

The BULGE BUGLE

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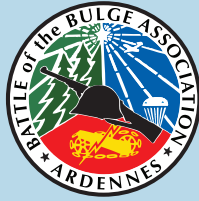
THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

WINTER 2020



Commemorating
75 YEARS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE
December 16, 1944 - January 25, 1945 ★ **INSIDE: Bulge Memories 75 Years Later**





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

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ON THE COVER

TOP PHOTO: From left to right seated are BOBA veteran members **Jack Stitzinger, Victor Cross, Clayton Christensen, David Bailey, Joe Landry, Frank Dick, and Bob Thompson.** Behind them are **Mathilde and Marcel Schmetz**, owners of the Remember Museum 39-45 in Belgium. Mathilde and Marcel, better known as "M & M," welcomed our veterans and group warmly, with a tour of the museum and lunch. Thanks to **BOBA Executive VP Barbara Mooneyhan** who worked with tour guides and BOBA members **JP and Marie Paviot** to organize a group of 50 BOBA members, with 7 veterans, on a trip through France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany in December 2019!

BOTTOM LEFT PHOTO: In January 2020, BOBA veteran member **Peter Munger**, 30 INF 120 REG CO E, (center), shown with **BOBA Past President Gary Higgins** (left), and **BOBA President & CEO John Mohor** (right), presented a major gift to BOBA at the Embassy of Luxembourg in DC, on behalf of funds raised by The Society of the Sons and Daughters of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc. Thank you, Peter, for your most generous and largest donation in the history of BOBA (a donation of \$20,000)! And even more importantly, thank you for your service to our country!

BOTTOM RIGHT PHOTO: 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. Thanks to **Ambassador Gaston Stronck** for hosting the Embassy event and to **BOBA VP of Military & Veteran Affairs Col. (RET) Allen Cleghorn** for organizing all the weekend's events!

BOBA commemorations of the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge were a huge success, both in our travels in Europe in December and in DC in January! Both events took place just prior to press-time, so look for recaps and more pics in the next issue of *The Bulge Bugle*.

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**FOR THE VERY LATEST CHAPTER LIST,
visit battleofthebulge.org > Chapters
SEND CHAPTER UPDATES TO: betsy.boba@gmail.com**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

John Mohor

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all the members of the Battle of the Bulge Association! I'd like to thank Gary Higgins for his service as President of the organization these last three years. I'd also like to thank Alan Cunningham for his service as Chairman of the Board during our transition from VBOB to BOBA. Alan has agreed to continue serving as Chairman of the Board in 2020.

As your new 2020 BOBA President, let me give you a little background. I'm the youngest of five children born to my Battle of the Bulge veteran father, Arthur B. Mohor, Jr., and my mother, Louise O. Mohor. Most of my life I lived in Georgia. My wife Mandy and I both graduated from the University of North Georgia. We've been married over twenty-nine years and have lived in North Carolina the last eighteen years. I've served as a member of the Board of Directors for the last four years since my Dad's death in 2015. I became involved with VBOB and BOBA by bringing my Dad to reunions. As I used to say to folks at our veteran group gatherings, Dad started the Cold War and I finished it. When the Berlin Wall came down in November 1989, I was serving in Germany from 1989-1992. In June 2004 I was mobilized then deployed to Iraq. As far back as I can remember, I always



wanted to be a soldier. I served a total of twenty-six years with both active and reserve service, and I retired in 2013 as a Lieutenant Colonel from the Army Reserve. I saw service as a Field Artillery, Ordnance (Maintenance) and Logistics Officer. I've always had an interest in WWII History since I was little. Maybe it was that Ike jacket Dad had hanging in the closet.

I'm also in the South Carolina Chapter of BOBA. Our purpose is to perpetuate the memory of the sacrifices made by US Military personnel during the Battle of the Bulge and to maintain international relations with Belgium and Luxembourg. We have, and will continue to work with, the people and ambassadors of Belgium and Luxembourg. After our return from the 75th Anniversary Tour of the Battle of the Bulge, it's my belief everyone had a great trip!

Please continue to submit your stories for *The Bulge Bugle* and help recruit new members into the organization. It was truly an honor to participate with everyone in our commemorations in Washington, D.C., and I hope to thank all who were involved and gave donations soon. I also look forward to our Fall reunion and working for each member of this great organization.

BOBA BOARD FOR 2020

The following 2020 board members were voted into office during the 2019 annual reunion in Norfolk, VA:

ELECTED OFFICERS

President and CEO: John Mohor

Executive Vice President:

Barbara Mooneyhan

Vice President Membership:

Angela Fazio

Vice President Chapters:

Sherry Klopp

Vice President Military &

Veteran Affairs: Allen Cleghorn

Treasurer: Duane R. Bruno

Recording Secretary:

Gail Larke

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD:

Alan Cunningham

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Tom Burgess, 87th Inf Div

Tana Van Nice Black

Madeleine Bryant, Chaplain

Steven Landry

APPOINTED OFFICERS

(non-voting)

Public Relations: Gary Higgins,
Immediate Past President

To read the Minutes from the General Membership Meeting held in Norfolk, go to our website: battleofthebulge.org > About

LETTERS TO BOBA

FROM THE WATERS AND SAND OF OMAHA BEACH, TO THE ICE, SNOW AND MUD OF THE ARDENNES



I am writing regarding a letter to BOBA in the February 2018 magazine, "Appreciation for Truck Drivers" from Florence Turner. Thank you, Florence, for your comments about drivers in WWII. I was a driver of a 2 1/2 ton truck in the war in the European Theatre of Operations (ETO) from England to Nurnberg, Germany. We hauled guns, troops and supplies of all kinds. We also transported prisoners and body bags. We drove tanks, ducks and trucks in all kinds of weather. We drove for

days with very little rest, changing drivers without stopping and eating on the go or at the Quartermaster truck stop.

General Eisenhower once said the 2 1/2 won the war and the 2 1/2 had to have a driver.

I saw a lot of trucks and tanks with the driver giving his all.

T/5 Joe Landry, 776 AAA AW BM, 3rd US Army

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: March 20, 2020

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

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: On page 14 of the November 2019 issue of *The Bulge Bugle*, in "The Battle Beyond Victory" by James Triesler, we listed the wrong service unit under the photo caption for Joe Keller. He was in the 1st Marine Division. (We did have another member, Joseph E. Keller, with the units that were listed.) Sorry for the error!

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



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.

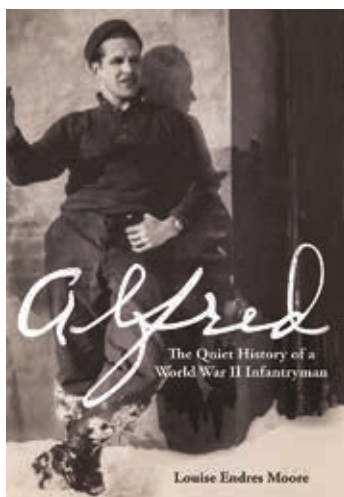
We have been notified as of January 27, 2020, that these Veteran BOBA members have recently passed away.

