

The BULGE BUGLE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION ☆ VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

VOLUME IV NUMBER 1

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

JANUARY 1985

FREEDOM AND FRIENDSHIP HIGHLIGHT RETURN OF VETERANS TO BATTLE OF BULGE AREA

Feelings of freedom and friendship were everywhere as members of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge and their relatives and friends visited Belgium and Luxembourg on the 40th anniversary of that 1944-45 wintry battle.



A VBOB plaque presentation on September 28, 1984 to CAM (Centre D'Archeologie Militaire) at Camp Elsenborn, Belgium, the site of a massive display of Bulge materiel, artifacts, photos and documents.

Shown from left are Rene DeLavignette, CAM President; Charles deM. Barnes, VBOB Liaison for International Affairs; Clyde D. Boden, VBOB President; and Quinty C. (Kip) DeAngelis, VBOB Recording Secretary.

Belgians and Luxembourgers of all ages were reminded of the unforgettable experience of becoming free and of their own bravery, young school children presented roses to the American, and officials and veterans exchanged speeches, toasts, plaques, certificates and other gifts.

And veterans, never having thought of returning to battlefields four decades ago, were greeted with much emotion by old friends.

The emotions were real -- as a veteran spoke at a mayoral reception high in a medieval castle and his son, daughter and son-in-law beamed proudly -- as veterans comforted the reminiscing mother who had seen her seven-year-old son killed with an American soldier who had, most heroically, tried to save the lad under heavy fire -- as our chaplain spoke meaningfully in an old and packed church -- as a veteran dramatically described his feelings when he and his wife and another couple gently laid a wreath at a monument -- as the granddaughter of a veteran spoke of the warmth of her experiences at the farewell dinner -- as bands played, as national colors danced in the breeze, as the sound of Taps echoed in the heavens.

The veterans did not find many foxholes or gun and other emplacements, but the numerous museums contained reminders of the past. Trees had grown and buildings and roads had been constructed; towns and villages that had been leveled or severely damaged had been rebuilt. Only the contour of the land had not changed.

On page 15 is a summary of our events and ceremonies and reflects the extent of the ground covered. In addition to the events shown, several official luncheons and dinners were held.

Some sites other than those shown and which were visited by our group were Bullingen, Foy, Houffalize, Krinkelt, LaGleize, Mageret, Marvie, Moalin, Mont, Redange, Spa, Stavelot, Trois Ponts,

(continued on Page 4)

1984 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING HELD

The General Membership Meeting at the Twin Bridges Marriott Hotel in Arlington, Virginia, was preceded by a "Getting to Know You" period on November 9th for the 130 members and guests. This included registration for the meeting, a Social Hour and the recording of oral histories as well as the showing of movies taken by Kip De Angelis of the Ardennes trip by Bill Hemphill.

On Saturday, November 10th, the meeting opened with a business session conducted with a welcome and annual report by President Clyde D. Boden and introduction of staff members. A change in the recent President's Report was made to correctly name the local VBOB chapter as the Maryland-D.C. Chapter.

Bob VanHouten welcomed a friend of 40 years ago, Charles Hunter, who provided a brief history of the 16th Field Artillery Battalion which coordinated Corps artillery.

Following this was a panel discussion moderated by Bill Simpkins and composed of panel members David C. Cole, Curator of the Fort George G. Meade Museum; Harold Leinbaugh, author; Charles B. MacDonald, author and military historian; David E. Pergrin, author; Robert F. Phillips, author; and Malcolm R. Wilkey, federal judge. This session was introduced with an overview of the Battle of the Bulge by Mr. Mac Donald.

Next, the nomination of officers for the coming year. These names were made available to the membership before the meeting; no nominations were made from the floor in accordance with the VBOB constitution. Pete Dounis, Nominating Committee Chairman, presented the slate of officers for 1985 as previously designated, with these changes: Robert J. VanHouten for President, Herb Toscano as Vice President for Membership and Dorothy S. Davis, Recording Secretary. A motion was made and seconded to elect the slate of officers and congratulations were duly extended. Officers were installed at a dinner on December 16th.

On Saturday night, members were transported to the DAR Constitution Hall where the United States Army Military

District of Washington presented "Pershing's Own," The United States Army Band led and commanded by Col. Eugene W. Allen. Highlighted in this exceptionally fine concert was "Rescue in the Ardennes," arranged by Master Sergeant James C. Kessler with text by Charles B. MacDonald and dedicated to the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. Many veterans considered this arrangement a most nostalgic and enjoyable evening.

Harold Mohn was recognized for his sensitive and thoughtful poetry written about Battle of the Bulge topics.

Bernie Larkin, representing Galazy Tours, stated that a return trip to the Ardennes in September 1985 is being considered.

David Cole, Curator of the VBOB Museum and Library, reported on the formal establishment of this entity effective Oct. 16, 1984.

Dan McCurry read an editorial, "The Longest Winter," and stated that stories of the bravery and courage of the veterans of the Battle of the Bulge would be printed in his paper -- The Stars & Stripes.

Changes to VBOB's Constitution and By-Laws will be addressed at a later date due to the illness of Joseph Langbart, General Counsel.

On Sunday, November 11th, a social hour and banquet were held. Poignant memories of 40 years ago were presented in the remarks of Mme. Tilly Kimmes, Secretary, Cercle d'Etudes sur la Bataille des Ardennes of Luxembourg, followed with remarks by Former Under Secretary of the Army Kenneth E. BeLieu. Mme. Kimmes told of the suffering of the Luxembourgers under the four years of German occupation and their eternal gratitude to General George S. Patton, Jr., and the U.S. servicemen for their liberation in September of 1944. The texts of Secretary BeLieu and Mme. Kimmes are available upon request to the Editor.

A dance with music by the Alex Smith Combo brought to an end this memorable event.

(Candid fotos of meeting activities are shown on other pages)

VBOB MEMBERS MEET LUXEMBOURG ROYAL COUPLE

On the occasion of a State Visit by Grand Duke Jean and Grand Duchess Josephine-Charlotte of Luxembourg, members of VBOB were highly pleased to be presented to the royal couple. At the same time, VBOB was hosting a two-week visit for Tilly Kimmes, Secretary of Luxembourg's CEBA.

After a wreath was presented during a colorful morning ceremony on November 14th by Grand Duke Jean at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, he presented a medal and, with Grand Duchess Josephine-Charlotte, visited the Trophy Room where they met Clyde Boden, Dorothy Davis, Gene Drouillard, Tilly Kimmes, Bob Phillips, Sam Silverman, Bill Simpkins, and Bob and Beverly VanHouten.

At the suggestion of Luxembourg's Ambassador, Paul Peters, the red, white and blue banner with seal was removed from the wreath at dusk; it will be placed in the VBOB Museum and Library at Fort Meade, Maryland.

That evening Clyde and Phyllis Boden, Tilly Kimmes, and Bob and Marge Phillips attended a concert given for their royal highnesses by the Radio-Tele-Luxembourg Symphony Orchestra and a reception at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, again having an opportunity to talk with Grand Duke Jean and Grand Duchess Josephine-Charlotte.

