

The BULGE BUGLE

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

VOLUME XXX NUMBER 2

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

MAY 2011

National Infantry Museum
Columbus, GA

We Welcome VBOB

**VETERANS OF THE
BATTLE OF THE BULGE
30th Annual Reunion
COLUMBUS, GA
SEPT. 20-25, 2011**

**VETERANS OF THE
BATTLE OF THE BULGE,
INC.**
PO BOX 27430
Philadelphia, PA 19118
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Published quarterly, THE BULGE BUGLE is the official publication of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge.

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THE BULGE BUGLE

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Telephone 703-528-4058

**For stories, articles, letter to
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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



This is an opportune time to "reconstitute our organization" but always keeping in mind our fundamental objective which is perpetuating the memory and legacy of the greatest battle ever fought by the U.S. Army.

No one can denigrate the past services of the VBOB when they performed the noble task for which the organization was founded. But if we look at our current *modus operandi* it is evident that now most of our administrative efforts — sometimes unobserved — come from the hands, the hearts and minds of our associated members.

We must indeed wake up and smell the roses as "Mother Nature" and "Father Time" are living in our midst. Over the past few years 10 chapters have disbanded and many of our members have passed away. As time progresses there will be fewer veterans remaining to exercise command and no definitive plan as yet has been put in place. We need to address aggressively and successfully the problem at hand.

Unfortunately there are some of us who are delusionary and still believe change is not necessary and our organization by some "unknown" miracles will perpetuate itself. In a way I share in their Utopian beliefs — but actually it isn't a part of the world of reality.

We need to develop an "Action Plan" for the Operation of the Executive Council over the next few years. Rome was not built in a day and "the future of VBOB" cannot be resolved in a single meeting, and naturally will be an agenda item for our future meetings because of its gravity and importance.

There are two people I would like to recognize in this endeavor:

First, Thomas R. Chambers, Vice President/Chapters who earlier made us aware of the grave situation that VBOB would be facing in the future. It was Tom who first suggested we need to develop an "Action Plan" for the operation of VBOB. Yes, indeed, he would like to see VBOB go into the future with no visible signs of an end, very much like the Sons of the American Revolution.

Second, Ralph W. Bozorth, Executive Vice President who "got the ball rolling" at the Executive Council meeting by stating that the future of VBOB is comprised of three basic elements — reviewing our current operating procedures — perpetuating the legacy of our veterans — and preparing in the future an ultimate plan.

We had an opening on the Executive Council and at our last meeting we installed Alan Cunningham, son of former President Lou Cunningham, as a new trustee. Alan is a veteran with a wide business experience and is a welcome addition to the council. We are indeed pleased in having a father/son team aboard.

I would like to recognize Tracy Diehl who personally acknowledges family members who have lately lost a relative who was a Veteran of the Battle of the Bulge.

This practice has only recently been in place and the letter goes out with my signature as President.

We are honored that our VP of Military Affairs Alfred H. M. Shehab has received the prestigious Commander-in-Chief reward for service rendered to The Military Order of the World Wars.

Many thanks to Mary Ann D. Bowen for acting as my Parliamentarian at our Executive Council meetings. Mary Ann is currently the chairperson for our Standing Rules Committee.

One of the perks of being President of VBOB is that I am able to attend top-level meeting at the Veteran's Administration on matter relating to overall veteran issues. The last all day meeting was on March 30th concerned the VA Budget Rollout for next year.

Finally, I remind everyone to closely watch our web site as we are constantly making welcomed additions — only recently many new pictures of young VBOB soldiers in uniform. Hopefully you are there, if not let us know.

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 than 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

Do not send any mail to our old P.O. Box in Virginia. This box number has been assigned to someone else; therefore mail sent there will not be forwarded to our current boxes, which are located in Philadelphia and Blue Bell, both located in PA.

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WELCOME TO VBOB

Beginning with this issue we will list the names of those people who joined VBOB either as a member or associate member. The following are the names of those people who have joined between January 1 and April 1, 2011. We certainly are pleased to have you with us and look forward to your participation in helping to perpetuate the legacy of our veterans. One way you can help immediately is to talk to people and suggest they also join VBOB.

CHERYL E SHARPE
CATHERINE L WIGGS
STANLEY G SMITH
JOSEPH CHERSKY
SAMUEL J CAPOLUPO
THOMAS CREEKMORE
ROBERT F ELLIOTT
JAMES PENNOCK
RALPH OLIVER
RUTH E TOPPER
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RICHARD MEINHART
ERIN HOLLAND
ELLIOTT P MILLER
EDWARD BENNETT
T SHELTON
M HVIZDZAK
EDWARD BOTOS
THOMAS GOODRICH
LISA MELE
JON URNESS
MORGAN SINCOCK
BEN MILLER
IRVING LOCKER
RUSSELL RUCH
JOHN WENZEL



Soldiers suffering from minor wounds or frostbite wait their turn for treatment in a busy evacuation hospital in Huy, Belgium, during the Battle of the Bulge.

*It
Was
Dec. 16th,
1944*

Upon that gray December day
In nineteen forty four
The Germans launched their last great drive
To try and win the war.

The bitter battles that ensued
Where brave men gave their all
In that great battle of the Bulge
Today we do recall.

The wreckage and the carnage
Were everywhere in sight;
The wounded, dead and dying
Who now no more would fight.

The names of towns unknown before
Now came into the light,
Like Wiltz, Saint Vith and then Bastogne
That broke the German might.

In Belgium and in Luxembourg
The rows of markers white,
Bear names of men who in the Bulge
Gave all for freedom's light.

Harold F. Mohn

Reprinted from The Washington Post
Friday, January 8, 1988

Dear Ann Landers:
This is a plea for compassion for the 71-year-old bore who turns every conversation into an opportunity to talk about World War II. He deserved better than you gave him.

I am not obsessed with the subject but I feel as he does. Nothing in my life was as important as my participation in that war. Although I have raised a fine family and owned a successful business, my service in that war was my only lasting contribution to the country that I love.

I talk about World War II, but only with those who were there. They are the only people who would understand. Forty years later, when I knelt among the crosses in Normandy, tears streaming down my face, people asked, "Did you know him?" I replied, "Yes, I knew them all."

Be patient with us, Ann. Our ranks are becoming thinner every day. Soon there will be none left of a generation that thought freedom was worth dying for.

If you print my letter, please withhold my name. I am—A Veteran in Rockport, Tex.
Dear Friend:

Your gentle message was received and duly recorded. I'm sure I'll be more patient with World War II stories from now on. Thank you for a lesson in compassion and understanding.



**VBOB NEEDS
YOUR
SUPPORT!**

**Please pay
your dues
promptly!**

**Sign up
a new
member!**



American anti-aircraft gunners watch a high-speed dogfight between German interceptors and U.S. fighter-bombers flying escort for cargo planes bound for Bastogne. The gunners, afraid of hitting American planes by accident, held their fire and enjoyed the spectacle. The swirling pattern of vapor trails, remarked one soldier, "looked right pretty."

PUTTING THINGS INTO PERSPECTIVE

by Tom Chambers, 9th Armored Division

It is acknowledged that The Battle of the Bulge is the largest land battle ever fought by the United States Army.

But, in truth, what does that mean? For the official record as to the units that are included one must go to The War Department General Orders No. 114, issued December 7, 1945 by the order of Dwight D. Eisenhower, Chief of Staff. General Orders No. 114 identifies more than 2000 individual units of the Army Ground Forces and the Army Air Corps.

The round numbers of men that participated given for the Allied Powers is placed at 500,000. The German troops are said to have numbered 600,000. Thus we have a total of 1,100,000.

If this million plus men were placed in a single column at the standard 30 inch close order interval, that column would stretch out for 521 miles. If they were strung out at combat interval of 5 yards, the column would be 3,125 miles long. If the million plus soldiers were to be transported on busses of 50 seats each, it would require 22,000 busses to move all of them.

2012 BULGE TOUR

by Tim Blixt, Associate Member

VBOB Associate Member Tim Blixt has begun an effort to organize a tour of the Bulge battlefields to take place in mid to late May of 2012. His group is working with Patrick Hinchey, the Director of European Programs for Milspec Tours (www.gomilspec.com) to organize a custom designed tour. The group hopes to interest as many returning Bulge veterans as possible to get involved in planning the itinerary for this tour. Patrick will need our requests in by Thanksgiving of this year in order to begin planning the ground logistics.

The hope is to create a tour with as much veteran participation as possible, and one which will take in those sites the veterans most want to visit. This will be an opportunity to go back to the places that meant the most to the veterans and have them tell us what happened at each location. The tour is envisioned as about a week in duration, but will last longer if there are enough participants and an itinerary that requires more than a week. At this time, Tim is dispensing what information is available, and keeping track of names of those interested in learning more about the tour. We look forward to hearing from YOU!

Tim Blixt, 60 Hawthorne Rd, Wayne, NJ 07470, telephone 9730616-0853, e-mail timandlori@cabinconcerts.com

ON THE WAY TO THE BULGE

by Vincent Meinhart, 61st Chemical Co.

On the 11th of December the 61st Chemical Company of General George Patton's Third Army went by truck from Château Celina to a small town near Sarrable, Germany. As we approached Sarrable a guard from the 90th Infantry

Division said you can't go any further as the Germans are in the nearby woods.

