

The BULGE BUGLE

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THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

AUGUST 2006

A MEMORIAL AT ARLINGTON Dedicated to The American Soldier Who Fought in THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE



From The Grateful People of Belgium
And Luxembourg

Pages 9-11

**VBOB 25th
Annual
REUNION
Louisville, KY**

Holiday Inn
Louisville Downtown

**October 9 -
October 14, 2006**
See pages 16-19
Be There!

**VETERANS OF THE
BATTLE OF THE BULGE,
INC.
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Published quarterly, *THE BULGE BUGLE* is the official publication of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge.

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YOU WILL BE GLAD YOU DID.
IF YOU FIND YOU HAVE A LITTLE TIME,
WRITE TO VBOB AND WE'LL SEND YOU THE
NECESSARY TOOLS TO GET OFF TO A

President's Message

My sincere apology for erroneous information received regarding our Battle of the Bulge Memorial in Arlington Cemetery. The official inscription carried in *The President's Message* in the February 2006 issue of *The Bulge Bugle* was published completely different than I submitted.

This was a serious matter from the start and much deliberation was given to an historic message limited to a "bird's eye view" but powerful enough to document the Battle of the Bulge during visitors' brief visits to the site.

Dedicated on May 8, 2006, the authorized memorial inscription carved forever in Barre, Vermont, granite as it stands today in Arlington National Cemetery boldly displays the following official wording:

December 16, 1944

January 25, 1945

**TO WORLD WAR II AMERICAN SOLDIERS
WHO FOUGHT IN THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE -
THE GREATEST LAND BATTLE IN THE HISTORY
OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY.**

*From the grateful people of the Kingdom of Belgium and
the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.*

The ceremonial dedication of this memorial is undoubtedly the most outstanding contribution ever made by the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge which was borne out by the personal interest and appreciation of the grateful people of the Kingdom of Belgium and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

Many hills and valleys, obstacles and stumbling blocks encountered were easily remedied with the outpouring of unwavering support of Brigadier General Dany E. Van de Ven, Minister/Counselor Geert M. Criel, Lt. Col. Bernard Blanchart, Commander Baudouin Litt, Consul Monique Thill, Mission Chief Paul Schmit and Interpreter Holly Kerlin, all officials and/or staff members of the Belgium and Luxembourg Embassies. Not forgotten is the moral and administrative help of Arlington National Cemetery's Superintendent John C. Metzler and Historian Tom Sherlock. I, personally, respect and appreciate the security challenge during many strategy meetings necessary to accomplish our goal and commend the administrative staff and security officials for their professional and friendly performance.

Your National Executive Committee, although often fractured and opinionated during the frustrating days of designing our memorial, their final "blessing" and confidence in me while confronting the Fine Arts Commission was comforting, often hurtful, but with Vice President of Military Affairs Bob Phillips on the committee we saw a light at the end of the tunnel. As your elected National President and founder of this "dare to dream, last investment in history" while remembering our more than 19,000 brother and sister comrades who didn't come home



Stanley Wojtusik

with us--never to be known as a veteran--I gratefully thank all who attended the ceremony in person and in spirit. Specifically, the extended effort of bus-loads arriving from Lehigh Valley Chapter, Delaware Valley Chapter and The Veterans Home in Washington, DC, and those hundreds of veterans and family members arriving individually from across the country.

We were also honored with visits from dignitaries from England, Australia, Poland, France, Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg. There are more details regarding the ceremony elsewhere in this issue. All chapter presidents will be receiving a letter from me with information, photos and a copy of the Official Program to share with chapter members.

I would like to share with you moments of astonishment I experienced during the reception at the ambassador's residence following the dedication ceremony. Completely unaware, I became the recipient of two prestigious awards in the presence of those assembled in the drawing room. Although in total disbelief, I was awarded a medal personally presented by Prime Minister of Belgium His Excellency Guy Verhofstadt after reading the citation inducting me into the Knight Order of King Leopold. Lo and behold, my attention was then drawn to Her Excellency Octavie Medert, Secretary of State for Culture of Luxembourg, who presented another citation also inducting me into the Luxembourg's Medal of Knight into the Order of the Oak Crown, presenting me with another prestigious medal. May 8, 2006--a date I'll remember--an exceptionally successful Memorial Dedication and then bestowed knighthood (Sir Stan...)! Fellow veterans, although overwhelmed and grateful for these honors, neither will I forget the horrible weather and enemy we endured back in 1944. We became Veterans!

Sadly, newspapers all across the country are publishing almost daily notices announcing so many of our "buddies" fought their last battle creating stark realization that each minute of every day is our precious gift. Sixty-two years ago a minute often seemed endless; today 60 seconds seem minuscule caught up in the daily, weekly, monthly whirlwind of time. We can't set reality aside.

Continued on Page 28

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VBOB has a new address:

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The old address still appears on many things.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PROXIMITY FUZES

[James Bird sends us the following re: responses to his article in the November, 2005, newsletter.]

I wrote from a point of view of a field artillery man and was aware the navy and antiaircraft units used proximity fuzes before they were issued to the field artillery in the ETO, however, I did not know some proximity fuzes had been used by tankers.

I should have mentioned this, but Wes Ross and Chet Krause provided appropriate and significant information.

JAMES R. BIRD
45 INF 160 FA BN A

165TH SIGNAL PHOTO COMPANY

[Excerpts] Doing research for the archives of the 165th Signal Photo Company, I'm writing with a couple of requests. In the February 2006 issue of *The Bulge Bugle*, Page 21, article entitled "Where Did All the Trucks Come From," can you provide Lloyd L. Goss, Jr.'s complete address and phone number. *[We're sending him a copy of your letter.]*

...recently, I located Doug Spangle, son of William Isaiah Spangle, 165th Signal Photo Company still photographer, along with Bernard Newman, movie cameraman; Clayton Coler, driver, who was a photo detachment assigned to the 9th Infantry Division in 1944-45.

Doug Spangle only has about half dozen of his father's WWII photos due to the fact that W. I. Spangle after the war (Doug was born in 1938) divorced Doug's mother and remarried two other times with the WWII photos going elsewhere. I've done a lot of research on this particular detachment but I don't have a lot of original photos to copy for Doug.

About 15 years ago I purchased a reprint copy of *"Eight Stars to Victory"* from Joe Williams in Florida. The Xerox copied pages are so poor quality the photos will not copy well. On page 288 (of the reprint) is a photo of Bill Spangle laying a mine. Many of the photos in the book I have has the dates and locations.

Do you know of an original copy of *"Eight Stars to Victory"* that I could obtain? I would like to scan the good quality photos for Doug and a copy for the 165th archives. The printed type on my book is very readable but years ago the DPI's were not refined enough to print quality photos.

I did a lot of research of the Roetgen, Germany, area. I searched five years to find the location of Spangle's water detail photo of October 4, 1944. Henri Rogister, of Liege, Belgium, finally found site about a half a mile from the Roetgen Train Signal House. Col. A. T. Forrest, CO of the 15th Engineer Combat Battalion, helped me a lot with details of their experiences in that area. Leon Rosenmann, 165th movie cameraman, was a good friend. He, Joe Demarco and driver Lawrence Hoffman filmed the first jeep of the 3rd Armored Division to cross the border at Roetgen.

The archives of the 165th Signal Photo company created an exact commemorative photo jeep as they used. It was

displayed for the Veterans of the 3rd Armored Division Reunion in Ashville, North Carolina in 1998. If you can find a photo of Spangle's jeep with hood registry and bumper number, I'll duplicate one for the 9th Infantry Division.

Years ago, maybe 15 or 20, I talked with someone with the 9th Infantry Division Association, they had a lot of Spangle's original 4x5's, is the association still active--where would these photos be now?

BUDDY LOVETTE
165 SIG PHOTO CO

[If you can help Buddy, write to him at: 194 Mt. Carmel Road, Moraurian Falls, North Carolina 28654.]

CORRECTIONS TO CORRECTIONS

[The following refers to an original article on page 8 of the August, 2005, (by ODA TIDWELL, 26TH INFANTRY DIVISION) magazine with a correction in the November, 2005 (by BERESFORD N. CLARKE, 26TH INFANTRY DIVISION).]

I was a squad leader of the 1st Squad, 1st Platoon, K Company, 114th Infantry Regiment, 44th Infantry Division. We were on the right flank of the Third Army, where General Patton made his move to Bastogne. We took over positions vacated by two divisions that moved out toward Bastogne.

We were stretched so thin that we had to yell out to our buddies in the fox hole next to us.

I recall we had been moving fast across France and entering the Rhineland, crossing the Saar River, by patrols--our first entering of German soil.

We were in Sarreguemes(sp) over Christmas. Then January 1st, 1945, the German's 17th Panzer Grenadiers along the snowy front, they were driven back by heavy fire from the 3rd Battalion aided by flares inflicting heavy casualties on the Germans.

We had also suffered heavy casualties since we made our first attack moving into positions held by the 314th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division.

We had many new replacements, all along the front as we lost men every day. Some had no infantry training at all and casualties were very heavy among them.

We were in many heavy engagements until we moved into the long line vacated by two divisions that were moved north to relieve the men of the 101st in Bastogne.

The Germans kept busy to our front, and a valley directly to our front. They could not see us as a woods separated us. However, we could hear the tanks and half tracks assembling for an attack.

A comrade of mine shared our fox hole, at night we would have our supply jeep bring us a carton of hand grenades, which we threw into the woods to our front. They would slip up into the woods at night and fire their burp guns to keep us awake and we would throw a grenade instead of giving our position away with a rifle blast.

We held this position for ten days, I believe, until the fog began to lift as we had been soaked in for days. Then one morning (I'm not sure of the exact date) here came the roar of our dive bombers.

We watched the operation as they kept diving on this

valley direct to our front and did a job on the panzers. So that they couldn't move against us. What a day it was. We broke out of those fox holes and began our race toward the Rhine.

I read an article in the November (2005) issue written by N. Clark Beresford, 26th Infantry Division, 328th Infantry, Anti-Tank Company. I believe some one has got a few dates wrong....

Our historical records read as follows: *August 21st. Troop train to Camp Miles Standish south of Boston, Massachusetts. We embarked on the S.S. General J. R. Brooke. September 3rd. Ship got under way September 5th joining a huge convoy of 100 ships with destroyer escorts, after several days at sea the loudspeakers boomed out you are going to France. This was first news we had of our destination.*

After eleven days at sea, on the afternoon of Friday, September 15th, we went down landing nets onto barges and landed at the Port of Cherbourg, being the first troops to enter France directly from the United States. We boarded trucks to our staging area in the hedgerow apple orchards of St. Germain de Tournebut(sp), a small Norman village with population of about 300.

Our story is a coincidence as they are almost identical except for dates and locations. My last name is also Beresford. I'm curious to know who N. Clarke Beresford is [*His correct name is Beresford N. CLARKE--with last name being Clarke. Beresford may be family name.*] I'd love to call him. I'm from West Virginia and would like to know where he lives. [*We'll send him a copy of your letter.*]

We went to Luneryville(sp), France, southeast of Paris and relieved the 79th Infantry Division as they had landed on D-Day and needed relief badly.

We also had a lot of replacements by the time we reached the Rhineland. They hardly knew what a rifle was, let alone, how to fire it. Most of them had to be replaced quickly, the adjustment to the infantry was too drastic, without the discipline and training needed.

They became very vulnerable, some did make it and do well. I had a fox hole buddy named Jynx Faulkinberg, a replacement and a good soldier, I haven't been able to locate him.

I hope many more join the VBOB as we are getting less and less each year. I want to try to make it to the reunion this year.

JAMES S. BERESFORD
44 INFD 114 INF 3 BN K

SHAME, SHAME ON O'REILLY

...In all probability by now, you are fully aware that on Tuesday, May 30, 2006, the Fox News commentator Mr. Bill O'Reilly made the atrocious statement that American forces "massacred German SS troops at Malmedy." He made this defaming statement as he attempted to defend the recent tragic incident at Haditha, Iraq. Mr. O'Reilly was implying that "the killing of prisoners and civilians" occur in all wars and it was then that he cited Malmedy, as an example.

Needless to say that upon hearing such a bold-faced lie, I fired an e-mail. Please see my brief e-mail of Tuesday,

30 May 2006. Then, after he had on 31 May, hesitantly admitted being in error, I contacted him again. Please see my second e-mail of Thursday, June 1, 2006. As of this date, Mr. O'Reilly has not bothered to reply, and that is fine with me. But he should not be allowed to get away with such defamation against the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. I strongly feel that he needs to write you a letter retracting his accusation and apologizing for his unkind and inaccurate remarks. We can't allow modern day self-appointed revisionists, to distort the honorable service records of those who went forth to fight for world freedom and democracy.

First e-mail (May 30, 2006):

I am a WWII veteran who was at Bastogne serving with the 101st Airborne Division and to the best of my knowledge, the SS Panzer troops are the ones who massacred our American troops who had surrendered to them. Are we rewriting history? What is going on?

