS, HQ BATTERY, is making an effort to locate men from his unit. Leo just returned from the 50th Anniversary Tour of Belgium and Luxembourg, and is hoping the 51st Anniversary Tour will include men from his unit. Write to Leo at: P.O. Box 7151, Midland, Texas 79708.

Dorothy MacNicoll would like to know if anyone remembers her brother, **ROY R. RICKETTS**, who was a Master Sergeant. Write to Dorothy at: 56221 Taos Trail, Yucca Valley, California 92284.

Clifford Woodward and Captain Dooley would like to hear from someone who may have known **MAJOR GUNLACK**, liaison officer for **3RD ARMY HEADQUARTERS**, 2 Medics from Chicago named **MORGANSCI AND MANCEGUSKI**. Write to Clifford at: 725 Selby Street, Findlay, Ohio 45840.

WILLIAM J. DONAHUE, 785TH MP BATTALION, COMPANY D, would like to hear from anyone who served with him. Write to Bill at: 2807 Kensington Place, West, Columbus, Ohio 43202.

H. REX SHAMA announces the publication of his book *Pulse and Repulse*, regarding troop carrier and airborne teams in Europe during WWII. Write to Eakin Press, PO Drawer 90159, Austin, Texas 78709-0159.

CALVIN C. BOYKIN, JR. 814TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION, is preparing a history of that unit. If you would be interested in purchasing a copy please write C&R Publications, 8407 Shadow Oaks, College Station, Texas 77845 (or call 409-693-0224) before the 1st of March, 1995, to reserve your copy.

DONALD J. QUAINANCE, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, would like to hear from some one from Bastogne. Write to Donald at: 16336 County Road West, White Lake, Wisconsin 54491.

CLIFFORD "POP" BIRD, 32ND CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON (MECHANIZED), would like to know if anyone knows what happened to **LT. TRUIT, 112TH INFANTRY**. Write to Pop at: 4523 W 25 S, Paoli, Indiana 47454-1329.

Those who served in the **440TH TROOP CARRIER GROUP** are asked to contact Walter F. Wilson, 706 South 5th Street, Davis, Oklahoma 73030.

Jean Jacobsohn would like any information on her father, **MAJOR (DOCTOR) PAUL D. ABRAMSON, 130TH GENERAL HOSPITAL** (Ciney, Belgium), **99TH GENERAL HOSPITAL** (Normandy, France), and **312TH STATION HOSPITAL** (Shugbord Park, England). Please write to 3819 West LeGrande Blvd., Mequon, Wisconsin 53092.

L. HIGDON would like to know if anyone knows where he could get a Normandy 50th Anniversary "1" Shirt. Write to him at: 4813 West Beryl Avenue, Glendale, Arizona 85302.

Mariel F. (Haggerty) Gribben would like information about her father, **PFC JOHN F. HAGGERTY**, teletype operation with the Signal Corps and served with **4TH DIVISION**. Write to Mariel at: 2701 Amherst Avenue, Butte, Montana 59701-4238.

Fact Sheet - World War II

U.S. ARMED FORCES TOLL OF WAR (1939 - 1945)

Killed		Wounded	
Army and Air Force	234,874	Army and Air Force	565,861
Navy	36,950	Navy	37,778
Marines	19,733	Marines	67,207
Coast Guard	574	Coast Guard	432
Total military killed	292,131	Total military wounded	671,278
Merchant Marines			
Died as POWs	37	Dead	5,662
Missing / presumed dead	4,780	Killed at sea	845

MESSAGE FROM THE ST. LOUIS GATEWAY CHAPTER

A memorable 50th Anniversary celebration was enjoyed by many veterans and spouses. Everyone enjoyed the entertainment and reuniting of old and new friends.

I believe it goes without saying that one of the outstanding and meaningful activities was the Memorial Service at the St. Louis Cathedral where approximately 1,500 veterans and wives filled the church.

I want to thank all the volunteer flag carriers that participated in the service. I hope all, like myself, felt it was an honor and a privilege to be part of the ceremony.

Harold M. Mueller
St. Louis Gateway Chapter Treasurer

SECOND EVACUATION HOSPITAL TREATS 30,734 IN SIX MONTHS

...At Eupen, the advance detail had procured a large sanatorium overlooking the town. The building had been used by the Germans as a tuberculosis hospital. When we set up, however, we erected tents to augment the 300-odd patient beds in the building.

We opened the hospital on October 2nd. Aachen was one of the big objectives of the First Army at that time and the fighting was bitter. Patients arrived constantly in a steady stream. After the fall of the city, pressured lightened somewhat and it appeared that the war would soon pass us on. But we were deceived!

During the time we were operating at Eupen, buzz bombs seemed to converge over the area, making a terrific noise and rattling the windows of the building as they passed overhead. On the morning of December 16, 1944, shells began landing in our immediate area. In the evening the enemy planes droned overhead, loosing a magnificent display of flares and then dropped bombs on Eupen. The Germans were making their desperate breakthrough attempt!

All other medical installations in Eupen were pulled out. We were selected to stand our ground, in spite of some paratroops dropped by the enemy in and about Eupen. Military security was suddenly stressed to the hilt. The Germans pushed down from Monchau to within five miles of the hospital and the 5th Armored Division set up road blocks behind us to stop the Germans if they overran our position.

On New Year's Day, we witnessed a brilliant brief encounter between 12 enemy planes and our own anti-aircraft batteries. Seven of the attacking planes were shot down.

At length, events returned to normal. Our Armies had erased the break-through threat and were pushing the Germans back toward the Rhine. When the hospital finally closed, a recapitulation showed that we had admitted 30,734 patients to the hospital during the six months we had been at Eupen, of which 188 casualties died. We had been open for 143 days, the longest period of continuous operation of any First United States Army hospital.

[The above was extracted from a history prepared by Orrin E. Voigt with the help and cooperation of Charles F. Schetlin. It was sent to us by ROBERT R. FORD.]

28TH SIGNAL COMPANY HONORS FALLEN COMRADE IN LUXEMBOURG

[The following eulogy was delivered by Harry Stutz, 28TH SIGNAL COMPANY, at the grave site of EDDIE STINE in Hamm Cemetery, Luxembourg, September 9, 1994, on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the liberation of Luxembourg.]

Death in all its mystery will come to all of us. But death should come when we have lived our lives to the full. During the Battle of the Bulge, Eddie Stine and our other 5,700 comrades who lie buried here were cut down in the prime of their lives.

We veterans are the lucky ones. By God's grace, we came back to our wonderful country, went to school, married our sweethearts, raised our sons and daughters and enjoyed the blessings of our country. We worked, saved, went to our respective churches and paid homage to our one God. We bought our first homes, took our vacations, and for the past 50 years, we have experienced the joy of being alive.



But Eddie and the other 5,700 young Americans have been buried here since 1945. In one terrible moment of pain and terror, their lives and futures were destroyed.

Who knows which of our honored comrades would have become a doctor who would discover the cure for one of the diseases of mankind, or the writer of a great book, or who would have composed a song of love for all of us to sing..all for the benefit of mankind.

As we stand here before the grave of the wonderful young man we loved and enjoyed in 1944, let us think for a moment about the emotional suffering of the mothers and fathers and sweethearts who received one of the 5,700 terrible messages--"We regret to inform you...." The endless nights of sleeplessness and worry that our parents endured while they prayed for our safe return, will we ever know the full depth of their anguish.

Eddie and our fallen comrades will be here for eternity which began for them 50 years ago.

Let us take a moment of prayer in silence, and thank our dear loving God for granting eternal peace and rest to the soul of Eddie Stine and to the souls of our buddies who lie buried here, and to the souls of all the innocent Luxembourgers who were caught in the deadly crossfire of war and died during that terrible time half a century ago during the Battle of the Bulge.

ARE YOU A 'NOTCH' BABY??

Those retirees who were born between 1917 and 1926 are referred to as 'Notch Babies' for purposes of Social Security benefits. They receive much smaller benefits than those born before or after them. Congress has now formed a Notch Commission to study this matter. Write to your Congressman and Senator TODAY and tell them that you wish to see the 'Notch' removed from Social Security benefits.

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE CERTIFICATE



The beautiful full color 11" x 17" certificate has begun shipping as of the middle of January. The demand has been overwhelming and it was necessary to complete the 50th Anniversary Commemoration in St. Louis before work could begin on the certificate preparation. The certificates are being produced and mailed in the order in which they were received. We know of the anticipation of many to receive the certificates and appreciate your understanding as we get this project underway.

This certificate is produced on parchment-like stock and is outlined by the full color WWII insignias of the major units which fought in the Battle of the Bulge starting with the 12th Army Group followed numerically with Armies, Corps and Divisions and the two Army

Air Forces. We wished that each unit insignia could have been shown but with approximately 2,000 units that participated in the Bulge it was impossible. However any unit which served in the Bulge would have been attached to or reported through one of the unit insignias depicted. You may want to add one of your original patches to the certificate when you receive it. Units were researched in the official General Order No. 114 for Units Entitled to the ARDENNES Battle Credit and will be the basis for sale of this certificate. The unit insignias shown are also those used in the design of the Battle of the Bulge Memorial Conference Table dedicated at Fort Meade, Maryland.

Orders can still be placed and we will try to answer various questions that have arisen. You may make a facsimile or copy of this order blank if you do not want to tear your *Bulge Bugle*.

A special certificate is available to spouses or children of those who made the Supreme Sacrifice in the Battle of the Bulge or who died of wounds received in the Battle of the Bulge. The individual request should have the date of death and place and be certified by the requester.

Bulge veterans who may want to have a certificate made up for the spouse or descendant of a fallen buddy and was present can certify to the event and order the certificate.

Multiple copies of the same certificate can be ordered if you have a number of children/grandchildren.