So we went back to a small town where we found a house with a local alley. We were planning to sleep there but there was a man and a woman and little boy so we left them sleep in the house. We put a guard on the door and when morning came we open the door and no one was inside, they had gone out the window during the night.

We went out to bivouac in a small brick building that was full of straw supposedly covering some machinery. I was put on guard duty for the purpose of watching the ammunition. At 3 a.m. in the morning a sergeant came up to me all excited and said get your things together as the Germans broken through up north. It was the 17th of December.

We waited for two days for the trucks to take us up north where we were put in the 315th Infantry Regiment of the 79th Infantry Division. The trucks had no tarps and we received three-day rations in case we get cut off. We still had our summer clothes and as we went further north it got colder, the trucks and tanks were sliding into the ditches. As we got farther north we had to get off the trucks and we started to walk. When you heard gunfire you knew they were Germans in the area. We were told there were German paratroopers dressed in G.I. clothes, who speak perfect English. It was utter confusion!

Along the way I remember seeing a sign Pierrepont, France. After we arrived General Patton asked the chaplain to say a prayer for the fog to lift. The chaplain said "do you want me to pray for you to kill more people". General Patton said "that's right".

After the fog lifted we went to a small town near Arlon, Belgian. It was so cold we were issued sleeping bags. I cut the bottom off the sleeping bag and use as my winter clothes, as I had no winter clothes.

Our outfit received the presidential unit citation. It was an honor to serve my country.

A TIME FOR REMEMBRANCE MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 30, 2011

Memorial Day is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. As we approach this hallowed day we should reflect and give thanks to those who made the supreme sacrifice. One source lists the number of US Military personnel who perished during our nation's wars at 960,000.

Without their sacrifices we would not have our freedoms, of which there are many. "They gave all of their tomorrows so that we might enjoy our today's." "Continue to remember them in your prayers."

May they rest forever in eternal peace, they certainly earned it!



**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**

Room rate \$89 per night plus tax.

Free shuttle to and from the Columbus Airport

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

Complete details in this issue!

Plan Now

to visit these historical sites



NATIONAL POW MUSEUM



LITTLE WHITE HOUSE



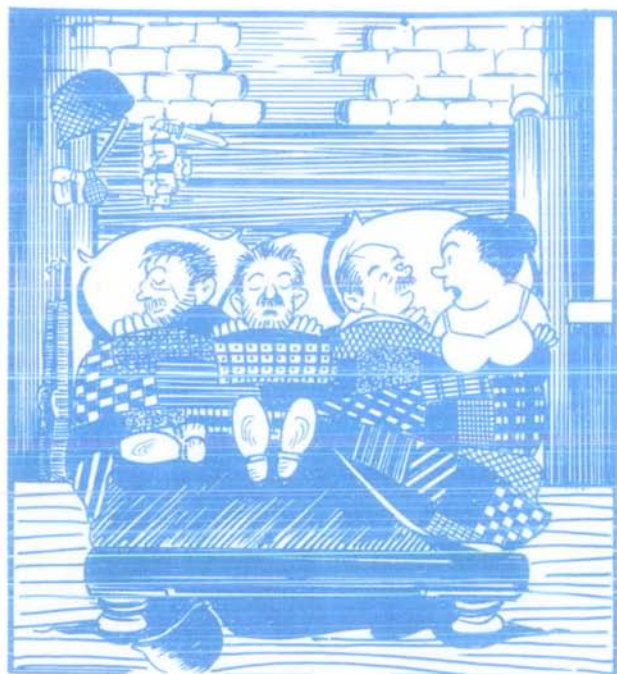
ANDERSONVILLE, GA

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



LTG Bradley, 12th Army Group, receives the traditional "Accolade" hug and kiss on his left cheek from Gen. Alphonse Juin, C of S, French Armed Forces, Namur, Belgium, March, 1945.

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



"PAPA! I THINK WE HAVE BEEN LIBERATED."

APPOLOGIES TO: -P.M.

12-24-45 BY

PETRICK



Engineers Take On Still Another Job

Snow blocking a road near Krinkelter, Belgium, slowed down U.S. First Army movements, so engineers of the Second Inf. Div. rigged up this GI snow plow. A blade mounted on a 2 1/2-ton truck.

U.S. Army Signal Corps photo



NOMINATING COMMITTEE APPOINTED

President J. David Bailey has appointed the following council members to the 2012 Nominating Committee: Alfred Shehab, Ralph Bozorth, Doug Dillard, Mary Ann Bowen. The Committee will present to the membership as a whole a slate of candidates for office for the annual election, which will be held in Columbus, GA on Saturday, September 24, 2011 at the Annual Membership Meeting.

As stated in the present Bylaws, a slate of candidates for office shall be presented by the Nominating Committee and publicized separately, or in the Bulge Bugle, or other Corporate publication at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to the election. The Nominating Committee shall consider recommendations for nominations made by any Chapter or by petition from at least five (5) active members received forty-five (45) days prior to publication of the slate of officers; the assent of the nominee shall be indicated. Publication is scheduled for August 1, 2011.

Recommendations for consideration should be mailed to VBOB, PO Box 336, Blue Bell, PA, 19422 so as to arrive before the June 15, 2011 date.

According to the Bylaws Nominations shall be presented by the Nominating Committee for:

- President
- Executive Vice President
- Vice President for National and Regional Coordination (Chapters)
- Vice President for Membership
- Vice President for Military Affairs
- Treasurer
- Recording Secretary
- Corresponding Secretary
- Three Three-year Trustees

Those seeking consideration by the Nominating Committee should be aware that meetings of the Executive Council are held in the Washington Metropolitan Area, presently at Fort George G. Meade, MD Golf Clubhouse. Executive Council Members pay their own travel and lodging expenses. Traditionally there is no reimbursement of expenses related to meeting attendance. All Living Past Presidents of VBOB are automatically members of the Executive Council.

RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER (24)

by Manuel Ribeiro, 11th Armored Division

Morphis A. Jamiel, 7th Armored Division, 38th Armored Infantry Battalion, Company B and a member of the Rhode Island Chapter (24) has been selected for the Officer Candidate School (OCS) Hall of Fame, class of 2011, located at Fort Benning, GA. Induction into the OCS Hall of Fame is the highest honor for an OCS graduate. The Hall of Fame recognizes leadership excellence in both military and civilian public service. The Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame honors those graduates of all active Army Officer Candidate Schools who have distinguished themselves in military or civilian pursuits. The Patterson Award dinner at the Benning Conference Center is on April 28, 2011, and the induction

ceremony on April 29, 2011.

Major General Morphis A. Jamiel was commissioned an Infantry Officer after graduation of the Officer Candidate School Class 320 on 15 March 1944. MG Jamiel first duty assignment was as a Small Arms Instructor, 39th Infantry Training Battalion, Camp Croft, South Carolina. He has served in a variety of duty positions, and his assignments include: Platoon Leader, B Company, 38th Armored Infantry Battalion, 7th Armored Division, European Theater, Assistant S-3, 1265th Engineer Combat Battalion, European Theater, S-2, 118th Engineer Battalion, Rhode Island Army National Guard, Germany, S-2, 243rd Antiaircraft Artillery Group, Rhode Island Army National Guard, Battery Commander, 705th Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion, Rhode Island Army National Guard, Executive Officer, 3rd Howitzer Battalion, Rhode Island, Executive Officer, 2nd Howitzer Battalion, 103rd Artillery, Rhode Island Army National Guard, S-3 Headquarters, XL111 Corps Artillery, Rhode Island Army National Guard, Commander, 118th Engineer Battalion, Rhode Island Army National Guard, Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff, Headquarters 43rd Military Police Brigade, Rhode Island, and Commander, 43rd Military Police Brigade, Rhode Island Army National Guard.

His military awards and decorations include: the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal for Valor (20LC), the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the European Campaign Medal (3STARS), the World War II Victory Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Rhode Island National Guard Service Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge. MG Jamiel retired from military service on 16 February 1976, and he currently serves as the Probate Judge for the town of Warren, Rhode Island.

WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU



Over the years we have had a good stockpile of bulge stories, notice of unit reunions and other pertinent information to publish; however the pile is dwindling. With about 4,000 veterans and 700 associate members there should be enough stories and information to keep us going for many years. Send your experiences, articles, etc. now to:

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge
PO Box 336
Blue Bell, PA 19422

A DESIRE TO SERVE

They came from each and every state
to put an end to Hitler's hate
many were still just in their teens
but they will never forget what they had seen

The flag was their symbol the red white and blue
they fought and died and bled some too
their great desire was to put out the fire
that had engulfed all of Europe since the end of Weimar

Hitler ousted the Kaiser so his hands would be free
to enslave all the nations that would not agree
his regime he said would last 1000 years
but in just 13 Hitler was dead

It's a shame to see old soldiers cast aside
for once they were this nation's pride
so when you meet a soldier a simple thank you will do
he made the world a lot safer for everyone
including me and you

P.F.C. Billie E. Houseman
"B" Battery, 561st Field Artillery Bn

ON THE WAY TO THE BULGE

by Vincent Meinhart, 61st Chemical Co.

