

The BULGE BUGLE

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

VOLUME XXX NUMBER 3

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

AUGUST 2011

Join us for our 30th Annual Reunion SEPTEMBER 20-25, 2011 ■ COLUMBUS, GA

Highlights include a visit to the FDR Memorial Museum and The Little White House



FDR proclaims the great progress of the Battle of the Bulge towards victory in his fireside chat on January 6, 1945

Belgian royal family honors veterans, pg. 6

**VETERANS OF THE
BATTLE OF THE BULGE,
INC.
PO BOX 27430
Philadelphia, PA 19118
703-528-4058**

Published quarterly, THE BULGE BUGLE is the official publication of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge.

Publisher/Editor:
George Chekan
9th Infantry Division

Historical Research:
John D. Bowen
Associate Member

ELECTED OFFICERS:

President:
J. David Bailey
106th Infantry Division

Executive Vice President:
Ralph W. Bozorth
Associate Member

Vice President/Membership:
A. Wayne Field
6th Armored Division

Vice President/Chapters:
Thomas R. Chambers
9th Armored Division

Vice President/Military Affairs:
Alfred H.M. Shehab
38th Cavalry Squadron

Treasurer:
Neil Thompson
740th Tank Battalion

Corresponding Secretary:
Madeleine Bryant
Associate Member

Recording Secretary:
John D. Bowen
Associate Member

Membership Office:
Kevin Diehl
703-528-4058
Kevin@battleofthebulge.org

TRUSTEES:

THREE YEARS:
Robert Rhodes
Associate Member

Bert Rice
Associate Member

Doris Davis
Associate Member

TWO YEARS:
Stewart Piper
26th Infantry Division

John Schaffner
106th Infantry Division

MaryAnn Bowen
Associate Member

ONE YEAR:
Mike Levin
7th Armored Division

Doug Dillard
82nd Airborne Division

HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

President:
Alfred H.M. Shehab
38th Cavalry

THE BULGE BUGLE

VOBO PAST PRESIDENTS:

Clyde Boden* 1981-84
Robert VanHouten* 1984-86
George Chekan 1986-88

2004-05
William Greenville* 1988-90
Darrell Kuhn* 1990-92

William Hemphill* 1992-93
William Tayman 1993-94
Grover Twiner* 1994-95

Stanley Wojtusik 1995-97
2006-07
George Linthicum* 1997-99

John Dunleavy 1999-01
Louis Cunningham 2001-03
Demetri Paris 2008-10

* Deceased

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

ALABAMA

Gen G.S. Patton, Jr. (11)
Vernon Miller 205-951-0265
1409 John Wesley Dr
Birmingham, AL 35210-2203

ARIZONA

Arizona (26)
Harry Warren 480-986-5852
1452 S Ellsworth #2438
Mesa, AZ 85208

Southern Arizona (63)
George McGee 520-298-3220
7830 E. Hampton St.
Tucson, AZ 85715-4214

BELGIUM

5th Fusiliers of Belgium (38)
Marcel D'Haese 00-32-2-673 49 76
Boulevard du SOUVERAIN N 49 Bx 4
1160 - Brussels, BE

CALIFORNIA

Fresno (5)
Arthur Steffensen 559-266-2997
7469 S. Cedar Ave
Fresno, CA 93725-9749

Golden Gate (10)
Doris Davis 650-654-0101
889 Bauer Dr
San Carlos, CA 94070-3613

Southern California (16)
Gordon Heame 818-784-8980
4363 Hayvenhurst Ave.
Encino, CA 91436

San Diego (51)
Robert D. Schrell 858-274-5738
2530 San Joaquin Ct.
San Diego, CA 92109

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Yankee (40)
Richard Egan 203-634-0474
79 Alcove St.
Ieriden, CT 06541

COLORADO

Rocky Mountain (39)
A. Wayne Field 719-598-2234
5820 Flintridge Dr #231
Colorado Springs, CO 80918

DELAWARE

Brandywine Valley (66)
Charles Gaffney 302-762-3023
507 Shipley Rd
Wilmington, DE 19803-4927

FLORIDA

Central Florida (18)
Robert Stevenson 407-644-9997
2133 Lake Dr
Winter Park, FL 32789

Florida Citrus (32)
Gerald Myers 863-686-2121
320 E. Palm Dr
Lakeland, FL 33803-2650

Indian River (41)
John Gaynor 321-549-3529
901 Culpepper Ave
Palm Bay, FL 32909

Southeast Florida (62)
George Fisher 561-585-7086
3456 S. Ocean Blvd #503
Palm Beach, FL 33480

Golden Triangle (48)
Fred D. Parks 352-589-2109
22 Tourquoise Way
Eustis, FL 32726

Florida Southwest (67)
Vincent Runowich 727-323-3793
4063 10th Ave N
St. Petersburg, FL 33713

INDIANA

Northern Indiana (30)
Barry Veden 219-874-9373
507 Duneland Beach Dr.
Michigan City, IN 46360

Central Indiana (47)
John Kerr
1030 E. Harris St
Brownsburg, IN 46112-1704

IOWA

Hawkeye State (44)
Harold Linsrum 515-278-0081
4105 75th St.
Des Moines, IA 5032-2551

KANSAS

Northeast Kansas (69)
Tad Pritchett 785-554-9059
3627 SW York Way
Topeka, KS 66604

MARYLAND/DC

Maryland/DC (3)
John Schaffner 410-584-2754
1811 Miller Rd
Cockeysville, MD 21030-1013

MASSACHUSETTS

Lamar Soutter/Central (22)
John McAuliffe 508-754-7183
425 Pleasant St
Worcester, MA 01609

MICHIGAN

West Michigan (23)
James Wibby 231-938-2995
3471 Blackwood Dr.
Traverse City, MI 49686-3887

MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi (33)
Manning Cooper 601-825-4479
78 Fern Valley Rd
Brandon, MS 39042

MISSOURI

Gateway (25)
Kent Stephens 618-344-1616
107 Bluffview La
Collinsville, IL 62234

NEW JERSEY

Peter F. Leslie, Jr (54)
Gerald Mount 973-697-5875
40 Old Hoop Pole Rd
Oak Ridge, NJ 07438

Fort Monmouth (56)
Larry Lynch 732-842-5923
37 Princeton St.
Red Bank, NJ 07701

Fort Dix/McGuire (60)
Donald D'Amato 609-304-3590
1503 Denham Court
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

South Jersey (61)
Gus Epple (VP) 609-463-9690
45 S Desea Dr
Cape May Court House, NJ 08210-2041

NEW YORK

Mohawk Valley (28)
Kenneth H. Rowland 315-736-5836
1550 Herkimer Rd #106
Utica, NY 13502

Hudson Valley (49)
Allan Atwell 518-371-8449
9 Greenlea Dr
Clifton Park, NY 12065

Staten Island (52)
William Abell 917-299-9766
297 Clarke Ave
Staten Island, NY 10306

Duncan T. Truman (59)
Elliot Hermon
3 Putter Way
Middletown, NY 10990

Long Island (63)
William Mueller 516-731-2488
27 Eve Ln
Levittown, NY 11756-5511

OHIO

Blanchard Valley (42)
Richard Switzer 419-435-5277
4361 N US 23
Fostoria, OH 44830

Ohio Buckeye (29)
John Kalagidis 330-492-2214
2545 58th St N
Canton, OH 44721-3451

Gen D. D. Eisenhower (35)
Richard Shape
211 Oakcrest Ct
Russells Point, OH 43348-9508

Alton Litsenberger (68)
Wendell Ellenwood 614-459-3693
4923 Larwell Dr.
Columbus, OH 43220

PENNSYLVANIA

Delaware Valley (4)
Stanley Wojtusik 215-637-4191
9639 Wissinoming St
Philadelphia, PA 19114

Susquehanna (19)
George Waters 717-488-6311
303 Honesdale Rd
Waymart, PA 18472

Western Pennsylvania (24)
Leroy Schaller 724-238-2297
1839 Route 259
Bolivar, PA 15923

Ohio Valley (31)
Pete Yanchick 724-375-6451
1161 Airport Rd
Aliquippa, PA 15001

Southcentral Pennsylvania ((45)
George Schneider 717-464-9442
237 Willow Valley Dr
Lancaster, PA 17602-4782

Lehigh Valley (55)
Morris Metz 610-252-3694
125 Richard Garr Rd
Easton, PA 18040-6916

Reading (64)
George Moore 610-582-8690
207 Shockey Dr
Birdsboro, PA 19508

Cumberland Valley (6)
John Fague 717-530-8817
306 Lungan Ave
Shippensburg, PA 17257

RHODE ISLAND

Rhode Island (24)
Manuel Ribeiro 401-253-7369
50 Greylock Rd
Bristol, RI 02809-1631

SOUTH CAROLINA

South Carolina (7)
Vernon Brantley 803-787-7201
5915 Tindle Ln
Columbia, SC 29206

TEXAS

Lone Star (50)
Charles Kam 214-324-9200
8042 Hunnicut Rd
Dallas, TX 75228

**VERMONT-NEW
HAMPSHIRE-MAINE**

Tri-State (17)
Edward Deverell 603-485-7464
12 Stevens Dr
Hookset, NH 03106-1683

VIRGINIA

Crater (43)
S. W. George, Jr. 804-526-6725
101 Hanover Ave
Colonial Heights, VA 23834

WASHINGTON

Northwest (6)
Arthur Mahler 425-746-3923
1821 122nd Ave SE
Bellevue, WA 98005-4623

CONTACT INFORMATION

**For dues, certificates,
quartermaster, donations and
membership:**

Veterans of the Battle of the
Bulge, Inc.
PO Box 27430
Philadelphia, PA 19118
Telephone 703-528-4058

**For stories, articles, letter to
the editor for inclusion in the
Bulge Bugle:**

Veterans of the Battle of the
Bulge, Inc.
PO Box 336
Blue Bell, PA 19422
Telephone 484-351-8844

VBOB WEB SITE:
www.battleofthebulge.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

J. David Bailey
106th Infantry
Division

Belgium Remembers! On June 26th, Belgium's Crown Prince Philippe and Princess Mathilde participated in a wreath laying ceremony at the Battle of the Bulge Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery. The message our Memorial carries is that through history the Bulge Veterans have paid the cost of America's freedom and have borne the deepest wounds and scars of war.

I want to acknowledge and express our gratitude to Council member John D. Bowen, who coordinated this special event with the Belgium Embassy and through his efforts was responsible for our large attendance. We are most grateful to the Belgian royalty and dignitaries present for making this special day possible. It was indeed a reminder of lessons of courage, sacrifice, resolve, loyalty and honor.

Another significant event was the 25th Annual Massing of the Colors at Fort George G. Meade Pavilion on May 25th. Participating at this special Memorial Day event were members from 40 military, veteran, scouting, religious, and civic organizations. These groups were represented by their respective color guards.

I was recognized from the stage as the representative from the Veterans of the Battle Of Bulge, Inc. There were two VBOB Executive Council members who were major participants in the ceremony. Col Bert L. Rice introduced all guests in attendance and Lt Col Alfred H.M. Shehab, acted as Auditorium Marshall.

We regret that council members Neil B. Thompson, Treasurer, and A. Wayne Fields, Vice President-Membership have resigned their posts for personal reasons. Both men have served VBOB exceptionally well during their tenures and we recognize them for their dedicated service to our organization.

Ten chapters have been disbanded stating that they have reached the point in time when it was no longer practical or feasible for its membership to fulfill those expectations, which have been addressed with ease over the years.

Thomas R. Chamber, Vice President/Chapters saw the handwriting on the wall several years ago and highly recommended at that time that VBOB develop a plan for the operation of the Executive Council in future years. On July 4th I received a detailed letter from Tom with his latest convictions, which I forwarded to Alan and Lou Cunningham, a father and son team, who are co-chairing a new VBOB committee to reconstruct our organization anticipating the inevitable.

It would be nice if their committee could transition us to a stable and permanent structure that will keep the memory of the Battle of the Bulge alive. With the passage of time with so many distractions in today's world, it is all too easy for History to slide off the platter of people's awareness.

One of the great perks of being President of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge is that I am involved in activities relating to the Department of Veteran Affairs. On July 20th, I will attend an all day session relating to the VA Budget for 2012. I am currently an Associate Member of the Veterans Day National Committee honoring Veterans of all wars and we are already making plans for that special day.

I would like to remind you of our next annual Reunion in Columbus, Georgia on September 20-25 with registration headquarters at the Hilton Garden Inn. If you have not mailed in your registration form and made your hotel reservations I recommend you do it as soon as possible.

A highlight of the reunion will be a visit to the National Infantry Museum just outside Fort Benning, honoring the history of infantry forces of the United States Army. The museum's signature Exhibit is called, "The Last Hundred Yards" and contains scenes from eight wars in US infantry history and features life like figures cast from actual soldiers.

Ralph W. Bozorth with the help of his wife Peg has performed an outstanding job in making our annual reunion eventful. I would like to give a special recognition to Ralph, who with his very busy schedule has agreed to be our Interim Treasurer.

Kevin Diehl from our Membership Office and Ralph have continued to upgrade our web site – www.veteransofthebattleofthebulge.org I highly recommend you take a peek!

