



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Dec 18, 2024

Brew Link Brewpub, Wednesdays

**FELLOWSHIP, SERVICE,
PURPOSE, IMPACT, GROWTH**

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ROTARY CLUB OF PLAINFIELD

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Battle of the Bulge

Dec 16, 1944-Jan 16, 1945



Eighty years ago, early on the misty winter morning of Dec. 16, 1944, more than 200,000 German troops and nearly 1,000 tanks launched Hitler's last bid to reverse the ebb in his fortunes that had begun when Allied troops landed in France on D-Day. Seeking to drive to the coast of the English Channel and split the Allied armies as they had done in May 1940, the Germans struck in the Ardennes Forest of Belgium and Luxembourg, a 75-mile stretch of the front

characterized by dense woods and few roads, held by four inexperienced and battle-worn American divisions stationed there for rest and seasoning.

After a day of hard fighting, the Germans broke through the American front, surrounding most of an infantry division, seizing key crossroads, and advancing their spearheads toward the Meuse River, creating the "bulge" that gave the battle its name. Stories spread of the massacre of Soldiers and civilians at Malmedy and Stavelot, and of English-speaking German soldiers, disguised as Americans, capturing critical bridges, cutting communications lines, and spreading rumors.

Gen. Eisenhower rushed reinforcements to hold the shoulders of the German penetration. Within days, Lt. Gen. George S. Patton Jr. had turned his Third U.S. Army to the north and was counterattacking against the German flank. But the story of the Battle of the Bulge is above all the story of American Soldiers. Often isolated and unaware of the overall picture, they did their part to slow the Nazi advance, whether by delaying armored spearheads with obstinate defenses, moving or burning critical gasoline stocks to keep them from German tanks, or coming up with questions on arcane Americana to stump possible Nazi infiltrators.

At the critical road junctions of St. Vith and Bastogne, American tankers and paratroopers fought off repeated attacks, and when the acting commander of the 101st Airborne Division in Bastogne was summoned by his German adversary to surrender, he simply responded, "Nuts!"

Within days, Patton's Third Army had moved 100 miles and relieved Bastogne. To the north, the 2nd U.S. Armored Division stopped enemy tanks short of the Meuse River on Christmas. Through January, American troops, often wading through deep snow drifts, attacked the sides of the shrinking bulge until they had restored the front and set the stage for the final drive to victory. Never again would Hitler be able to launch an offensive in the west.

In this battle, the United States suffered well over 80,000 casualties, including an official Army count of 19,246 dead and more than 23,000 American troops taken prisoner. The Germans suffered more than 100,000 casualties. It is a testament to the scale of the struggle to realize that the Battle of the Bulge accounts for approximately 10 percent of all American combat casualties in World War II. Indeed, in terms of participation and losses, the Battle of the Bulge is arguably the greatest battle in American military history.

Charlie's \$2 Worth

ON THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE...

"The purpose of these attacks will mainly be to eliminate the Americans south of our entry point - to destroy them bit by bit, to eliminate them division by division."
- Adolf Hitler

"...the enemy may give us the chance to turn his great gamble into his worst defeat. So I call upon every man... to rise now to new heights of courage, of resolution and of effort. Let everyone hold before him a single thought - to destroy the enemy on the ground, in the air, everywhere - destroy him... We will, with God's help, go forward to our greatest victory." - Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, Dec. 22, 1944

"Men, we are surrounded by the enemy. We have the greatest opportunity ever presented an army. We can attack in any direction."
- Brig. General Anthony McAuliffe, 101th Airborne Division

"I have seen it suggested that the terrific battle which has been proceeding since 16th December on the American front is an Anglo-American battle. In fact, however, the United States troops have done almost all the fighting and have suffered almost all the losses. They have suffered losses almost equal to those on both sides in the battle of Gettysburg. Only one British Army Corps has been engaged in this action. All the rest of the 30 or more divisions, which have been fighting continuously for the last month are United States troops. The Americans have engaged 30 or 40 men for every one we have engaged, and they have lost 60 to 80 men for every one of ours. Care must be taken in telling our proud tale not to claim for the British Army an undue share what is undoubtedly the greatest American battle of the war, and will, I believe, be regarded as an ever-famous American victory."
- Winston Churchill

Upcoming Speakers/Events

- Dec 18 - John-Paul Biehn - Jeff Joyce, CFO North Salem State Bank re: North Salem Wealth Strategies
- Dec 25 - Merry Christmas! - no meeting
- Jan 1 - Happy New Year! - no meeting
- Jan 8 - Board meeting - all Club members welcome
- Jan 15 - Andrew Klinger
- Jan 22 - Royce Carter - Kyle Prewitt, Plainfield Police Chief
- Jan 29 - Danielle Bell
- Feb 5 - Dennis Reagle
- Feb 12 - Board meeting - all Club members welcome
- Feb 19 - Donnie Emerson
- Feb 26 - Brad DuBois