Second e-mail (June 1, 2006):

I am glad that you admitted, last night May 31st, to be wrong when you told General Wesley Clark that American forces had massacred German prisoners at Malmedy, Belgium. I watch your show every day, except when you have your "repeats" and, therefore, I believe that for the most part you are fairly accurate with your comments. However, in this particular case, someone fed you quite a bit of bologna and thus you made a very false statement.

I am glad you had the moral fortitude to correct your error. I can assure you that my friend Bill Merricken (from Bedford, Virginia), who survived the massacre, would not have appreciated your accusation. I am also sure that the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, would have flooded you with letters of protest. I was not only shocked, but offended as well by your assertion to your viewers. And, just for the record, the U.S. Marines do not need to be defended by you. Believe me, I know what I am talking about, all of my brothers-in-law (all eight of them) the Baggett boys from Paducah, Kentucky, served in the USMC. Don't take my word for it just click the *Leatherneck* magazine of January 2002.

Please let the investigation be completed before you rush to defend the indefensible. Stick to the facts and follow your own guidelines in the "No Spin Zone"!

ED PENICHE
101 ABND 502 INF

[Editor: You should also know that on behalf of VBOB, I quickly sent an e-mail to Fox News. Received no reply. I was stunned.]

REMEMBER THIS ITEM: TO KEEP THE RECORD ACCURATE

[Do you remember this excerpted paragraph from the "To Keep the Record Accurate" article in the May 2006 newsletter. Well, we've got the rest of the article and publish it at the end of this reprint.]

Having served with the 104th Regiment, 26th Infantry Division, from March, 1944, through mid-April, 1945, my memories of the experiences during that harsh winter are firmly entrenched in my mind. Thus, the article on Page 5,

"The Mysteries of Big Battles," was of great interest to me. Unfortunately, the reader is left suspended in mid-air as, in the copy I received, the article ends with, "The writer attempting to tell the absolute truth about a battle must take great".... Surely many readers are hanging by their thumbs wondering and speculating about the words the author used to complete that sentence and others with substantiating reasons. Do you plan to include the concluding sentences in the next issue? [We will look for it. From Robert L. Craig, 26 INFD 204 INF]

Response: I think that I am the one who wrote the article with the last sentence missing. I think that sentence should end thus: "must take great care neither to allow moral indignation to cloud one's vision or enable emotion to take the place of cool detachment or to let one's compulsive desire to apportion blame to distort the fact."

HOWARD PETERSON
4 ARMD 51 AIB B CCA

[A great big thank you to Howard for sending this to us. We appreciate your taking the time to fill us in.]

MONUMENTS IN LUXEMBOURG

In your February issue, you forgot these monuments located in Luxembourg.

Beauford: on church wall. To the division that liberated the town.

Bigelbach: on road to Reisdorf. Dedicated to S/Sgt Robert N Hebert, 60 ARM. Inf. Bat 9 Arm. Div.

Hesperange: To GI's killed in a collision with a truck that hit a train.

Haller: Dedic. to Louis F. Schwall, KIA 12-25-44, 11th Inf. Reg. 5th Inf. Div.

GEORGE P. DAUBENFELD
Associate Member

A QUESTION

Re: "A Bit of Blue" which appeared on page 26 of the May, 2006, issue of *The Bulge Bugle*.

The author--George Ruhlen--is Major General George Ruhlen (deceased), who wrote that article at my request and which I published in *The Battalion Channel* two years ago.

I don't know George J. Winter, who submitted the article to you. And he is not on my 14th Tank Battalion Association mailing list.

Question: Can you identify George J. Winter, who submitted the article? Please?

DEMETRI "DEE" PARIS
9 ARMD 14 TK BN

[Yep, Dee, we can. He's an associate member who served in the United States Navy.]

FADING AWAY???

Having read the article (February 2006, page 12, "Notice to Chapter Presidents) about the chapters and their membership, I am confused. You list 64 chapters which I assume are part of the VBOB association. I do not know how the chapters got started. They represent the VBOB

and display the VBOB flag and insignia. I think that it should be required that the chapter membership be dues paying members of the main association. Other organizations such as the VFW, American Legion, require that all post members be members of the national organization. The VBOB is Incorporated and should not allow any group or chapter to represent the VBOB without being dues paying members of the organization.

Another item that I wish to discuss. The restriction of membership allowing only veterans that were in the Battle of the Bulge can join. With the veterans dying at a rate of about 1,500 per day you are going to run out of members. Other organizations have tried to retain their organizations by allowing relatives, friends of the BOB and other persons interested in retaining the purpose of the organization,.

Since I was one of the early members I wish for the VBOB to continue. If not you better start a last man's club and allow the organization to fade away.

A. NORBERT VERZOSA
90 INFD 359 INF I

[Thanks, Norbert, we sincerely appreciate your letter. Our Bylaws REQUIRE that all members in a chapter belong to the national--however, it's tough to reinforce if the Chapter President chooses to ignore and or enforce the stipulation. With respect to other members who are not BOR veterans: we have many associate members--composed of relatives, historians, libraries, citizens from Belgium and Luxembourg, etc.]

BASED AROUND DOVER

Re: *The Bulge Bugle*, May, page 5: AAA Gun Bn
It is interesting to note the 6 AAA 90 mm Gun Battalions
My deceased neighbor, West Point Class 1937, was an officer in the 55 AAA Gun Brigade, which I presume was the higher headquarters. He, too, talked of being based around Dover, England, and later moving to Liege, Belgium area and the 90 mm guns downing many of the V1 rockets.

I worked for Sperry Gyroscope on Long Island where we produced the large searchlights used for target identification. Many are still in use today..

BILL LEESEMANN
26 INFD 101 ENGR CMBT BN

[Editor's Note: We are extremely grateful to the Belgian and Luxembourg Governments for their help and generosity in making the new Monument in Arlington Cemetery come to fruition. Therefore, we asked the Embassies of Belgium and Luxembourg, which contributed \$80,000 to make the monument a reality, to submit any comments they may have regarding the May 8th dedication. Their thoughts appear on the following pages. ►

We hope that many of you, your families, and your friends will be able to visit the new monument and share in its wonderful tribute.]

EMBASSY OF BELGIUM

3330 GARFIELD STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008

TELEX 440139-248306
TEL. (202) 333-6900
FAX. (202) 333-3079

June 30, 2006

Mr. George Chekan
Editor, Bulge Bugle
520 Small Reward Road
Huntingtown, MD 20639

Dear Mr. Chekan:

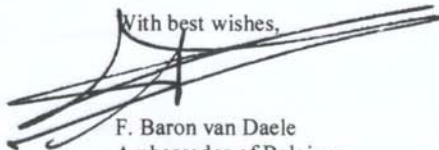
I am pleased to provide some comments that you may share with the readers of the Bulge Bugle.

Throughout my posting in Washington, DC, it has been an honor for me to get to know the Battle of the Bulge veterans living in the metropolitan area and to hear their stories. The dedication ceremony of the new "Triumph of Courage" memorial was for me a distillation of the numerous conversations I've enjoyed with these veterans over the years: It was also an occasion to reflect on the concepts of determination, courage and conviction.

Belgians of my generation fully appreciate the need to pay tribute to the bravery of the soldiers who won the last of a long line of battles fought on Belgian soil. Through this new memorial that battle will speak to future generations also.

The fact that Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt came to Washington on May 8 specifically for the dedication of the "Triumph of Courage" memorial is indicative of the importance that my Government attaches to expressing its gratitude to the veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. Over sixty years have passed since that infamous battle which, as the Prime Minister said, "led the free world to victory." We must continue to keep alive the memory of the battle and rejoice at the lasting peace it helped achieve.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping, sweeping lines that form the name 'F. Baron van Daele'. The signature is written over the typed name and title.

F. Baron van Daele
Ambassador of Belgium



AMBASSADE DU GRAND-DUCHÉ
DE LUXEMBOURG
2200 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008
TEL: (202) 265-4171
FAX: (202) 328-8270

June 23, 2006

Mr. George Chekan
Editor, Bulge Bugle
520 Small Reward Road
Huntingtown, MD 20639

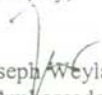
Dear Mr. Chekan,

Thank you for your recent letter.

I was honored to be a part of the dedication at Arlington Cemetery of the Memorial to the soldiers who fought in the Battle of the Bulge. As a newly accredited Ambassador to Washington, this was one of the first official events I have participated in, and it was certainly the first event I attended with the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge.

Luxembourg has never forgotten the sacrifices made by the American soldiers who fought to liberate our country, and it is only appropriate that there be a memorial to these brave men in Arlington National Cemetery. I was pleased to see that so many veterans and their families were able to attend the ceremony. Their courage and dedication to freedom and democracy were essential to an Allied victory, and it was a privilege to join with the Prime Minister of Belgium, H.E. Guy Verhofstadt, the Luxembourg Secretary of State for Culture, Mrs. Octavie Modert, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Honorable James Nicholson, as well as other officials to honor these soldiers who were forever changed by their experience in the Battle of the Bulge.

Sincerely,


Joseph Weyland
Ambassador

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE MEMORIAL

On May 8th, 2006, the 61st anniversary of the defeat and unconditional surrender of the German Army, ending World War II in Europe, a memorial in Arlington National Cemetery, on hallowed ground, was dedicated to our 19,000 gallant heroic fallen comrades who paid the supreme sacrifice, to the 62,000 wounded and frostbitten soldiers; to the 20,000 American soldiers who were taken as prisoners in the battle; and to all veterans who fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

This Grecian temple, 5-3/4 feet high, 7-1/2 feet wide, made of gray granite from Barre, Vermont, is located in Section 21, at the intersection of Porter Drive and McPherson Drive. Designers and contractors for this memorial are Charles DeChristopher, Philadelphia, and Jeff Martell, President, Granite Industries of Vermont.

The project to erect this memorial was no easy road to fruition. After the December 16th, 2000, National VBOB Memorial Services in Arlington Cemetery, then Vice President for Military Affairs Wojtusik had a personal mission to enhance the deteriorating VBOB marker.

President Wojtusik's first step was to visit John C. Metzler, Jr., Superintendent, Arlington National Cemetery. Mr. Metzler rejected Stan's proposal; only one memorial is permitted in the cemetery. Stan's resolute determination did not accept "no" for an answer.

In March, 2002, then President George Chekan, Stan, and the late Jack Hyland (Delaware Valley Chapter), visited the House of Representatives Chairman for Veterans Affairs to elicit Congressman Chris Smith, New Jersey Representative, for support of a Congressional Resolution. On June 27th, 2002, Congressman Smith introduced H.R. 5055, titled "To Authorize the placement in Arlington National Cemetery of a memorial honoring the WWII veterans who fought in the Battle of the Bulge." The House enacted H.R. 5055 on July 22nd, 2002.

After enactment of H.R. 5055, the next problem was to secure funding. After several visits to the offices of the Military Attaches of Belgium and Luxembourg, Stan was able to secure \$40,000 each from Belgium and Luxembourg, totaling \$80,000. With funds in hand, Stan needed a designer and contractor.

At the 2005 National VBOB Reunion in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, (September 28 to October 2), four designs for a new VBOB Memorial were presented to the general membership. members voted for the design submitted by Charles DeChristopher, of Philadelphia.

The next step was getting the approval of the Washington Fine Arts Commission. No memorial can be erected in Arlington National Cemetery without the approval of the commission. On January 19, 2006, Stan, Charles DeChristopher, and Jeff Martell presented the design to the commission. Unfortunately, the commission rejected the proposed design as too large, too colorful, and overwhelming the other grave markers in the area. On February 15, 2006 a down-sized and revised design was submitted to the commission. To their liking, the commission approved the new design. Charles DeChristopher and Jeff Martell were then given the "go ahead" permission to construct the memorial.

"Rain, rain, go away," an apropos musical satirical setting for this day. Under gray skies and a drizzling rain, the weather conditions were not ideal for this glorious day.



VBOB President Stanley Wojtusik was MC at the dedication.



A gift from Belgium and Luxembourg.



Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt, of Belgium expresses his country's appreciation.

MEMORIAL DEDICATION

(Continuation)

President Bush was invited to the dedication. The White House, however, advised that due to prior commitments, the President would not be able to attend.

National President Stan Wojtusik, 106th Infantry Division, conducted the dedication ceremonies. As Master of Ceremonies, President Wojtusik welcomed dignitaries, VBOB members, family members, friends, and visitors to the dedication. The Fife and Drum Corps and the Color Guard of the 3rd U.S. Infantry (Old Guard) presented the Colors. The National Anthem was sung by Sergeant First Class Clifford Ogea, U.S. Army Band. VBOB Past President John J. Dunleavy, 737th Tank Battalion, led the Pledge of Allegiance, Reverend Monsignor William F. O'Donnell, 87th Infantry Division, VBOB National Chaplain, gave the invocation. At President Wojtusik's command, the Colors were retired.

