

The BULGE BUGLE®

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

VOLUME XL NUMBER 4

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

FALL 2021



REUNITING TO COMMEMORATE THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE



Photos courtesy Barbara Mooneyhan (top, bottom right); Caroline Paviot (bottom left); Curtis Waechter (bottom center)

Join Us for BOBA's 77th Commemoration of the Battle of the Bulge ★ Read more on page 5.



Battle of the Bulge Association®, Inc.

P.O. Box 330, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330
(703) 528-4058

The Battle of the Bulge Association® is a membership organization instituted to: perpetuate the memory of the sacrifices made by those who participated during the Battle of the Bulge; preserve historical data and sites relating to the battle; promote friendship among Battle of the Bulge veterans, their relatives and others interested in the battle; foster and maintain international relations and good will with all Allied countries who were a part of the battle; support Chapters of BOBA. BOBA is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Donations to BOBA are tax-deductible.

Published quarterly, *The Bulge Bugle*® is the official publication of the Battle of the Bulge Association®, Inc.

Editor: Betsy Rose (**NEW EMAIL:** bulge.bugle@gmail.com)

BOBA MEMBERSHIP OFFICE

NEW CONTACT: Audra Yerian, audra.boba@gmail.com, (703) 528-4058

Send all correspondence relating to membership and all BOBA matters to:

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

VISIT THE BOBA WEB SITE: www.battleofthebulge.org
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

BOBA, INC. BOARD ELECTED OFFICERS

President and CEO: John Mohor

Executive Vice President:

Barbara Mooneyhan

Vice President Membership:

Scott Rayl (*interim*)

Vice President Chapters:

Dr. Andy Waskie

Vice President Military &

Veteran Affairs: Kevin Hinkle

(*interim*)

Treasurer: Ken Larke

Recording Secretary: Gail Larke

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD:

Alan Cunningham

ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

David Bailey, 106th INFD

Madeleine Bryant, Chaplain

Kristen Faller

Steven Landry

Jim Triesler, Historian

APPOINTED OFFICERS

(*non-voting*)

Public Relations: Gary Higgins,

Immediate Past President

Social Media Manager:

Caroline Paviot

Webmaster: Carl Carraway

PAST PRESIDENTS

Clyde Boden* 1981-84

Robert Van Houten* 1984-86

George Chekan* 1986-88;
2003-05

William Greenville* 1988-90

Darrell Kuhn* 1990-92

William Hemphill* 1992-93

William Tayman* 1993-94

Grover Twiner* 1994-95

Stanley Wojtusik* 1995-97;
2005-07

George Linthicum* 1997-99

John Dunleavy* 1999-01

Louis Cunningham* 2001-03

Demetri Paris* 2007-10

David Bailey 2010-12

Douglas Dillard* 2012-14

Alan Cunningham 2014-16

Gary Higgins 2017-19

* *Deceased*

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

Many members of the Battle of the Bulge Association® belong to individual chapters located throughout the United States.

The following is a list of the present chapters, the state in which they are located, and their Chapter President's name. Please contact BOBA at audra.boba@gmail.com or 703-528-4058 for their local meeting times and contact information.

CALIFORNIA

Golden Gate (10): Doris Davis

Southern California (16): Chapter President in transition

CONNECTICUT

Yankee Chapter (40): Richard Egan

COLORADO

Rocky Mountain (39): A. Wayne Field, 6th ARMDD

FLORIDA

Citrus (32): Chapter President in transition

INDIANA

Central Indiana (47): Chris Schneider

KANSAS

Kansas (69): Greg Penfield

MARYLAND

Maryland/DC (3): Chapter President in transition

MICHIGAN

West Michigan (23): Gary Higgins

MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi (33): Chapter President in transition

MISSOURI

Gateway (25): Dave Schroeder
Visit website gatewayvbob.org

NEW JERSEY

Peter F. Leslie, Jr (54): Jerry Manning

Fort Monmouth (56): Larry Lynch

Fort Dix/McGuire (60): Donald "Coach" Brien

NEW YORK

Mohawk Valley (28): Julian Scatko

Hudson Valley (49): Matthew J. Swedick

Staten Island (52): William Abell

Duncan T. Trueman (59): Elliot Hermon, 87th Chem Mortar Bn

Long Island (63): William Mueller, 106th INFD

OHIO

Blanchard Valley (42): Leonard Skonecki

Ohio Buckeye (1): Chapter President in transition

Alton Litsenberger (68): Tom Tomastik

PENNSYLVANIA

Delaware Valley (4): Dr. Andy Waskie

Lehigh Valley (55): Steve Savage

Reading (64): George Moore, 1252nd ECB

SOUTH CAROLINA

South Carolina (7): Douglas Patterson

VERMONT-NEW HAMPSHIRE-MAINE

Tri-State (17): Edward Deverell

VIRGINIA

Crater (43): Mary Ann Coates Smith

WASHINGTON

Northwest (6): Jim Pennock

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

ON THE COVER



Top photo: Veterans at the Summerall Chapel of The Citadel: (standing, left to right) Gerald White (2 INFD), Vernon Brantley (75 INFD), Joe Landry (776 AW AA BN), David Bailey (106 INFD), Clayton Christensen (99 INFD); (seated, left to right) George Merz (8 Corp MP) and Larry Michaelis (101 ABN)

Bottom photos (left to right):

1. Caroline Paviot gets welcome greeting from Joe Landry
2. Vernon Brantley and David Bailey swap stories with 3 Citadel cadets
3. Gen. Jim Livingston and Pat Waters at the *USS Yorktown*

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 email or 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, or printed on a laser printer, are not suitable for publication. Scan original photographs at high-resolution (300 dpi), or take a cellphone photo, and send us largest digital file possible. **Printed photos will not be returned, so please do not mail valuable originals—send duplicates.**

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

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

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE: JANUARY 10, 2022

QUESTIONS? Please contact Bugle editor Betsy Rose, at her **NEW EMAIL:** bulge.bugle@gmail.com

Thanks to our vendors who provide valuable services to support BOBA: Apple Press, Inc. (Printing/Fulfillment); Eye D Communications (Layout/Design); RBI Services, Inc. (Accounting Services)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

John Mohor

FELLOW MEMBERS OF BOBA: I hope this finds you all well and healthy! Just a year ago we held our first virtual meeting of our membership in October due to Covid 19. This year I'm very pleased to report we resumed our reunion and membership meeting in person in Charleston, SC with over 90 members in attendance. It was certainly one of the best I've attended over the years. Mandy and I are a little partial of course having taken our honeymoon in Charleston! A Huge Thank You goes out to our South Carolina Chapter members for all their efforts in hosting the reunion along with our Executive Vice President Barbara Mooneyhan for all her efforts these past two years. We did a great job this year keeping it under budget and making some money for the organization moving forward. Many of us were able to take part as Jim Triesler, BOBA Board Member and Historian, led a great conversation with our Bulge veterans in Charleston, SC Saturday afternoon that none of us will soon forget. Congratulations to all the Officers, members of the board that were re-elected to another term in office. Congratulations to Ken Larke being elected our new Treasurer.

I am pleased to report we are still going to offer BOBA t-shirts for sale, but not online with our former merchant. As I explained during the membership meeting, that company no longer allows the display of any images of guns on their website. Since our logo has an M-1 Rifle in it, we have had to find another means to get merchandise. For now, we will offer BOBA t-shirts in red, white, or blue. We'll take orders via our office, and try and get them shipped quarterly. Stay tuned for further details.

I would still love to get four generations or more as members of the organization moving forward. It's in that light I'm happy to report Caroline Paviot will serve as our BOBA Social Media Manager. In this capacity she'll work with our *Bugle* Editor and our VP of Membership. Scott Rayl SFC, USA (Ret.) along with Kevin Hinkle, Lt. Col., USAF (Ret.) both volunteered to



serve after the membership meeting as VP of Membership and VP of Military Affairs. After no nominations were made on the floor during the annual membership meeting, in conversations afterward we were able to recruit some great volunteers into the organization. At our next board meeting, the Board will vote to have these two officers installed officially until next year's annual meeting. Caroline was appointed by me under our by-laws.

