

*"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, WWII.



# The BULGE BUGLE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION • VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, INC.

VOLUME XI

NUMBER 3

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

AUGUST 1992

GERMAN WRITER PETER TAUTFEST TELLS ONLY THE GERMAN SIDE OF THE MALMEDY MASSACRE, NO STORY FROM THE VICTIMS SIDE.

## BATTLER BLASTS TIME-LIFE, OTHERS FOR BULGE BATTLE TALE ERRORS



*(Editor's note: Book-length histories as well as magazine length pieces on the Bulge copy information from each other including the mistakes. Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge are alert enough to spot these glaring errors - through bitter personal eye-witness accounts. However, the rebuttal never manages to catch up to the original charge, and so there will be a large lore of mis-facts written about us, our battle. If you have the chance, tell the tellers of wrong facts. Tell historians.*

*If you get totally frustrated, tell it to the Marines - they don't have anything like the Bulge worth telling about, and since they have such a great public relations program, maybe they can help tell our story - honestly...)*

**Dr. Frank A. Raila, Company G, 423 Infantry Regiment, 106th Infantry Division, provided the BULGE BUGLE with this exclusive story.**

Evidently we still have to be aware of the Germans. Dr. Raila points out that a story written by a German, Peter Tautfest, aimed at saying he wanted to tell the German side of the MALMEDY MASSACRE. But Dr. Raila reports Tautfest "begins and ends with the murders and murderers but there is no story from the victims side." The Tautfest story (and others like it) "was received from a Herr Bremer, a former member of the S.S. - an infamous murdering group. The S.S. Einsatzgruppen were responsible for more than 55,000 executions in the Ukraine alone!"

Dr. Raila says the article "is as accurate  
(Continued on Page 15)



Life Magazine was wrong in its caption of this photo. These are German dead - note hobnailed boots. US Army never issued hobnailed boots. These Nazis died in unsuccessful attacks on Bastogne's US 101 AB Div.

**11th ANNUAL VBOB REUNION  
NASHVILLE, TENN - OCT. 8-11, 1992**

**BE THERE!!**



**VETERANS OF THE  
BATTLE OF THE BULGE,  
INC.**

P.O. Box 11129  
Arlington, Virginia 22210-2129  
703-979-5270

*THE BULGE BUGLE* is the official publication of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, and is issued four times yearly. Limited back copies are available at \$3.50 per copy.

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If there's a chapter near you, give their president a call. They are engaged in a lot of activities we are sure you would enjoy. You may encounter some old friends and you surely will make some new ones.

“  
You don't git  
combat pay  
'cause you  
don't fight.  
”





## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### PRESIDENT URGES STEPPED-UP PACE ON ACTIVITIES - Points Out Advances Made

We have taken keystone steps in moving VBOB along, in keeping with the tempo established by VBOB's founding fathers.

We want to keep this tempo going now and in the near and far future.

Nothing is forever, so we must look back to see if our bridges in our rear are still intact as we continue the tempo of attack in pursuit of our mission.

Steps we had taken to advance the purpose of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge have on occasion hit snags. However, VBOB management has been alert enough to spot trends, and so steps have been taken to rectify problems and to continue the march forward at an unabated pace.

**Example:** The Historical Foundation over the past few years received fewer than anticipated contributions. Therefore, new directions within available financial resources were considered and developed. One of the new initiatives is the worldwide collecting and cataloging of personal and unit written materials about experiences in the Battle of the Bulge. This material is then entered into the permanent Battle of the Bulge Collection at the U.S. Army Military Institute, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. The ongoing cooperation and support from Fort George G. Meade is much appreciated. Many thanks also to Dorothy Davis, Bill Greenville and the Board of Trustees for providing the continual guidance for this important effort.

**Example:** Chapters and membership continue to grow, and we are seeking ways to broaden the base of appeal. With about a half-million men in the Bulge, we should be able to widen membership from the current 10,000 we have now. Former VBOB President Bob Van Houten, now contributing as Vice President for Regional Coordination, is now assisting Grover Twiner, President of the Maryland-District of Columbia Chapter, who has come up with a regional plan to bolster both membership and chapter growth. Neil Thompson, Vice President for Membership, has been assiduously punching away at the information wall that stands between our present status and more representative membership.

**Example:** The public relations people are touching upon many areas of interest to increase membership, as well as to help VBOB in many other ways. Some of the areas being covered include print and broadcast media contact; contact with divisions, regiments, units, etc. who were in the Bulge; contacts with Congress; military and magazine advertising. The contact with the Bulge groups has been particularly gratifying--with



Darrell Kuhn

each helping the other with membership promotion where possible. Many new members have been located as a result of press releases to over 2,000 newspapers whose addresses were provided by you good members.

**Example:** A VBOB overseas type of cap has been officially adopted by the National Executive Council and can be bought by getting a VBOB logo from Dixon Poole, our VBOB quartermaster (additional information elsewhere in *The Bugle*). Once you secure the logo, send it to Keystone Cap Company with your order (information elsewhere in *The Bugle*). Keystone will put the logo on free--you are only charged for the cap. (We needed to be able to sell memorabilia in a more profitable manner, so we contracted with Mr. Poole to do the job. We are no longer in the red on sales. Accounting in the black looks better and is great for killing organizational ulcers....)

**Example:** We are saving money on the manner in which we prepare *The Bulge Bugle* for mailing. The Maryland-District of Columbia readies this publication for mailing at a good cut in handling costs.

**Example:** Dues have been increased to \$15. This has revitalized our financial backbone. For instance we will be able to continue to provide you with five issues per year of *The Bugle*, and perhaps be able to increase the number of issues or other mailings in the future.

**Example:** More Battlers and their wives and friends are attending the annual conventions--a good sign of the interest in VBOB affairs as well as the chance to meet comrades and learn about vital matters that affect each veteran who took part in the Battle of the Bulge. We have taken special efforts to make sure the convention programs reflect the primary interests of the membership and all those who are eligible for membership. We've taken great pains to see that the social activities are enjoyable. Above all, we like to ensure that the camaraderie is unequalled.

**Example:** When the Historical Foundation could not host the annual December 15th dinner in 1991, VBOB National continued the custom by sponsoring the dinner, which is always a prelude to the 16 December wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington Cemetery.

**Example:** We hired a CPA to go over our books from 1981 to 1992. We have won the "Accounting Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval"....

**Example:** The Bylaws were revised and adopted in September, 1991, and we are now incorporated.

**Example:** We have also taken many other administrative/management steps to increase efficiency, cut costs and move toward our goals more quickly. We have changed our check-writing policy by now requiring two signatures on VBOB checks, instead of one, as before.

We are constantly looking for ways to advance VBOB. We would appreciate your continued input on all matters you deem important to reach our goals for the impact VBOB should have on the American community, in keeping with the impact we made in World War II by beating the Germans in the most important battle in which the United States Army took part.



**VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE  
11TH REUNION • NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE  
OCTOBER 8-11, 1992**

**PROGRAM**

**Thursday • 8 October**

- Noon - 8:00 p.m. Arrival, registration, find old friends and make new ones  
3:00 - 4:00 p.m. Film "Brave Rifles"  
6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Mixer: Wine, Beer and Soda Hospitality  
Room 18th Floor - Overlooking  
City of Nashville

**Friday • 9 October**

- 9:00 a.m. - noon Registration  
5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Registration\*  
9:00 - 11:30 a.m. General Membership Business Meeting  
11:30 - 12:30 p.m. Lunch "on your own"  
12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Chapter Panel (open to all members)  
2:00 p.m. Memorial Service at Marriott Hotel  
3:30 p.m. Hospitality Room Reopens  
6:00 p.m. Western Barbeque at Marriott  
(\$15.00 per person)

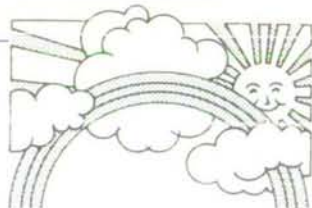
**Saturday • 10 October**

- 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. Tour of Nashville (\$16.00 per person)  
12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Registration  
2:00 p.m. Buses leave for Grand Ole Opry  
3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Grand Ole Opry Matinee Show  
(\$20.00 per person)  
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Hospitality Room Open  
7:45 p.m. Banquet - Main Floor - Marriott  
(\$25.00 per person)

**Sunday • 11 October**

- 10:00 a.m. Church Service and Farewell

**LET US  
PRAY...**



Almighty God, summer is a beautiful reminder of the order and beauty of nature. As we enjoy the product of this order and beauty of nature let us be profoundly appreciative of all that it means to us.

Let us appreciate your wisdom, O God, that makes all of this possible.

Let us be especially appreciative of the opportunity that it has given us to serve You through service to our Nation in its time of peril. Let us be ever mindful of our comrades whom you have called to yourself during and since The Battle of The Bulge by remembering them daily in our thoughts and prayers.

*Msgr. William F. O'Donnell, VBOB Chaplain  
87th Infantry Division*

**Rest & Relaxation  
Arranged For You  
in Nashville**

We hope you'll come to Nashville to be with us at our Eleventh Reunion from October 8 to 11, 1992. I think that you will find that we have an interesting program arranged for you in a world class hotel (Marriott-Airport).

We have arranged for the Hotel to give us a three room suite on the 18th floor which affords a panorama view of the city of Nashville to be used as our hospitality area. The accommodations are plush and just the right atmosphere for old soldiers to enjoy a drink and relax.

Beside our program, which includes a trip to Opreyland, you might want to afford yourself the opportunity to take a Riverboat Cruise on the Cumberland River, with the option of having dinner aboard. You might also choose to board the General Jackson Paddlewheel Showboat for a day or night cruise. These and other attractions in the city of Nashville will be available to you by choice and can be arranged at the hotel desk.

Mainly though, the reunion will give us all an opportunity to be with our friends once again for a great time. *Ya'll come!*

*John Dunleavy,  
VBOB Reunion Chairman*

**Letters To The Editor  
Nazi Germany**

Dear Editor:

The Washington Post and most news media persons when referring to our enemy in WWII will inevitably use "NAZI" in place of Germany, reference the DAV monthly articles "50 YEARS AGO, WWII". March issue page 17. British, Japan, U.S. are always used, where's the country of NAZI? In WWI the U.S. fought Germany not the Kaiser's political party.

We WWII veterans feel it is a sin of omission when you use NAZI and not Germany. We who fought the war were fighting Germany. Nazi was a political nickname for the National Socialist German Workers Party and is the same as using Republican or Democrat. To help future generations you should use "Nazi Germany" or just Germany. I don't think the North Vietnamese were fighting Democrats, or the Iraqis were fighting the Republicans.

When one reflects on the negative support the German people gave us during Operation Desert Storm and the advanced technical support they gave Saddam Hussein for the past 25 years—like our new "friends" from Moscow—their friendship for us is selling us German cars or Moscow receiving U.S. technology.

I am a life member of DAV, Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge and of the 87th Infantry Division Association. I find it most disturbing when these organizations use "NAZI" in their publications. I was in an Infantry rifle company in WWII, wounded in the "Battle of the Bulge", spent three months in overseas hospitals, came home, went to school under the G.I. Bill and am now retired after working 42 years as a physical scientist for the federal government.

*Bill Tayman, 87th Infantry Division*

They wish to hell they were someplace else, and they wish to hell they would get relief. They wish to hell the mud was dry and they wish to hell their coffee was hot. They want to go home. But they stay in their wet holes and fight, and then they climb out and crawl through minefields and fight some more.

*BILL MAULDIN*

**NASHVILLE HERE WE COME!!**

VETERANS OF THE  
BATTLE OF THE BULGE

**11<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
REUNION**

Nashville, Tennessee  
October 8-11, 1992  
Headquarters, Nashville Airport  
Marriott  
Nashville, Tennessee

# Registration Form

(Please print all information)

As soon as possible, but no later than  
September 16, 1992 mail this  
registration form and check to:  
Veterans of the Battle of the  
Bulge Reunion  
P.O. Box 11129  
Arlington, VA 22210-2129

VETERANS OF THE  
BATTLE OF THE BULGE  
11TH ANNUAL

**REUNION**  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE  
OCTOBER 8-11, 1992

# HOTEL REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete and mail to:  
Nashville Airport Marriott  
One Marriott Drive  
Nashville, Tennessee 37210  
615-889-9300

**\$62** (Flat Rate)

Per Room, Per Night  
Plus Tax

**Thursday • October 8**

\*Registration (before 9/16/92) \_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00  
(after 9/16/92) \_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00  
Hospitality Room \_\_\_\_\_ N/C

**Friday • October 9**

Western Barbeque at Marriott \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00

**Saturday • October 10**

Tour of Nashville \_\_\_\_\_ \$16.00  
Grand Ole Opry Show \_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00  
(Includes transportation and available only  
to the first 100 persons to register for this  
function.)  
Banquet \_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00

**TOTAL AMOUNT (Enclose check)** \_\_\_\_\_

**NO REFUNDS AFTER SEPTEMBER 30, 1992**

\*All registrants and/or participants must pay this fee.

