



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.NET

Est. 1983 (A Not-for-Profit Organization)

NRA Affiliate Number G8162

CMP Affiliate Number 026160



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July-August 2020 VGCA Newsletter

President's Comments

Greetings to all VGCA members,

As the summer comes to an end we are still in the midst of the COVID-19 ordeal. I think we were all hoping we would be have been back to something approaching "normal" by now. Hopefully a remedy for COVID is available in the near future.

At this point we are going to have to cancel all member meetings through October. Currently the NRA building is closed to everyone except essential employees. That being said, we do not have a meeting place for September or October and have no idea when the NRA will re-open the facilities to the general public. I also do not want to risk the health of any member by attending a meeting while a significant threat of infection remains.

We are still planning to have a November gun show. There are a lot of "what if's." We scheduled our first board meeting since March for late August. We will make a tentative decision with all of the board members concerning the show. We will let everyone know as soon as possible what is happening. There is some good news as some Virginia gun shows have begun to reopen. I, as well the board members, will certainly look at best practices and overall safety of the shows. The other issue is that they are currently separating tables by 8 feet from individual vendors. That may financially preclude us from having a show by decreasing the size by a third to half. I really want to maintain the integrity and the quality of the VGCA gun show. Much more to come on this subject in the next few months.

Stay safe and thank you for your membership in the VGCA

—*Bernie Breighner*, VGCA President



★ **Next Membership Meeting:** As noted above, the NRA facilities remain closed to all but essential personnel. With no place to meet and COVID-19 quarantine restrictions on public gatherings still in place, all VGCA membership meetings between now and the end of the year have been canceled. As of now, our next scheduled membership meeting is not planned until January 2021. If the situation changes, the VGCA Executive Committee agreed to re-address this decision. Please stay tuned to our website as well as Facebook and email notices via Constant Contact for news and updates on future Membership Meetings and events.



★ Other News! ★

★ **Membership Chairman's Report – August 2020:**

New Member: Please welcome our new Annual Member.

- **Richard F. O'Hara** of Powhatan, VA was sponsored by **Bill Chronister**

Congratulations and welcome aboard! Your Annual Membership ID and packet will be mailed to your home address.

New Applications for Membership: Since the last Newsletter, there have been no new applications.

Notice to New Member Sponsors: VGCA will be discontinuing hard copy versions of the VGCA Newsletters at a future date. *Please make sure your prospective applicants include a legible email address and telephone contact number* if at all possible. Without an email address new members will NOT receive any newsletter or VGCA announcements.



★ **NOTICE: All VGCA 2020 Annual Memberships Extended through 2021**

As we all know, 2020 has been a general mess for everyone. VGCA had to cancel many of our planned 2020 Association activities due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. We postponed a field trip to the Armour Museum in Danville, VA in April and canceled two gun shows in March and May 2020, due to Virginia State and Prince William County Public Health Directives. We face uncertainty regarding the November 2020 gun show.

VGCA also canceled the April, May, June and August Membership Meetings at the NRA/NFM, and had to postpone the May 2020 election of new Officers. The result is only two member activities have taken place in 2020.

Therefore, at the most recent meeting of the VGCA Executive Committee, a decision was made to extend the 2020 Annual Memberships until December 31, 2021 for all 2020 Annual Members in good standing. New members who join(ed) during 2020 will also have their initial membership application dues

extended until December 31, 2021. This means the \$30.00 Annual dues for CY2021 will not be due this December.

The VGCA Membership Chairman has ordered 2021 renewal stickers and will be mailing the stickers to all Members who already have their 2020 IDs or IDs with 2020 stickers. Any new Members or Applicants for Membership who have not yet received a 2020 ID will be mailed a 2021 ID. Stickers and IDs will be mailed to the mailing address we have from your membership application. Annual members will be notified by email when the IDs or stockers are mailed.

We look forward to a resumption of Association activities as soon as possible and wish to thank all the members who have made this club successful. For questions, please email **Bill Chronister, Membership Chair** at vgca_membership@cox.net (please note the underscore between vgca and membership) or call me at 703-204-0138 and leave a message.



★ New Virginia Gun Laws

By George Dungan

As of July 1st, the new gun restrictions are now law in Virginia. Two of these laws in particular will have a negative impact on our members and gun shows. They are the Universal Background Check restrictions on private sales and the One Handgun a Month law.

The One Handgun a Month law means just that, a person can only purchase one handgun per month. There are several exceptions to this law: police, CCW holders, and Curio and Relic (C&R) holders (on applicable items). An individual who does not meet any of these exemptions may also apply to the state for permission to buy more than one handgun.

The Universal Background Check law states that all private sales must go through the background check process. There are several exemptions to this law but the two exemptions that will be most relevant to our membership will be the Antique gun and C&R eligible gun exemptions.

“Antique” is broadly defined by the State in *Chapter 1111 Section 18.2-308.2.2 Subsection F* as:

- “1. Any firearm (including any firearm with a matchlock, flintlock, percussion cap, or similar type of ignition system) manufactured in or before 1898;
2. Any replica of any firearm described in subdivision 1 of this definition if such replica (i) is not designed or redesigned for using rimfire or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition or (ii) uses rimfire or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition that is no longer manufactured in the United States and that is not readily available in the ordinary channels of commercial trade;
3. Any muzzle-loading rifle, muzzle-loading shotgun, or muzzle-loading pistol that is designed to use black powder, or a black powder substitute, and that cannot use fixed ammunition. For purposes of this subdivision, the term "antique firearm" shall not include any weapon that incorporates a firearm frame or receiver, any firearm that is converted into a muzzle-loading weapon, or any muzzle-loading weapon that can be readily converted to fire fixed ammunition by replacing the barrel, bolt, breech-block, or any combination thereof; or
4. Any curio or relic as defined in this subsection.”

