

The BULGE BUGLE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION ☆ VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 1

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

JANUARY 1982

VBOB ORGANIZED AT ARLINGTON CEREMONY

On December 16, 1981, 37 years to the day when the six-week long epic WWII battle began, the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge conducted their organizational ceremony in the Arlington County, Virginia, Court House. Clyde Boden, 84th Infantry Division, called the meeting to order at 2 p.m. and was followed by the Reverend Edward L. R. Elson, 75th Infantry Division and former Chaplain, U.S. Senate, who gave the Invocation. The assembly then paid tribute to our flag by standing at attention for the bugle call "To the Colors" and reciting the pledge of allegiance led by Ray Evans of the 20th Engineer Combat Battalion.

The remarks by Charles MacDonald of the 2nd Infantry Division regarding the causes and extent of the now famous battle were moving and enlightening. Most present did not realize that they had participated in the biggest battle ever fought by the U.S. Army. His talk is included in this newsletter.

The following individuals were elected to office for 1982:

President. Clyde Boden
Executive Vice President

. . . William Greenville

Vice President for National and

Regional Coordination. . William Simpkins

Vice President for Military

Coordination. Eugene Drouillard

Secretary. David Ruby

Treasurer William Hemphill

General Counsel. Joseph Langbart

Historians and Archivists

. . Raymond Evans and David Ruby

Following the elections, Demetri Paris, 9th Armored Division, gave his report on the logo, distinctive insignia of the organization. Details are elsewhere in this newsletter.

Eugene Drouillard of the 75th Infantry Division read the constitution which was accepted in its present form but will undergo some suggested changes.

Pete Dounis, 75th Infantry Division, discussed the finances of the organization and William Hemphill of the 3rd Armored Division read the proclamation.

The meeting ended with a tribute to our deceased comrades with a moment of silence as the sound of "Taps" was rendered.

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES RECEIVED

During our Organizational Ceremony, William Greenville of the 86th Chemical Mortar Battalion read congratulatory messages from well-known government officials.

On behalf of President Ronald Reagan, a telegram stated that "I congratulate each of you on the organization of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge and salute the sense of esprit and personal involvement evidenced by your participation.

"The Battle of the Bulge will endure as one of the U.S. Army's proudest feats of arms and as the conclusive European victory of World War II. Your achievements there personify the individual sacrifice and devotion to duty upon which our nation was founded and has persevered for over two hundred years.

"You have my best wishes for every success in both your organizational meeting and future endeavors."

Senator Paul Laxalt wrote:

"I think it proper on this memorable day, which marks the 37th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, to not only congratulate you but to also thank you.

"The valor and determination you exemplified in the treacherous conditions of Europe from December 16, 1944 until your victory over the Germans a month later is now legend

"The Americans who lost their lives at this historical conflict, the largest battle in any war in history, are a stark reminder of what Americans are willing to sacrifice in the name of freedom and Democracy.

"I join with all Americans to today in expressing a deep appreciation to the courageous veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. Indeed, without your sacrifices, America would not be the great nation that it is. Congratulations and thank you."

Congressmen Frank R. Wolf and Stan Parris also sent us congratulations, commended us for organizing, and wished us every success.

VBOB FIRST PRESIDENT SENDS GREETINGS

The remembrance of something of long ago based on friendships born in the most severe of combat conditions has been, I believe, one of the main reasons for those who fought in the Ardennes Campaign and others interested in it, to organize as the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge.

That something of a long ago--the fierce struggle occurred in Belgium and Luxembourg from December 16, 1944 through January 25, 1945, in fog, snow, ice and mud--was an awareness and a practical application of the highest levels of courage, loyalty and unselfishness on the part of well-disciplined members of ground and air forces of six nations.

More than one million troops were engaged in that battle and about one in five were casualties. Many of our comrades never made it back; many still bear physical and mental reminders of the epic struggle, a spectacular victory that was the greatest battle ever fought by the U.S. Army.

There was a commonalty predicated on necessity and survival. Perhaps it was as Major General A. R. Bolling, commanding general of the 84th Infantry Division, said shortly after the end of the war, "We did

something to make history and ought to do something to preserve it. I know that in the years to come, I for one, will want to read the words, look at the photographs, study the maps. They will bring back memories of days when all of us were tried by fire and came through. We will hand on our experiences to our children and tell them we did not fight in vain."