Please provide the name you want on your name card here:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Outfit \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

----- DETACH AND MAIL -----

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Arrival \_\_\_\_\_ Departure \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ 1 bed/1 person \_\_\_\_ 1 bed/2 persons \_\_\_\_ 2 beds/2 persons

NOTE: All reservations must be guaranteed by company guarantee, credit card number, or first night's room and tax deposit. All reservations must be cancelled at least 48 hours prior to arrival or room will be billed and/or deposit is non-refundable.

Advance Deposit Enclosed: Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is advance deposit for first night's room plus tax (11.75%) = \$69.29

OR

**CREDIT CARD GUARANTEE:**

Card Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Required Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPLIMENTARY TRANSPORTATION • Available and provided by Marriott to and from Airport.

DIRECTIONS TO THE MARRIOTT • U.S. 40 to Exit 7--Briley Parkway (North). At the bottom of the hill, turn right on Elm Hill Road. Go to the first light. Make a sharp right turn onto Marriott Drive. Go up the hill about a quarter of a mile to the Marriott.



## CHAPTER NEWS

**NORTH DAKOTA CHAPTER** • Our annual meeting was held May 2 in Bismarck at the VFW Post. The previous evening we took a boat ride on the Missouri River. Saturday morning we held our business meeting at 9:00 and held a Memorial Service at 1:00 p.m. At 5:30 we were welcomed by the mayor of Bismarck, enjoyed a prime rib and shrimp dinner, and installed our officers for the coming year. After dinner we were entertained by the Plainsmen and the VFW had music for those who wished to stay. The affair was attended by 70 people, who all enjoyed themselves and each other's company very much.

We were very pleased to have two people from Montana attend the meeting.

The new officers are President--George K. Peterson, Vice President--Frank Dusek, Secretary-Treasurer--Harry Swendson Hettinger.

In the past year we have attended two military funerals with our colors, one on December 16th, 1991.

Our officers were interviewed by the KX stations in North Dakota on the 6:00 and 10:00 o'clock news and on all eight KX stations in North Dakota. We are working on a program for the Prairie Public television for December 16, 1992.

We'd like to host the Annual Meeting in Bismarck. You all come!

**SUSQUEHANNA CHAPTER** • We welcomed three new attendees at our March 15th luncheon meeting held at South Scranton Veterans' Building.

We were informed that someone is looking for Edward Levandowski of Company G, 117th Regiment, 30th Infantry Division.

George Waters stated that the Veterans Administration Hospital should be made a member of our chapter and receive the Bugle.

Beginning on May 24th, there will be a Veterans' News Program on Sundays, 12:00 to 12:30 p.m.

A plaque was presented to Bobby Snyder, Post Steward, in appreciation for arranging the meals for our meetings.

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER** • At our May meeting, in commemoration of VE Day, each one related where they were on that day and how they celebrated.

Those who were lucky enough to be in London, participated in a wild celebration in Picadilly Square with Americans, English, Canadians, and Australians.

In Coventry, England, the American camp threw a big party for all surrounding civilians and servicemen that lasted for two days.

Our resident pilot was enjoying R&R in Caan, obtained some spirits and quietly celebrated alone.

Our lone POW was just liberated from prison camp and still in Camp Lucky Strike. The men there celebrated by being deloused and eating, too exhausted to do much other celebrating.

One man was in the hospital getting a particle removed

from his eye and the rest were pretty much on the southeast border of Germany near Austria and Czechoslovakia, performing duties as usual. If they were fortunate enough to "liberate" some spirits, they celebrated. Otherwise, it was very quiet.

Several saw floods of Germans coming out of the hills, possibly traveling to escape the on-coming Russians.

Then the women present related where they were and what went on around them in civilian life. A University of Michigan librarian was involved in business as usual, a nurse was still on call for her hospital, and a B24 bomber conversion worker reported no holiday, no celebration; only relief that half of the job was over. In other words, slogging on with business as usual, too worn out with the long war to feel anything other than relief.

President Dean Fravel had invited a neighbor of his who had been in the 9th Air Corps flying a B26 in the Pathfinder Unit to attend the meeting. He explained their job of leading groups of other aircraft to the bomb target and how the Germans were particularly interested in eliminating them even to the point of infiltrating into their base camp.

**DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER** • In January, 17 members spent a memorable weekend at Indiantown Gap Military Reservation. The National WWII Historical Preservation Federation put on a magnificent performance reenacting the Battle of the Bulge, simulating the action at Bastogne and Clervaux. Four hundred members from six states participated in this mock battle, all dressed in authentic WWII American and German combat uniforms and sporting authentic weapons. As observers, we were stunned by authentic battle scenes, especially the German soldiers coming through the woods behind the smoke screen. It was so authentic, it was scary. After a G.I. evening meal at the company mess hall, we inspected both the American and "German" barracks while the "soldiers" listened spellbound to stories from the old timers who participated in the real battle 48 years ago. Taps brought out bedrolls for the old iron bunk beds in the two story wooden barracks. It really was *deja vu*.

President Wojtusik, Col. Pergrin, and Bill Stanton were interviewed on TV channel 13, which covers South Jersey. They each told about their individual and unit's experiences during the Battle of the Bulge.

We have designed a logo for a T-shirt for everyone to wear at our summer money making activities for the fund for our Bulge Memorial. It is the VBOB logo over the traditional eagle holding the arrows and olive branches.

**SOUTH CAROLINA CHAPTER** • A cafeteria style lunch preceded our meeting on March 10th. Our guest speaker was Mr. Fritz Hamer, who is curator of the South Carolina State Museum. He explained about the museum and answered questions from the floor. He stated that the *Movie-Tone News* reels belong to the university. They are a good idea for future meetings.

We adopted the final version of our By Laws.

*(Continued on Page 7)*



(continued from Page 6)

Dr. Bill Brockington told of the furor he created by writing a tongue-in-cheek letter to *YANK* magazine. He learned that spoken words carry a lot more meaning and nuance than the written word. His letter created more mail than any other letter.

**CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER** • We had a shortened meeting in February in order for our members to participate in a parade being held in Deltona. We plan to have a booth at the Mt. Dora Flea Market to augment our treasury.

**CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER** • In February, we met for an Italian dinner at the John Venditti Post #1. We had a beautiful surprise birthday cake for our chaplain, Fred Carducci. Although there was snow and it was cold outside, we planned our annual picnic for July 7th.

**GOLDEN GATE CHAPTER** • Our December 14th meeting started with a luncheon and our speaker was Lt. Gen. William F. Train, a member of the chapter. He spoke on "General Patton as I Knew Him." He stated that the Movie "Patton" was very accurate as to personality and character. He related several interesting sidelights about Patton, such as he wanted to be a military officer ever since his childhood, even though he had a learning disability with which his father (a VMI graduate) helped him. He also attended VMI and graduated from West Point (at the bottom of his class in 1909. [MacArthur was at the top. Just goes to show you.]) He participated in five Olympic events in Stockholm, Sweden, and was a licensed pilot and an accomplished fencer. Although he presented a hard exterior, he was an extremely compassionate and generous man. He signed his entire Army salary over to Army Relief.

On March 28th, at our meeting in the Presidio Officers' Club, our speaker was Major General Dewey K. K. Lowe. He entered the U.S. Air Forces in an aviation cadet program in 1943. He served as a pilot with the 4th Combat Cargo Squadron and the 1st Combat Cargo Squadron in the China Burma-India theater and after discharge entered the Reserve. He was called to duty in October 1952 during the Korean War and was a pilot with a troop carrier wing at Memphis, TN. He remained in the Air Force and held various positions. In 1961, he served as chief of Contract Administration Division and Contract Management Division. He retired in 1985.

**CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER** • At our organizational meeting in March, we elected John E. McAuliffe, President; Frank Wooldridge, Vice President; William T. Connor, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer. We made plans to widen our mailing area to invite more members to our meeting in June.

At our June meeting, Vice President for Chapter Coordination attended the meeting to welcome us as a new chapter and encourage us in our activities.

**GREAT LAKES CHAPTER** • We had our organizational meeting in February. Elected officers are President--Gregory Walker, Vice President--John Van Eyck, Second

Vice President--Eugene S. Rye, and Secretary-Treasurer--Victor Gerue. We will have our next meeting in August. We already have 19 members. We are based in the northeast peninsula of Michigan, (Marinette, Menominee, Stephenson area) convenient to Upper Wisconsin members.

**WORDS FROM YOUR CHAPTER VP** • I am delighted to welcome our two newest chapters. All you fellows in those areas rush over and join up for a lot of fun and fellowship.

Most of our chapters are putting out newsletters and exchanging them. Some of them are quite extensive, and I congratulate the editors on their efforts. If you don't belong to a chapter, you are missing a lot of fun and memories and good information.

I have just received a call of a chapter starting in northwest Michigan in the Travis City area. If you are interested, call Maurice C. Cole, telephone 616-263-7222.

Bob Van Houten



**CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER**. Members at organizational meeting of our newest chapter.



**DELAWARE VALLEY** members at Indiantown Gap during re-enactment of battles.

Every citizen [should] be a soldier. This was the case with the Greeks and the Romans, and must be that of every free state.

THOMAS JEFFERSON



## MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

**DUDLEY W. ATKINS, 78TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 309TH INFANTRY, COMPANY "F,"** would like to hear from anyone who was once a member of the **101ST BARRAGE BALLOON BATTERY**, who trained at Camp Tyson, Tennessee. (The unit was deactivated.) Write to Dudley at: Route 2, Box 62, Dadeville, Alabama 36853.

We have been asked to help locate **MANUEL HERRA, SERIAL NUMBER 38560523**. Manuel lost a bracelet on the battlefield in a woods behind the Village Villers-La-Bonne-Eau, which has been found. It is not known what outfit he was with. If you can help, write to Robert T. Murrell, National Historian, 8th Division Veterans Association, 630 Pennsylvania Avenue, Oakmont, Pennsylvania 15139.

**DAVID L. DRAKE**, Communications Officer, **253RD ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION (CORPS BATTALION)**, would like to find maps that were made of the Bulge area for firing purposes. His were discharged for the sake of map case space and he would now love to have copies of them. Contact him at Rural Route 1, Box 104, Beason, Illinois 62512.

**TOM GILLIS, 4TH ARMORED CCR (X0)**, recommends a new edition of a book entitled *Bastogne*, written by Guy Franz Arend. Arend is an honorary member of the 101st Airborne Division and eleven other units of the U.S. Army and founder of four museums. The book may be ordered from the Bastogne Historical Centre, Mardasson Hill, 6650 Bastogne, Belgium—Send only an International Postal Money Order for \$25.00. Guy is looking for photographs, documents and/or other material of interest for a new 50th anniversary edition.

**HERB "CHICK" FOWLE, 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, has sent us notice of his book *The Men of the Terrible Green Cross*. It contains 456 pages of WWII action history and nostalgia. Cost is \$19.95 (plus 68 cents more for people who reside in Michigan) and can be ordered from: Herb Fowle, 4011 Gay Road, Hillsdale, Michigan 49242.

**NORBERT VAN DEN BERGHE**, from Belgium, is making a study of the battle which took place in Villers on the 30th of December, 1944. He would like to hear from members of the **35TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 137TH REGIMENT, COMPANIES K and L**. If you can help, contact him at: Kortrijksesteenweg 1250, 9051 St Denijs Westrem (Gent), Belgium.

**IRVIN OSWALD, 564TH AAA AW BN, BATTERY C**, writes to let us know that he is planning to attend the VBOB Reunion in Nashville. He's looking forward to seeing some one from his old unit. Anybody out there planning to attend? In any event, you can drop Irvin a note: 2 Ellicott Court, Douglassville, Pennsylvania 19518.

**DENNIS G. GRAY, 4TH INFANTRY (IVY) DIVISION ASSOCIATION**, sent us a notice about their unit reunion—it was too late to make our last issue and the reunion will be over by the time you receive this issue. If you want information, write to Dennis at: 3303 North Robison Road, Texarkana, Texas 75501.

**GEORGE K. PETERSON**, would like to hear from someone who could give him some information about the route the **8TH INFANTRY DIVISION** took through Europe and where it served. Write to George at: Rural Route 2, Box 107, McClusky, North Dakota 58463-9592.

**EDWARD F. GREH, 9TH ARMORED DIVISION**, would like to know if anyone remembers **ROBERT H. GOLDBACHER, 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION**, who is believed to have been gunned down near the Carentan-Cherbourg Road west of Ste. Mere-Eglise. If you do, write to him at: 807 Shores Club Drive, St. Clair Shores, Michigan 48080.

**LARRY MASCOTT, 83RD INFANTRY DIVISION**, has advised us of the availability of a one-hour film on the Battle of the Bulge, entitled *The Brave Rifles*. The video received an Academy Award and many other

prestigious awards. It is available by writing to Larry at: Mascott Productions, 72-310 Merry Vaie Way,, Palm Desert, California 92260. Telephone: 619-340-0097.

