

# The BULGE BUGLE®

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

VOLUME XXXIX NUMBER 4

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

FALL 2020



Support BOBA's 76th Commemoration of the Battle of the Bulge ★ Read more on page 11.



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

The Battle of the Bulge Association® (BOBA) is a membership organization instituted to perpetuate the memory of the sacrifices involved during the Battle of the Bulge; preserve historical data and sites relating to the Battle of the Bulge; and foster international peace and goodwill. BOBA is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax-deductible.

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**Editor:** Betsy Rose

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Send all correspondence relating to BOBA matters, upcoming issues of "The Bulge Bugle®," or the BOBA website to: Battle of the Bulge Association®, Inc.; P.O. Box 330, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330; (703) 528-4058; e-mail: [betsy.boba@gmail.com](mailto:betsy.boba@gmail.com)

**VISIT THE BOBA WEB SITE:** [www.battleofthebulge.org](http://www.battleofthebulge.org)



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**Vice President Chapters:** [Open]  
**Vice President Military & Veteran Affairs:** Allen Cleghorn  
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**Recording Secretary:** Gail Larke

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Tana Van Nice Black  
Madeleine Bryant, Chaplain  
Steven Landry

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**Public Relations:** Gary Higgins,  
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**President:** Kent Menser  
**Treasurer and Historical Research:** John D. Bowen

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William Hemphill\* 1992-93  
William Tayman 1993-94  
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2005-07  
George Linthicum\* 1997-99  
John Dunleavy\* 1999-01  
Louis Cunningham\* 2001-03  
Demetri Paris\* 2007-10  
David Bailey 2010-12  
Douglas Dillard\* 2012-14  
Alan Cunningham 2014-16  
Gary Higgins 2017-19  
\* Deceased

## **CHAPTER PRESIDENTS**

New BOBA Chapters are forming in TX, MO, MI and Belgium;  
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## ON THE COVER



Each Fall, during Veterans Day and the beginning of the Battle of the Bulge on December 16th, we pause to honor those who served during the battle, remembering our veterans' service and those veterans we have lost since, as well as laying wreaths at monuments to remember those who sacrificed their lives. On the cover, we have pictured 14 out of the hundreds of thousands of Americans who participated in the Battle of the Bulge. To ALL our veterans not pictured here, WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!!

**Veterans shown CLOCKWISE from top left:** Allan Atwell 28 INFD MP PLT, Hope Kirkendall 16 GEN HOSP, Daniel Van Nice\* 30 INFD 119 REG E, Vernon Brantley 75 INFD 289 REG Anti-tank Co, Louis Cunningham\* 106 INFD 106 RECON TP, Robert Burrows 80 INFD 317 REG HQ, Anthony Jannace\* 2 INFD 2 ENGR CMBT BN, George Merz 818 MP CO, VIII Corps, Milton Shapiro\* Medic 8 ARMDD 7 ARMD INF BN, Joe Landry 776 AAA AW BN SM, Earl Liston\* 106 INFD 106 RECON TP, Dorothy Taft Barre\* 16 GEN HOSP, Andy Waskie\* 8 ARMD 78, Howard Clock\* 4 ARMDD 8 TK BN A

*\*deceased*

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**FOR THE VERY LATEST CHAPTER LIST, visit [battleofthebulge.org](http://battleofthebulge.org) > Chapters**  
**SEND CHAPTER UPDATES TO: [betsy.boba@gmail.com](mailto:betsy.boba@gmail.com)**

## IN THIS ISSUE

### 2. Contacts, Board, Chapters

### 4. President's Message

### 5. BOBA Letters

How to Submit Stories for  
"The Bulge Bugle®"

### 6. WWIIHA Gift to BOBA

Thanks to All Our Donors

### 7. Members in Memoriam

Welcome, New Members!

BOBA Wreath Fund

### 8. BOBA Member Books

### 9. The 83rd Infantry Division's Legacy Remains Strong

### 10. Veteran's Day, 1959

### 11. 2020 BOBA Events

### 12. BOBA Members Across the Globe

Remembering the Fallen:  
Eric Fisher Wood, Jr.

### 13. 28 INFD Monument

Surprise 95th Birthday Parade

### 14. Bulge Memories

### 18. Chapter News

### 22. Saint Nicholas Celebration

QM Merchandise

### 23. When Are My Dues Due?

Submit Your Bulge Memory

Membership Application



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

John Mohor

FELLOW MEMBERS OF BOBA, I hope this finds you all well and healthy. We will have held our first “virtual” membership meeting on Nov. 7th, around the time you receive this *Bugle*. I would like to thank my employer; United States Gypsum Company, our Defend the Rock Employee Resource Group, and IT Department for making this annual meeting a reality. Please help me to congratulate all the members of the Board elected or re-elected to the BOBA Board. We also held our first online Livestream Zoom event on October 15th. Thanks to fellow member Jim Triesler, Director of Education at the Virginia War Memorial, for partnering with us! A recap of these programs will be included in the next *Bugle*.

I am pleased to report that we are well on our way to establishing or re-establishing a couple of new BOBA Chapters. We have several that are forming in Texas, Missouri, Michigan and Belgium! If you are interested, please contact the BOBA office for information! I would love to hear of some new ones forming even in Holland or France. A new “How to Start a Chapter” handbook was created and sent to assist with starting a new chapter. If you are willing to assist helping a new chapter get started, please let us know. As a friendly reminder, remember all BOBA Chapter members are supposed to be current National BOBA members.

I still want to emphasize recruitment. Let us all bring in new members. I would love to get four generations or more as members moving well into the future as part of BOBA. We all want BOBA to live on well into the future. Have you personally tried to recruit five like-minded individuals into the organization? As of this writing, the membership has met and voted on tiered membership categories proposed by the strategic planning committee which included potential increases in our fee structures. The longevity of the organization depends on us all being financially responsible. The outcome and details will be included in our Winter *Bulge Bugle*. We have some members serving alongside Board committee members looking at our strategic and financial posture moving into the future. If you think you can help the BOBA organization on these committees or in other ways, please let us know. We are still looking for some IT savvy folks to help us grow with our online presence as well.

As our Bylaws’ purpose of the corporation includes “...to perpetuate the memory of the sacrifices made by U.S. Military personnel during the Battle of the Bulge,” the 28th Infantry Division (PAARNG), the US Army’s Oldest Division and Veteran outfit



of the battle in Luxembourg, is constructing a 28th Infantry Division Memorial to all members of the Division Past, Present, and Future. The Board voted to allow the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge logo to be used and incorporated into this most worthy memorial. Currently, I would like to welcome and thank our distinguished new member, former 28th INFD Commander MG Wesley Craig, USA (Ret.), for contacting us about the memorial and joining our organization. *Details of how to give to this memorial for those members interested in donating are provided on page 13.*

We are also excited about partnerships we are establishing with fellow WWII veteran associations, including the 83rd INFD, which is featured on pages 8-9. We thank them for reciprocating in their *Thunderbolt* publication.

As we continue to learn, daily change happens especially working through all the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. I again want to thank everyone for their extra efforts and patience this year as we have worked through some unique issues moving this organization forward. We decided on a scaled-back commemoration event in December, with our Chairman of the Board Alan Cunningham working on coordinating local arrangements involving only local members. Memorial Wreaths will still be placed at our Memorial and Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. The possibility of placing one at the WWII monument may or may not take place as local situations on the ground dictate. As an organization, we will not hold any events this year where a gathering or chance of being in large crowds inside or out will occur. The Wreath Fund continues, so if you want to participate this year, please send in your donation, and designate it for the Wreath Fund.

I know we all have our reasons for joining BOBA. Most joined to honor loved ones for their service and sacrifices during that very cold winter in Belgium and Luxembourg almost 76 years ago now. To all Veterans in the organization (Battle of the Bulge, WWII, Cold War, Korea, Suez Canal, Vietnam, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Beirut Bombing, Panama, Desert Shield/Storm, Somalia, Kosovo, Bosnia, Global War on Terrorism, Afghanistan, Iraq, Inherent Resolve and unnamed missions), Thank You for your service! I wish you all a Happy Veterans Day!

Thank you also to the family members for your sacrifices as well. Thank you all for becoming and remaining members of BOBA! *Currahee!* (506th PIR Infantry Regiment’s motto, meaning “Stands Alone”)

# BOBA LETTERS

## MEMBER CONNECTIONS

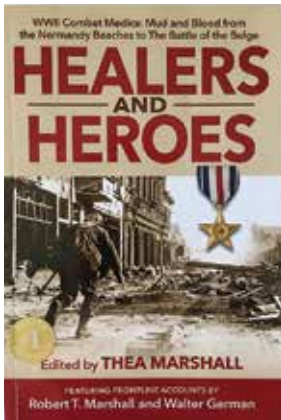
*Below are excerpts from email exchanges between members of BOBA:*

Aloha BOBA!

Thank you for facilitating this wonderful connection to Luxembourg! Because of BOBA, I now have a heart-warming connection with Jacques Reinard, who also wrote a brief note published in the *Bugle* Spring 2020 edition. I've enclosed both the entire email chain [below], including Jacques' letter thanking me and commenting on *Healers and Heroes*.

Huge *mahalos* (Hawaiian thanks!) for your super work with this fab connect, as well as your invaluable contribution to BOBA!

**Thea Marshall, BOBA member, Honolulu, HI**



Hello Miss Marshall,

I got your email address through BOBA. The reason of this search is your book, which I found through BOBA, ordered and read within a few days. Born in Luxembourg town on the 23rd January 1940, and living with my parents in Colpach quite close to the Belgian border not far away from Arlon/Belgium... We drove that night through Grendel/Attert further on into Belgium to encounter in the early morning an neverbefore seen amount of Patton's tanks driving up to relieve Bastogne...

At that time your father must have come up through Belgium to Arlon to continue to Guirsch. He certainly passed the Belgian/Luxembourg border later on in Oberpallen (the only possibility), to continue to Ell, then Redange and further on to Osperm either through Reichlange on the main road or by a secondary route to Osperm over the hills...

