

# The BULGE BUGLE

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

VOLUME XXXV NUMBER 4

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

NOVEMBER 2016



From the December 2015 event:  
(l-r) Alan Cunningham, VBOB  
President; LTC Ruth Hamilton,  
BOB Fndn; LTC Alfred H. M.  
Shehab, 38th Cav Sqdn &  
BOB Fndn Pres; Dean Young  
and Bana Qashu, Guests;  
BG Johan Andries,  
Belgium Military Attaché.



## REMEMBRANCE and COMMEMORATION

• 72<sup>nd</sup> ANNIVERSARY of THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE •

Metropolitan Washington, DC ★ December 14-16, 2016

*See pages 8-9 for full registration details.*



**Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc.**  
PO Box 27430, Philadelphia, PA 19118  
703-528-4058

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**VISIT THE VBOB WEB SITE:** [www.battleofthebulge.org](http://www.battleofthebulge.org)  
or [www.vbob.org](http://www.vbob.org)



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2006-07  
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John Dunleavy\* 1999-01  
Louis Cunningham 2001-03  
Demetri Paris\* 2008-10  
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Douglas Dillard 2012-14  
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No current information as of  
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No current information as of  
publication deadline.]

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**ATTENTION, ASSOCIATES:  
MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNT!**

Save \$10 off the yearly fee of \$15  
when you renew for 4 years.  
See membership application  
on the back cover, or go to  
our website: [www.vbob.org](http://www.vbob.org).



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Alan Cunningham, Associate



THIS IS MY LAST MESSAGE TO you as President, as we will have a new slate of officers starting the New Year. The last two years have flown by and it seems like just yesterday that I was elected your president (the first Associate to hold that position). We had a lot to accomplish in these two years and have done a lot to move the association forward. We needed to reorganize to maintain our tax exempt status and

that required many changes which are discussed below.

We worked to reorganize the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge into a legacy organization with a new name — Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc. This is the name approved by the Executive Council and presented to the membership at the annual meeting in Seattle, Washington on October 7, 2016. The Bylaws were rewritten (*highlights are presented below*) and Incorporation documents updated with the Virginia State Corporation Commission. These changes will allow us to move forward insuring that we can perpetuate the memory of the Battle of the Bulge for future generations. All of our efforts were reported to you during our annual meeting and are on our website.

The 2016 Annual Commemoration in Washington, DC, December 14-16, 2016, is going to be a special event as there have been a lot of changes within the Embassies of Belgium and Luxembourg. Events

will be excellent as usual. The registration form is in this *Bulge Bugle* on page 9. The planning for the reunion in 2017 has also been moving along as we settled on San Antonio, Texas as the location with the dates yet to be finalized but probably in early October. The dates and general information will be reported in the next *Bulge Bugle* with a save-the-dates notice. I am sure that this reunion will also be a great one to attend as San Antonio is very military friendly with lots to do and see.

Congressman David McKinley (WV) introduced a Congressional Resolution to recognize the “Wereth 11,” members of an all African American unit, who fought at the Battle of the Bulge in WWII, that were taken prisoner and shot. This resolution was to recognize the courageous service of these brave men. “We must never forget the sacrifices made by America’s warriors and this resolution will make sure the heroic acts of the ‘Wereth 11’ are not forgotten,” said McKinley. In 1949, a subcommittee of the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate conducted an investigation in connection with massacres and other atrocities committed by German troops during the Battle of the Bulge. For unknown reasons, the “Wereth 11” were omitted from that report. This resolution corrects that error. Congressman McKinley asks that members of the Battle of the Bulge contact their Congressmen and ask them to become a co-sponsor of the resolution. I support this resolution.

It has been a very busy year and I hope to see you all at the Commemoration in December as we change the leadership leading into the New Year. Be well and attend the events if you can.

## SUMMARY OF CHANGES MADE TO OUR CURRENT BYLAWS FOR THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE ASSOCIATION, INC.

- Change name throughout from VBOB to BOBA.
- Change references to the IRS Code from 501c19 to 501c3.
- Change membership criteria to show “members” and “BOB veteran members” — no more “associates.”
- Revamp the elected and appointed officers of the association.
- Change the term of service of the President so he can be reelected twice (total of three years). All other officers can be reelected as many times as they wish to serve.
- Eliminate the Corresponding Secretary position.
- Change from an Executive Council to a Board of Directors, since we are incorporated and corporations have Boards.
- Reduce trustees to three and just call them Board Members.
- Revamp the Appointed Officers, adding a Chaplain.

- Have only one past president as a voting member of the board — usually the last president but can be another past president if the last president can not or will not perform that duty.
- Convert all current members from VBOB to BOBA with the same term.
- Redo the VBOB emblem by only changing the name on the outside border to BOBA.
- Change the fiscal year to 1 January - 31 December. The term of officers and directors should be the same as the fiscal year, being sworn in at the December Anniversary Meeting, or the first meeting in January if not present in December.



—Submitted by Alan Cunningham, VBOB President

## LETTERS TO VBOB

### TO ALAN CUNNINGHAM, PRESIDENT

Dear Alan,

I wish to thank you and all the Associate members who stepped up to the plate and helped to keep the Battle of the Bulge Association from dying, like it's happening with all the Veterans of World War II. It's good to know the publication about the Battle of the Bulge will continue to (in your words) preserve the legacy of the gallant men and women who served during the Battle of the Bulge. I'm a life time member of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, and will send a donation to help support the publication of *The Bugle*.

Sincerely,

Major Norvin Vogel

Major U.S.A (Retired)

### THE NEW BULGE BUGLE

Congratulations on the beautiful new look of the "Bulge Bugle".

Thank you for everything that you are doing to honor our vets!

Gratefully,

Sue McDougall, Associate

(Daughter of the Greatest Generation)

Father: Floyd Hensley, 6 ARMDD

## How to submit stories for "The Bulge Bugle"

Please continue to send us your Battle of the Bulge stories. Associate members are reminded to submit stories about veterans you know who fought in the battle. Guidelines for submitting stories, letters and photos to be published in *The Bugle* are:

**Stories and letters:** Please send typewritten (not handwritten) text whenever possible. We reserve the right to edit for length or clarity. Clippings/articles from recent newspapers or other periodicals must contain the name & date of publication, so we can obtain reprint permission. NOTE: We cannot reprint from books or pamphlets, unless you are the author. We do not have the resources to do a lengthy permission process from a publisher.

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

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

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

**QUESTIONS?** Please contact Tracey Diehl,  
703-528-4058, or by email: [tracey@battleofthebulge.org](mailto:tracey@battleofthebulge.org)

### ROGER B. MURRAY, 87TH INFD, 312TH ENGR CMBT BN



Sergeant Roger B. Murray (left photo) was a proud member of the 87th Infantry Division, 312th Combat Engineer Battalion, Company B and passed away on April 9, 2016. (Right photo, l-r) Having some fun: A. J. Bowers, Orval Smith, Murray (getting a shave) and William S. Baumgardner.

—Submitted by Diane Spinelli, Roger Murray's daughter



# MEMBERS IN MEMORIAM

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

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

We have been notified, as of September 23, 2016, that these members of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc. have also recently passed away:

Barker, William H.	99 INFD	Haygood, Jesse	134 AAA GUN BN	Pearsol, Calvin	42 INFD
Barkie, Jeremiah J.	789 AAA AW BN	Heaberlin, Stuart	3 ARMDD	Pells, Louis	99 INFD
Barron, Hoyt	5 INFD	Heininger, James B.	125 AAA BN	Persselin, Leo	526 AIB
Bisol, Charles	599 AAA AW BN	Hewitt, Harold H.	252 ENGR CMBT BN	Phillips, Richard H.	75 INFD
Blaher, William S.	106 INFD	Hodges, Samuel R.	1 INFD	Phillips, Robert F.	28 INFD
Blass, Gus	24 CAV RECON SQD	Hoff, Russell D.	106 INFD	Pietrofesse, Alfred	80 INFD
Boyett, Thomas P.	30 INFD	Huckaby, Leslie	35 INFD	Pillitteri, Joseph	5 INFD
Brightman, Gilbert	168 ENGR CMBT BN	Hunziker, Raymond	809 FA BN	Piper, Stewart	26 INFD
Brummett, Audley	35 INFD	Kesselring, Bruce E.	838 QM GAS SUP	Pistorius, Neil	78 INFD
Capen, Raymond	168 ENGR CMBT BN	King, Alvin G.	17 ABND	Preston, Stuart	555 SAW BN
Carver, Ralph L.	87 INFD	Klein, Philip L.	195 QM LAUNDRY	Putigano, Sandy	249 ENGR CMBT BN
Cerbo, Anthony A.	2 ARMDD	Kleinsmith, Edwin	153 FA BN	Rader, Jr., Kenneth	177 FA BN
Cericola, Ralph	82 ABND	Kolasch, James	104 INFD	Regan, Robert	296 ENGR CMBT BN
Checca, Mario L.	106 INFD	Krause, Chester	565 AAA AW BN	Rice, Otis	268 FA BN
Cheverette, Albert	9 ARMDD	Ladensack, Carl	84 INFD	Robles, Louis	974 FA BN
Cimaglia, Sam F.	106 INFD	LaFranca, Joseph J.	87 INFD	Rostock, Sr., John	489 AAA AW BN
Clark, Ralph M.	5 INFD	Landis, Homer	147 ENGR CMBT BN	Royer, Frank E.	2 INFD
Clarke, Beresford	26 INFD	Langford, Raiford	893 TD BN	Salcedo, Manuel L.	84 INFD
Conover, Guy L.	87 INFD	Leonard, William E.	35 INFD	Schnauffer, Bill J.	4 INFD
Coombs, Melvin	87 INFD	Liddle, Edgar	2 INFD	Shape, Richard M.	2 INFD
Cox, Edgar L.	75 INFD	Litwiller, Neil	26 INFD	Siano, Charles H.	9 INFD
Crusie, Robert F.	666 FA BN	Lojewski, Frank	796 AAA AW BN	Sicinski, Edward S.	4 ARMDD
Curran, James P.	75 INFD	Lynch, Kevin B.	83 INFD	Sisson, John	4 ARMDD
Dalstrom, Jr., Sten	529 QM Co	Maclin, Robert E.	99 INFD	Sleger, Paul H.	11 ARMDD
Danner, Jr., Charles	82 ABND	Mangiantini, Ezio	17 ABND	Smart, Clarence	83 INFD
Deadrich, Paul	11 ARMDD	Manning, John R.	5 INFD	Strong, Edison	26 INFD
Dekoster, Edward	99 INFD	Maples, Lyman	106 INFD	Stumpus, Kelly	101 ABND
Denlinger, Richard L.	30 INFD	Marianos, Ward	ASSOCIATE	Tachuk, George	75 INFD
DePalma, Jim	299 ENGR CMBT BN	Meaux, Frederick	87 INFD	Torchia, Frank	9 USAF
Dexter, Jean L.	ASSOCIATE	Merriman, Lloyd	3 ARMDD	Van Nest III, Robert	774 TK BN
Dillabaugh, Donald	75 INFD	Metz, Morris D.	94 INFD	Vaughan, Jr., Willie	2 INFD
Duke, Monroe	106 INFD	Miller, Gerald	83 INFD	Wagner, Waid	2 INFD
Edwards, Donald A.	84 INFD	Mills, Roger E.	193 FA GP	Warren, Harry R.	557 HVY MAINT TK ORD
Fenn, Thomas L.	1 INFD	Moran, Richard J.	28 INFD	Watson, Earl E.	1317 ENGR GS BN
Fennessey, David J.	75 INFD	Moskowitz, Alfred	75 INFD	Webber, Edward C.	78 INFD
Ferrari, Thomas J.	563 AAA AW BN	Mullins, Chester	7 ARMDD	Welsh, James P.	82 AIB
Finger, Benjamin B.	80 INFD	Murray, Hugh J.	166 ENGR CMBT BN	Wilder, Fredrick S.	87 INFD
Fitzgibbon, David J.	87 INFD	Murray, Roger B.	87 INFD	Williams, Odell	28 INFD
France, Philip	264 FA BN	Murvay, John	87 INFD	Wilson, Claude G.	87 INFD
Franco, Arnold C.	9 USAF	Neff, William S.	2 INFD	Wilson, George E.	101 ABND
Galiati, Cam	87 INFD	Neiland, Victor	30 INFD	Wineland, Robert	106 INFD
Grantham, Rufus	106 INFD	Nelson, Gilbert M.	75 INFD	Woo, Dean	3 INFD
Greenway, Wiley	10 ARMDD	Nickol, Donald	16 FAO BN	Wooldridge, Clifton	83 INFD
Grossman, Irving	106 INFD	Ochs, James W.	26 INFD		
Hatfield, Walter F.	87 INFD	Paparella, Julia	5 GEN HOSP		