THE WHITE HOUSE
Washington
Nov. 16, 1984

"Dear Mr. Boden: Your letter just reached my desk, and I thank you for it. I want you to know that I share your earnest desire for peace. The wars of this century and the hardships they have wrought have taught us a costly lesson: Peace not conflict is the answer. Men and women like you who have bravely faced the horrors of war have learned this lesson well. You may rest assured that I will do everything in my power to ensure peace in our world. Thank you again and God bless you. Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

WILL CAVANAGH
HIGHLIGHTED IN
Army Times
ARTICLE

Long-time VBOB member Will Cavanagh of Malmedy, Belgium, provided essential information for Patrick F. Morris in "calling up the whole scene, complete with names, seeing on a map exactly where I'd been during those first four days of the battle and understanding for the first time what had happened" in the vicinity of Losheimergraben, Belgium, 40 years later.

Writing in the December 10 issue of Army Times, Pat Morris (L/394/99), now retired from the Agency for International Development, wrote that Will "had an incredibly detailed familiarity with even the minutiae of the battle." ...C. Boden



(Freedom and Friendship Highlight Return of Veterans to Battle of Bulge Area, continued)

Verviers and Wilwerwiltz in Belgium and Buderschied, Diekirch, Echternach, Eschweiler, Ettlebruck, Grosbous, Heiderscheid, Heinstert, Oberwampach, Remich, Wiltz and Worreldange in Luxembourg.

Travel and related arrangements, planning for events and activities and other details involved in the highly successful tour were handled personally for Galaxy Tours by Managing Director Hal Ryder, a member of VBOB.

The VBOB committee that deserves much credit for our great experiences was headed by Kipp DeAngelis, as of last November a resident of Seattle, Washington; serving with him were Frances Doherty and Earl Meyers.

...Clyde D. Boden



Assistant Editors of THE BULGE BUGLE
Pete Dounis and "Lucky" Loiacono

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

THE STARS AND STRIPES is still alive and well! Remember those editions which we all so eagerly looked forward to? Bill Mauldin and his Willie & Joe? Up-to-date items of interest to all veterans?

Your Mail Clerk may no longer be bringing it to you, but . . . why not subscribe to it and have the Postmaster deliver it to your home? Interested? I was and now I receive an issue every week. If you, too, are interested, drop a request in the mail for a subscription to The Stars and Stripes-The National Tribune. Cost is \$19 per year for 51 issues or \$10 for six months and 25 issues. Mail to P.O. Box 1803, Washington, D.C., 20013. ...Ed.

RED CROSS SOCIETIES VISITED IN LUXEMBOURG AND BELGIUM

Among the special activities for some members of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge on the 40th anniversary Ardennes Commemorative Tour were visits to the Red Cross Societies of Luxembourg and Belgium.

William Hemphill, his grand-daughter Alexandra Reimer and Dorothy Davis were warmly welcomed on location by Mr. Roland Hoff, Director of the Luxembourg Red Cross. He extended the society's gratitude to the Americans.

During World War II when Germany occupied Luxembourg all Luxembourg Red Cross personnel were expelled from that country's Red Cross and replaced by German civilians. It was not until the country was liberated by the Allied Forces in September 1944 that the Luxembourgers were again permitted to staff their own Red Cross.

The morning visit with Mr. Hoff included a tour of the Luxembourg Red Cross Blood Center which collects, from volunteer donors, all of the blood used in their hospitals.

Visitors to the National Red Cross of Belgium in Brussels on October 3rd included VBOB members Kipp DeAngelis, Dorothy Davis, Elizabeth Kindred, Mary Lou Kogstad and Mr. and Mrs. Robert VanHouten. This group met with Mr. Vermeylen, the Administrator General of the Belgium Red Cross. Belgium was one of the first nations to form its own Red Cross organization in the 1860's.

...Dorothy S. Davis

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

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November 10, 1984

Annual Report of the President to the
Members of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge

It is a great pleasure to report that we have had another outstanding year in 1984 -- our membership rolls are steadily growing, our financial situation is strong, and we have accomplished significant objectives and are looking toward others.

* * *

The activities and actions since last we met in December 1983 have been summarized, in large part, in two issues of The Bulge Bugle (thanks, Editor Bob Lemmon, Lucky Loiacono, and Pete Dounis for a great publication) and my two reports.

In addition, under the leadership of Neil Thompson and with an assist from Bill Simpkins, VBOB members met on September 8, to formalize a petition to establish a Maryland chapter. Approval was granted by the Executive Council on September 15. Congratulations to the members of our third chapter and best wishes for many successes.

More recently, we had a most successful visit to the battle-field areas in Belgium and Luxembourg during the period September 25-October 4, (thanks, Chairman Kipp DeAngelis, Earl Meyers, and Frances Doherty as well as Galaxy Tour's Hal Ryder for an unforgettable time) and established our Museum and Library, an historic occasion, at Fort Meade, Md., on October 16 (thanks, Kipp DeAngelis for your planning and organizational contributions). These will be reported in more detail in the next issue of The Bulge Bugle.

Late in October, the eighth book written by Charles MacDonald, A Time for Trumpets: The Untold Story of the Battle of the Bulge, went on sale in bookstores. We are very proud of our many authors.

* * *

Our total membership is over 3,300 -- nearly 200 life members, about 50 disabled veterans, and over 3,100 regular members. We have \$13,000 invested in certificates of deposit and nearly \$11,000 in other funds.

Two points must be made here. Many of our members are delinquent and, although we do not charge for past dues, we encourage those who are not in a current dues status to get there. Also, we welcome and need contributions from everyone.

Treasurer Bill Hemphill will post additional details in the vicinity of the Registration Desk.

* * *

The Executive Council met on September 15. Plans for the 1984 General Membership Meeting were discussed, the issue and sale of VBOB belt buckles until a later date was tabled, and chapter, membership, and financial situations were reviewed.

* * *

Grand Duke Jean of Luxembourg will place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery on Wednesday, November 14, at 10:00 a.m.; VBOB will be represented by our honored guest this weekend, CEBA Secretary Tilly Kimmes, Clyde Boden, Bill Simpkins, Gene Drouillard, Bob VanHouten, and Dorothy Davis.

We will place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on December 16, and, then, present a VBOB plaque for placement in The Trophy Room. In mid-afternoon at the Twin Bridges Marriott Hotel we will have a brief Executive Council Meeting, a dinner, and the installation of officers. That evening, VBOB Chaplain George Hall will conduct a commemorative service in St John's Episcopal Church near Lafayette Square in Washington, D.C. Your schedule of events contains additional details. Everyone is invited to all of these functions.

* * *

A lot of activities are being scheduled for 1985. Some of them are the dedication of the Museum and Library at Fort Meade, Md., the publication of oral histories, a membership drive, a return to the Ardennes, and more frequent issues of The Bulge Bugle.

* * *

This is one of my last official acts as your president and I want to thank every member and the members of the Executive Council and the Advisory Board for three wonderful years.

Respectfully submitted,

Clyde

Clyde D. Boden
President

Members Speak Out

Bob Hagel, 9901 Duncan St., Fairfax, VA 22031, a VBOB Life Member, would like to hear from buddies of "L" Co., 320th Inf., 35th Inf.

Thomas R. Shettler, 1 Crestview Road, Franklin, PA 16323 is looking for soldiers who participated in the Bulge with the 94th, 376th Inf. Regt., Third US Army.

Andre Herion, an Associate Member of VBOB, asks if we can provide him the address or news of a member of the 551st Inf. Bn. (Parachute) attached during the Battle of the Bulge to the 82nd Abn. Div. M. Herion found this soldier's dog tag in 1967 -- it reads "GARRISON, RAYMOND" and contains the address Archard St., Weirton, W. Va. Info concerning Garrison may be provided M. Herion at 46 Rue F. Tilquin, 4030 Grivegnée, Liege, Belgium.

