

The BULGE BUGLE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION ☆ VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

VOLUME I NUMBER 2

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

SEPTEMBER 1982

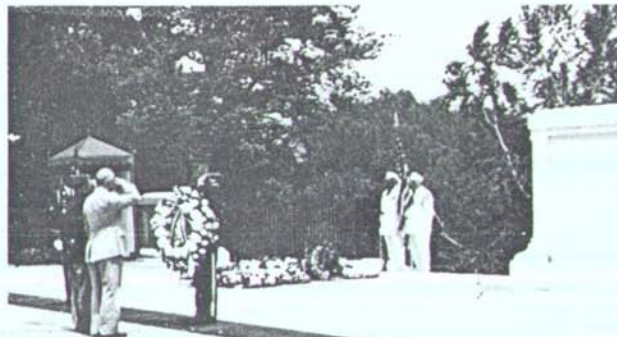


Posing with wreath prior to ceremony at Arlington Cemetery; Gene Drouillard, 75th Inf. Div.; Clyde Boden, 84th Inf. Div.; William Hemphill, 3rd Arm'd. Div. (story on page 3)



Clyde and Gene marching toward the "Tomb of the Unknown Soldier."

photos by Giselle De Angelis



Spec. 4th Grade Michael Vinson of Jones, Alabama receives the VBOB wreath as Sgt. Howard Liles of Wadesboro, N.C., looks on. Both are assigned to Company E, 3rd United States Infantry (Old Guard)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING DECEMBER 15, 16 & 17

VBOB OFFICERS AND STAFF

CLYDE D. BODEN, President
84th Infantry Division

WILLIAM T. GREENVILLE, Executive V. Pres.
86th Chemical Mortar Battalion

WILLIAM A. SIMPKINS, V. President for
National and Regional Coordination
XIX TAC, 9th Air Force

EUGENE G. DROUILLARD, Vice President for
Military Affairs
75th Infantry Division

WILLIAM R. HEMPHILL, Secretary-Treasurer
3rd Armored Division

DAVID E. RUBY, Historian and Archivist
Associate Member

JOSEPH LANGBART, General Counsel
99th Infantry Division

DEMITRI PARIS, Logo & P.R. Chairman
9th Armored Division

ELTURINO L. LOIACONO, Editor
10th Armored Division

PETER G. DOUNIS, Assistant Editor
75th Infantry Division

DEMITRI PARIS, Assistant Editor

ANN K. GRAY, Composition Typist
Associate Member

ROBERT VAN HOUTEN, Membership Chairman
16th Field Artillery Observation Bn.

RAYMOND EVANS, JR., Order of Battle Chairman
20th Combat Engineer Battalion

NEIL B. THOMPSON, Life Membership Chairman
740th Medium Tank Battalion

Q.C. DE ANGELIS, Recording Secretary
23rd Special Troops, 12th Army Group

MAKE PLANS NOW TO ATTEND THE GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND MEET WITH THE
PEOPLE WHO ARE WORKING SO HARD TO MAKE
VBOB A REALITY.

MESSAGE FROM VBOB PRESIDENT

As the membership of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge edges toward the two thousand mark in our initial year, we should ask ourselves who we are and where we are going.

*

Our membership consists of ground and air veterans of the Bulge (about 94% of the total), associate members, and a unit member. Most of the veterans were with small fighting units; the others, with higher headquarters. The associates are other World War II veterans, members of families of veterans, and those interested in the Bulge.

We are from all walks of life.

The veterans range in age from the mid 50's to the early 90's and the average age is around 61; most of the States are represented. The associates, from many States and several European countries, have a 15-to-60-plus year-old spread.

*

The proud and dedicated members of this strong international base will determine what the VBOB future will be.

The establishment of a Museum and Library will be a major contribution to world military history; past and future writings and other contributions of VBOB members will strengthen its value. Our commemorative postage stamp and the musical composition with multi-national tunes and a distinctive Bulge theme will live forever. Trips to the Ardennes will renew old friendships and result in new ones.

All of these, and others, will further the VBOB objectives to foster international peace and goodwill, to promote friendship, to perpetuate the memory of sacrifices involved, and to preserve historical data and sites.

Sooner or later our membership, in terms of Bulge veterans, will peak - perhaps over the next decade or so - and then begin to diminish and then disappear. Thus, we will continue to look to associate members to play active roles, some day to be part of a great international organization.

*

We've gotten off to a good start.
Let's keep the momentum going.

Clyde D. Boden
President



Spec. 4th Grade Michael Vinson places the VBOB wreath alongside those of other veterans organizations. The two men in white uniforms are the VFW color guard.

VBOB PARTICIPATES IN CEREMONY AT ARLINGTON CEMETERY

Side by side with the major veteran organizations, the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge were duly represented in the most important Memorial Day ceremony held in the United States. Participation in the wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was the first public appearance of VBOB in a formal public ceremony. Other veteran organizations such as the American Legion, VFW, DAV, Military Order of the Purple Heart, AMVETS, Marine Corps League, Jewish War Veterans, Air Force Sergeant's Association, Women's Army Corps Association and thirty one other organizations participated in the ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va.

President Clyde Boden, 84th DIV. and Vice President of Military Affairs, Gene Drouillard, 75th DIV. represented VBOB. In taking part in this beautiful ceremony Clyde stated that he had "a feeling of remembering and a great pride for our country and for those who were being honored on that day". Gene mentioned that he had never realized that Memorial Day meant so much to him and that he sensed a sadness for our departed comrades who gave so much to keep our country great".

President Ronald Reagan also laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and made a speech in the Amphitheater. It was the first time that an American President has done both in the past fifteen years.

HOW THE MEMBERS FEEL ABOUT VBOB

We have received many letters from our members regarding their feelings towards our organization. Since there were so many, and it would take many pages of the "Bulge Bugle" to quote them all, we have selected one letter that we feel tells it very well.

