

# OCPA FaxLine Report

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Dear OCPA Member:

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

Dr. John A. Howard, Senior Fellow of The Howard Center for Family, Religion and Society has been on the frontlines of the fight for American ideals all of his adult life. He attended Princeton University from 1939 to 1942. From 1942-1945, he served in the Second World War with the 745th Tank Battalion, First Infantry Division. He received a battlefield commission, two Purple Hearts, and two Silver Stars. After the war, he received his B.S., M.A., and Ph.D. in French literature from Northwestern University. He holds many honorary degrees and was the founder of The Rockford College Institute, serving ten years as its president. His other accomplishments are too numerous to mention here. Suffice to say, he is a genuine American hero. The following is a brief excerpt from a speech he gave earlier this year. I've been waiting for a special time like Veterans Day to send it to *FaxLine* readers.

*"In December, Hitler's troops mounted a large and very powerful attack in an effort to try to break through the allied front and capture the ammunition dumps and supply depots of the harbor cities north of us from which came all our food, gasoline, replacement vehicles and ammunition to carry on the war. That attack became known as the Battle of the Bulge. If it had been successful, Hitler might have won the war. A heavy fog for some days had prevented any American airplane support. The Americans had no idea of the very large build-up in preparation for this breakthrough. The Germans spearheaded their attack with two divisions of the huge, heavily armored Tiger tanks and Panther tanks with bigger and with more powerful cannons than ours and they overwhelmed the Americans on the front line. During the five weeks of that fiercely fought struggle, there were 77,000 American casualties, killed, wounded or captured.*

*"On Christmas day, our outfit was in position on the north flank of the German advance. Up in the turret of our tank, the gunner and I were standing trying to see through the fog when the gunner jabbed me in the ribs with his elbow and said, 'Look at that.' I whirled around. A girl, nine or ten years old was walking toward our tank. She told us that when the fighting came back toward her town, all the people left. But her grandfather was an invalid and couldn't travel. She had stayed behind to take care of him. She said they had no food left and wondered if we had any to spare. We immediately gave her all the rations we had in the tank. She made sort of a basket out of her apron to put them in. She looked up at us, as she turned to leave, and said, 'Oh! It's a wonderful, wonderful Christmas after all!' The marvelous thing is that all of us in the tank agreed with her. It had become a wonderful Christmas for us, too. Providing help to that girl was a happy thing for us.*

*"When Germany surrendered, there was no wild rejoicing - just a stunned shock. I said I was going over to a nearby barn to offer a prayer of thanks to God and invited anyone who wished to, to join me. The whole platoon did. This is that prayer.*

*"Dear God, we pause to offer up our simple thanks that this day for which the world has waited is at hand, God help our leaders and statesmen to build a world of harmony and brotherhood that these last years of cruelty and agony may not be repeated. God help our leaders, and God, help us too, to be worthy of the fact that we were chosen to survive the war. Let us not forget our friends who gave their lives that we might see this day. In their memory may we be better men, may we have the courage to stand for what we know to be right, and, if necessary, may we have the courage to carry out whatever tasks are assigned to us if we are sent to the Japanese war. God, keep our loved ones safe until we return to them. Amen."*

Dr. John A. Howard is a reminder to all of us as to the caliber of people who have served and are serving in our Armed Forces. On Veterans Day (and every day) remember those that have been willing to sacrifice it all so that freedom is preserved.

Until next time . . . . Brett A. Magbee, Vice President for Operations

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