The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge is a young, healthy and fast growing organization composed of those who were very close friends during the war as well as those who were strangers a few months ago. Our associate members provide an additional dimension of knowledge and the potential for international growth and continuing existence.

We are making progress in our major objectives--to foster international peace and goodwill, to promote friendship, to perpetuate the memory of the sacrifices involved, and to preserve historical data and sites--and our projects and goals to achieve them--establishment of a museum and library, dedication of a memorial, issuance of a commemorative stamp, publication of a musical composition, visits to the battle area, and others.

Let's keep the momentum going!

Best wishes for a happy and rewarding 1982.

Clyde Boden
President

CONGRATULATIONS EXTENDED TO CHARLES MacDONALD

Our thanks to Charles B. MacDonald for his excellent extensive remarks about the Battle of the Bulge at the December 16, 1981, organizational ceremony, and his generous transfer of the copyright to VBOB.

Anyone needing information about copyright of similar material may contact our general counsel -- Joseph Langbart, 716 S. Overlook Drive, Alexandria, VA 22305. Phone (703) 549-4738.

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, the epic World War II Battle of the Bulge, officially known as the Ardennes Campaign, between the armed forces of the United States, Belgium, Canada, France and Great Britain and the armed forces of Germany was fought in Belgium and Luxembourg during the period December 16, 1944 - January 25, 1945, and,

Whereas, there is a desire on the part of Veterans of that battle to foster international peace and goodwill, to promote friendship, to perpetuate the memory of the sacrifices involved, and to preserve historical data and sites, and,

Whereas, great interest has been expressed to establish an organization to advance that desire, now,

Be it, therefore, resolved that we, as founding members, affix our signatures hereunto and do hereby proclaim and declare that the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge is established on this, the 37th Anniversary of the beginning of that battle, the 16th day of December 1981 in Arlington County, Virginia.

Clyde D. Bodan
William J. Hummel
William J. Scott
Charles B. MacDonald
Peter J. Downie
Eugene J. Bravillard
Raymond Evans Jr.
Earl J. Mayne
Dwight R. East
Neil B. Thompson
Alfred W. Alexandelli
Frances W. Doherty

William R. Humphreys
Hunter W. Moore
Edward W. Marks
Elliott J. Brown
Henry J. Spigars
Raymond W. Locke
Gentry C. Longalis
Charles A. Towman
Norman J. Lee
Dorothy
David C. Ruby
Joseph Langford



REMARKS BY MAC AT THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

In August, even as German armies were reeling back from the defeat in France, Adolf Hitler was devising a scheme whereby he hoped to save Germany from being crushed between Allied armies from the west and Russian armies from the east. To Hitler, the alliance between the Western democracies and communist Russia had always seemed unholy and weak at the seams; if he could inflict on American and British armies a crushing defeat, might not the Allied governments abandon their strange alliance with the Communists and settle for a negotiated peace? That accomplished, he could turn the full force of a still powerful German army against the Russians.

To Hitler, there was no question where the blow in the west should be struck: through the semi-mountainous, heavily forested region Belgium and Luxembourg known as the Ardennes. Hitler was aware that to free troops for attack north and south of the Ardennes, the Americans had only light forces holding the region and surprise blows there in 1914 and again in 1940 had dealt opposing armies sharp defeats. More important, from the jumpoff line at the German frontier to a worthwhile strategic objective -- the great Belgian port of Antwerp -- the distance was reasonable, not much over 100 miles; and a quick thrust across the Meuse River to Antwerp would not only trap two American armies -- the First and Ninth -- but would also trap the entire British force on the Continent: the 21st Army Group, composed of the British Second and Canadian First Armies, if the trapped could be annihilated, the Allies would lose upwards of 800,000 men, or more close to a million.

In the face of such disastrous losses, would the British government continue a fight that was bound to see Communism emerge triumphant in Central Europe? What, too, of the Americans, when it was the foe in the Pacific, Japan -- not Germany -- that had dealt the blow to American honor at Pearl Harbor?

The fact that Hitler's generals saw his scheme foredoomed to failure for lack of adequate resources did nothing to lessen Hitler's determination to proceed. As slow, costly fighting developed along the German

frontier through the autumn of 1944, the German Army began to marshal troops and equipment for the offensive, to be launched in early winter when cloud and fog might be expected to negate a sharp Allied advantage in airpower.