The road they took to continue to the north after having passed "de Misaereshaff" down to the River Sure, nowadays the beginning point today of the artificial lake of Esch sur Sure and their crossing the river going up the hills to Boulaide to continue to the road junction either to Harlange, Surre, or Boevange as well as the description of the forthcoming events is under the given circumstances just splendid; Your father had a brilliant memory and the ability not to forget the details beside his main job.

I must say that, out of a lot of books I have read about the Bulge, your father's and your book, I got it really under the skin if I can say. If you go on Internet to Geoportail.lu and if you enter the names of the villages, you can follow live the different roads your father had taken traveling and saving lives all over Luxembourg. Many thanks and my deep respect for your father's work during this dark—and one of the coldest—winters until now.

**Jacques Reinard, BOBA member, Luxembourg**

Aloha Jacques Reinard!

It was truly wonderful to receive your letter! I was incredibly happy to hear from someone in the very area where my father was working during WWII. It brought me to tears to know that you read his account and took the time to find me and tell me that it mattered.

**Thea**

Gudden Owend Thea (Good evening),

I am deeply pleased to read your answer and when I go back in memory to December 1944/January 1945 several specific souvenirs of these Bulge months come up and so your book came just the right moment in December last year.

As my parents had contact to soldiers and officers in the Château before and during the Bulge, some of them stayed in contact after the war and among them John Klingenhagen. As he stayed in the US Army, he showed up from time to time when he landed in Frankfurt. The last time I saw him whilst I was just in my father's office in the Château, he knocked at the door and presented himself as Major General John Klingenhagen. He came back from Vietnam I believe to remember.

If by chance you will be able to come over in May, I would be very pleased to drive you through the places and roads your Father took during his stay over in LUXB. (The French would say Périple). I mean it as I write it...

**Jacques**

*Note from Editor: Members, please share your story if you have made a special connection through BOBA!*

## 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 print photographs at high-resolution (300 dpi), or take a cell-phone photo, and send us largest file possible. **Printed 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](mailto:betsy.boba@gmail.com), or by mail: Battle of the Bulge Association®, Inc, P.O. Box 330, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330

**NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE: January 8, 2021**  
**QUESTIONS? Please contact Betsy Rose,**  
**703-528-4058, or by email: [betsy.boba@gmail.com](mailto:betsy.boba@gmail.com)**





**LEFT:** A member of the Civil Air Patrol Squadron 203, BOB Veteran T5 James Mitchell, 817th Tank Destroyer Battalion, and WWIIHA Trustee Mat Curtis lay a wreath at the VBOB Memorial at Fort Indiantown Gap during the annual memorial ceremony honoring all who fought during the Battle of the Bulge. **ABOVE:** American and Commonwealth Troops march into battle during one of the three days of tactical operations at Fort Indiantown Gap.

Photos courtesy Mat Curtis

## WWIIHA MAKES LARGE GIFT TO BOBA

For many years, the Bulge Bugle has pictured scenes from the annual Battle of the Bulge reenactment in Fort Indiantown Gap. The following is a description, written by Mat Curtis, of the amazing event which was organized by the World War II Historical Association (WWIIHA), of which Mat is a board member. In June, WWIIHA's association chairman Larry Mikhon notified BOBA about WWIIHA's dissolution and large donations they were gifting to several non-profits, including BOBA, who will continue to carry the torch forward to remember those who sacrificed so much during WWII.

Ever since the mid 1970s a reenactment event has taken place at Fort Indiantown Gap, PA, honoring the veterans who fought in the Battle of the Bulge. The early events were organized by The WWII Preservation Federation, and brought together WWII re-enactors and Veterans from the east coast of the United States. Over the years a WWII flea market was added and the numbers of both re-enactors and veterans grew. In its heyday, over 1,500 re-enactors and 100 veterans would attend. In 2015, organization of the event was handed over to The WWII Historical Association (WWIIHA), a non-profit organization consisting of many long-serving re-enactors who had helped to organize the event in previous years.

The event consisted of one day of reconnaissance in the field, allowing unit commanders to explore the terrain and finalize outlines for how the following days battle would play out. The following two days would see troops rising early in the morning to head out to the training grounds in WWII period vehicles of all

nationalities, including several pieces of armor, and in multiple school buses, which provided the role of troop transports. The years remembered most by the re-enactors were those when the ground was covered in snow, providing extra authenticity to the event, reminiscent of those cold, snowy days during The Bulge.

A key element of the weekend was clearly the veterans. A ceremony was held every year in the Enlisted Club at the base, with a wreath-laying ceremony held outside at a special monument erected in honor of the Battle of the Bulge Veterans. A special dinner dance was held every Saturday, where our veterans were always our honored guests.

Education was another key element of the event. On the Friday a group of re-enactors headed to the local high school to meet with students and educate them about the events of that cold winter. Saturday was a public day, with people being invited into designated barracks where displays were set up; to watch a small battle designed for the public to watch, and the chance to meet many of the veterans who had actually fought during The Bulge.

Unfortunately, the event came to an end in 2018 and WWIIHA was disbanded. As a result of this, we were able to make a donation to the Battle of the Bulge Association so they can continue to honor these brave men who fought so valiantly and to educate future generations.



## THANKS TO ALL OUR DONORS

*We are so grateful for donations received July 7 - September 23, 2020:*

David Bailey\*

*Wreath Fund*

Jenny Christman

*In Memory of Raymond Christman, Jr. 28 INF*

Allen Cleghorn

Robert Croye

*In Honor of Edwin Leibbrand  
(Veteran POW of Chapter #68)*

Paul Demoga

Chris Fialkovich

*In Memory of George Fialkovich*

Oscar R Freesen, Jr. \* and Deb Freesen

Elizabeth P Fuss

*In Memory of Lester Houston Plume 83 INF*

Rosemary & Jeffrey Ganz

*In Memory of Thomas D. Adams*

Francis Gaudere \*

Burt Gursky

Charles Hardy \*

Christine Hartzell

Paul Hessemer\*

Samuel Lombardo\*

Beverly Malone

Mandy and John Mohor

Barbara Mooneyhan

Leonard Skonecki

*In Memory of Robert Mesnard 82 ABND*

Bill Tennis

The World War II Historical Association

Edward Zimmer\*

*\*Denotes Bulge Veteran Member*



## 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](mailto:betsy.boba@gmail.com).

We have been notified as of September 23, 2020, that these BOBA members have recently passed away:

Betty W. Bishop	Member	Lee Liberman	95 INFD 320 ENGR CMBT BN B
Howard I. Bowers	99 INFD 394 REG D	Earl Liston	106 INFD 106 CAV RCN
Raymond Christman, Jr.	28 INFD 109 REG A	Richard Francis Maskell	2 INFD 23 REG 2 BN F
Douglas Donner	84 INFD 1 REG 334 BN B	Paul E. Miller	99 INFD 15 CANNON
Martin R. Dunetz	84 INFD 474 AAA AW BN	George Murray	2 INFD 86 CHEM MTR BN
Joseph Matthew Fischer	Veteran Member	Edward Newman	168 ENGR CMBT BN A
John Goodrich	75 INFD 290 REG 1 BN C	Herbert Reiman	84 INFD 335 REG 3RD MEDIC
Douglas Grogan	10 ARMDD 20 ARMD INF SVC	Wilfrid R. Riley	188 ENGR CMBT BN B
Monark Johnson, Jr.	1255 CMBT ENGR BN	Okey E. Taylor	8 ARMDD 58 AIB C CCR
Joseph C. Kistler	26 INFD 328 REG 1 BN HQ	Bernard Tillis	75 INFD 290 REG REGIMENTAL HQ

## Welcome, New Members!

We are happy to announce these new members who joined BOBA between July 7, 2020 - September 23, 2020:

Brian Bohlman	SC	Mandy Mohor	NC	Arthur Smith*	NY
Charles Allen Cleghorn	AL	Karen Streib Morrison	IL	Mark Surowiec	MI
Robert F. Esterley III	CA	Sean Owens	PA	Kenneth Underwood*	CA
Robbins Flynn	AL	Joe Perkosi	PA	Scott West	VA
Ron Kimler*	VA	John Reeve	NC	Armandina Zamora	CA
John Markuns	MA	Mickie Russell	AL		
Peter May	AUSTRALIA	Jeanette Seppamaki	AL		

\*Denotes Bulge 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](http://www.battleofthebulge.org)
- Attending our annual reunions and DC events



## CONSIDER GIVING TO OUR WREATH FUND

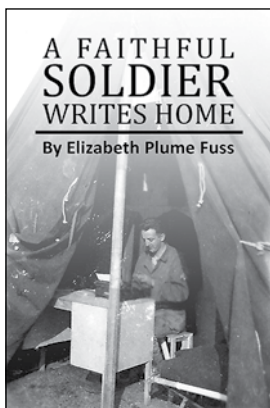
Almost every gathering with BOBA includes a wreath-laying to honor those fallen during the Battle of the Bulge. This year we began collecting money to start a perpetual wreath fund, so that funds would be readily available when these events occur. If you would like to give to the Wreath Fund, go online to: [battleofthebulge.org](http://battleofthebulge.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.



## A FAITHFUL SOLDIER WRITES HOME

By Elizabeth Plume Fuss, BOBA member

*The following excerpts (written during the Battle of the Bulge) are from the book A Faithful Soldier Writes Home by Elizabeth Plume Fuss. The book is a collection of letters written by her father Lester Plume to his wife Ruth, Elizabeth's mother. "An old heavy suitcase that belonged to the widow of a WWII soldier had been moved from place to place over many years. The contents remained unknown other than an explanation to her daughter that it contained "your Daddy's letters." After her death the suitcase revealed a family treasure and a legacy. The letters tell the story of a soldier's experience in Europe with the 83rd Division, known as The Thunderbolt, and chronicle the day-to-day life of a WWII soldier. The book is available on Amazon or contact the author Elizabeth Plume Fuss at [efuss38@comcast.net](mailto:efuss38@comcast.net).*



### Jan. 12, 1945 – Somewhere in Belgium –

Dear sweetheart: I haven't written for a few days now. I am still alright. I am writing this in a strong basement in a Belgian home. I certainly do pity these civilians who are here. They have lived in one part of this large basement for days. One of the small boys has a terrible looking foot. When they get an opportunity to take him to a hospital I am sure his foot will have to be taken off...

