

The BULGE BUGLE

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

VOLUME XXXV NUMBER 1

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

FEBRUARY 2016



We were honored to have Johan Andries (left), Brigadier General (Air) Belgian Embassy Defense, Military, Naval & Air Attaché and Johan C. Verbeke (right), Belgian Ambassador, at the VBOB Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery for a wreath-laying ceremony.



DECEMBER ANNUAL COMMEMORATION *of the* ANNIVERSARY *of* THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

See page 12 for story and additional photos.



Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc.

PO Box 27430, Philadelphia, PA 19118
703-528-4058

Published quarterly, *The Bulge Bugle* is the official publication of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc.

Historical Research: John D. Bowen, Associate

VBOB CONTACT INFORMATION

Membership Office:

Tracey Diehl, Kevin Diehl; 703-528-4058,
e-mail: tracey@battleofthebulge.org

For dues, certificates, quartermaster, donations, membership, and articles or letters for inclusion in "The Bulge Bugle":
Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc.; PO Box 27430;
Philadelphia, PA 19118; 703-528-4058;
e-mail: tracey@battleofthebulge.org

VBOB WEB SITE: www.battleofthebulge.org or www.vbob.org

Submit material for our website by e-mail to:
ralph@battleofthebulge.org

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/pages/Veterans-of-the-Battle-of-the-Bulge

ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Alan Cunningham,
Associate

Executive Vice-President:
Barbara Mooneyhan, Associate

Vice President Membership:
Angela Fazio, Associate

Vice President Chapters:
Sherry Klopp, Associate

Treasurer: Duane R. Bruno,
Associate

Recording Secretary:
Tracey Diehl, Associate

Corresponding Secretary:
Doris Davis, Associate

TRUSTEES

Three-Year Trustees:
Tom Ingram, 90th Infantry Div.
Alfred Shehab, 38th Cavalry

Two -Year Trustees:
Ruth Hamilton, Associate
Robert Rhodes, Associate
Jim Triesler, Associate

One -Year Trustees:
Gary Higgins, Associate
Mike Levin, 7th Armored Div.
Bert Rice, Associate

BATTLE OF THE BULGE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

President: Alfred H.M. Shehab,
38th Cavalry

VBOB PAST PRESIDENTS

Clyde Boden* 1981-84
Robert VanHouten* 1984-86
George Chekan* 1986-88;
2004-05
William Greenville* 1988-90
Darrell Kuhn* 1990-92
William Hemphill* 1992-93
William Tayman 1993-94
Grover Twiner* 1994-95
Stanley Wojtusik* 1995-97;
2006-07
George Linthicum* 1997-99
John Dunleavy* 1999-01
Louis Cunningham 2001-03
Demetri Paris* 2008-10
J. David Bailey 2010-12
Douglas Dillard 2012-14
* Deceased

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

ALABAMA

Gen G.S. Patton, Jr. (11)
Vernon Miller, 8th AD
1409 John Wesley Dr
Birmingham, AL 35210-2203
205-951-0265

ARIZONA

Arizona (26)
[President in transition.
No current information as of
publication deadline.]

Southern Arizona (53)

George W. McGee
7830 E. Hampton St.
Tucson, AZ 85715
520-298-3220

BELGIUM

5th Fusiliers of Belgium (38)

Marcel D'Haese,
Belgian 5th Fusiliers
Boulevard du Souverain N 49
Box 4
1160 – Brussels, BE
00-32-2-673.49.76

CALIFORNIA

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

Southern California (16)

Fred Whitaker, 87th ID
9552 Brynmar Drive
Villa Park, CA 92861
714-282-7733

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Yankee (40)

Richard Egan
79 Alcove St.
Meriden, CT 06451
203-634-0474

COLORADO

Rocky Mountain (39)

A. Wayne Field, 6th AD
6130 Perfect View
Colorado Springs, CO 80919
719-598-2234

FLORIDA

Florida Citrus (32)

Minot N. Richardson, 26th ID
1925 Harden Blvd #67
Lakeland, FL 33803-1871
863-688-7249

Southeast Florida (62)

George Fisher, 26th ID
3456 S. Ocean Blvd #503
Palm Beach, FL 33480
561-585-7086

Golden Triangle (48)

Clarence Buckman, 106th ID
53 Redwood Track Course
Ocala, FL 34472
352-687-8175

INDIANA

Central Indiana (47)

Chris Schneider, Associate
1795 Cherry St
Noblesville, IN 46060
(317) 362-6015

KANSAS

Northeast Kansas (69)

Greg Penfield
PO Box 8556
Topeka, KS 66608-0556
785-340-8262

MARYLAND

Maryland/DC (3)

John R. Schaffner, 106 InfD
1811 Miller Rd
Cockeysville Md 21030-1013
410-584-2754

MASSACHUSETTS

Lamar Soutter/Central (22)

John McAuliffe, 87th ID
425 Pleasant St, #1410
Worcester, MA 01609
508-754-7183

MICHIGAN

West Michigan (23)

Richard Rizzio, 274 FA BN
3850 Scenic Ridge #424
Traverse City, MI 49684
231-421-9305

MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi (33)

James W. Hunt, 1st ID
804 20th Ave N
Columbus, MS 39701-2332
662-328-8959

MISSOURI

Gateway (25)

Dave Schroeder, Associate
323 S. Rock Hill Road
Webster Groves, MO 63119
314-961-7470

NEW JERSEY

Peter F. Leslie, Jr (54)

Jerry Manning, Associate
PO Box 104
Parsippany NJ 07054-0104
973-983-6985

Fort Monmouth (56)

Larry Lynch, Associate
37 Princeton St.
Red Bank, NJ 07701
732-842-5923

Fort Dix/McGuire (60)

Scott Gericke, Associate
21 Telford Lane
Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054
(856) 206-9464

South Jersey (61)

Edward Steinberg, Associate
202 Holly Dr
Rio Grande, NJ 08242-1738
609-886-1085

NEW YORK

Mohawk Valley (28)

Julian Scatko, Associate
356 Higby Rd
New Hartford, NY 13413
315-733-4752

Hudson Valley (49)

Matthew J. Swedick, Associate
26 Echo Lane
Altamont, NY 12009
518-765-0300

Staten Island (52)

William Abell, Associate
297 Clarke Ave
Staten Island, NY 10306
718-351-9426

Duncan T. Trueman (59)

Elliot Hermon, 87th Chem
Mortar Bn
3 Putter Way
Middletown, NY 10990
845-344-6181

Long Island (63)

William Mueller, 106th ID
27 Eve Ln
Levittown, NY 11756-5511
516-731-2488

OHIO

Blanchard Valley (42)

Leonard Skonecki, Associate
324 N. Countyline St.
Fostoria, OH 44830
419-435-3588

Ohio Buckeye (29)

John Kalagidis, 552nd FA Bn
2545 58th St NE
Canton, OH 44721-3451
330-492-2214

Alton Litsenberger (68)

Tom Tomastik, Associate
10811 Keller Pines Court
Galena, OH 43021
614-562-6928

PENNSYLVANIA

Delaware Valley (4)

[President in transition. No
current information as of publica-
tion deadline.]

Susquehanna (19)

[President in transition. No
current information as of publica-
tion deadline.]

Ohio Valley (31)

[President in transition. No
current information as of publica-
tion deadline.]

Southcentral Pennsylvania (45)

[President in transition. No
current information as of publica-
tion deadline.]

Lehigh Valley (55)

John Kuhn
2407 Woodbridge Terrace
Easton, PA 18045
610-438-0043

Reading (64)

George Moore, 1252nd ECB
207 Shockley Dr
Birdsboro, PA 19508
610-582-8690

SOUTH CAROLINA

South Carolina (7)

Nelson McLeod, Associate
513 Kelly Mill Rd.
Elgin, SC 29045
803-736-7731

VERMONT- NEW HAMPSHIRE-MAINE

Tri-State (17)

Edward Deverell, Associate
12 Stevens Dr
Hookset, NH 03106-1683
603-485-7464

VIRGINIA

Crater (43)

Mary Ann Coates Smith,
Associate
Post Office Box 520
Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0520
804-363-3400

WASHINGTON

Northwest (6)

Jim Pennock, Associate
3006 NW 61st St
Seattle, WA 98107
206-783-0212

IN THIS ISSUE

2. Contacts, Exec. Council,
Chapter Listings
4. President's Message
How to Submit to the *Bugle*
5. Letters to VBOB
6. Members In Memoriam
7. Stanley Wojtusik-A Tribute
Donations
8. VBOB Reorganization Plans
White House Veterans Day
9. My Battle of the Bulge
Experience
The Ardennes March
10. Annual Reunion 2016
526th AIB History
11. A Love Story Begins in
Luxembourg 1944
12. December 2015 Event
14. Repeating My April 1945
POW March in April 2016
15. Tours Planned for 2016
A Salute to Our New Members
16. Adopting American War
Graves in Europe
Francis L. Allen, 504 PIR
17. Battle in Hotton
18. Chapter News
20. New VBOB Member Book:
Battle Rattle
21. A Warm Welcome
22. Revisiting Gouvy
23. Encyclopedic WWII
Reference Book
24. Medals and Citations
26. A Daughter Remembers
The Second World War!
27. Women 'Can Do' Too!
28. The VBOB Certificate
29. 82nd AbnD Association
Veterans Day Events
My Story, January 1945
30. Attack on Hill 491
6th ArmdD 2016 Reunion
31. Quartermaster Merchandise



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Alan Cunningham, Associate



I HAVE A LOT TO TALK ABOUT in this message, so I am getting straight to it. For those who were at the 71st Anniversary Commemoration in Washington, DC, I want to thank you for your participation and hope you enjoyed the fantastic weather. (Nothing like in 1944.) The banquet was a big hit, and the entertainment was wonderful. The receptions at both the Luxembourg Embassy hosted by Ambassador Jean-Louis Wolzfeld on Monday evening and the Belgian Ambassa-

dor's residence hosted by His Excellency Johan Verbeke on Wednesday evening were well received by all. There was a special ceremony at the Belgian Ambassador's residence as Brigadier General Johan Andries presented the Fourragère 1940 to several members who earned the award during their time in Belgium during World War II. At our VBOB Memorial, the Belgian Ambassador, His Excellency Johan Verbeke and the Luxembourg Deputy Chief of Mission – Consul, Olivier Baldauff, both placed wreaths, in addition to the VBOB wreath placed by Athanace J. Landry, Jr. and his son, Steven. *Be sure to see the write-up and photos of all the events on page 12.*

While I am talking about the photographs, you may have noticed that *The Bulge Bugle* has been revamped and is now in full-color. By switching printers and using more updated digital technology, we are able to bring it to you in living color at no added expense. The *Bugle* is especially impressive when you look at the photographs. I hope you enjoy.

I was invited to speak at the Alabama veterans program on Sunday, November 15, 2015, which took place at the Southern Museum of Flight in Birmingham. The program honored the Alabama veterans who fought in the Battle of the Bulge and highlighted the role of the Belgium resistance in WWII. I gave greetings on behalf of VBOB and met with Vern Miller, President of the Gen G.S. Patton, Jr. Chapter in Alabama, along with some of the other VBOB members. We had a very frank discussion about the future of VBOB.

As was discussed at the annual meeting, we need to reorganize due to the laws and IRS regulations pertaining to Veterans Organizations. I won't go into detail here, but encourage you to read the article on page 8, and provide any feedback to me and the Executive Council with your thoughts and suggestions. Vern Miller and his chapter have given this a lot of thought, and he had some excellent ideas that are incorporated into the proposal for the future.

The planning is well along for the 2016 reunion, which will be in Seattle, Washington, October 5-9, 2016 (Wednesday through Sunday).

This will be our first reunion in the northwest, and local government agencies are already planning events for us during our visit. We will be staying at the DoubleTree Suites by Hilton, Seattle Airport/Southcenter. This hotel is very close to major shopping, restaurants, and the airport. Save the dates for this year. *(More about the reunion on page 10.)*

While in Washington for the Anniversary Commemoration, I met with the Army Historical Foundation about the Battle of the Bulge exhibit planned for the new National Museum of the United States Army being built at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. The Luxembourg government has already become a co-sponsor of the exhibit by pledging \$125,000 for it. I would like for VBOB to also be a co-sponsor of this exhibit, but we have to work out the proper mechanisms to accept donations for this (until we reorganize, donations to VBOB are not tax deductible.) More will follow in the next *Bulge Bugle*.

This will be a very busy year and hopefully, very fruitful. Be well and I hope to see you at our reunion in October.

How to submit stories for "The Bulge Bugle"

A big "Thank You" to those who have submitted veterans' stories and photos for inclusion in *The Bulge Bugle*. Please continue to send us your Battle of the Bulge stories, because we are in danger of running out of stories to print. Associate members are reminded to submit stories about veterans you know who fought in the battle. Guidelines for submitting stories, letters and photos to be published in *The Bulge Bugle* are:

Stories and letters: Please send typewritten (not handwritten) text whenever possible. We reserve the right to edit for length or clarity. Clippings/articles from newspapers or other periodicals must contain the name & date of publication so we can obtain reprint permission.

(Over the years there have been many stories submitted that were far too lengthy to be included in *The Bulge Bugle*. These stories have been added to the VBOB web site: www.battleofthebulge.org)

Photographs: Please identify the place and/or people in the photograph. Photos will not be returned. (Photos copied on a copy machine are not suitable for publication.) If providing scanned images, scan at high-res (300 dpi.)

Please include your e-mail address or telephone number, in case we have to contact you.

Send material to: Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc; PO Box 27430; Philadelphia, PA 19118-0430; or by email to: tracey@battleofthebulge.org

QUESTIONS? Please contact Tracey Diehl, 703-528-4058, or by email: tracey@battleofthebulge.org

LETTERS TO VBOB

VBOB MEMBER DEVELOPING BULGE COMPUTER PROGRAM

I would like to let you know that I made a simple graphical computer program to view the combat events of the Battle of the Bulge. The program shows the geographic map of the entire campaign area in Belgium and Luxembourg, or you can easily zoom in to any place. The locations of the events are marked, and short descriptions are shown. The great advantage of this tool is that you can choose not only the geographic location, but also a specific date of interest. To give just one example: what happened near Wiltz (Luxembourg), a small town 10 miles east of Bastogne, on Tuesday, 19 December 1944 (when the town was attacked by the Germans), and what on the 30th (when 101st and 104th Inf Reg of the 26th Inf Div arrived from the south)? The major combat actions are indicated on the map at a scale that you choose and for the day(s) you choose. In the current version the historical facts are quoted from the book by Hugh Cole.

I would be pleased to send the program to anyone interested. The current version requires a Windows computer. I made the program in my free time, and it can and should (and hopefully will) be further developed in the future. Feedback from you is most welcome. Also, I am seeking volunteers to help in developing the program further. Contact me at jorisvergeest@hotmail.com.

