

The BULGE BUGLE

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

VOLUME XXXIX NUMBER 2

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

SPRING 2020



Fort Eben-Emael,
Belgium, captured
by the 30 INF



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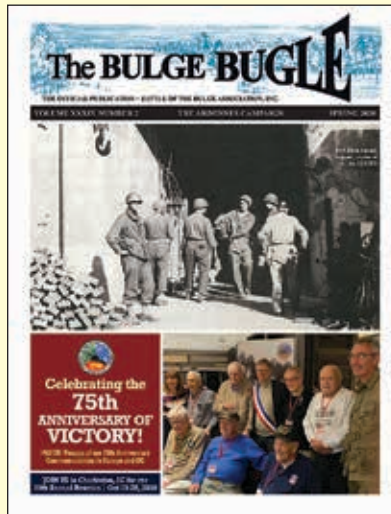
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ON THE COVER



TOP PHOTO: Fort Eben-Emael, Belgium, captured by the 30 INFD. George Schneider is exiting the fort with a large Nazi flag. 75 years later, the 30 INFD was awarded the Presidential Citation in March 2020. *Read more about the citation on page 9.* (Photo from the book *Survivor: Memoirs of a WWII Vet* by George F. Schneider. *Read more about it on page 8.*)

BOTTOM PHOTO: December 2019 in Reims, France, BOBA veterans were honored by the Mayor of Sissone, France, whose town was a hotspot for the Airborne during WWII. He will never forget what the soldiers, sailors and airmen did to free his country, twice in one generation. (Photo courtesy Curtis Waechtler)

Top, left to right: Marie Paviot, Victor Cross (87 INFD 345 INF B), Frank Dick (80 INFD 317 INF I), Mayor of Sissone, David Bailey (106 INFD 422 INF 3 BN F), Joe Landry (776 AAA AW BN SM), JP Paviot. Bottom, left to right: Bob Thompson (2 INFD 23 INF A), Clayton Christensen (99 INFD 324 ENGR CMBT BN A), Jack Stitzinger (87 INFD 346 INF 2 BN H).

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visit battleofthebulge.org > Chapters**

SEND CHAPTER UPDATES TO: betsy.boba@gmail.com

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

John Mohor

AS I'M WORKING ON THIS FROM FORT Livingroom, Monroe, NC, our country is well into its Quarantine plan, from "social distancing" to "shelter in place," to combat the Coronavirus pandemic. There's much uncertainty about the impact it will have at this point, however it may be clearer by the time you receive your copy of this *Bulge Bugle*. As FDR, a President well known to the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, once said "we have nothing to fear but fear itself." I feel confident that we'll face this invisible enemy with the same courage the brave Battle of the Bulge Soldiers exhibited in the Ardennes just over 75 years ago. It's up to each of us to check on these Veterans that remain, as well as each other. Please check on your buddies. It can go well beyond just a phone call with present-day technology. Checking on one another helps lift the spirits of us all. Oh, and by the way... please, the next time you're shopping... don't hoard the toilet paper!

Our January Commemoration Event was indeed a great success. Thank you to all who attended this year's event in Washington, D.C. I'd especially like to thank Al Cleghorn, BOBA Vice President Military Affairs, for doing such a fine job coordinating the event. I'd also like to commend Betsy Rose for her efforts in such a condensed time frame for the first time. I'd like to thank Ambassador Gaston Stronck, the Embassy of Luxembourg staff, Mr. Christopher Payot (representing the Belgian Ambassador), and the members of the Belgian Delegation, for being with us throughout the day's events. We also commend the amazing generosity of Bulge veteran Peter Munger (30 INFD) who gave a large donation on behalf of the Society of the Sons and Daughters of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. Thank you, Peter! Also, kudos to Chaplain Madeleine Bryant for her touching prayers during our ceremonies and to Jim Treisler, Director of Education at the Virginia War Memorial, for his



spectacular presentation about Hollywood in WWII, and for displaying his outstanding WWII artifacts.

We managed to fill two busloads of members for the Wreath Laying ceremonies along with the reception held this year at the Luxembourg Embassy. Sincere thanks to those who laid wreaths at the three locations: Dr. Linda Miller, William Stroud, Francis Chesko and his grandson Chris Hayes, Lester Bornstein and his son-in-law Arnie Angrist, Millie Sholly, Ron Krum, Barbara Whalen, Jacob Ruser and Benjamin Berry.

Thanks to all the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge I was honored to tour with, both in Europe and Washington DC: Jack Stitzinger, Victor Cross, Clayton Christensen, David Bailey, Joe Landry, Bob Thompson, Ron Kimler, Paul Goffin, George Merz, Peter Munger, Jacob Ruser, Lester Bornstein, Benjamin Berry and Francis Chesko, and all the families and members of BOBA. A huge thanks to our Executive VP Barbara Mooneyhan for coordinating our European Tour, and to our tour guides JP and Marie Paviot. Lastly, I'd like to commend Kelly Higgins for her efforts with organizing the GoFundMe Campaign for our veterans who traveled with us to Europe. Thanks as well to her dad Gary Higgins, Immediate Past President, for a nice smooth transition into office from Europe to DC.

Please continue to submit your stories. I recently started reading *The Battle of the Bulge: True Stories from the Men and Women Who Survived*, compiled and edited by Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc., which I ordered from Amazon. A really good read! [See ordering information, below.]

Now more than ever, while checking in on family and friends, let's try and help recruit new members into the organization.

We're still planning our reunion for October this year in Charleston, SC. This is also the 350th Anniversary of the city's founding. More details on that will come out in our next *Bulge Bugle*. With the evolving requirements due to the Coronavirus, we'll keep everyone's health and safety in mind. Please be safe, and enjoy this edition of *The Bulge Bugle*.

Photo: Mandy Mohor



John Mohor pictured with LTG Darryl A. Williams, Superintendent of West Point, who was attending an Army/Navy basketball game the day he saw us gathering for departure in DC, after our commemoration events. He wanted to thank all the Veterans in the organization for their service, and also mentioned that we need to try and get Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge to West Point, in front of his Cadets, real soon!

BUY THE BOOK OF YOUR STORIES

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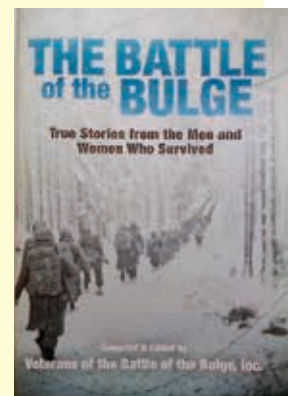
*To order, provide the ISBN and the title of the book:

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.



LETTERS TO BOBA

HOPE TO CONNECT

Re: Lorenzo Dow Suggs, Jr. in the 2020 Winter *Bugle* - The story startled me. He was in 90th Div. 358 Inf. Co E. I was in Co B nearby. He was KIA Jan. 13th 1945. I was WIA Jan. 12, 1945, near Wiltz, Lux. You can look me up in *Bulge Bugle* Nov. 2016 edition, pg. 11. I would be pleased to talk to his son, Michael Suggs. PS: I was 18 then, now 94.

J. Lee Gelwasser, 90 INFD 358 INF B, Veteran Member

I have ordered and read with much interest *Healers and Heroes*, by Thea Marshall, which was featured in your magazine. I was more than surprised to read how close her father passed—or came through even—our village on his “travels” through Luxembourg during the Battle of the Bulge. The description of the roads they followed is, among other precise descriptions, so accurate that I would like to write to Thea Marshall my compliments about the book. Born in January 1940, I have a lot of small souvenirs of the Bulge in 1944/45 and I would greatly appreciate if I could express my high consideration to Thea for her and her father’s book. I hope that you can help me.

Jacques Reinard, Member

Dear Lee and Jacques,

It's exciting when the Bulge Bugle makes connections in this way. Part of our mission is to promote friendship among the survivors of the Battle of the Bulge and their descendants. We were happy to connect you all. And, Lee, thank you for your service! —Bulge Bugle Editor

APPRECIATING THE WAR STORIES

Continue your dedication to the association—excellent publication! It’s so important to keep alive the sacrifices made in this huge battle. My father, Conrad Cardiello, was in the Coast Guard in WWII. Thank you!

Kevin Gallagher, Member

There were some terrific personal “war stories” in the November 2019 issue of *The Bulge Bugle*! Keep up the great work!

Robert L. Croye, Member, Litsenberger Chapter

Dear Kevin and Robert,

We love to get notes of appreciation about our main mission, which is to perpetuate the memory of the sacrifices involved during the Battle of the Bulge. We try hard to include original stories from our veteran members in each issue. Thank you for your support! —Bulge Bugle Editor

COLMAR POCKET INFO NEEDED

I would like to find some info on the Battle of Colmar Pocket. My uncle, after whom I was named, PVT John Frank Snidarich (3 INFD 7 INF CO A) was killed there on March 14, 1945 with an hour of reaching combat. He was born in Eveleth, Minnesota on April 14, 1921 and his serial number was #37771867. I would like to know more about the Colmar Pocket. Thank you—this is very important to me. My father also fought in the European Theatre in Italy. PFC Edward Anton Snidarich, and my uncle Joseph Snidarich, were stateside. I am very proud of all of them. I would appreciate the help. Please contact me at: kranjec1@yahoo.com

John R. Snidarich, Member

How to submit stories for “The Bulge Bugle”

The Bulge Bugle is published quarterly in the months that coincide with Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall. 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, and limit word count to up to 500 words. 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

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE: June 26, 2020

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

RIP JOHN MCAULIFFE

John McAuliffe will be missed! He was a close friend and a great soldier. I talked to him, mostly on the telephone, from time to time. We had some great times in Fort Indiantown Gap.

Dan Santagata, 5 INFD CO B, Veteran Member

FRENCH LOH APPLICATION



I need to know how I can obtain an updated information form and the most recent application form so I can apply for the French Legion of Honor Award. Is there somebody in the organization that can provide me with this information?