The wording in the Virginia “antiques” definition was not changed and is basically the same as the definition in Federal law, *18 U.S.C. Section 921(A)(16)*, except for number 4 regarding curios and relics. The Federal definition of “antiques” does not mention C&Rs.

The Virginia definition of Curios and Relics in *Chapter 1111 Section 18.2-308.2.2 Subsection F* is potentially more problematic and the exemptions may be more ambiguous. To qualify (as per the State) the item must have a special collector interest and fall under one of the following categories: 1) Manufactured at least 50 years ago but which use rimfire or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition that is no longer manufactured in the United States and that is not readily available in the ordinary channels of commercial trade. (The Japanese Nambu would fall under this category); 2) A firearm that has been certified by the curator of a municipal, state, or federal museum that exhibits firearms to be a curio or relic of museum interest. This is a rather broad exemption as the burden will be on the State to prove that a firearm does not fall under this category; 3) Any firearm that derives a substantial part of its monetary value from the fact that it novel, rare, bizarre, or because of its association with historical figure, period, or event. The primary qualifier for this category will be the value of the firearm derived from it being “collectible” as opposed to a similar firearm in current production or the fact that the firearm is only available through collector channels.

This subsection, also remained unchanged in the Virginia law. The potential problem is that the Federal definition of C&R in *27 CFR 478.11* (which the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms goes by) does not currently have the wording regarding ammunition that is in the Virginia statute. This wording was previously in the Virginia law but until now appears to have been ignored in deference to the Federal law. This conflict with Federal law was not an issue before but it could become problematic.

None of the above is intended to be legal advice and given the current administration in Richmond extreme care should be taken with any firearms sale or purchase.



★ Safety Recall & Upgrade on Henry Single Shot Rifles/Shotguns

Henry Repeating Arms Company has recently discovered a potential safety issue with H015 Single Shot Rifles and Single Shot Shotguns. Henry is voluntarily initiating a recall to protect the safety of its customers. Please go to the attached link (below) for affected models and the procedures for getting them fixed/upgraded.

<https://www.henryusa.com/recall/>

Our thanks to member Jack Looney for providing the following link for this recall notice.





CMP UPDATE

By Marc Gorelick, CMP Liaison

PURCHASE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

By law, the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) can sell surplus military firearms, ammunition, parts and other items only to members of CMP affiliated clubs who are also U.S. citizens, over 18 years of age (over 21 years of age in some states) and who are legally eligible to purchase a firearm. Your membership in the VGCA allows you to purchase rifles, parts and ammunition from the CMP because the VGCA is a CMP affiliated club. This is just one benefit of being a member of the VGCA. The VGCA affiliate number is **026160**.

To be eligible to purchase a rifle from CMP, you must provide the following:

Proof of U.S. Citizenship

You must provide a copy of a U.S. birth certificate, an enhanced driver's license, passport, proof of naturalization, or any official government document (**when using a military ID to prove citizenship, must be an E5 or above**) that shows birth in the U.S. or states citizenship as U.S. Law enforcement status if you are a Federal officer.

Proof of Age

You must provide proof of age. Usually proof of citizenship also provides proof of age. In those cases where it may not, a driver's license is sufficient.

Membership in CMP-Affiliated Organization

You must provide a photocopy of your current VGCA membership card or other proof of membership. This requirement cannot be waived.



Note: Club membership IS required for purchase of rifles, parts, and ammunition. Club membership *is NOT required* for instructional publications or videos or CMP memorabilia.

Marksmanship or Other Firearms-Related Activity

You must provide proof of participation in a marksmanship-related activity or otherwise show familiarity with the safe handling of firearms and range procedures. Your marksmanship related activity does not have to be with highpower rifles; it can be with smallbore rifles, pistols, air guns or shotguns.

No proof of marksmanship is required if over age 60. Proof of club membership and citizenship is required for all ages.

NOTE: Proof of marksmanship activity is not required for purchase of ammunition, parts, publications or memorabilia.

Proof of marksmanship participation can be provided by documenting any of the following:

- Current or past military service.
- Current or past law enforcement service
- Participation in a rifle, pistol, air gun or shotgun competition (provide copy of results bulletin).
- Completion of a marksmanship clinic that included live fire training (provide a copy of the certificate of completion or a statement from the instructor). Visit the CMP website to find an upcoming CMP sanctioned clinic or match.
- Distinguished, Instructor, or Coach status.
- Concealed Carry License.
- Firearms Owner Identification Cards that included live fire training. – FFL or C&R license.
- Completion of a Hunter Safety Course that included live fire training.
- Certification from range or club official or law enforcement officer witnessing shooting activity. Complete the CMP Marksmanship Form (available from the CMP website) to certify your range firing and the required marksmanship related activity for an individual to purchase from the CMP.

