

The BULGE BUGLE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION ☆ VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

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THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

MAY 1985

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Joseph A. Cavanaugh, Chairman of VBOB Committee on Facility Arrangements, together with Committee Members E. L. (Lucky) Loiacono and William Simpkins, announced that the General Membership Meeting of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge will be held on December 13, 14 and 15 at the Sheraton Crystal City Hotel in Arlington, Virginia. This recently-built hotel is conveniently located near Washington, D.C., a short distance by Metro, and very near the whole metropolitan Washington area.

Arrangement with the management of the Sheraton has been made for a special price for rooms at \$55 per night, single or double. The hotel management has shown considerable interest and cooperation for hosting our meeting.

The Program Committee is already formulating a series of activities which include a reception and registration on December 13, committee and business sessions, social hours, films, dinner theatre, a memorial ceremony at Arlington Cemetery, and a distinguished speaker at the evening banquet on December 15th.

Although not finalized, an attempt is being made to obtain special air fare rates to facilitate maximum meeting attendance. The Sheraton Crystal City Hotel has agreed to furnish free transport service from National Airport in Washington, D.C.

Not only will attendance at the meeting provide a memorable experience to meet and to exchange encounters with others

Presidential Give & Take



Robert J. VanHouten, VBOB President, left, presents mementos to Clyde D. Boden, immediate Past President.

The Unknown Soldier

*He sleeps unknown to all but One
High on this rolling hill,
In this most hallowed resting place
So peaceful and so still.
We do not know from whence he came,
Who were his loved ones dear;
We only know he gave his life
And lies in glory here.
He is enshrined within our hearts
And world wide in his fame,
But only God alone can tell
The Unknown Soldier's name.*

Harold F. Mohn

engaged in the Battle of the Bulge, but also an opportunity to visit again or for the first time, what often has been called the most important city in the world.

Additional details on the meeting will be publicized in our September edition.

VBOB Officers and Staff

THE BULGE BUGLE is the official publication of Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. It is issued three times yearly.

ROBERT J VanHOUTEN, President
16th Field Artillery Observation Battalion
WM. T. GREENVILLE, Exec. Vice President
86th Chemical Mortar Battalion
WM. A. SIMPKINS, Vice President for
Regional Coordination, XIX TAC, 9th AF
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TOM GILLIS, Corresponding Secretary,
4th Armored Division CCR

OUR OBJECTIVES ARE:

- * To foster international peace and good will.
- * To promote friendship.
- * To perpetuate the memory of the sacrifices involved.
- * To preserve historical data and sites.

VBOB LIFE MEMBERSHIPS --

\$50 if age 70 or over
\$75 if age 50 thru 69
\$100 if under age 50



VBOB members pose after Executive Committee meeting at Fort Myer, Va., February 16th. Seated, from left, Bob VanHouten, Dorothy Davis, Pete Dounis, and Gene Drouillard. Standing are Bill Hemphill, Clyde Boden, Helen Berry, Ben Layton and Bill Simpkins.

READING MATERIAL FOR VA HOSPITALS

Every VA hospital has a circulating library that makes copies of books available to in-patients. Unfortunately, the material available is often quite dated and of questionable interest.

With that thought in mind, I suggest that we consider purchasing some books for the VA hospitals that will be of interest to the patients and that will also be of an informative nature. Rather than select books at random on subject matter, it would be a worthwhile project to consider material on the Battle of the Bulge - the Ardennes Campaign.

Available material ranges from the scholarly approach to the pictorial display-type publications.

Indeed, there is a wide range of material available and I ask our VBOB members to give serious consideration to making contributions toward the goal of supplying books to our VA hospitals on the subject close to our own experiences - the Battle of the Bulge.

Several of our members have had books on the subject printed, and they will assist us in making a wide selection of books that will appeal to most readers.

(Cont'd on Pg. 23 "Reading Material...")



A VBOB HISTORICAL MOMENT-- Founding members Dee Paris and Ray Evans ponder a paper at the organizational meeting, 12/81, Arlington, VA.

Photo-R.Latney

PROGRAM PLANS FOR
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Decemer 13 - 14 - 15, 1985

FRIDAY, December 13

- 1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.
Registration
- 3:30 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.
Books and Authors - Autograph Session
- 1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.
Photos and Displays
- 3:30 p.m.- 4:30 p.m.
Committee Meetings
- 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.
Social Hour

SATURDAY, December 14

- 8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.
General Membership Meeting
- 10:00 a.m.-10:15 a.m.
Break
- 10:15 a.m.-10:45 a.m.
Newly Declassified Films-Battle of the Bulge
- 10:45 a.m.-Noon
Prisoners of War and Their Experiences
- Noon- 1:30 p.m.
Lunch
- 1:30 p.m.- 3:30 p.m.
Business Session (Cont'd. Col. 2)

- 1:30 p.m.- 1:45 p.m.
New Business
- 1:45 p.m.- 2:15 p.m.
Comments by VBOB Members
- 2:15 p.m.- 2:45 p.m.
Reports by Committee Chairmen
- 2:45 p.m.- 3:10 p.m.
Report on Publications and Books
- 3:10 p.m.- 3:30 p.m.
Nomination & Election of Officers
- 3:30 p.m.
Adjournment
- 5:30 p.m.-11:00 p.m.
Dinner Theater, Alexandria, VA

SUNDAY, December 15

- 10:30 a.m.-Noon
Memorial Ceremony, Arlington National Cemetery
- Noon- 3:15 p.m.
Lunch and Free Time
- 3:15 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.
National Cathedral Program
- 5:00 p.m.
Return to Hotel
- 6:00 p.m.- 7:30 p.m.
Banquet Gala and Social Hour
- 7:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.
Dinner, Speeches & Installation of New Officers
- 9:00 p.m.-Midnight
Dancing & Reminiscing
- Midnight-Fond Farewells Until Next Year!

VBOB STAFF SURGEON

Morris Ackerman, D.D.S., recently appointed to the VBOB staff position of Surgeon for the second consecutive time, has changed his membership status from that of Charter Member to Life Member. He is a five-battle-star veteran of the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Campaign of WWII who commanded a medical company during the Battle of the Bulge. Dr. Ackerman is also the Commander of DAV Post 16 in Yonkers, N.Y., a position for which he recently received congratulations from N.Y. State Senator John E. Flynn.



General recounts 'Battle of the Bulge'

The following is extracted from an article in Pentagram, Jan. 31, 1985, by John Lundberg. VROB's Clyde Boden sent it along for our readers.

Feb. 4, 1985 was a special day for 85-year-old white-haired, retired Army Gen. Bruce C. Clarke. It's the 40th anniversary of the end of the Battle of the Bulge—a decisive battle fought in the closing days of World War II and one in which he played a significant role.

Clarke, the junior U.S. brigadier general in the battle, has written and spoken extensively over the years on the fighting in the Bulge. He says publicity by some authors on the battle in the hilly and wooded Ardennes area of southern Belgium has been inaccurate and misleading. This week, the Pentagram interviewed Clarke to learn his views on the battle.

Clarke's military credentials are impeccable. He served as an enlisted man in the Army in 1918 and graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1925. During his 37 years of commissioned service, he commanded the 1st Armored Division, I Corps in Korea, U.S. Army Pacific, U.S. Continental Army Command, and U.S. Army Europe. General Dwight Eisenhower once said, in praising Clarke's training accomplishments, "The Army has had two great trainers—VonStauben and Bruce Clarke."

Brig. Gen. Hal C. Pattison, a former Army Chief of military history, declares Clarke is one of a group of exceptional military officers from World War II who remains relatively unknown outside the Army. The reason, he suggests, is that Clarke was more concerned with being correct than being popular. Pattison reports Clarke once told him, "I can't look at something which seems wrong without doing something to make it right."

Q: What led up to the Battle of the Bulge?

A: The rapid advance of Patton's Third Army, led by the 4th Armored Division—from the breakout of the beachhead at Avranches across the Brest Peninsula and then up the Loire Valley to the Moselle River and

Nancy—took 40 days instead of the planned-for 70 days. At that time, the Third Army was out of gasoline and was held up for six weeks, which gave Hitler time to prepare for the Ardennes counter-offensive. His offensive was initiated on Dec. 16, 1944, just before Christmas.

Q: Why do you call the Battle of the Bulge the greatest battle of WWII?

