

❖ WWII MUSINGS ❖

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BULGE TABLE UNVEILED

A grand unveiling of the Bulge oval conference table made in Stavelot from the native wood was done on 21 Jul 1994 at the Fort Meade MD Officers Club. This beautiful sixteen foot table has inlaid under glass, the patches of the major units that fought in the Bulge and which the 2000+ various units came under. There are 21 high back chairs with green leather backing and seats to accommodate meetings. The 21st chair was donated by the Town of Stavelot to remain always at the head of the table unoccupied by the living in memory of those who gave their lives and join in the spirit. This chair carries the official emblem and plaque of the Town of Stavelot. The remaining chairs carry nameplates of those organizations or individuals who sponsored them. The table was unveiled by the grandchildren of the Historical Foundation leaders Bill Greenville and Dorothy Davis. The table and chairs will be located in the Post Library Conference Room as soon as the room is completed.

Though the original plans called for a Twilight Tattoo and review by the Commanding General of 1st

50th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION END of THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE REENACTMENT ANNOUNCED

26-29 January 1995

Fort Indiantown Gap, PA

The Federation of Reenactors has announced that the date of their commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge has been changed from the beginning of the Bulge in Dec to the victory of the Allies in crushing the German Counteroffensive at the end of January. Reserve this weekend so as to be there for this special event. It will also allow veterans to attend the 50th anniversary commemoration of the start of the Bulge at St Louis.

Army, thunderstorms and earlier rain forced the cancellation of the ceremony. Those who attended the afternoon practice were the only ones that caught a glimpse of this beautiful ceremony. It is unfortunate that the afternoon rains caused this event by the Third US Infantry and Military District of Washington to be cancelled but those who live in the Washington area can attend this ceremony any Wednesday evening during August on the Ellipse. You

can generally park after 5PM in the parking slots around the Ellipse that have emptied. The table unveiling was preceded by a banquet and talk by Lt Gen James H Johnson, Jr., CG, 1st US Army.

Earlier in the day, an outstanding tour of the new Encrytographic and National Security Agency Museum, located on Rt. 198 and 295 was visited by participants. This small but outstanding museum had displays on the ENIGMA, ciphering and other exhibits related to intelligence gathering and coding. It is a must to have on you list to visit.

EDITORIAL NOTE:

This newsletter is based on the research of John D. Bowen, 613 Chichester Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20904-3331 in the National Archives in the World War II Unit Records. Where noted the information provided is from the actual After/Action Reports, G-2 and S-2 Intelligence Reports and Journals. These are reports as they happened. The information may have been found to be different with fifty years of history. It is presented here as it actually was written. Comments are welcomed. This information is in the Public Domain. Credit should be given to the National Archives Military Branch, the citation and this researcher. It is distributed for the benefit of VBOB Chapter members &

Dedication

As I put this issue to rest, on 9 Aug 1994, I would like to dedicate this issue to my *older* brother, Edgar J. Bowen, Co H, 330th Inf, 83rd InfD, who was wounded on this date at St Malo, 50 years ago today, survived, recovered and returned to fight in the Bulge. He is still kicking today.

07 August 1994, Sun, Camp Atterbury, Indiana, second annual observance of the dedication of the Camp Atterbury Veterans Memorial dedicated to the 83rd InfD, 92nd InfD, 30th InfD, 106th InfD, 28th InfD and 31st InfD who trained there during WWII and Korea. Ceremony begins at 2:30 PM. Earlier at the Italian POW Chapel a picnic will be held at 11:00 AM. 317-844-6441.

11-14 August 1994-Military Vehicle Assn extravaganza and flea market at Fort Indiantown Gap. Contact Larry Tucker 703-777-1940.

14-15 August 1994-Liberation of Southern France. French//US Airborne Commemoration at Draguignan of the 14th and a Memorial Service at Rhone Cemetery on the 15th. Contact LTC Ellis, CINCUSAREUR 011-49-6221-57-8663

25 August 1994-Liberation of Paris at Paris France. Contact same as above.

04 September 1994-National Liberation Commemoration Ceremony Henri Chapelle US Cemetery, Liege Belgium. Contact LTC Ellis as above or Col Fairlamb USDAO Brussels 011-322-513-3830-25-1/03/05

06 Sep tember 1994-China-Burma-India Veterans Assn Memorial Service at 1500 hrs at Hyatt Regency Hotel, Inner Harbor, Baltimore MD. Contact J B Shoupe 703-978-9686

07-11 September 1994, Wed-Sun, 83rd Infantry Division Association Reunion, at The Pines, in the Catskills, South Fallsburg, NY 12779. Call 1-800-367-4637. Questions to Pat DiGiammerino, 1st VP, 36 East Border Rd, Malden MA 02148 (617-322-2754). Includes trip to Ellis Island, meals entertainment, and activities. A great buy.