A REMINDER

Everything pertaining to dues, certificates, quartermaster, reunions and membership should be sent to:

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc.
PO Box 27430
Philadelphia, PA 19118
Telephone 703-528-4058
e-mail address kevin@battleofthebulge.org

* Membership renewal cards will no longer be sent

Everything other then what is listed above including stories, articles, letters to the editor, etc for inclusion in the Bulge Bugle should be sent to:

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc.
PO Box 336
Blue Bell, PA 19422
Telephone 484-351-8844
e-mail address ralph@battleofthebulge.org

In This Issue

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 3. President's Message | 15. Donations |
| 4. Letters to Editor | 16. Reunion – GA |
| 5. Welcome | 21. FA Forward Observer |
| 6. Crown Prince Begium | 22. Remembrance |
| 8. Veteran's Tours | 24. Arlington |
| 9. Utah Beach | 25. Richard Wheeler |
| 10. Associate Members | 26. LTC Ed Radzwich |
| 11. Bert Rice | 27. POW |
| Nominations | 28. Attention Vets |
| 12. Miracles | 29. VBOB Certificate |
| 13. My War Experience | 30. Dec. 24 th , 1944 |
| 14. WWII Reenactor | 31. Quartermaster |

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PRISONER'S ODYSSEY

You would not be reading this unless you are a veteran of the Battle of the Bulge or have an avid interest in the subject. My remarks are directed to you. Reading is something that I have enjoyed since I first became aware of books, a long time ago. Most are entertainment. Once in a while one comes along that I desperately want to share. I am not a reviewer, nor are my comments endorsed by VBOB. I am not in the business of selling books.

That said, I will tell you that the book in mind is titled *Prisoner's Odyssey* and it is written by a veteran of the 106th Infantry Division who was captured by the Germans at the outset of the Battle of the Bulge. The author is Herb Sheaner, veteran of the 422nd Regiment, Company G.

A lot of American soldiers became prisoners in those days and many have related their experience since. This story is unique. Sheaner's story is about survival under unimaginable circumstances. I have not read all of the books published about the personal experiences of soldiers during WW II, but I have read a lot of them.

This one is, without reservation, one of the most engaging stories that I have ever read. I was not a POW. This narration acquainted me with what it was like to be a prisoner of the enemy. Any time in the future that I begin to think I had it rough, I will recall this story and quickly realize how good I had it.

Look for a copy of *Prisoner's Odyssey*. It is a rare story. Thank you, Herb Sheaner for telling your story. Well done.

John R. Schaffner
106th Infantry Division
589th Field Artillery Bn.

MY STORY

It was March, 1945; I was a forward observer in the 253rd Armored Field Artillery Battalion that served in the E.T.O. supporting the 4th and 6th Armored Divisions plus the 26th and 80th Infantry, and last but not least the 28th Armored Cavalry. While supporting the cavalry we left our tank behind and traveled in a jeep. We pulled into a small German town, Butsbach, and our jeep stopped in front of a two-story house.

Being the ranking non-commissioned officer, I walked up the driveway to check things out. About halfway up the driveway, I heard German voices. Staying in the shadows, I walked to the back of the house and spotted four German soldiers standing outside one of the buildings. I said to myself, "what am I going to do now?" I didn't want to kill them unless I had to, so I gave a short burst over their heads with my Thompson submachine gun.

I then ran across the driveway and got down on my knees. They shouted, "Comrade!", and more soldiers came out of the building and lined up in military formation. Finally one said, "Das ist allie". I said,

"Comen ze here", and marched them down the driveway to my crew waiting in the jeep. I asked my crew to check these guys out while I checked the house. After knocking on the side door, an elderly white-haired woman came to the door.

I walked into a dark room and told her that I needed a light so that I could see. She understood and lit a candle. I checked the rooms downstairs and all was clear, then I motioned upstairs. There were three rooms, two rooms were empty but the third door was closed. I asked her to open it and she said, "nein". Again I asked her to open the door and she again replied, "nein". I then raised my voice and demanded that she open the door. She saw that I was relentless and proceeded to open the door. When I walked into the room I noticed a chair with a uniform folded neatly on it and a male asleep in the bed. I woke him up, he got out of bed and walked to the end of the bed and turned left towards the chair for his pants... or his gun!

The odds were 50-50 that he was going for the pants or the gun but I preferred the better odds, so I diverted his direction and ran him downstairs, barefooted and in his long-johns. Our night ended with a collection of 41 prisoners, 13 pistols, Lugers and P38s.

Gilbert Gardner
253rd Armored
Field Artillery Bn.

CHRISTMAS EVE IN AN OLD BARN

After reading Harold Storey's article, "Christmas in Luxembourg" it brought back memories of my experiences during the war. We left Metz and drove all night to stop the German attacks. The weather was one of our enemies and the snow made it hard to move our jeeps trucks and tanks. The roads were covered with ice and snow and when we arrived in Luxembourg our company was also billeted in an old barn.

It was Christmas Eve and there I was standing guard duty; it was better cold and I can still remember the full moon shining down the landscape.

Many Christmas Eves have gone by however my thoughts still go back to the old barn and Christmas Eve in 1944. Moving on we had to cross the river at Diekirch in Luxembourg and this is where I lost a great friend, Don Nickles, from Chicago. He was wounded and died there on the riverbank. Each year the townspeople of Diekirch reenact this river crossing that resulted in the liberation of their town.

This crossing was one of the 26 that the 5th Infantry Division made in France, Germany and Luxembourg. I too was blessed to return home after five major campaigns and begin my life. As long as I live I will never forget the men who were left behind.

Dan Santagata
5th Infantry Division, Company B
7th Engineer Battalion

WELCOME TO VBOB

The following are the names of those people who have joined VBOB between April 1 and July 1, 2011. We certainly are pleased to have you with us and look forward to your participation in helping to perpetuate the legacy of all who served in that epic battle. You can help immediately by:

- Talking to people and suggest they also join VBOB.
- Send us articles to be included in the "Bulge Bugle".
- Attend our reunion and the December event in Washington DC.
- Spread the word about our web site.

ROBERT GLANVILLE
JEFFREY KRACHUN
JAMES H STURWOLD
RICHARD WHALEN
ALBERT B WESS SR
VIRGIL C DAVIS
SHERRY KLOPP
DAVID L TRIGGS
MRS. TRIGGS
FRED REINAUER
JOAN B LARSON
KAYE BOSKO
MARY ELLEN STANLEY
EDWARD E DONAHUE
SANDRA L DONAIS
FRANCIS JEAN SHALHOUB
RICK ANTHONY
JACK PONS
ANN MOON
KAREN SMALL
CHESTINE WALLACE
CORK MORRIS
HOWARD COWLES
BEVERLY MALONE

CARL WIGGS
STEVE DENNIS
PHILLIPPE BASTIN
STEVE STONEFIELD
GREGG SPADARO
CHARLES BIDDLE
PETE L. OLEAN
KAREN J AKERS
ROBERT H. KLINE
PHILLIPPE BASTIN
NORMAN KATZ
MICHAEL PHELPS JR
MARIE DINOCCO
BETTY MADDIX
JENNIFER BUCK
FRANK F FORTH, JR
RALPH PEETERS
PENDLETON, JAMES
CLAUDE E WOOD
RICHARD T DEMENT
CLINTON R LONGENECKER JR
JACK N MARSHALL
DIANA TURCHIK
VINCENT MEINHART

ANNA L KULINICH
PATRICIA M. FENNELL
CYRIL WOLFSON
ELAINE W WINTERS
JOHN F BAMBARA
ADAM WOLOSKEY
ALPHONSE IANNUZZI
SCOTT SZYMANSKI
JANET N WOODS
JEROME BLUESTEIN
JERRY MANNING
JACK STITZINGER
GENEVA K. COGER
EDWARD HOY
GARY M GATES
TODD D ADAMS
STEVEN SARNICOLA
MORRIS MELAMED
ALLEN KLINGENSMITH
JIM STROBLE
ROBERT H. KLINE
JACK HUYSER
MICHAEL LOPIANO

COULD YOU FIND JUST ONE...

...veeran of the Battle of the Bulge
If every one of our members found just one
new member, we'd be in good shape.

There's so much left to be done and we can do it with your help





Prince Philippe presenting the wreath

BELGIAN ROYAL FAMILY HONORS VBOB

By J. David Bailey, VBOB president, 106th ID

H.R.H. Prince Philippe and H.R.H. Princess Mathilde of Belgium, and Major General Michael S. Linnington, Commander of the Joint Force Headquarters National Capital Region participated in a wreath laying ceremony at the Battle of the Bulge Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery on Sunday, June 26, 2011.

The event honored the fallen heroes in America's largest land battle in history.

The Crown Prince and Princess spoke individually to all Bulge veterans present in recognition of their service to their country and Belgium during World War II. The Prince, the next heir to the throne, was very cordial and warmhearted in his remarks to the Veterans and responsive to their comments.

We at VBOB were indeed pleased at our large representation of Veterans and Associate Members of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge along with their friends and family who also attended this special event.

Also present for the ceremony were H.E. Steven Vanackere, Deputy Prime Minister of Belgium, Ambassador and Mrs. Jan Matthysen, Military Attaché Mike Delobel and other Belgium dignitaries.

The Prince and Princess participated in a public wreath ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns prior to the commemorative event at the Battle of the Bulge Monument in Section 21 of Arlington Cemetery.

The royal couple came to Washington with a delegation of 300 Belgian businessmen to help create investment and trade for Belgium. The princess married into the royal family in 1999 and now lives the life of a modern monarch, raising four children, embracing causes, and preparing to be queen one day.

We at VBOB are indeed proud to have this famous young couple as our friends.



(l-r) Mr. Steven VANACKERE, Deputy Prime Minister of Belgium, J. David Bailey, George Chekan



(l-r) Albert Dorago, Princess Mathilde, Prince Philippe, Mike Levin, J. David Bailey, Dee Paris, Lou Cunningham, Tom Dobinski



(l-r) MaryAnn Bowen, Dorothea Darago, Tom Dobinski, Robert Rhodes



(l-r) Maj Patrick De SMEDT, Assistant Defense Attache', Maurice "Dave" Bach

(continued on Page 7)

“We at VBOB were, indeed, pleased at our large representation of Veterans and Associate Members...”



(l-r) Alan Cunningham, Judy Cunningham, Charlotte Cunningham, Lou Cunningham



(l-r) J. David Bailey, Madeleine Bryant, Lew Nash,



(l-r) Luc Leys, Warrant Officer, Dee Paris, Dominique Van Eeckeute, NATO



(l-r) BG Mike Delobel BE Defense Attache', John Bowen



(l-r) Alfred Shehab, Ruth Hamilton



(l-r) Princess Mathilde, Prince Philippe, J. David Bailey, George Chekan

Photo s by: David Bailey
John Bowen
Robert Rhodes

VETERANS TOURS



******* YEAR 2011 TOUR *******
VBOB 10TH ARMORED DIVISION TOUR combines 10th Armored's ferocious battles (Metz, Bastogne and the Bulge, Saar-Moselle Triangle, Crailsheim Salient), with some of Europe's top scenery and cities (Rhine, Heidelberg, Danube, Bavaria, Austrian Alps and Munich) and infamous Third Reich sites (Landsberg, Berchtesgaden, Eagle's Nest and Dachau) Oct 2 - 13, 2011. Arrive Paris. Depart Munich.



******* YEAR 2011 TOUR *******
PILSEN WW2 LIBERATION FESTIVAL in the Czech Republic is becoming world famous. Three days of festivities (and lots of famous Pilsner Urquell beer) celebrating USA achievements in World War II and the Cold War. VBOB veterans and their families will be guests of honor. We also visit medieval Nuremberg to see the Nazi Party Rally stadiums and International War Crimes Trials Palace of Justice. After Pilsen we visit Prague, the Czech capital and one of Europe's most beautiful and historic cities, where we are guests of honor at an official reception. Plenty of free time for sightseeing, leisure and shopping. May 3 - 9, 2012. Arrive Frankfurt. Depart Prague.



VBOB BATTLE OF THE BULGE 'MEMORIAL DAY' TOUR. In 2012 VBOB veterans and their families will once again be guests of honor at the prestigious Memorial Day celebrations which are held in the American 'Battle of the Bulge' cemeteries in Europe. International military, political and diplomatic dignitaries attend and the US Army is ceremonially present. Afterwards we spend four days exploring the Bulge battlefields and visiting "special places" requested by the members of our VBOB group. We join in many festivities and ceremonies with our local friends in the towns of Belgium and Luxembourg. We also go into Germany as far as Cologne and cruise the Rhine to the Remagen Bridge. There is plenty of free time for shopping, sightseeing, etc. May 24 - June 2, 2012. Arrive Brussels. Depart Paris.

NORMANDY D-DAY ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION TOUR. VBOB is invited to the annual D-Day June 6 Anniversary celebrations in Normandy and we visit the beaches and battlefields in depth. Then we finish with a full day in Paris. You can do this tour on its own, or as an extension of the VBOB BATTLE OF THE BULGE 'MEMORIAL DAY' TOUR. June 2 - 8, 2012. Arrive and Depart Paris.

FOR MORE INFORMATION on all tours, contact Doris Davis, President of VBOB Golden Gate (San Francisco) Chapter. Email doris@battleofthebulge.org Telephone (650) 654 - 0101 (PST).