The preparations went forward in the strictest secrecy, concealed in large measure by a cover plan purporting to show that the Germans were assembling troops for counter-attack when the Allied armies launched new offensive north of the Ardennes to reach the Rhine River. So it was that when the Germans struck before daylight on the 16th of December 1944, they achieved total surprise. Along a 60-mile front, an assault force of 200,000 men hit six American divisions which, with supporting troops, numbered approximately 83,000. It should have been no contest. But it was.

In the opening days of the battle, there were four points at which the out-numbered Americans imposed telling delays:

First, in what would be known as the southern shoulder of the bulge, a regiment each of the 4th and 28th Divisions and a combat command each of the 9th and 10th Armored Divisions, stopped the German Seventh Army after relatively short gains.

Second, in northern Luxembourg, along a high ridgeline which the American troops called "Skyline Drive" another regiment of the 28th Division -- vastly overextended -- delayed two panzer divisions of the Fifth Panzer Army -- two panzer divisions against one regiment -- for an incredible three days.

Third, near the Belgian town of St. Vith, two regiments of the 106th Division were trapped in ill-chosen positions on a ridgeline known as Schnee Eifel and were in time captured, the most severe reverse incurred by American arms during the entire war in Europe. But the 7th Armored Division, assisted by the 106th Division's third regiment, the 28th Division's third regiment and a combat command of the 9th Armored Division held a horseshoe defense encompassing St. Vith for five days and then held behind the town for two more days until ordered out.

And fourth, most critical of all, what became known as the northern shoulder of the bulge, the 2nd and 99th Divisions, with the help from a regiment of the 1st Division,

held fast, completely stopping the German main effort, being made by the Sixth Panzer Army. That army would eventually have to shift onto already over-taxed roads being used by the Fifth Panzer Army.

The delays thus imposed, afforded American commanders time to rush other divisions to the Ardennes from the Third Army in the south and the Ninth Army in the north, as well as two airborne divisions which constituted the only theater reserves. One of the airborne divisions and elements of two armored divisions held Bastogne, even though encircled, thereby further restricting the roadnet available to the Germans.

The Battle of the Bulge was the greatest battle fought by the United States Army. It involved two field armies -- the First and Third; two tactical air commands; six corps; three airborne divisions, eight armored divisions and eighteen infantry divisions, a total of twenty-nine divisions. Including men of supporting units, there were more than 600,000 involved, more than fought on both sides at Gettysburg. Total German strength was probably 350,000.

Casualties on both sides were about the same: around 100,000. American casualties numbered specifically, 105,102. Of those, 16,001 were killed in action; 3,058 were missing in action and later declared dead; 23,554 were captured, of who 187 died in captivity; and 62,489 were wounded. Thus the total American deaths were 19,246. There were in addition, as a result of the brief British commitment at the tip of the bulge, 1,400 British casualties.

In the end for lack of resources, the German effort was doomed to failure; yet that is not to say that it could not have achieved some spectacular results even if falling short of Hitler's grand end-the-war objective. That it failed to achieve more than it did is attributable to the stand of the American soldier, who afforded his commanders -- their intelligence failure -- time to bring their mobility, reserve power, and air power to bear. The American soldier in the Ardennes made the outcome a certainty by his valor and pertinacity at Elsborn Ridge, St. Vith, Echternach, Clervaux, Wiltz, Stavelot, Stoumont, Bastogne, Marche, Hotton, and countless other places.

In the end, all Hitler achieved was to waste irreplaceable manpower and equipment in a manner that speeded the end of the war and Hitler's own demise.

VBOB ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA ESTABLISHED

Serious consideration has been given to eligibility requirements for membership in VBOB. It has been determined that the dates for eligibility are December 16, 1944 - January 25, 1945 and that the geographic limits are the area forward of the line Euskirchen-Eupen (inclusive) - Liege (exclusive), east bank of Meuse River to its intersection with the Franco-Belgium border, thence south and east along this border and the southern border of Luxembourg. The above eligibility dates and geographic limits are prescribed in War Department General Orders No. 114 of December 7, 1945, for the award of battle participation credit in the Ardennes Campaign.