Raul Prieto, who is charter member #1028, sent in his dues and another five dollars to make his wife, Elena, an associate member. Along with the dues, Raul enclosed the following paragraph.

"The objectives mentioned in your brochure are noble in purpose and should gen-

erate enthusiasm among the veterans who participated in the Battle of the Bulge, ...if for no other reason than to have a means of communication between persons who have something dear and lasting in common. I commend your thoughtfulness in organizing such an association. May God grant that it will grow in numbers and be perpetuated in the History of our Great Republic, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA".

Yours in true comradeship,
Raul G. Prieto
El Paso, Texas

BULGE STUDY GROUP IN LUXEMBOURG

"Cercle d'etudes sur las Bataille des Ardennes" is the official name of an organization in Luxembourg which is translated into English as the Circle of Studies of the Battle of the Ardennes. The short version is CEBA.

The organization is devoted to the study and maintenance of the history of the Battle of the Bulge. CEBA plans to erect a monument to the unknown GI of the Battle of the Bulge.

CEBA Historian Jean Milmeister reports they are happy to welcome veterans who fought in Luxembourg during the Battle of the Bulge. In a letter to VBOB member Demetri Paris (9th AD), he wrote: "Last week I had the visit of a veteran of the 28th Infantry Division and we found the place where he was captured by the Germans 38 years ago. It was a tremendous experience."

Milmeister reports that not all the staff members of CEBA speak fluent English but every member would be glad to help visiting American veterans. His invitation is addressed "...especially those (veterans) of the 4th, 5th, 8th, 26th, 28th, 35th, 76th, 80th, 83rd, 87th and 90th Infantry Divisions; the 4th, 5th, 6th, 9th, 10th and 11th Armored Divisions and the 17th Airborne Division."

Milmeister writes "Every staff member of the administrative council of CEBA would be glad to help them" VBOB members visiting Luxembourg may contact Historian Jean Milmeister at 1, rue de Brouch - Tuntage, GD Luxembourg or any of the following:

Pierre Bergem - 49, rue Muller - Frommes Diekirch

Pierre Eicher - 15, Haapstroos - Marnach
Paul Heinrich - Cité du Kiem - Niederfeulen

Frank Kieffer - maison 22 - Asselborn
Léon Kimmes - 4, rue du Brill - Hobscheid

Tilly Kimmes - 29, rue du Hunsdorf - Steinsel

Camille Kohn - 35a rue Servais - Mersch
Joseph Maertz - 41, rue Th. Eberhard - Luxembourg

Joseph Schoetttert - 11, rue Auguste Lumière - Luxembourg

Jean Welter - 3 Grand-rue - Luxembourg.

To assist our international liaison efforts, VBOB would appreciate having copies of your official (not personal)

correspondence with CEBA members. Also, a brief report of visits to Luxembourg would be welcomed.

WHAT'S YOUR OUTFIT

Your editor has noticed that of the many letters sent in to VBOB headquarters, not many contained the unit designation of the writer. Even the letters that were directed to the "Bugle" did not mention a division, battalion, troop, squadron or any unit from which the writer earned his battle stars. We believe that to be a little forgetful. No, I take that back, it's real forgetful.

Don't get us wrong, troops, we aren't dressing you down, not by a long shot. The "Bugle" staff feels that the members of VBOB are the greatest. They come from the finest outfits the Army could muster; we know that and we want you to know it, too. Remember the time when someone asked, "what's your outfit" and you tell them and follow up with, "I'm in the best squad, in the the best company, in the best battalion, in the best division, in the best goldarn army in the world".

All we want to know is what major unit you were in during the "Battle of the Bulge". Let's make our unit designation part of our identification. By the numbers, troops, ...do it!

VBOB THREESOME VISIT TANK DESTROYERS

On June 25th, President Boden, VBOB Liaison "Kipp" De Angelis and Bulge Historian, Charles MacDonald, paid a visit to the 705th T. D. Battalion Annual reunion held in Springfield, VA. The 705th was attached to the 11th Armored Division. Also in attendance was General Williard Holbrook, former Commander of Combat Command "A" of the 11th Armored Division.

They signed up 20 new members and were promised by Gen. Holbrook that he would publicize VBOB at the up-coming 11th Armored reunion. And oh yes, "Mac" picked up some more good background information for his new book. In our first newsletter Clyde Boden suggested that we should all be P.R. men for VBOB. As you can see Clyde practices what he preaches.

BRITISH WRITER REQUESTS INFORMATION

At the request of our Charles MacDonald, Will Cavanagh is planning to write the story of the battles around Krinkelt-Rocherath during the period of 13-20 December 1944. Will request that he would like to have contact with any VBOB members who fought in the subject area regarding their personal experiences.

Of particular interest would be information from men who fought in Krinkelt, Rocherath, Elsenborn, Lenzerath, Bütgenbach, Büllingen, Wirtzfeld, Honsfeld, Hunningen, Losheimergraben, Nurringen, and Weywertz.

Will's account is to be published in this country and the writer will appreciate any and all background items that we can send him.

His address is: 44 Braeside,
Edmondsley,
Co. Durham, DH7 6DX

NEW BENEFITS FOR FORMER POW'S

On August 14, 1981, President Reagan signed Public Law 93-37, known as the "Former Prisoners of War Benefits Act of 1981", expanding VA eligibility for thousands of former prisoners of war. The former POW incarceration period was reduced from 6 months to 30 days, a presumption of service connection was established for certain disabilities resulting from malnutrition, and service-connected benefits were allowed for psychosis and anxiety states regardless of when first shown unless there is an intercurrent cause. In addition, former POW's are now to be provided both inpatient and outpatient medical treatment on a priority basis, and their concerns are to be considered by an advisory committee to the Administrator.