Bulge veteran, Emery E. Carl, New York City, is experiencing difficulty in filing for benefits; his records may have been victim of Army Records Center fire. Anyone knowing Emery may write to him at P.O. Box 11981, Tucson, AZ 85734.

Ivan R. (Danny) Daniels, 1818 Judson Rd., Longview, TX 75601 is looking for info concerning anyone stationed at Camp Fannin, TX, in 1943-44, especially from Mess Hall I.

61st Chem. Depot Co. veteran Vincent Meinhart, 1449 Cornell St., Scranton, PA 18504 wants to hear from former buddies.



40 YEARS AFTER 40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS

The Battle of the Ardennes, more commonly known as "The Battle of the Bulge," was the greatest land battle ever fought by the U.S. Army. Does everyone understand and comprehend the magnitude of that statement of military fact? It was controversial, dramatic and more importantly, pivotal -- involving over one million men engaged in a gigantic historic struggle.

The word "pivotal" denotes and connotes "turning point" and that's exactly what it was against clever, tenacious, oppugnant and determined enemy forces with targets and objectives planned within a certain time frame. This plan was masterminded by Adolph Hitler in September 1944 and we were hit in the same area and through the same terrain as in WWI with the element of surprise, again! We never learned from that first painful lesson!

The weather during the early critical days and nights of the breakthrough was the worst it had been in a century according to meteorologists and historians. This definitely was a plus factor for a desperate enemy and against the Allies who were losing thousands of men as nonbattle casualties as well as the great toll of battle-action casualties.

The snow was two to three feet deep and the temperature 10° to -10°F in many combat areas which froze our killed and wounded in many grotesque forms and positions. The rifles, machine guns and BARs also froze and did not function when needed. Some of our men had to urinate upon them in order to start firing. It all seemed so primitive with no airplanes, tanks, artillery or heavy weapons support when we thought we were going to have it to move forward toward our specific objectives.

I recall one hazy cold morn near the end of December 1944 when I perched myself up on the top stair of a house in Vielsalm to observe the long line of heavy guns, jeeps, half-tracks, trucks and miscellaneous equipment of the 106th Infantry Division. I watched for over an hour in awe and amazement of the sheer tonnage I was seeing with some disbelief; it seemed endless rolling in the snow on those narrow streets; for these were the remnants of the recent "Death of a Division" and I felt deep remorse and pathos since I was a former member of Co. "C" 1st Bn., 422nd Regt. of the 106th Infantry Division at Camp Atterbury, Indiana after basic training at the (IRTC) Camp Blanding, Florida. I later found out that Co. "C" was completely annihilated and those who miraculously survived were taken prisoner. This particular regiment caught the brunt of the initial breakthrough! Today, "The Golden Lions," 106th Infantry Division have a memorial and chapel at St. Vith, Belgium which is maintained by the Association and the local Belgians who take special pride and interest in its care.

I went into Belgium with Co. "G," 2nd Bn., 291st Regt., 75th Infantry Division and today a large memorial plaque is emplaced on the outside stone wall of a large church in the town of Grand Halleux for our men killed in action. Two petite plaques have been placed at memorable and prominent locations in that mountainous area.

Those Americans and other allies, who gave the supreme sacrifice, their lives, will never know in what they were involved. We, the living that were there and did our part should never forget our fallen comrades and pay tribute to their bravery, especially on Memorial Day and Veterans' Day either here or over there!

Organizations such as CEBA, CRIBA and CAM are perpetuating the history of "The Battle of the Ardennes" by research, archeology and compiling pertinent information of this great battle with their capable staffs in Luxembourg and Belgium. The VBOB, national veterans' associations and our European counterparts believe the history and memory of this epic battle should be preserved and live forever. Forty years later we are, indeed, still proud to have participated!

The Holy Bible reflects its own distinctive forty days and forty nights ordeal. Surely, a mystical parallel to ponder now and in the future.

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**A
MESSAGE
FROM
YOUR
PRESIDENT**

Friends and fellow Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, it is indeed an honor to be your new President.

The founders of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, in just three years, have firmly established and guided this organization to success, bringing to fruition most of the objectives stated in our original proclamation.

I assure you I will work to continue and build on this firm, strong foundation.

I joined the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge in January of 1982 and quickly became interested in the objectives of the organization. One of the first tasks I was asked to perform was to help the Membership Chairman. This job involved reading the applications and determining the eligibility of the applicants as outlined in General Orders 114 and 63 of the Dept. of the Army. This soon became a fascinating job for me because I was a prisoner of war three days after the beginning of the battle and was not aware of the many units and divisions involved in this historic battle. Reading the many comments and letters from applicants, I was able to place the entire picture of both the withdrawal and subsequent success of the battle against the Germans.

Working with the men on the Executive Committee and various boards and meeting the many members from the field has allowed us to build a camaraderie second to none. This is a wonderful, warm organization and therefore I feel honored to be your new President.

It becomes immediately evident that to sustain growth of the organization in the time available to many of us, we have to be innovative in our thinking as to what we want to accomplish from here on as an organization devoted to international peace, friendship, perpetuity of those sacrifices made forty years ago and the preservation of data and sites of that historic battle.

There are some harsh and some fond memories of our experiences that will never leave us and it is our hope that we can pass these on to the younger generations to follow in our wake to help them preserve world peace, since we all took time out of our lives to give them the peace they now enjoy.



Robert J. VanHouten





MY MEMORIES OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

by Wm. E. Leopold

I joined the Army from the small town of Mauch Chunk, PA. I went to Camp Breckenridge, KY and joined the 75th Division and then went overseas with the Division on October 15, 1944. I was a PFC in the 291st Inf. Regt., Co. C, 1st Bn. I was a Rifleman and 1st Scout in the squad.

My memories of the Battle of the Ardennes are about the same as any other man who served there. The awful cold, deep snows, being wet and hungry most of the time. I remember the brightness of the moon, the reflections on the snow, the marching fire going through the thick forest, taking one village after another, the heavy artillery and the mortar fire.

On January 22, the 1st Bn., 291st Inf. Regt. launched an offensive against the village of Maldingen about two miles east of St. Vith. Our Co. C jumped off about noon and we ran into heavy artillery, mortar and tank fire as we went up the hill and crossed open fields. The town was located on a small hill. It was about 5 p.m. and it started to get dark. We finally got into town and took one house after another as well as some prisoners out of the church; then things quieted down for a while. We

started to clean out the rest of the village. I went around the corner and stayed close to the side of the house, when someone yelled, "There's a tank in between the houses." I was twenty feet from the tank when I saw about six inches of the gun barrel. We told a bazooka man to work his way behind the tank and knock it out! We moved out again and advanced about ten feet when they opened fire on us with rifle fire and automatic weapons. Six of us were hit; some of us badly. I lay there and saw tracers going in all directions. I started to burn and someone threw snow on me to put out the fire!

They pulled us into a barn and the Medic feverishly worked on us. We lay there all night.

The next day we were tied on a jeep and taken by ambulance from one hospital to another. When they took off my boots, my toes were black with gangrene and I had a bad case of trench foot with machine gun wounds in the stomach, hip and leg. I was seriously wounded and went to Paris, to England, and then back to the United States where I was hospitalized for a year.

I was in the New York Harbor on May 5th - V-E Day.

This is one of many experiences during the awful days in the Ardennes.