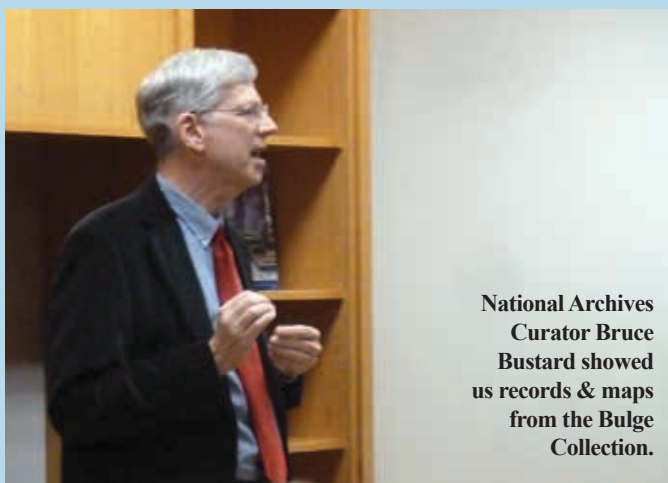
LTC Alfred H. M. Shehab, 38th Cav Rcn Bn, President, Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation, Inc., Banquet Master of Ceremonies.

## A LOOK BACK: DECEMBER 2015 COMMEMORATION OF THE BULGE

If you are not familiar with our Annual Commemoration of the Battle of the Bulge anniversary in DC, here are a few photos (in addition to the front cover image) from last year's event to give you a sense of the breadth of the activities.



WWII Memorial Wreath Laying at Battle of the Bulge location: (l to r:) Joe Landry, 776th AAA AW Bn; Mike Levin, 7th ArmdD; Dick Whalen, 3816th QM (GS) CO; Francis Chesko, 7th ArmdD; Dan Santagata, 5th InfD; Jack Miller, 740th TD Bn; J David Bailey, 106th InfD; Alvin Sussman, 106th InfD; Tom Ingram, 90th InfD; with Rachel Stern & her dog Chuck (foreground).



National Archives  
Curator Bruce  
Bustard showed  
us records & maps  
from the Bulge  
Collection.

## HOW TO APPLY FOR THE BELGIUM FOURRAGÈRE



The Fourragère 1940 was awarded to units which were mentioned at least twice on the Dispatches of the Belgian army. The Fourragère 1940 is a collective honorable award, not an individual one.

The American military authorities decided which units were eligible to receive a Fourragère 1940.

Individual permissions to wear the Aiguillette 1940 could only be awarded by the commanders of these units and this effectively to the soldiers who had taken part in the fighting

that had led to both entries on the Order of the Belgian army.

To be eligible, the applicant should be alive. In order to be able to proceed, the Belgium Embassy needs the name of the unit to which the Bulge Veteran belonged and his/her name so that the Embassy can contact their HQ in Brussels.

They will look at the name of the person and his unit and verify if that person is eligible for the Fourragère.

Applications by Veterans have to be sent to the Belgium Defense Attaché's Office in Washington DC to the attention of:

Embassy of Belgium

Defense Attaché's Office

Geert Deschacht, Administrative Assistant

3330 Garfield Street NW

Washington D.C. 20008

or by email: [geert.deschacht@qet.be](mailto:geert.deschacht@qet.be); or by fax: 202-333-8483

For questions, call the embassy at 202-625-5841.

—Submitted by John Bowen,  
Associate, and VBOB Historian

## DECEMBER 2016 DC EVENT UPDATE

The new Belgium Ambassador Dirk Wouters presented his credentials to President Obama on 16 September 2016, and on 23 September announced that he would like to host a reception on Friday, 16 December 2016 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM, at his residence in Washington DC.

**Those who have already sent in their Registrations will be contacted by John Bowen to see if they want to attend this event,** since at the time of the printing of the August *Bulge Bugle* we were not aware if there would be a reception by the Belgium Ambassador.

Those who have already made their hotel reservations and were planning to leave on the 16th of December but wish to attend this reception may want to contact the DoubleTree Hilton to add the evening of the 16th of December to their hotel reservation. The Registration form enclosed in this issue of the *Bugle* has been updated to reflect this added reception and bus transportation.

**Turn the page for updated Dec Event info**

# THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION, INC.

*Invites You to Join Your Friends for the*

## “EVENTS OF REMEMBRANCE AND COMMEMORATION” OF THE 72<sup>nd</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE December 14, 15 and 16, 2016 Metropolitan Washington, DC

We have been invited by the new Luxembourg Ambassador, Sylvie Lucas, to a reception at the Luxembourg Embassy, on Wednesday, 14 December 2016, from 6:30 – 8:30 PM. We have also been invited by the new Belgium Ambassador, Dirk Wouters, to his residence on Friday, 16 December 2016 from 4:00 – 6:00 PM. We will hold our annual Battle of the Bulge Commemoration Banquet, at the DoubleTree Hilton Crystal City, on Thursday evening, 15 December 2016, between 6:00 and 10:00 PM. Our speaker for the Banquet will be announced in the November Bulge Bugle. Our bus trip this year on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December will be to the National Holocaust Museum on 15<sup>th</sup> Street SW in Washington followed by lunch on your own and shopping at Union Station and their Mall. The DoubleTree Hotel Crystal City by Hilton, 300 Army-Navy Drive, in Arlington VA 22202 has been selected again for this event, with its panoramic view of our Nation's Capital. 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 City Metro Station and the Pentagon Mall. It provides easy access to Washington DC and has recently completed major renovations to the entire hotel for great accommodations. **We have managed a reduced rate of \$119.00**, single or double occupancy, plus taxes, for the evenings of 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> December 2016, which is during the business week. For those who want to stay a couple of days after 16<sup>th</sup> Dec, on the weekend (17<sup>th</sup> &/or 18<sup>th</sup>), the rate will be \$99.00 plus taxes. For those who want to come in earlier, to relax or enjoy Washington, they will offer a reduced rate of \$139.00 plus taxes rate for the evenings of the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of December 2016. This rate is higher because of the beginning of the business week yet still substantially reduced from their usual rate over \$200. Check-in time is 4:00 PM however, any guest checking in after 12 noon will be able to do so for no charge, based on the rooms availability. For those driving we have managed a reduced self-parking rate of **\$12** per night from their normal \$32.00 per night rate. **We have blocked 30 rooms so it is imperative to make hotel reservations early.** For room reservations, please call the DoubleTree Reservations **800-Hiltons (800-455-8667)** or 703-416-4100 by **December 6, 2016**. Mention the **BATTLE OF THE BULGE** for these special rates.