If any VBOB member believes that he fits this category, it is suggested that he contact his nearest VA office. The VA wants to explain this new legislation to you. The information they need is: your name, address and phone number, your VA claim number; Social Security number and whether or not you are presently receiving VA benefits.

In addition to the above, we are advised that the State of Virginia recently reenacted Act 46.1-105.7 which provides former POW's with special county and state license plates upon providing they were,

in fact, incarcerated during any war and received an honorable discharge.

There are other states that are following Virginia's trend, so we suggest that all former POW's contact their local municipal and state Departments of Motor Vehicles.

BULGE MONUMENT PLANNED

Cercle d'études sur la Bataille des Ardennes (CEBA) may be translated as the Circle of Studies for the Battle of the Ardennes. This is a group in Luxembourg devoted to the study and preservation of the history of the Battle of the Bulge. They have volunteered their services to those VBOB veterans who return to visit the Ardennes, specifically those who visit Luxembourg.

The CEBA staff has announced they will erect a monument to the Unknown GI of the Battle of the Bulge in Clervaux. At the base of the monument will be the insignia (badges) of the units who fought in Luxembourg and liberated it from the German attack and occupation.

The monument will be dedicated on September 11, 1983. The CEBA staff hopes a number of veterans will attend the ceremony.

All individuals and groups who plan to attend should notify CEBA well in advance. Send your message to

Jean Milmeister
CEBA Historian
1, rue de Brouch
Tuntage (G.D. de Luxembourg)

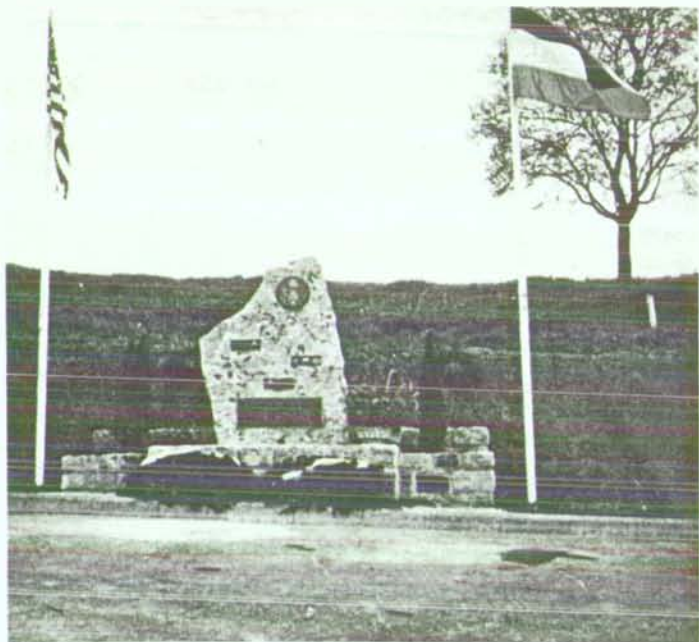
STARS AND STRIPES CELEBRATES

The Stars and Stripes newspaper celebrated its fortieth anniversary last April. This tabloid was the unofficial publication of the United States armed forces in Europe. Most of us depended on it to find out how the war was going and how the major athletic teams were doing back in the states.

As a commemorative, Stars and Stripes published a collection of WWII cartoons. The first printing was 5,000 copies, which were sold within two weeks. More have been printed since that time, so more copies should be available. If you would like one of these books, send \$3.95 which includes mailing costs to: Ms Leah Larkin, Circulation and Sales, Stars and Stripes, APO New York 09211.

MONUMENT UNVEILED IN LUXEMBOURG

A stone monument in honor of Americans who fought and died in and around Osweiler, Luxembourg, was unveiled on May 9, 1982. It bears the inscription, "Many gave their lives so that we can live in freedom. We the living must ensure that they have not died in vain."



The monument contains a plaque with the coat of arms of the United States, another plaque that recognizes the soldiers who liberated and defended the area from September 1944 to March 1945, and emblems of American divisions, all of whom fought in the Battle of the Bulge: 5th and 9th Armored and 4th, 5th, 28th, 76th, 83rd, and 87th Infantry.

Fred Karen, coordinator for the ceremonies and VBOB enthusiast, said the monument represents a continual reminder that can be passed on to the young "of the sacrifices of the American military in World War II during the dark days of the Ardennes offensive."

The dedicatory program, which contains historical and other information, sketches, charts, and maps, along with items in the Stars and Stripes and photographs, have become part of the VBOB Museum and Library.

28TH DIVISION APPOINTS VBOB REP.

The National Historian of the 28th Infantry Division, Edward W. Parks, has been appointed the division's representative to VBOB. A founding member of VBOB, Ed lives at Miller St., RFD #4, Middleboro, Mass. 02346.

Other major and separate units are expected to designate a unit representative to VBOB.

LIBRARY AND MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS

In response to the request in the January newsletter for items of interest for our museum and archives/library, members have been sending in unit histories, photographs, newsletters, books, personal recollections, etc. So that nothing will be lost, the president felt that procedures for recording, cataloguing, and preserving these acquisitions should be set up immediately. He called a meeting for this purpose on April 29, 1982, at Fort Myer, with five members (Clyde Boden, Bill Hemphill, Ray Evans, Joe Langbart and Frances Doherty) present. And attending, to give us their expert advice, were Marie Langbart, librarian with the Government Printing Office, and David Langbart, archivist with the National Archives.

David will work out a system for cataloguing and preserving the acquisitions by subject and military unit; and also for preserving VBOB's own records and publications. He suggested that all papers should be kept in legal-size file folders, in storage boxes, and should be kept together in one holding area until we have a permanent library. Examples of various categories of paper were turned over to David for study. In the meantime, I hope our members will continue to send in written accounts and memorabilia pertaining to the Battle of the Bulge.