#

Many Expressions of Thanks Are Due Many People for the VBOB Trip to Belgium and Luxembourg

During the eight days beginning on September 26th that VBOB members spent in Belgium and Luxembourg the courtesies, knowledge, friendliness of Belgians and Luxembourgers -- CAM, CEBA and CRIBA members as well as local officials, business people, and residents -- were in evidence everywhere. These, combined with the efficiency and professionalism of personnel of Galaxy Tours, assured the VBOB group of a most educational, interesting and enjoyable time.

Many letters have been and will be written to the Belgians and Luxembourgers who entertained us, gave us gifts and drove us wherever we wanted to go. Nevertheless, our intended expressions of gratitude may not reach everyone. So, it is requested that recipients of this issue of THE BULGE BUGLE in Belgium and Luxembourg share it with your colleagues and friends.

Thank you! C.D.Boden

"If You Keep Faith."

"If you keep faith with me you need not weep
If I am killed, for I will not complain
Of any death if others gain
The things I think are worth my life to keep;
The right to have, to know, to love, to speak.
If all win these, I will endure my pain
And on the battlefield where I have lain
Will find an honored place in which to sleep.
But if when peace returns to you once more
You break the word you gave humanity
By keeping not the pledge to which you swore'.
Then carve in stone this epitaph for me:
Here lies a fool who placed his hope in war
And gave his faith to insincerity!"

(Lt Jack E. Spear, Inf, 3rd Army
KIA Dec. 1944 in the Ardennes.)

The Stars and Stripes-The National
Tribune

WANTED!

BULGE PARTICIPANTS

Several months ago VBOB's Past-President Boden received an interesting plea for help. It came from the CENTRE DE RECHERCHES ET D'INFORMATIONS SUR LA BATAILLE DES ARDENNES (CRIBA) in Liège, Belgium. The Center has received inquiries from Belgians who are trying to establish contact with American Battle of the Bulge servicemen. Please contact VBOB if you have any information concerning the following servicemen:

ROBINSON, Wayne -- Mr. Emile Goffart, Francorchamps, Belgium, wishes to contact Wayne Robinson who lived in Philadelphia and was a newsman. He wrote the well-known book "Barbara," the story of a tank in WWII. Mr. Goffart was witness to some details reported by the author.

MORA, Janny -- Mr. Jules Walgraffe, Bonegge, Belgium, seeks to contact Janny Mora who belonged to an Armored unit that was the first to enter Paris in August '44. His unit was billeted at Barvaux, Belgium, when the Battle of the Bulge began. The unit left for Boneffe (near Eghezee) around December 22nd without the tanks which remained at Barvaux. At the beginning of January, the men participated in operations in the area of Bastogne. Janny Mora came from Wisconsin and had a friend, Robert, of Polish extraction, whose mother was a French-speaking Canadian.

?-?-?, David -- Mrs. Suzy Derenne, Jonneret-Gerpinnes, Belgium, wishes to contact a GI whom she met at the liberation (September 1944). The man met the hitch-hiking girl and her mother on the road to Charleroi-Philippeville at Loverval. He and a friend named Thomas spent the night at her parents' home.

ANTHONE, Tony -- Mrs. Andree Borgniet, Macon, Belgium, seeks to contact Tony Anthone who stayed in a wood of fir trees named "Chant des Oiseaux" (Song of the Birds). Tony learned French with Andree's family. Because of the German offensive, he had to leave, but did not forget to give the girl a box of presents and to forward a farewell message. She was 16 at the time. ...Ed.

40 YEARS AFTER 40 DAYS and 40 NIGHTS

(continued from Page 6)

The informed and misinformed people of this vast planet with their differing opinions seem to have mixed emotions concerning this bitter battle ... but one thing is certain -- it did preserve our way of life and altered an acute salient during a dark episode in our relatively short history.

History, undoubtedly, recognizes that this poignant chapter of WWII will leave many unanswered questions for posterity.

By Peter G. Dounis

"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*

C H A M P U S - - - - -

Rules governing allowable claims have been streamlined for mental health care, residential treatment centers for children with mental disorders and for alcoholism treatment. The strengthened rules become effective with claims submitted for care received after 13 Nov. 1984. If you have a family member undergoing treatment under these programs, please check with your nearest military facility's Health Benefits Advisor.

...AMAA NewsBriefs, Oct. 84

AMENDMENT TO VBOB CONSTITUTION

At the September 1984 meeting of the Executive Council, under existing constitutional authority (Art. XIII.4), the Constitution was amended to increase the amount to \$50,000 of organization assets before a surety bond would be required (Art. K). This was deemed necessary because of the burdensome requirement which would have been imposed in order to obtain a surety bond.

...J. Langbart

BATTLE OF THE BULGE COLLECTION TO BE ESTABLISHED

On October 16, 1984 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge and Fort George G. Meade concerning the establishment of an archive and museum exhibits at the Fort George G. Meade Museum.

A small ceremony was held at Headquarters Fort George G. Meade with Col. Wm. R. Farquharson, Jr. signing for Fort Meade and Wm. Greenville, representing Clyde D. Boden, signing for VBOB.

The purpose of this agreement is to provide one central location, the Fort George G. Meade Museum, where information concerning the Battle of the Bulge may be obtained. VBOB agrees to donate archival material and artifacts to the museum and in addition may also provide, if desired, other support to assist in the use and care of the donated materials. All items, once donated, become the property of the U. S. Army.

Fort Meade agrees to house and care for the Battle of the Bulge materials that are donated; to maintain them as a separate collection; to provide curatorial support and public access; and to establish a Battle of the Bulge exhibit area within the museum. The curator of the museum will be exercising professional judgment concerning items donated. Only those items used in, or directly relating to, the Battle of the Bulge will be included in the collection. However, the museum would be interested in obtaining other items for its collections, especially those items relating to the operations of First U.S. Army or to Fort Meade.

Anyone interested in donating items may do so by contacting the Curator, Ft. George G. Meade Museum, ATTN: AFZI-PA-MU, Ft. George G. Meade, MD 20755-5070, tele: (301) 677-6966.

The museum can provide pre-paid shipping labels for packages. Also, if anyone has or knows of any large items which might be of interest and are available, such as a half-track or tank, shipping arrangements can be made.

Following the signing, about 15 members of VBOB met at the Fort Meade Museum where a short presentation concerning the signing

Reunion~~~

557th AAA Assn. 36th Annual Reunion, Ramada Inn, Hagerstown, MD, May 17-18, 1985. (Lou Edell, 2904 Oakcrest, Baltimore, MD 21202).

644th TD Bn., French Lick Springs Resort, French Lick, IN, July 9-12, 1985. (Gerald Hoffer, 752 Locke Court, Nappanee, IN 46550).

Co. D, 67th Armd, 2d Armd. Div., first reunion, Nashville, TN, Oct. 18-20, 1985. (Francis W. Baker).

2nd Armd. Div., Holiday Inn, International Airport, Tampa, FL, May 29-June 2, 1985. (Francis W. Baker).

168th Engr. Combat Bn., September or October, 1985. (Fred Pompeo, 18 Newton Rd., Medford, Mass. 02155).

99th (Checkerboard) Inf. Div. Assn., Marc Plaza Hotel, Milwaukee, WI, Jul. 17-20, 1985. (Byron Rousseau, 1400 Dousman St., Green Bay, WI 54303).

was made by Mr. David Cole, museum curator. This was followed by some interesting film footage taken by Kip DeAngelis on VBOB's recent trip to Europe.



