

# The BULGE BUGLE

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THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

NOVEMBER 2018



## REMEMBRANCE *and* COMMEMORATION 74<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY of THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE Metro DC Area ★ December 15 - 17, 2018

Just before the  
wreath-laying  
ceremony, Tomb  
of the Unknowns,  
December 2015.



Photo courtesy of John Bowen

*See pages 17-19 for full details. Register by November 28th!*



**Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc.**  
PO Box 27430, Philadelphia, PA 19118-0430  
703-528-4058

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**Editor:** Tracey Diehl

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



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**NOTICE: DUES NOW \$20**

At our General Membership Meeting at the Annual Reunion in San Antonio, our members voted to increase our annual dues from \$15 per year to **\$20 per year**, effective as of November 1, 2017. We are no longer offering Lifetime Memberships or 4-yr discounted memberships. (Those already purchased will be honored.)

We need your support to keep us going. Sign up your family and friends! Encourage your chapter members to join national BOBA. See membership application on the back cover.

**Memberships make great gifts for family and friends!**

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Gary Higgins



IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE that it's been two years since our membership first elected me as the President of the Battle of the Bulge Association. And I so appreciate being elected for a third term as your leader, during the election held in Colorado Springs.

We have some changes to board members, and the continued loss of our veterans. Something that never changes is my love for our WWII veterans, and the families whom I have met over the decades. Such a joy to meet with them year after year! Meetings, reunions or chance meetings—the use of Facebook and social media make it all so unique.

Our reunion in Colorado Springs was well-attended, although bad weather in the eastern states prevented many from joining us. We all heard about the Florence hurricane, and the safety of those having to cancel was most important.

The tours and Air Force theme created unique memories for all of us at the reunion. The view of Pikes Peak each morning from our hotel added a special touch. Thin air created some minor health issues. We had been informed to drink plenty of water, which most of us did to stay strong and hydrated.

The Colorado Springs chapter needs a big shout-out for all the work and planning done to accommodate our members. Lots of work and time was spent to insure the success of the BOBA reunion. If you get a chance, be sure to thank those from the area who did this for us. [See photos on p. 14-15.]

A major discussion topic at our annual membership meeting was the need to have chapter members join the BOBA National Organization. Dues paid to local chapters do not include National membership, as they are separate entities. BOBA National members receive four *Bulge Bugle* magazines annually and vote for the Board members at the general membership meetings, held at our annual reunion. My wife Carol signed up a local chapter member as a National member—he did not realize they are two separate groups. I gave him a copy of *The Bulge*, and he promptly gave her \$20 and completed a new member application. Welcome to BOBA, Joe Bush!

Many others joined BOBA while in our hospitality room.

One is a ten-year-old who is very interested in WWII. Sean and his father enjoyed their visit with the veterans. [See an article by Sean on p. 23.]

**WANTED: New Members!** I have asked those at the membership meeting to sign up one new member, and then more. You can do it. We can all make that small effort.

A young lady at the airport asked me about WWII, and said she loves the WWII museum in New Orleans. I offered to sign her up for BOBA. And I hope to include in my message for the next issue a welcome to her as a new member.

Be sure to write us and tell us about your Colorado Springs reunion experience. As always, send other stories and photos.

Please put the December dates on your calendar for the special annual Bulge Commemoration events in DC. All the details were in the August *Bugle* and are again on pages 17-19 of this issue.

We will survive, and continue to strive to make your BOBA bigger and better. BOBA has dedicated board members, and members, striving to be the best we can be.

—Gary Higgins, President and CEO,  
*Battle of the Bulge Association*

## How to submit stories for “The Bulge Bugle”

Please continue to send us your Battle of the Bulge stories. All members are reminded to submit stories about veterans you know who fought in the battle. Guidelines for submitting stories and photos 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. Original stories will be given preference over reprinted articles. NOTE: We cannot reprint from books or pamphlets, unless you are the author. **Stories or clippings will not be returned, so please do not mail originals you want to keep—send legible copies.**

**Photographs:** Please identify the place and/or people in the photograph. Photos copied on a copy machine are not suitable for publication. Scan photographs at high-resolution (300 dpi.) **Photos will not be returned, so please do not mail valuable originals—send copies.**

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

**Send material to:** (Preferred method) by email: tracey@battleofthebulge.org, or by mail: Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc; PO Box 27430; Philadelphia, PA 19118-0430

**FEBRUARY 2019 ISSUE DEADLINE: January 4, 2019**  
**QUESTIONS? Please contact Tracey Diehl,**  
703-528-4058, or by email: tracey@battleofthebulge.org

# LETTERS TO BOBA

## SEEKING INFO ON QM GROUPS

I am researching the valuable, but unsung, work done by Quartermaster units during the Bulge campaign, particularly by 471 Quartermaster Group, and its subordinate unit 308 Quartermaster Battalion.

You often hear about the removal of the big gas dumps at Spa and Francorchamps before the Germans could reach them, but there were other dumps too that had to be moved in the emergency.

1. Specifically, do any of your readers or members know about truckheads #83 and #84? Where were they and how did the QM units close them?

2. Also, there is a History of 471 Quartermaster Group, but I have not been able to find a copy. Does anyone know how to get a copy of it?

I am sure you have many requests, but I hope you can print this inquiry, because it is not about the usual things.

**Andrew Dlugolecki, Member**

*If anyone has information, contact Andrew Dlugolecki at: andlug@hotmail.com; 17 Craigie Place, Perth PH2 0BB, UK.*

## BOBA ANNUAL REUNION KUDOS

This letter is to inform you of our recent experience at the BOBA Reunion in Colorado Springs, CO. The September 2018 reunion is the first one my wife and I have attended.

The reunion was extremely well-planned and organized. We had the opportunity to see very memorable sights from the Garden of the Gods to the Air Force Academy and the Olympic Training Center, to name just a few. All ages, interests and people's physical abilities were taken into consideration in the planning process.

The time schedule of the itinerary was also very flexible for all guests. Those who wished not to attend all of the activities had that flexibility. The Marriott Hotel was also a perfect location for the Reunion, with its many accommodations. Being able to socialize in the Hospitality Room gave us the opportunity to meet many wonderful people who we hope to see again.

We have often heard that no function goes 100% perfectly, but this Reunion was certainly the next thing to it. Thanks to everyone involved in planning this trip. You gave us a lifetime of wonderful memories.

**Barry & Nancy Johnson, Members**

P.S. A special thanks to Gary Higgins, Alan Cunningham and Tracey Diehl



**BOBA 37th Annual Reunion attendees enjoying our hospitality room at the Colorado Springs Marriott.**



**9 ARMDD (purple outlined detail shows Lieutenant John Terrel, Captain John DeRoche, and Lieutenant Thomas Wickey.)**

## 9TH ARMORED DIVISION INFO?

I am seeking information from either veterans or their families of CCR 9th Armored Division Task Force Rose or Task Force Harper or from the CCR Headquarters.

CCR 9th AD had two blocking positions on the N12 road which led Northeast from Bastogne toward St Vith.

The first, held by Task Force Rose, was at Antoniusshof road junction near the villages of Lullange and Donnage which covered the Junction of the Clervaux and N12 roads.



**Task Force Rose was commanded by Captain Lyle K. Rose, 9th ARMDD**

Task Force Rose was led by Captain Lyle K. Rose. Comprised of A Company, 2nd Tank Battalion (15 M4 Tanks); C Company of 52nd Armored Infantry Battalion; Battery B of the 73rd Armored Field Artillery Battalion (6 M-7 Priests) and a platoon of C Company 9th Armored Engineers.

The second was at Féitsch near the village of Allenborn, about 5 kilometers southwest of Lullange and Donnage, which was held by Task Force Harper, led by LTC Ralph S. Harper. These two task forces consisted of about 30 tanks and a little more than 1,500 men.

Task Force Harper consisted of C Company, 2nd Tank Battalion (about 15 M4 Tanks); A Company of 52nd Armored Infantry Battalion and the 73rd Armored Field Artillery Battalion, Less Battery B (12 M-7 Priests) TF Harper was also supported by about 100 stragglers of the 110th Infantry Regiment in Clervaux, led by COL Theodore A. Seely, a former commander of the regiment.

I have spoke with LT John Terral of TF Rose before his death in 2003. I have no other contact with any survivors. I am desperately interested in any information on these two Task Forces.

**Karlen Morris, Member**

*If anyone has information, contact Karlen Morris at: karlen.morris@outlook.com. 1432 Flood Rd, Shelbyville, KY 40065; 502-724-4281.*



## WELCOME ABOARD!

*Welcome to these new members who joined BOBA between June 23 - September 28, 2018:*

Ackermann, M. Kaye	Member	Jurik, Andrea Venditti	Member	Vantiegheem, Henri M	Member
Armbruster Jr, Francis E	Member	Kennedy, Sean	Member	Wood, Nancy	Member
Armentrout, Jackie	Member	Kollar, Loreen	Member	Zarzyski, Carl J	Member
Balderson, Diane	Member	Landry, Diane	Member	Zuniga, Juan	Member
Berlin, Randy	Member	Lauterio, Kaitlyn Venditti	Member		
Bush, Joe	Member	Lewis, Larry	Member		
Coulter, Thomas	Member	Lion, Peter	Member		
Decker, Al	Member	Locker, Bernice	Member		
DeCandido, Anthony	Member	Maginnis, Joan	Member		
DeCandido Ficara, Kristen	Member	Morgan, Paula	Member		
DeCandido Sr, Philip	Member	Naya Jr, Michael	Member		
DeCandido, Philip	Member	Poppe, Christopher	Member		
Forgione, Traysia Venditti	Member	Robert, Charles E	Member		
Frintzilas, Patrice Venditti	Member	Rehkop, Andrew	Member		
Gennari, Denise	Member	Roder, Monte	Member		
Gilson, Terry D	Member	Rodgers Jr, Thomas E	Member		
Hier, Scott	Member	Spinella, Dustin	Member		
Johnson, Nancy	Member	Suggs III, L D	Member		
Johnson, Barry	Member	Vallerand, Philippe	Member		

### CORRECTION:

*Due to a production error; we never listed these members who joined a few years ago, September 16 - December 31, 2016. We thank them for their continued support. (And thanks to Veteran Member Mike Quiroz for alerting us to our mistake.)*

Higgins, Carol	Member
Hurst, Richard	Member
Lockhart, Richard	106 InfD Anti-Tank Co
Quiroz, Mike	134 AAA Gun Bn
Vogel, Nancy A.	Member
Vogel Jr, Norvin	Member

**Help spread the word about BOBA—Encourage family and friends to join!**

## NEED BOBA MEMBER DONATIONS TO BULGE EXHIBIT AT THE NEW NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM

The Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc. is co-sponsoring the Battle of the Bulge exhibit at the National Army Museum, along with the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. Luxembourg has already pledged \$125,000 for half of the cost of the exhibit. BOBA is raising the other half, so that our name will be on the exhibit and will create more awareness about BOBA.

The Campaign for the National Museum of the U.S. Army is being run by the Army Historical Foundation. For those who are not aware, the museum is under construction at Fort Belvoir, Virginia near Washington, DC. Completion is expected sometime in 2019. We expect that BOBA will tour the museum once open, as part of our December Commemoration, probably in 2020 (we will be in Belgium for the 75th Anniversary in 2019).

As the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, we have already contributed \$2,500 to the Army Historical Foundation for the Museum. They have set up an account for BOBA for members, chapters, and friends who want to contribute to the Battle of the Bulge exhibit in our name, so we can meet the goal of \$125,000.

**Rendering of the National Museum of the United States Army, at Fort Belvoir**



*There are several methods of making contributions:*

**1.** Make checks payable to the National Army Museum Fund and use the memo line to write “BOBA – Acct #3601720”

**Mailing address for checks:**

National Army Museum Campaign  
Attn: Beth Seaman  
2425 Wilson Blvd  
Arlington, VA 22201

**2.** If you prefer making a donation via credit card, you can call Beth Seaman at (703) 879-0006. At the time of the call, you can let her know you’d like your donation to be put towards

the Battle of the Bulge Association Fund.