Frances W. Doherty
Chairman

OUR NAME

The January '82 issue of "The Bulge Bugle" was the advent and baptism of our newly adopted name.

It was the simple transposition of two letters which gave it resonance and that certain ring according to Peter G. Dounis, Assistant Editor and creator of our new name. "Pete" deserves all of the credit.

NEW YORK TIMES BULGE PUZZLE

Eugene Maleska has advised us that a crossword puzzle on the Battle of the Bulge, to be constructed by A. J. Santora, is scheduled to appear in the New York Times of December 16, 1982.

M * A * S * H

Charter Member Mary Hatcher Myers (128th Evacuation Hospital) served with the combat medical surgical hospital credited with being the original mobile army surgical hospital (M*A*S*H), now a well-known TV series.

She entered the Army in March 1941 as a Red Cross Nurse and served with Army units in Africa, Sicily, England, and Europe. Mary earned four battle stars, including one for the Ardennes Campaign.

LOGOTYPE ADOPTED

At their quarterly meeting on May 8, 1982, the Executive Council adopted the official logotype representing the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge.

An original design conceived by a VBOB member served as the basis for the heraldic art work which was studied by a seven member committee. The Council approved their recommendations.

The logo is circular and includes the infantry blue, the armor yellow and the artillery red colors of the combat arms. A rifle and steel helmet are positioned in the center. The lower portion has a tank track, artillery gun tube and a lightning bolt.

The right side is a blue sky with silhouettes of a parachute and airplane. The left is green with the snow covered evergreen trees of the Ardennes Forest. The word "ARDENNES" appears at the bottom of the logo.

An impressive element is the single, brilliant star of Christmas, 1944 with its rays reaching down to all portions of the logo.

It is expected that the completed logo will be printed by October 1st. Other applications and uses will be developed. VBOB members are invited to suggest future uses after you have seen it.

ONE HUNDRED FIFTY FOUR VETERAN ASSOCIATIONS CONTACTED

Dave Ruby of the VBOB Historical and Archives Committee has contacted a total of 154 veteran associations of units awarded the Ardennes Campaign Battle Star under War Department General Orders #114,1946. It is suggested that if you believe your association has not been contacted, you should inform Dave via the VBOB Post Office Box. We remind you again that if you do not know if your former unit has an association, drop VBOB a line and we may be able to give you an address.

CONGRATULATORY NOTES RECEIVED

VBOB acknowledges letters of support from the following organizations:

The Society of the 28th "Keystone" Division

The 10th Armored "Tiger" Division

The 88th "Blue Devil" Division

The 90th "Tough Hombres" Division

The 704th Tank Destroyer Bn.

The 773rd Tank Destroyer Bn.

The 78th "lightning" Division

We are particularly thankful to Walter T. Morse, Editor of the 78th Division Veterans "Lightning" newsletter. Walt gave us many hints on how to produce an effective and interesting newsletter. Will do, Walt!

80TH DIVISION CORRECTS US

Even though the January "Bulge Bugle" was proof read three times, a major typographical error slipped through. In listing the United States Army Divisions that took part in the Battle of the Bulge, the 26th Division and 106th Division were omitted. Robert E. Cook, National Secretary, for the 80th "Blue Ridge" Division, was the first of many to bring this error to our attention. Bob also noted that there was no 16th Division (and that was probably supposed to have been 26th). We hope that the members of those two divisions, that played a very important role in the Battle of the Bulge, will forgive us for the omission.

FLASH REPORT ON THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING OF 25 SEPT. 1982

The meeting of the Executive Council was called to order by Clyde Boden. Council and non-voting visiting members were welcomed and introduced by Mr. Boden.

Reports made and actions taken are as follows:

APPOINTMENTS / Clyde Boden

Reverend George Hall -- Chaplain

Pete Dounis -- Chairman of the Nominating Committee vice Joe Langbart

MEMBERSHIP / Bob VanHouten -- As of 25 September VBOB has 1670 Members of whom 1587 are veterans, 83 are associates and one is a unit membership.

FINANCES / Bob VanHouten for Bill Hemphill -- As of 31 August 1982, VBOB has assets of \$6,544.42 and no liabilities. Application of Recognition for Tax Exemption was submitted to IRS. The 1983 and 1984 budgets are being developed.

VBOB EMBLEM (LOGO) / Dee Paris -- The VBOB Emblem is currently in the hand of the artist. It will be completed before the general membership meeting in December of this year.

COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMP / Kipp De Angelis -- On completion of color prints of the VBOB Emblem a formal recommendation will be transmitted to the Chairman of the Citizen Stamp Advisory Committee for issuance of a stamp on 16 December 1984 commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING / Bill Greenville -- Arrangements for the general membership meeting to be held in the Washington, DC area on 15, 16, 17 December 1982 are proceeding. An article and pullout concerning the meeting will appear in the next issue of the BULGE BUGLE. In addition press releases will be provided to veterans publications and newspapers.

VBOB TOUR OF THE ARDENNES BATTLE AREA / Kipp De Angelis -- Plans are proceeding for a tour by VBOB members of the battle area in 1984. The plan will be presented to the Executive Council prior to the general meeting.

MUSEUM AND LIBRARY / Frances Doherty for Ray Evans and Dave Ruby -- A number of unit histories, photographs, personal histories etc., were recieved. Mr. David Langbart, son of Joe Langbart and an Archivist with the National Archives, established procedures for logging and filing the large volumn of Bulge related documents expected to be recieved by VBOB over the years.

MUSICAL COMPOSITION / Earl Meyers for Charles MacDonald -- Charles MacDonald (military author and historian) and Dr. Harold Arberg (composer of "The Army Goes Rolling Along") were designated as VBOB points of contact with the U. S. Army Band for military and musical matters. A musical composition commemorating the Battle of the Bulge is planned for completion and presentation in 1984.