Left to right, seated - Wm. T. Greenville, Exec. VP, VBOB; Col. Wm. R. Farquharson, C.O., Ft. Meade; David C. Cole, Ft. Meade Museum Curator. Standing - W. A. Simpkins, VP, VBOB; Neil B. Thompson, Ln. for Mil. Units, VBOB; Dorothy Davis, VBOB; Quinty C. DeAngelis, VBOB; and Benjamin T. Layton, VBOB.

Photo by Sam Silverman, VBOB Photographer

SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 1984 VBOB GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING Washington, D.C.

Photos by...

...Sam Silverman



Mme. Tilly Kimmes of CEBA being presented a book on the Battle of the Bulge by Hubert Roger of VBOB



Medallion of Eisenhower, Bradley, and Patton presented to VBOB by CEBA. Clyde Boden is accepting it from Mme. Tilly Kimmes, Secretary of CEBA



Panel consisting of, from left, Malcolm Wilkey, Harold P. Leinbaugh, Bob Phillips, Dave Cole, Dave E. Pergrin and Charles MacDonald



A portion of VBOB members attending concert given by Army Band at DAR Constitution Hall commemorating Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge



Partial group of those attending General Membership Meeting



From left, Izzy Getzel, Past Commander DAV, Tennessee; Kay Maise, Calif. National Pres. for Ladies Auxiliary, Mil. Order of the Purple Heart; John McDonald, Past Department Commander for Florida MOPH

Each One, Teach One

This is the season of veterans reunions. Our pages list ten meetings each week with over one thousand participants from the major military divisions. Hundreds of smaller units will convene through their own networks.

Each year the groups are getting smaller. Yes, the men are older and the economy is too tight for travel. But our meetings today are more sparsely attended than in the past, essentially, because most veterans reunions are boring. More men and women are gathered outside waiting for the next tour bus than are in the business sessions. To fill this void, new reunion officers know that their major responsibility is to find another convention site with exciting attractions for day and night.

We still come together to honor those left behind on the slopes of Italy, the marshes of Java, the beaches of Korea or brought home from Vietnam to their own churchyards. Each of those fallen comrades would surely say "drink a toast for me and enjoy the sights which I can no longer see."

They would also charge us with the care of their children and grandchildren. I know this. From too many military hospital beds I have heard this concern from men living in their last days. Yet where are these children when our divisions, ships, and wings hold their annual gatherings?

We will receive greetings from public officials, conduct ceremonies of remembrance and usually hear a concert from the local high school band. These are often the only children who see the spirit of our old units together once again. What will these trumpeters and drummers recall from your reunion... these kids who are so young that even the name "Saigon" has already disappeared from maps in their history books?

"If there must be troubles, let them be in my time so that my children may live in peace," was the hope of our last generations. Yet peace will not soon be. The high school drummers and buglers know this. They know that war is not all heroics, that ideals are usually far above conduct, and that war is most commonly about the death and suffering of civilians.

Yet these scenes are, for most students, as abstract as those patriotic ideals with which we reply as reasons for war and which we proudly encourage in veterans high school speech contests. For almost all students in our schools the human side of serving and surviving in World War II, in Korea or Vietnam has yet to be revealed and understood. You can change that at your next reunion.

Plan your schedule not only with the Chamber of Commerce but also with the Superintendent of Education. Arrange an invitation to speak to as many classrooms as can be managed.

In the minds of city fathers, the impact of your presence will be figured in additional income for local business. Visit a classroom while you are there—one man for only one hour in each classroom—and in the minds of the city's children your visit will be monumental.

Only in the vision of these students can any monument to your service and convictions survive for even one more generation. ★

Contributed by John Kearney from The Stars and Stripes, The National Tribune



A TOAST TO THE FLAG

Here's to the red of it-	Here's to the blue of it-
There's not a thread of it,	Beauteous view of it,
No, nor a shred of it	Heavenly hue of it,
In all the spread of it	Star-spangled dew of it
From foot to head,	Constant and true;
But heroes bled for it,	Diadems gleam for it,
Faced steel and head for it,	States stand supreme for it,
Bathing it Red!	Brightens the blue!
Here's to the white of it-	Here's to the whole of it-
Thrilled by the sight of it,	Stars, stripes and pole of it,
Who knows the right of it	Body and soul of it,
But feels the might of it	O, and the roll of it,
Through day and night?	Sun shining through;
Womanhood's care for it	Hearts in accord for it,
Made manhood dare for it,	Swear by the sword for it,
Purity's prayer for it	Thanking the Lord for it,
Keeps it so white!	Red White and Blue!

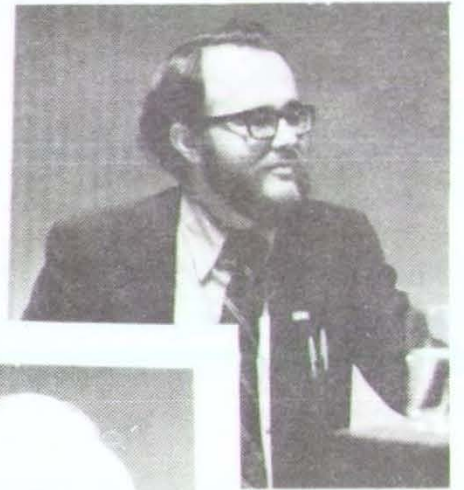
by John Daly

Back to the Ardennes This Year?

Galaxy Tours will plan another superb tour to the Ardennes area September 8 - 17 if enough interest is shown by VBOB members and friends. Those interested are urged to write or call GALAXY TOURS, P.O. Box 326, King of Prussia, PA 19406 as soon as possible or call 1-800-523-7287 (in Pennsylvania, call (215) 265-2778), ATTN: Bernard L. Larkin, Vice President, Galaxy Tours.

VBOB Officers & Staff for 1985

ROBERT J. VanHOUTEN, President
16th Field Artillery Observation Battalion
WM. T. GREENVILLE, Exec. Vice Pres.
86th Chemical Mortar Battalion
WM. A. SIMPKINS, Vice Pres. for
Regional Coordination, XIX TAC, 9th AF
EUGENE G. DROUILLARD, Vice Pres. for
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Membership, 9th AF, 432-321 F.C. Sqdns.
DOROTHY M. DAVIS, Recording Secretary
Army Nurse, 57th Field Hospital
R. L. LEMMON, Editor, THE BULGE BUGLE,
Third U.S. Army Engineers
ELTURINO L. LOIACONO, Asst. Editor,
10th Armored Division
PETER G. DOUNIS, Asst. Editor,
75th Infantry Division
ANN K. GRAY, Staff Typist



