

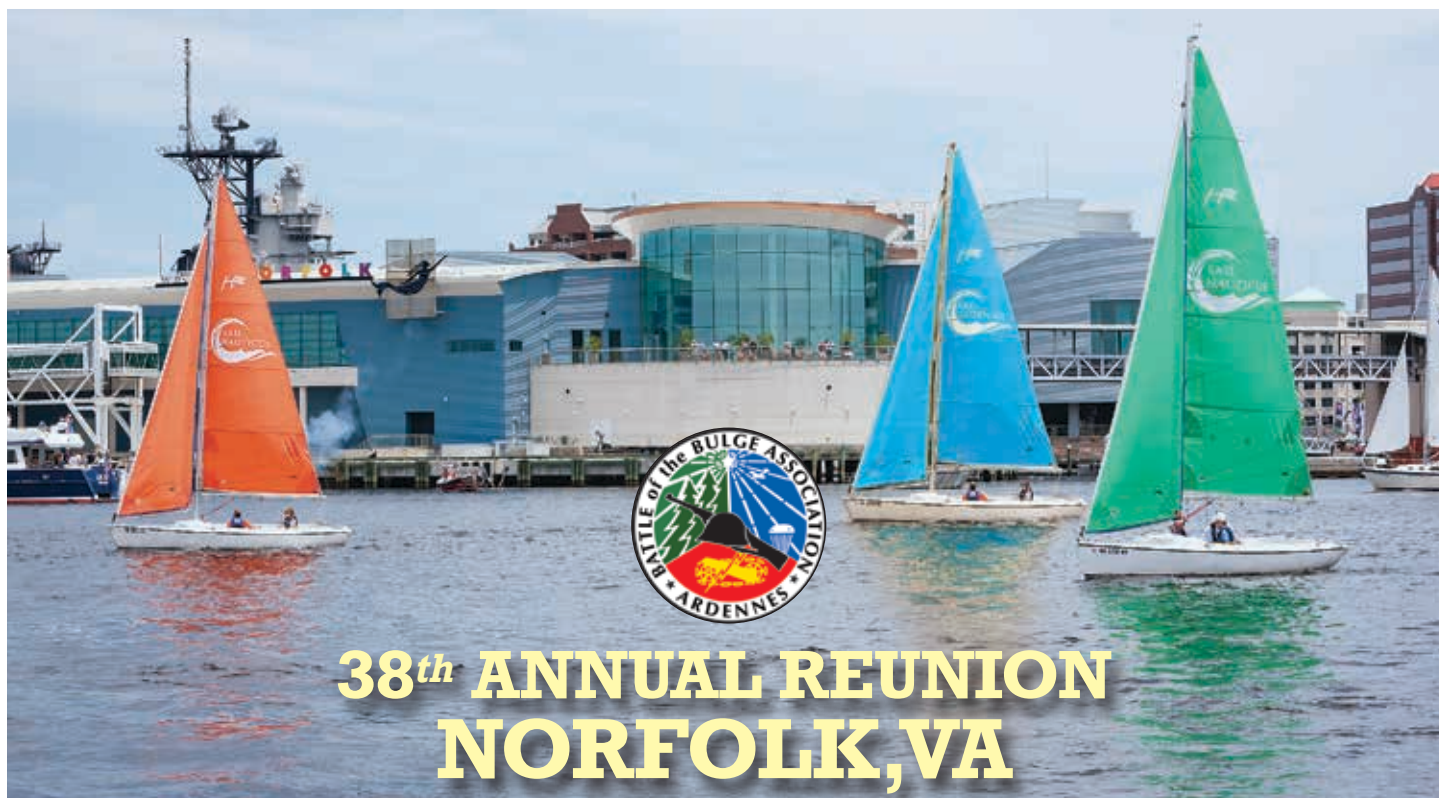
The BULGE BUGLE

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

VOLUME XXXVIII NUMBER 3

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

AUGUST 2019



38th ANNUAL REUNION NORFOLK, VA

October 11 - 16, 2019

See pages 16-19 for full registration details.



Highlights of the reunion
will include: Nauticus (top);
The MacArthur Memorial
(bottom left); and the Military
Aviation Museum (below).



Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 330, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330
(703) 528-4058

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President and CEO:

Gary Higgins

Executive Vice President:

Barbara Mooneyhan

Vice President Membership:

Angela Fazio

Vice President Chapters:

Sherry Klopp

Vice President Military &

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Recording Secretary:

Gail Larke

Immediate Past President and Chairman of the Board:

Alan Cunningham

BOARD MEMBERS

David Bailey, 106th InfD

Tom Burgess, 87th InfD

Tana Van Nice Black

Madeleine Bryant, Chaplain

John Mohor

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President: Kent Menser

Treasurer and Historical

Research: John D. Bowen

PAST PRESIDENTS (VBOB)

Clyde Boden* 1981-84

Robert VanHouten* 1984-86

George Chekan* 1986-88;
2003-05

William Greenville* 1988-90

Darrell Kuhn* 1990-92

William Hemphill* 1992-93

William Tayman 1993-94

Grover Twiner* 1994-95

Stanley Wojtusik* 1995-97;
2005-07

George Linthicum* 1997-99

John Dunleavy* 1999-01

Louis Cunningham* 2001-03

Demetri Paris* 2007-10

David Bailey 2010-12

Douglas Dillard* 2012-14

Alan Cunningham 2014-16

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Attention, Members!

OUR CONTACTS HAVE CHANGED

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Gary Higgins



IT IS TIME AGAIN TO GIVE A big “Hello” and “Greetings,” and well wishes, to all of our BOBA members, as summer continues on. While writing this, I am seeing wet fields and unplanted farmland all around—including our own. As I reflect on what was going on 75+ years ago in the two wars, it makes me wonder how the world, and the people in these war-torn countries, handled the food supply and fed a family. Each of you

know the sacrifices made, and that the US and Allies helped save many lives from starvation. Photos I have seen of Uncle Homer while he was in Belgium and France show farmers harvesting wheat. How much of it was destroyed, or spoiled, or shared, we do not know. Perhaps some of our BOBA veterans can share an experience they had seeing crops planted or harvested? As always, we seek articles for the *Bugle*, and see if you can provide one for an upcoming issue.

The excitement is building for two wonderful events for our membership. The 38th annual reunion in Norfolk, VA happens October 11th through the 16th. Full details are in this *Bugle*, and you must register by September 13th [see pages 16-19]. Many great tours and history will be given. And one lucky veteran will get a chance to fly in a vintage airplane! So sign up, and be ready for a great time with us.

Also part of the reunion is the important BOBA annual membership meeting, with the election of board officers. This is my third and final year [as dictated by our bylaws] as your President

and CEO. [See box below for the list of nominees for the 2020 BOBA Board.] Remember that in order to vote, you must be present at the meeting. So please make plans to join us for all the events, friendships renewed, and the election of officers in Norfolk, VA!

Also, the deadline for our the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge Tour, Dec 10-19, 2019 in Belgium and Luxembourg, is coming up. Go to the website: www.boba75tour.com, then enter password: **boba75** to get all the details [see page 15]. This is the only tour that is fully supported by BOBA and the governments of Belgium and Luxembourg. Another great time, with heart-warming stories and history shared, will be had by all attending. Our 10+ Bulge veterans attending, who we all care so much about, will add a unique and special element!

We have a GoFundMe page to assist more Bulge veterans who want to attend this trip. (We already have the 10 Bulge veteran members promised a free ground trip signed up, with more now on a waiting list!) So please use it, and share it with others. Go to: www.gofundme.com. Then search for: **WWII Veterans-Battle of Bulge Tour**. (The page pictures a monument featuring the VBOB logo.) All donations will go strictly to cover the costs of additional Bulge veteran members to go on this historic tour.

For me, this is very exciting, and a lot of work and planning are being done. As it will be my last function during my tenure as BOBA President, I want it to be fantastic for the veterans, and all our other members as well!

Let's enjoy life, and enjoy reading your new issue of *The Bulge Bugle*. Have a safe and wonderful end of summer. Thank those veterans each of you know, and seek out others to share your *Bugle* with—you might get a new member!

—BOBA President and CEO Gary Higgins

BOBA BOARD NOMINEES FOR 2020

The following 2020 slate of nominated candidates will be voted upon during the 2019 annual reunion in Norfolk, VA. We will be voting on the officers and board members listed below.

Nominations will be accepted from the floor, but must be seconded

OFFICERS

President & CEO: John Mohor

Executive Vice President:

Barbara Mooneyhan

Vice President Membership:

Angelo Fazio

Vice President Chapters:

Sherry Klopp

Vice President for Military &

Veteran Affairs: Allen Cleghorn

Treasurer: Duane R. Bruno

Recording Secretary:

Gail C. Larke

BOARD MEMBERS

David Bailey, 106th Inf Div

Tom Burgess, 87th Inf Div

Tana Van Nice Black

Madeleine Bryant, Chaplain

Steven Landry

Immediate Past President

& Chairman of the Board:

Gary Higgins*

—Submitted by Alan Cunningham,

Nominating Committee Chair

* The Immediate Past President is a Bylaws-required board position and is not part of the voting.

LETTERS TO BOBA

TO FRIENDS OF THE REMEMBER MUSEUM 39-45 IN BELGIUM

Time has flown so fast, and we realize that we need to think about the future of the Remember Museum 39-45. As you all know, we established our museum 27 years ago and officially dedicated the museum in 1994, which was the year of the 50th Anniversary of our liberation by brave American men and women. The Remember Museum 39-45 was founded for the purpose of ensuring that the heroic sacrifice and service of the men and women (and their families) who liberated Belgium and Europe during World War II would never be forgotten.

Our concern, as well as the concern of virtually all of the veterans and family members with whom we have had contact, is that the museum would forever stay in Belgium. Fulfilling that desire would ensure that all the items presently on display in the museum, some left by the 110 soldiers who bivouacked on Marcel's parents' farm before they left for the Battle of the Bulge, and those items donated throughout the years since World War II by Veterans and their families, would never be sold, in Belgium or in the United States. Every item or uniform displayed in the museum has a personal story, and if the items disappear, the stories will also be gone forever.

The best way for us to preserve and assure future stability for the Remember Museum is to make it a part of the King Baudouin Foundation United States (KBFUS). King Baudouin was the uncle of our current King Philippe. The collection would be given to the Foundation, but the Foundation would need to buy our 300 year-old home, and in the future, place someone in our home who will operate the museum

and serve as the caretaker in the same manner that Marcel and I have for so many years.

U.S.-based donors can support our activities in a tax-efficient way by virtue of a contribution to the American Friends of the Remember Museum 39-45 in Thimister-Clermont at the King Baudouin Foundation United States (KBFUS). Since KBFUS is a public charity, within the meaning of Sections 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(1) of the IRS, donors may claim the maximum tax benefits allowed by U.S. tax law for their contributions.

If you wish to support us, here is how to proceed: (1) Gifts by check: Write your check payable to KBFUS, (and) write "Remember Museum 39-45" in the memo section of the check, and send it to KBFUS, 10 Rockefeller Plaza, 16th Floor, New York, NY 10020; (2) Gifts by credit card: Go to www.kbfus.org, click on the "Donate now" button and select "Remember Museum 39-45," listed in the alphabetical listings; (3) Gifts by wire transfer or for donation of other types of property: Contact KBFUS at their email address: info@kbfus.org, or phone (212) 713-7660. Your assistance is also respectfully requested in spreading the word of our planned effort to save the museum for the education of future generations of Belgian, American, and world citizens.