**3.** Another credit card option is using a special web link specifically for BOBA donations. Anyone makes a donation via that link will have their donation automatically credited to the BOBA record in the National Army Museum Campaign database. This option is on our website with the following link:

*Go to: [battleofthebulge.org](http://battleofthebulge.org), search for “The Campaign for the National Army Museum”. Then on that page, click on the link: “Donate here to the National Army Museum Campaign.”*

# FONDLY REMEMBERING VBOB EVENTS

by Anna R. Venditti, Member



**Anthony L Venditti,**  
26 INF, 101 REG,  
3 BN, HQ CO

*Anna Venditti, widow of Anthony L. Venditti, sent this as a letter to John Bowen of the Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation:*

I learned from a friend, John O'Connor, that his father had served in the 3rd Armored, had been shot through the neck during the Battle of the Bulge and was laid up for a year and a half. I was anxious to share information about the Veterans Battle of the Bulge with him and thought to give him a copy of *The Bulge Bugle*, of which I had accumulated so many over the years. Then I remembered I had donated them to our VBOB chapter and to the

library. He had never heard of this organization. His dad died at age 58 when John was just 21. Apparently, during my son's illness and death, I neglected to see that my national membership dues went unpaid for at least three years. I renewed my membership last month and received the August issue of *The Bulge Bugle*, and sadly there was the announcement of Mary Ann's death. I am so sorry. Although we saw each other rarely and communicated once in a while, I thought of her and you often because of the times we met at the conventions. What great memories. If it wasn't for the VBOB, Tony and I would never have travelled to the different states as we did, seen so many beautiful places, met so many dignitaries. After his death in 1999, I tried to keep his memory alive by attending other functions with a couple of cousins.

They were all outstanding and memorable, but a couple stand out. Primarily the trip to St Louis, Missouri to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge on December 16, 1994. It was a spectacular tribute held in the St. Louis Cathedral, which as I remember, its interior is constructed totally with mosaics. Everything is mosaic chips! Beautiful.

Of course, there was a huge dinner with entertainment and in attendance were Prince Philippe of Belgium, Prince Henri of Luxembourg, the Belgium Fusiliers and other dignitaries. The two princes spoke lovingly to the veterans who had liberated their country and kept thanking them throughout the ceremony. We were given a program and all kinds of reading materials—even a commemorative plate, as I recall, and stamps especially issued for this occasion.

At the end of the evening, to get back to our room, Tony and I walked alone through what I believe could have been the dining room, because there was an upper level which might have been a lounge and we walked below. As we walked, the two Princes came running through the upper level striking a cigarette.

We stopped them, and Tony and I thanked them both for their having come all this way to honor and thank the Veterans of the Bulge for having fought to save their country from the Nazi Invasion.

I had the program in my hand and did something I never did in my life, not before and not after. I was talking to Prince Henri and asked if he had family, and he said, "Yes, I have a wife and five children, and they're all musically inclined." We said something else, but I don't remember what. I then asked if he would sign my program, all the while thinking he would think of me as an "ugly American", but he did.

Prince Philippe was standing back, watching and listening, so I pointed to him and sheepishly said, "What about him?" Philippe wasn't so sure, so then Tony with his charming smile said, "All night long you've

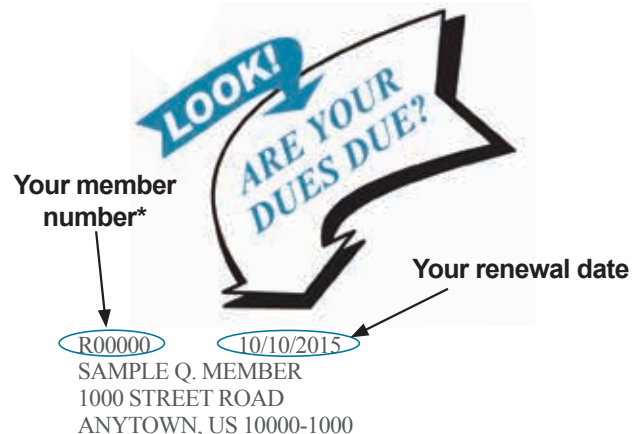
been thanking us for liberating you, and now you don't want to sign my wife's program?" And so he did. I told them I wouldn't tell anyone. And I didn't. That is, not until the 2002 Convention in Baltimore, Maryland, seven years later. Accompanied by my cousins, Patricia and Caroline, I brought the framed program with me and the Belgium Attaché Dany Van de Ven was there, and I showed it to him. He didn't notice the signatures right away, but when I called them to his attention, he ran off to the Belgium Ambassador in another room to show him. All night long, from the stage, they kept looking down at my table. When we were leaving, the Attaché asked if I would be going to Belgium the following year for some anniversary celebration, and to be sure to take this signed program with me. (It never happened.)

During the 2002 post 9/11 Convention in Baltimore, a Memorial Service was held at Fort George G. Meade. Surprisingly very emotional for the young Colonel who greeted us and the retired Colonel who spoke. Both's eyes filled up and they had to contain themselves. Wonder what they knew about everything going on in our world at the time that we didn't? We toured the Fort Meade museum and visited the Battle of the Bulge Conference Room. The Conference Table was handcrafted in Stavelot, Belgium, built of Ardennes oak from an area where the Bulge fighting took place. I had never seen it before. It is magnificent!! We toured Ft. Mc Henry and participated in their Flag Raising Ceremony. We also watched a video about the Battle of Baltimore in 1812. Francis Scott Key was there, and the sight of the embattled flag still standing so moved him that he put his feelings of the battle into verse, and so evolved our National Anthem. Today, the Stars and Stripes fly over the Fort 24 hours a day, and anyone who wants the honor of temporarily replacing it with their own can bring their flag to the Fort, and they will fly it. We cruised the Inner Harbor, and the view from the top deck was spectacular. I guess I had forgotten my American History and how important and strategically situated Baltimore is!

Let us not forget the 2003 Convention. I remember we covered a lot of ground, and it was tiring, but fun. The very *(continued on next page)*

## 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!**

## REMEMBERING VBOB EVENTS *(continued)*

best was the lobster fest at the Gloucester House Restaurant. Gloucester has got to be the most beautiful fishing village in the world. We rode the coastline to get to the restaurant. John DeWire attended Boston College with Michael Linquasta (also YD) the owner and made a point of introducing us to him. The place was fabulous, and his son gave everyone a lesson on how to recognize and take apart the different varieties of lobsters in order to eat them. This was at the Seven Seas Wharf overlooking the boats and cabin cruisers in the water. Of course, Mike comes from a long line of Sicilians, and we had a blast speaking in Italian with him. He enjoyed us, and we enjoyed talking with him. Patricia and Caroline were both born in Italy. Turns out he was a medic and taken prisoner of war at the Battle of the Bulge.

In the meantime, his son injected lots of Italian words into his presentation and had everyone hysterical, whether they understood or not. John DeWire made sure Michael joined the VBOB.

The banquet was a huge success. We sat with the YD guys and Helen and Harry Tasselari, who picked us up and took us to their home for dinner on Friday. There were over 300 in attendance, some in wheelchairs, others with walkers. All proud. The theme was "The Christmas We Never Had," with Christmas trees and presents for the veterans, which included items you had during the war like K Rations, Camel Cigarettes etc. We even sang Christmas carols, with "Silent Night" in darkness, except for candlelight.

Quite moving. The guest speaker was Joanne Holbrook Patton. A demure, well-bred, well-spoken, very elegant lady. She spoke of her father-in-law General George S. Patton Jr., her husband his son, George S. Patton, who was battling Parkinson's disease, and their children and grandchildren. (One of whom was named George S. Patton and thought to carry on in his grandfather and great grandfather's footsteps, but never would, because he was born handicapped.) We had our picture taken with her and the girls got her autograph. We were given seedlings of the pine trees from the Ardennes. Mine have grown beautifully, very tall, very full and when I look at them, I remember what a wonderful convention this was. It was here that you and Mary Ann told us about the 2004 Convention set to coincide with the WWII Memorial Dedication in DC. You said whole families were going to go and that you had already received over 600 responses and were looking for a theme. We too had already responded.

Both you and Mary Ann put so much work into making the 2004 Convention a success and it was. I don't have any notes, because I video-taped the trip and the Memorial. I do remember the chicatos (?) had come out of the ground and chirped incessantly all day and all night, how we had a tour of the other monuments the night before the dedication, seeing them lit up in all their splendor, how you provided for our own tour of the Memorial before the dedication because you knew that on the day of the dedication it would be chaotic.

We boarded our buses in front of the hotel and headed to the assigned parking lot where all the buses from all over the country would wait until the end of the day for everyone's return to take them back to their respective hotels. If I remember correctly, we had to board other buses from our parking place for the short trip to the Memorial itself. John DeWire from the Yankee Division, which some of us also represented, handed us a large red white and blue ribbon to carry. When we got there, we had to go through gates and I got separated from Patricia and Caroline. They ended up under the Washington Monument and my group was down below in a field, and we all watched the ceremony on TV screens.

I recently sent in a membership to National for each of my seven grandchildren in order for them to receive copies of *The Bulge Bugle*.

Perhaps it's too late, because many of the stories of combat, hardship, death and destruction have already been told in past issues. If I remember correctly, there are twenty-two American cemeteries in Europe and eleven of them are in France. Our men fought, died and are buried there so that the people could be free of Nazi Germany's rule. We didn't conquer, but gave back and helped rebuild the destruction. Everyone should be made to read the November 4, 1995 letter addressed to our veterans and families published in the August issue of *The Bulge Bugle*. I am so grateful that the younger generation continues the tradition of caring for the fallen American heroes who are buried on foreign soil. In today's atmosphere, it would do well for everyone to learn what it means to be dominated, oppressed and tortured, and why the people of Luxembourg and Belgium are so grateful to the Americans for liberating them, while so many others have so conveniently forgotten.

Thank you again for everything you and all the other great VBOB leaders did for the rest of us.

## NOTE FROM JOHN BOWEN:

*My family and I want to thank everyone that made donations/remembrances to BOBA in the name of Mary Ann since her funeral. BOBA and the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge had a special place in her heart. She particularly enjoyed the December Events and the Annual Reunions, and meeting all of the Bulge Vets. She, 10 years after the Bulge, was to become a veteran herself. She is in a better place now and I know that she must be shining down upon us.*

*Thankfully, John D. Bowen and Family  
Michelle, Cheryl Ann, Donnelle & David*

## Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

January 1- September 30, 2018

### INCOME AND EXPENSES

#### Income

Donations .....	4,211.50
Membership Dues .....	9,610.00
Interest Income .....	1,060.81
Quartermaster Sales .....	2,824.50
Reunion Sales.....	14,351.37
December Event Sales .....	142.00

**Total Income .....** **\$32,200.18**

#### Expenses

<i>Bulge Bugle</i> Publication .....	14,616.34
Operations .....	11,995.14
Reunion expenses.....	10,150.65

**Total Expenses.....** **\$36,762.13**

**NET INCOME .....** **-\$4,561.95**

### ASSETS

As of September 30, 2018

Checking .....	11,181.80
Savings.....	5,105.57
CD accounts totaling.....	101,089.17

**TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS.....** **\$117,376.54**

*For more information, contact BOBA Treasurer  
Duane Bruno by email: [dubru1950@gmail.com](mailto:dubru1950@gmail.com)*



# 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.

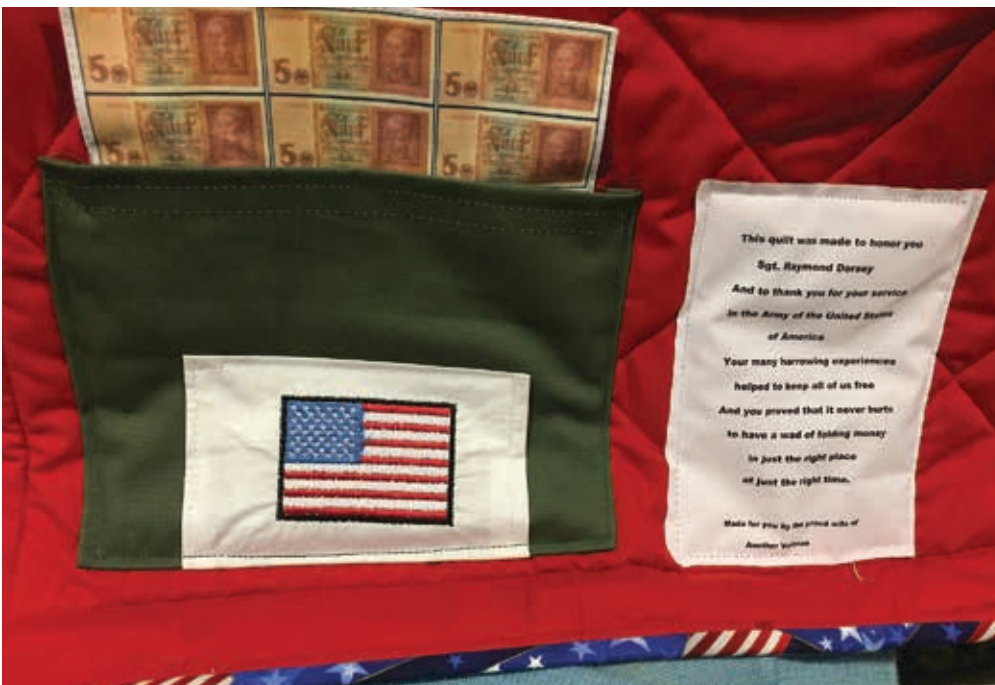
Please send notices by mail: BOBA, Inc., PO Box 27430, Philadelphia, PA 19118-0430; or by phone: 703-528-4058; or by email: [tracey@battleofthebulge.org](mailto:tracey@battleofthebulge.org).

