

The BULGE BUGLE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION • VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

VOLUME IX

NUMBER 1

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

FEBRUARY 1990

Coming Up...

**VBOB's 9th GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
VALLEY FORGE, PA - SEPTEMBER 26 - 28**

See Page 4

BULGE 45th ANNIVERSARY OBSERVED AT ARLINGTON

At 11:00 a.m. on December 16, 1989, approximately 80 members of VBOB assembled at Arlington National Cemetery on the steps above The Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers to observe the changing of the guard, the presentation of the colors, and two units of the 3rd Infantry (Old Guard), who ascended the east steps and stood at attention, while President William T. Greenville and Vice President for Military Affairs Eugene Drouillard placed a wreath at the tomb.

Because of the 10° weather, the group moved through the Trophy Room of the Amphitheater to the downstairs chapel to be greeted by VBOB President Greenville, who then introduced MG James C. Pennington, USA, Retired. The General spoke of his experiences in the Battle of the Bulge, the extreme cold, the battle being the longest in the war, and about the many difficulties encountered.

The members then moved outside to the VBOB Monument, and another wreath was laid by Delaware Valley Chapter President Stan Wojtusik and Past Vice



ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY, DECEMBER 16, 1989

Stanley Wojtusik, Delaware Valley Chapter, Neil Thompson, Maryland Chapter, and VBOB President William Greenville stand at attention while taps was sounded, ending the ceremony at the VBOB memorial and tree.

President for Membership Neil Thompson. Taps was sounded.

Everyone left the cold which reminded them of December 1944 and regrouped at the Fort Myer Officers' Club for a buffet and good conversation.

President Greenville presented the outgoing members of the Executive Council. Past President Clyde Boden introduced the newly-elected officers for 1990.

VBOB members from as far away as California and Florida attended.

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

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VBOB OFFICERS - ELECTED

PRESIDENT - William T. Greenville
86th Chemical Mortar Battalion

EXEC. VICE PRES. - Demetri Paris
9th Armored Division

VICE PRES. FOR MEMBERSHIP
Ollie Chaplin

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

**VICE PRESIDENT FOR REGIONAL
COORDINATION** - Robert J. Van Houten
16 FA OBN Battalion

TREASURER - William R. Hemphill
3rd Armored Division

RECORDING SECRETARY
Eva M. Popovich OGS

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
Beverly Van Houten

APPOINTED

**NATIONAL DIRECTOR, PUBLIC
RELATIONS**
Nancy Monson

HISTORIAN - Helen Berry, Widow
of Walter E., 4th Infantry Division

CHAPLAIN - Msgr. William F. O'Donnell
87th Inf. Division

LIAISON OFFICER FOR INT. AFFAIRS
Robert F. Phillips
28th Infantry Division

PHOTOGRAPHER - Sam Silverman
10th Armored Division

HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

PRESIDENT - Dorothy S. Davis
57th Field Hospital

PAST VBOB PRESIDENTS

Clyde Boden, 1981-1984
Robert J. Van Houten, 1984-1986
George Chekan, 1986-1988

"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



From The President

As the decade of the 90's begins, I plan to spend the year putting into place our reorganization. The program is the "format for the future." The first meeting was held last December and was attended by more than 40 VBOBers. Interest is high, but additional willing hands are still needed.

A new position, Vice President for Administration, is being established. This vice president will coordinate all administrative functions for the organization. All vice presidents will be supported by standing committees; this will provide continuity to each phase of our operation.

"Format for the future" mandates a format for standard operating procedures (SOP's). This will be the basis for SOP's for all business conducted by VBOB. A computer program will be established incorporating these procedures, thus coordinating all administrative activities.

The key objective of this new management is to avoid those slip-ups and delays in deliveries that have developed. I would like to apologize to those members that have experienced delays in delivery of membership cards and VBOB memorabilia. We hope to have this problem corrected in the near future.

Incorporation of VBOB will be the final step in our reorganization.

With all of our successes of the 80's behind us, let's now turn our efforts to even more successes in the 90's.

Yours in comradeship,

William T. Greenville

"DECEMBER DAWN" PROGRESS REPORT

Chesapeake Media Institute, producers of the Bulge video, "A Time for Trumpets: Return to the Battle of the Bulge" (formerly "December Dawn") begs the forbearance of VBOB members who have ordered the tapes. They regret the long delay, but final editing is well underway and they expect to mail the tapes at least by mid-March.

The French version of "A Time for Trumpets" has been on the non-fiction best seller list for the past five weeks.

Quote by General Dwight D. Eisenhower, which appeared in *Crusade in Europe*:

"Early in the battle, on December 22, I issued one of the few 'Orders of the Day' I wrote during the war. In it I said:

'By rushing out from his fixed defenses the enemy may give us the chance to turn his great gamble into his worst defeat. So I call upon every man, of all the Allies, to rise now to new heights of courage, of resolution and of effort. Let everyone hold before him a single thought—to destroy the enemy on the ground, in the air, everywhere—destroy him! United in this determination and with unshakable faith in the cause for which we fight, we will, with God's help, go forward to our greatest victory.'"

VETERANS GATHER TO CELEBRATE AND COMMEMORATE

Over 200 Battle of the Bulge veterans, their families, and friends gathered in the Washington Metropolitan Area to celebrate the progress in the development of the Battle of the Bulge Gallery and to commemorate the 45th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge.

The Dinner Gala held on December 14 at the Officers' Club, Fort Meade, Maryland, was hosted by the Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation and Brigadier General David Allen, chief of staff, First U.S. Army, Fort Meade. Despite the snow and ice in the Washington area during that weekend, veterans traveled from California, Texas, Florida, Illinois, New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Georgia, and Pennsylvania to enjoy the camaraderie of their wartime buddies and to witness the unveiling of the 1989 Patron's Fund Plaque, which lists the names of those contributing \$500.00 or more to the foundation over the past year.

The Color Guard of the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade posted the colors in an impressive, narrated ceremony. After the dinner, entertainment was provided by the First U.S. Army Band.

Distinguished guests for the evening included Ambassador and Mrs. Herman Dehennin of Belgium and Ambassador Andre Philippe of Luxembourg. Both ambassadors had been teenagers during the Battle of the Bulge and conveyed to the veterans the deep gratitude of their countries for the freedom restored by the American GI's during the Battle of the Bulge. Mr. William Jones, executive assistant to Governor William D. Schaefer of Maryland, presented greetings and best wishes from the governor.

On December 15, a meeting of the Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation was held in the U.S. Army Museum at Fort Meade. This meeting enabled the veterans, their families, and friends an opportunity to hear an update of the gallery's progress as well as to view a small Battle of the Bulge exhibit in the museum.

Exciting plans are already under way for the 1990 Dinner Gala--a highlight again will be the unveiling of the 1990 Patron's Fund Plaque, listing the contributors of \$500.00 or more. More news of this event will be in the next issue of *The Bulge Bugle*.



Unveiling the 1989 Patron's Fund Plaque, December 14, 1989, Fort Meade Officers' Club. From left to right, Stanley Wojtusik, Gabrielle Howe, Earle Hart, and William Holland.



CONVERSATION BEFORE THE DINNER GALA

From left to right, Ambassador Andre Philippe, Luxembourg; William Greenville, President of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge; Dorothy David, President, Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation; BG David Allen, chief of staff, First U.S. Army, Fort Meade, MD.

FORMAT FOR THE FUTURE

President William Greenville called a special VBOB meeting on December 2, 1989, to seek assistance and expertise from members willing to devote some time to organization activities. He pointed out that the organization has grown at a tremendous pace in the last few years and with that comes some "growing pains." It is his intent to establish Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) which would help sooth these little aches. He stated that the establishment of the SOPs now will enable VBOB to implement better service in the future; support the members in the field more effectively; and allow the organization to function smoothly with the anticipated increase in membership.

The approximately 33 persons in attendance listened as the areas of operation and responsibilities were outlined by the officers:

President Greenville pointed out that over 200 letters had been sent out inviting members to attend this organizational meeting. He called for any and all member suggestions, stating that all help would be very much appreciated and given every consideration.

"I've got some time I could devote," was a welcome sound as the meeting came to a close.

War is the greatest plague that can afflict humanity; it destroys religion, it destroys states, it destroys families. Any scourge is preferable to it.

Martin Luther

ARE YOUR DUES DUE?



PLANS BEING FORMULATED FOR GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

SEPT. 26, 27 & 28, 1990

The Delaware Valley Chapter of VBOB will host the 1990 General Membership Meeting at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, September 26, 27, and 28, 1990. According to Stanley A. Wojtusik, plans are currently underway to ensure that everyone has a time to remember.

Most of the plans are still tentative, but trips and visits being considered are:

- The Liberty Bell;
- Independence Hall;
- Betsy Ross' Home;
- Pennsylvania Dutch Country (the Amish area in Lancaster);
- An outlet area that boasts of being one of the largest in the world with names of stores such as Macy's, Blooming's, Wanamakers, etc.;
- and many other sites.

If you plan your trip so that you have a day or two on either end of the meetings, you may want to visit some of the other historical sites which are within easy driving distance. This area of Pennsylvania is very rich in historical value with such sites as:

- New Hope, Pennsylvania (the site of the Christmas Day, 1776, crossing of the Delaware by President Washington and 2,400 of his ill-clad, ill-fed troops.) (Incidentally, this is also an antique haven.);
- Valley Forge has many historical areas that relate to the winter of 1776-77 where President Washington and his troops bivouaced;
- Peddlars' Village, at Lahaska, in Bucks County;
- Gettysburg;
- and spots too numerous to mention.

All plans are now being worked out and with the wealth of places to visit, some will have to be omitted from the official agenda because of time limitations, but you can plan to pick up those side trips which interest you before or after the meeting.

The Delaware Valley Chapter is busy making plans for your enjoyment and looks forward to being your hosts in September. Set aside the dates of September 26, 27, and 28, 1990, you'll have a great time in Valley Forge.

