

LETTERS

Battle of the Bulge another milestone

This is a special year for World War II veterans, especially in light of the 50th anniversary of the June 6, 1944 Normandy landing.

Another eventful military milestone of that same year was the Battle of the Bulge, which began Dec. 19, 1944.

When we speak of that defensive struggle, we recall such names as Bastogne, "Nuts," the 101st Airborne division, Patton and Doolittle.

There was another segment of that battle, the surrender of two regiments of the 106th U.S. Army Infantry Division, known as the "Golden Lions," to the German 6th SS Panzer Division. Among those unwillingly surrendered was a 24-year-old machine gun sergeant, Dominick Biondi, my uncle and godfather.

During his imprisonment, the extreme shortages of food, supplies, clothing and other essentials prevailed until his liberation by the Russian Army in April 1945.

My "Uncle Micky," as our family called him, never related much about his war experiences, or the anguish of the friends he lost in combat and imprisonment. It was during my Army service in the Vietnam War era that he related almost all the details to me, and then I could put all the pieces of that phase of his life together.

I hope you will publish this letter, because participants of the Bulge should be just as honorably remembered as were the Normandy Invasion veterans.

There was one aspect that stands out. When the regiments of the 106th Division were formed, the men were drawn from the same local areas. My uncle's regiment consisted of men mainly from Bergen and Passaic counties in New Jersey. The majority of men either knew each other before their assignment to the 106th or shared the same home-area bond.

I am asking any veteran or families of veterans who fought at the Battle of the Bulge to please write me to fill in any missing personal facts regarding this historic conflict so I can submit the information for publication.

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