Your gifts will be appreciated and gratefully accepted with our sincere assurance that funds donated will be utilized prudently for the museum's future. We know that all these men and women of the "Greatest Generation," many of whom have already departed this world, would be so happy to know that their Honorable Memory as well as their Legacy of Sacrifice will continue to live on here in Belgium, through the preservation and continuance of the Remember Museum.

Mathilde and Marcel Schmetz
Owners and Curators, Remember Museum 39-45
Thimister-Clermont, Belgium

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

How to submit stories for "The Bulge Bugle"

Please continue to send us your Battle of the Bulge stories. All members are reminded to submit stories about veterans you know who fought in the battle. Guidelines for submitting stories and photos are:

Stories and letters: Please send typewritten (not handwritten) text whenever possible. We reserve the right to edit for length or clarity. Clippings/articles from recent newspapers or other periodicals must contain the name & date of publication, so we can obtain reprint permission. Original stories will be given preference over reprinted articles. NOTE: We cannot reprint from books or pamphlets, unless you are the author. **Stories or clippings will not be returned, so please do not mail originals you want to keep—send legible copies.**

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

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

Send material to: (Preferred method) by email: betsy.boba@gmail.com, or by mail: Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc, P.O. Box 330, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330

NOVEMBER ISSUE DEADLINE: Sept. 13, 2018

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

THANK YOU, BOBA MEMBERS!

The U.S. Memorial Wereth wants to thank all members of BOBA for their support in researching photographs or info on the "Wereth Eleven".

Thanks to the military files received through our friend Randy Fort, and all other info collected, we were able to realize a very special honor to Mathias & Maria Langer and our eleven heroes who died for our freedom.

Even without knowing too much about their private lives, our three Masters of Ceremony, Christopher Lee Stokes, Luka Hennen, Gary Jost with Alessandra Wingtens and the students of Pater Damian School in Eupen, were able to compose a personal narrative about each one.

Commander Hattie Maxwell from National Association for Black Veterans (NABVETS), her husband and Charles Hancock came from the US especially to attend our ceremony.

Additionally David Morgan, Commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars with John Leffler, Joe Holder and Norberto Millet, presented us with the first coins bearing the image of "The Wereth Eleven."

We would like to share this with you and invite you to go to our website, or to our Facebook page, for the program and photos of this great commemoration of May 18, 2019. Again, we say THANK YOU!

Solange Dekeyser
U.S. Memorial Wereth President

To learn more, go to their website: www.wereth.org



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., P.O. Box 330, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330; or by phone: 703-528-4058; or by email: betsy.boba@gmail.com.

We have been notified, as of June 22, 2019, that these BOBA Inc. members have also recently passed away:

Brown, Jack L.	87 InfD, 345 Inf Reg, Co B	Nosanov, Myron	11 ArmdD, 55 AIB, HQ Co
Cupina, John J.	83 InfD, 329 Inf Reg, Co G	Scordino, Francis	42 InfD, 242 Inf Reg, Co B
East, Marvin	10 AAA Gun Bn	Siegal, Calvin	75 InfD 290 Inf Reg, Co F
Fischer, Eugene	6 ArmdD	Sings, Sidney	269 FABN, Btry C
Jakowicz, John F.	9 ArmdD, 27 AIB, Co C	Werrell, Fred	75 InfD, 730 FABN, Co B
Marcheschi, Luigi	423 Med Collection Co	White, Charles T.	35 InfD, 134 Inf Reg, Co D
Meinhart, Vincent	315 Reg, 61 Chem Depot Co	White, Richard J.	666 FABN, Btry B

ATTENTION NEW MEMBERS: BATTLE OF THE BULGE ASSOCIATION OVERVIEW

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BOBA's objectives are to:

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

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

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

BATTLE OF THE BULGE FACTS

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

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

Who: *More than one million men*
• 600,000 Americans (more than the combined Union/Confederate forces at Gettysburg)

- 3 American Armies and 6 Corps (equivalent to 31 Divisions)
- 500,000 Germans
- 3 German Armies and 10 Corps (equivalent to 29 Divisions)

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

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

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

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

A GRATEFUL VET

by Ernest R. Yanke, 76 INFD, 385 INF AT



THEN: Above, Ernest R. Yanke as a young soldier, and NOW, below.



I credit the army with saving my life. Fighting in World War II was the best thing I ever did, since, if not for that opportunity, I am convinced that I wouldn't be here today.

Growing up I had nothing; the fear, helplessness, insecurity and danger of my childhood before and during the Depression were worse than any experience I suffered with the Army. Our German immigrant family of 12 surviving siblings, mom, dad, and maternal uncle never lived in one place for more than a year, and I can name a dozen times I escaped accidental death through sheer luck. Orphaned at age 12 (all three adults in my life died the same year—1933), I was shuttled between well-meaning but desperately poor older siblings, never having a sense of belonging anywhere.

In the 76th Infantry Division I found a home. Basic training was a breeze for someone who'd spent their childhood running from bullies and bootleggers, crawling through mud-puddles and over obstacles, and hiding from inebriated elders while shouted at, derided, disrespected and shamed. I was recognized early on as a gung-ho recruit, and offered opportunities to be a sharp shooter, drill sergeant, squad leader and M.P.

My basic needs were more than met, at last. A clean, safe bed and three squares a day was a welcome relief from scrounging for every bit of nourishment, and waiting in long lines for those government is-

sued cheese blocks and other surplus. As a child, I remember my mom making a meal out of whatever she could scrounge, but in the service I chowed down balanced and hearty meals every day.

I enjoyed the camaraderie of my fellow soldiers. I was one of the youngest in a family of alcoholics, so there were few people I could trust. I was determined at an early age to be a teetotaler and finally that was admired. My buddies hurried to include me anytime they got a pass, as they depended on me to handle the money, drive the jeep and generally make sure we all got back safely and on time.

The Army gave me my wife of 65 years. Sent to Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, for training brought me far from the tenements of New Britain, Connecticut. Early on, I was assigned to smooth out the ruffled feathers

of the local USO, where the welcome had been worn out by our predecessors. Upon entering the hall as the volunteers were cleaning up, I looked across the room and laid eyes on the most beautiful woman I'd ever seen. I crossed that empty dance floor, tapped her on the shoulder and said, "I'm going to marry you.!" She laughed, but 4 years later when I was released from army duties, that is exactly what happened.

Good memories of the 46 months I spent overseas outweigh the bad. Sure, I saw and experienced the most horrible acts man could create by having marched with Patton at the Bulge, returned protesting German POWs to the front lines for prisoner exchange, and been one of the first to open the gates of a concentration camp. Growing up in a ghetto full of immigrants, I had acquired conversational ability in multiple languages. This skill was crucial for prisoner exchanges, interrogations, and good impressions with the locals. Approaching a new town, I was always sent ahead to pave the way, explaining to the villagers in their own language what we needed and how they could help. It made for a better experience for all as we billeted in their homes and consumed their food. Yes, I endured hard times and earned medals for exceptional missions, but mostly I was truly grateful for the opportunity to be part of it.

As I look back on my life of 98 years and counting, it is clear to me that I would not have made it without the U.S. Army. God Bless.

HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT BOBA!

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

If you can print up sheets of cards, email Betsy Rose, BOBA Member Services, to get a printable pdf of 10 cards.

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

Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 330

Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330

703-528-4058 or email: betsy.boba@gmail.com



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



FORT MONMOUTH, NJ (56) LOOKS BACK



BACK TO GERMANY: Hans Rodermann was born a U.S. Citizen. At age 4, in 1939, his father took him to Germany [the photo above depicts them on their way to Germany.] His father was inducted into the German Luftwaffe, and Hans stayed with his aunt and grandparents in the town of Bockhorn, Germany. He saw American planes being shot down, and pilots being marched down the main street and then shot in the forest down the road.

Fighter planes flew overhead and strafed the train station and marshaling yards, with .50 caliber shell casings dropping on his head and the roofs of their houses. His grandfather was the Railroad crossing gate keeper. He said that as the pilots made the turn to strafe the train station, he could see the pilots' faces and they looked back at him. His town was liberated by the British and in 1946, he was sent home on a ship.

In 2007, I took Hans back to his hometown, and we met with 4 of his childhood friends whom he had left behind right after this photo [below, Hans is at far right] was taken.



AULD LANG SYNE: Here are an old photo of our Chapter. We have lost many, with only Ralph Dinin, Bernie Tillis, Robert Godfrey (POW Stalag IV B), Bill Giannico (not attending meeting anymore) still with us. We've lost Col. Sam Warm, Alfred Balestracci, Major William O'Brian, Jim Coughlin, William Schuechart (POW Stalag IV B), Rev. Milton Holmes (Tuskegee Airman)—plus many more who have passed years earlier. I have been attending Chapter 56 meetings since 1999.

—Robert Betz, Chapter 56 Member/Historian



PRESERVING THEIR VBOB FLAG

In April, I went with my grand-daughter to the Bastogne War Museum to hand over the VBOB flag of the 5th Fusiliers Bon – Belgian Chapter. So, it will be conserved and on display there.

As I informed BOBA previously, the 5th Bon had been dissolved after my husband's passing away on 16 December 2018. Only two veterans are still alive—94 years old—and no longer able to assist in ceremonies. [Marcel D'Haese is shown in photo above, center.]

I made contact with the conservator of the museum, Mr. Billa, and he accepted the flag with great pleasure, and said that this is fine recognition we could show to the 5th Bon. of Fusiliers, who had fought with the First US Army during the Battle of the Bulge. Now I am sure that the flag is in good hands and shall be honored forever.

—Christiane D'Haese, Member

WE NEED YOUR CHAPTER NEWS!

Send to: betsy.boba@gmail.com

NEXT (NOV 2019) DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 13, 2019

OHIO CHAPTER (29)

On May 9, 2019, I attended the Ohio Buckeye Chapter (29) meeting in Canton, Ohio. I talked to the group about my Dad, the upcoming Norfolk, VA reunion, and the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. I gave each member a copy of *The Bulge Bugle*, as well as a flag lapel pin. After their business meeting, we had lunch and took pictures of the group. My husband Jim and I enjoyed meeting them all! After the meeting, Sam and Michette Hiett took us to see Ann Kalagidis, wife of the late John Kalagidis, former Chapter 29 president. We enjoyed the rest of the afternoon talking, and looking at photo albums. Ann's daughter Dina provided a very wonderful late afternoon meal before we headed for home.

—Sherry Klopp, BOBA Vice President Chapters



Ohio Buckeye Chapter meeting attendees included Ron & Wanda Duplain, Ilene Hull, Carl Miller, Neal Libster, Bill Pilati, Michette & Sam Hiett, and Louise Chirdon.

VIRGINIA CRATER CHAPTER (43)



Shown at Mission BBQ, Richmond, left to right: Alan Cunningham (BOBA Immediate Past President & Chairman of the Board), Helen Berry, Jayne Sneed, Mary Ann Smith (Chapter 43 President), Malcolm Christian (BOB veteran), Betsy Rose (BOBA National Member Services office), and Scott Cunningham, Alan's son.

The Crater Chapter (43) met on June 11 at Mission BBQ in Richmond. Everyday at noon at Mission BBQ, everyone stands with hand over heart and sings the national anthem, while the American flag is displayed on the flat-screen monitors. It is a very moving experience.

The food is delicious, and they serve a complimentary dessert to every military veteran or first responder. The walls are decorated with interesting memorabilia. If there is a Mission BBQ near you, seek it out!