You do not have to be a member of VBOB (though we hope that you would join) to order a certificate but you must have received the Ardennes Battle Credit.

You may order certificates to give to members of your unit, who are not VBOB members.

Please be sure to print or type clearly and include your serial number and unit designation while in the Bulge as full as possible.

We will abbreviate as needed but we want someone reading it to understand what unit you were in. The unit must be one of the 2,000 units authorized the Ardennes Campaign credit. Rank or command during the Bulge is preferred. It will be abbreviated to the WWII or three character standard. The certificate will be shipped rolled in a protective mailing tube and costs \$15.00 paid in advance.

This beautiful certificate can be framed in a 16" x 20" frame with appropriate matting, mounted on a 12" x 18" placard or a walnut plaque. For those who do not have access to frame shops or framing, John Bowen is looking into mounting these on a simulated walnut plaque with an acrylic cover and multiple brass pins which secure the acrylic cover and certificate to the plaque, as a service to those who would like them mounted. As we go to press the cost information is not available. If interested in this please check the box "Hold for Framing Information" and John will get back to you. The cost of the simulated walnut frame is expected to be at or under \$55.00 in addition to the certificate cost of \$15.00. Shipping and handling costs should be about \$7.50 because of the weight of the frame.

Display your certificate proudly.

It attests to your "Triumph of Courage" and is something to be cherished and passed down to your children or grandchildren.

THE ORDER FORM IS ON THE PAGE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THIS PAGE.



Living
Legends

Memorable Bulge Incidents

UNEDITED AND
HERETOFORE UNPUBLISHED

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

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

WHAT A PRICE TO PAY FOR FREEDOM

January, 1945

Edward A. Hilton
90th Infantry Division
357th Infantry
Company C
Altmar, New York

I was sent to the 90th Division with about 50 others from the 63rd Division. I was the Assistant BAR man. The BAR man was a soldier named Benny. I do not know his full name.

We went to the front lines on January 4th, where we took two places without much trouble. The rest of the time we cleared out the woods--the Ardennes Forest.

I saw two truck loads of American soldiers coming back from the front in blood-soaked mattress covers. On the way to the front we saw a military cemetery. There was a canvas fence all around the cemetery so no one could see in.

Some days we would travel a half an hour or an hour in the woods before we were shot at. However, [when the] Germans shot at us [it was] with machine guns, artillery, rifles, mortars, 88s and the ones that screamed like a woman.

Many soldiers were killed and wounded with me during the period January 4-11. I am very glad I had not been with them very long. I didn't even know their names.

When we were mopping up in the woods one night, I slept in an old barn. You could look up and see the stars. It was very cold--about a foot of snow on the ground. I slept beside a frozen dead horse. I thought it would be good protection from the bullets. Another night I slept in a church which had the roof out. Shells had even opened some of the graves.

I was kicking in the snow to warm my feet and found a carton of Phillip Morris cigarettes. They were in waterproof paper. We all smoked them--we got cigarettes in our K Rations.

In the open fields near the woods the dead lay--frozen and half covered with snow. Artillery guns were knocked out and the crews dead. We saw both American and Germans frozen in the snow. Trucks, tanks, guns, jeeps, knocked out. They sure had an awfully bad battle here. What a price to pay for freedom.

We saw a man and woman in the woods. They were about 60 years old. They were carrying their bedding and many things on their backs. They told us where the Germans were.

On the night of January 10th, we were on a hill in the woods. I could see smoke coming from the chimney of the houses. It

was very cold. We dug in, two men to a fox hole. We had orders to shoot anyone that walked, also to shoot anything with an overcoat on. They had taken our overcoats away a few days before. At dawn and evening time it was hard to tell an American from a German. The Germans all wore overcoats.

The sun rose and shone brightly with not a cloud in the sky. We were supposed to be in the city by noon. The city was being shelled with heavy shells. I never made it to the city of Wiltz. As we were coming up this small hill I saw an open field with one building. Two or three were sent one way and two or three the other. I was running across the open field and could see bullets hitting the snow beside me. I zig-zagged running and I was shot in the right leg about seven inches from the knee. I hit the ground in about a foot of snow and rolled over and over to a hedgerow.



I saw Lappa crawling on his stomach and saw the bullet splinter on his M1 rifle. He was not killed--he later took off my boots to put me on a stretcher. I laid in the snow for six hours. After an hour or so I didn't see anything. I heard nothing--no shooting. I was thinking about going back the way I came after dark. I never forgot the bright sunshine that day.

About 4 or 5 o'clock in the afternoon I heard tanks coming. I saw a tank with the star. I knew it was American. Then I saw another one. The next thing I knew I was flying up in the air and I wondered what everyone would think of me flying so high in the sky. Then I felt myself coming down. I had not even left the ground. This was the feeling when knocked out. For about one hour I could see nothing. Then my vision came back.

My steel helmet had a three inch split in it. My wool nightcap was burned and also some of my hair. I could taste burnt hair and gun powder for days.

A soldier from the tank got out and threw hand grenades and cleaned out the cellar. It had been hit by shells from the tank also. He put me in the cellar and said he would get a medic. Other soldiers came into the cellar, plus wounded and also a medic. The government should give this soldier a medal. He saved my life and I don't even know his name.

They got me to a hospital about 12 that night. We had another GI in the ambulance and a German soldier who had been shot in the stomach. He was in pain. We went to Barley Duke Hospital (the German too). When I got in the hospital the first thing they did was put the Purple Heart on my chest. I was so cold they put me on a register with many blankets. [After many, many days of hospital care] I met Corporal Ball on the Streets of London. We were happy to see each other--and I didn't remember to get his home address.

I returned to active duty and was discharged July 1, 1946.

COMMUNICATING IN THE BULGE

December, 1944

Theodore O. Hoffmeister
90th Infantry Division
358th Infantry
HQ and HQ Company
St. Louis, Missouri

We began to hear some disquieting rumors from our counterparts on the other side of the river. Apparently the Germans had pulled a huge surprise north of us, and it looked ominous, especially with the division divided in half by a raging torrent. A couple of days later we transmitted a message to the line troops: disengage and pull out as quietly as possible. As company after company crossed the one foot bridge we had managed to maintain, our group was held there to provide communication for the withdrawal. We began to think the brass was marking us down as expendable, but finally we got the order to close down and pull out. When we left there was only one company remaining in the town, an engineer outfit that was booby-trapping and laying mines. They even booby-trapped our stove before we left the building we had used. Believe me, I was very happy to set foot on the west bank of that obstreperous stream.



We spent about two days in Remlingen and then, on New Year's Eve, we were relieved by the 94th Division, who stepped in and took over our position, equipment and all. Unit markings blocked out, even our division patches removed, we then boarded trucks and started out for the Bulge. We didn't have road priority, so every time an armored outfit came along we had to pull off into a field until they got by. It took us at least two days to go the few hundred miles. We rested briefly at Arzfeld, Luxembourg, and then we hit a finger of the German spearhead

on the south, the 7th Armored hit it on the north, and in two days we had pinched it off with the capture of beaucoup prisoners.

Then we had campaigns in Oberwampach, Niederwampach, and Weiswampach. Eventually my company landed in a town called Sonlez in Belgium. We set up the regimental CP in a house near the church. The windows had been bombed out, so we hung blankets over them to conserve heat. The switchboard was set up next to the kitchen stove and even with the fire going night and day water froze in a jerrican next to the stove. When I was on duty at the switchboard I kept my hands in my overcoat pockets until a call came in. I would hurriedly place the call and then plunge my hands back into my pockets. It was virtually impossible to operate the board efficiently with gloves on.

About the second day we were in this location a half-track backed in close to the building and ran over a dead German under a foot of snow. We hadn't even known he was there. He was frozen so solid that he shattered like glass.

On the third day, around ten in the morning, we were attacked by eight British fighter bombers who had mistaken Sonlez for a German-held town because of all the derelict Jerry vehicles scattered around. The CP personnel all rushed to the cellar where a bomb shelter had been set up by the previous occupants. As Col. Jacob Bealke passed behind my chair as I was operating the board, he placed a hand on my shoulder and said: "The switchboard operator can go with us." But, much as I wanted to, I couldn't leave my post. Our Company Commander, Capt. Hugo Pyes, was on the phone in the CP room, attempting to reach the Division Radio so they could notify the flyers they were attacking their allies. Several bombs had dropped by this time and there was much strafing. I tried one line to Division and it was out, apparently due to the bombing. By this time, Capt. Pyes was shouting: "I want Division! Get me Division!" I tried the other line to Division and got through. Whether it was due to that call or the identification panels put out by the vehicle drivers, I'll never know, but the bombing and strafing stopped. One lone plane came in low for a look-see and my head practically disappeared into my shoulders, for I thought he was going to plant a bomb in my hip pocket. When the excitement was over and the CP people came up from the shelter, Col. Bealke noted I was still at the switchboard, so he promptly put me in for a Bronze Star. I learned later that a captured SS trooper had been hit in the head by a 50 calibre slug only 60 feet from where I had been operating the board.

While still at this location our line to the Regimental Aid Station went out and since I was off-duty from the switchboard I volunteered to go with Sgt. Clayton Rose and PFC Flemy Kent to repair it. We carried a test phone and some extra field wire to splice in if there was considerable damage. It was night and it was snowing hard. Matter of fact, it was almost a blizzard. We would follow the wire by letting it trail through our gloved hands. When we found a break one guy would hold on to the end while the others scrambled around in the snow until the other end was found. We had repaired four breaks before we finally reached the Aid Station on our test phone. Curious by now, because the Aid station was supposed to be only three quarters of a mile from the CP, we followed the line until we found it. It was closer to 2-1/2 miles. The medics hadn't liked the building to which they'd been assigned, so they extended the line on their own to a more suitable location.