**R. KEITH OSTRUM, 87TH CHEMICAL MORTAR BATTALION**, is looking for help in identifying former members of "D" Company in a photograph he has which was probably taken at Camp Rucker, Alabama. He will provide you with a copy of the photo and the names of those who he has already identified, if you will write to him at: 2931 Burton Avenue, Erie, Pennsylvania 16504-1443.

**BERT H. MORPHIS, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, 26 INFANTRY, COMPANY "B,"** writes to let us know that his "Memorable Bulge Incidents" [August, 1990] article united him with **BOB BENTZ**, who advised him of the existence of associations for his division and regiment. Through those associations he became reacquainted with **JOHN KRISTICH** and they have been enjoying their new-found friendship. They plan to get together at the 1st Infantry Division reunion in Chicago in August. Bert says: Kristich and I still marvel at the coincidence of my Bulge article leading to our getting reacquainted. I am eternally grateful to the *Bugle* for this sequence of events. It is indeed a small world! [Bert, we're grateful too. It's one of the purposes for our existence and we're glad to hear when it works.]

**WESLEY SUTTON, 83RD INFANTRY DIVISION, 330 INFANTRY, COMPANY "I," 3RD PLATOON**, wants to know if there is anyone out there from his outfit. If so, he'd like to hear from you. Write to Wesley at: Box 443, 223 Marshall Street, Litchfield, Michigan 49252.

**CLIFFORD "POP" BIRD, 32ND CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE, "C" TROOP, 1ST PLATOON**, would like to hear from someone from his old outfit. Any of you 32nd Cavalry boys out there? Write to Pop at: 102 North Gospel, #5, Paoli, Indiana 47454-9692. [Pop explains that he got his nickname as a result of being 34 years old when he was drafted. He says that anybody that "old" automatically became "Pop" to a group comprised mostly of 18 to 20 year olds and he liked the title.]

John W. Tesh writes to inquire if anyone remembers his brother **VERNON L. TESH, 2ND (INDIANHEAD) DIVISION, 38TH REGIMENT, COMPANY D**, who was killed in action on December 19th in the Bulge. If you knew or served with Vernon please write to John at: 1178 Nelson Drive, Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801.

**RAYMOND L. ZANKER, 9TH ARMORED ENGINEERS**, wants to hear more about his division. We are sure many of you feel the same way. Do you have anything about your division that would be interesting? If you do, please submit it for consideration for inclusion in *The Bugle*. If you send it, we'll try to use it. [There are only two or three of us working on the newsletter and we do not have the funds to have researchers provide us with input. SO, WE ARE DEPENDENT ON OUR MEMBERS TO SUBMIT INFORMATION. Thanks, Ray, for the information you provided--maybe you will shake out some interesting materials for us.]



Ex-POW Stan Wojtusik turning the tables on the "Germans" at Indiantown Gap re-enactment of the battles of Bastogne and Clervaux.



## REUNIONS

**3RD ARMORED DIVISION ASSOCIATION**, September 8-13, 1992, Hampton Inn Central, Omaha, Nebraska. Contact: P.O. Box 61743, Phoenix, Arizona 85082-1743.

**3RD CAVALRY GROUP VETERANS' ASSOCIATIONS**, September 18-20, 1992, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Dearborn, Michigan. Contact: Sam Kastner, 31440 Northwestern Highway, Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334-2531. Telephone: 313-661-3301.

**SIXTH ARMORED DIVISION**, September 8-13, 1992, Galt House, Louisville, Kentucky. Contact: Ed Reed, P.O. Box 5011, Louisville, Kentucky 40205.

**13TH ARMORED DIVISION ASSOCIATION**, October 14-18, 1992, Galt House, Louisville, Kentucky. Contact: Miller M. Hanly, 3702 Pennsylvania Avenue, Charleston, West Virginia 25302-4635. Telephone: 304-343-8288.

**16TH GENERAL HOSPITAL**, October 9-11, 1992, Day's Inn, Framingham, Massachusetts. Contact: Clarence and Dotty Barre, 18 Dutton Ave, Oxford, Massachusetts 01540 or Heidi Hopkins, 107 Stockyard Road, Rowley, Massachusetts 01969.

**80TH AIRBORNE AA-AT BATTALION, 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION**, October 9-11, 1992, Columbus, Ohio. Contact: John Sayre, 3478 Trenton Road, Columbus, Ohio 43232. Telephone: 614-837-1551.

**87TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION**, September 15-20, 1992, Radisson Hotel, Toledo, Ohio. Contact: Gladwin Pascuzzo, 2374 North Dundee Court, Highland, Michigan 48357-3716. Telephone: 313-887-9005.

**101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION**, August 20-22, 1992, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Contact: Ivan Worrell, 101 East Morris Street, Sweetwater, Tennessee 37874. Telephone: 615-337-4103.

**174TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION**, November 7, 1992, Sandusky, Ohio. Contact: Don Schoewe, 5613 Delores Drive, Castalia, Ohio 44824. Telephone: 419-684-5797.

**159TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION**, September 10-12, 1992, Knoxville, Tennessee. Contact: Joe Martin, 1617 Autry Way, Knoxville, Tennessee 37909. Telephone: 615-588-5609.

**174TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION**, November, 1992, Sandusky, Ohio. Contact: Len Schafenberg, 1911 East 29th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11229.

**178TH COMBAT ENGINEERS**, September 24-27, 1992, Clarion Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana. Contact: Jack A. Davis, 202 Blacksnake Road, Stanley, North Carolina 28164. Telephone: 704-263-4049.

**193RD GENERAL HOSPITAL**, October 2-4, 1992, Howard Johnson Park Square Inn and Suites, Lake Buena Vista, Florida. Contact: Dorothy Fay Murphy, 5904 B Lynn Lake Drive S, St. Petersburg, Florida 33712-6260. Telephone: 813-866-9551.

**277TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION (all batteries)**, October 10-11, 1992, Somerset Lodge Motel, Highway 27 South, Somerset, Kentucky 42501. Contact: James T. Holloway, 306 Murphy Avenue, Ferguson, Kentucky 42533. Telephone: 606-678-8897.

**291ST ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, WWII**, October 8-11, 1992, Sheraton Hotel, Wichita Falls, Texas. Contact: C. D. Landrum, 104 Easy Street, Burkburnett, Texas 76354. Telephone: 817-569-3992.

**296TH ENGINEER (C) BATTALION**, September 18-19, 1992, Sheraton Tara Hotel, Braintree, Massachusetts. Contact: Domenic Fontana, 116 Madison Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148. Telephone: 617-324-9014.

**462ND AAA AW BATTALION**, September 18-20, 1992, Chicago. Contact: Robert F. Bennett, 530 East 20th Street, New York, New York 10009. Telephone: 212-677-4312.

**468TH AAA AW BATTALION (SP)**, October 9-11, 1992, Nashville, Tennessee. Contact: C. M. Johnson, 4116 Estes Road, Nashville, Tennessee 37215. Telephone: 615-269-0642.

**526TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION**, December 1-5, 1992, Hotel Royal Plaza, Disney World Village, Buena Vista, Florida. Contact: Will Wasson, 6000 San Jose Blvd., Condo 1F, Jacksonville, Florida 32217.

**602ND TANK DESTROYER BATTALION**, September 13-16, 1992, Seven Oaks Hotel and Conference Center, San Antonio, Texas. Contact: Raymond Young, Box 4573, East Lansing, Michigan 48826. Telephone: 517-332-8329.

**702ND TANK BATTALION "RED DEVILS"**, September 10-12, 1992, Holiday Inn, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. Contact: Jim Hardy, 31 Fayette Street, Dunbar, Pennsylvania 15431. Telephone: 412-277-8450.

**999TH SIGNAL SERVICE COMPANY**, September 16-20, 1992, Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Contact: Bill Zimmerman, 1139 Ashbourne Road, Cheltenham, Pennsylvania 19012. Telephone: 315-635-4264.

**SHAEF AND HEADQUARTERS, ETOUSA VETERANS ASSOCIATION**, October 16-18, 1992, Great Valley Hilton, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Contact: Alan F. Reeves, 2301 Broadway, San Francisco, California 94115. Telephone: 415-921-8322.

**CAMP ATTERBURY, INDIANA** - celebration of opening and dedication August 15, 1992, 9:00 a.m.: for those who served at or were separated from the camp either during WWII or the Korean Period. Contact: Col. Lewis M. Tenney, Liaison Officer, Camp Atterbury Memorial Association, Building 1, Edinburgh, Indiana 46124-1096 or John Bowen, 613 Chichester Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904-3331 (Telephone 301-384-6533).

**750TH TANK BATTALION, COMPANY D**, September 24-26, 1992, Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Contact: Ed Garber, 3419 Burrell Drive, Louisville, Kentucky 40206. Telephone: 502-449-1802.

**769TH MILITARY POLICE BATTALION**, October 8-11, 1992, Nashville, Tennessee. Contact: Carl A. Weidner, HC 2, Box 71, Trenton, Nebraska 69044.

**801ST TANK DESTROYER BATTALION**, October 9-10, 1992, Utica, New York. Contact: Arthur J. Langdon, 9 Lyon Place, Utica, New York 13502-6105. Telephone: 315 735-6840.

## THANKS TO ALL OF YOU...

...for providing us with the names and addresses of newspapers in your area—response we received to our first nation-wide press release located over 600 new VBOBers.

...for providing us with the names and addresses of members of your unit—this endeavor has been very instrumental in the growth spurt that we have experienced. Our exchanges with the units have been very heartwarming and we intend to insure that this cooperation continues. We need each other.

We have approximately 400 units who were active in the Battle of the Bulge on our complimentary mailing list. **WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE MORE.** So, if you are affiliated with your old unit, please send us their address—in addition to listing their reunions and assisting each other with locating members, we also provide them with information regarding upcoming VBOB activities that may be of interest.

Please provide this information in the following manner:

Name of Division (if there is one)

Name of Regiment, Battalion, Company, etc.

Name of main person to contact

Street address, city, state and zip code.

Whenever we ask, you always respond and...

## ...WE APPRECIATE YOUR HELP

### WE EXTEND OUR APOLOGIES

...to EDWARD J. SWINEFORD. Ed graciously granted us permission to use materials from his book "Wits of War: Unofficial GI Humor-History of World War II". The credit line for his cartoon of the uniformed policeman apparently got chopped off. We're sorry.

What can you say about a society that says God is dead and Elvis is alive.

Bill Hemphill



**WORLD WAR II  
50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION  
BATTLE OF THE BULGE  
TO BE HELD IN ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI**

**ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM**

TO ALL VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

This ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM relates to the 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE. Your attention is called to the fact that without your specific responses, we will not be able to make the necessary advance arrangements for the DECEMBER 15-18, 1994, 50th Anniversary Observance. This will be the VBOB Reunion for 1994.

We urge you to fill out and return the Advance Registration Form as soon as possible. It is understood that if you sign without marking each item on the form you wish to participate in, we will not be able to make complete arrangements to ensure the success of the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge.

Since we cannot make specific plans until we have received the Advance Registration Forms back, we urge you to return these forms promptly, but no later than September 1, 1992.

Your VBOB Anniversary Committee is planning this 50th Anniversary Observance with the help and cooperation of the Department of Defense, 50th Anniversary of World War II Commemoration Office, Director for Army Programs, Kenneth V. Smith, Colonel, U.S. Army.

Over 400 letters have been sent out to all veteran military units for whom we have addresses which participated in the Battle of the Bulge, inviting them to this 50th Anniversary Commemoration.

Things could change, but at this time we have invited President Bush and The Army Chief of Staff to attend our Memorial Service which we are planning to have in the St. Louis Cathedral, along with an army band to play at our banquet and other ceremonies. At this time we have contacted "The Statler Brothers" business representative to make arrangements for them to perform at our opening reception.

This anniversary will be the last major commemoration in which many veterans will be able to participate.

William Tayman  
Chairman  
50th Anniversary Committee





**BATTLE OF THE BULGE • 50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI • DECEMBER 15-18, 1994  
ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM**

Please fill in and return to:  
VBOB  
P.O. Box 11129  
Arlington, VA 22210-2129  
Attention: Bill Tayman

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Unit: \_\_\_\_\_  
Division: \_\_\_\_\_ Regiment: \_\_\_\_\_  
Battalion: \_\_\_\_\_ Company: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15	Opening Reception	Number of Persons _____
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16	Dedicate Memorial to BOB, 50th Anniversary	Number of Persons _____
	Memorial Service, St. Louis Cathedral	Number of Persons _____
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17	City Tour of Major Attractions	Number of Persons _____
	50th Anniversary Banquet	Number of Persons _____
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18	Special services at local churches	Number of Persons: C. ____, P. ____, J. ____

(Fold along dotted lines)

This advance registration is merely a survey of member interest and does not commit you in any way.

More information will be provided in forthcoming issues of *The Bulge Bugle*.

