

The BULGE BUGLE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION ☆ VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

VOLUME V NUMBER 2

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

MAY 1986

AS TIME GOES BY

Return to Europe on our FIFTH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

During World War II there was a very popular song entitled "As Time Goes By." Every G.I. of that era (and his girl) probably remembers it well. Certainly the dreams and memories which it inspired in everyone, both at home and overseas, carried thoughts of happiness past and yet to come. Regrettably, those dreams were not fulfilled for a lot of our buddies, but for each of us the realization came on V-E and V-J Days. "As Time Goes By" was, and is, a great song, and it probably brings back those pleasant memories even today.

Such a mood could well be used to describe the plans for our "5th Anniversary Special" return trip to the Bulge and other European areas in September. It will represent the glory of memories past and yet to come.

If you have been back to your combat/service areas of the Bulge, you know that is an experience of such significance to each of us that it transcends any other kind of travel program. It's a thrill to retrace our wartime steps, to be sure, but even more rewarding is to see the

happy, smiling faces of so many local people who still remember our wartime service with gratitude, respect and great affection. The wonders of rebuilding and reorganizing after the War attests to the dedication and commitment which these gracious people have given to their restored freedom. And the friendships developed then have not only endured, but have grown in scope and purpose throughout the years.

The Battle of the Bulge taught the world a great lesson and it will be an example of the courage, pride, dedication and compassion for people of all nations to emulate for generations to come. The memorials honoring the American G.I. in this great battle are everywhere, none so remarkably poignant as the "G.I. Monument" in Clervaux, Luxembourg. Standing prominently in a selected site, the spirit of the Bulge G.I. seems to be etched into every element of its imposing presence, and it tells the world - people of all nations who are privileged to see it - that the people of Luxembourg will never

forget the courage of the Bulge G.I. who restored their freedom.

It seems appropriate that our 5th Anniversary tour should be scheduled this year because memories of the past and the hope for the future will come into worldwide focus on July 4th when our beloved Statue of Liberty is rededicated. "The Lady" is a "beacon of hope" to the world and eyes from every nation will follow our ceremonial events on July 4th when we recommit ourselves to the principles it represents.

But even as significant as these ceremonies will be, the mere presence of the World War II G.I. in such historically renowned villages in the Bulge as Malmedy, St. Vith, Elsenborn, Clervaux, Wiltz, Luxembourg, Bastogne, and a host of others carries with it even greater importance of individual recognition fostered by attendance by those of us who took part in this horrendous battle demonstrates that we, too, still remember and want to share glorious memories of our past association once (continued on Page 2)

VBOB Officers and Staff

THE BULGE BUGLE is the official publication of Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. It is issued five times yearly.

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OUR OBJECTIVES ARE:

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

VBOB LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

\$50 if age 70 or over
\$75 if age 50 thru 69
\$100 if under age 50

WHEN
SHOULD
YOUR
DUES
BE
PAID?
NO
PROBLEM --
SEE
TOP
OF
LAST
PAGE !



Veterans Administration

Q - I am a 67-year-old veteran with limited income. I have applied for a nonser vice connected pension. Do I have to prove to the VA that I disabled?

A - No. Permanent and total disability for pension purposes is presumed at age 65.

Q - I would like to review my VA claims folder. What should I do?

A - Use VA's toll-free telephone service to reach the nearest regional office. The number is in your local directory, under U.S. Government. A counselor will schedule an appointment for you to review your claims folder.

Q - Will the VA furnish a grave marker for a person who dies in military service and whose remains have not been recovered or identified?

A - Yes. A memorial headstone or marker may be furnished on application of a close relative recognized as the next of kin to commemorate any eligible veteran.

THIS
EDITION
CONTAINS
THE
VBOB
CONSTITUTION
AND
BY-LAWS.
READ
THEM
AND
SAVE
THEM.

AS TIME GOES BY (continued from Page 1)

again with the people who were both victims and beneficiaries in this "coup de grace" to the Nazi war machine.

Perhaps "As Time Goes By" nostalgic and heart warming as it is should be our theme song for this year. We are in a "go" position, but we want and need YOU with us. We'll retrace the route of advance of Colonel Peiper's armored forces, stopping enroute for special receptions and to visit "your special place" as circumstances allow. Private cars, provided by our friends in CREBA and CEBA will assist us in being sure that you are able to return to your special places, too. Last time, our group represented 63 different units. It was great fun. We learned that the "sharing" of such unique experiences in life - a rarity in itself - is the singularly most important element which we can enjoy together. Come along and you'll see for yourself.

Mail your reservations today! If you do not have a copy of the descriptive brochure, call Galaxy Tours toll-free (outside of PA it's 800-523-7287 - inside of PA call 215-254-6600). Share these happy moments with us as we return to celebrate our 5th Anniversary. It will be a trip providing enough new memories to last a lifetime. Call today!

...Hal Ryder, 1st
Engr. Spec. Brig.





Shelled, bombed and besieged, Bastogne was isolated on December 21st by the German push for the River Meuse. The 101st Airborne Division, the Screaming Eagles, and elements of the 10th Armored held out until tanks of Patton's 4th Armored Division broke through the German ring around the town on December 26th. After the war, Bastogne's Place Carre was renamed in honor of the 101st Airborne's commander - "Place McAuliffe."



From Battle of the Bulge, Then and Now

FEARFUL-frosty freezing frigid- FLASHBACKS

Down through the years one occurrence or another gave me "flash-backs" to those bitter days of the "Battle of the Bulge," December 1944. This year is no different! Last week, while browsing through a religious publication, I was startled by a particular photograph taken near one of their local missions. Startled is hardly the word! If the overhead wires were removed, there is an exact replica of a snow-covered, forested crossroads encountered in an attack through the Ardennes. Memories came in a flood.

The snow is unmarked except for a single set of tracks on the road. A cluster of shrubbery near the intersection, heavily snow-laden, resembles the partially camouflaged tank firing down the lumber road to the right. Deep shadows form the shapes of crewmen atop the turret. On the embankment nearby, other shadows form the outline of dug-in Infantry and gun crews. Beyond the intersection vehicles are parked on the road shoulder so heavily covered with snow. The shapes are hardly discernible. These resemble the knocked-out tracks and armor we passed. Across the road from these is that burned-out farm building.

Today's weather makes it all seem so real and I go through it all over again. Memories are on me and I get that gut-knotting feeling - a combination of cold, fear and anxiety. I am extremely exhausted and so tired from the constant moves and lack of sleep. I feel that numbing, bone-chilling cold. Shimmering ice crystals form in the subzero air. The air freezes and tightens in my nostrils. My ears ache. Each intake of breath sears my lungs. As I breathe, ice forms and coats my face and clothing. Perspiration trails an icy path down my body. I've never been so cold. The hands and feet are numb.

