

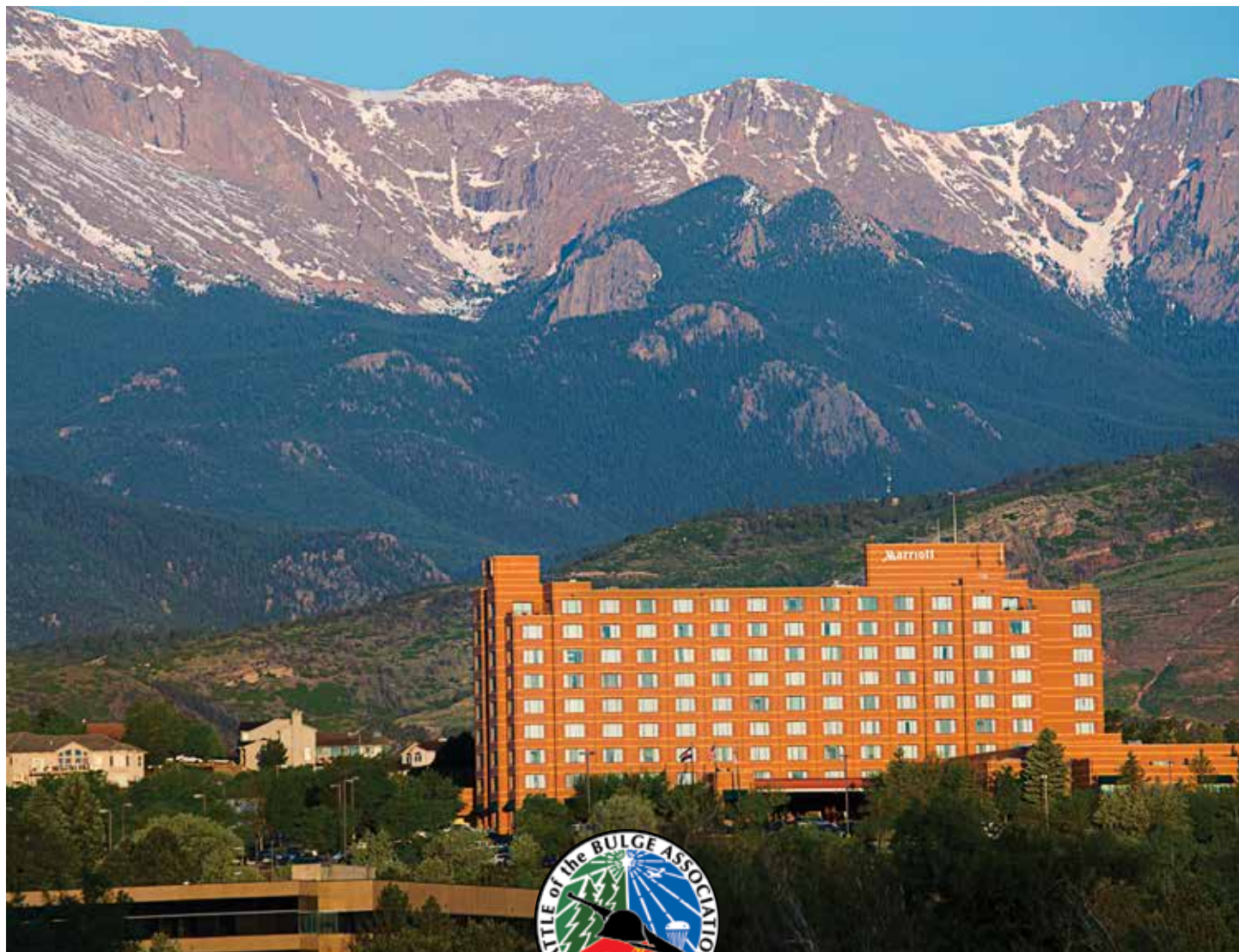
The BULGE BUGLE

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

VOLUME XXXVII NUMBER 2

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

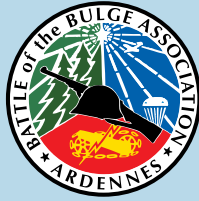
MAY 2018



★ 37th ANNUAL REUNION ★
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

September 14 - 18, 2018

See pages 16-19 for full registration details.



Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc.
PO Box 27430, Philadelphia, PA 19118-0430
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VISIT THE BOBA WEB SITE: 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.)

BOBA is now operating at a deficit, and we need your support to keep us going! Sign up your family and friends! See membership application on the back cover.

Memberships make great gifts! One year for just \$20!

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Gary Higgins



SPRING SURE HAS TAKEN ITS time finding its way to many of our members across the country. Our Bulge veterans remember all too well how weather affects our daily existence. Most of us are able to endure what nature brings to us. A story I often repeat, about one of our deceased veterans, concerns a farm boy like me. Ken lived a mile across our section in Michigan. He knew how straw was used in the dairy barn, and using this knowl-

edge, he stuffed loose straw into his uniform for insulation. This Belgian straw suddenly became very popular, and many more soldiers adopted what Ken had taught them—saving many lives, and keeping them from frostbite and trench foot. The city boys were thankful for this proven method of staying warm.

My personal cold-weather relief is being fortunate enough to spend some of the wintertime in Florida, as do many of our veterans, and our family of associates. This permits Carol and I to visit them and share good times, often making new friends and getting new members signed to BOBA. We attended the 106th Division reunion in Kissimmee, and enjoyed the time with old and new friends. Several new learning experiences insured it would not be a disappointment. Promoting BOBA first and foremost, but best, of course, is the renewal of friendships. Some include Herb Scheaner, John “POP” Beville, Irving Locker, Bob Pope and Alvin Sussman. A couple are Ex-POWs—certainly a tough situation for any of the thousands in the same position. I am so thankful we keep meeting. There were wonderful displays by Irving Locker, plus a young student and Judge Brian Welke added some unique opportunities for each of us present—a real plus for all, getting to view the material and speak with them. Two off-site programs were also made available—many attended the Kissimmee Air

Museum [the “Warbird” museum] and the Museum of Military History in Kissimmee. I was able to present a BOBA challenge coin to the Museum of Military History, and it is now officially on display. If possible, stop in—supporting such museums is very important.

I’d like to express many “Thank You’s” to each of you who send in photos and articles, to those of you signing up new members, the many monetary gifts to BOBA, and so many other ways each of you contribute. While we continue to seek BOBA members to maintain the VBOB legacy, never forget why, where, and when this started—each of us with our own family member or friend, each veteran so unique and with distinction. Our veterans that still show up at reunions and write articles are just incredible! All of us know in our hearts the value of each one. We are keeping our values in place, and understanding the goals and by-laws that define our organization.

It is not too soon to think about the Colorado Springs reunion in September. Excited now? Getting that way? I am! Bringing us together again, and as your President, happy to represent BOBA whenever possible. Enjoy this new issue of *The Bulge Bugle*, and yes, plans are in the works for the 75th Anniversary.

Until we personally meet again or connect through email or phone, be safe, be strong, stay healthy and God Bless America and those we love so for serving.

—Your BOBA President, Gary Higgins

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.

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.)

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

AUGUST ISSUE DEADLINE: June 22, 2018

QUESTIONS? Please contact Tracey Diehl, 703-528-4058, or by email: tracey@battleofthebulge.org



106th Infantry Division veterans, from left to right, Herb Scheaner, John Beville, Irving Locker, Bob Pope, and Alvin Sussman at their reunion.

LETTERS TO BOBA

HONORING CHAPTER MEMBERS

Dear BOBA,

With over 400 veterans who participated in the Battle of the Bulge from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Central Massachusetts Chapter 22 was mostly comprised of members from Worcester County. President John E. McAuliffe founded the chapter on April 10, 1992.

Recent member deaths include those we honor herewith. Kindly accept the enclosed donation on their behalf.

DECEASED VETERANS - 2012-2017

Herbert Adams	82nd ABN DIV.
Carrol Bailey	87th INF. DIV.
Antonio Berri	30th INF. DIV.
Frank Berinato	26th INF. DIV.
Katchadorian Berberian	106th INF. DIV.
Charles Kaidy	35th INF. DIV.
Arthur Holmes	565th AAA AW BN.
Patrick McGrath	639th AA BN.
John Judge	26th INF. DIV.
John Noble	9th ARMD DIV.
Charles Nelson	87th INF DIV.
Helen Rusz	59th EVAC HOSP.
Nellie Ruksnaitus	59th EVAC HOSP.

Harry Serulneck
Peter Paldino
George Watson
Chester Wenc
Richard Woolson
Margaret Wolenski
Frank Wooldridge
Rose Young
Alphonse York

87th INF DIV.
3rd ARMD DIV.
87th INF DIV.
106th INF. DIV.
1st ARMY
16th GEN. HOSP.
90th INF. DIV.
130th GEN. HOSP.
84th INF. DIV.

REST IN PEACE

John E. McAuliffe, President, Chapter 22

A CLARIFICATION (OF SORTS)

New member William Jannace submitted information about his father, Anthony E. Jannace, 2 INFD, 2 ENGR CMBT BN, for "Honoring the 2nd Engineer Combat Battalion," p. 9, February 2018 issue. He'd like to make a comment, regarding this sentence:

"They fought in St. Lo France, Alsace, the liberation of Paris, Belgium, Germany and Czechoslovakia."

He says that there is a discrepancy about this unit's whereabouts: on-line information indicates they were in St. Lo, but the discharge papers for Anthony Jannace indicate Brest.

BOBA CONTRIBUTING 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.



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, 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."

PREPARATION FOR D-DAY

by David R. Hubbard, HQ ADV SECT COMM ZONE SIG



The U. S. Assault Training Center, Woolacombe, Devon, England played a very valuable part in beach landing exercises to be used in the upcoming invasion of fortress Europe, but was not without some very tragic events. We learned of the men being killed when live ammunition was being used to shoot over men after landing on beaches and crawling beneath barbed wire. Some machine gun tripods had been set on unstable soil, and tilted downward. Also, an attempt was made to attach flotation devices around

our tanks, so that they could be deployed further out from the beaches. Unfortunately, the devices failed, and the tanks, along with the men inside, were lost. The most horrific incident, however, was not known by any of us until after the war ended. Exercise Tiger was massive in scope, involving 21 Landing Ship, Tank (LST); 28 Landing Craft, Infantry (LCI); and 65 Landing Craft, Tank (LCT); plus nearly a hundred smaller vessels, and escort of warships. All the top brass were watching from shore, including General Eisenhower. Soldiers filled the landing craft scheduled to hit the beach the next day.

At about 2200 hours, nine small German E-Boats—similar to our P. T. boats—left Cherbourg. The E-Boats were undetected until they entered Lyme Bay, but by then they had begun inflicting mortal damage to our LST's. One torpedo struck a LST carrying nearly 500 men, and two other LST's were torpedoed. While the men were equipped with life vests, these proved to be more hindrance than help in many cases. These resembled a bicycle inner tube and were wrapped around their lower chests. Many drowned because the tubes caused them to enter the water upside down. The final death toll: 198 sailors and 441 soldiers—greater than the number who died landing on Utah Beach five weeks later. The edict went out from Headquarters that this event was to be kept secret. I imagine it was ordered by General Eisenhower himself. The fear was that perhaps some of the men had seen or might have been in possession of Operation Overlord information.

The Assault Training Center's mission was complete, so on 22 May 1944, I was transferred in grade (T/4) and ordered to report to Headquarters Detachment, Advance Section Communication Zone (ADSEC), Bristol, England, reporting to the Commanding Officer. This was a relatively new organization being formed in an abandoned bakery building. ADSEC was the spearhead to provide all logistical support for the advancing troops, beginning on D-Day. When I arrived on April 23, I joined possibly a hundred or more men being given duty assignments in order to complete staffing of close to a thousand men. My assignment placed me in the Signal Section, Plans, Training & Operations Division (P. T. O.). We were to begin implementing Operation Overlord, issuing orders to Signal Units that were to provide communications beginning on D-Day. Orders had been received to the effect that no one was to gain access to Overlord documents without first being cleared for security beyond TOP SECRET. Those of us in this part of Signal Section were checked and received TOP SECRET B-I-G-O-T designation. (Derivation of this acronym, and reason therefore is printed at the end.) The document, of course, contained very sensitive information, even giving unit departure dates beginning with

D-Day. I learned that my unit was to cross the channel on D plus 14. I had scrounged a signal unit radio and learned about D-Day listening to BBC broadcasts. The ensuing storm after D-Day delayed things by a couple of weeks. Most of us were assigned to be billeted in pairs in private homes. About June 28, a Military Policeman came to my location around midnight, with orders to be ready for pickup in half an hour. Arriving at Hq, I was assigned to a two and a half ton truck loaded with bales of invasion money — the very first to be delivered to Normandy to pay the troops. I slept on these bales of currency (printed in French Francs) for three nights, and turned the truck over to another authority in an apple orchard, the day after our July first landing at Utah Beach. We then moved through Carentan and made camp in a Catz, France pasture. I set up my field desk in an abandoned chicken house.

