GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING and BANQUET

NOVEMBER 6, 7 and 8, 1986

SHERATON CRYSTAL CITY HOTEL
JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

JOIN YOUR COMRADES IN OBSERVANCE OF THE 42nd ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE 1944-1986

PROGRAM INSIDE
MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW!
**TOP KICK TOPICS**

In the last issue of THE BULGE BUGLE I mentioned the relationship between Armored Infantry and Tanks in WWII. I would like at this time to give you something to think about. Not that we can do anything about past oversights, but perhaps someone in the right place might correct what I believe to be somewhat unfair.

Before stating my case, let me say that, like all other Infantrymen in WWII, I was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge (CIB). What I fail to understand is why Tankers did not get some type of badge of recognition and, in fact, what about the Artillerymen and Engineers?

I have three friends who served in each of the above services and all were wounded, so obviously they were where the action was. Sure, your Old Sarge here is very proud of his CIB, but he is also proud to have associated with the Tank, Cannoneers and Engineers. They deserve to be recognized for what they were and are — Combat Arms!

On another subject, I hope that many of you are making plans to attend the 1986 VBOB General Membership Meeting in Washington, D.C. The committee has assembled a great schedule for you. Believe me, if you attend one of these meetings, you will attend more!

That's about it for now, until next time. Your comments are encouraged. .....Ol' Sarge

**President's Mid-Year Report**

Your President has found it very rewarding this past six months to run an organization with such dedicated members.

We have been able to send three sets of books to the 172 Veterans Administration Medical Centers' libraries.

We have formed a museum or Gallery Committee that has been hard at work at setting up our own Gallery.

Our Annual Membership Committee has set up the meeting of our fifth anniversary, 6-8 November. I hope all of you might have the opportunity to attend, but if you can't we'll hold you in our hearts.

These past few months we have suggested a plaque memorial that has been approved by Arlington National Cemetery in honor of all veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. It will be placed in the ground across from the Amphitheater. Further information is in an article found elsewhere in this edition.

Our trip overseas has changed slightly with information also found elsewhere. Your President and his wife intend to go on this trip, so won't you join us? It will be a gala affair.

Robert J. VanHouten
The Bulge Gallery Committee is working on plans to:

- Refinish and display a Nebelwerfer "Screaming Meemie" German Rocket Launcher. (Volunteers are solicited to assist with the refinishing).
- Prepare exhibits for Gallery Room for the Bicentennial, 14 September, and the General Membership Meeting, 8 November.
- Computerize the Gallery's activities and artifacts.
- Collect and display photos and motion pictures.
- Prepare plans for the Bulge Gallery's possible new wing to the Fort Meade Museum.

We have a precious opportunity now to establish the "Bulge Battle History" in perpetuity in the public, professionally managed U.S. Army Museum, Fort Meade, MD. Now is VBOB's ULTIMATE LEGACY, but we must act now while the Army Museum opportunity exists and the information and material sources are available. Tomorrow it will be lost forever.

BULGE GALLERY COMMITTEE

Clyde Boden
George Chekan
Dorothy Davis
Eugene Drouillard

Earle Hart (Director)
Bud Lienbaug
Charles MacDonald
Robert Phillips
William Simpkins

REQUEST FOR BATTLE ARTIFACTS

The Gallery Committee wants to locate all possible Battle of the Bulge uniforms, weapons, equipment, documents, personal effects, foreign items, etc. Write us about your items — where, how and when obtained; size, type, model and condition. A "Donation Information" form is included in this issue of THE BULGE BUGLE. If appropriate, send a photo. Tell us if you will consider donating your items to the Fort Meade Museum. If so, we will furnish details.

Please do not send material anywhere until specifically directed by the Gallery Committee. To avoid confusion, do not contact Ft. Meade or the VBOB Office -- only the Gallery Committee, P.O. Box 2516, Kensington, MD.

A national bicentennial celebration of the Annapolis Constitutional Convention will be officially kicked off at Fort Meade on 14 September 1986 from noon to 6:00 p.m.

Chief Justice Warren Burger is in charge of the Presidential Commission for the Bicentennial and those expected to attend include President Reagan, the governors of the 13 original states, the Military Chiefs of Staff, Secretary of Defense, Casper Weinberger, and other dignitaries. Many military units and bands will be on display.

The main activities will take place adjacent to the Fort Meade Museum which will be open with special exhibits. There will be thousands of visitors going through the museum - an excellent opportunity to tell the Battle of the Bulge story.

The Bulge Gallery Committee is making a concerted effort to complete a display by the time of the bicentennial celebration. The Bulge Bugle Brochure, funds solicitation letter and artifact donation form will be available for distribution at that time. A "Battle of the Bulge Gallery" sign will be designed and mounted over the museum lobby. An informative poster outlining a brief story of the battle will be mounted in the Bulge Gallery.

Several dramatic "Bulge Photos" will be enlarged and mounted in featured locations.

(Continued on Page 4)
BULGE GALLERY UPDATE (Continued from Page 3)

The balance of the limited display area will be utilized for photos and display cases of artifacts.

Furnishing the Bulge Gallery for the 14 September celebration will require much effort. The committee asks for the help and support of everyone. It’s everyone's legacy -- LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN!

GALLERY DONATIONS

On 17 June 1986 the first three donations to the Battle of the Bulge Gallery Fund were deposited in the Chevy Chase Federal Savings Bank, Rockville, MD. Pictured in the article on Page 3 are Dorothy Davis, (57th Field Hospital), Recorder; Earle Hart (Co. A, 345th Inf., 87th Inf. Div), Director of the Battle of the Bulge Gallery; Bank Teller, Nancy J. Walker, and William Greenville, (86th CML MIR Bn, Chairman of the Gallery Funds and Grants Committee.