On the 11th of December the 61st Chemical Company of General George Patton's Third Army went by truck from Château Celina to a small town near Sarrebrunn, Germany. As we approached Sarrebrunn a guard from the 90th Infantry Division said you can't go any further as the Germans are in the nearby woods.

So we went back to a small town where we found a house with a local alley. We were planning to sleep there but there was a man and a woman and little boy so we left them sleep in the house. We put a guard on the door and when morning came we open the door and no one was inside, they had gone out the window during the night.

We went out to bivouac in a small brick building that was full of straw supposedly covering some machinery. I was put on guard duty for the purpose of watching the ammunition. At 3 a.m. in the morning a sergeant came up to me all excited and said get your things together as the Germans broken through up north. It was the 17th of December.

We waited for two days for the trucks to take us up north where we were put in the 315th Infantry Regiment of the 79th Infantry Division. The trucks had no tarps and we received three-day rations in case we get cut off. We still had our summer clothes and as we went further north it got colder, the trucks and tanks were sliding into the ditches. As we got farther north we had to get off the trucks and we started to walk. When you heard gunfire you knew they were Germans in the area. We were told there were German paratroopers dressed in G.I. clothes, who speak perfect English. It was utter confusion!

Along the way I remember seeing a sign Pierrefort, France.

After we arrived General Patton asked the chaplain to say a prayer for the fog to lift. The chaplain said "do you want me to pray for you to kill more people". General Patton said "that's right".

After the fog lifted we went to a small town near Arlon, Belgium. It was so cold we were issued sleeping bags. I cut the bottom off the sleeping bag and use as my winter clothes, as I had no winter clothes.

Our outfit received the presidential unit citation.
It was an honor to serve my country.

REUNIONS

4th Infantry Division

July 4-10, 2011
Branson, MO
Radison Hotel Branson
1-800-395-7046

84th Infantry Division

August 24-26, 2011
St. Louis, MO
St Louis Airport Hotel
Troy Mallory 217-223-9062

28th Infantry Division

September 7-10, 2011
Annnville, PA 17003
Fort Indiantown Gap
717-787-9385

9th Infantry Division

July 30-August 1, 2011
Indianapolis, IN
Crown Plaza Hotel
<http://www.octofoil.org/>

99th Infantry Division

July 20-24, 2011
Overland Park, KS
Doubletree by Hilton
<http://99div.com/>

BOOKS BY VBOBers

MILLION MILES TO GO

ISBN 978-1-4535-843-4
John F. Lebda, 1st Infantry Division
Telephone 724-869-3095

THE LAST BUGLER

Hubert "Hub" Ranger, 79th Infantry Division
Telephone 414-351-3423

ESCAPE – (The True Story of a POW the Germans Could Not Hold)

ISBN 1-892451-11-5
John M. "Jack" Roberts, 106th Infantry Division
Telephone 248-338-2667

RHINE RIVER BOUND

By Carl C. Miller, 202nd Engineer Combat Bn,
Company C

The first job of Company C of the 202nd Combat Engineer Battalion and Company E of the 17 Armored Engineer Bn was to build the first bridge across the Rhine River in the 9th Army section south of the Wesel, Germany. It was the longest pontoon treadway bridge in the world, 1,146 feet long and its construction broke every existing bridge building record being built in nine hours. A world record that still stands to this day. We received the presidential citation for our historical achievement.



I painted a sign on the door of my truck that read "Dear Mom I'm Carrollton bound". As a result of that sign I met Donald Yeager from home, who also was a truck driver and he saw my little sign as were facing each other. What a coincidence! We had our pictures taken together at the Rhine River. We truck drivers had to transport these pontoons about 10 miles to the Rhine River. The MPs gave us exclusive priority over everything on the road that day. They would even give us a high sign to speed up when they would see us coming.



We would back up to the bridge location and E Company engineers would unload the pontoons with their cranes and install them in the river. We drivers shouted for joy when we saw the first tank crossing the bridge that was erected in the world record time of nine hours. Below is a picture of the delivery and transporting of one of the pontoons of the Rhine River. Our company C carpenter is built the triangular wooden carriers to fit inside the bed of our trucks so the cranes could load them on our trucks. We anchored them with cables in the back and winch cables in the front. The good Lord was with us that day as the weather was perfect, a beautiful bright sunshine day.

I'll never forget meeting Donald Yeager as we passed each other at the Rhine River. It was a happy occasion.

VA Provides Headstones or Markers for Veterans

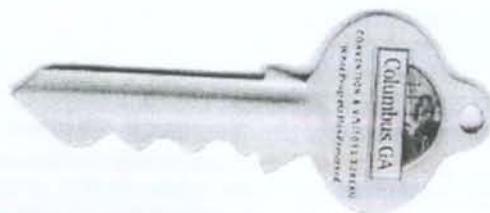
Taken from the 30th Infantry Division Veterans News "Old Hickory"

Particularly for the families of veterans who pass on to a better place, we wish to notify you that Veterans are eligible for an inscribed headstone or marker for their grave at any cemetery-National, State Veterans or Private. VA will deliver a headstone or marker, at NO cost, anywhere in the world. Additionally, eligible veterans may get a "Government headstone or marker, even if the grave is already marked with a private one."

This is a new provision. Similarly, headstones and markers previously provided by the government, may be replaced at the Government's expense, if badly deteriorated, illegible, vandalized or stolen". For more information, for those of you who have computers or can get one of your children or friends to go on the Internet for you, you can go to: www.VA.Gov and click on Burial & Memorials, then Headstones and Markers, then General Information. As a rule, the local funeral director is familiar with this procedure, and will handle all of the details involved in obtaining the Headstone or Marker. In the event that he will not, or cannot, contact your local "Veterans Service Officer", usually located in your County seat, and this will be done at no cost to you.

Arrangements will also be made for a full Color Guard and a Bugler, for every veteran, no matter where buried.

VBOB GIVEN KEY TO COLUMBUS, GA



SEPTEMBER 20-25, 2011

BELGIUM CONSUL HONORS VBOB – Southern CA chapter (16)

by Kenneth Weiss, LA Times 2/6/11

Belgium's consul general in Los Angeles hosts an event honoring the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge for their service. The veterans bring some poignant memories and much self-deprecating humor.

The men filed in slowly, one wearing a vintage green uniform emblazoned with a Purple Heart. Another rolled in on a chair, his head held high with a Veterans of Foreign Wars hat laden with medals. Some had lost frozen fingers, others toes. All had left behind friends 66 years ago in one of the biggest and bloodiest battles of World War II.

These men are the last of a kind, the surviving veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. "Soldiers who fought in the Battle of the Bulge led the free world to victory," said Geert Criel, Belgium's consul general in Los Angeles, who hosted 50 members of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge on Saturday, February 5, 2011. "On behalf of my country, I would like to thank every veteran who made a contribution to this historic achievement. For us you are more than soldiers. You are heroes."

The Battle of the Bulge, Criel said, is emblazoned on memorials, in the names of city streets and in his country's collective memory. It was a turning point in the war that crushed Hitler's last-ditch effort to retake Belgium from the advancing U.S. and British armies in the Ardennes region. "We shudder to think: What if Hitler had succeeded," he said. "It would have prolonged the war and meant misery and death for a lot of people."

"Many of us made sacrifices," said Gordon Hearne, president of the Southern California chapter of the veterans group. "Nineteen thousand of us didn't return." His voice cracked; his eyes drifted to a distant memory. He paused, held a fist up to his mouth before continuing. "We should remember them." It was a poignant moment during an otherwise light-hearted event — a place to swap war stories, compare medals and share a common bond of an epic five-week battle involving frigid temperatures and 840,000 GIs. Most exercised the self-deprecating humor of a bygone era.

To hear them tell it, they were all accidental heroes. "I'm surprised they gave me a Purple Heart, given all of the trouble I gave them," said Dave Lester, 92, of Costa Mesa. "The Germans threw a lot of hand grenades at us; we couldn't throw them all back."

Pfc. Pete Howenstein, 86, of Northridge and Sgt. "Bazooka" Joe Pietroforte, 92, of Sherman Oaks wore uniforms flashing with shiny medals and colorful ribbons. Prodded by friends, Howenstein recounted how Gen. George S. Patton pinned him with a Purple Heart after an artillery shell left him with shrapnel in his neck. "Get well and get back to the front," Howenstein recalled the general saying. Howenstein said the medals and the uniform have brought an unanticipated bonus when he has returned to France for commemorative events. "I put on this uniform and the girls come up to me and hug me and kiss me," he said.

Only half the members could make it to the lunch, because of troubles getting around. Murray Shapiro, 87, of Chatsworth

had helped organize the event and was disappointed he had to skip it because of upcoming knee replacement surgery. "Very few of us are going to make many more meetings," Shapiro said. "This one was a big deal. It's the last goodbye, I think."



Peter Howenstein, 80th Infantry Division, 319th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Battalion, Company M

LOOKING FOR VETS OF THE 482ND ENGINEER MAINT CO.

In late December 1944 or early January 1945 we were stationed in the Leuze/Ath, Belgium area and approximately 20 men were transferred from the 482nd to the infantry. I would like to know if any of these men survived the war and where are they now. Also I would like to hear from anybody from the 482nd.

John E. Wright

1124 Lauren Lane #4108

Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

Telephone 727-934-8723

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE....



