

# The BULGE BUGLE

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

VOLUME XX NUMBER 4

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

NOVEMBER 2001

11 September 2001

## VBOB STAINED GLASS WINDOW

DEDICATED AT US ARMY  
WAR COLLEGE  
CARLISLE, PA

page 16



29 September - 3 October 2001

## 2001 VBOB ORLANDO REUNION

750 ATTEND CEREMONIES  
HONORING AMERICAN SOLDIERS  
OF THE BULGE

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VBOB  
REMEMBRANCE  
COMMEMORATION

DECEMBER 14,15,16 2001

METROPOLITAN  
WASHINGTON, D.C. Page 29



**VETERANS OF THE  
BATTLE OF THE BULGE,  
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Published quarterly, *THE BULGE BUGLE* is the official publication of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge.

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CONTACT THE CHAPTER IN YOUR AREA.  
YOU WILL BE GLAD YOU DID.

\*\*\*\*\*  
IF YOU FIND YOU HAVE A LITTLE TIME,  
WRITE TO VBOB AND WE'LL SEND YOU THE  
NECESSARY TOOLS TO GET OFF TO A  
GOOD START IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A  
CHAPTER IN YOUR AREA.

YOU'LL FIND THAT IT'S EASY TO DO AND  
THE REWARDS TO ALL OF THOSE YOU  
BRING TOGETHER CANNOT BE  
DUPLICATED.



# President's Message

September 11, 2001, the second day which will live in infamy, found my wife, Mary, and I attending a VBOB Memorial Celebration at the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

This affair was organized by Vice President Stanley Wojtusik. After many months of planning, Stan brought together several hundred VBOB members, leaders from Luxembourg and Belgium and military representatives, headed by General Ivany, Commandant of the War College.

At Bliss Hall, a military building which contains stained glass windows dating back to the Revolutionary War, a stained glass window, depicting the Battle of the Bulge was installed and dedicated. This large and beautiful window which identifies every infantry, armored and airborne division which took part in the Bulge cost \$32,000, the cost of which was borne by VBOB, Luxembourg, Belgium and contributions from chapters and individuals. This was a huge project, started and executed by Stanley Wojtusik and will be forever a memorial to our veterans and his tenacity to get the job done overcoming many obstacles.

On September 28th, we left Virginia and headed to Orlando, Florida, to take part in our annual reunion, which was planned by Lou Cunningham and Harry Meisel.

Upon arrival, we found that, despite the current unsettling conditions, several hundred veterans put on their campaign hats, tucked in their blouses and arrived at the Sheraton. In fact the banquet on the last night was packed to capacity.

After several days of sightseeing in Orlando, Harry Meisel and his wife, Jeanette, arranged a most impressive memorial gathering at beautiful Lake Eola Park, adjacent to the Hotel. Eola Park, which surrounds a large lake, is a most impressive setting in the heart of the business community. It was also here that in February, 1999, Harry and Jeanette Meisel managed the dedication of a magnificent 15 foot tall statue of an American soldier during the Battle of the Bulge. Individual army units which took part in the battle are identified at the base of the statue and bricks surrounding the base identify the donors.

This ceremony, attended by some 800 veterans, wives, friends and local citizens was covered by two local TV stations, radio and the local Orlando newspaper. Harry had also arranged for the attendance of the Orange County Commissioner, the Mayor of Orlando, three representatives of U.S. Senator Bill Nelson's office, a local school band, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and he also arranged a fly over at the appropriate time of four vintage air planes.

This entire ceremony, which was magnificently handled, is a tribute to Harry Meisel and his chapter.

The keynote speaker, Brigadier General Albin F. Irzyk, was a front line tank battalion commander of 76 tanks of the 8th Tank Battalion, 4th Armored Division, General Patton's Third United States Army. The general, author of an outstanding book "He Rode Upfront for Patton," gave a very inspiring talk indicating



John Dunleavy

that he deeply cared about his men and that the many casualties of the 8th Tank Battalion during the long war in Europe affected him greatly. General Irzyk, had the reputation of being a very aggressive, fearless and goal-oriented commander who made headlines for General Patton and also as a very decent and human individual.

At this commemoration, it was also my privilege to meet and speak with Jim Hendrix, who as a 19-year-old armored infantryman of the 4th Armored Division, received the Medal of Honor, doing Sgt. York of World War I fame heroics, in the December, 1944, drive on Bastogne.

Jim Hendrix, originally from Arkansas and wearing the master sergeant's uniform of WWII, and his wife were amenable to conversation and he volunteered that after the war in Europe, he served as a paratrooper in Korea. It was my pleasure to include a few kind words about Hendrix at the commemoration ceremonies. Jim Hendrix's raw courage and patriotism represents what this country is all about, dating back to the days of the Revolution.

Later that day, we had a business meeting at which about 100 veterans attended. Among other things, it was decided that your organization, VBOB, had no plans to dissolve but would carry on in the years ahead to the last man. In order to accomplish this, it is imperative that each member pay their national \$15 per year annual dues on time, take part in chapter activities (where available) and to continue to send in articles, comments, etc., to the National Office. We will certainly continue our part to keep us all together.

The annual banquet followed on the last evening and was fully attended with all tables taken. The food and drink was good and plentiful and the comradeship was evident at every table. Harry Meisel arranged for a band and vocalist to play and sing the WWII music that we all loved so well.

At this time, Brigadier General William E. Carlson, who had been the keynote speaker at the February, 1999, dedication of the monument, delivered the main address at the banquet.

General Carlson left the audience spellbound as he related the events of the Battle of the Bulge. Half way through his speech, it was evident that his research was full and complete and what he said and his delivery was beyond compare. Hollywood could not have produced a better ending to our convention. When he concluded, the veterans, wives and friends rose as one to give him a standing ovation.

*(Continued on next page)*

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## ARE YOUR DUES DUE?



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Continued)

Also attending the convention were George Chekan and Mary Jane. George is a past national president who has contributed heavily to the leadership of our organization. George, a long time infantry veteran, gives 100% of himself at every meeting.

George Linthicum and Betty, a recent past president from Pennsylvania, has also served as president of the 26th Infantry Division Association. George, a gentleman of the highest order, attends all the Executive Council meetings, even though he has to travel approximately 250 miles to do so.

After our December 16, 2001, dedication at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington, Virginia, we will welcome Lou Cunningham as our next president. Lou and Charlotte have been most active in the organization and they can count on our support in their new endeavor. Lou, a man of integrity and trustworthiness, originally hails from Maine and served with the 106th Infantry Division.

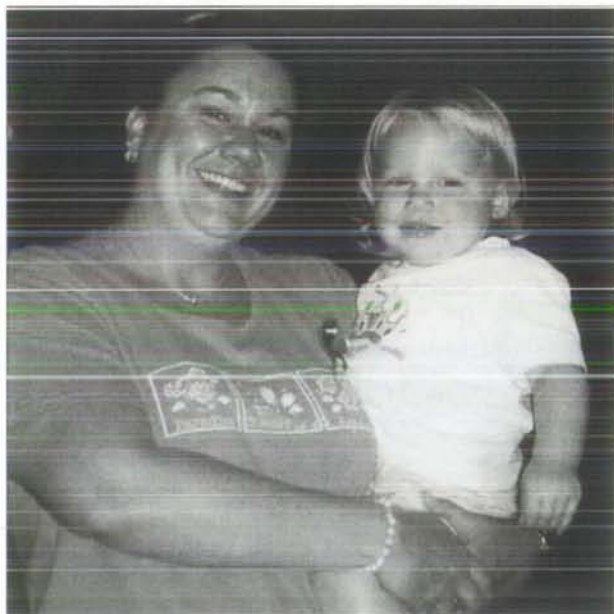
It has been my great privilege to serve as your president these past two years.

Finally, I am reminded of the old soldier who took his family to the "American Cemetery" overlooking Omaha Beach in Normandy and as he walked from grave to grave, he stopped at each one and read each headstone. His young grandson, after watching him do this for 15-20 minutes stated to his grandfather: "I noticed that you stopped at each grave and each soldier was from a different outfit--did you know them?"

The old soldier said to his grandson: "I knew them all."

At this time, I feel like the old soldier--I know you all.

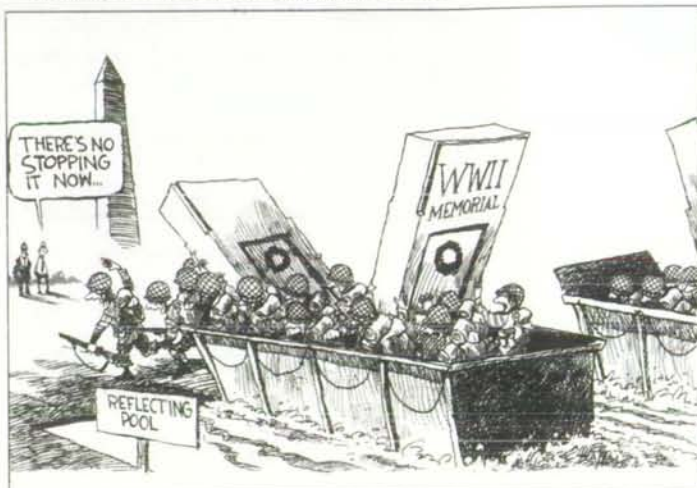
God bless.



### Lapel Pin Anyone?

VBOB Quartermaster Lynne Eldridge and her daughter, Logan, getting ready to unpack their wares at the Orlando Reunion

Reprinted from The Washington Post, June 2, 2001



## RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc., met for its 21<sup>st</sup> Annual reunion in Orlando, Florida on September 29<sup>th</sup> through October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2001, and

**WHEREAS**, we are of varied faiths and represent various political persuasions, and

**WHEREAS**, we served during World War II in the Ardennes Campaign (the Battle of the Bulge) and in other campaigns from Normandy through Berlin, and

**WHEREAS**, we have seen first-hand the death and devastation of war, and

**WHEREAS**, the horrors we witnessed and the sacrifices we made 57 years ago have resulted in helping to ensure peace and prosperity for our beloved country, and

**WHEREAS**, the events of terrorism of September 11, 2001, have rudely awakened us to the reality that the things we hold dear today are in extreme danger, and

**WHEREAS**, we are aware that our liberties and lives are in jeopardy and could cease to exist,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that, The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge support such efforts as may be needed to rid our country, and the world if necessary, of the terrorism threats which place in peril the lives of peace-loving persons the world over,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, as our bodies will no longer permit us to participate in the manner we did so many years ago, we will support our military, our government and freedom-loving people the world over in our hearts, minds and prayers until the scourge of terrorism is eliminated.

*Adopted by unanimous vote, of the members present, at the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Business Meeting of The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Incorporated, at Orlando, Florida, on 2 October 2001.*

*John D. Bowen,  
Recording Secretary*



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### ST. VITH EXPLANATION

Salute to Harold Trethaway, of the 16th Armored Field Artillery, 9th Armored Division, for his most vivid explanation as to what transpired in the St. Vith area December 16th to 20th. I was there, as well as at the Remagen Bridge.

Edward F. Greh  
9 ARMDD 27 AIR BN

### THEIR THOUGHTS ARE WITH US

On behalf of all members of the 5th Belgian Battalion of Fusiliers Association, I want to express our deepest sympathy for the victims of the New York, Washington and Pennsylvania tragedies and their families and friends.

Our thoughts go out to our old comrades of WWII and especially the Battle of the Bulge and we ask you to let them know that we are with them and firmly condemn the authors, the instigators and sponsors of these terrorist attempts.

We were with you at your side during the dark days of the Battle of the Bulge in 1944; we are still with you in the present tragic times.

God bless all of you, America and the American people.

Roger M. Hardy  
VBOB Chapter XXXVIII

### CLARIFICATION ON PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIAL CERTIFICATE (PMC)

A PMC is an engraved paper certificate, signed by the current President, to honor the memory of honorably discharged **DECEASED** veterans.

This program was initiated in March 1962 by President John F. Kennedy, and has been continued by all subsequent Presidents....

Eligible recipients, or someone acting on their behalf, may apply for a PMC in person at any VA regional office or by U.S. mail only. Requests cannot be sent via e-mail. There is no form to use when requesting a PMC. Please be sure to include a return mailing address with your request and a copy of the veteran's discharge documents.

Send your PMC request to: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; National Cemetery Administration (403A), 810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.; Washington, DC 20420

Information provided, thanks to...

Clayton Christensen  
99 INFDD 324 CMBT ENGR BN A

### RECOMMENDED CITATION FOR 9TH ARMORED, CCB

In the last issue was a letter from Harold Trethaway of the 9th Armored Division, regretting that the superb performance of CCB, 9th Armored Division in the area of St. Vith was never recognized. But the 7th Armored Division knew what they did, and attempted to gain them a Presidential Citation.

In the winter of 1947-48, spurred on by Belgian historians who had placed St. Vith in the context we now know, General Hasbrouck, General Clarke, and Majors Boyer and Knowlton, wrote a strong recommendation for the Presidential Citation, including not only the 7th Armored but also CCB of the 9th Armored and many other attached units. The original submission can be found on pages 91 to 104 of the 7th Armored Division History published in 1982.

Sadly, it was returned with a statement that the Army was no longer issuing such a citation to divisions. We were told to resubmit it for one Combat Command. Since CCB of the 7th had been the first unit to reach the area, and since many of the units had been placed under CCB during the battle, it was selected as the candidate. Also included were the 275th Field Artillery Battalion, and a few other attached units.

The rewritten and smaller citation was approved and issued. We all regretted that the Army decision excluded some fine units of the 7th Armored and the 9th Armored.

Bill Knowlton  
7 ARMDD 87 RCN

### PRESIDENTIAL CITATIONS AWARDED

Two combat commands of the 9th Armored Division have been awarded Presidential Unit Citations for their combat actions during the Battle of the Bulge in December, 1944. Both awards were dated June 12, 2001.

The Presidential Unit Citation (PUC) is the highest award a unit can receive for combat action.

Combat Command B was cited for stopping the main German attacks in the vicinity of St. Vith, Belgium, from December 17 to 23, 1944. Although the CCB flanks were threatened, they delayed the German timetable, forcing them to divert a corps in their effort to capture St. Vith. CCB was withdrawn on December 23rd.

Combat Command A was cited for their combat action in the vicinity of Waldbillig and Savelborn, Luxembourg, from December 16 to 23, 1944. Although outnumbered five to one, and surrounded most of the time, they stopped the German attack for six days which gave time for the United States III and XII Corps to assemble troops for a coordinated attack against the enemy. Although surrounded, CCA fought its way back to the U.S. troops.