### •WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2016

- 2:00 PM – 9:00 PM **Registration & Hospitality Room** open – **Harrison/Jackson Room** - Receive Registration Packets with name badges, Banquet/bus tickets. Sign Attendance Books. (If you are only attending the Banquet, [on the 15<sup>th</sup> Dec] you may pick up your tickets at the Hotel by the Washington Ballroom by 6:00 PM Dec 15<sup>th</sup>.)
- 3:00 PM – 11:00 PM Hospitality Room/Exhibits, Books, scrapbooks, memorabilia, snacks & beverages open everyday. Kent Menser, New BOB Event Chair/Vice-President and John Bowen, BOB Treasurer will be the hosts.
- 3:30 PM We will be having our traditional **Tree Trimming** “Salute to Bulge Veterans” in the Harrison Hospitality Room. Bulge veterans who are attending should send us a WWII picture of you for the tree.
- 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM Bus leaves at 5:30 PM for Luxembourg Embassy **Reception**, downtown Washington, from 6:30 – 8:30 PM

### •THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2016

- 9:15 AM - 9:30 AM Load buses and depart promptly at 9:30 AM for National Holocaust Museum, 15<sup>th</sup> St SW, Washington DC.
- 10:00 AM We will visit the National Holocaust Museum and view their exhibit, and special exhibits.
- 12:00 PM - 2:30 PM We will travel to Union Station for lunch, on your own, at the variety of eateries and restaurants there and shopping at the Mall in Union Station.
- 2:30 PM Return to DoubleTree Hotel to rest and prepare for our annual Commemorative Banquet.
- 5:00 PM Hospitality Room Closed till after Banquet.
- 6:00 – 10:00 PM BANQUET AT THE DOUBLETREE HILTON HOTEL, WASHINGTON BALLROOM, (Lobby).**
- 6:00 PM Social Hour/Cash Bar. Seated for Dinner at 6:45 PM.
- 7:00 PM Color Guard & Honors.
- 7:15 PM Dinner served: **House Smoked Pulled Pork OR Chicken Piccata**
- Program: Greetings from Dignitaries, Speaker, Person of the Year Award.
- 10:00 PM Hospitality Room open

### •FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2016

- 8:45 AM - 12:30 PM Bus loads 8:45 AM leaves Hotel promptly at 9:00 AM for **Wreath layings** at World War II Memorial, large VBOB Memorial, and Tomb of the Unknowns and Changing of the Guard in Arlington Cemetery.
- 12:30 PM Return to DoubleTree Hotel for annual **VBOB Luncheon** in the new Capital View Room of Washington.
- 1:00 PM **Lunch 14<sup>th</sup> Floor North Bldg** of hot soup, Grilled Chicken or Smoked Turkey sandwich, beverage and dessert. Following lunch there will be the **Swearing-in** of the new National VBOB officers for **2017**.
- 3:00 – 7:00 PM Bus leaves at 3:00 PM for Belgium Ambassador Residence Washington DC Reception 4:00-6:00 PM.

- Notes:**
- ☐ Free Airport shuttle provided by the DoubleTree Hotel every half hour, 3 miles from Reagan Washington National Airport.
  - ☐ Free Shuttle from DoubleTree every hour on the half hour to METRO: Pentagon City (Blue/Yellow Line) and to Pentagon City Mall.
  - ☐ Skydome Lounge for dinner, the area's only revolving rooftop lounge, for a spectacular view of Washington at night.
  - ☐ Early departure: If your reservation plans change, please advise hotel at or before check-in of any change in your reserved planned length of stay to avoid an early departure fee (currently \$75.00) for checking out before your agreed upon reserved length. Any special circumstances of Early Departure Waivers will be on a case by case basis and depending on the severity of the situation.

09/23/16



Seq # \_\_\_\_\_

Chk # \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Amt \_\_\_\_\_

**RESERVATION FORM**  
**“REMEMBRANCE AND COMMEMORATION”**  
**OF THE 72<sup>nd</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE**  
**December 14, 15, and 16, 2016 Metropolitan Washington, DC**

Return form and check by **December 6, 2016** to:

**Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation, Inc.**  
**PO Box 4546**  
**Silver Spring MD 20914-4546**

Questions:

\*Kent Menser, Chair, 410-446-2768 or John D. Bowen, 301-384-6533  
 E-mails: [kent.menser@comcast.net](mailto:kent.menser@comcast.net) [johndbowen@earthlink.net](mailto:johndbowen@earthlink.net)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Spouse/Guests: \_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Battle of Bulge Unit you or family member Served With: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ **Vets do you have a WWII Pictures to send us?**

**RESERVATIONS:**

	<u>Number Attending</u>	<u>Cost/Person</u> <small>If you haven't before?</small>	<u>Total</u>
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Registration Fee: Provides for Badges, Programs, Hospitality, Toasts, etc \_\_\_\_\_ X \$30.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2016**

3:30 PM Tree Trimming Harrison Room \_\_\_\_\_ X FREE \$ \_\_\_\_\_

5:30 PM Bus to Luxembourg Embassy Reception \_\_\_\_\_ X \$25.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2016:**

Chartered Bus: To National Holocaust Museum & Union Station \_\_\_\_\_ X \$30.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

9:30 AM Bus Leaves for National Holocaust Museum \_\_\_\_\_ X \$30.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Commemorative Banquet: DoubleTree Hotel Washington Ballroom \_\_\_\_\_ X \$59.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

6:00 PM - 10:00 PM Please make your Main Course selection(s):

☐ *House Smoked Pulled Pork* \_\_\_\_\_ (Names) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ *Chicken Piccata* \_\_\_\_\_ (Names) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Diabetic Meal \_\_\_\_\_ (Names) \_\_\_\_\_

Seating is assigned. 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: \_\_\_\_\_

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2016:**

Chartered Bus: Wreath Layings VBOB Memorials, Tomb of \_\_\_\_\_ X \$25.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Depart 9:00 AM Unknowns & WWII Memorial \_\_\_\_\_ X \$25.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

9:00 – 12:00 AM Wreath Laying Ceremonies: Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

1:00 PM VBOB Luncheon at DoubleTree Hotel Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ X \$30.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Turkey \_\_\_\_\_ X \$30.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

3:00 PM Bus to Belgium Ambassador's Residence Reception \_\_\_\_\_ X \$25.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**GRAND TOTAL** (Enclose check made out to BoBHF 2016 Commemoration): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: Checks will not be deposited until 1 Dec 2016 so you can register now and help us spread out the work load.**

Permission granted for Hotel to notify BoB Historical Foundation that room reservation has been made.

*Signature:* \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTES & REMINDERS:** Banquet Dress: Business suit/black tie optional (miniature medals encouraged) or military dress uniform  
 Room reservations must be made for the DoubleTree Crystal City directly, by **December 6, 2016** Telephone 800-Hiltons (800-455-8667).  
 Return completed Reservation Form for events to BOB Historical Foundation but no later than **6 December 2016**.

No cancellation refunds after December 6, 2016.

Hotel Reservations based on Availability. Please do not delay.

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

\*Kent Menser, COL, US Army, Rtd. has agreed to assume the leadership, this year, of putting on the Annual BOB Commemoration.

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

09/23/16

# VBOB MEMBER RICHARD BROOKINS, 28 INF, IS LUXEMBOURG'S HONORED "AMERICAN ST. NICK"

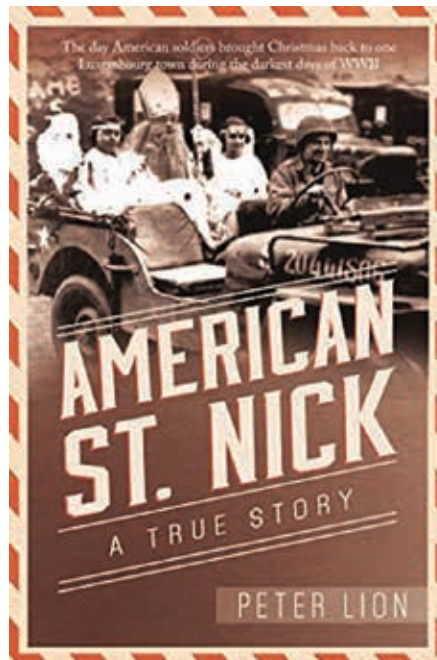


Richard Brookins, 28 InfD, rides through the town of Wiltz, Luxembourg as St. Nicolas in December 1944.

VBOB member Richard Brookins, 28th Infantry Division, whose 1944 appearance as St. Nicolas in a Luxembourg town has been commemorated there for 70 years, is featured in a book and documentary, "American St. Nick." And on July 7, 2016, Brookins was presented with the Luxembourg Military Medal, Luxembourg's highest military honor, by the Consul General of the Luxembourg Consul in New York at a small ceremony in Rochester.

"American St. Nick" tells the remarkable TRUE story of a handful of American soldiers who during the chaos of war, help bring Christmas back to a small Luxembourg town, and unknowingly create a holiday tradition that continues to this very day!

It's December 1944, the Germans are retreating. It appears the war in Europe may be over soon, but not soon enough for members of the battle-worn 28th Infantry Division. Knowing they won't be home again for the Holidays, soldiers from a 112th regiment Signal Company Message Center in the storybook town of Wiltz, realize that although the town has been liberated after nearly five years of Nazi occupation, the ravages of war have left the townspeople with nothing to celebrate the season. For the children, it will be especially bleak without the hope of candies, treats or gifts on the normally town-wide celebration of St. Nicolas Day.



Hearing this, Corporal Harry Stutz gets an idea. He gathers some fellow soldiers and together they organize a Christmas party for the children, a party that will include a special visit from St. Nicolas himself, thanks to a reluctant Corporal Richard Brookins.

Wearing the mass robes of the local priest and a crudely fashioned rope beard

to complete the costume, St. Nicolas rides through town on an Army jeep, stopping to meet the children and passing out treats baked by the Army cooks or donated from the soldier's care packages from home. Later the celebration continues with a party for all the children at the Wiltz Castle. It is a wonderful day for the children of Wiltz and for the American soldiers as well.

Ten days later however the Battle of the Bulge erupts in the Ardennes; Wiltz and the 28th Infantry Division are overrun. In the weeks of fighting that followed, most of the town is damaged or destroyed, mostly from Allied bombing. Tragically, some of the townspeople including children were killed. The joy of that one St. Nicolas day was gone... but not forgotten.

Following the war Wiltz rebuilt and those who survived vowed never to forget the kindness and generosity of those few American soldiers that one St. Nicolas Day. From then on, to honor those soldiers, the Wiltz St. Nicolas Day celebration would include a new tradition: someone would dress not as St. Nicolas, but rather as the American St. Nicolas and recreate his 1944 Jeep ride through town and party after. This tradition has continued faithfully for more than seven decades.

For more information, go to: [www.americanstnick.com](http://www.americanstnick.com)

# A TEENAGER IN THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

by Julian Lee Gelwasser, 90 INF, 358 INF REG, CO B

World War II started in 1939 when I was 13 years old. When Pearl Harbor was attacked Dec. 7, 1941 I was in high school, age 15. Our home room teacher said it would be over in 6 weeks. Sure. Three years later in 1944 I turned 18, graduated and the draft board was waiting. Before that my classmates formed a Victory Corp., bought "uniforms" and tried to prepare ourselves for service. There was an urgent need for trained riflemen in the army so I was inducted at Ft. Meade and took basic training at Camp Fannin, Tx. I quickly learned to use the M1 rifle, M1 carbine, BAR, 60mm mortar, 30cal MG, Bazooka, grenades and bayonet. We marched 25 miles with full packs in 100 degree weather. It was perfect training for the future snow and cold of the bulge. We should have trained in Alaska. In a matter of months I was on a troopship that landed in Marseilles, France. The bulge started Dec. 16th and I was sent north as a needed replacement to the 358th of the 90th INF. I became a platoon runner for LT. Julius Hebert. He and his non-coms were a wonderful group of men. My teenage mind was still active when Lt. Hebert let me carry his Thompson SMG. Wow, a Tommygun just like the ones carried by G-Men! I also carried his handy talkie radio.