"Arrange these documents alphabetically and then burn them!"

—from "Private Jigger's War", published in 1944

2010 A MEMORABLE YEAR

by Arthur Mahler, 84th Infantry Division,
334th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Bn HQ

2010 was a memorable year for me, as I went to Belgium for the 65th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes. The trip was organized by a group, American War Orphans Network (AWON). It turned out to be a memorable week of events. I traveled with Joe Lippi Jr., the son of my good friend whose grave we were to visit at Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery. Joining us in Liege were my sons, Peter, Eric and Steve.

The trip began May 28, 2010, at the Provincial Palace in Liege with a wonderful reception. In French, I addressed Madame President of the Province of Liege. The group of 28 AWON members read the English translation. My French notes were seven pages in large print: After I read page 4, the next page was 6. Page 5 was missing! I had to continue from memory. Help came when I was handed a pre-printed French and English program. I finished the speech and all went well considering that I wore my World War II uniform in a warm room and I had not spoken French in more than twenty years.

Next day was the Memorial Service at Henri-Chapelle. Seeing this place with 7,992 graves so precisely arranged in circular fashion and diagonally perfect alignment is most impressive. The many pictures we took will be a wonderful record of the event for the future. After the conclusion of the ceremonies, we participated in a police and Security-escorted trip with flashing lights from Henri Chapelle to the city of Aube. There also was a Memorial Service in the Town Square. I was told this was better than all previous ceremonies. A parade through the town ended at a large hall for a party with all the town's people and everyone had a great time. I got to drink a beer with Vice Admiral Richard K. Gallagher, chief of NATO, and American Ambassador Howard W. Gutman. We felt as if we were being treated like royalty.

But this special day didn't end there. Next Peter Heckmanns, webmaster of www.In-Honored-Glory.info, met us and we followed him to his home in Kerkrade, The Netherlands, where he had arranged a huge barbeque with some AWON members, Peter's family and friends. I again was drafted as a translator just as I was during World War II. There was a need for conversation between the tour director and the bus driver, neither understanding the others language. I solved that problem.

The last event of our visit to Belgium was a memorial celebration to the St. Paul school in Liege. It was planned by Mr. Michel Lorquet the teacher of the class 4B. This class had adopted the grave of Joseph T. Lippi at Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery. Our Party was driven by M. Lorquet to the school where the entire school's students welcomed Joe Lippi Jr. and the four Mahler's like royalties. There were a multitude of American and Belgian Flags waved by the children. I gave my speech in French. Both the American and the Belgian National hymns were played and the Belgian was sung by the children. There were many dignitaries and the Belgian army was represented by a Colonel and a Major who was Mr. Lorquet's brother.

We were served lunch at the school. The tables were set by the children and we toasted with champagne, yes, at the school. To end the ceremonies the children were given a question and answer session. There were good questions that were answered by Joe Lippi and me. All was reported on Belgium Local and National Television. The rest of the week was filled with experiences too numerous to mention. But here are some highlights: We visited the Remember Museum on a farm near Bastogne and the War Museum in La Roche, not far from where my friend, Joe Lippi, Sr., was killed. Wherever we were in Belgium or Holland we Veterans of World War 2, who have fought in the Ardennes, and those who paid the ultimate price, are not forgotten. Sixty- five years later people including school children are grateful to have been liberated a long time ago.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR "GUNS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE"

Sir, There is an article in the August 2010 issue of the Bugle, called "Guns of the Battle of the Bulge" and I am afraid that part of it is not true. The author describes some of the attack route of Kampfgruppe Peiper and then states that the German battle force captured the bridges at Huy on the Meuse River after passing through Stoumont. This is the part that is not true. Kampfgruppe Peiper was actually finished as a fighting unit at Stoumont after being stopped cold by the combined attacks of the 30th ID, the 82nd Airborne, and CCB of the 3rd Armored.

On the 24 December, Peiper's shattered forces abandoned all of their tanks and other vehicles and set out on foot through the Belgian hills. When they finally rejoined the main body of the German Army at Wanne, Belgium, there remained only 700 members of the 800 that started on the retreat. These were absorbed into the 1st SS Panzer Div.

Peiper is rarely mentioned in German reports after that until he turns up as the Commander of a Panzer Gruppe in Hungary. All of this according to General Mike Reynolds great book, "The Devil's Adjutant". As a rifleman in Task Force Lovelady, 3rd Armored, I saw the destruction of two of Peipers supply columns and was part of the road blocks that denied any reinforcements to the German troops.

I enjoyed the article but wanted to clarify the information as I saw it.

Sincerely, James K. Cullen, 36th Armored Infantry,
3rd Armored Div.

MILITARY PROBLEM:

Jeeps and trucks lacked heaters

GI SOLUTION:

Cut a hole in the firewall and put a pipe on the exhaust manifold. You cooked one foot at a time to the smell of hot iron.

Hal O'Neill, 83rd Signal

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY VBOB!

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all the members of the VBOB a happy anniversary on this special day and to thank them for their service and sacrifice in the most hostile of conditions.

My uncle Maurice E. Denbow (Hq. Co. 3Bn 327th GIR 101st ABN) a member of the VBOB passed away in 1994. To this day I still visit my aunt on December 16 to honor his memory and to hear some of the very few stories he told of his experiences in Bastogne.

He was forever indebted to the citizens of Bastogne for their generosity kindness and for trying to make an unbearable situation a little more bearable.

Best Regards to all.

John A. Beaulieu

Portland, ME 04101

207-772-4956

REMAGEN BRIDGE

Colonel Engeman sent one of his light tank platoons under my command to clean out the pocket on the Waldburg Hill. I knew if we approached the hilltop we would expose the belly of the tanks, which is the thinnest armor so I dismounted my men, except for the drivers and had the platoon sergeant take his section, two tank crews around to the rear. He was to watch for me to cover my advance. I then advanced to the top and when he signaled he saw me I rose and advanced on the guns armed with a .30 carbine.

The gun crews immediately surrendered placing their hands on their head. Although I had two men with some knowledge of German and Polish we could not establish their identity. And since tankers cannot take prisoners I simply pointed to the rear the direction from where we had come and they immediately marched away with their hands on their heads. Years later I learned they were Hungarians forced into the German army and so were glad to surrender to the Americans. I placed thermite grenades in the gun barrels, which took care of silencing them.

I could not reach Colonel Engeman by radio so I went into Remagen to report the results. I took Sergeant Taylor with me walking on the opposite side of the street into the rear since there was still sniper fire. I suddenly came under fire, hit the ground and rolled under a 2 1/2 ton truck. There I found our company first Sergeant and the cooks crew cooking food. A great gang that was always with us!

I found Colonel Engeman where he established his command post in a wine cellar. He promptly sent me to stop all troop convoys that he knew would be coming and preventing their trucks from blocking the narrow streets of Remagen and in the approach to the bridge. He was right. Convoys start arriving I would get the convoys or serial leader give him directions to the bridge, dismount the troops and send the empty trucks on the route we were supposed to be sending them to Sinzig and the Ahr River. I told the lead driver to proceed a half to one mile and then bivouac in a roadside field.

I never knew how the operation ended or whether they ever got back to their units.

The tanks and halftracks that crossed were stopped by the Erpel Ley which is so steep and infantrymen had to crawl up. Our mission was to protect against an enemy counterattack, which would be the logical defense. Of course we knew we had to move so as not to block the exit from the bridge.

When I reached the east bank and the town of Erpel I turned right and proceeded until I saw a cut since I knew they would not try to attack over that ridge but would seek an opening. This was what I learned in desert training at Camp Ibis when my friend Lt. Copeland and I would use a peep (jeep) to survey the area where we thought the next maneuver would be held.

After two or three days I brought my five tanks back to Erpel so I can assume the infantry had secured the bridgehead.



**Demetri Paris, 9th Armored Division
14th Tank Battalion**

MY HEROES

by C. Tricia Goyer

(from the 11th Armored Division Newsletter)

I passed you on the street, And did not know.
You are my grandfather - My father - My uncle -
And I did not ask.

I saw weak eyes, Shaky hands, Unsure steps.
Not realizing that inside was a warrior's heart.

Tell me it is not too late, to thank you. To applaud you.
Tell me it is not too late, to listen. For your eyes have seen
things, Of soldiers and men. And those hands,
Fought strong until they grasped freedom's prize.

Those forward steps, steady and strong, Once moved forward,
facing death. Realizing the cause was too great, To stand and
do nothing. I will ask now. And I will listen.

The warrior's voice may tremble,
His eyes may tear.
But his stories will not be forgotten.

2011 VETERANS TOURS



SEVENTH ARMY SPEARHEAD TOUR. Something different. Experience with fellow veterans the world famous French Riviera where General Truscott's VI Corps (3rd, 36th and 45th Divisions and attached units) landed in August 1944 as the spearhead of US Seventh Army. It's "The Forgotten D-Day" of the Mediterranean. See Nice, St Tropez, etc. Track VI Corps as it stormed up the beautiful vineyard-filled Rhône Valley to the Vosges Mountains to meet Patton's Third Army. Expert guest lecturer is Wilson Heefner, General Truscott's biographer. Sept 13 – 24, 2011. Arrive Nice. Depart Paris.