Joseph E. Binni, 264 FA BN HQ BTRY, Lifetime Veteran Member

From the Embassy of France in Washington, D.C. website: “To inquire about eligibility for the decoration of a U.S. veteran having served in France or with French forces, please contact coopcom.mmjf@ambafrance-us.org. For more information about applying to join the Legion of Honor, please contact your nearest French consulate.” The list of Consulates General of France in the U.S. is available online here: <https://franceintheus.org/spip.php?article330> —Bulge Bugle Editor
(continued on next page)

LETTERS TO BOBA

(continued from previous page)

Photo courtesy of Northwest Florida Daily News



Sam Lombardo with NFL Super Bowl challenge coin

DEAR PRESIDENT MOHOR:

I send congratulations for being elected President of our BOBA. I wish you great success in carrying out your duties as our President.

I also want to mention that I was fortunate to be selected as one of four veterans (centenarians) to attend this year's Super Bowl Coin Tossing Ceremony. I hope that I represented the Army and the Battle of the Bulge well. Best wishes!

Sam Lombardo, 99 INF 394 INF REG CO I, Veteran Member
Read more about Sam Lombardo on page 13.



Handy with the internet or social media? The Battle of the Bulge Association needs help with the following, which will reduce our administrative costs:

- **Webmaster** experienced with Wordpress who can maintain our website (includes advanced eCommerce features for reunion transactions).
- **Social Media Administrator** who can help post updates and respond to inquiries on our Facebook page to help engage members and grow membership.

*To learn more, contact Betsy Rose: (703) 528-4058;
e-mail: betsy.boba@gmail.com*

THE STORY OF THE 95TH AFABN, 5TH ARMDD

This article was taken from the maps, memoirs, and memories of Sgt. Charles Harman, Tank Commander; father of Gail Larke, BOBA recording secretary; and was compiled by Ken Larke.

The 95th began January 1, 1942 at Fort Knox, Kentucky. At the end of February, they were sent to Camp Cooke, California, to help for a possible attack on the West coast.

I joined the Division from Fort Custer, Michigan in July 1942 when they were on desert maneuvers in the Mojave Desert. Started training with T-19's and then drew our new M-7 tanks. Then we were off to Pine Camp, Tennessee for more maneuvers, and 90 days of intensive training. Next stop Indiantown, Pennsylvania in late November. Right, more combat training. January 1944, we were on our way to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey. We were there one day, and with all our gear on our backs, we were shuttled across the bay, passed the Statue



**Charles Harman, 19 FABN,
BTRY C**

of Liberty, and on board the USS Edmund B. Alexander for our destination England. Then on to Perham Downs, Wiltshire where we were billeted in the barracks of the Royal Tank Corps. After more training at Tilshead on the Salisbury Plain. We were here when we heard about the June 6th D-Day invasion. We then headed to Southhampton for the next wave across the channel in July. We watched as they loaded tank after tank on the ship. I remember we were strafed once by a German plane, but made it safely to Utah beach in late July 1944.

We were bivouacked at Saint-Sauveur-le-Vicomte waiting for our battle assignment. The devastation of the D-Day invasion was all around us. We were still picking up an occasional German POW. Our first battle was the first week of August 1944 at Avranches. Shot down three German planes and headed through the hedgerows. At Saint-Aignan we locked horns with the Ninth Panzer Division and pushed them back. We then met up with the Canadians and another battle with the Jerrys at LeMesle.

By August 30th we had reached Paris. Finally, we were able to cross the Oise River and push on to the Belgian border at Conde on September 3rd, 1944. Instead of going on to Brussels, we were ordered to drive out some Germans from the Duchy of Luxembourg. Within a period of two days, the Germans were cleared out of Luxembourg. What a welcome we received from the people of Belgium and Luxembourg!

The weather was great, and we had to move in close because their 88's out-ranged our 105's, but the P-47's above us were our guardian angels. On September 13th, we were facing the Siegfried Line opposite Wallendorf and fired our initial rounds on German soil. We were in Germany on September 15th. The Germans weren't ready to give up and pushed us back to our previous position on September 19th. We now knew we were in for a real battle. After France, Belgium, and Luxembourg where we fought for miles, we were now fighting for

yards. Late in November, we entered the bloodiest battle thus far: Hurtgen Forest. Everything was difficult: Weather, thick forests, dirt paths like rivers of mud, and then snow. We provided support for our troops who fought through Kliehau, Brandenburg, and Bergstein. After Hurtgen we expected a rest period, not so... The Bulge.

We were ordered south to the Roetgen, Germany area to provide support for a possible attack on the Roer River Dams. It was a quagmire getting our 25-ton M-7's into position. On the night of December 16th, the Luftwaffe made an appearance and paratroopers were dropping all around us. We killed and captured many that fell in our area. The next morning, we learned that General Von Rundstedt had launched a counter attack against our weaker defenses in the Ardennes. Our Division was ordered to fall back to positions near Eupen, Belgium to protect road blocks against advancing German panzer divisions. The name of our tank was "Alibaba and the 7 Thieves", probably because we picked up a lot of souvenirs along the way. It was at one of these crossroads that we saw General Patton come by, and he asked us who was Alibaba in that @#*\$%\$#@ tank! We all pointed to the other guy. We didn't have it as bad as our boys in Bastogne. The German Air Force hit us on many days; we averaged shooting one down per day. On one attack, I jumped from my tank and my foot got caught in the camouflage netting. There I was upside down with bullets all around me. I wasn't hit, but my guys thought I was dead; embarrassing, but could have been worse. Near the end of the campaign we moved to support the crossing of the Roer River. We dug in at Ederen, Germany with our M-7's only 1500 feet from the front lines waiting for orders. Finally, on February 23rd, we got the orders and at 2:45 am in the space of four hours, we shot 3,000 rounds of ammunition: Operation "Gre-nade". From there, we battled our way toward the Rhine.

On the morning of April 1st, we were ordered to support CCR at the Weser River. We experienced heavy resistance at Herford, Germany from the anti-tank guns. We destroyed ten 88's, and killed or captured all their personnel. On the afternoon of April 8th, we crossed the Weser



on our way to the Elbe River, through the town of Hamlin (Piped Piper fame). We were reinforced by the 695th AFAB, and fought some 500 SS troops near Springe. Between us and the Airforce, we completely destroyed the city. The Germans were giving up by the hundreds. Next, at Hannover, we had lots of action. We finally reached the Elbe River where we waited for the Russians. On April 26th, we left CCR and joined Division Artillery under XIII Corps control. Then on May 2nd, we met the Russians at the Elbe.

On May 7th, orders came to cease all offensive operations. That joyous hour throughout the world came and went for us with excitement. We played ball and pursued our normal duties, but deep down inside, we all felt a sense of relief, joy, and profound happiness. We reminisced a great deal on that momentous day; our thoughts were of those who were no longer with us to see this joyful hour, and we wondered what the future held for us. Was it the Pacific?

SAVE THE DATES! Oct 15-20, 2020*

BOBA's 39th Annual Reunion in Charleston, SC



Come visit the Holy City, where the tides tell the time and the past shines brightly on monumental architecture and cobblestone streets. Tour the Charleston Harbor and see Fort Sumter, where the first battle of the Civil War began on April 12, 1861. See the breathtaking homes along the Battery and Rainbow Row, where the Ashley and Cooper Rivers meet. And of course, no visit to Charleston would be complete without enjoying some Lowcountry cuisine.

A special feature of our reunion will include a patriotic dress parade where our BOBA veterans will be honored by The Citadel Corps of Cadets: The Military College of South Carolina (one of only 6 senior military colleges in the United States)!

**NOTE: Please be advised that as of this printing, these dates are tentative with the ongoing uncertainty caused by COVID-19 ever-changing requirements. Therefore, detailed information is pending.*

**Updates will be in the next (Summer) Bulge Bugle
and on the BOBA website: battleofthebulge.org**

SURVIVOR: MEMOIRS OF A WWII VET, 30TH INFANTRY, "THE OLD HICKORY"

By George F. Schneider, 30 INFD 120 INF 3 BN HQ



BOBA veteran member George Schneider passed last year, and his daughter Barbara-Ann O'Connor shared his book, which includes his experience in the 30th Infantry. In March 2020, the White House announced that the Army will award the Presidential Unit Citation to the 30th Division for their critical victory during the initial months of the Normandy invasion and extraordinary heroism at the Battle of Mortain, France, in 1944. George's daughter wrote, "My dad passed having only one unresolved issue in his life—to see the Old Hickory finally awarded this citation. He contacted several people close to the president, but he did not live long enough to see it actually happen... I know this award means the world to all Old Hickory survivors."

The following is an excerpt from George Schneider's chapter regarding his unit's involvement in the Battle of the Bulge and what they discovered in Malmédy:

Sometime around December 19th or 20th, we began to hear rumors of a massacre of Americans near Malmédy. Information was sketchy, but the word was spreading that the number of those slaughtered was significant, and most alarmingly, the Germans were not taking prisoners.

By now, the weather was horrible even though the sky was clear. Snow was ankle to knee deep, and temperatures were well below freezing. We were now getting many casualties from frozen feet. We were poorly equipped with only our leather combat boots and thin socks. One of our generals rounded up all of the GI blankets he could find and sent them back to the Netherlands or Belgium where he had local women make booties from the blankets. We wore them inside a pair of overshoes and managed to keep our feet from freezing as we plodded on to the south.

On the outskirts of Malmédy, we reached a small community called Géromont. There were only a few houses along the main road, and in these houses, our company established our headquarters for a couple of days.

One more mile south of Géromont, a distance of approximately 2 miles from Malmédy, we came to the intersection of five country roads which we named Five Points. Not more than two or three houses were

in this area. There were no signs to indicate that the community had a name, and our maps didn't identify the village, but today it is called Baugnez, and this small piece of geography is now well known to military historians as the site of the Malmédy Massacre.