Donations have been received from:

Major and Mrs. Scott Cantlon (parents listed below served in Bulge)
William V. Davis, 57th Field Hospital
Dorothy Steinbis Davis, (Army Nurse) 57th Field Hospital
Ralph R. Balestrieri, 58th Armd. FA Bn.
Helmer R. Winger, 2d Bn, 358th Inf., 90th Inf. Div.

William T. Greenville, Charter Member and Executive Vice President of VBOB, is Funds and Grants Committee Chairman and is responsible for raising the needed funds to furnish the Battle of the Bulge Gallery.

Generous and enthusiastic support for this project has been most evident from VBOB members as well as friends of VBOB. It will, however, take generous donations of funds to build this legacy. PLEASE LET US ADD YOUR NAME TO THE LIST OF DONORS! Checks may be made out to: Battle of the Bulge Gallery, P.O. Box 2516, Kensington, MD 20895-0818.

THE FORT GEORGE G. MEADE U.S. ARMY MUSEUM HISTORY AND STAFF

Ft. George G. Meade was originally founded as Camp Meade in 1917 to train troops for WWI and was named for the Civil War General George G. Meade, who commanded the Union Troops at Gettysburg.

During WWII over 3,500,000 men passed through Fort Meade, many destined for the battlefields of Europe. Today Fort Meade is the home for Headquarters, First U.S. Army and provides support to the Army Reserve and the National Guard.

The U.S. Army Museum at Ft. Meade is a fully accredited museum under the control of the U.S. Army Center for Military History and is managed by professionally trained personnel. The curator, Alan Archambault, is an outstanding and highly motivated man with a life-long personal interest in the Battle of the Bulge. VBOB is very fortunate to have the benefit of his expertise. With his help and direction, the Battle of the Bulge Gallery can become a very successful reality.

The present museum facility consists of an Exhibition Building, an Administrative Building and two storage buildings.

The Battle of the Bulge will be one of three different galleries comprising the Ft. Meade Museum Facility; the other two being the Ft. Meade and the First U.S. Army Galleries.

FORT MEADE/VBOB AGREEMENT

On 16 October 1984 an agreement was signed between VBOB and the Fort Meade Museum authorizing the exhibition of Battle of the Bulge material. Professional management and maintenance of all Bulge artifacts and records will be available as an integral part of the Army Museum System.

BATTLE OF THE BULGE
Members Speak Out

Joseph G. Rahie, Co. M, 2nd Infantry, 5th Infantry Division, Third U.S. Army (wounded at Lorry, France, 17 Sep 44) writes that in March he gave himself "a marvelous gift" -- an application for a Life Membership in VBOB!

Dwain L. "Chris" Christofferson, Btry. A, 771st FA Bn, sends another $5 toward the dues fund as a VBOB member. Chris says the 771st will have another reunion this summer - details later - and reports that he visited St. Vith and other areas in 1981 and looks forward to more details on our 1986 re-trip. Chris spent 2½ years in a hospital as a result of wounds resulting from German tanks (88s).

Milford Harrington, Jr., Co. D, 502nd Parachute Inf. Regt., 101st Airborn Division, sends in his check for a life membership in VBOB and says he's never liked winters since December 1944. He reenlisted twice since then - with service in Korea. His hobbies are gardening and clockmaking.

Will Ergas, 372d Engr. GS Regt, writes that he was teaching school in San Francisco until mid-1982 and enjoyed his last regimental reunion eight months ago.

Wm. Kent O'Connell, 83rd Inf. Div. Assn., Inc., writes to say that his outfit has over 2,000 members and looks forward to his unit's 40th reunion this year.

William Grant, 9th Armd, 899 TD Bn, Co B, has been awarded the "Fourraguere Belgian" 41 years after he saw action at Bastogne in December 1944. He claims 22 military decorations from WWII and retired from the Navy in 1962. He claims retired Col. Matt Urban, New Holland, MI, the world's most decorated G.I., as one of his best buddies.

Frank Hayostek, Co C, 119th Inf., 30th Division, never sees anything about his division in our newsletter. How about all of you Old Hickory survivors writing to Frank at 2023 Balltown Rd., Schenectady, NY 12309.

William F. Oliver, an M-4 Sherman tank driver, Co. H, 32d Regt., 3d Armored Division, wonders "what happened to all the tankers" and asks "has anyone written the true tankers' stories?" All you tankers can reach Chief Oliver at 36 Park Ave., Vistal, NY 13850

Kenny Fruge would like to hear from former members of Hq. Co., 52d Group, First US Army. He can be reached at Box 177, Ore City, TX 75683.

Edward J. Winstead, 3d Bn. Adjutant, 104th Inf., 26th Inf. Div., would like to hear from former fellow members. He vividly remembers Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., presenting the DSC to his battalion commander outside of Wiltz. Write him at 1006 Third St., Wilson, NC 27893.

John D. Kearney, 84th Inf. Div., was elected to the position of Vice President, 557th AAA Assn, at the organization's 37th annual reunion held recently at Somerset, PA. Clyde Boden, VBOB Past President, is a former officer of the Association.

George M. Ellig, Co. B, 317th Regt., 80th Inf. Div. writes "part of the citation I own says 'In the vicinity of Neidhausen, Luxembourg...' In September 1985 I had the only opportunity in 40 years to return to that part of Europe. After a few hours in Bastogne my wife and I drove with our son and his wife to the small town of Neidhausen. The only public building I knew of in January 1945 was nowhere to be found. It had once housed a German command post and had been in a very substantial structure. I spoke with several inhabitants who were unable to help. One young lady put things in too proper a perspective when she responded to my questions by stating enthusiastically, 'Oh, yes, my grandmother often speaks of those days.' I guess our Division historian got turned around somehow and I can understand why. We left to explore other grim reminders in Heiderscheidt about an hour away now, but over a week then."