A: Because it was the battle that cost our Army 75,000 casualties over a seven-week period. Seventeen thousand U.S. soldiers were killed in action. More than 700,000 U.S. soldiers were involved in the battle.

Q: What are the major lessons the U.S. should have learned from the battle?

A: The effects of poor intelligence, poor estimates of the situation, poor tactics in some areas, and poor



generalship in some areas. Also, such a battle might take place again if Warsaw Pact forces attack NATO.

Q: Who were the real heroes of the battle?

A: The officers and men of battalions, companies, platoons, squads, and tank crews who fought extremely well under difficult circumstances.

Q: What was your role in the battle?

A: I found myself and my Combat Command "B," 7th Armored Division, at St. Vith on Dec. 17, where I was given command of the defense of the area by the commanding general, 106th Infantry Division. We withdrew on order across the Salm River on Dec. 23 and took part in driving the Germans back during the bitter weather of January 1945. (Cont'd. next page)

(General recounts 'Battle of the Bulge,' cont'd.)

Q: What kind of tactics did you employ?

A: When the Germans attacked the 106th Division on Dec. 16, they hit an inflexible brittle type of infantry defense. They practically destroyed the division in two or three days. Later, when they hit my command at St. Vith, they were faced by a flexible defense built around the maneuverability of tanks and armored units. My only directions to my units when they arrived at St. Vith were to go to certain areas and stop or slow down the Germans. This permitted great initiative and effectiveness in a very fluid battle. My philosophy was to give ground, if necessary, to prevent the loss of my command. This I did for about six days. This proved to be winning tactics. The delay was fatal to the German plans.

Q: In December 1976, when you met with German General Hasso Manteuffel in St. Vith, what did he say was the reason the Germans lost the battle?

A: He said that he felt from the start that the German counter-offensive had little chance of success because the German Army units had been fighting for about five years, while the American units had only six months of victorious battle behind them. Also, his divisions were only about half of ours in strength, even though he said that he used seven divisions against the St. Vith area. However, he felt that Hitler had no other alternative, at that stage of the war, than to try for an armistice on the Western Front to avoid the splitting of Germany—which in fact occurred in the spring of 1945.

Q: How good was U.S. intelligence before and during the battle?

A: All reports I've read point out the lack of good intelligence by division and higher headquarters. I received no intelligence during the battle, except sketchy reports from my units. Also, the Germans had very effective counter-intelligence before the battle started.

Q: How were the Germans able to assemble about 20 divisions in eight weeks without detection?

A: General Manteuffel told me they accomplished the buildup by moving only late at night and before dawn. Also, they observed strict radio silence and noise control, restricted soldiers to wooded areas and did not allow visits to local people, permitted no wood fires or lights at any time, used only charcoal fires for cooking and then only in daylight hours, and gave plans to lower levels at the last minute.

Q: How well had the Germans observed the Americans before the attack?

A: General Manteuffel told me that before the attack he visited the area dressed as a German colonel

from higher headquarters. He wanted personally to find out the habits of American troops and also the boundaries between American units. Based upon what he found, he called off the planned one-and-one-half-hour artillery preparation on the American positions, because he did not want to wake up the Americans. Also, he attacked in infantry platoon columns down the boundaries between U.S. battalions and regiments, not against their fronts. He said that the weakest part of American defenses were the boundaries between units. In addition, he directed that all American telephone wires be cut to reduce communications by defending troops. As a result, after penetrating three or four kilometers, he was able to close behind the American units he had bypassed, taking some 8,500 U.S. prisoners.

Q: Why did General Eisenhower give command of the U.S. First and Ninth armies on Dec. 20 to General Montgomery, a British officer?

A: I've asked that question of both General Bradley and General Manteuffel. Bradley said that General Eisenhower thought that he (Bradley) had lost communications, which he said was not true. General Manteuffel, in a letter to me after the war, said Bradley's counter-measures were not effective, and by the evening of the 19th he thought Bradley had lost control of the battle.

Q: What is the role of commanders in the battles like the one at St. Vith?

A: It is to ensure that the confusion does not become disorganized. All battles are confusing. Any time you have people shooting at each other, you have confusion. The job of the commander is to make sure the situation doesn't become disorganized.

Q: How long did the Battle of the Bulge last and what role did Bastogne play?

A: The German offensive lasted about only nine or ten days. Then, we drove them back to their starting point in about five weeks more after New Years 1945. Regarding the importance of Bastogne, General Haig set up a study group in 1976 on the Battle of the Bulge to determine what we could learn to assist in the defense of NATO. Some 80 NATO officers, to include General Manteuffel and I, held a conference in the St. Vith area. General Manteuffel was asked about the importance of Bastogne to the German plan. He said the capture of Bastogne was not of great military importance. He said the mission of Lt. Gen. Von Luttwitz, the German commander at Bastogne, was to penetrate to the Meuse River and protect Manteuffel's left flank as he (Manteuffel) turned his main effort to the right toward his objectives on the English Channel. Gen. Von Luttwitz accomplished his mission.

Q: All three U.S. generals in the St. Vith-Vielsalm

(Cont'd. on page 6)

(General recounts 'Battle of the Bulge,' cont'd.)

area, where flexible U.S. defenses built around the maneuverability of tanks were employed, were either engineers or field artillerymen. What happened to them after the war?

A: Maj. Gen. Robert Hasbrouck, a field artilleryman, retired soon after World War II. He was a tower of strength to Brig. Gen. William Hoge and me, who were both engineers. We both went to many other assignments and retired as generals.

Q: Why haven't you commented on the important actions in the Ninth Army about which so much has been written?

A: The battle in Gen. Simpson's Ninth Army area was too remote from St. Vith for me to be acquainted with it. However, in talking with Gen. Manteuffel, he emphasized the main attack was through the St. Vith area where my soldiers were. The reason for German activity all along the front during the Ardennes counter-offensive, according to General Manteuffel, was to freeze U.S. reserves from moving toward the German main effort. The term "main effort" is a military academic term and has little meaning to divisions, brigades, battalions, or companies under attack. All were equally important in the overall defensive effort.

Q: What is your reaction to Hitler's reported comment on the supposed low fighting quality of American soldiers in the Bulge?

A: There were no poor U.S. units in this battle—but there may have been some inadequate U.S. leaders and commanders. General Manteuffel said that the fighting ability of officers and men in front of his Fifth Panzer Army at St. Vith and at Bastogne was of a very high order and above criticism.

Q: Was your command at St. Vith ever cited in Department of the Army orders?

A: Yes! Combat Command "B" of the 7th Armored Division and attached troops received a Presidential Unit Citation in 1948 for their actions at St. Vith from Dec. 17 through 23, 1944.



Northern Wisconsin Chapter

A wreath commemorating the beginning of the Battle of the Bulge was placed on December 16, 1984 at the WWII Memorial at the Marathon County Courthouse. Leading the ceremony were Walter Riedl (left), Chapter President, and Wm. Schneider, Membership Committee Chairman of VBOB's chapter.

"AMERICANISM is an unflinching love of country, loyalty to its institutions and ideals; eagerness to defend it against all enemies; undivided allegiance to the flag and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and posterity."

The Stars and Stripes, 12/6/84



President's Message

I want to give a big "Thank You" to all for the fine letters of congratulations on my election as president of VBOB. The first three months of this year we have been concentrating on both a site and program for our 1985 General Membership Meeting. The Sheraton at Crystal City, VA has been selected for our December 13, 14 and 15th meeting. The program is developing quite well and a tentative program will be published in the September edition of THE BULGE BUGLE.

We mentioned bringing trees from the Ardennes Forest in both Belgium and Luxembourg to plant in Arlington National Cemetery. While we don't have all the details worked out, we have made several contacts and hope soon to have more definite news to report.

We are proud to have had an invitation from the Francis Scott Key Chapter, Ft. Meade, Maryland, of the Association of the United States Army to honor one of our members who was in the Battle of the Bulge. The Executive Committee selected our Chaplain, the Reverend George W. Hall, Jr. George served with the 94th Division. He was wounded twice during the Battle of the Bulge. In addition, he was awarded the Medical Corps Valor Award for saving the life of one of the officers who had been wounded.

The awards were presented after a luncheon. Awards were also given to Vietnam veterans as well as soldiers still in the services.

We are also focusing on increasing our membership as well as updating our dues payment for members. With close to a million men participating in this battle, it seems inconceivable that we have only some 3,000 members. So we ask all of you, if you know of anyone or have buddies who were in this historic battle, let them or us know. We'll send them or you brochures for membership.