The third combat command of the 9th Armored Division had previously received the Presidential Unit Citation for holding against German attacks in the vicinity of Bastogne until the arrival of the airborne and armor troops later credited for the defense of Bastogne.

Thus, all three combat commands of the 9th Armored Division have received the Presidential Citation for the Battle of the Bulge. The three commands were widely separated, stopping or delaying different German attacks. They were not under their division command but attached to and in support of other units.

One reason for the delayed recognition was the 9th Armored Division was on the SECRET list until January 25, 1945, and could not be cited by war correspondents. Action to seek recognition for Combat Commands A and B were delayed, since, unlike CCR, they were not recommended by the units they supported. It was necessary to obtain the German combat records.

When the German high command received reports of three widely separate attacks all being stopped by the same division, they identified the 9th as the "Phantom Division."

Combat B of the 9th had previously received the Presidential Unit Citation for their action February 28 to March 9, 1945, during which, on March 7th, they captured the Ludendorff Bridge at Remagen, Germany, and were the first Allied troops to cross the Rhine River. Efforts by the German defenders to destroy this last remaining Rhine River bridge were defeated when Task Force Commander Lt. Col. Leonard Engeman ignored his assigned mission and ordered his troops to cross. Supreme Commander Eisenhower was ecstatic. More than 8,000 Allied troops crossed this bridgehead in the next 24 hours.

Demetri Paris  
9 ARMDD 14 TK BN

### HEART-BREAKING JOB

[Amended] As a first lieutenant of the 343rd Medical Unit I would like to say that we were always aware of the terrible circumstances our men went through.

We, at the "Gare de Lest" railroad station had the heart-breaking job of transferring wounded GI's into three forwarding units:

1. Never able to be separated for their affliction in the act of killing or being killed.

2. Those who the medical board saw fit only to transfer back to the United States.

3. The third group was transferred to England for medical care.

These were the heart aches all 150 men of my evacuation battalion had to deal with and I want to thank them for their devotion to duty.

We lost track of our CO, Colonel Mahr. If anyone has knowledge of him please let me know (Spring Meadows, 41 Springfield Avenue #124, Summit, New Jersey 07901).

Victor DiRuggiero  
343 EVAC HOSP

[Sorry for rewriting your story, Mr. DiRuggiero. We were unable to read some of it, but thought your message was worth getting out.]

(Continued on next page)



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Continuation)

### WISH YOU WERE THERE...

This letter is mainly directed to those who unfortunately could not attend the 21st annual reunion which was held in Orlando, Florida. Only superlatives can describe this event.

The big day was Tuesday, which started with a dedication ceremony in Lake Eola Park complete with a color guard, military band, and many dignitaries.

The keynote speaker was our Chapter Commander Al Irzyk (Brigadier General, Retired). He spoke about the 19,000 who made the supreme sacrifice and when he concluded his remarks, and taps was played, there was not a dry eye in the audience.

The day was capped with a magnificent banquet and, again, a stirring speech by General Carlson. It was a day that will be long remembered.

John Dunleavy, the out-going president, held the meetings together with both humor and interest. It was indeed a pleasure to listen to his remarks.

Harry Meisel should be highly commended for his dedication and concern for details in arranging the programs.

We wish Lou Cunningham the very best as he takes over the President's office and we guarantee our loyalty and support.

There is a special feeling when combat veterans get together. Maybe it's because we are survivors and we have all been to hell and back. I look forward to the next reunion, wherever it may be!

George Fisher  
26 INF 328 INF 3 BN K

### OVER PAID, OVER FED, AND ...

The article in the August issue of *The Bugle* from Bill Strauss reminded me of a couple of similar happenings I had.

Living here in Florida, a lot of time is spent in and around our pool area. One day two young ladies who were visiting someone here came to the pool. After listening to them for a while, I knew they were English. After talking with them I learned they were from a small village called Leek which was close to Camp Blackshaw Moor where we were stationed.

After chatting a while they said they had to leave and I said, "It was nice remembering our time spent there." When they reached the door out of the pool area one of them came back and thanked me for our help while in England and even gave me a big hug.

Another time a couple from visiting from Holland happened to be from Heerlen where we'd been and after talking a while, they, too, thanked me for our help.

Guess not everyone thought of us as so many did as over paid, over fed, and over sexed. Yanks go home!

Ed Linder  
32 AAA GP



101st Airborne Division being relieved by  
tanks of the 4th Armored Division  
December 26th 1944.

## IT'S A SMALL WORLD...

[The following appeared in the 17th Airborne July, 2001, newsletter *Thunder from Heaven*, it was written by Paul W. Throup.]

This story is about one of those impossible, million to one, coincidences that invariably leads to the trite observation that "It's a small world." It happened on the cold, gray morning of January 6, 1945, while the Americans were attempting to erase the huge bulge the Nazis had driven into the American lines in their vain attempt to capture Bastogne.

It had snowed lightly all night and we were cold--without overcoats or bedding--and we welcomed the activity of moving out through the woods and up a hill. I was just behind our two scouts as we reached the crest. Suddenly an 88 shell slammed into the snow between me and the two scouts. Fearing that we had bought our tickets to see our Maker, we hit the ground, burrowing our faces in the snow as deep as they would go. Luck was with us. This shell did not explode, and we began picking ourselves up and brushing off the snow. As we peered down the slope to our front, I noticed three disabled American tanks at the foot of the hill. Then I spotted an American soldier lying under one of the tanks. He was waving us off and shouting, "Don't cross this field, it's mined."

I waved back to Lieutenant Jones and Sergeant Schmidt to head the company to the right around the mine field. This we did and entered this little village whose name I have forgotten--if I ever knew it. We dug in along the Bastogne highway.

Then I walked over to the disabled tanks. I wanted to thank the man for making us avoid the mine field and possibly saving our lives. Lo and behold, the GI turned out to be Billy Ninehouse, whom I had last seen back in my hometown of Ambridge, Pennsylvania. After we greeted each other like long lost brothers, I learned that Billy was with the 11th Armored and had caught shrapnel in the leg when his tank and the others were knocked out by mines. I called for the medics, and before they trundled him off to a field hospital, we caught up with the recent happenings back in Ambridge. It was the damndest coincidence I have ever experienced. I forget which of us was first to exclaim, "It's a small world."■

## APOLOGIES TO YOU ALL

The VBOB staff apologizes to all of you and thanks you for your patience during the last couple of months. We have been inundated with family sickness and resultant absences due to two out-of-state funerals.

On top of this, the VBOB reunion took up time in preparation and attendance.

With the publication of this newsletter, we should be pretty well on our way to getting our feet back on the ground.■

## WE CAN'T USE IT...

If you send us a newspaper clipping, we can't use it unless you also send us permission from the publisher to reprint it. We simply don't have the staff of write to all the newspapers to secure this permission. We receive some wonderful stories, but can't use them. Your help in securing these permissions would be very much appreciated. Thanks■



## 2001 VBOB CONVENTION

29 September – 3 October 2001

Orlando, Florida

by John D. Bowen, Secretary

Our reunion this year in Orlando Florida was another success thanks to our Vice-President, Lou Cunningham and the local Chapters of Florida led by Harry J. Meisel.

In spite of the world situation we had a very good turnout though there were some cancellations no doubt to the terrorist threat. As usual, we picked up a number of new members due to the publicity, who didn't know that such an organization existed. We also received inquiries from children and grandchildren of folks who served in the Battle of the Bulge and who just happened to be in the Hotel at the time.

Our base for the reunion was the Four Points Sheraton located in downtown Orlando, overlooking Lake Eola and not far from the monument to the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. This site includes a beautiful park that totally surrounds the lake and it was heartening to see all the friendly women and children using the facilities without fear for their safety.

The reunion began on Saturday with a tour to the Magic Kingdom of Disney World as well as registration for those just arriving. Our Hotel furnished us with a great Hospitality Room, which was well stocked by the Convention Committee and the local Chapters. The twelve or so round tables of ten surrounded a center display in the room capped with canteen bottles and camouflage net, which set the tone for a military reunion. Surrounding the walls of the room were large posters of each of the insignias of the individual Divisions and higher units that participated in the Bulge. These insignias were all hand designed and painted by Harry Meisel, who did a tremendous job making these. The round tables provided ample room for folks to meet and greet throughout the convention. Along the walls were tables for other artifacts and souvenirs that folks had brought to share with the group. That evening we were treated to a Welcoming, Get Acquainted Reception of finger foods.

*Some of the Catholics went off to early Mass on Saturday evening to satisfy their Sunday obligation at the Cathedral of St. James and at the beginning of Mass it was mentioned that members who fought in the Battle of the Bulge were in attendance. The members of the congregation applauded and gave the BOB members a standing ovation, which was sustained until the members, stood a second time to acknowledge the applause. It was a very touching moment, as these things are not generally done at a Mass.*

On Sunday, there was a tour of Kennedy Space Center and another tour of Winter Park, during the day, followed in the evening with a wine and cheese party furnished by the Hotel for the VBOB Guests.

The weather had been overcast for most of the previous week but temperatures remained in the seventies and the sun shown for the period of our convention. On

Monday, some visited Cypress Gardens and others visited the Fantasy of Flight exhibit of planes and aviation. This private collection is unique in that almost all of the planes are restored and in flying condition. In the afternoon they flew a restored German Reconnaissance plane, which most likely was, the "Bed-Check Charlie" type that some of you encountered. It was similar to our Artillery Observation plane but a bit larger in size. The Hospitality room was going strong when we returned and continued into the evening as folks got ready for the Memorial Ceremony the next morning.

Tuesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, was another beautiful day with a bright sun and temperatures in the 70's. A shuttle took the "walking wounded" and those that didn't want to walk to the Florida VBOB Memorial. Others took advantage of the great weather to walk to the memorial, which is about at 10 o'clock when facing the lake. The VFW band provided music before the 10 AM starting time as the seating quickly filled. There were about 750 folks that attended the ceremonies that lasted about one and half-hours. The seating was set up to the side of the Soldier's Memorial (similar to the memorial in Clervaux, Luxembourg). (The Memorial had been dedicated on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 1999.) We were honored to have M/Sgt. Jim Hendrix, Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient, present for this ceremony as well as members representing the Embassies of Belgium, Luxembourg and Netherlands and the Orlando Mayor and Orange County Council Chairman all of who brought greetings.

Our President, John Dunleavy introduced our main speaker, Brigadier General Albin F. Irzyk, USA Retired, who shared his thoughts about the Battle of the Bulge. General Irzyk was the Battalion Commander of the 8<sup>th</sup> Tank Bn, 4<sup>th</sup> Armored Div. during the Bulge. His opening remarks were that "They say that strong men never cry and I am a very strong man, but in spite of all the speeches I have given this one will be the most difficult because I am in the presence of heroes and fellow comrades. Forgive me if I shed any tears."

Interspersed throughout the ceremony were patriotic songs sung by Charles Haugabrooks, a terrific singer, who led the group in a particular stirring rendition of God Bless the USA. All of the Bulge Veterans and their families and friends joined in a flag waving inspirational chorus which was especially touching as everyone remembered the tragic events of September 11<sup>th</sup> and the Battle of the Bulge. Two wreaths were laid, one for the POWs and MIAs which was presented by Bill Coleman, Bill Kahn and Stanley Wojtusik and the other the Memorial Wreath was presented by President John Dunleavy and Vice-President Louis Cunningham for all Bulge Veterans. As the latter wreath was laid before the Soldier Memorial three WWII fighter planes from the Valiant Air Command, flew in V formation and returned one trailing smoke in the "Missing Man" tribute. Because

*(Continued on next page)*



## VBOB CONVENTION (Continued)

of the nation's alert, the news reported later that the emergency switchboard had received about 35 calls reporting a plane on fire, from local residents.

As a final tribute, the local VFW Post 4287 firing squad saluted and echo taps were played. Throughout the day the local Army Junior ROTC Cadets, from Winter Springs High School, were to participate in the raising of the flags of the United States, Belgium and Luxembourg, as their respective anthems were played as well as to provide escorts for the dignitaries through the state flags and the presentation of colors.

At 1 PM there was a presentation by the French Embassy Consulate of certificates for those who had served in France from June through Aug 1944 from the Florida area. Those who had applied to their local consulate or the Embassy were recognized but will receive the certificates from them.

At 2 PM the Annual Meeting of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge was held, including the nomination and the election of new members to the National VBOB Organization. Elected as President is Louis Cunningham, Executive Vice-President is Richard G. (Gerry) Guenther, William P. Tayman is Treasurer, Dorothy S. Davis is Corresponding Secretary, John D. Bowen is Recording Secretary, Stanley Wojtusik is VP for Military Affairs, Richard C. Schlenker is VP for Chapters, Jack Hyland is VP for Public Affairs, and Thomas Jones is VP for Membership. Three-Year Term Trustees Sydney J. Lawrence and Robert F. Phillips and Neil B. Thompson

were also elected. Neil is also filling the unexpired portion of Trustee Renato Victor Trapani present term. Vic Trapani passed away unexpectedly this summer. The new officers and trustees will be installed in office at the December 16th ceremony at Ft Myers VA. A number of suggestions for next years convention were mentioned but none were decided upon. If you have a suggestion please send it to Lou Cunningham care of the VBOB National Office. A resolution in support of our government and our military was unanimously passed and is presented elsewhere in this Bulge

In the evening, we had a great banquet preceded by a happy hour. Our speaker for the evening was Brigadier General William E. Carlson, USA Retired. Music of the World War II period was provided by an outstanding band of WWII veterans. The ROTC of Winter Park High School presented colors.



A Superb Singer

Charles Haugabrooks entertained us with patriotic songs interspersed throughout the VBOB reunion.

## AN INTERROGATOR'S IMPRESSION CONCERNING GERMAN MORALE

The morale of the enemy is always a popular question. For many months now we have been reporting the morale well. During the period 27 Jan - 04 Feb approx 1700 prisoners were captured by this division (82nd A/B Div). A representative cross-section of this group has been interrogated and the following points seem to stand out: The enemy has been severely effected by the events of the past three weeks on the Russian Front. Troops speak freely of their dislike and fear of the Russians. They cannot understand the motives of a High Command which allows the Russians to over-run their country and at the same time fiercely resist our efforts to advance toward the Rhine River. Troops are now deserting who a month ago would have fought tooth and nail for a very inch of ground. They are completely broken in spirit. Confronted with constant hard pressure from our forces, the failure of the Winter offensive, the ever-present retreating tactics coupled with an almost non-existent supply service, an extreme change for the worse is taking place in the morale of the enemy's forces. A defeatist attitude is becoming more and more prevalent. (Source: 82d A/B, 4 Feb)

## GERMAN COMMENTS ON ALLIED ARTILLERY METHODS

The following comments were made by a captured German General who has been a professional artilleryman since WWI:

"It seems to be an established principle of Allied Arty not to fire in rainy or foggy weather, at lunch or dinner time, or at night. When shelling took place during these times, I concluded that special orders had been issued by higher headquarters and I immediately warned my unit commanders to be prepared for an attack.