As I've said before, the longevity of the organization depends on us all being financially responsible. The outcome and details will be included in our Winter edition of *The Bulge Bugle*®. We will continue to have members serving alongside board members on committees working and looking at our strategic and financial posture moving into the future. If you're willing to help the BOBA on these committees or in other ways, please let Audra or I know. We are much better situated now that we also have a Webmaster and most positions filled for 2022. Our next Reunion will include Gettysburg, PA. Stay tuned!

Our commemoration event is on track [see details on opposite page], and more information will be available on our website, as well as in e-blasts and on Facebook. I've also tried to provide information through some chapter presidents as well. Our VA Crater Chapter is working on coordinating arrangements. The Wreath Fund continues, so if you want to participate, please send in your donation, and mark 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 77 years ago. To all Veterans in the organization (Battle of the Bulge in WWII and beyond), Thank You for your service! I hope you all had a Happy Veterans Day! We have some great articles in the *Bugle*—once again, enjoy!

—John Mohor, President & CEO



John with veteran member Larry Michaelis (101 ABN) at the 2021 Annual Reunion.

THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE ASSOCIATION® , INC.
Invites You to Join Your Friends for the “Events of Remembrance and Commemoration” of the
77th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

JANUARY 23-26, 2022 | ARLINGTON, VA/WASHINGTON, DC

The Embassy of Luxembourg will host a reception for veterans, family and friends on the afternoon of Tuesday, January 25, 2022 to commemorate the end of the battle. Also included during our busy schedule are 3 wreath-laying ceremonies at the Battle of the Bulge Memorial, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and WWII Memorial! We secured a special Battle of the Bulge Association rate of \$159/night (plus taxes) at the Embassy Suites Crystal City/National Airport in Arlington, VA 22202. This rate includes a discounted self-parking rate of \$25/night, free transportation to and from Crystal City METRO and Reagan Washington National Airport, free hotel wi-fi, daily manager evening specials, and complimentary breakfasts.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 2022

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Registration Open (Hotel atrium)/Dinner on your own

MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2022

6:30 AM - 9:30 AM Complimentary Breakfast with your hotel reservation (adjacent to the Hospitality Room 1st Floor)
8:30 AM - 10:00 AM Registration Open (Hospitality Room)
10:30 AM Bus departs hotel for Mission BBQ (Lunch 11:00 AM) & National Army Museum
4:30 PM Bus departs from National Army Museum back to the hotel
5:30 PM - 10:00 PM Hospitality Room Open - Program TBD / (Dinner on your own)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2022

6:30 AM - 9:00 AM Complimentary Breakfast with your hotel reservation
7:30 AM - 8:30 AM Registration Open (Hotel atrium)
9:00 AM Bus departs hotel for Arlington National Cemetery/WWII Memorial/ Embassy
4:30 PM Bus departs from the Embassy of Luxembourg back to the hotel

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2022

6:30 AM - 9:30 AM Complimentary Breakfast with your hotel reservation
Depart or stay longer and enjoy the DC metropolitan area

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR THE EVENT AND HOTEL DISCOUNT RATE:
JANUARY 4, 2022**

1. HOTEL RESERVATIONS: *YOU MUST MAKE ROOM RESERVATIONS DIRECTLY WITH THE HOTEL BY 1/4/22 to get the BOBA special rate of \$159/night plus taxes. Go to battleofthebulge.org / click on “Bulge Anniversary Events” to find the hotel link for the discount rate. OR call Embassy Suites Crystal City/National Airport at 1-800-445-8667 or 703-979-9799 and mention the **BOBA discount rate**. Complimentary breakfast each morning, free wi-fi and free airport shuttle every 20 minutes is provided to and from Reagan Washington National Airport and to and from Crystal City METRO. Please make your reservations early to secure a room, especially if you want a handicap accessible room. Hotel reservations are based on availability so don't delay!

2. EVENT REGISTRATION: Due to timing of this mailing, event registration is **ONLINE ONLY** by 1/4/22, at battleofthebulge.org / click on “Bulge Anniversary Events.” You will choose from the following options (subject to change - SEE ONLINE FORM)

- OPTION 1: \$120** Includes all events on Monday and Tuesday, registration and bus
- OPTION 2: \$80** Includes Monday events only, registration and bus
- OPTION 3: \$70** Includes Tuesday events only, registration and bus



Questions? Contact Mary Ann Smith at mcdesk4@gmail.com or 804-363-3400 (text preferred)
or Audra Yerian (BOBA Services) at audra.boba@gmail.com or 703-528-4058.

If you cannot attend, please consider sponsoring a wreath in memory of a Bulge soldier!

LETTERS TO BOBA

ARMY AIR FIELD HANGAR NEEDS HELP!



The Airport in Grenada, MS is in desperate need of repair! It is one of only three wooden airports remaining that was built by the Army in the early 40's to train glider pilots in WWII and is still used by trainees at Camp McCain, MS.

The inscription reads: "The Grenada Army Air Field was built with civilian labor in 1942. It served the 443rd Air Support Command, 63rd Troop Carrier Group, 877th Airborne Carrier Group, and 809th Air Force Unit. Following the war, the airfield was transferred to the City of Grenada for civilian use. One of three WWII-era hangars known to survive in Mississippi, the Grenada Army Air Field Hangar was designated a Mississippi Landmark in 2012."

Any help would be appreciated to assist with its repair. For more information, I can be reached at 662-226-5831 or jsultan44@bellsouth.net or contact Billy F. Collins, Mayor of City of Grenada, at billycollins@hotmail.com or 662-614-1444. Thank you!

June Passer Sultan, BOBA Member

FROM OUR RUSSIAN BOBA MEMBER

I'm immensely honored to have become a member of the Battle of the Bulge Association®! It was one of the greatest battles of the WWII and definitely contributed our common victory. For people in Russia, both historians and those interested in the War history it's never been an unknown episode. It's not forgotten by us now. Germans tried their best to defeat the Western Allies, stop their advance and probably force them to negotiations. Their well prepared efforts were not totally unsuccessful at the beginning but finally got broken by the courage, exemplary conduct and sacrifice of the US troops.



Константин Токарев

Some modern experts claim Germans could have done a better job if they had used their final power on the Soviets, not Allies. I don't know much about the 'ifs' but I know fully well that Americans and the British fulfilled their soldiery duty in the best possible way.

The Second World War became the central event in the history of the 20th century. For Russia the Great Patriotic war happened to be the period even much more important. It changed the country and the mentality of its citizens altogether. We have to confess any-

way that our knowledge of these tragic years is limited. For years the real history of The War has been hidden behind the thick shield of parade slogans. Veterans preferred not to talk too much (they aren't wordy guys) because their truth often was inconvenient and very often contradicted the official Soviet propaganda. The present situation can hardly be compared with what we had before but every now and then we still open and face new pages and aspects of these redoubted days.

For me all this has a special meaning and importance. Both grandfathers of mine took active part in the combat though didn't live up to

the age when I could interview them. I, now 53, am aware of how profoundly this war influenced the life of so many countries and people in the world. I am not a professional historian but I learned the taste of research especially when there are so many interesting sources and so many people around the world who share your interests.

The Battle of the Bulge is well known in the Soviet and contemporary Russian historiography as the Battle in the Ardennes—Germans' strong but futile effort to defeat the American troops, slow down their advance or (who knows?) force the allies to negotiations. My membership in the BOBA will certainly give me a good chance to learn more of this great combat and see its events with the eyes of American veterans and their compatriots.