We have been notified, as of September 28, 2018, that these BOBA Inc. members have also recently passed away:

Armbruster, Irene	MEMBER	Loukas, Arthur	83 INFD 330 REG CO F
Bardolf, John T	751 FA BN CO B	Mathus, Daniel F	3 ARMDD 3 ORD MAINT BN
Breslend, Donald J	35 INFD 137 REG CO F	McGettigan, Norbert	69 INFD 273 REG 2 BN CO I
Byrd, Joseph W	738 MED TK BN HQ CO	O'Brien, William C	87 INFD 346 REG 2 BN HQ CO
Cohen, Robert J	106 INFD SIG CO	Pollack, Albert R	76 INFD 385 REG ANTI TANK BN
Emerick, John J	166 ENGR CMBT BN CO A	Ray, Tom	84 REG 335 REG 1 BN CO A
Gilliam, William C	2 ARMDD 66 AIR CO G	Schoo, Donald	80 INFD 633 AAA AW BN
Granfield, Patrick E	30 INFD 119 REG CO I	Szeffler, Casimir A	80 INFD 318 REG CO B
Hier, Orn L	10 ARMDD 80 ARMDD MED BN	Walters Jr, Mathew A	160 ENGR CMBT BN C
Krauss, Kenneth E	2 ABND 75 INFD 254 FA BN	Watson, Loyd E	87 INFD 346 REG 1 BN CO D
Kunath, Elmer M	30 INFD 531 AAA AW BN CO A	Zani, Delio	76 INFD 302 FA BN
LaPook, Sidney	193 FA GP	Zigray, Raymond E	285 ENGR CMBT BN CO A

*Correction:* Due to a production error, the name of Raymond P. Pennock, 1 INFD, 18 REG, CO B, was inadvertently misspelled in the August 2018 issue "Members in Memoriam." Our sincerest apologies to the Pennock family.

## COMFORT TO A DESERVING BOBA VETERAN



Quilt made by the wife of a retired military nurse, and other quilters, featuring an image of German currency tucked into a pocket (detail, left), for BOBA veteran Raymond Dorsey, 4 INFD, 22 REGT.

BOBA Veteran member Raymond Dorsey, 4 INFD, 22 REGT, was so proud of his article "The Wallet That Saved a Life!," August issue, page 11, that he requested several extra copies to distribute at his VA retirement community. Quilter Honey Fritz, a former nurse (and her husband is a retired military nurse), heard about the article and decided to make Dorsey a quilt. Three ladies work together to make the quilts,

and they always give them to a veteran. Honey's been quilting approx. 10-11 years and it normally takes approx. 20+ hours to make one quilt. They stitched 22 quilts last year, and 13 so far this year. Her husband printed out a likeness of German currency for her to put on the quilt.

She said that they "wanted to give attention to a vet who may not get the attention they deserve." A VA social worker will let Honey know when there is a veteran who might be in need of a quilt. A lot of the recipients are diagnosed with PTSD. She said that when they present a quilt to a veteran, he is usually surprised, and touched that someone thought enough of him to make something for him.

## **BAND OF STRANGERS, A WW2 MEMOIR OF THE FIGHTING IN NORMANDY AND "THE BULGE"**

by James K. Cullen, 3 ARMDD 36 AIR 2 BN E



*Band of Strangers, a WW2 Memoir of the fighting in Normandy and "The Bulge"* was inspired by the events on United Flight 93 on September 11, 2001. Jim Cullen watched reports of the passengers of United Airlines Flight 93, strangers who decided to fight together in the face of death, and he knew his story needed to be told.

What sets *Band of Strangers* apart from other World War II stories is that it addresses the unrecognized, but vital Army Combat Replacements. The author's squad, 2nd squad, 1st Platoon of

the 36th Armored Division were strangers who met for the first time on the battlefield. Like the passengers of Flight 93, they had not trained together, never marched together in formation, never heard company reveille together, never drank together. Despite the fact that they were strangers, they knew what they had to do as combat ground troops, and they pulled together to get it done.

The story is gripping in its honest depiction of war from the perspective of a young man dropped into the chaos of battle. Nothing was familiar, not even the man beside him. Staff/Sgt. Cullen's story is rich in the details of every day life as a combat infantryman. It is sometimes terrifying, other times poignant, and woven throughout with the humor that made survival possible. A must read for anyone who has an interest in history, and military history in particular, whether they have been to combat or not.

## **A LOCAL BOY GOES TO WAR: MEMORIES OF WORLD WAR II**

by Lawrence Titzler, 78 INFD, 303 MED BN, CO B

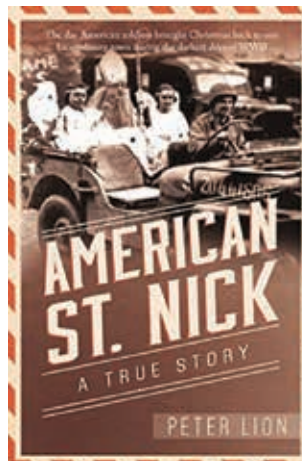


We've all heard the stories of the great World War II heroes such as Matt Louis Urban and Audie Murphy. What we haven't heard are the stories of the quieter efforts of the common soldiers who made it possible for those heroes to do their daring deeds. Lawrence Titzler's memoir fills this void, with an intimate look at the WWII exploits of a popular educator. In this Greatest American Generation story, a young man seemingly destined to a parochial and mundane life in a Buffalo neighborhood shares his amazing experiences all over

the world. Like so many, an ordinary person is called upon to do some extraordinary things and he "answers the call."

*The book is available at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).*

## **TWO BOOKS BY PETER LION, MEMBER**



BOBA Member Peter Lion is the author of the book *American St. Nick-A True Story*. The book tells the story of a handful of GIs, including BOBA veteran member Richard Brookins, who during the darkest days of WWII, bring Christmas back to a small Luxembourg town, and unknowingly create a holiday tradition there that continues to this very day. [See our article in the November 2016 *Bugle*, pg. 10.] Next year will mark the 75th Anniversary of the Bulge and of this event. As such, plans are well underway in the town of Wiltz, where the story takes

place, for a special celebration of the event. The publisher of the book is also planning on a Special Commemorative Edition of the book to come out next year. It is also worth noting that the book was made into a multiple Emmy-winning documentary film by the WWII Foundation. *More on this story, the book and the film and what's happened since the book came out in 2015, can be found at the book's website: [www.AmericanStNick.com](http://www.AmericanStNick.com).*

*Below is a summary of the story told in Lion's upcoming book "MERC", about Pvt. George Mergenthaler, who was killed in the opening days of the Battle of the Bulge.*



**This photo of "Merg", taken by Father Bodson in Eschweiler, is one of the last known photos of George.**

In mid November 1944, following nearly two weeks of devastating fighting in the Huertgen Forest, the 28th Infantry Division would finally be rotated off the front lines and sent westward to Luxembourg for some much needed R&R in what was known as "the quiet sector". For the soldiers of the 28th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop attached to the 28th ID, it meant being sent to the map dot farming town of Eschweiler, just four miles to the north of Division HQ in Wiltz.

One of the soldiers in the Recon Troop was 24 year-old George Mergenthaler, an only son and unbeknownst to most of his fellow soldiers, the sole male heir to the substantial

Mergenthaler family fortune.

George grew up in the bucolic town of Rye, NY and would eventually enter Princeton University in September of 1939, the same time Hitler was entering Poland. A second world war would soon follow. Like many young men of his generation, George enlisted a few months after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Strikingly handsome, George graduated Princeton in January of 1943 and was immediately sent to Camp Hood in Texas for basic training. Speaking fluent German and French, George was assigned to the 28th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop. Despite his Ivy League education and language proficiency, George, wanting to be "one of the guys" and contrary to his father's urging and stringpulling remained a





The altar painting in St. Mauritius church featuring an apostle wearing a dark purple robe, draped over an army green uniform, and bearing the likeness of George Mergenthaler.

buck private throughout the war.

His ease with language and charm, George quickly made friends with everyone in Eschweiler, especially Father Bodson, the parish priest who offered George a room in the parsonage. George and the other soldiers would spend the next month living amongst the people in town, sharing farm chores and meals, prayers and services in the local church, becoming in a way, family. In mid-December, all that would change. The last-gasp German offensive ripped through thin American lines in the quiet sector. The Battle of the Bulge had begun and Eschweiler was in the crossfire.

Mid afternoon on December 18th, 1944 with the town nearly surrounded, the Recon Troop was forced to pull out of Eschweiler. Driving through light snowfall, only a mile outside of town the six vehicle convoy ran into the spearhead of the German assault in that sector. The Germans opened up on the convoy sending men scattering for cover. The Recon Troop was pinned down. Death or capture were the only options. George sprang to action. He manned a jeep mounted machine gun, laying down suppressing fire to allow the others in the troop to “make a break for it”. While Recon Troop soldiers ran toward the cover of nearby woods and away from certain death, George’s machine gun jammed.

Standing monument tall in the jeep George desperately tried to clear the jam. Moments later German bullets cut him down. Severely

wounded but alive, George was taken prisoner with a few others from the Recon Troop. As a medic tended to George’s wounds, an English speaking German officer began interrogating the now POWs. Badly wounded and struggling to speak, George responded in German.

Whether George said something that alarmed or angered the German officer or he simply deemed George too badly wounded to survive the trip east to a POW camp, will never be known. The German officer callously drew his piston and shot George in the forehead.

For months no one from Eschweiler nor any of the Recon Troop soldiers who survived the ambush and capture, knew what became of George. Then in March of 1945, after brutal winter snows finally melted, George’s body was discovered buried in a shallow grave not far from town, positively identified by the purple sweater his mother had knitted and given him as an early Christmas present.

The heart broken townspeople paid George the only tribute they could, by reburying him as one of their own in the town cemetery. Father Bodson, who in just a few weeks had become like a brother to

George wrote to his parents informing them of where he now rested, and how much George meant to everyone in Eschweiler. Included with the letter were several pictures the priest had taken of George and some of his fellow soldiers just days before George’s death. They would be the last photos the Mergenthaler’s would have of their only child.

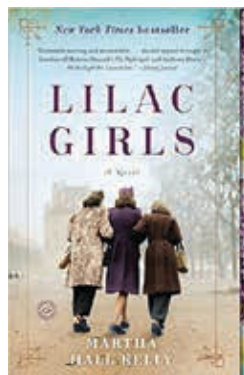
When the war finally ended and knowing the love and kindness the people in Eschweiler had shown to George during that last month of his life, the Mergenthalers offered to fund the complete rebuilding of the war-damaged church of St. Mauritius, the one place where George had spent so much of his time while in town. Two years later, the rebuilding was completed, including the vivid hand painted mural behind the altar that depicts Jesus feeding the masses with the help of an apostle; an apostle wearing a dark purple robe draped over an army green uniform and bearing the likeness of George Mergenthaler.

For more on the book go to: [www.MERGbook.com](http://www.MERGbook.com).

## BOOK REVIEW

### LILAC GIRLS ENLIGHTENS

by Carol Higgins, Member



An enlightening new book about WWII is the *Lilac Girls* by Martha Hall Kelly. It’s based on a real life person, Caroline Ferriday. Miss Ferriday had been an actress from a wealthy family, and was known as a NY socialite who championed French orphans during the war years. Most important was her aid to the women who survived the concentration camp at Ravensbruck. The book tells Caroline’s story, and the stories of two other women who were greatly impacted by WWII.

Karsia Kuzmerick lived in Poland, and was captured by the Germans while doing courier work for the resistance movement. The other character is a young German woman, Herta Oberheuser, a doctor who is assigned to the Ravensbruck Nazi camp. Each lead very different lives, but the reader understands their individual pains and frustrations. We feel the heartaches that war brings to everyone—families *and* countries.

The book reminds us that many countries like Poland had historical and lasting effects on its government and people before, during and after WWII.



# BOBA MEMBERS ON TV SHOW ABOUT BULGE

We received this note from John McAuliffe, Chapter 22 President:

Thank you for alerting me to the “Battle of the Bulge” episode on the Travel Network’s “Bizarre Foods with Andrew Zimmern.”

I saw my name on the gas tank of the Redball Express truck, which I inscribed some years ago on a visit to the Remember Museum 39-45 in Belgium—also with names on the outside on the farm building.

It was good to see “M & M” [Marcel & Mathilde Schmetz of the Remember Museum 39-45] sitting down in their kitchen, enjoying a meal with their guest, Andrew Zimmern.



BOBA member Doug Mitchell (left) was also featured, educating show host Andrew Zimmern (right) on the Bulge while touring battle sites.