JAMES H. ARTHUR	78 INFD ARTY HQ	GEORGE J. KRAKOSKY	29 INFD
STILLMAN C. BALDWIN	551 ARTY HQ	V. RAY LEWIS	83 INFD 331 INF HQ
STANLEY BARAN	296 ENGR CMBT BN B	RICHARD LOCKHART	106 INFD 423 REG ANTI-TANK CO
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JAMES BOWERS	28 INFD	FELIX J. MELLENO	955 HQ BTRY FA BN
EDWARD J. BURTON, JR.	84 INFD 334 INF 3 BN HQ	VERNON E. MILLER	8 ARMDD 130 ORD MAINT HQ
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JOHN M. COLETON	87 INFD 345 INF 3 BN K	RICHARD J. SOLLMANN	75 INFD 289 INF 1 BN A
LEONARD DAVIS	83 INFD 308 ENGR CMBT BN	RICHARD E. STONE	526 ARM INF BN
LOREN H. HEWITT	2 INFD 38 INF 1 BN A	GLENN E. VANCE	8 ARMDD 80 TK BN C
FELIX A. IANNAcone	244 ENGR CMBT BN C	RICHARD J. WHALEN	3816 QM GAS SUP CO
GUERINO JACOBINI	83 INFD 330 INF G	CHARLES J. WOODMAN	75 INFD 291 INF 1 BN B

BOBA MEMBER BOOKS

ALFRED: THE QUIET HISTORY OF A WORLD WAR II INFANTRYMAN

By Louise Endres Moore, Member



For 57 years, Alfred told his family he had been a barber, chauffeur, and German language translator during World War II with the U.S. Army. But following the death of his wife, he quietly started to share a glimpse into his actual experiences. The author first captured those fractions of stories on napkins during weekly nursing home visits, which grew into more than a decade long deep-dive into Alfred's true role in the war — a reluctant front-line heavy weapons machine gunner for five campaigns with the 35th Infantry

Division in Europe during 1944-1945.

Eight months before his death, Alfred was awarded the French Legion of Honor Medal, which brought forth another unexpected discovery.

The Ardennes Campaign chapter begins:

"What was the worst part of the war for you?" I carefully asked Dad.

He hesitated and quietly responded, "Bastogne."

A friend said to him, "Alfred, you are a hero. I have a lot of respect for anyone who was at the Battle of the Bulge. You have gone to hell and back."

Colonel Roger T. Aeschliman (Ret) of the 35th Division writes of the book: Many warriors who saw the worst of World War II came home to resume a quiet, peaceful life. Alfred was one of those who tried to leave the horrors behind and as a result, left his family and friends with little knowledge of what he had seen and done. From occasional cracks in his armor, his daughter was able to piece together the amazing history of a common man who suffered, endured, and survived to say — in his own way — war is a terrible thing. You will find yourself weeping with reverence and gratitude, touched by the simple statements of true heroism from a quiet hero.

More information is available at www.AlfredtheBook.com.

BOOK REVIEWS

THE ZOOKEEPER'S WIFE: A WAR STORY

By Diane Ackerman

Reviewed by Carol Higgins, Member



As members of BOBA, we often just think about a few central countries in Europe that had war and disaster taking place in them during WWII. This book gives historical details of occupied Poland. We see the fate of many people, zoo animals and places in Poland during German and Russian occupation.

This is a very thought provoking and informative book. It tells the story of two heroic Polish people, Jan and Antonina Zabinski. Jan was the zookeeper in Warsaw, Poland. Antonina is his wife and also very

interested in the animals of the zoo. They were Christians who helped save over 300 hundred people, mostly Jews, escape the Warsaw Ghetto. The zoo was used as a stopping point and hiding place for many of these people. The Zabinskis's stories are revealed through bibliographies, but mainly by the diaries and notes that Antonina kept during this time period. The book is more than just a diary of day to day living at the zoo. There are details about animal species, music, art, and various people who stayed at the zoo. One example was a famous Polish sculptor, Magdelene Gross. She studied the Warsaw zoo animals for an inspiration for her work.

Of interest was a perspective on how German breeding experiments on animals and the Nazi philosophy may have helped save rare and endangered plants and animals. (It seems ironic and very sad to realize millions of humans died because of similar Nazi ideals!)

The Warsaw Uprising and the Russian occupation also led to so much destruction in Poland. An interesting and very sad statistic was quoted. Warsaw's prewar population was one and a half million people. In the early Spring of 1946, it was a half million at most.

There certainly is much to learn from this book. It creates a sense of "rooting" for this family as they help so many others and still maintain everyday duties such as raising their son and daughter. There are many challenges of everyday living for the people in Warsaw during this time. It seems fitting to end this review with a quote from Jan, "I only did my duty- if you can save somebody's life, it's your duty to try" or: "We did it because it was the right thing to do."

(Note: This book was made into a movie, which I have not watched. I always find the book so much better than a film.)

THE FIRST WAVE

By Alex Kershaw

Reviewed by Larry Lewis, Member

Frank Lillyman and the famed 101st Airborne were told that their chances of getting out alive from their mission were "not good, not good at all." Lillyman and his men dropped on June 5th to set up lights to guide future airborne missions to their targets. *The First Wave* follows individual survivors of the D-Day invasion, moving slowly forward in time, from beach to beach, as the soldiers fought behind the enemy lines.

A glider placed Major John Howard and his men behind enemy lines. The glider pilots had a near zero chance to survive their crash landing, yet they carried out their landing flawlessly. Howard's mission was to take and hold the Pegasus bridge over the Caen canal. "Hold until relieved" read his orders, a phrase I recall from the classic D-Day movie "The Longest Day."

Lord Lovat's French special service brigade landed on Sword beach and was charged with the relief of Howard's forces. Bill Millin, kilt and all, played his bagpipes right out of the landing craft and all the way to and over Pegasus bridge. Indeed, with soldiers falling all around him, Millin never wavered.

Lieutenant John Spalding landed on Omaha beach; a slaughter. None of the naval or air bombardments hit their targets, leaving all the German defenses intact. The beach was described as a "human carpet of dead bodies." Eventually, Spalding found a gap in the German defenses and led the Americans off the beach.

The 56-year-old son of President Teddy Roosevelt, General Theodore Roosevelt Jr., was the oldest soldier to land on D-Day. He was with the first wave on Utah beach and helped stem the chaos and lead the men inland.

Perhaps the most famous event of D-Day, noted later by both Presidents Eisenhower and Reagan, was the assault up the cliffs of Pointe-du-Hoc. The Rangers successfully scaled the cliffs and secured the heights, but didn't find any guns to destroy. The Germans had placed utility poles to fool the Allied air reconnaissance into thinking heavy guns were on the cliffs.



Lt. Colonel Terence Otway led a British parachute regiment. The men hated the strict Otway. Unknown to the allies, General Rommel had ordered the fields flooded so that many of the heavy gear-laden troops drowned when they landed in deep water.

Some of Sgt. Major Stanley Hollis' troops of the Green Howards drowned as they exited the troop carriers too far from the beach. The Green Howards lost 180 men on Gold Beach on June 6.

Major Charles Dalton told the Canadian Queens Own Rifles that when soldiers exited the landing craft, there would be 50% casualties. He added that if you're dead, your problems are over, but if you're hit, lie still and await the medics. No one will stop to help you.

Kershaw moves the story slowly forward from the point of view of these people and their various units. Eventually, the infamous hedgerows held up the entire invasion. Allied intelligence was oblivious to the botanical barriers that formed a formidable defensive maze, costing hundreds of Allied casualties and delaying advance through France for almost 2 months.

Kershaw's account runs rapidly past the days of the Normandy invasion to follow several of the key players through their last combat in Europe and to the conclusion of the war. We also learn a bit about the fate of several of the heroes from D-Day. My father's 104th Timberwolf Division landed in France on Sept. 1, 1944 and my dad reported that he could still see the destruction wrought by the June 6th invasion. *The First Wave* is essential reading for all Americans who value our freedom won by the "Greatest Generation."

Larry Lewis is the author of *Sadie's Boys*, a memoir of his father's and uncle's times in World War II, and the mother who tried to save them.