The Executive Committee has approved some permanent help for our treasurer, Bill Hemphill. Eva Popovich, along with a volunteer and Life Member, Helen Berry, are now assisting Bill with his duties. We are thankful for the two of them.

Plans are also being made to issue THE BULGE BUGLE more frequently. We have gone to three editions in 1985 and plan for four issues in 1986. Members have voiced a great deal of interest for more frequent mailings, but to do this we must keep dues current, for as it now stands it costs approximately \$2,000 per edition.

This past year of the 40th Anniversary has found VBOB officers attending many Army functions at Fort Meade, Maryland, Fort Myer and Arlington Cemetery. In recognition of his recording these functions, we want to thank a VBOB member, Sam Silverman, for the many pictures you have seen in THE BULGE BUGLE. Sam is a professional photographer in civilian life and was with the 10th Armored Division, 11th Tank Bn. So we salute Sam for his many hours of dedicated service to VBOB.

We want to welcome two new active members to the National Staff -- Joe Cavanaugh, formerly with the 106th Division and George Chekan, formerly with the 9th (continued next page)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, continued ----

Infantry Division, 39th Infantry, C Company. Joe has taken the reins to find a hotel for our December meeting and chose the Sheraton.

George Chekan just recently retired from the Washington Post and will assist Bob Lemmon, our Editor, and work on promotion. To both of them, we say "Thanks for your generous offer to help all of us."

On May 31st there will be a wreath-laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.

We now have three VBOB State Chapters...one in Wisconsin, the second in Central New York, and the third - the Maryland-D.C. Chapter. If you need to know the membership in your state to consider starting a chapter, please contact Bill Simpkins, Vice President for National and Regional Coordination, at the VBOB address.

BATTLE OF THE BULGE: Then and Now.

By Jean Paul Pallud. 532 pages, 1,260 illustrations, 31 maps. Battle of Britain Prints, International Ltd., London, 1984. \$49.95.

For those of us who fought in the Battle of the Bulge, officially known as the Ardennes Campaign, Battle of the Bulge: Then and Now provides the details of the big picture. In that 1944-45 wintry six-week campaign in Belgium and Luxembourg we had a good knowledge of the real estate in our immediate frequently-changing vicinity and that was about it.

Scenes so familiar to us in the 60x70 mile area 40 years ago are pictured with the same sites as they are today.

For students and others interested in military history, this comprehensive account of what Sir Winston Churchill characterized as "the greatest American battle of the war . . . an ever-famous American victory" will be a most valuable document.

This unlikely invasion route through the beautiful Ardennes has already been used by attacking forces twice and could be used again.

Jean Paul Pallud travelled over every part of the Salient, as it is called in Europe, and conducted exhaustive research over a five-year period to produce a factual and pictorial account of what Adolph Hitler said would be a "New Dunkirk," the objective of which was to take Antwerp by slicing between the Americans and the British.

It was stated in a recent issue of Stars and Stripes:

"With over 1,200 illustrations this . . . British publication fully measures up to its advance billing. (It is) an indispensable book for the researchers' shelf.

"More than other Bulge books, Pallud delves deeply into the German army's maneuvers in the Ardennes. Using diagrams and photographs from the German military archives, the author unfolds in simple steps a campaign which is also studied for its complexity."

This encyclopedic work is available in the United States for \$49.95 plus \$2.00 postage from Barcroft Books, 6349 Columbia Pike, Baileys Crossroads, VA 22041.

... Clyde D. Boden



VBOB President Robert J. VanHouten is flanked by Mrs. VanHouten and Charles Hunter, his Battery A commander during the Battle of the Bulge. This was their first meeting last November since Mr. VanHouten's capture as a prisoner of war in 1944.

+++See President VanHouten's comments concerning President Reagan's planned visit to a German SS-troop cemetery on Page 22.

TAPS



Photo: Sam Silverman

ARMORED FORCE MONUMENT

VBOB member Jimmie Leach has advised us that the Armored Force Monument Committee has again forged ahead to gain Senate and House support in the 99th Congress for approval of the erection of a monument to our "Men of Flesh and Steel" along the Avenue of Heroes leading into the Arlington National Cemetery of our Nation's Capital.

Our support is now needed to keep this armored offensive rolling! We request that you write or telephone both of your Senators and Congressman with these suggested messages: (Please write or telephone them as soon as you can).

SENATORS: "Please support and vote favorably on Senate Joint Resolution 43 (SJR 43), dated 5 February 1985, to authorize the Armored Force Monument Committee and the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge to erect a memorial to the American Armored Force on U.S. Government property in Arlington, Virginia."

Address: The Honorable (your Senator), United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510

Salutation: Dear Senator _____

Complimentary Close: Sincerely yours,

CONGRESSMAN: "Please support and vote favorably on House Joint Resolution 167 (HJR 167), dated 25 February 1985, to authorize the Armored Force Monument Committee and the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge to erect a memorial to the American Armored Force on U.S. Government property in Arlington, Virginia."

Address: The Honorable (your Congressman), U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515

Salutation: Dear Mr. / Mrs. / Ms. _____

Complimentary Close: Sincerely yours,



VETERANS
COMMEMORATE BATTLE
OF BULGE LINK-UP

"When was the bulge wiped out?" asks Theodore Draper in The 84th Infantry Division in the Battle of Germany. He responds, "That may never be decided to everyone's satisfaction because a number of patrols were frantically trying to make contact with a number of other patrols at the same time . . ."

The closing of the gap in the wintry 1944-45 Battle of the Bulge -- the link-up between American forces from the north shoulder and the south shoulder near Ourthe, Belgium -- forty years earlier was marked on January 15 by veterans of the 84th Infantry Division and the 11th Armored Division in a luncheon at Fort Myer, Va.

Patrols from these divisions, elements of the First U.S. Army and the Third U.S. Army, respectively, met at 9:45 a.m. outside a small Belgian farmhouse.

This momentous event preceded by 10 days the end of the Ardennes Campaign, as it was officially known, which began as a surprise attack by an initial German force of more than a quarter million men on a 70-mile front a month earlier.

The guest of honor was Michael J. L. Greene who led the 11th Armored unit that accomplished the link-up. The luncheon was hosted by General Willard Holbrook, war-time commander of the 11th's Combat Command A.

Representing the 84th were Clyde Boden, John Cobb, Charles Foreman, Fritz Kraemer, Harold Leinbaugh, Arlo Sheldahl, Bill Stickles and Ed Thierry.

Also present were Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge president Robert VanHouten of the 16th Field Artillery Observation Battalion and military historians Hal Pattison of the 4th Armored Division and Charles MacDonald of the 2nd Infantry Division and author of A Time for Trumpets: The Untold Story of the Battle of the Bulge. . . . C.D. Boden

PURPLE
HEART

Army Echoes, Jan-Feb 1985 edition, states that "recipients of the Purple Heart are entitled to increased recognition under provisions of recently enacted legislation..

The medal has been raised in stature so that it ranks immediately after the lowest award for valor when worn on military uniforms. It was previously worn after the lowest achievement medal, and before the Good Conduct Medal.

This was the second action affecting the Purple Heart last year. In February, the president signed an executive order that authorized the medal for military personnel and American citizens serving with U.S. forces who are victims of international terrorist attacks against the United States or against foreign forces friendly to the United States."

BRONZE
STAR

VBOB's Jack Kearney, Veterans Employment Representative in OPM's Regional office in Pennsylvania, was recently presented with the Bronze Star for valor at the crossing of the Roer River, February 1945. With the 84th Infantry Division, Ninth U.S. Army, Kearney had waited 40 years for the medal.

Review of Secretary of Army

This ceremony in recognition of the 40th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge was held in Ceremonial Hall, Ft. Myer, VA on December 17th.

Robert J. VanHouten, VBOB President, and Charles B. MacDonald, VBOB member and author of, among other epochs of WWII, A Time for Trumpets, viewed the ceremony from Convention Hall's VIP box.

Inspecting the troops of the 3rd Infantry, they trooped the line with the Secretary of the Army and the Commanding General, Military District of Washington.

This has been the first event of its kind in the past forty years.