There was a second German offensive in the area of Alsace which was launched on or about January 1, 1945, for which some units were awarded the Ardennes-Alsace Campaign Star under the provisions of Department of the Army General Orders No. 63 of September 20, 1948. The VBOB through considerable historical research has concluded that this second German offensive was not part of the Battle of the Bulge. Consequently, those who participated in the second German offensive in Alsace are eligible for associate membership and, as such, would be entitled to the same rights and privileges as members. Associate members may be granted to family members of veterans eligible for membership and to others on an individual basis.

VBOB WELCOMES GEN. HASBROUCK

Maj. Gen. Robert W. Hasbrouck, commanding general of the 7th Armored Division during the Battle of the Bulge, has joined VBOB. The 7th AD under his command participated in the major fight in the area of St. Vith, Belgium.

General Hasbrouck wrote that memories of the Bulge "will be emblazoned on my mind until I die." He expressed pleasure when told of the number of 7th AD men who had joined VBOB and said it was indicative of their spirit.



• Form left to right: William Greenville, 86th Chemical Mrotar Battalion, and currently the Executive Vice President of VBOB; Clyde Boden, 84th Infantry Division, founder and now serving as the first president of VBOB; the Reverend Edward L.R. Elson, 75th Infantry Division who gave the Invocation at the charter meeting. Photo by Gordon Moodhe



Shown here are a portion of the charter VBOB members attending the meeting. Various air and ground units that participated in the Battle of the Bulge are represented in this group.

"COMPANY COMMANDER" TO BE REPRINTED

This book, by Charles B. MacDonald, A VBOB member, was originally published by the Infantry Journal Press in 1948. The late renowned military historian, S. L. A. Marshall, called this book the best combat narrative to come out of two world wars. The story line is a vivid account of the infantry war in the ETO as told by a young rifle company commander who led Companies "I" & "G" of the 23rd Infantry Regiment of the 2nd Infantry Division through some of the toughest fighting in WWII, including the Bulge.

Bantam War Book Paperback Series was the most recent publisher which sold out. A new reprint has been scheduled and should be on the newstands in May or June of 1982.

35TH VET WRITES OF WWII EXPERIENCES

VBOB member James G. Graff has written and published an account of his World War II experiences entitled "Reflections of a Combat Infantryman: A Soldier in 'C' Company." Jim wrote this book at the request of his family so that a record of his war service would be preserved for generations to come. You can get a copy of this by sending \$4 directly to James Graff, Middletown, IL 62666.

ARMOR MAGAZINE FEATURES RELIEF OF BASTOGNE

The November-December, 1981 issue of "Armor" magazine contains one story which briefs its readers on how the 4th Armored Division pierced the ring of German troops that surrounded American armored and airborne units. The cover contains a winter scene of the Bulge. It can be obtained by sending \$2 to U.S. Armor Association, P. O. Box "O", Ft. Knox, KY 40121.

VBOB NEEDS A MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

One very important goal in achieving our objective to preserve historical data is to establish a Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Museum and Library.

As the result of visits to the George C. Marshall Research Foundation in Lexington, Virginia, and to the Army's Military History Institute at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, VBOB representatives are discussing the location for our museum and library.

The critical element at this time is the extent to which VBOB members and others will make available on a permanent basis, now or at a later date, unit histories, personal recollections, maps, photographs, artifacts, souvenirs, and other matters and items of interest.

Military historians have told us that there is a great gap in Civil War and World War I historical records because there was no concerted and centralized effort to collect, catalog, maintain, and display such significant reminders.

Let us know now what you will donate by writing a card or letter to M&L - VBOB, P. O. Box 11129, Arlington, VA 22210.

AIR CORPS PLAYED KEY , ROLE IN BULGE

The air support provided during the Battle of the Bulge was critically necessary for our forces to be victorious. Subsequent newsletters will highlight information about air units.

William A. Simpkins, 510th Fighter Squadron, is our Vice President for National and Regional Coordination.

CEBA IS ACTIVE IN EUROPE

CEBA is the acronym, in French, for Cercle d'études sur la bataille des Ardennes. Founded in 1971 in Clervaux, Luxembourg, its aims are very similar to the VBOB objectives.

Activities include the publication of "The Bulge" four times annually, collection of books and other documents on the Bulge, operation of a museum, and welcoming ceremonies for visiting veterans and others. A monument is planned.

Correspondence should be addressed to Mme Tilly Kimmes, Secretary, 29, rue de Hunsdorf, L - 7329 Steinsel, Luxembourg.