Freedom and Friendship Highlight Return of Veterans to Battle of Bulge Area

DATE	PLACE	EVENT	SPEECH	WREATH LAYING	PLAQUE PRESENTATION	SERMON	PRAYER
9/27/84	St. Vith Belgium	Church Service				George Hall	
	St. Vith Belgium	Wreath Laying	Clyde Boden	John Gatens			George Hall
	St. Vith, Belgium	Mayoral Reception	Clyde Boden		Clyde Boden		
9/28/84	Henri Chapelle Mil. Cem.	Wreath Laying		Clyde Boden			George Hall
	Camp Elsen- born, Belg.	CAM Reception	Clyde Boden		Clyde Boden		
9/29/84	Liege, Belgium	Mayoral Reception	Chuck Barnes		Bill Hemphill		
	Malmedy, Belgium	Mayoral Reception	George Hall		Kipp DeAngelis		
	Vise, Belgium	Burgo- meister	Clyde Boden		Dan Bringman		
	Marche, Belgium	Mayoral Reception	Clyde Boden		Nick Bourdoux		
	Liege, Belgium	CRIBA Dinner	Clyde Boden		Frances Doherty		
9/30/84	Liege, Belgium	Church Service				George Hall	George Hall
	Clervaux, Luxembourg	Wreath Laying		C. Boden K. DeAngelis			George Hall
	Clervaux, Luxembourg	Mayoral Reception	Hubert Roger		Bob VanHouten Ed Bredbenner		
	Vianden, Luxembourg	Memorial Dedication	Chuck Barnes	Bill Hemphill Alex Reimer			
	Vianden, Luxembourg	Mayoral Reception			Dorothy Davis		
10/1/84	Hamm Mili- tary Cem.	Wreath Laying		Earle Hart			George Hall
	Luxembourg City, Lux.	Red Cross Reception	Dorothy Davis		Bill Hemphill Alex Reimer		
	Luxembourg City, Lux.	Mayoral Reception	Chuck Barnes		Ed Bredbenner		
	Luxembourg City, Lux.	CEBA Dinner	Clyde Boden		Kipp DeAngelis		
10/2/84	Mardasson Monument, Bastogne, Belgium	Wreath Laying		Chas & Pauline Hunsinger and Monroe & Jessie Dunn			George Hall
	Bastogne, Belgium	Mayoral Reception	Clyde Boden		Bob VanHouten		
10/3/84	Brussels, Belgium	Red Cross Reception	Dorothy Davis		Bob & Beverly VanHouten		
	Brussels, Belgium	Farewell Dinner	Hal Ryder, Clyde Bod- en, Jacques Garain and many others		Chuck Barnes		George Hall

Sentimental Journey

"SHOP TALK," Pub. Rel. Dept.,
The Washington Post, 11/84

Amid the harsh fire of World War II, through the cold and snow of a Belgian winter, a teenager in U.S. Army clothes forged a friendship with a family in Viviers, in the Ardennes region of the country. After American forces in the Battle of the Bulge pushed Hitler's armies back toward defeat, **GEORGE CHEKAN** moved onward and lost touch with young Marcel Hansoulle, his parents and siblings. Forty years later, he returned to see the now-peaceful terrain, to remember the comrades who had died, and to look for his long-lost friend.



GEORGE CHEKAN in Germany during the war.

Chekan was "just a kid," during the famous battle, which involved over 600,000 American troops in Belgium and north-western Luxembourg. The German high command had hoped that by confounding the Allies on the Western front, German forces could advance in their campaign against Russia. The battle began on December 16, 1944, and continued until January 28, 1945. It was crucial to the Allied victory in World War II.

Though Chekan lost track of the Hansoulle family, he never gave up the hope of finding them again. This summer, while in the dentist's chair, Chekan learned of a national group based in Arlington called the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. Chekan, an active member of local VFW and American Legion chapters, decided to join. When he learned that they were having a Sentimental Journey over to the battlelands this fall, he decided to go.

Along with 200 other Americans, Chekan visited Belgium and Luxembourg to mark the battle's fortieth anniversary. American veterans were treated as honored guests by mayors and officials of both countries. On their first full day, they were taken in a procession through Saint-Vith, a town destroyed during the war and rebuilt through Marshall Plan funds. They were escorted through streets by the Belgian Army drum and bugle corps. They visited the Hamm military cemetery in Luxembourg, where rest the remains of 5,000 American soldiers, including General Patton.

Other visits were to a memorial of the 106th Infantry, to which Chekan belonged; the field of the Malmedy massacre, where Germans lined up unarmed American soldiers and annihilated them with machine gun fire; and to Vianden. There, the American veterans were honored in a ceremony that involved the mayor of Luxembourg City, the Luxembourg minister of armed forces, and the U.S. Ambassador, John Dolibois. The veterans were greeted by schoolchildren bearing flowers, and a picture and article appeared in the Luxembourg Post.

The outpouring of gratitude was touching, but most memorable to Chekan was the story of personal friendship revived. Chekan had kept pictures and memories of the Hansoulles

since the war. Before he went on his trip, he wrote to the old address. But he heard nothing.

When he got to his hotel in Belgium, however, he found a letter from the widow of Jean, the oldest son. Both parents were also dead, the sister-in-law said, and she had no idea where Marcel and his sister Milou might be.

Though Chekan was very discouraged, he concentrated on enjoying his trip. The next night, he and his roommate were seated in a cafe, listening to a pianist who was playing American tunes. A woman leaving stopped at his table and asked if he was American. Her name was Marcella Anderson, and she was a native of Belgium who now lived in New Jersey but visited her homeland often. Chekan talked with her and her husband, and explained his search for the Hansoulles. Marcella was sympathetic, and agreed to visit the police station the next day, while Chekan was tied up with his touring schedule.

When he returned to his hotel the next evening, he received a message that Marcella had good news. A few minutes later, she walked into the lobby. Just behind her was Hansoulle, who was immediately recognized by his old friend. It was an emotional moment for Chekan—rekindling a friendship started by two teenagers 40 years before, as the world was spilling blood all around them. He reported that "everyone had a tear in the eye."

Marcel and Milou had fallen out of touch after a family quarrel more than a decade ago. But Chekan's desire to see her reached Marcel, also. They were able to locate Milou in Brussels, and enjoyed another happy reunion.



Marcel Hansoulle and Chekan at the Manneken Pis in Brussels.

Chekan called his Sentimental Journey "one of the highlights of my life." He appreciated the gratitude of Europeans, old and young, who, decades after the war, thanked the soldier for their liberation. "They still think of you as a savior," he said. More than anything, though, he will remember that he was able to resurrect a friendship.

VBOB AND 106th LINK UP

Members of the 106th Infantry Division Association, en route from a visit to the Soviet Union, and members of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, beginning a tour of the battlefield areas, joined residents of St. Vith, Belgium, in a colorful and memorable commemorative church service on September 27.

The parish priest opened the service in the huge centuries-old church, a sermon was delivered by Rev. George Hall, VBOB Chaplain, and Rev. Ronald Moseley of the 106th closed with a prayer.

Then, with flags flying, a procession of several hundred, led by a Belgian drum and bugle corps and veterans bearing the 106th banner and wreaths, marched to the division memorial.

Jim Wells and Clyde Boden spoke; Doug Coffey and John Gatens placed wreaths.

A THOUSAND STORIES

The untold legions of veterans who returned to the Ardennes on the 40th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge have been reminded of happy and sad experiences.

While these are still fresh in your minds, you are encouraged to send accounts of your experiences for consideration for publication in THE BULGE BUGLE. Send them to Bob Lemmon, Editor, 1247 Sycamore Drive, Jenison, MI 49428, who will exercise judicious editorial judgment in using them. In any case, all will reach the VBOB Museum and Library at Fort Meade, Maryland, to form another portion of first-person accounts of that great battle.

CAN'T FIND A BUDDY?

Readers are cautioned to disregard the guidance published on this subject on page 15 of our September 1984 edition. An inquiry forwarded as suggested has been refused. The item originated in the Bulletin Board column of "Off Duty/America/ March 84." Sorry, ...Ed.