Ceremonial Hall
Fort Myer

PARTICIPANTS

Host

The Honorable John O. Marsh, Jr.
Secretary of the Army

Honored Guests

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge

Commander of Troops

Colonel Robert G. Krause
Commander, 3rd United States Infantry (The Old Guard)

Participating Units

3rd United States Infantry (The Old Guard)
The United States Army Band (Pershing's Own)

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

PRE-CONCERT The United States Army Band (Pershing's Own)

March On

Presentation of the Command

Sound Off

Inspection of Troops

Honors to the Nation (National Anthem)

REMARKS The Secretary of the Army

REMARKS Mr. Charles B. MacDonald
Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge

March in Review

Final Musical Salute

Conclusion of Ceremony

RECEPTION Patton Hall

McAuliffe's Welcomed

Family members of General Anthony C. McAuliffe joined the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge in March. They are Mrs. Betty Ray O'Connor de Zevallos, Rockville, MD (Niece); Mrs. Patricia de Zevallos Lo Duca, Concord, CA (Grand-Niece); Miss Eleanor Patricia McAuliffe, Silver Spring, MD (Sister); and Miss Patricia Ann McAuliffe, Alexandria, VA (Daughter).

The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge are most proud to welcome the McAuliffe family to our membership.

Herb Toscano, Central New York Chapter, inspects the T-shirt he presented to VBOB's V.P. for Regional Coordination--our own Wm. A. Simpkins



The Stars and Stripes

The National Tribune

40 G STREET, N.E. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20013
P. O. BOX 1803

VBOB
MEMBERS
HONORED

Peter G. Dounis, 75th Inf. Div., Assistant Editor, THE BULGE BUGLE, reports that in February he attended a meeting of the Francis Scott Key Chapter of the AUSA and First U.S. Army, along with 25 other VBOB members and their wives at Fort George G. Meade, MD.

Pete, a former Infantry Private First Class, reports that the elite and wonderful treatment he received after 40+ years "was pure unadulterated pleasure. I appreciated the Certificate of Commendation sent to me by the AUSA..."

Special recognition and awards were presented to Battle of the Bulge honorees George W. Hall, 302nd Inf. (VBOB Chaplain); to Neil B. Thompson, 740th Tank Bn. (VBOB Liaison for Military Units); to Alvin Hyman, Jewish War Veterans of the U.S; and to Phillip H. Pope, 212th Field Artillery, Fort Meade.

BEN'S
FAVORITE
PRAYER

Benjamin T. Layton, 3496th QM Truck Company, closed the first meeting of VBOB's Maryland-D.C. Chapter last Fall with this prayer:

LORD GOD, FATHER OF ABRAHAM, JESUS AND MUHAMMAD. AS FAR AS WE KNOW, THIS IS YOUR PLANET. FORGIVE US FOR WHAT WE HAVE DONE TO THE AIR, WATER AND EARTH. WE HAVE REASON TO THINK THAT WE CURIOUS BIPEDS ARE YOUR FAVORITE CREATION; WE HAVE FOUND NO ONE ON MARS OR JUPITER WHO CAN MAKE MUSIC OR WINE. FORGIVE WHAT WE DO TO ONE ANOTHER. WE FORGET YOU LIKE VARIETY AND MADE US IN FIVE DIFFERENT COLORS, SINGING DIFFERENT SONGS. LORD, WE LIVE ON THAT OLD BLUE MARBLE YOU SPUN OFF WHEN YOU PLAYED CREATION. IT IS A LOVELY PLACE. HELP US TO KEEP IT IN ONE PIECE. AMEN.

HEAD OF
10TH ARMORED
DIVISION'S TEAM
O'HARA DIES

James O'Hara, retired Army Colonel and veteran of WWII and Korea died of cancer March 1st in Washington. Born in West Point, New York, and a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy in 1934, he served in Europe commanding the 54th Armored Infantry Battalion. He was awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart; his unit earned the Belgian Croix de Guerre. He was buried with full military honors in Arlington Cemetery on March 5th. "TEAM O'HARA" of CCB of the 10th Armored Division arrived in the Bastogne area seven hours before the arrival of German forces. To his men, Colonel O'Hara was affectionately known as "Smiling Jim" and he was much appreciated by his troops, many of whom are VBOB members today.



Members Speak Out

Cliff Carlson

would like to hear

Gus L. Marinucci, 1332 Jackson St., Hollywood, FL 33019, would be grateful to hear from buddies of the 49th Combat Engr. Bn. from March 1 & 2, 1945 between 10:15 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. when the Luftwaffe bombed and strafed his unit, with a hit on the Bn. C.P.

Walter C. Righton, Secy., 704th T.D. Bn. Assn., 29 W. Wilkins Lane, Plainfield, IL 60544 on behalf of his battalion extends belated thanks for a job well done during WWII to the members of the XIX Tac. Air Command, Air Support Team #2. He writes "although memories of WWII grow dim, none of us will ever forget the air support team attached to the 4th A.D. and the bravery and skill they showed in bombing and strafing in front of the division whenever the tanks bogged down and the going got tough. We knew we could count on the XIX to come to our aid and they did any number of times."

John V. Mardorff, 4230 Tanglewood North #401, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410 would like to hear from any personnel of Hq, 177th Ord. Bn.

Roy Godshall of Perkasio, PA writes in reference to page 15 of our January edition concerning a wreath-laying at the Hamm Military Cemetery by Earle Hart. Roy writes that it was raining on the day cited and that no one wanted to carry the wreath, so Roy's son, Paul, and Earl Hart accomplished the mission. Thanks for setting the record straight, Roy.

from buddies in the CIC at Eupen and Malmedy. Please contact Treasurer, VBOB.

Andy Kissel, Madison St., Coatesville, PA writes of receiving the Purple Heart last year for shrapnel wounds received in Belgium on Dec. 23, 1944 while a member of Co. A, 53d AIB, 4th Armored Division.

Ralph Herbert, Holden, WV: Tank Destroyer Armored Force did not get the recognition to which they are due. His unit was attached to and fought with the 82nd Abn. Div and the 9th, 28th, 87th, 90th, 94 and 95th Inf. Divisions as well as the V, VIII, XV and XX Corps and the First, Third and Ninth Armies. His unit is credited with five battle stars. Men from the 50 States, the Canal Zone and District of Columbia were assigned to the 607th.

L. D. Eck, RD 2, Box 159, Johnstown, PA 15904, a member of the 159th Engineers, writes that, as one of the tour members of the 1984 Sentimental Journey to the Bulge, he would urge us to please advise all members of any future tour of that area to read the new book by Charles B. MacDon-ald, A Time for Trumpets. Eck was in that battle and was wounded on Dec. 23, but he feels no one can hope to understand the total scope of the operation. He feels this book will be of great value to anyone who tours the area because of the unbelievable detail concerning most of the operation. If he had read the book before the tour, (continued in Col. 3 above)

it would have made the whole concept much clearer, and he would have been more appreciative of the excellent lectures by Hal Ryder, a student of the operation, he states. (A Time for Trumpets was published after the tour referred to. ...Ed.)

CONVENTION -- The American Ex-Prisoners of War, Inc., will hold their 38th Annual National Convention on July 23 thru 27 with a business meeting July 24th through 26th at the Marc Plaza Hotel, 509 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53203. More info needed? Write Albert R. Frohne, 205 Henry St., Mukonago, WI 53149.

National Archives Contain Military Unit Histories

DAVer Paul M. Cohen of Boca Raton, Fla., has passed along an idea that may help some vets seeking to substantiate claims before the VA.

Cohen noted that many units of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps were required to research and write unit histories. Today those histories—which contain information on places, dates, special training and much more—are kept on file at the National Archives in Washington. These histories may contain information that could help corroborate veterans' claims or provide further details concerning the status of a veteran's unit.

Requests for these histories must be made in writing to the National Archives. The requests must also contain accurate and specific identification of your particular outfit. A charge for copies of the records will be made by the National Archives.

Veterans seeking WWII and Korean War era histories should write:

Modern Military Field Branch
National Archives
Washington, D.C.

DAV MAGAZINE, Feb. '85

INQUIRY FROM CRIBA
(Centre de
Recherche et
d'Information sur
la Bataille des
Ardennes)

M. Andre Hubert, a member of CRIBA and an Associate Member of VBOB reports that a Belgian family wants to hear from friends of the 44th Combat Engineer Battalion who stayed in Petit-Thier and Grand Halleux. The family wrote to these men but received no replies. Addresses at the time were:

HAROLD R. GRETH, 145 E. Chestnut St., Lancaster, PA
PAUL SHAGONABE, 519 Nuspigon, MI
CHARLIE WHITE, Fort Gibson, OK
CHARLES JACKSON, 4501 Lucille St., Houston, TX

M. Hubert asks that any information of these GI's be provided to: CRIBA, 17 Rue des Augustins, 4000 Liege, Belgium. He also reports "how glad I am to read your very interesting publication."