"History came to life during our VBOB tour in May this year. We were treated like royalty by the communities - receptions, memorial events, dedications. We heard "Thank you for our freedom!" many times. I will hold on to the deep, rich experiences I had from the trip for the rest of my life!" Madeleine Bryant (Father - Fritz Kraemer served in 84th Inf. Division)

"Words cannot describe the experience of standing on the very ground where my Father was in World War II. I couldn't help but wonder what went through his mind back then. I felt closer to my father during my trip." Doris Davis (Father - Leonard J. Schneider served in 79th Division, 313th Inf. Rgt)

"I stood on the exact spot in the forest where my Dad & his Tank Destroyer crew met their fate in a fierce battle, Oct 9th 1944. From now on when I hear (or sing) the Star Spangled Banner, I will sing it with renewed meaning. My thoughts will go back to that very place where my Dad fought...that is my America...men fighting for freedom." Dan Rabe (Father - Sgt. Ernest Rabe, 773rd Tank BN)

VBOB NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

Please Pay Your Dues Promptly!

FROM UTAH BEACH TO CZECHOSLAVAKIA

by F. Keith Davis, 16th Field Artillery

When the Allies planned the invasion of Hitler's Fortress Europe, they chose the Normandy Coast of France for their landing sites and they were code named, Sword, Juno, Gold, Omaha & Utah. The English, French, Canadians and others landed on Sword, Juno & Gold and the Americans landed on Omaha and Utah beaches.

I went ashore on Utah Beach and the beach was secure and the fighting was a few miles inland. We were near the town of St. Mere Eglise. We fought in the hedgerows, towns and villages and fought our way to the huge Nazi Submarine Base at Brest, France. The Artillery fired on this base from the land, the Air Force bombed it from the air & the Navy fired on it from the sea. After much fire power the base surrendered.

I was in the 16th Field Artillery Observation Battalion. We were the eyes and ears of the Field Artillery. We fought our way thru St. Lo, up to and thru Paris and to the border of Germany. On Dec. 16, 1944, Nazi Field Marshall Von Rundsted made a Counter-Attack on a 60 mile front in this area. He came thru with the 5th Panzer Army, 6th Panzer Army and the 7th German Army. We were right in the center of this attack. I was in the area of St. Vith and Bastogne. They really clobbered us. Thousands of Americans and Germans were killed in this breakthrough (later known as the Battle of the Bulge).

It took Gen. George Patton two days to bring in the 101st, 82nd, Airborne and the 26th Infantry Division to help reinforce our position. One Paratrooper asked me "where was the front line"? I told him he was standing on it. The Nazi's destroyed much Army material & killed many men. The German High Command sent an ultimatum to our Gen. McAuliffe at Bastogne and told him to either surrender or be annihilated. Gen. McAuliffe sent a reply with one word "Nuts". The Germans did not know what to think of or understand the word "Nuts. This was American slang for, in no way will we surrender.

The weather was very cold and the fog was over the whole battlefield. The Nazis pushed us back from the German Border, back thru Belgium, Luxembourg and into France. The fog was so thick, we could not tell if an American Sherman tank or a German Tiger tank was coming toward us. Two weeks after the Bulge started, the fog began to lift and the sky was clear again. At this time the U.S. Air Force sent hundreds and hundreds of fighter planes over the front lines and they flew thousands of sorties, destroying supply lines, gun emplacements, infantry, tanks and everything they could see. At this time we began to hold our position and slowly, very slowly we began to advance again toward Germany. The Nazi SS Troops captured the 285th Field Artillery Observation Battalion. Our 16th. F.A.O.B. was to meet up with the 285th, regroup and form a new battalion. This never happened. The SS herded over 100 men of the 285th into a snowy field and machine gunned them down in cold blood. This was not war; this was murder. This was known as the Malmedy Massacre.

On January 25, 1945 we were at the same position we were when the Bulge started on Dec. 16, 1944.

I was on an observation post in the city of Koblenz, Germany and ten Catholic Nuns came up to me and in perfect English asked me to tell them when the war would be over. How would I know?

I watched the Army Engineers build a pontoon bridge over the Rhine River. The river was fast, deep and over a mile wide. It was scary to watch our heavy Sherman tanks & heavy artillery guns being pulled by large Prime Movers and Army trucks loaded with supplies and soldiers cross this bridge. The bridge held and supplies and men continued to cross the Rhine River.

I was at the liberation of a Nazi Concentration Camp. The sights we saw were horrible and the smell was only a smell that can be made by torture and death.

We fought our way through Nuremberg and the smell of everywhere.

We zigzagged back and forth thru Germany and Sudatenland and fought our way into Czechoslovak Russian Army here. This is where we heard the war over on May 8, 1945.

It was exactly nine months from the time I went ashore until we met the Russians in Czechoslovakia and I was whole time. In closing. I want to say "Freedom is now America....,

BARBED WIRE

by George Wilson

101st Airborne Division

An article in the November 2010 issue of the Bulge Bugle by Lester Schwann of the 82nd Airborne that cut his finger on a K-Ration can is a story that I can relate to because I had a similar incident happen to me. If you have read the 321 Mission Accomplished history book, it tells about that move but doesn't tell any details.

On about Sept 24, 1944, we...the 321st made a night march back up Hell's Hwy to Veghel. They said it was 8 miles but it seemed more like 40. We got to our destination just at daybreak when all hell broke loose. I had already looked around and found a foxhole close by left by the Germans. It was nearby but on the opposite side of a hedge. I made a run for it but forgot about the barbed wire that ran through the hedge. I hit the wire and went headfirst into the fox hole. I don't know if the Germans had seen me go into the foxhole or not, but they were cutting the weeds and grass above my head and it was falling in on me. I never did know if it was machine gun fire or shrapnel from mortar shells. When I hit that barbed wire, I cut myself and it was bleeding quite a bit. I was told to go to First Aid and I could get a Purple Heart. I told them I didn't want one because someone might ask me how I got a Purple Heart and I wouldn't want to tell them I got it for running into a barbed wire fence. I used my own First Aid Kit and made it just fine. There were 4 more guys out there and I never did know if they found a hole to get in or if they were laying flat on the ground, but all 5 of us were OK after the shelling stopped.

I, too, was short on points when the war was over and had to stay another 3 months. I think a lot of us had enough points but had to wait for transportation back to the United States. All the cooks in our mess hall were older men and had more points and left real soon. I got drafted to take over the mess hall. I had 2 week's training before the cooks left and then it was turned over to me to prepare chow for the 40 or so men left. I guess it all worked out OK because I didn't hear of anyone getting sick from the meals I fixed.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS AT WORK

Many of us are aware of the contributions of time and talent of our associate members, who desire to perpetuate the legacy of the men and women who served in that epic battle.

The following associates also hold office in their local chapter.

President:

Doris Davis - Golden Gate Chapter, CA (10)
Barry Veden - Northern Indiana Chapter, IN (30)
Tad Pritchett - Northern Kansas Chapter, KS (69)
Larry Lynch - Fort Monmouth Chapter, NJ (56)

Vice President:

Judy Greenhalgh - Lehigh Valley Chapter, PA (55)
Tom Tomastik - Alton Litsenberger Chapter, OH (68)
John Bowen - Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation

Secretary:

Barbara Mooneyhan - South Carolina Chapter, SC (7)
Laura Dwyer - Southern Arizona Chapter, AZ (26)
John Bowen - Maryland/DC Chapter, MD (3)
James McCusker - Delaware Valley Chapter, PA (4)
Marlene Moore - Reading Chapter, PA (64)
Katherine Wheeler - Alton Litsenberger Chapter, OH (68)
Angela Fazio - Staten Island Chapter, NY (52)

Treasurer:

Marcy Schuerholz - Maryland/DC Chapter, MD (3)

BRIDGE AT HEIDERSCHIEDERGRUND, LUXEMBOURG JANUARY 5, 1945 by George Whitten 166th Combat Engineers

Late in the afternoon, the 2nd Squad, 2nd platoon, Company "A" 166th Combat Engineers was ordered to a town called Heiderscheidgrund, a little village in a valley between Luxembourg and Belgium with a great road to Bastogne. They wanted to bring troops to stop the Germans who were putting pressure on Bastogne.

We began to erect a Bailey Bridge, but every time we drove a pin, we were shelled by the Germans because the sound echoed throughout the valley. The officers decided to take the Bailey Bridge apart and erect a bridge made of the treads we used on rubber pontoon, because someone had blown up two of the arches we had to put up two bridges of treads. We got the first set in, but could not lift the second one high enough to get over the first set.

The Lieutenant said he was going to wire down for the lumber to come from the depot to lift the wheels of the truck. I told him I could build it without the lumber. He told me to "Shut up." He was sick and tired of me. (we had known each other for over a year and a half-he was my original platoon leader.) He went into the Guard House, on the border between Luxembourg and Belgium, to have a cigarette.

I went to the truck driver (not a member /of my outfit so not subject to Court Marshall) and asked: "Will you help me build the bridge"? He said: "Gladly, soldier." We lifted the tread to the truck, undid the crane, then lifted the back up. Now we were four feet in the air. We did not need any lumber so we backed over the first bridge and were ready to erect the second. I said to the driver: "We better awaken the Canadian Infantry who were sleeping on the side of the road waiting for us to construct the bridge. They crossed on foot over the bridge and protected us so the Germans couldn't get to us.

After the Canadians were across the river, we put the second tread in place. So, now the two bridges were complete. The waiting tanks could cross. This took all of twenty minutes, instead of waiting three hours for the blocking.

When we put the last section down, the truck driver did not hear me and he put it down on my foot so we had tug at a crow bar to lift the bridge. Then, the Lieutenant came out and said: "I'm going to court marshal you for disobeying orders". The captain said: "The Hell you will!"

The Canadian Infantry played the bagpipes while crossing the river.

In response to the article... "RHINE RIVER BOUND" by Carl C Miller

202 Engr Combat Battalion. Company "C"

I was a squad Sgt. in the 252nd Engineer Combat Battalion which was in the 9th Army when troops reached the Rhine river. The article in the VBOB dated May, 2011 brings back memories of the first pile driven, bridge to built across the Rhine river south of Wesel, Germany. I don't know the date that the 202nd constructed the pontoon treadway but we were told that this pontoon treadway was just below where we built the semi permanent pile driven bridge.

The pontoon treadway had been taken up when the 1146th Engineer group was ordered to build the wooden pile bridge. Two companies worked 24/7 and it was finished in 30 days. This bridge was being constructed when President Franklin D. Roosevelt died so the bridge was named the Roosevelt Rhine River Bridge. The Roosevelt Rhine River Bridge was 1814 feet when completed.

My wife and I visited Wesel in 1972 and tried to find some evidence of where this pile bridge was built. The bridge had been completely removed and a new bridge had been built across to Wesel.

I am enclosing a picture, which I hope you can print along with this article.



VOBO Trustee Honored to Carry Our National Anthem

By Past CINC Col. Bert Rice



On the evening of 1 March in Annapolis, MD, I had the rare opportunity and honor of carrying the original copy of the "Star-Spangled Banner." The manuscript is encased in a special gas-filled metal frame that weighs about 25 pounds. The event marked the kickoff of the 80th Anniversary Celebration for when the "Star-Spangled Banner" became our National Anthem. Legislation was signed into law on 3 March 1931 by President Herbert Hoover to make it our National Anthem. In addition, this is the beginning of the War of 1812 Bicentennial Celebration, which will conclude in 2014. Of course, Francis Scott Key was inspired to write the words to the "Star-Spangled Banner" while aboard a British ship during the Battle of Baltimore after the bombardment of Fort McHenry during the evening of 13-14 September 1812. He penned the words on 14 September 1814. It was essentially his patriotic words of praise to the American flag and the defenders of Fort McHenry!

It is the very first time that the original manuscript of the "Star-Spangled Banner" has ever been out of its permanent home in the Maryland Historical Society in Baltimore, Maryland. They take very good care of this encased, special and rare document. It was carried to Annapolis from Baltimore in a large armored vehicle, escorted by 10 motorcycle police officers up front and several police cars trailing the armored vehicle. When it arrived in Annapolis, they needed someone who was able to carry it and they wanted a combat veteran. Guess I fit the requirement. I was escorted into the Miller Senate Office building by a color guard and several military personnel and some young Marines—plus others! The Governor, a Congressman, and several State-elected officials spoke! A reception followed the speeches. Then I carried the Star-Spangled Banner back out to the waiting armored vehicle!

I am still a bit awe struck by it all—this kid from Intake, MT, being involved in such a historic event! Who would have ever thought it?

NOMINATIONS FOR 2012 VBOB EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The nominating committee after, considering all recommendations submitted and received, hereby announce their recommendations of the nominating committee for officers and trustees to serve on the Executive Council for the 2012 year, 16, December 2011 – 15, December 2012.