Allied interdiction fire on critical points was carefully planned, but I could anticipate its location in time to take necessary countermeasures to protect my convoys and troops. Traffic in rear of the German lines can be jammed more effectively if Arty commanders keep this question constantly before them: 'What Alternatives has the enemy in order to get his supplies through?' Mental alertness and imagination in the choice of objectives will increase the value of the Allied artillery superiority." (Source: VII Corps)



# Pictorial Highlights of VBOB Orlando Reunion Sept. 29th - Oct. 3rd, 2001



Business Meeting, VBOB Convention



VBOB Banquet, 2 Oct 2001



Mary Ann Bowen  
Registration Books



Pres. John Dunleavy  
& VP Lou Cunningham  
present wreath



VP Lou Cunningham  
with Press



Mayor Glenda Hood



John Bowen, VBOB Sec.  
& Frank Walsh  
705th TD Bn at Memorial



Reenactor and  
VBOB Guest



John McAuliffe, 87th InfD, Francis Walsh  
705th TD, George Watson 87th



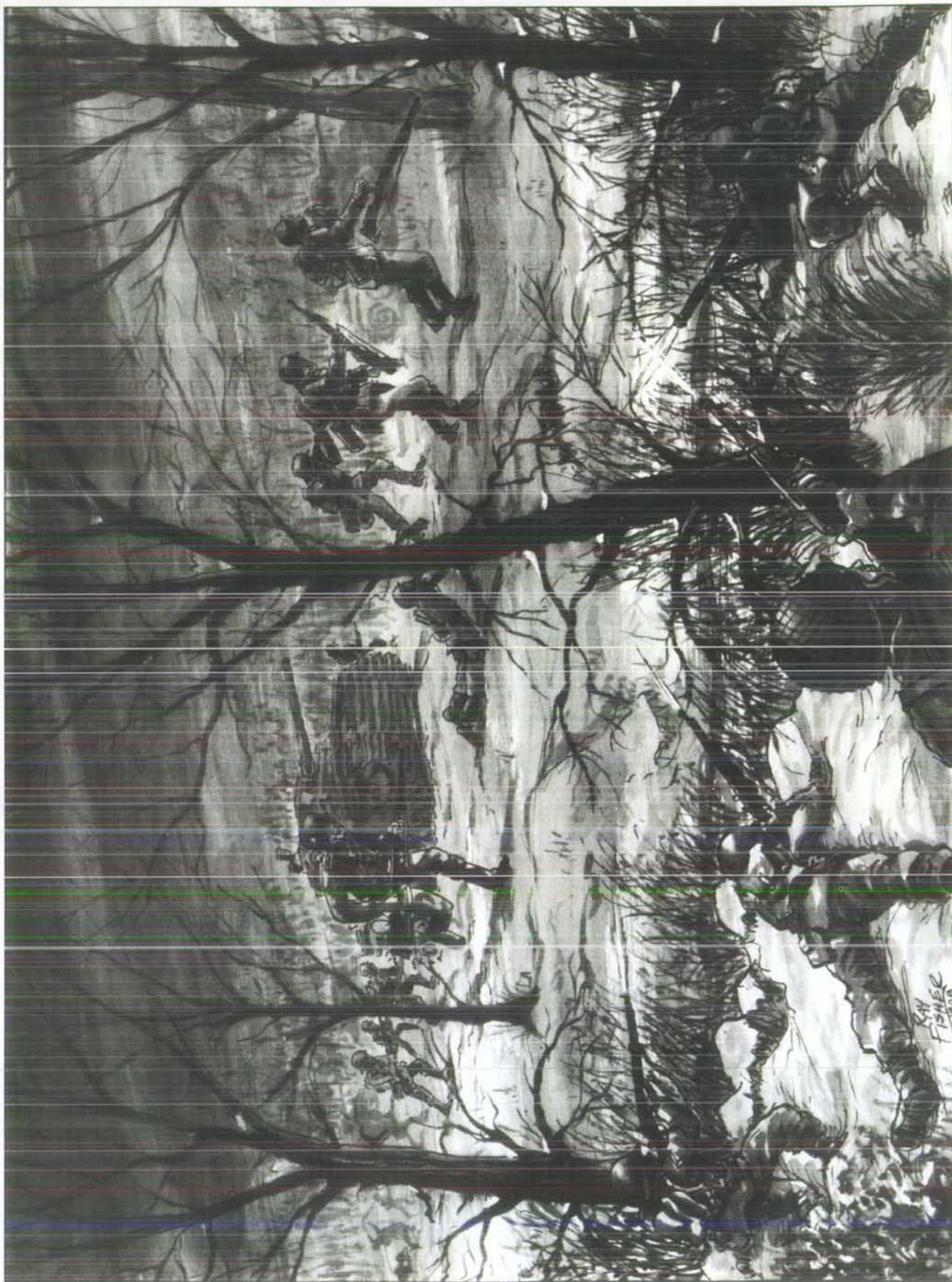


Illustration by Ray Fisher, VBOB member



## BOOKS YOU MAY ENJOY

The following books were donated for our archives. Some are for sale to the public and some are archival copies only.

*The Sitting Duck Division: Attacked From the Rear*, by John W. Morse. Military intelligence, as applied to the prelude to the Battle of the Bulge, is the ultimate oxymoron. Every available sign was disregarded; leaving the onset of the greatest (at least largest) battle the US Army ever fought to be reported by self-interested managers as a total surprise. Why? Either the Allied command was stupid, or they considered their strategy a calculated risk worth taking. This is the story of one boy soldier and his fellow GI's from draft to disaster and back. It's a short story about a swift and angry experience. It's also about a funny kid growing up in a more innocent age. Order from your local Barnes & Noble or mail your order to iUniverse.com, Inc., Customer Service, 5220 South 16th Suite 200, Lincoln, Nebraska 68512. Cost is \$13.90, including postage and handling.

*History of the 565th Antiaircraft Battalion*, by Chester Krause. This history covers the battalion from April 10, 1943, through October 6, 1945. It's a welcome addition to our archives.

*Infantry Soldier: Holding the Line at the Battle of the Bulge*, by George W. Neil. The story of the infantry man, the book builds to a climax at the Battle of the Bulge. It provides a stark perspective on the rarely reported everyday lives of young soldiers in foxholes--how they live, what they thought, how they died. It relates the struggles with frigid weather, inadequate footwear and clothing, little food, and the trauma of losing friends on the battlefield. Order from: University of Oklahoma Press, 4100 28th Avenue, NW, Norman, Oklahoma 73069-8218. Cost is \$24.95.

*The Making of a Professional: Manton S. Eddy, USA*, by Henry Gerard Phillips. This book is an examination of the life of General Manton S. Eddy, and details his experiences in WWII as leader of the 9th Infantry Division through North Africa, Sicily and France, and subsequently, as commander of XII Corps, into the heart of Germany. Order from: Greenwood Publishing Group, Inc., PO Box 5007, Westport, Connecticut 06881-5007. Cost is \$65.00. (Book identification number: ISBN 0-313-31183-8.)

*Tom's War*, poems by Donald J. Young. Donald expresses a new meaning to certain war experiences in his poetry--especially in the Battle of the Bulge. Order from Avranches Press, 1700 Cheryl Way, Aptos, California 95003. Cost is \$10.00.

*O'er the Land of the Free*, by Samuel Lombardo. This book covers Sam's first ten years in Italy, his developing years, and his combat experiences in WWII. You may recall that Sam wrote to us earlier about the American flag the 99th Division pieced together--it was the first American flag to cross the Remagen. Write to Beidel Printing House, Inc., Shippenburg, Pennsylvania, for cost information. It says \$12.00, but we don't know if that includes shipping and handling.

*Two Foes to Fight*, by R. Brownlee Welsh. As a platoon leader, Welsh "volunteers" as a tiger patrol leader. He becomes trapped between the Germans, an overbearing commanding officer, and a threatening platoon sergeant. He is transferred to the reconnaissance unit of the division cavalry, and is delegated to lead the point of a task force of armored cars, light tanks, tanks, tank destroyer and half tracks with the infantry through the Siegfried Line and on into Central Germany. Order from: Bob Welsh, PO Box 6012, Charlotte, North Carolina 28207. Cost is \$15.25, including tax, shipping and handling.

*Dearest Sweetheart: Letters from a GI to his wife during World War II*, by Jeanne W. Price. See advertisement in this issue.

*Retreat to the Reich: The German Defeat in France, 1944*, by Samuel W. Mitcham, Jr. Mitcham places intelligence gathering in its proper perspective, debunking some myths as well...perhaps the greatest merit of the work is the author's insight into the German Army and its officers.

There are stories about Erwin Rommel and Gunther von Kluge. Also provided are excellent maps and tables. Order from Greenwood Publishing Group, Inc., PO Box 5007, Westport, Connecticut 06881-5007. Cost is \$27.50 (Book # ISBN 0-275-96857-X)

*They Called Them Angels: American Military Nurses of World War II*, by Kathi Jackson. A chronicle of American military nurses in World War II and brims with vivid information and first-person accounts of their experiences. Order from Greenwood Publishing Group, Inc., PO Box 5007, Westport, Connecticut 06881-5007. Cost is \$62.50. (Order Number is ISBN 0-275-96899-5.)

*The Nazis' March to Chaos: The Hitler Era Through the Lenses of Chaos-Complexity Theory*, by Roger Beaumont. This is a study of the Hitler era in Germany from the standpoint of chaos-complexity theory. It is a narrative history based on a non-linear perspective. It explores the Third Reich as a chaotic system; the clash between the image of Nazi technical prowess and the anti-modernism in National Socialist ideology; and German and Nazi military tactics and doctrine as ways of coping with the chaos of war and imposing it upon the enemy. The arrogance and rage of the brown-shirted storm troopers is also dealt with. Order from Greenwood Publishing Group, Inc., PO Box 5007, Westport, Connecticut 06881-5007. Cost is \$59.95. (Order number is ISBN 0-275-96708-5.)

Sorry to have been so long since we last published this column. Insufficient space has forced us to put it off. Anyway, we hope you will find something here that you might wish to read. And thanks to the authors and publishers for sending copies.■

### Advertisement

From trainee at Camp Fannin, Texas, to clerk at 12th Repl. Depot Hq., Tidworth, England, to rifleman at the front at Stavelot, Belgium, through the Battle of the Bulge, to being seriously wounded in action with the 30th Div. at the Roer River in Germany, this book recounts Jack's war experiences and includes Jeanne's history of the war, homefront events and daily life with their baby daughter. Every person and place are real; every word is true!

You must read it -



**\*\* SPECIAL PRICE TO VBOB READERS \*\***  
**\$25.00 incl. S&H**

Send name, address & telephone w/check or money order to:  
Mrs. Jeanne W. Price  
319 Secret Valley, Kerrville, TX 78028  
(830) 257-6836; [www.farhorizons.net/Footsteps](http://www.farhorizons.net/Footsteps)  
Published by Turner Publishing Company

Even Hitler had a mother  
Even Hitler had a ma  
Although he may suffer from his sins  
At least, thank God, he wasn't twins

—(British musical revue)



## REFLECTIONS

By Joseph Zimmer

### The Terrorist Attack on New York City and the Pentagon

A month has passed since the morning of September 11, 2001, a day and time, which will live in memory as other days and times in our history. We weep and mourn yet today, for all the victims and their families and friends. Some of us here, I'm sure, have been touched directly, knowing of some of the missing and the dead.

It is a pivotal time in our history; our world and our country have been changed forever. I say "our world," for over 90 countries have suffered casualties; from Argentina to Zimbabwe. As you go through the alphabet we find besides our own 5,000 killed and 6,000 injured Great Britain lost over 300, Chile 250, Columbia 200, Turkey 130, Israel 113, Philippines 115, Canada 55, and Germany 170, as examples.

Let us see through the tears of sadness and tragedy for a hope of better days ahead for our beloved nation and the world at large. The scene here, and in New York, reminds me of Pearl Harbor, that "Day of Infamy," more than matched by what the 19 skyjackers – brigands, drifters, fanatics to a man, fueled by hatred of America, its values, and its freedoms, did to the great golden country, our beloved USA. On that day, 60 years ago, classmates and I went downtown to the White House, to show our support of our President Roosevelt. The Japanese were solely after military targets. (The Pentagon did not open until 1943.) Curiously enough, the terrorists struck on the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of when construction started on the Pentagon – September 11, 1941.

The purpose of the four terrorist pilots was to inflict as high as possible casualties, to bring fear, despair, uncertainty, chaos, and terror to our brave people.

The attacks are the first major ones on Continental American soil by foreign agents since British troops torched the US Capitol, White House and our Library of Congress in 1814. (Hawaii, settled in 1820, was not admitted as a state until 1959.)

The courage and bravery we witnessed during the Battle of the Bulge was matched greatly by the first responders to the World Trade Center and Pentagon ground zero. Over 300 firemen, 60 police and transit officers, numerous emergency medical technicians, women and men, who went into the cauldrons. While others were fleeing for their lives, Franciscan Fire Chaplain, Father Mycal, became a victim also, while giving Last Rites to a fallen comrade. They all mirror by example, the best of we Americans. Oh, such displays of sacrifice were shown by these public servants, and yes also by those who worked many weeks afterwards, to reach for possible survivors in the ashes, steel, structures and debris.

Following the Vietnam era, at times, we have been reluctant to take necessary actions when challenged, and, have even "withheld our fire," (Marine Barracks in Lebanon), or resorted to pinprick operations, a cruise missile here, another there; helicopter raids and the like.

We must toughen ourselves for the days, months and even years ahead, for bloodshed and casualties, against a foe, the Taliban, and other terrorists who's purpose is to destroy our way of life and values. These events of September 2001 bring us back to reality and, more conscious of our

vulnerability against aircraft as missiles loaded with fuel, biological and chemical attacks that may loom on the horizon. We are an enormously capable and blessed people and must take hold once again of our destiny, as we, the hope of civilization, have done so often as a nation, for over 225 years.