Joris Vergeest, Associate
The Hague, The Netherlands
jorisvergeest@hotmail.com

PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIAL CERTIFICATE



I wanted to mention, for the benefit of my fellow associates, that if a family member of a deceased veteran wants a Presidential Memorial Certificate, the request form is VA Form 40-0247 August 2014. (All versions of this form dated before May 2013 will not be accepted or processed. I had to learn the hard way, even after help from a local Veterans office, which gave me an earlier-dated form.)

You now have to certify that, to the best of your knowledge, the decedent has never

committed a serious crime, such as murder, sexual offense or other offense that could have resulted in imprisonment for life, etc.

Thanks for doing what you do!

John Mohor, Associate
LTC, USA (Ret)

To download the Presidential Memorial Certificate request form online, go to: <http://www.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/VA40-0247.pdf>

SEARCHING FOR INFO ON 136TH ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY BATTALION

I am researching the U.S. Army record for the family of a deceased U.S. Army veteran, Ralph W. Christie, of the 136th Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion (mobile) who served in the Battle of the Bulge. I know that the 136th was stationed in the area of Antwerp, Belgium prior to participating in the BOB. I would appreciate hearing from anyone that has knowledge of the 136th and its movements through Belgium, Luxembourg, and Germany in late 1944 and for the duration of the war. I am also looking for a short paperback history of the 136th if it is available. I know that the history was sold on the Internet in 2011 and is known to be the last one in print. Please contact me if you can provide any information. Gerald L. (Jerry) Puff; 104 Frankstowne Lane; Butler, Pa. 16002; Phone (724) 586-2441.

Sincerely,
Gerald L. Puff, Associate

DEAR VBOB:

At 93, I wanted to help you while still here.

I was in the 7th Army, 44th Infantry Division. Earned a Purple Heart, Bronze Star and was honored by the French government with the French Legion of Honor. Units of the French Army were attached to the 44th Division for reorganization and training, to reorganize their Army after the Germans had them surrender.

I hope to hang around a bit longer.

Glen E. Edquist, 44th Infantry Division

NOTE: We received this letter from VBOB Member Glen E. Edquist along with a donation.

SEARCHING TO INTERVIEW 55TH AIB VETERANS FOR BOOK

My name is Roger S. H. Schulman, and I am a screenwriter. (My credits are on www.imdb.com.) I am writing a book about the over 1,000 letters that my mother and father exchanged during his stint in the Army during World War II. My dad, Cpl. Hyman I. Schulman, fought in the Battle of the Bulge and was a chaplain's assistant. He died about two years ago. The book will be published by Regan Arts and distributed by Simon & Schuster.

I plan to attend your organization's next reunion in Seattle. Meanwhile, I hope that the Veterans of the BoB might be able to put me in touch with any veterans who can, and would, still talk about their experiences. In particular, I am looking for anyone who served in the 55th Armored Infantry Battalion, or may have come into close contact with my father (or had a similar training experience) in Camp Adair, OR or Camp Cooke, CA. I read a wonderful article by Homer Olson (deceased) about 55th AIB in a 2013 edition of your newsletter. Does anyone know how to get in touch with his son, Dennis Olson?

I'm happy to answer any questions about this project. Please contact me at: ohrogerchester@gmail.com or (310) 993-3415 (PST).

Respectfully,
Roger S. H. Schulman



MEMBERS IN MEMORIAM

Please notify us when you hear that any member of our organization has recently passed away, so that we may honor them in a future *Bulge Bugle*. Also, kindly notify us of any errors or omissions.

Please send notices by mail: VBOB, Inc., PO Box 27430, Philadelphia, PA 19118-0430; or by phone: 703-528-4058; or by email: tracey@battleofthebulge.org.

We have been notified, as of January 8, 2016, that these members of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc. have also recently passed away:

ADAMS, HERBERT H.	82 ABND	MCCALL, CHARLES W.	106 INFD
ALBAUM, PHILIP	106 INFD	MCCUISH, DONALD A.	106 INFD
BERG, GORDON L.	182 FA GP	MOHOR, JR., ARTHUR	94 INFD
BRANDENBURG, MELVIN	78 INFD	MOSKOWITZ, TED	1260 ENGR CMBT BN
BREGG, FRANCIS	17 ABND	NOLLETTI, RALPH	2 ARMDD
CALDWELL, JR, LUTHER	106 INFD	NOWELS, EDITH	ASSOCIATE
CLASEN, HAROLD	78 INFD	OLSON, SR., EDMUND	7 ARMDD
COBB, BOBBY	9 ARMDD	OLSON, RAY	83 FA BN
FORD, ORVILLE	10 ARMDD	PALMIERE, PATSY	75 INFD
FRIEDMAN, FRANK	28 INFD	POKUSA, CHESTER	90 INFD
GEARY, JAMES P.	10 ARMDD	QUATTRIN, ALFRED	106 INFD
HAVENS, ROBERT	75 INFD	SCHERTZER, WILLIAM	44 INFD
HENTGES, JR., JAMES F.	78 INFD	SCHUMAN, RUSSELL	7 ARMDD
JONES, JOSEPH B.	9 AF	SEMONCO, ANDY	5 INFD
JONES, THOMAS F.	818 CMBT MP CO	SWIECICKI, FRANK	4 ARMDD
KLITGAARD, HOWARD	109 EVAC HOSP	SWIFT, CHARLES	80 INFD
MACDONALD, NORMAN	84 INFD	WOJTUSIK SR., STANLEY	106 INFD
MARSHALL, FRANKLIN	246 ENGR CMBT BN	WOOLSON, RICHARD	110 AAA GUN BN

STANLEY WOJTUSIK — A TRIBUTE

by Lou Cunningham, 106th Recon, National President VBOB 2001-03

I met Stanley at a 106th Division reunion. We had something in common, as we both were from that division, and we became great friends. He invited me to join the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, an organization in which he was active, and always saw to it that I was included in their functions.

Stan felt the Battle of the Bulge did not receive enough recognition, so when he became National President of VBOB, he investigated places that would be willing to have a monument installed that would be visible to many. The Valley Forge Military Academy in Wayne, PA was approached, and agreed to provide the space. Several of their graduates had fought and died in the Bulge. Through Stan's efforts and cooperation from Belgium and Luxembourg, many donations were received, a prominent memorial was installed and a scholarship to the Academy was also donated. Each year at Christmastime, the members of the local Delaware Valley chapter met at the Military Academy for a church service with a speaker about the Bulge, had dinner there, watched the cadets in parade, and laid a wreath at the memorial in honor of those who had died.

Forging ahead, Stan then started a drive for funds to install a stained glass window in the chapel at the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, as well as a standing monument in the parade grounds,



Stanley A. Wojtusik Sr., 106 INFD, 422 INF, Co G, VBOB President (1995-97; 2006-07)

as a reminder to all students who attended of the importance of the Battle of the Bulge. This window depicting G.I.'s in the Bulge was dedicated on the infamous 9/11/2001.

Among his other accomplishments, he worked with his Congressman for permission to have a larger monument for the Battle of the Bulge installed at Arlington Cemetery, where many wreaths have been laid over the years by members of VBOB, as well as by the Belgians and Luxembourgers. As a result of his close work with them, he was knighted by both Belgium and Luxembourg for his efforts in perpetuating the memory of the Battle. These two

small countries show their continual gratitude for what our American soldiers did to free them from their German occupation in WWII.

With boundless energy, Stan kept his local chapter active, talked to schools, and always contributed in a multitude of ways. Stan served as the National President of VBOB for several terms (1995-97; 2006-07), and planned many National VBOB conventions. He was on the committee to erect the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. In later years, his efforts went to Wreaths Across America. His abilities were many. He left a legacy of accomplishments. He will be missed.

Read his full obituary at: www.philly.com/philly/news/20150930_Stanley_A_Wojtusik_90_Bulge_veteran.html

DONATIONS

We sincerely thank these generous members and donors who gave between Sept. 16, 2015 - Jan. 8, 2016:

The following made donations in Memory of Stanley A. Wojtusik Sr:

Costello, Ellen	Donor
Cunningham, Lou	106 INFD
Davidson, Marjorie	Donor
DeChristopher Bros Inc	Donor
Dombard Family	Donor
Eckles, Gerry & Denise	Donors
Feinberg, Samuel	106 INFD
Glen Foerd	
Preservation Group	Donor
Hettinger, Stacey	Donor
Kennedy, William	Donor
Magargal, Helga	Donor
McFadden, Mike	Donor
Noderer, Nicholas	Donor
Nordling, Marie	Donor
O'Shea, Leo & Mary	Donors
Rullo, Jerry	Donor
Szablewski,	
Lorraine & Bill	Donors
Thackray Crane Rental	Donor
Williams, Charmaine	Donor

Acker, Roger	1 INFD
Auld, Mrs. V. L.	Associate
Banke, Victor	82 ABND
Beckstrom, Gunnard	2 INFD
Bruno, Duane R.	Associate
Caulfield, John J.	Associate
De Marcken,	
Christian	Associate
Desantis, Charles	Associate
Driscoll, David O.	Associate
(IMO James Geary 10 ARMDD)	
Edquist, Glen	44 INFD
Feierabend, Jim	75 INFD
Fournier, Joseph	Associate
Fuller, William	281 ENGR CMBT BN
Goffin, Paul	Associate
Gunvalson, J. T. (2)	Associate
(IHO Russell Gunvalson 106 INFD, and IHO the Norrie family for Russell Gunvalson)	
Halvorsen, Wilbur	6 ARMDD
Klopp, Sherry	Associate
Kreckler, John	110 AAA GN BN
Kull, Grace	Associate

Lee, Sr., Warren	9 ARMDD
Liberman, Lee	95 INFD
Macauley, John C.	17 ABND
McAuliffe, John	87 INFD
McManus, Joseph	84 INFD
Meurisse, Andre	Associate
Mitchell, Charles	30 INFD
Ogden, Jr., James	Associate
Otto, Merle	99 INFD
Pagliuca, Frank	75 INFD
Park, Jr., Roger	Associate
Pendleton, James	30 INFD
Reyno, David A.	Associate
Scafidi, Mary H.	Associate
Schuetz, Kenneth	106 INFD
Sexton, J. D.	84 INFD
Tauben, Sheldon	75 INFD
Watson, John C.	84 INFD
Winton, Harold	Donor
(IHO of Samuel Lombardo 99 INFD)	
Wolfson, Cyril	75 INFD
Wolman, Francis	9 INFD



REORGANIZATION PLANS FOR VBOB

by Alan Cunningham, VBOB National President

As many of you know, VBOB must reorganize from a Veterans Tax Exempt Organization to a Charitable Tax Exempt Organization. This is mandated by IRS Regulations and U.S. Law that require that at least 75 percent of Veterans Organization members be past or present members of the U.S. Armed Forces. As our Bulge Veterans have aged and many are no longer with us, we no longer meet the 75 percent requirement. If we want to perpetuate the memory of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, we must have an organization that is inviting to the families and friends of the Veterans.

I have spent a lot of time listening to other members and associates about their ideas for this new Battle of the Bulge organization and have consolidated them into a vision for the future which I am proposing below. I welcome any and all comments, suggestions, and recommendations on this reorganization, but we must reorganize. As a result, we want to do it in a way that sustains our membership and allows us to accomplish the main purposes of the current VBOB. To refresh your memory our purposes are:

- To perpetuate the memory of the sacrifices made by U. S. military personnel during the Battle of the Bulge.
- To preserve historical data and sites relating to the Battle of the Bulge.
- To promote friendship among Battle of the Bulge veterans, their relatives and others interested in this historical battle.
- To foster and maintain international relations and good will with our fellow Allied countries who were a part of the Battle of the Bulge.

Based on all of the input I received so far from members of VBOB, I presented a plan for consideration by the Executive Council (EC). No vote was taken as I still want to get input from you, the members and associates at large. I will also need to get a legal opinion of some of the changes, to insure we can do what we want to do.

There is a real problem with the term "Associates." One of the major problems we have been having with Associates is that they are

sometimes mistakenly called "Veterans" (because they belong to the "Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge") when they were not involved in the Ardennes campaign. I was even called a Veteran in a news item reported incorrectly by the media, and was asked about it from someone who read the article, as they thought, rightly so, that I was too young. The president of our Alabama chapter, Vern Miller, suggested changing the name to "Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc." and call what are now Associate Members simply Members. (One of the problems Vern has been having in recruiting Associates is that they see the title of the organization as VBOB and since they are not Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, they balk at joining.) We could then call the Veterans another title, if needed, to distinguish them from the non-Veterans or to just identify the unit the Veterans were in during the Battle of the Bulge. I like these ideas and want to incorporate them into a new organization.

As for including Alsace along with Ardennes in the definition of BOB as was suggested at the annual meeting, I am not in favor of doing this, as it is too much of a change to the fiber of the organization. Anyone can request to open a chapter anywhere there are individuals who want to preserve the memory of the Battle of the Bulge and to promote the purposes listed above. Every year we are losing chapters and we need to reverse that trend. These changes would allow for additional chapters in Europe and elsewhere.

This would change the character of the organization from a Veteran's organization to a legacy organization of Veterans and their families and friends of the Battle of the Bulge. We would add Quartermaster items that are just BOB Association for the non-veterans. Again, no votes were taken and the ideas still need to be further defined. In addition, there is still a lot to do legally and with the IRS to make this happen.

I am interested in your thoughts on this. Thanks for your input and I will keep you informed of developments.

Send comments to: (email) alan@battleofthebulge.org; (or by mail to) Alan R. Cunningham, 14337 Woodleigh Dr, Chester, VA 23831.

IMPORTANT NOTE: VBOB ADDRESS CHANGES

To reduce VBOB expenses, we no longer have the phone number: 483-351-8844. Make all phone inquiries to: 703-528-4058 (Tracey Diehl, VBOB Member Services).

We also no longer have this PO address: PO Box 336, Blue Bell, PA 19422.

Send material for "The Bulge Bugle" to: Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc; PO Box 27430; Philadelphia, PA 19118-0430; or by email to: tracey@battleofthebulge.org

Send material for the VBOB website to: ralph@battleofthebulge.org; or by regular mail to address above.

QUESTIONS? Please contact Tracey Diehl, 703-528-4058, or by email: tracey@battleofthebulge.org



WHITE HOUSE VETERANS DAY

VBOB Member J. David Bailey, 106th ID and past VBOB president, attended the Veterans Day breakfast hosted by the President on November 11, 2015. Pictured are (l-r) Robert A. McDonald, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and J. David Bailey.

MY BATTLE OF THE BULGE EXPERIENCE

by Harry Reed, 3rd AD, 83rd Recon Bn



We were running out of supplies and fuel, and had to hole up at Stolberg, Germany. We had half of the town and Germans had the other half. The division got some new vehicles, and maintenance was done on the rest. They could hear and see buzz bombs going over night and day, headed for London.

Then, on December 16, 1944, the front suddenly erupted in an action that shocked the allied world. General von Rundstedt, the great counter offensive (planner), swept into the Ardennes under cover of fog and rain. Hitler said, "Take no prisoners; kill or be killed." They had soldiers dressed in American uniforms. Infantry and tanks were everywhere. This was the worst winter Belgium ever had. Zero temperatures, snow, ice, fog—you name it and they had it.