The Germans took a stand at St. Lo, preventing departure from Normandy until after August first. Andy Rooney of *Sixty Minutes* fame was attached to ADSEC, and spent most of his time in the field reporting for *The Stars And Stripes* news. He received the Bronze Star Medal for his coverage of the battle to dislodge the Germans from St. Lo, and also linking the story of Major Thomas D. Howie's death before entering St. Lo. Major Howie was a Citadel graduate and wanted to be the first to lead his troops into St. Lo. His commanding General gave permission for his body to be placed on a jeep and driven into the ruined city, to be placed in the ruins of a church. I took a picture of this church when we passed through shortly thereafter. In typical Andy Rooney style, Rooney described the Bronze Star as follows: "That falls in rank somewhere between the Medal of Honor and the Good Conduct Medal." He had already been awarded the Air Medal for making five trips on bombing raids. The Eighth Air Force bombed St. Lo relentlessly and in so doing, dropped bombs on our own troops, fatally wounding Lt. General Leslie McNair. Aluminum chaff was dropped to alter the aim of the German Radar, and much of it fell on our area back at Catz.

We followed close behind General George Patton, with brief stops in Le Mans, Etampes and Reims, France; Namur, Belgium; Bonn, Germany, and finally ending up at Fulda, where we celebrated V-E Day. Along the way, I was promoted to T/3 (Staff Sgt.) July 10, 1945, and sent back to Reims and stationed in "The Little Red School House", where the Germans had surrendered May 7, 1945. This was then Hq. for Assembly Area Command, the center for tent cities around the area, where troops were assembled to await transfer to the Pacific, or back home. More G.I.s were concentrated in these tent cities than in any other spot on earth. I witnessed V. J. Day there, resulting in many thousands of very happy and hung-over G.I.s. The war was over—we were going home.

My service: Continental U. S. A: one month, 11 days; Foreign Service: two years, 10 months, 25 days.

Note: *Portion of Exercise Tiger information taken from Article: "Exercise in Tragedy", contained in May/June, 2014 issue of WWII Magazine.*

BIGOT information: There are several derivations given for this Acronym. One being reversal of British Officer's orders to Gibraltar or: "To Gib"; another is one attributed to Churchill: "British Invasion of German Occupied Territory". The list of personnel cleared to know details of Overlord was known as the BIGOT list, and the people were known as "Bigots". The details of the invasion plan were so secret, adherence to the list was rigidly enforced. *Note: From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.*

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.

We have been notified, as of March 27, 2018, that these BOBA Inc. members have also recently passed away:

ACEVEDO, ANTHONY C	70 INFD 275 INF MEDICAL
ALEXANDER, RICHARD T	83 INFD HQ
BLADEN, JOHN A	106 INFD 423 REG C CO
DAVIS, EVERETT	MEMBER
DEL ROSSI, ANTHONY	629TH ENGRS, LT EQUIP CO
DULANEY, HOWELL L	166 ENGR CMBT BN
ELLSTROM, WARREN D	526 AIB CO B
GALASKA, LOUIS M	3 CORP HQ CO
GISSKE, HUGO C	87 INFD 912 FA BN
HUYSER, JACK	15 ARMDD HQ CO
KANIA, LEO C	110 AAA GN BN

KEEHN, ROBERT P	84 INFD 333 REG HQ CO
KONOSKI, DONALD	784 AAA AW BN
MISCHNICK, MARVIN H	3 ARMDD 23 AEB HQ CO
POHORYLO, NANCY G	MEMBER
PRONZATO, WILLIAM J	80 INFD 633 AAA AW BN
SIEWERS, ALBERT B	130 GEN HOSP
SUDBRINK, ARTHUR A	4 INFD 174 FA BN
TOUB, FULTON R	75 INFD
WALTERS, CLINTON E	87 INFD 345 REG 1 BN CO B
WILLIS, PAUL J	83 INFD 329 REG 2 BN CO G

AT HOME IN HULSBERG, NETHERLANDS

by Royetta Simmons Doe, Member



Roy P. Simmons, 333rd Infantry, Company A

When my father, Roy P. Simmons, was on his way to the Battle of the Bulge, he was a young 26-year-old husband and father who had never traveled outside the United States. He was lonely and homesick when he reached the Netherlands in the fall of 1944, but soon found a home away from home when the Army placed him with the Meex family of Hulsberg.

They treated him like a member of their family and Roy became especially close with their son Alfons, who taught him

some Dutch words, played games with him, and discussed family life.

As part of the 333rd Infantry, Company A, Roy received orders to proceed to the front and join the Ardennes Campaign. He was wounded in the Battle of the Bulge on December 26, 1944 and received The Purple Heart. He was one of the lucky soldiers that returned home. Although he rarely spoke of the war, as a child I remember him speaking with gratitude of the Meex family and of his warm welcome into their home.

After my mother and father died, I inherited a shoebox full of war letters. As I was perusing them, I found correspondence from the Meex family. One letter thanked

my father for giving Alfons Meex a pair of boots. The Dutch suffered greatly at the hands of the Nazis and endured shortages of necessities like clothing, shoes and even food. I knew I had to find this family and thank them for their kindness all those years ago.

After writing letters to the townhall in Hulsberg, local churches, and even a letter to the return address on the yellowed envelopes—I finally found them! Unfortunately, the writer of the letters had passed away, but I reached his daughter and a niece and nephew. We are now Facebook friends and I hope someday soon to meet them in person. They have offered a tour of the Margraten American cemetery, which contains 8,300 graves of brave Americans who fought and died to defeat Hitler's forces during their last offensive, and which is near their home. The Dutch have not forgotten the American soldiers buried at Margraten and honor them with a memorial ceremony each year on Liberation Day.



The Meex family of Hulsberg took care of American GI Roy P. Simmons in the Netherlands during WWII.

IN THE NEWS: GARY HIGGINS AND SHERRY KLOPP

Two of our dedicated, elected Board officers (shown at right), President & CEO Gary Higgins, and Vice President Chapters Sherry Klopp, were recently featured in a Michigan news article about Gary's efforts on behalf of our veterans.



REMEMBERING HEROISM

By SALLY YORK, Argus-Press Staff Writer

Reprinted with permission from the Argus-Press

CORUNNA — A Corunna man is leading a national organization dedicated to the legacy of the Allied soldiers who served in the epic Battle of the Bulge during World War II.

Gary Higgins, a 69-year-old life member of the Vietnam Veterans of America, whose uncle fought in the Bulge, was elected last month to his second one-year term as president/CEO of the Battle of the Bulge Association.

"It's such an honor, the fact that my peers nominated me and voted for me," Higgins, a General Motors retiree, said Monday during a phone conversation from his winter home in Okeechobee, Florida. "My Uncle Homer was in my heart when I was sworn in, let me tell you."

Higgins has been a WWII buff for 60 years, spurred by his father and three uncles serving in the war's Pacific Arena. He developed a special interest in the Battle of the Bulge after learning that Homer Braddock — his wife Carol's uncle — fought in the freezing, forested Ardennes region of Belgium in what turned out to be Germany's last major offensive in the war.

The battle, from Dec. 16, 1944, to Jan. 25, 1945, claimed the lives of 20,000 Allied soldiers. Three times that many suffered from frostbite and combat wounds.

"It was the greatest land battle the U.S. Army ever engaged in," Higgins said.

The Battle of the Bulge began when German troops attacked a thinly defended area in the Allied lines. The goal was to drive to the sea, capture Antwerp and split Allied forces in half. The attack initially was aided by bad weather than kept the Allies' overwhelming air power on the ground.

The battle is remembered for, among other things, the Malmedy Massacre in which 84 American prisoners were murdered by German troops, and the siege of Bastogne, in which outnumbered Americans held a crucial crossroads to block the attack.

Typical of many members of the "Greatest Generation," Braddock downplayed the importance of his role in an Army ordnance unit, though

he did keep the piece of shrapnel that wounded him in the back on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

"Homer was a man of few words, and he never really talked about the war. All he'd say was, 'I was just a stick in a woodpile,'" Higgins said.

Higgins joined the association 15 years ago. Formed by a group of Battle of the Bulge veterans in 1981, it was originally called Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. But as time marched on and veterans passed away, the organization opened membership to veterans' relatives or anyone else, and changed the name to the Battle of the Bulge Association.

Since its inception, there have been 68 chapters chartered in the U.S., and a chapter in Belgium.

As president/CEO, Higgins attends reunions of Bulge veterans, and commemorates the Dec. 16 anniversary each year by participating in wreath-placing ceremonies at the WWII Monument, a monument in Arlington Cemetery and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Washington, D.C. This past December, he said, he had the great honor of assisting two Bulge veterans, aged 96 and 99, in the laying of a wreath.

On the 60th anniversary, Higgins and his wife joined a tour of Belgium, highlighted by battle sites. Sadly, Braddock had recently died. He would no doubt have been thrilled the Higginses were able to track down a 3-year-old girl who appeared in a photo of Braddock from the battle days, and have embraced her as a family friend.

"It was a journey of 16 days that took me weeks to come down from," said Gary Higgins, a life member of the Corunna VFW Post 4005 and Disabled Veterans of America.

Through obituaries, he attends funerals of Battle of the Bulge veterans whenever possible, bringing along a large commemorative banner and presenting families with such mementos as Challenge Coins. On one occasion, Higgins was able to supply a Chesaning veteran's family with more information about their loved one's service than they knew.

Sherry Klopp of Burgoon, Ohio — whose father fought in the Battle of the Bulge — is the BOBA's vice president of chapter organizations, and has known Higgins for many years.

"Gary and I both love these veterans," Klopp said. "When we have the reunions, he's very good at going around and talking to them. He's willing to go anywhere if it's for veterans. I can't say enough about Gary. He's just a super person."

This year, Higgins attended the 106th Infantry Division Reunion in January in Kissimmee, Florida. He is also leading the charge to organize a 75th commemoration of the Battle of the Bulge in 2019.

"We know we had (Japanese Emperor) Hirohito in the Pacific wanting to conquer the world, and we know what Hitler did," Higgins said. "These men, who had lived through the Depression, were there until the war was over. There's a legacy of how these men suffered and stuck together. We want to perpetuate the legacy and history of these men."

Membership in BOBA costs \$20 and includes four glossy magazines per year.

For more information or to sign up, visit battleofthebulge.org.

—Submitted by Tracey Diehl, Recording Secretary and Bugle editor



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



HOW TO REQUEST THE FRENCH LEGION OF HONOR



Upon presentation of their military file as detailed here-under, US veterans who risked their life during World War II to fight on French territory, may be awarded this distinction. Those selected are appointed to the rank of Knight of the Legion of Honor. The Legion of Honor medal is not awarded posthumously.

Created to honor extraordinary contributions to the country, the Legion of Honor is France's highest distinction.

To be eligible to this outstanding award, the veteran has to fit strict criteria:

- Interested veterans of all the different armed forces must have fought in at least one of the 3 main campaigns of the Liberation of France: Normandy, Provence/Southern France or Northern France. *Actions having taken place in Belgium, Germany, Italy or any other neighboring European country are not taken into consideration.*

- The file presented must contain a copy of the military separation record (honorable discharge), the Proposal Memory application and a copy of a current identity document with a picture.*

Mail to one of the French Consulates on the list [nearest you]:

Consulat Général de France
The Lenox Building
3399 Peachtree Rd NE, Ste 500
Atlanta, GA 30326

Consulat Général de France
Park Square Building, Suite 750
31 Saint James Avenue
Boston MA 02116

Consulat Général de France
205 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 3700
Chicago, IL, 60601

Consulat Général de France
777 Post Oak Boulevard, Suite 600
Houston, TX 77056

Consulat Général de France
10390 Santa Monica Blvd, Suite 410
Los Angeles, CA 90025

Consulat Général de France
Espirito Santo Plaza
1395 Brickell Avenue, Suite 1050
Miami FL 33131

Consulat Général de France
1340 Poydras Street, Suite 1710
New Orleans LA 70112

Consulat Général de France
934 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10021

Consulat Général de France
88 Kearny St, Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94108

Consulat Général de France
4101 Reservoir Road
Washington DC 20007

Please note that upon receipt of these documents, your file will be submitted to our Embassy in Washington DC, and then to the Grand Chancellery of the Legion of Honor in Paris, France, for a final decision after a close study of the veteran's record by a committee. The review of application for the Legion of Honor may take over a year. Please don't call; applicants will be contacted directly if any questions or problems arise.

If your request is accepted you will have to go to one of the French Consulates to receive the medal.