PLEASE CHECK...TO SEE IF YOUR DUES HAVE BEEN PAID. We depend on your dues to keep our organization going. Your cooperation in keeping your dues current will be very much appreciated. Your dues expiration date is on the mailing label of every copy of the Bugle. Thank you for your attention to this matter.



Maj. Gen. James C. Pennington with VBOB President Wm. Greenville

MAJ. GEN. JAMES C. PENNINGTON, U.S.A. (Ret.) RECALLS DECEMBER 16, 1944

Major General Pennington (Ret.), who is now Executive Vice President of the National Association for Uniformed Services, spoke to VBOB members and their families on the occasion of wreath laying ceremonies at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and VBOB Memorial in Arlington Cemetery on the 45th anniversary of the battle.

He recalled that this day in Arlington Cemetery was reminiscent of that day (December 16, 1944) in the Ardennes in Belgium--blistering cold and up to our "axles" in snow.

Major General Pennington served in the 36th AIR of the 3rd Armored Division as a PFC (acting corporal) accompanying half tracks which couldn't navigate off the roads making it necessary for the infantrymen to walk or run to stay up with the tanks or ride the tanks with all the hazards involved therein.

He stated that the Bulge was the toughest battle he had fought in. He remembered nothing warm for over 4 weeks--no water, melted snow to drink, and ground too cold to dig a fox hole.

He cited the appropriateness of establishing an Exhibit Gallery at Fort Meade, Maryland, as many soldiers, including himself, passed through Fort Meade on the way to Europe in WWII.

In closing he said: "We want to honor those thousands of soldiers who fought in that great turning point battle--the dead, the wounded, the survivors here and out there all over America who fought courageously and suffered there for the freedom of this great country of ours."

"God bless all of them represented by this monument. They truly were some of the bravest soldiers who have ever fought for the freedom of our country and Europe and they are the fathers, uncles and grandfathers of those who have fought the hot wars since then and won the cold war during the last 40 years that is finally freeing Eastern Europe and leading to the defeat and eventually the demise of communism."

"We salute all of you and them on this 45th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge."

At a reception held at the Officers' Club at Fort Myer immediately following the ceremonies, Past President Clyde D. Boden introduced and thanked the retiring officers of VBOB for their services in 1989 and introduced the new officers for 1990.

BATTLE OF THE BULGE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 2516 • Kensington, MD 20891-0818 • (301) 881-0356

...To preserve the history of The Battle of The Bulge, World War II, December 16, 1944 to January 25, 1945; to honor those who served in this decisive battle and to pay homage to the 19,000 Americans who made the supreme sacrifice...

MY CONTRIBUTION TO OUR LEGACY IS ENCLOSED

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

Donor's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Phone: _____

If a veteran of The Battle of The Bulge, please also give the following information:

Company _____ Regiment _____

Division _____

Name and unit of donors of \$25 or more will be entered into the computerized "Morning Report"

Donors of \$500 who send in their gifts before **November 10, 1990** will become members of the "**Patron's Fund..1990**" and have their names, or that of a loved one, inscribed on the plaque that will be permanently displayed in The Battle of The Bulge Gallery at Ft. George G. Meade, MD Museum.

\$500 donors, please select the appropriate recognition for the plaque:

☐ Name of donor (or donor and spouse if desired) _____

Unit served with during the Bulge _____

☐ In Memory of _____

Unit served with during the Bulge _____

Make checks payable to:

Battle of The Bulge Historical Foundation (BoBHF)

(Do not send cash. Your cancelled check is your receipt.)

Send to:

Battle of The Bulge Historical Foundation
P.O. Box 2516, Kensington, MD 20891-0818

Comments by Ambassadors at Foundation Dinner Gala December 14, 1989

"You cannot imagine our feelings when we heard of the idea to constitute a museum dedicated to the Battle of the Bulge. We hope the museum will arise in the near future...you have the support from the people of our country."

Andre Philippe
Ambassador From Luxembourg

"This was an event which will go beyond the centuries. I recall all the sacrifices - the terrible sacrifices the American servicemen endured. This is unforgettable to me and to my fellow countrymen."

Herman Dehennin
Ambassador from Belgium

Members Speak Out

If there is a corresponding secretary of the 513th Parachute Inf, 13th Abn. Div, please contact John E. Fischer, 3818 Hampton Brook Drive, Hamburg, NY 14075.

Anyone from Div. HQ, 80th Div, who lost a jeep on 8 or 9 Nov 1944 at the Seille River is asked to contact Dave Reich, 3721 Bancroft St, San Diego, CA 92104. Dave will tell you what happened to your jeep.

Come on, Medics, open up! Arnold H. Fahey, 215 So. William St, Johnstown, NY 12095, wants to know why we never mention the combat medical units in THE BULGE BUGLE. Arnold was a member of the 2d Platoon, 77th Fld. Hosp. and was captured two days in Malmedy. The reason they are not mentioned is simply that we don't hear from them.

Lindsey M. Murillo, son of Third U.S. Army vet, Lewis, asks that anyone who knew his father please contact him. His father served in Patton's Third Army. Contact Lindsey at 203 E. Wyoming St., Hazleton, PA 18201.

Charles J. Perman is interested in locating anyone from 447th AAA AW Bn. Next meeting 9/25/89 in Reno. Contact him at 1028 - 7th St, #301, Santa Monica, CA 90403.

Jack Marshall, CO, 1 Co, 317th Inf (80th Inf) in early 1945 would like to hear from anyone who remembers him. Contact him at 11 Brunswick Rd, Arlington, MA 02174. He writes that when he applied for an RA commission, medics found he had become "unfit for military duties of any nature" when wounded in Africa in 1942. He wonders what he was doing in the Ardennes.

Franklin E. Dowling, St. Francis, WI, writes to tell us that he has suffered three strokes and three major operations in the past year. We hope you're OK now Franklin.

Howard E. Vosburgh, Elyria, OH, has signed up four new members of VBOB.

Bill Watts, Sr, McAlester, PA, after WWII worked in a garage, farmed, built a service station and retired four years ago after by-pass surgery, a new knee joint and recovery from a stroke. Good to hear from you, Bill.

Luis Rodriguez enjoyed the Reno convention and also his combat unit's reunion (240th FA Bn). Luis applies for a life membership in VBOB.

Karl Reemsen writes to say that his POW Chapter has at least 30 men who were captured in the Battle of the Bulge (mostly in the 28th and 106th Divisions). He was captured in Luxembourg and ended up in Stalag 8A (Gorlitz) where he went on a 300-mile march.

J. L. (Jim) Moffett, 28th Division's Signal Co, Wiltz, Germany, and 50 other unit members returned to Wiltz thirty-seven years later and were treated like royalty.

CHAPTER NEWS

The Delaware Valley Chapter met in September. Thirty-five members were present. The chapter now has 60 members. The new VBOB flag presented by National HQ was displayed along with our National colors. The logo "The Ardennes Voice" was selected for the chapter's newsletter. \$500 was presented to the Bulge Gallery at Ft. Meade. Col. Dave Pergrin, 291st Engr. Combat Bn., showed his video, The Damned Engineers, to the group, after which his book, The First Across the Rhine, was autographed and sold to Chapter members. Proceeds of the sale go to the Battle of the Bulge Gallery.



The Maryland/District of Columbia Chapter met on 10 Dec 89 - an official and a gala affair. Election of officers for the coming year was held. Darrell T. Kuhn, VBOB Recording Secretary, served as Installing Officer. An announcement was made that VBOB's Peter Dounis is to speak at a downtown District of Columbia church on 14 January. Following the meeting Christmas festivities began...exchange of gifts among members. (Do you remember when gasoline was 10 cents per gallon, bread 5 cents per loaf and a mug of beer for a nickel? The exchange of gifts was not of this nature, but the sentiment and yuletide feelings were just the same.

GI "SLANG-UAGE"

Test your knowledge of World War II "slang-uage". Listed here are 19 "in" words that were coined at that time. Few, if any, are used today. Meeting them again may take you on a nostalgic trip back to your war.

1. **Allotment Annie:**
American girls who married several servicemen for their allotments
2. **Airplane Beer:**
British beer—drink one and P-38
3. **Bed-Check Charlie:**
Evening strafe by enemy
4. **Battery Acid:**
Dehydrated tomato juice
5. **Dear-Old-Daddies:**
Overage German men assigned to occupied Paris
6. **Didie Pins:**
Gold bars of a Second Lieutenant
7. **Donkey Dick:**
Balogna
8. **Devils in Baggy**
German name for U.S. Airborne troops
9. **Pucker Lips:**
Bugler
10. **Purple Heart-Corner:**
Planes on the edge of the squadron in a group formation
11. **Repple-Depples:**
U. S. replacement depots
12. **Ronson Lighter:**
American Sherman tanks—ignited by even a small shell hitting sprockets
13. **Roof Rabbit:**
Meat of an unknown source
14. **Sh— on a Shingle:**
Chipped beef on toast
15. **Sardine Cans:**
Tanks
16. **Screaming Miemie:**
Six barrelled German mortar
17. **Sanitary Halt:**
Emergency stop to a latrine
18. **Weissenheimer:**
Wise Guy (one of Hitler's favorite epithets)
19. **Yard Bird:**
Under detention

Adapted from WITS of WAR

The Joys of Aging...

I have become quite a frivolous old gal. I'm seeing five gentlemen every day. As soon as I awake, **Will Power** helps me out of bed. When he leaves I go see **John**. Then **Charley Horse** comes along and when he is here he takes a lot of my attention. When he leaves **Arthur Ritis** shows up and stays the rest of the day. He doesn't like to stay in one place very long so he takes me from joint to joint. After such a busy day I'm really tired and ready to go to bed with **Ben Gay**. What a day!

Submitted by Dorothy Davis

REUNIONS

106th Inf. Div., 30 Aug - 4 Sep 1990, Sacramento, CA. Contact Michael N. Thome, 1711 P Street #301, Sacramento, CA 95814.

83d Inf. Div. Assn. (WWII), 8/16-18/90, Pittsburg, PA. Contact Nick Francullo, 10 Bessom St, Lynn, MA 01902.