Warmly,

Kostya, Константин Токарев, BOBA Member

SALUTE TO 143 AAA BTRY C

As the daughter of Captain Leon Kent, 143rd AAA Battery C, I am a member of the Battle of the Bulge Association®, and enjoy reading the *Bugle* cover to cover. I just received the Spring 2021 edition, and immediately noticed a glaring error in the Members in Memoriam section.

Albert A Darago's daughter had told me of his passing last December. However, the *Bugle* listed him as 9 USAF.

Al Darago was one of my father's men, who helped stop the Panzer tank advance at Stoumont Station in Belgium, December 19, 1943. In fact, earlier that same day, Al Darago and Roland Seamon both took out a couple of tanks in Stoumont by themselves using bazookas. When asked by a lieutenant from another company, the two had volunteered to run across an open yard and shoot the bazookas at some tanks beyond a hedge.

Al Darago and Roland Seamon were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for that action. I was fortunate enough to escort Mr. and Mrs. Darago to Stoumont and LaGleize in 2011. The older Belgians in the towns came to see us, running, crying, and bringing flowers the minute they heard "Darago" was there. Please publish a correction in the next edition, stating that Albert Darago was 143rd AAA Battery C, and the recipient of the DSC.

I do not know how many of the men from Battery C are still around, if any. However, both Mr. and Mrs. Darago were active in the BOBA Association, and the other members should know about Al Darago's record. Thank you.

Lynette Kent, BOBA Member

Dear Lynette: Thank you for sharing such an amazing story about Al Darago and your father, and we apologize for the error! —Bugle Editor



Leon Kent (above) and Albert A. Darago (below) served together in WWII in the 143rd AAA Battery C.



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: audra.boba@gmail.com.

We have been notified as of November 22, 2021, that these BOBA members have recently passed away:

Marcus A. Bartusek	106 INFD 424 REG 2 BN H	Rodney E. Perkins	87 INFD 345 REG 1 BN B
Henry Bimbrey	30 INFD 531 AAA AW BN	Minot N. Richardson	26 INFD 243 ENGR CMBT BN
Thomas Burgess	87 INFD 345 REG 1 BN A	Robert C. Schneider	11 ARMDD 151 SIG CO
Robert Burrows	80 INFD 317 REG HQ	William P. Tayman	87 INFD 345 REG C
William F. DeFrates	10 ARMDD 132 ORD BN C	Neil B. Thompson	740 TK BN M
Lester E. Johnson	11 AD 4 AD 285 ENGR CMBT BN A	Norvin Vogel	35 INFD 134 REG CO L
John Kozlosky	28 INFD 112 REG CO K	Myron A. West	87 INFD 347 REG L
Forrest T. Lothrop	84 INF 333 REG A	Norval R. Williams	80 INFD 318 REG I

.....

IN MEMORY OF THOMAS LOWERY BURGESS, SR. (87 INFD) who served on the national BOBA Board for many years

Tom was born on 26 September 1925, in Tallahassee, Florida, and passed on 8 September 2021. Tom achieved the rank of Sergeant and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He was awarded the Purple Heart, Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star, European Theater Ribbon, and Occupation Medal. The city of Plauen, Germany honored Tom and many of his fellow infantrymen on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the liberation of their city with a weeklong re-enactment and remembrance. Tom received the Legion of Honour from the Republic of France, that country's highest French order of merit, both military and civil, for his service during the war. He will be missed by his BOBA family!



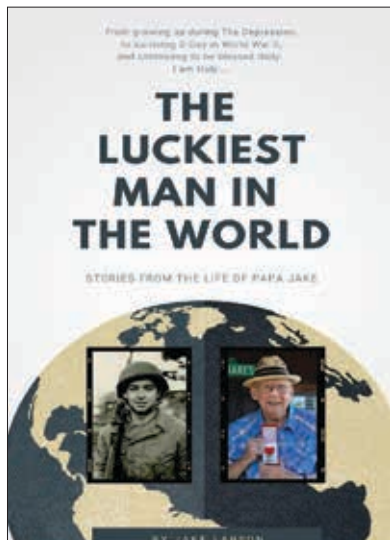
CONSIDER GIVING TO OUR WREATH FUND

Almost every gathering with BOBA includes a wreath-laying to honor those fallen during the Battle of the Bulge. In 2019, 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 > 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.

THE LUCKIEST MAN IN THE WORLD

By Jake Larson, BOBA Veteran Member

Compiled by Doris Davis, Golden Gate BOBA Chapter President



Review excerpt by co-author Rita Carlson: “From his humble beginnings on a cold December day on a farm without electricity or running water to the shores of Omaha Beach, the spirit of 98-year-old Jake Larson comes to life. Jake invites you inside his unique world, beginning with the harsh realities of daily farm life during the depression. His loving mother and arms-length father were forced to sell moonshine to subsidize their meager farming profits. Farm accidents and near-accidents were everyday occurrences. He traces his childhood years from high school as the only graduate in the family to his enlistment at 15 in the National Guard. Jake outlines his escapes from near-death experiences during WWII showing us what his daily existence was like and why he is indeed “the luckiest man in the world.”

His story then follows his after-war experiences and “luck” situations, including a fall that miraculously removes his 50-year PST shakes and an

operation that eradicates his color-blindness.

He chronicles his trips back to Normandy and Belgium for the 75th Anniversaries of D-Day and the Battle of the Bulge. Jake brings us to the present day with his own TikTok site, with 446,000 followers and 17 million viewers. His inspiring story, written in a simple, non-sense manner infused with humor and honesty, will captivate you with his sincerity and sense of appreciation for all his blessings. Jake’s subtle sense of self defines him and causes him to stand out as an extraordinary ordinary man.”

Jake remembers.....“It was Dec 16, 1944, 2 AM and I was in Eupen, Belgium, bemoaning the fact I missed seeing Marlene Dietrich perform because I had to work the night shift. Next thing I knew, a jeep pulls up and a Sergeant rushes out to tell me that he saw a lot of German parachutes coming down. I woke up the Colonel and the General and they called an alert for the 2 Divisions we supported. This forewarning saved a lot of lives. I’ll never forget that night for as long as I live (and I will be 99 years old on Dec 20)!”

This and many other accounts are in his book. Jake resides in California.

BATTLE OF THE BULGE: STORIES FROM THOSE WHO FOUGHT AND SURVIVED

By Kayleen Reusser

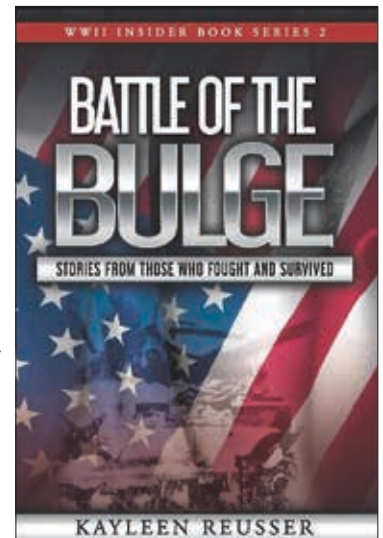
Reviewed by Carolyn Kramer, BOBA Member

Passion for a topic can certainly help to make an author an ardent writer about that topic. Kayleen Reusser is definitely passionate about interviewing veterans and has interviewed 250 World War II vets. However, she doesn’t stop after the interviews. She uses that gathered information as the foundation for her books, featuring the stories of the veterans who experienced the war years first-hand.

Her books number nearly a dozen. *Battle of the Bulge: Stories from Those Who Fought and Survived* was published in July 2021 and is her most recent title. This volume features input from well over twenty veterans whose memories, many quoted in their own words, are interwoven throughout the book’s background information, a technique that makes history “up close and personal” for the reader. In addition, Ms. Reusser includes photographs, relevant excerpts from Stars and Stripes, and such features as a Glossary and a World War II Timeline. Chapter 11 gives us a glimpse of the post-war lives and achievements of each featured veteran. There are even suggested questions for book club discussions.