Snow crackles sharply underfoot as we plod along. Our bodies are bent beneath the heavy load. Dense fog forms just above the ground. Soon only the lower half of the man's legs ahead are visible. Forms become disembodied wraiths in its depths. It is EERIE!! In the distance, artillery pieces thump their message.

Shells "crump" upon impact, sounds muted by the elements. Occasional fragments moan

as they flutter by. Mortar rounds sound like sacks of chains being dropped as they crash in the near hollows. Fragments whirr about, spending themselves in the trees. A deadly BRRP-BRRP of an automatic weapon gives a shudder to the spine. Someone shrieks horribly as he is hit. Every foreign sound adds to the fear. The very air has an aura of a slaughter house. I force myself to stay steady and firm through it all. I partially succeed.

All these years and the old nightmare is back! Now that I've written it down, I feel much better!

...Richard R. DeBruyn, Co. F, 291st Inf., 75th Inf. Div., based on an article published in THE GUIDON, 2/86.

Members Speak Out

Walter C. Righton is looking for veterans of the 704th Tank Destroyer Battalion who served from 15 Dec 41 to 15 Oct 45 and 30 Jul 51 to 1 April 57. These veterans should know that their unit was awarded the French Croix de Guerre with Palm (twice) and the French Fourragere. Those interested may contact Righton at 29 W. Wilkins Lane, Plainfield, IL 60544.

Raymond D. Brown, 3411 S. Camino SECO Lot 18, Tucson, AZ 85730 is looking for the whereabouts of William R. Potter, Co. D, 8th Tank Bn, 4th Armored Division.

Pat Merino is looking for any members of the 83d "Thunderbolt" Infantry Division. Contact Pat D. DiGiammerino, 36 East Border Road, Malden, MA 02148.

James L. Moffett, 28th Signal Co., 28th Division, writes to tell of his 1981 return visit to Wiltz, Luxembourg, and the "terrific welcome by the Luxembourg people -- some of the finest people in the world, and they love the Americans. We had 11 days of sheer joy. It was 37 years after they had been liberated and we had a wonderful time, but I must say it was very emotional. Many of the fine people that were there when we liberated them and then to find a museum and memorials in our honor. Words are not enough to say how much we appreciated their hospitality. It all started because we had a Christmas Party for their children before the terrible Bulge event."

Reunion~~~

511th Engr. Lt. Ponton Co., 13-15 June 1986, Host Farms, Lancaster, PA. (Contact Nick Rosania, Box 412, Main St., Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889.).

275th Armored FA Bn, 17-19 July 1986, Charleston, SC. (Contact Robert Schnulle, 3611 S. Austin Blvd., Cicero, IL 60650).

131st Ord. Maint. Bn, 9th Armored Div, 28-31 Aug. 1986, Salt Lake City, UT. (Contact Al Irwin, Mound City, KS 66056).

3rd Armored Div. Assn., 17-20 Sep 1986, Louisville, KY. (Contact unit, PO Box 740665, New Orleans, LA 70174).

14th Tank Bn. Assn., 9th Armored Div., 14-17 Aug. 1986, New Orleans, LA. (Contact Anthony R. Ziegler, 171 Sidgefield Dr., Harahan, LA 70123).

83rd Infantry Div. Assn, WWII, 21-23 Aug. 1986, Knoxville, TN. (Contact Robert Derickson, 3749 Stahlheber Rd., Hamilton, OH 45013).

447th AAA AW Bn, WWII. 25-27 Apr 1986, Hampton Inn, Baton Rouge, LA. (Contact Francis Naquin, 3345 Elm Dr., Baton Rouge, LA. 70805).

28th Infantry Division, 17-20 Sept. 1986, Ft. Indiantown Gap, PA. WWI, WWII, Korea & present. (Contact PAANG, 28th Inf. Div, 55th Brigade, 900 Adams Ave., P.O. Box 109, Scranton, PA 18501).

814th Tank Destroyer, WWII, June 1986, Savannah, MO. (Contact Carrol Christman, 106 S. 9th, Savannah, MO 64485).

134th AAA Gun Bn (Mobile), WWII, 9-13 Oct. 1986, Charleston, SC. (Contact Michael Kotula, St. Rt. Box 586, Albrightsville, PA 18210).

99th Infantry Div. Assn., 16-19 July 1986, Dayton, OH. (Contact Robert Faris, 1757 Speice Ave., Dayton, OH 45403).

7th Armored Division, 28-31 Aug and 1 Sep 1986, Harrisburg, PA.

84th Inf. Div (Railsplitters), 1-6 Aug 87 (YES, 1987!), Clarion Hotel, Colorado Springs, CO. (Contact: Bruce E. Morrell, 2432 Zane Circle, CO Springs, CO 80909).

5th Med. Bn., Fifth Inf. Div., 29 Aug thru Sept. 1, Davenport, Iowa. (Contact George Davis, 317 4th Ave., DeWitt, IA 52742).

2nd (Indian Head) Div. Assn., 65th Annual Reunion, 16-20 July 1986, Orlando, FL. (Contact Alex Liptak, 6856 Day Dr., Parma, OH 44129).

80th Inf. Div. Assn., WWI & II, 6-9 Aug. 1986, Baltimore, MD. 67th Annual Convention. (Contact James W. Phillips, 420 S. Hanover St., Elizabethtown, PA 17022).

Co. B, 55th Armd. Inf. Bn., 11th Armd. Div., 5-7 Sept. 1986, Rockford, IL. (Contact Bill Zimmerman, 848 Drexel Blvd., Rockford, IL 61111).

Co. D, 345th Inf., 87th Inf. Div., 24-25 May 1986, Pittsburgh, PA. (Contact Harry S. Griffin, 5340 Cresent Dr., Hilliard, OH 43026).

704 Tank Destroyer Bn. Assn., 26-28 Sept. 1986, Pittsburgh, PA. (Contact Rod Torbich, 166 Linmar, Aliquippa, PA 15001).

6th Armored Division Assn., 2-7 Sep 86, San Antonio, TX (Contact Ed Reed, PO Box 5011, Louisville, KY 40205).

148th Engineer Combat Bn., September 86, Washington, PA. (Contact Charles P. Allen, 3752 Doney St., Whitehall, OH 43213).

4th Armored Division, 17-19 July 86, King of Prussia, PA. (Contact Raymond D. Brown, 3411 S. Camino SECO, Lot 18, Tucson, AZ 85730).

925th Signal Bn. (Sep), 9th Tactical Air Command, 15-17 Aug 86, Boston, MA. (Contact Richard Dwinell, 6 Gould St., Millbury, MA 01527).

