

AL PRICE

3732 East 58th

Tulsa, OK 74135

(918) 742-1462

I BOUGHT YOUR BOOK;  
"THE CUR OF THE  
GOLDEN LION" SOME  
TIME AGO. PETE HOUSE  
I THINK HELPED ME  
WITH THIS PURCHASE.

HELLO MR JOHN KLINE,  
I HOPE YOU GET THIS LETTER,  
BECAUSE I NEED TO VISIT WITH  
YOU. YOUR BOOK WAS VERY WELL  
DONE. DURING THE WWII ~~WAR~~ I  
WAS WITH THE 2ND INF. DIV. I DROVE  
A JEEP FOR THE 2ND INF. DIV.  
AMMUNITION OFFICER. THERE WERE  
6 OF US AND WE WERE BY OURSELVES  
AT ALL TIME IN COMBAT. WAS IN  
SOME HOT SPOTS AT TIMES AND  
DURING THE BOB WAS CUT OFF SOMEWHERE  
TO YOUR LEFT FLANK FOR 1 OR 2 NIGHTS.  
SOMEWAY SOMEHOW THE CAPTAIN AND I  
GOT BACK TO CAMP EISENHORN. PLEASE  
READ THE ATTACHED LETTER. HAVE MAILED  
OUT CLOSE TO 150 LETTERS ON THE KINKY  
MASSACRES. THESE MASSACRES ARE NOT  
IN ANY OFFICIAL RECORDS & MY GOAL IS  
TO GET THEM OFFICIAL.

I DO REMEMBER WHEN YOU (106TH ID)  
CAME IN OUR AREA. WE WERE THERE

FOR ABOUT 3 1/2 MOS. KNOW PRETTY MUCH  
THE STORY ON THE 106TH AND HAVE  
INTERVIEWED A FEW FROM YOUR OUTFIT.  
HAVE HAD SEVERAL PHONE VISITS WITH  
PROPPY CONNERS IN TEXAS. HE IS IN A  
WHEEL CHAIR NOW & I TRY TO SEND  
HIM SOME ITEMS TO CHEER HIM  
UP.

MR JUNE KLINE I AM RESEARCHING  
THE BOB. FOR PERSONAL STORIES & BASIC  
FACTS. STATISTICS MEAN A LOT TO ME &  
I AM HOPING TO GET AS MANY NEAR  
ACCURATE AS POSSIBLE ON ALL PHASES.  
THIS AS YOU KNOW IS A BIG JOB. EXAMPLE  
SOME REPORTS IN BULLINGER THERE WERE  
MASSACRES RANGING FROM 1 TO 50 G'S  
KILLED, BUT CAN NOT FIND A TRUE NUMBER.  
HOW MANY BUZZ BOMBS DID THE ENEMY  
LAUNCH ON THE 16TH OF DECEMBER.  
I WAS A FEW HUNDRED YARDS FROM  
WHERE THE ENEMY WERE LAUNCHING  
THEM & SAW 5 IN THE AIR AT  
THE SAME TIME. PLEASE WRITE  
BECAUSE I DO NEED SOME ADVICE  
FROM YOU. I DO HOPE TO DO A  
BOOK ON THE BDB. BEST &

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR ANYTHING THAT  
YOU CAN THROW MY WAY. AL

PS I DO JOIN YOU - 106TH CDR. DIVISION.

**AL PRICE**

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Tulsa, OK 74135

(918) 742-1462

**COMPANY D, 38TH REGIMENT**

**2ND INFANTRY DIVISION. 12-17-44.**

**MASSACRES OF GI'S FROM THIS UNIT**

**BY SS TROOPS. KRINKELT, BELGIUM.**

AT CAMP ELSNBORN ON DECEMBER 17 OR 18, 1944, I TALKED WITH BRUNO GARCIA (NOW DECEASED). HE TOLD ME ABOUT 19 GI'S THAT WERE CAPTURED AND SHOT DOWN BY THE SS TROOPS IN KRINKELT. GARCIA FELL AS IF HE WERE DEAD AND WAS OVERLOOKED. HE LATER CARRIED OUT A WOUNDED GI BY THE NAME OF VAUGHAN. I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO LOCATE VAUGHAN. WE DO HAVE SOME NAMES OF THOSE WHO WERE INVOLVED IN THIS MASSACRE. I WOULD LIKE TO GET A COMPLETE LIST. THERE WERE OTHER MASSACRES OF GI'S IN THE 2ND DIVISION ABOUT THIS SAME TIME IN KRINKELT. THESE MASSACRES ARE NOT ON THE OFFICIAL LISTING WITH THE U.S. ARMY RECORDS. WE HOPE TO GET ENOUGH EYE WITNESSES TO VERIFY THIS EVENT.

THANKING YOU IN ADVANCE FOR WHATEVER YOU CAN DO.

BEST REGARDS,

AL PRICE

P.S. MY RECORDS MIGHT NOT BE CORRECT ON THE COMPANIES OF WHOM THESE GI'S WERE A PART. GI'S FROM OTHER COMPANIES MIGHT ALSO HAVE BEEN MASSACRED.

**SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE CRIMES OF THE KAMPFGRUPPE**  
**(COMBAT GROUP) PEIPER**

ON DECEMBER 12, 1944, THE FUHRER, ADOLF HITLER, CALLED THE ARMY CORPS AND DIVISION GENERALS DESTINED TO GO TO THE ARDENNES, TO HIS HOME IN BAD NAUHEIM. HE SPOKE MORE THAN THREE HOURS ABOUT THE EXECUTION OF AN OFFENSIVE THAT WOULD DECIDE THE OUTCOME OF THE THEN GERMAN REICH. HIS PLANS WERE JUDGED BY PHYSIOLOGICAL AND MORAL ASPECTS, VERY MUCH UNDERPINNED, AS NOTED BY THE GENERALS. THE OBERBEFEHLSHABER (COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF) OF THE WEHRMACHT (ARMED FORCES) TALKED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, OF A NO-BARS-HOLD WAR TO BE EXECUTED WITHOUT SHAME OR PITY WHATSOEVER. A TRAIL OF HORROR WAS TO PRECEDE THE OFFENSIVE AND HOLY TERROR WAS TO BREAK DOWN ANY RESISTANCE. HITLER'S HORRIBLE ORDER WAS ISSUED TO ALL THE TROOPS OF THE SIXTH SS PANZER (TANK) DIVISION JUST HOURS BEFORE THE OUTBREAK OF THE WINTER OFFENSIVE ON DECEMBER 16, 1944. THE SOLDIERS OF THE FIRST PANZER (TANK) DIVISION WERE ALSO ORDERED NOT TO BOTHER WITH AMERICAN PRISONERS. THIS MEANT THAT THE SS SOLDIERS WERE TO KEEP THIS OATH A STRICT SECRET. THEY FOLLOWED THIS ORDER OFTEN IN THE STRICTEST SENSE!