President: J. David Bailey
106th Infantry Division

Executive VP: Doug Dillard
82nd Airborne Division

VP Membership: Mike Levin
7th Armored Division

VP Chapters: Tom Chambers
9th Armored Division

VP Military Affairs: Alfred H.M. Shehab
38th Cavalry Squadron

Treasurer: Ralph W. Bozorth
Associate Member

Corresponding Secretary: Madeleine Bryant
Associate Member

Recording Secretary: John D. Bowen
Associate Member

Three Year Trustees:
Robert Rhodes - Associate Member
Doris Davis - Associate Member
Alan Cunningham - Associate Member

Two Year Trustees:
John Schaffner - 106th Infantry Division
MaryAnn Bowen - Associate Member
Bert Rice - Associate Member

Past presidents are automatically Executive Council Members. The above nominees were unanimously approved by the nominating committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Alfred H. M. Shehab, Chairman
Nominating Committee



**ARE YOUR
DUES DUE?**

MIRACLES During the Bulge

I am attaching a photo of my father, Elvin H. Wilken, for the Battle of the Bulge website. My father was in the 7th Armored Division, HQ 129th. He drove a half-track from Normandy to the Baltic Sea, along with his brother soldiers in the 7th Armored Division. My father's Battle of the Bulge story had a somewhat different facet to it.



Elvin H. Wilken

After being in the bulge for several days, his unit was ordered to Louveigne, Belgium on Christmas Day. While trying to get to their destination, he proceeded to cross a stream only to discover he was in the sites of a German Gun. As he started to reverse the halftrack the German soldier called out "Merry Christmas" in German and allowed the halftrack to pass unharmed. My father being of German decent and fluent in German answered the soldier with the greeting of "Merry Christmas" and left the area before they could change their mind. That was his first Christmas Miracle.

After arriving in Louveigne, they were told by their officers that they could sleep in the homes of the townspeople if they were invited, as you know the winter was severe that year. The young couple and their 4 year old daughter that invited the halftrack crew to stay in their home eventually became my aunt and uncle. That evening after dinner the woman's sister came home after helping their parents with the chores on their dairy farm located behind the church in Louveigne. She was staying with her sister because a relatives home had been bombed and they were using her room at their parents home.

Dad's second Christmas Miracle happened when he met his hostess' sister, Angele Gonay, who would become his wife. After a war time courtship and letters back and forth from where ever my father was, as the war front moved on through Germany, they were married in Louveigne on November 10, 1945. They arrived back in Illinois in March of 1946, where they began their life, farming together west of Ashkum, Illinois.

They truly did live happily ever after together. I had a wonderful upbringing with these two people for my parents. They had many happy reunions with my father's army brothers and it was a privilege to know these men and their families. I accompanied my parents on trips back to the Bulge

battlegrounds during trips to see our family in Belgium. I am so proud of the roll my father played in WWII. My daughter's and I accompanied my parents to the 50th Reunion of the Battle of the Bulge in St. Louis, which was a wonderful event. My mother met Prince Philip of Belgium, and members of the Belgium underground which was quite an experience for her.

My mother passed away in 2005 and my father joined her in heaven in 2008. I have become an associate member of the Battle of the Bulge organization so I can continue to read the Bulge Bugle, which I enjoy.

*Very truly yours,
Lillian Voigt*

The Christmas I Remember Most

by Frank E. Royer – 2nd Infantry Division, 9th
Infantry Regiment, Co. K

Ten days before Christmas 1944, Hitler and the German Army started a large counter attack against the American forces in a forest of Christmas trees called the Ardennes. This battle later became known as the "Battle of the Bulge".

Several hundred American soldiers were cut off in different sectors (and taken prisoners of war. I was one of those unfortunate soldiers. On Christmas Eve, after many miles of forced marches, we found ourselves hungry, cold and crowded into a dark, unheated building trying to go to sleep. I'm sure the other guys felt as miserable and depressed as I did.

Then something happened; one of the GI's started singing "Jingle Bells" and some others joined him and then everyone in the building was singing. The singing continued until we had sung every Christmas carol that anyone ever knew. Someone started repeating the 23rd Psalm I and everyone joined him. Then it was quiet, and I'm sure everyone, including myself, dropped off to sleep thinking private thoughts of past Christmas holidays and of family and friends.

DID YOU ENJOY THESE STORIES??

**Our members would like to
read your story too!!**

These stories are still coming in, but they are rapidly being used up. So, get your story into the mail soon. Be as brief as possible, and confine the contents to one incident which happened to you during the Bulge.

*"We make a living by what we get,
we make a life by what we give."*

- Sir Winston Churchill (1874-1965)

To the Editor

The May 2011 issue is loaded with information (as was the previous several issues), explaining all the efforts that the staff had been forced to cope with to 'save the organization' - I for one, thank all of you for the work required. I was pleased to see your innovation of collecting photo's - a great idea!

MY WAR EXPERIENCE

**Oliver W. Siebert
Greater St. Louis
Gateway Chapter**



I have attached the only overseas photo that I have, i.e., a picture a nurse took of me on one of my 'walking exercise' events at the Army Third General Hospital, @ Aix-en-Provence (a suburb of Marseille, France) - awaiting a Hospital Ship back to the states for rehab and my medical discharge. I was an artillery forward observer, with the 220th FABn, 324th Inf. Regiment. Besides the attached photograph, I have included a summary sheet that covers my post-war life (only attached as I have a mere three-line summary of my WWII experience (to prove that I can be concise, when needed [not the extended jillion lines it took me [below] to tell you of my war experience, et al).

My brother worked for the local electric utility and I worked as a machinist & tool and die maker - we were both working our way as students of electrical engineering at Washington University, in St. Louis. The day after Pearl Harbor, we went to join the Navy. He was immediately selected and I was rejected as being 'clinically blind' (I could NOT see the chart without my glasses [let alone the Big 'E'). I kept trying different branches, all the same answer.

Eventually, my draft notice sent me to the induction center for my physical. It was yet cold in the morning an open sided tent; the morning tests were done while undressed (so for the first and last time [the Army used logic]), i.e., we would take the afternoon tests in the AM and the AM tests (but with clothes) in the PM; except we were not given the morning tests (when they normally tested for eyesight). As desired, I was suddenly in the Army - as an Artillery Forward Observer (which relied heavily upon good eyesight)!!

After basic, I was sent to the ASTP (Army Specialized Training Program) for some GI's who had considerable college. When the ASTP was stopped I was short of my degree by one semester - they needed more bodies for the European invasion more than they needed more engineering officers. During the battle for France, we were short of

Artillery Forward Observers 2nd Lt's. (who were the second to Infantry Platoon Leaders for highest casualty rates); I received a Field Promotion.

After I was injured, and awaiting a medical discharge, I was advised that I had also received an appointment to Complete my degree at West Point; even with my bad eyesight and messed up leg/body, they would offer a dispensation (at that time, they had no idea how high would be the casualty rate to invade Japan); the Army offer was, i.e., " - - accept West Point or be discharged as an enlisted GI." I actually gave the offer several days serious consideration.

I met with the orthopedic MD's and they said my prognoses was not good, with one leg an inch shorter than the other, with my hips tilted, my spine twisted, my future was

going to be questionable for even walking, let alone for running across a field/beach firing an M-1 held at the hip (as a pistol), etc. As it came to pass, their medical judgment was correct, I limp, I walk with a cane and (while I have been able to compensate for those difficulties [which also led to Paget's Bone disease, etc.], my original 6'-1-1/2" height is now only 5' 5" [short]) - it would not have been a reasonable choice.

We fought across France; after we took Strasbourg (on Thanksgiving), as a full Division, we motored to Sarreguemines; during that trip, almost two-weeks before the 12/16/44 Bulge began, I was captured by Blonde, blue-eyed German S.S. officers, in USA GI uniforms, speaking 'good' English (acting as MP's, redirecting some limited number of 'younger' 2nd Lieutenants [driving alone in their own Jeep], off a side road (for interrogation) - after three days, I was very fortunate in that I was able to escape (my captor was not so lucky).

On Christmas Day, 1944, while at my Artillery Forward Observation Post (a large shell hole, on the top of a hill, about 1/4 mile in front of my infantry regiment) - I was wounded in my right leg (a German shell landed about 5 feet in front of me [it should have torn me into lots of little pieces] - my guardian angel saved me [again] - it only broke my leg).

It took many hours to crawl back to where aid men were able to carry me back to the 9th Evac. hospital (sort of a [Korea War] MASH type Temporary hospital [patched my leg together with a full leg cast]). On (either) December 26 or 27th, 1944 (I was pretty well doped with self-imposed morphine during my several hours long crawl back to our lines - I can't be sure), while being taken by ambulance to the 35th Station Hospital, we were strafed and I was hit (again) in the same leg (at a different place). My good luck held as it had for me for all of my combat exposure (when I should have died every day on the line [our outfit had the record for WWII, of {144 days} of 24/7 x 144 days without ANY ROTATION off the line] - I was hit in the same leg).

This time, at the 35th Station Hospital, I was taken directly to the operating room - the damage was found to be more extensive - and they did as good a job as could be expected (the 35th Station Hospital, at Chalon-sur-Saone [south of Dijon, France] was short of help - most non-commissioned Medical help had been sent to the front as infantry replacements (huge casualty rate during the Battle of the Bulge). Later, by train to the 3rd General Hospital (Aix-en-Provence) 'for my photo' - then a three-week hospital ship trip along the equator, up to Charleston, SC, to rehab and discharged before the War was over.



Men of the 84th Division digging in near Amonines/
US Army

The Ardennes Tanker

by John E. McAuliffe, 87th Infantry Division
347th Infantry Regiment, Company M

The "Call to Arms" in ancient days.
Brought men to war and varied ways.
Now men arise to swell the ranks.
In armor, clad in mighty tanks.

The horsemen charged into the fray.
To cut the foe - to lead the way.
Now tankmen roll on turning tracks.
With mounted guns on armored backs.

This roving fortress roams the land.
With blazing guns to take command.
It churns through ice and Ardennes snow.
To open the road's where soldiers go.

These daring men with nerves of steel.
Lead Armies into battle reel.
Sherman, Patton and Abrams tanks.
They have our praise and heartfelt thanks.



World War II Reenactor

George Wisniewski, 7th Armored Division, 48th
Armored Infantry Battalion



I am a Battle of the Bulge Veteran and a member of a World War II re-enactor group the 99th Infantry Division, 393rd Regiment, Easy Company. This group was formed in 1999; I joined them in 2003. The actual 99th first saw action in World War II at Elsenborn Ridge in Belgium in December 1944. Their nickname is "Battle Babies." As a replacement, I was sent to the 7th Armored Division in France in September 1944. I was with the 7th Division until June 1945. After a couple of real close calls - one with "Screamin Meemies" in Holland and one at Manhay, Belgium, on Dec. 24th, 1944. I earned five battle stars during my tour with the 7th. I was transferred to the 2nd Armored Division for occupation duty and was discharged in Pennsylvania on Dec. 30th 1945.

I can still wear my Class A uniform from 1945. I wore that in my first parade with the 99th re-enactors in 2003. The younger ones were concerned about me at first but found that I could keep up with them. I had to get another uniform for field duty and all the rest of the military gear. I also collect items for our "Living History" displays that we do for different groups. In our group, we have two jeeps, a member with a .30 cal machine gun and another who has a B.A.R. Our group participated in several battle re-enactments.

My favorite re-enactment was one near Detroit in which there were five battles and plenty of American and German World War II vehicles. In 2006 and 2007, we hosted in Dunkirk, N.Y., battles re-enacting the raid on Dieppe, France, and the landing on Utah Beach. In 2009, the 99th hosted our first "Bridge at Remagen" battle re-enactment at Tidioute, Pa., on the Allegheny River. This year, we will return to host another re-enactment there. Actually, the 99th was the first infantry division to cross the real Ludendorf Bridge in March 1945. Anyone who is interested in the 99th re-enactors group can call Sgt. Pat Tarasovitch at 814-825-2068 or e-mail him at battlebaby99@verizon.net

DONATIONS

We thank the following people for their generosity

RALPH DINN	THOMAS MORSE	GEORGE WATERS
BOB BABCOCK	ANDREW PACE	ARNOLD CASCARANO
DONALD WELEVER	PAUL SHEA	MYRON POLZIN
JOHN GATENS	WILLIAM BUELL	EARL WALDRON
JAMES STURWOLD, SR.	GERALD LYMAN	ALBERT KOSOW
JAMES BURROWS, SR.	ALVIN SUSSMAN	FELIX MELLENO
MARVIN COHEN	JOHN HOYE	KENNETH COMPTON
LUTHER CALDWELL, JR.	FAY WINTERS	DEAN HUFFSTUTLER
ROBERT MONTGOMERY	ROLAND GUGEL	BENJAMIN MOY
CHRISTIAN DEMARCKEN	WALLACE FRANK	THOMAS FERRARI
JUNE PORTER	CHARLES PRICE	MICHAEL LOPIANO
RICHARD SCHNEIDER	ROBERT LATZ	EARL LISTON
VIOLA MASON	CASIMER SERVA	TIMOTHY HORGAN, SR.
JOSEPH ZAMOT	BURTON ROSE	AMOS CLARY
VERNON GREGORY	JOHN KOVACH	JAMES PHILLIPS
ALFRED BABECKI	HUGH COLBERT	HARRY PAWLIK
RALPH BOZORTH	ROBERT MADSON	JAMES MCKINLEY
JAMES DEMPSEY	BERNARD HAAS	JOHN FETROW, JR.
LAVERN WHITE	VINCENT MEINHART	WILLIAM BUELL
DAVID ESTES		

LOOKING FOR INFORMATION

My name is Jeffrey Krachun and I am a son of Robert Krachun. I am searching for information to find someone that might have served with him during WWII. He served in the 18th Regiment Company C and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He also ended up at the Nuremberg War Trials as a guard. I recently found after his passing that he was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge and the Bronze Star. I would like to find out what circumstances led to these decorations. If there is anyone that might have known him or knows someone that might have known him please reply.

