

The BULGE BUGLE

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

VOLUME XXXVIII NUMBER 4

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

NOVEMBER 2019



The 740th Tank Battalion
near Herresbach, Belgium,
during the Battle of the Bulge.



Honoring Those Who Fought For Our Freedom

75 YEARS AGO

at the

BATTLE OF THE BULGE

December 16, 1944 - January 25, 1945



Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 330, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330
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IN THIS ISSUE

2. Contacts, Board, Chapters

4. President's Message

5. Letters to BOBA

Spread the Word About BOBA

How to Submit *Bugle* Stories

6. In Memoriam

BOBA Member Books

7. Book Reviews

Buy the Book of Your Stories

8. History of the Battle of the Bulge
Conference Table

10. Chapter News

11. When Are My Dues Due?

13. A Silent Tension-Filled Time

14. The Battle Beyond Victory

16. Donations

BOBA Financial Report

A Quilter's Faith Journey

17. Camp Cooke 75th Anniversary

18. A Treasure Found 60 Years Later

19. *Bugle* 75th Trip Submissions

Donate to Bulge Exhibit at
the National Army Museum

20. New Members

The Ardennes Roads

21. The VBOB Certificate

22. Submit a Bulge Memory

23. QM Merchandise



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Gary Higgins



I'M WRITING THIS ON FRIDAY the 13th, a somewhat sad and joyous day for me. This, I believe, will be my last official message to all of the wonderful BOBA members and others who have worked with me, whom I've met over the years while serving on the Board, and especially while serving as your President of the Battle of the Bulge Association.

Our by-laws say 3 one-year terms is the limit. Many have suggested a by-law change, and asked me to stay

on if so changed. In January 2020, a new slate of officers will take over, with new blood to lead the charge. The incredible times spent with so many of our men and women who served in the Bulge Battle will not be forgotten. The letters and emails from family members, thanking me for stepping in and taking over, so as to not lose the legacy they began.

Alan Cunningham gave so much before me, as well as all of you who offered stories, and attended each reunion and anniversary. Never forget! I will now say a big congratulations to our new BOBA President and to "Carry On." [Editor's Note: The President was voted in at the BOBA Annual Reunion in October 2019, after this issue went to press. The entire BOBA board for 2020 will be listed in the February 2020 issue of The Bulge Bugle.] There's a lot to be done.

While my term ends at the end of December, and our 75th Anniversary tour will be a huge event, we will again be joyous for this chapter in the history of BOBA. Please let Barbara Mooneyhan know how much you appreciate her leadership and guidance in getting our 75th Anniversary tour done. Her dedication is proven, and I too cannot thank her enough.

Losing our longtime editor and member services manager Tracey Diehl earlier this year has been difficult, but Betsy Rose is doing well during the transition. As Board Member and veteran David Bailey wrote, "It is significant to note that one of Tracey's great accomplishments was when she brilliantly created the current color design of *The Bulge Bugle*—a most attractive addition to our publication. At BOBA, we are easily satisfied with the very best, and we certainly had that in spades with Tracey at the helm."

My wife Carol and I had a trip in July with our tour guide JP and wife Marie, along with his brother Olivier. We did the D-Day Memory Tour—and what an adventure, with incredible sights and scenery all along the tour. So we will anticipate the same for the December

tour. This trip also allowed me to tell many travelers en route, including large tour groups, about our Battle of the Bulge Association, giving presentations and offering the chance to join BOBA. All were very well received, and many signed up. I have been using the cards that Doris Davis recommended. These are great promotional tools all members can use! [See "Help Spread the Word About BOBA," opposite page.]

So, looking back, my time on the board and as your President—the countless new friends made, so many emotional moments and honors I watched given, the families' well wishes, and comrades coming together—was priceless. Just so many stories and moments that can never be replayed! Sons and daughters were able to see where Dad and "Gramps" fought and survived. Read about where Carol's Uncle Homer fought, and how she found the little girl—now 78 years old—who was photographed with Homer in 1944, still living in Sprimont, Belgium. Who would have ever guessed? Uncle Homer passed away a few months short of when we found her. Carol still has the picture of them together. [See article on page 18.]

Priceless experiences, and many of you have similar experiences. Have you imagined what happened 75 years ago? Visualized them in the cold, the horror of war, and know the sacrifices each endured? I have, and so appreciate our Greatest Generation. Each of them creating a world free of the Nazi regime and Hitler's desire to rule the world. The ultimate sacrifice of those who gave all and did not return home. Visiting the U.S. soldiers' gravesites all across Belgium and France creates a memory one will not forget. I won't.

Our GoFundMe page was a success, as it funded the cost for one veteran to travel with us on the 75th tour. While we didn't reach our full goal, people donated a lot and the result was a great assist. THANK YOU to all who so generously gave and allowed this to happen for our heroes.

Please continue to support our BOBA and sign up new members, and share your story of what the veterans did. Maybe offer to volunteer to serve on our BOBA board, give programs at the VFW, VA hospitals, churches and service organizations. It's all about the legacy of our family members—for me personally, my three family members, one a POW.

Being your leader has been more than I ever could imagine! And my wife supporting me, and enduring so much, while I had the honor of leading this historical and great organization. The people, the travel, the laying of the wreath in Arlington at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, tours to end all tours, and the amazing Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. God bless each and every one. God Bless America.

—BOBA President and CEO Gary Higgins

LETTERS TO BOBA

VETS ENJOY *BULGE BUGLE* THAT HOSPITAL VOLUNTEER SHARES

I always look forward to the *Bulge Bugle*. I'm a volunteer at Jefferson Barracks Veteran's Hospital in St. Louis, and after I've read my copy of the *Bugle*, I take it to the hospital. The patients now are mostly Vietnam War vets and some from the Korean War - and then the young ones are from the Middle Eastern conflicts. They are very interested in reading about the WWII vets and admire them greatly, especially when the Battle of the Bulge is mentioned. Thank you for a special magazine.

Our chapter in St. Louis is the Gateway Chapter, Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. My husband was one of those veterans, and I believe they will be remembered always, in a very special way.

Sincerely, Glenda Goelz, Member

From the Bulge Bugle Editor: Thanks for sharing the *Bugle*, Glenda! We appreciate your feedback, and please thank all your veteran friends at the hospital for reading our publication and especially for their service to our country. We are glad that you are part of our BOBA family! Thank you for the sacrifices that your husband and family have made to our great country!

BOBA WEBSITE RESOURCE PAGE HELPS STUDENT RESEARCH

I wanted to give Battle of the Bulge Association some positive feedback on the website resource page, battleofthebulge.org/research/veterans-assistance. I work as a youth mentor and my kids have been doing some volunteer work at our local vet center. One of my mentees, Ava, is in charge of putting together some helpful information for veterans. Ava did a wonderful job with her research. She actually found your page to be helpful, and she wanted to thank you for that!

To say thanks, Ava asked me to forward you another resource she found: sleepopolis.com/education/ptsd-and-sleep/. It's all about PTSD and sleep. Her uncle Jamie has some issues with sleeping post-service, so she wanted to be sure to include it in her information. Since she enjoyed this article so much, she was thinking you might like to add it, too.

Thanks again for the helpful info and for your service, Tracy and Ava

From the Bulge Bugle Editor: Thank you, Ava and Tracy! We appreciate your feedback and are sharing the website link above with our readers so they can check it out!

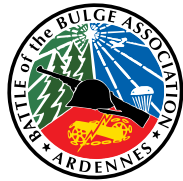
HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT BOBA!

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 can print up sheets of cards, email Betsy Rose, 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 Betsy (contact information below) and she can mail printed ones to you.

Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc.
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Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330
703-528-4058 or email: betsy.boba@gmail.com



You've just met _____,
a member of the Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc.
Learn more about us at: www.battleofthebulge.org
Or call: 703-528-4058

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: betsy.boba@gmail.com, or by mail: Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc, P.O. Box 330, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330

FEBRUARY 2020 DEADLINE: January 10, 2020

QUESTIONS? Please contact Betsy Rose, 703-528-4058, or by email: betsy.boba@gmail.com

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 email to betsy.boba@gmail.com or by phone (703-528-4058) or mail: BOBA, Inc. P.O. Box 330, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330.

We have been notified, as of September 6, 2019, that these BOBA Inc. members have recently passed away:

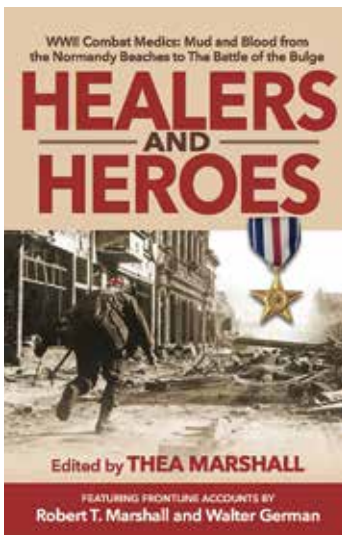
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Harry Brower	87 InfD 87 Cav Rcn Trp
Edward Cieply	87 InfD 345 REG 334 FABN A Btry
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Clarence J. Fibich	9 ArmdD 2 Tk Bn B
John S. Kovach	4 ArmdD 489 AAA AW Bn B Btry
Marvin Allen Moser, Sr.	7 ArmdD 814 TD Bn Rcn
Harold O'Malley	87 InfD 335 FA Bn A
Beverley C. Van Houten	Member
Harry S. Westcott	75 InfD 289 Inf 3 Bn Co I



BOBA MEMBER BOOKS

HEALERS AND HEROES

By Thea Marshall, Member



Healers and Heroes (available from Amazon) was written on a “liberated” German typewriter in Czechoslovakia, following cessation of hostilities in Europe.

BOBA member Thea Marshall has recently published this book, astutely described by early readers as *M*A*S*H* meets *Saving Private Ryan*.

Healers and Heroes is the riveting day-by-day account detailing the movements and actions of a small band of young medics from the 26th (Yankee) Division rifle battalion aid station. They endured heavy combat in Lorraine, Eastern

France. Their ultimate test was the Battle of the Bulge (Ardennes Forest, winter, 1944-1945), followed by the final Allied breakthrough into Germany that marked the end of World War II in Europe.

The main narrator, Lt. Robert Marshall, was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry for his actions on January 9th, 1945 near North Nothum, Luxembourg. Following Marshall’s wounding and evacuation, this narrative was completed by Staff Sgt. Walter German.

This small company of medics impacted countless lives in Europe—Americans, Frenchmen, Belgians, and more.

Those that lived and made it home also helped create strong communities.

They touched many lives. For example:

- Bob Marshall became a professor in Maryland and taught over 5,000 students
- Walt German delivered more than 9,000 Missouri babies
- Andy and Kate Dedick’s NJ clinic treated thousands of patients over 30 years

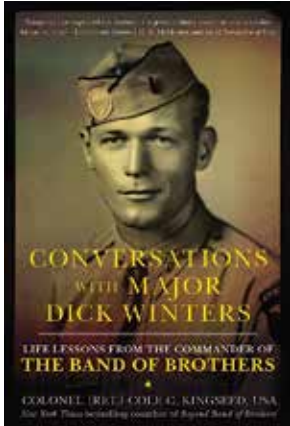
Originally from Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maryland, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Wisconsin, and Washington, D.C., these valiant young soldiers eventually had connections in all fifty states, and other countries.

Check the rosters at: www.healersandheroes.com to find your connection to these courageous medics.

CONVERSATIONS WITH MAJOR DICK WINTERS

By Colonel (Ret.) Cole C. Kingseed, USA

Reviewed by Carol Higgins



Luck would have me find this book at a thrift store. What a great find and a wonderful read! The 2014 book will not lose its appeal as long as there are those who enjoy Military History. Colonel (Ret.) Cole C. Kingseed, USA had the privilege of becoming friends with Major Dick Winters (WWII-Easy Company, 506th PIR, 101st Airborne Division). The friendship developed during interviews and the writing of Kingseed's first book, *Beyond Band of Brothers: The Memoirs of Major Dick Winters*.

This book has four sections divided according to the seasons. "Spring" has descriptions of WWII incidents that took place in Normandy, Holland, and the Battle of the Bulge. Winters is descriptive in his stories because he kept journals and wrote letters to a pen pal for many years. He obtained these letters many years later. The "Summer" section has thoughts on leadership, friendship, character, and courage. Each of these parts are thought provoking in relationship to soldiers during battle and the human spirit. Part III called "Autumn" tells about Mrs. Winters, growing old, and how a legacy grew. The final part, "Winter," concentrates on the aging of the soldier, Dick Winters, and how, with friendships, we often have to say goodbye with the passing of people we love and respect.

This book was interesting to read. There are sections the reader can relate to, especially if they have seen the TV mini-series *Band of Brothers*, or have traveled to places such as Normandy, Holland, or Belgium. The quotes at the start of each chapter are thought-provoking. Here is an example of one: "Submission in war does not necessarily qualify a man to be the master of the peace" (written by famous war correspondent Ernie Pyle). The chapters on character, friendship, and courage are very impressive and can be related to how this man, Dick Winters, was able to accomplish all that he did during WWII and during his lifetime. Major Dick Winters remains a contemporary hero!

BROTHERS DOWN

By Walter R. Borneman

Reviewed by Larry Lewis

On July 20, 2019, my local (Albany, NY) TV news carried the story of the return of the remains of Charles Stern, who was killed on the *USS Okla-homa*, September 7, 1941 in Pearl Harbor. (See the video at wnyt.com/news/charles-m-stern-jr-sailor-killed-in-pearl-harbor-attack/5428879/)

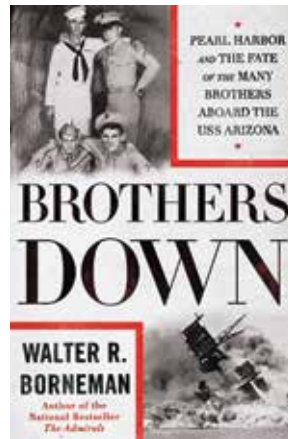
At that very moment I was reading *Brothers Down* by Walter R. Borneman, about the 38 pairs of brothers who served on the *USS Arizona* that fateful day in 1941. Brothers indeed, as I received this book from my own brother Charles, who was named for my late uncle Charles Lewis. Uncle Charlie was inspired by the Pearl Harbor attack to join the Army Air Corps, and sadly was killed in action over New Guinea.

Brothers Down describes the many brothers who enlisted in the 1930s through 1941 and requested to serve together in the US Navy. In most cases, these young men came from small towns, trying to escape the tedium and poverty brought on by the Depression and the dust bowl. Borneman weaves a tale that goes back and forth between the personal details of the individual servicemen and the larger picture of world events and specifically about the US Armed Forces of the 1930s and early 1940s.

Much has been written about why the US was surprised by the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. On February 7, 1932 there was a war games exercise in Hawaii. Carrier planes caught the Army Air Corps bases by surprise in those games. A statement from the Army said that an attack on a Sunday morning was a "dirty trick." December 7, 1941, was a Sunday.

Medal of Honor winner Lt. Commander Sam Fuqua's bravery and calm during the chaos on the *Arizona* is described in detail. Fuqua directed sailors to their battle stations and fire control positions and finally helped crew members escape the carnage during the attack. Fuqua was the last man off the ship.