Kayleen Reusser’s books amount to so much more than just another series about World War II. Without her contributions to the genre, most, if not all, of the veterans’ memories would likely be lost. *Battle of the Bulge: Stories from Those Who Fought and Survived* is interesting but important reading. It would be an enjoyable and especially ideal gift for young teen readers, just the age group to whom members of the Battle of the Bulge Association aim to reach with information about this important and historic battle.

The book is available at amazon.com.



AUTHOR SEEKS VETERANS



General Patton

WWII author Alex Kershaw (author of *The Longest Winter* and *The Bedford Boys*, among others) is seeking to contact any surviving veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, wanting to ask questions about their experiences. He is particularly interested in contacting veterans of deep faith who remember being issued Patton’s famous prayer. He can be contacted at 310-386-7505 or via his email: akers78451@aol.com.

LEST WE FORGET: THE STORY OF ONE WHO DID NOT RETURN FROM THE BULGE

by Ken Larke, BOBA Treasurer

As a member of the Battle of the Bulge Association, BOBA, I have had the privilege of talking to Bulge Veterans, now in their 90's, who actually fought in that battle, including my own father-in-law prior to his passing. We call them heroes, but every one of them you talk to without exception, say the real heroes are the ones that did not return. This is the story of one such hero, Sgt. Bud Spear, as related to me by his niece, Mrs. Judy Engelmann, with references from his obituary and archives of the 82nd Airborne Division.

Bud was born in Sanilac County, Michigan in 1907 and was an electrician by trade. He volunteered for service in the U.S. Army shortly before his 35th birthday on March 19, 1942. Sgt Bud Spear would not live to see his 38th birthday, and this is his story.

Bud's initial training assignment was at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, new home of the 82nd Division. The 82nd Division was redesignated on February 13, 1942, during World War II, just two months after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and the German declaration of war, as Division Headquarters, 82nd Division. It was ordered into active service on March 25, 1942, and reorganized at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, under the command of Major General Omar Bradley. During this training period, the Division brought together three officers who would ultimately steer the U.S. Army during the following two decades: Matthew Ridgway, James M. Gavin, and Maxwell D. Taylor. Under Major General Bradley, the 82nd Division's Chief of Staff was George Van Pope.

On August 15, 1942, the 82nd Infantry Division, now commanded by Major General Ridgway, became the first airborne division in the history of the U.S. Army, and was redesignated as the 82nd Airborne Division. In the fall of 1943, Bud was transferred to Camp Bragg in North Carolina for jump training prior to his deployment overseas. In November 1943, the 82nd Airborne Division was moved to the United Kingdom to prepare for the liberation of Europe.

Bud, as part of the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment (PIR) participated in the invasion of Normandy, June 6, 1944. The division conducted Mission Boston, part of the airborne assault phase of the Operation Overlord plan. By



Bud Spear, 82 ABN 504 PIR

the time the division was relieved, in early July, the 82nd had seen 33 days of severe combat and heavy casualties. Losses included 5,245 troopers killed, wounded, or missing, for a total of 46% casualties. Major General Ridgway's post-battle report stated in part, "... 33 days of action without relief, without replacements. Every mission accomplished. No ground gained was ever relinquished."

Following Normandy, the 82nd Airborne Division returned to England to rest and refit for future airborne operations. The 82nd became part of the newly organized XVIII Airborne Corps, which consisted of the 17th, 82nd, and 101st Airborne Divisions. Ridgway was given command of the Corps, but was not promoted to lieutenant general until 1945. His recommendation for succession as division commander was Brigadier General James M. Gavin, previously the 82nd's ADC. Ridgway's recommendation was met with approval, and upon promotion Gavin became the youngest general since the Civil War to command a U.S. Army division.

On August 2, 1944, the division became part of the First Allied Airborne Army. In September, the 82nd began planning for Operation Market Garden in the Netherlands. The

operation called for three-plus airborne divisions to seize and hold key bridges and roads deep behind German lines. The 504th PIR, now back at full strength, was reassigned to the 82nd, while the 507th was assigned to the 17th Airborne Division, at the time training in England.

Following Operation Market Garden, Bud would face the final battle of his young life: The Bulge. Men of the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment advanced through a snow-covered forest during the Battle of the Bulge, December 1944. On December 16, 1944, the Germans launched a surprise offensive through the Ardennes Forest, which became known as the Battle of the Bulge. In SHAEF reserve, the 82nd was committed on the northern face of the bulge near Elsenborn Ridge. On December 20, 1944, the 82nd Airborne Division was assigned to take Cheneux, where they would force the Waffen SS Division Leibstandarte's Kampfgruppe Peiper into a fighting retreat. The Waffen SS efforts to relieve Kampfgruppe Peiper failed due to the stubborn defense of the 82nd Airborne. It was on this day, December 20, 1944, the first day of the battle, that Sgt Bud Spear was killed in his fox hole by a ricocheting bullet from the enemy. An unsung hero, but a true hero nonetheless, according to all of his fellow warriors that returned home.

An All American serving with the 82nd "All American Division". Bud was buried in Belgium and after the war, his body was returned to his native Marlette, Michigan. The last sentence of his obituary reads: "Bud was a man that had a smile, a good word and a handshake for everyone and he will be sadly missed by a host of friends in his community." And, I might add, a dedicated soldier that gave his life for our country and the freedoms that we currently have, and for the freedoms of our future generations. We should never forget.

ARE YOU A DESCENDANT of a soldier who was killed in action at the Battle of the Bulge? Help us remember them by sharing their stories or photos.

(Pictured at right) PVT Victor F. LaCount, 101st Airborne, KIA Jan. 10, 1945

—Submitted by his daughter Vicki Cool, BOBA Member



THANK YOU FOR THE DONATIONS, August 1-October 31, 2021:

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BATTLE OF THE BULGE: COMBAT AND SCANDAL

by Warren Fisher (28 INFD 109 INF)

It was 8 am the morning of December 16, 1944 when a shell exploded in the central square of Echternacht, Luxemburg, a town on the edge of Germany and the Siegfried Line. It so happened that a unit of the 28th Infantry Division was to hold a parade at 9 am, so it looked like a spy had informed the Germans of the coming foolish parade, less than five miles from the front. The parade was ordered by the Divisional Commander General Cota. Instead of the parade, we took off for the front, while the ever-alert mess sergeant handed us D rations—chocolate bars contaminated with nutrients. Our platoon, headed by Lieutenant Christie, with two tanks, reached the front by darkness. We soon ran into a machine gun nest and exchanged fire. I was in the enviable role of scout, walking in front of the tank, while the rest of the platoon was behind the tank. Thus, I was the target of the night. Some German soldier with a strong arm started throwing hand grenades at me. Fortunately, the grenades went



Warren Fisher (28 INFD 109 INF) says he survived both combat and scandal during the Battle of the Bulge!

★ OUR HEROES STAY BUSY! ★

off behind me. The darkness kept the German from seeing his overthrow, and I prayed that his arm wouldn't get tired.

We soon retreated for the night and resumed the next morning. Our two tanks met theirs. An uneven exchange followed: our 75 mm cannons vs. their 88 mm Krup-built ones. Thus our partially damaged tanks elected to retreat, and we made the wise decision to head for the nearby hill. Barring the way was a barbed wire fence. Everybody made it through the fence except me. I got hung up and would still be there if it hadn't been for our officer, Lt. Christie. He was the last one to retreat, firing with his unthreatening carbine at the German tanks. He got me untangled from the fence and took off. I followed slowly, loaded down with a wet overcoat, ammunition and a ten-pound rifle. Thus I became the target of the day with German burp guns (three bullets at once) splashing mud on my boots. Eventually I made it to the woods. At that point, the enemy dropped mortars on the trees. Eventually we retreated and formed a firing line, which held.