The frigid winter air shrouded this site. We were now witnessing the site of the worst massacre of American troops by the Germans in WWII. In the snow-covered field adjacent to Five Points lay 86 frozen bodies, the only evidence of the atrocity manifested by humps in the snow and occasional exposed body parts and clothing. Each mound was a soldier. A man. Although I knew none of these men from the 285th, I felt a bonding with these fallen comrades, and we all felt a renewed hatred for the SS and elevated our resolve to pay back the perpetrators. The massacre had taken place during the initial German attack on December 16, 1944 when elements of the 285th Field Artillery Observation Battalion were captured on December 17th. More than one hundred men were herded into the open field near the intersection of five points and machine gunned in cold blood. It was not until our drive south of Malmédy on this day, January 14, 1945, that the massacre was confirmed when units of my 120th Regiment discovered the frozen, snow-shrouded bodies. Some survivors of the massacre had reported the tragic encounter with the advancing SS troops, but the reality was confirmed by us twenty-eight days after the massacre.

While I viewed this tragic scene, just a few yards away, a jeep load of media correspondents drove up and parked in the intersection of Five Points to document the massacre. We knew the Germans had an 88 zeroed in on the intersection, so we stayed clear of this target. I was close enough to observe a shoulder patch on one of the neatly dressed reporters that identified him as being from Brazil. Reporting of the massacre had apparently made news throughout the world. Shortly after the reporters dismounted the jeep, an 88 narrowly missed the jeep and exploded a few yards away. The artillery piece was probably along the road to Ligneville, our next objective. One round was all the reporters needed to hasten a retreat to Malmédy without any photographs for their archives.

I, along with my 30th Division, left the bodies as found, and the Graves Registration Battalion later identified the bodies and removed them from the field. Baugnez, a.k.a. Five Points, will always be remembered as the site of the infamous "Malmédy Massacre".

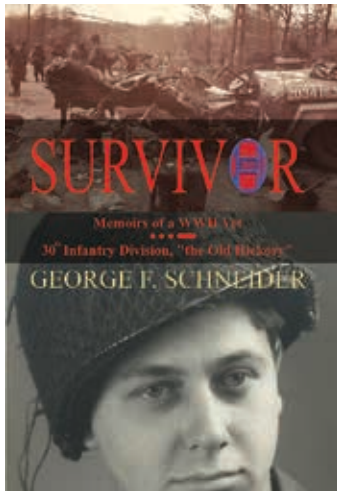


Harold Billow

Although it was initially reported that as many as 135 men had been executed, the final count now stands at 86. Most of the 86 were members of the 285th Field Artillery Observation Battalion. Many Americans living today claim to be survivors, but few truly are. I can vouch for two survivors, Robert "Sketch" Mearig and Harold Billow. Into the new millennium, both were still active members of our local chapter of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, the South Central, PA Chapter. The following depicts the events of the massacre as told to me by my friends Harold and Sketch:

It is late afternoon and quickly getting dark. The Germans herd the Americans into an open field where an SS officer surveys his catch with pride. Suddenly he shoots the guy standing next to Harold in the head.

Then he shoots the guy on the other side. He shouts a command to the machine-gunners, and they open up. Sketch & Harold, although not yet hit, drop to the ground and play dead amongst the corpses of their buddies. After all the men have fallen, the officer calls a halt to the firing and inspects his trophies. Sketch & Harold stifle their breaths as they listen to the officer walking amidst the bodies, checking for signs of life. The SS officer, speaking perfect English, would ask if anyone was wounded, and if he gets a positive response, he has a target. He asks one soldier if he is wounded, and getting a moan in response, he shoots the soldier in the head. The officer continues his walk among the pile of bodies, and any movement or groan is terminated with a shot to the head. He kicks them in hopes of getting a reflexive response. When he comes across Harold, he kicks his boot. Harold doesn't flinch. The officer moves on, arbitrarily choosing bodies to kick. A few flinch or moan. He shoots them. Now satisfied that they are all dead, he orders his



men to move out. By this time, it is fairly dark, and with just a handful of Germans now still at the site, Sketch decides to make a break for it. He is near the far end of the field and believes he has a shot at it. He flees toward the woods and, while under fire, disappears. Harold and another guy decide to make their break. They dash towards a house on the corner and make their way inside. Realizing the Germans had probably seen them go in and would probably come after them, they race out the back door and high tail it toward Malmédy. Sketch spent three days wandering in the woods between Baugnez and Malmédy before finally being rescued by our regiment. Regimental Commander Col. Purdue took him back to his quarters and gave him his bed for the night.

If you'd like a copy of George's book, his daughter Barbara-Ann is offering it "at cost" to BOBA members (\$19 total with shipping for US only) which is much less than the Amazon rate. To order, contact her at vbobgeorge@gmail.com.

30TH INFANTRY DIVISION RECEIVES PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

Excerpt reprinted with permission from the Association of the United State Army:

The White House announced in March 2020 that the Army's famed 30th Infantry Division will receive the Presidential Unit Citation for its heroic stand against an entire German Panzer Corps in Mortain, France, during World War II. The 30 INFD also fought at the Battle of the Bulge.

The Presidential Unit Citation is awarded to units for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy, according to Army regulations. It is the unit equivalent of a Distinguished Service Cross, which is second only to the Medal of Honor, for an individual recipient.

To read the full article online, go to: <https://www.ause.org/news/30th-id-receives-presidential-unit-citation>



Photo courtesy North Carolina Office of Archives and History



★ REMEMBERING THE FALLEN ★

James Hampton Coates
PVT US Army (285 FAOB BTRY B)
POW/KIA Malmédy Massacre 12/17/44

James was one of 86 servicemen who was killed in the Malmédy Massacre in Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge. He served in the 13 FAOB HQ from 1942-44. During that time he landed on Utah Beach D-Day+1 and was injured in July by a mine or dud, but stayed with the battalion under field medical care. In October 1944, he joined 285 FAOB BTRY B, and two months later he was killed. *[Read a detailed account of the massacre on page 8].* James left behind a wife and two children: a 2-year-old daughter and 7-month-old son. He was buried in Henri Chapelle Cemetery, Belgium and later reinterred in his hometown of Kilmarnock, Virginia.

—Submitted by his daughter, Mary Ann Smith, Virginia Crater Chapter President



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 April 4, 2020, that these BOBA members have recently passed away.

RICHARD F. ALLEN	667 FA BN HQ	STEPHEN L. HEFFNER	87 INF 345 INF 1 BN HQ
LINDA ANDERSON	Member (Father: Addison S. Ande)	EUGENE H. KAPLAN	87 INF 346 INF 2 BN F
DONALD L. BLACK	35 INF 137 INF 3 BN	AL LEVY	288 FA OBSERV BN
CHARLES BONOFILIO, JR.	593 AMB CO	ROCCO J. MORETTO	1 INF 26 INF C
CHRISTOPHER C. CARAWAN	106 INF 424 INF 2 BN F	JOHN R. SCHAFFNER	106 INF 589 FA BN
WENDELL W. ELLENWOOD	4 ARMDD/80 INF 404/182/752 FA	GEORGE F. SCHNEIDER	30 INF 120 INF 3 BN HQ
PETER FIORELLA, SR	84 INF 334 INF SVC	RALPH E. WAITE	99 DIV A BATTERY 914 BN
		LEE V. WALDRON	110 AAA BN BATTERY A



HOUFFALIZE REMEMBERS 75 YEARS LATER

On January 16, 1945, the 11th Armored Division of General Patton's Third U.S. Army ("Patton's Thunderbolts") made the historic link-up with the 2nd Armored and 84th Infantry Divisions of General Hodge's First U.S. Army at Houffalize, Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge. This action effectively halted the German Army by containing the "Bulge" that the Germans had created in the Allied lines in the Ardennes Forest on December 16, 1944.

To mark the 75th Anniversary of this event, the Commune of Houffalize held two days of celebrations during the weekend of January 18-19, 2020. The Saturday events included commemorations and a floral tribute at the Link-Up Monument (*shown at left*), the rededication of the Panther Tank Monument, a toast to all American liberators with a special "Bulge" cocktail, a Freedom Bivouac (local restaurants serving American G.I. food in an outdoor setting) and a dance with 1940s music. The Sunday events included a Mass at an outdoor chapel to remember all those who died in the liberation of Houffalize, an outdoor reception and a special concert.

The commemorative Mass was celebrated by the Very Reverend Guillermo Perez Sanchez, the parish priest of Houffalize. In his homily, Abbe Guillermo spoke of the role which the 11th Armored Division played at Houffalize, and the sacrifices made by its men during the link-up. He held up a roll of honor of "Patton's Thunderbolts" who died in the fighting, which he placed on the altar for the remainder of the Mass. Flag bearers representing the three American divisions that took part in the link-up (as well as Belgian soldiers who fought at Houffalize) led the Offertory Procession, and members of the Belgian Armed Forces sang hymns during the liturgy, as well as the American, Belgian and European anthems at the end of the Mass.

Houffalize will always remember its role in the history of the "Bulge," and the sacrifices made by all American G.I.s in their liberation 75 years ago.

—Submitted by Patrick Kearney (11 ARMDD)

TWO VETS WHO FOUGHT AT ST VITH IN 1944 MEET....IN 2020!

Photo courtesy Mary Ann Smith



Lester Bornstein (left), 168 ENGR CMBT BN B, and Francis Chesko (right), 7 ARMDD & 148 CBT ENGR BN, met for the first time at our 75th Bulge Commemoration in DC.

Two WWII BOBA veteran members, Lester Bornstein, 168 ENGR CMBT BN B, and Francis Chesko, 7 ARMDD & 148 CBT ENGR BN, met at the 75th Commemoration in DC for the first time, and found out they were both fighting at St. Vith at the same time. It was so exciting to see them make the connection!