DONATIONS

Thank you to the following members for the donations received September 7, 2019 - January 27, 2020:

Allan Atwell*	Michael LoPiano
David J. Cantrell	<i>In Memory of Michael A. LoPiano,</i>
Pauline Coderre	<i>9 ARMDD 131 ARMD ORD BN</i>
Francis Chesko*	David B. Marinucci
John Cricco	Avis R. Millett
<i>In Memory of John V. Cricco,</i>	Barbara Mooneyhan
<i>KIA 12/15/44</i>	Timothy P. Mulligan
Robert Croye	Peter Munger*
Kevin Curran	<i>On Behalf of The Society of the</i>
Kevin Gallagher	<i>Sons and Daughters of the Veterans</i>
Paul Goffin*	<i>of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc.</i>
Kelly Higgins	Roger Park, Jr.
William H. Gordon	Paul Puff
Ruth Gronlund	Kenneth Schuetz*
Wilbur Halvorsen*	Mary Ann Smith
David A. Kolb	<i>In Memory of James Coates,</i>
Richard W. Lewis*	<i>285 FA BN COB, KIA Malmedy</i>
Dominique Linchet	Lynn Vereker
<i>In Memory of Vernon Miller,</i>	Virginia Crater Chapter #43
<i>8 ARMDD 130 ORD MAINT HQ</i>	Edward Zimmer*
Alton Litsenberger Chapter #68	<i>*Donates Veteran Member</i>



PROMOTING HISTORY AND VETS

On October 29, 2019, BOBA Past President Gary Higgins had the opportunity to speak about the Battle of the Bulge at the Owosso Public Library in Owosso, Michigan. A small group heard about some of the historical events that took place during the Battle. Gary also had a chance to promote BOBA by passing out copies of *The Bulge Bugle*.

The event turned into a big surprise for Gary. Two locale quilters, Mary Hausauer and Helen Cole, presented Gary with a quilt from the Quilts of Valor Foundation. Mary was the quilter of the beautiful red, white, and blue, patriotic quilt. She had made many quilts for the Q.O.V. organization, but it was the first time she personally presented one of her creations to a Veteran. Helen Cole is a longtime friend of the Higgins family with true American spirit. The women choose Gary to receive the quilt due to his efforts promoting the legacy of the Battle of the Bulge and his past service as an infantry soldier in Viet Nam.

For more information on Quilts of Valor, go to: www.QOVF.org.

—Submitted by Carol Higgins, Member

CONSIDER GIVING TO OUR WREATH FUND!



(From left to right) Ambassador Gaston Stronck (Embassy of Luxembourg), Joe Landry, Albert El, Jacob Ruser, Lester Bornstein, Christophe Payot (Embassy of Belgium), Benjamin Berry and Tanguy Watteeuw.

Almost every gathering with BOBA includes a wreath-laying to honor those fallen during the Battle of the Bulge. Thanks to Col. (RET) Allen Cleghorn, organizer of our DC commemoration, this year we began collecting money to start a perpetual wreath fund, so that funds would be

readily available when these events occur. If you would like to give to the Wreath Fund, go online to: battleof-thebulge.org > donate and indicate "Wreath Fund" in the notes OR mail a check (note "Wreath Fund" in memo area) to BOBA, PO BOX 330, Mechanicsville, VA 23111.

Thanks to all those who have already donated:

Rena Bailey	Francis Chesko*	Tina Kaylor	In Memory of Richard Whalen*
James Beck	Allen Cleghorn	Ruth Koenig	by Barbara Whalen Penza
In Memory of Walter Berry*	Pauline Coderre	Linda Miller	Linda Winer
by Helen Berry	Linda Del Rossi	John Mohor	Elaine W. Winters
Lester Bornstein*	Doug and Pam Howard	James Morris	
Marilyn Bornstein	In Memory of Edward W.	Hylton Phillips-Page	
Robert C. Brown	Hughes (KIA 12/24/44,	Lillian Voigt	
Madeleine Bryant	80 INFD) by Betsy Rose		

**Denotes Veteran Member*

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO VETERAN MEMBER WILLIAM G. LEUNIG (SSGT, 285 ENG CMBT BN)

William Leunig celebrated his 100th birthday on December 31, 2019, and at his party in January 2020 with over 150 family members and friends. Bill joined the Battle of the Bulge in January 1945 as part of Patton's 3rd Army. After the war, Bill joined the New York City Fire Department, where he served for 31 years before retiring as a Captain in 1976.

The party included the presentation of certificates of recognition

from American Legion Post 1520 and the Albany Fire Department. Bill and his wife Joan were regular attendees at VBOB reunions for many years until old age limited their travel, but he passed on the BOBA legacy with gifts of Life Membership to his son, William G. Leunig, Jr., and his nephews, Tom Leunig and Mark Leunig. Bill now lives in Latham, NY with his daughter and son-in-law, Mary Ann and John Stiso, and grandchildren Sean, Michael and Ana Stiso.



Bill repairs a 285th ECB jeep in Germany in March 1945.



Bill at his 100th birthday party with his children (left to right), Joanne Goodnough, Mary Ann Stiso and William G. Leunig, Jr.



Bill with his nephews Tom Leunig (left) and Mark Leunig (right).

HONORING THE FALLEN: LORENZO DOW SUGGS, JR. 90 DIV, 358 INF, CO E

My Dad, Lorenzo Dow Suggs, Jr., was killed in The Battle of the Bulge just 12 days before it ended. He was a 1935 Clemson graduate with ROTC training, and was preparing to take over his Dad's big farm in Loris, S.C. when the war started.

While serving as Provost Marshall at Camp Van Dorn (1st Lt.), he was called to serve as platoon leader in the Bulge. He had just been promoted to Captain when he died at 33 years old, leaving a wife and two little boys. My brother was 5 and I was only 2—too young to remember him.

I have been a musician for 65 years, and decided to write a song and record it in my home studio. It is titled "The Dad I Never Knew." I have always wondered why he volunteered, being he was older, with a wife and 2 young kids at home. I guess that's why they call them "The Greatest Generation"!!!

—Submitted by Lorenzo Sugg's son,
BOBA member Robert Michael Suggs



VETERANS: SEND YOUR "BULGE MEMORIES!"

We love to hear what our Bulge veterans are doing today and what they remember about the Battle of the Bulge. Pictures are great, too. See page 5 for instructions regarding story submissions. THANK YOU!

38TH ANNUAL REUNION IN NORFOLK, VA

October 11-16, 2019



BOBA members, veteran members, family and friends enjoying the beautiful Virginia shoreline during our 38th annual reunion.

by Barbara Mooneyhan, BOBA Exec VP; Contributor: Carol Higgins, Member

Registration; \$50 – Excursions; Few more dollars – Experience with veterans and friends; PRICELESS!

That's what we can say about our reunion in Norfolk! The weather was picture perfect and all of us enjoyed being together for another year. We had four veterans in attendance (David Bailey, Francis Chesko, Wayne Field and Joe Landry), and almost 50 people total with representation from all across the country including Oregon, Michigan, Massachusetts, Florida and just up the road in Richmond, Virginia and the surrounding states!

President Gary Higgins kicked things off at the opening Wine & Cheese reception with everyone telling a little something about himself, herself, or the veteran they were representing. Even though we have known each other for many years, we learned something from each story. We were pleased to have several first timers with us as well as our tour guides for the 75th anniversary trip, Jean-Pierre and Marie Paviot.

Saturday began our excursions with a trip to the Military Aviation Museum in Virginia Beach with hangers full of vintage WWI and WWII planes that still fly. As we enjoyed a BBQ lunch, Frank Sinatra (or a close second!) entertained the group and the ladies enjoyed dancing down memory lane. Joe Landry (who was celebrating his 95th birthday) was the lucky recipient of the random drawing for a ride in a vintage plane. I am not sure what was more amusing, Joe getting into the two person plane or the look on the crowd's face when his pilot did a "touch and go" instead of landing.

