

Bob Burrows Interview

Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion, 317th Infantry Regiment

Interviewed by: Col(ret) Grant Porter; August 2001

<http://80thdivision.com/VetInterviews/BurrowsBob.mp4>

(AI-generated Audio Transcript)

Speaker 1 ([00:00](#))

Hi, my name is Bob Burrows. I was with headquarters company, second Battalion, 317th Infantry. I was one of those I was a fortunate few that took an Air Force basic training, was sent to Palm Beach for 10 months, and then assigned to a Civil Affairs G5 at 12th Corps, Third Army. So I did not go through what some of these other fellows did. While I was in Corps, I attempted to join whatever outfit I could find, but it wasn't allowed. And finally, during the Battle of the Balch, they were looking for any live body, and I volunteered. And General Matenani sent me to the second Battalion as he was acquainted with the Battalion Commander, William Boydston. And I joined the The second Battalion on Christmas Eve, 1944. We were at Feulen, Luxembourg. I believe it's Feulen, Luxembourg. And what an experience from We'll pause here. Bob Smith, they gave you a little indication about the terrain and the situation. I don't believe he fully described it. I don't think anybody can really describe it unless they've been there because it was miserably cold. The snow was deep. The enemy was pretty tough, and they were fighting for their lives.

Speaker 1 ([02:36](#))

I went through the remainder of December into January, and pretty much static. We were just small probes in and out. Kehlen was one area that we had settled on about the 20th of 21st of December, we jumped off into an attack about 4:30 in the morning, single file through this Luxembourg countryside. It wasn't rolling Hills as was indicated. It was more than that. Gully would be more of a description. It wasn't heavily wooded. In the area of the attack, it was more like scrub oak in small trees, but snow We had to be about 10 inches deep. We've been moving out under fire from daylight. And finally, about 11:00, one last round came in and landed in our midst. Easy & Fox Company was in attacked through the woods. George Company was in reserve. And when I say reserve, they were only maybe 100 yards behind catching the artillery fire. But this last round that came in in the morning landed in the midst of the command group, killed Boydston, Colonel Boydston. Lieutenant Clark, the forward observer, his radio man, I believe his name was Hirsch, Bernie Fuller, who was laying next to me. I believe Captain Miller of Fox Company was killed.

Speaker 1 ([04:25](#))

I don't think he died that day, but he died as a result of that action. And we really got creamed. One of the fellows in the organization of Fox Company, Burt Shack, was hit, and he didn't get back in until the next day after the battalion had retreated. Really, that afternoon. It was a disaster. But I don't think this particular action was any worse than what the fellows went through in the Moselle Valley, crossing the Moselle River right on up to Saint Avold when they moved north to Luxembourg. I was fortunate. I was never wounded. I stayed with the outfit until about the sixth of May when I was sent back to an intelligence school. This intelligence school was a result of Nazi propaganda, I think, because the National Readout and the Werewolves. I was sent back to Dubaï, France. I think I was in Paris the eighth of May, riding down the back end of the 6x6 when the war was declared over. Happy day. That's it. Thank you.