Also featured was Helen Patton, whom I met several times on my visits to Belgium, making her family’s favorite stew. She is always there when the Veterans visit the cemeteries and at sit-down dinners. She often sings to the Veterans! I have visited the Patton home in South Hamilton, MA, where there is a park dedicated to Gen. Patton. Every summer they hold a Blueberry Festival there.

Thank you for all your efforts for the Veterans, keeping *The Bugle* vital and interesting.

Our chapter was named for Major Lamar Souter, a physician, who was the founder of the Univ. of Mass Medical School and Hospital here in Worcester. As a US Major, he attended the wounded soldiers in Bastogne.

—Submitted by John McAuliffe, Pres, Central Mass Chapter (22)

To watch the show, go to: [watch.travelchannel.com](http://watch.travelchannel.com), sign in to your cable provider, and search “Bizarre Foods with Andrew Zimmern,” then “Battle of the Bulge.” You can also purchase the episode on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) and [hulu.com](http://hulu.com), among others.

## WE NEED YOUR CHAPTER NEWS!

Send to: [tracey@battleofthebulge.org](mailto:tracey@battleofthebulge.org).

**NEXT ISSUE (FEBRUARY 2019) DEADLINE:  
JANUARY 4, 2019**

## SC CHAPTER (7) SEPT. MEETING

At the SC Chapter 7 September 8 meeting, guest speaker Mr. CW Bowman, shown left in photo with President Rick Hurst, spoke about his experience serving as a volunteer “Tunnel Rat” during two tours of duty in Vietnam. In a well-illustrated presentation, he discussed the amazing tunnel network the North Vietnamese had developed and used, first against the French and then against the South Vietnamese and American armies. He explained the various uses of the tunnels, how “Tunnel Rats” located and searched the tunnels, and the methods the enemy used to secure those tunnels. We saw photographs of various booby traps, tunnel passages and rooms, captured equipment found in the tunnels, and prisoners.

—Submitted by Rick Hurst, Chapter 7 President, and Anna Amick



## CHAPTERS: We Need Your Members!

As you are all well aware, we are losing members at a fast rate, due to the sad and inevitable passing of so many of our veteran members. So we call on our chapters to entreat their members to join national BOBA, to keep us going for generations to come.

As stated in our national BOBA bylaws [Article 14, section C, number 3.], **all chapter members must also be national BOBA members:** “Chapters shall require every member to have and maintain membership in the National VBOB organization, as required under the 501c(3) law. Accepting non-BOBA members in the Chapter is a violation of that law as well as the bylaws and is subject to penalty, including possible loss of Chapter Charter and membership for all those on Chapter rolls. Each Chapter is responsible for securing their non-profit status with the US Internal Revenue Service, and any State or local agencies; for filing such reports and/or tax forms, e.g. IRS Form 990 or other applicable documents.”

Please assist us in keeping the membership rolls of both the national and chapter BOBA organizations robust!

National BOBA is assisting Chapters in their IRS requirements by applying for a group exemption that covers all Chapters who want to be included in our filing. The Chapters who do not meet the IRS requirements of all chapter members also being national members cannot be included in our group filing. A separate letter outlining the advantages of being included in the group filing and requirements to be included is being sent to the Chapter Presidents.

Chapter Presidents have previously been sent a copy of the full bylaws. Bylaws available on our website at: <https://battleofthebulge.org/about/> Click on: Amended Bylaws



# MISSOURI GATEWAY (25) KEEPS IN THE PUBLIC EYE

## WORLD WAR II WEEKEND 2018 AT JEFFERSON BARRACKS PARK

Another World War II Weekend is in the books, after the most recent one was held April 20-22. As planned, Gateway Chapter members manned the tent throughout the day on Saturday for the two battle re-enactments, and we were treated to pleasant weather and nice crowds for both battles. A large number of spectators took the time to stop by our tent and chat with our veterans. Thanks again to Nick Bering, former 2nd Ranger Treasurer and current public address announcer for mentioning our presence and the availability of our book, *Victory Through Valor*.



## GATEWAY CHAPTER MEMBERS IN WEBSTER GROVES JULY 4TH PARADE

Once again Gateway Chapter members participated in the Webster Groves July 4th parade, which was attended by several thousand spectators. This year, a sign was placed on the half-track to honor the memory of Don Green, a long-time member and Sergeant-At-Arms, who passed away in April. US Representative Ann Wagner (Second District) stopped by and talked to members before the parade began. (Thanks, Ann!) And a big thanks to Rod Stout for providing the half-track for members to ride in during the parade.

## DELAWARE VALLEY PA CHAPTER (4)

Anita Thorne Keyser of Delaware Valley Chapter 4 alerted us to this honor for her brother:

On Monday September 14, 2018, a memorial was dedicated to Bulge veteran and MOH Recipient Cpl. Horace "Bud" Thorne in Grufflingen, Burg-Reuland, Belgium, where he gave his life for freedom. The memorial project was spearheaded in part by BOBA members Doug Mitchell and Anita Thorne Keyser (Bud's sister) for the 9th Armored Div. soldier, who was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his courage and sacrifice in combat on 21 Dec. 1944. The ceremony was hosted by Mayor Dhur and including a contingent from the commune of Bullingen, Armed Forces Network (media), and an Honor Guard from Spangdahlem Air Force Base. Family members Anita Rochelle Deegan, niece, and Matthew Burton Deegan, nephew attended the ceremony. See an article and photos at: [worldwarmedia.com](http://worldwarmedia.com), search for "Bud Thorne."

BOBA member Doug Mitchell participated in the dedication on September 14, designed this plaque (shown, left) for the memorial, and was an official project co-sponsor representing the 106th ID Assoc., in cooperation with C-47 Club (82AB).







## 37TH ANNUAL REUNION | COLORADO SPRINGS

About 65 attendees (including 11 Bulge veterans, 10 shown above) enjoyed the sights around Colorado Springs, such as the Garden of the Gods, National Museum of World War II Aviation, Olympic Training Center, U.S. Air Force Academy, and the Peterson Air and Space

Museum. They enjoyed dinner with a DJ from the local BOBA chapter at the American Legion Post 209, and our annual banquet. And of course, snacks, drinks and camaraderie in our hospitality room.

**Photos courtesy of Gloria Rucker, Dave & Tana Black, and Rick Hurst**





## 2nd Gens with Their Bulge Veterans







**BOBA VETERAN MEMBER JACK AGNEW** (deceased), “The Filthy Thirteen,” 101 ABND, 506 PRCHT INF, HQ RGT, Demolition. Photos sent to us by his proud daughter, Barbara Agnew Maloney, who was going on the “Band of Brothers Tour” in September.

**Donations:** We appreciate the contributions received June 23 – September 28, 2018 from these folks:

Amor, Louisa P	Member
Bailey, J David	106 INFD 422 REG 3 BN CO F
Balderson, Diane	Member
Bardolf, Thomas	Member
Bennett, Karen Miller	Member
Berlin, George F	75 INFD 291 REG 2 BN HQ CO
Brodin, Robert	Donor
Bruno, Duane R	Member
Cascarano, Arnold	75 INFD 291 REG 3 BN HQ CO
Corbett, Rosemary E	Member
Condon, Leonie	Member
Delaughter, Michael	Member
Diehl, Tracey	Member
Field, A. Wayne	6 ARMDD 86 CAV RECON SQD
Guptill, Scott	Member
Hurst, Richard C	Member
Jahr, Steve	Member
Knight III, Robert W	Member
Kreckler, John F	110 AAA GN BN
Meister, Jeffrey	Donor, IHO Fred Klooster
Mohor, John	Member
Mooneyhan, Barbara	Member
Morfee, Alfred C	1 INFD 16 REG 3 BN CO L
Nail Passionista LLC	Donor
Negra, Andrew	6 ARMDD, 128 ARMD FA BN
Pagliuca, Frank	75 INFD 899 FA BN HQ CO
Quiroz, Mike	134 AAA GUN BN
Robinson, Kerry	Donor, IHO Raymond Dorsey
Rhodes, Robert	Member
Siegal, Calvin	75 INFD 290 REG CO F
Zimmer, Edward	40 TP CARR GP 96 SQD

## HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT BOBA!

YOU are all our best membership advocates. When you meet someone at a military organization, or anywhere else, and get to talking about WWII, please hand them one of these promo cards so they can learn more about BOBA via our website, and encourage them to join us! We have made up these cards for you to download, print and sign your name. (They will print 10-up on a standard business card sheet such as those made by Avery.)

If you'd like to print up some sheets of cards for yourself, email Tracey Diehl, BOBA Member Services, to get a printable pdf of 10 cards.

Or, if you don't have printing capability readily available, email, write or call Tracey (contact information below) and she can mail printed ones to you.

Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc.  
 PO Box 27430  
 Philadelphia, PA 19118-0430  
 703-528-4058  
 email: [tracey@battleofthebulge.org](mailto:tracey@battleofthebulge.org)



You've just met \_\_\_\_\_,  
 a member of the Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc.

Learn more about us at: [www.battleofthebulge.org](http://www.battleofthebulge.org)  
 Or call: 703-528-4058





# Remembrance and Commemoration of the 74TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

## DECEMBER 15, 16, AND 17, 2018 | METRO DC

### HOTEL INFORMATION

The DoubleTree Hotel Crystal City by Hilton, 300 Army-Navy Drive, in Arlington VA 22202 has been selected again for this event. We secured a special Battle of the Bulge rate of \$99/night (plus room taxes). Discounted self-parking rate is \$12 a night. **Please make your reservations early to secure a room, especially if you want a handicap accessible room.**

**To make a Reservation:** call 800-Hiltons (800-445-8667) or 703-416-4100 by **November 28, 2018**. Must mention **Battle of the Bulge** to obtain the special rate. Check-in time is 4:00 PM. Any guest checking in after 12 noon will be able to do so for no additional charge, based on the availability of rooms.

Free Airport shuttle provided by the DoubleTree Hotel every 15 minutes (6 AM-11 PM), 1.5 miles from Reagan Washington National Airport. Free shuttle from the Hotel every half hour to the METRO: Pentagon City (Blue/Yellow Line) and to Pentagon City Mall.

**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.

### PROGRAM

#### Saturday, December 15, 2018

We'll have **registration**, signing of attendance books, enjoy hospitality room exhibits, books, scrapbooks, memorabilia, snacks & beverages. Plus, our traditional **Tree Trimming** "Salute to Bulge Veterans."

#### Sunday, December 16, 2018

In the morning, we'll have our **wreath layings at the World War II Memorial, VBOB Memorial, and Tomb of the Unknowns** in Arlington National Cemetery, followed by our **Banquet** in the evening, with a program that includes: Greetings from Dignitaries, Speaker, and Person of the Year Award.



Clockwise from top left: DoubleTree Hotel Crystal City; historical exhibits in last year's hospitality room; BOBA wreathlaying; and the Main Reading Room at the Library of Congress.

#### Monday, December 17, 2018

This year, we will offer a **VIP tour/presentation at the Library of Congress**, located on Capitol Hill. We will learn about the Veterans History Project, a valuable and exciting project which collects, preserves, and makes accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war. The US Congress created the Veterans History Project (VHP) in 2000 as part of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. Since VHP's inception tens of thousands of interviews have been recorded and are accessible to the public online.

We plan to spend less than three hours at the Library of Congress, including a briefing by Col (R) Karen D. Lloyd, Director of the Veterans History Project and shorter briefings by senior leadership of the Library of Congress's Prints & Photographs Division and Library of Congress's Geography & Map Division.

The Prints and Photograph Division holds more than 15 million images and some original photos of the Battle of the Bulge including WWII posters encouraging patriotic participation. The Geography & Map Division has custody of the largest and most comprehensive cartographic collection in the world with collections numbering over 5 million maps. Many maps depict WWII, including the Battle of the Bulge. Special vault items of interest to WWII veterans and their families will be displayed and experts will be available for discussion.

Our transportation will return us to the DoubleTree Hotel for lunch on your own before the hotel restaurant closes at 3 PM.

In the evening, we have been invited to a co-hosted **Reception by the Belgian Ambassador Dirk Wouters and Mrs. Katrin Wouters and the Luxembourg Ambassador Ms. Sylvie Lucas**, at the Belgian Ambassador's residence, 2300 Foxhall Road, NW, Washington, DC.



# Remembrance and Commemoration of the 74TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

**DECEMBER 15, 16, AND 17, 2018 | METRO DC**



“Salute to Bulge Veterans” Tree Trimming (left); a past reception at the Belgian Ambassador’s residence (right).