The American soldiers suffered trench foot, frozen toes and battle fatigue on the Ardennes battlefield. We didn't have any airplanes to help us. There was no place for most of us to stay inside. We slept under vehicles, as the ground was frozen and (there was) no way to dig a fox hole. The artillery would hit in the trees, and the shrapnel would rain down on us.

I will always remember Christmas Eve 1944. My unit was around Dochamps, Belgium about a mile from their roadblock on the main road. About 3 a.m. we heard small arms fire. So we took two jeeps, one armoured car and one tank to check it out. I was in the lead jeep with the driver and Lieutenant John Reilly. The road was a small blacktop, two-lane.

About half way up the road, we ran into the Germans. They were on both sides of the road, in the ditches. It was a real heavy fog. I was in the back seat, manning a .50 caliber machine gun. I fired it until the

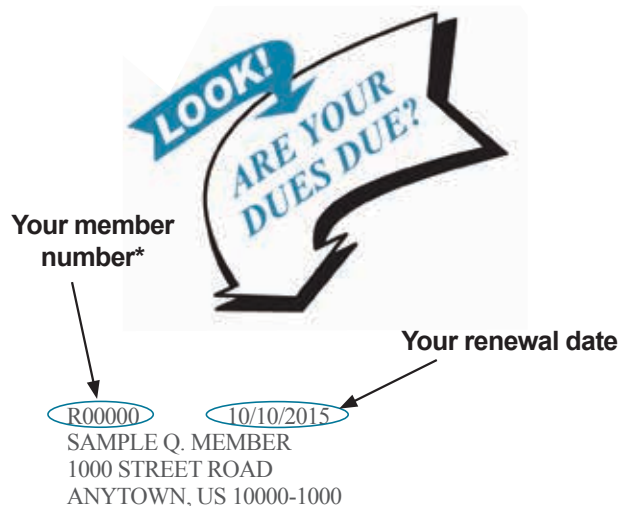
machine gun was burned up, along with two other automatic weapons. Then Lieutenant Reilly was hit in the head and killed outright. The jeep was shot up with four flat tires, radiator and gas tank. We just made it through the Germans when the jeep quit running. All the rest of the vehicles were destroyed.

The jeep's driver and I were the only survivors out of 14 men. We spent Christmas looking for our company. When the sun came out, allied planes started shooting German tanks and anything else that moved. That action ended the Battle of the Bulge.

—Source: www.battleofthebulgememories.be

WHEN ARE MY DUES DUE?

Look at the back cover address label:



***PLEASE NOTE: If your member number starts with the letter "L", you are a LIFE MEMBER, and therefore do not owe any more dues, ever!**

THE ARDENNES MARCH

VBOB Member Fred Faulkner, 3257 SIG SVC CO, composed a marvelous musical tribute "The Ardennes March" to commemorate the thousands who fought in the Battle of the Bulge. 800 people at the River Ridge High School auditorium in New Port Richey, FL watched a performance of the piece by an amateur band at its annual holiday show, where Mr. Faulkner conducted and made a speech. To watch the performance online, go to: www.youtube.com and search "Ardennes March 2015"



VBOB ANNUAL REUNION | OCT 5 - 10, 2016

Please save the date for the next Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Reunion in Seattle, WA.

DoubleTree Suites By Hilton, Seattle Airport/Southcenter; 16500 Southcenter Parkway, Tukwila, WA 98188
www.seattle.doubletree.com



Here are the highlights:

Wed Oct 5: Arrival day. Wine and Cheese Reception in Hospitality Room.

Thurs Oct 6: Tour of Joint Base Lewis McChord Military Base. Enjoy lunch with the soldiers.

Fri Oct 7: Membership meeting in the morning, buffet lunch then 3 options for the afternoon: (a) Bus Tour of Seattle (stay-on-bus-tour with Tour Guide); (b) Visit to Pike's Market; (c) Visit to Space Needle.

Sat Oct 8: Visit to the Boeing Museum of Flight. Banquet in the evening.

Sun Oct 9: 3 choices again: (a) Bus Tour of Seattle (stay-on-bus-tour with Tour Guide); (b) Visit to Pike's Market; (c) Visit to Space Needle. Tours will be in the morning to enable flight departures in the afternoon.

Mon Oct 10: Departure day.

The hotel is located near a huge shopping mall — the largest in the state (Westfield, Southcenter). Hotel reservations will not be accepted until after the May 2016 publication of *The Bulge Bugle*. The May issue will have all the day-by-day details, pricing and registration form.

If you have any questions about the Reunion, please feel free to contact the following:

Doris Davis: (650) 654-0101 or doris@battleofthebulge.org (prefer email)

OR the VBOB office, Tracey Diehl: (703) 528-4058 or tracey@battleofthebulge.org

Photo by Howard Frisk/visitseattle.org

526TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION FINAL SALUTE

We are sorry to report that the 526th Armored Infantry Battalion Association has disbanded, as announced in the November 2015 [final] issue of *The Pekan Newsletter*. We thank Glenn Damron, President, and Sherrie Morrison, Editor-Secretary/Treasurer, for the great job they have done in keeping the legacy of the 526th alive all these years. We thought it fitting that we reprint these articles from *The Pekan Newsletter*.

VALIANT WARRIORS "VALIDI MILITES"

by Tom Hanchett, M.A., 526th Historian

Reprinted with permission from "The Pekan Newsletter"



The 526th Armored Infantry Battalion played a unique role in the United States Army's European Theater of Operations during World War II. First, this battalion was the only separate armored infantry battalion (AIB), as they were usually attached to armored divisions. Second, the 526th was the only AIB to train with the top secret canal defense lights, or "Gizmos", in the Arizona desert and Rosebush, Wales.

In late October 1944, while in Belgium, the 526th was attached to an intelligence organization called T Force, authorized by General Eisenhower soon after D-Day. T Force was designed to rush into captured towns and seize intelligence information and German personnel.

Company C of the 526th was detached and assigned to provide security to Eagle Tac, the advanced headquarters of the Allied

Expeditionary Force, including Generals Eisenhower, Bradley, Patton and Simpson. At the end of the war, they provided security to visiting Russian marshals.

On the night of December 17th, 1944, the 526th convoy headed to blunt the German attack, more commonly known as the Battle of the Bulge. A task force comprised of Company A and a platoon from another battalion in T Force, under the command of Major Paul J. Solis, battalion executive officer, was sent to Stavelot. The remaining battalion, under Lt. Colonel Carlisle B. Irwin was ordered to defend Malmedy. As Company B entered Malmedy, some soldiers heard the church bells playing "Yankee Doodle Dandy" to warn the Germans the Americans were coming.

At Stavelot, though outnumbered in an unfamiliar area, Major Solis and Captain Charles Mitchell, Company A commander, set up a strong defense which delayed Colonel Jochen Peiper's German SS Panzer regiment. Part of a large fuel depot along their retreat route was ordered burned so it would not fall into German hands. Their efforts bought time for American reinforcements to advance, and time for removal of fuel stores.

Throughout December, the 526th fought off the German forces that were trying to take over Stavelot and Malmedy. German Colonel Otto Skorzeny, whose American-uniformed commandos spread confusion behind American lines, led one of these attacks.

Just after New Year 1945, as the Allied command was beginning a large counterattack, the 526th was ordered to attack a German position near Malmedy. In a battle that has gone unrecorded in Battle of the Bulge history books, Company B was ordered to attack a much larger German unit without any support. Company B suffered enormous casualties.

T Force operations commenced again in March 1944 through May 1945, which included seizing the IG Farben plant in Germany. The 526th also guarded top Nazi leaders such as Field Marshals von Rundstedt, Kesselring and Colonel Skorzeny.

A LOVE STORY BEGINS IN LUXEMBOURG 1944

by Triny Morrison

Excerpted with permission from "The Pekan Newsletter"



Triny and Frank Morrison

In late October 1944 some American soldiers came in to our café to drink and bowl in our bowling alley. I stayed in the kitchen, sometimes peeking into the café. I had turned sixteen years old the month before and was quite bashful. This young soldier, blond hair and blue eyes, would sit so he could look into the kitchen when the door opened and closed. Several times I caught him staring at me, which made me turn red as a beet!

The word got around that the Neuser Café was run by a nice family. A few days later, I was sitting at a table working on my homework with my mother and sister Aline, when that same soldier came in and sat at a table across from us. I wanted to move into the kitchen but my mother told me to sit still, act my age, and be polite. When I looked up at him, he would smile and wink at me. He kept drinking beer, which made him so brave. After a while he leaned over my table and started singing "Night and Day" (a popular American song) to me. While I was turning various shades of red, he asked my mother for my name. Then he looked at me and said, "My name is Frank." My mother had an English-German dictionary from World War I lying on the table. So, there followed a lot of leafing through the dictionary to communicate.

We were told about a big American holiday called Thanksgiving, so my mother cooked a huge meal for Frank and his friends. That evening Frank asked my mother if he could take me on a date. She agreed only if we were always chaperoned by my older sister! We went to see the movie, "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," starring Charles Laughton and Maureen O'Hara. While we were walking home through our neighborhood Frank spotted a "photo shop" where, a few days later, we had our pictures taken.

Frank would come over often and we would walk around the city, chaperoned of course. I started learning and understanding a few English phrases such as "Hello, Goodbye, Thank You, How are you?, Fine." Then one day everything changed. The German Army attacked the northern part of our country on December 16, 1944. The Germans were headed north to Antwerp to destroy the American supply ships in that harbor. The Battle of the Bulge had begun. We saw large convoys of American trucks driving through our city on the

path to the Ardennes.

General Patton drove the Third Army from France through Luxembourg City up the Skyline Highway to relieve the city of Bastogne. He drove his convoy of trucks and tanks through the streets two blocks from our home. The buildings shook from the tanks rumbling through the streets. We were hearing German Nazi propaganda on our radio, telling us they were destroying the American army all the way into Belgium. German artillery started shooting into our city every evening, attempting to hit the U.S. Headquarters for General Omar Bradley. We were told to stay on the main floors of our buildings because the artillery shots were hitting on the second floors and upwards. It took about two weeks for the Americans to figure out the artillery location – There was an abandoned railway tunnel outside the city about a kilometer away. The German artillery gun was on a railroad flat car. They would roll it out of the tunnel every night after dark and move it back into the tunnel after the artillery barrage.

Then came the day when the Battle of the Bulge was over and the Germans were on the run. Frank told us they were leaving Luxembourg (his Company C had been guarding General Bradley) and rejoining the rest of their battalion in Belgium. He asked for my address and we kissed goodbye. All I knew was that he was from California. He asked my mother how old I had to be before he wrote letters. She misunderstood him to ask how old I had to be for marriage! She told him 18 years or older.

The war was over, I had not heard from Frank, and I needed to learn a trade. I went to work in a small workshop, an atelier, to learn how to embroidery on a treadle sewing machine. I was paid for piecework, embroidering handkerchiefs, pillowcases, tablecloths, etc. I came home one day at noon for our supper break, and found the family acting strangely quiet and pointing at a letter. It was a letter from America! It was a letter from Frankie! He did not forget me! It was addressed to "Miss Triny Neuser, c/o Neuser Café, Luxembourg City", postmarked November 24, 1947.

"Dear Triny, It has been almost three years since I have seen you. I think of you often and miss the swell times we had together. Now that the war is over and things are back to normal I decided to write and see how things are over there. I guess you are having cold weather now. I remember how cold I got on guard duty. Have you guessed who this is yet? Well, dig out your pictures and look me up. We had one taken together. Remember how we used to do your homework in the café? Triny, do you still love me? Guess you want to know what happened to me. From Luxembourg I went to Belgium and then to Germany. I stayed in Germany until December 9, 1945 until I left for the United States. I arrived home on January 3, 1946. I worked on a farm for a while, then went into the bee business, selling honey. Have you ever thought about coming to the U.S. to live? Say, Triny, be sure to write. When I left, you promised to write if I would. With all my love, Frankie

NOTE: Frank and Triny wrote dozens of letters throughout the next year. Frank's future bride agreed to come to America and marry him. She said goodbye to her family and the only life she knew in Luxembourg. This brave young lady sailed across the Atlantic Ocean on the ship, Cunard White Star S.S. Soythia, docked in Halifax, Canada, and rode the passenger train to California. They were married just a few days later on December 30, 1948. Their first child Edward was born ten months later, then their two daughters Cathryn and Lisa. They are very proud grandparents of six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

—Sherrie Morrison, Associate, Daughter-in-Law



December 2015 Event 71st ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION of THE BATTLE of THE BULGE

(From left) BG Johan Andries, Belgian Embassy Defense, Military, Naval & Air Attaché; Belgian Ambassador Johan Verbeke; Hope Kirkendall, 16th General Hospital; Luxembourg Consul Olivier Baldauff; Harry Miller, 740th Tank Bn; Francis Chesko, 7th ArmD; and J David Bailey 106th InfD.

by John D. Bowen, Associate

The 71st Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of the Bulge was held in seventy-degree weather in the Washington DC Area, which was a far cry from the weather experienced by our veterans 71 years before. A good time was had by all.

The three day event started off on the 14th of December with a reception at the Luxembourg Embassy, hosted by Ambassador John-Louis Wolzfeld. Returning to The Commemoration Hotel at the DoubleTree Crystal City in Arlington VA, the well-stocked hospitality room was abuzz till 11:00 PM with stories and renewal of past friendships and new attendees. Memorabilia and books on the Bulge were displayed on tables around the periphery of the hospitality room.

The following morning, the 15th, was another delightful day, as we boarded buses to visit Union Station for shopping and an early lunch, followed by a visit to the National Archives. Special arrangements had been made with Bruce Bustard, Archives Curator, to view various Battle of the Bulge maps and documents, prior to visiting the Rotunda to view the Charters of Freedom, the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Following that, time was spent

visiting the Archives Museum and the Magna Carta and gift shop.

Interestingly, we were originally going to visit the Archives first thing in the morning but we were pre-empted, since the 15th of December is also Bill of Rights Day, and a Naturalization Ceremony, attended by President Obama, was planned for that morning.

Upon our return to the hotel we got spruced up for our Commemoration Banquet, which was attended by the new Commanding General of the Military District of Washington, MG Bradley Becker and his wife, BG Johan Andries and his wife representing the Belgium Embassy, and Consul Olivier Baldauff representing the Luxembourg Embassy. Our speaker for the evening was Colonel Brian Foley, Garrison Commander of Fort George G. Meade, where the Battle of the Bulge Conference Room and table is located. Ft Meade is also twinned with the Sister City of Stavelot Belgium. Colonel Foley talked about the special relationship between the post and the Battle of the Bulge.

Special guests honored that night were Warrant Officer Lucien "Luc" Leys of the Belgium Embassy, who will be retiring in March 2016, and his wife Sonja and daughter Seana. A special certificate and coin box with the VBOB coin were presented to them as a

memento of their friendship with our Bulge Veterans.