Sunday was our day to take care of business. The membership meeting was well attended and all business before our organization was handled efficiently and effectively, including our installment of

new officers. Congratulations to our new board and our new BOBA president John Mohor and thank you to Gary Higgins for his 3-year term as president!

We had a briefing from the Paviots, our tour guides, about the 75th anniversary tour and concluded the day with our annual banquet. We were so proud of the Grandby High School NJROTC who provided their services and enjoyed speaking with our veterans. The highlight of the evening was the motivating remarks delivered by Gen. Jeffrey Jones, Deputy Adjutant General for the State of South Carolina. Gen. Jones ended the evening visiting with the WWII veterans in the Hospitality Room until it was time to close.

Monday we toured the Naval Station Norfolk, home of the world's largest naval base. After lunch in historic Freemason Abbey, we took a harbor cruise on the Victory Rover where we again viewed those impressive naval ships from the water. Coming back in to the dock, we played "chicken" with a huge Carnival cruise ship. It seems we were supposed to dock at exactly the same time as the Carnival *Sunrise* was to leave, so we had a little "do-see-do" in the Elizabeth River. Our day was complete with a scoop of delicious ice cream from Doumar's, home of the original waffle cone.

Tuesday dawned with a solemn wreath laying ceremony at the Douglas MacArthur Memorial. Afterwards, we toured the Nauticus Naval Museum and the Battleship Wisconsin. Our events concluded with a tour of the Norfolk Botanical Gardens.

We parted Wednesday to return to our homes richer for our time together and honored to share it with our Battle of the Bulge veterans and families.



BOBA veteran member Joe Landry took a ride on a vintage WWII plane in Norfolk at the Annual BOBA Reunion!



General Jeffrey Jones, Deputy Adjutant General for the State of South Carolina, speaking at our banquet.



BOBA veteran members (left to right) Joe Landry, Francis Chesko, David Bailey and Wayne Field with BOBA President Gary Higgins (far right, standing).

FALL 2020

Charleston turns 350 years old this year!
Come celebrate the 39th Annual Reunion in this
historic city in the Fall of 2020.

Details in the next *Bulge Bugle*!



Veteran member Wayne Field eating Doumar's ice cream, maker of the first waffle cone.

75 YEARS LATER: BULGE MEMORIES

In the November 2019 issue on page 22, in remembrance of the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, we asked our Veterans to submit their memories/thoughts about the Battle, along with photos. Here are the first few responses from some veterans (and family members.) We will continue to publish more Bulge Memories in future issues.



Richard Lewis

Combat Medic, 168 ENG CBT BN, CO A

We were sent to Belgium after fighting many battles in France. We ended up in St. Vith which was supposed to be a "Rest Area" for our troops.

On the night of December 16 or 17th, we heard the huge buildup of armor across the valley. The following night, about three Sherman tanks attacked one or two tigers which were visible from our vantage point. The Sherman's were running circles around them but were eventually knocked out by superior Tigers. It was like the 4th of July and we had a good seat. Little did we know what was about to come.

All of a sudden the barrage started and never seemed to let up, as their 88s poured into us. Many of our men were hit and were calling "Dick, I'm hit!" (not "Medic!"). I had trained with all of these men and was assigned to the 1st Platoon so they all knew me.

A man from New Bedford, MA was hit in the chest and was bleeding badly, so I crawled over to him and bandaged him up as best I could and they evacuated him. I didn't give him much hope to make it. (Several years later after the war, I was walking down the streets of Boston with my sister when a man and a friend stopped us and introduced me to



the GIs had already destroyed their firearms so #1 would have been useless).

I was in the first squad to leave and eventually we were surrounded by Germans. My days as a POW began.

Many years later at the 168th reunion, our Battalion was awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation and the Belgian Croix de Guerre (war cross). Both awards recognize the 168th for their stubborn defense of St. Vith Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge. The 168th

held the pivotal communication center against a larger German force for seven days before being ordered to retreat.

his friend as the guy that saved his life. I was speechless, I thought he was dead). Several others were KIA or WIA and I treated them to the best I could under the circumstances. We were told to evacuate on the 21st of December, and we congregated on a hill about 20 miles behind the German lines with Col. Riggs.

Riggs gave us three options: 1) fight out enforce, 2) break up into squads and try to work our way through the lines, or 3) retreat in the deep woods and wait for a counter attack. The vote was taken, and much to the dismay of Col. Riggs, #2 was elected. (Note: Most of

held the pivotal communication center against a larger German force for seven days before being ordered to retreat.

Richard Lewis survived 4 months of German POW camps and suffered from frozen feet which were saved with penicillin after liberation April 6, 1944. Later on he graduated from business college and was named Business Administrator for a private high school for girls. He later owned and operated a retail variety store for 15 years until his retirement. His first wife Virginia died in 1995, and he has since married Mary, with whom he lives in Florida.



Richard Whalen

3816 QM GAS SUP CO



Dick traveled almost every December to the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge commemoration in DC. In 2016, he had the honor of laying the Wreath on the Tombs of the Unknown, at Arlington National Cemetery (above).

On December 2, 2019, we lost BOBA veteran member and U.S. Army Col. (Ret.) Richard J. (Dick) Whalen at age 95 in Sun City Center, FL. His daughter, BOBA member Barbara Whalen Penza, shared some memories about his time in the service.

Dick was sent to England in November 1943 aboard the RMS *Aquitania* — he was eight flights below while the ship was being followed by a submarine. They all hung on for life, while hearing the sounds of the bombings all night, before landing in Normandy on June 6, 1944. Dick described running and zigzagging across Omaha Beach, carrying gasoline cans, dodging enemy fire. Dick was later in the Battle of Bulge and also helped liberate Dachau Concentration Camp. He often described his part of the war as "We are why we aren't speaking German here." He also stated he joined because "I was doing my part in keeping the world safe and not having an occupying army in this country."



Daniel W. O'Brien

T5, 11 ARMDD, 56 ARMD ENG BN, CO A, Third Army



Daniel O'Brien's job assignment was a Liaison Runner between Company and Battalion Headquarters. He also manned a 50 caliber machine gun on Company HQ half-track.

My most vivid memory was on January 13, 1945, which was "The Longest Day" for my Company A. It was our first day of combat. During the night, we had moved north through the Belgium village of Neufchateau and took up positions at the edge of the wooded area southwest of the recently encircled village of Bastogne. When daylight broke, it became apparent that the area was exposed to the enemy. They took advantage, and leashed a barrage of artillery fire. A shell made a direct hit on the bed of the truck in which twin brothers, William and Henry Warken were sleeping. Both were killed, and three others were wounded. A subsequent round killed our first aid specialist, SSGT Lloyd Belmont, and PVT August Hettenbach. These were the greatest single day losses that Company A suffered during the entire war.

As time passes the Battle of the Bulge fades into the pages of history. Little is known or taught about it in school. Several movies have been made about it, most of which are trash. Exceptions are "Saving Private Ryan" and "Band of Brothers," both of which are realistic depictions.

Daniel O'Brien is the Past President of the 11th Armored Division Association. His awards include: ATO Medal, ETO Medal with Ardennes - Alsace, Central Europe, and Eastern Europe Campaign Stars, Luxembourg Freedom Medal and City of Bastogne, Belgium Medallion.