William P. Tayman  
Chairman  
50th Anniversary Committee

• RETURN FORM NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 1, 1992 •

(Use tape to seal)



Return to:

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Place  
Stamp  
Here

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE  
P.O. Box 11129  
Arlington, VA 22210-2129

Attention: Bill Tayman

(Seal with tape)



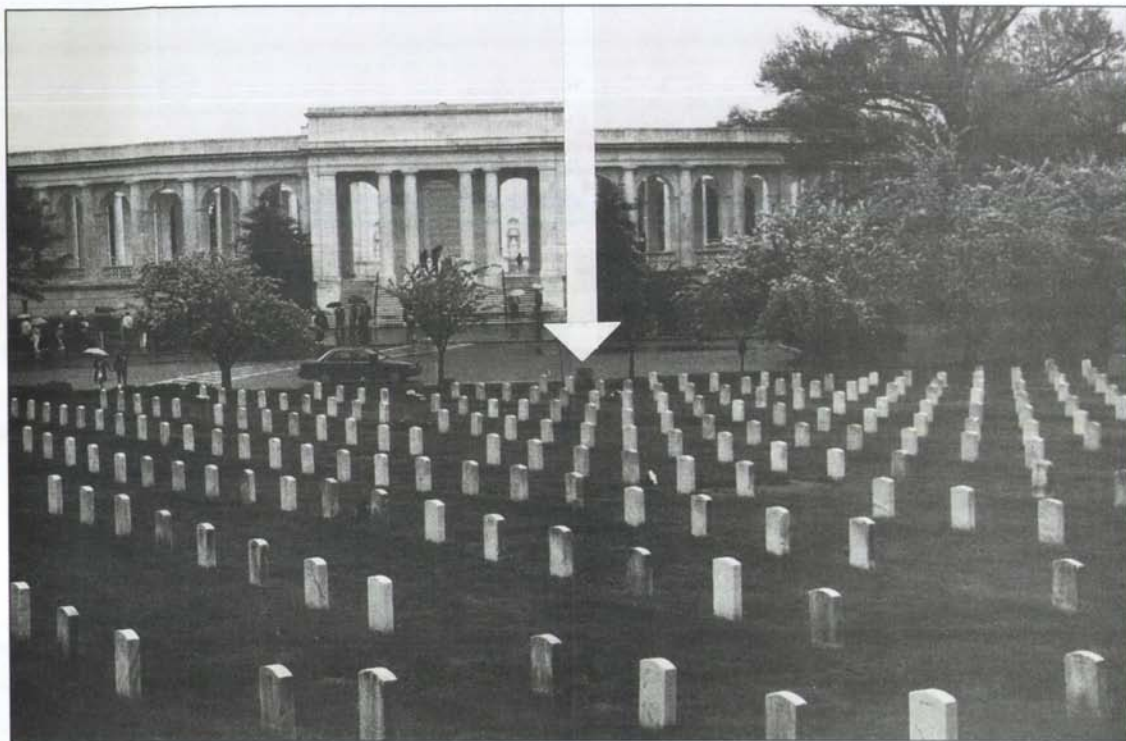


Photo by Sam Silverman

## VBOB MONUMENT LOCATED IN PROMINENT SPOT IN ARLINGTON CEMETERY

**P**ictured above (location is indicated by arrow) is the site of the VBOB Monument which is located in Arlington National Cemetery, ideally near the Amphitheater. This monument was dedicated Tuesday, December 16, 1986.

Along with other wreath layings at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on Memorial Day and the anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, veterans of this historic battle and their families, meet to lay a wreath and hold observances at this location on December 16th each year.

Arlington National Cemetery was established by order of Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton on June 15, 1864. It comprises 612 acres of land with 16 miles of paved roadways and three miles of paved sidewalks. The Memorial Amphitheater was dedicated May 15, 1920. The Unknown Soldier of World War I was buried November 11 the following year. The Unknown Soldiers of World War II and Korea were interred May 30, 1958. A plaque honoring those who served honorably in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam

era was dedicated on Veterans Day 1978, and the Unknown Soldier of the Vietnam era was interred May 28, 1984.

The records show that, in 1991, approximately 4,000,000 visitors viewed the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. During that year, there were 2,300 wreath laying ceremonies conducted at the Tomb by various veterans' organizations, patriotic and civic groups, schools, and heads of state of various countries.

Arlington National Cemetery contains 205,311 burials in 177,469 graves of servicemen and women and their dependents from all wars and conflicts. The 3,500 burials during 1991 included veterans and other eligible persons, from every state and possession and several foreign countries. Citizens of the North and South hallow this sacred ground and sleep in peace.

The Columbarium Section was opened for cremated remains in April of 1980, and contains 13,500 urns as of February, 1992. This section is available for all honorably discharged veterans.





# For Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge

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## The Malmedy Massacre as Told by German Writer Peter Tautfest

as the accompanying photograph allegedly depicting dead American soldiers in a field in Malmedy. However, this photo happens to be the same one located on page 329 WORLD WAR II; TIME-LIFE BOOKS HISTORY OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR (Prentiss-Hall; New York.) ... It is to be noted that the shoes on the dead bodies in the photos are all hob-nailed boots. Americans did not wear hobnailed boots in WWII.

"When the convoy of trucks from Battery B, 285th Field Artillery Observation Battalion were spotted by 'Kampfgruppe Pfeifer' they were quickly attacked by this superior force, overwhelmed and the American prisoners were herded into a field along with other POWs. There were about 130 American POWs. The S.S. group left behind to guard them massacred 86 of this group. Seventy-two bodies were in the field and others nearby. Fortunately about forty-three men escaped back to the American lines. Hal Boyle and Jack Belden of TIME magazine interviewed many of these men when they reached the Allied lines. That was just the beginning because along Kampfgruppe Pfeifer's line of march his command murdered approximately 300 American POWs and at least 100 Belgian civilians in 12 locations.

"Herr Bremer alleges most of the S.S. murderers brought to trial died from torture." NOT TRUE. "There were more than seventy such persons brought to trial but they were all eventually acquitted. This was based on the fact that the U.S. Army in its over-energetic attempt in getting revenge stupidly used false witnesses, mock trials, and the use of hoods and mock hangings to (frighten) and obtain confessions. I would venture to guess that considering the past history of the S.S. if the tables were turned about there would not have been any trial and all would have been immediately shot by the S.S. To those S.S. murderers who went through this 'torture' it was a small price for them to pay to get off scot-free.

"Herr Plumhoff, a German professional soldier, (quoted in Tautfest's story in the January 1991 TDC magazine as saying, "Oh, yes, the Americans were known to shoot all prisoners.") should be cognizant of the fact that historically any soldier caught behind enemy lines wearing the enemy's uniform when captured can be legally shot as a spy immediately. I cannot envision that Colonel Skorzeny, who was in charge of this debacle, did not realize into what harm's way he was putting his men when they infiltrated American lines (in American uniforms). Herr Plumhoff admits he was wounded earlier in the battle; therefore how could he come to the conclusion that Americans placed German prisoners on their tanks prior to a tank attack. This was a favored method of operations by the GERMANS in Russia. I would advise Herr Plumhoff to visit the town of Stavelot and find out how the S.S. troops slaughtered its citizens during the Battle of the Bulge.

"It may be a fact that many details of the Malmedy massacre are lost, perhaps forever. Major Werner Poetschke, S.S. group commander responsible for the massacre, was later killed in battle. Nevertheless, the lack of answers to some of these questions does not imply there is a mystery. Like those persons who proclaim the Holocaust was a myth, the survivors proved otherwise, and so survivors of the Malmedy massacre prove

this was no myth or mystery. Men like Herr Bremer and Plumhoff attempt to cloud the Malmedy fact with other issues apparently eagerly grasped as fact (by your Discovery Channel magazine reporter) who should know better."

(Editor's Note: So, Discovery Channel, try getting your stories from authentic American heroes - members of the Battle of the Bulge, and not from die-hard Nazi krautheads, who are still fighting World War II; they'll never surrender.

Batters: If you run across any similar mistakes by the media - print or broadcast - give the Bugle full details. (Who, what, when, where, why and how.) If you have photos to back up your story, send only ones which can be easily reproduced - magazine-quality art. But we want to spread the word about erroneous stories. Most of today's stories are written by the grandchildren of WWII veterans. Let's make sure they put the facts in - and as participants of the Battle of the Bulge, we are in position to tell them chapter and verse.)



ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY, MAY 25, 1992, MEMORIAL DAY. Peter G. Dounis, VBOB VP for Military Affairs, at VBOB Memorial following ceremonies of laying the VBOB wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. Vice President Quayle, made an address to a large audience at The Amphitheater after laying the Presidential Wreath.

### DUES FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP RATE INCREASE TO BE REQUESTED

At the January 18, 1992, meeting of the VBOB Executive Council a motion was made, seconded, and passed to present to the 1992 Annual Reunion proposal for an increase in life membership fees. These new fees would be:

Over 70 years of age .....\$ 75.00  
Under 70 years of age .....\$ 125.00

This proposal will be brought before the General Membership meeting in Nashville, Tennessee.

This proposed change is recommended due to the increased cost of printing, postage, and other administrative costs.





**Living  
Legends**

## **Memorable Bulge Incidents**

UNEDITED AND  
HERETOFORE UNPUBLISHED

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### **9TH AD TANKERS EVADE GERMANS**

**December 1944**

**Jesse L. Morrison  
B Battery  
482nd Antiaircraft Automatic Artillery  
Weapons Battalion  
9th Armored Division  
Sulphur, Louisiana**

Many things have been written about the Battle of the Bulge. Some are true, some not. One thing that is not true is that there was a break-through and that we had been surprised by the Germans.

My involvement in the campaign began a few days before December 16, 1944. We were dug in on a hill outside Trois-Vierges, Luxembourg. A lieutenant from my Battery B, 482nd AAA SP 9th Armored Division, First Army, came to our half-track and told us our planes had spotted a large number of German equipment assembled just across the border from us. He said our commanders had decided to move us out and open the line for five miles to allow them to come through. Then we would cut them off and starve them. This decision, instead of meeting them head on, was in my opinion the biggest blunder of the campaign. This has been covered up.

We moved to a small town in Belgium and sat waiting for the Germans to move. One morning before dawn someone knocked on our front door and said, "Get out of town fast as the Germans are coming in." We got on our vehicles and rode out of town and kept driving until sometime before noon. We received orders by radio to proceed to St. Vith, Belgium, and join the 7th Armored Division already there. They had succeeded in having most of the German tanks retreat and were engaged in combat with the ones still there.

In a few hours the town was cleared but they dug in outside of town and continued to shell us the rest of the day. Our tanks finally succeeded in destroying them all.

We had orders to hold St. Vith for 24 hours and then move out and our planes would bomb it. The weather did not permit this. We held it for 48 hours. When we decided to

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 "close-up" combatant accounts are a complement to the study of strategy and logistics and are a legacy of an important battle and victory in the U.S. military annals.

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.

withdraw, we found we were surrounded. Both our flanks had withdrawn earlier without our knowledge. We kept moving around to avoid capture. During this time we came upon a half-dozen of our own tanks, crew intact, parked on a paved road. They planned to rescue some of our officers and men that had been captured the day before. Our lieutenant at that time was Howard Jackson from Louisiana. He was ordering us to pass the tanks and we were reluctant to do this. He walked in the road and was wounded. Then one of the tanks took a direct hit and started burning--then another and another. It was time for us to leave which we did.

We came upon some units of the 106th Infantry Division. They were tired, cold and hungry. I remember giving one of them a can of string beans. He cut the can with his bayonet and ate those cold beans with his fingers. These boys were starving.

They received orders to withdraw. We stayed there so they wouldn't get over run before they got dug in. We learned the Germans were in a town not far from us. The lieutenant we had left was Frank W. Winchester, of Memphis, Tennessee. He decided we would go just outside of this town and wait for the Germans to come our way. We proceeded down a farm road for about two miles, came to the outskirts of town, and positioned our three half-tracks off the side in a field. Our plan was to slaughter them in retribution for their having captured some of our officers and men.

We hadn't slept in days so while waiting, the guard went to sleep. You don't have to guess who that was. The Germans woke me going up the road, laughing, and talking. Their guns being pulled by vehicles and by horses. I stayed quiet and watched them until time to wake my relief who was Sgt. Mabry, from West Virginia. The Germans were too close for me to use our radio so Sgt. Mabry crawled to one of the other vehicles to contact Lt. Winchester to inform him of our predicament. He told us to come to the paved road the same way we went down. This meant we would have to get in line with the Germans and try to pass them by. They had captured and were using some of our equipment so we were able to do this. They would move aside and let us pass. We were successful.



Upon reaching the paved road, just at the break of day, we were astonished to see nothing but smoke. We were told later that our planes had spotted us in that pocket. Someone had ordered some part of the 75th Infantry Division to open up that road and smoke it to let us out. We drove 50 miles that day and spent that evening and night in the field. I think that was Christmas Eve. I'm not sure.