Special pieces of student art from Normandy, France were given to 11 of our Bulge Veterans in attendance who had fought also in France.

The Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation Person of the Year Award was presented to VBOB Executive Vice-President Barbara Mooneyhan, for all of her efforts over the years to honor and remember the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge and their history.

On the morning of the 16th, the weather was beautiful and the 70-degree temperature was ideal. Fifty-five of us proceeded by bus to Arlington National Cemetery to our large VBOB Monument, where wreaths were placed by the Belgium Ambassador Johan Verbeke, Consul of Luxembourg Olivier Baldauff and VBOB President Alan Cunningham.

After honors and an opportunity to take pictures with the wreaths and VBOB monument, we were ahead of schedule, so we took a small bus tour of the cemetery, which I narrated. We then proceeded to the Tomb of the Unknowns, where we observed the changing of the guard ceremony and prepared for the laying of the VBOB Wreath to honor all our fallen Bulge Members and those who have passed away, and for all of our deceased

military. The wreath layers J. David Bailey, 106th InfD, 422nd Infantry Regt, and Tom Ingram, 90th InfD, were escorted by the Commanding General of the Military District of Washington, MG Bradley Becker. This was a special honor generally reserved for the President and Diplomats or other dignitaries laying wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

Following this wreath laying, we then proceeded by bus to the World War II Memorial where we were met by Rachel Stern, her mother Linda, and Rachel's service dog Chuck with a placard hanging from his mouth that said "Thank You Veterans." Normally you do not touch service dogs, but Chuck, who enjoyed being scratched behind his ears, was a delight to all and would lean into you, enjoying the attention. And if given the chance, Chuck would lay on the ground and roll over so you could scratch his stomach. Rachel's Grandfather and Linda's father served in the 7th ArmdD, 38th AIB.

The group then proceeded to the European side of the Memorial to the location where engraved in the granite is "BATTLE OF THE BULGE." A wreath was laid by Francis Chesko of the 7th ArmdD, 33rd AIB Bn, and Dan Santagata of the 5th InfD, 7th Engr Cmbt Bn. Generally the large fountain is dry in December, but because the weather was so nice, the fountain had water and jets were spraying their synchronized dance.

It was now back to the DoubleTree Hotel for lunch. Alan Cunningham, VBOB President, acknowledged the VBOB 2016 Officers present and installed them. After lunch, many retired to the Hospitality room until 4:00 PM, when we loaded the buses to attend the Reception at the Belgium Ambassador's beautiful residence. We had 70 participants attending. Ambassador Johan Verbeke welcomed us and awarded the Belgian Fourragère to Sgt. Hicks, a Bulge Veteran of the 26th Infantry "Yankee" Division [and to several other absent veterans], as well as a Knighthood. The attendees enjoyed a number of different Belgian beers.

Thanks go to Mary Ann D. Bowen, Madeline Bryant, Alan Cunningham, Cheryl Ann Diday, Paul Goffin, Ruth Hamilton, Susanne Levin, Michael Mc McLaughlin, Kent Menser, Joan Sallada, Candi Schimming, Alfred H. M. Shehab and Elaine Winters for their help in making this event such a huge success this year.

It was announced that next year, Kent Menser will be the Chair of the 2016 Commemoration events.

—Photos courtesy of Barbara Mooneyhan and John Bowen, Associates



Ambassador John-Louis Wolzfeld hosted the reception at the Luxembourg Embassy.



Attendees visited the National Archives to view some impressive Bulge (and other) documents.



(Left) Rachel Stern and her service dog Chuck welcomed our vets to the WWII Memorial with a sign, "Thank You Veterans." (Right) Chuck leans into some affection from Mike Levin, 7 ArmdD.



Attendees observed guard patrols at The Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery.

Joe Landry, 776th AAAW Bn (below left), and son Steve, Associate, with VBOB wreath at Arlington National Cemetery.



Tree decorators (below) Mary Ann Bowen, Elaine Winters, Susanne Levin & Joan Sallada in the inviting VBOB Hospitality Room.



REPEATING MY APRIL 1945 POW MARCH IN APRIL 2016

by Robert Thompson, 2nd ID (“Indianheads”)



Robert Thompson, then and now

Who else remembers the great April 1945 POW March from Nuremberg to Stalag VII-A Moosburg? It's strange how ex-POWs can have sharply different views about the same wartime experience. For me the 100 mile POW march from Stalag XIII-D in Nuremberg to Stalag VII-A in Moosburg in April 1945 was “the best two weeks of captivity”. So much so, that I am taking my family back to Bavaria in April 2016 to retrace this historic POW march with them. (This time, however, not on foot, but traveling in comfort and staying in good hotels.) Why do I feel this way?

What was so special (about the march)? Well, (1) the end of boredom and confinement, (2) beautiful Bavarian scenery, (3) the friendliness of the German farm families, and (4) and finally, and the most important, was the sudden availability of plenty of food. The Krauts provided bread stations at various places and times along the route, but the primary source of our good fortune was the Red Cross boxes, which also contained Swan soap and cigarettes, which we traded (with the local German *frauen*) for eggs and other edibles.

But in the Nov/Dec 2015 ‘Ex-POW Bulletin’ of AXPOW (American Ex Prisoners of War Organization), two 8th AF (Airforce) ex-POWs said that “the march was not ‘the best of times’ in captivity”, and “Robert Thompson must have been on a different POW march from Nuremberg to Moosburg, Germany, Stalag VII-A, because my experience was not a scenic tour with plenty of food, guards who let you fall out and join the march a day later, bread stations along the way.”

That's a big difference in our recollections! What about other ex-POW VBOB veterans on this march? What did you experience?

What I related is not an old veteran vaguely recalling distant wartime memories. It is based on my contemporary wartime diary which I painstakingly kept on scraps of paper and old cigarette packets. Together with my wartime letters to my parents, which my mother faithfully kept, they form a true personal wartime record which I have privately published for my children as part of our family heritage. I can only conclude that the 8th AF POWs were unluckier than me.

I was captured in the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium in December 1944. This ended my time as a 2nd ID (“Indianheads”) combat infantryman, which had begun in Normandy and Brittany in Western France nearly six months earlier. As a POW I traveled six days on foot and by train to my first POW camp, Stalag XIII-C in Hammelburg

(between Frankfurt and Nuremberg).

In the neighboring Oflag (officers camp) XIII-B in Hammelburg was Colonel John Waters, General Patton's son-in-law. In March 1945, a Third Army task force attempted to liberate Oflag XIII-B and Col Waters. But it went disastrously wrong (Patton always denied all knowledge and responsibility). Although we were not aware of the raid, it was enough to persuade the German Army administration to send all of us POWs in Stalag XIII-C by boxcar train from Hammelburg to Stalag XIII-D in Nuremberg, about 90 miles away. This huge camp belonged to the Nazi Party Rallies area, and was originally accommodation for the thousands of SA stormtroopers who participated in the prewar Nuremberg rallies.

Stalag XIII-D in Nuremberg was also the destination of many AF POWs from Stalag Luft III in Sagan (in present day Poland). They had to evacuate Stalag Luft III ahead of the rapid Soviet advance from the east. They certainly had a far longer and harder winter journey on foot and by train than I had from Hammelburg. Then as Patton's Third Army advanced on Nuremberg from the west, once again the German Army administration ordered us to evacuate Stalag XIII-D and march southwards about 100 miles to Stalag VII-A in Moosburg just north of Munich. It was reputedly the largest POW camp of all.

From what the 8th AF ex-POWs said, the lead group of the march column were AF POWs. They were tragically strafed and bombed just outside Nuremberg by P-47s thinking these AF POWs were German troops on the move until they were identified as POWs. By the time I marched out, the P-47 attacks had fortunately stopped.

The never ending column of POWs was huge (some estimates exceeded 100,000) and the German guards were vastly outnumbered. So, as I recorded in my diary, a simple, strict and effective rule and routine operated, which certainly resulted in making life on the march much more tolerable for the POWs. You can take your time, but stay on the march route and you will be fed. Leave the march route and you will be shot.

It seems very likely that the AF POWs in the lead group of the march column would have been under continual supervision of the guards. So these AF POWs could unfortunately never have enjoyed the much more relaxed conditions farther back in the POW column which I experienced, and which made the march for me “the best two weeks of captivity”. Anyway, I am very much looking forward to taking my family back to this beautiful part of Bavaria to retrace the historic route of this famous POW march, and also to visit places like Munich, Berchtesgaden, Dachau and Salzburg.

One thing is certain. We are going to have a really big welcome and party in Moosburg. Good Bavarian beer will undoubtedly flow. Anita Meinelt, Mayoress of Moosburg, has written me [and she also includes all other ex-POWs, their families and friends]: “It is a great pleasure and honor for us that more than seventy years after the end of a terrible war, former prisoners of war and their families now want to come back as friends. We welcome you most heartily to Moosburg and very much look forward to being able to greet you and receive you in our town.”

If you wish, you are very welcome to join us and other ex-POWs with their families and friends too. *For more information on this and other 2016 veterans tours, see POW MARCH COMMEMORATIVE TOUR April 13 - 20, 2016 on opposite page.*

TOURS PLANNED FOR 2016

POW MARCH COMMEMORATIVE TOUR

April 13 - 20, 2016

Retrace with Robert Thompson (2nd ID "Indianheads") and other ex-POWs with families and friends the great April 1945 POW March from Stalag XIII-D Nuremberg to Stalag VII-A

Moosburg and see Munich, Dachau, Berchtesgaden and Salzburg too. *See opposite page for Thompson's story.*



NUREMBERG, PILSEN LIBERATION FESTIVAL & PRAGUE TOUR May 1 - 10, 2016

The tour begins in Frankfurt. We see Nuremberg with its Nazi Rally ruins and War Crimes Courthouse, and participate as honored guests in the world famous Pilsen Liberation Festival (see many YouTube reports) in the Czech Republic when Pilsen festively thanks America for its May 6, 1945 liberation by General Patton and Third Army. The tour ends in the beautiful historic Czech capital Prague.

LUXEMBOURG-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP WEEK June 20 - 27, 2016

The US Veterans Friends of Luxembourg warmly invite all American WW II Veterans, their families and friends to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg for the Luxembourg-American Friendship Week. Visit the Pescatore (Gen. Patton's HQ), Oetrange with the Chapel of the 4 Chaplains, Hamm American Cemetery, Diekirch National Museum of Military History, Vianden Castle, Dahl for National Day celebrations, 80th ID wreathlaying in Heiderscheid and Mertzig, Ahn winery dinner and Bastogne.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact Doris Davis, Associate Member and President VBOB Golden Gate (San Francisco) Chapter. Email address: doris@battleofthebulge.org; Tel (650) 654-0101 (PST).



A SALUTE TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

We welcome these new members to VBOB, as of January 8, 2016:

Bedell, Barbara	Associate	Moore, Chad W.	Associate
Brown, Gerard L.	Associate	Moseley, Alan S.	Associate
Clark, John R.	1 INFD	Neely, Darren	Associate
Fairfield, Ryan	Associate	Pittman-LaPlante, Leah V.	Associate
Farrel, Margret	Associate	Romestan, Roger	Associate
Gibbons, Michael	9 INFD	Ruelle, Kyle	Associate
Goldstein, Bernard	84 INFD	Sansoucy, Raymond	69 INFD
Hennen Jr, Chris	Associate	Sears, Coleen	Associate
Jarmon, Robert	Associate	Torrens, Chris	Associate
Light, Rosemarie	Associate	Walter, Beau	Associate
Moore, Arron D.	Associate		

We certainly are pleased to have you with us and look forward to your participation in helping to perpetuate the legacy of all who served in that epic battle. You can help immediately by:

- Talking to people about VBOB and suggesting that they also join
- Spreading the word about our website: www.vbob.org
- Sending us articles to be included in *The Bulge Bugle*
- Plan to attend our Annual Reunion in Seattle, WA, October 2016 (*See page 10 for more information.*)

ADOPTION PROGRAM FOR AMERICAN WAR GRAVES IN EUROPE

by Frank Gubbels, Associate, The Netherlands

In 1945, when World War 2 ended in Europe, thousands of brave, Young American soldiers were buried in cemeteries across Europe. Buried in foreign soil without any family attending their funeral.

Captain Joseph Shomon, who was in charge of the 611th Graves Registration Company, and his men had the task to bury American soldiers at the American Military Cemetery in Margraten The Netherlands. When they were finished, more than 17,000 Americans were buried there. Captain Shomon asked a local office worker if it was possible to look after the graves of the more than 17,000 American graves there. The Americans were going home again. That's when the idea for an adoption program came to mind by this man.

Within a couple of months all 17,000 graves were adopted. People were bringing flowers to the cemetery and placing them on the grave of a soldier whose grave they had adopted.

In 1948 more than 8,000 bodies were repatriated to the United States. Now there are 8,301 American soldiers buried in Margraten. The adoption program still stands, and all graves are adopted. There are 1,722 names of men on the Wall of the Missing. All names have been adopted as well. There is even a waiting list for people who want to adopt a



grave, or a name on the Wall of Missing.

It is an honor for people to adopt a grave and bring flowers to it on several occasions. During Memorial Day, Christmas and Easter there are lots of flowers decorating the American cemetery. In Europe, we don't want to forget what these men did for our

freedom—they paid the ultimate sacrifice.

The adoption program started in Margraten, The Netherlands. It is now also possible to adopt graves at the American cemetery in Henri-Chapelle, Neuville-en-Condroz (both Belgium) and in Normandy (OMAHA-Beach). Thousands of graves have been adopted at all these cemeteries. All over Europe, people want to express their thanks for those who gave their lives so we can live in peace.

Lots of Americans are unaware of this. We don't do this to get a thank you from Americans. We want the people to say thank you to the veterans and those who didn't come home. They are all heroes to us. It is the least we can do for those men.

Last year, a group of enthusiastic Dutch people organized "The faces of Margraten". They are trying to find a picture of every soldier who is buried in Margraten. Within a year they collected more than 3,000 pictures. It seems easy but it is very, very difficult to find pictures of these soldiers. If anyone can help locate pictures, it would be highly appreciated. You can find more information on their website: www.fieldsofthonor-database.com.

I would like to end this by saying thank you to everyone who fought for our freedom. Lest we forget!



Bruno Pollet (left) of Belgium, at the grave of Francis L. Allen, 82nd Airborne, 504th PIR (right) that he adopted.

FRANCIS L. ALLEN, 504 PIR

by Bruno Pollet, Associate, Belgium

Passionate about collecting the history of the 82nd Airborne, I found a jumpsuit model 1942 that belonged to Edward L Mogan, the 504th PIR, at Cheneux in the Ardennes. In 2002 I learned that he was dead.

Belgium, meanwhile, was authorizing the adoption of American soldiers' graves, so I wrote a letter to the Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery, to ask if it was possible to adopt the grave of a paratrooper from the 82nd Airborne, 504th PIR.