**NOTE: We recommend that you contact your nearest French Consulate to confirm you have the most updated application information and to get the most recent version of the Proposal Memory application. This article is meant to give one an idea of the process only.*

COMMEMORATING THE FIRST US ARMY MASS PARACHUTE DROP

BOBA member Major Theodore Podewil, USA RET, wrote to us about this March 29 event in SC (We wish we'd been able to attend!):

"You are invited to participate in the WWII Ceremony being conducted by Kershaw County SC, Post 17 American Legion and the WWII C-47 Club, 82d Abn Division, Inc., 29 March 2018, 2:30 pm/1430 hours, to Commemorate the First Us Army Mass Parachute Drop (75 Anniversary of 29 March 1943 Operation), at the site of the 82d Airborne Division Monument on Highway US 1 between Elgin and Camden (adjacent to US1 on the Invista Company Property, 643 Hwy US 1, Lugoff SC). This ceremony will commemorate those who participated in the "Jump", all WWII Veterans and Veterans of all Wars/Conflicts. Persons/Groups planned to participate include, but not limited to are US Army Chaplain Alvin Sykes, US Congressman Ralph Norman, MG Julian Burns USA (Ret) Chairman Kershaw County Council, CDR 3d BCT 82d Abn Div, Chorus 82d Abn Div, US Army Historian and Author Mr. Robert Anzuoni, American Legion Post 6/17, American Legion Riders Post 6, Patriot Guard Riders, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Marine Corps League, and others. There will be a "flyover" of late model military aircraft. Note: This is an outdoor event. Seating is limited so please bring seating and have available if needed. Facilities are available at nearby retail establishments. Seating is available for WWII Veterans."

NOTE: Upcoming regional events such as this are posted on our Facebook page when we get them, so "Like" our page in case something is happening near you! Log in to Facebook, then search for "Battle of the Bulge Association."



Fort Bragg news article, April 1943, about the March 29, 1943 parachute drop.



SO ARIZONA CHAPTER (53) KEEPS BUSY

Southern Arizona Chapter 53 had their last meeting of this season on February 22nd, before our summer break. In spite of Tucson's annual Fiesta de las Vaqueros parade, we had a great turnout at the Hungry Fox Restaurant. We were happy to see a long-time BOB veteran member, George Olbin, join us with his daughter after years of meeting notifications! The same for Tom Campbell, an Air Force Vietnam War veteran who said we finally had the meeting on a day of the week that he didn't have scheduled (big smile). We had a good time celebrating birthdays—current, past and future—and catching everyone up on the status of the members. We have seven BOB veterans in our Chapter, about four of whom attend events fairly regularly. They are:

Harper Coleman, 4 INFD 8 INF 2 BN Co H; Earl Liston, 106 INFD 106 RECON TP; Elmer Nicholson, 262nd 66th INFD; Gene Pflughaupt, 30 INFD 120 INF BN Co G; Don Becker, 87 INFD 345th INF REG; George Olbin, 2 INFD 2 SIG CORP; and Robert Sims, 87 INFD 345th INF REG.



Chapter 53 received the Best Veterans Organization Award from the Tucson Veteran's Day Parade Committee.

tors Club (SAMVCC) who provided restored WWII vehicles for Gene and the Korean War veterans who followed our group in the parade. The SAMVCC members are true historical reenactor enthusiasts and will be bringing their restored vehicle collection along with authentic period displays for a Collings Foundation "Wings of Freedom" tour at Marana Regional Airport, Arizona, from April 6 through 8th. The event will include the SAMVCC living history displays and vehicles as well as a B-17, B-25 and P-51. Gene sent the SAMVCC a nice thank you with a note, "Thanks for the ride!"

We've had our share of losses, as everyone has, so our 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. We think that educating the young is the best way to ensure the lasting memory of the sacrifices and service to our country made by our BOB veterans. We will not forget.

—Submitted by Laura Dwyer, President, Chapter 53

WE NEED YOUR CHAPTER NEWS!

Send to: tracey@battleofthebulge.org.

NEXT ISSUE (AUGUST) DEADLINE: JUNE 22, 2018



Gene Pflughaupt, 30 INFD, 120 INF BN, Co G, rode in Tucson's Veteran's Day Parade 2017 to represent all WWII Battle of the Bulge veterans.

VIRGINIA CRATER CHAPTER (43) QUARTERLY MEETING



Crater Chapter (43) held their quarterly meeting on March 15, 2018 in Colonial Heights, Virginia. Pictured are: (seated L-R): veterans Sidney Sings; Malcolm Christian; Alan Cunningham, national BOBA Immediate Past President & Chairman of the Board. (Standing L-R): John Payne; Linda Guilmart (Sydney's daughter); Mary Ann Smith, Crater President; Judy Cunningham (Alan's wife); Ron Peterson.

—Submitted by Mary Ann Smith, Crater President

100TH BIRTHDAYS FOR LEHIGH VALLEY (55)!



Louis Vargo, above left and below as a young Mess Sergeant; and Joseph Motil, right, will soon be 100 years old.



One more special event for our chapter is coming up this July. Two of our local chapter WWII veterans are celebrating their 100th birthdays that month:

Louis Vargo, Mess Sergeant, 7th Armored Division, 87th Cavalry Reconnaissance, D Troop, Battle of the Bulge veteran, has his 100th birthday on July 9th, 2018.

Joseph Motil, Private First Class, 4th Infantry Division, Company L, 22nd Infantry Regiment, D-Day veteran, has his 100th birthday on July 24th, 2018.

Both stay active in our chapter and have been longtime members. We hope to have a special celebration for them during our July meeting.

—Submitted by Steve Savage, Chapter 55 Member

WISE WORDS FROM MD/DC CHAPTER (3) PRES.

From the MD/DC Chapter (3) President's column in their newsletter "The Marcher," Jan/Feb 2018 issue:

Time marches on and another year is relegated to the dusty archives of history. I am happy to be able to say, "So far, so good." While many social organizations founded on WWII events and activities, division, ship, regiment, wing, and other types of unit associations, are rapidly becoming things of the past, I know that ours is looking towards the future. The reason is obvious—we have the next generation interested in our past, and what my generation thought to be important is also important to them. Patriotism is the rock that we all stand on. It is our United States of America that is of prime importance. At times we are faced with apathy and disregard by citizens who "want it all," but are not aware that those who went before have already paid their dues for them. They are the "ME" generation. "WE" will carry them along with us.

It is certain in my mind that many of those who were involved in the Battle of the Bulge wanted nothing more to do with war, and even

Europe in general, once it was over and they were home. I was one. This reaction must have been prevalent, since the years from 1945 and into the '90s, those men I knew were content to never talk about their experience. But then came the reckoning for me. I returned to the scene of the action in 1992—places that I had left devastated by the war as it moved through, cities and towns totally destroyed. It had all changed from what I remembered. There stood lovely houses with neat window boxes overflowing with flowers. Streets were clean and open to travelers. But the people, ah, the people, that is what impressed me the most. Once the people discovered we were American and had been there fighting in 1944-45 to drive the Nazis out and had restored their freedom, it was "game over," as the younger generation says. I saw the results of the reconstruction of the fought-over countries. I felt the sincere friendship that existed between us. It was, and is, a bond that will be broken only in death. Today the populations of those areas dominated by Nazi cruelty not only remember, but they are insuring that succeeding generations will not forget who they are indebted to for the freedom they enjoy today. There seems to be a resurgence of interest in World War II in general here in the United States as well. When one searches the booksellers, he can find books on every phase of World War II, no matter where his interest lies: ships, planes, vehicles, medical, engineering or baking biscuits. It is obvious that peace throughout the world cannot be achieved, so, the U.S.A. must stand strong and ready to repel any attacker.

God Bless the U.S.A. —John R. Schaffner, MD/DC Chapter President

SO. CAROLINA CHAPTER (7) MEETING

The South Carolina Chapter of BOBA held its quarterly meeting March 10 at Fort Jackson, Columbia, SC. Eleven veterans were present, pictured along with our guest speaker, Joe Long. Seated from left to right: Joe Watson, David Hubbard, Walter Hedges, Leif Maseng, Chris Carawan, Tom Estridge, Jim Hubble. Standing, left to right: Speaker Joe Long, Vernon Brantley, Tom Burgess, Gerald White, Dick Schneider. Joe Long is the curator of Education for the SC Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum. He has been published in *Civil War Historian* magazine, the *Journal of the South Carolina Historical Society* and elsewhere. He has appeared on a number of television shows, and has written some of the Relic Room exhibits. He spoke about one the largest, and (at least in the United States), one of the least known air campaigns of World War II: The Royal Air Force's night bomber offensive against Germany. Of note: Training for some of the RAF pilots and air crew was conducted in South Carolina." —Rick Hurst, SC Chapter President





CHAPTERS CAN BE INCLUDED IN THE BOBA FILING FOR TAX EXEMPT STATUS

While working on the conversion of the IRS status for the Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc. from a 501(c)(19) to a 501(c)(3), it was suggested by the IRS that we apply for a group exemption letter to cover all of our chapters.

This avoids the need for each of the chapters to apply for exemption individually. A group exemption letter has the same effect as an individual exemption letter, except that it applies to more than one organization. Group exemptions are an administrative convenience for both the IRS and organizations with many affiliated organizations. Subordinates in a group exemption do not have to file, and the IRS does not have to process separate applications for exemption. Consequently, subordinates do not receive individual exemption letters.

Groups of organizations with group exemption letters have a “head” or main organization, referred to as a central organization (e.g., Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc.—the national organization). The central organization generally supervises or controls many chapters, called subordinate organizations. The subordinate organizations typically have similar structures, purposes, and activities.

To qualify for a group exemption, the central organization and its subordinates must have a defined relationship. Subordinates must be:

Affiliated with the central organization;

Subject to the central organization’s general supervision or control;

and Exempt under the same paragraph of IRS 501(c), though not necessarily the paragraph under which the central organization is exempt.

A central organization may submit its request for a group exemption at the same time it submits its exemption application (which is what we are planning to do—revising our filing to include the chapters that want to be covered). This is why we are asking each chapter to declare its intent to be covered by the group letter and provide some information that we can incorporate into our filing with the IRS.

If you already have an exemption letter from the IRS as a 501(c)(3), you do not have to be part of the group. However, you can if you want to. If you are not going to be part of the group, we need a statement to that effect.

What we need from each chapter:

1. A letter providing us written authorization to act as the central

organization and you to be the subordinate, or a letter stating that you do not want to be part of the group.

2. Chapter name, mailing address (including zip code), actual addresses (if different), and employer identification numbers if your chapters to be included in the BOBA group exemption letter. If you do not have an employer identification number, you can get one instantly on-line by going to the IRS EIN Assistant page on their web site. **Be sure that you are on the IRS.gov site and not a third party site.** You will receive the EIN instantly after completing the on-line form.

If you decide that you do not want to be included in the group exemption now, you can be added at a later date by requesting that you be added.

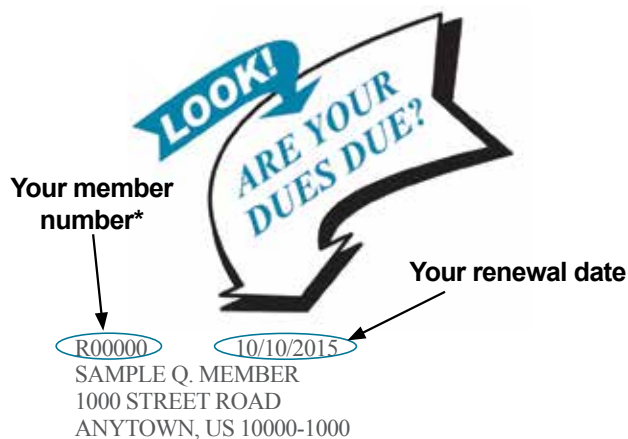
BOBA and the chapters must file one of the variants to Forms 990 (like the 990N or 990EZ). BOBA must file its own separate return, but may also file a group return on behalf of some or all of its chapters. If you choose to be included in our return, we will need your financial information annually. But if your gross receipts are under \$50,000, you qualify to file the 990N on-line, which is about an eight line form.

To reiterate, we need to know if you want to be included in our filing and if you already have received a letter recognizing you as a tax exempt organization. You must still have an EIN and can file your own tax return or be included in our return. More information can be found in IRS Publication 4573, Group Exemptions.

A letter stating the above, plus more details, has been sent to all Chapter Presidents/contacts. Chapters MUST respond by June 1, 2018 either by email to Alan Cunningham: alan.cunningham.boba@gmail.com; or by mail to: Alan Cunningham, Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc.; PO Box 27430; Philadelphia, PA 19118-0430. (Questions to Alan via email above.)

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!**



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ISBN: 978-0-9910962-3-7

Title: *The Battle of the Bulge:*

True Stories From the Men and

Women Who Survived

Book is not sold by BOBA, but we receive royalties.

WELCOME ABOARD, NEW MEMBERS!