I had quite some experiences in the past few days. Two of them I shall never forget.

This is something you generally read about but it actually happened to me. Another fellow and I were carrying a wounded soldier down off a hillside through about a foot of snow. Since it was rather slippery we had to go slow. The "Jerries" threw some 88 at us or near us right over this hillside. The other fellow was swearing and I was praying. I said "Stop your cursing, fellow, I'm praying." Needless to say he quit his swearing till we got to the aid station which was nearly a mile away. It is so funny now but at the time it wasn't so funny.

Then in about this same area we picked up another fellow. He had his hand off, a large hole in his opposite arm and a slight wound in his leg. Just about the time we started out with him they threw some more artillery. After this let up we started out. There were only three of us. We decided that we could not make it in time so one of the fellows went back for help. In the meantime the two of us carried him as far as we could make it. When we set him down this fellow said, "If you boys can't go any farther maybe I can walk." I said to myself if he has the nerve and stamina to walk I will certainly help him along till I fall over. We lifted him on his feet. I took hold of him under the arms with one hand and by the belt in the front. I don't know how either of us done it but we walked this way for about 100 yds through one foot of snow. Then he weakened so we had to put him back on the litter. Then we saw our help coming. So we carried him to a small ravine and laid down. During all this they continued to throw the stuff around us. The other fellows carried him the balance of the

way to the aid station. When I arrived back I had to throw my blouse away because it was blood soaked. Some of it soaked through to my shirt.

This is what I am going to get the bronze star for if it comes through and doesn't get lost as the other recommendation did. I don't want to scare you, dear, or to cause you to worry too much. However I know you will feel better if I do tell you everything that I can. I will also add that certainly the Lord was with us and I feel sure he answered those prayers that I uttered. If it were not for Him we would not have made it. I only hope and pray this dirty bloody mess will soon be over...

**January 17, 1945 – Somewhere in Belgium –** Dear sweetheart: ....I will try to describe the conditions under which I am writing this. We have a small fire which we are gathered around. There is a light snow falling now. I hope it does not soil this too much before I am finished. About every minute there is artillery going off and then occasionally "Gerry" throws in a few.

I have certainly made good use of those heavy socks you sent me. In fact I have them on now with another pair. I never thought I would come to the place where I would be thankful to sleep in the same building with hogs. That is exactly what we have done for the past two nights...

**January 22, 1945 – Somewhere in Belgium –** Dear sweetheart: .... I will attempt to tell you about what I did today. I woke up about 8 o'clock and after having breakfast I decided to try to take some kind of a bath. It's a wonder I don't catch pneumonia because, believe it or not, today was the first I have had an opportunity to clean up since December 4, when I had my last shower, somewhere in Luxemburg. Since that time we have either been on the line or moving so fast we did not have time to get a bath...

I believe it is getting colder than it has been. I only hope we can stay where we are now for a while anyway. We can at least keep warm and be inside here. By the radio news the Russians are certainly moving now. Needless to say it but I hope they can keep on moving. I would be willing to shake hands with those boys any day, and they really chose the ideal time to hit the Germans. If they can continue this present drive for three or four weeks I will be more optimistic about this war in Europe getting over soon...



Lester Plume beside the Chaplain's Jeep

*(Written shortly after the Battle of the Bulge)*

**Feb. 9, 1945 – Somewhere in Belgium –** (Ruth wrote on envelope "A wonderful letter")

Dear sweetheart:...I suppose you do think I get around quite a bit by the "somewheres" in my letters. Why, dear, I'm surprised at you thinking the "Gerries" pushed our outfit back. I am just kidding about that statement but every time we've met them we have done the pushing. And we have also done the pushing around here in Belgium too even though A. Hitler threw in his best. But seriously dear, even though it has been pretty tough at times I am proud of our division. In fact we don't have to take a back seat for any division in the army. And we have the facts to back that up too...At times like this I can't help but think of you and home more than usual. I will try to describe to you what I meant when I said "this seems like another world."...

In the place of a clean home I had the swinging



cot on the boat, the pup tent in England, the fox hole in Normandy, and since then it has been foxholes, destroyed homes or buildings, some with lights, some without, in France, Luxemburg, Germany and Belgium.

Instead of knowing when I will move and where I am going, now it is just the opposite; I don't know when I'm going or where I am going.

Instead of having the quietness of home I have exploding shells, small arms fire, vehicles moving and the airplanes in the air.

Instead of the clean sheets and soft bed I have a few blankets which are not so clean lying on the ground or a floor and not always warm.

Instead of having the food I want prepared so well, I have what is given me and if I don't like it I go hungry. With all credit due them the army personnel cannot prepare food as I would like to have it.

Instead of flowers it is bloodshed.

Instead of fresh vegetables it is canned food.

Instead of a good clean and well heated church we have had church in the open under shells a few times; in the rain; the snow; in abandoned church buildings, school rooms; in barns; in any kind of building available; in cellars and in fortifications; and barracks which were used by enemy soldiers before we occupied them.

So this is the reason I have said "It seems like I am living in another world."

I will close by saying, dear, that I pray to God I am permitted to return to you and home soon...

All my love all my life, Lester

## THE 83RD INFANTRY DIVISION'S LEGACY REMAINS STRONG

by John Markuns, BOBA member



The 83rd Infantry Division Association stands in partnership with the Battle of the Bulge Association and its members representing the 20 infantry divisions, 10 armored divisions and all the units that fought in the Ardennes. The bonds forged in cold, snow and battle remain strong. The 83rd was reactivated in August 1942 in Camp Atterbury Indiana and landed on Omaha Beach D-Day +12, relieving elements of the 82nd and 101st airborne divisions, fighting in 5 battle campaigns—Normandy, Brittany, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe—and becoming known as the "Thunderbolt Division."

On July 4, 1944, in its first major battle, the 83rd suffered over 1,500 casualties, and by the end of the European Campaign, lost 2,850 killed in action, suffered 15,013 battle casualties, and engaged in 244 days of contact with the enemy. The 83rd captured 82,000 prisoners including the mass surrender of a German Major General and 20,000 troops at Beaugency, France. The 83rd also liberated the Langenstein Concentration Camp, a subcamp of Buchenwald and has been recognized as a Liberating Unit by the U.S. Holocaust Museum.

Earning the nickname the "Rag Tag Circus," the 83rd "borrowed" anything on wheels and raced 280 miles in 13 days, and 45 miles southwest of Berlin, gave the Allies the "Truman Bridge," the only permanent bridgehead across the Elbe. They met in April 1945 with allied Russian troops at Barby, the furthest penetration into Germany by any U.S. Division.

The 83rd INFD Association was established in Washington D.C. in 1947, and gathered for its first reunion that year in Cleveland. It has continued to meet annually, until the string was broken this year by the COVID-19 pandemic. We had planned to meet this year in Crystal City, VA to celebrate the opening of the National Museum of the U.S. Army. Visits to the Pentagon and Holocaust Museum, and a wreath-laying at Arlington National Cemetery, were also on the agenda. Our next reunion is now scheduled to take place in Crystal City July 28-31, 2021.

The Association welcomes all 83rd veterans including veterans and active duty members of the 83rd Army Reserve Readiness Training Center as well as family members and descendants. We have an active European



**Clifford W. Snyder, 330th Regiment, 83rd Infantry, and Ardennes veteran, representing the 83rd INFD Association at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery during the Association's 67th Annual reunion in 2013. Clifford, now deceased, was also a longtime member of BOBA.**

Chapter and welcome historians as well and others with an interest in honoring our veterans and preserving the legacy of the 83rd.

The Association's magazine, the *Thunderbolt*, has been in continuous publication since 1947, with its issues archived online. It is now published twice yearly and our Winter edition will be devoted to the 83rd's role in the Battle of the Bulge. We continue to seek any accounts that will help us relate this important chapter in the 83rd's history. Our deadline is November 15, 2020. Please contact us at [info@83rdassociation.com](mailto:info@83rdassociation.com).

Interested in membership? Sign up at [www.83rdassociation.com](http://www.83rdassociation.com). Full Membership includes twice yearly mailed copies of the Association's magazine, the *Thunderbolt*. All members receive a membership card, discount on 83rd "store" merchandise, online access to an electronic copy of the *Thunderbolt* magazine, European Chapter and U.S. members hospitality and knowledge as well as research assistance to learn more about the 83rd and your veteran.

Shine Forth Thunderbolts!

*NOTE FROM BUGLE EDITOR: BOBA greatly appreciates the support of the 83rd INFD Association!*



# VETERANS DAY, 1959

*This article appeared in the "Recordak Record" Oct-Nov 1959. Dan was the 1st General Manager of Recordak of Canada at the time, and he approved this article.*

"Veterans Day, 1959, found thousands of World War II combat veterans still appreciative of the peace for which they fought. For obvious reasons, they could never cease to appreciate it. Fifteen years ago, at this time in 1944, they were ducking enemy bullets in foxholes. Today, they are settled in comfortable communities armed with nothing more dangerous than hammers and paint brushes.

Take the case of Daniel B Vannice/Van Nice 33719273, Sales Manager of Recordak of Canada Ltd. Dan, who was the Manager of our Denver office before recently being transferred to Canada, spent November 11, 1944 in Belgium, helping the 30th Infantry Division, "Old Hickory" of the United States Army fight its way towards Germany. A few months later, the "Old Hickory" Division was spearheading the Allied drive across the Rhine River deep into Germany. It was then that Dan performed some heroic feats that earned him the Distinguished Service Cross, a combat award second only to the Congressional Medal of Honor."