NATIONAL SALUTE TO VIETNAM VETERANS / Gene Drouillard -- No formal VBOB participation is planned for this November 11th, however, individual members are encouraged to participate.

VBOB FLYER / John Campbell -- A VBOB flyer is scheduled for release in December of this year. The flyer will state the VBOB objectives and future.

BROCHURE / Bud Leinbaugh -- Quotes for reprinting the VBOB Brochure are being solicited. It is scheduled for completion in October.

INCORPORATION / Joe Langbart — No formal action toward incorporation has been taken as yet. Pros and cons on the advisability of incorporation were discussed.

RELATIONSHIP TO UNIT ASSOCIATIONS / Gene Drouillard — Tentative criteria were established for VBOB formal involvements in unit association visits to the DC area.

THE BULGE BUGLE / Lucky Loiacono — The cut-off date for articles (this issue will contain approximately 30) is 2 October 1982, after which it will go to the printer. Printing will require 2 or 3 weeks.

CONSTITUTION / Joe Langbart — Most Articles of the Constitution were adopted. One was referred back to the committee for reworking. Joe was given a vote of appreciation for the time and effort he spent in preparing the Constitution.

OLD BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS None

The Meeting was adjourned by Clyde Boden

PS—You are encouraged to share this report with your friends who are eligible for VBOB membership

NO EXCUSE SIR!!!

DUES ALERT

When things that were supposed to be done correctly, but somehow did not quite come up to snuff, the standard answer that a good soldier would give is, "no excuse, sir!" or "no excuse, Sarge!"

The VBOB post office box has been inundated with your letters, many of them should have been answered. The problem is (and this is not an excuse) that (1) we have no paid help, which leaves the letter writing up to the VBOB staff who are up to their armpits working on the many projects that go to make up the formation of our organization. (2) When the VBOB founder and current President Clyde Boden, to his credit sought out individuals, who I like to call "doers". These are men and women that have positions in other groups: civic, veterans and church. Some are involved in all three types. Post commanders, adjutants, newsletter editors, district commanders, presidents, select a name from the VBOB officer and staff list and he probably belongs to three or four other organizations and is a "DOER" there too!

President Boden has a handle on the situation and it will be resolved in the near future....sir!

The first anniversary of VBOB is fast approaching and so is our second year of dues. Several methods have been considered with the final outcome being that dues would be due from each member and associate on the anniversary of joining the VBOB.

To remind members, rather than sending out bills, the mailing label with name and address will also contain the date joined. It will be the responsibility of each member to send in their dues when due.

Your cooperation in this endeavor will be appreciated.

Membership Committee

MEMBERS ENCOURAGED TO SET UP A DISPLAY

VBOB members should consider sponsoring a display of documents and military items in local libraries, schools, and other civic organizations.

Anytime would be appropriate, but December would be best.

The type material and the display area (case, shelves, corner, room, etc.) are the key elements.

See your local librarian or write us for further ideas.

ILLINOIS CONGRESSMAN ROBERT MICHEL JOINS UP

ROBERT H. MICHEL

10th District, Illinois

REPUBLICAN LEADER

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

14-433, U.S. Capitol

(202) 225-0400

8112 Rayburn Building

(202) 505-4401

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

SENATE OFFICE:

100 M. E. Room, Room 107

Palmer Building, 1000

(202) 517-7027

SENATE OFFICE:

100 M. E. Room, Room 107

Palmer Building, 1000

(202) 517-7027

SENATE OFFICE:

100 M. E. Room, Room 107

Palmer Building, 1000

(202) 517-7027

September 22, 1982

Clyde Boden
Veterans of the
Battle of the Bulge
P.O. Box 5510
Arlington, Virginia 22205

Dear Clyde:

It is with great pleasure that I submit my application for membership in VBOB.

One of your members, Oscar Plummer of Maroa, Illinois, told me of the organization during a recent visit I made to Maroa. As I agreed with Oscar at the time, there probably aren't a great number of us still around and that makes the organization even more important to those of us who remember so well that historic battle.

Congratulations on the formation of this organization. I look forward to being a member of this very important group.

Sincerely,
Bob

Robert H. Michel
Republican Leader,
U.S. House of Representatives

BHM: mchic

Congressman Michel was a rifleman in an Infantry line company of the Ninth Infantry Division. He was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for wounds inflicted by German machinegun fire. "Bob" (if we may) is the House Minority leader and commands respect from both sides the aisle. VBOB is honored to have him as a member.

VBOB PRESIDENT MAKES PRESENTATION

At recent D.A.V. Chapter Three Awards Dinner in Annapolis, Maryland, attended by 200 members and their distinguished guests, Clyde Boden, VBOB founder and current president, presented to former sergeant, Neil B. Thompson, his awards of the Presidential Unit Citation and Belgian Fourragere for service above and beyond the call of duty with the 740th (Daredevil) Tank Battalion. This action took place against numerous enemy forces during the Battle of the Bulge. Mr. Thompson is a past officer of the D.A.V., Department of Maryland, a Past Commander of Chapter Three and is presently a member of the VBOB Executive Council. The "Eagle" congratulates both Neil and the men of the "Daredevil" Tank Battalion on their award.



GEN. McAULIFFE REMEMBERED

The Allied Airborne Association conducted a memorial service at Arlington National Cemetery for Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe on Wednesday, August 11, 1982, the seventh anniversary of his death.

Following the posting of colors by the 3rd Infantry ("Old Guard"), Frank Juliano (101st Abn Div), association president, led the pledge of allegiance and spoke. Clyde Boden (84th Inf Div), president of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, recited the 23rd Psalm.

Maj. Gen. Louis Menetrey (1st Inf Div and 101st Abn Div), now assigned to the Army Staff, and Jim Malloy (101st Abn Div) placed a wreath at the graveside. The ceremony was concluded with the playing of "Taps".