The hot issues of just a few months ago, stem cell research, education reform, faith-based initiatives, Social Security lockbox, and others will be pushed to the back burner. A new "cell" gets our attention. Bin Laden and his cohorts, numbering at least 5,000, function as "cells" in over 50 countries, some in the U.S.

Also, let us pray for our President, our Commander-in-Chief, to have the courage, strength, moxie, right stuff, and inspiration, to lead us. Give him strength to carry out, with our loyalty and support, the tremendous task and burden placed upon his shoulders. We veterans of two generations ago, know full well, the horror of war, the sacrifices made by we the living, and those who have given their last full measure of devotion. The terrorists are in the "smoking section" of the world. We in the "non-smoking" must work hard to see that the cancer they represent proves fatal to each and every one of them. May God continue to bless America. Quoting from William Shakespeare's Henry V, "Tis true that we are in great danger; the greater therefore should our courage be."

*Joseph Zimmer at the MD/DC Chapter Meeting at Fort Meade MD gave these Reflections October 14th, 2001.*

## N O S W E A T

... More 'n More



"Boy, you'll never know how close I came to being busted!"

GI to Irish girl: Ireland would be all right if it had an umbrella over it. Say, honey, what do you do about sex over here?

Girl: Oh we do be having our tea about that time.

—Kasserine



22.Dezember 1944

An den amerikanischen Kommandeur der eingeschlossenen Stadt Bastogne.

Das Kriegsglück ist veränderlich, diesmal sind die amerikanischen Truppen in und um Bastogne durch starke deutsche Panzerkräfte eingeschlossen. Weitere deutsche Panzerkräfte haben die Ourthe bei Ortheuville überschritten, Marche genommen und über Hompré-Sibret-Tillet vorgehend St. Hubert erreicht. Libramont ist in deutscher Hand.

Es gibt nur eine Möglichkeit die eingeschlossenen amerikanischen Truppen vor völliger Vernichtung zu bewahren: die ehrenvolle Uebergabe der eingeschlossenen Stadt. Hierfür wird eine Bedenkfrist von zwei Stunden gegeben, die mit der Uebergabe dieser Note beginnt.

Wenn dieser Vorschlag abgelehnt werden sollte, stehen ein deutsches Artillerie-Korps und sechs schwere Flak-Abteilungen bereit, die amerikanischen Truppen in und um Bastogne zu vernichten. Der Befehl für die Eröffnung des Feuers wird sofort nach Verstreichen der zweistündigen Frist gegeben werden.

Die durch dieses Bombardement entstehenden hohen Verluste der Zivilbevölkerung sind mit der bekannten Humanität der Amerikaner nicht zu vereinbaren.

Der deutsche Befehlshaber.

*This is the original of the German surrender demand at Bastogne. It was probably written on a captured American typewriter, since the diacritical marks have been inserted by hand. This is the first reproduction of these documents.*

December 22nd 1944

To the U.S.A. Commander of the encircled town of Bastogne.

The fortune of war is changing. This time the U.S.A. forces in and near Bastogne have been encircled by strong German armored units. More German armored units have crossed the river Ourthe near Ortheuville, have taken Marche and reached St. Hubert by passing through Hompré-Sibret-Tillet. Libramont is in German hands.

There is only one possibility to save the encircled U.S.A. troops from total annihilation: that is the honorable surrender of the encircled town. In order to think it over a term of two hours will be granted beginning with the presentation of this note.

If this proposal should be rejected one German Artillery Corps and six heavy A. A. Battalions are ready to annihilate the U.S.A. troops in and near Bastogne. The order for firing will be given immediately after this two hours' term.

All the serious civilian losses caused by this artillery fire would not correspond with the wellknown American humanity.

The German Commander.

*The Germans also sent along this English translation of their surrender demand. "The German Commander" was Lt. Gen Heinrich von Lüttwitz, CG of XXXXVII Panzer Corps.*

Submitted by George Hennessey  
101 Colleen Rd. Apt. 2  
Troy, NY 12180-6162



## MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

**THOMAS V. TRENGROVE, 82ND AIRBORNE**, wants to know why no one ever mentions the Town of Manhay. How about that? Let's hear something and if you want to write to Tom, write to him at: 213 Washington Avenue, Point Pleasant Beach, New Jersey 08742.

Ed Martin is looking for any information regarding his friend, **CHARLES H. COPE, 2ND INFANTRY DIVISION, 9TH INFANTRY REGIMENT**. If you can help write to Ed at: 3521 Edenbower Blvd. #47, Roseburg, Oregon 97470.

**CLAYTON S. QUIMBACH, 172ND ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION**, wants to know if any one really knows where some served. He states that the 172nd moved south after the capture of Aachen but not to St. Vith, yet south of the Malmady massacre. He states that there were so many combat engineers that they may have out-numbered the infantry. Do you know the town Clayton was in? Write to him at: 38905 Westwynd Drive, Elkhart, Indiana 46516-1551.

G. Stephen Minaudo is seeking information regarding his cousin, **PFC FRANK COLOMBO, 80TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 317TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, COMPANY H**. He was killed in action March 28, 1945 in Mainz, Germany. Write to Stephen at: 278 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth, New Hampshire 03301-5455.

Leo Packard would like to find anyone who knew his brother, **CARL PACKARD, 463RD PARACHUTE FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, BATTERY C**. Carl died a few years ago without relating much about his experiences. If you can help, write to Leo at: 3388Crumpton South, Laurel, Maryland 20724-2247.

Sandy Hutchinson is trying to locate information on her father's cousin, **JACK V. REESE, 35TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 134TH INFANTRY REGIMENT**. He was killed in the Battle of the Bulge on December 29, 1944. If you can help, write to her at: 103 Scarsdale Drive, Stafford, Virginia 22554.

In an effort to show her father how very proud of him she was, Pat Brame offered to frame his bronze star certificate and a commendation letter. Framing the bronze star certificate was a snap--it turned out beautiful. However, she misplaced the commendation letter. She would like to find out how she can get a replacement. Can you help her? If so, write to her at: 632 Chatas Court, Lake Mary, Florida 32746.

Associate Member Wayne Thompson is trying to locate buddies of his father, **WALLACE W. THOMPSON, 7TH ARMORED DIVISION, 48TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, COMPANY C**. He would appreciate any help. Write to him at: 11700 Southwest Butner Road Apt. 305, Portland, Oregon 97225.

**"I'll make a gamble in the Ardennes where the Americans are weak and will run."**

**Adolf Hitler, 1944**

**GEORGE UBLE, 106TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 423RD INFANTRY REGIMENT, 1ST BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS COMPANY**, if you or anyone who knew you reads this item, please call **PHIL (DANNY) DANIELE** at 321-259-9946. I made it out and I hope you did too. I'd like to hear from you.

## REUNION PICTURES

(Continued from Page 9)



Over 750 assemble for Memorial Service



VBOB President,  
John Dunleavy



M/Sgt Jim Hendrix,  
Medal of Honor

**THANK YOU**  
**VP Lou Cunningham**  
**& Harry Meisel**  
and all the local  
Chapters of Florida  
for providing us  
with a lovely  
reunion and  
sparkling ceremony.



Harry Meisel



## LIVING LEGENDS



### MEMORABLE

# BULGE INCIDENTS

UNEDITED AND HERETOFORE UNPUBLISHED

Accounts of events and experiences in the Battle of the Bulge as recalled and expressed by veterans of the greatest battle ever fought by the U.S. Army in the greatest war ever fought are of much historical significance. These "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.

#### TWO SCARED GI'S

December 30, 1944

Wilfred "Mac" McCarthy  
11th Armored Division  
21st Armored Infantry Battalion  
Company B  
Washington, DC

On December 30, 1944, my company made contact with the enemy near Jodenville, Belgium, and forced them to withdraw to the high ground southwest of Chenogne.

During our battle outside Jodenville, a German 88 shell and I tried to share the same space (the Germans thought I was a tank). The shell landed next to me and while most of the shrapnel flew over me, I was knocked silly and sprayed with shrapnel. It was like 15 people had kicked me in sensitive parts of my body with heavy GI shoes. I thought that I was going to die and I did not know for sure what country I was in--Belgium or Luxembourg (it was Belgium).

I was suddenly surprised to see a GI that I did not know standing near me. He had been hit in the face with shrapnel--probably from the same 88 shell that hit me. He seemed to be in shock and for some reason, I thought that his gloves were bloodier than mine. So as not to cause him any anxiety, I suggested that we exchange gloves--which we did without a word. I then remembered that we were supposed to take eight tablets with water if we were hit. I counted out the tablets one by one and gave them to the other GI, but I forgot to take any tablets myself. I did, however, give myself a shot of morphine.

Someone in the tank that the Germans had missed then threw me a blanket and moved on. I was now a foot soldier laying in the snow with what felt like frozen legs. Then a jeep came out with bullets still firing, and I was taken to a tent field hospital where I was operated on. Before the operation, I kept passing out and each time I regained consciousness, I saw a German soldier standing nearby. I thought that I had been captured! It turned out that the German had been brought into the hospital to be treated. They eventually moved him out of my line of vision.

After my operation, I saw the soldier who had been hit in the face with shrapnel. He was not badly wounded but the blood on his face had made his injury look worse. We laughed when we saw each other. (We had been two scared GI's.)

I was then sent back to England for further operations. When I was better, I was sent back to the front a second time via box cars that were used in World War I. The sign on the box car read "Homes 40, Chevaux 8" (40 men or 8 horses).

.....

#### A WELCOME SIGHT

January, 1945

William C. Simpson  
26th Infantry Division  
101st Infantry Regiment

Company D  
Morton Grove, Illinois

All of us who were at the front for any length of time had the pleasure of watching our air corps work over targets up ahead. It was always good to see them because the German artillery was very quiet when they were present. We knew they had a dangerous job. We could see them being shot at. Still, we were also a little jealous of the fact that they could return to good food and warm quarters when the day's work was done.

I was on a mortar squad with Company D and late in the Bulge we were approaching Wiltz from the southwest. We were near a very steep, high hill that rose to our left front. Something made me look up at a small tree at the top of this hill just as one of our P-47's glided over so close that he clipped a couple small branches and knocked them off. There was no engine noise at all. As the plane cleared the top of the hill the canopy popped off and the pilot flew out of the plane. He did a somersault, his parachute snapped open, he swung back and forth, hit the ground, got up, and ran towards the woods to our right. What was left of our A Company was in the woods so he was going in the right direction. The airplane hit the ground in front of us and burst into flames with a loud explosion.

When the pilot reached A Company he gave the first couple of guys a great bit hug. He had been hit over German lines and glided in our direction as far as possible (almost too far) before bailing out. He was most happy to see American uniforms.

I suspect this gentleman made it back to his outfit over the course of the next few days. I will always be grateful to him for one of the most exciting events I witnessed, and for keeping the German artillery quiet at other times. Lots of people were in the area when this happened. If anyone had more detail about what happened to the pilot afterward, I'd be very interested in hearing. Sure hope he made it through to the end of the war and is still with us.

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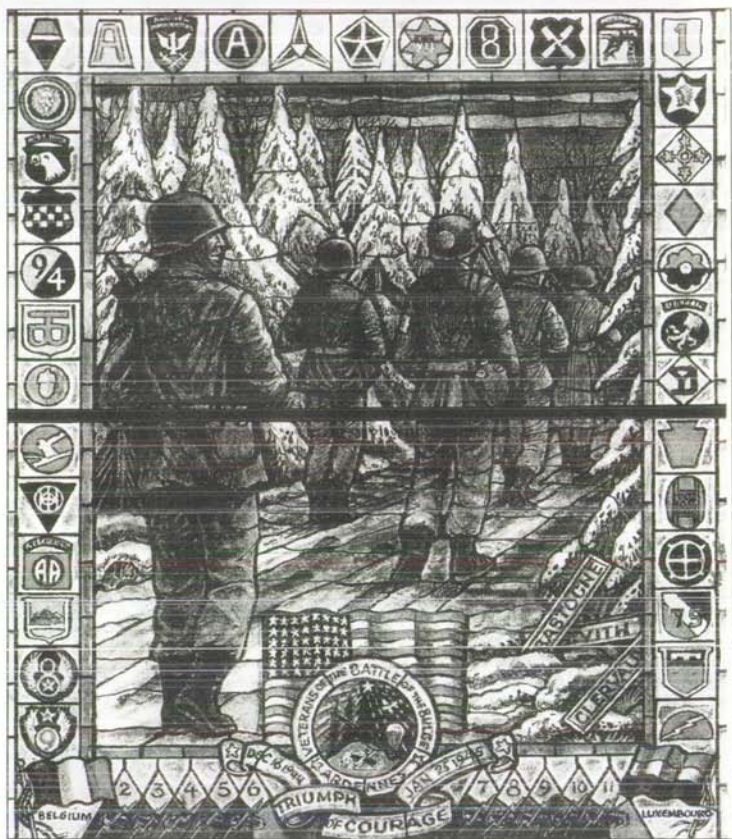
#### WHAT ABOUT YOU?

We would love to have your story for this series. It should be about **one incident which happened to you or someone else**. Make it as brief as possible. It must be about **one incident**.

So, come on. Send us **your** story. Thanks.

Sign in pub: "Drink your beer before it gets cold."





“It is fitting, as we embark on the centennial celebration of the Army War College, that we commemorate the greatest of all the Army’s land battles, the Battle of the Bulge. For a century the War College has served as the Nation’s most prestigious institution for the education of strategic leaders and the study of landpower.

This window will serve as a glowing inspiration for future generations and as a lasting reminder of the heroism of the American Soldier. For this gift we are grateful, and for this “Triumph of Courage” we are forever in your debt.”

MG Robert R. Ivany  
 Commandant, U.S. Army War College  
 Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania  
 September 11, 2001



# STAINED GLASS WINDOW

By Jack Hyland  
84th Infantry Division

September 11, 2001, was to be a day of celebration for the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge as they began to assemble at the U.S. Army War College and Military History Institute at Carlisle Barracks in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

At 11:30 on this bright sunny morning a stained glass window depicting an infantry patrol in the Bulge, surrounded by the insignias of the major units in the battle of the Ardennes 57 years ago, was to be unveiled and dedicated in Bliss Hall at the War College.

The dedication was to be followed by a victory luncheon, and an afternoon wreath-laying ceremony at our memorial monument at nearby Collins Hall.