A PAL WE CALLED "AL"

By Peter G. Dounis
291st Regt. "G" Co.
75th Infantry Div.

Albert T. Pompa was not an ordinary character, but an extraordinary soldier, who was killed in Grand Halleux, Belgium. He was an unforgettable man of confidence and courage I still think about today!

Al was killed instantly, shortly after noon at the rear of the small church while thawing and having hot coffee, January 16, 1945.

How I remember, when that German 88 whistled in and hit just outside the church's rear room window where the fireplace was burning a warm, wood fire. At the same time, S/Sgt. Wayne Boyer was hit and wounded through the shoulder. He was able to walk to the jeep that had been called and was to carry him and Al to the battalion aid station, set up at the hairpin turn, down the hilly road at the large church in the town of Grand Halleux.

When Al was brought by me, in that semi-dark and gloomy hallway of the small church on the stretcher, his head was wrapped with a GI blanket with blood oozing through the olive drab, woolen fibers. He was as still as stone and his face bluish-gray. That image I vividly remember, thirty-seven years later. It's definitely a part of my life! I knew I had lost a friend and we had lost a professional soldier.

Later I discovered and learned that Al had personally killed 12 or 15 Germans on January 15th during the attack and had helped many wounded throughout the long day and frigid night. A salute finally comes your way! Yes, an infantryman with completeness.

Who was this man from Lima, Ohio, whose middle initial should have stood for tough. A man we respected and looked up to for advice and inner strength who was several years older than us... while we were still in our teens.

He was a volunteer with the Fifth (Red Diamond) Division in 1941, serving in Alaska

and Iceland prior to joining the 75th Infantry Division during the spring of 1944 at Camp Breckenbridge, Kentucky.

I was cognizant of our immediate objective and the casualties incurred on that snowy and bitter cold day (-10 degrees) of January 15, 1945, but I did not realize until many years later that we were spearheading a divisional attack with the First Army towards St. Vith.

I had returned to the church approximately 0400 hours on January 16, after carrying ammunition to our machine gun positions on the right flank. Then, after some sleep and food, I patrolled around the church and later stood guard at its plain entrance.

It was shortly before noon when I saw a soldier walking down the frosty path from those Ardennes mountains and forests and recognized him to be Al, looking like a robust jovial Santa Claus in GI fatigues with battle gear attached. He had survived the attack, the day long and night long battle with its staccato-like murderous enemy fire as well as the adverse conditions and elements.

General Mickle would have been proud of Al and his deeds. The general was at the church and up in its steeple to observe the action on January 15th.

The irony concerning Al's tragic death was that he was killed the day after the big battle at Grand Halleux while resting at the church, where we had jumped off the day before with Company "G", the lead attack unit.

He had returned for just a brief moment, but is there forever! Truly, an unsung hero!

When I went back to Belgium in 1979 with members of the 2nd Battalion, 291st Infantry Regiment, we visited the beautiful Henri-Chappelle Cemetery at Aubel, Belgium, where many of our 75th men lay among other glorious Americans.

PFC ALBERT T. POMPA 6991481

Plot D, Roy 7, Grave 3.

"May his Soul Rest and his Spirit be with us."

To go back and see where our men are laid to eternal rest was a very real and emotional experience.

This year, thirty-seven years after the historic Battle of the Bulge of WWII, which includes the action at Grand Halleux, we intend to pay tribute and homage to our comrades who gave the supreme sacrifice, "their lives", so we could return home in Peace and be Free! Some of us wholly functional and some partially functional; yet we should thank God we came home.

A four color bronze memorial plaque with our division insignia was presented to the Mayor of Grand Halleux on June 21, 1981. Several miniature bronze plaques were also presented for placement at the church (now a school) where Al was killed, and at the Mayor's office in Vielsalm, Belgium. These plaques, with their etched words and symbols will tell how we, the living feel about our dead for centuries.

"ONLY THOSE ARE DEAD WHO ARE FORGOTTEN"

■■■

FIRST NAVY MEMBER JOINS

Thomas M. Lalumia of Bergen County, N.J., was assigned associate card #7. Tom was in the U.S. Navy assigned to a Construction Battalion in the Pacific during WWII. He currently is working for the Veterans Service Bureau.