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 2012 TOURS *****



PILSEN WW2 LIBERATION FESTIVAL in the Czech Republic lasts three days and is now world famous. VBOB veterans and their families are invited. Spearheading the liberation of Pilsen and western Bohemia were 16th Armored, 97th ID and VBOB's 'Indianheads' (2nd ID). We will also visit Nuremberg (Nazi Rallies and War Crimes Trials), Flossenbürg VIP concentration camp, Lidice (martyred after Heydrich's assassination), Theresienstadt concentration camp as well as the Czech capital Prague – one of Europe's most beautiful and historic cities. 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.



VBOB 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 Tel (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)

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.

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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.

VOBO COMMEMORATIVE RIFLE

FN Manufacturing, Columbia, SC - FN has received orders for 148 rifles.

Have You Purchased One?

FN employs nearly 600 dedicated and highly skilled technicians who take great pride in the knowledge that when the weapons they produce are put to the test, they will meet all performance requirements and then some. The employees take an even greater pride in the knowledge that they are supporting the courageous men and women of our Armed Forces. On September 4th, 2010 four buses with Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge arrived at FN Manufacturing. FN employees were blessed with the opportunity to meet and honor true heroes that day. The visit started with a welcome and some personal comments from Jean-Louis Vanderstraeten, FN's President and CEO. That was followed by a humorous tribute by Ralph Young, FN's VP of Human Resources, to the folks of our Greatest Generation. The visit also included a tour of the facility, lunch, and distribution of Battle of the Bulge commemorative t-shirts and challenge coins. Everyone, the veterans and FN employees alike, enjoyed the time together. FN received a number of Thank You cards, which had comments on some of the great memories of the day. These Thank You cards started FN thinking there might be an interest from some of the veterans for a commemorative 65th Anniversary Battle of the Bulge Winchester rifle. After speaking with the local representatives of the Battle of the Bulge who in turn conferred with the national representatives, FN agreed to move forward with the project. A picture of the stock of the prototype rifle is found below.



The medallion in the prototype is flat, but a special die has been ordered to produce a medallion that will be contoured to fit flush with the wooden stock of the Model 70. The Battle of the Bulge commemorative rifle will be offered in 4 calibers: 22-250, 30-06, 300 Win mag, and 7mm-08.

FN does not sell directly to the public. This factory offer is strictly limited to Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge and members of their families as a souvenir of this great event. The national representatives of the Battle of the Bulge have set a maximum number for how many rifles can be produced, at which time no additional commemoratives rifles will be made.

The price of the rifle is \$595 plus taxes and shipping, if required. If you would like any additional information, please contact Lisa Richardson at (803) 736-0522 extension 257 or at lisav@fnmfg.com. Her mailing address is:

*FN Manufacturing, LLC
Attn: Lisa Richardson
797 Old Clemson Road
Columbia, SC 29224*



Employees waiting to greet our veterans



Bob Scanlan, 372nd CEBn welcomed by FN employees

**WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER THE
OUTSTANDING HOSPITALITY SHOWN TO
US BY THE EMPLOYEES OF FN
MANUFACTURING**

DONATIONS

We thank the following people for their generosity

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EDMUND WESSELMAN
ARNOLD WHITTAKER
FRANK WOOLDRIDGE

CORRECTION FEBRUARY BULGE

On The Donations page we incorrectly listed Edward Hoy of Naperville as an associate member. Ed served in the 9th Air Force, 573rd Signal Battalion. Sorry for the SNAFU.



COULD YOU FIND JUST ONE...

...veteran of the Battle of the Bulge?

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

Please make the effort to find a new member...we need to increase our membership so that we can finish the work we have begun and educate the public regarding the Battle of the Bulge.

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

MY MILITARY SERVICE

By Clarence "Code" Gomberg, 343rd Medical Bn

I was inducted into the United States Army, February 10, 1943. Received basic training at Fort George Meade, Maryland (Infantry). Transferred to Camp Lee, Virginia (Quartermaster), Station Compliments, Section One. Unit was transferred too Camp Ellis, Illinois and the Seventy-Eighth Hospital Train was activated on September 21, 1943. On November 11 the unit departed Camp Ellis by rail for Camp Edwards, Massachusetts. Here the unit was attached to the 3116th Service Command Unit for training. On December 1st were alerted for movement to a staging area. On December 8 moved to the staging area at Fort Devens for further processing at Camp Miles Standish until December 18, then moved by rail to Boston POE. Boarded the ship "USAT Marine Robin". Two days out of Boston Harbor we sustained two submarine attacks. One ship in our convoy was hit.

Trip across the Atlantic was completed on December 27 and the unit disembarked at Swansea, Wales then traveled by rail through London to Camp Crookston, Glasgow, Scotland. Attached to the 28th Division, 3116th Service Command Unit, 3rd Army, 343rd Medical Battalion. Competed forming up unit and received all equipment for the train. On May 13, 1944 received orders to depart Camp Crookston and moved to a holding camp in Southampton. On June 12 embarked on the Hospital Ship, "HMS Duke of Lancaster" and arrived in Cherbourg, France. Worked our way down toward Paris as Combat Medics. Arriving in Paris the unit was attached to the 343rd Medical Battalion. On July 20 the unit began operating U.S. Army Hospital Train No. 5. (Hospital Train 78) From this date until February 1945 traveled approximately 24,000 miles and 10,000 patients were evacuated either from first aid stations, field hospitals or general hospitals to ports in the Corn Z. On February 25 while advancing toward forward installations in the vicinity of Evreux, France, enemy aircraft strafed the train. Several cars were derailed and several personnel members were injured. The unit was awarded the Battle Participation Award, German Campaign.

On May 5, 1945 during a routine run to Frankfurt au Maine the unit was dispatched to a siding behind the I.G. Farber Ammunition Plant to await ambulances to transport wounded for evacuation. Two ambulances unloaded eight (8) liters with patients wrapped in blankets. Aboard the train, (ward car No. 6) the patients removed their blankets revealing their indentities. These eight were German officers and we were to transport them to Reims, France, "the little red schoolhouse" for the surrender of the war in Europe. The surrender was signed on May the 7th at 0241 hours. On May 27 Hospital Train No. 5 was removed from operations. Approximately half of the unit was placed on Hospital Train No. 76. The balance on the unit was placed on DS with the 239 General Hospital, a medical installation in the Seine section of Paris.

While in operation, the unit "Blazed a Trail of Glory" through France, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg and Germany, traveling approximately 63,000 miles and evacuating over 20,000 patients. From the date of activation to the deactivation of the unit not a single Court-Martial, AWOL or case of VD marred its perfect record.

On February 10, 1946 I was transferred to Camp Herbert Tarrington, LaHarve, France to be deported back to the states for discharge. Departed LaHarve on March 19 aboard the Liberty ship "USAT Texarkana" and disembarked at Fort Dix, New Jersey and was discharged from active duty on March 27, 1946. (3 years-one month-seventeen days)

MIKE

By Clarence "Code" Gomberg, 343rd Medical Bn

Some where towards the end of the month of April 1945 and the liberation of Buchenwald Concentration Camp near the town of Weimar, Germany the 78th Hospital Train pulled into a rail siding not far from the deserted camp. A small boy approached the train, I was standing at an open door and the boy put his hands out and said "shwine-fresser", I answered "I nix farshadet" he raised his hands and repeated the words again and I answered in English that "I didn't understand". He walked closer towards me and answered in English that he was begging for our garbage to use as food. He told me that he was twelve years old Polish-Jew and his name is Mike. He lost his family in Auschwitz.

I got permission from our company commander to bring Mike aboard the train. We adopted him. He became our orderly and interpreter. I took him into Paris and for a couple of chocolate bars and a cake of soap had a uniform cut down to fit him. September 1945 the train unit was disbanded and we were transferred to the 239th General Hospital, a section outside of Paris, Petain. Mike worked with me and a civilian helper in food rations and supplies. February 1946, I received orders to be sent home. We took Mike to Paris and left him with the French Jewish Welfare Board. He thought that had relatives in Indiana. I never knew his last name and I don't know that if he ever got to the United States.

LOOKING FOR INFORMATION

Please contact me if you know anything about my father, Leonard G. Tuttle who was a Tech 4, 654th Engineer Battalion, Topographic Company A, 1st Army. He served in the five campaigns in Europe and Edward Parlin was his best friend while he was in Belgium. Veterans thank you for your service. I look forward to hearing from someone.

Dick Tuttle, Associate Member
309 E. 50 S, Farmington, UT 84025
dnjtuttle@msn.com

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

During World War II the silk made by the black widow spider was used to make crosshairs on thousands of gun sights. The spider's silk was stronger than steel or platinum wire of the same thickness.



LONG FORGOTTEN PHOTO SURFACES

by Hal Mayforth, 4th Armored Division,
25th Cavalry

During the winter of 1943 the 4th Armored Division was on maneuvers in the Mojave Desert in California. It was being prepared, the situation warranted, to join the fighting and North Africa.

During the first two weeks of May 1943 Columbia Pictures in the nearby Salton Sea area was filming "Sahara". The producers approached the Army brass and had received permission to use some of its men as extras. From the 14,500 men in the 4th, then a heavy division B. Troop of the 25th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron Mechanized was lucky enough to be selected for this role.