It didn't turn out that way.

The horrifying jet crashes into Manhattan's Twin Towers, the Pentagon, and in western Pennsylvania, changed a day of remembrance for the Bulge veterans and the Army into a "Day of Infamy" to rank with December 7, 1941.

With the terror attacks that began shortly before nine o'clock on that beautiful, sunny morning, a counter-terrorist alert was put into effect at Carlisle Barracks, with military police and armed soldiers manning key installations and the gates at the military post. All vehicles were checked, along with the passengers before being admitted to the grounds.

It was a somber audience that gathered in the auditorium adjacent to Bliss Hall, with many VBOB members recalling another surprise terror attack long ago, in Belgium and Luxembourg, on December 16, 1944.

While many of the officers at the War College immediately went into planning sessions, Major General Robert R. Ivany, Commandant of the U.S. Army War College, in what VBOB members considered an act of courage, gave the order for the dedication ceremony to proceed as planned.

In his opening remarks General Ivany welcomed the veterans and recalled how in the Battle of the Bulge, the American soldiers rallied to defeat three German armies. General Ivany said on this day, September 11, 2001, "There are still forms of tyranny in the world," and called on all Americans together with freedom loving people all over the world, "...to stand together to fight against terrorism, and to do so united by the basics of honor, dignity and courage."

VBOB President John Dunleavy echoed General Ivany's call and noted that the stained glass window to be unveiled would be a symbol for future classes at the War College to the unity and fighting spirit of the American people.

Stanley A. Wojtusik, VBOB's national president of military affairs, who had headed up the project, served as emcee of the program and predicted that the sacrifices we made 57 years ago will be repeated by the American people today and help us to victory over terrorism in this new century.

Brigadier General Guy Melchoir, Defense Attache of the Kingdom of Belgium, and the Honorable Alain Weber, Consul of the Embassy of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, who had

driven up together from Washington to represent their countries at the ceremony, expressed their shock at the outrages. They told the audience that their countries still were grateful for the freedoms restored by the victory in the Ardennes Forest, and were united with America once again in the fight against terrorism.

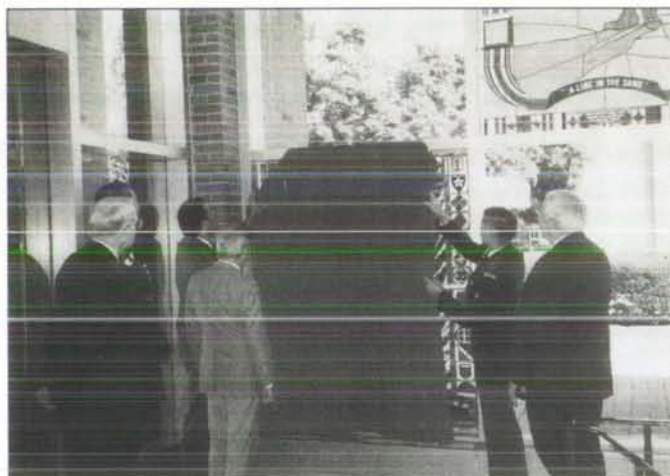
Following a moving benediction by VBOB Chaplain, Monsignor William O'Donnell, the official party moved to the lobby of Bliss Hall and unveiled the stained glass window. The audience was able to watch the unveiling by way of closed circuit television, and then to view it close up as they exited the auditorium.

In closing the ceremony, Vice President Wojtusik expressed his committee's thanks for the cooperation received from General Ivany and the staff of the U.S. Army War College Foundation and the U.S. Military History Institute; the Kingdom of Belgium and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg; the national organization of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge; and the hundreds of VBOB members and their families whose contributions made the creation of the stained glass window possible.

The window now occupies an honored place in Bliss Hall among other windows dedicated to the United States Constitution, the Civil War, World War One, D-Day, and Desert Storm.

The unveiling of the window, designed and fabricated by the Willet Stained Glass Studios of Philadelphia, was to be the only ceremony of the day.

Because of the terror in New York, Washington and western Pennsylvania, the luncheon and wreath-laying ceremony were cancelled and all visitors were requested to leave the military post.



## *The Unveiling....*

Unveiling of the Stained Glass Window by Hon. Alain Weber (L) Consul of Luxembourg and (R) Brigadier General Guy Melchior, Defense Attache of Belgium, as members of the official party look on. Extreme left: Ambassador Marshall F. McCallie, Deputy Commandant of International Affairs - U.S. Army War College. (Partially hidden) Major General Robert R. Ivany, Commandant, U.S. Army War College John Dunleavy, National Pres. VBOB Stanley A. Wojtusik, VP Military Affairs - VBOB





# Our Greatest Victory...

"...on December 22 I issued one of the few 'Orders of the Day' I wrote during the war. In it I said: we will, with God's help, go forward to our greatest victory."

General Dwight D. Eisenhower  
in "Crusade in Europe".

"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

"But when all is said and done I shall always feel that Rundstedt was really beaten by the good fighting qualities of the American soldier...He is a brave fighting man, steady under fire, and with that tenacity in battle which stamps the first class soldier...I salute the brave fighting men of America . . ."

Field-Marshal Bernard L. Montgomery  
at a press conference on January 7, 1945,  
as recorded in "Memoirs of Field-Marshal Montgomery".

"Six hundred thousand Americans fought in what came to be known as the Battle of the Bulge—the most decisive battle on the Western Front during World War II and the greatest ever fought by the U.S. Army."

Charles B. MacDonald -  
Author of "A Time For Trumpets".

"These were some of the best and most adventuresome years of my life . . . meaningful ...our generation had a purpose and a mission".

20-year old Sgt. from California  
Source: VBOB anonymous Questionnaire





## CAVALRY & ENGINEERS CITED

[The following was sent to us by DAVID A. LEVINE, 38TH CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON (MECHANIZED). He also send us excerpts from a book which we were unable to use because of copyright infringement.]

### HEADQUARTERS, V CORPS

APO 305

13 March 1945

#### UNIT CITATION.

Under the provisions of Section IV, War Department Circular No. 333, 22 December 1943, and Section VII, Circular No. 2, Headquarters, First United States Army, 4 January 1945, citation of the following units, as approved by the commanding General, First United States Army, is announced. The citation reads as follows:

**38TH CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON  
(MECHANIZED),  
3RD PLATOON, COMPANY "A" 112TH ENGINEER  
COMBAT BATTALION,  
COMPANY "A", 146TH ENGINEER  
COMBAT BATTALION**

The 38th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mechanized) with attached units consisting of the 3rd Platoon, Company "A", 112th Engineer Combat Battalion and Company "A", 146th Engineer Combat Battalion, are cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy during the period 16-18 December 1944, in Germany. During the major counter-offensive staged by the German 6th Panzer Army, the squadron and attached units displayed extraordinary heroism and outstanding combat proficiency in repelling for three successive days the desperate attempts by the 326th Volks Grenadier Division to open the Monschau sector for exploitation by the 2nd Panzer Division. Defending a front of 9,000 yards and standing alone between the full scale German attack and vital road nets leading to Eupen and Liege, this thinly spread force held its ground in the face of five attacks ranging in strength from reinforced battalion to the combined elements of two infantry regiments. Three of these assaults were supported by direct self-propelled artillery and rocket fire which preceded the attacking infantry. The battalion of German paratroopers which had been dropped behind the lines on the first night of the engagement seriously harassed the frontline elements as well as the force's rear areas. Despite the fact that the numerically superior enemy made several penetrations, one of which was in battalion strength, isolated outposts and platoons held their lines with grim determination. Although artillery observation posts were overrun, the personnel fought with small arms to maintain their posts and adjusted devastating fire upon waves of German infantry. All enemy infiltrations were thwarted by determined fighting and close hand-to-hand combat. When the battle was most intense every available man, including personnel of rear echelon maintenance and supply sections and soldiers being treated in the squadron infirmary, were employed to drive back the advancing forces.

The gallantry and combined skill of this force resulted in 200 enemy killed, 30 prisoners taken, and countless casualties inflicted upon the enemy tanks. The strength, courage, and determination exhibited by the personnel of the 38th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mechanized), 3rd Platoon, Company "A", 112th Engineer Combat Battalion, and Company "A", 146th Engineer Combat Battalion in denying the Germans access to the vital road net contributed largely to the ultimate defeat of the German offensive in the Ardennes.

By command of Major General Huebner

Official:

Edward W. Skelly,  
Lt. Col, A.G.D.  
Adjutant General.

S. B. Mason,  
Colonel, G.S.C.,  
Chief of Staff.

## 107TH EVACUATION HOSPITAL

[The following was sent by former 1st Lieutenant (Army Nurse Corps), RUTH PURYEAR, 107TH EVACUATION HOSPITAL.]

I just read where an engineer battalion had their unit citation published in *The Bulge Bugle*. So I thought the members of the 107th Evac Hospital would be pleased to see our unit citation in print. We did not blow up any bridges or shoot any one but some though we did a great job "patching up" the wounded. I was given this copy the day I was discharged--December 6, 1945.

### R E S T R I C T E D

#### HEADQUARTERS

THIRD U S ARMY AND EASTERN MILITARY DISTRICT  
APO 403

GENERAL ORDERS

6 December 1945

NUMBER 333

#### E X T R A C T

II. AWARD OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE UNIT PLAQUE -  
By Direction of the President and under the provisions of Sec I, Cir 32, Hq ETO US Army, 20 March 1944, as amended by Sec I, Cir 56, Hq ETO US Army, 27 May 1944, the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque is awarded to the 107th Evacuation Hospital for service between 1 October 1944 and 6 January 1945.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL  
TRUSCOTT:

DON E. CARLETON,  
Brigadier General, U.S. Army  
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

SEAL

THOMAS ROBINSON

Colonel, Adjutant General's Department,  
Adjutant General.



## ALTERNATE POSITION "AMBUSH"

By Clayton I. Rice  
106th Infantry Division  
589th Field Artillery Battalion  
Battery B

The gun crew of Battery B, 589th, was busy taking over the Howitzer positions that the 2nd Infantry Division had vacated, when the kitchen truck and the supply trailer, driven by Pvt. Clayton Rice, came to a stop just short of where the observer wanted it to be.

Captain Brown, who was watching the operation, gave the order to pull ahead. The right wheel of the trailer was in the mud pretty good and as the truck inched ahead, the left wheel of the trailer rolled up on some unforeseen object and over the trailer went, spilling supplies, including a lot of loose potatoes, into the mud. Captain Brown did a well-executed military about-face and left, washing his hands of the entire mishap. He had more important things to tend to. The 589th was here to furnish the 422nd Infantry Regiment with artillery support.

The 11th of December, 1944, went well with the boys settling into positions. The men were informed that they would be served two meals a day by the kitchen helpers who were set up in a big tent. Needless to say, the men of the 2nd Infantry were not too happy about leaving "the quiet sector and the comfort(?)" of their quarters which consisted of partial dug outs and well-constructed camp-like tops, a good place to spend the winter of 1944 and 1945.

The lonely guard duty out on the perimeter was spooky, with the buzz bombs going over one after another and with ones eyes glued on the clumps of brush that seemed to change into shapes of men and at times seemed to move. Once in a while a big rabbit would be seen running across a large open space.

The bottom of the foxholes had water in them and it was very, very, very cold. Early in the morning of December 16, 1944, the men sleeping in their huts were jolted from a sound sleep with dirt from the roof falling on their faces and by the earth below shaking and making lots of noise. The men were experiencing the first incoming mail; heavy shelling delivered by the Germans. Unbeknown to the boys, this was the beginning of the "Battle of the Bulge." The attack came as a big surprise and created a lot of excitement among the group.

The gun crew went to work and everything seemed to be okay. About mid-morning, a casualty from "C" Battery was carried into our position and the word was that "C" Battery was hit hard. "B" Battery had escaped with little damage. It was not yet noon and it was reported that the German tanks and soldiers were close by.

A bazooka team was dispatched and after a short time one of the team members returned. The soldier was out of breath and white as a sheet. He reported that the Germans had taken his partner's head off with an 88 fired from a tank. It was plain to see, even to the privates, that the 589th was in trouble, but at this time no one could have guessed how bad!

There was a strong, eerie feeling of bewilderment and shock that settled over the young men. The gun crews stayed active and, as the day progressed, at intervals fired just over the hill,

which would suggest that they had lost contact with any forward observers. It was reported that a couple of enemy tanks had been knocked out.

As daylight faded, it was plain to see that "B" Battery had made it through the day in good shape. The word was that we were to pull out during the night and proceed to an alternate position.

About 3:00 a.m., Battery "B" could be found out on the road proceeding to the next position in complete black out (not even the Cat's Eyes were allowed). The light equipment was up front. Next came the gun trucks followed by the kitchen truck. The maintenance crew in their Dodge was in the rear.

The convoy was to travel real slow, but had only progressed a short distance on the main road when some one up front got in trouble and the column came to an abrupt stop. Evidently the night vision of the GI driving the kitchen GMC was not too good because that truck didn't stop until the gun barrel was through the radiator stopping at the dashboard. "Hope the gun isn't damaged," blurted the truck driver and the Great Old Cook riding next to him shot back, "To Hell with the gun, how about the truck?"

You know he was right. That Jimmy was inoperable and had to be abandoned. The crew jumped up onto the truck ahead with the help of the gun crew riding in the back. The kitchen truck was burned so it would not fall into the hands of the enemy. Being out on an open hill, the fire could have been seen for miles.

Battery "B" of the 589th Field Artillery Battalion made it to the alternate position as the day broke on the 17th of December. The gun crew didn't even get the guns in place and the trails spread when a jeep came flying in with the driver shouting the German tanks were right behind him. But that's another story, a very sad story for many. ■

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## MORE ON KITCHEN TRUCKS

By Dudley W. Atkins  
78th Infantry Division  
309th Infantry Regiment  
Company F

My outfit got hot chow to front line troops in a different manner. None of the line companies had kitchen trucks. Each rifle company had two jeeps and trailers. The kitchen had one trailer, the size pulled by 2-1/2 ton trucks, in which they kept rations. Kitchens set up at a reasonable safe distance from front line. When moving time came, a truck from battalion headquarters did the moving. Hot chow was carried to the companies in the morning and evening if at all possible. Lunch was K-rations.

