



John D. Bowen Editor

ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

Nov/Dec 2015

### GET WELL SOON

Earle O. Edmunds, 26th InfD  
Neil B Thompson 740th Tank Bn

Please keep them in your prayers.

### DECEASED MEMBERS

Let us remember our buddies on this 71st Anniversary and all those who gave their lives in the Battle and these Bulge veterans:

Please also remember all our members, wives, and all Bulge Veterans who have died since especially:

Leslie G. Gable, Associate  
7 Jan 1926-29 Jul 2015

Widow of  
Robert R. Gable, Sr.  
4th Inf D 8th Inf Co I

Dyer, Charles H.  
101st AbnD 506 PIR H  
16 Jan 1925—1 Jan 2010—

Next Meeting  
Sunday  
**06 Dec 2015**  
**11:00 AM-3:00 PM**

**BASTA PASTA**  
60 West Timonium  
Road, Timonium MD  
21093

**Annual Holiday Party**  
**Gift Exchange**  
**Election & Installation**  
**of Officers**  
**Chapter Meeting**

### OFFICERS

President	John R Schaffner
Vice-President	Mike Levin
Treasurer	Marcy Schuerholz
Secretary	John D Bowen
Trustee	Travis Alsous
Trustee	Gary Patucci
Sgt/Arms	Lew Nash
Chaplain	Rev Davis Peck
Audio Tech	Griffen Diday
PPres	Albert Darago, Jr
PPres	John R Schaffner
PPres	Earle O. Edmunds
PPres/Dec'd	Daniel Funk
PPres/Dec'd	John Worthington III
PPres/Dec'd	Demetri "Dee" Paris
PPres/Dec'd	Syd Lawrence
PPres/Dec'd	Richard Schlenker
PPres/Dec'd	Ben Layton III
PPres/Dec'd	Ed Radzwich
PPres/Dec'd	Grover Twiner
PPres/Dec'd	Woody Purcell
PPres/Dec'd	Wright Robinson
PPres/Dec'd	CA Blaque Culp
PPres/Dec'd	Harold Bohn
PPres/Dec'd	Darrell Kuhn
PPres/Dec'd	Clancy Lyall
PPres/	Neil B Thompson



# Happy Holidays



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY CORNER

DECEMBER 2015	DECEMBER 2015	DECEMBER 2015
1204 Stinchcomb, Patricia AssociateDad17th AbnD	1219 Anderson, Linda Associate	1229 Sarris, Louis G. 125th AAA Gun Bn attch 101st
★ 1216 Ciquero, Sr, Michael A Associate US Navy	1220 Kelleher, Kevin Associate	* 15 yrs**75Yrs,***80yrs,****85 yrs
1218 Bach, M. David 84th InfD 333 Inf	1226 Darago, Dorothea L. Wife 143d AAA Gun Bn	, ★90 yrs, ★★95 yrs ★★ ★100 Yrs
JANUARY 2016	JANUARY 2016	JANUARY 2016
0111 Radford, William B Son of Wm J Radford	*0116 Diday, Griffen D. Associate Uncle 83rd	★ ★0118 Giblin, Thomas R. 30th InfD 119 Inf G
0114 Stockett, William T 84th InfD 784 Ord LM	0116 Rosenthal, Donald C 2nd InfD 23rd Inf G	0120 Lill, Richard A 27 AirTrans Gp 320 Trans Sqdn

## 71st BOB Anniversary Holiday Meeting — Sunday December 6th, 2015

### BASTA PASTA

60 West Timonium Road, Timonium MD 21093

11:00 AM

Our Holiday meeting will be **Sunday, 6th Dec 2015**, at **BASTA PASTA in Timonium MD**.

**Club Meade at Ft Meade**, is no longer offering the Sunday Champagne Brunch or open on Sundays. We will have our Annual Holiday Party, \*Gift Exchange, \*\*Raffle Drawing and Commemoration of the 71st Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. We will have the outstanding speaker, Bob Mullauer, who is a history teacher of many years and an avid military historian. We will have a choice of one of four entrée items which includes salad dessert, beverage and coffee.