Fourth Armd. Div. Assn., 30 Aug - 2 Sep 90, at Omni Hotel, Charleston, SC 29401.

150th Engr. Combat Bn., 18-20 May 1990, at Newport, RI. For info, contact Philip Dobruck, 873 Windsor Ave, Windsor, Conn, 06095.

16th FA Obs. Bn., June 1990, Ft. Mitchell, KY & Greater Cincinnati, OH. For details contact Thomas E. Davis, 7077 Bestview Tr, Cincinnati, OH 45230. (Tele: (513-231-7566)).

644th TD Bn., is holding its reunion in June in New Orleans, LA. For further info contact Frank Arieta, 114 Catawissa St, Nesquehoning, PA 18240. (Tele: (717) 669-9563).

704th TD Bn. Assn., 13-16 Sep, Gettysburg, PA.

Boston Chapter, 83d Inf. Div., WWII, 29 Apr-3 May, The Pines Resort, So. Fallsburg, NY. Contact Pat DiGiammerino, 36 E. Border Rd, Malden, MA 02148 (617) 322-2754.

702d TD Bn., Co. A & B, Gatlinburg, TN, 15-17 June. Contact Thomas Rigdon, 1916 S. Fairview, Decatur, IL. Tele: (217) 422-1597.

80th Div. Vets Assn. (WWI & II) will hold its annual reunion and convention on 26-30 Sep in Milwaukee, WI. For further info, contact Francis B. Rajnicek, 4895 Karen Isle Dr, Richmond Hts, OH 44143.

705 Tank Destroyer Bn., Sarasota, Florida September 12-15 1990, For info, contact Frank W. Brooks, 5229 Ravensworth Road, Springfield, VA 22151 or call 703-256-0868

3rd. Armd. 36th Armd. Inf. Regt. B Company May 1990. Contact Jack B. Warden, 806 Salem Lane, Austin, Texas 78753 or call 512-836-3048

DEADLINE EXTENDED!!

BATTLE OF THE BULGE HISTORY BOOK



The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge and Turner Publishing Company are pleased to announce that the response to the Battle of the Bulge History Book has been excellent with over 250 veterans recording their histories. Unfortunately, some veterans have not yet responded to this unique, once-in-a-lifetime publication. Therefore, ***you have until April 30, 1990 to submit your biography for publication in this book!***

The book will contain the Battle of the Bulge history, first-person feature articles, anecdotes, stunning battle photographs and your personal biographies.

It was 45 years ago when Hitler made his last-ditch offensive against the Allies in the snowy Ardennes. As a veteran of one of history's most famous battles, you have an opportunity to once again be a part of military history. Leave your thumbprint in time in a most unique publication recording the Battle of the Bulge and its veterans.

HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO!

Write your personal biography in 200 words or less. Indicate your name, place and date of birth, rank, date you joined the service, years served, units served with, duties, significant or memorable experiences, when discharged and what you are doing today. Send your biography with two photos, if possible—one when you joined the service and a current photo. You may send any unusual or rare photographs and personal interest stories of any length to include in the book. All material will be returned to you after publication. *The deadline for submitting your story and photos is April 30, 1990.* Remember: you don't have to order a book to be included. Send all information to the address below.

A QUALITY BOOK - Only the finest materials will be used to produce the Battle of the Bulge History Book. The book will be a large 9 by 12 "coffee-table" style with a deluxe hardbound leatherette cover. High gloss, double coated paper will be used for superior photo reproduction. The Battle of the Bulge History Book is available on a pre-sale basis only, which means we plan to print only the number of books sold in advance - so reserve your copy of the book today and make hundreds of pages of great pages of history yours for a lifetime!! Let's have 100 percent participation to make this book one we all can be proud of!

Sincerely,

Bob Van Houten
Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge

DEADLINE
APRIL 30, 1990

BATTLE OF THE BULGE HISTORY BOOK
Turner Publishing Company
P.O. Box 3101
Paducah, KY 42002-3101 USA

BATTLE OF THE BULGE VETERANS

SAMPLE BIOGRAPHIES

Use as a guide in writing yours
in 200 words or less

Writing your biography is easy, and it takes just a few minutes! Be sure to include:

- Your name
- Date/place of birth
- When inducted/joined
- Unit(s) you were in
- Where you trained
- Battles you were in
- Memorable experiences
- When discharged
- Rank achieved
- What you're doing today

WE WILL WRITE YOUR BIOGRAPHY!

If you do not wish to write your biography, the publisher will write it for you. Just write or call the publisher for a form to fill out. The publisher's editors will compose your biography from the information on the form so you will be included in the book. *Remember: There is no charge to include your biography in the book, and you don't have to purchase a book to be included.*



WARREN LUFT, born June 7, 1923 in the town of Fredonia, WI. Entered the service in March 1943 at Ft. Sheridan and later moved to Camp Callan, CA. LaJolla and Delmar were the sights of Luft's basic training and ESS Auto Mechanic School.

He joined the newly activated 575 AAA Bn. and trained at Ft. Bliss, TX on Half Tracks Quad 50s and 37 mm. His rank was T4. They left for Camp Carson for more training, then back to Ft. Bliss and then to Camp Klimer, NJ.

Luft sailed on the *Marine Wolf* in convoy to Liverpool, England. The 575th was split up in platoons and attached to the 41st Tank 55th Inf. and other units.

Luft's job as a runner was to get and give messages to the units. He also served as Platoon Mechanic, keeping the vehicles repaired and gassed up. They moved from New Chateau to Bastogne to Foy Novill to meet the 1st Army. Then travelled East to the Rhine River to Worms, Mannheim, Central Europe and finally Gelnkirchen, Czechoslovakia.

In February 1946 he left for the States on the *Lehigh Victory* and received an honorable discharge in the U.S. in March 1946.

Luft was married to Dorothy in 1949. They have two sons, one daughter and three grandchildren.

Today, Luft lives on his farm in his hometown of Waubesa, WI and runs an auto repair business out of his home.



KENNETH M. PARK, born Norwalk, CT on June 15, 1921. Enlisted in the U.S. Army in NYC on Jan. 22, 1942 and was sent to Camp Upton, NY. Then sent to Ft. McClellan, AL, an Infantry Training Center, where he qualified as an Expert Rifleman with the M-17 Enfield Rifle. Promoted from Pvt. to T/Sgt., was promoted to 1st Sgt. in November 1942. He took a voluntary reduction in grade to private in order to be a part of the ASTP.

Attended the Univ. of Alabama and the Univ. of Illinois in connection with the ASTP. In November 1942, was transferred to Texas and became a member of the 277th Eng. Combat Bn. at Camp Swift. Qualified as a Sharpshooter with the Carbine. Promoted to M/Sgt. in October 1944 and became the Bn Sgt./Maj. Sailed for Swansea, Wales on Nov. 2, 1944 and then entered Belgium on Jan. 3, 1945 and participated in the Battle of the Bulge. The 277th Eng. Combat Bn. was a separate battalion attached to the U.S. Ninth Army under the command of Lt. Gen. Wm. H. Simpson.

Park now lives in Weston, CT with his wife of 45 years, Rose, whom he met while attending the ASTP at the Univ. of Illinois. They have three children: Linda, Steven and David and two grandchildren: Elizabeth and Joanna. He retired December 31, 1988 after completing more than fifty years service with a bank - as a Senior Vice President and Trust Officer.

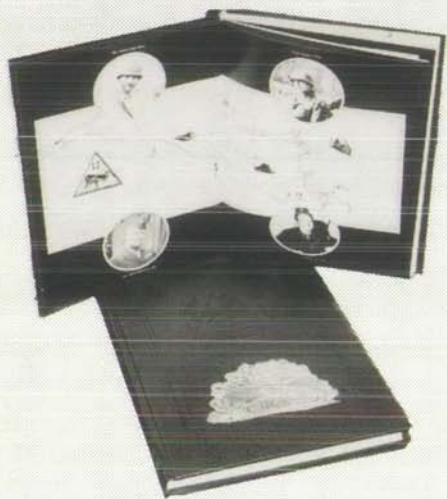
CLIP AND MAIL TO: Battle of the Bulge History Book, P.O. Box 3101, Paducah, KY

Name _____
Address _____
Date and place of birth _____
Date joined service _____
Date assigned to unit, div. inf, etc. _____
Military Locations, stations _____
Rank _____

Memorable experiences: _____
Awards received: _____
What you are doing today: _____

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Belgium Ambassador Entertains VBOB Members



Left to Right - Gen. Kinnard, Mrs. Derwinski, Edward J. Derwinski, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, William T. Greenville, President, VBOB, Mrs. Dehennin, Mr. Dehennin, Belgian Ambassador, George Chekan and Robert Van Houten, VBOB Past Presidents.

As veterans of the Battle of the Bulge and members of VBOB, you must be aware that the citizens of the Benelux countries are very grateful for our having defended their homelands during the Germans' last offensive in 1944. You have read of the warmth that transcends from these lovely people. Those of us who have revisited the battle areas of "The Bulge" are greeted with open arms and hearts.

So it was no surprise that a group of 100 VBOB members were invited to a reception at the residence of His Excellency Hermann and Madam Dehennin, Belgium Ambassador to the United States on December 4th. The residence, the structure of which is styled in a classical architecture found in Europe, was at one time the home of the Dodge automobile family and is reported to be the most beautiful residence housing a foreign diplomat in Washington, D.C. The occasion was to commemorate the 45th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge.

Dignitaries who attended the reception were Secretary of the Department of Veteran Affairs Edward J. Derwinsky; Lt. Gen. Harry W. Kinnard, who was operations officer for the 101st Airborne Division in Bastogne; Maj. Gen. Willis D. Crittenger, C.O. of the 420th Armored Field Artillery Battalion of the Tenth Armored Division, whose unit was also in Bastogne; Mrs. Raymonde Diaz, the ambassador's personal secretary and dear friend of VBOB, and her husband, Raymond. The Belgium Military Attache and his assistant also joined in the festivities.