A salute to these individuals who joined BOBA January 1-March 27, 2018:



Baczewski, Lou	Member	Negra, Andrew	6 InfD
Burrus, William E	87 InfD	Pope, Robert	106 InfD
Crum, Joe	Member	Rhoden, Marvin	Member
Ferdana, Zach	Member	Snyder, Michael	Member
Fisher, Frank R	Member	Palazzolo Sr, Joseph	Member
Helms, James R	Member	Perryman, Van	Member
Higginbotham, Hollie	Member	Rhoden, Ken	Member
Jackson, Ann	Member	Spinella, Kathy	Member
Larke, Gail C	Member	Wood, Jerold	Member
Mack-Jackson, Benjamin	Member	Woolley, Dave	Member
McCarthy, Timothy	Member		

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

- Talking to people about BOBA and suggesting that they also join
- Promoting our website: www.battleofthebulge.org
- Sending us articles to be included in *The Bulge Bugle*
- Attending our annual reunion [see pgs. 16-19]

ONE MORE VBOB MONUMENT

We heard from BOBA member David Shaw about this additional VBOB monument. Many VBOB monuments were erected so many years ago that we could not find complete information on them, and/or no chapter member stepped forward to provide info and photos. Send any additional VBOB monument info/corrections to: tracey@battleofthebulge.org; 703-528-4058.

PENNSYLVANIA

The World War II Federation & VBOB

Fort Indiantown Gap Military Reservation
Fisher and Clement Aves.

Annaville, PA 17038

717-861-2000

<http://ftig.png.pa.gov/about/Pages/Visiting.aspx>

(No restrictions on visiting public locations such as this monument.)

David Shaw and his organization "The World War II Federation" erected a VBOB monument in January 1999, with the help of VBOB members Stanley Wojtusik, George Linthicum, Louis Cunningham, George Watson, George Chekan, John and Mary Ann Bowen, and John McAuliffe.



UPCOMING 83RD INF D ASSOCIATION REUNION



The WWII 83rd Infantry Division Association will hold their 72nd Reunion on August 1-5, 2018 at: Verve Crowne Plaza, 1360 Worcester St., Natick, MA 01760. Veterans, friends, and families of veterans are welcome. Contact Judy Breen, (603) 569-3263, walkgirl250@yahoo.com for more information. Reservations and payment due by 6/29/18.

A JOKE, PERHAPS?

This item was submitted by Carolyn Boyer Kramer, Member, from p. 130 of *Readers Digest*, May 1996:

"I called a video shop to order the war movie Battle of the Bulge. 'Hold on, said the clerk, 'I'll check our aerobics tapes.'"

Not sure whether we should laugh or cry.



A VERY DARK DAY FOR MEMBERS OF THE 27TH AIB

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



The situation on 16 December 1944: the Battalion was located in Faymonville, Ligneuville and Schoppen, Belgium. Company A was attached to the 393rd or 394th Infantry Regiment of the 99th Infantry Division. Company B was attached to the 38th Infantry Regiment of the 2nd Infantry Division. I am not sure of Company C's mission. During the afternoon of the 16th, we received a "warning order" that a "march order" was pending;

all units loaded up and waited. The march order had B Company leading, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, followed by C Company. We were move south at about 1600 hours. A Company was to be detached from the attachment to the 99th Division on the 17th.

On the morning of 17 December, elements of Gruppe Peiper (1st SS Panzer Division) entered Ligneuville, Belgium and captured Company "A's" Kitchen crew and its Supply crew. They were transported to an area south of Stavelot called La Vault Richard. The German commander decided that the men be murdered, so 12 men of Company A, and three Belgian civilians, were executed. They were S/Sergeant Walter Arter, S/Sgt Edward Kadluboski, T/5 William Edmonds, T/5 Donald Spencer, T/5 Klaas Visser, Pfc Harry Czaplinski, Pfc Carl Millard, Pfc Belen Reyes, Pfc Rolf Runge, Pvt Gion, Pvt David Glotzer and Pvt Donald Hoffer. A monument was established at this site.

In Ligneuville at the Hotel Du Moulin, during the day, 8 men were summarily executed in the garden area of the hotel. They were S/Sergeant Lincoln Abraham, T/4 Casper Johnson, Pvt Clifford Pitts and Pvt Nick Sullivan, all of the 14th Tank Battalion; and T/5, Pvt Gerald Carter, and S/Sergeant Joseph Collins, all from Service Company 27th Armored Infantry Battalion; and Michael B. Penny of Company B, 27th Armored Infantry Battalion.

The Belgians have erected a monument in town, to memorialize that event. Study groups in Luxembourg (CEBA), Belgium (CRIBA), Hans Wijers of the Netherlands, plus Ardennes re-enactors, keep alive the history of these events. They decorate the monuments and commemorate the Battle on 16 December each year. Flowers and Color guards from many units, including U.S. Army, are present.

Others from Service Company that were killed, but the circumstances are unknown, are: 1st Sgt Page Shenk, T/4 Albert Sukstorf, T/5 Harold Holt, and T/5 Paul Toliver. Captain Seymour Green and thirteen other men from Service Company were taken prisoner and on 20 December were transported to POW Camps in Germany. The story is told in a *Coronet Magazine* article (circa 1950) "The Brave Innkeeper".

Pfc Ben Sisk, an Anti-Tank crew man from Sgt Hunter's squad in A Company, was wounded, and while en-route to the collecting company, the ambulance that he was in was captured by the Germans and he was rerouted to a POW Camp in Germany.

At about 1600 hours Captain Wirsig led B Company to the south several miles, and the column stopped and waited on the road. I noticed a lot of Buzz Bomb activity and AAA fire in the vicinity of Liege. I heard some vehicles with steel tracks moving about to our east, and thought that our engineers were doing something. I know now that they were German Tanks, and at an unknown distance from us as sound is difficult to judge in the cold, still air. Our "Initial Point" (IP) was set at 0330

hours, and we were on the move to St Vith. B Company in the lead, followed by Headquarters Company and then C Company.

A Company was not released from the 99th Division until after a confrontation between Major Devers, Captain Strange, and the Regimental Commander of the 393rd or 394th Infantry was settled by the General of the 99th, when he told his commander to release A Company. I understand that our lead halftrack hit the (IP) right at 0330 hours. I think that B Company's command half track that was leading took the wrong road and the column was turned around. Lt Thomas Harley, 3rd Platoon, took the lead, followed by Lt Peterson, 2nd Platoon and Lt Lawrence Awalt, 1st Platoon. As we approached Steinebruck Belgium on the Our River, driving in "Blackout," the lead squad of the 2nd platoon slid off the icy road, and was unable to get back on the road. Lt Peterson jumped out of that half track and got in with the 2nd squad (S/Sgt Law and Sgt Turek). At the bottom of the hill, Captain Wirsig hailed Peterson and told him that D Company of 424th Infantry Regiment (106th I.D.) was holding the town of Winterspelt, and that was our objective. Lt Harvey in the lead half track moved on highway N27. When he got about 1,000 meters, he was confronted by dismounted German soldiers (mostly Polish conscripts). They overwhelmed Lt Harley and his driver T/5 John Sullivan (wounded in the knee), and took them prisoner. Pfc Albert J. Michaud, Pvt Wayford Moore, Pfc Ray Elliot, Pfc Ray Floyd, Pvt James V Mc Master and Pfc Dominick Castaldo were also captured in that melee. Sgt Frank Mykalo opened fire on the Germans with his .50 Cal MG and this action broke up the German advance. The eight men from the 3rd Platoon were marched toward Germany. Six of these men were taken to Stalag XII-A in Limburg and later to Stalag III-A in Luckenwalde. Liberated by the Russians in May of 1945, Lt Harvey lost an eye during a staffing [strafing?-Ed.] attack by U.S. Air Force on the POW Train.

Lt Peterson ordered the platoon to dismount, and he set up a scrimmage line on the right hand side of the N27 on the forward slope of Brussel-B Hill. The vehicles were backing away from the fire fight at the head of the column. Captain Wirig told Lt Peterson to hold the line, and do not advance. The 2nd Platoon took up defensive locations along a drainage ditch, with the 2nd (S/Sgt Law) Squad on the right and the 3rd Squad (S/Sgt Pencofski) to the left. The machine gun squad (S/Sgt Popovich) assigned a machine gun to each of these squads. The mortar squad (S/Sgt Cletus Hart) set up in a covered position. We began to fire any movement to our front. The First Platoon (Lt Larry Awalt) took up a position in the woods to the 2nd Platoon's right rear. The 1st Squad of the 2nd Platoon rejoined the rest of the platoon at about 1000 hours (their vehicle slid off the road to Steinebruck).

B Company was set on Brussel-B hill. The third Platoon with T/Sgt John Robitz in command was in reserve. T/Sgt Charles Ruckhaber and Lt Peterson were in a depression and firing on the Germans with our M-1 rifles. It was aimed fire and we could see and hear some of the results of that fire. Ruckhaber went back to the Aid Station in Steinebruck and Lt Peterson cautioned men of his 2nd Squad to look for that sniper. While directing fire from Vitold Urbanowitz's machine gun, Sgt Harry Arndt was shot by the sniper and died of his wounds. At this time the four water cooled machine guns from Headquarters Company were in action. As S/Sgt Richard Ballou put it, "We boiled a lot of water that day." A column of Germans on N27 were taken under fire and were stopped with very heavy casualties. Pfc Lewis Keeton and Pfc Albert Mincey (1st Squad) were wounded by mortar fire, near the company command post.

At about noon, Captain Wirsig issued an attack order. The 16th Field Artillery was now in position to support the attack, and Company C was in Lommersweiler, and A Company was near Maspelt. We were to take our first objective about 300 yards to the southeast. The axis of advance was highway N-27, A Company on the right to take Elcherath, and C Company to make a flanking movement left of Company B. The attack was to start at 1300 hours with an Artillery time on target (TOT) barrage on the objective. There was a tank platoon assigned, but there was no coordination with Lt Duck of A Company 14th Tank Battalion and Captain Wirsig. Lt Peterson knew nothing of the tanks. He did tell S/Sgt Hart (Mortar Squad) to plot his fire on a gully to our right front and where he suspected was the sniper's location. He was to shoot until he was out of ammunition, or if the advancing riflemen were coming too close to the impact zone. The attack commenced and the First Platoon became pinned down by fire from the right front. S/Sgt John Isaacs, S/Sgt George Stanish and Pvt John Summerfield were killed. The First Platoon could not get to the woods that Peterson and Awalt discussed prior the attack. Peterson's platoon was in a false draw on the north side of N-27 and out of sight of the Germans. About 100 yards out, we were coming out of our cover. Wirsig hailed Peterson and asked, "Where is the rest of your platoon?" Peterson hit the ground and replied, "If they're not behind me, I don't know."

Peterson's 3rd Squad (S/Sgt Pencofski) was pinned down at their line of departure. Pfc Vincent Rometo was killed, and Pencofski was wounded by small arms fire. The Krauts opened fire on Peterson's platoon, with at least two MG 42's set up in the area of the aforementioned gully. Captain Wirsig was hit in the stomach, and tried to sit up. He was told to lay down, but he was hit again and killed. Pfc Robert Walton and Pfc William Csicsek, to Peterson's left, were hit. Pfc Paul Gage (Medical Corps) was coming to the aid of Pfc William Csicsek or Walton and was told to stay back. He ignored the orders by Peterson and he was hit, falling dead on Csicsek. S/Sgt Albert Melcher, 1st Squad leader, was to the right rear of Peterson and he was hit in the stomach and the pain could be seen on his face. He was told to roll away from the "beaten zone" and he did roll.

The platoon stopped—the 2nd Squad and machine gun squad were still in a cover. Peterson signaled "Enemy in sight" to the approaching tanks on N-27. He also fired a clip of tracers from his M1 rifle into the suspected area. The lead tank of Lt Duck's platoon was hit by a Panzerfaust. I am told there was some damage to the final drive. Peterson knew that forward movement without casualties was now impossible. The tank came to a stop. Peterson crawled to the cover of the draw and pondered over the situation. He directed Pfc Nick Dello, machine gunner, to start shooting short bursts in selected areas where the MG 42's might be. The

platoon was receiving some small high explosive rounds that were all "overs". He also saw some movement by about six men on his left flank (C Company), but could not determine what was going on. Peterson then ordered T/Sgt Jim Chandler to lead the platoon back to the line of departure. He crawled from the covered position when he noticed that Walton moved. He then dragged Walton to the cover draw. He determined that Melcher was completely motionless, Gage and Csicsek were dead by touching their bodies, and Wirsig by observation of wounds to his head. He carried Walton back to the line of departure. Walton was sent back to the aid station, and subsequently lost a leg. Lt Peterson was greeted by Chandler with the comment, "Well, you're IT!" Peterson replied, "No!" Chandler told Lt Peterson to "sit tight," as a Tank/Infantry attack on Winterspelt was being planned.