**Chicken Umbertina**, w/asparagus spears, artichokes, cherry tomatoes sautéed in EVOO garlic wine sauce & side of pasta

**Orange Roughy Francaise**, egg dipped, pan seared, finished w/lemon sauce and side of pasta

**Shrimp Scampi**, sautéed shrimp in their scampi sauce and tossed with linguine

**Veal Parmigiana**, breaded, topped with marinara, mozzarella and side of pasta

**Dessert** — Choice of Strawberry Cheesecake, Tiramisu or Sorbet

**Alcoholic Drinks are available at addition cost to the individual.**

**Reservations:** Please make your Luncheon reservations by Wednesday, 02 December 2015 by calling **John Schaffner at 410-584-2754** or by e-mail to [pumexim2@verizon.net](mailto:pumexim2@verizon.net). John Schaffner has an answering system so if he is not at home leave a message with your name and phone number. A menu will be distributed by the server to make your choice of the four entrees above at the luncheon. **The luncheon will be \$30 payable on the day of the event.** Luncheon guests should plan to arrive by 11:00 AM. For those wishing to attend the meeting only, please plan to be there before 12:30 PM.

\* **Gift Exchange:** For those who wish to participate in our traditional gift exchange please bring a wrapped gift not to exceed ten (\$10) dollars in value. Women should provide a women's gift or a gift appropriate for either women or men. Men should likewise provide a gift for a man or a gift appropriate for male or female. Please mark that on the gift. When you bring your gift you will be given a numbered stub with which you will be called to select a gift from the exchange.

\*\* **Raffle ticket stubs and Membership Dues/Donations** should be sent by mail in the small envelope provided with this newsletter to our Secretary, John D. Bowen, 613 Chichester Lane, Silver Spring MD 20904-3331 so as to arrive by 4 Dec 2015 or brought to the Luncheon on Sunday, 6 Dec 2015.

**DIRECTIONS:** BASTA Pasta is at 60 West Timonium Road, Timonium MD 21093. It is just off Interstate 83 north, Exit #16A, at Timonium Road East and quickly move into the leftmost lane. Cross Deerco Road and the restaurant will be on your immediate LEFT, adjacent to the SUNOCO station. Access to parking is in front, side and rear. See you there! Bring the family!

### ANNUAL TV RAFFLE

As a fund raiser, each year, we raffle off a Color Television. This year we decided to splurge again and bring us into today's High Definition technology with a **32" flat screen LED HD Color TV, with remote**. This is our only means of raising additional funds to cover increased postage and printing costs so that we can keep the \$10.00 dues the same again this year, in spite of the continued increases in postage, paper and other newsletter costs. This is an opportunity for you to canvass your friends or for you to make a donation to the Chapter for which you have an opportunity to win something in return. We have enclosed two books of six raffle tickets each, which can be purchased for \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. You do not have to be present to win. **Please return the cut-off tickets stubs in the enclosed addressed envelope so as to arrive by Dec 4, 2014 or bring them by 12:00PM the day of the raffle Dec 6th, 2015, at the Basta Pasta Restaurant, 60 W Timonium Rd. Timonium MD. The drawing will be Sunday, Dec 06th 2015 about 2:00 PM. Join us.**

### **ALL CHAPTER DUES FOR 2016 ARE DUE BY 16 DEC 2015**

CHAPTER DUES ARE STILL **\$10.00 per year** or CHAPTER LIFE MEMBERSHIP AT \$50.00

**YOU MUST BE A MEMBER OF NATIONAL AND YOUR DUES CURRENT TO BE A CHAPTER MEMBER.**

YOU MAY ENCLOSE YOUR DUES IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE, ALONG WITH YOUR RAFFLE STUBS, AND ANY DONATIONS. MAKE CHECKS to **MD/DC VBOB**.

ALSO SEND YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS ALONG TO:

**John D. Bowen, Secretary, 301-384-6533 [johndbowen@earthlink.net](mailto:johndbowen@earthlink.net)**

**613 Chichester Lane, Silver Spring MD 20904-3331**

*Our Chapter year runs from 16 Dec till 15 Dec*

# ❖ WWII MUSINGS ❖

Volume 23 Issue 6

John D. Bowen, Editor

Nov/Dec 2015

## Hunting Hitler Part I—The Bunker 28-29 April 1945

This article written by Dr Greg Bradsher, Archivist at the National Archives in College Park, MD was released on 5 Nov. 2015. This is the first in a multi-part series featuring the records associated with the *History Channel* series *Hunting Hitler*.

