

# The BULGE BUGLE

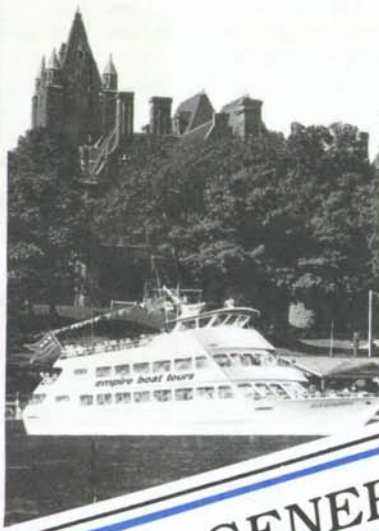
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION • THE VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

VOLUME VI NUMBER 2

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

APRIL 1987

BOLDT CASTLE  
ALEXANDRIA BAY, NY



*...a time to  
relive history  
and  
friendship*

Great plans are under way for VBOB's 6th General Membership Meeting...and the first one to be convened outside of the Washington, D.C. area...it's Syracuse, NY, HERE WE COME!!!

The dates are September 17, 18 and 19...a beautiful time of the year in this scenic part of our country. Day long tours are planned and you have your choice...either to the famed Boldt Castle or the interesting wineries. And this is only the beginning...look inside for details.

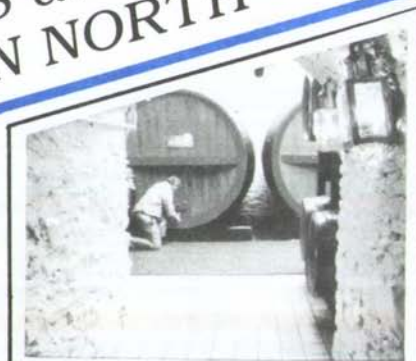
6th GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
**SYRACUSE**

SEPTEMBER  
IN

SEPTEMBER 17, 18 and 19, 1987  
QUALITY INN NORTH

#### THERE'S MORE--

A Memorial Service--"In Solemn Remembrance" and a Membership Meeting where together we can make some exciting plans for the future of VBOB. And on the lighter side, a "Join in the Fun" Octoberfest party, complete with kegs of beer and knockwurst and lots of toe tapping music. WRITE YOUR VBOB FRIENDS--MEET THEM FOR A SENSATIONAL "SEPTEMBER IN SYRACUSE" MEETING!!!



A WARM WELCOME  
AWAITS YOU AT TAYLOR  
& WESTERN WINERY



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



## Bulge Bugle Staff

**EDITOR** - R. L. Lemmon,  
Third U.S. Army Engineers

**EDITOR** - Washington Bureau  
Elturino L. Loiacono,  
10th Armored Division

## VBOB Officers

### ELECTED

**PRESIDENT** - George Chekan,  
9th Infantry Division, 39th Regiment

**EXEC. VICE PRES.** - Wm. T. Greenville,  
86th Chemical Mortar Battalion

**VICE PRES. FOR MEMBERSHIP** -  
Neil B. Thompson, 740th Tank Bn.

**VICE PRESIDENT FOR MILITARY  
AFFAIRS** - Eugene G. Drouillard,  
75th Infantry Division

**VICE PRESIDENT FOR REGIONAL  
COORDINATION** - Wm. A. Simpkins,  
XIX TAC, 9th AF

**TREASURER** - Wm. R. Hemphill,  
3rd Armored Division, 36th AIR

**RECORDING SECRETARY** - Dorothy S.  
Davis, Army Nurse, 57th Field Hospital

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY** - Tom  
Gillis, 4th Armored Division, CCR

### APPOINTED

**GENERAL COUNSEL** - Joseph Langbart,  
99th Infantry Division

**NATIONAL DIRECTOR, PUBLIC  
RELATIONS** - Richard G. Guenter,  
511th Engr. LT, Ponton Co.

**HISTORIAN** - Helen Berry, Widow  
of Walter E., 4th Inf. Div. 8th Inf.

**CHAPLAIN** - The Rev. George W.  
Hall, Jr., 94th Infantry Division

**ASST. CHAPLAIN** - Joseph Kropf,  
16 FA OBS BN

**FINANCIAL ASST.** - George Karambelas,  
84 Inf. Div.

**LIAISON OFFICER FOR INT. AFFAIRS**  
Benjamin I. Twigg, 75th Inf. D.

**PHOTOGRAPHER** - Sam Silverman,  
10 ARMDD 11TK BN C

### COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

**AUDIT** - James Lipman,  
8 FA OBS BN

**BATTLE OF THE BULGE GALLERY**  
Dorothy S. Davis, 57th Field Hospital



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

*It's "September in Syracuse"...Our show is on the road!!*

This year, for the first time, the General Membership Meeting will be held outside of the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. It is quite fitting that the first such meeting be hosted by the first chartered VBOB Chapter--the Central New York Chapter of Syracuse, NY--September 17, 18 and 19.

The site, meeting dates and program were finalized March 7, when Bill Mitchell, Syracuse Chapter President and Al Noce, Sr, the vice chairman of the Syracuse planning committee met with National Headquarters staff. The Headquarter's staff attending the meeting were: George Chekan, National President of VBOB; Clyde Boden, past president and founder of VBOB; Bill Greenville, Executive Vice President and Chairman of the general Membership Meeting; Elturino Loiacono, Assistant Editor of THE BULGE BUGLE and Dorothy Davis, Recording Secretary.

The program will offer an opportunity to see some of the beautiful New York countryside, and a chance to be with old (and new) friends. Check the exciting agenda in this issue of THE BULGE BUGLE!!

A special thanks to Bill Mitchell and Al Noce for driving down to Washington from Syracuse, at their own expense, to develop these events for your enjoyment. Their present and future assistance and **YOUR PRESENCE** will make "September in Syracuse" the most entertaining and interesting meeting to date.

## Battle of the Bulge Gallery Update:

Many of you visited the Battle of the Bulge Gallery, Fort Meade, MD last fall during the General Membership Meeting and were impressed with the amount of history collected in one small room. Earle Hart chaired the efforts of assembling this material (artifacts and photos)--our deep appreciation and thanks to Earle. Earle will be leaving the Washington area and Dorothy Davis, Gallery researcher, will become the Chairman of the Battle of the Bulge Gallery Committee.

The second phase of the gallery is now in the planning stage. In February Clyde Boden, George Chekan, Dorothy Davis, Richard Guenter and Harold Leinbaugh met with officials at Fort Meade, MD to explore the possibilities of building a wing onto the existing museum specifically to house the artifacts and written historical material of the Battle of the Bulge. This is a VERY ambitious project--but one of the goals of our organization is to preserve the history of the Battle of the Bulge.

We feel we have a most unique opportunity to devote an entire gallery to preserving the legacy we fought for forty-three years ago. More information in the next Bugle as the plans and negotiations become reality!!

Yours in Comradeship,

George Chekan

## Meet the Boys in Syracuse (New York, that is!)

Big things are in store for the members of VBOB who are planning to attend the 1987 General Membership Meeting in Syracuse, New York. When William Mitchell and Alexander Noce, both members of the Greater New York Chapter and co-chairmen of the meeting, presented their plans to President George Chekan and other members of the Executive Council, it was obvious that they had put a great deal of effort into working out the details. The boys in Syracuse are, as we use to say, "on the ball" and have made sure that their comrades of VBOB will have a great time and want for nothing.

To give you an example of what you can expect when you attend the 1987 General Membership Meeting, try to visualize spending the weekend of September 17, 18 and 19 in the newly-renovated Quality Inn North with your lady. The special rates for VBOB members and guests are \$42 single and \$48 double. This rate holds true for several days before or after the meeting. There is much to see in the city of Syracuse, so you may want to stay over to see the sights.

Hopefully you will arrive at the headquarters hotel in the early afternoon of Thursday so that you may peruse the many books that will be on display by the Barcroft Book Store. If you have been looking for a certain book, old or new, about the Battle of the Bulge it will undoubtedly be on sale at this Book Fair.

On Thursday evening you will attend the Welcome Mixer at which time you will meet other VBOB members and make new friends, or perhaps see comrades from your old outfit. The subject most discussed at these warm-up sessions is, of course, "the greatest battle ever fought by the U.S. Army."

You will begin your day on Friday, after breakfast, at one of the many eateries nearby and by visiting the registration desk (if you didn't do so on Thursday). At 10 a.m. members will assemble for a Solemn Remembrance Ceremony in honor of our deceased comrades who we left behind or who have passed on during the past year. The ceremony will be in the highest military tradition, complete with Color Guard and bugler. The business meeting will begin at 1 p.m. and end at 5 p.m. Special activities are planned for our ladies.

Have you ever attended an "October Fest?" Well, that is what you will be doing on Friday evening complete "mitt the oomp-pa-pa und mitt the knockworst, saurbroten und strudel," all of which will melt in your mouth. You may wash the food down with a local beer that will match any European-made brew. And entertainment will be on hand to start your toes to tapping. Bring your favorite dance partner. Do you like the "Forties" music? Do you like polkas? There will be plenty of both on Friday night.