ON DECEMBER 14, 1944, THE CRIMINAL PLAN OF THE FUHRER ARRIVED IN WRITTEN ORDER FORM AT THE SIXTH SS PANZER (TANK) DIVISION. THE CHIEF OF THE ARMY AND GENERAL MAJOR KRAEMER EDITED IT. ARMY COMMANDER SEPP DIETRICH SIGNED IT. THEY TRANSMITTED THE ORDERS TO THE GENERALS. THE GENERALS RELAYED THEM TO THE EINHEITSFUHRERS (UNIT LEADERS) WHO IN TURN RELAYED THE SHAMEFUL ORDERS TO THE ZUGFUHRERS (PLATOON LEADERS). THEN THE ORDERS WERE RELATED TO THE REST OF THE TROOPS. THE VORHUT OF THE FIRST SS PANZER (TANK) DIVISION WAS A HIGHLY REINFORCED MILITARY FORCE IN REGIMENTS STRENGTH AND WAS ELEVATED TO A KAMPFGRUPPE (COMBAT GROUP). UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE ALMOST 29-YEARS-OLD SS OBERSTURMBANNFUHRER (MAJOR) JOACHIM (JOCHEN) PEIPER, THE KAMPFGRUPPE (COMBAT GROUP) BROKE ALL RECORDS OF HUMAN CONSIDERATION AND CRUELTY DURING THE ARDENNES OFFENSIVE.

ON THE THIRD ADVENTS DAY, DECEMBER 17, 1944, AT 7:00 A.M. THE FRONT OF THE KAMPFGRUPPE (COMBAT GROUP) REACHED THE VILLAGE HONSFELD WITHOUT ENCOUNTERING MUCH AMERICAN RESISTANCE. THE FIRST OF PEIPER'S PANZERS (TANKS) CONTINUED TO THE VILLAGE BULLINGEN. THEY CAPTURED THE FIRST AMERICAN SOLDIERS IN HONSFELD AND BULLINGEN. AFTER THE AMERICANS SURRENDERED TO THE SS SOLDIERS, THEY WERE SHOT COLD BLOODED BY THE GERMANS WHO REFERRED TO THE ORDERS THEY RECEIVED A FEW DAYS EARLIER.

THE SO-CALLED MASSACRE OF MALMEDY TOOK PLACE ON A STREET CROSSING IN THE VILLAGE OF BAUGNEZ. ON DECEMBER 17, 1944, THE SS SOLDIERS MURDERED 71 AMERICAN SOLDIERS. THEY LINED THEM UP IN THE MEADOW NEXT TO THE CAFE BODARWE AND WERE SHOT THOUGH THEY WERE UNARMED. A FEW KILOMETERS (MILES) SOUTH OF BAUGNEZ IN LIGNEUVILLE, THEY TOOK 22 AMERICAN PRISONERS TO THE HOTEL DU MOULIN. A SINGLE OBERSCHARFUHRER OF THE KAMPFGRUPPE (COMBAT GROUP) PEIPER SHOT EIGHT AMERICANS WITH ONE SHOT EACH IN THE HEAD. (TODAY, A MEMORIAL NEXT TO THE HOTEL IS A REMINDER OF THOSE HORRIBLE CRIMES OF FANATIC SS TROOPS.) ON DECEMBER 18, 1944, THE HEAD OF THE PANZERGRUPPE (TANK BATTERY) REACHED THE VILLAGE STAVELOT. ON THE RUE DE WALQUE STREET, A SS SOLDIER USED HIS MACHINE GUN FROM THE TANK AND KILLED TWO INNOCENT BELGIANS. A LITTLE FURTHER ON THE RUE DE TROIS-PONTS

STREET, TWO SS SOLDIERS FOLLOWING THEIR TANK SHOT THE 14-YEAR-OLD SON OF THE FAMILY GENGUX BECAUSE HE LEANED OUT OF THE WINDOW OF HIS FAMILY'S HOME. AS A GERMAN TROOP APPROACHED THE BRIDGE IN STAVELOT, THEY FOUND AN IMPENETRABLE OBSTACLE - A CLOSED TIGER PANZER (TANK). THEY WERE UNABLE TO MOVE THE IRON MONSTER. IN A RAGE, ANOTHER BELGIAN ONLOOKER NAMED GONAY WAS SHOT IN HIS OWN DOORWAY. AT THE HOUSE LEGAYE, THEY KILLED 23 MORE CIVILIANS, AMONG THEM CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF FOUR AND NINE. BETWEEN STAVELOT AND TROIS-PONTS, THE SS MURDERED THREE MORE CIVILIANS. A WOMAN WAS ABLE TO SAVE HERSELF ALTHOUGH SHE WAS BADLY WOUNDED. IN THE VILLAGE OF PETIT-SPAI, A HARMLESS CIVILIAN WAS SHOT AND WOUNDED. THEY KILLED THE REVEREND PREGARDIEN AT THE VILLAGE BRIDGE. THE CASCADES DE COO LATER RECOVERED HIS BODY FROM THE AMBLEVE RIVER. SS WEAPONS KILLED ANOTHER NINE CIVILIANS, INCLUDING CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF FIVE AND NINE. WITHOUT ANY RECOGNIZABLE REASON, 12 INNOCENT CIVILIANS REACHED THE SAME DESTINY IN TROIS-PONTS. ANOTHER BELGIAN LOST HIS LIFE IN THE HAMLET LES FORGES. AROUND 6:00 P.M., JUST AFTER DARK, JEAN MINGUET OPENED THE DOOR BETWEEN HIS KITCHEN AND HALLWAY ALLOWING LIGHT TO ESCAPE THROUGH THE WINDOW. SECONDS LATER A SHOT THROUGH THE DOOR KILLED MINGUET IN HIS OWN HOME.