### Introduction

On 10 November 2015 the History Channel began an eight-part series on the possibility that Adolf Hitler did not die in his Berlin bunker on 30 April, but escaped to South America. When I learned about the forthcoming television series I remembered that in 2003 the National Archives released the file 65-53615 from the series **Hqs Files from Classification 65 (Espionage) Released under the Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Disclosure Acts, 1935-1985** (NAID 565806), regarding the multitude of unsubstantiated sightings of Hitler after 30 April 1945. My curiosity prompted me to take a look at the file and found as I remembered from a decade earlier, that it consisted primarily of rumors regarding Hitler being in South America. I then proceeded to a **1945-1949 State Dept Central Decimal File** (NAID 302021), 862,002 (Hitler, Adolf) - and found that it contained similar information, as did the files Hitler, Adolf—XE003655 in the **Intelligence and Investigative Dossiers Personal Files, 1977-2004** (NAID 645054). (*Note: NAID stands for National Archives ID and can be searched for further info on the Archives Catalog Search site*).

Having written a two-part blog on *Hitler's stenographers* and their *escape from Berlin in April 1945* as well as an article in Prologue regarding **Hitler's personal will, political testament and marriage license**, I thought I would write something about the death of Hitler in the bunker on 30 April and the subsequent search during 1945 for proof of his death. Thus this series of blogs.

On the evening of 28 April, Adolf Hitler, Germany's Reich chancellor and President, had a lot on his mind. News had arrived during the day that there had been an uprising in northern Italy, Benito Mussolini had been arrested by the partisan; armistice negotiations were being initiated by some of Hitler's military commanders in Italy; and there had been an attempted coup in Munich. Russian forces were only some 1,000 yards from the bunker, and the German Ninth Army, which had been ordered to break through the Russian-encircled capital of the Reich to rescue Hitler would most likely not be able to accomplish its mission. Still, Hitler held a slim hope that General Walther Wenck's 12th Army, heading toward Potsdam and Berlin, would succeed.

As the evening progressed, more bad news was received in Hitler's bunker. During the night Hitler received confirmation that Heinrich Himmler, the head of the SS, was negotiating with the Western allies. In response, Hitler ordered Eva Braun's brother-in-law, SS-Gruppenfuehrer Hermann Fegelein, Himmler's liaison to Hitler, executed for desertion and treason.

Because of the decreasing hope of rescue by his military, the actual and perceived disloyalty of his subordinates (including Hermann Goering), and the desire not to be captured alive, Hitler knew that he soon would have to commit suicide. Before doing so, he wished to marry Eva Braun, and write his final political testament and private will (NAID 6883511).

Hitler's secretary, 25 year old Gertrude Junge, tried that evening to sleep for an hour. Sometime after 11 pm, she woke up. She washed, changed her clothes, and thought it must be time for the evening tea with Hitler, secretary Frau Gerda Christian, and Hitler's vegetarian cook Fraulein Constanze Manziarly, as had become a nightly occurrence. When she opened the door to Hitler's study, Hitler came toward her, shook her hand, and asked, "Have you had a nice little rest, child?" Junge replied, "Yes, I have slept a little." He said, "Come along, I want to dictate something. This was between 11:30 pm and midnight. They went into the little conference room near Hitler's quarters. She was about to remove the cover from the typewriter, as Hitler normally dictated directly to the typewriter, when he said, "Take it down on the shorthand pad." She sat down alone at the big table and waited. Hitler stood in his usual place by the broad side of the table, leaned both hands on it, and stared at the empty table top, no longer covered that day with maps. For several seconds Hitler did not say anything. Then, suddenly he began to speak the first words "My political testament." after finishing his political testament, according to Junge, Hitler paused a brief moment and then began dictating his private will.

Hitler's private will was shorter. It explained his marriage, disposed of his property, and announced his impending death:

*Although during the years of struggle I believed that I could not undertake the responsibility of marriage, now, before the end of my life, I have decided to take as my wife the woman who, after many years of true friendship, came to this city, already almost besieged, of own free will, in order to share my fate. She will go to her death with me at her own wish, as my wife. This will compensate us for what we both lost through my work in the service of my people.*

Then after describing his possessions and their disposition, he named Martin Bormann as Executor, with "full legal authority to make all decisions." He concluded: "My wife and I choose to die in order to escape the shame of overthrow or capitulation. It

(Continued on page 5)

### Editor's Corner

#### DECEMBER COMMEMORATION

We are fortunate to be able to honor the memory of the Battle of the Bulge on December 6th by our MD/DC Chapter at Basta Pasta Restaurant of Timonium MD. If you haven't attended our Holiday Party before this is an opportunity to join fellow Bulge Veterans and enjoy the comeraderie and good food.