Clara Smith Gustin, 9th Air Force writes of her enjoyment working with the American Legion (as the only lady in the Post) as Post Commander. She is active with the VFW (first woman commander in the state of PA). She enjoys reading THE BULGE BUGLE.

Leonard P. Shea, Service Bn, 776th FA Bn, First and Third US Armies, was in the Third Army during the Bulge, supporting the 4th, 6th and 10th Armored Divisions. He would like to hear from anybody who served with him. He is at 200 Avenue K, SE, Apt. 233, Winter Haven, FL 33880.
**Former POW Outreach**

Although the VA has made special outreach efforts to ensure that the more than 83,000 former POWs are fully informed of their possible entitlement to benefits, many of them have never responded, and the VA has requested service organizations to assist it to reach these remaining former POWs.

This outreach effort is founded in legislative changes made in 1981 and 1984 which eased the criteria for former POWs to establish service connection for specific disabilities. For example, a handful of diseases are presumed to be service connected if a veteran was interned for 30 days or more.

A former POW, wishing to inquire about the possibility of an entitlement accruing to him might contact one of the VA’s 58 regional offices, 172 medical centers or its 226 outpatient clinics nationwide. Each VA facility has designated employees to coordinate benefits and services for former POWs. Additionally, a national toll free hotline is available 24 hours a day to answer questions from former POWs. That number is 1-800-821-8139.

Potential applicants should understand that, while the law recognizes that military medical records do not usually cover periods of confinement, there must be some medical evidence relating the former POWs current condition to the period they were held or their military service. Service Officers can counsel a former POW on the rules of evidence required to establish a claim.

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**Latest VA Census Counts**

24 Million War Vets

At the end of FY 1985 last September there were nearly 24,000,000 wartime vets living in the U.S. and Puerto Rico, VA reports. The largest group remains those who served in WWII with 10,399,000. Next are the vets of Vietnam -- 8,271,000. Korean War vets make up the third largest group with just more than 5,000,000. Last September there were 208,000 surviving WWI vets. The median age of U.S. and Puerto Rican vets was 52.9 years. About 25% are under 40; there are 75% between 40 and 64. The rest are older than 65. Median age of WWII vets is 64.2 years. Eight states have more than 1,000,000 vets each — California heads the list and following in order are New York, Texas, Pennsylvania, Florida, Ohio, Illinois and Michigan.

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**BILL IRION RECALLS HIS WORLD WAR II EXPERIENCES + + + + + + + + + + + + +**

During the well-run business meeting of the 557th AAA Battalion Association's 37th Annual Reunion on 17 May 1986 at Somerset, PA, President Floyd Roberts said Bill Irion of B Battery had something to say.

Bill recalled that he had written many letters home during his days with the 557th — from March 1943 to December 1945 — and when he learned several years ago that his Mother had saved about 200 of them, Bill decided to write his story based on the letters and his recollections.

"Ack Acker" covers 120 double-spaced typewritten pages and contains many experiences common to all of us and some not so common. They range from pulling KP and guard duty, enjoying passes and leave, going on forced marches and bivouacs, participating in the Tennessee Maneuvers and fighting in four major campaigns in Europe with the 84th Infantry Division (The Railsplitters), living in a castle, meeting a countess, attending American University at Biarritz and others.

Now a history teacher in Pennsylvania, from where he entered the Army when age 19, Bill gave a copy of "Ack Acker" to each of the 95 members of the 557th attending the reunion. ...Clyde D. Boden
1987 Slate of Officers Announced

The VBOB Nominations Committee has submitted the names of members to serve as elected officers for terms commencing on 16 December 1986. Elections are scheduled to be held during the Business Meeting of the General Membership Meeting on Friday, 7 November 1986.

The nominees are:

GEORGE CHEKAN for President
WILLIAM T. GREENVILLE for Executive Vice President
WILLIAM A. SIMPKINS for Vice President for National and Regional Coordination
EUGENE G. DROUILLARD for Vice President for Military Affairs
NEIL B. THOMPSON for Vice President for Membership
WILLIAM R. HEMPHILL for Treasurer
DOROTHY S. DAVIS for Recording Secretary
THOMAS D. GILLIS for Corresponding Secretary

The Nominations Committee extends sincere thanks to ROBERT J. VanHOUTEN for his service as president since 16 December 1984; Bob has stated that he will continue to play an active role.

Members are encouraged to read the provisions of the VBOB Constitution and the VBOB By Laws that pertain to elected officers.

CLYDE D. BODEN, Chairman,
Nominations Committee

AMENDMENTS TO BE ACTED ON AT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The following proposals to modify the VBOB Constitution and the VBOB By Laws will be acted on at the General Membership Meeting during the Business Meeting on Friday, 7 November 1986, and by the Executive Council respectively:

* Article IX-C of the VBOB Constitution: Delete "four" and in its place add "five."

* Article IX-C of the VBOB Constitution: Delete "and" and the "," after "membership" and add ", and Gallery."

(CONTINUED IN COLUMN TWO ABOVE)
J. E. (Jim) Bowman, Associate Member of VBOB, is anxious to contact any WWII members of CCR, 5th Armored Division. He can be contacted at 3355 Cranberry South, Laurel, MD 20707.

Anton N. Quint, 390th FA Bn, 94th Inf. Div. writes from Hawthorne, CA to say that we have a "very interesting newsletter" and that he is happy to be a member of our association and enjoys very much reading THE BULGE BUGLE.

Harold M. Snedden, Service Co, 110th Inf, 28th Div., First U.S. Army, writes that he has been employed by the VA for over 30 years and is still active at the VA Medical Center, Sheridan, KY. He was a POW at Stalag 9-B in Germany, having been captured 18 Dec 44 at Clervaux, Luxembourg.

