



*Veterans of the
52nd & 6th Infantry
Stationed in Bamberg Germany*

“SITREP”

Official Newsletter of the
Veterans of the 52nd and 6th Infantry Regiments Stationed in Bamberg
Germany 1972 to 1990

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A Note From the (Temporary) Editor

By Mike Streff

You are going to have put up with me as the temporary editor of the SITREP for a couple more months. Bill Burt had to step back from his duties to take care of some personal business. If you get a second, send him a note of thanks for all he does for us, and words of encouragement. His email is lmjwrb@msn.com. We hope that this is just temporary – maybe soon we can get back to an editor who has some command of the English language!

This SITREP continues to highlight our upcoming reunion in Las Vegas this fall. We provide more information and a couple of “teasers” on our traveling museum, which will be on display at the reunion for the first time. The traveling museum includes stories by our veterans about their time in Germany (oral histories), equipment displays, posters of vehicles and weapons, both ours and theirs, stories about family life in Bamberg, and much more. The museum will include many media types including videos, audio recordings, posters, booklets, and where possible, physical displays of equipment.

The traveling museum is new for this reunion and is being developed through the leadership of Robert Pruitt, Bill Burt, Bob Domenici, and Sara Streff. There are a couple of examples of what you will see in this SITREP – look at them and I think you will be excited as we are about the coming reunion.

Plans for the reunion are near complete – the only thing that is missing is you. Come join your brothers in Las Vegas. Sign up for your room now and sign up for events will be in just a couple of days.

This article continues a series of articles about the 52nd Infantry Regiment 80 years ago in World War Two. Dennis Barletta describes the actions of our three battalions during the Battle of the Bulge, and the price they paid to help stop the enemy advance. We also highlight some of the activities around the 250th birthday of our Army, which is next month.

But before all that, we describe ways that we are working to improve our communications with you. We will start using Constant Contact to do mass emails, and for things like the sign up for our events. I am sure we will have growing pains, but I think soon we will be doing a better job telling you about all that is happening with our veterans’ group. Please help us find some members listed on page 5 who are missing an email address.

If you have any comments or would like to see something included in the SITREP, please send them to us.

Best to you from Virginia.

Mike

Missing Brothers / Constant Contact.

We are working to improve our communications with you, our fellow veterans. And we are trying to improve our processes, so that doing work for our veteran's organization is not so onerous for our volunteers.

There are several recent things that have happened that are driving us to improve our processes.

- When we sent out the SITREP in April, over 10% of the email addresses we had were bad. That means that 50 of our over 500 active members are not getting our SITREPs, information on our reunions, or annual reports of our activities.
- We also continue to have numerous problems sending out mass emails to the group. The email systems we have on our home computers are not set up for mass mailings and have limits on the number of emails per day that we can send. There are work arounds, but sending 14 emails over two days to bypass the limits is not a good solution.
- We have no online system for our veterans to register with the organization, and to keep our rosters and have no redundancy or backup of our roster.
- Additionally, we get very little feedback on who is seeing our messages. We have redundant communications methods (emails, Facebook, and the website) but modern mass emailing applications allow organizations to see open and read rates and confirm that messaging is getting through.
- Finally, we still don't have an online way to have people sign up for events such as our reunions.

We are taking the following steps to improve our communications with you, our veterans.

- We are sending out a mailing (yes, a post office mailing) this month to everyone we have on our roster to confirm contact with you.
- We are contacting everyone who uses the Facebook page but is not on our roster and asking them to sign up on the roster.
- We are listing the folks with bad emails on both the SITREP and on the Facebook page and asking you to help us get back in contact with these folks.
- We are asking our members to help us contact **veterans who are** not on our roster.
- And finally, on June 1, we are going to start using a commercial emailing service (Constant Contact) which will help us get our emails to you, which will give us feedback

on them getting received and read, which will allow us to register and keep track of our members, and which we can use for signing up for our reunions and other events.

I am sure there will be some growing pains getting started with Constant Contact. We will continue to send out all information multiple ways until we are sure that we have everyone migrated. Please give us your feedback as we go.

The following are members of our group who we do not have good emails for. If you know any of these folks, please do one of the following.

- Send us their email address.
- Contact them and ask them to send us their email address.

Send to Streff79@comcast.net

Steven Buero	Thomas K Heineken	Patrick O'Kelly
Byron E Butts	Jeremy Henshaw	Jerry Phillips
Michar R Castile	Tom Herd	Rodney Pomeroy
Christopher Corder	Jerry Holdman	Richard (Rick) J. Rinaldo
Ken Davis	Dennis A. Juncer	John Saylor
Michael Decker	Bob Knuth	Wayne Dennis Schrader
James Eakes	Richard Krigelman	Eric Schultze
Paul Emerson	Michael LaBombard	Alonzo Scott
Richard K Flory	Todd Lee Lindner	Peter G Scriber
Stephen Peter Ford	J.P. Marinari	Daniel Smith
Pete Gobis	Timothy McEntee	Timothy (Tim) L. Thomas
Richard Green	Robert Lee Mingo	Arthur Vigil
John (Mike) M. Grissett	Brett Mordarski	John Volanos
Stan Grochowina	Michael Murphy	Eugene (John) White
Marvin Hattaway	Herschel Nale	Timothy White
Dave Hayle	John Nalli	Robert Zalimas

2025 Reunion – Las Vegas.



There are less than 130 days until the start of our 2025 reunion. Please join us in Las Vegas.

Here is some additional information on the reunion.

Reunion Costs

We know how expensive the reunion can be, especially if you must fly out west. We have done several things to reduce the cost and make it more affordable. Including:

- Room Rate – We negotiated a \$79 a night room rate for the hotel (\$89.57 with all taxes and fees). And this is for a nice hotel room. The resort has waived their resort fees and parking is free.
- Flights – Las Vegas is different than most places. It is cheaper to fly there on Monday and back on Friday than Wednesday to Sunday – up to 20-30% cheaper (except from Seattle for some reason). So, we moved the reunion to Monday to Friday.
- Rental Cars and Getting Around. – You do not have to rent a car in Las Vegas. You can get from the airport to the hotel for about a \$25 taxi / Uber ride and take taxi's / bus / rail to get around to other sites. Plus, we are only a couple of blocks away from the strip – it will be good for you to walk, you were in an Infantry unit once! We did not rent a car for the recon, and you can save money and not rent one either.
- Hospitality Suite – A great place to spend time with your friends. Beer, wine, and soft drinks there are free. There also is coffee and pastries there each day for breakfast – also free.

