

The BULGE BUGLE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION ☆ VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

VOLUME III NUMBER 2

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

SEPTEMBER 1984

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The VBOB President's Annual Report announced that this year's meeting committee selected the Twin Bridges Marriott Hotel as the November 9, 10 and 11th site. Ideally located in Virginia, it is just across the scenic Potomac River from Washington, D.C. on US 395 and US 1 located two miles from the Washington National Airport. There is ample free parking. A ten-minute walk to the Washington Metro (subway) station at the Pentagon Building is available if you are without transportation.

Hotel rates are most reasonable at prices go in the Nation's Capital. The Marriott has allocated ten rooms for those who wish to spend one week before the meeting and ten rooms for those who desire to remain after the meeting for a week. The price will remain at the same discount rate as for the meeting days. PLEASE NOTE THE DEADLINE DATE ON THE HOTEL REGISTRATION FORM ENCLOSED.

ARLINGTON + + + + +

An historical event of the meeting will be the laying of the wreath at Arlington National Cemetery on Sunday, Armistice Day. For the first time the VBOB flag will join those of other major veterans' organizations. While you may have seen this ceremony on television, nothing takes the place of actually being there. It is a very moving experience not to be missed.

ORAL HISTORIES + + + + +

It is difficult to believe that forty years have passed since the Battle of the Bulge took place. Even more amazing is that most of the veterans of the battle have almost

(Continued on Page 2 - GENERAL...)

NEW VBOB CHAPTERS

New chapters were recently established. They are the Northern Wisconsin Chapter in Wausau, Wisconsin and the Central New York Chapter in Syracuse. In both areas, VBOB members who worked to get new members learned very quickly that the most logical sources of new members are existing service organizations. In both locations, members of the American Legion, VFW, DAV and other veterans' organizations held out their helping hands.

In Wausau, the VFW club permitted us to use their facilities for an organizational meeting. In Syracuse, the American Legion Post acted as our host. These are excellent examples of cooperation between organizations which share a common goal. There is no competition among the many veterans' service organizations. They all wish to serve as reminders of the contributions and sacrifices that our U.S. servicemen have

made toward the preservation of our form of government and our American way of life. That may sound just a little corny to some people but, to those of us who have spend time in foreign lands, it is a basic truth.

I doubt very much if there is a single VBOB member who is not a member of at least one other veterans' organization. I would ask a favor of each of you -- remind your friends in those other veterans' groups that we have so much in common. Remind them by setting an example and working for cooperation within our veterans' ranks. Numerically we comprise one of the largest groups in this country. The U.S. Supreme Court has recognized that we occupy a very unique position in this Nation. Let us act in unison

(Continued on Page 2 - NEW VBOB...)



(GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, Cont'd.)

total recall of the experiences of that period of their lives. Hopefully, those of you who attend the meeting will record for posterity those events during the Oral History session.

C O N C E R T + + + + +

Another historical event of our organization will take place in the evening on Saturday, November 10th. The United States Army Band will entertain VBOB veterans with a concert at the Daughters of the American Revolution-Constitution Hall. Through the efforts of VBOB there will be a composition in the concert dedicated to the Battle of the Bulge.

M E E T W I T H Y O U R C O M R A D E S

Although we cannot all take the VBOB tour back to Europe on this, the fortieth anniversary of the greatest land battle ever fought by the U.S. Army, you can join some of your comrades at the 1984 General Membership Meeting. Our WWII experiences were a very important part of our lives; having participated in the Battle of the Bulge gives even more meaning to our war-time service. The uniqueness of meeting and socializing with men of other units is that one discovers there is a common bond that makes for instant friendships between veterans of various units.

B A N Q U E T + + + + +

The annual banquet will be the culmination of this momentous weekend. By the time dinner is held, each of you will have made friendships with men of other units. You will be comparing notes and finding that we all went through pretty much the same experiences in varying degrees. It will be an evening that in some respects will be sad because it will be the termination of a fine weekend. It will also be a time when our new-made acquaintances will be less inhibited than when you first met them. There will, of course, be a notable guest speaker.

It is hoped that as many of you as possible will attend the 1984 General Membership Meeting. You are promised an entertaining and enlightened weekend. You will go back to your homes knowing and feeling that you really helped write a part of American history in those dark, cold December days of 1944. The banquet and dance on Sunday evening will be the final activity of this memorable weekend. Bill Greenville, our

(NEW VBOB CHAPTERS, Cont'd.)

and with a high degree of integrity and sense of responsibility in protecting the rights of all veterans and the continued freedom of our Nation.

... Wm. A. Simpkins, V.P. for Regional Coordination



LOOK FAMILIAR, MEMBERS ? ? ? ? ?

Contributed by VBOB members Raphael and Maris d'Amico-Gerard, Saint Nicolas, Belgium.....

program chairman, has promised us several surprises in the way of honored guests. Last year Secretary of the Army John Marsh was our guest speaker. This year we can expect a notable of the same stature. Dance music will be provided by a combo made up of members from the United States Army Band. Tunes of the 40's will be the highlight of the evening, reminiscent of the Service Club dances on Saturday nights at the Army Camps.

... The General Membership Meeting Committee

R E M E M B E R to send in your registration form along with a check for the meeting fee (payable to Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge) if you plan to attend the meeting. This will help the committee much. SEE YOU THERE!

THE ARMORED FORCE MONUMENT

A long overdue offensive is about to be launched.

The Armored Force was introduced to battle four wars ago. Since that time millions of proud veterans have served in armored units. Their successes in combat are legend, yet no monument has been erected to honor their endeavors.

Recently a special committee was formed in the Washington area to correct this oversight. A monument design has been proposed, financial structure established and plans formulated to make the Armored Force monument a reality. Meetings are being scheduled with Department of the Interior, the National Capital Memorial Advisory Committee, the Commission of Fine Arts and a number of other agencies having concurrent responsibility for official monuments in the Washington area. A site is being requested along Memorial Drive (The Avenue of Heroes) leading to Arlington Cemetery.

Senator Strom Thurmond (SC) has sponsored SJR 277, the required legislation in the U. S. Senate. Senators John Warner and Paul Trible of Virginia are co-sponsors. Congressman Floyd Spence (SC) and his co-sponsors Congresswoman Marjorie Hold (MD) and Congressmen Robin Tallon (SC) and Frank Wolf (VA) have introduced JHR 582 as a companion bill in the House.

The cost of the monument must be borne by former members of the Force through voluntary contributions. A finance committee is being established to expedite accumulation and accounting of necessary capital to complete the project. They will work through the various Armored Unit Associations.

The proposed design is the essence of simplicity. Occupying a space approximately 20 x 40 feet, it consists of the armored patch superimposed on a granite slope representative of the tank glacis. To the left and right of the patch are the "immortal words" flowing into two sweeping arms of granite, depicting the envelopment for which the Armored Force became famous. The inscription below the patch, a quote of Major General Adna R. Chaffee, defines the Force itself and reads "A balanced team of combat arms and services of equal importance and equal prestige." Unit patches of those serving in the Force through four wars will be etched on the inner walls of the curved arms.

The monument does not favor any individual, unit or branch. Its purpose is to honor those dedicated veterans whose individual and collective feats made the American Armored Force both feared and respected on countless battlefields throughout the world.

Donations are welcomed by the Armored Force Monument Committee, P.O. Box 1146, Ft. Myer, VA 22211. Tax-free status has been requested.

President Clyde Boden is pleased to announce that the VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE Executive Council has approved a \$500 donation. He says contributions in any amount will help; we all served in or with units of the Armored Force.

...James H. Leach



A charter was presented to The Northern Wisconsin Chapter, Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, this summer. Here Wm. A. Simpkins, VBOB Vice President for Regional Coordination presents the charter to Wm. P. Schneider as Walter W. Riedl looks on. Photo coverage of the charter presentation to the Central New York Chapter in Syracuse will be published when material becomes available.



VBOB MEMORABILIA

Ties, lapel pins, mugs, patches, decals and calendars will be available for purchase at the forthcoming GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING on the following schedule:
Nov. 9 and 10 -- 10 a.m. to Noon and 2 to 4 p.m. Nov. 11 -- 2 to 4 p.m.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

November 9, 10 & 11, 1984

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH

9:30 a.m. - 12:00 Noon Registration
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Registration
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Attitude Adjustment Session
(Cocktails)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH

8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. General Meeting
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon Panel Discussion
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 Noon Registration
12:00 Noon - 1:30 p.m. Lunch Break
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Business Meeting
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Registration
7:15 p.m. - PROMPTLY Board Busses for Concert
8:00 p.m. U.S. Army Band Concert - Presentation of Musical Composition Dedicated to the Battle of the Bulge - Constitution Hall

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH

10:00 a.m. - PROMPTLY Board Busses for Arlington National Cemetery
11:00 a.m. Wreath-Laying Ceremonies at Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers
6:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. Cocktails
7:45 p.m. Banquet with Guest Speaker
9:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m. Dancing



A REMINDER that VBOB members can get discounts on U. S. AIR fares and AVIS rental cars by calling the Bee Kalt Travel Agency on toll free 1-800-321-2697 and ask for Laura Ginn. Mention that you are a Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge member.

DAVE RUBY NOMINATED FOR RECOGNITION

Past Historian Dave Ruby has been nominated for national recognition in the 1984 Register of Esquire Magazine. The Register will contain 50 honorees under 40 years of age from all walks of life who have been an inspiration to others in a project or cause. Dave's citation recognizes him for his military knowledge and intensity in playing a major role in the establishment of VBOB.

The Esquire Magazine Nominating Committee will compile a list of about 5,000 names from those submitted from which 500 will be submitted to the Final Selection Committee. The 50 chosen will be interviewed by a major American writer for inclusion in the December issue.

Dave, who lives at 439 Third St., Apt. 3, Pitcairn, PA 15140, completed a three-year enlistment last year at Fort Myer, VA with the Military Police. Prior thereto and since, Dave is a sergeant with the Pitcairn Police Department.

We wish you the best, Dave!

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WWII FILMS

Among the many audiovisuals from the historic holdings of the National Archives (purchase or rental) are these newly released WWII documentary film classics:

Frank Capra's "The Army-Navy Screen Magazine--Highlights," "Know Your Ally-Britain," "Here is Germany," "Your Job in Germany" and "Our Job in Japan."

John Huston's "Report from the Aleutians" and "Let There Be Light."

Office of War Information, Domestic: "Japanese Relocation."

The Final Days: "Seeds of Destiny."

Information on these films and others may be obtained from the National AudioVisual Center, National Archives and Records Service, G.S.A., Information Services JL, Washington, D.C. 20409 or call (301) 763-1896.

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VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

Our objectives are

- To foster international peace and good will
- To promote friendship
- To perpetuate the memory of the sacrifices involved
- To preserve historical data and sites

Plan NOW to meet with US

Members Speak Out

Stan Biernat of Grand Rapids, Michigan, on paying his dues for another year, advises us he is presently the State Commander of the Catholic War Veterans, a Service organization numbering about one thousand members in Michigan. Congratulations, Stan! ...Ed.

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JUSTICE FOR ALL ---

"As Sergeant Major of an Engineer battalion participating in the Battle of the Bulge, with three line companies under our command, I was known as The Compromiser (and other names unprintable here). Weekly meetings with our company First Sergeants (all of whom believed they had the best company in the regiment) and during which I would attempt to settle disputes among them, were hilarious at times. The Battalion Commander and I welcomed good competition, of course.

"On one occasion, Companies "D" and "F" were bivouaced next to each other in a confined area. After the third morning, Co. "D's" big, burly, tough Top Kick stormed into my office. (The staff as well as the furniture shook when he spoke). He announced loudly, 'I'm going to kill that 1st Sgt of Co. "F" if you don't make him hold reveille at the same time Co. "D" does. He blows his whistle way too early and my men are out for roll call and chow before we're ready.'

"Since we did not want to dictate a specific time for reveille in the companies, I suggested to the irate Top Kick that he hold reveille 15 minutes earlier than Co. "F." He left the Battalion Headquarters with a wide grin on his face -- a little boy with a new bike.

"The next morning he took my advice and, for the first time since the regiment formed at Camp Ellis, Illinois, both companies were agreeable and decided on a mutual time for reveille."

---Andrew A. Scuteri, Joliet, Ill.

[Thanks, Andy. As a member of Co. "D" I remember this too well. . . . Ed.]

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Lee J. "Durock" Stevenson, 105 Marcus St., Hamilton, MT 59840, would like to hear from buddies of Ft. Sill's 18th FA and Indio, CA Desert Maneuvers, 689th FA, as well as the Metz Campaign of the Battle of the Bulge.

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Thomas D. Gillis, Greenbrae, CA, tells us that, during the Bulge days, the Fourth Armored Division managed to find a printer for the unit's Christmas card. Here it is.

Christmas 1944

But here where 'ere we be, 'neath palm or pine,
In tropic heat or huddled 'gainst the wintry gale,
A-quake with fear at screaming, leaden hail,
Or irked with War's oft-boring drab design;
One thought above all grips us binds our ties,
For irrespective of our mental train
On why we're fighting, what we seek to gain,
We pray for home and all it signifies.

Back there, behind your outward cheery mask,
Attending to the chores we left undone,
Or slaving hard to ease our common task,
To you we send our hope that Peace is won
And homeward-bound, to all we hold so dear,
We'll sail before the passing of a year.

- Tom Gillis

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Harry Heinemann, Jr. (Hq Co, 3rd Bn, 319th Inf, 80th Div) of Wausau, WI writes of a trip he made some years ago to Luxembourg and Germany. He tells of seeing again segments of the Siegfried Line and a pill-box and of locating an Oklahoma buddy's grave in Hamm Cemetery. Any long unheard-from buddies of Harry? You can call him at (715) 845-4983.

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VBOB Member, Bruce J. Todd, 125 6th N.W., Demotte, IN 46310 would like to hear from anyone he served with in the 4th Cav. Recon. Sqdn, under VII Corps after Dec. 20, 1944, especially members of Troop A.

. . . DAV MAGAZINE

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Sister Louise Jeanelle, c/o Little Sisters of the Poor, 185 Salem Church Rd., Newark, Del. 19713 would like to hear from anyone knowing her brother, Lawrence P. Jeanelle who served with 101st Abn, 501st Regt, Co. B and who was KIA in 1945 . . . DAV MAGAZINE

A TIME FOR TRUMPETS

THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

Charles B. MacDonald, author of *Company Commander*, and other WWII books, announces his latest endeavor commemorating the fortieth anniversary of the Bulge, the first definitive account of the 600,000 American troops of the U.S. Army's most dramatic and most glorious victory. He writes of the battle behind the battle -- a hard-hitting and critical analysis of events and commanders such as Ike, Monty, Bradley and Patton -- and of Secret ULTRA and MAGIC intercepts of enemy radio communications which told an attack was imminent, but that no one heeded the warning. Fresh material in this book includes interviews with survivors of the infamous Malmedy massacre and with German commanders and foot soldiers and experiences of civilians trapped by the battle. By underscoring the human side of the war in this book, the author proves it was indeed *A Time for Trumpets*!

§-Book-of-the-Month Club Featured Alternate

§-History Book Club Main Selection

§-British Military Book Club Main Selection



TWIN BRIDGES Marriott Hotel

U.S.-1 and I-395, Washington, D.C. 20024 (202) 628-4200

HOUFFALIZE REMEMBERS

The city of Houffalize, Belgium wishes to commemorate the tragic death of 190 people in 1944-1945 and invites anyone interested to attend a dedication ceremony to take place there on January 5, 1985.

The city has nothing to show for the slaughter of these citizens and wishes to erect a monument to remind the children, grandchildren and all future generations of the martyrdom of the innocent victims of this period in their lives forty years ago.

Anyone interested in details of the ceremony or in subscribing to a fund toward a monument are invited to contact the Athletics & Recreation Branch, ATTN: Mrs. Marie-Christine Capiaux, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, APO New York 09055.

Mrs. Capiaux, SHAPE-NATO, is acting in behalf of the HOUFFALIZE REMEMBERS committee.

. . . Ed.

MORE

Members Speak Out

Raymond G. Carpenter of Seminole, FL, a long-time VBOB Charter Member, writes to provide a copy of War Dept. General Orders awarding Battle Honors to his Battle of the Bulge unit, the 112th Inf. Regimental Combat Team during the period Dec. 16-24, 1944 as a part of the oldest division in our service, the 28th Infantry "Keystone" Division. He advises he has lectured and written about "The Bulge" and the 28th Division for 27 years. The material Mr. Carpenter has provided the VBOB gives basis to the concept that very few, if any, addresses, lectures or books on the subject of the Battle of the Bulge can ever give adequate and exact credit to each and every instance of exceptional distinction and honor brought to it by the many and varied units which participated. All are equally credited with having contributed their part to the overall success of battle.

OPERATION KOBLENZ

Much has been written about the deception and camouflage used by the Germans to hide their massive build-up in preparation for the surprise German counter-offensive in the Ardennes in December 1944 as well as the American and Allied intelligence failure to give warning of German intent. In contrast, almost unknown and unpublicized, have been the deceptive practices of our Special Troops during World War II in Europe. The following account is about one fake operation involving the 23rd Hq. Special Troops and a simulated phoney 75th Infantry Division.

OPERATION KOBLENZ was to have been executed in two phases, but the second phase was interrupted by Operation Grief, the December 16th Ardennes counter-offensive of German Field Marshall Gerd von Rundstedt. The first phase occurred from December 6 through 14, 1944 in the area west of Luxembourg City. The objective was to contain the present German strength on the VIII Corps front until December 30 by posing an attack down the Moselle Valley toward Koblenz.

In this operation, the 23rd Hq acted in a supervisory capacity for the VIII Corps. It also supplied the skilled deceptive units, but the deception involved most of VIII Corps. The Corps planned to attack through Trier to Koblenz according to the deceptive plan. Using assumed names, Corps Artillery moved some units into support positions. Infantry patrolling was intensified and Engineer and Ordnance dumps were to move as in a build-up. Propaganda, press and counter-agents were to spread word of the attack. The job given the 23rd Hq. was to supply an extra division. The guise of the unit was changed four times -- from the 9th Infantry to the 78th Infantry to the 106th Infantry to the 75th Infantry. Each time an identity was chosen, the operation was postponed and the real division appeared somewhere along the front. The 75th Infantry was finally chosen because it was enroute from England and the enemy probably did not know its location. A 23rd Hq. liaison officer flew to England to secure SOI's, itineraries, shoulder patches and other specifications for special effects.

The phoney 75th Infantry Division moved into the billeting area over a three-day period beginning December 9th. To accomplish this, unmarked 23rd vehicles infiltrated into a hidden transit area west of Arlon, Belgium where signs, bumper markings and insignia were applied. The vehicles then moved out in "75th convoys." These vehicle movements were then reported to German Signal Intelligence in SLIDEX which was the weakest code, by 23rd traffic radios. At night, this convoy traffic was augmented by sonic means. The 3132nd Signal Service Co. played sounds accompanying the convoys to indicate a greater number of vehicles

than there actually were. Beginning on December 11, "CI" commanders began reconnaissance of forward areas as if preparing for an attack. On December 12, Engineers began preparations for a river crossing. On December 13 some real tanks were moved up to Osweiler. Sonic effects were used at night to triple the sound of the tanks. The "75th Infantry" began fading from the area and fictional columns were reported by 23rd radios to be moving north.

Phase II of KOBLENZ was scheduled to begin on December 21st. It was to use practically the same scenario at Phase I, but played slightly to the north. The 23rd Hq. was supposed to impersonate the 76th Infantry Division. Although no formal cancellation of Phase II was ever made, it was soon obvious that it would never be attempted due to the German counter-attack. The ruse was complete about two weeks later when the real 75th Infantry Division came in on the northwest slope of the "Bulge" near Marche, Belgium.

There's no concrete evidence of success for OPERATION KOBLENZ. It is not known if the Germans were convinced that the 75th Infantry Division was participating in a buildup to attack Koblenz; this was the picture that the 23rd Hq. was attempting to show. A soldier from the 4th Infantry Division, who was in an evacuation hospital a few days after the German counter-offensive began, was heard to remark "I'd like to get my hands on those elusive bastards of the 75th!" Also reported was a PW statement from the 4th Division's 12th Regiment to the effect that the German thought that he had been captured by the 75th Infantry Division.

"THE ARDENNES: BATTLE OF THE BULGE" by Hugh M. Cole has this to say about the deceptive operation described above. "On 15 December the intelligence staff at Rundstedt's headquarters took one last look at the opposite side of the hill. Advance elements of the only new American division to arrive on the Western Front, the 75th, had been identified the day before in the Roer sector." The "rubber duck" operation on the VIII Corps front in which special troops from the 12th Army Group simulated an additional division (the 75th) had been reflected for some days on German situation maps by a question mark. On December 15th, however, OB WEST was satisfied that no new division existed and the question mark disappeared. (So apparently OPERATION KOBLENZ fooled the Germans to some degree).

Based on an article in THE GUIDON, publication of Co. G, 2nd Bn, 291st Inf. Regt. VBOB's Pete Dounis tells us this TOP SECRET WWII operation was relaxed 37 years after its inception. . . . Ed.

AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION AND BY LAWS

At the March 1984 meeting of the Executive Council, under extant constitutional authority (Art. XIII.A), the Constitution and By Laws were amended in several respects. Generally the changes are here set forth. Preliminarily, it is here noted that the VBOB intends to publish the Constitution and By Laws in pamphlet form in 1985 after the present plenary power of the Executive Council to amend expires.

Art. IX of the Constitution dealing with Officers was amended by adding Surgeon, deleting Liaison Officer for Public Affairs, and providing for both a Liaison Officer for International Affairs and a Liaison Officer for Military Units (Para. B) and defining duties (G.8.(h), (i), (j) and (k)). The President was authorized to appoint an Advisory Board (g.1).

Art XI was amended in several respects. Firstly, the date for the terms of the Executive Council members-at-large were changed, and that in the event of further failure of nominations the provisions for the same shall be deleted as of July 1, 1985. Secondly, the Executive Council shall include a delegate from each VBOB chapter. Finally, representatives of military veterans' units shall be invited as observers at Executive Council meetings (see also Art. III, By Laws).

Art. VI of the By Laws was amended as to nominations. As to elected officers, it was made clearer how the slate would be publicized and further, that the Nominating Committee would consider recommendations made by a chapter or petition received at least 45 days before publication of the slate.

Finally, Art. VII of the By Laws dealing with annual dues was amended in its original form.

. . . J. Langbart, Gen. Counsel

"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

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

July 20, 1984 was proclaimed National POW/MIA Recognition Day throughout the United States by President Reagan. To commemorate this event, a ceremony was held in Washington, D.C. by the President and Mrs. Reagan.

Guests included former POWs, MIAs and their families. Two VBOB members known to be present were Bob VanHouten, VBOB Vice President for Membership, and Marshall Martin of Danville, VA. Both men were captured by German forces during the Battle of the Bulge.

There were perhaps 500 or more POWs and several hundred MIA family members who enjoyed tea, coffee and breakfast rolls at 8:30 in the morning and were given a copy of the President's proclamation.

After a 21-gun salute, the Secretary of Defense introduced President Reagan after whose remarks the benediction was given by Rear Admiral Neil M. Stevenson.

The highlight of the ceremony was a fly-over of four Navy jets, one of which peeled off directly upward to signify those men still missing in action.



"You'll get over it, Joe. Once I wuz gonna write a book exposin' the army after it's war myself."

VBOB ARCHIVIST

Wm. E. Mock, Savannah, GA, reports that our Archivist, Frances W. Doherty, through her determined and endless research, found that the tiny two-gun unit of her late husband, Lt. Jack Doherty, succeeded in delaying a German armor advance for six hours. His unit, the 825th TD Bn, knocked out four "Tiger Royals" during the encounter and prevented the enemy attempt from breaking through and confiscating enormous quantities of badly needed gas and oil on the cutskirts of Stavelot. Lt. Doherty was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, an Oak Leaf Cluster to the Purple Heart, the British Military Cross, the French Croix de Guerre and the Belgian Croix de Guerre.



Here VBOB President Clyde Boden presents to Frances Doherty a history of the Seventh Armored Division for the VBOB archives and library. Published two years ago and entitled "The Seventh Armored Division - A Historical Overview - 1942-1945" it contains detailed accounts of all the major battles of the European Theater of Operations. Mrs. Doherty's exhaustive research into her husband's participation in the Battle of the Bulge was made a member of the 825th TD Bn at the unit's first reunion last October and is the only lady listed on the unit's staff.



Reunion~~~

Sherod Collins, Atlanta, announces a reunion of the 106th Infantry Division to be held at the Downtown Motor Inn, Savannah, GA, July 12-15, 1984.

P L E A S E N O T E --- A number of announcements of outfit reunions have been received too late for publication. They should be submitted prior to February and August 20th until such time as THE BULGE BUGLE may be able to publish more often than its present two editions annually. . . . Ed.

A STATEMENT FROM PRESIDENT CLYDE D. BODEN

As I again contemplate the epic Battle of the Bulge, broad enough in scope to be designated a campaign, I am more keenly aware of attributes common to the million or so ground and air combatants who fought in the fog, snow, ice, rain, and mud in Belgium and Luxembourg.

- . . . Love of country.
- . . . Great, even superhuman, courage.
- . . . Respect for the enemy's high levels of training and discipline.

Forty years after that six-week fight -- also referred to as the Ardennes Campaign, the Battle of the Ardennes, the Battle of the Salient, and Von Rundstedt's Offensive -- its place in world history is assured.

Although the memory of war and its hardships now should be dimmer, to many survivors it may seem to have happened only yesterday.

But, whatever, now is the time for former comrades and former enemies to say "Peace" to each other for no one wants peace more than those who have known war.

Our common legacy is that the trials, tribulations and tragedies of war far outweigh any alleged glory. Nothing like it should occur again and it will not if we remain strong and of high purpose.

VBOB OFFICERS -- 1984

President.....Clyde D. Boden
 Executive Vice President..Wm. T. Greenville
 Vice President for Regional
 Coordination.....Wm. A. Simpkins
 Vice President for Military
 Affairs.....Eugene G. Drouillard
 Vice President for
 Membership.....Robert J. VanHouten
 Treasurer.....Wm. R. Hemphill
 Recording Secretary.....Quinty C. DeAngelis
 Corresponding Secretary....Thomas D. Gillis
 General Counsel.....Joseph Langbart
 Chaplain.....George W. Hall, Jr.
 Editor.....R. L. Lemmon
 Historian.....
 Archivist.....Frances W. Doherty
 Librarian.....Frances W. Doherty
 Public Relations Officer.....Roy Gordon
 Surgeon.....Morris Ackerman
 Photographer.....Sam Silverman
 Liaison for Inter-
 governmental Affairs....Malcolm R. Wilkey
 Liaison for Inter-
 national Affairs.....Charles deM. Barnes
 Liaison for Military Units.Neil B. Thompson
 Chairman, Audit Committee....Earl L. Meyers
 Chairman, General Membership
 Meeting Committee.....E. L. Loiacono
 Chairman, Nominating
 Committee.....Peter G. Dounis

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.

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1985 VBOB SLATE

Peter G. Dounis, Chairman, Nominating Committee, announces the slate of VBOB officers for next year. It is as follows:

FOR PRESIDENT -- ROBERT J. VanHOUTEN.

FOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR MEMBERSHIP -- HERBERT TOSCANO.

FOR RECORDING SECRETARY -- (To be announced).

All other positions remain as shown for 1984, above.

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VBOB HONORS SEVEN

As VBOB nears its third anniversary, it is important to recognize that our successes are attributable to many dedicated and hard-working people.

There are several groups that come to mind -- the founding members, the members of the Executive Council, the members of the Advisory Board, the presidents of the chapters in Northern Wisconsin and Central New York, and others who are serving or have served in leadership and supportive positions.

There is another group -- those who have encouraged others to join VBOB by way of conversation, correspondence, newspaper and magazine items, and radio and television spots.

Realizing that in citing those who fall in that distinguished category some may be missed (let us know who); nevertheless we salute the following who have done so much for the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge:

Eddie Arn of Ohio
 Tom Garos of New Hampshire
 Tom Harris of North Carolina
 John Kearney of Pennsylvania
 Joe Oravec of Pennsylvania
 Bill Schneider of Wisconsin
 Herb Toscano of New York

...Clyde D. Boden, Pres., VBOB

VBOB

History Project Continues

Attached is the VBOB HISTORY DONATION form which should accompany all accounts -- oral and written -- of World War II experiences of VBOB members especially as concerns the Ardennes Campaign. The material thus gathered undoubtedly shall be one of VBOB's principal legacies. The Organization will not consider it complete until every WWII veteran member of VBOB has contributed.

In preparing your account -- either in writing or on tape -- please state your name, address, and other identifying data referred to on the form. The form is merely for internal use and is to be filed separately from the report. The form should also accompany the original or copies of documents, photographs and other material donated to VBOB which matter should also have pertinent information about the donor.

. . . J. Langbart, Gen. Counsel

The Great Pilgrimage -- A Bitter-Sweet Experience

Enjoying receptions and parties, renewing old and making new acquaintances, journeying over once-familiar territory -- yes, these are the good things that members and relatives and friends of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge and others will find in the great pilgrimage of Americans to Europe in 1984.

These will be happy days.

Happy days because of the congeniality and generosity of Belgians, Luxembourgers, and others who again will open their hearts and their homes to those who were in the six-week Battle of the Bulge in the winter of 1944-1945.

Former friends will meet. The friends will be from the same combat unit and from Belgian and Luxembourg villages and hamlets -- those who shared their homes, those who performed noble and heroic acts in risking their all for the safety and freedom of others, those who as teenagers "joined" an American military unit.

Former enemies will meet. Most will recall that they were performing their patriotic duty for their country as they shake hands in seeking a harmonious world.

Many American units will be sending groups to Europe in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge and other World War II events -- many small units and the 2nd, 4th, 5th, 26th, 28th, 30th, 45th, 75th, 78th, 80th, 83rd, 84th, 87th, 90th, 99th, and 106th Infantry Divisions; 2nd, 7th, and 10th Armored Divisions; and 17th, 82nd, and 101st Airborne Divisions.

The Battle of the Bulge, officially known as the Ardennes Campaign, began on December 16, 1944, when eight German Panzer divisions and other units attacked a weak sector of the allied line on a 60-mile front from south of Monschau, Germany, to the vicinity of Echternach, Luxembourg.

Poor visibility, low clouds, fog, and snow were factors that enabled the offensive forces to ultimately extend their drive as far west as Celles, Belgium, about 50 miles away. This surprise attack, if overlaid on a map of Northeastern United States would extend from Allentown, Pa., to Wilmington, Del., and as far west as Harrisburg, Pa.

Nearly one million troops were involved in this pivotal struggle which Sir Winston Churchill hailed as "undoubtedly the greatest American battle of the war...an ever-famous American victory" and which was characterized by President Ronald Reagan as "one of the U.S. Army's proudest feats of arms and the conclusive victory of World War II."

These will be sad days.

Sad days because veterans will be reminded of their longing for home and for their loved ones, of the bitterness of the wind and cold and snow, of endless days without dry clothes or good meals, of weeks without a bath, of buddies wounded and dying.

Memories will become even more meaningful as cemeteries are visited and wreaths are laid and the echo of "Taps" fades in the heavens.

Such thoughts will never leave those who were involved in this battle. Many do not want to return for these reasons.

Kill or be killed was a difficult rule to follow, sometimes, by ordinary hardened young men -- many in school, the factory, the office, the business world just a short year or two before -- who exhibited extraordinary and ferocious valor without which the surprise offensive would have succeeded; the consequences can only be guessed at today.

Men learned how to pray and found the true meaning and the real value of prayer. And there was sacrifice, even self-sacrifice, for the common good.

Three of the VBOB objectives -- to perpetuate the memory of the sacrifices involved, to promote friendships and to foster international peace and goodwill -- are being met by this memorable trip to the Ardennes in a journey to the pages of history when, 40 years ago, these combat troops took patriotism, loyalty, and courage for granted.

This journey will be the last hurrah for many...the last glimpse of a major and unforgettable part of the past...the opportunity to say "No one wants peace any more...than those who have known war."

...C. D. Boden

Dorothy Steinbis Davis, R.N., an American Army Nurse during the Battle of the Bulge, gives us a nurse's view - - - - -

UP FRONT WITH THE 57th FIELD HOSPITAL

On December 16, 1944, as the German Army smashed through the weakened American lines and on into Belgium, the 57th Field Hospital was overwhelmed with casualties in the French Sector. Since early November 1944 it provided medical support to the Infantry and Armored Divisions of the 7th Army as those men fought their way across France, many too severely wounded to withstand transportation to a hospital to the rear. A long jolting ambulance ride over shell-pocked, twisting roads could be nearly as injurious to the wounded as the enemy's gunfire.

The constantly changing "line of combat" made frequent hospital moves necessary. We became quite proficient and could pack up and load all of the equipment (including operating rooms) in a matter of hours. The safe evacuation of the patients to the rear was always of great concern.

Reassignment for a hospital unit frequently meant traveling at night in blackout conditions. Due to our proximity to the Voges Mountains the snow, ice and fog often hampered the move. On many occasions we would arrive at the designated area in freezing pre-dawn weather only to find the assigned buildings full of debris from recent shelling or previous occupants. The 57th, though not specifically assigned within the perimeter of the Battle of the Bulge, provided medical care for the wounded there.

On one occasion my detachment was directly involved in the repercussions of the Battle of the Bulge. This unit was caught in a German counter-attack in the Saverne Gap as the American troops were being removed to reinforce our troops fighting in the Battle of the Bulge. There were moments when we feared we might be the first American hospital captured by the German Army. Thanks to the timely assistance of the men and trucks from the 79th Division Quartermaster Company the hospital, patients and personnel were afforded a hurried but safe withdrawal from the hamlet of Surbourg, France to a more secure position.

From November 21, 1944 to February 22, 1945 the units of the 57th moved 28 times and

COME ON, READERS!

Break out the writing paper and envelopes! You probably have a favorite Battle of the Bulge story or just want to tell the rest of us something of interest. Or, how about your comments on what you'd like to see and read in our paper? Or whatever.

When you write to VBOB on more than one subject, please address your letter to our headquarters in Arlington.

Your correspondence or material for THE BULGE BUGLE only may be sent direct to me at the following address: R. L. Lemmon, Editor-THE BULGE BUGLE, 1247 Sycamore Drive, Jenison, MI 49428.

I'll be watching my mailbox! Let's hear from YOU!

Yours in Comradeship,

R. L. Lemmon



GENERAL GEORGE S. PATTON, JR.

The negative of this photo was given to a VBOB member by Mrs. Patton. Let us know who sent it to VBOB President Boden so that the negative may be returned to its owner.

gave medical care to 958 patients. Over 500 of the patients required surgery and, because of their severe injuries, the mortality rate was high. Often it was the courage and humor of the wounded themselves which served to lift our spirits. There are many nurses, I'm sure, who smile as they recall a patient looking up from a stretcher and, upon seeing a female in combat uniform and helmet, calling in disbelief to his buddies, "Hey, an American Nurse!" Even now, forty years later, most of us nurses would still say, "I was proud to have been there."

RAY EVANS HONORED AT D-DAY CEREMONY

The Francis Scott Key Chapter of the Association of the U. S. Army and the personnel of Fort George G. Meade, MD, on June 6th honored veterans of the storming of the Normandy beaches 40 years ago. Ray Evans, a founding member of VBOB and the immediate past Commander of the Department of Virginia, DAV, was one of the nine honorees; he served with the 20th Combat Engineers.

The D-Day Commemoration began with a late morning band concert under sunny skies, a historical narration, honors, and the National Anthem. Following poignant remarks by Lt. Gen. Donald E. Rosenblum, Commanding General of the First U. S. Army, a proclamation from Maryland Governor Harry Hughes was read. After the benediction, three successive volleys, each fired simultaneously from four 155-mm cannons, were followed by the playing of "echo" taps.

Many of the several hundred people then socialized in the Officers' Club, observed the presentation of the colors, pledged allegiance, and watched a television tape of D-Day. Lunch followed the invocation.

Chapter President, retired Command Sergeant Major C. Otis Hendrix, served as master of ceremonies and introduced the guests at the head table and visiting military, veterans, and civic groups; a hearty round of applause greeted the large number of VBOB members and guests who were present.

Individual citations were read and Gen. Rosenblum presented certificates to each of the honorees. One of them, retired Brig. Gen. John P. Cooper, movingly recalled his battalion's training and preparation for the D-Day landing and the day's hectic and unforgettable events. He commanded the 110th FA Battalion of the 29th Infantry Division.

Col. Donald S. Fujitani, Post Commander, made timely comments and the impressive and colorful ceremonies ended with the benediction and the retirement of the colors.

THE LASTING ASSOCIATION

Now, long after it is over,
We settle back and review the past.
Countless dead, more of the living--
Bound closer together than any
instrument
Could ever hope to measure.
Brothers all in a fraternity of spirit;
A comradeship forever to treasure.

...George C. Koch

VBOB was represented by Clyde Boden, Dan and Sara Bringman, Kipp DeAngelis, Frances Doherty, Gene Drouillard, Ray Evans, Roy and Tess Gordon, Bill Greenville, George Hall, Bill Hemphill, Jim Kessler, Fritz Kraemer, Jimmy Leach, Lucky Loiacono, Bob Phillips, Bill Simpkins, Bill Stickles, Norman and Dorothy Sue, Neil Thompson, Ed Thierry, and Bob VanHouten.

(In the accompanying photo, Ray Evans receives a citation from General Rosenblum).



War-time memories were recalled when Washington, D.C. area VBOB members lunched at Fort Myer, VA July 24th. Vehicles of the 3496th QM Truck Co. of Ben Layton (center) transported troops of the 75th Infantry Div. of Gene Drouillard (at Ben's right) to the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944. Others pictured are Clyde Boden and Ed Thierry (84th Infantry Div.), Bill Hemphill (3rd Armored Div.), George Karambelas (84th Infantry Div.), and Bob VanHouten (16th FA Obsn. Bn.).

1944★1984

THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

**40th Anniversary
Celebrations
Belgium 1984**

Details available from Editor, THE BULGE BUGLE, VBOB

Ogilvy & Mather Public Relations and its office in Brussels are working on a public relations campaign to promote tourism in Belgium during the eight months of commemorative festivities ending on Christmas Day, 1984. A kit which contains a schedule of events, a press release, and medium, large, and very large posters in color and in black and white highlighting the Battle of the Bulge are available by contacting Debbie Shriver, Account Executive, at 1901 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

CHASING YESTERDAY

Motoring a snaking flank of evergreen,
Yesterday,
Returned the old soldier
To Wartime exploits.
It was very different at Odenwal,
The scene of his wounding.
Shell scarred trees healed over
Shattered, tragic destinies
Of the once rubble of victory.
Trenches and dug — outs
Vanished into a providence of landmarks,
Their point of vanishing.
Only a stream, clear and blue,
Familiarized the old front
Of a thousand lives
Where the snows had come and gone.
George C Koch

THOUGHTS OF CLERVAUX

One of those attending the impressive ceremonies at Clervaux, Luxembourg last September when the monument to the American Soldier in the Battle of the Bulge was dedicated was Werner Stahnke. A resident now of Munich, Germany, Werner fought in the Bulge with a light field artillery unit of the 79th Volks Grenadier Division.

In a letter to VBOB President Clyde Boden, he reminisced about that "grand day in lovely Clervaux." Following is a substantial part of that letter.

" . . . All your comments [at the ceremonies] deserve full credit, especially the reference to 'fog, mud, ice, snow,' are reminders of a damned hard period which both camps had to go through. Full military respect all all those who were called up too early in winter 44/45 - Ardennes Battle, etc.

"'No war is good enough' and history is giving us enough lessons that common sense is limited and with this shortcoming mankind must try to live, try to come along (again). Therefore peace must be safeguarded -- a very true conclusion of yours, too!

"As a matter of fact: To be alert at arms is the best defense, the peace workers cannot hide this vital task for the West-camp; dream-like visions can have suicide effects.

"Well, best wishes for your Association."

---C.D.B.

VETERANS BENEFITS

One out of every two American men 65 or older will be eligible for VA benefits by 1990. It is expected there will be, by that year, 7.2 million veterans including females.

Some of the benefits available to these veterans, dependents and/or survivors include service-connected compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC), nonservice-connected pension, death pension, medical care, burial benefits, grave markers and American Flags. There have also been changes in the laws governing Prisoner of War benefits.

Information and assistance regarding all VA benefits is available through your local Red Cross chapter.

Modest Maroa poet

W.W. II works win medal in Paris

By MARK PICKERING
Pantagraph staff

MAROA — In November, Oscar Plummer told a reporter he was "no poet." Some people in Paris disagree.

Plummer, who has lived in this Central Illinois community for most of his adult life, is a gold medal winner. His "olympics" was an international competition recently sponsored by the renowned Academie Internationale de Lutece (Paris).

Plummer, 60, penned dozens of poems during and after World War II. One, which he wrote to his wife, Juanita, while holed up in a muddy apple orchard in France, was published by a Paris literary magazine last year and caught the eye of academy officials.

They wrote Plummer, asking for his permission to enter the entire collection in the annual competition.

Never in his wildest dreams did Plummer think the poems were in the same league with "real" poetry.

But the academy jury, which judged thousands of entries from throughout the world, apparently did, awarding a gold medal to Plummer during the competition that ended last week.

"grand banquet" in late February, an occasion Plummer will have to skip.

The medal was not all the good news. Plummer was also awarded a gold medal for a short article he wrote two years ago about military hero Gen. George S. Patton.

The article tells how Patton earned a Purple Heart as a colonel during World War I. First published by Purple Heart Magazine, it is on display at three museums, including the Imperial War Museum in London.

The academy awards gold, silver and bronze medals and diplomas, which are similar to honorable mention, said Plummer. Plummer's other unique link to Europe is his lifetime designation as Illinois' honorary consul of the Republic of Poland (in exile), a post to which he was appointed 2½ years ago.

"I was just proud that I was asked to have them (the poems) entered," he said. "I thought that maybe if I'm lucky, I'll get a diploma."

But a gold medal?

"I'm telling you, I was really surprised," said Plummer, a retired railroad dispatcher.

Although he still considers himself an amateur, Plummer said

OSCAR PLUMMER - GOLD MEDAL WINNER

The VBOB Library acquired the two interesting documents written by Oscar Plummer described in the accompanying article which appeared in the Pantograph of Bloomington, IL on December 29th -- "Poems of Love" and "Gen. Patton's Purple Heart."

The poems are titled "My Wife" ("Ma Femme" was published in the French literary magazine Inter-Muses), "Building Our Castle," "Life is What We Make It," "Dream Girl," "Expecting," "Curly Head," "Wives," and "A Leaf."

Oscar served with the 743rd Railway Operating Battalion and lives at 103 N.Oak St., Maroa, IL 61756.

INDIANTOWN GAP NATIONAL CEMETERY

The American Legion, Department of Pennsylvania, has published a brochure of "Information for Veteran Interment at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery." It contains detailed information on eligibility, space, burial costs, military honors, etc. More information may be obtained by writing to the cemetery, P.O. Box 187, Annville, PA 17003 or calling (717) 865-5254. . . . Ed

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE
P.O. Box 11129, Arlington, VA 22210-2129

VBOB HISTORY DONATION

Name: _____ Telephone: _____
(Last) (First) (Middle) Area Code

Address: _____
(Street) (Apartment) (City) (State) (ZIP)

During the Ardennes Campaign (December 16, 1944 - January 25, 1945):

My unit was: _____
(Company, Battery, (Regiment, Battalion, Combat
or comparable unit) Command, or comparable)

(Division, Corps, or Army)

I was a _____ on duty as _____
(Rank/Grade) (MOS, e.g., rifleman, cannoneer, etc.)

The attached (written)(oral) account is hereby granted, donated, and devised to the VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE. Any account not contemporaneous with the event is true to the best of my recollection.

I understand that this is part of the VBOB'S project to preserve historical data about the Ardennes Campaign (Battle of the Bulge). I acknowledge the VBOB's right(s) to make this available for historical research and to retransfer to insure proper preservation and subsequent use by a museum, library, or depository (see VBOB Bylaws, Article IX B).

Signed: _____
(Date)

Witness: _____
(Date)

COMMENTS?



VETERANS of the BATTLE OF THE BULGE

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