Having no maps of the area Lt. Winchester decided we should move farther. About 2:00 a.m. we proceeded to move. There was a town about a mile away that we would have to pass through. There were Germans in that town and we had to fight our way through.

The successful holding of the Germans Armored Division at St. Vith kept them from proceeding to Bastogne. St. Vith was the turning point of the "Battle of the Bulge."

The Americans and British stopped the German advance in the Bulge with a lot of help from the Germans themselves. When they captured our fuel and ammo dumps they would set them on fire. They had captured so much of our equipment they could have used these supplies against us.

It was a sad day for us when Lt. Winchester was killed at Remagen when we captured the bridge, the first crossing of the Rhine River.

During the entire campaign neither my comrades nor I ever saw a photographer or journalist.

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#### GERMANS USE DUMMY PARACHUTISTS

December 1944

Marino M. Michetti

B Company

508th Parachute Infantry Regiment

82nd Airborne Division

Deltona, Florida

At dawn on December 16, 1944, approximately 12 enemy divisions pushed through the lightly held Ardennes in Belgium. Three American divisions, the 28th, the newly committed 106th, and the 7th Armored were trying to hold on a pathetically thin line. The Ardennes had seemed the least likely spot for a German counter-attack because of the unlikely success of a lightning thrust with armor through the thickly wooded area and rutted roads.

At 2000 on December 17th, the 508th Regiment, still attached to the 82nd Airborne Division, was alerted for immediate movement to Belgium. That night we spent in packing personal belongings, drawing weapons from supply, and getting set for our move early in the morning. By 0900 on December 18th, the 508th, loaded in huge tractor-trailer trucks (Red Ball Express), joined the division convoy as it left Sissonne, France, and headed for Werbomont, a small village in Belgium.

At 1800 on December 19th, 12 hours after the regiment had arrived at Werbomont, we got orders to move to Chevron, two miles East. This move was made on foot. Here we could not dig down too far, because we hit water after digging a foot in the snow. Marching in the snow

covered road, we met soldiers and tanks of troops moving to the rear. I did not know where we were going except to meet the Germans somewhere where these other soldiers had run into a hell of a lot of them.

In the afternoon on December 20th, the regiment was alerted for another move. We still had not made any contact with the enemy. The 504th Regiment and 505th Regiment had already met the enemy to the east at Haute Bodeux. Due to a shortage in transportation, the entire regiment could not make the ten mile trip by truck and still be in position by dawn. I was in the group making an all night road march.

By first light on December 21, despite the fact that no one had had any sleep, the regiment, still out of contact with the enemy, was tactically disposed along Thier-du-Mont, a ridge a thousand yards south of the Belgium village of Goronne. Jeep patrols moved constantly across the front, searching for the first signs of the approaching Germans. The entire 82nd had changed position and now was pushed out like a long finger into the middle of the north side of the wedge the enemy had driven into the American lines. At the tip of this finger was the 508th, supported by the 319th Glider Field Artillery Battalion.

Behind us, we had a small house for our CP. Later that afternoon, on my way to get some "K" rations, I passed a building, full of large bags of GI bread. I saw a plane flying low, one of our fighter planes--the next thing I knew, the plane began strafing the ground next to the building, I just fell to the ground.

That evening, parachutes were dropped out of the sky, over our heads. I later learned that the Germans dropped 300 of these chutes. Everyone that had a weapon must have opened fire, including myself, on what we thought were German Paratroopers. These parachutes were found to have been holding dummies, to see where we had our firepower.

On XVIII Airborne Corps' order, the 82nd Airborne Division withdrew, beginning at 2100 hours on Christmas Eve, blowing bridges and sowing mines. The 504th Regiment established positions to the right of the 508th Regiment. The 505th Regiment pulled back and dug in on the high ground west of Trois Points, linking (on the left) with the 30th Division. The 508th Regiment, deployed near Vielsalm, was attacked in force--and skillfully fighting off several aggressive 9th Panzer Division armored task forces pulled back to take positions on the right of the 505th Regiment.

With a covering force of one platoon per rifle company, it was a different story. Now that less than one-third of the regiment was holding the same ground, contact was nearly impossible. The early evening was quiet enough for the men on the ridge, but at 2300, the fireworks began. Artillery began falling in the 1st Battalion area, and a few casualties were sustained by "B" Company. Shortly after the artillery barrage reached its fullest intensity, the range was shortened, and smoke was substituted for high explosive. With the river and both banks shrouded by smoke, the advance elements of the Germans made a crossing. In the "B" Company platoon



all was quiet. Suddenly the shriek of a Jerry whistle was heard, and several Germans seemed to rise suddenly out of the snow and smoke. "B" Company's machine guns split the enemy formation with bands of steel and the troopers held.

The reason for this penetration was to bring relief to the units surrounded in the initial fighting in the counter-attack. Elements of the 7th Armored, 106th and 28th Infantry were fighting in a perimeter a few miles southeast of the 82nd Division. Any elements which could reach the banks of the Salm River, would be evacuated to the rear through the escape channel for regrouping.

In the 3rd Battalion area a five man jeep patrol led by Corporal Robert Mangers of the S-2 Section, in a radio message back to battalion headquarters, "Tanks rolling by, 50 yards apart. Two columns of Panzer Grenadiers are marching down the road at close interval." At 0900 on December 23rd, Corporal Mangers transmitted his last message. He was not heard of again and was picked up on the morning report as missing in action.

In the 2nd Battalion area--enemy armor was moving Northeast towards regimental area and attacked the town of Salmchateau, several miles in front of the battalion position. A heavy volume of fire was directed on the Germans from the commanding ground of Thier-du-Mont ridge. One tank, a Mark III, was KO'd in front of "D" Company. ["F" Company was west of "D" Company near the village of Comte (Note: Allen H. Sein, Newport News, Virginia)].

In the 1st Battalion area--our mortar squad was on Thier-du-Mont ridge. I had carried six rounds of 60mm mortars on top of my full field equipment. We were north of Rencheux, where we had taken defensive positions. "C" Company was north of us and "A" Company to our south. Some other GIs had dug my foxhole for me and the other three men in our squad. I could look down on the Germans who were on the other side of the river. We could see some distance to the east. In the afternoon, we set up our mortar behind our foxholes, one trooper with the base plate and another with the tube. A corporal, our squad leader, directed our fire into the Germans. Fifteen hundred yards was not too far away--we were out of rifle range. I could see little barrages explode when the mortars hit and the Germans run for cover. The corporal was the only one that knew anything about the mortar. I had previously been with the 782nd A/B Ordnance Company, where I handled all the ammunition used by the division.

About midnight, I heard shouting and noise--a group of Americans and Germans were in an open area behind us, on the ridge. I asked the trooper in the foxhole to my left, "What should we do?" I remember us getting out of the foxholes with our hands behind our heads! My whole world seemed to have crumbled around me. What would my friends think of me now? I really felt ashamed! I was seeing flashes of my childhood, when I saw the white lights from the tracers in the burp-gun firing at me! The Germans were all around us. The Germans huddled us in with a small group of other prisoners, prodding us with their rifles. They had come up on the ridge behind us.

I was back at the house we had used for our CP, only this time the Germans were using it to interrogate the prisoners they had taken. I had to take everything out of my jump pants pockets. I had quite a collection, because we had just received some Christmas mail before we left Sissonne, France. I remember some nice white handkerchief someone had sent me. Pocket knife, fountain pen, three packs of cigarettes, five packs of razor blades, wallet with some English money (four 1£ notes) and two \$1 bills. I remember having bread and coffee with the Germans at daylight, Christmas morning--"Merry Christmas"

Farther south, in the vicinity of the bridge, "A" Company's covering force commander, Lt. Lamm's platoons straddled the road from Vielsalm to Goronne, a few hundred yards west of the bridge. The main weight of the German attack fell upon the 24 "A" Company men. After visiting all his squad positions, Lt. Lamm returned to his CP to dispatch a runner to Capt. Benjamin Delamater, commander of the 1st Battalion covering force. I never got the word to pull back.

The platoons from all three battalions reported to Lt. Col. Shanley, covering force commander, and the seven-mile trek to the new positions began. By 0800 on Christmas morning the entire regiment was assembled in their new positions. Although not participated in by the whole regiment, the delaying action of this covering force was one of the best pieces of fighting in the 508th Parachute Infantry's history.

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## HOSPITAL CAPTURED, RECAPTURED

October 1944

Jack King  
47th Field Hospital  
Richmond, Virginia

In mid-October we moved to Weismes, Belgium. This was to be a rest for us. We were able to visit nearby Verviers, Malmedy, and Liege. Still, the war went on. "buzz bombs" flew overhead, on the way to Antwerp and Brussels. They were frightening, but there was nowhere to hide. If the engine cut off, or if our ack-ack hit one, there was every good chance it would drop on us. Some did fall nearby. Our third platoon was at Bugenbach, which was the point the Germans chose to break through in what came to be known as the "Battle of the Bulge." We heard the Germans were on the move, and this was confirmed when our 3rd Platoon brought their patients to our unit. They had been overrun, leaving all their equipment, and were pulling back to Spa, where our headquarters unit was located. Not long afterward we heard we were surrounded, and shortly thereafter a German captain and an SS sergeant entered our hospital which was housed in a large school building, and captured us. Being medics we were not armed. They yelled, "Alles reweighs!, Alles reweighs!" (Everyone out.) We lined up in the courtyard. One of our officers who spoke German talked with them, asking that some of us be left to care for the patients we had (some of them were German). He



negotiated for a surgeon, X-Ray technician, etc. All others were being loaded in our own trucks to head back to Germany. I volunteered to stay back, but it was not to be.

A recon patrol had been sent to rescue us, and their half-track came up the hill, a 50 caliber machine gun firing as they moved. We dashed for cover in the school building. In minutes it was over, we were free again. We loaded the hospital, patients and all, in record time, and headed for Spa. We never made it, but by that night we were moving through Liege, under heavy buzz-bomb attack. We pulled back all the way to Huy, on the Meuse River. Dead tired, I dropped in a pile of hay, and next morning I was awakened by a monk offering me a bowl of soup and a slice of bread. It was the best thing I ever tasted!

The next day elements of the 30th Division were moving forward through Huy. Word came about fierce battles, that Bastogne was isolated, heavy fighting at St. Vith. Our usual news from the Armed Forces Network was sparse, and we heard the enemy was using it to make false reports. On Christmas eve we moved to Spa, joined our headquarters and many from our other platoons. Christmas morning brought relief in the weather and three of our planes flew overhead for the first sortie in over a week. We had mail call. I got a shoe box full of popcorn, cushioning a bottle of Coca-Cola. A magnum of champagne could not have been received with greater favor. I was so proud I had my picture taken with it, my first "Coke" in eight months!

We pulled back to Geer, Belgium, to re-equip. It was March of 1945 before we went back into action. We had returned to an area close to where we had been when captured. Word came of the taking of the Remagen Bridge. We rushed to the Rhine to cross into Germany. The enemy from that time on was on the run.

**Jack King**  
Medic  
World WarII  
and Korea



**ONE HOUR IN THE BULGE**

December, 1944

**Joseph V. Pillitteri**  
3rd Army  
5th Infantry Division  
10th Infantry  
Company E  
Brick Town, New Jersey

It was one day in December, 1944, in northern France on our way to Luxembourg. I was a scout walking knee-deep in snow. A TD came up to assist us in our push forward. The tank saw a Jerry run into a farm house about 300 yards down in the valley. They fired one round into the house. My buddy and I ran into the house. (My buddy, James Mitchell, was killed a few days later.) We went through the front door. Mitch went down the hall to clear other rooms. I went into the first room--that's the room that the shell entered. In the room were two German soldiers. One had his head half blown off--you could see his brains moving. The other one had both legs blown off and was in shock. As I entered the room, he raised his arms and was saying over and over something that sounded like "Soney, Soney." After 50 years those words still haunt me. I thought he wanted me to shoot him, but he was unarmed so I did not.

I went out the front door and into another at the corner of the building. As soon as I entered the room, six German soldiers put their hands on their heads and surrendered to me. That could have been my last day. It was a radio room. The room had large radios all over the place. My first thought was to put a few bullets into them. Then I thought they might be of some use to us. I lined my prisoners up and started to take them back to my unit.

Just as I got the last one out the door, another Jerry (he must have been behind the building) ran into me as I went backwards. I came down with my machine pistol. It was a German gun that I had picked up at the other end of the building. Thank God, it was not on safety. I shot a burst of bullets through his shoulder and collar bone. He started to cry and wanted to pick up his overcoat. I spun him around to join the group. Now, I had seven prisoners. When I got back to my squad the prisoner I had shot was still crying--he wanted to see his mother. When my sergeant heard him, he wanted to kill him, saying he was thousands of miles from his mother. I got between them, told the sergeant he was my prisoner and I didn't want any more harm to come to him.

I lasted until January 20, 1945, when I was wounded in Luxembourg.