Gen. McAuliffe assumed command of the 101st Airborne Division in the absence of Gen. Maxwell Taylor, during the Battle of the Bulge in World War II when the division, along with other units was surrounded in Bastogne, Belgium. His reply to the German demand for surrender, "Nuts!", won the hearts of the free world in those dark days of December 1944.

A similar annual tribute is planned for August 1983.

Sal Basciotti (11th Abn Div) is association vice president.

Photo by: Frank Brooks

DON'T FORGET TO PAY YOUR DUES
WHEN THE TIME COMES. VBOB DEPENDS
SOLELY ON DUES AND DONATIONS FOR
INCOME.

PRESENT DAY 1ST ARMORED DIVISION
HAS TIES WITH BULGE VETERANS

The 2nd Battalion, 37th Armor, now a unit of the 1st Armored Division in Germany, is well aware of the role of the 37th Tank Battalion, its progenitor, and 4th Armored Division in the Battle of the Bulge, according to 1st Lt. Clair E. Conzelman, the S-2, Company "C", 37th Tank Battalion, was the first unit to break through to the encircled units of the 9th and 10th Armored and the 101st Airborne Division in Bastogne, Belgium. Company "C" was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for this action. The personal experiences of veterans of this tank unit are being used for training purposes in the present day army.

ARMOR magazine's feature article in the November-December 1981 issue was titled "Breakthrough to Bastogne" which gave the account of the 4th Armored Division's breaking through the German ring.

Fourth Armored Division veterans Jimmie Leach, Company "B", 37th Tank, Pat Saussol, Company "C", 37th Tank and 35 other former members of the division are VBOB charter members.

As a footnote, we would like to add the fact that the 1st Battalion, 54th Infantry, a descendant unit from one of the 10th Armored Division's armored infantry battalions, is also in the 1st Armored Division. The 54th Armored Infantry Battalion was one of the encircled units in Bastogne and was your editor's outfit and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the men of the 37th Tank Battalion for getting us out of that situation.

VBOB CHAPLAIN APPOINTED

President Clyde Boden appointed as chaplain The Reverend George W. Hall, Jr., whose current duties include serving on the Biblical Counseling staff of Truro Episcopal Church in Fairfax, Virginia.

During WWII George Hall was with the 94th Division, 302nd Infantry Regiment 2nd Battalion Medical Detachment. He served in the ETO in Brittany, Normandy, Ardennes and Germany. While in that capacity as a medic, he received two Purple Hearts and the Medical Corp Valour Award.

It is an honor to have him as leader of our spiritual needs.

BUGLE NOTES

Anthony J. DeSanto, 28th Inf. Div. invites any VBOB member visiting Germany in the vicinity of Laerchenweg, to give him a call on 2228-7663 or 2228-7855. If you need assistance or want to socialize for a few hours give "TONY" a ring.

Michael E. Matusko, 2nd Inf. Div. not only survived the "Battle of the Bulge", he also made it through the attack on Pearl Harbor. "Mike" what are you going to do for an encore.

Mrs. Pat Yeomans (hope I spelled the name correctly), wife of the 705th T.D. Association's Secretary/Treasurer, tells us she read the first issue of the "Bugle" ten times. I know what you mean Pat, I had to read it six times myself. Pretty tough reading. Seriously, we're glad you enjoyed it.

David E. Pergrin, 291st Engineer Combat Battalion, has been giving a slide presentation of the "Defeat of Col. Joachim Pieper in the Battle of the Bulge" for quite some time. Dave has made his presentation to Rotary Clubs, historical societies and other service clubs. If you would like him to give his lecture, write to him at 202 Beaumont Dr., Wallingford, PA 19086 or call (215) 565-1518. Subject cities are Stoumont, Chevron, LaGlieze, Stavelot and Malmedy.

Gen. Siegfried Westphal, of the German General Staff during WWII, who was called the "Paterwork Pedant" because of his meticulous "Paper Work" died on July 2, 1982. Westphal planned the German Defense against the allies including the Ardennes offense, of which the Battle of the Bulge was a major part. ED. Note: Westphal's plans for the Bulge apparently looked better on paper than in actual execution.

Jean Milmeister, member of "CEBA" in Luxembourg, would like to hear from any member of the 1255th Combat Engineer Battalion that liberated his home town of VIANDEN on February 12, 1945. Send response to VBOB- Attention CEBA, P.O.Box 11129, Arlington, Va 22210

"DEATH OF A DIVISION"

By Charles Whiting - Stein & Day, 1981

This book review is by Francis H. Aspinall of the 589th F.A. Bn., 106th Infantry Division. The "Bulge Bugle" neither confirms nor denies the contents of the review. Comments should be forwarded to the reviewer at 120 Nellwood Dr., Ponchatoula, LA 70454.

Mr. Whiting's DEATH OF A DIVISION is an interesting, spirited, account of a part of the experience of the 106th Infantry Division on and around the German SCHNEE EIFEL in December 1944. That, however, is the best that can be said for his version of the most painful disaster to befall American arms in Europe in WWII.

Perhaps Whiting's failure to come to grips with objectivity can best be understood in his (page 99) comparison of the British First Airborne Division at ARNHEM with the "shameful" failure of the 422nd and 423rd Regiments to break out of their SCHNEE EIFEL trap. His thesis seems to be that if a battle scarred division, with years of experience, trained to fight while surrounded, during an offensive operation, can break out of encirclement then a division whose members first heard a gun fired in anger, a week previous, must do the same thing or forever suffer a "shameful disgrace"!

Whiting reinforces this judgement on page 77 by saying:

"When the choice was finally between surrender and death Colonels Descheneaux (422nd) and Cavender (423rd) both chose the former."

.....But this is the stuff of which military "fairy tales" are constructed by men whose military experience is limited to a half dozen Grade B war movies!!.....shades of APPOMATTOX, BATAAN, and SAIGON!