\*\*\*

*For a description of the action that merited him this honor, we turn to the official World War II records of the Accomplishments of the 30th Division's 119th Infantry Regiment. Dan was in Second Battalion, Company E.*

"...During the same day, the Second Battalion had crossed the Elbe... Company E... moved into an assembly area in Gutergluck while troops of the 17th Armored Engineers defended the town. On the morning of 16th of April, Company E received word that the defensive positions held by the Engineers to the northeast of the town had been overrun by a strong German counterattack. At 0800 the attack hit the right flank with one prong striking the rear of the Company. With the Company solidly engaged with the enemy to the front, only the Command Post group was left to meet this attack. One officer and three men picked up their weapons and met the enemy. (*Editor's Note: Sergeant Van Nice was one of the men in this group.*) They took position in the second story of a building and brought fire down on 40 enemy infantry advancing up the street. The aggressive enemy force continued to advance, laying down heavy fire as they drove nearer to the small group. One man stood exposed in the window and shot down four of the enemy. (*Editor's Note: This man was Dan Van Nice.*)



**Dan Van Nice actually received the Distinguished Service Cross (shown below), after the war was over. Dan (shown above left), being congratulated by General Manton S. Eddy, the officer who presented him with the medal in 1946.**

The sheer weight and force of the enemy drive had carried them to within 20 yards of these four men.

When the accurate small arms fire slowed the enemy's advance, they brought up a self-propelled gun... Although faced with 10-1 odds, the men remained to protect their Company's rear. Sergeant Van Nice ran back through the enemy fire to obtain a bazooka. Returning with it and an arm full of rockets, he took his position back in the window. He opened fire at the self-propelled gun and missed. His fire drew the attention of the gun crew and they immediately fired four rounds...back at him. Although his exposure at the window continued to bring fire, he again took aim and fired another rocket. This time he knocked out the gun...In the hours of close-range fighting that followed both the officer... and Sergeant Van Nice were wounded, but neither man left his post until the last enemy before them had been either killed or wounded. Sergeant Van Nice, exhausted from the loss of blood, then fainted at his post..."

\*\*\*

Dan also received the Silver Star and the Bronze Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters. He was wounded three different times, earning the Purple Heart with two Oak Leaf Clusters.



## Fast forward nine years...

Dan is home, and like all returning combat veterans is trying to transition from combat to civilian life. Soon, his family grows with the birth of his second child, a daughter, named Tana.

One fine Saturday morning, in Baltimore, when I, Tana, was four or five, Dad asked me if I would like to go to the hardware store with him. I was very close to my Dad, and was overjoyed to be allowed to accompany him. Dad told me to get my shoes and put them on right away. Because I was trying to hurry, I was making a mess of my shoelaces. All of a sudden, my Dad used a tone of voice I had never before heard from him, (a casualty of war) and said:

"Bug (my nickname after the Maryland June Bugs), you lay those laces flat and make the knot smooth with the bows even! I lost buddies in the war, not just to bullets, but also to frostbite, because their boot laces had broken and there were no replacement laces!!!"

I didn't really understand all of what Dad was saying to me, but I knew from his tone of voice, that this was very important to him, and therefore, to me.

To this day, out of a deep love and respect for my beloved Father, every shoe I have that



## SUPPORT BOBA'S 76TH COMMEMORATION OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

On December 16, 2020, a small group of BOBA members will place wreaths at designated locations in DC to commemorate the beginning of the Battle of the Bugle and remember those who lost their lives in the battle. Although we regret that we are unable to host our usual large gathering due to the pandemic, the BOBA Board felt it was imperative to continue to commemorate this important date. We hope that next year we will be able to gather everyone together as we have in the past. You can help support this important remembrance by making a donation to help defray the cost of the wreaths. Go online to: [battleofthebulge.org](http://battleofthebulge.org) > donate and indicate "Wreath Fund" in the notes OR mail a check (note "Wreath Fund" in the memo area) to BOBA, PO Box 330, Mechanicsville, VA 23111.

## BOBA DEBUTS ITS "LIVE" ONLINE EVENTS!

Thanks to the Virginia War Memorial and the Lifelong Learning Institute for partnering with BOBA for our first-ever "livestream" Battle of the Bulge educational event on Zoom! Special thanks to BOBA member Jim Triesler of the Virginia War Memorial (VWM), Morgan Guyer of VWM and Rachel Ramirez of the Lifelong Learning Institute for hosting the event and to all our wonderful speakers and veterans who participated! Details and a recap will be included in the next *Bugle*.

Although our October reunion in Charleston did not happen due to the pandemic, we were grateful to convene together "online" in a Webex meeting to conduct our first-ever "Virtual Annual Membership Meeting!" Thanks to United States Gypsum Company, our Defend the Rock Employee Resource Group, and IT Department for hosting this event! Also, thanks to Joel Lamberty and Jean-Pierre Paviot for their contributions to the program!

**In the meantime, we will continue to share news in our *Bugle* magazine, on our website [www.battleofthebulge.org](http://www.battleofthebulge.org) and on our Facebook page. If you did not get an email invite to our Livestream event or Annual Membership Meeting, please send your email address to [betsy.boba@gmail.com](mailto:betsy.boba@gmail.com) so that we can update our database.**



lace, have flat, unwrinkled laces, and even bows. Incidentally, I have never broken a shoelace!

During a conversation with my Dad in 1971, I asked him for his memories of the war. He was reluctant to share much with me but I persisted because I was about to marry my soon-to-be husband, David A. Black, a Vietnam veteran, and I hoped to be prepared to be a good wife, understanding some of the things my husband-to-be experienced and lived with.

Dad briefly shared a bit about his part in the occupation of Germany and France. He did tell me of his refusal of two Battlefield Commissions. I asked Dad "Why?" His reply was, "I entered the Service as Enlisted and I chose to leave the Service as Enlisted. I believed I

would be of more value to my men as their Staff Sergeant than as a Second Lieutenant."

<b>Entered Active Service</b>	12 Apr 43
<b>Was Separated</b>	28 Sept 45
<b>Total Days Served</b>	899
<b>Wounded in Action</b>	3 times

Dad was proud to serve in the 30th Infantry Division, "Old Hickory," AKA "Roosevelt's SS," whom the German SS knew and feared. The 30th Infantry Division was finally awarded a Presidential Unit Citation in July of 2020.

Dad was also briefly attached to the 66th Armored Regiment, Task Force B, Augustdorf to Magdeburg, 2-14 April 1945.

**Dad was awarded:** The Combat Infantry Badge, the Presidential Unit Citation with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star w/two

Oak Leaf Clusters, the Purple Heart w/two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Good Conduct Medal, the French Croix de Guerre, Belgian Forragere with Palm, American Campaign Medal, European, African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with 4 bronze stars, WWII Victory Medal and the WWII Army Occupation Medal.

However, my Father was always emphatic that he went to war to fight for Freedom and Righteousness, NOT to earn medals!

*NOTE: In my Father's Military Records, his Surname appears as Vannice or Van Nice, as he wrote it. Additionally, Dad's Army Serial Number, on his Enlistment and Discharge Record is: 33719273, but on some of Dad's records it is typed as 33710273, a typo I suspect!*

*—Submitted by Tana Van Nice Black,  
BOBA Board member*



## DID YOU KNOW THAT BOBA HAS MEMBERS ACROSS THE GLOBE?

*We'd like to recognize those who support us from countries outside the United States.*

*Thanks for your support!*

**AUSTRALIA:** Peter May

**BELGIUM:** Phillippe Bastin, Daniel Bourdeaud'huy, CRIBA, Solange DeKeyser, Yves Delmotte, Pascal Hainaut, Andre Hubert, Andre Jamar, Joel Lamberty, Alain Larock, Andre Meurisse, Norbert Morbe, Jean-Marie Plusquin, Bruno Pollet, Marcel and Mathilde Schmetz and the Remember Museum '39-'45, Fabian Somville, Gilbert Stevenot, Lucien Vandenhende, Frederik Vranken, Carl Wouters, Jean-Pierre Wuyts

**FRANCE:** Duncan Hollands, Jean-Pierre Paviot, Marie Paviot, Christiane Tanqueray

**GERMANY:** Ute Dillard, Doug Mitchell, Dennis Owens

**HOLLAND:** Rick Rimmelzwaan

**LUXEMBOURG:** Patrick Dax, Daniel Jordao, Jean Milmeister, Norbert Morbe, Jacques Reinard, Guy Ries, Gaul Roland, Victor Weber

**SWEDEN:** Patrik Dahlberg

**THE NETHERLANDS:** Eric Bijtelaar, Frank Gubbels, Joris Vergeest, Freek Vogels

## ★ REMEMBERING THE FALLEN ★

### Eric Fisher Wood, Jr.

*Excerpts from The Tribune-Democrat, used with permission from reporter Mark Pesto*

In August 2020, legislation was introduced to award the United States' highest military honor to a World War II hero from Bedford County—Lt. Eric Fisher Wood Jr. House Resolution 7835 would authorize the President of the United States to award the Medal of Honor to Lt. Eric Fisher Wood Jr., who gave his life in the Battle of the Bulge.

Wood was born in 1919 in California, but grew up on a farm in the Bedford area after his family moved there in the 1920s. His father, Eric Fisher Wood Sr., was a co-founder of the American Legion and a notable architect whose best-known work today is the tomb of President Warren G. Harding.

Wood attended Valley Forge Military Academy and Princeton University and served in the Pennsylvania National Guard's Artillery Reserve before being called up to active duty. He was serving with an Army artillery battalion in the Ardennes Forest in December 1944 when German forces launched the counter-offensive campaign—Battle of the Bulge.

Wood's unit faced a heavy German presence, and he became separated from his men after a skirmish and found himself alone in the woods. Over the next few days, he gathered together a small band of American soldiers who had been separated from their own units. For several weeks, the group harassed German patrols and worked to cut their lines of communication and supply, Belgian witnesses later said. The guerrilla campaign is credited with killing more than 200 Nazi soldiers.

"Cut off and surrounded behind enemy lines, Lt. Wood mounted



Eric Fisher Wood, Jr. and the stone cross honoring him outside Meyerode, Belgium.

his own personal guerrilla war over the course of several weeks against the Wehrmacht, frustrating and slowing the German advance and helping prevent American forces from being overrun," said retired Marine Corps Col. Stuart Helgeson, president of Valley Forge Military Academy and College, Wood's alma mater.

When he was found dead in the forest outside the village of Meyerode, Belgium, in January 23, 1945, he was surrounded by the bodies of seven dead Nazis; it's believed he killed all of them before succumbing to his injuries. The actual date of his death is not certain; the Army officially lists it as Dec. 17, 1944, the day he went missing from his unit, but Belgian witnesses would later testify about his exploits in the weeks afterward.

