U.S. First Army Troops



99th Infantry Battalion (Norwegian



The 99th Infantry Battalion was a unit of second and third generation men from the U.S. (primarily Minnesota) who spoke Norwegian. The original intent was to use them in operations in Norway. They arrived in France on June 21st and fought their way to the German border and were in the bulge when the Germans attacked on December 16th. Some soldiers of the 99th spent 32 days surrounded in Malmedy by the Germans before being relieved. Some were arrested during the campaign by American troops because they spoke poor English and were thought to be German saboteurs.

5th Fusiler Battalion (Belgian)

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The 5th Fusilers was the first reconstituted battalion of the Belgian Army recruited on Belgian soil and was officially formed on October 7, 1944. It was attached to the U.S. First Army and was sent to the bulge area on December 13 to protect the gas dumps around Spa, Malmedy, Stavelot and Verviers, where it found itself squarely in the path of the German assault. These Belgians were the last infantry to retreat out of Stavelot and torched several fuel dumps to keep them out of German hands



By Greg Moore gregpanzerblitz.com November, 2008