By Christmas we were on the offensive and cleared out villages. At that point the 109th Regiment was assigned to Patton's Third Army. The 112th and 111th Regiments were too badly hit to operate as combat units.

The Scandal? Hints of a German Attack Ignored

The German Army mounted a huge attack for the battle. Tanks were lined for miles. The excuse given for missing the planned German offensive was that the period before the attack was cloudy; but isn't Europe cloudy all winter? Hint: Fly under the clouds.

The other giveaway is that radio traffic before an attack is either much heavier than usual or there is imposed radio silence. The dear old 109th Infantry of the 28th Division was digging WWI-type trenches for two weeks before the Wehrmacht attack. We were digging on the reasoning that the American reinforcements wouldn't have time to dig their foxholes, so we would provide protection for them. What reinforcements? We grunts dug trenches for ten hours a day and were on guard/off guard for two hours each all night. We were given double rations to keep us going. The Battle of the Bulge was no surprise to us!

I truly believe that headquarters in Paris blew this one. Except for that brave Lieutenant, I'd still be hung up on a fence in Luxemburg.

This PFC's case rests.

Warren fought in the Hurtgen Forest and the Battle of Bulge. He lives in Pennsylvania and is a member of the Delaware Valley Chapter (Philadelphia) of VBOB/BOBA. View a recent interview with him on battleofthebulge.org.



Enoch "Nick" Scull (28 INFD 103 CMBT ENG) of Plano, Illinois received the Order of Merit medal (shown right) from Gaston Stronck, Ambassador of Luxembourg, for his efforts defending Hosingen, Luxembourg during the Battle of the Bulge.
—Submitted by Jeff Scull



Member Craig Lord presenting BOBA's Battle of the Bulge certificate to **Jim Young (2 INFD 9 REG 1 BN)** at his celebration in May in Arlington, TN. He also received proclamations made by the TN State House and Senate and Governor Lee, and presented by State Rep Tom Leatherwood. The Town of Arlington also made a proclamation and called the day "Jim Young Day."



At the 87 INFD Association reunion this year, BOBA Executive VP Barbara Mooneyhan taught **Victor Cross (87 INFD)** how to take a selfie!

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



DAY ONE: Gerald White (2 INFD) points to where he was during the Battle of the Bulge on a blowup of the South Carolina newspaper *The State*, dated Monday, December 18, 1944, in our Charleston reunion hospitality room.

REUNION HIGHLIGHTS 2021

by Barbara Mooneyhan, BOBA Executive Vice President

The 39th Annual Battle of the Bulge reunion kicked off in Charleston, SC on Thursday, October 21st with a bang! The SC Chapter spent the afternoon giving out gift bags as people registered, before hosting a wine & cheese opening reception. It was great reconnecting with old friends and making new ones as we had quite a few first timers there! Channing Shealy, a local singer brought tears to our eyes as he sang favorite songs from the WWII era, complete in an Ike jacket! When he ended with “God Bless the USA”, the entire room was on their feet, singing along.

The weather couldn’t have been better as we began our tour of downtown Charleston Friday. With a wonderful tour guide on our bus and a city steeped in history, everyone, even those of us from SC, learned about this historic town. With only a brief break for lunch, we were off to the Military College of SC (The Citadel) for a somber wreath laying ceremony at the Summerall Chapel led by Chaplain Mark Brooks of The Citadel and accompanied by Madeleine Bryant, BOBA

Chaplain and Christie Lomas, SC Chapter Chaplain. Afterwards, our seven veterans were the guest of honor for the entire Corps of Cadets to pass in review. The Citadel Regimental Band and Pipes, a part of their tradition since 1909, led the way and set the tempo that all other cadets follow. This was the only day we had all seven of our Battle of the Bulge heroes with us—what an honor! The local paper, *The Post & Courier*, did a great write up that was in Saturday’s paper.

Saturday morning began with a horse and buggy ride through the streets of Charleston. While we saw many of the same sights we saw from the bus the day before, we were much more “up close and personal” with the beautiful scenery of downtown. Jim Triesler, BOBA Historian served as host as our veterans were open to questions in the afternoon. Jim was able to add humor to a time these men would prefer to forget, but had them laughing and sharing stories about the war from each of them.

Saturday evening was a once in a lifetime

type of event with the *USS Yorktown* opening their aircraft carrier just for our veterans for a sunset BBQ dinner on the fantail of the hanger deck. We were pleased that our invited guests from the Belgium Embassy, Deputy Chief of Mission, Jan De Pauw and his lovely wife Nicky Aerts were able to join us. They literally got out of the car after driving 12 hours from Washington and hopped on the bus with us! We also welcomed Gen. Jim Livingston, Medal of Honor recipient and his wife Sara as well as SC Chapter member, Pat Waters, grandson of Gen. George S. Patton. It was a time of relaxation with good friends and good food. The local TV Station, Channel 2, did a nice report on the 11:00 news that evening.

Again, Sunday dawned with beautiful weather for our Harbor Cruise around Charleston. As the veterans got off the SpiritLine Cruise, the next group who lined the docks waiting to get on gave them a well-deserved round of applause as they made their way back to the bus! Other than by plane, I believe our veterans and guests saw historical

Photos courtesy Barbara Mooneyhan, Mary Ann Smith, Caroline Paviot, and John Mohor



DAY TWO: A picture perfect day in Charleston, weather-wise. Beginning with a bus tour of the historic district and ending with a visit to the Citadel, our veterans are tired! (Top left) Battle of the Bulge wreath at the Citadel's Summerall Chapel; (above) Veterans being greeted by Citadel President, Gen. Glenn M. Walters, USMC (Retired); (below) the beautiful Citadel architecture; (bottom) our vets reviewed the entire Corps of Cadets.

Charleston every conceivable way!

The membership meeting was well attended, and many new members stepped up to the plate to assume leadership roles for our organization. Caroline Paviot from France has agreed to be the Social Media Manger, Scott Rayl from Virginia, the VP for Membership and Kevin Hinkle from Pennsylvania, the VP for Military Affairs. The 2022 reunion will be held in Gettysburg, PA with the Pennsylvania and Virginia Chapters in charge.

The annual banquet was the final event of the evening with our representative, Georges A. Hoffmann, Honorary Consul from the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, joining us from Atlanta to represent his beautiful country. The highlight of the entire reunion had to be our banquet speakers, Gen. Jim Livingston and Pat Waters! Instead of the usual banquet speech, they served more as Abbott & Costello and highlighted the veterans in attendance, many of who were surprised at the research these two men had done about their military careers. The Hospitality Room closed the event with drinks and toasts to good friends—new and old—with promises to meet in Washington in January 2022.

THE BULGE BUGLE





DAY THREE: Saturday started out with a carriage tour through Historic Charleston (above); in the afternoon, Jim Triesler, BOBA Historian, (below left) served as host while our veterans answered questions (bottom left); then on to a sunset dinner onboard the *USS Yorktown* (below right and bottom right.)





DAY FOUR: We began our day with a beautiful boat tour of the Charleston Harbor (top left); goodies and historical displays abounded in the hospitality room (below right and bottom left); and the day ended with a banquet featuring guests from 3 foreign countries and our speakers, George Patton Waters and General James E. Livingston (center). The reunion closes with a toast to good times, good friends and future adventures together (bottom right).



We Salute These New Members!