On Saturday you can sleep until 8 a.m. That's so you can have breakfast before you go on one of the two excellent tours planned for you. The reason you are getting up at 8 a.m. is so that you and yours can be on the bus for the trip to the Taylor Great-Western Gold Seal Winery, a scenic tour through the Watkins Glen, New York area, with a stop at the Wickham vineyards and the Wagner Winery. If you choose to take the other tour, you will take a bus trip to Alexandria Bay. You will then board a boat for a scenic cruise on to the famous Boldt Castle. (Cont'd. on Page 6)



## "SEPTEMBER IN SYRACUSE"

### VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

QUALITY INN NORTH • SEPTEMBER 17, 18, 19, 1987



# PROGRAM



#### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

- Registration--1:00pm to 7:00pm
- Welcome to Syracuse Activities
- Barcroft Books--Book Fair (old books and new books about the Bulge)
- Renew friendships over a cup of coffee in the lobby
- Take a stroll in Syracuse
- Welcome Mixer--6:30pm to 8:30pm
- Cash Bar and finger foods
- Accordion player with "Favorites of the Forties"

\*\*\*

- Reservations available at nearby restaurants for a late evening dinner after the "Mixer"

#### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

- Registration--8:30am to 5pm
- Memorial Ceremony 10:00am to 11:00am  
"In Solemn Remembrance"  
with color guard,  
band and bugler
- Lunch on your own 11:00am to 1:pm
- Business Meeting 1:00pm to 5:00pm
- Activities for the Ladies 1:00pm to 5:00pm
- Special Evening Event starting at 7:00pm  
"Join in the Fun Octoberfest"  
Sauerbraten, Knockwurst and Strudel  
and barrels of beer
- Entertainment to start your toes  
a tapping and a band for your favorite  
dances including polkas.

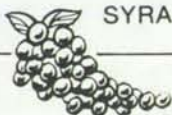
#### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

- Registration--8:00am to 9:00am
- TOUR DAY--a choice of two very special trips into the beautiful countryside and lake regions.
- BOLDT CASTLE--Bus trip to Alexandria Bay, NY, then a scenic boat cruise to the Rhine River Boldt Castle with lunch in the area.
- WINERY TOUR--Visit to the Taylor-Great Western-Gold Seal Winery, scenic bus tour through the Watkins Glen, NY area with a stop at the Wickham Vineyards and the Wagner Winery
- Both tours will depart at 9:00am from the motel and return by 5:00pm
- Cocktail Hour--7:00pm to 8:00pm
- Banquet Gala--8:00pm
  - Top Sirloin of Beef and Burgundy Sauce
  - Program and Presentations
  - Music for your listening pleasure and dancing
  - For that last cup of coffee and fond "farewell" before you start back on your trip home, the dining room opens for Sunday Morning Breakfast at 6:30am

"SEPTEMBER IN



SYRACUSE"



## VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE 6th GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

QUALITY INN NORTH - INTERSECTION OF INTERSTATE 81 and 90  
SYRACUSE, NY 13212 - SEPTEMBER 17, 18, 19, 1987

### REGISTRATION FORM Please print all information

As soon as possible - but no later than September 3, 1987  
Mail your completed registration form and check payable to:

**VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE**  
G.M.M. '87 P.O. BOX 11129, ARLINGTON, VA 22210-2129

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Outfit \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Wife's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s) Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

	No. of reserv- ations	Cost per person	Total
<b>Registration</b> (per person before 9/3/87)	_____	<b>\$20.00</b>	_____
<b>Registration</b> (per person after 9/3/87)	_____	<b>\$25.00</b>	_____
<b>Fri. 9/18/87 Oktoberfest</b> (Buffet and Entertainment)	_____	<b>\$18.50</b>	_____
<b>Sat. 9/19/87 Tours</b> Winery Tour	_____	<b>\$20.00</b>	_____
Tour to Boldt Castle (includes cruise)	_____	<b>\$25.00</b>	_____
<b>Sat. 9/19/87 Banquet</b>	_____	<b>\$22.50</b>	_____
Check enclosed for grand total			_____

----- DETACH HERE -----

### VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Initial \_\_\_\_\_

Street and Number \_\_\_\_\_

City and State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date _____	Time _____	Bedding ____ King ____ Cot ____ Double ____ required
Departure Date _____		No. of Persons _____
Check-in after 3 P.M. _____		Check Out Hour 12:00 Noon _____

#### NOTICE:

All reservations must be accompanied by a first night's deposit or credit card number with expiration date. A 72 hour cancellation is required for a deposit refund.

Cut Off Date:

Sept. 3/87

Tel. (315) 451-1212

#### ACCOMMODATIONS:

Bedding requests will be based on space availability.

Single \$ 42.00 plus tax

Double \$ 48.00 plus tax

- All Rooms Air Conditioned
- Color Cable Television
- AM/FM Radio
- Dining Room
- Cocktail Lounge
- Swimming Pool

MAIL YOUR HOTEL REGISTRATION FORM TO:

**Quality Inn North**  
1308 Buckley Road  
North Syracuse, New York 13212-9988

CC# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

CC Holder \_\_\_\_\_



MEET THE BOYS in  
SYRACUSE (Cont'd.  
from Page 3).

Whichever trip you take you will certainly take home fond memories of your trip to Syracuse, New York.

On Friday evening you will again enjoy the company of your VBOB comrades and their ladies at the pre-banquet cocktail hour. At eight o'clock you will be served a fine dinner; the main course a top sirloin of beef with burgundy sauce. A dance to music of "our time" will follow the banquet and we will dance to the wee hours of the morning or as long as our bodies can take it, whichever comes first.

On Sunday morning we will gather for breakfast and bid our fond farewells to our friends and comrades. Many will go to the church of our choice before heading for home.

As you can see, the boys from Syracuse have put together a great package for a pleasing weekend for you and yours. Begin now to make plans to be in Syracuse with some of the best folks in the U.S.A. - the members of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge.

---

## WHAT ELSE IS THERE TO DO IN SYRACUSE?

### EVERSON MUSEUM OF ART

401 Harrison St., Syracuse 13202

Built in 1968, the Everson Museum of Art is the first museum in the world to be designed by architect I.M. Pei.

It houses one of the largest collections of contemporary ceramics in the nation, as well as a fine representative grouping of American paintings, sculpture, prints, and drawings.

Group tours can be arranged Tuesday through Friday, 10:00 am-2:00 pm, and must be scheduled at least two weeks in advance.

Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday, 12:00 noon-5:00 pm, Saturday, 10:00 am-5:00 pm, and Sunday, 12:00 noon-5:00 pm. Suggested donation is \$1.00.

### ONONDAGA HISTORICAL MUSEUM\*

321 Montgomery Street, Syracuse 13202

The Onondaga Historical Association celebrated its 121st anniversary in 1983 by opening the Onondaga Historical Museum. Featured are changing displays of artifacts and memorabilia from the Association's years of collecting and preserving the heritage of Onondaga County, as well as an orientation center.

The museum provides an overview of the area's history through use of paintings and exhibits on the natural, cultural and industrial history of the county.

Open Tuesday-Saturday, 12:00 noon-4:00 pm. Group tours should be made in advance. Admission is free.

### ROTHSCHILD'S APOTHECARY MUSEUM

817 E. Genesee St., Syracuse 13210

Great care has been taken to reproduce the atmosphere of the pharmacy opened in 1926 by Gus & Rose Rothschild. Visitors can watch pills being made just as they were in the 19th century, see a "chemist" manufacturing cherry cough syrup, or simply browse through the extensive collection of apothecary treasures. The museum is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 10:00 am-3:00 pm. Call for special group tours.

### BURNET PARK ZOO

South Wilbur Avenue, Syracuse 13204

The new Burnet Park Zoo will take you on a whirlwind tour of animal life, from its very origins over 600 million years ago through portrayals of spectacular examples of animal diversity, adaptation and socialization. How animals relate to people and the future of wildlife on this planet will complete this exciting exhibit sequence.

All exhibits and services, including a restaurant and gift shop will be accessible to everyone. Admission free.

474-6064

### THE SALT MUSEUM

Onondaga Lake Parkway, Liverpool 13088

The museum illustrates the Onondaga salt industry during the 19th century when Syracuse earned the name "Salt City" as America's leading salt manufacturing community. During the Civil War years, hundreds of boiling blocks and thousands of outdoor sheds around Onondaga Lake were used to evaporate local brine and produce salt.

Exhibits include the full scale reconstruction of an 1856 boiling block, a "sights and sounds" tour of a 19th century salt workers' neighborhood, and re-created craft shops. A gift shop is located on site. Located 1/2 mile from Ste. Marie, the museum is open from May to October, seven days, 10:00 am-5:00 pm. Admission is free, donations accepted.

### THE ERIE CANAL MUSEUM

318 Erie Blvd. at Montgomery St., Syracuse 13202

Tour the National Register Landmark Weighlock Building, restored to its appearance in the 1850's when it functioned as a canal boat weighing station. Board a 65-foot long canal boat to experience life and work on the Erie Canal and explore the history of Syracuse as it grew from swamp to city. Visit the "hands-on history" gallery filled with participatory exhibits, the recreated weighmaster's office and the orientation theater, with its 14 minute overview of the adventurous history of the world's most successful canal. Open Tuesday-Sunday, 10:00 am-5:00 pm. Admission: adults \$1, children \$.50.

### THE DISCOVERY CENTER OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

321 South Clinton Street, Syracuse 13202

A "hands-on" museum for children and adults with 45 participatory exhibits in the Science Arcade. They include theme exhibits, science-related art shows, lively science demonstrations, visiting and permanent please-touch exhibits that educate as they entertain, and daily starwatch programs in the museum's Rotary Planetarium. The Science Store sells solar energy kits, star charts, fossil specimens, liquid crystals, microscopes and science books.

Open Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 am-5:00 pm, Sunday, 12:00 noon-5:00 pm, closed Monday. Admission: adults \$1, children under 12, \$.50, group rates available with advance registration.

