

The BULGE BUGLE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION ☆ VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

VOLUME II NUMBER 2

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

SEPTEMBER 1983



ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING DECEMBER 15, 16 & 17

Our General Membership Meeting for 1983 will be held Thursday, December 15 through Saturday, December 17 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Crystal City, Arlington, VA.

Because last year's meeting was so successful, the Planning Committee approved the same location for the 1983 activities. Last year we had 17 states and the District of Columbia represented; we hope to see members from all of our states this year.

We will, again, begin with a get acquainted party on Thursday evening. One of the highlights will be the wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery on Friday.

Several distinguished people will speak to us. Other events will include slides and movies and a panel discussion about the Bulge. We will have taping equipment available to record personal experiences for our library.

The climax of the meeting will be a banquet and dance on Saturday night.

As you can see, at \$49, single or double, the committee has obtained a very good price. It is important that you return the reservation card before November 24th in order to get this rate.

We expect to see as many of you as possible in December.

VBOB Officers - 1983

President.....Clyde D. Boden
Executive Vice President
.....William T. Greenville
Vice President for Regional
Coordination.....William A. Simpkins
Vice President for Military
Affairs.....Eugene G. Drouillard
Vice President for
Membership.....Robert J. VanHouten
Treasurer.....William R. Hemphill
Recording Secretary.....Quinty C. DeAngelis
Corresponding Secretary.....(Vacant)
General Counsel.....Joseph Langbart
Chaplain.....George W. Hall, Jr.
Editor.....R. L. Lemmon, Sr.
Historian.....David E. Ruby
Archivist.....Frances W. Doherty
Librarian.....(Vacant)
Public Relations
Officer.....Robert F. Phillips
Liaison Officer for International
and Intergovernmental
Affairs.....Quinty C. DeAngelis
Liaison Officer for
Military Units.....Neil B. Thompson
Liaison Officer for
Public Affairs.....Demetri Paris
Chairman, Audit Committee...Earl L. Meyers
Chairman, Fiscal Committee
.....William R. Hemphill
Chairman, Membership Committee
.....Charles B. Sweitzer
Chairman, Nominations Committee
.....Peter G. Dounis
Chairman, Program Committee
.....William T. Greenville

The Executive Council is composed of the incumbents of the first eight positions; the president is the chairman.

The Advisory Board is composed of the incumbents of the last fifteen positions; the general counsel is the chairman.

VBOB ADVISORY BOARD ESTABLISHED

An Advisory Board was established by President Clyde Boden on 29 March 1983 at an Executive Council meeting.

It will function autonomously and may conduct studies, submit proposals, and prepare comments. It will be a VBOB watchdog and the Executive Council's conscience.

The Board will meet on call of the chairman and with the Executive Council and participate fully except for the right to move a motion or to vote.

General Counsel Joseph Langbart is the current chairman; other members are listed on this page.

VBOB members are encouraged to write directly or via P. O. Box 11129, Arlington, VA 22210-2129, to the officers concerning the stated area of responsibility.

DELINQUENT DUES

I am sure all members want to pay their dues on time.

When are dues due? How is a member to know when he should pay his dues. We hope we have the perfect answer. Each mailing label lists the date the member should pay his dues. This provides each member with a full year of membership from the date he originally joined VBOB. Receipt of annual dues extends it for an additional year from the anniversary date. This is a change from the system where all dues are due on the annual date. Spreading the anniversary dates throughout the year does ease the work-load at headquarters (remember, all processing and record-keeping is done by volunteers).

VBOB records indicate payment has not been received for the following dues which were due during the period 16 December 1982-31 January 1983. Please check the list and if your membership number is listed send in your check. If you are listed but you have paid, please furnish us the date you sent your check to us. If you have a copy of your paid check or money order receipt, send us a copy so we can trace the error. Here is the list of membership numbers:

Series

C-7,28,33,45,49,67,92,93,97,105,110,115,118,120,123,124,131,136,141,153,163,165,166,174,182,185,192,193,203,208,216,220,222,229,230,232,234,236,248,257,258,260,263,268,269,277,280,283, 285,299,310,313,316 & 324.