09 September 1994-National Liberation Commemoration Ceremony, Hamm American Cemetery, Luxembourg City. See 04 Sep for Contacts.

10-11 September 1994, Illinois Remembers: 50 years of Change at Vermillion County Airport, Danville IL. Living history displays and spectator battles. Contact Donald Smith, 9 North Hegeler, Danville IL 61832 (217-431-1387)

17 September 1994, A Day of WWII Commemoration, Leesburg VA

Municipal Airport. Contact 703-777-1262. Period entertainment, vehicles, displays, battles, warbirds.

17 September 1994-Operation Market Garden-Son, Nijmegen, Holland. Contact see 04 Sep 1994.

18 September 1994,-Houffalize, Solemn Mass and unveiling of memorial to the children.. Exhibition on the Battle of Ardennes and concert of military music.

23-25 September 1994, Bastogne, Welcoming of the Veterans of the 101st Airborne Div and 501st Parachute Infantry Regt.

7-11 October 1994-Rechristening USS Torsk, Exhibit Opening and Veterans Reunion, Baltimore Maritime Museum, MD Contact Mike Waller 410-922-9122

12-16 October 1994-WASP Reunion & Wreath Laying Ceremony at Arlington Cemetery. Contact Mary O'Rouke 703-521-1996.

20 October 1994-50th Anniversary of the Battle of Leyte Gulf and MacArthur's Return to the Philippines. Joint US Army/US Navy Commemoration and Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Navy Memorial, Pennsylvania Ave between 7th and 9th Streets NW, Archives Metro Stop. Contact Tom Groppe 202-475-1444

23 October-2 November 1994, VBOB Battle of the Bulge Tour of Belgium, Luxembourg & Paris. 2-6 November, optional Normandy Extension. Call Galaxy Tours 1-800-523-7287, ask for

Alison Dodge. Time is short, a good group is going.

11 November 1994-Veterans Day Ceremonies, Arlington National Cemetery, Nation's Capital

11 November 1994-New York City Veterans Day Parade sponsored by the United War Veterans. Contact Michael Kovalevich 212-283-3421.

12 November 1994, Battle of the Bulge Monument Dedication, Valley Forge Military Academy, Wayne PA. 10AM, Memorial Service, Parade and reception. (Note change in date) Delaware Valley Chapter VBOB Contact Stan Wojtusik 215-637-4191

15-18 December 1994,-Official National 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of the Bulge, St Louis Missouri. Reception, National Flag Exhibit, Plaque dedication, VBOB parade, Ecumenical Memorial Service at the Great St Louis Cathedral, Belgium Symphonic Band and Concert, 50th Anniversary Banquet, US Army Field Band Production featuring scenes and musical numbers from WWII. A grand event. Contact VBOB Hq PO Box 11129, Arlington VA 22210-2129, Tel 703-528-4058

16 December 1994,-Bastogne, Official Memorial Day of the Battle of the Bulge Memorial ceremony in the presence of the civil and military authorities, with the participation of the veterans of the 101st Airborne Division. Historical Reconstruction (Reenactment?) of the siege of Bastogne. Concert of military music. Foire aux Noix and street markets.

18 December 1994,-Baugnez, Concelebrated Mass and Memorial ceremony in memory of the US victims of the massacre at Baugnez by the SS troops.

8 May 1995-V-E Day Commemoration, Washington DC, Offut AFB, Omaha NE and Salt Lake City Utah. Further info to follow.

June/July 1995-Encampment on the Mall-A living history display/exhibit focusing on the WWII period. Contact Diana Parker 202-287-3424, Center for Folklike Program and Cultural Studies, Smithsonian.

2 September 1995- V-J Day Commemoration, Washington DC

General Patton's Prayer

This prayer was published in *Le Drapeau* in the original text of the tasty prayer of General George Patton, Jr. which was published about the time of the German Winter Offensive. This prayer has been written in the manner of speech by the great general in the Chapel of the "Foundation Pescatore" at Luxembourg a few days before Christmas 1944

Battle of the Bulge 16 December 1944 - 25 January 1945

Sir, this is Patton talking. The last fourteen days have been straight hell. Rain, snow, more rain, more snow - and I'm beginning to wonder what's going on Your headquarters. Whose side are You on, anyway?