His excellency, Ambassador Dehennin, and his very charming wife cordially met each guest as they entered the beautiful ballroom. The Dehennins made a point of chatting with each of the guests--which brought about a

very relaxed atmosphere. It was obvious that it was a situation of friends being among friends--very much as it would be if you were visiting them in their homeland.

The highlight of the evening was when the guests formed a half circle around the ambassador so that he could address the group as a whole. His excellency's speech was impassioned but informal. His message was to reassure the members of VBOB that the Belgian citizens have not, and will never forget the efforts of the American soldiers who suffered great hardships, many of which laid down their lives to defend Belgium against the German onslaught. He mentioned that he was a young boy in those dark days of 1944, but he remembers the Bulge vividly. The children in the schools today are taught to appreciate what the American soldiers accomplished in their country. In ending his talk the ambassador proposed a toast by the Belgian nationals present in honor of the Americans.

William Greenville, President of the Veterans of the Bulge, proposed a toast from the Americans to the Belgian people. "Your Excellency and Madam Dehennin, we appreciate your invitation to your beautiful residence. Your kind words in appreciation of what the Americans did during the Battle of the Bulge for the Belgian people require us to raise our glasses in a toast to the Belgian Fusiliers, who fought side-by-side with the Americans during the battle...."

A third toast was offered by Maj. Gen. Willis Crittenger, who commanded an artillery battalion of the Tenth Armored Division in the encircled City of Bastogne, Belgium, toasted the Belgian civilians who displayed immense courage during those bitter cold days of the Bulge. He recalled that the citizens sheltered the troops, gave them their white sheets to use as camouflage against the white snow, and assisted in aiding the wounded.

It was a lovely evening of renewed friendships that everyone who attended didn't want to see end.

Contributed by:
E. L. "Lucky" Loiacono


I wonder where all those veterans of the 1303d Engineers (England, Europe, the Philippines and Japan) are today and what they are doing. If you're still out there let's hear from you!

**EDITOR'S
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The Dept. of Veterans Affairs announces that VA has delivered more than \$70 billion in educational and training assistance to more than 200 million veterans, dependents, active duty members and reservists since the first GI Bill was approved by Congress in 1944.

It is easier to persuade a fellow to pick up a red hot coal than it is to get him to part with an opinion previously formed.

Michael de Montaigne



Memorable **BULGE INCIDENTS**

LIVING LEGENDS

UNEDITED AND HERETOFORE UNPUBLISHED

Accounts of events and experiences in the Battle of the Bulge as recalled and expressed by veterans of the greatest battle ever fought by the U.S. Army in the greatest war ever fought are of much historical significance. These are priceless first-person recollections by living legends in what General Dwight D. Eisenhower foresaw as our greatest victory and Prime Minister Winston Churchill, in speaking before the House of Commons, characterized as an ever-famous American victory.

December 15, 1944

Frank A. Lo Vuolo
B Battery
107th Field Artillery Battalion
28th Infantry Division
Binghamton, New York

In the immense forested area of eastern Belgium, and Luxembourg known as the Ardennes, the Village of Clervaux, Luxembourg served as a rest camp for soldiers of the 28th Division who were rotated there for three day stays. There they enjoyed the luxury of hot showers, comfortable beds, good chow, clean clothing, recreation and entertainment. For me it was a respite from regular duty with Battery "B" located in Dickrich, Lux. I believe I arrived at Clervaux on Dec. 15, 1944, accompanied by a Sgt. Truman Foster. We were billeted in a huge villa that I learned 45 years later to be the Villa Prüm on the Rue Brooch just off the main road leading to Wiltz, Lux.

On Dec. 16 I was on guard duty at the end of the villa driveway when at 5:30 a.m. the German attack began. The artillery barrage and exploding shells became so intense that I could hear shell fragments strike the pavement and nearby buildings. I was forced to race for the protection of the villa but as I did, tracer bullets buzzed my head and I scrambled into a ditch along the drive. Whether the machine gun fire was meant for me or the villa itself, I didn't stop to ask.

Crawling, running, crawling, I finally reached the villa front door. After entering, the door was quickly slammed shut behind me. No one knew at that time what all the German activity really meant. We were completely out of communication with everyone, and as the German artillery concentration on Clervaux and on the vicinity of

the villa increased, the entire complement of personnel sought refuge in the villa cellar. Here we stayed until late morning or the same day. At that point in time we heard the clanging and creaking sound of armor coming down the Wiltz road and through the worst. We learned that the armor was American when an officer from the lead tank entered the villa. He told us that there were fragmented reports that the Germans had mounted a major offensive and that they had broken through our lines in several places. He advised us to get out of Clervaux as quickly and as best we could and to avoid encirclement. Those were the last semblance of orders I was to receive until I rejoined my unit. Without hesitation and without packing any of our belongings everyone filed out the villa by way of a side door and onto a side hill behind the villa with the Wiltz road above and to the left, and the Clerve River below and to the right. The monastery on the heights to the right served as a guide and gave us some sense of direction.

Sgt. Foster and I had left the villa armed only with 30 caliber carbines (peashooters), and each with one clip of ammunition. In a fire-fight the ammo would have lasted less than a minute. I felt just a little more secure; I had the added luxury of a trench knife which I promptly lost in the brush as we made our way along the side hill. We came under severe artillery fire and it was then that Sgt. Foster and I became separated. I never saw him again, and I never knew his fate until September 14, 1989, when I found his name listed among the G.I. dead. He sleeps with his comrades at the Henri Chappelle American Military Cemetery in Belgium.

History tells us that the only Americans remaining in Clervaux at that time were the dead and the captured. For them the war was over. Those of us who successfully made our way out of Clervaux eventually became part of an ever-

growing stream of Americans moving west. There was mass confusion and I was a part of it. I decided that as long as I was on my own and under no direct orders, I would strive for three objectives--#1 stay alive, #2 avoid capture, #3 find my artillery unit (in that order). I was to succeed in all three.

To the best of my recollection and after what seemed like an eternity of foraging for food, sleeping in barns, sprinting across open fields, and hiding in deep woods, my odyssey finally came to an end when I made contact with my outfit around Christmas-time, 1944. My artillery battery was in position and in action near the Belgian village of Neufchateau. Once again I was a part of something--it was good to be home. The fighting continued, and if the good Lord's grand scheme had dictated that I not survive it, then at least I would have died among people I knew, and with people who knew me.

December 16, 1944

Ian A. Morrison
1st Battalion
422nd Infantry Regiment
106th Infantry Division
Verbank, New York

The morning was foggy and cruelly cold. The heavy, wet snow was three feet deep on the ground and eight to ten inches deep on the bowing limbs of the fir trees surrounding us. As it thawed enough to drop from those limbs it sounded to the two of us alone in a forward observation post like enemy patrols sneaking up behind us. We shivered in the post, and in the grave-like claustrophobic sleeping bunker located fifteen feet away, on the very edge of a knoll on the Schnee Eifel. There, for the third successive day, we observed across the steep wooded valley the massing of enemy infantry, tanks and butane-fueled trucks.

Our observation post was surrounded by grenades hung low in the bare bushes, their pins attached by trip wires to each other and to our open ground-level ports. They could be triggered by a foot, a shin or by us. We longed for the comfort of our squad's German-built bunkers a mile behind us; bunkers which recently had been evacuated by the veteran 2nd Division and occupied by our green 106th troops. Green, because the division not only was untested in battle, but filled with recent recruits and transfers from the ASTP and AAC ground training units. Our training together was, to say the least, minimal. Nevertheless, if, as Tom Clancy claims in his recent novel, *Clear and Present Danger*, there are only two types of fighters: the infantry, and those who support the infantry, we were of the former.

We sailed to Scotland on the Aquatania in October as an infantry division, convened in the Cotswolds awaiting the transshipment of our heavy equipment finally located in Le Havre. The equipment had gone there directly from the States, cosmoline and all. In late November of 1944 we moved directly to the Ardennes Forest area in Belgium where we replaced the veteran Second Division. We were told by the troops we were relieving that it was a very quiet place, and would remain so, since the

Germans "were already defeated." We were delighted to hear that, since our 106th was to have two regiments spread out across a front of twenty-seven miles!

In the next three weeks we battled the elements, an occasional German patrol, and trench foot. Every day fifteen to twenty men of the regiment were sent to rear hospitals suffering from trench foot--the result of the combination of the cold, snow, inadequate boots and insufficient dry socks.

We didn't know then, nor for that matter for years to come, that the U.S. Army lost 12,500 men on the Belgium border in the winter of 1944-45 as a result of trench-foot; the equivalent of a full, badly needed, division!

As we worked in the heavy snow, immersed in the dense fog which prevented air surveillance of the enemy for days on end, we kept notifying our rear echelon by telephone that even our green untutored senses could hear and occasionally see that the Germans were congregating trucks, tanks and hordes of men on the opposite side of the Schnee Eifel.

Our reports seemed to be treated with the contempt veterans of battle hold for the uninitiated. No one listened to us. Until December 16. By then it was too late.

We then were rushing rearward, ordered by division headquarters to reform battle lines closer to St. Vith. In three days of rushing and fighting, encompassed in fog, we retreated about five miles and had dug at least seven fox-holes each, each day, seeking protection from never-ending artillery tree bursts, or preparing to skirmish with the flanking enemy. Our intermittent rushing rearward was so great that some soldiers who had lost their units were running after our trucks, hopping on and straddling the barrels of our towed 57mm guns. Their screams, unheard by our drivers, as their testicles were pounded to treacle before they slid off remained in our minds for weeks. For forty-five years.

On the morning of December 19th, in a narrow valley near the border Village of Schoenberg, Tiger-tank-mounted 88's picked off the front and rear of our already massacred motorized column. More of the enemy were outflanking us from the heights with infantrymen who, unlike us, had plenty of ammunition and food, of which we then had none.