457-2990

471-0593

425-9068

425-3774



# Members Speak Out

James J. Flannery, Co C, 60th Armd Inf, 9th Armd. Div, was transferred after Thanksgiving Day to the 87th Chem. Mortar Bn. in the Hurtgen Forest, supporting the 18th Infantry of the 1st Division. After a false alarm leave to Paris, he drove back against the flow of fleeing civilians and First US Army troop movements east of Aachen. Southward, before Christmas, his unit supported the 75th Inf. near Grandmenil where his Co. B lost heavily at Sadzot, Belgium to a raiding Panzer unit. Later, his unit joined the 18th Abn. Corps which included 82d Abn. Div. and 1st Inf. Div. Jim wants to hear from friends in those varied WWII assignments. Write him at 862 N. Kensington St., Arlington, VA 22205.

---

J. Harvey Walker, Co. K, 120th Inf, 30th Inf Div, has operated an auto dealership for 42 years. Retired now, he plays golf, has a large garden, and the Lord has been good to him, he says. He was wounded in the Ardennes Campaign.

---

Robert C. Cogswell, Svc. Co, 40th Tk. Bn, 7th Armd. Div, sends a donation to VBOB with his latest note. He and his wife enjoyed the last division reunion. Bob keeps busy with a theatre pipe organ club in Syracuse; it's a Wurlitzer!

---

A. W. Shrawder, Co. D, 331st Inf, 83d Inf. Div, served in the five campaigns during WWII and then occupation duty with the 99th Division in mid-1945. He is a vice-president of three corporations, is currently semi-retired and doing consultant work in purchasing, and is Editor of his Co. D Infantry Regiment newsletter.

---

Fred H. Liesong, Co. E, 276th Inf, 70th Inf. Div, served as a rifleman near Bischweiler and later in the Saar Valley. His unit freed Forbach. After the war in Europe, he was transferred to occupation duty with the 3d Division at St. Goar. After the war, he graduated from Engineer school and in 1980 retired from Chrysler Corp, and is still active making the new Army M-1 Main Battle Tank developed in Germany. Fred wants to hear from other 70th Division comrades. Write him at 31182 W. Rutland, Birmingham, MI 48009.

E. W. Knapp, Btry. B, 776th FABn. recalls that his Third U.S. Army unit supported the 4th, 6th and 10th Armored Divisions. He sends his thanks for admission into the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge.

Virgil V. Villa, Co. D, 312th Med. Bn, 87th Inf. Div, returned to an Army assignment in Europe three years after his Ardennes experiences. In 1952 it was Korea, in 1961 Vietnam and an assignment in Hawaii. He retired in 1967 from the service and became a Veterans Employment Representative in Florida. In 1985 he retired for the last time. He, however, is now doing medical exams for an insurance company.

---

Harold R. Bohn, 3d Bn, 120th Inf, 30th Inf. Div, landed at Omaha Beach on July 1, 1944. After discharge he worked in logistics with Reconstruction Finance Corp. in St. Louis (which later became the War Assets Corp. and then the War Assets Administration). Shortly thereafter he worked with the US Army Finance Center, then the Corps of Engineers Supply Control Office in St. Louis, the Mobility Command, Detroit, and finally to the Army Materiel Command from which he retired in 1972. (A dedicated Govt. employee! (Ed.))

---

Lawrence D. Martin, I&R Platoon, 4th Inf, 9th Inf. Div, joined his unit as a replacement at St. Lo and was one of the first to go into Belgium. He crossed the Meuse River and entered the Siegfried Line into Germany at Rotgen. He was on the outskirts of Duren when ordered back into the Bulge. His unit then met German paratroops near Monchow, set up a defense and relieved the 99th Division which had been "chopped up." After the Bulge, he jumped off again at Remagen. His unit was the first Infantry to cross the bridge before it fell. He was wounded once and missing once.

---

Wm. J. Smith served as a Medic with the 10th Regt, 5th Inf. Div. and who, whenever December rolls around, it isn't Christmas he thinks of, but rather cold, cold December of 1944. This is why his heating bill is so high! He has served his VFW post as Adjutant for the last 24 years...a post of nearly 1,900 members.

# AMERICAN ARMORED FORCE MEMORIAL APPROVED

On December 18, 1986 The Armored Force Monument Committee held a reception honoring those congressmen who were so instrumental in gaining congressional approval of SJR 43 and HJR 167. This bill in its final form authorized a monument in the nation's capital area as a tribute to those "Men of Steel" of the American Armored Force.

The guest speaker was the honorable Senator Strom Thurmond.

Several members of VBOB had the privilege of attending. They were Jimmy Leach, one of the prime leaders of the committee, Clyde Boden, Bob VanHouten, "Lucky" Loiacono and Sam Silverman from our Executive Committee.

VBOB was one of the first donors to the committee during its infancy, providing \$500 for seed money. They have a long way to go to meet the estimated \$475,000. The monument will be supported only by donations and any offerings by individual members will be most helpful. The government is providing only the land.

Donations may be mailed to Armored Force Monument Committee, P.O. Box 1146, Fort Myer, VA 22211 or to VBOB and we will forward it.

The following resolution is signed by Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., Speaker of the House of Representatives, Strom Thurmond, President of the Senate pro Tempore and Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of America and is dated November 6, 1986. ...Ed.

## Ninety-ninth Congress of the United States of America

### AT THE SECOND SESSION

*Began and held at the City of Washington on Tuesday, the twenty-first day of January, one thousand nine hundred and eighty-six*

### Joint Resolution

Authorizing establishment of a memorial to honor the American Armored Force.

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF MEMORIAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (c), the organizations specified in subsection (b) are authorized jointly to establish a memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia or its environs to honor members of the American Armored Force who have served in armored units. The memorial shall commemorate the exceptional professionalism of the members of the American Armored Force and their efforts to maintain peace worldwide.

(b) ORGANIZATIONS.—The organizations referred to in subsection (a) are: the Armored Force Monument Committee, the United States Armor Association, the United States Field Artillery Association, the World Wars Tank Corps Association, the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment Association, the Tank Destroyer Association, the 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, and 16th Armored Division Associations, the Council of Armored Division Associations, and the National Association of Uniformed Services.

(c) STANDARDS.—The memorial shall be established in accordance with the standards set forth in H.R. 4378, as passed by the Senate with amendments on September 10, 1986, and further amended by the House of Representatives on September 29, 1986, except that section 6(b)(1) of H.R. 4378 shall not apply to the memorial.

#### SEC. 2. PAYMENT OF EXPENSES.

The United States shall not pay any expense of establishment of the memorial.



# VBOB RETURNS TO THE ARDENNES ONCE AGAIN

This trip was different in that there was only one bus-load of us touring Belgium, Luxembourg and the eastern tip of the Netherlands. That small, we were able to go to all the little out-of-the-way towns where fellows had fought and lived in civilian homes and carried away warm memories. We were witnesses to some joyous reunions. Such instances make a trip so much more meaningful. Bob VanHouten had persuaded two of his old Co. A buddies, Dave Bottiggi from Cleveland and "Mac" Cunningham from Florida and their captain, Charles Hunter from Alabama, all from the 16th FAOB, to come on the trip and they spent a day, driven by Belgian members of CRIBA, searching for the tiny town of Auw, Germany and the house that had been their command post on the 16th of December.

Well, you never saw four guys tumble out of a car so fast and practically dance in the street (in pouring rain). "This is it! Yes, it is!" If the occupants were home, they remained hidden, but I'm sure they thought they were being attacked by lunatics. Then we foraged on to Prum where we hunted for a railroad station to which Bob and hundreds of prisoners were herded and kept under machine gun guard overnight (in the rain). We couldn't find one that was glass-domed, but the CRIBA people are marvelous at research and discovered that it was the place where we were, but built differently after the war because it had been blown up.

The CRIBA people had a reception for us and stayed with us for four days driving various members around the Bulge area, down lanes too narrow for the busses, showing us out-of-the-way places where parts of the battles were fought, telling unknown facts about some of the battles, taking us to farmers' homes and knocking on their doors so we could see their private "museums" of artifacts they had dug up from their fields. There are uncounted collections like that all over the area.

CRIBA, CAM and CEBA in Belgium and Luxembourg are all people who do research and collect artifacts and photos. They have receptions for returning GIs and above all offer friendship, their time, and homes and effort trying to find people or places for any soldier who requests it. And

they have accomplished remarkable results.

We even had a reception in the tiny mountain farming town of Weiler, Luxembourg. We were met with banners and music welcoming the "Liberators" by the whole school consisting of 11 children. And we were invited to another museum.

We visited the American Military Cemeteries at Henri Chappelle, Belgium; Hamm, Luxembourg; St. Laurent-sur-Mer, Normandy and Suresnes (WWI), Paris where wreaths were laid and prayers offered by our traveling chaplain, Rev. Joseph Kropff, 16th FAOB, Co. B (Calif.) These are all beautiful, peaceful well-kept resting places.

At the invitation of the government of France, we spent five days in Paris with members of the three resistance fighter groups. We laid a wreath at Mt. Valerien which is a monument to 4,500 Parisians who were tortured and killed by the SS. They then were buried in cemeteries all over Paris so the people wouldn't know how many had been killed. We also laid a wreath at the little Statue of Liberty which is in the center of some celebration and exhibitions. We had a luncheon at the invitation of Jacques Chirac, mayor of Paris and Premier of France, at the Hotel de Ville (City Hall) which is just as beautiful as any king's palace. We visited LaFayette's tomb in a fascinating old cemetery and laid a wreath. We rode a boat up and down the Seine River, seeing all the famous historic buildings. In the late afternoon our four busloads joined the C.A.R. in marching down the Champs Elysees for ceremonies at L'Arc de Triomphe, tomb of the unknown.