On the home front, Freda Becker of Nekoma, Kansas hung a red, white and blue banner outside her home with two gold stars for her missing-in-action sons Marvin and Wesley, who were lost on the *Arizona*. Harvey Becker, still serving, remembered that "mom really wouldn't, couldn't concede that they were gone... because they were never recovered."



My grandmother, Sadie Lewis, wrote to Eleanor Roosevelt to get my infantryman father Ben Lewis out of combat in Europe. Her reasoning was that her other son Charles was missing-in-action in the Pacific. The US was shocked to learn that the five Sullivan brothers had been killed when their ship, the *USS Juneau*, was sunk by a Japanese torpedo. Unofficial military policy was changed by the death of the Sullivans and by so many brothers serving together as described in *Brothers Down*. Read this book, because

we should never forget! As nurse, Lt. Ruth Erikson said years after the war, "I can still smell it after 30 years."

Larry Lewis is the author of Sadie's Boys, which tells the story, through letters and official documents, of two poor Jewish soldiers from Brooklyn who fought for their country, and of the mother who fought for her sons.

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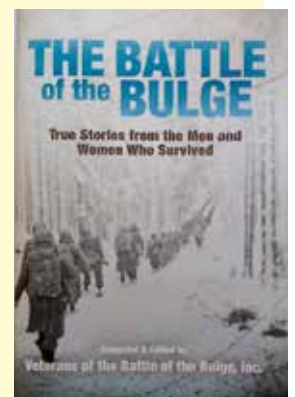
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Title: *The Battle of the Bulge:*

True Stories From the Men and Women Who Survived

The book is not sold by BOBA, but we receive royalties from books purchased.



HISTORY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE CONFERENCE TABLE

by Paul Goffin, 21st Fusiliers, Trustee of the Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation

There are different forms to express a remembrance, to transmit a message, to convey grief or joy. The veterans who fought in World War II (WWII), when in their twenties, experienced carnage on the battlefield, it took several years of soul searching, deliberations and consultations to finally express what they thought, what they felt and in what form. It was not sufficient to tell what they saw to relatives and friends; they realized they wanted to leave a tangible message for future generations.

The Battle of the Bulge (BOB) happened in December 1944, 75 years ago. Today there are many witnesses of the largest land battle ever fought by the United States Army, they take different forms. There are monuments and memorials in Luxembourg, in the Belgian Ardennes and in the United States. There are associations of veterans and relatives of veterans all over the United States. Every year there are commemorations in Stavelot, Bastogne and Luxembourg. There are also three military cemeteries in the area of the battlefield, one in Luxembourg and two in Belgium, Henri Chappelle, and Neupre. They are the resting place for some of the nineteen thousand men and women who gave their lives. Many books have been written and most historians agree that the BOB ranks now with the great and decisive battles of recent history such as Gettysburg, Waterloo, Stalingrad and Midway.

The legacy of the veterans of the BOB takes the form of a conference table and chairs designed and developed by veterans. It expresses the contribution of those who fought in the Ardennes and what they thought should be remembered by future generations, the never-ending battle of freedom over oppression. The table and chairs are carved out of oak trees of the Ardennes selected by the veterans, the silent witnesses of the battle. The top of the table is inlaid with the insignias of 45 American units that fought in the BOB.

Carved in the skirt of the table are 157 pine trees of varying sizes symbolizing the 157 Stavelot civilians massacred by the returning German troops in the first days of the BOB. The table and chairs were handcrafted by Vincent Gaspar, a Stavelot cabinet maker. The reception of the table, in 1994, was an emotional ceremony coupled with the twinning of the city of Stavelot with Fort Meade. Thereafter the table was transported, by a military airplane, to Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland and transferred to Fort Meade. The Garrison Commanders concurred in principle with the veterans' objective to open the museum and the BOB memorial room to the public. Alas, man proposes and God disposes. The fundamental changes in Fort Meade, Maryland following the 9/11 events have thwarted the veteran's objective. The US Army Center of Military History (at Fort McNair) came to the rescue and proposed a resting place, a conference room in honor of the BOB veterans in the Pentagon. The rededication ceremony of the BOB conference table took place on May 8, 2019.

The table's origin, concept and its long journey from the Ardennes, to Fort George G. Meade and to the Pentagon

After WWII, many veterans of the BOB settled in the Washington/Baltimore area, developed a close and cordial cooperation with the Garrison Commanders at Fort Meade, and were welcomed to meet on-site. Through these contacts, the idea grew how best to make a contribution to preserve the legacy of one of the greatest land battles ever fought by the 600,000 men and women of the United States Armed Forces.

Many of the units who fought in the BOB made their temporary home at Fort Meade during WWII, before being shipped out to the European battle grounds. One of the ideas explored was to develop a BOB project which could become part of the existing Post Museum with future access to the public. This was warmly supported by the VBOB, the Garrison Commander and the staff of the Museum.

The Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation (BOBHF) was established in 1988. Among its principal VBOB founders are Dorothy Davis, Alfred Shehab, and William Greenville. It was natural that the new organization became part of Fort Meade Base which thereby became a major contributor and custodian to the history of this great battle.

The BOBHF's main purpose was to preserve its history. First, by contributing information and material to the US Army Military History Institute located in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Secondly, by developing a BOB exhibit. Lastly, by keeping in close contact with its sister organization the Battle of the Bulge Association (BOBA) — formerly the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge (VBOB), and organizing an annual December Remembrance and Commemoration event.

The idea of the second objective took shape following exchanges among the Garrison Commander, VBOB and their Belgian contacts, namely "the 1944 Comité du Souvenir" (Remembrance Committee) headed by Georges Poitier, resistance fighter, and the Mayor of Stavelot, J. Monville. The project would be a Memorial Conference Room, within the Fort Meade Museum, to be furnished with a table and chairs of Ardennes oak where the Battle of the Bulge occurred. It took many long debates to agree on the design, the shape of the table and what message to transmit to future generations.

The table and chairs were finally completed in early 1994 and were ready to be transmitted to a new home, Fort Meade. But the story of the table and chairs does not end here. The "1944 Comité du Souvenir" wanted also to seal a bond with the VBOB by twinning the city of Stavelot with Fort Meade.

April 30, 1994, became a memorable and emotional day. "We shall never forget" was the theme of the ceremony. The houses of Stavelot were decorated with Belgian, Luxembourg and American flags and the whole population celebrated the twinning of their city with Fort Meade. It honored the veterans of the BOB, it mourned the massacred civilians and celebrated the re-gained freedom. Later in the day, the transmission of the table and chairs took place at the Town Hall with American, Belgian and Luxembourg representatives.

They comprised: the Mayor of Stavelot, 12 Mayors from Ardennes towns and Luxembourg, Colonel Morris, the Garrison Commander of Fort Meade, the US Ambassador to Belgium, the Honorable and Mrs. Alan Blinken, the Vice President of Belgian American Association, Paul Goffin, and the BOBHF delegation, Dorothy Davis, Alfred Shehab, William Greenville and William Holland.

A subsequent ceremony was held on July 21, 1994, at Fort Meade, to inaugurate the reception of the table and chairs and to twin Fort Meade with Stavelot. An enormous step was achieved, but the public access to visitors desiring to enter the garrison grounds to see the table had still not been reached. Alternative locations on the perimeter of the grounds, such as local high school or the Visitor Control Center were still under consideration when the 9/11 events thwarted not only the BOBHF's objectives,



The Battle of the Bulge Conference Table was rededicated on May 8, 2019 at the Pentagon, with many dignitaries and guests in attendance.

but brought fundamental changes to Fort Meade's existence.