There was much slogging through snow and cold. Food came in small K ration boxes. We were lucky to replace our boots with waterproof shoe pacs.

I was soon introduced to the nearness of death and I began to wonder if I would ever see my 19th birthday. At one time shots were zinging overhead. Lying prone next to a soldier, I poked him to get his attention. I got no response and realized he was dead. Another time, we were working our way through a wooded area in a fire fight when I was blocked by a smoking Jeep. The driver was lying on the hood barefooted. The Germans had taken his boots to replace their own.

After weeks of this we were near Wiltz, Luxembourg pushing the Germans out of a large farm house. To get out of the snow and cold we entered the barn. Big mistake. The Germans had zeroed it in and dropped a mortar shell on top of us. A large piece hit me in the left leg and another one of our men in the platoon was hit in the arm. We both started shouting, "MEDIC!" (I had a compound comminuted fracture and went into shock.)

I was soon covered with a blanket and put on a litter which went onto the fender of a Jeep. First stop was an aid station in Arlon, Belgium. I just missed an amputation. Next I was sent to a hospital in Paris where a Red Cross lady wrote a letter to my parents. This followed with a cross channel boat trip to England on the *St. Olaf*. At a hospital in Cheltenham I was put in traction for over a month, after which I returned to the US via a C54 hospital plane by way of the Azores, Newfoundland and Mitchel Field, LI. Months of rehab followed in Virginia until I could walk again.

I thought the medical treatment was very good, for those times. I was one of the first to get penicillin in the field.

Sad note: I had written Lt. Hebert a letter and it came back marked "DECEASED." Nice man — I still think of him.

I received my Honorable Discharge just as the war ended in 1945. The GI Bill was in effect, so I received a college education.

There is an interesting side note to my story. Some 14 years after the war ended, I was 33 and had risen to a mid-level position in the defense industry. I became involved with a major sub-contractor whose chairman of the board was Five Star General Omar Bradley. So former PFC me had a friendly chat in his office with the general. I invited him down to the Cape in Florida to witness a test firing of a prototype missile, after which he sent me a very nice thank you note [shown below] which I have kept all these years.

In retrospect, we 18-year-olds were very patriotic. We loved our country and were ready to fight for it, in the face of fanatical German Nazis who were terrorizing so many people. We did what we had to do to end their threat and end the war.

Hard to believe. Those of us still around are in our 90's.

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

July 28, 1959

Mr. J. L. Gelwasser

Orlando, Florida

Dear Mr. Gelwasser:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the courtesies extended to me and the accompanying staff during our recent visit to The [redacted] Company. The visit was most enlightening and should prove to be a significant contribution to the Pershing Program.

Mr. [redacted] and the others join me in thanking you for an extremely informative, well-planned and executed tour.

Sincerely,

Omar N Bradley



## VBOB VIDEOS—WE WANT YOU!

Watch VBOB veterans' videos on our website at: [www.vbob.org](http://www.vbob.org). Click on "Veterans' Video Stories." Tell us if your VBOB chapter would like to arrange a visit to record your members' 5-minute stories.

For more information, contact Kevin Diehl: 703-528-4058 or [kevin@battleofthebulge.org](mailto:kevin@battleofthebulge.org)



# CLAUDE BARNETT MOTLEY SR (1922-2005)



Claude Motley's record from the Official Roster of South Carolina Servicemen and Servicewomen in World War II documents his brief participation in World War II. What it does not do is capture the details of this short but eventful period in Claude's life on Earth. The record notes that he was born in Blaney (now Elgin), South Carolina on 1 November 1922. He still lived near Blaney when he entered active duty in the Army on 8 August 1944. He served overseas in the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater from 8 January 1945 until 12 June 1945.

He was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the American Campaign Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with service stars for the Rhineland Campaign and the Central Europe Campaign, and the World War II Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged as a corporal from Company M, 119th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Division on 13 February 1946.

And now, the rest of the story: Claude enlisted in the Army on August 8th, 1944. Claude went to basic training at Camp Blanding near Starke, Florida and arrived on August 18th. He trained as a member of a heavy weapons company and trained on heavy infantry weapons, the heavy machine gun, the 81 millimeter mortar, the rifle, the carbine, the pistol, and grenades. Claude completed his training and moved to Fort Meade, Maryland to await transportation to Europe in early January of 1945. In Europe on January 8th, he was assigned to Company M, 119th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Division. He was assigned to a machine gun platoon. When he joined the 30th Division, they were engaged in the final days of the Battle of the Bulge. On January 13th, the 30th Division launched a counteroffensive and began their push east toward Germany. On February 23rd, the 30th Division crossed the Roer River. On March 24th, they crossed the Rhine River in Germany. On April 12th, the 30th Division reached the Elbe River forty miles Southwest of Berlin in eastern Germany. On April 13th, Company M crossed the Elbe River near Grunewalde. The Germans mounted a counterattack and captured 22 members of Company M including Claude, his Company Commander, Captain Romulus Mann, and his platoon sergeant, Technical Sergeant Paul Schreck, as they took cover in the basement of a farm house. Claude was imprisoned in Stalag IIIA near Luckenwalde, Germany. Like other prisoners at the end of the war, Claude suffered from poor nutrition and care. Rumor in Stalag IIIA was that the Russians were about to liberate the prisoners. Claude managed to get a map of Germany and he and a friend, Wilton Outlaw, escaped on May 5th. Their plan was to reach a crossroads and to use the map to find their way west to American lines. The plan hit a snag when they reached the first crossroads, because the Russians had come through the area and had changed all the road signs to Russian, which was unintelligible to Privates Motley and Outlaw. They revised their plan, put the map away, and simply headed west. They were given a ride for part of the way on a wood burning truck by people they could not communicate with. Claude returned to the 119th Infantry. Victory in Europe was achieved on May 8th when Germany surrendered. On 12 June, the 30th shipped back to the United States aboard the RMS

Queen Mary ocean liner. After a visit home, Claude was stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington, where he served as a driver until his discharge on February 13th, 1946.

Post war, Claude returned home and to logging and farming. He also taught agriculture in a veterans program for a couple of years. He raised a family, was active in his community and his church. He was truly one of America's greatest generation.

—Submitted by his proud son-in-law, Nelson McLeod, Associate

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## A BROTHER'S LETTERS HOME

My dad, William J Flynn, was a Staff Sergeant with the 106th Infantry Division, HQ Co. I wanted to share some of the material I found related to his war experience.

Here is an excerpt of a letter William sent to his brother Ed, dated February 8, 1945 and titled "SOMEWHERE IN BELGIUM."

"After the big German Dec. offensive had been stopped, we pulled into a village in Belgium and it has been more of a rest area than anything else. Man, we really appreciated it. As Mother has probably told you, a buddy of mine and myself are sleeping in a home on a feather bed. Man, I mean it's the best go! It won't last long, though, as we will probably move back again in a few days. They don't let a combat infantry division rest very long. There were a couple of girls in the home where we stay and I really have a lot of fun. These Belgian gals are not bad at all . . .

"Oh well it's a lot of fun and we sure needed a little of it after the hell we went through during the German offensive. Ed, everyone was called on to help stop that big push. We were taken to a hillside at night and had to dig foxholes in the dark. You couldn't see a thing and you couldn't even think of lighting a match or flashlight or anything else. We spent several nights in those holes and I'm telling you I [almost] froze. We also knew the Germans were all around us, and that didn't make you feel any better. Buzz bombs going over, airplanes fighting, artillery and machine guns firing, the sky full of flares and tracer bullets. It was like nights in hell. I saw sights, Ed, I can't write about and I may see more before this mess is over, but I hope not. Believe me, Ed, when I say "war is really Hell." When fellows you have known a long time are killed, wounded and taken prisoner, it really gives you a



Flynn in front of the house where he and other soldiers stayed in Belgium, February 1945.

funny feeling. You will never know until I come home how close I was to being among some of those. Ed, the Germans are just as bad as the Japs. There isn't anything they won't do. I know, I've seen what they have done. I've talked to these Belgian civilians and heard their stories. I've seen dead Germans laying around frozen stiff, but it just doesn't affect you like it would seeing a dead person in the States. Especially when you know what they have done to your buddies and then, too, if it wasn't for them, I wouldn't be over here. I could tell you a lot of stories about them, but I guess I had better not." The letter is signed "Love to a swell brother, Bill."

And here is an excerpt from another letter Dad sent from Germany on April 28, 1945. His Division had been assigned POW duty in the Bad Ems area. The Bulge was over, of course, but I found the first person observations to be interesting:

"Well Ed, I am now in Germany. It is really pretty through the rural districts, but a lot of their towns and cities are really leveled. The country reminds me of the States, with the pretty farms and neat homes. We do not associate with the civilians in any way. We do not even speak to them. We have to be on the lookout all the time and we always travel in pairs. The people try hard to be friendly but we know that in their hearts they hate us, and we are not taking any chances with these

babies. Every one of their books and magazines has Hitler's picture in it. Yesterday we raised Old Glory over this place and our band played "The Star Spangled Banner." They just stopped and stared as our Flag waved in the breeze where the swastika once flew. They really thought they were a super-race, and it hurts their pride when we have conquered them and then just ignore them. They just gaze in amazement as tanks, trucks, jeeps, guns and other vehicles of war rush by, while overhead great fleets of bombers roar. They all symbolize the might of America and the downfall of Germany. These people don't look like the people of France and Belgium. They are well fed, well dressed, and seem to have plenty of everything. Their homes are nice and are nearly all modern. We often take over one that is intact, with all the furniture, including dishes in the kitchen and coal in the basement. We build a fire, cook a meal, and take a bath. In this particular place, there is a washing machine in the basement and that comes in handy for laundry. As we pass through towns and cities, there are white flags hanging from the windows. Germany is really getting a taste of what She dished out to other countries. She will be a long time recovering from this."