IN THE BELGIAN VILLAGE STOCKEUX, SEVEN CIVILIANS DIED ON DECEMBER 20, 1944, EACH FROM A SHOT TO THE NECK. A HAND GRENADE KILLED THREE MORE CIVILIANS HIDING IN A CELLAR. ON DECEMBER 22, 1944, FIVE MORE LIVES WERE LOST IN THE SAME VILLAGE. IN THE HOUSE MASSET, THE SS SHOT BLINDLY INTO THE ROOMS, WOUNDING THREE PERSONS. THREE OTHERS MANAGED TO ESCAPE. THE MINISTER IN JEVIGNE WAS MURDERED WITHOUT MOTIVE ON DECEMBER 30, 1944!

OTHER MURDERS BY SS TROOPS THAT WERE NOT WITH THE PEIPER KAMPFGRUPPE (COMBAT GROUP) BUT FOLLOWED THE FIFTH PANZER (TANK) DIVISION WERE NOTED IN BELGIAN VILLAGES:

BOURCY:	4 CIVILIANS ON 12-20-44	NOVILLE:	CIVILIANS ON 12-21-44
ODEIGNE:	1 CIVILIAN ON 12-23-44	HOUFFALIZE:	8 CIVILIANS ON 12-22&23-44
DINEZ:	3 CIVILIANS ON 12-24-44	LAROCHE:	3 CIVILIANS ON 01-04-45
BANDE:	32 CIVILIANS ON 12-24-44 (INCLUDING FOUR SEMINARIES)		

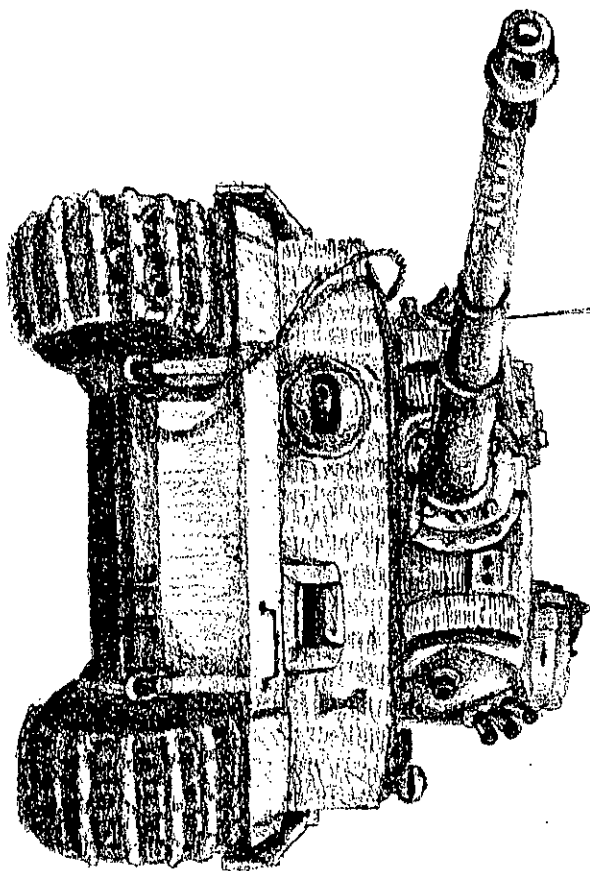
UNTOLD HORRORS ALSO BEFELL AMERICAN SOLDIERS THAT FOUGHT THE KAMPFROUTE (COMBAT ROUTE) PEIPER, BECOMING PRISONERS AND THEN MURDER VICTIMS OF THE SS.

BAUGNEZ:	71	BULLINGEN:	50	CHENEUX:	31	HONSFELD:	17
LA GLEIZE:	41	PETIT-SPAI:	11	PETIT-THIER:	11	STAVELOT:	58
STOUMONT:	46	TROIS-PONT:	10				

THE CRIMES, ESPECIALLY TO AMERICAN PRISONERS, WERE COMMITTED EXCLUSIVELY ON THE KAMPFROUTE (COMBAT ROUTE) OF THE PEIPER TROOP. THEY REPORTED NOTHING SIMILAR FROM THE REGULAR WEHRMACHTSVERBANDE (UNITS OF THE ARMED FORCES), WHERE ONLY EXPECTED CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES OCCURRED.

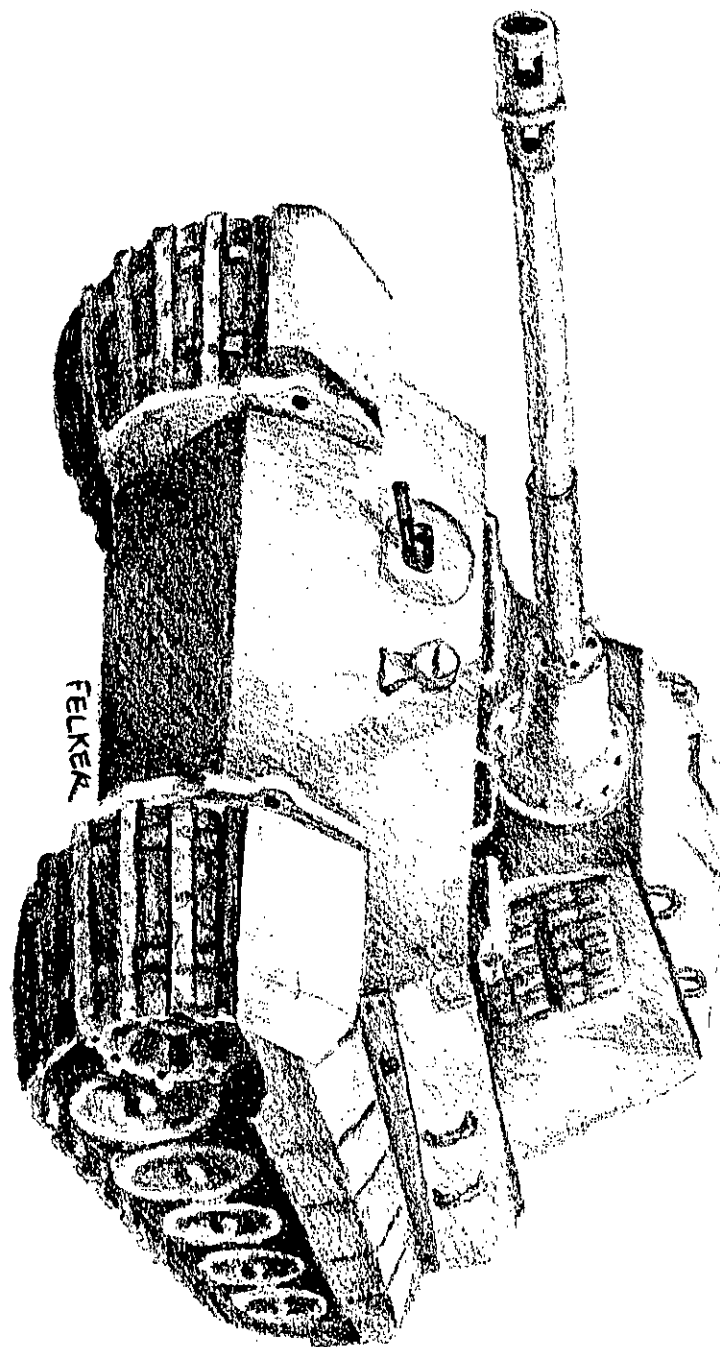
INCIDENTALLY, THE SS TROOPS WERE UNDER REICHSFUHRER SS HEINRICH HIMMLER, BUT COULD BE ENLISTED IN THE SCOPE OF MILITARY UNITS. THEIR CRIMES WERE NOT COMMITTED ONLY IN BELGIUM.