Opening remarks were made by President Wojtusik, who greeted the various dignitaries to the dedication. Her Excellency Octavie Modert, Secretary of State for Culture of Luxembourg, and His Excellency Guy Verhofstadt, Prime Minister of Belgium, echoed praises for the hardships the American Soldiers underwent in repelling the German Army onslaught in the Ardennes; they gave thanks for freeing their countries from German tyranny. General William A. Knowlton, 7th Armored Division, and Lt. General Harry W. O. Kinnard, 101st Airborne Division, related their experiences in the Battle of the Bulge. Congressman Smith was presented a VBOB flag by flag bearer John DiMino (DVC) to be placed among the other national veterans organizations flags in the Committee Room of the Committee on Veterans Affairs Office. Unveiling of the memorial was by His Excellency Guy Verhofstadt and Her Excellency Octavie Modert, accompanied by John C. McAuliffe, 87th Infantry Division, President of the Massachusetts Chapter, and Leon Wojtusik, U.S. Navy, and brother of President Wojtusik. His Excellency Guy Verhofstadt and Her Excellency Octavie Modert accompanied by Lt. General N. Robs Thompson, (Ret.) and Brig. General Danny E. Van De Van, Belgian Military Attaché, laid a wreath of remembrance at the memorial. A bugler from the U.S. Army Band rendered *Taps*. President Wojtusik presented John C. Metzler, Jr., with a plaque. Dedication ceremonies closing remarks were made by President Wojtusik.



VBOB President being interviewed.



Octavie Modert, Secretary of State for Culture of Luxembourg, echoed hardships of GI's in repelling the German Army onslaught.



Opening Ceremony



VBOBer admires the monument



Foreign Military Attaches

Michael S. Wojtusik and Timothy B. Flank read the memorial inscription.

December 16, 1944 to January 15, 1945

**TO WORLD WAR II AMERICANSOLDIERS WHO FOUGHT
IN THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE--THE GREATEST
BATTLE IN THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES
ARMY**

*From the grateful people of the Kingdom of Belgium and the
Grand Duchy of Luxembourg*

Over 300 hundred guests were in attendance at the dedication. Namely, VBOBers; families and friends; Delaware Valley and Lehigh Valley Chapter members who arrived on chartered buses; military attaches from Belgium, Luxembourg, Poland, United Kingdom and Canada; civilians from Belgium and Luxembourg; Mrs. George S. Patton, Jr., daughter-in-law of the famed four star general; and her sister Mrs. Richard Roberson, Edith Nowels and Anita Keyser, of New Jersey, sisters of MOH recipient Corporal Horace Marvin Thorne.

After the dedication, the Ambassador of Belgium H. E. Baron van Daele and the Ambassador of Luxembourg H. E. Joseph Weyland sponsored a reception at the Belgian Residence "Marfy" in Washington, D.C. VBOB members, families, and friends retired to the Belgian residence for a two hour social gathering in the reception room for wine and hor d'oeuvres. Belgium Prime Minister H. E. Guy Verhofstadt at the reception announced that President Stan Wojtusik was knighted by the Belgium and Luxembourg Governments. His Excellency then stated you can now call him "Sir Stash." This reception concluded the noble day of remembrance.

**Marty Sheeron
53rd Field Hospital**



Reception at the Belgian Ambassador's residence following the program.



Mrs. George S. Patton, daughter-in-law of famous 4-Star General waves hello.



Over 300 in attendance.



VBOBers pose for a pix with General Harry Kinard and wife.



*VA Secretary Jim Nicholson's group
On their way to the podium.*

UP-DATE ON REMEMBER MUSEUM

[DALE E. WOUMERT, 78TH INFANTRY DIVISION, took action on the article regarding the Remember Museum problems reported in the November, 2005, *Bulge Bugle*.]

Excerpt from Woomert Letter:

On reading the article from Mathile Schmetz I was moved to try to take action. As a result I contacted the Senate Office for Veterans Affairs and explained the problem. Ultimately, I mailed a copy of the article to them. Shortly I had a response, they had contacted the American Battle Monuments Commission. I gather they had several inquiries on the subject. I must say they both were very responsive and courteous. By this time you may have received a letter from the Battle Monuments Commission in which they explain the local situation and efforts they will try to take. I am not sure there is any positive actions they can take to completely eliminate the problem but they have made some needed public relations which should be very helpful. I personally do believe that the situation will be improved.

Excerpts from American Battle Monuments Commission Letter:

...I made a special trip to Henri-Chapelle in October. I met with the Superintendent and I also visited with Marcel and Mathile Schmetz. In our discussion I addressed the issues that they had raised in their speech, a copy of which appeared on the November 2005 issue of *The Bulge Bugle* on page 26. The activities highlighted in Mathile Schmetz's speech occurred at or near the overlook that is across the public road from the cemetery plot area. We have absolutely no evidence that vandals or miscreants were desecrating the graves of our Honored War Dead. We do not have motorcycles driving through the rows of headstones or other offensive behavior occurring on grave sites.

Many believe that Henri-Chapelle is the only American Battle Monuments Commission cemetery not secured by fencing and gates at night. That is not so. Our Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery near Verdun has a public road running through it that makes the cemetery accessible from Omaha Beach 24 hours a day. Walls or hedges less than four feet high that are easily crossed surround many of our other cemeteries. Yes, we experience occasional incidents of vandalism and inappropriate behavior in our cemeteries, but they are extremely rare. Our cemetery superintendents work closely with local authorities to address those incidents immediately when they occur--which leads to another misperception many have about the land on which our cemeteries sit. That land is not sovereign U.S. soil. Host nations granted use of the cemetery lands to the U.S. in perpetuity and free of rent and taxation, but law enforcement remains the responsibility of local authorities. The key is frequent and close coordination between our cemetery staffs and those authorities. The ABMC Superintendent at Henri-Chapelle was successful in soliciting more frequent policy patrols of the public road running through the cemetery property, which has dramatically reduced the presence of undesirable elements at the overlook area.

Our experience elsewhere demonstrates that fencing is not the solution to controlling behavior at the cemetery. Those so inclined can easily scale the walls and fences that surround most

of our cemeteries. Those walls and fences delineate and architecturally accent the cemetery property, but they are not vandal-proof security barriers. We absolutely do not want to create a fortress appearance. The Commission is embarked on an effort to increase visits to our cemeteries by American and foreign citizens. We want the public to feel welcome to visit, not deterred. The basis for a solution is building bridges of understanding and strong relationships between our cemetery and the community that surrounds it.

The active engagement of Mr. and Mrs. Schmetz and others is evidence that such relationships exist around Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery. Partners in this bridge building effort are the local government authorities including the police. Our embassy in Brussels is also engaged in insuring the safety of our personnel who live and work on the cemetery. With their help, and with input from local authorities, we are taking all appropriate actions. We have added motion sensitive lighting and the European Region Director is currently studying plans to further deter unwanted behavior through the use of signage and landscaping features such as hedges and chains at the overlook area.

I assure you that we all take as an honored trust our responsibility to care for America's War Dead buried overseas and to continue to honor their competence, courage, and sacrifice. These sites are shrines to those we honor there and to our national values. People worldwide respect our commemorative sites as being among the best-maintained facilities of their kind, and we will not allow those standards to slip. We are confident that reinforcing existing security measures combined with the increased law enforcements efforts at Henri-Chapelle reported by our Superintendent will reduce inappropriate behavior at the cemetery.

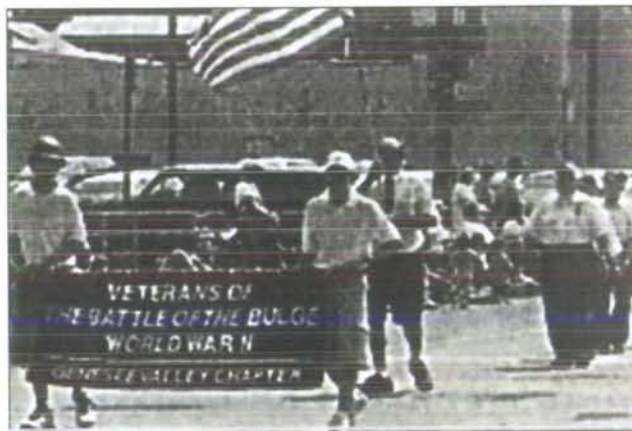
I would greatly appreciate if you could disseminate this information to the members of your association and anyone else you think appropriate. Please give my best to everyone.

William J. Leszczynski, Jr.
Brigadier General, USA (Ret)

Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer

GENESEE VALLEY CHAPTER IN VE DAY PARADE

The Genesee Valley Chapter participated in the VE Day at their VBOB Monument. [We chose the clearest picture from their newsletter.]



MORE ON VON DER HEYDE'S PARACHUTE FORCE IN THE BULGE

By Wes Ross
146th Engineer Combat Battalion

[The May issue of The Bugle included an article on the German paratroopers commanded by Lt. Colonel von der Heydte, who was captured in Monschau about 20 December, because General Sepp Dietrich's forces had not routed the reinforced 38th Cavalry Squadron at Monschau on the first day of the Bulge as had been planned.]

Lt. Colonel Baron Friedrich August von der Heydte's parachute force was dropped in the Hohes Venn (French--Hautes Fagnes) on the night of 16-17 December--a day later than planned. His parachute regiment had fought several vicious engagements with the 101st Airborne Division (The Screaming Eagles) in Normandy; and again in General Bernard Montgomery's flawed Market Garden offensive in September 1944--as was portrayed in *The Band of Brothers*.

Their primary objective was capturing the road junction midway between Eupen and Malmedy, and ten miles west of Monschau, in the Hohes Venn--a brushy, timbered area with streams and swamps forming the headwaters of the Roer River. Three of us tried to cross it in November. With our Jeep flat out in four wheel drive, we traveled 125 yards before dropping it down to the floorboards. We then built a corduroy road to get back to solid ground.

Sepp Dietrich's 6th SS Panzer Army had planned to drive to the road junction on 16 December, as the paratrooper's original plan was to have captured it by then. The 38th Cavalry at Monschau, with its attached troops; and the 3rd Battalion, 395th Infantry Regiment, 99th Division at Hofen upset their timetable, and I believe were a major factor in the ultimate defeat of Hitler's grand plan. Had Dietrich been able to force his way through Monschau, he very well may have captured the gasoline dumps near Eupen, and then moved almost unimpeded north to Antwerp. That would have made the 101st Airborne stand at Bastogne unnecessary!

Also, had the Hofen pillboxes not been destroyed with explosives and then bulldozed full of dirt by our battalion, the enemy may have reoccupied them upon one of their forays into the 3rd Battalion, 395th Regiment positions; and would then have been difficult to dislodge. Some of the attackers appeared to have been heavily into the schnapps, and oblivious to the withering rifle, machine gun, and artillery fire. They kept coming until large numbers were killed, wounded, or captured--or they may just have been fiercely loyal, highly motivated young soldiers. Who is to say?

The paratroopers were a day late because of glitches in delivering their gasoline, and in getting their forces assembled. They were also widely scattered because of inexperienced pilots and minimal advance information concerning their mission--as dictated by Hitler. General Sepp Dietrich's 6th Panzer Army's plan to link up with the paratroopers at this road junction on 16 December was an intended replay of their 1940 Ardennes attack

in this general area, which had been so singularly successful.

Joe Manning led Marvin R. Lowry, Warren Hodges, and about ten others from the 146th Engineers to look for the paratroopers. Lowry was killed in the ensuing fire fight that killed two Germans and wounded several more--the rest surrendered. One paratrooper wandered into the C Company chow line and was captured--however, he did get fed! Fred Matthews was captured in another action, but in the confusion of a subsequent fire fight he managed to escape. A total of nine paratroopers were killed and about 60 were captured by our battalion.

Early on the morning of 17 December, Sergeant Henri Rioux sent Norman Nettles and another radio man from the radio shack to the battalion for breakfast. We learned that the planned paratrooper assembly area was this battalion radio shack, several hundred yards from our battalion bivouac area near Mutzenich junction--located there to keep from drawing artillery fire on our headquarters. When the two operators had not returned as expected, Sgt. Rioux told Julius Mate and James France to go to breakfast and determine what had happened to them.

On their way, they saw a parachute, with an attached bag, hanging from a dead tree. Evidence of the paratroopers was not surprising since they had heard noises during the night, and had seen their green and red recognition lights. Mate attempted to recover the chute by pulling on the lines, but the rotten tree trunk broke and fell across his ankle, pinning him to the ground.

After being freed they continued on to breakfast, and then saw Nettles ahead acting very strange. When they ran up to ask what was happening, six Germans with machine pistols stepped out of hiding, took them captive, disarmed them, and threw their M-1 Garands into a nearby creek--where they were found later that day by a patrol led by Lt. Refert Croon. Nettles and Mate were directed to make a pole-support to carry a wounded paratrooper who had compound fractures of both legs.

At the end of the day, Mate's ankle was very swollen and painful, so France and Nettles then carried the wounded paratrooper's pole-support. This small group kept moving during the day and slept under a cover of fir branches at night. After wandering about for two days, they joined the main body of about 150 paratroopers, and were then interrogated by a German officer who spoke impeccable English. He had studied at a Texas University and so not only knew the language--but also American idioms and customs.