We are happy to welcome these new members who joined BOBA between August 1 - October 31, 2021:

Allison M. Albert	RI	Kathryn Carter Jacobs	NC	Stephen Rosser	NC
Chloe Beatty	FL	Wayne Jacobs	NC	Ann L Schneider	WI
Jack Bornstein*	FL	Barbara D Kruk	IL	Melinda Sue Shearer	PA
Gary W Conner	NC	Patricia Lutz	WI	Kathleen R Snyder	NY
Alicia DeFonzo	VA	Ed Mignone	FL	John Stickel	VA
Danny Delcambre	BELGIUM	Richard D. Patterson*	OH	Courtney Talmoud	MD
Aileen Donato	NY	Caroline Paviot	SC	Edward Urban	PA
Marilyn Gensman Driss	AZ	John Pennington	WV	Michelle Waldon	IN
John Evans	PA	Denise Pruitt	IN	Kendall R Walker	SC
Carol Faulkner	IN	Cynthia Radway	TX	Renee Wampler	TN
Harry Horn	MD	Anthony Reinsch	NE	Randall Wood	IN
		Joseph C Romano	NJ	Jane Ziegler	PA

*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
- Attending our annual reunions and DC events

**Special thanks to these members who have recruited new members and/or purchased gift memberships:
Al Cleghorn, Kathryn Jacobs, Jim Stroble, and Jane Ziegler.**



NEW PODCAST LAUNCHED COVERING WWII VETERANS' EXPERIENCES

Since 2003, BOBA member Ryan Fairfield and his colleague Tony Lupo have interviewed veterans as volunteers for the Library of Congress Veterans History Project. With nearly 180 interviews collected in total from veterans of predominantly WWII, Ryan and Tony recently decided to launch a podcast to feature these veteran stories. The podcast is called “The Warrior Next Door” podcast and is available on all major podcast directories.

The format of each series includes excerpts from the featured veteran, commentary from the hosts and research information to put the veterans experiences in context with the overall conflict or theater in which they served. The co-hosts strive to keep the conversations unpretentious, conversational and compelling. Their overarching desire is to keep the memories and lessons learned alive of these brave veterans for generations to come.

Please consider listening and look them up on Facebook at “The Warrior Next Door Podcast” Facebook page.



TRIUMPH OF COURAGE

This stained glass window, “Triumph of Courage,” was donated by Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, and was dedicated in 2001 in the foyer of Bliss Hall at the U.S. Army War College.

—Submitted by COL (Ret.) Ruth B. Collins,
President & CEO, Army War College Foundation

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!



Bob Burrows **80 INFD 317 INF HQ**

A bad day for the 2nd battalion

When I joined the Army, I was assigned as a driver for XII Corps G-5 (civil affairs). I knew the men I was driving around were doing important work but I wanted to feel like I was contributing. I kept requesting transfers, kept getting rejected. My chance came on the morning of December 16, when the “Battle of the Bulge” began, I told the colonel in charge of personnel he could not keep me back now. I was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 317th Infantry Regiment, 80th Division.

I was assigned to the Intelligence (S-2) section. It was our job to keep the battalion and regiment informed of combat conditions. Typically, we accompanied the rifle companies as they advanced but sometimes we went out ahead of the lines.

My worst day as a soldier and one of the battalion’s worst days of the war happened on January 21, 1945, in the closing days of the campaign. The battalion was assigned to capture a village. Our approach started on a farm trail, but we left the farm trail and turned down into and through a gully. We thought it would be protective cover from enemy observation. About an hour into our attack, we began receiving casualties from mines hidden in the snow. This was only the beginning of a long and disastrous day.

This incident of landmines alerted the Germans of our location. With landmines, we proceeded more cautiously by walking in one another’s footsteps, then when we reached the jumping off point the attacking companies spread out. “E” and “F” companies led the way, out and down toward the bridge of Dirbach.

We received a terrific rate of fire until about 11 a.m. when it reached its maximum. At that time, I found myself with Lt. Colonel Boydston, our battalion commander; Lieutenant Clark our artillery forward observer; their two radio operators; and Earnest (Ernie) H. Fuller. We were in a small circle while the colonel and lieutenant looked at a map spread out before them trying to determine where the enemy fire was originating.

At that moment a roaring noise like a speeding train overtook us as we cowered to the frozen ground. Ernie and I dropped flat to the ground shoulder to shoulder facing toward the colonel and lieutenant with the radiomen very close to their officers as this terrible roaring noise exploded over us. I was deafened and for how long I do not recall. When I finally came to my senses all was quiet. I was covered with debris, cordite, and snow. I was hit behind my right knee, but the pain was not as severe as I would have expected, more like a numb stinging feeling. I reached back, expecting to feel a warm, wet leg. No blood, I could not believe my good luck. Whatever hit my leg was not shrapnel as I had anticipated. I came up on my hands and knees. I looked at Ernie, he made no movement nor did I see any condensation coming from his mouth or nose. I tried to turn him over to see where he had been hit, I saw no blood or sign of physical injury but he was



completely lifeless. Somehow I knew he was dead. I remember yelling for the medics.

All of this was happening in milliseconds. I began to hear low moaning sounds. The concussion of the explosion must have killed Ernie and his body had to have been my protection from most of its shock. Five brave Americans were killed. I was the only one in that circle of six to survive, and untouched at that. We weren’t the only ones with high casualties. The entire battalion suffered: G Company, which started the day in reserve, had 86 casualties out of 147 men.

Today I still ask myself. Why me? From reports, the scene was soon swarming with medics and troops from G Company, but I frankly don’t remember them. The shock of the explosion itself plus the realization how close a call I had left me in shock, I believe.

This reminiscence is from Bob Burrows’s memoirs, With Patton’s Army in World War II: Stories of a Young Soldier (forthcoming, Little Falls Books). Bob passed away on November 18, 2021. He lived in Arizona and was a lifetime member of BOBA and the 80th Division Association.





Martin Sylvester 4 INFD 12 REG G

Excerpts from The War Years: June 1943 - December 1945 - A Memoir

December 15, 1944 - It was my turn to spend a few days at the observation post, a dugout on a high cliff overlooking the German positions across the river. With our binoculars, we had a panoramic view. We could see the Germans lining up for exercise, and chow. It seemed they always had hot food. They often gathered in large groups for camaraderie and socialization. Sometimes, when the wind was right, we could hear music and singing. There were three of us at the outpost. We took turns at watch.

Morning of December 16 - I had just awakened and opened a K ration tin of bacon and cheese when I heard "Red! Red! Come here, look at this!" It was my turn at watch. My buddy handed me the binoculars and I could hardly believe what I saw. It was cloudy and foggy, but through the haze were thousands of Germans crossing the river. They were walking across pontoon bridges, which they must have put in place overnight. We then heard small arms fire. We got on the phone, and it was a while before someone picked up. Whoever answered said they couldn't talk. "We're up to our ass in Krauts; we have one rifle for every five men, one automatic, and our guys are getting hit all over the place," he shouted. "We have to find a way out of here. You guys better get out while you can." It was the beginning of what would later be called "The Battle of the Bulge." I learned later that my outfit was completely surrounded and had lost three companies.

....We were unsure about how to get out of there. Small arms fire increased and seemed to be coming from the west. There were men approaching from that direction. They were Americans - medics, carrying a wounded GI officer from a stretcher. They put him in our dugout and left to retrieve more of the wounded. We asked if we could be of help and were told we had better get out. We headed east. It seemed that there was fighting everywhere. While walking along a dirt road I spotted a soldier about a 100 yards away at the edge of



a wooded area. From that distance I couldn't tell if he was American or German. We were pointing at each other when he dropped to the ground and there was a spray of bullets at our feet. We started to run, and an American ambulance, coming from that direction, was speeding towards us. We tried to wave it down. It would not stop. We moved fast. We kept going and going. There were men and vehicles all moving in the same direction. No one would stop. I don't know how, but we ended up in Liege, Belgium, exhausted.

No one knew if any of the 4 INFD had survived. There were stragglers everywhere, All from different outfits. We kept asking if anyone knew where to report, but no one did. We then decided to relax, and wait, and roam the city.... People seemed to be going about their lives, and except for the presence of American military, and occasional buzz bombs, you would hardly know there was a war....