There followed more days of freezing and moving. I

remember one day when we were in a jeep on a sunken road and a German tanker tried to nail us with his 88. His gun had too flat a trajectory, so he hit either too short or too long. Had he had a howitzer or a mortar, we'd have been dead meat. I recall several times when I lay in my sleeping bag and shivered practically all night. I also recollect when we were going to us an attic for our sleeping quarters and a Luxembourg woman shooed us away until she had swept out the hay and straw on the floor and mopped it with lye soap. It turned out the Germans had slept there two nights previous, and they'd been lousy.

Toward the end of the Bulge we set up the CP in an old hotel near the railroad station in the Belgian town of Benonchamps. The 359 CP was set up in the station, which was right across the road. One day, as PFC Arthur Jacobson and I were chopping firewood in a ravine near the hotel, a lone 15 CM shell came in and make a direct hit on the 359 officer's latrine, luckily unoccupied at the time. As the canvas soared up like a sail, Jacobson and I rolled in the snow, laughing uproariously. We wouldn't have thought it so humorous if there had been someone using it.

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RECURRING PAIN

December, 1944

Maurice Diamond
84th Infantry Division
347th Infantry
Company I
Sharon, Massachusetts

Around Christmas we were rushed by truck to the Battle of the Bulge. We stopped over at Reims. The Red Cross had set up for coffee and doughnuts but told me I did not get any unless I paid. Since I had no money I thought I was out of luck, but one buddy let me have a few coins. The coffee and doughnuts hit the spot.

We slept three to a tent overnight. I awoke with a terrible pain in my upper right side which I later believed to be a cramp. I went to the aid station for help, but owing to the lateness, from inside the tent I heard "Come back in the morning." By morning much of the pain had subsided and I never did go back to that aid station.

I was transferred to Company F a short time later and went to a different aid station for an explanation of my pain. On describing my symptoms to the doctor, I heard him whisper to an associate, but loud enough for me to hear, "I think he is faking it." I just shrugged and walked away. Company F had lost many men in an encounter with a couple of Tiger tanks. I was told the bazookas just bounced off the tanks with little effect. Now Company F was part of a pincer movement from the south heading for Bastogne. As we moved up a slope in Belgium, a sniper picked off a runner. We all dropped to the snow covered ground. A second runner was hit and we were ordered to stay where we were.

As darkness fell nearly six hours later, we moved up and rejoined the group. Another soldier and I dug a fox hole into the side of a steep slope that night. Daylight came and with it, sniper fire. I started to stick my head out of the fox hole to find that sniper, as I was getting tired of being shot at without being able to fire back, but my companion insisted I keep my head down. My fox hole companion and I suffered frost bite on our

toes from being pinned down and were sent back to rest for two weeks. One day of rest was all we got. The second day we rejoined our outfit.

We were in a wooded area when Capt. Dahlke radioed HQ that a machine gun nest was directly ahead and he would wait for the flanks to take it out. The colonel radioed back that the company should make the frontal attack on the machine gun nest. The radio stopped working. Shortly afterward, a jeep arrived containing a driver and the colonel followed by a tank. As the colonel strode toward the captain, much shelling started. The colonel ran back to the jeep, jumped in and rapidly departed followed by the tank. The shelling stopped. We never did make that frontal attack. Some time later, the captain that I learned to admire was killed by a German bazooka.

We were moving forward through a bare field when I heard a swishing sound. I raised my rifle to fall flat when I was hit by two mortar fragments in the right upper lumbar region, that same place I had suffered the excruciating pain some weeks before. The medic examined me, gave me sulfur and water and sent me to the aid station. There, my wound was cleaned and bandaged and I was told to guide an officer back to the front lines. There I rejoined my outfit.

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IN THE FOG

Charles G. Mallon, Jr.
5th Infantry Division
10th Infantry
351st Engineer General Service Regiment
Bethesda, Maryland

December 1944

I wonder how many veterans of the "Bulge" have a story something like mine which was one of confusion, bewilderment, and the feeling of the "lost man". I was a platoon leader in Company A of the 351st Engineer G.S. Regiment, Com. Z, Seine area, when part of the outfit was put into convoy on December 19 to be sent up to the Luxembourg front to be attached to (or in support of) the 10th Infantry Regiment, 5th Division. I seem to remember that our convoy, which was about two companies or about 300 men, went up through the Nancy-Metz area, and then on up to the area of Junglinster/Mullerthal/Consdorf. Please understand that I am going on with no map for reference from the time, and my memory is very foggy about the actual area. I do not remember any actual contact with 10th Regiment soldiers, but my recall is clear about this: We spent all daylight hours on the roads doing road repair with pick and shovel in nasty weather. We also removed mines from the ditches and shoulders of roads. All our 50 caliber ring mounts had been removed back in France, and sent on to combat battalions, so we could not even fire on the German aircraft that still seemed to find the time to fire on moving allied traffic. I remember a strange one from that time, when we had the break to go to a shower point for a quick one and a change of uniform. Somewhere near Christmas day, a captured P-51 strafed the shower point, making at least two passes. The last one was his mistake when a naked GI, ducked out in the cold to hop onto a truck, and got a good bead on that plane to damage it so that it crashed later, killing the pilot.

I had been one of those eager beavers early in the game in

Normandy, and when the Engineer Command, ETO was looking for platoon leaders, my name ended up on the list. So here, months later, while in the mud and snow of Luxembourg, when I thought that the 351st Engineer Regiment had finally found its mission, orders came through, dated December 21, 1944 for my transfer through a replacement depot to a 1st Army Engineer Combat Battalion. It must have been sometime in the first week in January when I finally left the 351st Engineers, and I have no record of that date. I left the 351st, which had been so scattered that units like companies did not even exist. I remember a few men from the company and platoon, and had some names in a small notebook, which I lost years ago. I do remember two names, which show up in the remnants of a 201 file: R.G. Brady, Captain, CE, Adj. of the 351st, and Victor W. Wiskochil, Captain, CE, Company A commander. In all the years since then, I have never had any contact with the 351st Engineers, and I would really like to know what happened to the regiment.

I went through the replacement depot. This had to be one of the low-lights of my Army life. Ask another, and he will agree. I joined the 5th Engineer Combat Battalion which was at Chapon-Seraing, near Liege, Belgium. I was assigned to Company A of that Battalion, and served with the 5th Engineer Battalion through the rest of the war, and on through Germany. The 5th Engineers were a great battalion. Their action during the Bulge was typical of the engineer battalions as has been reported constantly over the years for the courage and obstinence at cross roads and bridges. Their stand at Martelange and Redelange, along with a company from the 299th Engineer Battalion, received special attention.

This is my story of how an "orphan" of the "Bulge" finally found a family. No big story. I'll bet there are many such "orphans" out there... lots of them from the Bulge!

TO THIS DAY, I DON'T LIKE SNOW

December 1944

Edward F. Schooner
6th Armored Division
50th Armored Infantry Battalion
A Company
Chalfont, Pennsylvania

After forced march as part of the 3rd Army thrust, fate placed us outside the City of Bastogne. A Christmas time night infiltration through the city had us replacing our comrades of the 4th Armored who were withdrawn towards Metz. We took our place alongside the brave men of the 101st. As New Years dawned, we were dug in scarcely a mile east of Bastogne, after having infiltrated to this forward position under cover of darkness. Our Task Force was assigned the left sector of the Combat Command Zone with the mission of taking the high ground east and northeast to Oubourcy and Michamps. This was to be a concerted assault all along the corps front.

At 0800 the attack got underway over snow covered ground and bitter cold. Opposition was moderate and at noontime we were in a position approximately one mile west of Arloncourt. Now enemy resistance stiffened and was to remain very strong for the remainder of the battle. Artillery fire was coming in from three sides but we were able to advance to the edge of a small woods west of Oubourcy. Resistance forced a halt for the

night.

Meanwhile, Luftwaffe continued pounding Bastogne and later shifted its attack to the battalion's positions. Although bombed and strafed in the early evening, no casualties in our ranks resulted. The day had proven very difficult for the battalion but enemy casualties were heavy with four 75 mm anti-tank guns destroyed with the crews.

On the following day the first of a series of savage counterblows was repulsed by Company A. The Task Force then continued its own attack against strongly defended, dug-in positions. This mounted advance cleared the way to Oubourcy and Michamps. The enemy poured more and more troops into the sector and just before dawn on January 3rd, new counter attacks were made against us. The attacks were repulsed but our casualties were very heavy. No replacements were available. The 501 Airborne Infantry was ordered further north to attack east on our left flank. The 50th was ordered to assume the 501 positions resulting in a very thin line. Poor visibility and swirling snow made our line an easy target for infiltration. Air and artillery support was impossible, so the battle reverted to a vicious duel between ground troops and tanks. All A Company Officers became casualties. First Sgt. Rimmer took command until January 6th when enemy activity slackened. The time was used to improve positions and our artillery badly mauled a replacement enemy force.

On the night of January 12th, A and B Companies moved into line with the 320th Infantry one-half mile east of Bastogne. Jump off was on time and the first objective, the town of Magaret, was in sight the early morning of January 13th. At about 0300 January 13th, first and second scouts crested the hill overlooking Magaret and, in very deep snow, reached a large hay mound about half way down the hill and the outskirts of town.

Before the main body was to break cover and move down the hill, I moved forward with the walky-talky. Once at the hay mound with the scouts, radio transmission was to inform the Company that the way was clear. Before I was half way to the hay mound, a burp-gun opened up. The rounds snapped over me. It was difficult to make any time in the deep snow, so I hit the ground hoping to sink in the snow enough. That was a mistake. Another burst hit the walky-talky that I was holding in my hand. I covered the few hundred yards to the hay stack in about a second. At that time, BAR's opened up from the top of the hill, and the two scouts and myself took off for the bottom of the hill and a fence of rocks and bushes. This led to the farm house that was the predetermined CP. A rush to the house, plus the usual clearing methods, found about 30 enemy in the basement. About 10 were wounded, two very badly shot up. In addition there were some 40 civilians with the village priest down there.

