

# The BULGE BUGLE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION ☆ VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

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THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

JANUARY, 1987



## The PLAQUE

Story on Page 16



## The MUSEUM

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**THE BULGE BUGLE** is the official publication of Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge.

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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



**Veterans  
Administration**

The Veterans Administration operates both inpatient and outpatient clinics in most VA medical centers for honorably discharged veterans who may have an alcohol or drug dependence problem.



## THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

As your newly-elected president, I accept this challenge with great pride and anticipation.

First and foremost, on behalf of all Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, I want to thank Clyde Boden, our first president, for his insight in founding this great organization.

Also kudos to our out going president, Robert J. Van Houten for his two years at the helm. I hope to continue to fulfill the goals and enhance the growth of VBOB over the coming year.

I became aware of VBOB via a rather unusual route. I'm relating this to you as it could parallel your approach in recruiting a new member.

Several years ago, I was referred to a dentist, Dr. Carroli E. Frawley. During one of my appointments, he casually mentioned that he had served in the Battle of the Bulge with Headquarters Co., 1st Battalion, 110th Reg., 28th Division, and was captured December 19th, 1944 at Clervaux, Luxembourg. I, in turn, related my tale as an infantryman with the 39th Infantry of the 9th Infantry Division. It was then that he told me about VBOB located in Arlington, VA; about their upcoming General Membership Meeting and their planned tour of the battlefields in Belgium and Luxembourg. That's all the info I needed. . . I joined VBOB and went off on that sentimental journey (my retirement gift from my family). A highlight of the trip was locating and meeting with Belgian friends I had not seen in over forty years. . . what a reunion!

Since then I have been attending the regular monthly Executive Council meetings at Fort Myer, VA, and last year was appointed Program Chairman for the 5th General Membership Meeting.

The six months of planning reached its fruition when VBOB members and their families and friends gathered at the Sheraton Hotel, Arlington, VA, last November; renewing old friendships; swapping wartime experiences and enjoying the many planned activities. The members were held spellbound at the Business Meeting, listening to author Dave Pergrin's detailed account of the Malmady Massacre. On the agenda, also, was the wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery: a memorial service at the hotel by our own Rev. George Hall, Jr., for our departed comrades; a visit to the Battle of the Bulge Gallery, Fort Meade, MD, Museum followed by a brunch at the Fort Meade Officer's Club. A welcome speech to the members and guests was given by Lt. General Charles Franklin, First Army Commander. These events were capped by a concert by the First Army Band playing peppery marches and old favorites such as "Lili Marlene". It was truly a nostalgic get-together. . . a rewarding experience.

On December 16th, 1986, we dedicated a memorial tree and plaque at Arlington National Cemetery. This date coincided with the start of the battle in 1944. Your great-great-grandchildren will see this plaque and can say that one of their forbearers was involved in what Winston Churchill called. . . "undoubtedly the greatest American battle of the war and will, I believe, be regarded as an ever-famous victory".

This year the General Membership Meeting will take place in another city. Perhaps the new locale will make it easier for more of you to attend.

We can all help our organization to grow by telling other veterans who served in the Battle of the Bulge, about our organization and encourage them to join and share with us the experiences of this pivotal part of American History.

Two of our goals are to enjoy the comradeship and to preserve and perpetuate the history of this great battle for future generations.

Unlike the Civil War Battle of Gettysburg, there will be no U.S. battlefield to visit, but like Gettysburg, the Battle of the Bulge will, through our endeavours, be remembered as a battle that turned the tide of war.

Again, let me say, pass the word about VBOB to your comrades . . . as Carroll Frawley did to me. . . and like me, I'm sure he or she will be forever thankful that you did!

Yours in Comradeship

George Chekan



# Membership Meeting Planning Committee ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

A great big "THANK YOU" to the many VBOB members who worked a number of hours to make this a most enjoyable Fifth General Membership Meeting. A special "THANKS" to the chairman of the Planning Committee, George Chekan, who brought together the ideas, the people and the resources to make it all happen. Other members who assisted with the meeting include:

- Helen Berry--Assisted with registration of guests.
- Clyde Boden--Provided support and guidance to the committee.
- Joseph Cavanaugh--Negotiated the meeting arrangements with the hotel.
- Delilah & Peter Dounis--Organized the registration of guests.
- Eugene Drouillard--Coordinated the plans for the impressive ceremony at Arlington Cemetery and provided bus transportation for the meeting.
- Wm. Greenville--Served as Master of Ceremonies for the banquet and as adviser to the committee.
- George Hall, Jr.--Delivered several invocations and presided at the Memorial Service.
- Earle Hart--Assisted with arrangements for the "Day at Fort Meade," readied the Battle of the Bulge Gallery for viewing, and served as Master of Ceremonies at the Ft. Meade Brunch.
- Wm. Hemphill--Assisted with registration and the sale of VBOB materials.
- Joseph Langbart--Presided at the swearing-in of the new officers for the coming year.
- Benjamin Layton--Played Taps at the memorial service and gave the invocation at the Ft. Meade Museum.
- Harold Leinbaugh--Discussed and autographed his book "The Men of Company K" and escorted Gen. Clarke to Ft. Meade.
- E. "Lucky" Loiacono--Served as Finance Officer for the meeting and with his wife, Connie, hosted Brig. Gen. and Mrs. Clybourn (Belgium Embassy) at the Ft. Meade Brunch.
- Holly McCord--Assisted with the sales of VBOB materials.
- Charles MacDonald--Discussed and autographed his books and introduced the guest speaker at the banquet.
- Dee Paris--Arranged for the Book/Author session, military book sales and presided at the "Battle of the Bulge Movie" presentation.

• David Pergrin--Assisted at the Military Book Table and briefed the group on the Malmady Massacre.

• Robert Phillips--Assisted with Military Book Sales and autographed his book.

• Neil and Phyllis Thompson--Designed and assembled the beautiful table centerpieces for the Ft. Meade Brunch.

• Robert VanHouten--Provided overall support and presided at the General Membership Meeting.

• Barcroft Books--Provided the wide selection of military books.

• The many people from Ft. Meade and Ft. Myer who gave us guidance and assistance in our plans.

•AND ALL OF THE VBOB MEMBERS WHO GAVE A HELPING HAND!!!

...Dorothy S. Davis  
Recorder, Planning Committee

## OPERATION FRIENDSHIP "AMIS POUR TOUJOURS".....

We have returned as veterans  
Once more to know and see,  
This land for which we fought and bled  
To gain your liberty.

We landed on that day in June  
Amidst the shot and shell,  
Upon the shores of Normandy  
Where comrades died and fell.

Atop the cliff at Saint Laurent  
Beneath the markers white,  
Nine thousand of our comrades sleep  
Who fell amidst the fight.

The guns of war have long been still  
And France knows liberty.  
We hope and pray that with God's aid  
It will forever be.

Long may the bonds between our lands  
Forever cherished be,  
And be a symbol to the world  
Of man's will to be free.

*Harold F. Mohn*  
Harold F. Mohn

(Harold gave me this poem when we were  
in Paris together on Oct. 28th. ...Ed.)





# Report of the Fifth General Membership Meeting

## November 6th

Approximately 170 members, spouses and guests registered for the Fifth General Membership Meeting of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. The afternoon and evening activities were held in the Atrium Lounge of the Sheraton Crystal City Hotel in Arlington and it was a happy gathering place for both new and old members to re-new acquaintances.

A Book/Author area provided an opportunity for members to purchase, and have autographed, books written by some of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. The following authors were present:

Harold Leinbaugh-"The Men of Company K"

Charles MacDonald-"Company Commander, "A Time for Trumpets," "The Mighty Endeavor," and "The Battle of the Huertgen Forest"

David Pergrin-"The Damned Engineers"

Robert Phillips-"To Save Bastogne"

Phillip Bigler-"In Honored Glory"

Barcroft Books also provided a large selection of WWII military books for purchase or just browsing.

Sam Silverman exhibited photos from last year's events. Also displayed were a number of enlarged and mounted photos of the Battle of the Bulge action (provided by Earle Hart, Director of the Battle of the Bulge Gallery, Ft. Meade, MD).