Legal Eligibility to Purchase a Firearm

The information you supply on your application will be submitted by the CMP to the FBI National Instant Criminal Check System (NICS) to verify you are not prohibited by Federal, State or Local law from acquiring or possessing a rifle. Your signature on the Purchaser Certification portion of the purchase application authorizes the CMP to initiate the NICS check and authorizes the FBI to inform CMP of the result. You will need to provide a signed and notarized form 2A for any item purchased. This form can be downloaded from the CMP website.



State or Locality Requirements

If your State or locality requires you to first obtain a certificate, license, permit, or Firearms Owner ID card in order to possess or receive a rifle, you must enclose a photocopy of your certificate, license, permit, or card with the application for purchase.

According to the CMP website there are currently no additional requirements for Maryland or Virginia. However, the CMP website does list additional requirements for residents of Washington, DC. According to the CMP website, for rifle shipments the customer will need to register the serial number with the Police Department once provided and send the CMP a copy of the PD219 form before it can ship a rifle. For ammunition sales, the DC resident will need to contact the Police Department and send the CMP a copy of the PD 219 form before the CMP ships the ammunition.

For further information or to download forms, please visit the CMP website at:
https://thecmp.org/cmp_sales/eligibility-requirements/.

For ordering information or to download forms, please visit the CMP website at:
https://thecmp.org/cmp_sales/ordering-information/.

★ ATTENTION MEMBERS: Have you the authored a book/magazine article, or published research on Firearms, Gun Collecting, History, or related subjects?

The VGCA is fortunate to have a diverse membership with a large amount of expertise, experience, and knowledge! If you are - or know any member who is - a published author or researcher, please know that the Virginia Gun Collectors Association, Inc. wants to feature your works on the VGCA website, at gun shows, in the VGCA newsletters (see the FOR SALE section of this newsletter), and/or at VGCA meetings. We also invite you to consider giving a presentation on your works at one of our meetings. If you have any questions or wish to be included, please direct any information, including titles, publishing information, or contact information to: Bill Chronister, Membership Chairman at vgca_membership@cox.net or at home on 703-204-0138.



★ Show-n-Tell ★

NOTE – Since we will not have membership meetings until possibly next year, we will not have new material for the Show-n-Tell section of the Newsletter until after that . . . UNLESS . . . members would like to share their spring and summer acquisitions via email. If you would like to feature something new (or old) from your collection, please send a photo or two, along with a description of the item to rpebecker@verizon.net. A Show-n-Tell Fact Sheet (below) lists the type of information we are looking for in order to describe your prized possessions.

VGCA Show-n-Tell Fact Sheet

Manufacturer: _____

Model: _____ Action Type: _____

Caliber: _____

Years of Production: _____ Total Produced: _____

Year this example was manufactured (if known): _____

Significance: _____

Question(s) for members: _____

Name (optional): _____

Where acquired (optional): _____ When acquired (optional): _____

GUNS OF DISTINCTION

By Marc Gorelick

A PAIR OF AUSTRIAN FLINTLOCK SADDLE PISTOLS

Johann Joseph Pauer (Bauer) was a prominent gunmaker in Vienna, Austria between 1708 and 1744. In 1744 he became master of the gunmaker's guild. He manufactured this matched pair of exquisite flintlock saddle pistols in about 1730. The .55 caliber (14mm) smoothbore pistols, numbered "1" and "2" on the tangs, are 20.5" (52cm) long. The 13.4" long rose Damascus barrels have octagonal breeches and taper to round muzzles. They are decorated with inlaid silver wire scroll design and the breech ends and muzzles are decorated with silver wire inlay and gold-washed maker's marks.



The flat lock plates are decorated with deep relief engravings of Mars, the god of war, surrounded by trophies. They are signed "J. Pauer in Viennan." The guns have chiseled cocks and the full walnut stocks are decorated with ornate rocaille and scroll carvings and dark horn tips. The fire-gilt furniture has deep relief engraving and the walnut ramrods have horn tips.



Saddle pistols were carried on horseback in holsters secured to the pommel of a saddle. Highly decorated pairs like these were often the property of noblemen, wealthy persons and high-ranking officers.



★ In Review ★

The “In Review” section to the newsletter includes VGCA member reviews of guns shows, books, and museums. If you would like to submit a review, please send it to the editor at rpebecker@verizon.net.

Museum

A TRIP TO THE MUSEUM:

BATTLE OF THE BULGE MUSEUM SURVEY

By Marc Gorelick



The Battle of the Bulge, which took place from December 16, 1944 to January 25, 1945. was one of the bloodiest of the battles of World War II. Three German armies attacked a weakly defended section of the allied line, advancing through the densely forested Ardennes region of eastern Belgium, northeast France, and Luxembourg. It was a desperate effort to stop Allied use of the Belgian port of Antwerp and to split the Allied lines, allowing the Germans to encircle and destroy four Allied armies. American forces bore the brunt of the surprise attack. The "Bulge" was the largest and bloodiest single battle fought by the United States in World War II and the third-deadliest

campaign in American history. Out of a total of 610,000 U.S. troops engaged in the battle, 89,500 became casualties out of which some 19,000 were killed. The German army also paid a heavy price. Between 63,222 and 98,000 men were killed, missing, wounded in action, or captured out of the 450,000 German troops engaged with the loss of massive quantities of vehicles and equipment. 112,000 British troops took part in the battle with 1,408 casualties. And the civilian population suffered horrendous casualties with entire towns and villages being utterly destroyed.