They were also chosen to lay the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier together, and Francis attended Lester's 95th birthday party in February. Come to our BOBA reunions and make new friends! (See page 7 for more about our upcoming 39th annual reunion in Fall 2020.)



Bornstein and Chesko at our wreathlaying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Photo courtesy Hylton Phillips-Page

DID YOU KNOW?

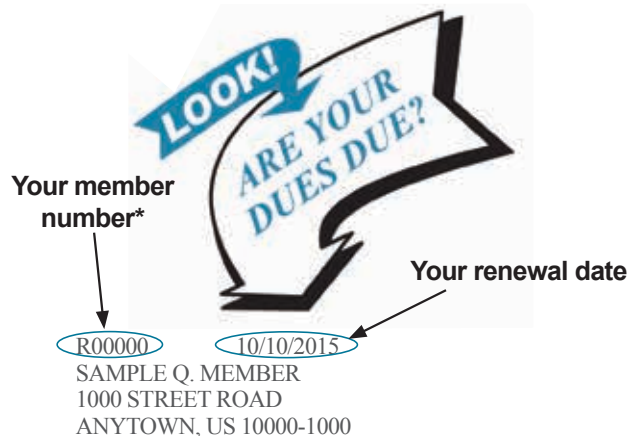
Bugles Across America is an organization that will provide **free live Taps** to honor any veteran at their funeral service.

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



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 you do not owe any more dues. However, please consider an annual donation to help support our good cause!

75 YEARS LATER: BULGE MEMORIES

BOBA has been collecting memories and photos from veterans who were there 75 years ago. If you are a veteran member and have not been featured in our magazine before, we want to hear from you!

★ Jacob J. Ruser, Jr.

4 INFD, 12 INF REG, 2 BN, Medical Detachment

Mission: The 12th Infantry Regiment of the 4th Infantry Division, from November 6, 1944 to December 7, 1944, participated in the Bloody Battle of the Hurtgen Forest in Germany. During the Battle of the Bulge, the 12th Infantry led the transfer to the country of Luxembourg for defense of the Luxembourg area along the Sauer River. All units were to receive replacements and upgrade the equipment.

My job was a litter bearer, which was to remove seriously wounded soldiers from the battlefield. My most vivid memories of the Bulge were close calls! On the morning of December 21, 1944, there was a call for two litter teams to Company F in Berdorf. We had two jeeps with a litter team on each. The road from the woods outside Consdorf to Berdorf was about four miles without any shelter. Our jeep drivers stopped, at the edge of the woods, to decide what they would do. As the driver of the first jeep pulled out, at a high speed, we were right behind. All of a sudden out of nowhere, two soldiers appeared, shouting to stop. They were the outpost. We were able to get the first jeep to stop and turn around. The outpost guards told us the company pulled back during the night, and if we kept going - we were in "No Man's Land" heading into the German lines. We were taken to the two wounded soldiers, and we transported them to the 2nd Battalion Aid Station. We almost became prisoners or being killed.

The next morning, with a new line of defense holding, my commanding officer called me aside, and told me the Battalion Mail Sergeant was going to Luxembourg City to pick up mail at Regimental Headquarters. As part of "other duties" as assigned, my commander made arrangements for me to go to Regimental HQ with the Sergeant and his driver to deliver an envelope. On our travels via Highway 11, about a mile past Radio Luxembourg, we were stopped at a Division Checkpoint. We then continued to Regimental HQ. I was dropped off, they continued to service company. I took care of the commander's business and waited for the sergeant and driver. A few minutes later,



they pulled up with a trailer full of mail bags. We did not receive mail for more than a month; because of the heavy fighting in the Hurtgen Forest.

We traveled back over Highway 11 and were stopped at a new 1st Army Checkpoint that was setup. This checkpoint was to help capture the German paratroopers, who were dropped behind our lines. The MPs at Checkpoint were checking serial numbers, and our jeep's serial numbers were ones they were looking for. We tried to explain that we just picked up the mail, but were sent back to Luxembourg City with a police escort. It turned out that the MPs located the orders that said they should be checking "Dog Tag" numbers instead, so we were let go.

When we arrived back at Battalion, we were met with "Where were you? What happened? We called Regiment and they said you left over two hours ago." We explained that we were stopped at a 1st Army Checkpoint. The serial number on our jeep

matched one of the numbers the MPs were looking for. We were taken to the 1st Army Provost Marshal Office, as possible "German paratroopers and spies." The Battalion staff said they were glad we got back safe!

The Battle of the Bulge turned out to be a bigger and more important attack than any commander realized on the first day. The attack was on a 75-mile front at the same time. This battle turned out to be the largest land battle the US Army ever fought, since it was found on June 14, 1975 to the present.

Awards: Combat Medical Badge, Bronze Star Medal with "V" device (valor), 2 Oak Leaf Clusters to Bronze Medal, Purple Heart Medal, Good Conduct Medal, American Campaign Medal, Europe-Africa-Middle East Medal with 5 Campaign Stars (Battle Stars), WWII Victory Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, The Chevalier-French Legion of Honor Medal, Normandy Jubilee of Liberty Medal, Belgian Fourragère.

Jacob Ruser currently resides in Philadelphia.

★ REMEMBERING THE FALLEN ★

BOBA has been collecting stories of those who were lost during the battle, so if you are a descendant or comrade of the fallen, please share about the soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice, so that we can honor them.

★ **Hamet Lee Piercy** **157 CMBT ENG BN, CO A**



Hamet Piercy served with the 157th Combat Engineer Battalion, where he earned several medals including three Battle Stars and the Purple Heart. He fought in Normandy, Northern France and Rhineland Campaigns and during the Battle of the Bulge.

During late December 1944, Corporal Piercy's Company A was attached to the 106th Cavalry Group and was directed to serve as both infantry men and engineers. On New Year's Eve 1944, the Germans conducted a major counter attack on the right center of the 106th Cavalry's positions. This attack centered directly on the positions that Piercy's men were defending near Bitche, France. The frozen ground and bitterly cold weather made for a difficult fight, and his squad was overwhelmed and captured in the middle of the night

after mounting a valiant and determined defense.

At both prison camps where Piercy and his men were held (Stalag 5-A and then later 4-B), they suffered very severe conditions, were repeatedly interrogated, had no heat, were fed meager rations only once a day, and were often harshly punished (for example: made to stand in the cold and snow without shoes) as part of German efforts to break them. Though they were very weak physically, they were tough as nails mentally and spiritually, as coming events would soon attest to.

Piercy remained a POW until April 23, 1945 when Russian forces, attacking and advancing near Dresden, Germany liberated Stalag 4-B. Held for some days by the Russians under very fluid and confusing circumstances, Piercy and his men decided to "escape" from the Russian unit that was holding them and seek out a US unit to complete their re-patriotization. Not knowing where they were headed, sleeping in barns under hay for several nights, he and his men were welcomed with great surprise by the unit that found them. Records are not clear on what Army unit picked them up, but it was likely soldiers supporting or from the 2nd or 62th INFD or 9th ARMDD. After being released from the US Army medical system after his recuperation from captivity, Piercy and his men returned to the United States as bonafide war heroes and took their rightful part of America's Greatest Generation.

In 2010, Piercy was honored with the French Legion of Honor medal in Washington. In June 2019, he was one of more than 100 WWII veterans honored during the 75th Anniversary commemoration of D-Day, at the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia with his family.

Hamet lived in South Hill, Virginia and passed on January 11, 2020.

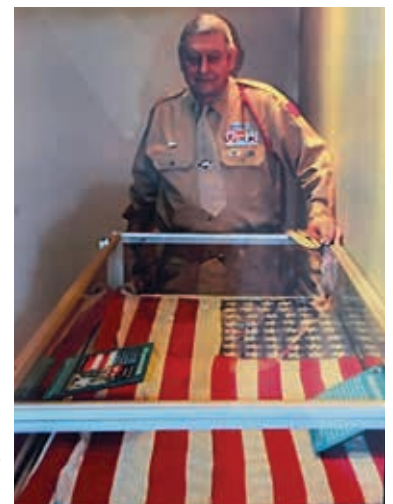
—Submitted by his daughter Gail P. Moody, Member

★ **Samuel Lombardo** **99 INFD, 394 INF REG, CO I**



Members of the 99th Infantry Division, posing with the American flag they made during the Battle of the Bulge. At right is Samuel Lombardo viewing the flag, now on display at the National Infantry Museum.

"If they won't give us a flag, we'll make one," said First Lieutenant Samuel Lombardo, platoon leader, Second Platoon, Company I, 394th Infantry Regiment, 99th Division, during the Battle of the Bulge in World War II. The platoon made the United States 48-star flag from scraps of cloth sewn on a white German surrender flag. "John Marcisin, our medic, contributed the most labor in the making of 'our' flag, but was absent during the taking of our first photo."



Photos courtesy of Northwest Florida Daily News

When Company I crossed the Remagen Bridge, their flag, only one side completed, became the first American flag in the 99th Division east of Rhine River. During breaks in the battle, working mostly by candlelight, the flag was completed after two and one-half months, on the banks of the Danube River. The flag is now in the collection of the National Infantry Museum, Fort Benning, Georgia.

75 YEARS LATER: BULGE MEMORIES

★
Joseph Demler
35 INFD, 137 REG



Joseph Demler in 2005, looking at a photo of himself looking at a photo of himself, and the map showing the 35th Division's location.



Joseph Demler of Port Washington, Wisconsin, passed away in February 2020, so in his honor, I submit this story.

Joseph Demler became a prisoner of war at Villers-la-Bonne-Eau, Belgium, while serving with my father in the 35th Division during the Battle of the Bulge. He weighed 70 pounds when he was liberated in March 29, 1945. I first learned of Joe Demler about 60 years after the war from Laurie Arendt's *Back from Duty: Ozaukee County's Veterans Share Their Stories*. Joe's biography included a photo of him weighing a skeletal seventy pounds and a quote, "We were sent to Metz, France, where we joined the 35th Division."