Company C was successful in approaching the objective but came under some severe Mortar Fire. And with Lt Duck's tanks that also moved up to the objective, they took about 100 Prisoners of War. One of Lt Duck's tanks was hit and set on fire by a German anti tank gun. Killed in action from C Company were S/Sgt Michael Paterno, Pvt Dominick Posillipo, Pvt Francis Palesi, and Pvt Dorland Smith. From what I could gather, 1st Swisher Company A did cross the Our river on route to Elcherath. I did not hear of any firefights, and the casualty list for the day showed Corporal Benney Y Rodriguez becoming Missing in Action. The author recalls that Lt Swisher was never told to withdraw from the east shore of the Our River. Headquarters Company's Mortar Platoon Sergeant T/Sgt Raymond Page and Battalion S-3 Major Donald Russell were wounded by artillery fire on the bridge in Steinebruck.

The attack plan was that a coordinated tank infantry force would move on Winterspelt. I was given this order and started to organize what was left of my platoon and to inform T/Sgt Robitz and T/Sgt Howe (1st Platoon) what we would do next. The Commanding General MG Jones of the 106th Infantry Division told Brigadier General Hoge that he could continue the attack on Winterspelt, but would have to bring all forces in his command to the west side of the Our River line at midnight 17 December. There is rumor that Hoge had socked Jones and I suppose this might have at least put the thought in Hoge's mind. General Jones later was relieved due to illness. The organization of troops in the St Vith area were worked out by General Bruce Clark and General William Hoge. General Hoge canceled the attack on Winterspelt, refusing to use up men and equipment, only to cede the territory back to the Germans. Had we taken Winterspelt, it might have opened a path for the withdrawal of the 423rd Infantry.

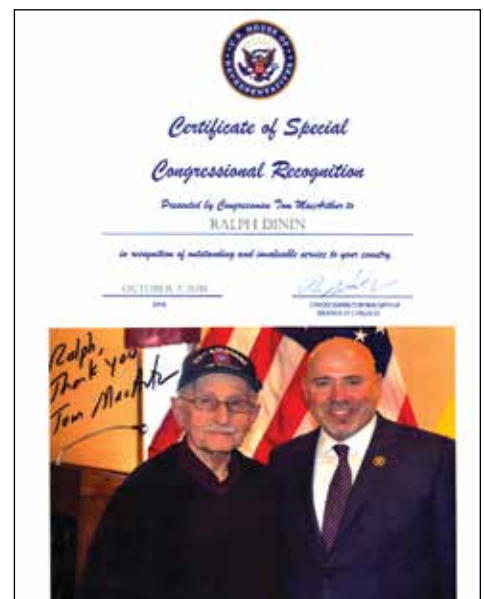
—Source: www.battleofthebulgememories.be/

TRIBUTE TO RALPH I. DININ



Ralph I. Dinin was born September 12, 1923. He is a proud 95-year-old US Army Veteran who fought in the Battle of the Bulge. Ralph was in the Army from February 15th, 1943 until January 25th, 1946. Ralph served in WWII and the Battle of the Bulge, where over 30,000 troops were killed. Ralph received 3 Battle Stars, Good Conduct Medals, Meritorious Service from the State of New Jersey (shown), Certificate from France, Liberation of Normandy 1944-1945, and a Sharp Shooter Medal/Tommy Gun. Ralph is a very dedicated, proud American who should always be honored and fully respected for his time and service to our country. "Time passes fast and we forget." Thank you, Dad—we all love you!

—Submitted by Andrew Dinin, Member





WELCOME TO COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

BATTLE OF THE BULGE ASSOCIATION 37th ANNUAL REUNION

September 14 – 18, 2018

HIGHLIGHTS AND SCHEDULE INFORMATION

This year's reunion has an Army Air Corps and Air Force focus.

Health Warning for Colorado Springs and the local area: *Colorado Springs is over 6,000 feet above sea level and very dry. The Air Force Academy is over 7,000 feet. It is very easy to become dehydrated, and that can lead to altitude sickness. It is very important that you are fully-hydrated before arriving in CO, and that you drink plenty of water, for the entire time you are at the reunion, to avoid health problems.*

REGISTRATION FEE: All attendees must pay the registration fee (see Registration Form). The fee covers the expenses of name tags, programs, table decorations, hospitality room, etc.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Registration opens, and evening Complimentary Wine and Cheese Reception.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

After enjoying your free breakfast at the hotel, join us for a bus tour to the **Garden of the Gods** (www.gardenofgods.com/). Garden of the Gods Park is a registered National Natural Landmark. Imagine dramatic views, 300' towering sandstone rock formations against a backdrop of snow-capped Pikes Peak and brilliant blue skies. Learn how the amazing red rocks got there with the NEW Geo-Trekker theater experience, shown every 20 minutes. Afterwards, we'll take the bus through the park with a professional guide to see the rock formations up-close, then stopping at the Garden of the Gods Trading Post. After shopping, we will finish back at the Visitor Center for lunch and a 20-minute American Indian Dance performance.

In the afternoon, we will go to the **National Museum of World War II Aviation** for a guided tour of working World War II aircraft (www.worldwariaviation.org). This is the only museum in the world to focus exclusively on the unique story of the role of aviation in World War II.

After our visit to the museum, we will be stopping at the **Veterans Memorial** to enjoy the monuments to the 71st Infantry Division, the 89th Infantry Division, and the MIA/POW monument, as well as others. While there, we

will be laying a wreath at the memorial in honor of all Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge.

A Southern dinner at the **American Legion Post 209**, with entertainment provided by a DJ from the BOBA Rocky Mountain Chapter (39), will cap off the evening.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

After enjoying your free breakfast at the hotel, please attend the **Membership Meeting** to discuss important issues and vote on the slate of BOBA Board officers for the next governing year. *(The President will receive nominations from the floor. Be sure to have the person's permission and willingness to serve, as well as 5 seconds to the nomination.)* We will also be deciding on the location for the next reunion, so be thinking about that. Many have expressed a desire to go back to the East Coast. (Virginia Beach has been suggested, with a Navy theme).

We will end the day with our **Annual Banquet**. All veterans and families are invited to dress for the banquet and have their picture taken at 1745, before the reception (with cash bar). The banquet will follow in the ballroom.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

After breakfast at the hotel, we will be going to the **Olympic Training Center** for a tour of the facilities (www.teamusa.org/about-the-usoc/olympic-training-centers/csotc/about).

The U.S. Olympic Complex in Colorado Springs is the flagship training center for the U.S. Olympic Committee and the Olympic Training Center programs. USA Swimming and USA Shooting have their national headquarters at the complex. After the Training Center, we will be swinging by the hotel before going to **Famous Dave's BBQ** for lunch on the way to the **U.S. Air Force Academy** (www.academyadmissions.com/visit-the-academy/).

We will be stopping at the visitor center, and watch a 14-minute movie in the theater highlighting the academy experience. The exhibit area features displays on history and cadet life, with specially designed exhibits to explain the academy's four "pillars of excellence."

After the visitor center, we will be going to



the Chapel to see this iconic landmark. After our tour of the Air Force Academy, we will be returning to the hotel for dinner on your own, or join us in the hospitality room for pizza.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

The day starts with a tour of the **Peterson Air and Space Museum** at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado's oldest aviation museum (www.petemuseum.org). From the barnstormer beginnings in the Roaring Twenties, through the daring exploits of our World War II pilots and into the modern space era, the exhibits are sure to capture your attention.

After the tour of the museum, we will be going to **Old Colorado City** (www.shopold-coloradocity.com), the original capital of the Colorado Territory. This Historic District maintains its 19th-century "Wild West" feel, but the area's buildings now house locally-owned art galleries, quaint shops and mom-and-pop restaurants. Enjoy dinner on your own, either at the hotel or by using the hotel shuttle to go to a local restaurant.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

After breakfast at the hotel, stay for additional days to see the rest of the Colorado Springs area, or depart for a safe trip home.



BOBA REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION FOR REUNION: **SEPTEMBER 1, 2018**

There are two options for registering for the reunion: Complete this form OR register online at www.battleofthebulge.org (Click on the “Attend Reunion” and complete the Registration Form.) Registration for the Reunion must be received no later than **September 1, 2018**. There is no penalty for canceling up to the day of arrival. Go to page 19 for the hotel registration information (Hotel reservation cut-off is **August 14, 2018**; cancellations must be made 48 hours before arrival date.)

BOBA registration desk at the hotel (in the Eagle’s Nest) will be open on Friday, September 14 from 12 pm – 6 pm and on Saturday, September 15, from 8 am – 5 pm. NOTE: Birth dates and residency (country) required for entrance to military bases for all attendees.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Birth Date _____

Email _____

Division, Regiments, etc _____

Check box if not a U.S. resident ☐ Signature _____

Guest(s) names, birthdates and residency (country, if not U.S.) *(please print)* _____

Check here if you need a wheelchair ☐ Check here if you will be using your own wheelchair ☐ If so, is it motorized? ☐ yes ☐ no

IMPORTANT: Please indicate No. of Persons attending *free* events as well!

Registration Fee *(all attendees must pay the Registration Fee)*

	No. of Persons	Cost per Person	Total Cost
Adult (21 and Over)	_____	\$50	_____
Child (20 and Under)	_____	\$25	_____
Late registration fee after September 1 - add \$20 per person	_____	\$20	_____

Friday, September 14, 2018

Evening Wine & Cheese reception in the Hospitality Room _____ free

Saturday, September 15, 2018

Morning Guided Bus Tour of the Garden of the Gods with movie,

Indian dance show and lunch <i>(choose entrées)</i>	Turkey and Cheddar	_____	\$55	_____
	Vegetarian	_____	\$55	_____
	Vegan	_____	\$55	_____
	Gluten Free	_____	\$58	_____

Afternoon Bus trip to National Museum of World War II

Aviation and Dinner at American Legion Post 209 _____ \$45 _____

	WW II Vets	_____	\$35	_____
<i>(Choose dinner entrées)</i>	Chicken Fried Steak	_____		
	Chicken Strips	_____		

Sunday, September 16, 2018

Reception _____ cash bar

Banquet <i>(choose entrées)</i>	Chicken Mediterranean	_____	\$50	_____
	Roast Prime Rib of Beef	_____	\$50	_____

Monday, September 17, 2018

Morning Bus Visit to U.S. Olympic Complex _____ \$25 _____

Lunch at Famous Dave’s BBQ and afternoon at the Air Force Academy _____ \$30 _____

Tuesday, September 18, 2018

Bus visit to the Peterson Air and Space Museum with stop at Old Colorado City _____ \$25 _____

TOTAL _____

Mail this form and check (payable to BOBA) to: Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc., PO Box 27430, Philadelphia, PA 19118

Or, to pay with a credit card, register online at www.battleofthebulge.org, click on “Attend Reunion”



2018 BOBA REUNION COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

SEPTEMBER 14 – 18, 2018

REUNION PROGRAM

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2018

6:30 AM – 10:30 AM	Complimentary Breakfast for 2 in the restaurant (adjacent to the lobby)
12:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Registration open
12:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Hospitality Room open (Eagle's Nest)
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Wine and Cheese Reception in the Hospitality Room
	Dinner on your own

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2018

6:30 AM – 10:30 AM	Complimentary Breakfast for 2 in the restaurant (adjacent to the lobby)
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Registration open
8:00 AM – 10:00 PM	Hospitality Room open (Eagle's Nest)
8:45 AM – 1:00 PM	Bus trip with narrated tour of the Garden of the Gods with movie, shopping at the Trading Post, lunch, and Indian Dance performance
1:00 PM – 1:30 PM	Bus returns to hotel for those who do not want to go on the afternoon and evening tour and to pick-up those who chose to not go on the morning tour
1:30 PM – 4:00 PM	Bus trip to National Museum of World War II Aviation
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Stop at the Veterans Memorial to lay a wreath
5:00 PM – 9:00 PM	American Legion Post 209 for drinks, dinner, and music

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2018

6:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Complimentary Breakfast for 2 in the restaurant (adjacent to the lobby)
8:00 AM – 10:00 PM	Hospitality Room open (Eagle's Nest)
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Membership Meeting (Rockrimmon 3 & 4)
12:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Free time to rest, shop, and eat—hotel shuttle available
5:45 PM	Photograph of Veterans and families* (between Ballroom and Eagle's Nest)
	<i>*2nd/3rd Generations: Please bring an 8 x 10" photo of your veteran if they aren't present</i>
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Reception (cash bar)
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Banquet at hotel (Ballroom)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2018

6:30 AM – 10:30 AM	Complimentary Breakfast for 2 in the restaurant (adjacent to the lobby)
8:00 AM – 10:00 PM	Hospitality Room open (Eagle's Nest)
9:15 AM	Bus Departs for Olympic Complex
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Tour of the U.S. Olympic Training Center
12:00 PM – 12:30 PM	Return to hotel
12:30 PM – 2:00 PM	Lunch at Famous Dave's BBQ
2:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Tour of the U.S. Air Force Academy including the Visitor Center and Chapel
6:00 PM	Pizza in the Hospitality Room (donations to pay for the pizzas)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2018

6:30 AM – 10:30 AM	Complimentary Breakfast for 2 in the restaurant (adjacent to the lobby)
8:00 AM – 10:00 PM	Hospitality Room open (Rockrimmon 3 & 4)
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Bus Departs for tour of the Peterson Air and Space Museum
12:00 PM – 12:30 PM	Bus goes to Old Colorado City
12:30 PM – 1:00 PM	Bus returns to Hotel
3:30 PM – 4:00 PM	Bus picks-up at Old Colorado City and returns to the hotel
6:00 PM	Dinner on your own

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2018

6:30 AM – 10:30 AM	Complimentary Breakfast for 2 in the restaurant (adjacent to the lobby)
	Depart or stay longer and enjoy beautiful Colorado Springs

See Highlights and Schedule Information on page 16 for more details.