The Crater Chapter is very honored to have BOBA National Immediate Past President & Chairman of the Board Alan Cunningham, and Betsy Rose, now serving in the BOBA National Member Services office, as two of our members.

—Mary Ann Smith, Chapter 43 President



LEHIGH VALLEY (55) D-DAY PROGRAM

On June 18th, the Lehigh Valley Chapter (55) held their anniversary of D-Day luncheon in Bethlehem, Pa. Associate members Melanie Gray and David Rubin shared stories and photographs of the commemorative ceremonies they attended during their trip to Normandy for the 75th anniversary of the D-Day invasion. Also in attendance were two D-Day veterans, (shown, left) Pfc. Kenneth Happel, who landed on Omaha Beach with the 29th Infantry Div., and (right) Major Nathan Kline, Bombardier on a B-26 with the 9th AF that flew a mission on D-Day.

—Stephen Savage, Lehigh Valley Chapter (55)



SC CHAPTER (7) REMEMBERS D-DAY'S 75TH ANNIV.



Many WWII Veterans, including BOBA members, were in attendance at the SC Military Museum's observance of the 75th Anniversary of D-Day.

On June 6, 1944, (better known as D-Day), the Allied Forces invaded "Fortress Europe" and landed on the beaches of Normandy, France. We all know about D-Day and what happened on that day. Well, June 6, 2019 is 75 years later, and there were celebrations all over the world to commemorate that day.

In Columbia, SC on D-Day + 2, June 8, 2019, the SC Chapter (7) participated with the SC Military Museum to celebrate this 75th anniversary. A great amount of planning and coordination took place in order to make this event happen on this very special day. Our BOBA veterans and associate members were asked to move our quarterly meeting to the SC National Guard Armory, in order to anchor the event.

In addition to our BOBA veterans, all World War II veterans in the Columbia and surrounding areas, as well as their families, were invited. After a brief program, which concluded with a flight of F-16s from the SC Air National Guard, the visitors were invited to view WWII-era military vehicles, over 50 tables of re-enactors in WWII period dress, as well as weapons. Long lines formed quickly in front of the tables where 29 WWII veterans of all branches sat to sign autographs. In fact, there were so many in line, it took 1½ hours instead of the 1 hour previously planned! Even then, the session had to be cut off. Afterwards, a group picture of all the veterans was taken [see photo, top.]

The autograph session was ended so that we could start our quarterly meeting. As stated before, all the WWII veterans and their families were invited to attend our meeting. This brought the number of attendees to over 90! While the meal was being served, Vernon Brantley, one of our veterans, joked, "I always wanted to be served by a two-star General!" Well, his dream came true—he was served by the SC Adjutant General, MG McCarty and his wife. Vern was even served his dessert of pecan pie by the General!

The event was a huge success, with the attendance between 3300 to

3500. It was especially appreciated by the families of some of the WWII veterans, who told me this was the first time their family members had been honored. THAT IS A SHAME! After what these veterans have done for our country, each and every one of them should be honored every day of their lives. Thank you WWII veterans for your service and sacrifice!

—Douglas Patterson, SC Chapter President

TOLLING THE HONOR BELL



BOBA Member Louis Zoghby, 17th Airborne Division, was featured on a local Aurora, Colorado TV newscast. At the "Colorado Remembers" Memorial Day event, Lou tolled the Honor Bell in remembrance of those who have fallen. The Honor Bell is a final salute and tribute to those who sacrificed selflessly by serving our nation. AuroraTV spoke with Zoghby about his time serving and what Memorial Day means to him. To watch the story, go to: <https://www.auroratv.org/video/tolling-honor-bell>

—Submitted by Rebecca Fowler, Member and Chapter 39 Member

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

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

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

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

To make a contribution:

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

Mailing address for checks:

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

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

3. Another credit card option is using a special web link specifically for BOBA donations. Anyone makes a donation via that link will have their donation automatically credited to the BOBA record in the National Army Museum Campaign database. This option is on our website with the following link: *Go to: battleofthebulge.org, search for "The Campaign for the National Army Museum." Then on that page, click on the link: "Donate here to the National Army Museum Campaign."*

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND VISITS



My [Allen Cleghorn's] son Charles and wife Zen visited with Ed Shames (above left, with Mike Thornton, above right) before and during the Memorial Day Parade in DC. Ed is 97 years of age and the LAST living member of "Easy Company" of the 3rd Bn, 506th Parachute Regiment, 101st Airborne Division. (I am sure most of you recall Steven Spielberg's movie "Band of Brothers," which featured the unit.)

Charles Allen (shown far right) with Medal of Honor recipient Mike Thornton. Mike won the Medal of Honor in Vietnam, and was one of the founding members of SEAL TEAM 6. My family sponsored Mike and his wife over the Memorial Day Weekend. What a pleasure and privilege!

—Allen Cleghorn, Member



Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc.

FINANCIAL REPORT *

ASSETS

As of May 31, 2019

CD Accounts totaling	\$96,103.25
Checking	\$7,400.61
Savings.....	\$2,912.68
Total current assets	\$106,416.54

INCOME AND EXPENSES

January 1– May 31, 2019

Income

Donations	\$2,440.50
Interest	\$430.41
Membership Dues	\$6,344.50
Quartermaster Sales	\$777.50
Total Income	\$9,992.91

Expenses

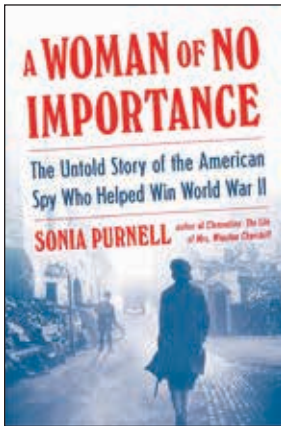
Bugle Publication	\$9,178.24
December Event.....	\$408.36
Postage, Office Supplies	\$1,205.78
Accounting.....	\$1,250.00
Office Administration.....	\$2,218.50
Website and Telephone.....	\$457.93
Annual Reunion	\$379.55
Quartermaster Purchases	\$1,815.00
Total Expense.....	\$16,913.36

Net Income **-\$6,920.45**

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

A WOMAN OF NO IMPORTANCE

By Sonia Purnell



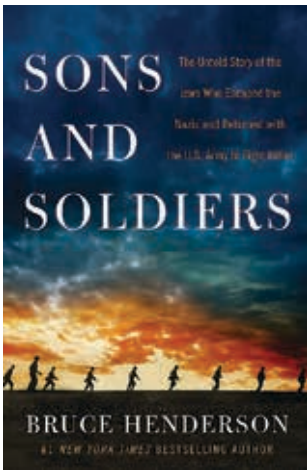
Amazon.com Review: (An Amazon Best Book of April 2019): In this fast-paced biography Sonia Purnell tells the story of Virginia Hall, an American spy who worked undercover in France during World War II for Britain's Special Operations Executive (SOE). Hall's story is a surprising one: she began her life in the United States with a mother who wished for the perfect debutante. Hall, however, was more comfortable studying languages, and found herself living abroad and working for the State Department when she lost half her leg in a hunting accident.

This setback didn't slow down Hall at all: she named her wooden prosthetic Cuthbert, drove ambulances in France, and was recruited by a recently formed SOE as a spy in occupied France. Hall posed as a newspaper reporter, enlisting civilians for the French Resistance and establishing an underground network of allies and becoming one of the most important spies during World War II. Purnell does an amazing job bringing Hall's exploits to life and has crafted a gripping and cinematic biography for an unsung hero of wartime espionage. —*Alison Walker*

SONS AND SOLDIERS

By Bruce Henderson

Reviewed by Carol Higgins, Member



While waiting for a flight to the BOBA Reunion in Colorado Springs last September, I visited the airport bookstore. I was drawn to a book titled *Sons and Soldiers* by Bruce Henderson. The cover read, "The untold story of the Jews who escaped the Nazis and returned with the U.S. Army to fight Hitler." I was hooked. I thought the book most likely would have something about the Battle of the Bulge in it. I was not disappointed. The book held my interest from start to finish. *Sons and Soldiers* tells about 6 boys, out of hundreds, who were Jewish Germans that became "Ritchie Boys." The reader

learns about their German background, how the boys came to America, their Army training, battle experiences, the effects of post-war, and their lifetime achievements. These were Jewish Germans whose lives were totally impacted by WWII.

As I read the book, I decided to write a detailed synopsis of each man. Each man had such an inspiring story. I felt our Bulge Veterans and Bulge readers could really relate to their stories.

Martin Selling: On November 10, 1938, without cause, Germans entered the home Martin lived in with his mother and sister. The family

was taken and Martin ended up at Dachau. When he was released, he was able to get passage to Newark, New Jersey. There he worked in a machine shop and learned English at night school. He joined the U.S. Army Air Corps, but was later sent to Camp Ritchie in Maryland. When he arrived there, he saw men dressed as Germans and speaking German. These were soldiers in training.

Martin went to Europe after D-Day on the British line Andes. Once in Europe, he was assigned to the 35th Infantry Division, attached to the U.S. Third Army. He had to continue training in England. One day his class was interrupted, when the first German V-1 rocket bomb "buzz bomb" hit about a mile from his location.

Martin had assignments while in England, and during the Battle of the Bulge, to intercept information from prisoners of war. Various tactics were used to extract information from prisoners to help with war strategies.

While in Germany, Martin learned that his mother and sister had been shot in Poland at Stultthof Concentration Camp, in the summer of 1942. (His father had passed away before all this from a heart attack).

Martin built a good life in New Jersey after the war. He visited Germany in 1965, but become overcome with emotions when trying to visit Dachau, where he had been held as a boy. He also wrote a memoir, as did several of the "Ritchie Boys."

Werner Angress's family had fled to Holland from Germany. His father had been a banker and had managed to smuggle money out of Germany. In September 1939, Werner left Holland without his family, and went to America through a sponsorship by the famous and wealthy Lewis L. Strauss. Werner came to the United States as a refugee to learn farming and self-sufficiency. The farming camp he was working for had to disband, so instead of looking for a new job, he joined the U.S. Army. When his detachment was singled out as "alien" (most were Jewish), he looked for a way out. He applied to a notice asking for soldiers who spoke a foreign language. He headed to Camp Ritchie's Military Training Center. After a long session of intelligence classes, Werner was finally given orders to go to England, along with 200 other Ritchie Boys.

Werner learned his father had been arrested in Berlin, and had died in prison. He later learned the prison was Auschwitz. He often worried about his family, because he had not received a letter from his mother for 2 years. He resolved to be prepared to fight against the Germans. When he arrived in England, he was asked if he would volunteer for the paratroopers. He said, "No, thank you." Werner was soon assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division, 508th Regiment.

Werner was set to make a jump on D-Day, after a 15-minute instruction and an overview address by General James Gavin. His jump had a somewhat successful landing, but he was off target, because the plane had been hit. The pilot had been forced to go off course. After meeting up with several other paratroopers and being helped by local French farmers, things got worse. Germans detected their location, and made the men to surrender to them. Because of his wounds, Werner was sent to Cherbourg. American troops attacked here, so he was able to rejoin his regiment. Werner continued his assignment with the 82nd. They too were a factor at the Battle of the Bulge. He described constant artillery rounds being fired, digging foxholes in frozen ground and using fir branches for a mattress.