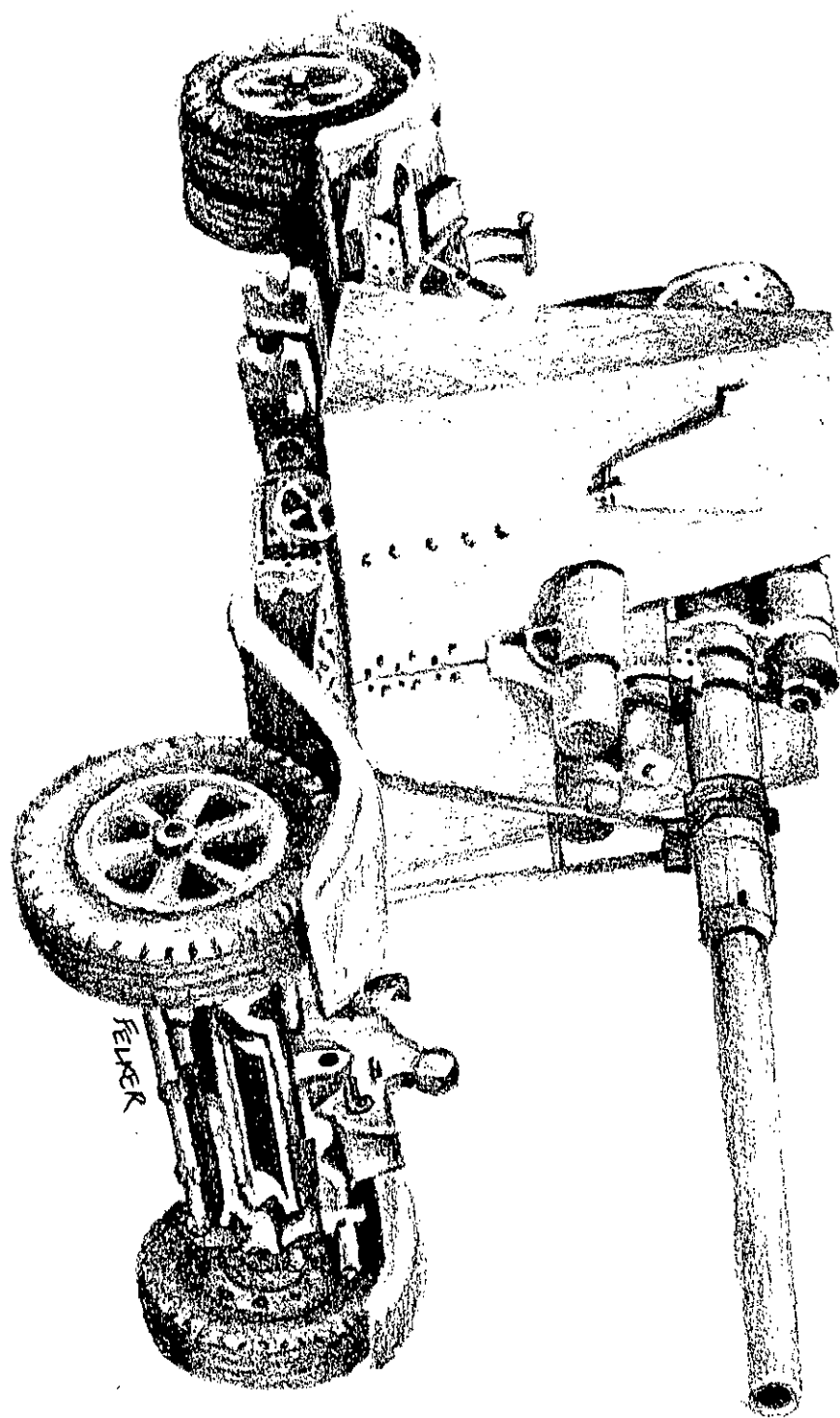
CAMILLE P. KOHN  
LUXEMBOURG



22 K<sub>3</sub> V1 TIER 1

File 97







I PLAN TO USE AN INK  
SKETCH OF EACH GIs STORY.