When it arrived on the set it was issued authentic uniforms, helmets, Mauser rifles and miscellaneous other gear. It was to portray the Wehrmacht assaulting an adobe fort in which a downed American Flyer, a.k.a. Humphrey Bogart, was manning a machine gun. As the plot thickened he had moved down the entire attacking force.

The presence of B Troop provided Columbia Pictures with a low overhead production. Their major investment for their use of extras was reflected in the kegs of beer they provided at the end of every day's rushes.

The uniqueness of being attired in German uniforms prompted several to have their photographs taken as a memento. One such person was Sergeant Salvatore Scalzo from Beacon New York. When his photo was developed he put it in his wallet where it was completely forgotten.

As this yarn continues, the date advances to late December 1944 and then the scene changes to the Saar Basin in western France. Patton had committed the 4th Armored Division to where the Battle of the Bulge was raging. Whereas B Troop usually rode point for Combat Command B its role was now revised. Because of the forced march to the vicinity of Bastogne covered 162 miles the order was for slower moving tanks to lead followed by vehicles based on their potential speed. This was designed to negate an accordion effect on the column.

The only map used for this march was reputed to be one of the Michelin vintage. That was in the possession of General Dager the CO of Combat Command B. He and only a few others knew where we were going even why. Dager was like a shepherd herding his flock of sheep. If he wasn't in radio communication with the lead tank commanders he was riding his jeep up and down the column talking with them personally.

As the miles rolled on, and then since ignorance prevailed, rumors were rampant. At one point during the first night order was given to remove the canvas covers of the headlights and to turn them on. This was an occurrence that had never happened before even in stateside training. Because the Luftwaffe had long been absent, the to gamble accelerated the column to its destination.

The unusual aspect of this extended march was that all vehicles survived the grueling marathon.

That is with the exception of an M-8 armored car belonging to B Troop of the 25th cavalry.

When that vehicle became disabled the maintenance half-track riding shotgun dropped off a mechanic to solve a problem. It probably was no more than points having closed up in the distributor but because there was a copious bar in town they milked it for all it was worth. A day later they decided it was time to move on but they didn't have the vaguest idea of their outfits destination.

They came upon several command posts busily being disassembled for a move to greater safety. The commanders were uncertain of the disposition of their own men to say nothing about the 25th Cavalry. Later on when they were still trying to find their outfit a Lieutenant leapt out of a ditch to confront them. "You're here because I radioed for a tank". There's a German one in yonder woods. Go get em! In reply Sergeant Salzo the armored corps commander replied Sir all I have on my turret is a 37 mm cannon. It's high explosive rounds would bounce off that Kraut tank like ping-pong balls. I've never disobeyed a direct order in my life but if we were to go down there we'd never come back and my outfit would never know what happened to us. With that the Sergeant ordered his driver to make a change in direction and off they went on another tangent.

Suddenly, this lone armored car with four GI-clad individuals was apprehended by an MP roadblock. In the wake of Colonel Otto Skorzeny's ruse of infiltrating our lines with English-speaking Germans in captured American disguise the MPs believe they had bagged a real coup. Their search began with everyone having to empty their wallets. Everything seemingly was running smoothly went out from Salzo's wallet popped a photo of him resplendent in his German uniform; his long forgotten souvenir from the set of Sahara. Such an explanation when given was not acceptable. When Salvo insisted his hometown was Beacon New York the MPs figured it was more like Stuttgart Germany.

At last the MP questioning of Scalzo turned to baseball. They apparently reasoned no true German would be privy to the American national pastime. Bingo! This was his forte. To all their challenges he had the correct answers. This appeased the MPs and they were released after being informed where their loosest 25th Cavalry was located.

Scalzo's photo was last seen totally shredded littering the Belgian countryside

LOOKING FOR INFORMATION

about my father, Myron "Cash" Overcash, who was assigned to the 317th Infantry Regiment of the 80th Infantry Division, and was part of the headquarters company of the 317th's 1st battalion. Others he served with include Si Killian and Lyle Canine. He was stationed at Camp Forrest, Tullahoma TN before shipping out to England.

Please send any information to Deb Overcash, 7609 Welshire Blvd Fort Wayne IN 46815 or email dovercash20@comcast.net.

GATEWAY CHAPTER (25) 2010 ANNUAL WWII WEEKEND

by Don Korte, Associate Member

The annual WWII Weekend on April 23-25 was a wet one this year, complete with plenty of rain, strong winds, and even a tornado in the St. Louis area on Saturday. Due to the weather, crowds were down from last year, but the Gateway Chapter booth got plenty of visitors, located between the battlefield and the parking lot, as it was. We sold a number of Victory Through Valor, the GI Statue Book of Honor, and a few DVDs as well. •

Thanks to Dave Lavelly (pictured below) of the 2nd Rangers Infantry Battalion for plugging the book and our booth to the crowd throughout the day on Saturday. Kudos also to the Gateway Chapter members who took the time to come out in the wet weather and man the booth during the event.



Dave Lavelly on right - 2nd Rangers Infantry Battalion



Gateway Chapter booth

LEHIGH VALLEY CHAPTER (55) WELCOMES MARIO ANDRETTI

by Morris Metz, 94th Infantry Division

Mario Andretti, one of the greatest racecar drivers was a guest of members of the Greatest Generation; the Lehigh Valley Chapter of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge on October 19, 2010. Approximately 90 chapter members, associate members and guest were present and after enjoying a good lunch at the Terrace Restaurant in Walnutport, PA., listened as Mario explained what it was like growing up in Italy. Later on Mario escorted by chapter president Morris Metz went around the room shaking the hand of every veteran.



(L-R) Dorothy Metz, chapter secretary, Mario Andretti, Morris Metz, chapter president.

SOUTHEAST FL CHAPTER (62) 66TH ANNIVERSARY MEETING

*by George Fisher
26th Infantry Division*

The Florida Southeast Chapter of the veterans of the Battle of the Bulge held their 66th anniversary luncheon meeting in the grand ballroom of the Hilton Hotel in West Palm Beach, Florida on December 19, 2010. The meeting was attended by 267 members and guests. As in the past an open invitation was extended to all returning veterans and their families as guests of the chapter. They were introduced individually and received a standing ovation.

Craig Bardell, director of the World War II museum in New Orleans narrated an audio and video presentation of the expanding Museum and then introduced the Victory Bells who look, dress and sound like the Andrews sisters from 1940.

George Fisher founder and president of the chapter said it was the best meeting ever been a great opportunity for our members to cleanse their wounds meetings are always held on Sunday when there are no doctor appointments.

REMEMBERING "BULGE" DEAD - MEMORIAL DAY

By Patrick J. Kearney
55th Armored Infantry Battalion

On Memorial Day 2010, the inhabitants of the village of Tisbury in Wiltshire County, England, remembered American soldiers who died in the Battle of the Bulge by laying a wreath of poppies beneath their plaque at the village's war memorial. The plaque honors the "Bulge" dead of the 55th Armored Infantry Battalion, which encamped at Tisbury and trained on the Salisbury Plain in the Autumn of 1944. Sir Winston Churchill's famous quote about the "Bulge" appears on the base of the plaque.



PROUD OF MY FATHER'S SERVICE

by Dan T. Barker, Jr.
Associate Member

Enclosed is my application as an associate member in the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge organization and check in the amount of \$15.00 for the annual dues. I've enjoyed reading *The Bulge Bugle* on occasion over the years when I would visit my father and see an issue lying around. It is now even more special to read since my father, Dan T. Barker, a Veteran of the Battle of the Bulge, recently passed away.

He left college to join the service in 1942 and trained for nearly 2 years with the reactivated 78th "Lightning" Division before landing in Europe in November 1944. He served as a forward observer with the 308th Field Artillery Battalion and quickly saw continuous action from the Battle of the Bulge through the march to Berlin. Shortly after crossing the Remagen Bridge, he was awarded the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster for bravery in the face of enemy fire and received a battlefield commission as a 2nd Lieutenant. He served in Berlin during the Occupation and did not return home until April 1946,

Upon his return to the States, he was offered the opportunity to be discharged a day early if he signed up for the reserves for 5 years. He took the early discharge and joined the reserves solely for the purpose of being able to see his brother who was leaving the next day for an extended job deployment to South America. Like so many other veterans, he completed his college education on the GI Bill. After graduating from the University of North Carolina in 1949, he joined a respected accounting firm. With 4 months to go on his reserves commitment, he was called for active duty for the Korean War in early 1951. His employers, who had good political connections, offered to help him get out of his commitment. He refused their offer because "it was not the right thing to do". He served as a 1st Lieutenant and then Captain with the 8th Field Artillery Battalion of the 25th "Tropical Lightning" Division where he was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action.

He returned to the civilian world in 1952 and enjoyed a long, generally healthy life with a good career and family. He passed away this past April at age 88 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Like so many of the members of that Greatest Generation, he put his military duties and experiences behind him and went to work to help build this country for what it is today. He seldom talked about his military exploits but was most proud of his service. I am most proud of his service, as of the service of all veterans.

So, I look forward to receiving *The Bulge Bugle* and reading about the experiences of those who fought there. You all have my utmost respect and appreciation.