87th Infantry Division, 1-5 Oct 86, Hollywood, CA. (Contact Ted Spohn, 257 Schryver Rd., Columbus, OH 43207).

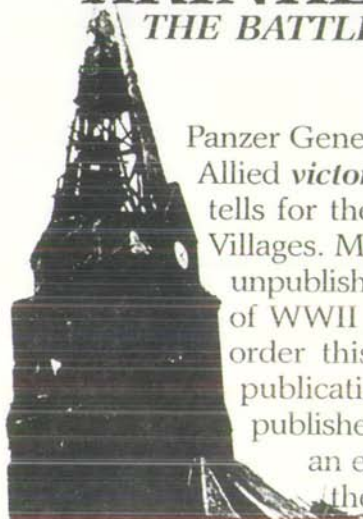
27th Armored Infantry Bn., 9th Armored Division, 13-17 August, St. Louis. (Contact Edward F. Greh, 45200 Card Road, Mt. Clemens, MI 48044).



KRINKELT-ROCHERATH

THE BATTLE FOR THE TWIN VILLAGES

A New Book By William C.C. Cavanagh



Panzer General Hasso Von Manteuffel called it the *key* to the Allied *victory* at the Battle of the Bulge. Now Will Cavanagh tells for the first time the full, dramatic story of the Twin Villages. Meticulously researched and packed with maps & unpublished photos of the battle site, it's a gripping account of WWII heroism and honor. For a limited time you can order this important new war history at a special pre-publication price of just \$17.50... a full 22% off the publishers list. Plus, as a bonus, your order **now** reserves an exclusive collectors edition copy, autographed by the author... unavailable later at any price.

"At long last, a comprehensive account of the most decisive action in the entire Battle of the Bulge, the stopping of the Sixth Panzer Army on the north shoulder. Will Cavanagh knows the terrain like his back yard (which it virtually is) and tells the story with verve and drama.

— Charles B. MacDonald
author of *A Time for Trumpets*
The Untold Story of the Battle of the Bulge

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Will Cavanagh, is recognized around the world as an authoritative historian of the WWII campaign in the Ardennes of Belgium. He is curator of the military museum at Malmedy and serves as a frequent host and guide to the many veteran's groups visiting the battle site. Will is also a VBOB member!

Mail your check or money order for \$20 (includes \$2.50 postage/handling) to THE CHRISTOPHER PUBLISHING HOUSE, 106 Longwater Drive, Norwell, MA 02061. Your Collector's Edition Copy will be shipped immediately after publication scheduled for early 1986. Be sure to include your address.



Taps

GROW, Maj. Gen. ROBERT WALKER, 6th Armored Division, died 3 November 1985.

MORE Members Speak Out

Carl Olsen, 319th Glider Field Artillery, 82nd Airborne Division, White Plains, NY, carried a gun powder thermometer in the Stavelot-Malmedy area and reports that the coldest day he recalls was 0° Fahrenheit (not including the wind-chill factor) during the blizzard on 23 December. A Gun Section Sergeant, he was covering the withdrawal of the 7th Infantry Division from St. Vith. He concludes with "what happened on Christmas Eve is another story."

Henry R. Winger, 2nd Bn., 358th Infantry, 90th Infantry Division, Third U.S. Army writes that he "enjoys THE BULGE BUGLE so very much - keep up the good work." He says that memories of combat that took place over forty-one years ago come back to him and that he still shivers when he thinks of the snow, the cold, the mud, the suffering grief and anguish that went with it. He warns that future generations must never be permitted to forget "the great battle that was fought by the U.S. Army."

John F. Colarusso, Hq. Co., 3rd Bn., 423rd Inf, 106th Infantry Division, better known as the Hungry and Sick, writes from Carver, MA. For the past 40 years he has been like everyone else - just buckled down and supported the family. He expects to attend this year's general membership meeting.

John H. O'Neal, Co. I, 317th Regt., 80th Division, writes that the past 41 years "did sure slip away." He is 76 now and has good health. He has been married 55 years, has a son and three grandchildren. He retired from the Railroad Mail Service in 1969 when postal cars were discontinued. John writes "life has been good to me. It is nice to see our grandchildren growing up, but is so sad that so many of our pals did not make it back." He states that he is proud to be a member of VBOB and says to tell Kilroy hello.

Harry F. Miller, 740th Tank Battalion, Wichita, KS writes that his outfit was a separate tank battalion that belonged to nobody. "We were shipped here and there anyplace we were needed. We didn't
(continued in 2nd column above)

fight for many months, but once we started we never got a rest until it was over. We had a bunch of great guys, mostly from Texas and Oklahoma, who knew what they had to do. We spent most of our time with the 12th Army Group - mostly First Army."

Harold C. Ayres, D.V.M., 2nd Infantry Division, Phoenixville, PA tells us he is just winding up 36 years of a delightful veterinary practice in the Valley Forge area. "Two trips back to the BOB area, in 1974 and 1984, and hope to make it back in 1994."

Tracy McGraw, Hq. Co., 9th A.I.B., 6th Armd. Div. asks the following buddies to contact him at R.R.1, Box 79, Almyra, AR: T/Sgt Charles Duffy, Kinky Adams, Carl Bunker and John Detrich.

Lawrence R. Myers, Co. C, 317th Inf, 80th Div, asks for any info on his buddy, George Sheila of Wisconsin, to contact him at 15174 Arnold Rd., Dalton, OH 44618.

Domenick P. DiMarino, 629th Tank Destroyer Bn, First U.S. Army, is interested in hearing anything of his former unit. Write him at 61 Grove Ave., Devon, PA 19333.

John V. Carrigan, Co. A, 19th Tank Bn., 9th Armd. Div. is looking for other former members of the 19th Tank Bn. Write him at 1227 Glenmeade Dr., Maryland Heights, MO 63043.

Mel Kutchera, 3d Sqd., 2nd Platoon, Co. A, 110th Inf., 28th Div. would like to hear from his buddies, especially Lt. Acebol, Sgt Hayes, Miller, Adams, Rose, Roessler, Rice, Patrick and Powers. Write to Mel at 709 York St., Manitowoc, WI 54220.

"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*



Fred Felder's Book FOOT SOLDIER

EUROPE 1944-45

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«TOP KICK» TOPICS

outfit, but was transferred to an Armored Infantry outfit.

Both outfits had their drawbacks. For instance, Armored Infantry did take a lot of ground in halftracks. It was not unusual that they had enemy on two or three sides until they made contact with other Armored units. This was called a pincer movement. That was one of the less pleasant parts of being Armored.

What made it difficult for the straight Infantry was that they had to clean out the pockets caused by the pincer maneuver.

Many a doughfoot thought that Armored people left too much cleaning up to them, but you must remember that the enemy was trying to bust out of the pocket while the cleaning-up operation was going on.

So, you see, neither had it any better than the other. Wherever the Infantry got the name "Queen of Battle" I'll never figure out. There were no queens in my outfit that I know of!

"Some 2.8 million World War II veterans who kept their National Service Life Insurance (NSLI) in force will receive an average \$285 dividend. The total dividend distribution on these policies is \$784.8 million."

This is what the "OLD SARG" was referring to in the last edition of THE BULGE BUGLE. The key words are "WWII veterans who kept their NSLI in force." If you dropped or converted your NSLI you are not eligible for this dividend.

Ever so often the Ol' Sarge hears a discussion between an Armored Infantryman and a regular doughfoot. Each try to convince the other that they had it the roughest. Well, having put time in both Armored and Infantry divisions, I believe I can speak with some authority. Ol' Sarg was originally in a regular gravel-pounder



Q - I am a military retiree. I have been notified that my CHAMPUS coverage ends when I am 65. Is this true?

A - CHAMPUS or CHAMPVA coverage ends when a recipient becomes entitled to Medicare coverage.



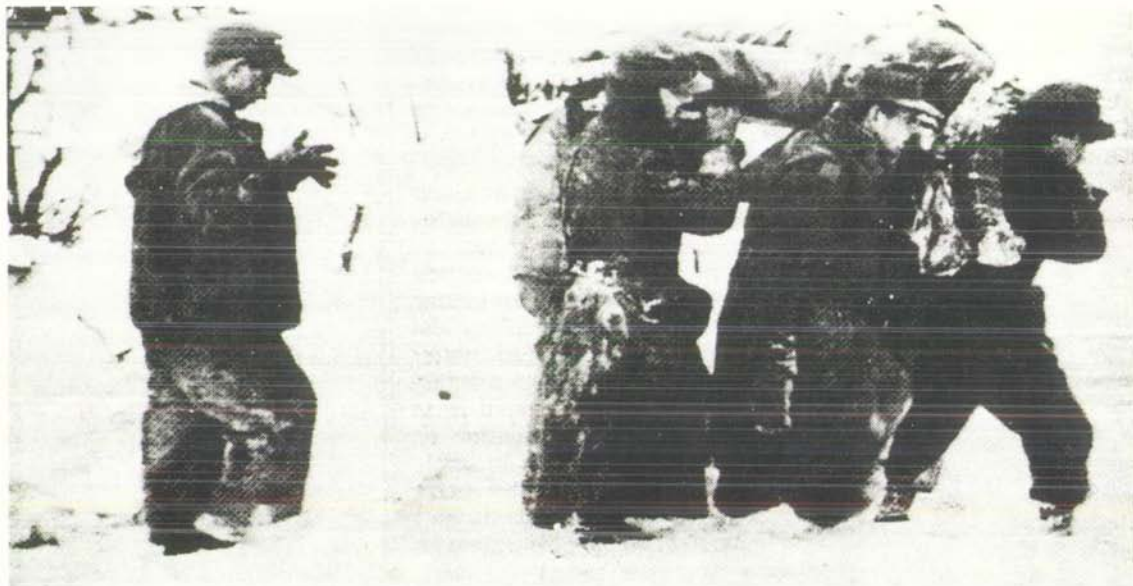
Q - Where may I obtain information about a relative buried in an American military cemetery overseas?

A - Information concerning American military buried overseas may be obtained by writing to: American Battle Monuments Commission, Room 5127, Pulaski, Bldg., 20 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20314.



Q - My husband died from a service-connected disability and I have not remarried. It is possible for me to obtain a VA guaranty on a home loan?

A - You would qualify for a certificate of eligibility to obtain a VA guaranty on a home loan. Eligibility for the actual loan would be determined by the lender.



From Time-Life Books

The body of an American soldier killed during the Battle of the Bulge is carried in from a snowy Ardennes field by German prisoners. The six-week battle claimed more than 180,000 casualties.

The epic Battle of the Bulge: brutal cold overshadowed all else

By **MARTIN R. DRUMMOND**

Sun staff writer

For A.Z. Adkins and W.T. Jackson, the passage of 40 years has numbed the memories of gunfire, screams of pain and the barking of orders from commanding officers.

But if you ask them to recall their parts in the World War II battle over the Ardennes Forest — better known as The Battle of The Bulge — the impression that remains clear in their minds was the oppressive, morale-sapping cold.

The sub-zero temperatures had incapacitated men and machine alike. Food and drink were frozen, as was the Belgian soil in which protective foxholes were to be dug.

Shivering was interspersed with shelling. Sleep was rare, while bloodshed was rampant.

For almost two weeks after the battle's start on



Adkins

Dec. 16, 1944, a last-gasp effort of the German Army had kept thousands of American soldiers reeling under intensive infantry and armored assault. Talk of being home for Christmas was dashed in the chaos of retreat and the struggle for survival.

A 50-mile thrust into the Allied battle line had been made, catching the Allied command completely off guard. As the German push bent the Allied line inward, it appeared as a giant bulge on the battle maps in command headquarters and thus the name of the battle was born.

Many authors have written of the intelligence blundering that allowed the debacle to occur and how it was finally reversed, not by a general sitting in a warm office but by brave soldiers with freezing toes and smoking rifles.

In the major scheme of things, Adkins and Jackson were but small bit players. While Gen. Dwight Eisenhower and his staff calculated how to

See 40 YEARS LATER on page 10

40 years later

From page 9

respond to the 120,000-man enemy assault, "they weren't thinking about old Andy Adkins of Gainesville, Fla," the local attorney said.

He and Jackson each had a part, albeit a cold one.

□□□

At 22, W.T. Jackson was a Florida boy ready to kill Germans in defending the cause of freedom. Basic training at Camp Blanding and later infantry training had prepared him in the skills of warfare and survival, such as digging foxholes and coping with the fear of death.

Private First Class Jackson was not

"For a boy that was born in Florida, that had never seen snow before, twenty below (zero) was pretty tough to take," recalls A.Z. Adkins.

prepared, however, for the bone-chilling cold that demoralized thousands. "You could spit on the ground and it would bounce up as a piece of ice," Jackson said from his home in Starke.

Squad leaders had told their soldiers to dig foxholes in the Luxembourg countryside but the men were finding the task was as hard as the ground they were chipping at. "If you dug down an inch, it would freeze an inch below that," Jackson said.

The temperature sometimes hit 20 degrees below zero.

Jackson was in Europe as a replacement to be moved into a unit depleted by casualties. He landed in Europe in early December and even after the German offensive began, he had still not been involved in heavy fighting.

In fact, until after Christmas Day, the toughest battle he faced other than the cold was a 36-hour bout with diarrhea. He wasn't alone.

"I saw a thousand men with the GI's at one time."

Jackson thinks the illness was due to the well-intentioned idea of Army

leaders to feed turkey dinners to their troops on Dec. 25. The problem was that the turkey had been frozen, thawed and frozen again, Jackson said.

After the 36-hour intestinal disaster, he concluded that you don't re-freeze poultry.

"Things like that break your morale before you get to the battlelines."

But the time came to head for battle and Jackson joined others in a 36-hour train ride to an area near Hosingen, Luxembourg. German soldiers holed up near the town had to be overcome and it was up to units in Jackson's 80th Infantry Division to root them out.

After the train ride, "we walked all night long and tried to dig in on high ground," Jackson said. In addition, the nemesis of previous days — fog — continued to hinder the soldiers' search and destroy efforts. The blanket of fog also kept the Allies' support airplanes grounded.

When the soldiers were ordered to advance toward the town, they moved up another 20 or so yards amid sporadic gunfire and dug in again as best they could. Again, a leader's well-intentioned effort caused problems for his men, but this time it had deadly consequences.

Eight to 10 Sherman tanks pulled alongside the foxholes, either to offer protection or to consolidate firepower, Jackson surmised.

Another advance was ordered. "When we started to move, the Germans opened up with everything they had. Us being around the tanks drew a lot of fire from the 88's," Jackson said. The German 88-mm cannon was among the Axis' most effective weapons and Jackson was witnessing another demonstration of that fact.

Though unsure how many casualties the guns claimed, he knew that the toll was heavy. "Man, they'd drop them (shells) in your hind pocket if you'd hold it open."

Jackson never opened his hind pocket but an enemy shell paid him a visit, anyway. The result was a shattered left arm, loss of much blood and eventual erosion into shock.

It was depressing, all right, but others had been hurt worse. Many had died.

The injured soldiers were not in complete despair, however. "The Red Cross had some pretty girls who would drive trucks right up to the front lines. It was a good morale booster," Jackson said.

□□□

Adkins was a combat veteran by the time Hitler's daring counterattack was launched. As a 23-year-old lieutenant, he had already been injured twice since landing in France in June. He had seen his share of death during his six months in the war.

It was the cold he was not used to.

"For a boy that was born in Florida, that had never seen snow before, twenty below (zero) was pretty tough to take," said Adkins, now of Gainesville.

"There was no way on God's green earth you could stay warm ... Our water-cooled machine guns would freeze and we had to put antifreeze in them."

"We couldn't drink from our canteens because the water was frozen," he said. The cold was so intense that once, upon stretching out on the ice-covered ground to rest, his coat froze to the surface and he could not get up until a buddy soldier came along to help.

The German Army was fighting in desperation and had caught the Americans by surprise, but the thing most on the mind of Adkins during the late December battle was the weather. He labeled it as the "single biggest problem the combat infantry had in the Ardennes."

Morale was low, food was cold, and feet were freezing. The problem became so pervasive that commanding officers ordered soldiers to take turns rubbing each others' feet to prevent frostbite.

With thousands of soldiers occupying foxholes in open fields, there was a pressing need for blankets to give to the soldiers. Adkins said the leaders dictated that only one blanket would go to each two-man foxhole, though.

"If you gave them two, they'd both go to sleep."

In line with Jackson's recollection, Adkins said that diarrhea had plagued the troops, worsening the morale problem. "If you can visualize a (Cont'd. on Page 11)

40 years later

From page 10

guy that's got diarrhea and has got a gun trigger he can't squeeze and also has to dig a hole in the ground. Man, it was just terrible."

On New Year's Eve, the order came for Adkins's battalion to take a town occupied by Germans. He couldn't remember the name of the town, but he will never forget the result of the effort.

Under darkness of night, the four companies of soldiers moved within a half-mile of the town. Included in the units were some soldiers who had just joined the force that night.

"Some of those kids were dead before the next morning."

Adkins was part of a forward observation unit that was not fired upon when entering the range of German guns. "They were doing what we often did. That is, let a small number of forward units pass and then when the larger force follows, open up on them."

When the shooting started, "it was an absolute catastrophe."

Small arms, cannon and land mines were claiming victims all around Adkins. The battalion commander was killed, his company commander severely wounded and the total casualty figure for the next 24 hours reached into the hundreds.

Adkins took over as company commander and eventually directed a

Morale was low, food was cold, and feet were freezing. Commanding officers even ordered soldiers to take turns rubbing each others' feet to prevent frostbite.

pull-out of the battalion when some replacements finally arrived.

The many lives lost was a sad fact of war. Ironically, Adkins said, the town was later taken without a shot by American troops.

"You lick your wounds and you

keep on going," he said of war and death.

No epic battle is complete without a brilliantly conceived battle plan or some heroic action on the part of the soldiers. If the Battle of the Bulge is undistinguished on the tactical side, it was not lacking in heroics. The fight captured the imagination of the American people and etched itself in history largely on the strength of one four-letter word.

The word, a mild oath, was uttered by Brig. Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe of the U.S. 101st Airborne Division which was surrounded in the town of Bastogne. "Nuts," was McAuliffe's reply to a German demand that he surrender his troops.

When the fog finally lifted Allied planes returned to the skies over the Bulge and by January the Germans were beaten back. Four months later the German high command capitulated and the V-E Day celebration began on May 8.

Article from Gainesville Sun. Editor's note: A.Z. writes that W.T. Jackson was a rifleman in the 318th Inf. Regt., 80th Div. and that A.Z. was with Co. H, 317th Inf. Regt., 80th Div. Further, the order to attack was not on New Year's Eve, but on 20 January 1945. His unit moved out to attack at 0300, Sunday, 21 January. A.Z. does remember the name of the town they were to attack -- Burschied.

PLANS ARE IN THE MAKING FOR VBOB GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOVEMBER 6, 7 and 8, 1986

To whet your appetite, the following are plans for the next General Membership Meeting, Sheraton Hotel in Arlington (Crystal City) VA. Specific items on the program will be published in a later edition of our newsletter.

Thursday, November 6: Registration and information located in the Atrium Lounge followed by a photo display of 1986 VBOB events and a military books display and opportunity to meet the authors. Two movies are planned for 6 p.m. followed by a social gathering with background music of the '40s.

Friday, November 7: In the morning we plan to board busses for Arlington National Cemetery to observe the Changing of the Guard and to lay a memorial wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. A business meeting will follow at the hotel, then lunch, and more business. In the evening, those who wish may attend the Westend Dinner Theater's production of "Brigadoon."

Saturday, November 8: The majority of the day will be spent at a "Day at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland." This will include a visit to the U.S. Army Museum including the Battle of the Bulge Gallery. This will be followed by a champagne brunch at the Officers' Club. In the afternoon, the Color Guard will introduce comments and a concert by the First U.S. Army Band. A social hour at the hotel's Atrium Lounge will lead into a banquet and a program with a speaker and entertainment. The evening will end with a Grand Finale, "Juke Box Saturday Night," with dancing and visiting. ...Ed.

General Membership Meeting

Honorable and general discharges qualify veterans for benefits.

A 65-year-old veteran does not automatically qualify for a nonservice-connected pension. He must meet certain military discharge and length of service requirements. In addition, the veteran's income cannot exceed certain limitations. At the present time the annual income limitation is \$5,886 for a veteran without dependents and \$7,710 for a veteran with a dependent. The limit increases by \$999 for each additional dependent.

Veterans may contact the nearest VA regional office, a service officer or one of the veterans' service organizations, or a state or county veterans' office to obtain the forms necessary to initiate a claim for VA compensation or pension benefits. Any of these sources can provide information about benefit programs and assist in completing application forms.

Veterans can receive both a VA pension and social security at the same time provided their social security payments do not put them over the applicable income limit.

Service-connected disabled veterans must be rated thirty percent or more in order to claim additional compensation for a wife, child or parent.

A 3.1 percent cost-of-living increase in VA compensation benefits for service-connected disabilities will be reflected in checks issued on March 1. The rate boost, effective Dec. 1, 1985, was

signed into law by President Reagan on January 13.

More than half of the 142,227 American servicemen and women who were held captive by enemy forces during four periods of conflict dating to 1917 are alive today. The VA has made special outreach efforts to ensure that the more than 83,000 former prisoners of war are fully informed of their benefits. An estimated 79,000 of these veterans are over 65. Legislative changes in 1981 and 1984 eased criteria for former POWs to establish service connection for certain disabilities. Veterans who were interned 30 days or more can have disabilities presumed to be service-connected from certain diseases. While the law recognized that military medical records do not cover periods of incarceration, there must be some medical evidence relating the current condition to the period of military service.

Treatment is available at VA's 172 medical centers and 226 outpatient clinics nationwide. Treatment in non-VA facilities at Government expense is not authorized unless the veteran has received prior approval from the VA. Compensation rates for service-connected disabilities were increased effective Dec. 1, 1985. The 3.1 percent cost-of-living rate adjustment increased monthly payments to \$1,335 for a veteran with a disability rated at 100 percent. The 50 percent rate was increased to \$388. Veterans rated at 10 percent now receive \$68 monthly. Veterans rated at 30 percent or more qualify for a dependency allowance. Dependents of veterans rated 100 percent may qualify for educational assistance. Widows of veterans rated 100 percent for 10 years prior to death are

eligible for dependency and indemnity compensation, as are widows of veterans whose deaths are service-connected. Amount of payment is based on the veteran's highest military grade. Compensation entitlements apply to all service-connected disabled veterans and not just former POWs. VA facilities have designated employees to coordinate benefits and services for former POWs. Additionally, a national hotline is available 24 hours a day to answer questions for former POWs. The toll-free hot line number is (800) 821-8139.

A 67-year-old veteran with limited income has applied for a nonservice-connected pension. He does not have to prove to the VA that he is disabled. Permanent and total disability for pension purposes is presumed at age 65.



"Able Fox Five to Able Fox. I got a target but ya gotta be patient."



Bridges and the Bulge

(Based on an article by VBOB's Peter F. Leslie, Changewater, NJ).

Combat Engineers made a fine record in the Ardennes. Little attention has been paid to the record of the support troops attached to Corps and Army. One of these units was the 511th Engineer Light Ponton Company, attached to the 1102d Engineer Combat Group of VIII Corps. By the time the company landed in Normandy on 10 July 1944 it had lost its ponton bridge and became a two-platoon Bailey Bridge company with a third assault platoon equipped with footbridge and assault boats and motors.

After supplying and constructing bridges in Normandy under constant fire while supporting the breakthrough bridge at Avranches, the company moved to Brest on the Brittany Peninsula to stage an assault on the port, then on to Redange in Luxembourg. On 16 December the company had a good part of its men and equipment scattered up and down the VIII Corps front. The unit was used to operating in small teams and reassembled in less than two days after the usual Bulge experiences and with no loss of equipment or personnel. At this point the 1102d Group was reconstituted as an Infantry Division under the command of Gen. Whitelaw of the 17th Airborne Division which had not fully arrived from CONUS.

These plans had been made in advance as the after-action reports show, adding further controversy to "What did they know and when did they know it?" Part of the company was detailed as Infantry, setting up roadblocks in the Martelange area from 18 December until relieved by the Fourth Armored Division on 22 December. After regrouping for three days, the company reverted to its primary task and immediately took part in patrolling the Meuse to prevent enemy infiltration.

With the resumption of the Third Army's offensive the unit supplied and constructed numerous Bailey Bridges and conducted several assault crossings of the Our and other streams on the Luxembourg-German border.

The unit finished the war accompanying mostly the Fourth Armored until Pilsen, Czechoslovakia.

After award of five battle stars, one Croix de Guerre, three Silver Stars, 41 Bronze

Stars and numerous Purple Hearts, the unit suffered only one fatality. After 40-some years the reason for this record has become apparent. By the time the war ended the unit had existed for three years. It had conducted its own basic training, it had never undergone cadre drain, it had six months of overseas training, and it had the same officers and men throughout its existence.

The unit was designed to operate in at least two trucks with four men; T5's supervising an assault crossing was not uncommon. The unit was superbly trained and led which resulted in a very low rate of casualties. There is a lesson here that commanding officers in today's forces should not ignore.

The 511th continues its unique record to this day. It is probably the holder of more memberships in VBOB than any other unit involved in the Ardennes. It holds two reunions a year and fifteen percent of the original company is expected to attend. It maintains an active mailing list of some 50% of the original company which is added to year by year. It maintains an active Historical Committee which at this writing is seeking contact with the 1102d Engr. C. Gp., the 35th, 44th, and 159th Combat Engr., and the 991st Treadway Bridge Company.

It will be well represented in the Fall trip to the Ardennes later this year.

(See "REUNIONS" column for details).



Spud patrol

The spoils of war for the U.S. Third Army included a huge pile of captured potatoes left behind by the retreating Nazis northeast of Nancy, in France. Likely less than thrilled by this particular conquest were these members of a KP detail from Headquarters Company, 134th Infantry.

MILITARY, March 1986

—U.S. Army Signal Corps photo

The March 1986 edition of MILITARY contains these interesting notes --

EDITOR'S SQUARE

Should you know any people who rattle on about the present administration and its high military spending, etc., point out the following facts: The defense outlay comes to 26% of the federal budget. In 1962, under President Kennedy, it was 46%.