William Perry Tayman

SGT, 87 INFD, 345 INF, CO C

William's primary job was a Communications Chief and he assisted in directing artillery fire. During the Battle of the Bulge, he served in the Rhineland, Ardennes and participated in the Central Europe Campaign. His most vivid memory, at age 96, was the



snow and below freezing temperatures. He is also very proud of serving in General George S. Patton's army. For him, the importance of the Battle was it being the final major battle of World War II.

Awards: Silver Star, Bronze Star, Combat Infantry Badge, received a Purple Heart and French Croix de Guerre.

William is a Past President of VBOB and resides in Staunton, VA.

*—Submitted by his son,
William P. Tayman, Jr.*



William Tayman's awards on display



William Tayman (first row, 3rd from right) in a group of soldiers in front of a 40 and 8 train car, taken in either France or Belgium, June, 1945.

75 YEARS LATER: BULGE MEMORIES

★ John Solheim 75 INFD



In late Summer 1944, after arriving in Gourock, Scotland on the *Aquatania*, a pre-20s English liner, we traveled all night by train to the southern tip of England where we were quartered in a 1920s resort used by English royalty in earlier days. We were there a couple of weeks then crossed the very rough channel to Viator, a small coastal town. Then we

moved rather quickly into WWI French freight cars known as 40 & 8s. In WWI they were used to transfer troops and mules to the trench areas — 40 men or 8 mules.

We traveled all night and reached our destination in Belgium and Luxembourg which was identified as “The Battle of the Bulge.” Christmas Eve 1944 was very cold as I was standing guard with a friend on a road intersection in Belgium and Luxembourg. Heavy fog and bad weather covered the activity area which disallowed air traffic, bombers, fighters, etc. On Christmas Day the fog lifted and the sky came alive all day with bombers and fighters. The curtain for the Krauts was coming down fast but with a terrible price in British and American lives.

Later in January 1945, the 75th Division was detached from the

Belgium area and assigned to an area in southern France known as the “Colmar Pocket.” We were quartered in a French chateau for a few minutes until the Krauts discovered us and started shelling which of course resulted in immediate relocation to a patch of woods where we slept in the snow for a couple of nights. Quartering parties were assigned troops to enter towns and homes to see if there was shelter available for incoming troops. If the homes seemed acceptable for troop shelters, the occupants were told to leave, the troops were moving in. In the wake of finding shelter, troops went through towns that were completely destroyed. There was absolutely nothing left but rubble and dirt.

Shortly after the war was over, the Division was assigned “Displaced Person’s Duty” involving camps of up to 100,000 people, most walking, ragged skeletons. Their liberation prompted a parade in which humility was evidenced everywhere by all people. The horns came out of storage or hiding and we were ordered to play for this event. In the group of observers was a Two Star General standing next to my spot. This particular General wore a six shooter. I never knew for sure, but some said it was General Patton. During the parade, out of the corner of my eye, I could see that he was crying.

So many of the service people who gave so much are still over there in cemeteries, taking their stories with them. It has been an honor to identify with this generation who gave so much for the greatest country in the world.

John Solheim lives in Redfield, South Dakota.

★ Warren Fisher PFC, 28 INFD, 109 REG



In July 2016, Warren Fisher was awarded the Légion d’honneur, the highest award established by France, for his service during World War II, particularly during the Battle of Colmar Pocket.

I was a combat infantryman, and we were holding the line in Luxembourg, some 20+ miles for the division. My most vivid memory was on November 1, 1944: the 28th Division was placed in Luxembourg over a 40 mile thin line in an inactive portion of the front. North of us was an intense Battle of Aachen under Bradley (which was completely destroyed), and South of us was an equally intense battle at Metz, under Patton.

Two weeks before Dec. 16th, we were digging WWI-like trenches all day and on guard, two on, two off all night, totally exhausted. It was explained to us that this was the logical area for a German attack and the “reinforcements” called up would not have time to dig their foxholes, so we were digging trenches for them. So, the German attack was NO SURPRISE at the Division level, but apparently a BIG surprise to Paris Headquarters.

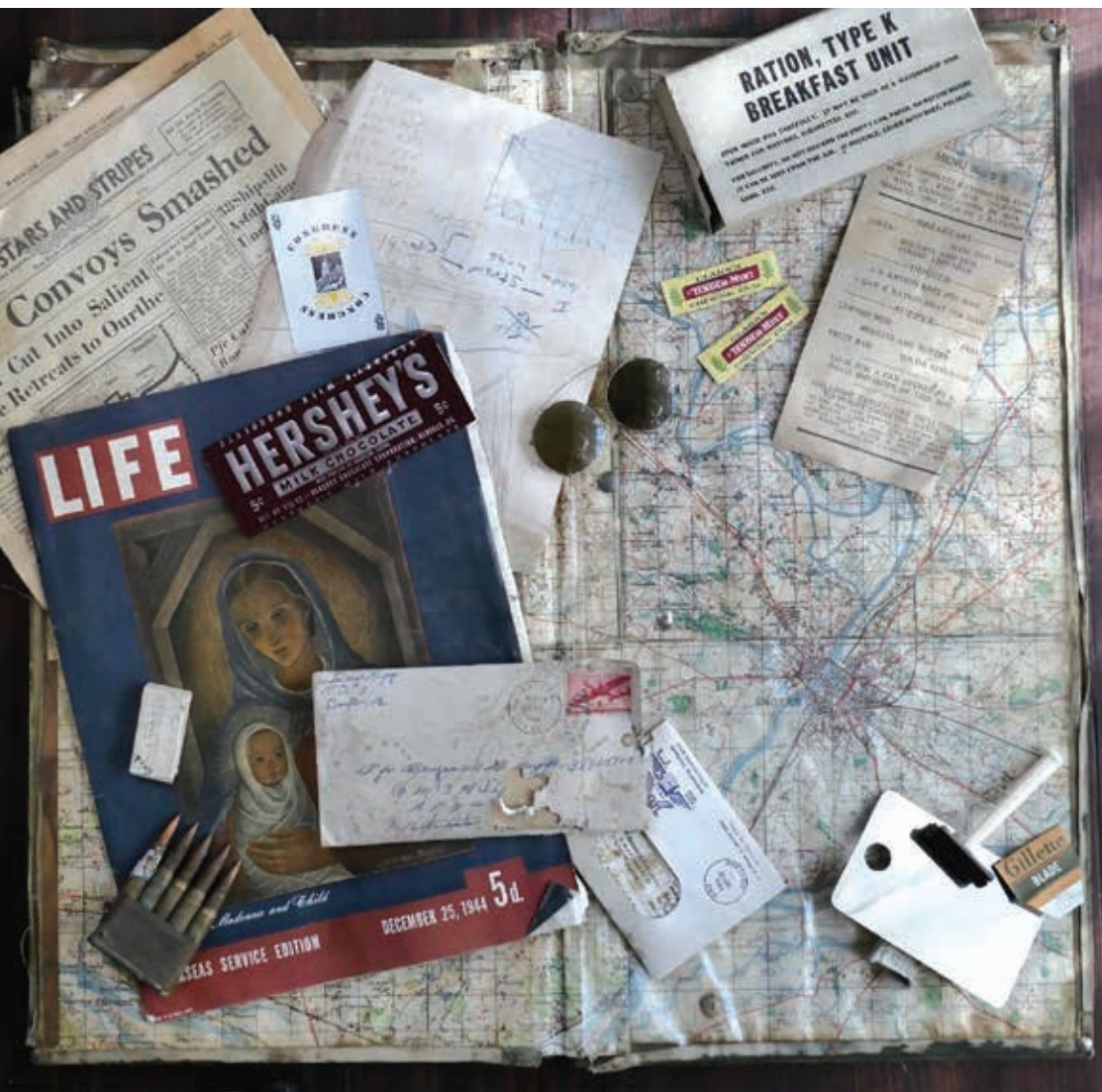
What comes to mind is the Schlieffen Plan in WWI and Hannibal’s victory against the Romans where you retreat in the center of your line and the flanks close up and surround the enemy for a victory.