Just in case you weren't feeling too old today!

by Herb Knapp – 99th Infantry Division

The people who are starting college this fall were born in 1991.

They are too young to remember the space shuttle blowing up.

Their lifetime has always included AIDS.

The CD was introduced two years before they were born.

They have always had an answering machine.

They have always had cable.

Popcorn has always been microwaved.

They never took a swim and thought about Jaws.

They don't know who Mork was or where he was from.

They never heard, "Where's the Beef?", "I'd walk a mile for a Camel," or "de plane. Boss, de plane.

They don't have a clue how to use a typewriter.

Pass this on to the other old fogies on your list.

Notice the larger type? That's for those of us who have trouble reading.

P.S. Save the Earth. It's the only planet with chocolate.

THE BULGE WAS A VIOLENT AND COLD BATTLE

by Chuck Katlic, 99th Infantry Division
394th Infantry Regiment, Company F

It all began at 0500 hours. Chuck Katlic recalls being on watch 65 years ago today; December 16, 1944 in the Ardennes. One of 70,000 men in four and a half divisions, covering a 70-mile front. Katlic looked out across the Siegfried line from his log fortified snow-covered foxhole. The quiet was shattered by German artillery and mortars, as the enemy opened up on the 99th division.

The Battle of the Bulge had begun.

The weather was cloudy and cold and artillery landed in our area all day and night. Company F was awake and on the alert when it started, but thank God we had covered our foxholes with logs.

Katlic believes that the logs were the only thing that saved him and his buddies from being ripped to shreds by shrapnel and wood shards from trees blasted to smithereens. Some men who are caught out of their foxholes were wounded or killed he said.

Artillery continued to hit their positions on December 17 as German and American planes went at one another overhead. Eventually the German artillery ceased. The 2nd Battalion was surrounded by Germans and separated from their regiment. We received orders to withdraw. We withdrew, leaving a covering force to an assembly point near Hunnngen, Belgium. No artillery fell December 18 and the evidence of the past two days barrage was concealed under a blanket of new snow. The temperature dropped to near 5° and circumstances grew dire as we were low on ammo and food. The Germans were closing in for the kill. We moved along a draw but the mortar rounds started landing in the draw. So the company moved into the woods where we were temporally held up for a couple of hours. The company was given the orders to fix bayonets. Company F and the rest of the battalion moved toward Merrigan, Belgium. At about 1500 hours a German burp gun opened up on our column and pinned us down. Heavy weapons were called for.

The Americans attacked in German positions and met stiff resistance. Our company commander was given command of the battalion. Lt. Goodner led the battalion through the draw to the town of Elsenborn, believed to be an Allied control. But the battalion fell under intense artillery and small arms fire. We were wet and cold and hungry he said the 2nd Battalion was given up as lost in action.

Rumors of the battalion's demise are premature. We reached the outskirts of Elsenborn and the men of Company F. slept in a barn until about 1000. Hot chow was served around noon (hot pancakes and syrup, a feast). It was our first hot meal in days.

The company moved to Elsenborn Ridge to take the high ground. We dug foxholes and set our defenses. Our meals would be cold C rations until our kitchen was set up in Elsenborn. We improved our positions and sent out patrols. On Christmas day we were served a cold turkey dinner.

They stayed there for a while and Katlic celebrated his 21st birthday on January 8, 1945 in a foxhole on the Elsenborn Ridge.

It was the coldest day of my life you he said. The 99th division held the northern shoulder preventing the Germans from expanding the bulge. Katlic described the 99th action as decisive. The 99th spent the month of January defending the north shoulder of the bulge he said. After many attempts the Germans could not break through and they eventually withdrew to a defensive position.

Wet cold weather met Katlic and the rest of the men who climbed from their foxholes at 1 a.m. on January 31, 1945 to answer the long-awaited call to attack. Our company left the area at 0300 hours and starting moving toward our objective. Snow was waist deep and rain had made a slushy surface on top of it. That delayed their departure. By 0600 hrs company had advanced only about 700 yards.

No enemy resistance was initially met. The Company F. commander led the way and with covering fire from light machine guns and 60 mm mortars, the men moved forward into enemy installations. We were moving due north through the enemy's outpost reaching our objective, when light resistance was met. Swinging the company due east we drove the Germans from our objective and into the dense woods. That's where we were held up by intense automatic and sniper fire, which inflicted heavy casualties on our infantry and medics. The company was pinned down in four feet of snow for the remainder of the night.

Artillery was called in to eliminate the enemy fire and shells landed within 50 yards of the Americans position. We spent a miserable night laying in the snow wet cold hungry sleepy and tired. Eight of our men were killed and many who were wounded did not make it through the night. He and his brothers in arms regrouped and advanced back to the lines where they had been on December 16.

The next day we began to push the Germans back to the Rhine River and into Germany. It was the end of the Battle of the Bulge. In those six weeks Americans suffered 90,000 casualties including 19,000 killed in action. It was the largest land battle ever fought by the U.S. Army.



Chuck Katlic

CHRISTMAS EVE PRESENT FOR THE NAZIS

By Frank Kaye – 8th Air Force

Flying bombing missions 23,000 feet over the Bulge was somewhat different than fighting the war, hip deep in snow on the ground. Nevertheless, it was on Christmas Eve and again on Christmas Day while flying over the Ardennes, better known as "The Battle of the Bulge" that I was feeling sorry for myself, thinking of all the festivities I would normally be celebrating back home on this the most festive of all Holidays. Not thinking at the moment that I was about to be part of the greatest battle ever, so fiercely fought by the U.S. in the greatest war ever fought. As it was later described by Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower and Prime Minister Winston Churchill. The surprise German counter attack began on December 16th, creating a huge bulge in the allied front line, giving the ensuing battle its name.

Due to inclement weather and fog that blanketed most of the continent, there was a lull on all flying activities, giving the Germans an advantage on their ground operations. However, the weather finally cleared and we were able to deliver our Christmas present to the Nazis on Christmas Eve by a combined aerial armada of more than 2000 Consolidated B-24 & Boeing B-17 heavy bombers, escorted by over 900 P-51 Mustangs, P-47 Thunderbolts & P-38 Lightning fighters. This mission is presently inscribed on the historic plaque erected in front of the old National Guard Building on Bull Street, Savannah, GA., where the Eight Air Force was born in 1942- now the home for The American Legion Post #135.

This mission, the first of its kind to utilize such a mass force of bombers on a single raid was designed to pound the hell out of all communication lines supplying and reinforcing the German armies, thus stalling their counteroffensive drive.

The December 24th mission took off for Germany in the dusky early morning. The first bombers were approaching their German targets as the tail of the large column were still taking off from our bases in England. Never before has anyone seen such a mass formation of aircraft assembled in the sky at any one time. During the three-day weekend of flying, the Eighth Air Force knocked out 218 enemy planes while we lost 38 heavy bombers and 40 fighter planes... Ironically, this was our crew's 24th and 25th mission on this the 24th and 25th day of December.

These missions were always outstanding in my mind, yet, they are not the most memorable ones. We were told midweek that there would be no missions scheduled for the coming New Year day and many of us made some plans. Well there was one hell of a New Years Eve party going on at the NCO club when about 3 A.M. there was an abrupt halt to all activities with a special announcement. The band was silenced and the voice came loud and clear. Due to the extreme reversal of condition at the Bulge, there will be a special mission this morning.

There was no time for rest or sleep. After a fast good by to your dancing partner there was a quick change into flight gear and a grumbling trip to the briefing room. Gripping could be heard throughout the base. However, after the briefing, tensions were somewhat eased when we learned that due to the extreme conditions on the ground, created by the surprise German counteroffensive,

compounded by heavy snow, bitter cold, and a lack of supplies all adding to the troop's misery. Moral support was desperately needed.

This put a different light on the situation and the angry mood was quickly changed. Upon leaving the room, we were like a bunch of college kids returning to the second half of a close football game. Gung Ho for Victory, ready for whatever.

Anxious to get going to raise some hell, I recall our nose gunner who in the process of checking his nose turret guns, accidentally fired a short burst from his twin fifties across the flight line, almost hitting the Engineering Officer who was sitting in his shack a couple hundred yards away. Scared half to death, he tried for days to find the culprit who cut loose that burst and I'll bet he is still talking about it today.

It was customary for Catholic crewmen to receive Holy Communion before leaving the briefing room but there was no time this day. Father Beck, the Catholic Chaplain from Ohio rolled from plane to plane looking for Catholics. He knew his crew's real well, so when he pulled up to C-Charlie, our B-24, he shouted "comes get it Polak" I being the only Polish Catholic on the crew received mine under the wing. Before he drove off, I asked where he got the Jeep he was driving as I never saw him on anything but a bicycle? He grinned, saying God left it for him at the Chapel. Can you picture a Catholic Priest swiping Jeeps? Later, before take off, our waist gunner, Travis West, a wise cracker from Texas, jokingly asked what it was I had for breakfast?

Knowing that food supplies were scares on the ground, we made a slight change from our regular routine in preparing for this mission. In addition to the bombs, we loaded up with extra crates of K-Rations, in the event we were downed. K- Rations was a heavily sealed wax container about the size of a Cracker Jack box that contained some chewing gum, hard candy, sticks of cheese a couple of bullion cubes and a few cigarettes. Not exactly Christmas turkey but sure nice to have around when nothing else is available. The alternative plan was to jettison most of it, if we had a successful mission, hoping they got to the right people. Which we ultimately did.