Note: Charlie has been located in OK; Paul has no fone listed in Muskegon, MI, nor are Harold and Charles listed in the cities cited above. ...Ed.

"All the News
That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times.

LATE CITY EDITION

Increasing circulation followed by
light snow today
Temperature Tuesday—Max. 17; Min. 12
Forecast: Partly cloudy, 17 to 14

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NEW YORK, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1944.

THREE CENTS PER COPY

GERMANS SWEEP WEST THROUGH LUXEMBOURG; REPORT PATTON ATTACKING ON SOUTH FLANK; EISENHOWER URGES GREATEST ALLIED EFFORT

MAYOR DEMANDS U. S. ACT AT ONCE ON MEAT CRISIS

Calls for at Least a Temporary
Plan So That Shops That
Owe Law Can Stay Open

BREAD, PIE MAKERS CLOSE

Shut for Christmas Week—End
in Labor Row—Hotels and
Restaurants Affected

Mayor La Guardia joined food
vendors yesterday with the city meat
butchers in demanding that the
Federal Government stop in immed-
iately with some workable plan
for averting a "meat holiday" here
with retailers threatening to stop
sales beginning on Christmas, the
Mayor said. "Washington cannot
remain idle in a situation where
decisions must be made to comply with the law."

The city was threatened with a
shortage in another food field
when meat producers of pigs and
beef decided to abandon all opera-
tions over the Christmas week-
end because of an impending strike
of bakery wagon drivers.

President Accepts Just One Columnist

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—
President Roosevelt called col-
umnists today an unnecessary
nuisance to our civilization.
Asked to comment on reports
of proposals for the estab-
lishment of an international board
to function on political and eco-
nomic matters similar to the
Joint Chiefs of Staff in the mili-
tary field, Mr. Roosevelt turned
the question aside by saying
they were written by a col-
umnist.

"Oh, Mr. President," said
Mrs. Elizabeth May Craig, cor-
respondent for Maine newspa-
pers, "you've got one in the
family."

That was true, Mr. Roosevelt
said, amid the roars of laughter,
but this columnist was different in
one way, he said, and it was a pity.
The reference was to Mrs.
Roosevelt and her daily synchro-
nized column, "My Day."

CITY BUDGET SUIT UPHELD ON APPEAL

La Guardia Criticized by Court
for Inclusion of Lums Sum
Item of \$5,000,000

ROOSEVELT URGES HOMEFOLKS TO BACK SOLDIERS AT FRONT

Calls the Carrying Out of
Tasks the Best Christmas
Gift to Troops

'FULL WAR' BUDGET DUE

President Says Principles of
Atlantic Charter Are as Valid
Today as in 1941

By G. P. SHENKELL
Special to The New York Times
WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—Pres-
ident Roosevelt appealed to the
people at home today to back
up the fighting forces with a sus-
tained concentration on efforts
which will help win the war as
quickly as possible.
"We can best help the Christmas
season of our fighting men," he said
at his news conference, "permitting
themselves to be quoted, 'if we carry
on our respective tasks, doing those
things which will contribute to
winning the war.'"

GERMAN TOWN REDUCED TO RUBBLE AFTER SHELLING BY BOTH SIDES



Not much remains of the buildings in Pfor, about five miles northwest of Eichenhofen, after being fired upon by the 10th SS Panzer and the 1st SS Infantry across the Beer River.

RAIL HUB ISOLATED

Panzers Smash 15 Miles
Past Bastogne—Enemy
Slowed on Flanks

NEAR FRENCH BORDER

Americans Recapture 2
Towns—Reports Still
48 Hours Late

By GUY WHEELER
Special to The New York Times
SUIPERHEIM HEADQUARTERS,
Allied Expeditionary Force, Dec.
22.—The great German winter of-
fensive resumed westward through
Belgium unabated today for the
seventh consecutive day.
Although American forces...

NEW RUSSIAN DRIVE

Outspoken yet compassionate,
Religious in his way,
He asked God for his guidance
In humble prayer each day.

His deeds have been recorded
In history's pages bright,
For future generations
To read and keep in sight.

His leadership in battle
Has earned him lasting fame,
And General George S. Patton
Has justly carved his name.



...Harold F. Mohn

GENERAL GEORGE S. PATTON, JR. COMMANDING GENERAL THIRD ARMY

He was gifted as a leader,
Fearless, brave and true.
A genius on the battlefield
He proved so oft anew.

Rough and gruff, flamboyant,
Devoted, brilliant too,
He led his troops in battle
With skill possessed by few.

Old Warriors Relive WWII Battle of Bridge at Remagen

Editor's note: Ken Hechler, author of the book "The Bridge at Remagen" which was made into a movie, wrote this reprise of the battle for The Associated Press. Hechler, a veteran of the battle, is now secretary of state for West Virginia. He served in Congress for 18 years and was a speech writer for President Harry S. Truman.

By Ken Hechler

For The Associated Press

It was on a gray and drizzly afternoon 40 years ago on March 7 that a small group of American soldiers surprised the German defenders of a bridge over the Rhine River at Remagen and scored a major triumph of World War II.

After their winter victories in the "Battle of the Bulge," the Allied armies had pressed forward to confront Germany's proudest defensive barrier: the Rhine. Assault boats were poised for what was expected to be the most difficult and costly cross-water attack since D-day.

One by one, the Germans blew up the bridges spanning the Rhine as the Americans approached. The railroad bridge at Remagen, midway between Cologne and Koblenz, was also prepared for demolition as the American 9th Armored Division advanced.

A tall infantry lieutenant named Karl Timmermann of West Point, Neb., was one of the first to spot the bridge as he emerged from a clearing in the woods two miles above the river.

Lt. Col. Leonard E. Engeman, a Minnesotan commanding the attacking task force, ordered his tanks and infantry to attack the town of Remagen and the approaches to the bridge.

Brig. Gen. William M. Hoge, the leader of "Combat Command B" of the 9th Armored Division, arrived early in the afternoon of March 7, scanned the bridge with his field glasses, and reflected on his orders to turn south and link up with the hard-charging armored troops of Gen. George Patton. Instead of following orders, Hoge decided to attack the bridge, even while the German defenders were obviously trying to blow it up.

As they had planned, the Germans first blew a gaping anti-tank crater at the approaches to the

bridge, making it impossible for American armor to get on the bridge.

Amid the swirling confusion of shot and shell, Maj. Murray Deevers, commander of the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion, ordered Lt. Timmermann to take his infantrymen across. Timmermann glanced at the knots of German soldiers ready to push the plunger to send the bridge sky-high, and asked: "What if the bridge blows up in my face?"

Deevers avoided Timmermann's steady gaze and walked away without a word. Timmermann then knew it was almost a suicide mission; but he did not hesitate. "All right, we're going across," he barked to his men, as he started to move forward.

Suddenly, a tremendous explosion two-thirds of the way across the bridge seemed to lift the whole structure up from its foundations. Girders flew into the air. Then it miraculously settled back, visibly trembling.

"Get going," Timmermann yelled, leading his men across in the face of German machine-gun fire from the 1,100-foot bridge and its stone towers.

The attackers weaved, ran in short bursts, and tried to take cover now and then behind bridge supports. Three armored engineers — Lt. Hugh Mott and Sgts. Eugene Dorland and John Reynolds — scrambled underneath the bridge and worked furiously to disconnect the wires to the remaining demolition charges.

It was a sad-faced, gangly infantryman from Toledo, Ohio, Alex Drabik, whose long legs helped him become the first American soldier to cross the Rhine. His company commander, Timmermann, was the first officer across. Once the anti-tank crater had been filled, the first tanks began to ease across the shaky bridge in the blackness of a cloudy and moonless night.

Back at his headquarters, Gen. Omar Bradley was having a sharp argument with Gen. Dwight Eisenhower's Operations Officer, Maj. Gen. Harold R. "Pink" Bull. In the face of Bradley's order to push troops and tanks across the bridge at Remagen, Bull shrugged: "Sure, you've got a bridge, Brad, but what

good is it going to do you? You're not going anywhere down there at Remagen. It just doesn't fit into the plan."

