Extraordinary Events
We Have Survived and Overcome

Junior's War Service 1942-1944. He was assigned as a paratrooper to go to the South Pacific War zone. The day he was to go over via boat, peace was declared and he went as an occupational troop Went to Phillipines and to Sendi, Japan.

Junior's house burned at Ellis, Gilmer Co W.V. His mother and dad lived in the cellar house until they could build a house on the main road.

1942 Justine's parents house burned at Sand Fork, W.V. My sisters new clothes they were going to wear on a trip to Wash. D.C. and for graduation from Sand Fork High School. We had to live in John Mark's garage till we found a house. The community was great to us.
Into each family come those unforeseen events. Many have survived natural disasters (floods, tornados) and many times families were forced to move or lives were altered for the better as a result. Here is space for you to record whatever you feel is appropriate in relation to your own family’s experiences.

1927 Dad's illness was a blow to all of us. He became ill 3 months before I was born. He was working in the Good year Rubber plant in Akron, Ohio. We didn't know what caused his illness but relatives told us various causes - the chemicals used at the plant, he was thrown from a horse and landed on his head, while in the infantry in Texas in World War, he had a mental illness, or he had a stroke. Anyway, my Aunt Mollie Dad's sister took care of him the rest of his life and mom took care of us 5 children on a teacher's salary.

Juniors dad was seriously injured in a rock quarry at Upper Ellis, for the State Road Commission. T.N.T. blew up in his face and he was off from work for over a year. Broke his hands and injured his eyes - for a long time, he couldn't stand much light. Your Uncle Carl Radcliff was the "boss" on the job at that time.
CPL. SHEETS, RAY HERSMAN
MISSING IN ACTION, MURPHY
LT. BARNETT WAR PRISONERS

One former student and three College graduates were reported missing in action or war prisoners the past week.

Cpl. Linn Sheets, brother-in-law of Miss Erma Edwards, financial secretary, was reported "missing in action" since December 16. His wife, the former Miss Oleta Edwards, student here in 1931-32, and three small sons, James Edward, Don and Claradine, live at Auburn. Teacher in Cairo High School at the time of his entering the service, Cpl. Sheets had been overseas about five weeks previous to the time he was reported missing.

Also missing in action is T/5 Ray Herman, son of Mrs. Hazel Herman, College graduate of Sand Fork, a War Department telegram, received by Mrs. Herman Monday, Jan. 11, stated that her son, student here in 1941-42, has been missing in Germany since December 16. The letters were dated November 22 and December 3. Pvt. Murphy took his basic training at Camp Blanding, Fla. Married and the father of one child, he was coach at Tanner High School at the time he entered the service.

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Barnett, of Weston, have been notified that their son, Lt. Denver R. Barnett, College graduate, previously reported missing in action on October 17, is a prisoner of war in Germany. A War Department announcement stated that the information had been received through the American Red Cross.

The War Department communication stated that a report of his being missing had been sent when the Flying Fortress of which he was bombardier had been forced down in enemy territory; the ship had fallen behind formation and was lost to sight following a bomb run on a mission over Vienna, Austria. It also stated, that, "in recognition of his meritorious work," Lt. Barnett had been awarded the Air Medal and one Oak Leaf Cluster.

Lt. Barnett's wife, the former Miss Rose Amos, of Burnsville, and small son reside with his parents. At the time of his enlistment January 27, 1943, was a teacher in the Sutton grade school.

Is Prisoner Of War In Germany

Word was received here the past week that T/5 Ernest Ray Herman, listed missing since December 16, is a prisoner of war in Germany.

His mother, Mrs. Hazel Herman, A. B., '38, teacher in the Sand Fork Elementary School, received a letter from him the past week in which he stated he was a prisoner and was physically well.

DEPARTMENT OR SHIP:

Written by mom
Pfc. Edward Herman
Lt. 329th Inf.
8th Div.
A.P.O. 833
Camp Breckenridge Ky.
A.B. 1936
A.B. 1937

Lt. Ernest R. Herman
Asst B. 3575 1954
B. Battery
E. C. P. A. A. T. C.
Camp Davis N. C.