I sent a note to Joe about my interest in the 35th Division, along with my contact information. I acknowledged he may not be comfortable talking to me, which I understood and fully accepted. Joe called a week later and apologized for the delay. They had just installed new carpeting. Friday at 2 p.m. would be a good time for us to talk at his home in Port Washington, so I copied a few pages from *35th Division: Trail of the Santa Fe Division* that pertained to Joe's capture.

When I first met Joe, I asked, "So you were in the 137th Regiment?" Joe answered, "Yes. 'K or L Company?' My interview questions were not typical, and Joe's wife called from the next room, "Are you writing a book?" At that time, I really did not know.

I said to Joe, "A picture speaks a thousand words, but that photograph of you weighing only 70 pounds speaks far more than that." Joe's parents had been informed he was missing in action. A family friend saw the published photo and said to his parents, "I think that could be Joe." Joe said to me, "I was told the photo would never be published, but it was too good for selling war bonds."

As we talked, he glanced out the window near the kitchen table with tears welling up in his eyes. He recalled the German prisoner of war camp, "Every night, they'd carry bodies out." Since World War II, newspapers had called and asked for Joe's perspective on hostage situations. He told them, "It is too difficult to talk about it."

When I left that day, he called to me from the front door of his immaculately maintained white Cape Cod home, "You can come and talk to me anytime." I sent Joe additional information from my research, and Joe replied in a letter, "I also want to thank you for getting the map from Keith Bullock of where I was captured. I did not know the name of the town. The last letter you sent was with the picture of LIFE magazine... I guess I was in LIFE more than any POW in World War II and after."

The after-action report said of Joe's capture, "Companies K and L were slowly being cut to pieces by tank fire and flame throwers." Reinforcements from Lt. Colonel Peiper's 1st SS Panzer Division, "Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler," moved into Villers on the morning of December 30. This group acquired the nickname of "Torch Battalion" as it moved through Russia and burned villages. It was also responsible for the massacre of over eighty unarmed prisoners of war near Malmédy almost two weeks earlier. The 1st SS Panzer Division began as a unit serving as Hitler's elite personal bodyguards, but it eventually evolved into a full-sized division. It was diminished in the early fight for Bastogne but was functioning again and supported by the 14th Parachute Regiment.

Joe also wrote in his letter to me, "We were in one of the stone houses where the tanks shot their 88 shells through the front of the ground floor. I was on the second floor, and I flew halfway to the top. I sure will never forget that. That is the reason that I never got a word from anybody that was with me... as the rest were either killed or they died in P.O.W. camp." In a postscript he added, "You can see why I do not go to the reunions. I don't know a soul."

Joe was liberated about three months after his capture, weighing just those 70 pounds, too weak to rise from his bed. Given another three days of neglect, doctors estimated, he would have died from starvation.

—Submitted by Louise Endres Moore, Member and author of *Alfred: The Quiet History of a World War II Infantryman*

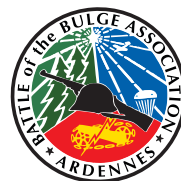
HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT BOBA!

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 _____,
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Learn more about us at: www.battleofthebulge.org
Or call: 703-528-4058

THANKS TO OUR DONORS!



BOBA members William Stroud (RET-USAF) and Dr. Linda Miller presented a wreath at the Battle of the Bulge Memorial, Arlington Cemetery on January 25, 2020, as part of the 75th Anniversary Commemoration of the ending of the Battle of the Bulge.

In addition to membership subscriptions for our magazine, BOBA depends on generous donors to help fund general operations (ie. website, phone, member services, etc.). The generosity of our donors helps us perpetuate the memory of the sacrifices involved during the Battle of the Bulge. Donations can be made online to battleofthebulge.org > donate OR mail a check to BOBA, PO BOX 330, Mechanicsville, VA 23111. All gifts are greatly appreciated!

Thank you to the following folks for donations received between January 28 - March 27, 2020:

In Memory of John McAuliffe by:
David J. Bailey*
John Bowen
Darrell Bush*
In Memory of Richard Allen by:
Mary Joan & Robert Chapman
In Memory of Felix Hall by:
Samuel Cimino
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**Denotes Bulge Veteran Member*

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOBA BULGE 75TH ANNIVERSARY EUROPEAN TOUR

by Carol Higgins, BOBA Member



BOBA members who traveled on our 75th Battle of the Bulge Anniversary European Tour.

The BOBA 75th Battle of the Bulge Anniversary tour started with the group gathering in Paris, France. Members were met by tour directors JP and Marie Paviot. The bus transported us to Reims, France on the afternoon of December 10, 2019. The group was greeted by WWII reenactors outside the hotel. Later that evening, the group shared a champagne toast and buffet dinner with several French dignitaries.

On **December 11**, the tour made the first museum stop at the Musée de la Reddition (Museum of the Surrender) in Reims. The Veterans were given special access into the map room and sat at a very special table. The building, once a school, was used during WWII as the meeting place where five countries signed a declaration of unconditional surrender on May 7, 1945. The second museum stop was

the Musée Guerre et Paix. Here, lunch was enjoyed, and then time to tour the museum. There was much information about the history of wars in France and a large section pertaining to WWII.

On **December 12**, we were ready to see Battle of Bulge history in Belgium, which included some areas our vets had memories of. Clayton Christensen was at Eilsenborn Ridge, and Frank Dick was captured at Bulligen. Several vets remembered the International Highway between Belgium and Germany. Here we could see the “dragon teeth” of the Siegfried Line and the remains of foxholes in the forests. The roads lead us through Malmédy, famous for the Malmédy Massacre, Trois Ponts, and Stavelot. There was also a stop in La Gleize, where photos were taken with the King Tiger Tank and we had a tour of the December 44 Museum.

December 13 was rainy, windy and cold. We were inside with Marcel and Mathilde Schmetz at their Remember Museum 39-45. Our vets were very happy to share warm soup and fond memories here. There are several displays here that our vets have donated to this family-owned museum. It is a real jewel!

On this day we also ventured to the town of Manhay. It was too wet and snowy to participate in a planned Jeep parade. We were welcomed inside by Eddie Monfort and city
(continued on page 18)



Lifetime Veteran Members Frank Dick (80 INFD 317-I) and Bob Burrows (80 INFD 317-HQ). Pictured behind them are (left to right) Major General Bruce Hackett, Current Commander and CSM Jay Thomas (both of the 80th Training Command). The 80th “Only Moves Forward!”



1) Pictured from left to right: BOBA Veteran Members Frank Dick, Joe Landry, Jack Stitzinger, David Bailey, Clayton Christensen, Victor Cross in Bastogne, where Gen. McAulliffe was when he received the "Nuts!" correspondence. 2) David Bailey with Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the US House of Representatives. 3) Dragon's Teeth in Hellenthal, Germany. These are square pyramidal fortifications of reinforced concrete used to impede tanks and mechanized infantry. 4) Kids showing appreciation to Joe Landry and 5) Joe enjoying a beer in St. Vith! 6) Member Kelly Higgins, who spearheaded the BOBA GoFund-Me campaign to help pay for our veterans' trips, with Vic Cross.



BOBA BULGE 75TH ANNIVERSARY EUROPEAN TOUR *(continued)*

officials for dinner and entertainment, and a special gift was given to each veteran. Some were able to visit the town museum, which explained the total destruction of Manhay during the war.

December 14 was another busy day. The tour group arrived at Bastogne Barracks and attended a brief welcome and then the ceremony for planting a walnut tree. The tree was to commemorate the 75th Anniversary and the famous saying “NUTS!” by General McAluliffe. The veterans lunched with dignitaries and had photo ops.

Sunday, **December 15** took us to the town of St. Vith for a wreath laying ceremony and special lunch. Veterans went to the City Hall where they each signed “The Golden Book,” a special city book reserved for signing by special people only. This was a real honor. A thank you should be given to special friends of the Battle of the Bulge Association, Carl Wouters and Doug Mitchell, for inviting us to St. Vith.

The Bier Museum was a nice diversion, as well as a chance to see beautiful countryside. We also traveled into Luxembourg and stopped in Clervaux, a beautiful city with its own castle. Here we had another wreath laying and afternoon snacks provided by the gracious people of Luxembourg.

Luxembourg was an ideal place to be on **December 16**. A very special presentation with many important dignities took place at the Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial. Here our Veterans had front row seats to a flyover, speeches and honors to WWII Battle of the Bulge Veterans. To top off the day, our veterans were invited to the Royal Palace in Luxembourg City. They were greeted with a reception by Grand Duke Henri, who is the world’s only remaining sovereign grand duchy.

December 17 was a day to wind down and enjoy the city and Christmas markets. The evening was topped off by a gala dinner. We were in the honor of the Prime Minister of Luxembourg, Xavier Bettel.

December 18 was time to travel on to Frankfurt, Germany and prepare for the flight back to the U.S.A. the next day. Our veterans were able to stand up to the challenges of traveling in foreign countries, enduring some cold weather, and maintaining a busy schedule. Those of us who were able to travel on this adventure formed a strong bond, and had experiences we can hold dear to our hearts forever!



Clayton Christensen, Victor Cross, David Bailey, and Bob Thompson sign the “official register” for the officials in St. Vith, Belgium following the city’s wreath laying ceremony.



A relaxing moment in front the Christmas Tree at the R Hotel in Belgium, where we stayed 3 nights. David Bailey, Joe Landry, Jack Stitzinger, Victor Cross, Frank Dick, Bob Thompson, and Clayton Christensen.



1) Jean Pierre Paviot, owner and founder of D-Day Memorial Tours USA, who led our group, with Alan Cunningham, Chairman of the Board for BOBA, waiting for the Luxembourg official ceremonies to begin. 2) Bob Thompson was accompanied by his daughter and 3 sons on this once in a lifetime trip. 3) Sunset at the Luxembourg American Cemetery in Luxembourg City as the official ceremonies conclude. 4) Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation historian and BOBA member John Bowen at City Hall in St. Vith, Belgium showing appreciation for today's Army! 5) Victor Cross, Clayton Christensen and David Bailey get up close and personal with a Tiger tank, abandoned by German SS Jochen Peiper on his route through Belgium. 6) Jack Stitzinger of California was the first veteran to arrive in Paris for the 75th anniversary tour, and was met by tour interpreter, Audrey Paviot.