Two weeks later, I received a letter from the Henri-Chapelle cemetery giving me the name Francis L. Allen. A few days later I went to visit and adorn his grave. Subsequently, I received a certificate of adoption from Belgium.

VBOB IS HONORING THOSE FINE CITIZENS in Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands who adopt the graves of our Battle of the Bulge soldiers, by sending them a VBOB certificate of gratitude. Please send the name and mailing address of the grave caretaker and the name [and service units if known] of the Battle of the Bulge soldier. Send the information to: VBOB, PO Box 27430, Philadelphia, PA 19118. Contact: tracey@battleofthebulge.org; 703-528-4058.

BATTLE IN HOTTON, 21ST DECEMBER 1944

by Maynard Dilthey, 3rd AD, 23rd AIBn, Co B



The weather was cold and damp on the 19th of December 1944, at Stolberg, Germany. Our unit, Company "B", 23rd Armored Engineer Battalion, received orders to pull back, as did most every other unit within the 3rd Armored Division. We were to pull back to about Liege, Belgium, then to turn and hit the German thrust head on, and split their forces. We departed from Stolberg under cover

of darkness, and traveled all night and most of the next day, arriving in Hotton, Belgium on the afternoon of the 20th. The march was uneventful, having no contact with the enemy. Most units of the task force crossed the river at Hotton, and proceeded on to meet the enemy.

I was ordered to remain in Hotton with Headquarters Platoon for the night, along with Major Jack W. Fickessen, who was in charge of the trains. We were to rejoin the others of my company the next day. Headquarters Platoon of Company "B", 23rd Engineers stayed on the south side of the river. All company officers had been ordered on to the front. Early the next morning we were awakened by German small-arm fire out in the street. Sergeants Salvatore Pasquale and Louis Brantley roused the men of my company and the villagers. The villagers headed for a cave at the edge of town, which they used as a shelter. The men of Company "B" took up their positions, ready to fight.

Company "B" had a 57mm anti-tank gun which we set up at the south end of the bridge. We could see the German column, supported by several tanks, approaching from the other side of the river, preparing to cross the bridge. The road along the river was very narrow, with houses on the side opposite the river. Pfc Kenneth Walk was able to fire one round, hitting the lead tank, and it went up in flames, causing the crew to abandon it. I understand they were disposed of by the men of Headquarters Company, 23rd Engineers, as they abandoned their vehicle.

The narrow road made it impossible for the other tanks to pass the disabled one, so they had to back up and come around the town from another direction. While this was happening, a late model tank destroyer, equipped with the most up-to-date fire power, lumbered down the street on the south side of the bridge where we were. This tank destroyer was lost, and trying to find the way back to the unit. (I have since forgotten which unit they were assigned to, but it was not the 3rd Armored Division.) I halted the Sergeant and explained the situation.

At the moment, the lead tank of the German column was again approaching the bridge coming between two houses on the north side. Our "New found friend" made short order out of him, halting him in his tracks. By this time, the troops on the north bank was working the attacking Germans over pretty good. They were forced to retreat to the edge of the town, due to their losses, plus the loss of two of their

supporting tanks. Sergeant Brantley and I were able to locate a road up the hill on the south side, enabling us to view the location to which the Germans had retreated on the north bank.

The tank destroyer was brought up on top of this hill, and our newly acquired friend was able to knock out three more German tanks before we had to abandon the hill due to the heat from the German guns. By this time, it was getting late in the day, and the odds had become much more even. Our new friend said he'd best be on his way. I tried to persuade him to stick around for a while, but he felt it time he go again in search of his unit.

From their position the Germans were able to re-group, and under the cover of darkness would attack nightly. But the loss of the tanks had greatly reduced their firepower, and their punch was restricted to foot soldiers. The status quo remained, with each side holding its position until Christmas Day, 1944, when a group of infantry from the 75th Division came through the town on their way to the front. The Germans had withdrawn, and we loaded up and rejoined our respective units.

Though most of the men under Major Fickessen's command at the time were support troops – cooks, clerks, mechanics, etc., they rose to the occasion, and became "front line" soldiers when the need to do so arose. Another memorable thing about Hotton, Belgium – it was the first time in the war that we encountered German soldiers dressed in American uniforms.

The reason I'm so sure of these dates is that December 20th is my birthday. I had received a package from my wife just before we departed from Stolberg. I had been too occupied with my duties in preparation for our departure to open it. I finally found the time to do so on the night of the 20th. I was settled in with a very nice family, which included several children, one being a small baby about the age of my first-born son who I had never seen. The box consisted of fruit cake, cookies, nuts, sausage, oranges, apples, etc. I became so absorbed in playing with the baby, and through him feeling a bit closer to my own child, that the contents of my birthday box soon disappeared, thanks to this family who had not seen so many "goodies" in years. I spent a peaceful evening on my birthday, but the next day was one never to be forgotten.

—Source: www.battleofthebulgememories.be



VBOB VIDEOS—WE WANT YOU!

Watch VBOB veterans' videos on our website at: www.vbob.org.

Click on "Veterans' Video Stories."

Tell us if your VBOB chapter would like to arrange a visit to record your members' 5-minute stories.

For more information, contact Kevin Diehl: 703-528-4058
or kevin@battleofthebulge.org



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK:
www.facebook.com/pages/Veterans-of-the-Battle-of-the-Bulge
VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
www.battleofthebulge.org OR www.vbob.org





SC CHAPTER MEMBERS AT SHAW AIR FORCE BASE ARCENT/THIRD ARMY CHANGE OF COMMAND

South Carolina Chapter members Leif Maseng, Chris Carawan, Vern Brantley, Joe Watson, Gerald White, and Dave Hubbard were guests of General Lloyd J Austin, III, Commanding General of United States Central Command, at the change of command ceremony of United States Army Central. Lieutenant General Michael X Garrett assumed command from retiring Lieutenant General James L Terry at the 17 November ceremony at Patton Hall, Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina. US Army Central is the modern designation of the legendary Third Army, best known for its exploits under General George S Patton in Europe during World War II. US Army Central is heavily involved in operations in their 27 nation area of responsibility including Afghanistan and Iraq. The impressive change of command ceremony was followed by a reception in Patton Hall.



SC CHAPTER MEMBERS HONORED AT HALFTIME

The University of South Carolina's Veterans Salute at halftime of the 21 November USC-Citadel Game featured several veterans including Major General Jim Chow, Major General Steve Seigfried (associate member of the South Carolina Chapter), and South Carolina Chapter members PFC Leif Maseng and PFC Vern Brantley. Each veteran was presented with a game ball at halftime and were guests of Coach Ray Tanner during the game. They were prominently featured on the scoreboard and were greeted with thunderous applause from those in attendance. (Pictured on scoreboards: Vern Brantley, top; Leif Maseng, bottom.)



VBOB Members Leif Maseng 17 ABND, Chris Carawan 106 INFD, Vern Brantley 75 INFD, Joe Watson 75 INFD, Gerald White 2 INFD, and Dave Hubbard HQ ADV SECT COMM ZONE SIG at the 17 November ceremony at Patton Hall, Shaw Air Force Base, SC.

WEST MICHIGAN (23) CHAPTER SUPPER

On every December 16, for over 20 years, the West Michigan Chapter Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge gather for an annual supper. Although the Chapter's roster is down to four Veterans from over thirty, the four Veterans were honored by eighteen friends and family.

Chapter President Richard Rizzio spoke emotionally, with humility and deep appreciation, of the Bulge Veterans who died in Europe. Chapter Founding President Maury Cole, Charlie Lewis, and Roland Sayer enjoyed the special event. The age range is from 90 to 97, and all are looking forward to the annual event in 2016.

—Submitted by Tom Mountz, Associate, Chapter 23



(Photo at right) Standing: Maury Cole founding President, Richard Rizzio current President, and Charlie Lewis. Seated: Roland Sayer.



ROTC Cadets from Washingtonville High School presented a slide show about their activities at the Duncan T. Trueman Chapter meeting and luncheon on May 21, 2015 at Birchwood Caterers in Monroe, NY.

ROTC STUDENTS' PRESENTATION AT DUNCAN T. TRUEMAN (57) LUNCHEON MEETING

Duncan T. Trueman Chapter (57) President Elliot S. Hermon reports in their newsletter "Our Voice in the Valley" that their meeting in May was an outstanding success.

"The turnout was another fairly large one, and although our guest speaker, Lieutenant Colonel Jack H. Moore, US Army (Ret),

the Senior Army Instructor at the US Army JROTC at Washingtonville Senior High School, was unable to join us as promised, four of his cadets did come, and provided a terrific slide show presentation on their many cadet activities.

Leading the presentation was Cadet Lt

Col Valentin Olingheru, the Washingtonville Sr High School Jr ROTC battalion Commander, ably assisted by Cadet Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Sheboy (on crutches), Cadet Command Sgt. Major Corey Lisa, and Cadet Corporal Jonathan Matsler."

—Photo courtesy of Ginny Privitar

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER 39 NEWS

Chapter President A Wayne Field, 6th AD, sent us these bits of news:

■ The Aurora Center for Active Adults held a "Special Tribute Honoring WWII Veterans" at the Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Denver, in November 2015, where they had enough VBOB members in attendance to fill more than one table.

■ You can watch a video interview with VBOB Member Lou Zoghby about his experiences in WWII on YouTube. Go to: www.youtube.com and search "Gregory Zoghby".



© Gregory Zoghby/YouTube

NEW VBOB MEMBER BOOK *BATTLE RATTLE: A LAST MEMOIR OF WORLD WAR II*



Roger Boas now (above) and then, as shown on his new book's cover (below).

VBOB Member Roger Boas, 4th ARMDD, 94th AFA BN, reported for duty at Camp Roberts, California, as a second lieutenant of field artillery, the day after his graduation from Stanford University. He spent almost four years in the army, the last eleven months of which were in combat in Europe. He returned home in December 1945.

Upon his return to San Francisco, Boas entered his family's automobile business and simultaneously proceeded to develop a civic-minded career in a variety of ways: membership on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, TV producer and moderator on PBS TV, Chief

Administrative Officer of the City of San Francisco and State Chairman of the California Democratic Party. *Battle Rattle* is his first book, and below is an excerpt:

"ABANDON POST!"

The shooting began again the following day, and I very nearly lost my life. The objective of this battle was to capture Lorient, a strategic seaport where the Germans had their U-boats in pens. But before committing troops to the battlefield, the U.S. command tried another tactic. Ordered, I believe, by General Patton—I don't think he would have had the hubris to do it on his own—General Wood sent a radio message to the German commander at Lorient demanding his surrender. When no affirmative response was received, we attacked their emplacements outside of the city.

My artillery battalion went into position not far from Lorient, near a very small town called Caudan (population 2,000). Our job was to support Colonel Creighton Abrams's blistering 37th Tank Battalion, which was leading the attack. The job of the artillery was to set up our eighteen howitzers in range of the enemy's guns or enemy troop movement. We'd need a forward observer to spot these positions, of course—and as luck would have it, it was my turn.

Major Parker ordered me and my support team to find the highest available perch for an observation post (OP). I surveyed the area and spotted something in the distance—a church steeple at the center of the nearby town. Perfect.

Or at least I thought it was perfect. You got up there with a pair of field binoculars and could see the entire panorama. The Germans had to survey a huge landscape, so even though it was probably the highest structure, they wouldn't necessarily know we were there. Sure, there was the risk that, with only one way in and out of a bell tower, a rapid evacuation might not be easy. And there was always the danger that my binoculars or another piece of glass could catch the sun and give us away. But every place has its risks. I was

totally preoccupied that morning with wanting to do a good job in my debut as forward observer in an actual battle (putting aside the disheartening realization that I had somehow fallen into one of the most dangerous jobs in the army).

Once we went into action any fears seemed to disappear. Excited to be taking up our first observation post, my team drove furtively to Caudan's main square in our jeep. After parking quietly in an alley, the three of us—Sergeant Plas with his radio, my corporal with his telephone, and me with my map and binoculars—climbed the dusty, winding steps of the timeworn tower to emerge at the thirty-foot top of the church steeple.

The view was breathtaking. And I could easily make out the Germans' artillery positions from their gun flashes. Keyed up, I got to work, plotting out coordinates and barking them out to Plas, who radioed the firing orders back to our three batteries of six guns each.

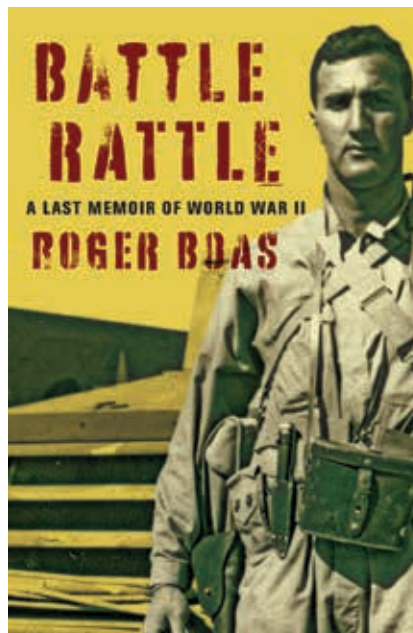
Of course, as soon as we began shooting, my German counterpart (wherever he was hiding) would observe the flashes of our guns and would start telling his gun batteries where to shoot back. Pretty soon the entire valley was filled with the booming thunder of artillery. And that's how it was all morning. Fire. Counterfire. Fire. Counterfire.

The OPs all had one constant: the focus was on the enemy, and not the slightest attention was paid to the civilians in the area or their habitat. We'd often find that the enemy artillery and mortars were next to farmhouses or village homes or in streets or town structures in which civilian noncombatants might be living or working. Yet during the war, I cannot recall anyone ever giving any thought to protecting enemy civilians; our role was to rout the enemy military. If enemy civilians (collateral damage, in today's jargon) lost their lives—so be it. We never stopped adhering to our mantra: a good German is a dead German.

By mid-afternoon, my shots were improving. I had a pretty good fix on where to aim, but just as I was feeling confident that we could soon take out some of their batteries, it got dark. Major Parker ordered us to stop firing. After nightfall, firing your artillery makes you an easy target—as the muzzle flashes can be seen easily for miles. Thus, we had a de facto ceasefire till dawn.

My team and I snuck back to the jeep and returned to our unit to bed down for the night. I threw down my bedroll in the corner of a barn and shut my eyes, both exhausted and exhilarated. Even though the artillery bombardment had ceased, there continued to be small arms fire—the occasional rat-a-tat-tat of a machine gun burst or a solitary sniper shell ricocheting off a wall. But my mind, amazingly, was able to tune all of that out—to label it "distant danger," not imminent—allowing me to slumber in peace. We had been at this for three weeks, and, while certainly not grizzled like the Fourth Infantry, we were now actual combat veterans.