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## **PARIS WOULD BE NICE**

December 27, 1944

**Harry Schaeffer**  
11th Armored Division  
22nd Tank Battalion  
Company "B"  
Las Vegas, Nevada

Company "B," 22nd Tank Battalion, had moved up on the line between Houfalize and Bastogne. James Salisbury, the jeep driver; 1st Sergeant Daniel Boone; and I were told to stay with the 55th Infantry Company's kitchen until the CO Captain Bell called us to join the company. While waiting two days we were strafed by enemy planes in the morning and evening of December 28 and 29.



On December 30, we tried to contact our company by radio, to no avail. At that point we took off for the front asking men we met on the way if they knew where Company "B," 22nd Tank Battalion was. When we pulled in to the company area, we saw 1st Lieutenant Sowden walking towards Headquarters Company. We called to him and saw an amazed and then a happy look on his face. When we told him the above events and asked if Captain Bell told him where we were, he said "no officer was informed." Captain Bell was seriously wounded in the leg. First Lieutenant Sowden was in command and on his way to report the three of us missing in action. When we were told that, I said: If we had known that, we would have gone back to Paris. As a result, all our tensions were relaxed and we all had a good laugh.

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#### WHAT SECRET WEAPONS?

December, 1944

Jesse L. Morrison  
9th Armored Division  
482 AAA Battalion  
B Battalion  
Sulphur, Louisiana

A few days before December 16th, our battery was near Trois Verges, Luxemburg. One of our lieutenants came by our M-16 H.T. and told us we were being moved, as our planes had spotted large amounts of German heavy armor being assembled just across the line from us.

He said the line would be opened for five miles in order to let them come through. Then we would cut them off and starve them. We were moved to a small town in Belgium to await their move.

Two or three days later someone beat on the door of our house and said get out of town fast, the Germans are coming in. This was in the early morning hours before dawn. We got on our half tracks and left as fast as we could. We just rode for some time and then we received orders by radio to proceed to St. Vith with the 7th Armored Division.

When we arrived the 7th was engaged in combat with the German tanks. Before the day was over, the German tanks that had not run were destroyed. The ones that ran set up out of town and shelled St. Vith. That was another mistake. The 7th could see where their positions were.

Our orders were to hold St. Vith for 24 hours then move out and our planes would level it. Our planes were not able to do this job on account of the weather. So, we held St. Vith for another 24 hours.

When we decided to withdraw our flanks were all gone so we had no place to go. Every direction we moved we came into contact with the Germans.

We kept on the move for the next few days, encountering the enemy often. Once we came upon some American tanks and crews along a paved highway. There were six parked close together. One by one they started taking direct hits

and burning. There were woods along the road and we could not see where the shots were coming from. After the third tank got hit we departed.

Once we came upon a group of the 106th Infantry Division. They were in an open place with small trees scattered. They were cold, hungry and very short on ammo. We gave some of them some canned beans that we had and they ate them with their fingers. Soon they got orders to retreat so we stayed there so they would have protection while they moved back and dug new positions. We later heard they had lost many men.

We got out of the pocket either Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Our half tracks were painted white as the snow was deep and the night was almost like day with the moon. We were parked off the road.

The German soldiers came along early in the morning moving guns with vehicles and horses. With no other way to go, we joined the column and slowly passed them one by one until we were ahead of them all. In a while, just as it began to break day we came to a paved highway with smoke everywhere. An MP directed us to take a right turn and we drove about 50 miles before stopping and setting up in a field.

We later learned our planes had spotted us in there and the 75th Infantry had come in and smoked the road to allow us to get out safely.

In our section, we had a man wounded--Lt. Howard Jackson. We were lucky he was able to return to us "after a hospital stay."

We derailed many German troops during the Bulge. Our 50's were no match for their ground troops.

One day an SS trooper came and gave himself up to us and we were dumb founded until he gave his reason: would we allow him to see these secret weapons we had.

#### HAVE YOU SUBMITTED YOUR STORY?

If not, please do so as soon as possible. We don't want to run out--everyone enjoys them so much. Your memories are important to us. Submit yours today.

Please make them as brief as possible--relating to only one incident during your Battle of the Bulge experience.

So get out your pencil and paper and write your story. Send it to:

**VBOB**  
**P.O. Box 11129**  
**Arlington, Virginia 22209-2129**

#### **SUBMIT YOUR STORY NOW!**



## BEN LAYTON CHOSEN AS HONOREE FOR FORT MEADE'S 75TH BIRTHDAY

VBOB member **BENJAMIN LAYTON** was chosen to celebrate his 75th birthday in conjunction with the 75th birthday celebrations of Fort Meade, Maryland, July 2-5, 1992. During his 22 years of military service, Ben spent much time at Fort Meade. He pulled his first KP there, policed an area, learned his general orders, received his first pass, and learned basic soldiering.

Prior to the establishment of Fort Meade, the site served as a railroad for the Union Army, a military hospital (Rulison U.S. Hospital), and provided housing for service men during World War I. War Department General Order 95, dated July 18, 1917, proclaimed the Village of Admiral, Maryland, to be Camp Meade--named after Maj. Gen. George Gordon Meade, who lead the Union forces to victory over Gen. Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia at the Battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, July 1 to 3. The initial building project was completed by September 15, 1917, at a cost of approximately \$18 million.

Capacity of Camp Meade was 53,800 men. The 79th Infantry Division (composed mostly of men from Maryland and Pennsylvania) was the first organization formed. The division's commander was Maj. Gen. Joseph Kuhn, who was also Camp Meade's first commander. Other divisions were also stationed there: 92nd, 11th, 154th Depot Brigade, etc. In all, about 103,000 men were trained at Camp Meade during the war. At the end of World War I, the camp served as a demobilization center for returning troops.

Camp Meade was made a permanent installation March 2, 1928, and given the name Fort Leonard Wood. As there was already a Fort Meade in South Dakota, it required a special congressional action to change the name permanently to Fort George G. Meade (using the full name to avoid confusion with the other post) and this was accomplished effective February 25, 1929.

By January, 1941, Fort Meade had become Maryland's fourth largest community. Additional training areas expanded the post to 13,500 acres. Also in 1941, trainees from Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and the District of Columbia were arriving at the reception center for haircuts, shots, briefings, and orders for basic training. The 29th Division (Maryland and Virginia National Guard) was assigned there for training. The 29th and the 70th Tank Battalion, which was developed at Fort Meade, made up more than one-third of the Normandy Invasion spearhead.

During World War II, more than 3.5 million men passed through the gates of Fort Meade.

Ben recalled that his last assignment at Fort Meade was as an Adjutant with the **525TH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE GROUP**.

**SO, HAPPY 75TH BIRTHDAY TO FORT GEORGE G. MEADE AND BEN LAYTON.**

*[Information used in this article was extracted from "Soundoff! Historical Supplement," July 2, 1992]*

## E. "LUCKY" LOIACONO ELECTED MARYLAND COMMANDER OF MOPH

"Lucky" Loiacono, a charter member of VBOB, was elected June 6, 1992, as Commander of the Department of Maryland Military Order of the Purple Heart. "Lucky" did his basic training with the **69TH INFANTRY DIVISION** at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. He was transferred to **54TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, 10TH ARMORED DIVISION** at Camp Gordon, Georgia. He served as an infantry rifleman and machine gun ammo bearer under Gen. George Patton's Third United States Army. It was during the Battle of the Bulge on the outskirts of Bastogne that "Lucky" earned his Purple Heart.

Congratulations, "Lucky."

## RUSSELL R. VEDELOFF BECOMES NUMBER 10,000 ON VBOB MEMBERSHIP ROLLS

Neil Thompson, VBOB Membership Committee Chairman, recently presented a membership card bearing the number 10,000 to Russell R. Vedeloff, of Gambrills, Maryland.



*Neil Thompson (right) presents card representing 10,000th enrollment to Russell R. Vedeloff (left).*

Russell was a machine gunner with the **75TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 290TH REGIMENT, COMPANY H**. He was in France when the Battle of the Bulge began and his division was immediately shipped to Belgium--entering the fighting on December 23, 1944. He was wounded on December 26th and sent to the hospital in Hereford, England, for approximately two months.

After Russell's recovery he was shipped back to the 75th prior to crossing the Rhine River into Germany. He was wounded a second time near Dorsten, Germany, but reports that it was only a superficial wound and did not require hospitalization. He fought with his division until the war in Europe ceased on May, 1945. At the end of the war he was in Arnberg, Germany.

Russell retired honorably from the U.S. Army in May, of 1964, at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland.

**WELCOME ABOARD, RUSSELL.**



**YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND**  
**THE DECEMBER EVENTS**  
**OF**  
**CELEBRATION AND COMMEMORATION**  
**ON THE**  
**48TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE**

Special commemorative events will again be held in the Washington, D.C. area, on December 15 and 16, 1992. It will be a time for the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge and their friends to pay homage to those who never came home, to enjoy the camaraderie of the occasion and to share in the preservation of the history of the Battle of the Bulge.

The Historical Foundation will host an exciting Dinner Gala on Tuesday evening, December 15, at the Officers' Club, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland. The troops of Fort Meade will participate in this event, as will members of the Belgian/American Association--with special entertainment planned for after the dinner.

All of those attending the Gala are encouraged to bring written materials they may like to contribute to the Battle of the Bulge Collection, U.S. Army Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. These contributions may be in the form of letters, diaries, unit histories, photos, personal papers and records (either originals or copies). Within the last year the Foundation has gathered, sorted, catalogued and donated to this important collection, over 1,200 items. Members of the Historical Committee will be present to receive your valuable contributions, as well as talk with you about this permanent collection.

For those who would like to spend the night near Fort Meade, arrangements have been made with Comfort Suites, Laurel, Maryland (about 10 minutes from Fort Meade on Route 1 and Mulberry Street). The cost of rooms is \$48.00, either single or double, and includes a continental breakfast. A spacious hospitality suite is being provided for displays, a VCR for showing video tapes, around-the-clock coffee and quiet corners for visiting.

On Wednesday, December 16, the impressive wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Memorial, Arlington Cemetery, will be held at 1100 hours. After these moving ceremonies a Reception Buffet will be hosted by VBOB at the Officers' Club, Fort Myer, Virginia.

Reservation forms are on the next page. For the Dinner Gala and the December 16 events, complete and return to:

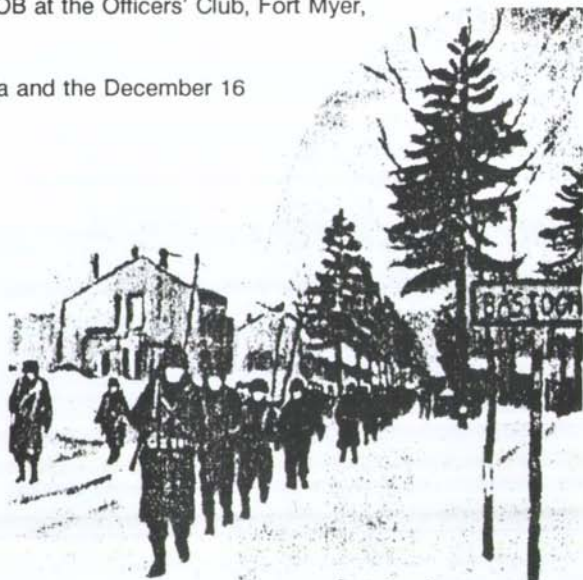
Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation  
P.O. Box 2516  
Kensington, MD 20895-0818

For motel reservations send form directly to:

Comfort Suites Laurel Lakes  
14402 Laurel Place  
Laurel, MD 20707

Questions may be addressed to:

Dorothy Davis:  
Telephone: 301-881-0356





## THE AGENDA

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1992**

### **DINNER GALA OFFICERS' CLUB, FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND**

**Hosted by  
Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation**

1830 hours Reception/Cash Bar

1930 hours Seated for Dinner

Posting of Colors ..... Fort Meade Color Guard

Pledge of Allegiance ..... Eugene Drouillard

Invocation ..... Msgr. William O'Donnell

Toasts

#### **DINNER MENU**

Tossed Garden Salad

Noisette of Veal Henry with Mushrooms a la Creme

Baked Stuffed Potato

Peas and Pearl Onions Medley

Crusty Rolls/Butter

Chocolate Mousse Supreme

Coffee or Tea

Zinfandel wine

2100 hours Introduction of Guests

Comments

2130 hours Entertainment

### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1992**

1100 hours Wreath laying Ceremonies, Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge  
at the

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA\*

1130 hours Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Monument Ceremonies

Posting of the Colors ..... Fort Meade Color Guard

Placing of a Wreath

Brief Program

1200 hours Reception, Officers' Club, Fort Myer, Virginia

Buffet/Cash Bar

Comments ..... Darrell Kuhn, President of VBOB

\*Parking available near "The Maine Memorial" off Farragut Drive in Arlington Cemetery--  
please inform the guard you are attending the Battle of the Bulge ceremonies



**RESERVATION FORM**  
**RETURN FORM BY DECEMBER 7, 1992, to:**  
**BATTLE OF THE BULGE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION**  
**P.O. Box 2516, Kensington, MD 20891-0818 Telephone: 301-881-0356**  
**Please make checks payable to BoBHF GALA**

**Tuesday, December 15, 1992--Dinner Gala, Officers' Club, Fort Meade, MD**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Reservations: \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Cost @ \$35.00 per Person** \_\_\_\_\_

Dress: Business suit/black tie/military dress uniform (miniature metals encouraged)

Tables may be reserved for groups of 8 or 10 persons, please so request with your Reservation Form along with the names of those who will be seated at your reserved table.

**Wednesday, December 16, 1992**

1100 hours Ceremonies at Tomb of Unknown Soldier and VBOB Memorial, Arlington  
 Number of persons attending \_\_\_\_\_

1200 hours Reception/Bufet, Officers' Club, Fort Myer, VA  
 Number of persons attending \_\_\_\_\_



**RESERVATION REQUEST - Return By**

**RATE** \$48.00

Single or  
 Double

**GROUP/COMPANY NAME**

Veterans of Battle of the Bulge

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Arrival \_\_\_\_\_ ETA \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Departure \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Number of People \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Accommodations Requested:

Single \_\_\_\_\_ Triple \_\_\_\_\_

To guarantee reservations, please enclose Check/Money  
 Order or use your favorite credit card.

Double \_\_\_\_\_ Quad \_\_\_\_\_

Card Type \_\_\_\_\_

Executive Suite \_\_\_\_\_

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

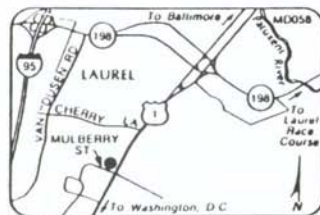
Extra Person \_\_\_\_\_

Cancellation policy - 6 pm on DAY of Arrival Date.

SMOKING OR NON-SMOKING?

**MAIL TO:**

Comfort Suites Laurel Lakes, 14402 Laurel Place, Laurel, MD 20707  
 (301) 206-2600

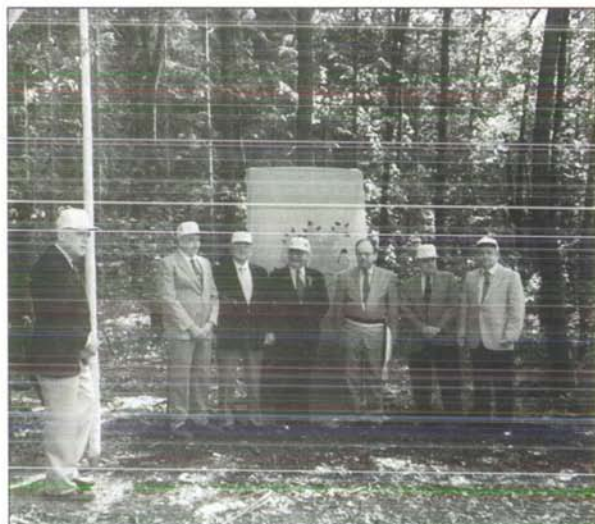




## 168TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION DEDICATES MEMORIAL AT ST. VITH

On May 23, 1992, on a hill one mile east of St. Vith, Belgium, known as the Prumerberg, the 168th Engineer Combat Battalion dedicated a memorial to their members who had paid the supreme sacrifice during the Battle of the Bulge. The handsome seven-foot granite monument is located on the Schlierbach road in the center of the battalion's old defensive positions.

With full strength of 400 members, the three line companies, with orders to HOLD AT ALL COSTS, fought as infantry from December 17 to December 23, 1944, defending Prumerberg. After being ordered to withdraw on December 21st, the official After-Action-Report of the Battalion noted that 236 officers and men had been killed, wounded, or were missing in action. The three platoons of Colonel Holland's Company B, which started with 45 men in each platoon, had been reduced to 12, 14, and 17 men, respectively.



The 168th prepares to unveil their monument May 23, 1992, St. Vith, Belgium. From left to right: Les Bornstein, Richard Lewis, Jim Hill, Col. Holland, Burgermeister Gehlen, Col. Nungesser and Joe Canavan.

St. Vith is a German-speaking city near the German border and had been completely destroyed during the Battle of the Bulge. There was, therefore, some apprehension as to how the engineer group might be received by the citizens of the town. However, the burgermeister, city council, and citizens of St. Vith not only warmly welcomed the 168th but also participated in the impressive dedication ceremony. The city council had made a park in the forest that surrounds the monument area and built two flag poles--one flying the American flag and the other flying the Belgium flag--and had draped the monument with the flag of the City of St. Vith.

Attending this solemn ceremony were members of the 168th who had fought in the St. Vith area in December 1944 and their wives. Also attending were special guests including a long-time friend of the engineers, Andre Hubert, President of CRIBA, and other members of that organization; Dorothy S. Davis, past president of the Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation and honorary member of the 168th; and school children from a local school, whose school building was used as a 168th command post during the Battle of the Bulge.

During the dedication ceremony, Sandra Calverly, whose brother Julian Noyes was one who made the supreme sacrifice on 17 December 1944, gave a short talk and read a touching poem that brought tears to the eyes of those present--and when her words were translated into German, there were tears in the eyes of the citizens of St. Vith also.

For the unveiling, Col. Holland called on men who had fought on the hill to represent each line company. Those honored representatives were:

Company A--Richard Lewis, a combat medic who saved many lives throughout the fighting, often at the risk of his own.

Company B--Jim Hill, who fought the entire time of defense, and who knocked out a tank on 17 December with Les Bornstein loading the bazooka.

Company C--Joe Canavan, who was a machine gunner throughout the fighting.

Also participating in the unveiling was Col. William Nungesser, Ret., Battalion Commander, and the St. Vith Burgermeister, Herr Gehlen. After the unveiling, the burgermeister made a short speech and then, in a fitting tribute, presented the flag of St. Vith to Col. Nungesser.

Concluding the ceremony a wreath was laid by the burgermeister, Col. Nungesser, Sandra Calverly, and Joseph Theissen. A closing prayer was offered by Joe Canavan, followed by a moment of silence and the playing of Taps.

Burgermeister Gehlen made the event even more meaningful when, in his closing remarks, he said to the engineers, "Be assured, we shall take care of your monument for you."



Members of the 168th Engineer Combat Battalion at monument unveiling in St. Vith, Belgium.

Article submitted by: Col. Bill Holland, Ret.  
Commander of Company B  
168th Engineer Combat Battalion



## SLATE FOR 1993 PRESENTED

*The VBOB Nominating Committee submits  
the following nominees to be our leaders in 1993*

PRESIDENT

**John J. Dunleavy**

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

**William Tayman**

VICE PRESIDENT  
FOR MEMBERSHIP

**Grover Twiner**

VICE PRESIDENT FOR  
CHAPTER COORDINATION

**Stanley Wojtusik**

VICE PRESIDENT  
MILITARY AFFAIRS

**Peter Dounis**

TREASURER

**Charles G. Kraus**

RECORDING SECRETARY

**Beverly Van Houten**

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

**George C. Linthicum**



## ARE YOU A "NOTCH BABY"

**...in the eyes of the Social  
Security Administration?**

Those who receive Social Security and were born between 1917 and 1926 are referred to as "Notch Babies" by the Social Security Administration. If you fall in to this category, you receive less benefits than if you were born before 1917 or after 1926. With the cost of living soaring upward, surely these additional benefits would be of value to you. If you are directly affected or if you care that some of your fellow VBOBers are affected, write to your congressperson or senator and let them know that you want to support Congressional Notch Issue Bill HR-917. Be sure to include your name and address.

## IRS RULING ON VETS' DISABILITY COMP.

The leadership of both the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees have launched a number of efforts aimed at crushing a proposed tax collection on a portion of veterans' disability compensation by the IRS. The IRS ruled that a little-noticed provision of the 1986 tax reform law opened up to taxation as regular income the **cost-of-living adjustments paid to disabled veterans since that time**. Call the White House and register your opposition to the IRS ruling, 202-456-1111, leave the message that you do not want the President to tax disabled veterans' benefits.

## EDITORIAL

# DISPARITY IN GIVING MEDALS OUT FOR BULGE?

A quick search through the World War II records shows that some units which had been in combat for many campaigns won less individual medals than other similar-sized units which had been in combat for far lesser periods.

Yet the long-term vetrans units were always given the toughest of missions time after time, and carried them off so successfully that they were used again and again in the tough spots. This state of affairs did run up one category for them: killed, wounded, captured. Yet they did not get as many "Hero medals" as other outfits with a scoresheet of lesser accomplishments. Why?

It would seem that criteria for medal-giving beyond what was written in regulations varied from unit to unit. Some units, known to be tough on medal-giving, would say, that "no, that individual action is really not worthy of a Silver Star." No effort was made in those units to give any kind of medal - say, downgrading the action to a lesser medal. No medal for a recommended action; no further thought.

Other units had a more liberal outlook. One division gave a Bronze Star to a soldier who volunteered to go out and draw sniper fire. Just as he was about to dash out of shelter, his company's orders were changed and the company had to move back out to another position. But the soldier got the Bronze Star because he volunteered - even though no sniper fired at him then...

Purple Hearts were given out for trenchfoot and other non-wounded happenstances - abrogating the original intention of the criteria for giving Purple Hearts.

Some men who were favored by their superiors got some sort of medal, while others, who had done more "heavy-duty" soldiering got nothing.

Thus many soldiers should have gotten medals - and were denied them for no good reason at all except some individual's assessment of the action. Usually the individual making the assessment was a rear-echelon pen pusher who never saw combat.

How to make it all right at this late date?

The Army should set up some blanket award for those who had been cheated. Say, something along the lines of the recent giving of the Bronze Star to any Combat Infantry Badge holder. The solution may be a certificate similar to the proposed Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge certificate of achievement, for an individual being a member of a combat or non-combat unit during a particularly meaningful engagement, such as the Battle of the Bulge.

**Kilroy says...**

**Check your mailing  
label to see if your  
dues are due!**



## Bulge Member Buried in Eisenhower Jacket



### IT PAYS TO DISPLAY YOUR VBOB DECAL

After evening Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes church on Ash Wednesday, I went to get into my car. As I was coming across the parking lot I noticed a young man standing there, who looked as though he were waiting for someone. He was. Me! He had seen the VBOB decal in the rear window of my car and waited for the owner to come out.

The young man was Chris Doersam, son of Douglas Doersam (21 February 1913 - 16 November 1989). Chris told me that his father was a member of the 28th Infantry Division, 110th Regiment, and a member of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. He said that his father was very proud of his division and his service during the war, and of the organization. Chris went on to say that when he died, his father was able to wear his dress Eisenhower jacket and had requested he be buried in it. His wishes were honored and Douglas Doersam was "waked and buried" in his Eisenhower jacket, complete with the "Bloody Bucket" emblem, five campaign ribbons, i.e., Ardennes, Central Europe, Normandy, North France and Rhineland; and his Combat Infantry Badge which he received 1 November 1944. Chris and his wife, Mary, stressed the pride Douglas Doersam felt in his military service.

Until the day he died, Douglas Doersam had the VBOB decal on the door to his apartment in New York City.

Eva M. Popovich

Past Recording Secretary, VBOB



I didn't fire him [General MacArthur] because he was a dumb son of a bitch, although he was, but that's not against the law for generals. If it was, half to three-quarters of them would be in jail.

HARRY TRUMAN



## Dates to Remember

### 50th Anniversary WWII Commemoration Dates

#### 1991

December 7 - Pearl Harbor

#### 1992

January 7 - Siege of Bataan begins

April 18 - Doolittle raid on Japan

May 4 - Battle of the Coral Sea

May 6 - Corregidor surrenders

June 3-6 - Midway

August 7 - Guadalcanal

March 20 - Battle for the Atlantic ends

November - North Africa

#### 1993

June - Battle of the Atlantic

July 10 - Allies land at Sicily

September 9 - Allies land at Salerno

November 20 - U.S. Forces take Makin and Tarawa

#### 1994

January 22 - Allies land at Anzio

February 20 - Air battles over Europe

June 6 - D-Day at Normandy

June 15 - Invasion of Saipan

July 21-24 - Tinian & Guam

August 25 - Liberation of Paris

October 23-26 - Liberation of the Philippines

November 24 - U.S. begins B-29 raids on Japan

December 16 - Battle of the Bulge

#### 1995

February 4-12 - Yalta Conference

February 19 - Iwo Jima

March 7 - U.S. Army crosses the Rhine

April 1 - Okinawa, Soviet/U.S. forces link-up at the Elbe

April 12 - Roosevelt dies, Truman succeeds

April 30 - Hitler dies in bunker

May 7 - All German Forces surrender unconditionally

May 8 - V-E Day

July 16 - Atomic bomb successfully tested at Los Alamos

August 6 - Hiroshima

August 9 - Nagasaki

August 14 - Japan surrenders

September 2 - V-J Day, Japan signs Instrument of Surrender



## BATTLE OF THE BULGE VETERANS PARTICIPATE IN CONFERENCE FOR MILITARY HISTORIANS

Over 350 attendees participated in the "1992 Conference of Army Historians" sponsored by the U.S. Army Center of Military History in Washington, D.C., June 8-11. The theme of the conference was "The U.S. Army in World War II--The Mediterranean and European Theaters." The focus, however, for two days of the conference was on the Battle of the Bulge. International and academic historians joined with their U.S. Army colleagues and those who served in the Battle of the Bulge to explore the varied aspects of that pivotal World War II battle.