It is no wonder then that after such a traumatic experience that many memorials and museums dedicated to the battle can be found in the region. Many of the museums started as small collections of vehicles, uniforms, arms and equipment – much of which was abandoned debris found on the battlefield. Many of the museums grew over the years and are worth a couple of hours to tour. Although most of the museums are in Belgium, Luxembourg has its share. Although they are not “American” museums, per se, one thing that they have in common is praise for the Americans as liberators and defenders and recognition of American sacrifices.

The following is a brief survey of 12 Battle of the Bulge Museums and one Memorial in Belgium and Luxembourg. One thing to keep in mind is that the museum rules, days, hours, fees, entrance requirements and tours will probably change due to the Covid-19 pandemic. So contact the museum before visiting.

Bastogne Barracks - Bastogne

Royal Museum of the Armed Forces and Military History

Bastogne Barracks is a Belgian Military Museum and Interpretation Center of the Second World War with a focus on the Battle of the Bulge. There is also an exhibit dedicated to the Gulf War. A large part is dedicated to the defense of Bastogne. On December 19, 1944 Brigadier General Anthony McAuliffe and the 101st Airborne Division arrived in Bastogne and he established his headquarters at the Barracks. On December 22 he answered “Nuts” to a German demand to surrender. The basement headquarters where he uttered his famous answer is just one in a number of powerful exhibits. Attached to the museum is a “Vehicle Restoration Center” containing dozens World War II tanks and armored vehicles. A tour of the museum takes about two hours.

Bastogne Barracks is located at:

Quartier Slt Heintz

Rue de La Roche 40

6600 Bastogne

Tel: 32 (0) 61 24 21 24 or 32 (0) 61 24 21 22

Days and hours vary depending on the time of the year. Admission is free.

Bastogne War Museum, Bastogne



Located close to the famous Mardasson Memorial, the Bastogne War Museum is the principal memorial dedicated to the Second World War in the Ardennes and Belgium. It offers a particular emphasis on the Battle of the Bulge. It contains many displays, uniforms, weapons, vehicles and other artefacts – about 400 exhibited objects on 1,600 square meters. Signage and audio guides are in 4 languages: English, French, Dutch and German. Besides the displays, the museum offers four story lines of people who experienced the Battle of Bastogne: an American soldier, a German officer, a

member of the local resistance and a schoolboy. The visitor hears their stories though an audio guide that automatically plays the soundtrack for the display the visitor is looking at or the multi-media experience.

Along the route though the museum there are 3 multi-media rooms. In one the visitor is in a foxhole in the Ardennes forest, it's dark and foggy. In the last multi-media experience the visitor is in a cafe in Bastogne when the German shelling starts. When you include a visit to the nearby (100 m) Mardasson Memorial you can easily spend 3 to 4 hours. The museum has a gift shop and restaurant.

The museum is located at:

Colline du Mardasson 5

6600 Bastogne, Belgium

Telephone: +32 (0) 61 210 220

Website: <https://www.bastognewarmuseum.be/en/home-en/>

E-mail: info@bastognewarmuseum.be



Baugnez 44 Historical Center, Malmedy



Recently modernized and expanded, the theme of this museum is the Battle of the Bulge, with a particular focus on, and dedication to, the Malmedy Massacre. The museum is located close to the road crossing where SS troops belonging to Kampfgruppe Peiper massacred at least 84 American prisoners from the 285th Field Artillery Observation Battalion. Baugnez 44 is not a big museum, but certainly well worth a visit. Like many “Bulge” museums it is known for its dioramas as well as static displays. Although it is not a large museum, it does have a gift shop and a restaurant and you can easily spend up to 2 hours at this place

The museum address is:
Route de Luxembourg 10
4960 Malmedy
Belgium

Website: <https://www.bulge1944.com/baugnez-44-historical-center/>

December 1944 Museum, La Gleize



This is a small village museum about the Battle of the Bulge with a focus on the fierce fighting around the La Gleize-Stoumont area where Kampfgruppe Peiper, spearhead of the 1st SS Panzer Division bogged down and was forced to retreat. Reconstructed scenes of the battles bring history to life in 17 dioramas featuring 85 fully equipped soldiers from both the Axis and the Allies. Many weapons, uniforms, vehicles and other equipment are displayed, as well as photos, maps and other documents from the devastating combat around the village La Gleize. One of the featured vehicles of the museum is one of the few surviving German Tiger II tanks, also known as the King Tiger (or Königstiger), which is standing at the entrance to the museum. It is one of the 136 tanks and armored vehicles that Kampfgruppe

Peiper abandoned when it left La Gleize and retreated back to Germany. The Tiger II (number 213) was disabled defending the nearby Werimont Farm. After the war the local innkeeper's wife bought it for a bottle of cognac from salvaging GIs by, thus saving it for posterity.

The December 1944 Museum is located at:

Rue de l'église 7 B

4987 La Gleize – Stoumont

Belgium

Tél: +32 (0)80 78.51.91

E-mail: info@december44.com

Website: http://www.december44.com/en/history_battle_of_the_bulgela_gleize.htm

101st Airborne Museum, Bastogne

The 101st Airborne Museum is located in the former officers mess building of the Belgium Army; “Le Mess Museum”. During the German occupation during World War II it served the Germans to house Wehrmacht NCO's and after the liberation it was a Red Cross hospital. The museum was established a few years ago to remember the role of the 101st Airborne Division in the defense of Bastogne. The Battle of the Bulge comes to life in unique diorama and static displays with realistic looking mannequins. And of course there is a large collection of original items of this dramatic battle. The museum also offers a historical briefing about the battle for groups.