A Social Mixer was held from 6 to 9 p.m. It was a time for more visiting and refreshments as well as to enjoy accordion music of the 40's. Dee Paris showed movies of the Battle of the Bulge and Bridge at Remagen; the mini-theatre was "standing room only" most of the evening. David Pergrin won the door prize which was his choice of one of the displayed Battle of the Bulge photos.

## November 7th

The day's activities began with a memorial service by Chaplain Hall. The names of 65 deceased members were read and Benjamin Layton played Taps.

After the memorial service the members departed by bus for ceremonies at Arlington Cemetery. The changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was impressive as was the special ceremony by the 3d US Infantry, The Old Guard.

The Business Meeting was held from 2 to 4 p.m. The meeting was called to order by George Chekan, Program Planning Chairman; the Color Guard from the VBOB MD/DC Chapter posted the colors. After posting the colors, Robert VanHouten, President of VBOB, chaired the remainder of the meeting. Some 80 members attended and they introduced themselves by giving their name, home address and military unit served with during the Battle of the Bulge.

President VanHouten told about the just-completed VBOB trip to Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany and France (Oct. 19-Nov. 1). He also discussed the accomplishments of the past year including:

- Presentation of two books to 172 VA Medical Centers--"A Time for Trumpets" and "To Save Bastogne."
- Development of the Battle of the Bulge Gallery at the Ft. Meade Museum.
- The commemorative "Plaque and Tree" Ceremony at Arlington Cemetery to be held on December 16th.
- The sale of VBOB Medallions.

Mr. Edward Rose, Director of Voluntary Services of the VA Medical Centers, spoke to the group briefly and thanked them for the books.

The Treasurer's report was given by William Hemphill. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept this report.

Joseph Langbart, General Counsel, discussed the following proposed amendments to the Constitution:

Article IXG10(a)-to change the number of standing committees to "five."

Article IXG10(a)-to permit the committee chairperson to appoint committee members.

Article XIA-to include on the Executive Council additionally "duly appointed officers" and "all living past presidents." Motions were made, seconded and approved to accept these proposed amendments to the constitution.

Earle Hart, Director of the Battle of the Bulge Gallery, briefed the group on the history of the development of the collection of photos and artifacts now in the Gallery. He stated that the aim of the Gallery is to present the realism of the Battle of the Bulge and to collect the artifacts and histories of the people who

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(REPORT OF THE FIFTH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, Continued)

fought in the battle. Mr. Hart stated that the present Gallery is only a beginning and that there is need for a larger facility and more financial contributions to proceed with this project. It is considered to be wise to stay within the Army system for continued support.

Mr. Benjamin Twigg made the following four-part motion: (1) That the membership accept the report by Earle Hart, (2) To proceed with plans for the Gallery, if the Army meets the requirements, (3) To initiate the mechanics for increasing the size of the museum, and to develop a fund-raising plan to provide sufficient funds to accomplish this effort, and (4) That this four-part motion be approved and accepted by acclamation. The membership did voice approval and accepted the entire motion by acclamation.

David Pergin, Commanding Officer of the 291st Engineer Combat Battalion, gave a short history of the Malmedy Massacre. Mr. Pergin had personally rescued some of the 17 survivors of this atrocity. The massacre occurred on December 17, 1944 in a field near Baugnez, Belgium. The survivors stated that the Germans machine-gunned the American prisoners of war (most of whom were from the 285th Field Obs. Bn.) Those who appeared to still be alive were then shot in the head with machine guns. Those 17 men who survived did so by either playing dead or escaping into a nearby wooded area. The Germans occupied this area and it was not until January 13, 1945 when the territory was recaptured by the American Army that the bodies of the massacred men were located with the aid of mine detectors.

Dave Turner of Turner Books briefed the group on Military Unit History Books which his publishing company is printing. He stated that members may write their own biography (200 words or less) and that Turner Books will assist in writing the historical section of the book. VBOB will consider this activity at a later date.

The following slate of officers was presented to the members and accepted by acclamation:

- President-George Chekan, 39th Inf, 9th Inf. Div.

- Executive Vice President-William T. Greenville, 86th Chem. Mortar Bn.

- Vice President for National and Regional Coordination-Wm. A. Simpkins, XIX TAC, 9th Air Force.

- Vice President for Military Affairs-Eugene G. Drouillard, 291st Inf, 75th Inf. Div.

- Vice President for Membership - Neil Thompson, 740th Tank Bn.

- Treasurer-Wm. R. Hemphill, 3rd Armd. Div, 36th AIR.

- Recording Secretary-Dorothy Steinbis Davis, Army Nurse, 57th Field Hospital.

- Corresponding Secretary-Tom Gillis, 4th Armd. Div. CCR.

The new officers were sworn in by Joseph Langbart, General Counsel, and will take office on December 16, 1986.

David Pergin led the members in a standing ovation to Earle Hart and Dorothy Davis for their efforts in developing the Battle of the Bulge Gallery at the Fort Meade, MD Museum.

Consideration is being given to a site, outside of the Washington area, for the 1987 General Membership Meeting. The names of deceased members, commemorated in the morning memorial service, will be listed in the next issue of THE BULGE BUGLE.

After the Colors were retired a motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the 1986 General Membership Meeting.

Over 150 members and guests attended the evening banquet in the hotel ballroom. Wm. Greenville served as Master of Ceremonies. Special guests at the head table included two Army Nurses from the 51st Field Hospital, Janice Reilly and Marie Showalter. Unable to find suitable quarters in Aisne, Belgium in January 1945, the 51st Field Hospital erected pyramidal tents in the snow. In one sixty-three-hour period over 1,000 wounded were cleared through this hospital.

General Wm. Knowlton, who served as a 1st Lt. during the Battle of the Bulge, was the guest speaker for the evening. The General was introduced by Charles MacDonald.

Music of the 40's, for listening and dancing, was presented by a disc jockey after the banquet.

November 8th

"A Day at Fort George G. Meade, MD" was

(Continued on Page 6)



## (REPORT OF THE FIFTH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, Continued)

enjoyed by 162 members and guests. The events began with a visit to the Ft. Meade Museum to see the Battle of the Bulge Gallery. Hosts at the museum were Alan Archambault, Curator, and a Re-Enactment Group in WWII uniforms. After the museum, the group attended a brunch buffet at the Ft. Meade Officers' Club. George Chekan presided over the opening ceremonies. Posting of the Colors was by the Color Guard, Ft. Meade Headquarters Command, the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Eugene Drouillard and the Invocation given by Robert VanHouten. Earle Hart served as Master of Ceremonies and introduced the following distinguished guests:

- Col. John Valieant, Commanding Officer of Ft. Meade, and Mrs. Valieant.
- Lt. Gen. Charles Franklin, Commanding General of First U.S. Army and Mrs. Franklin.
- General Bruce C. Clarke, Armor Commander, St. Vith, Belgium.
- Brig. Gen. Daniel Clybouw, Military Attache, Belgium Embassy and Mrs. Clybouw.

A concert by the First US Army Band after the buffet was enthusiastically enjoyed by all attending the event.

The 1986 General Membership Meeting concluded with a most enjoyable evening at the Westend Dinner Theatre for dinner and the presentation of "Brigadoon."

...Dorothy Steinbis Davis  
Recording Secretary

## Members Speak Out

Benjamin B. Berry, 117th Inf, 30th Inf. Div. is retired from the SC Probation and Parole Board. He wants to hear from fellow Division members. Write him at 204 Railroad Ave., St. George, SC 29477.

Leo Blaskowski, 2d Med. Bn, 2d Inf. Div, in support of the 9th Inf. Regt, served in that unit four years during WWII, having landed on the shores of Europe on D+12 hours. Following WWII he married, has 12 children and worked in a papermill for 35 years. Anyone from Co. A is invited to write to Leo at 116 Hewitt St, Rothschild, WI 54474.