The following morning Sergeant Plas shook me awake with a cup of coffee. It was an hour before dawn—time to get going. I reported to Lieutenant Colonel Graham, who asked me where I



planned to set up today's OP. I told him I intended to return to the bell tower, which, in my view, had been an ideal position from which to observe the action. The thought seemed to intrigue him, and Graham announced suddenly that he was going to join us.

While artillery commanders tend to stay behind the front lines so they can supervise the guns, I could certainly see why Graham might have wanted to get an overview of the battlefield—to see the actual impact of our shelling and the counterfire from the enemy guns. Though he was more than ten years my senior and far higher in rank, it occurred to me that this was Lieutenant Colonel Graham's first time in front-line combat, just like me. He wanted to observe the battlefield to glean information that could improve both his understanding and skills as an artillery commander.

So off we went—six of us, including the two drivers—moving through the pre-light of dawn to the town square in Caudan. Darting quietly up three stories to the top of the bell tower, I unfurled my map and got to work. Feeling proud to have the colonel at my side, I pointed out the landmarks that I had spotted the day before—the places I had calculated as likely enemy artillery positions. Graham nodded and, after checking them out with his own binoculars, ordered me to begin the bombardment.

The shooting began and, once again, the plain erupted in artillery explosions. Trying to stay calm under the added pressure of having the CO breathing down my neck, I adjusted my firing coordinates and within short order felt pretty certain to have taken out at least one enemy battery. But that's when, suddenly, the tables turned. They started firing at us! German shells began coming in from an artillery battery I hadn't spotted earlier, one with a closer vantage point—which meant I could easily see its muzzle flashes.

Since their rounds were missing us, I decided to return fire, quickly calculating coordinates and having Plas radio them back. My first shot missed. They fired back at us. It was harrowing having shells fly in our direction, whizzing by the steeple.

I quickly shouted out an angle correction, which Plas radioed back to our battalion. These firing exchanges were hair-raising. Who would blink first? Then one of their shells grazed the outside of the steeple, causing bits of masonry to fall, crashing thirty feet to the ground.

"Abandon post!" I shouted suddenly, allowing Sergeant Plas and my corporal to descend the narrow stairwell before me. I gestured to Lieutenant Colonel Graham to do likewise, and we hightailed it as fast as we could down the winding steps, spurting to safety in the nick of time. The German artillery struck a direct hit on the upper part of the steeple, which came crashing down into a pile of rubble.

My eyes widened as I tried to catch my breath, adrenaline coursing through my veins. That was close. My mind began deconstructing the sequence of events, wondering how they had spotted us in the first place, since we certainly were not firing any weapons from the tower. Then it occurred to me: the Germans must have picked up a flashing reflection of the sun off my binoculars. It had been a close call, but the fact that it took the enemy over twenty-four hours to figure out where I was observing them from illustrates how difficult it can be to find the correct target.

The next day my division received orders to leave the Brittany peninsula and move east toward Orléans. I was told that Alex Graham had put me in for a Silver Star decoration for the church steeple action. And Alex was himself put up for his own Silver Star by Colonel Bixby. But the division's adjutant general, Lieutenant Colonel R. M. Connolly, arbitrarily reduced them to Bronze Stars, supposedly saying: "I'll be

goddamned if I'll recommend a Silver Star for an artilleryman." On the Silver Star application sent in by Graham, Connolly had simply printed: "Bronze Star Award directed by C.G."

Nasty comments were made in my battalion about the adjutant's attitude and the fact that, as a rear echelon staff officer, he had never even seen action. We were offended: "We're getting shot at and this desk-jockey has the nerve to criticize us." Certainly, getting out of the steeple unhurt had been a close shave; another minute and I'd have been a goner. Our artillery battalion had taken casualties steadily since going into war and, in our parochial view, being an artilleryman was dangerous. But, looking back, I've changed my mind: the divisional adjutant was right. Being a field artilleryman firing the howitzers several hundred yards behind the front lines was much less dangerous than being an infantryman or tankier on the front lines, a fact none of us considered. What Colonel Connolly failed to realize was that an artillery forward observer, like me (and Colonel Graham that particular day), was stationed at the front line, right alongside the infantry—a fact that would soon cost Dude Dent his life.

For further information, visit www.BattleRattleMemoir.com

A WARM WELCOME WITH SHINING LIGHT

by Robert E. Gorman, 141 AAA GUN BN



I am a World War II Army veteran who served in Europe from the Cherbourg peninsula beach landing near Saint-Lo France, to the Battle of the Bulge.

So to get to my story: our artillery training in Fort Bliss, Texas was completed in 1943. Now that our training was completed, we were transported to Camp Myles Standish in Massachusetts by troop train. The troop train ride was quite a long and exhausting ride from El Paso, Texas. I will never forget we were nearing the end of our transport from Texas. It was very late. I was seated at a window seat and in the distance I could see a bright, light on the horizon. Soon we came to a platform dock at the train station in Alliance that was very brightly lit. When the train stopped and we left the train, we were greeted with coffee, donuts and sandwiches by a group of women who told us that they were Gold Star Mothers, wives and others. There was plenty of food and we ate until we all had our fill. After we were finished eating, they told us to take anything that was leftover with us. While we were leaving, they were telling us, "God's blessings", and "We have lots of love and pride for you soldiers". This send off was something that I have never forgotten over all of these years. It meant so much to me and all of the troops on the train.

I am now ninety-one years old, and I can remember and still see that shining light shining ever so bright for us on the horizon. About fifteen years ago, I wrote to the Alliance mayor and this wife of this ever-meaningful event on that evening in 1943. They were very happy to hear the story and they even called to talk with me one Sunday. During our conversation, they mentioned that the platform in Alliance had just been replaced.

So in closing "THANK YOU ALL" and God bless all for the wonderful welcome that the community of Alliance gave to the troops who were heading overseas to fight for our country.

REVISITING GOUVY, A LITTLE BELGIAN TOWN

by George Merz, 818th MP Co., 8th Corps



I left for Europe from Boston two days after my 19th birthday on February 25, 1944. We set sail off the coast of New England and my young mind raced with manifestations of the old world waiting for me across the pond. Like the very ship I sailed on, I seemed calm and steady on the surface but had

propellers of nervous excitement violently churning below. I had never lived outside my hometown of Louisville, Kentucky, and the thought of leaving the only place I had ever known was already intimidating enough without adding to it the thought of war.

After seven days at sea, we landed safely in the British Isles (at the Firth of Clyde in Scotland) and from there we took a train to Solihull, England. Then off to Northwich, England where I did my initial training. My training involved learning how to maneuver a '45 Harley because I was a 'lightweight'. I remember the roars of our military-issue Harley motorcycles competing with the bed check Charlies (German bombers) that flew over the English terrain during the late afternoons. Over the next year and a half, I took in enough sights and sounds to last a lifetime- including landing on the Normandy beaches (Operation Cobra, 26Jul1944), to the Cotentin Peninsula, to Brittany (Brest Peninsula), through Paris and Northern France to Neufchatel (near Bastogne) and then the Battle of the Bulge. I was attached to the First Army in the Cotentin Peninsula and the Third Army while in the Battle of the Bulge—and both Armies saw plenty of action.

Even with all my military accolades (including the Bronze Star), the fondest memories I have from my time at war stem from the two quiet months I spent living with a family in the small Belgian town of Gouvy during the fall of 1944. As part of a unit assigned to guard the divisional food ration depot of Gouvy, I handled police duties as well as kept traffic flowing through the town. I stayed in the home of a local family called the Lallemands. I will never forget the kindness shown to me by Joseph and Ida Lallemand and their daughter Gabriella.

They put me up on the third floor of their flat in the middle of the town and I eased into their home like a long-lost American family member. They cooked me meals and embraced like as one of their own. Occasionally I would escort Gabriella to her various social functions and would fraternize with her friends and my fellow US soldiers in the houses of the local townspeople. We were embraced more as acquaintances rather than soldiers ... Foreign law enforcers for a community that had

never really needed policing in the first place. The father, Joseph, ran a sort of bistro outside of the building and was popular among the townspeople. He took a liking to me and was happy when I would take Gabriella out for the night. I believe he secretly wanted me to marry her, but my role was reserved to that of a guardian... A big brother to the young 14 year old girl growing up war-exposed and restless, in what should have been the sleepiest of small towns.



Merz at the Gouvy tourist information center, where he found a photo of himself with three of his fellow soldiers, standing at the remainders of a V1 rocket (bottom left corner, detail below.)



I remember eating wild boar from the neighboring Ardennes Mountains, expertly prepared by local chef, and drinking Belgian beer with Gabby's friends and my fellow soldiers as we sang songs into the autumn night. The best times were the accidental moments when they forgot we were strangers and we forgot we were, too.

Like me, the Lallemand family was Catholic and attended mass on a regular basis. I would go to church with Gabby and felt comforted by the fact that the mass was the same in Belgium as it was in the United States. We may not have shared a language, but we knew how to follow the Latin proceedings of a Catholic service. If nothing else, this bit of familiarity would set my 19-year-old mind at ease, if only for an hour of the day.

On the chilly nights during that autumn of 1944, the cold air would creep into my room on the third floor of the home, Gabriella or Maria would bring me a hot brick from the fireplace wrapped in a towel to put in my bed. These little comforts made me feel at home and homesick, all at the same time. I truly was lucky to find a peaceful refuge during these violent times in Europe.

After one of those chilly nights in Gouvvy, I awoke to new orders that we had to leave. My time in Gouvvy had come to an end and as we were on the German-Belgian border,

we had to evacuate in such a manner that the Germans could not get access to any of the rations that had been stationed with us. We were ordered to destroy all the rations in Gouvvy. It was indeed devastating, but necessary in such a violent time. After leaving Gouvvy, I was sent to Bastogne, Belgium. This was the location of the 8th Corp Headquarters before, during and after the Battle of the Bulge. I was sent to various roads around the Bulge area and patrolled for enemy soldiers dressed as GI's. They would speak English and drive captured GI vehicles. I would also direct traffic for military vehicles making their way through the town. I received my Bronze Star Medal Citation for withstanding enemy artillery fire and blizzard weather to insure the safe and speedy movement of essential traffic through the besieged town of Bastogne.

After Bastogne we crossed the Rhine river and liberated the Ohrdruf concentration camp. We pressed across Germany, continuing to guard large concentrations of POWs. I was in the town of Zeulenroda, Germany when the war ended. I made one trip back to Gouvvy before leaving to go home. I had left a duffle bag of items in my old room on the day we had evacuated. I hoped to retrieve it and catch up with the Lallemand family. When I arrived at my former home, I was informed by Mr. Lallemand that Gabriella was off to school

and that my belongings had been burned, along with other items, so as not to be seen as a threat to the Germans who had taken over. I thanked Mr. and Mrs. Lallemand for all the kindness they had shown me, and hopped a train to Marseille, France. Marseille would be the last city I would see in Europe.

NOTE: George Merz continued to correspond with the Lallemands for many years after the war. He still keeps in touch with Gabriella's son (who lives in the Briton Peninsula). Currently, George lives in Louisville, Kentucky and has a family of seven children and 12 grandchildren—one of whom is named Gabriella.

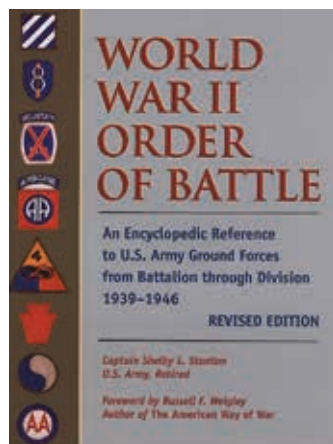
Exactly 70 years later (December 2014), while participating at the commemoration of the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium and Luxembourg, George returned to Gouvvy for the first time since he left Europe after the War.

He and his grandson Steve visited the exhibition of the local tourist information center, trying to discover any souvenirs of his time in Gouvvy. He was very surprised to find a photo of him and three of his fellow soldiers, standing at the remainders of a V1 rocket. He shared his personal story about the Lallemand family with the staff of the tourist information center. They were very grateful to George and his family for visiting and sharing his story.

—Patrick Brion, Associate, Belgium

ENCYCLOPEDIA REFERENCE BOOK ON WWII AVAILABLE

by John McAuliffe, 87 INFD,
Central Mass Chapter 22 President



WORLD WAR II ORDER OF BATTLE By Capt. Shelby L. Stanton

In this extraordinary encyclopedic reference book, Shelby Stanton provides a detailed picture of the U.S. Army's fighting edge. "World War II Order of Battle" covers the structure and organization of the Army's ground combat forces. It documents and illustrates the service of U.S. Army infantry, cavalry, armored, tank destroyer, field artillery, coast artillery, and engineer units from battalion through division.

The sum of the information gathered here is not available anywhere else — in the private sector, the military, or in the government.

Included are:

Unit listings organized according to major command and branch of service:

Combat units including engineer, detailed to battalion level.

Divisional attachments are given and Army garrison forces listed.

Insignia: A collection of distinctive insignia for those Army units, larger than battalion, as authorized by the U.S. Army.

Photographs: Weaponry, equipment, vehicles and combat.

Army deployments and stations: a detailed overview for every area of the world.

Listings and descriptions of Army ground force posts, camps, and stations, including ports of embarkation.

Authorized strength tables for all units listed, as well as detailed organizational charts for many battalions and subdivisional units never before published.

The author spent ten years painstakingly researching and compiling the information for this book. He worked from government and military archives, from the actual unit records stored in restricted files and depositories not generally accessible.

A must for historians, writers, researchers, modelers, educators, veterans, collectors, and military buffs.

If you want to know where your unit (Regiment, Division) fought, this book will give you the answers.

Published by GALAHAD BOOKS, NY, and available on Amazon.com

MEDALS AND CITATIONS

Many of our veterans who fought in the European Theater of Operations during WWII have received medals, awards or citations. These medals and citations are explained below. We are all very proud of our Veterans. Thank you for being so brave.



The Medal of Honor

The Medal of Honor is the United States of America's highest military honor, awarded for personal acts of valor above and beyond the call of duty. The medal is awarded by the President of the United States in the name of the U.S. Congress to U.S. military personnel only. There are three versions of the medal, one for the Army, one for the Navy, and one for the Air Force. Personnel of the Marine Corps and Coast Guard receive the Navy version.



The Silver Star

The third highest military decoration for valor. Awarded for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States.



The Bronze Star

The fourth highest individual military award and the tenth highest by order of precedence. It may be awarded for heroic or meritorious service while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States.



Army Commendation Medal

A decoration which is presented for sustained acts of heroism, meritorious service and valorous actions in direct contact with an enemy.



The Distinguished Service Cross

The Distinguished Service Cross is the second highest military award that can be given to a member of the United States Army, for extreme gallantry and risk of life in actual combat with an armed enemy force. Actions that merit the Distinguished Service Cross must be of such a high degree that they are above those required for all other U.S. combat decorations but do not meet the criteria for the Medal of Honor. The Distinguished Service Cross is equivalent to the Navy Cross (Navy and Marine Corps),

the Air Force Cross (Air Force), and the Coast Guard Cross (Coast Guard).