Series AC-4,5,8,9,12 & 14.

...William R. Hemphill,
Treasurer, VBOB

PROCESSING OF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

Questions have been asked about the time it takes to process applications and issue the membership cards. Here is how it works:

Mail is picked up at the PO Box and is sorted and forwarded to the volunteer staff member responsible for the action.

The Vice President for Membership must determine the eligibility, assign a membership number and prepare & mail the card. The Treasure records and files the application, lists it in the computer data base, deposits the check and records the financial records

We are all volunteers and perform these jobs in our homes. This requires that the actions be carried or mailed to the next person. Consolidation of items to take advantage of lower postage & mileage costs and use of the computer to prepare mailing labels delayed your receipt of cards and replies to your inquiries.

I hope the foregoing helps you understand some of our problems.

DUES DATE PROCEDURE

The date your initial check was deposited determined your membership date. The date your renewal is due is one year hence and is shown on your mailing label.

Payment of annual dues will always advance your membership a full year regardless of the date you send them in.

Dues for 1982 & 1983 were \$5.00. Starting in 1984 dues are \$10.00. If a lesser amount is received it will be credited as a donation which can be applied to your dues when the balance due is received.

EXAMPLE: John joined 12/16/81. He was issued a card for 1982. He renewed 1 Jul 82 and was issued a 1983 membership card. His next due date is 12/16/83. John received a decal and submitted a check in the amount of \$10.00, \$5.00 as a decal donation. The remaining \$5.00 was credited as a donation since it was less than the 1984 dues. When John submits a request that the donation be applied toward 1984 dues AND pays the balance (\$5), a 1984 membership card will be issued. His revised dues date will be 12/16/84.

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES (1983)

The annual National Memorial Day Service was held at Arlington National Cemetery on 30 May. Thirty-seven veterans' organizations participated, dressed in their respective uniforms and were a part of the "Presentation of Colors" at the opening of the service. Paul Thayer, Deputy Secretary of Defense, represented the President of the United States and gave the Memorial Day address. M/Sgt Juanita DeShavior, U.S. Air Force, sang a stirring rendition of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic." Approximately twenty members of VBOB were present at the ceremony. VBOB President Clyde



Boden assisted by VP Gene Drouillard, participated in the wreath-laying ceremonies at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

A VBOB beribboned wreath of white mums and red and blue carnations was presented on Memorial Day at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery by President Clyde Boden and Vice President for Military Affairs, Gene Drouillard.

Thousands of spectators, government officials, and scores of Army Band and Air Force Band members joined more than 40 organizations in paying tribute to our honored dead.

Other VBOB members and friends attend were Pete and Delilah Dounis, Bonnie Drouillard, Donald Freeman, Mario and Jeanne George, Bill Hemphill, Henry Spignesi, and Ed, Lenora, and Joseph Thierry.

Veterans organizations' newest national cemetery was dedicated on 15 May 1983. It is located just off Interstate 95 near Quantico, Virginia. Many veterans' organizations and ceremonial troops from the greater Washington D.C. area participated in the dedication ceremonies. VBOB was represented by Gene Drouillard, VP for Military Affairs. Harry N. Walters, Administrator of Veterans Affairs, delivered the main address and then unveiled a dedicatory plaque.

When fully developed, the new cemetery's 775-acre site will provide 200,000 grave spaces. Burial in National cemeteries is available to veterans discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. This is the same requirement for burial of cremated remains in the Columbarium at Arlington National Cemetery. Requirements for in-ground burial at Arlington are stricter and any plans for burial there should be checked with cemetery authorities. Grave markers in the new Quantico Cemetery will be positioned horizontally on the ground as opposed to the familiar crosses seen in other national cemeteries.

Dedication ceremonies ended with a 21-gun salute, Taps, and a Missing-Man-Flyover by fighter planes from the Virginia Air National Guard.

———— EDITOR SPEAKS ————

Recently appointed editor of THE BULGE BUGLE, I wish to assure our members of my dedication to our organization and all of its endeavors. Every effort will be made to provide members with the most comprehensive publication possible. Members' comments are invited for inclusion in MEMBERS SPEAK OUT.

Despite membership in numerous other service organizations, I am most proud to be a member of the VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, a most distinctive group whose collective performance of duty will live on in the annals of history. When those days fade a bit in memory, I remember the Christmas cards which Third U.S. Army's commander, General George S. Patton, Jr., had printed for all of us over there at the time. The cards included this memorable phrase -- "I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty, and skill in

To remain solvent we ask that all members send in their dues on time. To see if you are up to date, please look at your card. If it does not say 1983, you are due to be renewed. Your address on the front of this newsletter will show on the first line when your dues are due. The first number on the first line is your membership number. The second is the date your dues are due for renewal.

To make it easier to identify you, please put your membership number on all correspondence and checks. This will expedite both an answer to inquiries and a new membership card.

While dues are not tax-deductible, all donations to VBOB are tax-deductible. We encourage donations. Increased donations help keep down dues increases.

We commend all members who have helped to improve membership. Some have visited personally with men to solicit members; others have written to their Army friends, one sending as many as 150 letters and others have written to various newspapers and radio stations in their areas. These efforts have helped to increase membership. Each and every member who has sent lists of potential members or individuals is commended. Thanks to each and every member for their efforts.

battle. We march in our might to complete victory." Remember those days and nights of bitter-cold weather, heavy rains which shut out air support, and muddy roads?

General Patton's prayer, on those cards, will always remain fresh in my memory. He prayed "Almighty and most merciful Father, we humbly beseech Thee, of Thy great goodness, to restrain these immoderate rains with which we have to contend. Grant us fair weather for battle. Graciously hearken to us as soldiers who call upon Thee that, armed with Thy power, we may advance from victory to victory, crush the oppression and wickedness of our enemies, and establish Thy justice among men and nations. Amen"

I salute you, comrades!

R. L. Lemmon, Editor

TRIP TO THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE AREA

All members should have received VBOB President Boden's Mid-Year Report with a flyer attached concerning the trip back to the Battle of the Bulge area in the fall of 1984. It is important that those members planning to go, fill out the reservation application and send it in to Galaxy Tours as soon as possible. As shown in the flyer you will get a \$44.00 reduction on the land portion if you register before the first of October of this year. Make sure you fill out the form completely.

If you wish to deviate from the planned trip, please advise Galaxy - they will help you with your arrangements.

Based on members' responses to the article in the last issue of THE BULGE BUGLE, interest in this trip has been tremendous. Over 350 members and guests have stated that they plan to participate. This is not a surprise. From newspaper articles and reports, large numbers of veterans are planning to return to Europe next year in conjunction with the many events being planned for the 40th anniversary of that great struggle.

Mr. Boden and a small VBOB contingent will travel to Luxembourg to participate in the dedication ceremonies of the Monument for the Unknown G.I. on 11 September 1983. At that time the entire itinerary will be checked out to make sure it will be suitable for the 1984 VBOB trip.

BRONZE STAR 27 YEARS LATE

Benjamin Disraeli wrote (Tancred IV) "Everything comes if a man will only wait." That certainly proved true for VBOB member Thomas R. Shettler of Franklin, PA after waiting 27 years to receive his Bronze Star award.

Shettler was filing some forms with the Army in connection with a medical matter when he learned that he was entitled to the medal, but had never received it. This was reported in THE NEWS HERALD of Franklin & Oil City, PA on 23 August 1972.

His award was for combat service with the 94th Infantry Division in Germany as part of the Third U.S. Army. He later served in Czechoslovakia.

VIDEO TAPE OF ST. VITH

We have just learned of an unusual item for those who have TV video-cassette players. There is a black-and-white 58-minute video tape on "The Battle of St. Vith" made in 1965. The blurb for it says "These three days of heroic resistance captured the attention - and the admiration - or the entire world. Beginning with footage that describes the Nazis' *Conquer or be Conquered* strategy for their winter offensive in the Ardennes, this is the dauntless story of how American GIs form the 7th Armored and 106th Golden Lions Division. Fighting against unbelievable odds, they broke the back of this massive German offensive."

Identified as *C.M.I. Videotape No. 105, The Battle of St. Vith*, the tape costs \$69.95 plus \$2.25 postage and handling (Connecticut residents add 7½% sales tax) and may be ordered from the Fairfield Book Co., Box 289, Fairfield Center, CT 06805 or call 800-243-1318 to place your order.

DIARIES SOUGHT

The Pepys Press seeks the diaries of World War II veterans of any rank and service branch who were wounded in combat. They are for a book of World War II diaries the publisher is assembling.

Persons interested can send 30 photocopied pages of their diary to Donald Vining, Editor, The Pepys Press, 1270 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10029. He asks that compilations of letters or memoirs written in diary format not be sent. If interested after reading the 30 pages, he will ask to see more. Modest compensation, plus an author's copy of the book, will be given to those whose diaries are used, Vining said.

These two items were submitted by John Wettstein, VBOB member, from his 7th Armored Division Association's newspaper. He highly recommends the video tape.

P.S. don't forget to mention your former unit.

BULGE BOOK "TO SAVE BASTOGNE" PUBLISHED

In December 1984 the veterans of the "Battle of the Bulge" will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Ardennes fighting, and there will undoubtedly be many books and articles written in connection with that occasion. Several members of VBOB are already hard at work perpetuating the memory of that December 1944 action.

Already completed and scheduled for publication this past June is "To Save Bastogne" by Robert F. Phillips, a former member of the 28th Infantry Division's 110th Infantry Regiment, one of the participating units in the Battle of the Bulge. This account, to be published by Stein & Day, narrates one phase of the fighting east of Bastogne during the first five days of the German offensive. Overshadowed by the 101st Airborne's gallant defense of Bastogne in December 1944, the story of the desperate delaying actions east of Bastogne which bought time for the occupation and defense of that city by American troops, has so far been a closed book to most of the world. The units involved were decimated during the initial five days, but because of their holding actions prior to 19 December, in the rugged terrain to the east of Bastogne, American troops were able to reach the important crossroads town in time to successfully defend it against the German offensive.

General Eisenhower, in his book "Crusade in Europe," assumed sole responsibility for maintaining only four divisions on the Ardennes front in December 1944 and thus running the risk of a German penetration in that area. He took that risk, however, because it was the only way he could continue the offensive operations he felt were necessary. He believed that, in the event of a large-scale German offensive in that area, any salient or bulge produced by it could be successfully contained and finally eliminated if the shoulders were firmly held. This was a doctrine derived from the great Western Front offensive of 1917 and 1918. It dominated the thinking of all the higher U.S. military figures and was clearly discernible in the initial decisions made by Eisenhower, Bradley, and the various army and corps commanders. Any movement of American reinforcements, therefore, would be in response to this doctrine.

Although German-developed blitzkrieg tactics in Poland, France, and Russia had in reality outmoded this doctrine, it was still successful in this instance because of the limited scope and resources of the German offensive. German panzers were mere shells of their earlier years, both in quantity of machines and quality of men. After five years of war and tremendous casualties, many of the well-trained, battle-hardened officers and noncoms were gone. The ranks had suffered, too, and were filled with young and relatively untrained soldiers, tired old veterans, and naval and Luftwaffe draftees. Equipment was in short supply and gasoline severely rationed. Many of the artillery pieces that laid down the initial barrage on the morning of 16 December had neither the motor power nor the horse power to move them forward with the advancing troops. In a sense, the German soldiers' strongest weapons were surprise, speed, and weather bad enough to ground American air power. To succeed, they had to move westward as speedily as possible, bypassing the smaller garrisons, quickly bridging the rivers, and securing the main transportation hubs such as Bastogne and St. Vith in Belgium.

The Fifth and Sixth Panzer Armies were to be the driving force of the offensive. When the Sixth Panzer Army drive on the north bogged down, the entire impetus of the offensive shifted to the Fifth Panzer Army on the south. Its advance was paced by the XLVII Panzer Corps and that corps needed the transportation hub of Bastogne if it were to roll westward with all possible speed. The 101st Airborne denied Bastogne to the Germans, but that unit only reached Bastogne in time because American units to the east of that city held at high cost, buying the time necessary for paratroopers to be transported from Reims, France, to consolidate American positions in Bastogne.

Those units fighting the delaying actions to the east received little or no help because it was impossible to shore up those critical shoulders of the salient and aid those units, too. It was a hard, cruel decision on the part of the American commanders, but the only decision that could have been made under the circumstances. These units had to be sacrificed in order to buy enough time to secure the northern and southern shoulders so that the German

drive could be blunted and contained on the flanks. The shoulders were further reinforced after the momentum of the overextended German force was spent and furnished the jumping-off points for the American drives to relieve Bastogne and cut off the German divisions.

The defense was epic -- an important defeat for the Germans -- and in the midst of defeat and uncertainty, Bastogne appeared as a ray of light in what was otherwise a very black picture. Consequently, American news correspondents sent home volumes of newsprint on the gallant bargain struck at Bastogne, but little about the actions that made this defense possible. This book tells the tale of the infantrymen, artillerymen, tankers, and engineers who helped make victory in the Bulge possible. It is the story of some of those unsung heroes of the Bulge -- the men who traded their lives for time.

OTHER BOOKS FORTHCOMING

Another book, by Charles A. MacDonald, now in the research and writing stage and scheduled for publication in the fall of 1984, will be a comprehensive account of the Battle of the Bulge from start to finish. Those of you who are familiar with Charles MacDonald's earlier books (Company Commander, Three Battles, The Siegfried Line Campaign, The Battle of Hurtgen Forest, The Mighty Endeavor, and others) know this account of the Ardennes fighting will be a real winner.

A third book, co-authored by John D. Campbell and Harold P. "Bud" Leinbaugh, will document a typical World War II infantry rifle company in the European theater, with a significant portion devoted to the Ardennes fighting. Additional information on the latter two books will be forthcoming in future editions of THE BULGE BUGLE.

It is hoped that other VBOB members will draw upon their wartime experiences and produce other narrative accounts of the Bulge fighting.



VBOB EMBLEM POPULAR

The official emblem (logotype) of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge was approved by the acting Executive Council on 8 May 1982. The Council also approved a recom-

mendation that the first use of the emblem be in printing rather than in products or other uses.

The basic design was conceived by charter member Neil Thompson as a sign for display at the first VBOB public meeting held 16 December 1981. The sign was placed in front of the lectern in the event it was covered by press photographers. The design included the symbols and colors of the ground combat arms, representation of the air arms and the snow-covered evergreen trees of the Ardennes Forest. The most impressive and memorable element was the brilliant star of Christmas of 1944 with its rays reaching down to all parts of the emblem.

The acceptance of this concept over other designs was recommended by J. C. "Jay" Morris, the chief artist of the Institute of Heraldry. The Institute is the U.S. Government office responsible for the official emblems of all military and civilian branches of the Government.

For artistic reasons and historical accuracy, several modifications were made in the artist's first painting of the emblem. The first public appearance of the new logo was in a flag purchased by President Clyde Boden for the first annual membership meeting of VBOB on 16 December 1982. It was later returned as failing to meet the design and color characteristics of the official emblem.

The first use of the logo in printing, as decreed by the Executive Council, was in the purchase of 2,400 decals. Working from a color photograph, the supplier captured the brilliant colors and every detail of the emblem.

Plans call for the purchase of additional decals for sale to the members with availability by early Fall.



Consideration is being given to the design of a bumper sticker with emphasis on showing pride of membership in VBOB. Since the organization does not have an advertising campaign, bumper stickers and decals may be the source for spreading the word about the newest veterans' organization.

One of the largest and best manufacturers of quality embroidered emblems has submitted prices for consideration. The emblem will be a four-inch circle patch in seven brilliant colors (including black and white) with or without clutchback fasteners, for wear on coats, jackets, shirts and other garments. A smaller version of the patch is 2-3/4 inches in diameter for caps, hats, shirts, and other garments. It will also be available for sewing or with clutchback fasteners.

The purchase of most products requires an initial outlay for art work, molds, etc., plus the purchase of a minimum quantity. Several thousand dollars are required to make available a stock of embroidered patches, lapel pins, decals and bumper strips.

The limiting factor preventing immediate purchase is the lack of money. The \$5 annual dues payment does not provide enough income to stock merchandise desired by members. This, despite the fact that all VBOB officials are volunteer workers and there are no salaried employees in the organization. The minimum dues have been supplemented by contribution in the past. President Boden hopes members will contribute funds after receiving the free decal.

ARMY LENDS SUPPORT TO VBOB PROJECT

Plans are in the hopper to get assistance from Army Public Affairs in preserving the history of the Battle of the Bulge as told by us.

Mr. William Rosenmund, Office, Secretary of the Army Public Affairs Office, will lend his hand in helping us locate photographic materials in the Army files.

What we have in mind right now is a multi-media presentation: Light, sound, music, slides, our story--all wrapped up in one easy-to-view slide show. We are checking on the technicalities of this adventure (one screen, two projectors; two screens, four projectors: how long, what topics, etc.)

Father Gorman Receives Medals



Father Charles F. Gorman, Pastor Emeritus, St. Francis Church, is pictured above being presented his WWII U.S. Army medals by Jack Kearney, Post Service Officer, American Legion Post #227, Springfield. Father Gorman served as a Chaplain-Major with the U.S. Army's 16th General Hospital in the European Theatre of Operations (ETO).

His military decorations include the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign medal with bronze star for participation in the Ardennes Campaign (Battle of the Bulge), WWII Victory Medal, Army of Occupation (Germany) Medal and the American Campaign Medal. In addition, he is entitled to wear a wreath insignia signifying an Army Meritorious Unit Citation conferred upon the Hospital Unit for Extraordinary Services performed during the period 1 December 1944 through 1 March 1945. The unit, located in Belgium, cared for American casualties in the Battle of the Bulge.

Father Gorman had not received his WWII medals previous to this time. However, through Kearney's efforts, the medals were obtained from the U.S. Army Records Center in time to be presented to Father Gorman on his 91st birthday, December 23, 1982.

The Reverend Gorman, an American Legion member for more than 50 years, is also a veteran of WWI, having served as a Chaplain with the 12th U.S. Army Engineers. His WWI battle clasps --- participation in the Somme Offensive and the St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne campaigns.

Kearney and Father Gorman are charter members of the newly-formed Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge (VBOB)

MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBERS
THE MALMEDY MASSACRE

Mr. Will Cavanagh, recently of Malmedy, Belgium, and previously a resident of England, and a longtime and valuable associate member of VBOB, provides the following and soul-searching data concerning the memorial service held at Baugnez on 5 June of this year:

"On a fine summer's afternoon my family and I walked the 1,500 yards from our home to the site of the Malmedy massacre. In front of invited guests, U.S. and Belgian Guards of Honor, and the general public, General L. R. Palmerton, USAF, and Mr. Robert Denis, Mayor of Malmedy, spoke to commemorate the fallen. General Palmerton stated that 'In more ways than one it is a privilege and an honor for me to be here among you at Malmedy today. Firstly, to remember those who gave their lives for a noble cause. What more can God ask of a man? Secondly, to commemorate the tragic events which took place here 39 years ago in this beautiful part of Belgium. Let us not forget what took place and let us ensure that we will use all of our willpower and energy to make sure it never happens again. Finally, I am pleased to be able to represent General Rogers, the highest ranking officer of the Western Alliance. It is through him and the efforts of many other military commanders from all the NATO countries that we seek endlessly to preserve peace on the European Continent. My message today is quite frank. We are united today by common values -- we cherish our liberty. We are fully aware of what the word 'liberty' signifies. I am certain that all of you here are prepared to accept the sacrifices which are necessary to preserve our liberty. I do realize that this commitment is not fully shared by all of our fellow-countrymen, neither yours nor mine. Too many of those around us have forgotten the true meaning of the word and seem prepared to make far-reaching concessions and compromises. Our mission, yours and mine, is to make sure this never happens. By devotion, experience, and the interest we have in remaining free, we should let others around the world know how much we value our freedom and shall preserve it whatever the cost. By ceremonies and commemoration such as today's, we affirm our intentions to keep the Flame of Freedom alive and burning. The men we remember today left the generation a precious heritage. It is our duty to pass this on to future generations."

Monsieur Robert Denis, Mayor of Malmedy, made the following remarks on this Memorial Day.

"On the 17th of December, 1944, 86 American soldiers, warrant officers and officers fell here at the Baugnez crossroads. For the 39th time today, the memory of those who died here survives, thanks to the patriotic youth, the 'Baugnez Memorial Association,' the Bevercé Commune and lastly the Malmedy Commune. Let us form in front of the monument built in their honour.

"If we gather today, it's because we want to commemorate the memory of the men who fell here and through them, the memory of all those who, during the Second World War, gave their lives to defend our threatened liberties. But our memory must go even further. First of all, we must remember that wars only bring unhappiness and tragedies. By not forgetting it, men will go on striving for peace and work for it. Next we must remember that if wars generate from weaknesses of the human wisdom, they result above all from the military supremacy of some powers over others. If, in 1940, we had been better prepared, the aggressor would have hesitated before invading our country and if the United States of America hadn't interfered with their powerful Army, the issue of the war would have been compromised.

"Therefore we must remember that the peace we all want can only be achieved by deterrent power, and that the latter can only be obtained through the maintenance of an adequate military power linked to a good solidarity among the nations of the free world. Therefore, in the present situation, unilateral disarmament would not lead to the peace we are all striving for. If we don't want any war anymore, if we want to avoid the renewal of such tragedies as the one we are commemorating today, we must not only strive for peace, but also and above all, face any possible aggressor with an efficient deterrent power.

"Such a reasoning gave birth to the NATO which has been protecting us for 34 years.

"Let's wish that all the countries which are members of this organisation will go on giving NATO the means to assume its mission efficiently.

Long live Peace and Freedom!
Long live those who protect them!"

MEMORIAL DAY

As armed forces veterans of World War II, we sometimes find ourselves less than understanding of some few of our former comrades in arms who never seem to let go of that global conflict. They seem obsessed with a compulsion to relive and relate their combat experiences and to keep reminding all who will listen that many of their pals failed to come home. They remain active in veterans' organizations and they promote and attend every gathering of those who served in their World War II military outfits.

Peter Dounis of Silver Spring is such a veteran. He was a member of the 75th Infantry Division which received its baptism of fire in Belgium during the "Battle of the Bulge" in January, 1945. He has been a prime mover in keeping the veterans of that organization together and active participants in their periodic conventions. He has made several trips back to the World War II battlegrounds of the 75th Infantry Division. More recently, he has been one of the organizers of a larger veterans' organization open to all veterans on both sides of the Battle of the Bulge.

We look back over the life we have lived since the end of World War II and find that it has been rich, full and rewarding. We have raised a family, found professional satisfaction and success and now are beginning to enjoy the growing up of our children's children as they begin their pleasant cycle through life. We want to feel a little sad for Peter Dounis, since perhaps he has not enjoyed the past 38 years as we have, because he has still been wrapped up too tightly in World War II.

As we approach another Memorial Day, however, our thoughts about Peter Dounis change a little and we feel a little less smug about the good fortunes we have enjoyed all through our post-World War II years. While we have had the pleasure of thousands of rich, full and rewarding moments in our lives of the past 38 years, there are hundreds of thousands of fallen Americans who never had the opportunity to enjoy one such moment.

You are right, Peter Dounis. We should remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice so that the rest of us could realize

the ultimate benefit from their deed. And we should be grateful to you, too, for reminding us that our smugness was purchased with their blood.

...John R. Benedict,
Editor, THE SUBURBAN RECORD, Silver Spring, MD, and VBOB Member, 27 May 1983.

Members Speak Out

Just finished the second reading of my first issue of THE BULGE BUGLE; one word describes my feelings: "Outstanding." Already looking forward to the next issue. I was a member of Hq.Co., 22nd Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry (IVY) Division, from January 1941 to August 1945. Made the D-Day Landing and earned five Battle Stars. I am a member of the Raymond O. Barton Chapter of the National 4th Infantry (IVY) Division Association. Congratulations on the formation of this organization. I am proud to be a member of this outstanding and historical group. Sincerely,

Charles E. Barrentine
MSG. U.S. Army Retired
Oakhurst, NJ

I must congratulate you on the progress you have made with our society and urge you to commend all others responsible. The VBOB Annual Report and the Constitution and By-Laws are outstanding and much credit is due for the care and detail with which they were prepared. It is indeed a pleasure to belong to such an up-and-coming organization and I look forward to deriving much satisfaction and pleasure from my associations with the members in the coming years. Wishing you all continued success. Most sincerely,

Thomas D. Gillis, Pres.
California Society
Sons of American Revolution
Greenbrae, CA

I wish to thank you for your effort in the interest and layout of THE BULGE BUGLE. It certainly makes delightful reading - it brings back memories and thoughts of days past - but never forgotten.

Ervin J. Sherk
116 W. Carpenter Avenue
Myerstown, PA 17067

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

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ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22202 USA
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Our objectives are —

- To perpetuate the memory of the sacrifices involved during the Battle
- To preserve historical data and sites relating to the Battle
- To foster international peace and goodwill
- To promote friendship among the Battle's survivors and their descendants

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 Rib _____ and Battle stars awarded _____

Wounded _____

Captured _____

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

Dear VBOB Member:

So that the Annual General Meeting Committee can get a reasonably fair estimate of the number of members that are planning to attend this year's meeting and participate in the various activities, it is requested that you check appropriate response below. We expect a much larger attendance this year than last year. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

If you do not plan to attend, please do not return this card.

NAME _____ MY OUTFIT _____

ADDRESS _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

I plan to attend all functions Yes _____ No _____

I plan to attend only the following functions;

Thursday Dec. 15, 5PM Social Hour Yes _____ No _____

Friday Dec. 16, 9AM Business Meeting Yes _____ No _____

Friday Dec. 16, 11AM Arlington Cemetery Wreath Laying Yes _____ No _____

Saturday Dec. 17, 9AM Business Meeting Yes _____ No _____

Saturday Dec. 17, Cocktails 6:30PM, Banquet 7:45, Dance 9:30
Yes _____ No _____



PLEASE MAKE NOTE OF THE ACTIVITIES ON THE LEFT BEFORE MAILING THIS CARD. LOCAL MEMBERS ARE URGED TO ATTEND ALL ACTIVITIES.

(*)must be filled out - see below

**HYATT REGENCY CRYSTAL CITY
AT WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT
TELEPHONE: (703) 486-1234**

**VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE
2nd Annual Meeting
December 15-17, 1983**

Type of Room	No. of Rooms	Convention Rates	*Regency Club*
Single (1 person)		\$49.00	Rack Rate
Double (2 people)		\$49.00	Rack Rate
1 Bed. Rm. Suite		Rack Rate	Rack Rate
2 Bed Rm. Suite		Rack Rate	Rack Rate
The above rates are subject to state and local taxes.			

If all rooms in the requested rate category are already reserved, the next available rate will be assigned. *Regency Club accommodations include special guest room amenities and special food and beverage services.

*Date of Arrival _____
I will arrive via _____
*Time of Arrival _____
*Date of Departure _____
Check in Time: 3 p.m. _____
Check out Time: 12 Noon _____
* Name _____
* Address _____

* Telephone No. _____
Sharing room with _____

Reservations must be received by **11/24/83**

Your reservation will be held until 6p.m. unless one night's deposit is received or guaranteed by credit card below. Failure to cancel 24 hours prior to arrival will result in 1 night's charges billed to your credit card.

☐ Hold until 6 p.m. only

☐ Guaranteed by one of the following:

Deposit of \$ _____
American Express # _____

Diners Club # _____

Carte Blanche # _____

Master Charge # _____

Visa # _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

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VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE
POST OFFICE BOX 11129
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22210-2129



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STAMP
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HYATT REGENCY CRYSTAL CITY

Reservations Dept.
2799 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, Virginia 22202

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"This is undoubtedly the greatest American battle of the war and will, I believe, be regarded as an ever-famous American victory."

*Sir Winston Churchill
addressing the House of Commons
following the Battle of the Bulge.*