The 71st Annual Commemoration activities put on by the Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation and the National Veterans of the Battle of Bulge normally at the DoubleTree Hilton Crystal City in Arlington VA, will be held 14-16 Dec 2015. Full details in the Nov 2015 Bugle!

**Deadline is 6 Dec2015**

We also "Remember Pearl Harbor" on Dec 7th, the 74th Anniversary of that dastardly sneak attack and those who lost their lives. Had the Japanese hit our Navy Yard, oil tank farms and submarine base there, it would have put serious operations in the Pacific back for more than a year according to Admiral Nimitz and an article by Roger H. Meyer, in the Dec 2014 American Legion Magazine, Of the 18 ships sank or damaged 11 were back in service within a year.

As we enter this Holiday Season let us give thanks for all the blessings we have received at this Thanksgiving and send every good wish for a Merry Christmas and a Happy Hanukkah. Pray for Peace & good health in the New Year especially for our military throughout the world!

A special thanks to John R Schaffner for his leading our Chapter once again. We appreciate the great speakers and topics he has arranged.

And my wish for all is good health, good fortune and a Happy 2016!

*JDB*

Note: The Dec Marcher/Musings have been reduced from 12 to 8 pages for this issue, to stay within the 1 oz postage

#### PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Our December meeting is fast approaching and we must take note that the date is the first Sunday in December, not the second, due to the many other activities connected to the Christmas holidays. Our entertainment this time will be our own Larry Larkin who will be speaking about, and displaying examples of the development of the military helmet from ancient to modern. Also I am extending the invitation to all of our attendees to participate by bringing any personal memorabilia from the various battles during WW II that they would like to display and talk about. There is always time for that. Dust off that Nazi flag, the old mess kit, the Zippo lighter, the Overseas Cap, or the medals and bring them with you. Just let me know if you will bring an item and talk about it. Everything has a story.

This meeting is considered our annual BOB Commemoration and Holiday party with the TV raffle, our sole fund raiser. The winner of the drawing doesn't have to be present but it would sure be nice to have you there anyway. We invite all to participate with the Christmas gift exchange. This also is optional, just mark your gift for man or lady and keep the price down. Make it a "fun" thing, something appropriate for Christmas and remember, to receive a gift you must contribute one..

Come and join us on Sunday, December 6, 2015, at Basta Pasta for great company, a nice time, and fine dining. Bring a friend, we would love to have you with us.

A special thanks to John Bowen, our editor and publisher of The Marcher. We depend on it. And, to my helpers, Marcy and Madeleine, who always pitch in to make our meeting a pleasure. Thanks also to Lew Nash who always provides us with a special home made treat.

JRS

Never buy a car you can't push.

**WWII Musings is published for the enjoyment of WWII Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge.**

**It is based on the research of John D. Bowen, in the Unit Records at the National Archives.**

**Your comments and letters are welcome. E-mail johndbowen@earthlink.net or 613 Chichester Lane, Silver Spring MD 20904-3331, 301-384-6533.**

**DUES**

**ARE**

**DUE !**

**SPECIAL THANKS!**

**\$10**

(Continued from page 3 *Hunting Hitler Part I*)

is our wish for our bodies to be burnt immediately on the place where I have performed the greater part of my daily work during the course of my 12 years' service to my people."

The dictation was completed. He moved away from the table on which he had been leaning all this time and said, "Type that out for me at once in triplicate and then bring it in to me." Junge felt that there was something urgent in his voice, and thought about the most important, most crucial document written by Hitler going out into the world without any corrections or thorough revision. She knew that "Every letter of birthday wishes to some Gauleiter, artist, etc., was polished up, improved, revised—but now Hitler had no time for any of that." Junge took her notepad and typewriter across the hall to type up the political and private wills, knowing that Hitler wanted her to finish as fast as possible. The room she used was next to Reichs Minister of Propaganda Joseph Goebbels's private room.

The next item of business was the Hitler-Braun marriage. Once Junge departed the conference room, guests began entering to attend the wedding ceremony. The ceremony took place probably at some point between 1 a.m. and 2 a.m. The ceremony lasted no longer than 10 minutes. They then withdrew into their private apartments for a wedding breakfast. Shortly afterward, Bormann, Goebbels, Magda Goebbels, and the secretaries Christian and Junge, were invited into the private suite.