The museum is located at:

Avenue de la Gare 11

6600 Bastogne, Belgium

Tel: + 32 (0) 61 50 12 00

E-mail: info@101airbornemuseumbastogne.com

Website: <http://www.101airbornemuseumbastogne.com/>

Hours vary so contact before visiting. The entrance fee is 10 Euros for adults.

La Roche Museum of the Battle of the Ardennes, La Roche-en-Ardenne

The privately-run Battle of the Ardennes Museum is the brainchild of Michel Bouillon and his son Gilles. What started off as a modest hobby collecting artifacts relating to the battle grew until the two men had accumulated so many objects that in 1993 they decided to open a museum. The theme of this museum is the Battle of the Bulge from the British perspective, with a strong focus on the 51st Highland Division. La Roche Museum covers about 1,500 square meters on three floors. The displays contain more than 120 mannequins in uniform and 20 military vehicles. The museum also houses an important collection of light and heavy arms, personal objects and equipment found on the battlefield.



The Weapons Room alone contains some 90 rifles, sidearms and other weapons, as well as the famous 'Enigma' cypher machines of Polish origin...Dioramas depict various episodes of the Battle of the Bulge, especially around La Roche-en-Ardenne. Today it is a pleasant place with many cafes and restaurants, but in 1945 it was almost completely destroyed during the German attack and then the allied counterattack. A visit to the museum can last about two hours.

The museum address is:

Rue Chamont 5

6980 La Roche-en-Ardenne

Belgium

Tel: +32 84 41 17 25

E-mail: info@batarden.be

Website: <http://www.batarden.be/>

The entrance fee is 8 Euros. Visitors should check the website for days and hours.

Remember Museum 39-45, Thimister-Clermont

The Remember Museum 39-45 is a private museum that was founded by Marcel Schmetz and his wife Mathilde to commemorate the liberation of Belgium by American soldiers and as a memorial to the fallen GIs. In the words of the museum's founder, "The museum strives to serve as the testimony of our gratefulness towards all the G.I.s who, at the risk of their lives, gave us our freedom back." In December 1944 some 110 American soldiers of the 26th Regiment, 1st Infantry Division were stationed at the Schmetz family farm to rest. Marcel was about 7 years old at the time. When the German offensive began the "Big Red One" troops quickly moved up to the front in the Ardennes, leaving equipment and personal belongings behind. This material was saved by the Schmetz family and, supplemented by donations from veterans, forms the core of the museum's collection. The collection now includes an M4 Sherman, a M10 tank destroyer, a WW2 era Citroën Traction Avant, several dioramas, weapons, equipment and lots of photos. The story behind each personal item brings history, and the soldiers' lives, into the limelight. The museum is 2 miles from the Military Cemetery Henri-Chapelle, where 7,992 American soldiers are buried.



The museum is located at:

Rue Les B  olles 4

4890 Thimister-Clermont, Belgium

Telephone: +32 87 44 61 81

Website: <https://www.remembermuseum.be/en/home>

Museum of the Battle of the Bulge, Clervaux

Tucked away in a corner of the historic Chateaux Clervaux, the Museum of the Battle of the Bulge in Clervaux illustrates the course of the Battle of the Bulge through documents and dioramas, military uniforms, numerous artifacts and many authentic weapons. Besides telling the story of the battle, the small museum keeps alive the memory of the Americans who liberated Luxembourg. It is far from being one of the modern glitzy, interactive museums, and is more a collection than a curated display with extensive signage but it does have a heart. There is a lack of organization, it is split over three floors and signage could be better but it is worth a 30-45 minute visit, if only to see the numerous artifacts and weapons. The U.S. Sherman M4A3 of Company B, 2nd Tank Battalion, 9th Armored Division at the museum's entrance is the only known surviving combat vehicle of that division. It stands not far from where it was put out of action on December 17, 1944 while defending the castle during the German attack.



The museum is located at:

Château de Clervaux

L-9712 Clervaux, Luxembourg

Tel: +352 26 91 06 95

E-mail: musee.bataille@clervaux.lu

The entrance fee is 3.50 Euros for adults. Days and hours vary.

Additional information can be found at a number of websites including:

<https://www.visit-clervaux.lu/en/patrimoine/the-museum-of-the-ardennes-counteroffensive>

Truschbaum Museum at Camp Elsenborn

Camp Elsenborn is an active Belgian Army post and training area and the Belgian Army regularly holds exercises there. The Truschbaum Museum is on the base and access to the museum is currently restricted and only by appointment. The museum covers the history of Camp Elsenborn, which was established by the Prussian Army in 1894, as well as covering the Belgian Army in the First and Second World Wars. The Battle of the Bulge is a major focus of the exhibits, with many original maps, documents, equipment, weapons and relics. One part of this story is the fierce 10-day long struggle for Elsenborn Ridge



in which the 2nd Infantry Division and the "battle babies" of the 99th Infantry Division distinguished themselves by stopping the German advance in the north. Exhibits include armored fighting vehicles and artillery as well as a large number of realistic dioramas. There is a recreated First World War trench. Reservation by phone - +32 80 44 21 05. There is no entrance fee.