They were combined with about 20 other captives from a laundry unit near Eupen. At night, they slept in a tight pile to keep warm, as it was very cold. After a time, when the body parts against the ground were growing cold, they all turned at a given signal. They kept up a running conversation to warn of the importance in moving toes and fingers to avert frostbite. One of the captives, who understood German, overheard their captors discussing how they should dispose of the Americans by throwing grenades into their midst while they slept. When a 1st Infantry Division patrol flushed the paratroopers, the captives took off in a high lope saving their shirts and yelling, "Don't shoot--we're Americans."

Both Mate and France were sent to a field hospital where Mate's boot was cut off and he was found to have two ankle fractures. France's feet were extremely painful and both he and Mate were examined by Captain Stanley Goldman--our new medical officer. Captain Richard Stratton, our previous medical officer who had been with us since our Assault Training Center days in North Devon,

(Continued)

VON DER HEYDTE

(Continuation)

had been transferred out on 6 December 1944 because at age 45 he was considered too old for such rough living conditions.

Mate was sent to hospitals in Paris and England--and eventually to the United States to complete his extended recovery. France was one of the youngest men in our outfit and was barely 19 at the time of his capture. He suffered seriously from the ordeal, with ongoing problems with his feet and legs which he attributed to the freezing temperatures while a captive. Nettles also had lingering foot problems which he believed resulted from the cold conditions they had experienced during their captivity. ■

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

Submitted by Thomas Williams
761st Tank Battalion

["Mitchell Kaidy is just plain wrong about the 761st Tank Battalion's (my unit's) war record. Please set the record straight by printing the Presidential Unit Citation Jimmy Carter honored us with in 1978. [Editor: Paragraph breaks made for easier reading.]]

"By virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United Armed Forces of the United States, I have today awarded

"THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (ARMY) FOR
EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM TO THE 761ST TANK
BATTALION, UNITED STATES ARMY

"The 761st Tank Battalion distinguished itself by extraordinary gallantry, courage, professionalism and high esprit de corps displayed in the accomplishment of unusually difficult and hazardous operation in the European Theater of Operations from 31 October 1944 to 6 May 1945.

"During 183 days in combat, elements of the 761st--the first United States Army tank battalion committed to battle comprised of black soldiers--were responsible for inflicting thousands of enemy casualties and for capturing, destroying, or aiding the liberation of more than 30 major towns, 4 airfields, 3 ammunition supply dumps, 461 wheeled vehicles, 34 tanks, 113 large guns, 1 radio station, and numerous individual and crew-served weapons. This was accomplished while enduring an overall casualty rate approaching 50 percent, the loss of 71 tanks, and in spite of extremely adverse weather conditions, very difficult terrain not suited to armor operations, heavily fortified enemy positions and units, and extreme shortages of replacement personnel and equipment. The accomplishments are outstanding examples of the indomitable spirit and heroism displayed by the tank crews of the 761st.

"In one of the first major combat actions of the 761st, in the vicinity of Vic-sur-Seille and Morville-les-Vic, France, the battalion faced a reinforced enemy division. Despite the overwhelming superiority of enemy forces, elements of the battalion initiated a furious and persistent attack which caused defending enemy elements to withdraw. While pursuing the

enemy, tanks of the 761st were immobilized before an anti-tank ditch. Savage fire from enemy bazooka and rocket launcher teams, positioned 50 yards beyond the ditch, disabled many of the vehicles. Crewmen dismounted the disabled tanks, crawled under them with their 50 caliber weapons, and placed withering fire upon the enemy positions. This resulted in the elimination of many of the positions and virtually destroyed two enemy companies while permitting the escape of other tanks and crews and eventual completion of the mission.

"From 5 January 1945 to 9 January 1945, the 761st engaged the 15th Panzer Division in the vicinity of Tillet, Belgium, suffering severe casualties and damage to their tanks, the 761st attacked and counter-attacked throughout the five-day period against a numerically superior force in both personnel and equipment, and on 9 January 1945 the men of the 761st routed the enemy from Tillet and captured the town. The action was significant in that the enemy was prevented from further supply of its force encircling Bastogne, and the United States troops there, because of the closing of the Brussels-Bastogne highway by the men of the 761st.

"One of the most significant accomplishments of the 761st began 20 March 1945 when, acting as the armor spearhead, the unit broke through the Siegfried Line into the Rhine plain, allowing units of the 4th Armored Division to move through to the Rhine River. During the period 20 March 1945 to 23 March 1945 the battalion, after operating far in advance of friendly artillery, encountered the fiercest of enemy resistance in the most heavily defended area of the war theater. Throughout the 72-hour period of the attack, elements of the 761st assaulted and destroyed enemy fortifications with a speed and intensity that enabled the capture or destruction of 7 Siegfried towns, 31 pill-boxes, 49 machine gun emplacements, 61 anti-tank guns, 451 vehicles, 11 ammunition trucks, 4 self-propelled guns, one 170 mm artillery piece, 200 horses, and one ammunition dump. Enemy casualties totaled over 4,100 and of those captured it was determined that the 761st in its Siegfried Line attack had faced elements of 14 different German divisions. The accomplishments of the 761st in the Siegfried area were truly magnificent as the successful crossing of the Rhine River into Germany was totally dependent upon the accomplishment of their mission.

"The men of the 761st Tank Battalion, while serving as a separate battalion with the 26th, 71st 79th, 87th, 95th and 103rd Infantry Divisions, the 17th Airborne Division, and the 3rd, 7th and 9th Armies in 183 continuous days in battle, fought major engagements in six European countries, participated in four major allied campaigns, and on 6 May 1945, as the eastern-most American soldiers in Austria, ended their combat missions by joining with the First Ukrainian Army (Russian) at the Enn River Steyr, Austria. Throughout this period of combat, the courageous and professional actions of the members of the "Black Panther" battalion, coupled with their indomitable fighting spirit and devotion to duty, reflect great credit on the 761st Tank Battalion, the United States Army, and this Nation.

"Jimmy Carter" ■

CHECK TO SEE--ARE YOUR DUES DUE?

GOLDEN GATE CHAPTER MEMORIAL MEETING

Submitted by W. C. "Bill" Armstrong
26th Infantry Division
263rd Field Artillery Battalion

[Golden Gate Chapter President Bill Armstrong provided us with the following information regarding their chapter's December 17, 2005, Memorial Meeting at Fort Miley Veterans Hospital in San Francisco where they have placed a BOB plaque on a huge boulder. The Honorable Robert Biwer, Consul General of Luxembourg, delivered the following message.]

Dear Veterans, families and friends,

As every year it is a privilege to attend this ceremony with you here today in order to commemorate the brave men who participated in the largest land battle ever fought by the U.S. Army, the Battle of the Bulge.

The battle took place in the Belgian and Luxembourg Ardennes and it has been a tradition that the two countries be represented by their local consul at the ceremony here in San Francisco.*

September 10, 1944

A four year nightmare that had begun on May 10, 1940, ended when Luxembourg-City was liberated by units of the 5th U.S. Armored Division under the cheers of joy and relief of the entire population and nation. Amongst the first U.S. troops were also members of the Luxembourg Grand-Ducal family. Crown Prince Jean, a 1st Lieutenant fighting with British regiment of the Irish guards in Belgium and his father Prince Felix, the husband of Grand-Duchess Charlotte, wearing the uniform of a British general were temporarily detached from their units to share the joy of the liberation with their population. By September 13th all of Luxembourg was freed from Nazi-German forces.

Life gradually became normal again or so everybody thought. For somebody lucky enough not to have lived those terrible years it is difficult to imagine the shock when on December 16 the news spread, "The Germans are coming back."

My mother, who is with us here today, remembers those days well, although she was a little girl then about the age of our daughter Charlie today. She has told us about those days as did my late father and other members of both my wife's family and mine.

The enemy attack in December 1944 came as a total surprise and pierced the thin line of defense in the northern Ardennes in its rush towards Bastogne and to the Meuse River. Making good use of the terrain, and although hopelessly outnumbered units of the 28th and 4th Infantry Divisions, as well as the 9th Armored Division deployed on the Luxembourg-German border, offered stubborn resistance thus slowing down the enemy's advance. The Belgian town of Bastogne was reinforced by units of the 101st Airborne Division and became the symbol for the courage and determination of the American defenders.

On December 20th the 3rd Army, under the leadership of their General George S. Patton, Jr., led the counterattack into the enemy's left flank. Over the next days and weeks the northern half of Luxembourg was re-liberated village by village by the 3rd Army under difficult climatic conditions. Vianden, on the Luxembourg-German border was the last town to be retaken by

American units late in January 1945. Four months later the war in Europe was over after Germany's unconditional surrender.

In Luxembourg (and in Belgium, too) the generation that experienced those fateful days and weeks remembers what you and your comrades have endured and achieved for us. We ... have learned about it from our parents or at school, and we honor those who have paid the ultimate price. Everybody in Luxembourg knows the Hamm military cemetery just outside of Luxembourg-City where 5,076 brave men share their last resting ground with their famous leader, General Patton.



Left: President Bill Armstrong presented a Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge certificate to The Honorable Robert Biwer, Consul General of Luxembourg

Almost every town or village has a monument or a plaque to honor the American GI. In history class we learn about the tactical skills of the generals and the strategic visions by heads of state, but I can assure you we in Luxembourg and in Belgium do appreciate the role played by each lieutenant, sergeant or soldier in their foxholes in those days.

If today we live in a prosperous, united and free Europe, it is because you fought for it, and we can only give you our gratitude and the promise that we will not forget!

Let me conclude by wishing you, your families and friends, but also the members of the armed forces currently deployed throughout the world and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**The Honorable Rita Bral, Honorary Consul of Belgium, was unable to attend at the last minute. Arrangements were made to deliver a Battle of the Bulge certificate at a later date. ▣*

Ever attended a VBOB Reunion? Well, you'll find new friends, and a whole lot of fun and good stories. We hope to see you in Louisville in October.



Churchill Downs and Kentucky Derby Museum

LOUISVILLE CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS AND SCHEDULE INFORMATION

(Revised 6-12-06)

INTRODUCTION

Our Annual VBOB Reunion will convene at the Holiday Inn Louisville Downtown to continue with the 61th Anniversary celebration.

We have arranged with the hotel for a special rate of \$90.85 per night which includes all taxes. We look forward to a great reunion with a variety of activities.

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

Plenty of free parking is at the hotel for your convenience.

REGISTRATION FEE

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

The Quartermaster will also be available for your purchase of BOB items.

•MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2006

• Welcome Wine and Cheese Reception (6:30 pm – 7:30 pm)

This is complimentary of the Holiday Inn.

• **Dinner is on your own.** The hotel has a great restaurant, Bentley's with nightly specials.

•TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2006

• **Louisville Slugger Museum** - See where the world famous Louisville Slugger bats are made. Factory tours last about 30 minutes. We cannot guarantee you will see full bat production on any tour. Everyone will receive a free miniature souvenir bat on the tour!

• **Frazier Arms Museum** - History comes alive in our 100,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art museum encompassing three floors. Here you can relive the historical events that challenged our ancestors. Meet famous leaders of America and the world whose military victories and defeats changed history.

• **Lunch at Gumby's Garden**

• **Glassworks** - The tour takes about an hour and includes a 12 minute video covering the history of glass art; visit to a stained glass art studio; sculpting glass with an oxygen/propane torch and watch artists blow glass.

• **Holiday Inn - Italian Dinner (6:00 p.m.)**. Enjoy a luscious Italian Buffet, with salad, 3 entrees, vegetables, desert and red and white wine. Cash bar.

•WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2006

• **Fort Knox**- Fort Knox, Visit The Patton Museum, gold depository, tour of the fort and lunch.

• **Dinner is on your own**

•THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2006

• **Male High School** – One of Kentucky's renowned high schools for academics and its Army ROTC program has rescheduled their annual Patriotic Day to coincide with our reunion. A video presentation depicting the soldiers, equipment and the horrible weather conditions will be shown. The ROTC color guard will advance and retire the colors

• **Lunch at Holiday Inn**

• **Louisville Stoneware Company** – Take a showroom and factory tour, purchase handcrafted, hand painted stoneware •

• **Belle of Louisville Dinner Cruise** – Enjoy a fine dinner while cruising on the Ohio River. Jeff Rehmet (a one man band) will provide our entertainment.

•FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2006

• **Churchill Downs and Kentucky Derby Museum** See and hear the sounds, images and artifacts that bring the pageantry and excitement of the Kentucky Derby to life for all of our visitors. See "The Greatest Race", a presentation of Derby Day and the activities surrounding it. Tour famous Churchill Downs.

• **Lunch on your own**

• **General Membership Meeting (2:00 pm – 4:00 pm.)**

Location will be posted in the lobby.

• **Afternoon is free time for shopping** The front desk will help you with printed directions to many of the local tourist spots.