It may come as a surprise to many of you that there were two U.S. Navy units in the Ardennes during the Battle of the Bulge. We hope to hear from some of these Navy men in the near future.

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OFFICIAL BULGE HISTORY IS AVAILABLE

It was reported in the November, 1981 newsletter that the official U.S. Army history, "The Ardennes: Battle of the Bulge" by Dr. Hugh Cole, was available from the U.S. Government Printing Office in Washington, D.C. We have learned since then that this book is out of stock, but a re-printing is being considered sometime in the future.

VBOB, through the efforts of LTC Joseph Whitehorne of the U.S. Army Center of Military History, located 300 copies of the book. Furthermore, the good colonel arranged for their release and sale to our members.

To obtain the book you must copy the following letter exactly and enclose a U.S. Postal Service money order in the amount of \$20.85 payable to USA - AG Publications.

Letter follows:

USA-AG Publications Center (enter date)
2800 Eastern Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 21220

Dear Sirs:

Enclosed find money order for \$20.85 for CMH Publication 7-8 (The Ardennes: Battle of the Bulge).

The Government Printing Office supply of this book has been exhausted and I was referred to USA-AG Publications Center by the U. S. Army Center of Military History in Washington, D.C.

Thank you,
(your name & address)

Remember, you must include all of the sample letter and enclose the money order to get the book.

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THANKS FOR ALL DONATIONS

The VBOB wishes to thank all of those members who were gracious enough to include a donation along with their dues. These gifts have enabled us to accomplish more things than we thought would be possible at this early stage of formation. Thank you very much!

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U.S. ARMY BULGE DIVISIONS LISTED

Infantry: 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 9th, 16th, 28th, 30th, 35th, 75th, 76th, 78th, 80th, 83rd, 84th, 87th, 90th, 94th, and 99th.
Armored: 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th.
Airborne: 17th, 82nd, and 101st.

If any of our readers know veterans from the above divisions, or attached units, tell them about VBOB. Incidentally, we can also put them in touch with their own division association. Major air corps units will be listed in a later newsletter.

PROGRESS IS BEING MADE ON VBOB LOGOTYPE

A goal of VBOB is the design of a logotype (symbol) representative of our organization. The first use for a logo would be on the letterhead for our official correspondence. The same symbol would be used on other printed materials such as brochures and pamphlets describing VBOB.

We are fortunate in having the volunteer services of several experts in the heraldic field, including artists, sculptors, and other professionals whose knowledge of coats of arms, symbolic representation, design and emblazonment, will be invaluable to us. None of these volunteers are veterans of the Ardennes Campaign, but all are understanding of our desire to depict it, and our organization.

Our logo committee met with these experts on January 7th to brief them on VBOB, its purpose and goals and our need for a representative logo. We provided a description of the importance and scope of the Ardennes fighting. The discussion which followed revealed the problem of including representation of all nations or even all the American military units or all the geographical sites of important engagements within the Bulge.

Our logo committee (expanded to five members) includes veterans of artillery, armor and infantry combat units, plus historical experts on the Battle of the Bulge. Thus, both our tactical, emotional and historical interests are being safeguarded.

Members of the committee are: Demetri Paris (chairman), Frances W. Doherty, Peter Dounis, Neil B. Thompson, Clyde D. Boden and David Ruby.

Future applications of our logo would be lapel pins, banners for national headquarters and chapters, jewelry such as belt buckles, bola ties, pins and rings, and tee shirts, desk ornaments, etc.

82ND AIRBORNE VETS TO MEET

The 82nd Airborne Division Association will hold its annual convention at Detroit, August 12-14. Contact Jim Etherton, 22524 Euclid, St. Clair Shores, MI 48082.

EACH OF US CAN BE A PUBLIC RELATIONS SPECIALIST

One of our biggest challenges for 1982 will be to publicize our organization through the media. The best Public Relations people are the VBOB members. Many of you have already voluntarily contacted your local newspapers, T.V. and radio stations. Because of their efforts, our membership roster has increased dramatically.

We are asking each of you to send in the following copy to your local media outlets.

The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge was organized on December 16, 1981, in Arlington, Virginia. This national group of veterans who fought in the epic wintry World War II struggle 37 years ago in Belgium and Luxembourg aims to foster international peace and goodwill, to promote friendship among veterans of that battle, to perpetuate the memory of the sacrifices involved, and to preserve historical data sites.