—Submitted by Bill Flynn, Associate

## UPDATE: AGGIES GO TO WAR EXHIBIT

For nearly a decade, Texas A&M Technology Commercialization (TTC) and the Wallonia Export and Investment Agency (AWEX) — a public agency of the Walloon region of Belgium — have partnered to promote the exchange of ideas, innovations and commercialization opportunities between Texas and Belgium. But this recent partnership isn't the first time Texas A&M and Belgium worked together. Over seventy years ago in the twilight of World War II, Texas Aggies played a pivotal role in liberating Belgium from Nazi occupation. Those ties have only grown stronger since those desperate days in the frozen forest of the Ardennes.

On December 12, 2014 — to mark the 70th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge and honor the sacrifice of the Texas Aggies involved in its liberation — a 5,000 square foot, museum exhibit was unveiled in Bastogne, Belgium. To bring home the impact of war, "Texas Aggies Go to War" recreated life before, during and after the war, and honored the lives of all citizen soldiers and their families and friends on the home front by focusing on five Texas Aggies who fought in and around Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge: Lt. Col. James Earl Rudder '32, Capt. Joe E. Routt '37, Maj. James F. Hollingsworth '40, Lt. Turney W. Leonard '42, and Lt. William M. Peña '42.

The exhibit featured multiple rooms that traced the life of an



Aggie in the 1930s and 1940s, from Texas A&M College to the soldiers' barracks to D-Day and the Ardennes Forest. On the exhibit tour, you experienced what life was like for the Aggies that fought during World War II. The exhibit was open in Bastogne, Belgium from December 12, 2014 through June 30, 2016, and will open again in College Station for a preview exhibit on Friday, November 11, 2016 in the Memorial Student Center on Campus and then in the Stark Gallery in the Memorial Student Center in 2017 as a larger visiting exhibit.

Learn more about the exhibit at: [aggiesgotowar.org](http://aggiesgotowar.org).



**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK:**  
[www.facebook.com/pages/Veterans-of-the-Battle-of-the-Bulge](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Veterans-of-the-Battle-of-the-Bulge)  
**VISIT OUR WEBSITE:**  
[www.battleofthebulge.org](http://www.battleofthebulge.org)





# MEMORIES OF THE WAR

by Jim Smothers, reprinted with permission from  
“Discover: The Essence of St. Clair” magazine



**VBOB Member  
Howell Dulaney,  
166 ENGR CMBT BN**

For a half century, Howell Dulaney would not talk about World War II. He tried to shut it out. He didn't want to think about the horrors he experienced in the war, and he wanted the nightmares to stop.

“It just gets so real. It leaves you with an uncomfortable feeling,” he said.

“It was 50 years after the war before I thought about talking about it,” he said.

That happened after he joined the George S. Patton, Jr., Chapter of the Battle of the Bulge in Birmingham, an exclusive group of veterans of that battle.

Besides their monthly meetings, there was an annual Christmas party. At one of those events, the chapter president went to each veteran and asked him to tell an experience he had during the war.

“When he got around to me, I was about the last one, and I didn't know what I was going to say. But when it was my turn, I asked, ‘Do you know about Bear Bryant, that they claim he could walk on water?’ He said, ‘Yeah, I've heard that.’ I said, ‘Well, I walked on water.’”

Then he told how he almost drowned, but was saved by a German soldier.

Part of his engineering group was assigned to ferry infantry soldiers across the Moselle River to prepare for an assault on a German division. The other engineers were to replace a span in the bridge for the rest of the army to cross, but that couldn't be accomplished if the Germans were there to stop them. So, an attack was planned.

His battalion was split into three parts, two to get the infantry across the river to attack, and one to fix the bridge. Two engineers would be in each boat to ferry six infantry soldiers at a time across the river on a dark, moonless night. The soldiers were instructed to paddle without raising the paddles from the water to maintain silence during the crossing.

“We gave them wooden pegs and told them to use those to plug holes in the boats in case we were fired upon,” he said. “That really got their attention.”

On one of the crossings, they found the infantry had taken some German POWs, and the engineers were tasked with taking them back to the other side.

“On that crossing, our boat capsized. We learned later that we had tipped over on an old ferry cable,” he said. “I had all my uniform on,

my helmet and my rifle, and I was not a good swimmer.”

He dog paddled, trying to stay afloat, growing more desperate by the second until, just at the point of giving up, a hand reached down and lifted him up.

“When that happened, my feet hit bottom, and I realized I was only in about four feet of water. We were almost at the bank, but it was so dark I didn't know that. I looked up and it was one of the POWs we had just brought across. He was taken away with the others, and I never even found out his name.”

Dulaney hasn't liked the water ever since.

But after telling his story to his fellow veterans, he decided it was OK to talk about the war. He developed an outline for sharing his memories, and gave speeches to a number of schools and church youth groups.

He shared many of his memories with them, but tended to leave out some details—like the bloody water at Utah Beach. He didn't tell them about young soldiers, his age, who were injured and crying for their mothers, or the horrible injuries some of them suffered.

But he did begin sharing his story with other people.

Dulaney grew up in Eastaboga as one of 15 children in the family. He never finished grammar school because farm life was so demanding. They raised cotton and row crops on an 80-acre farm, as well as animals for slaughter. His mother made dresses for the girls from flour sacks, and shirts for the boys from fertilizer bags. Shoes were a luxury and mostly worn about six months out of the year.

“It was hard work, but it was a good life,” he said.

He joined the Army at 17 and trained at Fort McCain in Mississippi, where he and his fellow engineers practiced bridge-making methods on the Yazoo River. He made bus trips home to see his family, and on one fateful trip he sat next to telephone company operator Robbie Reynolds from Columbus, Mississippi. They wrote to each other during the rest of his training and throughout the war.

After completing training in Mississippi, his group went by train to Boston where they boarded a ship for Great Britain. They sailed around Ireland, up the River Clyde into Glasgow, Scotland, and then traveled by train to Dorchester near the English Channel. About a week later, they loaded their supplies and themselves into a Higgins Boat (made in Mobile, Ala.) and spent the night crossing the Channel for the invasion.

“In Dorchester, we received our combat equipment and began to attend classes, learning what to do if wounded or captured and what information to give the enemy if captured,” he said.

“Once aboard the landing craft, we were told we would be crossing the English Channel into enemy territory within hours, and our destination would be Utah Beach... we knew this was D-Day. Some thought it might be their last day. As the boat was moving out everybody was real nervous. Some of us were trigger happy and ready to fight. Some were praying. And some were crying.”

They landed less than half an hour after the infantry and Marines first landed. “As we approached the beach, as soon as our craft landed we began to leave any way we could, out the front or over the sides. It was really frightening with all the noise from big guns, rifle fire and mortars exploding all around. The water was waist deep, and it was bloody. There were dead bodies floating everywhere and wounded soldiers crying for help. The only thing we could do was help them out of the water and help them get to a medic.”

Shortly after Dulaney's battalion arrived in Europe, Eisenhower brought in Patton to be the “fighting general” the Third Army needed, and Dulaney's battalion was part of that army.





## DONATIONS

We appreciate the generous contributions received between June 16 - September 15, 2016 from:

Amor, Louisa P	Associate
Baran, Stanley	296 ENGR CMBT BN
Berlin, George	75 INF
Burgess, Adam	Donor (IMO Stan Blazejewski)
Edquist, Glen	44 INF
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"Patton was an amazing general. He was a great leader, always in the battlefield with his men. He had proved he was a leader on the battlefield in World War I," he said. "Patton's theory was once you the get enemy running, don't give them time to stop and fire back, and it worked."

Patton moved so quickly Eisenhower told Patton's commander, General Bradley, to slow him down before he got so deep into enemy territory he would be surrounded and cut off from the other armies. Bradley started rationing Patton's gasoline to limit how far he could go.

Patton responded by taking his supply trucks to find a gasoline storage depot. "Now, when a four star general pulls up in his Jeep with his supply trucks and says 'fill 'em up boys,' do you think he's getting his gasoline?"

Patton's speed helped rescue the 101st Airborne Division when they were surrounded early in the Battle of the Bulge. Eisenhower called Patton to see how long it would take him to get his army to Bastogne, Belgium, to help, and Patton told him 24 hours. He then moved his army without a break, except for refueling, pushing through Germany and Luxembourg to get there.

Dulaney earned his Purple Heart during the Battle of the Bulge when he was hit by a piece of shrapnel from a "Screaming Mimi" artillery round. It was a minor wound, treated by a medic on site, and he returned to duty without being sent away for additional treatment.

His battalion's last action under fire came at Regensburg, Germany, where a bridge was needed across the Danube. It was built under fire, but not without the loss of four men killed and seven wounded.

After that, Patton moved toward Prague, but was called back to Regensburg when the war ended. Their new orders were to build barracks for a prison camp.

While in Regensburg, Dulaney's older brother "Doc" from the 7th Army, stationed in Munich, paid him a surprise visit on a three-day pass.

"What a happy three days that was," he said. "We received a big write-up in the Stars and Stripes magazine. After World War II, my younger brother was in the Korean War. Thank God we all came home safe and whole."

He said the Germans had superior equipment, but the Americans were better fighters

"I'm proud I was a soldier in Patton's army, and I thank God every day for sparing my life. I think Gen. Patton was the greatest general ever. He also had the 'Greatest Generation' fighting with him and for him...his 3rd Army fought across France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Austria and into Czechoslovakia. His army crossed 24 major rivers, liberated more than 82,000 square miles of territory, more than 1,800 cities and villages and captured 956,000 enemy soldiers. His army destroyed 3,000 tanks, 500 artillery pieces, 15,000 miscellaneous vehicles and 2,000 German aircraft.

"I'm not proud of the things I had to do in the war, but war is war. It's kill or be killed, and we must win all our wars, at all costs, in order to continue to keep and enjoy our freedoms."

He is a contributor to the National WWII museum in New Orleans, and he encourages everyone to go see it to gain a better appreciation of what it was about. "I want people to understand what war really means," he said. "I just want the young people to know what our freedoms mean to us, and we are slowly losing our freedoms."

Upon his return home from the war, his first destination was to see his family in Eastaboga. But Robbie was on his mind, too, and it wasn't long before he traveled to Columbus, Mississippi, to see her.

