

# Battle Of Bulge Began 15 Years Ago Today

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**HEADQUARTERS NO MORE**—The destroyed building was the operations center for a 106th Infantry Division unit in St. Vith, Belgium. It was demolished in the Battle of the Bulge which started 15 years ago today. The picture was taken by Arnold Goldberg, who returned to St. Vith after the battle seeking information about two lost companies of his battalion. The headquarters for Mr. Goldberg was in the above building.

## Memories Vivid For Veterans Of 106th Division

### 'Fresh' Unit Bore Brunt Of First Attack In Ardennes, In Greatest WWII Battle

The most desperate battle of World War II was the Battle of the Bulge. It began 15 years ago, today, Arnold Goldberg, editor of The Evening Standard, was a member of the 106th Infantry Division during those fatal days.

Today in an anniversary that veterans of the 106th Infantry Division will never forget.

They awoke this morning on Dec. 16, 1944, secure in their homes, surrounded by their families but vividly remembering another Dec. 16, a day 15 years ago.

At 5:30 a. m. on Dec. 16, 1944 the greatest battle of World War II began.

It started in the eerie region of the Ardennes Forest, near the Belgium-Luxembourg border.

The night before American soldiers looked down in the gray-black vista of the forest's evergreens, oblivious of what was to come on the morrow. They dug foxholes and constructed strongpoints. The snow was a soft depth.

The temperature was around the zero mark.

The 106th was spread over a large front with its headquarters in St. Vith, Belgium.

St. Vith, about 8000 people, was the best road in the northern portion of the Ardennes Forest with rail lines converging into a mammoth freight yard.

The German drive thrust his division to St. Vith.

At daylight, waves of Volksgrenadiers, spearheaded by panzer divisions, smashed into the 106th Division's lines seeking a decision early in the breakthrough.

The division settled in its grim business, dug in deeper, fought with everything it had. There were no reinforcements.

Truck drivers and mechanics, clerks and cooks, band members and supply personnel shouldered weapons and took to foxholes. St. Vith held the day.

The Division's 42nd Regiment was pulled back from its front line position to regroup around St. Vith. The 42nd and 43rd regiments of the division were surrounded.

For the two cutoff regiments, ammunition, food and medical supplies for the wounded ran low. Artillery was reduced to headquarters as they supplied them by an air drop. The sunny fog which covered the frozen countryside made air transportation impossible.

It has gone down in history that the two regiments, fighting inside the German lines, passed a serious obstacle in the German plans. They endured the rearing units to prepare a heroic defense at St. Vith, delayed the attack schedule and prevented the early stages of the Battle of the Bulge from exploding into a complete German victory.

They fought the ever-widening border of panzers with machine guns, rifles and machine guns. That last message was, "Can you get some ammunition through?"

There no more was heard from the two encircled regiments, except what news filtered back by small groups and individuals who escaped the trap. Many were known to have been killed. Many



**A CITY DESTROYED**—This is what the main headquarters section of St. Vith, Belgium looked like when the Battle of the Bulge in World War II was over. Every building in the city of 10,000 persons was unshattered.

were missing. Thousands turned up later in German prison camps. Men of the 106th Division, who fought in the defense of St. Vith, were almost unrecognizable in the American press being investigated by the story of the encircled troops at Bastogne, a few miles to the north.

A mighty sea - saw battle churned over the region.

Fighting at the unexpected angle in their plans and aware that precious hours were being lost, the Germans initiated repeated fanatical attacks along the perimeter of the defensive line. Time and again they were thrown back.

Individual gallantry and feats of bravery were legion.

Men alone, and in small groups, fought their way out of the surrounded mile.

One platoon of the 42nd Regiment held a vital roadblock until benched in. There were four D ration chocolate bars and little ammunition among the 21 doughboys. But they battled through the snow and gnawing cold to resist the division.

Sgt. Edward Wilcox, of Central Postal Directory, Engineer Battalion of the Division, volunteered for what seemed a suicidal mission.

His platoon was pinned down in a house near St. Vith by four enemy tanks. The most were frozen unless escape could be made by diversion.

Wilcox attacked the four tanks armed only with a sub-machine gun. His platoon withdrew safely.

When last seen, Wilcox was pouring a withering fire into the tanks. He was killed as he was in action but four months later showed up in a POW camp.

This was a dark December for America and the Allies.

The effect of the Battle of the Bulge was unbelievable.

On Christmas Day it punched his way into Mustang again and

this time held. It was one of the significant actions of the Ardennes battle.

According to Gen. Eisenhower's personal officer, American losses in the Battle of the Bulge were 8,000 men. There were 4,007 killed, 47,159 wounded and 21,444 missing.

Over 6,000 of these casualties were in the 106th Division.