Another day we journeyed to Reims to visit the war memorial, have a reception with the mayor and visit Taittinger champagne cellars. They were originally excavated by the Romans for the limestone and later enlarged by monks for their wine cellars.

Some of us took an excursion to the Versailles Palace where we were all goggle-eyed at the opulence and overabundance of gold leaf. No wonder the peasants revolted!

(Continued on Page 19 )



VETERANS  
of the  
16th FIELD ARTILLERY  
OBSERVATION BATTALION

From left, Charles Hunter (Capt, "A" Btry), Dave Bottiggi, M.A. (Mac) Cunningham, Bob Van Houten (all of "A" Battery) and Rev. Joe Kropff ("B" Btry), after receiving medals from the President of Le Comité D'Action de Résistance, Les Invalides, Paris, October 1986.



OUR BELGIAN FRIEND & VBOB MEMBER, André Hubert, sends three beautiful postage stamps issued by the Belgian postoffice commemorating the 40th anniversary of the liberation. They are enlarged and reproduced below.



Prince Georges County Council  
American Legion, Inc.  
Department of Maryland

1980-1987

JOHN R. LESTER  
COMMANDER

SANDRA M. WATKINS  
ADJUTANT

29 December 1988

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge  
Attn: George Chekan, President  
P. O. Box #11127  
Arlington, Virginia 22210-2129

Dear President Chekan:

On behalf of the Prince George's County Council of the American Legion, Department of Maryland, I would like to take this opportunity to say Thank You for your invitation to attend the Dedication of the Memorial Tree and Memorial Plaque to the memory of those who fought and died in the historic Battle of the Bulge.

Thank You for allowing those of us not yet born or not present at that battle to gain a little more insight into the lives of those who were there. The dedication, followed by the laying of the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers was very impressive and personally touching. The Reception at the Fort Myers Officers' Club was a perfect finale to this historic event.

Again, Thank You for allowing us to participate in this part of history.

Yours, in service to God and Country, I am,

Sincerely,

*John R. Lester*

John R. Lester, Commander  
Prince George's County Council  
The American Legion  
Department of Maryland



# Members Speak Out

Robert Catlin, Co. L, 359th Inf, 90th Div, writes of his company spearheading into the Bulge near Wiltz, Luxembourg, with four tanks of the 6th Armd. Div. on 9 Jan 45 when he was wounded. Anyone who remembers Bob may write him at 4310 Bearsdale Rd, Decatur, IL 62526.

Homer E. Knicley, Sr, Co. C, 31st Tank Bn, 7th Armd. Div, was wounded 1/21/45 at St. Vith at age 18 and spent over 19 months in hospitals. Since then he has worked as Chief, Vehicle Maintenance Facility, US Postal Service, Washington, D.C. He is a new life member of VBOB.

W. D. Williams was with the 7th Armd. Div. at Camp Polk, LA and shipped out to form the 740th Tank Bn. at Ft. Knox and attached to various divisions during the Battle of the Bulge. He just retired after 34 years with a VA hospital.

Earl D. Terry, Co. L, 357th Bn, 90th Div, writes to say he walked all the way through the Ardennes Campaign and was wounded twice, medically discharged and has lived on a ranch until he retired.

Delmar E. Wilson, Co. C, 305th Engr, 80th Div, left service to farm and run a drill and a dozer and did blasting work in a strip mine for 20 years.

Doyle E. Stayden, Sr., Co. C, 60th Armd. Inf. Bn, 9th Armd. Div. was wounded and taken prisoner on 16 Dec 44 in Luxembourg. After working 32 years he retired early with a heart condition.

Kenneth Reiter, 413th AAA 90mm, First US Army, visited France on D-Day, found his unit is entitled to the Bronze Star for those who hold a Certificate of Merit.

John J. Sweeney, 61st AIB, 10th Armd. Div, finally got all his six children graduated from college and is now getting ready to run in the New Jersey Marathon this month followed by the Long Island and Dublin, Ireland, Marathons in May and October.

Charles R. Hogg, Sr., Co. D, 69th Tank Bn, 6th Armd. Div, Third US Army, worked as an accountant for U.S. Steel after WWII. Following the death of his wife, he recently remarried and feels this may be the reason his dues were late.

# Taps

The names of the following VBOB members whose notification of their death was received since the VBOB Membership Meeting in 1985

were read by Chaplain George W. Hall, Jr., at a memorial service during our Fifth General Membership Meeting on November 7, 1986:

Barce, Leo A.	Marcotte, Hormadis J.
Bender, Harwood	Martin, Vernon G., Sr.
Bennett, Roger E.	Mathews, George D.
Biller, Herbert L.	McAndrews, Thomas P.
Blase, Willard G.	Nichols, William W.
Campbell, Joseph E.	Nicolazzo, Albert O.
Cavallo, Rocco A.	Pentecost, Martin T.
Chesney, Weldon R.	Poland, Harold E., Sr.
Combs, William E.	Renda, Joseph G.
Compton, Henry J.	Rhodehamel, Robert T.
Dobson, Robert S. Jr.	Ricedorf, Bernard E.
Engle, Harrison H.	Robinson, John M.
Erinakes, Peter	Russell, Paul
Finch, Raymond E.	Ryan, Ward S.
Greco, Richard L.	Salek, John B.
Hammer, Warren R.	Schamberger, Howard
Hartsgrove, Charles R.	Spink, Harold G.
Henderson, Norris D.	Stephens, Jack W.
Hendrick, Elmer F.	Stewart, Charles D.
Hobgood, George M.	Stouffer, Wayne L.
Hohing, Robert C.	Thompson, Richard A.
Holbrook, Willard A.	Tozer, Robert E.
Holmes, Rexford C. S.	Troy, Raymond E.
Houston, Robert J.	Truex, Bertice
Jacobs, Maurice	VanHerweg, Lawrence
Jones, Casey N.	Varanka, Michael
Kindred, Elizabeth M.	Viel, Frank J.
Kraus, Leo J.	Weir, Alvin K.
Lalumia, Thomas M.	Whisehunt, GEORGE M.
Lathrop, Dix	Whittecarr, William D.
Lindsey, LeRoy E.	Zinschlag, Edward N.
Lontz, Harold J.	White, Ivan A.
Lutz, David M.	
Maderis, Melvin L.	

MAY THEIR SOULS ALL  
REST IN PEACE.....



From left, VBOB's Wm. R. Hemphill, Treasurer; Eugene G. Drouillard, Vice President for Military Affairs; and Bob Lemmon, Editor.



# Members Speak Out

Ernest L. Brown, Co. F, 1st Plt, 328th Inf, 26th Inf. Div, sends stories by comrades Frank Meier, James Zellner, Slim & Buzz Lychock and his visit to Luxembourg and Germany. Space prohibits publication of these interesting articles, but Ernie asks to hear from anyone who fought at Eschdorf, Mon Schuman Cross Roads and Saarlautern (now named Saarlouis-Roden). He can be reached at P.O. Box 1415, Matthers, NC 28106.

E. Lacy Satterfield, Jr., Co. A, 330th Inf, 83d Inf. Div, tells us he earned three battle stars with his unit. He returned home and farmed and raised tobacco, then got a job with AT&T for 34 years. He's returned to Europe five times since WWII. He'd like to hear from Co. A comrades - write Lacy at Prospect Hill, NC 27314.

Meade Edwards, Co. D, 932d Sig. Bn, 9th AF, worked for an oil company and auto parts concern after WWII. Meade was a truck driver and hauled radio equipment from the English Channel to Normandy through St. Lo. "What a job to keep up with Gen. Patton on communications." Meade wants to hear from his buddies - write him at 333 Ely St, Washington Court House, OH 43160.

Donald H. Burmeister, Co. E, 346th Inf, 87th Inf. Div, joined a volunteer group of a Lt and 10-11 men of a patrol group which operated at night. They never wore helmets (which would make noise if knocked off their heads). Don made 45 patrols.

Ira E. Bladen, H/H, 393d Regt, 99th Inf. Div, remembers his travels to England, France, Belgium and on into Germany - the Elsenborne Ridge - the Rhine River. He was injured in a land mine accident and evacuated to England and the USA. Ira wants to hear from buddies Wyatt, Frenchy and Hooper. Write Ira at Box 97A, Hokes Mill Rd, Ronceverte, WV 24970.

Raymond X. (Jones) Jenchowski, Co. B, 504th Parachute Inf. Regt, 82d AB Div, a native of Chicago, retired to central Florida. He served overseas from Oran to Berlin as a 60mm mortar crewman. While active in numerous sports, he's longing for news from ex-buddies. He asks that anyone passing through Central Florida stop in to visit

him at Orange Blossom Gardens, 3-23 Silver Oak Ave., Lady Lake, FL 32659.

Doyle L. Gunn, Co. G, 117th Inf, 30th Inf. Div, recently retired from a career with a life insurance company, wants to hear from other members of his unit and of the 91st Gen. Hosp. in England. Write him at PO Box 550, Bay Springs, MS 39422.

Richard E. Hasso, Bn SGM of 740th Rwy. Operating Bn, attached to 7th Army, kept supply trains running in Belgium and Luxembourg and visited the Liege/Namur area about 15 years ago. He is a retired railroad conductor from Conrail after 38 years and very active as Adjutant of his VFW post in Latham, NY. If any other members have a good word for the Military Railway Service, let's hear it.

James H. Liedel, 820th TD Bn, was captured in the Ardennes and marched for three days and nights with nothing to eat or drink, herded into boxcars without space to sit down for eight days. Captured in Dec. 1944, liberated in April 1945, he lost 85 lbs. Dying of starvation, bombed and strafed by Allied planes, he survived the boxcar journey. While in poor health, Jim still thanks God for being luckier than many.