Bradley angrily shot back: "What in hell do you want us to do, pull back and blow it up?"

Eisenhower, as the supreme commander of allied forces, had the final say, and he immediately ordered all available troops and armor to be rushed to Remagen. Within 24 hours, 8,000 men had crossed the bridge, reinforced by tanks, tank destroyers and anti-aircraft units.

As American infantrymen climbed a sheer, 600-foot cliff on the other side of the Rhine, they marvelled that the German defenders had not used this strategic height to mow them down as they attacked. The Americans learned later that a German anti-aircraft unit had been, for some unknown reason, transferred from atop the cliff, and its replacement had not arrived by March 7.

Infuriated by the capture of the Remagen Bridge, Adolf Hitler sent out an execution squad to shoot three majors and one lieutenant unjustly charged with the responsibility. He ordered all available troops to the area for counterattacks to try and wipe out the bridgehead.

Mammoth railroad guns plastered the bridge. For the first time in the war, new jet planes swooped in to try to destroy the prize the Americans had captured. Wernher von Braun aimed V-2 rockets at the bridge. The Americans moved heavy cranes onto the injured bridge to shore it up.

On the afternoon of March 17 — exactly 10 days after its capture — the Remagen Bridge shuddered and collapsed into the Rhine, carrying 28 American engineers to their deaths. But by then the pontoon and treadway bridges were in full operation and the bridge had served its purpose.

From Remagen, the American GIs rushed on to the autobahn, and formed the southern spearhead which encircled 300,000 German troops in the Ruhr. The end of the war in Europe came within two months.

Today, American and German veterans of the battle reassembled at Remagen for a reconciliation ceremony.

New Bulge Monument Dedicated

On March 3, 1985, the 9th Armored Division Association with Luxembourg and United States officials dedicated in Medernach, Luxembourg, a monument to the memory of those who fought and died in the defense and liberation of that country.

The monument is a 10-foot obelisk with four bronze tablets and the 9th Armored Division insignia. Three of the tablets describe the combat actions of each of the three combat commands while the fourth contains a map and description of the overall battle action. The monument was contributed by the Division Association.

The Division - called the "Ghost Division" by the Wehrmacht - simultaneously fought in the defense of Bastogne and also in stopping the main German attack in the St. Vith-Malmedy-Stavelot area.

Their Royal Highnesses, Crown Prince Henri and wife Maria Teresa, and U.S.



The full monument over the heads of the crowd

Ambassador John E. Dolibois participated in the dedication. Major General George Ruhlen, president of the 9th Armored Division Association, represented the 130 association members present for the ceremony.

In addition to their Royal Highnesses and the American Ambassador, the guests of honor included four ministers of the Luxembourg government: Mr. Marc Fischbach, Minister of the Armed Forces; Mr. Robert Krieps, Minister of Cultural Affairs; Mr. Marcel Schlecter, Minister of Transport and Road Construction and Mr. René Steichen, Minister of Agriculture. Also present were several deputies of the Luxembourg chamber and mayors of neighboring towns.

Medernach mayor (burgomeister) Alois Lies opened the dedication ceremonies with a welcome to the guests of honor. He spoke of the Nazi occupation from 1940 to 1944 during which they were persecuted, deported and taken to concentration camps. Their youth were forced to join the labor-service units of the German army.

Major Lies said, "You, dear American friends, came to our rescue and brought us back freedom and independence. We'd like to thank you from the bottoms of our hearts, today, 40 years later." He spoke "of the immense hardships you had to suffer; we know of the thousands of young Americans who paid the full price and lie buried in the different European cemeteries." (Continued on Page 18)



The monument after the unveiling by Crown Prince Henri with General Ruhlen looking on

Reunion~::~

517 PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM, El Tropicano Hotel, San Antonio, Texas, 26-28 June 1985. (Bill Lewis, 6600 Josie Lane, Hudson, FL 33567).

106TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION (GOLDEN LIONS), Sheraton Lakeview Resort, Morgantown, WV, 18-21 July 1985. (Ted J. Straub, 948 Chestnut Ridge Rd., Morgantown, WV, (304) 599-4550).

5TH MEDICAL BN., 5TH INFANTRY DIVISION Reunion, New Philadelphia, OH, 30 Aug-2 Sep 1985. (Joseph Fabiano, 448 - 3d St., N.E., New Philadelphia, OH 44663).

83d INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN., (WWII), 39th Annual Reunion, The "Pines," S. Fallsburgh, NY, 9-11 Sep 1985. (Robert Derickson, 3749 Stahlheber Rd., Hamilton, OH 05013).

84TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 40th Reunion, Holiday Inn East, Springfield, IL, 3-8 Aug 1985. (Maurice Wolfson, 44 Gill Lane 2F, Iselin, NJ 08830).

2ND (INDIAN HEAD) DIVISION, Cathedral Hill Hotel, San Francisco, CA, 17-20 July 1985. (Alex Leptak, 6856 Day Drive, Parma, OH 44129).

14TH TANK BATTALION ASSN., 9th ARMORED DIVISION, Milwaukee, WI, 29-31 Aug 1985. (Anthony R. Ziegler, 171 Sedgefield Dr., Harahan, LA 70123).

7TH ARMORED DIVISION ASSN., 39th Annual Reunion, Cincinnati, OH, 11-14 Sep 1985. (Glenn R. Fackler, 23218 Springbrook Dr., Farmington Hills, MI 48024).

Co. B, 55TH ARMORED INFANTRY DIVISION, St. Louis, MO, 13-15 Sep 1985. (George L. Reimer, 12463 Roth Hills Dr., Maryland Hts, MO 63043, (314) 434-4733).

16TH FIELD ARTILLERY OBSERVATION BATTALION, Drawbridge Inn, Ft. Mitchell, KY, 28 June 1985. (16th F.O.B., P.O. Box 767, Charleston, WV 25323).

511TH ENGR. LT. PONTON CO., Americana Host Farm Resorts, Lancaster, PA, June 14-16, 1985. (Nick Rosania, Main St., Box 412, Whitehouse Station, NJ 08822. Tele: (201) 534-2728).

285TH FLD. ARTY. OBS. BN., 19th Annual Reunion, Lancaster, PA, area, Sep. 6-8, 1985. (Chas. A. Hammer, 767 Pearl Ave., Manheim, PA 17545).

NEW BULGE MONUMENT DEDICATED (Continued from Page 17)

The Mayor stressed "All those we honor today not only won a battle, they restored freedom and peace in this part of the globe and this for as long a period as we've never had before." He expressed hope that the United States would continue to guarantee peace.

Cercle d'Etudes sur la Bataille des Ardennes (CEBA) is a Luxembourg organization of 550 members devoted to the study and dissemination of the history of the battle of the bulge (Ardennes). Their members participated in the planning, erection and dedication of the 9th Armored Division monument in Medernach.

CEBA President Camille P. Kohn spoke with dramatic feeling of their gratitude to the American troops. John Milmeister served as the master of ceremonies of the dedication ceremony. Secretary Tilly Kimmes, who attended the December 1984 VBOB meeting in Arlington, VA, capably served in a liaison capacity.

Other CEBA members served as hosts and guides for the American contingent. Among the latter was John Welter whose detailed knowledge of all the military units and actions in Luxembourg added a special treat and understanding for the touring Americans.

The ceremony included a color guard of the 1st U.S. Armored Division. Members of the American group carried the colors of the combat elements of the 9th Armored Division with no indication that 40 years had passed since they last marched in a precision formation.

An authentic touch was provided by the jeeps and other vehicles of The Allied Military Vehicle Drivers club of Luxembourg whose members own 42 military vehicles of the 1940-45 period.

The monument is located in Medernach, G.D. Luxembourg, approximately 15 miles north of Luxembourg City on land provided by the host government.

Following the dedication, the American group visited the new Ardennes battle museum in Diekirch.



LUXEMBOURG REVISITED

Edward P. Thomas, Past National Commander of the Eightieth Division Veterans Association, writes to congratulate the VBOB staff which organized the November General Membership Meeting that he and Mrs. Thomas attended. He tells of their mid-December visit to Luxembourg forty years later after "the big battle." They were astounded by the numerous ceremonies being held. Ed

mentions that Mme. Tilly Kimmes, CEBA Secretary, provided a schedule of activities for most days of their visit there. Saying that the Luxembourg people pay tribute to the American soldier all of the time and that "they never forget," he expressed their appreciation to Tilly and Roger Kimmes, Erica and Camille Kohn, Teresa and Jean Milmeister and all that CEBA did for them.



