

Who created this museum?

Jef Verswyvel always had an interest in WWII which reflects in his career as a scale modeler. At a young age he started collecting war paraphernalia.

Maggie DeWeirdt supported his search for artifacts and encouraged him to use his skills to create realistic looking life-size models of soldiers.

They both grew up in their homeland of Belgium, where their parents shared what they went through during the war and their gratitude to the Allies who liberated their country. Creating this museum was a way of thanking these men and women.

They started to assemble what would become the **"Greatest Generation" World War II Museum** with a Grand Opening at their place of business on Veterans Day 2005.

In 2009 the exhibit was moved to the **Szilagy Center** where it would be more accessible to the public at large.

They continued purchasing uniforms, arms, personal items and artifacts for their collection at auctions and wherever their travels took them. Veterans and their families also donated artifact to put on display in the museum.

Thank You
FOR YOUR VISIT

Szilagy Center

56 N. Buffalo Street - Route 72
PO Box 135 - Rowlesburg, WV 26425
Across from the Community Park

The Szilagy Center is owned, preserved and operated by the
ROWLESBURG REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE



Opening Times May through October

Saturday 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Sunday 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

For info and appointments
Shirley Hartley 304-698-5305
Katie Wolfe 304-454-9232 or 304-454-9634
Email: rowlesburginfo@yahoo.com

TOUR BUSES WELCOME!

Admission

Free for WWII Veterans

Suggested donation: \$5.00



The Greatest Generation **WORLD WAR II** **MUSEUM** *Rowlesburg, West Virginia*

WWII VETERANS WALL OF HONOR



“ Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices.”

PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN

This world class exhibit is operated by the **Rowlesburg Revitalization Committee** and dedicated to all Veterans of the Second World War 1939 - 1945

VISIT WWW.ROWLESBURG.INFO FOR DETAILS, FESTIVALS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES IN THE TOWN

A unique museum in the heart of the Cheat River Valley

THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE was the largest land battle of World War II in which the United States directly participated. More than a million men fought in the battle; 600,000 Germans, 500,000 Americans, and 55,000 British. The temperature in Belgium during January 1945 was

the coldest on record, and casualties from exposure to the cold grew as large as the losses from fighting. Many lost fingers, toes, and feet; many died from exposure. Local citizens collected sheets and blankets to help keep the allies warm.



NAVY PILOT CHARLES H. BROWN SHOT DOWN OVER THE PACIFIC

Retired Attorney Charlie Brown was “lost at sea” and considered “killed in action”. His family was notified and prepared for his funeral. However, he had been picked up by the Japanese Navy and held as a POW until the end of the war when he was released and sent home. Over the years, they saved all his uniforms, foot locker, documents, telegrams, and are now a part of the museum.



THE MOLLY ZELLER ROOM is named for a local Army Nurse. You are greeted by nurses as you enter who look real enough to welcome you. This museum did not forget the women who served their country so proudly during World War II. Represented in this room are WAAC, WAVE, Red Cross and the Home Front which Maggie recreated from photos her family had in Belgium.



THE VIRGIL GIBSON ROOM is named for a local hero and exhibits scenes of U.S., British, German, Belgian and Russian soldiers dressed in their national uniforms. There are several realistic, war-torn, and bullet-riddled displays. Especially detailed is the scene of the German bunker in Berlin being looted by Russians soldiers.



THE COLLECTION IS AUTHENTIC to the WWII era, according to Jef. The process begins with a mannequin and special modeling clay that is used to re-sculpt heads, faces, and hands until he is satisfied with the obtained realistic look, including blood, wounds, scars, frown, or furrowed brow. The final step is dressing these mannequins in accurate WWII military uniforms with accessories such as insignias, medals, stripes, and weapons. *Even the buttons and shoe laces are authentic.*