Breezing through another seven missions after this memorable New Years Day, we returned back to the States where I had the occasion to meet up with Hank Altyn a good family friend with a pitching arm destined for the big show, if not interrupted by the war. We often played catch together and I had no idea Hank was one of the guys hip deep in snow that cold January. He spoke of finding some of the K-Rations we tossed overboard. He talked about the tremendous boost in moral to all of the troops after seeing thousands of American bombers overhead, at a time when things were looking so bleak. At the time having no idea that I was up there tossing them out, nor I knowing he was below. Hank's recollection made my war worthwhile.

It was a regular routine for crews returning from a mission to excitedly describe the actions encountered on that particular mission, to the crews who were not flying that day. However, after a few hours and maybe a few beers, the stories became so boring, that the common response was. Yea, Yea, tell it to your grand kids. The following day, the situation would be reversed. Now, it is reality. And for some, we are telling it to our Great Grand Kids. And some are actually listening.

VBOB Wants Your Photo

Pictured here are Bulge Vets who along with 85 others, have submitted their VBOB photos.

VETERANS' GALLERY

By Ralph Bozorth

To help preserve your legacy we are planning to include your photo on our web site. Please send a copy of your photo to VBOB, P. O. Box 336, Blue Bell, PA 19422.

Include your name, telephone number and the unit in which you served.

If you have any questions contact Ralph at

484-351-8844 or

ralph@battleofthebulge.org



Clarence Buckman
106th Infantry Division



Murray Shapiro
28th Infantry Division



LeRoy Maleck
35th Infantry Division



Victor Banke
82nd Airborne Division



Donald Addor
10th Armored Division



Alfred Alvarez
7th Artillery Battalion



Tom Chambers
9th Armored Division

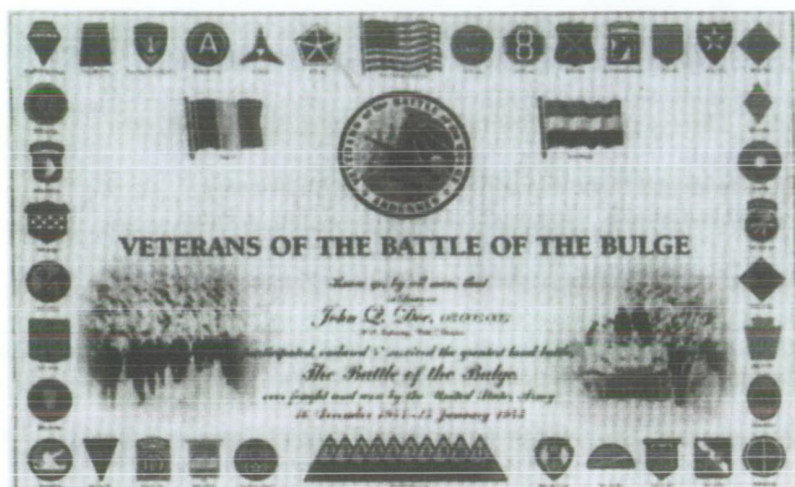


Howard Bjerke
99th Infantry Division



Andrew Giambroni
6th Armored 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 color 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

VBOB WEB SITE

www.battleofthebulge.org

Since the activation of our new web site, which was designed by Kevin and Tracey Diehl, in January we have received many compliments from people across the country as well as from Belgium and Luxembourg. This however does not mean that we are finished; on the contrary, we are striving to update the site on a timely basis in order to help ensure the perpetuation of the legacy of those who fought in that horrific battle.

Currently on the web site are:

- Photos of more than 230 veterans along with the name of their unit in which they served.
- Links to web sites of 30 units credited with fighting in the Ardennes.
- The February issue of the Bulge Bugle.
- Stories of veterans who received awards.
- QM merchandise can be purchased on line through the use of PayPal.
- The names of all our chapters including the president's name, address and telephone number.

We are working on putting every issue of the Bulge Bugle on our site. Input from you the user will help to maintain an informative site. Visit the site and feel free to send comments, suggestions, etc. to:

VBOB, PO Box 336, Blue Bell, PA 19422 or

Ralph@battleofthebulge.org

ST PATRICK'S PARADE

VBOB thrills the crowds!

Our VBOB MD/DC chapter marchers were a hit again in the 40th annual St. Patrick's Parade in our nation's capital on March 13. They were preceded by the outstanding Randolph-Macon Military Academy Band and AF ROTC marching unit. Our marchers again dazzled the onlookers as they marched to the outstanding beat of the Randolph Macon band.

The theme of this year's parade was "A Heritage of Education and Community Service". The Grand Marshal was Marlene Fitzgerald, Acting Director of the Department of Defense Education Activity for this year's 2011 parade. The Gael of the year was Sister Cunneen, Director of Public Service at Gonzaga College high school.

The good Lord blessed the day with low 60° weather, which also brought out the crowds for a beautiful spring day. The three-hour parade was a delight to the children and those who would be there for the day as flutes, marching bands, drill teams, Irish step dancers and a wide variety of revelers took over Constitution Avenue, Northwest between 7th and 17th streets.

After a minute or two the marchers had picked up the beat and it was like old marching days. This year our banner carriers again were Griffen Diday and Katie Kilmer. John Bowen associate carried the Irish flag. Emmett Lang, 84th Infantry Division and Warren Horn United States Marine Corps, both of who came down from Johnstown PA each year

rode in the three-quarter ton truck holding the American flag. This year we had five World War II vehicles. Mike Liven 489th Armored Field Artillery, 7th Armored Division rode also to the delight of the crowds.

Each of these restored vehicles World War II jeeps, panel truck and weapons carrier have been patiently restored and were driven by members of the Washington Area Collectors of Military Vehicles/Blue Gray Military Vehicle Trust.

It was a beautiful Irish Parade and the public was particularly pleased to see the veterans and applauded and cheered the group continuously all along the parade route. The reviewing stand gave our veterans their only standing ovation of the parade.

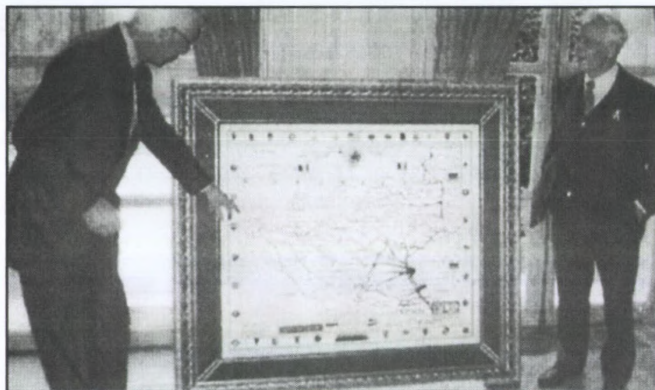
Any of you with access to the Internet can see pictures of the parade. www.dcstpatsparade.com

Taken from the March April 2011 "The Marcher", editor John D. Bowen

BATTLE OF THE BULGE MAP

The map was designed by Michael Ciquero, an associate member, who served in the Navy Seabees during WWII. The signatures of many Bulge veterans are on the map and now you have the opportunity to purchase a map and personalize it by signing where you fought. The map is 16"x 20" and the cost is \$39.95.

In December 2008 Mike presented a 46" x 44" framed map to the Belgium Ambassador, Dominique Struye de Swielande shown on the left. Mike is on the right. The map, shown below, is in the Belgium Embassy in Washington DC.



Since January Mike has discussed the map at the Lehigh Valley and MD/DC chapter meetings. For now the purchase of the map will be limited to members of a chapter, where the president will coordinate with Mike. A photo of the map will be on our web site soon.

Chapter presidents can contact Mike Ciquero, 63 Blake Ave, Jenkintown, PA 19046

**WE WILL BE LOOKING FOR YOU IN
COLUMBUS, GA – BRING A FRIEND!**

VBOB QUARTERMASTER ORDER FORM

MAY 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 silver tone or gold tone (please circle one)	\$16		\$
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 "This Note is from....A Veteran of the Battle of the Bulge" (white paper with blue printing)	\$4.00		\$
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

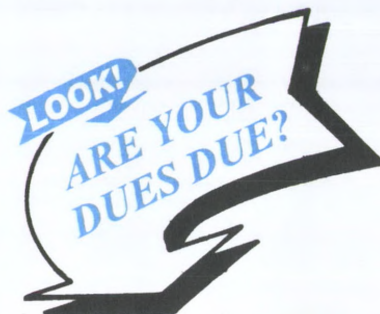
Questions? Call 703-528-4058





VETERANS of the BATTLE of the BULGE

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



8/12/2011

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MAY, 2011

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VBOB ANNUAL REUNION

Way Down In...

Columbus, GA

September 20-25, 2011

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APPLICATION FOR NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

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Do not write above this line

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge
PO Box 27430, Philadelphia PA 19118-0430
ANNUAL DUES \$15.00

Do not write above this

☐ 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 _____

Historian _____ Other _____ Son, daughter, brother, niece

Associate's Military Svc (dates) _____ Branch _____

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

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____