Thanks to the tenacious determination and dedication of BOBHF past President, Alfred Shehab, his successor Colonel Kent Menser, former Garrison Commander of Fort Meade, and the graceful cooperation of the Military Center of History, a Conference Room in the Pentagon has been granted to the table honoring the famous battle and its veterans.

The BOB Conference Table Rededication Ceremony took place on May 8, 2019 in an impressive room decorated with two paintings: one of General George Marshall the other one of General Dwight Eisenhower. MG Christopher McPadden, director of strategy, plans and policy, within the United States Army Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations and Plans was the host. His succinct remarks highlighted the significance of the room, gratitude and respect for all veterans of the BOB. Ambassador of Belgium, Dirk Wouters, Ambassador of Luxembourg, Sylvie Lucas, and Ambassador Brent Hartley, political advisor to the chief of staff of the Army were among the guests of honor. The VIP guest of the ceremony was veteran Alfred Shehab, one of the

founding members of the BOBHF, as well as co-author of the table concept, who will be celebrating his 100th birthday this year.

In the months to come, the BOBHF will be dissolved. Its mission has been accomplished, although open public access to the table remains a work in progress. The table is now in safe and dedicated hands to pursue the Foundation's objective.

Note about the author: Paul's first contact with Americans was in 1944 when his village, Velm in Belgium, was liberated by US troops. Having lived through four years of occupation, Paul, who had just turned 20, was eager to enlist as a war volunteer, and joined the 21st Fusiliers Battalion of the reconstructed Belgian Army, attached to the 759 Field Artillery Battalion of the US Army. They were assigned to secure the German area of the Hurtgen and Eifel forests from April through June 1945. Twelve volunteers of the 21st battalion died during the field operations. General Dwight Eisenhower, Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force, awarded a commendation to the 21st Fusiliers Battalion for meritorious and outstanding performance of military duty. Each officer and soldier received a signed commendation by Eisenhower.

After the war, Paul graduated in Finance and Commerce at Louvain University, Belgium and obtained a Master Degree in Agricultural Economics at Iowa State College in 1952. After several positions in Europe and Africa, Paul moved with his wife and three daughters and settled in McLean, Virginia. He then began a long career of almost 25 years at the World Bank from which he retired in 1989 as Assistant Director. He became a United States citizen in 2008. He and his wife, Ghislaine, continue to reside in McLean, Virginia.



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CHAPTER NEWS

75 YEARS LATER

Private First Class Gerald White is the best example of military “hurry up and wait.” He tried to get his WWII medals and awards he earned almost 75 years ago, but after 3 fruitless tries with the Department of Army, he gave up.

White was drafted immediately out of high school and was sent to Camp Blanding of Florida for training. He then crossed the Atlantic to see action in the Battle of the Bulge while fighting in the Ardennes and then all the way into Czechoslovakia with the Second Infantry Division.

After the war, he attended college and was later employed by the Federal Government. He applied to the War Department and/or the Department of Army to receive the medals he earned in the war but each time he applied he was told “the paperwork was lost” or was “incomplete.” (Does that sound familiar to anyone?)

Being a veteran who survived the war, he tried again. With the help of a friend and the

South Carolina American Legion Post 193 in Chapin, SC and about an inch of paperwork, 13 months later Gerald received the medals he deserved. In a ceremony hosted by Post 193, PFC Gerald White finally received his medals and recognition to which he was entitled. The Combat Infantry Badge, the Bronze Star and his 3 campaign stars. These medals were presented by the SC Adjutant General, MG McCarty. Along with these medals, he was also recognized by the South Carolina House of Representatives with a resolution. This resolution in part stated, “As a state and nation we are eternally grateful for his service and sacrifice in the US Army and extend our unwavering appreciation and support to Gerald White as one of our nation’s bravest.”

With good humor, PFC White said, “It’s better late than never.”

—Submitted by Doug Patterson,
SC Chapter (7) President



BOBA Member Gerald White (left) received his awards and an official SC resolution from SC Adjutant General MG McCarty (right).

LEHIGH VALLEY CHAPTER (55) MEETING



The Lehigh Valley Chapter (55) of the Battle of the Bulge Association met for their monthly meeting (*shown left*) on August 20th, 2019 in Bethlehem, Pa. to commemorate the 74th anniversary of VJ Day, the official ending of World War II in Japan. Over 40 men and women were in attendance with 12 WWII veterans as guests, including speakers WWII veterans Victor Friscia, USN Seaman 1st CL, and Victor Marulli, USN Underwater Demolition Team. One of the WWII veterans at the meeting, USN Navy pilot William Watkinson, had flown his F6 Hellcat over Tokyo on one of the last missions of the war and the day of the surrender.

Two of our special guests that day were John and Eva Gold-
en (*shown below*), a local couple who were able to recreate the Times Square kiss, celebrating their own 74th anniversary, having been married on August 15th, 1945.

We were honored to have all these special veterans at our meeting and to thank them for their service.

—Submitted by Steve Savage,
Lehigh Valley Chapter (55) Member



WE NEED YOUR CHAPTER NEWS!

Send to: betsy.boba@gmail.com

NEXT (FEB 2020) DEADLINE: JANUARY 10, 2020

SOUTHERN ARIZONA (53): BELGIAN HISTORIAN MEETS WWII VETERANS AT TUCSON RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Reprinted with permission from an article by Carmen Duarte that ran on July 5, 2019 in the Arizona Daily Star

Belgian historian Koen Palinckx meets as many World War II veterans as he can.

"We need to listen to the veterans and share their stories," said Palinckx, a speaker at a reception for World War II veterans Friday at Fellowship Square Tucson, an east-side retirement community at 8111 E. Broadway.

The gathering was sponsored by the Southeastern Chapter of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge.

"We must keep their stories alive and pass them on," said Palinckx, an author who wrote a chapter in the recently released book "War. Occupation. Liberation: Belgium 1940-1945."

The chapter he wrote focused on the V bombs — long-range weapons — dropped by the Germans over Belgium almost daily from October 1944 until March 1945.

Palinckx is chairman of the board of the Belgian War Heritage Institute. He oversees the Royal Army Museum in Brussels, Bastogne Baracks Museum, historical forts, the former Nazi concentration camp of Breendonk and the care for all the graves for Belgian military war dead throughout the country.

As a historian, Palinckx has been researching the Battle of the Bulge for nearly 40 years.

On Friday, he listened as Bob Sims, 93, remembered being 18 from London, Ohio, and getting drafted into the Army and assigned to the 87th Infantry Division.

"I was doing KP (kitchen patrol) in England and then I was taken to battle. I was scared 24 hours a day," he said, recalling his tour as a young rifleman who found himself immersed in the Battle of the Bulge, which took place from late 1944 to early 1945 around the town of Bastogne.

"It was bloody, gory and cold," said Sims, who suffers from poor circulation because of frostbite on his feet that he suffered in the Ardennes Forest more than seven decades ago. "There were bullets that hit men in the forehead and exited through their helmets."

"I was wounded twice," said Sims, recalling that he was shot in December 1944 by a sniper. The bullet went through his right shoulder, missing an artery by an inch. He was taken to a hospital in France where he remained until he was returned to the field.

He was shot a second time, in the jaw, this time being cared for at an aid station.

"I was plain lucky," said Sims.

The retired flower shop owner now lives at the retirement community with his wife, Wanda, 95. The couple have been married 72 years.



BOBA Member Harper Coleman, 4 INF 8 INF 2 BN CO H (left), goes over a photo collection with visiting Belgian historian Koen Palinckx (right).

"These veterans came to Europe to liberate us from fascism and from oppression. It was so important and incredible. Without them, who knows what would have happened. Maybe Germany would have won the war," Palinckx said.