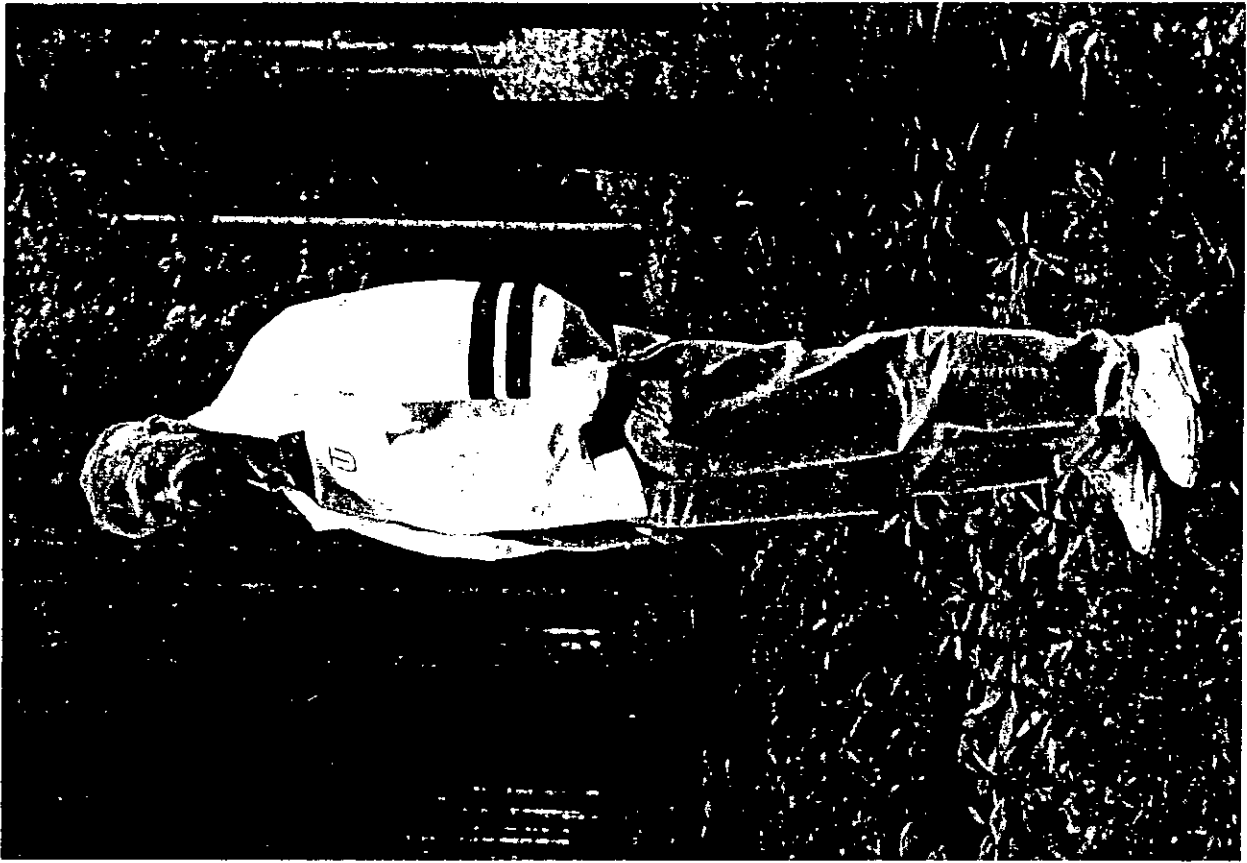
THIS GI  
ESCAPED THE  
HAPPY END  
MASSACRE. TALKED  
TO HIM & WE BOTH  
C. L. A. D.



WOLVERTON

C. L. D. 38TH REG. GI.





March 5, 1997

Mr. Al Price  
3732 East 58th  
Tulsa, OK 74135

Al,

Thanks for your letter and all the material.

I don't know what you want of me, you didn't say.

The book, *The CUB of the Golden Lion: PASSES in REVIEW*, took over 450 hours to research, itemize and compile. I didn't the stories, I just compiled what I found in over 185 issues of *The CUB of the Golden Lion*, the quarterly magazine of the *106th Infantry Division Association*.

I first read and researched all of the issue of *The CUB* between 1946 and 1991. I entered into a computer database, the name of the article, how many column inches that it took. From that I eventually found that I had tabulated about 500 pages of material. From there I started retyping material, scanning material. I decided on breaking down the book into various chapters starting with the Division, Regiment, Battalions, Companies etc. If you look at the index you will see that I ended up with several categories of information. This way I was able to collect into several baskets, the material that I needed for each chapter.

I used a computer "Publishing Program" named Xerox Ventura Publisher. With the program you can format chapter headers, column headers, body text. It actually all fell into order nicely.

I printed the various chapters into what the print business calls "Camera Ready Copy." They took my camera ready copy, photographed it, made printing plates and printed it in their high speed presses. The publisher was West Publishing, one of the largest publishers in the world. They are about 20 minutes north of where I live. They are a large producer of "Law Books." When I ask the production manager how long it would take print 2,000 copies, he said, "In less time than what it will take me to give you a quotation for the cost of printing the book."

It was set up in a 8.5 x 10 inch format, with four color laminated cover. The art work was done by employees of West Publishing. I order 1,800 for the first order and have had two orders of 250 each since. The book was finished in September 1991. It was sold, mostly, to members of the 106th Infantry Division Association.

You say you are trying to produce a book about the Battle of the Bulge. You, of course, realize that this subject has been published in many books. Speaking from my viewpoint, I would say that it would be difficult to come up with anything exciting, in addition to that already published. I have had “publishers to be” tell me, “I want to tell the truth about the Bulge.” First the truth has to come from more than one person, secondly, as an individual you really don’t know much more than what you saw over your rifle sights. You have to depend on what you have read from books that have already been published. Your insight into the Bulge has been slowly shaped, not with what you know about the Bulge, but with what you have read about the Bulge.

One writer said, “I am going to tell the truth, the officers were lying to cover their tails, the authors were writing to make money, the historians were relying on others.” How could he tell the truth, when the scope of his knowledge only encompassed the small piece of ground on which he fought.

It is a difficult task Al. You in your well intended questionnaire ask the individual “How many buzz bombs?” “How many soldiers fought?” How many this and how many that. Al, there is no way an ordinary soldier, like me, or you, can answer those “How many” questions. How could we. We can only answer with facts that we have read over the last 50 some years. What you are going to come up with is repeated information.

Now, when it comes to individual stories by individual soldiers, that can be a different thing. But when you get into the statistics, the reasons why, and the strategy of the Bulge, you are going to get nothing but brain-washed answers. Soldiers tales are much like the tales of a fisherman. I say that with no disrespect. How many people have said that they saw fifteen German Mark V tanks? Maybe in the area of the 2nd as they were infiltrating into the Roer Valley through the 99th, but certainly not from the men of the 10th and the 28th. There were no Mark V tanks in our area. The Germans reported that there were something like 35 TIGER Tanks, and most all of them was with Pieper on his thrust to get to the Muese River.

Our men reported Tiger tanks when it was nothing more than a “Panzerjager,” (Tank Hunter) or in other words a mechanized anti-tank gun. The thing didn’t even have a turret that would revolve. You relate to how many buzz bombs were released. There were thousands of buzz bombs that were sent to land on Liege, Antwerp, Brussels. Most of what you saw were not directed at the fighting forces they were directed to area to our rear. I have a map somewhere that lists the deaths around Liege. It shows a pinpoint on the map for each bomb that landed. There were thousands of them, there were also thousands of deaths, mostly civilian.