It was about now that I realized that I was very, very cold, except my right arm was warm. A quick look informed me that I now had a second Purple Heart and a lot of problems because the only medic was German and all he had available was my first aid kit. I gave him that and a cigarette. Thank the Almighty, I was tired, cold and very hungry. There was no real pain until the aid station two days later. *To this day, I don't like snow - I'm not fond of cold weather, but I do remember a lot of brave people.*

ONE LUCKY KRAUT

December 1944

William F. Oliver
3rd Armored Division
32nd Armored Infantry Regiment
H Company
Vestal, New York

We had pulled off a main road onto a trail going down through some heavy woods. It was getting dark so we were told to hold up a few hundred yards into these woods. Someone had seen some kraut tanks going down this trail just before we arrived. We just shut down the tank and became a road block. Night settled in and it was very cold. Anyone who was in a Sherman tank knows how cold they can get. I climbed out of my driver's seat and walked around outside to get warm. We took turns on guard duty. It was very quiet. When it was my turn I stood up on the back deck. There was still a little warmth coming from the top of the engine compartment. We were armed with forty-fives, but for this guard duty I also had a good, well oiled M-1 garand. There was no moon but the stars did give off some light. I noticed this movement to our front and made out someone coming up the trail toward us. I knew it was a kraut, so I carefully let off the safety and levelled my rifle at him. When he was about twenty feet from us, and I knew I couldn't miss, I pulled the trigger... and I heard a "click," nothing else. I was stunned. I couldn't even breathe. I froze. He came right up to the tank. Put his hand on the front of it. Then turned around and walked away. After he was gone I woke up the rest of the crew and told them what had happened. They couldn't believe it. Since we didn't have any infantry with us we figured we were very lucky. When daylight came we checked that rifle and the shell that didn't fire--there was nothing wrong. There was no reason why it didn't fire.

I know one thing, "that had to be one damned lucky kraut." God was sure with him that night.

.....

THE ENEMY WAS EVERYWHERE

December 1944

James M. Morgan
80 Infantry Division
319 Infantry Regiment
2nd Medical Detachment
Stanford, Kentucky

My job in the Army was a Jeep driver. I had the responsibility of moving the wounded from the front lines to the aid station. I was located in Heiderschrid, Belgium. This particular night we had taken the town and were given orders to hold it at all cost. As a result, this was to be the longest night assault ever attempted for that time - six miles with one battalion.

When dawn arrived, we were terrified at the sight, the enemy was everywhere. We were able to fight them off and were told to hold our position. One of the officers became impatient and decided to move his company forward. We were told that we could be strafed by our own planes if this happened. When the officer moved his company this indeed did happen. Our planes strafed them, assuming they were the enemy advancing. One of the soldiers was wounded from his fox hole while he was looking for enemy activity through his binoculars. He was

struck in the leg just below the knee by a 50 caliber bullet. Both bones were shattered and he fell to the ground. The weather was terribly cold, approximately 0-10 below. The ground was frozen with snow and ice. The warmth of the blood melted the snow and ice in the fox hole so the leg and fractured bones became embedded in the slush and refroze. I was trying to lift him out of the fox hole, but was unable to do so. I was very puzzled why I could not pull him from the hole since I had done this many times before. After I had attempted this again I noticed each time I lifted on him the ground beneath also moved. I used a trench knife to dig him free from the refrozen ground. The freezing of the slush probably saved his life preventing him from bleeding to death. Once I was able to get him out of the fox hole I loaded him onto the Jeep and transported him to the aid station.

Once we arrived at the aid station a sergeant was tending to him. He severed some skin and flesh from his leg. This was all that was left attaching his foot and boot. The limb was discarded in a back room that contained many more limbs. The wounded soldier rolled over and declared, I have a \$10,000 wound, I'm going home!

[I had the opportunity to visit the sergeant, that tended to the wounded soldier, in 1992. He remembered well that had happened on that December morning in 1944: the wounded soldier and the room full of limbs at the aid station.]

.....



WHITE HOUSE VISIT, Dec. 20th, 1994. After returning from the 50th Anniversary Commemoration, officers of the 5th Battalion of Belgian Fusiliers were treated to a visit to the White House arranged by George Chekan and Janet Murguia. Standing at the Press Room podium: Marcel D'Haese, National President; Lt. Col (Ret) Roger Hardy, National Secretary; Christiane D'Haese, Marcel Hansoulle, Bradley Land, George Chekan, Past VBOB President. The trip to Washington included a reception for the entire Belgian group at Fort Meade, MD a visit to Arlington Cemetery and a goodbye dinner at the Arlington, VA Sheraton. Plans for these events were co-ordinated by Dorothy Davis, BoB Historical Foundation.

Turner Publishing Company has in their first Battle of the Bulge History Book, three unidentified pictures they cannot return. If you are missing some pictures which you submitted, please contact Beverley Van Houten, 3745 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, VA 22030. Please describe the pictures and the page on which they appear in the book.

**FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY
MEMORIAL PLATE
of the
BATTLE of the BULGE**

An eight inch plate with gold lettering, commemorating the Battle of the Bulge is being offered to VBOB members and friends by the Delaware Valley Chapter.

This memorial plate shows a rendition of the Battle of the Bulge Monument dedicated on 12 November 1994, at the Valley Forge Military Academy & College, Pennsylvania, to all Veterans who served in the Battle of the Bulge. This beautiful plate is encircled with the words "Battle of the Bulge Memorial, 50th Anniversary, December 16, 1944--January 25, 1945, National Monument, Valley Forge Military Academy & College."



The price for each plate is \$20.00 plus \$3.00 for postage and shipping. A contribution for each plate will go to completing the monument fund. Please allow 4-5 weeks for delivery. To order, please send a check or money order to:

VBOB, Delaware Valley Chapter
c/o Herbert Whitehead
1042 Bullock Avenue
Yeadon, PA 19050
Tel 610-626-2884

**BULGE & NORMANDY
TOUR VIDEO**

A video tape of the VBOB 50th Anniversary Bulge tour of Belgium and Luxembourg in late October 94 and the VBOB tour of the Normandy beaches and area in early November will be available late February/early March for members who could not attend. The tape is being expanded to five to six hours in length because of the many ceremonies and activities. It is being edited down from approximately 20 hours of raw video originally taken. The cost will be \$29.95 plus \$3.80 shipping. Requests, along with your check or money order, should be sent to:

John D. Bowen
613 Chichester Lane
Silver Spring, MD 20904-3331
Tel 301-384-6533

Maryland residents should add \$1.50 to cover sales tax

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THE IMPORTANCE OF ELSENBORN

[The following extract is from a letter written to George Will of the Washington Post Writers Group article which appeared in *The Checkerboard*, the newsletter of the 99TH INFANTRY DIVISION. The letter was written by GEORGE E. LEHR, 393RD INFANTRY, COMPANY F. Mr. Lehr's letter to Mr. Will was to point out that there was more to the Battle of the Bulge than the defense of Bastogne.]

...Actually the defense of Bastogne was little more than a sideshow to the main event as heroic as it was. The main and most critical event was at Elsenborn Ridge, just inside the Belgian border in the vicinity of Elsenborn and Krinkelt, Belgium.

The spearhead of the German attack had as its mission to crash through the area held by the 99th Infantry. They were then to head directly for the Belgian seaport of Antwerp. Time was of the essence. Every hour counted if they were to succeed. Surprise and speed had to be maintained. It was hoped by the Germans that the shock and damage would result in a favorable offer by the Allies. This did not happen.

The area in the Ardennes contained two untested American infantry divisions not long in Belgium. The 99th arrived in mid-November and relieved the veteran 9th Infantry Division and the 106th arrived in early December to relieve the equally veteran 2nd Infantry Division. Neither the 99th nor the 106th had any experience in combat.

The commander of the German spearhead was an SS lieutenant colonel by the name of Joachim Peiper, one tough Nazi! On December 16, Peiper attacked the 99th on its right flank near its border with the 106th Infantry Division. This was near the Losheim Gap, the traditional German invasion gateway.

Instead of falling back in confusion as the Germans hoped and expected the under-strength 99th fought back with unexpected ferocity and stubbornness. The 99th was under strength because four of its nine infantry battalions had been sent north to take part in action against the Germans near the Roer River dams. Peiper with his reinforced battalion immediately hit a snag in the form of 20-year-old Lt. Lyle Bouck and his I&R Platoon of less than 20 men. Bouck and his boys delayed Peiper for the better part of a day and threw a wrench in the German timetable that they never recovered. So much for the superiority of the German soldier.

The two remaining regiments of the 99th, the 394th and the 393rd gradually fell back to the prepared positions on Elsenborn Ridge and held. After several unsuccessful attempts to overrun the 99th positions Peiper obtained permission to withdraw and resort to a more southerly route to Antwerp. Needless to say the German timetable was in complete disarray at this point.

Without the two to three-day delay inflicted on Peiper by the 99th he would have reached the Bastogne crossroads before the timely arrival of the 101st Airborne Division. As it was the 101st arrived only hours before the Germans surrendered the town.

To suggest that the German soldier prevailed when confronted on equal terms just isn't or wasn't true. I know. I was there.

LOST & (HOPEFULLY) FOUND

As with many big events things were found and things were lost. We hope to be able to help by listing the items still at large:

LOST: White gold watch with diamonds lost on December 16th by Marilyn Kirtley. This watch was a treasured item which belonged to Mrs. Kirtley's mother. If you should know anything about it write to Marilyn Kirtley, 211 North Main Street, Greenville, Kentucky 42345. (No questions asked.)