For three years my chaplains have been explaining this as a religious war. This, they tell me is the Crusades all over again, except that we're riding tanks instead of chargers. They insist we are here to annihilate the German Army and the Godless Hitler so that religious freedom may return to Europe.

Up until now I have gone along with them, for You have given us Your unreserved cooperation. Clear skies and a calm sea in Africa made the landings highly successful and helped us to eliminate Rommel. Sicily was comparatively easy, and You supplied excellent weather for our armored dash across France, the greatest military victory that You have thus far allowed me. You have often given me excellent guidance in difficult command decisions and You have led German units into traps that made their elimination fairly simple.

But now, You've made changed horses midstream. You seem to have given Von Runstedt every break in the book and, frankly, he's been beating hell out of us. My army is neither trained nor equipped for winter warfare. And, as You know, this weather is more suitable for Eskimos than for Southern cavalymen.

But now, Sir, I can't help but

feel that I have offended You in some way. That suddenly You have lost all sympathy with our cause. That You are throwing in with von Runstedt and his paper hanging god. You know without me telling You that our situation is desparate. Sure, I can tell my staff that everything is going according to plan, but there's no use telling You that my 101st Airborne is holding out against tremendous odds in Bastogne, and that this continual storm is making it impossible to supply them even from the air. I've sent Hugh Gaffey, one of my ablest generals, with his 4th Armored Division, north toward that all important road center to relieve the encircled garrison, and he's finding Your weather much more difficult than he is the Krauts.

I don't like to complain unreasonably, but my soldiers from the Meuse to Echternach are suffering the tortures of the damned. Today I visited several hospitals, all full of frostbite cases, and the wounded are dying in the fields because they cannot be brought back for medical care.

But this isn't the worst of the situation. Lack of visibility, continued rains, have completely grounded my air force. My technique of battle calls for close-in fighter-bomber support, and if my places can't fly, how can I use them as aerial artillery? Not only is this a deplorable situation, but, worse yet, my reconnaissance planes haven't been in the air for fourteen days, and I haven't the faintest idea of what's going on

behind the German lines.

Dammit, Sir, I can't fight a shadow. Without Your cooperation from a weather standpoint, I am deprived of an accurate disposition of the German armies, and how in hell can I be intelligent in my attack? All this probably sounds unreasonable to You, but I have lost all patience with Your chaplains who insist that this is a typical Ardennes winter, and that I must have faith.

Faith and patience be damned! You have just got to make up Your mind whose side You're on. You must come to my assistance, so that I may dispatch the entire German Army as a birthday present to Your Prince of Peace.

Sir, I have never been an unreasonable man. I am not going to ask You for the impossible. I do not even insist upon a miracle, for all I request is four days of clear weather.

Give me four clear days so that my planes can fly; so that my fighter-bombers can bomb and strafe, so that my reconnaissance may pick out targets for my magnificent artillery. Give me four days of sunshine to dry this blasted mud, so that my tanks may roll, so that ammunition and rations may be taken to my hungry, ill-equipped infantry. I need these four days to send von Runstedt and his godless army to their Valhalla. I am sick of this unnecessary butchery of American youth, and in exchange for four days of fighting weather, I will deliver You enough Krauts to keep Your bookkeepers months behind in their

Henri Lejoly?

By John D. Bowen

The National Archives opened an exhibit in the Rotunda, where the Charters of Freedom are displayed, called the Faces of War. This exhibit combines pictures and documents to discuss various aspects of war such as Unity, Endurance, Fear and Change.

Under the Change category there was a picture used of a Belgian Henri le Joly (Lejoly) taken 16 Jan 1945 in Belgium. I thought it would be interesting if I could locate this individual, not only to let him know that his picture was on display in the Archives Rotunda, but to get a human interest story, 50 years later of one of the faces on display. Because of my interest in the Bulge, I thought it most appropriate for this years commemoration.