• **Reception (6:00 p.m.)**

• **Annual Battle of the Bulge Military Banquet (7:00 p.m.)**

•SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2006

• **Farewell Breakfast (7:30 am)** - come and say goodbye to all the reunion members at a private breakfast buffet. Don't forget to bring your cameras for last minute pictures.

See "Reunion Program (Revised 6-12-06)" for bus departure times

**VETERANS OF THE BATTLE
OF THE BULGE, INC.
ANNUAL REUNION**

Revised 6-12-06

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 _____ Phone: _____
 Wife/Guest Name: _____
 Division: _____ Regiment: _____
 Signature: _____

	People	Cost/ Person	Total Cost
Registration Fee (all attendees must register)	_____	\$ 25	\$ _____
Monday, October 9, 2006:			
*Wine and cheese reception (compliments of the hotel)	_____	Free	
*Dinner on your own			
Tuesday, October 10, 2006:			
* Louisville Slugger Museum & Frazier Arms Museum	_____	\$ 18	\$ _____
* Lunch at Gumby's Garden; visit the Glassworks	_____	\$ 14	\$ _____
* Italian dinner buffet with wine at the hotel	_____	\$ 33	\$ _____
Wednesday, October 11, 2006:			
*Fort Knox includes lunch	_____	\$ 37	\$ _____
*Dinner on your own			
Thursday, October 12, 2006:			
*Male High School, Patriotic Day	_____	Free	\$ _____
*Lunch at the Holiday Inn	_____	\$ 12	\$ _____
* Louisville Stoneware Company	_____	\$ 12	\$ _____
*Belle of Louisville dinner cruise with music	_____	\$ 34	\$ _____
Friday, October 13, 2006:			
*Churchill Downs, Kentucky Derby Museum	_____	\$ 18	\$ _____
*Lunch on your own			
*Afternoon free time			
*Reception (cash bar)			
*Banquet (indicate preference)			
Beef tips _____ or Salmon with crabmeat _____	_____	\$ 33	\$ _____
Saturday, October 14, 2006:			
*Farewell breakfast (compliments of VBOB)	_____	Free	
Total amount enclosed (all taxes & gratuities include)			\$ _____

- See Reunion Activities Information Sheet for Details
- I will serve as a bus captain _____ YES _____ NO

Mail registration form and check to
 Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge • P.O. Box 101418 • Arlington, VA 22210-4418
**REGISTRATION RECEIPT DEADLINE-SEPTEMBER 2, 2006 - AFTER
THAT DATE BRING FORM.**

(Refunds for cancellations, will be honored in whole or in part, depending on availability of funds.)



DOWNTOWN

Louisville, Kentucky

120 West Broadway – Louisville, KY 40202

Tel. 502-582-2241 – Fax 502-584-8591

Email: HILD.reservations@att.net

www.holiday-inn.com/sdf-downtown

WELCOME

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

HOTEL RATES

The hotel is offering a three-day window before and after the reunion dates that you may take advantage of the many sites in the Louisville area. The rate is \$90.85 per night, single or double occupancy. This rate includes all taxes. All reservations can be made by calling the Holiday Inn Louisville Downtown at 1-800-626-1558 and saying you are with the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge group. We suggest you guarantee your reservation with a charge card. If you have any problems making your reservation, ask for Elizabeth Scott, reservation manager. The best time to reach her is Mon-Fri 8:00am-4:00pm. Check-in time is 3:00 p.m. and checkout is 11:00 a.m. In the event you need to cancel your reservation, please inform the hotel 48 hours prior to the day of scheduled arrival. Reservation requests received after September 1st will be confirmed on a space available basis.

The Holiday Inn Downtown provides complimentary shuttle service to and from the Louisville Airport. Courtesy phones are in the baggage area of the airport for your convenience.

Hotel amenities: Complimentary continental breakfast, indoor pool, fitness center and complimentary shuttle service within a 3 mile radius of the hotel, based upon availability. The shuttle cannot cross the bridge into Indiana. Gift shop filled with lots of Louisville items. Full service restaurant and lounge. Ample free parking. RV's are welcome, however, we do not have hook-up facilities.

Sleeping room amenities: coffee, tea, and decaf, with coffee makers, irons and ironing boards, hair dryer, free internet access.

DIRECTIONS TO THE HOTEL

FROM LOUISVILLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT: Exit the airport and follow the signs for I-65 North towards Louisville. The hotel is about 4.5 miles from the airport. Exit I-65 at Broadway, turn left and go about three blocks. The hotel is on the left.

FROM EAST: Take I-64 to route 264 South. Follow Route 264 South to I-65 North. Follow I-65 North to Louisville and exit on Broadway St. Turn left and go about three blocks. The hotel is on the left.

FROM NORTH: Take I-65 South to Louisville. Exit on Broadway St and turn right and go about three blocks. The hotel is on the left.

FROM SOUTH: Take I-65 North to Louisville. Exit on Broadway St. Turn left and go about three blocks. The hotel is on the left.

FROM WEST: Take I-64 East to I-65 South. Exit on Broadway St. Turn right and go about three blocks. The hotel is on the left.

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, INC.
HOLIDAY INN DOWNTOWN
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY
OCTOBER 9 - 14, 2006

REUNION PROGRAM (Revised 6-12-06)

• **Monday, October 9, 2006**

- 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm Registration headquarters Holiday Inn Downtown Louisville
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm Wine and cheese reception (compliments of the Holiday Inn)
Dinner on your own

• **Tuesday, October 10, 2006**

- 12 noon – 5:00 pm Registration headquarters Holiday Inn Downtown.
8:30 am Bus departs for Louisville Slugger Museum and Frazier Arms
Museum; buffet lunch (\$14) at Gumby's Garden; visit the
Glassworks; return to the Holiday Inn at 3:00 pm.
6:30 pm Italian dinner buffet with wine at the hotel.

• **Wednesday, October 11, 2006**

- 8:45 am Bus departs for Fort Knox, lunch included; return to Holiday Inn at
5:00 pm. Dinner on your own.

• **Thursday, October 12, 2006**

- 8:45 am Bus departs for Male High School. Program begins at 9:45 and
ends at 10:45; buffet lunch (\$12) at the Holiday Inn; visit the
Stoneware Company, return to Holiday Inn at 3:00 pm.
5:00 pm Bus departs for Belle of Louisville dinner cruise with
entertainment. Boarding starts at 5:30, cruise ends at 8:00 pm.;
return to Holiday Inn at 9:00 pm.

• **Friday, October 13, 2006**

- 8:30 am Bus departs for Churchill Downs and the Kentucky Derby
Museum – return to Holiday Inn at 12:00 pm.
Lunch on your own and free time
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm General membership meeting
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm Reception (cash bar)
7:00 pm Annual banquet

• **Saturday, October 14, 2006**

- 7:30 am Farewell breakfast

Hospitality Room: Location and times will be posted in the lobby

See “Highlights and Schedule Information” sheet for details

FACTS REGARDING WORLD WAR II DIARY ARTICLE

From RAYMOND J. YOUNG
602ND TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

Letter from Raymond Young to VBOB:

For your information, I am enclosing a communication about the "World War II Diary" article which appeared on pp. 25-28 of the February 2006 issue of *The Bulge Bugle*. I seldom ever write a letter like this one, but I couldn't find anyone who could give me an address for Dr. Charles E. Rath, who supposedly edited the diary entries. I don't know what kind of map he supposedly used but couldn't find any of those towns; I had been in most of them so I knew where they were and they show up clearly on any road map of the areas.

The piece is so full of errors and inaccuracies that I could not resist reacting to it. It reflects badly on one of the fine infantry divisions to which we (602nd Tank Destroyer Battalion) were attached at a later time. I just thought that you should be aware of the communication, and the best way to really see the seriousness is to read my letter side-by-side of the diary entries.

Letter Regarding Diary from Mr. Young:

[Excerpts] I have read with interest the portion of the diary of your father as excerpted and edited by Dr. Charles E. Rath. Since I was in a number of the areas during the Battle of the Bulge mentioned, and since at times the 602nd Tank Destroyer Battalion units were attached to one or more regiments of the 87th Infantry Division, several things caught my eye. It is an interest in setting the record straight that I provide information in which you may be interested as well as some of the problems about items in the diary.

The first thing that caught my attention was the entry on December 13, because all of us already on the ground knew that the offensive by General Runstedt was launched on the 16th, not the 13th. When the 87th detrained at Briey, near Metz, our battalion units with the 26th Infantry were approximately 45 miles east having taken the Towns of Kalhausen, Achen, Wittring, Wiesviller, Gros-Rederching, and Woelfing. In fact, during the night of 12 December, 1944, units of the 16th Infantry Division and the 602nd Tank Destroyer Battalion crossed over the German border in the Obergailback woods. It was on the next day, 13 December that the 87th relieved the 26th, and our 602nd, Company A, 1st and 3rd platoons supported the 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the 87th, 347th Regiment. After 113 days with no rest or maintenance break and front line action, the 602nd was in the process of pulling back for a rest and maintenance period--we thought. (I noticed also that there is no town on the Saar River named Saarbrucher as indicated in the 13 December entry.)

By 16 December, 1944, the 87th Infantry Division had reached the area we had just left including the Towns of Rimling and Guiderkirch, both clearly shown on the section of a road map I have enclosed...[not included].

The Town of Sarreguemines was (is) due east of Metz. By 16 December, units of the 602nd Tank Destroyer Battalion pulling back for rest and maintenance were located some 25 miles southwest in the Towns of Conthil, Zarbeling, and Lidrezing

shown on one of the maps. This was south of the territory, and west, that the 87th had taken over from the 26th Infantry Division. Our "rest" was interrupted suddenly at 1600 hours on the 20th when word came to be ready to move at once. At 2300 hours, only a rumor that something had gone wrong in Belgium. After 142 miles with increasing snow on the roads once we hit the Belgian border we arrived at 1300 hours in the vicinity of Neufchateau, Belgium. (I don't think the 87th had a 354th Regiment as stated in the entry for 23 December, and if a unit of the 87th moved 350 miles in three days on the way to the Bulge area, they must have all had a good time in Paris or somewhere else on the way, because the 87th was closer to Belgium than we were when we began the movement.) The entry on the 25th explains the matter except that Reims, France, was a long way west, not east, of the Saar.

Since early afternoon of 21 December, 1944, the entire Company B, 602nd Tank Destroyer Battalion, had occupied the twin towns and rail center of Recogne/Libramont with their CP in a school house in the middle of the latter. When on 29 December the 87th Infantry Division and the 11th Armored Division arrived in the areas being held and patrolled by units of the 602nd, neither sought to find out information about enemy positions or strengths from constant patrols conducted by the 602nd. The 602nd had been keeping an eye on an enemy parachute division located in the vicinity of St. Hubert and the enemy armor up the road from Libramont about six miles northeast of Libramont near Moircy, Freux, and Jenneville all of which are clearly shown on the enclosed map [not included]. On 26 December, 1944, the enemy dropped bombs on the 602nd Tank Destroyer/7th Group Headquarters in Libramont killing several persons, including the executive officer of Company B, and wounding a number more.

On 4 January, 1945, the day after General Patton had relieved the 11th Armored and replaced it with the 17th Airborne to which the 602nd TD Battalion was then attached, the 87th moved to the vicinity of Ochamps which is ... about four miles due west of the Recogne Libramont Towns being held since 21 December by the 602nd, Company B, with one platoon of the Recon Company. Company B by that time was in the act of moving against the German 6th Panzer tanks in the woods on the northwest, north, and northeast suburbs of Bastogne City. On 8 January, 1945, the entry shows the 87th was in Jenneville, one kilometer north of Moircy, not seven miles as indicated. On 11 January, the entry indicated the 87th moved back to Moircy then to Bertrix which the diary entry said was very close to Bastogne. In fact, Bertrix was further away from Bastogne than any of the other towns mentioned above where the 87th had been. Bertrix was about eight miles due east of Neufchateau and 25 to 30 road miles southwest of Bastogne as shown on the map.

The diary entry for 14 January, 1945, indicates that on 11 January the 87th moved back to Moircy then Bertrix, but on 14 January movement was through Tenneville headed for Sprimont after leaving Moircy. ...it is most unlikely that anyone would have gone through Tenneville to get to Moircy and Sprimont both of which are shown on the map. On 18 January, 1945, the entry indicates movement was from Sprimont through Arion to Beck about six miles SW of Echternach. There is no town named Arion or Beck either. The towns were probably Arlon and Bech, because on the 21st the 87th moved from Bech to Scheidgen two miles closer to Echternach.... However, when the 87th moved on 26 January from Scheidgen to Limerle, Belgium, thence to Ourthe on the 28th. Both towns are located northeast of Houffalize and both of which I was in during that period of time. ■

OUR BAND OF ANGELS

By Elmer Amarud
Company B
2nd Armored Medical Battalion
9th Armored Division

[The following article was sent to us by DEMETRI "DEE" PARIS, 9TH ARMORED DIVISION, 14TH TANK BATTALION. Dee advises, "At the time of this account Elmer was an ambulance driver with Combat Command B of the 9th Armored Division and serving with the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion of CCB.]