Frank H. Conway, Jr., Co. G, 291st Inf, 75th Division, tells of reenlisting after WWII in the Air Force, then stints with Civil Service at NASA and DOT and a second retirement two years ago.

Leonard C. Parker writes that he drove a jeep in the 357th Inf, 90th Div. On a trip to the forward CP with a lieutenant, he stopped by a group of German prisoners, one of whom was wearing gauntlet gloves. He told the lieutenant he'd sure like to have those warm mittens. The lieutenant led the prisoner out of sight and returned to the jeep shortly, handing the mittens to Leonard, noting that the prisoner wouldn't need them where he was going.


Robert J. Gordon, 17th Airborne Div, 513th Parachute Infantry, tells of making the jump over the Rhine. He is trying to locate some of the old Troopers. Bob can be reached at 424 No. Dover Ave, Atlantic City, NJ 08401.

Nicholas Colagiovanni, a part of 1st US Army (7th Corps) writes to tell of the numerous units to which he was assigned/attached. After the Bulge, his unit met the Russian troops in Berlin and embarked for home from Camp Lucky Strike.

Hershel Phares, Co. K, 101st Inf. Regt, 26th Inf. Div. tells us he was a member of his regimental rifle squad in Africa, Italy, France, Germany, Luxembourg and Germany again. He used a rifle in destroying enemy personnel and positions and travelled by foot, truck or any available conveyance; cared for own equipment such as gun and field equipment; operated in all types of weather and terrain and under any firing positions to afford maximum over-protection; wounded in Belgium 9 Jan 45.

Richard T. Beaman, Co. B, 38th Armd. Inf Bn, 7th Armd. Div. asks why we never mention the 7th. He left Germany the night of 16 Dec, rode all night and ran into "pure hell." He is anxious to locate Charles Canterbury of Lando Mines, WV following WWII. Charles, write Richard at 45 Poplar Lane, Dover, DE 19901.

John Wettstein, Heavy Machine Gun Squad, 48th AIB, 7th Armored Div, wants to hear from former unit members such as Tony, the half-track driver, and Obie O'Brien. Write him at 1424 Terril, Apt. 38, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729.

James W. Gardner, 422d Inf, 106th Div. is looking for the present whereabouts of buddies who traveled with him from Stalag IIA (New Brandenburgh) by horse and wagon to the Elbe River. There were 10 in his group. After liberation by the Russians and when no Yanks showed up, they rounded up a team of horses and a wagon and took off for the Elbe and Wittenburgh (3 days and 3 nights).

William S. Getz, Co. C, 291st Engr. Combat Bn. writes to tell us that his unit had a reunion in April, with over 100 men present, including Col. Dave Pergrin, the unit's CO and author of "The Damned Engineers."

Lawrence O. Oemig, 531st Ord. HM Co. Tank, Third US Army, who served as company expeditor for tank engines, tracks, 75mm gun tubes, etc. writes to say he is keeping busy with his American Legion post (294 funerals, for example). He recalls that he recruited VBOB member, Lilian Keil, "America's most decorated female soldier," an air evacuation nurse in WWII and the Korean conflict.
There is still time to reserve the 1986 VBOB Battle of the Bulge area trip.

Look at this exciting itinerary...

Sunday, October 19 - USA/ALOFT. Depart USA via scheduled Air France flight. Meals served aloft.

Monday, October 20 - PARIS/VERDUN. Arrive Paris this morning. Continue via autoroute to Verdun in the Champagne Region of France. In late afternoon, after time to rest and adjust to time change, visit nearby World War I battlefield sites and the Ossuaire, the memorial chapel built from pennies donated by American school children in the 1920's. Dinner provided.

Tuesday, October 21 - VERDUN/LIEGE. Travel this morning into Belgium to Arlon and Bastogne where a mayoral reception and official luncheon will be enjoyed (circumstances permitting). Tour this famous battlefield area before continuing to Liege via Baraque de Fraiture (Parker's Crossroads), Werbomont, and other Bulge areas. Breakfast, lunch and dinner provided.

Wednesday, October 22 - LIEGE. Motor via Aachen to Duren and enter the Hurtgen Forest, driving via Gey, Hurtgen and Simmerath to Monschau. Stop to visit this quaint medieval-style German village. Lunch on your own. In the afternoon, continue to Losheim where Colonel Peiper began his drive through the Losheim Gap in the Schnee-Eiffel. Follow his route to Bulingen, Baugnez (site of the infamous Malmedy Massacre), and Malmedy, then Robertville and Eisenborn Ridge. Return to Liege via Eupen. Special stops will be made as requested. Breakfast and dinner provided.

Thursday, October 23 - LIEGE. Today, motorcoaches will continue through the Northern Shoulder of the Bulge, visiting Aywaile, Stavelot, Trois Ponts, Vielsalm, St. Vith, Houffalize and Grandmenil before returning to Liege. Stops will be made at special places requested by participants as circumstances allow. A get-together with our CRIBA (Center for Research of the Battle of the Ardennes) is planned. Breakfast and dinner provided.

Friday, October 24 - LIEGE/LUXEMBOURG. Motor this morning to Henri Chapelle U.S. Military Cemetery where a memorial wreath will be placed. Continue to Clervaux for a brief ceremony at the G.I. Monument, followed by a Mayoral reception and luncheon. In the afternoon, tour Bulge sites and follow Skyline Drive and other roads to points of special interest, including such places as Wiltz and Ettelbruck into Luxembourg City. Breakfast and lunch provided.