They married within weeks and built a life together. After a 40-year career with Alabama Power, he retired as a district superintendent. They built their "dream home" at Rock Mountain Lake below Bessemer and lived there for 10 years before moving to Memphis to be near their daughter, Eugenia Bostic and her husband, Gary. They were in real estate, and after the real estate crash, they relocated to Florida, and the Dulaney's moved to Pell City, splitting the distance between family in the Eastaboga area and friends in the Bessemer area.

Robbie passed away six years later. Then Eugenia developed inoperable cancer and moved in with her dad to live out the rest of her life. Dulaney was 90 when she died, and decided to sell his home and move to the Robert L. Howard State Veterans Home in Pell City, where he lives today.

### BUY THE VBOB BOOK OF YOUR STORIES

Now available for \$34.99

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

**Online:** Amazon: [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com); Barnes & Noble: [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com)

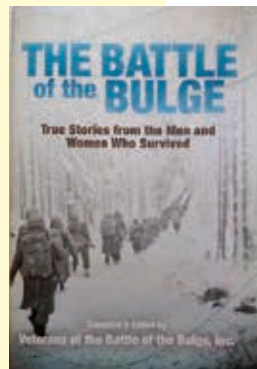
\*To order, provide the ISBN and the title of the book:

ISBN: 978-0-9910962-3-7

Title: *The Battle of the Bulge:*

*True Stories From the Men and Women Who Survived*

**NOTE: The book is not sold by VBOB.**





# MORRIS METZ, AN APPRECIATION

by Stephen Savage, Associate Member



Morris Metz was the President Emeritus and one of the founding members of the Lehigh Valley Chapter (#55) of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. The chapter was chartered in October 1998.

Morris tried to enlist in the Navy when he was 17 years old but was rejected for having bad eyesight. He then tried the Army and was inducted on September 21st, 1943 in Bangor, Pa. Knowing he had bad eyesight, he memorized the eye chart ahead of time so he could pass the physical.

He served as a Sergeant in the 94th Infantry Division, Anti-tank unit with Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion of the 301st Infantry Regiment, and served with General Patton's 3rd Army while in Luxembourg in January 1945 during the Battle of the Bulge. Morris was awarded the Bronze Star for action in March 1945 near Zerf, Germany where he risked his life to deliver messages

to his battalion command post. He always said he didn't think he deserved any award. "It was just what you were supposed to do."

Morris was instrumental in founding the Education Program with his local chapter. The chapter began the education program in 1999, and has done hundreds of programs in local schools and community groups, to teach young people and adults that "Freedom is Not Free." To date, the chapter's veterans have "enriched the lives of over 100,000 people" and will continue to do so for many years to come in his honor.

Mr. Metz was always known as the "great communicator" and was always kind to everyone he met. His friends used to say he was a great social networker with the human touch. Morris was most proud of VBOB and it's members and the education program, because he lived for the young people, his community, his country, and most of all his family.

Morris was a true family man who considered his greatest gift his wife, Dorothy. He would visit her every day in the nursing home and would always stay close to the rest of his family.

He was blessed with his wife of 69 years, his daughter Deborah, his son Doug, a sister, and 7 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

Morris did have the opportunity to travel to Stavelot, Belgium in December 2004 with 99 other veterans, as part of a trip to mark the 60th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. It was a trip he spoke about often.

While fighting in Europe and laying in a foxhole during the Battle of the Bulge, he dreamed of one day living in the country. That dream came true in 1952 when he and his wife moved into a farmhouse and eventually accumulated over 30 acres of farmland in Easton, Pennsylvania.

Morris spent much of his life with an appreciation of classical and opera music, and many times the Battle of the Bulge meetings would open up with a video production of the "Ode to Joy."

One thing we will always remember is one of Morris' favorite quotes with which he would end many a meeting:

"When the power of love,  
overcomes the love of power,  
then there will be peace."  
Rest in Peace, Morris, and  
Thank you for your service.

Morris passed away on August 8th, 2016 in Easton, Pennsylvania.

## ATTENTION ALL VBOB MEMBERS: Looking for VBOB Memorials Information

We'd like to recognize all the VBOB Memorials (monuments, statues, benches, etc.) that our chapters have erected over the years, by compiling a comprehensive list of them. We would post the list of VBOB Memorials on our website, and publish in an upcoming issue of *The Bulge Bugle*. Then our members will know about all of them and can visit them.

We would need the Chapter name, brief description of memorial, location (name of park, if applicable, city and state) and who is in

charge of the property. Include photos (as large as available) if possible, and contact information.

**Send typed/printed material to:** Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc; PO Box 27430; Philadelphia, PA 19118-0430; **or by email to:** [tracey@battleofthebulge.org](mailto:tracey@battleofthebulge.org)

**QUESTIONS? Please contact Tracey Diehl, 703-528-4058, or by email: [tracey@battleofthebulge.org](mailto:tracey@battleofthebulge.org)**



## RALPH BOZORTH RETIRES FROM VBOB

by Lou Cunningham, VBOB President 2001-2003



When Ralph Bozorth attended a meeting of the Delaware Chapter of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge with a friend VBOB member, he instantly became deeply interested, although not a veteran himself. He joined as an Associate and was soon driving a few of us older suburban members in to meetings at the Naval Yard in Philadelphia and became actively involved, bringing his vitality and expertise to the group. The new electronic age had left most of us behind,

so we instantly relied on him. He enrolled all the chapter veterans in the WWII Registry of Remembrances (as well as many more veterans over the years) and created a slide presentation containing veterans' photos which he presented at reunions.

Recognized for his abilities, he was elected as a Trustee on the Executive Council of National VBOB. Later, taking on the responsibilities of Treasurer, he worked diligently to solve the IRS problems and to get VBOB incorporated. If he himself couldn't do something, he found someone who could. At reunions, he was seen rushing around organizing bus trips, showing film presentations, and sometimes handling all the other responsibilities of chairman.

But much of his activity for VBOB was behind the scenes and with our website, bringing in his stepson Kevin Diehl to revamp it, making it more accessible and complete, including a searchable digital archive of all issues of *The Bulge Bugle*. They added the website's VBOB store, where one can buy QM merchandise, and added online Reunion Registration and a photo gallery of BOB veterans. Ralph posted many photos and news stories to the website on an almost daily basis for years.

Letters were sent by him to all of our member authors who have had their battle stories printed in *The Bulge Bugle*, to get permission to reprint them in a book. Through his efforts, the book called "The Battle of the Bulge: True Stories from the Men and Women Who Survived" is now printed upon demand and is sold on Amazon's and Barnes and Nobles' websites. We receive royalties from the sales of the book. [See page 15 for how to purchase the book.]

When no longer able to attend reunions because of his wife's illness, he continued working quietly in the background, helping to edit the *Bugle*, and became Editor upon the death of George Chekan, who had been editor for many years. Now he has retired, and the website and publication are being handled efficiently by Kevin and Tracey Diehl, VBOB Member Services. His accomplishments on behalf of VBOB have been too numerous to list here. Our best way of summing up is that Ralph brought VBOB into the 21st Century. We at VBOB thank him for that.

## SE FLA CHAPTER 62 BOB ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON

World War II veterans plan to gather on Sunday December 11, 2016 for a luncheon meeting in the Grand Ballroom of the Airport Hilton Hotel in West Palm Beach. "We are expecting about 150-200 survivors of the bloodiest battle of WWII," said George Fisher, one of 600,000 American soldiers who held off a German assault through the Ardennes Forest 71 years ago.

Fisher, 91, of Palm Beach, did survive, along with other members of the Florida Southeast Chapter of the Veterans of the Bulge. "All our members are 90 plus," Fisher said. "We were all 20 years old when the battle started on Dec 16, 1944 and lasted for 6 weeks. In that short period of time, we suffered 80,000 casualties, including 19,000 who made the supreme sacrifice."

George Fisher, the President and Founder of the Southeast Florida VBOB chapter, stated "We will never forget our buddies ... they still march with us, although their footsteps make no sound and they will never grow old as we, who are left to grow old."

The meeting is open to the public. Cost for luncheon is \$35.00.

For information, call George Fisher at 561-585-7086.

### WE NEED YOUR STORIES!

We seem to get news from the same few chapters for each issue of *The Bulge Bugle*. We'd like to represent YOUR CHAPTER in an upcoming issue.

We also need our members' first-hand accounts of their experiences in the Battle of the Bulge.

See page 5 for complete story submission guidelines.

### IMPORTANT NOTE: VBOB CONTACT CHANGES

To reduce VBOB expenses, we no longer have the phone number 483-351-8844 or the Blue Bell, PA PO box address.

**Make all phone inquiries to:** 703-528-4058 (Tracey Diehl, VBOB Member Services).

**Send material for "The Bulge Bugle" and our website to:** Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc; PO Box 27430; Philadelphia, PA 19118-0430; or by email to: [tracey@battleofthebulge.org](mailto:tracey@battleofthebulge.org)

(All material submitted will be considered for use in both *The Bulge Bugle* and the website, as seen fit by the editors.)

**QUESTIONS? Please contact Tracey Diehl, 703-528-4058, or by email: [tracey@battleofthebulge.org](mailto:tracey@battleofthebulge.org)**





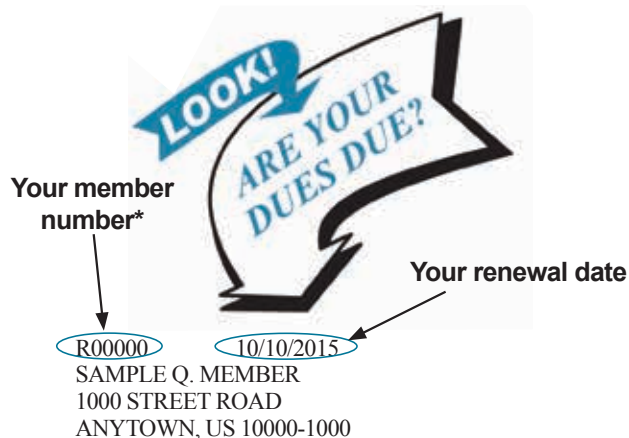
## TOURS FOR 2017

Tours planned for 2017 will be featured in the next issue of *The Bulge Bugle* (February 2017) and on our website: [battleofthebulge.org](http://battleofthebulge.org).