The Legion of Merit

Awarded to any member of the US armed forces who has distinguished himself or herself by exceptionally meritorious conduct in performing outstanding services and achievements.



Purple Heart

A military decoration awarded in the name of the President to any member of the US military who has been wounded, killed, died or died of wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States.



American Campaign Medal

Awarded to personnel who served within the American Theatre of War covering 7th December 1941 to 2nd March 1946. The recipient was to have served on permanent assignment outside of the US soil.



European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal

This medal recognizes those military service members who performed military duty in the European Theatre – including North Africa and the Middle East – during the 7th December 1941 – 8th November 1945 years of the Second World War.



WWII Victory Medal

A campaign medal which was established by an Act of Congress on 6th July 1945. The medal is awarded for service between 7 December 1941 and 31 December 1946.



Army of Occupation Medal

To be awarded the Army of Occupation Medal, a service member was required to

have performed at least thirty consecutive days of military duty within a designated geographical area of military occupation.



National Defense Service Medal

Originally commissioned by President Eisenhower as a blanket campaign medal – which is awarded to any member of the United States Armed Forces who served honorable during a designated national emergency. For the Korean War this time period was 1950 – 1954.



Good Conduct Medal

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces. The medal is awarded to any active-duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of “honorable and faithful service”



Soldier's Medal

The Soldier's Medal is an individual decoration of the United States Army. It was introduced as Section 11 of the Air Corps Act, passed by the Congress of the United States on July 2, 1926. The criteria for the medal are: “The Soldier's Medal is awarded to any person of the Armed Forces of the United States or of a friendly foreign nation who, while serving in any capacity with the Army of the United States distinguished himself or herself by heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy.”



Prisoner of War Medal

The Prisoner of War Medal is a military award of the United States armed forces which was authorized by Congress and signed into law by President Ronald Reagan on 8 November 1985. The Prisoner of War Medal may be awarded to any person who was a prisoner of war after April 5, 1917.

AUTHORIZED DEVICES



Oak Leaf Cluster

An oak-leaf cluster is worn to denote a second or subsequent award for which the military personal has already received the initial decoration or award.



Service Star

Is a miniature bronze or silver five-pointed star worn to denote additional awards or service periods.



Arrowhead Device

Worn to denote participation by a U.S. Army Service member in a combat parachute jump, combat glider landing, or amphibious assault landing, while assigned or attached as a member of an organized force carrying out an assigned tactical mission. A soldier must actually exit the aircraft or watercraft to receive assault credit.



Combat Jump Device

For each airborne jump a soldier makes into a combat zone,

they are authorized to wear a Combat Jump Device on their Parachutist Badge. The device consists of a star or arrangements of stars, indicating the number of combat jumps.

U.S. ARMY BADGES



Master Parachutist Badge

Awarded to individuals rated excellent in character and efficiency who have participated in 65 jumps including 25 jumps with combat equipment, four night jumps – one of which is as a jumpmaster of a stick, five mass tactical jumps which culminate in an airborne assault with a unit equivalent to a battalion or larger, graduated from the Jumpmaster Course; and served in jump status with an airborne unit or other organization authorized parachutists for a total of at least 36 months.

participated in 65 jumps including 25 jumps with combat equipment, four night jumps – one of which is as a jumpmaster of a stick, five mass tactical jumps which culminate in an airborne assault with a unit equivalent to a battalion or larger, graduated from the Jumpmaster Course; and served in jump status with an airborne unit or other organization authorized parachutists for a total of at least 36 months.

The Combat Infantryman Badge



An award of the United States Army which is presented to

those officers, warrant officers and enlisted soldiers, in the grade of Colonel and below, who participate in active ground combat while assigned as a member of an infantry or Special Forces unit, brigade or smaller size, during any period subsequent to December 6,

1941. It was created with the primary goal of recognizing the sacrifices of the infantrymen who were disproportionately likely to be killed or wounded during World War II.



Glider Badge

A qualification badge of the U.S.

Army awarded to personnel who had been assigned or attached to a glider or airborne unit or to the Airborne and satisfactorily completed a course of instruction, or participated in at least one combat glider mission into enemy-held territory.



Expert Badge with Rifle and Carbine Bar

The United States Army issues marksmanship badges three different qualification levels expert, sharpshooter, and marksman. Suspended from the badge are qualification bars that indicate the specific weapon(s) in which the soldier has qualified.

UNIT AWARDS



United States Presidential Unit Citation

The Presidential Unit Citation is the Nation's highest unit award. It is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy of the United States. The unit must display such gallantry, determination, and esprit de corps in accomplishing its mission under extremely difficult and hazardous conditions so as to set it apart from and above other units participating in the same campaign.

FOREIGN DECORATIONS

The fourragère is a military award, distinguishing military units as a whole, that is shaped as a braided cord. The award has been firstly adopted by France, followed by other nations such as the Netherlands, Belgium and Portugal.



Belgium Fourragère of the Croix de Guerre

Awarded to U.S. Army units and individuals during WWII. The Belgian fourragère may be awarded by the Belgian Government if a unit was cited twice in the order of the day. Award of the

fourragère is not automatic and requires a specific decree of the Belgian Government. The Belgian Fourragère is authorized for permanent wear only. Personnel temporarily assigned to a unit which was awarded the fourragère may not wear the fourragère.



Légion d'Honneur

The Legion of Honor, or in full the National Order of the Legion of Honor (French: Ordre national de la Légion d'honneur), is a French order established by Napoleon Bonaparte on 19 May 1802.

The Order is the highest

decoration in France and is divided into five degrees of increasing distinction: Chevalier (Knight), Officier (Officer), Commandeur (Commander), Grand Officier (Grand Officer) and Grand Croix (Grand Cross).



French Fourragère of the Croix de Guerre

The French fourragère may be awarded by the French government if a unit was cited twice in the dispatches. The French Fourragère is authorized for both permanent and temporary wear. Personnel assigned to a unit which was awarded the fourragère may wear the fourragère while assigned to the unit.

Veterans who fought in France (Normandy, Brittany, Alsace, Ardennes) are eligible to the fourragère.



Netherlands Orange Lanyard

The Military William Order, or often named Military Order of William, is the oldest and highest honor of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. To be

awarded the Military William Order a military unit must distinguish itself in battle to such a degree as would warrant the personal presentation of the Military William Order. The version of the Military William Order for unit members is known as the Orange Lanyard. Only those who served in a military unit at the particular time of action are entitled to wear the Orange Lanyard. WW2 veterans who fought during Operation Market Garden (September 1944) are entitled to wear it, if their unit was cited.

—Submitted by Patrick Brion, Associate

A DAUGHTER REMEMBERS

by Vicki J. Cool, Associate

As I was walking my dog early one morning, I was treated to a spectacular sunrise in Colorado. Colors of lavender, pink, orange and red hovered in the sky as I walked uphill. When we turned around to go home, we witnessed the same array of color in the Rocky Mountains close to where we live. This quiet, beautiful sunrise brought back memories that flooded my mind in the quiet and stillness of the morning. I thought back to the third grade in the small quiet town of Minot, ND. My all-time favorite teacher, Miss Davis, was teaching the class when suddenly there was a knock on our classroom door. This was unusual, since no one ever interrupted our class. A strange feeling swept over me when I realized the knock on the door was for me. I am the oldest of 4 children, and at the time (1945), I was 7 years old. For weeks I heard hushed whispers from my parents and grandparents. I knew my dad had joined the army, but at that time, at age 7, I did not understand the concept of the word WAR. I remember the blackouts, the rationing and the gold stars on blue fabric hanging in the windows of those families who had lost loved ones in World War II.

That fateful knock on the door WAS for me. My first-grade brother and I were whisked out of school and driven home by a relative. There we heard the bad news that changed our lives forever. My Dad, Victor F. LaCount, 101st ABND, 506th PIR, was MIA, and later we learned he had lost his life in the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium. My mother and grandparents were devastated and extreme sorrow took over our lives. We children were too young to realize the gravity of the situation.

Over the next few years, we experienced



Vicki Cool, center, at the graveside ceremony for her father at Hamm Cemetery.

extreme poverty but did not realize it, because our lives were rich with friendships. Our home was the gathering place for our neighbors. We went to church every Sunday, said our prayers every night and before meals, and somehow we survived. I went to work at the age of 13 at a local hospital, making \$.35 an hour washing dishes. My wise mother had me budget my meager paychecks like this: 1/3 to savings, 1/3 to church and 1/3 for myself.

After high school I decided to become a nurse. I was eligible for the GI Bill passed by the U.S. government for war orphans. I felt extremely blessed.

I married and raised 5 children, but after all of those years I had an empty feeling, and felt I did not have closure about my dad's death. He was buried in Luxembourg, and to my knowledge never had a funeral or memorial service. I remember him saying that if he fell in battle, he wanted to be buried near his comrades.

The years passed quickly. I retired from a long nursing career, survived cancer and a massive heart attack, but never lost my desire to visit Europe and my dad's grave site. I missed 2 opportunities due to my poor health.

As the years passed, I gradually regained my strength and in 2012, my dream was about to come true. My husband, Jerry, and my son, Barry, signed us up on a tour that was taking us to most of the battlefields and cemeteries in Europe. There is no way I could have prepared for the meaningful trip.

We met in Brussels, Belgium, and 21 of us embarked on a 10-day excursion through Germany, Belgium, and Luxembourg. Included in our entourage were 4 WWII veterans and 2 historians. One of the veterans was 90 years old and he was the spokesman for us as we attended multiple ceremonies throughout our journey. We had the long-awaited graveside ceremony at Hamm Cemetery in Luxembourg, and it was very meaningful. We had an American honor guard, prayers, taps and laying a wreath on the grave. When we went to the office to pay for our flowers I had previously ordered, I was surprised to learn that the citizens of Luxembourg had already paid for them. For this I was extremely grateful.

The next day my son and I traveled to the Bois de Niblamont in Belgium where the fateful battle took place on January 10, 1945. Visiting the place where my dad actually died brought closure to me. It was a rainy, gloomy day and the ground we walked on exhibited old foxholes and seemed like hallowed ground.

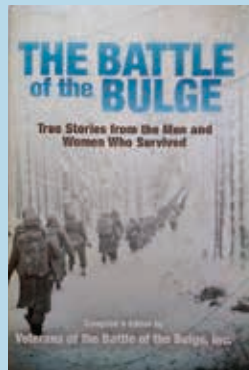
At the end of our journey, I received a lot of support from my fellow travelers on our bus tour. I decided I would spend my time making quilts for soldiers, since my dad was a soldier and my mom was a quilter. Every patriotic quilt I make, it is in memory of my Dad who gave his life for our freedom.

THE SECOND WORLD WAR!

by John E. Curley, 78th Infantry Division, 309th Infantry Regiment, Company C

We were over there doing what we had to do!
Killing people we never knew.
Now don't get me wrong—it had to be.
It was either him or maybe me.
So with a humble heart I say,
"Thank God Almighty I am here today."

BUY THE VBOB BOOK OF YOUR STORIES



Now available for \$34.99

Barnes & Noble bookstores: Place an order with ISBN and title*

Online: Amazon: www.amazon.com;
Barnes & Noble: www.barnesandnoble.com

*To order, provide the ISBN and the title of the book:

ISBN: 978-0-9910962-3-7

Title: *The Battle of the Bulge: True Stories From the Men and Women Who Survived*

The book is not sold by VBOB.



Volunteer “Rosies” Marian Sousa, Kay Morrison, and Marian Wynn (l-r above); Rosie the Riveter statue on display (below left); front of the Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historical Park education center (bottom right).

WOMEN ‘CAN DO’ TOO!

A visit to the Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historical Park

by Doris Davis, Associate



On August 21, 2015, I visited the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park in Richmond, CA (north of San Francisco). This was my 2nd visit there. I highly recommend a visit to this park Visitor Center.

Richmond, California was chosen as the site for this National Historical Park because it has so many surviving sites and structures from the World War II years that can help tell the diverse stories of the home front. These stories include the mobilization of America's

industry and the changes in production techniques; the struggle for women's and minority rights; the labor movement; the growth of pre-paid medical care; advances in early childhood education and day care; recycling and rationing; major shifts in population; and changes in arts and culture.

Richmond played a significant and nationally recognized part in the World War II home front. The four Richmond shipyards produced 747 cargo ships, more than any other shipyard complex in the country. Richmond was also home to over 56 different war industries, more than any other city of its size in the United States. The city grew from less than 24,000 people in 1940 to nearly 100,000 people by 1943, overwhelming the available housing, roads, schools, businesses and community services. At the same time, Executive Order 9066 forcibly removed Japanese and Japanese-American residents from the area, disrupting Richmond's thriving cut-flower industry. The war truly

touched every aspect of civilian life on the home front. Through historic structures, museum collections, interpretive exhibits, and programs, the park tells the diverse and fascinating story of the WWII home front.

There is an education center with exhibits, along with movies that show how Richmond, CA was transformed. It brings out the fact that people worked together for a common cause and that there was a strong sense of patriotism. One of the movies has interviews of ladies who remember entering the work force for the first time and what they had to endure as they worked alongside men for the first time. It had its challenges, but they persevered. We can thank those women for changing the course of history for us.

If you decide to visit this beautiful location, filled with history, the chance is great that you might even meet some of the Rosies! The Historical Center has a number of volunteers—many of whom actually worked in the shipyards in WW II. Take time to talk to them and hear their stories, and you will feel like you've gone back in time with them. They love telling their stories!

For more information, go to www.nps.gov/rori/



SPECIAL OFFER FOR OUR VETERANS! Buy 1, Get 2nd Copy Free! 2 for \$15

THE VBOB CERTIFICATE: Have you ordered yours?



The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc. is proud to offer this full color 11" by 17" certificate, which may be ordered for any veteran who received credit for the Ardennes campaign. It attests that the veteran participated, endured and survived the largest land battle ever fought by the US Army. (There is also a version worded for those who were killed in action or died of their wounds. Be sure to check the appropriate box on the form.) If you haven't ordered yours, then you might want to consider ordering one to give to your grandchildren. They are generally most appreciative of your service, and the certificate makes an excellent gift—also for that buddy with whom you served in the Bulge. You do not have to be a member of VBOB to order one, but the veteran 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 insigni-

as 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 wish that each unit insignia could have been shown, but with approximately 2000 units that participated in the Bulge, it is 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 the veteran's 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 box. **Please be sure that you write the 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 the veteran was 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 the veteran named below received credit for the Ardennes campaign.
I have enclosed a check for \$15 for the certificate. Please include the following information on the certificate:*

**SPECIAL
OFFER:
2 for \$15!**

First Name _____ Middle Initial _____ Last Name _____

Serial Number _____ Rank _____ Unit _____

Organization _____

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

Please check one if applies: ☐ Killed in Action ☐ Died of Wounds

Signature _____ Date _____

Mailing Information: (SPECIAL PRICE SHIPS TO 1 MAILING ADDRESS ONLY)

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone number _____ E-mail address _____

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

Make checks payable to VBOB for \$15.