Francis T. Andrews, Co. B, 54th Sig. Bn, 18th Abn, writes that Albuquerque had a big snow storm in mid-January and looked exactly like the Ardennes as most of us knew it. He walked around the back of his home in the snow for over an hour and says the difference is that now he can go in out of the cold...in the Bulge you couldn't run home to Mama!

Alexander Glass, 526th Ord. Co. (H.M.), 1st US Army, V Corps, tells us his unit followed the D.D. tanks onto Omaha Beach and that only a few made it. Alex says "When your dues are due, you know what you have to do. Send them in fast, so the VBOB will last! And last!" He writes of trying to locate a family in Verviers with whom he spent several months "back then" and has asked Mr. Pepinster, VBOB friend of Verviers to help him locate his friends there.



# Reunion~~~

80th Division Veterans Assn. (WWI&II), 22-26 July 1987, Turf Inn, Albany, NY. Contact Ed Bredbenner, 141 Honness Lane, Ithaca, NY 14850.

7th Armored Div. Assn., 9-12 Sep. 1987, St. Louis, MO. Contact F. A. Wickerham, 935 Westview Dr., Louisville, KY 40214.

Fourth Armored Div. Assn., 13-15 Aug 1987, Executive Inn, Louisville, KY. Contact Samuel A. Schenker, Sr., 2440 Victoria Drive, Sharon, PA 16146.

Co. A, 17th Armd. Engr. Bn, 2d Armd. Div, 28-31 May 1987, Radisson Plaza Hotel, Nashville, TN. Contact Willard Curtis, 110 S. Revena, Ann Arbor, MI 48103.

527th Engr. Lt. Pontoon Co., 3d weekend July 1987, Des Moines, IA. Contact Marion L. Munsinger, 402 - 9th Ave., Eldora, IA 50627.

16th Fld. Arty. Obs. Bn, 26-28 Jun 87, Drawbridge Inn, Ft. Mitchell, KY. Contact Houston Mosely, P.O. Box 767, Charleston, WV 25323.

177th FA, Btry C, 1-2 Aug 87. Contact Anthony F. Tomaszewski, 441 11th St., N., Wisc. Rapids, WI 54494.

2d Indianhead Div. Assn, 15-18 Jul 87, Austin, TX. Contact Bill Creech, 16224 Oxbow, Buda, TX.

The Manchu Assn. (9th Inf. Regt.) 15-18 Jul 87, Austin, TX. Contact Oscar Fettig, 2603 Omaha, Pittsburg, KS 66762.

28th Inf. Div., 16-19 Sep 87, Fort Indian-town Gap, PA. Contact 28th Div. Heritage Assn, 14th & Calder Sts, Harrisburg, PA

76th Inf. Div, 1-4 Oct 87, Orlando, FL. Contact E. C. Cutler, Jr., RR2, Box 68, Jackson Ave, New Windsor, NY 12550.

14th Cavalry Group (18th & 32d Sqdns), 11-13 Sep 87, Washington, DC. Contact Bob Leonard, 6302 Alamo St, Springfield, VA 22150 before 10 Aug 87.

820th T.D. Bn, 1st weekend Oct 87, location unknown. Contact A. B. Wigginton, 511 Koger Circle, Somerset, KY 42501.

11th Armd. Div. Assn, 12-16 Aug 87, St. Louis, MO. Contact Alfred Pfeiffer, 2328 Admiral St., Aliquippa, PA 15001.

14th Tank Bn, 9th Armd. Div., 19-23 Aug 87, Washington, DC. Contact Dee Paris, 13110 Holdridge Rd, Silver Spring, MD 20906.

Btry. B, 135th AAA Gun Bn, May 15-17, 1987, Wildwood Crest, NJ. Contact: Robt. W. Bradley, 207 E. Cardinal Rd, Wildwood Crest, NJ 08260.

A Btry, 771st FA Bn, July 24-25, 1987, Airport Hilton Inn, Nashville, TN. Contact: Larry McPherson, 606 Sutton Dr, Xenia, OH 45385.

704th TD Bn. Assn, Aug. 13-15, 1987, Ft. Knox, KY. Contact: Walter Righton, 29 W. Wilkins Lane, Plainfield, IL 60544.

Tenth Armored Division, Labor Day Weekend, Omni Netherlands Hotel, Cincinnati, OH. (Contact the association at P.O. Box 3325 Hyattsville, MD 20787).

285th FA Obsn. Bn, Sept. 11-13, 1987. Contact Charles A. Hammer, 767 Pearl Ave, Manheim, PA 17545.

2d Tank Bn, 9th Armd. Div, July 14-17, 1987, Des Moines, IA. Contact: John Ganser, 713 - 42d St, Des Moines, IA 50312.

99th Inf. Div. Assn, July 22-26, 1987, Pittsburgh Hilton. Contact: Harry S. Crossey, 5941W. Leland Ave, Chicago, IL 60630

30th Infantry Div. Assn, Sept. 8-11, Lake Buena Vista, FL. (Contact Saul Solon, 13645 Whippet Way East, Delray Beach, FL 33445).

87th Division, Sept. 23-27, Albany, NY. Contact Arnold L. Ballard, 408 Cushing Ave, Dayton, OH 45429.

702d TD Bn, Aug. 13-15, Ithaca, NY. Contact Earl F. Scholz, 4042 S. Caulfield Ave, St. Francis, WI 53207.

134th Inf, 35th Division, Sept. 16-20, Colorado Springs, CO. Contact James Graff, C-134, PO Box 54, Middletown, IL 62666.



## EDITOR'S SQUARE

The office tells me we have more members whose editions of our newsletter are being returned for lack of a current address. These members are Baughman (11th Armd. Div, 21st Armd Inf, Recon Hq), Hendrickson (10th Armd. Div, 11th Tk. Bn, Co. C), Kobyk (26th Inf. Div, 101st Inf, 390th AAA AW Bn, Co. A) and Panek (28th Inf. Div, Hq. Co, Anti-Tank Platoon). If any readers have news of these men, please drop VBOB a line.

Just so our combat-type members don't consider the Editor simply a writer, I want y'all to know that I participated in the Normandy Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe Campaigns (Utah Beach), then directly on to the Philippine Islands (Luzon) and then directly on to Japan (Tokyo) before the Army let me come home. Following all this was 1½ years in Korea (Inchon) and then a year in Vietnam (Saigon and Long Binh).

Periodically we must be reminded what some oversea organizations are, despite the abbreviations used in publications, so here goes. CAM (Belgium) - Centre D'Archéologie Militaire, CAR (France) - Comité d'Action de la Résistance, CEBA (Luxembourg) - Cercle d'Études sur la Bataille des Ardennes and CRIBA (Belgium) - Center for Research and Information of the Battle of Ardennes.

Army Personnel Records in St. Louis, MO advises that inquiries concerning awards (Bronze Star, etc.) should be directed to office symbol PSE-AW. (An earlier announcement on this subject apparently cited an incorrect office symbol).

VBOB's CRIBA friend in Belgium, André Hubert, reports that CRIBA has a new headquarters there. Its address is now 22, Thier de la Chartreuse, 4020 Liege (Belgium). Mail should go to CRIBA's Secretary: Pierre Gosset, 20, rue des Fraisières, 4410 Vottem, (Liege) Belgium.

During the last VBOB trip to the Bulge Area, Bob and Bev Van Houten were so impressed with the tiny mountain-top school in Weiler, Luxembourg (the whole school of eleven children) and the enthusiasm of the teacher, Marcel Scheidweiler. Bob and Bev decided to open up the world for them and help supply some tools for study. (Other members have also expressed the same desire). They obtained 12 Rand McNally atlases of the U.S., Canada and Mexico and have sent them in the name of VBOB to the school with The Rev. George W. Hall, Jr. footing the bill for postage. We are sure the atlases will be greatly appreciated and used in many ways by the enterprising Mr. Scheidweiler. There has been correspondence between quite a few members of the 1986 trip and the school children, and we find there is still much active interest in our visit worked into their school lessons.

Anyone interested in a copy of the history of the 134th Infantry, 35th Division, should contact James Graff, 134-C, Box 54, Middleton, IL 62666. Cost - \$25 prepaid provided 500 orders are received prior to printing.

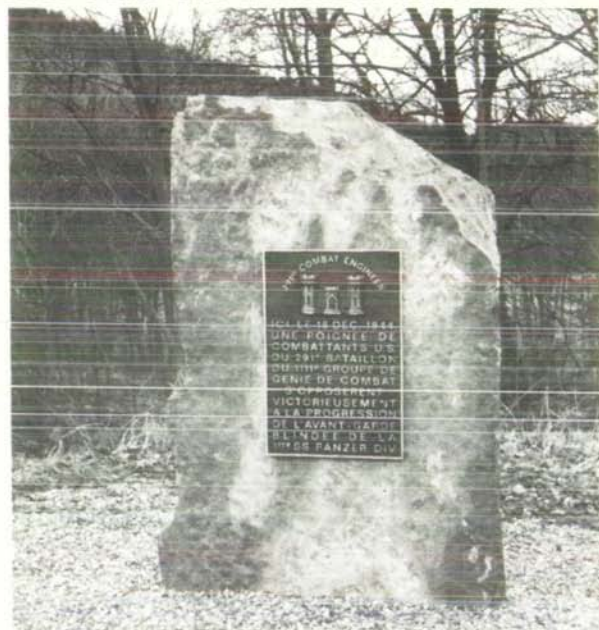




# Members Speak Out

John J. Flynn, 1st Bn. Hq, 334th Inf, 84th Inf. Div, says he's retired from an Engineering career. During the Ardennes Campaign John earned two Bronze Star Medals for knocking out two Tiger tanks and a machinegun nest on Christmas Day with a bazooka in Marche. Later, he was wounded.