Thank you,

Jeffery Krachun

803 New York Ave Raritan, NJ 08869

Home (908) 725-7380

I am looking for information about Sergeant Leonard H. Schroll, who served in the 75th Infantry Division, 290th Infantry Regiment. Leonard was killed in action on 27 Dec 1944 and some records indicate the site of his death to be in some woods near the Soy-Werpin Road at Hill La Roumiere. If you knew Leonard please contact me.

SSG David C. Hergett, Jr.

Illinois Army National Guard

Medic2909@sbcglobal.net

I am looking for information about my father Samuel J. Wing, who served in the 26th Infantry Division. He joined Jan. 19, 1944 and was at Camp Blanding. We think he crossed the Atlantic on the Queen Elizabeth and another boat to land on Utah Beach. He spoke of the BOB and a few other things but his travels are not clear and we would like to try to trace his steps.

Please contact me if you have any information.

Barbara Wheeler

6015 NW 27 Street

Margate, FL 33063

Email address. wheelba@bellsouth.net

Telephone 954-971-1824

CAN ANYBODY IDENTIFY THIS?



VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, INC.

HILTON GARDEN INN COLUMBUS

COLUMBUS, GA - SEPTEMBER 20-25, 2011

REUNION PROGRAM

Tuesday, September 20, 2011

Noon – 5:00 pm Registration headquarters, Hilton Garden Inn
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm Wine and cheese reception. (compliments of the Hilton Garden Inn)
Hospitality room will be open
Dinner on your own. The hotel has a great restaurant.

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

8:00 am – 4:00 pm Registration headquarters Hilton Garden Inn
8:30 am Buses depart for the National Infantry Museum
Lunch included. Return to hotel by 4:00pm
Dinner on your own

Thursday, September 22, 2011

8:00 am – 4:00 pm Registration headquarters Hilton Garden Inn – Last day for registration
8:30am Buses depart for Andersonville; POW Museum, Driving tour around
Andersonville prison and cemetery
Lunch included. Return to hotel by 4:00pm
6:00pm – 8:30pm Italian buffet dinner and entertainment

Friday, September 23, 2011

8:30am Buses depart for Warm Springs; Little White House, FDR Museum, etc
Lunch included. Return to hotel by 4:00pm
Dinner on your own

Saturday, September 24, 2011

Free time in the morning
Lunch on your own.
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm General membership meeting.
6:00pm – 6:45pm Reception (cash bar)
7:00pm Banquet seating

Sunday, September 25, 2011

Farewell Breakfast – on your own

Hospitality Room: Location and times will be posted in the registration room.

See “Highlights and Schedule Information” sheet for details

VBOB REGISTRATION FORM - DEADLINE - SEPTEMBER 11, 2011

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Division _____ Regiment _____

Signature _____

Wife/Guest _____

Airline _____ Flight # _____ Arrival Date and Time _____

Departure Date and Time _____

	Number People	Cost/ Person	Total Cost
Registration Fee (all attendees must register)	_____	\$25	_____
Tuesday, September 20, 2011			
Wine & cheese reception (compliments of hotel)	_____	Free	_____
Dinner on your own			
Wednesday, September 21, 2011			
National Infantry Museum/Fort Benning (includes lunch and transportation)	_____	\$40	_____
Dinner on your own			
Thursday, September 22, 2011			
Andersonville & National POW Museum (includes lunch and transportation)	_____	\$40	_____
Italian dinner/buffet + entertainment – (cash bar)	_____	\$30	_____
Friday, September 23, 2011			
Little White House & FDR Museum (includes lunch and transportation)	_____	\$40	_____
Dinner on your own			
Saturday, September 24, 2011			
General membership meeting	_____		
Reception (cash bar)			
Banquet (indicate preference) Meat _____ Fish _____		\$45	_____
TOTAL			_____

Mail registration form and check to:

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc PO Box 27430, Philadelphia, PA 19118
(Refunds for cancellation, will be honored in whole or in part, depending on availability of funds)

WELCOME TO COLUMBUS, GA

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE 30TH ANNUAL REUNION

SEPTEMBER 20-25, 2011

HIGHLIGHTS AND SCHEDULE INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

The hotel has a complimentary shuttle to and from the airport so in order to prepare a schedule for pickups please fill in the blanks about arrival time, etc. on the Registration Form.

The Hospitality Room is there for you to socialize and enjoy the many exhibits, photo books and Battle of the Bulge memorabilia. The Hospitality Room hours will be posted in the lobby of the hotel.

REGISTRATION FEE

All who attend the VBOB Reunion must pay the registration fee. Wreaths, nametags, programs, table decorations, hospitality room, etc., are paid for from this fee.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2011

Welcome wine and cheese reception, (6:30 – 7:30)
Compliments of The Hilton Garden Inn. Dinner on your own. The hotel has a great restaurant.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2011

Bus departs for the National Infantry Museum, whose highlights include:

www.nationalinfantrymuseum.com

The Last Hundred Yards, contains life like scenes from eight different wars.

The Fort Benning Gallery highlights the training that turns a farm boy into a soldier.

World War II Street featuring barracks, chapel, mess hall and sleeping quarters used by General Patton.

The Family Support Gallery pays homage to the families on the home front who supported our military.

(Lunch included)

Wreath laying ceremony

IMAX Theatre optional

Dinner on your own

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2011

Bus departs for Andersonville National Historic Site.

www.nps.gov/ande

Sacrifices and Courage - From the Revolutionary War to Operation Iraqi Freedom, American prisoners of war have endured untold hardships, and shown tremendous courage. Andersonville NHS commemorates the sacrifices of these brave Americans through exhibits in the National Prisoner of War Museum; preserves the site of Camp Sumter (Andersonville prison); and manages Andersonville National Cemetery.

Andersonville Prisoner of War Museum

The exhibits in the National Prisoner of War Museum serve as a memorial to all American prisoners of war. The museum opened in 1998 and is dedicated to the American men and women who have suffered as POWs.

Camp Sumter, commonly called Andersonville, was one of the largest military prisons established by the Confederacy during the Civil War. In existence for 14 months, over 45,000 Union soldiers were confined at the prison. Of these, almost 13,000 died from disease, poor sanitation, malnutrition, overcrowding, and exposure to the elements. The largest number held in the 26½-acre stockade at any one time was more than 32,000, during August of 1864. Today the beauty of the prison site belies the suffering that once took place inside the stockade.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2011

We depart for Warm Springs, GA to visit The Little White House and the FDR Memorial Museum.

http://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/presidents/roosevelts_little_white_house.html

The Little White House was built by Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1932 while governor of New York. During FDR's presidency and the Great Depression, he developed many New Deal Programs (such as the Rural Electrification Administration) based upon his experiences in this small town.

FDR Memorial Museum contains a new film narrated by Walter Cronkite, two of Roosevelt's classic cars and the original bump gate that opened with an automobile bumper.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2011

Free time in the morning – lunch on your own

General membership meeting

Banquet reception (cash bar) - Color Guard; choice of beef or fish

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2011

Farewell Breakfast – on your own

SEE "REUNION PROGRAM" FOR BUS DEPARTURE TIMES.

SEE "REGISTRATION FORM" FOR COSTS.

Hilton Garden Inn Columbus
1500 Bradley Lake Blvd
Columbus, GA 31904
Tel. 706-660-1000 – Fax 706-660-1919
Toll free – 1-877-782-9444

http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com/en/gi/hotels/maps_directions.jhtml?ctyhocn=CSGGHGI

WELCOME

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

September 20- 25, 2011

HOTEL INFORMATION

The room rate is \$89 per night, single or double occupancy, plus taxes and includes complimentary parking. The hotel is offering five rooms for two days before, during the reunion and two days after the reunion at the same rate as listed above. **Pets are not allowed.** Check-in time is 3:00 PM and checkout is 12:00 noon.

When calling in to make your reservation use either the hotel phone number or their toll free number and say you are with the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge group. We suggest you guarantee your reservation with a charge card. **Reservation requests received after September 1, 2011 will be confirmed on a space available basis.** In the event you need to cancel your reservation, please inform the hotel 48 hours prior to the day of scheduled arrival.

Hotel amenities: Full service restaurant and lounge. Complimentary: shuttle service to and from Columbus Metropolitan Airport; indoor swimming pool, high-speed wired and wireless internet access throughout entire hotel; shuttle within a five mile radius.

Sleeping room amenities: Complimentary coffee/tea; phone calls toll free.

DIRECTIONS TO THE HOTEL

From I-185 take Exit 10 on to W/US-80/22, W/J R Allen Pkwy and head toward Phenix City AL. Take the West Bradley Park Dr. Exit #3B. Merge onto Bradley Park Dr and go to the stop light. Turn Right at stop light on to Brookstone Centre Blvd and go to the stop sign. Turn Right at stop sign. Go 1/5 mile to Bradley Lakes Blvd turn right. End at 1500 Bradley Lakes Blvd.



**VETERANS OF
THE BATTLE OF
THE BULGE 30TH ANNUAL
REUNION
Columbus, GA 31904
September 20 – 25, 2011**

**The Hilton Garden Inn, Columbus
1500 Bradley Lake Boulevard**

Reunion highlights:

- Fort Benning; a place where many of our veterans trained for WWII.
- National Infantry Museum
- Andersonville, site of the infamous Civil War prison
- National POW Museum
- The Little White House
- FDR Museum

Room rate \$89 per night plus tax.

Free shuttle to and from the Columbus Airport

***These many many other attractions
are yours to discover. Check the
Columbus, GA official visitors
guide for other sites of interest.***

***Visit These
Historical Sites***



LITTLE WHITE HOUSE



NATIONAL POW MUSEUM



ANDERSONVILLE, GA

Complete details in this issue!

THE FIELD ARTILLERY FORWARD OBSERVER

by M.J. "Mike" Levin, 7th Armored Div, FA Bn,
A Btry 489th

In combat, the field artillery has two ways to locate its targets; unobserved fire, in which the target cannot be seen and is, identified either by intelligence that has been provided or by firing at a location found on the map. For example, you might fire at an important crossroad. It is, in effect, firing blind. The second way is to have someone up front who can observe the enemy and his activity and radio back to the battalion fire direction center both his exact location and the location and details of the target he proposes to take under fire. That is the job of the forward observer, (the "F.O."). Using unobserved fire you might never know how close to your target your rounds landed or what damage you may have caused to the enemy because nobody was looking. With a forward observer you have someone not only directing the fire, but able to report the results. There is a down side to the F.O. job, however. In order to do his job effectively he has to be out front, usually in front of the troops he is supporting. The casualty rate among F.O.'s was very high. You had to try to make yourself as invisible as possible; hide your insignia and make sure whatever equipment you are using doesn't betray what you are doing.

In armored divisions the F.O. is normally a 1st Lt. or a 2nd Lt. He is provided a jeep, a sergeant, a driver/radio operator and a two part demountable radio (SCR 610). One part was the radio itself; the second part was a battery pack. The battery pack recharged itself when mounted in the vehicle with motor running. Each part weighed between 20 and 30 pounds. The radio operated on frequency modulation (FM) and was limited to "line of sight" transmission. Because of this technical limitation the F.O. was also provided a relay vehicle, (a half track), which was able to relay transmissions when the territory between the F.O. and the fire direction center interfered with line of sight communications.

The F.O. would normally "adjust" fire, (that is, zero in on a target) using one of the six 105mm self-propelled howitzers in his battery. Once adjusted on target, depending on the size and importance of the target, the S3, (who ran the fire direction center) would determine the number of weapons to be used on the target when the F.O. called "Fire For Effect".

The Fire Direction Center is critical to effective artillery battalion operations. In the case of unobserved fire the center must not only react to requests for fire based on incoming target information; they must also maintain meteorological and related information such as ambient temperature, wind speed and direction and even temperature of the gunpowder. These factors are important when no one is observing the target because they all affect the trajectory and therefore the accuracy of the fire. When a forward observer is conducting the artillery fire these factors are not important because the F.O. will "adjust" the fire until it is on target.

During combat most of the artillery shells we received were equipped with adjustable fuses. For example, we could set them to detonate on contact ("Fuse Quick") or to detonate after penetrating a target ("Fuse Delay")

During the Battle of The Bulge we started to receive shells with a newly developed fuse that did not require any setting. It was called a "proximity fuse" because it would automatically detonate the shell at the proper distance from the target. We called it "posit". Unlike most military equipment, however, which usually came with detailed instructions or Field Manuals, they rushed the proximity fuse into combat with no instructions whatsoever. We understood only that the posit apparently contained a small radar-like transmitter under its plastic nose cone.