At the end of the war, Werner asked General Gavin for permission to travel to Amsterdam, in hopes of finding his family. Permission was granted. Werner had some good fortune, as he was able to find his mother and brothers still alive. They had gone "underground" in September 1943, when Nazis had ordered Jews in Amsterdam to report to the train station. His family had been aided by the Dutch resistance movement.

Werner Angress went back to Germany to live in 1988. There he died in 2010 at the age of 90. He had obtained university degrees and taught European history. He also wrote several books.

Victor Brombert had lived as a Jewish young man with his parents in France. They had Russian and German backgrounds, and a large family wealth. His father worked hard to get the family out of occupied France to America. They had Jewish family members in America that could help sponsor passage. Victor attended a boarding school, where he did very well academically.

Victor was in dental school during the winter of 1942 when his draft board notice came. Upon graduating at Camp Ritchie, he was given 6 chevrons for his sleeve. He was only 20 years old and already a master sergeant! He was soon shipped to England.

When Victor's IPW team began heavy interrogations of captured Germans, they began going to village inns for firsthand information. The information gathered was reported to VIII Corps Headquarters in Bastogne. Large numbers of German troops, tanks and materials were missing, just over the border. They were capable of attacking the U.S. lines through the Ardennes. So, the battle weary 28th and the newly-arrived 106th Infantry Divisions were placed across the front, parallel to the German frontier in Belgium and Luxembourg. As we know, the Battle of the Bulge began on December 16th, 1944. The casualty rates began to soar once again as Americans tried to hold off the offense. For example, the 28th had been confronted by 2 Panzer tank divisions, 3 German infantry divisions and a parachute division. The weather played a factor with low visibility, heavy snow drifts, and icy roads. Hitler's plan was to break through the Ardennes and capture Antwerp in a week. Hitler thought a surprise attack was a way to a negotiated place to end the war. "This battle is to decide whether we shall live or die."

It was also during the Battle of the Bulge that other soldiers of the 422nd and 433rd Infantry Regiments (106th) tried to hold off Germans under these terrible conditions. Their supplies were limited, the weather was awful and they were outnumbered. Within days, 6,879 men were captured. Some were led to their deaths.

Victor later learned his aunt, who had lived in Nice, had died in Auschwitz, as well as a friend and her daughter. Victor's life was full. He taught for 50 years, and wrote 15 books, including a memoir. He is now 95 years old.

Guy Stern's family was also able to leave Germany pre-war. Before the war, Guy was attending St. Louis University. He tried to join Naval Intelligence, but was rejected because he was not a U.S. citizen. So, he joined the Army. Before finishing his training at Camp Barkeley in Texas, he was sent to Camp Ritchie for Military Intelligence training. Guy too was promoted to Staff Sergeant, but had to go to Fort Polk, Louisiana for two months of more training. Finally, he was off to Europe with 200 other Ritchie Boys, including Werner Angress and Victor Brombert. They were on the *Rangitato*, headed for England in 1944.

Guy Stern was a member of a 6-man team attached to the U.S. First Army under the command of Lieutenant General Omar Bradley. One of Guy's highlights while in Europe was when Marlene Dietrich put on a USO show. He and a fellow GI saw the show, made their way backstage, and convinced her to go to a POW camp that held German prisoners.

Guy Stern visited his hometown of Hildesheim while in Germany. He hadn't been there for 8 years. He found much of it in ruins. The city had been highly bombed by Allies. Jews from Hildesheim had been transported to Warsaw and lived in ghettos. Beginning on June 23, 1942, trains began transporting these people to Treblinka, which was built for the purpose of killing Jews. Many inmates were killed using exhaust fumes from engines.

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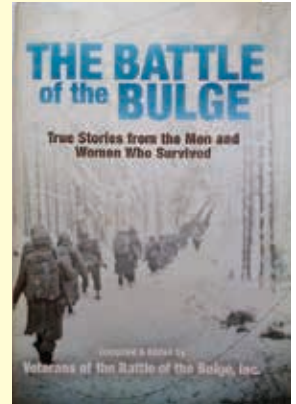
ISBN: 978-0-9910962-3-7

Title: *The Battle of the Bulge:*

True Stories From the Men and

Women Who Survived

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



Guy Stern became a scholar and a professor. He is currently the director of the Henry and Wanda Zekelman International Institute of the Righteous at the Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Campus in Farmington Hills, Michigan. He is 97 years old. He and all the remarkable men in this book can be researched. Each have other publications either by themselves or about them. As with all our WWII Veterans, let their stories and legacies continue through our voices.

Manny Steinfield was sent to America at the age of 14 without his parents. He lived in Chicago with an aunt, before being drafted in 1943. He truly wanted to do his part in the war effort and get in touch with his mother and sister. He had heard that they had been sent to Lodz ghetto.

After Manny's Camp Ritchie graduation in 1943, he went to England, and was assigned to jump school and the 82nd Infantry Division. His jumps were not always out of a plane. His first airborne assignment was a ride into Holland aboard a "Flying Coffin", an engineless glider. This was part of the Operation Market Garden attack. The glider he was in belly flopped at 100 mph. It was totally demolished. Manny was thrown, knocked unconscious and banged up. Many others were not as fortunate.

Manny became a successful furniture manufacturer in Chicago and retired to Florida. He has 13 descendants, though he was the sole survivor of his people in Germany.

Later Manny Steinfield learned of his brother's demise in Palestine. His mother and sister's demise was at Stutthof concentration camp in 1944, soon after their arrival there. The cause of death was listed as "heart attack".

All the Jewish soldiers in this book survived WWII. They were left with haunting images when their units pushed into Germany. Men like Manny Steinfield were needed at the concentration camps and for interpretation of soldiers who were now POWs. Their greatest tribulations were the horrors they encountered at the camps. After the war drew to an end, and the German people tried to put their country back in order, there were still situations when citizens had encounters that brought back bad memories. There were arrests of former Nazis, SS, and Gestapo as well as trials of such people. Several of the Jewish American soldiers were instrumental in helping with such arrests. Hauptmann (captain) Curt Bruns was convicted by military tribunal for ordering the deaths of Ritchie Boys, Kurt Jacobs and Murray Zappler. Ludwig Ramdohr had been a Gestapo chief at Ravensbruck concentration camp for women. Manny Steinfield was walking down the street in Boizenburg, Germany, when a woman approached him and two other soldiers. She asked them to arrest the man she recognized as

(continued on next page)

SONS AND SOLDIERS (continued)

Ramdohr. He was arrested and later convicted of war crimes.

Stephen Lewy had to grow up in an orphanage, due to the death of his mother, and because his father was unable to properly care for him. He is another Jewish soldier who went to the war in Europe on the *Queen Mary*. He was assigned to the 6th Armored Division. His unit was assigned with keeping updated operation maps showing locations and strengths of all enemy units in the area. The 6th also worked their way into Belgium and were part of the defense efforts around Bastogne.

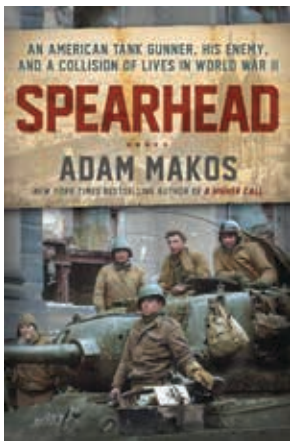
It seemed ironic to Stephen that just years previous, his father had been defending Germany in WWI. Yet, 20 years later, his father had been sent to Oranienburg concentration camp, along with many other Jews and Hitler's political opponents. His father was released in 1935, and then managed to get Stephen out of the country to America. He did not return to Germany until the 1990s. He saw the orphanage where he had spent half of his first 14 years. The Nazis had shut it down in 1942. More than 100 Jewish children and 12 teachers had been deported and murdered that year from Auerbach Orphanage.

This book is well worth the read. It is informative and interesting for any WWII "buff." The reader can really get to know the individuals as sons, soldiers, and men who helped save democracy. These soldiers have so much more to tell.

SPEARHEAD

By Adam Makos

Reviewed by Larry Lewis, Member



Adam Makos is one of today's the best writers of World War II non-fiction. *Spearhead* tells the story of tankers and infantry ("doughs") through the eyes of just a few combatants. Normally, I am suspicious of a writer using conversations and memories from long ago, but Makos pulls it off because of his extensive research and interviews with veterans.

Old war movies and current video games reduce war and death as "clean"—no blood, no pain, no emotions. *Spearhead* is real life. Tanker Clarence Smoyer grieves over the loss of close friends and enemies alike. Much of the book focuses on tank gunner Clarence as he fights his way across Germany. Clarence suffers from PTSD well into his 80s, due to his role in the death of a young female civilian in Cologne. Only by confronting his past later in life, in the company of a former enemy soldier, does Clarence come to grips with his trauma.

Makos also introduces us to German tanker Gustav as he tries to survive through Germany's defeat. Gustav is in a crew of one of three German tankers. The last bridge across the Rhine was destroyed by the retreating Germans, stranding Gustav and his fellow tankers. Gustav faces the impossible task of fighting overwhelming American might and fanatical Nazis' willingness to die for their lost cause.

The war in Europe was won because of the cooperation by tanks and infantry working together. Whether in a tank or on the ground, soldiers had to push past their fears and do their duty, to stay alive and defeat the enemy.

We also follow the exploits of PFC Malcolm "Buck" Marsh. Makos captures the human side of the war in two incidents involving private Buck. Buck saw the helmet of a German machine gunner, aimed his M1 and fired. Later, Buck followed a trail of blood to a basement, where he saw eight dismayed German soldiers huddled around their dying comrade—this is the person Buck had just shot. That image of the dying German haunted Buck for a long time.

Later, near the end of the war, Buck came upon a group of American doughs about to execute a German who they thought was an SS officer. The German SS and tank insignia were easily confused. Buck interceded, when he recognized the German who had earlier prevented Buck's execution while he was briefly held prisoner.

Spearhead is a must-read for anyone wanting to glimpse into the lives of the men who fought to keep us all free in World War II.

Larry Lewis is the author of "*Sadie's Boys*," available from Amazon, the story of his father's and his uncle's times in World War II and the mother who tried to keep them safe.

Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc. PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGES

These proposed amendments to our Bylaws will be voted upon during our General Membership Meeting at our Annual Reunion:

Article 7: OFFICERS AND THEIR ELECTIONS

Under Paragraph A add Subparagraph d. "All elected officers must have been a member in good standing for a minimum of two (2) years before they can assume office on January 1."

Under Paragraph A add Subparagraph e. "To be elected to either the President or Executive Vice President positions, the elected officer must have been an elected member of the board for two (2) years before assuming office on January 1."

Article 8: DUTIES OF ELECTED OFFICERS

In paragraph H change to first sentence to add "At Large" after Members so it reads: "There shall be five (5) Board Members At Large elected to aid in meeting the Board of Directors obligations."

Article 9: APPOINTED OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

Delete Subparagraph 4 under Paragraph A and renumber the remaining Paragraphs. This paragraph pertains to the "Liaison Officer for Military and Governmental Affairs," which was made an elected position and retitled "Vice President Military and Veterans Affairs" in 2018.

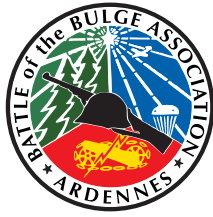
Article 11: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In paragraph A change "immediate past president" to "Chairman of the Board." The Chairman could be another past president if the immediate past president cannot fulfill the duties.