## PROGRAM SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2018

- 2:00-7:00 PM **Registration - Lincoln Hall Foyer/Ballroom** – Pick up Registration Packets with name badges, banquet/bus tickets, latest updates. Sign Attendance Books.
- 2:00-11:30 PM Hospitality Room/Exhibits, Books, scrapbooks, memorabilia, snacks & beverages open every day.
- 3:30-4:30 PM Our traditional **Tree Trimming** “Salute to Bulge Veterans.” If you are a Bulge Veteran and have not submitted a picture of yourself to add to the tree, contact Tracey Diehl: 703-528-4058 or [tracey@battleofthebulge.org](mailto:tracey@battleofthebulge.org) (Family members representing their deceased veteran are also welcome to submit veteran’s photo, if have not already.)
- Evening Socialize in Hospitality Room (Snacks available). Dinner on your own – consider the hotel’s revolving Skydome Restaurant, or another of many dining venues in the neighborhood.

*Note: Anyone participating in “Wreaths Across America” (see: [www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org)) at Arlington National Cemetery today would do so on their own. Consider booking your room 1 night early (12/14) at BOBA discount rate.*

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2018

- 9:00 AM-12:30 PM Depart promptly 9 AM for wreath layings at **World War II Memorial, VBOB Memorial, and Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery**
- 12:30 PM Depart for DoubleTree Hotel to rest or visit in the Hospitality Room or sightsee in the area
- 6:00 PM Hospitality room closes
- 6:00-10 PM **Banquet at DoubleTree Hotel in Washington Ballroom**
- 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: Salmon or Chicken Piccata (Plus other choices, see registration form)
- Program: Greetings from Dignitaries, Speaker, Person of the Year Award
- 10:00-11:30 PM Hospitality Room re-opens after the banquet

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2018

- 9:00 AM-11:00 PM Hospitality Room open
- 9:00 AM Depart promptly for the Library of Congress (security screening)\*
- 9:30-11:30 AM Presentation/tour. Learn about the remarkable Veterans History Project
- 11:30-11:45 AM Van pick-up
- 12:45 PM Return to DoubleTree Hotel
- 5:00 PM Depart promptly for Belgian and Luxembourg Ambassadors’ Reception (6-8 PM)

*\*The Library of Congress is handicapped accessible. You will need to pass through security. As in all the national museums in DC, there are no requirements for a picture ID. Visitors must pass through airport-like security and place handbags and pocket contents on x-ray belts.*





# BOBA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

Colorado Springs, CO, September 16, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by BOBA national President & CEO Gary Higgins. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Veteran Member Irving Locker; Invocation by J. David Bailey, Veteran Member and Board Member.

**Attendees:** [Roll call by Tracey Diehl, Recording Secretary] President & CEO Gary Higgins, Immediate Past President & Chairman of the Board Alan Cunningham, Board Member David Bailey, VP Chapters Sherry Klopp, Board Member Tana Van Nice Black, Recording Secretary Tracey Diehl, and many BOBA National Members.

**Minutes from the 2017 Annual Meeting** in San Antonio, Texas were approved with no changes or discussion.

**VP Chapters Report:** Sherry Klopp sent greetings from West Michigan Chapter (23) President Richard Rizzio, and notice that his chapter may close down. Tom Mountz, their Treasurer, is considering taking over as Chapter President. George Fisher, President of the SE Florida Chapter 62 passed away on Sunday, July 8, 2018. The chapter, which he founded in 1999, at one time had 300 members, and is disbanding. Laura Dwyer, of Arizona Chapter 53 sent news that their chapter is working on a project to donate DVDs or books on the Battle of the Bulge to Army ROTC units in the Southern Arizona area, to educate our youths on the Bulge.

**VP Membership Report:** [Angela Fazio was unable to attend—report given by Tracey Diehl] From January 1-August 31, 2018, we signed up 72 new members, lost 263 members, for a net loss of 191 members. We contact all members who haven't renewed, to make sure it's intentional. We received yearly renewal dues from 402 members, and total membership is currently 1,725. Tracey noted that our bylaws do state that everyone must first be a member of national BOBA before joining a chapter. We are losing many potential members by chapter presidents who don't belong to national BOBA, and are not encouraging their chapter members to join national. We had close to 5,000 national members in 2010.

**National Bulge Day Proposal:** David Bailey, Board Member and a past national BOBA president, proposed asking the White House to declare on December 16, 2019, the 75th anniversary of Battle of the Bulge, that Dec 16 will henceforth be National Battle of the Bulge Remembrance Day. [In 1994, such a proclamation was first made for a National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.] Bob Rhodes, Vice President/Military and Veterans Affairs, would be our point person to spearhead this. This would be good publicity and press for the Bulge and BOBA, and the Bulge Remembrance Day would be listed on every calendar, every year.

Gary Higgins then asked all BOB veterans in attendance to stand up, and recognized Irving Locker, 116 AAA GUN BN; Jack Stitzinger 87 INFD, 346 REG, CO H; Tom Ingram, 90 INFD, 359 REG, CO F; Jim Sharp, 1 INFD, 18 REG, 1 BN, CO B; Joe Landry, 776 AAA AW BN; and David Bailey, 106 INFD, 422 REG, CO F.

**Reunion 2019 Proposals:** [Exec VP Barbara Mooneyhan was unable to attend—discussion led by Alan Cunningham] We had 2 proposed sites for our Annual Reunion 2019: Tidewater VA area (encompassing Norfolk, Virginia Beach, Chesapeake) and Gatlinburg TN. After much discussion about weather and other factors, the members present voted for Tidewater VA area, as it is more accessible to an airport and has more military attractions of interest. It was noted that 75% of our members live east of the Mississippi, and can thus drive within a day to Virginia, if they don't want to fly.

**Chairman of the Board Report:** Alan Cunningham stated we have about \$120,000 in assets plus \$7,500 in reserve in the PayPal account to

pay for immediate reunion expenses. He feels we'll break even on the reunion, although last-minute cancellations due to the weather may affect the income. We raised the dues last year to \$20, and discontinued new Lifetime memberships, to help increase our revenue. We stand to lose about \$5,000 this year. Tracey Diehl stated we have 601 Lifetime Veteran Members, 158 Lifetime Members, for a total 759 Lifetime Members, and 966 yearly dues paying members. Irving Locker suggested we start charging the Lifetime members yearly dues, but the recommendation was that Life members could voluntarily donate \$20 per year to help defray our costs, but we must honor the Life memberships in place.

Alan then reported our income as -\$2579.77 for Jan 1-Aug 31, 2018. We've made donations to museums featuring the Bulge, and \$500 donations to chapters building Bulge memorials, so not all expenses are operational. Reunion income for Jan 1-Aug 31 was \$10,950. *The Bulge Bugle* is our biggest expense, but our best asset. After the Board meetings, we will put our quarterly financial reports in the next *Bugle*.

He reminded us that we are cosponsoring, along with Luxembourg, a Bulge exhibit at the new National Army Museum in Ft. Belvoir, and that members are being encouraged to donate to reach our goal. It will be good publicity for BOBA, and a source of new members. An article on how to donate will be in every *Bulge Bugle*. It was suggested they include in the exhibit Veterans stories from *The Bulge Bugle*, a kiosk to search BOB veterans by unit, name, and our veterans' videos.

Alan stated that we've taken over December Event from Bulge Historical Foundation permanently. We'll have the reception at the Belgian ambassador's residence, co-hosted by Belgium and Luxembourg, and a great trip to Library of Congress to learn about Veterans History Project (VHP). The December Event draws as many, or more, than the Annual Reunion, although the weather can be bad, just like Belgium during the war! Veterans especially should come to Library of Congress Tour for a special event, dignitaries in attendance, and they can get their interviews added to the VHP. Our bylaws state that we celebrate in DC over December 16, and the embassies like us to be there for the actual date. Veteran Member Joe Landry gave thanks for the honor of laying a wreath at the Tomb of Unknowns last December.

Bylaws changes were addressed. IRS requirements for our new tax status: Under \$50,000 receipts (regardless of expenses) it would be easier to file our federal taxes, but since we have taken on the Dec Event, we have more income. The wording of the purpose of organization needed to be changed—added from our preamble. Our dissolution clause was too broad, and was changed using specific IRS language. A discussion ensued over whether we should have more Board members, but more Board members presents quorum issues. Board Member title of VP/Military and Veterans Affairs needed to be added, so he can deal with government agencies [who require titles.] Bylaws changes were approved, pending minor corrections, and will be on our website.

**PR Officer Report:** Thea Marshall stated that her purpose is to make the organization more viable, get new members and stop our financial losses. Board members and others make presentations, travel to events representing BOBA. She put together a PR team: Patrick Hinchy, European Liaison; Tom Gargaro, Strategic Planning; Judith Kroll Gargaro, Social Media; Ethan Allen, Wikipedia page. They found we must have outside source material about us included in a Wikipedia page, and we can't add a Battle of the Bulge Association link to other pages. The main goal is to keep the great sacrifices of our Bulge vets in the public memory.



**Member Services Report:** Jan 1-Aug 31 sales: \$2,214.50 inventory, \$16,290 Colorado Reunion, \$31,277.50 total in sales. We have cut costs by selling less QM merchandise, which now can be purchased via Cafe-Press, who make and ship the new BOBA merchandise. No upfront costs to us, and we'll get a percentage after they deduct their monthly costs.

**Elections for 2019 Board:** Irving Locker nominated Tom Gargaro for President from the floor. Signed letters in support from members Thea Marshall, Patrick Hinchy, and Bernice Locker were submitted, per our bylaws. Tom Gargaro spoke on his own behalf, saying he was honored to be nominated, pledging to find new and creative ways to increase membership and decrease spending. He had handed out a written proposal and bio just prior to the meeting.

Asked how long he has been a BOBA member, Tom Gargaro replied that it was less than a year. Alan Cunningham said that since Tom has only been a member for less than a year, he doesn't know that we already do a lot of his action proposals, especially for the chapters. We visit chapters and do presentations, invite them to our Board meetings (very few ever attend), send them our Board meeting minutes and financial reports, and print their chapter news in the *Bugle*. Our new bylaws put the chapters under our umbrella. Only 4 chapters responded to our offer to help them file for their 501c3, and handle tax filings for them if under \$50,000 in receipts. Only 3 Chapter Presidents (Doris Davis, Rick Hurst, A Wayne Field) were at the reunion, out of 33 active chapters. Alan Cunningham pointed out that Tom's written proposal had faulty projections, which overestimated future BOBA losses. (Example: We have already made changes to our dues structure, helping to reduce future losses.)

Alan stated that the Nominating Committee was himself as Chair, with Board Members Duane Bruno (Treasurer) and David Bailey.

Gary Higgins then spoke about the honor of serving as BOBA President for the past 2 years, with both great memories and challenges. He thanked our board, praised Tom Gargaro's written proposal, and noted that membership numbers are dwindling in many other veteran organizations. He was honored to serve BOBA and would like to do so again. (It was asked and answered that the President's term is one year, for a maximum of 3 years.) Gary has always wanted to serve his 3rd year, with an eye on being involved with the 75th Anniversary of the Bulge. He noted that upcoming WWI 100th Anniversary events are keeping our European partners from planning the Bulge Anniversary Tour just yet.

Members David Black, Judy Cunningham and Carol Higgins spoke on behalf of Gary Higgins for President. Judith Kroll Gargaro and Patrick Hinchy spoke on behalf of Tom Gargaro for President.

Member Tony Dooley asked about our voting criteria, and it was confirmed that only BOBA national members attending the Annual Membership meeting had the opportunity to vote. Alan Cunningham explained that a mail-in proxy vote for all members would be very costly and time-consuming. Gary Higgins spoke about Gail Larke, the member who volunteered—and is very enthusiastic—to be Recording Secretary. She was vetted to be sure she had the necessary skills. Election results:

**OFFICERS**

**President & CEO:** Gary Higgins  
**Executive Vice President:**  
Barbara Mooneyhan  
**Vice President Membership:**  
Angela Fazio  
**Vice President Chapters:**  
Sherry Klopp  
**Vice President Military &  
Veteran Affairs:** Robert Rhodes  
**Treasurer:** Duane R. Bruno  
**Recording Secretary:** Gail Larke

**BOARD MEMBERS**

David Bailey, 106th Inf Div  
Tana Van Nice Black  
Tom Burgess, 87th Inf Div  
John Mohor  
Madeleine Bryant, Chaplain

**Immediate Past President  
& Chairman of the Board\*:**

Alan Cunningham  
\*Bylaws-required position,  
not voted upon



## 75th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE TOUR

Plans are underway for a commemoration tour of the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium and Luxembourg.

We do not have any details at this time, other than it would include the date of December 16, 2019.

Details will be posted in *The Bulge Bugle* and on the website when we have them available. Contact information will be provided when confirmed.

Alan Cunningham invited Tom Gargaro to attend Board meetings, and invited him to step in as a Board member if any vacancy occurs. Board meetings are open to any national BOBA member to listen in. Dates and times are posted on our website on the "About" page. Members can contact the current Recording Secretary for call-in instructions.