Joseph M. Haley, 126th Ord. Bn, Co. B reports that his unit followed CCB, 4th AD, into Bastogne. Since WWII he has been doing welding and machine shop work, most recently at Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey.

Dave Bottiggi, Co. A, 16th FA Observation Bn, while in Belgium in October was asked by J. Pepinster, Rue St. Nicolas 39, 4801 Verviers, Belgium, if the following American servicemen would write to him: PFC Van Harrison, Co. D, 769th MP Bn, PFC J. D. Plowden, 3350 Sig. Base Maint, and another Plowden, F. Noland Co., Inc, Columbia, SC. Dave and his wife were on VBOB's "Amis Pour Toujours" tour to the battle areas in October.

Pat Moser, 509th Parachute Inf. Bn, drove the "rigs over the road" after discharge for many years, worked at Picatinny Arsenal and the U.S. Postal Service when he retired for disability in 1979. In September 1985, he made his first parachute jump in 41 years and then two more "just to be sure."

Walter P. Landrum, Co. C, 317th Inf, 80th Inf. Div. has a "few good words" for Army dentists. He just had one of his "temporary" fillings removed and replaced after all these years.

Wm. R. Norris, Co. G, 11th Inf, 5th Div, Third US Army, became active after Army retirement with the Military Order of the Purple Heart as Chapter Commander and National Aide de Camp for the State of Georgia for three years and hopes this info meets the requirement for what he's been doing for the past 42 years. He also reports that he "messed up a couple times."





## Members Speak Out (Continued)

Carl F. LeMier, Sr., Co. B., 325th IP, 82d Airborne Division, says the Christmas turkey his unit was issued was raw and most of it was thrown away, his long-handled mustach had ice on it. He helped combat engineers blow up small bridges. He received a serious wound while in the Siegfried Line among the dragon's teeth. The cold kept him alive as his arm was almost torn off; the main artery was destroyed.

Clyde D. Beach, Co. C, 9th Armd. Inf, 6th Armd. Div, at age 71 wants to hear from members of his unit. Write Clyde at Rt. 6, Box 390, Hartwood, VA 22471.

Ralph G. Lettman, 266th FA Bn, 403d FA Gp, First US Army was an M-6 prime mover mechanic. He retired last year as Fleet & Branch Manager of a new truck and rental lease company.

Grady E. Deal, Co. G, 120th Inf., 30th Inf Division, tells us he was at Omaha Beach; spent a week with the "Lost Battalion" on Hill 314, Mortain, France; walked most of the way across France, Holland and Belgium and into Germany, arriving near Aachen on 16 Dec 44. He was at the front at Malmedy -- his unit came across the Americans killed in the field at "Five Points." His unit was over-run taking the town of Thiremont, Belgium and over half of his company were captured.

Charles D. Clements, Co. H, 319th, 80th Div (retired US Army Major) says "hats off to those who are responsible for putting together THE BULGE BUGLE." He will be contributing to Members Speak Out again soon and hopes to attend our Annual Membership Meeting in November.

Richard L. Smith, 188th Engr. Combat Bn, asks if any other members of his old unit are VBOB members. (No, Dick, you're all there is of it!...Ed.)

Robert M. Kearns, Jr., 997th FA Bn, V Corps, First US Army is anxious to hear from former members. He is at 8 Bryan St., Hickory Point, North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582.

Seldon E. Jones, Co. F, 88th Cav. Recon. Sqd, 8th Armored Division, was elected president of his division's association at its reunion in July. For the past 41 years he has been with General Motors' Allison Gas Turbine division.

Joseph D. Monaghan, 37th FA, 2nd Inf. Div, suggests publication of VBOB's membership so members can "catch up with some old friends." Joe retired after 40 years with the U.S. Postal Service.

Lawrence Hoornstra, Co. E, 117th Inf, 30th Division left the snowy battlefield with trench foot, thus ending his combat days in January 1945. He has located only a couple "Bulge Buddies" and would like to hear from others. Write Larry at 145 Butler St, Marine City, MI 48039.

James Tornatore, 786th Tank Bn, says he will never forget the cold winter and miserable time he had - the worst part of the war for him. He ended up in Czechoslovakia. He taught tank fighting at Ft. Knox in 1942 and Camp Chaffee in 1943.

Paul B. Grisso, Jr., Co. G(?), 422nd Regt, 106th Division tells of being a PFC when captured and losing 70 lbs. in prison camp and collapsing on the road gang. He was released from the prison hospital by a recon outfit of Gen. Patton's command in May, 1945. He is anxious to hear from any one who remembers him from those prison camp days. He can be reached at Box 315G on Harbor Drive in Lusby, MD 20657.

Rudolph Kocourek, Service Co, 14th Tank Bn, 9th Armored Division has spent the past 41 years making a living at farming and ranching.

Charles P. Roberts, Co. B, 80th Armd. Med. Bn., writes of thinking of the days when his Ambulance Platoon evacuated many wounded from Noville and Bastogne before his unit was cut off. He says he wasn't sure whether his unit would spend Christmas with the Germans or not, but thanks to Gen. Patton and the Fourth Armored Division, they had a great Christmas a week later.



## After 41-year delay WORLD WAR II VET GETS MEDALS...FINALLY

(Extracted from an article in the Patriot-News by Dick Sarge as published in the July-October 1986 edition of "The Cub of the Golden Lion.")

MILLVILLE - An old soldier returned to Fort Indiantown Gap Feb. 27, 1986 to receive a medal and badge he earned in World War II.

Donald R. Whitner was awarded the Bronze Star and Combat Infantryman's Badge in a ceremony at post headquarters.

Col. William D. Harris, post commander, read the citation and awarded the Bronze Star, given for courageous service in military operations, and presented the Infantryman's Badge.

Whitner was wounded four times during World War II, three times in battle and once in a prison camp. He was captured twice in the December 1944 Battle of the Bulge.



From left, Mrs. Wm. H. Glasgow, Donald R. Whitner II, Donald R. Whitner and wife, Vivian, and Post Commander, Fort Indiantown Gap, PA, Colonel Wm. D. Harris

A 21-year-old corporal, Whitner escaped the first time when his German captors left him for dead by the roadside.

Whitner was joined for the ceremony by his wife, Vivian, son Donald II of Washington and William and Virginia Glasgow.

Whitner is still seeking documentation that would give him three clusters for his Purple Heart, given for wounds, and the Silver Star, awarded for gallantry in action. As Whitner tells the story, he was responsible for the 41-year delay. After he and two others got away from the Germans, Whitner said, they returned to their unit and destroyed records and equipment to keep them from the enemy. The records included the notes

and recommendations for awards based on his battlefield performance. He never saw his companions again, so there were no witnesses to verify his deeds. His 106th Infantry Division was overrun by the Germans as a counterattack by 15 German divisions began. "It was the death of my division," he said.

Whitner's wounds included a shell fragment in the head that the Germans thought killed him and a piece of shrapnel in the knee and another in his leg. Later, after he was captured a second time, Whitner said, a guard at a German prison camp spotted him taking a raw potato from a pile in a field and jabbed him in the back with the point of his bayonet.

Asked why he still wanted the medals after all these years, Whitner said, "Just for the sake of satisfaction. I want them for my grandson. He's always asking, 'Grandpa, what did you do in the war?'"

Whitner was a salesman until his retirement in 1975 due to a variety of ailments that sent him for lengthy periods to the Veterans Administration Medical Center at Wilkes-Barre.

## From OMAHA BEACH to THE BULGE

A cache of ammo and food near Gey -  
Unit moved on -  
I returned for the supplies- No dice!  
Germans had moved in behind us -  
Returned to our lines -  
German 60mm popped me out -  
Ten days later American troops were picking up the dead - they found me -  
I thought I had frozen hands and feet only - I had other wounds, too -  
Deaf for five years -  
Worked as salesman for 30 years -  
Three children - seven grandchildren -  
100% disabled and retired -  
ALL IN ALL IT HAS BEEN A SUCCESSFUL  
AND HAPPY LIFE FOR THE PAST  
42 YEARS -----

...Eldon J. Mays, Co. E, 2d Bn,  
331st Regt, 83d Division



## MORE Members Speak Out

Raymond P. Kurth, B Btry, 591st FA Bn, 106th Division and a buddy visited the Ardennes area with their wives last year. He states that the people around St. Vith, as well as those along the Belgian-German border, were wonderful. Ray was a police officer for over 31 years after WWII. He states "my regret is that I did not know of this organization (VBOB) sooner."