LOST: Souvenir German helmet on or near Table 120 at the banquet. Helmet had a Phillips 66 decal on it. \$100 reward--no questions asked. Write to James L. Fri, Jr., 465 Cherry Road, Memphis, Tennessee 38117 (901-365-2645).

FOUND: The following items were turned into the Registration Desk and are now at the VBOB Headquarters Office: 84th Infantry Division cap (you identify); two umbrellas; pair of prescription eye glasses in brown glass case; pair of prescription eye glasses (no case); one man's leather glove (you name the color); ladies Isotoner gloves (you name the color); and a pocket knife (identify inscription)

50TH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCE

VIDEO TAPE TO BE AVAILABLE

A video tape of the highlights and ceremonies of the VBOB 50th Anniversary Commemoration in St. Louis, Missouri, this past December will be available in late May, 1995. The cost will be \$29.95, plus \$3.50 for mailing. Requests, along with your check or money order payable to John D. Bowen, should be sent to:

John D. Bowen
613 Chichester Lane
Silver Spring, MD 20904-3331
Phone: 301-384-6533

Maryland residents should include \$1.50 State Tax



Up Front Bill Mauldin

"Ever notice
th' funny
sound these
zippers make,
Willie?"

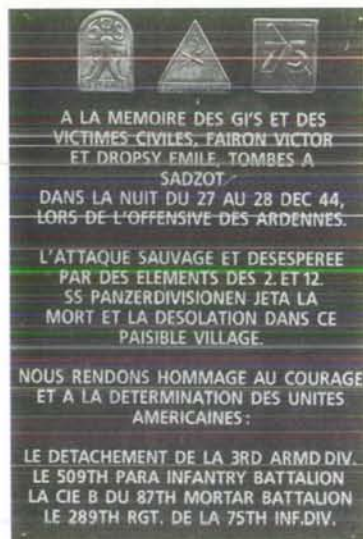
BELGIUM AND LUXEMBOURG REVISITED

Many VBOB members returned to Belgium and Luxembourg this fall and winter and some have written to share their experiences with you. While space does not allow us to use all of the stories submitted, we want to share some of them with you.

TOM LEAMON 75 INFD 289 INF CO A

...My plan was to visit each of the locations where our battalion (1st Battalion) stopped en route to our first combat on the northern shoulder of the Bulge. At Tongres, north of Liege, I photographed the station where we had detrained from those "Forty-and-Eights" 50 years ago. I asked directions of two policemen--and they adopted me: took me home to lunch, escorted me to the American cemetery at Henri-Chapelle, introduced me to Tongre's officials. It turned out that our weapons platoon may well have slept on the floor of my new friend's home in 1944. He was a 6-year-old then whose dad was a slave-laborer in Germany. It soon became very clear that the Belgians are still deeply grateful to us for their Liberation from enemy occupation--an experience foreign to most Americans. "Next year come, with your wife, and stay with us," said my impromptu host. I pointed my Opel south for the Ardennes.

A splendid highway led to Marche-en-Famenne and my hotel. Next day in Erezee's town hall, 20 minutes each of Marche, I presented my invitation [received earlier from the mayor]. The Mayor was out, but "two Americans are wandering around in the woods," said an officer, and he led my Opel east to tiny Sadzot. The two Yankees looked familiar: Martin Turkington and Frank Feinberg, both from Baker Company, whom I'd last seen at our division's Des Moints reunion two weeks earlier. They were with a local forester and his Suzuki Jeep, on an escorted tour of the woods, fire-breaks, and old foxholes in the area. We saw rusting 105 mm shells, and old trees so full of shrapnel they could never be harvested. Driving along a wooded ridge, we were told "600 German bodies were found here when the snows melted." We puzzled, trying to jibe memories with present geography. The forester brought us to his home and presented souvenirs--battered German helmets from the woods.



Pictured at left is the Sadzot stele honoring the 3rd Armored Division, 509th Parachute Infantry Battalion, Company B of the 87th Chemical Mortar Battalion, and the 289th Regiment of the 75th Infantry Division.

The first dedication of monuments took place September 10, at the Village of Melines, 3-4 miles west of Erezee. Belgian and American flags flew over a huge granite stele inscribed to honor the 2nd and 3rd Armored Divisions, the 517th Parachute Regiment's First Battalion, the 335th Regiment of the 84th Infantry Division; and the 3rd Battalion, 290th Regiment of the 75th Infantry Division. Two

huge bus loads of Americans with wives and cameras arrived, most of the men from the armored divisions, a few from the 517th PIR, and a very few from the 75th Infantry. Veterans of the Belgian Resistance and Army were present, with many appreciative local citizens. The national anthems of both countries were sung by an excellent regional choir, and speeches were made in both English and French.

The next day, Sunday, ceremonies were held just east of Erezee, in the Village of Sadzot. Events started with a standing-room-only mass in the village church in Erezee, the church packed with citizens and Belgian

Army men. Following mass, the crowd adjourned to the country crossroads of Sadzot where a vertical granite stele was in place. I met other Americans: Dr. C. J. "Maggie" Maginel, Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 290th Infantry Regiment, and Joe Baldino, I Company, 289th Infantry (both 75th Division). Several men from the 3rd Armored Division were also on hand, including John C. Anderson and Dr. William Cohen, of South Carolina and New Jersey, respectively.

The inscription on the Sadzot stele honors the Armored unit of the 3rd Armored Division, the 509th Parachute Infantry Battalion, Company B of the 87th Chemical Mortar Battalion, and the 289th Regiment of the 75th Infantry Division, as well as the civilian casualties of the battle.

As the sound system was being set up, I introduced myself to the Mayor. Following the Mayor's recounting of the battle in Sadzot, I gave my long-prepared speech in my uneasy French. The crowd laughed at my one joke and asked for autographs afterwards, so it must have gone over. The keynote of the address was recognition of the four years the Belgian people survived under the enemy, in contrast to the few weeks we Americans were in the region. The festivities concluded with a "Vin d'Honneur"--a wine reception, and a gala luncheon at the Sadzot home of M. and Mme. VanHoren, the Americans being guests of honor, and M. Florent Lambert, sponsor of the memorials, as host. As a teenager, M. Lambert was at the point of being executed by the Germans for sabotaging road signs--he was saved by a Luger which mis-fired.

In the days following, I was able to visit each stop our "A" Company made enroute to combat. Everywhere I was cordially welcomed with warmth and appreciation as a representative of the liberating armies a half-century before. The countryside of the northern "shoulder" of the Bulge is not unlike northern Vermont, with old rolling hills, dense forests and pastures dotted with flocks. The signs of war still mark the restored stone farmhouses in the tiny villages, and it was inspiring to learn that among the bitter memories of war there survives great good will toward the soldiers who were the agents of liberty half a century ago.

JOHN J. FLYNN 84 INFD 334 INF 1 BN HQ

The following cities and towns were visited in Belgium, Brussels, Liege, Bastogne Museum, Mardasson where SS troops massacred over 200 hundred American soldiers in the snow of winter. We visited American Cemeteries in Liege, Belgium and Margroton, Holland, where many 84th men now are buried. Also Houffalize, Marche where there were ceremonies and monument dedications by the town to our Division. The towns turned out in full including school children and older folks who remembered us.

Moving on to Germany, we visited towns we also took such as Aachen, Geilenkirchen, Linnich, Heidelberg where the division crossed the Rhine River. We enjoyed a cruise on the Rhine and a tour of a castle which was arranged by Dr. Gottfried Greiner, Major Gen., Ret. Then on to Hanover, Stuttgart, Koblenz, and the Black Forest. We attended the Octoberfest Folk Festival in Stuttgart after which we departed for Lucerne, Switzerland.

In Lucerne we took a trip up Mt. Pilatus via boat, cog wheel railway and aerial Gondola, a beautiful trip. Our last evening we attended the grand farewell dinner at Casino Lucerne Banquet Hall.

Everyone departed from Zurich for the flight home. I must say we were treated well by the Belgium, German and the Luxembourg and Swiss people. This trip was one we will never forget, let alone seeing the men you fought side-by-side with as infantry soldiers you have not seen in 50 years.

(Continued on Page 24)

BELGIUM/LUXEMBOURG REVISITED

(Continued from Page 23)

JACK D. FOWLER

7 ARMDD 147 ARMD SIG CO

[Jack's daughter Robin Fowler Hemphill prepared this article and it was printed by The Two River Times. We have excerpted certain portions.]

For ten days in October, I was honored to accompany the veterans of the U.S. 7th Armored Division, of which my father is a member, on their 50th anniversary tour through Europe. As we traveled through many battle sights and liberated villages, we did not anticipate the warm welcome and profound gratitude that the villagers displayed.

Our three buses approaching the towns like a journey back in time, as the people lined the streets waving flags and throwing kisses. Time and time again, at receptions at Chartres, Reims (where Hitler's Army surrendered), Verdun, Metz, Overloon and Vielsalm, it was clear that the feats accomplished by our soldiers so long ago were not forgotten. It was clear that our men gave back to the villagers the greatest gift of all--freedom.

Now as they sat on the bus rolling down the exact roads their tanks rumbled over, I could see the men searching for a church, railroad tracks or something that would validate the fact that they had actually been on that spot. I saw a sweet, peaceful countryside. The veterans saw burned out tanks, dead comrades and terrible fields of ruin. Those who were not there will never know the haunting fear, the terrible grief and the physical hardships that our young soldiers had to endure.

In their seventies, they marched proudly together, at "Veteran's pace" down the main street of Overloon, Netherlands, the scene of a nightmarish foxhole to foxhole battle 50 years ago. The small village gave us a special mass, a big band reception and planted an evergreen tree in memoria. The children of the village were active participants in the ceremonies and it is obvious that they take their history very seriously.