Iris and Lenore like their schools in Clay Co.fine. Hazel,
Battle of the Bulge recalled in Belgian city of Bastogne

Philip Williams

BASTOGNE, Belgium (UPI) — They show tacky movies at the George S. Patton picture palace in Bastogne. Patton's battered features have pride of place in the Cafe Patton next door.

Forty years after U.S. troops held onto the Ardennes capital despite Adolf Hitler's desperate, last counter-offensive of World War II, Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe beams down in full battle dress from the walls of the Cafe McAuliffe on McAuliffe Square, which is dominated by a bronze bust of McAuliffe and a Sherman tank.

The Cafe, Washington and Cafe Kennedy are within a stone's throw. With one eye on history and the other on something else, hardly a bar owner in town has failed to put up an American flag or a picture of a U.S. soldier.

Hitler launched the "Battle of the Bulge" offensive against the Americans Dec. 16, 1944, in a frantic gamble to reverse Allied advances toward the Rhine.

Twenty-five German divisions smashed from the Eiel — the German extension of the rolling, pine-clad Ardennes — into the thinly manned U.S. positions along a 48-mile front in Belgium and Luxembourg.

It was the worst American reverse of the European campaign.

Intelligence had failed the hapless GIs manning foxholes in the snow. The scale, intensity and surprise of the German onslaught paralyzed the American war machine. Everyone had thought the war was over.

Within 72 hours of the breakthrough, President Franklin D. Roosevelt had made up his mind that if Hitler's last throw succeeded in the Bulge, the United States would use the atomic bomb on Germany to shorten the fighting.

The plan remained a plan. The German salient (bulge) was squeezed out of existence well before August 1945, when the bomb was finally perfected for the U.S. arsenal.

Fanatical units of elite, armored Waffen SS spearheaded the German attack. The fastest was commanded by SS Lt. Col. Jochen Peiper and had orders to stop for nothing.

It tore its way toward the Meuse River, the preliminary target in a Nazi campaign designed to choke off the Allied supply port of Antwerp.

Peiper's men, brutalized after service on the Russian front, fell on a retreating American artillery column at the Baugnez crossroads, on a tree-fringed plateau southeast of Malmey on Dec. 17.

About 80 American prisoners from the column were butchered by SS machine gun and pistol fire in the scrubby grassland where, today, flocks of geese and squat Belgian cattle graze in the bitterly cold winds.

The Malmey massacre was not the last. The official U.S. Army history chronicles the killings of a total of 900 American prisoners and at least 117 Belgian civilians at 12 locations along Peiper's line.

"That day I saw the highest-ranking traffic cops I have ever seen," said one American witness.

The American lines held at Bastogne, a rock in the midst of the German advance. About 18,000 American soldiers, including 11,840 from McAuliffe's 101st Airborne Division, braved all the initial 40,000 the surrounding enemy could throw at them.

On Dec. 23, Bastogne was cut off and a ceaseless bombardment began from around the compass. McAuliffe was sent a demand under truce that he surrender. His reply, a monosyllabic "Nuts," passed into folklore. Bastogne today stylishly itself "Nuts City."

Bastogne held out until armored units of Patton's 3rd Army, racing from Luxembourg in a remarkable display of agility and mobility over narrow iced-covered roads, broke through Dec. 26. But still fiercer fighting continued around the shattered town until Jan. 18.

The story of Bastogne was the story of the Bulge and the beginning of the end of the war. By
of advance before he was finally halted and turned back Dec. 19 at Stoumont.

Peiper and 42 other SS officers were sentenced to death for the murders by a U.S. military tribunal in 1946. Almost all the sentences were commuted and many of the Germans were later freed when it was proved that American interrogators had used brutal methods, including mock executions, to extract confessions.

But the end of Peiper's advance was not the end of the fierce campaign for the German armies struggling through the snow in his wake.

For the first three days of the German offensive, the American forces reeled in retreat. The efforts of American commanders to plug the gaps with reinforcements were frustrated by winding roads choked with fleeing U.S. units.

The example of an armored column trying to reach the front in the St. Vith area Dec. 16 became a pattern for both sides in the campaign. Senior officers from majors on up scrambled into the mud to clear a way and turn back the tide of retreat.

Jan. 27, German lines were back where they had been Dec. 16 when the offensive began. On Jan. 20 the Soviets broke onto German soil in East Prussia. U.S. forces crossed the Rhine into the German heartland March 7.