Ed Thomas presents an 80th Division plaque to Mayor Ed Juncker of Ettlebruck as Sister Margaret Georgina Patton, grand-daughter of General George S. Patton, Jr., looks on.



Ed Thomas, center, with CEBA president Camille Kohn at his left and other CEBA members place a floral arrangement at the exact location and time and on the same day of the MALMEDY MASSACRE - 40 years ago.

New Bulge Museum Opens

A September issue of the Staten Island Advance publicizes the third Battle of the Bulge museum to open in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. This one is in Diekirch -- the others are in Clervaux and Wiltz. The new museum is unique in that it contains artifacts as a memorial to both the American and German forces of the battle.

The collection, underway five years, outgrew the homes of the five young men who worked on it and it was moved to a defunct brewery building donated by the town fathers.

A most heart-stopping aspect of the new war museum is the cases of photos of young Americans and young Germans, so many frozen in youth for eternity, reinforcing the fact that war is a young man's destiny.

Dedicated at the same time as the museum was a city monument in a park behind the town hall in Diekirch. The rebuilt Diekirch bridge, over which the townspeople were evacuated, is in the background of the park. A bronze plaque of the bridge on the monument is the work of a German artist.

THE BULGE BUGLE is indebted to Beverly Gilmore, an editor on the staff of the Staten Island Advance, for the information provided above.

And---

Roland Gaul, Curator of the Diekirch Historical Museum (Les Amis de L'Histoire de Diekirch) writes to request publicizing the museum as he believes it of great interest to many ex-GI's going to Luxembourg. M. Gaul describes the museum's numerous life-size dioramas, collections of U.S. and Ger-

man equipment, weapons and personalized items donated by veterans. The material received from M. Gaul will be forwarded to VBOB's museum at Ft. George G. Meade, Maryland. Pictured below are dioramas of an evacuation scene of a mother and 5-year-old child passing a jeep belonging to Co. A, 103d Engineers and a 5th Division "Red Diamond" BAR gunman in make-shift snowdress. ...Ed.



MARYLAND-D.C. CHAPTER

The Maryland-D.C. Chapter of VBOB met on Sunday, March 17th for a combination St. Patrick's Day Party and Business Meeting.

It was held at the Laurel, MD, American Legion Hall with approximately 50 people attending.

The adopted Chapter name was "The Liberator" and the newsletter name is "The Marcher" with Peter G. Dounis as Editor and E. L. Loiacono, Ass't. Editor.

The Maryland-D.C. Chapter is the third officially established VBOB chapter in the country.

I am informed that a change should be made on Page 15 of our January 1985 edition to add, under "9/29/84," a "Wreath Laying" event in Malmedy, Belgium by "Robert J. VanHouten."

**EDITOR'S
SQUARE**



Local Man Returns To 1944 Battlegrounds For Reunion Of Battle Of The Bulge Vets

by Ellen Jamison

Forty years ago Roy Godshall, 70, a former Souderton resident, was a member of the U.S. Army's 26th Infantry, Yankee Division, which participated in the Battle of the Bulge, one of the most important and costliest battles of the war. For Godshall the memories of the battle and the war are as vivid today as they were when he was a 30-year old infantryman.

Unfortunately, Godshall notes, "People nowadays don't know about WWII." In fact, the WWII veteran said he felt the people of Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands were much more aware and much more grateful for the part the Americans played in the war than his own countrymen. But then maybe that is because Godshall and his fellow soldiers were the liberators of these countries, which had been subjugated by the Germans.

From Sept. 25 to Oct. 5, Godshall was one of 240 veterans of the Battle of the Bulge who went on a tour of the towns and battlefields of the three countries. The tour was arranged through the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge of Arlington, VA,

and for Godshall it was the first time he had returned to Europe since being a member of the 26th Infantry.

The recipient of two Purple Hearts and four Bronze Stars, Godshall said these awards don't hold as much significance for him as the honorary diploma he received last month from the town of Liege, Belgium for his part in the Battle of the Bulge and the liberation of that area.

The almost two-week stay was marked by other honors and receptions including a reception in a town hall in Luxembourg in which the veterans were treated to dinner and a wine toast.

The 240 veterans returning this fall wore buttons containing the words, "Operation Friendly Invasion" a reminder that their return in 1984 was strictly for good will and renewing friendships.

Every town the group visited had a parade or had services in the Town Hall and a speech by the mayor. Godshall said they took tours every day to points of interest and battlefields. At one point they stopped at a woods along a narrow road and the tour guide noted that this was where the 26th Division was stationed. The fox holes were still visible.

Godshall said the trip also gave him and his fellow veterans an opportunity to remember fallen comrades and to place a wreath on the grave of Gen. George Patton, their commander. Godshall said he was 108 days in combat during the battle which lasted from Dec. 24, 1944 to Feb. 28, 1945, and during that time many of his friends lost their lives. The WWII veteran said casualties for the battle were set at 8,000 but he thinks many more died in the battle, which was the last German offensive.

Tears fill Godshall's eyes as he talks of a good friend picked off by a German sniper while they stood in front of a church, or of the wounded who were executed as they lay on the ground. Godshall himself was hit in the leg and the shoulder during the battle and for this he received his

Purple Hearts.

But there were also happy memories, as Godshall had an opportunity to visit with a family in Malmedy, Belgium, and view a flag which was made back in 1944 from scraps of material. In addition, Godshall said he visited a monument which was erected in the town to honor the 24th division.

Godshall said, "I never had a better time in my life" and now he is making plans for another visit to Europe next spring with his son Paul, who also accompanied him on this trip. During this trip Godshall said he hopes to look up more former acquaintances or their relatives.

When Godshall returned to the states after his discharge in 1946 he went to work at his mother's restaurant in Lansdale. He then set up his own antique business, Godshall Antiques on a property off Rt. 152 in Silverdale, Hilltown Township. The veteran decided to retire from the

antique business, and he worked part-time for the Telford Lutheran Home.

A member of Warren Royer Post 234, American Legion, Souderton, Godshall still lives at the Rt. 152, Hilltown Township address. He typifies what the American Legion is all

about: patriotism and a pride in serving his country.

He and the 239 others who recently participated in the Battle of the Bulge reunion serve as a reminder to all of us of the sacrifices made by them and their comrades a generation ago.

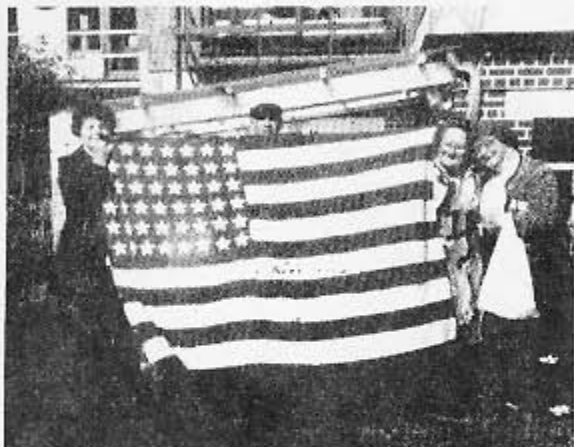


ON LEAVE - Roy Godshall, now a resident of Hilltown Township, is shown here when he was home on leave in Souderton in 1942.

The former Souderton resident recently was one of 240 veterans of the Battle of the Bulge to visit the towns in Europe which played a significant part in the Battle.



40 YEARS AGO - Roy Godshall of Hilltown Township is pictured here 40 years ago standing in front of a German pillbox in Metz, France.



A SPECIAL FLAG - This American flag was made 40 years ago by a woman from Malmedy, Belgium, who took scraps of material to fashion a flag to mark the liberation of her town by the Americans.

The flag was put away in an attic of the home of the woman's daughter, and brought out for display during the reunion tour of the 26th Infantry.



TITLE OF GRATEFULNESS - Roy Godshall, 70, of Hilltown Township, and a native of Souderton, recently returned from a tour of the towns and battlefields which were part of the Battle of the Bulge.

Welcomed almost everywhere they visited in Belgium, Luxembourg and Holland, Godshall and the 239 other veterans on the tour received various mementoes of their trip. Godshall is shown here displaying an honorary diploma awarding him the "Title of Gratefulness" for his aid in liberating the town of Liege, Belgium.