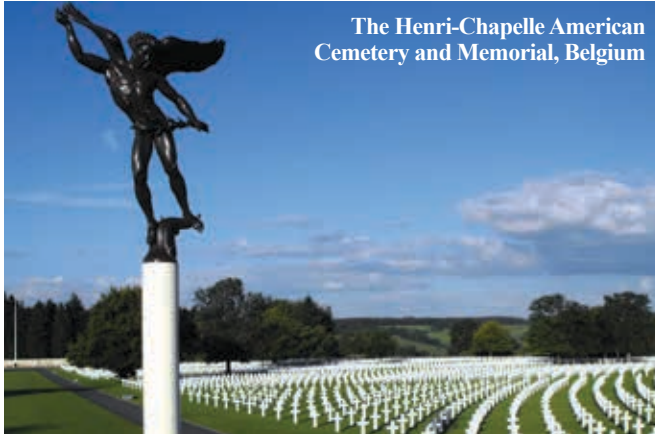
In Paragraph A add subparagraph 3. "Only the elected officers, board members at large, and the Chairman of the Board are voting members of the board. The Chairman only votes to break ties when they occur."

Go to www.battleofthebulge.org for the entire proposed new Bylaws, along with the old Bylaws, on the "About" page.

TOUR



75th ANNIVERSARY of THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE December 10-19, 2019



The Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery and Memorial, Belgium

The official Battle of the Bulge Association approved tour for the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium and Luxembourg has been finalized and is ready for members and friends to book. Our selected tour company is very experienced in tours of this nature in France, Belgium, and Luxembourg. The details of the trip are available on the website: www.boba75tour.com. Once at the site, you will need to enter the password: **boba75** to see the information about the tour and the registration form.

We want to let you know that there are a lot of tours during the Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, but this tour is the only official tour that is being fully supported by the governments of Belgium and Luxembourg. After returning home, we would not want you to have buyer's remorse from booking another tour and finding out that you did not get what you expected.

Our tour company had made arrangements for the first 10 Battle of the Bulge Association WWII Veteran Members to get their ground tour package paid in full! We now have *more than 10* WWII Veterans who would like to go, so we have set up a GoFundMe page to get all their ground expenses donated. (This means that WWII Veterans will only be responsible for their airfare.) If you would like to help these fine WWII veterans take the trip, go to: www.gofundme.com; search for "**WWII Veterans - Battle of Bulge Tour**".

Here is the basic information about the tour:

The arrival in Europe will be on 10 December 2019 in Paris. You will be transported to Reims, where you will get a tour of the city, starting at the location where General Jodl surrendered the German Forces to the allies. You will then have time to recover from your trip, as we spend the night.

The next day we will travel by motorcoach to Spa, using the

same road as the 82nd Airborne in their deployment from Reims area (Sissonne & Suippes), seeing "Parker's Crossroads," La Gleize and the December 44 Museum. We will be staying in Spa for 4 nights, so you can unpack and enjoy the local area on your time off.

We will also be visiting St. Vith - Kampfgruppe Peiper Route, US Cemetery Henri-Chapelle, and the Remember Museum 39-45, owned by Marcel and Mathilde ("M & M"), who are looking forward to seeing all of their friends from the Battle of the Bulge Association, and finally, Bastogne.

After our time in Spa, we will be traveling to Luxembourg City for our next 3 nights. On the way we will be stopping in Houffalize/Clervaux/Diekirch/National Military Museum. Again, there will be time off to relax and shop in Luxembourg City.

On 16 December we will spend the day visiting and participating in the many activities commemorating the 75th anniversary of the battle. Our day ends at the cemeteries of American and German forces. After participating in many events on 16 December, we will spend a day to relax and shop at your leisure. This also provides time for special events for those who are interested.

We then say farewell to Luxembourg as we tour the German fortifications of the Siegfried Line, and we drive on to a typical German lunch in old town Frankfurt. After spending one night in Frankfurt, we will be returning to the United States on 19 December.

The tour operator has a lot of flexibility for those who would like to arrive in Paris early to see the city, or stay late for more time in Frankfurt. Just let them know and they will be happy to make the



Clervaux, Luxembourg

Price for [Non-WWII Veteran] Members for the 10-day tour is just \$3,495!
For more information, go to: www.boba75tour.com, enter password: boba75
Call: 844-276-1611 or email: info@ddmtusa.com



WELCOME TO NORFOLK, VA

BATTLE OF THE BULGE ASSOCIATION 38th ANNUAL REUNION

October 11 - 16, 2019

HIGHLIGHTS AND SCHEDULE INFORMATION

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2019

Registration opens in the afternoon. Complimentary Wine and Cheese Reception in the Claremont hospitality room in the evening.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2019

Board the motor coach with your tour guide to get acquainted with the Coastal Virginia area! Enjoy beautiful views of the Atlantic Ocean and the Chesapeake Bay, as you learn about the history of Virginia's largest city. See the first **Landing Cross at Cape Henry** where the English colonists first came ashore in 1607, prior to settling at nearby Jamestown. Walk out on the overlook to see where the bay and the ocean meet, and where the famous Battle of the Capes took place during the Revolutionary War. View the **Old Cape Henry Lighthouse**, built in 1792, and ride down the resort strip to see the historic **Cavalier Hotel** as well as the **Tidewater Veterans Memorial**.

Visit one of Virginia Beach's most revered attractions, the **Military Aviation Museum**, and explore the rich history through an in-depth guided tour. See one of the largest collections of WWII and Korean War era planes in the world. Feast on a BBQ lunch with all the fixins' as you sit back and enjoy the mellow sounds of a live tribute to "Ol' Blue Eyes" Frank Sinatra!

Following lunch, **One Lucky Veteran** will be treated to a ride in a vintage airplane as the rest of the crowd cheers them on. Who will hold the winning ticket for this once in a lifetime experience?

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2019

Our annual membership meeting will be in the morning at the hotel, with the banquet in the evening. The afternoon is free to explore Norfolk on your own. Adjacent to the hotel is the new **Waterside District**, Norfolk's premier dining and entertainment venue.



Coastal Virginia area (above); Freemason Abbey restaurant (below).



MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2019

Join your tour guide and visit the **Norfolk Naval Base**, the largest naval installation in the world. It is home port to 59 ships, ranging in size from aircraft carriers to submarines, 18 airplane squadrons and headquarters of the Atlantic Fleet. Navy personnel will board the coach and take you past the 14 piers, through the Naval Air Station and the historic homes built for the 1907 Jamestown Exposition on "Admiral's Row," which now house the flag officers.

Next, enjoy an overview riding tour of the City of Norfolk! Learn about Norfolk's colorful history over three centuries as you ride through the lovely historic district. View the homes along The Hague, Old St. Paul's Church, the Moses Myers House, the Chrysler Museum of Art, MacArthur Memorial, the historic Freemason District, Nauticus, the *Battleship Wisconsin*, and the restored waterfront area, as well as many other points of interest.

Enjoy a delicious meal at the charming **Freemason Abbey Restaurant**, housed in a 135-year-old renovated church. The décor is reminiscent of English style pub houses and has a warm, casual yet elegant tavern atmosphere.

Board the ***Victory Rover*** for a delightful

cruise through the bustling Hampton Roads Harbor, one of the largest in the world. Enjoy fascinating and entertaining commentary during the two-hour excursion aboard this naval-themed vessel, including the Naval Base ships as seen from the water.

No visit to Norfolk would be complete without a stop at **Doumar's**, home of the world's first ice cream cone machine. Abe Doumar created it at the World's Fair of 1904 in St. Louis. While at Doumar's, guests will be given an introduction and history, and everyone will be treated to an ice cream cone.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2019

Board the coach with your guide to visit the **MacArthur Memorial** for a **Wreath Laying Ceremony**. Following the ceremony, view the outstanding collection, housed in Norfolk's historic city hall, which traces the life and achievements of five-star General Douglas MacArthur. The General and Mrs. MacArthur are entombed in the rotunda.

At **Nauticus**, experience a unique campus of visitor attractions that explore the economic, naval, and natural powers of the sea. Also housed here is the Hampton Roads Naval Museum, one of ten museums officially operated by the U.S. Navy. The group is to have lunch on their own at Dockside Café.

A true highlight of this visit is a self-guided tour of the ***Battleship Wisconsin***, one of the famous Iowa-class ships. This great ship saw action in WWII, the Korean War and most recently in the Persian Gulf War.

Visit the **Norfolk Botanical Garden**, which dates back to 1938, and is considered a premiere example of horticultural excellence. The garden represents 175-acres of colorful landscapes, unusual flowers, mature forests, and seasonal plantings, and features one of the largest collections of azaleas, camellias, roses and rhododendrons on the East Coast. Enjoy a relaxing trackless train ride—the roses should be in full splendor during our visit!

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2019

Stay for additional days to see the rest of the Norfolk area, or depart for a safe trip home.

BOBA REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION FOR REUNION: **Friday, September 13, 2019**

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 13, 2019**. 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 **September 20, 2019**; cancellations must be made 48 hours before arrival date.)

BOBA registration desk at the hotel (in the Claremont room on the 4th floor) will be open on Friday, October 11, 12:30 PM - 5:00 PM; and Saturday, October 12, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Birthdate and residency required only if attending Naval Station Norfolk tour*.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Birth Date _____

Email _____

Division, Regiments, etc _____

Signature _____

For Naval Station: 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*)

Adult (21 and Over)

Child (20 and Under)

Late registration fee after September 13 - add \$20 per person

No. of Persons

Cost per Person

Total Cost

\$50

\$25

\$20

Friday, October 11, 2019

Evening Wine & Cheese reception in the Hospitality Room

free

Saturday, October 12, 2019

Welcome riding tour of Virginia Beach and Military Aviation Museum Experience
(bus, tour guide, and BBQ lunch included)

\$102

Sunday, October 13, 2019

Cocktail Hour

Banquet (*choose entrees*)

Chicken Piccata

Roast Sliced Sirloin of Beef

Wild Mushroom Ravioli

(Cash bar)

\$45

\$45

\$45

Monday, October 14, 2019

(*Full-day tour*) Naval Station Norfolk*, Freemason Abbey Lunch (*choose entrees below*),

plus Victory Rover Harbor Cruise, Doumar's Ice Cream

\$82

(*Half-day tour*) Naval Station Norfolk*, Freemason Abbey Lunch (*choose entrees below*)

\$62

Choose Lunch entrees (included in either tour):

Seafood Quiche with fresh fruit

Waldorf Chicken Salad with Kettle chips

Abbey Club Sandwich with Kettle chips

Include a cup of award-winning She Crab Soup

included

included

included

\$6

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

(*Full-day tour*) MacArthur Memorial Wreath laying, Nauticus/Battleship Tour,

Lunch on your own, plus Botanical Gardens

\$69

(*Half-day tour*) MacArthur Memorial Wreath laying, Nauticus/Battleship Tour,

Lunch on your own

\$59

TOTAL

Mail this form and check (payable to BOBA) to: Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc., P.O. Box 330, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330

Or, to pay with a credit/debit card or PayPal account, register online at www.battleofthebulge.org, click on "Attend Reunion"

* See page 18 (bottom) for additional notes about requirements for attending the Naval Station Norfolk tour.

