

# Manuel "Mel" Raimundo

## 106th Infantry Division

**"The only good part about the Battle of the Bulge is that I was only 20 years old and could take it," member Manuel "Mel" Raimundo said of his experience as a U.S. soldier in Germany during World War II.**

**Raimundo, 81, of Sacramento was an ambulance driver in the Army's [106th Infantry Division](#). He was traveling in Bastogne in southeast Belgium when he was captured Dec. 16, 1944, in the infamous Battle of the Bulge.**

**Though Nazi forces ultimately lost the famous battle, more than 76,000 American soldiers were killed, wounded or missing in action, according to the U.S. Department of Defense Web site.**

**Raimundo said he was forced to march for six days to a railroad yard and was squeezed into an overcrowded boxcar with about 85 other POWs. He spent several more days traveling without food or water until he arrived at a prison camp in [Muhlberg](#), Germany.**

**Raimundo said he spent five months in captivity until he was freed by the Russian military on May 1, 1945.**

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