The war was over for us late on the 19th of December and, as it turned out, for the entire 422nd and 423rd regiments. We were herded by our recent German prisoners to a barnyard in Schoenfeld where, crowded, cold,

hungry and hurting we spent the next 24 hours before beginning the straggling, starving, scared march to a railhead in Germany where a hundred of us were shoved into each awaiting boxcar. The boxcars, were known, since World War I as, "forty and eights," when they transported, in reasonable comfort, forty troops or eight healthy horses. One hundred men, many of us with deathly debilitating dysentery determined that we could only survive standing up. Come what may.

Some of us had to lie down between the legs of our comrades.

Christmas Eve, 1944, was a time to remember. Our train was motionless in the rail-yard of Limburg, Germany. The only sounds were the moaning of our comrades within our boxes, and those fore and aft of us.

About midnight the drone of Lancaster's rudely reminded us that the British bombed at night. As the first bombs exploded around us in that strategic spot we found the strength in panic to break out of our confine to stumble as swiftly as we could across a frozen ploughed field where we huddled thankfully in the deep troughs. As dawn arose we realized that there was no room for escape so we laboriously lifted ourselves from the hard little gullies and reluctantly returned to the box cars.

We discovered that those of our group that had escaped the car on the opposite side, and thus had to scale a small cliff, had been obliterated by a direct hit from the British aircraft. A new war of survival as prisoners of the Germans lay ahead. Some of us made it. Too many didn't. That is another story.

.....

Murray Shapiro
M Company
3rd Battalion
112th Infantry Regiment
28th Infantry Division
Chatsworth, California

December 16, 1944

At about 4:30 in the morning of December 16, 1945, Sgt. McGinnis and I with two gunners headed for our machine gun emplacements to relieve our two gun crews who were established in shallow, camouflaged dugouts facing a portion of the Seigfried Line somewhere in the vicinity of where the borders of Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany intersect.



Murray Shapiro

down to the road's end. We travelled the road only to where a thick hedgerow began, and then climbing up

It had been snowing rather steadily for the last several days; and we, therefore, had to rely on certain landmarks to find our two watercooled heavies. We went from our company bivouac area where we had sheltered ourselves in small [hand]-made caves to a road which ran part way parallel to the front line. We had long become conscience of not following the road too far as German automatic weapons had caught us the first attempt

to a slight ridge behind the matted bush we followed it until we came to the large cave of an anti-tank crew. It was at this point we would execute a sharp, 90 degree turn to the right, aiming directly at our front lines. Following this route over a rolling hill took us to our machine gun section.

On this particular cold and snowing morning, I noticed with some concern that no one was standing guard at the anti-tank gun position. I looked down into the cave entrance and there was a sentry sound asleep. Behind him were members of the anti-tank gun crew, boots off and dead to the world.

I turned to Sgt. McGinnis and asked if we should wake the sentry.

"You know if you do, he is going to get f.... mad." I silently agreed, and so the four of us turned the usual 90 degrees and headed up the long slope to get to our guns.

We had gone about 50 yards when we all noticed about 10 shadowy figures coming slowly straight towards us in a semi-circle, their heads and shoulders bowed down with the weight they seemed to be carrying. We had come to relieve our guns also weighted down, but not so much with implements of war. As usual we were to spend a day and part of a night lodged in the close confinement of a small dugout and had taken with us items to help with the boredom. I had two pocket books stuffed in my back pockets. Between my great coat and my field jacket I had stuffed 8 wax-covered K rations. My rifle was slung across my back so that my hands were free to carry food for cooking during the day. In my left hand was a canteen cup filled with butter plus knife, fork and spoon. My three companions were similarly laden. The two gunners had no rifles to sling since they were armed with 45 cal. pistols. Sgt. McGinnis had the smaller M-1 Carbine; I had the big M-1 which I refused to surrender when I was promoted to machine gun sergeant.

We all stopped without command when we saw the shadowy figures approaching. They stopped too. Our collective minds would not allow us to accept what was all too true. This was the very beginning of a huge battle which later was to be called, "The Bulge."

I spoke first to McGinnis, "Who are these jokers?"

"They must be K Company's carrying party," he suggested hopefully. (As front-line G.I.'s will remember, carrying parties brought hot food to front line foxholes if positions were stabilized enough.)

"I think they are a bit lost if they are looking for K Company," I responded.

Then, suddenly, ten more hunched over men added to this menacing horseshoe on the right, then ten more on the left, and the whole semi-circle began to slowly advance toward us.

Like some sequence in a comedy movie we slowly turned around and began to go back. The semi-circle quickened its pace; we quickened ours. "Hell," I finally shouted, "Let's get the out of here!"

McGinnis and I ran down the slope to warn the anti-tankers; our two gunners took off to the left to get around the hedgerow and warn the company.

Probably because I was the most frightened, I reached the anti-tankers first, jumped into the cave entrance and shook up the sentry telling him that the Germans were

coming fast.

I then crawled up to the mound the anti-tankers had made when they excavated their cave. McGinnis had already unslung his carbine and was firing. I unslung my M-1, flipped forward the safety and began to take aim when I noticed to my horror the silhouette of a German "potato masher" lying on the far edge of the mound. Instinctively yelling, "Grenade!" I dived. I think the blast killed McGinnis; it stunned me a bit, knocking my helmet off. I jammed my helmet back on my head and as a group of Jerries charged in I wiggled through the hedgerow to my rear using the helmet as a battering ram. When I reached the other side of the thorny obstruction my machine-guns gloves were in shreds and every button on my great coat had been ripped off.

This was my ignominious introduction to the beginning of the "Battle of the Bulge."

December 16, 1944

Robert J. Rodgen
Anti-tank Company
112th Infantry Regiment
28th Infantry Division
Renfrew, Pennsylvania

I served with the 28th Div. all during World War II, having joined the guards with my two brothers in Oct. 1940, in Butler, Pa, on Dec. 16th 1944. I was in the Village of Ouren on the borders of Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg with the Anti Tank Co. 112th Inf. 28th Div. It was a day that I will never forget as it was my 21st birthday and I really didn't need the 21-thousand gun salute that we got.

December 16, 1944

Len Shanley
B Battery
559th Field Artillery Battalion
Johnson City, New York

We were dug in a position top of a mountain overlooking the Ohr River near St. Vith, outside of a few Buzz Bombs coming over our position things were quiet. We received order to take our guns out of action and take them to Marche for reconditioning, our barrels were pitted from firing A.P. shells on the Ziegfried line, which was on the 15th or 16th, 1944.

The morning after we arrived in Marche we awoke to all hell letting loose back where we had come from, we immediately were given a march order to go back and pick up the rest of our Battery and whatever supplies we could muster.

On the way back we heard a large noise to the front of our truck, we stopped and I believe it was our gun Sgt., Sgt. Preston, found we had been hit by a shell from a Panzerfurst, that had lodged itself between the grill and our radiator. Sgt. Preston removed it and tossed it away from us, and we proceeded without any delay.

We arrived back to the marshalling area around Marche only to find out we were the first Artillery Battalion to come in with all our 12 guns, we were hastily outfitted

with some additional towing equipment and sent back into action to Bastogne to help in shooting out the 101st Air Bourne.

When our F.O.B. unit was massacred at Malmedy we were at loss for a spell due lack of targets.

At long last we rode through the night on the way to Berlin, our Gun Truck and Gun went off the road and down an embankment, just about wiping out B. Battery's 4th Gun Section and destroying our gun truck.

When we retook our old gun position we found a lot of death and destruction. We had built a log cabin for our kitchen only to find it filled with dead G.I. bodies and from the bullet holes inside the building we assumed the wounded were shot where they sat or laid. In gathering up what we could recover I found our Battery Guideon, which I had to clean if I wanted to or burn it. I now have it hanging above my desk in my office. I will never [forget] the Battle of the Bulge and that awful cold.

December, 1944

Eddie Arn
F Company
119th Infantry Regiment
30th Infantry Division
Wooster, Ohio

The whole move to our de-trucking point, near Aywaille, Belgium couldn't have been more than 100 miles. Nevertheless, it took all night.

We must have moved around Aachen in some way because I don't recall going through that battered city. The roads were clogged with fleeing civilians, military vehicles and frantic GI's of all ranks and types...heading away from Belgium or wherever.

"Axis Sally" (from Berlin) announced on my vehicle's radio that the "fanatical 30th Division...Roosevelt's SS Troops...is going to try to rescue the First Army." We would hold up for minutes on end. Without the use of headlights, the chaos was simply augmented. Truly, a memorable night. My frayed nerves screamed.

At any rate, cold, stiff Fox Company stalwarts climbed out of the trucks at day light and we proceeded on foot. I would be dishonest with anybody who might read this narrative if I indicated that I knew where we were...for I didn't. I simply formed a "column of ducks" and headed down "a road." My compass indicated that we were proceeding south. To me, that was as good a direction as any.

The CO of Fox Company wasn't about to share his concern with anybody. Outwardly, he attempted to maintain an assured confidence but at the same time he hoped that someone would come along soon and inform him as to what he was supposed to do and where. The road took a southeasterly direction.

During that memorable December morning (I have no idea how far we had moved down that highway) our battalion commander's jeep roared up. Spreading his map on the hood of his jeep he pointed to a spot. "Arn, here is where you are." He indicated that we were south of the Ambleve River and were moving toward a place called Werbomont, on the Liege-Bastogne Highway...

...at this point my memoirs are pretty frank and I shall

not refer to my actual wording at all for a variety of reasons. Suffice it to say, my Battalion CO indicated where he wanted me to be by nightfall. He did not tolerate arguments and I gave him none but I made up my own mind as to what I would try to do if possible. The CO did say that "there is evidence that there is a counter-offensive underway of considerable strength and we must contain it fast! Now...MOVE!" And his jeep scurried away.

The CO had given me a beat-up map of sorts...thank goodness. I located a town called Chevron, east of Worbomont about eight miles. If we were lucky, I hoped to reach Chevron by nightfall. Bear in mind that I had no idea what friendly elements might be on either of my flanks--if any at all. I noted that the road we were on seemed to follow a very small river named Grandmont Rivulet, at a lower level and to our right flank. Wooded hillside sloped down to the edge of the road on our left and to the tiny stream's banks on the other side. It was a damned scary situation and I had forbidding thoughts as to what might be in store for my rifle company.