2019 BOBA REUNION • NORFOLK, VA

Friday, October 11 – Wednesday, October 16, 2019

REUNION PROGRAM

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2019

12:30 PM – 5:00 PM	Registration open (Claremont Room, 4th Floor)
12:30 PM – 11:00 PM	Hospitality Room open (Claremont Room, 4th Floor)
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Wine and Cheese Reception in the Hospitality Room
	Dinner on your own

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2019

8:00 AM – 11:00 PM	Hospitality Room open (Claremont Room, 4th Floor)
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Registration continues (Claremont Room, 4th Floor)
8:45 AM – 9:00 AM	Bus loads (Entrance on Waterside Drive)
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Virginia Beach, Military Aviation Museum Experience and BBQ lunch
	Dinner on your own

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2019

8:00 AM – 11:00 PM	Hospitality Room open (Hospitality room is closed during the Cocktail Hour & Banquet)
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Membership Meeting (Eppington Room)
	Lunch on your own
5:45 PM	Veteran Photograph (outside Riverwalk Ballroom)
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Cocktail Hour (Riverwalk Ballroom – cash bar)
7:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Banquet (Riverwalk Ballroom)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2019

8:00 AM – 11:00 PM	Hospitality Room open (Claremont Room, 4th Floor)
9:15 AM	Bus loads (Entrance on Waterside Drive)
9:30 AM – 1:15 PM	Naval Station Norfolk*, Freemont Abbey Lunch
1:30 PM	Bus returns to hotel (for those not continuing on the afternoon tour)
1:30 AM – 5:00 PM	Tour continues for Victory Rover Harbor Cruise, Doumar's Ice Cream
6:30 PM	Dinner on your own – or join group to walk next door to Strippers at the Waterside (sign up in Hospitality Room by Sunday afternoon)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2019

8:00 AM – 11:00 PM	Hospitality Room open (Claremont Room, 4th Floor)
9:00 AM	Bus loads (Entrance on Waterside Drive)
9:15 AM – 1:30 PM	MacArthur Memorial Wreath laying, Nauticus/Battleship Tour (lunch on your own)
1:45 PM	Bus returns to hotel (for those not continuing on the afternoon tour)
1:45 PM – 3:30 PM	Tour continues to Norfolk Botanical Gardens
	Dinner on your own

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2019

Depart or stay longer and enjoy the beautiful Norfolk area

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

***PLEASE NOTE:** All guests visiting any military installation **MUST** have a picture ID (driver's license, military ID, passport) and no bags other than pocketbooks or camera cases will be allowed on base. Please ask your guests not to bring any pocket knives, scissors, or nail files with them on tour. All persons are subject to personal search.

Guests from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Georgia, Alaska, California, Montana, North Dakota, Minnesota, Illinois, Oklahoma, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Maine: These states are not compliant with the congressionally mandated REAL ID Act of 2005. Therefore, guests seeking base access from these states will require a secondary form of identification such as a passport, state or local government ID, copy of birth certificate issued in US, Social Security card without restrictions, or Medicare card.

All guests who have medical devices (pacemakers, stents, etc.) which cannot go through a security scanner must produce their medical card related to those appliances or they will not be allowed to continue on the tour.



SHERATON NORFOLK WATERSIDE HOTEL

777 Waterside Drive
Norfolk, Virginia 23510
Website: <https://www.marriott.com/orfsi>
Toll-free: 1-800-325-3535
Direct Line to the group housing
coordinator: (757) 640-2752

**RESERVATION DEADLINE FOR GROUP RATE OF \$119 PLUS TAXES:
Friday, September 20, 2019**

Hotel Information

Norfolk's only waterfront hotel, the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel recently completed a \$13 Million revitalization. Located in the heart of the beautiful Hampton Roads region of southern Virginia, Norfolk, it is a dynamic destination with the best of both worlds: a beautiful waterfront coastline and a bustling downtown area.

ROOM RATE: \$119 single/double/triple/quadruple occupancy plus state and local taxes (current 14% + \$3).

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 Norfolk, please book your rooms early.

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 800-325-3535 or through the group housing coordinator directly at 757-640-2752 and mention that you are attending the Bulge Association (BOBA) 2019 Reunion.

To reserve your hotel room online, go to our website: battleofthebulge.org. Then go to "Attend Reunion" page, and find "Click here to book your hotel room at group rate for Battle of the Bulge." You must provide a major credit card to guarantee rooms.

HOTEL AMENITIES

- Complimentary high-speed internet
- Reduced rate of self-parking of \$8/per car, per day with in/out privileges (persons displaying a disabled parking tag may park in the valet lot at the self-parking rate)
- 15% discount in Waterside Seafood Company restaurant on published food and non-alcoholic beverage prices
- Outdoor, seasonal swimming pool, 24-hour fitness facility, and located on the Cannonball Trail, perfect for walking or jogging along the Elizabeth River
- Complimentary lobby business center featuring internet workstations, printing services and access to complimentary wireless via guest laptops
- Marriott Bonvoy Events Rewards

DIRECTIONS TO THE HOTEL

From the Norfolk Airport (ORF):

Depart the airport and turn left onto Norview Avenue. Turn left onto Azalea Garden Road. Turn left onto North Military Highway/VA-165. Merge onto Interstate 264 West towards Downtown Norfolk/Portsmouth. Exit left at Exit 9 onto Waterside Drive. Turn left onto Water Street. The hotel will be on your left.

This hotel does not provide airport shuttle service, but can recommend one through one of the many transportation companies.

One such company is James River Transportation, located at a counter in the Baggage Claim area (beside door #3) inside the Norfolk International Airport. Website: <https://jamesrivertrans.com/norfolk-airport-shuttle-service/>. Toll-free phone: 866-823-4626.

Driving from East

I-64 East toward Richmond. Bypass Richmond with I-295 South (toward Norfolk/Virginia Beach). Take I-64 East to I-264 West to Exit 284A (toward Norfolk). Follow Exit 9 to Waterside Drive into downtown Norfolk. Turn left at first light on Water Street. Proceed to hotel on right.

Driving from North

Interstate 95 South toward Richmond to I-295 South (toward Norfolk, Virginia Beach). Take I-64 East to I-264 West to Exit 284A (toward Norfolk). Follow Exit 9 to Waterside Drive into downtown Norfolk. Turn left at first light on Water Street. Proceed to hotel on right.

Driving from West

Interstate 95 South toward Richmond to I-295 South (toward Norfolk, Virginia Beach). Take I-64 East to I-264 West to Exit 284A (toward Norfolk). Follow Exit 9 to Waterside Drive into downtown Norfolk. Turn left at first light on Water Street. Proceed to hotel on right.

Driving from South

I-95 North to Route 58 East (toward Norfolk). Take Route 58 East to I-264 East (toward Norfolk). Take the Waterside Drive Exit into downtown Norfolk (Electronic Toll Fee). Turn left at first light on Water Street. Proceed to hotel on right.

TREATED LIKE A ROCK STAR ON NORMANDY TRIP!

by George Merz, 818 MP Co, 8th Corps, and Wanda Stump, Member



George Merz surrounded by schoolchildren—some of his most adoring fans—at a ceremony at the Normandy American Cemetery, Omaha Beach.

I has the opportunity to attend the 75th Anniversary of the D-Day Invasion on June 6. I was escorted by Butch and Wanda Stump of Woodbridge, VA, and sponsored by the Liberty Jump Team/Peter Plank. There were four veterans and five escorts in our group. United Airlines graciously upgraded me and three other veterans to First Class! United gave us a welcoming celebration at the gate in Washington Dulles Airport. The pilots greeted us with a formal announcement aboard the airplane, and Dulles Airport gave us a water cannon salute (both sides of the Boeing 777 aircraft) as we departed for Paris.

Each veteran and escort had their own host family to lodge with. Our hosts were Roger and Colette Delarocque, and their home was a lovely historical chateau which was Roger's family's home. Roger and Colette graciously welcomed us and gave us the most superb hospitality anyone could ask for. We had a scheduled program to follow with the team, and we attended many ceremonies. The team split up so that several villages could enjoy the presence of the veterans at different events.

One of the highlights of events to which Butch, Wanda and I were invited was at the Chateau De Servigny. It was the 75th anniversary Du Debarquement Et De La Liberation De La France Et De L'France with honored guests, Helen Ayer Patton, Granddaughter of General Patton, Susan Eisenhower, granddaughter of President Eisenhower, and

Emmanuel Leclerc De Hauteclocque and Bettina Adenauer. Helen Patton introduced and recognized me at this ceremony. I was also a guest at an elementary school where I passed out badges to the children.

At the ceremony at the 507th monument in Amfreville, we had lunch with the US Normandie Association, and dinner in Carentan. Four Star General Mark Milley, US Army Chief of Staff, spoke and presented each with veteran his General's coin. We watched over 1000 parachutes fill the skies of historic LaFiere drop zone in Normandy France. At 10 am, several C47 Aircraft flying in formation started dropping paratroopers from the Liberty Jump Team and Canopy Parachuting Team, with a crowd of 80,000 people watching. Shortly afterwards, 1000+ active duty military paratroopers from many different countries jumped continually for five hours. All the veterans and I enjoyed each moment, and were greeted by the crowds that gathered for the 75th anniversary celebration.

We attended a mass and ceremony at the historic Angoville-Au-Plain, Basse-Normandie France church. I was the guest of honor at a ceremony at Negreville. Afterward, I visited the children at the Negreville school, where I handed out my badges to the school children. The children's response was something I have never experienced before. I was given pictures colored by them, hugs, kisses, handshakes and many

thank you's for their freedom, and even some tears flowing down cheeks!

Butch, Wanda and I attended a ceremony at the lovely Le Chateau. We were welcomed graciously by Francine Duchemin Noyon and family to their lovely home, where delicious foods and drinks were served. General Gavin's daughters presented a beautiful gift to Francine, and WWII Nurse Ellen Levitsky celebrated her 100th birthday! I was presented a folded flag and certificate at the Ravenoville 44: The Eternl Heroes Memorial by Celine Schwab Lautour and David Ashe. Peter Plank, Liberty Jump Team, presented each of us veterans with a World War II D-Day commemorative medal and certificate.

We attended many luncheons, dinners, and had a delightful breakfast with Helen Patton and toured Camp Patton. One entire afternoon, I sat in the middle of the street at St Mere Église, where people flocked around me for signatures. I felt like a Rock Star!

My trip was incredible, and I was totally shocked by the outpouring of love, support, honor and respect shown to me and all the other veterans. The people were so beautiful, and I will never forget the kindness given to me and my escort. I want to thank Butch and Wanda for inviting me to this lifetime experience, and who took such good care of me! And to Linda and Peter Plank, Liberty Jump Team, for sponsoring me.



Merz contemplating Omaha Beach on the shores of Normandy, where more than 2,000 Americans died on June 6, 1944, now known as D-Day.



On November 11, 2011 these pavers were dedicated at the National Infantry Museum adjacent to Fort Benning, Columbus, GA. If you are visiting the museum, look for our pavers: #3517-3518. (The museum has since switched the pavers from gray granite to black granite, to create a consistent look with the Vietnam Memorial Wall. All personalized pavers purchased will now be etched in black granite.)

NATIONAL INFANTRY MUSEUM ENGRAVED PAVERS

The National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center opened in 2009 with one guiding mission: to honor the legacy and valor of the U.S. Army Infantryman.

Honor a Loved One

Heroes come in many forms, and all deserve a permanent place of recognition on Heritage Walk. Honor a patriot, thank a loved one or carve your own story into the museum's living

archive. Military or civilian, living or deceased, a Heritage Walk Paver, Founders Circle Paver, or Legacy Tree is a meaningful and memorable gift to show your support.