I admire you for thinking to conserve the history of the Bulge, but I hope you don’t get tangled up in the why’s and wherefore’s because it is just like falling into a trap. Like I said, “It has all been said before.” World War II books don’t sell well. I don’t know of a “soldier author” that has gotten rich doing it. Brig Gen Oliver Patton, of the 106th has written a couple of books. He said he hasn’t made a cent.

The only reason that we (the 106th Association) produced *The CUB of the Golden Lion* was to conserve the stories that came from *The CUB* magazine. Little newsletters and quarterlies like *The CUB* usually disappear after a person dies. The purpose of me doing the book "for the Association" was not to make money, for I did not have any of the take from the sale, it was to conserve the history as told by the men of the 106th in their many stories that had been printed in *The CUB*.

I have been asked, by the Association, to do another. I will catch up from the CUB stories starting in mid 1991, through today, to conserve those stories, and then use some of the two file drawers full of personal and division history that I have accumulated. I will also reprint some of the "after battle reports and news articles" that have appeared over the years. Again, this is being done so that when we all pass off the face of this earth that something, some part of us, will still be somewhere - in library - in hard print, to tell the world what we were all about. Time is fleeing and it will pass fast.

I haven't really told you much. I would be glad for you to let me know how you think I can help. I wish you well and want to thank you for joining ranks with us. I hope you enjoy *The CUB*. I took over editorship in Sept 1987 after the former editor had died in January of 1987. I had just learned of the Association. I went to my first reunion in September 1987 and volunteered to reproduce the quarterly magazine. I had some computer expertise and knew that I could reproduce it as it was. Those years since have been the time of my life. I have learned much more than what I have printed. I have discovered over seventy of my former comrades from M Company, 423rd Regiment, and have been well received by the organization. What more could a man ask for, at least one who had his head in the sand from 1945 until 1987...

Al, your street address, is it 58th Street, Avenue or what? The USPO bar-code mail requires some strict wording. I think it will look for something after "58th."

John Kline, 423/M  
1st Vice-president - Editor  
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PHOTO PROGRAM



SPORTS LINE: MLB: Cleveland 4, Oakland 2 • Toronto 9, California 4 • NY Mets 5, Cincinnati 4 • Colorado 3, Montreal 2 • Florida 3, San Francisco 2 • Houston 7, Philadelphia 5 • Chicago Cubs 9, Atlanta 2 • College: Oklahoma 10, Stanford 4 • Memphis 12, Oklahoma St. 4

NEWS 20



LIVING 1



## Not the Retiring Type

Women Find It Difficult To Give Up the Rat Race

SPORTS 1



## OU Advances In Regional

Memphis' 9-run Rally Decks Cowboys

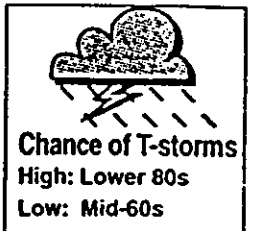
ARTS 1



## Faux Finds

Replicas Provide Hands-on Education

WEATHER 1



High: Lower 80s  
Low: Mid-60s

# TULSA WORLD

★★ FINAL HOME EDITION

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\$1.25

## Tulsa Saw Bloody Omaha

By Laureen Gibson Gilroy  
World Staff Writer

Like most men of his generation, Tulsa Al Price grew up during the Great Depression and went off to war when Uncle Sam called.

And like most World War II veterans, Price does not call himself a hero. He says he was simply doing his job 50 years ago when Allied troops invaded Europe.

Price landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day plus one — the day after the invasion began. He holds painful memories of combat and comrades. They are memories he does not readily share with other people. Men of his generation are like that.

The images of war will come back this week as Price and other veterans of the 2nd Infantry Division Veteran on News 3



- "A Mighty Blow Against Evil." Opinion 1
- Photographer returns to Normandy. Opinion 3
- Second invasion of Normandy. Travel 7



Al Price, 20, with the 2nd Infantry Division in 1944.





## ...Veteran

Continued from News 1

vision visit the European countries where they fought in 1944 and 1945.

The men gather in New York City on Tuesday and arrive in Paris on Wednesday. After two days in the French capital, the group will travel to Brest, then to Normandy for four days.

The tour continues through France to Belgium, Germany and Czechoslovakia before the group returns to the United States on June 17.

Price said he will take a small

flag to place on the grave of a friend in the Normandy cemetery, where more than 9,000 Americans are buried.

He plans to walk among the neat rows of white crosses and Stars of David, looking



Price

at the names and thinking about the men he knew so long ago.

The man he remembers most often — E.J. Grandstaff — was not killed in action, but he was a casualty of war nonetheless, Price said.

Price grew up with Grandstaff's younger brothers in the Tulsa Boys Home.

The two men were both in the 2nd Infantry Division on D-Day plus one.

"He went all the way through to the end of the war without getting hurt. E.J. was 5-foot-5 and weighed 125 pounds and he was one of the roughest, toughest GIs I ever knew," Price said.

Grandstaff got the Bronze Star with one oak leaf cluster. He had seen most of his buddies killed on the front lines.

"The tragic part is E.J. was wounded very deeply psychologically and he never got over the war."

"His friends knew him after the war as a troubled man," Price said. "But I would think that he would be one of the true American heroes."

Grandstaff died about 25 years ago.

Price will send dispatches to

the Tulsa World during his European trip.

In preparation for his tour, he studied the D-Day invasion and submitted this report:

I was one of 15,000 men in the 2nd Infantry Division. On June 3 or 4, 1944, we loaded on ships and barges and sailed out into the English Channel.

The 5th of June was supposed to be D-Day, but because of bad weather Gen. (Dwight D.) Eisenhower called it off. Then he called it on for the 6th.

This was a real tough decision for anyone to make. I am very happy that I did not have to make a decision of this nature because there were going to be thousands and thousands of casualties (killed in action, missing, wounded or a prisoner of war).

The Allied casualties reached about 10,000, but some historians say it was 12,000. It was a very brutal thing.

American casualties were about 6,600 including almost 2,500 from the 101st and 82nd Airborne Division. A total of 1,928 Americans were reported missing.

Shortly after midnight on June 6, the Airborne's paratroopers and gliders landed in or near Ste-Mere-Eglise.

The British landed around Caen. They had a great deal of success, but 41 percent of their gliders were lost and they had numerous casualties.

American losses were even greater. A lot of the boys landed and drowned in an area the Germans had flooded.

Numerous American paratroopers were 20 miles off of their landing targets and it took them quite some time during D-Day to get organized.

The disorganized landing, in turn, confused the Germans.