Christmas Eve, 1944 - on the outskirts of the city of Liege, we were placed in positions some 50 feet apart from each other and told to dig in. The Germans were expected to attack at dawn, Christmas Day. We were at the edge of a wooded area where the Germans were waiting. It was very frightening. I had never been in a position where I felt so isolated. Usually, foxholes were 10 or 15 feet apart, and you could talk to the person next to you, and you knew someone was there. In this situation I could not see or hear the man on either side of me, and it was obvious that we were far below strength

and would be out-numbered. I did not think I would survive this one. I believed we would be overrun and that my only chance was to cover myself with branches and try to get back to the American line from behind the German attack. I was awake all night.

December 25, 1944 - At dawn, there was the most spectacular and beautiful sight. The Americans began shelling the wooded area where the Germans were waiting to attack. The sky became illuminated with brilliant, colorful explosions, one after another and some simultaneously. It was brighter and more vivid than I had

ever seen, like the Fourth of July, only more so, and more welcome. The noise was deafening. It lasted only a few minutes, and then hordes of Germans came running toward us. They were about halfway across the field when we opened fire. They were moving fast, and it did not look like we could stop them, when suddenly, from behind us, fresh American troops came running out to meet them. It was the "Bucket of Blood" infantry division, coming through to relieve us. There could not be a more welcome sight. We jumped out of our foxholes and cheered. An officer passed the word that we were to withdraw, but we just stood there and watched the Germans falling like flies, and those that could were running back to the protection of the forest. The 28th Division was called the "Bucket of Blood" because of their arm patch. It was red, and shaped like the state of Pennsylvania's Keystone symbol, which looked like a vase. I remember so clearly that they looked rested, clean, in fresh uniforms, and full of energy, while we, having lived on the ground for some time, were dirty and ragged. Except for the helmet and rifle, we hardly looked like soldiers. We then found and joined what was left of our respective outfits. There were quite a few of the 4 INFD, and we were gathered into a fighting unit to return to the front.

Martin is 96 and lives in New York City. Martin's Bulge memories are also included BOBA's book The Battle of the Bulge, which is a collection of BOBA veteran member stories available on Amazon (see opposite page.)

★
William W. Kronmueller
106 INF 423 REG 2 BN E

This is an excerpt from the personal memoir of my father, William W. Kronmueller regarding his service during World War II.

“On August 17, 1943, the day following my 18th birthday, I registered for the draft at the local draft board. As a high school senior, my draft was not deferred. On November 15, 1943, I was part of a bus load of inductees bound for Jefferson Barracks.

In early December, I graduated basic training at Camp Blanding Florida, with continued training at Camp Atterbury. At Camp Atterbury, I joined the 106th “Golden Lions” Infantry Division, 423 Infantry Regiment, 2nd Battalion, Company E.

After the successful June D-Day landings, it became evident that we were going to Europe, as additional troops were needed. On October 13, 1944, we departed from Camp Atterbury destined for the European Theatre of Operations via New York City, boarding the *Queen Elizabeth I* to Toddington, England. At dark on October 17, the *QE1* left port unescorted across the North Atlantic to England. The ship’s safety from German submarines was its speed, her zigzag course and blackout conditions.

In Toddington, our division engaged in night training to ‘perfect’ crawling across fields and through woods for combat recon missions. As lead scout, I cut many fence wires which resulted in many British sheep leaving their pasture.

A few days after Thanksgiving, we were headed to beach land near Le Havre, France, with a destination in Belgium. Our group was selected for special duty, as reserves to reinforce the main line troops. Once the intensity of the German push was determined, we were moved by truck and by foot along Skyline Drive. Help was needed everywhere with an unbalance in favor of the Germans. With a lack of winter equipment and shortage of ammunition, our commander received word to destroy everything and prepare for surrender.



After surrender, we marched for two (2) days before being loaded onto boxcars. I went to Stalag IV-B Mühlberg but others went to Stalag IX-B, Bad Orb. In Stalag IV-B, we were interrogated, and sent out for work detail. I was sent to a small chemical plant that made salicylic acid in Döbeln. We were almost too weak to work, but we were expected to unload railcars of coal for this plant at night after chopping tree stumps during the day. After severely freezing my gloveless hands, I was sent back to the Stalag where food was less for those not contributing to the German war effort.

In April 1945, Stalag IV-B was liberated by the Russian Cossack troops. Although we were visited by American medics and chaplains, the Russians would not release us, as they continued to use our labor. Once our formal exchange was arranged, we were part of a convoy that moved



The entrance to Stalag IV-B, where Kronmueller was held prisoner before being liberated by Russian Cossack troops.

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 ISBN: 978-0-9910962-3-7
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us into the American Zone. The trip to liberation remains a highlight.

At Camp Lucky Strike in Le Havre, we underwent physical exams, interrogations, paperwork and worked to re-acclimate our bodies to food after being starved. At examination, my weight was 85 pounds, which was 40 pounds from my enlistment weight. Along with 25 men, I left France via an empty freighter headed for Norfolk Virginia. From Norfolk we were transported to Jefferson Barracks to be processed for furlough. At this time, we were also photographed for the local paper’s “St. Louis Men Liberated from Nazi Prisons” article, June 25, 1945. After a summer furlough, I reported for rehab in Hot Springs, Arkansas. I was honorably discharged November 28, 1945.”

Private First Class Kronmueller was awarded two (2) Bronze Stars along with other medals for his service during the Battle of the Bulge. Posthumously in 2010, a year following his death, he was awarded the Purple Heart.

—Submitted by Diane Husk, BOBA Member
 Check out more of his story at www.battleofthebulge.org.

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

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

The cost of 1 certificate is \$30 postage-paid or 2 certificates for \$40 postage-paid.

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge® Certificate Order Form

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

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

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Serial Number _____ Rank _____ Unit _____

Organization _____

(usually Company, Battalion and/or Regiment and/or Division)

Please check one that applies: Killed in Action Died of Wounds

Signature _____ Date _____

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Name _____ Address _____

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Telephone number _____ E-mail address _____

BOBA member: yes no (membership not a requirement)

Make checks payable to BOBA, Inc.

Orders should be mailed to: BOBA, Inc., P.O. Box 330, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330 Questions? Call 703-528-4058

OR ORDER ONLINE: WWW.BATTLEOFTHEBULGE.ORG [NO PHONE ORDERS]

VA CRATER CHAPTER (43)

Photo courtesy John Payne



Members of the Crater Chapter, JC Wood (left) and Ken Robinson (right), escorted Bulge veteran Ron Kimler to the Hanover County Air Show.

The Va Crater Chapter has been quite busy! Our most recent meeting was hosted by our BOBA Historian Jim Triesler at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond, VA. During the meeting, members John Payne and JC Wood were awarded commemorative coins for their service and support to our chapter.

Earlier this year we displayed a BOBA exhibit in the aviation hanger at the Military Aviation Museum in Virginia Beach. JC Wood, John Payne, Ken Robinson and Mary Ann Smith participated. John Payne made a Malmedy Massacre banner with event pages which was displayed with artifacts and photos

from Mary Ann's father, James H. Coates, who was killed at Malmedy.

The Crater Chapter meets quarterly and as needed when there are local WWII events. Please provide your contact information to the national office if you are interested in attending our events in the Richmond area.

—Submitted by Mary Ann Smith, Chapter President



John Payne (left) and visitor viewing Battle of the Bulge exhibit materials at the Military Aviation Museum in Virginia Beach.



Mary Ann Smith with her exhibit about her father James H Coates.

FL CITRUS CHAPTER (32)

It is with sadness that we share the passing of Chapter President Minot Neal Richardson (26 INFD 243 ENGR CMBT BN), pictured below, of Lakeland FL. Minot was 96 and passed away August 12, 2021 in Lakeland Florida. Born April 23, 1925 in Oshkosh, WI, Minot served in the U.S. Army during WWII and was wounded in the Battle of the Bulge. He received the Purple Heart, Bronze Star and the French Legion of Honor awards. Minot was loved and respected by all who knew him. His dedication and unwavering support of the armed forces through his many Veterans Day and Memorial Day remembrances will be sorely missed.