Custom-engraved pavers are a \$250 tax-deductible donation to the National Infantry Museum Foundation. The proceeds go directly to the museum's mission to educate the public about the cost of freedom. Placing a paver will not only help the museum continue honoring

Soldiers, it is a gift that will last lifetimes. Custom-engraved pavers are unique gifts for memorials, retirements, promotions, graduations, anniversaries and more. Heritage Walk pavers are unveiled at dedication ceremonies every Memorial Day and Veterans Day. These ceremonies are a touching experience for friends and families to share.

Please call (706) 685-5813 for details, or go to their website: nationalinfantrymuseum.org.

WALKWAY TO VICTORY: NORMANDY MEMORIAL BRICK PROGRAM

The Airborne Museum's Walkway to Victory Memorial brick program is a special place dedicated to honoring and remembering the veterans who served in the European campaign of World War II (including North Africa). It is a place to permanently express our gratitude for the service of those veterans. Those honored include all branches of the United States Armed Services.

The Walkway to Victory Memorial is located in Sainte Mere Eglise, France at The Airborne Museum, and is dedicated especially as a Memorial to the men and women who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America. Grateful citizens are encouraged to recognize and remember anyone who has served regardless of where they are from or lived. Many will also want to commemorate their own service. The primary goal is to recognize as many people as possible... Lest we never forget.

Note: Proceeds from your Walkway to Victory brick purchase will benefit the Reagan Legacy Foundation and The Airborne Museum to further educational programs honoring WWII Veterans and also go towards funding scholarships for the crew and families of those deployed on the U.S.S. Ronald Reagan.

To learn more, go to: www.reaganlegacyfoundation.org/projects/normandy-memorial-brick-program/

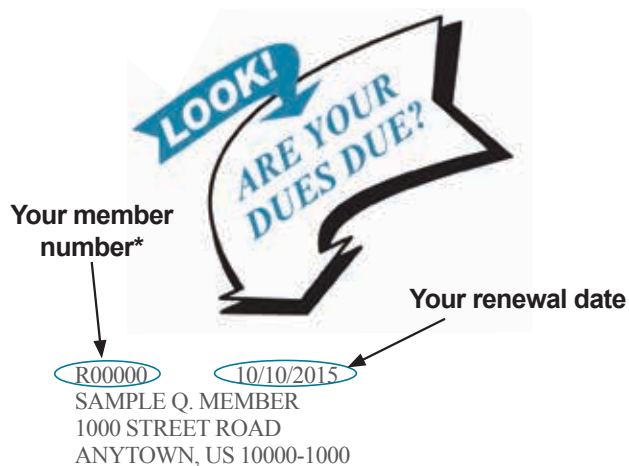


A LCV (Landing Craft, Vehicle, Personnel) from the U.S. Coast Guard-manned USS Samuel Chase disembarks troops of Company E, 16th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division (the Big Red One) wading onto the Fox Green section of Omaha Beach (Calvados, Basse-Normandie, France) on the morning of June 6, 1944. American soldiers encountered the newly formed German 352nd Division when landing. During the initial landing, two-thirds of Company E became casualties.

Photo: Robert F. Sargent/National Archives and Records Administration

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!

DID YOU KNOW?

Bugles Across America is an organization that will provide **free live Taps** to honor any veteran at their funeral service.

There is an easy online request form on their website: www.buglesacrossamerica.org



94TH INFANTRY CENTENNIAL MEMORIAL DEDICATION

by John Mohor, BOBA Board Member

On June 15, 2019, BOBA Board Member John Mohor, with his wife Mandy Mohor, attended the 94th ID Historical Society's 70th Annual Reunion held in Columbus, GA. As part of this year's reunion, the members dedicated their Centennial Memorial to the 94th ID recently installed behind the National Infantry Museum.

The Memorial is uniquely shaped like a triangle, in honor of the Division's hardest fought battlefield in the Saar-Mosell-Siegfried Switch Triangle area where France, Luxembourg and Germany all border. This also honors where 80% of the Division's battlefield casualties occurred during the war.

Five WWII Veterans were in attendance: four from the 94th, and the fifth was the widow of a 94th Soldier. She initially met him, after he was wounded, when she was an Army Nurse.

The current 94th Division (FS) Commanding General and CSM, along with the General's Aide, Public Affairs Officer, G-4, Unit Historian and another CSM also attended. The Keynote speaker was BG Stephen Lacovelli, Commanding General 94th Division (FS).

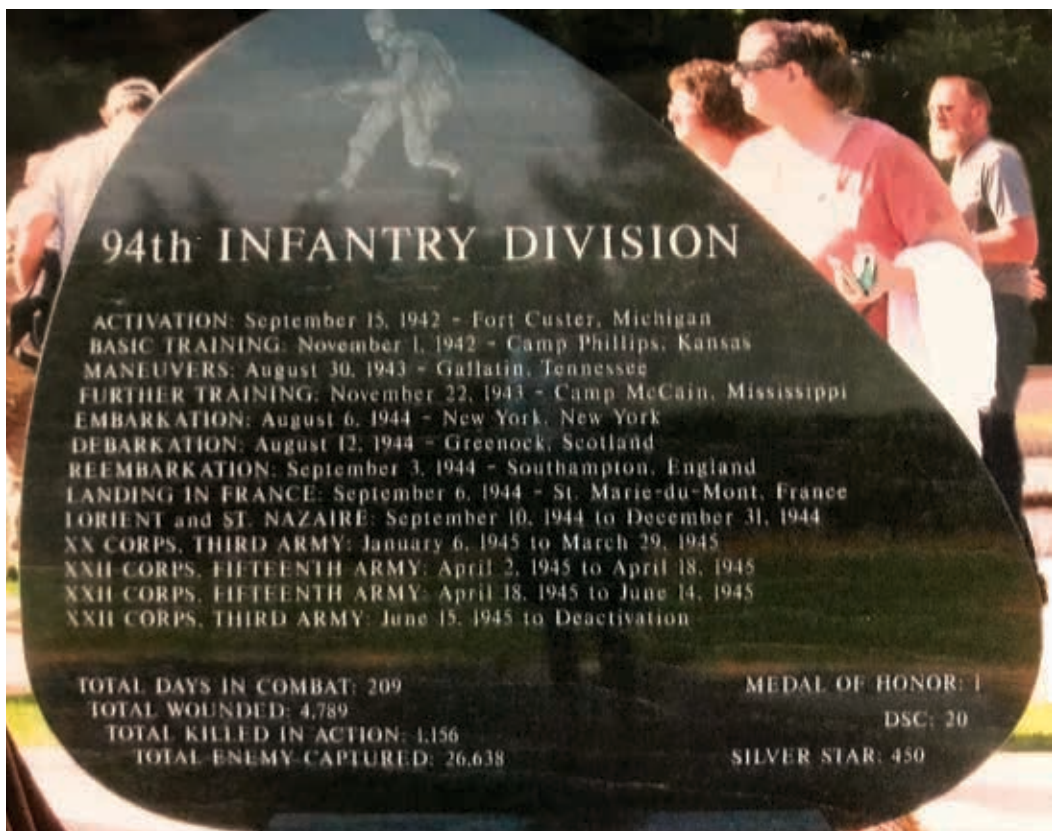
Charlie Brickett, as part of the ceremony, placed his fully-restored WWII Jeep near the memorial. He and his wife towed it down from their home in Seneca, SC. After restoring the jeep years ago, Charlie dedicated it to the memory of his cousin LT Tom Hodges, KIA 17 February 1945. His cousin served with A Company, 376th Infantry Regiment, 94th Division.



The keynote speaker was BG Stephen Lacovelli, Commanding General 94th Division (FS).



BOBA Board Member John Mohor (above) at the 94th Infantry Division Centennial Memorial, recently installed behind the National Infantry Museum in Columbus, GA. The Memorial displays many facts about the 94th Infantry Division's activities during World War II (below.)



FROM FRANCE, THE BULGE, AND BEYOND

by Benjamin Mack-Jackson



Above is a photo of Benjamin Grossman, who served in the 80th Infantry Division, 317th Infantry Regiment during WWII, with a display of his many medals and awards, and below is the documentation of Grossman's Award of Silver Star Medal, dated 16 August 1945.

There are thousands of individual stories of heroism that took place during the Battle of the Bulge, but unfortunately many have been lost to time. I recently had the privilege to study an incredible group of WWII paperwork and documents from 1st Lieutenant Benjamin Samuel Grossman. As a well-educated young American, he kept an intricate record of his service, which was an extremely valuable resource when exploring his story. Now, after several weeks of painstaking research, I am proud to present this account of his WWII service.

Benjamin Grossman was born on August 16, 1914, in Brooklyn, NY, and served in the 80th Infantry Division, 317th Infantry Regiment, during WWII. From its initial creation in 1942, the 80th division was intended to become the frontrunner of General Patton's Third Army in the European Theater. On August 5, 1944, Grossman and his division landed at Utah Beach in Normandy, France. They soon entered combat taking part in the Third Army's dash across France.

HEADQUARTERS 80TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO 80, U.S. Army

16 August 1945

GENERAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 208)

E X T R A C T

II. AWARD OF SILVER STAR MEDAL: By direction of the President, under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, dated 22 September 1943, as amended, the Silver Star Medal is awarded to the following named personnel:

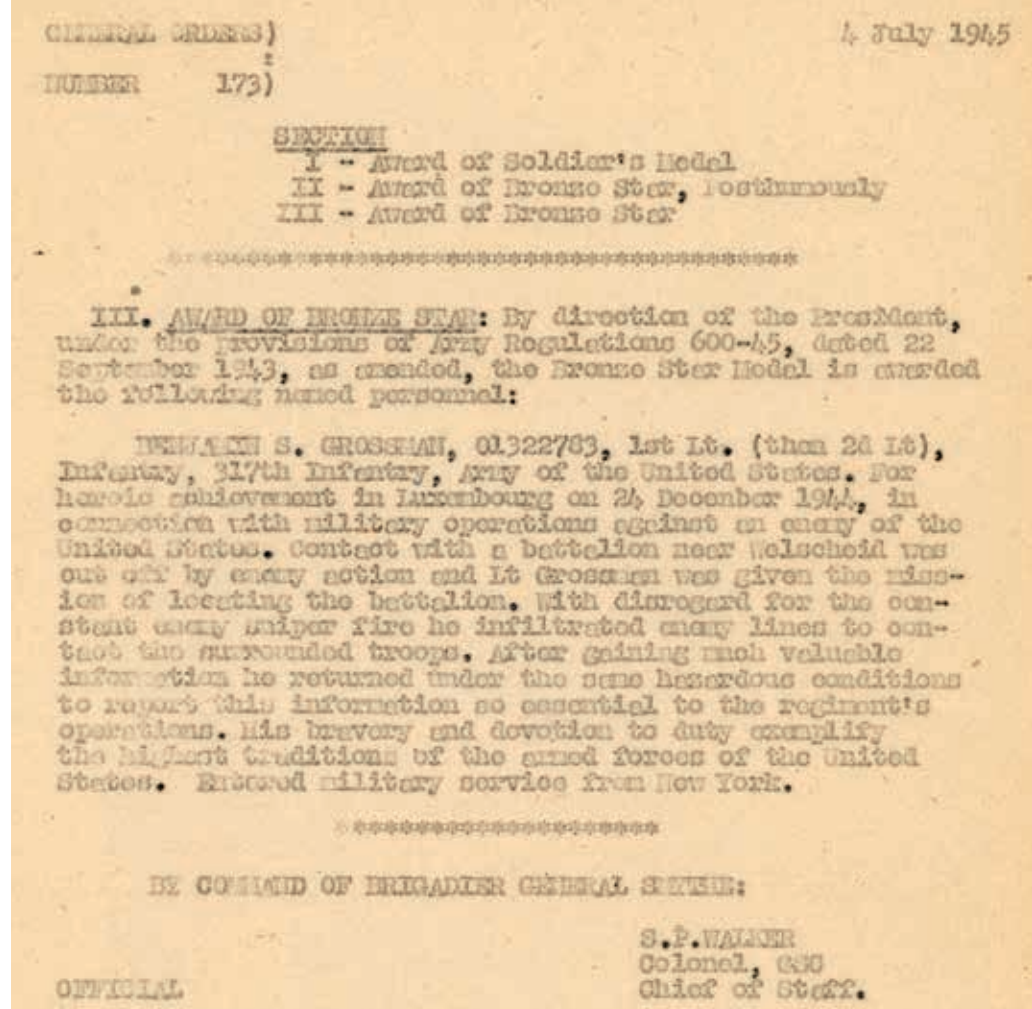
BENJAMIN S. GROSSMAN, 01322783, 1st Infantry, 317th Infantry, United States Army. For gallantry in action in GERMANY on 3 April 1945, in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. Near HARLESCHAUSEN, GERMANY, when his company was harassed by sniper fire from a nearby woods, Lt GROSSMAN voluntarily led a skillful enveloping move to drive the enemy from the woods. While in pursuit his platoon met and fought another large hostile force, in which Lt GROSSMAN was wounded. Despite the pain he led his unit to safety and supervised evacuation of wounded. His courage and initiative exemplify the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from NEW YORK.