Saturday, October 25 - LUXEMBOURG CITY. Morning wreath ceremony at the Hamm U.S. Military Cemetery where General Patton is buried. A City Reception is planned (circumstances permitting). In the afternoon, drive to important sites in the South Shoulder of the Bulge. Included will be Echternach, Vianden, Mersch and such other requested points that can be arranged. Breakfast provided.

Sunday, October 26 - LUXEMBOURG/PARIS. Motor into France this morning and follow the fast autoroute into Paris. On arrival, join the "Amis Pour Toujours" (Friends Forever) special program. Tonight, enjoy a Wine and Cheese reception with local officials. Breakfast provided.

Be part of history with the video tape of the trip!!

For reservations please call toll free-
1-800-523-7287 (outside PA) or (215) 254-6600 (in PA)
GALAXY TOURS - P.O. Box 234-Wayne, PA 19087-0234 USA

Make your arrangements early to attend our 5th Anniversary General Membership Meeting and Banquet in Arlington, VA... right across the river from your Nation's Capital

BEAUCOUP FUN, FROLIC and FESTIVITIES!

DON'T FORGET... that's this coming November 6-8 at the Sheraton in Arlington

We hope to see you there!
VETERANS OF THE
BATTLE OF THE BULGE

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND BANQUET

NOVEMBER 6, 7, 8, 1986

THURSDAY, NOV. 6, 1986

1:00pm-6:00pm
REGISTRATION & INFORMATION

1:00pm-9:00pm
PHOTO DISPLAY
Atrium Lounge

1:00pm-5:00pm
MILITARY BOOKS DISPLAY
Meet the Authors
John Campbell
Harold Leinbaugh
Charles MacDonald
David Pergrin
Robert Phillips
Barcroft Books

6:00pm-9:00pm
“MIXER AND MOVIES”
• Refreshments
• Music of the 40’s
• Battle of the Bulge Movie
• Time to Visit and Meet new friends!!
• Door Prizes

1:00pm-9:45am
REGISTRATION & INFORMATION

9:00am-9:45am
MEMORIAL SERVICE
In Hotel

11:00am
Changing of the Guard
• Lay Memorial Wreath at Tomb of Unknown Soldiers
• Visit Trophy Room

11:30am
BOARD BUS FOR HOTEL
LUNCH (on your own)

1:00pm-9:00pm
BUSINESS MEETING
• Call of Order
• Pledge of Allegiance—Eugene Drouillard
• Invocation—Rev. George Hall, Jr.
• Welcome—Robert Van Houten
• Introductions—Members
• Presidents Report—R. Van Houten
• Greetings—Mr. Edward F. Rose, Representative, V.A. Hospital
• Discussion—Written Committee Reports
• New Business
• Update Report—Battle of the Bulge Gallery—Earle Hart
• Election of Officers

6:30pm-7:30pm
SOCIAL HOUR—
(Cash Bar)

7:30pm
BANQUET
Meeting Chairman—George Chekan
Invocation—Rev. George Hall, Jr.
Swearing in of New Officers—Joseph Langbart
Introduction of Guests
Guest Speaker (TBA)

9:30pm
“Juke Box Friday Nite”—Music for your listening pleasure and dancing

FRIDAY, NOV. 7, 1986

9:00am-12 Noon
REGISTRATION & INFORMATION

9:00am-9:45am
MEMORIAL SERVICE
In Hotel

9:45am
DEPART BY BUS FOR CEREMONIES—ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

11:00am
Changing of the Guard
• Lay Memorial Wreath at Tomb of Unknown Soldiers
• Visit Trophy Room

11:30am
BOARD BUS FOR HOTEL
LUNCH (on your own)

1:00pm
PHOTO DISPLAY

9:00am-5:00pm
MILITARY BOOKS DISPLAY
Meet the Authors
John Campbell
Harold Leinbaugh
Charles MacDonald
David Pergrin
Robert Phillips
Barcroft Books

6:00pm-9:00pm
“MIXER AND MOVIES”
• Refreshments
• Music of the 40’s
• Battle of the Bulge Movie
• Time to Visit and Meet new friends!!
• Door Prizes

12:00-2:00pm
LUNCH

2:00pm
BANQUET
Meeting Chair—George Chekan
Invocation—Rev. George Hall, Jr.
Swearing in of New Officers—Joseph Langbart
Introduction of Guests
Guest Speaker (TBA)

9:30pm
“Juke Box Friday Nite”—Music for your listening pleasure and dancing

SATURDAY, NOV. 8, 1986

9:45am
DEPART BY BUS FOR FT. GEORGE MEADE, MD.

11:00am
VISIT BATTLE OF BULGE GALLERY, at the 1st US Army Museum, Ft. Meade, Md.
Hosted by Alan Archambault (Curator) and Re-enactment Group in WW II uniforms

11:45am
BOARD BUS TO OFFICERS’ CLUB

12:00-2:00pm
LUNCHEON BUFFET
Dining Room, Officers’ Club
Seating of Guests
Presentation of the Colors—First Army Color Guard
National Anthem
Pledge of Allegiance—Eugene Drouillard
Invocation—Rev. George Hall, Jr.

2:00pm
CONCERT—The First Army Band, Fort Meade, Md.

2:45pm
RETIREMENT OF THE COLORS

3:00pm
DEPART BY BUS FOR THE HOTEL

6:00pm
BOARD BUS TO WEST END DINNER THEATRE
ALEXANDRIA, VA.
Dinner and Play “Brigadoon”

This is undoubtedly the greatest American battle of the war and will, I believe, be regarded as an ever-famous American victory.”

Sir Winston Churchill
addressing the House of Commons following the Battle of the Bulge
Moses. So I will be with you, but obey the Law Moses gave you. Do not turn from it to the right or to the left. Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful."