- Banquets and Receptions. We have chosen menus with costs in mind. Additionally, some of the members are donating money so that you will not have to pay for drinks at the Tuesday night reception and the Thursday night banquet. We will also pay for the continental breakfast on Wednesday with funds we have raised. There are reasonable dining options in the hotel and close by – but also more expensive options too.
- Hofbräuhaus Visit. We will just order from the menu for this event, rather than have a fixed, expensive group meal.
- Finally, we have a scholarship fund to support some of you who might need financial help to make it the reunion. Let us know if we can help.

Key Reunion Date

Thinking about the reunion has been a little bit of an academic drill so far. But we are getting closer to some key dates with respect to hotels and signups.

Ongoing – Hotel signups available. Sign up directly with the hotel.¹

June 1 – Reunion signups begin. More information to follow.

July 1 – Reunion guide sent out

August 28 – Suspense for hotel reservations. This is the last day the room rate is guaranteed. Reservation requests received after the cutoff will be confirmed by the hotel on a space-available basis at the prevailing rate.²

September 14 – Last day for registration / payments due. This is the day we must give final numbers to the hotel for all meals.³

¹ Our reunion hotel is the Tuscany Suites and Casino, 255 E. Flamingo Road.

The hotel is offering a \$79 a night room rate (plus tax) for the four nights without additional resort, internet, or parking fees. With tax, the room rate is \$89.57 a night. This rate is available for reservation until August.

The hotel also offers favorable rates for the days before and after these dates if you want to extend your stay (these are called shoulder rates.) The rates are

- Sunday, September 28th - \$79 a night
- Friday, October 3rd - \$195 a night
- Saturday, October 4th - \$195 a night

To reserve your room

Online -

<https://res.windsurfercrs.com/ibe/details.aspx?propertyid=16539&nights=1&checkin=9/28/2025&group=2025REUNION&lang=en-us>

Phone – call 702-893-8933 with the code: 2025REUNION

² We have 85 rooms reserved at this rate. Right now, we are not in danger of running out of rooms, and if we are we can ask for more. But we could run out of rooms at this rate, so sign up early so you are not shut out.

Actions you should take now!!

Reserve Your Room

Our reunion hotel is the Tuscany Suites and Casino, 255 E. Flamingo Road.

The hotel is offering a \$79 a night room rate (plus tax) for the four nights without additional resort, internet, or parking fees. With tax, the room rate is \$89.57 a night. This rate is available for reservation until August.

To reserve your room

Online -

<https://res.windsurfercrs.com/ibe/details.aspx?propertyid=16539&nights=1&checkin=9/28/2025&group=2025REUNION&lang=en-us>

Phone – call 702-893-8933 with the code: 2025REUNION

Plan Your Travel

Las Vegas has outstanding regular air service from most US cities to Harry Reid International Airport (LAS).

We selected our reunion dates (Monday to Friday, vs our traditional Wednesday to Sunday dates) because airline rates are cheaper during the week than on weekends to Las Vegas – by 20-30% - opposite of what it is in most places.

You probably don't need to rent a car in Las Vegas – the airport is a short taxi ride from the hotel, and the central location of our hotel means you can walk, take short taxi / Uber rides, or public transportation to get around.

Call a Buddy

We will do everything we can through emails, our website, and social media to get folks to attend the reunion.

The best way to make sure your friends are at the reunion is for you to call them and ask them to join you in Las Vegas.

Do that today!

³ You have all been part of weddings and event dinners. We must give our final numbers for meals 14 days in advance, and we are financially responsible for those numbers.

2025 Reunion Schedule

The reunion schedule – changes are highlighted in yellow.

Monday – September 29, 2025

12 Noon – 10 PM – Hospitality Suite Open – Check in – Rotating Exhibits
12 Noon - 5 PM – Individual Touring – Recommended - Big Bus Tour
5 PM – Happy Hour – Hospitality Suite
6 PM – Dinner on Your Own – Recommendation – Yard House

Tuesday - September 30, 2025

8 AM - 10 PM – Hospitality Suite Open – Check in – Rotating Exhibits
8 AM – Breakfast Marilyns Café in Hotel or Donuts in Hospitality Suite
10 AM - 3 PM – Walking Tour – Las Vegas Strip / Lunch on Your Own
4 - 5 PM – Annual Meeting – Hotel
5 - 7 PM – President Reception – Hotel Ballroom – Cost \$35 pp
7 PM – Dinner on Your Own – Recommendation Pub 365 in Hotel

Wednesday – October 1, 2025

9 AM -12 Noon – Hotel Ballroom
Continental Breakfast - \$25 pp
Memorial Service
Battalion Exhibits and Videos
Group Photo
1 - 4 PM – Lunch – Hofbräuhaus – **Order from Menu**
4 - 10 PM – Hospitality Suite Open – Check in – Rotating Exhibits
5 PM – Happy Hour – Hospitality Suite
6 PM – Dinner on Your Own – Recommendation – Firefly Tapas Kitchen and Bar
6 PM – No scheduled activities – a good night to go to a show.

Thursday – October 2, 2025

8 AM - 6 PM – Hospitality Suite Open – Check in – Rotating Exhibits
8 AM – Breakfast Marilyns Café in Hotel or Donuts in Hospitality Suite
10 AM – Group Photo 2 – Fountain at Bellagio Casino (meet in hotel -walk as group).
10 AM - 3 PM – Walking Tour – Old Las Vegas / Lunch on Your Own
6 PM – Reception – Hotel Ballroom
7 PM – Banquet – Hotel Ballroom \$65 pp

Friday – October 3, 2025

8 AM - 12 Noon – Hospitality Suite Open – Farewells
8 AM – Breakfast Marilyns Café in Hotel or Donuts in Hospitality Suite
12 noon – End of Mission

Our Traveling Museum on Display in Las Vegas

By Robert Pruitt and Bill Burt

During our next Reunion in Las Vegas, we will be displaying the start of our museum dedicated to those who served in the 1st Battalion 52nd Infantry along with the 7th Battalion 6th Infantry Regiments.