—Submitted by Kevin Gallagher, BOBA member

**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.**



# NEW MONUMENT TO RECOGNIZE 28 INFND AND THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

Wesley Craig, Major General, USA (retired), 34th Commanding General of the 28th Infantry Division wrote to BOBA recently about plans to construct a new monument, and asking permission to use the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge logo. The BOBA Board responded with a resounding YES! The monument will recognize the desperate fight of the 28th Infantry in the Ardennes Forest.

Craig writes, "On December 16, 1944, the 28th Infantry was hit by parts of seven German Divisions and even though strung out over three times the normal frontage for an infantry division, they were told to "hold at all costs." They fought a desperate delaying action that traded space and lives for time, allowing reinforcements to be rushed in to stop the German onslaught.

The people of Luxembourg cherish and honor the valiant fight of the 28th. There are monuments to many 28th units all over the battlefield. I was honored to speak at the Hamm Military Cemetery on Memorial Day, 2004, the cemetery was filled with close to 1,000 locals! I returned with the Division band and color guard for Thanksgiving that same year and we paraded through many towns and reenacted the Thanksgiving dinner of 1944 when the 28th soldiers gave away half



**Four former 28th Infantry Division Commanders at the 75th Anniversary Commemoration of the start of the Battle of the Bulge in December 2019—The four GOs in Army Service Uniform (Blues) are left MG Craig, MG March (back to camera), MG Shafer (the tallest one in back) and MG Gronski is the man on the right. The LTG in Pinks and Greens was an unnamed General serving in Europe at the time with US Army European Command. It was quite an honor that four former commanders of the 28th Division travelled to Europe to honor earlier veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice during the a Battle of the Bulge.**

of the meals to the hungry locals. My wife and I also returned for the actual anniversary of the battle and accompanied two bus loads of VBOB members as they and their family toured the places where they fought so many years ago. It was a very memorable trip!

This past December, two other retired CG's of the 28th and I plus the current CG and colors returned to participate in the 75th anniversary of that terrible battle. As we traveled home, us four officers decided to erect a monument to the troops of the 28th that helped fight this last gasp Nazi offensive. The monument is to be erected at the 28th Division Shrine, a beautiful 15 acre plot of ground east of State College, PA. The Shrine memorializes those members of the 28th KIA in all wars. We are working on fundraising right now and initial responses are encouraging. The VBOB logo will be used on the center of the monument."

*If you would like to donate toward the new Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge monument on behalf of BOBA, go online to: [battleofthebulge.org](http://battleofthebulge.org) >*

*donate and indicate "28 INFND VBOB monument" in the notes OR mail a check (note "28 INFND VBOB monument" in the memo area) to BOBA, PO Box 330, Mechanicsville, VA 23111.*

## SURPRISE PARADE PAYS TRIBUTE TO 28 INFND VET ON HIS 95TH BIRTHDAY

*Article excerpts & photo by Stan Hudy; reprinted with permission from The Daily Gazette*

What Allan Atwell, 95, of Clifton Park, NY, expected to be an ordinary Sunday turned into much more as he was surprised by a lengthy, drive-by parade at his home. Several of Atwell's children were in attendance, including Barbara, Alane, Jerrold and Jon.

Allan served in the 28 INFND MP PLT. "I was a month into 19 [years-old] when I waded ashore on Omaha Beach of '44 on Labor Day, a couple months after D-Day, but there was still a lot of debris in the water and on the beaches. I went up through replacement depots and was assigned to Company B of the 109th as a replacement. I was a private and later I became a private 1st class. I only had myself to look after and I did as I was told. Obviously, I survived."

"They had the worst winter in decades and in the fall of '44 I was in the Hurtgen Forest when the temperatures went down to zero or below for a couple of weeks. Living outside, I got frostbite so bad that I couldn't walk." He was transported to a hospital in Spa, Belgium, to recover.

"They put me on a table and took a pin to stick in my toes to show that I didn't have any feeling. Each morning the doctor would walk by and if they turned black, they would cut them off. I survived, but even now it is difficult to get my feet warm in the wintertime and in the summertime, they prickle and burn. I still have my feet, but they aren't what they used to be."



**These days with the pandemic, you need to be creative to celebrate big! And that's exactly what Allan Atwell (seated), 28 INFND MP PLT, experienced—a big 95th birthday surprise with a lengthy, drive-by parade.**

# BULGE MEMORIES

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



## Darrell R. Bush 75 INF D 290 REG 2 BN F

On December 16, 1944, our 75th Division was sent to Bastogne, Belgium to fight in the Battle of the Bulge. The temperature was below zero and snow was waist deep! It was the most severe winter weather recorded in that area in its history!

We fought hand-to-hand combat for over 39 days. My feet were frozen and most of our Company was wiped out! There were only a handful of us left. Two of my comrades tried to cross a field and were shot down. I went out to help them and was shot—five times. One bullet penetrated my right hip—this was January 23, 1945.

I woke up several days later in a hospital in Paris, France and then was sent to England for surgery to remove the bullet. A few days later, I was sent back to fight in the Colmar Pocket on a cane with a rifle. We crossed the Rhine River into Germany where



I continued to fight in several battles. I also participated in the liberation of the starved and severely beaten prisoners from the Dachau Prison.

General Patton was killed in a military vehicle accident, and I was chosen from my Company to attend his funeral. I came home in January 1946. I was proud to serve my country.

**Medals:** Combat Badge, Bronze Star with V, Purple Heart, Army Good Conduct, American Campaign WWII, Europe—Africa Middle East—WWII, WWII Victory, Army Occupation—Ger, Battle of the Bulge, Combat Service,

Overseas Service, Honorable Discharge, Two medals from the French Embassy in DC for participation in the Liberation of France.

*Darrell lives in Camp Springs, Maryland.*



## Howard Clock 4 ARMDD 8 TK BN A

*My great uncle T/Sgt. Howard Clock was a tank platoon leader in Able Company of the famed 8th Tank Battalion of the 4th Armored Division. On December 16th, the "Rolling Eight Ballers" learned from their battalion commander Fightin' Al Irzyk that they were going to be the spearhead of a push to relieve the men overrun by the German advance.*

*—Duncan Shepard, BOBA member*

### **Most Vivid Memory:** "Showdown at Chaumont"

In the early hours of December 19th, the Eight Ballers rolled out in their tanks. Single file & bumper they traveled through the terrain of France. By December 22nd, they had reached Belgium. This



is when they first ran into heavy resistance. German infantry dug in on Hill 450 and Howard's tank company went to an adjacent hill to lay down fire while the infantry fought to displace them. The 10th Armored infantry waded across the freezing La Sure River and secured the area.

On December 23rd, the Eight Ballers arrived at the town of Chaumont. The lead tank platoon of Dog Company came under a heavy ambush on the outskirts of the town. They lost several tanks, jeeps and men. Having lost a sizable part of his

force, Al Irzyk devised a plan of attack for the remainder of his tankers. Howard's Able Company provided direct fire support into the town from the wooded ridge. His comrades in Bravo Company moved into the town with infantry support. The fighting was fierce and the infantry went house to house to push the German paratroopers out of the town. The tankers fired on both sides of the road with their main cannons to suppress enemy machine guns. The battle raged on for over 90 minutes.

Finally, Chaumont was under the control of American forces. Before they could prepare for a counterattack, they were hit with four Jagdtiger tanks, StuGs and infantry. Howard poured fire on enemy targets but there was no contest. The counterattack was so fierce and fast that the infantry officers held the line while their men fell back. Many officers paid with their lives. There were countless acts of heroism as the infantry moved to the rear. Men jumped into burning tanks and pulled tankers out. When the counterattack was over, the Americans were back to the outskirts of Chaumont, having lost all their ground.

The Eight Ballers spent December 24th to the South of Chaumont. The Germans fired mortars and artillery at them throughout the day. My uncle was repairing Shermans from the previous day's fight. Around 1:40 pm they received heavy mortar fire and had to defend against enemy infantry. While he was out of his tank, Howard was shot by a sniper from the woods. The bullet went through his chest miraculously missing his heart and lungs.

The official company morning report for December 24th shows that Howard was dropped from assignment due to being seriously wounded in action. This is the end of his Bulge story. He survived the war and lived and retired in Connecticut until his passing in 1992.





## ★ Frank De Frates

10 ARMDD 132 ARM ORD C

I survived the Battle of the Bulge and made a lifelong buddy along the way...

During the Battle of the Bulge, Ron Fellin's team was dropped north of Bastogne, he took refuge in a blown up church. A nun was there caring for the injured soldiers and civilian planes would drop food one day and ammo the next. Ron gave the food to the nun to give to the patients. When it was over she gave Ron a cross pendant. Later, Ron Fellin's team was cleaning the village of Germans. Ron was on street level and came out of a house and bang!—he was shot and fell down. He was getting up and one in his group said, "Ron, here is who shot you." It was a boy about 13 or 14. He picked him up and tossed him from the roof onto the street.

Fast forward to March 1945—my combat team was headed to the Rhine River. To cross it however there was 2 German armored divisions this side. We were told they were short of ammo and provisions. My team was attacked by German planes and I think artillery. My vehicle, a 6x6, was hit and I was wounded in both arms and shoulder. I rolled out of it into a ditch. Another soldier, Abby Leon, was trying to patch me up but was shaking too bad to do it. Our Sgt. Sheldon came over and placed bandages on me. He stood me up and said, "Can you walk up the hill?" I said yes, but collapsed and fell. He picked me up like a sack of potatoes and took me to an

ambulance that had just closed the door. He said, "Open up!," and they placed me on the floor of the ambulance. I was taken to a German field aid station (sand bags and canvas Red Cross tarp). The nurse, a beautiful blond blue-eyed girl, took care of me. She told me that the Germans were staffing the ambulances to where I would be taken back to the American aid station that night.

I was taken there and then to a big hospital in Verdon, France. I had two operations there. Every day a doctor would look at you and some other men, and he would say, "Send this man back to the front." When he came to me, he reviewed my chart and told the nurse to get a pin. He bent one arm up behind my back, then stuck the pin into my bare chest, and asked, "Head or point?" Then he stuck the pin into my arm, and again asked, "Head or point?" I didn't know. I didn't feel it in my arm. He then said, "Send this man to the United States." I cried.