The Soviet Union has 191 divisions. The United States has 16. Also, the USSR has 23 million reservists. Of their back-up forces, 2 million were active duty within the past five years.

France has about 1,000 (obsolete) tanks. West Germany replaces about 1,000 tanks with new generation models every year. USSR upgrades their force with 1,000 tanks every four months.

The United States Navy now has fewer ships than it had on 6 December 1941.

Cuba has a larger army than Canada.

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of Capt. Burwell Baylor Wilkes IV is asked to contact the Editor. Capt. Wilkes was with the 4th Armored Division overseas in Dec. or Jan. 1944. He was from Meridian, Miss.

Why do we refer to the "Tomb of the Unknown Soldier" when there are more than one soldier there? Because Congress has not changed the name of the tomb.

In our February edition, VBOB member A.Z. Adkins wondered just how cold it really was during the Ardennes Campaign. In Drive, Charles R. Codman, General Patton's aide during the campaign, writes of 2 Feb. 1945 that in Saint Vith and Houffalize "perhaps the sense of desolation is heightened by the intense cold, the temperature being well below zero - our zero, not the sissy Centigrade variety. How the boys up in line, who have no warm place to come back to, take it, day after day and week after week, is beyond my comprehension."

BATTLE OF THE BULGE

CHAPTER NEWS

Herb Toscano, VBOB's Northeast Director, Public Relations, passes on to our membership a letter of April 18th wherein George C. Wortley, Member of Congress, 27th District, New York, writes "Dear Herb: Thanks for the February issue of The Bulge Bugle. I enjoyed reading through it. I was glad to see the note letting VBOB members know that the G.I. insurance dividend rumor is a scam. Every so often I receive a few letters from veterans inquiring about it, and I hate to see people's hopes raised by a hoax. Thanks again, and please keep in touch." ...Ed.



THE STATUE OF THE BULGE GI IN CLERVAUX, LUXEMBOURG

Could He But Speak

He proudly stands in battle dress
Here in Clervaux today.
What would he say if he could speak
To those who pass his way?

Would he say the men who died
Did not do so in vain,
And would he say the price they paid
Was worth the grief and pain?

Would he caution us of wars
And lessons of the past?
Would he say a future war
This world's could be the last?

Would he say the peace today
Though threatened that it be,
Must be defended and preserved
If we love liberty?

We ponder and we wonder
What would this GI say,
If he could only speak to us
Here in Clervaux today.

...Harold F. Mohn



More candid views from the 1985 General Membership Meeting

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

P.O. BOX 11129
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22210-2129
(703) 979-5270

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The new year of 1986 is starting out with a host of things on the agenda. We have moved our General Membership Meeting to November 6, 7 and 8, 1986. This is our Fifth Anniversary, so we hope moving it to early November will encourage all members to consider visiting the many sights in our Nation's Capitol. Our hotel will be the Sheraton in Crystal City, VA, in walking distance of the subway for sight-seeing in D.C. or for shopping.

Our museum committee is working hard at planning a ceremony for our VBOB Gallery at the Fort Meade Museum. We also plan another trip out to the Dinner Theatre which was a highly successful event in 1985. The play will be "Brigadoon." More information on this will be sent to you later as plans firm up.

The Veterans Administration has greatly appreciated the books you all so graciously helped us donate. It is our hope we will be able to continue such gifts as funds permit. So far, we have donated "A Time for Trumpets," "To Save Bastogne" and "The Damned Engineers."

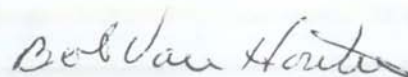
The last edition of THE BULGE BUGLE in February included a short article on Page 5 by Vice President for Military Affairs, Eugene Drouillard, on the availability of a VBOB neck ribbon and medallion. We should clarify that the cost of this combination is \$32 and can be purchased by sending a check or money order to VBOB Headquarters, P.O. Box 11129, Arlington, VA 22210-2129. It is so beautiful that the company which makes it displayed it at a convention of their wares.

At our Executive Meeting of 19 April, it was voted to give more extensive funding to our VBOB Gallery at Fort Meade, MD. This, however, is not without cost and so plans are in the works to seek some \$20,000 from both the membership and corporations. It is our sincere hope that everyone will pledge some sort of a donation, or monthly stipend, if only \$1.00 to get us off the ground as time is getting short for all of us.

We have had some comment that we are always asking for money. Such appeals are continually necessary if we are to fund the many worthwhile projects we constantly bring to your attention. We are one of the few veterans' groups, if not the only one, which provides for free membership to those members 100% disabled or in financial difficulty. Such free memberships are running as high as thirty percent., However, we hope your donations will offset those unable to pay. Remember, dues are not tax-deductible, but donations are.

In closing, I would like to thank the editor of the ExPOW Bulletin for printing our letter and application form for former POWs who were caught in the Battle of the Bulge. We have gained close to 50 new members. Should our readers like a copy of what was printed, please let us know since it is available for other publications.

Thanks to all of you,



Your National President

START THINKING ABOUT THE 1986 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

On 12 April at Ft. Myer, Virginia, in an office adjacent to the barn housing "Black Jack," the 1986 General Membership Committee met to discuss the plans for the get-together of VBOB members. "Black Jack," by the way, is the ceremonial steed that accompanies high-ranking military members on their last trip to their resting places in Arlington National Cemetery.

• •

As you read on, you will see that the committee has great plans for the veterans who fought the biggest land battle in the history of the U.S. Army. The committee, made up of volunteers and appointed by President VanHouten, are mostly old hands at this sort of thing and have promised that, as for past meetings, things will go smoothly for all participants. Each member is experienced either through working with VBOB or their own military associations.

• •

One of the main problems encountered by the committee are the many sights to see and things to do in Washington, D.C. It is difficult to include them all in a weekend schedule. With this in mind, at the request of the committee, the hotel is offering the same low room rate for before and after the November 6, 7 and 8 meeting. Those of you who plan to attend the 1986 General Membership Meeting might consider staying on for the very moving Veterans' Day ceremonies when all of the veterans' organizations, including VBOB, will lay their wreaths.

• •

The schedule of activities, as of this writing, is still tentative only because the committee is in the select-in/select-out process. As in the past, the theme of the meeting will be military-oriented. Examples are a day at Fort Meade, Maryland, when we will visit the museum and be entertained by the First U.S. Army Band. Some of the soldiers stationed at Ft. Meade will be wearing authentic WWII uniforms. This day will certainly bring back many memories.

• •

Hopefully, you have already made your plans to join with your comrades of various units. For those who have never attended one of the VBOB General Membership Meetings, but plan to do so, you are guaranteed to have an enjoyable weekend. Do bring your lady with you. Hotel reservation cards will be enclosed in a later newsletter. Meantime, get yourself primed for a great time on 6 thru 8 November.

...E. L. Loiacono


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X !!!!! ..... X
X F L A H F L A S H F L A S H F L A S H F L A S H X
X =====X
X Tom Mc Fadden, 90th INFD and VBOB member, met with a X
X committee of NORMANDY INVASION FORCE Veterans to plan X
X a D-DAY Ceremony to be conducted 6 June 1986 in FLAG X
X HALL, PHILADELPHIA NAVY YARD. For details contact Tom, X
X 938 Townshipline Rd., Elkins Park, PA 19117 (215)782-1167 X
X This planning committee included members of the 1st, X
X 4th, 29th and 90th INFD; the 101st and 82nd Airborne X
X Divisions; 2nd and 4th Ranger Bn; Navy and Coast Guard X
X Units; British Forces and various Support Units. X
X =====X
X F L A S H F L A S H F L A S H F L A S H F L A S H X
X !!!!! ..... X

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ANNOUNCEMENT

SUBJECT: VBOB MEDALLION

The Executive Council of the VBOB recently voted to make the VBOB MEDALLION, W/Ribbon, available to the membership for wear at military meetings and functions.

The MEDALLION, a 2 1/2 inch replica of our VBOB insignia, is finished in five colors baked enamel on a gold colored base. It is suspended on a 2 1/2 inch neck ribbon with a green center stripe (to represent the pine trees in the Ardennes area). This 5/8 inch center is flanked on both sides by the colors of the flags of Belgian and Luxembourg. The 1985 Membership Meeting pictures in this issue of THE BULGE BUGLE show several of the VBOB officers wearing the Medallion.

Members may order this truly handsome memento using the order blank on the reverse of this sheet. The cost of \$32.00 includes postage and handling. Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for processing.

CUSTOMER NO: _____ RECORD NO: _____ DATE RECEIVED: _____
 GROUP A NO: _____ GROUP B NO: _____
 (Above for office use only)

Please ship the following items to:

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 (first) (last)

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 (no) (street) (city) (state) (zip)

	ITEM	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL
GROUP A				
A 2	Plaque 5"X 7" *	18.00		
A 3	Plaque 5" Diameter	11.00		
A 4	2 Pen VBOB Desk Set	21.00		

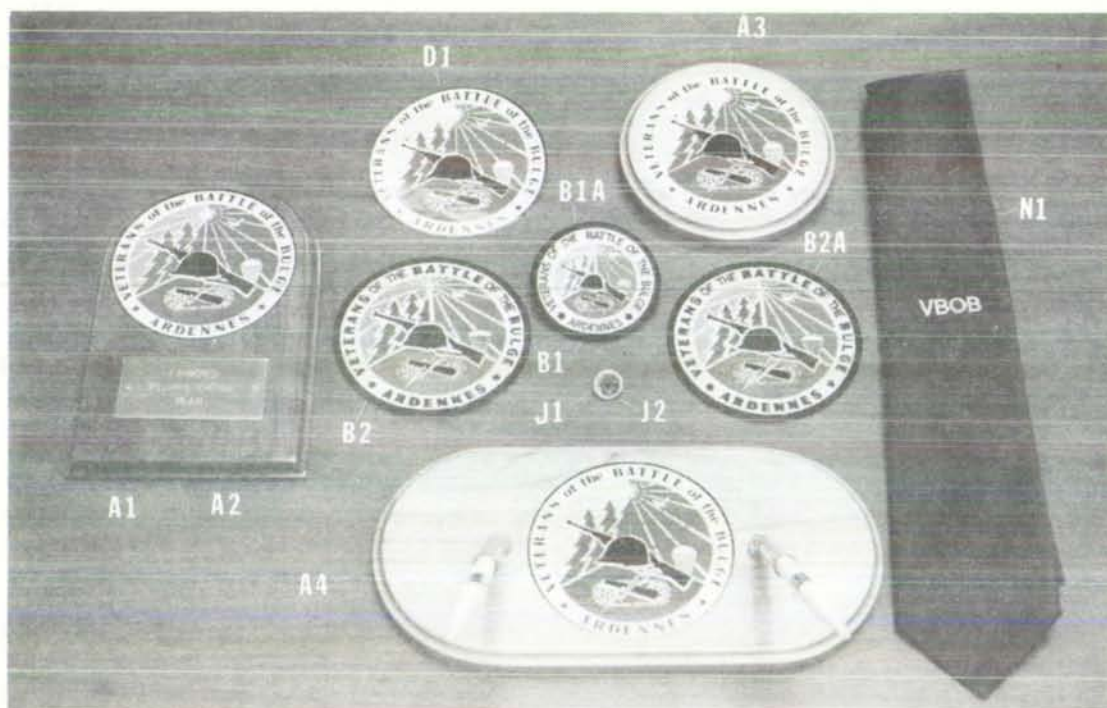
* Please engrave Brass Plate with:

NAME: _____
 UNIT: _____
 UNIT: _____

GROUP B				
B 1	Patch 2 3/4" Diam	\$ 2.50		
B 1A	Patch (W/clutch)	4.00		
B 2	Patch 4 3/4" Diam	6.00		
B 2A	Patch (W/clutch)	8.00		
D 1	Decal 4" Diam	3/ 1.00		
H 8	Silver Helmet, 7/8 Inch	1.00		
J 1	VBOB Lapel Pin (W/clutch)	7.00		
J 2	VBOB Tie Tac (W/c.bar&chain)	7.00		
J 3	VBOB Tie Bar (Not Shown)	7.00		
J 5	VBOB Neck Medallion 2 1/2	32.00		
J 10	Extra Clutch (for pins)	.30		
J 11	Extra Clutch (for Tie Tac)	.30		
N 1	VBOB Neck Tie	10.00		

TOTAL PURCHASES \$ _____

Above prices include postage and engraving of plaque A2.



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our VBOB Association

Your dues are \$10.00

Make check or money order payable to
Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge

Thank You

Dear Comrade...

Our annual dues are the main source of income for VBOB. If the arrow on the back cover of this newsletter indicates that you are in arrears, won't you please use this convenient envelope to pay your dues and help support our wonderful and meaningful organization.

And "Kilroy" says:

While you're at it...how about putting a note in the same envelope and letting VBOB know what you've been up to these past 41 years. Don't forget to mention what outfit you were in. You may just get your name in the newsletter.



VETERANS of the BATTLE OF THE BULGE

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May 1986 Edition



Application for Membership

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Annual Dues \$10

DONATIONS ARE WELCOME

Name _____ Birthdate _____

Address _____ Phone (____) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Unit(s) to which assigned during period December 16, 1944-January 25, 1945 (Div, Regt, Bn, Co) _____

Campaign Ribbons and Battle stars awarded _____

Wounded _____

Captured _____

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