Schlieffen was a German General who wrote a book on Hannibal’s War with Rome (circa 418 BC). This maneuver is no doubt taught to all cadets at West Point and well known to Eisenhower, Bradley and Patton.

QUESTION: Was the 28th Division the sacrificial lamb for the defeat of the remaining German tank divisions and victory by Christmas?

Fisher received the Combat Infantry Badge and the French Legion of Honor. Today he lives in Pennsylvania.

Photos courtesy of The Times Herald/MediaNews Group (Fisher)



Left photo: WWII memorabilia found in the Chateau de Birtrange office. Top photo: A Nazi flag flying outside the castle before Patton took it over. Above photo: Envelope of the first letter discovered, postmarked 18 Dec 1944.

LETTERS OF A PAST LIFE MAKE A MIRACULOUS RETURN TO WWII VETERAN

Annette Rupp, daughter of BOBA veteran member 99-year-old Ben Rupp, conveyed the following story of how letters written during World War II were finally able to reach him in 2018.

In April, 2018 an email was received from a friend in the 80th Division Association, Bill Black, about a correspondence from a Belgium gentleman in his early 20s, Arnaud, who is a WWII collector who puts on exhibitions to commemorate the U.S. soldiers. Arnaud was gifted a V mail letter from a neighbor, Jacques, that was addressed to Ben. Jacques discovered the letter in the property manager's office of a castle in Luxembourg called Chateau de Birtrange, which is located between Colmarberg and Ettelbruck. Jacques inherited the castle from his 95-year-old aunt, who passed in February, 2018. Until then, he, his brother, and their families were forbidden access to most parts of the castle, but were finally able to explore areas including the attic when he inherited it.

The discovered letter from Ben's youngest sister, Verda, was postmarked Dec. 18, 1944 and was addressed: PFC Benjamin G. Rupp, (continued on next page)



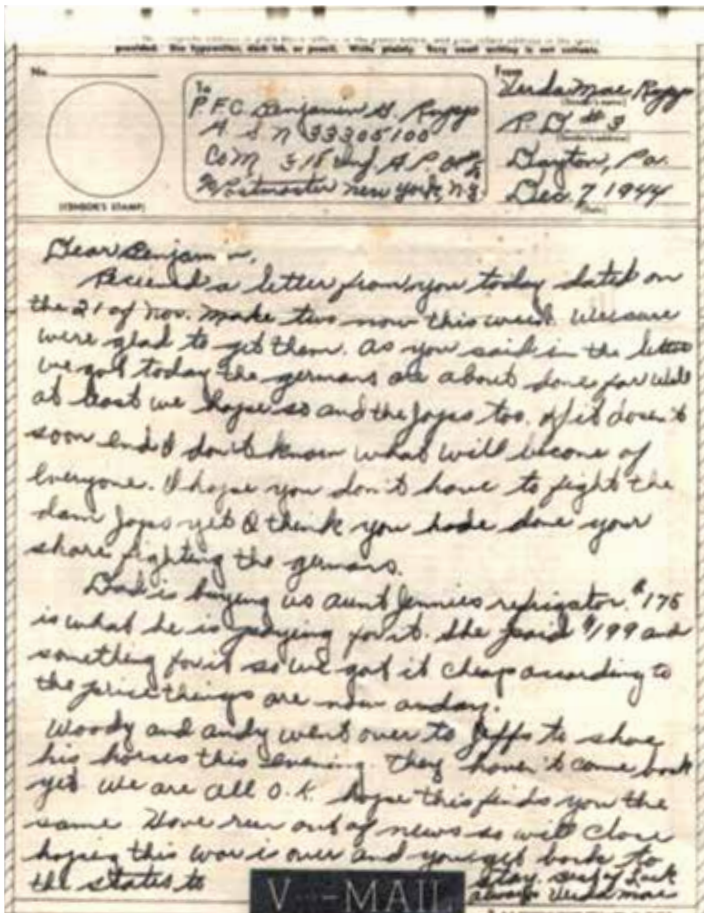
The castle in Luxembourg called Chateau de Birtrange, located between Colmarberg and Ettelbruck, which Jacques inherited in 2018.

LETTERS RETURNED TO VET (continued)

Co. M, 318th Infantry, A.P.O. (Army Post Office), New York, NY. Then in November, 2018, another email from Jacques arrived with pictures of two more letters that were discovered among hundreds of documents in the castle office. One was again from Verda postmarked Dec. 17, 1944, and another V mail letter was from his second oldest sister, Violet, postmarked Dec. 20, 1944. Eventually Jacques mailed the actual letters along with some other American memorabilia he discovered in the castle.



(Above) Ben Rupp with his daughter Annette (driving). (Below) One of Rupp's letters discovered at Chateau de Birtrange was from his youngest sister, Verda, written on Dec. 7, 1944.



Some historical background includes the castle was occupied by the Germans for a while, and during this time Jacques' grandmother and aunt sewed the stars and stripes of the American flag. General George S. Patton made headquarters at the castle with the U.S. troops of the 3rd Army during the Battle of the Bulge which began on Dec. 16, 1944. During this time Jacques' grandmother and aunt evacuated the castle to reside with a friend in a safe town near Arlon. The hand-made American flag was flying from the castle alongside the Belgium and Luxembourg flags when the vehicles from the Division trains drove into the castle courtyard. Today that American flag is on display at the Patton museum in Fort Knox, KY which Ben has visited.

It is surmised that Ben entered the Battle of the Bulge from the castle grounds and the letters delivered to the castle never reached him... until 2018. For a castle owner to discover a soldier's personal letters among hundreds of documents in an old Luxembourg chateau, to a young WWII collector who took the initiative to reach out to an American Army Division using information on the letter, to the owner of the letters, an American WWII soldier who is still with us, is a rare confluence of incidents. As Jacques stated in one of his correspondences: "It is very amazing what you can discover behind a simple piece of paper found between a lot more... and of course Arnaud, an internet kid... a human story."

BULGE VETERAN ON THE GO!

BOBA veteran member Francis Chesko (below) was honored at a Penn State game a few months ago — here he is with the Nittany Lion in Beaver Stadium!



Photo by Jim Chet Chesko (game)

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 _____

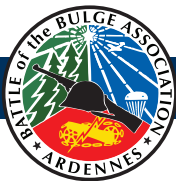
Telephone number _____ E-mail address _____

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]



CHAPTER NEWS

IN MEMORY OF JOHN MCAULIFFE, PRESIDENT, LAMAR SOUTTER/CENTRAL MA CHAPTER (22)

John McAuliffe was a friend to many of us. He began the Massachusetts Chapter, Lamar Soutter/Central, in 1992 and was President of the Chapter until its recent closure. After 96 years of life where he gave so much to so many, he joined his comrades on December 9, 2019. We will miss him! After his death, tributes from many BOBA members and friends poured in.

So many memories that we will treasure, John. We feel so honored to have known you. What a kind and gentle person you were! You will live on forever in our Remember Museum.

—Love, Mathilde and Marcel (M & M)

John was a very close friend and I will miss him dearly. Rest in peace, John.

—Joe Landry, 776 AAAAW Bn

I always recognized John as gentle and appreciative of the gratitude bestowed on him and his fellow soldiers whenever he would take part in the commemorations abroad. He will be dearly missed but I know that he's joining his loved ones and the ranks of so many who have gone before him none the least of whom is my grandfather Gen. George S. Patton, Jr. who I know will be welcoming him with a proud salute!