As our National Anthem echoed through the pine forest, I sensed a closure, a release of emotions which have been carried within us for so many years. The men of the 7th Armored Division, and all of those who fought in the war, could finally see the fruits of their valiant struggle. Europe is free today because, as young men, they fought and defeated the army of the cruelest demon that humanity has ever known.

Ironically, or perhaps prophetically, the only town which did not maintain a memorial to its liberation was the town of St. Vith, the hardest fought battle and the one nearest to the German border.

.....

ARLO SHELDAHL

84 INF 334 INF CANNON CO

During the latter half of September and the early part of October this fall Queenie and Arlo Sheldahl went on the 84th Infantry Division's 50th Anniversary Tour of World War II battlefields and the Battle of the Bulge Tour in Europe. Their trip took them to Belgium and the Siegfried Line in Germany where they visited many of the places where Arlo had been in 1944 and 1945. Their trip also included several days in Switzerland which is a wonderful place to conclude a tour.

Everywhere in Belgium they visited, the citizens both old and young expressed their gratitude to the Allies for having liberated them in 1944-45. It was so thrilling to see the little children carrying Belgian and American flags and waving them vigorously everywhere they were feted. There the young folks have been taught what the Allies did for them during WWII, and together with the older citizens showed their appreciation. In each of the villages they visited in Belgium, the officials and the citizens came out to greet them. There were wreath layings at war memorials in each village and a few words of welcome by the officials. National anthems were played at each memorial, and the Americans sang ours vigorously. The children usually sang at least one song and then waved their flags.

The highlight of the trip for Queenie and Arlo was when they visited

in Marche-en-Famenne in Belgium. During the Battle of the Bulge, Arlo had stayed in the home of a Belgian family. He got to know the children, three boys and two girls, especially the oldest boy who was then eleven and who developed a deep friendship with Arlo. On the day that Arlo departed from Marche in 1945, the 11-year-old boy came running and gave Arlo a picture of himself, his two brothers, and two friends. He did not put a name or address on the picture. Arlo carried the picture with him on this trip, and when in Marche on the square inquired of many of the citizens if they recognized the boys. None of the group recognized the boys in the picture. At the time they were only half a block from where they had lived then, but the building had been renovated.

At lunch Arlo finally found two persons who recognized the boys. They contacted Remy, who was the 11-year-old boy, by phone who at the time was in Luxembourg on business. They arranged for a reunion. In the middle of the afternoon this 61-year-old man and Arlo met. Even though 50 years had passed and both had put on quite a few pounds, they recognized each other immediately. Remy could not speak English and Arlo could not speak French, but fortunately one of the persons who arranged the meeting had also found an interpreter.



Later in the day they visited Remy's home and met his wife, Mariette, their son and daughter-in-law, and two grandsons. They also met one of Remy's sisters and a brother whom Arlo had known in 1944-45 plus a brother who was born after the war. That evening, eleven of them went to a French restaurant in Rochefort where they partook of a seven course dinner that took them from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. to complete. During the dinner Remy said to Arlo through the interpreter something that Arlo will treasure forever. Remy said "Seeing you today means more to me than if today I had received gold." Arlo says that the comment was really appreciated, and also did not realize that he had made such an impression on this young man in 1944-45. After dinner Remy and Mariette took Queenie and Arlo back to their hotel in Liege which was about a hundred miles away. They were impressed how they were graciously accepted by all of the family and friends. Even though it was quite late when they got back to the hotel in Liege, both Queenie and Arlo were filled with much joy at seeing Remy and meeting his family and friends, and the experiences of the day.

When they visited the villages in Germany which had been in the Siegfried Line, they found that most of the villages had been bulldozed after the war and then rebuilt. All of the new construction with either brick or stone as was much of the destroyed buildings. They were cordially met by the Germans. In most villages, they were met by the burgermeister who had a few words of welcome, and also some officials plus citizens. At Geilenkirchen they saw where Arlo had stayed during the war in 1944, and they also saw the new modern church building which had been built where the old Gothic church stood around the corner. When Arlo was there during the war, only part of the walls of the church were standing, but the altar area was intact.

Arlo and Queenie visited many American cemeteries. This was a solemn time for each of the veterans and Arlo stated that many a tear was shed for our fallen comrades.

SPEAKING OUT

'Catch 22' for combat vets

By Mitchell Kaidy - 87th Inf. Div.

So you think that our country is grateful to its veterans and is taking care of them? Sure, we observe Veterans Day and erect marble monuments — but the following recital may disillusion you.

During World War II, a fellow infantryman was running with a 55-pound machine gun tripod on his back when enemy shells started raining down. Diving for cover, he slipped in the snow, and the steel tripod slugged him squarely between the shoulder blades.

In the midst of the front-line frenzy, the 19-year old soldier shook off the pain, and when discharged he never mentioned what happened. But the ache persisted, and over the years deepened. A decade later, when he learned the tripod had damaged several of his spinal discs, he began experiencing difficulty walking.

Today, I hardly recognize my formerly tall, robust comrade. He is bent exactly in half, shuffling along with a cane. Over the years, while his condition worsened, the Veterans Administration refused to treat him. The reason? He couldn't establish "service connection." Fortunately, his private insurance covered him, so after decades of frustration he gave up approaching the VA (now known as the Department of Veterans Affairs).

My own experience is hardly comparable in severity, but for at least two decades I've tried to establish that my front teeth were treated on the front lines in 1945. The VA's reaction has been typical of most government agencies: a cold rebuff. Immobilized by policy, the VA has always insisted that I produce records to prove service-connection.

Service-connection sounds reasonable, but by the nature of combat, service connection is unfair. When I served on the front lines during World War II, "minor" injuries and every day medical/dental attention were never recorded. Only major injuries were recorded, usually meaning a life-threatening incident requiring evacuation to a rear-echelon hospital. Yet in some cases, those everyday problems magnified in later life.

Immediately behind the lines in Belgium in 1945, the following scene took place: A T/S dressed in an olive drab uniform pumped a foot drill and a major, dressed the same way, drilled and filled one of my front teeth. The foot-driven drill moved so slowly that puffs of smoke billowed up, and my mouth was engulfed in heat.

This occurred inside a pyramidal tent no more than two miles behind the bombing howitzers and spraying machine guns. I must have been the last patient for the pair that day, because as soon as they finished, they jammed their gear into boxes and duffel bags, and fled in their Jeep.

Records? Neither for that dental work nor for a plethora of other ailments was any such formality observed. Aspirin, the butt of all Army jokes, plus wounds pills (sulfa drugs) were the currency of frontline medicine throughout the western front.

The frontline care givers (some-times scantily trained in service) are just as liable as the ailing soldier to be wounded or killed. With bullets and shrapnel whizzing around, who has time — or the desire — to keep records?

Another group of combat soldiers who suffer this kind of unjustified bias are artillerymen — not only gunners but ammunition bearers who experienced sustained and deafening noise during combat. Inquiring about my own hearing a few years ago, I was informed by an audiologist that the hearing acuity of many artillery and infantrymen gradually erodes in their late 50s and becomes noticeable in their early 60s as a result of frontline exposures.

Reprinted from the Democrat and Chronicle, Rochester, NY
Sunday, November 29, 1994

Such ailments, as with my friend's severe back disability, don't surface until years after the traumas are experienced. But hearing loss is a silent thief in more ways than one. At the time, very few artillery gunners realized the significance of ringing in their ears — they expected the ringing and were forced to accept it. Only in later life have they paid a price.

Can there be any doubt then, that of all servicemen, combat veterans have experienced the most trauma while they offered their lives in defense of their country? This is the reason I have chafed under a policy of discrimination that has long existed against combat veterans.

Recently, years of complaining, cajoling and lobbying finally moved the Department of Veterans Affairs to recognize Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange and gulf war veterans exposed to that war's toxicity. Both syndromes mainly surfaced after the soldiers were discharged. But to this day VA policy holds that, with those few exceptions, an ailment must have been recorded as well as treated in service to qualify for post-discharge treatment.

I can't understand why a nation that is so generous toward other deserving groups discriminates against combat veterans for something we had no control over — record keeping of traumas that may not have surfaced during active duty.

Any serviceman or woman who has won the combat infantry badge, the combat medical, combat paratrooper or any valorous award in any combat operation should automatically qualify for lifetime treatment of any and all medical ailments. That goes equally for combat Marines, Air Force and Navy personnel.

Yet, under present policies, hundreds of thousands who served in World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam as well as recent smaller conflicts may be fruitlessly knocking on the Veterans Affairs' door.

Americans, we fought for you. I believe you support us.



"I don't know much about Roman rank, but I'd guess he is a Major."

**See ya' in San Antonio
in September**

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



Approximately 2,000 persons attended the National 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of the Bulge in St. Louis, Missouri, December 15-18, 1994. We have heard from many attendees and wished to share their feelings with you. Our only regret is that all of you were not there.

JEAN & JOHN FINN
28 INFD 110 INF 103 CMBT ENGR CO B

We have just returned from St. Louis and the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge.

Words cannot tell you how impressed we were with all the ceremonies. It was great. Everything was super from beginning to end.

So much thoughtfulness and work put into such a memorable affair. We will never forget how we were honored. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

It was most impressive. We really appreciate all your efforts.

JOHN M. SHALIKASHVILI
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

What a wonderful honor to take part in the opening ceremony of the 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of the Bulge! It was truly one of the highlights of the World War II tributes Joan and I have attended. We will always remember this great evening and especially the privilege of meeting the many extraordinary veterans and guests gathered in St. Louis.

...Please convey my appreciation to all those who worked so diligently to organize the various activities of this momentous weekend celebration.

Again, I salute you and the VBOBs. Your courage and heroism will never be forgotten, but will remain an inspiration to the citizens of our great Nation--today and tomorrow. Best wishes as you continue to observe the events of 50 years ago and honor those who served so nobly.