I placed a small squad of men from Ken Austin's third platoon out ahead of our column by several hundred yards. We related to the squad leader by walkie-talkie. The idea was to expose only a few people when a contact with the Krauts would come about.

It must be remembered that the whereabouts of the enemy were completely unknown to me or to anybody else.

I can't recall anything happening in Worbomont. Neither did we find any Americans there. I felt very, very lonely--if that's the word for it. Lonely, I guess, in a military sense.

A radio message from Battalion HQ assured me that Worbomont would be "occupied by Americans soon" and to "get the hell moving."

Without knowing it at the time, it is now clearly evident, Fox Company was 'way "out on a limb" and ahead of all other people in the Second Battalion. The Third Battalion was supposed to be in Stoumont, about four miles northeast on the north bank of the Ambleve but nobody really could give me any accurate information.

A directional change was now made by our lead squad. It had reached a point on the main road where it and the Grandmont Rivulet turned south. The squad leader stayed on the main road. Had we taken a secondary road due east we would have reached Chevron in short order. With as little information as he had, I would have followed the main road also but that squad leader's decision may have altered F Company's history a bit as we shall soon see.

Operating on Arn's schedule--not battalion's--and without incident so far, Austin's people reached one or two buildings on the western edge of what was to prove to be a "wide spot in the road" called Neufmoulin where the Grandmont Rivulet joined Lienne Creek.

Night had fallen and I was still back down that highway in the middle of the column. There were two or three sharp curves in the road between me and the hamlet. I had no way of viewing the place properly in the gloom of the night. Caution was the word.

By runner, I ordered Austin to cease forward movement and set up a road block. I also ordered the machine gun section forward and under Austin's control. Austin's bazookaman was there too. My valiant and able Third Platoon Leader was to let me know when I could move the rest of the company into Neufmoulin. I was not about to commit all my people into a crowded situation without knowing more about our situation. Austin's advice was awaited. With men relaxed, as only GIs could relax, all along the highway, I strained my ears for enemy movement in the woods above and below the road...on our flanks.

Battalion HQ, of course, was continually screaming over the SCR to keep moving. I could easily have wrung some rear echelon necks--given some time--which I didn't have. I would do this "my way." My radio man, Sgt. Alex Harvey, grinned--as always--with my stubborn maneuvering with Battalion.

I remind the reader that it was now very dark. One could scarcely see beyond his nose. I could hear that small stream's gurgling down below me. Where was the enemy? Did they have infantry in those thick woods? I suddenly decided to request a tank destroyer from Bn. To this day, I don't know why I made that decision. I was assured that one was on the way. What disposal should I make of my men still down the road behind me and in front of me? Why doesn't Austin get on the stick?

Suddenly, Austin was on his walkie talkie, "Jesus Christ, sir,...there are tanks...I think...moving toward us from the east." I could hear the clanking sound also. "What should I do?" queried an anxious platoon leader.

"Do you think they have any idea that you are where you are?"

"No, sir, I think they're coming on in...in the dark...and just firing away!"

"Good! Don't expose your position! Stay under cover! Hold your fire. I have asked for a TD and Bn. assures me it is on its way. If the Krauts come on through maybe we can get a crack at their lead tank. Meanwhile, Ken, I'll order Beaudoin's platoon (the same Ray Beaudoin, who as a Pfc had brought me forward to Fox Company--five months before--in Normandy and who was now a battlefield-promoted Second Lieutenant (by me) in command of our Second Platoon.) up on the high ground above this rat hole and see what he can do from there in support or in a flanking movement."

I sent Ray and his men on their way. Thank God, they knew how to move in the dark for they had done so many times before.

We could hear distinctly now the mumble and clank of the Kraut vehicles. They had ceased firing apparently assuming there was no resistance.

But another sound was more welcome...from our rear.

It was an American TD. I stepped up on the highway. The commander "unbuttoned." I have him the situation as best I could. The first of two or three curves in the highway was just ahead of where I had established the company CP by the side of the road.

"Take a position on this side of that first curve," I yelled. "Shut your motor off and when the lead tank, which we're letting through, rounds that curve...let him have it."

I had not developed too much faith in tank destroyers

because, generally not always, they had a tendency to hold back and be a bit timid. They were also very vulnerable to enemy fire...more so than conventional tanks which might explain their attitude in part.

From the sound...I couldn't see very well in the dark...and with Austin following orders...a Kraut vehicle lumbered around that last curve. At least I surmised it had and then I knew it had for the TD's muzzle blast was terrific and nearly blinded me as I tumbled part way down the slope on my side and almost into the Grandmont Rivulet.

It was a German half-track and not a tank and the TD's shell had destroyed it completely thus blocking the road perfectly. I couldn't have asked for anything more efficient and I could have kissed that TD commander which I am sure he wouldn't have appreciated at all.

Within seconds I heard a blast from one of the company's bazookas in Neufmoulin. And then another mingled with M-1 small arms fire, etc. I discovered later than one of Beaudoin's bazooka men, Pfc. Mason Armstrong, had worked his way from the high ground north of the town into the second story of a residence and had fired down on two Kraut half-tracks...knocking out both.

Austin's and Beaudoin's men could be heard from above and on the left in Neufmoulin. Quickly, I decided that this was an advance enemy recon unit without too much support for the small engagement was soon over. At any rate, surviving vehicles could be heard on the other side of the Lienne withdrawing to the east, evidently assuming that they had bumped into a position of some strength.

I ordered Austin and Beaudoin to establish a road block at the eastern edge of Neufmoulin beyond the bridge over the junction of the Grandmont Rivulet and Lienne Creek. At dawn both of these capable, veteran officers reported back to me that the block was established.

Then something of further note happened and I shall never forget it either.

Just as I was preparing to move into Neufmoulin with the remainder of Fox Company, I heard a jeep coming down the highway behind me. I nearly fell down into the river when the jeep pulled up and a tall, lean paratroop officer leaped out with two start showing on his helmet.

"Who's in command here?"

"I am, sir, Lt. Arn, F Company, 119th Regiment, 30th Division...at your service."

"I'm Jim Gavin of the 82nd Airborne Division" and he waved away my salute with a grin. "Looks to me, Lt., like you've had quite a night of it here."

"Yes, sir, we have but my men have now secured the position and we are about to complete its occupation."

"Good, you'll be pleased to know that my people will be relieving you here and moving through your positions shortly. We're on the ground now in this



General Gavin

emergency. I'll go on up ahead and have a look around if that's all right with you, Lt."

"Yes, sir!" I responded with wide-eyed admiration.

Major General James Gavin, CO of the entire and very famous 82nd Airborne Division, out ahead of the whole division with a jeep and a driver! I was dumfounded and so were my men there with me.

I still recall, with amusement, Austin's voice on the WT--as I hadn't contacted him as yet--"Sir, I wish to suggest that you have me relieved. I'm going nuts. There's a two star general coming into town in a jeep. I can't believe it. Do you think I've had it."

"No, Ken," I assured my able platoon leader, "you're okay. That's General Gavin of the 82nd Airborne. Be sure and give him the VIP treatment although he strikes me as a guy who doesn't desire that sort of attention at all."

I still recall this little confrontation in Neufmoulin with great pride...pride in the superb quality of my people. Our little, under-strength rifle company, way out ahead of anyone else in the battalion had actually halted--at least in our sector--the westward push of a forward element of the enemy.

I was to find out later that said "forward enemy" was a part of famous SS Obersturmbannführer Joachim Peiper's 1st SS Division of Sepp Dietrich's Sixth Panzer Army. No more formidable or capable leader could be found in the enter German counter-offensive!

His immediate objective was Worbomont and from there to the Meuse River. At least one of his units never made it and it took F Company, in an exposed, all-alone, forward position to get the job done.

A most meaningful and poignant memory for an aging CO.

VBOB members are encouraged to submit typed or neatly printed heretofore unpublished accounts and photographs, if available, for consideration for publication of Battle of the Bulge experiences. Send to:

Clyde Boden

VBOB

P.O. Box 11129

Arlington, Virginia 22210

MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

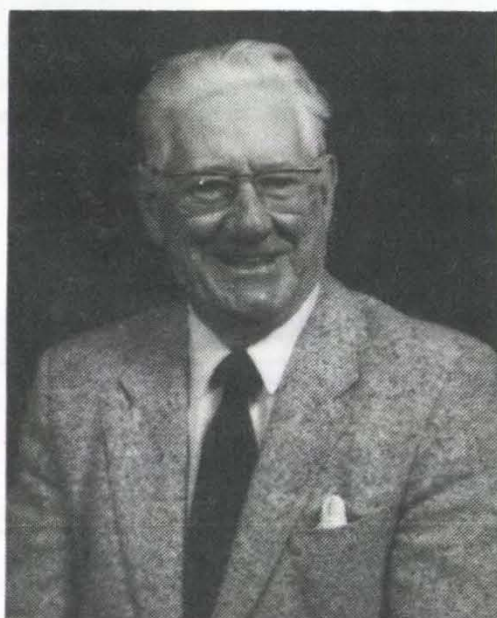
Bob Scanlan, Co. A, 372d GS Engr Regt, reports that six VBOB members and wives met in October in Illinois. Their next meeting will be in April. Questions? If so, call Bob at 60445-3624.

Carroll Blair, a life member at age 70, 97th Inf, 303 Inf, has sent THE BULGE BUGLE a donation every month. Many thanks, Carroll. This is much appreciated.

Former members of the 460th Ord. Evac. Co. are requested to contact Lonnie W. Gray, 14 Overlook, Searcy, Arkansas 72143 with info on Lt. Harold A. Miller, Lt. Fox, Lt. Foster or any unit members.