The biggest military "failure" (and I think it cannot be called that) was the route of the 14th Cavalry Group on the Division's north flank which laid bare its access road, communications, and rear area. While this unit was under the command of General Jones (106th) he had (probably) never heard of it until a week before the big attack. Yet its "failure" is laid at the door of the 106th by Whiting (and others).

The author also tells us (page 16) that the 14th Cavalry with "exactly 900 men, strung out over 4 miles", occupied 7 village strong points. This force, of 225 men per mile, was attacked on Dec. 16th by 1 Parachute, 1 Armored, and 1 Infantry Division (40,000 men). Whiting apparently wishes us to believe that a "one man hockey team" should delay or stop a 40 man team!!...and he acts disappointed that they didn't. Why is he not satisfied to say that the 14th Cavalry was scattered "like chaff before the wind", and let it go at that?

Mr. Whiting fails to point out that in the LOSHEIM GAP (a natural defensive weak spot) VIII Corps had deployed 225 men per mile while adjacent to it in the 422nd, 423rd sector, in terrain non negotiable by armor, the "big brass" had deployed 6000 men over a 5 mile front (1100 defenders per mile). Significantly all history agrees that Gen. Jones had no part in, or responsibility for, this mis-deployment.

This author is unsparing in his criticism of Jones in particular, and 106th leadership in general. Page 58:

"Jones made a decision. He knew that up to now he had made all the wrong ones. He should have been more aggressive right from the beginning; then when he had realized that the situation in the Snow Eifel was beyond help, he should have ordered his men to pull back. The result was that he had lost his two regiments - and his son."

If Jones fouled things up so badly should not this "Monday morning" critic offer suggestion(s) as to what he (Whiting) would have done on Dec. 16 and 17.....KNOWING WHAT JONES, CAVENDER, AND DESCHENEAUZ KNEW AT THAT MOMENT? Surely it requires little courage, imagination, or ability merely to criticize military decisions when the critic knows in advance what is going to (or did) happen!!

Finally author Whiting seems to have taken a certain amount of pains to exclude positive and include negative documentation and/or events. For example, in his introduction, he has the 589th FA not retreating or withdrawing, but "fleeing" down the road from Schonberg to St. Vith. Whiting omits completely that Major Arthur C. Parker III and his Battalion were "fleeing" toward an appointment at the crossroads of BARAQUE deFRAITURE, where for 5 days, they held the enemy off the right flank of an American Army, earned

"DEATH OF A DIVISION" (continued)

a multitude of individual decorations, and a French Croix de Guerre for the Battalion.!

Why did he forget the 424th Regiment (a third of the Division)? This outfit, though badly mauled on December 16th held together and formed a key element in the defense of St. Vith and the "fortified goose-egg" from the 17th to the 22nd.

I could find not a word about Col. Riggs and his (organic) 81st Engineers who, the afternoon of the 17th, stopped the 18th VG Division on the doorstep of St. Vith...before the 7th Armored could get there. For that they earned a Distinguished Unit Citation but no credit at all from the author of "DEATH OF A DIVISION".

VBOB CHAPTER IN OHIO IS A POSSIBILITY

Dear Editor:

On the assumption that you may have a "Letter to the Editor: Department in some future issue of the "Bulge Bugle", I send this little blurb on as a future candidate for possible publication.

First of all, allow me to say that I am most enthusiastic about the future of the VBOB. Its different and full of purpose. It will consist of veterans from all over the Nation and they will not be from just one outfit or one specific area, but from many divisions and their attached units. Great! Adds a zest to the program that should be attractive to not only original cadres but also to the replacement people who frequently feel like "lost sheep" or "Johnny-come-Latelies."

Away back last November, I read an article about the plans to organize the VBOB in an issue of the DAV Magazine. I wrote for more information as I was most curious about one of my most poignant combat experiences. A membership application was in the mail very promptly and in December I became a charter member of the VBOB. I have been deluged with mail, phone calls, offers of help and co-operation ever since.

Sensing that some energetic and sincere people were trying to make this thing go, I took that "one step forward", after being asked in mid-March, to start work on organizing an Ohio Chapter of the VBOB. In late March, an Ohio Membership List (those who had paid their dues) of 21 names was sent to me. After filling the wastebasket with my nervous efforts, I finally came up with a sort of questionnaire and a covering letter. (copies available). This initial mailing went out on April 15, 1982.

Meanwhile, I wrote up a news release and submitted it to our local newspaper editor. It was published promptly but it must be remembered, of course, the paper covers parts only of three or four northeastern Ohio counties. Nevertheless, I received a most gratifying number of phone calls and letters requesting more information and membership applications. There was a modest response to my April mailing but those who did respond were most curious and enthusiastic. There was also evidence of available leadership talent. That fact bodes well for the future.

The "dog days of August" are upon us and I have been diverted. I plan to return to action this coming fall. A renewed effort will be made to approach the -now 53-dues-paid members of the Buckeye State's VBOB.

I would express the hope that Ohioans who may read these meanderings will sit down and drop me or the men in the HQ some ideas on how to get "the show on the road" in Ohio. Other members in other states may have some valuable thoughts also. My address is below.

Thank you, Mr. Editor, it was nice chatting with you.

Sincerely,

Edward (Eddie) Arn
F Company, 119th Regt., 30th Div.
430 Pearl Street
Wooster, Ohio 44691

Editor's note: Thank you for your very nice letter. I hope that I can report in the next "Bulge Bugle" that a chapter is in full swing in the "Buckeye" state. Good luck Ed.

PLANS FOR GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP MEETING
DECEMBER 15 thru 17, 1982

BEFORE YOU DECIDE NOT TO COME TO THE MEETING

READ THIS

The Annual General Membership Meeting of the VBOB will be Wednesday December 15th thru Friday December 17th in the Washington, D.C. suburb of Crystal City, Virginia at the Hyatt Regency Hotel (Crystal City).