—Helen Patton,

Granddaughter of General S. Patton

I met John on a tour to Europe in June 2014. He was an amazing man. He was deeply caring and a true gentleman. He shared stories with all of us during the tour - some of them quite amusing! I will miss his smile. Rest in peace, John.

—Mike LoPiano,

Son of Michael A. LoPiano,

9th Armd Div, 131st Armd Ordinance Bn

So many memories, John - starting with the 60th Anniversary trip to Europe (2004). I knew then that I had met an incredible warm hearted person. We shared good times at the MidAtlantic Air Museum, The Gap (twice), a trip to Europe (June 2014) and many reunions through the years. I'm sure the angels and your comrades welcomed you. I will miss you, John. Rest in peace.

—Doris Davis,

President of the Golden Gate Chapter

On Dec 7, 2019, Cedric Gregoire and I attended the ceremony honoring the Veterans of the 87th Inf Div at the monument in Vesqueville,



Belgium (near Saint-Hubert). We honored all of the soldiers of the 87th Division including our dear friend, John McAuliffe. I met John in 1995 and we kept in touch through the years. We will miss you, John and will forever hold you in our hearts.

—Pascal Hainaut, Belgium

We will remember John ('Mac'), WWII veteran of the 87th Inf Div. as a wonderful human being and a very loyal friend. Everyone

who had the honor of meeting him described him as humble, wise, funny and extremely generous. Thank you, Mac, for all the letters, photographs and gifts you sent us. You will be missed by many. We will carry you in our hearts forever.

—Cedric Gregoire, Belgium

"Mac" was a good friend to many and to say he will be missed is an understatement for me. We stayed in touch since our first meeting in 1998. He wrote me twice during his stay in the rehab center and was my inspiration to recently attend the 75th commemoration of the Battle of the Bulge in Europe. I had the privilege to speak with him by telephone on two occasions during his remaining days...always a true gentleman!

—Tom Hewlett, Jr.,

Son of Thomas R. Hewlett, Sr.,

347th Inf. Rgt., 87th Infantry Division

The 87th Infantry Division will miss you, John. You were a gentle soul. Rest in Peace.

—Karen Lilley, daughter of Bob Purple,
346th Inf. Rgt. Co. A, 87th Inf. Div.

—Submitted by Doris Davis,
President of the Golden Gate Chapter

VA CRATER CHAPTER (43) MEMBERS VISIT LUXEMBOURG EMBASSY

Crater Chapter veteran member Ron Kimler, 9th Air Force (shown at right), visited the Embassy of Luxembourg at the National BOBA celebration in January, along with many other chapter members, including his wife Yvonne Kimler, VA Chapter President Mary Ann Smith, JC Wood, John Payne, BOBA Chairman of the Board Alan Cunningham with his wife Judy Cunningham, BOBA Member Services/Editor Betsy Rose and BOBA member Jim Triesler of the Virginia War Memorial, who graciously served as the guest speaker for the prior night's event.



WE NEED YOUR CHAPTER NEWS!

Send to: betsy.boba@gmail.com

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE: MARCH 20, 2020

LONG ISLAND CHAPTER (63) REMEMBERS THE BULGE 75TH ANNIVERSARY HERE AND ABROAD

LONG ISLAND:

On December 16, 2019, the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, members of the 11th Armored Division family who live on Long Island paid tribute to all those who fought in the “Bulge” with a ceremony at Eisenhower Park in East Meadow, Nassau County. The “Thunderbolts” placed a wreath at the Long Island Chapter monument at the Veterans Memorial, and remembered all those who died in the battle, those who have since passed, and those who are still with us 75 years later.



BELGIUM:

On December 31, 2019, Abbe Casimir Katende, the Parish Priest of the Commune of Sainte-Ode, Belgium, celebrated a special Mass at the church in Tillet for the men of the 55th Armored Infantry Battalion, 11th Armored Division (Patton’s “Thunderbolts”) who died in the fighting at Tillet and Acul 75 years ago on that date during the Battle of the Bulge. After Mass, a memorial wreath was placed at the battalion’s plaque on the church’s bell tower by those in attendance. It was a touching tribute to the 55th AIB’s Combat Infantrymen on the 75th Anniversary of their “Baptism of Fire”.



—Submitted by Patrick Kearney, 11ARMDD, Long Island Chapter (63) Member

GOLDEN GATE CHAPTER (10) COMMEMORATES THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

The Golden Gate Chapter commemorated the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge on Saturday, December 14, 2019. There were 65 people in attendance, which included 5 Veterans. Families of former veteran members also attended. Speakers were The Honorable Nathalie Delrue-McGuire, Honorary Consul of Belgium and The Honorable Pierre Franck, Consul General of Luxembourg. Guests included Ambassador Denise Bauer, former US Ambassador to Belgium and Deborah Van Den Brandt, Incoming Head of Economic Policy at the Dutch Consulate (also a Belgian National). Denise Bauer remembered our visit to the Ambassador’s Residence in Brussels in Dec 2014 during the 70th Anniversary Tour.

The program included hearing short stories from the 5 Veterans and the audience was mesmerized as they spoke. Dr. John Kerner (320 INFD, Medic), who turned 100 years old last February, told a story of being a medic in Bastogne during the Bulge. Ken Mar (2 INFD) talked about how he was captured and was held prisoner by the Germans. Bill Armstrong (26 INFD) explained how the name “Battle of the Bulge” described a bulge in the north/south defensive line. Col Roush (83 INFD) and Edwin Brownstone (433 Signal Construction



Attending the Golden Gate Chapter event were (seated, left to right): Bill Armstrong, Dr. John Kerner. (Standing, left to right): Consul General of Luxembourg Pierre Franck, Edwin Brownstone, Doris Davis (Golden Gate Chapter President), Ken Mar, Col John Roush, and The Honorary Consul General of Belgium Nathalie Delrue.

BN) also shared stories. You could hear a pin drop when the Veterans spoke. Many members of the local Belgian Club were present and expressed their gratefulness to the Veterans, as many remember stories from their grandparents who lived in Belgium during the war.



SOUTHERN ARIZONA CHAPTER (53): DVD PROJECT TO EDUCATE YOUTH



Cadet/Command Sergeant Major (C/CSM) Abigail Espinoza and Cadet/Lieutenant Colonel (C/LTC) Jose Chacon, from Rio Rico High School JROTC, Rio Rico, AZ

On October 10, 2019 two youth organizations in support of veterans attended the Southern Arizona Chapter (53) meeting to receive two DVDs documenting World War II's Battle of the Bulge.

Alina Joseph, President of the Veterans Heritage Project at Ironwood Ridge High School in Tucson, and Cadet/Lieutenant Colonel (C/LTC) Jose Chacon, Cadet/Command

Sergeant Major (C/CSM) Abigail Espinoza, and First Sergeant Brandon Moore (Ret) from Rio Rico JROTC were the recipients of the DVDs. Laura Dwyer, Acting President and Secretary of Chapter 53, presented the DVDs to the two organizations.

Battle of the Bulge veterans and members of Chapter 53 wanted to share the videos with students and young people who would appreciate the momentous contribution that the Battle gave to the end of World War II in Europe and to our country. The educational DVDs are a way to reach out to our young people and keep the significance and great sacrifices of that Battle alive for generations to come.

The DVDs were "American Experience: The Battle of the Bulge," and History Channel's "Shootout! Battle of the Bulge." While there are many books and videos on the Battle of the Bulge, the Chapter felt that these videos are the best portrayals of the Battle, both from an historical perspective, and from the personal interviews contained in each video. Both videos also contain actual film footage, computer graphics and reenactments that help guide the viewer through the one-month-long campaign.