Raymond Waelchli, Co. D, 14th Tank Bn, 9th Armored Division, drove "Dead Dog," the third platoon leader's tank. That tank leader was and is a VBOB charter member, Dee Paris. Ray writes, "I'm sure most of you know him."

Raymond Platt, 482d MP Escort Guard Co, First US Army, was attached to various Infantry divisions and took prisoners from the front back to the rear areas. During Battle of the Bulge, he was a member of the 9th Division. Following WWII he spent 21 years in the US Air Force, then 15 years in the security career. He has finally retired for good.

Marvin C. Kruse, Co. A, 103rd Med. Bn, 28th Infantry Division, visited some of the old battlefields last year. He highly recommends seeing the military museum in Ettelbruck, Luxembourg, and the old brewery, now also a military museum, in Diekirch. There is no charge to VBOB members.

Richard G. Gelwick, Btry. A, 16th FOB, Eighth Army Corps, reports, on his application for membership, "Wounded - Nope; dug too deep foxholes" and "Captured - Nope; elusive type."

Raphael L. (Bud) Rogers, 467th QM Regt (Red Ball Express) transported the 82d Airborne into the Malmedy and Houffalize areas of the Bulge. Since then, he has been in logging and truck driving trades and, since 1978, is County Veterans Service Officer.

B. (Bernard) Calvin Jarvis, Co. M, 346th Inf. Regt, 87th Infantry Division, writes to say that after three Purple Hearts as a squad leader, he took up deep sea diving and is a retired SCUBA diving instructor and treasure hunter. He also has 1,900

hours flying time. He believes he's the only GI alive who had an "88" German artillery shell go off three feet away from him and who can still count to 20 with his shoes off. He invites all VBOB buddies in the Central Texas area to contact him to fight and win the war all over again. He tells our Editor that we're doing "a fantastic job and keep up the great work. You deserve a big WELL DONE..." Contact him at 110 Leah St., San Marcos, TX 78666.

Donald E. Robbins, 51st Engr. Combat Bn, 111th Engr. Regt. and his wife visited the Bulge area last year and again this year. He was captured in Trois Ponts, Belgium, during WWII where he was a motorcycle messenger. Today he sports a "VBOB" license plate on his car.

Denford Davis, Hq, Co., 2nd Inf Div, was in five major battles including the Battle of the Bulge. He would like to hear from other members of his unit. After WWII, he went on to Japan where he fell and broke his back. Write him at 2130 Gurnee Ave., Anniston, AL 36201.

Leo Blaskowski, Co. A, 2nd Med. Bn, 2nd Inf. Div. (supported 9th Inf. Regt.) retired a few years ago from the local paper mill. He would like to hear from or receive a visit from anyone of his unit. He is at 116 Hewitt St., Rothschild, WI 54474.

V. P. Leavel, Jr., Btry. A, 301st FA Bn, 94th Division, Third U.S. Army, was a forward observer and earned the Silver Star. While helping to get his corporal off the ground and onto a stretcher, an Infantry soldier put something into his pocket and said, "Thanks, Artilleryman." In his pocket was the soldier's Combat Infantry Badge.

Joseph M. Haley, 126th Ord. Bn. (CCB), Fourth Armd. Div., a welder/machine shop man, has been doing odd jobs for friends

Wm. R. Norris, Co. G, 11th Inf, 5th Div., retired from the service in 1964 and became active in the Military Order of the Purple Heart as chapter commander and National state aide-de-camp.

Charles G. Krause, 28th Division, has worked with the Maryland Correctional System since retirement from the service 22 years ago and last year served as National Commander, Society of the 28th Division, A.E.F.



**TWO COMBAT VETERANS  
OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE  
MEET FOR THE FIRST TIME**



E. Eilfrid Vits, right, former member of the 9th SS Panzer Division and Eduardo A. Peniche, of the 101st Airborne Division met in Freiburg, West Germany. Forty years before, their units had clashed in fierce combat at the plain of Longchamps in the outskirts of Bastogne, Belgium. Peniche, who was a young paratrooper then, was wounded in action during the fire fight; he is a VBOB member.

**PRIME MINISTER WINSTON CHURCHILL (?)**

Hugh D. (Red) Barr of Erie, PA, writes that he was in Co. E, 290th Regt, 75th Inf. Division and at war's end was lucky enough to get into an Army Band assigned in Paris. That's why he really enjoyed the VBOB tour in October. He went to college on the GI Bill, got a reserve commission and was called up during the Korean action as an MP company officer at Fort Monroe, VA. He spent many years in newspaper work - reporter and editor, and a number of years later with General Electric and retired from that and the USAR and is busier than ever in private free lance writing and editing and music work, both dance band and concert band as pianist and tuba player. He has two sons, one in the USAR. He feels that the Bulge Area and Paris trips were outstanding and well-planned and he met some marvelous folks in Belgium, Luxembourg and Paris.

Editor's Note: Give Red a cigar and aim him at a camera and the result is a realistic likeness of former Prime Minister Winston Churchill of England. As a result of our trip to Europe, Red joined VBOB. Welcome aboard, Red! Happy to have you! ...Ed.

**«TOP  
KICK»  
TOPICS**

..... historically inaccurate, it made the enemy look like the good guys and the good guys (us) look like yo-yo's. The only good thing about the movie I thought was good was the German tankers singing the Panzer Song and stomping their feet.

Come on, you guys in Movie City. Wake up and make a real epoch movie as you did with "The Longest Day." Our organization has assembled hundreds of oral histories that could be used for vignettes as was done in "The Longest Day." To add to the human interest, our children and/or grandchildren could play the parts of the young soldiers and nurses of 1944. Great idea! Right, Troops? Let me, Your Old Sarge, know what you think.

**VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE**

P.O. BOX 11129  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22210-2129



## Behind Every Good Man is a Good Woman

I am living in Avon, CT. I have been married 43 years. We have eight children - six girls and two boys. I have been a plumber since I left the Army. Now my two sons are plumbers. We have 12 grand-children -- 10 boys and two girls. All the children are happy and beautiful.

I served with General Patton in the 773rd Tank Battalion, Third U.S. Army. I was decorated by Gen. Patton three times. I have the Bronze Star Medal, an Oak Leaf Cluster, the Presidential Unit Citation and the Good Conduct Medal.

I served five years. I served as a Surgical Tech and later transferred to A Company as a gunner after my friend was wounded and sent home.

(Written by Mrs. Stephen F. Niemiroski "because my husband won't and I am proud of him both in the Army and out. We attend reunions every two years. We started after our children were grown. And I am very proud to attend these reunions with my husband and meet all his Army buddies and their wives.")

## Battle of the Bulge Museum to Be Dedicated Veterans of WWII Battle Meet at Fifth Gathering

Wintry mid-December of 1944, three powerful German armies plunged into the semi-mountainous, heavily-forested Ardennes region of eastern Belgium and northern Luxembourg. Their goal was to reach the sea, trap four Allied armies, and impel a negotiated peace on the Western Front.

So that divisions might concentrate for offensives north and south of the Ardennes, the American line was thinly held: three divisions and part of a fourth, while a fifth was making a local attack and a sixth was in reserve. Division sectors were more than double the width of normal defensive fronts.

Even though the Germans achieved total surprise, nowhere did American troops give ground without a fight. Within three days, the determined American stand and the arrival of powerful reinforcements insured that the ambitious German goal was far beyond reach: and in snow and sub-freezing temperatures and on Christmas Day, the Germans fell short of even their interim objective of the sprawling Meuse River on the fringe of the Ardennes.