The museum address is:

Camp d'Elsenborn

Lager Elsenborn Camp 1

4750 Buetgenbach, Belgium

Tel: 32 (0)2 44 27721 or 44 27722

E-mail: CAMPELSENBORN-EM-S5-OFFR@mil.be

National Museum of Military History, Diekirch



This impressive museum is Luxembourg's official military museum. Located in a former brewery the museum has over 3,000 square meters of exhibition space that is filled with dioramas, vehicles, artillery, crew-served and individual weapons, equipment, uniforms, documents and relics. The museum is dedicated to World War 2 with a particular focus on the Battle of the Bulge. The main display area contains a small assortment of tanks, large caliber weapons, wheeled and tracked vehicles of both German and American origin. All of the display vehicles have been restored with attention to detail and authenticity. The museum is also packed to the rafters with Allied and German ordnance

of every kind, some of which are quite rare. In fact, the museum has one of the best collections of World War 2 weapons in Europe. The museum, of course, has excellent dioramas depicting various aspects and incidents in the Battle of the Bulge. Many of the dioramas are so well done that they make you feel as if you were actually there. Particularly noteworthy is the large diorama of a platoon of the US 5th Army making a nighttime crossing of the Sauer River into Germany.

For an in-depth review of this museum, read the exceptional article by Bernie Breighner in the special issue of the VGCA Newsletter. The museum located about 35 km northeast of Luxembourg City. It is normally open from 10:00AM-6:00PM Tuesday thru Sunday, closed Mondays. Admission is 5 Euros for adults.

The address is:

10, Rue Balmertal,

L9209 Diekirch, Luxembourg.

Tel: +352-80-89-08

Website: <http://www.mnhm.net/ng/>

General Patton Memorial Museum, Ettelbruck



This small two-story local museum is a tribute to General George S. Patton Jr., commander of the Third US Army whose troops liberated the town of Ettelbruck, Luxembourg on December 25, 1944. More than 1,000 photographs, documents and numerous authentic artifacts provide a remarkably in-depth view of the German occupation of Luxembourg during the war and the special place General Patton holds in the hearts of the inhabitants. The exhibition tells the general's life story, displays military equipment and describes aerial warfare over Luxembourg. There are numerous weapons and pieces of equipment discovered on the Ardennes battlefield. Patton is buried in the American cemetery in Hamm on the outskirts of Luxembourg City.

The museum's address is:

5, rue Dr. Klein

L-9054 Ettelbruck, Luxembourg

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Bulge Relics Museum, Joubieval

This private museum was created only a few years ago by Jean-François Noirhomme. According to Noirhomme, "We were born in the Belgian Ardennes, one of the worst areas of the Second World War, where the so-called "Battle of the Bulge" took place. We have always been interested in the history of our region, where our parents and grandparents experienced that dreadful winter 1944-1945."

Noirhomme started collecting artifacts and relics from the battle in 1984 and his collection soon outgrew his house, basement and garage. The museum is well hidden and the outside belies the treasures within. The three floors hold a veritable cornucopia of US and German weaponry, uniforms, helmets, vehicles, various pieces of equipment, some of it rare and unique. Many of the US items are from the 83rd Infantry Division and the 3rd Armored Division and were found on the sites of the Vielsalm, Lierneux and at the Baraque de Fraiture crossroads battlefields. The entrance fee is 5 euros and it is best to call ahead and make a reservation.

The museum is located at:

Route d'Ottré 41 Joubieval

B-6690 Vielsalm, Belgium

Tel: +32 (0) 496 31 61 74

Website: www.bulge-relics-museum.be

Mardasson Memorial

The Mardasson Memorial is a monument from the Belgian people to the United States honoring the memory of the American soldiers who were killed, wounded or missing during the Battle of the Bulge. At the center of the Memorial, a stone bears the inscription in Latin "*The Belgian people remember their American Liberators.*"

Located near Bastogne, and designed by the architect Georges Dedoyard, the memorial is a 39 foot tall monument in the shape of a five-pointed American star with 102 foot long sides surrounding a 66 foot wide atrium. The inner walls are covered with ten passages carved in stone commemorating the battle. Insignia of most participating US units are shown on the walls, representing the 76,890 killed and wounded during the



December 1944–January 1945 German “Watch on the Rhine” offensive, better known to us as the Battle of the Bulge. Below the structure is a crypt with three altars – one each for Protestant, Catholic and Jewish services – carved and decorated with mosaics by famed French artist Fernand Léger. The Mardasson Memorial is only about 100 meters from the Bastogne War Museum.

The address is:
Colline du Mardasson 2,
Bastogne 6600 Belgium
Tel: +32 61 21 02 20

★ 2020 Presentation List ★

All upcoming membership meetings for 2020 have been canceled;

DATE	PRESENTATION	PRESENTER
July	No membership meeting scheduled	
August 27th	Engraved Colt Pistols	CANCELED Phil Hill
September 24th	My Favorite Gun	CANCELED VGCA Members
October 22nd	German Weapon Markings	CANCELED Dave Litchfield
November	No membership meeting scheduled due to our Fall Gun Show	
December TBD	Holiday Pot Luck and Annual Swap Meet	Show-n-Tell Only

★ Upcoming Events and Shows ★

PLEASE NOTE: Gun Shows appear to be coming back in our area after a several month hiatus due to COVID-19 Quarantines. Members are strongly encouraged to *verify shows before driving to a event*. These dates have been published as of this writing, but are not guaranteed.