"It is a great honor to be here and say thank you to these guys," said Palinckx, meeting and conversing with the veterans, aged 93 to 97.

During his speaking tours, Palinckx said, "Many veterans fear what they have done will be forgotten. It is our job to record their stories and make sure they are not forgotten."

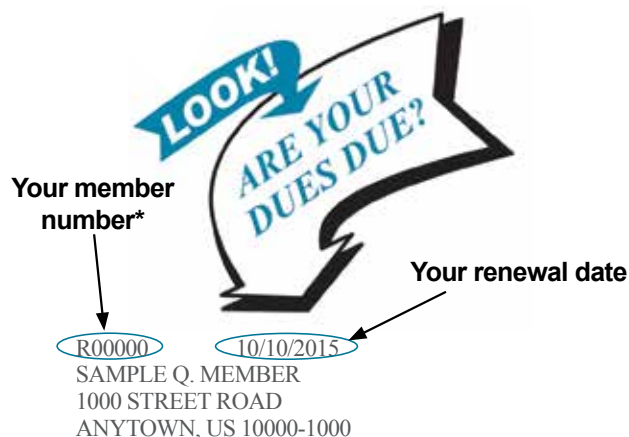
In February 2017, Palinckx traveled to West Palm Beach, Florida, to present retired Army Brig. Gen. Albin F. Irzyk with the Belgian medal of the Officer in

the Order of the Crown. He was 100 and died the following year. Irzyk was the commander of the 8th Tank Battalion of the 4th Armored Division at the Battle of the Bulge.

"He was in the spearhead of the entire division and fought to break the enforcement around Bastogne," said Palinckx.

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CHAPTER NOTES

West Michigan Chapter (23)

It is with sadness that we report that Maurice C. Cole, 94, of Fife Lake, passed away July 29, 2019. "Maury" helped start the West Michigan Chapter of the Battle of the Bulge Association and helped have a monument placed in Traverse City commemorating all those that were lost in the battle. Rest in Peace, Maury, and we will never forget your service to our country and support of our organization!

—Submitted by Tom Mountz,
Chapter Treasurer & Acting President

Virginia Crater (43)

BOBA members of the Crater Chapter attended the "Battle of the Bulge" movie premiere in Richmond, Virginia. The Virginia War Memorial's documentary was awarded a 2019 Hermes Creative Award and includes interviews with Bulge veterans from Virginia. Produced by Kennetic LLC and McArthur Communications Inc., "Battle of the Bulge" can be viewed anytime the museum is open. Learn more at virginiawarmemorial.org.

On May 17, 2019, the Crater Chapter lost a very dear friend and BOBA veteran member, Sidney Morris Sings, who was very active in our chapter. We will never forget his sacrifice and service to our country. He earned five bronze stars and spent his 21st birthday in the Battle of the Bulge.



Sidney Morris Sings (Photo: Betsy Rose)



Central Massachusetts Chapter President John Mc Auliffe at the Heritage Museum.



BOBA Veteran Members Joe Landry (left) and John Mc Auliffe (far right) in Worcester with Member Bob Brown (center, son of S/SGT W. A. Brown of the 87th INF DIV).

Lamar Soutter/Central Massachusetts (22)

John Mc Auliffe reported that he attended the formal opening of the newly formed "Heritage Museum" in Hudson, MA. "It's immense!" he says. Learn more at americanheritagemuseum.org.

He also wanted to share information that the Collings Foundation organizes and supports "living history" events and the presentation of historical artifacts. Learn more at cfdn.org.

This year, Chapter 22 ceased all operations and donated their remaining funds to the national BOBA. Thank you for your donations and many years of success with BOBA in Massachusetts!

Florida Southeast Chapter (62)

This year, Chapter 62 ceased all operations and donated their remaining funds to six charities. BOBA member Charles Dykes presented a check to Mary C. Phillips, MTRS, Chief of Voluntary Services at the VA. Thank you for your donations and many years of success with BOBA in Florida!

—Submitted by Harold Berkman,
Executive Officer VBOB Chapter 62



Florida Southeast Chapter (62) member Charles Dykes presents a check to Mary C. Phillips at the VA.

A SILENT TENSION-FILLED TIME: Tech. Sgt. Fred Pilkington spends Christmas 1944 as a wounded POW in Daun, Germany

The following account of Christmas Eve and Christmas 1944 by Tech. Sergeant Fred Pilkington, I & R platoon, Headquarters Company, 422nd Regiment, 106th (Infantry) Division is excerpted from his 1998 responses to a questionnaire sent out as part of, and housed in, the Northwest World War II Oral History and Research Project, at Eastern Washington University. His complete responses to the first set of questions runs for 26 single spaced pages. It has been contributed by its former director, Dr. Jim Jewell, Professor of History at North Idaho College.

Bronx-born Fred Pilkington was a 6'4" twenty-two-year-old tech. sergeant in the I and R Platoon, 422nd Regiment when he and the rest of the 106th Division were battered by the German surprise offensive, launched on December 16. The day before, while on patrol his group of "young, bright, [and] eager" GIs spotted more than 25 unidentified men in white camouflage. On the return to U.S. lines he reported his observation to a regimental aid, but "the response I received was to the effect that I was reading too much into this contact and that the unit was undoubtedly a friendly one. I was unconvinced, as were those who had accompanied me." Unsatisfied with the response, he pressed the regimental staff officer, asking "which of our own units in the area we were patrolling had been issued white camouflage clothing," but "he never did answer my question."

Four days later, while on a motorized reconnaissance near Bleialf, his patrol got into a one-sided fire fight "trying to stop a Panzer tank with a jeep mounted 50 cal. MG (which had a tendency to jam every 10-12 rounds) on the outskirts of the town. Forced to abandon their jeeps, the patrol headed into the forest under heavy fire where he stepped on an anti-personnel mine. Being severely wounded and unable to walk, the men with him "under heavy fire and [with] little cover they were planning to carry [their] 220 lbs. [sergeant] to safety." With their ammunition exhausted and other groups around them already captured, Pilkington and the men with him had run out of options and were captured. By December 24 he and other wounded prisoners had been transported to Daun, Germany.

As I recall there were six or seven Americans in the L shaped lobby of the hotel in Daun [serving as a hospital]. We were not segregated from the Germans so in order to converse it was necessary to call out loudly. The major topic was a comparison of wounds and how serious they were. I remember one chap who was in one of the far corners of the room who said he had been subjected to a shrapnel burst and told us that one piece had pierced his penis (he used another term) on one side and had exited on the other side. Although I never saw any actual evidence of this I do remember many piercing screams each time it was necessary for him to urinate. However, it was quite remarkable to the rest of us that after each of these extremely painful episodes followed by a few minutes of total silence as the pain subsided this fellow never failed to rally and shout out, "I'm still the only son-of-a-bitch in here who can piss three ways at the same time!"



Fred Pilkington, 106 INF 422 INF HQ CO

I'll never forget Christmas Eve 1944 in Daun. What a blast! Civilians from town brought in baskets of fruit, cookies and bottles of wine – for the German wounded. The Americans looked on in envy. Naturally we received nothing but dirty looks. While the Germans were enjoying their gifts a stout, middle-aged lady—a real dyed-in-the-wool Nazi, arm band and all, proceeded to deliver a lengthy diatribe in a hearty voice—a screaming sermon in German complete with appropriate gesticulations and finally a Nazi salute with a rousing "Heil Hitler." After a brief pause and the applause from the German soldiers faded away she gave

an English interpretation for the benefit of the Americans. She assured us that the German avalanche had broken through the American defenses and was well on its way to Antwerp and the English Channel, where it would divide our invading army in two and drive [it] pell-mell into the sea. Eisenhower had been captured! Victory was assured and shortly the Americans and British would surrender! Long live Adolph Hitler! If this woman expected us to believe this horseshit and wring our hands in agony or beg for forgiveness she was left stranded. We chuckled and smiled in a noticeably derogatory fashion as we mumbled under our collective breath our suggestion that she attempt a rather complicated, if not completely impossible, solo sex act.