They cut through dozens of French towns and cities in their drive, including Saint-Mihiel, Châlons, and Commercy, spending several months engaged in combat throughout France, until their positions were relieved by the 6th Armored Division on December 7, 1944. The unit was given a well-deserved period of rest, but after just 10 days, they were sent back to the frontline when the Battle of the Bulge began on December 16, 1944. Soon after being moved back up to the line, they took part in a major attack on the Siegfried line, and fought against fanatic SS troops in the Ardennes forest. Benjamin Grossman and the 80th were moved north to Luxembourg, and their forces were hurled against the powerful German forces who were quickly pushing deep into the Ardennes Forest.

On December 24, 1944, while fighting in Luxembourg, Benjamin Grossman, who was a 2nd Lieutenant at the time, distinguished himself on the battlefield. When contact with a battalion was cut off by enemy forces, Grossman was given the mission to locate the lost unit. According to his citation, "With disregard for the constant sniper fire, he infiltrated enemy lines to contact the surrounded troops. After gaining much valuable information, he returned under the same hazardous conditions to report this information so essential to the regiment's operations."

For his bravery and valorous actions, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. By Christmas Day in 1944, Lt. Grossman and the men of the 80th Infantry Division were fighting side by side with the tanks of the 4th Armored division as they fought to help the 101st Airborne, who were besieged in Bastogne. Over frozen, snow-covered terrain, the 80th gained nine valuable miles, despite the constant enemy machine gun and artillery fire. On December 28th, 1944, Benjamin Grossman and the 80th Infantry Division broke through the German siege of Bastogne, bringing relief to the 101st Airborne and driving the enemy into a deep retreat.

Now that Bastogne had been relieved, the drive into Germany was the next step towards victory in Europe. The 80th Infantry Division began to pursue the retreating German forces as they crossed into Germany. As the Battle of



Documentation of Grossman's Award of Bronze Star, dated 4 July 1945.

the Bulge came to an end in late January 1945, Benjamin Grossman was wounded for the first time. While involved with operations to cross the Clerf and Wiltz Rivers into Germany, he was hit by enemy fire, and awarded the Purple Heart medal.

As the war progressed, Lt. Grossman and the 80th Infantry Division pushed across Europe and fought deep into Germany. On April 3, 1945, he became engaged with the Germans near Harleshausen, Germany, when his company was harassed by sniper fire from a nearby woods. He voluntarily led a skillful maneuver to drive the enemy from the woods, but while in pursuit, they met and fought another large hostile force. During this encounter, Lt. Grossman was hit and severely wounded. Despite his pain and trauma, he led his unit to safety and

supervised evacuation of the wounded. For his actions in that engagement, he was awarded the Silver Star, the United States Armed Forces's third-highest personal decoration for valor in combat.

Many years after the war, Benjamin Grossman sat down and wrote a detailed memoir of his experiences, but it was never published. The stories of this American hero deserve to be told, and in working with his son, I hope to bring this incredible firsthand account to the public sometime in the near future.

For more information on WWII veterans collected by Benjamin Mack-Jackson's WWII Veterans History Project, please visit: WW2VeteransHistoryProject.com or follow them on Facebook: facebook.com/ww2veteranshistoryproject.com.



28th Infantry Division Association Annual Conference and Reunion September 4 - 7, 2019 | Fort Indiantown Gap, PA

For information, contact Gwen Underwood: gwennu45@gmail.com
or go to www.28thinfantrydivisionassoc.org

Mailing address: 28th Infantry Division Association, 1400 Calder Street #8, Harrisburg, PA 17103-1297
—Submitted by Chandra C. Kendall, Member

THE 2019 PILSEN LIBERATION FESTIVAL

by William Jannace, Member

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BOBA Member William Jannace (front) participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the 2nd Infantry Division monument in Pilsen, along with local citizens and students.

In May 2019, William Jannace, son of PFC Anthony E. Jannace, went to the annual Pilsen Liberation Festival. Below is his letter to the people of Pilsen.

Dear Citizens of Pilsen,

I recently represented my family at the 2019 Liberation of Pilsen Festival honoring the Second Infantry and Sixteenth Armored Divisions, French, Belgium and Czech soldiers that were involved in its liberation. Our father (PFC Anthony E. Jannace, 2nd Engineer Combat Battalion, Second Infantry Division) was awarded the Purple Heart in 1945, just before the liberation of Pilsen, and passed away many years ago—before the Velvet Revolution, and thus unable to enjoy this celebration of freedom. To his credit, after sustaining injuries, he took part in the liberation in May 1945.

Words cannot describe the gratitude and appreciation I have for Glynn Raby (who was in the 9th Infantry Regiment of the 2ID) and Tomas Hataj (Men of the Second Infantry Association), Tomas Raboch (Pilsen-joy S.R.O.) and the people of Pilsen and its government, for the heartfelt celebration and commemoration of the Second Infantry and Sixteenth Armored Divisions' Liberation of Pilsen. As the son of a veteran of the 2ID, it was an emotion-filled and humbling weekend. The sacrifices of that generation can never be quantified, nor will time diminish their heroism, as the numbers do not begin to tell the whole story. Nor can the debt of gratitude ever be repaid.

I am an attorney and a Professor at Fordham Law School, and thus responsible for teaching and upholding the rule of law. However, modesty and humility compel me to acknowledge the many citizen-soldiers of the US Armed Forces, many of whom came from humble backgrounds. They are the ones that sacrificed their blood, limbs and lives to truly uphold the rule of law, and to make a better world (albeit not perfect) for all in the second half of the 20th Century.

It was truly a global effort of the better angels of humanity that arose

to defeat tyranny and oppression. To the credit of the people of the Czech Republic, who persevered another 45 years after the end of the war, you never relented in your desire for freedom—very much evident on display this past weekend. As was noted at the various wreath-laying ceremonies, freedom should and can never be taken for granted. I was particularly honored when Earl Ingram, Colonel, US ARMY, Retired (and an officer of the 2ID) asked me to participate in the wreath-laying ceremony at the 2ID Memorial.

I was overwhelmed with a sense of patriotism and pride with each speech given by Czech and US dignitaries, including George Patton Waters, the grandson of General George Patton, who spoke with such heartfelt, self-effacing humility about his grandfather. To hear the young children sing and perform at The Patton School, where a wreath-laying ceremony was held, was beyond gratifying, and gives me hope that the Trans-Atlantic partnership (the anchor of the Bretton Woods System) will persevere, as the desire for freedom, democracy and rule of law can be temporarily side-tracked, but never eradicated.

Tears and chills are what I felt the entire weekend: chills each time I heard the U.S. and Czech National Anthems; tears at each wreath-laying ceremony, thinking of my father, who persevered another 26 years in the US Army Reserves (retiring as an SFC), despite having been wounded in Germany and sustaining frost bite in the Ardennes, where his battalion received a unit citation for its heroism. Despite that, he loved his country, the Army, and always considered the men that did not return from WWII as the real heroes worthy of adulation. If you knew him, he was modest and spoke little about this time.

I am looking forward to next year's celebration.

To paraphrase the motto of the 2ID: Pilsen, its people, and its liberators are "Second to None."

Sincerely and Respectfully, William Jannace

To read more stories about the Bulge and WWII, go to the website: worldwariowordsmyuncle.blogspot.com



Jannace in front of the statue of General Patton in the town of Dýšina, near Pilsen.

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:

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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)

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Questions? Call 703-528-4058

OR ORDER ONLINE: WWW.BATTLEOFTHEBULGE.ORG

[NO PHONE ORDERS]



DONATIONS

"Thank You!" to the following folks for donations received March 23, 2019 - June 22, 2019:

Bailey, J. David	106 InfD, 422 Inf Reg, Co F
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Cooksey, Dale	28 InfD 110 Inf Reg, Co A
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(In Memory of William Wiegand Sr, 83 InfD, 16 Ord MM Co)	
Zimmerman, Antoinette	Member

The following made donations In Memory of Marvin "Curly" East, 110 AAA Gun Bn:

Atwood, Shelly	Donor
Waters, Howard B.	Donor

Welcome, New Members!

We salute these new members who joined BOBA between March 23, 2019 - June 22, 2019:

Burbach, Kelsey	Member
Chinander, Ann	Member
Fischer, Joseph	Veteran Member
Guerin, Katherine Riccio	Member
Higgins, Kelly	Member
McManus, James	75 InfD, 290 Reg, Anti Tk
McNally, John	Member
Miller, Naia	Veteran Member
Muilenburg, Tim	Member
Nowaczek, Paul	Member
Obernuefemann Jr., David E.	Veteran Member
Ruhlen, Stephen	Member
Siegal, Ed	Member
Usher, Daniel	Member
White, Kate	Member
Wiesel, Sarah	Member
Willock, Lee Ann	Member
Woodall, William	Member
Wuyts, Jean-Pierre	Member

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

THANK YOU, CARETAKER!

Member Bruno Pollet is a Belgian citizen who volunteers to take care of one of our soldiers' resting places away from home, as do many others. Every year, Bruno sends us Memorial Day photos honoring "his" soldier, Francis Lee Allen.



Bruno Pollet at the grave of American soldier Francis L. Allen [504 PRCH INF, 82 ABN DIV, from Tennessee], which he cleans and adorns with flowers, mementos and American flags every Memorial Day.



The top picture shows Mrs. Andrée Dessy and her family welcoming Francis Lee Allen in January 1945. Bottom picture is Bruno Pollet at the same house with Mrs. Dessy in 2010!



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VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
www.battleofthebulge.org OR www.vbob.org



STUDENT'S QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

Hello! I am a high school student from New Jersey, and over the past two and a half years, I have been interviewing Great Depression survivors, 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.

I'd also like to thank all the veterans who took the time to respond after this survey previously appeared in the May 2018 *Bulge Bugle*!

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

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

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

Name _____ DOB _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

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

Campaigns _____

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

Regiment _____ Battalion _____

Company _____ Other _____

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

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

The Bulge Vet's Name and Units _____

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

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