The gliders carried light artillery, jeeps, ammunition and supplies. Each paratrooper had about 100 pounds of equipment.

Some 10,000 to 12,000 airplanes knocked out railheads and bridges the Germans used for supply lines.

There were about 6,000 ships including 4,000 landing craft in the Navy's "Neptune" operation.

Their rendezvous point, several miles out from the Normandy

coast, was called Piccadilly Circus.

In all, the total number of assault troops and support personnel was about the same as the population of Tulsa today.

There were weather forecasters, the Coast Guard, and Merchant Marines. About 200 frogmen dismantled mines in the water.

Just think of the great logistical study that had to be made to coordinate all these men, materiel, airplanes, tanks, guns, ammunition, and food!

The British and Canadians landed on the three eastern beaches — Sword, Juno and Gold.

Fewer than 1,000 of the 20,000 plus soldiers that landed on each beach became casualties there.

The Allies knocked out 70 of the 100 German tanks that attacked those beaches.

Point du Hoc was between the American beaches — Omaha and Utah.

The point was where the U.S. Ranger Battalion suffered great casualties in scaling a cliff. They reached the top, but 75 percent of the 175 men were casualties.

Their job was to knock out some 155 howitzers that covered both American beaches.

When the boys got up there, they learned the guns were already moved by the Germans.

Utah Beach was an easier military target.

About 23,000 men from the American 4th Division and other special units such as armor, rangers and combat engineers, landed there. They brought in more than 1,400 tanks, jeeps, artillery pieces and other vehicles.

Omaha Beach was the terrible one.

The choppy waters hampered the landing parties and behind the beach was the Germans' 352nd Infantry Division.

Many of the 10,000 soldiers in the 352nd fought on the Russian front, but some were only 17 or 18 years old.

When the invasion started, the 352nd moved up into position and fired machine guns and small arms down on the beach.

Ten minutes after the American 1st Division and 29th Division hit Omaha Beach, 96 percent were dead or wounded.

## CityLine Programs Mark Holiday, D-Day

CityLine is offering special programs to celebrate Memorial Day and the 50th anniversary of D-Day.

Tulsa World readers may call 582-CITY, then enter category 3329 to hear stories about World War II. Here's a schedule of topics and narrators:

■ Sunday — Pilot George Brannan tells about being shot down and life as a POW.

■ Monday — Pearl Harbor survivor Joe Nambo talks on Memorial Day.

■ Tuesday — Hitler's rise to power in Germany.

■ Wednesday — Veteran Ted Tracy talks about returning to Normandy this summer.

■ Thursday — The home-front, including rationing and Rosie the Riveter.

■ Friday — The Holocaust.

■ June 4 — Story of Douglas Powell, an engineer wounded on Omaha Beach.

■ Saturday — Retired Army Col. John Brooks tells about landing at Omaha Beach.

■ June 6 — Paratrooper Warren Wilt talks about jumping behind enemy lines, and going back this year to jump again.

I talked to a good friend of mine who watched this operation from a boat. He said as soon as the men hit the beach they would be hit by artillery shells and he would see guns, rifles and helmets flying in the air.

Later in the day, Gen. (Omar) Bradley wanted to stop sending troops to Omaha.

But the 1st Infantry Division pushed up over the hill and went about a mile and a half inland so troops could continue coming in.

I was not on the beach on D-Day, but elements of the 2nd Division were there using special demolitions, trying to knock out mines and obstacles.

By D-Day plus one, when the 2nd Division landed on Omaha Beach, the invasion was complete.

D-Day was the beginning of the end. Eleven months and three days later, the war in Europe was over.

# Tulsan Moved by D-Day Gesture

By Mary Ellen Matava  
World Staff Writer

A French girl too young to remember when Allied soldiers landed in her country in 1944 brought tears to the eyes of a World War II veteran from Tulsa Monday when she handed him a bouquet of flowers.

The youth expressed her country's gratitude to Al Price, a member of the U.S. 2nd Infantry Division who landed on Omaha Beach 50 years ago in the battle that marked the beginning of the end of the war in Europe.

Price, overwhelmed by the hospitality during his return trip to France this month, was even more taken aback by the young girl's gesture.

"I cried," he said.

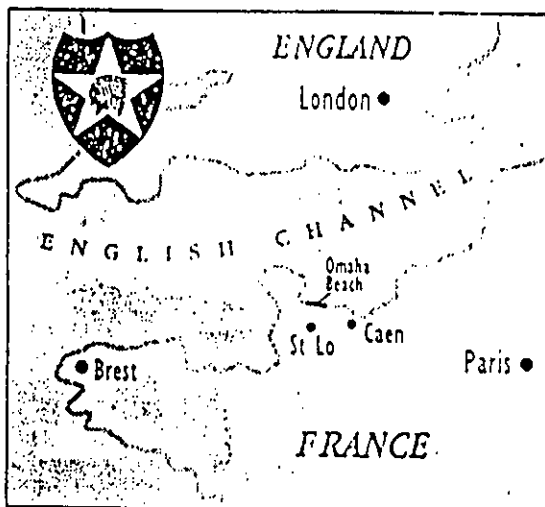
Price, who arrived in Paris with a group of his fellow veterans Wednesday, sent his first dispatch from Europe by fax machine to the Tulsa World on Monday.

"Everyone is very proud," Price said of the American and other Allied veterans who returned to Normandy to commemorate the 50th anniversary of D-Day. The group participated in the French international ceremony at Omaha Beach and the U.S. ceremony at the U.S. Military Cemetery.

On their first day in France, the 2nd Infantry Division veterans toured Paris and laid a wreath at the eternal flame for France's unknown soldier at the Arc de Triomphe.

From Paris, the group traveled on Friday to the coastal city of Brest. The veterans paraded to Wilson Square for a memorial service at a monument to members of the 2nd Infantry Division who died there. Price said he didn't recognize any of his fellow veterans but that didn't surprise him — there were 15,000 men in the division.

Brest was used by the Germans as a naval base during World War II and was liberated in 1944 by American forces after a 43-day siege.



Tulsa World Map/BLT

The veterans were treated like royalty in Brest at receptions throughout the town. They received accolades from the mayor and other city officials.

En route to Monday's D-Day commemorations, Price and his fellow veterans stopped in the city of St.-Laurent-sur-Mer, the site of their fateful landing on Omaha Beach on D-Day plus one — the day after the invasion began. They visited a monument at the beach where nearly 10,000 American soldiers lost their lives.