Later that evening after Christmas festivities were over a young wounded German soldier who occupied the bed on my right spoke to me in really good, but at times, halting English. He had only recently returned from the Russian front and his unit had participated in the recent battle, thus his current wound. What he wanted me to tell him was why the Americans were fighting Germany. It was evident that he was sincere in his perplexity. Our discussion was not a heated one but rather a calm examination of the problem and ended in a stalemate, but without animosity. Shortly thereafter the lights were turned out and soon most of the ward was asleep. I remained awake, my legs bothering me somewhat and many thoughts raced through my mind. I still found it difficult to accept what had happened, the brevity of my combat experience—to be captured was something that had been furthest from my mind. While I was ruminating those items which eventually I would have to admit as reality there came a clink on the right side of my bed. I turned in the direction of the sound and in the darkness I was able to discern a hand holding a bottle of wine close to my bed and gently tapping it against the metal frame of my bedstead. The owner whispered to me, "Have some."

On Christmas day the American wounded were moved from the hotel lobby to a two story stone schoolhouse. The move to this new location was a very short trip but a most memorable one. We were carried out individually and placed on the floor of a large moving-van type truck. After a very brief trip we arrived at the schoolhouse. It had snowed during the night and three or four inches of fresh snow covered the packed-down remainder of a previous snowfall. It was a cold, gray day and we were greeted by two German SS soldiers who lowered the tailgate. Other SS

(continued on page 15)

THE BATTLE BEYOND VICTORY

by James Triesler, Member

American journalist Tom Brokaw designated the men and women who lived during the Depression and the Second World War as “The Greatest Generation.” The nation had tried to remain isolationist, but by the end of 1941 Americans were being called upon to put their lives and dreams on hold and enlist for the duration of the war. The challenges that awaited them were extreme.

By the time the United States entered the war on December 8, 1941, Germany had overrun Europe from the English Channel to the outskirts of Moscow, and much of North Africa was also in the hands of the Axis powers. In the Pacific, the Japanese had annexed Korea and had been fighting in Manchuria and China for years before the attack on Hawaii. In addition to Pearl Harbor, on December 7, the Japanese attacked Hong Kong, Guam, the Philippines, Wake Island, and Midway Island. Much of the Pacific Fleet lay damaged on the bottom of Pearl Harbor and the Japanese military was threatening Australia. It would have been easy for Americans to be discouraged looking at the world map, and wonder if winning was even possible. Americans entered the military by the millions and were backed by incredible support on the home front. Fighting against a formidable foe, defending American freedom at home, and liberating people abroad should already make this the Greatest Generation. However, there is more to the story.

Fred Werrell was from New Jersey and served with a Field Artillery Battalion attached to the 75th Infantry Division during the Battle of the Bulge. He was proud of how quickly his unit could load their 155 howitzer and he grieved when they had to destroy steeples to prevent the use of churches by German snipers. Tears would fill his eyes when he talked about the young soldiers they lost in mine fields, and his heart always went out to the orphans who had come to know war firsthand. One day, Fred Werrell sat under a tree to rest from the strain of war and suddenly a German soldier appeared, threatening his life. He never told what happened next, but since Fred came home from the war, we must assume that the German soldier did not. For the remainder of his life, Fred Werrell had nightmares from the war. In his sleep, he would see the German soldier approaching, experience their struggle, and scream. The nightmares lasted seventy-five years.



(Above left and right) Fred Werrell, 75 INFD 730 FA BN CO B; (Below left) Joe Keller, 101 ABND 506 PIR 3 BN HQ CO, in a rickshaw during WWII; (Below right) Al Rosenzweig, 78 INFD 311 INF 2 BN HQ CO.



Al Rosenzweig lived in Dallas, Texas and served in the 78th Infantry Division, also known as the “Lightning Division.” He recalled the difficulty of entering a German town and the door to door combat that would ensue, using grenades to flush out German soldiers who were hidden inside the buildings. He recounted the difficulty of being in foxholes during the Battle of the Bulge and experiencing one of the coldest winters on record in Europe. Rosenzweig said, “We lost most of our troops in the beginning from frozen feet and from German 88’s, from the tree bursts from 88 mm shells. We were fighting the winter as bad as we were

fighting the Germans.” Wearing dirty socks and old combat boots, he began to feel the effects of the cold. “At the time of the Bulge, my left foot was really bad and my right foot was starting to get real bad.” He was finally sent to the rear, to a field hospital. They checked to see if his feet were frozen by sticking a pin in them and waiting to see if there was a reaction. Al Rosenzweig did not react to the pin; his feet were truly frozen. For the rest of his life, he had nerve damage and got out of bed each morning on faith that his feet would support him.

On September 15, 1944, **Joe Keller** of Lexington, Virginia, was with the 1st Marine Div-

ision during the invasion of Peleliu. Joe was the driver on the crew of a Sherman tank. One day, Joe was driving his tank down a road and he could see that Japanese artillery was disintegrating the wall next to the road they were on. His training taught him that when making a turn, the tank should be in first gear or the track would come off, leaving the tank stranded. Due to the artillery fire, Joe took the turn in fifth gear, managing it so well that the tracks remained on the tank. He was proud that he was able to get the men out of harm's way. Keller described another incident where, "We ran out of ammunition on D-Day in Peleliu and we pulled over into the jungle where they couldn't shoot us. The next morning, we had to change the barrel on the machine gun because it had been burned out from using it too much. We pulled the machine gun out and had it sitting between us. When we opened the hatch, a Japanese soldier threw a grenade and it landed right on the end of that machine gun that we were taking out, otherwise the hand grenade would have landed down in the tank and we all would have been gone. We got a little shrapnel and they put us aboard a hospital ship." For the remainder of Joe Keller's life, he experienced red spots on his arm where small pieces of that Japanese grenade continued to work their way out.

Al Lopes, of New York, was a radio man who fought in the jungles of the Pacific. He entered the service in 1943 as part of the Signal Corps, before going to New Guinea and later participating in the invasion of the Philippines at Luzon. In New Guinea, he was wounded by a piece of shrapnel, and on another occasion was struck by lightning while carrying his radio to higher ground. He survived both incidents.

Lopes recalled that in New Guinea, the mountains were high and the climate was very humid. "It rained a lot. We used to march and we had to cut the trees to show which way to come back. The roads were very muddy and the engineers had made little roads with bulldozers. The Japanese would bomb big roads, so we needed little roads that were under the cover of trees, so the Japanese didn't bomb them." Lopes felt the effects of a rash on his



A German soldier with "40 and 8" boxcars.

foot and ankle, which was a mild form of jungle rot, and had not gone away by his 90th birthday. "This comes and goes. You scratch it and scratch it until blood comes out and you can't stop it."

Early in the Battle of the Bulge, many soldiers of the 106th Infantry Division were taken prisoner by the Germans. For several days, **Harold Blalock**, was locked in a "40 and 8" boxcar, designed during World War I to carry 40 soldiers or 8 horses. The boxcars were padlocked and the men of the 106th were packed so tightly inside that they had no option of sitting down on the floor. While making the trek deep into Germany, Blalock was deprived of food and even endured an Allied

air raid, which could have been prevented if "PW" had been painted on the roofs of the boxcars, as it was supposed to have been. He recalled seeing the German guards run for shelter while leaving the Allied troops locked in the train. It was a terrifying experience for the soldiers who were locked inside as bombs exploded close by. Harold Blalock survived the ordeal, but dealt with claustrophobia for the remainder of his life.