Thomas F. Stack, 291st Engr. Combat Bn, sends this foto of a monument dedicated to his unit by private citizens of the Ardennes. It is located on Route N23 between Trois Ponts and Werbomont and reads:



"Here on 18 Dec 1944 a handful of combatants of the 291st Bn, 1111 Engr. Combat Gp, victoriously opposed the armored spearhead of the 1st SS Panzer Division."

John P. Firestone, Co. I, 317th Inf, 80th Inf. Div, was a machine-gunner. After the war, he was a policeman for 25 years with Baltimore's Police Dept. He then moved to Titusville, FL (which he calls "Heaven.") Any other members of I Co. out there?

Wilbur Shelley, Co. B, 60th AIB, 9th Armd. Div, writes that he was in Echternach, Luxembourg, when the German troops crossed the river. He was wounded Dec. 20th near Bastogne. After WWII Wilbur married and had seven children and raised an abandoned girl and a grand-daughter.

Vincent R. Dudzinski, 370th FA Bn, 99th Inf, served as a radio operator with the 393d Infantry. He reenlisted in 1946 and retired in 1964 and worked with the U.S. Air Force as a Program Analyst, then retired for good three years ago.

John Orlowski, Co. L, 134th Inf, 35th Inf. Div. sends a \$5 donation to VBOB and is planning a meeting with WWII heroine Anne Brusselmans. He is active with local news media.

Clinton O. Hanson, A Btry, 314th FA Bn, 80th Div, has just become a VBOB Life Member. He is also a Life Member of the 80th Division. He keeps happy with fishing muskies in Wisconsin.

Wm. D. Johnson, Co. A, 1st Bn, 110th Inf, 28th Division, spent two years in the hospital after having been a prisoner of war in December 1944. Since then he's been active in highway construction and with heavy construction equipment including such a company of his own in Minnesota.

Beatrice Weigle Stroble writes that she claims the honor of being the first nurse to land during the invasion of Normandy. She was with the 51st Field Hospital.

Edward W. Fayiak, 62d AIB, 14th Armd. Div, has been looking everywhere for an M-3 trench knife for a long time. Anyone having one to sell, contact Ed at 1375 Fairview, Apt. 201, Canon City, CO 81212.

Charles E. Murray, Co. B, 21st Tank Bn, 10th Armd. Div, reports celebrating his 49th wedding anniversary last December and looking forward to the 50th one.

Glenn W. Myers, 17th Abn. Div, whose hands and feet were frozen in the Ardennes Campaign worked until six years ago when his neck disabled him and forced him to retire. He writes that he has a Purple Heart which the V.A. will not honor.

## 17th AIRBORNE TO ETO

The 17th Airborne Division Assn. plans to return to Europe again for two weeks in May on a Galaxy tour. For details, contact "Thunder From Heaven" trip coordinator, Joe Quade, at 23 Westminster Drive, Montville, NJ 07045.



# The Men of Company K

This autobiography of a World War II Rifle Company by VBOB members and WWII authors, Harold P. Leinbaugh and John D. Campbell was reviewed in *Air Force Magazine* earlier this year. That review is reproduced below. This book is available, if not from your local book source, from Barcroft Books, 6349A Columbia Pike, Baileys Crossroads, VA 22041. Charles B. MacDonald, a VBOB author ("Company Commander" and "A Time for Trumpets") declares that "No one has written a book like this for World War II or any other war. A brilliant concept."... Ed.

This book takes an unusual approach; it is the collective autobiography of a World War II rifle company. But it works for two shining reasons. The first is the intense dedication, the incredible amount of research, and the articulate, good-humored, but bitterly realistic prose of the authors, two prewar college chums thrown by chance into duty as lieutenants in Company K, 33d Infantry Regiment, 84th Infantry Division, US Army.

Second, the book works because of the intensely emotional ties that bound together so many survivors of an experience. That experience, ghastly as it obviously was, became the central hundred days of their lives. Collectively, they tell their own story, and they tell it well in revealing quotations.

Here are 200 young Americans, mostly draftees, fresh out of training at Camp Claiborne, La. Nearly all are within a year of their twentieth birthday. Company commander Capt. George Geiszl was, at twenty-two, the "old man." Hard-nosed and iron-assed, he "firmly believed we were the best outfit in the division" and "just maybe the best rifle company in the whole goddam Army." You're not far into the book when you realize that the company was built in Geiszl's image and would remain that way. This is all the more remarkable when you consider that he was severely wounded while charging a German-held hedgerow in his fifth day in combat. You knew he'd be back, and he was, only two months later. Geiszl was the kind of guy to lead these men in whatever kind of combat they happened to be in.

It was tough combat. Company K landed at Omaha Beach on November 2, 1944, from an assembly area in England. They were then trucked across France via Paris, across Belgium, and barely into Holland, near where the Belgian, Dutch, and German borders meet and where the Siegfried Line loomed. It was some objective for green kids who had yet to be shot at and who had been told exactly nothing about what to expect. Wisdom would come fast enough, with cynical competence right behind it.

What follows is a day-by-day, almost

step-by-step, casualty-by-casualty account of a very small piece of a very large war. It grabbed this reviewer like no other tale of war ever has—not even the macho posturing of a Hemingway, not even *The Red Badge of Courage* or *The Forty Days of Musa Dagh*.

It's all there, right down to the ethnic mixture, which might have been assembled by Central Casting. But it is all the more authentic, because it is real. You find them all, from the company intellectual (actually, there were several, because by November 1944 the men of the Army Specialized Training Program [ASTP] had been plucked from the nation's campuses to fill the depleted ranks of the infantry preparatory to the final push into Germany) to the city slicker and country bumpkin, from factory and field. They would age quickly and become very good at their new and nasty trade.

We walk through their war with these guys. One hundred days doesn't sound like much in the context of a lifetime, but it can be a lifetime. And it was for thirty-six men of Company K.

The company's first battle involved breaching the Siegfried Line. No milk runs, no warming up in light action, no blooding, as they say—just a big objective taken in a month of sharp fighting with Germany's best. After that, a sharp detour south into the Ardennes took the company to the Battle of the Bulge—no breather, that. It was then back to the Roer, across it and the Rhine, and eventually to a linkup with the Russians on the Elbe.

Don't get the idea that this book is a simple chronology. It is heavily larded with first-person accounts by individual soldiers that are cleverly strung together in a sharp, realistic narrative—a word-picture that lives and breathes.

Interspersed are chapters on the home front, the home front of these particular men—their sweethearts, wives, and parents, and accounts of hospital stays, some of which were the first stop on the way home and for others a welcome pause for refreshment on the way back to their home-away-from-home—Company K.

You'll find yourself drawn into this book. It is tremendously evocative to one who shared some of these experiences (though not in such a hostile environment of terrain and climate), but it will appeal as well to anyone who wasn't there but who wonders what it was like. The children and

## REMEMBER THE SCREAMING MEEMIES?

An article is being written for a future issue of THE BULGE BUGLE about the "screaming meemies," otherwise known as the Nebelwerfers.

VBOB members who have had experiences with or have knowledge of the "screaming meemies" are asked to send something within the next three weeks to: VBOB-Screaming Meemies, Box 11129, Arlington, VA 22210.

Remember to mention your unit and, if possible, dates, places, etc. where you served.

We are fortunate to have a Nebelwerfer at the VBOB Gallery in the Fort Meade, MD Museum.

The Nebelwerfer launcher propelled rockets which were called Wurfgranates and which were 150mm and 210mm, capable of carrying 5.5 and 22.4 pounds of high explosives, respectively. Later a 320mm rocket was developed.  
...C. Boden

grandchildren of that generation will be awed by their sacrifices.

This reader became intensely involved with many of the men as persons—some more than others, as in daily life. The reader will find himself turning back to the picture sections to recall what George Pope looked like—then and now—or to see Sergeant Keller or Sabia, or the co-authors, who are admirably self-effacing throughout. A sterling addition is an appendix that tells as much as possible about the whereabouts and activities of the survivors.

The men of Company K were winners. So is their story, as they tell it themselves.



# IN MEMORIAM- A TRIBUTE TO DAN HERMAN The American Soldier

Dan Herman, Salem, Ohio passed away Monday January 12, 1987. Dan served in "A" Battery, 38th Field Artillery Battalion of the 2nd Infantry Division as Staff Sgt. and First Sgt. from 1941-1946. As the C. O., I can assure he served as my 'blood brother', with the highest of credence, courage, valor and bravery and exemplified great leadership with an innate aura of immortality to his men at all times.

With innate abilities he quickly mastered unexcelled accuracy and speed in gun fire that was proven by corps control fire, to be far superior to all other units in the First Army. He set the 'standard' for all others in Div. Arty, which later proved to be one of the deciding factors in the military victory of WW II. It was upon 'field inspection' by General Hinds in January of 1945 that he agreed with Corporal Rusinski, Herman's 'gunner' that: "we have the best section, in the best battery, in the best battalion, in the best division in the U. S. Army".

I recall vividly, it was Dec. 24, 1944; Sgt. Herman and I were trying to 'set' our new Pauzit Fuses, when the Germans shelled our position with powerful counter-battery fire. We were running between our guns and the C.P. which was an old house, when it was hit direct and demolished. We stopped suddenly in fear, when our kitchen was hit directly in front of us and the pyramidal tent sailed off into the sky. Frantically, we were looking for cover, I could see nothing but dust. Herman spotted two well-dug foxholes and said to me, "get down in that one". He got into the other. The shelling continued. We waited it out! We both survived. Many other brothers did not. We returned to our guns and fired back again at the Germans. Had Herman not spotted those two foxholes, our combat duty and lives would have ended there. 'Til the day I die, how can I ever forget this combat brother? This was at Elsenborn, Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge!