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES (subject to minor revisions)

Wednesday - Check in at hotel
Evening Cocktail Party (pay bar)

Thursday - *Meeting 9:30 AM
Lunch break at 12:30
Arlington Cemetery Wreath Laying ceremony following lunch.
Free time for sightseeing for balance of the day.

Friday - - *Meeting 9:30 AM
Lunch break 12:30 PM
Cocktails 7:00 to 8:00 PM
Dinner and installation of new officers and guest speaker starting at 8:15 PM.
Dance will follow if enough of our members bring their ladies.
Dress for cocktail and dinner will be coats and ties for the gentlemen, women optional.

*The General Membership Meeting agenda will include the election of the 1983 Officers. The plans for a European battlefield tour, the commemorative stamp and musical composition will be reviewed. The Constitution will be presented. The VBOB logo design will be on display and the status of VBOB library will be discussed.

The Hyatt Regency is a new hotel that opened in February of 1981. This makes it the newest hotel in the Washington, D.C. Metro area. It is about three miles, by car, from the Washington Monument, which in the center of all sightseeing attractions. The hotel has four vans to transport guests into Washington. The airport is about a fifteen minute drive from the hotel. There is indoor parking for five dollars per night. There are three restaurants within the hotel and several fast food places within easy walking distance of the hotel.

The \$45 room rate offered by Hyatt Regency for double or single rooms is about \$20 less per day than you pay at any other fine hotel. The \$45 rate offered by the hotel will be honored for the week before and the week following the VBOB meeting. Your editor who is a native of Washington, suggests that if you are planning a little sightseeing while here, that you take advantage of these fine rates and arrive several days early. Incidentally, the National Christmas Tree will be on display while you are in Washington. This alone is worth the visit to Washington.

CRYSTAL CITY, VIRGINIA is directly across the Potomac River from Washington. It is in the vicinity of the Pentagon building on U.S.#1 (Jefferson Davis Highway) If you driving from the North, head for Alexandria, Va. If you are driving from the South head for Washington, D.C.



So that the committee can get an idea of how many members and their ladies are planning to attend the General Membership Meeting, it is requested that fill in this form and return it as soon as possible. Please return it before December 1, 1982.

— PLEASE PRINT —

NAME _____
Last First

ADDRESS _____
Number Street State Zip

MAJOR UNIT YOU WERE IN DURING THE "BATTLE OF THE BULGE" _____

I PLAN TO ATTEND ALL FUNCTIONS YES ___ NO ___

If you have any questions regarding the meeting, please refer them to; Meeting Committee, VBOB, Post Office Box 11129, Arlington, VA 22210

RETURN THIS FORM TO THE ABOVE P.O. BOX ALSO

I PLAN TO STAY AT THE HYATT REGENCY FOR THE ENTIRE THREE DAYS YES ___ NO ___

I PLAN TO ATTEND THE COCKTAIL PARTY ON THE NIGHT OF WEDNESDAY DEC. 15TH YES ___ NO ___

I PLAN TO BE AT THE WREATH LAYING YES ___ NO ___

I PLAN TO ATTEND THE FUNCTIONS IN THE EVENING ON FRI. DEC. 17TH YES ___ NO ___

I AM PLANNING ON BRINGING MY WIFE YES ___ NO ___
TOTAL NUMBER IN MY PARTY WILL BE (NUMBER) ___

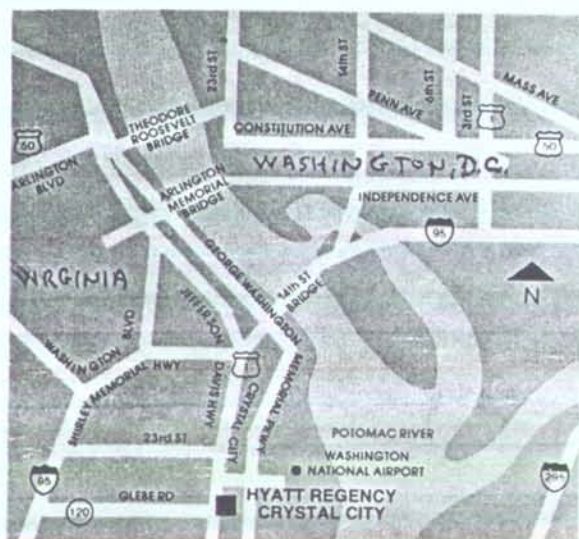
The last question is for future reference please answer in interested. WOULD YOU LIKE BACK TO THE ETO ON A BATTLEFIELD TOUR IN 1984 YES ___ NO ___. HOW MANY PEOPLE WOULD GO ALONG WITH YOU (NUMBER) ___



Hyatt Regency Hotel, Crystal City, Virginia (Washington, D.C.)

2799 JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22202 USA
703 486 1234 TELEX 901943

Adjacent to Washington National Airport in the Crystal City complex. Just blocks from Washington's new Metro subway. Five minutes from the Pentagon and Alexandria, ten minutes from the Capitol, government offices, and main business area of Washington. Complimentary shuttle to National Airport and Metro.



A five-story atrium with trees and cascading greenery is your introduction to one of Washington, D.C.'s most luxurious hotels. Hyatt Regency Crystal City... a keystone of the largest urban commerce center in the Washington Metropolitan Area.

Glass elevators whisk guests to 688 beautiful guestrooms and suites overlooking the Potomac River and the familiar landmarks of the Washington skyline. Here you'll find superb service with the touch of Hyatt, you've come to expect.

VETERANS of the BATTLE OF THE BULGE

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Arlington, VA
Permit No. 466

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

P.O. Box 11129
Arlington, Virginia 22210-2129

Application for Membership

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

P.O. Box 11129 Arlington, Virginia 22210-2129

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.