Additional information can be obtained from (your name and address) or from VBOB, P. O. Box 5510, Arlington, VA 22205.

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## LUXEMBOURG HISTORIAN REQUESTS ASSISTANCE

Historian Roland Gaul, who along with five other individuals, is attempting to establish a local museum and write a history, both of which will be centered on the Bulge and their hometown. Mr Gaul would particularly like to hear from members of the 2nd, 8th, 10th, 12th, 109th Infantry Regiments; 7th Combat Engineer Bn., Co. "A" 103rd Combat Engineer Bn., 5th Medical Bn., 107th, 108th, 109th Field Artillery Bn's, and 9th Armored Division. He recently received an eight page letter from the 10th Armored Division. In addition, he would like to get histories, after action reports, and combat interviews, of former members of the above named units, as well as combat photos. If you can help, send materials to:

Mr. Roland Gaul  
1 Rue St. Nicolas  
L-9263 Diekirch  
Luxembourg  
West-Europe

## FROM THE EDITORS

Our job, as editors, is to put together a newsletter that will motivate you and get you all fired up about this new organization.

Well, if you feel as strongly about what you and your unit did during the Battle of the Bulge as your editors do, you won't need much nudging to make our organization a success.

What then are your editors going to ask of you? We thought that this would be a good question to put to you. What would you like to read in the "Bulge Bugle"? War stories, humorous stories, stories of unsung heroes? You tell us.

Meantime, we will try to give you a good newsletter; but if you don't like it, don't hesitate to let us know. Don't forget to tell us if you like it too. Incidentally, if you have any good stories, send them with your dues.

E. "Lucky" Loiacono, 10th Arm'd. Div., Editor  
P. "Pete" Dounis, 75th Inf. Div., Ass't. Editor

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## WISHES FOR SUCCESS AND A PRAYER FROM THE NCOA

A congratulatory message received from President Normand M. Gonsauls of the Non Commissioned Officers Association of the United States of America contains the following paragraphs:

"As it was when our Association was first founded in September, 1960, the formative years for the VBOB are still ahead. With sound leadership, a spirit of cooperation among your elected officers, and a 'will to win' I have no doubt that your organization will grow and prosper in the months and years ahead.

"On behalf of our more than 250,000 members, I wish you success in all your endeavors and pray that all Americans will never forget the sacrifices made by our gallant forces during that bitter campaign 37 years ago."

## ROBERT TUCKER

Mrs. Lucille Hilsman, P. O. Box 1672, Payson, AZ 85541, would like to hear from any Bulge veteran who remembers her brother-in-law, Robert Tucker. Bob was a member of the 106th Infantry Division and was killed in action on the night of 16 December 44. He was last seen in the area of Winterspelt, Belgium.

## EUGENE MORELL

Mr. R. V. Dillard, 8055 Cedar Brook, S. Haven, MI 38671, 591st Field Artillery Bn, 106th Division, is trying to track down an old war time buddy who served with him in the 591st. His name is Eugene Morell or Morella. Last known address is 146 West Chestnut Street, East Rochester, NY.

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ANNUAL DUES ARE \$5.00.  
DONATIONS ARE WELCOMED.

## VETERANS OF THE

BATTLE OF THE BULGE  
WW II  
CHARTER MEMBER  
SAMPLE

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
IS A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING  
19 \_\_\_\_  
Number \_\_\_\_\_ Official \_\_\_\_\_

THOSE WHO JOIN PRIOR TO  
JULY 1, 1982, WILL BE  
CHARTER MEMBERS

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"The Battle of the Bulge was the greatest battle ever fought by the United States Army."

Charles B. MacDonald  
Military Historian and Author

# VETERANS of the BATTLE OF THE BULGE

P.O. Box 5510  
Arlington, Virginia 22205

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Application for Membership

## VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

P.O. Box 5510, Arlington, Virginia 22205

ANNUAL DUES: \$5.00

DONATIONS ARE WELCOME

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Unit(s) to which assigned during period December 16, 1944-January 25, 1945 (Div, Regt, Bn, Co) \_\_\_\_\_

Campaign Ribbons and Battle stars awarded \_\_\_\_\_

Wounded \_\_\_\_\_

Captured \_\_\_\_\_

Make check or money order payable to VBOB and mail with this application to above address.