To the those who served overseas during the “Cold War” including their families we want to acknowledge a time that has been forgotten in history by many. We plan on presenting this time through the lens of the soldiers who served in the 1/52 and 7/6 Infantry Battalions.

We will have displays of actual equipment and other artifacts from our time in Germany during the “Cold War”. Also, we will have photo displays of weapons and vehicles during this era. Certain items will even be available to wear including a gas mask and web gear. Finally, we will have recorded and written memories of those who were there.

This is an opportunity to share with families your experience as a soldier keeping West Germany safe from armed aggression while many Americans remained stateside unaware of the many faceless and nameless individuals who served in the US Army while upholding its finest traditions.

To all old comrades the faces have names and the reward for our service was being able to return home, we still remember. Though our paths went different ways, some to start families and careers, others chose to stay in the Army, go to college, or get straight into the work force, and others may have had more difficult challenges we will always be brothers.

We'll see you in Las Vegas.

If you have items you would like to display or have a question contact

Bill Burt at lmjwrb@msn.com

Or

Bob Dominici at rldomenici@gmail.com

If you have a memory you wish to share, contact Robert Pruitt at robdarrylpruitt@yahoo.com

Family stories and events to Sara Streff at alabamagirl79@comcast.net

Our Traveling Museum on Display in Las Vegas – Teasers

In the next couple of pages, we will give you a couple of teasers of things you will see at our traveling museum in Las Vegas. This will include:

- Reflections / Oral Histories of 1-52 Infantry Soldiers
- Pictures of Equipment We Have Gathered for Display
- Pictures of Weapons Artifacts For Display (Both Ours and Theirs).
- Pictures and Stories of Family Life in Bamberg

Reflections / Oral Histories of 1-52 Infantry Soldiers. A preview of some of the memories we will have in Las Vegas 2025. Submitted by Robert Pruitt

March 1985

During that training exercise, one of my two ITV's (M901) slid down a hill and was partially flipped with one side in the air, leaning against a tree. The M60 machine gun got wedged between the weapon mount and a tree bending the barrel. The battalion maintenance recovery team sent a M88 to recover the ITV. The M88 slid backwards down the same hill, ran over a dozen trees (possible exaggeration or true), busted the exhaust louvers off, dropped a tow bar and threw track on both sides. We assisted the M88 crew putting their tracks back on which was half a day. A second M88 was sent up the hill to pull my other track off the tree. That ITV threw track to the inside and we were able to roll back on the road wheels without breaking the tracks. I can still see the M88 sliding backwards, tracks going forward and the driver's head sticking out the hatch going for the ride. I remember telling my guys to make fresh tracks in the snow and not follow or stay in the paths of lead vehicles, especially on a hill or slope. Needless to say, they did not follow instructions.

David Deese

A Timely Meeting

My wife, Barbara (also a family member veteran of 1/52), and I would go to Kiev, Ukraine and teach in Saint James Bible College. We would each teach a class on each trip. This was several years after the wall came down. We did that for five years. One year, I noticed an elderly student in the back of my class. During a break, I talked with him. He was a former officer in the Soviet Army during the cold war at the same time I was in Bamberg. I drew a map of the border on the whiteboard and asked him where he would be if war broke out. He was in an assembly area across the border from our GDP. They were to push through our lines for penetration. I told him I was on the other side of the border there to try and stop them. We were two cold war soldiers who faced off against each other and both grateful we didn't have

to execute our wartime mission. It was a bonding moment. We shook hands and wished each other well.

Scott Faught

First Impressions

1984, I was recently assigned to the 1st of the 52nd Infantry. I was to supervise the

Intelligence Officer's (S2's) battlefield information coordination center (BICC), a new role with no center to supervise other than SP4 Carney. I was really just the assistant S2, one of the two Military Intelligence Officers assigned to the battalion.

The battalion never had a second MI officer before, and the Commander and Executive Officer (XO) were not quite sure what to do with the new 2nd Lieutenant. I was often given tasks outside of my primary job, something that could be done by a junior officer they didn't need assigned to an Infantry Platoon leader (the job all other new lieutenants had). I quickly became the default the Shitty Job Officer, or SJO.

After about a month, we learned that our Battalion Commander's replacement would be arriving, and so I was given the job of meeting and escorting LTC(P) Lamar Crosby as he in-processed before taking command. Colonel Crosby had a distinguished career having earned two Silver Stars and two Bronze Stars for Valor in Vietnam. Being selected for Battalion Command is a big thing, with very few officers who join the Army were assigned that job 20 years later.

My first task was to meet Colonel Crosby at the BOQ and drive him to Ansbach for meetings at the Division Headquarters. I think I was to show up at his quarters at 5:30 or 6:00am for meetings that were scheduled to start at 8:00am. The XO, Major Mike Dunn, stressed to me how important 1st impressions are, and how the new boss could not be late. Luckily, I function well in the morning, and planned for being early. I made the assumption that the new boss drank coffee, so I made a pot of coffee at home and put it in a thermos. When I knocked on Colonel Crosby's door, I had the thermos in my left hand. He opened the door, I saluted and introduced myself as LT Zellers, his escort, and asked if he'd like coffee and whether he preferred it black or with cream or sugar. Colonel Crosby saluted back, gave me a warm smile, and said "LT Zellers, you and I are going to get along quite well!"

Toby Zellers

I would like to thank the contributors for sharing their memories. If you have a memory, reflection, or idea you want to share please contact me at robdarrylpruitt@yahoo.com or text 323-459-8182.

Pictures of Equipment We Have Gathered for Display.



Pictures of Weapons Artifacts For Display (Both Ours and Theirs).



Pictures and Stories of Family Life in Bamberg.