Ambulance driver Armburst and I relieved driver Young at the 27th Infantry Aid Station at 9:00 a.m., 20 December 1944, a Wednesday. The Germans had their artillery zeroed in on our area, the Town of Galhausen, Belgium. Shells landed everywhere, one hit the 27th's command post, wounding four men, another blew the roof off the house next to the medical aid station.

That night we evacuated a patient to our collecting company in blackout. It really was dark! We returned to the 27th's aid station about 2130 hours. Driver Holland and I slept in a haymow. We did a fairly good job of sleeping in spite of the fact that shells were whining in most all night.

We were up at 0700 hours Thursday morning. Driver Armburst and medic Moran went up on the hill to collect some casualties. The day was chiefly routine. The Germans shelled our location off and on all day. We were sent to the 9th Engineers to get three patients who were suffering from combat exhaustion and bring them to our collecting company.

I went to bed about 2100 hours. I had scarcely gotten to sleep when we were aroused with orders to move out. It was 2300 hours, we sat and waited in convoy until about 0300 hours. The road was blocked with vehicles. The shelling became hotter and hotter. We continually dove to the ground or into a ditch or anywhere else. Driver Loetaert received a nasty wound in his right shoulder and his right leg, his ambulance was wrecked. We loaded him into our ambulance and finally moved up the valley of Braunlauf Creek to Neubruck, a town on the main highway, N-26, St. Vith to Trois Virges.

Our aid station was set up in a near-by building and I slept in the front seat of the ambulance until about 0830 hours. We then moved to another building a short distance north on the highway toward St. Vith, but south of the Braunlauf Creek Bridge.

About 0930 hours we were peacefully eating our breakfast of "K" rations in our ambulance. Suddenly there was yelling like I had never heard before! The Germans came from the nearby woods yelling, running and shooting burp guns and rifles. We were all scared to death. Instinct told us to lay low in the ambulance and we were pinned down for about a half hour. Bullets flew everywhere. A soldier in the ambulance behind us was killed. Finally there was a let-up in the firing and we went into the aid station.

A wounded German, with a compound fracture of the leg, lay outside of the aid station door. He was taken from an ambulance in order to make room for one of our own men. He kept calling for help. Every time I opened the door in order to get to him,

the Germans in the nearby trees would greet my efforts with a blast of fire. The wounded German raised himself and yelled frantically to his comrades to stop shooting. As they lowered their guns, I and two litter bearers brought the fellow inside.

As I began to dress his wounds, Captain Russomano and driver Armburst returned from their trip with wounded Germans to Galhausen. Captain Russomano told us we could take off if we wanted to take the chance and to send more medical help if possible.

We wasted no time in getting started. Our ambulance overheated due to a damaged radiator. We stopped several times to add muddy water from a roadside ditch. We were shelled and our vehicle was riddled with shell fragments. Three big holes were torn in the radiator. The windshield was punctured in about a half dozen places and two tires were blown out. We borrowed a spare tire from the 27th and with that and our own spare we returned to the aid station.

Captain Russomano and driver Armburst then evacuated four wounded German officers to the German aid station in Galhausen--about one and one-half miles to the east. I remained at the 27th's aid station in Neubruck in the basement to do what I could for the wounded there.

A short time after Captain Russomano and Armburst left, our tanks again moved in and gave us our chance to get away. I was in the basement aiding a man with an injured foot when I heard them yell, "All Aboard." This was our last chance! I helped three or four wounded up the steps and to my surprise the vehicle had just left. I was left behind with the wounded men. A 27th infantryman came by the aid station and we asked him if it would be okay for us to get moving. He said he would ask and come back but I never saw or heard from him again.

A platoon of tanks, with part of B Company of the 27th on the rear decks, moved past to the high ground south of Neubruck, on orders. The Germans really scrambled back into the woods. As our tanks passed, the Germans immediately came out of the woods and reoccupied the command post.

We were waiting nervously in the aid station. An unidentified outfit (probably Sgt. Smet of the 3rd Platoon of Company B, 27th) came by with their hands overhead and told us to come out to surrender. Our chaplain, Captain Gible, went to the command post to surrender for us. We remained at the aid station while he obtained the "dope." The Germans agreed to let us operate our aid station if we would agree to evacuate the German wounded. There was nothing else to do. We agreed.

About this time an assault force under command of Captain Strange and a tank platoon of the 14th Tank Battalion under Lt. Duck had recaptured the Town of Neubruck. My ambulance was towed from the aid station to the hilltop south of Neubruck where we found our buddies. We left there in an ambulance back to our clearing company station. The Germans were most courteous to me and didn't abuse me in any way although they did help themselves to three cartons of cigarettes and a Christmas present from my girl friend, three handkerchiefs, all of which I had left in my ambulance. Next day I found a neat piece of shrapnel in my bedroll. I was thankful that I myself remained. Such is the army.

[Editorial Comment: Captain Strange of the 27th had been captured but escaped. He gathered together some infantrymen and with Lt. Duck and his tank platoon returned to relieve the 27th's command post, which they did. However, the battalion aid station was not evacuated as medical officer Captain Russomano would not leave the wounded men there unattended. As a result, Captain Russomano was taken prisoner and was later repatriated in a POW exchange.]

A Chance to Honor Our Best Ambassadors

We must do more to remember the dead American soldiers whose sacrifice forever binds us to Europe.

BY JONATHAN KEEHNER

ON AN OVERCAST MORNING AT the Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery and Memorial in Belgium, a few miles from the German border, David Atkinson gathered supplies for the day: a small American flag and pail of sand. As he worked, he explained that rubbing the sand on the headstone would make the inscription stand out in our photographs.

"We avoid clay or iron oxide in order to not stain the marble," said the 50-year-old superintendent with the fuzzy accent of someone used to conversing in four languages daily. Atkinson was addressing my father, my older brother and me. We had come to Belgium to visit my grandfather's grave—a first for his two grandsons. Henri-Chapelle is the resting place for 7,992 American World War II dead.

As we stood overlooking a gentle valley patchworked with farms, we felt far from the carnage that took place on that spot at the Battle of the Bulge in early 1945. Many of those buried at Henri-Chapelle perished while repulsing Germans in the Ardennes or advancing across the border. Atkinson was doing for us what he had done for countless others: preserving the memory of a relative who had never come home. As it turned out, his own father died serving the United States. His parents met during the first world war, and after his father's death he was raised in his mother's native Normandy, where, he recalled, he had played in abandoned German bunkers.

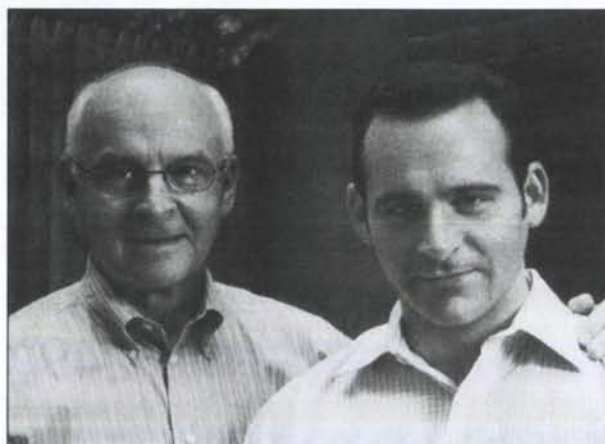
Atkinson led us into the visitors' room—a dark space overwhelmed by an enormous granite map on one wall.

Engraved in black stone were arrows representing Allied advances. Searching the map, I was able to find the 83rd Division, my grandfather's unit.

Soon we exited onto a massive limestone colonnade bordered by rectangular pylons. Surrounded by hundreds of engraved names was this inscription:

HERE ARE RECORDED THE NAMES
OF AMERICANS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES
IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY
AND WHO SLEEP IN UNKNOWN GRAVES.

As we walked toward my grandfather's



UNKNOWN, BUT MISSED: My dad reached out to caress the marble. At 61, this was as close as he could remember being to his father.

grave, past row after sweeping row of crosses and Stars of David, I felt pride—and shame—that I had never done this before. I was grateful when Atkinson broke the silence to tell us about himself.

His career with the American Battle Monuments Commission began with World War I memorials. Having worked at several across Europe, he found himself frustrated by the cemeteries of the Great War. "Of the thousands buried at these places, we

knew the story—the real story—of only a handful," he said. He wondered how coming generations would ever understand the sacrifice of those men.

Now, at Henri-Chapelle, he oversees a thriving "adoption" program, where local Belgians can sponsor a dead soldier, commemorating his grave and staying in touch with his relatives in the States. Some sponsors even play host to visiting Americans. It turned out that a Belgian couple had adopted my grandfather. They are from somewhere called Foyr, and I wonder if perhaps I'll stay there someday.

Atkinson's vision for Henri-Chapelle extends to the American school system. Last February he mailed letters to every governor, requesting support for a program that would have children research soldiers from their hometowns—beginning with those for whom there are no biographies or photos. So far, 15 states have responded.

We arrived at number 71, row 02, plot F and the headstone of Private Merle J. Miller. An Iowan killed in action less than a year after being drafted, my grandfather left behind an only child aged 14 months. My dad, who was given his stepfather's surname, reached out to caress the marble. At 61, this was as close as he could remember being to his father.

When it was my turn, I moved in at an angle, avoiding an invisible six-foot rectangle. Imitating my father's gesture, I reached for the headstone. It felt cold and smooth, and I too realized this was as close as I'd ever be to my grandfather.

The way Atkinson sees it, these dead men are ambassadors, at a time when both Americans and Europeans have departed from their shared postwar vision. People

on both sides of the Atlantic need to be reminded of how close they once were, and perhaps can be again.

It is the new generation of Americans Atkinson thinks most about these days. He hopes his school program will ultimately lead to an online data base for all World War II dead.

For the sake of his important work, I can only hope he's right—and perhaps further his vision a little by sharing it with those who will listen.

KEEHNER lives in New York City.

Submit

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Myturn.Newsweek.com
on MSNBC

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT JOINS VBOB

Melvin E. Biddle
517th Parachute Infantry Regiment
Company B...

...recently became a member of the Central Indiana Chapter. Upon receipt of his application, we were happy to make him an honorary, life member of the national organization.

Mr. Biddle was presented the Medal of Honor as a result of his actions near Soy, Belgium, December 23-24, 1944.

Checking the Medal of Honor web site we discovered there are three additional Medal of Honor recipients from the Bulge and we intend to offer them honorary, life membership.

Welcome, Mr. Biddle. ■



President Truman & CPL Biddle -
1945

PARATROOPERS REMEMBER

**Remembrances of
Larry (Kramer) Alderman
and Paul Bebout
501 Parachute Infantry Regiment**

[The following excerpted story appeared in the June 2006 issue of the Geronimo Newsletter as was told to Edwina Campbell. After experiences in Normandy and the Market Garden they relate the following regarding the Battle of the Bulge.]

**Inscription on 101st Airborne Monument
in Arlington National Cemetery**

"Their valor is your heritage."

December, 1944. At this time Larry went back to England to be trained as a Pathfinder (someone who sets up the radar equipment to direct the paratroopers and gliders).

Paul was in Paris when he learned that the Germans had started a breakout, which was later known as the Battle of the Bulge. Paul states that their weapons had been turned in for repairs, so when they shipped out to the battle zone there were only a few who had weapons and these were only side arms.

Paul goes on to say that they rode to Bastogne in cattle trucks,

where it was mass confusion as the Germans were breaking through our (the allies) lines. We went out to a field and slept in the drizzling rain for a couple of hours. We then marched down the highway out of Bastogne. About a mile out we ran into the Germans, we were surrounded, we had no supplies, and none could be flown in because of the weather. We were still in our summer uniforms and we had no heavy protection for our feet. Our hands were freezing and we would cut holes in our sleeping bags and wear them over our uniforms. This is where I (Paul) froze my feet.

We were very near to be overrun by the Germans but one day the sun came out and the air fighters came in and attacked the Germans and held them back. Then the supply planes came and we finally had food and heavy clothing.

The Germans bombed the church where we had moved all of our wounded and everyone in the church was killed. I (Paul) was outside the church at the time. Our munitions truck came back through and got bombed and 13 of our men were killed.

I was evacuated back to Luxembourg, then to Paris and then to England where I spent four months recuperating from being frozen and from some shrapnel in my back. I later received the Purple Heart for this.

Larry states that he finished his Pathfinder training and came into Bastogne with Patton about the same time that Paul was leaving.

As part of the Pathfinders he directed the planes that carried paratroopers and gliders. The Pathfinders set up radar equipment to guide our planes to the drop zones for food, supplies and munitions.

Larry says he can remember the bitter, bitter cold. While Paul was in the hospital he was in Bastogne and then went to Alsace-Lorraine on the German/France border where we relieved some of the "older" soldiers in the army--those around 30 or older.

For a while we were in Holland, too, and there was a German bomber that would come over us every night about 1:30 a.m. He would drop a bomb, just to let us know the Germans were around. We called him "Bed-Check Charley" as he made sure that every night we were awake and on guard.