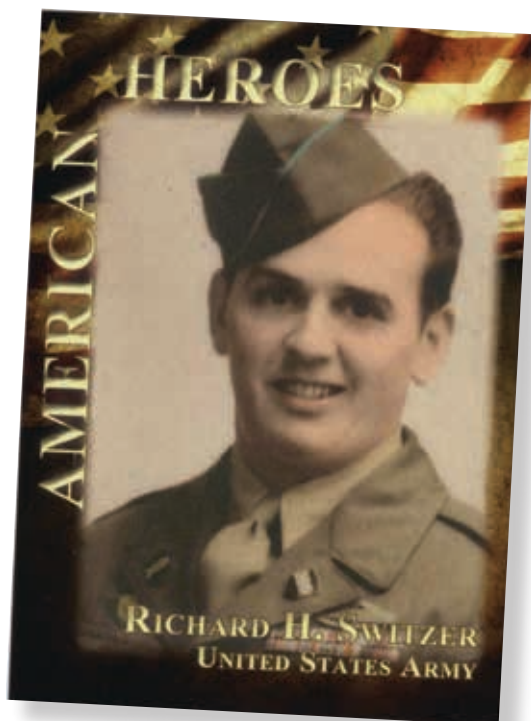
If you have any questions about upcoming tours, please feel free to contact Doris Davis, President of the Golden Gate Chapter, and VBOB Executive Council Member. Contact [doris@battleofthebulge.org](mailto:doris@battleofthebulge.org) or 650-654-0101.

## WHEN ARE MY DUES DUE?

Look at the back cover address label:



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



## VETERANS TRADING CARDS PROJECT

A church in Fremont, Ohio, produces these veterans' trading cards as a mission project. Shown is an example featuring my late father, Richard H. Switzer, 99 INFD 395 REG. The veteran or family members are contacted, and asked to submit a photograph and fill out an information sheet. The minister processes it, has them printed, and gives the veteran or family member 150 cards to share with others, free of cost. Cardholders are invited to the church for the Sunday closest to Memorial Day, to be honored and to trade cards. A church, club, or company in your area might be interested in doing this project to honor veterans in their community. Call or email me for more information at 419-986-5991 or by email [osujk@msn.com](mailto:osujk@msn.com).

—Submitted by Sherry Klopp, Associate, Vice President Chapters

## WELCOME ABOARD!

New members who joined VBOB June 16-September 15, 2016:

Adler, Murray	70 INFD
Almeida, Jim	Associate
Baker, David D	Associate
Barrett, Jerry	Associate
Berkman, Harold W	80 INFD
Bishop, Martha	Associate
Coderre, Pauline	Associate
Daniels, Joan	Associate
Flynn, William E	Associate
Fabbriant, John J	Associate
Kelly, Christopher	Associate
Lindholm, Paula	Associate
Lynch, Kerry	Associate
Musselman, Richard	Associate
Pitts, Forest J	8 ARMDD
Porr, James	Associate
Sisson, Lenora D	Associate
Smith, Duane	Associate
Smith, Kenneth L	Associate
Suggs, Robert	Associate
Weiner, Jack	Associate
Wilber, Suzanne	Associate

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

- Talking to people about VBOB and suggesting that they also join
- Spreading the word about our website: [www.vbob.org](http://www.vbob.org)
- Sending us articles to be included in *The Bulge Bugle*
- Plan to attend our annual December Commemoration of the Battle of the Bulge in Washington DC. (See pages 8-9.)

# LEGION OF HONOR TO JACK VAN EATON

by Deanna Isaac, reprinted with permission  
from the *Bothell Reporter*.

Kenmore resident and Bothell Fire Commissioner Jack Van Eaton not only turned 91 years old on Feb. 17, but was also knighted as a Chevalier in France's Legion of Honour, the nation's highest honor, for his actions during World War II (WWII).

The story started in 1944, when Jack Van Eaton enlisted in the Army with his brother, hoping they'd both go to flight school. While his brother would fly 23 missions in a B-29 bomber over Japan, Jack would head to Europe and take up arms against the Nazis. "That was my brother," Van Eaton said. "He flew and I walked [the war]."

From armored infantry training, Van Eaton went to train in the Tennessee backwoods. "Maybe 100,000 people were transferred out of the Air Corps into the infantry, so then I ended up in the 78th Infantry Division," Van Eaton said. "We went to Tennessee to do maneuvers in the swamp and chase poisonous rattlesnakes across the streams in front of us."

One day, he was told to muster with all his gear in the parade grounds. "Finally, I think they thought we were well enough trained and sent us to a ship in New York harbor. The ship I went on had previously been a British cruise ship designed to carry 600 people. There was only 3,500 of us that got piled into there, which probably exceeded the limit."

He then learned he'd be heading over the Atlantic Ocean to fight in the thick of battle on the European front lines. He and more than 10,000 others in the 78th Infantry, and all their gear, machinery, and equipment, boarded several ships and crossed the Atlantic.

"We left New York harbor on Friday the 13th of October 1944. Friday the 13th, we thought, 'Oh, that's not a good sign,'" Van Eaton said. "We traveled alone, we did not travel in a convoy. Our ship was faster than the convoys go. We were told it was faster than a submarine, but we were quite aware that it was not faster than a torpedo."

The 78th infantry made it safely across "The Pond" in England and started training to fight Nazi troops in France. The first time he saw combat was during the Battle of the Bulge, one of the most notorious of the European campaign. Trench foot and frozen feet were high among the other troops, however, Van Eaton's battalion never got those issues as he had taught them how to live with the cold.

Growing up on a farm in Canada, Van Eaton was no stranger to the cold. "It was probably 30 - 40 degrees below freezing, around 10 to 15 below zero," Van Eaton said. "No matter what it was called, it was cold."

During his time near the front lines, he had many near misses with Nazi artillery, fortune shone on him, but not on about half of the men with which he went over to Europe. "We were told to 'keep the line at all cost,' now that's not good hearing 'all cost,'" Van Eaton said.

During the Battle of the Bulge, when ordered by his sergeant to lubricate his machine gun with motor oil, Van Eaton was nearly given a court martial for disobeying a direct order. However, men on the lines were needed and when it came time to fire at the advancing Nazi's, Van Eaton's machine gun was the only one that fired.

"While we were sitting in the woods waiting and doing nothing, except making sure the Germans didn't make it past us, an order came down and a sergeant came in with a can of motor oil with orders that we should oil all of our weapons," he said. "I was born and raised in the cold country, and I know that oil - in cold weather - doesn't allow things to move..."



Photo: Deanna Isaac

**VBOB Member Jack Van Eaton, center, during his knighting ceremony with his grandson, left, and Jack Cowen, honorary consul of France.**

"I said well if I'm court martialed will they come out here and do it, or be forced to go into a warm building to be court martialed," Jack said. "That upset the poor sergeant, he got real upset..."

Another time, a German troop had raised the white flag of surrender and had asked that the Allied troops come and take them into custody as they'd run out of ammunition. Van Eaton was a heavy machine gunner, slower than the rifleman ahead of him, which was good for Van Eaton when the German troops ended up finding some rounds and used them without prejudice.

There were also other events during the war that left Van Eaton feeling survivor's remorse, when the group split and the other team were spotted by German artillery. They didn't make it, but his group did, allowing them to see the artillery coming in at 20- to 30-foot intervals.

"The one that landed over there were so close to the foxhole that two guys were temporarily deaf from the concussion, it was that close," Van Eaton said. "So we didn't shoot anymore, we pretended we were dead. Then when we saw that our riflemen were in town, we left the foxhole and spread out at 25-30 foot intervals so that if artillery shells came in they'd only get one or two of us."

Three shells landed along the division as they came into town; all three shells were duds - a saving grace Van Eaton attributes to the Polish captives who were creating duds for the Germans.

However, the Battle of the Bulge is also where Van Eaton took a Nazi bullet to a leg.

"The morning of February the third, why I felt an impact on my leg and I told my Sergeant, 'I been hit,' and he said 'I didn't hear anything,' and I said 'neither did I, but I sure felt something,'" Van Eaton said of getting shot. "The rifle bullet went through a tree around 18-20 inches [away], and went through the buckle on my combat boot and into my leg."

They cut the boot off and found a piece of metal. He still has the bullet. "I consider that my life-saver. I ended up in the hospital and was there for the rest of the war," Van Eaton said. "Fifty-percent of the men I went over with, are still over there, so I'm grateful for that guy being a bad shot. I'm sure he wasn't aiming at my foot."

According to Jack Cowen, honorary consul of France, thousands of people are on a waiting list to ensure the graves of troops who never made it home from WWII are always taken care of.

And for good reason, too. The men who fought during WWII were instrumental in liberating France from the grips of Nazi Germany.

From France, Van Eaton went to recover in a UK hospital for wounded GI's. There, he helped keep troops healthy, first as an egg candler (when one looks for rotten eggs by holding them in front of a candle-backlit hole) and then as the most dedicated quality control specialist of the ice creamery that ever graced the hospital's kitchen.

*(continued on next page)*

## JACK VAN EATON *(continued)*

"I was in charge of the ice cream factory and I was so absolutely concerned about the value that I made it my personal responsibility to inspect every batch," Van Eaton said. "Unfortunately, I got released from the hospital and that ended."

After visiting some relatives in the UK, connected through marriage, Van Eaton returned to a jubilant hospital. The Nazis had surrendered and the war in Europe was over: Victory in Europe, VE-Day of 1945.

Van Eaton still returned to his company in Germany after 'losing' his orders on the return trip across the English Channel, and helped to clear houses of munitions or other dangerous leavings.

While many of his memories of the war hold violence and strife, there were happier points, too. Such as the quick \$40 he made for riding 'rodeo' on a mare, hopping off prior to a barbed wire fence separating the horse field from the potato field. Or the time members of his company found out that the accelerant in Nazi artillery was much different than that which the US used.

"Instead of black powder, it was these sticks of explosive stuff and they found out if you light one end of it, it goes zipping through the air, and that was kind of like having a Fourth of July party," he said. "I lit one of them, and mine ended up going 'ziiip,' right into the hay loft."

Luckily, there was a two-man fire apparatus in a nearby town that was brought over to fight the barn fire.

"The interesting thing is, my sergeant went back to the battlefield and back to that town and the lady said, 'what happened to that young guy who set my hayloft on fire?' and he said, 'you know what, he was in such great remorse about it that he went to the city of Los Angeles and became a firefighter.'"

After receiving two purple hearts and a rack of other awards and commendations, Van Eaton returned home. Though, just as many others from the various wars over the history of the US, Van Eaton had seen some terrible things that would last a lifetime.