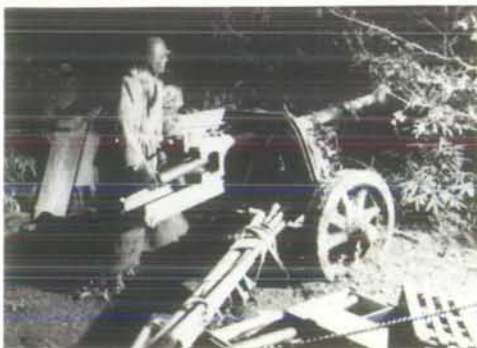
All the Germans accomplished was to create a bulge in the American line and, in the process, expend irreplaceable men, tanks, and planes. Four weeks later, after

grim fighting in bitter cold and snow, the bulge ceased to exist.

Many American veterans who survived this battle have formed an association, "The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge." This group's goal is the perpetuation of memory, the achievements, and the sacrifices of those who served.

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge will meet at their fifth annual general meeting on 6, 7, and 8 November in Arlington, VA. At the conclusion of this year's meeting and memorial ceremony, the dedication of the Battle of the Bulge Gallery will be held at the First U.S. Army Museum in Fort George G. Meade, MD. ★

THE STARS AND STRIPES—THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE



Two life-size dioramas in the Diekirch, Luxembourg, Historical Museum. Left, German 75mm antitank gun and, right, Thanksgiving Day, 109th Inf. Regt., at Betten-dorf, Luxembourg. Turkeys roast while a young Luxembourg is presented a D-Ration bar by a unit medic.





## MORE & MORE MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

Albert A. Marinucci, C Btry, 230th FA, 30th Division recalls returning from religious services in Langendorf, Germany on 17 Dec 1945 when he received word that the 30th was to move out. It later took up a defensive position in the Malmedy sector. As they dug in, they laughed over hearing Axis Sally broadcast from Berlin and call the 30th Division "Roosevelt's Elite SS Troops."

Peter Severhof, Co. A, 473d AAA Bn, 83rd Inf. Div. wants info of his company or battalion reunions. He can be reached at 3546 Camille Drive, Toledo, OH 43614.



JOHN ONDER, Hq. 466th Parachute FA Bn, 17th Abn. 50 cal. machine gunner on left with Bn. Commander, Col. Kenneth Booth, in August 1986 has retired Edison, NJ Fire Department.

after 25 years with the Edison, NJ Fire Department.

KEN O. CHRISTENSEN, 78th Division, and wife enjoyed the unit's reunion recently along with about 1,000 others. He is planning to forward some WWII trivia for the Bulge Gallery.

Harold G. Songer, Co. I, 423d Inf. Regt, 106th Division, knows of only two survivors from his company, he and Arthur Schnable, Providence, RI. If there are others who were in the unit, please write Harold at 1106 Sheridan St, Danville, IL 61832. He is looking for a buddy named Lamb who, with Harold, walked out of Germany into Czechoslovakia from Stalag IV-A.

Woodrow W. Custer, 9th Air Force, 404th Ftg. Gp, 507th Squadron, writes to say he has been painting for 50 years prior to his retirement.

Wm. R. Watts, Sr., 21st Tank Bn, 10th Armd. Div. states he is "glad to be a member of such a high class bunch of fellers." His thoughts are still with his buddies and the cold, snowy, freezing weather - some hadn't enough clothing. It was his maintenance truck that gave a few men a hot meal after he saved all the rations he could grab and "Boy, did they come in handy."

Maxwell R. Keniston, Co. C, 549th FA 87th Inf. Div, writes to say "The Bulge Bugle is getting more interesting all the time." (Thank you, Buddy. ....Ed.)

Relford P. Shepherd, Co. G, 334th Regt, 84th Inf. Div. has been a grocery clerk, served as County Treasurer, keeps books for two oil companies and a lumber company, still holds office as County Assessor, but hopes to retire next year.

Lewis E. Russell, Hq. Det, 3d Bn, 109th Inf, 28th Division tells of remaining a member of his organization from January 1941 to the war's end which found him across the Rhine and into Germany. Having landed at Omaha Beach, he went all the way with his unit, making many friends, but losing some, too.

Robert G. Ronnan, 1st Bn. Hq, 16th Inf, 1st Inf. Division is disappointed not reading any news of his outfit. He'd like to hear from Beech Shaeffer, Bill Newton, Gordon Cameron and Squeaky Albritton. Write to Bob at 4032 Pilgrim Rd, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462.

Raymond E. Duke, Co. A, 77th Med, 7th Armd. Division who planned to return to the St. Vith area last October, hopes we can add more in the "Members Speak Out" section. (P.S. Ray did make the trip...Ed)

Arthur R. Bertini, 29th FA Bn, 4th Inf. Div. sends greetings to former comrades-in-arms. He is retired from GE and reads WWII books as much as he can. Art believes that "no one can ever take away our memories of duty, honor, Country and sacrifice that we endured. That is ours and ours alone to remember."

Carl J. Damlos, 575th, 75th Division retired after 45 years as a construction electrician.

John E. Hahn, 405th FA and Div. Arty, 8th Armd. Div, tells us he was a PA State Trooper for 27 years after WWII and a real estate broker and private detective for the past 13 years. He is married and the father of two daughters and a West Point grad son.

Donald R. Yoerk, Co. 3, 37th Tank Bn, 4th Armd. Div. writes to say his unit was the first to break the encirclement of Bastogne.



## MORE & MORE & MORE SPEAK OUT !!

Edwin R. Clarke, 174th FA Gp, VIII Corps Arty, has been in employee relations for corporations since 1946 and now has a consultation service in employee relations. Ed's son served in Vietnam.

Bill Moore, K Co, 101st Inf, 26th Division writes of having been wounded on 27 Dec 1944 in Luxembourg, but doesn't recall where. He lay in the snow all night until a Pvt Baker, who transferred in from the 558th FA and another man came out to get Bill's overshoes. Finding him alive, they took Bill to an aid station set up by two Medics who lived in the attic of a house occupied by Germans. Bill understands that K Co. took heavy casualties and has always wondered what happened to the unit, the name of the town where he was shot, and what happened to Baker and the other man. Following the war, Bill worked for the Government at the Naval Weapons Center, China Lake, CA until retirement.

Chas. J. Gregorovich, A Btry, 482d AAA AW Bn, wants to hear from fellow former members and organize a reunion. Contact Chuck at 908 Williams St, St. Marys, OH 45885.

Dom DiMarino and Ben Blue would like to hear from remnants of the 629th and 774th TD Bn. Ben says "there must be some of these guys out there--although I would imagine they are a sad looking bunch!" Contact Ben at 1321 Greenhills Rd, Greenfield, MD 46140.

Wm.H. Mueller, Co. M, 424th Inf, 106th Div. writes to say he helped design and build the lunar module for the Apollo moon landing program following WWII. He co-invented the alignment system for the LM. He completed his education as an aeronautical engineer and has been with the Grumman Aerospace for 36 years on Long Island.

Wayne Kennedy, Co. I, 357th Inf. Regt, 90th Div. writes to say he's had the same address for 64 years (except during WWII). He is retired as an industrial plumber and is "so busy that I wonder now how I ever found time to work in the steel mill!"

Edward C. Arn, Co. F, 119th Regt, 30th Div. was "home" to Ed during the Bulge era beginning with the Normandy hedge-rows. He was a 2d Lt Platoon Leader until  
(Continued in 2d column above)

he became Co. Exec. Officer. After the battle of Mortain, France his Captain died in his arms and he took command of the company. From the Roer River Valley his unit moved south to the North Shoulder of the Bulge. The 119th Regt. played a major role in the action around Stavelot, Stoumont, Trois Ponts, LaGleize, Malmedy, etc. After a stint in the hospital for injuries in Feb. 1945 he rejoined his company and met the Russian troops at the Elbe.

Walter J. Patterson, Btry. D, 376th AAA AW Bn, 47th Inf. RCT, 9th Inf. Div. remembers his R&R in December 1944 cut short when the entire division was ordered into the Bulge area and being shelled the first day with tree bursts. His unit served with the 9th from Normandy to the end of WWII. He has been very active with the MOPH, VFW, DAV, etc. He sends an extra \$5 donation with his dues.