If you have pictures or stories about family life in Bamberg, please send them to Sara Streff, 703-587-5446 or alabamagirl79@comcast.net. Please include any things such as:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Family days at the training areas• Organizational days• Company Christmas parties• Easter egg rolls for families | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Haunted houses• MWR Trips• Company / Battalion Trips• Ski trips• Hails and Farewells | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Post events / fests• Local fests• Volksmarches• Family support activities• etc |
|---|--|--|

Family Day – Graf – Easter 1986



Family Day – Graf – Easter 1986



Our Traveling Museum on Display in Las Vegas – How You Can View It

There are several ways you will be able to see the travelling museum at the Las Vegas reunion.

- The whole museum will be on display from 9 AM to noon on Wednesday, October 1 in the hotel ballroom. That morning will include a continental breakfast in the room, a memorial Service, and the traveling museum exhibits and videos.
- Rotating parts of the museum will be on display throughout the week in the hospitality suite. We will have a theme each day, with appropriate exhibits.
- The hospitality suite will also have TVs which will have all our videos constantly running.
- Finally, Robert Pruitt, working with some Hollywood buddies (he has never said exactly who they are, but the names Spielberg and Hanks do come up) is working on other ways to show off the parts of the museum to those of you not able to attend.

2025 Las Vegas Reunion – Silent Auction

As we have done for the past couple of reunions, we are having a silent auction of memorabilia from our time in Germany with the “Ready Rifles”. All proceeds go to support our educational, charitable, and reunion activities.

This is a call for items for the auction.

Previously, we have gotten items from many sources.

- Steve Dykes brought us items from Bamberg, where he lives.
- Bill and Maria Patterson were doing spring cleaning, including a 1-52 Infantry wine decanter and Mark Medallions.
- Bob Domenici purchased the print of the capture of the Ludendorff Bridge at Remagen.
- Dennis Barletta has found several memorabilia items while searching eBay and the internet, including brass, crests, and emblems,
- Bill Burt has donated coasters, hats, and wine bottles, all with 1-52 Infantry and 7-6 Infantry crests.
- Among many others.

If you have items you would like to donate, or if you are aware of items that you think we should acquire, please contact Dennis Barletta.

Below is a picture of the painting “Crossing the Rhine at Remagen”, the original of which is at The National WWII Museum in New Orleans.⁴ Also, a picture of the print that we auctioned off at our 2023 reunion with Paul Oettinger and Oscar Flores.

The print and framing of the US Army painting of the assault on Remagen Bridge that we will auction at the 2025 Reunion was donated by Bob Domenici as was the 2023 print.

⁴ New Orleans was (of course) the site of another prior reunion in 2014 and we did visit the National WWII Museum.



Fanciful official US Army painting of the assault on Remagen Bridge. Photo Courtesy of the US Army.



2025 Las Vegas Reunion – A Band of Brothers

I was recently captive on a 10-hour flight to Hawaii. Our Army son, his wife and kids (our grandkids) are stationed there (someone must make the sacrifice to go to Hawaii to visit them!!)

One of the entertainment choices on the flight was the mini-series “Band of Brothers”. I had not watched it for a while, and since I had some time on my hands (and can’t sleep on airplanes), I decided to watch it again.

At the end of the last episode, they talk about what each of the main characters were doing in 2001. One of them stood out to me.

The narrator says...

“Floyd Talbert – We all lost track of him in civilian life until he showed up to a reunion just before his death in 1981.”

Don’t be like Floyd Talbert and wait to come to one of our reunions.

Join your “Band of Brothers” while you are still healthy and relatively young. Come join your brothers at our 2025 Las Vegas Reunion.



Reunion Gifts

This is a spoiler alert. If you want to be surprised about your 2025 Las Vegas Reunion gift, don't read this section.

Due to the generosity of Bob Domenici, below is a picture of the coin for the reunion gift.



For those who served in the reflagged 6th Infantry and who prefer, we will have the combined coin with both the 52nd Infantry and 6th Infantry unit crests. See the picture below.



After the reunion, we will put extra coins on sale for those of you who are not able to attend the reunion, or if you want more coins. Watch the SITREP for further details.

Come to the reunion to ensure you get a coin!!

Reunion Pictures – Atlanta 2019

Here are a couple of pictures from our 2019 reunion in Atlanta / Fort Benning.

Group photos



Fort Benning / Rangers in Action / Chow Hall



Memorial Plaque – National Infantry Museum



Banquet (Jeff Hamel may still be giving that speech in Atlanta)





Be in one of the photo's from Las Vegas!!

Las Vegas Transportation

Rideshare

You can use either Lyft or Uber to get a ride from the airport. After you request the ride using the app on your mobile device. Pickup locations for passengers taking Lyft/Uber are designated at Terminal 1 and Terminal 3. This is the most affordable option unless surge rates occur during busy hours.

Taxi

Taxicabs now charge a flat rate fare from the airport to hotels on & near the Strip to prevent “long hauling”. As of May 2025 the Tuscany Resort and Suites is located in Zone 1 and are \$22.00 per trip. Pickup locations for passengers taking Lyft/Uber are designated at Terminal 1 and Terminal 3.

Airport Shuttles

Bell Trans – drop off at Flamingo \$15.00 per person and a 10 minute walk to Tuscany

www.airportshuttlelasvegas.com

Super Shuttle – prices vary with drop-off directly to Tuscany Suites

www.supershuttle.com

Public Transportation – most time consuming option

Las Vegas Route Centennial Express or CX \$6.00 – drops off across the street from the Tuscany Resort and Suites. See attachment and download the app. If you plan to use the Deuce to travel between the Las Vegas Strip and Downtown Las Vegas with many sites in between visit the site and download the app. Do not make purchase until arrival.