"Of the several degrees of hell, my degree was probably a one or two compared to thousands of other guys. I got lucky. I got hit, but it was not life threatening and did not cause me to be unable to make a living. That guilt... I think that's got a lot to do with these guys on skid row... who can't live with themselves for what they've seen.

"I never talked about it for 15 to 20 years after," he said.

He was discharged from service on Jan. 24, 1945 from Fort Lewis and returned to his uncle's farm in Yakima, where he would find a letter waiting for him.

"There was a letter address to me on the mantle of the fireplace," Van Eaton said. "It was an invitation to a wedding and I was a participant."

So with haste, Van Eaton hitchhiked his way from Yakima to Hollywood to marry the lady of his dreams, Carol. The couple would spend the next 67 years together.

"I hitchhiked to the wedding, it was the 11th of February," he said. "The thing was, I borrowed a suit from my brother and wore my uniform. I passed three Greyhound buses in the ditch up in the pass, and I probably would have been on one of them if I'd taken the bus."

The wedding was lovely, Carol's dress was made by the Hollywood clothing manufacturer where she worked, though Jack knew only the bride. Afterwards, he was asked by his father how he would take care of his new wife.

Not likely that he'd be able to get a job as a heavy machine gunner in post-WWII America, his new father-in-law had an idea of how he could provide for his new wife: firefighting.

Van Eaton took the exams and started soon thereafter.

"Then I ended up being a Los Angeles city fire fighter for 29 years,

it was a great job," he said.

But that's not where Jack's story ends. Van Eaton was about to head back to the cold.

From LA, he went on a bit of a tour, ending up in Alaska manning the Trans-Alaskan Pipeline. There, he learned how to solder and weather iron - making a representation of Alaska out of metal leavings of the Alaska pipeline itself.

He stayed there for many years until he finally moved to Washington. He and Carol had been planning to live in their mobile home in a quiet corner of Bothell temporarily. That was more than 20 years ago.

Van Eaton would head into the Bothell Fire Department, just to chat things up with the guys and gals of the local station. Eventually, he'd become the elected Fire Commissioner for Snohomish Department 10, in Bothell.

"I'm really pleased to be here to acknowledge [Jack's] service to his country," said Bob Van Horne, Chief of Fire District 10. "Jack has been a pleasure to work with, he's a gentle man and I think if you were to look up Gentleman in the dictionary, there'd be a picture of Jack. He's a man who loves his family, loved his wife, loves his country. He was a member of the fire service for many years and, you know, he has just done it right."

When Carol passed in March of 2013, Jack was devastated. However, he persevered with the help of his family and a cross country road trip with his daughter and granddaughter, during which they visited some unique fire departments.

Fast forward to Feb. 17. City on the Hill Church, in Kenmore, was fully packed with family and friends of Jack Van Eaton. The Fire Department had come out in full dress blues, many of his fellow WWII vets came out from the Disabled Veterans local chapter, Chapter 13, and in the presence of his children and grandchildren, Jack Van Eaton was honored for his efforts during WWII.

"Dear Jack Van Eaton, Napoleon Bonaparte created the Legion of Honour in 1802 to reward the great men who served the nation," said Jack Cowen, honorary consul of France. "Through your bravery, your dedication, your supreme selflessness, your fight for the human conscience in peace, and your decisive contribution to the liberation of France and Europe, you are today one of these great men of the history of France."

"We the French People know exactly what we owe to the American People, to the American Military, and to you personally," Cowen said. "To liberty, to equality, to freedom, to the inherent dignity of every human being... I want to ensure you, Jack Van Eaton, that the flame of remembrance that the French people feed from generation to generation will never be extinguished.

"Jack Van Eaton, you are a hero, serving your country you helped liberate France. Seventy years later, on behalf of the nation of France, I pay you tribute and express our undying gratitude," said Cowen, just before he pinned the medal on Van Eaton's chest. The audience gave him a long standing ovation.

The night was not just about honoring a member of the Kenmore and Bothell communities, but about remembering those from the Greatest Generation, the sacrifices they made, and the positive impact they had on the entirety of the world.

"John Brokaw called this group the Greatest generation and Jack is part of that great generation," Van Horne said. "Many of us stand here today because of the selfless acts that people like Jack and his generation did on behalf of the country. For us to be here and acknowledge that in some small way, not only address those still living but those that have passed."



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as of the major units that fought in the Battle of the Bulge, starting with the 12th Army group, then followed numerically with Armies, Corps and Divisions and the two Army Air Forces. We wish that each unit insignia could have been shown, but with approximately 2000 units that participated in the Bulge, it is impossible. However, any unit that served in the Bulge would have been attached to or reported through one of the unit insignia depicted. You may want to add one of the veteran's original patches to the certificate when you receive it. **Please allow approximately 4 to 6 weeks for delivery.** The certificate will be shipped rolled in a protective mailing box. **Please be sure that you write the name, service number and unit as you would like it to appear on the certificate.** The unit name should be as complete as possible, because you want someone reading it to understand what unit the veteran was in. We will abbreviate it as necessary. It is important that you type or print this information and the unit must be one of the 2,000 units authorized for the Ardennes Campaign credit that is in the Official General Order No. 114 for units entitled to the Ardennes Battle Credit and will be the basis for sale of the certificate. **The cost of the certificate is \$15 postpaid.**

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# TRIBUTE TO FRANK WOOLDRIDGE

Presented October 6, 1998 to The Central Mass. Chapter, VBOB, by Cliff Duxbury, historian

Frank Wooldridge is among a few WW II veterans who upstaged the draft by at least 4 years. It was in 1939 that he joined the National Guard's 181st Infantry, 26th "Yankee" Division in Worcester and became a medic. It was a time when the Guard had limited finances, a modicum of equipment, and something less than a formalized training program.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 the status of Worcester's Guard unit changed. By December 7, 1941 the 26th Division was as Federalized and Frank's medical detachment was sent to Camp Edwards for basic training and soon after was mobilized for assignment to Coast Patrol duty to keep a watchful eye on the East Coast ranging from the Cape to Northern Maine. It was at Edwards that Frank was raised in rank to a staff sergeant. Later moving to Sacco, Maine, Frank was among a group that established an infirmary there. He moved again to Camden, Maine where he was assigned sergeant-in-charge of another infirmary.

In October 1943, he left the 181st and was sent to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey where he joined the 315th Medical Battalion, 357th Regiment, 90th Texas-Oklahoma Division. Departing New York in March 1944, the 90th reached England and Cardiff, Wales by April 9.

Intensive training followed for the infantry covering mine detection, village fighting, road marches and obstacle courses. "Invasion Fever" gripped the 90th and true to the nature of their preparation, the division moved across the Channel on June 6, 1944—"D Day."

Frank recalls that it took 5 long hours from Southampton before he touched down on Utah Beach with the 357th Regiment. On arrival Frank commented that the opposition on the beach was minimal but the intensity of German shelling in his landing zone continued and the medical ranks too casualties. On D plus 1, the 315th Medical Battalion set up a temporary aid station about 1/2 mile inland where casualties kept them fully occupied.

In the earliest days of the invasion, the 90th was given the mission of containing German forces trapped in the northern tip of the Normandy Peninsula. Fighting was heavy and casualties were many. The 315th Medics were kept overworked. By the end of June, however, Cherbourg, the major Normandy port in the upper peninsula, fell and the area was cleared of Germans.

At the end of July, one month later, St. Lo, Coutance and Avranches were behind the 90th. The Germans were pushed from Normandy

totally and the 90th was among several divisions that reached the plains of France where a "war of Movement" began and continued almost without interruption.

Movement, heavy fighting and land advances followed for American forces when the formidable events of the Falaise Gap took place. In mid-August, 1945, it was at Falaise that German forces of the 7th Army began a full retreat and attempted to squirm through a narrow valley remaining open. The only remaining door located through the French castle town of Chambois was their chosen route. It was here that the 90th Division established road blocks to keep the Germans contained. Divisional artillery, 11 battalions strong, fired relentlessly on the bogged down Germans—inflicting heavy casualties, disrupting counter-attacks and simply pouring a hail of steel on the reeling German remnants.

And into this storm the unarmed medics of the 315th Medical Battalion performed their tasks under fire, evacuating American casualties as well as enemy wounded. A truce was eventually called in order that the wounded might be attended under less harrowing conditions and removed from the field of battle. Frank's 315th, in spite of sniper fire, (clearly a violation of the truce terms) carried out their mission with gallantry. Working with unit doctors, Frank administered morphine to settle casualties in severe pain and administered plasma, as well, to those men who were suffering continuing blood losses. Additionally, his duties involved general first aid to GI's preparatory to their movement to rear area hospital for more specialized handling.

By August 20, 1944 - the Falaise Gap was closed on the bulk of the German 7th Army. 13,000 Germans surrendered to the 90th in a period of 4-days.

When in mid-December, the "Bulge" began in Belgium and Luxembourg, the 90th was ordered to disengage from the Saar River. On January 5, 1945, the division made a 50- mile convoy trek to an assembly area in Luxembourg. And in bitter, bitter cold began an assault along the perimeter of the attacking 7th German Army's salient on the extreme southern flank of their offensive line. Fighting in an area just south and east of Bastogne, the 90th's speed and power of assault surprised the Germans. On the 4th day of battle, the T/O division had fought their way onto Belgium soil along with the 35th and 6th Armored Divisions at their sides. The salient had been liquidated.

By January 16, the 90th straightened out their lines looking Eastward and by the 29th of January, 1945 stood on German ground for the 2nd time.

From the Bulge, battles bristled along the Siegfried Line, across the Rhine in March to points along the Czech border. On May 7 a final combat mission set to rescue Prague, the Czech capitol, was postponed when Divisional Headquarters was notified that the German High Command had surrendered.

Frank was returned to the States in Fall, 1945 to Ft. Devens where he was discharged on October 26. He rejoined the National Guard 7 years later when the Guard was looking for experienced veterans to fill their ranks. He served an additional 3 years and left the military behind him for good.

Our thanks to Frank Wooldridge for his long, faithful and vital service to his fellow GIs during World War II.

—Submitted by John McAuliffe, President, Chapter 22



American assault troops move onto Utah Beach, 6 June 1944.



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The Bulge Vet's Name and Units \_\_\_\_\_

Your Military Service (if any): Dates \_\_\_\_\_ Branch \_\_\_\_\_

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