An estimated 15,000 people — 13,000-plus Germans, 1,000 Americans and 500 Belgian civilians — are thought to have died in and around Bastogne. The Bulge campaign claimed 120,000 Germans, killed, wounded and missing. American losses were also severe: 8,000 killed, 48,000 wounded, 21,000 captured or missing.

Guy Lutgen, who was 8 then and is Bastogne's mayor now, said

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EIGHTY-THIRD
INANRY
DIVISIO

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OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL

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Citation

AWAII OF SILVER STAR MEDAL

Private First Class Edward R. Hersmann, 3552-321
Infantry, 329th Infantry, United States Army

For gallantry in action on 26 July 1944, near Sainteny, France.

Completely disregarding intense enemy fire, Private First Class Hersmann acting as a member of the Battalion intelligence section covered the entire front gathering information which was materially instrumental in reducing enemy counter fire. In the course of his work he was struck by shell fragments in the head and neck, but before submitting to evacuation he succeeded in locating two enemy machine gun positions and reporting them to the command post. By his fearless performance of duty and disregard for personal safety he contributed greatly to the progress of his battalion. Private First Class Hersmann's conspicuous devotion to duty reflects great credit upon himself and the finest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from West Virginia.
Military Service Records

NAME: Junior McHenry
SERVICE NUMBER: 35785486
JOB CLASSIFICATION: Clerk-typist
ENLISTED OR INDUCED: Ashland, KY
MONTH: Nov. 10
YEAR: 1944
AGE: 19
BRANCH OF SERVICE: Army Airborne
RANK: PFC

TRAINING CAMPS:
1. Fort Bragg, N.C. - Field Artillery
2. Fort Benning, Ga. - Paratrooper
3. Alabama Area of Fort Benning - Demolition

SERVICE SCHOOLS ATTENDED:
Dec. 1943 - Oct. 1944
14th Airborne Division - 187th Infantry Platoon

COMPANY: 1
REGIMENT: 1
DEPARTMENT OR SHIP: 1
DATES: 1

TRAINING:
Took basic training in Field Artillery at Fort Bragg, N.C. Junior was on the boxing team and had matches with other divisions.

WENT TO:
Went to Fort Benning, Ga. to paratrooper jump school. Jumped from mock airplanes, then 34' tower on a cable, then 250' tower with a parachute that they released and you went to the ground. Training jumps - 4 daylight jumps and 1 night jump.

WENT TO:
Went to advanced training at the Alabama Area of Fort Benning.
Jumped 75 pack houses (guns)

Went on to demolition school in Alabama and jumped with 24 pounds of TNT on each leg

Rode train from Alabama to Fort Ord, California, ready to go to the war in the South Pacific. Junior shipped out Aug. 16, 1945 2 days after the Japanese surrendered. Thank God.

He was on board ship 21 days going from California to Manila, Philippines (was deathly seasick).

Was stationed in Clark Field Air Base and was on night "KP" duty and learned to Pinnacle

Left Clark Field and went to Manila at the 24th Replacement Depot and was shipped via railroad car that had no seats or roof - just open. 150 ft

Engineer outfit had already been shipped to Japan - so we stayed overnight and went back to the Replacement Depot.

Stayed there 1 week, then they sent us back to the same place that we knew the engineer outfit had already gone to Japan. Again, we stayed 1 night and went back to the Replacement Depot at Manila. Later they put 15 at us on a merchant ship to Japan. While going through the North China Sea,

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Junior McHenry

Military Service Records

Continued from p. 85

We got into the "tail end" of a typhoon. Seas were very rough. The boat would dip from one end to the other, taking water each time.

6 We arrived in Yokohama, Japan, Dec. 29, 1945. We were shipped by train to Sendi, Japan. Camp Schimmel-Finning. Junior got back in with his airborne group and taught others how to purify water. He got his leg broken, above the ankle, wrestling on the bed with a friend and fell off the bed. Stayed in the hospital about a month to 6 weeks while wearing a cast.

Went back to a desk job with his outfit and assigned men to various jobs.

8) Shipped back to the states the latter part of September, 1946. We were coming into San Francisco