VIRGINIA – 2020

- Sep 12-13, 2020 – Fishersville, VA – Augusta Expo – *Showmasters*
- Sep 19-20, 2020 – Weyers Cave, VA – Weyers Cave Community Center – *Sporting Shows Unltd*
- Oct 2-4, 2020 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- Oct 10-11, 2020 – Virginia Beach, VA – Virginia Beach Convention Center – *SKG*
- Oct 10-11, 2020 – Dale City, VA – Dale City VFW – *Showmasters*
- Oct 10-11, 2020 – Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center – *C&E*
- Oct 10-11, 2020 – Winchester, VA – Winchester Sportsplex – *Sporting Shows Unlimited*
- Oct 17-18, 2020 – Doswell, VA – Meadow Event Park – *SGK*
- Oct 17-18, 2020 – Roanoke, VA – The Berglund Center – *Showmasters*
- Oct 24-25, 2020 – Fredericksburg, VA – Fredericksburg Expo & Convention Center – *SGK*
- Oct 31-Nov 1, 2020 – Harrisonburg, VA – Rockingham County Fairgrounds – *Showmasters*
- Nov 6-7, 2020 – Manassas, VA – Prince William County Fairgrounds – *VGCA (our show!)*
- Nov 14-15, 2020 – Richmond, VA - Richmond International Raceway – Capital of the Confederacy Civil War Show - *MK Shows*
- Nov 14-15, 2020 – Richmond, VA – Old Kmart (4715 Nine Mile Road) - *Showmasters*
- Nov 14-15, 2020 – Woodstock, VA – Woodstock Moose Lodge – *Sporting Shows Unlimited*
- Nov 20-22, 2020 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- Nov 28-29, 2020 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center - *SGK*

MARYLAND – 2020

- Sep 5, 2020 – Parkville, MD – 3400 Northwind Rd – *Baltimore County Game & Fish Protective Association*
- Sep 12-13, 2020 – West Friendship, MD – Howard Cnty Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Oct 9-11, 2020 – Bel Air, MD – American Legion Harford Post #39 – *American Legion Post #39*
- Oct 17-18, 2020 – Timonium, MD – Timonium Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*
- Nov 14-15, 2020 – Frederick, MD – Frederick Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*

PENNSYLVANIA – 2020

- Sep 5, 2020 – Brookville, PA – Jefferson County Fairgrounds – Brookville Antique Firearms & Indian Artifact Show – *Jefferson County Historical Society*
- Sep 5-6, 2020 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center – *Showmasters*
- Sep 12-13, 2020 – Centre Hall, PA – Centre County Fairgrounds – *Outdoor Sportsman Club*
- Sep 12-13, 2020 – Gettysburg, PA – All-Star Events Complex – *Eagle Arms*
- Sep 12-13, 2020 – Thompson, PA – Thompson Vol Fire Company – *Jaeger Arms*
- Sep 13, 2020 – Portland, PA – William Pensyl Social Hall – *Portland Hook & Ladder Co. #1*
- Sep 18-19, 2020 – York, PA – York Expo Center – York Antique Arms Show – *North-South Trader's Civil War Magazine*
- Sep 19-10, 2020 – Lake Harmony, PA – Split Rock Resort – *Eagle Arms*
- Sep 19-20, 2020 – Promised Land, PA – Promised Land Vol Fire & Ambulance – *Jaeger Arms*

PENNSYLVANIA – 2020 (continued)

- Sep 25-27, 2020 – Long Pond, PA – Pocono Raceway – Great Pocono Arms & Military Show – *Tall Timber Tactical*
- Sep 26-27, 2020 – Waynesboro, PA – Waynesboro Fish & Game – *Waynesboro F & G Assoc*
- Oct 2-4, 2020 – Phoenixville, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eagle Arms*
- Oct 3-4, 2020 – Spring Brook, PA – Spring Brook Fire Co. – *Jaeger Arms*
- Oct 9-10, 2020 – Stroudsburg, PA – Jackson Township Volunteer Fire Co. – *Jaeger Arms*
- Oct 10-11, 2020 – Bloomsburg, PA – Bloomsburg Fairgrounds – *Eagle Arms*
- Oct 10-11, 2020 – East Berlin, PA – East Berlin Fish & Game – *East Berlin Fish & Game Assoc*
- Oct 17-18, 2020 – Allentown, PA – Allentown Fairgrounds – *Forks of Delaware Historical Arms*
- Oct 17-18, 2020 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center – *Showmasters*
- Oct 17-18, 2020 – Russell, PA – Lander Volunteer Fire Co. – *Lander Fire Department*
- Oct 24-25, 2020 – Gettysburg, PA – All-Star Events Complex – Gettysburg Civil War, Antique Gun & Militaria Show - *North-South Trader's Civil War Magazine*
- Oct 24-25, 2020 – Sellersville, PA – Forrest Lodge VFW Hall and Club – *Jaeger Arms*
- Oct 24-25, 2020 – York, PA – York Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*
- Oct 31-Nov 1, 2020 – East Stroudsburg, PA – VFW Post #2540 – *Jaeger Arms*
- Oct 31-Nov 1, 2020 – Harrisburg, PA – PA Farm Show Complex – *C&E*
- Oct 31-Nov 1, 2020 – Lebanon, PA – Lebanon Valley Expo Center & Fairgrounds – *Eagle Arms*
- Nov 7, 2020 – Greencastle, PA – Allison-Antrim Museum – Greencastle Antique Arms Show – *Allison-Antrim Museum*
- Nov 7-8, 2020 – Brookville, PA – Jefferson County Fairgrounds – *Jefferson County Gun Show*
- Nov 7-8, 2020 – Lake Harmony, PA – Split Rock Resort – *Eagle Arms*
- Nov 14-15, 2020 – Hazleton, PA – Genetti's Hotel – *Jaeger Arms*
- Nov 14-15, 2020 – Wind Gap, PA – Plainfield Township Volunteer Fire Co. – *Eagle Arms*
- Nov 15, 2020 – Portland, PA – William Pensyl Social Hall – *Portland Hook & Ladder Co. #1*
- Nov 21-22, 2020 – Allentown, PA – Allentown Econo Lodge – *Eagle Arms*
- Nov 21-22, 2020 – Stroudsburg, PA – Jackson Township Volunteer Fire Co. – *Jaeger Arms*