I had contacted a member of CRIBA, the Belgian equivalent of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge back in March but did not hear from that letter. I had written to a couple of Belgian researchers but still no response. After the D-Day ceremonies, Daniel Funk, a member of the MD/DC Chapter of VBOB returned from the Normandy Beaches, where he had met the President of the CEBA organization, from Luxembourg and asked to enroll him in the Chapter, so that he could receive the WWII Musings. As membership chairman of the Chapter I prepared a packet of materials to send over and decided on a gamble to include a brochure on The Faces of War exhibit to see if Camille knew Henri Lejoly. To my surprise I received a prompt response on 25 Jul 1994 which stated "Yes, I knew Mr Lejoly, he died a few years ago." Camille then proceeded to quote from Toland's book of the Battle of the Bulge entitled Battle. I was not sure exactly what he was telling me as some of the key words in English were not precise. However the gist of the quotes rather than being jubilant seemed to carry an ominous message. I searched for my copy of Toland's book Battle but could not find it but I did find a copy of Charles Mac Donald's "Time for Trumpets" on the Bulge and checked the index for Henri Lejoly. Lo and behold there were three references for him. As I turned to the pages I was disappointed with myself that I had never given any thought earlier to check my many books on the Bulge. There on page 217 was the first mention of Henri Lejoly, a farmer who lived across from the Cafe in Baugnez, where the Malmedy massacre occurred. Charles Mac Donald states "At the road junction, as the Germans struck, Private Ford was still directing vehicles past. When three or four men from one of the trucks ran in Ford's direction, he motioned them to come with him and dashed behind one of the few buildings close by, a cafe run by Mme. Adele Bodarwe. From there, Ford spotted a small shed and swiftly hid in it with the other men.

Inside the cafe, Madame Bodarwe watched the carnage in horror. Even though her son had been forced to serve in the German Army, she was loyal Belgian. With her that morning was a farmer neighbor, Henri Lejoly, who was not necessarily pro-German but thought it well to side with whoever appeared to be in charge. He went to the door of the cafe and waved warmly to the Germans."

Peiper arrived in short order and was annoyed

that his men were needlessly expending ammunition against "those beautiful trucks, which we needed so badly, all shot up." These trucks were those of the 285th Field Artillery Observation Battalion which unfortunately had arrived at this junction at the same time as Peiper and his Panzer unit had. The men of B Battery, 285th FAOB had been captured. Henri Lejoly was to be one of the civilian eye witnesses to the massacre that was to follow.

This in itself is not incriminating, for my research into Charles Mac Donald's papers at the US Army Military History Institute at Carlisle Barracks shows that there was another civilian eye witness, a 15 yr old boy by the name of Pfeifer, to this carnage. However on Page 218, of his book, Charles Mac Donald goes on to say that "Homer Ford, the military policeman, and the men who had hidden with him in the shed, soon joined the ranks of prisoners. Henri Lejoly pointed out their hiding place to the Germans." What turned out to be an inquiry to possibly bring joy has turned out to bring sadness. It is ironic that this picture picked from millions that were taken during WWII by the Signal Corp should turn out to be of one, not worthy of honors, but a betrayer, an embarrassment.

Ted Paluch, a survivor of the Massacre, and a member of the Delaware Chapter of VBOB, said the other week, that he did not recall Lejoly as he only remembers Germans in uniform. Ted was trying to escape and survive and had to play dead after he had made a run for it once and the Germans had fired after them and believed that they had killed Ted. How wrong they were.

My continuing research into Henri Lejoly has uncovered some yet unresolved twists and questions. In the Mac Donald papers there is a typewritten sheet that states that Lejoly was tried as a spy by the Belgian's which I am trying to verify. There is also a statement in Mac Donald's papers alluded to be a later interview and a picture of Lejoly as an old man.

What is interesting is that Lejoly did not testify, nor did the 15 year old Pfeifer boy, in the trial, at Dachau, of the Germans for this Massacre. Had Lejoly disappeared? Was he not a trusted witness? He surely was there on the 16th of Jan 45 when his picture was taken. There are also pictures in the Signal Corp Collection of his home and pictures taken from the inside of his house towards the 'killing field.'

My research into the records at the Suitland Archives Branch, which is still ongoing, shows that Lejoly's wife was interviewed in 1945 but the index card for Henri Lejoly says that he wasn't interviewed until 1947. This is strange! It is obvious from the various photos of his property and the photo of him, used in the current exhibit, that he was talked to and photographed that 16 Jan 45, but where is the record? There are no other civilians photographed in the near 60 to 70 photographs of the Massacre scene and surrounding dwellings immediately after we retook that area, on 14 Jan 45. And where was Lejoly from 17 Dec 44 to 14 Jan 45 when the Germans controlled the area? Why would the Germans let an eye witness survive since they had burned down the cafe? Maybe the Belgian's had confined him. My research continues and will be shared in the next WWII Musings.