Junge would not come right away as she was typing across the hall. At some point during the party, Junge walked across the corridor to express her congratulations to the newlyweds and wish them luck. She stayed for less than 15 minutes and then returned to her typing.

For part of the time, General of Infantry Hans Krebs, Lt. Gen. Wilhelm Burgdorf, and Lt. Col. Nicholas von Below (Hitler's Luftwaffe adjutant) joined the party, as did Werner Naumann (state secretary in the Ministry of Propaganda), Arthur Axmann (Reich youth leader), Ambassador Walter Hewel (permanent representative of Foreign Ministry to Hitler at Fuehrer headquarters), Hitler's valet Linge, SS-Maj. Otto Guensche (personal adjutant to Hitler), and Manziyal, the cook. They sat for hours, drinking champagne and tea, eating sandwiches, and talking. Hitler spoke again of his plans of suicide and expressed his belief that National Socialism was finished and would never revive (or would not be resurrected soon), and that death would be a relief to him now that he had been deceived and betrayed by his best friends.

Hitler left the party three times to ask how Junge had gotten in her typing. According to Junge, Hitler would look in and say "Are you ready?" and she said, "No my Fuehrer, I am not ready yet." Bormann and Goebbels also kept coming to see if she was finished. These comings and goings made Junge nervous and delayed the process, increasing her distress about the whole situation, and she made several typographical errors. Those were later crossed out in ink. Also complicating her task was the need to add to the political testament the names of some appointments of the new government under Adm. Karl Doenitz. During the course of the wedding party, Hitler discussed and negotiated the matter with Bormann and Goebbels. While Junge was typing the clean copies of the political testament from her shorthand notes, Goebbels or Bormann came in alternately to give her the names of the ministers of the future government, a process that lasted until she had finished typing. Toward 5 a.m., Junge typed the last of the three copies each of the political testament and personal will. They were timed at 4 a.m., as that was when she had begun typing the first copy of the political testament.

Just as she finished, Goebbels came to her for the documents, almost tearing the last piece of paper from the typewriter. She gave them to him without having a chance to review the final product. She asked Goebbels whether they still wanted her, and he said, "no, lie down and have a rest." The wedding party was ending, and Goebbels took the copies of the documents to Hitler. The documents were ready to be signed. First Hitler signed the personal will, followed by the witnesses Bormann, Goebbels, and von Below. Hitler and witnesses Goebbels, Bormann, Burgdorf, and Krebs then signed the political testament.

At around 6am, on April 29, the regular intense Russian artillery bombardment began with the whole area around the Reich Chancellery and the government district coming under fire. Then in the early morning hours the Soviets launched their all-out offensive against the center of Berlin. Soon the front line was now only some 450 yards from the Chancellery.

Hitler now, in the early morning hours, wanted the three copies of his political testament and private will to be taken out of Berlin and delivered, to Grand Admiral Doenitz and Field Marshal Ferdinand Schoerner (then commander of Army Group Center in Bohemia – who would become the newly appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Army by Hitler's political testament). The first person summoned to serve as a courier was thirty-year old Major Willi Johannmeier, Hitler's adjutant to the Army. At this point he resided in the air-raid shelter under the new Reichs Chancellery, near Hitler's bunker.

At about 8am Burgdorf sent for Johannmeier and told him that an important mission had been entrusted to him. Like Johannmeier, Burgdorf's room was in the shelter of the new Reichs Chancellery. He was to carry a copy of Hitler's political testament and private will out of Berlin, through the Russian lines, and deliver them to Field Marshal Schoerner. With him would go two other messengers, bearing similar documents. These were SS-Colonel Wilhelm Zander (an aide to Bormann, representing Bormann) and Heinz Lorenz (an official of the Propaganda Ministry, as representative of Goebbels). These two men would receive separate instructions. Johannmeier was charged to escort the party on their journey through enemy lines. Burgdorf then gave him the documents he was to carry, along with a covering letter from himself to Schoerner:

*Fuehrer's HQ April 29, 1945*

*Dear Schoerner*

*Attached I send you by safe hands the Testament of our Fuehrer, who wrote it today after the shattering news of the treachery of the RF SS [Himmler]. It is his unalterable decision. The Testament is to be published as soon as the Fuehrer orders it, or as soon as his death is confirmed.*