[Not sure which of the gentlemen cited the following, but we found it very profound.]

When we talk and there are not too many specific memories of this time in our lives, it is because the human brain does something miraculous to protect our minds from all of the horror, the devastation and the sheer mental pain of war. We saw and experienced many things but so many of the details are gone forever--otherwise everyone would go insane from the experience of war. ■

CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL.

Are your dues due?

The date your dues were due appears above your last name.

Printing and mailing dues reminder is an expensive project and you can help save this expense by submitting your dues on time.

We thank you.

THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

Invites You to Join Your Friends for the

“EVENTS OF REMEMBRANCE AND COMMEMORATION” OF THE 62nd ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

December 14, 15 and 16, 2006

Metropolitan Washington, DC

The DoubleTree Hotel Crystal City, by Hilton, 300 Army-Navy Drive, in Arlington VA22202 has been selected, with its panoramic view of our Nation's Capital, as the site for activities commemorating the 62nd Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, December 14 - 16, 2006. This hotel, just off Route 1 in Crystal City is a 7 minute drive from Reagan National Airport and a 2 City block walk to the Pentagon Metro Station and the Pentagon Mall. It provides easy access to Washington DC and has just recently completed a major renovation for great accommodations, at a reduced rate of \$99.00, single or double occupancy plus taxes. Parking is Complimentary. This rate is available for any night(s) between December 13 and December 17. For room reservations please call the DoubleTree Reservations (1-800-Hiltons) or 703-416-4100 by **December 1, 2006**. Mention that you are attending the **BATTLE OF THE BULGE** events for the special rate and ask for a room with a View of Washington DC.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2006

- 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM Registration (Hospitality Suite, Jackson), receive name badges, Banquet/bus tickets, and information. (If you are only attending the Banquet, you may pick up your tickets at the DoubleTree by 6:00 PM Dec 15th.) Plan ahead with your friends to be seated at the same table (rounds of 10 per table).
- 3:00 PM – 10:00 PM Hospitality Room/Exhibits, scrapbooks. John Bowen & Bob Phillips, Battle of the Bulge Historians will be the hosts. A private area in the Hotel restaurant has been reserved for supper from 6:30 – 8:00 PM for the Battle of the Bulge Veterans (payment is on your own). A time to renew friendships & visit w/old friends.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2006

- 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM Registration open/Receive name badges, Banquet/bus tickets, Jackson (Hospitality Suite).
- 9:00 AM Charter buses depart hotel.
- 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM We will be visiting the brand new US Marine Corps Museum at Quantico VA which opens for the first time on Veterans Day 2006. Compare Marine Basic. Lunch on your own and at your leisure at the Museum. Those wanting to do some quick & unique Christmas Shopping at the Pentagon Mall will be dropped there on our return from the Marine Museum. We will leave the Museum at 2:30 PM for return to the hotel.

BANQUET AT THE 15th FLOOR JEFFERSON ROOM, DOUBLETREE CRYSTAL CITY

- 6:00 PM Social Hour/Cash Bar.
- 6:45 PM Seated for Dinner.
- 7:00 PM Color Guard/Members of the Fife and Drum Corps/Ceremonies.
- 7:15 PM Dinner served.

BANQUET ENTRÉE

The choice of entrée for the Banquet is:

Medallions of Beef Tenderloin

OR

Chicken Piccata with lemon caper sauce

Program:

- Greetings from Dignitaries.
Speaker: To be Announced. The Military Then and Now.

After Banquet Hospitality Room open, Jackson Suite, at DoubleTree Crystal City.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2006

- 9:30 AM Bus leaves from DoubleTree Crystal City Hotel to Arlington Cemetery
- 11:00 AM Impressive ceremony and placing of wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns, Arlington Cemetery.
- 11:30 AM Ceremony of Remembrance, Battle of the Bulge Memorial, across from Amphitheater.
- 12:00 PM Ceremony of Remembrance, Battle of the Bulge Memorial, Porter Avenue, Arlington Cemetery
- 1:00 PM Buffet Luncheon, Hosted by VBOB, DoubleTree Crystal City Hotel
- Swearing-in of new VBOB officers.
Comments by VBOB President.
Farewell.

Notes: Free Airport shuttle provided by the DoubleTree Hotel every half hour, 3 miles from Reagan Washington National Airport. Free Shuttle from DoubleTree Hotel every hour on the half hour to Pentagon City Metro (Blue/Yellow Line) and Pentagon City Mall Skydome Lounge the area's only revolving rooftop lounge for a spectacular view of Washington at night. Cover & music applies after 9 PM Friday & Saturdays. The Café Restaurant open 6:30 AM to 11:00 PM

RESERVATION FORM
"REMEMBRANCE AND COMMEMORATION"
OF THE 62nd ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE
December 14, 15 and 16, 2006
Metropolitan Washington, DC

Return form and check by **December 1, 2006** to:
Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation
PO Box 2516,
Kensington MD 20895-0181

Questions:
 John D. Bowen, 301-384-6533
 E-Mail: johndbowen@earthlink.net

Name: _____ Telephone _____

Spouse/Guest: _____

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

Battle of Bulge Unit: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

RESERVATIONS:	<u>Number Attending</u>	<u>Cost/Person</u>	<u>Total</u>
Registration Fee	_____	\$10.00	\$ _____

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2006

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM: DoubleTree Hotel Restaurant _____ **on your own**
 Please indicate the number that will be attending so that we can advise the hotel.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2006

Chartered Bus, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM _____ \$30.00 _____

9:00 AM – 2:30 PM Visit to US Marine Corps new Museum at Quantico VA
 2:30 PM Return to Hotel dropping off shoppers at Pentagon Mall

Commemorative Banquet, DoubleTree Hotel Crystal City _____ \$55.00 _____

6:15 PM - 10:00 PM Jefferson Room 15th Floor – Beautiful view of Washington under the lights

Please make your Main Course selection(s):

- Medallions of beef tenderloin _____ (Name _____)
OR
 Chicken Piccata with lemon caper sauce _____ (Name _____)
 Diabetic Meal _____ (Name _____)

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2006:

9:30 AM Chartered bus to Arlington Cemetery _____ \$15.00 _____

10:00 AM Drive-by WWII Memorial;

11:00 AM Ceremonies: Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers and VBOB Monument **No. Attending:** _____

12:30 PM Bus Return to DoubleTree Crystal City Hotel

1:00 PM VBOB Luncheon & Installation of Officers **No. Attending:** _____ \$10.00* _____

*Total Cost of Luncheon is \$28.00 of which VBOB will fund \$18.00 for active VBOB National Member & Guest.

VBOB Membership # as shown on your last page of the Bulge Bugle _____

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

NOTES & REMINDERS:

Banquet Dress: Business suit/black tie (miniature medals encouraged) or military dress uniform

Room reservations must be made with the DoubleTree Crystal City directly, by December 1, 2006 (Telephone (1-800-Hiltons).

Return completed Reservation Form for events to BOB Historical Foundation by 1 December 2006, (Telephone 301-384-6533).

No cancellation refunds after December 9, 2006.

Please indicate in all places the number & names attending so that we can be advised of the proper number to plan. Thanks!

PLEASE BRING A PICTURE ID (Drivers License, Passport, Mil ID) for the Washington area

07/27/06

Reflections & After Thoughts On Our Arlington National Cemetery Monument Dedication

8 May 2006

by Joseph F. Zimmer
87th Infantry Division

Wow!! What a beautiful monument and location. This is not to diminish in any way, the 122 National, 82 State veteran cemeteries, plus the American battle Monuments Commission's in eleven countries, and, the fourteen maintained by the National Park Service for our Civil War dead. How fortunate we were to garner the site here at Arlington, VA, for our VBOB Monument; the home of the Tomb of the Unknowns, for remains of soldiers from World War I, World War II and Korea.

So much thanks and gratitude is due to the Superintendent of Arlington National Cemetery, our Congress, the Belgium and Luxembourg people, a few members of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, particularly, our current President, officers and Executive Committee. What an expression of honor, courage, duty and sacrifice the monument epitomizes for the men and women participating in the battle, and those who volunteered and served on the home front in support of our men and women in uniform and the dedicated doctors, nurses, medics, chaplains who gave comfort and healing to the dying and wounded. Their contribution and service to we veterans was priceless.

As for our fallen comrades, we look back on memories of their early youths. They were very young to die. In memory, we see the innocence and beauty of spirit the world cries for. Each of them walked with death, as if death were a companion, an acquaintance each recognized and did not fear, even to the end. How sterling were these men and women who gave their last full measure of devotion to: Duty – Honor – Country. This monument is a tribute to them and future generations must never forget them.

Sad to say, it is war, not peace, that is the normal condition of mankind. There has not been a single day in the past century, when there were fewer than a score of wars raging somewhere, and by the reckoning of Will Durant, noted historian, there have been only 29 years, in all recorded history, when peace apparently prevailed. In fact, since our founding as a nation, including our own Civil War and the current war on terrorism, American deaths have numbered 1,266,911. Our wounded, numbered in the millions.

Our generation who fought the battle, Brokaw's « greatest generation, » understands one thing – one big thing. When Western Civilization and its values hung in the balance, the United States and its Allies stood firm against two monstrous foes, poured out their blood and treasure, and ultimately prevailed. This monument is a lasting tribute to them and future generations must never forget them. This monument reminds us of their bravery.

On a personal note, the 8th day of May, has another special meaning for me. After landing at Utah Beach, fighting in Patton's Third Army through France, Belgium, Luxembourg; and, Germany twice, I was seriously wounded on 8 February 1945, in the German Siegfried Line near Losheim. After a seven month hospital period – paralyzed for

four months (Bar le Duc, France); 91st General Hospital at Oxford England; Harriman General, NYC and Newton D. Baker General Hospital at Martinsburg, West Virginia; I received a certified disability medical discharge (AR-615-361) 4 September 1945. I was in the first convoy to leave England, heading home to the USA after VE Day, aboard the Hospital Ship, the SS Brazil, of Moore McCormick Lines. We were originally scheduled to leave the day before (May 7th) but in order to allow German Admiral Doenitz to notify his ships, including all submarines, that the surrender was signed, we embarked from Southampton, England, (near where the Pilgrims left to come to America, landing at Plymouth in 1620), arriving 24 May 1945. How does one describe the surge of adrenaline, of simple survival; the joy of the toughest bonds of trust and friendship, they will ever know in a lifetime. Perhaps I could begin by saying how blessed my wife and I are, by a marriage of 58 years, five children, and, now, ten grandchildren who are our legacy.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

The Susquehanna Chapter of VBOB has been particularly active in providing time and support to the VAVS. We have received a copy of the "VAVS Summary of Annual Joint Review," which had the following comments regarding their volunteer services:

This program is being maintained in an exemplary manner. The goals are ambitious and carried out in a very supportive manner. Although there are problems with illness in the membership; transportation problems and the inability to recruit new members, this organization continues to thrive under the excellent leadership of Representative Zwick. Mr. Zwick is a regular member of the VAVS Executive Committee and is very active with all of their projects. Because of the manner in which this organization completes and exceeds its goals, I would rate it high in comparison with other organizations. It is my distinct pleasure working with VBOB, and I look forward to working with them throughout the coming year on behalf of our Medical Center and the veterans it serves.

A rating of excellent was given to all three phases of the annual review.

The "Representative Zwick" referred to is WILLIAM ZWICK, who served with the 80TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 905TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, COMPANY B during the Bulge. His VBOB membership is LC0029--which means that he is a Life, Charter member and was the 29th member to join the organization. ■

PLEASE NOTE: There are changes in the itinerary of the Reunion. If you have already submitted your registration and these changes cause a conflict, please let us know as soon as possible. We will have to provide guarantees, etc., based on the information we have. Your early assistance will be much appreciated.

NOMINATIONS FOR 2006-07 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, I, George Chekan, Chairman, announce the following nominations to be voted on for the Executive Council at the General Membership Meeting for the fiscal year 2006-07.

President:

- Neil B. Thompson
740th Tank Battalion
- Stanley A. Wojtusik, Sr.
106th Infantry Division

Executive Vice President:

- John J. Dunleavy
737th Tank Battalion

Vice President, Membership:

- Neil B. Thompson
740th Tank Battalion

Vice President, Chapters:

- John E. McAuliffe
87th Infantry Division

Vice President, Military Affairs:

- Robert F. Phillips
28th Infantry Division

Vice President, Public Affairs:

- Demetri Paris
9th Armored Division

Treasurer:

- William P. Tayman
87th Infantry Division

Corresponding Secretary:

- Dorothy S. Davis
57th Field Hospital

Recording Secretary:

- John D. Bowen
Associate Member

Trustees: Three-Year Term:

- Frances W. Doherty
Associate Member
- Earle O. Edmonds
26th Infantry Division
- James W. Hunt
1st Infantry Division

Trustees: Two-Year Term:

- Harry J. Meisel
565th Antiaircraft Artillery AW Battalion
- George L. Watson
87th Infantry Division
- Joseph F. Zimmer
87th Infantry Division

Trustees: One-Year Term:

- Richard G. Guenter
511th Engineer Light Ponton Battalion
- Ralph Bozarth
Associate Member

The above nominees have been approved by the Nominating Committee which consists of all Past National Presidents.