From The Archives

Members of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge assemble for a group photograph at the organizational meeting in Arlington, VA County Court House on December 16, 1981



LIFE BEGINS AT 80

Our good friend and fellow VBOB member, Ed Cogan from Bethesda, Maryland was recently married. VBOB Chaplain Monsignor O'Donnell who witnessed the marriage

reports that Ed's wife Betty is a delightful young lady. We welcome Betty to our VBOB family and look forward to meeting her.

Ed promises to bring her to a VBOB function in the near future. If you have noticed an increased zip in Ed's style, you now know the reason.



ARE YOUR DUES DUE?

Terms/Adjectives Describing "Battle of The Bulge"

ACTION	DENSELY FORESTED	HISTORIC	POIGNANT
AGGRAVATING	DEPRESSING	HORROR	POWERFUL
AGGRESSION	DESPERATE	HUGE	PRESSURE
ARMIES	DESTRUCTION	ICY	PUGNACIOUS
ATTACK	DETERMINATION	IMPACT	RAINY
AWESOME	DEVASTATING	IMPORTANT	REGROUPING
BATTLE	DRAMATIC	INCOMPARABLE	REMARKABLE
BATTLEGROUND	DUEL	INCREDIBLE	REVERSIBLE
BELLIGERENT	ENORMOUS	INTENSE	ROUGH
BITTER	EPIC	IRREGULAR	ROUGH TERRAIN
BLOODY	EXHAUSTING	IRRITATING	SALIENT
BRAVERY	FAMOUS	KILLING	SCARY
BULGE	FATIGUE	LESSON	SECRET
CALCULATING	FEAR	LETHAL	SNOWY
CARNAGE	FERVENT	LOSSES	SOLDIERS
CASUALTIES	FIERCE	MASSACRE	STRATEGIC
CHALLENGE	FLUID	MASSIVE	STRUGGLE
CHAOS	FOGGY	MEMORABLE	SUFFERING
CHILLY	FRIGID	MEN	SURPRISING
COHESIVENESS	FROZEN	MISERABLE	TENACIOUS
COLD	FURY	MONSTROUS	TERRIBLE
COLOSSAL	GAP	MONUMENTAL	TORMENT
COMBATIVE	GIGANTIC	MOUNTAINOUS	TRAGIC
COMPLEX	GORY	MYSTERIOUS	TRAUMATIC
CONFUSING	GRAND	OFFENSIVE	ULTRA
CONSUMING	GRANDIOSE	PAIN	UNBELIEVABLE
CONTROVERSIAL	GRAVE	PATHOS	UNFORGETTABLE
CORPSES	GREAT	PENETRATION	UNPREDICTABLE
COSTLY	GROTESQUE	PENSIVE	VALOR
COUNTEROFFENSIVE	GRUELING	PERSEVERANCE	VEHEMENT
COURAGE	GUTS	PIERCING	VICTORY
CRITICAL	HAVOC	PITCHED	WEDGE
CRUEL	HEROISM	PIVOTAL	WINDY
DEATH	HILLY	PLANNED	ZEAL

Submitted by Peter G. Dounis - 75th Inf. Div.

★★★★★

*Just
for
Laughs...*

A young sentry, on guard duty for the first time, had orders not to admit any car unless it had a special identification seal. The first unmarked car the sentry stopped contained a general. When the officer told his driver to go right on through, the sentry politely said, "I'm new at this, sir. Who do I shoot first, you or the driver?" — *Bits & Pieces, Vol. 1/No. 6*

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511 Engineers Thank Redange Citizens



VBOB Members at Redange, Luxembourg, Monument CPT Zinger and 14th Engineers, MG Jack Klingenhager 1102 2nd Engineers. C. Group, P.F. Leslie 511th Engineers

The 511th Engineer Light Ponton Company together with their successors the 814th Engineer Company (Assault) (Floating Bridge) completed their installation of a monument thanking the people of Redange sur Attert. The monument is the first in Luxembourg to honour the people of a community for their efforts in 1944/45.

Over 60 Active US Engineer troops stationed in Hanau Germany took part dressed faultlessly in Dress Blues and Class A's. The EM took part as the result of a competition held within the ranks of the 814th. The parade, ceremonies, Vin de Honnuer, and Banquet went off with US Engineer precision.

In his remarks made at the dedication Major Jim Spears the US attache at the US Embassy in Luxembourg thanked the organizer of the monument placement, Peter Leslie a 511th vet, Colonel Fuhrman of the 130th Brigade, and CPT Zinger of the 814th for "Making his job easier". All are members of the Engineer Regiment Association.

Speaker after speaker from the Luxembourg side spoke on the warm friendship between the Luxembourg people and their liberators. Ceba, the Luxembourg Bulge Study Group remarked that never since World War II had so many uniformed American soldiers been gathered together for a ceremony. The Luxembourg Army sent a full colour guard.

After a parade, during which the veterans rode in WW2 vehicles, there was a Vin de Honnuer and a full scale banquet sponsored by the town of Redange.



"...AND FURTHERMORE, MEIN FUEHRER BESIDES SAYING 'NUTS TO OUR DEMAND TO SURRENDER', HE HAD A PECULIAR SUGGESTION AS WHAT YOU COULD DO WITH OUR SURRENDER DEMANDS."

A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER



Almighty God:

With the passing of each year some old memories fail us. But the truly important ones we strive to maintain because what is past is prologue to the future. As we begin the new year of 1990 give us the wisdom to recall and ponder the events of days gone by, and most particularly our service in our nation's military forces. Let us draw from this experience the hope and resolution to serve well and faithfully our God, our nation, our families and all those who look to us for guidance and strength.

Let us remember with appreciation and in prayer those whom we were privileged to serve, both the living and dead.

Help us to make 1990, and the decade it begins, a special time for us all. Let it be a decade of peace, a peace which must begin in the heart of each of us, and from us spread to the world around us.

Finally, give us the wisdom to draw from all the experiences of the past those lessons we need to be effective in the future and the courage to apply them in our lives in order to achieve that happy and prosperous new year we all seek.

May the Lord bless our efforts in this and each New Year and grant His peace to each of us, our families, friends, and all our brothers and sisters throughout the world.

Msgr. William O'Donnell - VBOB Chaplain

Reprinted from STARS & STRIPES - November 6, 1989

WWII-Korea Medical Records Found

The National Archives recently sent notice to the VA that nearly ten million "lost" service medical treatment and hospitalization records had been found, covering the years 1942-45 and 1950-54.

The records involve individuals who served in the Army and Army Air Corps and may include personnel from other branches of the service who were treated in Army hospitals. There may also be records showing treatment of former prisoners of war and servicemen

and women from other nations as well as civilians cared for in Army hospitals.

Veterans who have had claims denied have been advised to contact the VA for reopening their claims.

Veterans may write the Records Center itself. Inquiries will be processed more efficiently if you include a copy of your last DD Form 214. The address is National Personnel Records Center, NPREC/NCPMF-C, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63132-5128.★

God and a soldier all people adore
In time of war, but not before
And when war is over and all things
are righted,
God is neglected and an old soldier slighted.

Anonymous

Reprinted from the World War II Chronicle - Jan/Feb 89

Kilroy Was Here

**KILROY
WAS
HERE**

Not in North Africa. Not in Italy. Not in France. Not in Germany. But in Quincy, Massachusetts, there really was a Kilroy. James J. Kilroy was a rivet inspector at the Fore River Shipyard. When he saw that many of the inspectors' small chalk marks were being erased by the piece workers who hoped to have their work counted twice, he began writing "Kilroy was here" after he had inspected a piece.

Ships departed the yard with parts bearing what would become a familiar sight, as U.S. servicemen scratched, scrawled, carved, wrote, and painted KILROY WAS HERE on buildings, rocks, vehicles, toilet

walls, and wherever else a GI found room for it.

P-51 Mustang

1944 Definition of the P-51 Mustang: "It looks like a Messerschmitt 109, but it goes the other way."

Because its square-tipped wings and tail surfaces resemble those of the Me-109, the Mustang suffered a painful indignity on its first sweeps across the English Channel — German anti-aircraft gunners held their fire, but the British gunners let go with everything they had.

TRIBUTE TO GENE DROUILLARD



Eugene G. Drouillard, VBOB Vice President for Military Affairs, was honored at the 43rd Annual Reunion of the 75th Infantry Veterans Association in July, of last year, in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

A dedicatory article in the reunion program referred to Gene as

a "very dear friend and a true American hero."

His 30-year military career included command and staff duties, numerous awards and decorations and marriage to Bonnie.

Gene has been a stalwart officer and member of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge since its establishment. He has accepted and assumed great responsibilities and has achieved significant accomplishments. No job is too big or too small for Gene to conquer.

We also salute Gene and extend our sincere congratulations to him, a truly outstanding person.

There appears to be a quantity of "old" application forms in circulation indicating \$5.00 as the membership fee. If you have any of those, please destroy them or mark through the \$5.00 and change it to \$10.00. We have received a number of applications with a \$5.00 check. When this occurs, time and material required to write to the applicant causes an increase in the work load and delays the applicant's membership.

Who Deserves the Combat Badge?

I have been interested in the recent brouhaha over whether women should have received the Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) for their service in Panama. The issue was further clouded when one newspaper called the CIB the "Panama Combat Badge." Some historical research might have kept it from this error.

In World War II the vast bulk of the battle deaths were in the infantry. Because there was no set length of tour, as in Vietnam, the WWII combat infantryman soon realized that the only way out was the ambulance or the grave. In recognition of that fact, the CIB was created, along with the Combat Medic Badge (since the casualty rate while treating wounded on the battlefield was also high).

This differentiation became greater when a postwar study revealed that the Air Medal had been awarded with 20 times the frequency of the Bronze Star, which was supposed to be the ground equivalent. In a one-time correction, each holder of the CIB was awarded a Bronze Star medal and only in that war.

There are obvious inequities here. The artillery forward observer who lives

and fights with the infantry does not get the CIB. Nor does the tanker, nor the cavalry scout who fights as infantry plugging holes in the line. One must be infantry and assigned to an infantry unit.