Ron and I wound up in the same hospital and became lifelong friends.

In 1995, Joan and I visited Ron. He wanted to go to Everglades City to have a stone put in his cross, the one in the center was missing. That done, we spent a lovely day there.

When Ron passed away, his wife gave me the cross with a deal if anything happened to me, she would get it back. It became mine in 2017.

*Frank resides in Haddon Heights, NJ.*



## ★ Doyle "Hooley" Alcorn

75 INFD 290 REG 2 BN F

**Job During the Bulge:** Pushed trees up and out of the way, and pushed snow out of the way to build roads; dug deep trenches to keep German tanks from crossing; built Bailey bridges for our boys and our equipment to cross and then blew them up so the enemy couldn't; after the war we cleared debris from destroyed towns; along with many other tasks, I personally drove a bulldozer, and of course, when it was necessary we fought the enemy.

As the 256th Engineer Combat Battalion book writes, "...on the 29th of December moved out to what was to become second nature before the war was over—continuous, sudden changes of bivouac." All I remember is we never stopped. We went from town to town without ever stopping. We worked and fought in the Ardennes Forest and in Germany.

*Doyle lives in Mankato, Kansas with his wife.*

*Mrs. Alcorn shared, "Being a member of BOBA is something which Hooley is very proud! He only wishes he had known of it sooner. Had it not been for Greg Penfield, of Manhattan, Kansas, who searched and located Kansas Battle of the Bulge participants, Hooley would never have known about BOBA."*

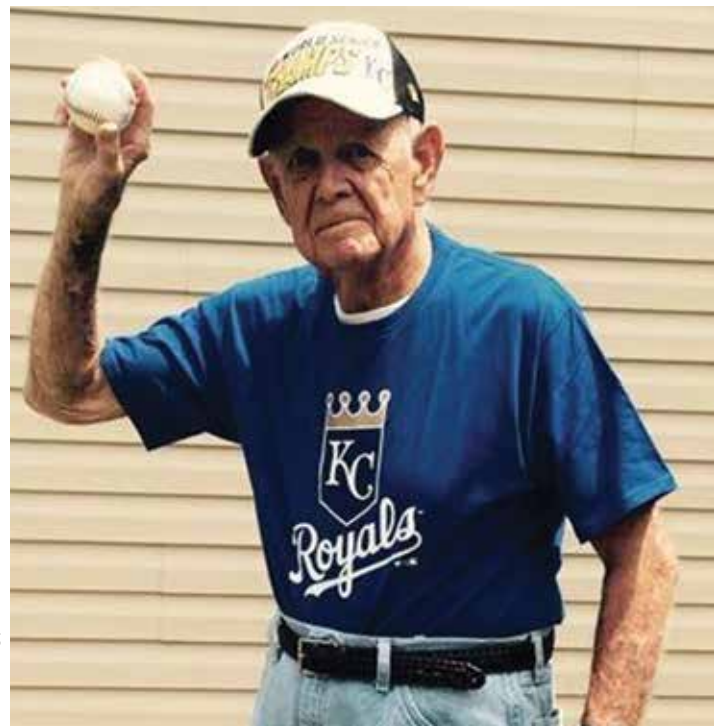


Photo courtesy North Central-Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging

## ★ Richard K Maskell 2 INFD 23 REG 2 BN F

Richard was born in Chicago in June 1922. He grew up in St Louis under the care of his grandparents. He was inducted on July 6, 1943 and took his basic training at Camp Walters, Texas. After Basic, he was promoted to corporal and was part of the training Cadre for 3 cycles of Infantry. He arrived in Southampton, England on the *Queen Elizabeth* on July 15, 1944. He then landed at Omaha Beach on July 22 and was assigned to the 2nd Infantry Division, 23rd regiment, Fox Company, 3rd Squad.

Rich fought with the 2 INFD at St Lo, in the bocage and at the French port Brest, used as a Nazi U-boat port. Maskell described the fighting in the bocage as follows: "In the hedgerow country in Normandy, there were mounds of dirt used as fences by the French. And they had weapons on either corner, automatic weapons, and in the middle. And you'd get out in that pen, and they'd fire at you, and you had a terrible time from one hedgerow to the other."

At Brest where there was fighting for a month, Maskell excelled in the use of the Browning Automatic Rifle and explosives to advance and capture Nazi strongpoints in that city. At Brest, he captured a German Forward Observer during one of the assaults. He was then promoted to Staff Sgt. and led a 12 man combat infantry squad. His division was attacking German positions in order to capture the Roer River Dams when the Battle of the Bulge started on December 16, 1944.

Maskell was part of the brave and outnumbered combat infantrymen that fought in and near the twin villages of Krinkelt/Rocherath and the Elsenborn Ridge. They held the line and did this during one of the coldest winters on record in Europe during the Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes Forest. Maskell described his experiences in the Bulge: "We had to retreat and come back to Elsenborn Ridge which was the most important, so we dug in and diverted the Panzer Divisions down into a funnel, more or less. We really had to fight hard to keep that. We didn't have an abundance of ammunition, so we were lucky that we



could hold it that long. Well, you have to try to do the best you can. The weather was a terrible thing. The fighting wasn't as bad as the weather, because you tried not to freeze to death, and walking in waist-deep snow is no fun. When you are an infantryman, you don't stay warm and dry. You're out in the weather at all times, and you dig a foxhole to keep yourself from being killed with shrapnel and bullets. But the snow would melt, and your feet would be in water at the bottom of the foxhole. During the Bulge there was no rest period, you had to keep going."

After the Battle of the Bulge was over, on February 1, 1945, Maskell was evacuated to England, due to frozen feet and other frost injuries. He then returned to Germany as an M.P. After the Germans surrendered, he was chief non-commissioned officer at German POW internment camps in Kassel and Mannheim. He spent 18 months overseas.

When asked about the greatest lesson he learned, he responded: "Well, the lesson is, you might say, freedom is not free, and you have to fight for it. That's one of the things I'd say. People don't realize how wonderful the United States of America is. And they take things for granted, and a lot of people made sacrifices to keep it that way. No terrible thing in civilian life is worse than combat. Anyone who thinks that they have it tough, they should go in combat, and they'll realize how wonderful things are."

Maskell returned to the United States on January 31 1946, married his sweetheart Grace and was a great father to his two children (Linda and Ricky). Maskell received a business degree from St Louis University and pursued a career with Warner-Jenkinson and Hostess Cake as a buyer.

**Awarded Citations:** Bronze Star, Good Conduct Medal, American Campaign, European Theatre Service Medal with four battle Star (Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland, Central Europe), WWII Victory Medal, Army of Occupation, Sharpshooter's badge.

*Richard passed away on May 15, 2020.*

## ★ Damon F Young 1 INFD 26 REG 1 BN HQ

Damon spent six months as a POW, participated in the Nuremberg trials, the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War. During the Bulge he was hit by shrapnel in his right leg. He and 14 others were captured and taken to a German hospital, where they received no medical attention. They ended up in Stalag II A, located near Neubrandenburg. They were put to work cutting firewood near Zislow, and given little food. "We were watched constantly by an older German guard who must have taken a liking to us. He began smuggling in raw potatoes, which we baked in the fire pit. If it were not for his kindness, I wonder if any of us would have made it." The photo (right) was taken in Bamberg, Germany, March 1946 during Germany Occupation Duty, Nazi War Crimes Trials, Nuremberg. [Excerpts from article by Clyde Beal of the Herald-Dispatch]

*Damon is 96 and lives in Barboursville, WV.*





★  
**Raymond Wenning**  
**30 INFD 117 REG A**



**Medals/Awards:** Purple Heart, Army Occupation, WWII Ribbon, Good Conduct, MSM

I was with the Army unit that took the first city during the Battle of the Bulge. My job was a BAR man in the infantry. My most vivid memory was on my 21st birthday. While relieving myself, a sniper shot me and I thought he shot my ear off. Thankfully he missed me but I found him and shot him.

The importance of the Bulge was we stopped the Germans and turned them around. The importance today is Hitler might have ruled the world if we didn't stop him. Before I went to war, I remember Hitler on the radio. His closing remarks was always (in German), "I'm not afraid of the world."

*Raymond lives in Coldwater, Ohio.*



★  
**Harold W. Rathjen**  
**31 ENGR BN 398 ENGR RGT C**

I was in the infantry and we were stationed in Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge.

**Most Vivid Memory:** I woke up in a field hospital with frozen feet! Our unit was so decimated by casualties that survivors were assigned to another unit.

*Harold lives in San Antonio, TX.*

★  
**Norval (Dick) Williams**  
**80 INFD 318 REG I**

**Most Vivid Memory:** "Not Quite a 'Million-Dollar Wound'"

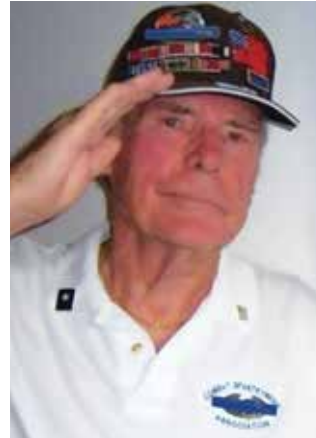
The dentist did not offer a root canal or crown but just to have the tooth extracted and sent me on my way. Before leaving the hospital, I asked the medic if I could have a dry pair of socks. He obliged. I sat down and removed my combat boots. I asked him to give me an extra pair of dry socks as we always carried an extra pair in our helmet liner. When the medic returned with the two pairs of socks, he looked at my feet and said, "You aren't going anywhere as your feet have been frozen." Checking the cardboard tag around my neck which read that I was sent back to the field hospital for dental work, he told me that I would have to report back to my company to get retagged for trench foot, otherwise my company commander would think I was a deserter. I reported back to my outfit to get retagged. Upon returning to the field hospital for the second time, I hopped out of the ambulance and the medic checking my tag asked me what I was doing on my feet. I responded that as an infantryman, we are always on our feet. He told me to keep off my feet and to get onto a litter.