Respectfully submitted,
George Chekan, Chairman
Nominating Committee

INDIAN RIVER CHAPTER LAY WREATH AT MEMORIAL

[Alfred J. Babecki, President of the Indian River Chapter in Florida, sent us the following information and picture regarding activities of his chapter. Al served with the 1225th Engineer Combat Battalion, Company C.]

We conducted our first Memorial Day Service at our VBOB Monument this year. Our chapter also participated in the Melbourne July 4th parade, the Veterans' Day Service, the Massing of the Colors on November 11, and the Bulge Day Observance on or about December 16th.

Al asks that other chapters provide information regarding their observances. He feels that chapters, in some cases, are not doing enough to publicize VBOB and its patriotic activities.



Memorial Day--2006

Frank Kolbl (left) and President Al Babecki lay a wreath at the Indian River Chapter's BoB Monument on the plaza of the Liberty Bell Museum in Melbourne, Florida. □



Washington, DC - May 8, 2006

A group of 41 from the Lehigh Valley Chapter in town for the VBOB Memorial Dedication pause for a photo at the U.S. Capitol.

JOHN E. McAULIFFE RECEIVED HONOR

[MILAN ROLIK, 87TH INFANTRY DIVISION, and Ohio Buckeye Chapter President, sends us the following information regarding an honor bestowed on our member John McAuliffe (President of Lamar Soutter/Massachusetts Chapter). Following we reproduce the contents of the letter announcing this honor which was sent to John.]

The Chapel of Four Chaplains

March 23, 2006

Dr. John E. McAuliffe
425 Pleasant St., #1410
Worcester, MA 01609

Dear Dr. McAuliffe:

We are pleased to inform you that you have been nominated by Harry J. Meisel to receive the Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Award. We believe the service you have rendered to others is worthy of national recognition.

The Legion of Honor Program was established shortly after President Harry S. Truman dedicated the organization in 1951 to publicly recognize people who have made exceptional, exemplary, and lasting contributions to humanity and their communities without regard to race, religion, or creed. The award was inspired by the courageous acts of the four Army Chaplains who were serving aboard the USAT DORCHESTER when it was hit by enemy fire and sank in the North Atlantic on February 3, 1943.

This award will be presented to you on Wednesday, June 21, 2006, during a sit-down luncheon at the "Cultural Centre-Commune de Contern" in Oetrange Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. Thereafter, your name will become a permanent part of the Four Chaplains honor rolls. Once again, congratulations on your nomination and selection as a Legion of Honor recipient.

Best Wishes,

/s/ Viola W. Bostic
Executive Director

[Congratulations, John, and thanks for all the good work you do on behalf of veterans. And thanks to Milan for letting us know. He says, "As a modest gentleman, I knew that he (John) would never send anything to the Bugle which would appear to be a boast...."]

Since preparing the above article we learned that our own George Fisher, was also presented with the Four Chaplains Honor. George serves as President of Southeast Chapter and is the National Vice President for Chapter Development.

Many members reported a warm, wonderful reception by the people of Belgium and Luxembourg on this trip.



George Fisher (left) and John McAuliffe were recipients of the prestigious Chapel of Four Chaplains Award. The awards were presented at a special banquet in Luxembourg as part of the Luxembourg Friendship week (June 2006) events.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 3

Each loss must strengthen our purpose while striving to meet our commitment to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead and preserve and strengthen comradeship amongst us. There were never thoughts of personal, self-serving agendas on the battlefield since we were totally consumed with surviving and unwavering concern for our "brothers." Familiar with your legacy, I know our last spurt of energy will be shared on behalf of us all.

In this short time as your president our association has gained much recognition worldwide which was very evident with the international participation we received throughout the entire memorial spectacular at Arlington National Cemetery and the momentum is still at a "high." We've developed many more friendships while repairing and strengthening relationships marred by the December 2004 trip embarrassment. My personal intervention, even though I was not a participant, has been somewhat uplifting even though having to resort to damage control was most painful. You, as a member of this organization deserve nothing less than having your president available and loyal to the oath I committed to when elected.

Currently, I am knee-deep in getting our non-profit organization registered as a Federally chartered corporation. An up-hill battle but with dogged determination on my part, your confidence and moral support, we will finally be recognized along with the American Legion, VFW, etc. More details later.

Not at a standstill is a smoldering thought process to construct another monument to be located in Philadelphia. Flickering discussions have already generated much interest. My goal is to keep the Battle of the Bulge on the top of the list with the best of them. I would certainly appreciate hearing some of your personal thoughts and ideas for fulfilling the mission and goal of the national organization of Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc. ■

MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

Associate member Roger Kutzler would like any information you can provide regarding his father, **WILLIAM DONALD KUTZLER, COMPANY F, 109TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, 28TH INFANTRY DIVISION**. He was captured December 18, 1944, with another soldier on an outpost outside of Diekirch, Luxembourg, along the Our River. After five months he was released from Stalag 15 in Magdeburg, Germany. If you can provide information please write to Roger: 816 American General Drive, Easton, Pennsylvania 18040.

Albert Pepe would like to hear from anyone who served with **COMPANY A, 526TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION**. Write to him at: 321 Clay Street #21, Ashland, Oregon 97520-1342.

Denise Nihon writes to see if anyone might be able to help her find her father. Her mother's name was Felicie Nihon and told her that her father's name was George(s) Bill. In Belgium he was based in Jupille or Saive (near Liege). He may have been a sergeant. He had two friends: Halley Wilkins and Monroe Carter. He was born in Texas and before the war worked as a cab driver in New York City. She wishes to insure she is interested only in finding her roots. Write to her at: Bd d'Avroy 83/10 B; 400 Liege, Belgium.

Mary J. Briscoe Riesberg would like to hear from anyone who may remember her father: **SGT. JOHN CHARLES RIESBERG, 25TH REGULATING STATION, U.S. FIRST ARMY**. If you can help her write to her at: 305 Clark Street, Rocheport, Missouri 65279-9350.

Rick W. A. Rimmelzwaan writes he would like to have personal histories for his collection. If you can provide same, please contact him at: Zuiderstraat 23; 2641 GW Pinjnacker; Holland. He has been collection World War II items since he was a teenager and feels that his collection is missing this personal touch.

Con Malavazos writes to see if anyone knows what happened to the **67TH TAC RECON GROUP** on December 16th? They were part of fighter groups in support of the First Army. They were in Veiviers, Belgium, with their mail going out of Charleroi. He questions if the weather conditions prevented reconnaissance. Also wants to know what "20 PID" means on a return address. Write to Con at: 1538 Castro Street, San Leandro, California 94577.

DALE E. DEAN, 11TH ARMORED DIVISION, 21ST ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION, COMPANY B, wants to know if anyone knows what the actual temperatures were during the Bulge. Write to him at: 920 Stockton Street, Stockton, Kansas 67669.

Seven Ages of Man

"At 20 a man will be a peacock, at 30 a lion, at 40 a camel, at 50 a serpent, at sixty a dog, at 70 a monkey and at 80 nothing." — Spanish proverb



"At ease, Old Soldier—
you'll feel better when you see the doctor"

REUNIONS

8TH ARMORED DIVISION held a reunion July 12-15, 2006. For further information contact: Sidney Bishop, PO Box 427, Jefferson City, Tennessee 37760-0427. Telephone: 865-475-2883.

11TH ARMORED DIVISION, August 13-20, 2006, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. Contact: 11th ARMD, 2328 Admiral Street, Aliquippa, Pennsylvania 15001. Telephone: 724-375-7295.

75TH INFANTRY DIVISION, August 23-26, 2006, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Contact: Ted Davies, 4507 25th Avenue, Rock Island, Illinois 61201. Telephone: 309-786-6126.

78TH INFANTRY DIVISION, August 16-19, 2006, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Contact: Herman (Red) Gonzales, 104 Oak Glen Road, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15237.

80TH INFANTRY DIVISION, September 20-23, 2006, Columbus, Georgia. Contact: Robert H. Burrows, Box 453, Broomfield, Colorado 80038. Telephone: 303-439-2198.

87TH INFANTRY DIVISION, September 10-16, 2006, Arlington Heights, Illinois. Contact: 87th INF, PO Box 1493, Des Plaines, Illinois 60017-1493.

109TH EVACUATION HOSPITAL, August 10-13, 2006, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Contact: Howard Klitgaard, 9073 North Silver Brook Lane, Brown Deer, Wisconsin 53223. Telephone: 414-354-4857.

296TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION, October 11-13, 2006. Contact: Robert T. Williams, 123 Robeth Lane, Wethersfield, Connecticut 06109.

328TH INFANTRY COMBAT TEAM, October 17-19, 2006, Atlantic City, New Jersey. Contact: Alex Pagnotta, 609 Brandon Drive, Jeffersonville, Pennsylvania 19403. Telephone: 610-539-3337.

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE CERTIFICATE



The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Assn is proud to offer a full color 11" by 17" certificate, which may be ordered by any veteran who received credit for the Ardennes Campaign. It attests that you participated in, endured and survived the greatest land battle ever fought by the US Army. You do not have to be a member of the VBOB Assn in order to order one but you must have received the Ardennes credit. This beautiful certificate is produced on parchment-like stock and is outlined by the full color WWII insignias of the major units that fought in the Battle of the Bulge starting with the 12th Army Group followed numerically with Armies, Corps and Divisions and the two Army Air Forces. We wished that each unit insignia could have been shown but with approximately 2000

units that participated in the Bulge it was impossible. However any unit which served in the Bulge would have been attached to or reported through one of the unit insignias depicted. You may want to add one of your original patches to the certificate, when you receive it. Units were researched in the Official General Order No. 114 for Units Entitled to the ARDENNES Battle Credit and will be the basis for sale of this certificate. The unit insignias shown are also those used in the design of the Battle of the Bulge Memorial Conference Table dedicated and on view in the Garrison Library at Ft Meade, MD (open Mon & Wed 12:30-3:00 PM). The requests to date have been overwhelming, therefore we would request that you allow approximately 3-4 weeks for delivery.

A Special Certificate is available to spouses or children of those who made the Supreme Sacrifice in the Battle of the Bulge or who died of wounds received in the Battle of the Bulge. The individual request should have the date and place of death and be certified by the family requestor or by a buddy who was present. Multiple copies of the same certificate may be ordered if you have a number of children/grandchildren. Rank or command during the Bulge is preferred. It will be abbreviated to the WWII or three character standard. The certificate will be shipped rolled in a protective mailing tube. Please be sure to **place your name, service number and unit as you would like it to appear on the certificate.** The unit name should as full as possible as you want someone reading it to understand what unit you were in. We will abbreviate it as necessary. It is important that you type or print this information. The unit must be one of the 2000 units authorized for the Ardennes Campaign credit. **The cost of the certificate is \$15.00 postpaid.**

Unfortunately we do not have any more frames available at this time. John Bowen is presently trying to arrange with other suppliers who will produce these special sizes in quantities of 100. This may result in a higher frame cost. Our previous order had to be for 500 frames which took over three years to sell and resulted in the non use of a garage where they were stored. We will keep you posted.

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE CERTIFICATE ORDER BLANK

I request an 11" x 17" Certificate and certify that I received credit for the Ardennes Campaign during my military service. I have enclosed a check for \$15.00 for the Certificate. Please include the following information that I would like on the certificate:

First Name	MI	Last Name	Serial Number
Organization: Company, Battalion and/or Regt, Division			Rank (Optional)
<input type="checkbox"/> Killed in Action	date	Location	place
<input type="checkbox"/> Died of Wounds	date	<input type="checkbox"/> POW	dates
Camp			
MAILING INFORMATION:			
Name		Street Address	Apt No.
City		State	Zip + 4 Code
Telephone Number (In case we need to call you)		VBOB Member: Yes No	Signature & date
		not a requirement	

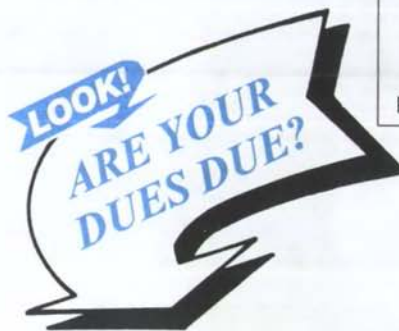
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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

PO Box 101418, Arlington, Virginia 22210-4418

Annual Dues \$15

New Member Renewal - Member # _____

Name _____ Birthdate _____

Address _____ Phone () _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

All new members, please provide the following information:

Campaign(s) _____

Unit(s) to which assigned during period December 16, 1944 - January 25, 1945 - Division _____

Regiment _____ Battalion _____

Company _____ Other _____

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

Applicants Signature _____

RECRUITER (Optional)