John B. Deasy (LTC, AUS-Ret), 86th Chem. Mortar Bn, tells how his unit was stationed in Dolhain, Belgium with companies attached to various divisions. He tells that he and a group of their Bn. Assn. visited the WWII areas last year. He notes that they have many members who belong to VBOB, including his unit's CO, BG Wesley B. Hamilton, age 87 and "still going strong."

Robert P. Bray, Co. I, 32d Armd. Regt, 3d Armd Div. joined his company in Feb 1942 and stayed with it to the end as a tank commander and Supply Sergeant. He was wounded in July 1944. He is now a sales executive in the corrugated box industry in the Chicago area, "but winding down." (We all are, Bob ...Ed.)

Donald P. Schoo, a quad-50 machine-gunner with the 633d AA AW Bn, 80th Div. tells us that he is retired from the DeKalb, IL City Police Dept. and is now employed as sub-foreman of Building Service Dept., Northern Illinois University.

Donald W. George, Co. K, 275th Regt, 70th Inf. Div. learned of his unit's reunion through the "Bugle" and attended its convention recently and met eight of his buddies who hadn't seen one another since New Year's Eve 1944 when Don and his squad were captured at Phillipsburg, France.

## **VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE**



## TO THE COMITE D'ACTION DE LA RESISTANCE

Through years of great privations  
You did not cease your fight,  
To gain your country's freedom  
That is your cherished right.

You spent yourselves unselfishly  
Through hardships and great pain,  
And by courageous efforts  
You helped that freedom gain.

The world knows well your story  
And your heroic fight,  
And sacrifices that you made  
In quest of freedom's light.

Although the years do take their toll  
With each new passing day,  
The memories of your feats and deeds  
Will never pass away.

We thank you for the honor  
Bestowed on us today.  
The gratitude we owe to you  
We never can repay.

Harold F. Mohn

Presented by the author at a ceremony  
at the tomb of Marquis de LaFayette,  
Picpus Cemetery, France, Oct. 28, 1986.

Marshall Martin, former POW, 395th Inf.  
99th Inf. Div., attended the General  
Membership Meeting in November. He  
could have enjoyed the meeting more  
had his 17-year-old grandson, Mickey  
Lesley Hawker, not been murdered  
seven weeks earlier.

## To the Bulge in 1987?

Mark Burton, the manager of our Amis  
Pour Toujours tour to Europe this year,  
tells me there will probably be another  
Galaxy tour to the Bulge area next year.  
Those who wish to contact Mark or our  
very able and enjoyable cruise-bus driver,  
R  n   Welfring of Luxembourg City, may  
write to Galaxy Tours, One Devon Square,  
Suite 220, 724 W. Lancaster Ave., Wayne,  
PA 19087. I'm sure I speak for all of us  
who enjoyed this year's tour when I  
unequivocally state that the Mark-R  n    
team will be hard to beat anywhere else  
for efficient service and comradeship. ...Ed.

Poppy, our VBOB  
Hq. Gal, tells me  
that some of our

members may wonder why they no  
longer hear from us. When you  
move, please write and give us  
your new address. Copies of THE  
BULGE BUGLE have been returned  
marked MOVED-LEFT NO ADDRESS,  
UNABLE TO FORWARD, etc. for  
members Babik, Combs, Hancock,  
Harang, Minchew and Donovitz.

VBOB Member Don Robbins suggests that  
an oversea cap be designed for VBOB mem-  
bers. Sounds great to me? How about  
y'all?

Aboard the cruise-bus one day on our way  
somewhere in Europe in November, I asked  
members present what they are doing these  
days. One was a retired County Agricul-  
ture Extension Director; another a retired  
AMP Inc. Tool Crib man; gas, oil and  
farming; freelance writer/editor; piano  
tuner, trombonist; NASA employee, real  
estate management/development; mechanical  
engineer; manufacturer's rep in furniture  
industry; railroader; retired USDA em-  
ployee now making furniture and its resto-  
ration; Food Service Director of THE WASH-  
INGTON TIMES; retired Presbyterian mini-  
ster; retired veterinarian; salesman of  
electronic/avionic instruments and very ac-  
tive in veterans' activities, sports and  
girls; physical scientist (photogrammetry)  
with National Bureau of Standards, U.S.  
Geological Survey, National Mapping and  
retired consultant of USAID Dept. of State;  
retired sales executive (sales) for Texaco,  
Inc. and Washington State boxing inspector  
and investment broker; corporation presi-  
dent of Autocolor, Inc; retired clothing  
store owner and presently a fast-food owner;  
nursing supervisor in a skilled nursing  
facility and politically active; in outpatient  
surgery; retired VP of Sonat (Energy Co);  
asphalt/concrete construction employee; and  
last but far from the least (because he was  
sitting with me and I started the question-  
naire out at the seat ahead of us) a retired  
postmaster who previously was a watchmak-  
er; and lastly, an executive secretary  
(yours truly) of a Veterans Administration  
outpatient clinic. How is that for one long  
sentence? Of course, many of us were and  
are active in veterans' organizations.

EDITOR'S  
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## REMEMBRANCE FOREVER...



Photo by Sam Silverman

DEC., 16, 1986, ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY. In memory of the Veterans of The Battle of The Bulge, a flowering cherry tree and a bronze plaque mounted on Salisbury pink granite were permanently placed in Section 46, just across from the Arlington Memorial Amphitheatre.

## VBOB Dedicates Historical Gallery

To the young GIs who were in the vicinity of the Fort George G. Meade, Maryland Museum on Saturday, November 8th, it may have come as a shock to see four riflemen in WWII uniforms executing the Manual of Arms with their M-1 rifles. In charge of the detail was a Noncom also in dress ODs.

The purpose of the vintage guard detail was to greet our group of VBOB members who gathered at the museum to view the gallery specifically devoted to the Battle of the Ardennes.

The activities at the museum were hosted by the curator, Alan Archambault, and Earle R. Hart, Chairman of the Battle of the Bulge Gallery Committee. These men worked together in developing this special exhibit. Visitors included Lt.Gen. Charles Franklin, First U.S. Army commander and Mrs. Franklin; Brig.Gen. Daniel Clybourn, Military Attache, Belgium Embassy, and Mrs. Clybourn; and Col. John Valieant, Post Commander, and Mrs. Valieant.

The VBOB members were especially pleased that one of their own Generals, Bruce C. Clarke, also attended. Retired General Clarke commanded Combat Command B of the Seventh Armored Division and made a valiant effort against a superior German force at the city of St. Vith, Belgium.

Following the museum viewing the entourage assembled at the post Officers' Club for a buffet lunch. Prior to the invocation and introduction of distinguished guests, the Ft. Meade Headquarters Command Color Guard posted the colors.

After the brunch, the VBOB members and their guests enjoyed a concert by the First U.S. Army Band. The pride of the men and women (Army Nurses and Red Cross Women) who participated in the largest battle ever fought by the U.S. Army, was very evident when the band played "The Army Goes Rolling Along." The veterans stood ramrod straight - some with tears in their eyes.

The visit to Ft. Meade by the VBOB was but one scheduled activity of our organization during their three-day General Membership Meeting held at the Sheraton Hotel in Crystal City, VA.





# VBOB MEMORIAL DEDICATED AT ARLINGTON CEMETERY

On Tuesday, December 16, 1986 (the 42nd anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge) Arlington National Cemetery was the scene of yet another momentous event in the history of VBOB. It was at this site and on this date that VBOB dedicated a plaque and a cherry tree, honoring the men and women who took part in the Battle of the Bulge. This memorial is located approximately 75 feet from the famous Memorial Amphitheatre of the cemetery. It is easily visible from the roadway and will be on the tour-mobile route and will be referred to by the guides as a point of interest. It will be seen by thousands of visitors and tourists each year. It is a prime location for our memorial.