FOR SALE:

The "For Sale" section of the Virginia Gun Collectors Association (VGCA) Newsletter is provided as a service exclusively to the members of the VGCA. The VGCA, its officers, and directors are not responsible for any listings made in any VGCA Newsletter. We are not responsible for the accuracy (condition, value, etc.) of any listings. All buyers, traders, and sellers agree to comply with all local, state, federal, and international laws in regards to items sold via the VGCA Newsletter. It is their duty and responsibility to ensure the quality and value of the transaction and that all such laws are followed at all times. Buy, sell, or trade at your own risk.

If you would like to list an item (or items) in the VGCA Newsletter, please send your description, price, and contact information to rpebecker@verizon.net. I must receive your material no later than the second Sunday of the month for it to be included in that month's newsletter. Unless other arrangements are made, items will be listed for one issue of the Newsletter.

FOR SALE:

★ VGCA member Charlie Pate has four books that he has authored for sale, at discounted prices to VGCA members. These include:

- “**U.S. Handguns of World War II**” - \$45.00
- “**The Smith & Wesson American Model**” - \$55.00
- “**U.S. Military Arms Inspector Marks**” - \$45.00
- “**The Colt Model 1860 Army Revolver**” - \$60.00

If interested, please contact Charlie at usarmsresearch@gmail.com

FOR SALE:

★ Original Colt 1862 Pocket Navy, 5-shot .36 caliber. VGC. Includes original Colt bullet mold, Colt screwdriver and nipple wrench, original period powder flask, Eley cap tin and Taylor display case. ~~\$2750~~ Now \$2595

★ Walther PPK Stainless, .380 ACP, original case, manual safety, lock. EC ccw pistol, three 6-round magazines, manual, semi-auto DA/SA decocker, wood grips, 3.3" barrel, holster, 2-1/2 boxes of Browning ammo. \$795

★ Smith and Wesson 1912, .38 S&W New Departure or Lemon Squeezer, 5-shot revolver, rare 4 inch barrel, sharp nickel plating, minty bore, pearl grips and original factory letter. EC. \$749

★ Featherweight 12 gauge LC Smith SxS . Classic American sidelock shotgun w/ 28 inch M&F choked barrels: excellent bores, bluing & case hardening; vent rib; 2-3/4 inch chambers; DT; extractors. ~~\$1295~~ Now \$1195.

If interested, call 571-308-4978 or send email to jrbzn13@aol.com

FOR SALE:

★ After more than two and a half years of research, VGCA member Bill Vanderpool has recently published his book “**Guns of the FBI**”. This book is available at GunDigest.com or can be purchased directly from Bill by calling 703-626-2975. He is more than happy to sign a copy for you. Cost is \$50.00.

FOR SALE:

★ VGCA member Terry Philipppy offered up this book for his mother-in-law:

- “**The Army Air Corps: Branch Immaterial – A World War II Memoir**”

\$16.80 (Amazon) or \$20.95 (Barnes & Noble)

Available on-line at Amazon: https://www.amazon.com/Army-Air-Corps-Branch-Immaterial/dp/164416664X/ref=sr_1_1?crid=3I6NIEYEG74BB&dchild=1&keywords=branch+immaterial&qid=1592941069&srefix=branch+imm%2Caps%2C156&sr=8-1

Also available from Barnes and Noble: <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-army-air-corps-colonel-w-g-bonvouloir/1131936753?ean=9781644166642>

FOR SALE:

★ Hi-Standard Derringer, blued, .22 Magnum, with case, instructions, and warranty card. \$400.00 firm

★ Remington Model 48 “Sportsman,” 16-ga, 26” barrel with Poly-choke plus a 25-round box of Federal ammo. \$375.00

Contact Jack for details at looney.house@verizon.net

FOR SALE:

★ S&W Model 4013 TSW in .40SW, 3 DOT Tritium Night Sights, Walt Freer Trigger Job, Hoge Grips, new Milt Sparks Black Leather Holster, new Mixon Black Leather 2-Mag Belt Pouch, 2 x 12-round S&W Magazines, 8 x 9-round S&W Magazines, soft side pistol bag, and over 300 rounds of .40SW ammo. Entire Package \$600.00

Buyer must have a Virginia CHP, be a credentialed LEO, or submit to a Virginia State Police background check. If interested, call John at 703-281-2478.

The e-mail address for any Newsletter-related matters is Newsletter@vgca.net - or you can reach the editor directly at rpebecker@verizon.net. Feel free to e-mail items for inclusion in the newsletter. For changes of address or non-receipt of the newsletter, either via e-mail or the mailed hard copy, please contact Rob Becker or Bill Chronister.