—Submitted by P.D. Sterling



PA DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER (4)

Our Chapter held a very special 98th Birthday Party in October at Mission BBQ for Bulge veteran Benjamin Berry (left) and US Navy WWII vet Ed Jaslow (right)!

The PA Delaware Valley Chapter meets in person on the last Wednesday of each month at the Chapel of the 4 Chaplains at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. For information, contact Chapter President Andy Waskie at awaski01@gmail.com.

WE NEED YOUR CHAPTER NEWS!

Send articles and photos to: bulge.bugle@gmail.com
[See page 3 for submission guidelines.]

NEXT ISSUE (WINTER 2022) DEADLINE: JANUARY 10, 2022

(continued on next page)

PA LEHIGH VALLEY CHAPTER (55)

On September 2nd, 2021, the Battle of the Bulge Lehigh Valley #55 Chapter members participated in a drive-by to honor eight World War II veterans on the 76th anniversary of the official ending of the war. Two Battle of the Bulge veterans, Pfc. Bert Winzer, Special Service Forces, and Major Norvin Vogel, 35th Infantry Division, were honored along with US Army vets John Golden and Angelo Bokeko, US Army Air Corps Frank McCullough and Richard Schimmel, as well as US Navy vets Hank Kudzick and James Gallagher. The chapter members were able to sing and wish Major Vogel an early “Happy Birthday” for his upcoming 99th birthday. Sadly, Mr. Vogel passed away just one week following the event.

On October 3rd, Pfc. Bert Winzer, a member of the infamous “Devil’s Brigade”, had a special guided tour at the opening of the General Carl

Spaatz National USAAF Museum in Boyertown, Pa. General Spaatz had been the commanding General of the United States Army Air Forces during World War II. Mr. Winzer is still proud to wear the badge of the 1st Special Services Forces and the 101st Airborne.

To learn more about Chapter #55, search “Lehigh Valley Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge” on Facebook.

*—Submitted by Steve Savage,
President/Treasurer of Chapter 55*



Chapter 55 Bulge Vets recently honored were Norvin Vogel (above) and Bert Winzer (below).



COMBAT COMMAND A, 9 AD IN THE BULGE

by Steve Ruhlen, BOBA Member



George Ruhlen (9 ARMIDD 3 AFA BN CCA), taken in Czechoslovakia at the end of the war, 1945.

My dad was a young 33-year-old lieutenant colonel commanding the 3rd Armored Field Artillery Battalion, Combat Command A (CCA) of the 9th Armored Division. CCA, situated on the southern flank of the battle in Luxembourg, was composed of the 3rd, the 60th Armored Infantry Battalion, and the 14th Tank Battalion. They were outnumbered five to one by the attacking German 226th Volksgrenadier Division and spread out over a 10,000-yard-long defensive line.

CCA had recently moved into the area. Dad had always made it a point to never occupy the battery positions of the previous unit. This was prescient. On the morning of 16 December, 1944, German artillery fire targeted and annihilated the positions of the previous unit. My dad also moved his batteries

constantly to evade detection and German counter-battery fire, sometimes arraying his battery guns in unconventional patterns, taking what the landscape offered and deterring easy detection by the enemy.

The 60th AIB, commanded by Lt Col Kenneth Collins, was taking the brunt of the German onslaught, forcing some units to set up defenses in the town of Beaufort and others in nearby woods and ravines. The 60th was now in close quarters-street fighting with the Germans. Dad sent in three reconnaissance tanks and other vehicles to move out wounded and trapped 60th personnel. They neutralized German machine guns, loaded wounded and others, and backed out of the town towards the 3rd’s positions, while the 3rd’s batteries provided, in the words of Sgt. Robert Hebert of the 60th, “incredibly accurate” fire. Over the next few days and moving mostly in the dark of night, the scattered companies and platoons of the 60th snaked their way back through the German lines to American positions. The success and bravery of this escape is, in and of itself, an incredible story.

All during this time, the 3rd AFA and the 14th Tank Battalion

constantly engaged the enemy. Sometimes the 3rd’s batteries found themselves with no infantry in front of them. Battery B, in Savelborn, defeated a direct infantry assault on 18 December. With the 60th back, CCA was able to establish a defensive line. Division HQ prioritized munitions to the 3rd AFA. The unit fired more than 26,000 rounds in the ten days between 16-25 December—an average of one round fired every 40 seconds. It is believed to be a record, still unbroken, for an American artillery battalion. Once they were relieved in their sector, CCA was assigned to the 4th Armored Division and provided needed artillery in the breakthrough to relieve the 101st Airborne (and CCR of the 9th AD) under siege in Bastogne.

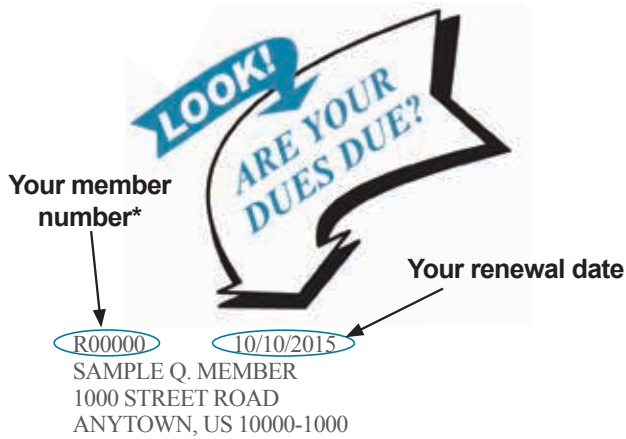
There always seems to be more to uncover even among one of the most studied engagements in history. When Ultra, the British top-secret decryption effort, was revealed in the early 1970’s, my dad realized why his and numerous other front line unit reports of German movements prior to 16 December were essentially ignored. Hitler banned radio communications regarding the offensive and relayed orders by hand. Allied command, not seeing any traffic regarding the planned offensive, did not give much credence to the front line reports. Similarly, the histories of the Bulge tend to emphasize the action in the northern sector (where CCB and CCR of the 9th AD distinguished themselves), almost ignoring the vital role units in the southern sector played in holding off the attack of the German Seventh Army.

The contribution of CCA 9 AD was not lost on Gen. Patton. His staff had initiated paperwork to award CCA the Presidential Unit Citation (PUC). This paperwork was lost in the commotion of battle and the later transference of the 9th to First Army. It was not until German army archives, which were held by the East Germans, were researched in the 1990’s that CCA would receive its due recognition. Nearly 60 years after the Bulge, in 2001, President George W. Bush awarded the PUC to CCA, 9th Armored Division.

The above is based on the many conversations with my dad, MGEN George Ruhlen (USA), as well as several trips to Luxembourg and Belgium with him, his manuscript The Third Field Artillery in World War II, and conversations with Bulge veterans (e.g. Robert Hebert).

WHEN ARE MY DUES DUE?

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***PLEASE NOTE:** If your member number starts with the letter "L," you are a LIFE MEMBER, and therefore you do not owe any more dues. However, please consider an annual donation to help support our good cause!

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 bulge.bugle@gmail.com or mail to: BOBA Inc., P.O. Box 330, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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YOU CAN JOIN OR RENEW ONLINE:
www.battleofthebulge.org
Click on "Join BOBA/Renew"

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

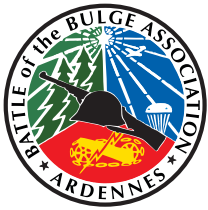
If applying as an Member, please provide the following information about yourself:

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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Bulge Commemoration Events
Read more on page 5.



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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 www.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)

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ALL GIFTS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED!