

The BULGE BUGLE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION ☆ VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

VOLUME II NUMBER 1

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

SPRING 1983



VBOB OFFICERS 1982-83

L to R: WILLIAM T. GREENVILLE, Executive Vice President, ROBERT VAN HOUTEN, Membership Chairman, JOSEPH LANGBART, General Counsel, CLYDE D. BODEN, President, COL. EUGENE G. DROUILLARD (Ret.), Vice President for Military Affairs, WILLIAM A. SIMPKINS, Vice President for National and Regional Coordination and REV. GEORGE W. HALL, JR., Chaplain

Plan NOW to meet with US.

- On December 15th, 16th & 17th, 1983
- At the Hyatt Regency Hotel
- In Crystal City, Arlington, Virginia

VBOB PLANNING PEACEFUL REVISIT
TO THE ARDENNES IN 1984

The 16th of December 1984 will mark the 40th anniversary of the Ardennes Campaign popularly known as the Battle of the Bulge. It was the greatest battle ever fought by the United States Army involving two field armies, two tactical air commands, six corps, three airborne divisions, eight armored divisions and eighteen infantry divisions. The total number of U.S. casualties in the campaign was 75,482 of which 8,407 were killed; 46,170 wounded and 20,905 were missing in action.

VBOB is currently planning a trip back to the Ardennes for its members in the fall of 1984. This time it will be a peaceful invasion to revisit the Battle of the Bulge area, to retrace the steps we took so many years ago, reminisce, and to pay tribute to those of our comrades that did not come back.

Since the weather is quite bad in Europe during December, as we all know very well, we are planning the tour for the late September early October time period. The main tour is being planned for about 10 days duration, however, provisions will be possible for those who wish to leave for Europe early and join the tour there or for those who want to extend their stay beyond the planned dates.

On the air travel portion we are looking at two possibilities. In one package the air transportation will be from a number of cities throughout the U.S. to a rendezvous city near the battle area - possibly Luxembourg City or Brussels. Another possibility will be to rendezvous in a U.S. city, possibly Washington, D.C. and fly to Brussels as a group.

Touring of the battle area is being planned in two parts. The first part will consist of a motor bus tour of the overall battle area to give us an appreciation of its size and to see parts that we were unable to see during the battle. In the second part, transportation will be arranged for small groups or individuals to visit specific battle sites. There will be sufficient time at these sites for each of us to retrace our steps, search out evidence of our having been there and to meet and chat with some of the local citizens. No doubt some old acquaintances will be renewed.

During the tour, visits will be made to the Hamm and Henri Chappelle Cemeteries in Luxembourg and Belgium respectively to pay tribute to our fallen comrades. Visits will also be made to a number of points of interest such as the Patton Monument in Ettlebruck, the monument to the Unknown GI of the Battle of the Bulge being erected in Clervaux, the monument and museum in Bastogne, the monuments in Malmedy and St. Vith and others. The monument in Clervaux is being built by the "Cercle d'etudes sur las Bataille des Ardennes" (CEBA), an organization in Luxembourg devoted to the study and maintenance of the memory of the Battle of the Bulge. We will meet many of the members during the visit. They are very friendly, extremely knowledgeable on all aspects of the battle and they are waiting to greet us in 1984. The monument, to be dedicated on September 11, 1983, will have on its base the insignias of all units that fought in Luxembourg and liberated it from the Germans.

Social activities to include receptions, luncheons and dinners will be planned in conjunction with local organizations to include government and city officials. Free time, shopping tours and visits to non-battle connected points of interest will also be arranged.

Our objective will be to get the best possible hotel accommodations and transportation services at the lowest possible cost. For the 10-day tour including the air portion, it appears that the price will be in the neighborhood of \$1,300 per person. We are trying to get a firm price as soon as possible.

A return to the site of the battle will undoubtedly provide us with many new memories and experiences. One of the more refreshing ones will be the friendliness of the Belgians and Luxembourgers who consider the American soldier as the liberator of their countries. On any given Sunday you can see the natives visiting the American cemeteries or to clean and lay flowers at the many monuments to American units that fought in that campaign.

You are encouraged to bring your spouse, children or grandchildren along on this very special trip. This will give each of us a wonderful opportunity to show them the sources of the many, many war stories they have listened to over the years. To assist us in completing the required planning, it will be necessary at the earliest possible date to have an accurate count of members and guests interested in making the trip with us. It is therefore requested that the form below be completed and mailed to the following address:

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge
Tour Director
P. O. Box 11129
Arlington, Virginia 22210-2129

I am interested in participating in the VBOB sponsored trip to Europe during the Fall of 1984 to tour the Battle of the Bulge area. I will be accompanied by _____ guest(s).

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

NOTE: This submittal is aimed at obtaining an accurate show of interest in the trip and does not commit the member in any way. In the near future when the tour plans are firm, however, each interested member and guest will be asked to make a small down payment (probably \$100) to indicate a definite commitment.

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 _____

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

ROBERT VAN HOUTEN, Vice President for
Membership
16th Field Artillery Observation Bn.

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

ELTURINO L. LOIACONO, Editor
10th Armored Division

PETER G. DOUNIS, Assistant Editor
75th Infantry Division

ANN K. GRAY, Composition Typist
Associate Member



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

ARCHIVES AND LIBRARY

Our Archives/Library is slowly, but surely growing. In December, at our General Membership Meeting, we received several gifts of material which members thoughtfully brought with them, or mailed to us. These include such things as published histories of units participating in the Battle of the Bulge; newspapers and magazines of December 1944 and January 1945, relating what was going on "at the Front"; personal accounts of the Battle; a summary of the intelligence situation as it appeared to G2 at Bastogne; material collected on the Malmedy Massacre; photographs; etc.

All of the items received so far have been catalogued and filed in specially-treated folders (to preserve them), with the name of the donor. However, we need more, much more! If you have anything at all pertaining to the Battle of the Bulge -- or your own story to tell -- won't you send it to:

Frances Doherty, Archivist
Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge
P. O. Box 11129
Arlington, VA 22210-2129

SOME SWEAT

During the first annual General Membership Meeting of the VBOB, Bill Simpkins was talking to another member whose name is Ellery Sweat. During the conversation, Bill mentioned that Sweat is a very unusual name and he recalled meeting only one other person with that surname. It was when he was about twelve years of age and was visiting with his grandmother in Florida. She lived in Palm Beach, but also had a place on the Trout River near Jacksonville, and while visiting in that city, she took Bill to a country club for lunch. There, she introduced Bill to a fellow named Rex Sweat who was the sheriff of Duval County. That fellow Rex, is a relative of Ellery Sweat who is a VBOB member. That was coincidence enough, but it continued. Bill mentioned that he was in the 9th AF during WWII, and that his former C.O., Col. Ralph Jenkins, switched from fighters to bombers, and was Wing Commander in SAC, flying B-52's. Sweat said he had met the Colonel and had flown with him in SAC. Sweat was in a unit that specialized in electronic warfare equipment.



ARDENNES

Oh, shining Star so high in space
Now shines upon a Hallowed place.
You helped to guide the silks that fall
On stately Pines with their snowy walls.

On tracks that show their printed tread
The foot prints there and spots of red.
On rifles dropped in snow and stream
Did stop the cause of young men's dream.

From gloomy skies our Plane's we wait
From the snow and cold - we meditate.
The helmet there upon the ground-
He disappeared and was not found.

With shining Star so high in place
We pray that They did see God's face.
That we may find their peace above
Oh, Lord, please bless us with your love.

-anthony a. korte
3rd Armored Div.

February 1983

REUNIONS AND TOURS

28th Infantry Division, June 23-25, 1983,
Washington, PA. Contact William D. Smith,
2530 Mullooly St., Pittsburg, PA 15227.

705th Tank Destroyer Battalion, Aladdin
Hotel, Las Vegas, Nev. June 15-19, 1983

285th Field Artillery Observation Battalion,
September 9-11, Sheraton Inn, Gettysburg,
PA

27th Armored Infantry Battalion, 9th
Armored Division. ETO Battlefield Tour
starting September 17, 1983. Contact
27th AIB, P. O. Box 28, Glendora, NJ 08029

87th Inf. Division will hold its 34th
annual reunion Sept. 21-25, 1983 in
Nashville, Tenn. Chairman William Meyers
(346 Regt. Co. I) Box 1132, Nashville, Tenn.
37211.

CONGRATULATORY NOTES RECEIVED

VBOB acknowledges letters of support from
the following organizations:

The 4th Armored Division
Society of the Fifth Division, USA
The 6th Armored Division
The 7th Armored Division
The 9th Armored Division
The 10th Armored Division
The 11th Armored Division
The 17th Airborne Division
The Society of the 28th Division, AEF
The 30th Infantry Division
The 35th Infantry Division
The 75th Infantry Division
The 76th Infantry Division
The 78th Infantry Division
The 80th Infantry Division
The 83rd Infantry Division
The 84th Infantry Division
The 87th Infantry Division
The 90th Infantry Division
The 94th Infantry Division
The 99th Infantry Division
The 106th Infantry Division
National 4th Infantry Division Assoc.
The 6th US Cavalry
Veterans Association, 12th Infantry, NG NY
86th Chemical Mortar Battalion
131st Ordnance Association (9th Arm. Div.)
214th Military Police Company
285th Field Artillery Observation Battalion.
291st Engineer Combat Battalion
320th Infantry Regiment
388th Bomb Group
390th AAA AW Battalion
Service Battery, 343rd F. A.
462nd AW Battalion (AA)
526th Armored Infantry Battalion
551st Parachute Infantry Battalion
27th Armored Infantry Battalion
The Second Infantry Division
The Third Armored Division
557th AAA Battalion Association
704th Tank Destroyer Battalion
712th Tank Battalion
705th Tank Destroyer Battalion
740th Tank Battalion
773rd Tank Destroyer Battalion
926th Signal Battalion

We have not heard from the following division associations; 82nd Airborne, 101st Airborne, 5th Armored, 8th Airborne, 26th Infantry, 2nd Armored and the Society of the First Division. VBOB would like to hear these organizations.

GI MONUMENT IN LUXEMBOURG

All American military units which participated in the Battle of the Bulge in the Luxembourg Ardennes area have been invited to participate in the dedication of a monument to the Unknown GI of that historic battle.

The bronze, life-size statue of a GI will be dedicated on September 11, 1983, at the center of the town of Clervaux. The dedication is the culmination of a 10 year goal by the Circle of Studies of the Battle of Ardennes (CEBA), a Luxembourg historical association.

CEBA hopes to have representatives from all units which fought in Luxembourg during the battle. Both individuals and Army units having representatives are encouraged to notify and obtain details from:

Jean MILMEISTER	or	Camille P. Kohn
1, Rue de Brouch		35A rue Servais
L-7481 TUNTANGE		L-7565 MERSCH
G. D. Luxembourg		Luxembourg

Refer to page 4 of the September, 1982 BULGE BUGLE for the names and addresses of CEBA members in other cities who will welcome visits from soldiers who fought in Luxembourg.

VBOB welcomes reports and photos from all those who visit the monument in Clervaux or meet with CEBA members. Send your report to the BULGE BUGLE - P. O. Box 11129 in Arlington, VA 22210. Please mention your WWII Military Unit.

IRS GRANTS VBOB INCOME TAX EXEMPT STATUS

The Internal Revenue Service has determined that VBOB is exempt from income tax as a war veterans' organization. Therefore, contributions to VBOB are tax deductible; this does not include dues.

TO SAVE BASTOGNE

by Robert F. Phillips - Stein & Day, 1983

(Another new book in the writing stages by a VBOB member)

From the 16th to the 20th of December 1944, 28th Infantry Division units fought the superior German forces east of Bastogne in a delaying action which decimated their own troops, while gaining time for the occupation and defense of that city by the American forces. This battle, which was overshadowed by the more dramatic defense of Bastogne, is related for the first time in this book. The action began at dawn on the Luxembourg/German border, with attacks by three and later four German divisions against the 110th Infantry Regiment of the 28th Infantry Division and its supporting artillery, engineer, antiaircraft, and tank units.

Soon after the initial assault, the battle broke up into isolated actions along the entire 110th Infantry front, with each rifle company attempting to hold its fortified town against overwhelming odds. Radio and wire communications were almost non-existent after the first day, and each unit was forced to fight in nearly total isolation. By the third day many of these units were out of range of friendly artillery support as the German forces drove deeper and deeper into the American rear areas. The rifle companies were then left with the choice of either staying in place and fighting as long as there was ammunition or attempting to break out to the west. Nearly all of the units attempted a breakout, but only a few hundred individuals reached the American lines. The sacrifice of the 110th allowed the defenders of Bastogne to move into position and consolidate their defenses, an action that was instrumental in breaking the German offensive.

PLEASE NOTE

The Stars and Stripes collection of WWII cartoons mentioned on Page 5 of the September 1982 "Bulge Bugle", are no longer available.

A KIND WORD FROM A PROUD DAUGHTER

The following letter was so moving to each of the "Bugle" staff that we believe it is required reading. We love you, Sue.

Dear Sirs:

What a great undertaking to organize the many veterans of the greatest battle ever fought in U.S. history!

Being only 35, I am younger than my father's memories of his days of being surrounded by the enemy. However, I can remember the Army picture which my father was proud to hang over the desk, and the pride with which he spoke of the Battle of the Bulge. My father's name is Art Blaney.

Patriotism was not something we took for granted in our home, rather something my family practiced. My Mother (who is now deceased) and me were active members of our American Legion Auxiliary. Just 2 years ago I served as president to the unit where I lived. Now, I serve the Decatur unit as Educational Chairman and make children of veterans aware of the many dollars afforded to them because of their fathers' service to his country.

I surprised my father by enrolling him as a member in VBOB and mailing him 2 copies of Newsletters which were shared with me by a veteran, Oscar E. Plummer. I also joined as an associate member so I can read the newsletter "THE BULGE BUGLE".

I salute each of you for your time and effort which is going into the organization. I praise all of the veterans for their sacrifices to keep this country free and allowing me to enjoy Americanism as I know it.

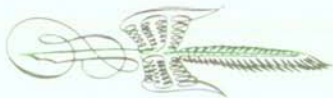
My father was in the 2nd Armored Division, 67th Armored Regiment, "E" Company. Having 4 daughters, he had little opportunity to encourage any of us to go into military careers or join the services. At any rate, he did instill a sense of patriotism in each of us and we respect him deeply for that.

I enroll in your organization in tribute to my father and the many other veterans whose efforts won a place in U.S. history.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Sue Luck



CONGRESSMAN MICHEL RECEIVES HIGH AMERICAN LEGION AWARD

House Minority Leader Robert H. Michel, R-Ill., a member of VBOB, was presented the American Legion's Distinguished Public Service Award in honor of four decades of service to his country on February 22, at the Washington Conference by National Commander Al Keller. Both are natives of Peoria.

In accepting the award, Bob stated that such recognition was far removed from what he could have imagined happening while he was in combat in World War II. He recalled that Senator Everett Dirksen and Represen-

tative Les Arends were earlier recipients. He then discussed the threat to our country and the need for a strong defense.

Moments later, President Ronald Reagan characterized Bob Michel as "a distinguished veteran and an outstanding legislative leader" and said he could not think of anyone more deserving. President Ronald Reagan then commented on our economic status and reviewed his foreign policy.

VBOB was represented by President Clyde Boden.

EDITOR'S VIEW OF OUR FIRST
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

All it took was two meetings, a wreath laying at Arlington Cemetery and two cocktail parties for the ladies and gentlemen of VBOB to realize that they had a great deal in common. Unless one looked at the name and unit tags the folks were wearing, you would have thought it was a family reunion rather than a veterans' affair.

Perhaps for an outsider it was difficult to sense the comraderie that permeated the hotel during our meeting. I for one thoroughly enjoyed meeting men from other outfits.

It was unfortunate that the hotel fire alarm sounded without reason, we later discovered. All was not lost for those who got the word that there was no fire. As a matter of fact those who stayed joined another group for rations. Sperry Rand was also having a party and needless to say your G.I. comrades, after scouting their camp, partook of their open bar. Now you guys that withdrew under pressure, know what you missed.

Hopefully, more of the VBOB members will show up next year. Your Editor guarantees (would I lie) you a great time.



William T. Greenville, Executive Vice President, speaking at Banquet.



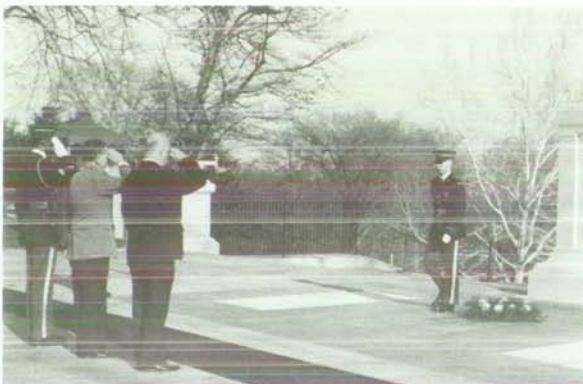
"Pete" Dounis, 75th Inf. Div. and his wife Delilah. "Pete" carried the bulk of coordinating the day to day activities of the General Meeting. A good effort, "Pete".



Delilah Dounis and Beverly Van Houten who did such a wonderful job at the registration desk.



David E. Ruby, Historian and Archivist introducing guest speaker at Banquet.



Top center: Group of VBOB members waiting to board bus for Arlington Cemetery ceremony. Top left: Flower bearer and bugler approaching the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers. Top right: Flower bearer and bugler waiting for ceremony to commence. Bottom left: Wreath in place as President Boden and Vice President salute our unknown comrades. Entire VBOB members present joined in the salute as bugler played "Taps". Lower right: Third U.S. Infantry soldier walks his post.





Col. (Ret.) Charles Attardo chatting with President Boden following his interesting presentation.



Charles Barnes of VBOB on the left is seated with Andre Mernier, Second Secretary of Belgian Embassy. Andre was born in Bastogne in 1942 and knows "of exploits and courage of the American soldiers" which he learned from his family.



Harold Seymour, 26th "Yankee" Inf. Div. is still able to wear his "Ike Jacket". Harold travelled all the way from Manhattan, Kansas to be with us.



Panorama view of group listening at General Meeting.





These three lovely ladies are WWII nurses. L to R: Dorothy Steinbis Davis, 57th Field Hospital; Janis T. Bours Reilly and Marie Showalter, both of the 51st Field Hospital. All are VBOB members.



It was a mini-reunion for these former POWs. L to R: David Schenk, 75th Inf. Div.; Marshall Martin, 99th Inf. Div.; Galen Camfield, 106th Inf. Div. and Michael O'Reagan, 405th Fighter Grp, Air Corps. Robert Van Houten, not pictured, was also a POW.



Charles B. Mac Donald, former Company Commander in 23rd Regt., 2nd Inf. Div., a military author and historian was the guest main speaker. He spoke on the Ultra-Enigma German coding machine.



Your editor on the right talking to Raymond Locke, 30th Inf. Div. in the center and a 28th Inf. Div. veteran on the left whose name got lost in the shuffle. Sorry!



Non-Profit Organization

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Arlington, Virginia 22210-2129

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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1322 TENBROOK CT
ODENTON, MD 21113