These are just a few examples of the experiences of those who fought in the Second World War. The war officially ended on September 2, 1945. The soldiers came home, returned to work, raised families, and for decades many did not talk about their experiences overseas. Although the war was over, for those who experienced it, the effects would linger for the remainder of their lives. Problems with nightmares, shrapnel, claustrophobia, frozen feet, and jungle rot would plague these men for close to 75 years. Asked if they would do it all again, knowing the

pain and hardship of war, and the difficulties they would experience well beyond the battlefield, each one of them said "yes." They loved their country and believed in the cause they were fighting for so much that they would endure it all again. That is why they are the "Greatest Generation!" That is why the least we can do is hold them close in our hearts and minds and say in gratitude a heartfelt, "thank you!"

James Triesler is the Director of Education (4 years) at the Virginia War Memorial (vawarmemorial.org). He taught Social Studies for 25 years and was a Virginia Regional Teacher of the Year. He was also the 2012 Person of the Year for the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge.

TECH SGT PILKINGTON *(continued from page 13)*

soldiers formed two lines about six feet apart stretching from the end of the truck to the steps of the schoolhouse. The distances may have been twenty-five yards or so. A grim-faced officer ordered us to get out of the truck. German medics were in evidence but were not permitted to assist us. None of us were able to walk without considerable assistance. We were forced to crawl to the tailgate and roll off into the snow on the roadway below us. One by one we were carried into the building and up a staircase to a very large room where we were placed on straw-filled mattresses on the floor. On our trip through the snow we were not kicked or beaten, but I do remember the humiliation of having to crawl past the highly polished jack-boots [Fred later added "and drag ourselves in the snow between two lines of SS troops who taunted us"]. It had been

a silent tension-filled time, the atmosphere charged with the unspoken hostility of both the Germans and the Americans.

Fred Pilkington survived four months as a prisoner of war; and was finally liberated by the British on April 16, 1945. After the war he completed his college education and became a long-time New York educator; artist, and remained in the US Army Reserve, retiring at the rank of colonel. In August 1945 he married May Secor. They had three children, two daughters and a son. Two weeks after moving to Camano Island, Washington in 1986 she lost her battle with cancer. He married Mary Derrington, a former colleague at Mineola High School, Mineola, New York, a year later. Fred and Mary spent the next 26 years traveling the world and making award-winning art together. He passed away on July 16, 2013; his remains are buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

DONATIONS

"Thank You!" to the following members for donations received June 23, 2019 - September 6, 2019:

Louisa P. Amor	Member
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*The following made donations In Memory of
John S. Kovach, 4 ArmdD 489 AAA AW Bn B Btry:*

Louis D. Jardanhazy	Donor
MarySue Kovach	Member

Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc.

FINANCIAL REPORT *

ASSETS

As of August 31, 2019

Checking	\$15,275.44
Savings	\$2,914.52
CDs (4)	\$90,835.41
Total current assets	\$109,025.37

INCOME AND EXPENSES

January 1 - August 31, 2019

Income

Donations	\$3,450.50
Interest	\$921.42
Member Dues	\$9,505.00
Quartermaster	\$1,144.50
Reunion	\$6,912.00
Total Income	\$21,933.42

Expenses

Bulge Bugle	\$13,857.08
December Event	\$516.36
Postage, Office Supplies	\$1,928.11
Accounting	\$2,000.00
Office Administration	\$3,082.50
Telephone, Website	\$742.16
Tour, Reunion, Travel	\$2,303.83
Quartermaster Purchases	\$1,815.00
Total Expenses	\$26,245.04

Net Income **-\$4,311.62**

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

A QUILTER'S FAITH JOURNEY

by Vicki LaCount Cool, Member



A few years ago I walked into the sewing room at our resort in Arizona. The president of the club said they were looking for someone to chair "Quilting for Veterans." I immediately said I would do it and I never regretted it. Ten years full of a rewarding hobby, I sat in the sewing room alone for about a week, sewing away. After that I put a "help wanted" sign in the window. I recruited approximately 10 volunteers to help me. We had some fabric to work with, but not nearly enough.

I was sitting on my front porch one day when a pickup truck pulled up with a huge load of donated fabric from an anonymous donor. It took me 3 hours to go through the fabric and get it ready for cutting. We also received a \$250 grant and shirts from Lutheran Thrivent. Many of the quilters also occasionally picked up fabrics and donated them.

Other sources of fabric donation were from 3 women from Minnesota. Their generous donations made it possible to have 10 years worth of quilting fabric. Truly an answer to prayer. Of course, we only worked 6 months out of the year since most of us were snow birds. Also, an anonymous woman tucked a hundred bill in my hand, exclaiming, "Thanks for what you do for our veterans."

Vicki LaCount Cool, from Longmont, CO, is the daughter of Victor F. LaCount, who volunteered for the Army and was in the 101st Airborne Division, 506 Parachute Infantry. He was killed in action on January 10, 1945.



**Victor F. LaCount, 101 ABND, 506 PIR,
with his wife Norma.**

75TH ANNIVERSARY AT CAMP COOKE

by Patrick Kearney, Veteran Member, 11th Armored Division, 55 AIB CO A



Photos courtesy of Jennifer Lanchoney

On September 10, 2019, the Army and Air Force paid tribute to the men of the 11th Armored Division ("Patton's Thunderbolts") on the 75th Anniversary of their departure from Camp Cooke, CA (now Vandenberg Air Force Base) on that date. The Division trained at the camp from February 11 to September 10, 1944, before embarking to England from

New York in preparation for its historic role in the Battle of the Bulge during WWII.

The Army was represented by the 100th Missile Defense Brigade, which is stationed at Vandenberg. The Air Force was represented by Major Shin Soh, USAF, Chaplain of the 30th Space Wing (Air Force Space Command) at Vandenberg.

The event was organized by Patrick Kearney (11 ARMD) and Jennifer Lanchoney (Public Affairs Office at Vandenberg). The ceremony included the placing of a floral tribute at the Division's plaque on the tank monument at Vandenberg, words of remembrance, a benediction and military salutes by those in attendance in honor of the Thunderbolts.



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK:
www.facebook.com/pages/Battle-of-the-Bulge-Association-Inc
VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
www.battleofthebulge.org



A TREASURE FOUND 60 YEARS LATER

by Carol Higgins, Member



(Left) Homer Braddock in an M-16 track vehicle with Quad 50-caliber Machine Gun in Landen, Belgium, January 1945, with Germans nearby; and (right) being kissed by little Belgian citizen Yvette Dessogne in 1944.

The question is often posed to BOBA members, “How did you become interested in this organization?” This question is asked to people like myself, because I am not a Veteran. Many BOBA members had fathers that served in the Bulge. My father-in law, William Higgins, served in the Navy in the Pacific and my father, Edgar Schultheis, served in Post-War Germany as a Mounted Police. The Bulge connection came through uncles. Chad Ikerd was my mother’s brother. Chad flew B24s with the 825th Bomber Squadron with the 484th Bombardment Group. He was a POW in Germany after being shot down in February of 1945. The true involvement came through my Uncle Homer L. Braddock, 544th ORD - Heavy Maintenance. This is the story I would like to share.

Homer left Flint, Michigan on a bus to Ft. Custer, Michigan in April of 1942. Then it was on to Aberdeen, Maryland for basic training. After a long train ride through the States, he reached California and had more training at Camp Santa Anita. By February of 1944, Homer was on the *S.S. Excelsior* and heading to Europe.