In December 2019, the Chapter deactivated, but the videos will be available to Arizona schools and JROTC or ROTC units who can use them in their training curricula. Please contact Laura Dwyer at ljdwyer2@gmail.com or 520-481-1568 if you know of an organization that would like one or both of the videos.

—Submitted by Laura Dwyer, President/Secretary, Southern Arizona Chapter (53)



Alina Joseph, President, Veterans Heritage Project, Ironwood Ridge High School of Tucson, AZ with Laura Dwyer, BOBA Chapter 53

CENTRAL INDIANA CHAPTER (47)

Chapter 47 held their annual Battle of the Bulge re-enactment at the Museum of the 20th Century Warfare, Fort Harrison State Park, Indiana on January 4, 2020. To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, the museum also held events and weekend displays throughout the months of December and January.

—Submitted by Chris Schneider, Central Indiana Chapter (47) President



SO. CAROLINA CHAPTER (7) QUARTERLY MEETING



Rick Hurst, Chapter 7 Past President, presented Gerald White with a shadow box displaying his earned awards and decorations from the Bulge.

The SC Chapter (7) held our quarterly meeting on December 14, 2019 at the Fort Jackson NCO Club. We had 8 Bulge veterans in attendance, as well as other veterans and associate members. Our guest speaker was Clay Evans, who spoke about his grandfather who was a Marine, First Lieutenant Alexander Bonnyman, Jr. Bonnyman was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his extraordinary leadership at the Battle of Tarawa. Clay has written a book, *Bones of My Grandfather*, about the long process he went through to go back to Tarawa and find his grandfather's grave.

—Submitted by Doug Patterson, South Carolina Chapter (7) President



The South Carolina Chapter's December 14, 2019 quarterly meeting.

LEHIGH VALLEY PA (55) CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON



Brigadier General Mark McCormack presented proclamations to 3 Bulge Veterans of the Lehigh Valley Chapter (55).

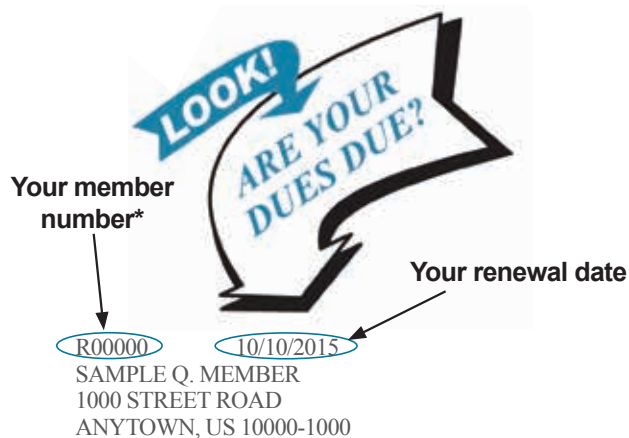
On December 17, 2019, the Lehigh Valley Chapter (55) held their annual Christmas party luncheon at the Lehigh Valley Hotel in Bethlehem, PA. Over 60 veterans and friends attended the event, with many special guests, including the WWII dance group Magnolia Sadies, the local Victory Society, and several WWII reenactors. There was a special surprise when honorary member and international race car driver Mario Andretti stopped by to visit.

Brigadier General Mark McCormack presented proclamations from the Governor's office to honor three of our Battle of the Bulge veterans, Lionel Adda, Norvin Vogel, and Bert Winzer. Needless to say, a grand time was had by all. It was a perfect celebration in honor of the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge.

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

WHEN ARE MY DUES DUE?

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***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!



WE NEED YOU
TO ENCOURAGE YOUR FAMILY AND
FRIENDS TO JOIN BOBA!

Welcome, New Members!

We are happy to announce these new members who joined BOBA between September 7, 2019 -January 27, 2020:

Eric Bijtelaar	Netherlands	Baer Memorial Library, Marion Military Institute	AL
Robert Bram	MD	Robert Luebke	IL
Abby Brewer	GA	Jill Moretto	NY
Jim Chapman	GA	Marcia Owen	NC
Rick Chapman	GA	Rose Palladino	FL
Frank Cohn*	VA	George Paulk	GA
Helen Cole	MI	Jean-Pierre Paviot	FL
Hermon Cook*	TX	Marie Paviot	FL
Leo Cool	MN	Jay Punt	NH
Gary Cunningham	TX	Theodore Rieve	MD
Gerard Dumont	VA	Cathy Rogers	MA
Barry Eggleston	TX	Wilbur Rolfes*	IN
Johnathan Ferreri	FL	Jerry Schlichter	MO
Warren C. Fisher*	PA	Duncan Shepard	CT
Sarah Francis	ID	Frederic Sigrun	OK
William Gibson	MD	Shamsher Singh	FL
Christopher Hauth	VA	Steven Stack	SC
John Hauth	AL	Robert Truesdale	NC
Duncan Hollands	France	Kerry Walton	NY
Kenneth Larke	MI	Scott Yaniga	NJ
Jake Larson*	CA		
Richard Leunig	WI		
Tom Lewis	OR		

**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 that epic battle. You can help immediately by:

- Talking to people about BOBA and suggesting that they also join
- Promoting our website: www.battleofthebulge.org
- Sending us articles to be included in *The Bulge Bugle*
- Attending our annual reunion (*details in the next Bugle*)



VIRGINIA EVENT TO HONOR WWII VETERANS

The Virginia International Tattoo is an astounding display of inspirational military music, majestic massed pipes and drums, thrilling drill teams and nimble dancers that focuses on patriotic themes. The 24th Annual Tattoo, April 30 - May 3, 2020, features over 1,000 performers from eight countries all performing together at Scope Arena in Norfolk, Virginia.

The 2020 Virginia International Tattoo promises to be one of the most moving ever, marking the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II and honoring the courage and sacrifice of the Greatest Generation. With stirring music, historic photos and video, tributes from U.S. military bands, and special appearances by veterans, we will remember and celebrate the men and women who changed the course of history, not only for the United States but for the world.

World War II veterans are invited to participate in the 2020 Virginia International Tattoo *free of charge*. For details, please contact Jennifer Hafner at 757-282-2803 or jhafner@vafest.org.

April 30 – May 3, 2020, General Public Tickets start at \$20
Scope Arena, 501 E. Brambleton Avenue, Norfolk, VA 23510
For more information visit www.vatattoo.org or call 877-741-2787

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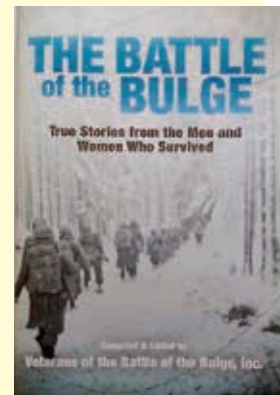
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True Stories From the Men and
Women Who Survived*

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



VETERAN MEMBER VIDEO INTERVIEWS

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

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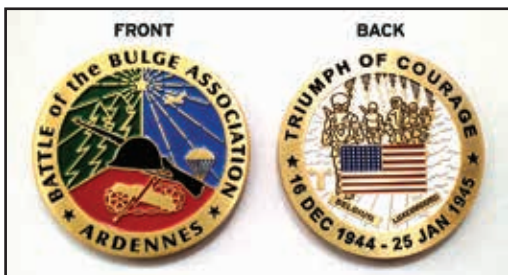
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WINTER 2020

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Help Keep Us Going into the Future!

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



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

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

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

Name _____ DOB _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

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

Campaigns _____

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

Regiment _____ Battalion _____

Company _____ Other _____

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

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

The Bulge Vet's Name and Units _____

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

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