They were a people under a covenant. Be faithful and obedient; be courageous with the strength that comes from God. Just as the Israelites banded together, so some two millennia later, people banded together. They landed at Roanoke Island in Carolina, at Jamestown in Virginia and at Plymouth and what was to become Boston in the colony of New England. They struggled and they persevered. They believed that God would do for them just what He had done for the Israelites.

They believed God because they were a covenanted people. Before they left Holland, again on the Mayflower, and when they landed they renewed their covenant with God. The story of this is well documented in a book called The Light and The Glory by Peter Marshall, Jr. and David Manuel. When they got away from God, they suffered. When they recalled themselves to the covenant, they prospered. They were not perfect because they had not healed the hurts of the past. They in their own ways created as tyrannical an order of life as they had fled England to escape. But they were faithful to God and with that faithfulness came a prosperous life for them.

Then out of continuing political tyranny came an oppression that caused them to rebel against that tyranny. They banded together with those from other colonies. One morning, on the village green of Concord, Massachussets, a shot rangout, and a small band of men stood against the might of the British Army. That battle was not futile because the weapons aimed across the stone fences of Lexington and Concord were heard around the world. The muzzleloads of those visionary farmers served as a dream that still moves the world today, a dream that shielded Susan B. Anthony from the hoots of ridicule as she stood and worked for the voting rights of women, a dream that motivated Abraham Lincoln, and a dream that vexes the boardrooms of America when South Africa comes up on the agenda. The shot heard 'round the world was not fired from a weapon of futility, but from one of purpose and dedication.

But let us journey to the colonial city of Philadelphia. There, a group of men gathered together discussing their future - your future and my future. They drafted a document that today we know as the Declaration of Independence. "We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights. Among them are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Then a few years later they drafted guidelines for us to live a covenanted people. Those guidelines went back to the guidelines of the Colonists and became the Constitution. President Abraham Lincoln drafted a document that began "Four score and seven years ago our forefathers created a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

Over the years we have fought and died to maintain the integrity of these documents and our covenant relationship with a God who is all powerful. A God who involves himself in our lives in wonderous ways. Just how wonderous and in what ways we see all the time, in particular, last weekend, as we have heard tonight!

This same God has acted in the lives of individuals, and small groups of men, at all times. Just as He did in the lives of Gideon and that small band of men who fought the Midiamites (Judges 7:7,8). "The Lord said to Gideon, 'with the three hundred men that lapped the water like a dog, I will save you and give the Midiamites into your hands.'" He was bringing to Gideon a concerned force of men.

So it has been throughout our history. The dedication to God results in courage, valor and dedication to duty. This has been seen in fighting engagements in all the wars in which we have been involved. On the shores of Guadalcanal, Okinawa and from Iwo Jima to Fortress Europe, to Korea and to Vietnam. Even in the largest land battle ever fought by American military forces as the Battle of the Bulge, it was individuals and small groups of men taking possession of the land in front of them and refusing to give up because of their trust in God that victory was secured and the shot heard at Concord was not stilled. If at some time you would like to read an account of that battle, I would recommend a book entitled Company Commander by Charles B. MacDonald. It is an accurate account of the bravery of small groups just as at Concord, Breed's Hill, Iwo Jima and throughout the world.

But, in the forty years since World War II and Korea, that shot is still being heard. We have forgotten and abandoned our covenant with God. His Word and His Laws are no longer on our lips and in our hearts. We have gone after the false gods that others have brought to our shores. (Continued on Page 13).
REQUIEM FOR OUR ARDENNES DEAD

They sleep upon the hallowed soil
Where once they fought and bled,
And markers white now guard the graves
Of these our Ardennes dead.

In Luxembourg and Belgium
And then in Holland too,
The somber sight of markers white
Comes hauntingly in view.

Their work in life and on this earth
Is at an end and o'er,
But in our hearts they still live on
And will forevermore.

Now far from home and loved ones
In lands across the sea,
These who fell in the Ardennes
Live on in memory.

God grant the sacrifice they made
Will ne'er forgotten be,
And ever serve to remind us
Of man's will to be free.

...Harold F. Mohn

BELGIUM'S VET CONTACT POINT CHANGES

The U.S. Veterans' Contact Point, Europe, is now located at Route de la Gileppe 63, B-4804 Jalhay, Belgium, reports its founder, Gillot Gunter George, Jr.
In 1985, this organization welcomed and provided information to 105 U.S. veterans and looks forward to continue to provide this service free of charge (no strings attached).

TOUR TO EUROPE CHANGES

VBOB's Galaxy tour to Europe, headlined on the front page of our last edition, has been changed for the better. Those 21 of us who signed up for the 15 September tour should have received our notices of the change. For others who may be able to visit Europe with VBOB and Galaxy on 19 October through 1 November, write for details on Amis Pour Toujours at P.O. Box 234, Wayne, PA 19087.

Veterans Administration

Q - I am a veteran of World War II and a former prisoner of war. I understand a law recently passed by Congress makes several changes in a veteran's eligibility for VA health care. Are any veterans exempt?

A - Yes. The following veterans are exempt from the eligibility assessment procedures: Service-Connected veterans, former prisoners of war, veterans exposed to certain herbicides while serving in Vietnam and to ionizing radiation in connection with atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons and in the occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, veterans receiving a VA pension, veterans of World War I, the Spanish-American War and the Mexican Border period, and veterans eligible for Medicaid.

Up Front with Willie & Joe

This is th' town my pappy told me about.
"THE MARCH TO VICTORY"

... a unique guidebook intended for the veterans of World War II, students of military history, and travelers to Europe, "The March to Victory: A Guide to World War II Battles and Battlefields from London to the Rhine", describes the principal battlefields in northwestern Europe.