PRINCE HENRI OF LUXEMBOURG

I wish to thank you and congratulate you for the most successful and moving celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge.

It was a great pleasure and honour to meet you and all the Veterans during those three days in St. Louis.

ALFRED E. GROSSENBACHER
27 INFD 110 INF 1 BN CO A

No extant thesaurus has adjectives in quantity or quality sufficient to extol the BOB commemoration in St. Louis. Precise timing and respectful observance, pomp and camaraderie, purchase and freebies balanced the event. Like the battle itself this event is forever etched in my mind. Thank you. Thank the committee.

EDGAR J. BOWEN
E3 INFD 330 INF CO H

Enjoyed St. Louis and the festivities associated with the convention. I saw it as a job "well done." My "congrats" to all those involved.

SAM LOMBARDO
99 INFD 394 INF 3 BN CO I

[Addressed to Bill Tayman] ...No words can describe how much my wife and I enjoyed being there. The emotional experience was overwhelming.

The credit for such a well-planned and executed reunion has to go to you. Congratulations and thank you very much.

THOMAS T. MUNFORD
740 TK BN

The VBOB Reunion in St. Louis was absolutely an unbelievably wonderful thing. Never had I seen not only such closeness except in our own battalion reunions but the amount of happiness and interest in the association.

...I wish to thank those of you who helped organize VBOB and make it so worthwhile and possible.

JIM AND MEREDITH MATTHEWS
3 ARMDD 143 ARMD SIG CO

Before 1995 gets one day older, Mrs. Matthews and I wish to commend you for the beautiful, meaningful job...pulling together the myriad of details to present a commemoration honoring our fallen comrades and us, Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. Those of us in attendance in St. Louis felt privileged to have been able to participate in this historical tribute. The whole four days has given us memories that rank up there with the important events in our lives. Thank you!

DARROW JACKSON
372 ENGR REGT

Attended reunion along with four other members of our Engineer Regiment 372nd. We had a wonderful time as always. Have attended several other reunions and would like to give a special thanks to persons who participated in preparing this bash. It was great and thank you all.

JIM HERRINGTON
101 ABND 327 PIR

[Addressed to Bill Tayman] What can a Veteran, Battle of the Bulge, say about a man who assumed the full responsibility for conducting a convention of four full days, packed with so many activities that one needed no stimulant to move on, and enjoy, even more than the one just attended.

As one who has also assumed this kind of responsibility on several occasions I can say, without reservation, that your performance over the 4 days of such a momentous production receives a very excellent rating.

LUCIENNE SKELLY
NATIVE OF LIEGE, BELGIUM

We, who attended the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge at St. Louis--the veterans, their families, the native Belgians and Luxembourg soldiers and civilian survivors--such as myself--owe you a profound debt of gratitude for bringing us together, one more time, to share our memories, honor our dead and remember, and mourn and celebrate! For three glorious days you managed to shape two thousand strangers into one big family of old friends.

Your program was superb from start to finish. This was magic!

[We hope that by sharing these samples of notes received, we have brought you a little closer to the atmosphere which existed among the attendees. We thank all who wrote for their wonderful comments. It was a privilege.]

A Triumph of Courage

A dream that began fifty years ago in the Ardennes forest of Belgium and Luxembourg became a reality. Saturday, November 12th, 1994 as Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, their families and friends, joined in the unveiling and dedication of a monument honoring all who fought in that battle.

The monument, bearing the VBOB seal, and the pronouncement, "A Triumph of Courage" stands beside the parade ground at Valley Forge Military Academy & College in Wayne, Pennsylvania, just a few miles from the encampment of George Washington's Colonial troops in the bitter winter of 1777 - 1778.

The link between Washington's troops, and the American men and women who fought in the Bulge, was recalled by General John H. Telelli, Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, who delivered a stirring tribute to the Army of World War II, and the Army of the Gulf War.

Monument project chairman, Stanley A. Wojtusik, (106 ID) president, Delaware Valley Chapter, and newly-elected national executive vice president, presided and unveiled the monument with fund drive chairman George Linthicum (26 ID) newly elected VBOB vice president.

As noted in previous issues of the *Bulge Bugle*, this is the first (and only) monument in the United States that honors our heroic allies, the peoples of Belgium and Luxembourg who suffered so heavily in World War II. The victory in the battle of the Bulge meant final and complete liberation for those two countries.

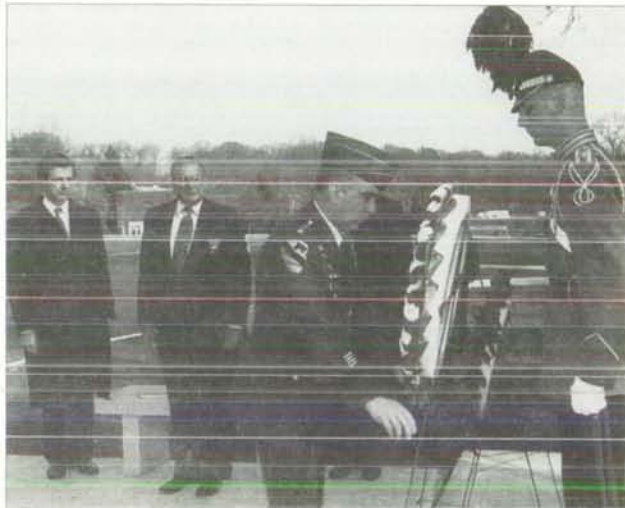
Ambassador Andre Adam of Belgium, and Ambassador Alphonse Berns of Luxembourg, expressed their nations' lasting friendship with the people of the United States, and said the bonds of our three countries are as strong today as they were in World War II. The Ambassadors joined with VBOB officials at the monument as the national anthems of our three countries were played by the VFMA & C band, and the three flags were raised.

General Oliver B. Patton (106 ID) USA (Ret), the keynote speaker stressed to the veterans assembled the need for each one to write his or her military memoirs now, so that future generations will be able to read the real - true - story of how American men and women rallied to defend our freedoms in World War II.

In closing, Mr. Wojtusik thanked VBOB members and their families and the governments of Belgium and Luxembourg for their support in "making our dream, a reality."



The international memorial monument of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge is unveiled by fund drive chairman George C. Linthicum (26 ID) (L of monument) and Stanley A. Wojtusik (106 ID R of monument) the project chairman, while the official party observes (L) Rear Admiral Virgil L. Hill, Jr., USN (Ret) president of VFMA & C; Ambassador Alphonse Berns of Luxembourg; BGen. Oliver B. Patton (106 ID) Ambassador Andre Adam of Belgium, and General John H. Telelli, Jr., vice chief of staff of the Army observe.



General John H. Telelli, Jr., vice chief of staff of the U.S. Army, laid a wreath at the monument on behalf of the Army, assisted by the cadet captain of Valley Forge Military Academy, while His Excellency Alphonse Berns, the Luxembourg Ambassador to the U.S., and George C. Linthicum (26 ID), VBOB fund drive chairman look on.

REUNIONS

2ND INFANTRY DIVISION, 38TH INFANTRY, COMPANY K (WWII & KOREA), June 14-18, 1995, Hot Springs, Arkansas. Contact: Mrs. Coy W. Durham, 1407 West 12th Street, Texarkana, Texas 75501. Telephone: 903-794-9615.

8TH FIELD ARTILLERY OBSERVATION BATTALION, October 6-8, 1995. Write to Jimmy Lipman, PO Box 3339, Arlington, Virginia 22203.

9TH ARMORED DIVISION, 27TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, September 26-30, 1995, Bloomington, Michigan. Contact: R. J. Peterson, 326 3rd Street, Parkville, Minnesota 55773. Telephone: 218-741-9119.

26TH INFANTRY DIVISION, MIDWEST YD, May 7-8, 1995, Holiday Inn, Springfield, Illinois. Contact: W. Kent Stephens, 107 Bluffview Lane, Collinsville, Illinois 62234. Telephone: 618-344-1616.

26TH INFANTRY DIVISION, June 1-3, 1995, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Contact: Angelo J. Mantenuto, 91 Shore Drive, Wareham, Massachusetts 02571. Telephone: 508-295-9144.

(Continued on Page 30)

DEDICATION
BATTLE OF THE BULGE
MEMORIAL CONFERENCE ROOM
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND
MAY 19, 1995

On Friday, May 19, 1995, another 50th Anniversary Commemoration will be held when the Battle of the Bulge Memorial Conference Room is officially dedicated in the Garrison Library, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland.

This memorial honors the 600,000 American men and women who served in the Battle of the Bulge and pays homage to the 19,000 who made the supreme sacrifice. It has been five years in the development, and will be completed thanks to the interest of hundreds of supporters in this country as well as in Belgium and Luxembourg.

LTG John Otjen, Commanding General, First U.S. Army; Colonel Robert Morris, III, Garrison Commander, Fort Meade, and Colonel Kent Menser, Past Garrison Commander, have been instrumental in making it possible for the Conference Room to be established at Fort Meade. We are most grateful for their encouragement and this generous contribution.

Battle of the Bulge veterans and their families and friends are invited to join in this special event which will include a Dedication and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony beginning at 1600 hours, Friday, May 19. A social hour and Banquet at the Officer's Club, Fort Meade, will follow at 1800 hours. An Information and Registration Form is included in this issue of The Bulge Bugle.

The Memorial Room will be available for conferences and meetings as well as serve as a display area for Battle of the Bulge artifacts and exhibits. The jewel of the room, however, will be the beautiful conference table and chairs, hand crafted by Vincent Gaspar, in Stavelot, Belgium, from the Ardennes oak in that area.

For all of those who enter, The Memorial Conference Room will be a vivid reminder of the sacrifices made in this pivotal World War II Battle--fifty years ago!