Club Meeting Attendance

Plainfield (3417)

Monthly Attendance Detail

Nov 1, 2024 through Nov 30, 2024

| Member Name | Nov 6 2024 | Nov 13 2024 | Nov 20 2024 | % |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|-----|
| Ament, Susan Beth | M | Y | Y | 100 |
| Baer, Janet S | Y | Y | | 67 |
| Baer, John M | Y | Y | Y | 100 |
| Bell, Danielle Renee | | | Y | 33 |
| Bennett, Joseph D | Y | Y | Y | 100 |
| Biehn, John-Paul E | | | | 0 |
| Burks, Diane Arnold | Y | Y | Y | 100 |
| Carter, Royce | | Y | Y | 67 |
| Culp, Brian N | Y | Y | Y | 100 |
| DuBois, Brad | | | | 0 |
| Emerson, Donnie | | | | 0 |
| Graham, John | Y | | | 33 |
| Hank, Max C | Y | Y | Y | 100 |
| Kinnamon, Daniel L | | | | 0 |
| Klinger, Andrew | | | | 0 |
| Olinger, Scott | Y | | Y | 67 |
| Pies, Daniel Adam | | | | 0 |
| Poray, Reann | | | | 0 |
| Rash, Ryan Allen | | | Y | 33 |
| Reagle, Dennis J. Jr. | | | | 0 |
| Sichting, Sherry D | | | Y | 33 |
| Turner, Dean F Jr. | | | Y | 33 |



UPCOMING SPEAKER ASSIGNMENTS

Please carefully examine the schedule below and let Max Hank know who you have obtained as a speaker for your date.

| | | | |
|--------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|
| Nov 6 | Joe Bennett | Jun 18 | Daniel Pies |
| Nov 20 | John Baer | Jun 25 | John-Paul Biehn |
| Dec 4 | Jan Baer | Jul 2 | Rocky Turner |
| Dec 18 | John-Paul Biehn | Jul 16 | Jan Baer |
| Jan 15 | Andrew Klinger | Jul 23 | Andrew Klinger |
| Jan 22 | Royce Carter | Jul 30 | Royce Carter |
| Jan 29 | Danielle Bell | Aug 6 | Danielle Bell |
| Feb 5 | Dennis Reagle | Aug 20 | Dennis Reagle |
| Feb 19 | Ryan Rash | Aug 27 | Ryan Rash |
| Feb 26 | Brad DuBois | Sep 3 | Brad DuBois |
| Mar 5 | Sherry Sichting | Sep 17 | Sherry Sichting |
| Mar 19 | Donnie Emerson | Sep 24 | Donnie Emerson |
| Mar 26 | Diane Burks | Oct 1 | Diane Burks |
| Apr 2 | Max Hank | Oct 15 | Max Hank |
| Apr 16 | Scott Olinger | Oct 22 | Scott Olinger |
| Apr 23 | Daniel Kinnamon | Oct 29 | Daniel Kinnamon |
| Apr 30 | Susan Ament | Nov 5 | Brian Culp |
| May 7 | Reann Poray | Nov 19 | Reann Poray |
| May 21 | Joe Bennett | Dec 3 | Joe Bennett |
| May 28 | John Graham | Dec 17 | John Graham |
| Jun 4 | John Baer | Jan 7 | John Baer |

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! DECEMBER

Liza Payton - Dec 2
Susan Ament - Dec 20
Reann Poray - Dec 26

Little Free Library Maintenance Schedule

Dec 18-24 - Royce Carter

Dec 25-31 - Joe Bennett

Jan 1-7 - Brian Culp

Jan 8-14 - Max Hank

Jan 15-21 - Susan Ament

Jan 22-28 - Royce Carter

Jan 29-Feb 4 - Max Hank

Feb 5-18 - Brian Culp

Feb 19-25 - Reann Poray

Please check supply, refill as needed.

Report any damage to Joe Bennett.

Books are available at the Library.

SPEED BUMP



Committees and Chairs

Bulletin: Max Hank

Finance: Joe Bennett

Foundation: John Baer

Fundraising :

Golf Outing: John Baer, Brad Dubois

Crew Car Wash: Sherry Sichting

Membership: Brian Culp

Orientation: John Baer & Diane Burks

Programs: Brian Culp

PR & Website: John Baer

Quaker Day Parade & Picnic: TBD

Service Committees: Royce Carter

Literacy/LFL: Joe Bennett

Teacher of the Year: Max Hank

Youth: Diane Burks

Interact and RYLA: Diane Burks

Scholarships: Max Hank

Straight-A Salute: Sherry Sichting

The Imagination & Idea Labs: Diane Burks

4-Way Test

OF THE THINGS WE THINK, SAY AND DO

1. IS IT THE TRUTH?
2. IS IT FAIR TO ALL CONCERNED?
3. WILL IT BUILD GOODWILL AND BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. WILL IT BE BENEFICIAL TO ALL CONCERNED?
- (5. IS IT FUN?)