VBOB'S KEARNEY AT OPM CITED BY DAV

"In Philadelphia, John D. 'Jack' Kearney received two special recognitions from the Disabled American Veterans -- a National and a State Commander's citation -- for his devotion to the cause of disabled veterans" says Office of Personnel Management's periodical Spotlight in its Summer 1984 edition. Jack is a VBOB Charter Member and Regional Veterans Federal Employment Representative.

HEADQUARTERS GOOFED!!

We bought too many 1985 VBOB calendars! If you want one we will be glad to GIVE ONE TO YOU FREE. 1985 calendars are usable only during 1985. PLEASE HELP - we need the storageroom. Of course we will accept donations if you want to help defray the cost. Offer good only as long as the current supply lasts. ...Treasurer

MEMORABILIA SALES

Alexandria Riemer, grand-daughter of our treasurer, made an outstanding contribution to VBOB during our trip to the Belgium/Luxembourg battlefields. Using her knowledge of retail selling and her persuasive personality she "made available" over \$600 of patches, lapel pins, ties and decals. Alex also took many pictures which were on display at the November meeting and "saw after" her grandfather. ...Wm. R. Hemphill

Central N.Y. Chapter Celebrates Veterans Day



Above, on left, Herb Toscano with Frank Barone, C.N.Y. Chaplain. Below, "Big" Edward Waldron, C.N.Y. Sgt. at Arms.



Above, parade vehicle banner. Below, from left, Marius Magnarelli, Commander P.O.W.'s, with Dominick Creno and Herb Toscano.



Herb Toscano, Executive Vice President of our Central New York Chapter, reports that the Chapter participated in Veterans Day Parade in New York State on November 10th.

Herb says "7" was their lucky number -- seven vehicles with VBOB posters displayed and seven men in the Color Guard.

The Chapter's involvement was a "tremendous success" and Herb believes that, as a newly formed organization chartered last May, it can "walk tall with a high degree of satisfaction as participants" in the 1984 Veterans Day Parade.

Some of the Chapter's members whom Herb calls "some of the nicest people this side of the Ardennes" are shown in the photos above.

The Central New York Chapter of VBOB is headquartered in Syracuse, N.Y. Its president, Thomas Donigan, has been quite ill, but is home from the hospital now.



THE BULGE BUGLE

EDITOR'S S Q U A R E

It is planned to publish THE BULGE BUGLE in January, May and September rather than only twice a year with quarterly publications as soon as practicable.

DEADLINES for submission of material for publication in THE BULGE BUGLE are the 7th of December, April and August to R. L. Lemmon, Editor, 1247 Sycamore Drive, Jenison, MI 49428.

SAM SILVERMAN, VBOB Photographer is commended for his superb coverage of the General Membership Meeting in November. It was a tremendous task choosing from his 150 photos those which appear in this edition.

I look forward to another year working with Asst. Editors Pete Dounis and Lucky Loiacono without whose technical expertise this paper would be far less expressive.

VISIT TO GRANDMENIL & MARCOURAY

During the third day of the tour to the Ardennes our Belgian friends provided their personal cars to take us to individual places of interest. Three Third Armored Division veterans (Joe Moore, 83rd Recon Bn; Charles Warren, 32nd Armd. Regt. and Bill Hemphill, 36th Armd. Inf. Regt) traveled to Grandmenil where LTC Richardson lost his last two tanks. We met with John B. Wong, RO2397, former CO of the company of the 238th Engineer Combat Bn. which laid a mine field in front of Grandmenil. When Richardson's command tank was set afire, Captain Wong's company rescued the crew. The Belgian family, whose home was burned in the fighting, was also present at the reunion. Wong has a copy of Life magazine which contains an oblique photo of the area visited. The five German tanks immobilized in the mine field, Richardson's burned-out tank and the shell of the home were in the picture.

Joe Moore was an aid man with TF Hogan and was one of the 400 who walked out thru German lines surrounding Marcouray. Joe showed us the place where they buried supplies in the snow to hide them from the Germans. A Belgian showed us the church where several resistance fighters were executed.

...Wm. R. Hemphill



SCENE AT FOY, NEAR BASTOGNE, IN JANUARY 1945 AND IN JULY 1982. (Courtesy of C.A.M.)

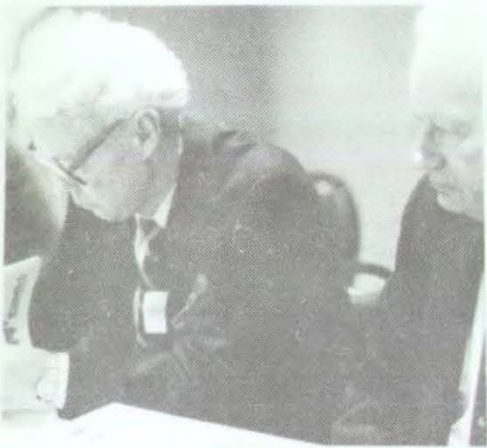


Taps

RADECKI, Henry M., 557th AAA AW Bn, 84th Inf. Div. -- 11/9/84.

STEEL, C. Denby, Raytown, Mo., age 75, 90th Inf. Div. -- 10/22/84.

BURNS, LeRoy, POW, Morrisville, PA, 99th Inf. Div. -- 11/6/84.



VBOB HISTORY PROJECT CONTINUES

The VBOB History Project continues apace. More oral histories were recorded at the November 9-11, 1984 General Membership Meeting. Since this undoubtedly shall be one of VBOB's principal legacies, the VBOB History Donation form should accompany all oral or written accounts of World War II experiences, documents, photographs, and other material donated to VBOB and also larger items sent directly to Fort Meade for our museum.

Based on experience to date, some words of caution are in order. Include name, address, and other identifying data in the account or on the material, since the form is only an internal matter. Please refrain from sending the form unless in fact there is a donation. Also, brief remarks on the form itself (e.g., that one is the recipient of a medal without more) are not helpful. Finally, the donation of an account to the VBOB does not deprive the donor of any legal rights to his story; it merely protects the VBOB (or transferee) to the use of the same. ...J. Langbart

THE BATTLE OF THE ARDENNES December 16, 1944

The stillness of the Ardennes
Was broken on this day,
When Hitler launched his last great drive
And sent it on its way.

Momentous battles that ensued
Where brave men gave their all,
Surviving veterans of the Bulge
Its fury still recall.

The names of towns unknown before
Now came into the light,
Like Wiltz, Saint Vith and then Bastogne
That broke the German might.

At Celles the dying effort
Of once great German might,
Was halted and their Antwerp goal
No longer was in sight.

In Belgium and in Luxembourg
The rows of markers white,
Bear names of men who in the Bulge
Gave all for freedom's light.

...Harold F. Mohn

MARYLAND-D.C. CHAPTER



From left, front row: Mrs. Mimi Lawrence; Benjamin T. Layton, 3496 QM; Sydney J. Lawrence, 134 AAA; Carl F. Unger, 80th Inf. Div; Arnold M. Snyder, 740th Tank Bn; Peter G. Dounis, 75th Inf. Div; Ms. Phyllis W. Whetzel. Back row: Arthur Gordon, 99th Inf. Div; Clarence O. Lyall, 101st Abn. Div; Demetri Paris, 9th Armd. Div; Wm. A. Simpkins, 9th TAC; and Neil B. Thompson, 740th Tank Bn. NOT PRESENT: Sam Silverman, 10th Armd. Div. and Wright C. Robinson, 1st Inf. Div.