Military historians from Argentina, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, and The Netherlands added interesting and enlightening viewpoints to the many sessions.

Each session lasted 1-1/2 hours and so as to cover the vast amount of material being offered, two or three sessions were held concurrently. Panels for the sessions were made up of a chairman and three speakers, who were each allotted 20 minutes to present their papers--30 minutes was made available for questions and discussion.

Topics ranged from how military history was collected during and after the battles to "The Germany Army in Normandy," "Allied Leadership in the ETO," "Writing the Green Books on World War II," "The Armed Forces in the ETO," "The Army's Black Tank Battalions," and various aspects and strategies of the Battle of the Bulge.

Among the papers presented by those who served in the Battle of the Bulge were:

Dorothy Davis--57th Field Hospital

"Providing Medical Support in the ETO, 1944-1946"

Dr. Brooks Kleber--90th Infantry Division

"Experiences as a Prisoner of War at Hemmelburg"

Gen. William Knowlton--7th Armored Division

"Link-up with the Soviets" (Described the confusion that prevailed at this historic event)

Col. James Leach, Ret.--4th Armored Division

"4th Armored Division Exploitation and Mobile Defense Beyond the Moselle, 13-26 September 1944"

BG Hal Pattison, Ret.--4th Armored Division

Chaired panel on armor in the ETO

Robert Phillips--28th Infantry Division

"Fifth Panzer Army's Drive to the Meuse"

Some of the other Washington, D.C., area Bulge veterans who attended the conference included:

Crosby Miller-704th Tank Destroyer Battalion

Thompson Raney--823rd Tank Destroyer Battalion

Henry Spignesi--9th Armored Division

The logistical and strategic decisions as well as the military leadership of the Battle of the Bulge continue to be evaluated in military schools. The students at the U.S. Army

Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, have studied the Battle of the Bulge for several years; however, this year there will be a special emphasis on the hostilities in the St. Vith, Belgium, area during the winter of 1944/45.

The written materials on the Battle of the Bulge that are being gathered and deposited into the Battle of the Bulge Collection at the Army Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, enhances this wealth of information being studied. Through their contributions of personal diaries, unit histories, photos and letters, the veterans of yesterday continue to serve their country today!

Article contributed by:  
Dorothy S. Davis, R.N.  
57th Field Hospital

## THE ROLE OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS IN WORLD WAR II

No one needs to remind you of the vital role played by the American Red Cross during World War II, but we thought you might be interested in some statistics which further emphasize the role played by that great organization.

- There were 40,000 Red Cross men and women who served around the world.
- Twenty-nine women and 49 men gave their lives in service overseas.
- There were 104,456 registered nurses recruited and certified to the military by the Red Cross, serving in military hospitals, on hospital ships and trains.
- Collected from volunteer donors for military patients were 13.4 million pints of blood.
- Twenty-seven million food packages were assembled and shipped for U.S. and Allied prisoners of war to help supplement their rations as a result of 945,000 hours donated by Red Cross volunteers back in the States.
- The number of Red Cross volunteers at home reached 7.5 million between 1942 and 1944.
- Thousands of Red Cross workers operated clubs and clubmobiles in rest and recreation areas and served as field directors overseas.
- From the beginning of the war through June 30, 1946, the American Red Cross was instrumental in aiding more than 75 million people, 27 million of whom were children.

The Red Cross did not fold up its tents and leave after the war. It has continued to play a vital role in American society--providing emergency communications and other services for the men and women of the U.S. military and their families.

SO,  
HATS  
OFF  
TO  
THE....



American  
Red Cross



## VEOB ORDER FORM

B1	Patch 2-3/4" Diameter	3.50	K2	VBOB Logo/Flag Plastic Key Chain	1.00
B1A	Patch 2-3/4" Diameter (w\clutch)	5.00	M1	Regulation full size medals to replace those lost or not issued (Call for quote)	20.00up
B2	Patch 4-3/4" Diameter	6.00	MM1	Regulation miniature medals (Including POW medal)	8.50up
B2A	Patch 4-3/4" Diameter (w/clutch)	8.00	P1	106th, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 9th, etc	4.50ea
C1S	VBOB Silver Belt Buckle	14.00	P2	Enamel pins of Division Patches (Most available)	3.50ea
C2G	VBOB Gold Belt Buckle	14.00	POW1	Miniature POW Medal (sold separately)	8.50
D1	Decal 4" Diameter	.75	R1	Regulation campaign & service ribbons (Order your full set)	1.25up
D2	Logo 4" Diameter Windshield Logo	.75	T2	VBOB T-Shirt--(S)(M)(L)(XL)	13.00
D3	COLOR Logo 8" x 10" for framing	4.00	W1	VBOB Logo Quartz Watch (Men's)	35.00
D4	COLOR Logo 1-1/8" stick-on	10/100	W2	VBOB Logo Quartz Watch (Women's)	35.00
F1	U.S. Flag Set: 100% sewn, cotton 3' x 5' Flag w/3 piece pole, gold eagle top, lanyard and mounting bracket	29.50	WB1	Windbreaker, unlined, dark blue with 4-3/4" VBOB patch	34.50
H1	Hats (baseball style) one size fits all w/VBOB	10.00	BK1	"First Across the Rhine" (Book)	22.00
J1	VBOB 1/2" Lapel Pin/Tie Tack (w/clutch)	7.00	V50	The Damned Engineers (VHS)(BETA)	34.50
J3	VBOB Tie Bar	7.00			
J5	VBOB Medallion (w/ribbon)	32.00			
K1	VBOB Logo Pocket Leather Key Case	5.00			

VISA • AMERICAN EXPRESS • MasterCard

(Two separate order forms--please clip off here to order Overseas Cap.)

## August 1992



## PROPOSED CHANGE IN VBOB DUES DATE

A proposed Bylaws change has been handed to the Bylaws Committee. Several VBOB chapters are seeking to establish December 16th as the date when all dues become due and payable.

The Bylaws Committee will present this suggested change in Bylaws to the Executive Council and then to the entire membership for final determination on October 9, 1992.

Having considered the projected Bylaws change, the Bylaws Committee for the following reasons stated will recommend against this amendment. If you wish to express your opinion, please do so by writing to VBOB Headquarters before the 1st of September.

### FAVORABLE

It is felt that one dues date would be helpful to chapter operations and would be of assistance to the individual members as every one would know that their dues were due on the anniversary of the commencement of the beginning of the Battle of the Bulge.

The individual chapter members themselves probably have no concern as to when VBOB national dues are due. However, the officers who administer chapters feel that collecting dues on one single date would assist them in their administrative tasks, as the members would remember that dues are due on this date.

Those chapters who wish to do so will collect VBOB national dues and submit them on an annual basis. This would facilitate the bookkeeping for those chapters who submit the dues directly for their members.

### UNFAVORABLE

It is possible that those who forget to pay their dues would probably forget to pay no matter what date was established. So, this would be a lot of work for nothing.

December is notoriously a month that is not good to collect money because of Christmas money demands. Some people have said that the change in date would result in early dues payment.

If 16th December is used as a due date, it should be kept in mind that this is at the peak of the mailing season for businesses (Christmas advertisements, Christmas cards, flyers, etc.) and the risk becomes greater that payments may be delayed or lost at the post office.

Undoubtedly, there will be tremendous confusion and correspondence generated as a result of trying to get all the dues dates that are now spread throughout the year paid up to December 16th. For example some members will owe eleven months to pay up, some ten, some nine, and on down the line--this must be straightened out.

It will put an enormous load on staff to try to process all of this during the Christmas season. Additional personnel

may be needed and there is concern that the crush of getting things done may result in unwanted errors--also it is sometimes difficult to find help during the Christmas season. Our present staff makes a very conscientious effort to keep our records correct and current. Doing work that is currently spread out over 12 months in a one or two month period cannot be done as carefully.

For those persons who do not submit their dues in a timely manner, it will still be necessary to send reminders. This work can be done with information generated by the computer as is currently done.

There will be the need to get a bigger post office box because of the huge volume of mail. This will result in increased cost.

Processing of membership cards to the members will be slowed down appreciably. It could take a month or two to process cards because of the volume. This could anger members--we currently get some unhappy letters when we are a couple of weeks late.

Any change in operational policies, i.e., dues increase, reminders regarding dues, change of dues date, has in the past and will continue to generate many letters from the membership that must be answered. This will also result in increased cost and because of the volume of letters that are anticipated response may be rather slow. Possibly resulting in some very unhappy members.

Public Relations during the months required for handling this work flow will have to be seriously curtailed or suspended--at a time when they are needed in connection with our December 16th Memorial Services at Arlington Cemetery, election of officers, etc.

The Treasurer and the Finance and Budget Committee will need to insure that the moneys taken in are placed in the proper depository where they will make maximum interest and can be easily transferred to the checking account for paying of bills at the proper time. These officers will also need to see that moneys are available to meet expenses throughout the year, as income could prove to be rather lean in the months immediately preceding December.

*(Continued on Page 31)*



(Continued from Page 30)

**NECESSITATED BYLAWS CHANGE IF IT IS DECIDED TO ADOPT THE DUES DATE OF DECEMBER 16TH FOR ALL VBOB MEMBERS:**

**ARTICLE 11, SECTION 3. PAYMENT OF DUES.** Dues shall be payable each year on or prior to December 16 the anniversary date of the commencement of the Battle of the Bulge.

**THERE WOULD BE NO BYLAWS AMENDMENT NECESSARY IF THE DUES DATE REMAINS UNCHANGED**—It would have no bearing on whether or not a chapter elected to collect dues on a particular schedule and no change is necessary.

**ALTERNATIVE**

Leave the dues date alone for all members except those who belong to a chapter who has chosen to collect the national dues payment.

Those chapters who are desirous of establishing December 16th as a dues date may do so. Those chapters shall notify headquarters of their desire to perform this function. They shall be responsible for collecting partial dues which will bring every member up to the date of December 16th and shall submit these moneys in one lump sum, along with a list of those

members for which they are paying. After the initial partial payments (to get the members paid up to December 16th) have been received, the chapter will then be responsible for submitting a list of their members along with a check which will pay their members for one full year in advance.

The procedure for submitting payment of VBOB dues for all members on a chapter roster would be the complete responsibility of the chapter. Dues would be submitted to the VBOB headquarters all at one time, whether or not these dues had been paid by the individual member. A list of all chapter members would be submitted along with a check for all members submitted thereon.

**THE "ALTERNATIVE" WOULD ALSO REQUIRE NO CHANGE IN THE BYLAWS.**

.....

**Proposed Dues Schedule**

The following is the proposed schedule recommended to be used in the event December 16th is chosen as the date upon which all VBOB national dues are due. This schedule for dues payment will be used only one time—to catch your dues up to December 16th. Thereafter, your dues would be due on December 16th of each year.

If your dues are due in January, February or March.....\$15.00  
If your dues are due in April, May or June.....\$11.25  
If your dues are due in July, August or September.....\$ 7.50  
If your dues are due in October or November.....\$ 3.75  
If your dues are due in December.....\$15.00

.....

If you have a feeling on this matter, please write to VBOB prior to September 1st, 1992, so that your voice may be heard at our reunion October 8-11, 1992. Your opinion could be very helpful to us in making this decision.

Do you feel that this would help you in remembering when your dues are due? Let us hear from you.

Incidentally, while we are on the subject, please check to see if your dues are due. The mailing label used to mail this publication to you, indicates the date that your dues are due.





# VETERANS of the BATTLE of the BULGE

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

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ODENTON, MD  
PERMIT NO. 228

**YOUR DUES-R-DUE**



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED  
FORWARDING and RETURN  
POSTAGE GUARANTEED

**AUGUST, 1992**



## HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE OCTOBER 8-11, 1992 REUNION IN NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE...

It's not too late to make your plans to be with us, but you will need to do this right away. We have some great activities planned and we want you to be a part of them. Plans are also being made for the **50TH ANNIVERSARY**.

- Detach and Mail -

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

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

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Do not write above this line



**Annual Dues \$15**

Do not write above this line

☐ **New Member** ☐ **Renewal - Member #** \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

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

*All new members, please provide the following information:*

Campaigns \_\_\_\_\_

Units(s) to which assigned during period December 16, 1944-January 25, 1945 - Division \_\_\_\_\_

Regiment \_\_\_\_\_ Battalion \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Applicants Signature \_\_\_\_\_

RECRUITER (Optional)