It gave us all a great feeling of security, which was scarce, that if anything should happen to us, Dan Herman would survive to carry on in a gallant manner for our pride and country. I am convinced, that it was he and men like him, that truly won the war for us in Europe in 1944-45. He was not only a loving survivor but respected winner. He sought to survive and serve not medals and glory.

Sargeant Herman did not receive the accolades he so well deserved. He had no desire for them. He was too modest in humility and avoided with denial any praise whatsoever. Sgt. Herman was the true example of the 'Perfect American Soldier'. His value to this country can neither be priced nor quoted. If there was ever a monument to 'The American Soldier', it should replicate him. He appeared and was a 'pillar of strength', for democracy and the U.S.A. What more could God have given us?

*Dr. J.P. Wakefield, Chm.*  
Dr. J.P. Wakefield, Chm.  
2d Infantry Div. Assn.  
2820 E. 29th Street  
Des Moines, Iowa 50317

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

December 9, 1986

I join you in commemorating with special solemnity your comrades, the heroes who made the supreme sacrifice in the cause of liberty. We shall never forget them.

Neither shall we forget you. God bless you and God bless America.

I am honored to send warm greetings to the veterans, families, and guests gathered to honor all those who took part in the Battle of the Bulge.

All Americans owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to you who made what Sir Winston Churchill rightly called "one of the most heroic stands for freedom in American history." You more than held your ground in the bitter winter weather of the Ardennes and blunted the last major enemy counter-offensive in the European Theater of World War II. Your valor, sacrifice, and devotion are an imperishable legacy for your countrymen and all who love freedom now and in times to come.

*Ronald Reagan*





# Members Speak Out

Jack B. Bebout, 334th FA Bn, 87th Inf. Div, who joined VBOB 17 Feb 87, would like to hear from other unit members. Write Jack at 3720 Taffrail Lane, Oxnard, CA 93030.

Herbert Ellis, QM Co, 29th Inf. Div, writes to say he visited England, Omaha Beach and the Battle of the Bulge area in 1980.

John J. Asendorf, FA, 12th Army Gp; 740th FA Bn, Third Army; 83d Div and 90th Div, 315th FA says he was moved around wherever his unit was needed. (I agree. ...Ed.)

John M. Caldwell, Co. L, 9th Regt, 2nd Inf. Div, a Second Lieutenant during WWII, writes that he had only two jobs after the war -- auditor for Crescent Stage, Inc, and superintendent with the county road commission.

Oliver B. Patton, Co. F, 423d Regt, 106th Inf. Div, was left in an aid station in Rad-scheid, Germany when the 423d went to pay its dues on a hill across the river from Schoenberg in Dec. 1944. He stayed with the endeavor until 1974 - 34 years from Pvt to Brigadier General. He has had published four historical novels and a fifth will be out this year -- all about the 423d in the Ardennes in 1944 and entitled The Silent Snow. (Nice to hear from another General Patton ...Ed.)

Al R. Frohne, 14th Cav. Gp, writes that he was captured at Roth, Germany and returned home in December 1945. He went into electric motor repair work under the GI Bill and started his own business. He does volunteer work now at a VA Medical Center as a VAVS Rep for ex-POWs.

John Prechodzen, Hq. Co, 33d Sig. Constr. Bn, remembers the bitter cold as his unit drove up to relieve the siege at Bastogne. Then, from Europe he went to the Pacific and the war there was over when he reached the Philippines and Japan. After WWII John was a printer, a free lance writer, a zipper factory worker and then had his own carpet/upholstery business. He wants to hear from other 33d Sig. vets. Write him at 422 W. Linden St, Linden, NJ 07036.

Oscar H. Summers, Recon. Co, 630th TD Bn, attached to 28th Inf. Div, sent in his dues and a "little extra." He appreciates what VBOB is doing to keep the spirit alive.

David B. Walsh, Co. G, 334th Regt, 84th Inf. Div, is a retired steel worker after 34 years in the mill.

Robert H. DuVall, Co A, 289th Inf, 75th Inf. Div, was a light machine-gunner and was wounded at Provedreux, Belgium in January 1945. Educated under the GI Bill, he has served as a minister in three pastorates the past 32 years and as his Division Assn's. Chaplain since 1972.

Guernie Holbrook, A Trp, 25th Recon. Sqdn, 4th AD, received a battlefield commission at Bastogne and has returned to that city on three occasions since WWII.

George J. Brountas, Btry. C, 20th FA Bn, remembers what fear really meant when Bastogne was almost completely destroyed by enemy forces. He says he found out how accurate their 155 Howitzers really were when they were left behind as the unit retreated.

John Malack, Recon. Co, 899th TD Bn, attached to 9th Inf. Div. served during the Ardennes Campaign near Monschau. He is a retired railroad worker with 40 years' service.

George F. Tallent, Co. C, 304th Regt, 76th Inf. Div. is looking for any members of his unit. Write him at 302 E. Hickory Ave, Lompoc, CA 93436.

George H. Poland, 773d TD Bn, served in that unit from March 1942 to October 1945 and has owned and operated a general store for 42 years and an insurance agency for 20 years.

Ray M. Baranouskas, Co. M, 9th Inf, 2d Inf. Div. writes that he served as an 81mm Mortar Platoon Leader with 3d Battalion and that VBOB author, Charles MacDonald, covered it well in "A Time for Trumpets."

Roy I. McDaniel, Trp. C, 32d Cav. Recon. Sqdn. says he served for five years, was at Remagen when the bridge fell and has been a lineman for 31 years.



## VBOB RETURNS TO THE ARDENNES ONCE AGAIN (Continued from Page 9)

The last evening we were invited by the C.A.R. to a reception in Les Invalides for a buffet, speeches and receiving of a medal for the U.S. soldiers who had fought in France.

During the whole time we were in Paris, we were escorted and closely watched over by the National Police. We had some pretty wild highspeed rides through the center of Paris and even the hotel had security guards. The French government was not about to let anything happen to these crazy American.

The next day, one bus-load left for Normandy to visit the beaches and view the remains of the landing craft and concrete artificial harbor installed as part of the D-Day offensive and visit the excellent museum on the beach of Arromanches, which showed in diorama how the floating docks and roadway were constructed in order to supply the needs of the land army.

We had a reception with the mayor of Ste. Marie du Mont, who had greeted the D-Day invasion with pleas to save the French population. He received seven bullet holes for his efforts, but then the good old Americans patched him up and he has been greeting returning GIs and offering them friendship ever since. We also saw the church tower "Red" Buttons hung from in the movie "The Longest Day." That was in Ste. Marie du Mer.

On the last day we were free to explore the town and ancient cathedral of Bayeaux and the museum of the Bayeaux tapestry.

It was a most enjoyable trip. The friendship offered by the people overseas is overwhelming and the friendships formed on the trip will be long remembered. And we collected ten new VBOB members!

...Beverly VanHouten

"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*

## THESE VBOB MEMBERS VISITED THE BULGE AREA IN LATE 1986

Barr, Hugh D.	Long, Ruth
Bottiggi, David D.	Lundeen, Carroll J.
Cunningham, Milton	Lusk, W. A.
Dubose, Alphas D.	Lutz, Harvey
Duke, Raymond E.	McMurray, John R.
Dukes, Neal M.	Newcomer, Chester
Gilberg, Evelyn L.	Owens, Grady
Hart, Earle R.	Plumb, Norman W.
Hoch, Harvey W.	Pomianek, Casimer J.
Hunter, Charles M.	Robbins, Donald E.
King, Kenneth K.	Shawn, Robert A.
Kropff, Joseph E.	Smith, Richard L.
Kruse, Marvin C.	Tayman, William P.
Lemmon, Robert L.	VanHouten, Robert J.

## ARMORED FORCES MONUMENT

This photo was taken in December at the Retired Officers' Assn. headquarters in Washington, D.C. The occasion was a reception in honor of those individuals who worked on getting sufficient Congressmen and Senators to sponsor a bill in order to



construct a monument honoring the Armored Forces of all the American services. The bill was passed and signed into law by President Reagan.

Shown above are from the left Secretary of the Army John Marsh, Past VBOB Presidents Clyde Boden and Robert VanHouten. Clyde and Bob represented our organization and were presented a certificate by Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina. The Armored Forces Monument will be located on the approach road to Arlington National Cemetery known as the "Avenue of Heroes." (Photo by Sam Silverman)

## VBOB LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

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

## Meet Harold Mohn.. VBOB Poet Laureate



Harold F. Mohn, whose poems appear in THE BULGE BUGLE rather regularly, is a veteran of Northern France, Central Europe, Ardennes and Rhineland campaigns. He served in the Fourth and Seventh Armored Divisions. In August 1945 he unknowingly strayed into the Russian zone of occupation. Although he was wearing an American uniform he was captured because he spoke German. A Russian colonel told him that, had he not been wearing an American uniform, dire consequences would have been awaiting him. He later was proven to be a G.I.

He has had poems appear in "The Bulge," a magazine published by CEBA (Center of Research and Information on the Battle of the Ardennes) in Luxembourg and has made many friends in that country as well as in Belgium. Pictured above are from left Joseph Schoetttert, a member of CEBA, Harold Mohn and Werner Stahnke, Munich, Germany. Werner and Harold have formed a close friendship in the past nine years and have traversed the battle area together. Werner fought on the Russian front initially, but was later sent into the Battle of the Bulge where he was captured by American troops.