This exceptional book, following an overview of each battle, contains tours that describe the battlefields and the exploits of particular individuals and events, identifies relics in the field, and locates monuments and museums. Such an approach is meaningful for those of us who fought there as well as others visiting the area. Photographs and maps add to the interesting narrative.

Written by John T. Bookman and Stephen T. Powers and published by Harper & Row, "The March to Victory" has been acclaimed by VBOB member and military author Charles MacDonald as "Long needed ..." and by military author John Toland as "A must for all participants and buffs of World War II in Europe ..."

VBOB will be glad to place your order for a paperback edition at the reduced rate of $9.00 or for a hardcopy edition at $19.00. Includes handling and shipping.

Make checks payable to VBOB. Send to: P.O. Box 11129
Arlington, Va. 22210-2129

(585x504)

We have been lazy and self-righteous and we have not disciplined the alien that has come to our shores into the covenant that we have with God.

We have no one to blame but ourselves. Our worship of God is best stated as "God, don't bother me and I won't bother you." Look at the family Bible today. It sits on a shelf, dusty and unopened. The Word of God is not in our hearts and on our lips as the Lord God said to Joshua. We scream that our children are not allowed to pray in school, yet how many of us take time to pray with them before they go to school in the morning (or we to our other tasks)?

Our greatest area of concern is not the Russians. It is our own complacency and smugness. We have lost sight of our covenant relationship with God and have gone after false gods that will destroy us, our communities and our land.

We can turn and renew the covenant that our forefathers made for us. We can covenant together as a community that needs to be purified and purified it. We can cleanse our Nation and we can disciple the aliens into that covenant. We can join with Joshua (24:14-27), "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. We will honor the covenant. We will be witnesses to the wonderful things that He has done in our lives!"

God bless our native land - firm may she ever stand - this land was made for you and me! It is God's gift to us and we will be held responsible for what we as individuals and as a Nation do with it.

Scripture attests to the joy that we may have when we honor the covenant!

A Meditation given on 4 July 1986
at Truro Episcopal Church by The Rev. George W. Hall, Jr.
And even more MEMBERS SPEAK OUT!

WO V. M. Thompson, Svc. Co., 702d Tank Bn, writes that for the past 44 years he's married to the same woman, has two daughters, eight grandchildren, the same house since '46, his kids are gone, the house is too big. He's in/out of the hospital and will be 70 this month. "Hell to be getting old," he adds.

Jim Bateman, Co. B, 38th Armd. Inf. Bn, 7th Armored Division recently had the honor and pleasure of meeting his 7th Division Commander, General Bruce C. Clarke and Bruce Clarke, Jr. The occasion was the General's 85th birthday on April 29th.

Fred W. Klooster, 899th FA Bn, 75th Inf. Div. writes to say he was assigned to the Ninth U.S. Army in Holland and his division was subsequently reassigned to First U.S. Army, Belgium. Christmas Eve for Fred was spent shuttling Infantrymen from his division to the front lines -- black-out driving--no Xmas carols--no worship service--only the sounds of men preparing for their first battle experience. Fred says he'll never forget the Xmas of 1944.

Frank J. Smollon, Co. K, 393d Regt, 99th Inf. Div, assigned to outpost duty was one of many of his comrades who was not overrun or captured in the morning hours of 16 December 1945. He sent a photo of six escaped POW's taken in late March 1945 in Frankfurt am Main whom he is trying to locate. In the foto are Leonard Halpern, Howard (Chuck) Harris, Albert Elby, William Mansiel and Oscar Eisenberg. If anyone knows the present locations of these men, please contact Frank at 714 Peggy Steward Ct., Davidsonville, MD 21035.

Donald R. Reddoch, (Tex, the Devil's Half Dozen), Co. A, 324th Combat Engr., 99th Inf. Div, wants you to know that, in connection with previous articles concerning A. Z. Adkins and W.T. Jackson of Florida, he, too, remembers the brutal cold of the Ardennes. Born and raised in Texas, he had seen only one snowfall in his 19 years prior to WWII. He was able to keep his feet from freezing, however, due to the advice he received from his "Yankee Boy" buddies, particularly Sgt. Fluti.

John H. Wilson, Hq. Co., 1st Bn, 12th Inf. Regt, 4th Division, tells us that he joined the last part of the Hurtgen Forest portion of The Bulge and drove in a convoy to Paris and Camp Old Gold before he returned home. Then-school custodian, policeman, road supervisor and "retired" after 31 years with Westinghouse Electric.

Charles R. Connor, 335th FA Bn., 87th Inf. Div., is interested in hearing from any member of the "Golden Acorn Division," particularly members of "Big Jack's" Mortar Bn, (155 How G/S, 87th Inf. Div.). Please contact Connor at 103 Marshview Rd., Savannah, GA 51410.

Ray Jemc, FO, Btry. A, 336 FA Bn, 87th (Golden Acorn) Inf. Div. writes that he was, in four months' combat the last of 14 original enlisted men of the FO teams and was rewarded with a trip home to Chicago for 45 days' "Temporary Duty" - the best thing he ever won.

Al Geraci, Troop E, Recon Squad, 18th Cav, Third Inf. Div. writes to say we never publish anything from members of his unit and wants to hear from old buddies. Write him at 4471 Bennett Drive, Las Vegas, NV. He was originally in Co. F, 7th Inf. in 1941.

Daniel M. Abbott, Co. C., 55 AIB, 11th Armd. Div, served under the name of Daniel M. Gojkovich and is anxious to hear from former buddies.Contact him at 13119-4 Wonderland Way, Germantown, MD 20874. After his WWII experiences, he attended college for four years, two in graduate school, four careers (biological research, biomedical engineering sales, contracting officer, negotiator for Research Contracts Branch, National Cancer Institute), and finally - disability retirement (19 major surgeries).