The dedication began with a presentation of the national and Army colors by the 3rd US Infantry Color Guard. Eugene Drouillard, Vice President, Military Affairs, led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the Invocation by Rev. George W. Hall, Jr., National Chaplain. Robert Van Houten, as his last official act as president of VBOB, introduced the distinguished guests including: General Bruce Clarke, C.O. Combat CMD B, 7th Armored Div.; Strom Thurmond, Senator, S.C.; His Excellency, Paul Peters, Ambassador of Luxembourg; the Military Attaches of Belgium, Great Britain, France and the Netherlands. Also introduced was the superintendent of Arlington Cemetery, Raymond Constanza, who was a WWII Veteran of the 82nd Airborne.

Clyde Boden founder of VBOB, in his speech, reminded the more than 150 members and guests that the memorial would be in place for years to come, and would help our children and grandchildren to better understand the battle.

Charles MacDonald, author of "A Time For Trumpets", recounted the saga that engaged 600,000 Americans against a larger German force at the cost of 19,000 lives. Mr. MacDonald also stated that the Battle of the Bulge was the last offensive action of Nazi Germany which was orchestrated by Adolph Hitler. He believed that the American Soldier could not physically or philosophically withstand the massive attack that he had planned. The American soldier proved him wrong with their valor and courage. Mr. MacDonald concluded with the statement that this, indeed, was a "time for trumpets".



Rev. George W. Hall, Jr. offers the invocation at the beginning of the plaque and tree dedication ceremony.



Veterans of The Battle of The Bulge, William Hemphill, Treasurer and Dorothy Davis, Recording Secretary, place the first wreath on the memorial plaque.

Clyde Boden and Eugene Drouillard unveiled the beautiful plaque shown in the photo. William Hemphill, National Treasurer and Dorothy Davis, National Recording Secretary, then placed a wreath at the site of the plaque. Plans are for this to become a traditional event each December 16th.

Rev. Hall gave the Benediction followed by Taps played by a US Army Band Bugler.

The members and guests then moved to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, where Eugene Drouillard and George Chekan, as his first official act as the new president of VBOB, placed a wreath.

A reception at Patton Hall (Fort Meyer Officer's Club) concluded the day's activities.

The members of VBOB are most appreciative to Eugene Drouillard for his efforts in the planning and design of this impressive memorial.



## AND MORE & MORE MEMBERS HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO OUR READERS

J. B. Lemley, Co. F, 289th, 75th Div. was one of the men moved up to the front (as Fred Klooster reported in the previous edition of THE BULGE BUGLE). He made contact with the enemy on Christmas night and was captured on 17 Jan 45.

Wm. G. Fox, Cannon Co, 110th Regt, 28th Division, tells us of being in the little town of Munchausen along with Co. C. The Germans over-ran them and were shooting 88's into the buildings, knocking holes in the buildings and setting some on fire. Gun crews were taken prisoner. That night a fellow member approached their guard post. Bill told the others not to challenge as he was too close. Running around the building, he found Capt. Warden who had played "dead." The Germans had even taken the Captain's pistol. Contact was finally made with the 84th Division at Marche, Belgium and Bill was sent to the hospital in Liege. On Christmas Day he entertained to Paris and from there to England and "the good old U.S.A."

Wm. C. Behn, 6th Sig. Center, 35th Sig. Construction Bn, 12th Army Group has worked in communications for the past 42 years in France, Spain and Cuba. He is now semi-retired.

Frederick Dolfi, Co. F, 16th Inf, 1st Inf. Div. writes to say he served with the Big Red One in 1941, then the Oran, Africa invasion, D-Day in Gela, Italy and D-Day at Omaha Beach. Following 52 days' recuperation from a wound, he joined the Bulge in Malmedy, Liege, Aachen, Bonn and on into Czechoslovakia. He claims eight campaign stars, Purple Heart, Silver Star, four Bronze Stars, Presidential Citation with Cluster and the Good Combat Medal received a year before Pearl Harbor.

Joseph L. White, Co. A, 372d Engr. GS Regt, tells us he was discharged in 1945, entered the Air Force for 16 years, then obtained two college degrees. He worked as a researcher for the State of Ohio and then entered Federal Civil Service as a management analyst in the Department of Defense and finally retired in January 1984. He is, however becoming restless and contemplates returning to work even though only as a volunteer.

James R. Bryceland, Co. A, 310th Inf, 78th Div, went on to serve through the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. He retired from service in 1966. Since then he's devoted his time to civic activities and drives a Mobile Intensive Care Unit for his local hospital (but saves his Fridays for golf).

Jack McDevitt, Co. A, 81st Engr. Bn, 106th Inf. Div. met his battalion commander in October at their division reunion. Col. Riggs was "a leader of the defense of St. Vith, Belgium."

Chester V. Sweigart, 275th Armd. FA Bn, holds the "US Presidential Distinguished Unit Citation and Belgian Fourragere" for action at St. Vith, Belgium.

Thomas R. Heffernan, 137th Inf. Regt, 35th Division wonders if anyone from the 1st Platoon, Co. A, is still alive and if there is a reunion planned for his unit. Write him at Box 114, Woodcock Lane, East Hampton, NY 11937.

John F. McNamara, C Btry, 460th AAA AW Bn, has been a credit consultant with Dun & Bradstreet, Inc. since WWII. He asks whether there are any other members of the 460th out there. If so, contact him at 46 Chestnut St., Westbury, NY 11590

John C. Harmer, C Btry, 27th AFA Bn, 7th Armd. Div, asks if anyone remembers Arlon, Belgium and whether the famous statue is still there and whether it was damaged during the Ardennes Campaign. He can be reached at 192 W. Wishart St., Philadelphia, PA 19133.

Sandy A. Putigano, 249th Combat Engr. Bn. wants to hear from other members thereof. His unit was attached to III Corps, Third U.S. Army, and supported the 4th and 6th Armored Divisions, 6th Cav. Gp, 26th Inf. Div. and 17th Abn. Div, as well as the 5th Inf. Div. His unit bridged the Rhine at Nierdstein (1,200' treadway) and at Mainz (1,800' floating Bailey). He can be reached at 967 Adrian Circle, Girard, OH 44420.

Vincent Meinhart, 61st Chem. Co, Third US Army, remembers being in Nancy, France 42 years ago in November and writes to "keep up the good work. I look forward to THE BULGE BUGLE."



# Reunion~~~

84th Infantry Division, 2-7 Aug 87, Colorado Springs, CO. (Contact Robert B. Le Blanc, 138 Mink St., San Antonio, Tx 78213).

Fourth Armored Division Assn, 13-15 Aug 87, Louisville, KY. (Contact the association at 2440 Victoria Drive, Sharon, PA 16146).

926th Signal Battalion (Sep), TAC, 15 Sep 87, Norfolk, VA. (Contact H. A. Turner, PO Box T, Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214).

29th Division Assn., Dept. of PA, 7 Feb 87, for Florida residents. (Contact George I. Smith, 1086 Bayless Pl., Eagleville, PA).

Second Armored Division Assn, 26-51 May 87, Nashville, TN. (Contact Francis W. Baker, 871 Merrimac St., Deltona, FL 32725).

106th Infantry Division Assn, 17-20 Sep 87, Mobile, AL. (Contact John O. Gilliland, 605 Northside Drive, Enterprise, AL 36330).

83d Infantry Division Assn, 20-22 Aug 87, Charleston, WV. (Contact the unit c/o 3749 Stahlheber Rd, Hamilton, OH 45013).

Co. A, 27th Armd. Inf. Bn, 9th Armd. Division, 17-18 May 1987, Beloit, KS. (Contact Almon Parson, Hunter, KS 67542).

## Combat Infantryman's Badge Worth a million to some

"During a recent visit to an out-of-state antique shop which deals with silver and gold items, I was a bit disappointed to learn that the Indian-head penny I'd found as a boy was worth just that — a penny.

"As the proprietor was busily telling me, 'There's millions of those pennies floatin' around,' something among the hundreds of silver and gold items piled in a wicker basket on the counter behind him caught my eye. It was the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

"I asked the proprietor if I might see it and when he handed it to me, I asked him if he knew what it was. This was his answer: 'Some ol' guy came in the other day, and I gave him two bucks for the thing. Said he got it when he was in the Army. Maybe worth a buck at the most. Felt sorry for the guy, so I gave him two.'