--Independent-Times photo



AT PATTON'S GRAVE - Roy Godshall, right, and his son Paul, took time to visit the grave of General George Patton, Godshall's commander during WWII.

VBOB

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

P.O. BOX 11129
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22210-2129

April 24, 1985

Dear Member:

This concerns a recent controversial announcement from The White House. President Reagan is to attend an economic summit meeting in Bonn, West Germany, on approximately the 40th anniversary of V-E Day.

The White House originally announced that the President plans to visit a German military cemetery and lay a wreath. The supposed reason is a corrective action for excluding West Germans from participating at the 40th D-Day commemoration in 1984.

The VBOB feels that this is an error since, on this trip, there are no plans for a 40th V-E Day Commemoration or a visit by the President to an American cemetery in Europe or some other symbolic recognition of the 40th anniversary of the termination of World War II. And I so advised The White House.

The VBOB is not oblivious to the fact that time alters perspectives especially in international relations. Time has marched on. Yesterday's enemy is today's friend and ally and vice versa.

While the proposed wreath-laying caters to one of VBOB's objectives -- "To foster international peace and goodwill" -- the President should not blithely ignore what the European phase of World War II was about on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of V-E Day.

I think you should know that, as president of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge and after consulting with our Executive Committee, I called the executive office of the President and stated our viewpoint, thus playing a part in an attempt to have The White House review the matter.

Yours in Comradeship,



ROBERT J. VanHOUTEN
President, V.B.O.B.



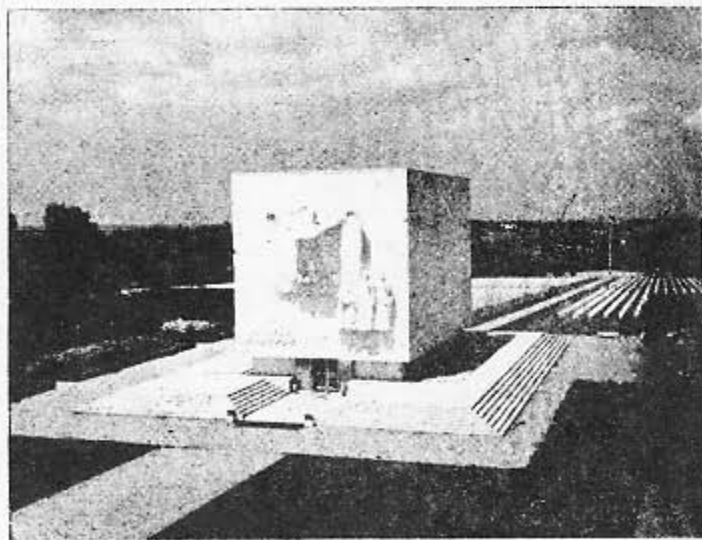
DOUCHAMPS in January 1945 & July 1982
...Courtesy-C.A.M.

(Reading Material...Cont'd.)

Each of you VBOB members obviously has a very keen interest in the historical significance of that great campaign. Most of our members actually participated in that battle that was so decisive in bringing World War II to an end.

O.K., Guys. You have paid your dues in the fighting war, so let's not hide our light under a barrel. Let the world know how we participated and what better way than to make reading material available to people who may be completely unaware of our contributions.

There are 172 VA hospitals in the U.S.A. and they will welcome our efforts to make good reading material available to the inpatients. Each book will have a page with a donation message from VBOB. Your participation is encouraged. Please contact me at our VBOB National Headquarters Office.
...William A. Simpkins



Memorial Chapel in Ardennes Cemetery.

7CUSTOMER NO: _____ RECORD NO: _____ DATE RECEIVED: _____
 GROUP A NO: _____ GROUP B NO: _____
 (Above for office use only)

Please ship the following items to:

NAME: _____
 (first) (last)

ADDRESS: _____
 (no) (street) (city) (state) (zip)

	ITEM	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL
GROUP A				
A 1	Plaque 5"X 6" *	\$15.00	_____	_____
A 2	Plaque 5"X 7" *	18.00	_____	_____
A 3	Plaque 5" Diameter	11.00	_____	_____
A 4	2 Pen VBOB Desk Set	21.00	_____	_____

* Please engrave Brass Plate with:

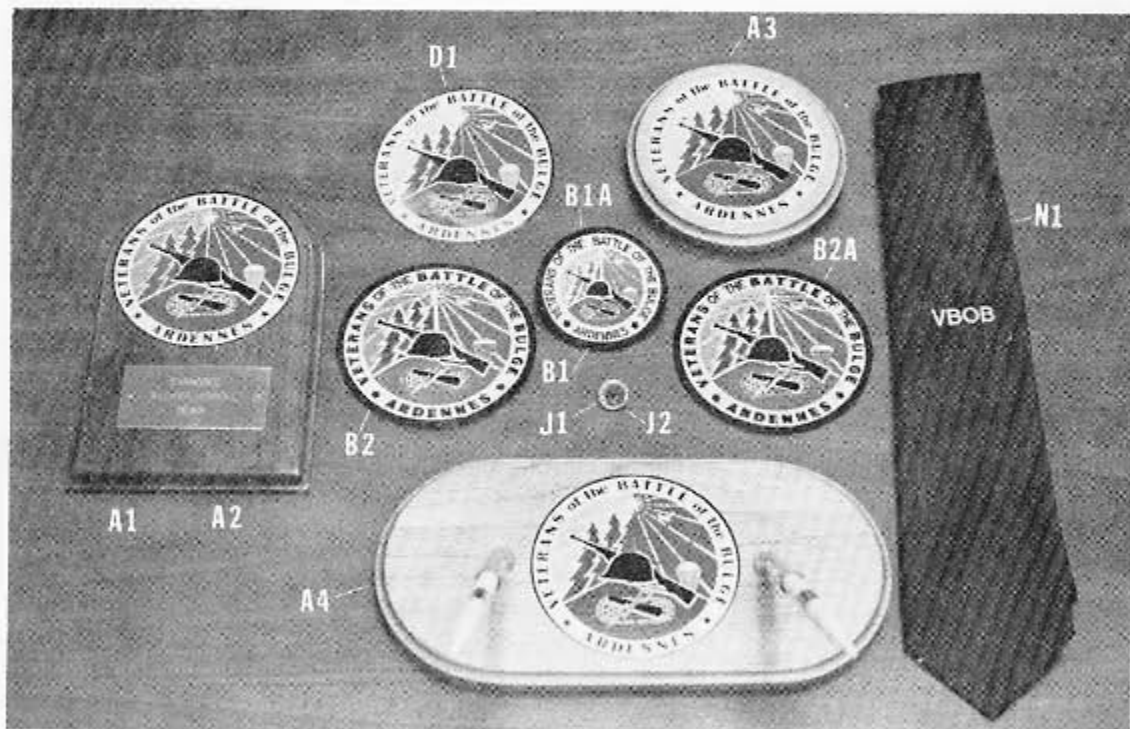
NAME: _____
 UNIT: _____
 UNIT: _____

GROUP B				
B 1	Patch 2 3/4" Diam	\$ 2.50	_____	_____
B 1A	Patch (W/clutch)	4.00	_____	_____
B 2	Patch 4 3/4" Diam	6.00	_____	_____
B 2A	Patch (W/clutch)	8.00	_____	_____
D 1	Decal 4" Diam	3/ 1.00	_____	_____
J 1	VBOB Lapel Pin (W/clutch)	7.00	_____	_____
J 2	VBOB Tie Tac (W/c.bar&chain)	7.00	_____	_____
J 3	VBOB Tie Bar	7.00	_____	_____
N 1	VBOB Neck Tie	10.00	_____	_____

TOTAL PURCHASES

\$ _____

Above prices effective 1 May, 1985 include postage and engraving of plaques A1 & A2



VETERANS of the BATTLE OF THE BULGE

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May 1985 Edition



Application for Membership

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

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

Annual Dues \$10

DONATIONS ARE WELCOME

Name _____ Birthdate _____

Address _____ Phone (____) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Unit(s) to which assigned during period December 16, 1944 - January 25, 1945 (Div, Regt, Bn, Co) _____

Campaign Ribbons and Battle stars awarded _____

Wounded _____

Captured _____

Make check or money order payable to VBOB and mail with this application to above address