If you plan to explore Las Vegas during your stay an option is the 24 hour pass or the multi day pass for best value. The Deuce is a double-decker bus that runs from the South Las Vegas Strip to Downtown Las Vegas. It can get crowded during peak hours and is subject to the Las Vegas Strip traffic.

www.rtcnv.com/ways-to-travel/how-to-ride/ridertc-app/

[cx.pdf](#) – link Bus to Tuscany Resort and Suites

While exploring Las Vegas

Las Vegas Monorail

A great way to explore the Las Vegas Strip and visit the Westgate original home to Elvis in Las Vegas. The Las Vegas Monorail is a 3.9 mile automated monorail system located adjacent to the Las Vegas Strip. It connects several large casinos and has a total of seven stations starting at MGM Grand and ending at the SAHARA. Multi day passes available with an additional discount with epurchase. Please visit website

www.lvmonorail.com/route-map

Las Vegas Excalibur - Luxor – Mandalay Bay Tram - Free 10AM – 12AM

Las Vegas Aria Express - Bellagio Tram – Free 8AM – 12AM

Downton Loop – Free - Sunday to Thursday 11AM-6PM, Friday/Saturday 3PM – 10PM

The Downtown Loop is a free shuttle servicing the exciting attractions in downtown Las Vegas including: Arts District, Brewery Row, Mob Museum, Fremont Street, Fremont East, Las Vegas North Premium Outlets, and The Strat Casino.

www.lasvegasnevada.gov/Residents/Parking-Transportation/Downtown-Loop

Vegas Loop

For those attending Las Vegas convention and trade shows across the Las Vegas Convention Center campus, the Las Vegas Loop connects the West Hall with the existing campus. It's fast, convenient, and has a total of five passenger stations that offer access between Las Vegas Convention Center destinations and nearby transportation connects, like the Las Vegas Monorail. The public stations are The Encore Resort at Wynn, Resorts World Las Vegas, and the Westgate Las Vegas Resorts & Casino.

www.lvcva.com/vegas-loop/

Zoox Driverless Cars – for the Brave

<https://zoox.com/journal/las-vegas/>

Free Parking at Tuscany Resort and Suites for those planning to drive

New in Las Vegas

Universal Horror Unleashed opens in August 2025 – a year-round maze of horror at Area 15. It will be Halloween, so if you plan on experiencing a bit of Universal Studios Halloween Horror. Buy tickets in advance when available.

For NFL fans who plan on arriving Sunday, the Chicago Bears will be playing the Las Vegas Raiders Sunday September 28 at Allegiant Stadium @ 1:25 PM.

52nd Infantry During the Battle of the Budge – 80 Years On

Editor's note: Ok, we got this backwards. Last month we had an article about the 80th anniversary of the capture of the Ludendorff Bridge over the Rhine River at Remagen, Germany by the 9th Armored Division, including elements of the 52nd Infantry Regiment, which occurred on March 7, 1945.

However, before this, our regiment was part of what became known as the Battle of the Bulge and the defense of Bastogne, which occurred in December 1944 and January 1945.

Below is a summary of what occurred, submitted by our organization's president and resident historian, Dennis Barletta.

"Prelude to Bastogne"

This is a historical look at the three armored infantry battalions that were part of the 52nd Infantry Regiment during World War II in combat leading up to the defense of Bastogne.

52nd Infantry Regiment assigned to the 9th Armored Division

- Combat Command A included the 60th Armored Infantry Battalion, 52nd Infantry Regiment.
- Combat Command B included the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion, 52nd Infantry Regiment
- Combat Command R included the 52nd Armored Infantry Battalion, 52nd Infantry Regiment



A Sherman tank of the 9th Armored Division heads into action against the advancing Germans during the Battle of the Bulge. The fighting in the Ardennes was some of the fiercest of the war on the Western Front.

The Americans:

General Omar Bradley, 12th Army Group Commander, did not believe the Germans would attack through the Ardennes. The VIII Corps Commander told Bradley the Germans had done it before and he was concerned his Corps had a line of over 80 miles to defend. To increase the forces, Bradley directed the 9th Armored Division (AD) to be assigned to the VIII Corps to bolster its positions.

The 9th AD arrived in France on 25 September 1944 and had seen little or no combat leading up to December 1944 as it moved eastward. The 9th AD was moved into the Ardennes Region of Belgium and Luxembourg, a heavily forested and mountainous areas under the control of the VIII Corps of the 12th Army Group. The region was used to give new inexperienced divisions combat duty in a quiet sector of the front lines while divisions that had experienced heavy combat a chance to rest and refit. VIII Corps consisted of the 28th Infantry Division, 4th Infantry Division, and newly arrived (untested) 106th Infantry Division.

The 9th AD force structure was three combat commands. Each combat command was a combined arms team equal in size to a brigade or regiment and usually consisted of one armored infantry battalion and one armor battalion. Company sized units of tank destroyers, engineers, anti-aircraft artillery, and mechanized cavalry were attached depending on the mission. Once in the Ardennes, the VIII Corps Commander augmented other divisions with one of the combat commands from the 9th AD.



On alert for a coming attack, an engineer holds position with his .30-caliber machine gun near a camouflaged tank.

The Germans:

Unbeknownst to the Americans, the German military was planning a major offensive through the Ardennes, named Operation Watch on the Rhine, the plan was to first capture the towns and associated road networks at Bastogne, St. Vith, and Marche-en-Famenne, then continue to their main objectives: capturing the port of Antwerp; and splitting the American and British forces.

Approximately 200,000 German soldiers of the XLVII Panzer Corps, consisting of the 2nd Panzer Division, the Panzer Lehr Division, the 26th Volks Grenadier Division, the 15th Volks Werfer (Rocket Launcher) Brigade, the 766th Volks Artillery Corps, the 600th Engineer Battalion, and the 182 Flak Regiment would advance across the Ardennes crossing rivers capturing towns and road junctions enroute to Bastogne and St. Vith.



Slogging down a muddy road through a devastated Ardennes village, American soldiers and armored vehicles move toward the advancing Germans.



Originally conceived in response to the highly successful T-34, a German Panther medium tank, with a high velocity 75mm cannon, rolls rapidly through the Ardennes Forest in December 1944.



Overview of the 9th Armored Division During the Battle of the Bulge. (From AI)

The 9th Armored Division played a significant role in the Battle of the Bulge, a critical period in World War II. The division's actions delayed the German advance and bought valuable time for other Allied units to organize defenses, particularly at Bastogne.

Key Contributions of the 9th Armored Division during the Battle of the Bulge:

Delayed the German Advance:

The 9th Armored Division, deployed in the Ardennes forest, faced the initial German offensive on December 16, 1944. Their units fought fiercely, repelling some initial assaults and hindering the German advance, allowing other divisions to reinforce the front.