**Other comments:**

Tracey Diehl reported that the board had voted to allow any veteran of the Battle of the Bulge's family, regardless of whether or not he was a member of VBOB/BOBA, to use our logo on their tombstone. It will be good publicity for us, and we'd ask the family to sign up a member. It was noted that VA cemeteries may have restrictions on emblems.

Member Doug Sharp reminded us to buy memberships for our kids, grandkids, and made a generous offer to match some donations.

Veteran Member Joe Landry was promoting a project for American Legion Posts to ring church bells 21 times (referencing a 21-gun salute) for WWII at 11:00 on Veterans Day, the 11th November. He also spoke about the Picklepuss B-17 shot down in Marcel Schmetz's yard when he was a child. Joe arranged for Marcel to get a ride in a B-17 while he was visiting the US, and Marcel is forever grateful.

Gary Higgins thanked all for attending and for their input, and officially adjourned the meeting at 1:22 pm.

—Submitted by Tracey Diehl, Recording Secretary,  
703-528-4058, tracey@battleofthebulge.org

# THE LAST DAYS OF THE BULGE FOR THE 27TH AIB

by Robert J. Peterson, 9th AD, 27th AIB, Co B



At about noon 22nd December, 1944, I was helped into a 6 X 6 and for the first time since the 17th of December I was warm and was comforted; I fell into a very deep sleep and can only remember bits and snatches of the ride toward Malempré, Belgium. I will relate the events that I did not witness.

The continuing timeline for the 27th Armored Infantry, 23rd December, 1944. Field Marshall Montgomery ordered the abandonment of the Saint-Vith Goose

Egg. The 82nd Airborne Division provided road guides along the route. We moved toward the town of Salmchâteau on the Salm River south of Vielsalm. I was unaware of the order of march and it consisted of the 7th Armored Division, the 28th Division's 112th Regimental Combat Team and the 106th Division's 424th Regimental combat Team and CCB of the 9th Armored Division.

The movement started late in the evening of the 22nd of December. The German 1st SS Panzer Division was pressing from the North and the 2nd Panzer Division was coming up from the South. There were other German Units on the move including the 18th, 62nd and 560th Volksgrenadiers Divisions and several Brigades of Panzer and Infantry units.

We moved over one back road and it was a mess. During the night Lieutenant K. P. Larson and his then driver T/5 Jack Grote were checking on "A" Companies condition. Jack Grote recalled seeing T/4 Clem Fischer cleaning the tracks of his half-track, as they were full of mud. They continued back to "A" Companies old field position to recover the maintenance trailer. They also assisted getting Almond Parson's half-track and its 57mm anti tank gun out of the mud.

Sometime that night Clem Fischer's half-track was hit in the gasoline tanks with a violent explosion by a round from probably the 2nd SS Panzer Division, south of the one way road the column was on. The hit started the half-track on fire. Clem was pinned under the steering wheel and could not escape. Others of the squad jumped over the side, including Joe Peoples and Pfc Joe Perdue, who was seriously wounded and lost a leg. A bulldozer pushed the burning half-track off the road so the column could get by. It was a great sorrow that Clem could not be saved. His remains were found long after that incident. There were no dogtags or identifiable body parts and he is listed as Missing in Action.

At this time the Battalion was attached to the 82nd Airborne Division. Tanks from the 14th Tank Battalion were, however, used in several local attacks by the 82nd Airborne Division. I recall several days later being briefed on proposed action by the 82nd in one of its battalions' forward CP. I was told that we may attack south to link up with the 101st Airborne in Bastogne.

We were in several different towns and we received a lot of replacements. (The correct word is "reinforcements" and the word "replacement" was considered too gruesome). Our replacements of about 150 men were retrained AAA men that were to be used as infantry. They were all fine men and I had no complaints about them a soldiers. I found it very difficult to try to build relationships like I had with those men killed,

wounded or taken prisoner in the platoon that I had trained with. I don't recall even thinking about getting close to many people since December 1944. At one of our reunions, my good friend T/Sgt. Jim Chandler, the Second Platoon Sergeant (POW), and I talked of such feelings. We determined that seemed to be the universal feeling of surviving soldiers.

We were billeted in several small towns on the Northern Shoulder somewhere near the Battalion Command Posts that were as follows: Malempré 23 December 1944, Paradis 23 – 25 December 1944, Filot 25 – 28 December 1944, Heyd 28 December – 1 January 1945, Rahier 01 – 07 January 1945, all in Belgium. We were to the rear of the 82nd Airborne Division and at times, part of the battle plan to attack towards Bastogne and meet up with Third Army Forces there.

We were now in the mist of a crash course of Infantry Tactics and formations. One of our minor problems was during chow call: trying to eat in some town square with Belgium urchins watching our every bite. I decided either to eat in hiding or go without. One night as we were sleeping in a billet, we were awakened by a loud explosion and heard the shingles of the house we were in sliding and falling off the roof. Upon investigation we found that an 8" artillery outfit was positioning one of its batteries just North of our house, and when they fired for registration the muzzle blast acted just like incoming shells; almost!

Squad and platoon tactics were a very hot issue at the time, as the platoons lost most of their squad, platoon leaders and non-commissioned officers. In my platoon, only my Mortar Squad Leader (Hart) and the Assistant Squad leader of our machine gun squad (Carter) were on the muster roll. We promoted several of our older men to some positions, and used the replacements with grade to command two of the Rifle Squads. Finding the right men to fill these spots was a real concern.

We anticipated that we would continue to be part of the attack force that was to close off the escape channel for the Germans, to the East. On or about 6

January 1945 we were ordered to move to France and form up as a full division for the first time since entering combat. Our route of march was to the west of the Meuse River on to Rocquigny, France, Verdun and to Altroff, where we were in SHAEF Reserve. We were east of Thionville, north of Metz and some of the division units were getting totally re-equipped. Company "B" was in a small town of St Hubert (Belgium) and well to the rear of the Third Army forces attacking toward Saarbrücken. I was conducting some demolition training with my platoon one day and we did make a lot of noise. When we returned to town for lunch we discovered that the French civilians were packing up to move to the rear. I did get a chuckle from that. Training was on the front burner and we finally got some good combined Tank-Infantry work done. In the states we did not do much of this type of training.

One day, the Red Cross club mobile visited our company for about an hour or so. Two Red Cross girls with some records danced in the street with our men and they also gave out doughnuts and coffee—our cooks supplied the coffee. I was very pleased when the girls would not eat lunch at the company headquarters. They spent all their time with the men of the company. Our days were spent cleaning and repairing our equipment and we were also able to do some live firing exercises. The time of day did not matter, so at night it was not unusual for the platoons to be out in the field.





## NEW YOUNG MEMBER MEETS HIS HEROES

*Sean Philip Kennedy (age 10) has just joined BOBA. He and his father met many Battle of the Bulge veterans in the hospitality room on Monday night, Sept 17, during the reunion. He was thrilled to meet our Veterans, and made sure to talk to every veteran present. Here is his story:*

As I was growing up, I played with small army soldiers and imagined what it must have been like for them in a real battle. This made me curious. My father was in the Air Force, but I was intrigued by the soldiers who fought on the ground. I consider myself very lucky to have met members of the Greatest Generation—men who changed history. I hope to have the opportunity to attend more reunions in the future.

I have always had a great interest in WWII. My Dad is a retired U.S. Air Force officer and currently is a professor at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. He has taught me a lot about U.S. war history. I have enjoyed reading books on the subject, such as *Grenade, Prisoner of War*, and *Sink or Swim*, to name just a few. Recently, my Dad told me there would be a Battle of the Bulge veteran's gathering at the Air Force Academy. My teachers enthusiastically supported my request to



Photo courtesy of Gloria Rucker

Sean Kennedy meets BOBA Veteran Members (from left) Joe Landry, Tom Ingram, and Irving Locker at the Air Force Academy in Colorado.

attend. I was very excited to go. I was going to meet U.S. soldiers who fought for our country 74 years ago! After meeting some of them, asking questions, and taking pictures, my Dad and I were invited to the Marriott Hotel for a pizza party with the veterans. I was so happy that I could learn more about these important men and women. We had a great evening, and I even saw some of their photo albums, with original photos of their experiences.

Two years ago my parents took me to Normandy, France during the D-Day celebrations. I was in awe when I saw the battlefields, the cemeteries and the reenactments. WWII has always intrigued me since I was a young boy. Every book I read about WWII inspires me to read and learn more about this subject. I have made several presentations at school. Last year, I dressed up as General Dwight D. Eisenhower and gave a speech about his important role during the war. Last summer, my father and I took a trip to Bastogne, Belgium. On the way, we visited the American Cemetery in Luxembourg, and I saw General George Patton's grave. In Belgium we visited Bastogne, the foxholes in the city of Foy, La Gleise, Stavelot, Malmedy, St Vith, and other Bulge memorials. It was amazing! I look forward to being a member of BOBA.

—Written by Sean Philip Kennedy and Doris Davis,  
President of Golden Gate Chapter

We were billeting in vacant houses, and I am sure the owners were in the rear, somewhere they felt safe. Wally Bryzek and I set up house-keeping near the Company CP. We never really got to learn to use the European coal stove. It was a space heater and looked like the cannon heaters that were in the Quonset house in England. We loaded the coal from the top and ended up with the house full of smoke. I don't remember if we ever got it right, but it was not that cold anyway. We all could get passes, and the 8th Armored Division was just south of us and some of our guys, including Walter, got to see some old friends. He came back with some tales of activities in Pont a Mousson and Lieutenant Del Campo, a friend of both Wally and I.

In February the Division was given a march order and I know that the 27th was on the road to somewhere. I knew it was a Third Army order, so my guess was that I had something to do with the German Army. Several hours had passed and we returned to our billets, to find out that General Patton could not deploy the 9th Armored and we were still in SHEAF Reserve.

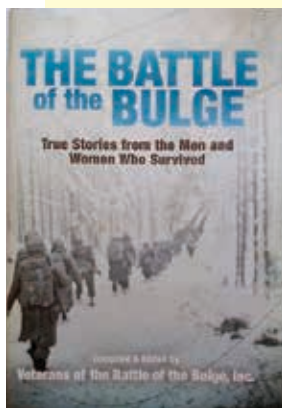
But on 22nd February 1945, we left Third Army and France to Fraiture, Belgium, and we were assigned to First Army. We were still getting a lot of training in. One day the Engineers (Probably Lieutenant Mott) was showing us the latest in German Anti Tank mines, along with the anti lifting devices that were very deadly. As each mine was shown, a small charge of TNT was attached to the mine and with a time fuse they were disposed of in a nearby river. This action always brought a gleam in my eyes as we watched the geysers that the blast formed.

Later that day I was on my way to Battalion Headquarters and I passed a ferry-crossing at a small village on the river and the entire population was in and on the river collecting belly-up fish onto the ferry and perhaps all the other small boats in the area. In my youth, we would call this type of fishing "using DuPont spinners."

On the 28th of February we were in our half-tracks, and we passed through Hurtgen Forest and over the Roer River. The Battalion Headquarters stopped in Sollar and "B" Company went on the Siervenich, Germany. I was taken out of action on March 2, 1945 about 1000 meters east of Steinbruck (Nefel River) Germany, on a line from Duren to Remagen, Germany. I was hit in the right thigh with a shell fragment from a 105mm artillery shell. I did return to my unit on about the 18th of May 1945, after two months in the 48th General Hospital in Paris, France. Part of the time I was in Confessant Hospital near St Dennis and the Replacement Depot in Etampes, France.