From left to right are BOBA veteran members Ron Kimler, Paul Goffin, George Merz, Peter Munger, Jacob Ruser, Joe Landry, Lester Bornstein, Benjamin Berry, Francis Chesko and David Bailey at the Embassy of Luxembourg in DC.

COMMEMORATING THE END OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE IN WASHINGTON, DC

On January 25, 2020, BOBA held its the 75th Anniversary of the ending of the Battle of the Bulge (Jan. 25, 1945) in Washington, D.C. Over 95 attendees filled two charter buses to participate in wreath-layings at the Battle of the Bulge Memorial and the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington Cemetery as well as the World War II Memorial. The group also attended a reception hosted by **H.E. Ambassador Gaston Stronck** at the Luxembourg Embassy.

Ten Bulge veterans who attended were: **David Bailey** (106 INFD 422 INF 3 BN F), **Benjamin Berry** (Quartermaster Corps, Third Army), **Lester Bornstein** (168 ENGR CMBT BN B), **Francis Chesko** (7 ARMDD & 148 ENGR CMBT BN), **Paul C. Goffin** (21st Fusiliers Bn, Belgian Army), **Ron Kimler** (9 AF), **Joe Landry** (776 AAA AW BN SM), **George Merz** (818 MP CO, VIII Corps), **Peter Munger** (30 INFD 120 REG CO E), and **Jacob Ruser** (4 INFD).



Veterans George Merz (seated) and Francis Chesko (far right) at breakfast with BOBA friends and family.

Photos courtesy of: Chris Hayes, Pierre Oury, Hylton Phillips-Page, Tom Roberts, Betsy Rose



1) Participants enjoying WWII artifacts from member Jim Triesler's collection. 2) Crowds line up to express appreciation to Francis Chesko and Lester Bornstein at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. 3) Members Barbara Whalen, Albert El, Jacob Ruser, Benjamin Berry, Andy McCoy, and Andy Waskie. 4) Today's Army soldiers show their appreciation to Francis Chesko and Joe Landry. 5) Huge thanks to H.E. Gaston Stronck and the Embassy of Luxembourg staff for hosting us at their wonderful reception!



MORE ON BOBA MEMBERS' TRIPS FOR THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BULGE

JOHN A. PILDNER, SR., 75 INFD, 290 ANTI-TANK CO HEADS TO BELGIUM



John A. Pildner, Sr. meeting Her Highness, Queen Mathilde of Belgium.

John A. Pildner, Sr. held the rank of Private 1st Class and served in the 75th Infantry Division, Anti-Tank Company of the U. S. Army. It was during this military engagement that John, surviving the cold, freezing weather along with his battle-weary comrades, observed his 19th birthday.

At age 94, John made the journey to Bastogne, Belgium to participate

in commemorative ceremonies December 11-17, 2019, marking the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge at the Mardasson Memorial in Bastogne. Attending this ceremony in Bastogne, in addition to representatives of Belgium, Germany, and the United States Government, were members of the Allied Forces and their former German foes. The American armed forces and their European allies, ultimately liberated Europe and their sympathizers in Germany.

Making the necessary arrangements for John, along with a family chaperone, to attend this gathering was Peter Plank and Liberty Jump Team. The host family, who accommodated John during his stay in Belgium, was Allaine and Murial Pierre and their son. John and two other veterans, who also fought in the Battle, assisted at the laying of the wreath at the Mardasson Memorial in Bastogne. They were invited to place a red rose on the wreath during the ceremony. At one of the luncheons during the week of celebration to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, John had the distinction of meeting Her Highness, Queen Mathilde of Belgium, along with Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States.

John's military experience during The Battle of the Bulge can be concisely summed up in the following quote by an unknown author that acknowledges the indomitable spirit of the U. S. soldier: "A soldier doesn't fight because he hates what is in front of him. He fights because he loves what he left behind."

John currently lives in Ashtabula, Ohio.

—Submitted by his son, Jim Pildner



LEFT PHOTO: John Pildner and two other Bulge veterans assisted at the laying of the wreath at the Mardasson Memorial in Bastogne. ABOVE PHOTO: Pildner photographed as a young soldier.



From left to right, front row: Hank Baggs (90th Inf Div), John Katsaros (8th Air Force), Raymond Wallace (82nd AB), Rodney Perkins (87th Inf Div), Frank Polewarczyk (79th Inf Div), Ernie Roberts (87th Inf Div), Fred Whitaker (87th Inf Div), Wayne Field (6th Armored). Back row, left to right: Chet Rohn (11th Armored), Fran Guadere (30th Inf Div), Bob Weber (10th Armored), Al Blaney (101st AB), Charlie Sanderson (552nd Field Artillery).

MY 75TH ANNIVERSARY TRIP IN MEMORY OF JOHN MCAULIFFE

by Andrew Biggio, Member

On Dec 10th, 2019, our plane departed Boston, Massachusetts to Belgium for the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. On board our flight was sixteen Battle of the Bulge Veterans from ages of 93-97. However, there was supposed to be seventeen veterans with us. John McAuliffe, President of Central Massachusetts Chapter 22, had died the day before.

John had become like a grandfather to me. My own grandfather, Masmeno DelRossi, 10th Armored Div, 54th Armored Infantry, had died in 1987. With him went any information I was to learn about my family's sacrifice in WWII, particularly in the Bulge.

But then there was John, 94, when I met him. I was fresh from Iraq and Afghanistan, and looking for information about what my grandfather may have done in the Battle of the Bulge. John welcomed me into his home. He taught me about the Battle of the Bulge, and connected me with thirty veterans fought in it. Each man I had sign my M1 Rifle, sparking a three-year journey, and eventually interviewing two hundred veterans for my own book, *The Rifle*. John taught me about what places I should visit when I traveled to Bastogne. He

gave me names of the locals, locations, and the best beer to drink, "Orval."

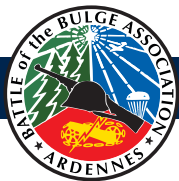
A few months before he passed away, John summoned me, for what might be the last time, to his apartment. He handed me his 87th Division uniform, a Nazi dagger, and a helmet. "I want you to have these," he said. "I don't know anyone else as young as you that would be interested." It was a profound honor to preserve John's military memories.

John motivated me. After collecting two hundred signatures on my M1 Rifle, I thought, "Why not start a fundraiser to bring some of these men I met back to Belgium for the 75th Anniversary of the Bulge?" In roughly three months, I raised \$70,000 to bring sixteen veterans and a family member to Luxembourg and Belgium. The trip was a success and I know it's because John was looking over us.

Andrew Biggio, USMC Veteran 06-12, is the author of The Rifle.

PHOTO, ABOVE RIGHT: John McAuliffe presenting Andrew Biggio with his 87th Division uniform, along with a Nazi dagger, and a helmet. **RIGHT:** Fred Whitaker, 87 INFD, amongst Biggio's collections, with the M1 rifle Biggio had autographed by two hundred WWII veterans.





MARYLAND/DC CHAPTER (3)



John R. Schaffner (106 INF, 589 FA BN), long-time president of the MD/DC chapter of VBOB/BOBA and also former member of our National Board of Directors, died on March 3, 2020 at age 95.

BOBA Board Member and Chaplain Madeleine Bryant wrote, "John Schaffner was one of my dearest friends. He, along with John Bowen, encouraged me to become, and remain, active in VBOB/BOBA. He was an excellent chapter leader. He and his precious wife of 71 years, Lil, whom he lost last year, were always gracious and welcoming. John has done many local, national, and international interviews (TV, books, etc.) over the years, but always remained extremely humble. He was a great asset, nationally and locally, to VBOB/BOBA, to the 106th, to the American Legion, to name but a few. He was truly a mentor and friend to many of us." Rest in peace, John, and thank you for your service to our country!



MISSOURI GATEWAY CHAPTER (25)



Two St. Louis Gateway Chapter members have been honored during St. Louis Blues hockey games in the past year. Gene Ganz (left) was honored during a playoff game in May of 2019 during the team's successful Stanley Cup run. Gene was attached to the 1st Infantry Division, 18th Infantry Regiment during the Battle of the Bulge and is currently the Gateway Chapter Chaplain. More recently, Walter Fischer (above) was honored on February 18 at a regular season Blues game. Walter was attached to the 75th Infantry Division, 291st Infantry Regiment during the Battle of the Bulge.

—Submitted by Don Korte,
Gateway Chapter (25)

ALABAMA GEN. G.S. PATTON, JR. CHAPTER (11)



On November 8, 2019, the Alabama Chapter lost a very dear friend and their BOBA Chapter president, Vernon Emil Miller (130th Ordinance Maintenance Battalion HQ) of Birmingham, AL. During the Battle of the Bulge, Vern drove a 2 1/2-ton truck in the combat zone, supplying gasoline,

ammunition, water and other materials. His daughter-in-law Cynthia Miller wrote that he was "the best man I have ever known....I loved going with him to his monthly veterans' meeting. My father also served in the Battle of the Bulge, but would not talk about it, so it was rewarding to hear other veterans' stories."

PLEASE NOTE: The Alabama Chapter is now closed, and we are forever grateful for Vern's support of our organization.



Vernon Miller in a foxhole.

SOUTH CAROLINA CHAPTER (7)

A GREAT DAY TO CELEBRATE VETERANS AND THE END OF THE BULGE



World War II Veterans and dignitaries at the commemoration of the end of the Battle of the Bulge.