The Germans of WWII dealt with this in another way. They created a Close Combat Badge in various metals depending on how many days the individual was in close combat, and close combat meant long and hard battles—not a short exchange of gunfire at a dog kennel or roadblock. This created an administrative load, but it weaned out the company cooks and clerks while including the forward observers and tankers.

We need to remember that the CIB was created to acknowledge high percentage of death. Perhaps we should look at the whole question of those artillery and armor troops who bear similar death rates. But we certainly should not give in to the cries of the feminists and dilute the criteria because of TV coverage of short-fire fights of units that were not infantry.

WILLIAM A. KNOWLTON
Arlington

Belgians Honor Bulge Veterans

On 24 June 1989, the citizens of Malempre', Belgium established two memorials for the battle of the bulge fighting in their area.

One memorial honored the Belgians of the region. The second commemorated the American soldiers who lost their lives during the period 16 December 1944 through 3 January 1945 in and around Malempre'.

The plaque honoring the U.S. soldiers identifies those units which participated in the defense and the later liberation of the town. The 9th Armored Division was one of the six units so honored.

The other units were the 3rd and 7th Armored Divisions, 509th Parachute Battalion, 2nd Airborne Division and the 83rd Infantry Division.

The plaque is placed in the wall which surrounds the Church of Malempre' in lasting tribute to these army units.
[Col. Cecil E. Roberts]

Members: Don't throw away your old Bulge Bugles. We receive a few requests from students and teachers, requesting information on World War II. Pass your old issue of the Bugle to your local school library. Your discarded issue of the Bugle may instill an interest in "what Grand-dad, Grand-ma did during the War"

Delaware Valley Chapter Parades New VBOB Flag



Veterans Day Parade, Nov. 11 - Carl Martin, Robert Fischer, Carl Dahlroos, Pete Giullano, and Joseph Landolph, members of Delaware Valley Chapter and VFW Post 5705 of Springfield, PA display the new flag of Delaware Valley Chapter, Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. Ten Springfield veterans are members of the Chapter.



CENTRAL NEW YORK Pres. Al Noce presenting plaque to Irving Cantor for his great efforts in saving Syracuse, NY War Memorial

Members Speak Out

VBOB member Edwin J. Swineford's book, "Wits of War: Unofficial GI Humor - History of World War II," has recently been published.

George F. Threlfall, 731st FA Bn, C Btry, wishes to hear from former unit members. Write George at 2848 Stanwood Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32207.

VBOB CHAPTER NEWS

C. G. PAUL NEWGARDEN CHAPTER

A large monetary donation was received from the general's wife, Mrs. Newgarden. A van is being donated by the City of Beverly, Massachusetts, to transport veterans to the local VA Medical Center. A "Poppy Day" may be planned as a chapter project.

Note: President Matt Femino recently lost his wife of many years and we extend our deepest sympathies.

NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER

Members and guests gathered for a luncheon on December 16th in Dunn, North Carolina, to commemorate the 45th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge.

GENERAL GEORGE S. PATTON, JR., CHAPTER OF ALABAMA

Alabama members and guests gathered for a meeting on December 15th at the Homewood-Holiday Inn. Veterans were asked to bring history books, photos and other historical memorabilia to share along with reminiscences and interesting experiences. Approximately 100 were in attendance with 73 VBOBers from 34 units.

On December 12th four VBOB members were on a local TV program with their taped experiences and President Charles Hunter and Alf Van Hoose were on live. Calls were coming in to them even before the program was over.

Alfred S. Van Hoose, Jr., sports editor of The Birmingham News, has a dream assignment to return to the battle area and bring back memories of combat, emotions, tears and humor. He was with the 80th Div., 3rd Army.

DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER

We have published our first newsletter and are going great!

The chapter donated \$500 to the Historical Foundation. We meet every other month; the December meeting was held on Pearl Harbor Day at the Navy Yard in Philadelphia.

The VBOB chapter flag was proudly carried by members in two parades on Veterans Day.

We now have 107 members from 50 towns representing 40 army units.

CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER

President Al Noce presented a plaque to VBOB member Irving Cantor for his battle to save the Syracuse, New York, War Memorial. Under the leadership of Cantor, veterans and families successfully fought to save this memorial dedicated to veterans of all wars and sacrifices given for freedom.

Chapter members have produced a TV show which was shown on December 16th. A local radio station also agreed to play appropriate music on that day. That evening the chapter met to enjoy the December meeting and a buffet dinner.

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

We have received our chapter flag and are in the process of collecting funds for a stand and staff. A meeting was held on November 11th to commemorate Veterans Day.

FRESNO CHAPTER

Election of officers was held at the November meeting with the same slate re-elected. After a luncheon a video of the Remagen Bridge battle narrated by Walter Cronkite was shown.

Seven members participated in a Veterans Day parade in Clovis, California. The local T-Bird Club provided five cars for two parades.

That same afternoon, some members were involved in the rededication of a WWII monument that had been in storage for 3 years. The monument was from the French people in 1949 in appreciation for a shipload of food and clothing after WWII. The event was covered by TV.

On December 16th, 59 persons attended a luncheon meeting, indulging in camaraderie and storytelling.

GOLDEN GATE

While the recent earthquake ravaged some sections and gave everyone quite a scare, no member reported serious damage.

SOUTH CAROLINA CHAPTER

President Bruce Tate had planned to be at the Reno meeting, but Hurricane Hugo changed his mind. The damage was not drastic, but necessitated his remaining at home. He was missed at the meeting.

Chapter members gathered on December 16th and elected the following new officers.

- President: Bruce Chestnut, 517 Parachute Regiment
- Vice President: George Worth, 238 Engineer Combat Battalion
- Secretary: Dr. W. David Johnson, 29 Infantry Division
- Treasurer: Rufus Lewis, Jr., 10th Armored Division

TO ALL MEMBERS:

To aid all fledgling chapters, the VBOB Executive Council voted to lower the mandatory number of signatures needed on a chapter charter request from ten to five. Experience has shown that chapters grow quite quickly once formed.

You can join any chapter you wish; if the nearest one is over your state line, that's okay. You don't have to wait for your state to develop one or travel any more miles than necessary. We want you to enjoy the camaraderie NOW!

In September, my wife, Beverley, and I met with Oregon members in Portland and had a good meeting. They decided they wanted to form a chapter and are busy getting more members signed up. Interested VBOBers should contact Jim Jones (503) 253-3003.

We'd like to print the news of all chapter activities. Would each president not having a newsletter appoint someone to send a report to me to include in this column? Most of these items are based on information found in chapter newsletters and phone calls.

Robert J. Van Houten
Vice President, Regional Coordination



HEAR YE!!

HEAR YE!!

We need the names, addresses, and zip codes for newspapers and periodicals in your hometown and/or immediate area who might be interested in receiving VBOB press releases and

other information. Please send to:

Nancy C. Monson
5911 North 2nd Street
Arlington, Virginia 22203

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS - 1944



This is a picture of the Christmas Card issued to the 80th Division, shortly before their "Quick March to the Battle of the Bulge."

STARS AND STRIPES MAKES MAGNANIMOUS OFFER

Tom Cronin, Director of Marketing of The Stars and Stripes--The National Tribune, attended major functions of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge at Fort Meade, Maryland, Arlington National Cemetery and Fort Myer, December 14-16, 1989.

At the 2nd Annual Meeting of the Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation, Tom stated that \$8.00 of every \$19.00 annual subscription to The Stars and Stripes and Stripes will be donated to the Foundation if the subscribers will identify themselves as VBOB members.

VBOB members are encouraged to subscribe to The Stars and Stripes, a first-class weekly newspaper devoted to veterans affairs. The mailing address is The Stars and Stripes, 278 Carroll Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20012.

Be sure to state that you are a member of VBOB.

Reprinted from The Congressional Record November 21, 1989.
Congressman C. Thomas McMillen's resolution.
The original will soon be displayed in the museum.



United States
of America

BATTLE OF THE BULGE

HON. C. THOMAS McMILLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 21, 1989

Mr. McMILLEN of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation, and to commemorate the 45th anniversary of the battle on December 16 of this year.

Each year the Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation holds a commemorative ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Arlington National Cemetery. At this time veterans of the battle, their families, and friends pay tribute to the soldiers who never returned home.

In addition to reminiscing about this historical battle, this year the foundation will be celebrating the progress that has been made in the growth of the Battle of the Bulge gallery. Through the generosity of its members, the foundation has been able to watch the development of this gallery which will become a part of the Fort George G. Meade Museum in Anne Arundel County, MD. The gallery will house various artifacts, documents, and maps that have been preserved from the battle. The foundation will also have the honor of unveiling the patron's fund plaque which lists the names of the Battle of the Bulge veterans.

The contributions that the Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation has given to the public, so that the memory of the battle may live on as an important part of our Nation's history, are immeasurable. I know that my colleagues join with me in extending congratulations to the foundation for its many accomplishments, and to honor the veterans of the Battle of the Bulge.

FUND-RAISING OFFER EXPIRES

Please note: The 1989 Historical Foundation fund-raising offer for a free copy of A Time For Trumpets and First Across The Rhine with donations of \$125.00, \$500.00 (or more), expired as of January 1, 1990. A special thanks to all of those who contributed.

Mark your calendar for...

VBOB's 9th GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING • VALLEY FORGE, PA • SEPT. 26-28



VETERANS of the BATTLE of the BULGE

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

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FEBRUARY, 1990

TIME MARCHES ON... SO DOES OUR MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN...



We're looking for Battle of the Bulge veterans, their families, and/or friends--you can help.

YOU are our best membership promoter. We need your help in attaining our membership goals. If you know others who were in the Battle of the Bulge, family members of BOB vets, or friends who are interested in seeing that the memory carries on, tell them about our organization. The friendships formed through our organization are irreplaceable. Become as active as you can and tell your friends about us. **WE NEED THE HELP THAT ONLY YOU CAN PROVIDE. VBOB IS YOUR ORGANIZATION.**

Detach and Mail

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

Annual Dues \$10 DONATIONS ARE WELCOME

Do not write above this line

Do not write above this line

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