—Source: [www.battleofthebulgememories.be](http://www.battleofthebulgememories.be)

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# FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT

by Thomas E Rodgers Jr, Member



**Thomas E. Rodgers,**  
106 Infantry Division,  
422nd Regiment, Co L

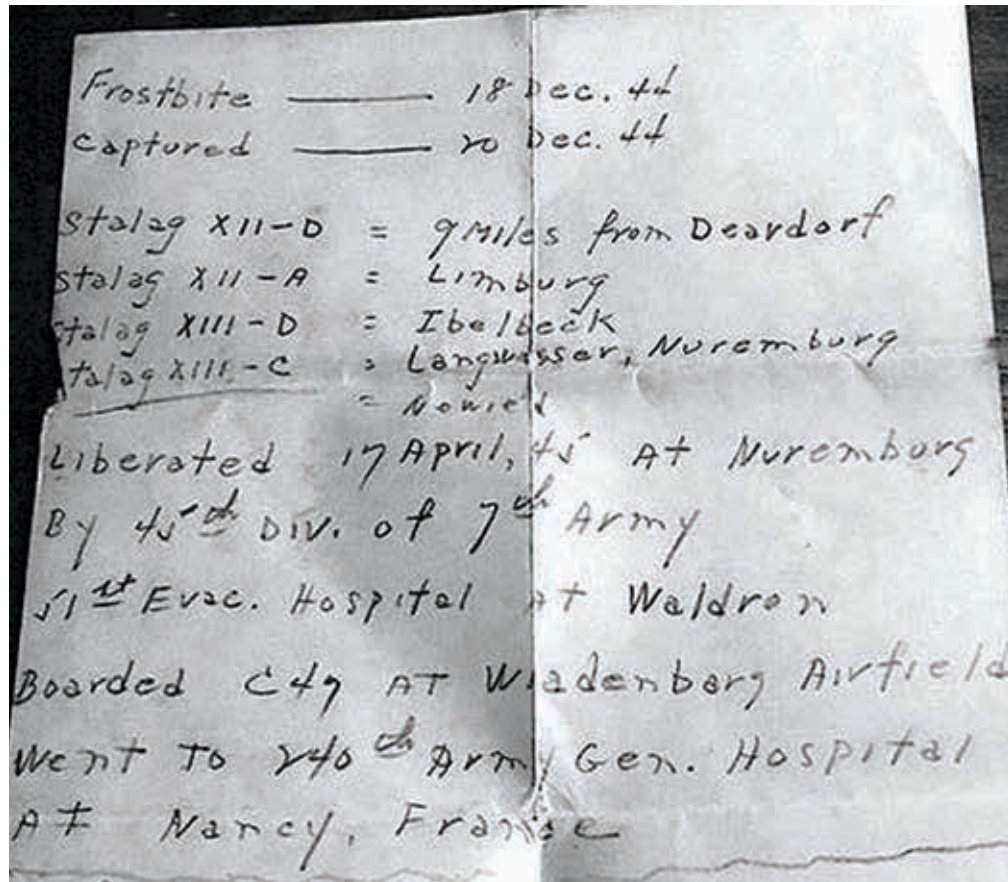
My father, Thomas E. Rodgers, was inducted on 2-21-1944 and was sent to Camp Wolters, TX for training in May of 1944. I wonder why he went in so late in life? Maybe he had a deferral because of two daughters and me at home?

Anyway, he arrived in Europe on 10-29-1944 and was assigned to the 106 Infantry Division,

422nd Regiment, Company L. About 6 weeks later, he was right in the middle of the Ardennes Campaign, aka The Battle of The Bulge. I wonder what was going through his mind as he waited for the Germans to launch their attack on thousands of brave Americans? On December 16, 1944, the Germans were preparing for an offensive, a desperation move. They had assembled a large and powerful force of soldiers, tanks and artillery. Standing in their way was the 106 Division, including the 422nd. Early on the morning of the 16th, the Germans starting an artillery barrage lasting several hours, after which they began their assault with tanks leading the way. The Germans pounded the 422nd with everything they had but suffered very heavy losses. Finally, the Germans succeeded in cutting off the 422nd and 423rd from the rest of the Division and surrounded them. For three days, they held off the Germans. Written accounts detailed how bodies of German soldiers were piled up in front of the American positions. The last radio transmission requested more ammunition. Then silence.

Most were killed, wounded or captured, but a few escaped to tell the story. My Father was one of those who survived and took shelter in an abandoned tank on the 18th. Two days later, he was taken prisoner by the Germans. He was kept in four different Stalags until he was liberated by the 45th Division of the 7th Army on April 17, 1945. The one question that no one can answer is why the Germans didn't kill him when he was found in the tank. (I'm sure glad they didn't!) The losses that Germany sustained in the battle were so severe that when the Allies marched toward Berlin, the Germans had little left with which to fight.

Dad was officially reported wounded on 12-18-1944 and had an extended stay in several French hospitals, being treated for frostbite, losing part of his foot. He was awarded a Purple Heart by orders dated 5-4-1945, and left Europe on 7-2-1945. He was discharged from a hospital at Camp Butner, NC on 8-17-1945 and separated from the Army on 8-22-1945. He died of multiple organ failure on November 18, 1985.



Detail from the diaries of Purple Heart recipient Thomas E. Rodgers.



Thomas E. Rodgers on horseback.



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# ATTENTION NEW MEMBERS: BATTLE OF THE BULGE ASSOCIATION OVERVIEW

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

—SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL,  
addressing the House of Commons  
following the Battle of the Bulge

It was one of America’s greatest hours in the field of battle. And helped turn the tide of war.

Three powerful German armies plunged headlong into the rugged mountains and dense forests of the Ardennes determined to break the American line of defense, and trap the Allied Forces in Belgium and Luxembourg.

They met fierce opposition the minute they engaged the thinly spread American line. And paid a heavy price for every inch of ground they gained. The battle raged for three consecutive days until powerful Allied reinforcements arrived to join the fighting, and keep the Germans from breaking through.

The fighting then continued for four weeks in bitter cold and snow, and all the Germans could accomplish was to put a small bulge in the line. And at the end, the line held firm and the Germans suffered a terrible loss of men, tanks and planes.

Those who fought in the Battle of the Bulge will never forget it. On December 16, 1981, The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge (VBOB) was organized to make certain that it never would be forgotten. Please join us in

commemorating this courageous period in the annals of military warfare. Among our activities, we visit the Ardennes battle area on group tours; we have dedicated memorials commemorating the battle and its veterans at Arlington National Cemetery; we conduct ceremonies, reunions and other events; and publish a newsletter 4 times a year. We have also maintained contact with patriotic groups in Belgium and Luxembourg who are interested in the battle, and in the liberation of their respective countries.

In order to more accurately reflect our evolving membership, we changed our name from “Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge”

(VBOB) to “Battle of the Bulge Association” (BOBA) in 2017.

### BOBA’s objectives are to:

- perpetuate the memory of the sacrifices involved
- preserve historical data and sites
- foster international peace and goodwill
- promote friendship

BOBA is a non-profit educational organization which does not engage in any political, lobbying, or propaganda activities.

Those who were in this historical battle never forgot. Let us recall it together and make it memorable for all time. Our dues are modest, the aims are high.

## BATTLE OF THE BULGE FACTS

**Where:** The heavily-forested Ardennes region of eastern Belgium and Northern Luxembourg

**When:** Dec. 16, 1944 - Jan. 25, 1945

**Who:** *More than one million men*  
• 600,000 Americans (more than the combined Union/Confederate forces at Gettysburg)  
• 3 American Armies and 6 Corps (equivalent to 31 Divisions)  
• 500,000 Germans  
• 3 German Armies and 10 Corps (equivalent to 29 Divisions)

- 55,000 British
- 3 British Divisions plus contingents of Belgian, Canadian and French troops

**Casualties:** German - 100,000; American - 81,000 including 19,000 killed; British - 1,400 including 200 killed

**Equipment:** 800 tanks lost on each side; 1,000 German aircraft

**The Malmedy Massacre** was the worst atrocity committed against American troops in Europe during the war.

## 75TH ANNIVERSARY AT CAMP ROBERTS

On August 30, 2018, a contingent of soldiers from Camp Roberts, California, paid tribute to the men of “B” and “C” Companies of the 80th Infantry Training Battalion on the 75th Anniversary of their commencement of basic training at the camp on that date. Men of “B” and “C” Companies fought in the Battle of the Bulge as combat infantrymen of the 11th Armored Division and the 28th Infantry Division of General Patton’s Third Army during WWII.

The event was organized by Patrick Kearney (11 ARMDD) and SFC Gary McMaster (USA Ret.), the Chairman and Curator of the Camp Roberts Historical Museum. The ceremony included the placing of a floral tribute at the battalion’s plaque outside the entrance to the museum, a few words of remembrance, the playing of Taps, and the rendering of a solemn and respectful salute by current Camp Roberts soldiers to those who came before them. —Submitted by Patrick Kearney, Member



Photo courtesy of SFC McMaster



The August 17, 2018 ceremony in Belgium for the 75th Anniversary of the crash of the B-17 “Picklepu” attracted many dignitaries and soldiers (left). Vintage photo of the crew of the B-17 “Picklepu.”

## 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CRASH OF THE B-17 “PICKLEPU”



Ernest Warsaw, the navigator who survived the crash, in 1943.

Mathilde and Marcel Schmetz from the Remember Museum 39-45 of Thimister-Clermont organized the commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the crash of the B-17 “Picklepu” held on August 17th, 2018.

75 years after the crash of a plane that killed 6 young Airmen, Marcel Schmetz still remembers that day that will mark his life forever. He was returning from school, as he had been sent home because of the dangerous situation when about a thousand Allied bombers were crossing Belgium to bomb Germany.

“I was going back home and saw the bomber exploding. With my father, we went on our bikes to see if we could help one of the surviving Airmen, but the Germans had already blocked the road.”

“I saw the plane crashing, and I was only ten years old!”, says the octogenarian. Since then, he and his wife Mathilde have created the Remember Museum 39-45 in Thimister-Clermont, Belgium.

The ceremony for the 75th Anniversary of the crash had some special

guests, including Mr. Gidwitz, the United States Ambassador to Belgium. In addition, United States Air Force (USAF) men and women from Ramstein Air Base (Keiserslautern district), Germany, participated in the Last Roll Call and the firing of the military salute. Airmen from Spangdahlem came as Honor Guard, and Tennessee ANGs from Geilenkirchen, NATO Airbase, performed during the ceremony. There was a perfect flyover with a KC-135, which is a refuelling American airplane—and that was a great recognition for the owners of the Remember Museum, who for 24 years have welcomed no less than 2,000 members of the American Air Force as guests to their museum.

“Picklepu” is the nickname given by the pilot, Captain Robert Knox, to his wife...and his plane. He is resting at the Henri-Chapelle American Military Cemetery and the Schmetzes had adopted his grave several years ago.

Mathilde and Marcel Schmetz erected a monument 12 years ago exactly where the B-17 crashed. They found out that the navigator, Ernest Warsaw, was still alive. He was one of the four crew members who survived the crash. Mr. Warsaw, two daughters and one grandson attended the dedication of the monument.

While Mr. Warsaw has since passed away, he and all the airmen from the crew were respectfully remembered during the 75th Anniversary ceremony. —Submitted by Mathilde Schmetz, Member



### VETERAN MEMBER VIDEO INTERVIEWS

Watch our veterans’ videos on our website at: [www.battleofthebulge.org](http://www.battleofthebulge.org), then click on “Video”



**SPECIAL OFFER FOR OUR VETERANS! Buy 1, Get 2nd Copy Free! 2 for \$15**

# THE VBOB CERTIFICATE: Have you ordered yours?



The Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc. is proud to offer this full color 11" by 17" certificate, as a legacy item for any veteran who received credit for the Ardennes campaign. It attests that the veteran participated, endured and survived the largest land battle ever fought by the US Army. (There is also a version worded for those who were killed in action or died of their wounds. Be sure to check the appropriate box on the form.) If you haven't ordered yours, then you might want to consider ordering one to give to your grandchildren. They are generally most appreciative of your service, and the certificate makes an excellent gift—also for that buddy with whom you served in the Bulge. You do not have to be a member of BOBA to order one, but the veteran must have received the Ardennes credit. This beautiful certificate is produced on parchment-like stock and is outlined by the full color World War II insignias 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 2 certificates is \$15 postpaid.**

## Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Certificate Order Blank

I request an 11" by 17" certificate and certify the veteran named below received credit for the Ardennes campaign. I have enclosed a check for \$15 for the certificate. Please include the following information on the certificate:



First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initial \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Serial Number \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
(usually Company, Battalion and/or Regiment and/or Division) **Please check one if applies:**  Killed in Action  Died of Wounds  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Mailing Information: (SPECIAL PRICE SHIPS TO 1 MAILING ADDRESS ONLY)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
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BOBA member:  yes  no (membership not a requirement)

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**Orders should be mailed to: BOBA, Inc., PO Box 27430, Philadelphia, PA 19118-0430 Questions? Call 703-528-4058  
OR ORDER ONLINE: WWW.BATTLEOFTHEBULGE.ORG [NO PHONE ORDERS]**

# 2 DAYS, 9 STORIES: WORKING TO GIVE THE PAST A FUTURE, ONE STORY AT A TIME

by Benjamin Mack-Jackson, Member, Founder of WWII Veterans History Project



Preserving the stories of WWII Veterans is my mission. While attending the 104th and 106th Infantry Division reunion in Dayton, OH from September 5 - 9, 2018, I was able to interview 9 WWII Veterans to ensure their memories are remembered by future generations. It isn't often that you have the opportunity to meet and converse with even one WWII Veteran, so the chance to speak with 9 of them was simply unbelievable! On my first day of the Reunion, I conducted 5 interviews, the most I have ever done in a one-day period! Each story they provided was breathtaking, and the vivid accounts of their bravery was overwhelming.