The battalion motor officer was in charge of all transportation. The motor pool was set up a little short of the front line. The chow jeep driver usually slept at his company kitchen and the other driver at the motor pool. The battalion MO asked that the chow drivers stop by and check with him every day, especially on return from the front. That was the only way he could be sure you made the trip safely. He would change the drivers at times and if the company moved, he would give directions to the new location.

*(Continued on next page)*



## KITCHEN TRUCKS (Continued)

When the front was constantly moving, the line companies would send back a guide to meet the chow jeep and lead them to his company. In the beginning the kitchens were set up in tents but used houses later. Sometimes the buildings were damaged by shellfire but the cooks would rather use them than set up a tent.

I was a replacement to the division and arrived on the front line in early January, 1945. I was a rifleman for a short time and was slightly wounded in taking a pillbox. One of the company drivers wrecked and lost his job. I took his place and got a practically new jeep. The MO kept me working out of motor pool until he could trust me. I started hauling chow and continued until the end of the war. I had many close calls. The jerrys fired at me on four occasions. Twice in daylight when they saw me and twice at night when they could hear me at a location they had zeroed in on. At other times I was in areas which came under fire--namely the Schmidt and Roer River areas, the Remagen bridgehead and the Seig River area.

Getting back to hauling chow, I can tell you that the evening meal trip was much more. We carried the mail bag, a sack of clean socks, about 15 cartons of cigarettes, repaired weapons and a lot of times one or two men returning from R&R. Distance between kitchen and front line was anywhere from 2 to 27 miles. I would estimate that the average distance was about 10 miles. I ditched on one occasion and failed to deliver my load. Two or three other times, the company failed to send back a guide. I would wait until about midnight and return to the kitchen. The jeeps were dirty more often than clean. We did spend a lot of time fixing flat tires. I carried two spares and the second one sure came in handy at times. When I left the company after five months of occupation, the jeep had traveled 22,000 miles and was worn out. ■

## DON'T FORGET OUR NEW YEAR'S TOAST

**In tribute to all who served in the Battle of the Bulge, let's all drink a toast again this year (the fifth year). The choice of beverage is yours. Again this year the time will be: Noon--Pacific time; 1:00 p.m.--Mountain time; 2:00 p.m. Central time; and 3:00 p.m. Eastern time on New Year's Day.**

**It's a way we can all be together again, even it is only in our thoughts. We shared so much so many years ago, we should remember those we were with and be grateful for each and every one.**

**HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES. ■**

I hate war as only a soldier who has lived it can, only as one who has seen its brutality, its futility, its stupidity.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

War would end if the dead could return.

STANLEY BALDWIN

## The CHAPLAIN

He came to us straight from school,  
Book-filled with notions of self sacrifice  
And service to God through Man.  
Brisk, cheerful and, above all, uncensuring,  
A Man of God and a good fellow.

When first the shells rained upon us  
He took his place at the side of the surgeon,  
Cheering the wounded, comforting the dying,  
Helping with the bloody patchwork.  
A Man of God in action.

All night the walking wounded streamed in.  
The litter cases, some shrieking with pain,  
Some dumb with shock, some quietly sobbing  
Like shamed children.  
A Man of God among hurt men.

No rest the day, nor the night;  
No experience from which to learn  
The value of strength withheld;  
All he gave, till he too went with the wounded.  
A hurt Man of God.

Dale Carver, 106th Inf. Div.



"Just gimme a coupla aspirin, I already got a Purple Heart"



# COMMEMORATION CEREMONY SPEECHES VBOB Reunion, Orlando, FL. October 2, 2001

## General Albin F. Irzyk, USA (Ret)

Invited guests, dignitaries, my fellow Battle of the Bulge veterans and your spouses, ladies and gentlemen:

Over the years I have not had any problem making speeches, or finding the words for those speeches. This morning it is different. For me, today, my task is a sobering, difficult, emotional one. They say that strong men do not cry. I am a strong man, but I am not ashamed to cry. Today if I shed a tear or two all of you will understand.

Nineteen thousand, just a number? No, much more than a number, 19,000 is the population of a good-sized city. But more importantly, it is over two divisions worth of soldiers, it is 19,000 Gold Stars hanging from windows along the length and breadth of our nation. It is the number of young Americans who gave their lives fighting for their country during the Battle of the Bulge. This morning we are gathered here to honor, to pay tribute to, to pay homage to, to think about, and to remember those men.

Each one of these 19,000 men is a genuine, authentic hero. All were in the flower of manhood--strong, hardy, full of vigor, courage, and the idealism of youth. As we well know, our wars are fought by boys and very young men. They were boys and very young men.

Those men gave up for their country the most precious commodity God can bestow upon us--an individual, human life. No one has yet had the temerity to try to place a dollar sign on the value of a human life. It is far too precious. It is priceless.

Each of us is given just one life. There is no second time around. Yet those men gave up the one life that was given to them. What they did has often been referred to as making the supreme sacrifice. What more can a man do for his country or for his fellow man than give the most valuable commodity he will ever possess--his own life.

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Yes, these are heroes in the purest, truest sense. They fit the mold of Nathan Hale, who said, "I regret that I have but one life to give for my country," or of Joseph Addison, who said, "What a pity it is that we can die but once to save our country."

Not only at times like this--at conventions--but at other times over the years--Memorial Day, Veterans' Day--and just plain ordinary days--I find myself thinking about those men and wondering about them.

Quite a number I knew well. They were my friends, my comrades. We trained together, lived together, fought together. Some of them died carrying out missions I had assigned to them. I am a better man for having known them.

But most of those thousands I did not know, and it is those that I wonder about most. There were many, I know, were married, had children. These young fathers who had known the fullness of life so briefly, destiny forbade them ever to see their families again. They would never celebrate a 30th or 40th wedding anniversary, or attend a high school or college graduation of one of their children--or watch them grow up, mature, make a mark in life. They will never experience the joy of being a grandfather.

There were many who were recent bridegrooms before going off to battle. They left young widows. They will never experience the complete fulfillment of that marriage, or the cherished experience of raising a fine family.

There were many who were very young, still single whose educations were interrupted and would never complete them, who would never know the deep love of a fine, true woman.

I have thought about these men and wondered about the parents, widows, children, and friends they left behind. I know that there was much sorrow and suffering among them--I have often wondered how they fared.

As you know, there was no pattern to the way these men died. Many of the 19,000 were killed at the very outset on December 16 and 17. Many died during the fierce fighting around Bastogne, some at the very end of the battle, well into January, 1945.

When those men went off to war, every one of them knew the dangers, risks, challenges--knew they were fighting for their country, and might never come back.

Each did his job. None ever shirked. If he was told to be the lead tank, he went. If told to be the point, he went. If told to probe for mines, he did it. When he moved out to attack at first light, he knew that it might be his last day.

These men had no illusions: any day, any hour, any minute, any second--this might be it. And for them, finally, tragically came the hour, the minute, the second.

The number 19,000, breaks down into 19,000 individual lives. Each was a human being with fears, likes, dislikes, emotions--with a lust for life, with ambition, with goals and objectives, and with a great capacity for love.

Yes, I often think about them and wonder. And as I think, I cannot help but wonder, "There but for the grace of God go I." And for all of us gathered here today, "There but for the grace of God go we."

Why was it they and not we? We ran the same dangers, received the same fire, had the same close calls. Why was it they and not we?

During the war, I had several close calls. I remember two most vividly. At Lorient I thought it was all over, and my whole life flashed before me. On December 23rd, on the way to Bastogne, my tank was hit by a German tank at Chaumont. I survived. That day I felt the presence of God over my left shoulder. Many of you can recall a real close one, perhaps more than one, so close they could have gone either way.

Many of those who were killed never should have--riding along a supposedly safe road only to hit a stray mine, leaving the tank to relieve himself, only to be hit by a wild artillery shell fragment.

You remember, we had an expression, "That one had his number on it." What we meant was that it was something we could not control, could not explain--that it was predestined, foreordained. We had to believe that someone, somewhere controls the destiny of warriors. There was a reason why the ones with my number of them came so very close but never connected, but I will never know. Perhaps you wonder, too.

On VE Day when the war ended in Europe, I was in Volyne, Czechoslovakia. Of course, we were overjoyed, and there were parties and dancing in the streets. But there was more celebrating in New York, Washington and San Francisco than in Volyne. My men were happy as I was but we all seemed subdued.

(Continued on next page)



## COMMEMORATION SPEECHES

(Continued from preceding page)

Each, like I, undoubtedly, wondered why we had made it and the others had not.

Perhaps there was a subtle, subconscious feeling of guilt, and because of those we were chastened, sobered and restrained.

I thought then of the men buried in Europe who would not be returning with us. I knew then that I would often be thinking of them during the years ahead, and I have.

We must always remember and never, never forget that had it not been for the sacrifices of the individuals like the ones that we are honoring today, we might not be enjoying our many freedoms, and our very precious and unique American way of life.

We should be eternally grateful for every hour, every day that we have been given since WWII, and it adds up to 57 years. A bonus of 57 years. Fifty-seven years that we have had with our families, with our careers--57 more years than those 19,000 had. We must be forever grateful to God for singling us out, for choosing us to finish the war safely and come home.

But with heads bowed and perhaps a tear in our eye, we should express gratitude, appreciation, and eternal love to those 19,000 for remaining in Europe, so that we could come home, so that we could enjoy a convention like this.

If there is a heaven, and I firmly believe there is, I can't help but feel that all 19,000 are up there in that heaven, that they are looking down upon us today, that they are sharing this convention with us, glorying in the role they played in defeating the German armies in America's greatest battle.

And I suspect that they are touched with perhaps a tear in the corners of their eyes knowing that their comrades on earth after 57 years remember them, honor them, cherish them, and are deeply grateful to them.

As they look down and as I look up, I wish to say to them a simple, humble "Thank you." And as I enjoy this convention, I will be thinking of them, remembering them, and sharing it with them.

I would like to close with a short prayer that is a question to all Americans:

O, Lord, lest I go my complacent way, help me to remember that somewhere out there a man died for me today. So long as there be war, I must ask and answer: Am I worth dying for?

### Ambassador Alain Weber (Luxembourg)

Today, we are gathered here in Orlando, Florida, to honor the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge and I am very proud to participate in this commemoration.

The Luxembourg people have not forgotten and will never forget the sacrifices which were made by many thousands of Americans. Nor will we forget the many more thousands of veterans who fought that ferocious battle from December 16, 1944, to January 25, 1945.

Several villages in the north of Luxembourg endured this long winter of 1944-45 and experienced much suffering as this last offensive on our soil. People all over my country remember the American soldiers who fought for them during those bitter days. The bonds that were created then have lasted to this day. Every year, American veterans come to Luxembourg to commemorate the events. Some of the soldiers who fought in the Battle of the Bulge were awarded decorations for their heroic actions. Many

died on Luxembourg soil. Monuments have been erected in many of our villages to celebrate their memory. Luxembourg is always honored to welcome WWII veterans who join us for those ceremonies.

Those veterans constitute one of the strongest links between our countries. During their return trips to Luxembourg, American veteran groups are regularly welcomed into the homes they once defended. It is only fitting that our strong national ties with the United States are built upon the emotional ties between individuals who depended on one another for their lives.

The soldiers fought the Battle of the Bulge so that we could live secure and at peace. As the recent events in New York and Washington, DC, have proven again, there will always be threats to our well being, to the peaceful community of nations to which we belong. While reflecting on the sacrifices that these veterans made for the advancement of freedom and democracy, we owe them to commit ourselves to defending the ideals and values that they thought were worth dying for.

That you very much.

### Captain Rolan Serres (Belgian Representative)

Madam Mayor, dignitaries, ladies and gentlemen,

It is with great pride and honor that I am here today in remembrance of the great sacrifice that you veterans have contributed to the liberation of my country from the terror of Nazism. The Belgian people are forever grateful.

That decisive battle fought on that snowy morning in the Ardennes marked the turning point of five years of occupation by an evil force in Europe.

Today, your wonderful country is under the attack of terrorism, and the whole world mourns and rallies to your side. We know that the courage and tenacity of your people will overcome this tragedy. We have seen what your brave young men and courageous nation can do. Our hearts go out to you and we believe in you.

God bless America!

### Other Commemoration Ceremony Notes:

Dignitaries present: The Honorable Glenda Hood, Mayor of Orlando; The Honorable Richard Crotty, Orange County Chairman; Reverend Rod Thompson; and Medal of Honor Recipient Jim Hendrix (this honor received as a result of his actions during action in the Battle of the Bulge).

The event was Emceed by Bud Hedinger, news anchor for WB 18 in Orlando.

Charles Haugabrooks inspired us deeply with his beautiful voice and choice of songs. Enough cannot be said about the feeling of patriotism he instilled in us.

A "fly over" was provided by the Valiant Air Command with Jerry Walburn providing the "missing man."

Others who contributed to this lovely service were: Winter Park Community Band; Winter Springs High School AJROTC; VFW Post 4287; and the Orlando Kids (from Howard Middle School, St. James Cathedral and St. Lukes).

At the end of the ceremony, doves were released.

Harry Meisel and all of his assistants are to be thanked for providing us with this lovely ceremony.

We left the ceremonies with a sense of patriotism that needed an up-lift during these troubled times and a feeling of deepest gratitude to those fallen heroes who we honored on this day. ■



## 750TH TANK BATTALION

Submitted by Michael V. Altamura

750th Tank Battalion

Service Company

The 750th Tank Battalion had the lowest percentage of vehicles abandoned in combat on the western front and as a result was chosen to share in the honor of occupying the former Nazi citadel in Cologne.

Sgt. Eddie Oryll, who was killed in action during a German bomber raid while we were repairing one of our M-4 tanks, and I were assigned a half track. We would accompany the battalion maintenance tank retriever and assist in retrieval of our 750th Tank Battalion unit tanks which were damaged by the enemy.

One of my jobs was to check for enemy placed booby traps in the abandoned M-4 tanks and deactivate them if possible! Most of the time it was the better part of valor to slip a block of dynamite and blow up the tank with the German booby traps; as it was virtually impossible to deactivate the ingenious German booby traps. Capt. Shiner our battalion maintenance commander would give me the command to blow the tank with a block of dynamite when I noticed the trip wires and explosive which had been placed in the tank. If you pulled on a wire or cut a wire, the explosion would be set off.



Mike Altamura and "Skunk Hollow"

During World War II, soldiers would name their planes, tanks and half tracks. Some were named after girlfriends, mothers, home towns, etc. Sgt. Eddie Oryll and I decided to name our half track "Skunk Hollow" after the home town of the 1940's newspaper cartoon characters' (Little Abner and Daisy Mae) fictional home town. Each 750th Tank Battalion letter company A, B, C, D, headquarters and service company vehicle's name had to start with the alphabet letter of that company. Ours was "S" (service company).

Since the three of us were assigned to the half track and often went for weeks without baths, clean clothes, and passed gas often due to the Army food and K-rations, we decided that "Skunk Hollow" not only described our situation but also fit the aroma

that prevailed in the confined front seats of the half track. After the war, I was once asked by a friend, "How was the war?" I replied, "It stank."



Captain Shiner, Battalion Maintenance Commander, far left.

Photo taken by me during the Bulge. ■

## RESISTANCE FIGHTER ATTENDS REUNION

Renee Fisher, long time associate member, attended the reunion in Orlando. She had come to express her "deep appreciation to those survivors who fought so valiantly the many battles in Belgium, Luxembourg, and France."

During WWII she served in France as an "underground fighter" and experienced first-hand the many sacrifices made by those honored at the commemoration ceremonies.

She wore medals awarded her by the French Government for her activities during World War II and brought many photos, including one taken at General Patton's funeral in Hamm Cemetery, which she attended as a reporter for *Stars and Stripes*.

She states, "Even though I survived the war under many hard and unforgettable circumstances--I am so very grateful, happy and proud that America welcomed me with open arms." ■



(Thanksgiving) 'Twas founded be th' Puritans to give thanks fr' bein' presarved fr'm th' Indiyans, an' . . . we keep it to give thanks we are presarved fr'm th' Puritans. —FINLEY PETER DUNNE, *Mr. Dooley's Opinions*

I'm inclined to think that a military background wouldn't hurt anyone.

WILLIAM FAULKNER



# FORWARD OBSERVATION DUTY WITH THE INFANTRY ARTILLERY COMBAT TEAM

By Ross H. Rasmussen  
87th Infantry Division  
912th Field Artillery Battalion  
Battery A

The pro and con arguments of unequal battlefield line credit granted by the army to the artillery forward observation members and the team members of the infantry need a fairness review. The infantry-artillery combat team each served on the same battlefield at the same time. However, the artillery forward observer often had added risk when seeking observation for a fire mission as do front line infantry.

Arguments against which have been told, are that the FO wish to share from the infantry their earned credit of duty on the front lines and obtain something the FO did not earn in battle.

That statement is far from the truth. The officer of the FO team carries a .45 and his men a carbine. They are not infantry. They wish only credit for the use of artillery which provides the largest total fire power of the infantry company combat unit. The infantry fire power on some days is the most important. This team effort is key in battle for each.

A statement could be made that the infantry provides a place of relative safety for the artillery from which the enemy can be destroyed by artillery fire. The infantry and artillery must work together and all combat men must obtain equal fairness in combat duty and fairness in credit of duty earned. The army must admit that in WWII there was a shortage of trained FO's; some had no training. The treatment of FO's in WWII did not encourage an ample supply of FO's.

In combat, each infantry division is provided with an artillery forward observer team for each front line infantry rifle company. This arrangement is an assignment which is organic by army regulations making this job performance for artillery FO's infantry front line combat duty.

Under these conditions of duty, the artillery forward observer finds himself providing artillery fire for the infantry from positions of observation within the area of infantry support and many times in the high risk areas beyond the front lines firing artillery. This life risk is equal to the risk of the infantryman. Almost all of those who were wounded or killed in the artillery units come from a forward observer team.

When an infantry battalion is rotated for rest, the FO must remain to provide artillery support for the infantry battalion replacement, as the artillery remains in place. This army policy is not proper. The infantry-artillery team obtains special credits of recognition and is not surveyed in and is limited in its ability to provide support for the front line infantry company in battle.

The 81 mortar provides special needed fire power. It is limited in fire power to what can be hand carried into battle and replaced. The rule in battle is use artillery wherever it is possible.

The infantry rifleman, the infantry artillery and heavy weapons artillery of infantry were granted a Combat Infantryman's award and pay plus a Bronze Star and extra combat points which excludes further war duty. Thus many infantry veterans of the 87th infantry were not required to be included for added combat duty in battle with Japan as

they had a special use of extra infantry points. Our pleas for recognition fell on deaf ears. We have failed to tell our story. This paper is an added plea for proper credit.

A little known fact is that the army requires the use of an orientating line of which all artillery are tied into. The infantry-artillery cannot provide safe fire and they are not included. Thus, an FO can provide artillery fire from all of their guns which are in range of any target. The enemy lacks this ability. The enemy would place their guns at a location which could be located on a map and then use the map for direction and distance. When we received fire from a certain location, I would look at my map and find this location and give them artillery fire with the proximity fuse. The Germans called this "automatic artillery fire" (and most of the infantry men never were aware that the FO provided this service) and seldom, when I destroyed an MG position or advancing enemy troops only a few front line infantry knew that it was the FO who provided this mission.

Very few infantrymen ever knew at the end of each day, while they were "digging in" that we were firing in concentration points located in enemy territory which I could use for protection in the dark. We then had to check with the company CO and know the location of our troops and his knowledge of the situation. I would spend the night at this site with my radioman.

The artillery FO provided an added radio for the infantry with added information from the artillery G-3 ground and air. The firepower of the FO included all artillery units within range with shells which explode at the same time if desired. This is called a TOT (time on target). This is used prior to the attack on an enemy position.

Artillery fire upon the enemy is best if provided prior to contact. Any enemy unit spotted before infantry contact can be destroyed without battle. Most key targets require the use of the 81 or the 105. The 81 mortar shells are hand carried. The 105 artillery is first used if possible as it has an ample supply.

Captain Kidd, "L" Company, 347th Regiment, 87th Infantry Division, would not go into battle until I was present as the FO. We each knew how to work as a team. From the Rhine to the end of the war, I only visited my artillery unit once. The proper use of artillery can make or break an infantry company.

Those who oppose giving the FO his due credit are not aware of his total service. This statement is also strongly directed to artillery units which pass over promotions and awards for the FO artillery persona (FO's) were returned to the U.S. for 30 days' leave to do battle in Japan because they lacked as little as five points. I believe, as a member of the combat infantry-artillery team, that the FO teams earned those five points.

I would hope that anyone who opposes the granting of due credit to the artillery FO to answer this letter in writing and offer to fight a war without artillery support.

Members of infantry artillery cannon companies obtained their needed five points. In regard to recognition of the artillery forward observer with his radio operator (the infantry provided one man to help carry the radio), this man obtained the five points. My radioman did not.

Many of these FO men were sent to serve with the infantry and were literally forgotten. Many did obtain relief depending upon their battalion. I believe, I was the only FO from the 912th FA Battalion who started and ended. The reasons may be time serving as a liaison officer, duty with the 347th Infantry Regiment or Task Force Bodner as artillery, time spent in a hospital and luck.

I believe firmly that the vote of front line infantry supports comparable recognition for those FO artillery members who are members of the artillery-infantry combat team as provided by army regulations. This limits and includes only an artillery forward observer team. I do not know the requirements of today's observer team who use the laser beam for precise artillery fire.

The Combat Medic Badge inclusion by army provides no damage to the importance of the Combat Infantryman Badge, neither will the inclusion of a separate Combat Artillery Forward Observer Badge. ■



# I AM THE INFANTRY- *Queen of Battle*

*At the National VBOB Convention I was asked to begin a series on the origin of certain military terms, for instance: Doughboy, Dogface, Ground Pounder, Flyboys, Buck Private, etc.. If you have knowledge of the origin of these terms please share them with the editor and if there are other similar terms you would like to add to the list please send them also. The first term is the origin of "Queen of Battle!" The source of this information is from The Infantry Center, Fort Benning GA.*

John D Bowen

For two centuries I have kept our Nation safe, purchasing freedom with my blood. To tyrants, I am the day of reckoning; to the suppressed, the hope for the future. Where the fighting is thick, there I am ... **I am the Infantry! FOLLOW ME!**

I was there from the beginning, meeting the enemy face to face, will to will. My bleeding feet stained the snow at Valley Forge; my frozen hands pulled Washington across the Delaware. At Yorktown, the sunlight glinted from the sword and I, begrimed and battered ... saw a Nation born.

Hardship ... and glory I have known. At New Orleans, I fought beyond the hostile hour, showed the fury of my long rifle ... and came of age. **I am the Infantry!**

I was with Scott at Vera Cruz ... hunted the guerilla in the mountain passes ... and scaled the high plateau. The fighting was done when I ended my march of many miles from the old Alamo.

From Bull Run to Appomattox, I fought and bled. Both Blue and Grey were my colors then. Two masters I served and united them strong ... proved that this nation could right a wrong ... and long endure. **I am the Infantry! FOLLOW ME!**

I led the charge up San Juan Hill ... scaled the walls of old Tienstin ... and stalked the Moro in the steaming jungle still ... always the vanguard. **I am the Infantry!**

At Chateau-Thierry, first over the top, then I stood like a rock on the Marne. It was I who cracked the Hindenburg Line ... in the Argonne, I broke the Kaiser's spine ... and didn't come back till it was "over, over there." **I am the Infantry! FOLLOW ME!**

A generation older at Bataan, I briefly bowed, but then I vowed to return. Assaulted the African shore ... learned my lesson the hard way in the desert sands ... pressed my buttons into the beach at Anzio ... and bounced into Rome with determination and resolve. **I am the Infantry!**

The English Channel, stout beach defenses and the hedgerows could not hold me ... I broke out at St. Lo, unbent the Bulge ... vaulted the Rhine ... and swarmed the Heartland. Hitler's dream and the Third Reich were dead.

In the Pacific, from island to island I hopped ... hit the beaches and chopped through swamp and jungle ... I set the Rising Sun. **I am the Infantry!**

In Korea, I gathered my strength around Pusan ... swept across the frozen Han ... outflanked the Reds at Inchon ... and marched to the Yalu. **FOLLOW ME!**

Around the world, I stand ... ever forward. Over Lebanon's sands, my rifle steady aimed ... and calm returned. At Berlin's gate, I scorned the Wall of Shame. **I am the Infantry!**

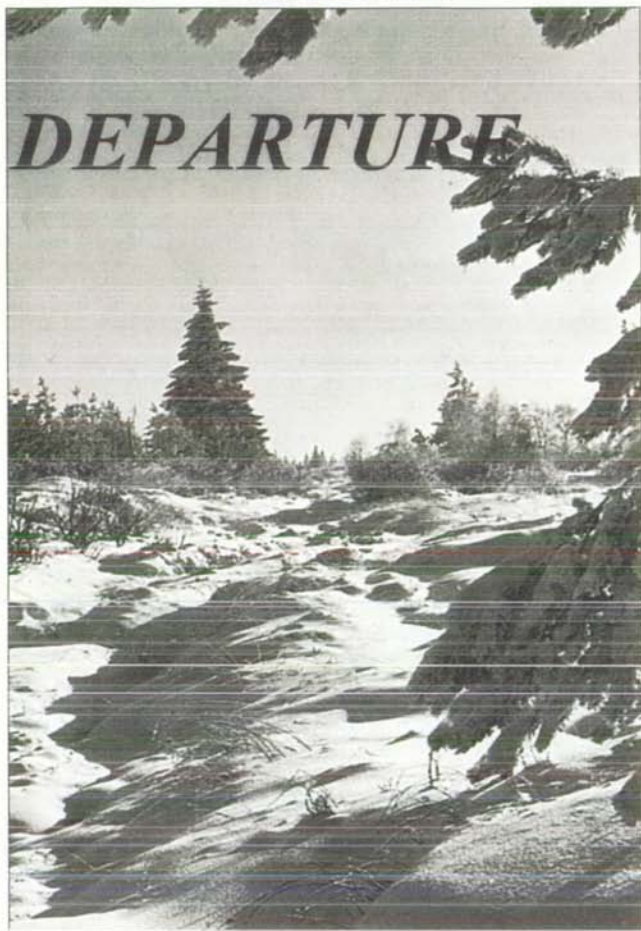
My bayonet ... on the wings of power ... keeps the peace worldwide. And despots, falsely garbed in freedom's mantle, falter ... hide. My ally in the paddies and the forest ... I teach, I aid, I lead. **FOLLOW ME!**

Where brave men fight ... there fight I. In freedom's cause ... I die. From Concord Bridge to Heartbreak Ridge, from the Arctic to the Mekong ... **the Queen of Battle!**

Always ready ... then, now and forever. **I am the Infantry! FOLLOW ME!**



# THE GREAT



When orders will come from the highest Powers above,  
And for your last journey, you will be on your way,  
Alone, just a number, like you were at the front,  
What will you remember, as you leave our earth?

Rising through the sky, when you are looking down,  
Through the clouds you will see the fir trees and the hills,  
The snow-covered plateaus, villages far below,  
And you will recognize the Ardenne where you fought.

The land that thanks to you and to your dead comrades  
Is free again today, and knows the worth of peace.  
Hoping to enjoy the reward of your crusade,  
You will then join the friends who fell dead at your side.

Maybe you'll remember that in those winter-days,  
Innocents have suffered, without saying a word,  
When seeing their sheds burnt, and their dwellings destroyed.  
Was it necessary, could it be avoided?  
What must the answer be, perhaps now, you will know.

Church-towers were destroyed, where the enemy hid,  
In the roofless houses, furniture fed fires.  
What else could have been done, who can say the answer?  
In such a bitter cold, hot coffee is precious.

Will you then remember the fathers who trembled  
And the mothers fearing that maybe their daughters  
One day would leave their homes, travel across the sea?  
When on your turn you left, who knows what were their thoughts?

Everything will be weighed, the good things and the bad,  
To our own country, we gave glory and victory,  
And Europe can thank us for sparing her the fate  
Of knowing destruction, and lasting slavery.

Let us trust that the Lord, whose judgment is wise,  
Able to recognize what was wrong, what was good,  
Whose kindness is so great, will grant forgiveness  
To all those who have sinned, ourselves, and the foe.

*Emile Pirad, Vervier, Belgium*

Conflict	Years	Battle deaths
American Revolution	1775-1783	4,435
War of 1812	1812-1815	2,260
Indian Wars	1817-1898	1,000
Mexican War	1846-1848	1,733
Civil War	1861-1865	214,938
Spanish-American War	1898-1902	385
World War I	1917-1918	53,402
World War II	1940-1945	291,557
Korean War	1950-1953	33,686
Vietnam War	1964-1975	47,410
Gulf War	1990-1991	148
Total		650,954

\*\*SOURCE: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Every man thinks meanly of himself for not having been a soldier. —*Samuel Johnson*, quoted in James Boswell's *The Life of Samuel Johnson*.

Men of the 4th Division supplement the rations, January 1945.  
US Army





# RESERVATION FORM

## "REMEMBRANCE AND COMMEMORATION"

### OF THE 57th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

#### December 14, 15 and 16 2001

#### Metropolitan Washington, DC

Return form and check by December 1, 2001 to:  
 Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation  
 PO Box 2516,  
 Kensington MD 20895-0181

Questions:  
 Dorothy Davis 301-881-0356  
 E-Mail:  
[jdbowen@gateway.net](mailto:jdbowen@gateway.net)

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

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Battle of Bulge Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Korean War Service: (6/25/1950 – 1/31/1955) When: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Where: \_\_\_\_\_

RESERVATIONS:	<u>Number Attending</u>	<u>Cost/Person</u>	<u>Total</u>
Registration Fee	_____	\$10.00	\$ _____

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2001

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM: Holiday Inn Café  
 Please indicate the number that will be attending so that we can advise the hotel.

ON YOUR OWN

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2001

Chartered Bus, 9:30 AM – 4:30 PM	_____	\$16.00	_____
Goddard Space Flight Center	_____		
Luncheon, US Naval Academy Officers' Club	_____	\$16.00	_____
Tour of Naval Academy & Tour, Historical Sights of Annapolis	_____		

Commemorative Banquet, Club Meade, Fort Meade MD	_____	\$35.00	_____
--------------------------------------------------	-------	---------	-------

Please make your Main Course selection(s):

- ☐ Filet of Flounder w/Crab \_\_\_\_\_ (Name \_\_\_\_\_)  
 OR  
☐ Prime Rib of Beef au Jus \_\_\_\_\_ (Name \_\_\_\_\_)

Table assignments for the Banquet will be on your name badge. If you wish to be seated with friends, please list their names:

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2001:

9:45 AM	Chartered bus to Arlington Cemetery	\$13.00	_____
11:00 AM	Ceremonies: Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers/ VBOB Monument	No. Attending:	_____
12:00 Noon	Reception/Buffer hosted by VBOB at Officers' Club, Ft Myer, VA	No. Attending:	_____
2:00 PM	Bus Return to Holiday Inn		

GRAND TOTAL (Enclose check made out to BoBHF Commemoration): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### NOTES & REMINDERS:

Banquet Dress: Business suit/black tie (miniature medals encouraged) or military dress uniform  
 Room reservations must be made with the Holiday Inn Hotel directly, by December 1, 2001 (Telephone 1-800-477-7410).  
 Return completed Reservation Form for events to BOB Historical Foundation by 1 December 2001, (Telephone 301-881-0356).  
 No cancellation refunds after December 9, 2001.  
 Please indicate in all places the number & names attending so that we can be advised of the proper number to plan. Thanks!  
 \*\*\*PLEASE BRING A PICTURE ID (Drivers License, Passport, Mil ID) IN ORDER TO ENTER FT MEADE\*\*\*



**THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION**  
*Invites You to Join Your Friends for the*  
**"EVENTS OF REMEMBRANCE AND COMMEMORATION"**  
**OF THE 57<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE**  
**December 14, 15 and 16, 2001**  
**Metropolitan Washington, DC**

The Holiday Inn, 3400 Ft Meade Road, Laurel MD 20724 (Rt. 198), has been selected as the site for activities commemorating the 57<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, December 14 - 16, 2001. This hotel is located only a few minutes from Fort Meade and will provide accommodations in "The Towers" (new area of the hotel) for a reduced rate of \$79.00, single or double occupancy. This rate is available for any night(s) between December 13 and December 17. For room reservations please call the Holiday Inn (1-800-477-7410) by December 1, 2001. Mention that you are attending the Battle of the Bulge events.

This year, 2001, is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War and we shall remember and honor those Battle of the Bulge veterans who also served our country in that bitter conflict.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2001**

- 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM Registration (Hotel Lobby), receive name badges, Banquet/bus tickets. (If you are only attending the Banquet, you may pick up your tickets with table assignment at the Club Meade Dining Room, at Fort Meade at 6:00 PM Dec 15<sup>th</sup>.)
- 3:00 PM – 10:00 PM Hospitality Room/Exhibits, scrapbooks. John Bowen & Earle Hart, Battle of the Bulge Historians will be the hosts. A private area in the Hotel cafe has been reserved for supper from 6:30 – 8:00 PM for the Battle of the Bulge Veterans (payment is on your own).

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2001**

- 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM Registration/receive name badges, Banquet/bus tickets (hotel lobby).  
 9:30 AM Charter buses depart hotel.  
 10:00 AM – 11:15 AM Tour through the famous Goddard Space Flight Center.  
 11:30 AM Depart for US Naval Academy, Annapolis MD.  
 12:12 PM – 2:00 PM Luncheon, Academy Officers' Club/Tour of the Academy.  
 2:00 PM – 3:15 PM Bus tour of the historical sights of Annapolis.  
 3:15 PM Return by bus to Holiday Inn, Laurel MD.  
**BANQUET AT CLUB MEADE, FORT MEADE MD**  
 Share-a-Ride transportation to be arranged at Registration Desk.  
 6:15 PM Social Hour/Cash Bar.  
 6:45 PM Seated for Dinner.  
 7:00 PM Color Guard/Members of the Drum and Fife Corps/Ceremonies.  
 7:15 PM Dinner served.

Program:

Greetings from Dignitaries.

Speaker: The noted architect of the World War II Memorial,  
 Friedrich St. Florian.

Entertainment: The musical group "Celeb 8" will delight us with World War II music  
 and Christmas melodies.

**BANQUET ENTRÉE**

**The choice of entrée for the Banquet is:**

**Roast Prime Rib of Beef au Jus**

**OR**

**Filet of Flounder Stuffed with Crab.**

After Banquet

Return to Holiday Inn/Hospitality Room open at Holiday Inn.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2001**

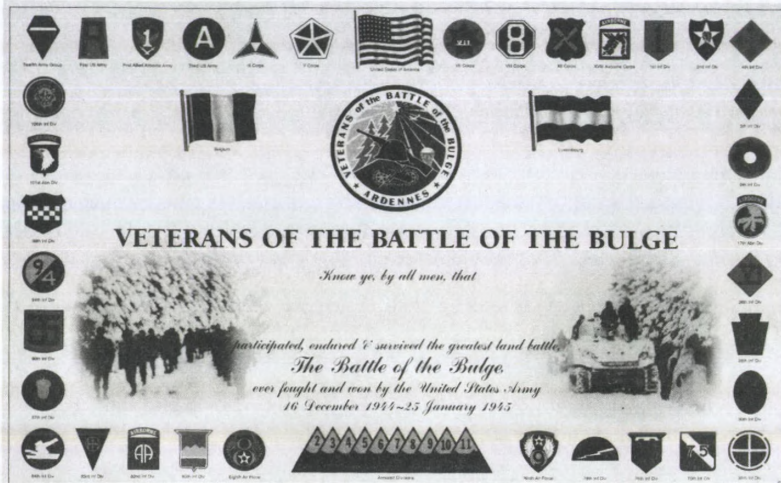
- 9:45 AM Bus from Holiday Inn to Arlington Cemetery  
 11:00 AM Impressive ceremony and placing of wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns, Arlington Cemetery.  
 11:30 AM Ceremony of Remembrance, Battle of the Bulge Memorial, across from Amphitheater.  
 12:00 PM Bus to Officers' Club, Fort Myer VA  
 12:15 PM Buffet Luncheon, Hosted by VBOB, Campaign Room, Officers' Club, Ft Meyer, VA.  
 Swearing-in of new VBOB officers.  
 Comments by VBOB President.  
 Farewell.  
 2:30 PM Return by bus to Holiday Inn, Laurel MD.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**A PHOTO IDENTIFICATION CARD IS  
 NEEDED TO GET ONTO FT MEADE MD  
 (Drivers License, Passport or Mil ID)**



# VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE CERTIFICATE



The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Assn is proud to offer a full color 11" by 17" certificate, which may be ordered by any veteran who received credit for the Ardennes Campaign. It attests that you participated in, endured and survived the greatest land battle ever fought by the US Army. You do not have to be a member of the VBOB Assn in order to order one but you must have received the Ardennes credit. This beautiful certificate is produced on parchment-like stock and is outlined by the full color WWII insignias of the major units that fought in the Battle of the Bulge starting with the 12th Army Group followed numerically with Armies, Corps and Divisions and the two Army Air Forces. We wished that each unit insignia could have been shown but with approximately 2000

units that participated in the Bulge it was impossible. However any unit which served in the Bulge would have been attached to or reported through one of the unit insignia depicted. You may want to add one of your original patches to the certificate, when you receive it. Units were researched in the Official General Order No. 114 for Units Entitled to the ARDENNES Battle Credit and will be the basis for sale of this certificate. The unit insignias shown are also those used in the design of the Battle of the Bulge Memorial Conference Table dedicated and on view in the Garrison Library at Ft Meade, MD (open Mon & Wed 12:30-3:00 PM. The requests to date have been overwhelming, therefore we would request that you allow approximately 3-4 weeks for delivery.

A Special Certificate is available to spouses or children of those who made the Supreme Sacrifice in the Battle of the Bulge or who died of wounds received in the Battle of the Bulge. The individual request should have the date and place of death and be certified by the family requestor or by a buddy who was present. Multiple copies of the same certificate may be ordered if you have a number of children/grandchildren. Rank or command during the Bulge is preferred. It will be abbreviated to the WWII or three character standard. The certificate will be shipped rolled in a protective mailing tube. Please be sure to **place your name, service number and unit as you would like it to appear on the certificate**. The unit name should as full as possible as you want someone reading it to understand what unit you were in. We will abbreviate it as necessary. It is important that you type or print this information. The unit must be one of the 2000 units authorized for the Ardennes Campaign credit. **The cost of the certificate is \$15.00 postpaid.**

**Unfortunately we do not have any more frames available at this time. John Bowen is presently trying to arrange with other suppliers who will produce these special sizes in quantities of 100. This may result in a higher frame cost. Our previous order had to be for 500 frames which took over three years to sell and resulted in the non use of a garage where they were stored. We will keep you posted.**

## VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE CERTIFICATE ORDER BLANK

I request an 11" x 17" Certificate and certify that I received credit for the Ardennes Campaign during my military service. I have enclosed a check for \$15.00 for the Certificate. Please include the following information that I would like on the certificate:

First Name _____	MI _____	Last Name _____	Serial Number _____
Organization: Company, Battalion and/or Regt, Division _____			Rank (Optional) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Killed in Action _____ date _____	Location _____ place _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Died of Wounds _____ date _____	<input type="checkbox"/> POW _____ dates _____ Camp _____

### MAILING INFORMATION:

Name _____	Street Address _____	Apt No. _____
City _____	State _____	Zip + 4 Code _____

Telephone Number (In case we need to call you) _____	VBOB Member: Yes _____ No _____ not a requirement	Signature & date _____
Make checks out to VBOB for \$15.00. Orders should be mailed to VBOB Certificate, PO Box 11129, Arlington, VA 22210-2129. Questions can be directed to John D. Bowen, 301-384-6533, Certificate Chairman.		
01/08/99		



# VBOB QUARTERMASTER

November, 2001

Please ship the following items to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(first) (last) (phone #-will call only if there is a problem)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(no.) (street) (city) (state) (zip)

Item Description	Price Each	Quantity	Total Price
VBOB Logo Patch - 3"	\$ 4.50		\$
VBOB Logo Patch - 4"	\$ 5.50		\$
VBOB Logo Decal - 4"	\$ 1.25		\$
VBOB Windshield Logo - 4"	\$ 1.25		\$
VBOB Logo Stickers (10) - 1 1/8"	10 for \$1.25		\$
Baseball Cap w/3" VBOB Logo Patch - Navy only	\$ 10.00		\$
Windbreaker w/4" VBOB Logo Patch (Navy only) <i>Please circle size (they run a little snug): M L XL XXL XXXL</i> <i>(XXL and XXXL - see prices)</i>	\$ 25.00 (M, L & XL) \$ 26.00 for XXL \$ 27.00 for XXXL		\$
VBOB Logo Lapel Pin - 1/2"	\$ 5.00		\$
VBOB Logo Belt Buckle - Silver tone or Gold tone <i>(Please circle choice)</i>	\$ 16.00		\$
VBOB Logo Bolo Tie - Silver tone or Gold tone <i>(Please circle choice)</i>	\$ 16.00		\$
VBOB License Plate Frame w/Logos - White plastic w/Black printing	\$ 5.00		\$
VBOB 100 Sheet Notepad w/Logo - "This Note Is From... A Veteran of the Battle of the Bulge" - White paper with Blue printing	\$ 3.00		\$
VBOB Tote Bag - 18" x 15" natural (off-white) color tote bag with navy handles and large navy VBOB logo	\$ 8.00		\$

Only Cash, Check or Money Order Accepted

Make Checks Payable to "VBOB" - Mail Orders to VBOB-QM, PO Box 11129, Arlington, VA 22210-2129

## DO NOT INCLUDE ANY OTHER MONIES WITH QM PAYMENT

Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery

### Shipping and Handling:

\$0.00 to \$5.00 - \$ 2.00

\$5.01 to \$10.00 - \$ 3.00

\$10.01 and over - \$ 4.00

Please add an additional \$1.00 to regular shipping and handling for all items shipped outside the USA.

Cost of Items: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

S&H: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## ***Office Use Only - Do Not Write Below This Line***

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Mailed: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment: Cash Check MO

Check No.: \_\_\_\_\_



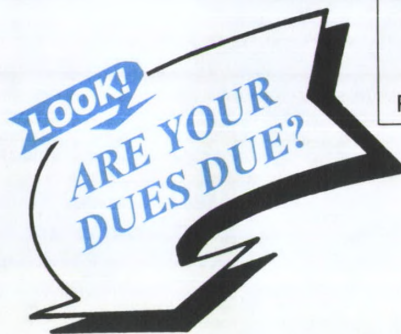


# VETERANS of the BATTLE of the BULGE

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED  
FORWARDING and RETURN  
POSTAGE GUARANTEED

NOVEMBER, 2001



Non-Profit Org.  
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MAY THE BOUNTIES OF THIS GREAT  
NATION BE YOURS  
DURING THE HOLIDAYS  
AND THE COMING YEAR

-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:

Campaign(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Unit(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)