CEBA Memorial Dedicated at Vianden

After years of planning, a flag-decked memorial was dedicated on September 30th at Vianden, Luxembourg, by representatives of the Cercle d'Etudes sur la Bataille des Ardennes.

Hundreds of veterans, local residents, and CEBA officials were each presented with a rose by dozens of school children as they gathered in a beautiful story-book setting, complete with a medieval castle on the other side of the valley.

The group was welcomed by Mayor Raymond Frisch and, after an address by CEBA President Camille P. Kohn, came the unveiling ceremony. Wreaths were laid by a number of individuals and organizations; the VBOB wreath was presented by Bill Hemphill and his granddaughter, Alex Reimer.

Speeches were made by American Ambassador John E. Dolibois, Luxembourg's Minister of Armed Forces Marc Fischbach, and VBOB's Chuck Barnes.

The local band led the group to the Centre Culturel where a wine of honor was offered and Dorothy Davis presented a VBOB plaque.

Jean Milmeister, CEBA staff member, and all others who made this wonderful ceremony and memorial possible, are congratulated.

...C. Boden

Central New York Chapter



Wm. A. Simpkins (center), VBOB Vice President for Regional Coordination, presents the charter to Thomas P. Donogan, President of the Central New York Chapter, Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, in Syracuse as Herb Toscano, Interim President, looks on. The event took place in May at the General Pulaski American Legion Post 1650.

VA BENEFITS

The Veterans' Assistance Service of the Veterans Administration has a comprehensive booklet entitled "A Summary of Veterans Administration Benefits." It is VA Pamphlet 27-82-2, April 1982, and is free of charge to those who request it from the VA Dept. of Veterans' Benefits, 810 Vermont Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20420.

40 YEARS AGO TODAY

DECEMBER 16, 1944

THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

Upon that gray December day
In nineteen forty four,
The Germans launched their last great drive
To try to win the war.

The bitter battles that ensued
Where brave men gave their all,
In that great battle of the Bulge
Today we do recall.

The wreckage and the carnage
Were everywhere in sight;
The wounded, dead and dying
Who now no more would fight.

The names of towns unknown before
Now came into the light,
Like Wiltz, Saint Vith and then Bastogne
That broke the German might.

In Belgium and in Luxembourg
The rows of markers white,
Bear names of men who in the Bulge
Gave all for freedom's light.

...Harold F. Mohn

FORMER POWs

A new law (PL 97-37) liberalizes the benefits program for former prisoners of war held by the enemy for as short a time as 30 days. The VA is attempting to identify all former POWs, most of whom have not filed for veterans benefits. If you have questions, contact your nearest VA office.

FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY celebrated the veterans of the Battle of the Bulge in a ceremony and salute on December 21st.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

The Constitution provides for 15 Executive Council members-at-large with staggered terms (Constitution Article XI). The By Laws (Article VI) presently provides initial election to be held by June 30, 1985 (unless the 1985 general membership meeting is held on or prior to September 30, 1985). Nominations are to be made by March 30, 1985 by a petition directed to the Secretary, signed by five or more VBOB members nominating a candidate which should set forth the candidate's curriculum vita and qualifications.

Note should be made that the initial election was contemplated for June 30, 1983, but there were no nominations. In the circumstances, the Constitution was amended in March 1984 to provide a new initial date and further that "in the absence or adequacy of nominations" for such positions provision for the same shall be deleted on July 1, 1985.

AUTHORITY OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO AMEND CONSTITUTION HAS TERMINATED; AN EXTANT PROCEDURE

To facilitate and expedite operations during the for-

mative years (VBOB's founding meeting took place on December 16, 1981), the Constitution (Article XIII, Para. A) specially authorized the Executive Council to amend the Constitution. This authority lapsed on December 16, 1984.

The membership is directed to the procedure which provides (Article XXII, Para. 3) for 30 days written notice after prior study by the Committee to Amend the Constitution and By Laws. There is a proposal if directed by the Executive Council and if a writing is directed to the Secretary by the President, a national VBOB officer (elected or appointed) or chairman of a committee, an Executive Council member-at-large, a chapter, or a member if supported by five other members.

SOLDIER LIVES BECAUSE RADIO DIED

by Ray Olson

It was bitter cold before daybreak on January 16, 1945. Under heavy enemy fire, our four-man liaison team from Headquarters Battery of the 83rd Armored Field Artillery, a bastard battalion of 105's, entered Sterpigny, Belgium from the North.

The battered town, located on a road between Houffalize and St. Vith, was entered on foot by forward elements the previous day. A Task Force of the 3rd Armored Division had also fought its way into Sterpigny.

The nearness of our guns was clearly evident, as we were using charge one. Radio was the only communication to the rear. Our team pushed forward, since many forward observer groups had been chewed up, and there were no replacements.

Normally our team was a liaison between F.O.'s and the guns. During the Bulge, abnormal was normal. Consequently, our team found itself in a town predominantly occupied by German infantry and tanks with strong artillery support. Tiger tanks, usually open country weapons, periodically roamed through the town, blasting anything foreign or moving. Some 75mm shells from American tanks bounced off the Tigers with little or no damage.

Finally, a tank was placed between two buildings. The 75mm gun was loaded and aimed point blank a few feet from a Tiger's path in the road. When the Tiger was abreast, the 75mm shell was discharged. The shell

tore a gaping hole in the side of the tank. The Tiger gasped and then exploded violently. The rubble of scrap steel temporarily formed a welcomed road block.

The Jerries also occupied or controlled the high ground. This was a massive, steep and thick range of deep snow-covered forests overlooking Sterpigny. German artillery was pinpointing its fire on all areas occupied by us, while the Jerries pushed in strength from the east.

In an attempt to turn the advantage, we directed 105mm fire on all probable high German observation posts and the Jerry attack forces. Delayed fuses were used to penetrate and phosphorus shells to light up or burn. In a short time, the battalion had fired some 1100 rounds of ammo. Nothing was working effectively. The Jerries continued to pound our holdings with mortars and 88's. The artillery battle continued into January 17, 1945. The Germans, looking down our throats from the high ground, were trying to annihilate us. We were desperately trying to survive, destroy Jerry O.P.'s and stop the fierce ground forces.

Late on January 17, we were down to one working radio to our 105's. That radio suddenly failed. At that time, artillery fire was being directed from behind a burned out tank. We hurriedly carried the radio into the hallway of a standing building. As we were attempting to repair our only communication, a Jerry 88 shell found its target. The shell exploded in the doorway about six feet away. The radio, sitting on a table, partially protected

me, but the blast and a blow rendered me unconscious.

I woke up in a field hospital the next day with a chaplain leaning over me saying, "You are not going to die." There were many casualties from the one 88 shell. My radio buddy was seriously wounded, a major standing behind me had both legs blown off and the radio that had protected me from sure death was demolished. None of the wounded that survived would ever return to combat.

Shortly after the dead and wounded were evacuated from Sterpigny, the Germans took control. Hard, bloody, ruthless and destructive fighting had raged continuously for three days. On January 17, the Germans decisively won the battle for Sterpigny. The Jerries thereby kept open a road for their comrades retreating from the Bulge.

The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge organization is your organization and it is therefore essential and very important that everyone feels free to let their president and other officers of the Executive Committee know how we can maintain and fulfill our goals and objectives
...R. J. VanHouten

VETERANS of the BATTLE OF THE BULGE

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

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↓

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Application for Membership

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

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

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