FINAL PUSH

As in the Bulge, your contribution is needed for that final push to put the Battle of the Bulge Memorial over the top. The Delaware Valley Chapter, VBOB which has been spearheading this Memorial to be dedicated at Valley Forge Military Academy on 12 Nov 1994 is asking that if each member was to send in a five dollar contribution the project would be completely paid. The Delaware Valley Chapter is to be commended for raising the funds to build this memorial to all Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge without the aid of professional fund-raisers. If you can't afford a five then send a buck or two to George Linthicum, Del Valley Chapter, 2605 Orchard Dr, Broomall PA 19008, 215-356-9552. Another contribution is always welcome to end their worries. Do it now while you are thinking about it. Help push

Patton

"Courtney Hodges and Omar Bradley both received Distinguished Service Medals for their unsuccessful defense of the 'Bulge.' I did not receive one for successfully

"Take this 5-gallon gasoline can to Montgomery with this message: "Although I am sadly short of gasoline myself, I know your admiration for our equipment and supplies and I can spare you this 5 gallons. It will be more than enough to take you as far as you probably will advance in the next two days."

"Bradley wanted to get Lt Col Darby to command the 180th Regt Combat Team of the 45th Div with the rank of Colonel. Darby preferred to stay with the Rangers. This is the first time I ever saw a man turn down a promotion. Darby is a great soldier. I gave him the Distinguished Service Cross."

"The Third Army starts attacking in the morning, but we will go slow so the others can catch up."

One of our American officers the other day began copying the British and started putting the initials of his decorations after his name; so today I wrote him a letter, adding the simple initials 'S.O.B.'"

"It is noticeable that most of the American officers here are pro-British, even Ike. I am not, repeat not, pro-British." (Patton Quotations, The Unknown Patton by

Upon meeting General George Patton during the Second World War (John) McCloy had asked the celebrated military hero if he had ever read the leather-bound volumes of Clausewitz and Jomini that were conspicuously displayed in his command tent. "Hell, no," Patton had answered. "But it impresses the hell out of the war correspondents."

March to Victory

An excellent book, The March to Victory has been revised this year and is available for anyone going to Europe. It is a Guide to WWII Battles & Battlefields from London to the Rhine. It includes maps, directions, times, background, etc. If there is enough interest I will secure copies at \$14.00 +.70 MD Tax for MD residents and 3.00 for shipping & handling for this 293 page, softcover book. Please write to me, John D. Bowen, 613 Chichester Lane, Silver Spring MD 20904 with your check.. Even if you don't plan to visit the stories & maps accompanying the directions are worth it. It gives the trail of Kampfgruppe Peiper in the Ambleve Valley & the spot where the 740th Tk Bn & 1st Bn 119th stopped Peipers column. Martin Blumenson says "This handbook is indispensable for those who want to see the places where fighting occurred as well as the museums and memorials of the combat."

BATTLE OF THE BULGE

Memory Routes Book

\$8.00 plus \$2.00 Postage & Handling

This 153 Page soft cover book was produced by the CRIBA & CEBA Organizations of Belgium & Luxembourg respectively to commemorate the Battle of the Ardennes by listing and describing the monuments, museums and locations with a description and photo. It gives museum times also. John Bowen, 613 Chichester Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20904-3331 is handling sales for them. It can be picked up at the 21 August picnic

"In my opinion, we will only win this war through blood, sacrifice and courage. In order to get willing fighters, we must develop the highest possible "Esprit de Corps." Therefore, the removal of distinctive badges and insignia from uniforms is highly detrimental. To die willingly, as many of us must, we must have tremendous pride not only in our nation and in ourselves, but also in the unit to which we belong."

USE OF THE BAZOOKA

The purpose of the Bazooka is not to hunt tanks offensively, but to be used as the last resort in keeping tanks from over running infantry. Since the Bazooka is unarmored, and always discloses its position when fired, it must get a hit on the first shot. To insure this, the range should be held to around thirty yards. When thus used, the Bazooka will hit and penetrate any tank that I have yet seen and will probably stop it. If used at longer ranges, it will probably miss and its operators will then become targets for the tank's machine guns. (Source: General Patton's Letter of Instruction No 3, Hq Third US Army, 20 May 1944)

Continued on next page.