Then we were loaded onto a train which took us back to somewhere in France to the 36th General Hospital Feb. 18th, 1945, and was placed in the trench foot ward with many other men who also had their feet frozen. How wonderful it was to sleep in a bed between white sheets and be inside a heated building out of the cold. I must have slept for two days and two nights straight, being so exhausted from the

lack of sleep on the front lines.

The beds in the trench foot ward were made up by turning up the top sheet and blanket at the bottom of the bed allowing your feet to remain uncovered which helped to increase the circulation to the feet. And, if while sleeping you may accidentally draw your feet up beneath the covers, the nurse would come by and drag your feet back out. The frozen feet turned black by the skin cells dying and new skin cells had to grow back to replace the dead cells, along with therapy such as whirlpool baths and picking up marbles with your toes to increase circulation. Early one morning, as the doctor and the nurse were making their rounds going down the opposite side of the ward, examining each man's feet,

I overheard the doctor tell the nurse occasionally to send a particular soldier over to the United Kingdom. I whispered to the man in the bed next to me that I was hoping to get transferred to the United Kingdom. When he replied, he said that they were going to have their feet amputated because of gangrene. Hearing that, I



changed my wishes in a hurry. I considered myself fortunate and thanked God that my tooth that I lost was the best tooth that I lost and that tooth saved my feet and my frozen feet, in turn, saved my life.

I remained in the 36th General Hospital for 69 days. They would take us on hikes to rush the healing process and our feet being so tender would swell up to the point that we could hardly get our shoes on. April 27, 1945, I was released from the hospital and was reclassified as limited assignment and placed into quartermaster outfits. First of all, I was assigned to guard duty in the watchtower of a prison compound holding S.S. troops. Then the war with Germany ended and I was placed in a mobile laundry outfit that handled the laundry for a hospital up in Munich, Germany for a while. Then I was transferred to Marseille, France. I was preparing to be shipped to the far east for

the invasion of Japan but thanks to the atomic bombs that were dropped on Japan, the war with Japan ended and many American lives were saved.

*Dick resides in Fort Myers, FL.*

*To read more of his memoirs, check out  
<http://makobiscribe.com/combat-infantryman/>*

## CHAPTER NEWS

### WA NORTHWEST CHAPTER (6)

Chuck McGuire, 187 ENGR CMBT BN C, with his friend Wanda Finnell at his 96th birthday party 8/29/20. The party was hosted by Veterans of Foreign Wars - Post 2669 in Port Orchard, WA. The party included a motorcycle escort of the para-transit bus that took Chuck from his home to the Post, a parade of cars including two Washington State Patrol troopers and one of Chuck's favorite foods, oysters on the half-shell. Chuck is a Lifetime Veteran Member and Vice President of the NW Chapter.

—Submitted by Jim Pennock, Chapter President



### VA CRATER CHAPTER (43) MEMORY

From the March 2017 quarterly luncheon meeting, left to right, Sidney Sings, Walter George and Louis Cunningham. Chapter members Michael and David George are holding the flag. Walter is interred in Historic Blandford Cemetery in Petersburg Va. Sidney and Louis are interred in Virginia Veterans Cemetery at Amelia, as is Jack Carver (not pictured). We will always remember our dear Veteran chapter members and their service to our country!

—Submitted by Mary Ann Smith, Chapter President

## PA LEHIGH VALLEY CHAPTER (55) SALUTES WWII VETS

Even though the veterans and members of the Lehigh Valley Chapter of the Battle of the Bulge had not met for months, due to the pandemic, the members still needed to salute their local World War II veterans on the 75th anniversary of the official end of the war.

On the evening of September 2, 2020, eight local veterans were honored with a drive-by of a line of 10 cars and over 20 patriotic supporters at their homes. Each veteran was presented with a special commemorative coffee mug designed especially for the event, a bugle salute to each of them including "God Bless America," a Proclamation from a local State Senator, as well as a special gift bag from Cabela's Outdoor store.

The veterans honored were Battle of the Bulge veterans Lionel Adda, Norvin Vogel, and Bert Winzer. Also honored were US Army veterans Richard Schermerhorn and John Golden, US Navy veterans, Hank Kudzik and George Folk, and US Army Air Corps veteran Richard Schimmel. Mr. Schimmel was also in possession of piece of the deck of the *USS Missouri*, the battleship where the final surrender terms were signed, presented to him recently by the US Navy.

To Navy veteran George Folk the day had special meaning. His brother, US Army Private Donald W. Folk, 2nd Infantry Division, 38th Regiment, Company C, was killed in action on December 17th, 1945 in Krinkelt, Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge. He will never forget.

We at Chapter #55 thank them all for their service. They were all proud to have served.

—Submitted by Steve Savage



Lehigh Valley Chapter (55) veterans were celebrated with a line of local supporters (top) and bugler Tom Parsons (above left). US Army Air Corps veteran Richard Schimmel showed off his plaque containing a piece of the deck from the *USS Missouri* (above right).



## PA DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER (4)

# THE EYES SAY IT ALL

by Joanne Moss, niece of BOBA member Matthew A. Reluga, SSGT 99th Infantry Division

Recently, I was asked to write a brief story about the war history of Matthew A. Reluga. *Overwhelmed* was what I felt at the time, since Matt is now 101 years of age and he does not often recall what he had for breakfast, let alone what transpired well over seventy-five years ago. Several times, I broached the subject and asked what he particularly remembered about those trying and emotional times. Each time, I received the same answer. "It was long ago and I don't want to talk about it." This was indeed a mixed message, as he has often expressed the sentiment that we must all remember what went before and, especially, the Battle of the Bulge where he came off the boat only to fall face first into the icy waters. Fortunately, or unfortunately, a fellow soldier (unnamed) yanked him up by his pack and pushed him forward to meet untold chaos.

He told of troops dropping air markers from the planes to show where the landing was to happen but the wind drove the smoke the wrong way and the battle worsened. He also related to my family that he was sent as an intelligence scout into the line of fire where he was subjected to both American and German artillery. Despite this, he made it back to his troops with important information. He does not recall where this took place, other than he told his driver to stay with the vehicle and not to follow him under any circumstances. Matt related that he still sees the soldier's face and that the fellow looked awfully scared!

None of this seemed like the meat of a "Battle of the Bulge" story and I was a bit disappointed that he could not remember more about battle lines, towns, people he met, etc. Then, about a week ago, while visiting and straightening his closet for him, I found a beautifully bound book on WWII and the various theatres. It was filled with maps showing battles, line of demarcation, towns, and arrows showing German, English and American movement through various battles. Finally, I thought I had found a memory jogger to get more information from this gallant soldier.

I brought the book to his chair and opened it up to his Division's pages. He looked at me with watery eyes and said that it was quite a book but he was there because it was his duty to be there, not to remember or recognize any of the towns or people. When asked if he remembered any of the fellow soldiers he fought so closely with, he denied remembering any, with the exception of one. He has a picture hanging on his living room wall of that soldier. Matt related that they were good buddies and that they talked often about where they were (War), why they were there (fighting the Germans) and what they were doing in the field. He related also that both of them preferred to take

on assignments alone. Why, I asked? "It was better to know that no one else was at risk and would die because of where we were," was his response. "I still see the faces." He knew that at any given time, the young fellow next to him might be blown up or shot and, after seeing that happen so many times, he preferred to go it alone. At one battle, his Division of about 150 men went to fight. Only 7 returned, of

which he was one. He wonders to this day why that is.

The times he does remember, with some accuracy, was riding on a train to either a boot camp or training camp. The train had broken windows and the soldiers were hanging out the windows looking at the people along the route. A trip to Mexico while on leave and a trip to Paris, France where he was lucky enough to spend some hours with his brother, Charles, an Intelligence Officer in charge of handling captured German soldiers, also stands out in his mind.

Again, none of this seemed like material for an article on war heroism. What it did provide me with was perhaps some insight into the fact that Uncle Matt never remembered our names, the names of his neighbors, or the names of relatives other than his immediate family. My husband was not usually called by name, my son is often addressed as his father, and I am "sweetheart" or "dear" unless he is pushed to say my name. It is then my last name followed by my first (military carry-over?). Neighbors are known as the lady on the corner, the one next door (who was his caretaker and remains a friend and supporter,) and the guy across the street even though they have lived there for many years and were, and are, an important part of his life. He *can* remember facts about my family that are relayed to him on visits. I believe that his lack of personal name-tagging is more a direct result of his life history and most particularly, his war experience.

Being brought up after WWI, going to an orphanage as a young child and raised by strangers until his high school years, he may not have been able to develop close personal ties. Children whom he befriended came and went dependent on their family status. Going to war and having his friends and comrades taken from him on a daily basis, he developed a strategy to protect himself from losing the people he might become attached to. If they had no name, he could not be unduly affected should they be taken away for whatever reason. Unfortunately, while names can easily fade into oblivion, faces do not. Thus, he is still tormented with the faces of those that were left on the battlefield. Because of those faces, Matt refused the Purple Heart. He felt, and still feels, that those medals belong to those who gave their lives. Sadly, he does not realize that he too gave a large part of his life to those fighting years and the memories that he carries to this day.

Now when I visit, I no longer feel upset when he doesn't call me by name. When I see the light in his eyes when we arrive to visit, I know that

I am remembered and cared about. When I see his eyes as he looks at his fellow veterans in his new residence, the Veterans Home, I know that they, too, are important to him, even without names. I believe that all those unnamed soldiers of long ago are still remembered and cared about, name or not, when he asks that the Battle be remembered. No, names and places are really not important, because I can see his remembrance in his eyes.

**BELOW: Matthew A. Reluga, honorable WWII Veteran and recipient of The Bronze Star, Silver Star and various Theatre Medals. Matt is a treasured member of the Delaware Valley Chapter.**



# SC CHAPTER (7) DONATES TO CAMP TOCCOA MUSEUM

by Doug Patterson, Chapter 7 President

In August of this year I visited a small town in Northeast Georgia called Toccoa. Probably most of you have never heard of it and even more have never visited it. The main attraction is a small but very important museum which presents the history of a World War II training camp that is named Camp Toccoa. The museum represents the camp for which four parachute infantry regiments (PIR) were formed in 1942 to 1945. Probably the one most known is the 506th PIR because of the book and television series, *Band of Brothers*. I do not wish to slight the other PIRs (501st, 511th, and 517th) which served our country because they are all heroes.