We had no problem adjusting fire using one howitzer shell at a time with posit fuses. Before very long, however, we started to hear stories of shrapnel falling on friendly forces. It took some detective work to figure out what was happening. Once the F.O. had adjusted fire the fire direction center would direct fire for effect using one battery (six howitzers) or, depending on the target, the entire battalion (eighteen howitzers). For maximum surprise they would usually call for "volley" fire; that is, all the guns would fire together. There was the problem! The shells would self detonate if close to another shell in flight. The fix was very simple. Instead of firing by volley, we would fire by salvo fire; that is,--gun # 1 -- Fire, gun #2 --Fire, gun# 3 --Fire, etc. No more shrapnel on friendly troops.

The writer of these notes would ask his kind readers to be easy on him if they find mistakes. His sixty two year old memory just ain't what it used to be.



**An 8in Howitzer on the move up to
support the 7th Armored Division**

KEEPING THE ROADS OPEN

by Marlin Kreighbaum, 250th Engineer
Combat Battalion

During the Bulge, the 2280th Engineer Combat Battalion was charged with keeping the roads to Bastogne open for the Third Army troops. Powerful Caterpillar D7 Tractors, equipped with bulldozers, were used to clear the huge drifts, which blocked traffic. Other 280th engineers cleared the many minefields which had been placed along the roads. The 280th built several Bailey bridges in the area and received commendations from Third Army engineering officers for their efforts.

THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION, INC.

Invites You to Join Your Friends for the

“EVENTS OF REMEMBRANCE AND COMMEMORATION” OF THE 67th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE December 14, 15 and 16, 2011 Metropolitan Washington, DC

The Belgium Ambassador and Mrs. Matthysen have invited us again to their residence, on Thursday, 15 December 2011, from 6:30 – 8:30 PM, for their wonderful reception. As a result we will hold our annual Commemoration Banquet, on Friday evening, 16 December 2011, between 6:00 and 10:00 PM. Our speaker for the Banquet will be Major General Wendel, the new commander of First US Army Division East, headquartered at Ft Meade MD. We are also planning a bus trip on the 15th of December, to Ft Meade MD to the NSA Cryptologic Museum, our Battle of the Bulge Conference Room and lunch at Club Meade. We will also lay a wreath at the MD/DC Memorial by the Museum at Ft Meade. The DoubleTree Hotel Crystal City by Hilton, 300 Army-Navy Drive, in Arlington VA22202 has been selected again, with its panoramic view of our Nation's Capital. This hotel, just off Route 1 in Crystal City is a 7 minute drive from Reagan National Airport and a 2 City block walk to the Pentagon City Metro Station and the Pentagon Mall. It provides easy access to Washington DC and underwent a major renovation in 2006 for great accommodations. **We have managed to retain the reduced rate of \$99.00, single or double occupancy plus taxes, as well as food prices. We have blocked 20 rooms so it is imperative to make hotel reservations immediately.** Parking is Complimentary. This rate is available for any night(s) between December 12 and December 18. For room reservations, please call the DoubleTree Reservations (1-800-Hiltons) or 703-416-4100 by **December 1, 2011**. Mention the **BATTLE OF THE BULGE** for this special rate.

•WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2011

- 2:00 PM – 9:00 PM **Registration & Hospitality Room open - Harrison Room** - Receive name badges, Parking Passes, Banquet/bus tickets. (If you are only attending the Banquet, (on the 16th this year) you may pick up your tickets at the DoubleTree by 6:00 PM Dec 16th.)
- 3:00 PM – 10:00 PM **Hospitality Room/Exhibits, Books, scrapbooks, memorabilia open everyday.** John Bowen, BOB Vice-Pres will be the host. Marty Feldman will again be in charge of refreshments. Supper will be on your own.
- 6:00 PM **We will be having our traditional Tree Trimming Ceremony “Salute to Bulge Veterans” in the Harrison Hospitality Room**
- 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM **By special request we will offer a bus tour of “Washington under the Lites,”** provided we have thirty people who would like to do it. Washington is beautiful at nite and especially with the various Holiday lites. We will make a night stop at the WWII Memorial Bus. The bus will leave promptly at 7:00 PM off of the North Tower-Lower Lobby and return by 9:00 PM.

•THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2011

- 8:45 AM - 9:00 AM **Load buses and depart promptly at 9:00 AM for Fort Meade MD from North Tower Lower Lobby.**
- 10:00 AM **We will first visit the outstanding Cryptologic Museum, outside the gates of the National Security Agency at Ft Meade MD, where we will have a guided tour of the facility. This is the first and only public museum in the Intelligence Community, and because of the intelligence failure during the Bulge it will have particular interest to Bulge veterans. We will take a peek into the secret world of codemaking and codebreaking and view the German Enigma machines that the Allies were able to crack during WWII.**
- 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM **Buffet lunch at Club Meade, former Ft Meade Officer's Club.**
- 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM **Wreath laying at the MD/DC VBOB Memorial outside the Ft Meade Museum**
- 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM **Break into groups of 25 and alternate between the Battle of the Bulge Conference Room and the Ft Meade Museum. The BOB Conference Room has the beautiful handcrafted conference table & chairs from the oak of the Ardennes Forest. The patches for the 12th Army Group, First & Third Armies, Corps, Infantry, Airborne and Armored Divisions that fought in the Bulge are inlaid in the top of the table.**
- 2:30 PM **Return to DoubleTree Hotel to rest and prepare for our visit to the Belgium Ambassador's Residence**
- 5:45 PM – 8:30 PM **Bus departs at 5:45 PM for Reception at beautiful Belgium Ambassador's Residence from 6:30 – 8:30 PM**

•FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2011

- 8:45 AM - 12:30PM **Bus loads 8:45 AM leaves Hotel promptly at 9:00 AM for Wreath layings at World War II Memorial, large VBOB Memorial, and Tomb of the Unknowns and changing of the Guard.**
- 12:30 PM **Return to DoubleTree Hotel for annual VBOB Luncheon in Windows Over Washington.**
- 1:00 PM **Lunch of hot soup, Grilled Chicken or Smoked Turkey sandwich, beverage and cookies.**
- Swearing-in of new National VBOB officers for 2012.**
- 5:00 PM **Hospitality Room Closed till after Banquet.**
- 6:00 – 10:00 **BANQUET AT THE DOUBLETREE CRYSTAL CITY HOTEL COMMONWEALTH ROOM.**
- 6:00 PM **Social Hour/Cash Bar. Seated for Dinner at 6:45 PM.**
- 7:00 PM **Color Guard & Honors.**
- 7:15 PM **Dinner served: Apple Brandy Pork Tenderloin OR Chicken Florentine**
- Program: Greetings from Dignitaries, Person of Year Award, Speaker MG Wendel.**
- Hospitality Room open**

Notes: Free Airport shuttle provided by the DoubleTree Hotel every half hour, 3 miles from Reagan Washington National Airport. Free Shuttle from DoubleTree Hotel every hour on the half hour to METRO: Pentagon City (Blue/Yellow Line) and to Pentagon City Mall. Skydome Lounge, the area's only revolving rooftop lounge, for a spectacular view of Washington at night. 07/20/11

RESERVATION FORM
"REMEMBRANCE AND COMMEMORATION"
OF THE 67th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE
December 14, 15, and 16, 2011 Metropolitan Washington, DC

Return form and check by December 7, 2011 to:

Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation, Inc.
 PO Box 2516,
 Kensington MD 20895-0181

Questions:

John D. Bowen, 301-384-6533

E-Mail: johndbowen@earthlink.net

Name: _____ Telephone _____ Cell _____

Name of Spouse/Guests: _____; _____; _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Battle of Bulge Unit You Served With: _____

E-Mail Address: _____ Do you have a WWII Pictures to send us?

<u>RESERVATIONS:</u>	<u>Number Attending</u>	<u>Cost/Person</u>	<u>Total</u>
Registration Fee: Provides for Badges, Programs, Hospitality, etc.	_____ X	\$20.00	\$ _____

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2011

6:00 PM	Tree Trimming Ceremony Harrison Room	_____ X	FREE	
7:00 - 9:00 PM	Bus Tour "Washington Under the Lites"	_____ X	\$25.00	\$ _____

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2011:

Chartered Bus:	All Day & Evening Bus Transportation	_____ X	\$35.00	\$ _____
	Only Evening Transportation to/from Amb Recpt	_____ X	\$20.00	\$ _____
09:00 AM	Bus Leaves for Ft Meade			
10:00 AM	Cryptologic Museum	_____ X	FREE	
12:00 PM	Buffet Lunch Club Meade	_____ X	\$15.00	\$ _____
1:00 PM	Wreath Laying MD/DC Monument	_____ X	FREE	
1:30 PM	BOB Conf Room/Ft Meade Museum	_____ X	FREE	
5:45 PM	Lv for Belgium Ambassador Residence Reception Evening	_____ X	FREE	

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2011:

Chartered Bus:	Wreath Layings VBOB Memorials, Tomb of	_____ X	\$25.00	\$ _____
Depart 9:00 AM	Unknowns & WWII Memorial			

09:00 - 12:00 AM Wreath Laying Ceremonies: Number Attending: _____

12:30 PM	VBOB Luncheon at DoubleTree Hotel	Chicken _____ X	\$30.00	\$ _____
		Turkey _____ X	\$30.00	\$ _____

Commemorative Banquet, DoubleTree Hotel Crystal City	_____ X	\$65.00	\$ _____
--	---------	---------	----------

6:00 PM - 10:00 PM	Please make your Main Course selection(s):	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apple Brandy Pork Tenderloin	_____ (Names) _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chicken Florentine	_____ (Names) _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Diabetic Meal	_____ (Names) _____

Sitting is assigned. Plan ahead with your friends to be seated at the same table. Tables are Rounds of 8. Please indicate friends with whom you would like to sit: _____

GRAND TOTAL (Enclose check made out to BoBHF 2011 Commemoration): \$ _____

NOTE: Checks will not be deposited until 1 Dec 2011 so you can register now.

Permission granted for Hotel to notify BoB Historical Foundation that room reservation has been made.

Signature: _____

NOTES & REMINDERS: Banquet Dress: Business suit/black tie optional (miniature medals encouraged) or military dress uniform
 Room reservations must be made with the DoubleTree Crystal City directly, by December 1, 2011 Telephone (1-800-Hiltons) Block of 20.
 Return completed Reservation Form for events to BOB Historical Foundation ASAP but no later than 7 December 2011.
 No cancellation refunds after December 7, 2011. Hotel Reservations based on Availability. Please do not delay.

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) for the Washington area

07/20/11

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Reprinted From
The American Legion Magazine
May 2011



National Commander
Jimmie Foster

The sacred trust at Arlington Cemetery

In Section 34 of Arlington National Cemetery, just down the hill and within sight of Gen. John "Black Jack" Pershing's gravesite, the last surviving U.S. veteran of World War I has been laid to rest.

Frank Buckles was our only living link to the 4.7 million Americans who served in "the war to end all wars," and to the generation that founded The American Legion. Until the end, he humbly represented them, asking only that his comrades be honored with a national memorial. Buckles understood the importance of remembrance.

Now he belongs to Arlington, where every day is Memorial Day. Here, the story of our republic is heard from row upon row of white marble headstones, each one a monument. On May 13, 1864, Pvt. William Christman of the Union Army was the first person buried at the former estate, and since then Arlington's soil has become ever more sacred. Its 624 acres are home to veterans and military casualties of every war and conflict involving the United States, from the American Revolution to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Burial among such noble company is one of the nation's highest honors.

That said, revelations last year of hundreds of unmarked or mis-marked graves, dumped burial urns and millions of dollars wasted at Arlington were nothing less than stomach-turning. Behind the pristine grounds and ordered ceremonies, dysfunctional management plagued our most revered military cemetery, leaving its Army overseers to concede that they violated the public's trust.

As the scandal made headlines in 2010, veterans organizations – including The American Legion, with a resolution passed at the 92nd National Convention in Milwaukee – called for operations at Arlington to be transferred to the Department of Veterans Affairs, which oversees 131 cemeteries with 3 million graves. Secretary of the Army John McHugh agreed that there is "no excuse" for negligence but told the House Armed Services Committee that it remains the military's responsibility, particularly in wartime, to carry heroes to their final resting place.

Nearly a year later, we are cautiously optimistic about the Army's efforts to right the wrongs found at Arlington. Top officials have been fired, new staff hired and trained, and accountability enforced.

Speaking candidly to Legionnaires at the Washington Conference in March, Kathryn Condon, executive director of the Army National Cemeteries Program, said that most issues have been resolved, but others were uncovered. It appears that the Army won't settle for patching a hole at Arlington, and is committed to an extensive overhaul of operations, from new burial equipment and digital mapping to a consolidated call center for families wishing to schedule services.

With 300,000 graves, and an average of 25 funerals a day, Arlington is no ordinary cemetery. To every American sent into harm's way on our behalf, this hallowed ground stands as a pledge: whether you die doing your duty or return home to us, your service and sacrifice will forever be remembered in this place. Those who are entrusted with their remains have no room for error.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, likely belonging to Jimmie Foster, the National Commander mentioned in the text.

Interview of Richard Wheeler

517th PRCT, 460th PFAB
by Anna Davis, Ohio student

I have always been intrigued by the people who lived through and survived World War II. I enjoy watching the HBO series "The Band of Brothers" directed by Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg. A particular battle that was life threatening for many American troops was the "Battle of the Bulge." This particular battle took place in Belgium and included 52 days of combat. The troops who fought during this battle were not properly equipped for the weather and the temperatures were extremely cold. I wanted to know the details about the conditions of the "Battle of the Bulge."

I casually know a man who attends my church named Richard Hugh Wheeler. Every Sunday, he is the gentleman who greets and opens the doors for everyone. By purely looking at his physical appearance, I would have never guessed he was 86 and a WWII veteran. When I learned he actually survived the "Battle of the Bulge," I knew he was the perfect candidate for my interview. When I asked if he would oblige me, he was very enthusiastic. Mr. Wheeler was a credible source because he was a participant in this renowned event and lived through a very challenging time period. The interview took place in person on March 3, 2011 at the Wheeler residence.

The first couple of questions I asked Mr. Wheeler were background questions to lead up to the "Battle of the Bulge." I wanted to know prior experience, skills, and the branch of the army he served. He told me he was 20 to 21 years old during the war. Mr. Wheeler was a trained paratrooper with a total of nine jumps, one into combat. He chose to be a paratrooper because it paid \$60 more per month than other positions. Mr. Wheeler said his mother specifically told him not to be a paratrooper, but he became one in spite of her request. Mr. Wheeler was in seven battles including the "Battle of the Bulge." He received a battle star for each of the seven.

Mr. Wheeler was in the Ardennes Forest during the "Battle of the Bulge," and I wanted to know about the conditions of the Ardennes and what part of the battle he experienced. Specifics were important to me, so I could make a mental picture. He began by telling me that there were 52 total days in the battle, but his platoon was only there for thirty six. However, those 36 days were the most difficult days compared to any other combat Mr. Wheeler experienced. For the entire 36 days, the troops were outside. December of 1944 is still on record as one of the coldest winters in Europe's recorded history.

The average temperature ranged from 10 to 20 degrees below zero. All the men were without winter clothing; Mr. Wheeler was only in his jump gear. It is beyond my imagination to think about how cold it was. Also, Mr. Wheeler did not have any gloves even when there was snow on the ground. Somehow during this time, Mr. Wheeler managed to save all his extremities. He still suffers from frostbite damage today, but it is his interior circulation that is the reminder. Everyone slept in "fox holes" which the troops dug with their personal shovels. These holes were not works of art; they were about 18" by 20" and just deep enough to crouch in. There was no wandering around and talking to friends. A person spoke when spoken to, advanced when commanded, and did not even sleep until told to do so. Mr. Wheeler was not even

allowed to make a fire, or else the enemy would spot him. For all 36 days, Mr. Wheeler barely slept at all. Most of the time all he did was move forward and dig more fox holes, and fire at an often unseen enemy.

Next, I asked Mr. Wheeler about his hygiene. He only had one pair of clothes at the battle, and he slept in a dirt hole. I wondered if he ever bathed. Mr. Wheeler said only once did the group shower in 36 days, and that it was against his will. One of the men in Mr. Wheeler's company had an infection called scabies. Everyone was commanded to shower. There were showers set up outside and everyone had to strip down completely. The temperature was still ten below. Mr. Wheeler said "that was when I thought I was going to die." Showering was not worth it in the intense cold. The men got their clothes washed, but not dried. I asked him how he managed to get his clothes dry in the extreme cold. He said you just had to lay on them over night.

I was curious to whether Mr. Wheeler was ever without food. Among all the discomforts of being cold and dirty, hunger was not an issue. He was always supplied with "K" or "C" rations. Both of these are bundles of food that provide three daily meals. The letters do not stand for anything, they are just the letters of the alphabet. Mr. Wheeler was not supplied with gourmet hot steaming food, but he was not hungry.

When I asked Mr. Wheeler how he had been able to survive the bitter cold and uncomfortable sleeping conditions, he said his basic training prepared him well. With a lot of discipline, and learning not to complain, he was suited for the roughest of situations.

After talking to Mr. Richard Wheeler, I have a much better understanding about what WWII veterans went through. I was mortified to think about the cold, and everyone's personal hygiene. Mr. Wheeler also mentioned a story of a fellow soldier who urinated in his fox hole. The next morning, his legs were frozen to the ground. I respect Mr. Wheeler's ability to live through the conditions he described. Overall, I felt my interview with Mr. Wheeler really helped my search and elevated my personal opinion about WWII veterans. I greatly appreciate the time Mr. Wheeler dedicated to me and all the information he was willing to supply.



Anna Davis & Richard Wheeler

LTC EDWARD R. RADZWICH
VBOB CERTIFICATE DESIGNER
11 JAN 1915 –9 JULY 2011



Edward Richard Radzwich, the designer of our Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Certificate, died unexpectedly, under his magnolia tree on 9 July 2011.

Ed conceived the design of the beautiful VBOB certificate on the back of a long Japanese calendar. Ed, faced with the dilemma of over 2,000 units that received the Ardennes Campaign credit and how to represent them, decided that each soldier in his unit would have had to have been attached to one of the major units (12th Army Group, or First, Third or First Allied Airborne Armies, or six Corps, or 33 Divisions or the units of the Eighth or Ninth Air Forces that supported the Bulge).

Thus, Ed took to cutting and pasting small copies of these major unit patches that fought in the Bulge and the flags of the United States, Belgium and Luxembourg. Photos from the National Archives Signal Corps Photo Collection to illustrate the harshness of the weather and the trudging through the forests of the Ardennes were selected. Once he was satisfied with the concept and the wording it was turned over to a graphics artist and design company to finalize the design and prepare the artwork for printing. To date 8,000 of these Certificates have purchased by Bulge Veterans or their families in the Bulge Veterans name.

The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge are indeed indebted to Ed Radzwich for this Certificate of recognition for those who served in the Battle of the Bulge.

Ed Radzwich was born into a coal miner's family in West Hazleton PA. He was an active Boy Scout, attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. A gifted high school graduate in the depression era and unable to afford further education, he saw the United States Army as his opportunity. He enlisted as a Private in May 1934 in the Chemical Corps. He completed service but was recalled from the Reserves in Feb 1941. Ed was selected to be one of the first groups of enlisted men to attend the new Officer Candidate School under BG Omar Bradley, at Fort Benning GA. Ed was being fitted at the tailors in Columbus GA, for his "Pinks & Greens," Officer's Dress uniform, when the news came over the radio that Pearl Harbor had been attacked. He graduated Infantry Officer Candidate School (OCS) class 41-3, one week after Pearl Harbor, Class 41-3 with a 2nd Lieutenant's commission.

He was assigned to the 26th Infantry (Yankee) Division, at Camp Edwards, Massachusetts, that December 1941, at the time when most of the unit was given leave for the Holiday's. As a newly minted 2nd Lt, Ed was assigned as officer-in-charge of most everything on the post since virtually all of the National Guard officers had taken leave. Ed, undaunted, using his intellect and initiative, rose to the occasion, and performed in a superior way with little of no guidance. This was to become a hallmark of his service.

He was to be as one of the first Ranger trainees to attend the First Ranger School, Camp Forrest, Tullahoma, Tennessee, in early 1943, where he graduated as a Ranger in the First Ranger Class. Ed was to remain with the "Yankee" Division throughout WWII advancing to Captain and Company Commander, I Company, 101st Infantry Regiment, prior to the unit leaving the states for combat.

Ed was one of the few company commanders to go into combat as a Company Commander and to come out of the war with the same company, which he led through the Campaigns of Northern France, Rhineland, the Battle of the Bulge (Ardennes) and central Europe. He was given R&R leave from Fulda Germany just before May 1945 and celebrated VE Day in New York City with his wife, Mary.

Ed was an outstanding Company Commander as attested to by his men, always leading from the front. For his heroic actions in combat he received the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Bronze Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters, and Purple Heart with two Oak Leaf Clusters. He also received two awards of the Army Commendation Medal. He was most proud of his Combat Infantryman Badge. Ed was a true hero.

After the war he was offered a Regular Army commission on 5 Jul 1946. He was assigned to US Military Government in Korea Jul 1946 - June 1949 and because of his six month's experience, as a youth, working in a coal mine in Pennsylvania, he was put in charge of all the coal mines in Korea. He also served as Army Instructor, NJ National Guard Sept 1949-May 1951; Battalion Commander 33 RCT, Panama Canal Zone, Jul 52 - Jan 1955; Chief of Civil Affairs, Assistant Chief of Staff G-5, Eighth Army, Korea, Feb 1957 - Jun 1958; and G-3, Second US Army, Reserve Components, Fort George G. Meade, Jul 58 - Feb 1961. He retired as a Lieutenant-Colonel in Mar 1961 with 25 years of service.

On August 8, 2003 Edward Radzwich lost his beloved wife, Mary. They had been married 64 years. He is survived by three children, Gloria, Virginia and Edward Jr., two grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Honors & Citations:

Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star w/2 Oak Leaf Clusters, Bronze Star w/2 Oak Leaf Clusters, Purple Heart w/2 Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal w/Oak Leaf Cluster, Combat Infantryman Badge, Presidential Unit Citation. Installed in Infantry OCS Hall of Fame, Ft Benning, GA, March 1959. For his outstanding contributions and decorations as a soldier, LTC Edward R. Radzwich was elected to membership in the prestigious Legion of Valor. He served our country with great distinction. He was an outstanding patriot.

Sources: Michael Samberg, who served as an Enlisted Man under Captain Radzwich during WWII and John D. Bowen, VBOB Recording Secretary.

THINGS I DID TO STAY ALIVE WHILE I WAS A POW

by George F. Mills, 28th Infantry Division,
109th Infantry Regiment, Company E

We had been in combat for seven months when I was taken Prisoner of War on December 18, 1944, approximately 1900 o'clock. The Germans started marching us east. About seven days from the day we were captured, we were in a small village where there was a German army hospital with a big red cross on top of it. At this time we still had no food. About noon we looked up and there were about 2500 B-24s with bombs falling on us and on this village.

The Germans wanted us to help look through the bombed houses for German citizens. We went looking, but we were looking for food or anything to eat. One house was bombed bad, on fire and it had a basement. Andy McLaughlin was with me. He and I went down in the basement of the house that was on fire, and we found potatoes. The fire had half cooked them, and we burned our mouths eating the hot potatoes.

I didn't keep up with the days of the month, but some days later we reached Stagliger IV B, where we were finger printed and given German P.O.W. tags. I had a gold ring that one of my sisters had given me, worth about \$150 in 1943. There I met a P.O.W. from Denmark and traded him the ring for a loaf of bread. Andy and I ate the loaf of bread in a hurry.

We walked for five months. Two nights we were in Stagliger IV B, two nights we were in Stagliger VIII A on the Polish border. Some nights the guards would get tired, and would put us in barns in small villages. Sometime we could steal sugar beets or a rutabaga, or barley if you could beat the horses to it. One night they put us in an old barn. At two or three o'clock in the morning I could hear a cow in the next stall. I worked until I could get one of the boards loose, then I got to the cow and I tried to milk her, but I couldn't get any milk. Andy's father ran a dairy in Kansas, so I went back and got Andy. I would hold my hands in my helmet to keep it from making a noise, and I milked that old cow all night and we'd drink it as fast as we could get a little in the helmet. When the old farmer came out with this bucket the next morning, he sat down on the stool and started to milk. Soon he was cursing the old cow because she would not give milk.

To survive as a P.O.W. you must be in good shape when you are captured, and you must have a good buddy, and you must take a lot of chances. Andrew McLaughlin and I had an agreement if anything happened to me, when he got home he would go to my mother and tell her what had happened to me, and I would do the same to his mother. We also had an agreement with each other about any food we got, how small we would divide it with each other, and we did that.

One night we were put in a brickyard building and I was really sick. They had fired the brick the day before, and the kiln was still hot. That night Andy put me up in the chimney of the kiln. The next morning I was all right. When you are a P.O.W. you have lice on you at all times. When you lay down and try to get warm, they start running. I had a vest sweater. Every time I could, I would take off all my clothes and pick off the lice and put the clothes them back on. By the time I would get them all back on, the lice would start running around on me again. I

traded the sweater to a German woman for a small bucket of potatoes.

One night we were put in a large barn with hay in the loft. About 2230 one night they moved a wagon in and had a small lantern by the wagon. I told Andy I could smell food in that wagon and I was going down to see. It was the guards' food for seven days. I ate some bread and sausage, and told Andy to go down and eat some, but be sure not to tell anyone else. When you are that hungry you can smell food for blocks. Before the night was gone the men in the hay loft had eaten all the food in that wagon.