Defense of Bastogne:

The division's stand at Bastogne was particularly crucial. They held off the Germans long enough for the 101st Airborne Division to prepare for a defense of the city. The heroic efforts of Combat Command RCCR of the 9th Armored Division at Bastogne sacrificed time and resources to buy the Allied forces time.

Fighting in Widely Separated Areas:

The 9th Armored Division was deployed across a wide area, including St. Vith, Echternach, and Bastogne, facing heavy fighting in all locations.



Role in the Roer River Offensive:

After a period of rest, the 9th Armored Division participated in the offensive across the Roer River, driving to Rheinbach and sending patrols into Remagen. (the subject of the article in last month's SITREP.)

The 9th Armored Division, despite being relatively inexperienced in combat, demonstrated resilience and courage during the Battle of the Bulge, contributing significantly to the Allied victory.

Here are some of the specifics of each of the 9th Armored Division's Combat Commands' roles leading up to Bastogne:

Combat Command B, including the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion, 52nd Infantry Regiment at St Vith:

The battle in and around St. Vith, a critical road and railroad junctions, was one of several battles along the front line on December 16, 1944, constituting the opening of the German Army's counteroffensive, known as the Battle of the Bulge. St. Vith was at the western end of a valley in the Ardennes. It was on the axis of advance of the German 5th and 6th Panzer Armies.

The 5th Panzer Army consisted of approximately 90,000 men, 396 tanks 963 artillery pieces, four infantry divisions and three panzer divisions, all poised to west toward St Vith and Bastogne.

Elements of the US VIII Corps, defensively positioned in and around St. Vith, were led by the U.S. 7th Armored Division and included the 424th Infantry Regiment of the 106th U.S. Infantry Division, the 9th Armored Division's Combat Command B, and the 112th Infantry of the 28th Infantry Division. US forces were able to defend St. Vith against the German assault for a few days, delaying the German attack plan, before eventually being forced to retreat. On 21 December 1944; U.S. troops fell back over the Salm River to positions that would eventually be reinforced by the arriving 82nd Airborne Division.



St. Vith lies a desolate ruin on February 7, 1945, days after the desperate fight for control of the key Belgian village was over. After several weeks of fighting, the Germans were forced to abandon their winter offensive and relinquish all the territory they had gained during the Battle of the Bulge.

Combat Command R (Reserve), including the 52nd Armored Infantry Battalion, 52nd Infantry Regiment – East of Bastogne.

CCR, under the command of Colonel Joseph H. Gilbreth, was stationed at Trois Vierges, roughly 20 miles northeast of the crossroads town of Bastogne, Belgium, in support of VIII Corps' left and center sectors. On December 17th, after the Germans had crossed the Clerf River, Combat

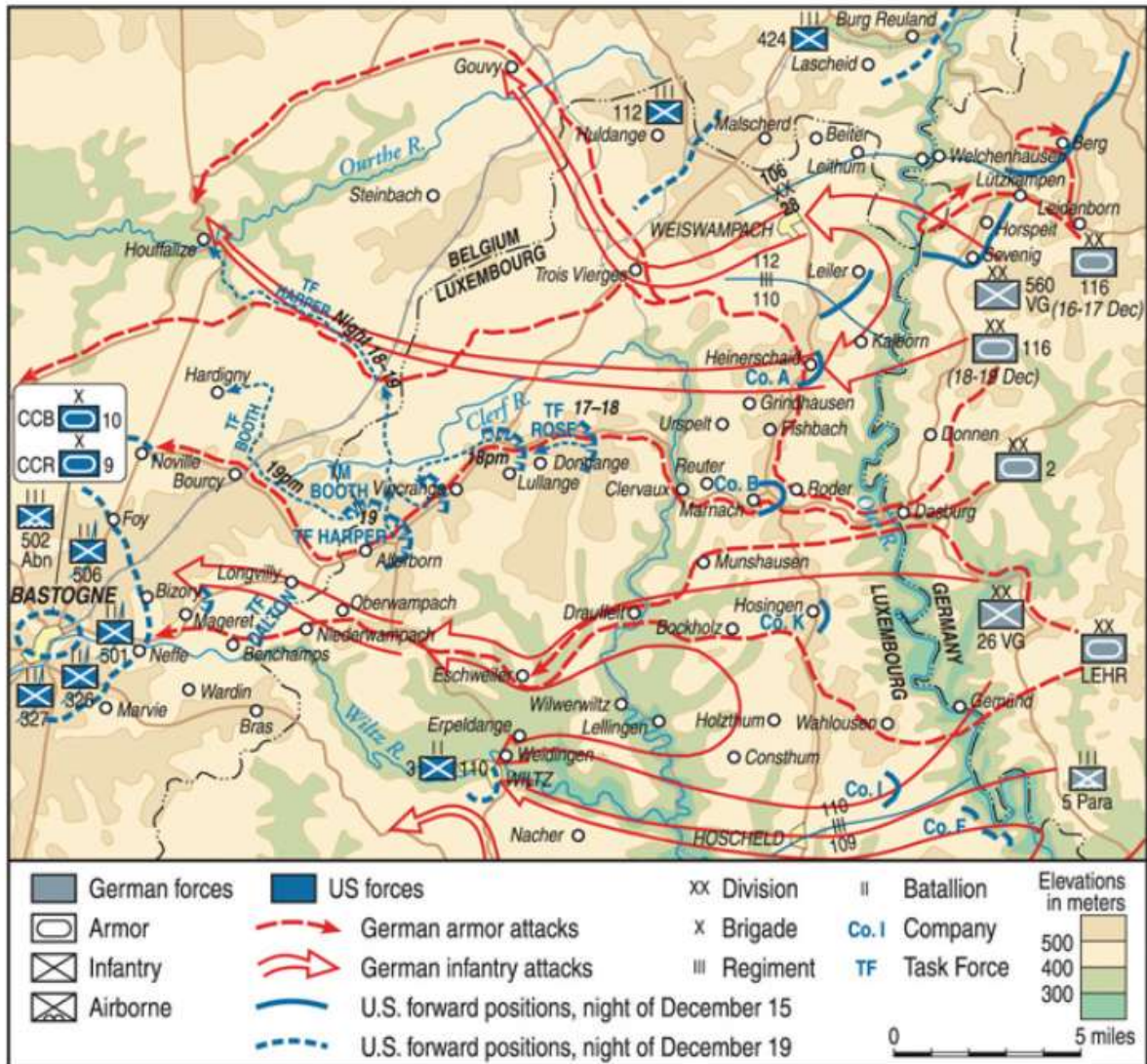
Command Reserve moved to establish roadblocks on routes leading to Bastogne, with orders to hold 'at all costs'.

