

A4 Asbury Park Press Sunday, Dec. 25, 1994

COVER STORY

War is hell, even in snow, battle veterans recall

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Armored Division were surrounded by German troops...

The next thing he knew, he three days was cancelled and he and his fellow soldiers were loaded onto trucks...

The motor company hurried out of France on the French coast, making their way to the front...

The 104th just had that truck, but once in Bastogne, they were surrounded by German forces...

Platoon and his company were sent to defend the southern perimeter of Bastogne in a town called Marvie...

The Germans, however, did not attack. Their request for the Americans to surrender their weapons...

There on Dec. 23, the weather cleared. Squads of C-47 supply planes appeared over Bastogne...

Although Bastogne is considered the turning point of the battle, it took another month of constant fighting in the bitter cold to cause the "liberation" of the town...

Platoon and the rest of the 72nd Infantry fought through to the other side...

Some veterans. Call as hell, I walked out of there with frostbite on my hands, feet and nose...

His other four leg members in order. "Make sure in common with the other soldiers..."

According to the French, it was the worst winter in 50 years. Our troops were not equipped for winter combat...

The infantry was under orders not to fire their rifles for fear of cutting off circulation and causing painful frostbite...

"We had no conception of time. We walked, walked and walked some more trying to push the Germans back to the breasting point..."

Dr. Donald Peter Bence of Spring Lake, who was a battalion surgeon with the 70th Airborne Division...

"We were able to proceed to St. Vith, where we found a chow with an antiseptic already set up..."

Another POW was Harold L. Silver, who now lives in Lakeland. He was involved with the medical detachment...

There was just food, and we in the improved situation rarely knew what was around...

During the initial German push, many Americans were taken prisoner. One of the first was...

It was cold and a light snow was falling. "The wind was blowing, making it hard to see..."

"I remember being kicked and heard a German talking. I looked up and saw fire in the air..."

They were punched and kicked by their German captors, and then marched through the German lines...

They were eventually released with his unit.

Charles F. Jenkins of Eatontown was the 1960 Division's first sergeant during the Battle of the Bulge...

"I had been in that position for three days, until our gear was hauled in their trucks and German tanks overran our position..."

Both armies had incurred lots of casualties from hunger and lack of food...

Battle of the Bulge: 50 years later

At 2:30 a.m. on Dec. 16, 1944, the Germans opened the U.S. 1st Army in the sector of the Western Front...

By Jan. 20, 1945, the German armies were back at starting point in 34 days of fighting, 100,000 of the original 200,000 German soldiers were killed...



Map of the Battle of the Bulge showing the Ardennes region, German advances, and the positions of the U.S. Third Army and First Army.



William Kraft, a veteran of the Battle of the Bulge, is shown in a photograph.

100 men last night as a monument to our organization. Jacobs said, "I never thought of myself as a heroic figure..."

Christmas spirit sparked brief halt to WWII

The British sent a few hundred tanks away could we then. However, the British sent five lighting batteries and tanks...

Why they should be trying to kill each other. The generals were shocked. Soldiers sang carols to each other, exchanged gifts of tobacco, soap, chocolate and liquor...

Gen. Sir Bernard Smith Dorell, commanding British II Corps, wrote in his diary on Dec. 2, 1944, "World's greatest battle in our history..."

Autosound & Cellular advertisement featuring Motorola Plus 550 Flip Phone, free cigarette car adapter, free computer checkup, free home charger, free loaner phone, free leather case, free activation, and free battery.

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