Harold and his wife have visited the European battlefields and the American cemeteries twenty-four times. Harold's latest poetic contribution follows. ...E. Loiacono.

### MEMORIAL DAY

Here in this hallowed resting place  
At Arlington today,  
We show our love and gratitude  
In our most humble way.

We prove that we did not forget  
Each single fallen one,  
Who on the field of battle fell  
And life's work now is done.

They left their homes and loved ones  
Prepared to give their all,  
And spent themselves unselfishly  
Lest hallowed freedom fall.

We owe to them the freedom  
That we possess today.  
Let us resolve and pledge to them  
It will not pass away.

Upon this hallowed soil they sleep  
Watched o'er by God above.  
Within their hearts and minds they live  
In memory and in love.

### PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER APPOINTED

Richard G. Guenter was appointed VBOB Public Relations Officer by VBOB President George Chekan at the February Executive Council meeting. Dick has a background in PR work with other veterans' groups. He is currently employed as a sales rep with a steel corporation in Glen Burnie, MD. He is a veteran of the 511th Engineer Light Pontoon Bridge Company. Welcome aboard, Dick!

While visiting the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Dick was approached by a newly graduated Ensign recently. The young man had noticed the VBOB decal on Dick's car and inquired if he had fought in the Battle of the Bulge. When Dick responded that he had indeed taken part in that battle, the Ensign took one step back and rendered what Dick describes as the "finest highball that I had ever seen." Dick respectfully returned the salute.





# VBOB ORDER BLANK

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

Please ship the following items to:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
                     (first)                    (last)

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
                     (number) (street)                    (city) (state) (zip)

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

\* Please engrave Brass Plate of A2 Plaque with:

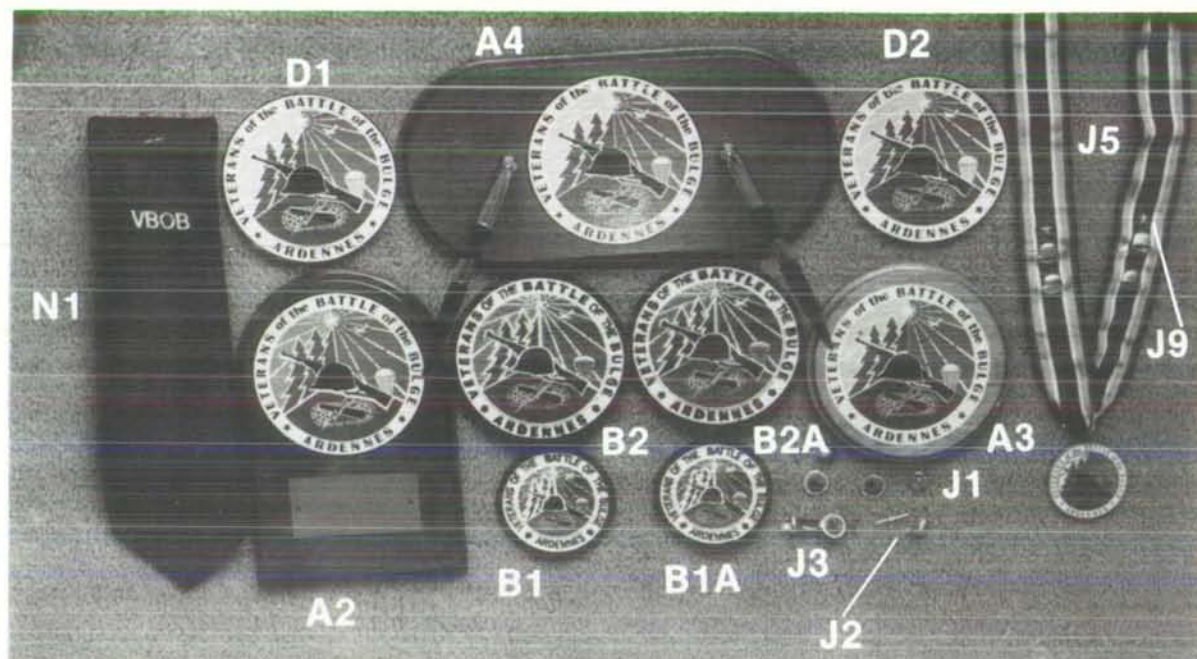
NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ (not to exceed 30  
 UNIT: \_\_\_\_\_ letter/numbers/  
 UNIT: \_\_\_\_\_ spaces each line)

## GROUP B

B 1	Patch 2 3/4" Diameter	\$ 2.50	X _____ =	_____
B 1A	Patch (W/pins & clutchs)	4.00	X _____ =	_____
B 2	Patch 4 3/4" Diameter	6.00	X _____ =	_____
B 2A	Patch (W/pins & clutchs)	8.00	X _____ =	_____
D 1	Decal 4" VBOB Decal	3/1.00	X _____ =	_____
D 2	Logo 4" Windshield Logo	.50	X _____ =	_____
J 1	VBOB Lapel Pin (W/clutch)	7.00	X _____ =	_____
J 2	VBOB Tie Tac (W/chain&bar)	7.00	X _____ =	_____
J 3	VBOB Tie Bar	7.00	X _____ =	_____
J 5	VBOB Medallion (W/ribbon)	32.00	X _____ =	_____
J 9	Life Mbr Stars (SEE NOTE)	2/1.00	X _____ =	_____
N 1	VBOB Neck Tie (Brown)	10.00	X _____ =	_____
V 1	Video Cassette (Beta) NOTE	20.00	X _____ =	_____
V 1A	Video Cassette (VHS) NOTE	20.00	X _____ =	_____

TOTAL PURCHASES: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Stars are to be worn on Medallion by LIFE MEMBERS ONLY.  
 V1 & V1A are approx 40 minutes of 16 Dec 86 Ceremony.  
 Above prices include postage & engraving.



## THE VBOB MEDALLION

The Executive Council of VBOB has made the VBOB MEDALLION, W/Ribbon, available to the membership.

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 1 1/2 inch neck ribbon. The 5/8 inch center of the ribbon is green to represent the pine trees we remember. It is flanked on both sides by the colors of the flags of Belgium and Luxembourg.

All VBOB members wear the Medallion suspended from the neck by the ribbon. Life members are designated by a silver star affixed in the center of each leg of the ribbon approximately 3 inches above the Medallion (or helmets in the case of officers).

Chapter officers wear a letter "C" above the 5/8 inch silver helmets which designate the office held: 3 helmets each side designate a Chapter President; 2 helmets, a Chapter Vice president; 1 helmet a member of a Chapter staff.

National officers wear a letter "N" above the 5/8 inch silver helmets. The National President wears 4 helmets on each side; National Vice Presidents wear 3 helmets; National Staff officers wear 2 helmets and Appointed officers wear 1 helmet.

Former officers wear gold (vice silver) helmets.

Chapters may order helmets and "C"'s for their chapter officers. Cost is \$1.00 per helmet/letter. Please designate the names and office of the chapter officers in your letter order.

Individuals should use the VBOB ORDER Blank on the reverse of this sheet to assure correct pricing of their order.

NEW NEW

NEW NEW

### VIDEO CASSETTES OF THE 16 DECEMBER 1986 DEDICATION CEREMONY

NEW NEW

NEW NEW

The historical Ceremony, during which VBOB dedicated a Memorial Plaque and Tree at the Ampitheater in Arlington National Cemetery on the 16th of December 1986, was preserved on video tape. President Chekan arranged for the recording of the dedication and the laying of a VBOB wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by a professional audio visual company. Cassette recordings are available in both Beta and VHS formats as listed on the order blank on the reverse of this sheet.





*City of Syracuse*

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

THOMAS G. YOUNG



March 9, 1987

Mr. William G. Mitchell, President  
Central New York Chapter  
Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge

Dear Bill:

On behalf of the City of Syracuse, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge to Syracuse in 1987.

Syracuse is proud of its tradition as a convention city. It is our sincere hope that your organization will take full advantage of our central location, easily accessible by road, rail or air; our many unique attractions, providing something of interest for everyone; and the hospitality that will make the members of your organization feel welcome to our community.

We would like to welcome you to Syracuse in 1987.

Sincerely,

Thomas G. Young  
Mayor

cpw

201 City Hall • Syracuse, N.Y. 13202

From \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE



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



## *Your attention, PLEASE . . .*



Use this convenient envelope  
to pay NOW and help maintain  
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 indicated 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 42 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



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED  
FORWARDING and RETURN  
POSTAGE GUARANTEED

April 1987 EDITION

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
ARLINGTON, VA.  
PERMIT NO. 468

DUES - R - DUE

A00217 09/27/87 147  
PHYLLIS WHETZEL THOMPSON  
1322 TENBROOK COURT  
ODENTON, MD 21113

Dear VBOB'er:

"It will soon be the warm months of May, June, July, August and September. This is usually the time of the yearly division association meetings. There are still thousands of those elite veterans who participated in the Battle of the Bulge; from front lines to field hospitals; from a lonely trooper on a road block to a Corps action, these veterans are out there.

We ask you all to carry the message to these people when it is reunion meeting time. Many veterans have never heard about V.B.O.B. It is up to us to spread the word. We ask you to cut

out and carry the attached application into the hills and into the woods and seek out these veterans and sign them up as V.B.O.B members.

Our objectives are to promote friendship and foster good will and preserve the historical data which many of us know. It was prompt action that we gave during the Winter of '44'. Let us act today - tomorrow may be too late."

Neil B. Thompson  
National Vice President  
for Membership

Detach and Mail

Annual Dues  
\$10

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP  
**VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE**  
P.O. Box 11129, Arlington, Virginia 22210-2129

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