CCR, 9th Armored was split into three task forces. The northernmost roadblock near Lullange, under the command of Captain L.K. Rose (Task Force Rose), consisted of a company of Sherman tanks (A Company, 2d Tank Battalion), one armored infantry company (C Company, 52nd AIB), and a platoon of armored engineers. Task Force Rose held the Germans off until late in the afternoon of December 18th when it was overrun. Some stragglers were able to evade the oncoming Germans and move west through the town of Logvilly toward Bastogne.

The second roadblock near Allerborn, under the command of Lt. Col. Ralph S. Harper (Task Force Harper), consisted of a company and a half of Sherman tanks (C and D Companies, 2nd Tank Battalion), one company of armored infantry (B Company, 52nd AIB), and a platoon of armored engineers. Task Force Harper fought off the advancing Germans until late in the night of December 18th. Task Force Rose, nearly destroyed, told survivors to evade back toward the town of Logvilly. Harper's men met up with the evading soldiers of Task Force Rose and tried to engage the Germans. LTC Harper was killed and his make-shift force, heavily attrited, withdrew to Bastogne.

Task Force Booth was held in a reserve position under the command of Lt. Col. Robert M. Booth. Occupying the high ground immediately north of Allerborn, it consisted of a company of armored infantry (minus one platoon), one platoon of tank destroyers, and one platoon of light tanks with the mission of protecting the left flank and rear of Task Force Harper. The 73rd Armored Field Artillery provided artillery support from Buret, a small village just northwest of Task Forces Rose and Harper.

Task Force Booth faced an estimated German armored division and after costly fighting through the night of December 18th, Booth initiated movement of the Task Force toward Bastogne, collecting stragglers from the 106th Infantry Regiment on the road. Fighting their way to Bastogne, Task Force Booth encountered numerous German infantry and armor attacks. LTC Booth was wounded and later captured by the Germans. The remnants of TF Booth and Combat Command Reserve fought their way back to Bastogne. Once in Bastogne, Major Eugene Watts, the 52nd Armored Infantry Battalion Executive Officer, assembled the remainder of the 52nd and consolidated them into the defense of Bastogne.



Map Showing the Battles of Task Forces Rose, Booth, and Harper from Combat Command R of the 9th Armored Division During the Battle of the Bulge, December 15-19.

Combat Command A including the 60th Armored Infantry Battalion, 52nd Infantry Regiment - Near Confluence of Our and Sure Rivers / Echternach

Combat Command A was deployed south of the confluence of the Our and Sure Rivers between the 28th Infantry Division's 109th Infantry Regiment on the north and the 4th Infantry Division's 12th Infantry Regiment to the south. Both the 28th Division and the 4th Division had been in heavy combat in the Hurtgen Forest and take enormous losses. They were in the Ardennes to rest, refit and take on replacements. The 60th Armored Infantry Battalion of CCA held defensive positions west of the Sauer River and faced the initial attack by the German 276th

Volks Grenadier Division. Under pressure the 60th AIB fell back to subsequent defensive positions held by Combat Command A. As the Germans pushed the defenders back westward, the CCA was cross attached to the 4th Armored Division.



A disabled German tank lies abandoned along the edge of a slushy road as an American tank destroyer rumbles past.

The wintry conditions during the Battle of the Bulge temporarily hindered the employment of U.S. air power.

Bastogne.

The 101st Airborne Division moved into Bastogne and along with the many remnants of units from the 9th Armored Division, 28th Infantry Division, 4th Infantry Division formed a defense of the town of Bastogne. On December 21st, surrounded, the US Commander, BG Anthony McAuliffe, refused to surrender to the Germans request with the famous reply “nuts”. Meanwhile, from the southwest elements General Patton’s 3rd Army reached Bastogne on December 26th. Control of Bastogne was a major obstacle to the German armored advance, and the news of the steadfast defense was a morale booster for the allies.

Citations and Awards:

As part of the 9th Armored Division, the 52nd Infantry Regiment's 27th, 52nd and 60th Armored Infantry Battalions saw heavy combat in the Ardennes, leading up to the Battle of the Bulge, in which the 52nd won a Presidential Unit Citation for the defense of Bastogne. The 52nd and the 27th won another Presidential Unit Citation for the seizure of the Ludendorff Bridge across the Rhine at Remagen in March 1945. The Belgian Army also cited both battalions for the Ardennes and the 52nd was awarded the Belgian Croix de Guerra. Altogether, three World War II campaign credits accrue to the 52nd Armored Infantry Battalion. Campaign credits and decorations include Rhineland; Ardennes-Alsace; Central Europe; Presidential Unit Citation- Luxembourg, St. Vith, Bastogne, and Remagen Bridgehead; and, the Belgian Croix de Guerre 1940 with Palm for Bastogne; cited in the Order of the Day of the Belgian Army for action at Bastogne.

Further Reading

Blood for Time: 9th Armored at Bastogne and the Battle of the Bulge By Charles Gutierrez⁵

Combat Command RCCR of the U.S. 9th Armored Division sacrificed heroically to win precious time at Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge.

<https://warfarehistorynetwork.com/article/blood-for-time-9th-armored-at-bastogne-and-the-battle-of-the-bulge/>

The Battle of the Bulge & The Defense of St. Vith By Charles Gutierrez⁶

The U.S. 9th Armored Division contested the German advance around St. Vith during the Battle of the Bulge and won precious time in the process.

<https://warfarehistorynetwork.com/article/the-battle-of-the-bulge-the-defense-of-st-vith/>

⁵ This is the story of Combat Command Reserve and the 52nd Armored Infantry Battalions Defense of Bastogne.