On January 17, 2020, the South Carolina BOBA Chapter celebrated the “end of the Battle of the Bulge” in Columbia, South Carolina. This event was sponsored by our Chapter 7, the South Carolina Military Museum and the South Carolina National Guard. The event featured World War II veterans, distinguished guests, speakers, and World War II displays of weapons, equipment and re-enactors dressed in period attire.

After the welcome by Master of Ceremony MG (Ret) Les Eisner, the United States National Anthem, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, and the Kingdom of Belgium National Anthems were played. Next the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Gerald White, a veteran of the Battle of the Bulge as well as a member of the South Carolina Chapter.

MG (Ret) Eisner introduced MG Van McCarty, the Adjutant General of the State of

South Carolina, who honored all of the World War II Veterans by thanking them for their service and dedication. He also remarked that he appreciated what an example these men provided for our service members today. Next, Mr. William DeBaets, Consul General of Belgium, thanked the veterans for their service and for freeing his country from the Germans. He also said that still today the people of his country remember and celebrate what these veterans had done for them. Mr. Georges A. Hoffman, Honorary Consul of Luxembourg, also thanked the veterans for liberating his country.

The final speaker was the Honorable Henry McMaster, Governor of South Carolina, and after thanking the veterans, he issued a proclamation from his office proclaiming January 17, 2020 as “Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge” day.

The veterans signed autographs for four hours, until the line had to be closed due to veterans needing to leave and rest. One of these veterans was John Harman, who is 100 years old, but he did not act like he was 100! Overall the event was a great success, with approximately 1,500-2,000 people in attendance!

— Submitted by Doug Patterson,
Chapter 7 President

RIP CHRISTOPHER C. CARAWAN

Christopher C. Carawan (106 INFD, 424 INF, 2 BN, CO F), a beloved active member and past president of the SC Chapter (2014), passed on March 13, 2020 at age 94. In the Army, he specialized in radio communication and was a recipient of the Bronze Star, among other medals.

Chris was recently interviewed by National Geographic and graciously shared his experience:

“They always told us not to get too emotionally close to the fellas, but of course that was impossible.”

Carawan recalls walking across an open field with his best friend, Doyle Griffith, and his favorite executive officer, Harry Stone, when suddenly a German tank opened fire.

“It nearly tore Doyle in half. He started calling for his mother. I said ‘Hold on,’ and called a medic over. I don’t know how, but he made it. But it killed the officer. He never knew what hit him. Why that tank didn’t even nick me, I’ll never know. But I’ll tell you what: I woke up this morning thinking about Harry Stone. Here I am, I’ve had 94 years, and those fellas barely got into their 20s. Sometimes I feel like I’m living my life for them too.”—Excerpt from “WWII veterans remember Hitler’s ‘last gamble’”, by Bill Newcott, National Geographic, 12/23/19



Christopher C. Carawan, 106 INFD, 424 INF, 2 BN, CO F

WE NEED YOUR CHAPTER NEWS!

Send to: betsy.boba@gmail.com
NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE: JUNE 26, 2020



Henry Triesler, US Fifth Army

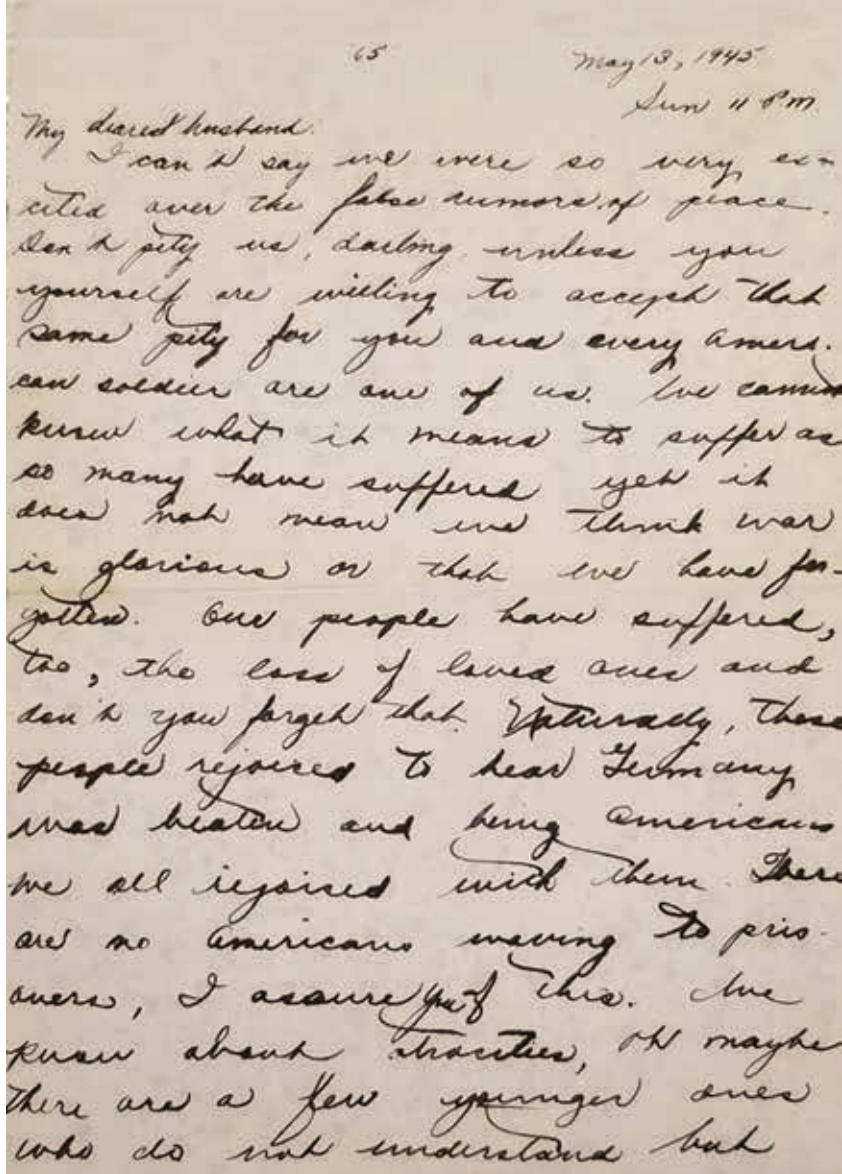
soul is battle scarred. I'm much thinner, but I feel fine. The weather here today was beautiful, the first nice day in weeks. I think God arranged it that way. No one seems to know what is going to happen. I'm just praying."

On May 8, Henry Triesler of the Fifth Army, in Italy, wrote home to his family in Hagerstown, Maryland. "Today we heard the news. The beaten Wehrmacht has surrendered. Tonight there is no celebration. This is being taken so quietly, because the speedy end has been inevitable."

Some soldiers in the Pacific expressed concern that people on the home front would quit their war jobs now that the fighting in Europe had ceased. The Editor of the *Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch* stated, "The nation and our allies cannot possibly forget that the defeat of Germany is only part of a duty to which we have committed ourselves. A job remains to be done. A price remains to be paid."

People on the home front generally received the news of peace very stoically and wondered what would be next for their loved ones overseas. Maggie Searle wrote to her husband Preston on May 6, "So, do you think you'll get to come home? To stay? Furlough? Pacific? Occupation? Write me a long letter and tell me some things."

On May 13, Maggie reminded Preston of some of the hardships of the homefront. "Our people have suffered too, the loss of loved ones, and don't you forget that. Naturally, the people rejoiced to hear Germany was beaten. American women want to help. Prices are high



Maggie Searle's May 13, 1945 letter to her husband Preston, reminding him of some of the hardships of the homefront.

here Preston, terribly high. The ordinary middle class men and women make just enough to make ends meet; butter is a luxury, eggs are scarce, to mention a few. Sure, we all complain, but who gives you your guns, your planes, your tanks, your ammunition, and even the clothes on your back? I don't want to hear any more talk about your people failing you. I thought you had more sense than that. I'll do my celebrating when I feel your arms around me once again."

Labor leaders encouraged American workers to keep up the fight. AFL President William Green implored workers by stating, "American soldiers of production cannot afford to pause or falter until the entire job is completed and final victory achieved." CIO President Philip Murray said, "The courage, patience and superb fighting qualities of our sons and brothers in the fighting forces must still be backed up on the home front. This is no time to quit buying war bonds. For many months yet ahead of us, we

must help to meet the payrolls and to pay the food and supply bills of those great fighters of whom we are so justly proud."

Acting Senate Democratic Leader Hill (Ala) pronounced, "This is a day when you and I and every American can sincerely rejoice... The defeat of the Nazi is an achievement made possible by the unity of freedom-loving peoples. Let us give thanks to the God of our fathers that He has given us the strength and the courage to defeat one of the enemy that sought the destruction of our way of life and the enslavement of our people."

V-E Day was complicated and those who lived through it experienced a variety of emotions. President Truman celebrated his 61st birthday. Sporting events in the United States took place, unlike on D-Day. The soldiers reflected on their war experiences and wondered what was next. On the home front, Americans quietly celebrated and longed for the day when their loved ones would return home. Many

continued to work in the factories and invest in bonds during the 7th and final bond drive. Some soldiers remained on duty in occupied Europe. Others prepared for the invasion of Japan that thankfully never occurred. Mainly, the generation that liberated Europe, just wanted to come home.



Street scene of a German town with white surrender flags hanging out of windows.

UPCOMING REUNIONS OF UNITS THAT FOUGHT IN THE BULGE

The following reunions are scheduled for this year. Please feel free to contact the individuals noted for further information.

*NOTE: Please be advised that as of this printing, some dates may have changed, due to the ongoing uncertainty caused by COVID-19 ever-changing requirements. Also note that some are scheduled for July/August. Each reunion has their own cut-off dates, and they are usually 4 - 6 weeks prior to the first day of the Reunion. Also, some require membership in their organization. If there is an interest, making contact sooner rather than later would be better.

—Submitted by Doris Davis, Member, Golden Gate Chapter Pres.