COLORADO SPRINGS MARRIOTT

5580 Tech Center Drive
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80919
Website: www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/cosmc-colorado-springs-marriott/
Phones: Local 1-719-260-1800;
Toll Free 1-800-932-2151
Direct Line to the group housing coordinator: 1-719-268-4218

**RESERVATION DEADLINE FOR GROUP RATE OF \$129 PLUS TAXES:
Tuesday, August 14, 2018**

Hotel Information

Located near Pikes Peak, the Colorado Springs Marriott makes a perfect home base for excursions to places such as Garden of the Gods and Cave of the Winds. When it's time to enjoy the great indoors, there is easy access to all the shops and art galleries in downtown Colorado Springs. After a day of exploration, take time to unwind in the comfortable and contemporary rooms and suites. Feel free to connect to the complimentary Wi-Fi to stay in touch with loved ones. In the morning, fuel up at our all-day restaurant, featuring a stylish outdoor patio with fire pits and breathtaking mountain views. During downtime, keep your exercise routine intact at the fitness center and pools.

ROOM RATE: \$129 single/double occupancy, plus state and local taxes (current 10.25%).

Our group rate is available for up to 3 nights prior to our Reunion and 3 nights following subject to availability. If you want to extend your stay in beautiful Colorado Springs, please book your rooms early.

This hotel has 309 luxurious rooms and suites (all renovated this year) but only 12 handicapped accessible rooms. Approximately 70% of the rooms have a Pikes Peak view. If you need an ADA room, please book early. You can cancel without penalty up to 48 hours before your scheduled arrival.

RESERVATIONS

Individuals must make their own reservation by calling Marriott central reservations at 1 800-932-2151 or through the group housing coordinator directly at 1-719-268-4218 and mention that you are attending the Bulge Association (BOBA) 2018 Reunion. You must provide a major credit card to guarantee rooms. To reserve your hotel room online, go to our website: battleofthebulge.org. Then go to "Attend Reunion" page, and find "To reserve your hotel room online, click here: Book your group rate for Battle of the Bulge Association (BOBA) 2018 Reunion."

HOTEL AMENITIES

- Complimentary shuttle service to shopping and restaurants within 5 miles of the hotel. *NOTE: The hotel does not provide shuttle service to/from the airports.*
- Complimentary buffet breakfast for 2 people
- Complimentary self-parking
- 24-hour room service

- Complimentary wireless Internet access in all guest rooms and the hotel lobby area
- State of the art fitness facility open 0500 – 2300 daily
- Indoor and Outdoor pools & whirlpools with views of the mountains open 0630 - 2300
- 24-hour business center
- Gift shop/ATM
- Pets welcome. Contact hotel for details.
- Laundry on-site, coin operated

DIRECTIONS TO THE HOTEL

From the Colorado Springs Airport (COS):

Airport Phone: +1 719-550-1972

Hotel direction: 16 miles NW

This hotel does not provide airport shuttle service.

- Alternate transportation: Meet & Greet Colorado Springs-fee: \$50 (one way); reservation required
- Estimated taxi fare: \$50 (one way)

Start on E. Drennan Rd. Turn right on S. Powers Blvd. Turn left on E. Fountain Blvd. Merge onto I-25 North toward Denver/Manitou Springs. Take the Rockrimmon Exit, number 148. Make a left at the stop light at the bottom of the exit, onto Rockrimmon Blvd. Make a left on Tech Center Drive, immediately after passing a gas station. The hotel driveway will be on the right.

From the Denver International Airport (DEN):

Airport Phone: +1 800-247-2336

Hotel direction: 81 miles SW

This hotel does not provide airport shuttle service.

- Alternate transportation: Meet & Greet Colorado Springs-fee: \$180 (one way); reservation required
- Estimated taxi fare: \$192.30 (one way)

Start out going north on Pena Blvd. Take the E-470 tollway South-/E-470 S. exit 6A toward I-70. Merge onto E-470 S. (Portions toll). Take the I-25 exit 1A toward Colorado Springs/Denver. Merge onto I-25 S. via the exit on the left toward Colorado Springs. Take the Rockrimmon Road exit, number 148. Go straight at the light, then make a right on Rockrimmon Blvd. Turn left on Tech Center drive, immediately after passing a gas station. The hotel driveway will be on the right at 5580 Tech Center Drive.

BOBA COLORADO SPRINGS 2018 REUNION T-SHIRTS

Pre-order your souvenir reunion T-shirts and they will be waiting for you at the hotel at the BOBA registration desk. We must receive your order by **July 27, 2018.**

NO SHIPPING CHARGES! (We cannot order and ship to those not attending the reunion, and you must order in advance, by July 27 latest.)

(Sizes are unisex. Shirts are Gildan 50/50.)



SHORT SLEEVE	Size	Price	Quantity	Cost
	Small	\$13	_____	_____
	Medium	\$13	_____	_____
	Large	\$13	_____	_____
	XL	\$13	_____	_____
	2XL	\$15	_____	_____

Subtotal _____

LONG SLEEVE	Size	Price	Quantity	Cost
	Small	\$15	_____	_____
	Medium	\$15	_____	_____
	Large	\$15	_____	_____
	XL	\$15	_____	_____
	2XL	\$17	_____	_____

TOTAL _____



Name: _____ email: _____ phone: _____

Mail this form and check (payable to BOBA) to: Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc., PO Box 27430, Philadelphia, PA 19118
Or, to pay with a credit card, order online (by July 27) at www.battleofthebulge.org, click on "Attend Reunion"

Profits from the sale of the T-shirts will benefit BOBA, to offset the reunion costs.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN COLORADO!



DONATIONS

Thank you to the following fine folks
who made donations to BOBA between January 1-March 27, 2018:

Central Mass Chapter 22	IMO Chptr Members	Lopiano, Michael	Member
Doe, Royetta Simmons	Member	Marcheschi, Luigi	423 MED COLL CO
Edquist, Glen	44 INF D	McCarthy, Timothy	Member
Fischer, Walter	75 INF D	Mellon, Lawrence J	Member
Frierson, John & Nancy	Donors	Miller, Harry F	740 TK BN
	IMO Everett Davis	Mills, George	28 INF D
Gaudere, Francis	30 INF D	Mountz, Tom	Member
Hardy, Charles	282 ENGR CMBT BN	Pagliuca, Frank	75 INF D
Heffner, Stephen	87 INF D	Park, Jr., Roger	Member
Hinchy, Norma M	Member	Phillips, Lois	Member
Hubbard, David	HQ ADV SECT	Shields, Ann	Member
	COMM ZONE SIG	Skonecki, Leonard	Member
Kreckler, John	110 AAA GN BN	Tate, Brenda S	Member
Liston, Earl	106 INF D		



COMMEMORATION OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE B-17 "PICKLEPUSS" CRASH

The Remember Museum 39-45, Thimister-Clermont Belgium, will be commemorating the 75th anniversary of the B-17 "PicklepuSS" crash, with the presence of USAF soldiers from the Ramstein base, on August 17, 2018.

For more information, go to their website:
www.remembermuseum.be/



BATTLE OF THE BULGE BASICS

For the benefit of our new members, or those needing a refresher, here is a brief basic overview of “The Battle of the Bulge.” NOTE: This is from the online, crowd-sourced encyclopedia “Wikipedia.” The editor and BOBA, Inc. take no responsibility for the accuracy of the facts presented here. (For example, there is much debate as to the number of American casualties.)

The Battle of the Bulge (16 December 1944 – 25 January 1945) was the last major German offensive campaign on the Western Front during World War II. It was launched through the densely forested Ardennes region of Wallonia in eastern Belgium, northeast France, and Luxembourg, towards the end of World War II. The surprise attack caught the Allied forces completely off guard. American forces bore the brunt of the attack and incurred their highest casualties of any operation during the war. The battle also severely depleted Germany’s armored forces, and they were largely unable to replace them. German personnel and, later, Luftwaffe aircraft (in the concluding stages of the engagement) also sustained heavy losses.

The Germans officially referred to the offensive as Unternehmen Wacht am Rhein (“Operation Watch on the Rhine”), while the Allies designated it the Ardennes Counteroffensive. The phrase “Battle of the Bulge” was coined by contemporary press to describe the bulge in German front lines on wartime news maps, and it became the most widely used name for the battle. The German offensive was intended to stop Allied use of the Belgian port of Antwerp and to split the Allied lines, allowing the Germans to encircle and destroy four Allied armies and force the Western Allies to negotiate a peace treaty in the Axis powers’ favor. Once that was accomplished, the German dictator Adolf Hitler believed he could fully concentrate on the Soviets on the Eastern Front. The offensive was planned by the German forces with utmost secrecy, with minimal radio traffic and movements of troops and equipment under cover of darkness. Intercepted German communications indicating a substantial

German offensive preparation were not acted upon by the Allies.

The Germans achieved total surprise on the morning of 16 December 1944, due to a combination of Allied overconfidence, preoccupation with Allied offensive plans, and poor aerial reconnaissance. The Germans attacked a weakly defended section of the Allied line, taking advantage of heavily overcast weather conditions that grounded the Allies’ overwhelmingly superior air forces. Fierce resistance on the northern shoulder of the offensive, around Elsenborn Ridge, and in the south, around Bastogne, blocked German access to key roads to the northwest and west that they counted on for success. Columns of armor and infantry that were supposed to advance along parallel routes found themselves on the same roads. This, and terrain that favored the defenders, threw the German advance behind schedule and allowed the Allies to reinforce the thinly placed troops. Improved weather conditions permitted air attacks on German forces and supply lines, which sealed the failure of the offensive. In the wake of the defeat, many experienced German units were left severely depleted of men and equipment, as survivors retreated to the defenses of the Siegfried Line.

The Germans’ initial attack involved 410,000 men; just over 1,400 tanks, tank destroyers, and assault guns; 2,600 artillery pieces; 1,600 anti-tank guns; and over 1,000 combat aircraft, as well as large numbers of other AFVs. These were reinforced a couple of weeks later, bringing the offensive’s total strength to around 450,000 troops, and 1,500 tanks and assault guns. Between 67,200 and 125,000 of their men were killed, missing, or wounded in action. For the Americans, out of 610,000 troops involved in the battle, 89,000 were casualties. While some sources report that up to 19,000 were killed, Eisenhower’s personnel chief put the number at about 8,600. British historian Antony Beevor reports the number killed as 8,407. It was the largest and bloodiest battle fought by the United States in World War II.

—Source: Wikipedia

THE BELGIAN BOY AND HIS SOLDIERS

by Bob Sparenberg

I was born in Grimbergen, Belgium in November of 1945 and am the second youngest of three boys and three girls. My family survived 4 years of Nazi occupation. In my early life, I relived the stories of my brothers and sisters fears throughout those years. I listened to my brothers' stories of dog fights between M109s and Spitfires over our village, as well as, the constant barrage of B17s flying overhead to bomb Germany. My mother explained that when the Germans came into our village, the sound of their gooseteps on the cobblestones could be heard for miles before they even entered Grimbergen. That is when fear gripped the village and they knew what their future would be.

My parents, throughout those years, kept in contact with the Dutch underground in order to assist them whenever needed. They hid in our home, under a carpet which concealed a door on the dining room floor and which was covered by a large table, allied personnel who had been through the night, covertly moved to our home for safe passage out of Belgium. They would then be moved at the most opportune time in the night, to a convent in our village. On several occasions, the Gestapo and the local police who were working for the Nazi regime, entered our home to confront my family. They had heard rumors from local villagers that suspicious activity was going on at the Sparenbergs. My father was a widower when he married my mother. Together, my mother and father had 6 children. However, my father had 3 sons from his first marriage. One of my half-brothers had joined the German army, unbeknownst to the family. In the early part of 1944, my father received a letter on Nazi letterhead, mailed from Russia where my half-brother was fighting against the Russians. This letter proved to be a saving factor for my family being spared from confinement in the local concentration camp or possible execution. One day the Gestapo entered our home and lined my family up against the wall. A black shirt in our village had informed them that the Sparenbergs were possibly helping the enemy. A black shirt was a local villager who sympathized with the Nazis. It was during this time that my father believed that God spoke to him and told him to get the letter and show them that his son is fighting for the Germans and that they too were in support of Germany. When the Gestapo saw the letter they left them with only a warning. This brought such relief to the family at that time. Several days later they were crawling under the kitchen table as the sound of V2 rockets could be heard whistling overhead. Several months later the Gestapo came back again looking for my father's other son who they found out had become a Merchant Marine, the opposite of his brother who had joined the Germans. This son was moving supplies throughout the North Sea from England to France. My father was well aware of the dangers connected with war. In WW1 in 1917, he had patrolled the Dutch and Belgian borders on a Harley-Davidson for the Dutch Army in search of deserters between the two countries.