*All good wishes, and Heil Hitler!*

*Yours,*

*Wilhelm Burgdorf*

*Maj. Johannmeier will deliver the Testament.*

About the time Burgdorf was meeting with Johannmeier, or perhaps later, Bormann summoned Zander, who, like Johannmeier, resided in the nearby shelter under the new Reichs Chancellery. Bormann gave him his instructions, including that he was to take copies of Hitler's private will and political testament to Doenitz. When Zander expressed his desire to stay, Bormann went to Hitler and explained Zander's wish. Hitler said he must go and Bormann conveyed this to Zander. Thereupon he handed Zander copies of Hitler's political and private testaments, and the certificate of marriage of Hitler and Eva Braun. To cover these documents Bormann scribbled a short note to Doenitz: "Dear Grand Admiral, -Since all divisions have failed to arrive, and our position seems hopeless, the Fuehrer dictated last night the attached political Testament. *Heil Hitler*. -Yours, Bormann." After receiving the documents from Bormann, Zander sewed them in his clothing later that morning.

Meanwhile Johannmeier had found Lorenz and told him that a special mission awaited him. Lorenz went to breakfast where he met Zander, who gave him a similar message, and advised him to go to Goebbels or Bormann at once. Lorenz reported to Goebbels sometime before 10am, and was told to go to Bormann and then return. From Bormann, Lorenz received copies of Hitler's personal and political testaments. Bormann told Lorenz that he had been given this mission because as a young man with plenty of initiative, it was considered that he had a good chance of getting through. On his return, Goebbels gave his Appendix [to Hitler's Political Testament] to him. Where Goebbels told him to take it is not totally clear. It seems that he was to take them to Doenitz if possible, or failing him, the nearest German High Command, and if all else failed, he was to publish the wills for historical purposes, and ultimately, it appears that the documents were to end up at the Party Archives in

(Continued on page 6)



*Continued from Page 5 (Hunting Hitler Part I)*

Munich.

When Johannmeier went to see Hitler around 9am he had the will in his (Johannmeier) possession. Hitler told him that this testament must be brought out of Berlin at any price, that Schoerner must receive it. Hitler expressed his opinion that Johannmeier would succeed in the task and once again stressed the importance of the will reaching the destination which he ordered. Johannmeier said they both realized that they would not see each other again and that this influenced the tone in which they said goodbye. Hitler spoke very cordially. Hitler shook his hand. Johannmeier realized that Hitler was going to die.

While Johannmeier, Zander, and Lorenz were getting their instructions, the Russian attack drew ever relentlessly near the bunker. At about 9am the Russian artillery fire suddenly stopped, and shortly afterwards runners reported to the Bunker that the Russians were advancing with tanks and infantry towards the Wilhelmplatz. It grew quite silent in the bunker and there was a great tension among its occupants.

About 10am, SS Brigadefuehrer Wilhelm Mohnke, the commandant of the Chancellery, rang Guensche and informed him that Russian tanks were advancing into Wilhelmstrasse and towards Anhalt station. Guensche reported this to Hitler, who ordered Mohnke to come to him. When Mohnke arrived, Hitler, in the presence of Krebs, Goebbels and Bormann, asked him immediately how long his forces could hold out against the Russians capturing the bunker. Mohnke replied that unless he received heavy weapons, principally anti-tank weapons and sufficient ammunition, he could only hold out for another 2-3 days at most. At this point, according to Mohnke, the mood of all the leaders was gloomy and "all looked to Adolf Hitler and felt doomed."

Later in the morning Junge went back to Hitler's bunker, in order to see whether any changes had taken place. She saw messengers from the fronts coming and going, Hitler was uneasy and walked from one room to another. Hitler told her he would wait until the couriers had arrived to their destinations with the testaments and then would commit suicide.

During the morning General Krebs described to Major Freytag von Loringhoven, his adjutant, the profound disillusionment of Hitler. After the failure of all his effort, Hitler had positively decided to end his life.

At noon, with the Russians closing in on the bunker, Hitler held his situation conference. Joining Hitler were Bormann, Krebs, Burgdorf, Goebbels, and a few others. During the briefing Hitler was informed that the Soviet forces had begun an encircling attack on the remnants of the Citadel from three sides and resistance could not be maintained much longer. Krebs added that there was no news of the relief Army.<sup>1</sup>

At about noon, Lorenz, in civilian clothes, Zander in his SS uniform, and Johannmeier in military uniform, accompanied by a corporal Heinz Hummerich (a clerk in the Adjutancy of the Fuehrer Headquarters), left the Bunker. Penetrating three Russian rings thrown around the center of the city, they reached Pichelsdorf (at the north end of Havel Lake) by around 4pm or 5pm, where a battalion of Hitler Youth was holding the bridge against the expected arrival of the relief army. There they slept till night.