I arrived in OH mid-day on Wednesday, September 5, ready to begin my mission to meet and interview as many WWII Veterans as possible. Within a few hours, I was sitting down with a hero. My interview with **Bob Huber**, a Staff Sergeant in the 104th Infantry Division who served throughout Northwestern Europe from 1944 - 1945. He and his unit saw action on the front line for 195 days as they pushed the Germans into capitulation.

Later that day, I interviewed **Leon Goldberg**, a Private First Class in the 106th Infantry Division. He was taken as a Prisoner of War by the Germans after his regiment was completely surrounded in the early days of the Battle of the Bulge. Being Jewish, his experiences as a POW in Nazi Germany were different than most. He spent 5 months as a "Guest of the Third Reich" before being freed by the Soviet forces.

My day took an interesting twist when I ran into a WWII Navy fighter

pilot who was attending the Reunion. Lt. Junior Grade **Earl Richards** served in the South Pacific during the war. He was one of the youngest Navy pilots of the time and is very proud to have served his nation during WWII. Earl is an 'honorary member' of the 104th Infantry Division Association (the Timberwolf Division). After interviewing Earl, I had the opportunity to interview **Anthony Rand**, who served in the 106th Infantry Division who narrowly escaped capture when his entire regiment was surrounded by the Germans in the early days of the Battle of the Bulge.

My last day interview of the day was one to remember—I met **Jack Brock** who was a Seaman First Class in the US Navy and served aboard the *USS Missouri* from 1944 - 1947. He was present during the campaigns in Iwo Jima and Okinawa as well as the famed Japanese surrender aboard the ship *USS Missouri* on September 2, 1945. I finished the interview with Mr. Brock at 10:30 PM and I couldn't believe how many moving stories I had heard in one day. I was looking forward to interviewing more heroes the next day.

In the morning, the group visited the National Museum of the US Air Force. I was humbled to experience seeing the historic aircraft alongside veterans who remember when they were first used. What an honor it was to stand alongside these heroes while being surrounded by artifacts of WWII.

After visiting the museum, I interviewed Private First Class **Keith Zimmerman** who served in the 104th Infantry Division as a guard in divisional headquarters. He described being shelled by the Germans and experiencing shrapnel flying through the air, narrowly missing him. He also remembers having encounters with Germany POWs as they surrendered en masse throughout Europe.

My next interview was with **Harry Martin**, a Corporal in the 106th Infantry Division, who received a Purple Heart after being severely wounded by shrapnel. He was knocked unconscious by his injuries and he described his near-death experience while laying in the snow for more than 5 hours before he was found. He had injuries in 10 places in his body and spent several months in the hospital recovering. His harrowing story of survival moved me beyond words.

Later that day, I interviewed **Bryce Thornton**, a Private First Class in the 104th Infantry Division and a recipient of the Bronze Star. Mr. Thornton fought through Holland, Belgium and Germany experiencing intense combat in all 3 countries. He vividly recalls how many of his fellow soldiers were killed by the Germans as they fought their way across Europe. His emotional description of his encounters with children who were orphaned in Bitterfield, Germany showed a personal side of the war that now will never be forgotten.

At 11:00 PM that night, I received a call from a WWII Veteran who said he was ready to be interviewed. He needed time to make this decision and I understood and gave him that time. He was **Joe Koepfinger**, Private First Class in the 104th Infantry Division. His story of fighting throughout Europe is one I will never forget. He was ordered to blow up a basement in a small town in Holland but he heard voices when he opened the door. Half of the town (nearly 60 civilians) were hiding in this basement. He did not blow up the basement—sparing these peoples' lives. He continued to fight through Holland for several months before being severely wounded by a German hand grenade. We talked until midnight and I was amazed at his stamina. I walked him back to his hotel





Benjamin Mack-Jackson (left) interviewing Leon Goldberg, 106 INFD.

room and kept thinking of the impact of his story and the other stories would have on the future generations to come.

All 9 of these WWII heroes had unique tales of sacrifice, heroism and tragedy. In just 48 hours, I had been able to capture their stories on video and now the stories of their wartime experiences can be heard by the world.

When I returned home, I began to edit the footage of these monumental accounts—many hours of footage. I am analyzing each story and plan to edit these interviews and turn them into powerful mini-documentaries which will be available on my web site: [WW2VeteransHistoryProject.com](http://WW2VeteransHistoryProject.com). I will let you know when that happens.

I would like to thank Doris Davis, a true friend to the Veterans, for making it possible for me to attend the Reunion and capture these stories for future generations. In addition, I am grateful for the support of the Battle of the Bulge Association, the 106th Infantry Division Association, the 104th Infantry Division - National Timberwolf PUPs Association, as well as the *USS Missouri* Association. My heartfelt thanks to the 9 Veterans who took the time to share their stories with me. They relived one of the most powerful times in their lives in order to help educate the youth of America about WWII. I am very grateful to them for allowing me to interview them, to preserve their stories for future generations.

## GENERAL PATTON MEMORIAL MUSEUM IN ETTTELBRÜCK, LUXEMBOURG SEEKS MATERIALS

The General Patton Memorial Museum in Etttelbrück (Luxembourg), also known as “Patton Town,” will celebrate on September 21, 2019, 75 years liberation of the German occupation.

The city of Etttelbrück was liberated twice by the American troops:

- 1.) on 11 September 1944
- 2.) on 25 December 1945

On the occasion of this celebration, we are organizing an exhibition about the events in and around Etttelbrück in 1944-1945, as well as “The Ardennes Offensive - Battle of the Bulge” and therefore we have the following questions to you:

- Do you have original records of these events?
- Are there any original documents in your archive?
- Do you have in your archive reports/documents of contemporary witnesses who were involved in and around Etttelbrück?
- Do you know any veterans we could contact via email to get detailed information or related objects/photos?

Our museum has some exhibition rooms in which we will display the documents/objects for our visitors.

The museum pays tribute to General George S. Patton Jr., including his 80th Infantry Division finally liberating the town of



**On June 28, 1970, a 3-meter-high statue of General Patton was solemnly dedicated on the Patton Square in Etttelbrück. The bronze statue was unveiled in the presence of Grand Duke Jean, his wife, H.R.H. Grand Duchess Josephine-Charlotte, with many other dignitaries in attendance.**

Etttelbrück as of December 25, 1944.

In addition to the imposing statue of General Patton, the museum has more than 1000 photographs and documents that testify to the German invasion in May 1940, Nazi occupation and liberation by US troops in September 1944.

The second part of the exhibition presents to the visitor a considerable number of pieces of weapons and military equipment, discovered on the battlefield of the Ardennes in recent years.

Another section of the museum gives an overview of the air war in Luxembourg.

The museum traces the most significant events of World War II Luxembourg and pays tribute to General George S. Patton Jr., commander of the 3rd US Army.

We would appreciate it if you could help us to thank all the American soldiers/comrades who have helped us to live in peace today through their efforts.

*Please contact:* Jos Tholl, Secretary at: [patton@patton.lu](mailto:patton@patton.lu), or by mail to:

Jos Tholl  
 General Patton Memorial Museum  
 5, rue Dr.Klein  
 L-9054 Etttelbrück, Luxembourg

*For further information on the General Patton Memorial Museum, go to: [www.patton.lu](http://www.patton.lu).*

# “THE ARMORED FIST” OF THE 90TH ID

by M. Kaye Ackermann, Member



**Sgt. Rolland G. Ackermann, 2nd Platoon, Company A, 712th Tank Battalion**

My father was from Cleveland, Ohio and was drafted in March, 1942 when he was 23 years old. After basic training at Camp Perry, he was transferred to Fort Knox to train at the AFRTC (Armored Force Reserve Training Center). He spoke of his time at Fort Knox rather fondly—mostly, he made jokes about how he disliked peeling potatoes when he was on KP! He earned his rifle sharpshooter medal there and trained to be a tank commander. Weekends with his buddies were spent in Louisville, and in one particular weekend outing he met my mother at a USO dance at the YMCA. Thank you, USO!



**2nd Platoon, Company A, 712th Tank Battalion in about October, 1944. Rolland G. Ackermann is in the lower left corner.**

I am writing this on September 15, 2018—coincidentally, the 47th anniversary of my father’s death. Since my father died when I was young, I learned little about his time in combat directly from him. I’m sure my mother didn’t think that my sister and I were old enough to hear about it yet. Over the years, though, he did let a few little bits of information slip. As my sister and I compared notes decades later, I realized that there was a big part of my father that we knew nothing about. What I’ve learned about his time in combat has been reconstructed from his personal records obtained from NARA, along with After Action and Morning Battle Reports.

My father shipped off to England in May, 1944. At that time he was assigned to the 9th Replacement Battalion. He landed at Normandy on July 28 and remained with the 9th RB for the first 30 days. Because of the timeframe and location, I think he must have been in heavy combat, but I haven’t been able to obtain the Reports from that timeframe. However, on August 28 he was assigned to the 712th Tank Battalion and remained with them until he was WIA on February 7, 1945.

The 712th was one of the 67 independent tank battalions created specifically for WWII; 34 were assigned to the ETO and 33 were assigned to the PTO. The 712th existed only from late 1943 to late 1945 and was usually attached to the Tough ‘Ombres of the 90th Infantry Division.



**M. Kaye Ackermann riding in the commander’s position of an M4A3E8 “Easy Eight” Sherman. “I also drove it earlier that day (not easy, BTW!),” she noted.**

Together they were part of Patton’s Third Army and fought all the way across the ETO together.

When Dad was transferred into the 712th, he was either already a platoon leader or became a platoon leader shortly thereafter. The 90th ID was a well-oiled machine that had been together since WWI, but the 712th was new. In the heat of the war, they learned to work together quickly and efficiently. On September 8 they reached a pivotal point in their relationship when they were bivouacked near Mairy, France for the night, working their way to the eastern border of France. Early in the morning hours, a column of tanks from the 106th Panzer Brigade approached in the darkness. Their column split the 712th and 90th ID right down the middle, with two companies of the 712th on one side of the column and the other two companies on the opposite side. The 712th was unable to return the Panzer Brigade’s fire for fear of wounding their own battalion members on the other side of the column. The 712th and the 90th ID re-grouped by radio in the dark of night, came up with their plan, and after dawn came out fighting. At the end of the day, the newly formed and newly equipped 106th Panzer Brigade had been soundly defeated; the 712th and 90th ID had taken or destroyed 30 tanks, 60 half-tracks, over 100 other vehicles, and had taken 764 prisoners. After the battle, documents that were captured identified the Panzer Brigade’s mission as “annihilate armored spearhead of the 90th Inf. Div.” From that event forward, the 712th would be known as “The Armored Fist” of the 90th ID.

In mid-January, Dad’s platoon was directed to northern Luxembourg, into battles which I believe affected him for the rest of his life. After a quick victory in the village of Nieder Wampach where they were pivotal in capturing 380 prisoners in a flanking movement on the town, they proceeded eastward on January 18 and fought nine consecutive battles in 72 hours, seven of which were in darkness, in a village named Ober Wampach. They were fighting a fresh, new Panzer Brigade. Something in my father’s war experience kept him up at night, and I believe it was this series of battles. My mother could only remember that it was a town with “a funny name”. I believe “Ober Wampach” fits.

Two weeks later, on February 7, my father was wounded in the early hours of the morning. After the Bulge, heading back across the Siegfried Line, he was leading his platoon into Brandscheid, Germany when his tank hit a landmine. He had been in combat 192 consecutive days and was not able to return.

I am beyond proud of my father. I think he was surely a great soldier, but what I know for sure is that he was the best father I could have ever asked for. He had his first heart attack when I was eight and died when I was 17. As I reflect on that now, the really amazing thing about him is that in spite of the horrible memories he carried, and the many heart attacks he suffered, he was so incredibly normal and managed to be such a great father. I miss him still.



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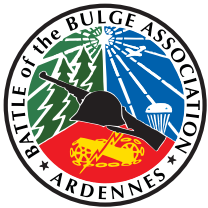
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### Battle of the Bulge Association





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**Veteran membership** is for those who have received the Ardennes campaign credit. **Membership** is for relatives, historians or others with an interest in preserving the memory of the Battle of the Bulge. Both have the same rights and privileges. **NOTE: Memberships now \$20 per year.**

Yearly Membership: **\$20** x \_\_\_\_\_ years = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Sign up a friend! Memberships are a great gift!**

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**If applying as a Veteran member (you are a Battle of the Bulge vet), please provide the following information about yourself:**

Campaigns \_\_\_\_\_

Unit(s) to which assigned during the period 16 Dec 1944 to 25 Jan 1945: Division \_\_\_\_\_

Regiment \_\_\_\_\_ Battalion \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**If applying as an Member, please provide the following information about yourself:**

Relationship to the Bulge Veteran (if any) \_\_\_\_\_  Historian  Other  
(wife, son, daughter, niece, etc. or N/A)

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

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make check or money order payable to BOBA, Inc. Mail with form to above address. Questions? 703-528-4058**