When we got to Stagliger VIII A on the Polish border, we were there for two nights. There was a British P.O.W. who came down and wanted to know if anyone had any American money, that he had cigarettes for five dollars a pack. I didn't have any money because I had paid forty-seven dollars for one Camel cigarette, but I had some one hundred dollar money orders. He said he would go see. He came back and said he would take one money order for 20 packs of cigarettes, so I signed it the wrong way so they would have trouble getting it cashed. Then with the cigarettes Andy and I could trade for food. The first thing I did was trade one pack for one can of Eagle Brand milk. Andy and I drank that in a hurry. The Germans had started the Americans back west because Russian artillery was coming. We had traveled some days and they put us in a big barn loft. The next morning about 0800 I heard a tank coming. When I looked it was a halftrack and a command car behind it. When it got close to us the road made a bend and you could see the big white star on the side. By the time they reached us we had taken the German guards as P.O.W.s. The men were from the second armored. They gave us all the food they had, but it wasn't enough for some two hundred and more men, so we killed one of the farmer's calves. They had a pot in the barn yard, and potatoes in the barn, so we cooked the calf and potatoes until everyone had something to eat. We were then trucked back to an air field where there were about two thousand men. They were flying the British back to England and trucking the Americans to LaHarve, France. Late in the afternoon I looked up on the hill and I could see a tent. I told Andy that they were feeding us up there. I asked them if Andy and I could have something to eat and they told us we could. When they would put food on the tray we would keep standing there for them to put more on. When we got to the end, the tray was heaped up with food. Then all the help at the kitchen stood around us to see if we could eat that much. We did. I asked them if we could come back the next morning. They told us we could if we didn't bring the two thousand with us. From there we were trucked back to LaHarve, France to be de-iced and fed, and we got a shower. From there we took the boat to come to America. These are some of the things that you have to do and chances you take to survive being a P.O.W.

REUNIONS

35th Infantry Division Association

September 29 – October 2, 2011

The Hilton Airport Hotel

Kansas City, MO

For details contact Robert Dalton 785-267-3295

ATTENTION VETRANS

ORDERS FROM VBOB

HEADQUARTERS

You have been assigned to go on patrol duty to locate a photograph of yourself, preferably in your WWII uniform (as shown below). The reason for this assignment is we have photos of only 380 veterans on our web site. This represents less than 10% of all our veterans. Once you have located said photo send a copy to:

VBOB, PO Box 336, Blue Bell, PA 19422



William Rea - 514th Field Artillery



Rose Dewing Young
130th General Hospital



Margaret Hammond Walenski
16th General Hospital



Samuel Ballinger
26th Infantry Division



Harold Blalock
106th Infantry Division



George McGee
109th Evacuation Hospital



Robert Cook-335th Signal Battalion
Maintenance Company



Anthony Berardi
94th Infantry Division

THE VBOB CERTIFICATE: Have you ordered yours?



Over 6,500 certificates have been purchased by Battle of the Bulge veterans. If you haven't received yours, then you might want to consider ordering one to give to your grandchildren. They are generally most appreciative of your service now and they make excellent gifts—also for that buddy with whom you served in the Bulge. The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc. is proud to offer this 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, endured and survived the largest land battle ever fought by the US Army.

You do not have to be a member of VBOB 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 World War II insignias of the major units that fought in the Battle of the Bulge, starting with the 12th Army group, then 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 that 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. **Please allow approximately 4 to 6 weeks for delivery.** The certificate will be shipped rolled in a protective mailing tube. **Please be sure that you place your name, service number and unit as you would like it to appear on the certificate.** The unit name should be as complete as possible because 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 and the unit must be one of the 2,000 units authorized for the Ardennes Campaign credit that is in the Official General Order No. 114 for units entitled to the Ardennes Battle Credit and will be the basis for sale of the certificate. **The cost of the certificate is \$15 postpaid.**

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Certificate Order Blank

I request an 11" by 17" certificate and certify I received credit for the Ardennes campaign. I have enclosed a check for \$15 for the Certificate. Please include the following information that I would like on the certificate

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Serial Number _____ Rank _____ Unit _____

Organization _____
(usually Company, Battalion and/or Regiment and/or Division)

Signature _____ Date _____

I certify that I have received the Ardennes Credit.

Mailing Information:

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone number _____ E-mail address _____

VBOB member: ☐ yes ☐ no (membership not a requirement)

Make checks out to VBOB for \$15.

Orders should be mailed to: VBOB Certificate, PO Box 27430, Philadelphia, PA 19118-0430

Questions can be directed to John D. Bowen, telephone: 301-384-6533 or by e-mail to: johndbowen@earthlink.net

December 24, 1944

by John Mistler, 75th Infantry Division,
Headquarters

At that time I was a 1st Lt. in the 75th Infantry Division, Division Headquarters Company. I was the Division Traffic Control Officer and in charge of all vehicles for transportation at the DeMision Headquarters level. I was told to report to 75th Division Headquarters to General Mickel, Assistant Division Commander. When I reported he told me "a battalion of the 106th Infantry Division has been entrapped by the Germans. They are completely encircled. One of our Division Regiments has been ordered to drive a wedge through the German unit so we can rescue that trapped battalion."

"I want you to prepare 20 trucks to go in there tonight and bring those men out. You pick an officer to lead those trucks in. There will be no headlights, no cat eyes, and our MP's will have a man or men at every road junction or intersection to direct the convoy. Have that officer report here at Division Headquarters at 6:00 pm for his instructions. You may go now. Have that officer here at 6:00 pm." I responded, "Yes Sir. By the way can you tell me what regiment that battalion belongs to?" As I remember he said it was the 106th Infantry Division Regiment 426. (I may not be accurate on this).

I went to my unit and I told S. Sgt. Elmer Rouse to prepare 20 trucks and my jeep for the in the dark convoy. I asked him to put one case of C-Rations and a case of ammo in each vehicle. I told him I would not need a driver for my vehicle. Sgt. Rouse told me he would have them ready. I knew he would and he picked the best drivers and trucks we had. A few minutes before 6:00 pm I reported to Division Headquarters for the briefing. General Mickel asked me "where is the officer who will lead this convoy?" I told him I was going to take the convoy as that is my brother-in-laws' unit and I have more reason to go. He said "you cannot go" and he left the room.

The Division Chief of Staff- Colonel Herbert Powell said, "What are you going to do now?" He told me to pick someone. I said "I did; I picked me. My brother-in-law is in that unit. The General will come back and approve my decision." He came in soon and said "Good Luck Lt." and he touched me on the shoulder. After the briefing I left with the convoy about 6:30 pm.

As we proceeded, the Military Police had done a good job of placing the men at junctions and intersections. We arrived in the battalion area about 8:00 pm. It was a very desolate and depressing atmosphere with too much snow and no lights. When I had all the men on the trucks, I walked to the last truck and asked if there was a John Burke on this truck. One man responded and said Johnny had been captured three days ago. I asked if he was injured. The man said "no he was not injured but he was wet, cold, out of ammo and very hungry as we all are". I thanked him. I went to the next truck and asked and someone said "I never heard of him." I went to the next truck and was told Johnny was not injured but had been captured. I thanked them and said "We'll be out of here soon."

As I was walking to the head of the truck column where my jeep was, a man said "Halt-what's the password?" and he stuck his rifle in my stomach very hard. I responded "Soldier you hit me so hard in my stomach I forgot the password." He said, "I don't want any conversation I want the password." I said "take me to your supervisor." He told me to walk straight and I could feel his rifle between my shoulders. We went to a small tent. There was a captain and a 1st Lieutenant there. The guard told them this man doesn't know the password. The captain

was a dental captain. He asked, "Why don't you know the password?" I explained what happened and also told him I was in charge of this convoy and we are ready to leave.

The captain asked if I had any dental work done in the army. I told him yes, a dental bridge. He asked me to hand it to him. He looked at it and asked my serial number. I gave him the number and he agreed it matched the number in my bridge. He said, "The password is _____. If you are ready to leave we will follow you out of here." I told the security guard "you did a good job but you sure startled me. You are a good soldier."

I moved the convoy out of that area (no headlights) and took the road I was directed to. I came to an intersection and took the road I was directed to. About a mile farther and at a fork in the road a guard appeared. He was very nervous and told me to go that way. Then he told me it sure was lonesome here. As I started on the road, I thought the road was very narrow and as I proceeded it became more so. I decided this road doesn't go anywhere. I stopped and told the driver behind me to pass the word back I was going to turn around. I cut wire on a fence and the field looked flat but heavy with snow. I planned to make a circle and then return on that road. As I progressed all seemed OK. The first two trucks behind me were near me and as I watched the third truck dropped about three feet in the front.

I found we were driving over a pond. We used two trucks to pull that truck out while I was finding the perimeter of the pond and made a new track for them to follow. We returned on the narrow road to the junction. The guard said "I'm sorry I directed you on the wrong road. I've been out here alone for so long I'm very nervous." We proceeded on the other road and went to a small village where the 75th Division had established a temporary mess hall and medical facility.

Someone met me and told me to unload the troops and have them stand by the trucks. I did that and men were leaning on the trucks. One of the trucks began to slide sideways on the frozen packed snow and one wheel went over a retaining wall about four feet. I had the men hook two trucks on it and pull it back on the road. I told the men not to lean against any of the trucks. About that time a Major said "I'll take charge of the men now. You may leave." We left and started back to our unit about an hours' drive with the roads as they were and no lights.

We were driving on a ridge and I saw a buzz bomb coming toward us. I could see the flame at the exhaust. It looked like it was coming right at us. I quickly pulled in a ditch and the trucks did the same. The bomb passed over us about 20 feet and then the motor stopped. As it started to drop it cleared the ridge and went in to the valley below where there were some Allied Supply Depots. We could hear it explode and see the flash.

I told the drivers behind me to pass the word back they could turn on the cat eyes on every other vehicle and we were going to our unit. When we arrived there I thanked the men for a good job. It was about 2:00 am. I went to Division Headquarters to make my report. A few days later General Mickel found me and said, "you tell your men thank you. They did a good job."

If there are any men from the 106th Infantry Division or the 75th Infantry Division who remember this incident, please write me at the following address.

John W. Mistler Sr.
7029 Rio Cuarto Ct.
Citrus Heights, CA. 95621-4353
Phone: 916 726 7029

VBOB QUARTERMASTER ORDER FORM

AUGUST, 2011

It is easy to purchase any number of items identified with the Battle of the Bulge. Owning and displaying any of these items will help to promote the legacy of those people who fought in that epic battle. Complete the following form and send your payment to the address listed below.

Please ship the selected items to:

Name _____ (First) _____ (Last)

Address _____ (No. & Street) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip Code)

Telephone number _____ E-mail address _____

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 1 1/8" (in quantities of 10)	\$1.25		\$
Baseball cap with 3" VBOB logo patch (navy only)	\$10		\$
Windbreaker with 4" VBOB logo (navy only)			
Please circle size (they run a little snug):			
S M L XL XXL XXXL XXXXL	\$36		\$
VBOB logo lapel pin 1/2"	\$5.00		\$
Miniature VBOB logo medal with a ribbon (pin-on type)	\$8.50		\$
VBOB logo belt buckle	\$16		\$
silver tone or gold tone (please circle one)			
VBOB logo bolo tie			
silver tone or gold tone (please circle one)	\$16		\$
VBOB license plate frame with logo (white plastic with black printing)	\$5.00		\$
VBOB 100-sheet note pad with logo	\$4.00		\$
"This Note is from...A Veteran of the Battle of the Bulge" (white paper with blue printing)			
Large VBOB logo neck medallion with a ribbon			
(Ideal for insertion in medal shadow box)	\$25		\$

SHIPPING AND HANDLING:

Up to \$5.00: \$3.00

\$5.01 to \$10.00: \$4.00

\$10.01 and over: \$8.00

Please add \$4.00 for all items shipped outside the U.S.A.

COST OF ITEMS: \$

S & H: \$

TOTAL: \$

Only cash, check or money order accepted. Make checks payable to: VBOB

Do not include any other monies with QM payment.

Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

MAIL ORDERS TO: VBOB-QM, PO BOX 27430, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19118-0430

Questions? Call 703-528-4058





VETERANS of the BATTLE of the BULGE

P.O. Box 27430
Philadelphia, PA 19118-0430

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



8/12/2011

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

SOUTHERN, MD
PERMIT NO. 3323

*****AUTO**3-DIGIT 194

A018090 8/12/2011

RALPH W. BOZORTH

608 TREATY RD

PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462-2317



August, 2011

HELP US GROW ...

What we need is one on one contact. Each of us should designate ourselves as Public Relation individuals and personally recruit new members. If each of us would sign up one member we could grow at a better rate. Let's move out and get a buddy to join VBOB.

GET A NEW MEMBER!

Detach and Mail

OFFICIAL USE ONLY



Do not write above this line

APPLICATION FOR NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge

PO Box 27430, Philadelphia PA 19118-0430

ANNUAL DUES \$15.00

Do not write above this line

☐ Regular Membership ☐ Associate Membership ☐ New ☐ Renewal—Member # _____

Regular Membership is for those who have received the Ardennes campaign credit. Associate membership is for relatives, historians or others with an interest in preserving the memory of the Battle of the Bulge. Both have the same rights and privileges:

NAME _____ DOB _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP+4 _____

TEL () _____ E-mail _____

CAMPAIGNS _____

All Regular members, please provide the following information below:

Unit(s) to which assigned during period 16 Dec 1944 – 25 Jan 1945 – Division _____

Regiment _____ Battalion _____

Company _____ Other _____

All Associate members, please provide the following information below: (Military Service is not a requirement but as a 501 c(19) we need to identify all veterans)

Relative of Bulge Veteran _____ Bulge Vets Name & Unit _____

Son, daughter, brother, niece

Historian _____ Other _____ Associate's Military Svc (dates) _____ Branch _____

Make check or money order payable to
VBOB and mail w/application

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____