TO BE CONTINUED

HITLER BUNKER 29-30 April

Remember Pearl Harbor



## LESLIE GWENDOLYN GABLE

7 January 1926—29 July 2015

Associate Member

Leslie Gwendolyn Gable, 89, of Upperco, passed away, Wednesday, July 29, 2015 at Gilchrist Hospice in Columbia. She was born January 7, 1926 in Altoona, PA, and was the daughter of late Roy I. Boyles and Sarah F. Boyles, (nee Heberling).

She was the wife of Robert R. Gable, Sr., her husband of 55 years, who passed away December 13, 2002. He served in World War II & the Battle of the Bulge in the 4th Infantry Division, 8th Infantry Regiment in Company I.

She was a member of Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church in Manchester. Years ago, she had worked for Baltimore County as a school bus driver.

Surviving are her children Beverly Horn, Elizabeth Kuhl, and Robert Gable, Jr.; her siblings Virginia Barnes and Peggy Craig; her 8 grandchildren; and her numerous great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her siblings Dale Boyles, John Boyles, and Evelyn Luke.

Family & friends were received August 3 at the ECKHARDT FUNERAL CHAPEL, P.A., 3296 Charmil Drive, Manchester. Prior to the 10 a.m. service the family received friends from 9 to 10 a.m, August 4 at the Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, 3184 Church Street, Manchester. The Rev. Chris Litton officiated. Interment followed in the Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens, Timonium.

Memorial contributions to Immanuel Lutheran Church or Gilchrist Hospice.

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE

## BATTLE OF THE BULGE



IT WAS COLD



**93 year old WWII Veteran Reconnects with Wartime Love after 71 Years Apart**  
**Washington Post**  
**11/20/2015**  
**By Colby Itkowitz**

Norwood Thomas was just 21 years old when he spotted a teenage girl and her friend along the banks of the River Thames. He was stationed at an army base 40 miles from the city. But on weekends off, the U.S. soldiers would take a train into London. That afternoon, he and a friend approached the two girls and invited them on a boat ride. Thomas fell head over heels for the fetching Joyce Morris (née Durrant). For nearly every weekend after, he went to London to be with her. He even met her parents.

Throughout Steven Thomas's childhood, his father would joke that his mother had almost been British. Across the globe, Robert Morris's mother talked fondly about the American soldier who romanced her during World War II. The two men couldn't haven't known that one day they'd facilitate their parents' first meeting in 71 years — by Internet video no less.

Norwood Thomas was just 21 years old when he spotted a teenage girl and her friend along the banks of the River Thames. He was stationed at an army base 40 miles from the city. But on weekends off, the U.S. soldiers would take a train into London. That afternoon, he and a friend approached the two girls and invited them on a boat ride. Thomas fell head over heels for the fetching Joyce Morris (née Durrant). For nearly every weekend after, he went to London to be with her. He even met her parents.

But when the war ended, after Thomas survived parachuting into Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge, he returned home to America. He wrote to her. He wanted to marry her. He asked her to cross the ocean, to be his wife, but she didn't realize it was a real proposal. Life moved on, as it does, and they soon stopped speaking.

Until she found him again.

On Friday, 93 year old Thomas sat in front of a computer in Virginia and saw the woman he once loved fill the screen. The 88 year old Morris, now living in Australia, looked back at her lost love, though she couldn't see him well because of her bad eyesight, smiled and said, "It's been a while," according to a beautifully told account by the Virginia Pilot, which was there to observe their first Skype conversation.

"Tell me. Do you see me?" he asked.

"No, I can't see properly, no," she said.

"Well, I'll tell ya, I'm Smiling," he told her.

"I'm sure you are," she said laughing.

Thomas thought Morris had died in a 1996 TWA crash. He'd read there was a British nurse named Joyce among the passengers and convinced himself it was her. But he kept a photograph of her that she'd given him during the war.

As they spoke, he showed her the perfectly preserved black-and-white photo.

Several weeks ago, Morris asked her son if it was possible to find people on the Internet. She often thought about her American soldier, and asked her son to look for him. And he wasn't hard to find. Thomas, at 88 years old, went skydiving—his first time jumping out of an airplane since the war, and it was covered by the local news. He went again for his next two birthdays.