Harold R. Tallent, Co. D, 1st Bn, 317th Regt., 80th Inf. Div. tells of how he rode 150 km. in trucks to the German breakthrough in Luxembourg, half-frozen in deep snow, very low temperatures, no over-shoes, worn-out gloves, pitch-blackness... he will never forget the deep snow, freezing cold, frozen canteens and rations, etc.

Please understand that, though we may wish to do so, we CANNOT publish nor respond to all inquiries received from members.

...Editor
We, the citizens of the United States, who were captured or interned by the enemy, do unite to establish a permanent organization.

American Ex-Prisoners of War

The American Ex-Prisoners of War (AX-POW) was founded April 14, 1942, to encourage fraternity between fellow ex-prisoners of war, to foster patriotism, to assist ex-prisoners of war, civilian internees and their kin, and to maintain historical records. The organization was Congressionally chartered August 10, 1982, and is recognized by the Veterans Administration.

Perhaps one of the most important roles that AX-POW plays is in the comradeship that is shared. In many instances an ex-POW fears he is alone in his fears, traumas, and medical problems. Attending meetings where he can meet and talk with a fellow prisoner who was there, too, and knows what it was like, can often alleviate these fears. AX-POW is made up of people who sincerely care for their fellow man and are anxious to help in anyway they can.

The AX-POW MedSearch Committee has, through the years, researched and compiled information on the residual effects of internments. In 1980 the first National Service Officers were certified. Members receive the EX-POW BULLETIN, a monthly magazine which will keep you informed on new happenings, news of comrades, and everything that relates to you as a former POW. A listing of chapters is listed in the EX-POW BULLETIN. Chapters are located in 48 states and the District of Columbia.

Do consider membership in AX-POW. Membership dues are $11.00 annually; life memberships are available. Eligibility for membership is open to all persons in the Armed Services of the United States who were held prisoners of war by an enemy of the United States because of such service, United States citizens who were imprisoned because of their citizenship, United States citizens who were taken prisoners by an enemy of the United States while honorably serving an ally of the United States, and next of kin of former prisoners.

"We exist to help those who cannot help themselves," and we welcome you into our ranks!

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP TO
AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR

3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40 • Arlington, Texas 76010 • Telephone: (817)649-AXPW

Husband & Wife, $16 Single Member, $11

Membership dues include a subscription to the EX-POW BULLETIN

NAME (Please print)______________________ Nickname ______________________

SPOUSE'S NAME ______________________ CHAPTER AFFILIATION ______________________

MAILING ADDRESS ______________________

CITY______________________ STATE________ ZIP________

Please circle your status:
EX-POW Europe
EX-POW Pacific
EX-POW Korea
EX-POW Vietnam
EX-POW Civilian
EX-POW Next of Kin

Social Security Number ______________________

Date of Birth ______________________

VA Claim Number ______________________

Spouse of a Life Member 20

LIFE MEMBERSHIP RATES:
Under 35 $150
36 - 50 125
51 - 60 75
61 - over 50

MILITARY UNIT ______________________

PRISON CAMPS ______________________

PLEASE NOTE: Proof of POW status must be submitted with application. Military and prison camp information must be completed before membership is processed.

15
THE VBOB MEDALLION

The Executive Council of VBOB has made the VBOB MEDALLION, W/Ribbon, available to the membership.

The MEDALLION, a 2 1/2 inch replica of our VBOB insignia, is finished in five colors baked enamel on a gold colored base. It is suspended on a 1 1/2 inch neck ribbon. The 5/8 inch center of the ribbon is green to represent the pine trees we remember. It is flanked on both sides by the colors of the flags of Belgium and Luxembourg.

All VBOB members wear the Medallion suspended from the neck by the ribbon. Life members are designated by a silver star affixed in the center of each leg of the ribbon approximately 3 inches above the Medallion (or helmets in the case of officers).

Chapter officers wear a letter "C" above the 5/8 inch silver helmets which designate the office held: 3 helmets each side designate a Chapter President; 2 helmets, a Chapter Vice president; 1 helmet a member of a Chapter staff.

National officers wear a letter "N" above the 5/8 inch silver helmets. The National President wears 4 helmets on each side; National Vice Presidents wear 3 helmets; National Staff officers wear 2 helmets and Appointed officers wear 1 helmet.

Former officers wear gold (vice silver) helmets.

Chapters may order helmets and "C"'s for their chapter officers. Cost is $1.00 per helmet/letter. Please designate the names and office of the chapter officers in your letter order.

Individuals should use the VBOB ORDER Blank on the reverse of this sheet to assure correct pricing of their order.
VBOB ORDER BLANK

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

Please ship the following items to:

NAME: ____________________________
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* Please engrave Brass Plate of A2 Plaque with:
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Write us about any Battle of the Bulge artifacts/materials that you may have, such as uniforms, weapons, equipment documents, personal effects, etc., and how, when and where they were obtained.

Would you be willing to donate these materials for use in the Battle of the Bulge Gallery, Ft. Meade Museum, Ft. Meade, MD?
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September 1986 Edition

VBOB UPCOMING EVENTS – A REMINDER
EUROPEAN TRIP ... October 19 thru November 1, 1986
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ... Arlington, VA – November 6, 7, 8, 1986
DEDICATION OF PLAQUE ... Arlington National Cemetery December 16, 1986...

honoring men and women who participated in The Battle of The Bulge

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE
P.O. Box 11129, Arlington, Virginia 22210-2129

Name ___________________________ Birthdate ___________________________
Address ___________________________ Phone( ) ___________________________
City ___________________________ State ___________________________ Zip ___________

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

Campaign Ribbons and Battle stars awarded ___________
Wounded ___________
Captured ___________

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