And so today across the land the men of the 106th (Central Postal Directory) Division will remember that fateful day in the Ardennes Forest of 15 years ago when Hitler's legions reared over the snow covered hills and met an Allied fighting machine whose fortitude and heroism turned the tide toward an eventual victory for America.

On Dec. 10, 1944 The Evening Standard headline said: "Ordeal Of German Attack Blocked Out."

The weary, battle-hardened survivors of the first week in the Ardennes Forest pulled back to Werbomont, Belgium, about 20 miles from St. Vith. Elements of the 106th Division became attached to the XVIII Corps, then commanded by Gen. Matthew Ridgeway.

Without markets, with barely enough rations and unable to light fire for warmth because of black-out conditions, what remained of the 106th dug in on a windswept hill.

The title laced on the cold Christmas in the history of the Belgians.

The lone surviving regiment of the division, the 43rd, launched the first counter-attack of the Battle of the Bulge at a little crescent-shaped village of Manhay. This road junction was the northern pivot point of the German penetration into Belgium. It was another bloody battleground for the 106th.

The 43rd Regiment pushed into the town, then was forced to withdraw.

On Christmas Day it punched his way into Mustang again and

## Cantata To Be Given At St. Paul's

A Christmas cantata by Hector Lavays will be presented by the Senior Choir of St. Paul's Lutheran Church at the Sunday morning worship service.

The choir is under the direction of David L. Martin with J. Henry Johnson as the organ.

The personal includes: Solists, Barbara Cole, Herian, Hansco, Kris, Betty Fitch, Elodie Strick and Laraine Martin; men's trio, Greg Mast, Herian Hase and Ovidio Coer, soprano, Vivian Gail, Carol Sicles, Audrey Brown, Jay Lynn Zille, Francis Cole, Irene Ball; alto, Martha Nevin, Kathleen MacLaughlin, Anna Lew, Irene Sauer, Vera Mae Silverman, Honor, Ray Cole, Robert Sicles, Wayne Koryak, baritone, Bruce Silverman, David L. Martin; basses, Thomas Brownfield, J. a and S. Sicles.

At 7 p. m., the primary and six graders' department will be heard in a service of recitation and song in the sanctuary directed by Mrs. Martha Moore and Violet Goff. Mrs. Burdette Sunny is organist.

A fellowship hour will follow in the downstairs auditorium. The public is invited. The Rev. G. C. Waldron is the church pastor.

**SEEKS DIVERGE**  
Anna Grace Basso of Conestoga, Pa. has filed suit for divorce from James J. Basso of New York City, charging indignities.

A haunting summer in Israel can swim in four different seas in one day - the Mediterranean, the Dead Sea, the Sea of Galilee and the Red Sea.

## Rockefeller Gets Mixed Reaction In Wisconsin

MILWAUKEE, Wis. (AP)—Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller started his second round of political juggling in Wisconsin today, after running into a very mixed reception on his first day in the state.

Reactions ranged from officials' coolness to admiring applause. Milwaukee Republican officials made it crystal clear that they want Vice President Richard M. Nixon as the party's candidate for president.

Other Wisconsin Republicans, however, indicated they might support Rockefeller for the nomination.

For the first time on this tour of the Middle West, Rockefeller failed to draw capacity crowds for his appearances. There were empty seats in the Marquette University auditorium and in the meeting of the World Affairs Council.

"Some Democrats say you are as reactionary as Nixon," said a man, "and other people call you a Democrat in Republican clothing. Which are you?"

During the question-and-answer period at the World Affairs Council meeting Tuesday night, a man prefaced his question by describing Rockefeller as "a new arrival, not a very brilliant one, on the political scene."

The audience exploded with applause and cheering.

So it went all day, the cool and the warm, a day wholly unlike any others Rockefeller has had as he moved through Indiana, Missouri and Minnesota, before coming into Wisconsin.

Rockefeller's smile seldom faded and he showed no signs of being discouraged.

*Give Her The Finest...*

## Engineers' Party Set

Fraternity Chapter, Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers, will hold its Christmas party to-morrow evening at 8:30 in the form of a dinner at Uniontown Country Club.

The society's president, George J. Sarr, will preside. Serving as master of ceremonies will be Mrs. M. Sarr.

A program arranged by Fred Boyd, chairman; H. Joseph Conish and William Trapp includes: Solo numbers, Mrs. William H. Sarr, ballroom exhibition, dancing, Joseph Martiniello and Vicki Shipley, top routine, Bill Trapp, piano, Edna and Ella Lincoln, coin-toss dance, Janet Karpus, acrobatic dance, Vicki Shipley. Members of the Reception Committee are Mr. and Mrs. Harold Harzer and Robert Wood.

One hundred and twenty men accompanied Columbus when he discovered America.

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