According to Homer’s documents, he was in France from July through September of 1944. His company often had to camouflage the large trucks and tanks with special netting in order to dodge bombings. He had a photograph showing a bomb crater and another with damaged jeeps due to bomb hits. Transportation was vital to the Army. His company kept busy following the ground fighting and defending themselves. The 544th was associated with Patton’s Army so they were often on the move. They worked their way into Belgium, Holland, back to Belgium and into Germany.

There are photos pointing out various areas in Sprimont, Belgium where the 544th set up shop. The village was an ideal position not far from the German border. There was a school with rooms to sleep in and a large building at the rock quarry to house large equipment.

It is in this village that the story gets more personal. Uncle Homer always had a big heart for animals and children. The children of war were curious and often came to see what the soldiers were doing. Perhaps too in hopes of a candy treat. When children visited, it was a photo

opportunity. An Army buddy captured a picture of Homer with a little girl, wearing a fur-trimmed coat. She was sitting on his knee and kissing his cheek.

During the 60th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, my husband Gary, was able to go to the very school Homer stayed at in September and December of 1944. In Sprimont, he also saw the rock quarry, the remains of foxholes, and the old railroad line. Most importantly he was able to show the old photograph to local citizens. He had hopes that someone might know the girl in the photo. That day he had no such luck, but 60 years had passed. Yet his luck changed, as a gentleman had called his friend later that day and told her an American had a photo of her. She, too, had looked at the photo, but without her glasses she did not realize what she was looking at. Well, the miracles of technology were also on our side. Several days later, an email arrived at our home in Michigan saying, “Hello, I am stupid Belgian women, not know is me in picture. Not have on my glasses.”

Yvette Dessogne was and is the little girl in the picture. We have a wonderful friend because of this photo. We have traveled to each others’ homes. We have shared our remarkable story many times. How blessed to think a great friendship developed due to a chance meeting during WWII of a soldier and a little girl. Uncle Homer would be thrilled to know about this friendship as well as all of the friendships made because of our involvement with BOBA.

Homer and the 544th remained in various areas of Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge. There are photos in Landen, Belgium and places in Germany after the break through. He returned home to his family and his wife, Gertie. They both worked at Sears Roebuck for 40 years. Homer used his Army training on the job because he worked in the Automotive Department during that time. He and my aunt were married almost 50 years before his passing in 2003. They were unable to have children, so I always like to think the little tender kiss, by a little Belgian girl, was something Uncle Homer treasured for a lifetime. I know I will always treasure the photo!

ATTENTION!

Going Abroad on our BOBA Tour for the 75th Anniversary?

Our readers would love to hear about your trip!



BOBA Member Judy Cunningham on the Bulge 70th Anniversary trip in December 2014.

BOBA Members and veterans are very excited about our upcoming December trip to Belgium and Luxembourg to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge.

If you are going on the trip, please send any photos and/or articles about your experiences to us by **January 10, 2020** for the next *Bulge Bugle*. (See page 5 for submission details.) Thanks in advance!

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

To make a contribution:

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, 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.”*

NEW MEMBERS



We salute the new [associate] Members who joined BOBA
between June 23, 2019 - September 6, 2019:

Janyce K. Buehrle	Carl Feemster McAllister
Grady Crawford	Gary E. McDowell
Ronny Diz	Tracy Meehan
Guy Garofano	Deborah Milano
Stuart Goldberg	Christian K. Tootle
Donald L. Jones	Carol Umbarger
Beverly King	Brian West
MarySue Kovach	Jerry Williams
Eugene Leung	



Thank you new BOBA member Eugene Leung for sharing
this photo of his father Schick Leung. Leung was a Bulge
combat veteran in General Patton's 288th FAOB.



THE ARDENNES ROADS

by John E. Mc Auliffe, 87th INFD

Through the forests of Luxembourg
and across the Belgian land,
We are the roads that Armies trod
and soldiers took command.

We wind through woods where tall trees grow
and narrow is our way,
We twist and turn through ice and snow
on this cold Winter's Day.

We hear the beat of marching feet
Of soldiers sloshing through the sleet.
We feel the load of growling tanks
that churn the soil about our banks.

We are the way to Victory
Our shell-pocked face is torn,
We bear the wars of history
And recall "THE DECEMBER DAWN."



VETERAN MEMBER VIDEO INTERVIEWS

Watch our veterans' videos on our website at:
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:

**SPECIAL
OFFER:
2 for \$15!**

First Name _____ Middle Initial _____ Last Name _____

Serial Number _____ Rank _____ Unit _____

Organization _____

(usually Company, Battalion and/or Regiment and/or Division) **Please check one if applicable:** ☐ Killed in Action ☐ Died of Wounds

Signature _____ Date _____

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

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone number _____ E-mail address _____

BOBA member: ☐ yes ☐ no (membership not a requirement)

Make checks payable to BOBA, Inc.

Orders should be mailed to: BOBA, Inc., P.O. Box 330, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330

Questions? Call 703-528-4058

OR ORDER ONLINE: WWW.BATTLEOFTHEBULGE.ORG

[NO PHONE ORDERS]

SUBMIT A BULGE MEMORY



This year is the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge! If you are a veteran who participated in this historic battle 75 years ago, **please share a photo, memory, and/or thoughts** about the impact it has had. It can be a few sentences or short paragraph with a picture. We will compile these to share in future *Bulge Bugle* magazines.



Submit the form below by mail to:
BOBA Inc., P.O. Box 330, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330
or email your responses to betsy.boba@gmail.com

Name _____

Rank _____ Division/Unit/Company _____

Any medals/awards you want listed _____

What was your division/unit's mission during the Battle and where were you located? _____

What was your job during the battle? _____

What is the most vivid memory about the Battle of the Bulge that you are willing share? _____

What would you want others to know about the importance of the Battle of the Bulge and how it is important today? _____

INCLUDE PHOTOS (OPTIONAL): Photos should be scanned at high-resolution (300 dpi). Photos will not be returned, so please do not mail valuable originals. Preferred method: email them to betsy.boba@gmail.com.

QM MERCHANDISE • NOVEMBER 2019

IF YOU DON'T SEE IT HERE, IT IS NOW **SOLD OUT!**
We cannot process old QM order forms from previous issues.

Please ship the BOBA coins to:

Name _____
 (First) (Last)

Address _____
 (No. & Street) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

Telephone number _____ E-mail address _____



Battle of the Bulge Association Challenge Coin **\$12.00**

Item/price	Quantity	Total
Coin \$12.00	x _____	= \$ _____
U.S. SHIPPING & HANDLING + \$8.00		_____
INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING + \$12.00		_____
TOTAL DUE = \$ _____		

Cash, check or money order accepted for mail orders. Make checks payable to: BOBA, Inc. **NO PHONE ORDERS**
 To use a credit card, order via our website: www.battleofthebulge.org. **Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.**

Mail to: BOBA Inc., P.O. Box 330, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330 • Questions? Call: 703-528-4058



MORE BOBA ITEMS from CafePress

Order online at:
cafepress.com/battleofthebulge
 or by phone: **877-809-1659**

These items must be **purchased online**
or by phone with a credit card,
 to help save BOBA manufacturing and
 shipping costs. BOBA will receive royalty
 payments for items sold by CafePress.

Thanks for your support!

Battle of the Bulge Association





**Battle of the Bulge
Association, Inc.**
P.O. Box 330
Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330



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NOVEMBER 2019

Spread the Word About BOBA
SIGN UP FAMILY
AND FRIENDS
Help Keep Us Going into the Future!

----- Membership Application: Detach and mail ----- ✂



Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 330
Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330

YOU CAN JOIN OR RENEW ONLINE:
WWW.BATTLEOFTHEBULGE.ORG
Click on "Join BOBA/Renew"

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!**

Name _____ DOB _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

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