I sometimes reflect back on my brothers' experiences, one of which was trying to take a 50 caliber machine gun out of a B17 which had crash landed in our village and their failure to do so. However, my oldest brother, Alex, managed to crack off pieces of the cockpit window and carved little B24s out of them which he still has to this day on his living room mantel. In a recent phone conversation with my oldest sister, Betsy, who is now 82, I told her about the men I am working with and the article



Bob Sparenberg at age 6, 1952.

that I was writing. She said, "Robert, to this day I still have fear. When I see a black PT Cruiser, my mind goes back to the Gestapo who had black sedans with the SS sign and the swastika." They were the ones who assisted in putting Jewish families from our village, as well as our Jewish neighbors, onto the boxcars which were on the tracks directly across from our home. In the summertime it was hot and humid and there would be days and sometimes weeks with no power. My family would sleep with mosquito nets over their beds. My sister remembers early one morning being awakened by the sound of a German bayonet ripping through her net to see who was sleeping in the bed. They were making sure no Jewish children were being hidden with the local villagers.

One day, the talk in our village was the Americans had entered the Ardennes and were pushing their way into the Bulge. With Providence on the side of America, the German war machine was running out of fuel and ammunition. They were able to secure approximately 50,000 gallons of fuel from the American fuel depot but this was not enough to feed the thirsty armored division. This could have been a turning point of Germany's success. After our village was liberated by British soldiers, many of them stayed by combat ready, to assist if needed, in the Bulge. (I was named after one of those British soldiers, Robert Seaman.) The impact of the American soldiers fighting in the Bulge was a crucial point in the history of WW2. It was truly the final liberation of the Belgian Ardennes. It left a deep thankful spirit in the hearts of the Belgian people who consider the Americans their heroes. And this thankfulness is celebrated every year since the Battle of the Bulge. Growing up in a grateful family, my passion has been to meet the men who fought those eighty kilometers from our village.



Bob Sparenberg's father Hendrik Sparenberg on his Harley in 1917.



(Above photo): BOBA Veteran Member Homer Cox, 2 INF, 9 INF REG, 1 BN, SERV CO, as a young soldier.
(Right photo, L-R): Homer Cox, Carmen Gisi, and Richard "Tex" Stanley.



Five years ago, I received a call from my son who was working at a Senior Center in Texas. He had just finished taking the blood pressure of a 90-year old 3rd army anti-aircraft gunner who was stationed in the Luxembourg Ardennes. Soon after he called me, I was introduced to Richard "Tex" Stanley. Richard was nicknamed "Tex" by General Patton and had survived 6 major battles of WW2. This began a friendship and camaraderie that fueled a passion for meeting other veterans who fought in our little country. I soon discovered I can find them by daily looking, in my travels, for those older men who proudly wear their WW2 Veteran hat, which sets them apart from the crowd. Among them is Ralph Garrett, Sr., age 94, of the 106th infantry. Ralph, another Texas native, came to my attention in a Walmart, wearing a WW2 hat, which invited an introduction on my part. "Thank you for your service, sir! Pacific Theater or European Theater?" This always leads into an interesting conversation which ends up in a lasting friendship. In a recent get together of these vets, I introduced Ralph to D-Day +1, 2nd Infantry, 9th regiment, 100-year old, Master Sergeant Homer Cox. They had never met before and yet on December 16th and 17th of 1944, the 2nd Infantry crossed paths with the 106th. They shared a lot of stories after shaking hands that day.

I am privileged to attend once a month in Ft. Worth, Texas, a Veterans' luncheon, called "Roll Call". When my veterans are able to attend, I take them to this free luncheon where as many as 70 plus WW2 veterans and their families attend, along with other veterans. I was honored to speak to this group and asked for a show of hands of those men who fought in Belgium. A number of hands went up and after finishing I had the joy of meeting a number of new friends. Among them is Carmen Gisi, age 94, 101st Airborne Division. Carmen had been back to Bastogne on a number of occasions, by invitation. Again, this Belgian boy felt so privileged to be able to sit down and eat with these men and also call them his friends. And I always tell them in leaving that I am here because they were there.

At 72 years old, each day that goes by is one that I enjoy here in America because they were there in that last great battle which ended the terror of that era and provided the freedom for the whole world to enjoy. Today, my wife and I have made it our mission to seek and to thank the men whose boots plowed the snow and the mud of the Ardennes. Thank God for the American soldier.

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



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Or call: 703-528-4058

BULGE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION'S 2017 PERSON OF THE YEAR HONORS AWARD

At our Bulge Commemorative Banquet in Arlington VA, December 2017, our Immediate Past President & Chairman of the Board Alan Cunningham was presented with the "2017 Person of the Year Honors Award" by the Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation. This award nomination is done in secret, and was a surprise to us all. Congratulations to Alan for a job well done! The printed citation reads, in part:

2017 HONORS AWARD

Presented to

Alan R. Cunningham

Past President & Chairman of the Board
of the Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc

CITATION

"The Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation presents a 2017 Person Of The Year Award to an outstanding contributor to the historical aspects of the Battle of the Bulge, and the Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc. and the promotion of that organization. This citation is



BOBA Immediate Past President & Chairman of the Board Alan Cunningham, and the 2017 Person of the Year Honors Award he received from The Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation.

made to Alan R. Cunningham, an outstanding member, and the first Associate to serve as president of the Battle of the Bulge Association.

As trustee, he took on the task of promoting the Battle of the Bulge at the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center at Fort Henning GA, to show the special film on the Battle of the Bulge to Basic Trainees, and for free to the public on special occasions. Through his effort, he also got the Battle of the Bulge more prominence there, as he did in discussions in early planning at the U.S. Army Museum, now being built at Fort Belvoir VA.

As Vice-President, he had been instrumental in bringing the BOB

reunion to areas of the country to provide knowledge of the organization, promote camaraderie, and seek new members.

And as President [and Past President in the] past couple of years, seeing a need to preserve the VBOB, he has worked to reorganize the organization, due to the loss of so many veterans, to the Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc. (BOBA) to satisfy the IRS, and to preserve the continuance of the BOBA as to honor the deeds and sacrifices made by those who fought in this greatest of all battles of the

US Army. Even to this day, he has used his contacts in the Pentagon to keep the memory of the Battle foremost in the history of the Army. He is always promoting BOB.

He is willing to take on any task that is requested of him, quietly accomplishing it without hope of recognition.

For his initiative and his dedication, for his efforts to preserve the memory of those who served in the Battle of the Bulge and in World War II, for his promotion of the Battle of the Bulge Association and its efforts, and for keeping these memories alive, it is with great pleasure and deep gratitude that the Foundation presents this 2017 Person of the Year Award in recognition to Alan R. Cunningham on the 73rd Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge Dec 16, 2017."

The citation is signed at the bottom by Col Kent Menser, President, and John D. Bowen, Treasurer, of the Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation.

—Submitted by Tracey Diehl,

BOBA Recording Secretary and Bulge Bugle editor

BLAST FROM THE PAST



WWII poster from the Office for Emergency Management, War Production Board (01/1942 - 11/03/1945). Image source: U.S. National Archives and Records Administration via Wikimedia Commons.



NORTH PLATTE CANTEEN SERVED WWII SOLDIERS

The North Platte Canteen (also known as the Service Men's Canteen in the Union Pacific Railroad station at North Platte) was a railroad stop manned by local citizens of North Platte, Nebraska, United States that operated from Christmas Day 1941 to April 1, 1946. Its purpose was to provide refreshments and hospitality to soldiers who were traveling through the area on the way to war during their ten- to fifteen-minute stopovers. It was located along the tracks of the Union Pacific Railroad.

BEGINNINGS

The history of the canteen can first be traced back to December 17, 1941. Just ten days after the Attack on Pearl Harbor, men of the 134th Infantry Regiment of the Nebraska Army National Guard were on their way from Camp Joseph T. Robinson near Little Rock, Arkansas to an unknown destination. Rumor had it that the train would arrive at 11, but by noon it hadn't shown up. After another false alarm, the train finally rolled in around 4:30. By this time, at least five hundred relatives and friends of local servicemen showed up at the depot.

Eventually the train arrived and the crowd cheered, but they weren't members of the 134th. The crowd gave the soldiers the gifts and food that was originally meant for their own sons and wished them off.

The reason that the train stopped in North Platte was because the town was a designated tender point for steam trains. Stopping the train allowed for the train crews to re-lubricate the wheels, top off the water levels in the tanks, and other things for maintenance of the locomotive. This practice continued until the Union Pacific Railroad switched to diesel locomotives.

Of the group of people that were originally at the depot on the seventeenth, twenty-six-year-old Rae Wilson, a drugstore sales girl witnessed the hospitality. Her brother supposedly was to be on the troop train as a company commander. As she walked away from the train that evening, she had an idea to meet all the trains that went through North Platte and give the soldiers the same type of send-off. The next day she suggested that the meeting of soldiers become a permanent occurrence.

Calls to merchants came with requests for cigarettes and tobacco, while housewives were asked to contribute cake and cookies, with attempts to get the younger women to hand out the gifts and keep conversation up with the soldiers. The first meeting was held on December 22 for the canteen committee. Three days later, on Christmas day, the next train pulled into the city, surprising the young men who were expecting just another boring stop.[4] At first, the women worked out of the nearby Cody Hotel. They were later allowed to move into a shack by the side of the tracks by the railroad company when a woman became friendly with the president of the Union Pacific. Eventually the movement grew and people from multiple organizations in surrounding communities began to contribute.

After a while, the women began to serve a thousand men a day, with those who were celebrating a birthday getting their own cake and a singing of "Happy Birthday". Once a serviceman lied about his birthday but gave his cake to a boy suffering from polio after becoming grief-stricken.

DONATIONS AND SUSTAINMENT

Over one hundred and twenty five communities donated their time to work at the canteen. Some people traveled as far as two hundred miles to take turns on regularly appointed days. The groups also took responsibility in supplying food for the day. If a group was too small, multiple



The Lincoln County Historical Museum now houses the famed North Platte Canteen, which served over six million WWII servicemen and servicewomen who traveled through Nebraska on the railway.

ones would band together and help fulfill the daily requirements. Benefit dances, pie socials, and other activities were held to also help raise money for the canteen. Even the youth contributed to the workload, cleaning floors and raising money in all ways possible to support the troops. One girl remembers writing their addresses onto the packaging of popcorn balls so that the troops would have someone to write to. One twelve-year-old boy even sold his pets, toys, and the shirt off his back and donated the money to the cause. Even the railroad got into the giving by donating a dishwasher and coffee urns.

KINDNESS

The women at the canteen went to great lengths for the servicemen. Those who worked at the desk would write cards and letters as well as send telegrams for servicemen who wouldn't otherwise have time to do so. They even wired for flowers and sent gifts on special occasions. When a service member would call home and confuse the operator because of the hurry that they were in, a woman would help step in and clear up the confusion.

Women also were working on the platform, distributing the basics of fruit, matches, and candy bars for those who were unable to go inside. One of their most important jobs were to answer questions, including those surrounding the canteen and the basics of the North Platte and Nebraska. Another important job was to tend to those on the hospital trains who were unable to enter the building. The men on the trains were naturally treated the same as those who went inside. Magazines, religious literature, and decks of cards were also distributed to the servicemen on the trains. If they were unable to disembark from the cars, women would walk up and down the aisles distributing goods or hand up materials from the ground to the windows.

DECLINE

At the end of the war, the canteen continued to operate as men were returning home. Eventually it closed on April 1, 1946 having served over six million servicemen and women. Sixteen trains were scheduled on the final day and regular Monday workers were in charge along with Lutheran Church women from North Platte, and Gothenburg, Nebraska. They would work from five in the morning until midnight, as they wouldn't know when the troop trains would come through as it was secret. Food was also donated during a time of rationing so that the soldiers could experience a taste of home of sorts.

—Excerpted from Wikipedia
For more information about the canteen, go to: www.lincolncountymuseum.org/the-story-begins

FINDING MY FATHER'S WAR (PART 2)

by Thea Marshall, Member
& BOBA Public Relations Officer

This May 2016 query letter was written by Ann Hall Marshall, Capt. Robert T. Marshall's wife of over 50 years, and my Mom. Sadly, my mother didn't live to see this book (*Healers and Heroes*, publication pending) come to fruition—she died in August, 2016.