For those wishing to spend the night (or several nights) near Fort Meade and Baltimore/Washington Airport, arrangements have been made with the HOLIDAY INN, 890 Elkridge Landing Road, Linthicum, Maryland, for the special rate of \$69.00 plus tax per night for single or double room. For reservations telephone: 410-859-8400 by May 1, 1995. Mention that you are a Battle of the Bulge member.

RESERVATION FORM
DEDICATION
BATTLE OF THE BULGE
MEMORIAL CONFERENCE ROOM

GARRISON LIBRARY
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND
MAY 19, 1995

Return form by May 10, 1995 to:
BATTLE OF THE BULGE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION
P.O. Box 2516, Kensington, MD 20891-0818
Please make checks payable to: BoBHF Dedication

Telephone: 301-881-0356
(After March 2, 1995)

Name: _____ Telephone # _____

Address: _____

Unit: _____

Spouse/Guest: _____

Number of Reservations: _____ Number attending Dedication Program _____

Total Cost @ \$30.00 per person \$ _____

Table assignments for the dinner will be on your name tag and on a roster in the Lobby of the Officers' Club by noon, May 19. If you wish to be seated with friends, please include their names on this form.

Dress: Business suit/Black tie/Military dress uniform (Miniature Medals encouraged)

AGENDA

Lawn area near Library--Llewellyn Avenue, Fort Meade (parking available)

The Memorial Room will be open for viewing from 0900 to 1200 hours on Saturday morning, May 20.

- 1530 Musical Selections--Army Band Combo
- 1600 Dedication Program
- 1630 Gather in Library for Ribbon Cutting
Visit Memorial Room, view exhibits, take photographs
- 1800 Fort Meade Officers' Club--Social
Hour/Cash Bar
- 1900 Seated for Dinner
Posting of Colors
Pledge of Allegiance
Invocation
Toasts
Dinner Served
Program/Recognitions
Speaker

DINNER MENU

- Fruit Cup au Kirsch
- Veal Marsala
(with mushrooms in wine sauce)
- Stuffed Baked Potato
- Sweet Peas and Pearl Onions
- Hot Rolls/Butter
- Walnut Layer Cake
- Wine--Taylor Rose

REUNIONS (Continued from Page 27)

26TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 104TH INFANTRY, May 3-5, 1995, Atlantic City, New Jersey. Contact: Roger Hemond, P.O. Box 3523, Springfield, Massachusetts 01102-3523. Telephone: 413-593-9764.

26TH CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE TROOP, 26TH INFANTRY DIVISION, May 7-8, 1995, Holiday Inn, Springfield, Illinois. Contact: George Linthicum, 2605 Orchard Drive, Broomall, Pennsylvania 19008. Telephone: 617-356-9552.

28TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 109TH INFANTRY, September 10-13, 1995, Vergennes, Vermont. Contact: George H. Bunnell, C13 Berlin MHP, Barre, Vermont 05641-2225. Telephone: 802-229-9260.

35TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 60TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, Branson, Missouri. Contact: Ed Smith, 126 Overlook Drive #3, Branson, Missouri 65616. Telephone: 417-336-2607.

80TH INFANTRY DIVISION, August 16-19, 1995, Charlotte, North Carolina. Contact: Leonard H. Schmidt, P.O. Box 338, Walland, Tennessee 37886. Telephone: 615-984-2854.

86TH ORDNANCE COMPANY ASSOCIATION, September 13-16, 1995, Holiday Inn, Philadelphia, Ohio. Contact: Dale F. Lirgg, 1356 Kelly Street, NW, New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663. Telephone: 216-364-3603.

94TH INFANTRY DIVISION, June 1-3, 1995, Louisville, Kentucky. Contact: Harry Helms, 609 Dogwood Drive, Downingtown, Pennsylvania 19335.

95TH INFANTRY DIVISION, September 6-10, 1995, Holiday Inn, O'hare International, 5440 North River Road, Rosemont, Illinois. Contact: Lester Wolf, 8032 South 86th Court, Justice, Illinois 60458-1445.

101ST FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, May 7-8, 1995, Holiday Inn, Springfield, Illinois. Contact: W. Kent Stephens, 107 Bluffview Lane, Collinsville, Illinois 62234. Telephone: 618-344-1616.

150TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, May 17-19, 1995. Contact: Curt Shaw, 25 Sagamore Road, West Yarmouth, Massachusetts 02673.

300TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, June 1-4, 1995, LaQuinta Inn, Dallas, Texas. Contact: Frank Neuhauser, 6278 Revere Place, Dallas, Texas 75214. Telephone: 214-824-8789.

527TH ENGINEER LIGHT PONTON COMPANY, 3rd weekend in July, 1995, Kirksville, Missouri. Contact: Marion L. Munsinger, 402 9th Avenue, Eldora, Iowa 50627-1413. Telephone: 515-858-3585.

557TH AAA AW BATTALION, May 17-21, 1995, Hagerstown, MD. Contact: Jim Nealon, 6304 Crafton Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19149. Telephone: 215-288-1157.

776TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, September 11-14, 1995, Las Vegas, Nevada. Contact: Herman Hoge, 920 Vincent Way, Las Vegas, Nevada 89128. Telephone: 702-363-6282.

1153RD ENGINEER COMBAT GROUP, HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, September 22-24, 1995, Stouffer Renaissance Dublin Hotel, Dublin, Ohio. Contact: Jack Bush, 4860 Dierker Road, Columbus, Ohio 43220. Telephone: 614-326-2738.

1255TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, October 8-12, 1995, Monterey, California. Contact: Al Babecki, 915 Hemlock Street, Barefoot Bay, Florida 32976. Telephone: 407-664-0952.

3815TH QM GAS SUPPLY COMPANY, July, 1995, Tioga, North Dakota 58852. Contact: Ernest H. Ramberg, P.O. Box 1000, Tioga, North Dakota. Telephone: 701-664-3479 after May 3rd or 602-438-2988 until May 3, 1995.

CAMP FANNIN ASSOCIATION, April 6-8, 1995, Tyler, Texas. Contact: CFA, P.O. Box 132024, Tyler, Texas 75713.

BOOK REVIEW

The Last Assault.

Charles Whiting. Sarpedon, New York, 1994.

Reviewed by Oliver Patton, BrigGen, U.S.A.,ret.
2nd Lt, 423 Inf, 106th Inf. Div.

What did General Eisenhower know and when did he know it? Has this British writer been working on us so long he has adopted a Yankee ploy?

In 1969 in *Decision at St Vith*, He drew a bead on the 106th U.S. Infantry Division. "The Golden Lions," He wrote, "had neither pride in themselves nor confidence in their leadership. The U.S. Army had failed to turn them into soldiers It had not turned the carefree habits of drug store counters, drive-in-movies and baseball games into real soldiers, with that pride in themselves and their units ... known as *esprit de corps*."

Fourteen years later in *Death of a Division*, he fired another round at the 106th, though that book seems a near copy of the first with no significant change in his indictment of the division which "struck its colors and gave into the enemy."

If you served in the 106th, Mr. Whiting's path has been painful to follow but in *The Last Assault*, he has changed his tune a bit.

It wasn't the fault of the 106th, he now writes. Generals Eisenhower and Bradley used them and others as bait in a trap set for the German army. Had Eisenhower, he asks, known for weeks what was to come? "Was it possible he had deliberately lured the Germans out of their fortifications and the young GIs of Middleton's VIII Corps had been the bait?" There are some veterans of the 106th who share Whiting's view that they and the 28th Division were deliberately exposed on an extended front to lure the Germans into the attack in the Ardennes on 16 December 1944.

Says Whiting's American publisher: "It has generally been assumed by historians of the Second World War that the Americans were caught completely unawares by the last great German offensive ... but were they in fact caught unawares?" Mr. Whiting, writes his publisher, has produced a remarkable reappraisal of the battle, arguing that we were not surprised and raising a searching question: "If the Americans knew the Germans were coming, why didn't they reinforce the troops on the weakly held Ardennes sector?"

Whiting says General George Patton knew the answers but was killed in an accident before he could tell them. He asks, "Would Patton have revealed the great secret: that Eisenhower had been prepared to sacrifice a whole US Corps to get the Germans to come out of their prepared defences and fight in the open?" The tense is a little confusing but the point is clear enough.

Presumably Whiting searched all available sources for evidence to confirm his "conspiracy" but his publisher says "Ever since the end of the Second World War the guardians of the files ... have been most unwilling to permit any examination thereof," leading Whiting to raise "yet another question: was somebody trying to cover something up and if so why?"

His publisher says Mr. Whiting "suggests that, if and when *all* the information relating to the Battle of the Bulge is made available, a serious reappraisal of that brief but bloody campaign ... may be required."

Several questions, no answers. Why not? Because Eisenhower, Bradley and Patton are dead and pertinent records are locked in archives not available to Mr. Whiting. Nowadays in Washington, this is called "spin": ask embarrassing questions and say the answers are hidden by a cover-up.

For about \$25.00 you can buy a copy of Mr. Whiting's unanswered questions. It seems that for half a century the Archives of the U.S. have successfully covered up the answers to them but things are changing, great American institutions are busy rewriting history to answer new questions and if this continues maybe all will be revealed.

I recommend you skip this latest chapter in Mr. Whiting's thrilling serial. Save your money and wait for the next one. If Mr. Whiting finally reveals all, perhaps all of us will believe in his "conspiracy" and we will surely praise him though we must hope he will engage a more industrious copy editor to comb the mistakes out of his manuscript.

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FEBRUARY, 1995



**MAY THE LUCK OF THE IRISH FOREVER SHINE
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50th Anniversary Ceremonies were very lucky, indeed.
This issue attempts to share those moments with those
of you who were unable to attend.**

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