Her son reached out to the reporter who covered Thomas. The reporter called Thomas and told him he was in contact with his wartime girlfriend. Then the two sons started talking about how to arrange their parents' first conversation in more than seven decades.

Except Steven Thomas, in an interview Tuesday night, revealed the Skype date wasn't exactly their first conversation. Morris it seems, couldn't wait for their middle-aged sons to figure out the technology. She called Thomas at his home.

He answered, and she said, "Tommy?" It was her nickname for him, back when all the soldiers called him by his last name. She told him that her son had printed a picture of him from the war that was online. He framed it for her and put it in her room. Every day upon waking she says, "Good Morning, Tommy."

When they spoke again on Skype, Thomas told her, "Just remember I will say good morning back to you." "I would love to be there to say it in person," he added.

Steven Thomas said it's not out of the question. He's already discussed it with his father. They've looked at flights. The elder Thomas has prostate cancer, so he's too weak now to travel, but the prognosis is good. If his health and their finances allow, the Thomas men may plan a trip to Australia.

Until then, there will be more Skype meetings. The next time, the sons will leave the room. There won't be reporters. They'll let the two be alone to make up for lost time. "The one thing he said about Joyce, he said he was smitten by her," Steven Thomas said. "She was untouchable, she was special and he put her on a pedestal."

The two former sweethearts ended their first face-to-face conversation in 71 years saying they wished they could hug each other good night.

## BULGE UNIT REUNIONS

Option A: \$85 –4 nites in Barracks,  
plus Saturday Dinner  
Option B: \$65 –4 nites in Barracks,  
No Saturday Dinner  
Option C: \$35 – Only Dinner on Sat

**Bulge Vets Attendees are free  
for 2016 but must send regis-  
tration form in by 20 Dec 15**

### BULGE REENACTMENT

**The 71st Anniversary Battle of the Bulge Reenact-  
ment Wednesday, 27 January 2016 1500 hrs til Sun-  
day, 31 January 2016 0700 hrs at Fort Indiantown  
Gap, PA All Veterans are Invited**

**Special Veterans Day on Friday, 29 Jan 2016**

**Registration Deadline 20 Dec 2015**

**[www.wwiiha.org/](http://www.wwiiha.org/)**

**For on-line registration or mail-in forms.**

**Special Reception Vets Free  
FRIDAY 1700 29 Jan 2016**

For Registration Forms contact  
John D. Bowen, 613 Chichester Ln  
Silver Spring MD 20904-3331,  
[johndbowen@earthlink.net](mailto:johndbowen@earthlink.net)  
Questions: 301-384-6533

### VBOB NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP?

**Join today \$15 & receive the outstanding Bulge Bugle Quarterly.**

**A perfect Holiday gift!**

**Leave your Legacy!**

**Sign up you son or daughter and your grandchildren as Associates!**

**Bring them to our Luncheons!**

**Contact John D. Bowen, 301-384-6533, [johndbowen@earthlink.net](mailto:johndbowen@earthlink.net) for member-  
ship forms or  
see the back of your Bulge Bugle!**

### CHAPTER NOMINATIONS

**The nominations for officers will be presented for election at our 07 Dec meeting for the year 2011:**

President,	John R. Schaffner 106th InfD 589th A Bn	Trustee, Travis Aldous, Associate
1st Vice President,		Trustee, Albert Darago, Jr., 143 AAA Gun Bn
Secretary,	John D. Bowen Associate	Treasurer, Marci Schuerholz Associate

**Nominations will be entertained from the floor before voting.**

**The Chaplain & Sgt-at-Arms positions are appointed by the President**



## 2016 CHAPTER DUES \$10 ARE DUE NOW

**OUR CHAPTER DUES YEAR IS FROM 16 DEC TO 15 DEC**

**Donations to the Chapter are always appreciated!**

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

## MARCHER & WWII MUSINGS

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**Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, MD/DC**

**John D. Bowen, Editor**

**613 Chichester Lane**

**Silver Spring MD 20904-3331**

### HOLIDAY MEETING

**Sunday 06 DEC 2015**

**BASTA PASTA,**

**60 West Timonium Road, Timonium MD  
21093**

**71st COMMEMORATION –11:00 AM**

**Reservations to John R. Schaffner by 02 Dec 2015**

## CHAPTER DUES ARE DUE NOW! - STILL \$10