"There's an old saying in the Army for those who wear the 'CIB.' As an officer pins the badge of courage on an infantryman's tunic, it is customary for the officer to say before the handshake, 'you're bound to go to heaven because you've served your time in hell.' "

"YES, THIS BADGE with its rifle transposed on a background of blue is not easily acquired; for its wearer has seen the cold, stark nakedness of the battlefield. He has seen what the bomber pilot, the submariner or those who sit in rear echelon headquarters never see — he sees the mud, the blood, and the face, the eyes of the enemy.

## WWII Medals Available

Many men who served in WWII received only ribbons, or nothing, for the medals which they earned. Medals which were earned and not received are still available and may be obtained by writing to U.S. Army, Reserve Component Personnel & Administration Center, St. Louis, MO 63132 and asking for the medals. On your letter and the lower left corner of your envelope, show ATTENTION: PSE-VS.

A fire in 1973 destroyed many Army Personnel Records. Due to this, you should include with your letter photocopies of both sides of your Honorable Discharge. After verification of your records, St. Louis will notify the Army Quartermaster Unit in Philadelphia which will send you the medals. It may take three to four months.

Soldiers who served between December 7, 1941 and September 2, 1945 and who were cited for heroism or meritorious service or received a certificate for exemplary conduct in combat; the Combat Infantryman Badge or the Combat Medical Badge are entitled to the Bronze Star Medal. This was authorized by post-World War II order by General George C. Marshall, then Army Chief of Staff. If entitled to this medal, you should also request it in your letter and furnish documentation of eligibility.

"And I thought, as I held this mark of a man in my hand — how many such badges were in the hands of those who deal in silver and gold — how many were awaiting the smelter's ladle?"

THE ABOVE WORDS appeared in the letters-to-the-editor page in the Quincy, Mass., *Patriot-Ledger*, carrying the signature of First Sergeant F.A. Halley (Ret.), Pembroke, Mass. It was reprinted in the *Buffalo Evening News* in April, 1980 in a column written by Bob Curran, who earned the CIB for his days of combat. Curran reported that sometime after his return to civilian life, his brother, also an Army vet, but not an Infantryman, asked him during a rather serious conversation, as to how he now felt about it all (the war). Curran's response was "I wouldn't have missed it for a million dollars and I wouldn't go through it again for two million." He concluded his column by saying that again this Memorial Day he will be remembering some guys who paid more than a million dollars for the blue badge. (Ed. Note: At the San Diego reunion, John Schiedel (K/376) Eden, N.Y., told the *Attack* about the CIB news clipping and offered to send it just in case it might be worth printing. The *Attack* thanks John Schiedel and thinks most 94th CIB holders will agree the article was well worth printing.)

The above came from *Attack*, the publication of BLOOD and FIRE, 63rd Division Association.

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## DEAR KILROY .....

I can't give you 42 years of news, but I do have something to report that is current and delightful and the direct result of being a member of VBOB. I was one of those veterans who returned to Belgium, on your Galaxy Tour, to celebrate the 40th anniversary of that great battle. While there, it was our good fortune to meet Mr. and Mme. André Herion of Liege. They drove me and two other "old soldiers" every place and any place we asked to visit. These people were unbelievably generous with their time, cars and hospitality. They even brought us to their home for refreshments when the touring was over.

Ever since that time we have been exchanging letters - mostly war stories, I guess. This summer my wife and I had the pleasure of receiving Claude and André as guests at our home. We had another reunion -- on this side of the ocean -- somewhat different, but yet the same.

The following day we went to visit the Statue of Liberty. Our Belgian friends wanted to see the refurbished Lady of Freedom and it was our opportunity and pleasure to see that they got there and back in good order.

André was kind enough to give me a book that is published in Houffalize. It is printed in both English and French and shows the destruction wrought upon that picturesque village. The publisher gives recognition to my old outfit for the bridges we built during that Christmas week of carnage and devastation.

So, in our way, the Herions and Sweeneys are carrying on the theme of the VBOB with friendship and good will in peace and war. We will carry on.

Yours in Comradeship,

Matthew J. Sweeney, Col. AUS (Ret)

Mini Biog--Matt Sweeney served with the 297th Engr. Combat Bn, VII Corps troops. During the Battle of the Bulge, his battalion was attached to the 2nd Armored Division. He survived the Bulge only to be seriously wounded while bridging the Rhine River at Rolandseck, Germany in March '45.



"We oughta tell 'em th' whole army don't look like us, Joe."



DEC. 16, 1986, ARLINGTON CEMETERY. VBOB President Chekan performs first official duty with Eugene Drouillard by placing wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



3rd Infantry Color Guard present the colors at ceremony.



From \_\_\_\_\_

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**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.



## 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.



# 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:

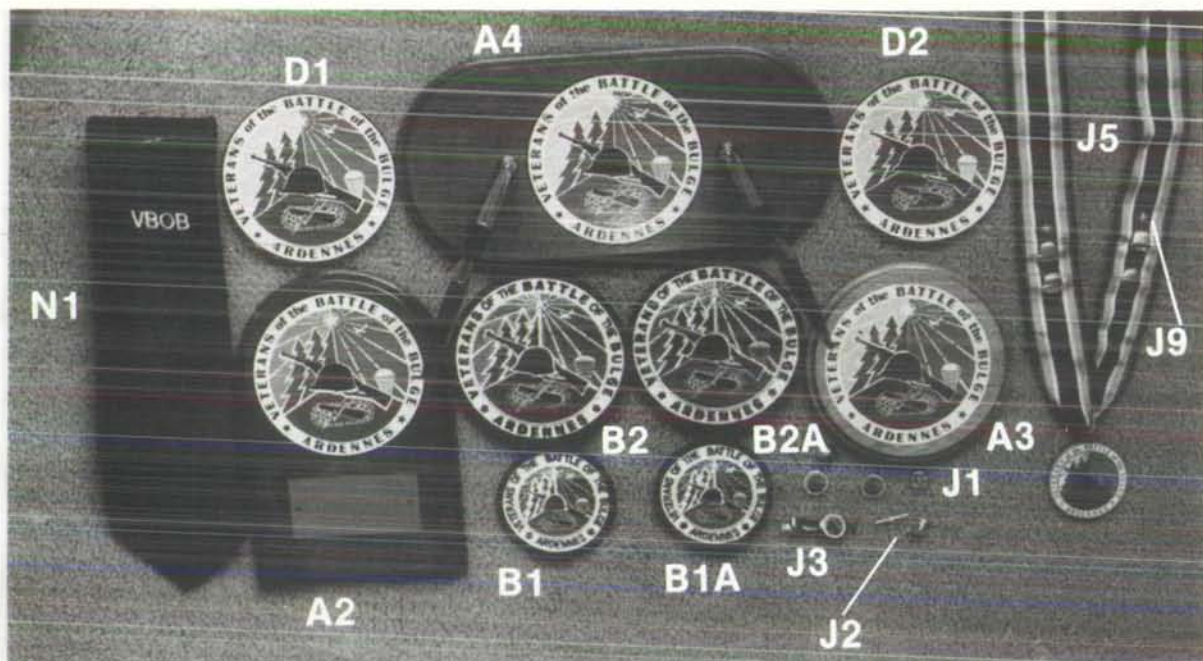
NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ (not to exceed 30  
 UNIT: \_\_\_\_\_ letter/numbers/  
 UNIT: \_\_\_\_\_ spaces each line)

## 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.





# VETERANS of the BATTLE OF THE BULGE



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Arlington, Virginia 22210-2129

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ODENTON, MD 21113

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January 1987 Edition

Is that veteran friend of yours eligible to join VBOB? If so, use the application blank below.

And how about sending the message through your local affiliation with a veterans' organization like  
the American Legion, VFW, AMVETS, DAV, etc.

## HELP US GROW THROUGH YOU—THE VBOB MEMBER!

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Annual Dues  
\$10

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ARE WELCOME

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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*