⁶ This is the story of Combat Command B and the 27th Armored Infantry Battalions Defense of St Vith. I could not find a similar article about Combat Command A and the 60th Armor Infantry Battalion.

The United States Army – 250 Year On

The U.S. Army is celebrating its 250th anniversary on June 14, 2025, marking the official founding of the Army in 1775. This milestone will be celebrated throughout 2025 and 2026, with a focus on honoring the Army's role in the nation's history and its continued service to the country.

We will celebrate this milestone at our 2025 Reunion (it is Las Vegas in case you missed it) and encourage you to participate in activities in your community.

The National Events on June 14, 2025 include:

- **Washington, D.C. Parade and Festival:** A parade and festival are planned for June 14th on the National Mall, featuring static displays, vehicle and equipment demonstrations, aerial parachute demonstrations, music, food, and more. A cake cutting and re-enlistment ceremony will also be held.
- **Military Parade:** The parade will feature over 100 vehicles, including Abrams tanks and helicopters, and thousands of soldiers.
- **Twilight Tattoo:** The event will conclude with a Twilight Tattoo performance.



Merchandise for Sale:

Unit Crest Hats and Coasters for Sale⁷



Hats - \$20



Coasters - \$12.50

How to Pay: **Check**, payable to "Veteran of the 52nd and 6th Infantry Regiments, Inc". Mail to Mike Streff 25 South Point Lane, Moneta, Virginia 24121 PayPal <https://www.152-76inf-coldwarvetsbamberg.org/support-our-cause> You can pay using **Credit Card through PayPal** or use **PayPal** to pay. Use "Support our Cause" button – and specify what items you are purchasing. **VENMO**. @Michael-Streff-1. **Zelle** – Use phone number 703-599-3723

⁷ Coins are temporarily unavailable. There will be more for sale after the 2025 reunion.

Purchase your 52nd and 6th Infantry Gear

Bill Burt has information on the purchase of 52nd and 6th Infantry logo, clothing, and hats.
Go to the web site: <https://the52and6infantry.qbstores.com/home> or a link is posted on the group's website: <https://www.152-76inf-coldwarvetsbamberg.org/>



VA Information and Helpful Phone Numbers

[Find a VA Location](#)

Main VA phone numbers

MyVA411 main information line

[800-698-2411](#)

Hours: 24/7

Telecommunications Relay Services (using TTY)

[711](#)

Hours: 24/7

VA Health Care

VA Health Benefits Hotline

[877-222-8387](#)

Hours: Monday through Friday,

8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET

My HealtheVet Help Desk

[877-327-0022](#)

Hours: Monday through Friday,

8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET

Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA)

[800-733-8387](#)

Hours: Monday through Friday,

8:05 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. ET

CHAMPVA Meds by Mail

[888-385-0235](#)

Hours: Monday through Friday,

8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. MT

[866-229-7389](#)

Hours: Monday through Friday,

8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. ET

Foreign Medical Program (FMP)

[877-345-8179](#)

Hours: Monday through Friday,

8:05 a.m. to 6:45 p.m. ET

Quit VET (get help from a counselor to stop smoking)

[855-784-8838](#)

Hours: Monday through Friday,

9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. ET

MISSION Act

[800-698-2411](#), Select 1

Hours: 24/7

Spina Bifida Health Care Benefits Program

[888-820-1756](#)

Hours: Monday through Friday,

8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. ET

Caregiver Support Line

[855-260-3274](#)

Hours: Monday through Friday,

8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. ET, and

Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET

VA Benefits

VA Benefits Hotline

[800-827-1000](#)

Hours: Monday through Friday,

8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. ET

GI Bill Hotline

[888-442-4551](#)

Hours: Monday through Friday,

8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. ET

Students Outside the U.S.

[+1-918-781-5678](#) This isn't toll-free.

Hours: Monday through Friday,

8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. ET

VA Loan Guaranty Service[877-827-3702](tel:877-827-3702)

Hours: Monday through Friday,
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. ET.

National Pension Call Center[877-294-6380](tel:877-294-6380)

Hours: Monday through Friday,
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET

Support for SGLI or VGLI[800-419-1473](tel:800-419-1473)

Hours: Monday through Friday,
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET

All Other VA Life Insurance Programs[800-669-8477](tel:800-669-8477)

Hours: Monday through Friday,
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. ET

Special Issue Hotline (Blue Water Navy Act, Gulf War, Agent Orange, and Other Information)[800-749-8387](tel:800-749-8387)

Hours: Monday through Friday,
8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. ET

Memorial Affairs**Burials and memorials**

National Cemetery Scheduling Office

[800-535-1117](tel:800-535-1117)

Hours: Every day, 8:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. ET
Headstones and markers

[800-697-6947](tel:800-697-6947)

Hours: Monday through Friday,
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET

Other VA Support

Women Veterans hotline

[855-829-6636](tel:855-829-6636)

Hours: Monday through Friday,
8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. ET, and
Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. ET

eBenefits Technical Support[800-983-0937](tel:800-983-0937)

Hours: Monday through Friday,
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET

Debt Management Center (Collection of Nonmedical Debts)[800-827-0648](tel:800-827-0648)

Hours: Monday through Friday,
7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. ET

Vets Center Call Center[877-927-8387](tel:877-927-8387)

Hours: 24/7

White House VA hotline[855-948-2311](tel:855-948-2311)

Hours: 24/7

Veterans Crisis Line[800-273-8255](tel:800-273-8255), Select 1

Hours: 24/7

Websites and Contact Info

We have 3 websites. Our main website for distribution of information is <https://www.152-76inf-coldwarvetsbamberg.org/>. This is also the one that you can register for the reunion on. Also, we are on Facebook, search the groups for 1st Battalion 52nd Infantry Bamberg Germany. The Facebook group is a public group. The other site is on the Ning network at <http://deltacompany-52nd-inf.ning.com/>, which is a private site where you need to have served in 1-52 to be able to enter. Please answer the question when requesting to enter these groups. My contact information is either by phone at 507-696-8429 or Email at Bill.Burt@152-76inf-coldwarvetsbamberg.org. You can also contact us through our main website <https://www.152-76inf-coldwarvetsbamberg.org/>.