Ann Hall Marshall wrote:

"During WWII, while all around them men were killing and being killed, soldiers in the front-line aid station risked their lives to rescue GIs lying wounded and helpless on the smoking battlefield.

When WWII began, Robert Thomas Marshall (1919-1996) was drafted as a buck private during his first semester of graduate school. Four years later, he was discharged as a captain, with a Silver Star, Purple Heart, and four battle ribbons including the Battle of the Bulge. He was a medic in General Patton's third army.

I have the large, annotated maps on which my husband marked their route.

On his own initiative, my husband kept a log of what went on in the aid station. Surprisingly, that included an overseas romance. Dr. Andy Dedick, commanding officer of the aid station, married Lt. Kate Golden, a nurse from the field hospital. Bob was best man.

I am 95 years old. My daughter, Thea Marshall, and I will soon publish a book titled *Healers and Heroes*. I will send you a copy. If this is of interest to your (magazine, program, newsletter) please contact me for further information."

* * *

Although I live in Hawaii and my Mom was in Maryland, we were in close communication about the manuscript development. She advised, informed, and collaborated extensively—I did the legwork, naturally!

Mom found great pleasure and purpose in developing this compelling project that was so dear to her heart. As you can see from the above query, my mother was a fabulous writer (published in her own right!) and in full command of her mental faculties to the end.

Despite many hurdles, it's a wonderful privilege to continue with the plan that my Mom and I undertook together. I miss her terribly, but



Robert T. Marshall,
26th (Yankee) INFD,
328th INF REG, 1st BN

I am working hard to fulfill my promise to her and will soon publish my Dad's front-line account (written post-hostilities in Czechoslovakia, using logs, maps, notes and first-hand accounts).

A bit of further background:

Capt. Robert T. Marshall served with the 26th (Yankee) Division, landing on Utah Beach in September of 1944. They joined the Battle of the Bulge on December 20, 1944.

My father's duties included scouting strategic locations for their Division's medical aid stations, then setting up the "facility" in preparation for upcoming

battles. As is evident from his own self-deprecating narrative, Dad also rescued wounded soldiers, planned evacuation routes, and organized and carried out a plethora of related actions that advanced the war effort.

My father was wounded and evac'd in late March, 1945—he and his comrades received treatment for their wounds by a medic on the scene, and were then transported to the very aid station they had set up earlier that day at Grossauheim. S. Sgt. Walter German generously contributed to the narrative, filling in the rest of the story until VE Day.

Following is an excerpt by my Dad from the forthcoming book, *Healers and Heroes*:

CHAPTER 2 – HOW A JEW HELPED A NAZI

At this time, the regimental aid station was set up only a mile or so behind us on the road leading out of Bures. The crew had dug themselves into the side of the hill, and I know this was the first and last occasion on which they soiled their lily-white hands by digging foxholes. (In all fairness, we soon broke ourselves of the habit as well.) Lieutenant Markham was one of our few casualties when a chunk of masonry dented his scalp during some excitement in the town of Coincourt, where Charlie Company was holding court.

From this area we moved into Rechicourt to relieve the 2d Battalion. This was on November 1, and from the moment we landed, things began to happen. "Coke" and I spent the best part of the day reconnoitering the companies' positions. Able Company was to take over the southwest slope of Hill 264 and Baker the southwest slope of Hill 253; the Heinies provided occupation forces for the other sides of these respective mounds, while the hilltops made a suitable no-man's land.

* * *

The enemy was also in Bezange-la-Petite. That day was foggy, so we had no trouble contacting Lieutenant Lehrman of Fox Company and Captain Carrier of George Company, which Baker and Able were relieving respectively. The route to Able would be good: a straight road almost to the company CP. However, the one to Baker involved a bit of cross-country work as well as a good sense of direction. The line companies were not to make the switch until after dark, but we made the aid station swap in the afternoon. We had a couple of downstairs rooms for the station, while the gang slept in the attached barn.

The fireworks started shortly after dark when George Company, which had not yet been relieved, called to say they had a couple of casualties. We went out to find Lieutenant Randazzize (who had been in charge of the officers' mess at Fort Jackson) shot through the ankle, as well as a couple of enlisted men who were even worse off.

We had gone at first to the George Company CP, but they had not only failed to furnish us guides to (or at least a faint idea of) where the casualties were, they also had moved one of the wounded from the spot where he was hit (fairly close to the evacuation route we had planned) to their own ammo dump, which was quite a piece out of the way. I naturally blew my stack, but we finally wandered all over the damn hill and got everybody collected and started back. During the whole trip back, the least injured of the three was hollering like a stuck pig, until I felt sure the Heinies up the road thought Ringling Brothers' circus was headed for Bezange-la-Petite. Somehow we managed to get back without drawing any enemy (or friendly) fire.

The next night we got a call from Able and went out to find that a shell had landed in T/4 Joe Cabral's foxhole. He was one of the aidmen with Able. We dug him out and brought him back to the aid station, but he was dead when we got there (and probably had been when we picked him up). Friday night T/4 Bill Market, a Baker aidman, got a



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.

shell fragment in his scalp, so we drove out and picked him up. Larry Honaker from the station went out to Baker as a replacement.

During the time we were at Rechicourt until the attack on November 8, a few odds and ends cropped up to keep us amused. Father Bransfield was staying with us and celebrated Mass each morning in the sacristy of the village church. Indeed, the sacristy was about all that was left of the church. Andy and I went out to pay a social call to Baker Company, and spent most of the trip hitting the dirt when a machine gun opened up nearby. We later discovered that it was a Dog Company gun firing from Hill 296 over our heads into Bezange.

Organizing himself into a one-man commando unit, Maj. Swampy Hilton went out to blow up a German artillery piece that stood between the lines in Baker Company's sector. He came back and gave a glowing report of the success of this mission—how he had crept under the very noses of the Germans, tied dynamite on the gun, lit it, crept back, and watched the gun blow sky high. We later learned that the gun had already been deactivated by the 2d Battalion, while Honaker, who was an eyewitness, told us that Swampy had confined his efforts to throwing hand grenades at the offending weapon from a foxhole within the safety of our own lines.

Morgan Madden and Herbie Scheinberg were given the task of closing the latrine in our backyard and digging a new one, but they got confused, reversed the order, and dug the new one first. It was lucky for them that they did it thus, for whilst they were digging, a mortar shell dropped squarely into the old latrine and obliterated it. The odd part was that neither was injured, although they were within fifteen feet of the explosion. Rechicourt also saw me—after two long, hard, and faithful years—shed golden bars for those wrought of silver. For a while I had gotten to thinking that the damn War Department had decided to let me

remain a second louie for the duration as an awful example to our drafted citizenry not to go to OCS, especially not MAC OCS.

One dark night, Lt. George Winecoff, exec of Baker, came into the aid station humbly seeking our assistance. It seems he was unable to navigate his usual ration route to the company and wanted us to guide him over the one we were using for evacuation—the route we had figured out all for ourselves, and that was a much better one. It tickled us to think that the infantry should come seeking such technical help from the medics whom they usually razzed for knowing so little of such matters. But we pitched in and delivered the rations and kept the gloating to a minimum.

* * *

Finally on the morning of November 8, the 1st Battalion attacked Bezange-la-Petite, which was our small part in the larger picture, the big Lorraine offensive by Patton's Third Army. The medic plan had been figured out long in advance: We would evacuate Able right from Rechicourt and would set up an alternate aid station in the Chapelle St. Pierre, which was only a short distance behind the Baker CP, directly on our route of evacuation. Before daylight on the 8th, Bruegge, Madden, Jenkins, Geisler, German, Scheinberg, and I (along with one or two more) made our way to the chapel. We listened to the artillery preparation and watched the tracer shells from Geydos' 57-mm anti-tank guns sailing through the dawn into Bezange.

The Heinies retaliated in kind, landing several shells within ten feet of the chapel and dropping a portion of its roof on Madden's head, thus giving him his first Purple Heart. But we had gotten our signals crossed and were busily praying to St. Joseph, in whose honor we mistakenly thought the chapel was erected. The saints must have smiled tolerantly at our ignorance and pitched in together to give us a hand, for Madden's scratch was the only one during the counter fire.

Soon the day had come in earnest, and with it the casualties started pouring in. Baker Company's task was merely to clear the Jerries from the other side of Hill 253 and this they accomplished in short order and with a minimum of trouble after the artillery barrage had lifted. The enemy left as many dead and wounded as he had inflicted. We ran the jeep forward to the creek that flowed near the base of the hill and hand-carried the casualties down the hill. Back in the chapel, Bruegge and Geisler were busy passing out plasma and splinting, while the rest of us made it our job to bring them the patients. Lt. Joe Senger, our S-4, dropped in for a visit and was soon put to work hauling wounded from the chapel back to the main aid station.

The trip from the hill wasn't too bad until the Heinies decided to blast Baker from its heights with artillery. A good many shells would just miss the top and would keep on going down into the valley near the stream straddling our evacuation route. Several shells breezed in as we were getting the last of the GI casualties off the hill. One of these chaps had trench foot and exhaustion so bad that two of the boys were carrying him. We hit the dirt, waited for a breathing spell, and then lit out on the double for the jeep before more shells landed. And who should be leading our pack but the crippled exhaustion case—and he beat us all with his shell-inspired sprinting.

Next we turned to the German casualties. It would have done the Jewbaiting Nazi politicians a world of moral good to see Herbie Scheinberg helping one of their fallen warriors across the be-shelled valley floor to the chapel. Indeed, Herbie picked up a hunk of German shrapnel in his arm from a near hit during one of these excursions. It wasn't serious and Herbie kept going, but I still like to think about how I once saw a Jew earn a Purple Heart helping save Nazi lives. That's one for the books!

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 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 _____

Telephone number _____ E-mail address _____

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

Make checks payable to BOBA, Inc. for \$15.

**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]**

STUDENT'S QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

Hello, I am a high school student from New Jersey, and over the past year, I have been interviewing Great Depression survivors, and World War II and Korean War veterans. I have been doing this because I love history, and one day I would like to write a book on the last men and women from these events. I was wondering if there are any Battle of

the Bulge veterans who would be willing to answer this questionnaire about their time in the service? I am trying to find as many veterans from each part of the war as possible.

Please fill out this questionnaire and mail your response to:
Michael Naya Jr, 734 Monmouth Ave, Kenilworth NJ, 07033

1. What is your name? Where were you born? What date or year were you born? _____

2. Where did you grow up? Did the Great Depression affect your family? _____

3. If you walked to school and into town, would you notice others suffering because of the Depression? _____

4. Did you come from a military family? _____

5. Why did you join the military? _____

6. What branch did you choose, and why did you choose that branch? _____

7. Where did you go to boot camp? Did you know what your job was going to be in the military? _____

8. What were your thoughts on the job you were assigned? _____

9. When did you get sent overseas? Were you excited about going overseas? _____

10. What were your specific divisions, companies, or battalions? _____

11. Where were you sent to overseas? What did these places look like when you got there? _____

12. Were you in any other specific invasions or battles before you got to the Battle of the Bulge? _____

13. What were the living conditions like during the Battle of the Bulge? _____

(continued on next page)

STUDENT'S BULGE QUESTIONNAIRE *(continued)*

14. Were there ever any happy moments you had while you were overseas? _____

15. What was your job in the Battle of the Bulge? Did you ever have any close calls? _____

16. What was it like when the Battle of the Bulge ended? _____

17. After the Battle of the Bulge, did you continue to serve in Europe? If so, were you in any particular battles? _____

18. What was it like when the Germans had finally surrendered? _____

19. Did you ever come across any German prisoners during the war? What was your opinion of them? _____

20. Did you stay in Europe after the Germans surrendered, or were you sent to the Pacific Theater? _____

21. When the war ended, what was your reaction? _____

22. After the war, what did you go on to do in life? _____

23. How do you want World War II to be remembered? _____

24. Do you have any additional comments you would like to add? _____

Thank you for telling me about your time in the service, and thank you for your service. I appreciate it each and every day. —*Michael Naya Jr*

PLEASE MAIL COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE TO: Michael Naya Jr, 734 Monmouth Ave, Kenilworth NJ, 07033



VETERAN MEMBER VIDEO INTERVIEWS

Watch our veterans' videos on our website at:
www.battleofthebulge.org, then click on "Video"

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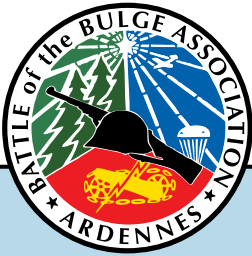
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Veteran membership is for those who have received the Ardennes campaign credit. **Membership** is for relatives, historians or others with an interest in preserving the memory of the Battle of the Bulge. Both have the same rights and privileges. **NOTE: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

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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 _____

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