1ST INFANTRY DIVISION:

New Orleans, Aug 12 - 16, 2020 (deadline July 10)

Contact: Phyllis Fitzgerald, Executive Director,
sfid1919@gmail.com, phone (785) 579-6761



2ND INFANTRY DIVISION:

99th Reunion, Kansas City, MO, Sept 23 - 27, 2020

(The TX and CA branches of the 2nd Indianhead Div. Association also hold annual reunions.)

Contact: Bob Haynes, National Secy/Treasurer; 2idahq@comcast.net



4TH INFANTRY DIVISION:

Colorado Springs, CO, August 10 - 16, 2020

4thinfantry.org

(Note: Deadline for hotel reservation by May 22)

Contact: Richard Adams. RJAdams90@charter.net



SOCIETY OF 5TH INFANTRY DIVISION:

100th Reunion, San Antonio, TX,

Sept 10 - 14, 2020

Contact: Hal Roller at (913) 681-4915;

hal.roller@sbcglobal.net or societyofthefifthdivision.com



28TH INFANTRY DIVISION:

Ft Indiantown Gap, PA, Sept 9 - 13, 2020

Contact Gwenn Underwood: info@28thinfantrydivisionassoc.org



29TH INFANTRY DIVISION:

Gettysburg, PA, Sept 24 - 27, 2020

Contact: David Ginsburg dginzu@gmail.com



30TH INFANTRY DIVISION:

74th Reunion, Raleigh, NC, July 23 - 26, 2020

Contact: Melissa Culbreth, 30thIDA@gmail.com



35TH INFANTRY DIVISION:

Kansas City, MO, Sept 11 - 13, 2020

Contact: Geoff Lanning, glanning@aol.com Phone (913) 772-8130



65TH INFANTRY DIVISION: Camp Shelby, MS, Oct 22 - 25, 2020 (65th Inf Div Veterans and caregivers will be sponsored)

Contact: Jackie Hanson at bluegrass@abe.midco.net
or phone (605) 229-2812



70TH INFANTRY DIVISION:

Kansas City, MO, Sept 16 - 22, 2020

(The 70th Inf. Div. has reunions every 2 years)

Contact: Armed Forces Reunion (AFR) phone (757) 625-6401



71ST INFANTRY DIVISION:

Camp Shelby, MS, Oct 22 - 25, 2020
(Combined with the 65th Inf Division reunions)
Contact: Jackie Hanson at bluegrass@abe.midco.net
or phone (605) 229-2812



80TH INFANTRY DIVISION: Richmond, VA,
Summer 2021 TBD.

Contact: Douglas Knorr at DougK@KnorrMarketing.com,
phone (231) 218-1747



83RD INFANTRY DIVISION: 76th Reunion,
Crystal City, Arlington, VA, Jul 29 - Aug 2, 2020

Contact: info@83rdassociation.com



87TH INFANTRY DIVISION:

71st Reunion, Savannah, GA, Sept 10 - 12, 2020
Contact: Tim Muilenburg at membership@87thinfantrydivision.com
OR Marty Cross at cmccross@rocketmail.com



90TH INFANTRY DIVISION:

102nd Reunion, San Antonio, TX, Jul 30 - Aug 2, 2020
Contact: Nancy at Nancy@90thdivisionassoc.org
or phone (970) 227-2744



95TH INFANTRY DIVISION:

71st Reunion, Williamsburg, VA, Sept 16 - 20, 2020
Contact: www.95divassociation.com



104TH INFANTRY DIVISION - NATIONAL TIMBERWOLF

PUPS ASSN (legacy group): 10th Reunion, Kansas City, MO,
Sept 9 - 13, 2020 (Combined with the 106th Inf Div)
Contact: Armed Forces Reunion (AFR) phone (757) 625-6401
ORtimberwolf104inf.org/reunion-2020.html



106TH INFANTRY DIVISION: 74th Reunion, Kansas City, MO,
Sept 9 - 13, 2020 (Combined with the 104th Inf Div)
Contact: Wayne Dunn at WayneDunn@comcast.net,
phone (410) 409-1141 or www.106thinfdivassn.org/reunion2020.html



82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION: 74th Reunion, Houston, TX,
Aug 5 - 9, 2000 (Honoring the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII)
Hotel regis cut-off July 5

Contact: <https://texaslonestar82.org/convention.html>



101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION: 75th Reunion,
Grand Rapids, MI, Aug 12 - 15, 2020

Contact: screamingeagle.org/reunion-online-registration/



2ND ARMORED DIVISION: 62nd Reunion, Kansas City, MO,
Sept 23 - 27, 2020 (Combined with the 2nd Inf. Division)

Contact: Richard Smith, fsrgs81@gmail.com. Phone (203) 723-7425



3RD ARMORED DIVISION: Washington, DC,
Nov 12 - 15, 2020

Contact: Don Duckworth, president@3ad.org



8TH ARMORED DIVISION:

Ft. Belvoir, VA, Sept 4 - 6, 2020
Participate in the dedication of our "Thundering Herd" Memorial
at the new Museum of the Army
Contact: Andy Waskie, 8thArmoredDivision@gmail.com



12TH ARMORED DIVISION:

74th Reunion, New Orleans, July 22 - 26, 2020
Contact: info@12tharmoreddivisionassociation.us



Welcome, New Members!

We salute these new members who joined BOBA between January 28, 2020 - March 27, 2020:

Ranae Bailey	WV	Stanley Kowalski	TX	Matthew A. Reluga*	NJ	Joe Thompson	WI
Ken Baumgen	MD	Mark Mahan	OH	Den Roberts	VA	Mark A. Veal	OK
Lori Byrum	IN	Gail P. Moody	VA	Mike Rowley	IA	Sigrun Veal	OK
George Folk	PA	Barbara-Ann O'Connor	LA	Rock Schmidt	SC	Raymond Wainscott	IN
Anthony Franco	NY	Rachel Park	MD	Anna Semonco	VA	Gayalyn Wojtowicz	NY
Randy Gaulke	NJ	John Payne	VA	Ann Slusser	VA	J.C. Wood	VA
William Henderson	DC	Joseph Quagliano	NY	John R Snidarich	MN	*Denotes Veteran Member	

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

- Talking to people about BOBA to sign up new members
- Sending us articles to be included in *The Bulge Bugle*
- Promoting our website: www.battleofthebulge.org
- Attending our annual reunion (*details in the next Bugle*)

★ NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT ★



Jake Larson, a new Veteran member who is 97 years young, can be found every morning at The Bagel Street Cafe in Martinez, CA, which has been his routine for approximately 20 years now.

His service began early, at age 15, when he entered the National Guard during high school (34 INF 135 REG) and later advanced to the rank of Sergeant in the V Corps. When he trained in Slapton Sands, he arrived on a LST (Landing Ship Tank) in a 'mock invasion' and nearly lost his life when two German E boats discovered their practice invasion. Two of the LSTs (carrying 795 soldiers) were annihilated, and Jake's LST barely made it through. This mock invasion was just one month before D-Day.

With the V Corps, Jake had many close calls that included the invasion at Omaha Beach and the Battle of the Bulge. He is working with an author on his book to be titled *The Luckiest Man in The World*, which will be available later this year.

In 2019, he went to Europe in June for the D-Day Anniversary and in December for the anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. He also took an Honor Flight in September 2019 with his grandson Daniel Moldovan. He said, "I'm not a 'hero.' I'm here to tell you my story and honor all of those men and women who didn't return."

If you'd like to welcome Jake, feel free to send him an email to: karlan11@rocketmail.com or call him at (925) 387-0874 PST.

—Submitted by Doris Davis, President of the Golden Gate Chapter
Read an expanded version of this story at battleofthebulge.org.

SPECIAL OFFER! Buy 1, Get 2nd Copy Free! 2 for \$15

THE VBOB CERTIFICATE: Have you ordered yours?



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

fought in the Battle of the Bulge, starting with the 12th Army group, then followed numerically with Armies, Corps and Divisions and the two Army Air Forces. We wish that each unit insignia could have been shown, but with approximately 2000 units that participated in the Bulge, it is impossible. However, any unit that served in the Bulge would have been attached to or reported through one of the unit insignia depicted. You may want to add one of the veteran's original patches to the certificate when you receive it. **Please allow approximately 4 to 6 weeks for delivery.** The certificate will be shipped rolled in a protective mailing box. **Please be sure that you write the name, service number and unit as you would like it to appear on the certificate.** The unit name should be as complete as possible, because you want someone reading it to understand what unit the veteran was in. We will abbreviate it as necessary. It is important that you type or print this information and the unit must be one of the 2,000 units authorized for the Ardennes Campaign credit that is in the Official General Order No. 114 for units entitled to the Ardennes Battle Credit and will be the basis for sale of the certificate. **The cost of the 2 certificates is \$15 postpaid.**

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Certificate Order Blank

I request an 11" by 17" certificate and certify the veteran named below received credit for the Ardennes campaign.

I have enclosed a check for \$15 for the certificate. Please include the following information on the certificate:

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

First Name _____ Middle Initial _____ Last Name _____

Serial Number _____ Rank _____ Unit _____

Organization _____

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

Signature _____ Date _____

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

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone number _____ E-mail address _____

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

Make checks payable to BOBA, Inc.

**Orders should be mailed to: BOBA, Inc., P.O. Box 330, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330 Questions? Call 703-528-4058
OR ORDER ONLINE: WWW.BATTLEOFTHEBULGE.ORG [NO PHONE ORDERS]**



**Battle of the Bulge
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SPRING 2020

**BOBA 39th Annual Reunion
CHARLESTON, SC
Fall 2020**

See page 7 for preliminary information.

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



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Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330

YOU CAN JOIN OR RENEW ONLINE:
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Click on "Join BOBA/Renew"

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

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

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

Campaigns _____

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

Regiment _____ Battalion _____

Company _____ Other _____

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

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

The Bulge Vet's Name and Units _____

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

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