The museum houses memorabilia from all of these regiments as well as pictures of individual soldiers. A very unique and extensive collection of German Mousers from 12 different countries as well as weapons used by the US Airborne troops. Probably the most extraordinary display is the "original 70 foot long century old horse stable from Aldborne, England, that was home to the World War II Paratroopers training for D-Day. The four stalls housed Able and Easy Companies of the 506th PIR. These stalls were dismantled piece by piece in England and were flown to the United States on a C141 aircraft along with the workmen that took the stalls apart. When they arrived in Toccoa, Georgia, these same workmen assembled the stalls just as they were in England. The displays in the stalls



**ABOVE: Enjoying the Camp Toccoa Museum exhibits. BELOW: SC Chapter President Doug Patterson presents a check to the museum's Executive Director, Brenda Carlan.**



contained some very interesting items that were found hidden behind the boards when they were disassembled. These items were placed there by the troopers and included such things as candy wrappers, cigarette packs, razor blades and other items.

While I was there I asked one of the volunteers, Ray Clark, a retired US Army 30 year veteran, about how COVID-19 had impacted the museum. He said the museum had no governmental assistance, so their income was from donations, admission fees, sales in the gift shop and memberships. Since COVID-19, the museum had to reduce the days and hours of operations because the income had been reduced.

Knowing about this problem, the Board of Directors and Officers of the SC Chapter (7) voted to give a donation to the museum. I was fortunate enough to be able to go to the museum and present our check. The museum Executive Director, Brenda Carlan, accepted the check and thanked our Chapter.

The reason this small museum is important is very simple—we have veterans either past or present who served in some of these units and maybe even trained at Camp Toccoa. In fact our Chapter presently has one member of the 101st AB and one member of the 82nd AB who served in Operation Market Garden and the Battle of the Bulge. This is a great museum and worth your time to visit.

*If you are interested in the museum, email: [contact@Toccoahistory.com](mailto:contact@Toccoahistory.com).*

## R.I.P. TO SO. JERSEY CHAPTER (61) FORMER SECRETARY



**Dr. Elmer Richard Umbenhauer, 8 ARMDD 7 AIB B, former secretary of South Jersey Chapter (61), which has ceased operations.**

With sadness, we must report the passing of Dr. Elmer Richard Umbenhauer, 8 ARMDD 7 AIB B, a gallant soldier of the "Thundering Herd," who passed away May 18, 2020. In addition to serving during the Bulge, Elmer participated in the liberation of a Nazi concentration camp (Langenstein-Zwieberge) and was awarded the Bronze Star for Valor. He served in the Honor Guard at the funeral of General George S. Patton in Luxembourg. In 2008, the French government bestowed upon him their highest military award, the Legion d'Honneur (Legion of Honor). Elmer was the Secretary of our South Jersey Chapter of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. He gave

many talks in schools, civic groups, and other venues. He spoke at the dedication of the Battle of the Bulge monument at Cape May County's Veteran's Cemetery, reading "Freedom Isn't Free." A video interview with Elmer was recorded by the Veterans History Project and is maintained in The Library of Congress. We send his family and friends our heartfelt sympathy at his loss and comfort for those who mourn him.

*—Submitted by Andy Waskie*

**SEND YOUR CHAPTER NEWS TO:**  
**[betsy.boba@gmail.com](mailto:betsy.boba@gmail.com) Deadline: Jan. 8, 2021**





**LEFT:** Service members take a photo with David Hubbard. **RIGHT:** Hubbard receiving a plaque commemorating his service to the men and women stationed at Ft. Gordon.

## BULGE VET DAVID HUBBARD HONORED FOR HIS SERVICE TO OTHERS

by Nelson McLeod, SC Chapter BOBA member

“There are heroes all around us. We just need to look and see the good news that’s happening in our community.” *Hero*—an apt description of 97-year-old Columbia resident, David Hubbard, WWII and Battle of the Bulge Veteran. Chaplin, Lt. Col. Brian Bohlman of the NSA GA/Georgia ANG delivered those words to a small crowd of family, friends, and service members that had gathered for a ceremony at Mr. David’s home on Wednesday, July 8. Chaplin Bohlman had arranged this ceremony to honor this member of The Greatest Generation’s continued service to his community and nation. And Mr. Hubbard is indeed a member of The Greatest Generation.

Hubbard volunteered for the Army in October, 1942 in Spartanburg, SC, spent time in Columbia at Ft. Jackson, and continued serving in England during the build-up to D-Day on June 6, 1944. He landed on Utah Beach in France on July 1, 1944, less than a month after D-Day, with a 2.5-ton truck loaded with as he described, “bales of invasion money.”

As American forces continued to push through France, T/3 (Staff Sgt.) Hubbard’s group followed closely behind General George Patton’s armored units, and in the winter of 1944 and 1945, he was part of the largest battle in the European Theater, The Battle of the Bulge. T/3 Hubbard continued to serve in Europe until the end of the war. He was discharged from the Army in October 1945 after almost exactly three years of service to his country.

Fast forward to March 2020. Mr. Hubbard is still serving, but not in war. Chaplin Bohlman explained, “In March, Ed Lundeen of Lexington County Veteran’s Services emailed me and told me about a project

a WWII veteran he knew was doing to bring strength and comfort to people during these very challenging times.” He continued, “Ed told me, Mr. Hubbard was making crosses in his woodshop to give to people in the community that were out helping others. Food delivery people, health care workers, or anyone that could use something extra (spiritually) to help.” Chaplin Bohlman said, “I almost deleted that email, but once I read it, I immediately called Mr. Hubbard, and that afternoon we met on his carport. He gave me over 200 handmade wooden crosses with the instructions to give them out to anyone that wanted or needed some help during these difficult times.” As instructed, the crosses were placed in the Chaplin’s office at Ft. Gordon and were (and still are) there for anyone who needs something to help them through the day. Or as Site Chaplin, Major Tracy Hudgins at NSA GA. explained it; “The crosses provided by Mr. Hubbard are just a good reminder that those that can find faith as a source of strength. They could see the cross as that—many people put them on their desks, and others have taken a few and given them to colleagues and friends.”

As family and friends looked on, Mr. Hubbard was presented with an American Flag that had flown over the headquarters of NSA GA., several Commanders Coins, and a special plaque commemorating his service to the men and women stationed at Ft. Gordon. When asked to speak, Mr. Hubbard thanked everyone for their kindness, but added, “I just want to help people through these difficult times. I hope the crosses give hope and strength to those that need it.” As Chaplin Hudgins put it, “He’s 97 years old and still serving—still giving back.”



### NEW BOBA CHAPTERS FORMING

Several BOBA Chapters are establishing or re-establishing in **Texas, Missouri, Michigan and Belgium!**  
For information, please contact the BOBA office at [betsy.boba@gmail.com](mailto:betsy.boba@gmail.com) or 703-528-4058.



## SAINT NICHOLAS CELEBRATION

by Anny DeBoeck (Belgium, December 6, 1944)

High upon a throne  
I sat, dressed in bishop's  
vestments, staff, and miter.

Children gathered round,  
eagerly awaiting  
presents – a happy gathering.

Suddenly the alarm!  
V1 and V2 bombs detected!  
Time to seek shelter!

The children took refuge  
under tables. But I?  
high upon a dais,

in ceremonial attire,  
where could I go? But wait,  
was I not Saint Nicholas! A  
saint!

Nothing would happen to me!  
I just sat awaiting the All's Well.

*Anny DeBoeck grew up in Belgium in the Antwerp area and was a college student when the actual events described in the poem occurred. The capitalization and punctuation are as she wrote the poem.*

*—Submitted with the writer's permission by Carolyn Boyer Kramer, BOBA Member*

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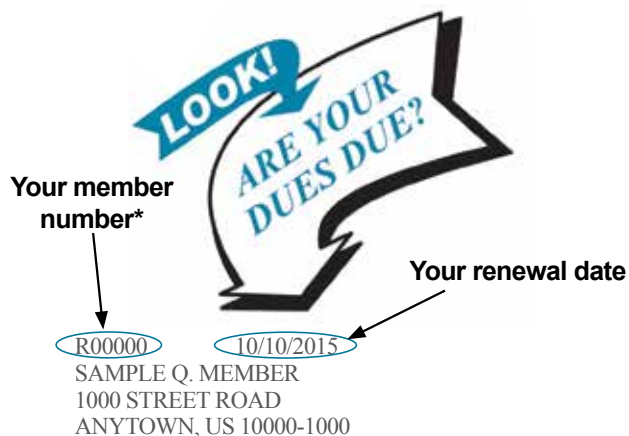
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## WHEN ARE MY DUES DUE?

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!

## VETERANS MEMBERS: SUBMIT YOUR BULGE MEMORY!



If you are a veteran who participated in this historic battle, **please share a photo, a memory, and/or thoughts** about the impact it has had. It can be a few sentences or short paragraph with a picture. We will

continue to share Bulge Memories in future issues of *The Bulge Bugle*®.

Email (preferred) your responses to [betsy.boba@gmail.com](mailto:betsy.boba@gmail.com) or mail to: BOBA Inc., P.O. Box 330, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330.



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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

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



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**FALL 2020**

**Spread the Word About BOBA  
SIGN UP FAMILY  
AND FRIENDS**

*Use membership application form on page 23.*



**WE NEED YOUR HELP!** As with all non-profit organizations, BOBA depends on the generosity of our donors to help support our mission. Please consider a donation to help sustain our mission of perpetuating the memory of the sacrifices made by those who fought in the Battle of the Bulge. You can also use the membership form on the inside cover if you have an address update or want to include a gift subscription to our magazine. All donations are tax deductible and are listed in *The Bulge Bugle*®. Battle of the Bulge Association®, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Donations can be made online at [battleofthebulge.org](http://battleofthebulge.org) > donate OR complete the form below and include a check made payable to: Battle of the Bulge Association, PO Box 330, Mechanicsville, VA, 23111.

**Donation Amount:** ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ OTHER **Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**If desired, please choose:** ☐ **Gift In Memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Service Units (if applicable)

☐ **Gift In Honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Service Units (if applicable)

**ALL GIFTS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED!**