**Orders should be mailed to: VBOB Certificate, PO Box 27430, Philadelphia, PA 19118-0430
703-528-4058 OR ORDER ONLINE: WWW.BATTLEOFTHEBULGE.ORG**



Doug Dillard (left), Eddy Lamberty, and Carol Orban at the 551st Parachute Infantry Battalion Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery.

82ND ABND ASSOCIATION VETERANS DAY EVENTS

by Doug Dillard, 82nd ABND, past VBOB President

The annual veterans day events hosted by the Col. Reuben H Tucker, Chapter, 82nd Airborne Division Association was successfully completed, with wreath laying ceremonies at the airborne memorials in Arlington National Cemetery. On 9 November, the first event was placing a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. Colonel Doug Dillard was accompanied by Mr. Eddy Lamberty, Ms Diana Tubbs and Frank Fisanich. The chapter continued its wreath laying ceremonies at the other airborne unit memorials, before ending the day with a free luncheon hosted by the Sequoia Restaurant, sponsored by Walter Rauscher.

On 10 November the wreath ceremonies began again with a short ceremony in the Women's memorial, followed by the 551st and 504th Memorial stones. Although the weather was not so good on the 10th, it did not interfere with the ceremonies. The color guard and Bugler, that also perform the ceremonies in Arlington throughout the year, were provided by the 3rd Infantry. Ken Hamil of the 508th Parachute Infantry Association photographed the ceremonies.

A personal note by Col. Dillard: Mr. Eddy Lamberty is the President of the Salm River Valley C-47 Club chapter and is a co-partner with Claude Orban, who together maintain the 551st Memorial at Rochenval, Belgium. Eddy was accompanied by Carole Orban, Claude's daughter, as they visited San Diego, St. Louis and Washington DC. Eddy and Claude were participants at the wreath laying ceremony in Vielsam, Belgium in December 2014, where the 508th held the bridge against German forces in the Battle of the Bulge. They also adopted several veterans grave sites and place flowers on those sites constantly. Eddy wanted to visit several grave sites in Arlington for airborne veterans he had met over the years, who were all veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. They are: Col. J. Meyers, Capt. R. Durkee, Cpl. J. Cicchinelli, Col. R. Piper, 1st Sgt H. Melvin and S/Sgt B. Howe...all with the Airborne in the Bulge.

Another footnote to this article: the Col. Reuben H. Tucker Chapter has conducted these Veterans Day wreath layings for over 20 years, initially by the Chapter. Then the 82d Airborne Division Association joined in and supported the events with a color guard and financial support. But that has ended—as well as participation by the 82 Abn Div, Washington DC Chapter—so we, the Tucker chapter, go alone to continue to honor our airborne units' history represented by their memorials in the Cemetery.

Airborne All the Way.

MY STORY, JANUARY 1945

by Richard Gile, 26th ID, 104th IR, Co E



In January 1945 I was reassigned to the 2nd Battalion Patrol Section, which was detached from the Regimental Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon. Our tasks during the Bulge were decided by the Battalion S-2. Mainly, we were to place our selves between the German (Kraut) and friendly lines beyond the outposts and observe the enemy activity. We would attempt to locate enemy fire from machine guns (shoot an azimuth and reverse same, estimating the gun's position), listen for other activity such as vehicles and tanks moving behind the lines, possible location of mortars, etc. These patrols were conducted at night. This meant lying in the snow for some time, usually one to 2 hours.

We were ordered to search a barn that was on a hillside overlooking the Battalion's position. The barn was a suspected location of a Kraut Observation Post for artillery. The Battalion Command Post in the village of Heiderscheidergrund, Luxembourg was at the mercy of the enemy artillery a good part of the time. The Battalion S-2 reasoned the O. P. must be in that particular barn. We were issued jury-rigged snow sheets made by the Belgian women. These simulated "snow suits" covered us slightly below the waistline and had tie-downs for our legs and arms. Unfortunately, the sheets were somewhat awkward since they caught on every piece of brush, or so it seemed.

The five of us (patrol leader was Snyder) from a nearby wood line, crossed an open farm field covered with 2 feet of snow and leading to the barn. If the barn was occupied, it was likely we would be fired on if discovered. For this reason, we proceeded only a few steps at a time and would stop and listen for warning or discovery signs of possible habitation in this barn. When we came within approximately 50 feet of this barn, we detected loud and clear, the sound of what appeared to be the bolt of a weapon being pulled back into the firing position. Immediately, Sgt. Snyder turned us around and we began to retrace our steps in the direction and cover of the original wood line from where we had come. Suddenly a mortar round hissed over our heads and exploded between the wood line and us. It could have been simply a stray round. But, shortly afterward, this was followed another round, which exploded between the barn and our new retreating position. It was clear to Snyder we were being bracketed by these mortar rounds and he shouted aloud, "Move out!" We were making tracks as fast as our legs would allow in 2 feet of snow, when four or five more rounds struck behind us and we hit the dirt immediately. Snyder's shout again had recognized that the mortar crew had fired for effect. Again, our legs carried us back to the wood line and safety from being mortared.

Once in the light of the command post's basement, I saw that I had a half a dozen holes in my snow suit where shrapnel had passed through without penetrating my clothing, or so I thought. However, there was some blood on my underwear and shirt. Undressing, it seemed that small shards of shrapnel had penetrated one of my arms. As it happened, the platoon medic was sleeping in the basement (a few troops at a time were allowed to come in from the sharp cold of their foxholes and sleep in the cellar, too.) I don't recall his name, but he treated me, removing these pin points of shrapnel, and covering the wounds with sulfa.

I did not go to the Battalion Aid station, which was also under artillery fire a good part of the time, and subsequently was not

(Continued)

MY STORY, JANUARY 1945 *(continued)*

considered for the Purple Heart. Perhaps influenced by an incident a few days prior, wherein one of the patrol members was cut on the hand by a “C” ration can and was awarded the Purple Heart, it seemed to me at the time that my wounds were insignificant and undeserving of the Purple Heart. Besides, the other members of the patrol section were disdainful of the Corporal who we believed undeservingly claimed the Purple Heart. These past few years, I have lived to regret my decision not to submit a claim for the Purple Heart.

—Source: www.battleofthebulgememories.be

ATTENTION, ASSOCIATES: MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNT!

In order to encourage long-term Associate memberships, we are now offering a discounted 4-year Associate membership for \$50. (Save \$10 off the yearly membership fee of \$15!)

SEE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION ON THE BACK COVER,
OR GO TO OUR WEBSITE: WWW.VBOB.ORG

ATTACK ON HILL 491

by Robert J. Peterson, 9th AD, 27th AIB, Co B



My personal memories of the war returned to me as the names of our battle casualties were read. These thoughts do come to me periodically in my life and I am able to contain them inside myself.

Prior to Christmas of 1944, on the 17th of December, we met head-on with the advancing 62nd Volksgrenadier Division. My platoon formed a scrimmage line, we were told that we would not advance on the German force. I was

witness to Sergeant Harry Arndt getting hit by musketry. We were in “Brussel-B Hill” facing Hill 491, which was to be our objective three hours later. I was able to get Harry into an anti-shock position where his feet were higher than his head, which at this time was in my lap. I heard him gurgling as we finally got him evacuated to our Battalion Aid Station in Steinbruck. The Army listed him as “Died of Wounds”. He was the assistant squad leader of my third rifle squad and I held him in high esteem. After the war I wrote to his mother, in Blue Earth, Minnesota, my letter of condolences. At about 1000 hours Pfc Lewis Keeton (shell fragment in the chest with a collapsed lung) and Pfc Albert Mincey (I don’t know what happened to him) were wounded by mortar fire. I did not know of this incident at that time. They were assigned to my first squad led by S/Sgt Albert Melcher.

Later that same day my platoon was to make a frontal attack on Hill 491, about 300 to 400 yards from my platoon’s “Line of Departure”. The artillery preparation came at 1300 hours and lasted for about five minutes. I led my first squad with S/Sgt Albert Melcher towards the objective. Pfc Nick Dello from my machine gun squad provided our direct supporting fire. S/Sgt Welton Law told me that he was unable to hear anything. I sent him back to the Aid Station and yelled to Sgt Jack Tuerk to take over the squad.

My third squad under S/Sgt Eugene Pencofski and his squad became pinned down by German machine gun fire. Pencofski was hit and survived the war. T/Sgt Jim Chandler moved forward with Sgt Tuerk and his squad. After we had gone about 200 yards, I came to a

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER!

Go to pages 2-3 for the list of active chapters,
and call the president nearest you to see
if they hold regular meetings.

rise in the ground and I heard from my Company Commander, Captain Henry Wirsig. He said, “Pete, where is the rest of your platoon?” I then hit the ground to look behind and have a conference with my captain. I said “If they’re not behind me, I don’t know where they are”.

At this time we were getting grazing fire from our right flank about 30 inches off the ground. Captain Wirsig was hit in the stomach by at least one burst of fire. Pfc Robert Walton and Pfc William Csicek were both hit and down, as was Sgt Melcher off to my right rear. I yelled to Melcher to roll down the hill to the cover of a drainage channel. I also saw that my platoon medic was running toward the spot where Walton and Csicek were lying. I told Pfc Paul Gage to hit the ground and don’t come up here. He was hit and fell on Csicek. We were unable to advance. I could see that Lieutenant Awalt was unable to reach his objective on my right flank. Dello and his machine gun found a protected spot and was shooting in the direction of the German guns. I crawled to where he was set up and determined that Wirsig was dead or nearly so, as was Melcher. I crawled by Gage and Csicek and determined they were near death.

I saw Lieutenant Lawrence Awalt running toward the rear of my position, and as he told me that his platoon was pinned down, he was hit with at least four bullets into his groin by a German machine gun. I could see that to continue the advance would fail. I decided to move my platoon back to the “Line of Departure”. I ordered Chandler to move them back, and I then noticed that Walton moved, and rescued him and carried him back to where we could load him on the “Peep” ambulance. Bob’s leg was later amputated.

I talked with Peter Madorno, one of “B” Company’s aid men at one of our past reunions, and he told me that he examined the bodies of Wirsig, Csicek, Gage and Melcher and that they were dead. In the ensuing seven days near St Vith, we held our assigned positions until ordered to the rear. The 82nd Airborne Division provided the road guides. I don’t know the town I was in, but I was on a billeting party, finding houses to move our company into. It was Christmas Eve and I had to be reminded of what day it was. I am sure that I have related my story several times. When I hear the names of these fine men, I am ever grateful to them and thankful that I survived.

—Source: www.battleofthebulgememories.be

6TH ARMDD 2016 REUNION



The 6th Armored Division 2016 Reunion will be held in Oklahoma City from 29 September to 2 October 2016. Please mark your calendars accordingly. Additional details will be provided as planning progresses.

We hope to see all of you at the next reunion. The last reunion was an outstanding affair and could only have been improved by seeing even more of you there.

—Submitted by Jerry and Donna Shiles

VBOB QUARTERMASTER ORDER FORM • FEBRUARY 2016

IMPORTANT NOTE: QM prices and selections are often changing, due to increasing manufacturing and shipping costs. Therefore, we cannot accept old QM forms from previous issues of *The Bulge Bugle*.

Please complete this 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 _____



#1. VBOB logo patch 3" \$5.50
#2. VBOB logo patch 4" \$6.25



#3. VBOB logo enamel lapel pin 1/2" \$6



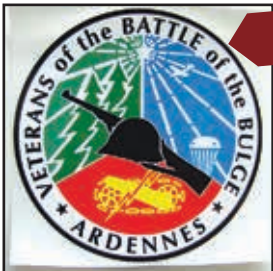
#4. Navy baseball cap with 3" logo patch \$15



#5. Navy windbreaker with 4" logo patch \$36



#6. Large VBOB logo neck medallion with a ribbon \$25



#7. VBOB logo decal 4" \$1.25
#8. Windshield decal 4" \$1.25



#9. License frame (white plastic with black printing) \$7



#10. Challenge coin 1 3/4" (gold tone with colored enamel) \$10

**DECALS ON SALE!
BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE!**



VBOB CERTIFICATE \$15
Full-color 11 X 17" parchment certificate attesting to veteran's service in the Battle of the Bulge.

SPECIAL OFFER:
Buy 1, get 2nd copy for free!
(No added shipping & handling fees)

Please use the Certificate Order Form on page 28 of this issue.

Item/price	Quantity	Total
#1. \$5.50	x _____	= \$ _____
#2. \$6.25	x _____	= \$ _____
#3. \$6	x _____	= \$ _____
#4. \$15	x _____	= \$ _____
#5. \$36	x _____	= \$ _____
#6. \$25	x _____	= \$ _____
#7. \$1.25	x _____	= \$ _____
#8. \$1.25	x _____	= \$ _____
#9. \$7	x _____	= \$ _____
#10. \$10	x _____	= \$ _____

windbreaker size: circle one
S M L XL XXL XXXL XXXXL

Just write the quantity you are paying for, and we will automatically add in the free ones

*SHIPPING & HANDLING:

Total cost of items up to \$5.00, add **\$3.00 S & H**
Total cost of items \$5.01 to \$10.00, add **\$4.00 S & H**
Total cost of items \$10.01 and over, add **\$8.00 S & H**
International Shipping: Please add **\$4.00 to the above shipping charges** for delivery outside the USA

TOTAL COST OF ITEMS = \$ _____

ADD SHIPPING & HANDLING + \$ _____

* See box at left for shipping & handling prices

TOTAL DUE = \$ _____

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

To pay with a credit card, order via our website: www.vbob.org. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

Mail 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



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

XXXXXXXXXX
PERMIT NO. XXXX

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

FEBRUARY 2016

SAVE THE DATES
VBOB 35th Annual Reunion
SEATTLE, WA. ★ OCTOBER 5-10, 2016
See page 10 for more information.

----- Detach and Mail -----



APPLICATION FOR NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge
PO Box 27430, Philadelphia PA, 19118-0430

YOU CAN JOIN OR RENEW ONLINE:

WWW.VBOB.ORG

Click on "Join VBOB" or "Renew Membership"

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. Please check one box below:

☐ Regular Yearly: **\$15** ☐ Regular Lifetime: **\$75** ☐ Associate Yearly: **\$15** ☐ Associate 4-Year: **\$50 (save \$10!)**

Name _____ DOB _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

If applying as a Regular member (you are a Battle of the Bulge vet), please provide the following information about yourself:

Campaigns _____

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

Regiment _____ Battalion _____

Company _____ Other _____

If applying as an Associate member, please provide the following information about yourself (esp. YOUR military service, if any):

Relationship to the Bulge Veteran (if any) _____ ☐ Historian ☐ Other
(wife, son, daughter, niece, etc. or N/A)

The Bulge Vet's Name and Units _____

Your Military Service (if any): Dates _____ Branch _____

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

Please make check or money order payable to VBOB, mail with application to above address. Questions? 703-528-4058