French communities such as Brest and St. Lo were badly damaged by the barrage of bombings during the battles of Normandy. Price said the area has been rebuilt and bears little resemblance to the countryside he observed 50 years ago.

The tour will continue through France to Belgium, Germany and Czechoslovakia before the group returns to the United States on June 17.

## Tulsan Revisits Battle Sites, Burial Grounds

**Editor's note:** Tulsa Al Price was in Europe for the 50th anniversary of the D-Day invasion. During his trip he retraced the steps he took 50 years ago as a soldier in the U.S. 2nd Infantry Division. Here is a story based on his dispatches to the Tulsa World.

By Laureen Gibson Gilroy  
World Staff Writer

Al Price was back in the U.S.A. Friday night.

"It is great to be an American," he said in a dispatch sent before he boarded the Delta Airlines flight in Prague, Czech Republic.

"It is great to be heading to Tulsa again," he said.

Price is due back in Tulsa Saturday.

The tour of old battle sites and the graves of fallen comrades was very emotional for him and the 38 other veterans of the U.S. 2nd Infantry Division, Price said.

They went to the site in Malmédy, Belgium, where 85 unarmed American soldiers were massacred almost 50 years ago.

Individual plaques on the wall bear the names of the men killed Dec. 17, 1944, after they surrendered to Maj. Josef Dieffenhals' Panzer Grenadiers.

The 285th Field Artillery Observation Battalion troops were lined up in a snowy field, shot to death and left unburied in Malmédy.

A total of 43 survived being shot by two German tanks.

News of the massacre spread quickly among Allied troops who were under German attack in what came to be known as the Battle of the Bulge, the final German offensive of the war.

Price and other 2nd Infantry Division veterans were about 12 miles away in St. Vith that tragic day.

Last week, they returned to St. Vith and visited other battle sites near the western border of Germany.

The June heat was a stark contrast to the cold, snowy winter of 1944-45. Very little of the area looked familiar, Price said. Most of the cities and towns have been rebuilt.

In Bastogne, Price's tour group stopped at what is billed as the largest memorial on earth to the U.S. servicemen who fought in World War II.

A tank and a bust of Brig. Gen. A.C. MacAuliffe sit in the main square of the town where MacAuliffe's 101st Airborne Division fought in 1944.

MacAuliffe made a one-word reply to the Germans' surrender demand: "Nuts."

A building shaped like a five-pointed star stands on a hill outside of town. The story of the Battle of the Bulge, also known as the Battle of the Ardennes, is told in gold letters on the memorial's pillars.

The Bastogne Historical Center nearby has film presentations and other exhibits about the battle. Near Bingen, Germany, Price went to the Henri-Chapelle U.S. Military Cemetery where Truman Kimbro and some 11,000 other casualties of the Battle of the Bulge are buried.

Kimbro, a Texan, was a technician fourth grade with the 2nd Infantry Division on Dec. 19, 1944. He was killed by enemy gun fire while laying mines to delay the German army's advance near Rocherath. His actions earned him the Medal of Honor.

# Tulsans Hunting Normandy Grave Have Surprise Meeting

Editor's note: Tulsan Al Price is in Europe, retracing the steps he took 50 years ago as a soldier in the U.S. 2nd Infantry Division. Here is a story based on his latest dispatch.

By Laureen Gibson Gilroy  
World Staff Writer

In a scene right out of a Hollywood movie, Tulsans Al Price and Connie Bruno met in France last week.

The story actually began 50 years ago when Price and Connie's father, Vernon L. DuVall, were with the U.S. 2nd Infantry Division. The soldiers landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day plus one.

Meanwhile, DuVall's wife Edna waited at home in Tulsa with 5½-month-old Connie.

She got a letter from DuVall dated June 17. Two days after he wrote it, DuVall was killed in a mortar shell explosion. He is believed to be the first Tulsan killed in France during World War II.

DuVall had been injured and should have gone to a military hospital. But he volunteered for an anti-tank crew and stayed in combat, said his widow, who later married one of DuVall's friends, E.S. Smithline.

Connie never saw her father, so her trip to Europe on the 50th anniversary of D-Day was a special one. She was taking her children to visit her father's grave.

Price planned to put an American flag on DuVall's grave so he called Edna Smithline and found

out where the marker was among the more than 9,000 plots in the American cemetery above Omaha Beach.

In a strange twist of fortune, Smithline had given out the wrong location. She had the grave site numbers from the temporary cemetery, but years ago the bodies were moved and their locations on the cemetery grid changed.

Price and Bruno, still unaware of what the other one was doing, went last Wednesday to the Salvation Army tent that had been set up to help family and friends of veterans find burial places.

Bruno grew impatient in the long line. She turned and looked at the hundreds of people behind her. As she turned forward, her eyes fell on a piece of paper held by the man directly behind her. She saw the name — Vernon L.

DuVall.

That is how Price and Bruno found each other among the millions of people in Normandy last week.

Last Sunday, Price and other veterans of the 2nd Infantry Division attended a ceremony at a monument to the division in the small town of St. Georges d'Elle in Normandy.

"It was very emotional," Price said. "All of our minds were on the GIs that were killed and the many that were wounded and missing."

Later, the veterans went to a ceremony on Omaha Beach. It was smaller than the one held the next day that included dignitaries from around the world.

"The beach looked peaceful, but knowing what happened here hurt," Price said.

About 1,500 members of the

2nd Infantry Division were killed in Normandy during the invasion 50 years ago.

The sadness mingled with awe and pride Monday when Price sat among a group of about 15 U.S. Senators at the main celebration on Omaha Beach. Next to him were Sens. Arlen Specter, R-Penn., and Alan Simpson, R-Wyo.

The French government gave each veteran a medal. The French people also have been generous and grateful, Price said.

Price and other veterans have been running from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. every day visiting the small towns and villages they helped liberate in the summer of 1944.

Although unemployment is 10 percent and gas costs \$4 a gallon, the French people opened their homes and shops to honor the veterans, he said.

There have been many hugs and kisses on the cheek given out to the liberators, Price said.

Mayors have hosted lunches and dinners where the meals are free for veterans, Price said.

"We eat a lot of bread, cheese and fish," he said. "But the coffee is too strong."

There are few scars left from the war. Most of the towns have been completely rebuilt, he said.

About 900 former GIs from the 2nd, 35th and 29th divisions attended a dinner in St.-Lo, the town where the Allies started their breakout from the Normandy beaches in late July 1944.

